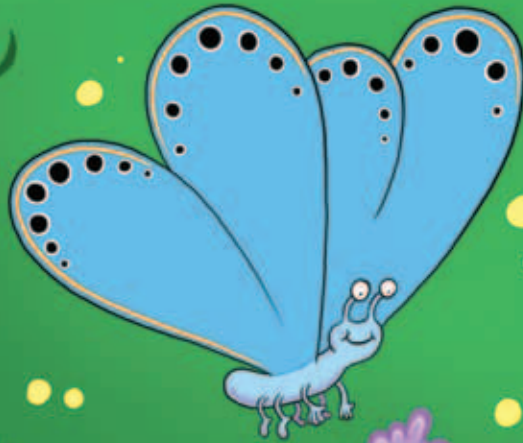


Sam's



Sad Day

Sam's Sad Day is part of Sam's Pack, an educational resource provided free of charge to schools in south east Dorset by the Urban Heaths LIFE Project.

The Urban Heaths LIFE Project is co-funded by the EU LIFE-nature fund and is an initiative of the Urban Heaths Partnership to help protect Dorset's Natura 2000 heathlands.

The Urban Heaths Partnership consists of Borough of Poole, Bournemouth Borough Council, Christchurch Borough Council, Dorset County Council, Dorset Fire and Rescue Service, Dorset Police, Dorset Wildlife Trust, East Dorset District Council, English Nature and The Herpetological Conservation Trust.

*Illustrations by Tim Oliver
Original story by Tess Cross*



...working together on Action for Heaths

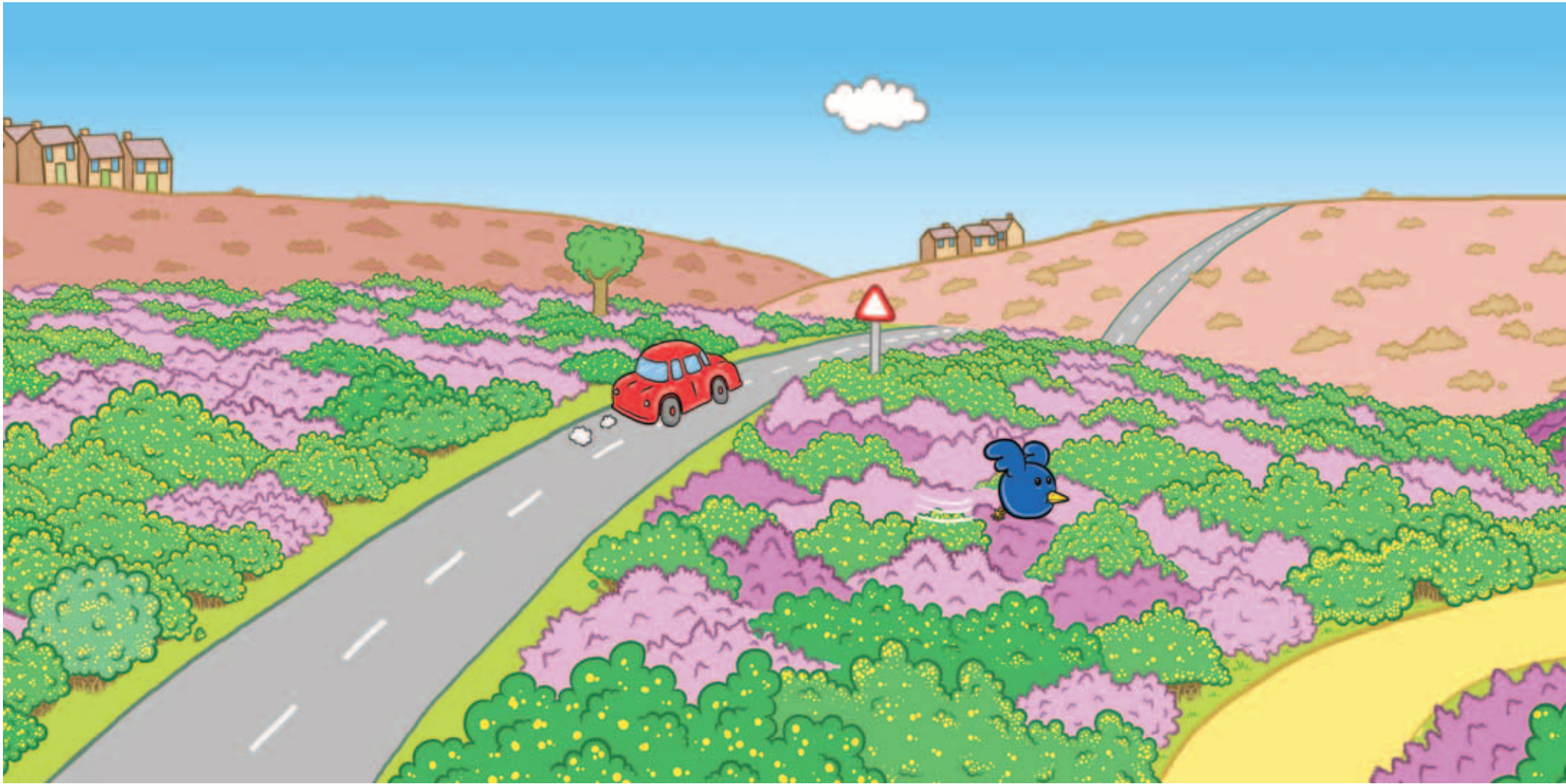


Sam is a sand lizard. Sam is not very big.
He would fit in your hand.



Sam has four legs and a tail.
Sam is brown on top and has bright green sides.

Sam lives on the heathland.
The heathland has many different plants growing on it.



