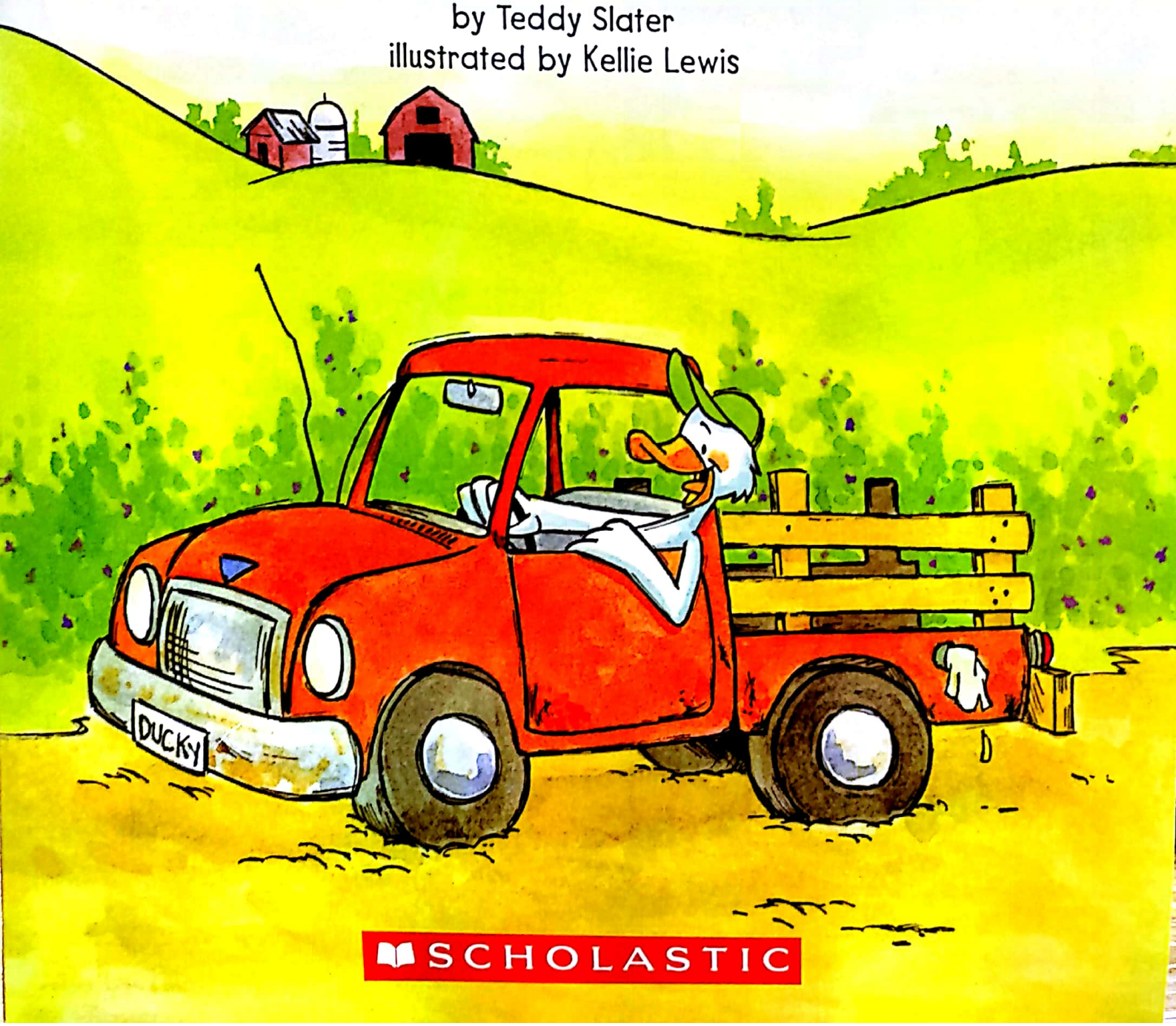
Phonics Tales!

