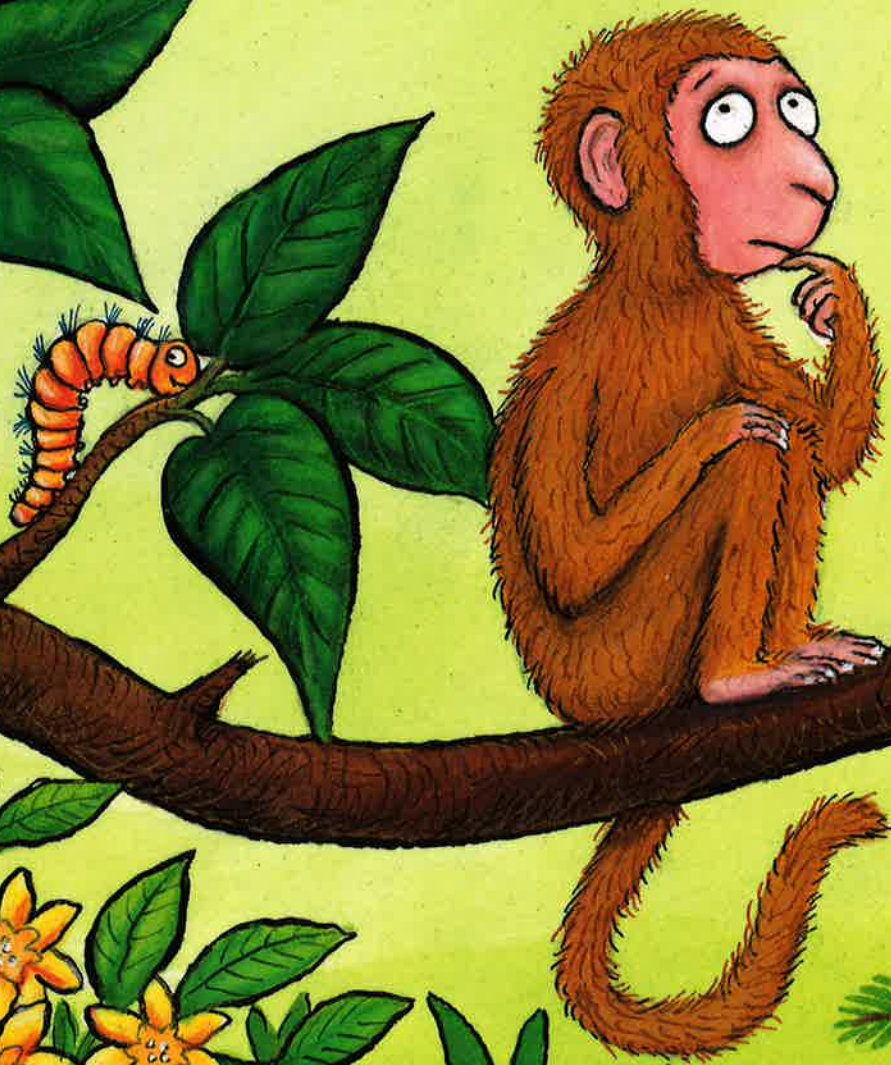


Julia Donaldson  Axel Scheffler

Monkey Puzzle



For Tommy, Billy, Emma and Katie – J.D.

Julia Donaldson Axel Scheffler

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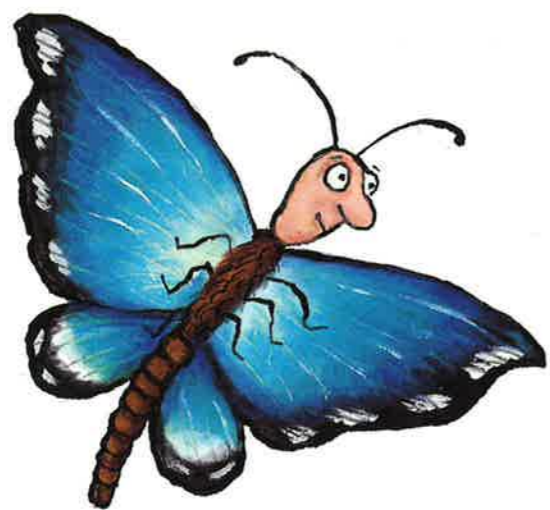
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"I've lost my mum!"