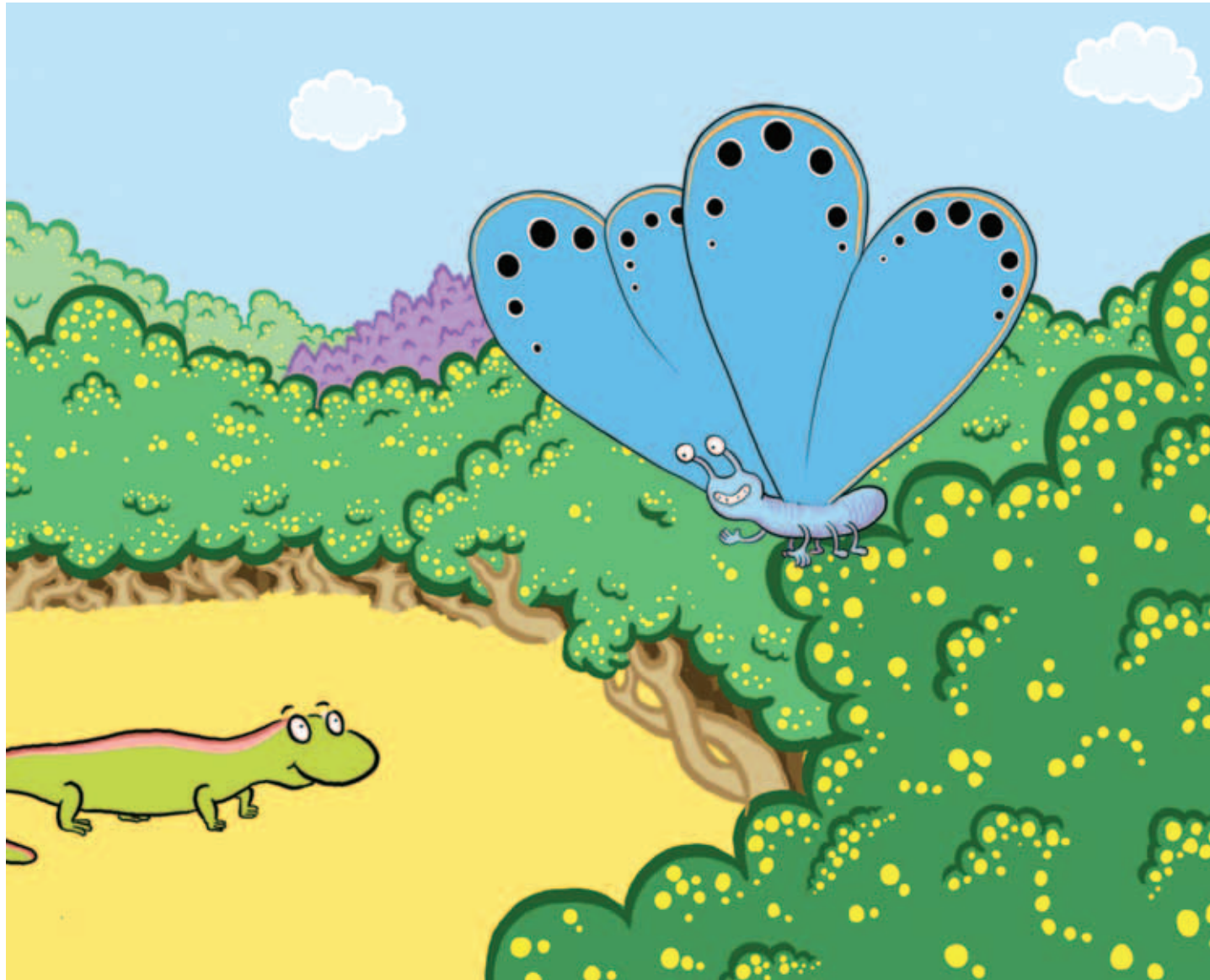


Sam's favourite plant is the purple heather.

One day last summer, Sam was sitting in his favourite place. His favourite place is a small sandy patch by the edge of the plants.

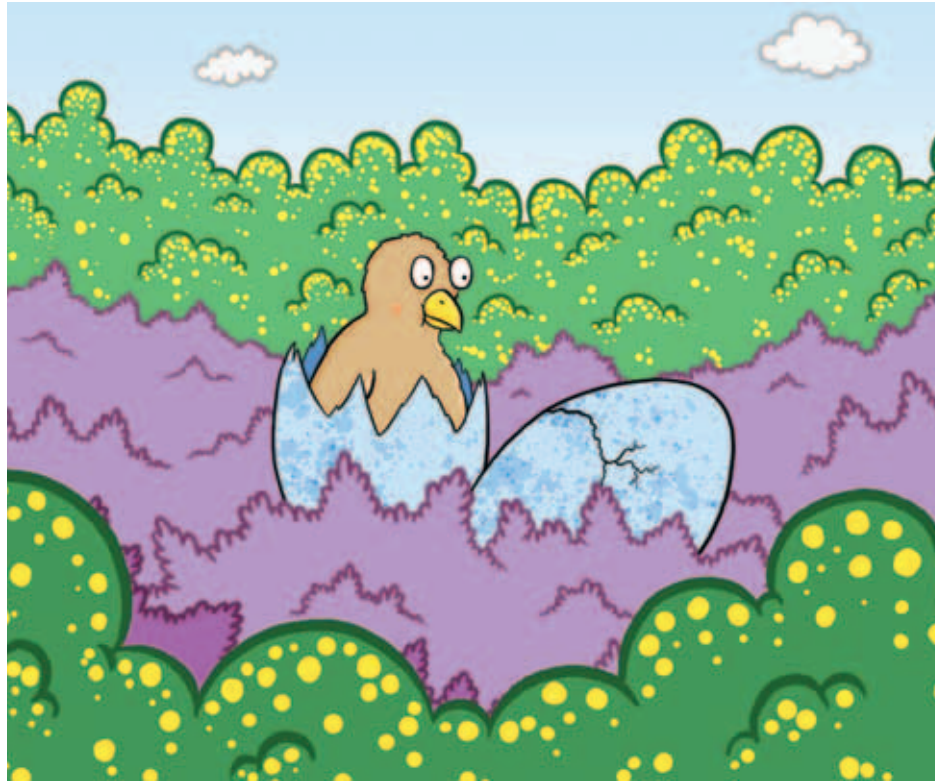


Here the sun shines down and keeps the sand warm.



