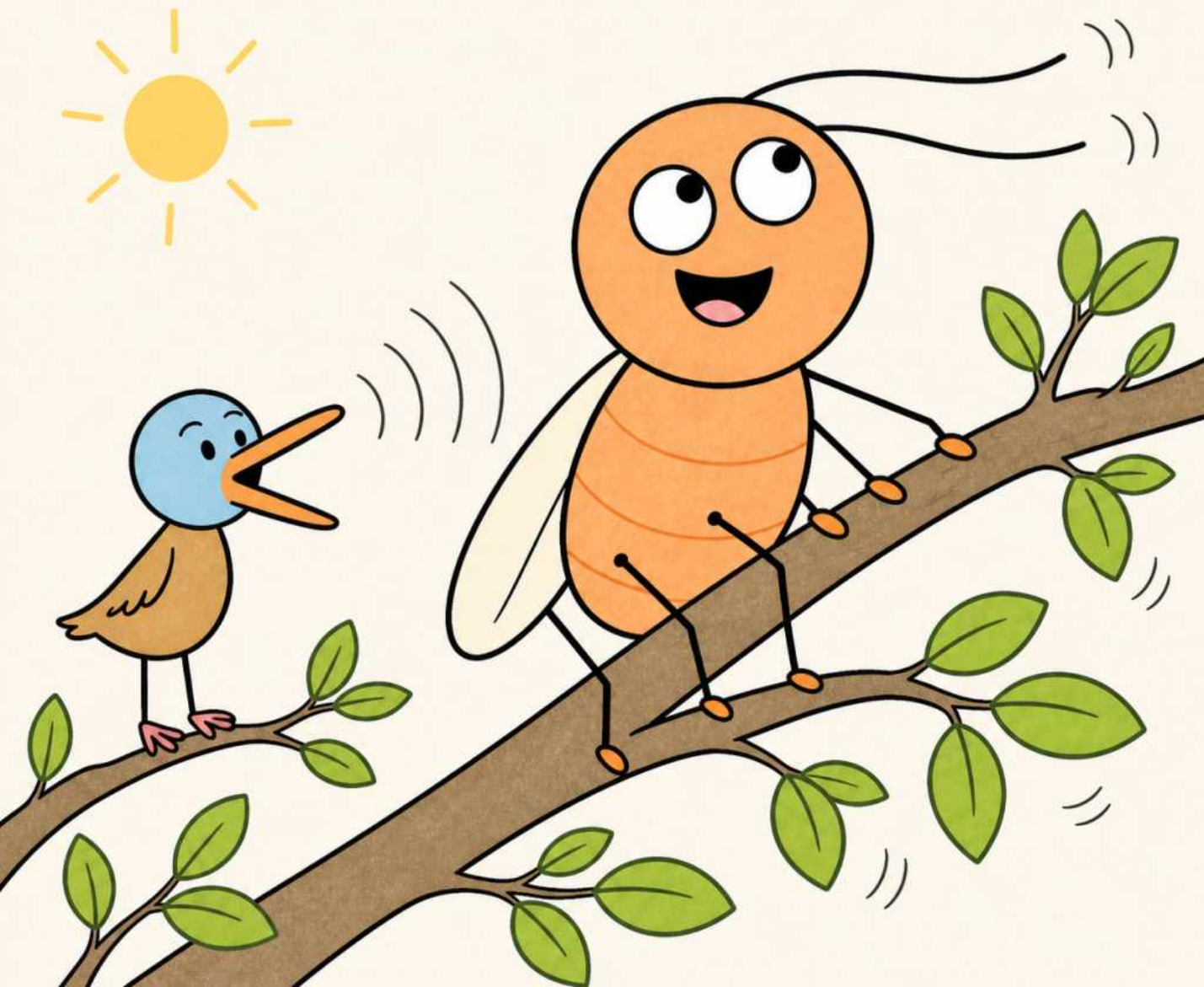
