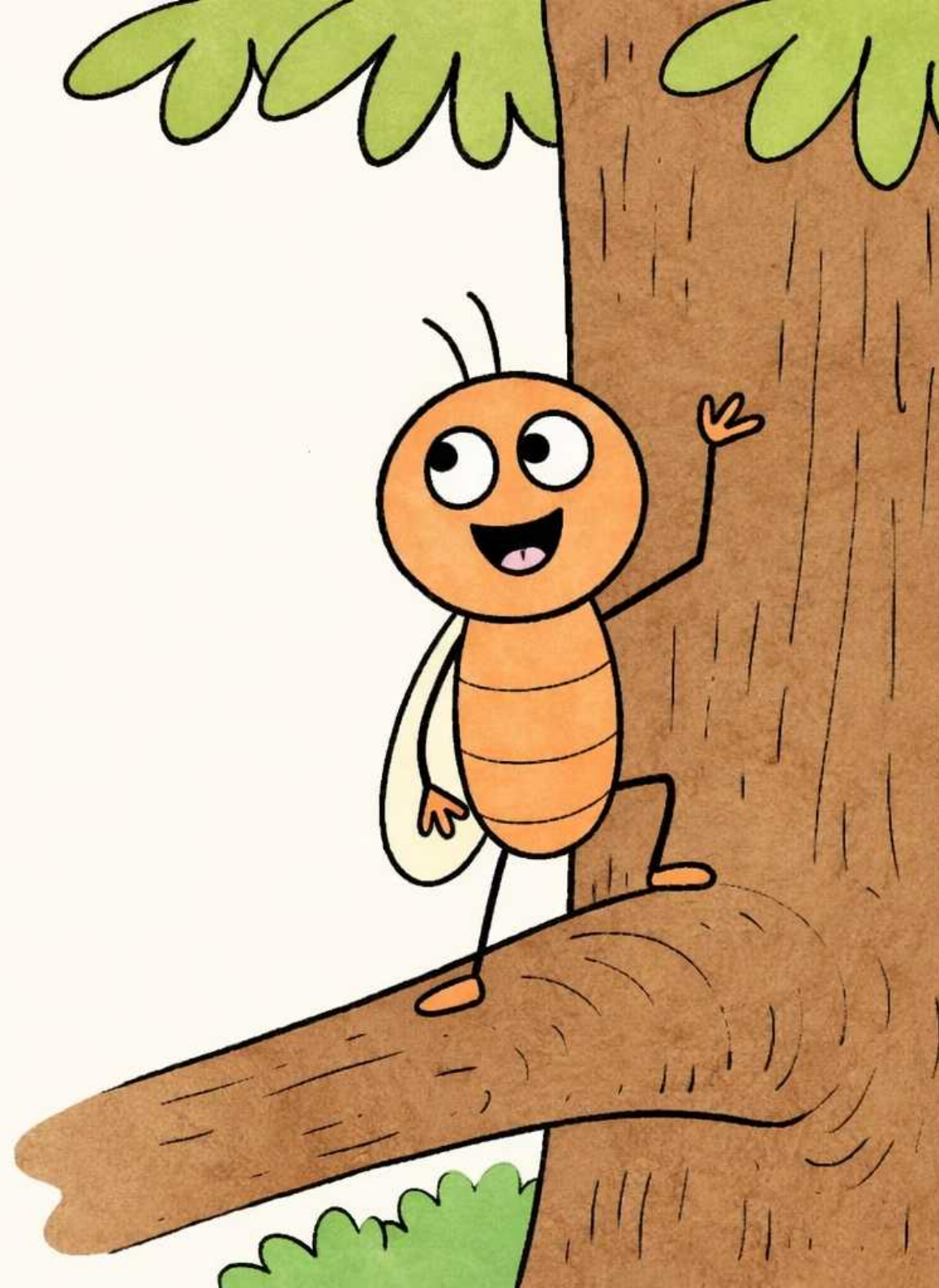


Hum It, Bug!



Bug gripped her branch
in the spring sun. A fizzy,
buzzy feeling made her
want to sing. 'I want to
sing!' she told the tree.
No bird, no bug, was
there to see. She took a
deep breath, ready and
slow, but not a single
note began to grow.





Bug saw Duck sing up to the sky. His beak hung open, his head held high. 'Teach me to sing!' Bug gave a call. 'A song needs rain,' said Duck. 'That is all!' Bug was already soaked. 'I do not want a wet song. I want a fun song, the best one yet!'

Frog sat at the pond and puffed up his chest. Since **breakfast** he had sung the same old song. 'Can you teach me a short one?' Bug asked from the bank. Frog blinked. 'A short one? My song has forty-seven verses, and I am only on verse twelve!' Bug backed away slow.



