

THE THREE LITTLE BUGS



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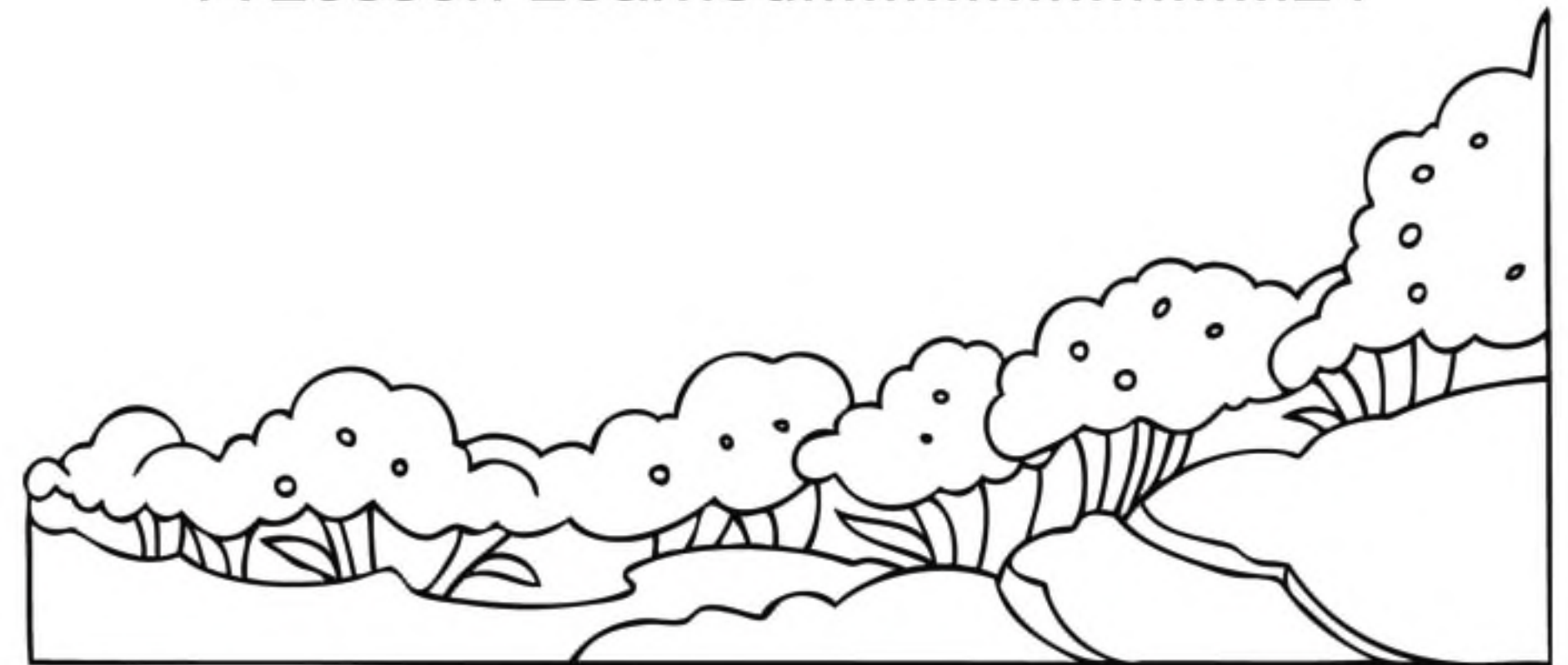


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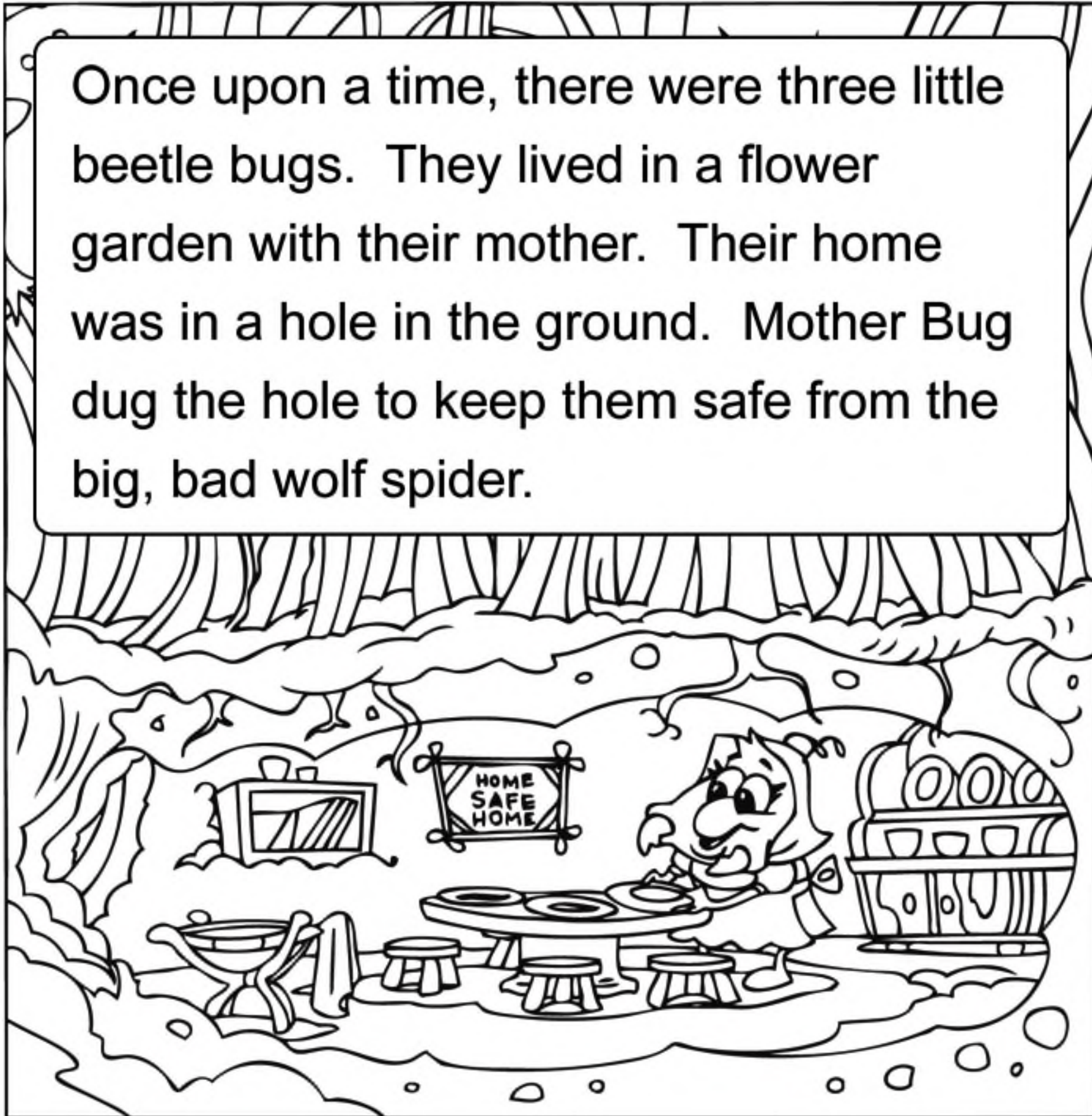
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Home Sweet Home

Once upon a time, there were three little beetle bugs. They lived in a flower garden with their mother. Their home was in a hole in the ground. Mother Bug dug the hole to keep them safe from the big, bad wolf spider.



