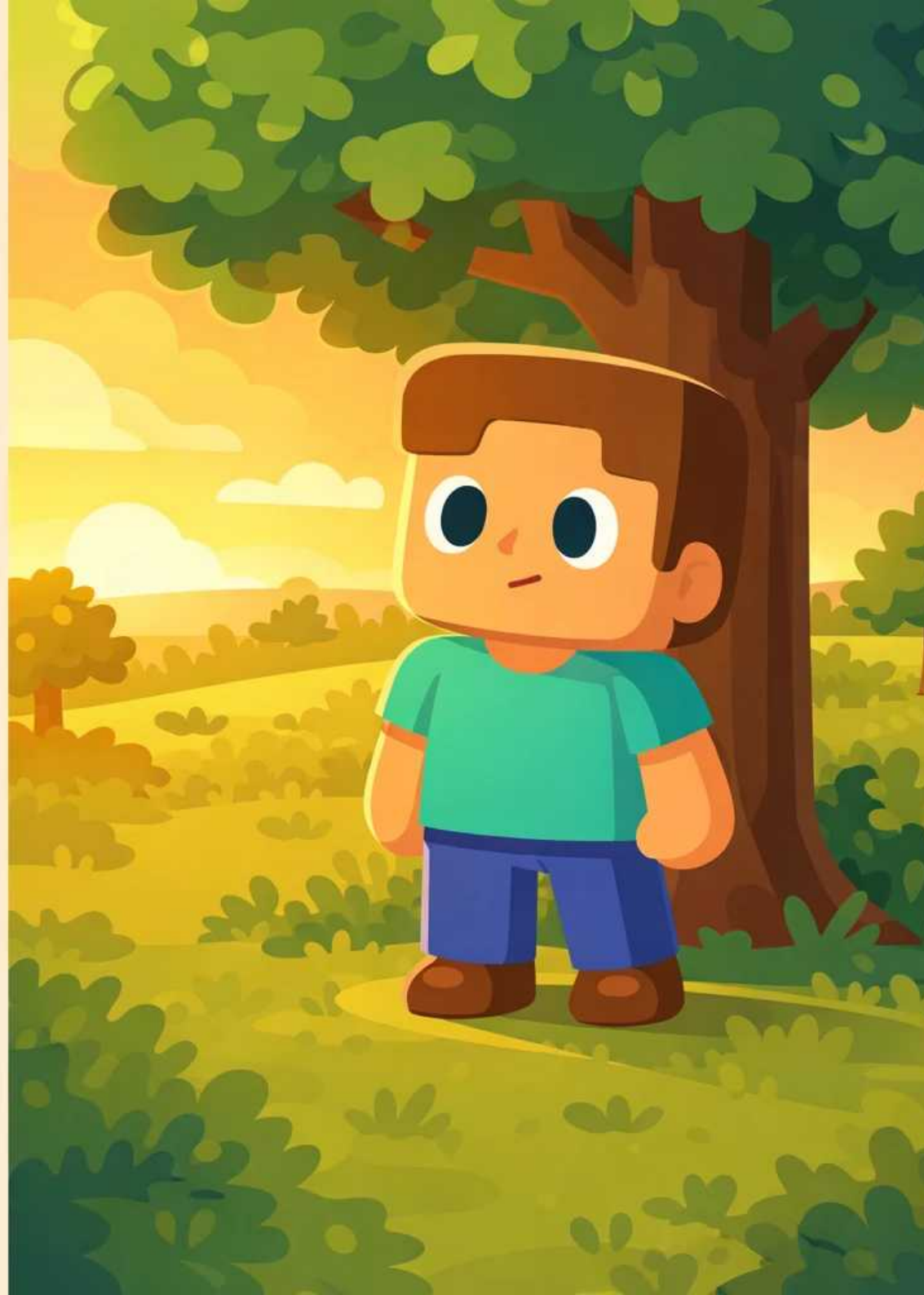
