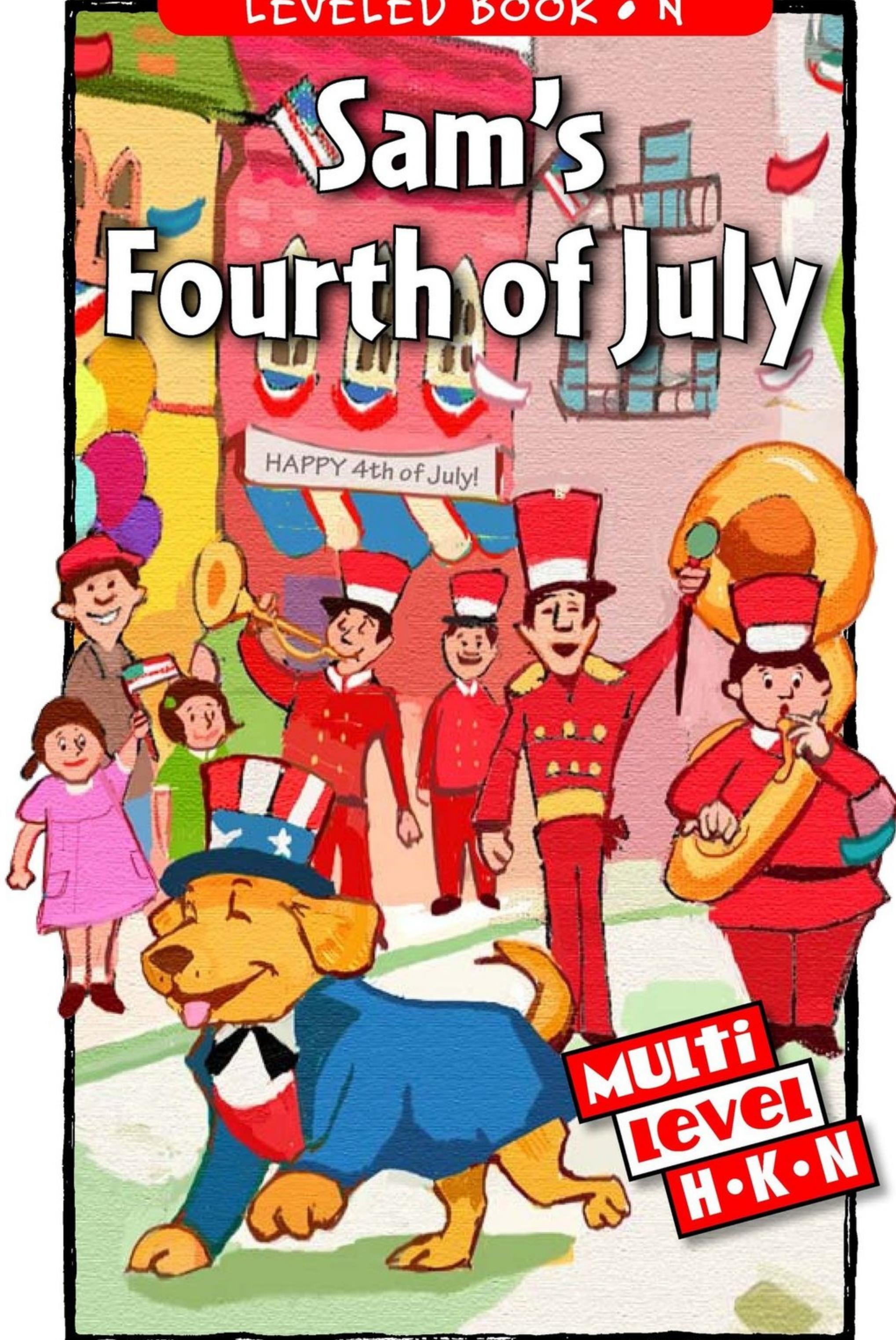


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Sam's Fourth of July

HAPPY 4th of July!

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Sam's Fourth of July



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No one had ever seen a dog as excited for the Fourth of July as Sam. Somehow, he always knew when the holiday was coming. Because of his excitement, the town decided that they were going to make him the Grand Marshal of the **parade** this year.



The town's sewing club made Sam a suit and hat of stars and stripes. On the day of the parade, they dressed him up while he happily wagged his tail. He gave each person a big lick as a thank-you before bounding out the door.



The town was decorated with ribbons, streamers, and banners of red, white, and blue. Because **Independence Day** was an important holiday, the whole town came out to see Sam lead the big parade.



The school band marched behind Sam. The band played **patriotic** tunes such as the “Star Spangled Banner” and “My Country, ‘Tis of Thee.” Sam wagged his tail and barked in time with the music, his head lifted proudly.



After a while, he jumped up and started to dance on his back legs. Everyone clapped and cheered as they watched him hopping and spinning in circles. Their favorite patriotic pup was putting on quite a show, and they loved it.



