

Popping Good Times with Grandpa

Story by

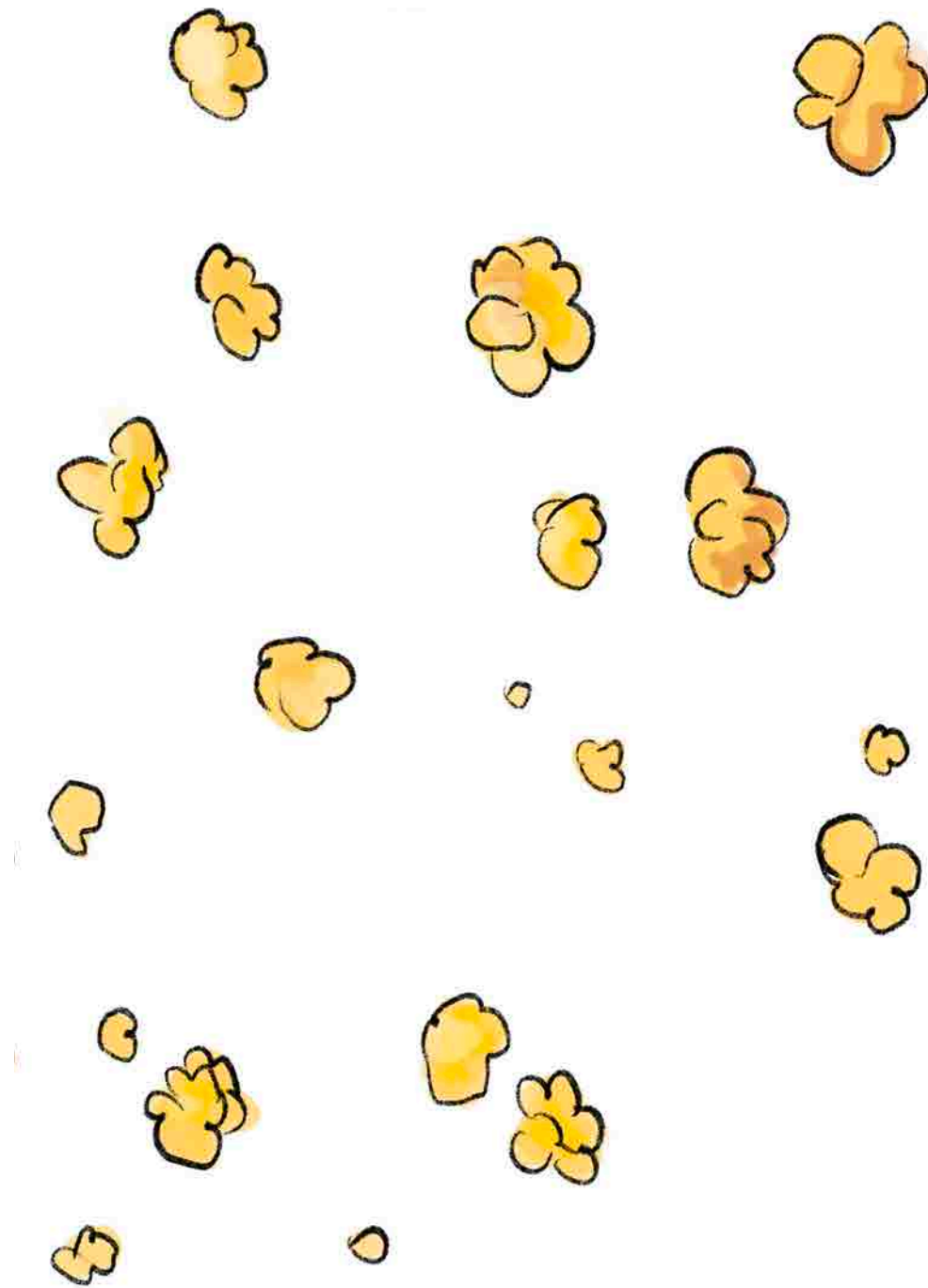
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&

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Summary:

Beckett, Grandpop and the family dog experience the light hearted antics
of a lovable monster who lives in a bag of popcorn

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To My Grandson Beckett

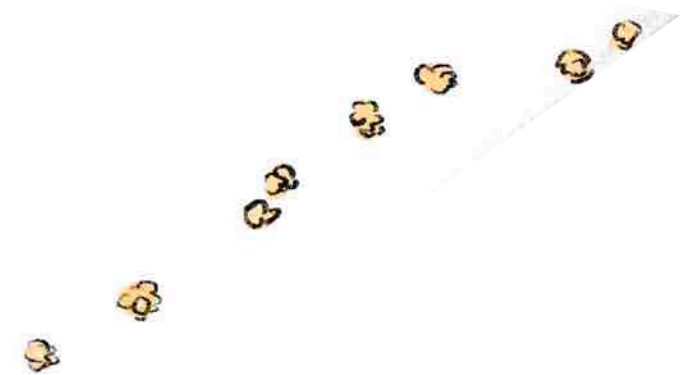
Who loves doing projects,
even more than playing with
toy cars and trucks

Your imagination and what-if ideas are amazing!

Special Thanks

Pauline Fedri
Melanie Fedri
Stephenie Fedri
Joyce Maguda

For more fun, see our
What-Do-You-Think-Happens-Next
Story Generator
at the back of the book!



For more books, visit

<https://ffedripe.wixsite.com/freddstuff>



Grandpop and 5-year-old Beckett were always thinking up new games. They had the most fun knocking eggs off paper tubes into bowls of green slime; going on adventures to find pirate treasure in the creepy upstairs attic and doing brave things like letting Beckett cut Grandpop's hair with real electric clippers. Oh my!

Yet with all the things they did, never in a million years would they have guessed that a super-sized bag of popcorn with the bold big white and orange letters announcing "Organic Popcorn! A Surprise in Every Bag!" was about to change everything.



One day, Grandpop and Beckett were in the gaage building a wooden go-kart when Beckett announced, "It's time for a snack, Grandpop. I'll race you to the table!"

“You’re on!”
Grandpop dropped his paintbrush
and sprinted for the door.

Side by side, they ran down
the hallway before splitting
up at the first turn. While
Grandpop tried to gallop
through the sea of toys in the
den, Beckett sprinted through
the kitchen as fast as lighting.

