

*Joe Austen*

# UNCLE TEAPOT

and the foodwood



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**BOOKS**

Written and illustrated by Joe Austen

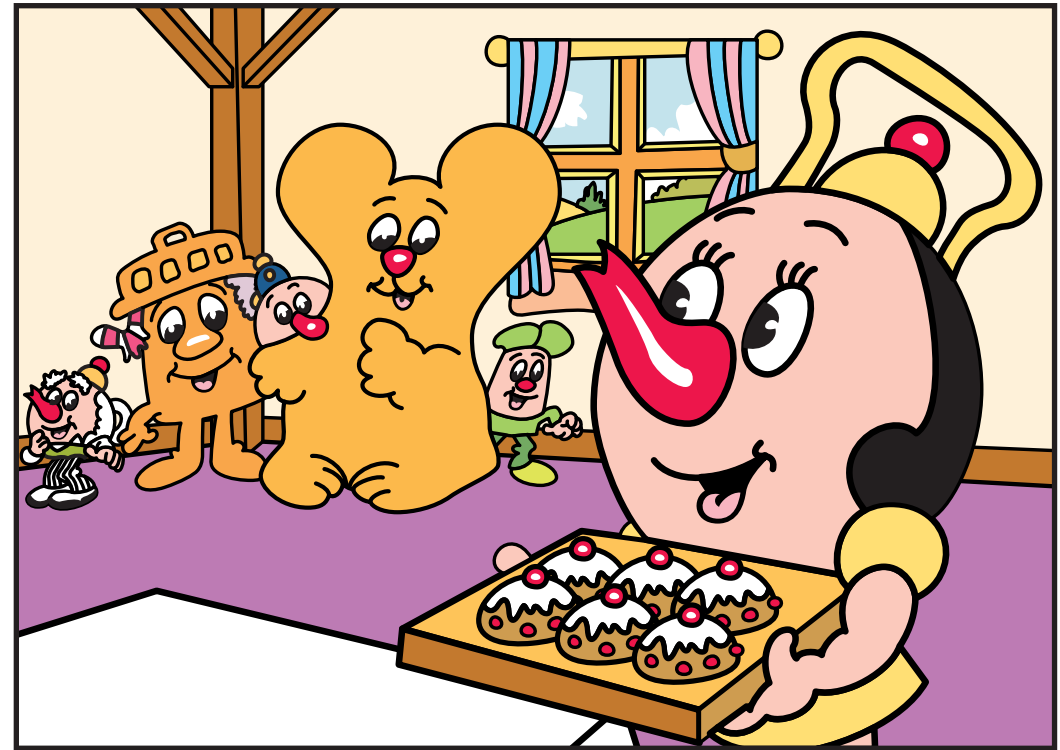


*Joe Austen*  
**UNCLE  
 TEAPOT**  
 and the foodwood



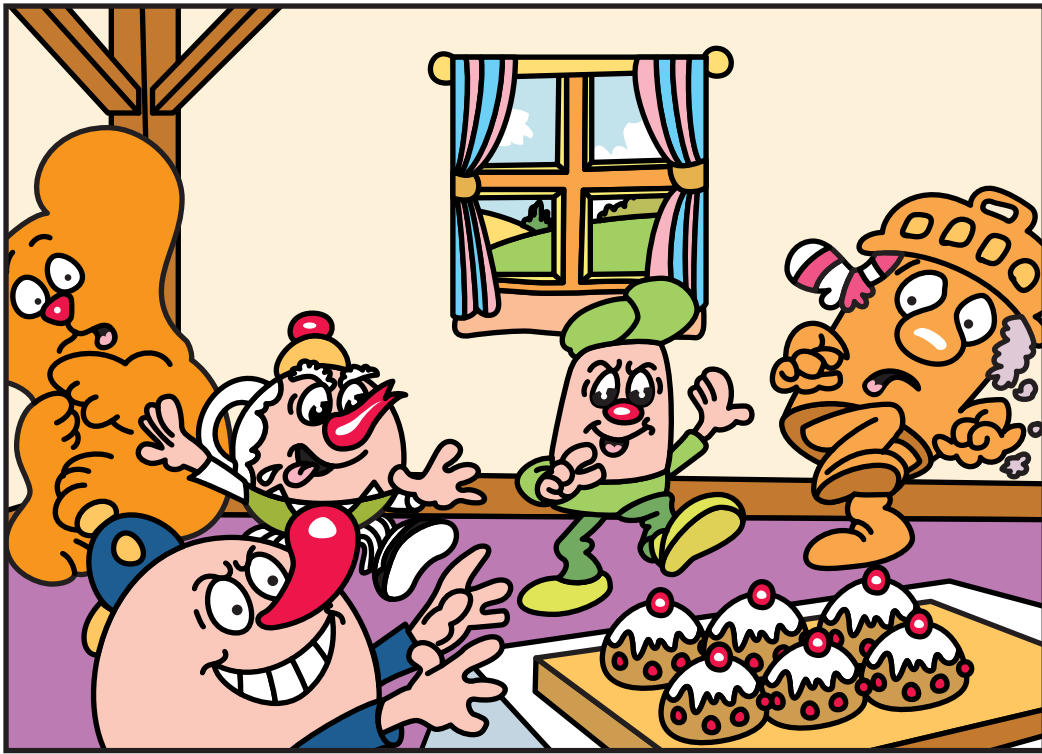
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 For Lucy

Once there was a  
Magic House where everything  
was alive — the Teapot and  
the Kettle and the Pot and the Clocks  
and the Lamp and the Bin. And in the  
garden there was a Wishing Well . . .

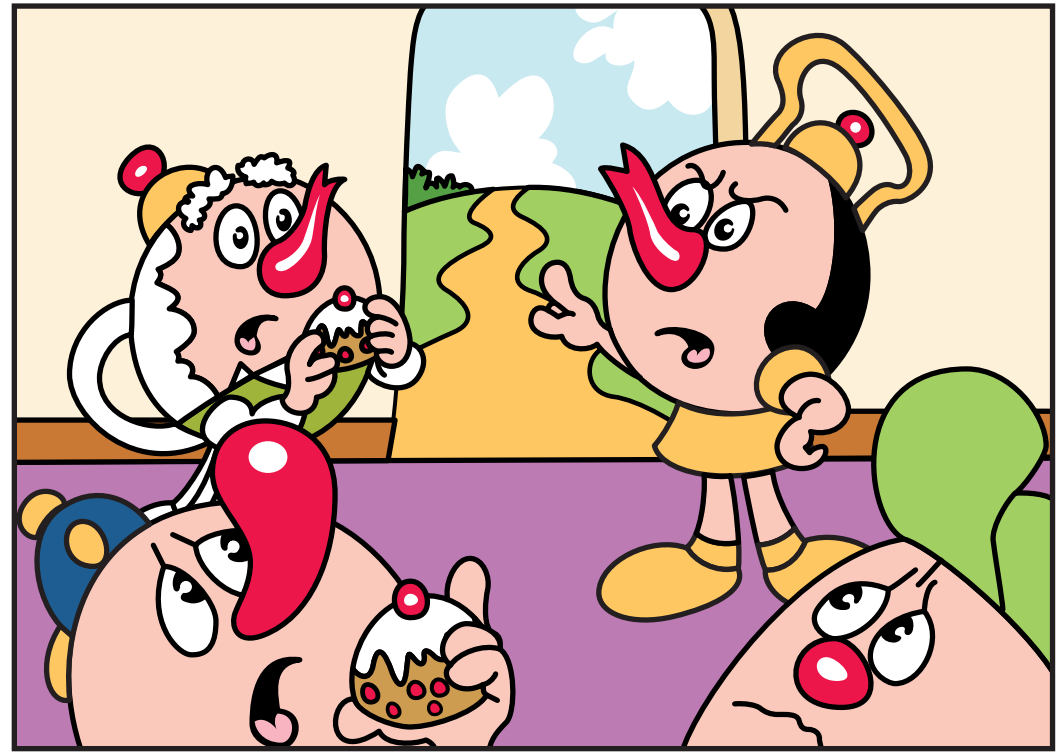
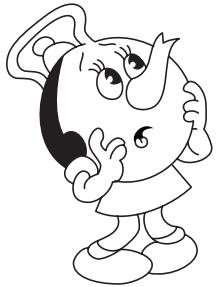


It was lunch time  
at the Magic House,  
and everyone was waiting  
for Kitty Kettle to bring in  
the fresh currant buns  
she had just baked.