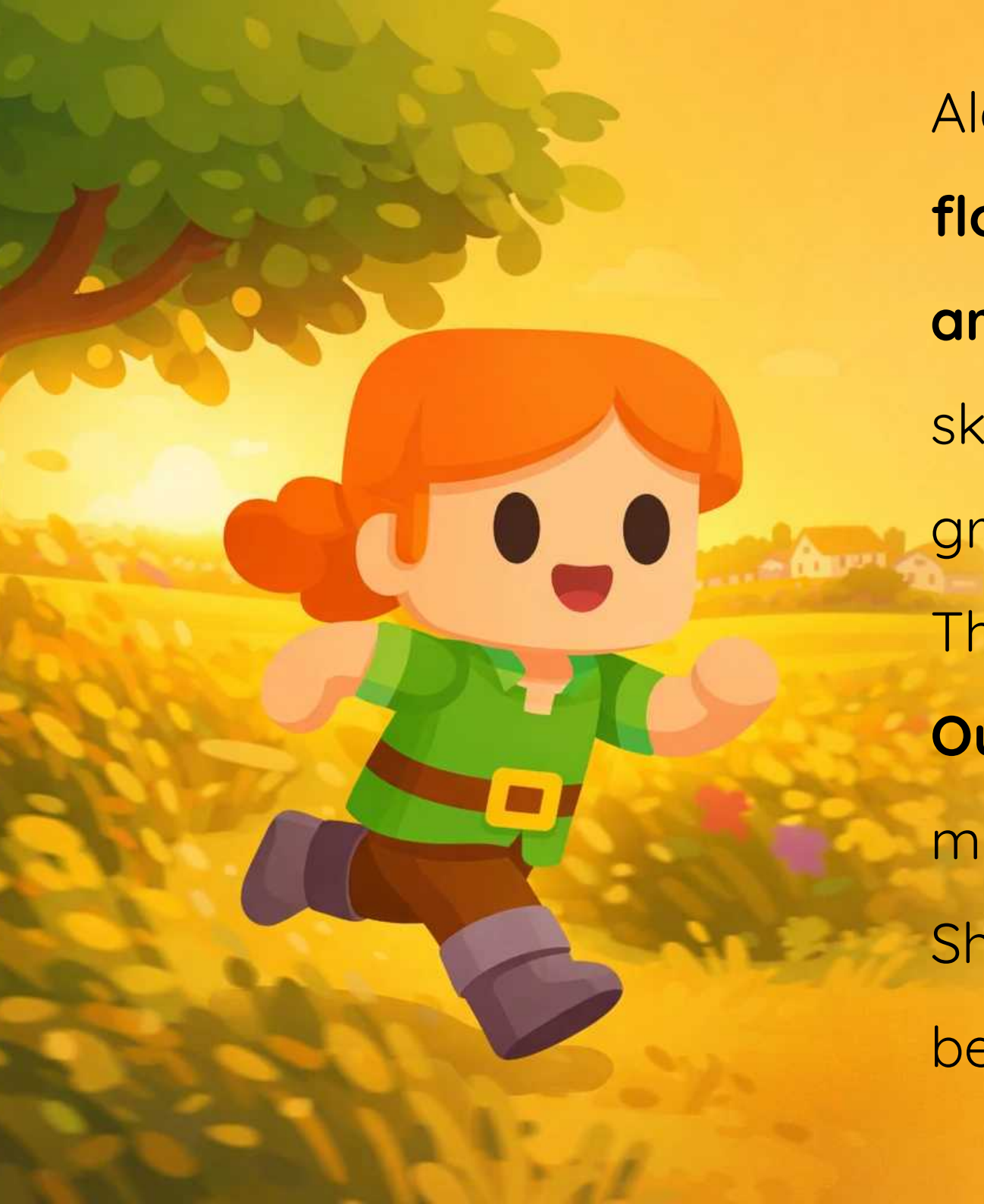


