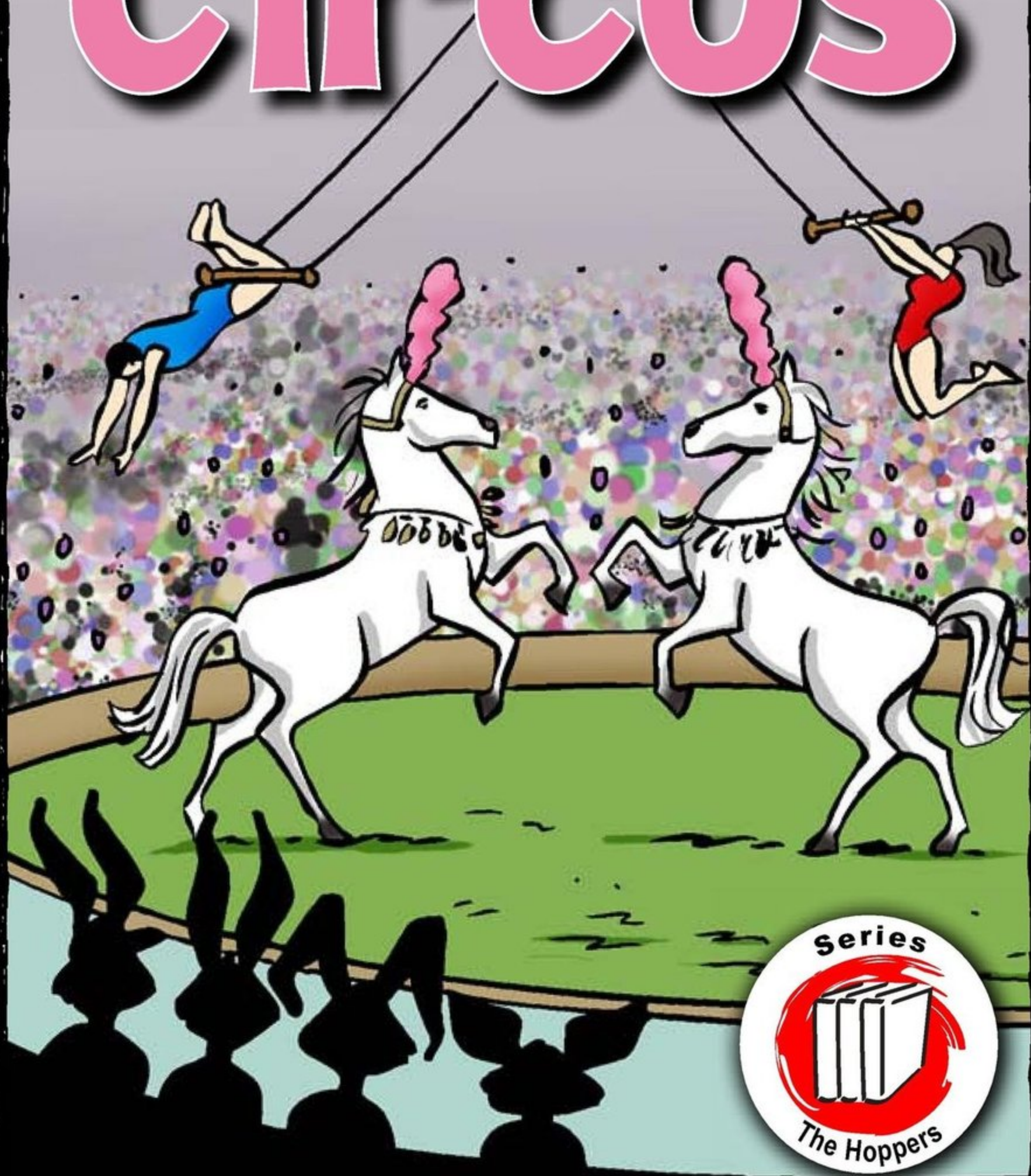


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