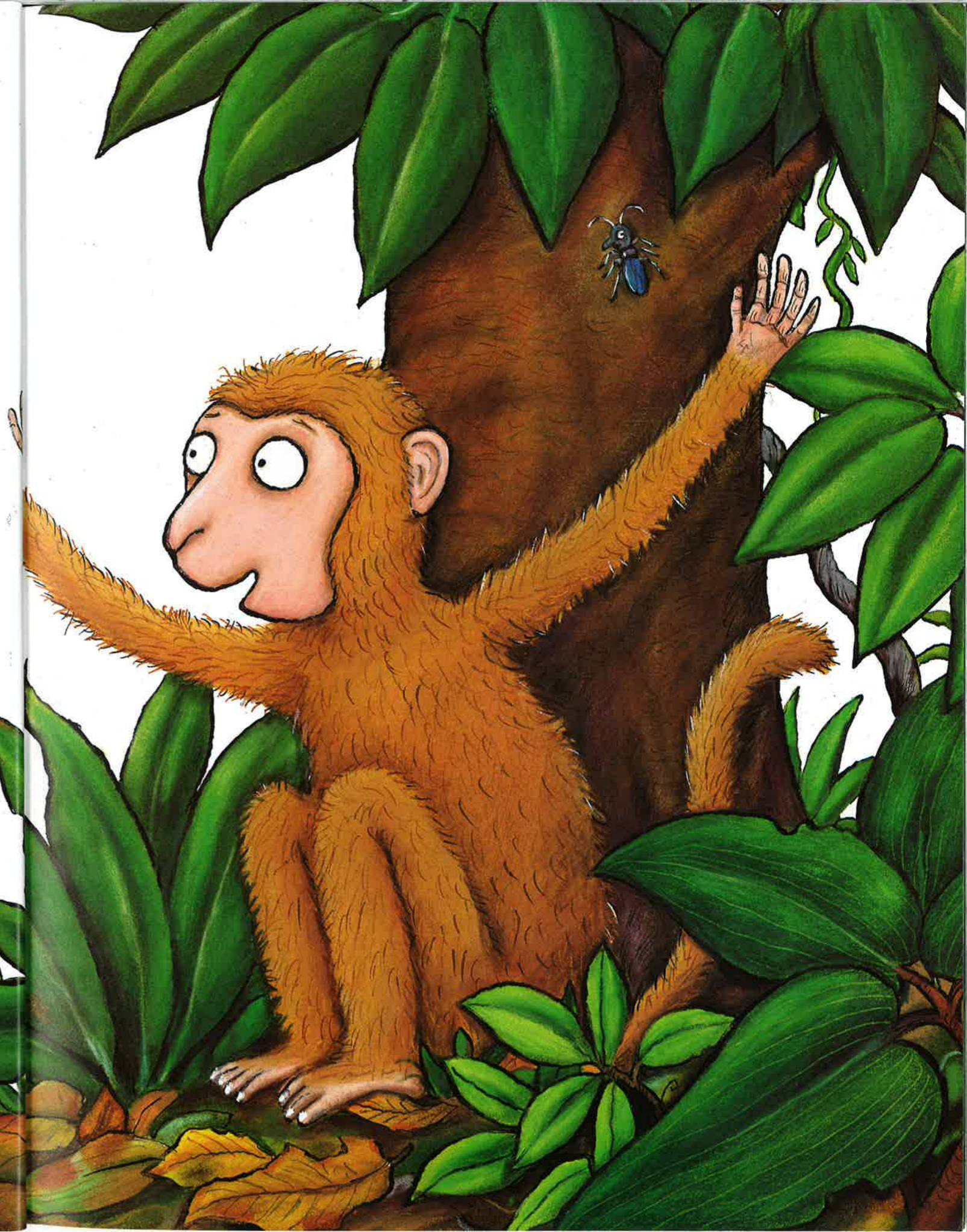


*"Hush, little monkey, don't you cry.
I'll help you find her,"* said Butterfly.

"Let's have a think. How big is she?"

