

**RIDLES**  
**RHYMES**

*This is a howl  
with one w  
showing  
nearly e*



This is a house  
with one window  
showing films  
nearly every minute  
of the day and so

shouting every  
 Nearly every bird  
 This wingless bird  
 Will soar, and so  
 Land quite so  
 On the moon

***Dear boys and girls!***

*On each page of this book you will find merry riddles in rhymes and coloured pictures to these riddles. They are about things that surround you in your everyday life: at home, in school, in the street, etc. Some of the riddles are about animals, birds and insects.*

*Read the rhymes, look at the pictures, and guess what's what. This done, verify your choice with the answers at the end of the book.*

*And now — go ahead!*



# RIDDLES *in* HYMES



*By Yuli Polyakov*  
*Illustrated by Boris Rytman*

Prosveshcheniye Publishers Moscow

1 It begins  
Just where it ends,  
And your lovely house  
There stands.

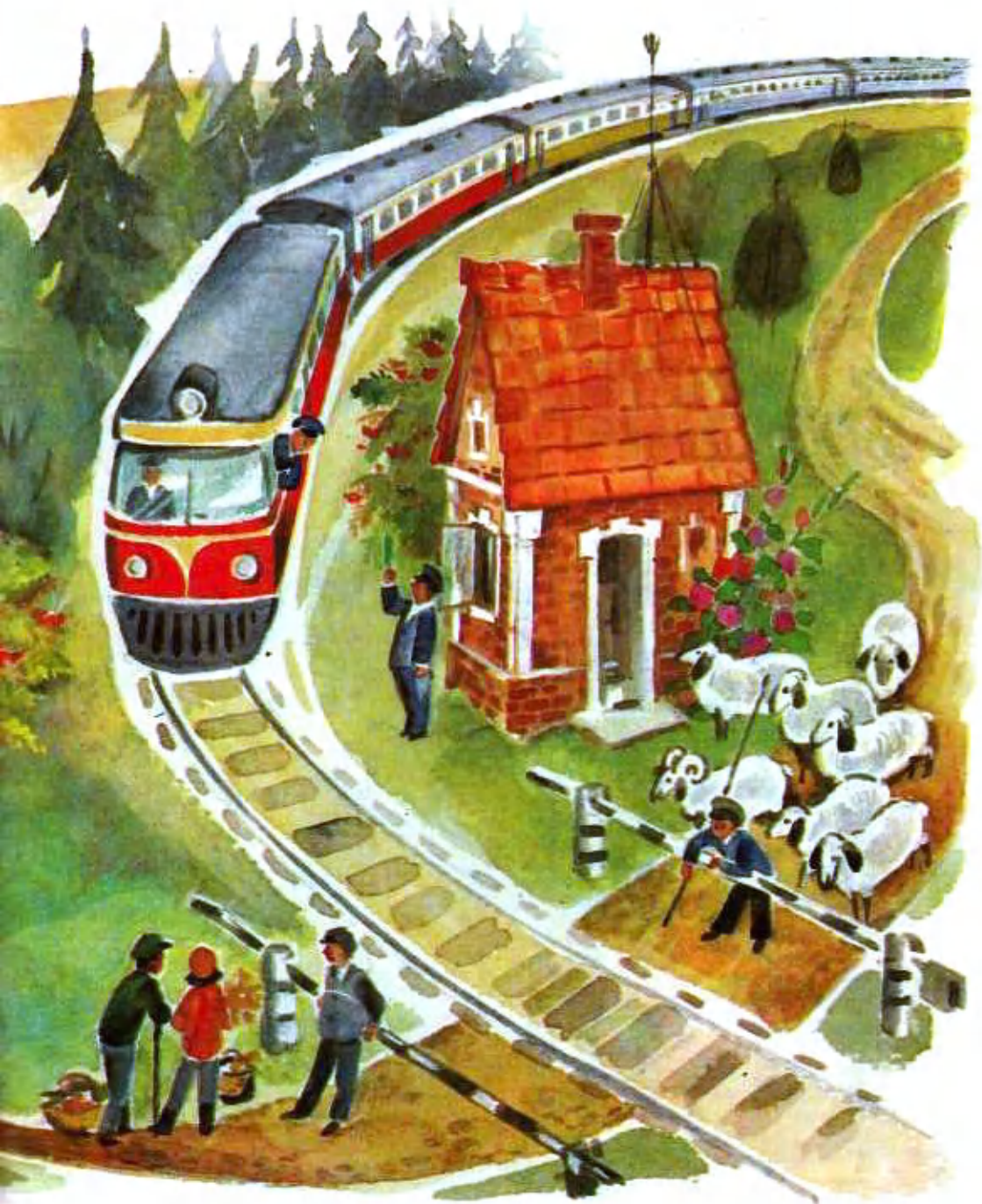
2 Houses run  
Upon these rails,  
Over hills  
And over dales.

3 This young foal  
Looks nice and gay.  
He eats  
Neither oats nor hay.  
Firmly grip  
The handle-bar,  
If you want  
To travel far.



The answers are on page 48.







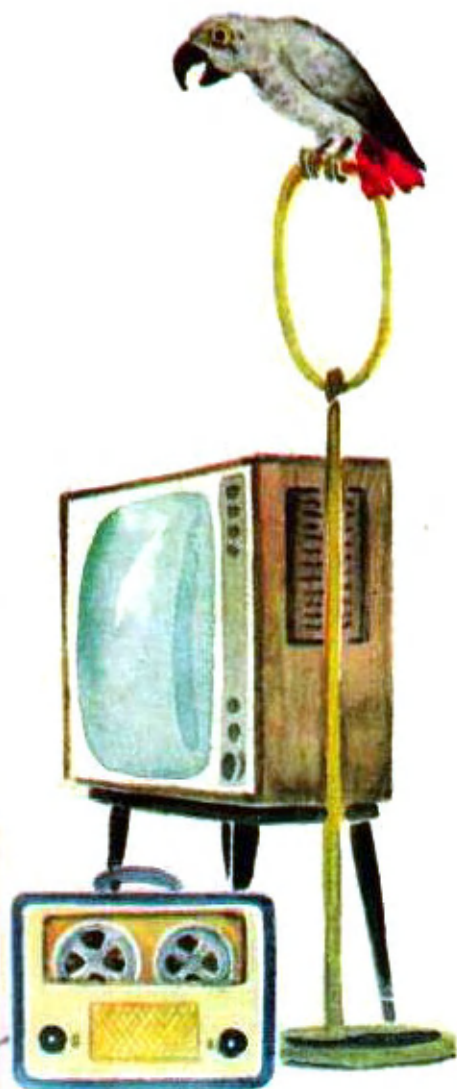


This is a house  
With one window in it,  
Showing films  
Nearly every minute.

It is running  
Night and day,  
But it never  
Runs away.

Without a tongue,  
Without an ear,  
I can speak,  
And sing,  
And hear.