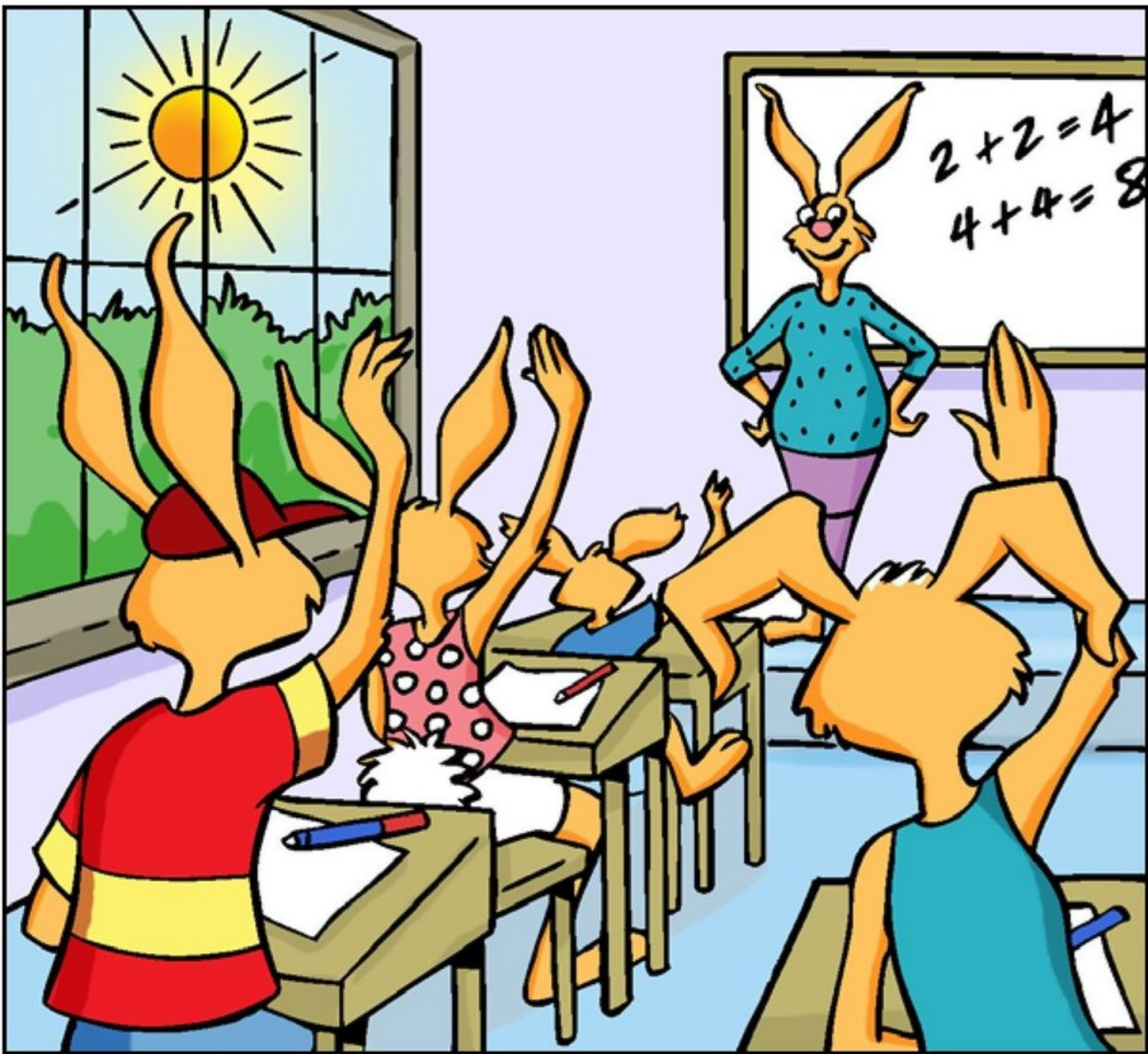
To the Circus