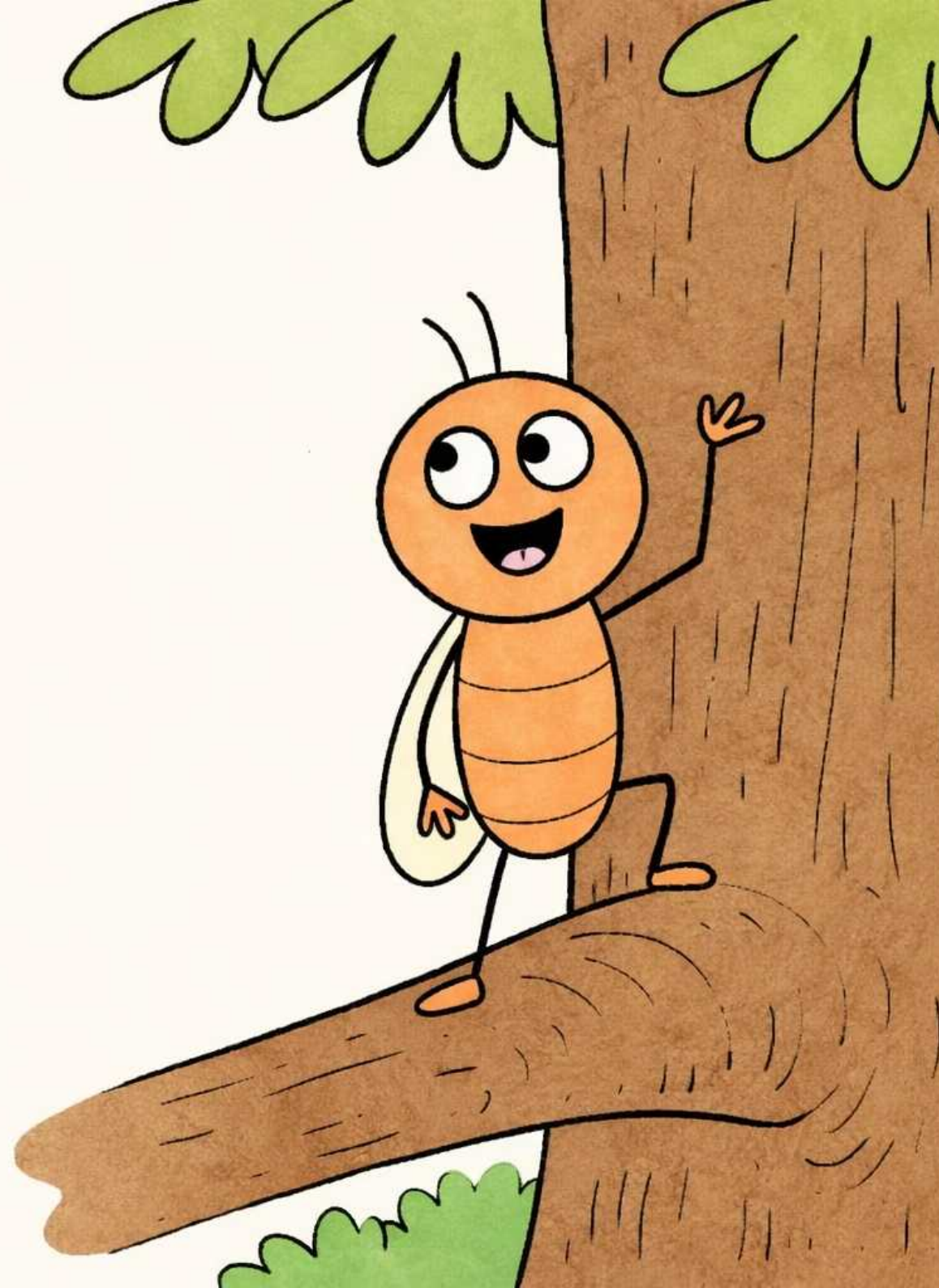


