

GIRAFFES CAN'T DANCE

INTER
N°1
BEST



To my cousins at Sandbanks – Giles

For Fi, John, Rod and Andy – Guy




ORCHARD BOOKS
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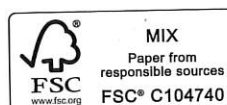
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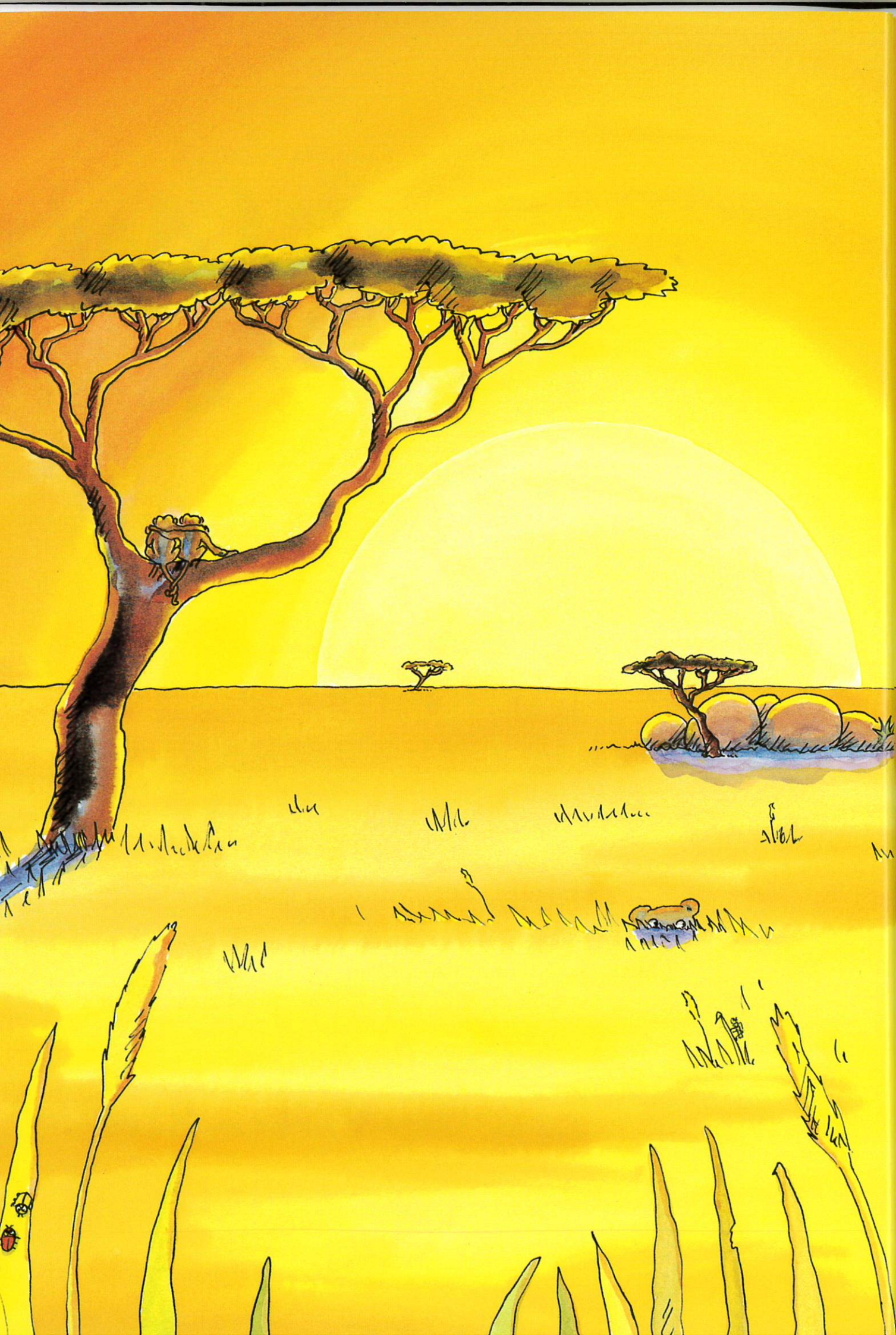
GRAFFES CAN'T DANCE



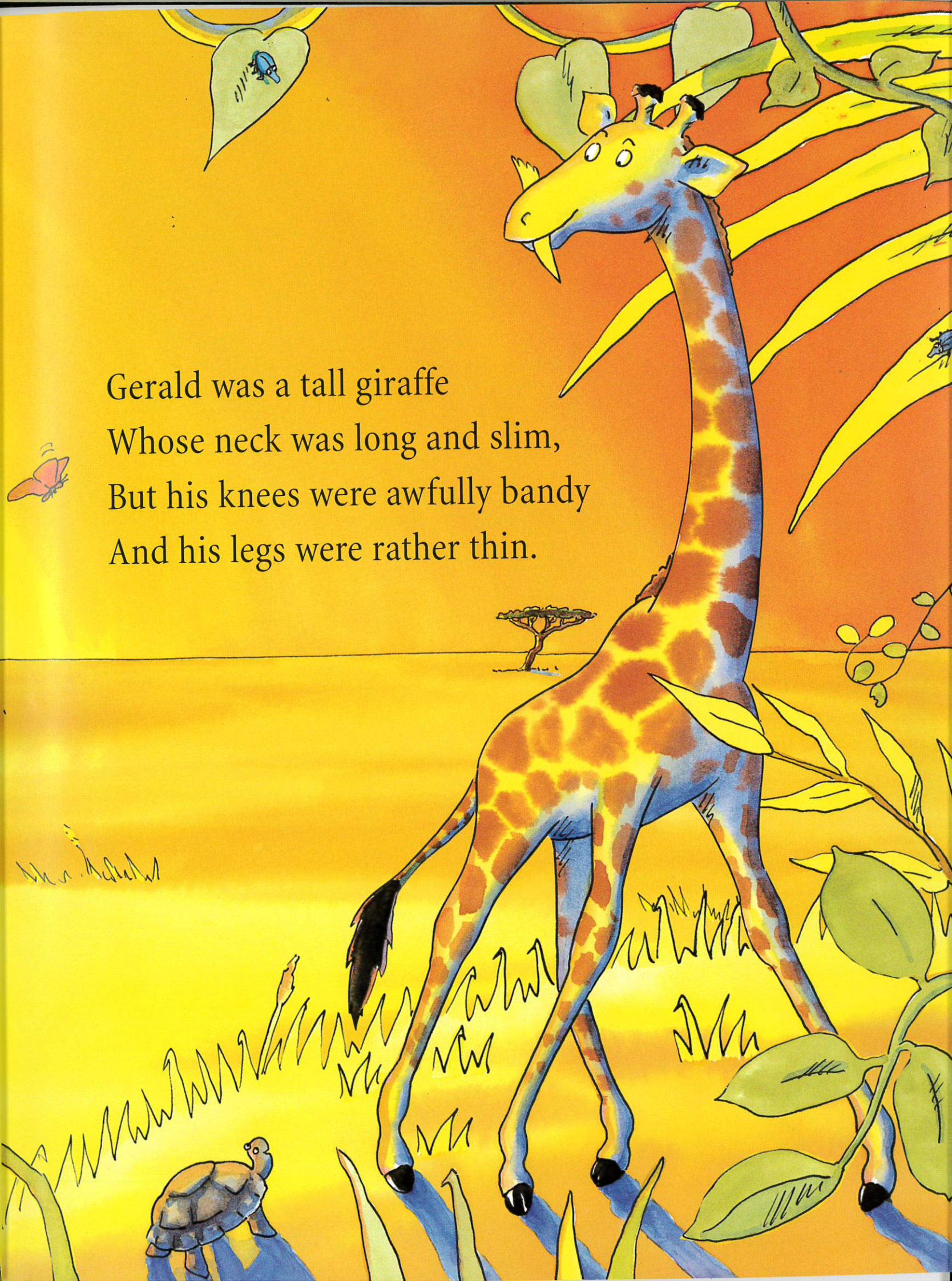
Giles Andreae
illustrated by Guy Parker-Rees



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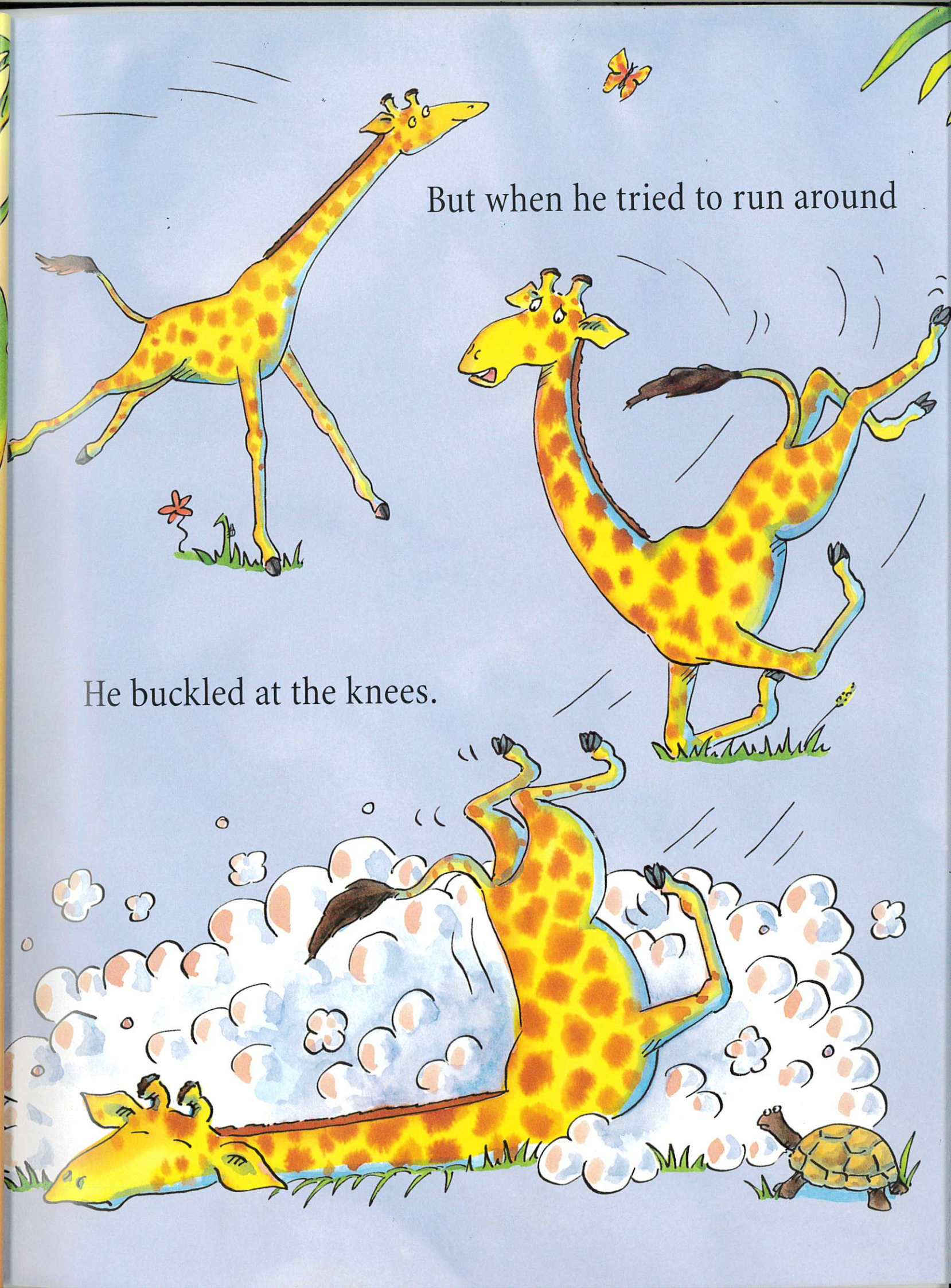


Gerald was a tall giraffe
Whose neck was long and slim,
But his knees were awfully bandy
And his legs were rather thin.





