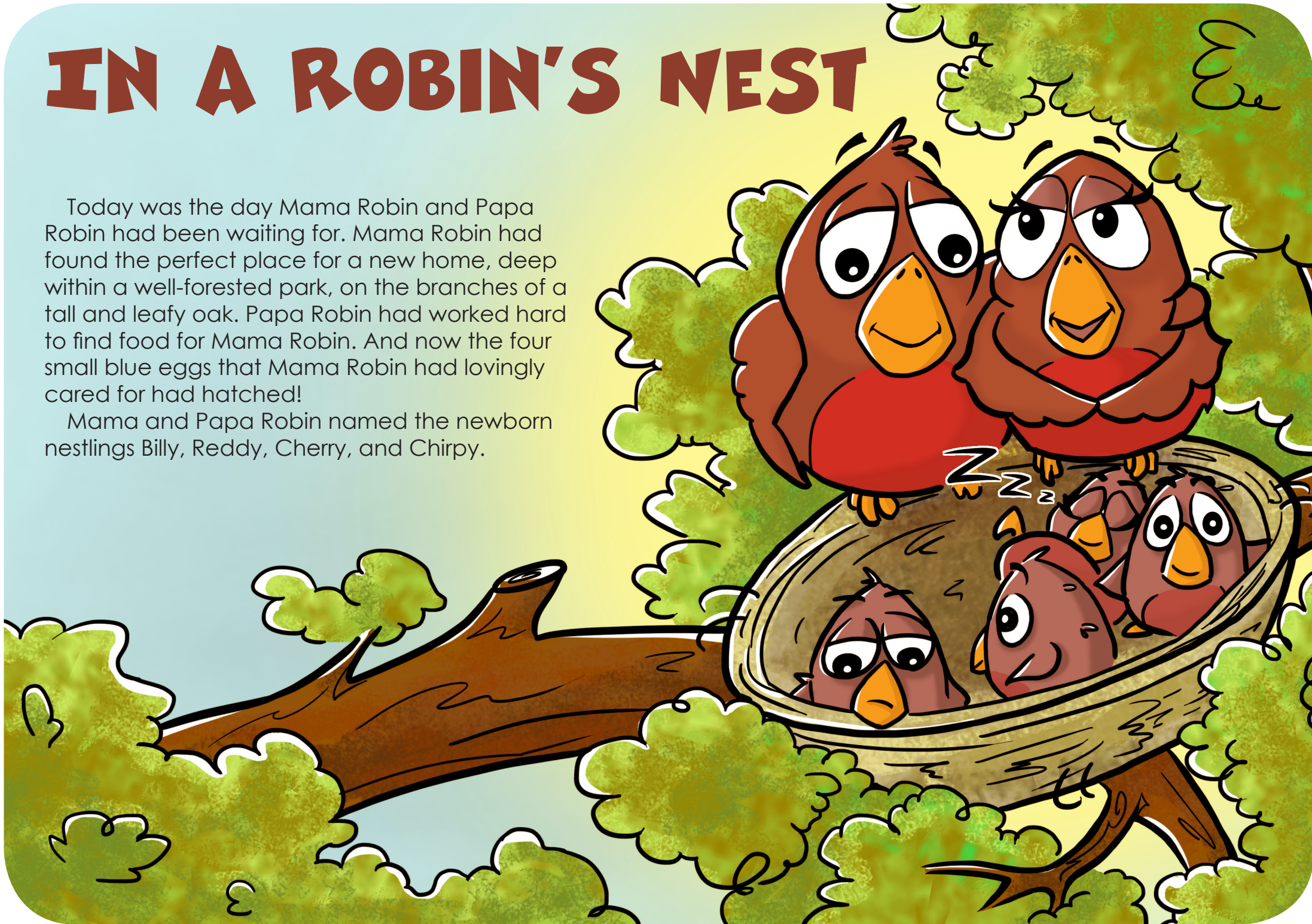


# IN A ROBIN'S NEST

Today was the day Mama Robin and Papa Robin had been waiting for. Mama Robin had found the perfect place for a new home, deep within a well-forested park, on the branches of a tall and leafy oak. Papa Robin had worked hard to find food for Mama Robin. And now the four small blue eggs that Mama Robin had lovingly cared for had hatched!

