

HELBLING READERS

SECOND EDITION



SHORT
READS

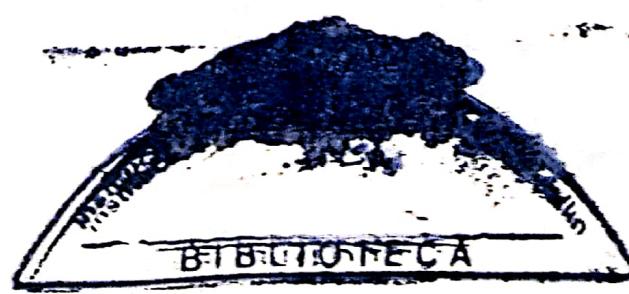
The Clever Woman

Herbert Puchta



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About this Book

For the Student

- Listen to all of the story and do some activities on your Audio CD
- Talk about the story
- full* When you see the green dot you can check the word in the glossary

For the Teacher

Go to our Readers Resource site for information on using readers and downloadable Resource Sheets, photocopiable Worksheets, Answer Keys and Tapescripts.

Plus the full version of the story on MP3.
www.helblinglanguages.com/readers

For lots of great ideas on using Graded Readers consult *Reading Matters*, the Teacher's Guide to using Helbling Readers.

Level 1 Structures

Present simple of be	<i>A / an</i>
<i>Have got</i>	<i>The</i>
<i>There is / There are</i>	Subject pronouns
Present Simple	Object pronouns
Can (ability and permission)	Plural nouns
Present Continuous	Countable and uncountable nouns
	<i>Some / any</i>
<i>Like / love / hate / don't like doing</i>	
Imperatives	Adjectives
Short answers	Possessive adjectives
<i>Who? What? Where? What colour?</i>	Possessive 's
<i>How much? How many?</i>	Demonstrative adjectives and pronouns
	<i>very</i>
	Adverbs of frequency

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Before Reading

1 Read and answer the questions.

Life on a Modern Farm



My name is Dan and I live on a farm. My father is a farmer. He grows carrots, onions, potatoes and sugar beet. He also keeps dairy cows, that is cows for milk. It is hard work. Every morning, he gets up at six o'clock in the morning. He has a banana and a bowl of cereal for breakfast and then he starts work at half past six. In the winter he finishes work at six o'clock, but in the summer he finishes work at nine o'clock. When he wants to relax, he goes bird watching or he takes photographs.

- a) What is Dan's father's job?
- b) What time does he get up in the morning?
- c) What does he have for breakfast?
- d) What time does he finish work?
- e) What does he do to relax?

2 Now in pairs, ask and answer the same questions about your family members.

What's your father's job?

He's a bus driver.

3 In pairs, look quickly at the pictures in the book.
Then circle the answers.

- a) Mr Murphy lives in a town / in the country.
- b) He travels by bus and by bike / by car and on foot.
- c) His house is quiet / noisy.

4 Match the characters from the story with their hobbies.

a)



b)



c)



d)



1 Hello. I'm Mr Murphy. I like reading.

2 Hi! I'm Mr Murphy's older daughter. I like dancing.

3 Hello. I'm Mr Murphy's wife. I play the piano.

4 Hello. I'm Mr Murphy's mother. I love playing the guitar.





It's 5 o'clock. Sean Murphy is on his way home[•] from work. He is tired and the bus is full[•] but he is happy that he is going home.

"I'm happy that I'm going home to my family and my little house in the country," he thinks.

He thinks of his wife and his four children and his mother and he smiles.

"I want to see my wife and my children and my mother," he thinks.

Then he thinks of his quiet house in the country.

"But first of all I want to sit on the sofa[•]. I want to relax[•] and I want to read a good book."

Finally Mr Murphy is at home. He is very tired now but he is happy. He says hello to his wife and children and mother. Then he sits down on the sofa. He stretches his legs[•] then lifts up[•] his book.

"Now I can relax," he thinks and smiles.