short u

Lucky Duck

by Teddy Slater
illustrated by Kellie Lewis



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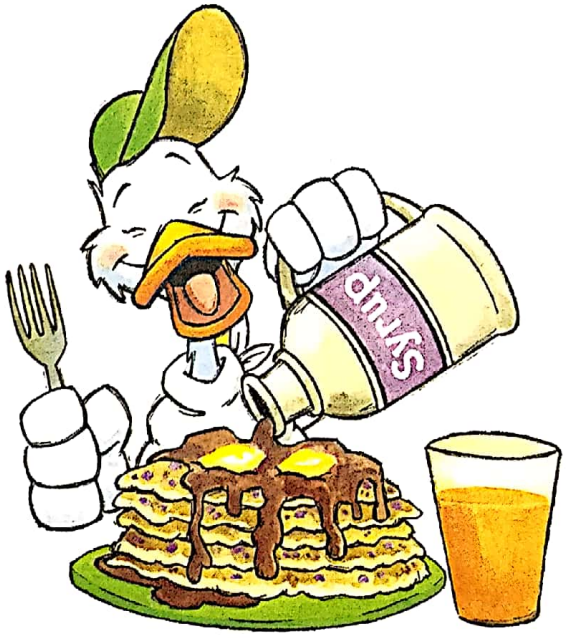
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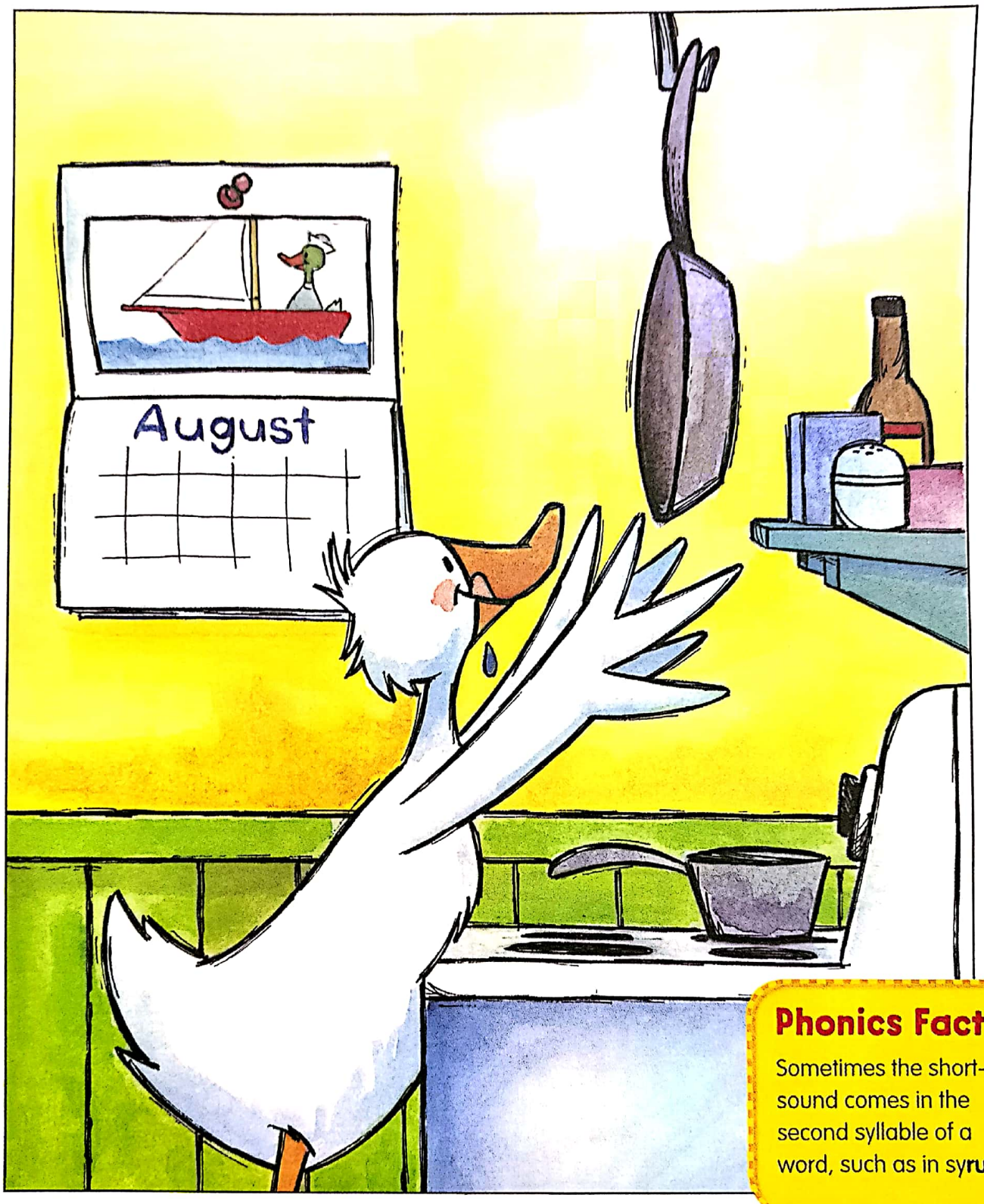


Phonics Fact

The letter *u* is a vowel. A vowel can make a short sound. The short-*u* sound is found in words such as **duck**, **up**, and **luck**. What other short-*u* words can you find in this story? Look at the pictures, too!

One **sunny Sunday**, **Duck** woke **up** in **such** a great mood. He had a **hunch** this would be his **lucky** day.