He was very good at standing still
And munching shoots off trees,



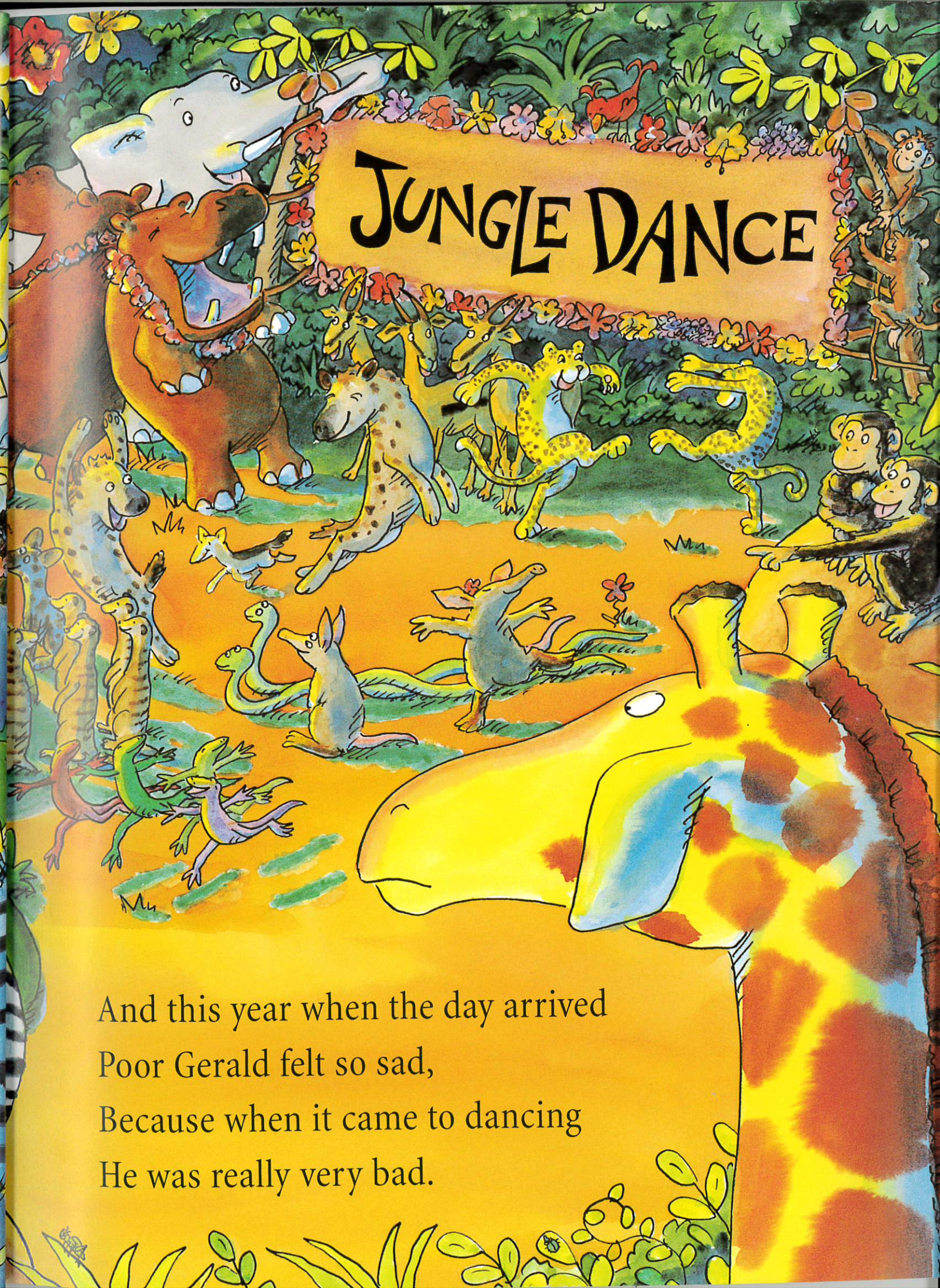
But when he tried to run around

He buckled at the knees.

Now every year in Africa
They hold the Jungle Dance,
Where every single animal
Turns up to skip and prance.

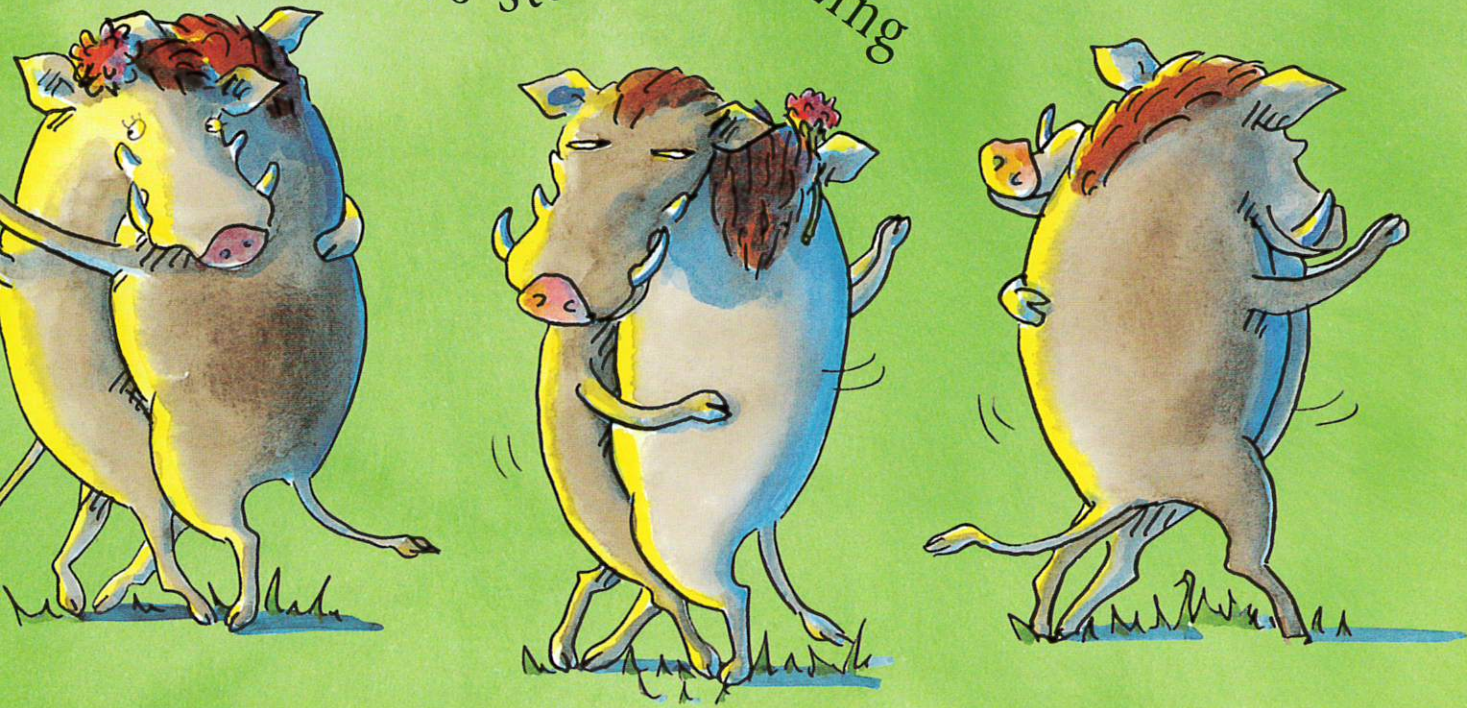


JUNGLE DANCE



And this year when the day arrived
Poor Gerald felt so sad,
Because when it came to dancing
He was really very bad.