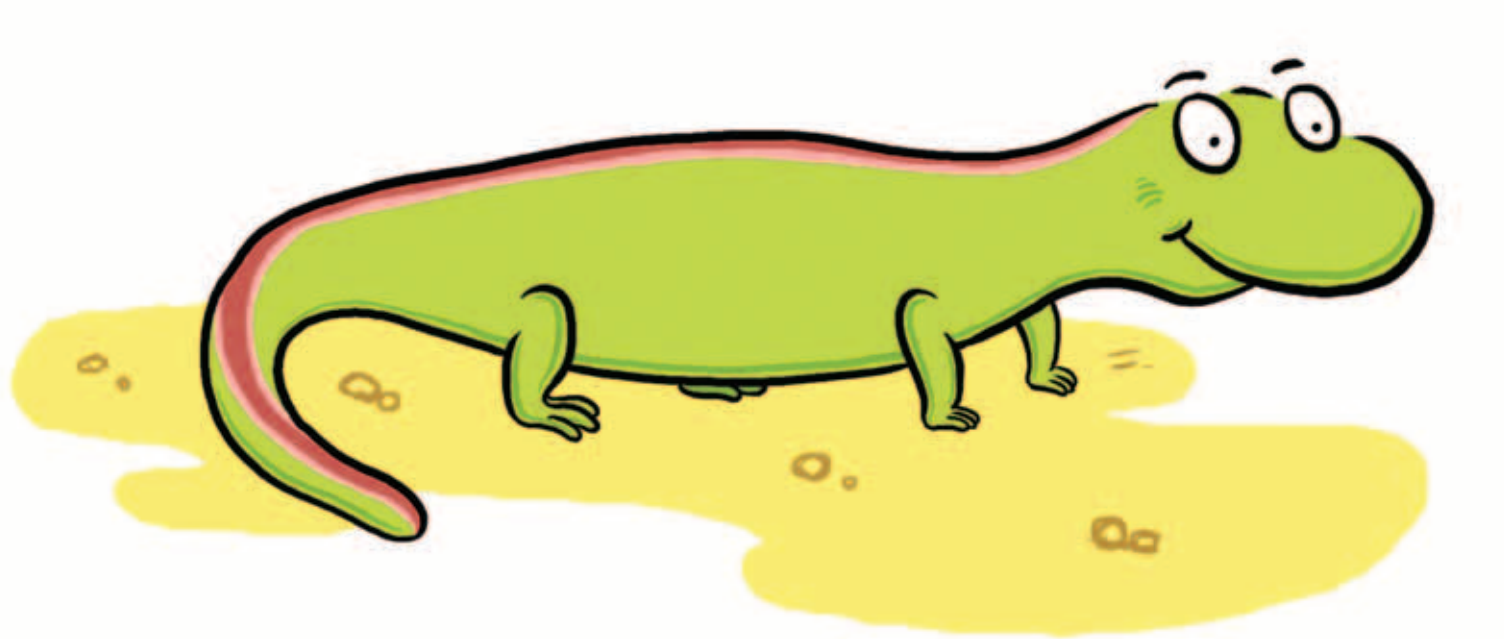
Sam was sitting in the sun, dreaming of a nice tasty snack to eat, when Bob the butterfly fluttered down and landed next to him.

"Hi Sam", he said, "Have you heard?
Nancy Nightjar's eggs have hatched.
One girl and one boy."



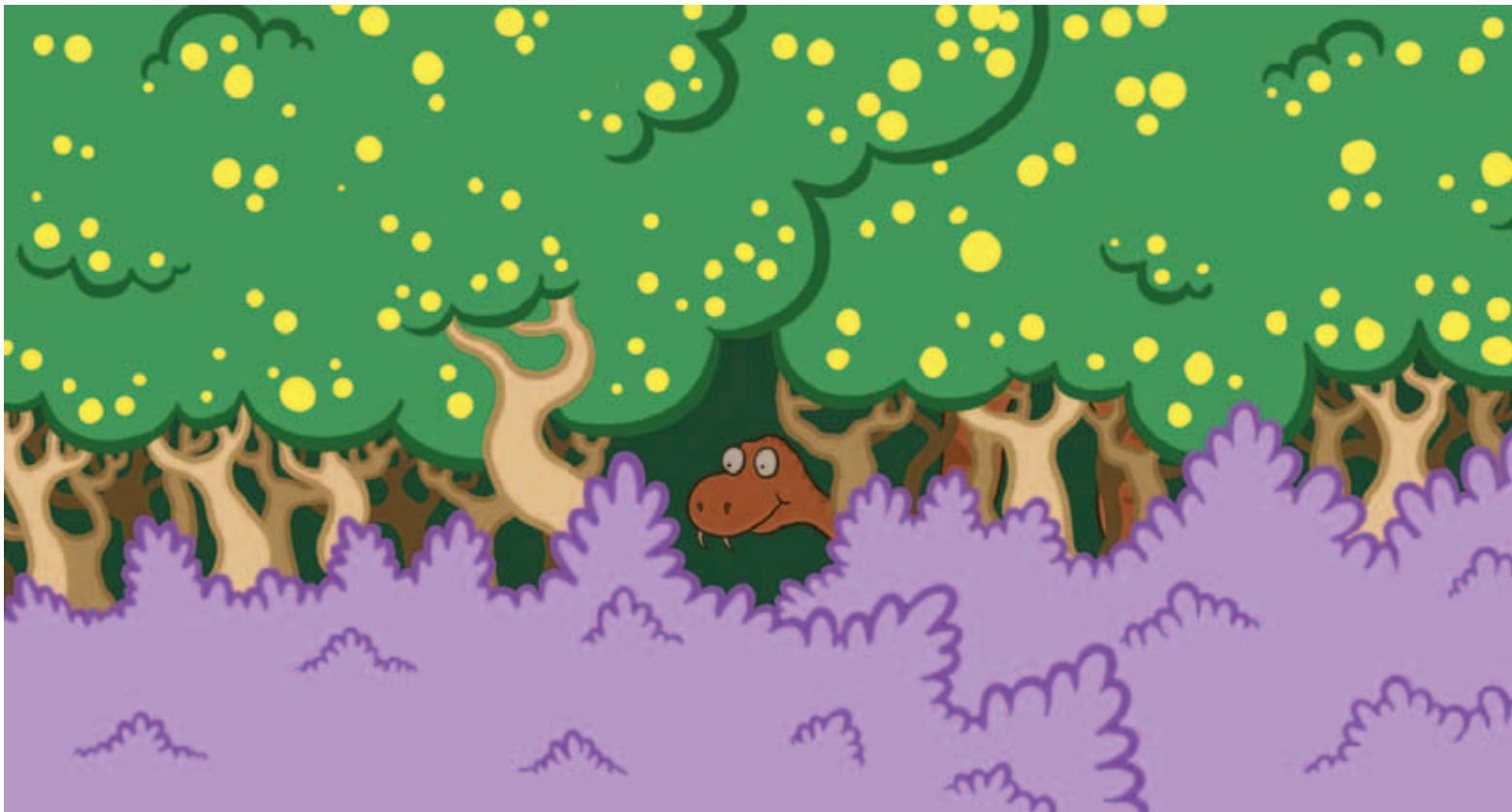
"Wow!" said Sam, "That is wonderful",
but Bob had fluttered off.
He never stayed anywhere long.

