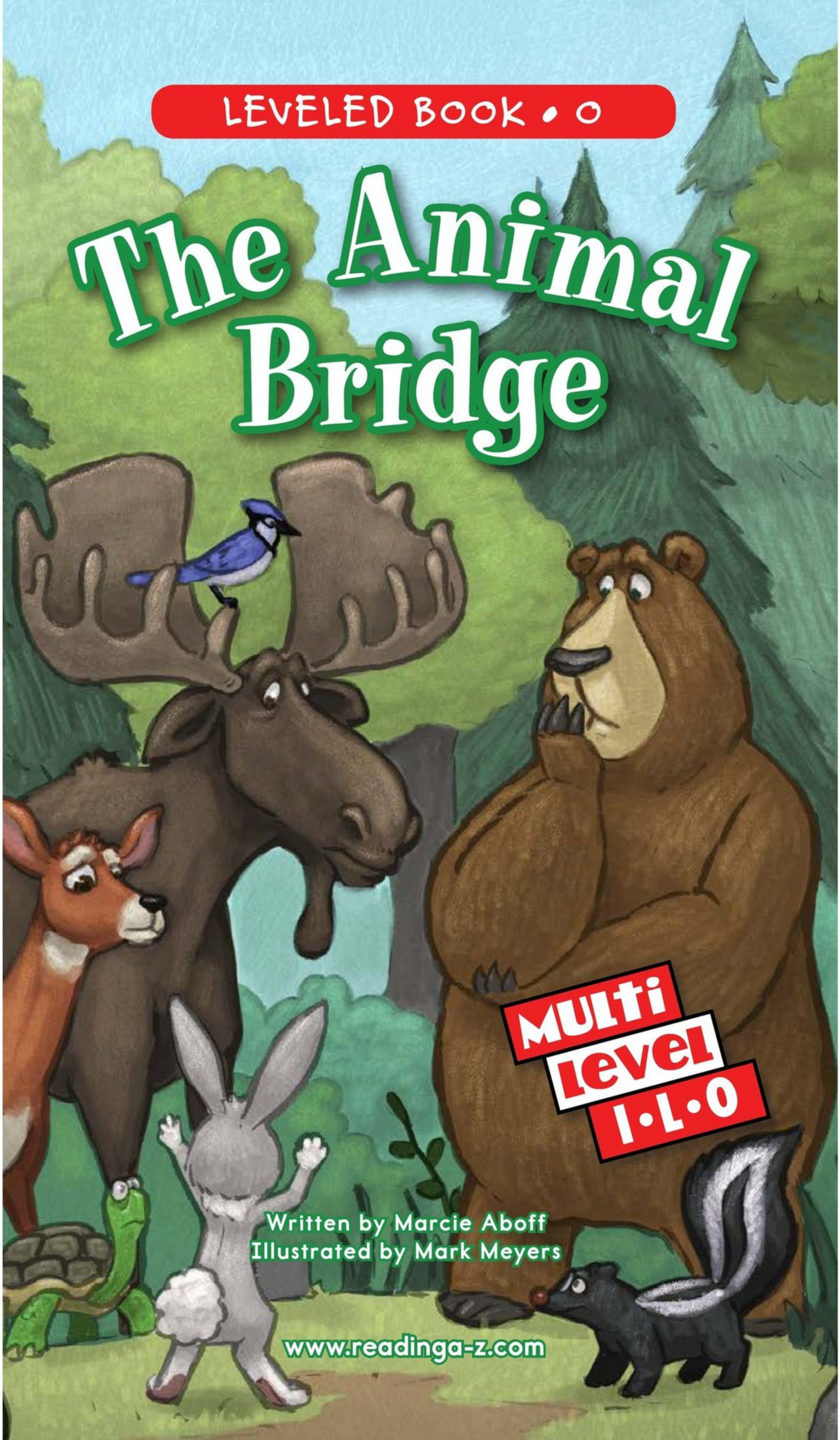
LEVELED BOOK • O

The Animal Bridge



Multi level 1.1.0

Written by Marcie Aboff
Illustrated by Mark Meyers

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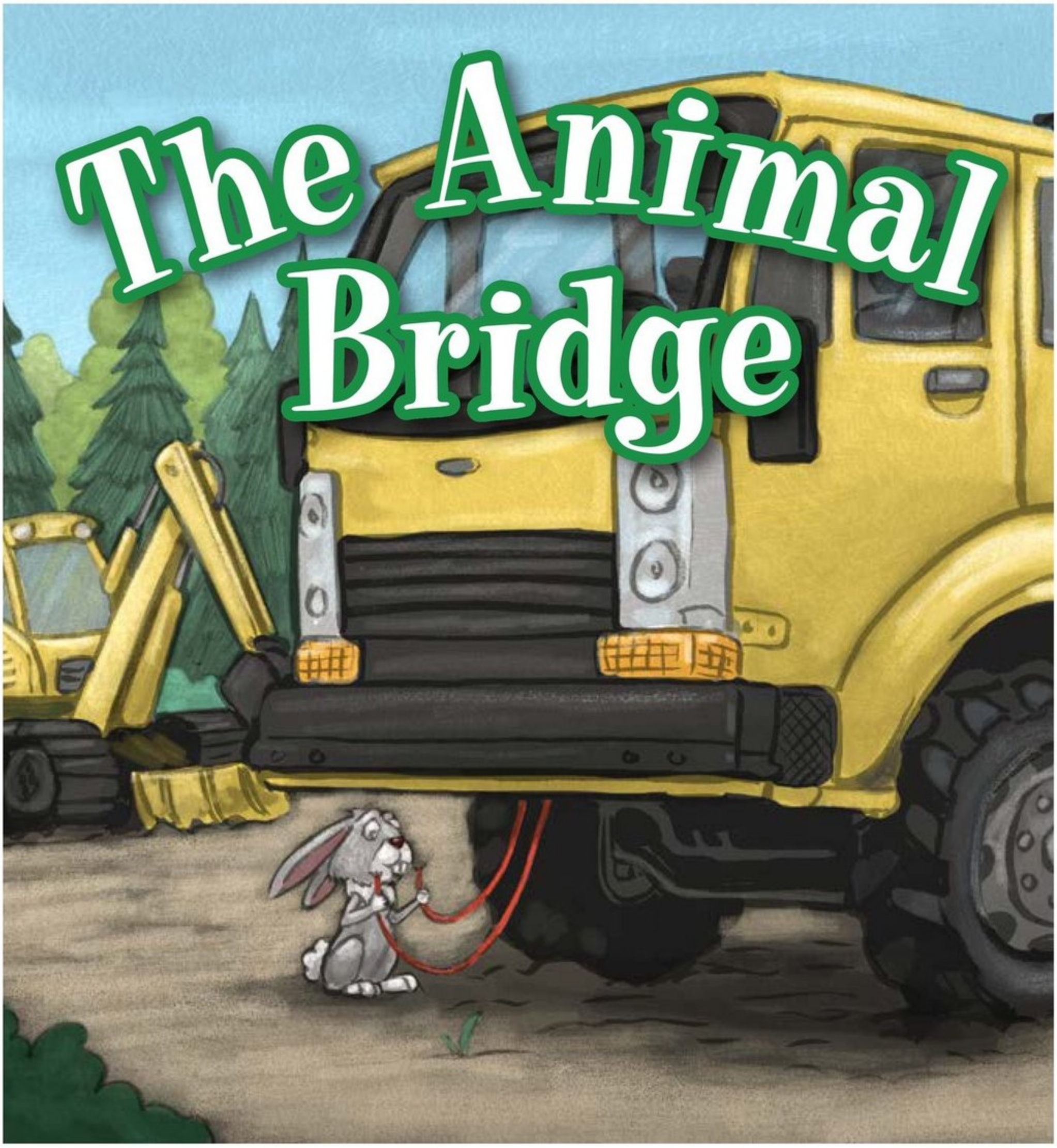

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Focus Question

How do the animals' feelings change during the story?

Words to Know

construction	progress
defeated	sprayed
dizzy	staggered
fumed	trotting
humans	

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Correlation

LEVEL O	
Fountas & Pinnell	M
Reading Recovery	20
DRA	28

Bear was eating some juicy forest berries when Blue Jay swooped down next to him.

