Too Big?
Think Bigger!

As summer came to a close, the sheep headed down from the hill. They **knew** the way home by heart.

But while they were away, the farmer had put in a new gate. Rose stopped and stared. She was too big to fit through.

The other sheep **knocked** into Rose from behind. They pushed and they shoved, but it was no use.

Rose was stuck in the gate like a **knot** in a rope. She could not squeeze past.

'I **know** what you need!'
said a small sheep,
balancing upside down
on her front legs. 'Yoga!
I **kneel** and stretch
every day, and look how
I fit through the gate.'

Rose looked up at the
yoga sheep and blinked.
Could yoga really help?

'You have to keep at it,' said the yoga sheep. **'Kneel,** stretch, and breathe. If you practise every day, I **know** you will fit past that gate.'

Rose **knelt** down on the mat and tried her best.

The sun blazed down, hot and bright, but Rose **knelt** on her mat and got to work. She bent and reached, over and over.

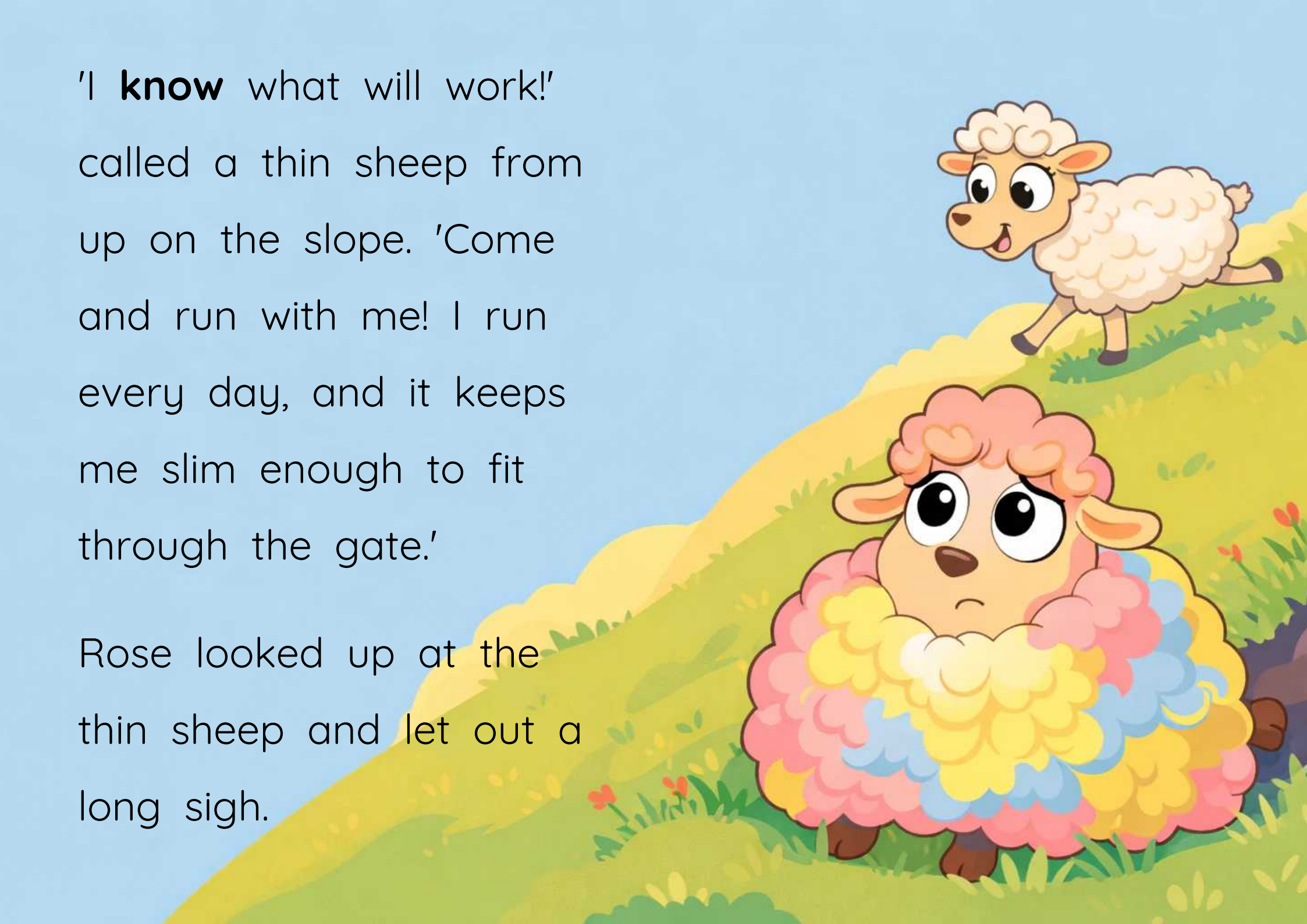
She stretched her **knees** and pointed her toes, again and again.