A man grilling meat in his front yard offered Sam some tasty **barbecue**. Sam ran over and happily ate it, licking the sauce off his snout. He liked it so much that he begged for more. The man laughed and gave him a second piece.



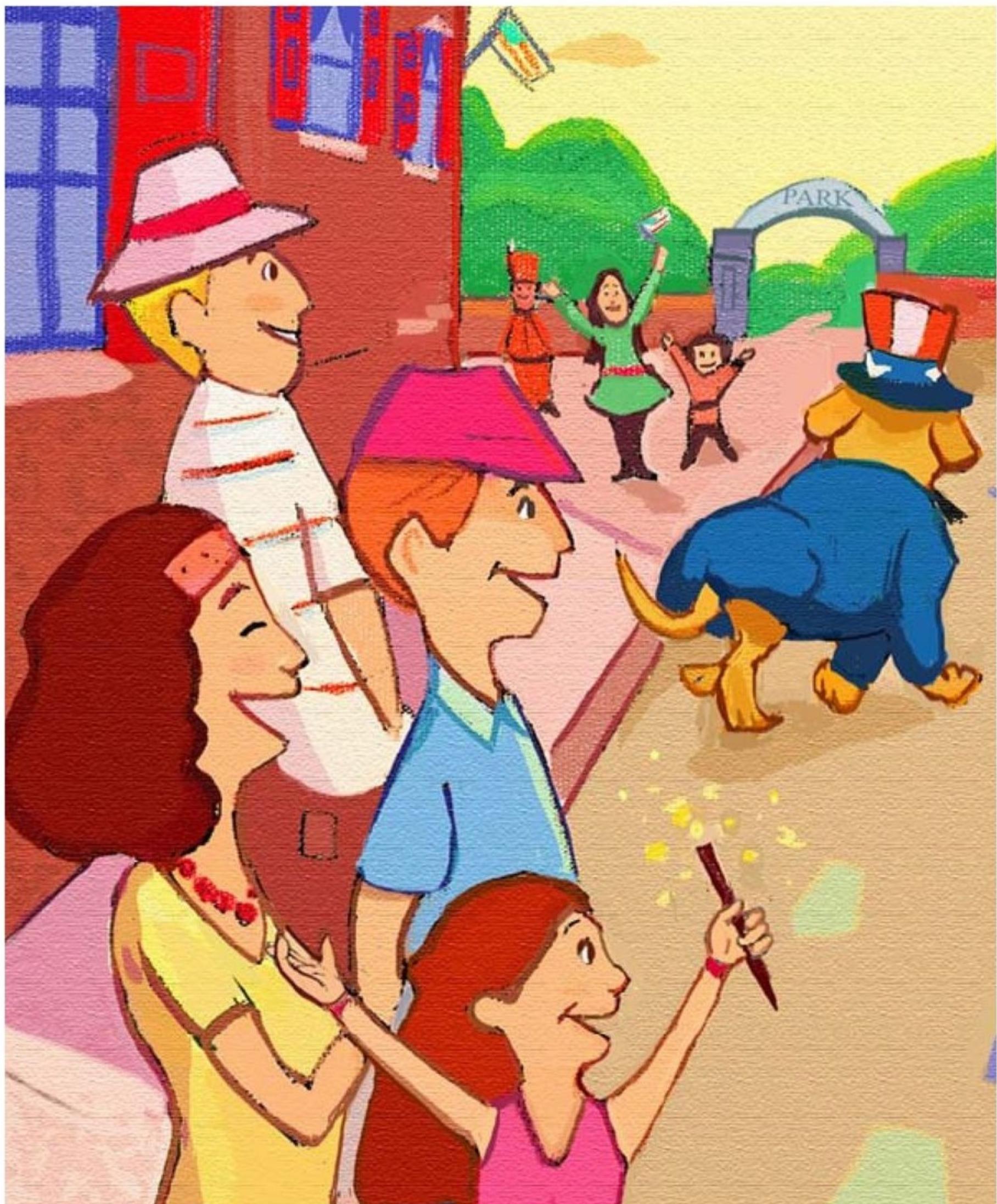
Sam waved his paw to thank the people in the armed forces and the veterans as he passed. They saluted him in return and cheered.



The **mayor** even walked up and shook Sam's paw. "What day in July is the birthday of the United States?" the mayor asked. Sam barked four times for the Fourth of July!