One day, Mother Bug said, "Now that you are grown, it is time for you to make a home for yourself. Remember to do your best." Then Mother Bug warned them, "Look out for the big, bad wolf spider."





The three little bugs hugged Mother Bug and set out to make their homes in the flower garden.



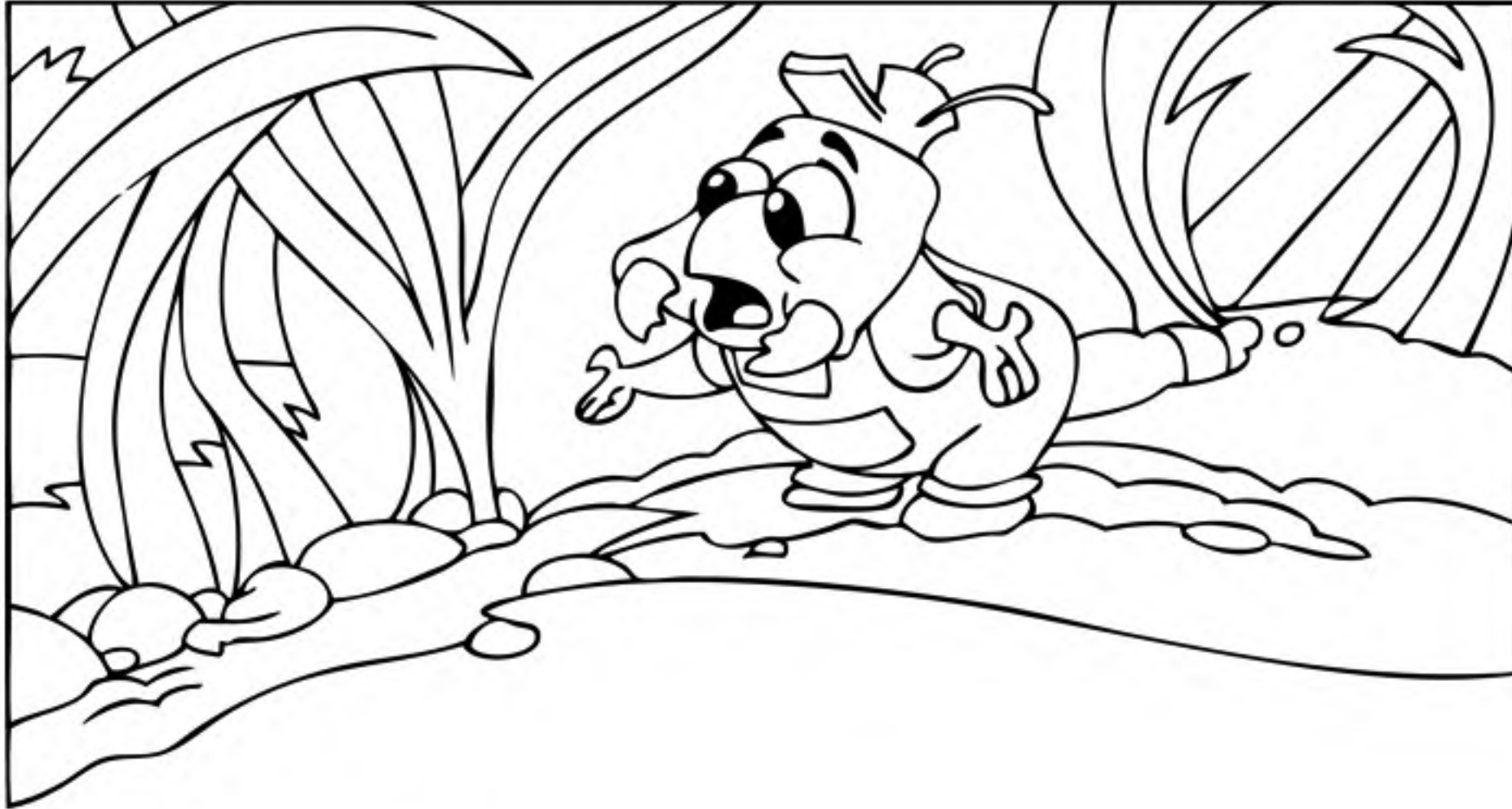
The first little bug stopped by a pile of sticks. "I will make my house out of sticks because it will not take much time," he said.



His brothers told him, “A house made of sticks is not safe.”

