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that I Had Duck Feet



By **Dr. Seuss***

• writing as **Theo. LeSieg**

Illustrated by **B TOBEY-**





**I WISH
that I had**

DUCK FEET

by **Dr. Seuss***

writing as **Theo. LeSieg**

Illustrated by B TOBEY-

BEGINNER BOOKS* A Division of Random House, Inc.



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.



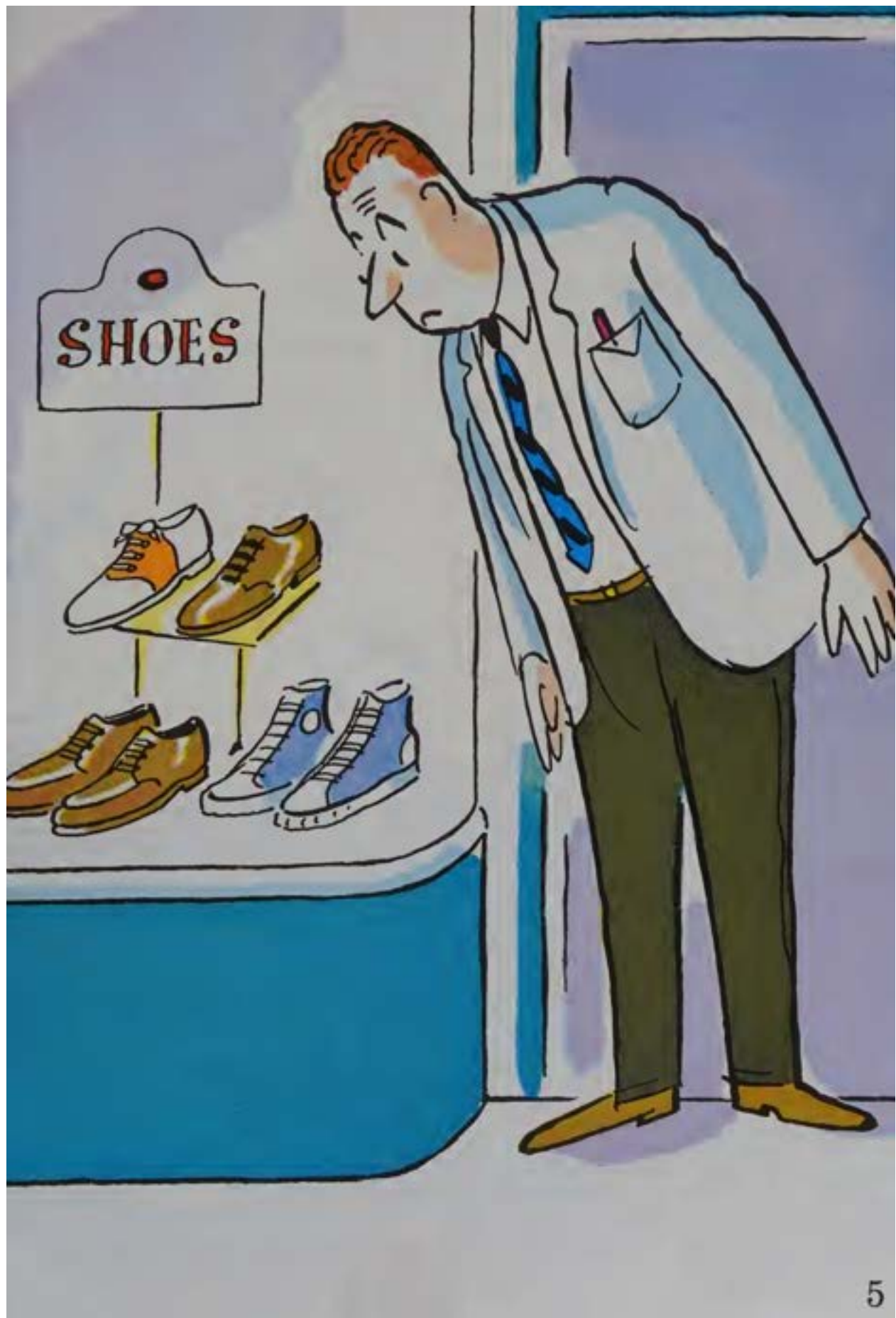
I wish that I had duck feet.

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 . . .

Say!

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.