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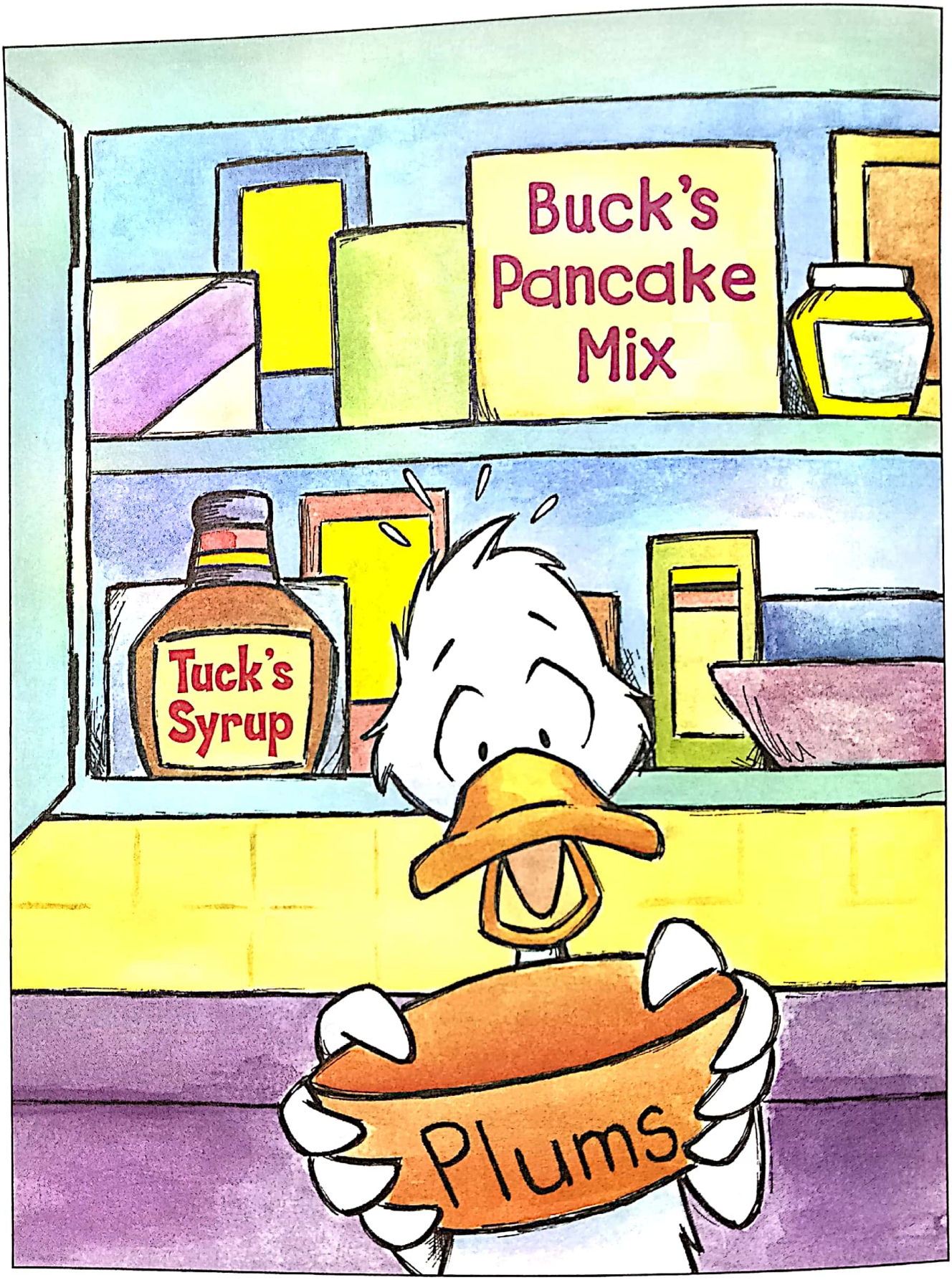


Phonics Fact

Sometimes the short-*u* sound comes in the second syllable of a word, such as in sy**rup**.

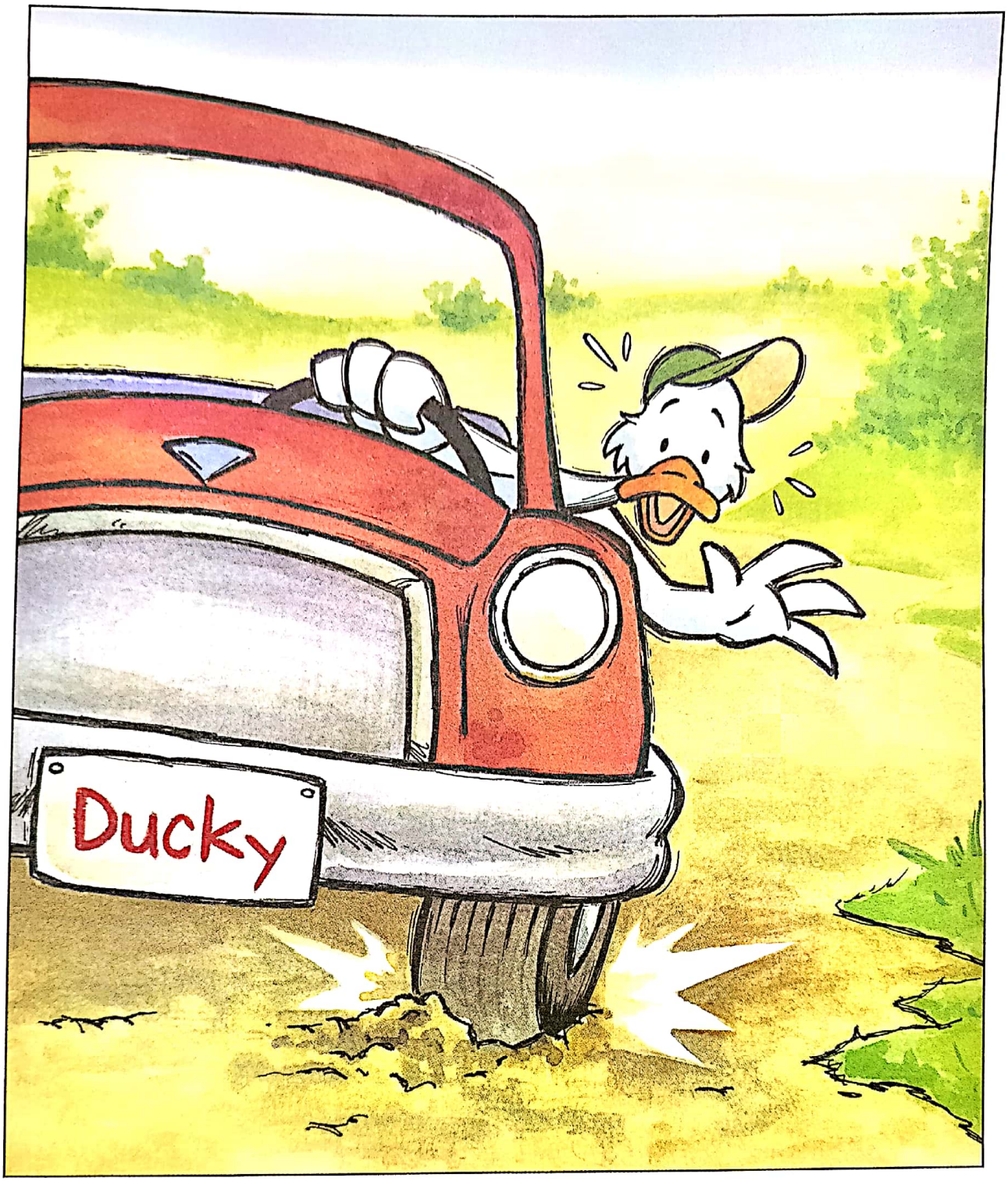
Duck rushed downstairs. He was **hungry** for **plum** pancakes with plenty of **butter** and **syrup**.

