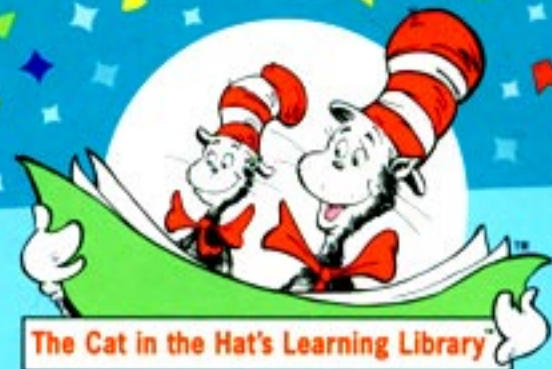




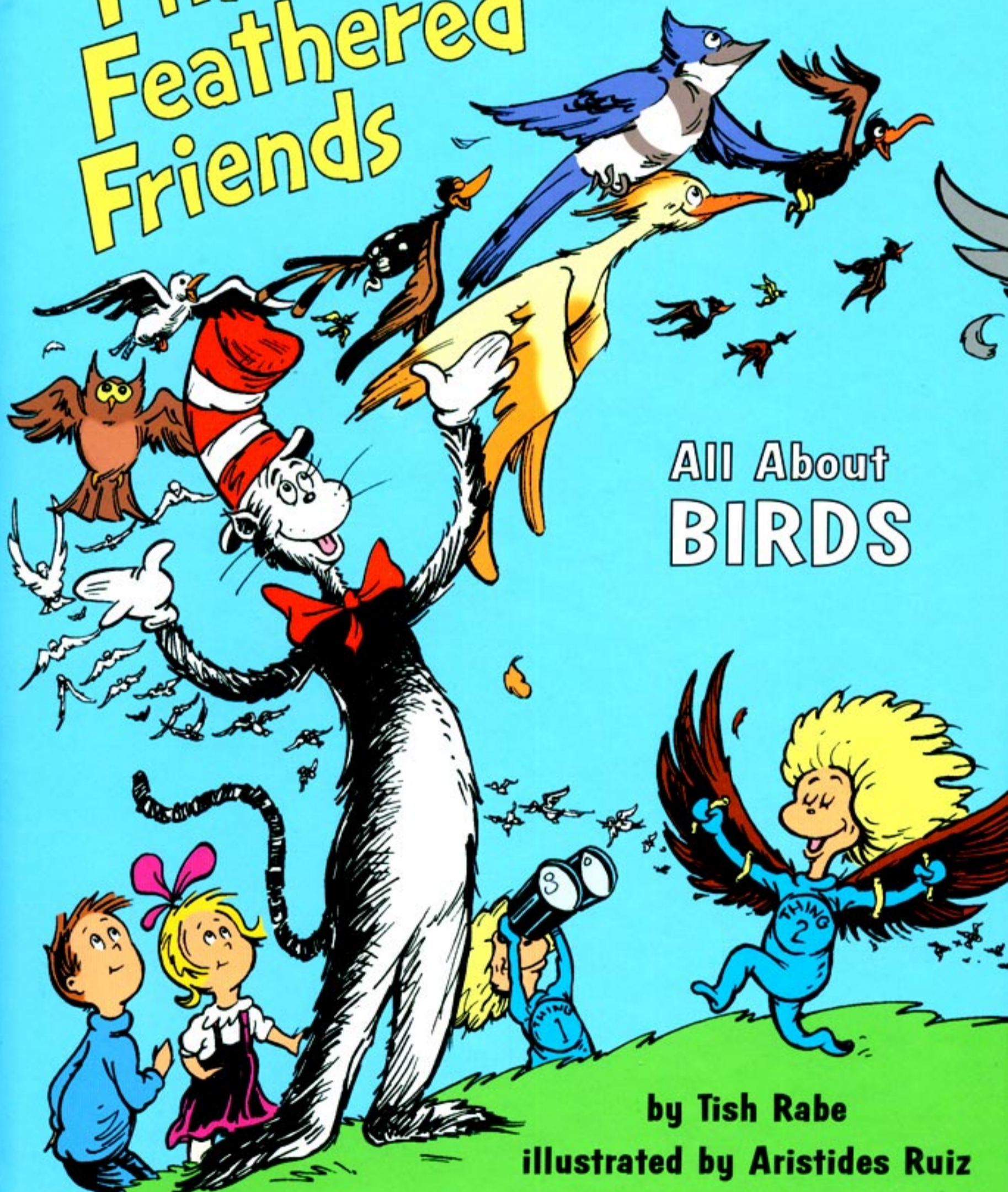
THE **CAT** IN THE **HAT**  
Knows a Lot About That!



