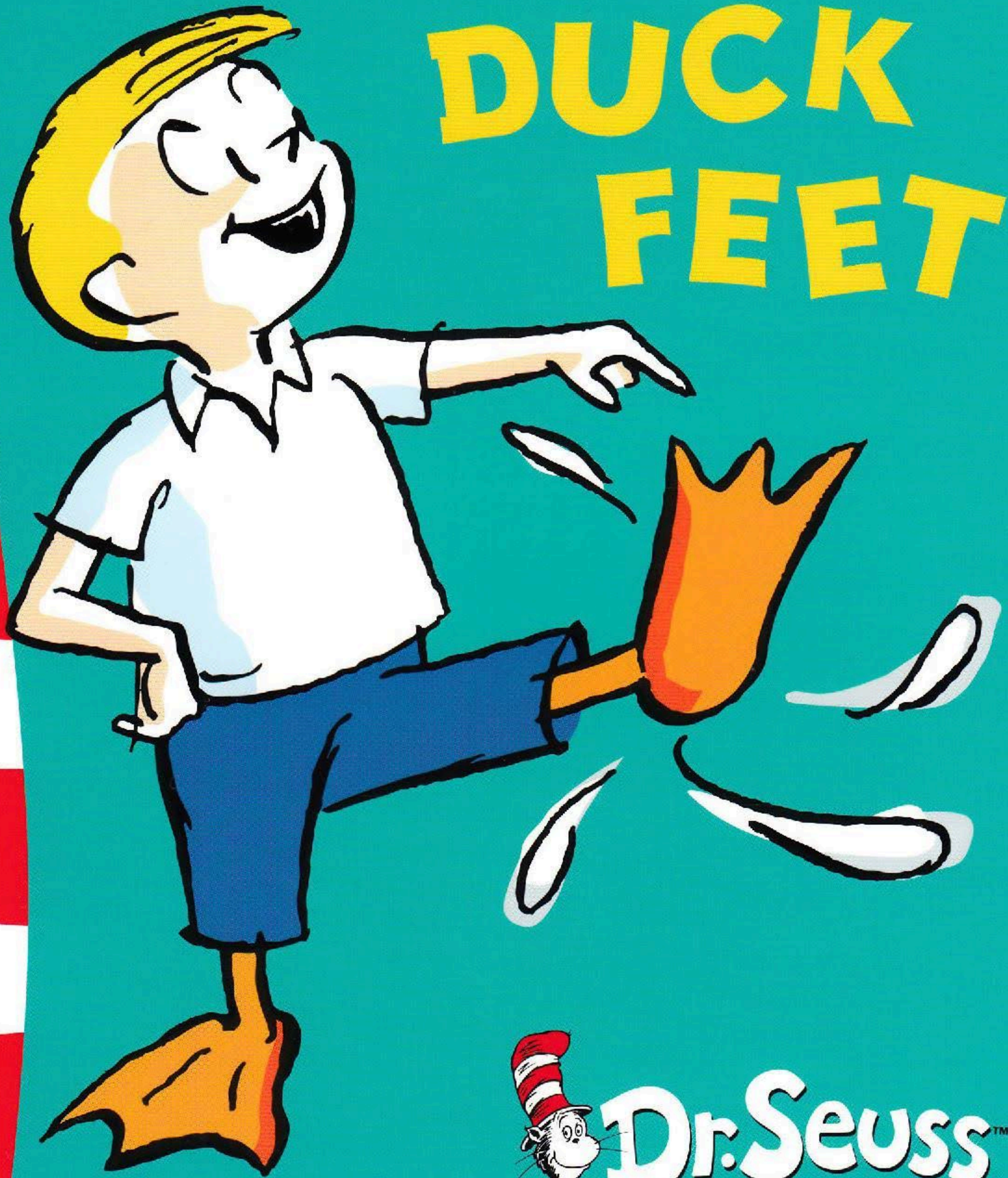


I WISH THAT I HAD DUCK FEET



Dr. Seuss™



I WISH
that I had
DUCK FEET

By Dr. Seuss

Writing as

Theo. LeSieg

Illustrated by B Tobey



HarperCollins *Children's Books*

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I wish
that I had duck feet.
And I can tell you why.
You can splash around in duck feet.
You don't have to keep them dry.