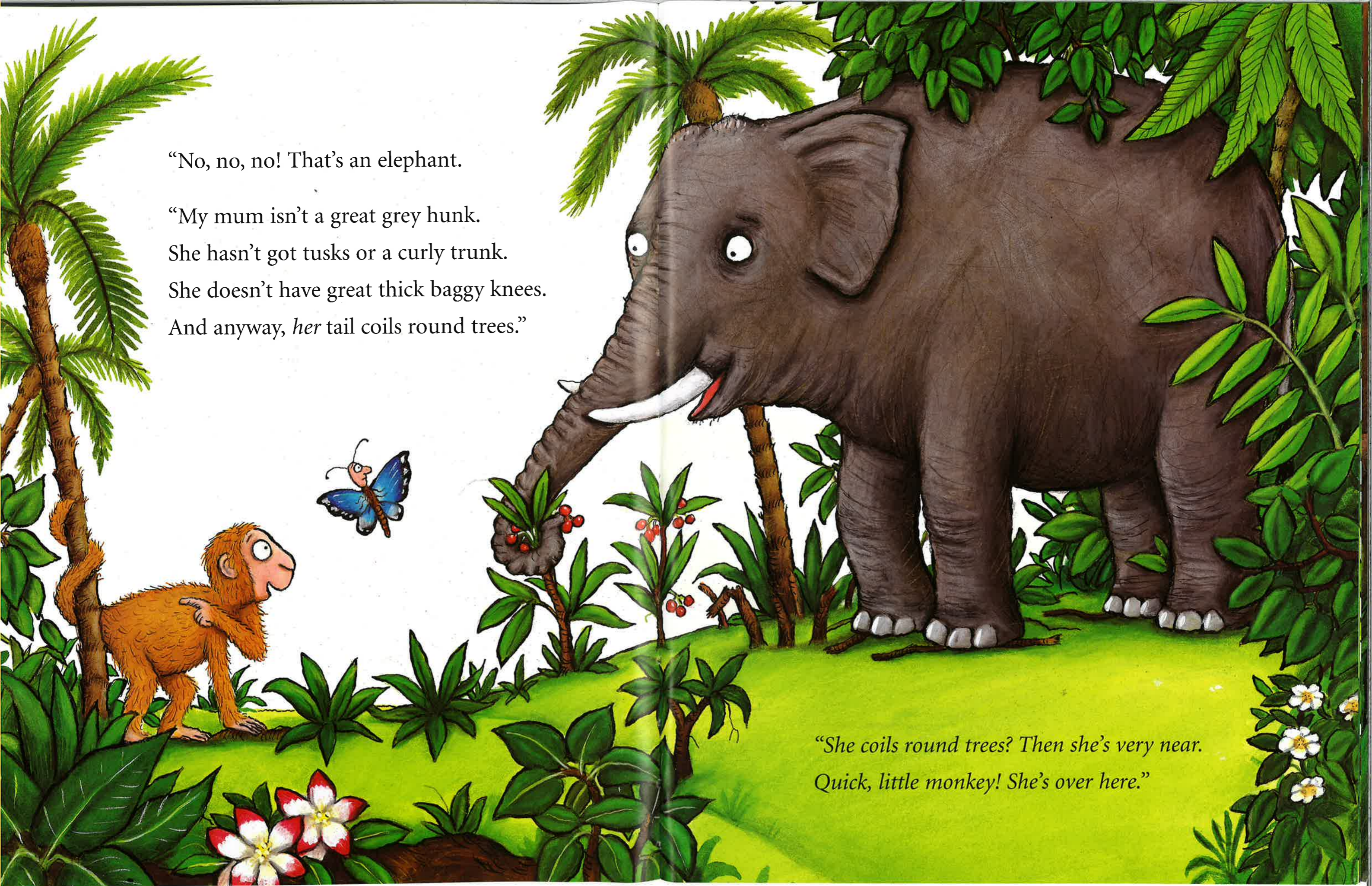
"She's big!" said the monkey. *"Bigger than me."*

*"Bigger than you? Then I've seen your mum.
Come, little monkey, come, come, come."*



“No, no, no! That’s an elephant.

“My mum isn’t a great grey hunk.
She hasn’t got tusks or a curly trunk.
She doesn’t have great thick baggy knees.
And anyway, *her* tail coils round trees.”



*“She coils round trees? Then she’s very near.
Quick, little monkey! She’s over here.”*

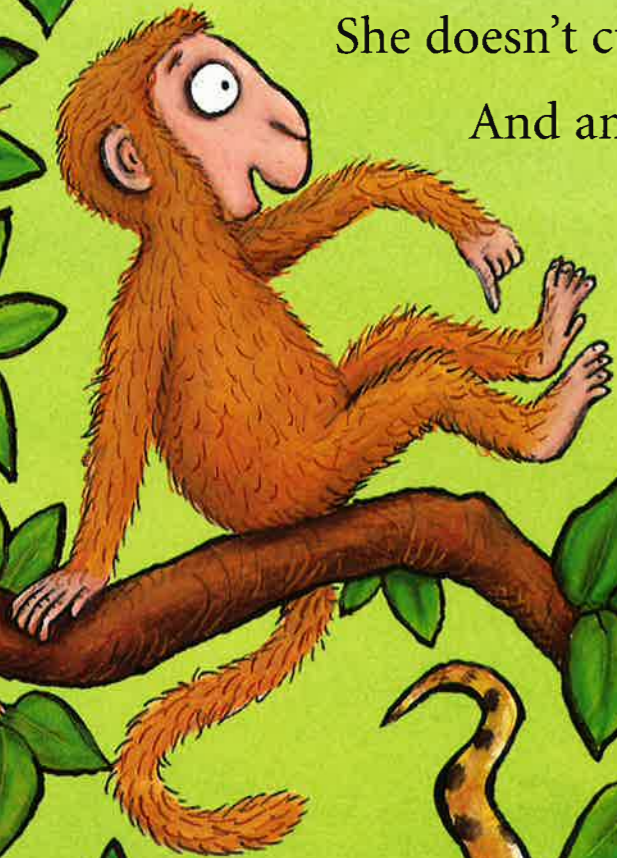
“No, no, no! That’s a snake.

“Mum doesn’t look a *bit* like this.

She doesn’t slither about and hiss.

She doesn’t curl round a nest of eggs.

And anyway, my mum’s got more legs.”



“It’s legs we’re looking for now, you say?
I know where she is, then. Come this way.”