With a sigh, Sam sat down to carry on with his dreaming.



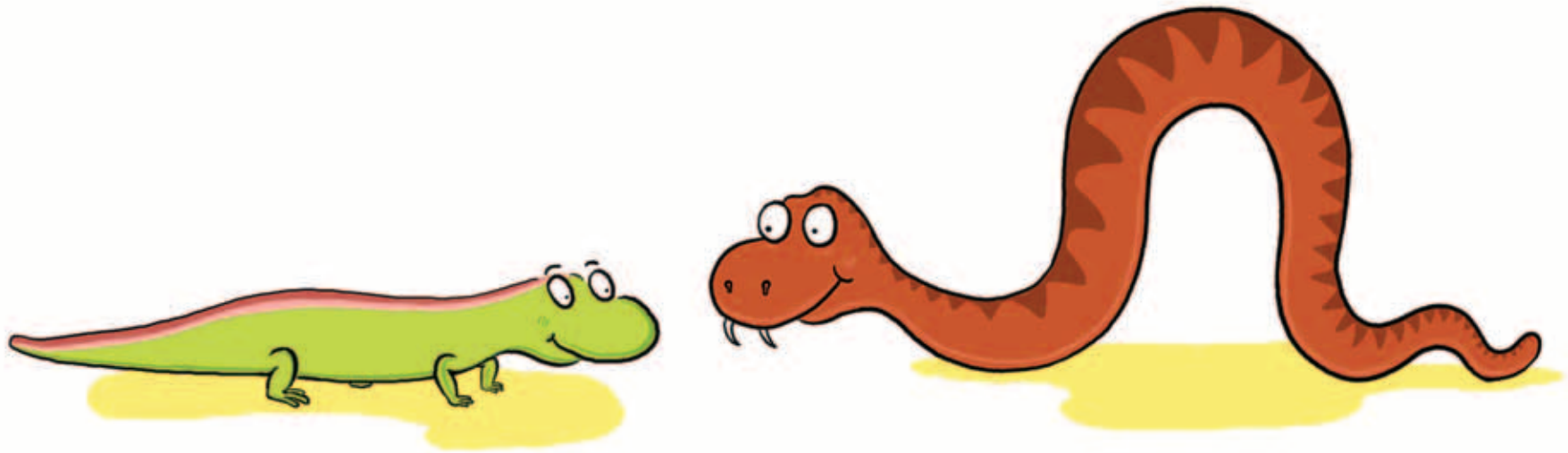
"Sssamm! Sssamm!" Someone was calling him.
Sam looked around
...who was there?

"Sssamm, Sssamm," the voice called again.
Sam looked around but he couldn't see anyone.
Suddenly he saw something rustling through the heather
towards him.



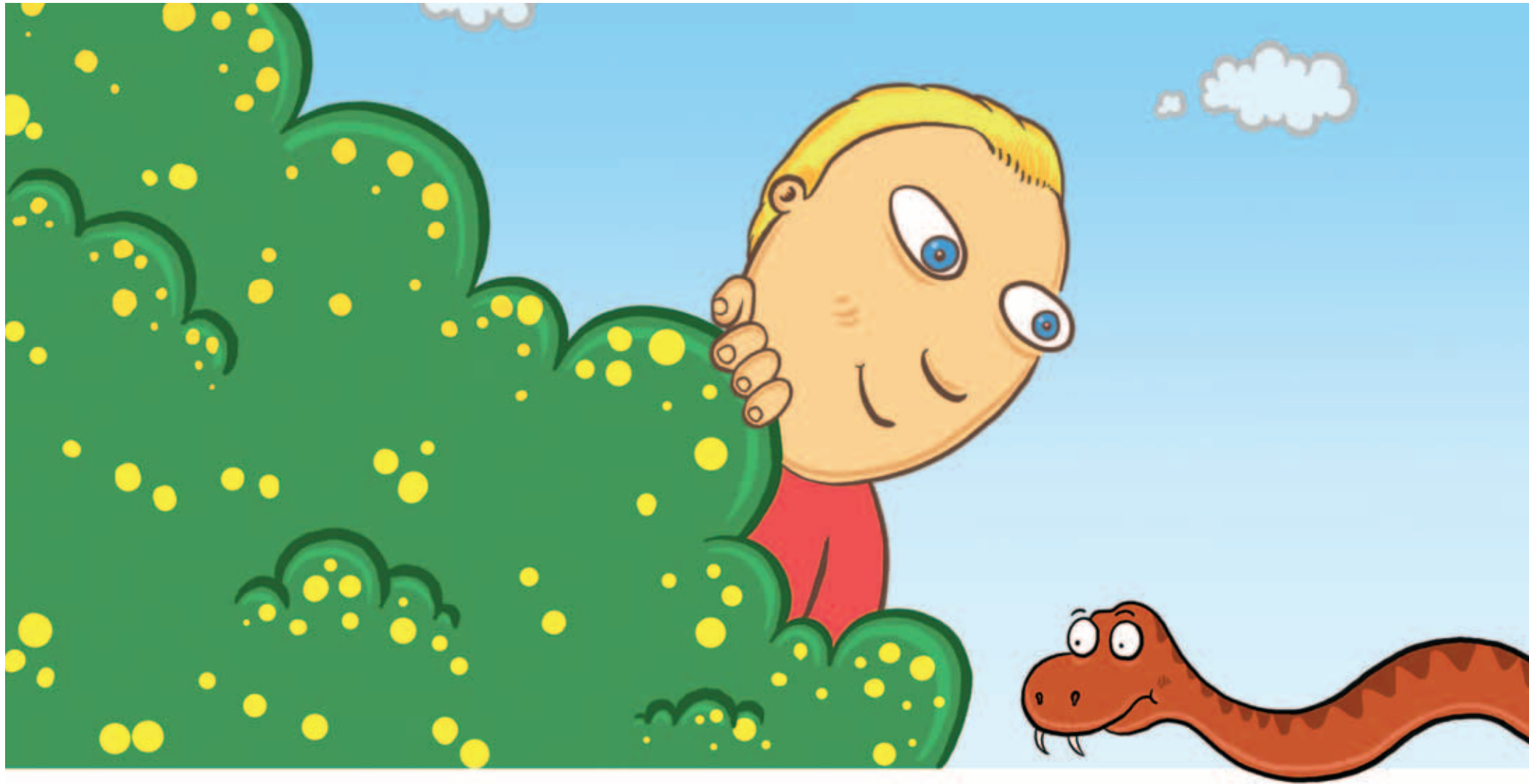
What was it?

