

Level 2 Queen Bee Sample

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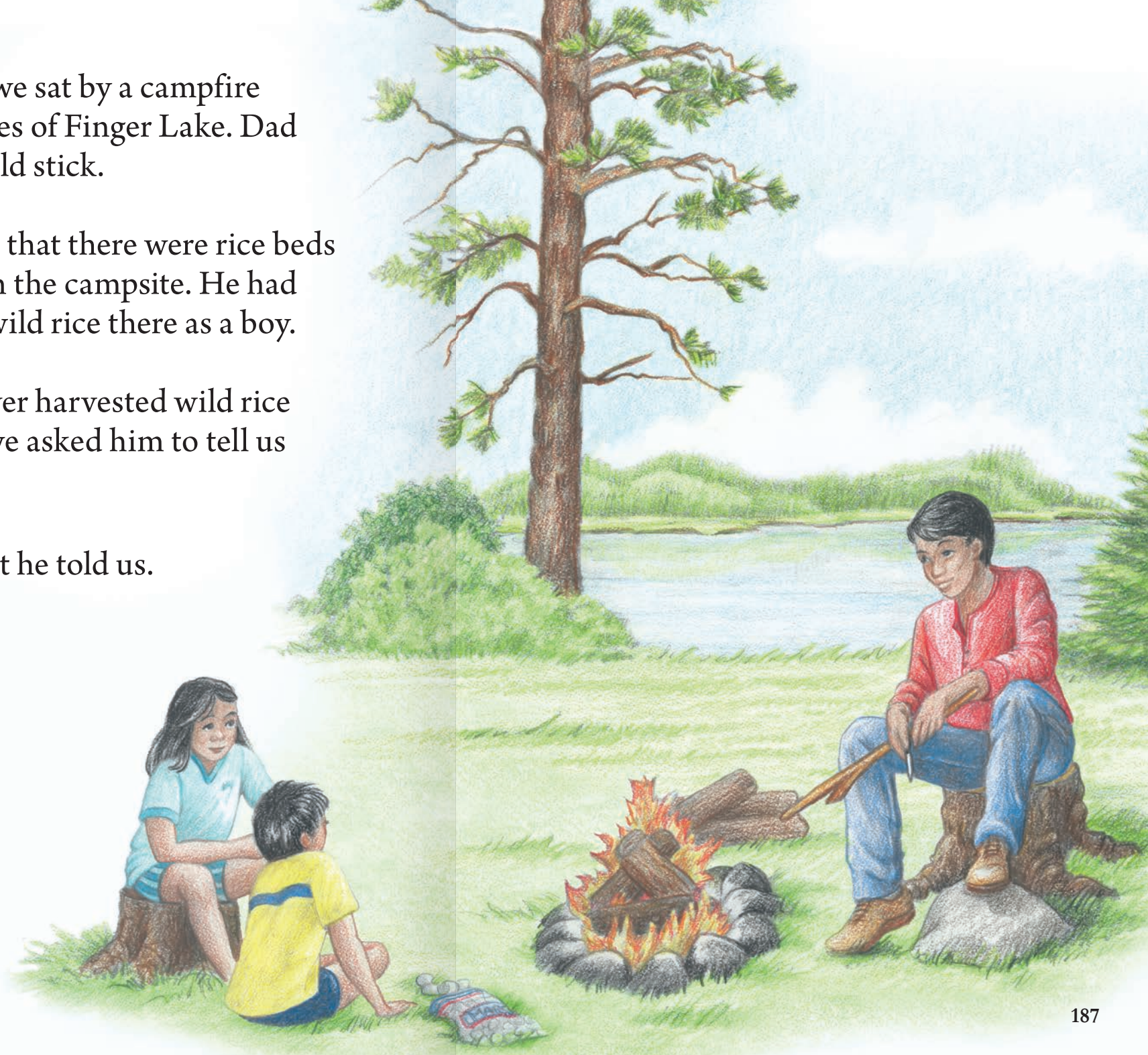
Wild Rice Harvest

In the fall, we sat by a campfire on the shores of Finger Lake. Dad carved an old stick.

Dad told us that there were rice beds not far from the campsite. He had harvested wild rice there as a boy.

We had never harvested wild rice before, so we asked him to tell us more.

This is what he told us.



Wild rice is a kind of grass seed.
The seed is long and black. It ripens
in the fall.

The wild rice plant lives in lakes
and ponds.

The plant likes full sun and rich,
moist soil.

Ducks feed on the seed. Muskrats
and deer enjoy the entire plant.