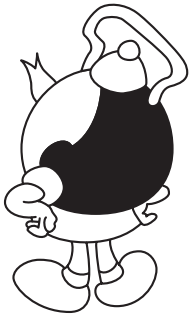


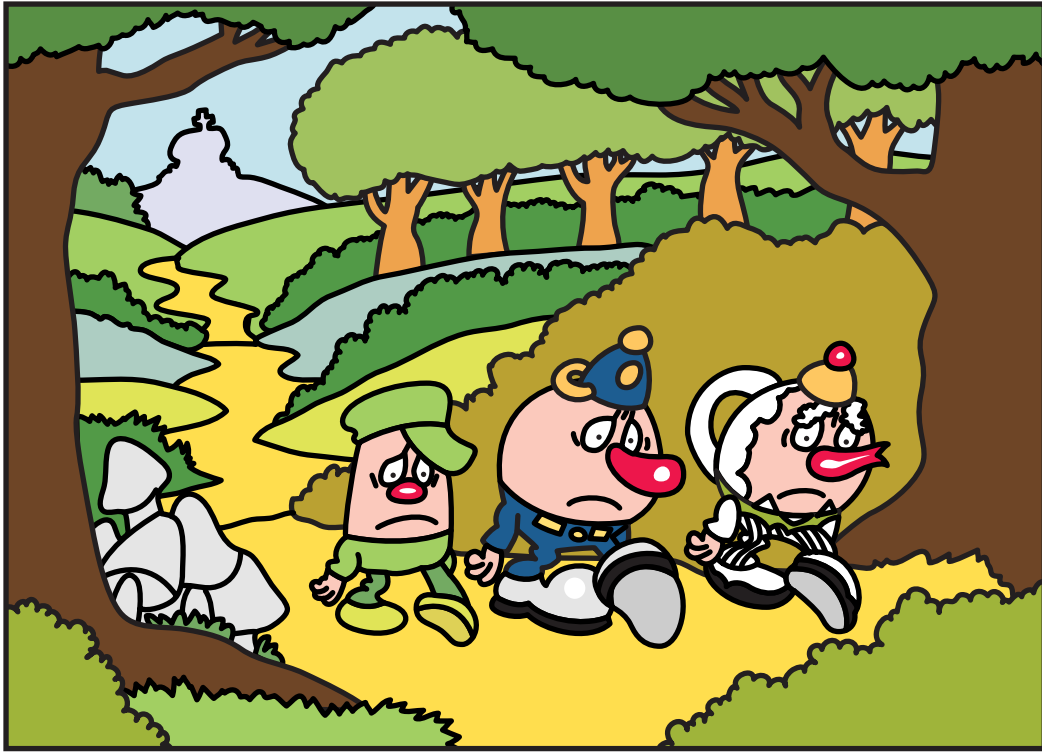


But as soon as Kitty put  
the tray on the table,  
Uncle Teapot, Paddy Pepper  
and PC Pot grabbed for the buns,  
and pushed everyone else aside!



But before they could eat them,  
Kitty Kettle said,  
"Stop that at once!  
Since you've been so rude, you can  
go without anything to eat  
until teatime! Off you go!"

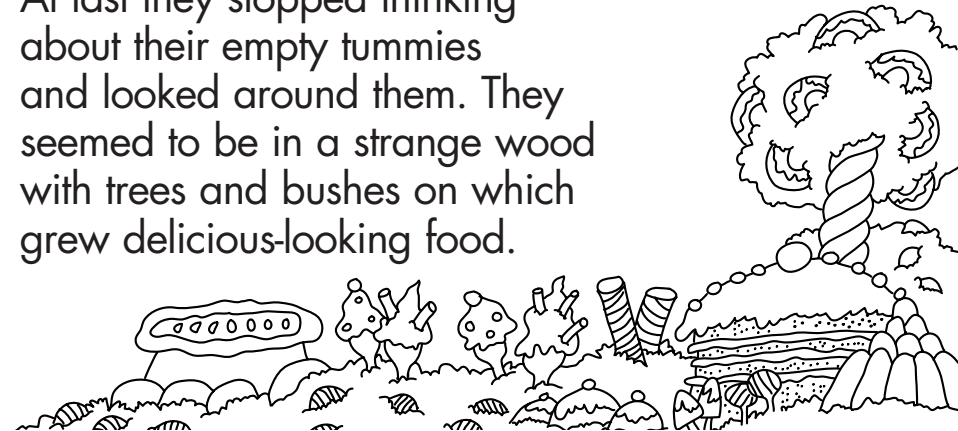




PC Pot, Uncle Teapot and Paddy Pepper gave the buns back to Kitty and went wandering off far away from the Magic House. They felt so sad and hungry that they didn't notice where they were going.



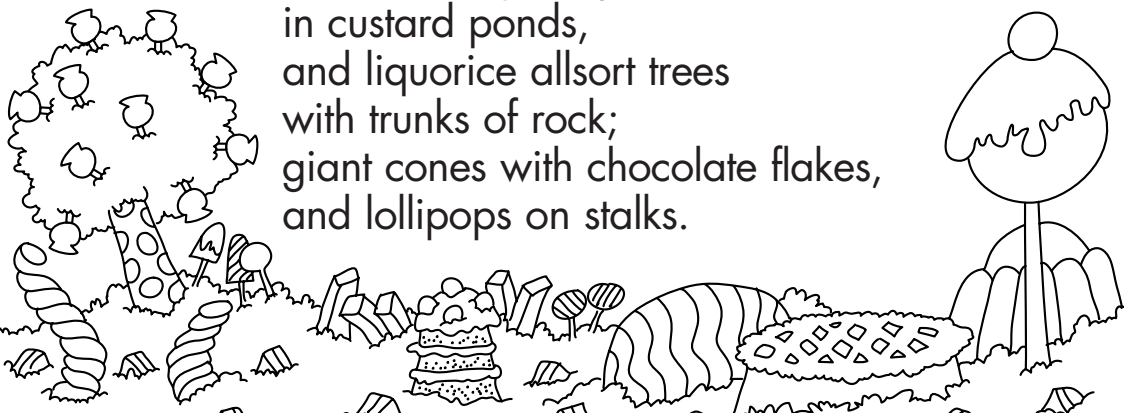
At last they stopped thinking about their empty tummies and looked around them. They seemed to be in a strange wood with trees and bushes on which grew delicious-looking food.



