



'Twas the
Day Before

ZOO Day

By Catherine Ipcizade
Illustrated by Ben Hodson

'Twas the
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**Zoo
Day**

This delightful adaptation of the children's classic, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, takes readers to the zoo, as preparations are underway for "Zoo Day." But things aren't going according to plan . . . the llamas won't quit spitting, the giraffes are drooling, and the zebras aren't happy at all with their stripes. Meanwhile, the zookeepers scurry this way and that, clean up poop, ring mealtime bells, and try to get the animals bathed. But are the naughty elephants listening? Not a chance. And if that weren't bad enough, a poor alligator mistakes a bee for a fly, so instead of eating supper, he gets stung in the eye! Does it all work out? Will the zookeepers end up spending the night at the zoo? Will "Zoo Day" go off without a hitch?

It's so much more than a picture book . . . this book is specifically designed to be both a fun-to-read story and a launch pad for discussions and learning. Whether read at home or in a classroom, we encourage adults to do the activities with the young children in their lives. Free online resources and support at www.ArbordalePublishing.com include:

- For Creative Minds as seen in the book (in English & Spanish):
 - Animal Adaptation Matching Activity
 - An animal fun facts chart
 - All about zookeepers
 - Creative Sparks: Imagine you are a zookeeper
- Teaching Activities:
 - Reading Questions
 - Language Arts
 - Science
 - Mathematics
 - Geography
 - Coloring Pages
- Interactive Quizzes: Reading Comprehension, For Creative Minds, and Math Word Problems
- English and Spanish Audiobooks
- Related Websites
- Aligned to State Standards (searchable database)
- Accelerated Reader and Reading Counts! Quizzes
- Lexile and Fountas & Pinnell Reading Levels

eBooks with Auto-Flip, Auto-Read, and selectable English and Spanish text and audio available for purchase online.

Thanks to Norah Farnham of the American Association of Zoo Keepers, for verifying the accuracy of the information in this book.

Catherine Ipcizade (pronounced ip-chi-zah-deh) has written for numerous publications, both in print and online, and also works as an assistant editor for *Thirteen Minutes Magazine*. In addition to writing and blogging, Catherine likes to spend time with her husband and two children, cozy up with a good book, spend time in the kitchen cooking and baking, and practicing photography. Catherine is a member of Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and volunteers for The Little Owl Mentoring Program, which pairs published writers with high school students who wish to be writers. Catherine and her family live in southern California.