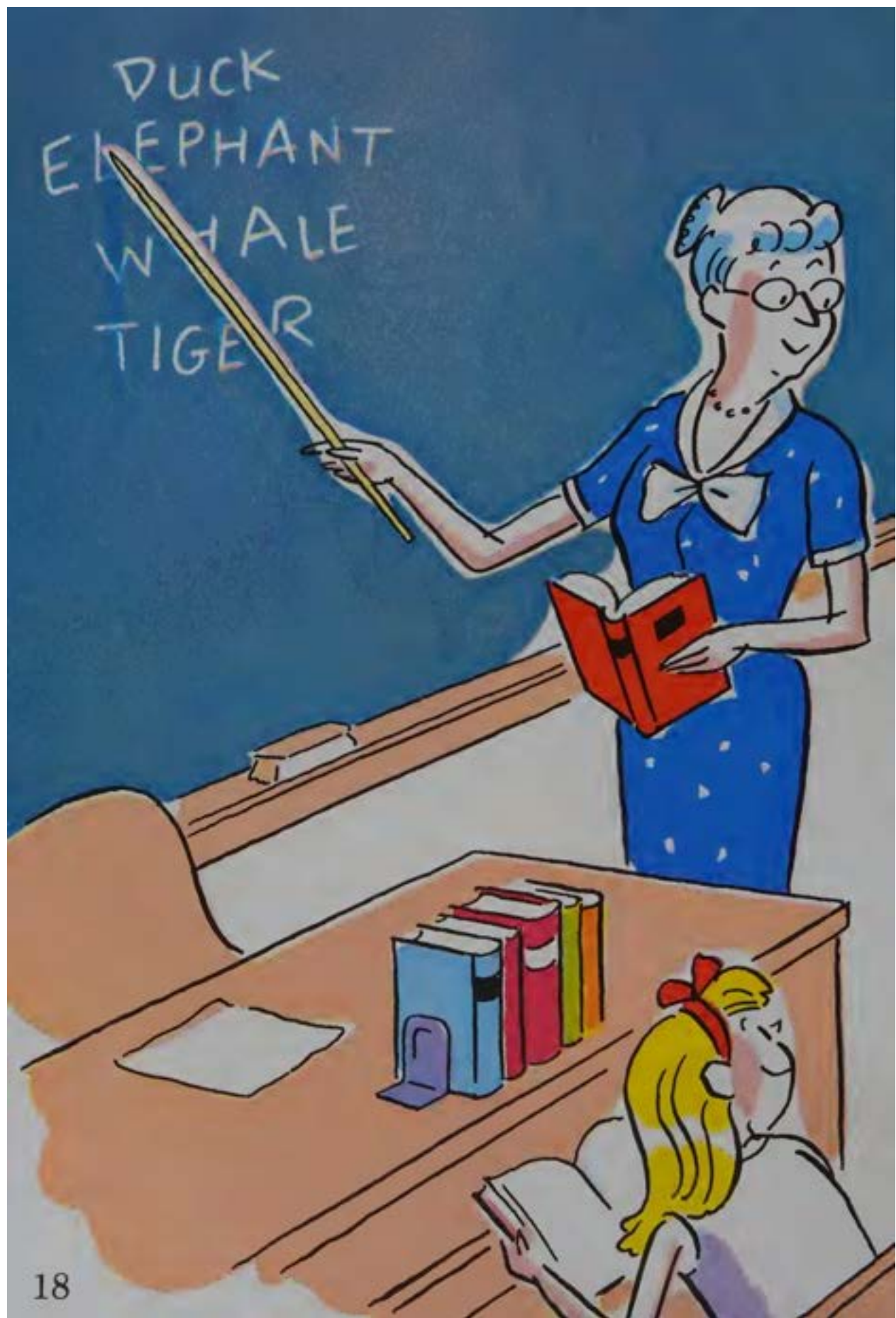






I think they would
be very good
to have when I play ball.
Then nobody could stop me.
No, sir! Nobody at all!