Mama and Papa Robin named the newborn nestlings Billy, Reddy, Cherry, and Chirpy.





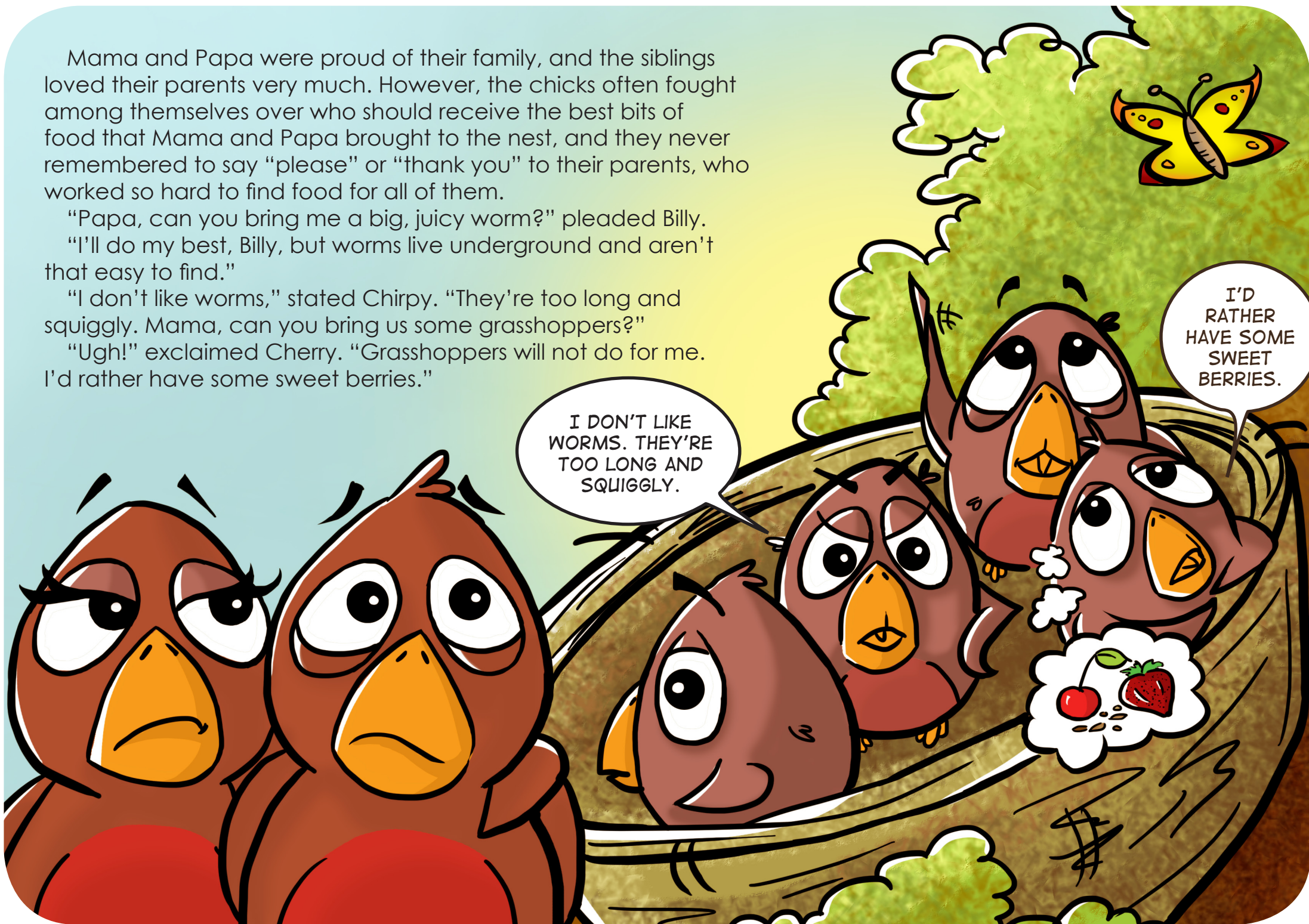
Mama and Papa were proud of their family, and the siblings loved their parents very much. However, the chicks often fought among themselves over who should receive the best bits of food that Mama and Papa brought to the nest, and they never remembered to say “please” or “thank you” to their parents, who worked so hard to find food for all of them.