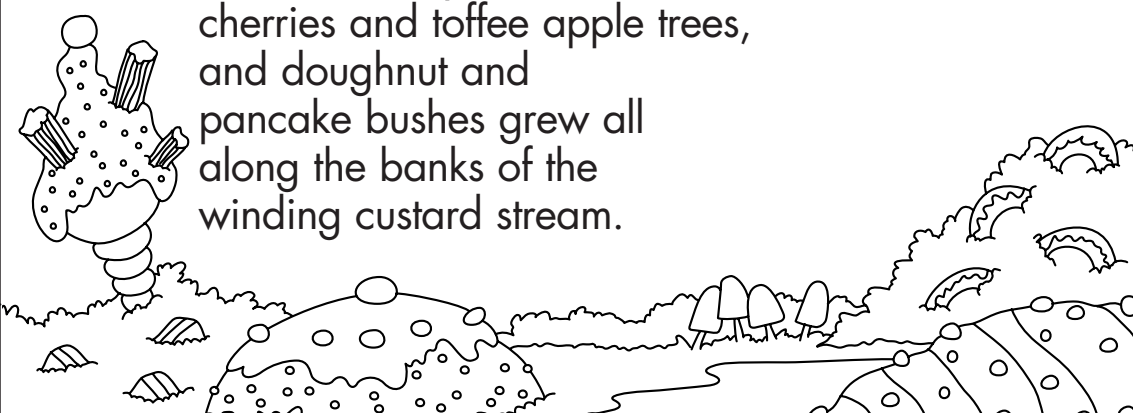


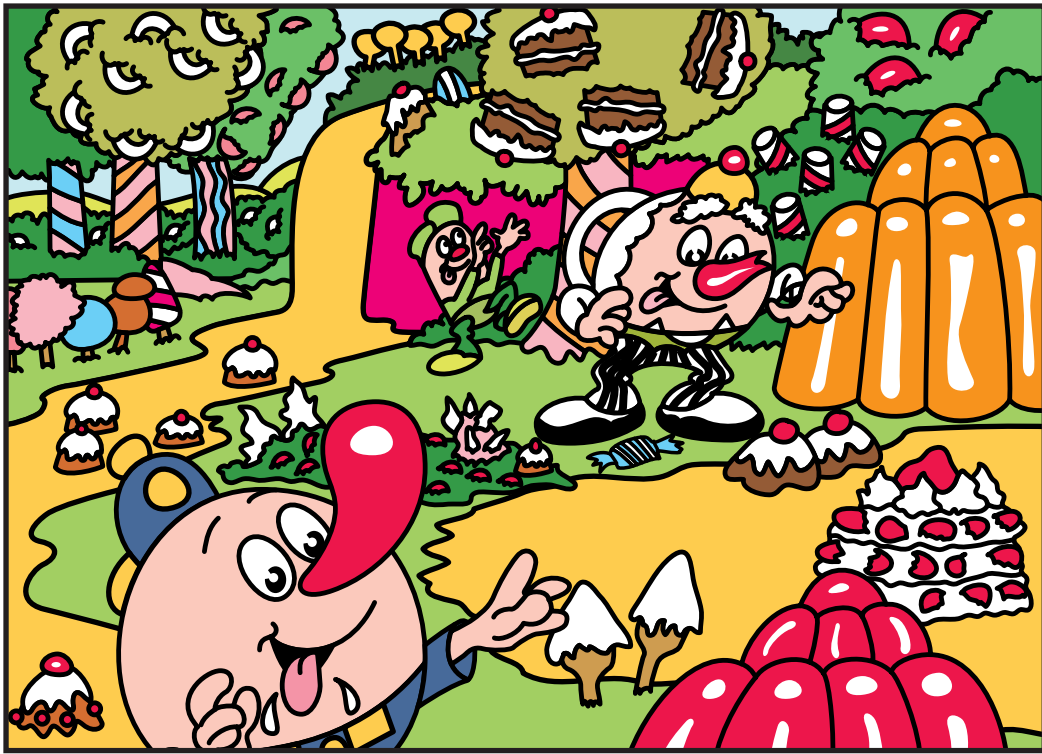


There were giant jellies  
in custard ponds,  
and liquorice allsort trees  
with trunks of rock;  
giant cones with chocolate flakes,  
and lollipops on stalks.



There were layer cakes with  
cherries and toffee apple trees,  
and doughnut and  
pancake bushes grew all  
along the banks of the  
winding custard stream.





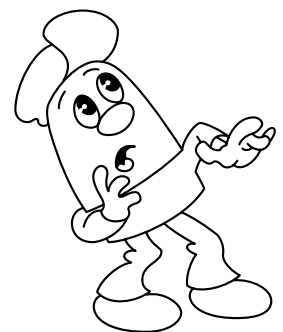
There was so much to eat, that they didn't know whether to start on the buns or the pies or the cones or any of the other delicious foods which surrounded them.



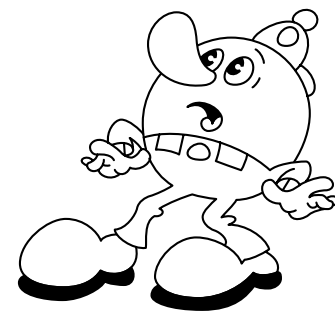
But they soon decided. PC Pot gobbled a giant jelly. Paddy Pepper munched a huge hot dog, and Uncle Teapot swallowed one currant bun after another. They were almost fit to burst!



And when they were so full  
that they could eat no more,  
they felt a strange change  
coming over them.  
Uncle Teapot  
felt himself changing...



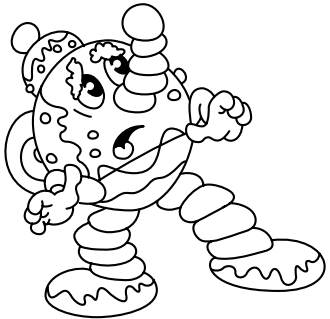
... into a currant bun  
with icing on top  
and different kinds of cake  
for his nose and arms and legs!







Paddy Pepper  
felt himself changing ...

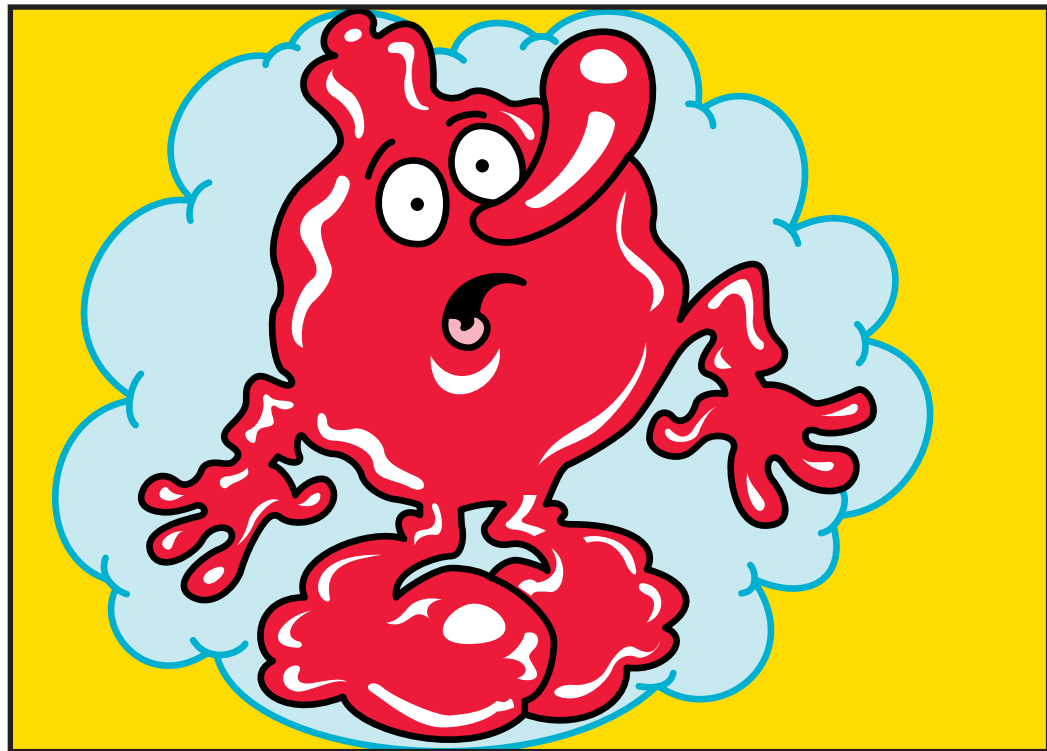
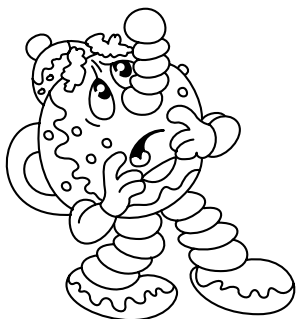


... into a hot dog  
with a fried egg nose  
and sausage arms and legs!