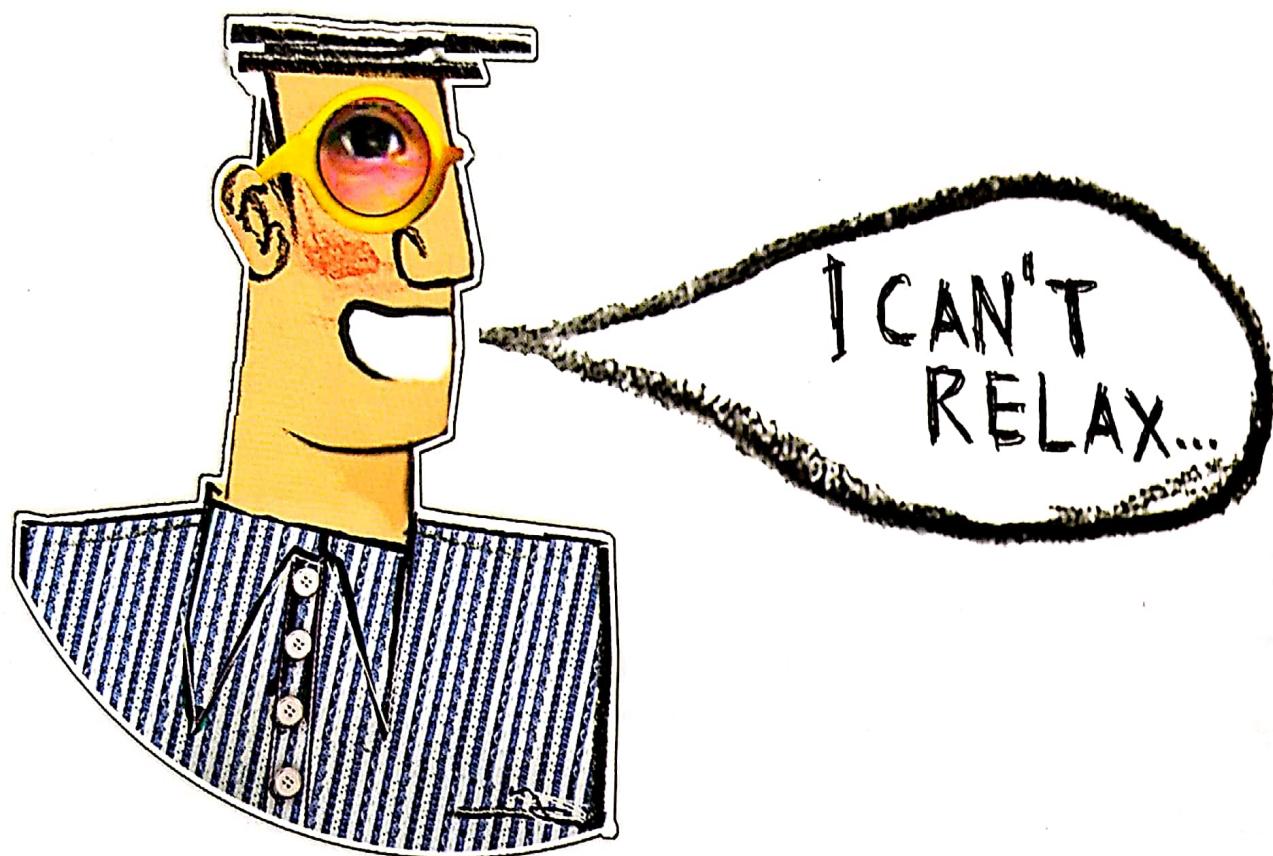
Glossary

- **full:** (here) with lots of people
- **lifts up:** takes in his hand
- **on his way home:** going home
- **relax:** rest and feel good

- **sofa:** comfortable chair for 2 or 3 people
- **stretches his legs:** puts his legs out in front of him

But Mr Murphy is not alone in the room. His wife and children and mother are there, too. And there is a piano and a guitar. And there are pots and pans bubbling[•] on the cooker in the kitchen. Mr Murphy can't relax. He puts his book down and sighs[•].

It's the same every day. When he comes home his mother is playing the guitar and his wife is playing the piano. His two younger children are fighting[•] and his two older children are arguing[•] about the television. And the pots and pans are bubbling on the cooker.



Glossary

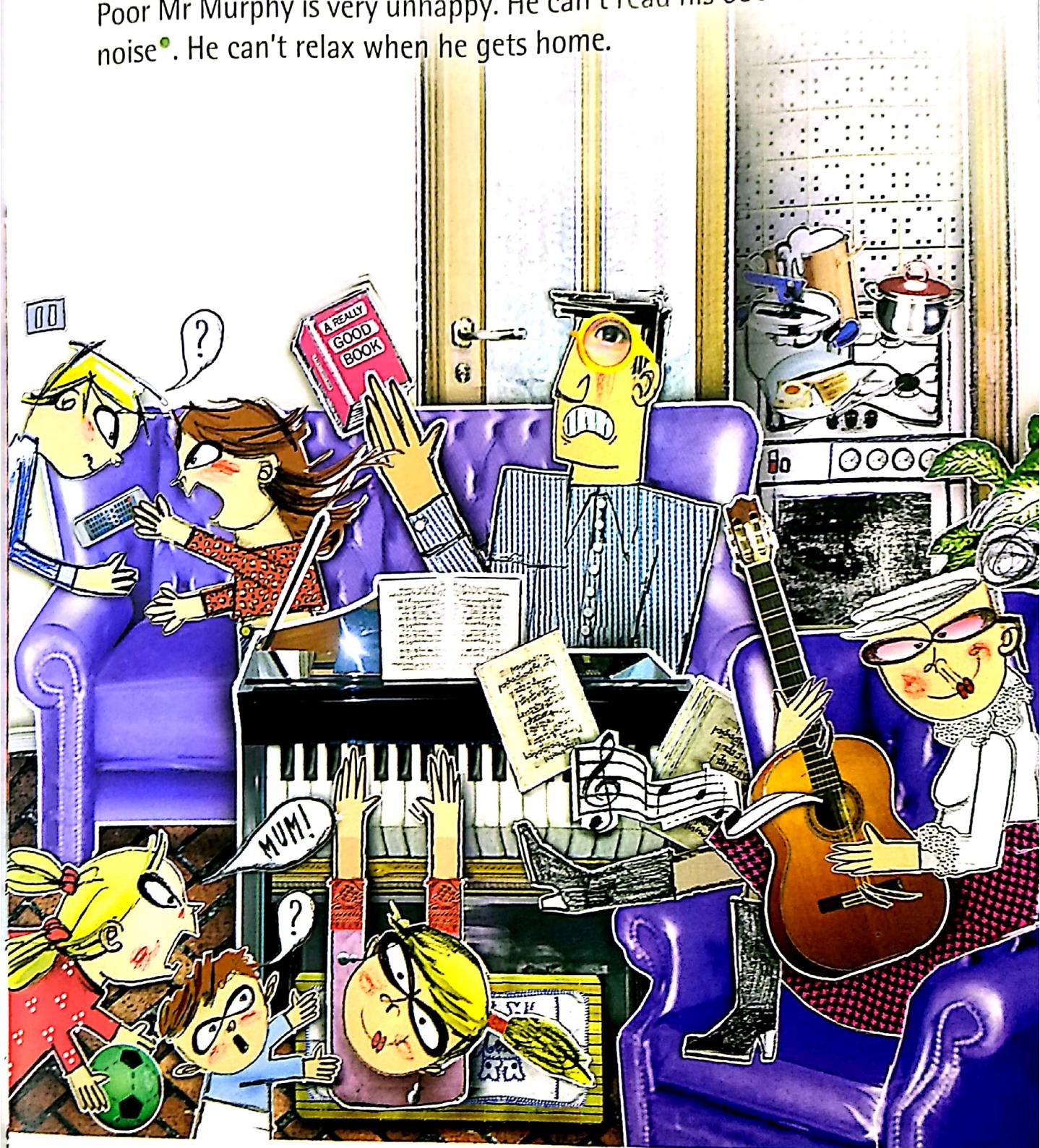
• **arguing:** discussing a problem aloud

• **bubbling:** (here) making noise when cooking

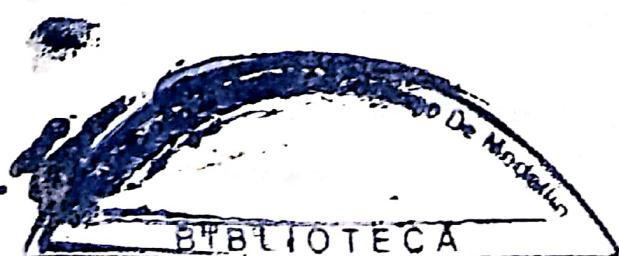
• **fighting:** hitting each other

• **sighs:** breathes aloud because he is unhappy

Poor Mr Murphy is very unhappy. He can't read his book with all the noise*. He can't relax when he gets home.



