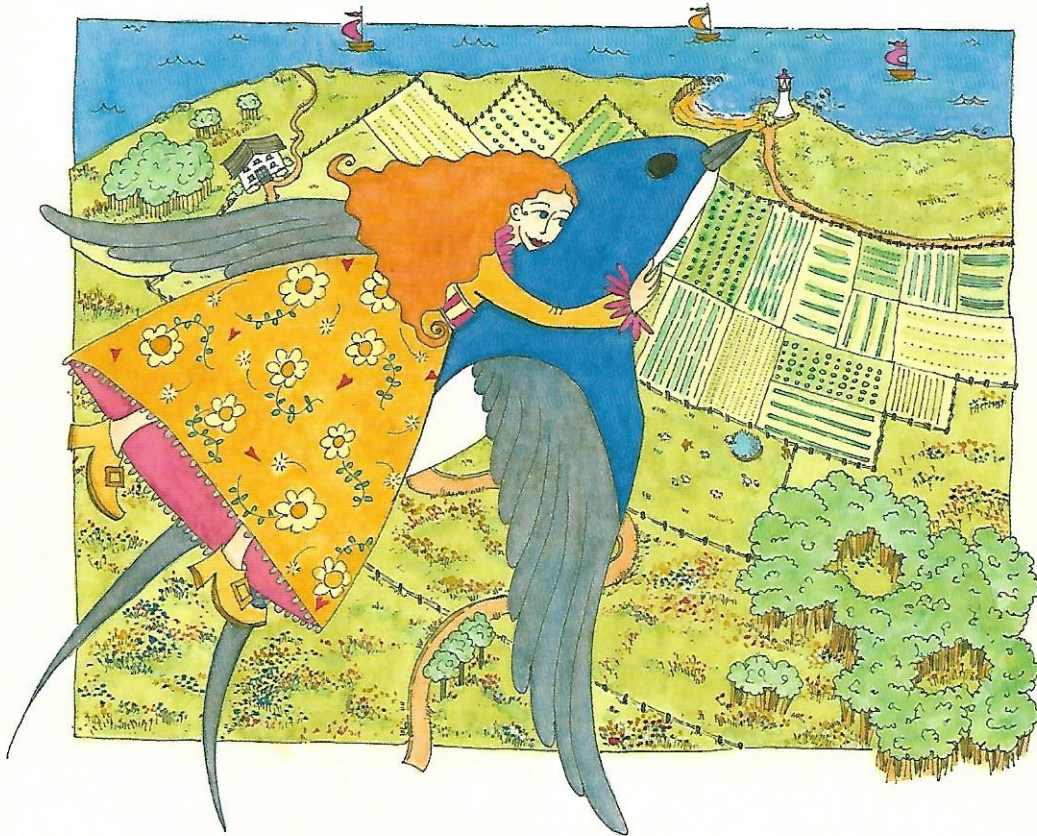




# Thumbelina



Retold by Sue Arengo  
*Illustrated by Celeste Goulding*

BEGINNER 2



# Thumbelina

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BEGINNER 2



OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS



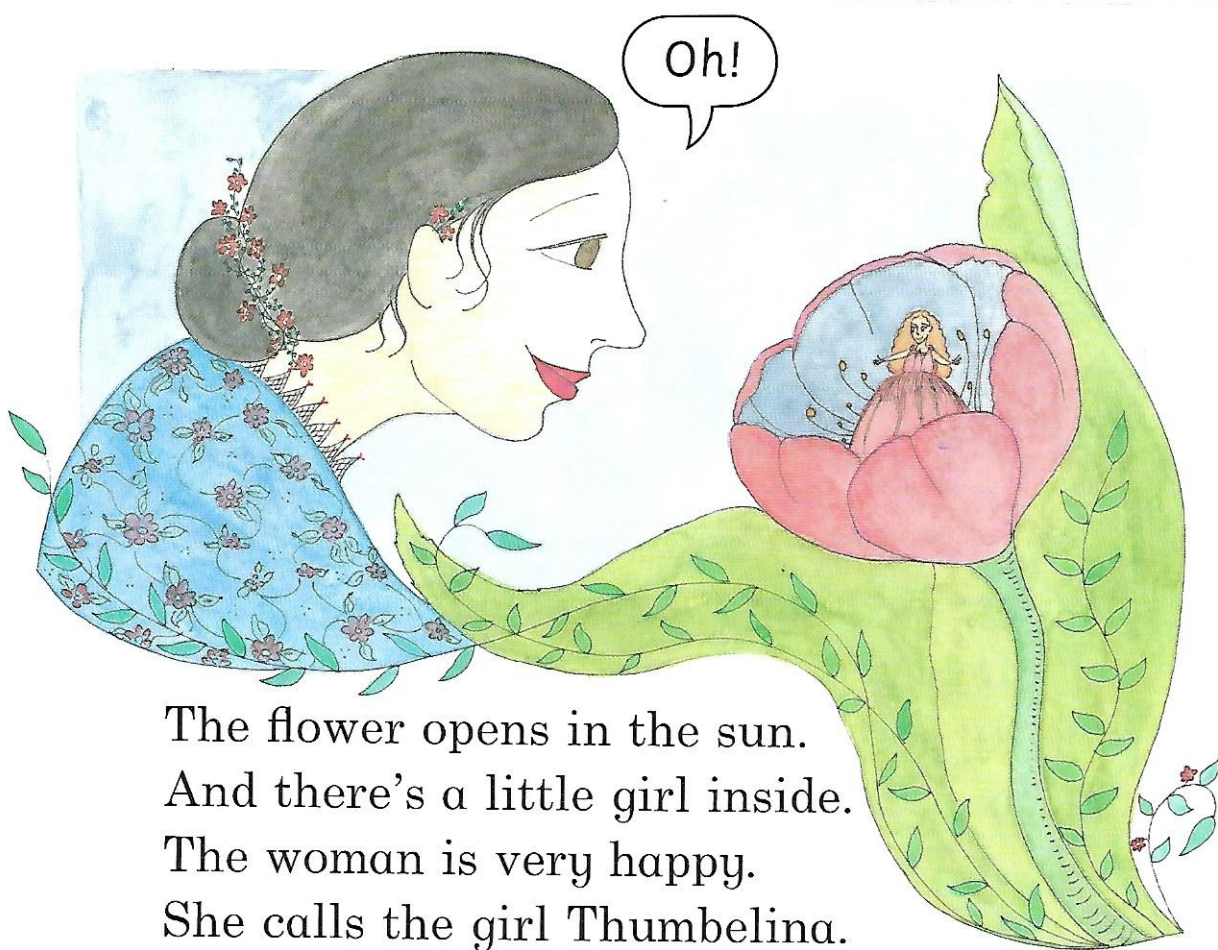
‘I want a child,’ says the woman.  
‘Please help me.’  
‘Here!’ says the old woman.  
‘Plant this seed! And wait!’



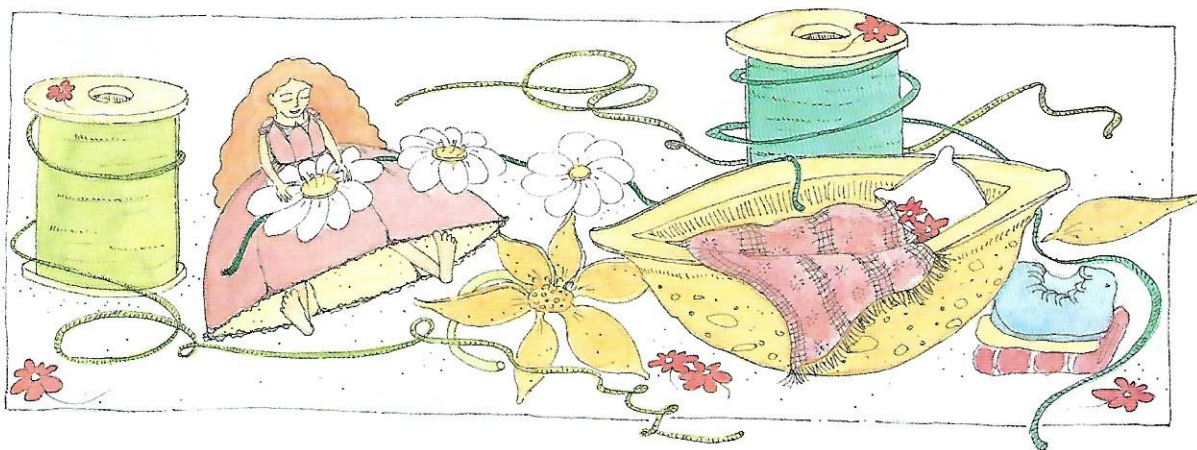
The woman plants the seed.  
She waits.  
At last a flower grows.  
A beautiful flower.