Grandpop was still jumping over
Beckett’s monster trucks, lacrosse
equipment, building blocks, story
books, and a sky crane when
Beckett announced, “Beat you
again, Grandpop!”

“Whew,” Grandpop panted as he tried to catch his breath, “You win this time, but it was close.”



On the dining room table, Grandma had placed an orange, two glasses of water, and a big bag with the words, “Organic Popcorn! A Surprise in Every Bag!”



Suddenly, Beckett exclaimed, “Hey, Grandpop!
Did you see that?”



“See what, Beckett?” Grandpop asked while trying
to shoo Milo off his favorite chair.



“See! Something’s in the
bag!” Beckett shouted.
“It’s moving!”

“Ruff! Ruff! Ruff!”
Even Milo knew
something was up.

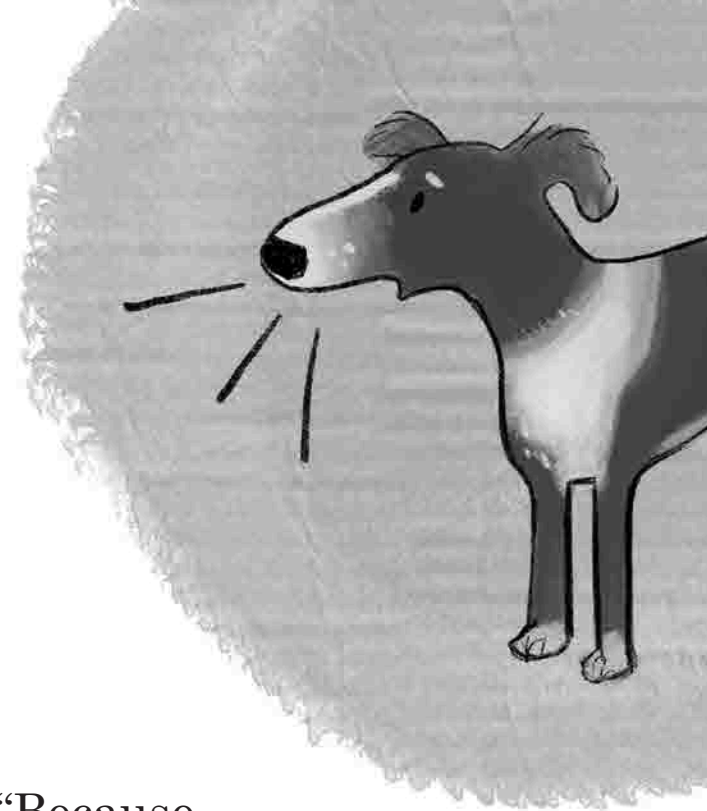
With a sideways glance at both Beckett
and Milo, Grandpop scoffed, “Don’t be silly!
Bags of popcorn don’t move on their own.”

“Well, Grandpop, then why is Milo barking?”

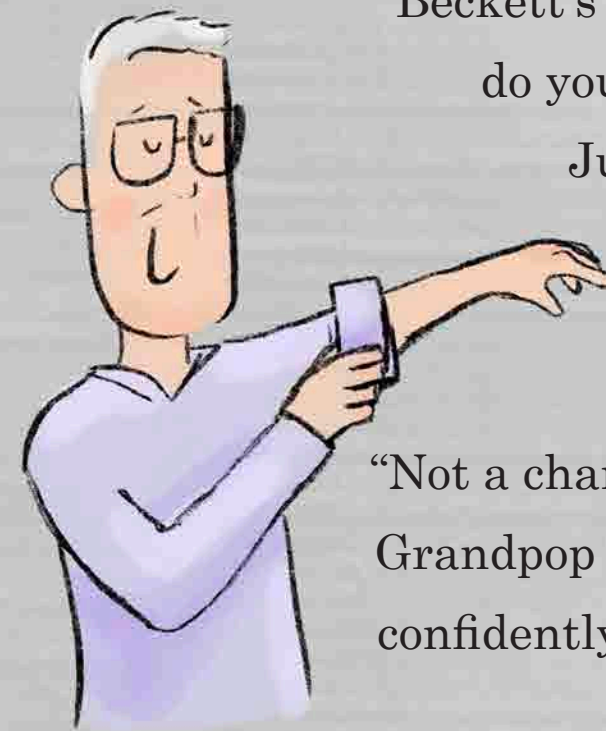


“Because Milo barks at *everything*, that’s why!” He even barks at Keeley when she’s sound asleep!”

Keeley is Beckett’s favorite stuffed rabbit. She has soft fur, big ears, and long eyelashes, and she sleeps on Beckett’s bed.



Beckett’s eyes flashed wide open. “Grandpop, do you think there’s a monster in there?” Just like his Grandpop, Beckett was known for his wild imagination.



“Not a chance!” Grandpop said confidently.