Wild rice is gathered by hand, and the best time to gather it is in the fall.

The ripe rice falls off the plant when you tap it.

It takes a while to gather even a small bit of rice.



After the harvest, the rice must be prepared.

Here are the steps:



Cure the rice.

Put the rice on a sheet. Let the sun dry it.



Thresh the rice.

Dig a small pit and line it with the sheet. Put the rice into the pit and step on it. The chaff (the thin shell of the rice) will fall off.



Toss the rice.

The chaff will fly off in the wind.
The wild rice will fall back into the pan.

Store the rice.

Put it in jars or bags and it will keep a long time. If it is kept dry, the rice will not spoil.



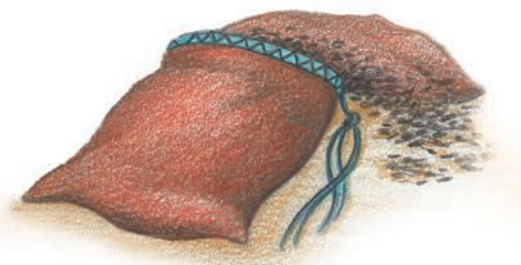
Dad finished his tale. He pulled a small bag of wild rice from his backpack. We boiled a pot of water on the campfire and made wild rice for supper.

If you like, you can make it too!

Hot Wild Rice

1. Boil 4 cups of water or chicken broth.
2. Add 1 cup of wild rice and 1 cup of white rice.
3. Simmer until the rice is tender and the kernels puff open. Fluff the rice with a fork. Add a pat of butter.

Enjoy!

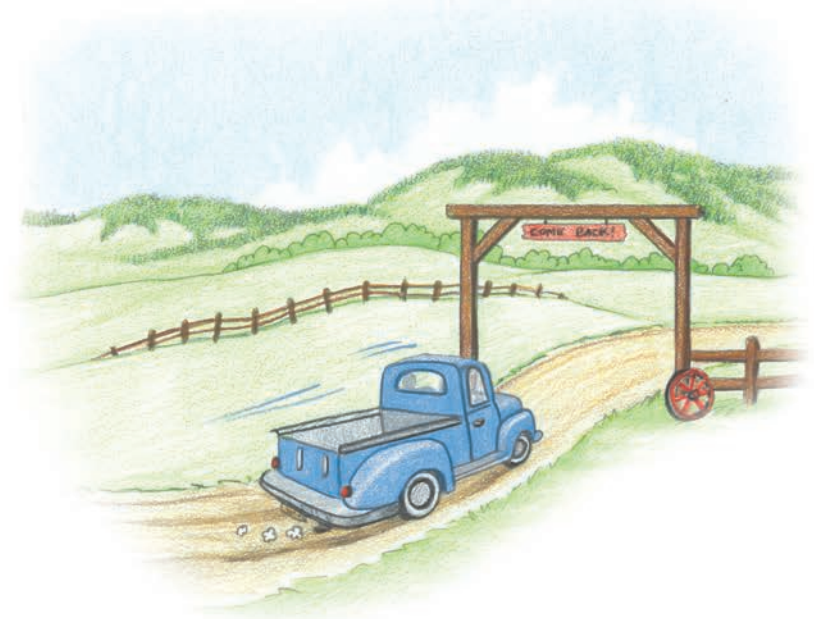


The End

Rawhide



My name is Rawhide. I'm a ranch dog. I'm the boss of this place. I protect the kids and keep things in order.