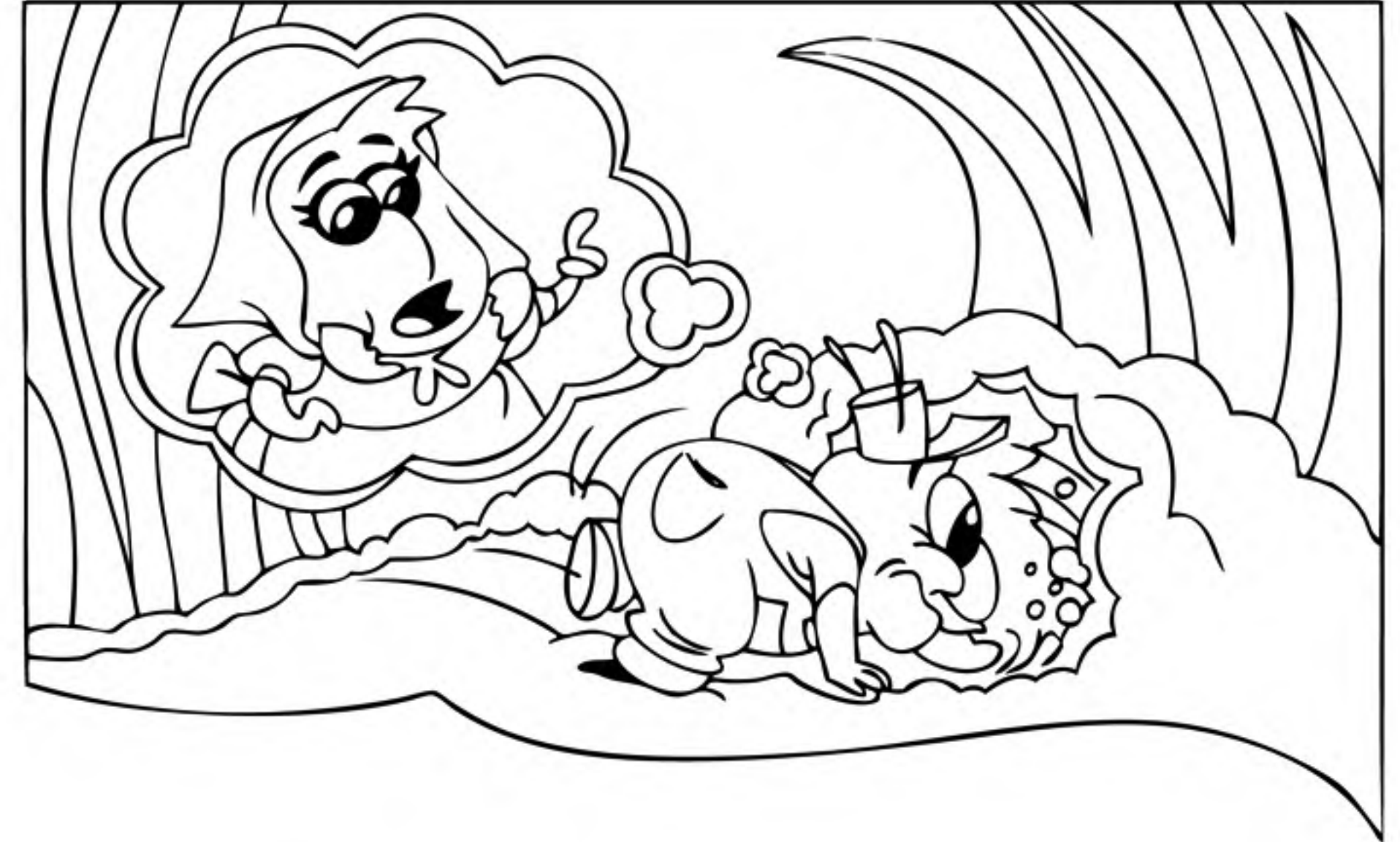


The second little bug stopped by a pile of tiny, round rocks. “I will make my house from these tiny, round rocks,” he said. “It will not take much time.”



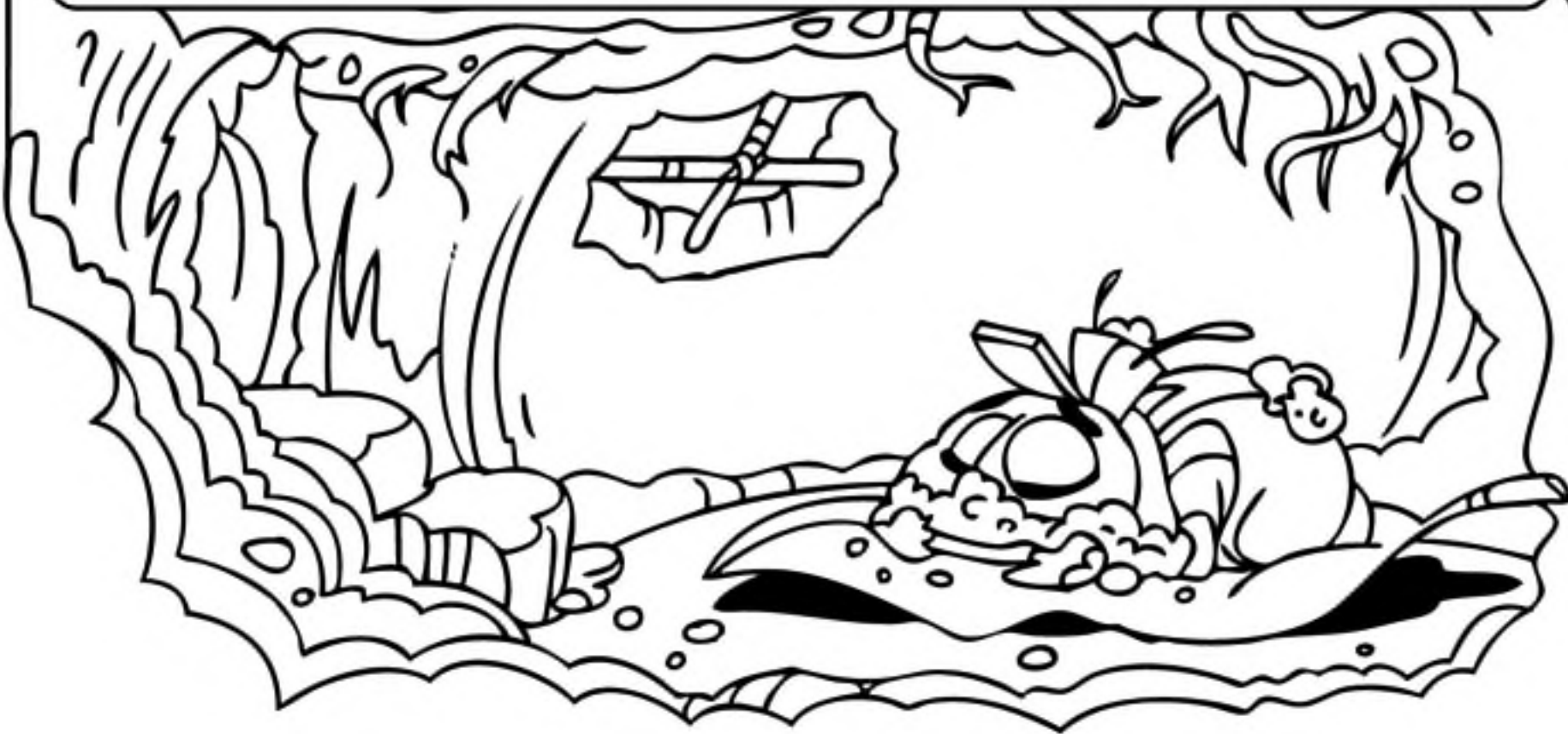
The third little bug said, “A house made from tiny, round rocks is not safe.”

But the second little bug was happy. His house would be stronger than a house made from sticks.