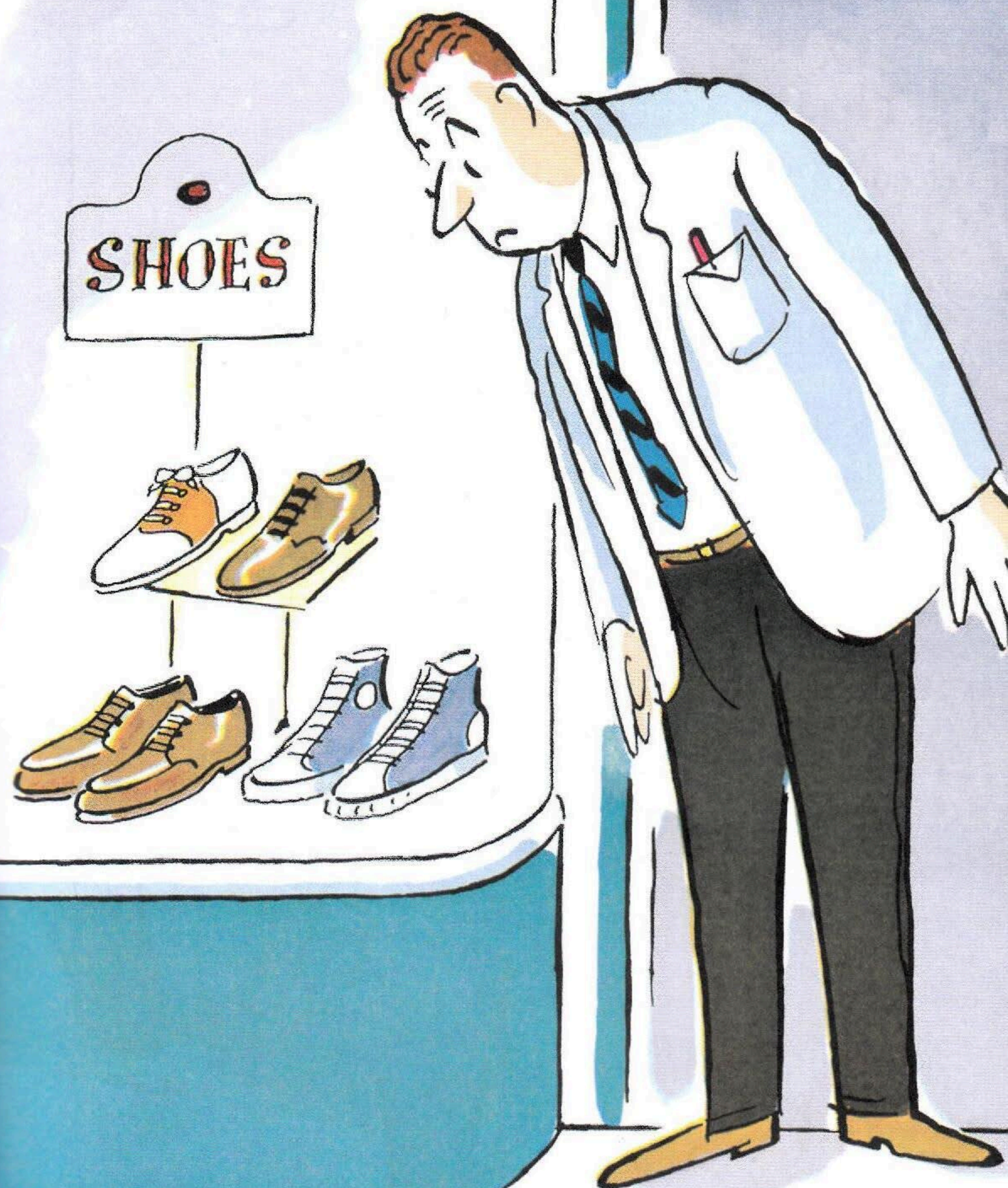


I wish that I had duck feet.

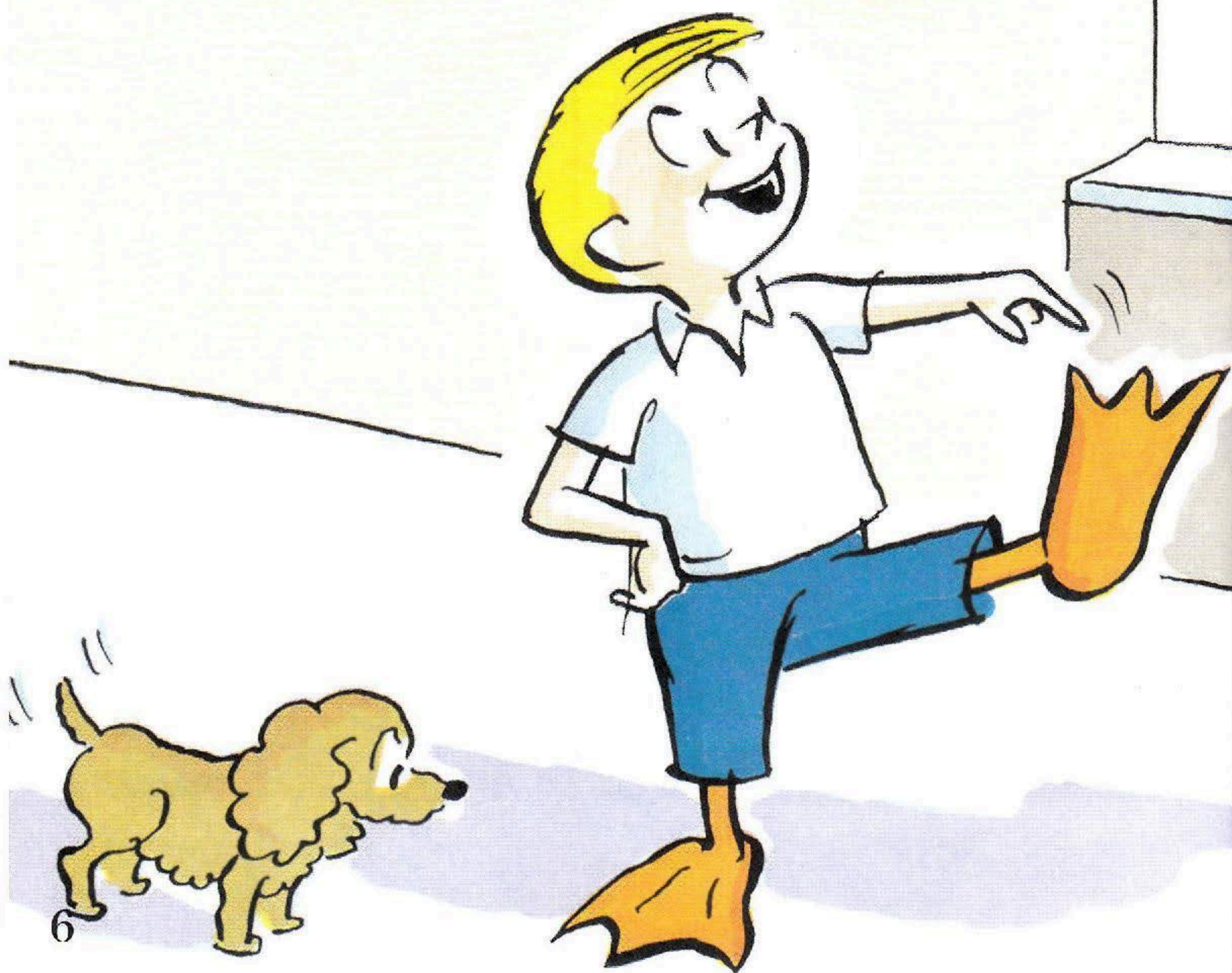
No more shoes!

No shoes for me!