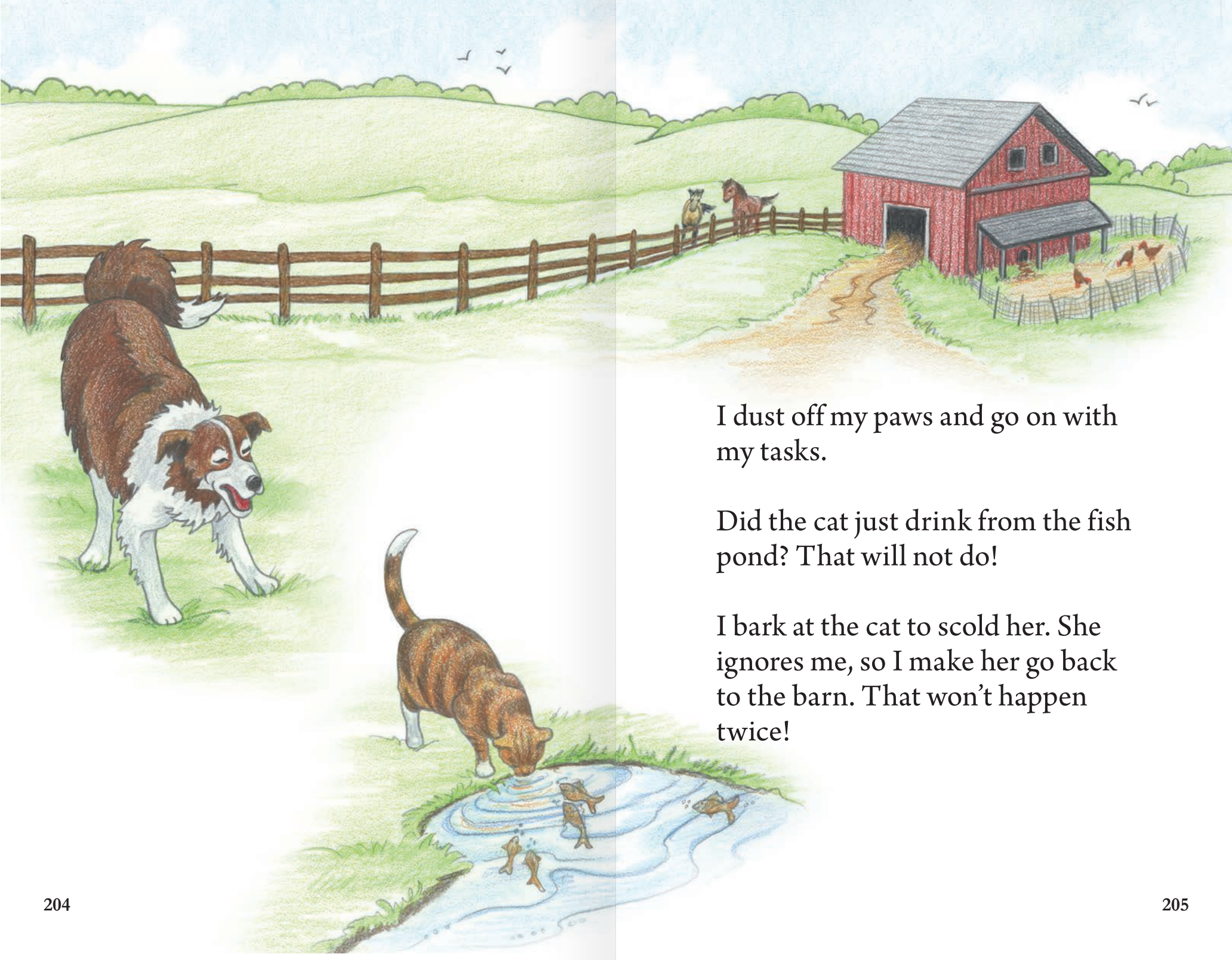


Mr. and Mrs. August drove off in the truck. They left me in charge of the kids. There is a ranch hand, but he's not much help.

While the kids have pancakes, I go for a short stroll.

I spot a large rat by the sawmill. I chase it over a pile of sawdust. He won't be back while I'm on the job.





I dust off my paws and go on with my tasks.

Did the cat just drink from the fish pond? That will not do!

I bark at the cat to scold her. She ignores me, so I make her go back to the barn. That won't happen twice!



The ranch hand enters the chicken pen. I crawl over to spy on him. Did he just nab an egg? I'll put a stop to that!

I creep over the straw and jump at him. He drops his basket and flees.

The kids are on the lawn in bare feet. I see a huge green snake coiled up by the seesaw.



I pause ... then I jump onto the wild snake and haul it off. I have saved the kids!



Just then, the truck chugs up the lane. Mr. and Mrs. August step out—but who is with them?

They call her Aunt Sue, and she has a blue shawl. Her arms are filled with boxes and bags. This upsets me!