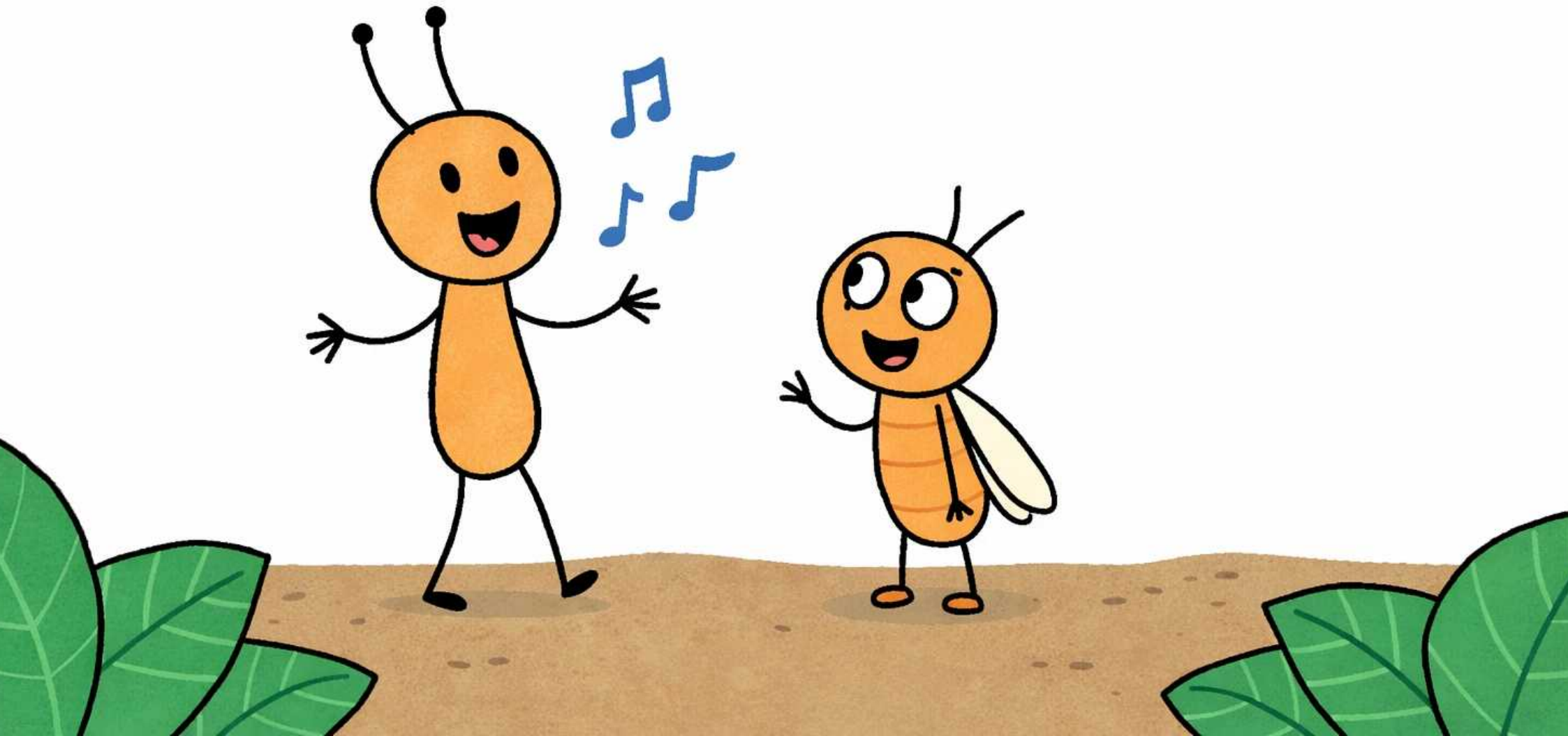


Big Bird threw back her head and began to sing. The branch shook hard with one big, wild ring. Bug gave a clap and a happy grin. 'Teach me that!' Bug said. She took a deep breath, ready to begin, but all that came was a tiny squeak, thin and small. Big Bird gave Bug a soft pat. 'Maybe try a smaller song.'

Sad Bird drooped on the branch, singing low and slow. 'Ooh, the worms are gone, the sky is gray, my feathers hurt every single day...' Bug wiped her eyes. 'What if we made it a happy song instead? With a bit of swing?' Sad Bird stared. 'Why would you sing a happy song? Sad is pretty.' 'Not that pretty,' Bug muttered, and ran.



Then a bright note rang, and Bug ran to it. 'Chirp chirp–chirp chirp!' Cricket sang. 'Not too wet, not too slow, not too sad!' said Bug. 'Just fun! Can you teach me?' 'Want to know the secret?' asked Cricket. Bug bent in close. 'You do not find your song,' said Cricket. 'You open up and sing it strong.'