* noise: loud sounds



One day Sean Murphy is walking to the bus stop with a friend.
He looks very sad.

"What's wrong?" asks his friend.

"I have a big problem," says Mr Murphy.

"When I go home I'm tired. I want to sit on the sofa and read my book and relax. But I can never relax. I can never read my book. When I come home my mother is playing the guitar. My wife is playing the piano. My two younger children are fighting and my two older children are arguing about the television. And the pots and pans are bubbling on the cooker."



Glossary

• **What's wrong?:** What's the problem?

Mr Murphy's friend listens to him carefully. Then he says: "Go and see Linda McCormack! She's a very clever woman. She knows the answer to everything." Sean Murphy is happy to hear this.

When he gets home, he doesn't go into the house as usual. He goes to the garage[•] and gets on his bike and cycles to Linda McCormack's house.

"I hope[•] Linda McCormack can help me. I hope she has got some good advice[•] for me," he thinks. "Then I can go home and sit on the sofa. I can relax and read a good book!"



- **advice:** idea of what you can do if you have a problem
- **clever:** intelligent

- **garage:** room where you keep a car
- **hope:** want something to happen

Soon Sean Murphy is at Linda McCormack's house.

"Hello Sean," she says and smiles at him.

"Come in."

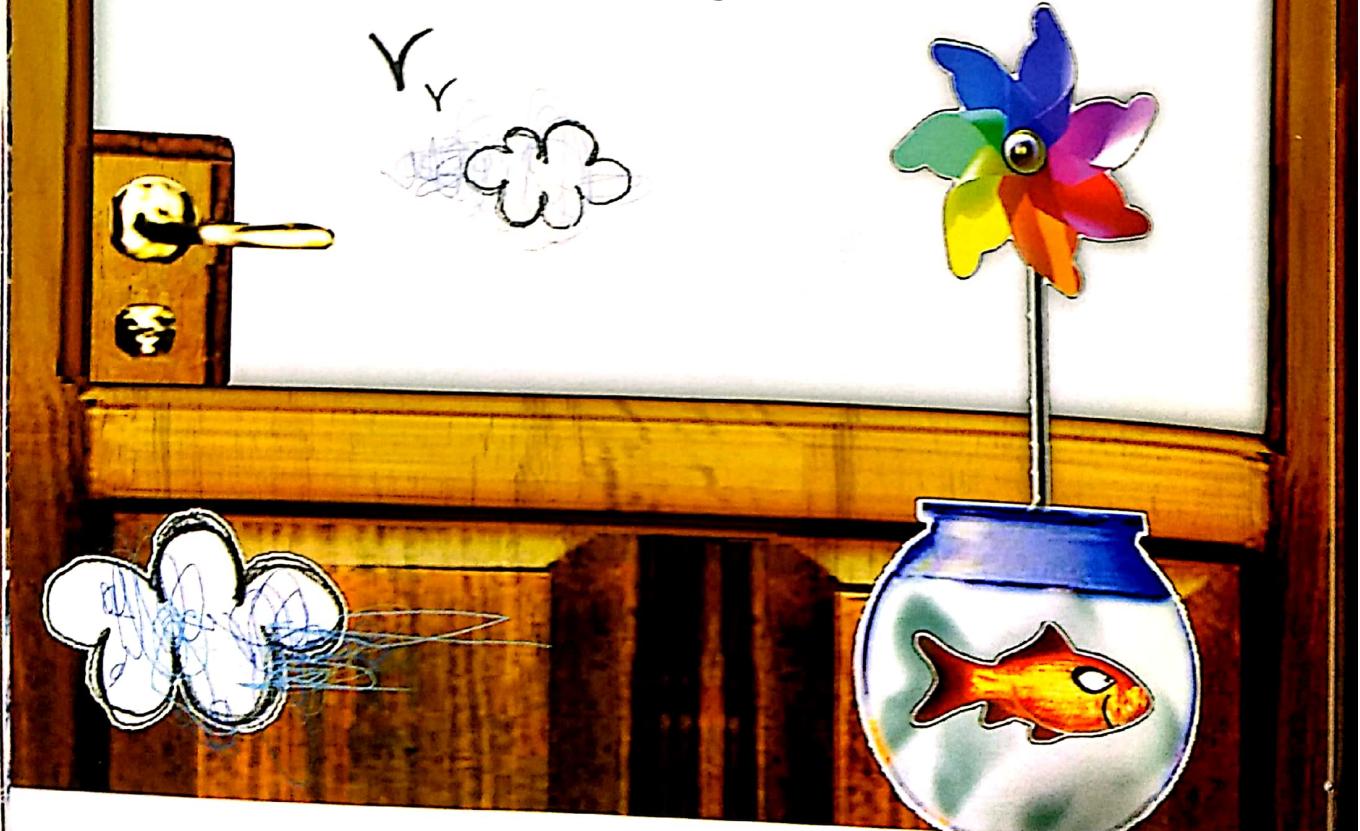
Linda can see that Sean isn't happy. "What's wrong?" she asks.

"When I come home from work I'm tired," says Sean.

"I want to see my wife and children and mother. But first of all I want to sit on the sofa and relax and read a good book."

"And why can't you sit down on the sofa, and relax and read a good book?" the clever woman asks.

"Well," says Sean Murphy. "When I come home my mother is playing the guitar. My wife is playing the piano. My two younger children are fighting and my two older children are arguing about the television. And the pots and pans are bubbling on the cooker."



Linda McCormack listens carefully*.

"Have you got any chickens?" she asks him.

Mr Murphy looks confused*.

"Yes," he answers. "I've got two chickens!"