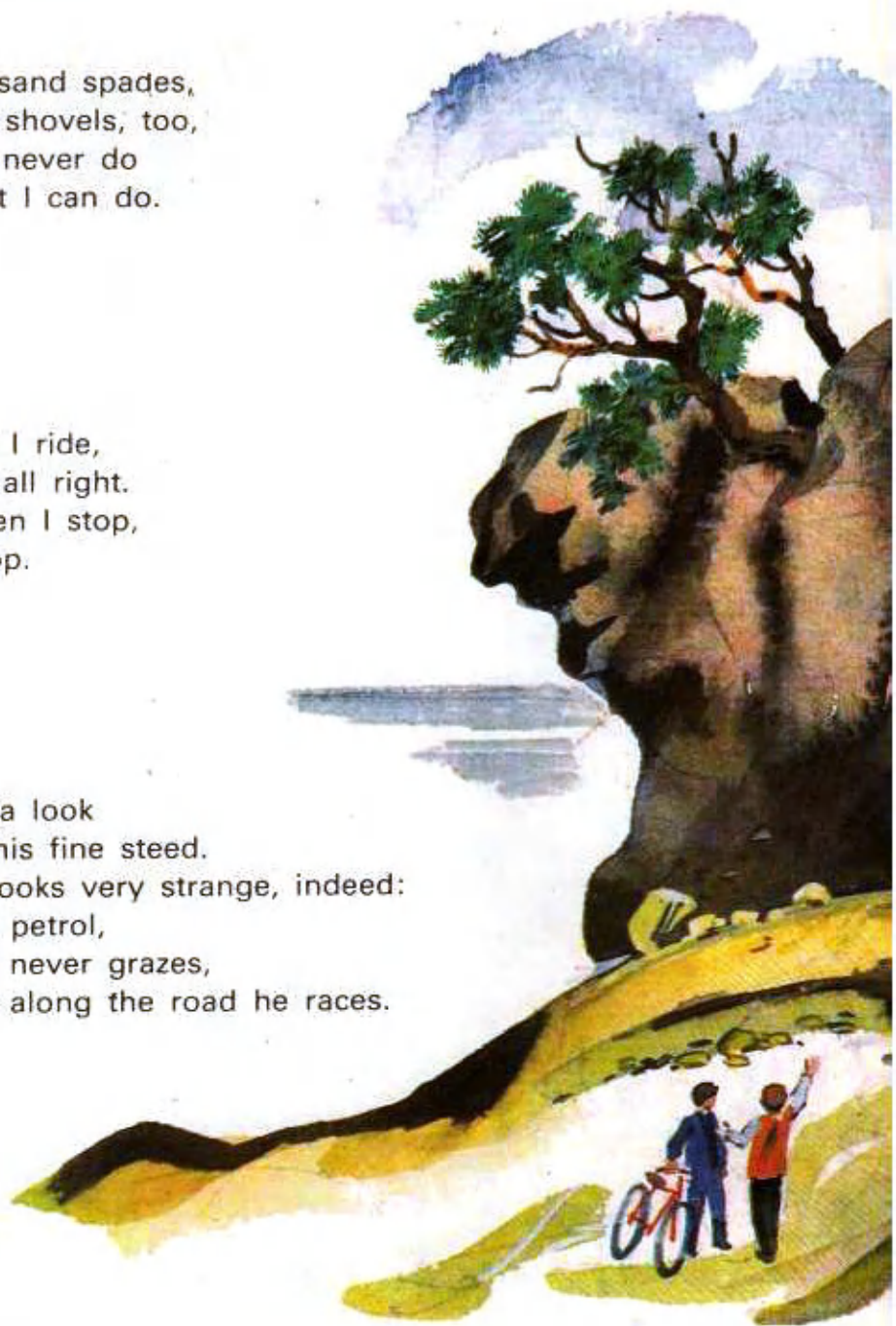
Over fields,  
And woods,  
And rivers  
This voice carries  
(Sometimes quivers).  
It is carried  
By wires  
Day and night,  
It never tires.



8 A thousand spades,  
And shovels, too,  
Can never do  
What I can do.

9 W hen I ride,  
I'm all right.  
When I stop,  
I flop.

10 H ave a look  
At this fine steed.  
He looks very strange, indeed:  
Eats petrol,  
And never grazes,  
Fast along the road he races.







11 I'll dial the proper number,  
And  
Soon hear the voice  
Of my very best friend.

12 Two little golden horns  
Are sitting on a cloud,  
Floating slowly in the sky,  
Looking very proud.

13 I have no legs,  
But I can run.  
I have no tongue,  
But I tell everyone:  
"Time to start work!"  
"Time to go to bed!"  
"Time to get up again,  
You, sleepy-head!"











Seven kids on a ladder  
Are happy and gay.  
They are swinging their feet  
They are singing away. 14

My hands and face 15  
I never wash,  
But, not a sloven,  
I look posh!  
Don't wash them:  
I'll stop to chime,  
And you'll never  
Know the time.

Each dot on this ladder 16  
Looks like a bird.  
They're all singing songs  
That I've never heard.



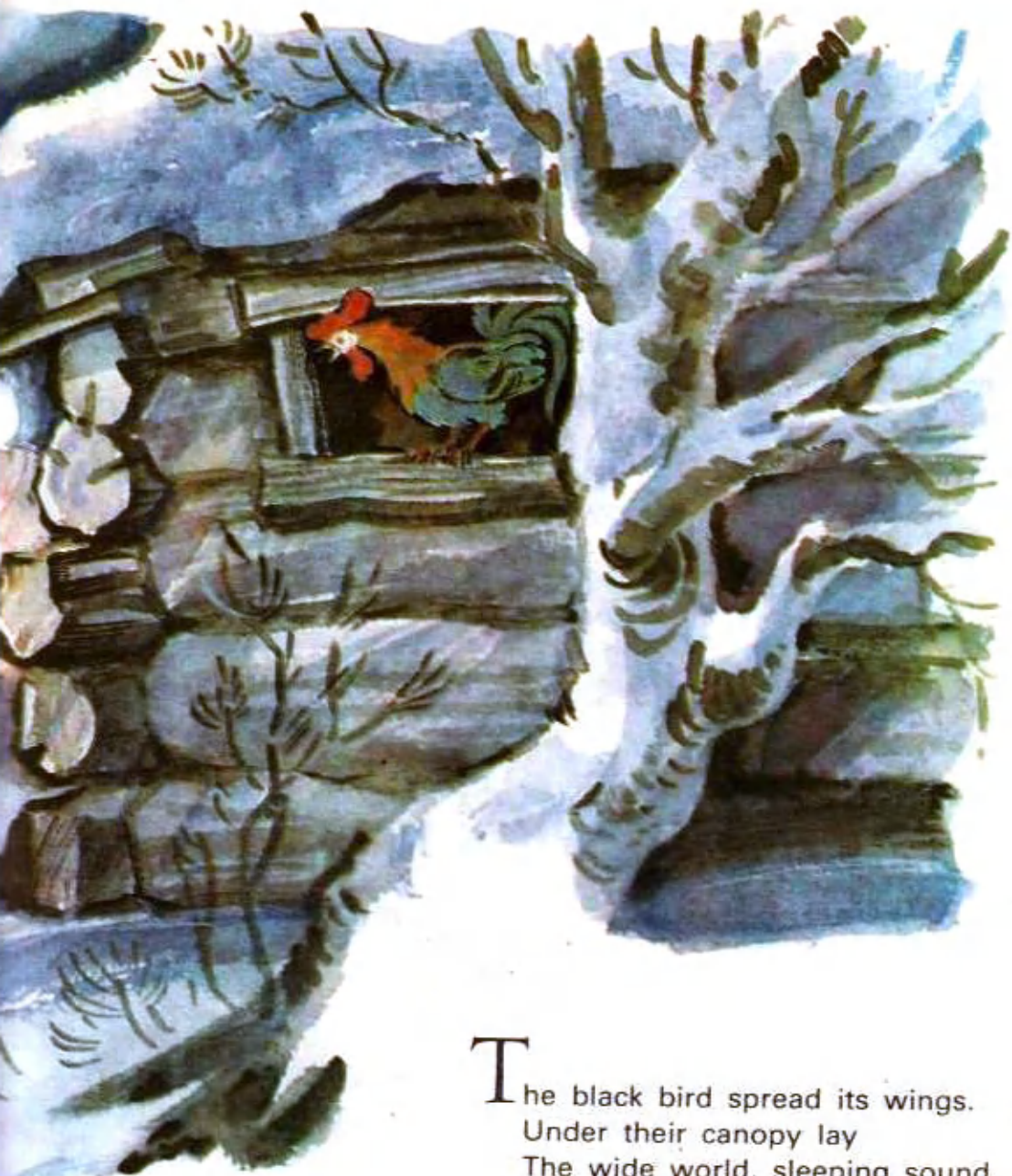


17 **M**y beautiful tail  
Is bushy,  
And the colour of it  
Is red.  
I hate the idea  
Of it being worn  
Round your neck  
Or upon your head.