Bug Decides to Sing



Spring is here, and Bug has a fizzy buzz in her belly. She grips her branch and grins so wide her **face** all but splits. 'I wish to sing!' she yells to no one at all.

Bug has no song. No note, no tune, no luck. So Bug **decides** that she must get a song.





Bug finds Duck by the pond, singing in the rain. 'Quack, quack, quack!' sings Duck, beak up at the clouds. Rain drips off his back, but Duck does not stop.

'Teach me!' Bug calls. Duck tells her, 'Little Bug, no rain, no song! Rain lets a song be wet and grand!'

Bug **glances** at her wet wings and **winces**. 'I do not wish for a wet song. I wish for a fun song!'

Frog sits by the pond,
puffing out his chest. 'Grunt,
grunt, grunt!' His song goes
on. And on. And on. It has
not stopped **since** morning.
'That is so long,' says Bug.
'Frog, teach me a short
song!' Frog blinks. 'A short
song? My song has many,
many parts! I am at part ten,
and there are many more to
go!' Bug backs off, slow.



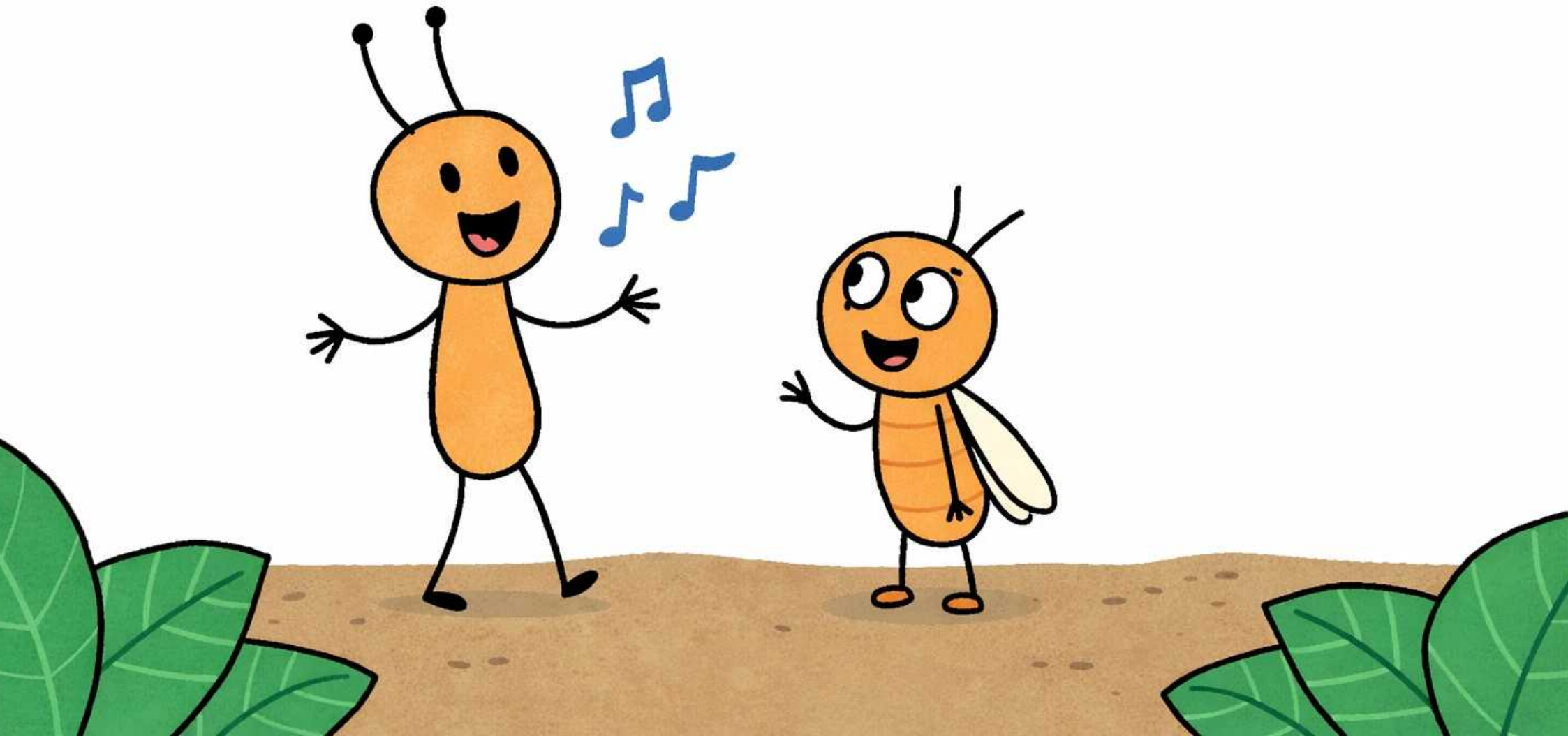


Big Bird lifts her chin high and sings. 'Trill-a-trill-a-trill!' The branch shakes. Each leaf shakes. Bug's feelers blow to one side. Bug claps and claps with glee. 'That song is so **exciting!**' she yells. 'Teach me that!' Bug gets set. Her mouth goes wide. Out comes... a small, small peep. 'Try a small song, little Bug,' says Big Bird with a smile.

Sad Bird sits low on the branch, singing slow and glum. 'Ohhh, the sky is dull... I am so glum... all day, all day...' Bug swings her arm. 'What if the song has a **bounce**? A happy song, with a **dance** in it!' Sad Bird blinks. 'Why sing a happy song? A sad song is so fine.' 'Not that fine,' says Bug, and slips off.



Then a bright sound rings out, like a small bell. 'Chirp, chirp-chirp!' It is Crick, **bouncing** on his feet as he sings. Bug goes **racing** to him so fast she all but trips on a leaf. 'That is it! Not wet, not long, not loud, not sad. Just fun!' Crick grins. 'Bug, do not hunt for a song. Just let it out!'