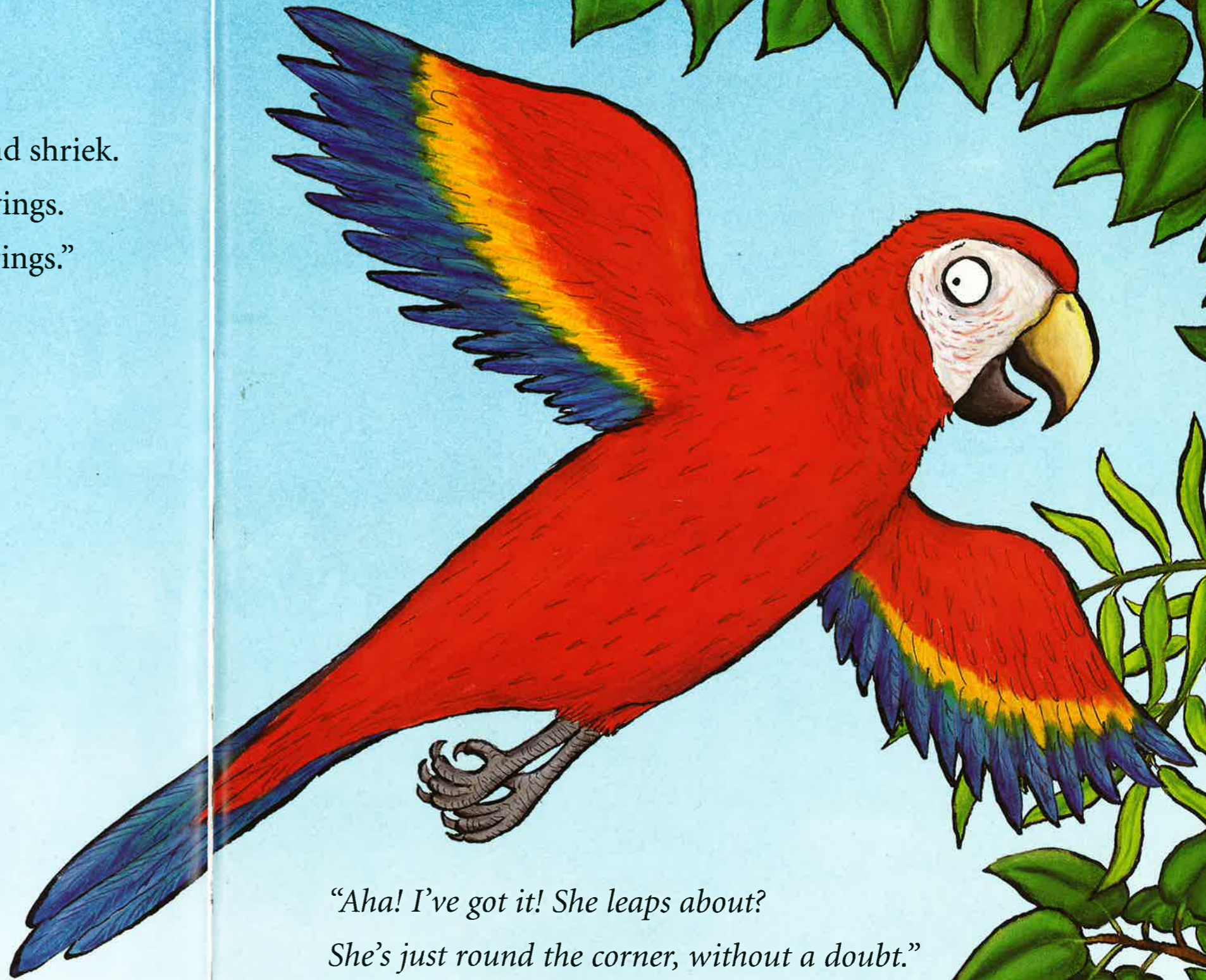
“No, no, no! That’s a spider.

“Mum isn’t black and hairy and fat.
She’s not got so many legs as *that!*
She’d rather eat fruit than swallow a fly,
And she lives in the treetops, way up high.”


“*She lives in the trees? You should have said!*
Your mummy’s hiding above your head.”

“No, no, no! That’s a parrot.

“Mum’s got a nose and not a beak.
She doesn’t squawk and squabble and shriek.
She doesn’t have claws or feathery wings.
And anyway, my mum leaps and springs.”





*“Aha! I’ve got it! She leaps about?
She’s just round the corner, without a doubt.”*



“No, no, no! That’s a frog!

“Butterfly, butterfly, please don’t joke!
Mum’s not green and she doesn’t croak.
She’s not all slimy. Oh dear, what a muddle!
She’s brown and furry, and nice to cuddle.”



“Brown fur – why didn’t you tell me so?
We’ll find her in no time – off we go!”



“No, no, no! That’s a bat.

“Why do you keep on getting it wrong?
Mum doesn’t sleep the whole day long.
I told you, she’s got no wings at all,
And anyway, she’s not *nearly* so small!”

“Your mum’s not little? Now let me think.
She’s down by the river, having a drink!”



“NO, NO, NO!
That’s the elephant again!”