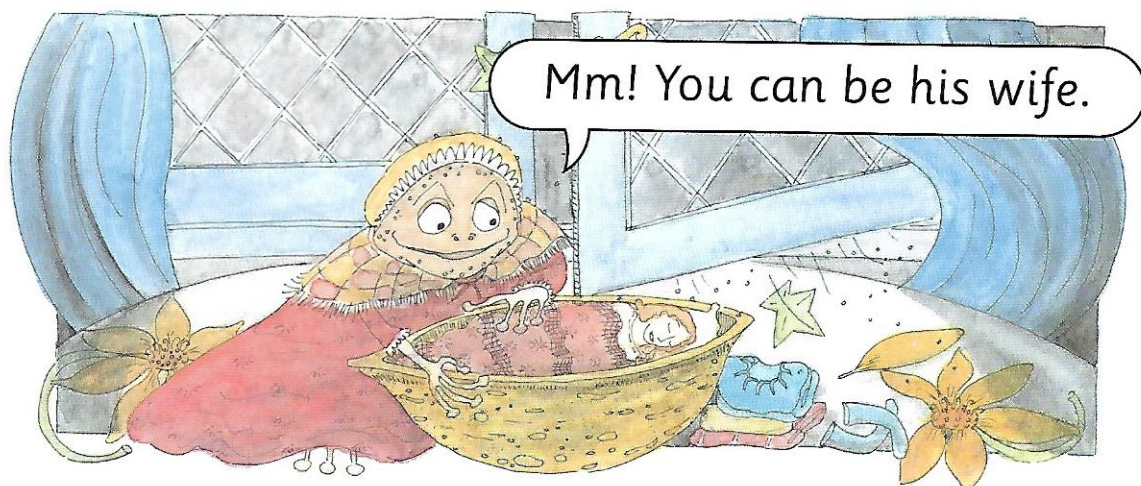


The flower opens in the sun.  
And there's a little girl inside.  
The woman is very happy.  
She calls the girl Thumbelina.

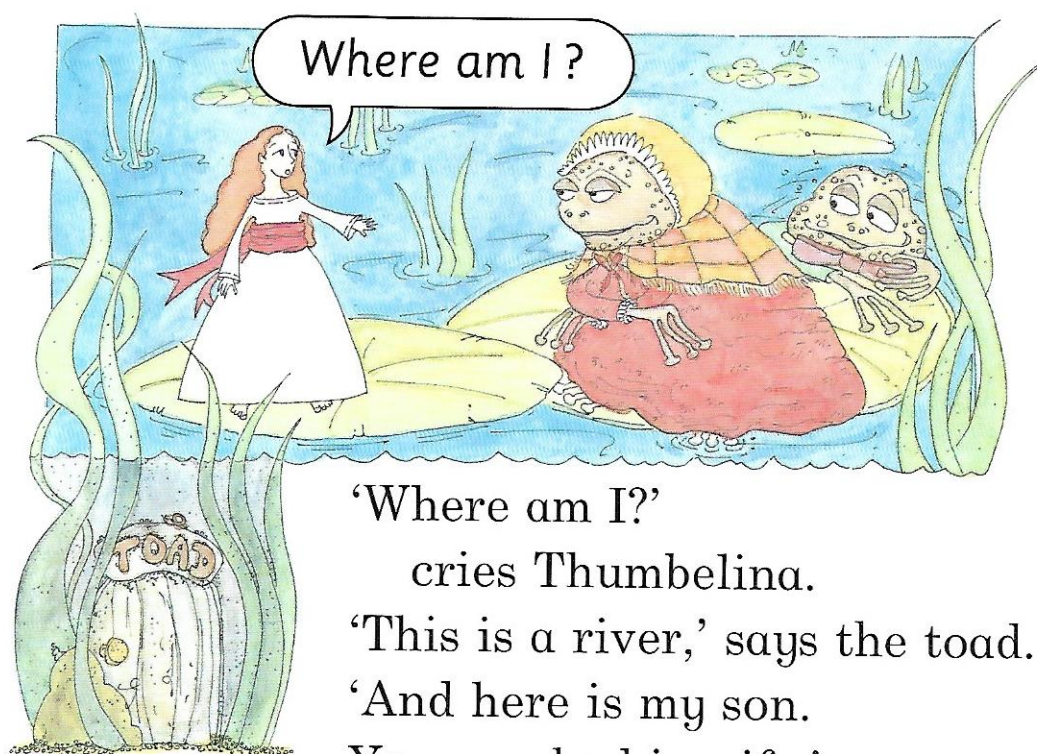


The woman makes a bed for Thumbelina.  
She makes a blanket.  
Thumbelina is very happy.  
She plays and sings all day.



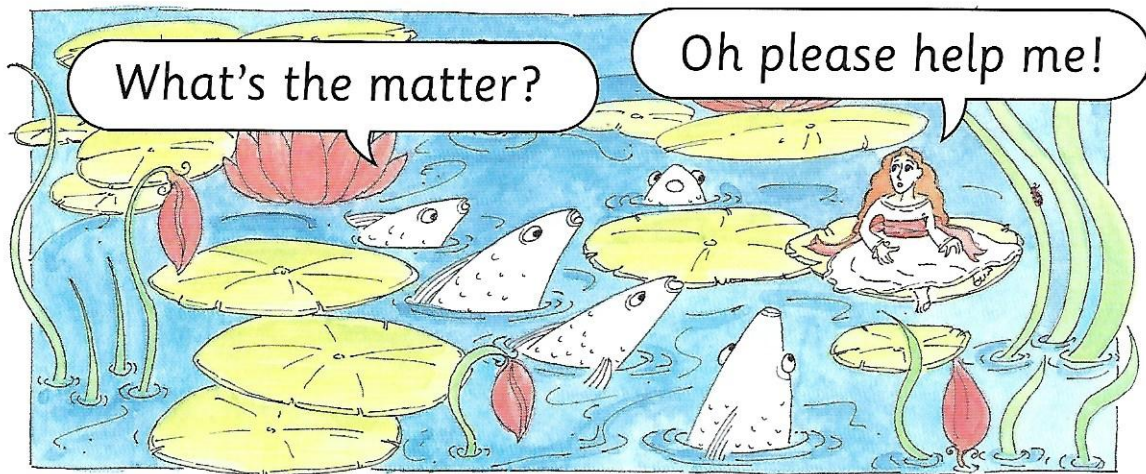


But one night a toad comes.  
'Mm!' says the toad.  
'My son wants a wife.  
You can be his wife.'  
She carries Thumbelina away.



'Where am I?'  
cries Thumbelina.  
'This is a river,' says the toad.  
'And here is my son.  
You can be his wife.'





What's the matter?