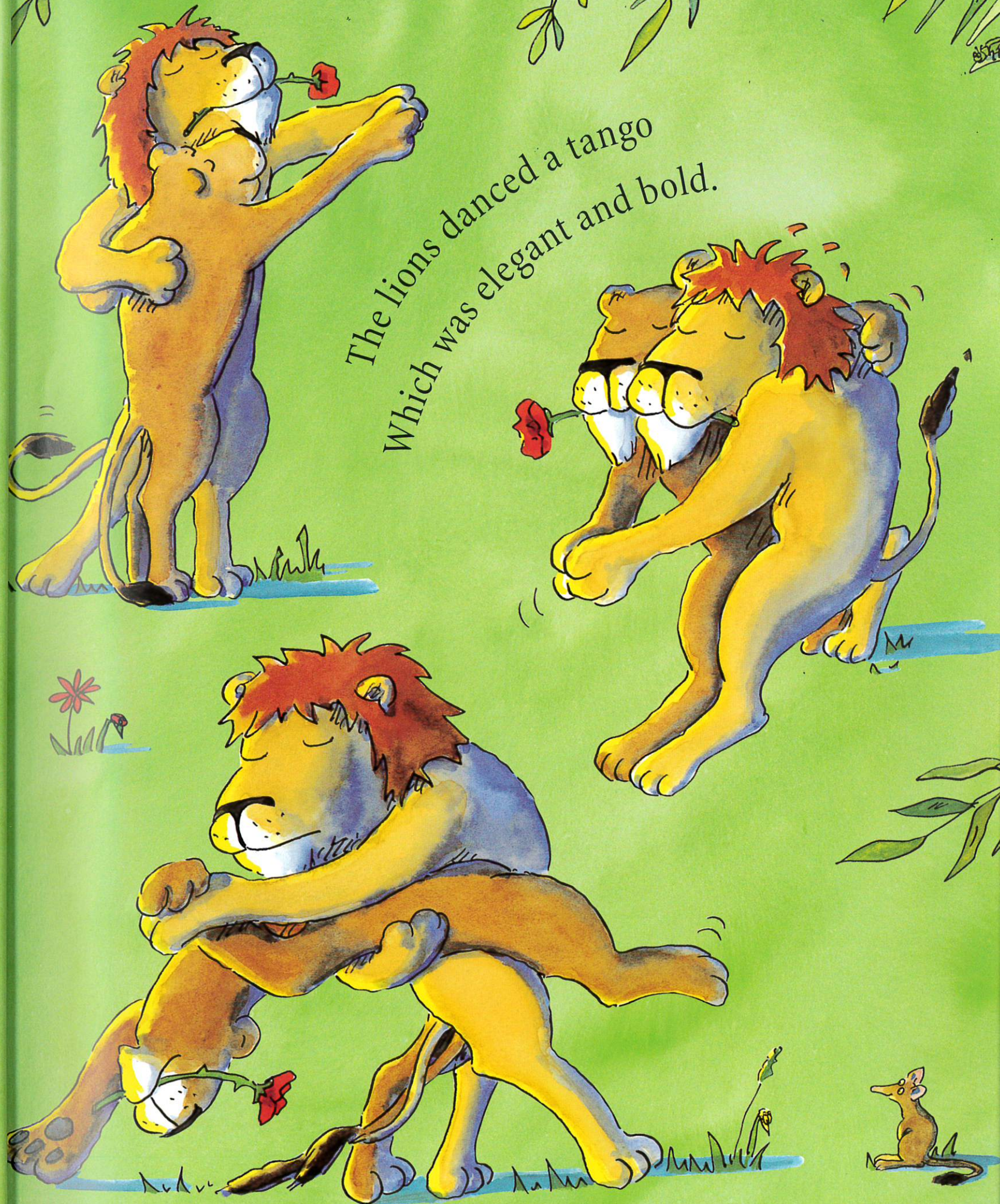
The warthogs started waltzing

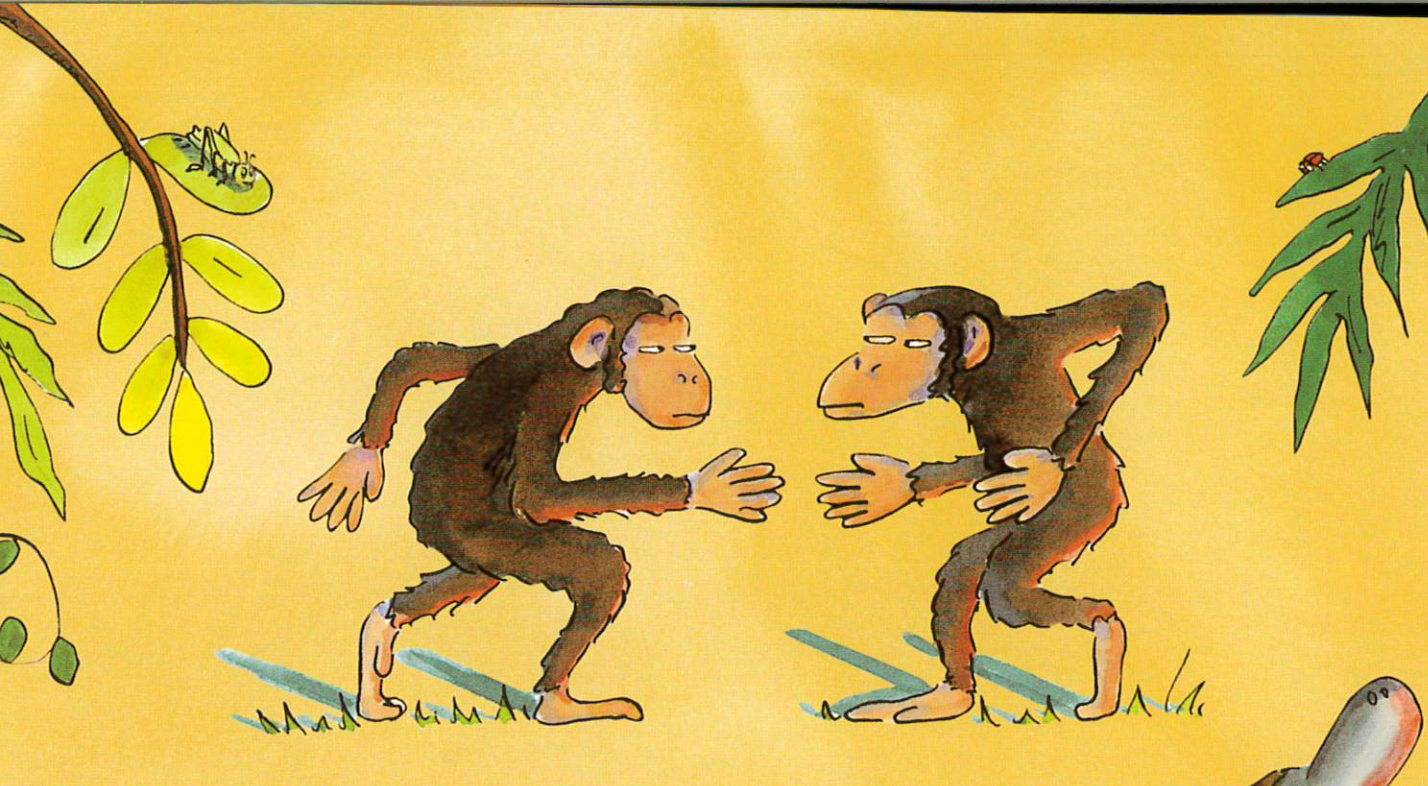


And the rhinos rock 'n' rolled

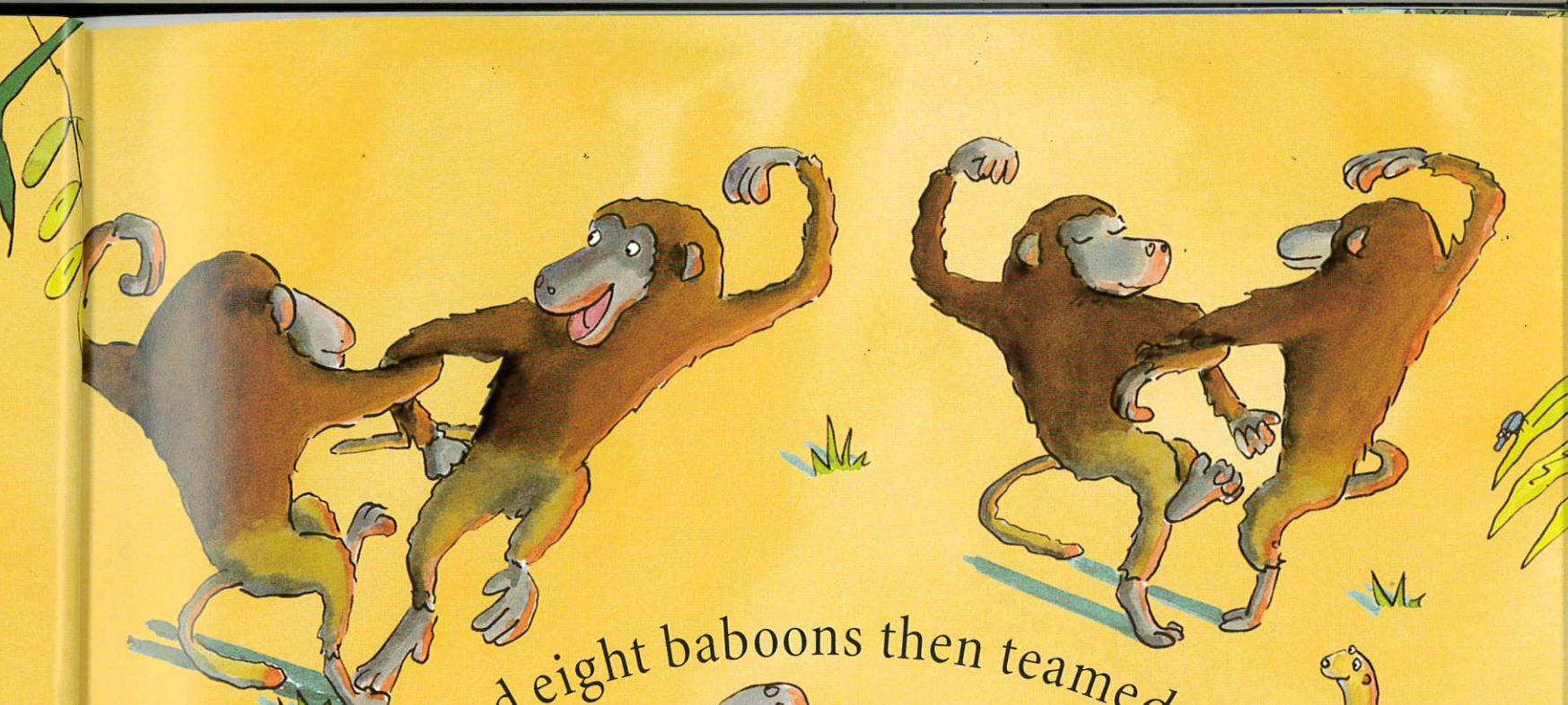


The lions danced a tango
Which was elegant and bold.