"Then bring* the chickens into your house," says the clever woman and smiles.

Sean thanks her. Then he rides back home on his bike. He is much happier now.

As soon as he gets home he goes to the hen house and he brings his two chickens into the house.



Glossary

- **bring:** carry; take
- **carefully:** with attention

- **confused:** when you don't understand

When Sean comes home the next day he is thinking: "Now I can sit on the sofa, stretch my legs and read my book. I can relax at last..." But when he opens the door his mother is playing the guitar. His wife is playing the piano. His two older children are singing. His two younger children are running after the chickens. And the pots and pans are bubbling on the cooker.

"Oh, no!" sighs Sean Murphy. He is very unhappy. He goes out and gets on his bike and rides to the clever woman's house again.

"Have you got any geese?" Linda McCormack asks him.

Mr Murphy looks confused.

"Yes," he answers. "I've got some geese."

"Then bring them into your house," says the clever woman.

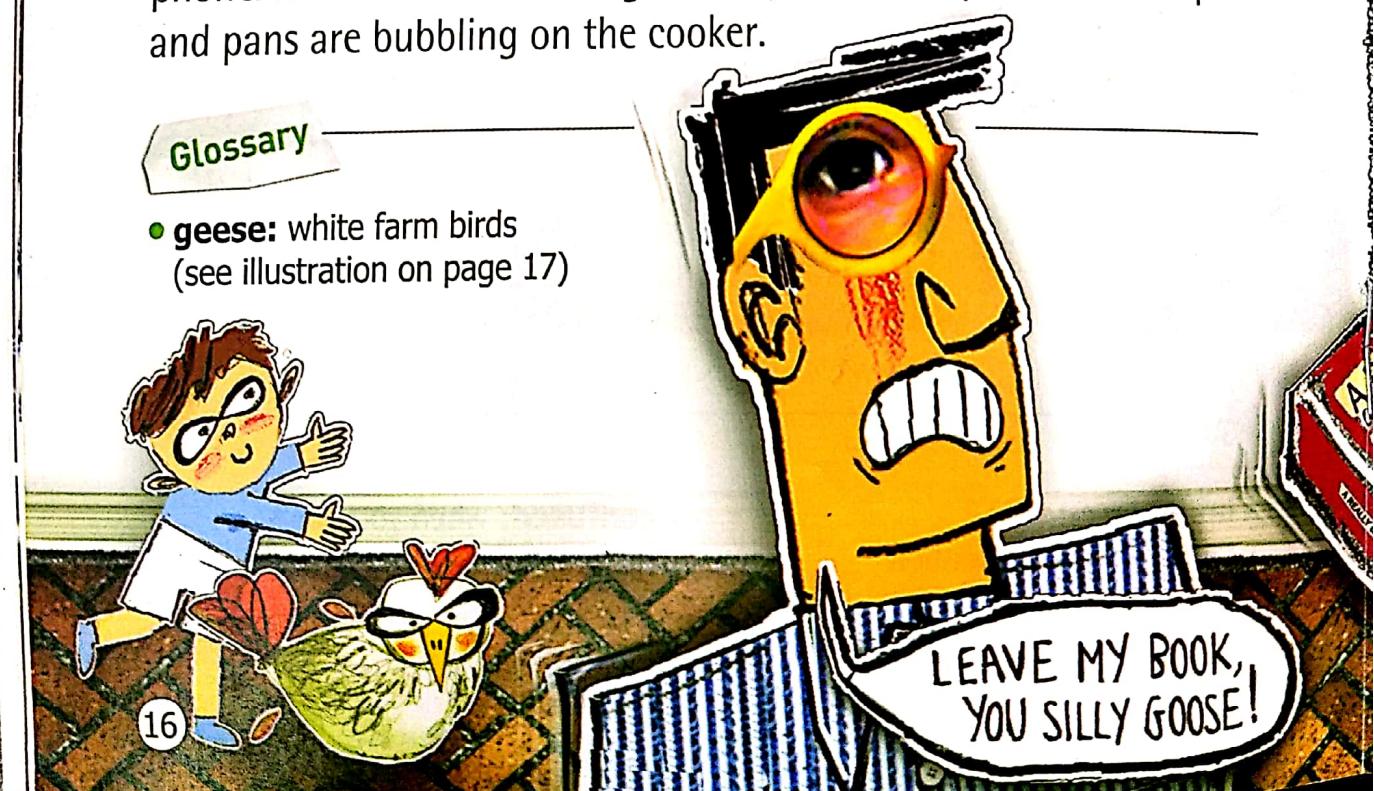
Sean thanks her. He rides back home on his bike. Then he goes into the yard and he brings his three geese into the house.

He comes home from work the next day and is looking forward to reading his book at last.

But when he opens the door the geese are running after the chickens and his two younger children are running after the geese. His two older children are dancing to some music. His wife is talking on the phone. His mother is shouting at everyone to be quiet. And the pots and pans are bubbling on the cooker.

Glossary

- **geese:** white farm birds
(see illustration on page 17)





Mr Murphy is very angry. He throws down the book and marches out* of the house.