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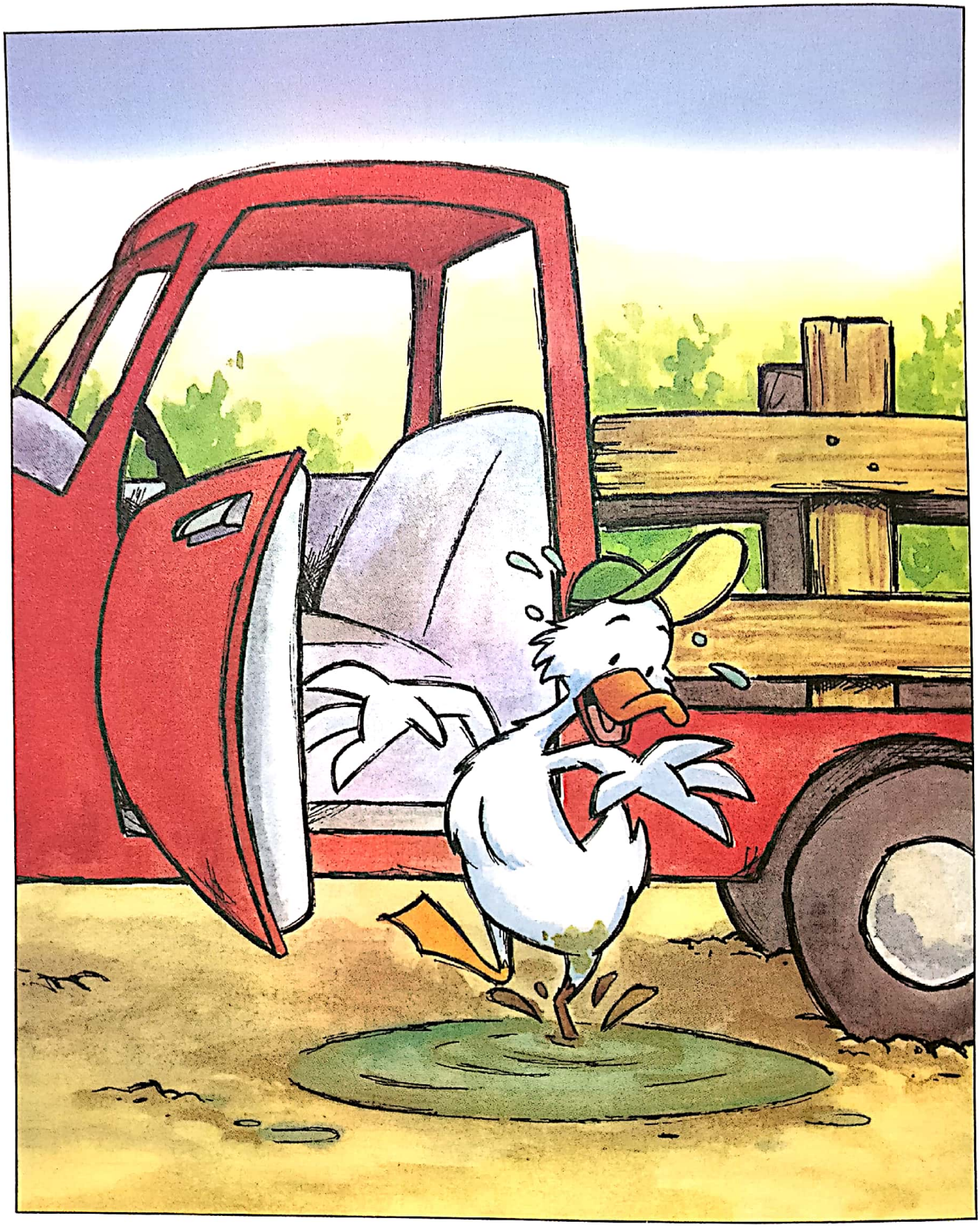
Duck opened the **cupboard**. **Uh-oh**! No **plums**.