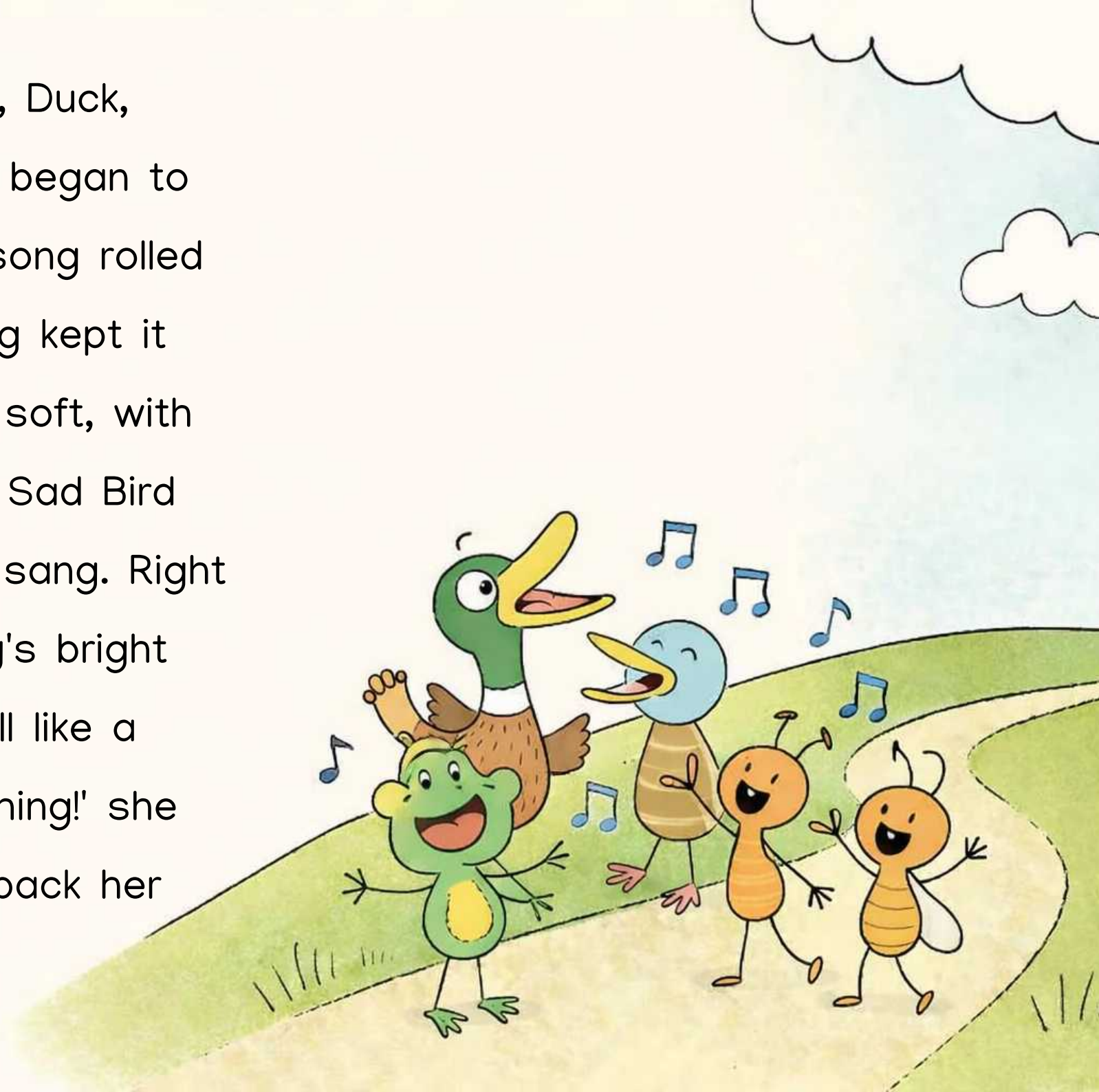


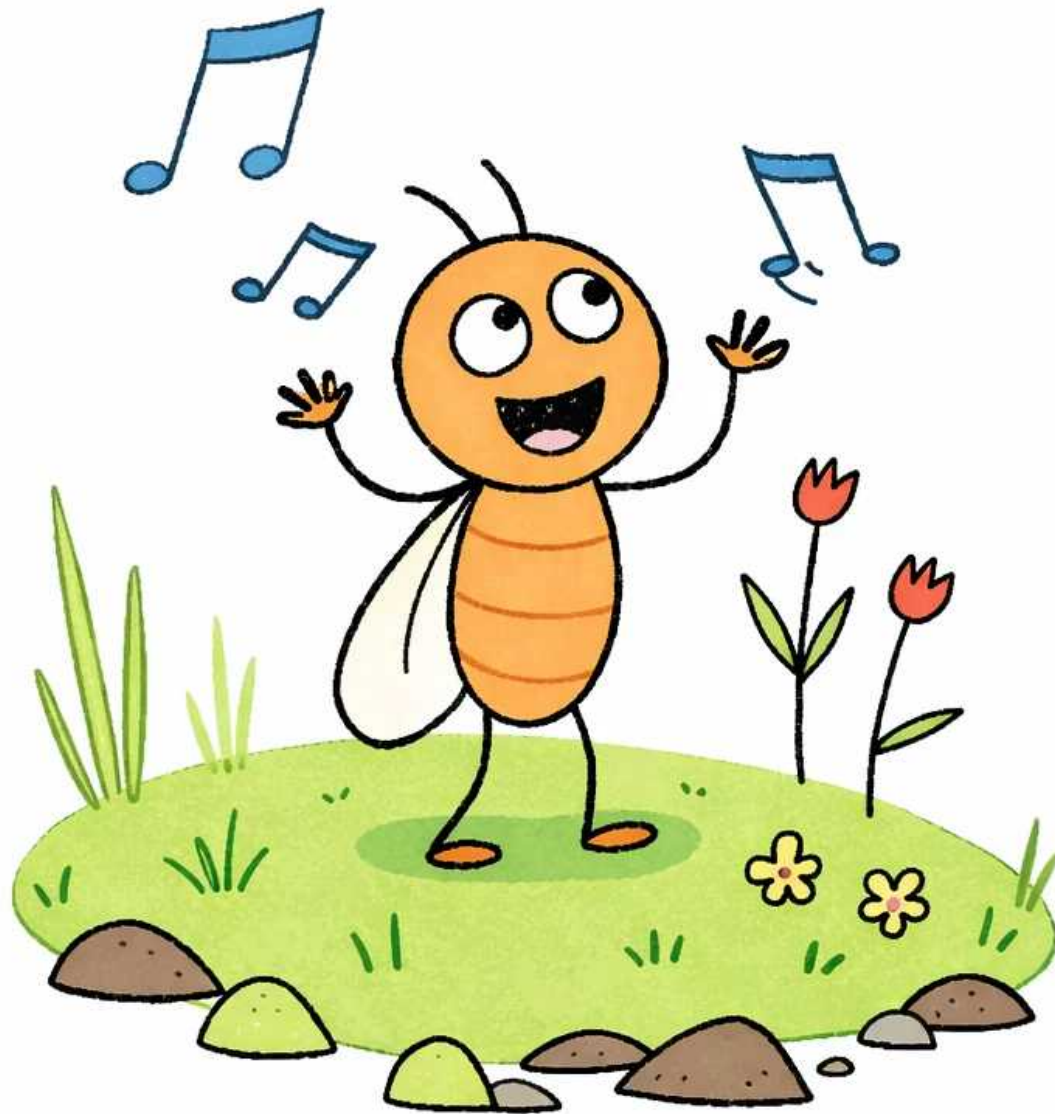
Bug stood on a rock. Her legs wobbled. She took a **breath** and sang at last. 'Chirp!' One bright note rang and **spread** over the woods. It **was** not long or big. It **was** not sad or wet. But it rang like a bell, and it **was** all hers. 'I can sing!' Bug yelled, and flung one tiny fist up high.

Bug had a wild plan. She ran back to every friend. 'Come sing with me!' she said. At first it **was** a mess. Duck quacked. Frog croaked on and on. Big Bird sang over them all. Sad Bird sang of gray skies and rain. Bug **was sweating** as she waved her arms. 'Stop! Sing as a team, not as solo acts!' One by one, they tried again. Duck went soft. Frog kept it short. Big Bird sang low. Slowly, the song began to ring.



Big Bird, Sad Bird, Duck,
Frog, and Cricket began to
sing. The happy song rolled
over the hills. Frog kept it
short. Duck sang soft, with
not one raindrop. Sad Bird
had a grin as he sang. Right
in the middle, Bug's bright
chirp held them all like a
thread. 'What a thing!' she
sang, and threw back her
head.





That night, and every night after, Bug sang her bright song. She sang to the blooms, the rocks, and the worms. She flung both arms wide, tipped her head back, and let that bright chirp ring and spread. Walk past her hill in spring, and slow your step, and you too will sing.



Hum It, Bug!

Bug feels a fizzy, buzzy urge to sing, but there's just one problem: she has never sung a single note in her life. She asks Duck, Frog, and Big Bird to teach her, but their songs are too wet, too long, or too loud. Could a tiny cricket's bright chirp finally be the song that's just right for her? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 94: ea /ě/, a /ǒ/), this book practices words like 'ready', 'instead', 'breakfast', 'sweating', and 'thread'.

Phonics Focus: ea /ě/, a /ǒ/

already, breakfast, breath, feathers, head, instead, ready, spread, sweating, thread, want, was, what

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