

TALL TALES  
<http://esolebooks.com>  
Level 1

# WHERE IS LANCE?

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**It's early in the morning.**

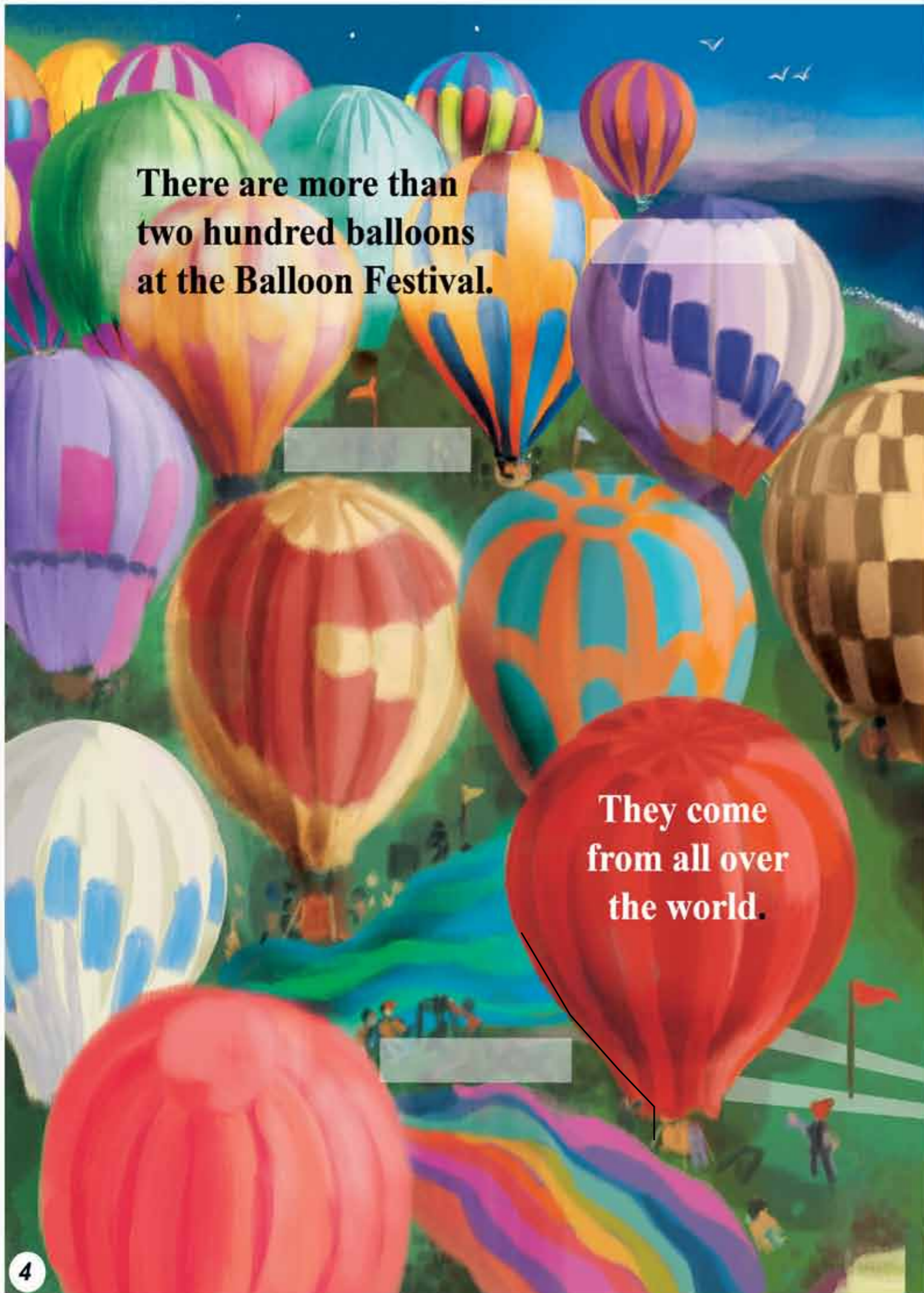
**The Baker family  
is getting up.**

**Lance is sleeping  
in his basket.**

**BALLOON  
FESTIVAL**

**Today Nancy and Mrs Baker  
are going to a balloon festival.  
Mr Baker is going to work.  
He's a helicopter pilot.**

**Mrs Baker tells Nancy, "Daddy is driving  
us to the Balloon Festival."**

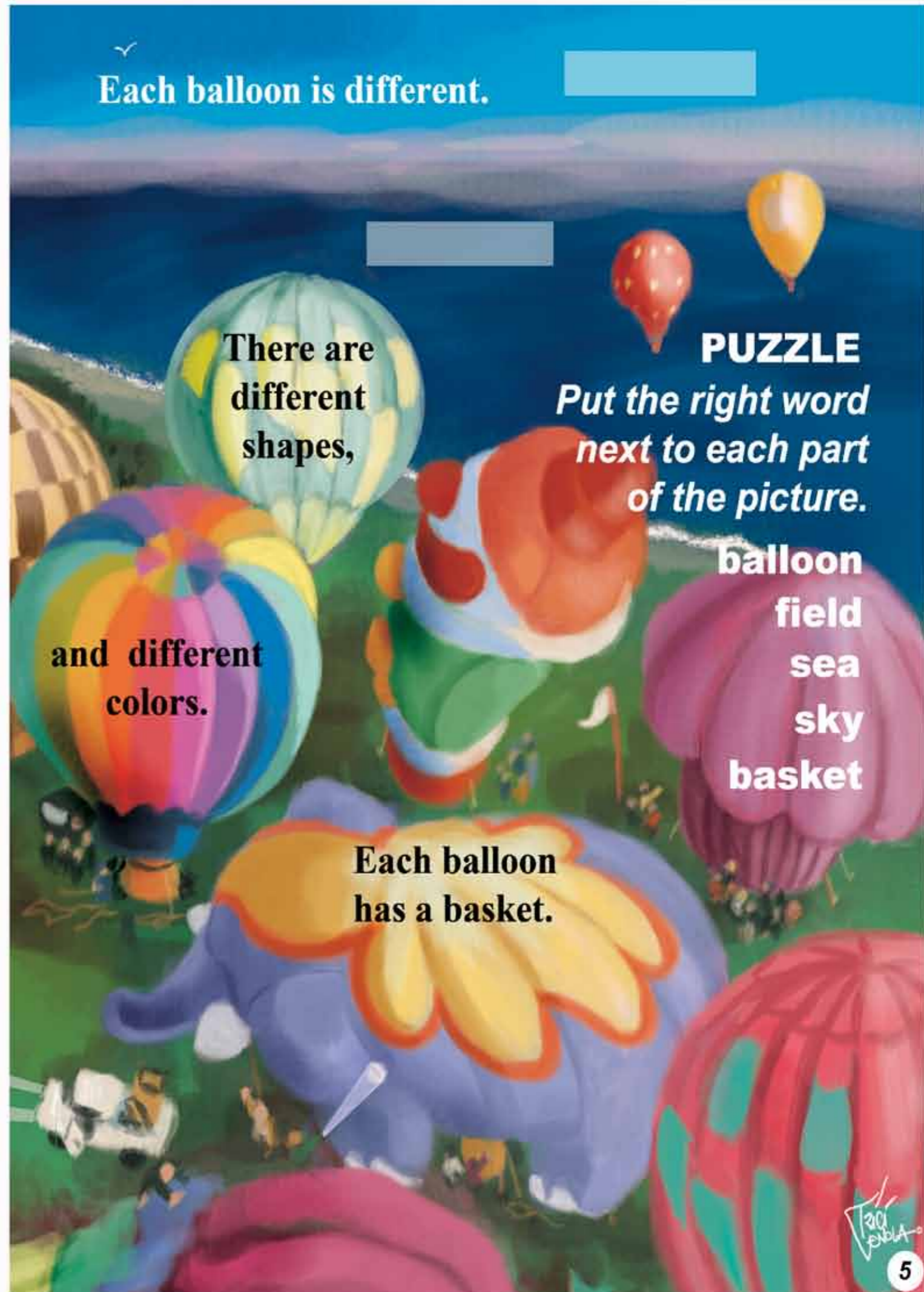


There are more than two hundred balloons at the Balloon Festival.

[Blank box]

They come from all over the world.

[Blank box]



Each balloon is different.

[Blank box]

There are different shapes,

[Blank box]

and different colors.

**PUZZLE**

*Put the right word next to each part of the picture.*

- balloon
- field
- sea
- sky
- basket

Each balloon has a basket.

Mr Baker takes his bag out to the car. Lance runs behind Mr Baker. It's dark outside. Mr Baker doesn't see Lance. Mr Baker is opening the car-boot.