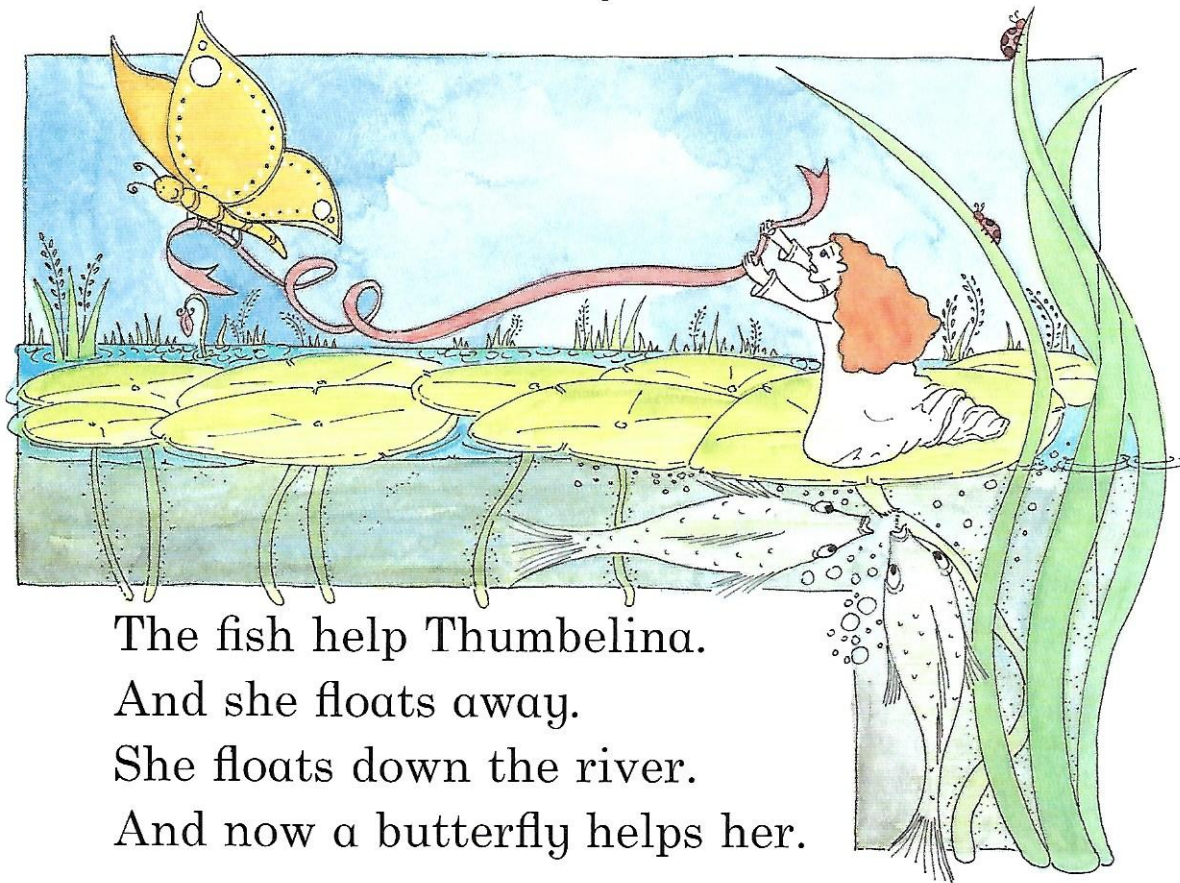
Oh please help me!

Thumbelina begins to cry.

'What's the matter?' ask some fish.

'Oh please help me!' she cries.

'I don't want to marry a toad!'



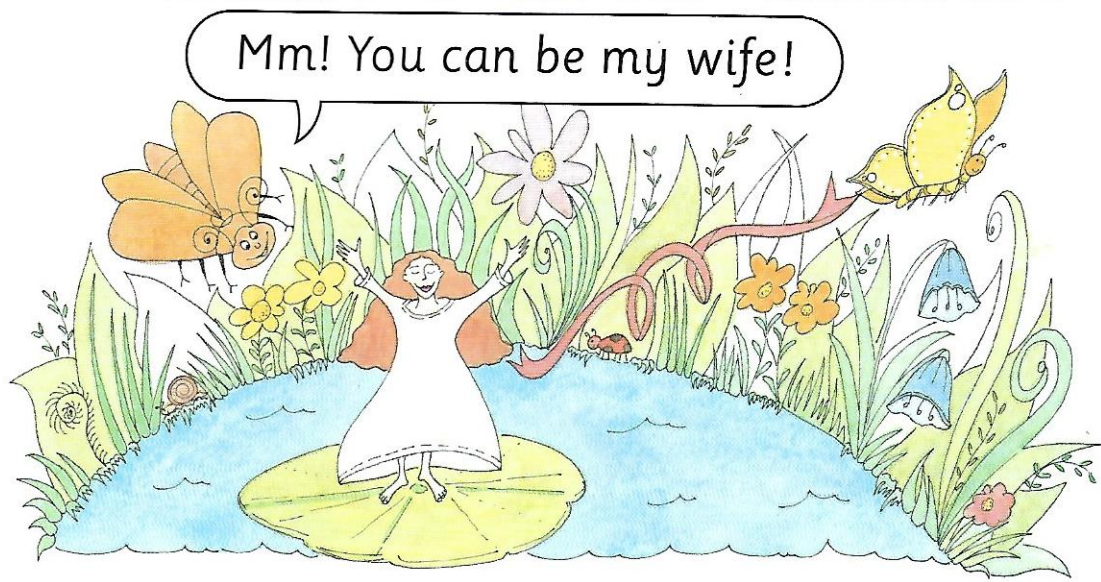
The fish help Thumbelina.

And she floats away.

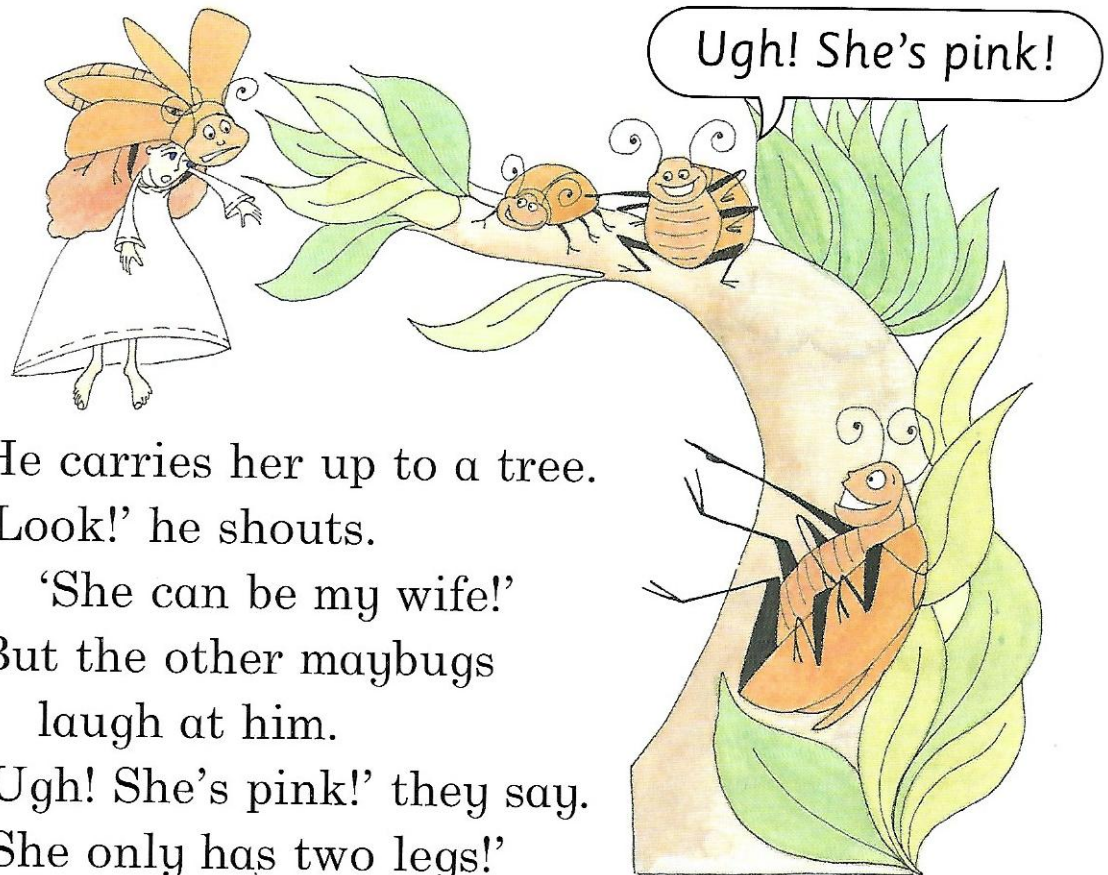
She floats down the river.

And now a butterfly helps her.