It had been a whole week. Rose was hot and tired, her **knees** aching from all the stretching.

But she was no smaller. She **knew** it deep down. She still could not fit past the gate.

'I **know** what will work!' called a thin sheep from up on the slope. 'Come and run with me! I run every day, and it keeps me slim enough to fit through the gate.'

Rose looked up at the thin sheep and let out a long sigh.

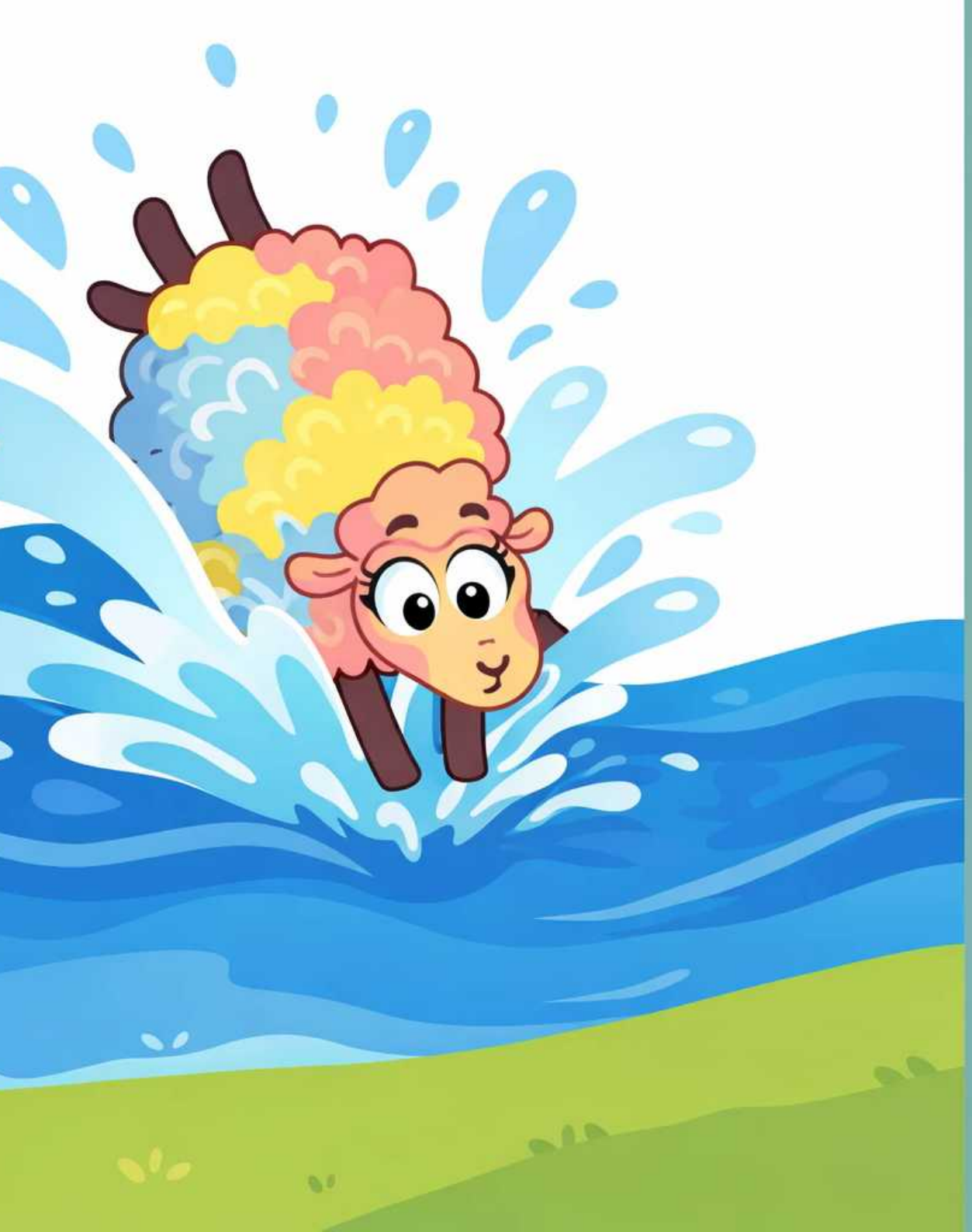


So Rose ran. She ran every day for a week, even in the blazing heat. Up the hill, around the field, until her **knees knocked** together.

But after a whole week of running, Rose was no smaller. She still could not fit past the gate.

When she **knelt** by the water for a drink, Rose met another sheep friend. The friend was floating on her back, kicking along with little flippers.

'Come and swim!' said her friend. 'I **know** that if you swim each day, you will get smaller, and you will fit through the gate.'



Rose did not need to be told twice. She backed up, put her head down, and jumped in headfirst with a mighty splash. If swimming was the **knack** to getting through that gate, she would give it everything she had.

Rose swam all week. It was nice to get out of the heat that hung around at the end of summer. A little bird sat on her **knee** as they floated in the golden light.

But Rose **knew** the truth. She was not any smaller, and she still could not fit past the gate.

Then Rose looked up the hill at the gate and her eyes went wide.

'I **know** how to get past that gate!' she said. 'I do not need to get smaller. I just need the right tools.'