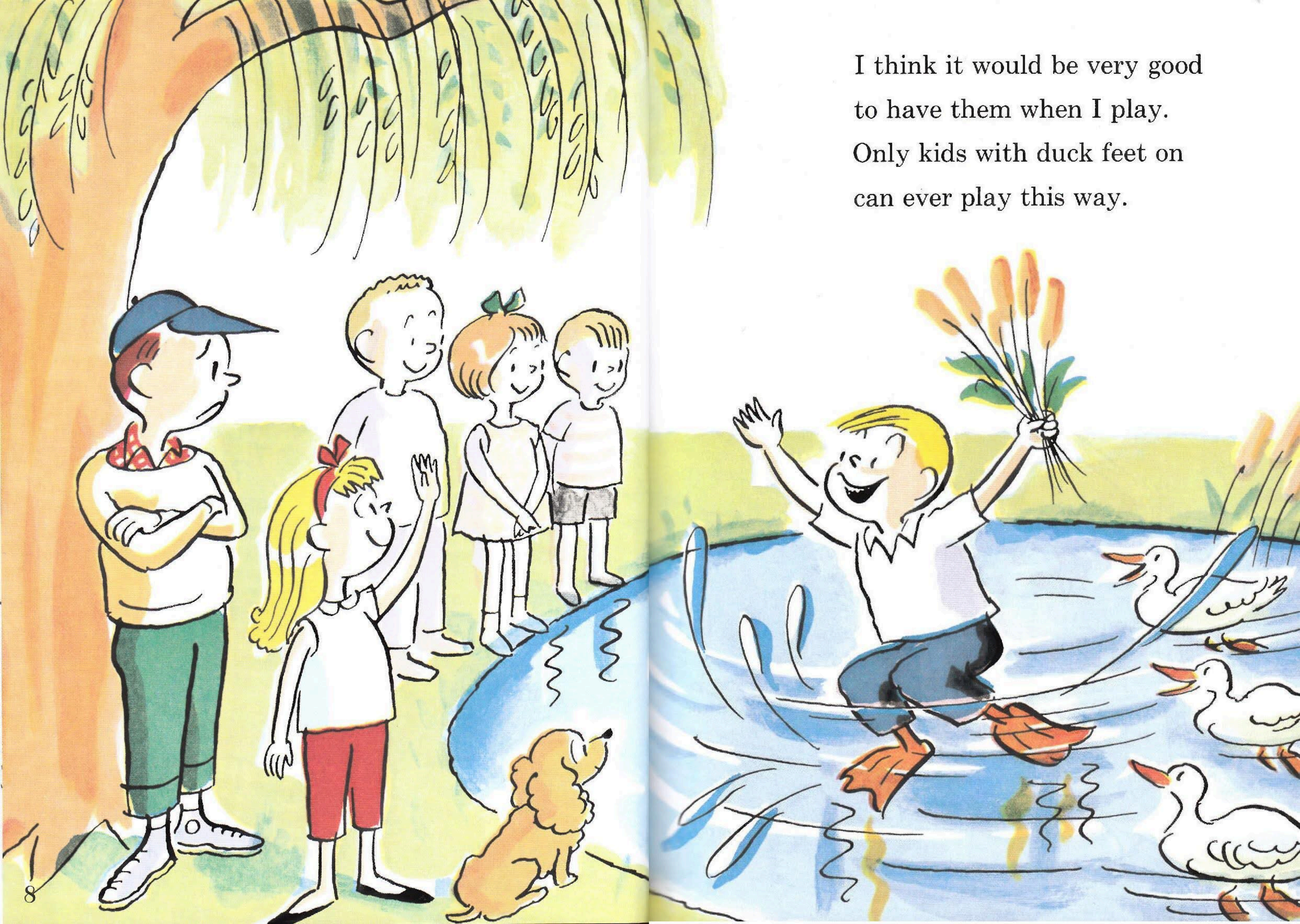
The man down at the shoe store
would not have my size, you see.



If I had two duck feet,
I could laugh at Big Bill Brown.
I would say, "YOU don't have duck feet!
These are all there are in town!"



I think it would be very good
to have them when I play.
Only kids with duck feet on
can ever play this way.

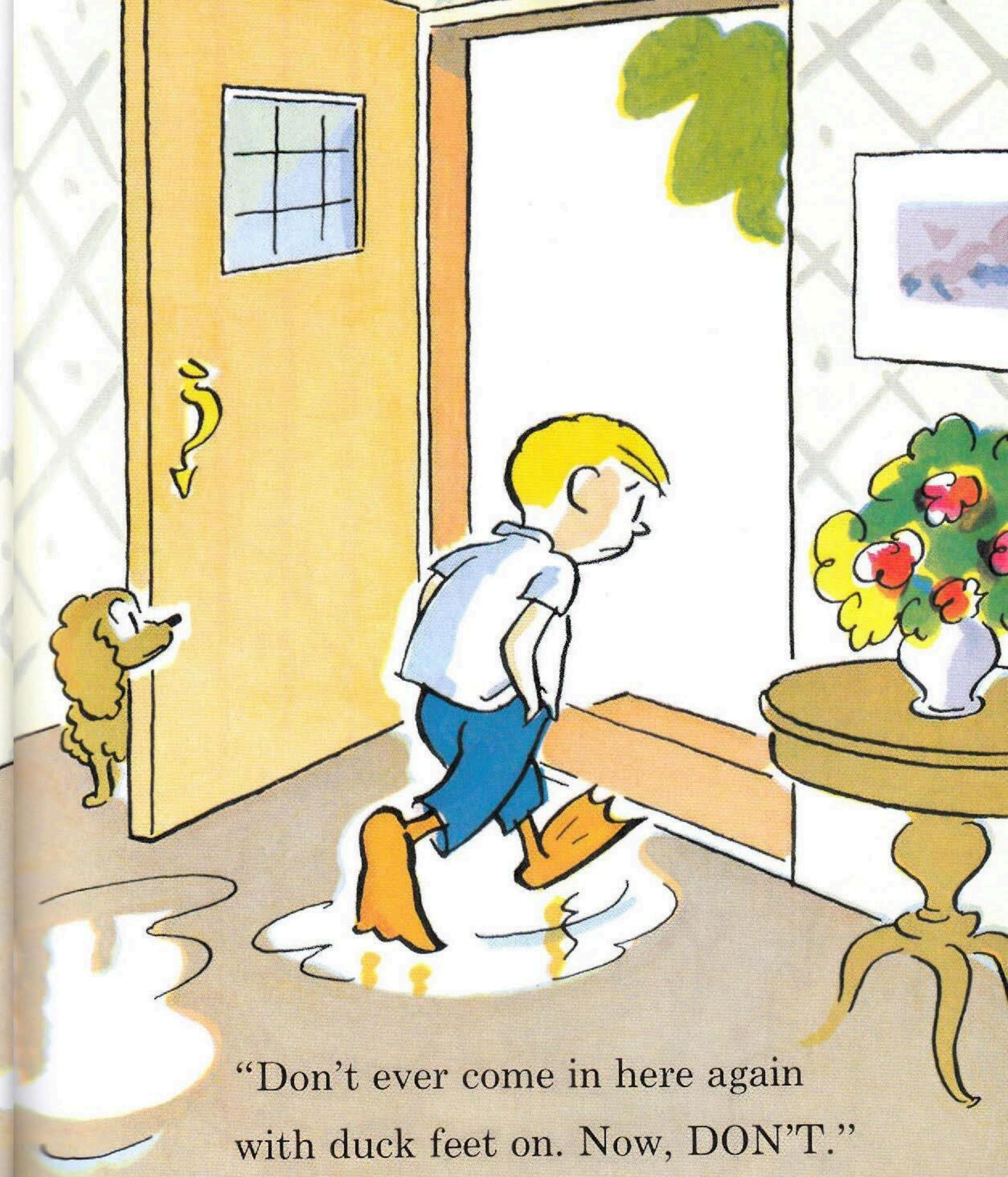


BUT . . .