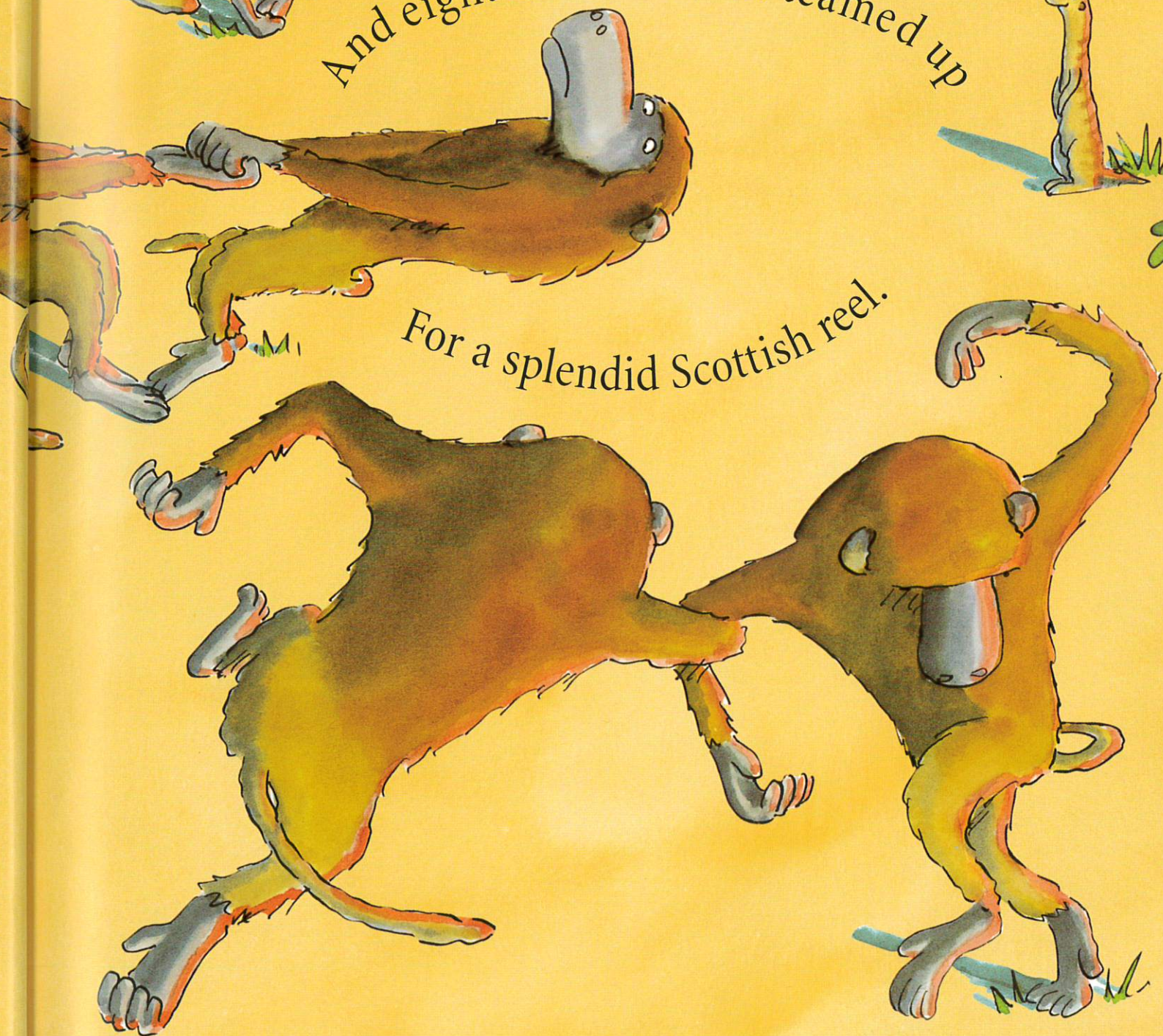


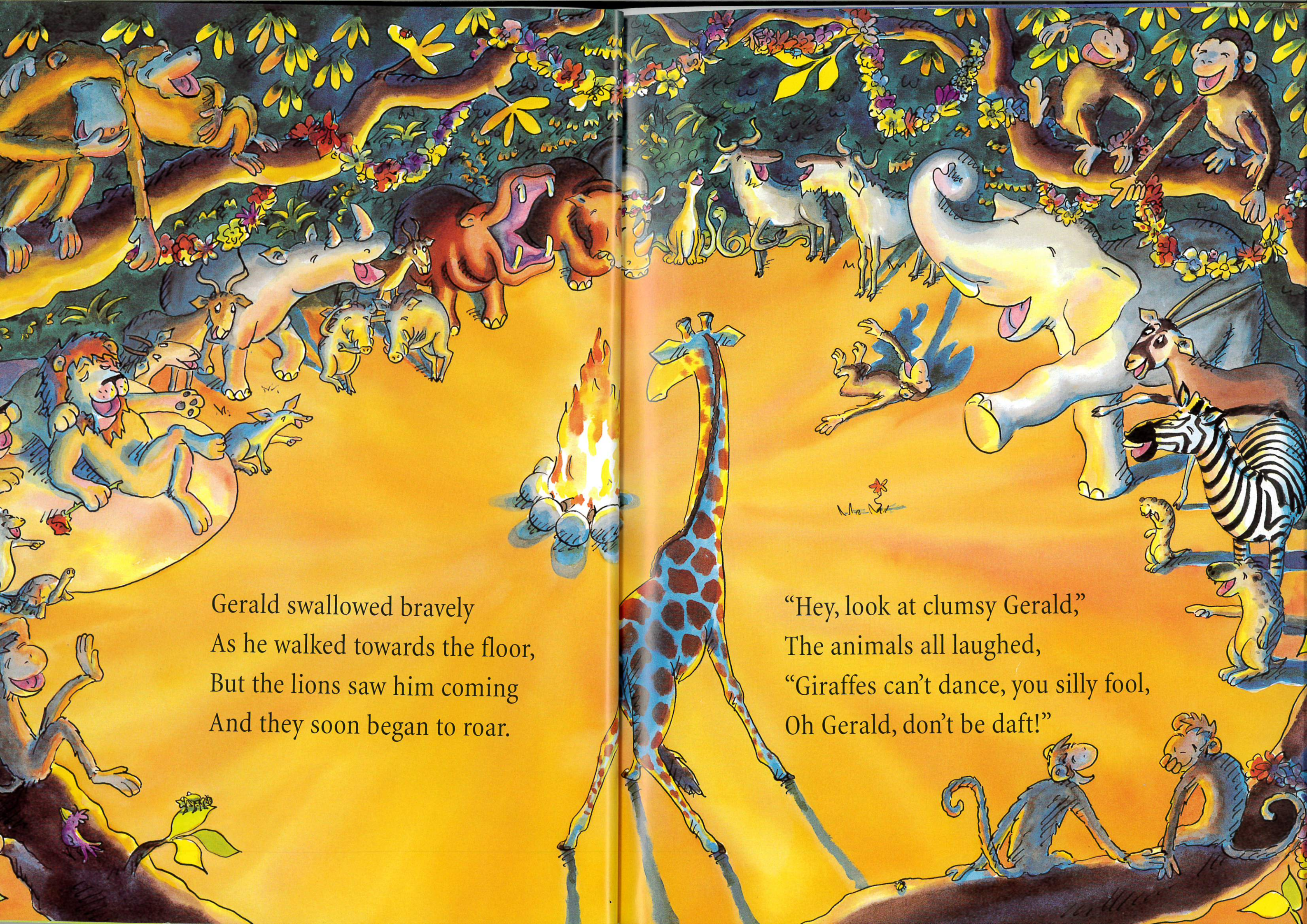
The chimps all did a cha-cha
With a very latin feel,



And eight baboons then teamed up

For a splendid Scottish reel.

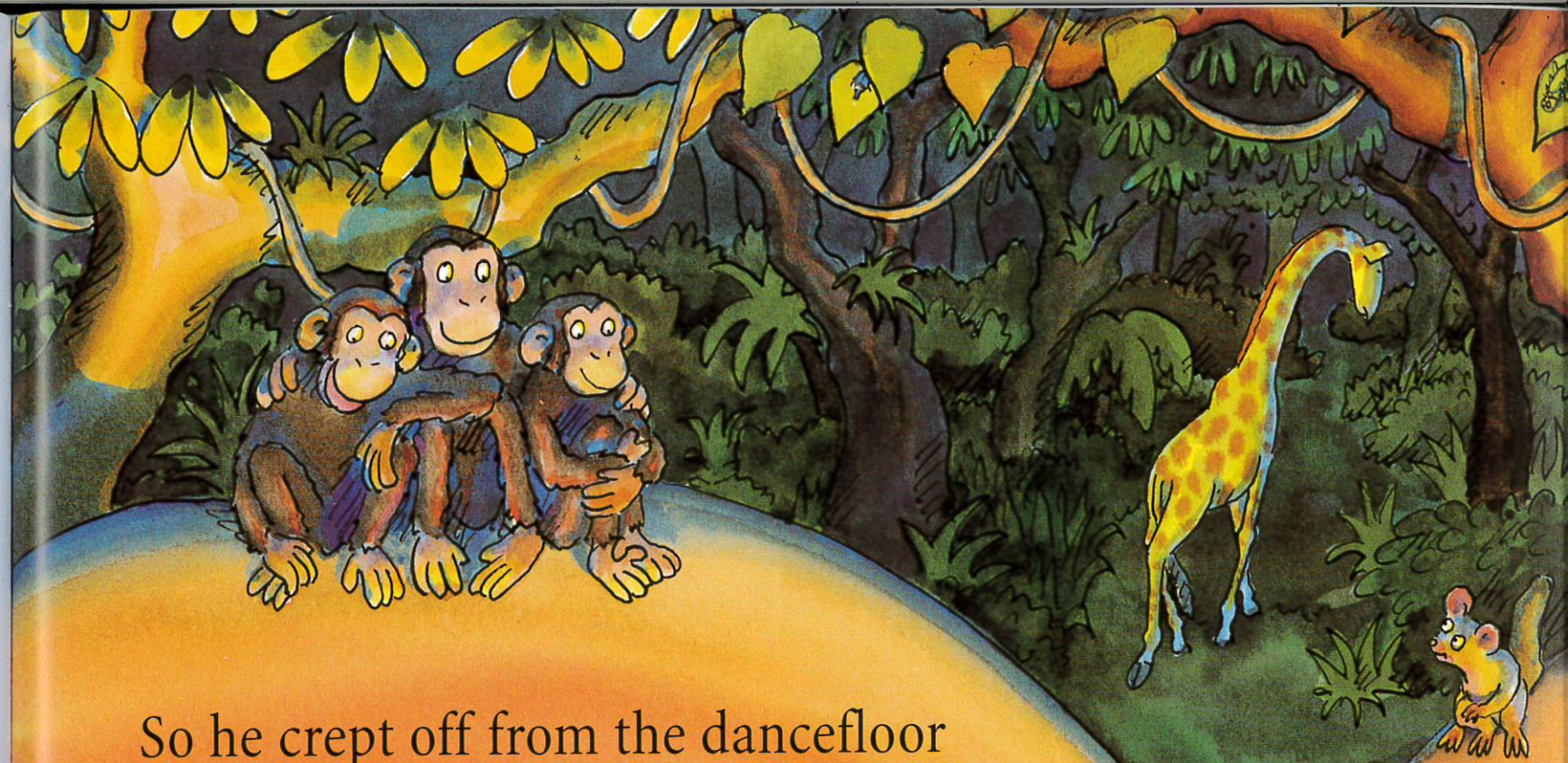
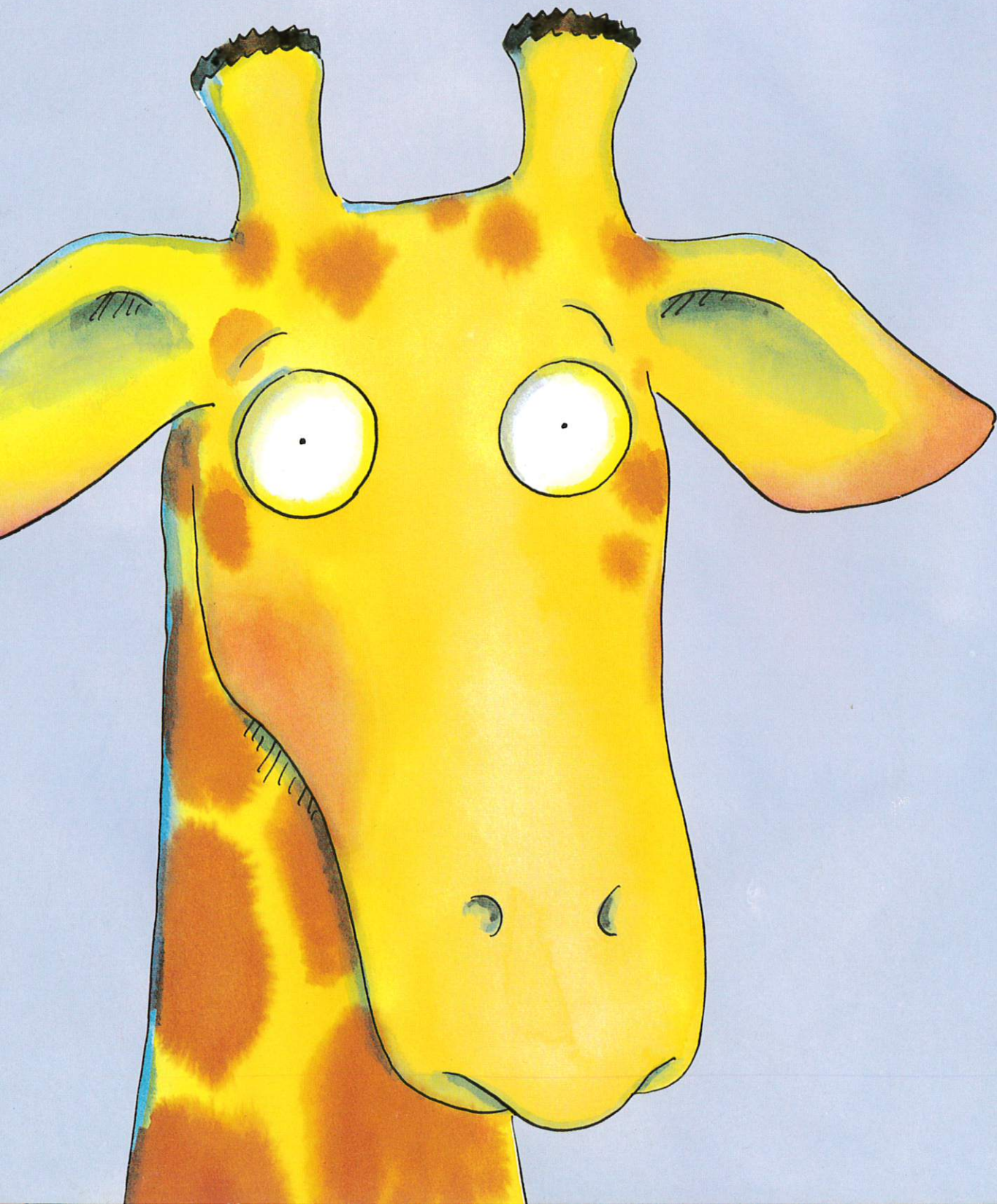




Gerald swallowed bravely
As he walked towards the floor,
But the lions saw him coming
And they soon began to roar.