Mrs Baker calls to him from inside the house.

Mr Baker turns round.

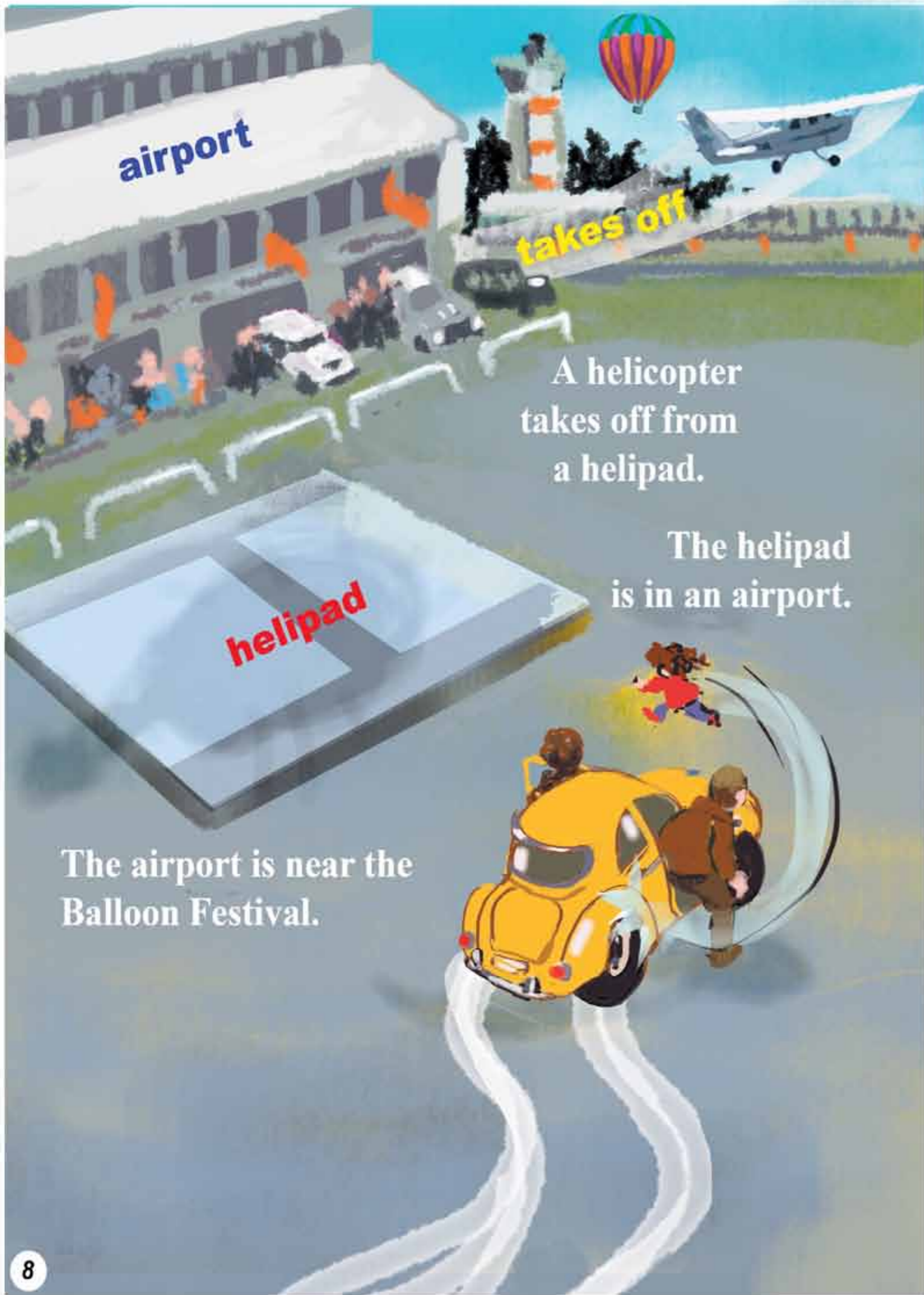
car-boot

Lance climbs into the car-boot.

Mr Baker is looking back towards the house. He doesn't see Lance.

"Can Lance come to the Balloon Festival?" asks Nancy.

Mr Baker laughs. Lance is sleeping in his basket," he says. "He doesn't like balloons."



airport

takes off

helipad

A helicopter takes off from a helipad.