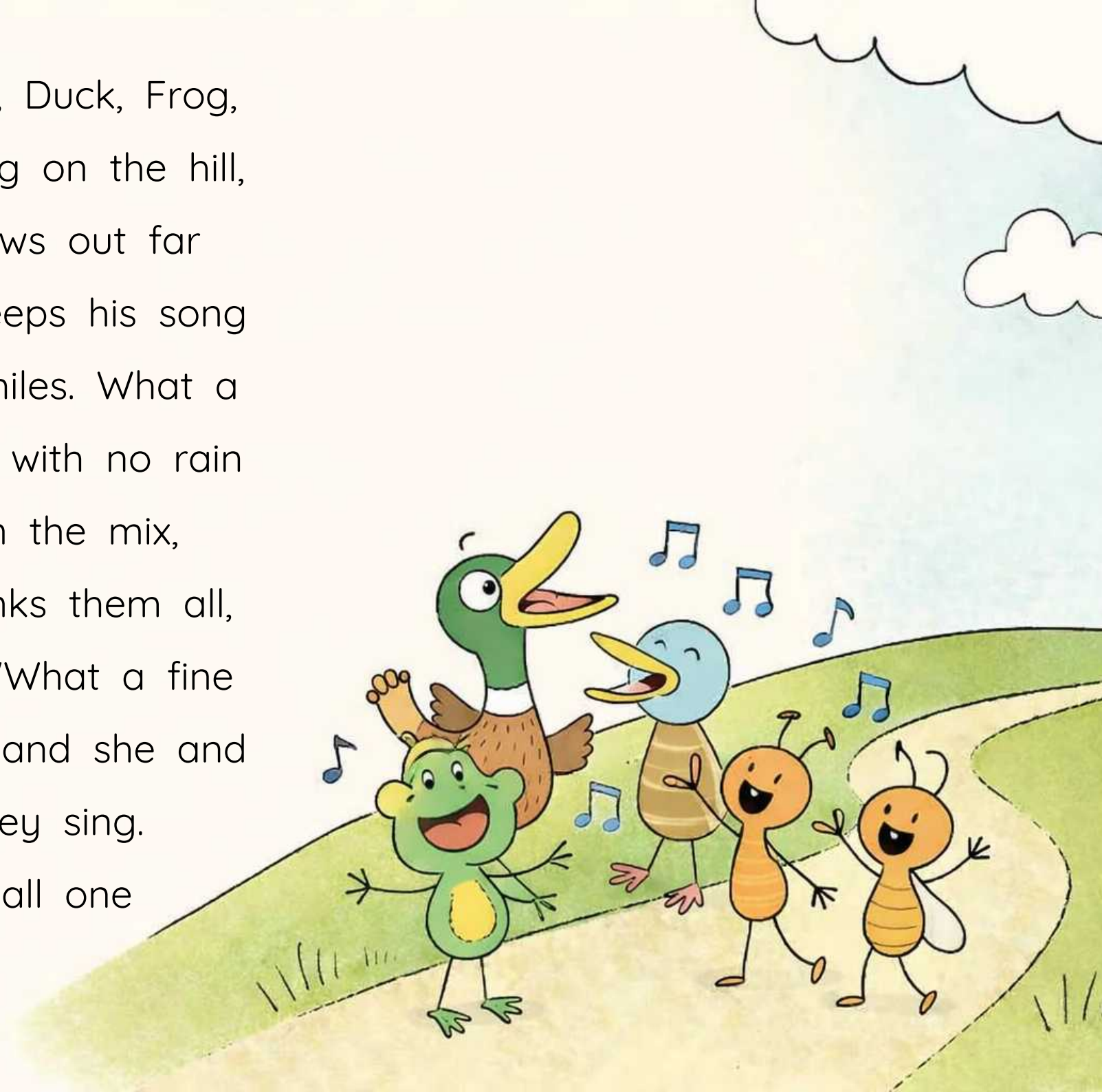


Bug climbs up on a rock. Her legs shake. Her chest goes thud, thud, thud. Her mouth goes wide. 'Chirp!' One bright note rings out past the trees. Bug's eyes go wide. She tries one more time. 'Chirp, chirp, chirp!' It is not long. It is not loud. It is not sad or wet. But it rings like a bell, and it is all hers. 'I can sing!' Bug yells, and she **prances** on her rock.

Bug thinks big. What if they all sing? Bug is so **excited!** She runs to each pal. 'Come sing with me!' What a mess! Duck quacks. Frog grunts. Big Bird is so loud. Sad Bird sings a glum bit. 'Stop!' Bug yells. 'Hush, and take in each pal's song. Then we all sing as one!' They try one more time. Duck goes soft. Frog keeps it short. Big Bird hums low. Bit by bit, the song starts to ring.



Big Bird, Sad Bird, Duck, Frog,
Crick and Bug sing on the hill,
and the sound flows out far
and wide. Frog keeps his song
short. Sad Bird smiles. What a
shock! Duck sings with no rain
at all. And right in the mix,
one small chirp links them all,
like a thin string. 'What a fine
scene!' Bug yells, and she and
Crick **dance** as they sing.
Then they sing it all one
more time.

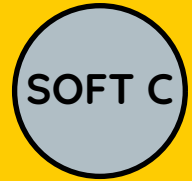




That night, and each night from then on, Bug sings her song.

She sings it to the flowers. She sings it to the rocks. She sings it to an ant, who does not clap, but sits and takes it all in.

Bug lifts her arms high and lets that bright chirp ring out. It is not so long. It is not so loud. But go by her hill on a **peaceful** spring night, and hush. There it is! And then, no one can help but sing and **dance** with her.



Bug Decides to Sing

Bug has a fizzy, buzzy feeling and wants to sing more than anything, but she has never sung a single note in her life. She tries out songs from Duck, Frog, Big Bird and Sad Bird, but none of them feel right. Can Bug find a song that is truly her own? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 2: soft c as in city), this book practices words like 'dance', 'excited', 'racing', 'prances' and 'scene'.

Phonics Focus: <soft> <c>

bounce, bouncing, dance, decides, excited, exciting, face, glances, peaceful, prances, racing, scene, since, winces

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