My mother would not like them.

She would say, "Get off my floor!"

She would say, "You take your duck feet
and you take them out that door!"



"Don't ever come in here again
with duck feet on. Now, DON'T."
SO . . .

I guess I can't have duck feet.
I would like to. But I won't.

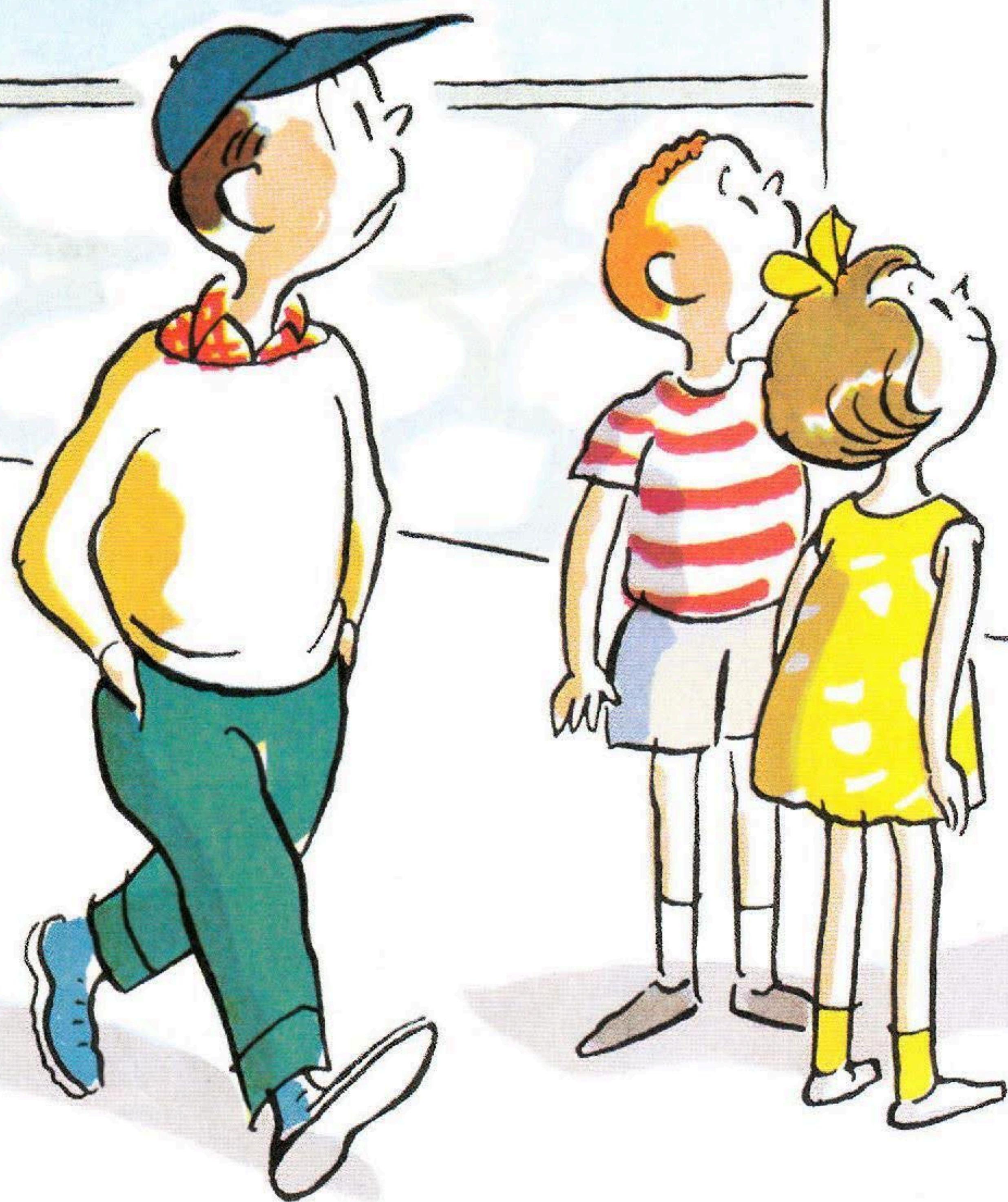
SO . . .

If I can't have duck feet,
I'll have something else instead . . .

I know what!
I wish I had
two horns up on my head!



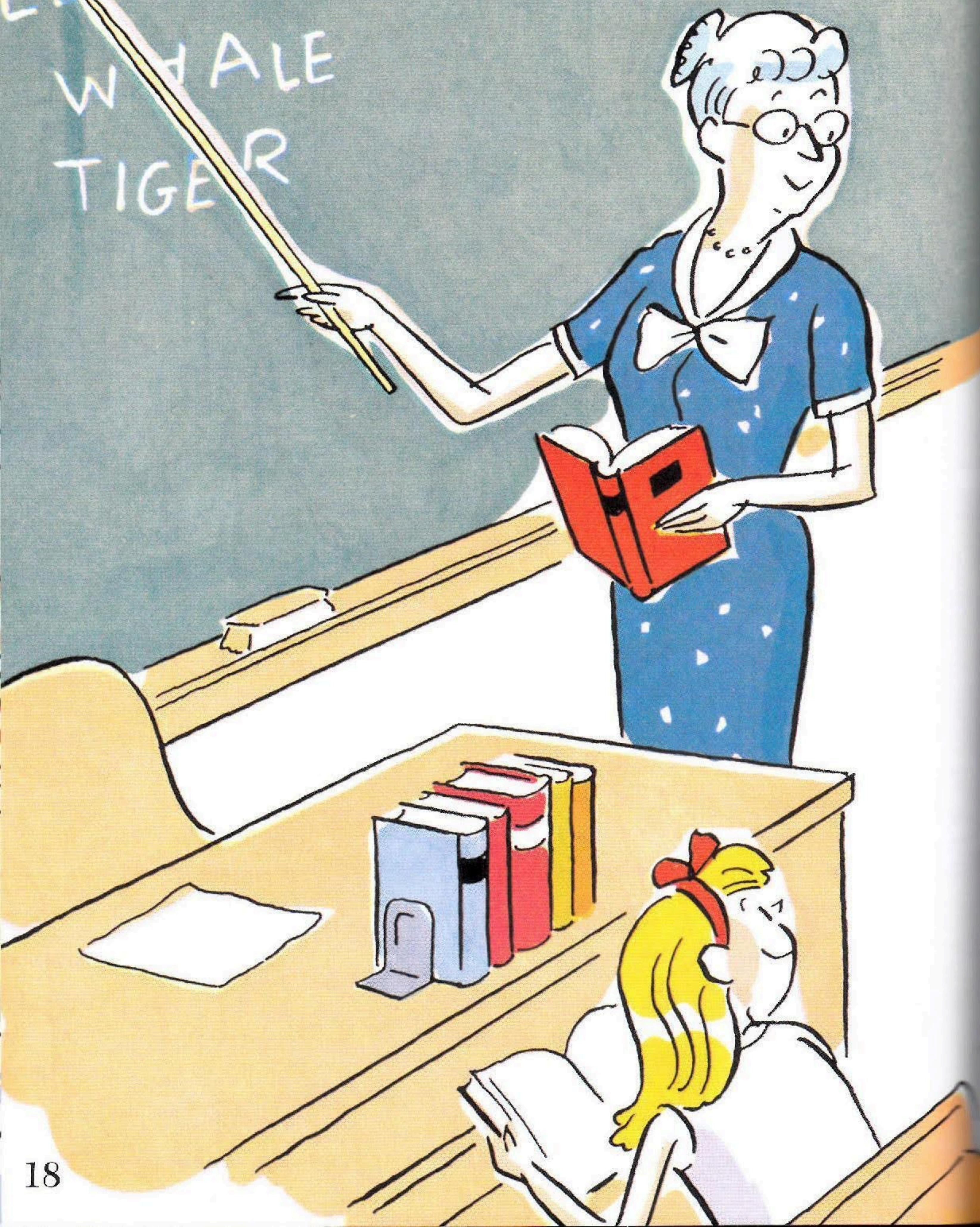
I wish I had two deer horns.
They would be a lot of fun.
Then I could wear
ten hats up there!
Big Bill can just wear one.