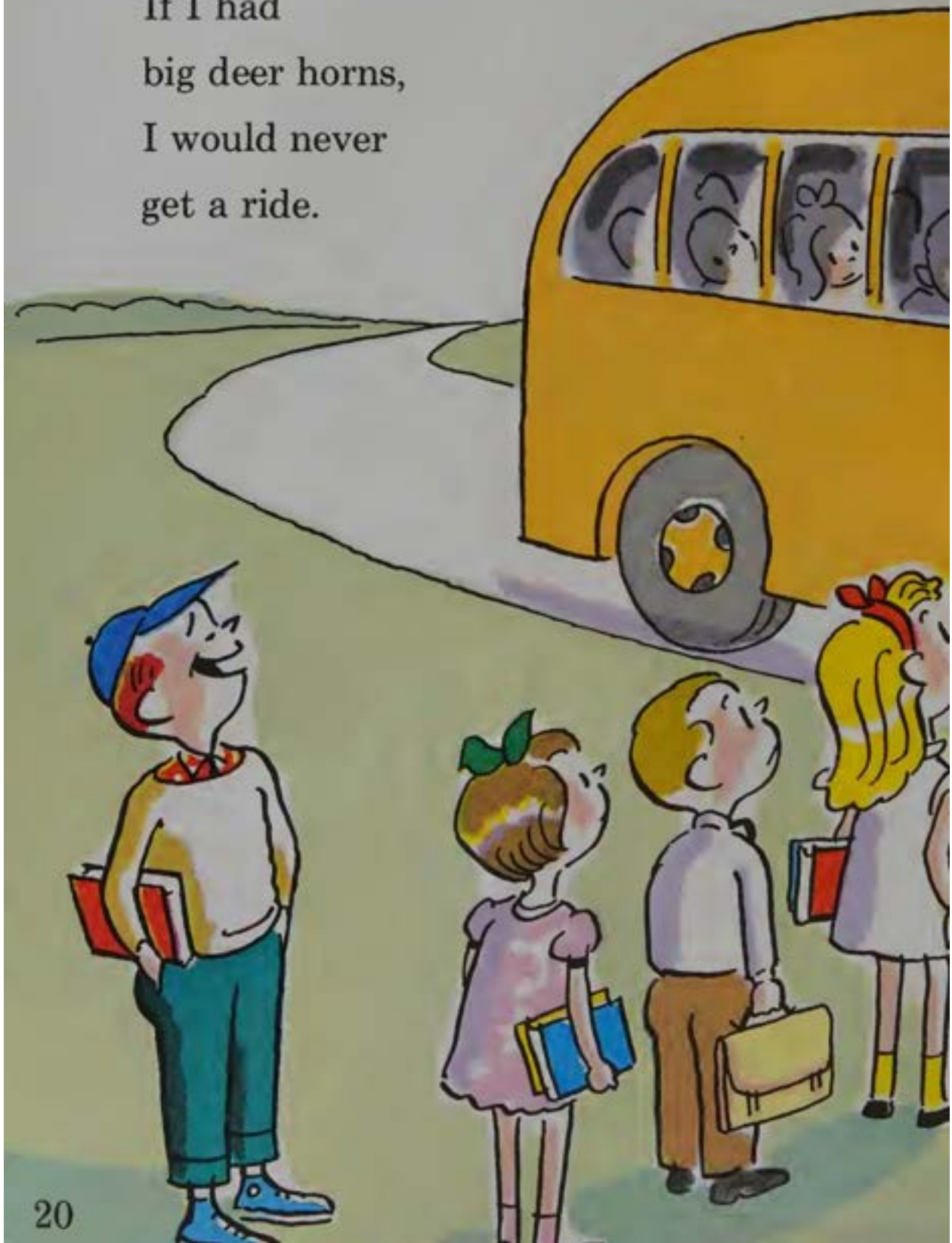


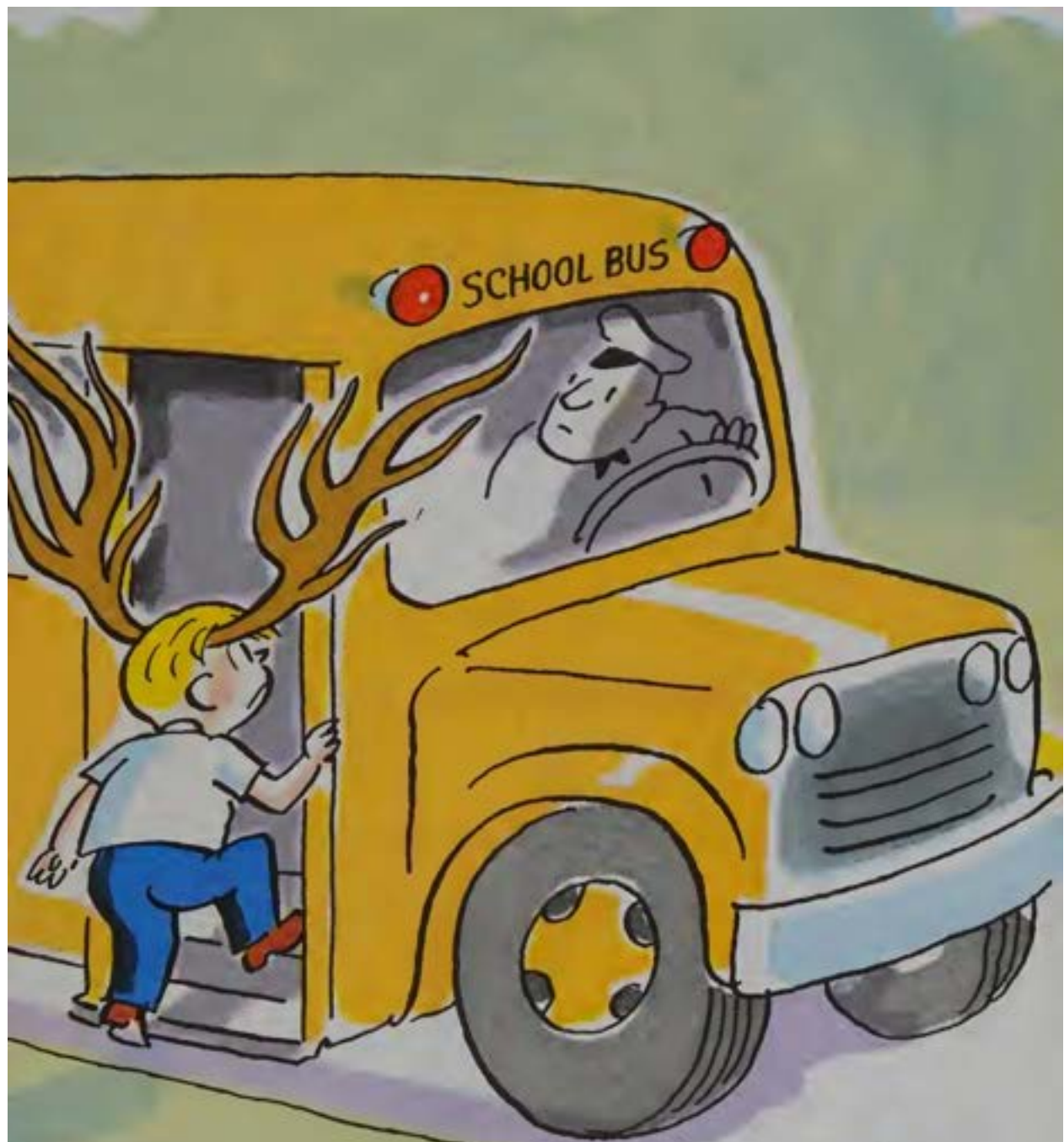
My horns could carry
books and stuff
like paper, pens and strings
and apples for my teacher
and a lot of other things!



BUT . . .

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





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

AND SO . . .

I won't have deer horns.

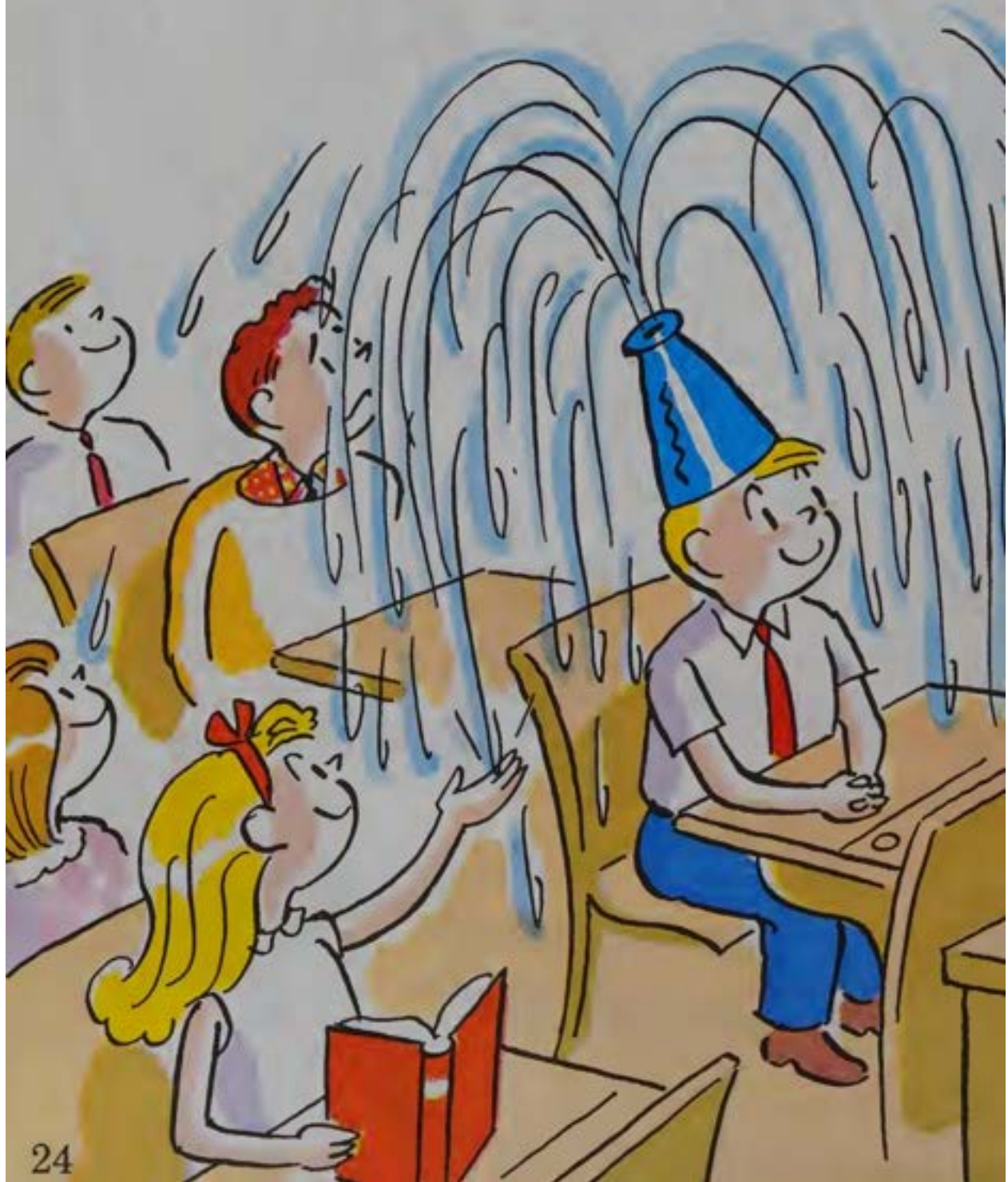
I'll have something else instead.