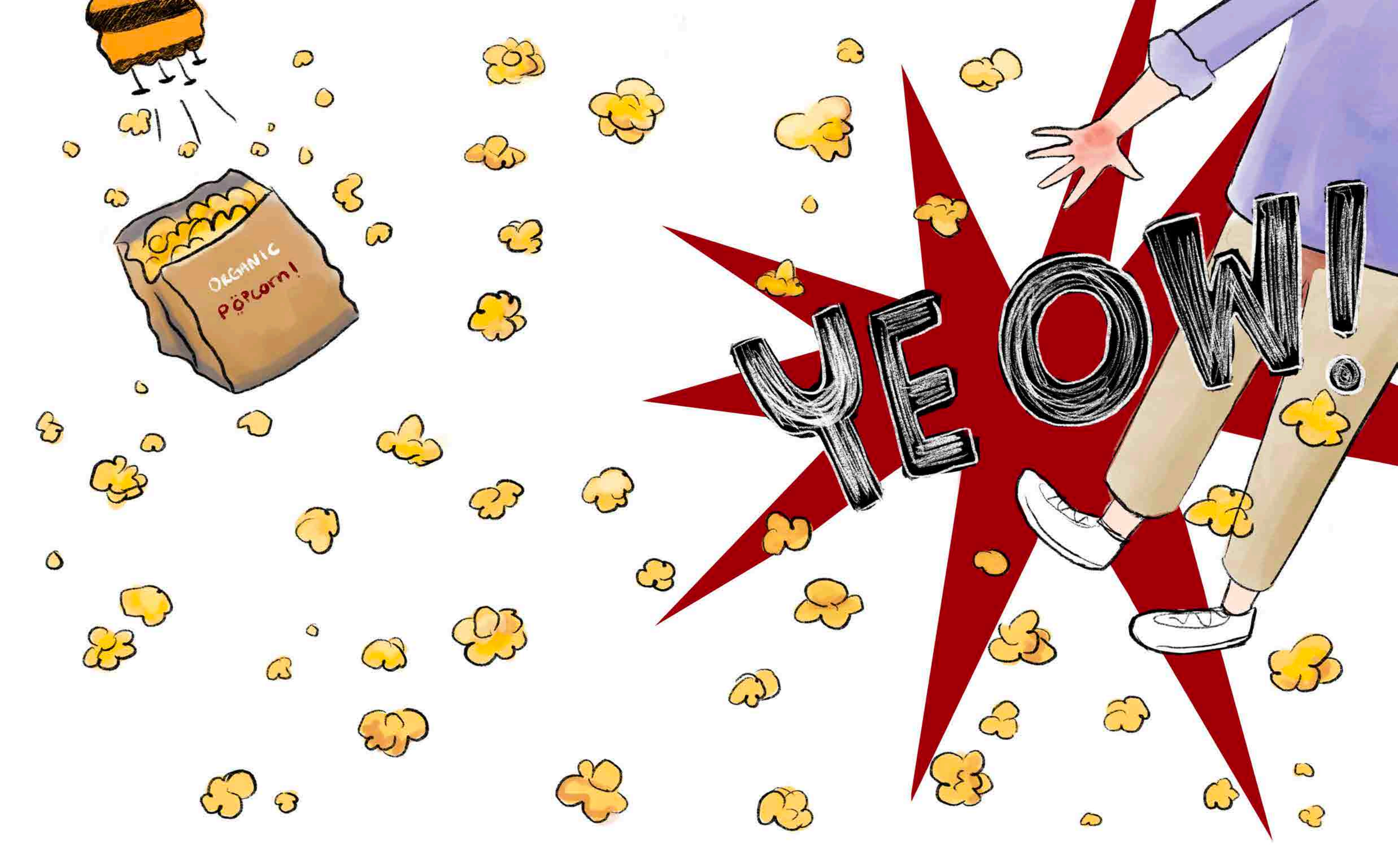
“I’ll show you!”



Grandpop waved his hands from side to side, pushed up his sleeves like a magician, and slowly reached inside the bag.



Grandpop grinned as he announced, “See, there’s nothing in here. It’s just like I...”

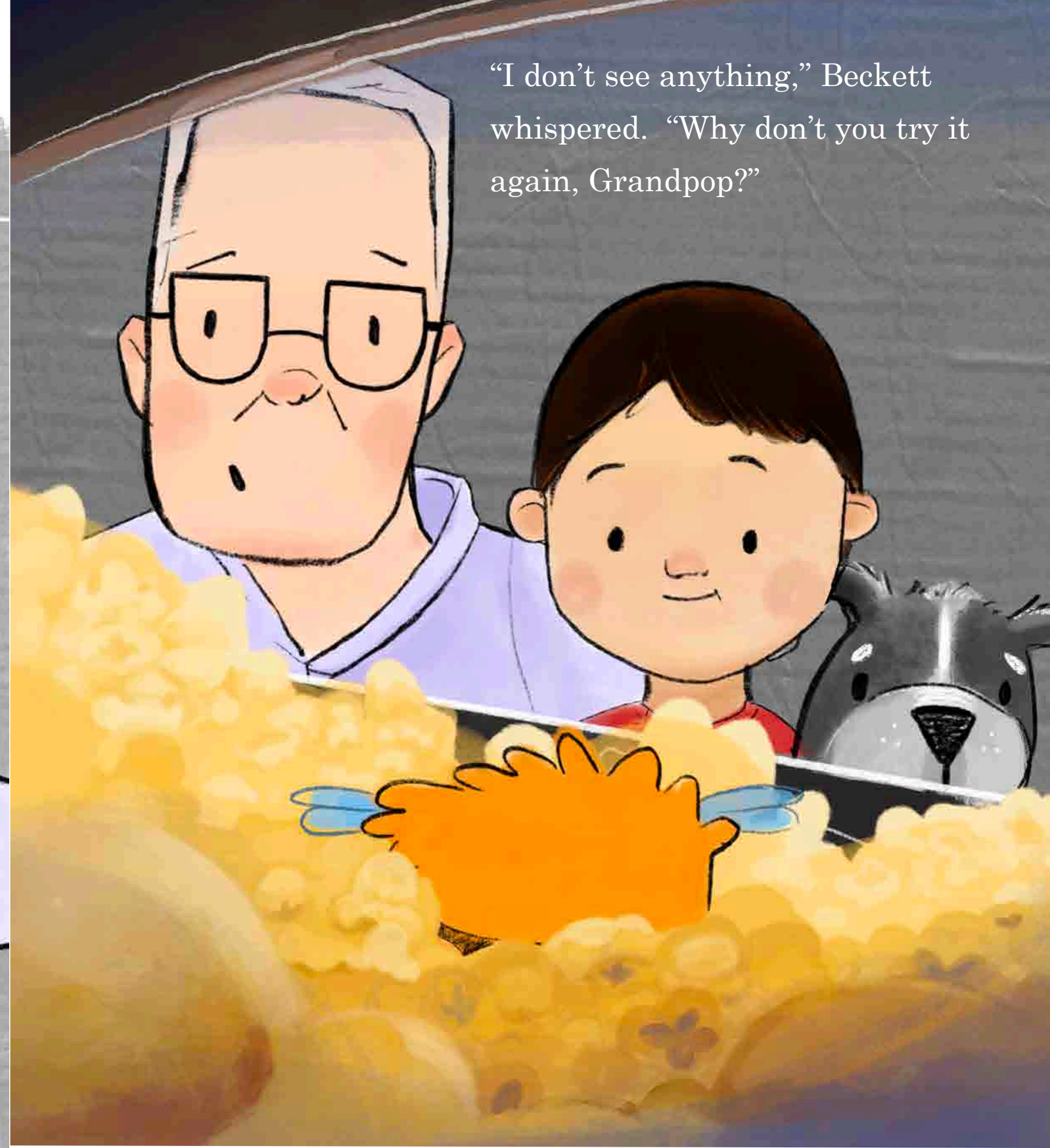


With a quick jerk, Grandpop pulled his hand out of the bag, spilling popcorn in every direction. “What was that?” cried Grandpop.