Illustrated by David Cockcroft

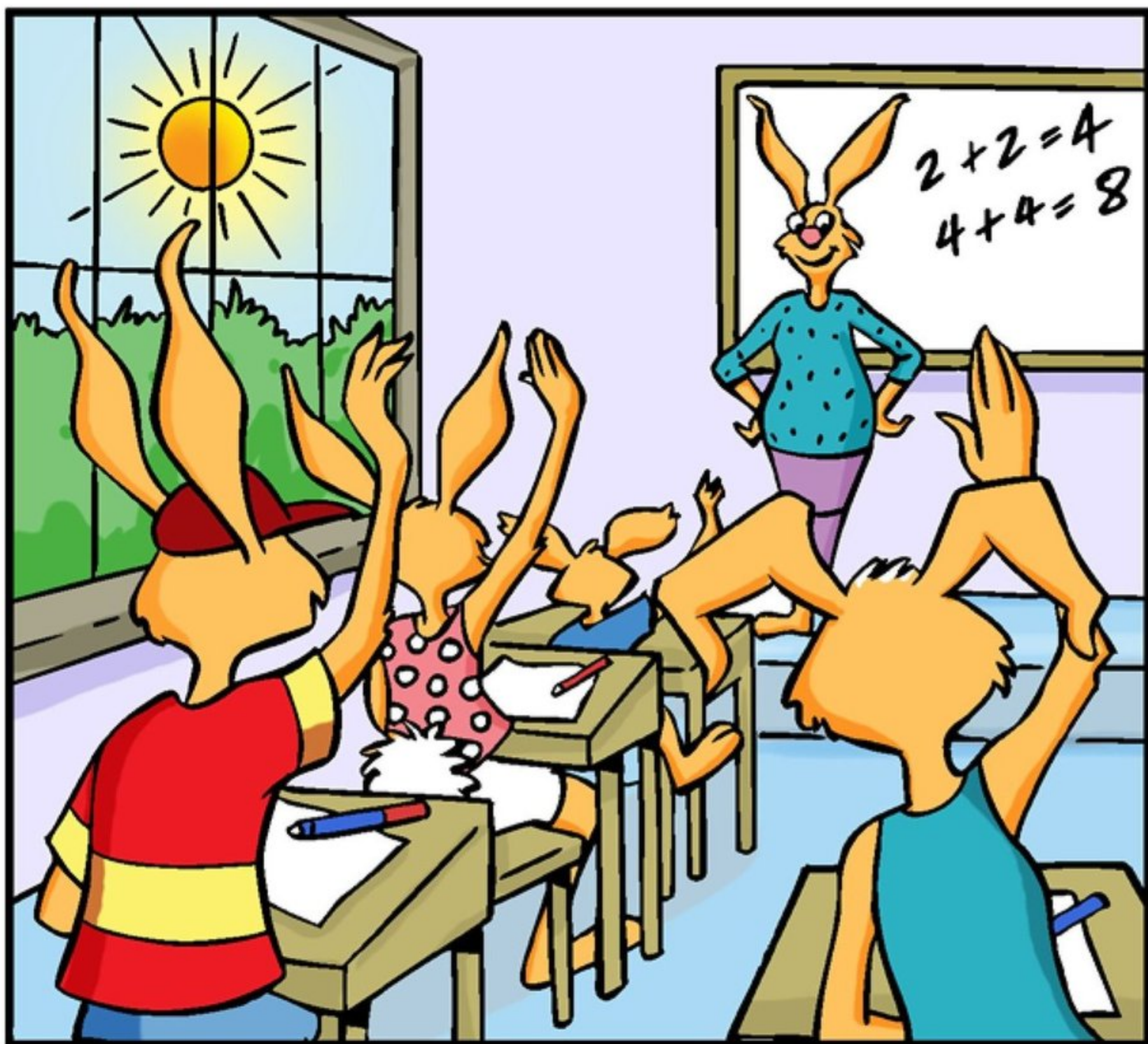
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To the Circus