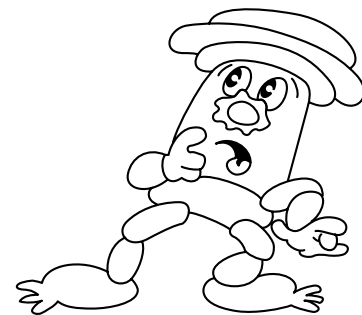


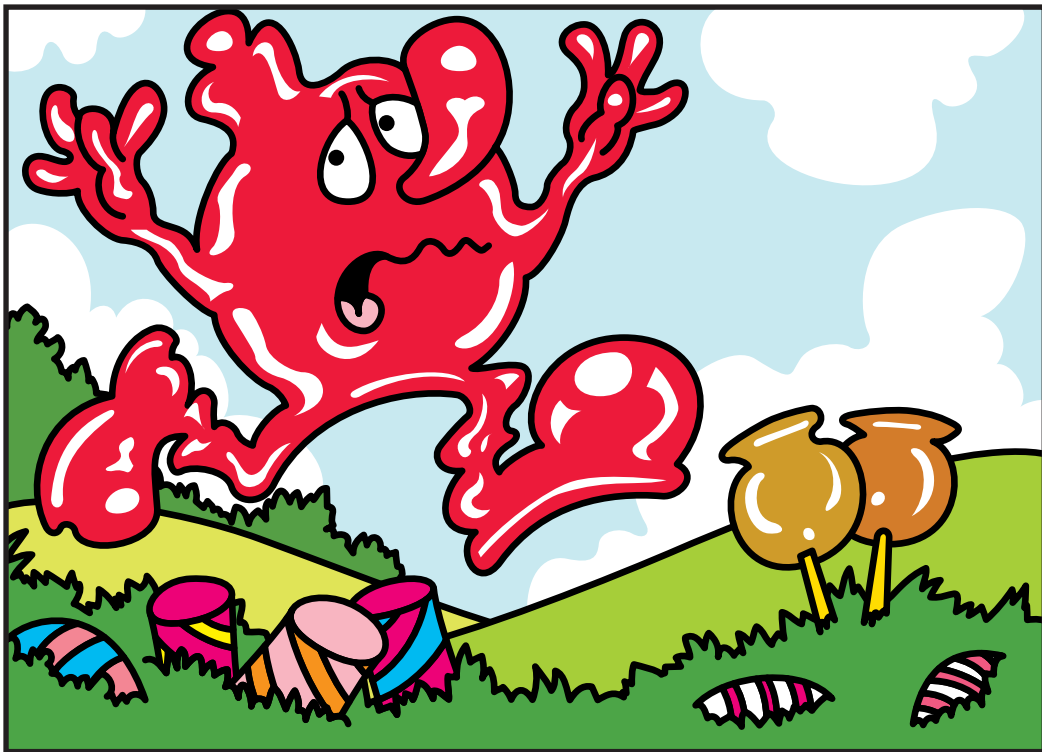


And PC Pot  
felt himself changing ...

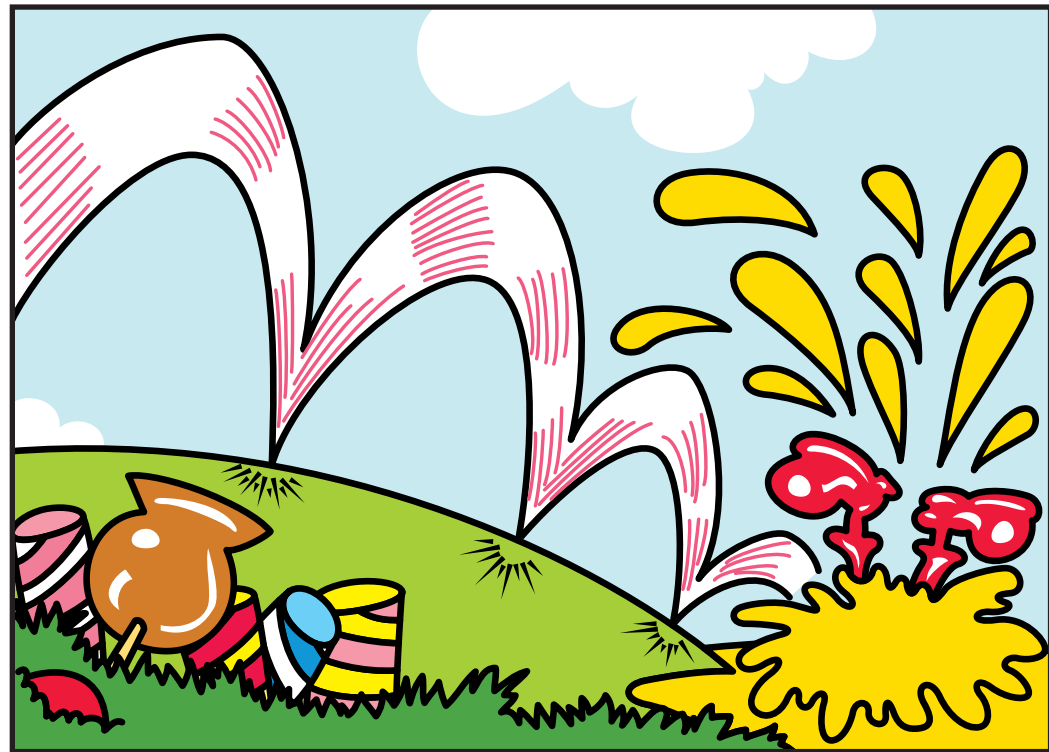
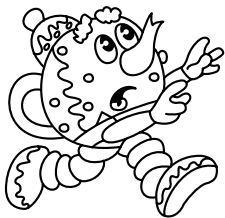


... into a giant wobbly jelly!  
"What's happening to us?"  
shouted PC Pot, shivering.  
"I don't want to be a jelly.  
I want to be a pot again!  
Help! Mummy! Daddy!"





And rushing off  
on his wobbly legs  
without looking  
where he was going,  
PC Pot tripped on a toffee apple . . .

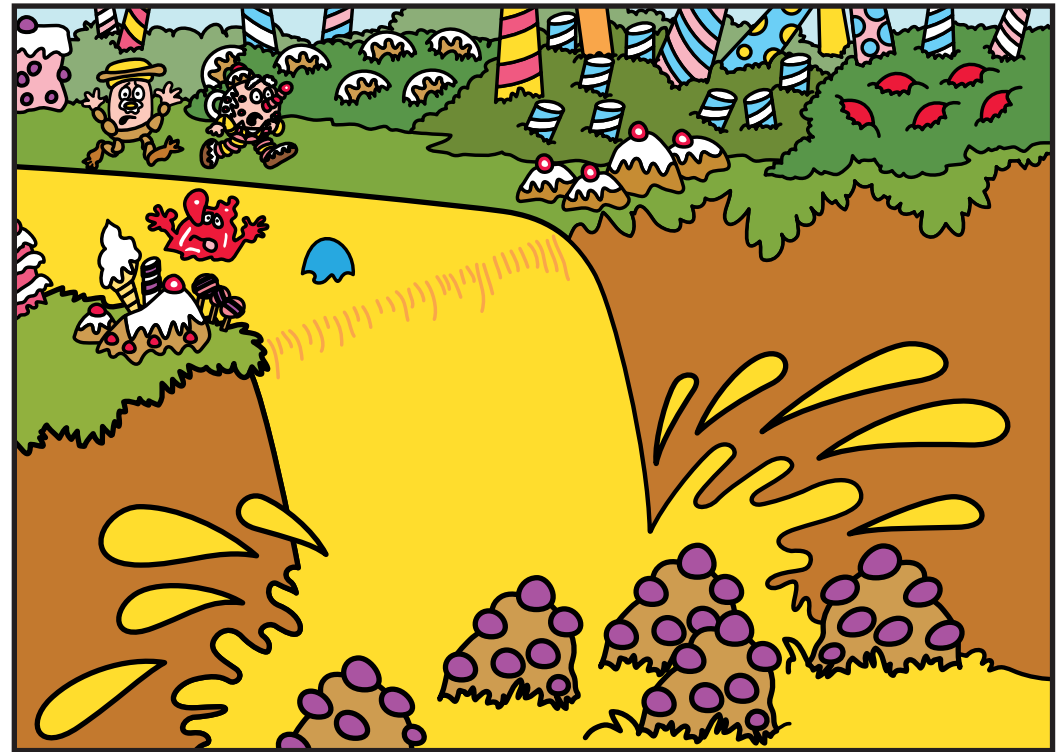
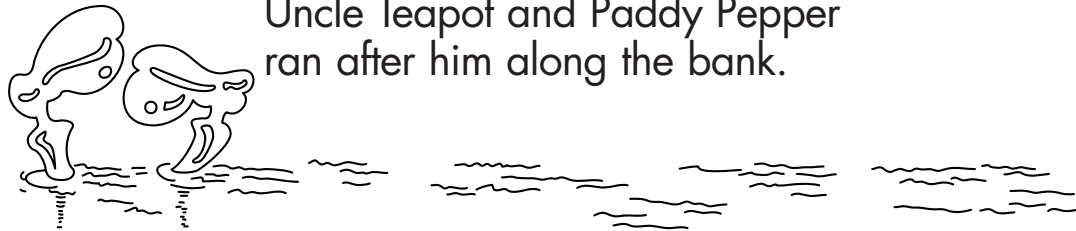