“Grandpop, I told you something’s in there!”

Silently, they all moved closer for a good look inside.



“I don’t see anything,” Beckett whispered. “Why don’t you try it again, Grandpop?”

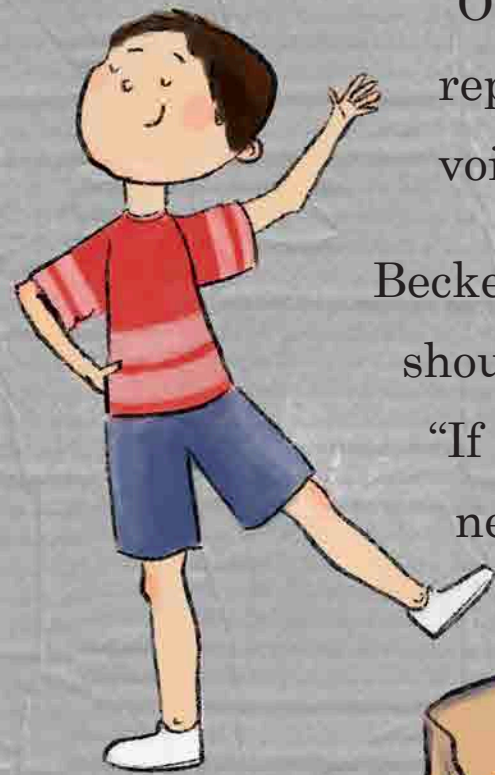
“Oh no, once was enough,” Grandpop replied with a bit of alarm in his voice.

Beckett stood up, straightened his shoulders, and bravely announced, “If there’s something in there, we need to find out.”

“Okay, but you better be careful,” Grandpop warned.

Beckett took a deep breath, closed his eyes, and slowly reached inside the bag.

After a few seconds, Beckett pulled out his hand. “Hey Grandpop, looks like nothing but popcorn.”



Grandpa looked puzzled.

“Maybe you should try again, Grandpop,” Beckett suggested, trying to be helpful. “It’s probably just your imagination. This time, don’t take so much popcorn.”

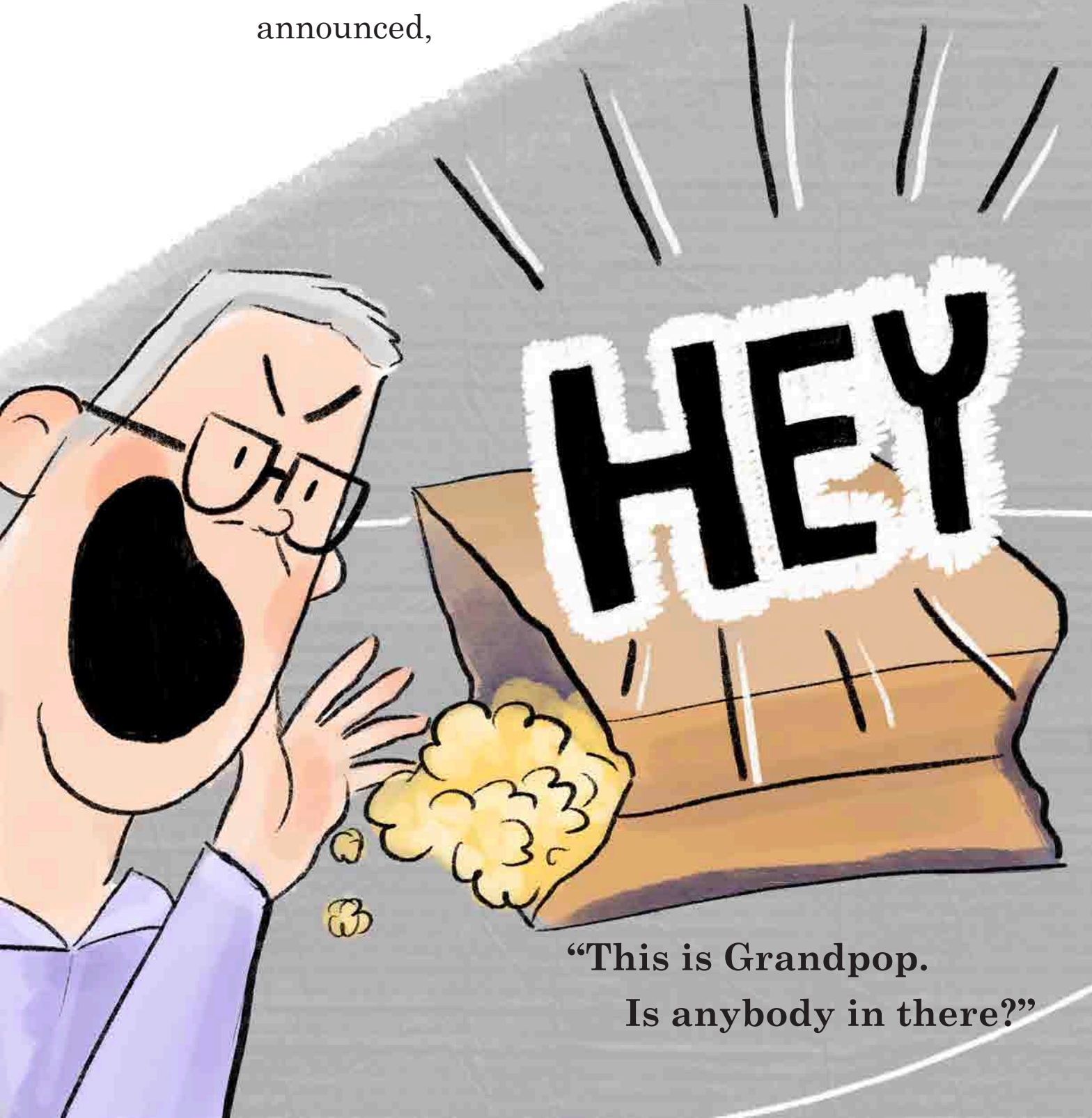


Grandpop thought for a minute. “I know what to do!”