I think they would
be very good
to have when I play ball.
Then nobody could stop me.
No, sir! Nobody at all!



DUCK
ELEPHANT
WHALE
TIGER

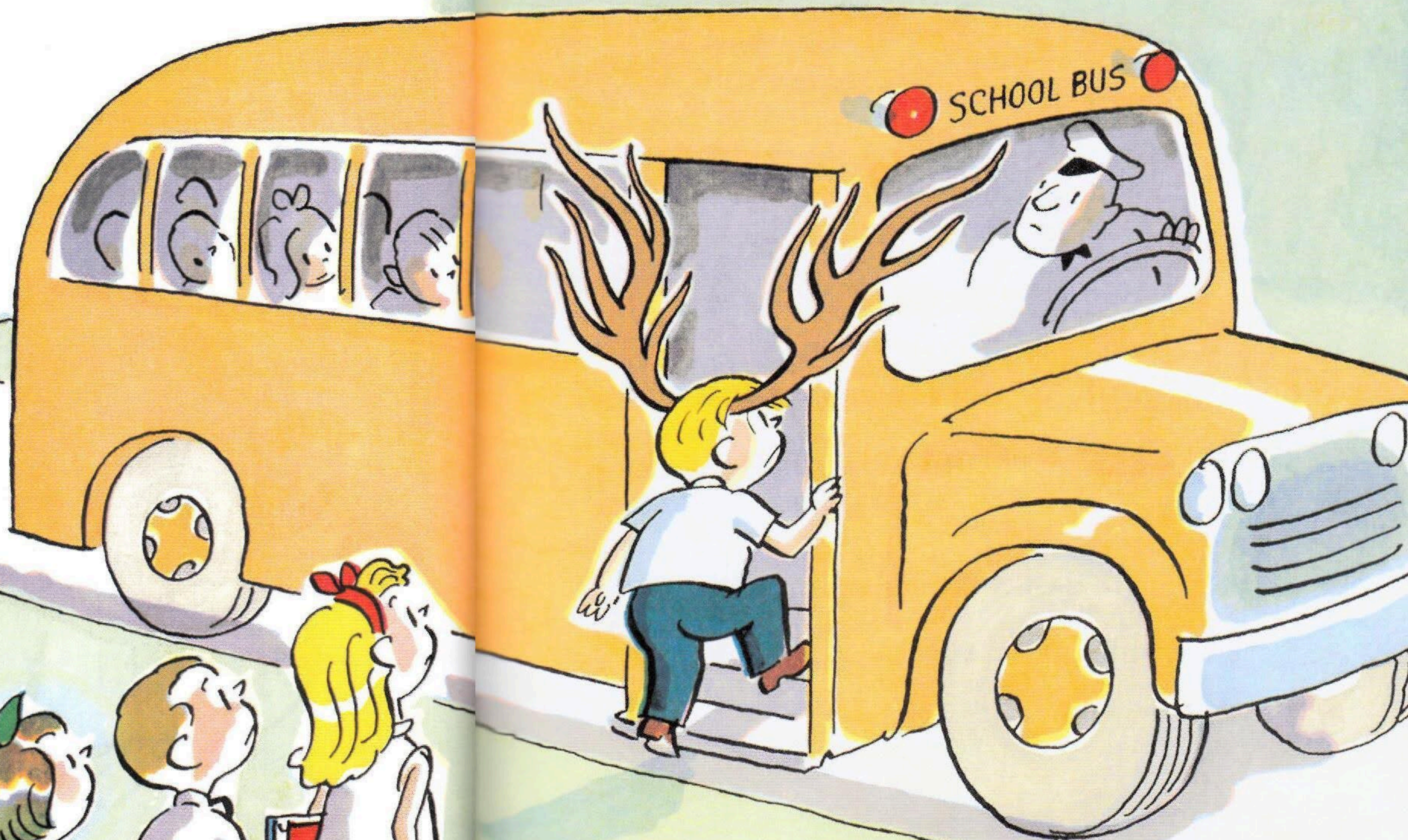


My horns could carry
books and stuff
like paper, pens and strings
and apples for my teacher
and a lot of other things!



BUT . . .

If I had
big deer horns,
I would never
get a ride.



I could never use the school bus.
I could never get inside!

AND SO . . .

I won't have deer horns.

I'll have something else instead.

I wish I had a whale spout.

A whale spout on my head!



When days get hot
it would be good
to spout my spout in school.



And then Miss Banks
would say, "Thanks! Thanks!
You keep our school so cool."





I could play all day in summer.
I would never feel the heat.



I would beat Big Bill at tennis.
I would play him off his feet.

BUT . . .

My mother would not like it.

I know just what she would say:

“Not in the house!

You turn that off!

You take that spout away.”