Steve Is On The Prowl



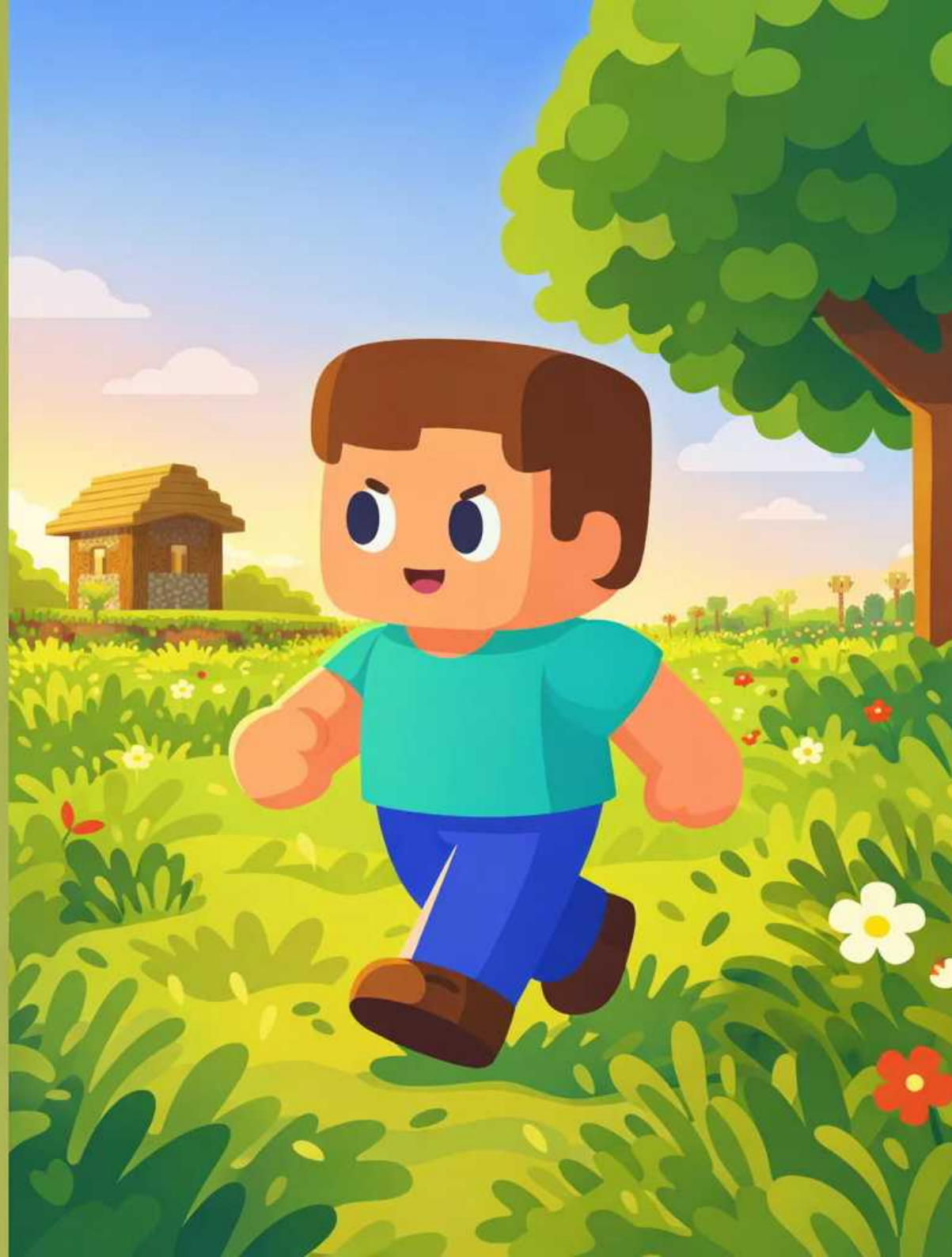
Steve **counts** and
counts. Then he **shouts**
aloud, 'Look **out**, Alex!
Here I come!' Steve
stands tall under the
tree and scans the land
like a very grim **scout**.
Alex is **out** there. And
Steve plans to hunt
Alex **down** fast.





