



Level 2

# The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse



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# The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

*Retold by Sue Arengo*  
*Illustrated by Ook Hallbjorn*



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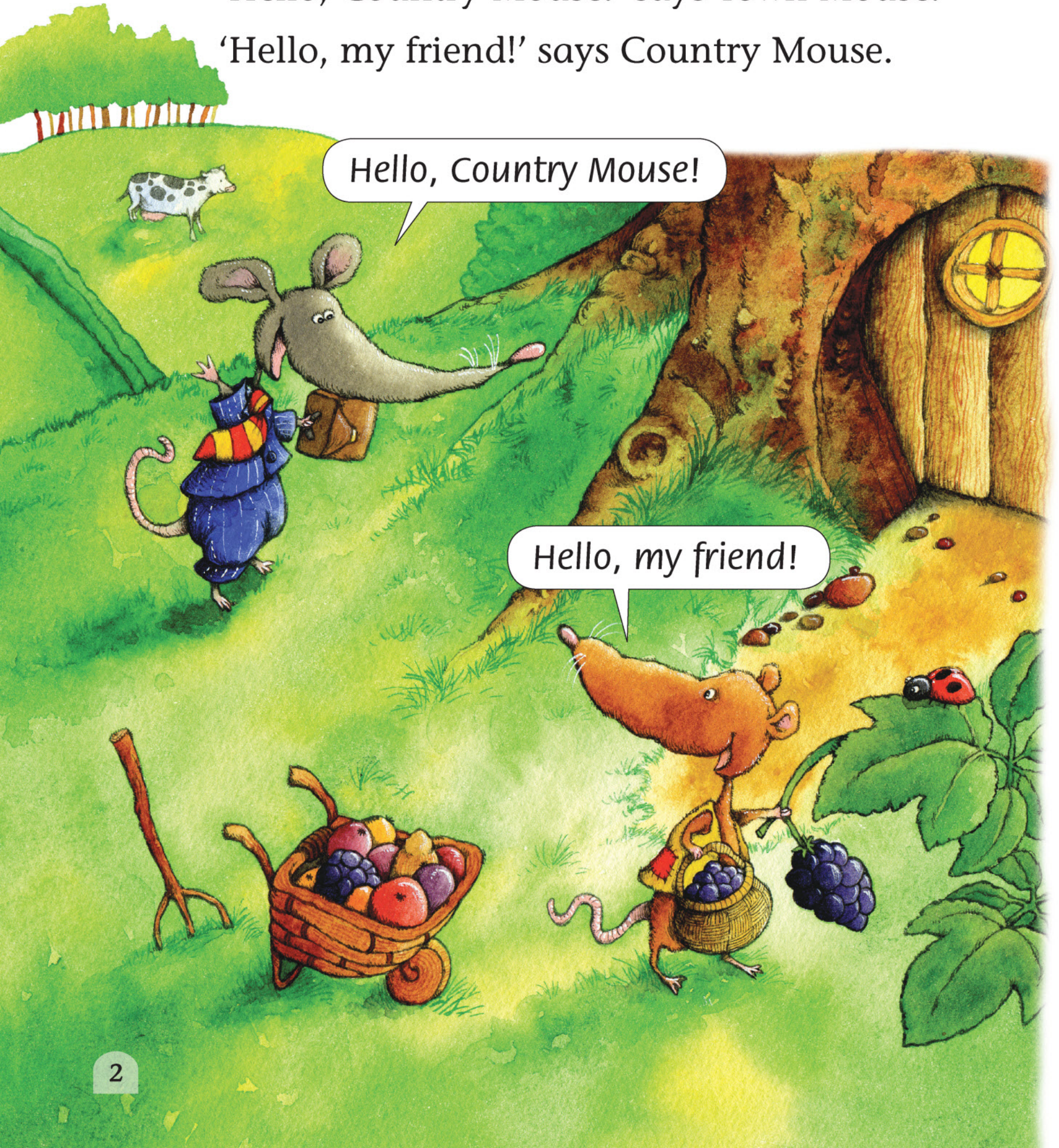




This is Country Mouse's home.  
One day his friend, Town  
Mouse, comes to see him.

'Hello, Country Mouse!' says Town Mouse.

'Hello, my friend!' says Country Mouse.





There's a lot to eat. But Town Mouse thinks the food is strange.

He doesn't like it very much. So he only eats a little bit.



'Please have some more,' says Country Mouse.

'It's very nice,' says Town Mouse, 'but no thank you.'