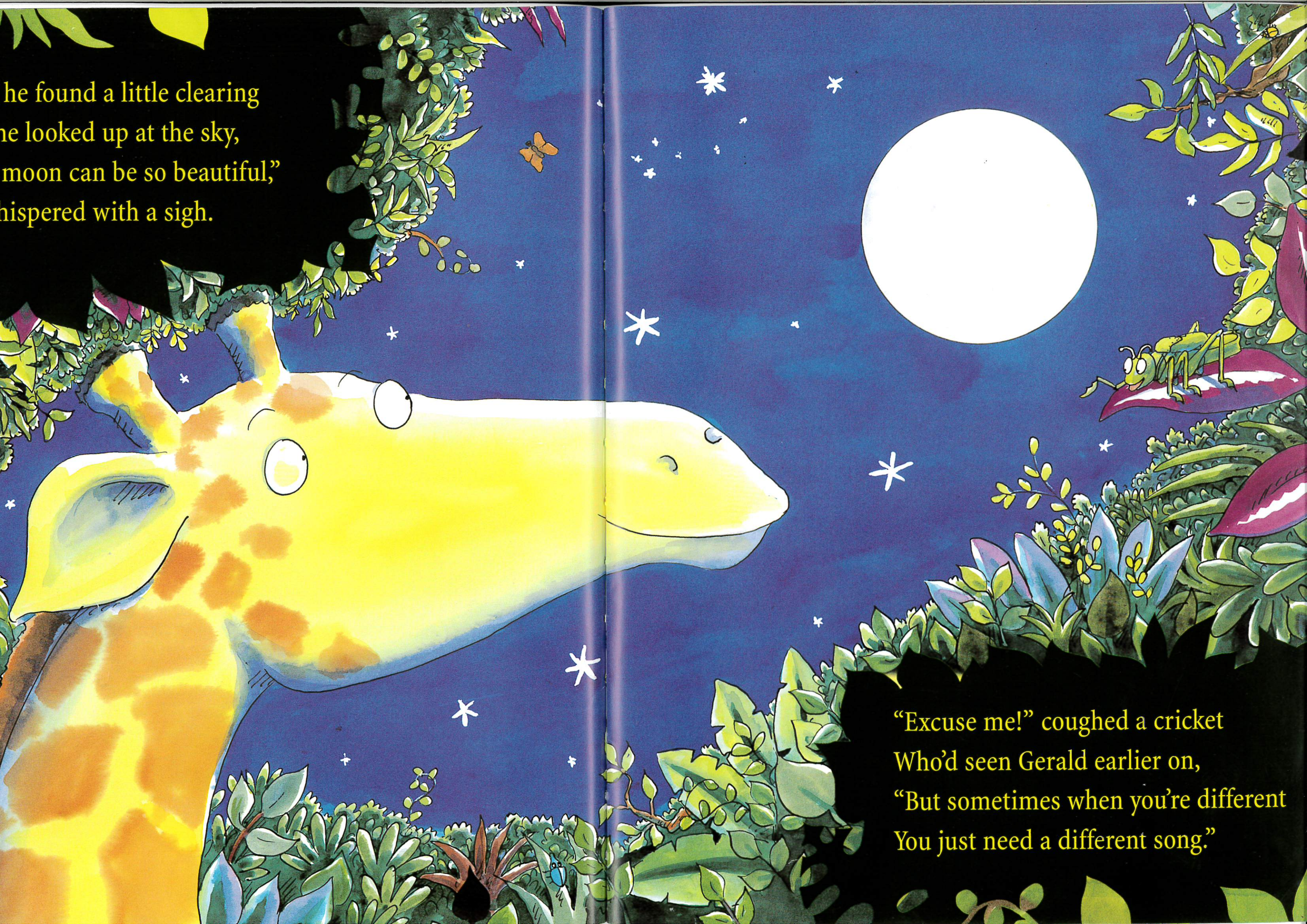
"Hey, look at clumsy Gerald,"
The animals all laughed,
"Giraffes can't dance, you silly fool,
Oh Gerald, don't be daft!"

Gerald simply froze up,
He was rooted to the spot.
“They’re right,” he thought, “I’m useless,
Oh, I feel like such a clot.”



So he crept off from the dancefloor
And he started walking home,
He'd never felt so sad before
So sad and so alone.



A two-page spread from a children's book. On the left page, a giraffe with yellow fur and large orange spots is shown from the chest up, looking towards the right. Its eyes are wide and white. The background is a dark blue night sky with a large, bright white full moon on the right page. Several white, star-shaped constellations are scattered across the sky. In the foreground, there are green bushes and trees with some leaves. A small orange butterfly is flying in the upper left. On the right page, a green cricket is perched on a large, purple, leaf-like structure. The text is written in a yellow, serif font. The overall scene is peaceful and whimsical.

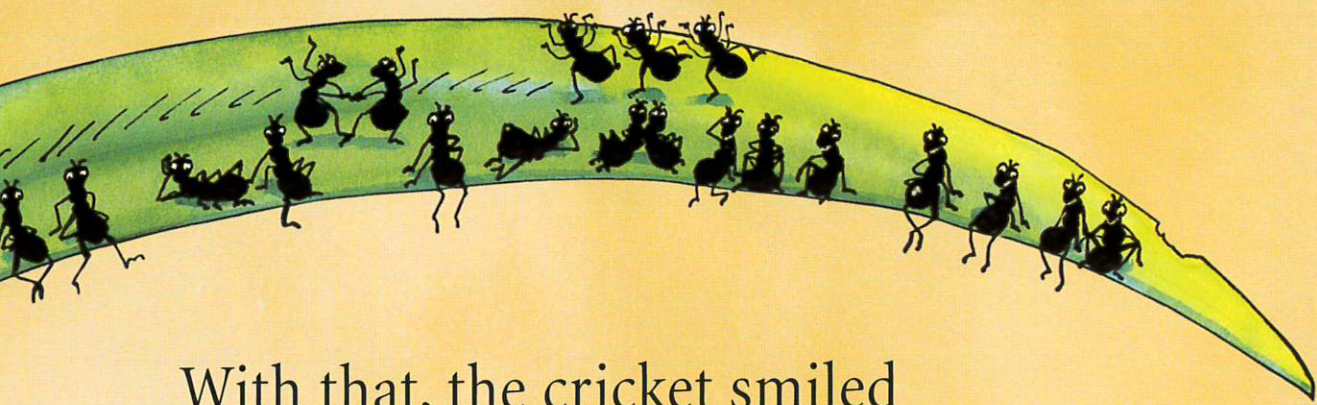
he found a little clearing
he looked up at the sky,
moon can be so beautiful,”
whispered with a sigh.

“Excuse me!” coughed a cricket
Who’d seen Gerald earlier on,
“But sometimes when you’re different
You just need a different song.”

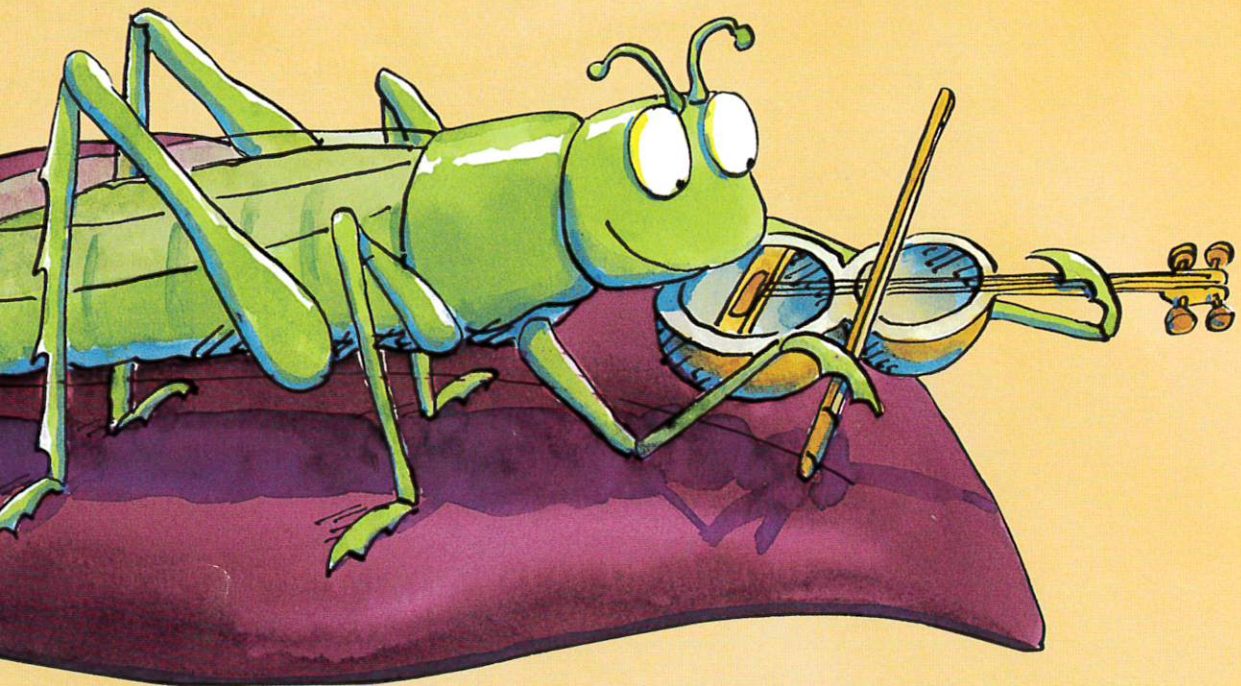


"Listen to the swaying grass
And listen to the trees,
To me the sweetest music
Those branches in the breeze."

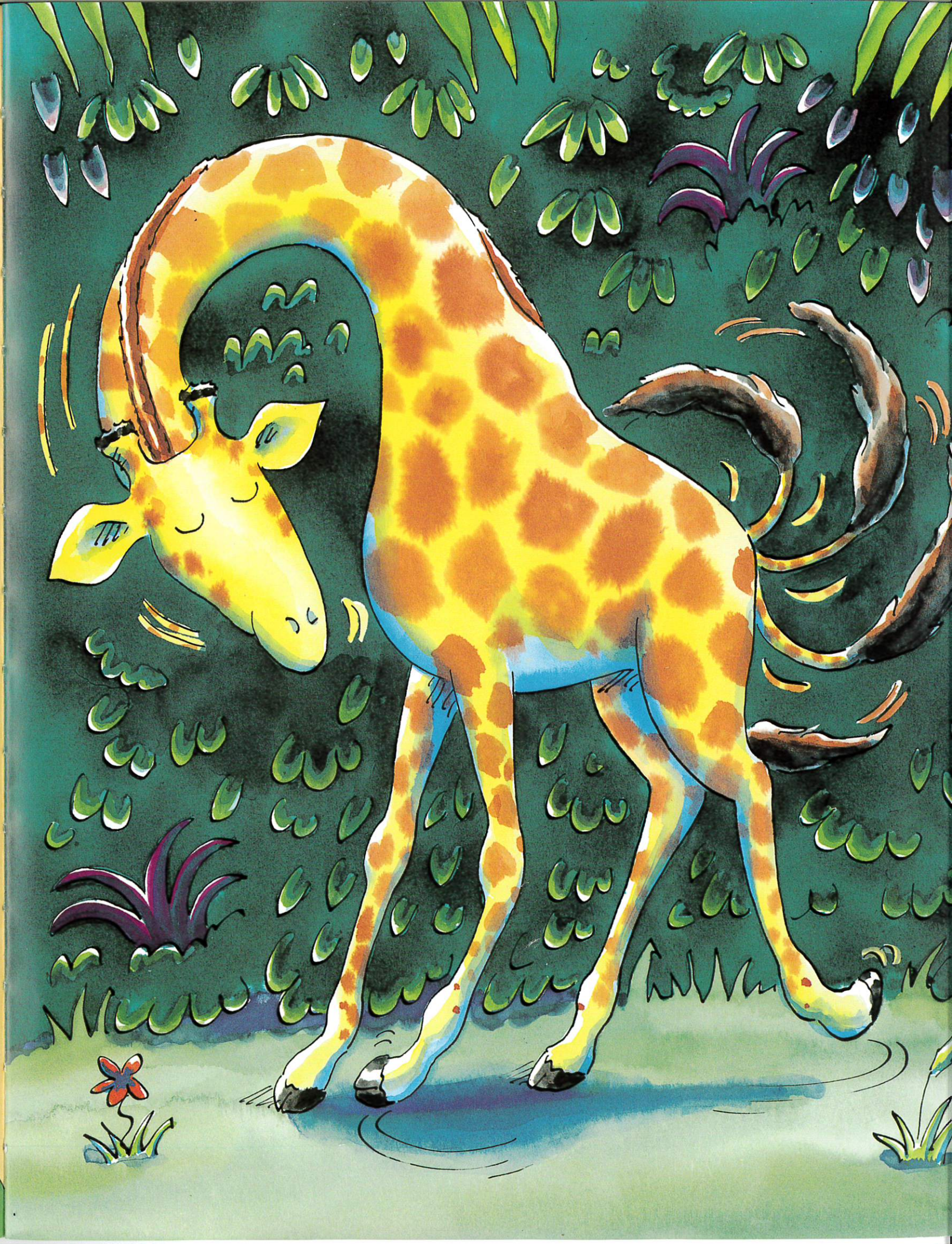
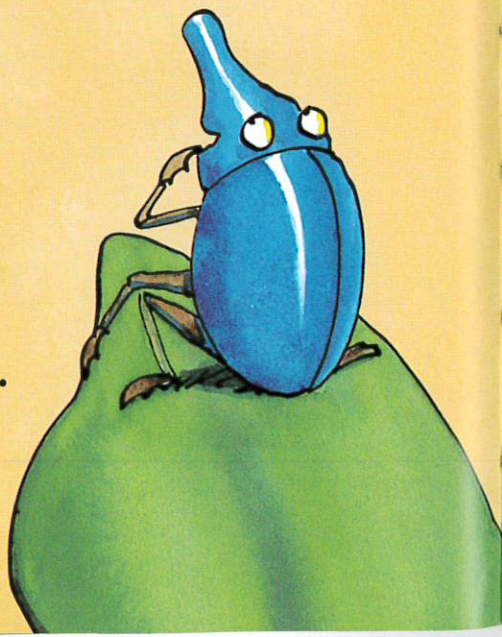
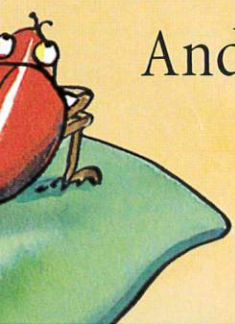
"So imagine that that lovely moon
Is playing just for you,
Everything makes music
If you really want it to."