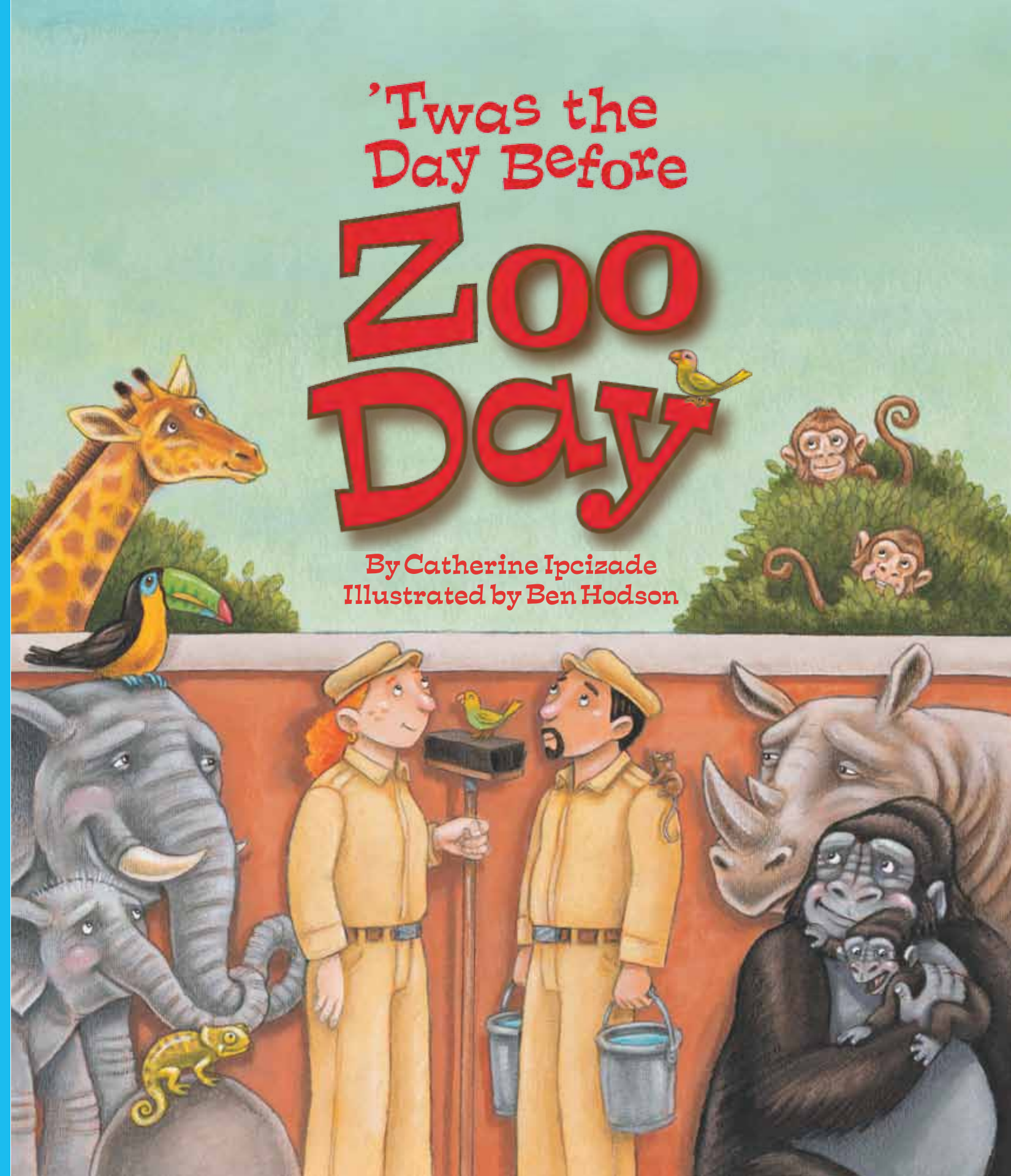
Ben Hodson illustrates full time from his home in Ottawa, Canada. He loves a good adventure—such as hiking the Pacific Crest Trail with a team of wild burros or living in a small village in Nepal. His published works for Arbordale include *'Twas the Day Before Zoo Day*, *In Arctic Waters* and *How the Moon Regained Her Shape*. Ben's artwork for *How the Moon Regained Her Shape* won the 2007 Ben Franklin Award for best interior art and was also selected for the Society of Illustrators' 26th Annual Original Art Exhibition.