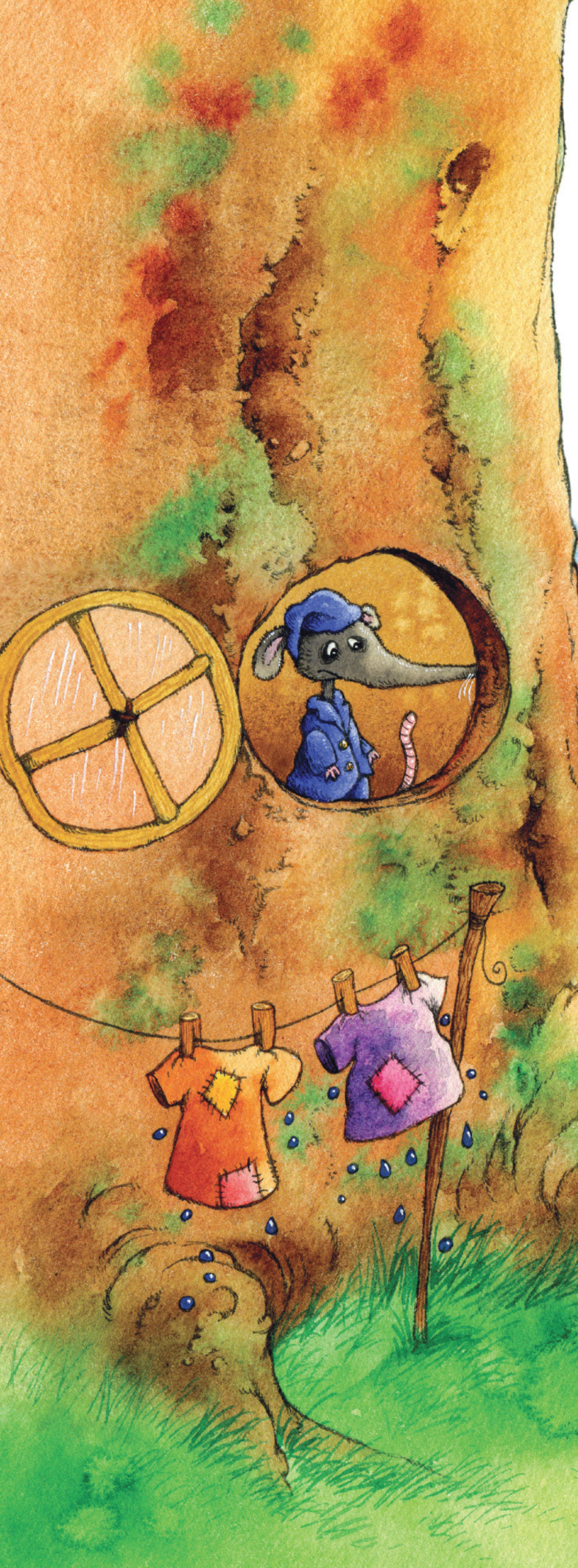


Country Mouse gives Town Mouse his bed.  
'You can have my bed tonight,' he says.  
'Thank you,' says Town Mouse.




But Country Mouse's bed is strange.  
Town Mouse doesn't like it very much. He  
can't go to sleep. It's very dark and quiet.



A large, textured tree trunk is the central element. A circular hole in the tree shows a grey mouse wearing a blue cap and coat. To the left of the hole is a wooden wheel. Below the hole, a clothesline with wooden pegs holds a red shirt and a purple shirt. Blue droplets are falling from the shirts. The background shows a green field, a yellow sun, and a blue sky.

In the morning  
Town Mouse is tired.  
But Country Mouse  
isn't tired.

'Come on!' he says.  
'Let's go and get  
some food.'

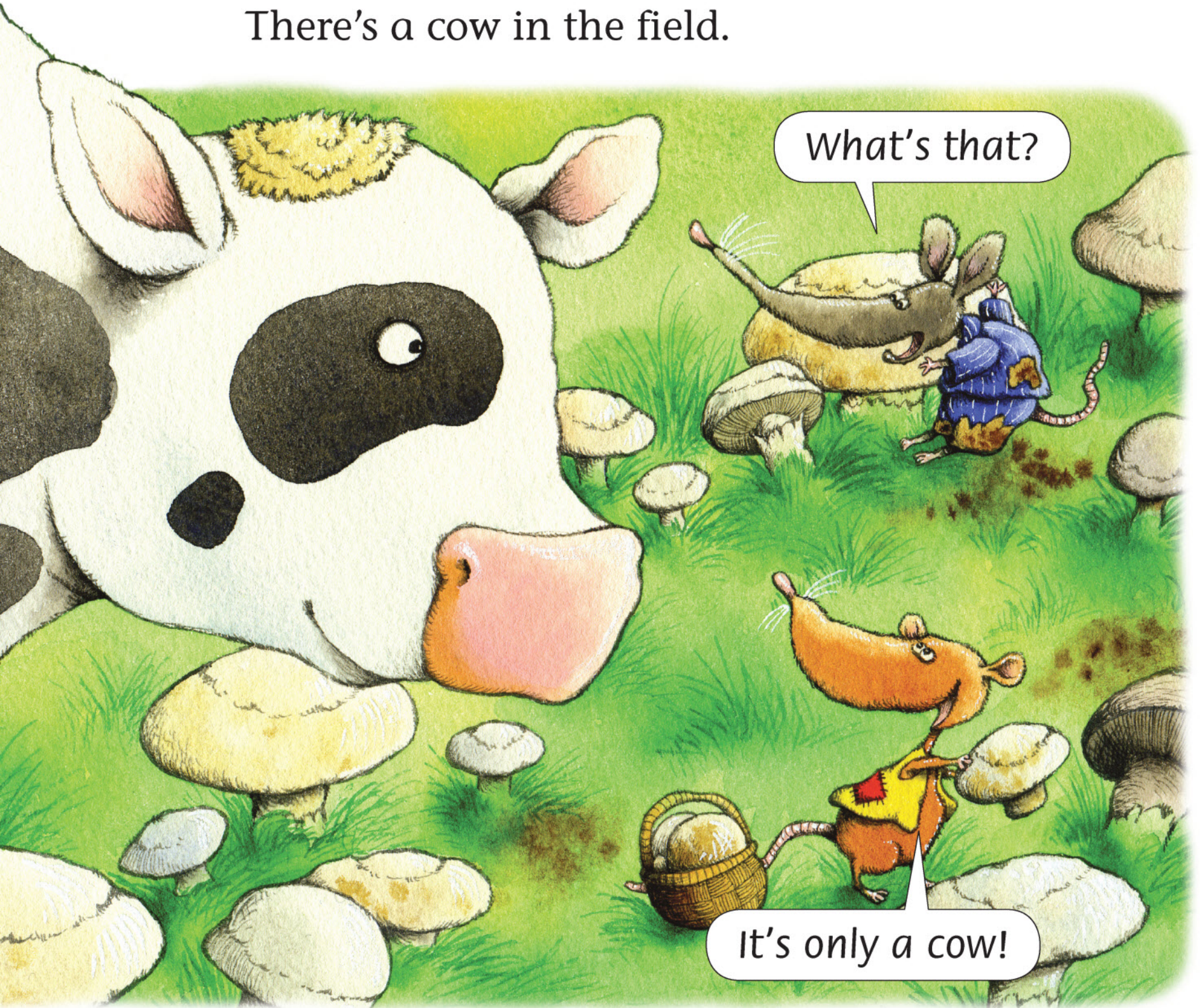
A brown mouse wearing a yellow shirt is standing on a tree stump. It is holding a small woven basket. A speech bubble points to the mouse. In the background, there is a wooden door with a wheel on it, set into a tree trunk. The scene is set in a green field under a blue sky with a yellow sun.