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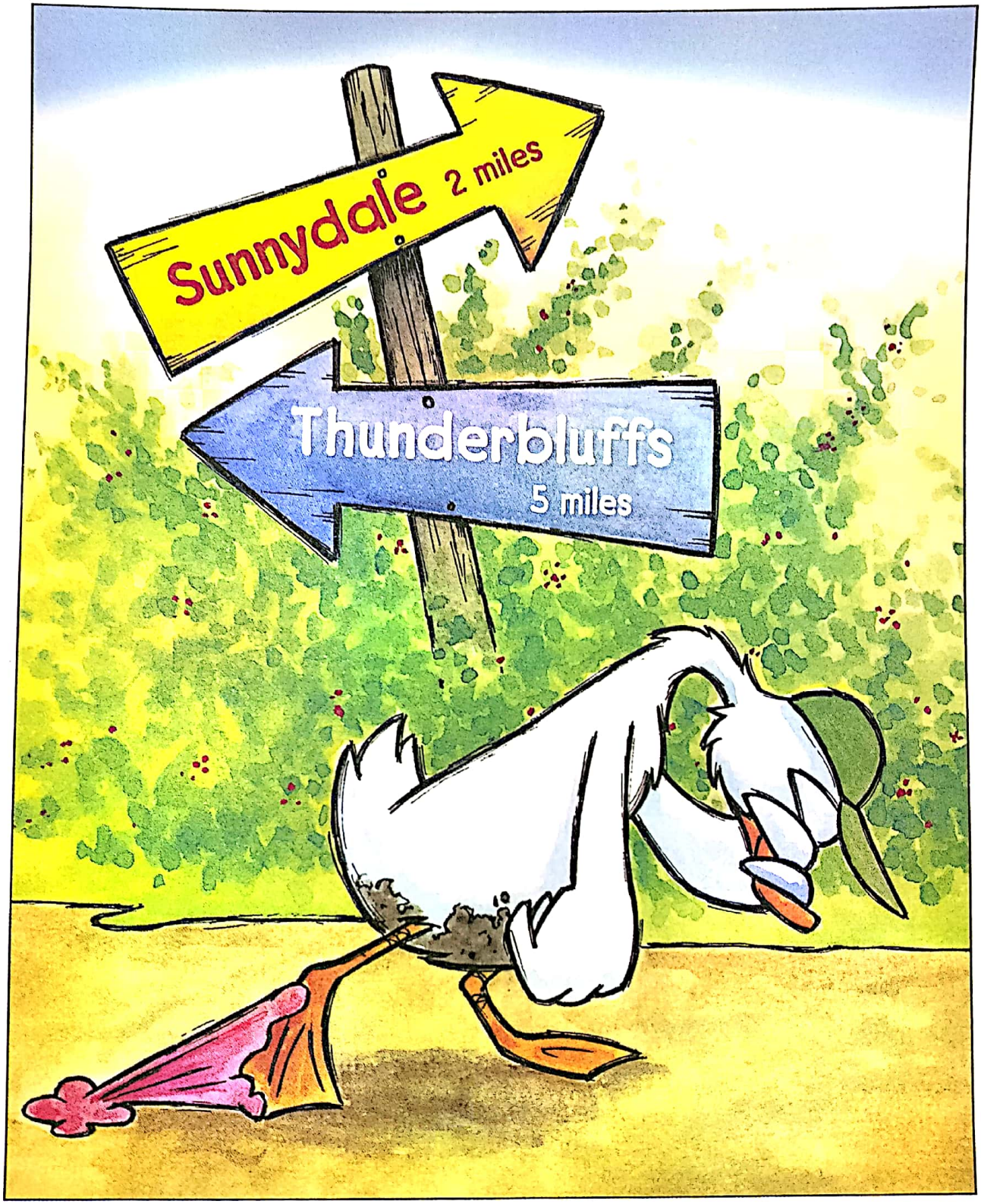
So **Duck jumped** in his **truck** and headed to **Gus's** Store to get some **plums**. **But** the **truck** hit a **bump** and would not **budge**.