... and went BOUNCE!  
BOUNCE!  
BOUNCE!  
down a hill and  
SPLASH!  
into the custard river.

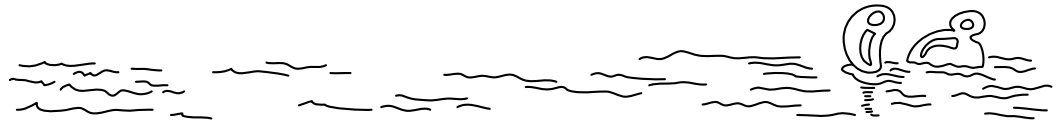


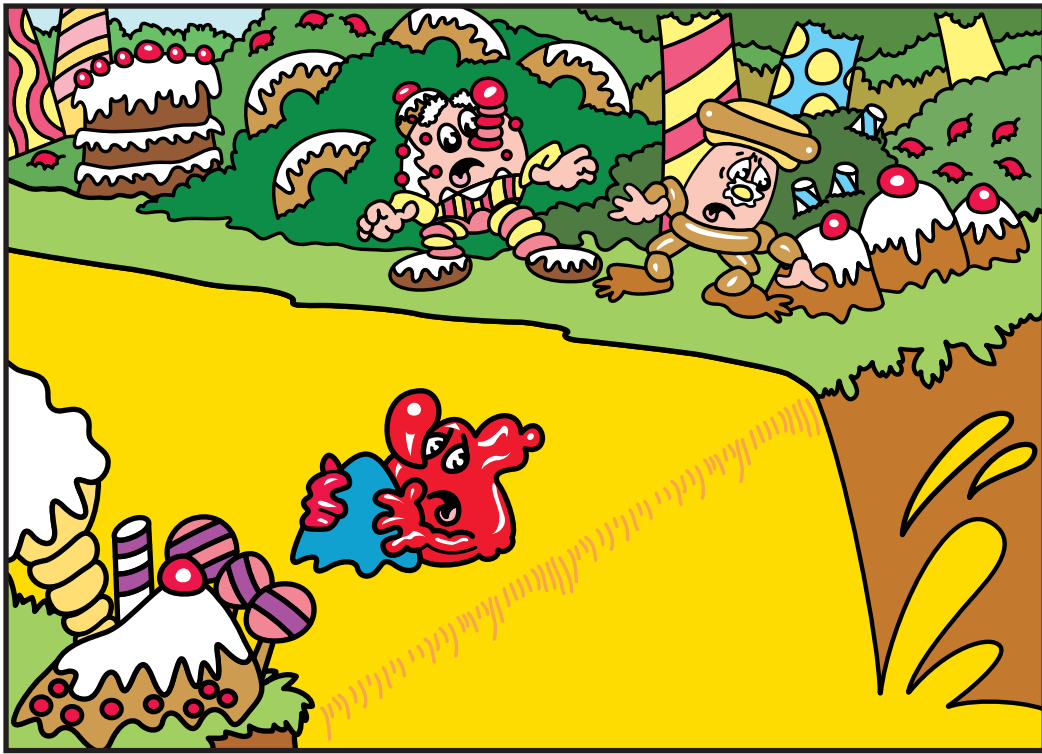


"Help!" he shouted. "Save me!"  
For the custard river  
was flowing very fast  
and he was being swept away.  
Uncle Teapot and Paddy Pepper  
ran after him along the bank.

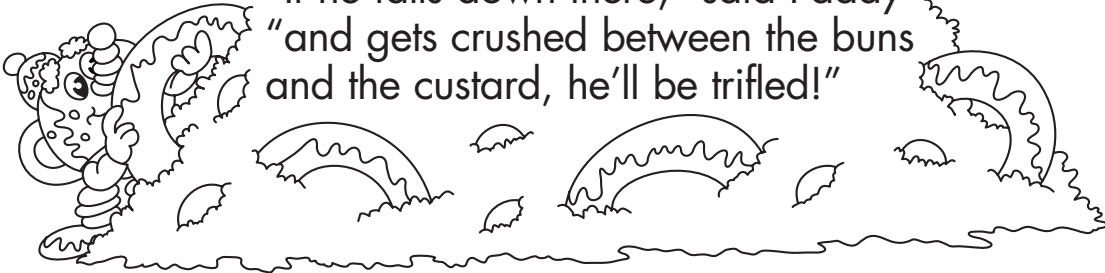


But they were very worried,  
for they could see that PC Pot  
was being swept  
towards a custard fall  
which was crashing far below  
on to huge, lumpy rock buns!