Let's go and  
get some food.



The grass is long and wet. Town Mouse's feet and trousers are wet. He doesn't like the country very much!

There's a cow in the field.



'Oh!' cries Town Mouse. 'What's that?'

'It's only a cow!' laughs Country Mouse.





‘Do you like the country?’ asks Country Mouse.

‘It’s very strange here,’ says Town Mouse.  
‘It’s very interesting. It’s different. But I think I like the town best.’



'Life is good in the country,'  
says Country Mouse.

'Yes,' says Town Mouse.

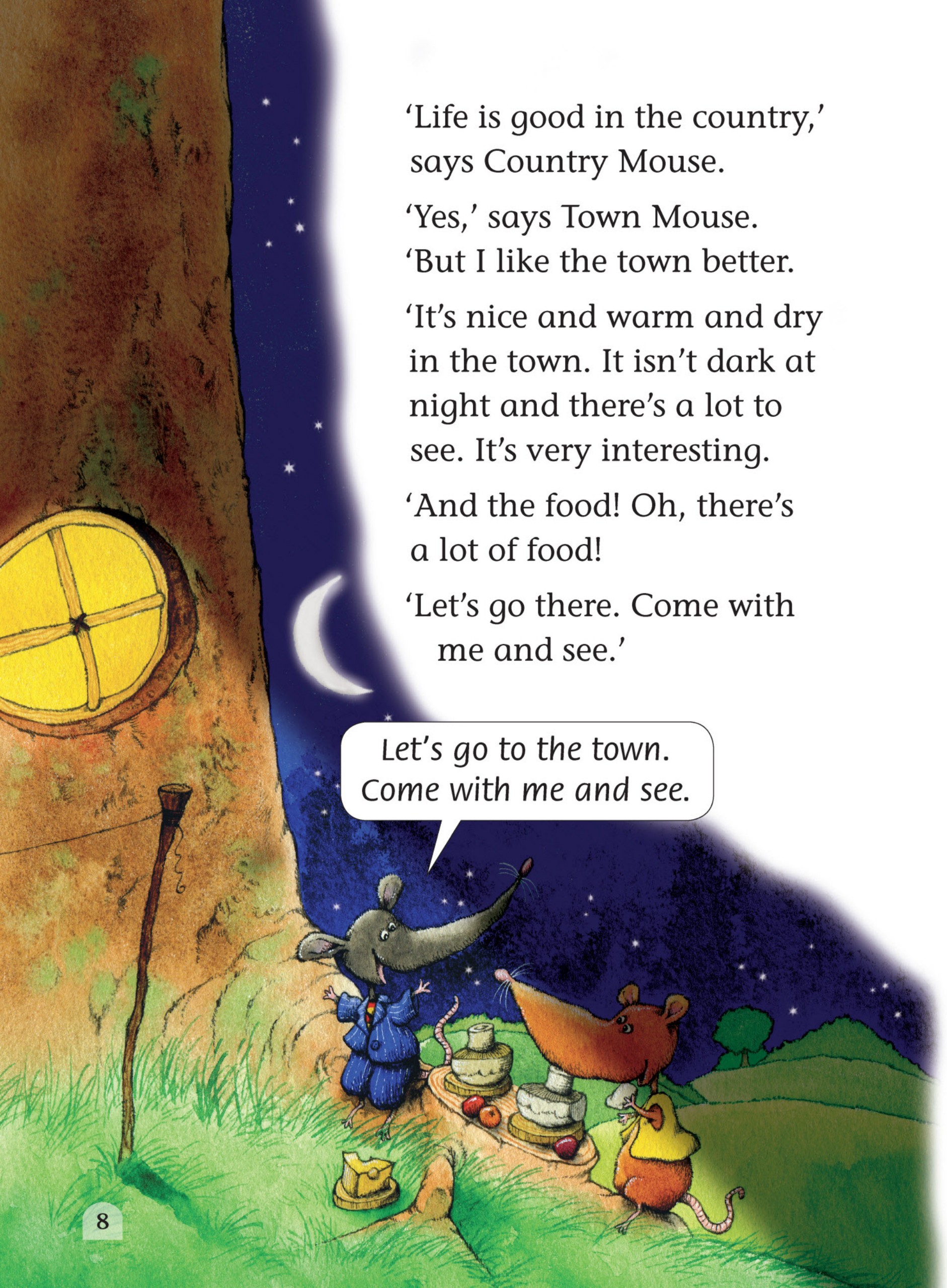
'But I like the town better.

'It's nice and warm and dry  
in the town. It isn't dark at  
night and there's a lot to  
see. It's very interesting.

'And the food! Oh, there's  
a lot of food!

'Let's go there. Come with  
me and see.'

Let's go to the town.  
Come with me and see.





The next day the two mice see a cart.  
It's going to town.



‘Hurry up, you sheep!’ says the man.  
‘I want to go to town.’  
‘Listen,’ says Town Mouse. ‘That cart’s  
going to town. Come on.’





Soon Town Mouse is home.

‘Ah!’ he says, happily. ‘It’s good to be home again.’