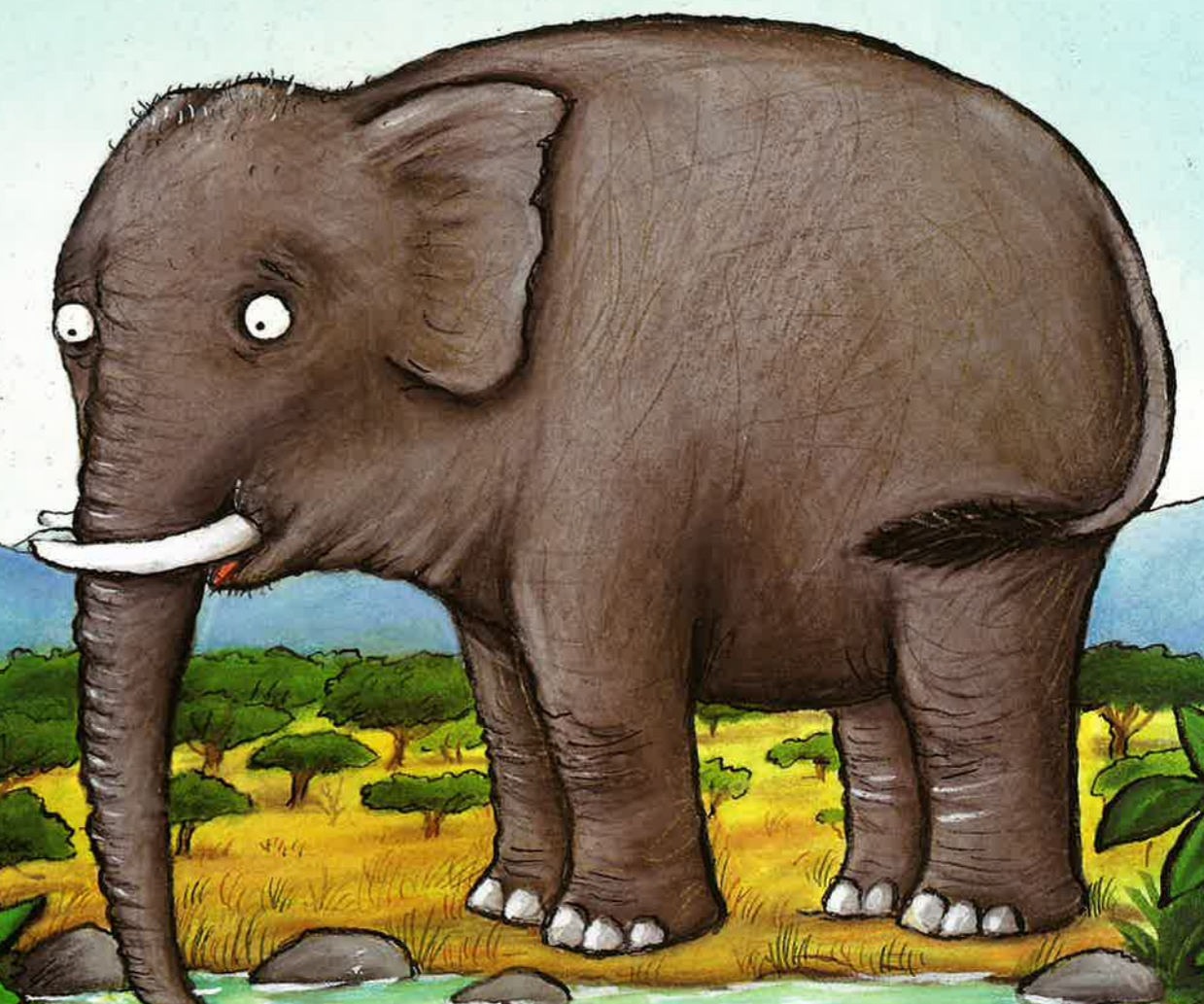


“Butterfly, butterfly, can’t you see?
None of these creatures looks like me!”