"Hello Sssamm", said Andy the adder,
"Did I make you jump?"



Sam felt silly. "I couldn't see you", he said.
"That'ssss because I'm the ssame colour as the plants",
Andy explained.

Andy told Sam he had come to see him after escaping from some children who were scaring him.



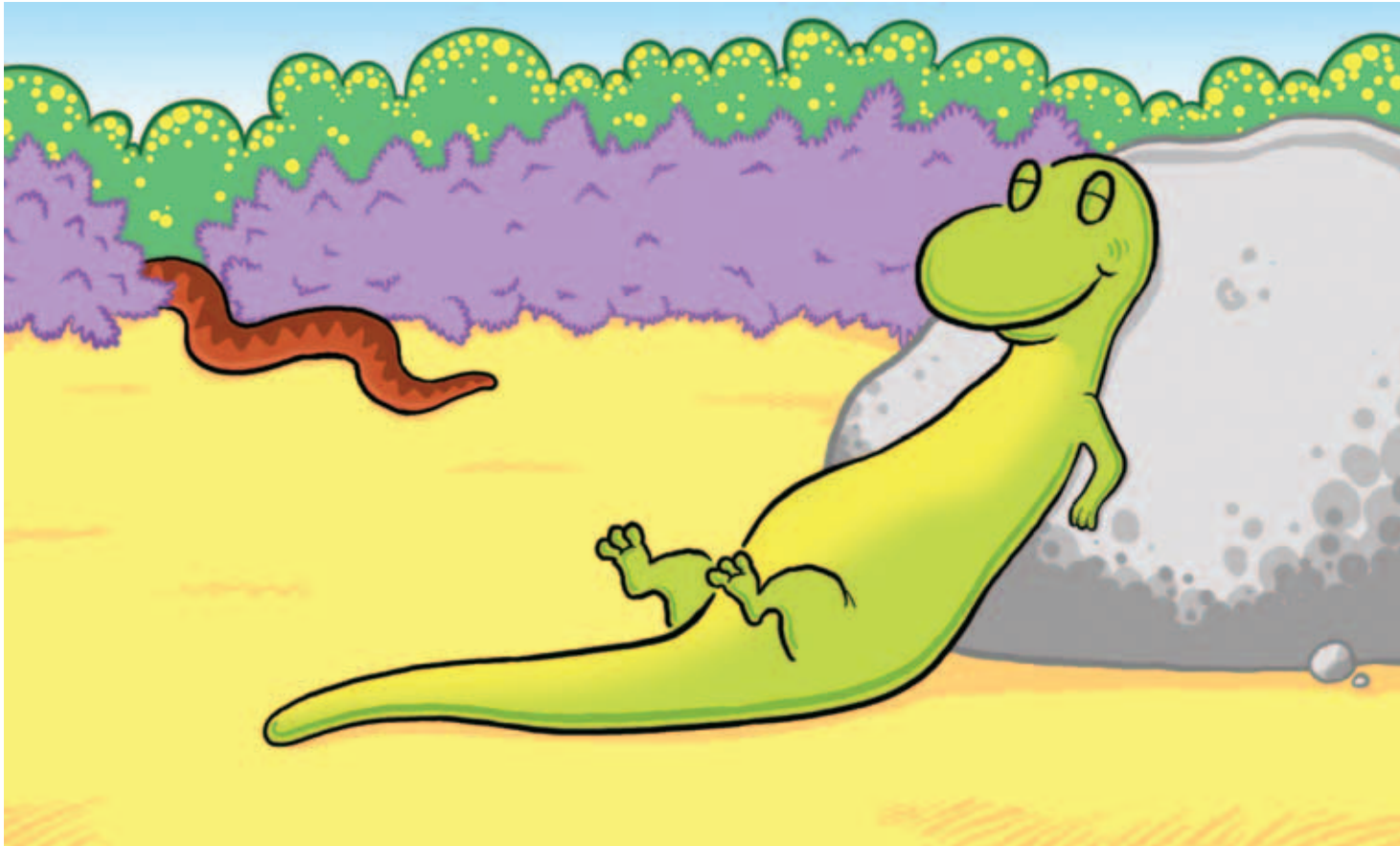
"They kept trying to pick me up", said Andy.

"I was very scared! Don't they know I could bite them?
I feel much sssafer here."