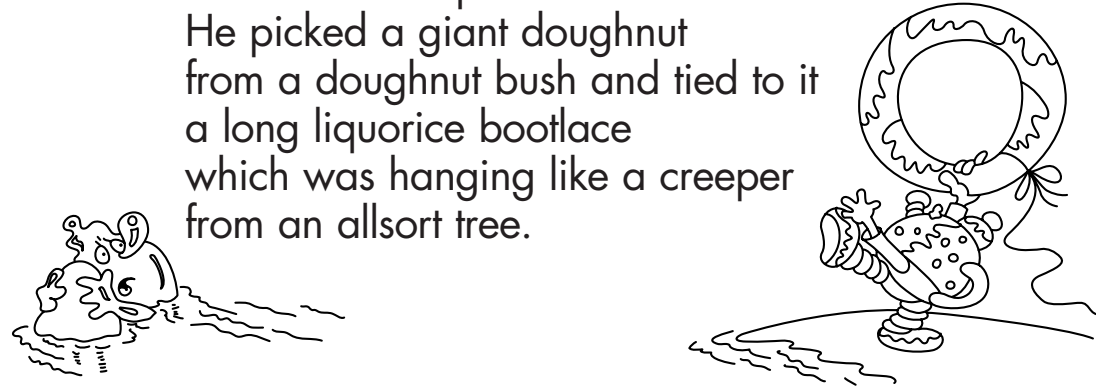




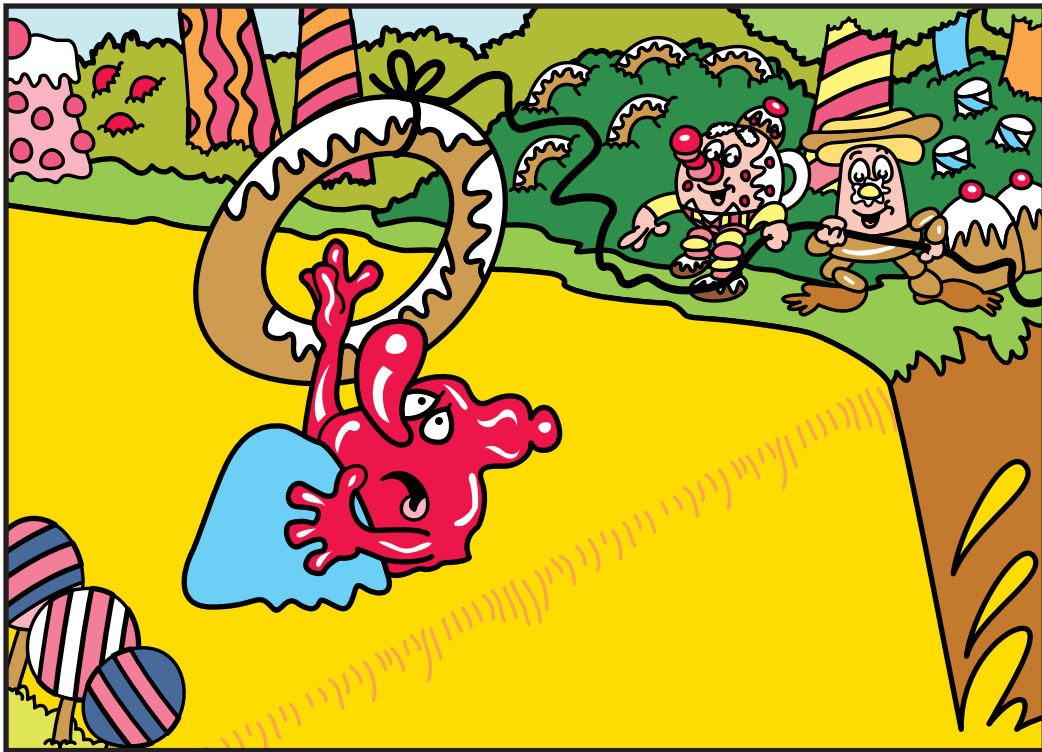
But just before he was swept over,  
PC Pot caught hold of a lump of  
Edinburgh rock in mid-stream.  
"If he falls down there," said Paddy  
"and gets crushed between the buns  
and the custard, he'll be trifled!"



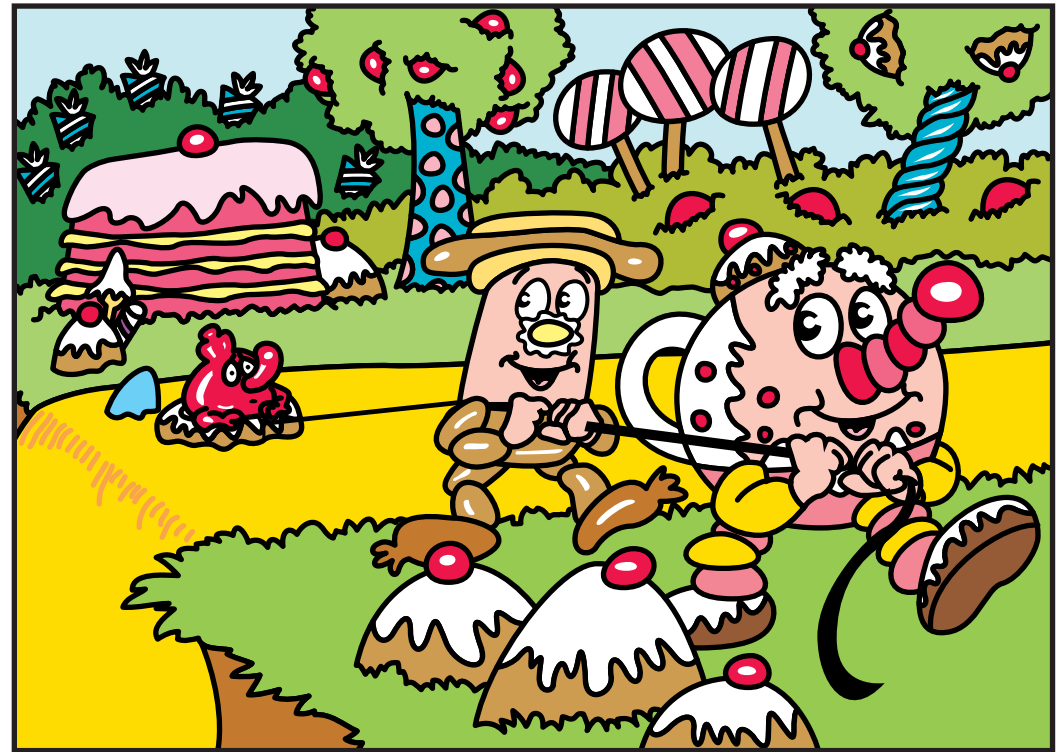
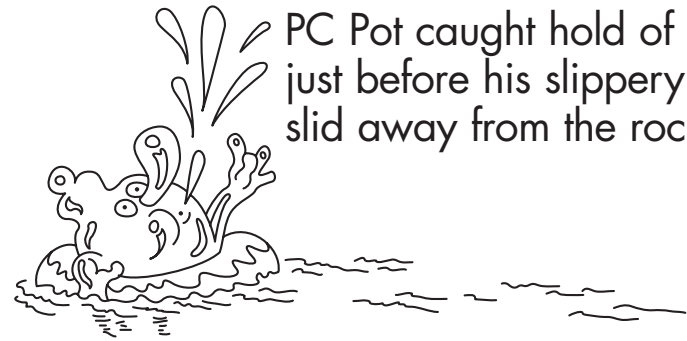
Then Uncle Teapot had an idea.  
He picked a giant doughnut  
from a doughnut bush and tied to it  
a long liquorice bootlace  
which was hanging like a creeper  
from an allsort tree.



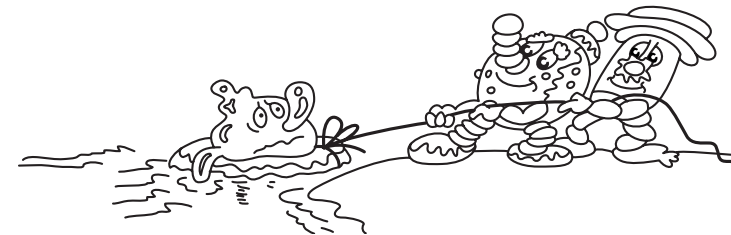


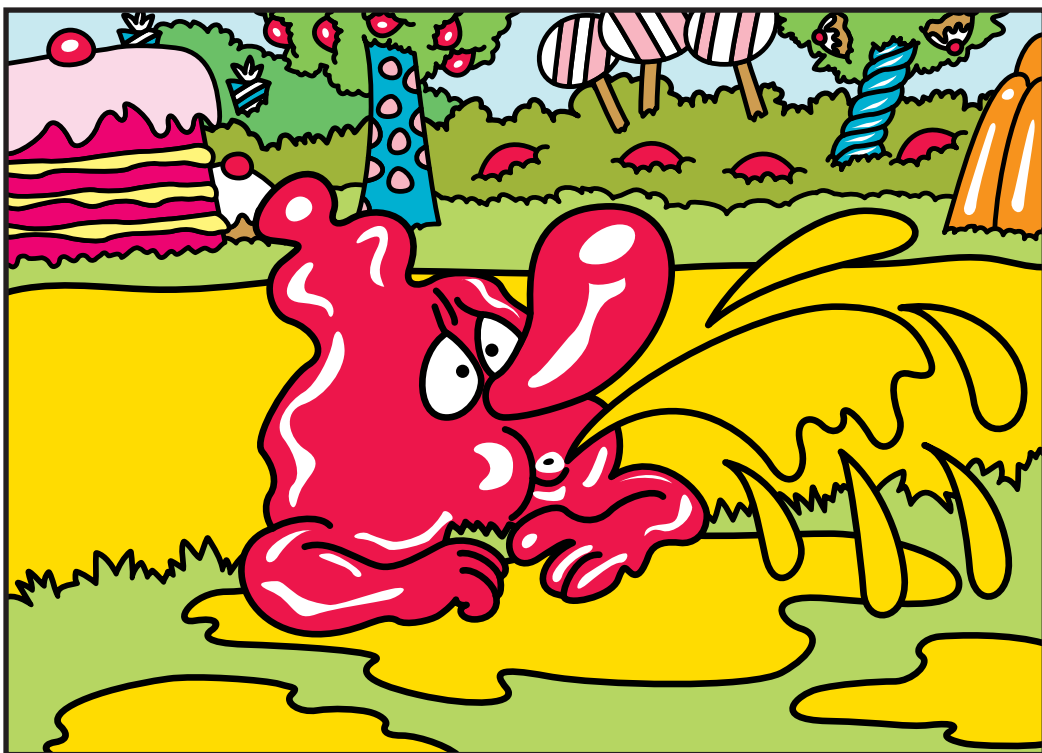


He threw the doughnut  
out into the stream.  
PC Pot caught hold of it  
just before his slippery jelly  
fingers slid away from the rock.