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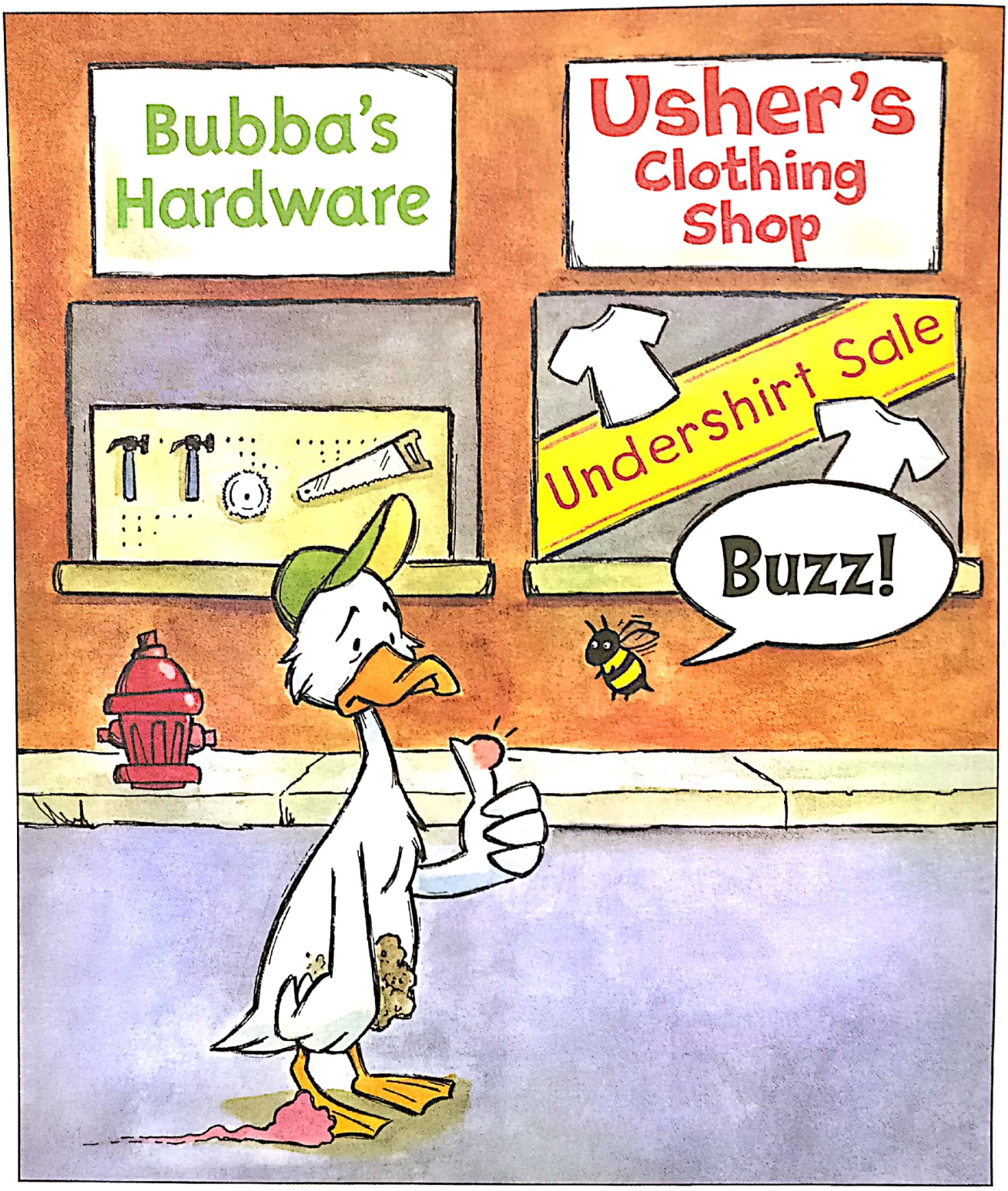
When **Duck** got out of his **truck**—**yuck**!
He stepped in a big **puddle** of **mud**.

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"I will **just** have to walk," said **Duck**. **But** along the way, he got **stuck** in **bubble gum**. **Ugh**!

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Still, **Duck trudged** on. That is, **until** he got **stung** on the **thumb** by a **bumblebee**. What an **ugly lump**!

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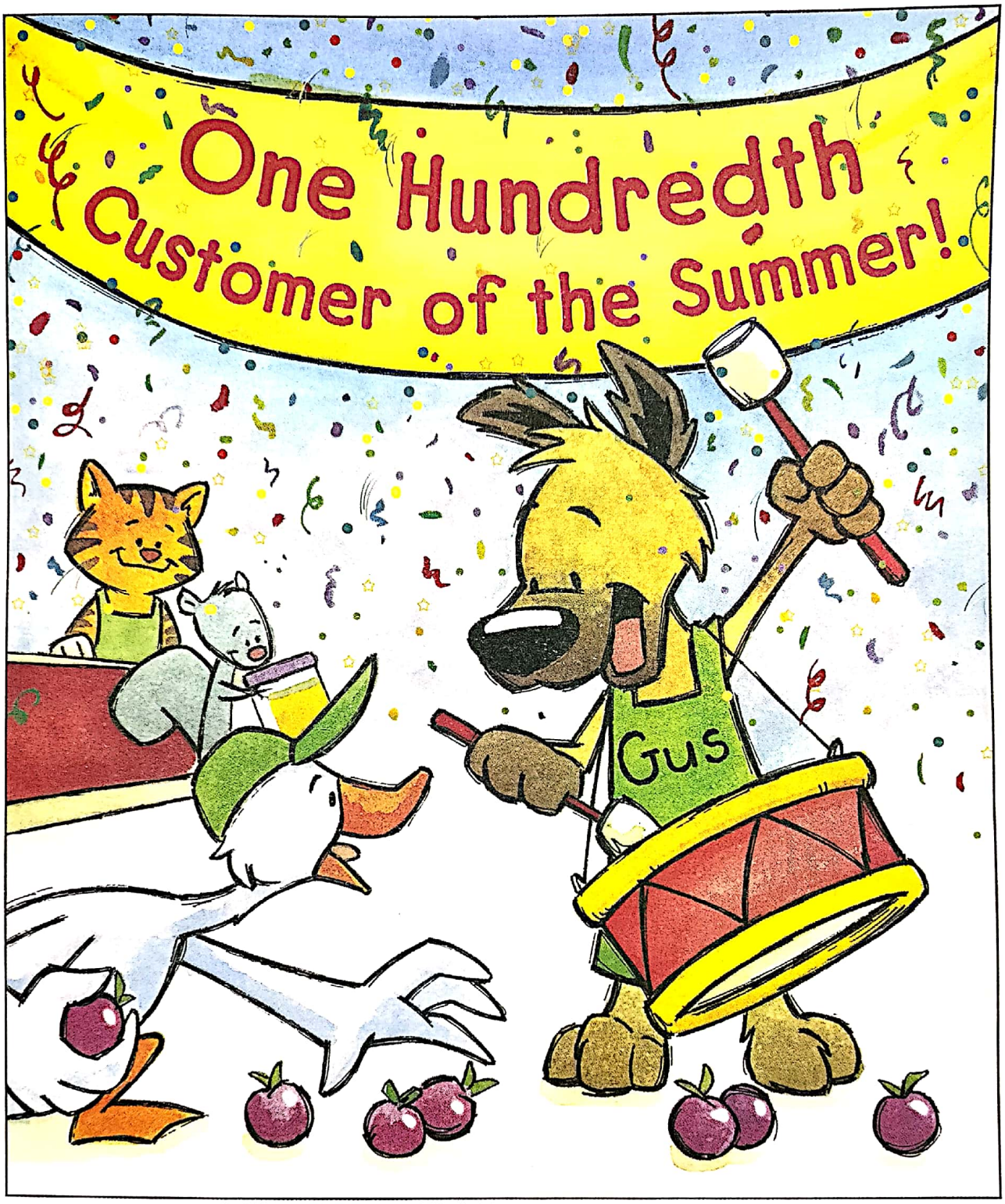
By the time **Duck** got to **Gus's** Store, his **tummy** was **rumbling**. He was very **hungry**, **plus** very **grumpy**.