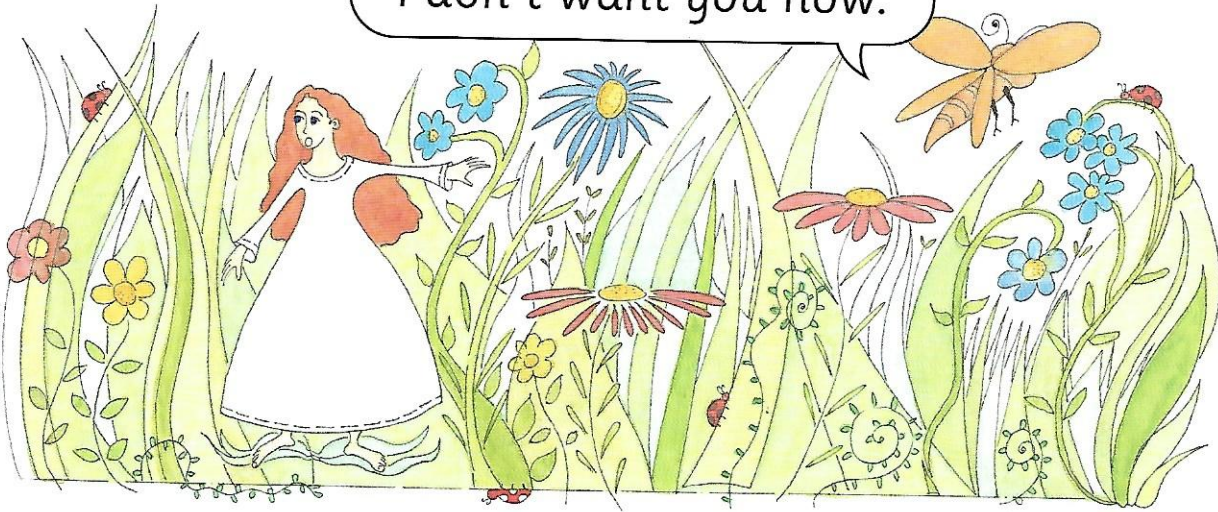
'What a beautiful day!' says Thumbelina.  
But then a black maybug sees her.  
'Mm! You can be my wife!' he says.



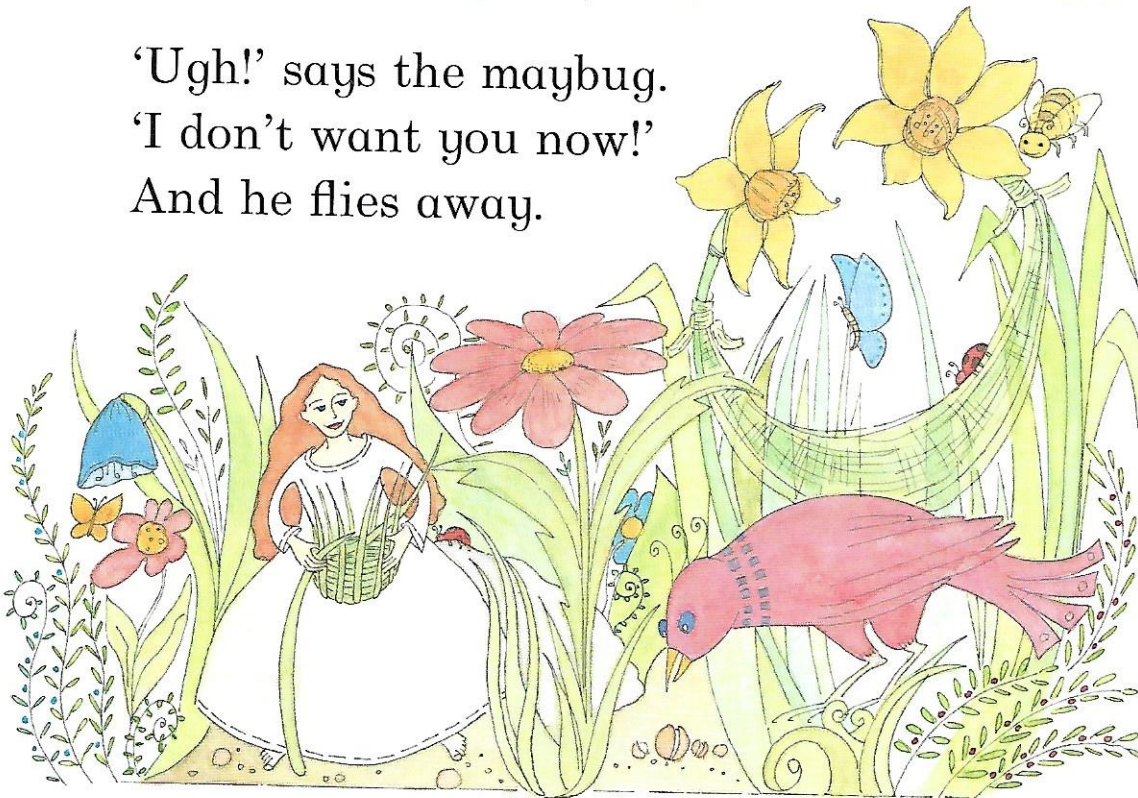
He carries her up to a tree.  
'Look!' he shouts.  
'She can be my wife!'  
But the other maybugs  
laugh at him.  
'Ugh! She's pink!' they say.  
'She only has two legs!'



I don't want you now.



'Ugh!' says the maybug.  
'I don't want you now!'  
And he flies away.



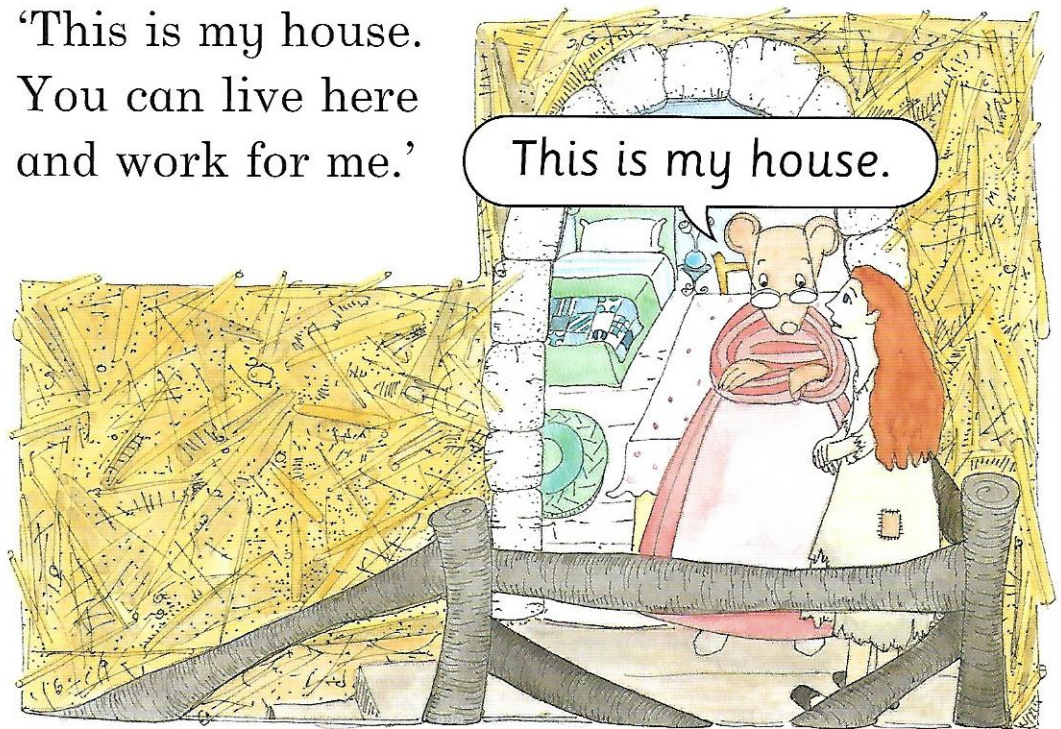
It's summer.  
Thumbelina makes a green grass bed.  
She makes a green grass blanket.  
The birds are her friends.



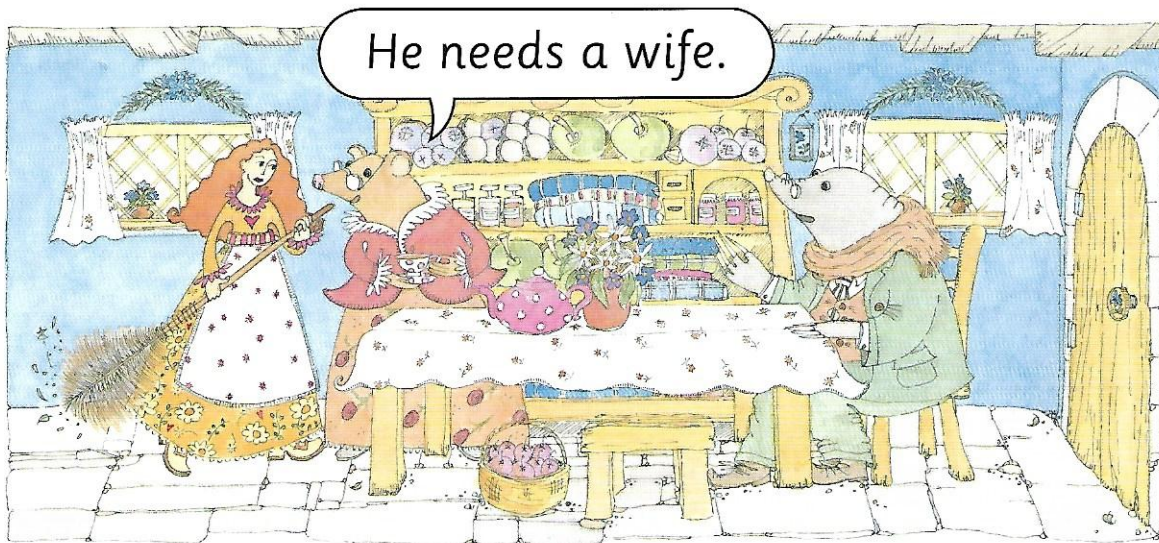
Then winter comes.  
And all the birds fly away.  
It is cold and Thumbelina is hungry.