The Cat in the Hat's Learning Library

# Fine Feathered Friends

All About  
**BIRDS**



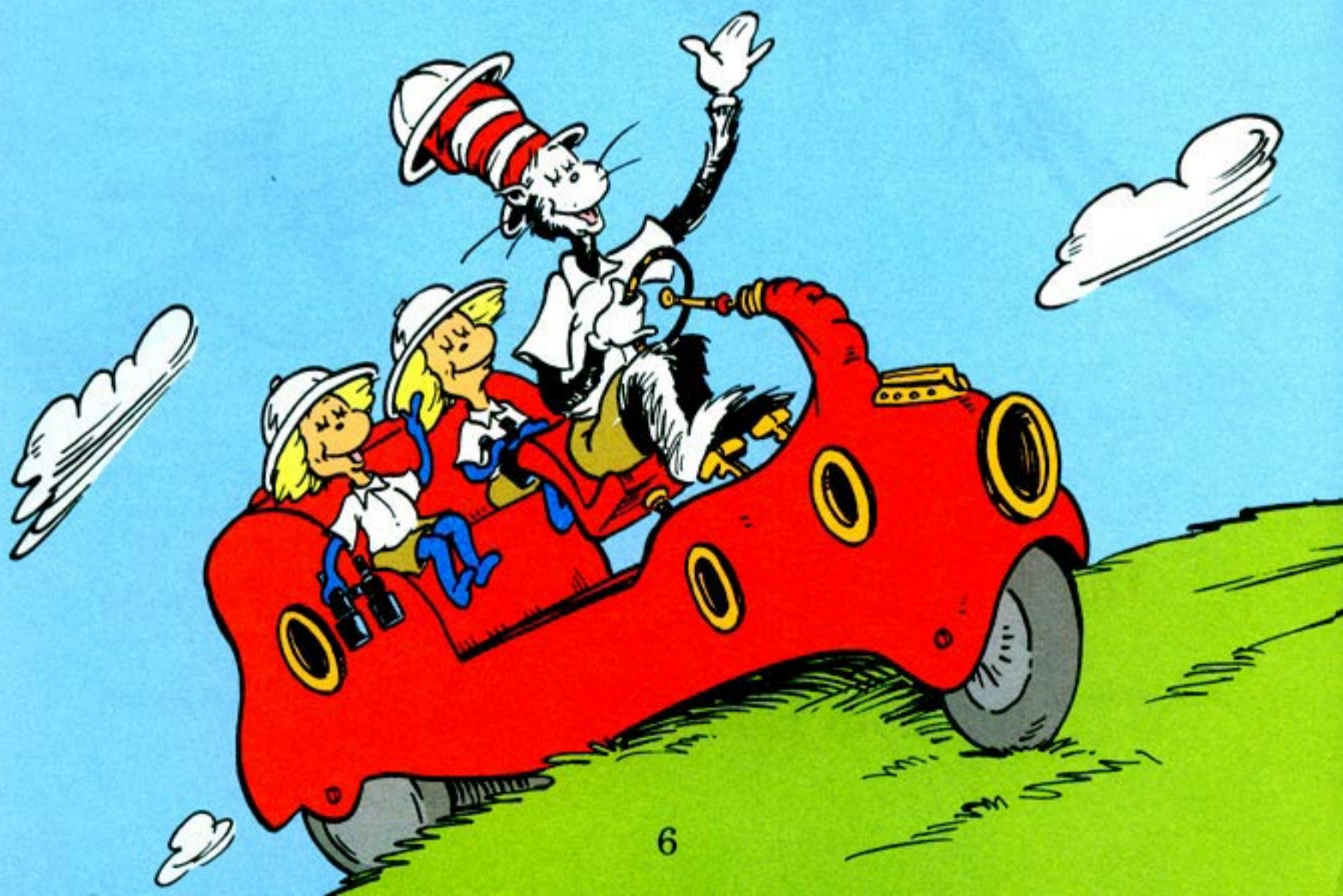
by Tish Rabe

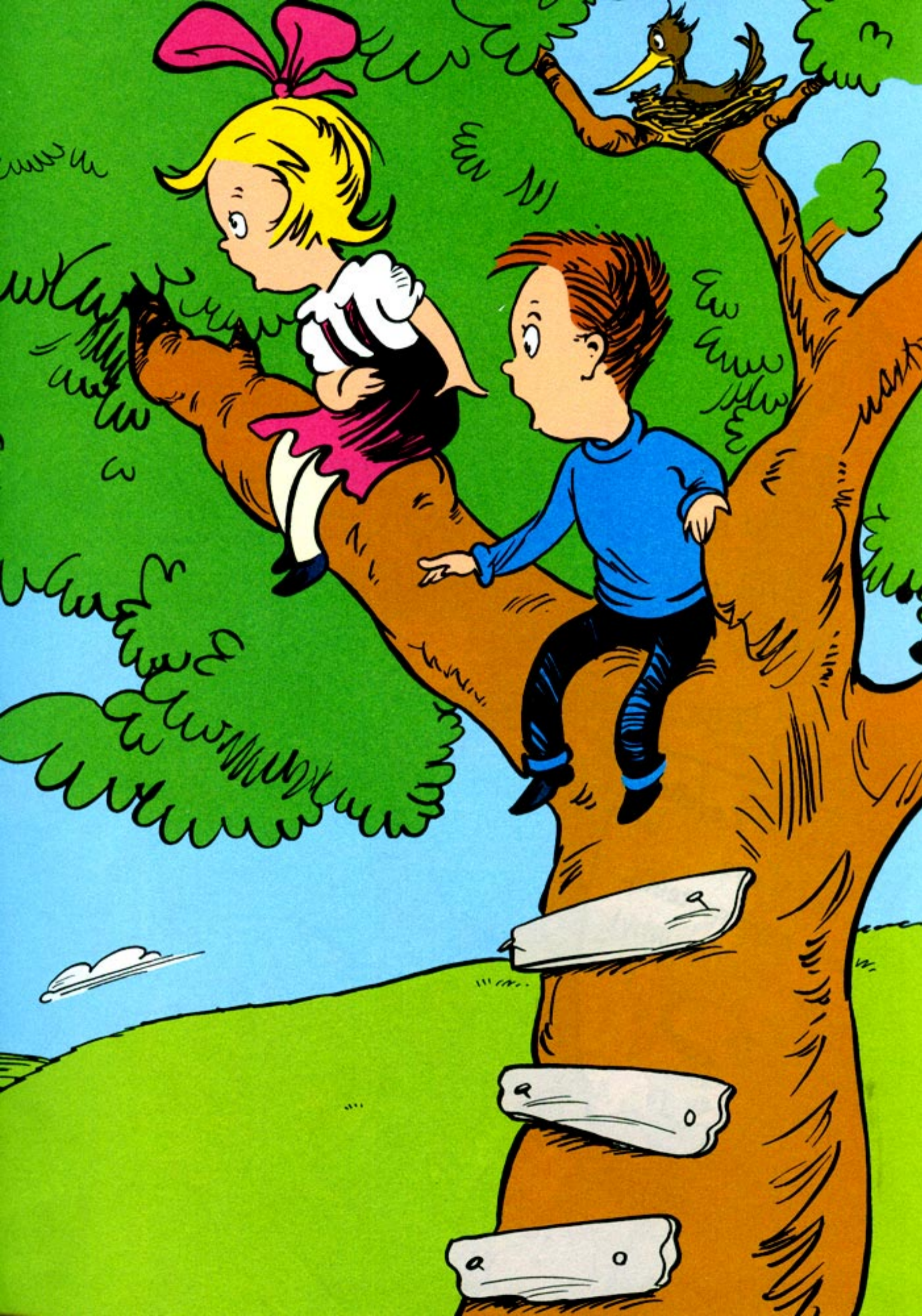
illustrated by Aristides Ruiz

I'm the Cat in the Hat,  
here to say a few words  
about all of your fine feathered friends  
known as...

...birds!

There are millions of birds.  
I will show some to you.  
Your mother  
will not mind at all if I do.





Now, the birds we will meet  
are alike in some things:

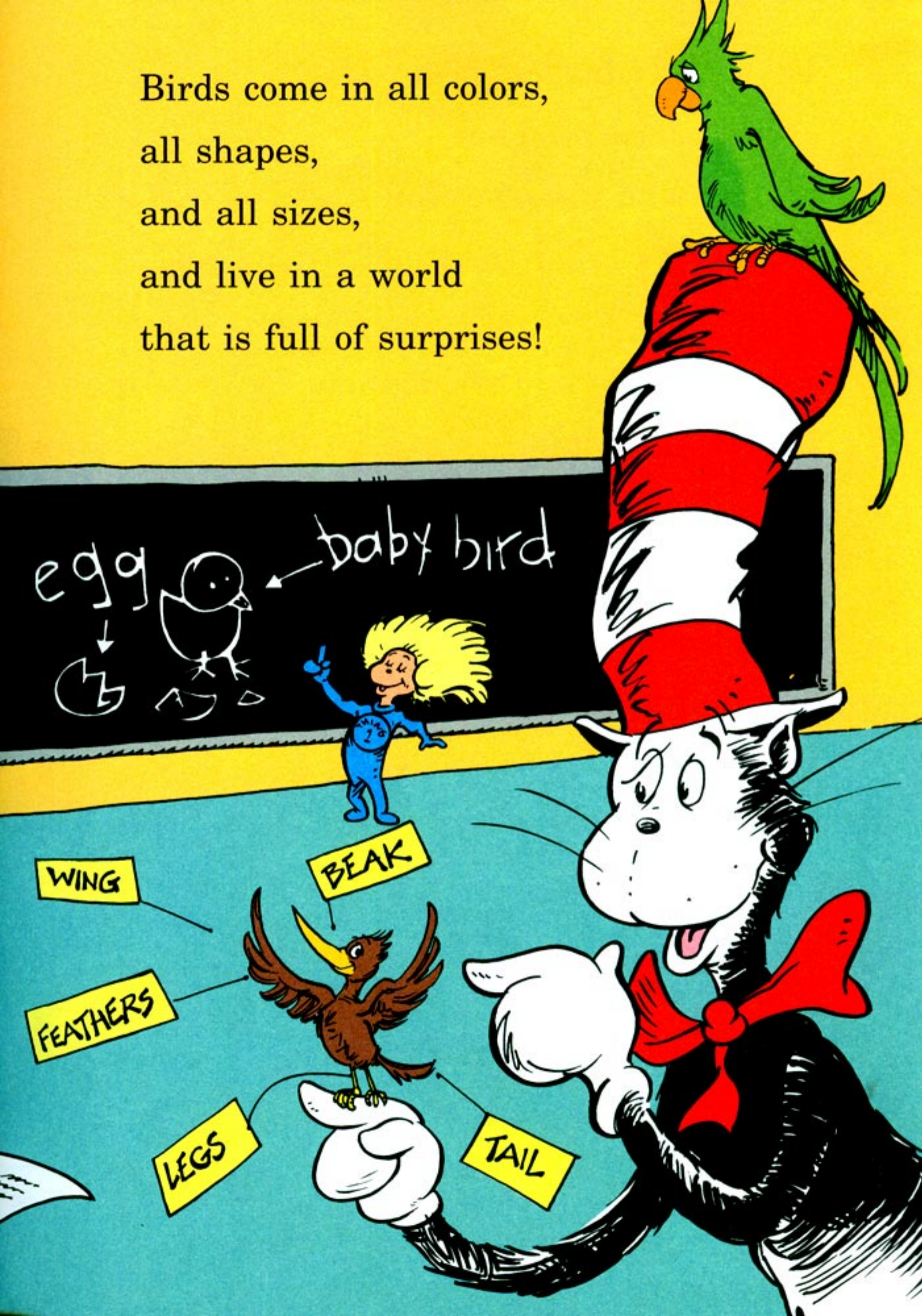
They each have a beak  
and a tail  
and two wings.

They are covered in feathers  
and stand on two legs.

And when they have babies,  
they hatch out  
of eggs.



Birds come in all colors,  
all shapes,  
and all sizes,  
and live in a world  
that is full of surprises!

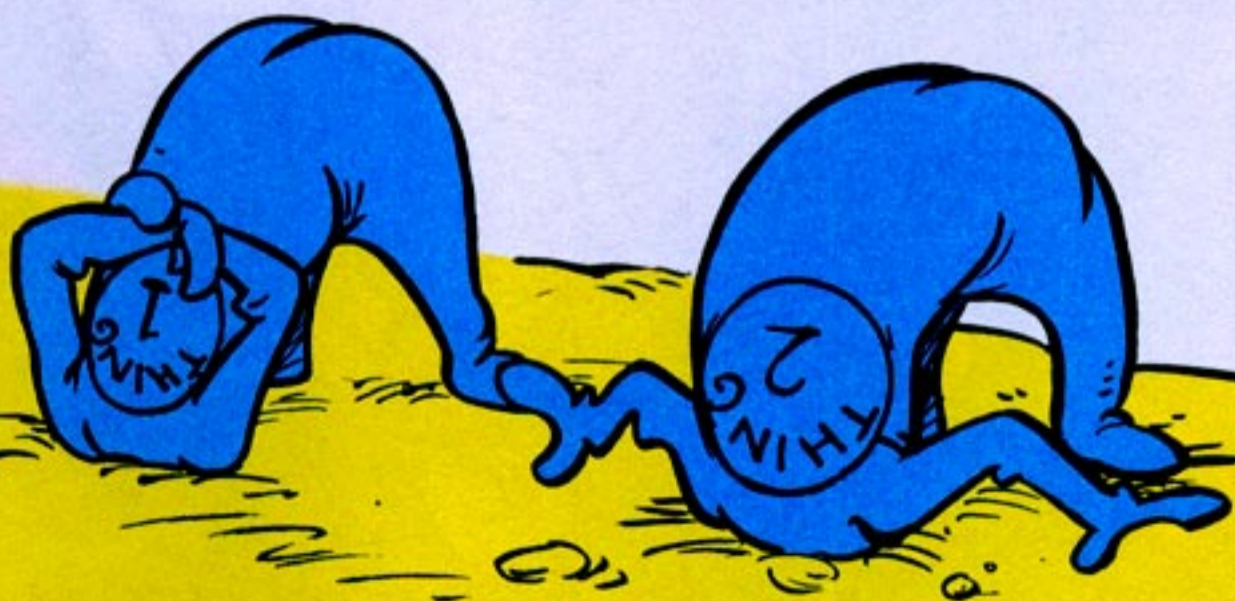


The world's biggest bird  
is the ostrich, you see.  
It can stand nine feet tall.  
Why, that's taller than me!

There's a tale told about them  
I don't understand.

Some say that these birds  
hide their heads in the sand.  
But they couldn't and wouldn't—  
it's simply not true!

It's a thing that no ostrich  
I know of would do!