Alex zooms past the **flowers**, swift as an **arrow**. Her feet just skip on the grass. She grins a big, wide grin. The **town** is far off. **Out** here there are so many spots to hide. She just must find the best one.

Steve marches in the tall grass with big, grand steps. Left. Right. Left. Right. He checks all **around** the old oak tree. He checks by the wood **house**. He checks under a rock far too wee to hide Alex. 'Alex can not hide all day,' he says with a huff. 'I am the best at this game.'



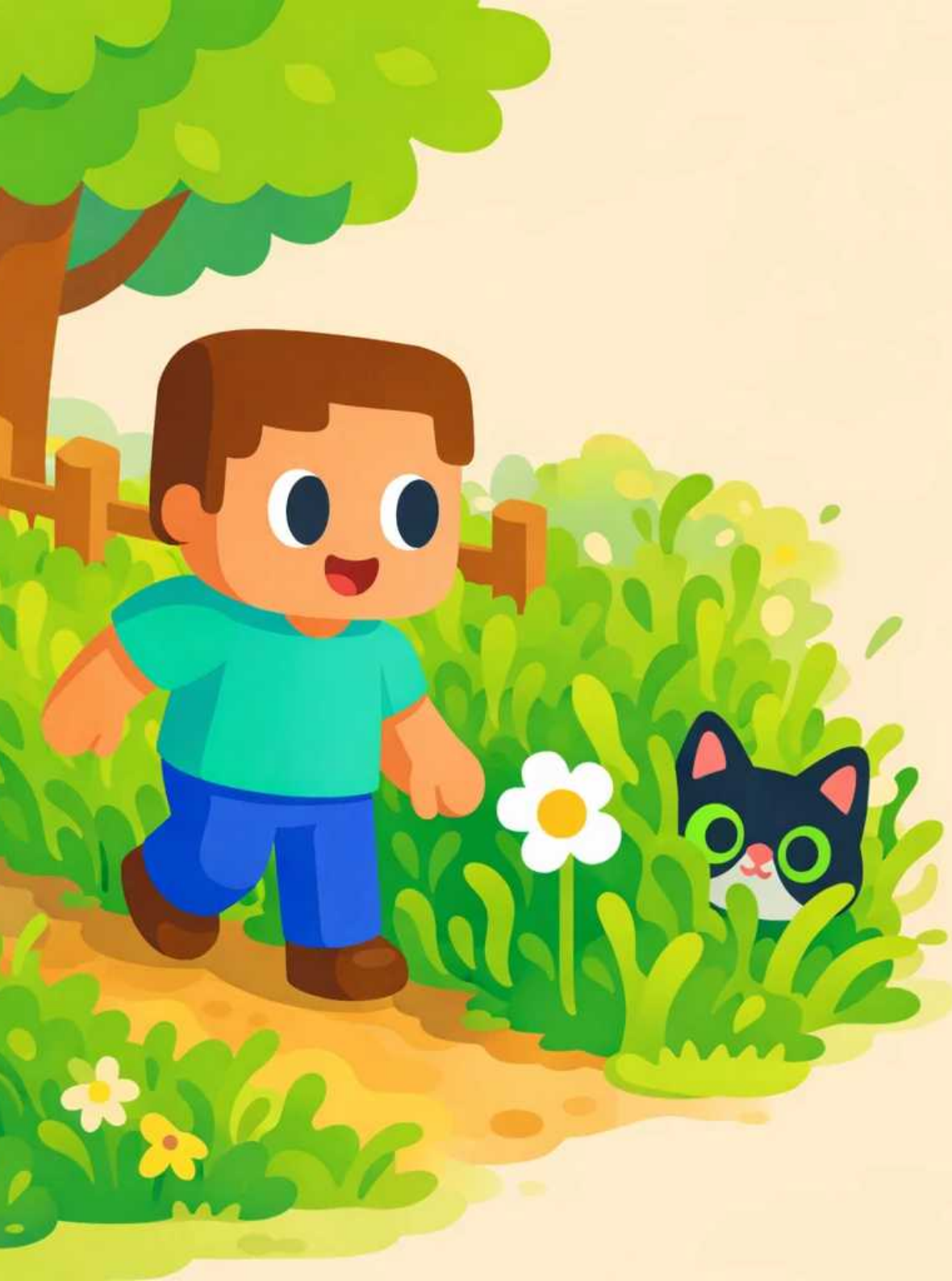


Snap! A twig cracks in the grass. It **sounds** so **loud!** Steve stands very still. A small, sly thing is on the **prowl** right by Steve's feet.

'A-ha!' Steve **shouts**. He crouches **down** and pounces. 'Tag! I **found...**'

It is a dog! A glad,
bouncy dog with a tail
that wags and wags.
Steve groans. 'A dog!
Cute, but not Alex.'
The Dog yips, licks
Steve's hand, and trots
off to sniff at an old
log. What a big help
that is.