But Country Mouse thinks: ‘What a lot of noise! What a lot of people!’



It's good to be home again.



The house is very big.  
Country Mouse doesn't  
like it very much.

Suddenly there is  
a strange noise.

'Oh! What's that?'  
he says.

'It's only the clock,'  
laughs Town Mouse.

'Look! I live there. Let's  
go and eat. Come on!'

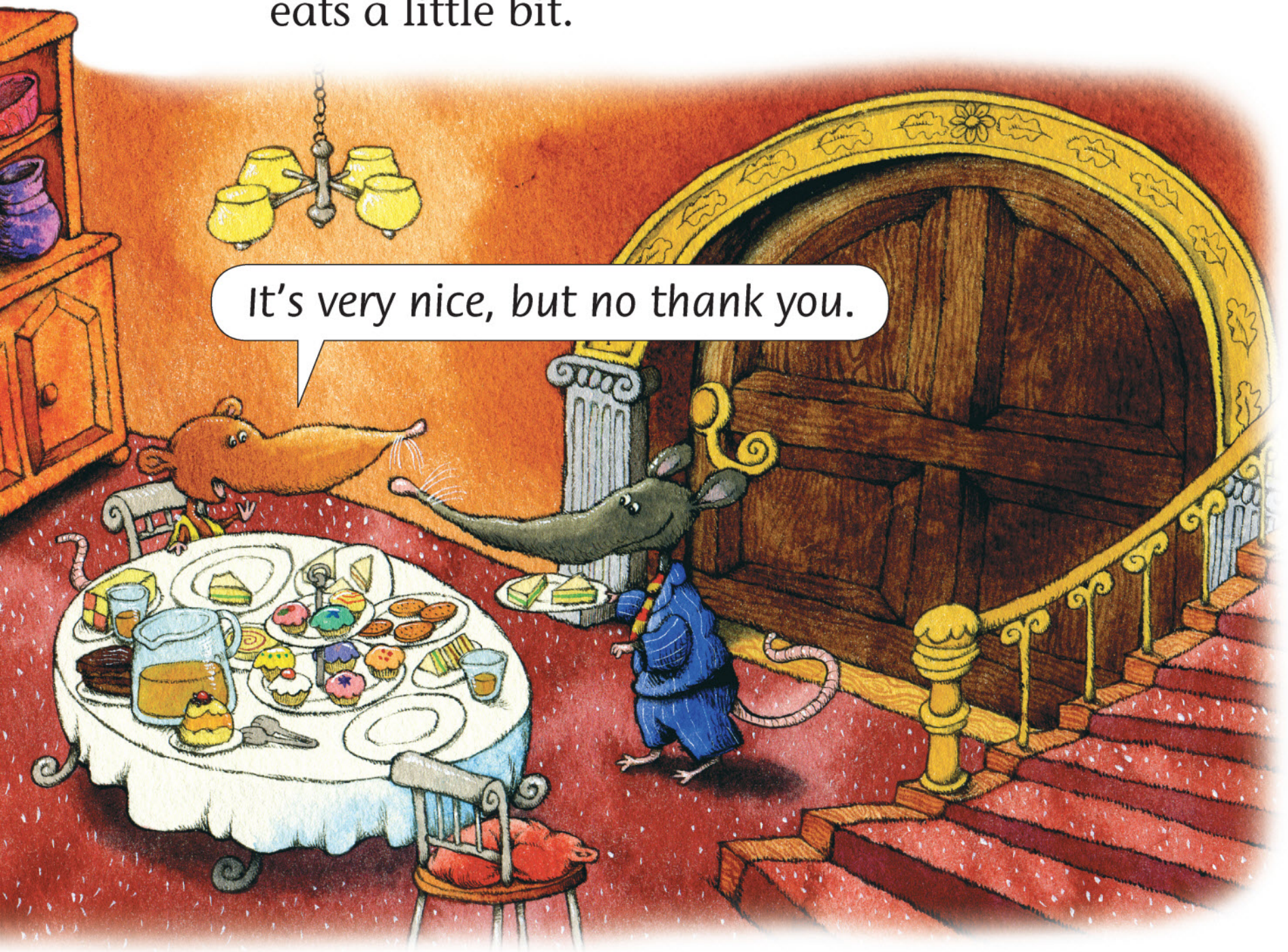


Look! I live there.



There's a lot to eat. But Country Mouse thinks the food is strange.

He doesn't like it very much. So he only eats a little bit.



'Please have some more,' says Town Mouse.