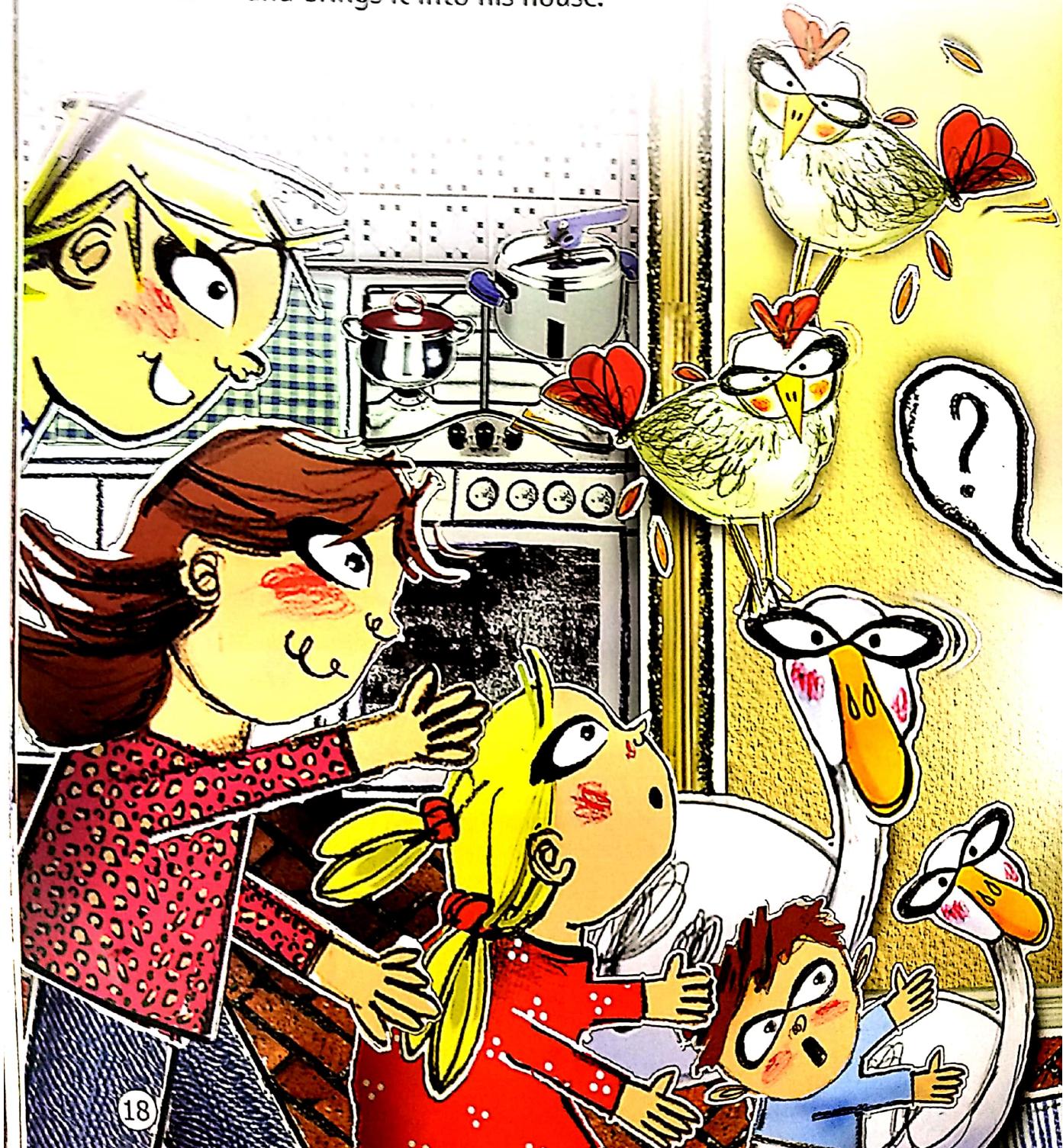
He gets on his bike and rides to the clever woman's house again. "Have you got a goat?" Linda McCormack asks him.

Mr Murphy feels confused.

"Yes, I've got one," he says.

"Then bring it into your house," the clever woman says.

Sean thanks her. Then he rides back home and gets the goat from the field and brings it into his house.



When he comes home from work the next day he is determined to relax. He sits down on the sofa and he lifts up his book. But he can't read because his two older children are running after the two younger children, the two younger children are running after the geese, the geese are running after the goat and the goat is scaring the chickens. His wife is listening to the radio. And the pots and pans are bubbling on the cooker. Only his mother is quiet. She is sleeping. Then she starts snoring...

Glossary

- **determined:** when you decide to do something
- **goat:** farm animal (see illustration)
- **marches out:** walks out in a hurry
- **scaring:** making afraid
- **snoring:** making a noise when you are sleeping