"The trucks are back," Blue Jay screeched.

Rabbit hopped by and squealed, "They're working on another **construction** project."

"Oh no, not again!" Bear cried.

"It seems as though the **humans** just finished building their busy highway," Rabbit complained.

Blue Jay reported, "They're at it again, chopping down trees and digging up the dirt and grass."

Bear growled. *When will those humans stop building?* he thought.

They kept constructing roads through the forest. In the process, they were destroying the animals' homes and food. Some animals had even been hit by cars when they tried to cross the busy roads!

Bear grabbed a bunch of berries and sat down by a tree to think. He wondered if his favorite berry bushes would be gone soon, too. Then he noticed Deer **trotting** slowly toward him, her head down.

Bear asked, "What's the matter, Deer?"

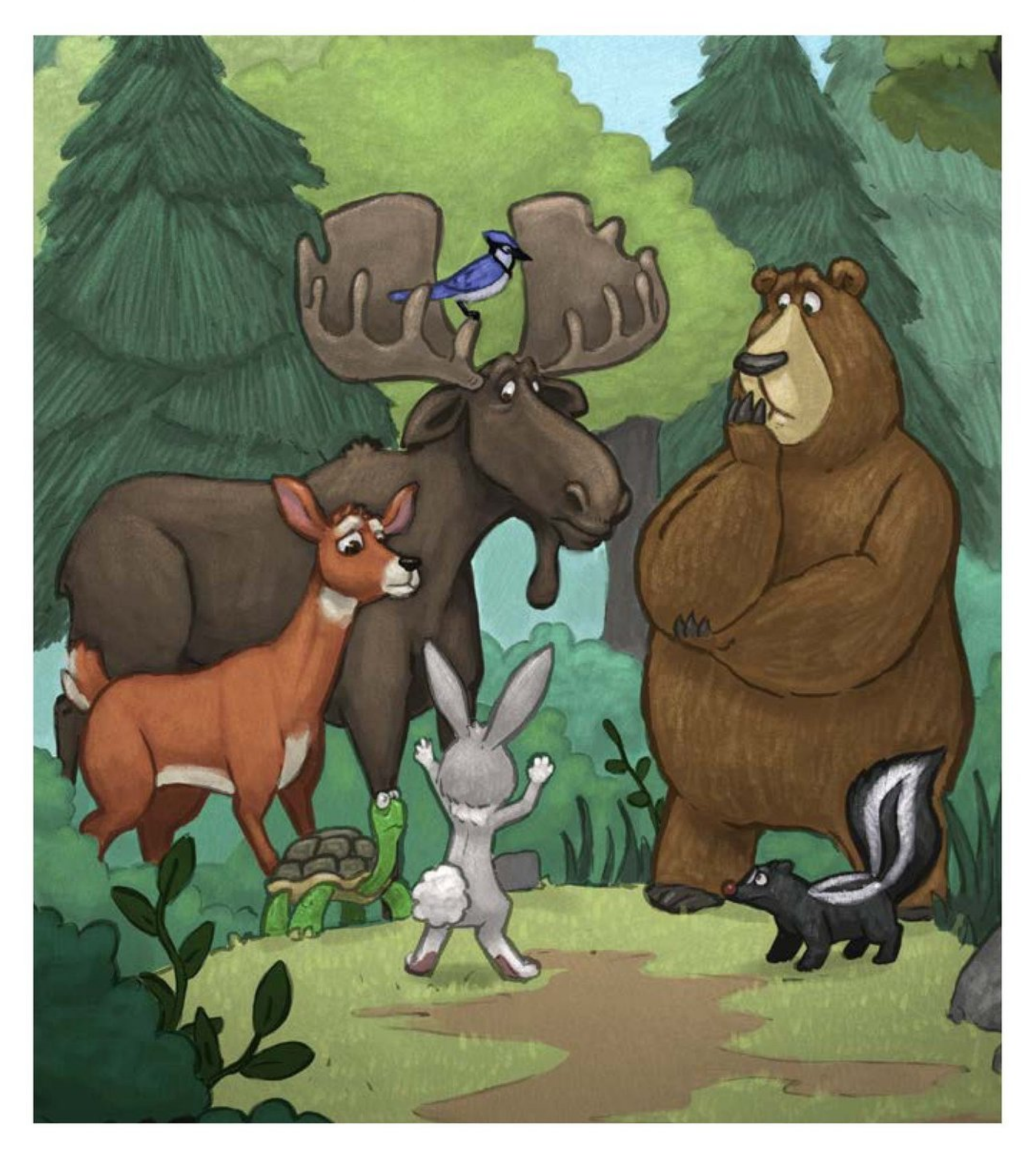
Deer moaned, "I'm all alone. I got cut off from my herd near Moss Trail. Now I'm too scared to cross the road to join them."