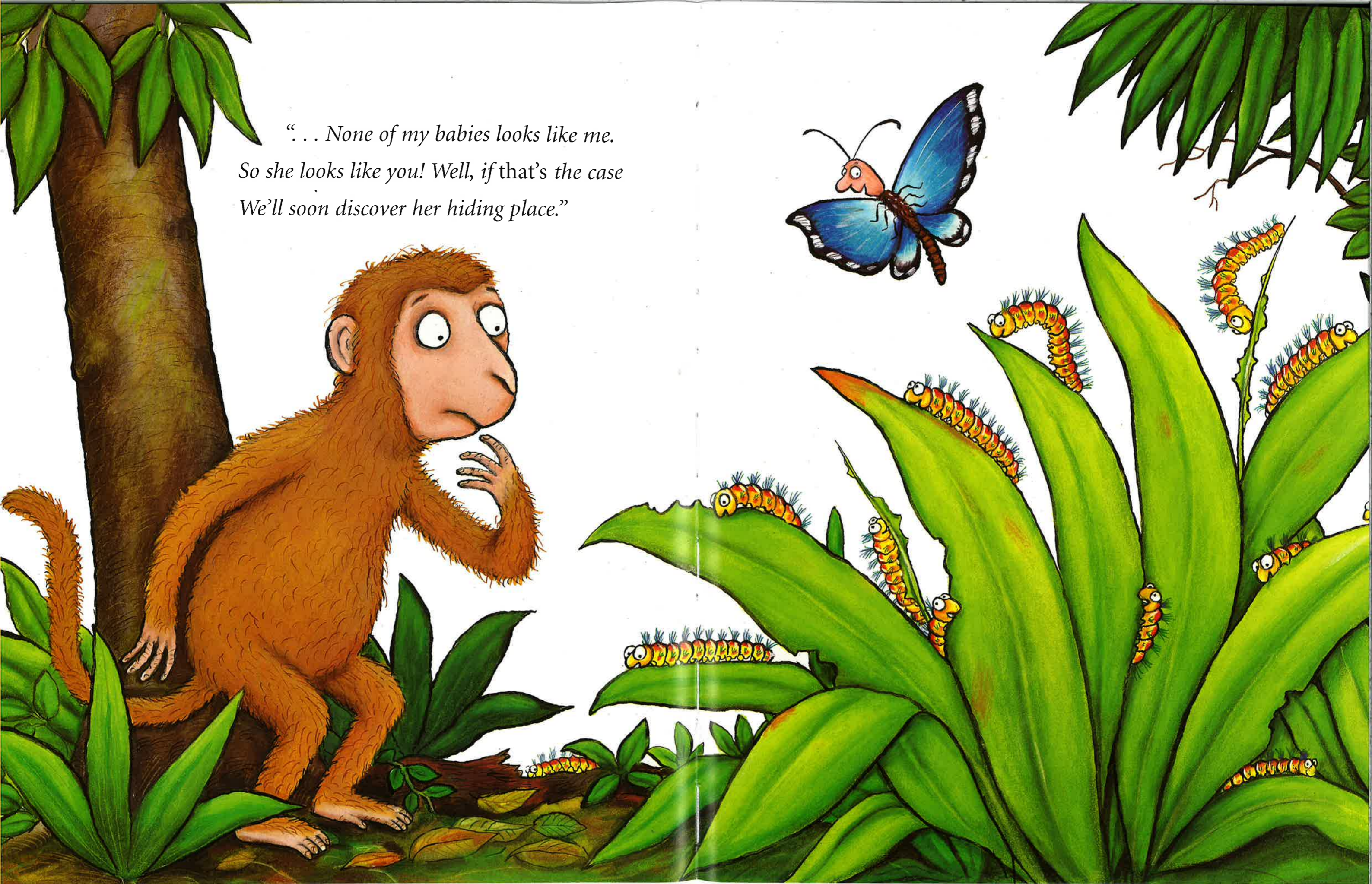
“You never told me she looked like you!”

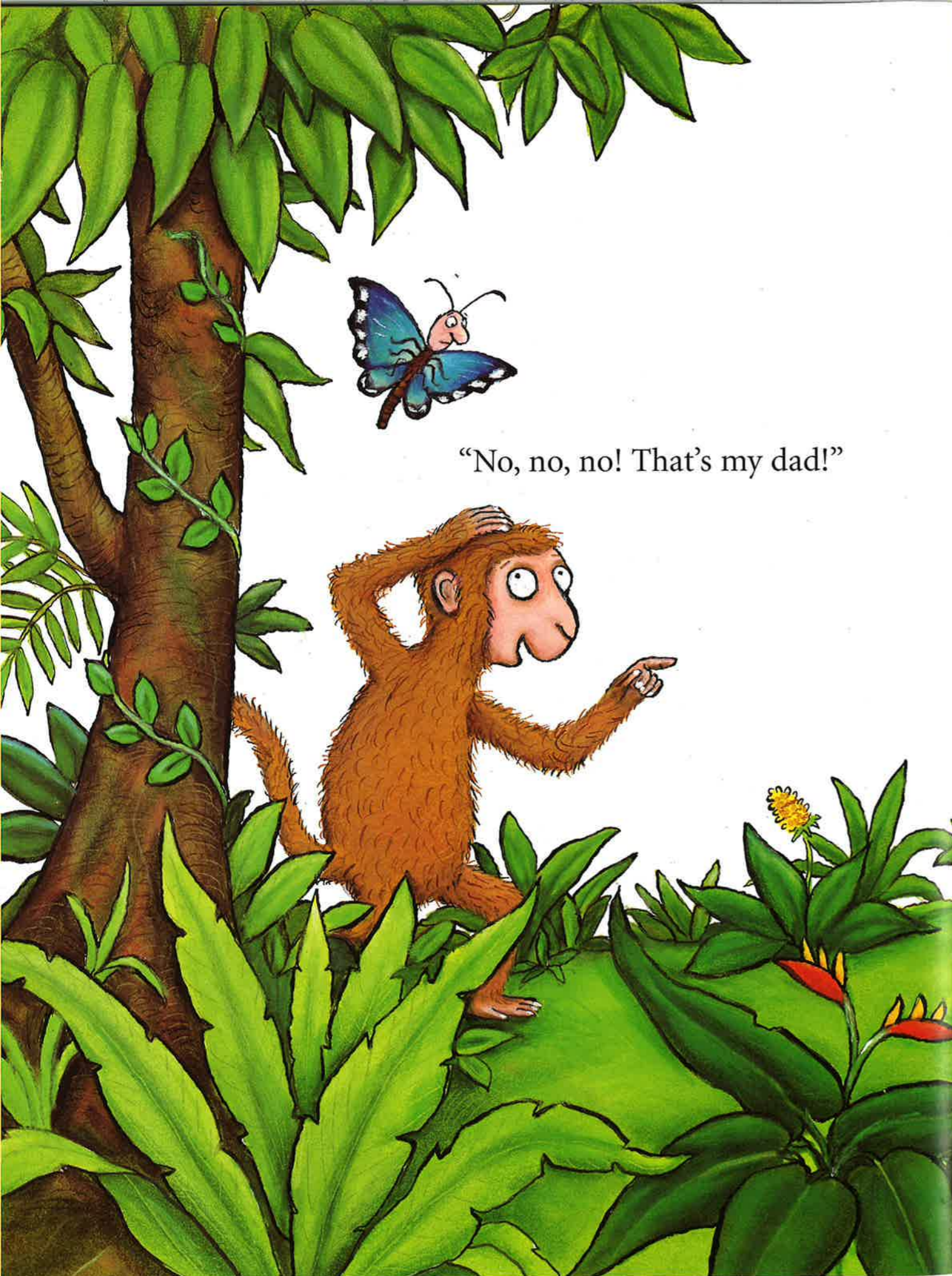
“Of course I didn’t! I thought you knew!”