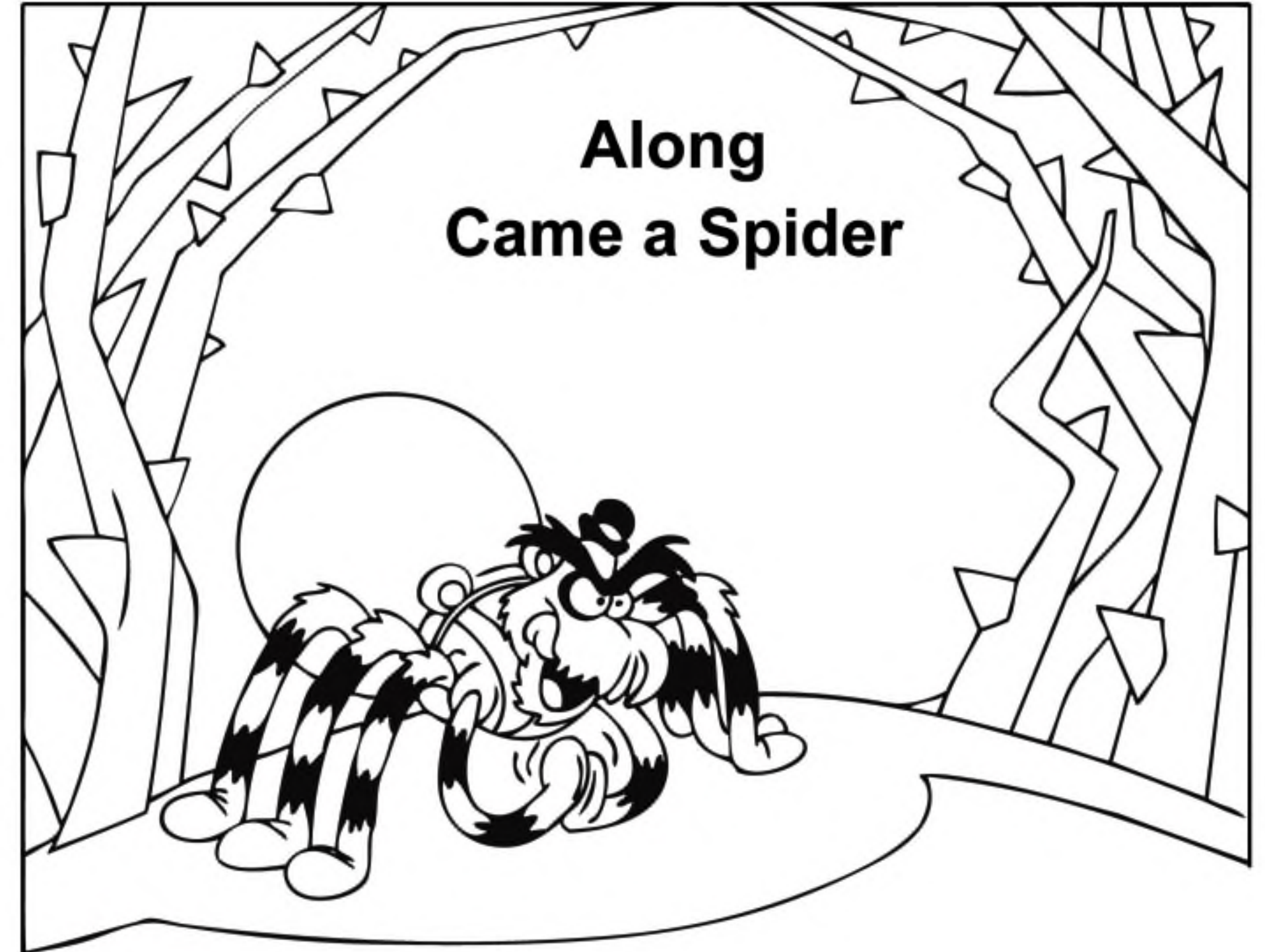


The third bug thought about what his mother told them. So he dug his house deep in the ground. Digging the hole in the ground was a lot of work. He dug for a long, long time. Then, he added a gate at the top so he could close the hole.

The third little bug was happy with his work. He thought, "This house will keep me safe from the big, bad wolf spider." He was tired, so he went inside and fell asleep.



Along Came a Spider



"I am hungry," thought the big, bad wolf spider. "I will hunt for something to eat."

Before long, the big, bad wolf spider came upon the first little bug in his stick house. “Yum!” he thought. “I like to eat little beetle bugs.”



“Little bug, little bug, let me in!” said the big, bad wolf spider. “Or I will pull and tug and tear your house apart!”

“Not by the mandible on my little bug head will I let you in,” said the first little bug.

So, the big, bad wolf spider tore apart the house made from sticks.



The first little bug ran to the second little bug's rock house.

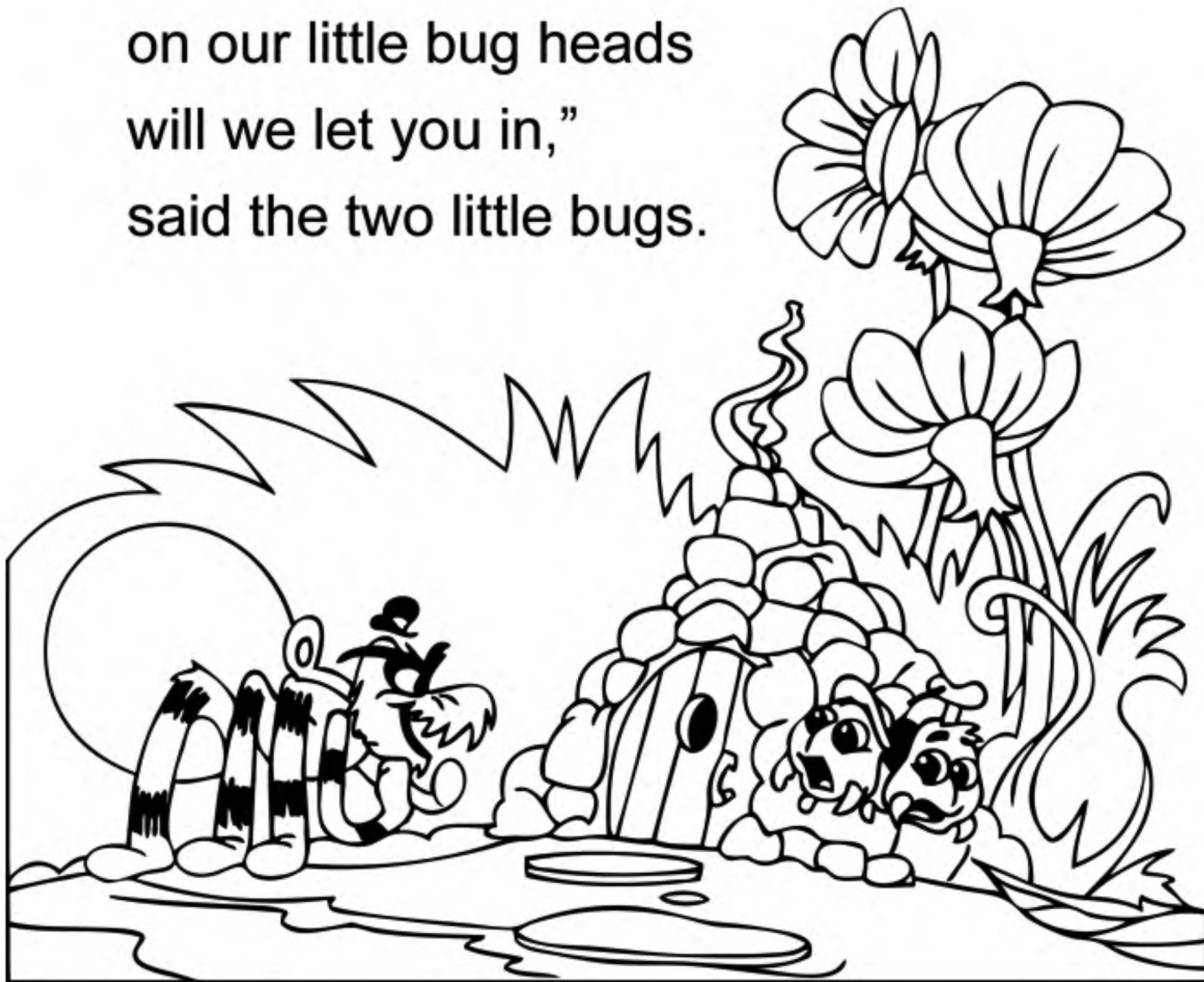
The second little bug quickly let his brother inside.



Before long, the big, bad wolf spider came upon the rock house.