"Enough is enough!" **fumed** Bear. "We need to think of some way to stop the humans."

The animals gathered together at the woody hill.

"We need to get tough!" Rabbit yelled to the animals.

"Yes," they all agreed.



"Too bad none of you can fly," said Blue Jay. "If you had wings, then you wouldn't need to cross the roads."

"I can't fly," said Rabbit, "but I can chew." Rabbit showed off her two front teeth. She said, "I have an idea. My big teeth can chew through anything. I can get underneath the trucks and chew through the wires. Without their trucks working properly, the humans can't dig up the land!"

Rabbit jumped down the hill. "I'm going to stop them right now," she said.

Rabbit dashed like lightning toward Moss Trail. When she got there, she scurried underneath an empty parked truck.

Rabbit clenched her teeth on a wire. She chewed hard until . . . *snap!* The wire split, but one of her big teeth cracked. Rabbit came up from under the truck and hopped back to the woody hill.

Rabbit showed her cracked tooth to the other animals. "I did it," she declared, "but, ouch! Now my tooth hurts."

Then Moose boasted, "I can use my strong antlers to ram into anything. I'll crush those trucks!"

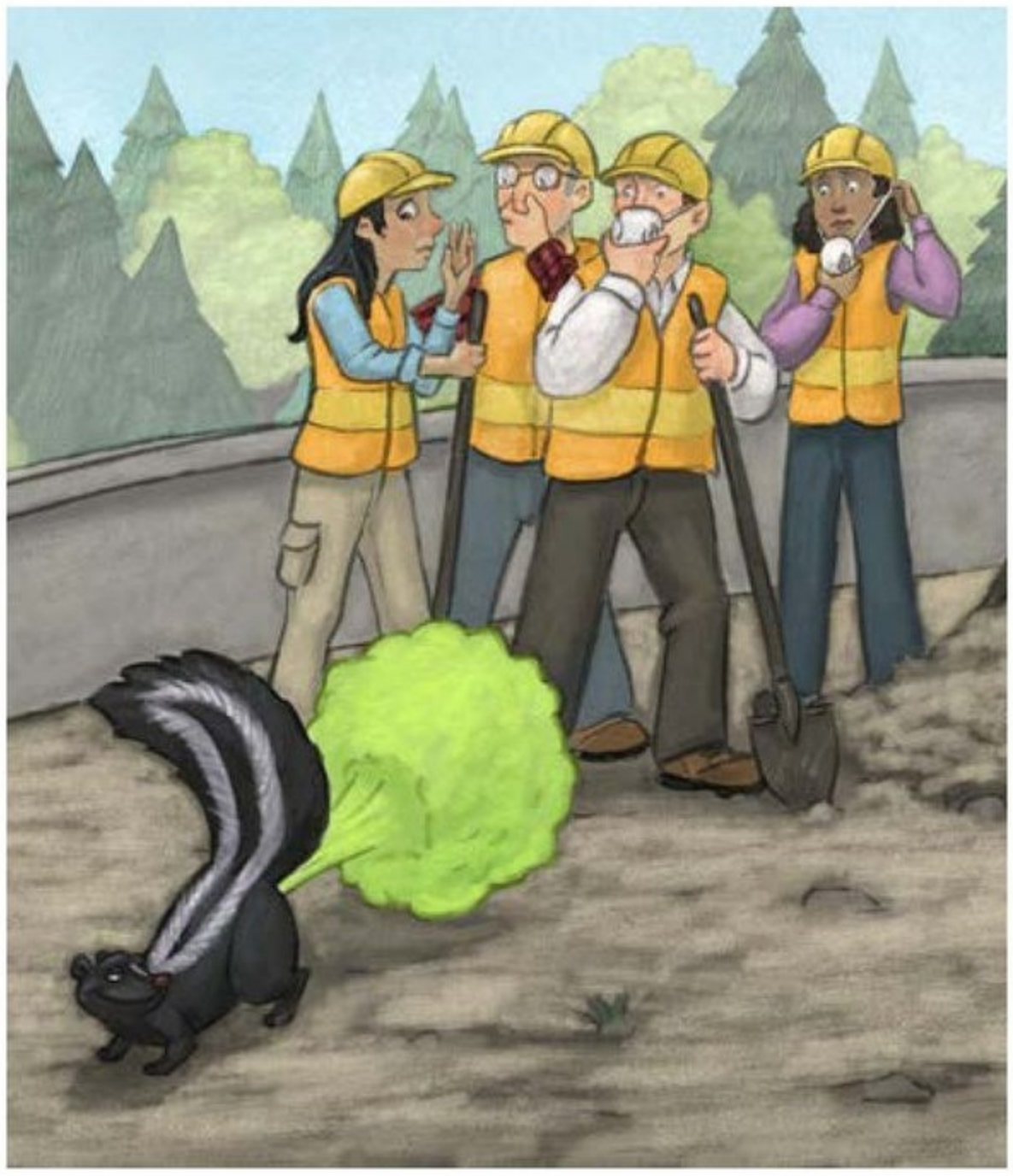
Moose marched to the forest. Headfirst, he rammed into a truck. He made a dent.