“I didn’t know. I couldn’t! You see . . .

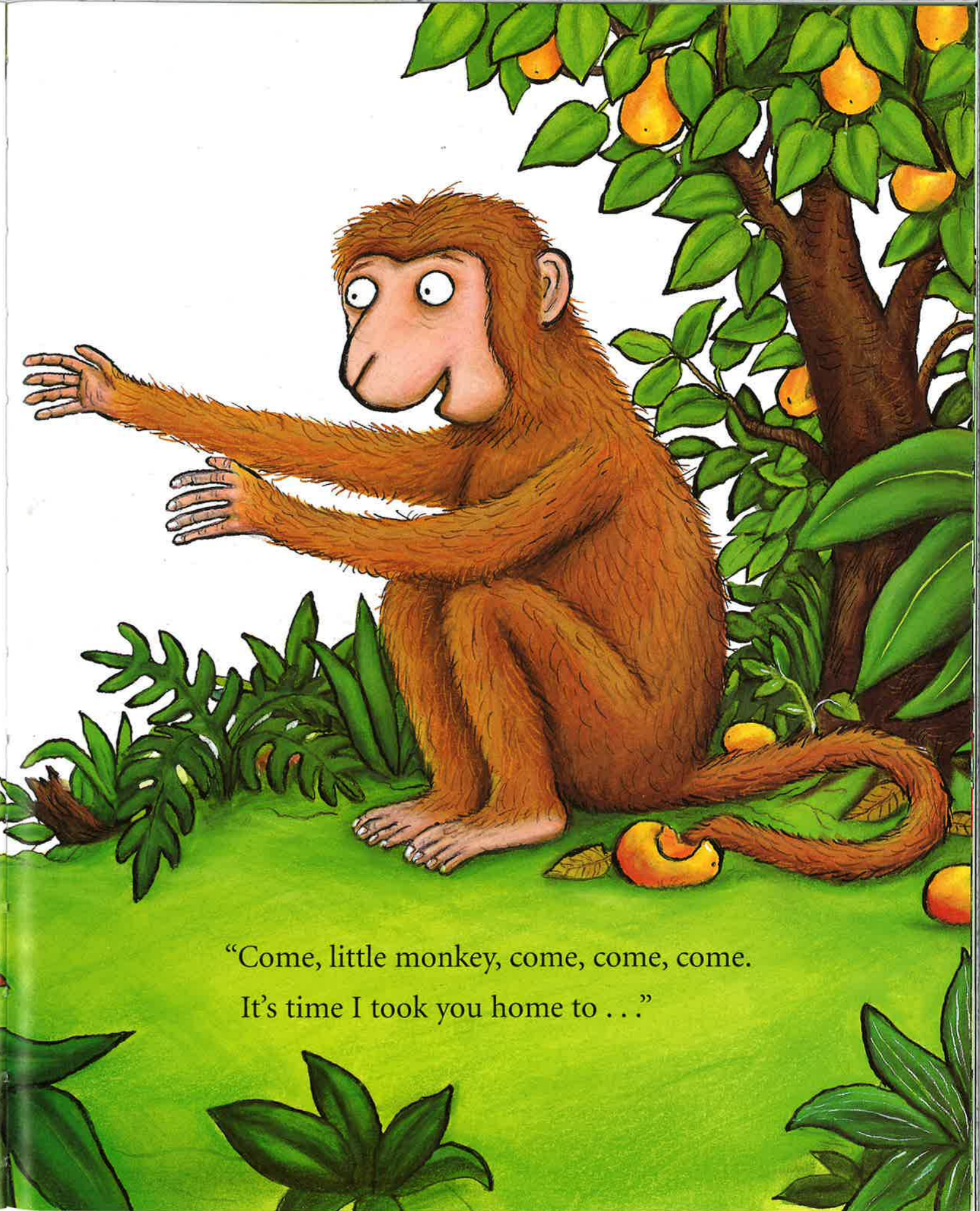


*“... None of my babies looks like me.
So she looks like you! Well, if that’s the case