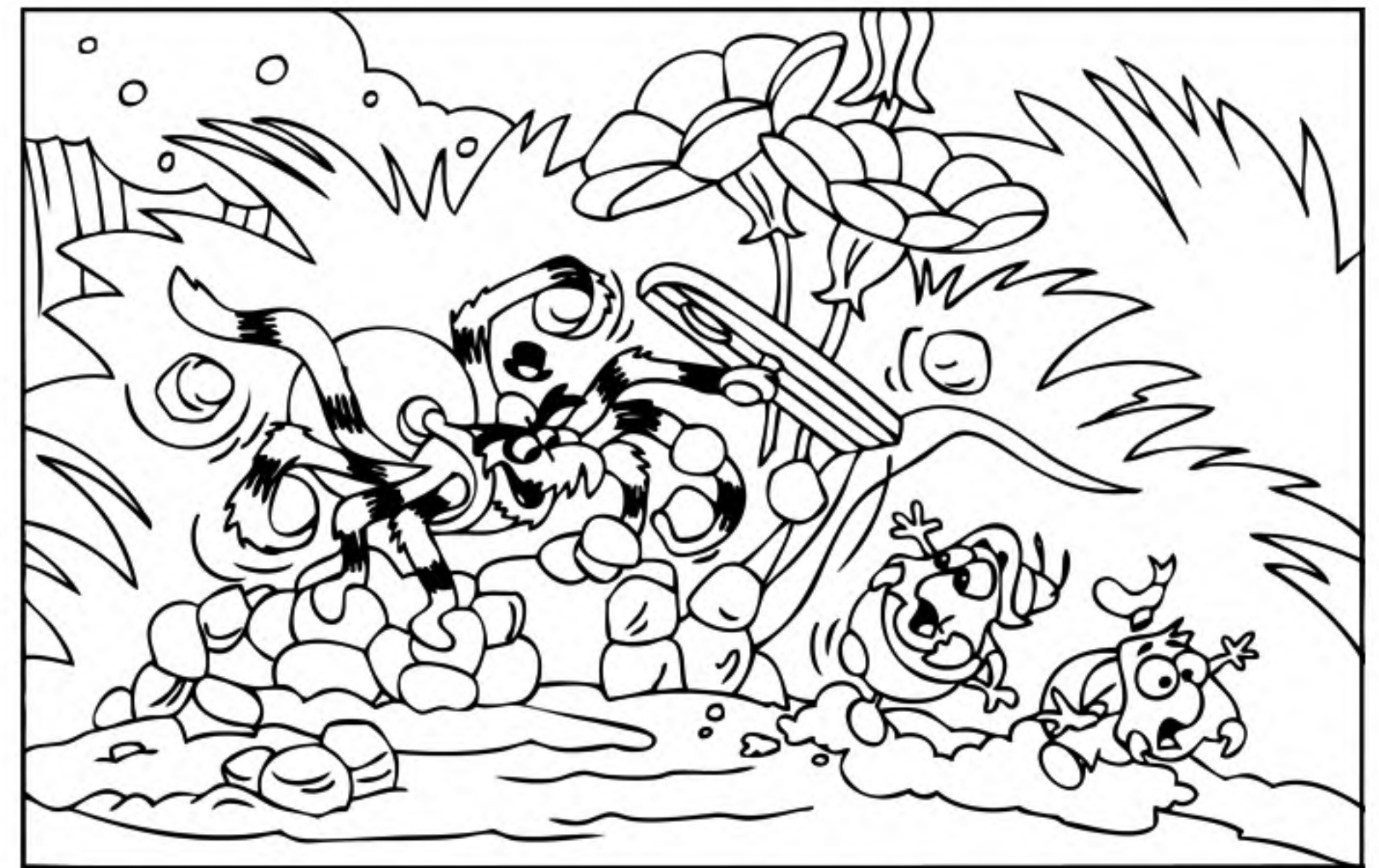
“Little bugs, little bugs, let me in!” said the big, bad wolf spider. “Or I will pull and tug and tear your house apart!”

“Not by the mandibles on our little bug heads will we let you in,” said the two little bugs.



So, the big, bad wolf spider tore apart the house made from tiny, round rocks.

The two little bugs ran to the third little bug's house. The big, bad wolf spider followed.





When they got to the third little bug's house, the gate was locked. The third little bug was sleeping inside. The big, bad wolf spider was getting close. The two bugs pounded on the gate.

A Lesson Learned



“Wake up, wake up! Let us in before the big, bad wolf spider eats us,” yelled the two little bugs.

The third little bug woke up. "Who is there?" he asked.
"Please let us in," said the two little bugs. "The big, bad wolf spider tore our houses apart. He is going to eat us!"



The third little bug opened the gate to his hole in the ground just in time. The two little bugs jumped safely inside. They ran down the hole into their brother's house. The third little bug quickly closed the gate and went to join his brothers.