18 **E**arly at dawn  
He's the first to awake,  
And a terrible sound  
He's ready to make.  
This shrill,  
Alarming,  
Deafening sound  
Arouses from sleep  
Everybody around.  
In the distance  
This sound dies away,  
Ushering in  
Another new day.







The black bird spread its wings. 19  
Under their canopy lay  
The wide world, sleeping sound,  
Till the break of next day.

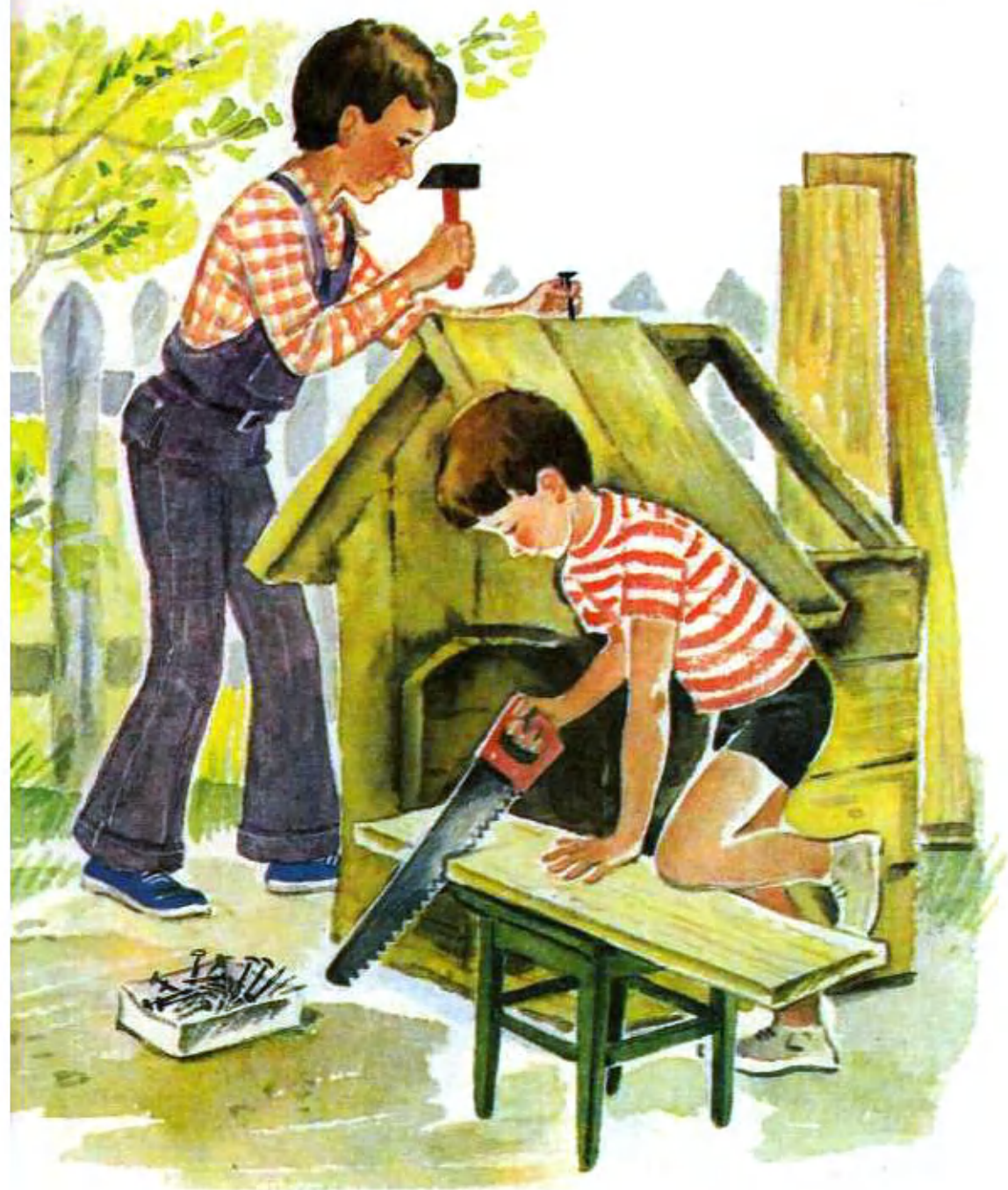
20 Brother Thin  
And Brother Thick  
Fasten things,  
Both small and big.

21 He doesn't speak,  
Nor does he sing,  
Nor at the door-bell  
Give a ring,  
But still he lets  
His master know  
Who wants to see him,  
Friend or foe.

22 My sharp steel teeth,  
In any wood,  
For cutting trees  
Are very good.  
So if you want  
To fell a tree,  
You'll have to make  
Good use of me.











On the cooker  
I'm puffing and puffing. 23  
Why are they torturing me  
For nothing?  
My lid is tinkling.  
Do make some tea!  
Switch off the cooker,  
And set me free.

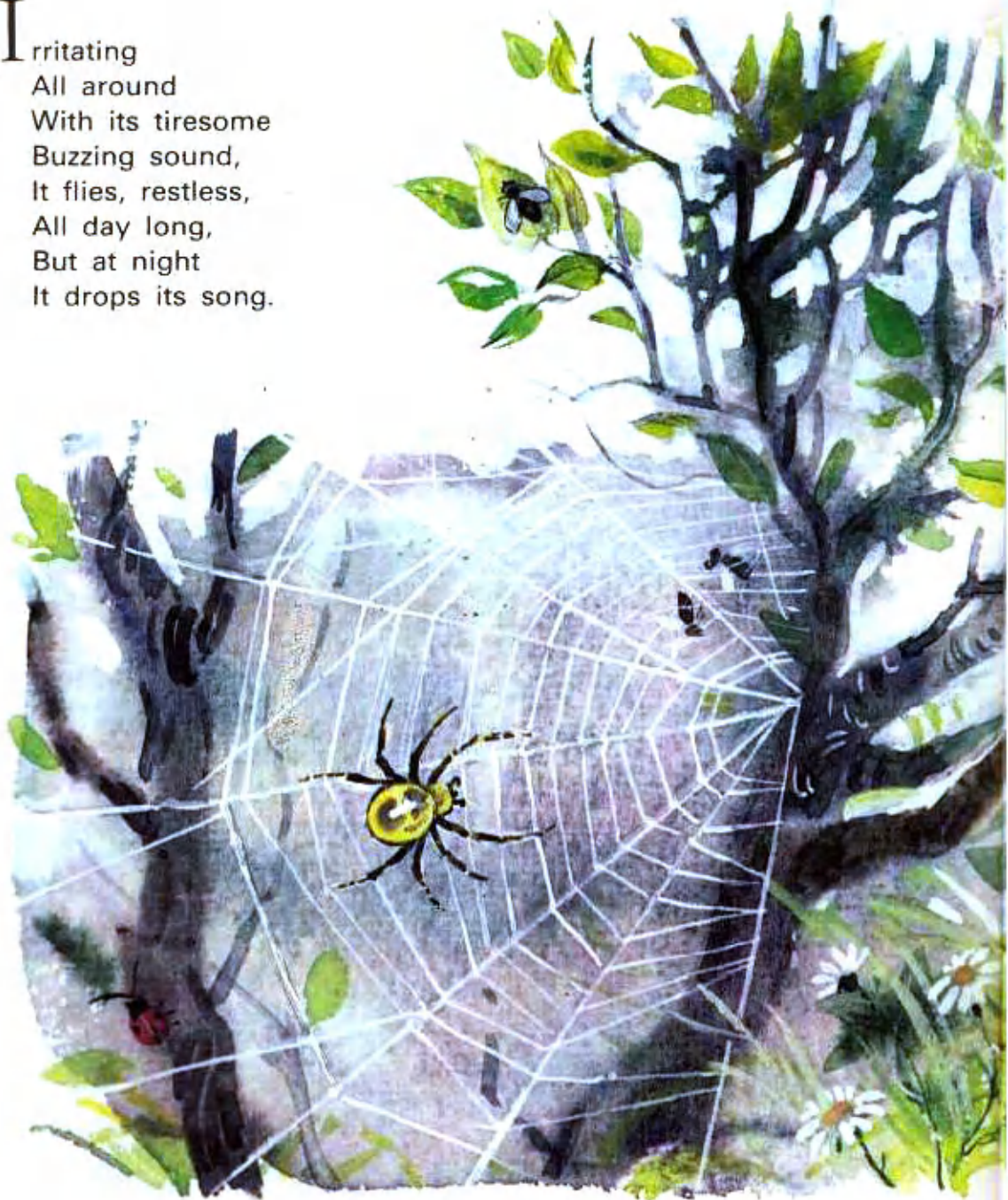
In our kitchen,  
All the year round, 24  
Lives old Jack Frost,  
All safe and sound.