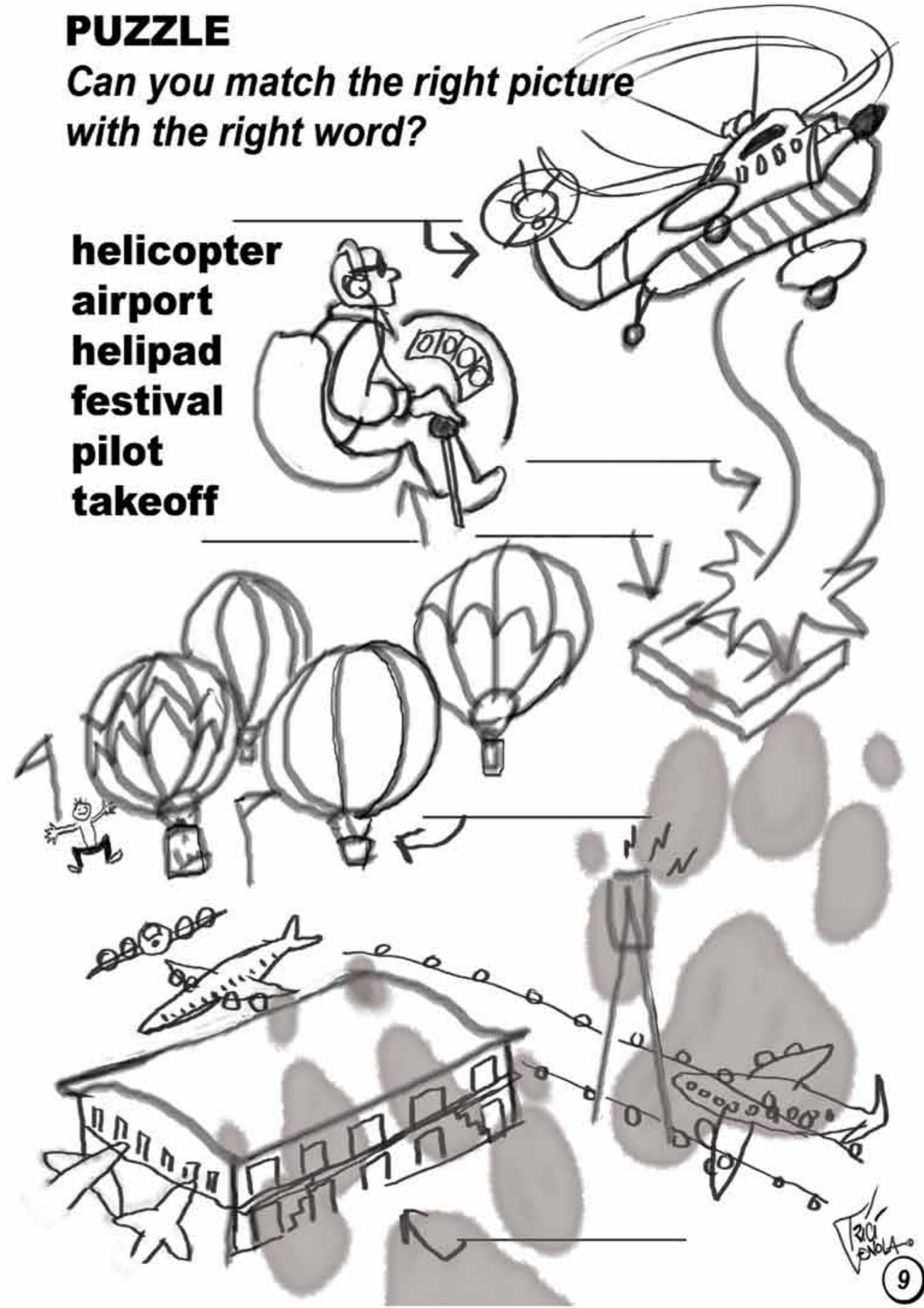
The helipad is in an airport.

The airport is near the Balloon Festival.