We’ll soon discover her hiding place.”*

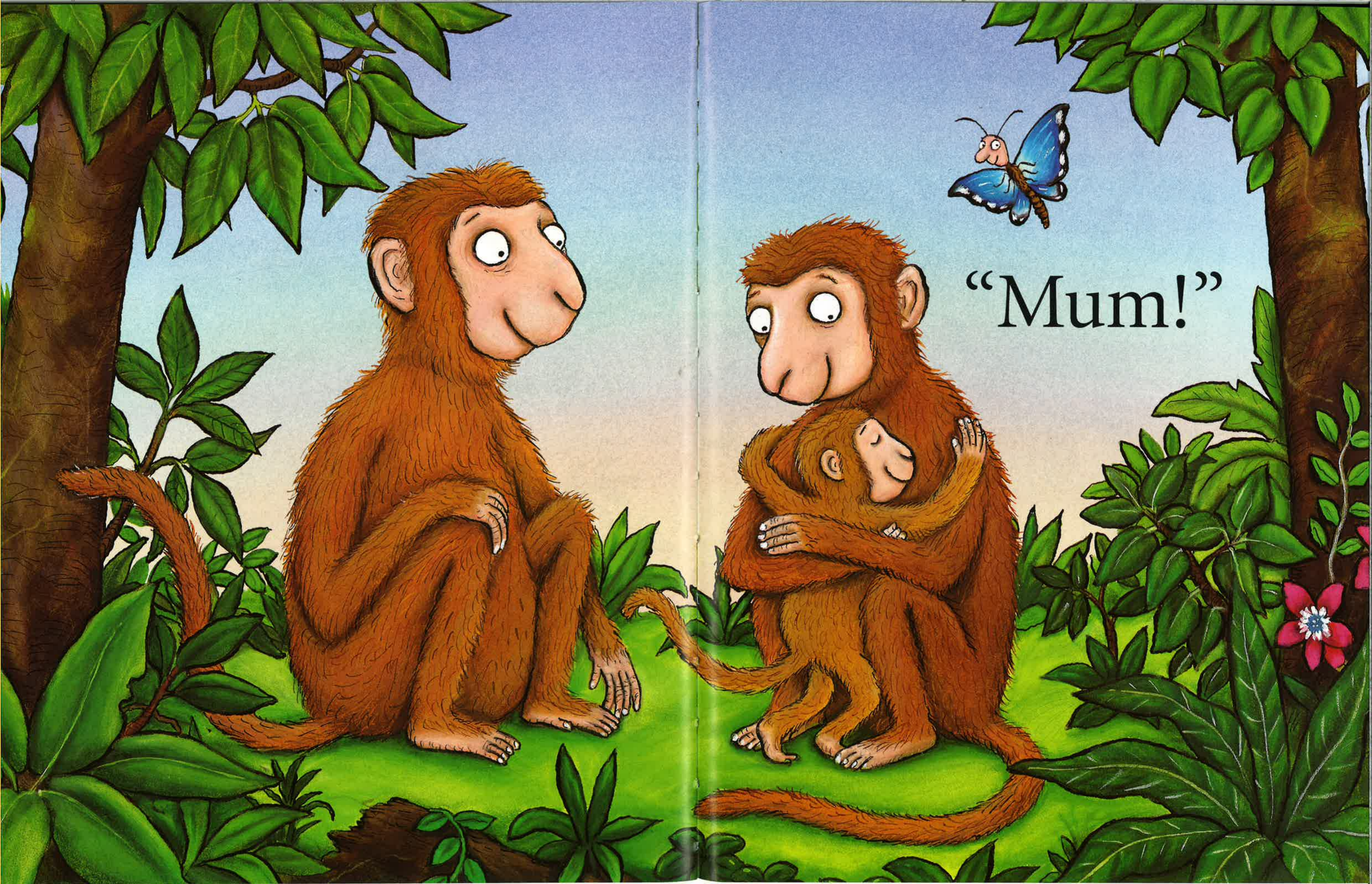




“No, no, no! That’s my dad!”



“Come, little monkey, come, come, come.
It’s time I took you home to . . .”



“Mum!”