If you want 25  
To get rid of dust,  
Then I'm surely  
An absolute must.  
From every corner  
And every nook  
I'll suck it out,  
By hook or by crook.

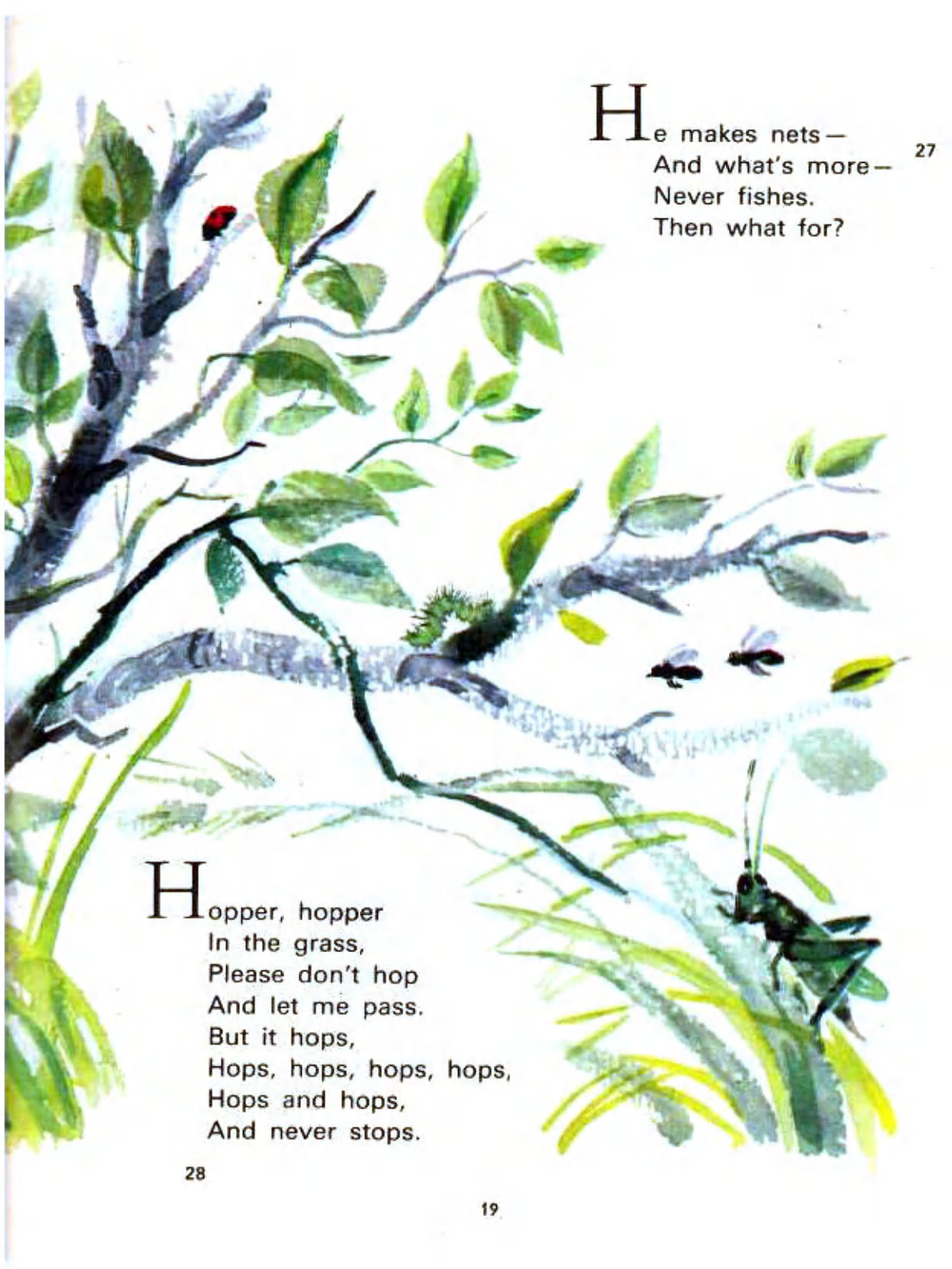




26 I  
rritating  
All around  
With its tiresome  
Buzzing sound,  
It flies, restless,  
All day long,  
But at night  
It drops its song.

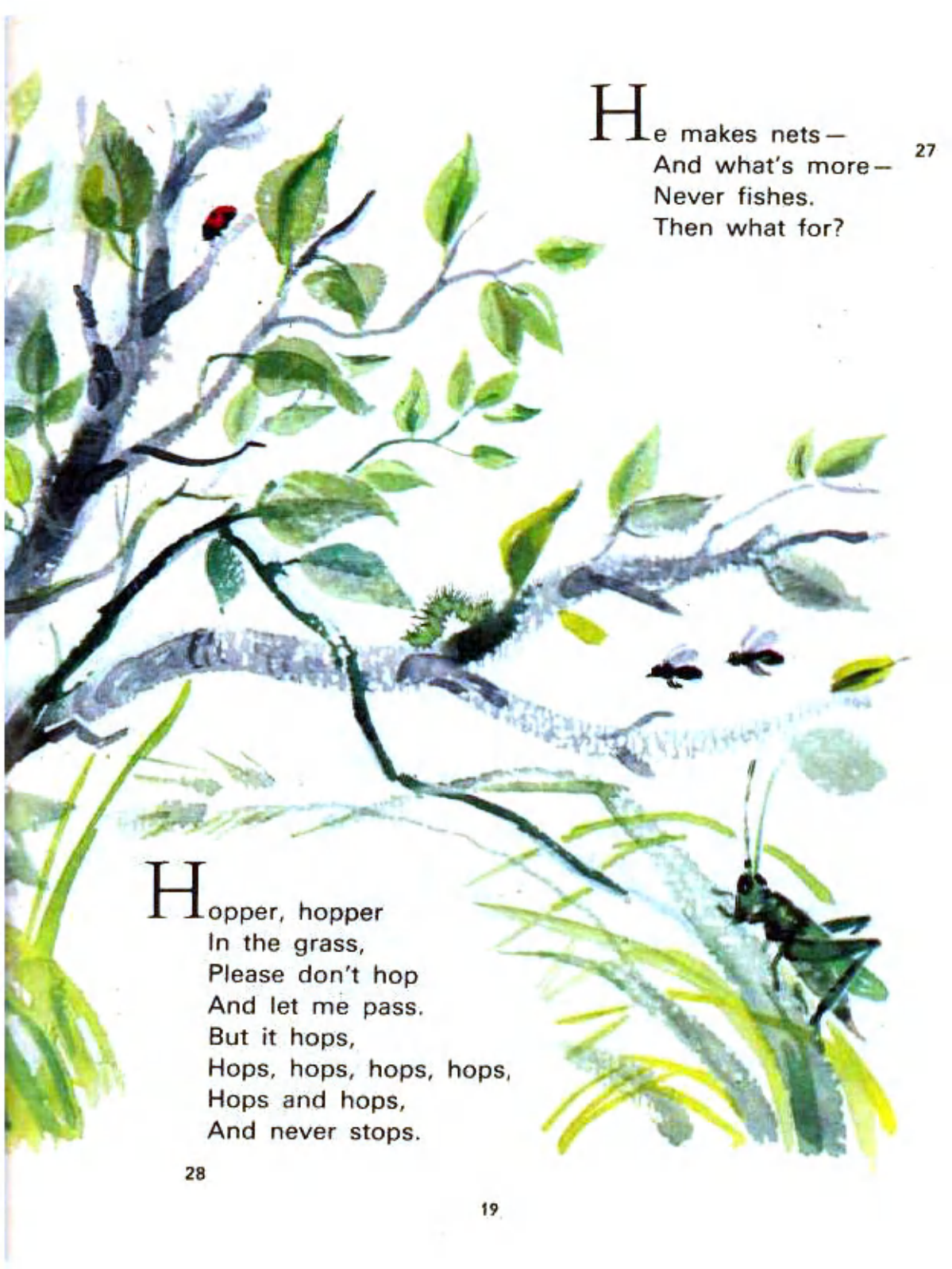






He makes nets —  
And what's more —  
Never fishes.  
Then what for?