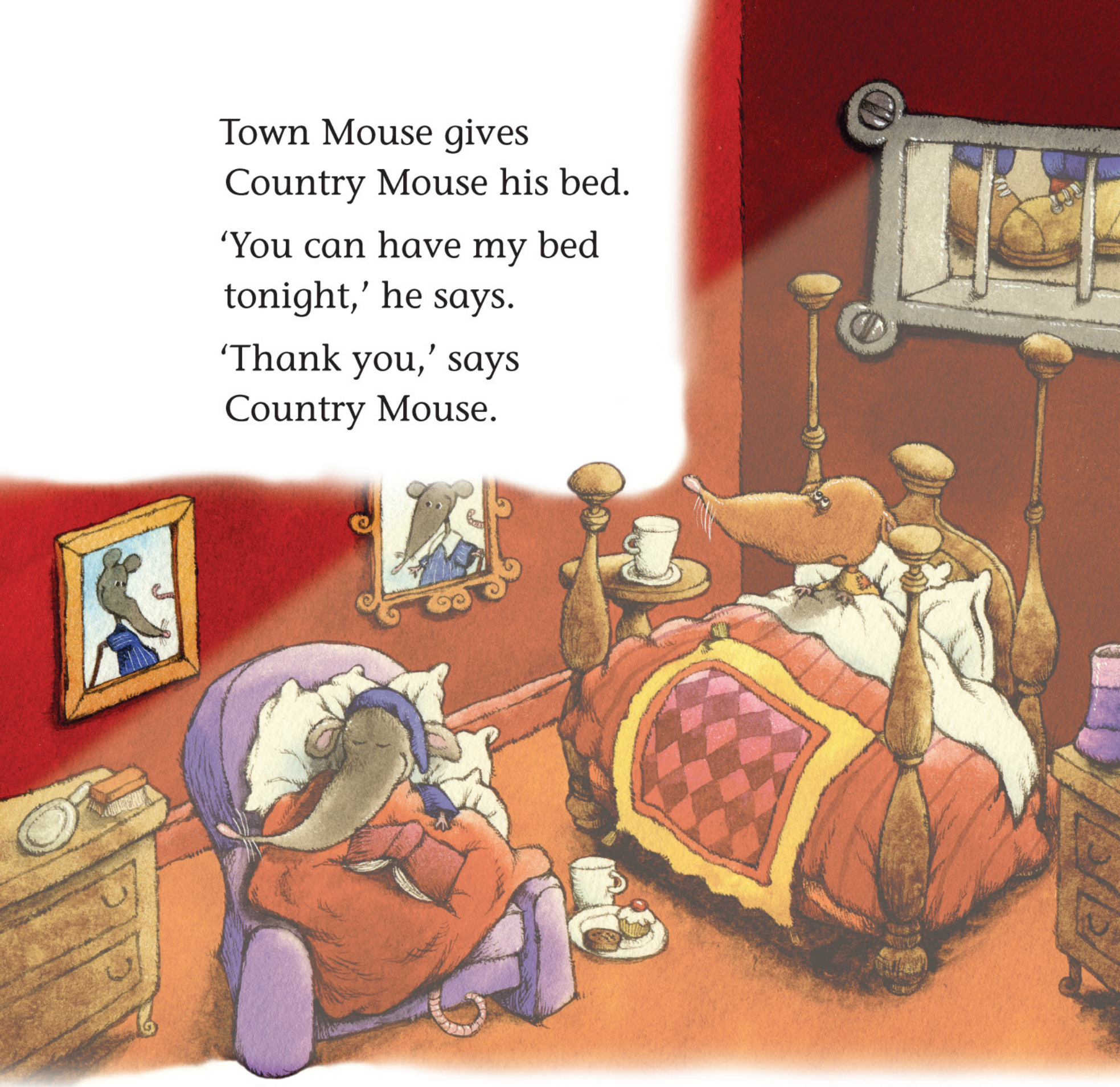
'It's very nice,' says Country Mouse, 'but no thank you.'



Town Mouse gives  
Country Mouse his bed.

‘You can have my bed  
tonight,’ he says.

‘Thank you,’ says  
Country Mouse.