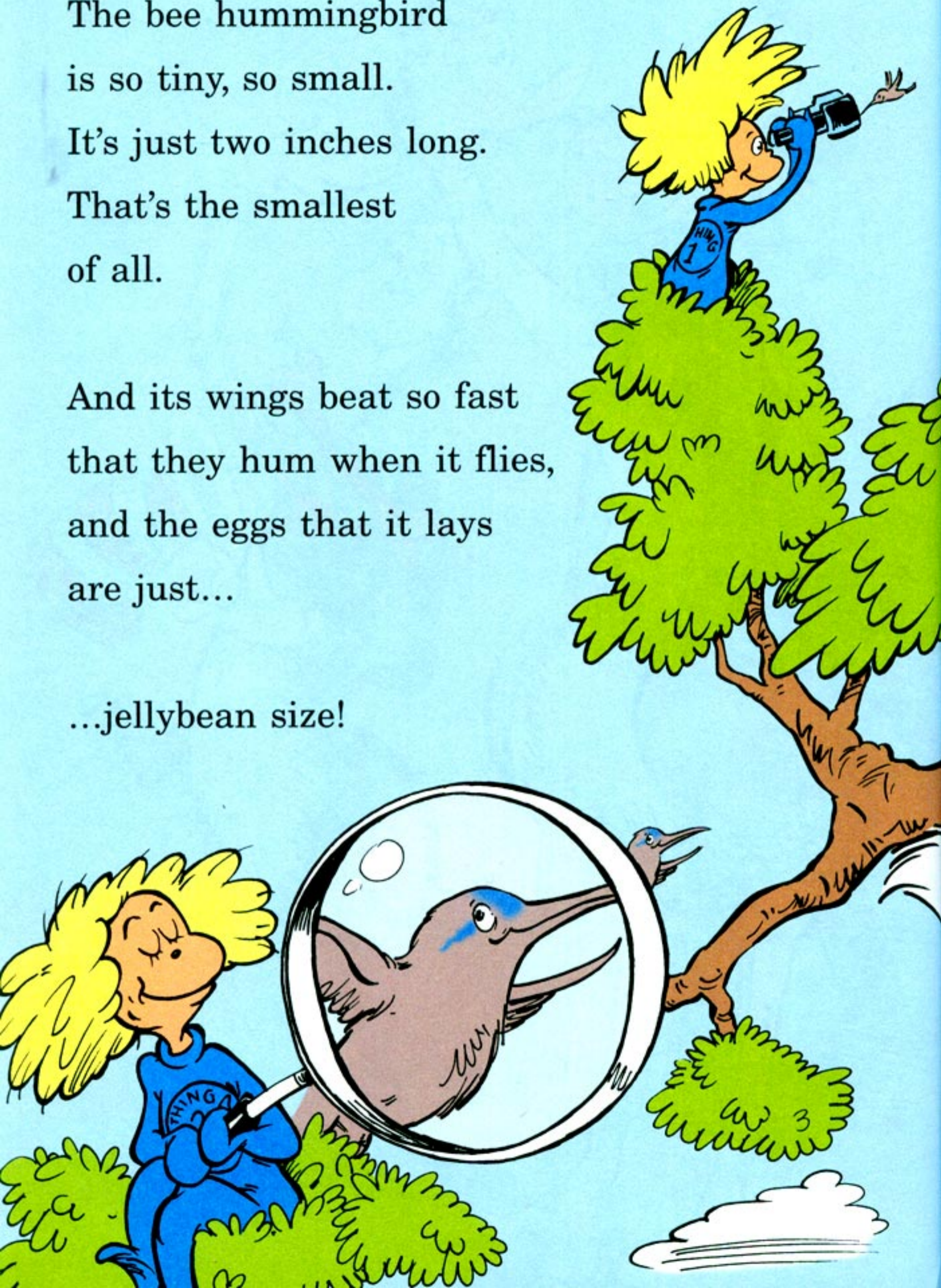




The bee hummingbird  
is so tiny, so small.  
It's just two inches long.  
That's the smallest  
of all.

And its wings beat so fast  
that they hum when it flies,  
and the eggs that it lays  
are just...

...jellybean size!



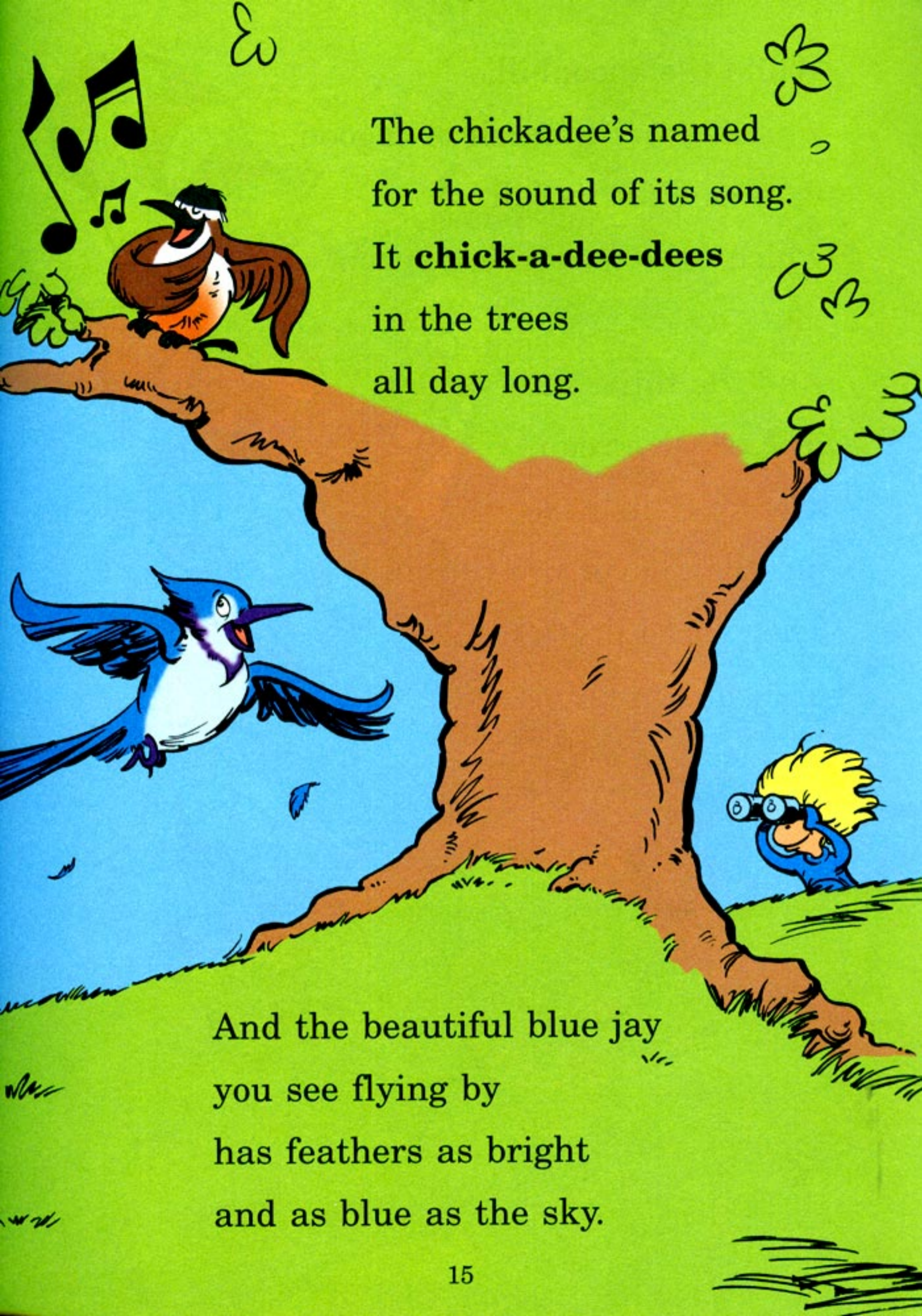




A bird gets its name  
from the simplest things:  
what it does, how it looks,  
or the song that it sings.

Like the flycatcher's name  
comes as no big surprise.  
Because when it's hungry,  
it likes to catch flies!





The chickadee's named  
for the sound of its song.

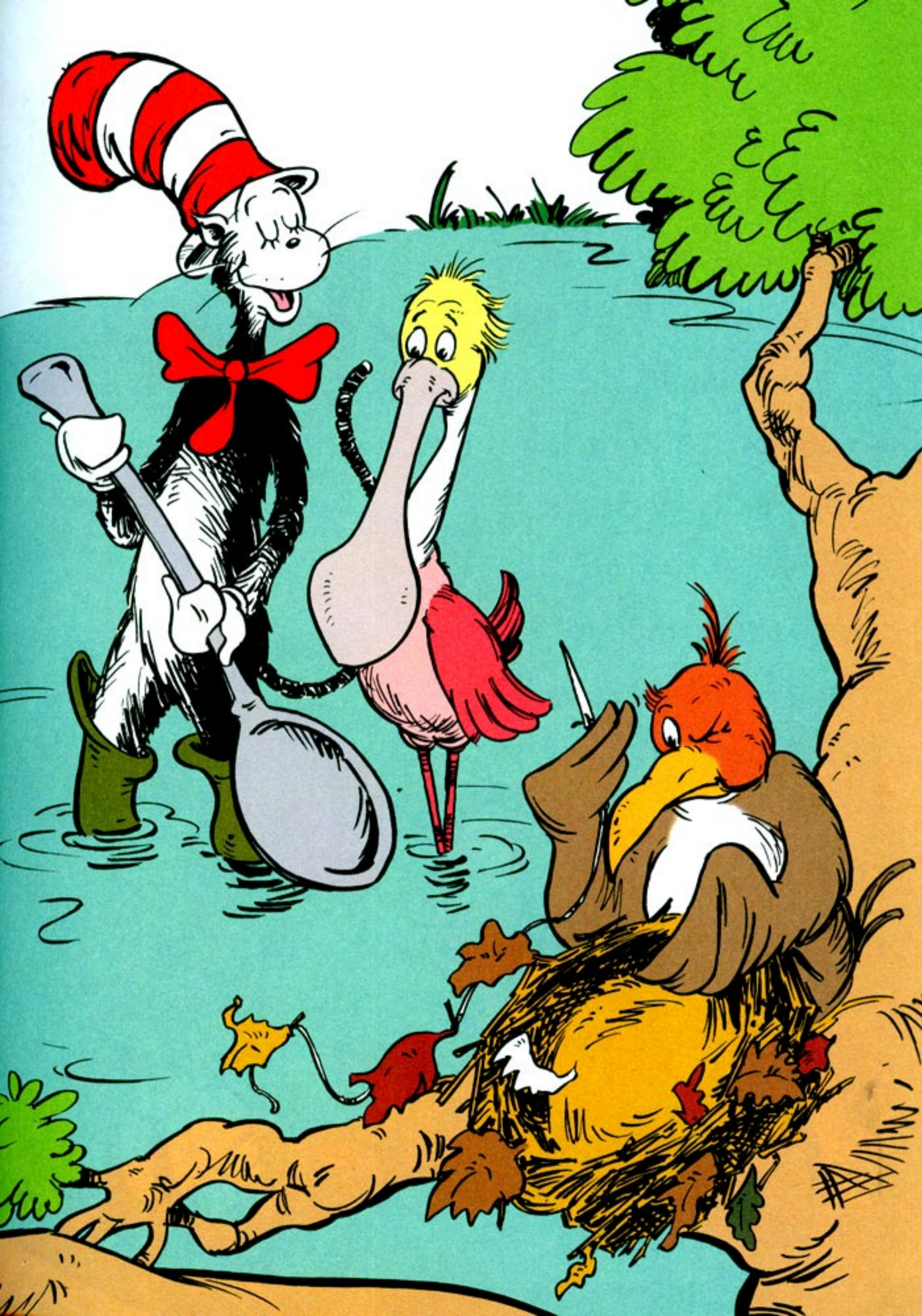
It **chick-a-dee-dees**  
in the trees  
all day long.