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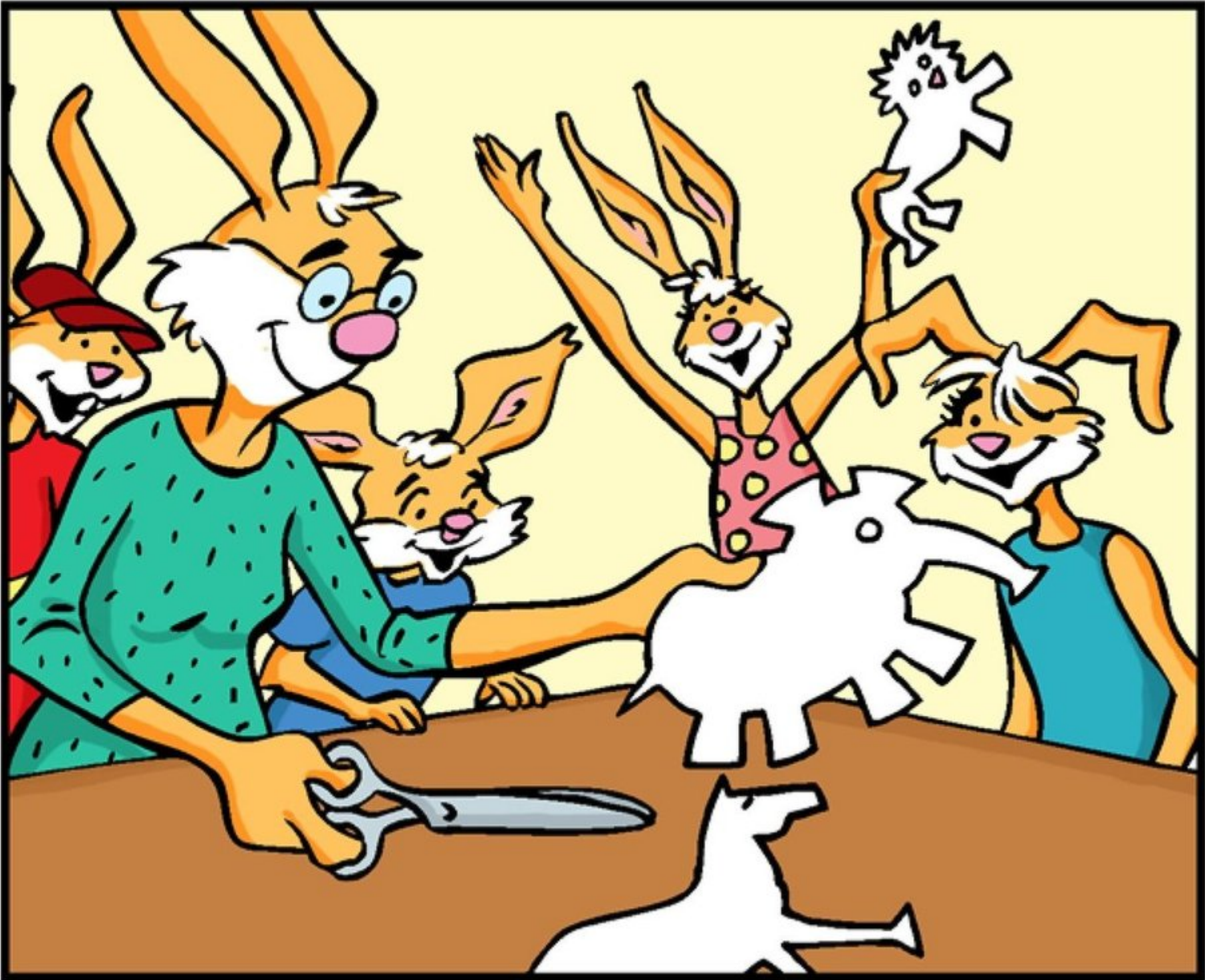
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On a warm spring day, the Hoppers sat in class.

“Who knows what’s happening tonight?” the teacher asked. The Hoppers raised their hands and wiggled in their seats.

“I know,” shouted Snubby Nose.
“The circus is coming!”



All the students were excited. The teacher helped them cut out circus animal shapes. They made a big tent out of paper. They drew and colored a little merry-go-round. At playtime, they played trapeze on the swings. Snubby Nose played a lion, and Speedy Legs was the lion tamer. The Hoppers couldn't wait to go to the circus.

They ran home and asked Mother Hopper.

“Can we go to the circus?” asked Speedy Legs.

“Can we hear the band play?” asked Floppy Ears.