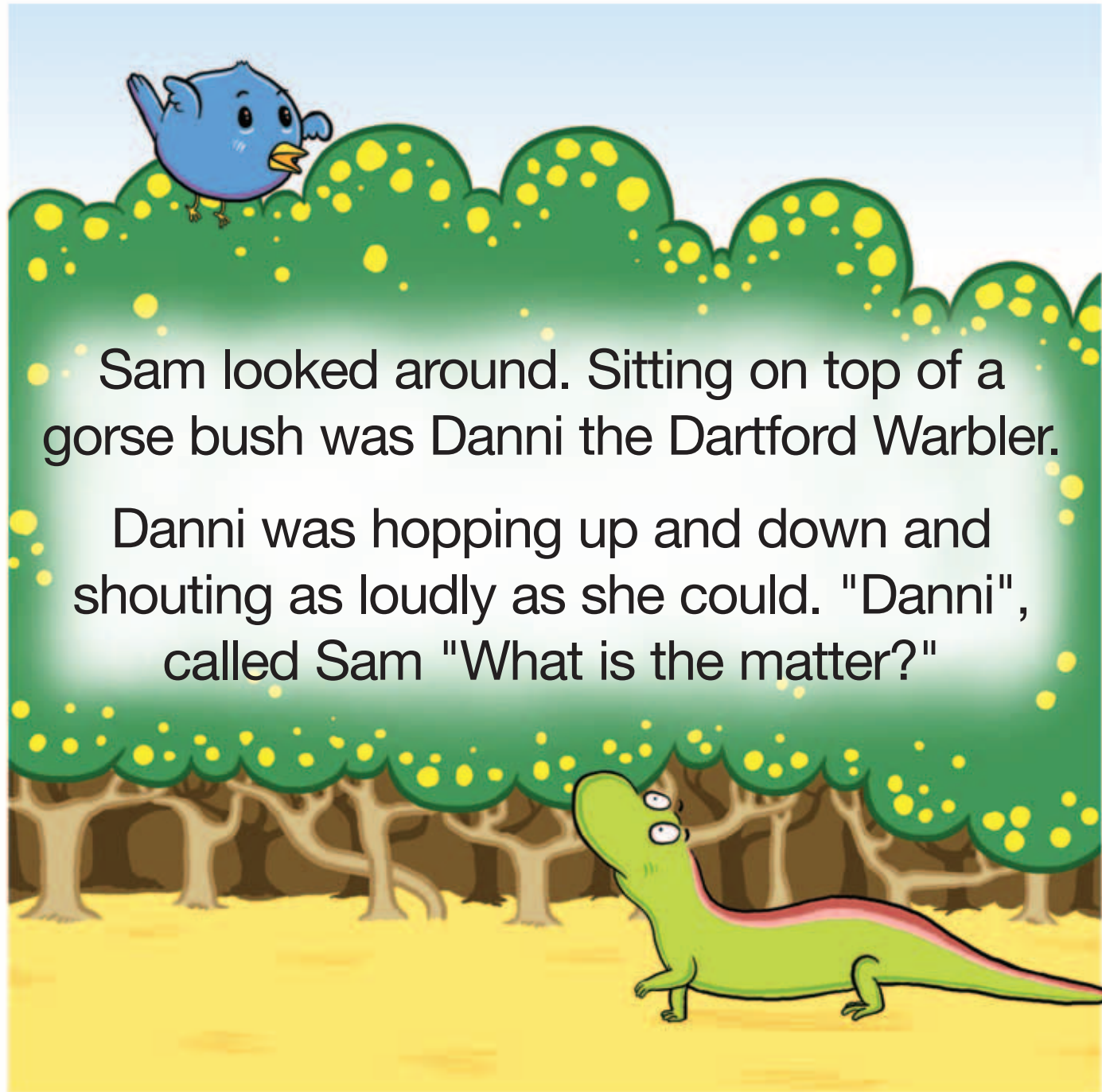


Sam told Andy he could stay as long as he wanted to.

After a rest, Andy slithered away in search of some food.
Sam went back to sleep.



Suddenly he was woken by a loud cry.
"Quick! Danger! Help! Quick! Help! Help! Danger!"



Sam looked around. Sitting on top of a gorse bush was Danni the Dartford Warbler.

Danni was hopping up and down and shouting as loudly as she could. "Danni", called Sam "What is the matter?"

"Fire!" cried Danni,



"The heath is on fire, get away! Get everyone away!"

Sam looked across the heath. In the distance he could see thick, black smoke in the sky.



Under the smoke were red, scary flames.
"Help get everyone out!" called Sam,
"Tell them to go to where Andy the adder lives!"



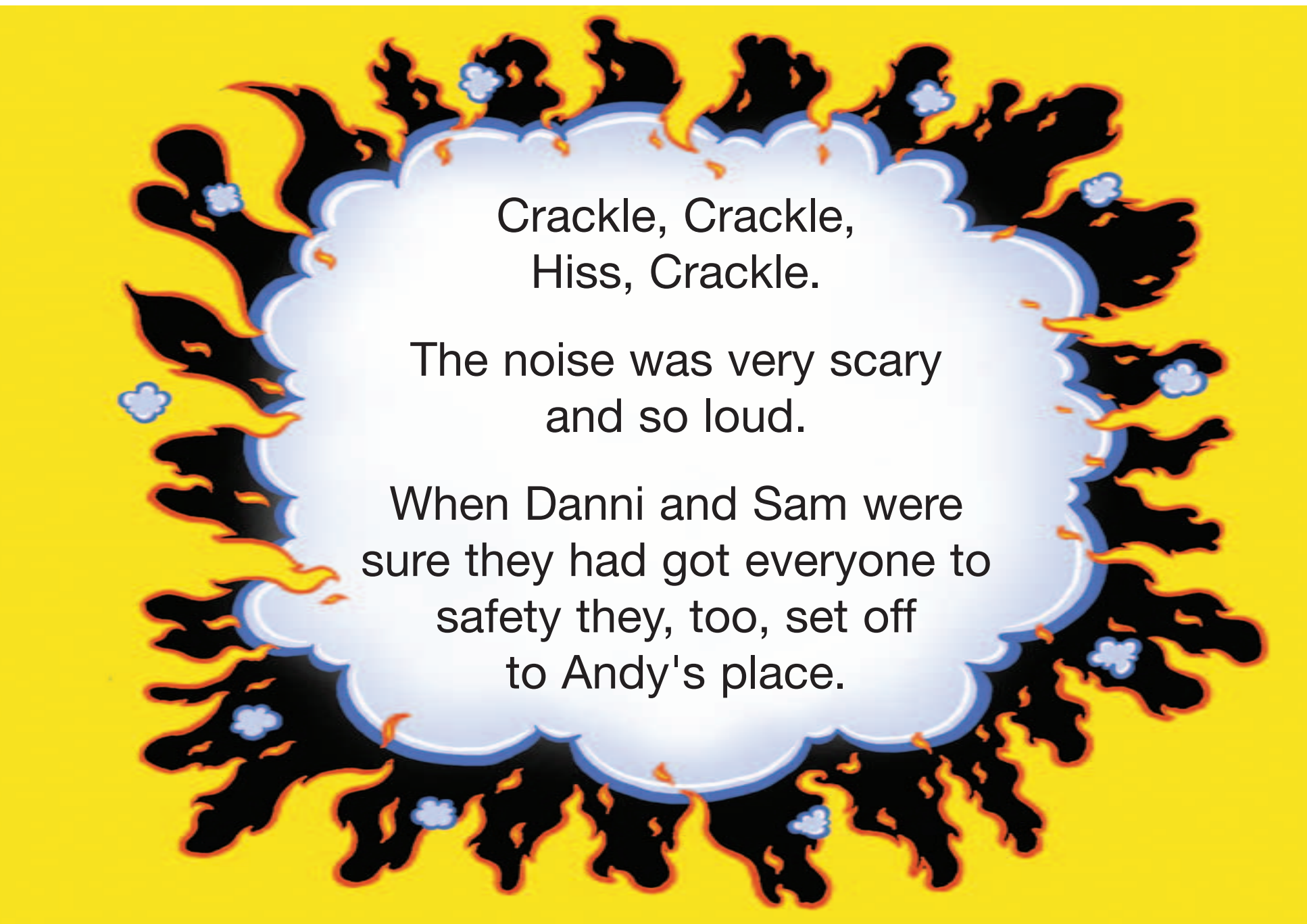
Danni flew around the heath calling to everyone through the smoke.