And the beautiful blue jay  
you see flying by  
has feathers as bright  
and as blue as the sky.

While the spoonbill,  
who lives in a marsh or lagoon,  
is named for its bill,  
which is shaped like a spoon.

And the tailorbirds far off  
in Asia, I've read,  
sew up their nests,  
but they never use thread.  
They shred up thin pieces  
of dead leaves instead.





And...

...meet the bald eagle!

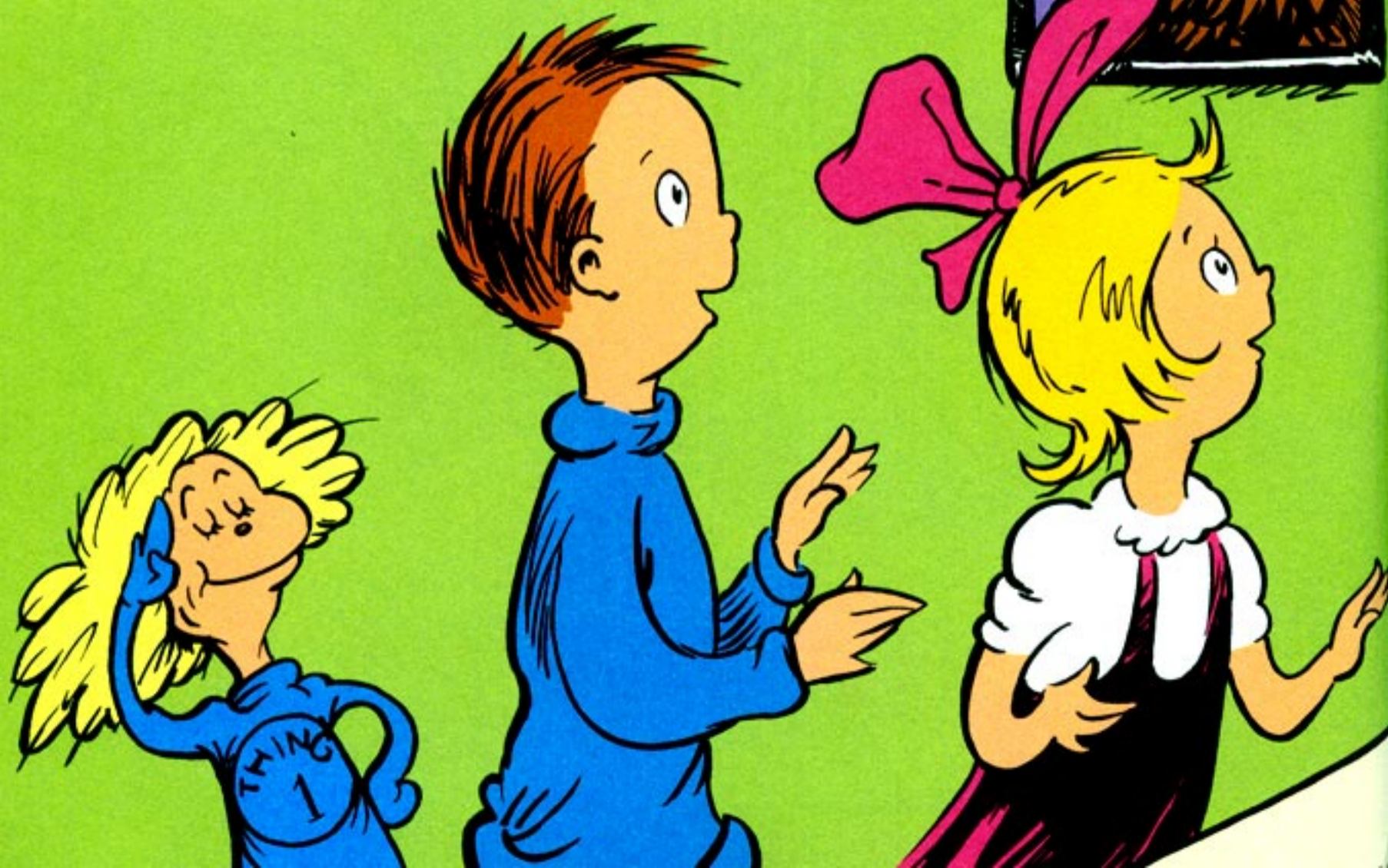
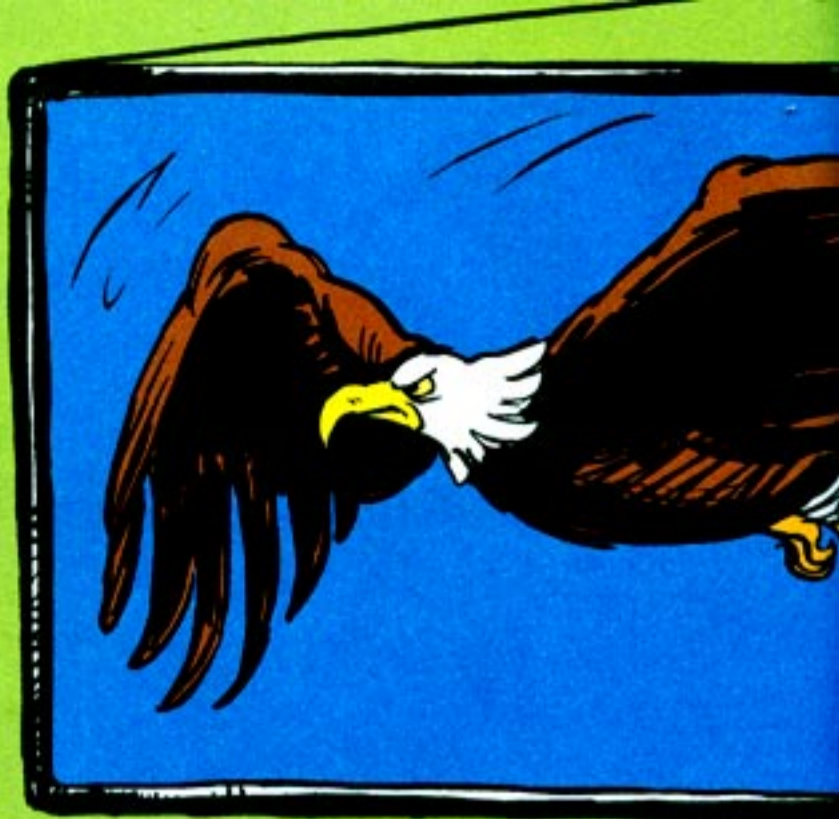
I'm happy to say:

He's the national bird

for the whole U.S.A.!

Though his name says he's hairless,  
he's really not bald.

He's the symbol of freedom—  
whatever he's called.





When you're looking for birds,  
you can listen to hear  
the sounds that they make  
that are new to your ear.



Like the owls who go “hoo”  
and the herons who squawk.  
Or the doves’ gentle coo—  
that’s the way that they talk.



Or a parakeet’s trill  
or a guinea hen’s cluck,  
the boom of an ostrich,  
the quack of a duck.  
The cry of the loon  
or the caw of the crow—  
or the catbird  
who meows  
like some cats that I know.







CAAWW

ROOM

QUACK

CLUCK

AIIIEE

MEEOW

Some birds that you see  
love to glide through the sky,  
while other birds stay on the ground  
and can't fly.



Take the New Zealand kiwi  
(whose name rhymes with peewee)—  
both he-wi and she-wi  
will never take flight.

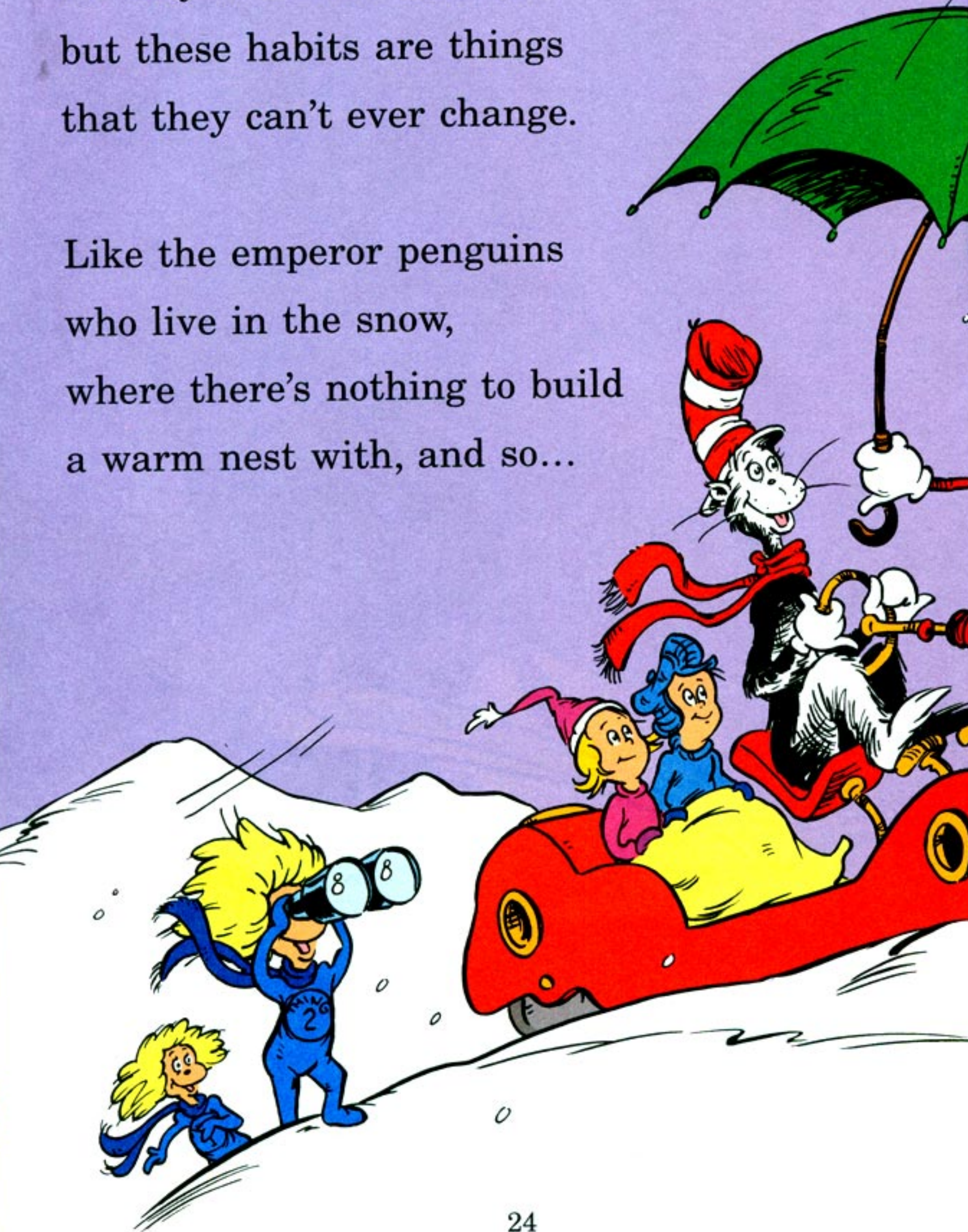
And these shy little birds  
like to stay out of sight  
and search for their food  
in the dark of the night.