**PUZZLE**

Can you match the right picture with the right word?

helicopter  
airport  
helipad  
festival  
pilot  
takeoff



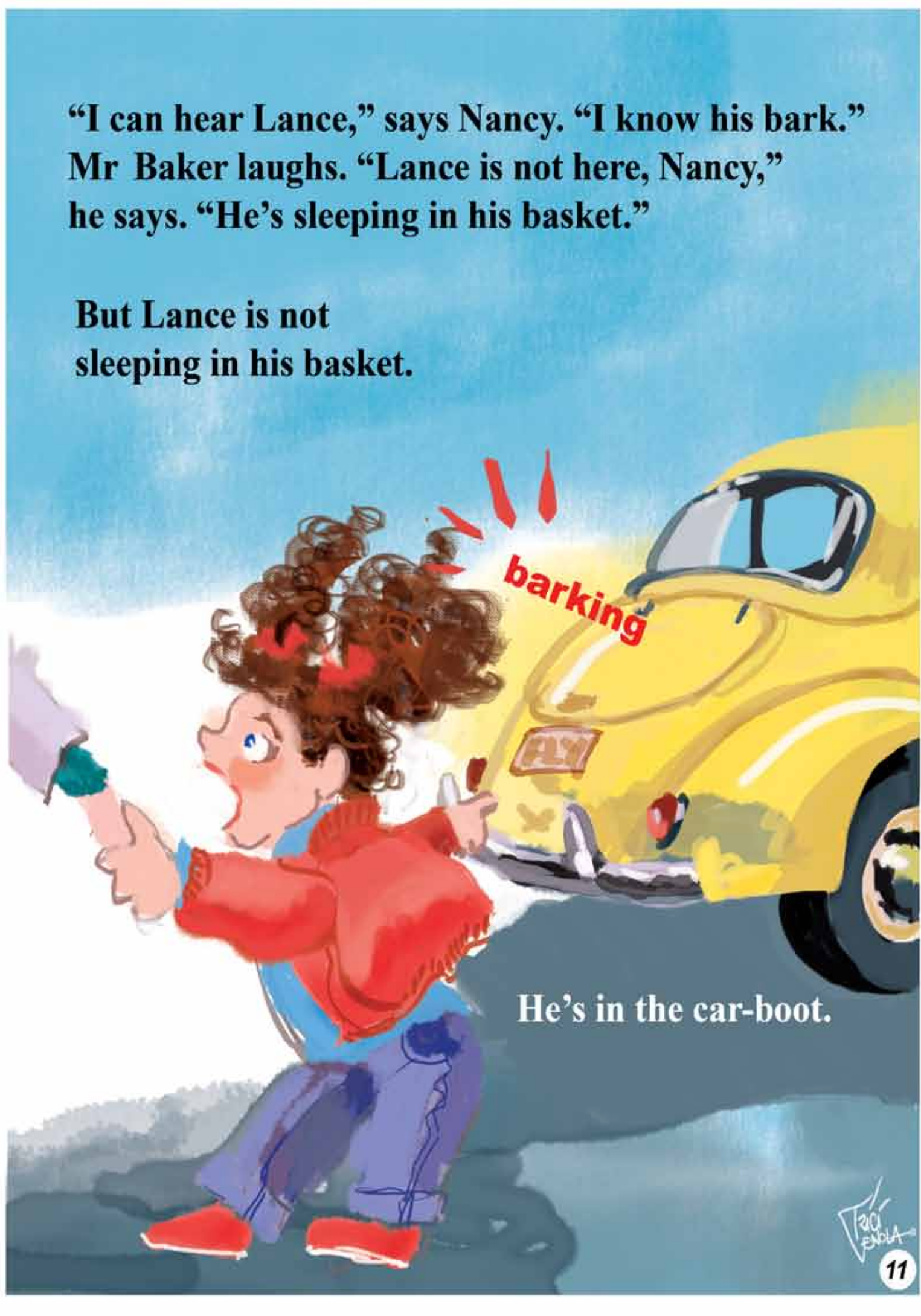
A watercolor illustration of a helicopter with 'COASTGUARD' written on its side landing on a helipad. A man in a brown jacket and a woman in a purple coat are watching it. The helicopter's rotors are blurred, indicating motion. The word 'landing' is written in red below the helicopter.

A helicopter is landing on the helipad.  
Nancy says, "What's that noise?"

"It's the helicopter,"  
says Mrs Baker.

The helicopter is making  
a very loud noise.

But Nancy can hear a different sound.

A watercolor illustration of Nancy, a young girl with curly brown hair, wearing a red jacket and purple pants, looking at a yellow car. The car has a license plate that says 'FLY'. Red sound waves emanate from the car, with the word 'barking' written in red. The text 'He's in the car-boot.' is written below the car.