27



Hopper, hopper  
In the grass,  
Please don't hop  
And let me pass.  
But it hops,  
Hops, hops, hops, hops,  
Hops and hops,  
And never stops.

28

19

29 You hear my song  
From quite afar.  
It's in the pebbles ringing.  
I'm running down  
To reach the lake.  
I'm gay, I'm fond of singing.







Brother Rod  
And Brother Hook  
Went for simpletons.  
Just look:  
Brother Hook,  
All tough and firm,  
Fastened to his nose  
A worm.

30

It never bothers  
To wake us up,  
But in any weather  
And any season,  
We open our eyes,  
Stretch and yawn, we rise  
The moment we see  
It is risen.

31

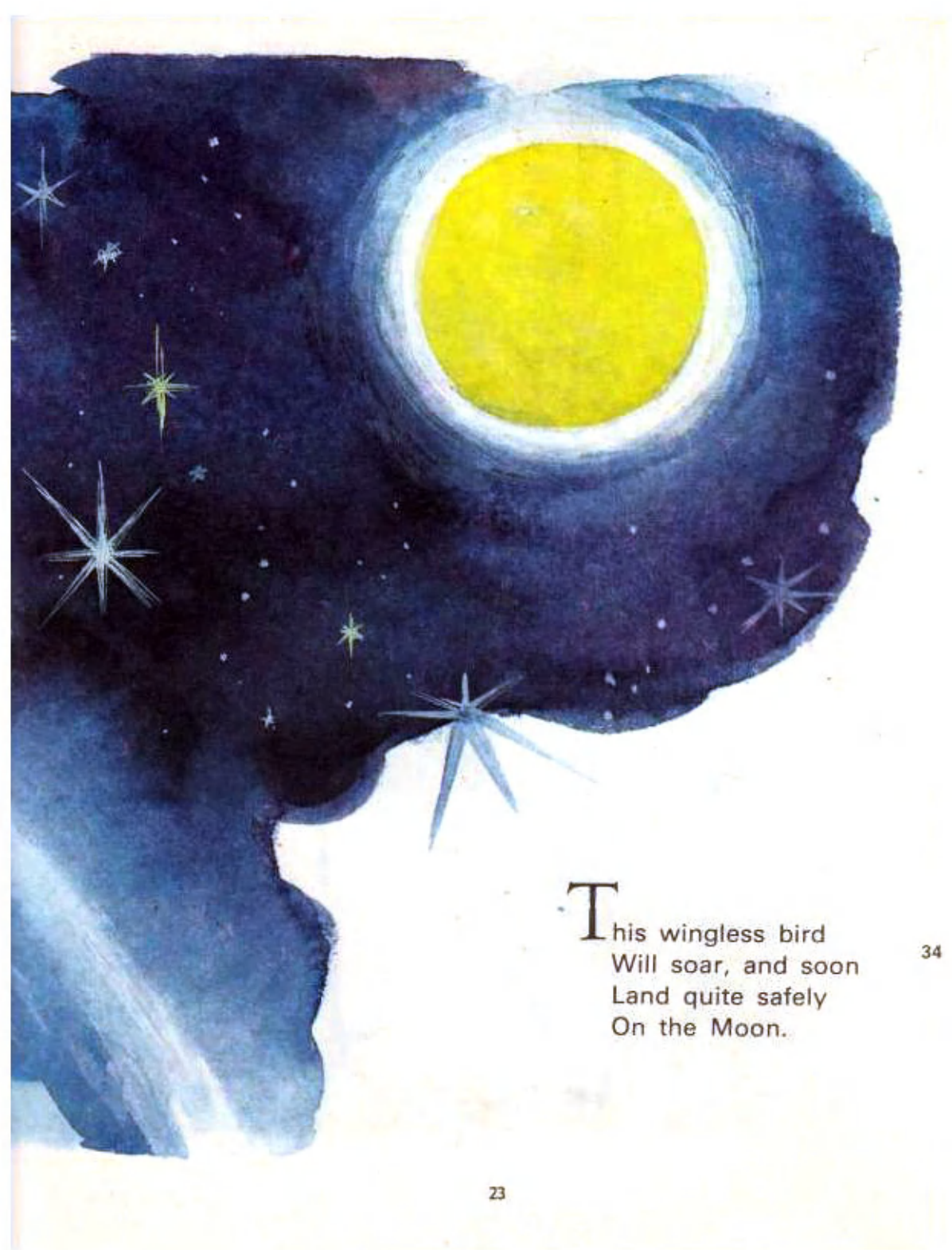
Of our deep river  
It joins the two banks.  
When it helped me cross it,  
I said,  
"Many thanks!"

32

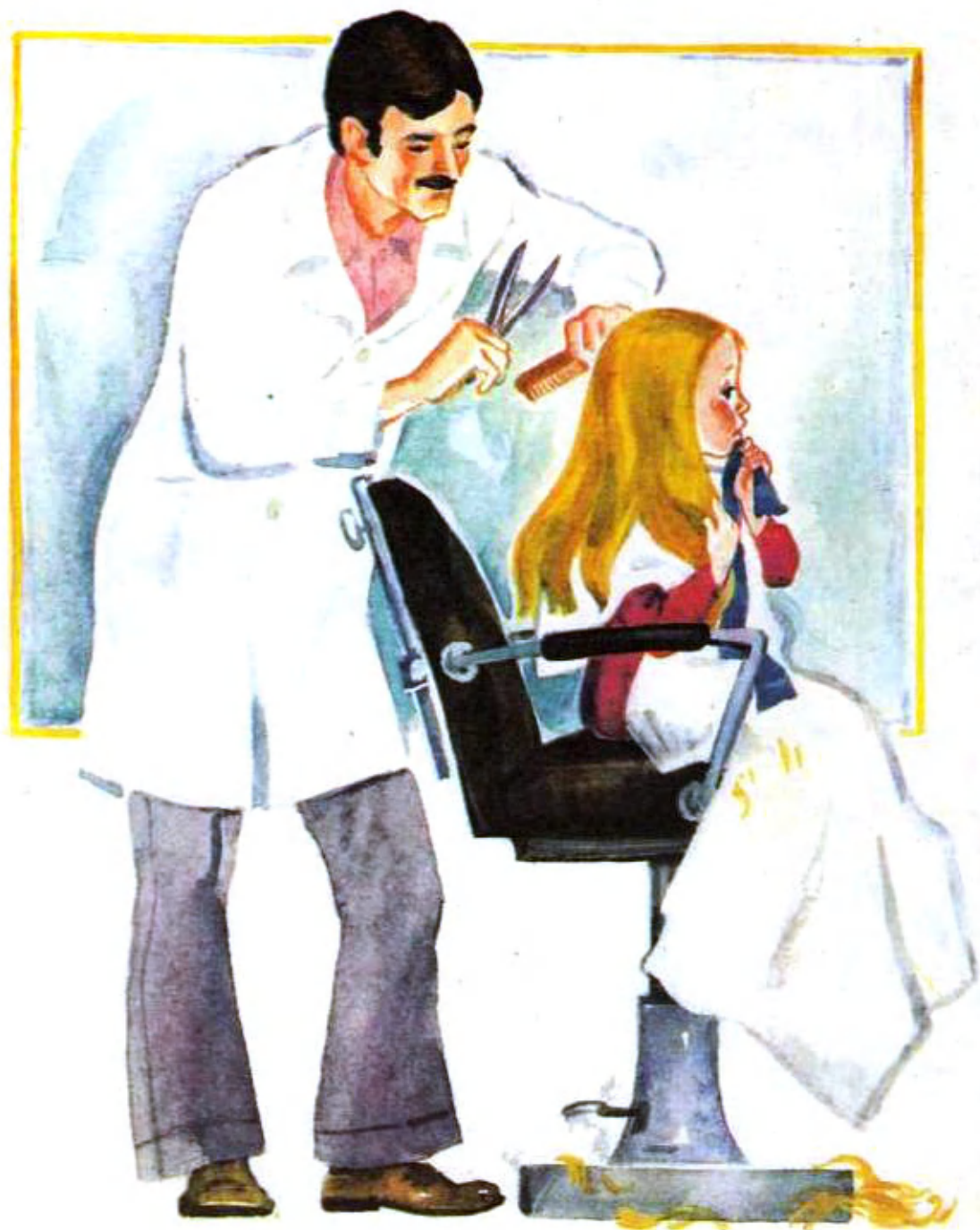
I was a horn once,  
A disk I'm now.  
I know things do happen,  
But I wonder—  
How?