Now, birds have some habits  
we may think are strange,  
but these habits are things  
that they can't ever change.

Like the emperor penguins  
who live in the snow,  
where there's nothing to build  
a warm nest with, and so...



...when a mom lays an egg,  
it goes up on Dad's feet,  
and until it is hatched,  
he can't move and can't eat.



He must stand very still  
through each cold, icy storm,  
till the day finally comes...

...and the baby is born!

Then it's Mom's turn to help,  
to take over and keep  
an eye on the baby...





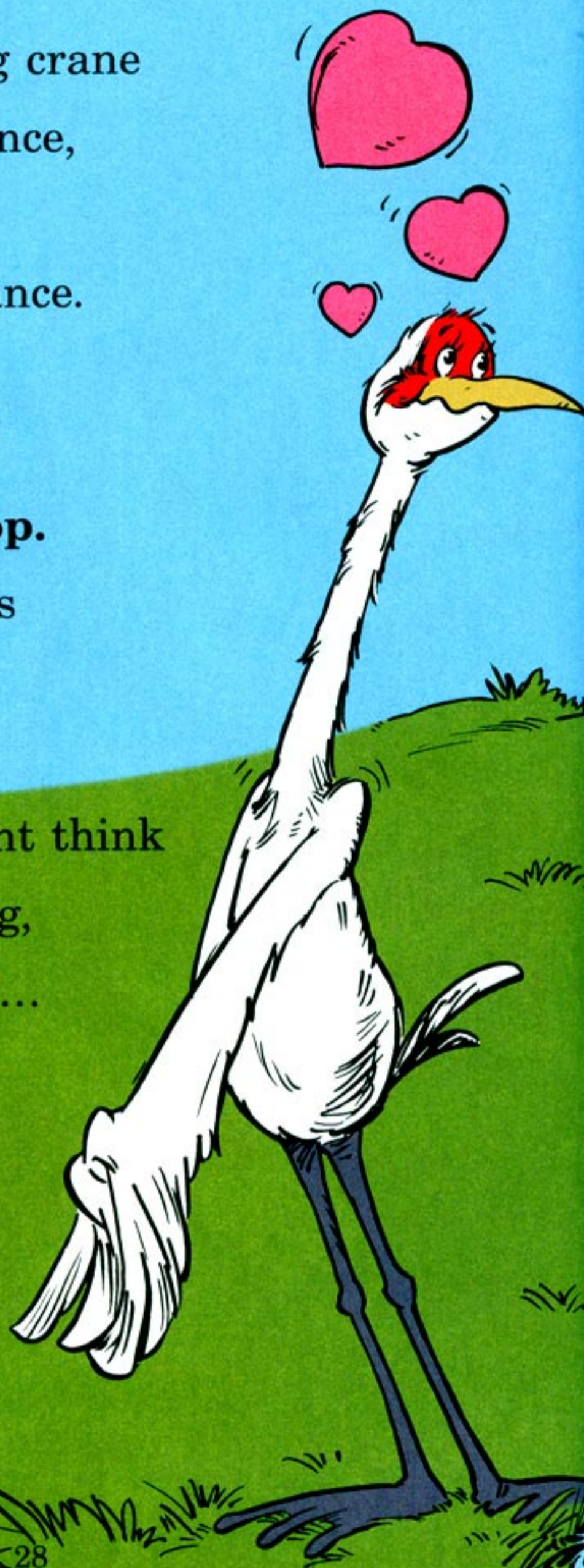
...while Dad gets some sleep.

When a male whooping crane  
feels it's time for romance,  
he hops up and down  
in a strange kind of dance.

His wings go **flap flip**  
and his feet go **flip flop**.  
He twirls and he swirls  
with a hip and a hop.

And although you might think  
this dance isn't exciting,  
a female crane finds it...

...extremely inviting!







When birds want to go  
on a winter vacation,  
they all take a trip  
and they call it migration.

Wild geese are quite good  
at this trick, as you see.  
They fly off in a flock  
in the shape of a "V."

But the bird up in front  
gets the wind in his face  
and must soon take a rest,  
so a friend takes his place.

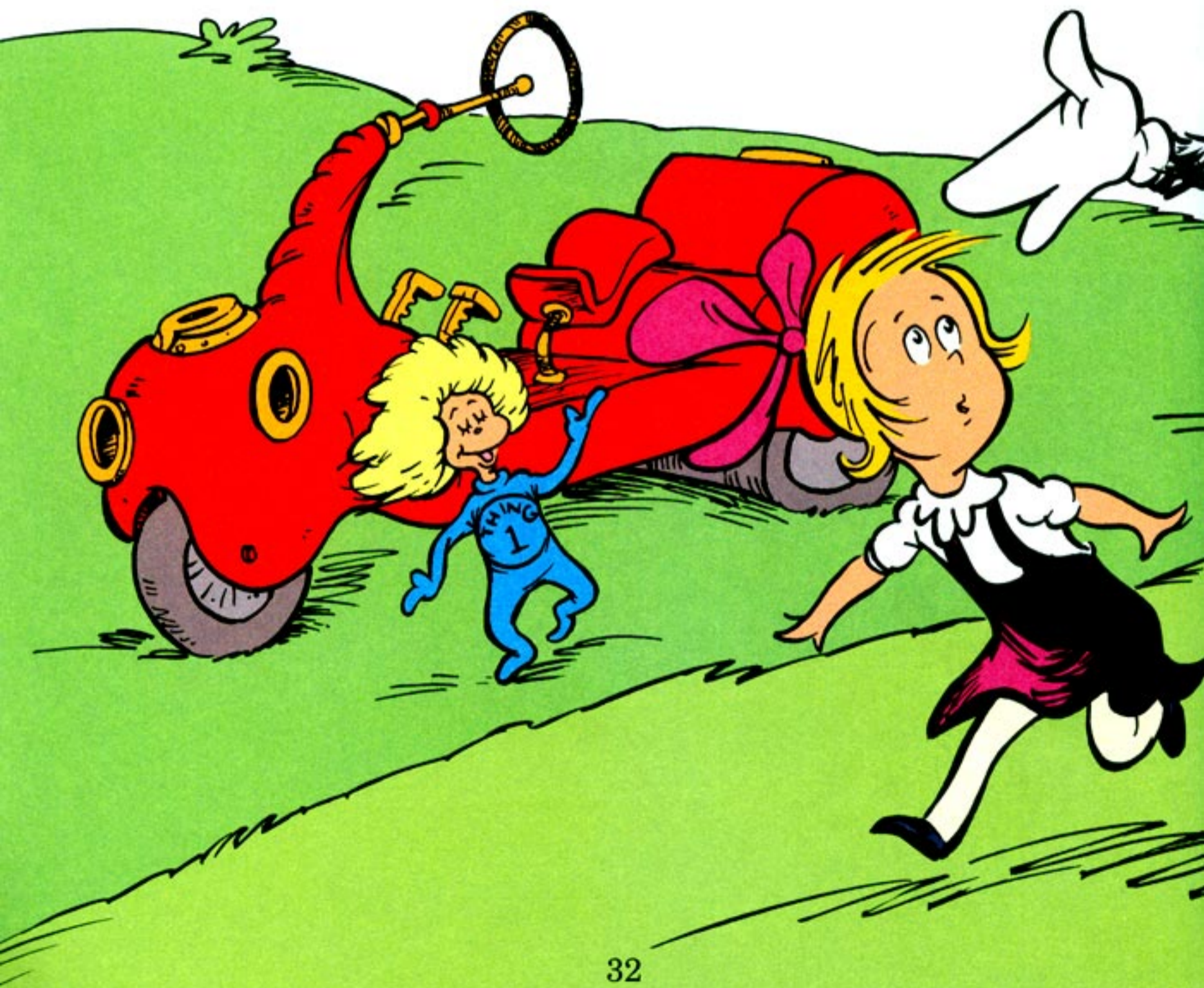
Then the lead goose falls back,  
has a rest, and starts gliding  
on air waves his other goose friends  
are providing.