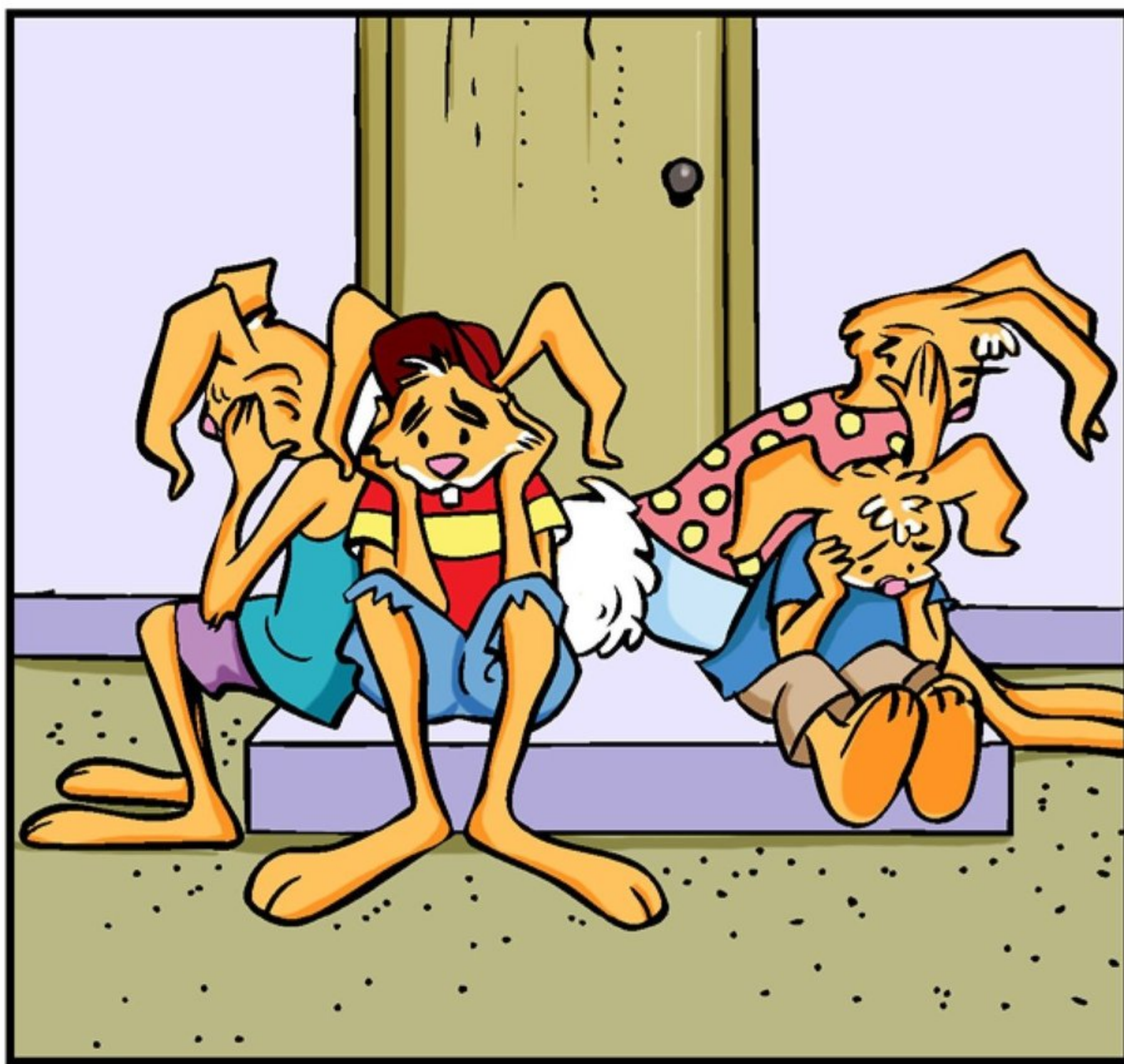
“Can we watch the trapeze artist?” begged Fluffy Tail.