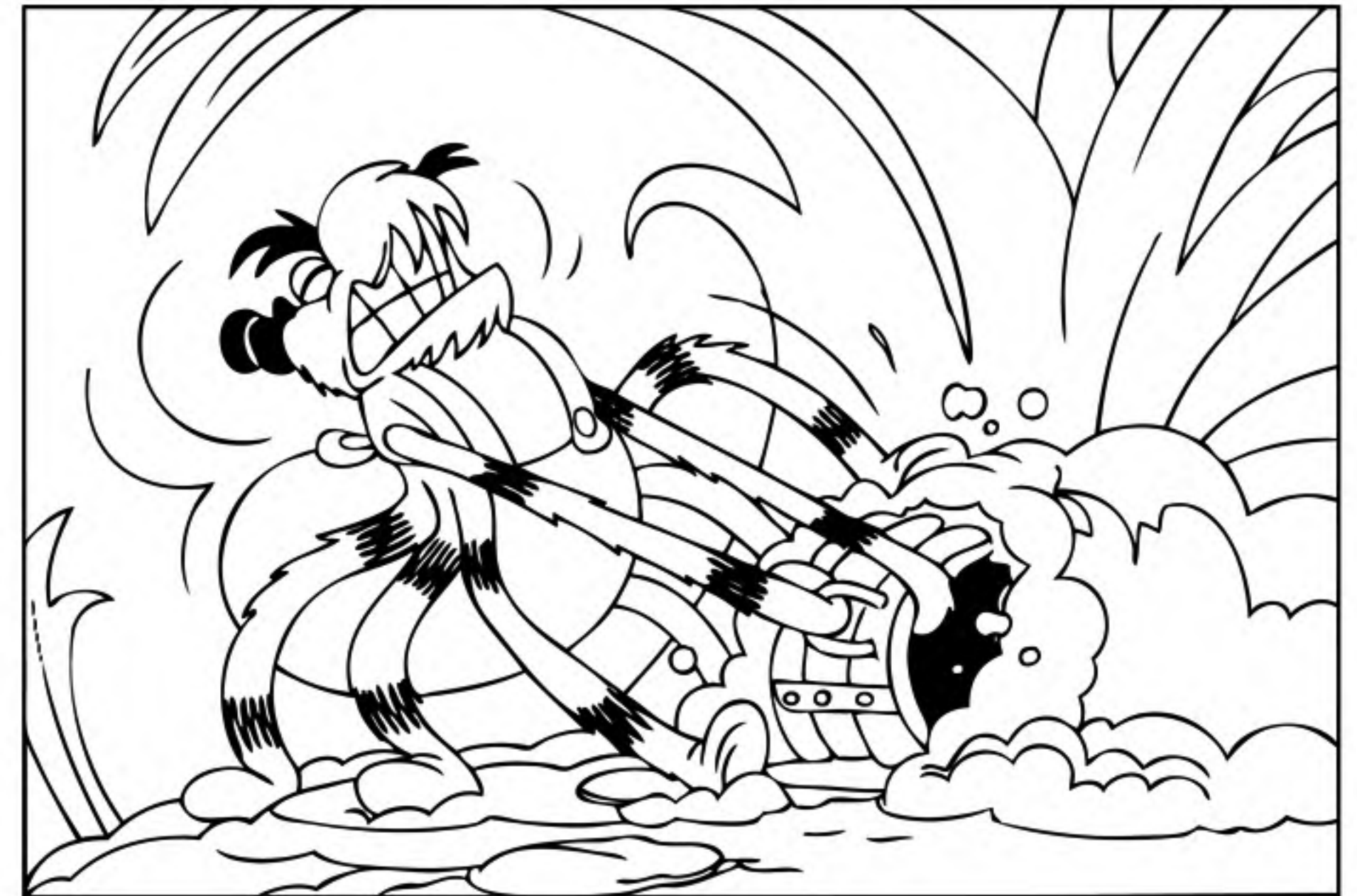
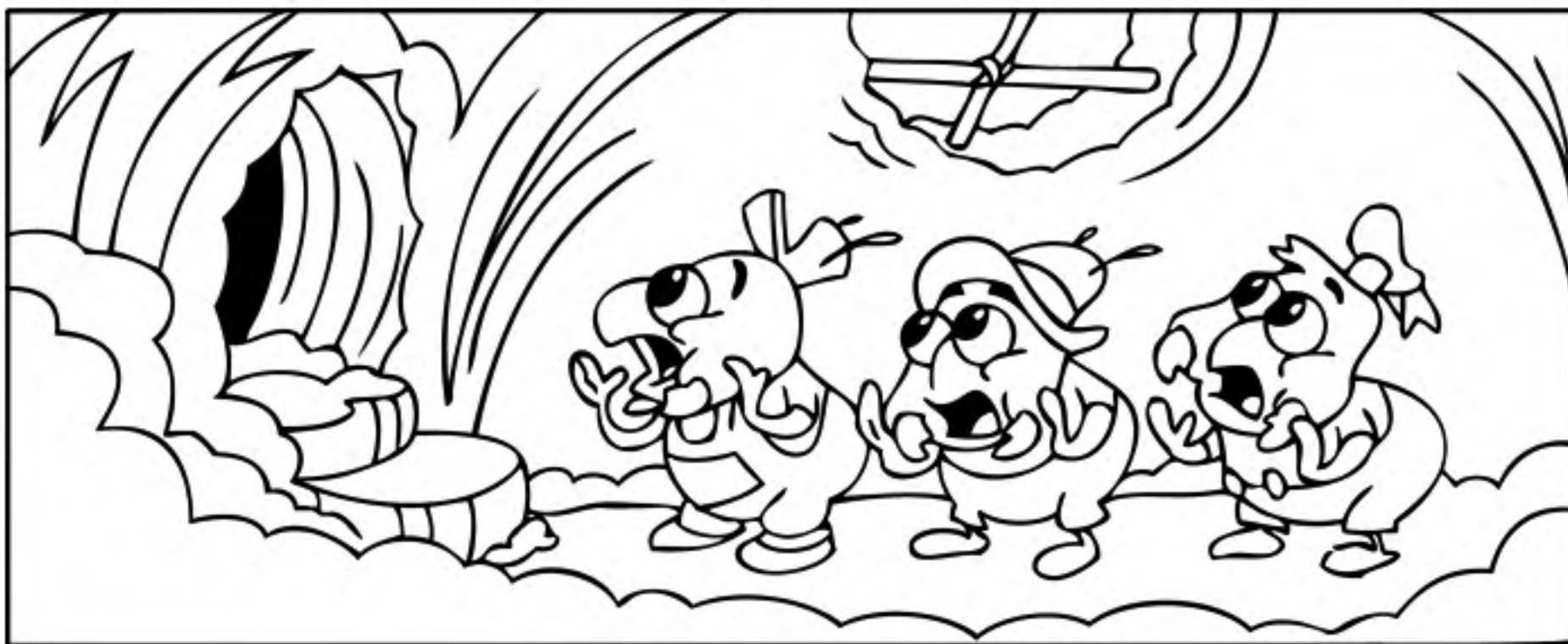


Now, the big, bad wolf spider was hungry and mad.

“Let me in! Let me in!” he screamed.

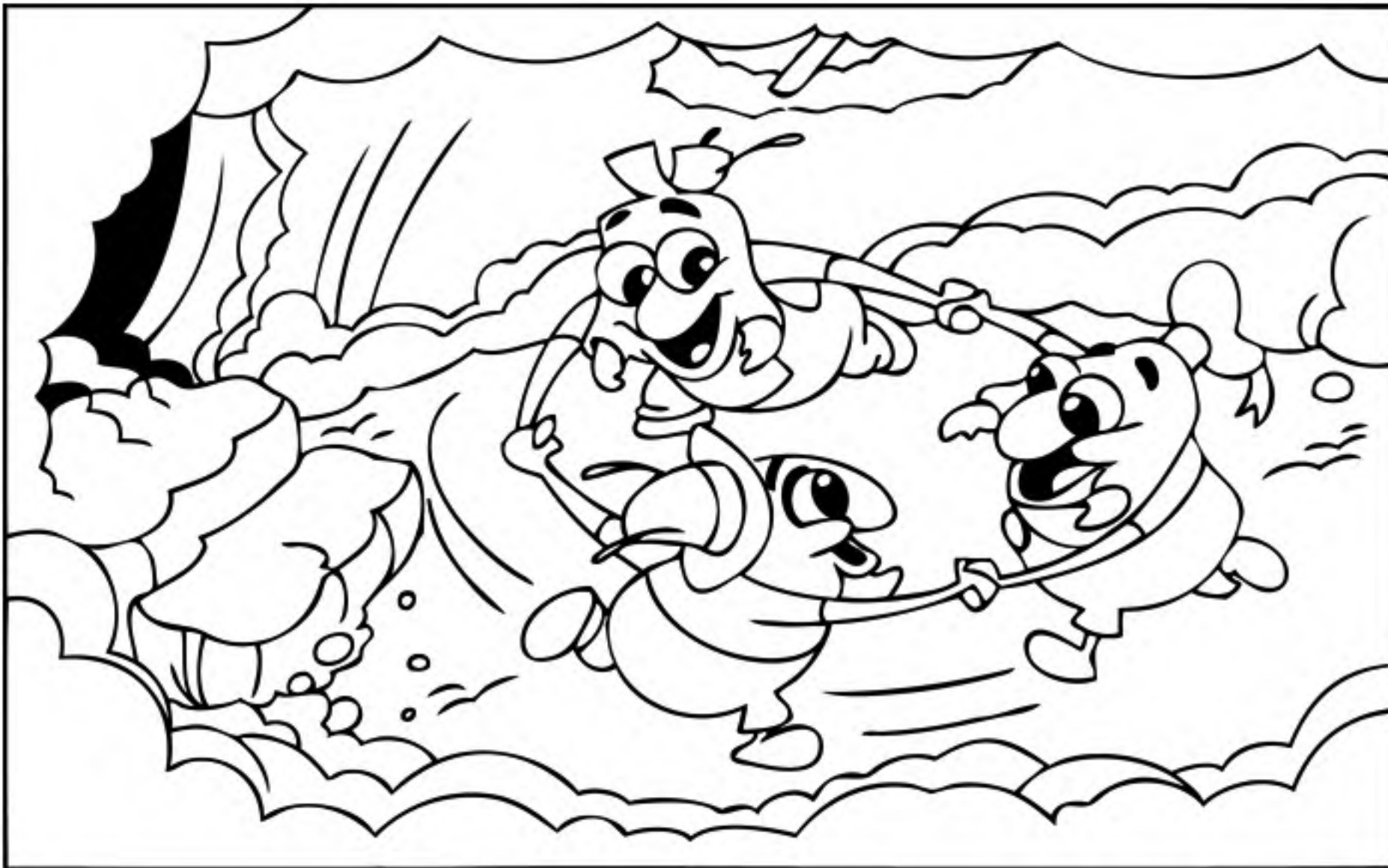
“Or I will pull and tug and tear your house apart.”