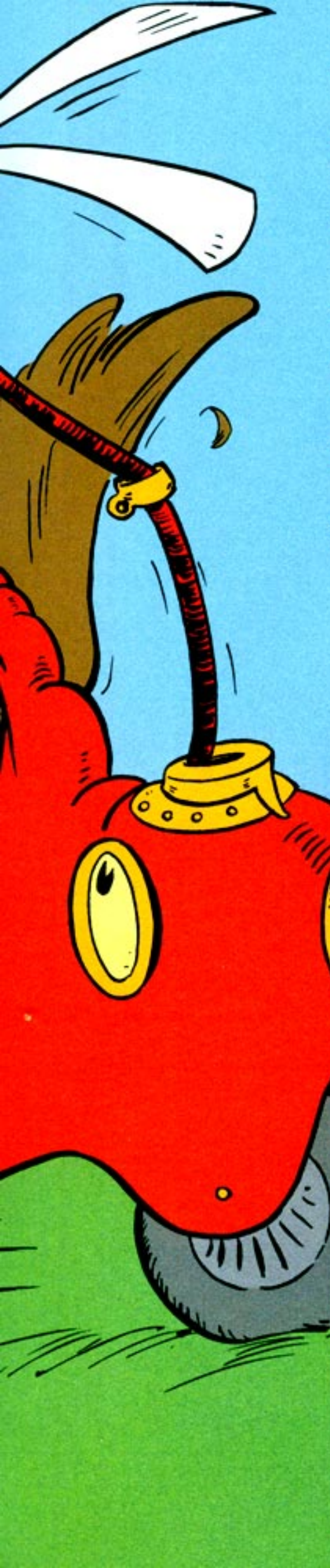
Oh, look at the time!  
Why, the minutes just flew!  
We must get you home.  
I know just what to do.

Come on! Follow me!  
You will see what I mean.









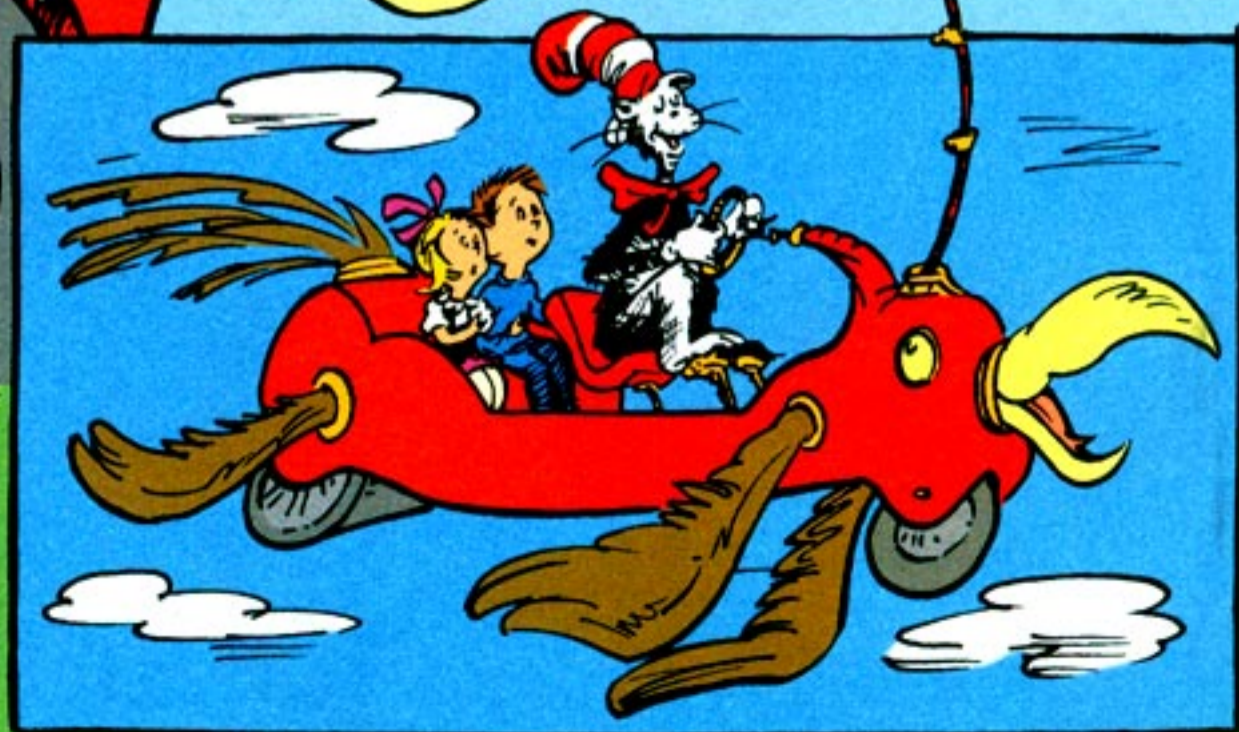
It's my Fine Feather, All-Weather  
Flying Machine!

There is room for you both,  
so just hop right on in it.

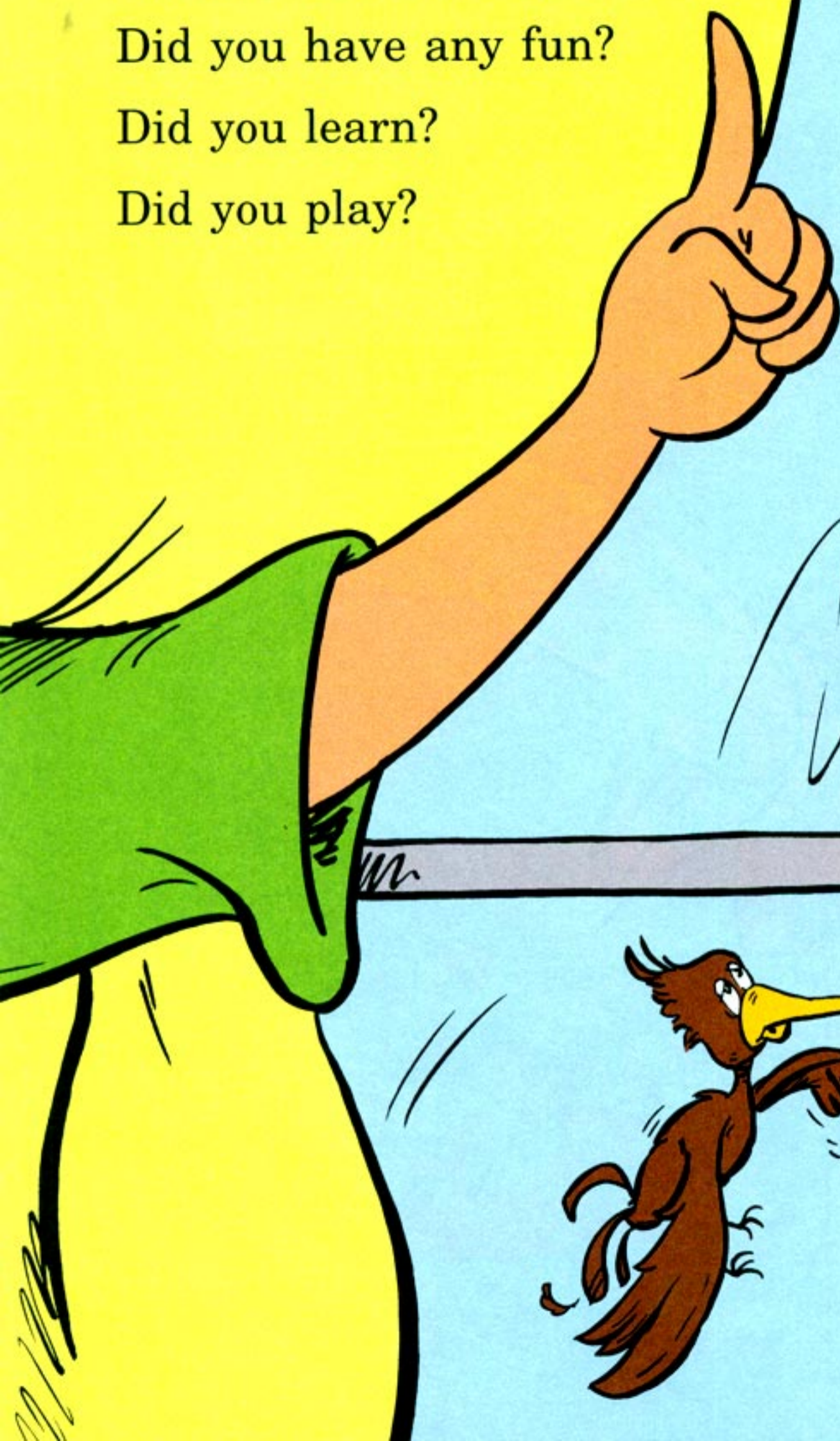
You'll wing right back home.

You'll be there

in a minute!



Dear Dick and sweet Sally,  
oh, how was your day?  
Did you have any fun?  
Did you learn?  
Did you play?