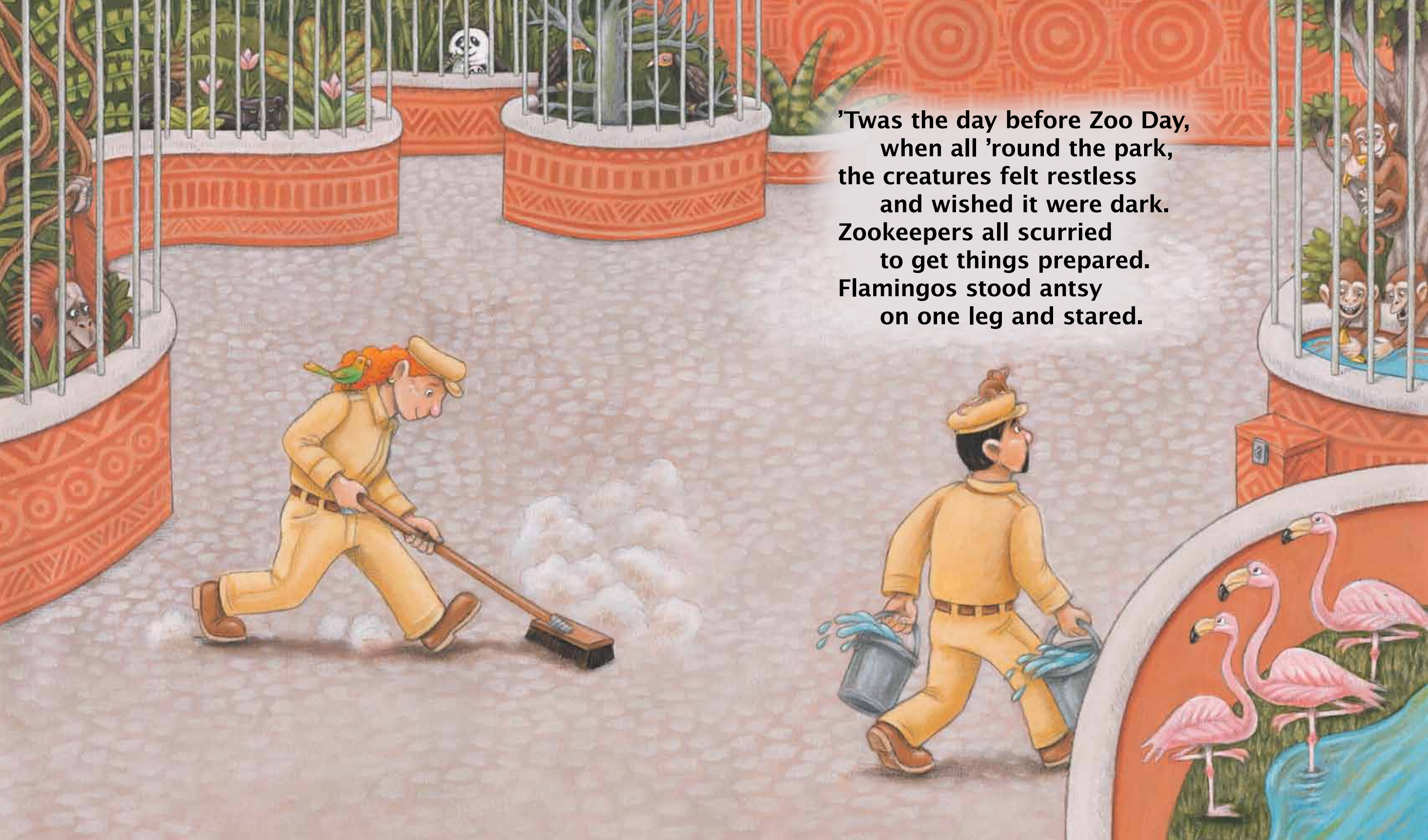
Catherine Ipcizade



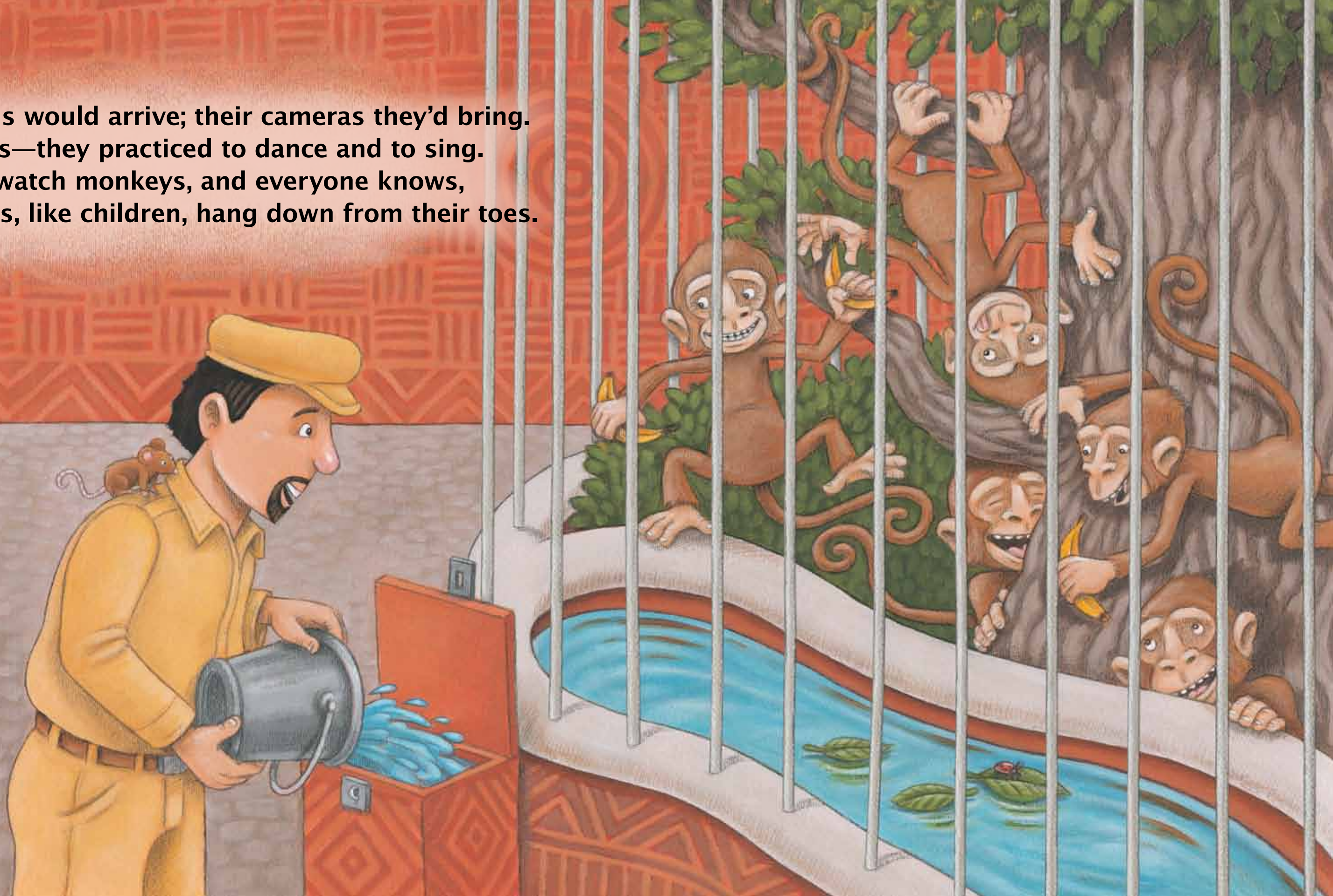
Ben Hodson

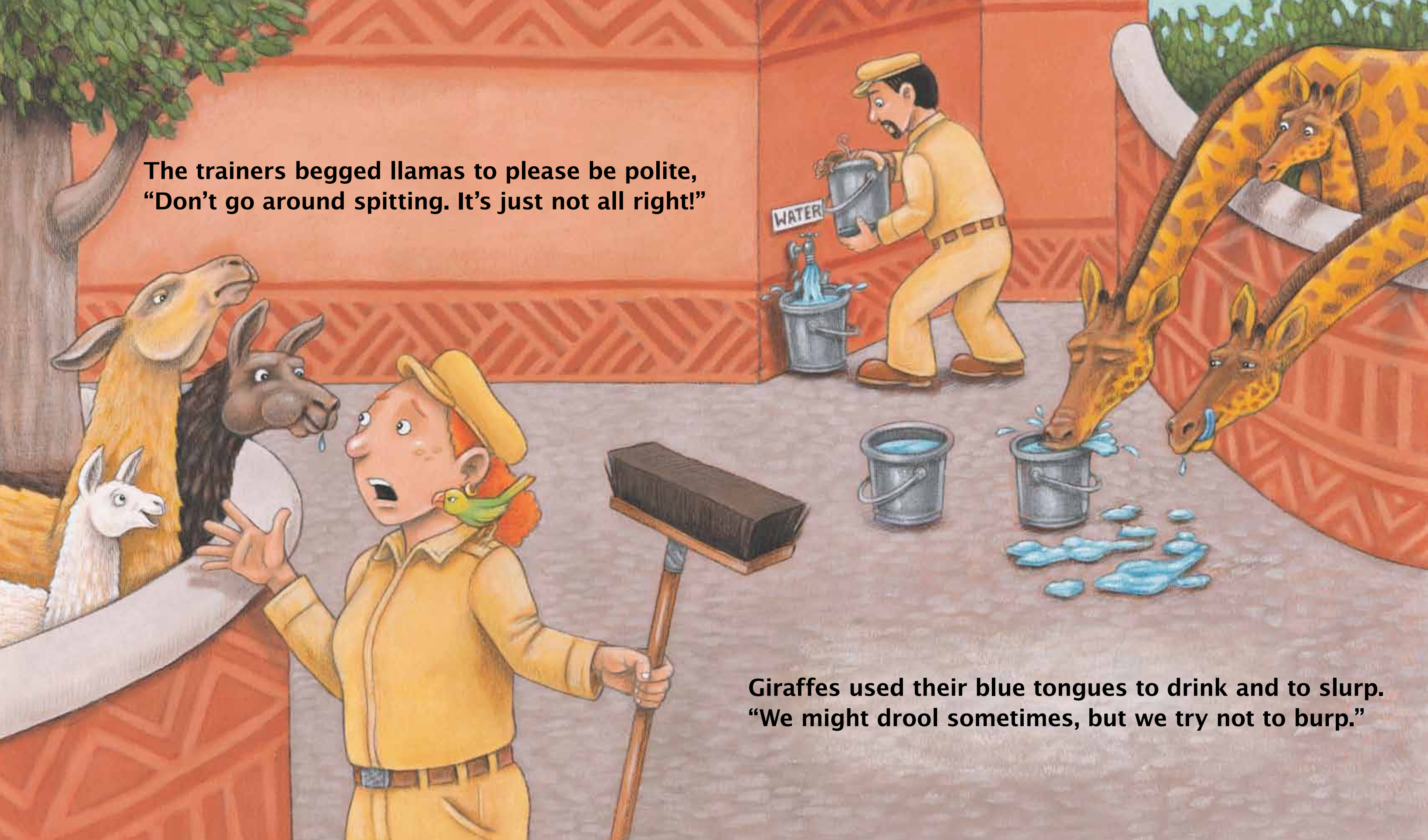


**'Twas the day before Zoo Day,
when all 'round the park,
the creatures felt restless
and wished it were dark.
Zookeepers all scurried
to get things prepared.
Flamingos stood antsy
on one leg and stared.**



Soon the kids would arrive; their cameras they'd bring.
The monkeys—they practiced to dance and to sing.
Kids like to watch monkeys, and everyone knows,
that monkeys, like children, hang down from their toes.