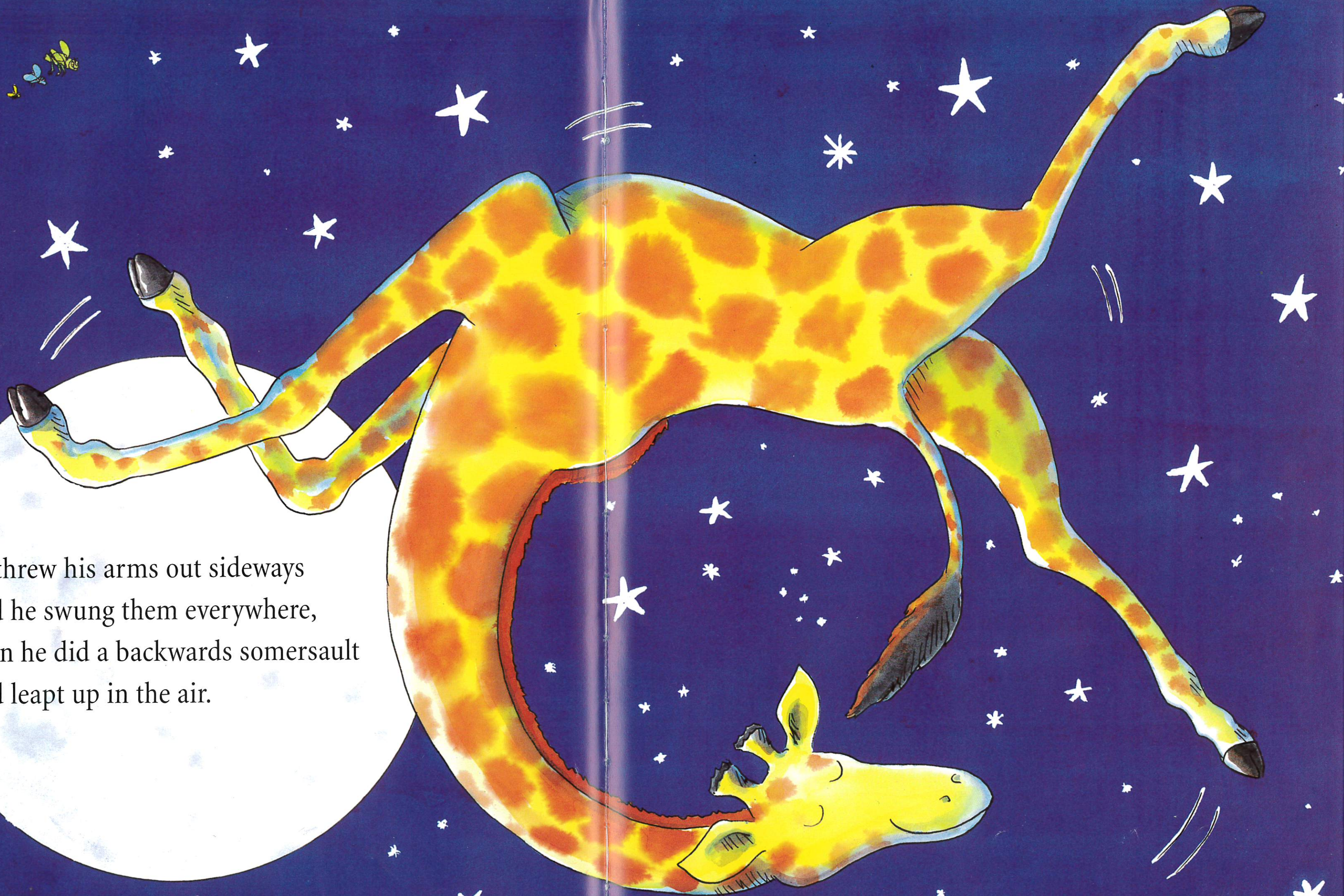
With that, the cricket smiled
And picked up his violin.
Then Gerald felt his body
Do the most amazing thing.

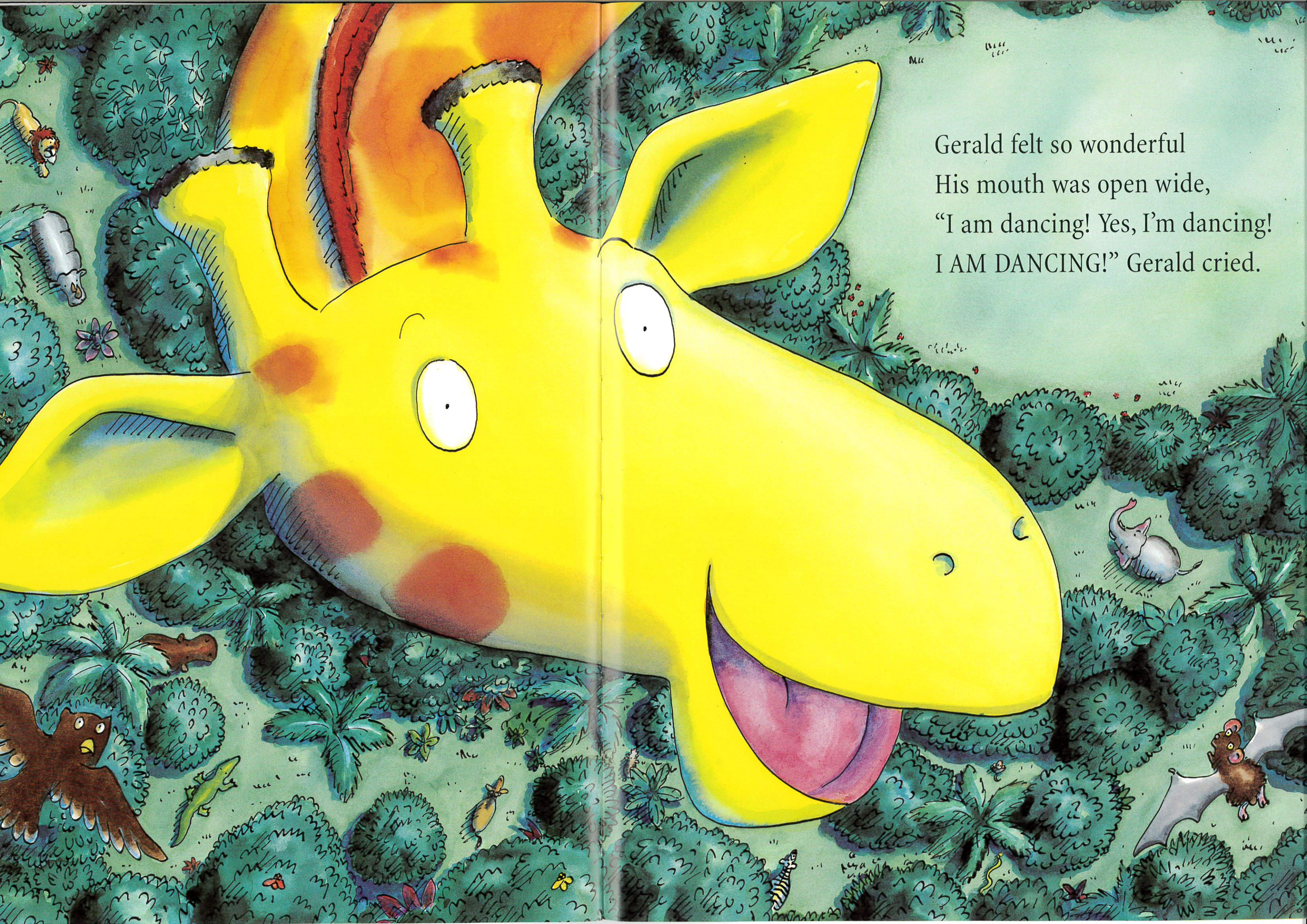


His hooves had started shuffling
Making circles on the ground,
His neck was gently swaying
And his tail was swishing round.



He threw his arms out sideways
and he swung them everywhere,
then he did a backwards somersault
and leapt up in the air.