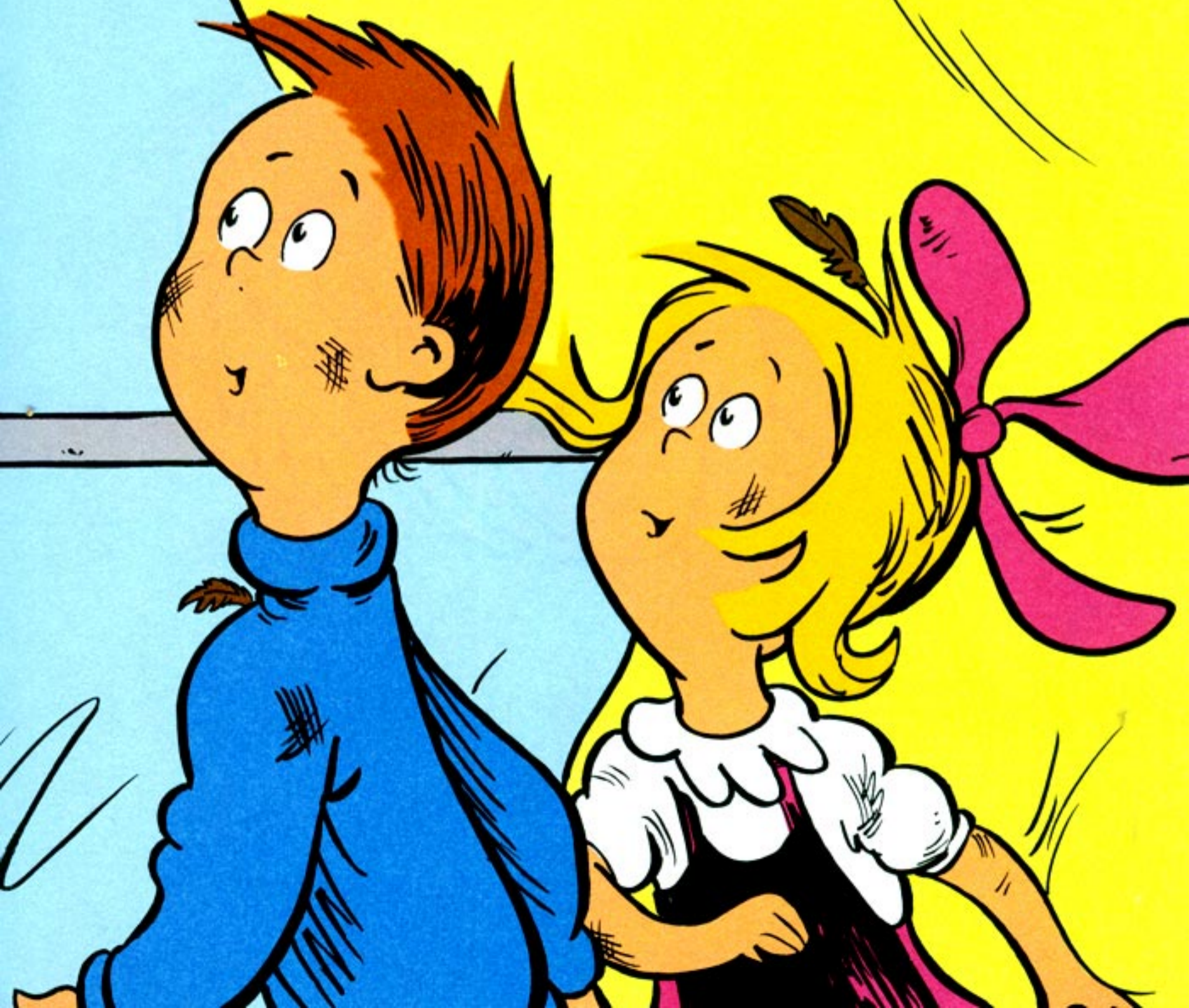


Please tell me about it,  
but first...

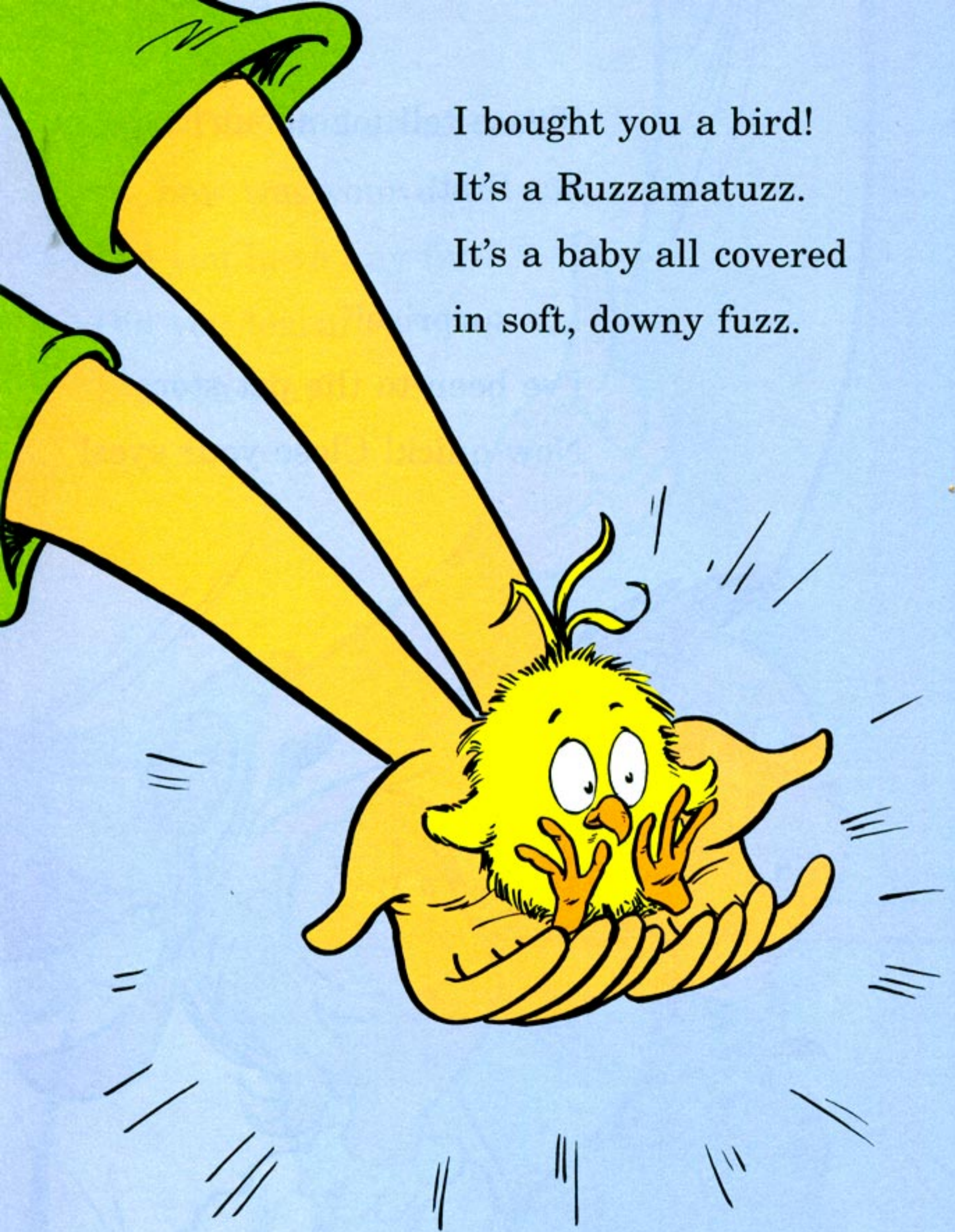
...a surprise!

I've been to the pet store.

Now quick! Close your eyes!