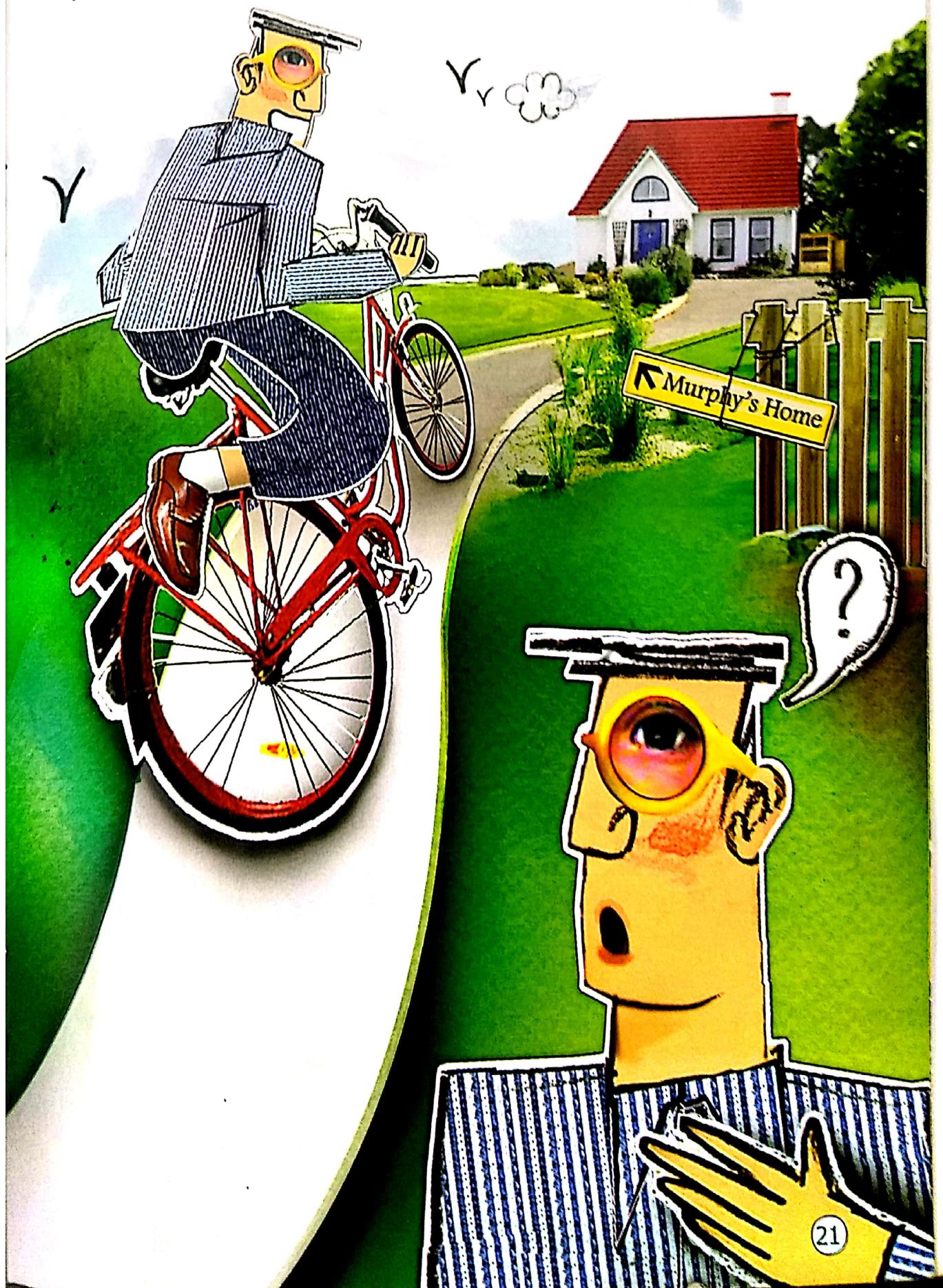


Sean does not know what to do. He runs out of the house and gets on his bike and rides to Linda McCormack's house once more. "What can I do?" he asks the clever woman. "My house is even noisier now!"

Linda smiles and says: "Take the chickens back to the hen house. Take the geese and put them back into the yard. Then take the goat back to the field again!"



Mr Murphy is very confused now. But he thanks the clever woman and gets on his bike and he rides home.



First he takes the two chickens back to the hen house,
Then he takes the three geese back into the yard,
Finally, he takes the goat out of the house again.





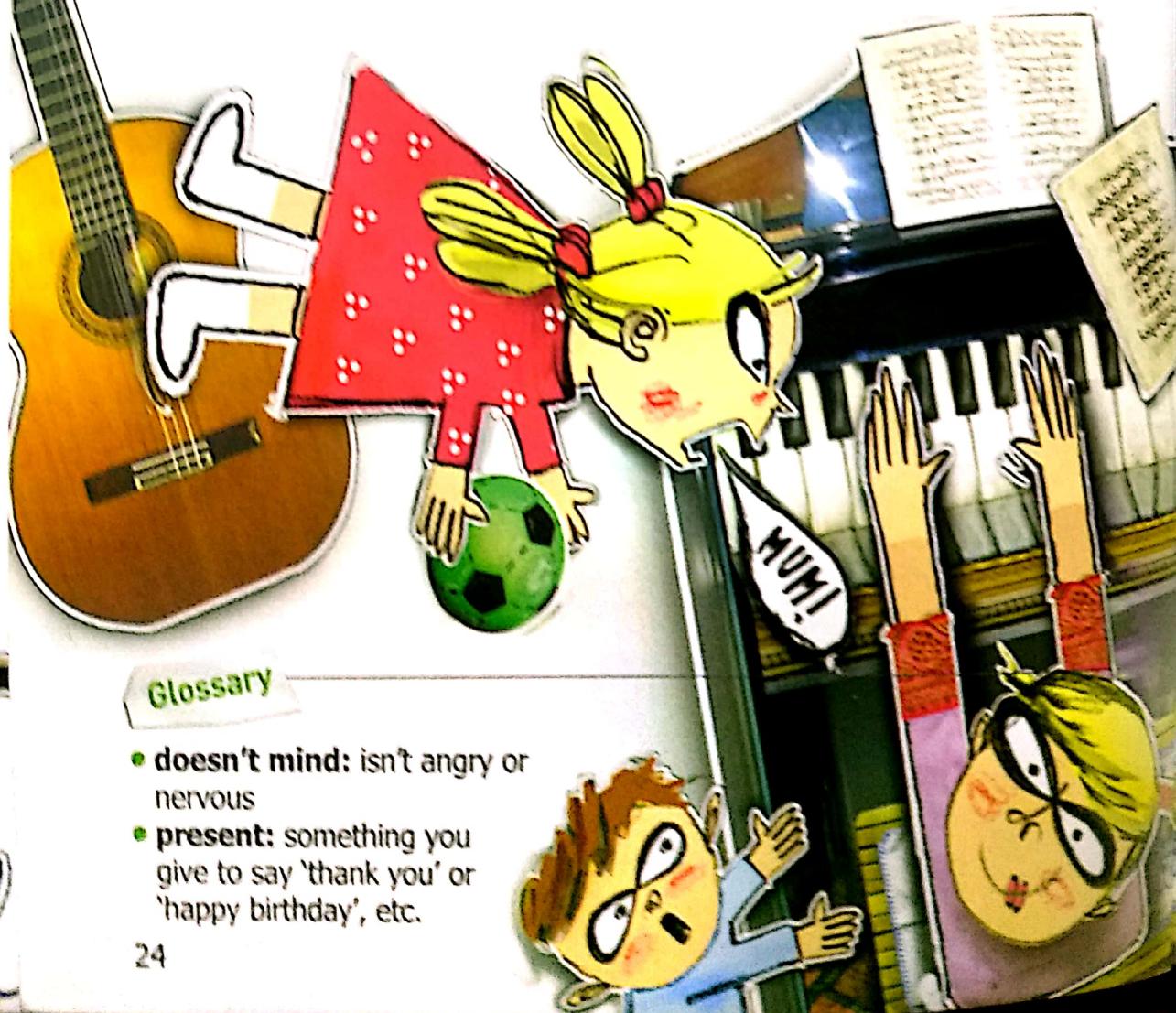
Then Sean Murphy goes back into the house. He goes over to the sofa and sits down. He stretches his legs and lifts up his book. His mother is playing the guitar. His wife is playing the piano. His two younger children are fighting. His two older children are arguing about the television. And the pots and pans are bubbling on the cooker. But Mr Murphy doesn't mind*. Now his house seems so quiet.