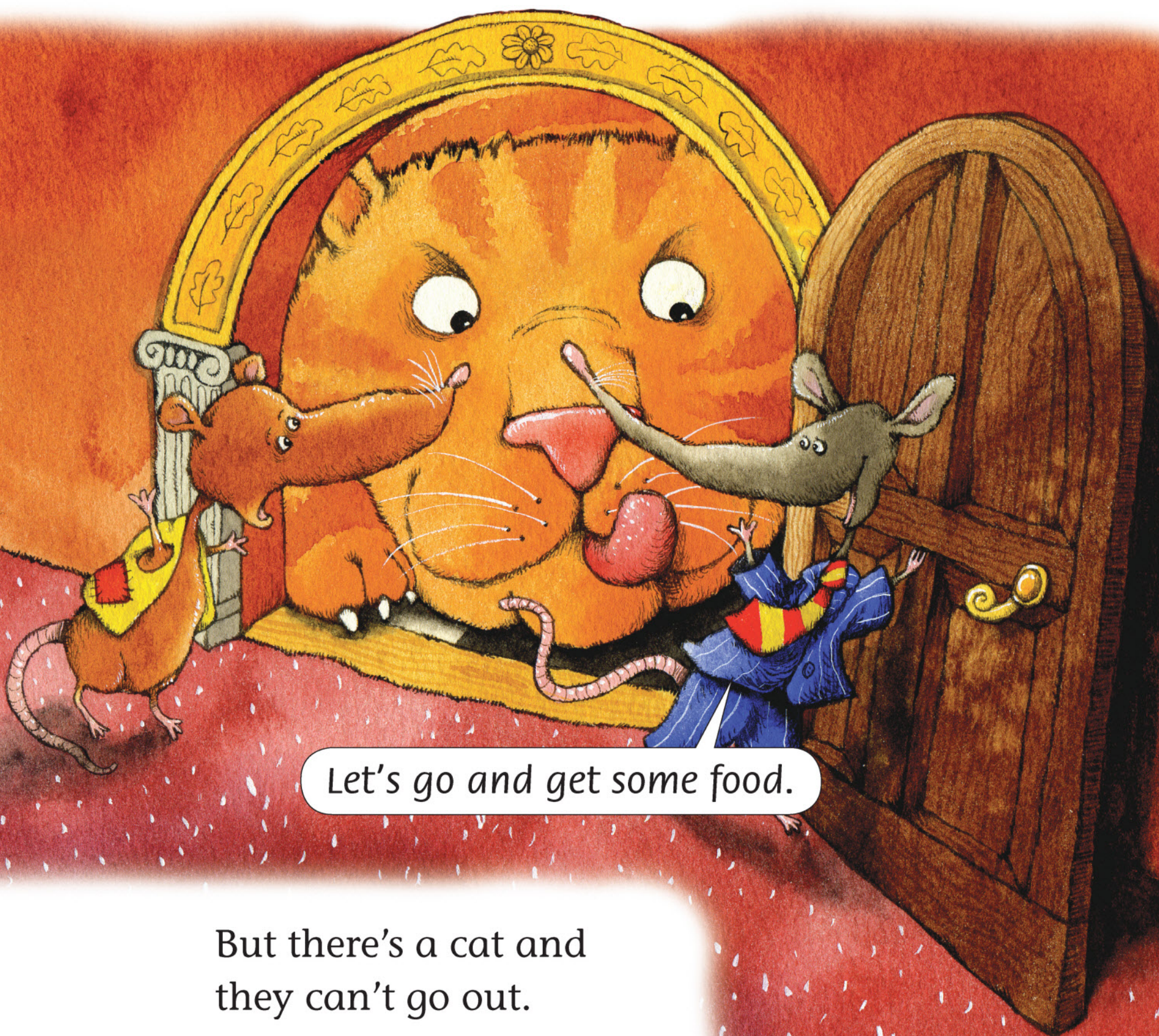


But Town Mouse's bed is strange.

Country Mouse doesn't like it very much.  
He can't go to sleep. It isn't dark in the  
room and the street is very noisy.



In the morning Country Mouse is tired.  
But Town Mouse isn't tired.  
'Come on!' he says. 'Let's go and get  
some food.'



But there's a cat and  
they can't go out.



At last the cat goes away. The two mice  
are very hungry.

Suddenly, Country Mouse sees something.

‘Look!’ he shouts. ‘Cheese!’

‘STOP!’ shouts Town Mouse. ‘Don’t touch  
that! It’s a trap!’

An illustration showing two mice on a checkered floor. A brown mouse (Country Mouse) is on the left, wearing a yellow vest with a red patch, pointing towards a cheese trap. A grey mouse (Town Mouse) is on the right, wearing a blue striped shirt, looking back at the first mouse. In the center, a wooden trap with a metal spring is set with a large piece of yellow cheese. The background is a dark, textured area.

Look! Cheese!

STOP! It's a trap!



'Do you like the town?'  
asks Town Mouse.

'It's very strange here,'  
says Country Mouse.

'It's interesting. It's  
different. But I think  
I like the country best.'



Do you like the town?

I think I like the country best.





‘Life is good in the town,’  
says Town Mouse.

‘Yes,’ says Country Mouse.  
‘But I like the country  
better. It’s nice and quiet  
in the country.’

‘I understand,’ says Town  
Mouse. ‘We like different  
things.’





Hurry up, you children.

That cart's going to the country.

That cart's going to the country.

‘Listen,’ says Country Mouse. ‘That cart’s going to the country. Goodbye, my friend. Thank you.’

18





Soon Country Mouse is home. He's in the country. He sits by the fire.

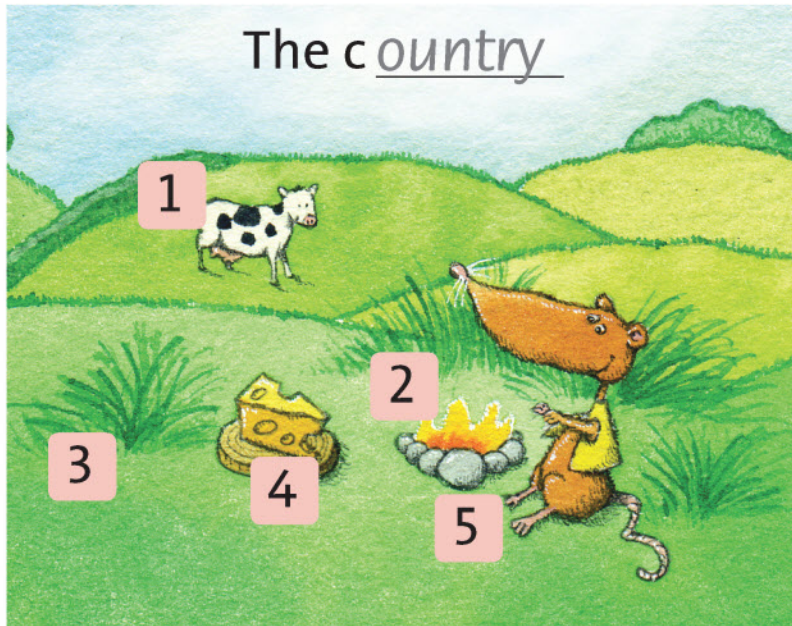
'Ah!' he says happily. 'It's good to be home again.'



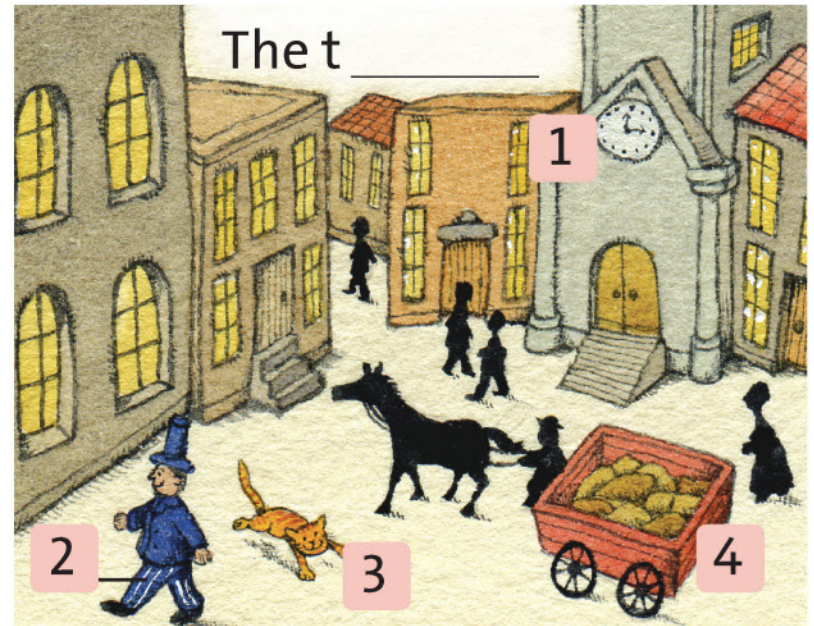


# Exercises

## 1 Complete the words.



1 c \_\_\_\_\_ 2 f \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 g \_\_\_\_\_ 4 c \_\_\_\_\_  
 5 f \_\_\_\_\_



1 c \_\_\_\_\_ 2 t \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 c \_\_\_\_\_ 4 c \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Choose a, b, or c.