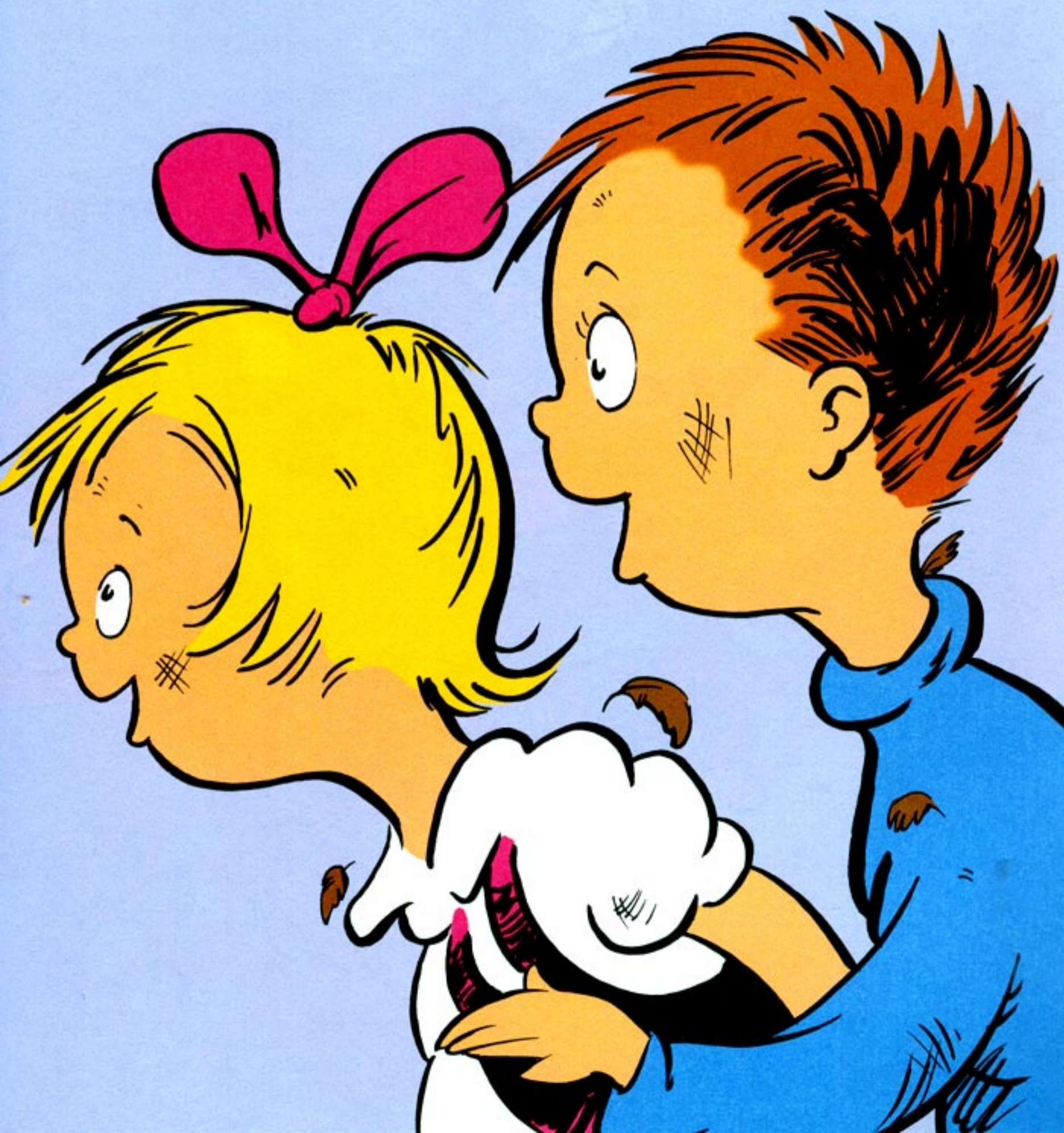


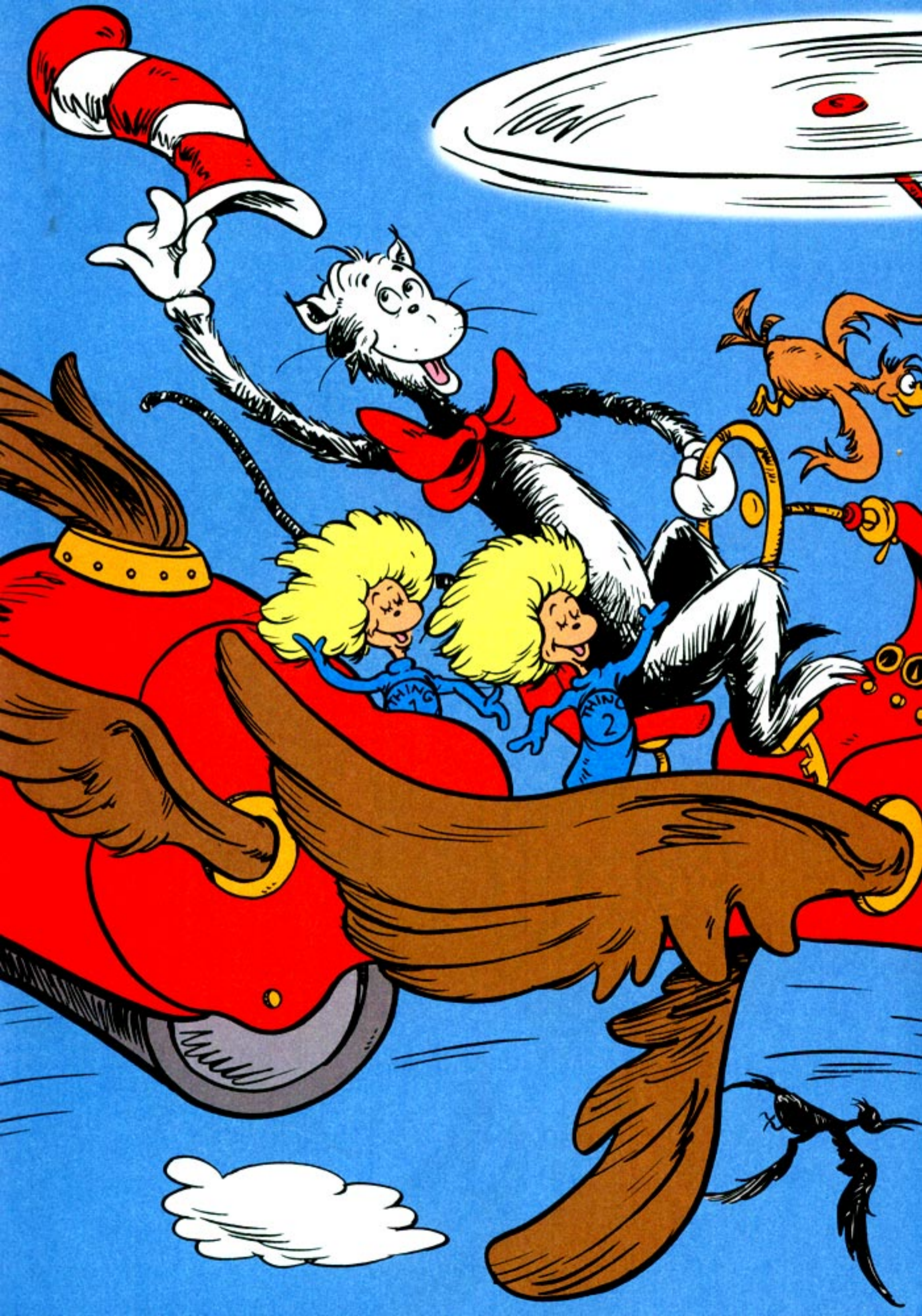
I bought you a bird!  
It's a Ruzzamatuzz.  
It's a baby all covered  
in soft, downy fuzz.



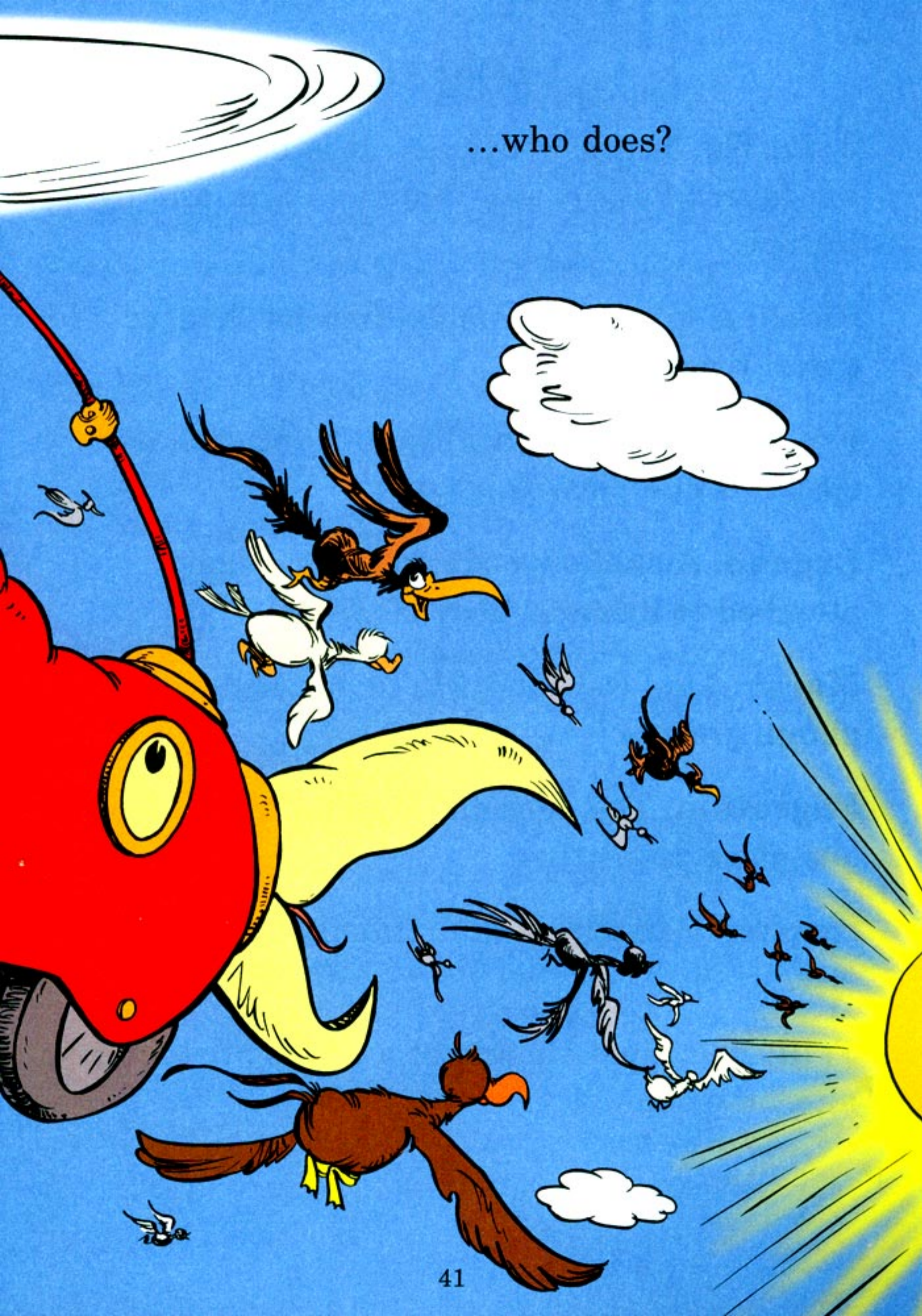
I don't know much about birds.

Do you know...





...who does?





## GLOSSARY

**Asia:** The largest continent. It is bordered by the Arctic, Pacific, and Indian oceans, and by Europe.

**Flock:** A group of animals that eat, live, or travel together.

**Freedom:** The opportunity to think, act, and speak as one pleases.

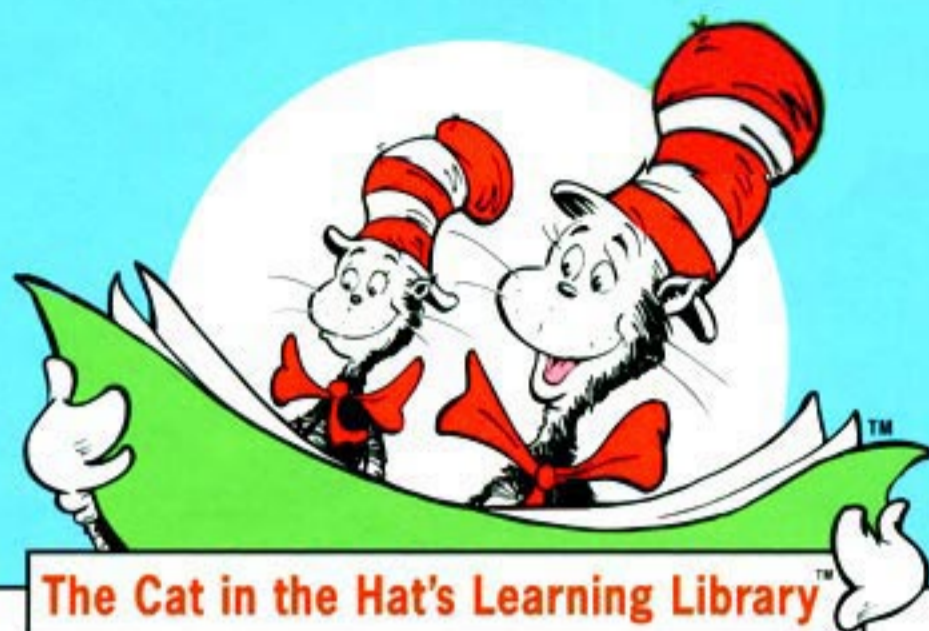
**Lagoon:** A shallow body of water usually attached to a larger body of water.

**Marsh:** Low, wet land where various grasslike plants grow.

**Migration:** The periodic act of moving from one place to another.

**Symbol:** Something that stands for something else.

**Trill:** The rapid singing of a series of similar or alternate sounds.



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—*Barbara Kiefer, Ph.D.,  
Charlotte S. Huck Professor  
of Children's Literature,  
The Ohio State University*

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