This wingless bird  
Will soar, and soon  
Land quite safely  
On the Moon.





Never planted,  
Still it grows.  
What's the answer?  
Now, who knows?

35

With two sharp blades,  
Assisted by two rings,  
I'm handy for cutting paper,  
Fabric and other things.

36

My teeth are sharp,  
But I don't bite,  
And you make use of me  
All right.  
My humble duty's  
Plain and fair—  
To help you comb  
Your lovely hair.

37



38 **W**ho are these twins  
That bridge a man's nose  
Every morning?  
Who of you knows?

39 **I**n a ball of glass  
There lives this light.  
It sleeps in the day-time  
And works at night.

40 **M**y leaves are white.  
They never grow.  
And everything  
You want to know  
Is stored in those  
Black marks you see  
On every leaf  
You find in me.

41 **B**rother Left,  
And Right,  
His brother,  
Hardly ever  
See each other.  
Mirrors  
Is the only place  
Where they're coming  
Face to face.







42 **B**andy legs  
And Gape-a-grin,  
I'm leaping  
In the green.  
Midges, gnats,  
Don't try your fate!  
Stay away  
Each time I gape.

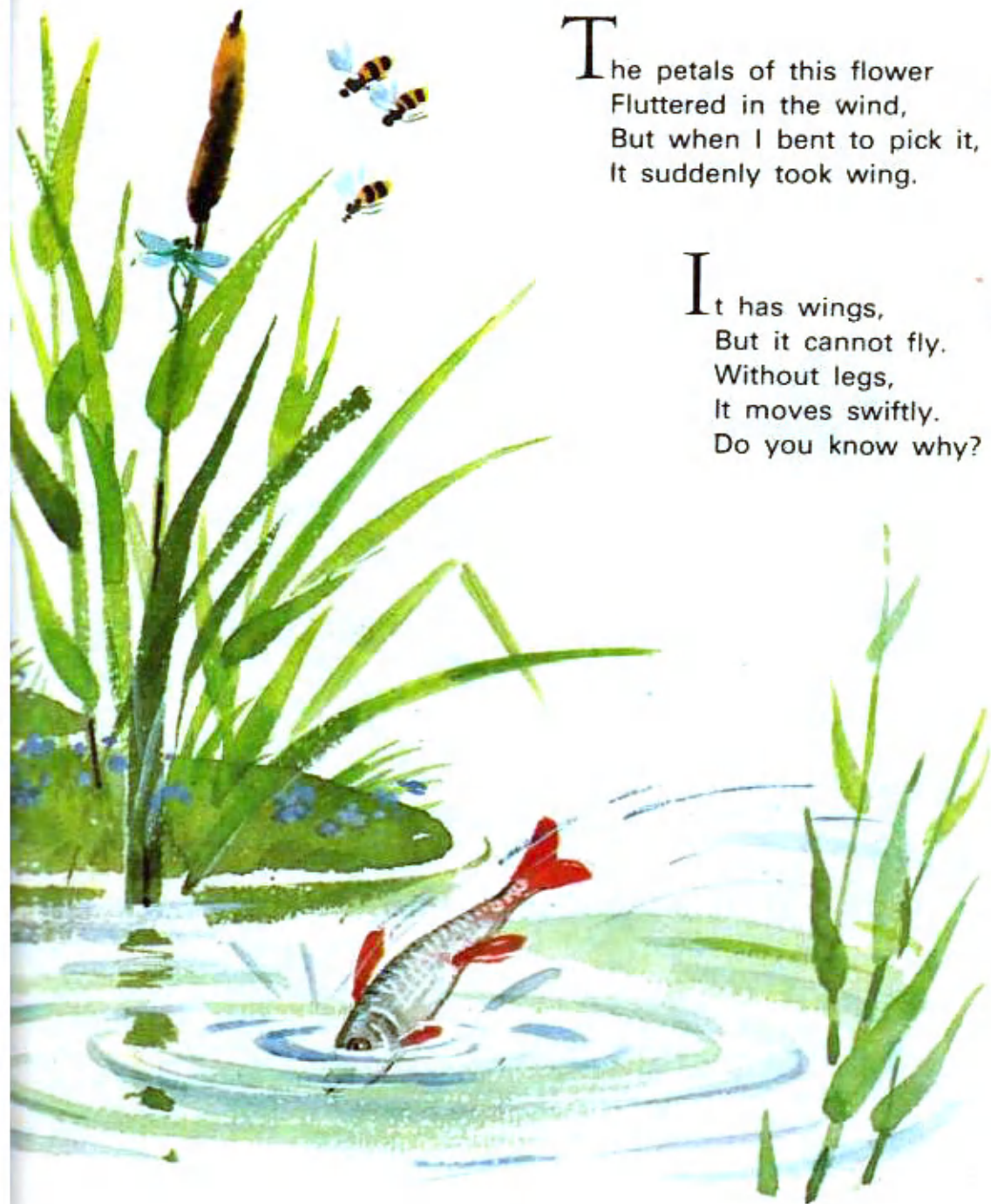
43 **I**n the meadow  
Rich in flowers  
There it works  
For hours and hours,  
Buzzing songs.  
It likes to sing.  
Don't disturb it,  
It may sting!