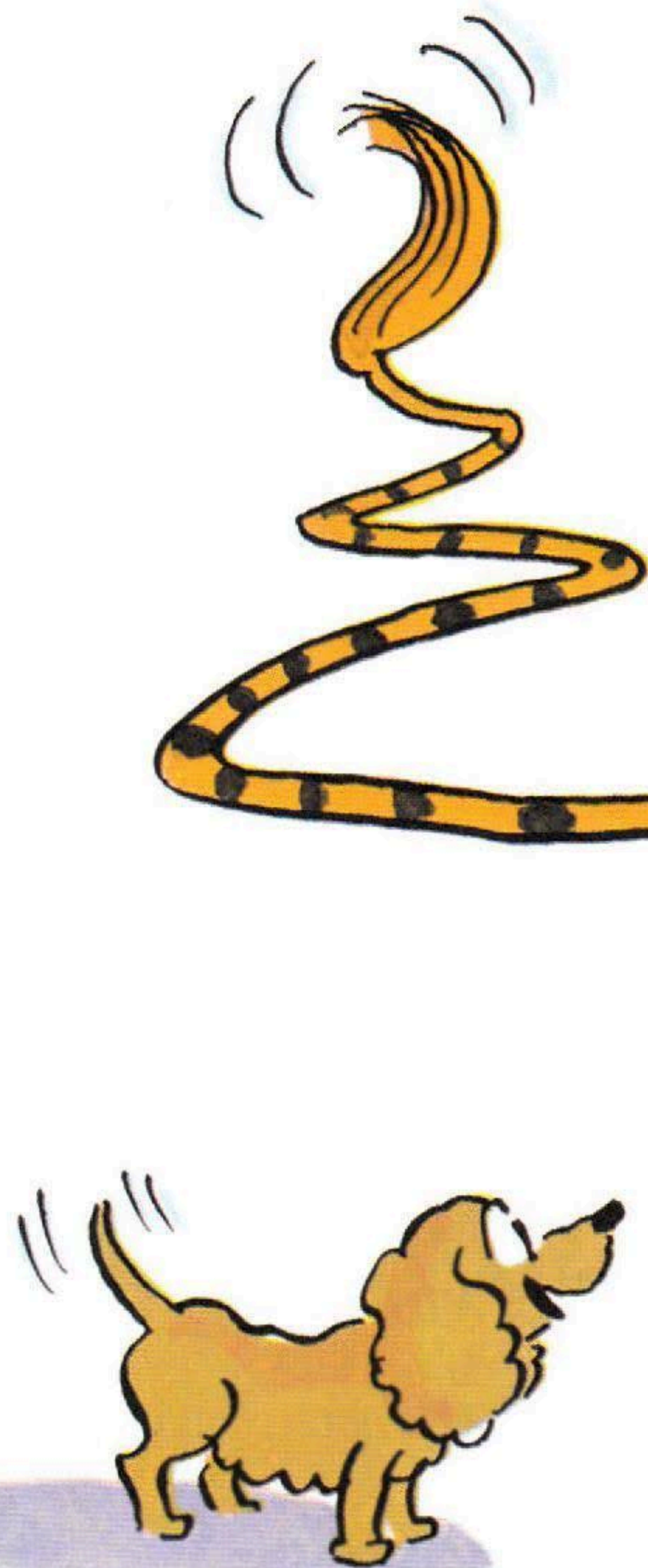


I know that she would tell me,
“I don’t want that spout about!”
And when Mother
does not want a thing,
it’s O—U—T. It’s out!

AND SO . . .

I will not have one.

I don't wish to be a whale.



I think

it would be better

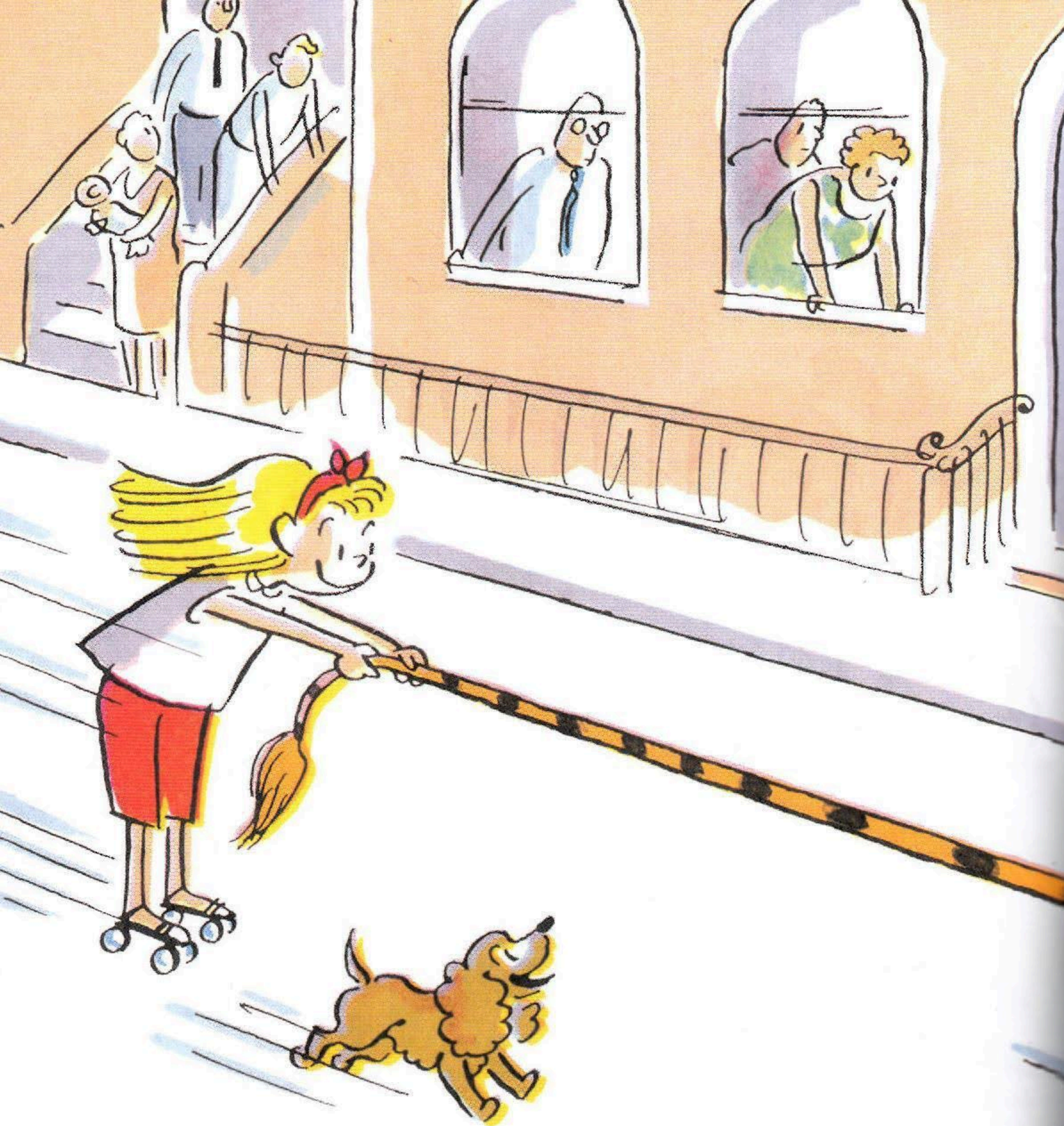
if I had

a long, long tail.