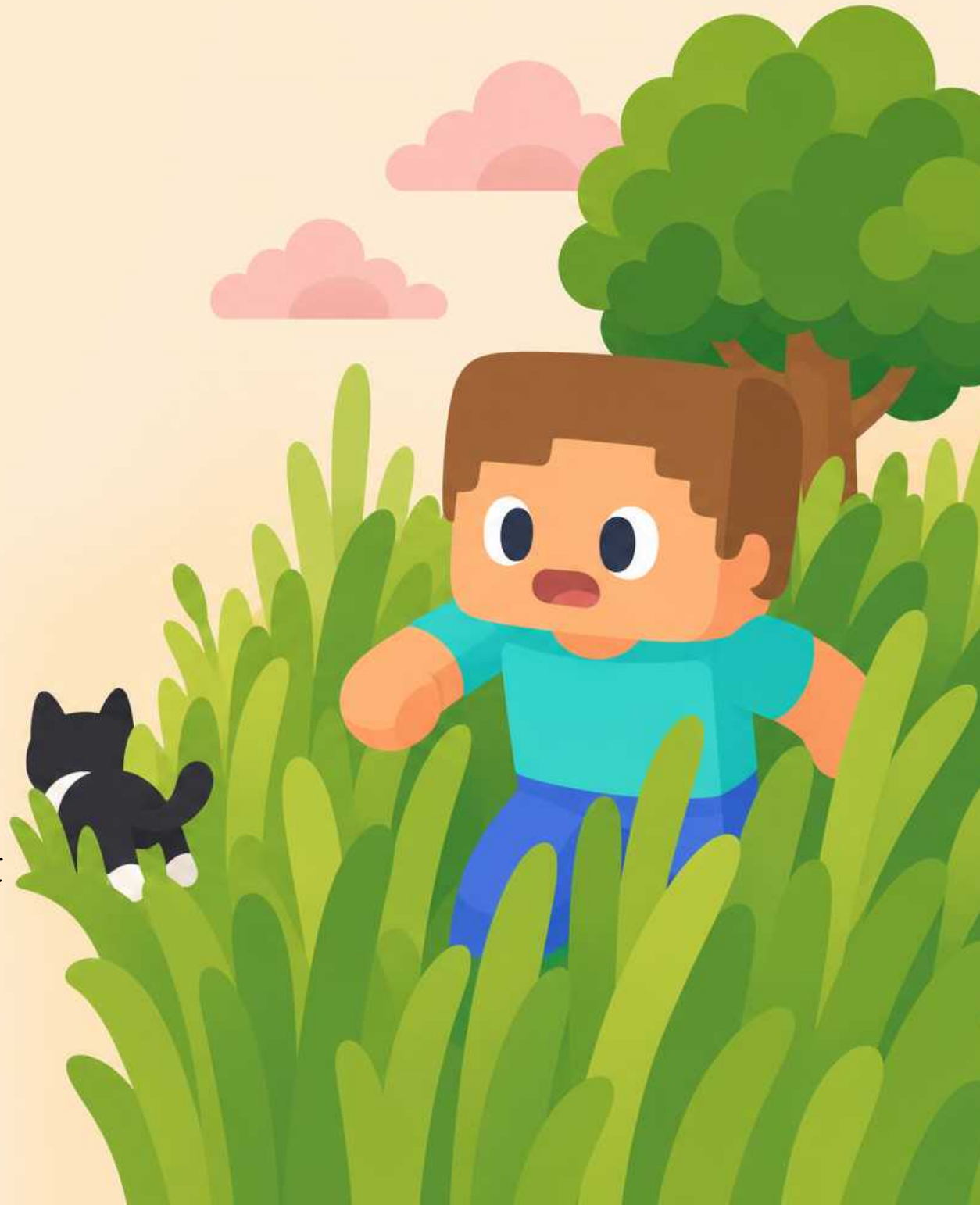


Steve spots a thing in the tall grass under a huge tree. It peeks **out** at Steve. It blinks. So sly! Hiding **down low** in the grass! 'That must be Alex!' Steve whispers. He drops to a **crouch**. He creeps in, inch by inch...

It is a cat. A grumpy black and white cat. Brat Cat gives Steve one long, **grouchy scowl** and slinks off in the grass.

'Oh, come on!' Steve **shouts**, and he **throws** his hands up.

Pink **clouds** drift in the quiet sky. The **clouds** do not want to help him one bit.





Then Steve finds a hole. A big, deep, dark hole in the **ground**. A little white chicken stands at the rim and peers **down** into the dark. It does not fret at all. Steve peers **down** too. 'Alex?' he calls **aloud**. 'Is that Alex **down** there?' The chicken blinks at him. The chicken is not Alex.

But a hen is stuck **down** there! She sits on a stone slab inside the shaft and blinks up at Steve as if this is all just fine. Steve sighs. He makes a ramp with dirt and planks, and the hen trots up and **out**. 'One hen safe,' Steve huffs. 'And still no Alex.'





Steve sits **down** in the **flowers**. Red ones. **Yellow** ones. White ones. Blooms as far as he can see, and Steve just sulks. 'That is it. Alex wins. I bet she is back home right **now** with a big, big grin.' The best seeker in **town** has **found** a dog, a cat, a chicken, and a hole. But no Alex.

Then Steve sees it. One leg! Poking **out** by the big tree. Right there, just steps off, tucked **down** in the **flowers**. Steve gasps. Steve's **mouth** gapes wide. Alex is right here! Right here all this time! **Wow!**





Steve creeps up on quiet feet. One step. Two steps. Alex has not spotted Steve yet. Then, quick as a cat (a cute cat, not a grumpy one), Steve reaches **out** and... 'Tag!' Steve taps Alex before she can run. Alex turns **round** with a gasp and a grin. '**Wow!**' she yells. 'I am it **now!**' 'Yes!' Steve grins. 'And look **out!** There is a hole **out** there!'



Steve Is On The Prowl

Steve is the greatest hide-and-seek seeker who ever lived, and he's about to prove it. But as he creeps through the tall grass hunting for Alex, everything he finds is the wrong kind of hider. Will he ever spot the one clue that's been sitting right in front of him? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 9: /ou/ mixed), this book practices words like 'crouch', 'ground', 'shouts', 'prowl', 'aloud'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

aloud, around, arrow, bouncy, clouds, counts, crouch, down, flowers, found, grouchy, ground, house, loud, low, mouth, now, out, pounce, prowl, round, scout, scowl, shouts, sounds, throws, town, wow, yellow

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