- 1 Town Mouse sleeps in Country Mouse's ...  
 a ☐ garden      b ☒ bed      c ☐ cart
- 2 In the country at night, it's very ...  
 a ☐ noisy      b ☐ quiet      c ☐ dry
- 3 Town Mouse wants to go back to ...  
 a ☐ the town      b ☐ the country      c ☐ the fields
- 4 In the town, there are a lot of ...  
 a ☐ fields      b ☐ sheep      c ☐ people
- 5 Country Mouse thinks the town is very ...  
 a ☐ strange      b ☐ quiet      c ☐ dark

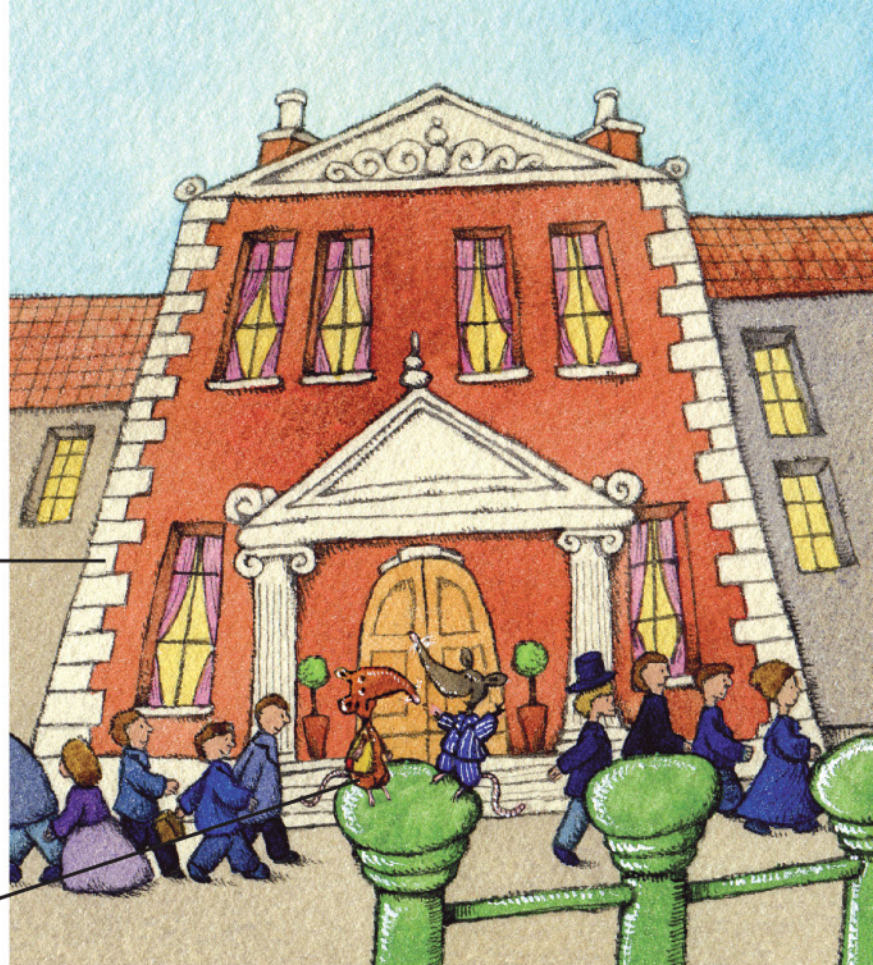


### 3 Answer the questions.

1 Is this the country? No.  
Is it quiet here? \_\_\_\_\_

2 Is this a house? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is it small? \_\_\_\_\_

3 Who's this? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is he happy? \_\_\_\_\_  
Does he like it here? \_\_\_\_\_



### 4 What do they say? Write the words.

1



You can have my bed tonight.

2



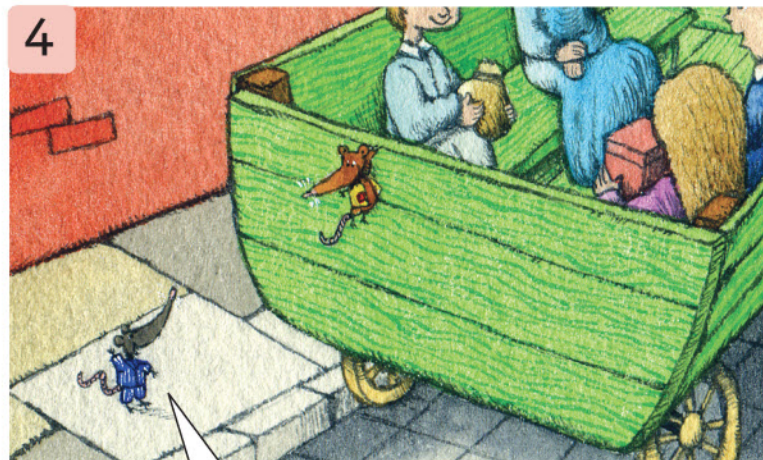
Hurry \_\_\_\_\_!

3



Oh! \_\_\_\_\_?

4



\_\_\_\_\_ me.