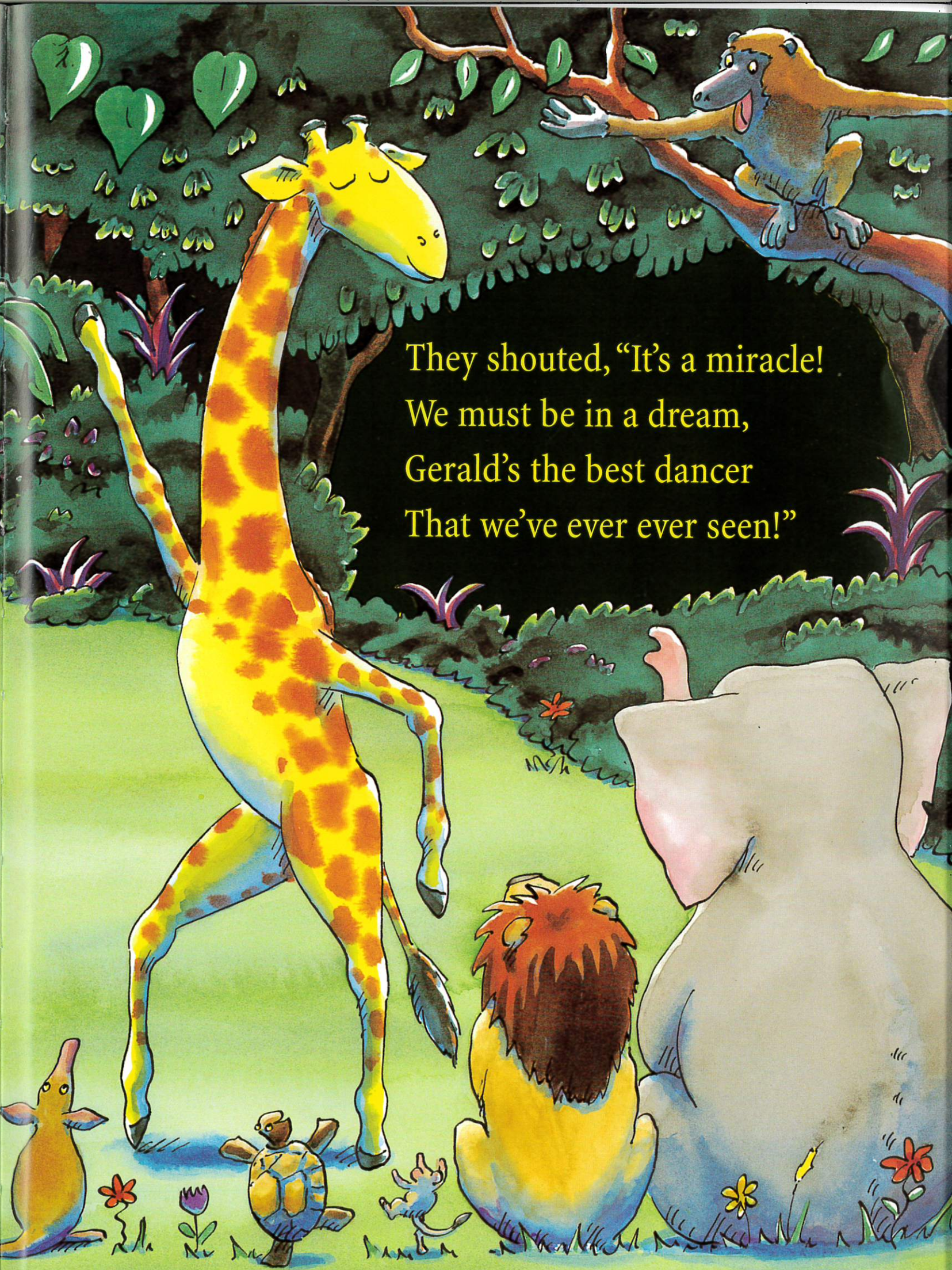
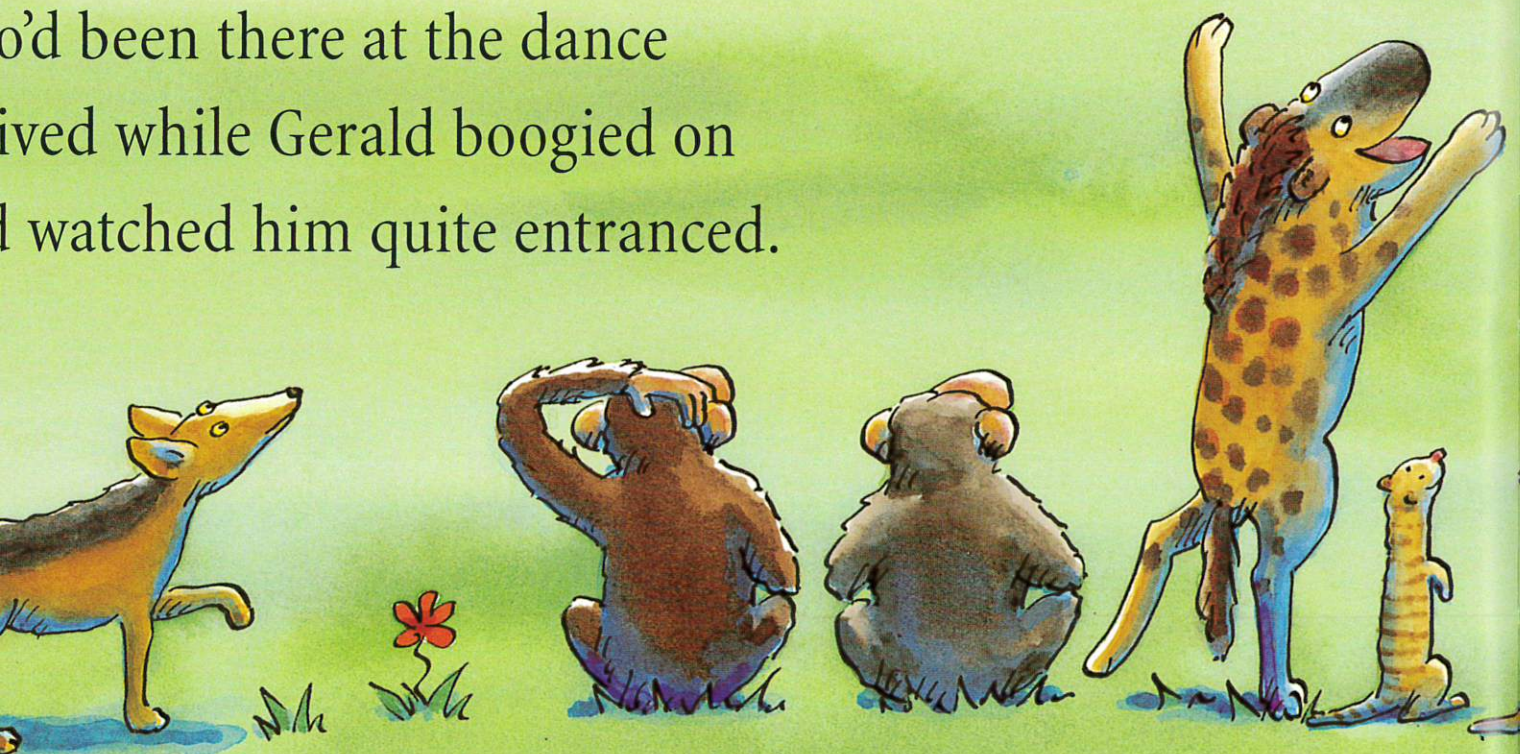




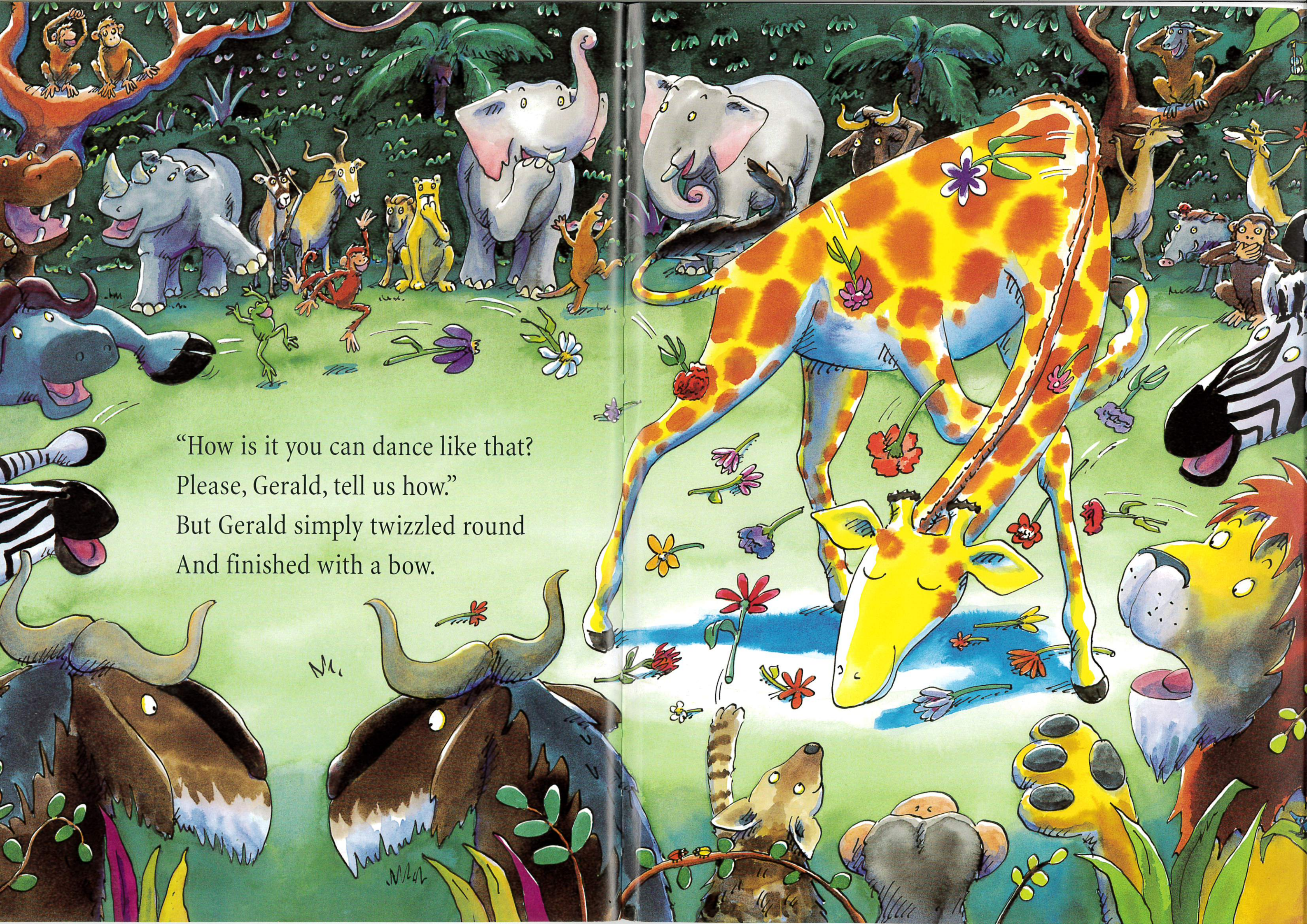
Gerald felt so wonderful
His mouth was open wide,
“I am dancing! Yes, I’m dancing!
I AM DANCING!” Gerald cried.



n one by one each animal
o'd been there at the dance
ived while Gerald boogied on
l watched him quite entranced.



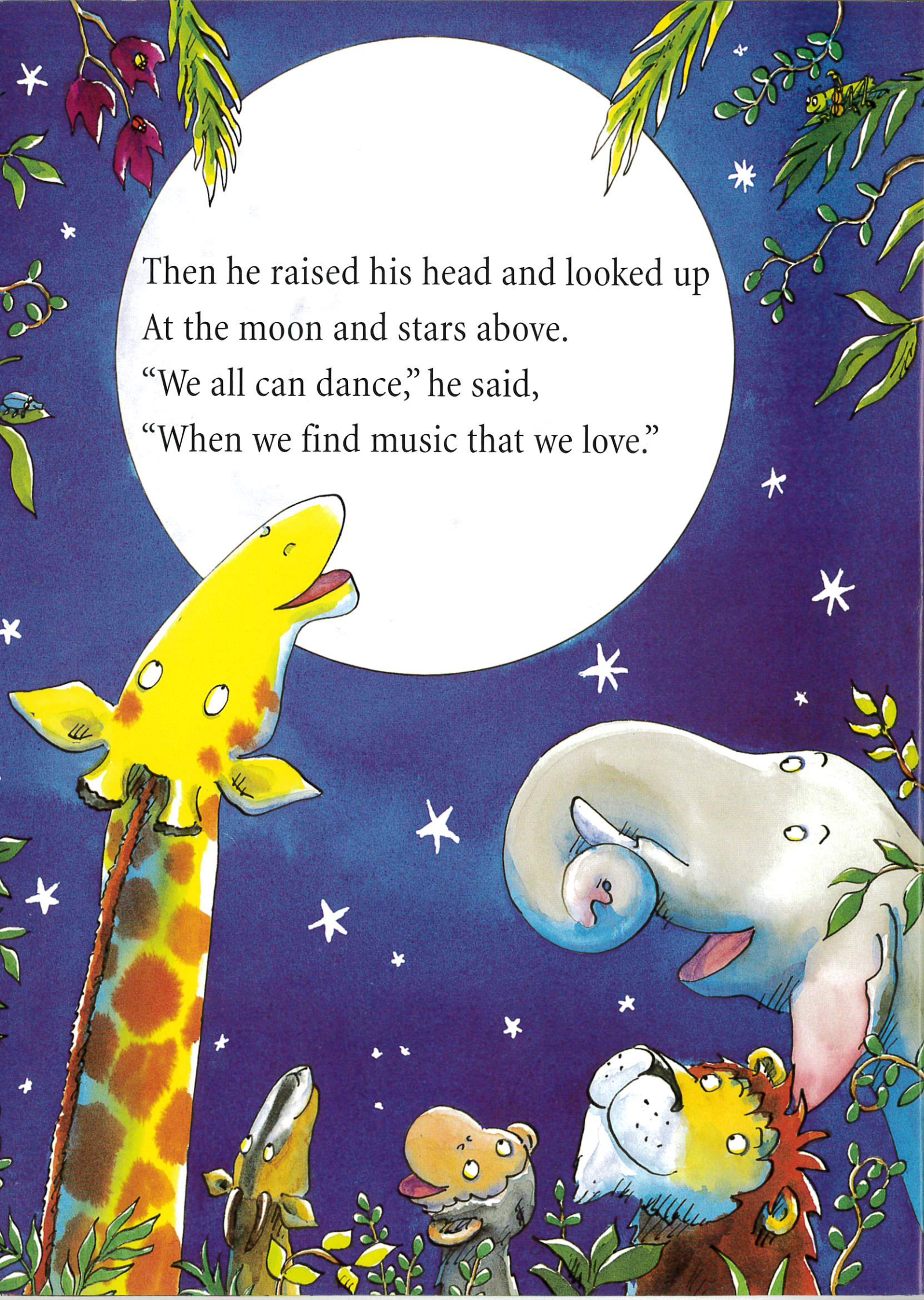
They shouted, "It's a miracle!
We must be in a dream,
Gerald's the best dancer
That we've ever ever seen!"