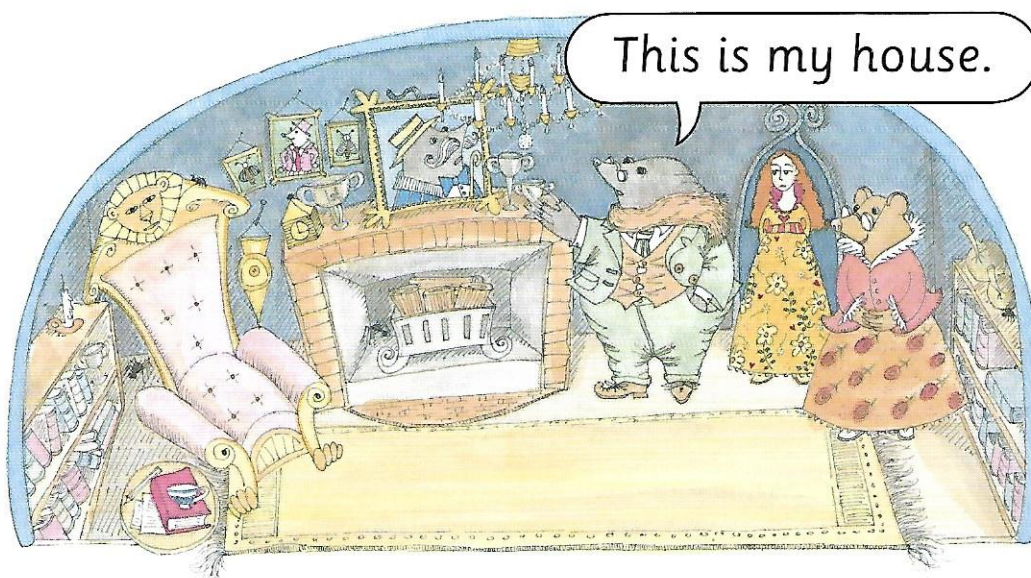
‘Come in, girl,’ says a mouse.  
‘This is my house.  
You can live here  
and work for me.’





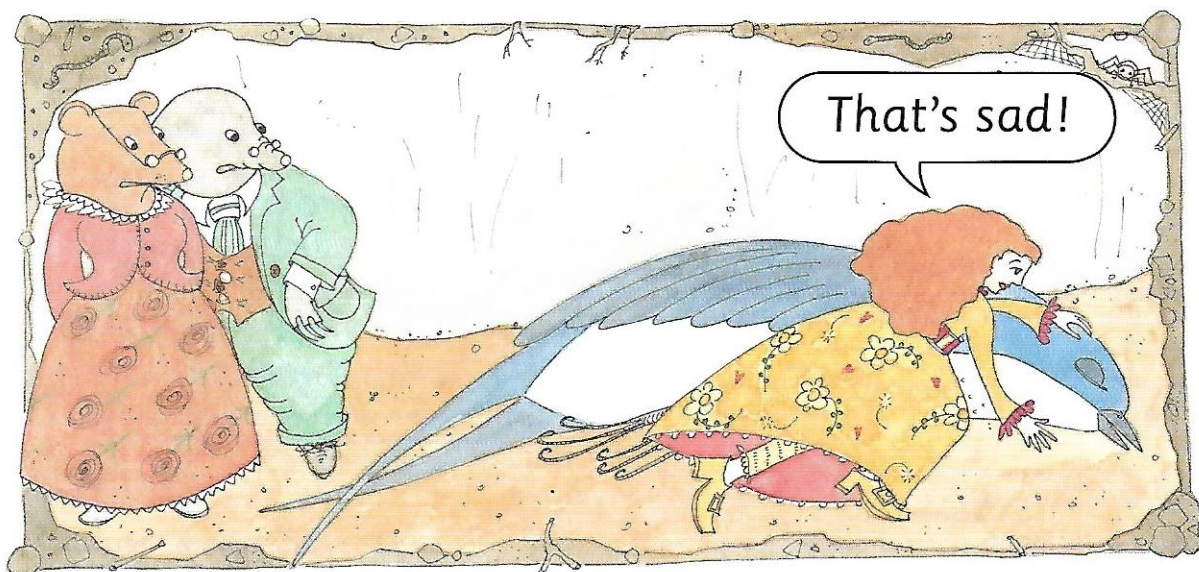


One day a mole visits them.  
'He's very rich,' says the mouse.  
'He needs a wife. Think about it,  
Thumbelina.'



'Look! This is my house,' says the mole.  
But it is dark under the ground.  
And Thumbelina doesn't like it.





There's a bird under the ground.  
A dead bird. It's cold.  
'That's sad!' says Thumbelina.  
But the mole says, 'I don't like birds.'

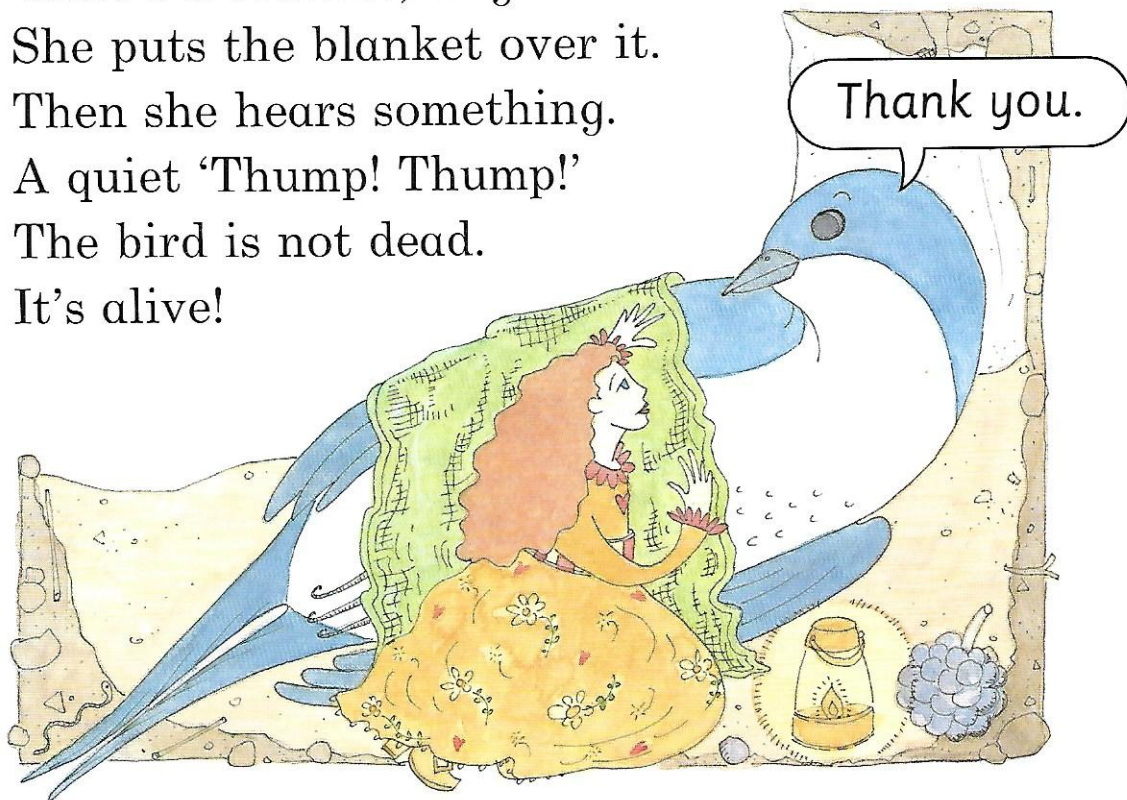


That night Thumbelina can't sleep.  
She thinks about the bird.  
She gets out of bed.  
She makes a grass blanket for the bird.