“Not by the mandibles on our little bug heads will we let you in,” said the three little bugs.



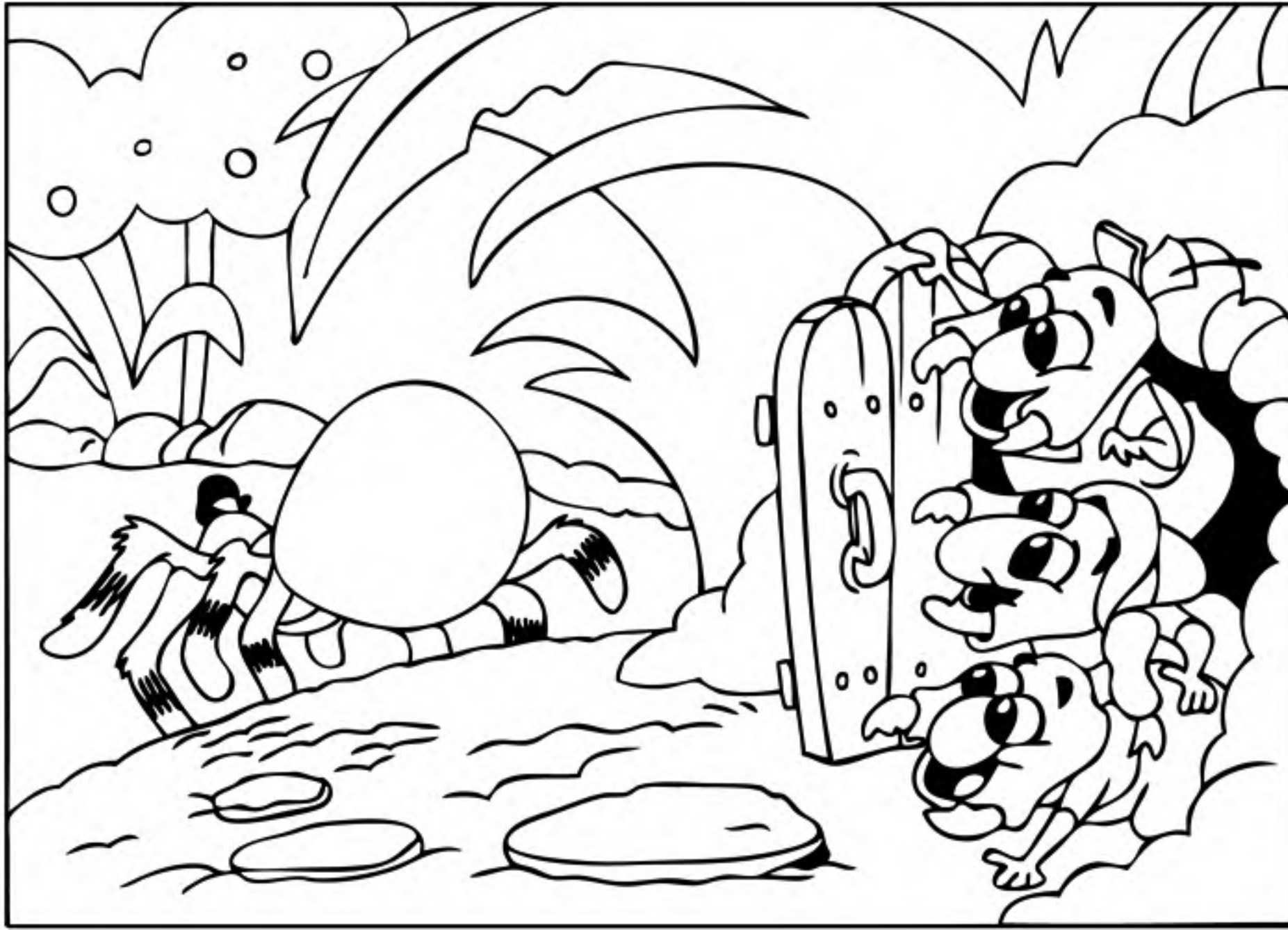
So, the big, bad wolf spider pulled and tugged at the gate. But he could not open it. He pulled and tugged some more.

The three little bugs started to sing,
“Who’s afraid of the big, bad wolf spider,
the big, bad wolf spider, the big, bad wolf
spider? Who’s afraid of the big, bad
wolf spider? La dee-da, dee-da.”



The big, bad wolf spider got madder. “Let
me in!” he screamed as he struggled to
open the gate.