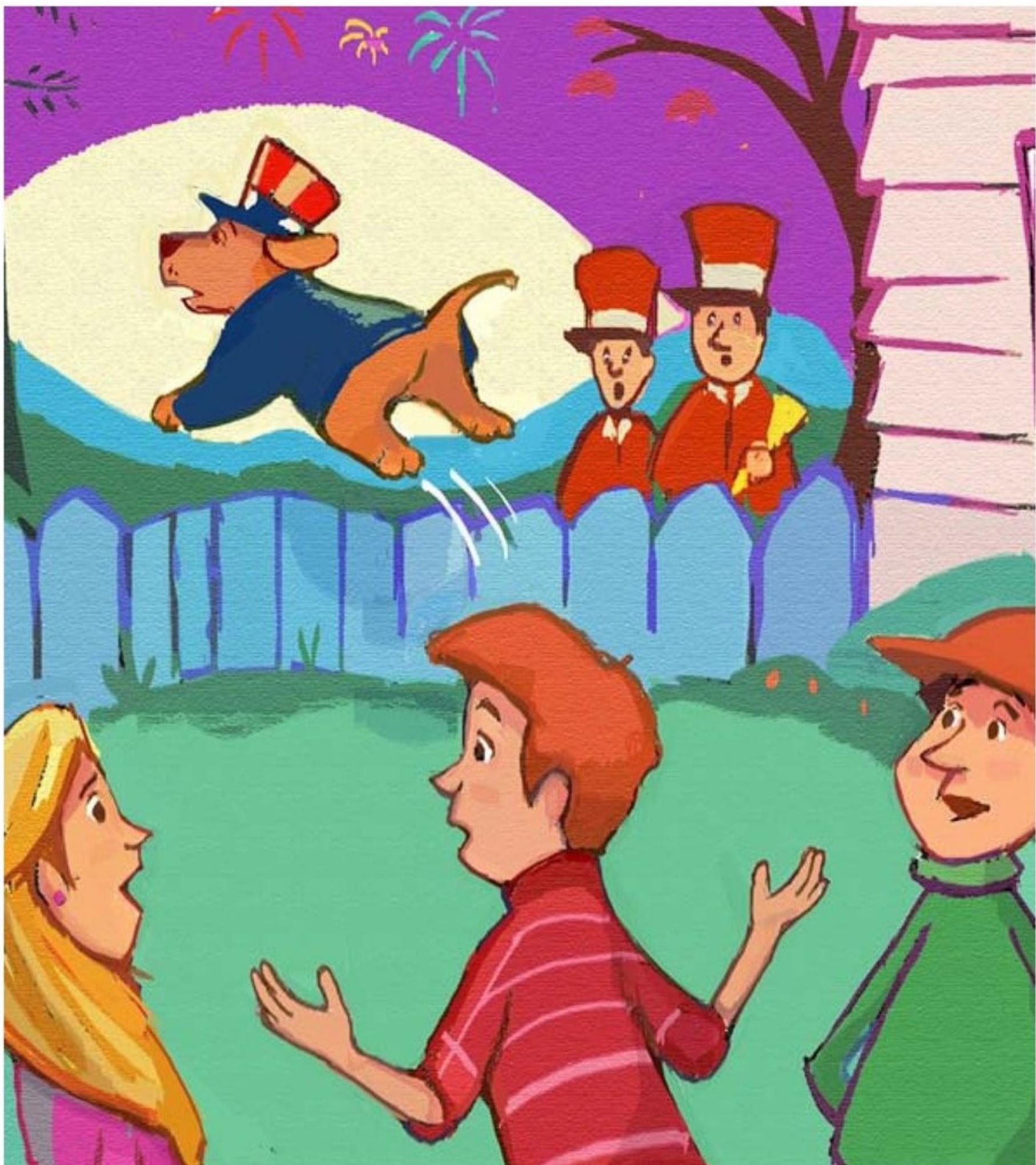
“I don’t think anyone has been this excited since the Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776!” the mayor exclaimed. Sam ran in circles around the mayor to prove he really was excited, and everyone laughed.



The parade made a lot of noise as it followed Sam through the town. Sam seemed to enjoy hearing it all because his tail kept wagging. He jumped, barked, and played as if he were a puppy again.



They had almost reached the park where the parade was supposed to end when, suddenly, some **fireworks** exploded. The people cheered, but Sam didn't like the loud bangs. He ran all the way home to get away from them.



The people wondered why the Grand Marshal was running away. The parade followed Sam all the way to his backyard. It had grown dark during the walk, and before they could look around, fireworks started to fill the night sky.



The people *ooohed* and *ahhhed* at the sparkling fireworks, clapping for the really impressive ones.

Sam stayed in his doghouse until the fireworks were over. Then he came out to eat some apple pie and ice cream.

It was a lovely celebration.

Glossary

barbecue (<i>n.</i>)	food cooked on an outdoor grill (p. 8)
fireworks (<i>n.</i>)	bright or colorful displays of light, sound, and smoke caused by ignited fireworks (p. 13)
Independence Day (<i>n.</i>)	an annual holiday on July 4 in the United States that celebrates the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 (p. 5)
mayor (<i>n.</i>)	the leader of the government of a city or town (p. 10)
parade (<i>n.</i>)	a line of people or vehicles moving forward at a regular pace as part of a celebration or ceremony (p. 3)
patriotic (<i>adj.</i>)	having or expressing pride in or loyalty to one's country (p. 6)

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