'Here's a blanket,' says Thumbelina.  
She puts the blanket over it.  
Then she hears something.  
A quiet 'Thump! Thump!'  
The bird is not dead.  
It's alive!



And now it opens its eyes.  
'Thank you,' it says.  
'I am warmer now.'



All winter Thumbelina works for the mouse.  
The mole visits them every day.  
Sometimes Thumbelina sings for him.



And every day Thumbelina visits the bird.  
'Here's food and water,' she says.  
'Thank you, my friend,' says the bird.  
'I am warmer now.'





Spring comes.

The bird is better now.

'It's time to go!' it says.

'Come with me!'

'I can't,' says Thumbelina.

'The mouse needs me.'

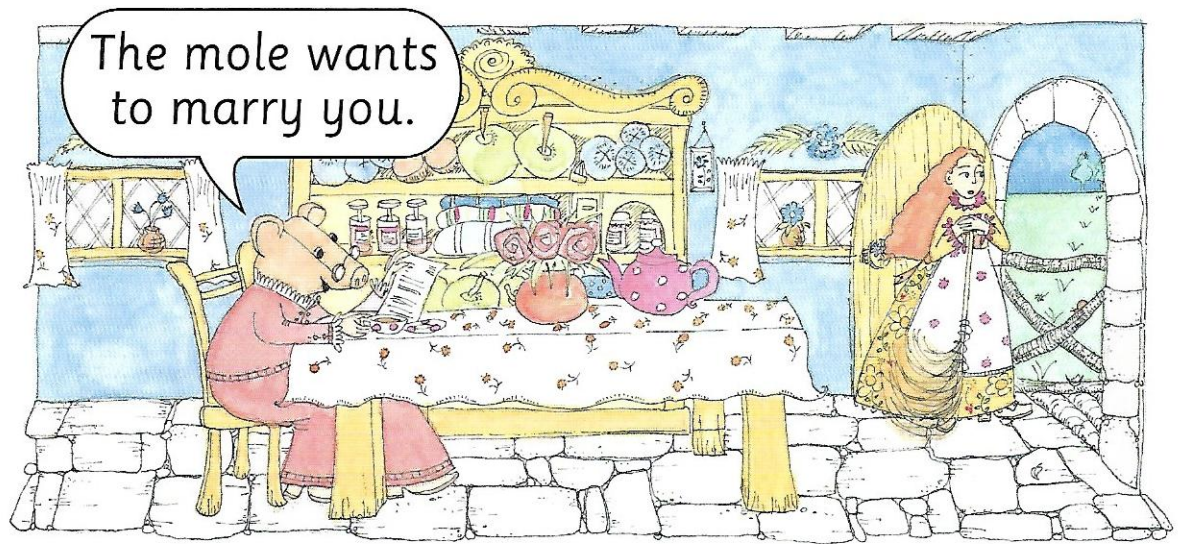


'Goodbye,' says the bird.

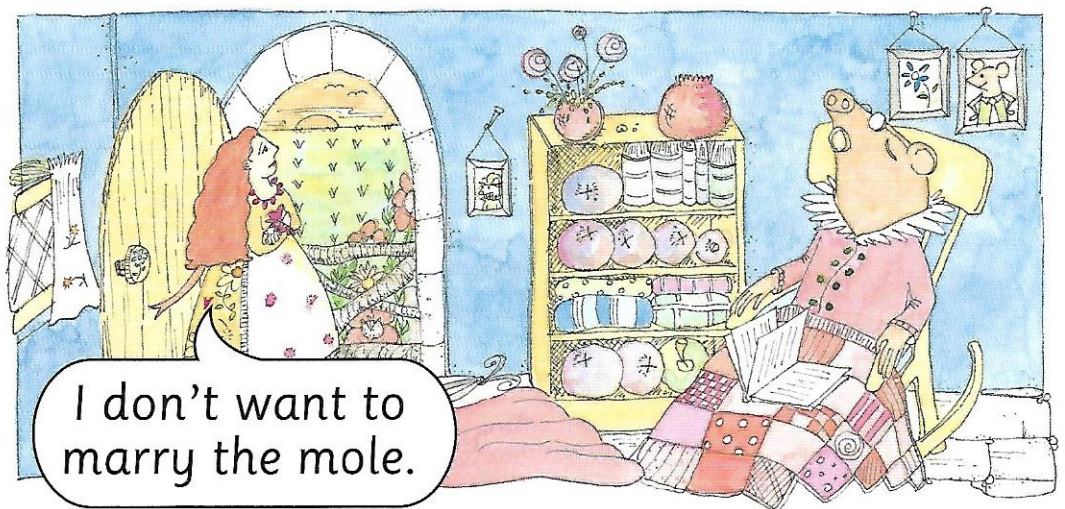
'Goodbye, my friend.'

And he flies up to the blue sky.





Thumbelina wants to go outside.  
But there is always more work.  
'The mole wants to marry you,'  
says the mouse.  
'You need some new clothes.'

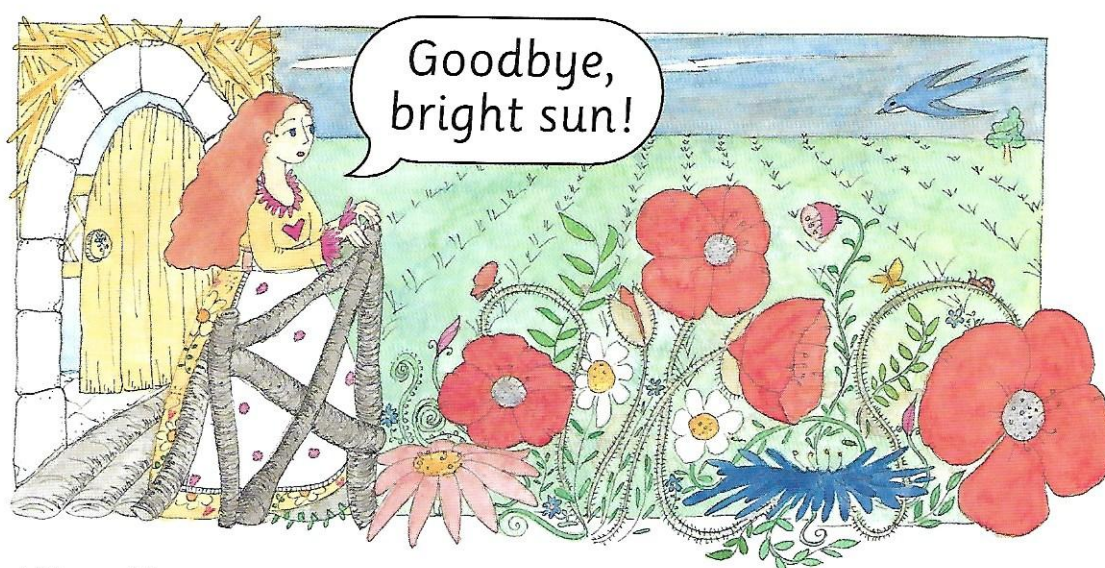


That evening Thumbelina looks out.  
'I don't want to marry the mole,'  
she thinks.





'Your clothes are ready!' says the mouse.  
'The mole wants to marry you tomorrow.  
Go outside.  
Say goodbye to the world.'



'Goodbye, bright sun!' says Thumbelina.  
Suddenly she hears something.  
It's the bird.  
It's her friend, the bird.