Rose gathered everything she needed: a saw, a **knife,** scissors, a hammer, a wood plane, rope, and a handful of nails. A red pouch sat on top of the pile.

She had **knots** to tie, **knobs** to fix, and a gate to rebuild.

Rose **knotted** the rope and **knocked** in the nails until a brand new gate stood tall. At last, she lay curled up on a soft bed of hay, back with her friends where she belonged.

Her **knees** were tired and her **knuckles** were sore, but she had done it. She was home.

'You got in at last!' said the sheep, crowding close with wide eyes. 'We **know** yoga did not work. Running did not work. Swimming did not work! What did you do?'

They **knocked** into each other, all trying to get a better look.

'I am fit and I am well,' said Rose, sitting tall in her pile of hay. 'But I am still big. So I used what I **know** and my tools, and I made the gate fit me!'

The sheep all nodded. Rose had always **known** the answer was not to get smaller. It was to think bigger.

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Too Big? Think Bigger!

Rose the sheep is finally heading home after a long summer on the hill - but wait, what's this? A brand-new gate, and it's far too small for a big, woolly sheep! Can yoga shrink her down? Will running do the trick? What about swimming? After three weeks of trying, Rose has one last, brilliant idea. This decodable reader practises the 'kn' sound in words like 'knew,' 'kneel,' 'knots,' and 'knuckles.'

Reading Skills: <kn>

knack, knee, kneel, knees, knelt, knew, knife, knobs, knocked, knot, knots, knotted, know, known, knuckles

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