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Duck had never felt less **lucky**. Then, **uh-oh**!
He dropped his **plums**.

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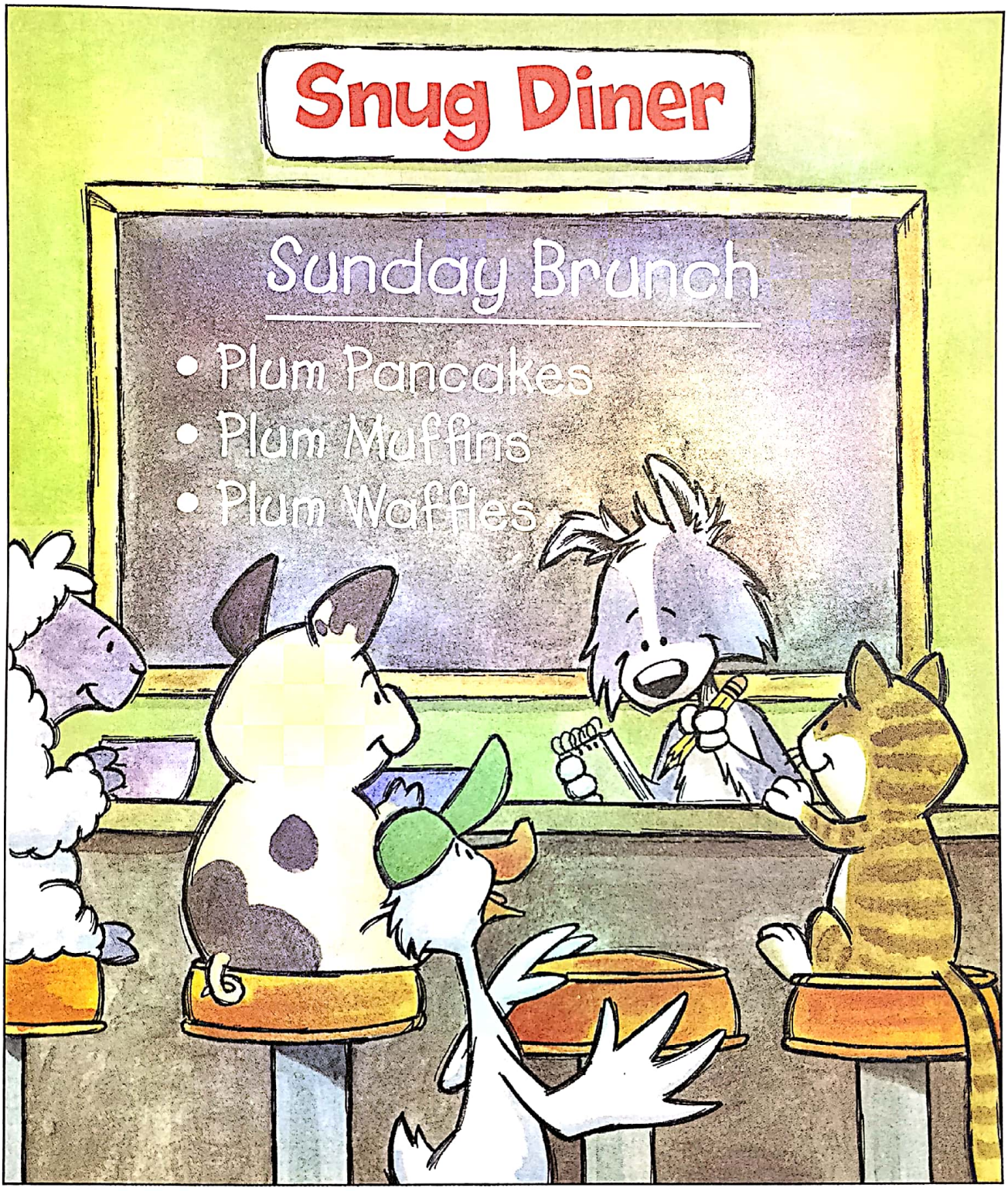
But suddenly. . . **Duck** heard a **drum** roll. Then **Gus** said, "Congratulations! You are the one **hundredth customer** of the **summer**."