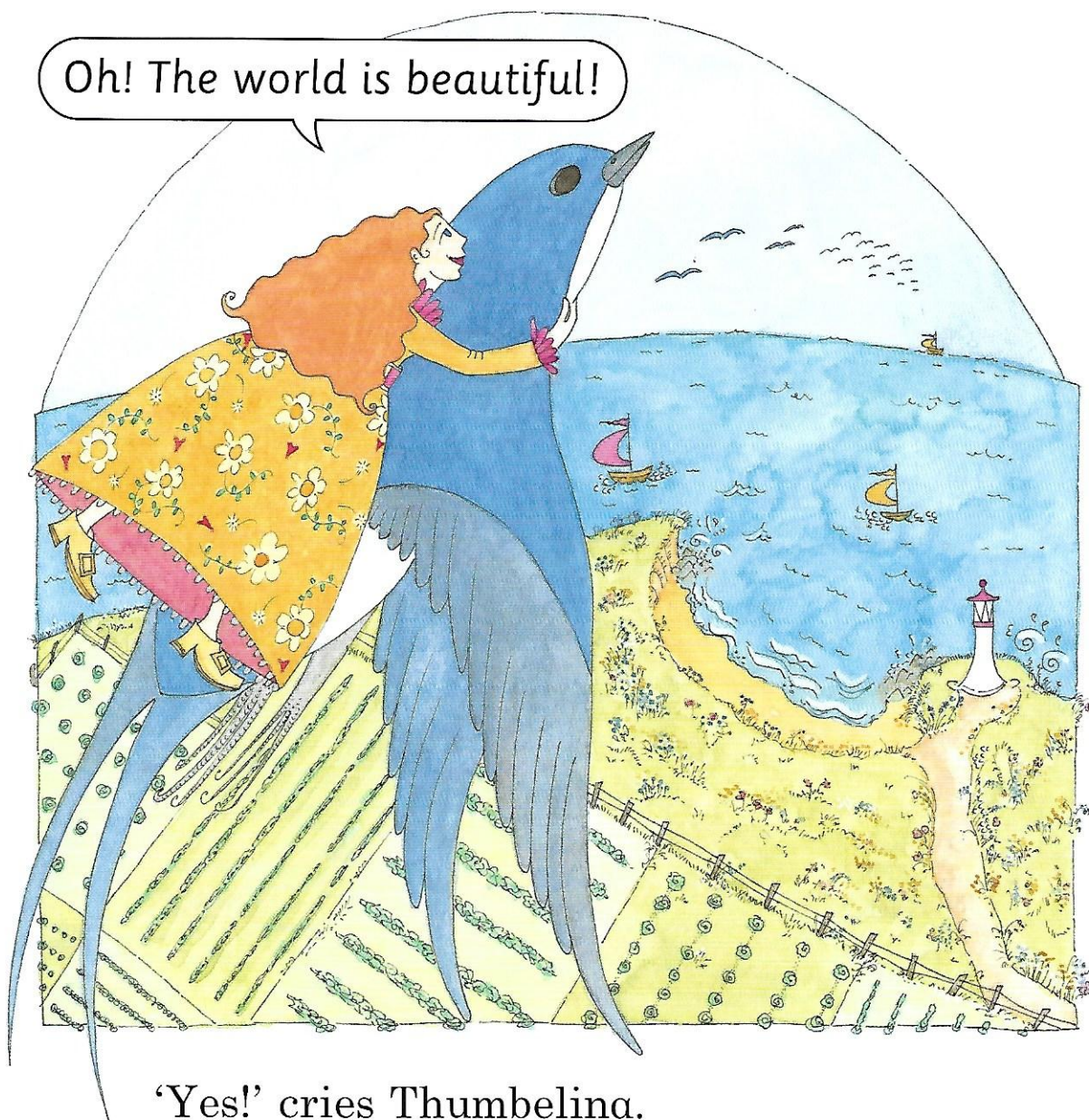


'I am flying away today,' says the bird.  
'Come with me. Quick!  
Sit on my back!'



'Leave the mole behind.  
Leave him in the dark rooms.  
Come, friend!  
Sit on my back!' says the bird.





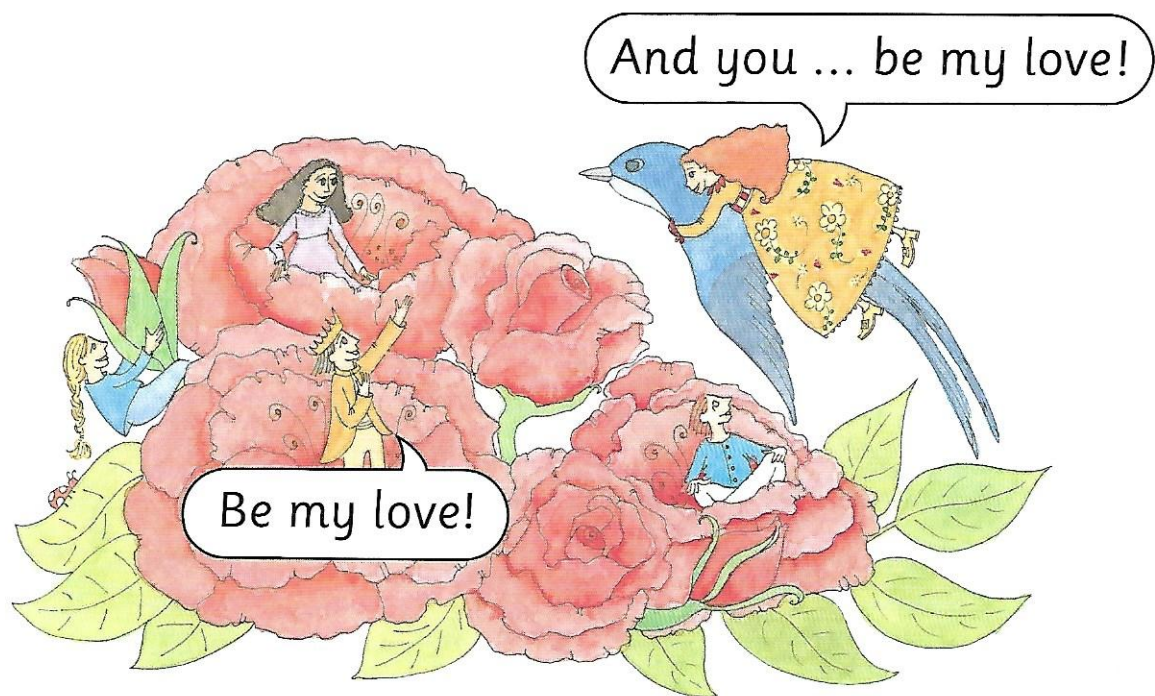
‘Yes!’ cries Thumbelina.  
She gets onto the bird’s back.  
And up they fly.  
Into the blue sky.  
‘Oh! The world is beautiful!’  
cries Thumbelina.  
‘Look at the colours!’



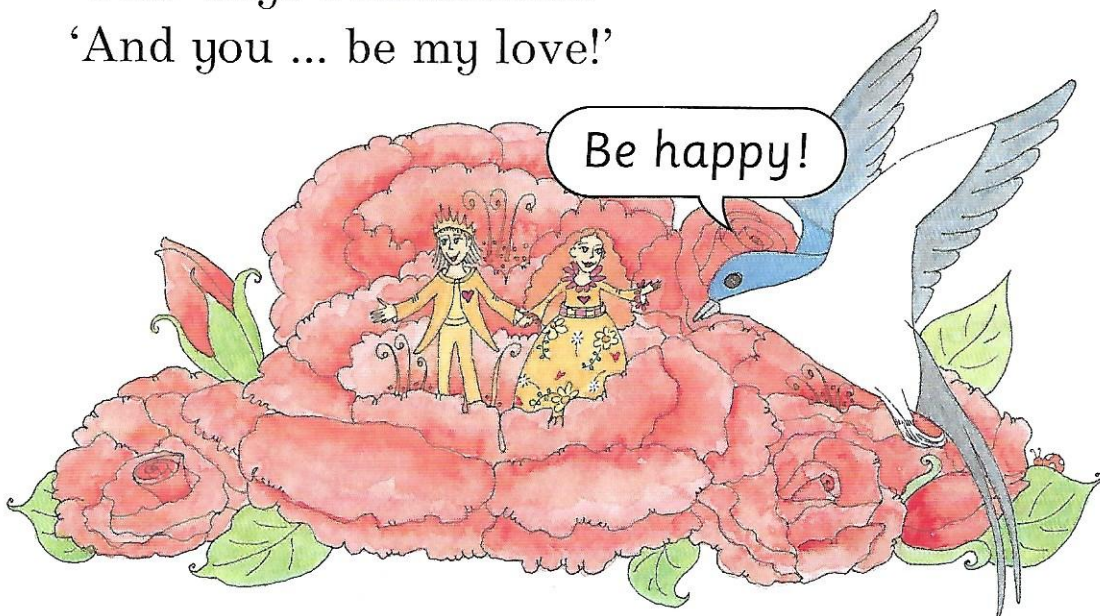


They fly to another country.  
The sun shines.  
There are flowers and butterflies.  
There are oranges on the trees.  
'This is my home, here!' says the bird.  
'Look, Thumbelina!  
Your home is in a flower!'





There is a little prince in a flower.  
'Be my love!' he says to Thumbelina.  
'Yes!' says Thumbelina.  
'And you ... be my love!'



'Thumbelina!' says the bird.  
'Your dark days are over.  
Be happy!'