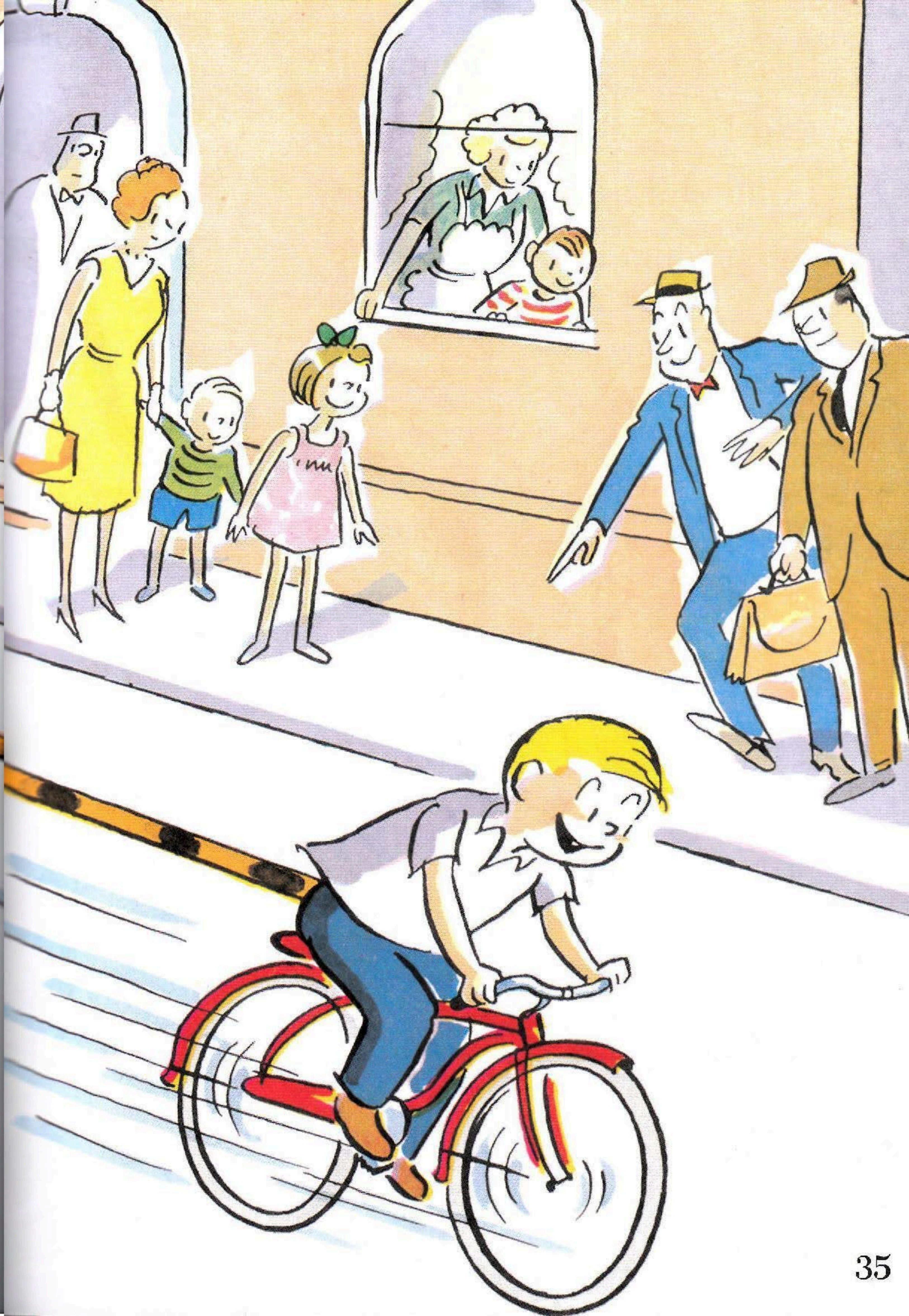




I wish I had a long, long tail.
Some day I will. I hope.
And then I'll show
the kids in town
new ways to jump a rope!



If I had a long, long tail
I know what I would like.
I would like to ride down our street
pulling girls behind my bike.



I wish I had a long, long tail.
And I can tell you why.
I could hit a fly ten feet away
and hit him in the eye.



I know Miss Banks would like this.
She would smile and she would say,
“No other boy in town can hit
a fly so far away.”

BUT . . .

If I had a long, long tail,
I know that Big Bill Brown
would tie me in a tree!

He would!

Then how would I get down?



I don't think that I would like it
with my tail tied in a tree.

The more I think about it . . . NO!

No long, long tail for me.