“Papa, can you bring me a big, juicy worm?” pleaded Billy.

“I’ll do my best, Billy, but worms live underground and aren’t that easy to find.”

“I don’t like worms,” stated Chirpy. “They’re too long and squiggly. Mama, can you bring us some grasshoppers?”

“Ugh!” exclaimed Cherry. “Grasshoppers will not do for me. I’d rather have some sweet berries.”



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"My dear chicks, you need to remember to ask nicely for things and learn to eat what is set before you in gratitude," Mama Robin gently reminded her hungry birdies.

But the four chicks continued with their demands.

"You know what I would really like?" said Reddy. "A tasty beetle."

"Papa, I have an idea!" said Billy. "If you get what everyone wants, then we'll all be happy!"

"Oh dear, what will we do?" whispered Mama Robin to Papa Robin.

"Maybe we can search together this time, and we'll see what we can find as a team," Papa answered.

Papa Robin soon spotted a big worm wiggling across the grass. He caught it, and together Papa and Mama flew back to the nest.



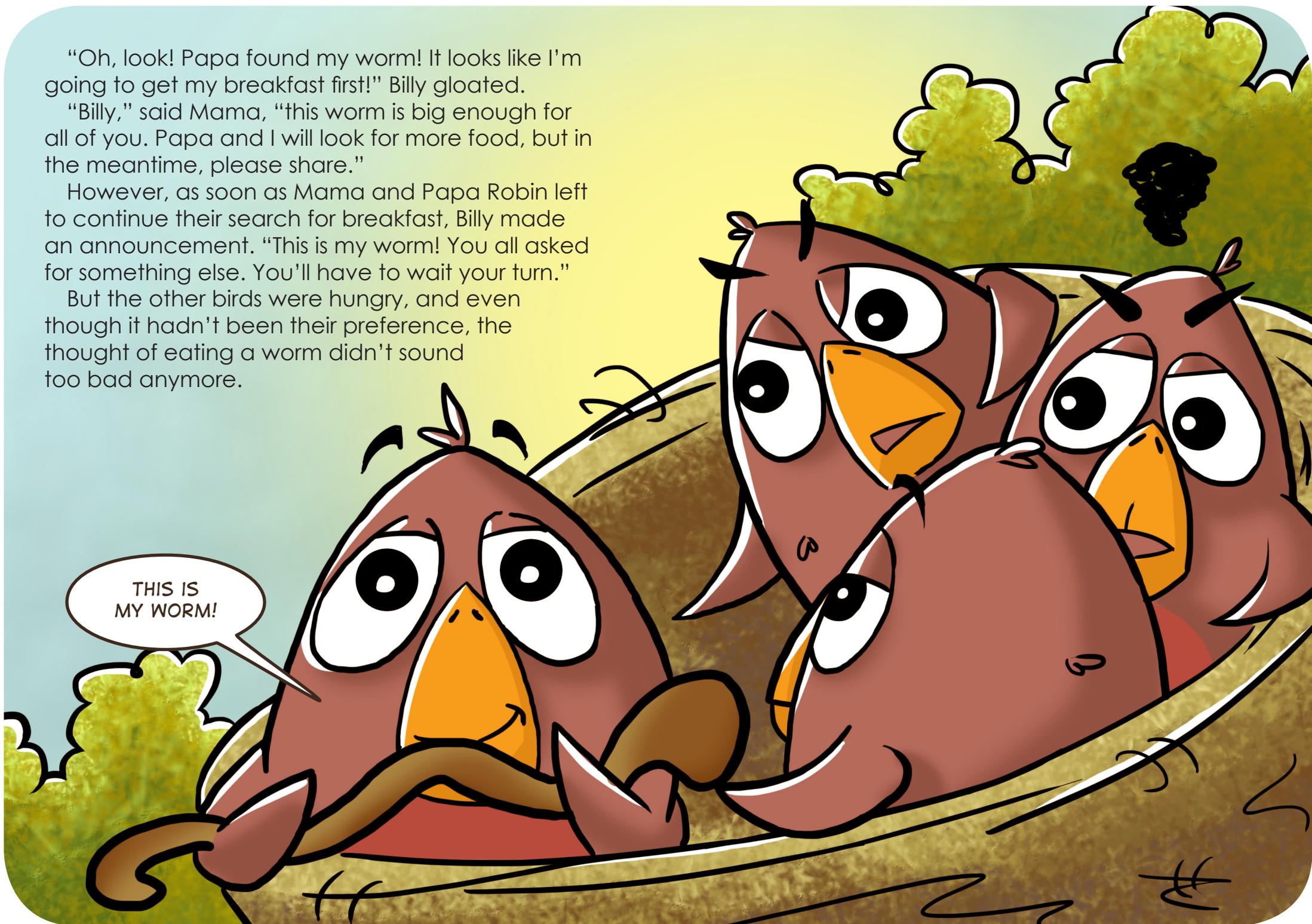


"Oh, look! Papa found my worm! It looks like I'm going to get my breakfast first!" Billy gloated.

"Billy," said Mama, "this worm is big enough for all of you. Papa and I will look for more food, but in the meantime, please share."

However, as soon as Mama and Papa Robin left to continue their search for breakfast, Billy made an announcement. "This is my worm! You all asked for something else. You'll have to wait your turn."

But the other birds were hungry, and even though it hadn't been their preference, the thought of eating a worm didn't sound too bad anymore.





"What if they can't find beetles anywhere?" Reddy worried. "I'm hungry!"

"Me too," said Cherry. "Please, can we have some of the worm?"

"Nope. It's my worm, and I'm going to eat it all by myself!"

Chirpy, Cherry, and Reddy were not going to give up that easily, and they started to pull on one end of the worm. Billy, however, held tightly to the other end. Hoping that it would help him get the worm away from his siblings, Billy climbed to the edge of the nest with one end of the worm held tightly in his beak.

"Get down, Billy!" cried Cherry. "It's dangerous up there!"

But Billy ignored Cherry and pulled with all his might—and fell off the edge of the nest. It was a long way down, and he landed with a plop on some soft grass.





"Oh no!" squealed Chirpy. "Is he hurt?"

"I don't think so," said Reddy, peering down. "He's standing now. But how will he get back in the nest? Our wings aren't strong enough to fly yet."