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 . . .

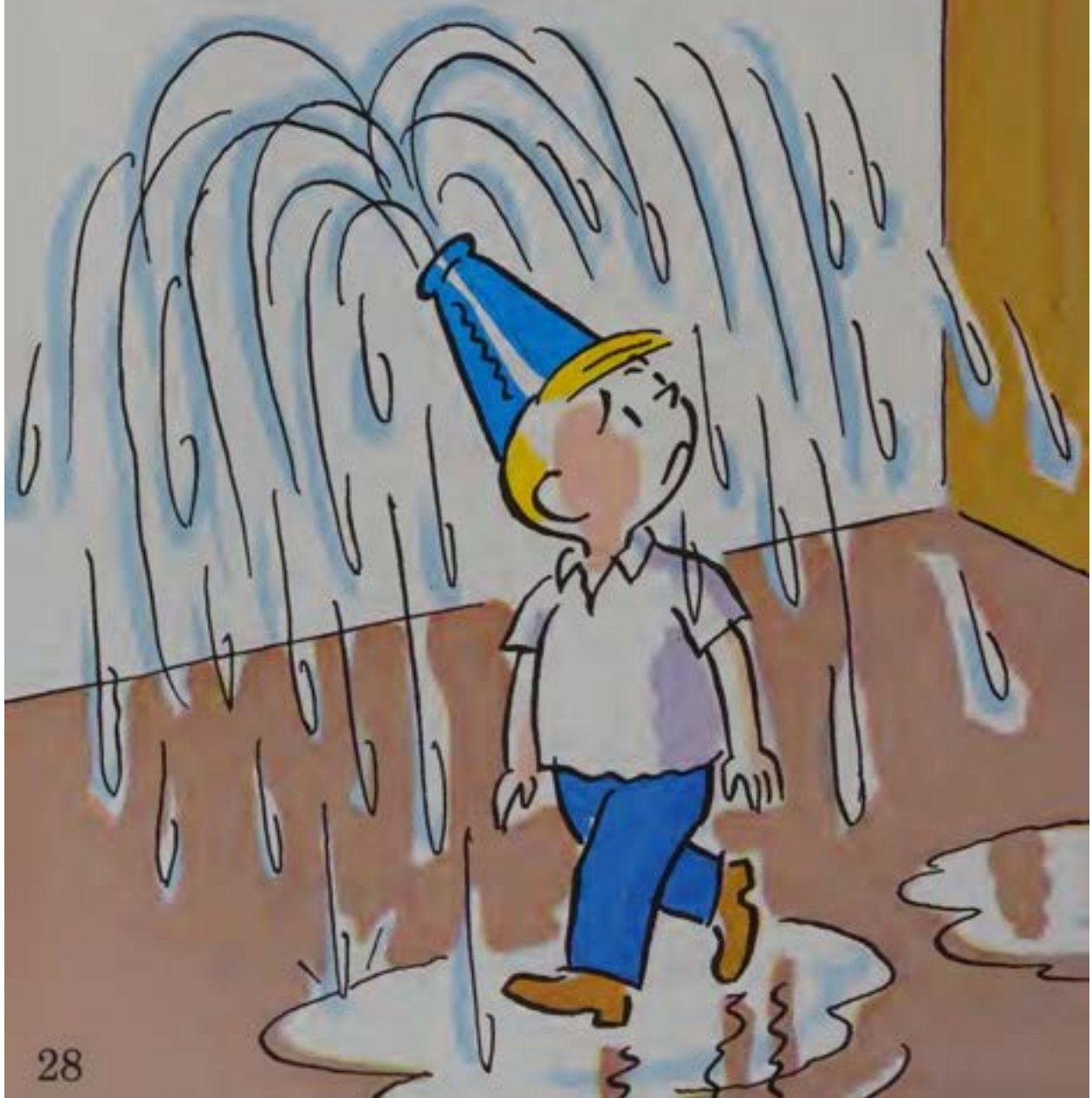
My mother would not like it.

I know just what she would say:

“Not in the house!

You shut 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 State 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.





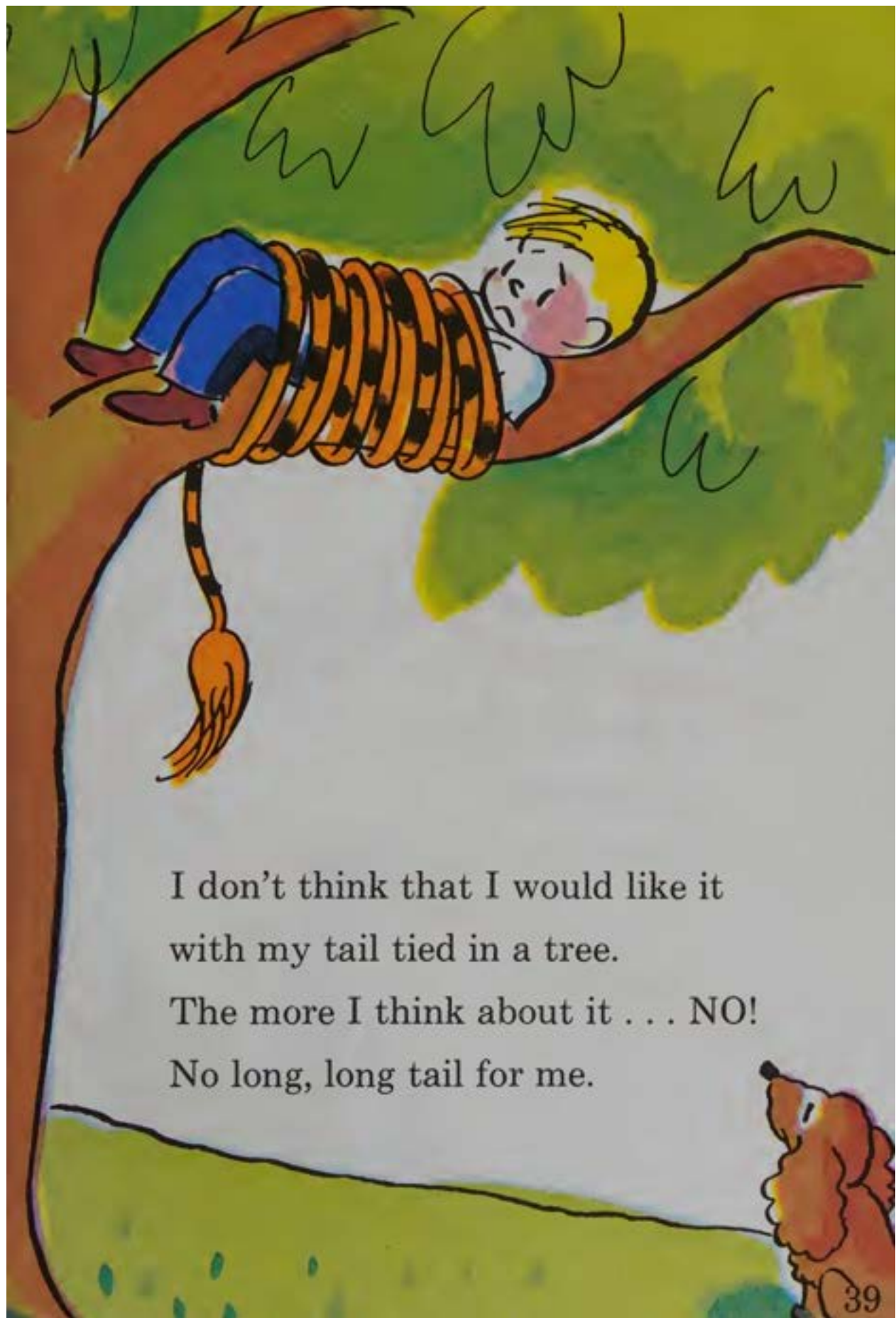
BUT . . .