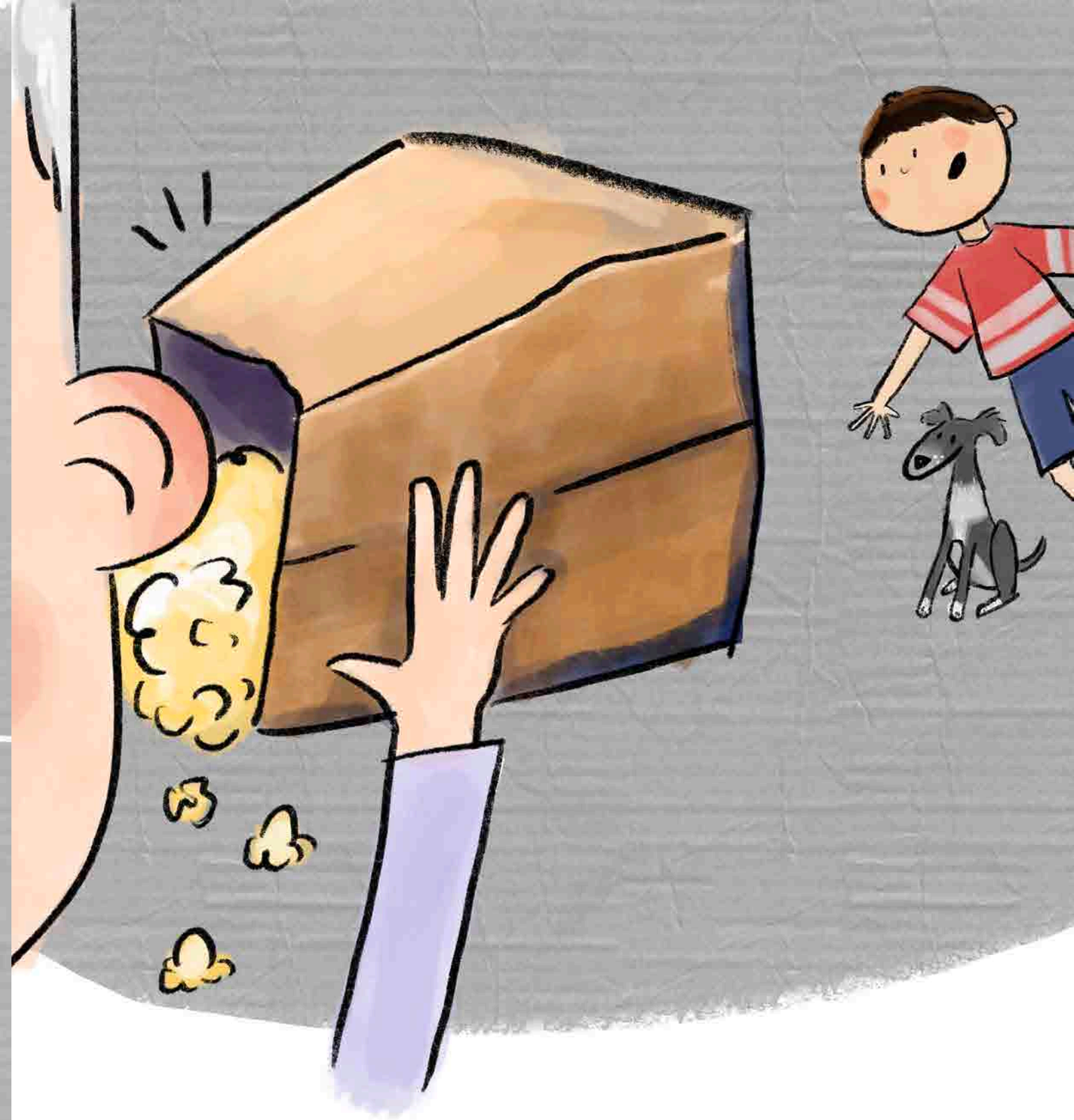
Grandpop put

his face close to the open bag.

Then, using his best Big Bad Wolf voice, he
announced,



“This is Grandpop.
Is anybody in there?”



Grandpop turned his head to listen. A faint muffled,
sweet-as-pie voice answered, “*Nobody’s in here!*”

Grandpop smiled triumphantly, “See Beckett, I told you nobody’s in there.”

Beckett started laughing so hard he couldn’t speak.


With a big grin on his face, Grandpop quickly shoved his hand inside the bag.



Grandpop’s cheeks turned red, and his eyes grew as big as saucers.




“There IS a popcorn monster in here!”



With a whoosh, Grandpop yanked his hand out of the bag,
and shouted, “Oh-oh! I need a bandage!”

“You two guard the bag,
I’ll be right back!”



Startled by all the commotion, Milo hid under
the table. “Nnn...nnn...nnn,” he whimpered
softly, wondering what would happen next.

With no one else around to help,
Beckett moved closer to the bag and
bravely peeked in.





As soon as Grandpop returned, Beckett started talking as fast as he could. “You were right Grandpop. There *is* a popcorn monster, and he lives inside the bag. His name is Big Bitey, and he wants us to stop eating his house!”

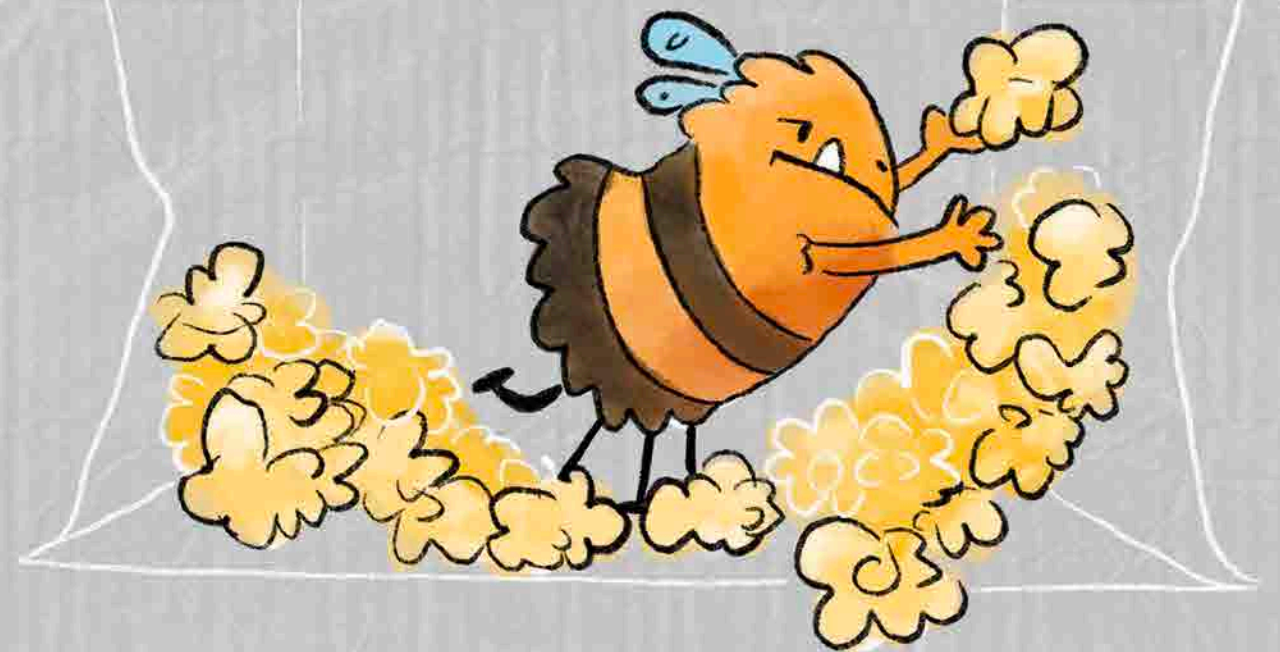
Grandpop frowned, “But it’s just popcorn.”