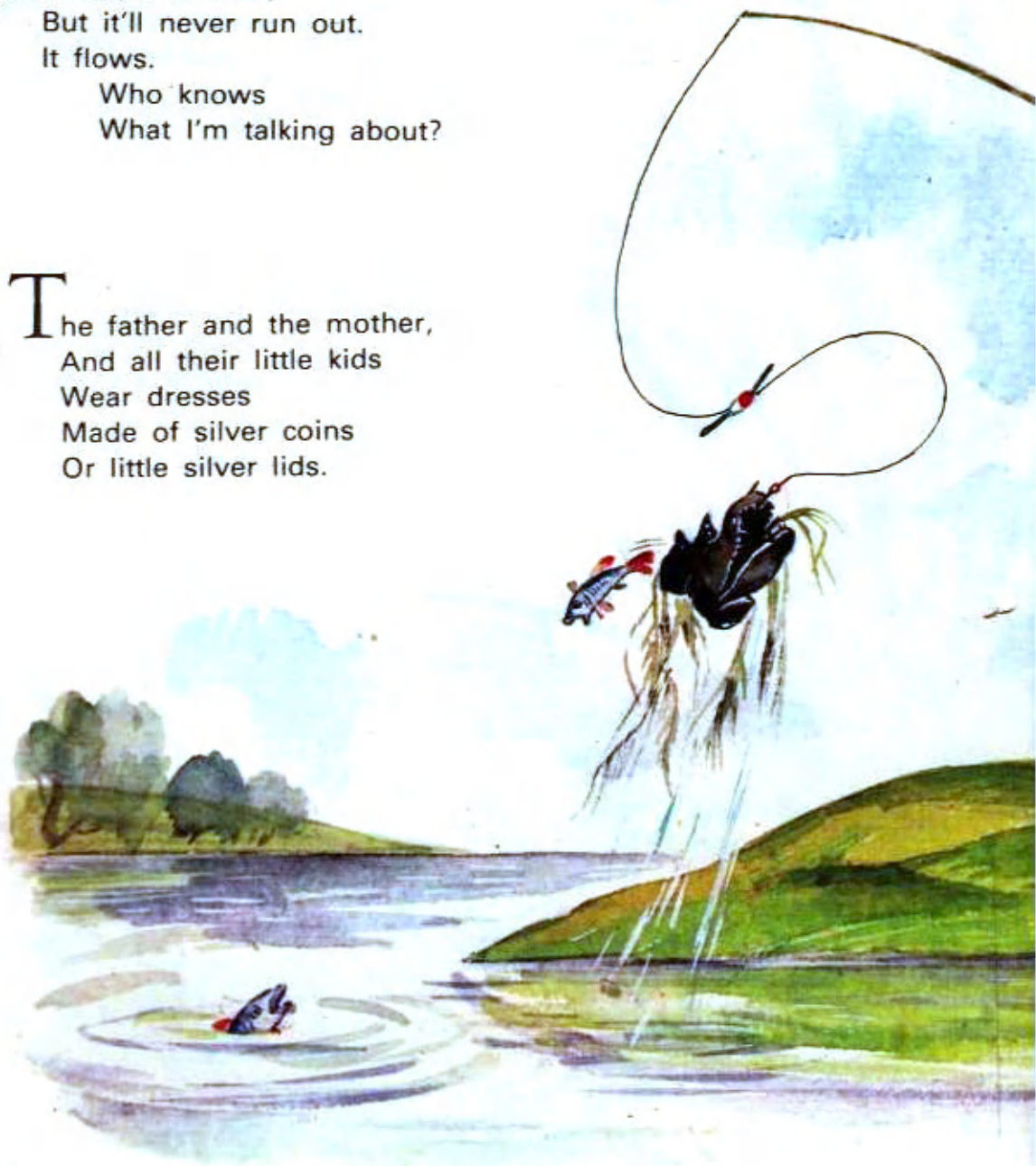
The petals of this flower  
Fluttered in the wind,  
But when I bent to pick it,  
It suddenly took wing. 44

It has wings,  
But it cannot fly.  
Without legs,  
It moves swiftly.  
Do you know why? 45



46 **I**t runs and runs,  
But it'll never run out.  
It flows.  
Who knows  
What I'm talking about?

47 **T**he father and the mother,  
And all their little kids  
Wear dresses  
Made of silver coins  
Or little silver lids.





Here's a rod,  
Here's a line,  
Here's a hook—  
The fish is mine!




49 **T**his house on wheels  
Is running a race,  
Taking people  
From place to place.

50 **T**his belt stretches,  
Long and wide.  
Walk along it,  
Run, or ride  
In a bus,  
Or in a car.  
(It's for you to choose  
How far.)







It gently patters  
On our roof  
All through the dark,  
Long night!  
It mutters something,  
And lulls us to sleep,  
And asks:  
"All sleeping?  
All right!"

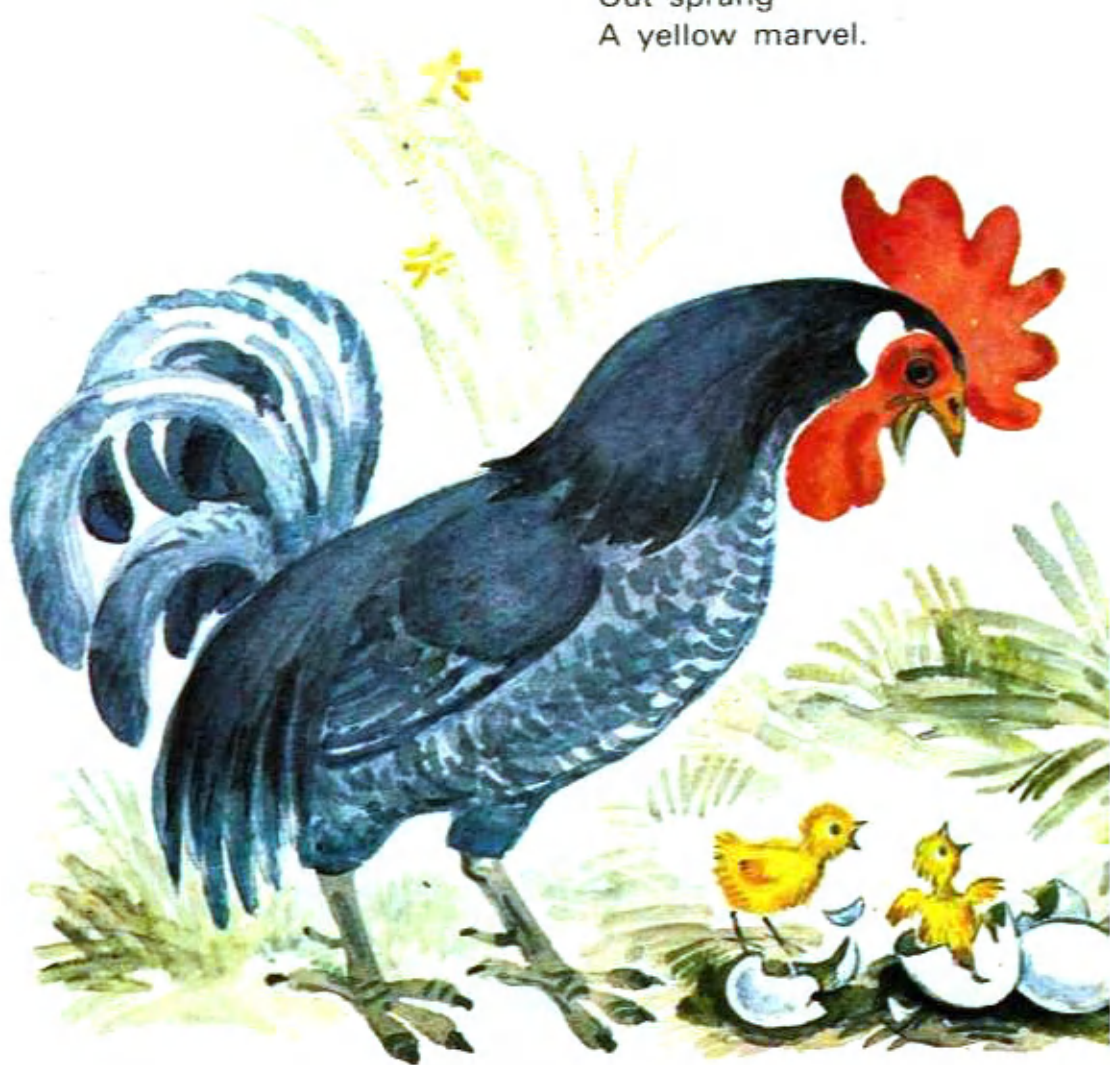
51

When the rain—  
Pat, pat, pat—  
Starts its usual talk,  
Its best friend,  
I'm sure,  
Will be out for a walk.

52

Webbed red feet,  
A neck on hinges;  
With its bill  
It sometimes pinches.