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.





Say!

I could help the firemen!

My nose would be just right.

I could help them put out fires
a hundred times a night.

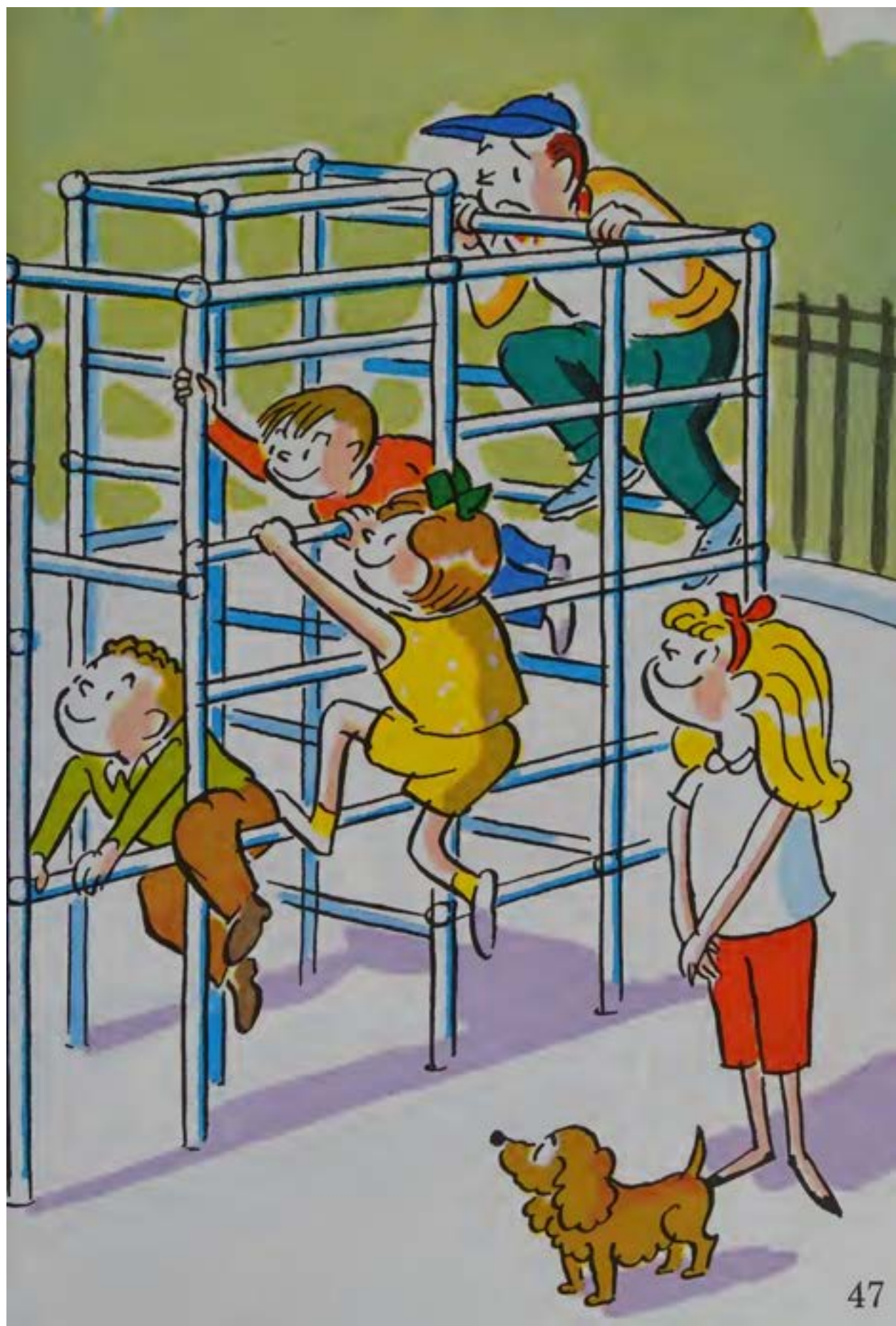




Oh, I would do a lot of things
that no one ever did.

And everyone in town would say,
“Just watch that long-nose kid!”