# Exercises

## 1 What do they say?

1 Plant this s \_ \_ \_.



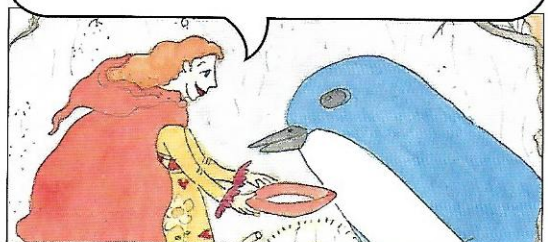
2 You can be my w \_ \_ \_.



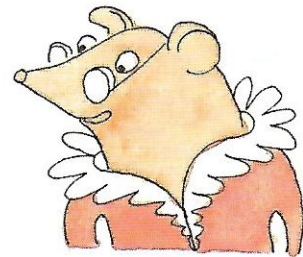
3 This is my h \_ \_ \_ \_.



4 Here's f \_ \_ \_ and water.



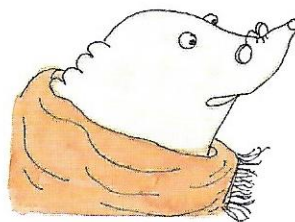
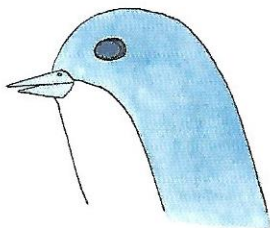
## 2 Who is it?



1 It's the t \_ \_ \_.

2 It's T \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.

3 It's the m \_ \_ \_ \_.



4 It's the b \_ \_ \_.

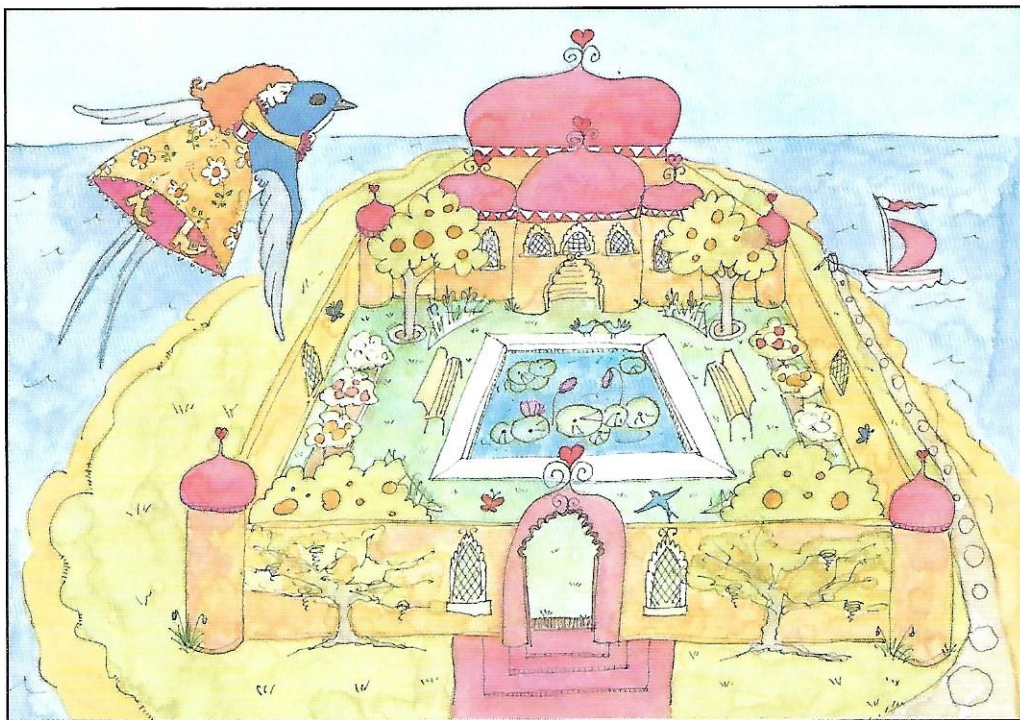
5 It's the m \_ \_ \_.

6 It's the p \_ \_ \_ \_.



3 Look at the picture.

Answer the questions. Yes or no?



1 Is this another country?

☐ yes ☐ no

2 Is it cold?

☐ yes ☐ no

3 Is it beautiful?

☐ yes ☐ no

4 Is it winter?

☐ yes ☐ no

5 Are there lots of flowers?

☐ yes ☐ no

6 Does the bird live here?

☐ yes ☐ no

7 Does the mole live here?

☐ yes ☐ no

8 Is Thumbelina sad?

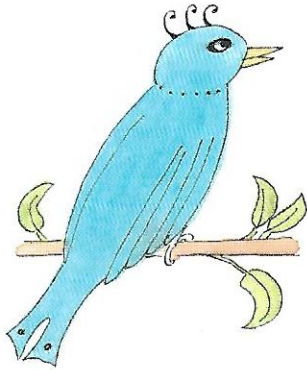
☐ yes ☐ no

9 Is Thumbelina happy?

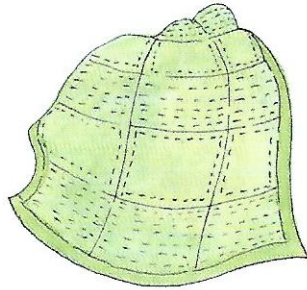
☐ yes ☐ no



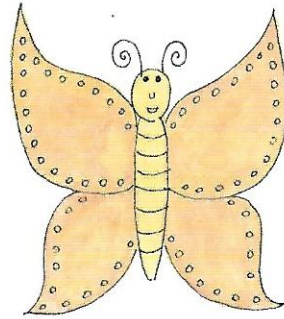
# Glossary



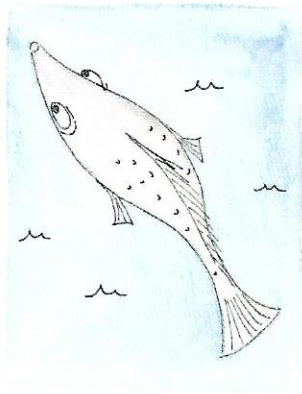
bird



blanket



butterfly



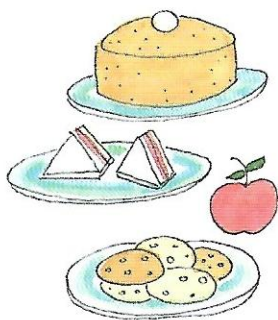
fish



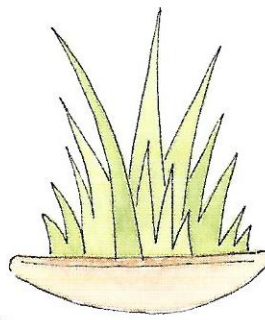
float



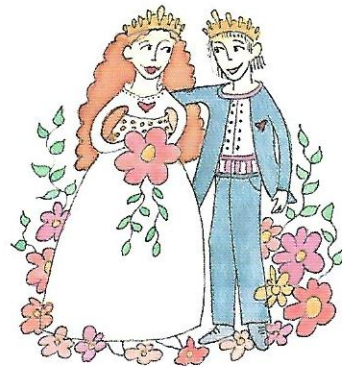
fly



food

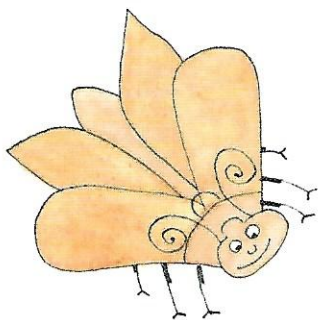


grass



marry





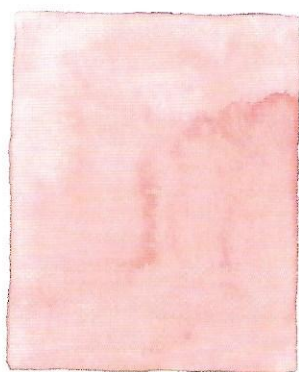
maybug



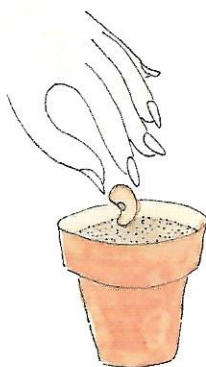
mole



mouse



pink



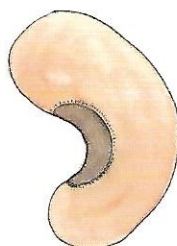
plant



prince



sad



seed



toad