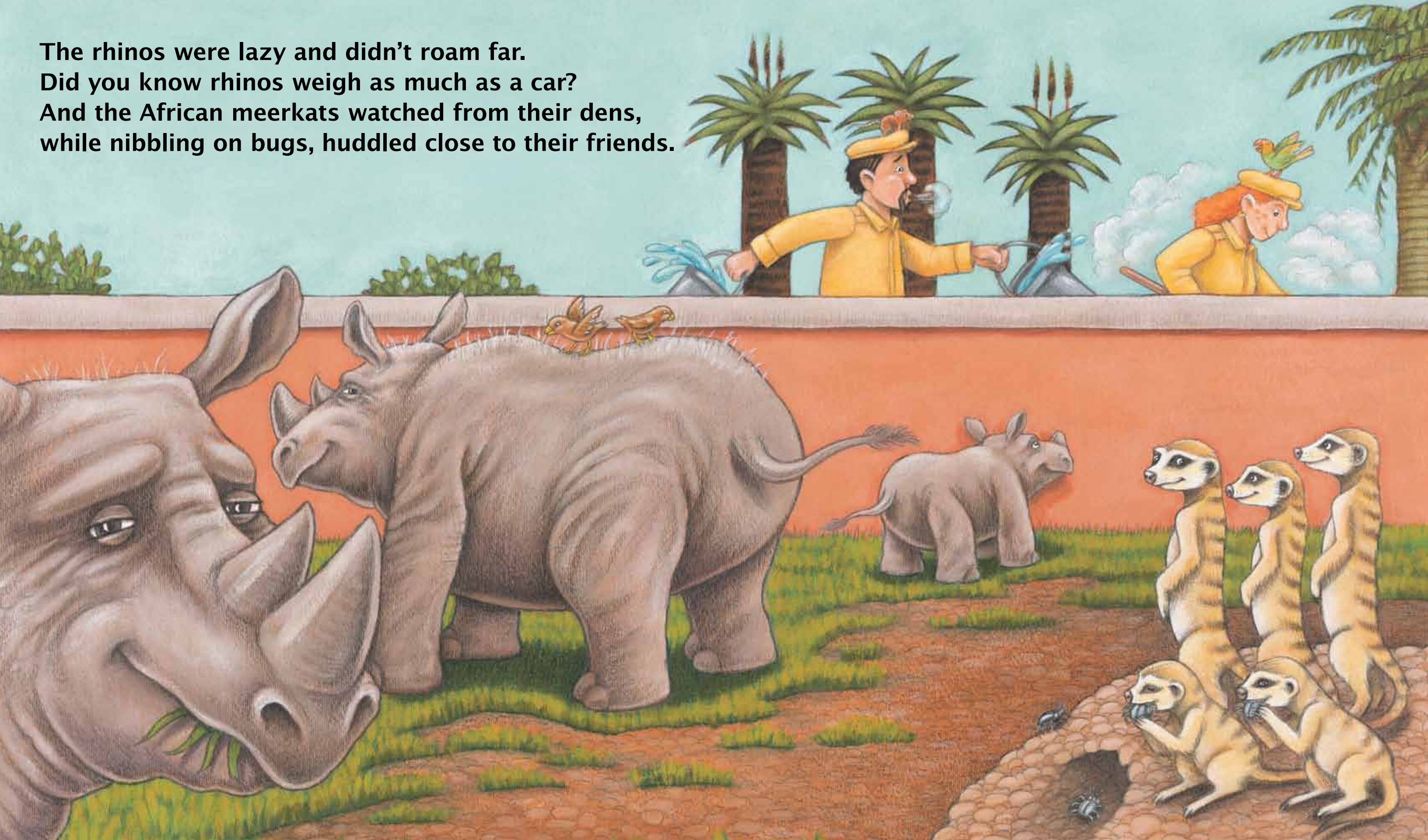




The trainers begged llamas to please be polite,
“Don’t go around spitting. It’s just not all right!”

Giraffes used their blue tongues to drink and to slurp.
“We might drool sometimes, but we try not to burp.”

The rhinos were lazy and didn't roam far.
Did you know rhinos weigh as much as a car?
And the African meerkats watched from their dens,
while nibbling on bugs, huddled close to their friends.



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Adaptation Matching Activity

Match the correct animal to its adaptation to survive in its habitat.



1.

a. Black Bear

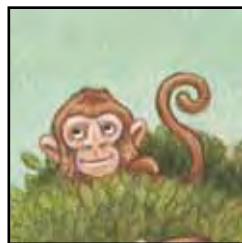
My long, curved claws and long tongue help me grab insects.



2.

b. Snake

I have lots of bones so I can easily bend and slither around.



3.

c. Zebra

My black and white stripes help to hide me in the tall grass.



4.

d. Turtle

I have a thick shell to protect me from predators.