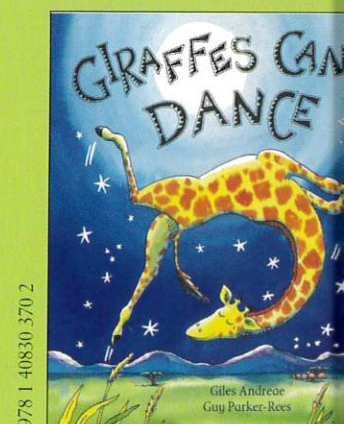
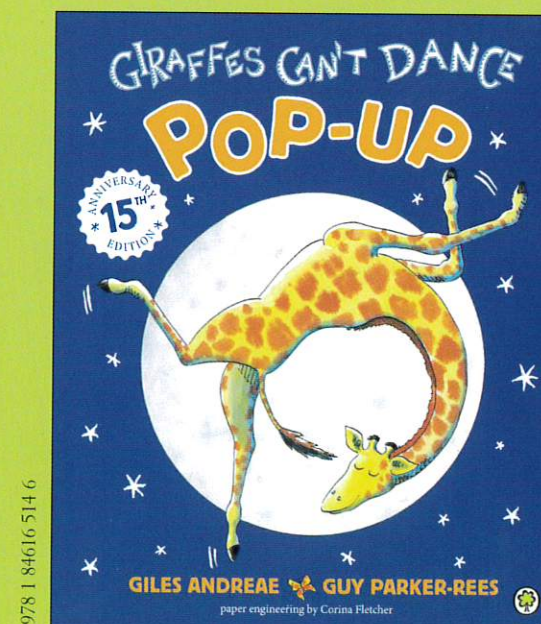
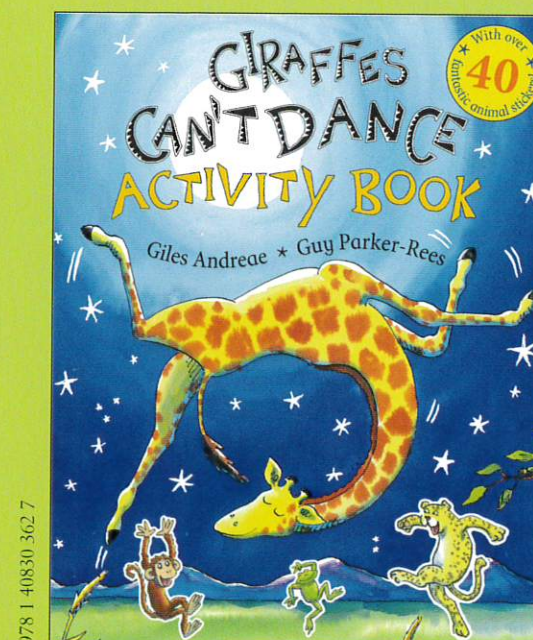
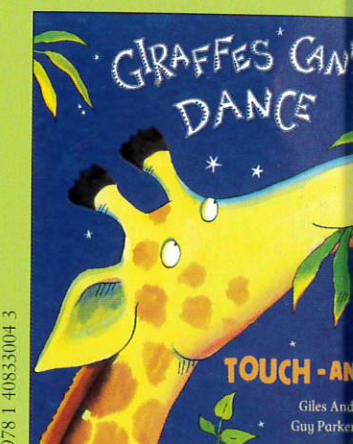
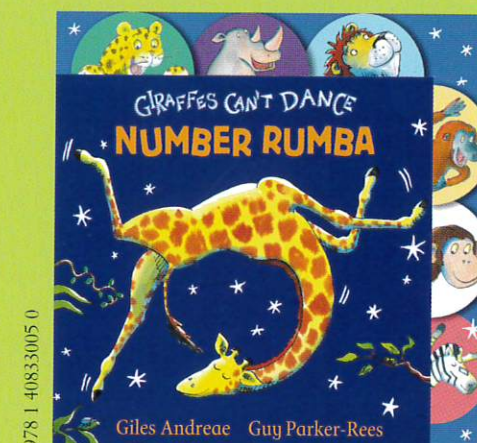
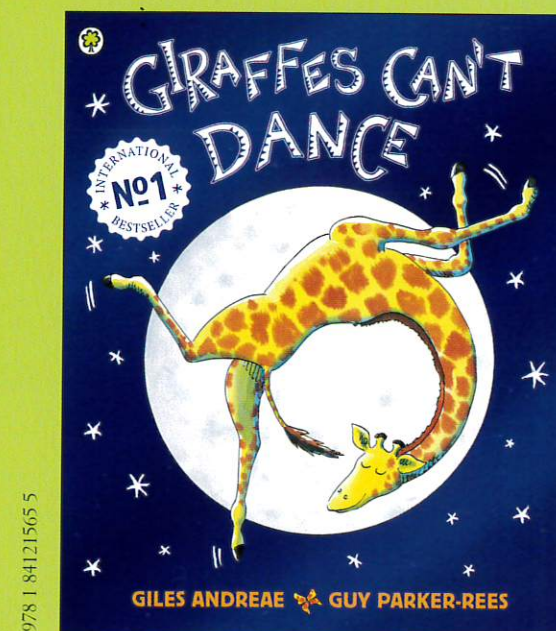
“How is it you can dance like that?
Please, Gerald, tell us how.”
But Gerald simply twizzled round
And finished with a bow.

Then he raised his head and looked up
At the moon and stars above.

"We all can dance," he said,
"When we find music that we love."

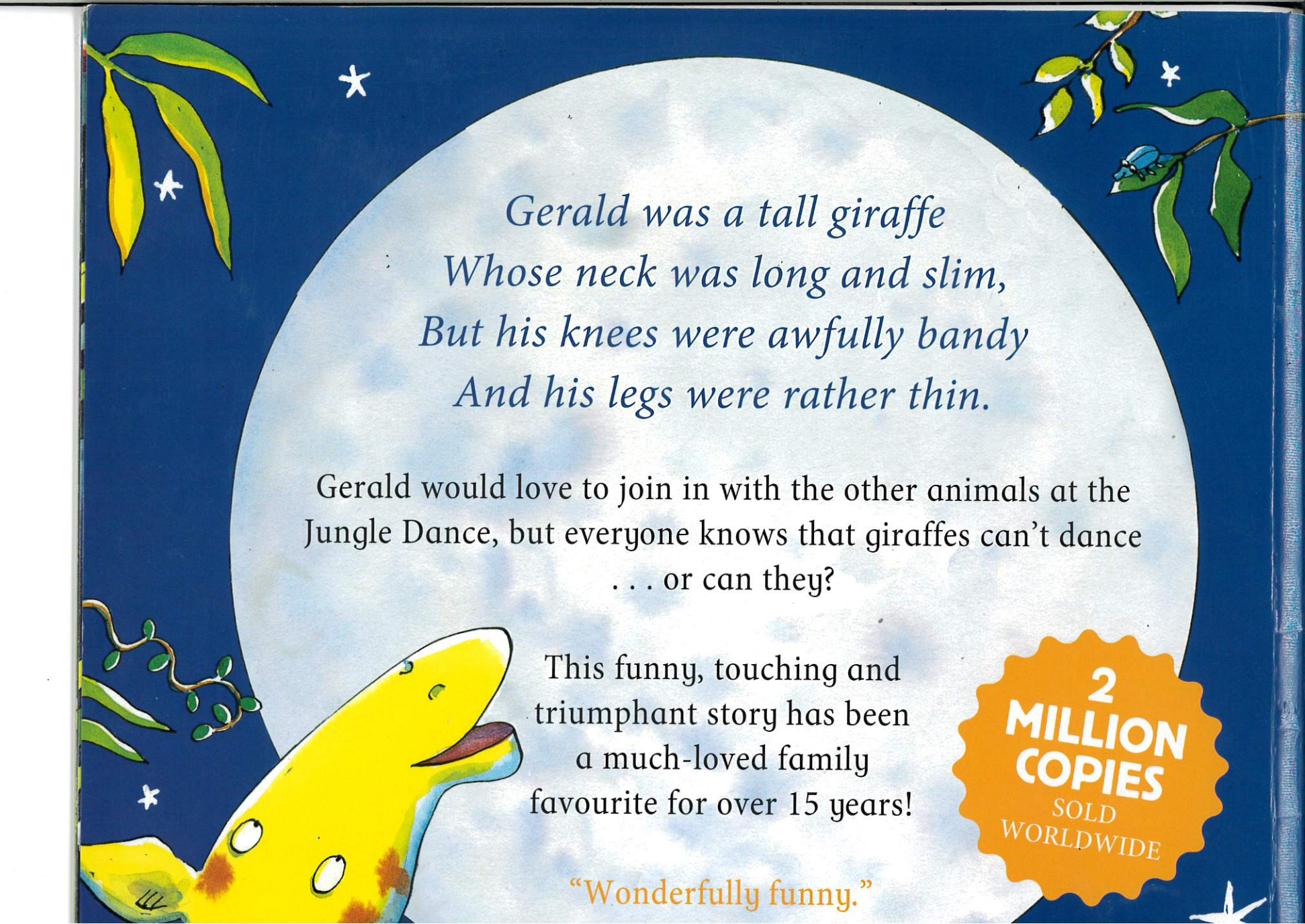


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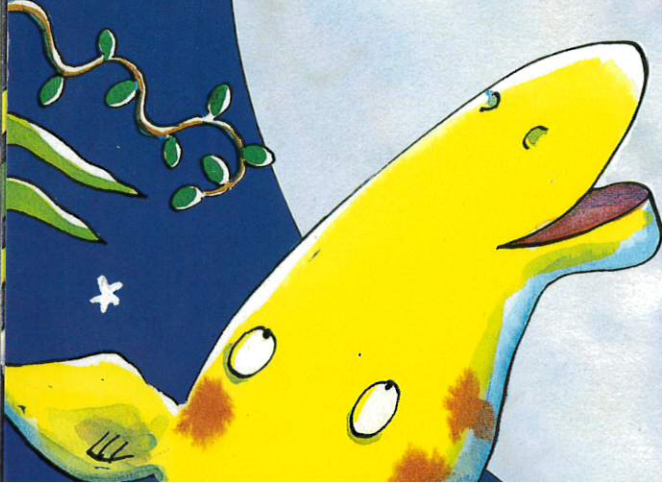
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*Gerald was a tall giraffe
Whose neck was long and slim,
But his knees were awfully bandy
And his legs were rather thin.*

Gerald would love to join in with the other animals at the
Jungle Dance, but everyone knows that giraffes can't dance
... or can they?



This funny, touching and
triumphant story has been
a much-loved family
favourite for over 15 years!

"Wonderfully funny."

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