“Sorry, Big Bitey says the popcorn in the bag is his special house *insulation* that keeps him cozy at night!”

Grandpop was astonished. “Really? Did you see him? Is he scary looking?”



“Well, yeah. Big Bitey has jagged teeth. One is huge and sticks out when he smiles. He has suction cups for feet and two soft wing-shaped ears. Because Keeley gave me magical eyes, I can see him, but you can’t, Grandpop.”



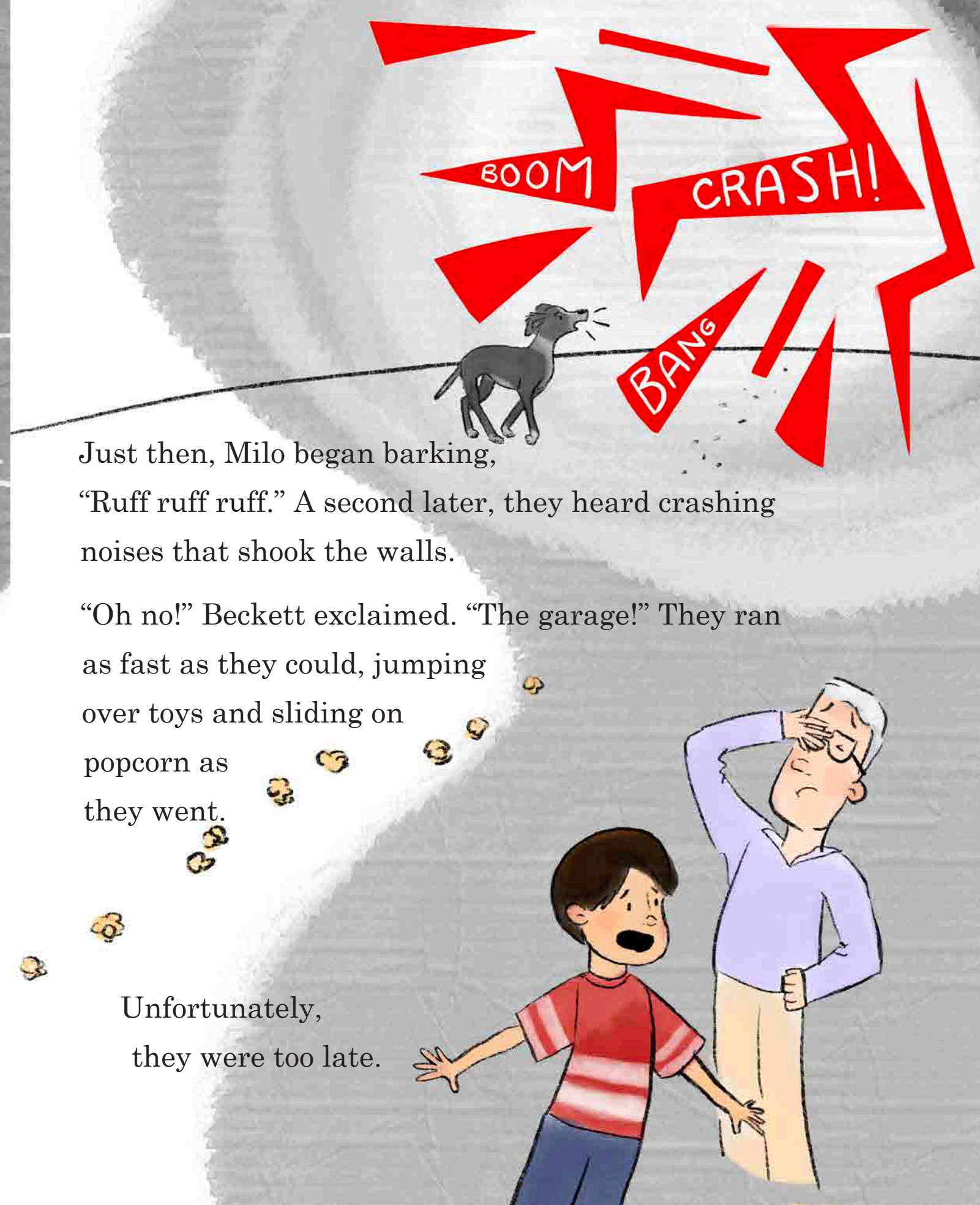


“One HUGE tooth, and you say I can’t see him?” Grandpop looked down at the floor and exclaimed, “Hey! What’s this?”

A trail of popcorn led from the dining room to the kitchen.

“Well, while you were gone, Big Bitey said he had something important to do, and he’d be right back!”

“Right back from where?” Grandpop asked in a worried voice.



Just then, Milo began barking, “Ruff ruff ruff.” A second later, they heard crashing noises that shook the walls.

“Oh no!” Beckett exclaimed. “The garage!” They ran as fast as they could, jumping over toys and sliding on popcorn as they went.

Unfortunately, they were too late.



On the floor of the garage they saw hand-painted signs: “Popcorn Monsters Only,” “No Trespassing,” “Dead End,” and “Danger! No Big Hands Allowed.”