The next day, Sean Murphy goes to the clever woman's house and brings her a present*.

"thank you so much for your help," he says.

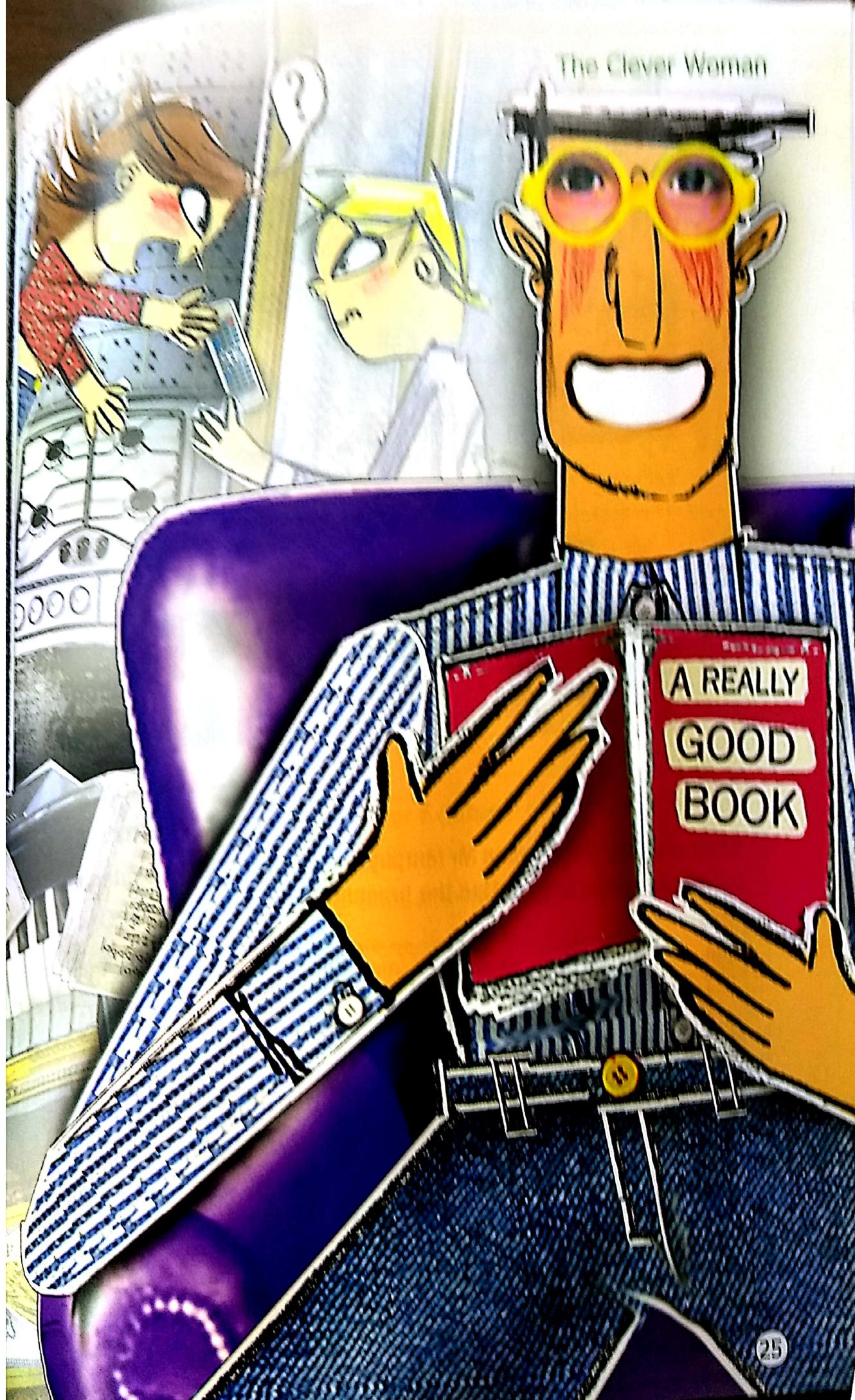
"Now I can sit down on the sofa and read. And I can relax for the very first time!"

Linda McCormack smiles at him as he rides back home to read his book.



Glossary

- **doesn't mind:** isn't angry or nervous
- **present:** something you give to say 'thank you' or 'happy birthday', etc.



After Reading

1 Look at the pictures. Write what is happening in them.

a)



b)



c)



d)



2 What are they doing when Mr Murphy comes home? Write sentences using the verbs below. Use the present continuous.

fight

listen

dance

run after

bubble

snoe

a) Mr Murphy's wife

b) Mr Murphy's mother

c) The geese

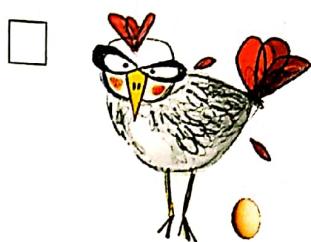
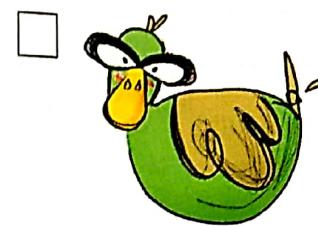
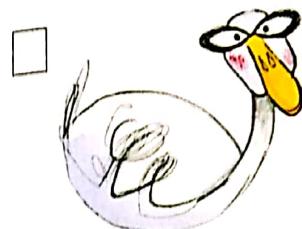
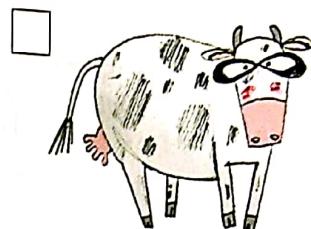
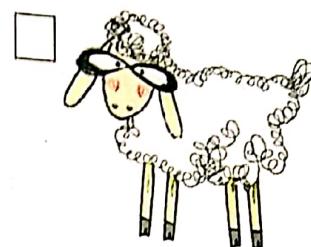
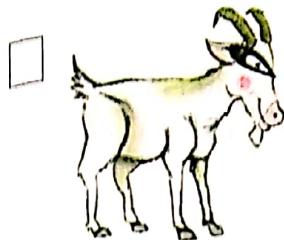
d) His two older children

e) His two younger children

f) The pots and pans

Farm Animals

3 Write the names of the animals under the pictures. Then listen and match the interesting animal facts with the pictures.