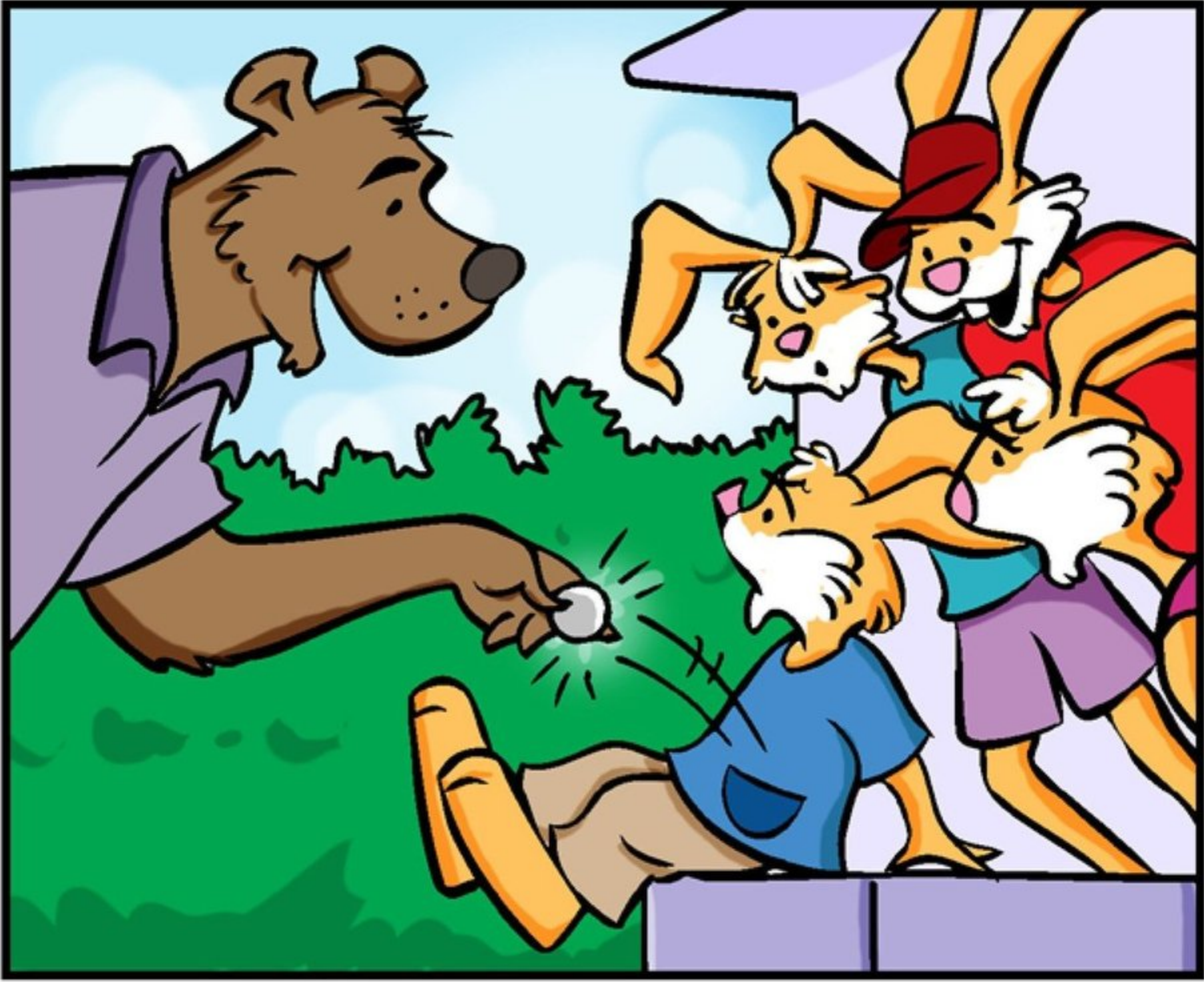
“I want to see the elephant!” cried Snubby Nose.



“I’m sorry, little Hoppers, but we don’t have money for the circus,” said Mother Hopper.

The four Hoppers sat sadly on their doorstep. They didn’t want to play anymore. The only thing they could think to play was circus. They could almost smell the popcorn.





“Why so sad, Hoppers?” asked a voice. Grandpa Grizzly came up the lane.