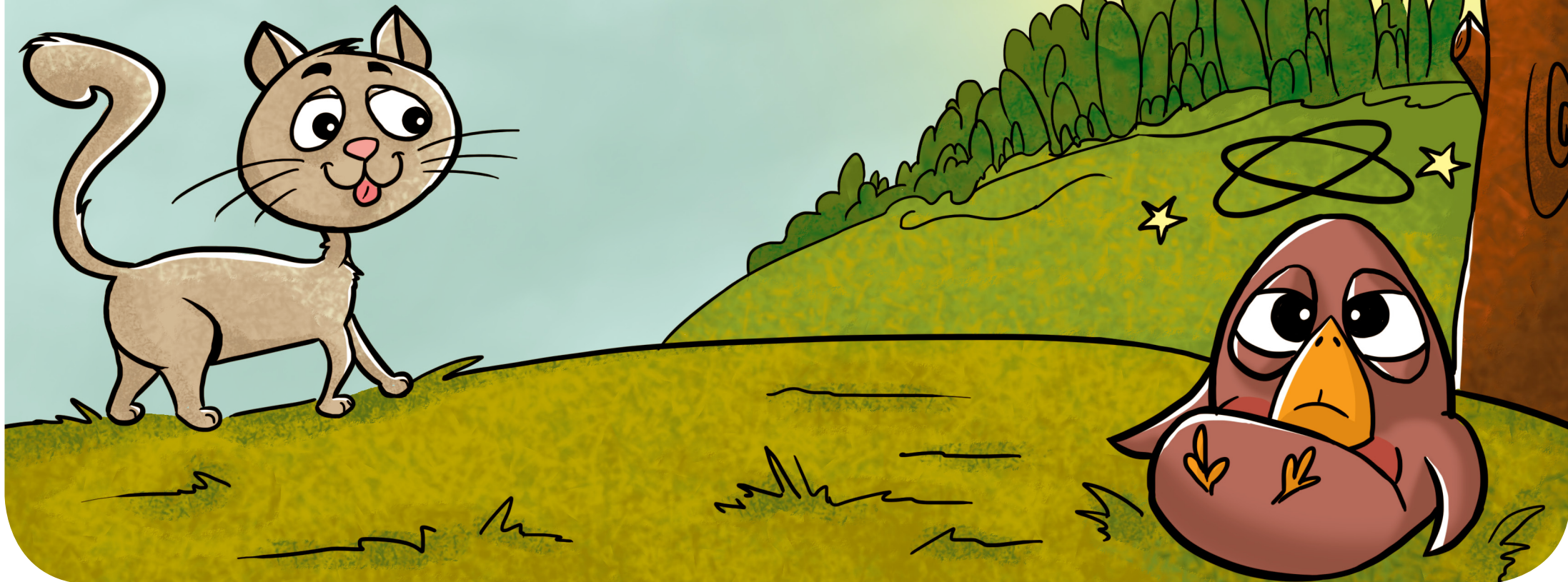
The three remaining nestlings looked over the side of the nest to see if help could be found, instead they saw something else.

"Is th-that a c-cat?" whispered Cherry. Mama and Papa Robin had told them that cats liked to catch little birdies that had wandered off on their own.

"This doesn't look good," said Reddy.

Down on the ground little Billy shivered and shook in fright. He was quite sorry he had made such a fuss over the worm. Now he was in quite a fix. He couldn't climb back into the nest—it was too high—and that cat was getting closer and closer.

IS TH-THAT  
A C-CAT?





Suddenly, an elderly man appeared from behind some trees.

"What did you find, Toby?" the old man said as he came close to where the cat was standing. Then he saw little Billy, flapping his wings, trying in vain to fly. The old man loved birds, and he had read in his Bible how not one sparrow falls to the ground without Jesus knowing<sup>1</sup>.

"You look quite healthy and perky," the old man told little Billy as he knelt and used his handkerchief to pick up Billy. "Is your nest nearby?" Then he heard a tiny voice chirping. Chirpy was very worried about Billy.

"There you go, little fellow," said the old man as he gently placed Billy back in the nest. After making sure Billy was all right, the old man continued on his walk.



<sup>1</sup>Matthew 10:29



After reuniting with his siblings, Billy sheepishly said, "It was silly of me to make such a fuss over a worm."

"We're glad you're back," chorused Chirpy and Cherry.

"I'll try harder to be nice to everyone."

"We'll try too," agreed Reddy.

To the birdies' delight, they still had a nice big worm to eat, which they shared among themselves. When Mama and Papa Robin came back, they were pleased to see them behaving with kind consideration for each other. And when the baby robins saw the yummy food that Mama and Papa Robin had brought back with them, they didn't forget to say a heartfelt "Thank you!"