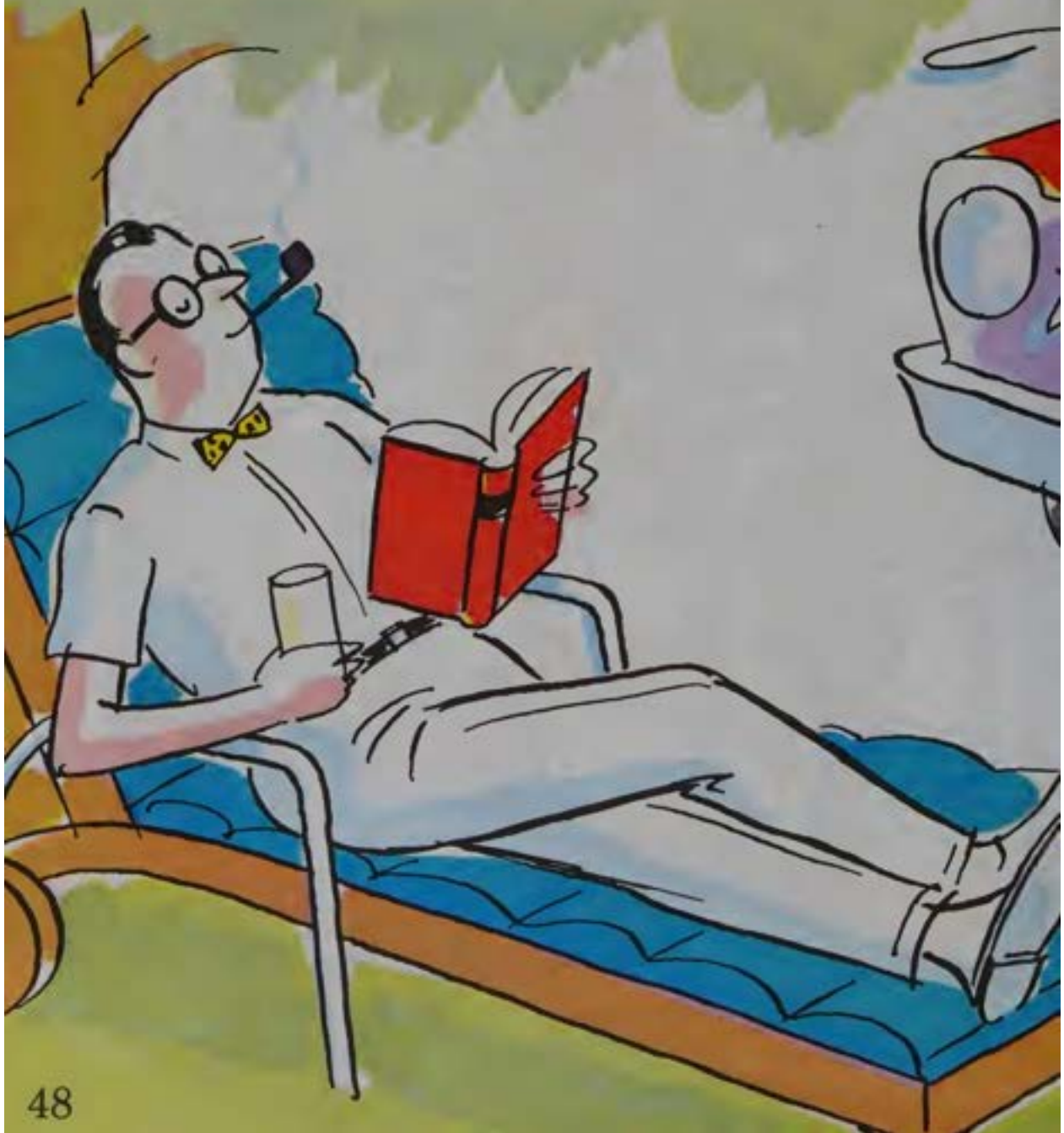
BUT . . .

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!









My dad would make me work all day
and wash things with that hose!
I guess it would not be so good
to have a long, long nose.





NOW . . .

Let me think about it.

All these things I want are bad.

And so I wish . . .

I wish . . . I wish . . .

What DO I wish I had? . . .

I know what!

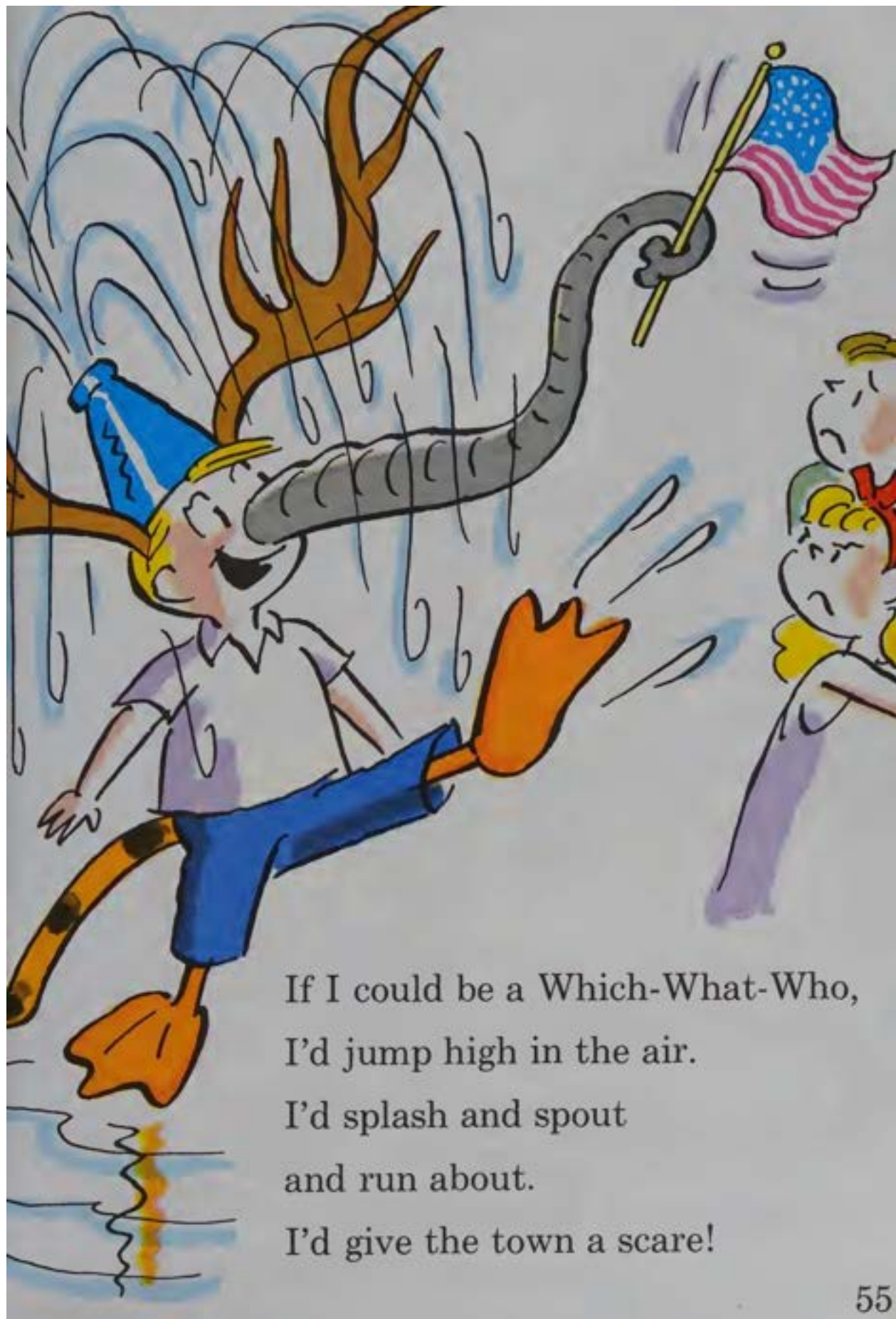
I know just what!