"Yes," roared Moose. He hit the truck again. It made another dent. He hit it again. Now Moose was **dizzy**. He spun around and around. The truck had three big dents.

Moose **staggered** back to the animals.

"We are making our mark," he announced. Then he fell down because he was so dizzy.

Skunk bragged, "My stench can drive away the workers."



Skunk **sprayed** a good whiff.

"Gross!" Turtle shouted. "You stink."

Turtle retreated into his shell. Skunk laughed and scurried down to Moss Trail.

Skunk scampered behind the workers and lifted her tail. The humans smelled her odor immediately, grabbed masks to cover their noses and mouths, and returned to their work.

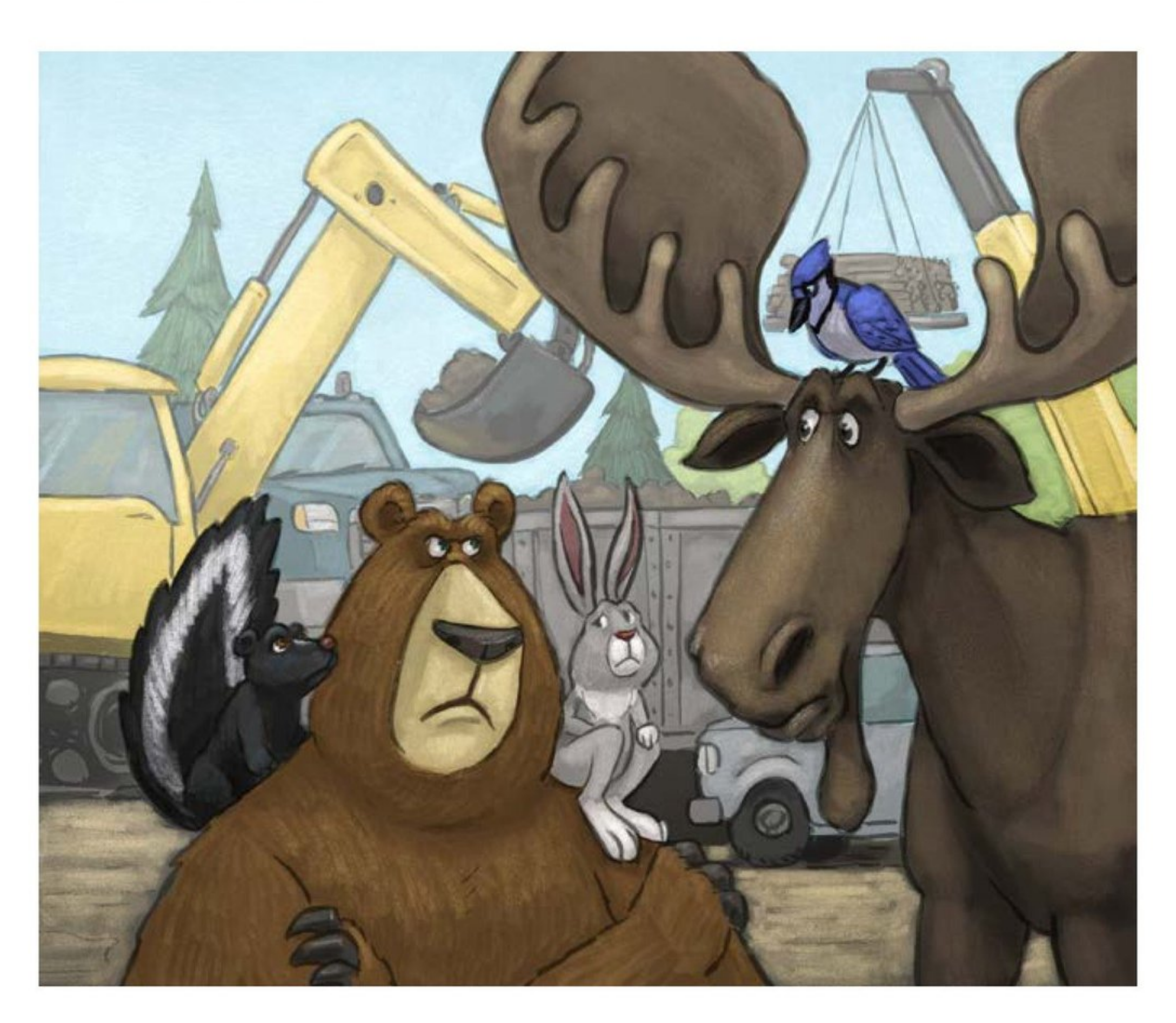
Skunk returned to the woody hill.

"That was as easy as A-B-C," she boasted.

The animals went to check on the humans' **progress**. They were upset to see that the humans were still working in the forest. Rabbit fumed, "Our efforts were useless. The humans are still here."

"No matter what we do, we can't seem to get rid of them," sighed Bear.

For a long time, all the animals felt **defeated**.



Then one day, they saw something strange. They watched the workers put dirt and grass over the bridge. Moose said, "My goodness, humans are weird."

Soon the workers left the bridge.

Then, the animals saw the workers underneath the bridge. They were putting signs by the side of the road that passed beneath the bridge.