Sam ran around the ground telling everyone he could find.



It was very hot and scary.

The smoke was making it very hard to breathe and the flames were getting closer.



Crackle, Crackle,
Hiss, Crackle.

The noise was very scary
and so loud.

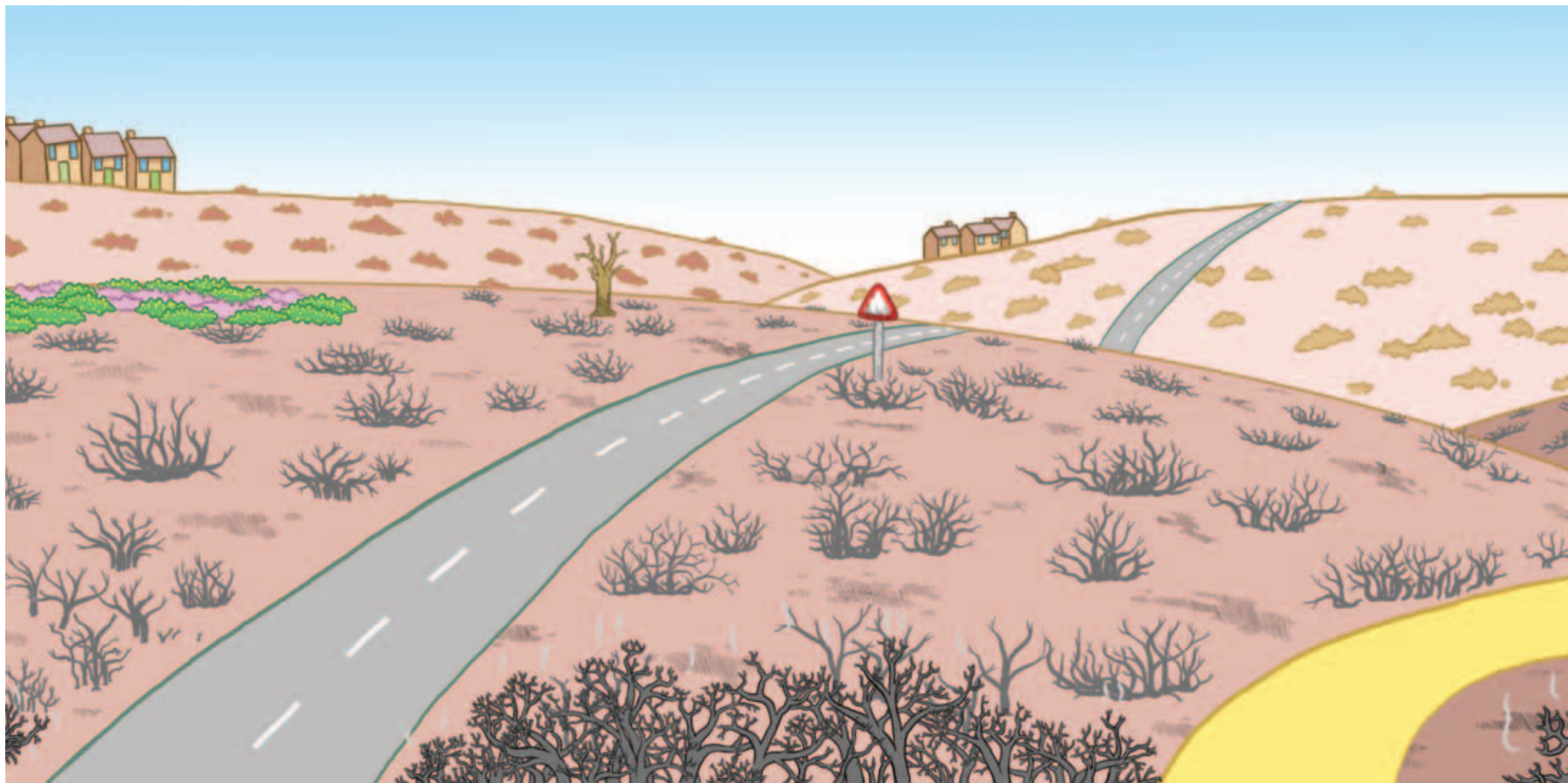
When Danni and Sam were
sure they had got everyone to
safety they, too, set off
to Andy's place.

Sam looked back. There were humans everywhere pouring water on the fire and beating the flames with special tools.