4 Listen again and tick T (true) or F (false).

T F

a) Cows produce about 19 glasses of milk a day.

b) We keep sheep for their milk, their meat and their wool.

c) Ducks get cold easily.

d) Chickens aren't birds.

e) Geese are very friendly.

f) Baby goats are called kids.

5 Find some interesting facts about animals. Then tell the class.

After Reading

1 Complete the summary with the adjectives below.

happy (a) confused clever (b) tired good sad full noisy angry quiet

Mr Murphy is (a) after his day at work and the bus is (b) He is (c) because he is going home. When he gets home, he is not so happy. He wants to relax and read a (d) book but he can't. The house is too (e)

One day, Mr Murphy looks very (f) "What's wrong?" asks his friend. Mr Murphy tells his friend about the noise at home. His friend listens carefully and then he says, "Go and see Linda McCormack. She's a very (g) woman."

Mr Murphy goes to see Linda McCormack. She says, "Bring the chickens, the geese and the goat into the house." Mr Murphy does what she says. "Oh, no! Now the house is even noisier than before," he thinks. He is very (h)

Mr Murphy goes and sees Mrs McCormack again. "Take all the animals outside again," she says. Mr Murphy is (i) but he takes all the animals outside again.

Now his house seems very (j) Mr Murphy is (k) because now he can read his book. He goes and thanks Mrs McCormack. "Mrs McCormack really is a very (l) woman," he thinks.

2 Circle the correct tense in the sentences below.

- a) Mr Murphy **wants** / is wanting to read a good book.
- b) When he **comes** / is coming home, his mother **plays** / is playing the guitar.
- c) Mr Murphy **cycles** / is cycling to Linda McCormack's house every night.
- d) The wise woman **asks** / is asking Mr Murphy, "Have you got any chickens?"
- e) When he comes home, his two younger children **run after** / are running after the chickens.
- f) His mother is quiet because she **sleeps** / is sleeping.

3 Match the hobbies with the verbs.

(a) play	1 a bicycle
(b) sing	2 a book
(c) ride	3 a guitar
(d) read	4 a song

4 What can they do? Complete the sentences with *can* and a phrase from below.

play the guitar play the piano dance ride a bicycle

- a) Mr Murphy
- b) His mother
- c) His wife
- d) His two older children

5 What *can/can't* you do? Write true sentences. Then in pairs, ask and answer questions about what you *can* and *can't* do.

After Reading

Unusual Hobbies

1 Read the messages about unusual hobbies. Then answer the questions.

Have you got a hobby that is a bit different?

Tell us about your unusual hobby.

View previous topic :: View next topic

Author	Message
Gary 14, Wales	 "I live on a farm, so I like collecting animals. I have a dog called Sam, 5 cows and 3 horses. But my favourite animals are my sheep - especially Sally. She is lovely."
Hannah 14, London	 "I love Harry Potter. I can't stop reading the books. I know lots of facts from the books and films."
Sarah 13, Glasgow	 "I love collecting photos of elephants! They are such interesting animals. My bedroom wall is full of pictures!"
Martin 13, Liverpool	 "I can't stop playing songs in my head. I always have a song in my head! I want to be a singer when I grow up."
Gemma 15, Bath	 "I make my own rings and bracelets and on Saturday I sell what I make at the market."

- a) Who has got a lot of animals?
- b) Who likes elephants?
- c) Who enjoys reading?
- d) Who likes music?
- e) Who likes making things?

2 Now find out about your friends' hobbies. Do a class survey. Write a short description of each hobby.

3 Discuss the results.

Who has got an unusual hobby in your class? Which hobbies are very popular?

4 Mr Murphy lives on a farm in Ireland. How much do you know about Ireland? Read the fact file below. Then in pairs, ask and answer questions.

What colour is the flag?

What is the capital city?



Name: Republic of Ireland or Éire

Flag: 

Capital City: Dublin

Population: 4.25 million

Languages: English and Irish (Gaelic)

Famous writers: Bram Stoker, the author of *Dracula*

Famous pop groups: The Cranberries, The Corrs and U2

5 Write a fact file for your country.

6 Complete what these young people say with the words in the box.

bus	big	capital	traffic	river	small
-----	-----	---------	---------	-------	-------

Hello, my name's Seán and I live in Dublin. Dublin's the of Ireland and it's a very city. Over one million people live there. The Liffey runs through it. Lots of people work in the centre and there is lots of

Hi, I'm Imelda and I live in Glenties in Donegal in Ireland. Glenties is a village, less than a thousand people live here. I like living here because it is beautiful and safe. I go to school in Donegal Town by every day. It takes about half an hour.

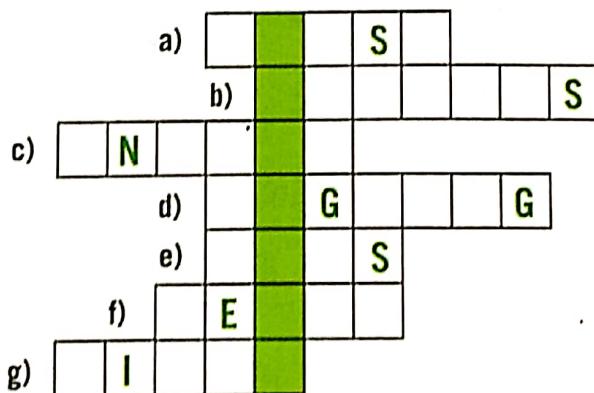
7 Where do you live? Tell a partner.

After Reading

Crossword

1 Can you remember these words? Read the clues and complete the puzzle with words from the story.

- a) These birds run after the chickens.
- b) Mr Murphy is very angry so he out of the house.
- c) His mother while she is sleeping.
- d) His two older children are and his two younger children are fighting.
- e) The pots and are bubbling on the cooker.
- f) Mr Murphy wants to and read his book.
- g) The goats are in the



2 There is a mystery word in the puzzle. Complete the sentence below with the mystery word.

Ireland is called the Isle because it is very green.