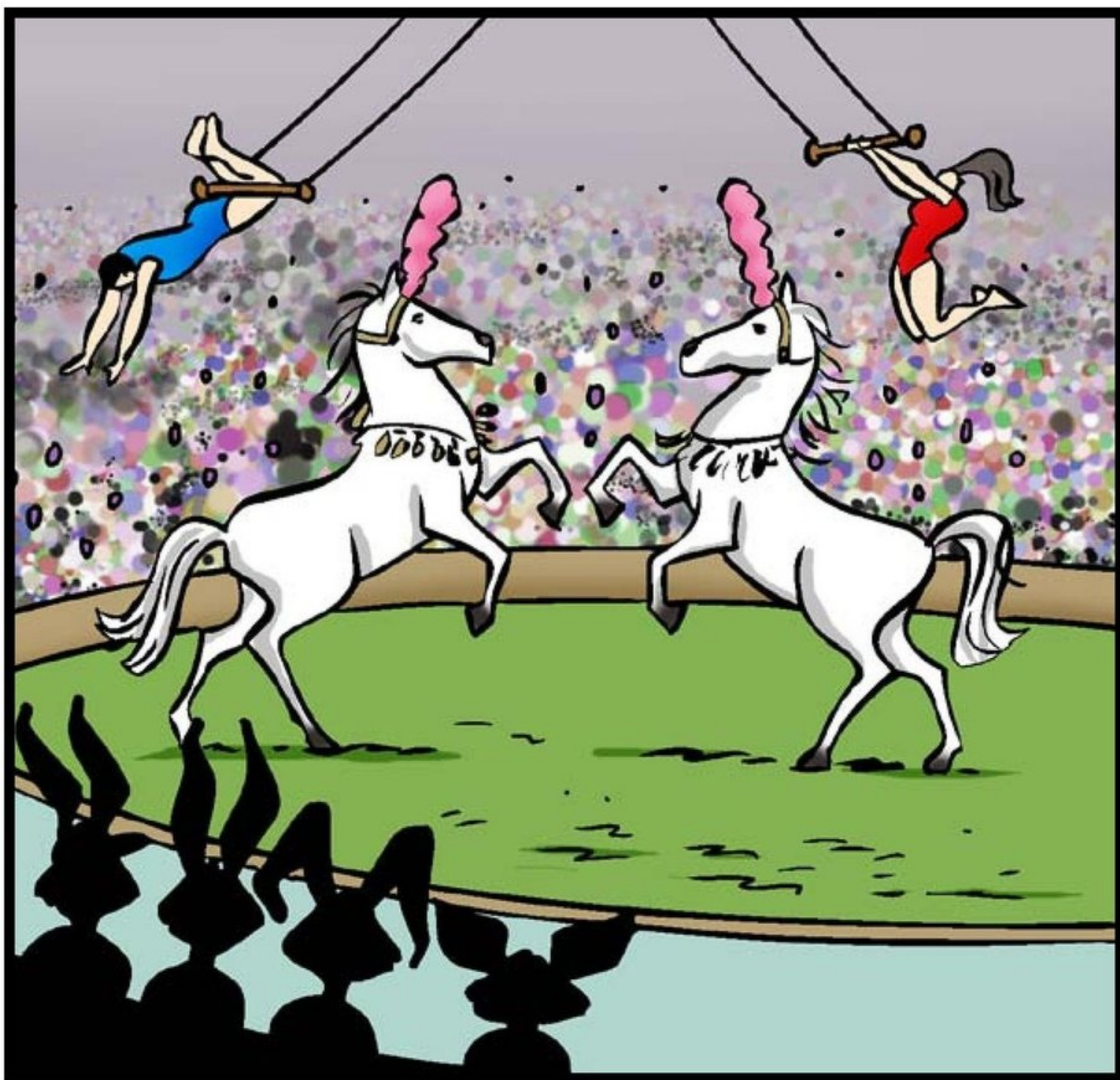
“We can’t go to the circus because we don’t have the money,” wailed Snubby Nose.

“Oh, I think you’ll find the money,” said Grandpa Grizzly. He reached his paw into Snubby Nose’s shirt pocket and pulled out a shining silver coin.

The other Hoppers reached in their shirt pockets, and they all found silver coins. Many more were inside Grandpa Grizzly's pocket. He gave some to Mother Hopper, and all of them went to the circus.

“Thank you, Grandpa Grizzly,” cheered the Hoppers.





They bought lemonade and popcorn. They saw the horses prance around the ring. They saw the trapeze artists fly in the air. Then the show was over.

“It is time to go home,” said Grandpa Grizzly. But Snubby Nose didn’t want to leave. He cried, and he screamed.



“I’m going to join the circus,” said Snubby Nose. He ran to the back of the tent where the clowns were getting ready to leave.

“I want to join the circus,” Snubby Nose told the clowns.

“Did you ask your mother?” asked one clown.

“The circus is a lot of hard work,” said another clown.

“Careful, they are taking down the tent,” said the third.

Snubby Nose cried some more.



Then one clown reached in a bag and brought out a drum. Another pulled out a flute, and the third had two horns.

“Now you can play circus music at home,” said the clowns.

Snubby Nose stopped crying. He took the presents back to the other Hoppers. They played their flute and drum and horns all the way home.



To the Circus
A Hoppers Story
Level K Leveled Book
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an original story by Laura Rountree Smith
Illustrated by David Cockcroft

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