I know just what to do!

I WISH THAT I HAD ALL THOSE
THINGS!

I'd be a Which-What-Who!





If I could be a Which-What-Who,
I'd jump high in the air.
I'd splash and spout
and run about.
I'd give the town a scare!



BUT . . .

The people would not like it.

They would be so scared, I bet,
they would call the town policemen.

They would catch me in a net!



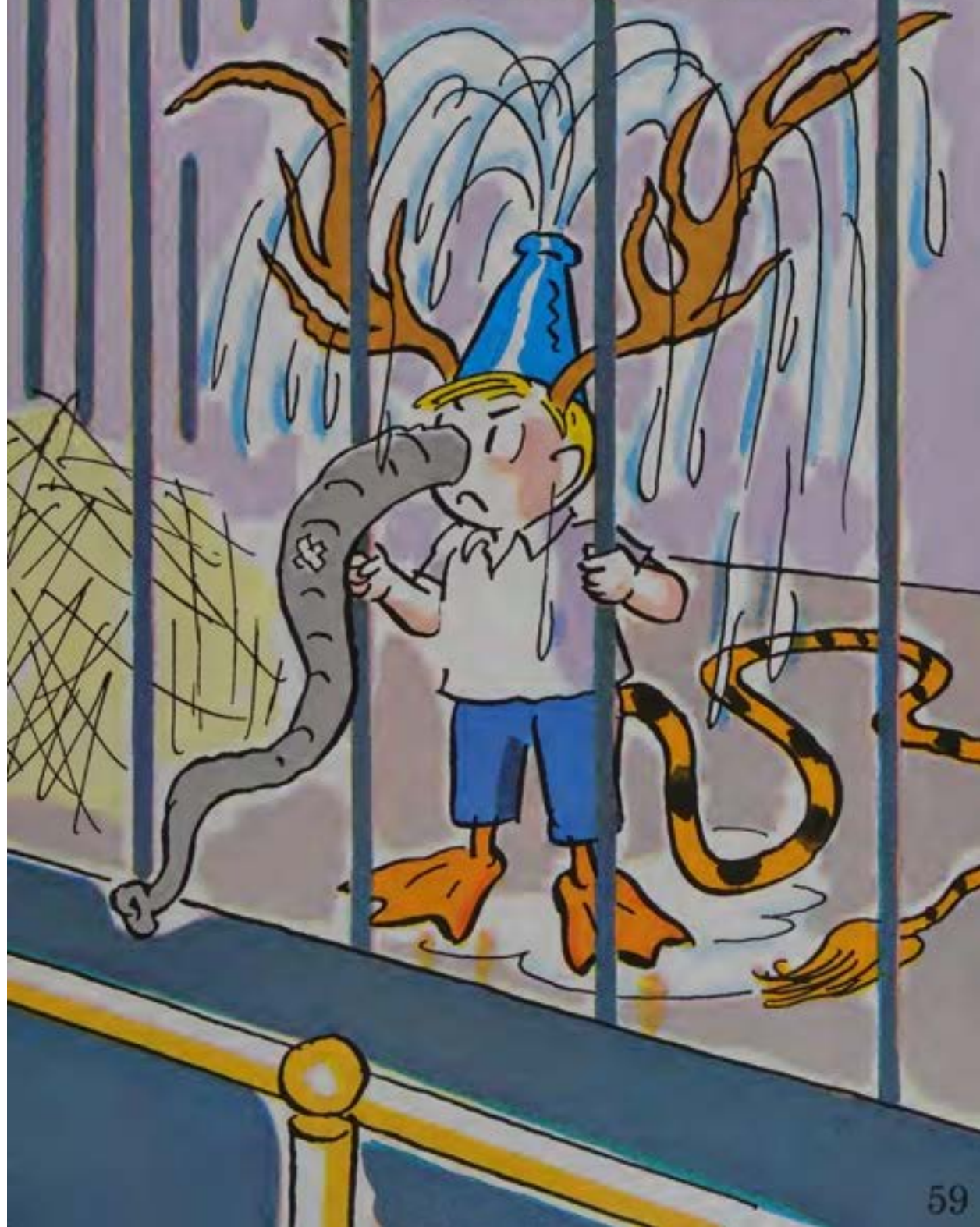
They would put me in the zoo house
with my horns and nose and feet.

And hay, just hay,
two times a day
is all I'd get to eat.