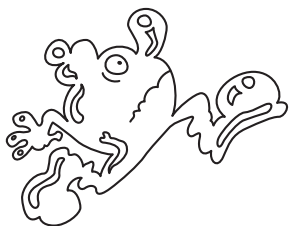


Then Uncle Teapot  
and Paddy Pepper  
pulled PC Pot to shore.

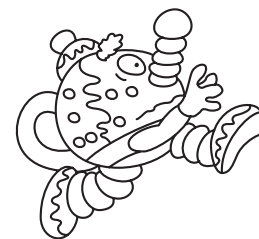


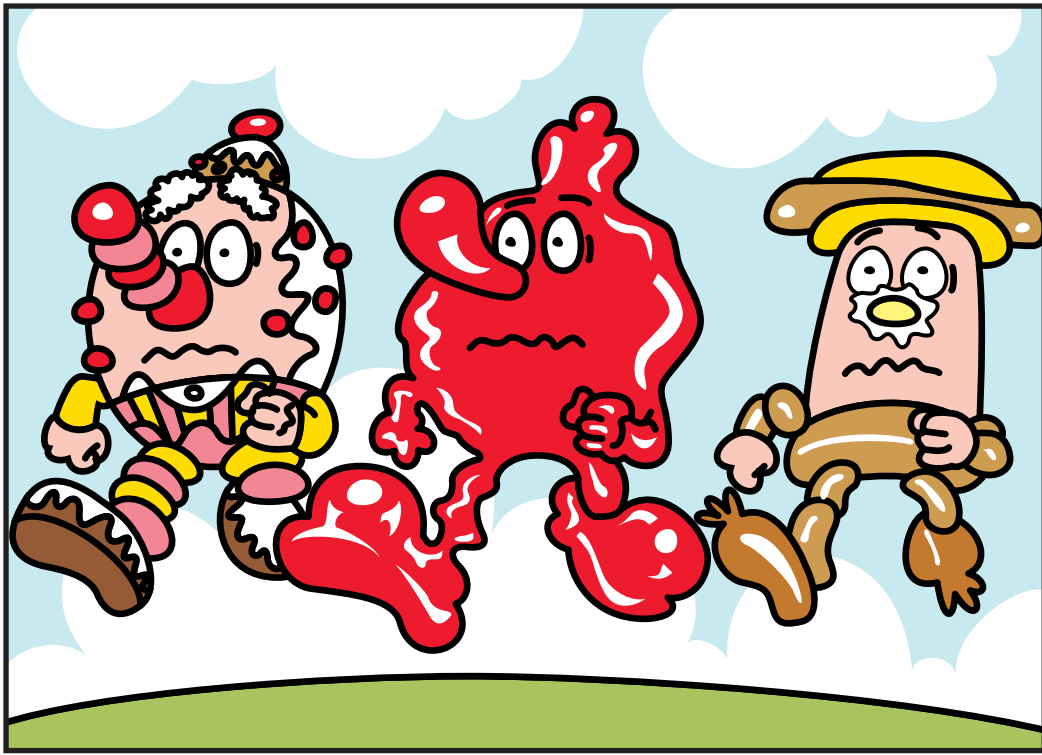


He wobbled and shivered and  
coughed and spluttered custard,  
but at last he was safely  
on dry land.

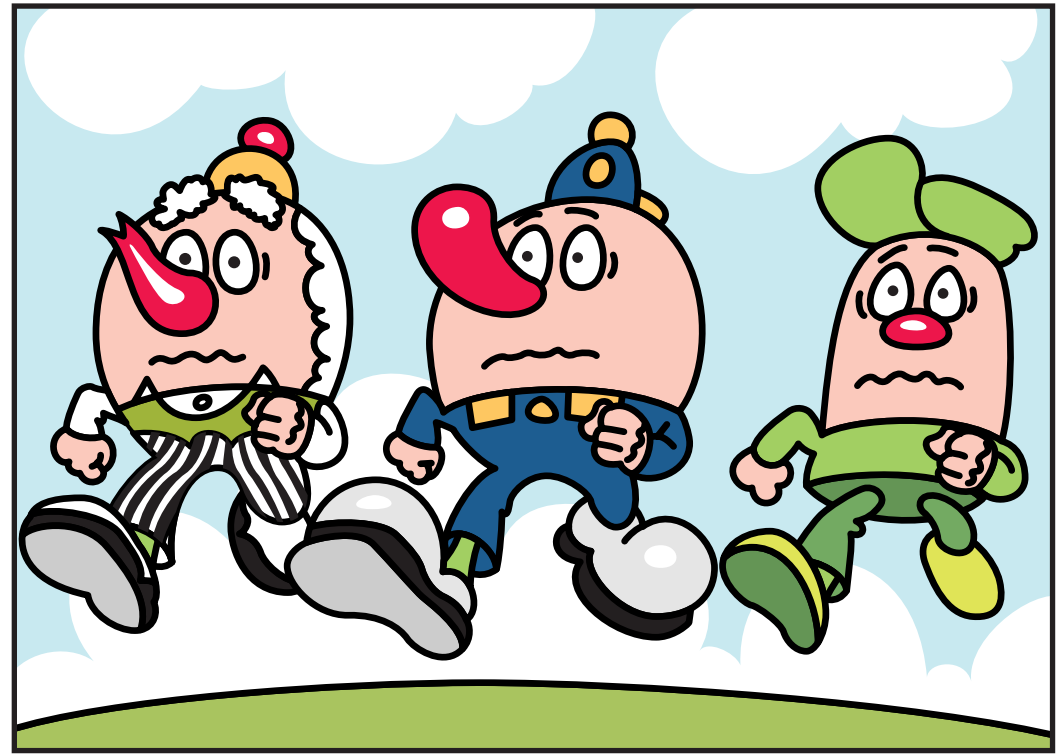
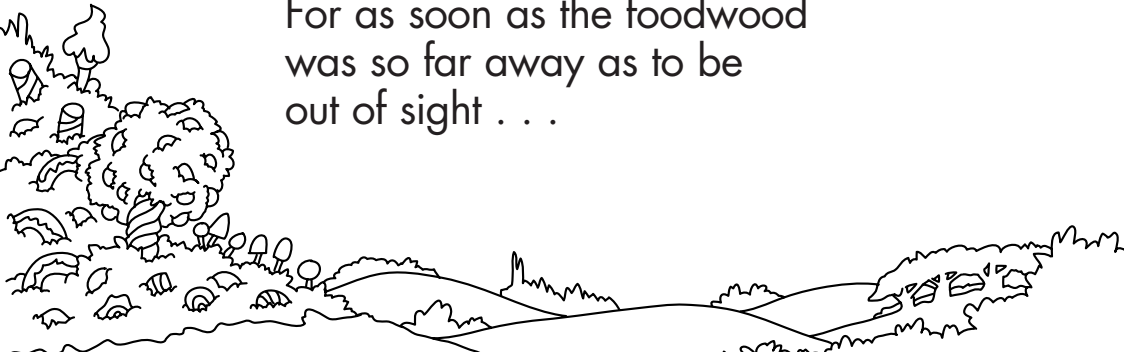


Then the three of them  
went rushing home as fast as  
their cake legs and jelly boots  
and sausage feet would take them,  
leaving the foodwood as  
far behind them as possible.