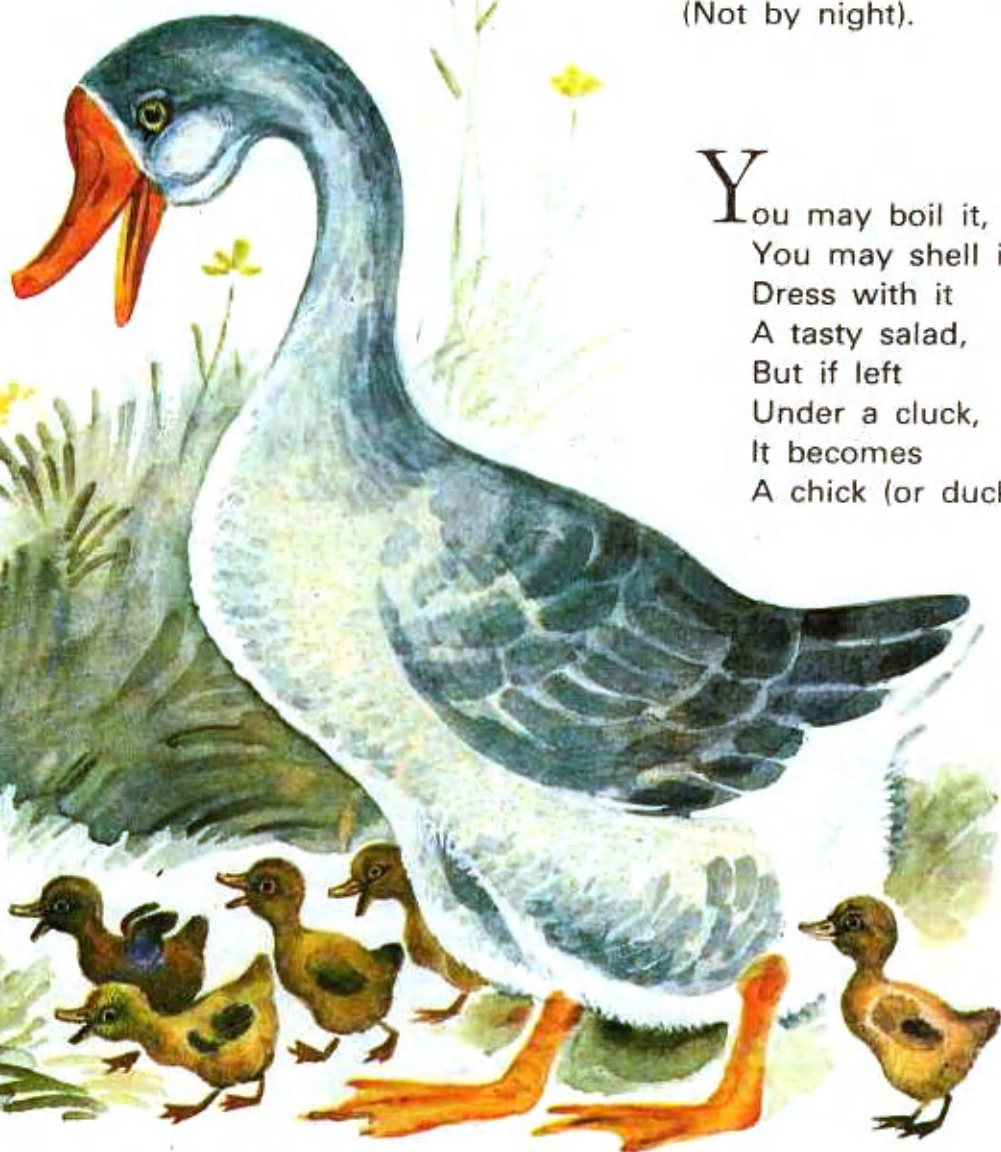
There stood a house,  
All marble-white.  
One day  
There was a knock inside.  
Broke down  
Those walls of marble,  
Out sprang  
A yellow marvel.





S  
purs on his boots,  
He's ready to fight,  
Singing his war-songs  
By day  
(Not by night). 55

Y  
ou may boil it,  
You may shell it,  
Dress with it  
A tasty salad,  
But if left  
Under a cluck,  
It becomes  
A chick (or duck). 56



57      **T**his little mark,  
All so plump and round,  
At the end of sentences  
Is to be found.





A disgusting,  
Unwanted guest  
Stopped on a page  
Of my notebook to rest.  
The teacher saw him,  
And so did the class.  
I got a poor mark.  
I deserve it, alas!

A n old gentleman,  
Bent with age,  
Is asking questions  
On every page. 59









Kiddies,  
Standing in a row,  
Tell us  
Everything they know.

60

If you want  
To draw a straight line,  
Make use of me,  
For this business is mine.

61

This coloured chalk  
In a holder of wood  
For drawing and writing  
Is perfectly good.

62

63 **I**t is hollow,  
And it is round.  
It produces  
A rattling sound.  
Sometimes it beats out  
A loud tattoo.  
I like, I enjoy it!  
(I hope you do, too.)

64 **P**ut four tyres  
On her heels,  
Which are round  
For they are wheels.  
Give her  
Some petrol to drink:  
It's a treat for her,  
I think.

65 **H**as no legs,  
But just for fun  
It is always  
On the run.









66 My face is black,  
As black as night.  
On it, with chalk,  
All pupils write.  
All right!  
But it is a disgrace  
When they forget  
To wipe my face.



Ten tiny balls  
On each wire mount.  
They help little children  
Learn to count.

It is blue,  
And green,  
And yellow.  
It shows rivers  
(Deep,  
Not shallow).  
Cities,  
Mountains,  
Lakes,  
And seas—  
All are there  
For him who sees.



69 **T**ry to drag it  
By its tail  
And put it on your back.  
You'll fail!

70 **I**'ve whiskers,  
I'm frisky.  
Whisk,  
Little mice,  
Lest I should catch you!  
Please stroke my back,  
I'll purr  
And won't scratch you.





It has four legs,  
Either straight  
Or bandy.  
Though it cannot walk,  
It comes in quite handy.

71



72 **A**n old fellow has  
A hundred coats on.  
There he is,  
In his bed,  
Half-asleep.  
If you risk  
To take off  
All his yellow coats,  
You're certainly  
Going to weep.



73 **A** young imp,  
He wore green.  
Now his age is mature.  
He wears red.  
And his conduct  
Now's always demure.



74 **T**his little red lady  
Is hard to be found,  
As only her green plait  
Sticks out of the ground.







## ANSWERS

1. A road.
2. A railway line and a train.
3. A bicycle.
4. A TV set.
5. A watch.
6. A tape-recorder.
7. A telephone.
8. An excavator.
9. A bicycle.
10. A motor-car.
11. A telephone.
12. A young Moon.
13. An alarm-clock.
14. The seven notes of the octave.
15. A clock.
16. Notes.
17. A fox.
18. A rooster.
19. Night.
20. A nail and a hammer.
21. A watchdog.
22. A saw.
23. A kettle.
24. A refrigerator.
25. A vacuum-cleaner.
26. A fly.
27. A spider.
28. A grasshopper.
29. A streamlet.
30. A fish-tackle.
31. The Sun.
32. A bridge.
33. The Moon.
34. A rocket.
35. Hair.
36. A pair of scissors.
37. A comb.
38. Spectacles.
39. An electric bulb.
40. A book.
41. Eyes.
42. A frog.
43. A bee.
44. A butterfly.
45. Because it is a fish.
46. A river.
47. Fish.
48. A fishing-rod, a line and a hook.
49. A bus.
50. A road.
51. Rain.
52. An umbrella.
53. A goose.
54. A chick.
55. A rooster.
56. An egg.
57. A full stop.
58. A blot.
59. A question-mark.
60. Letters.
61. A ruler.
62. A pencil.
63. A drum.
64. A motor-car.
65. A ball.
66. A blackboard.
67. An abacus.
68. A map.
69. A ball of string or wool.
70. A cat.
71. A chair.
72. An onion.
73. A tomato.
74. A carrot.