Unfortunately, Big Bitey was nowhere to be seen.



Amazed at the huge mess, Beckett exclaimed, “I think Big Bitey needs a time out!”

“Ruff!” Milo barked in agreement.

“You can say that again,” Grandpop sighed. “But the good news is, we just got ourselves a big clean-up project!”

“Yay! I’ll get the powerwasher.” Beckett loved projects. The bigger the better.



By the time everything was clean and tidy, it was time for Grandpop to leave. “See you tomorrow!” Beckett exclaimed as he gave Grandpop a big hug.

Grandpop laughed, happy to be on his way home for some much needed peace and quiet. “You better help your new friend. Just like you, he needs to brush his teeth and get to bed early!”

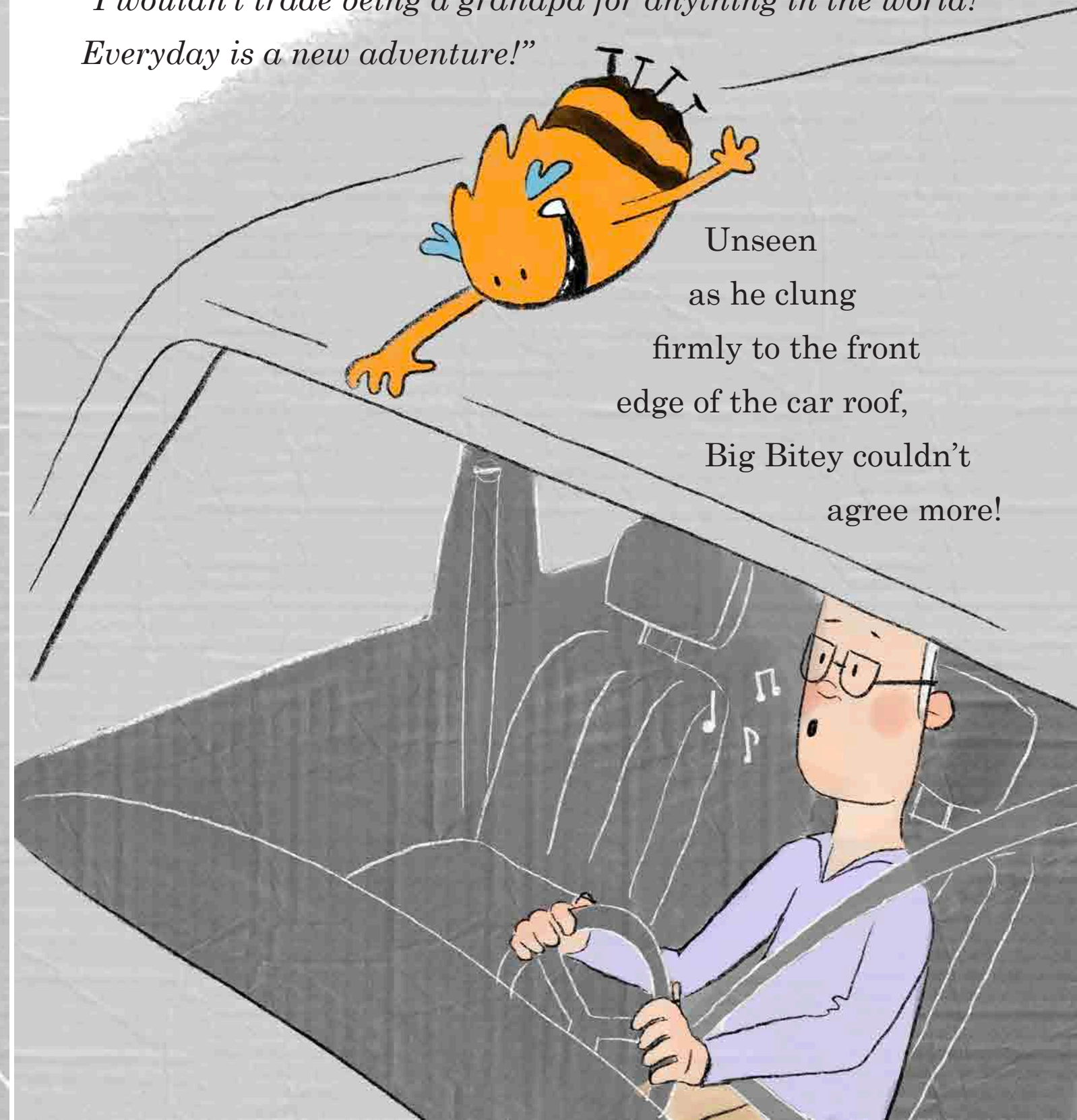


Grandpop got in his car and waved goodbye to Beckett.

As he drove away, Grandpop smiled to himself and thought, “*I wouldn’t trade being a grandpa for anything in the world! Everyday is a new adventure!*”



Unseen
as he clung
firmly to the front
edge of the car roof,
Big Bitey couldn’t
agree more!



Beckett and Grandpop's

What-Do-You-Think-Happens-Next

Story Generator

Use these ideas to talk about your own Big Bitey Story!

- How did Big Bitey climb on top of Grandpop's car?
- What do you think Big Bitey will do once he gets to Grandpop's house?
- How will he get back to Beckett's house?
- Besides Beckett, can anyone else see Big Bitey?
- Who are some of Big Bitey's family and friends?
- How does Big Bitey like to travel around?
- What are Big Bitey's favorite activities?
- What does Big Bitey use to brush his teeth?
- Where will Big Bitey take Grandpop and Beckett for their next adventure?
- If Big Bitey came to stay at your house, where would he sleep?
- How would Beckett's classmates react if he brought Big Bitey to school for show-and-tell?

My Big Bitey Story #1

My Big Bitey Story #2

My Big Bitey Story #3

Draw pictures of Big Bitey doing something fun!

Draw pictures of Big Bitey playing with his toys.