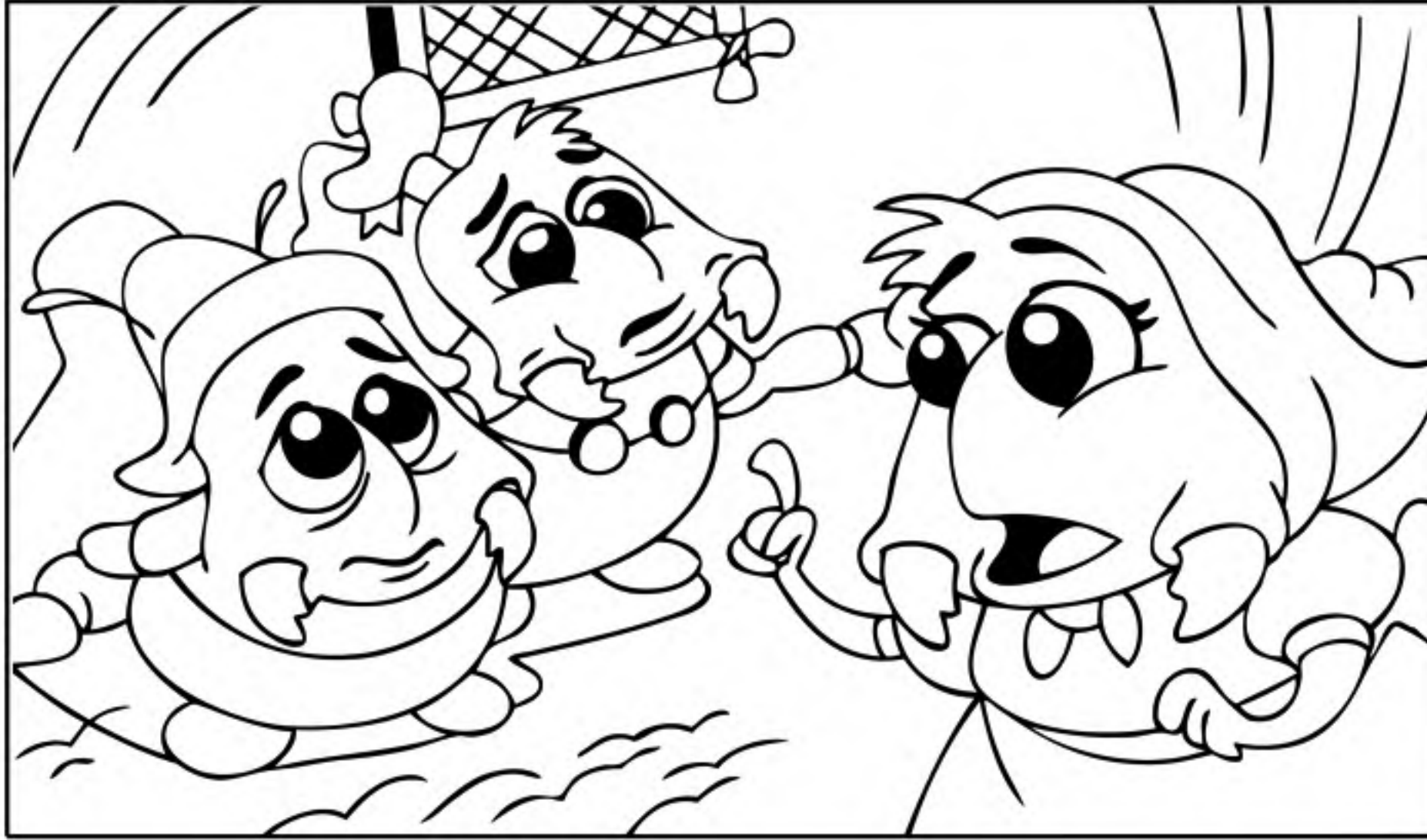




But the big, bad wolf spider could not open it. He got tired of trying to open the gate, so he gave up and left.

The next day, the three little bugs went to see their mother. She was proud of the third little bug. She told him, "You were wise. I hope your brothers learned a good lesson."



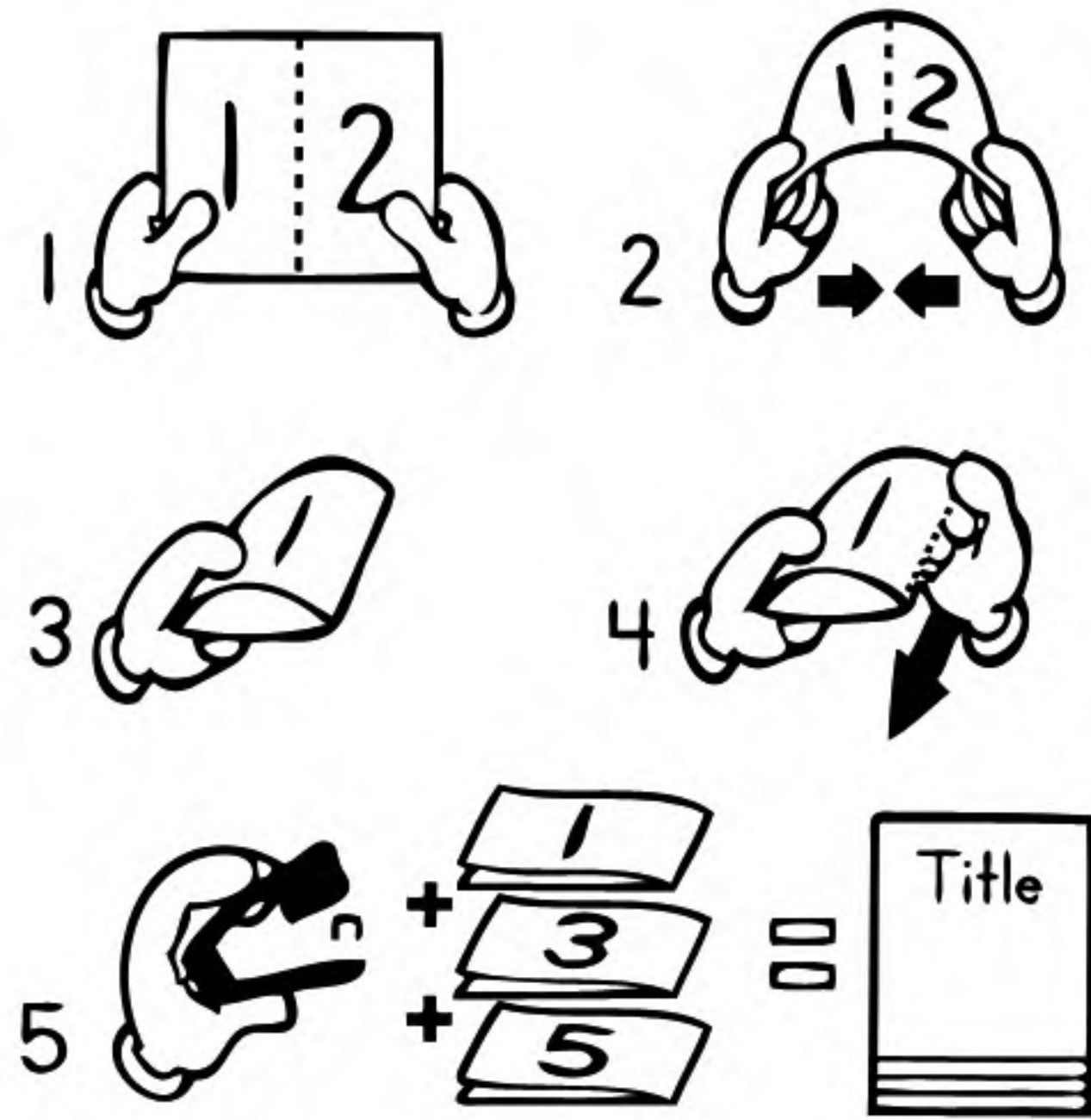


Then she turned to the other two brothers and said, “Go dig deep holes in the ground and make strong houses like your brother. Then you will be safe from the big, bad wolf spider.”

The two little bugs each dug houses deep in the ground.

The bugs stayed in the flower garden and were happy the rest of their lives.





Vocabulary Words

beetle
pounded
tear
mandible

struggled
learned a lesson
wise