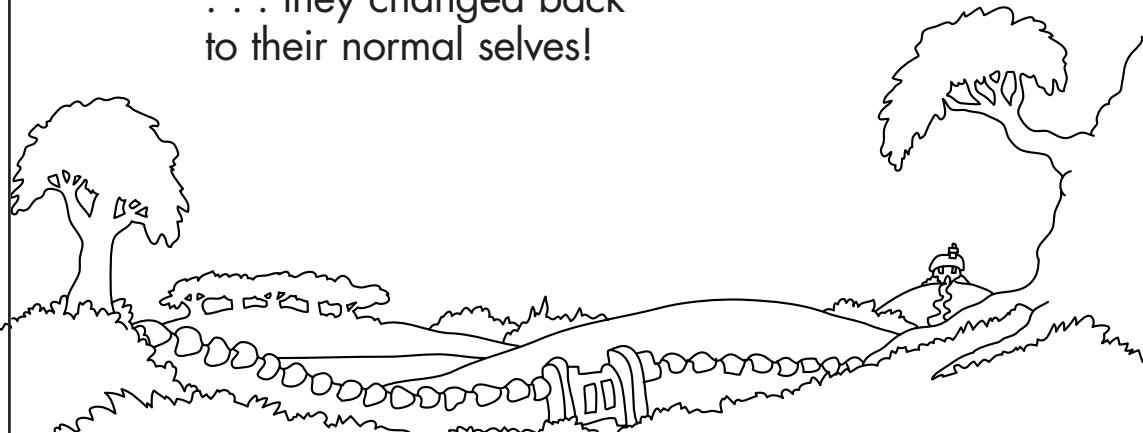


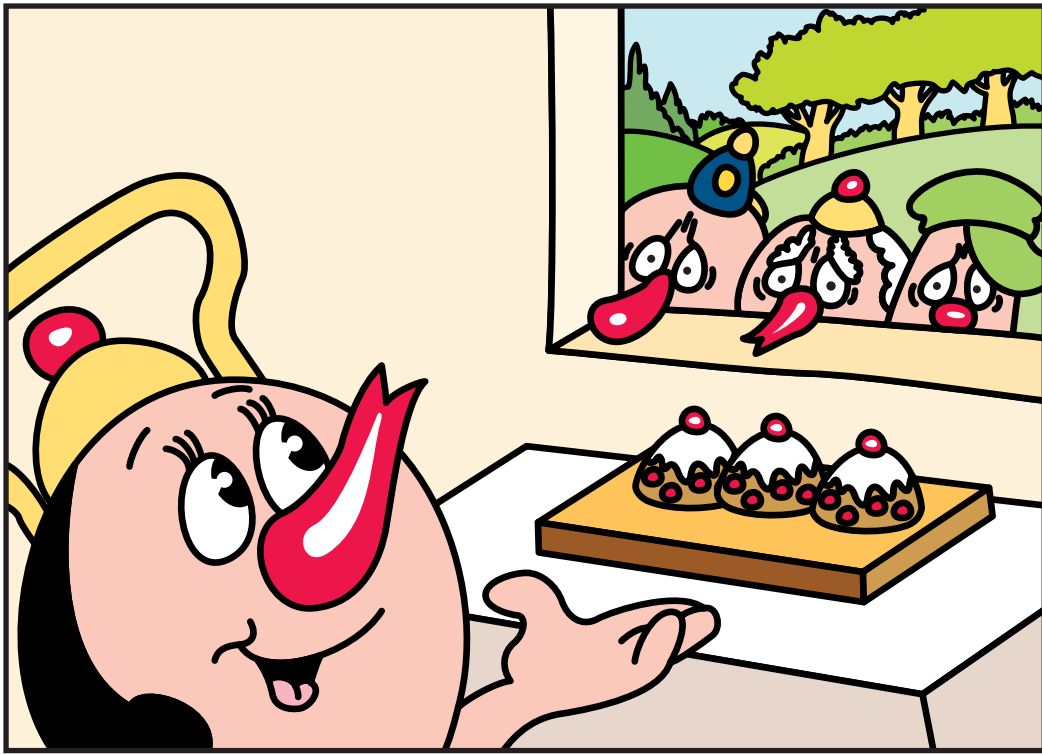


And when they did that,  
a strange thing happened.  
For as soon as the foodwood  
was so far away as to be  
out of sight . . .

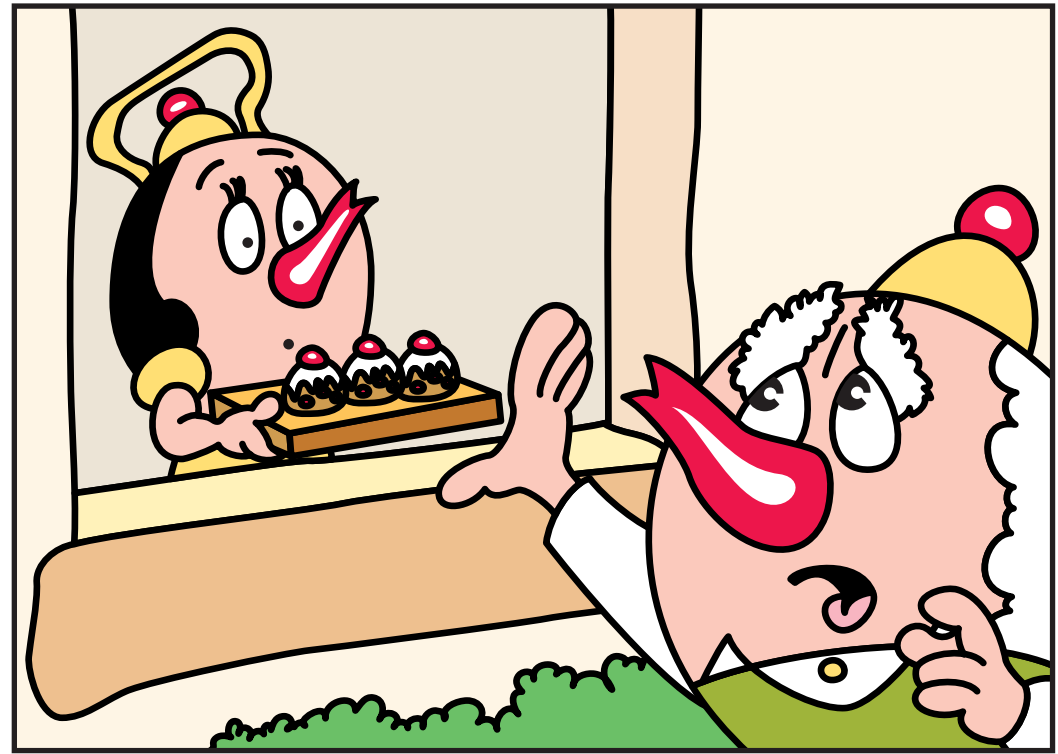
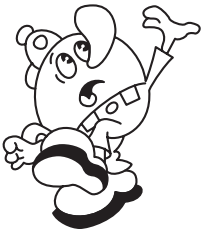


. . . they changed back  
to their normal selves!

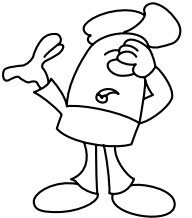




When they reached the Magic House they looked so worn and tired that Kitty felt sorry for them. "You poor things," she said. "Why don't you have a currant bun to cheer you up?"



"Oh no thanks, Kitty Kettle," said Uncle Teapot in horror. "I just don't **feel** like a currant bun any more!" And PC Pot and Paddy Pepper knew just what he meant.





And that's the end.



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- 5** KITTY KETTLE AND THE VANISHING BUNS
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