"Hey, wait a minute," Bear said. "That's a picture of me! I think this bridge was made for us."

The animals whooped and hollered.

"The humans are trying to help us," Rabbit exclaimed.

"They made their bridge into an animal bridge," Moose added, smiling.

Deer said, "Now I can find my herd."

Then she bounded off into the forest.

The animals stood peering down at the busy traffic below the bridge.

"Hooray for our bridge!" Bear cheered.

Glossary

construction *(n.)*	the act of making or building something (p. 3)
defeated *(adj.)*	feeling unable to do something (p. 11)
dizzy *(adj.)*	feeling as though one is spinning and losing one's balance (p. 9)
fumed *(v.)*	felt or showed anger (p. 5)
humans *(n.)*	people (p. 3)
progress *(n.)*	forward movement toward a goal (p. 11)
sprayed *(v.)*	sprinkled or forced out many drops of a liquid (p. 10)
staggered *(v.)*	moved or walked in an unsteady manner (p. 9)
trotting *(v.)*	moving at a pace that is just faster than walking (p. 5)

The Animal Bridge

A Reading A–Z Level O Leveled Book
Word Count: 735

Connections

Writing

Pretend you are one of the animals in the story. Write a friendly letter to the humans. Include your feelings about the bridge before and after it was made.

Science

Think about the habitat of each animal in the story. Discuss with a partner what each animal needs to live.

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