LION



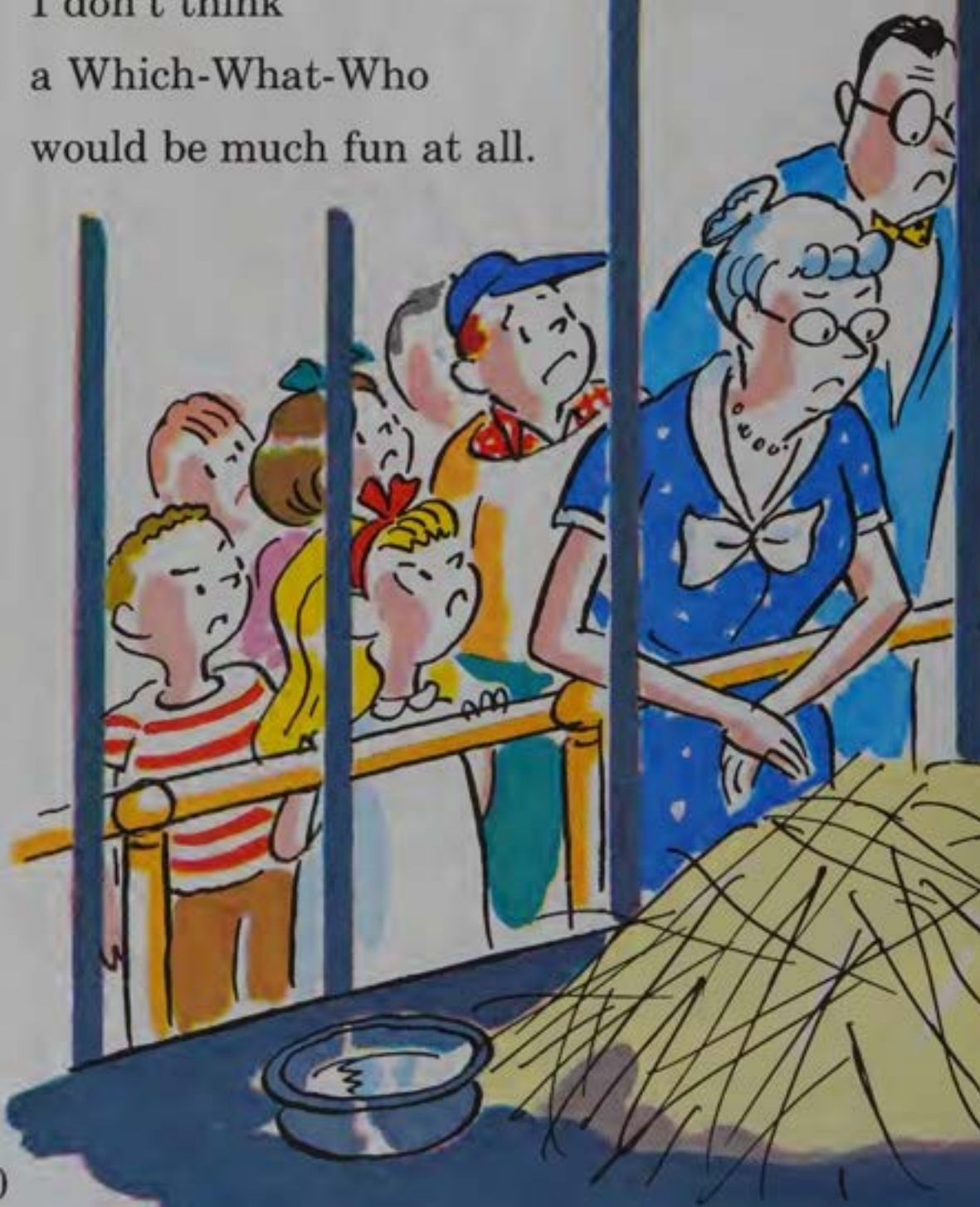
WHICH-WHAT-WHO



I think I would be very sad
when people came to call.

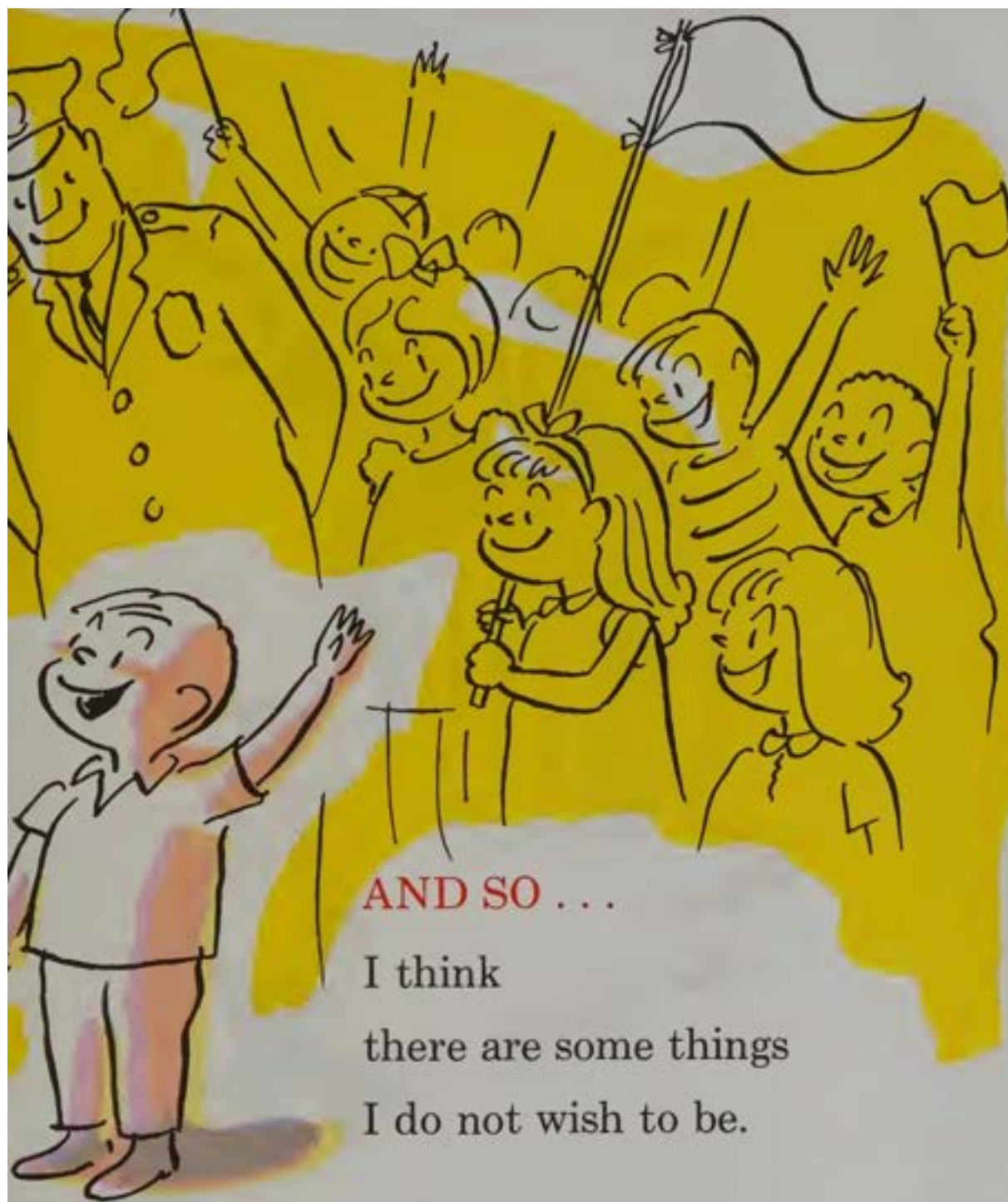
SO . . .

I don't think
a Which-What-Who
would be much fun at all.









AND SO ...

I think
there are some things
I do not wish to be.

And that is why
I think that I
just wish to be like ME.









J EASY SEUSS
Seuss,
I wish that I had duck feet /
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