Meet the Writers

Frederick Gene Fedri

and

Beckett Frederick Thomas

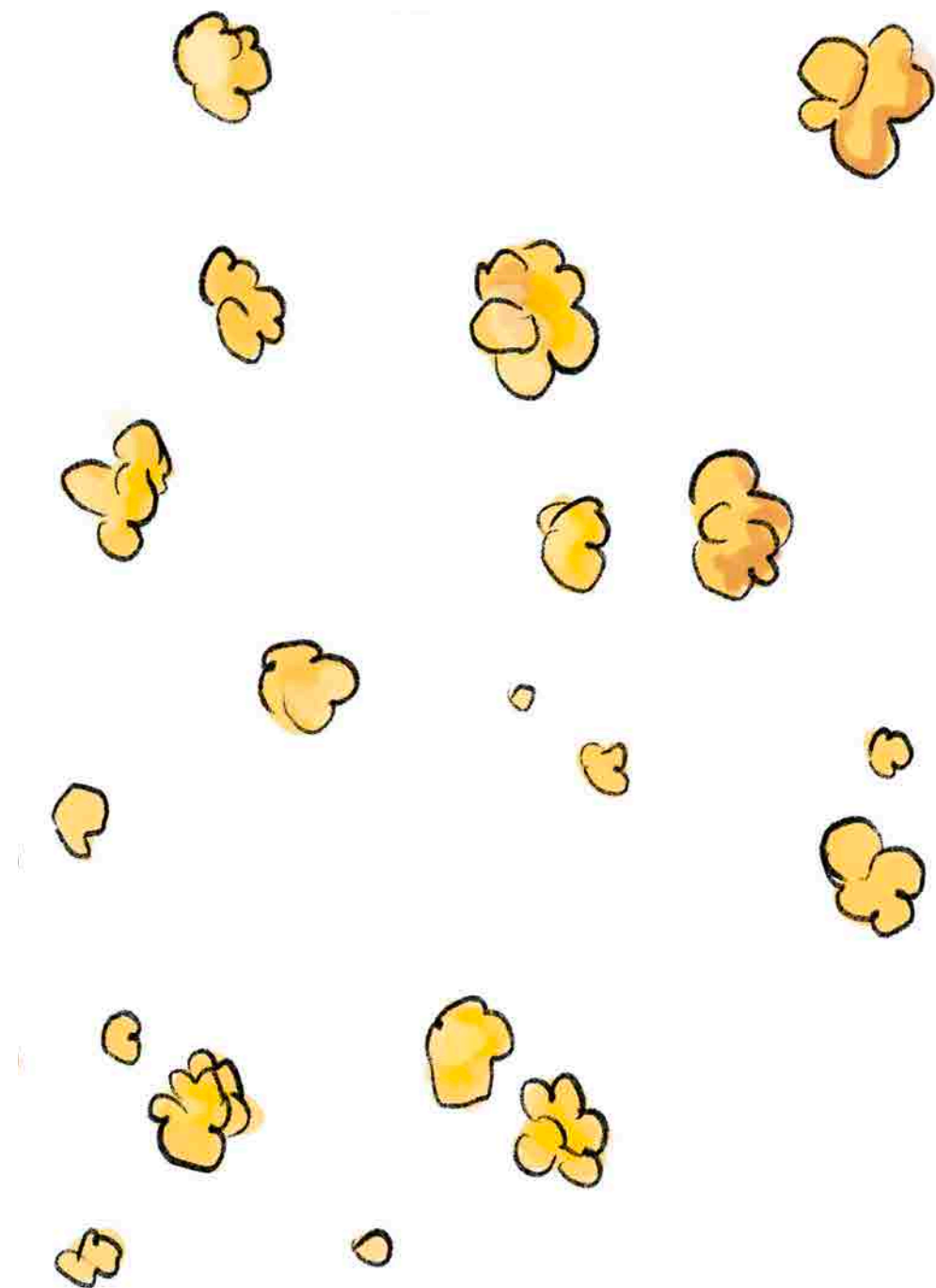
If it wasn't for the long months of pandemic lock down, Grandpop and Beckett might never have discovered the lovable big-toothed mischief-maker. Between riding bicycles, conducting science experiments, tackling remote learning, flying kites, cutting Grandpop's hair (with real electric clippers), doing yard work, building cardboard stairway slides, having fun times in the kiddie pool, racing remote controlled cars, exploring the night sky with Grandpop's telescope, constructing robots, fishing, launching model rockets, coding Sammy, cutting down trees, building plastic block models, and exploring the attic at Grandpop's house, there really wasn't much time left over to look for popcorn monsters hiding in the pantry.

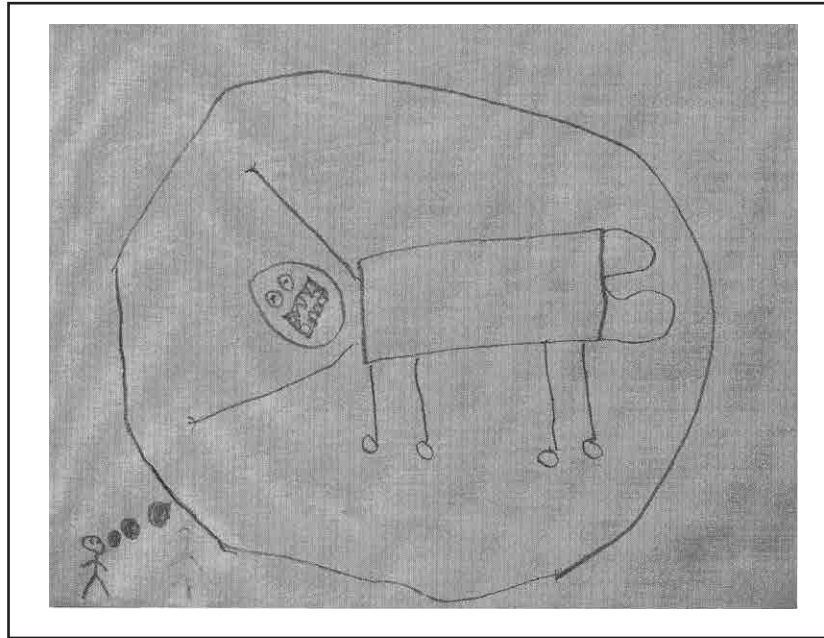


But when five-year-old Beckett and Grandpop discovered a popcorn monster living in a super-sized bag of organic popcorn their playtime was never the same again.

In between trying to keep their big-toothed friend out of trouble, Grandpop and Beckett swapped off-the-wall questions like, Do caterpillars snore when they sleep? Why can't ducks ride bicycles? Do people get to blink in heaven? Can rain fall up? and How much mud can a mud hole hold?

Like his grandpa, Beckett has a great imagination.





*Beckett's drawing of
Grandpop trying to
imagine what Big Bitey
looks like.*