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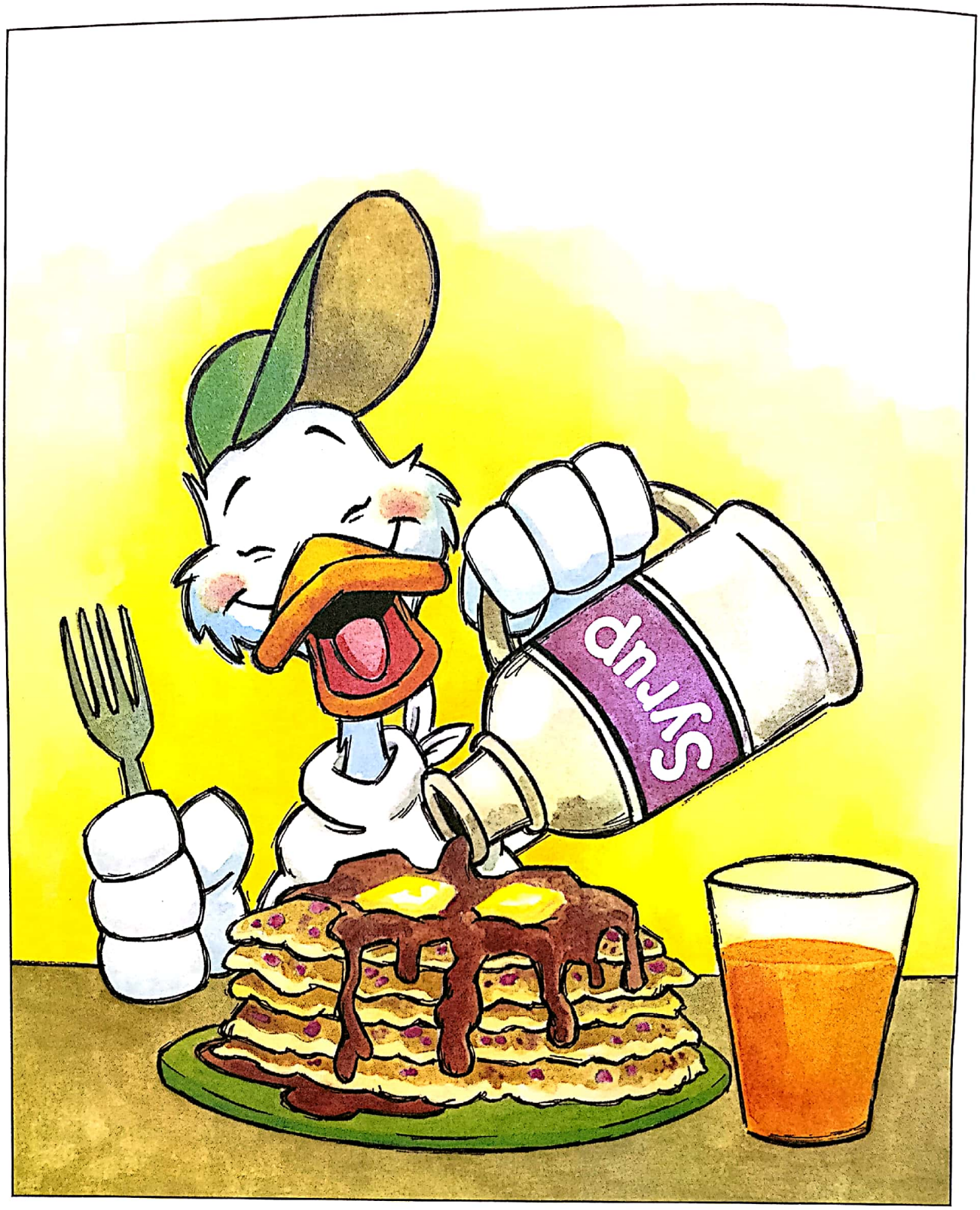
Gus gave **Duck** a **hug** and a coupon for a free **brunch** at the **Snug** Diner on **Huff** Street.

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Duck rushed off to the **Snug** Diner and placed his order: a stack of **plum** pancakes with plenty of **butter** and **syrup**.

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Yum! It was **just** what he wanted. Oh, what a **lucky duck**!

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Short-u Riddles

Listen to the riddles. Then match each riddle with the right short-*u* word from the box.

Word Box

yum	duck	snug	luck	up
jump	plum	Sunday	butter	summer

1. This animal says, "Quack, quack."
2. You put this on toast or popcorn.
3. This is the day after Saturday.
4. It is the opposite of *down*.
5. This word rhymes with *rug*.
6. A four-leaf clover brings this.
7. It means almost the same thing as *leap*.
8. This is the season after spring.
9. You say this when something is delicious.
10. This purple fruit is bigger than a grape.



Answers: 1. duck 2. butter 3. Sunday 4. up 5. snug 6. luck 7. jump, 8. summer 9. yum 10. plum

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Short-u Cheer

Hooray for short *u*, the best sound around!

Let's holler short-*u* words all over town!

There's **mug** and **sun** and **lunch** and **up**.

There's **gum** and **fun** and **luck** and **cup**.

There's **bug** and **hut** and **hum** and **rug**.

There's **lump** and **run** and **chum** and **hug**.

Short *u*, short *u*, give a great cheer,

For the **luckiest** sound you ever will hear!



Make a list of other short-*u* words. Then use them in your cheer.

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short u

Duck's truck gets **stuck**. Then he steps in **bubble gum**! **Yuck**! Will **Duck's luck** ever change?



Phonics Tales! are read-aloud stories designed to teach children phonics in a fun and focused way. Skills covered include long and short vowels, vowel pairs, bossy-*r* words, blends, digraphs, and more. Set learners on the road to reading success with every book in this kid-pleasing series!

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