# Picture Dictionary

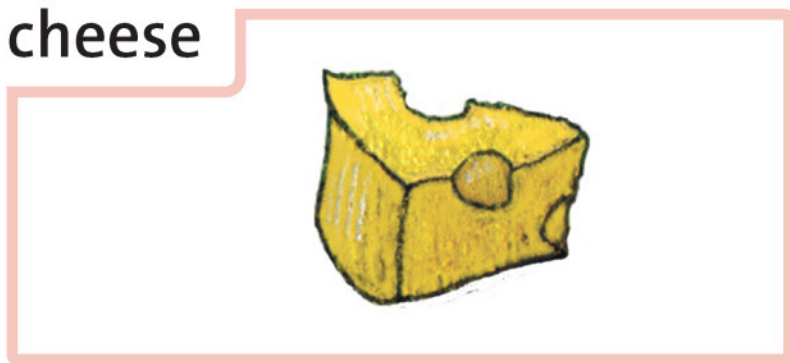
cart



dark *It is dark.*



cheese



dry *It is dry.*



clock



feet



country



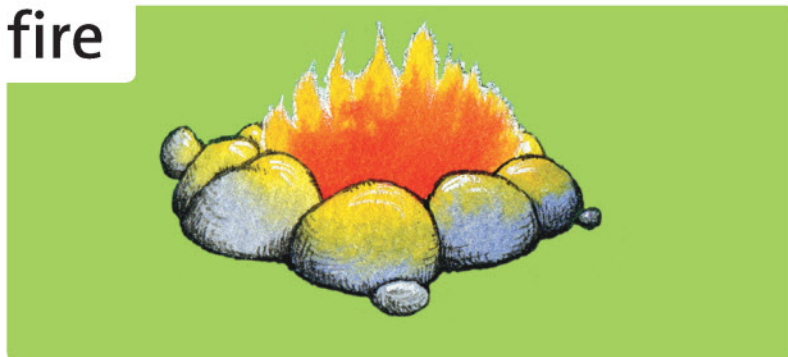
field



cow



fire





food



tired *He is tired.*



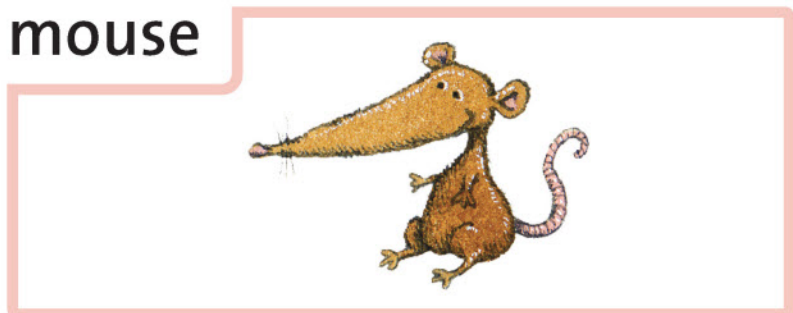
grass



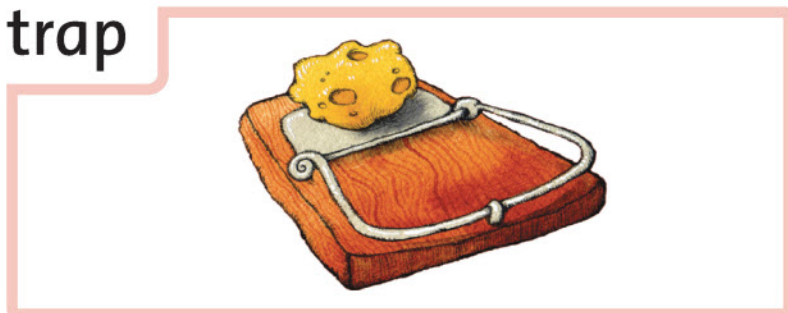
town



mouse



trap



noise



trousers



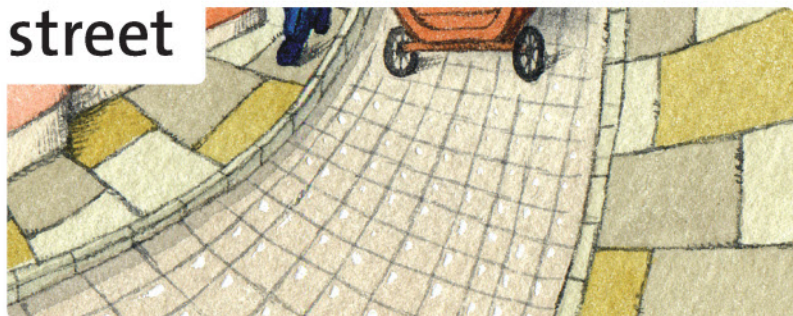
sheep



warm *He is warm.*



street



wet *It is wet.*





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- Peach Boy
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- Rumpelstiltskin
- The Shoemaker and the Elves
- Three Billy-Goats

## Level 2: 150 headwords

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- Big Baby Finn
- The Fisherman and his Wife
- The Gingerbread Man
- Jack and the Beanstalk
- Thumbelina
- The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse
- The Ugly Duckling

## Level 3: 200 headwords

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- Goldilocks and the Three Bears
- The Little Mermaid
- Little Red Riding Hood

## Level 4: 300 headwords

- Cinderella
- The Goose Girl
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Level 2

# The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

Find out what happens when Town Mouse comes to the country and Country Mouse goes to the town ...


A retelling of the classic story for learners of English

Retold by Sue Arengo

Illustrated by Ook Hallbjorn

**Classic Tales – bringing the magic of traditional  
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 Level 1: 100 headwords

 **Level 2: 150 headwords**

 Level 3: 200 headwords

 Level 4: 300 headwords

 Level 5: 400 headwords

**Word count for this story: 662**

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