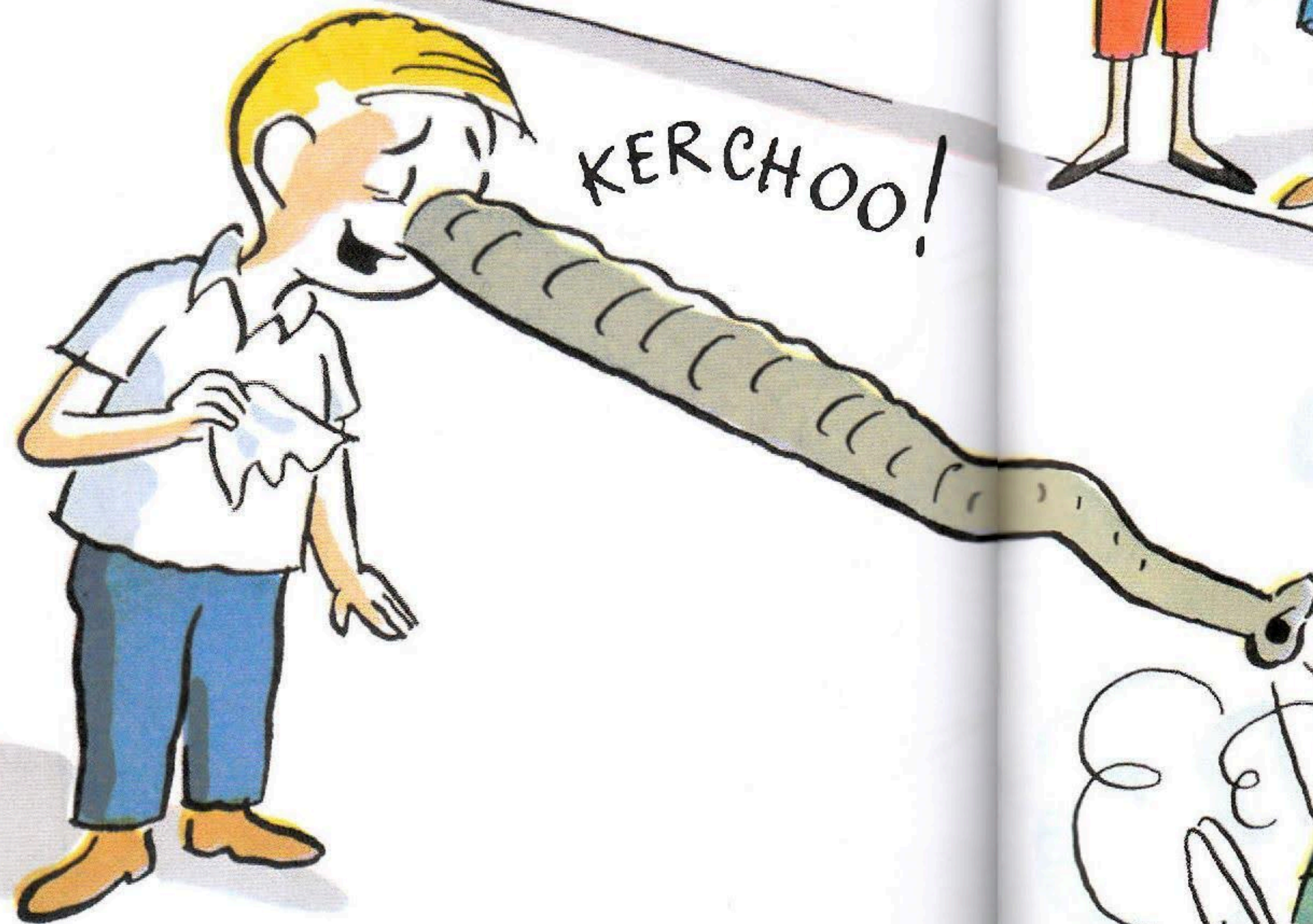
AND SO . . .

If I can't have a tail,
I'll have a long, long nose!
A nose just like an elephant's,
the longest nose that grows.

I wish I had a long, long nose
and I can tell you why.
I think it would
be very good
to get at things up high.



Every kid in town would love it.
Every kid but Big Bill Brown.
And every time I saw him
I would sneeze
and blow him down.



I could help the firemen!
My nose would be just right.
I could help them put out fires
a hundred times a night.



Oh, I would do a lot of things

that no one ever did.

And everyone in town would say,

“Just watch that long-nose kid!”



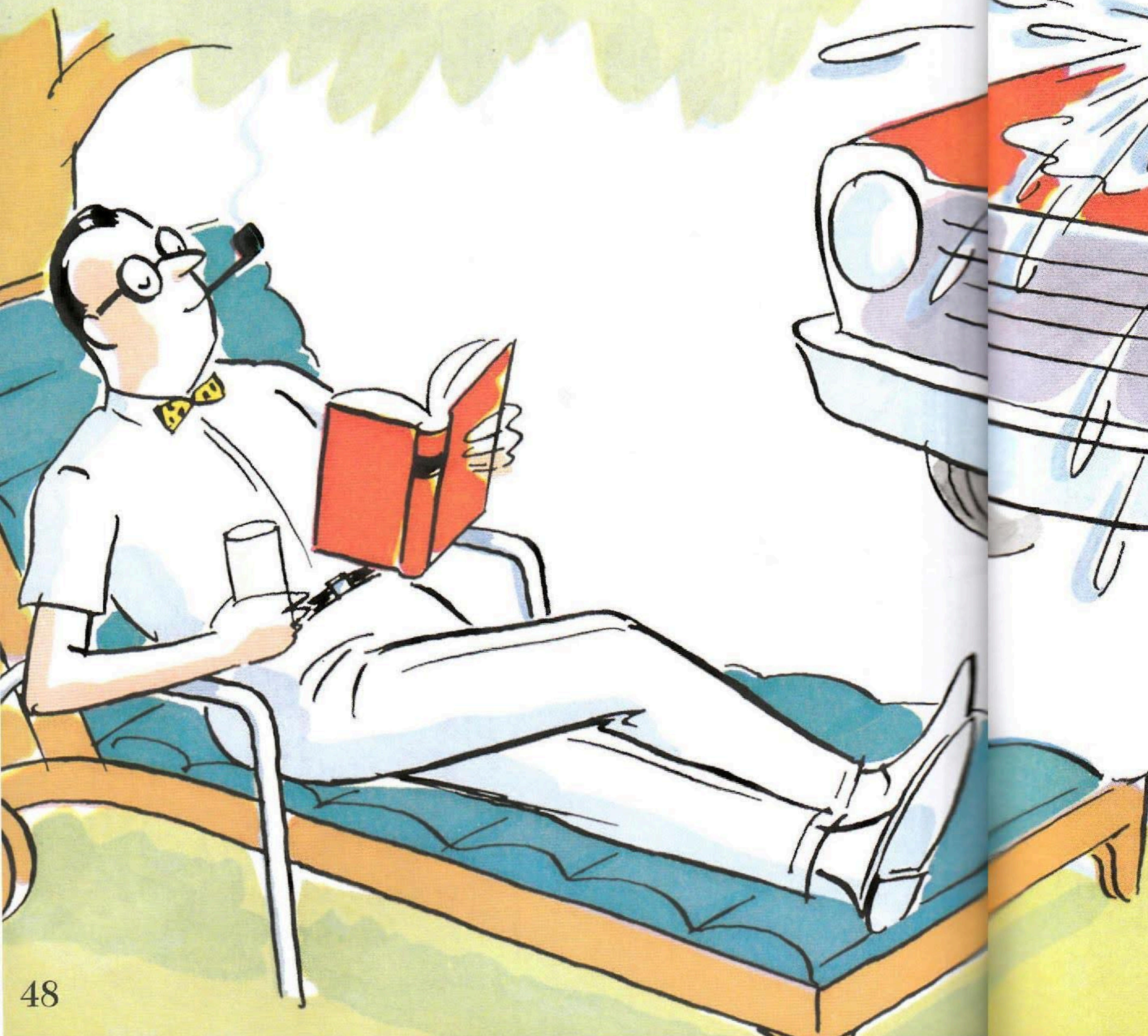
BUT . . .

If I had a long, long nose,

I know what Dad would do.

My dad would make me wash the car!

The house and windows, too!





Imagine having feet like a duck, antlers like a deer or an elephant's trunk. You may find you're better off just the way you are!

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