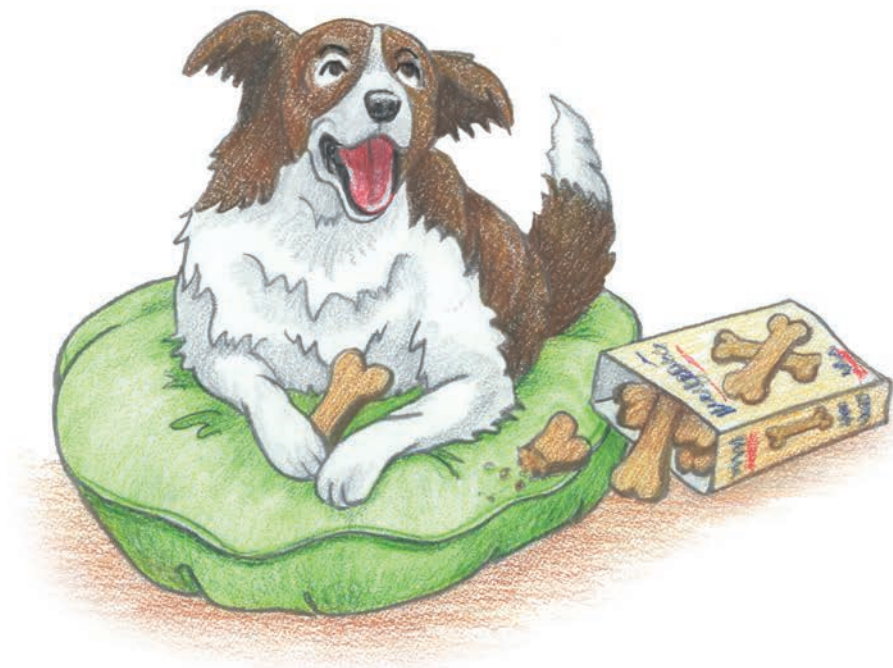
I have never seen her before, but the kids seem to like her. I don't understand why!

The kids take the boxes from her. Stop! I have not checked the boxes yet to see if they are safe!



Aunt Sue sets a box in front of me and opens it. It smells like bacon. I love bacon!

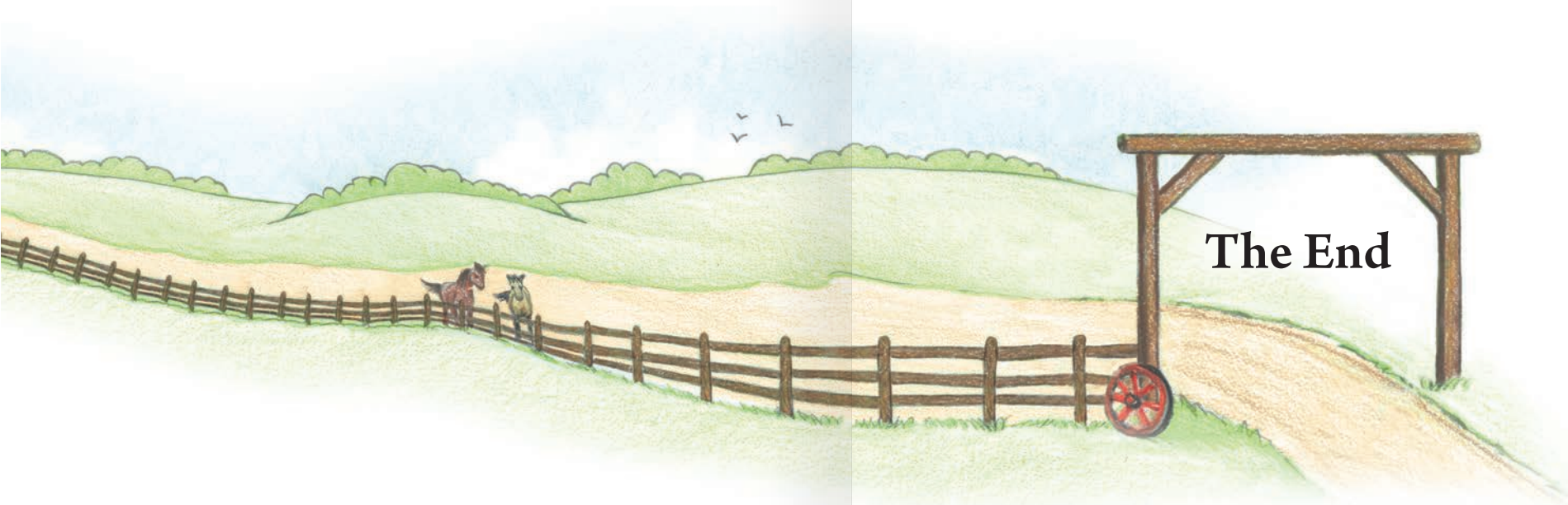
Perhaps she isn't as bad as she seems. In fact, I love Aunt Sue!



We all go inside to wash up for supper. I sprawl on my bed while Mrs. August makes the sauce.

I am tired. Yawn!

I must rest up so I can start over in the morning.





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