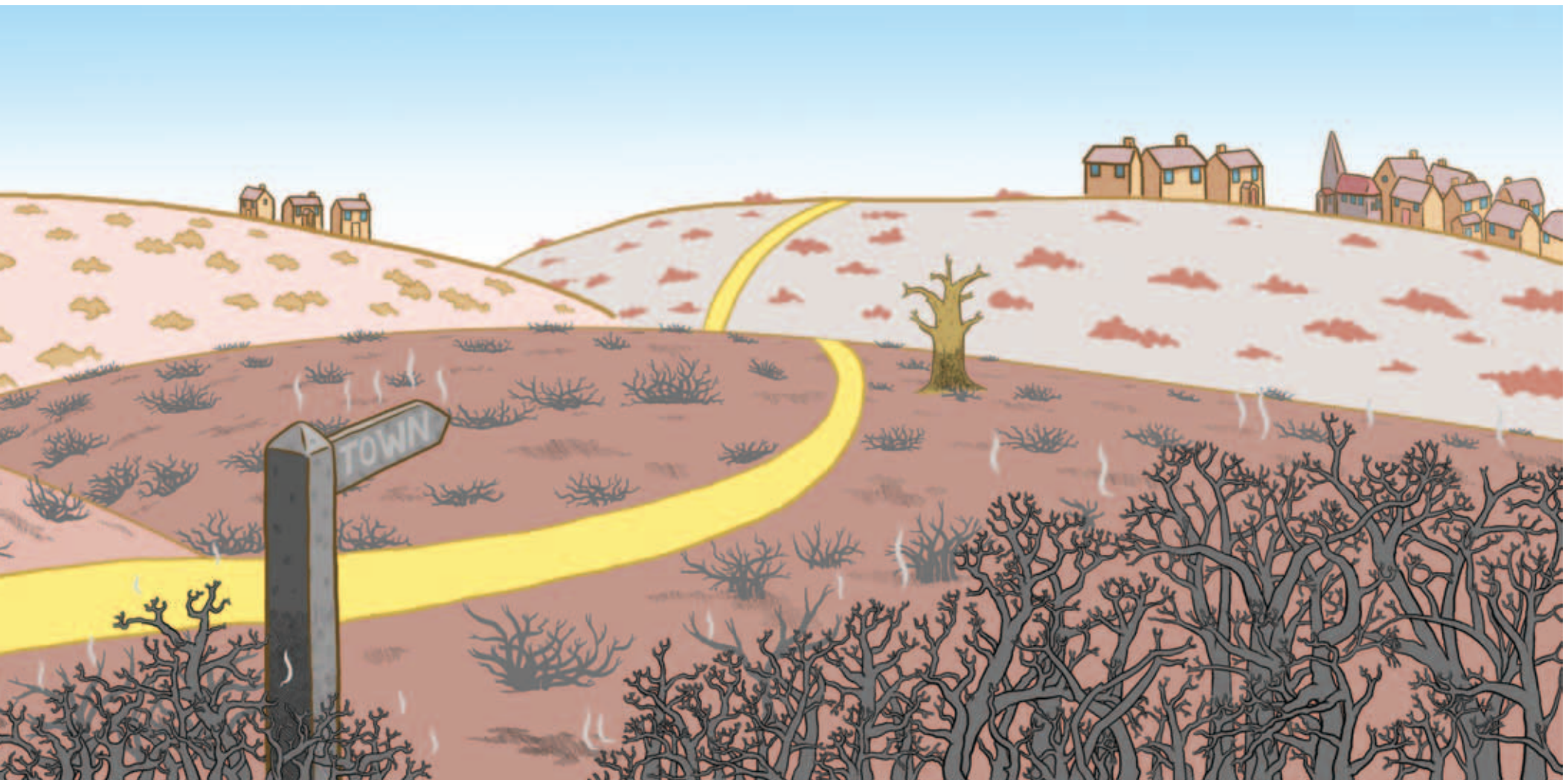
Big red trucks kept arriving.
Sam hoped no one would get hurt.

The next day Sam returned home, but there was no home to return to. The heather had all gone.



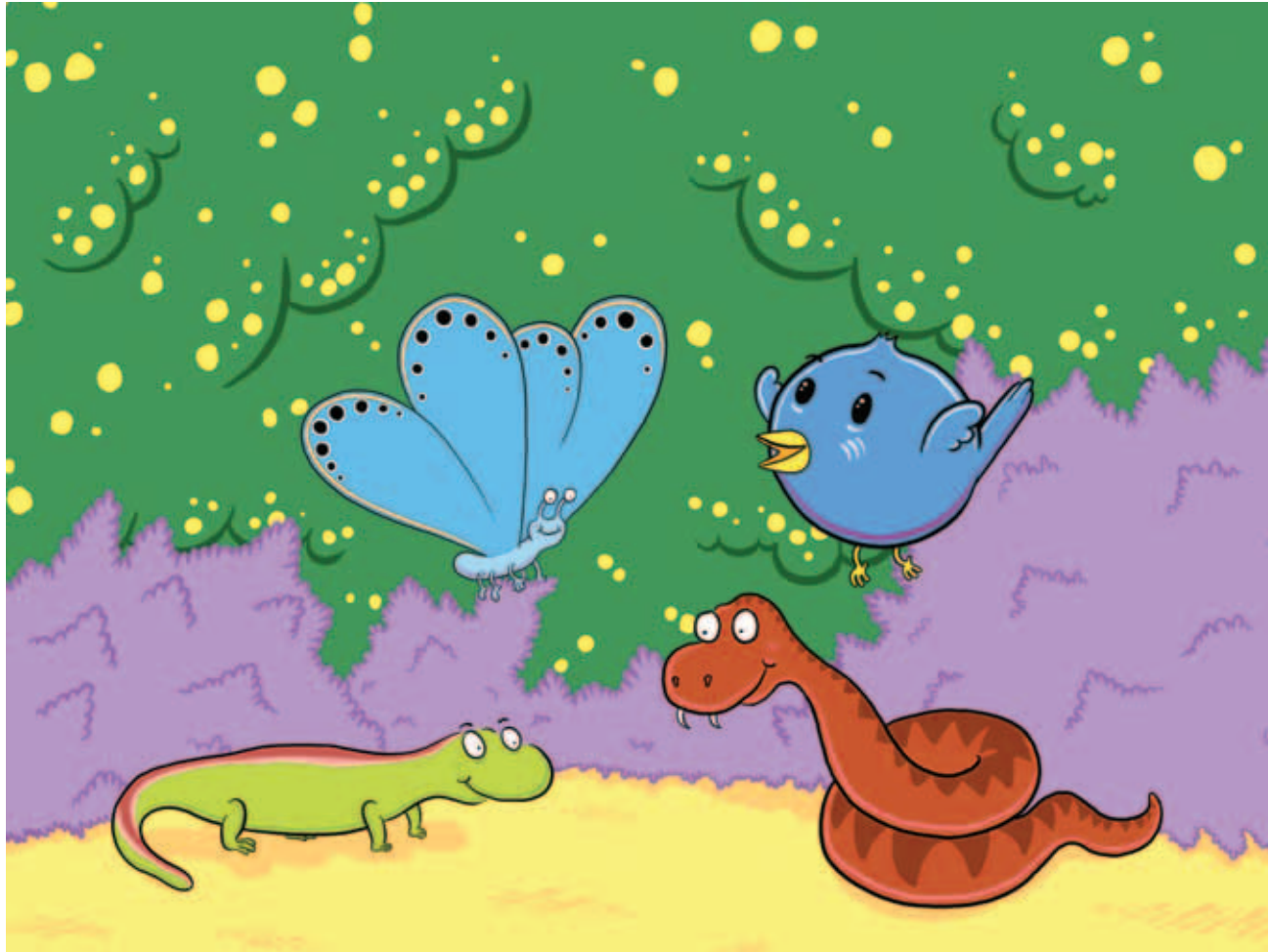
His sandy spot was covered in smelly, black ash.
Nancy's nest had gone.

There were no flowers for Bob to visit and no bushes for Danni to sing from. Sam was very sad.



Everywhere he looked was black.
Sam went back to the others feeling very, very sad indeed.

Andy said everyone could stay with him.
It was crowded but at least it was a patch of heathland.



Everyone hoped that there would be no more fires.