5.

e. Giraffe

I have a long neck to eat leaves high in the trees.

f. Monkey

I have a tail that I use like a hand to grab and to hold onto things.

g. Elephant

I use my trunk to drink water and to feel things around me.

h. Alligator

My eyes are high on my head so I can see when I'm in the water.

i. Gorilla

My thumbs help me to grab food and to hold onto things.

j. Toucan

I have a strong beak to break open nuts and fruit to eat.

6.



7.



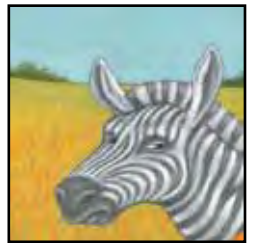
8.



9.










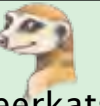


10.



Answers: 1g; 2h; 3f; 4i; 5a; 6j; 7b; 8e; 9d; 10c



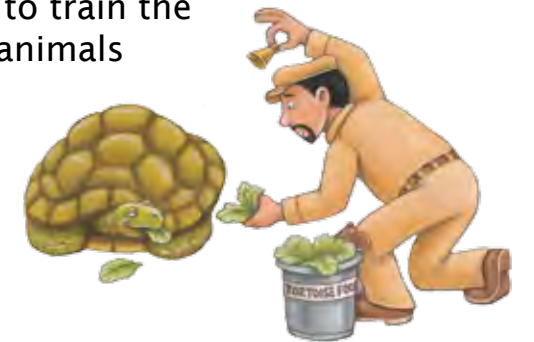
Animal Fun Facts

animal	class	babies called	weight at birth	family group	eat
 Black Bears	Mammals	Cubs	< 1 lb.	Solitary	Omnivore
 Elephants	Mammals	Calves	250 lb.	Herd	Herbivore
 Flamingos	Birds	Chicks	3 oz.	Colony	Omnivore
 Giraffes	Mammals	Calves	150 lb.	Herd	Herbivore
 Gorillas	Mammals	Babies	3 - 4 lb.	Band	Herbivore
 Lions	Mammals	Cubs	1 1/2 lb.	Pride	Carnivore
 Llamas	Mammals	Crias	20 - 30 lb.	Family	Herbivore
 Meerkats	Mammals	Pups	2 oz.	Mob or Gang	Omnivore
 Rhinos	Mammals	Calves	88 - 144 lb.	Crash	Herbivore
 Zebras	Mammals	Foals	55 lb.	Herd	Herbivore

Zoo keepers

People have all kinds of different jobs such as policemen, firemen, doctors, nurses, or veterinarians. Some are teachers and some work at home caring for young children. Zoo keepers, like the man and the woman in the book, care for animals at zoos and aquariums. Unlike veterinarians who usually work with individual animals once or twice a year or when they are sick, zoo keepers can work with animals all the time. Zoo keepers are scientists who:

- Feed the animals and make sure they get their vitamins.
- Clean the area where the animals live.
- Know the animals very well, just like you know a pet dog or cat. They can tell if an animal is getting sick or doesn't feel well.
- Give animals basic checkups. Sometimes they have to train the animals to stand still while being examined. Other animals may have to go to sleep to be examined.
- Make sure that the animals keep busy and get enough exercise.
- Help with conservation of endangered or threatened animals.



Creative Sparks: Imagine that you are a zoo keeper!

What would be your favorite part of taking care of the animals?

Which would be your favorite zoo animal and why?

What would you do if an animal gets sick?

What would you do if a dangerous animal escaped?

What could you do to help the animals stay healthy and active?

This book is dedicated first and foremost to my children, Bailey and Sophia, who inspire me to dream and to laugh every day of my life and to my husband Yekta, for his willingness to read draft after draft of my work and claim to love them all. And to Marybeth Kelsey, Kelsey Johnson Defatte, Linda Provence, and Barry Eva (Children's Storybook Tellers)—without you my work never would have seen the light of day. Thank you!—CI

To my Dad, who instilled in me a great love of nature—BH

Thanks to Norah Farnham, Zoo Keeper, of the American Association of Zoo Keepers, for verifying the accuracy of the information in this book.

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Interest grade level: P-2.

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