"I can hear Lance," says Nancy. "I know his bark."  
Mr Baker laughs. "Lance is not here, Nancy,"  
he says. "He's sleeping in his basket."

But Lance is not  
sleeping in his basket.

He's in the car-boot.

**PUZZLE**

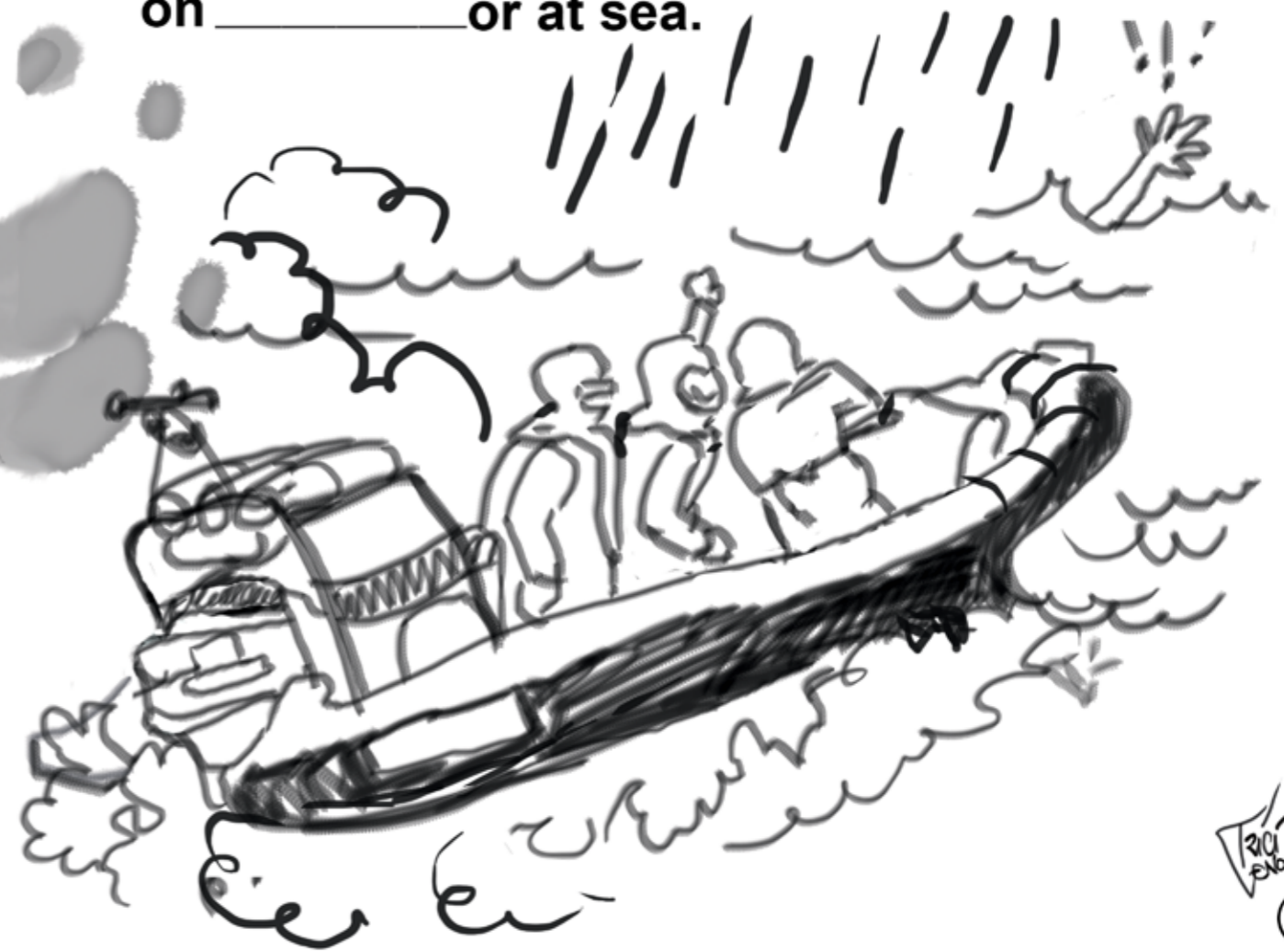
**THE  
COASTGUARD**

*Mr. Baker works for the Coastguard. The Coastguard is one of four rescue services. The other rescue services are the police, the ambulance service and the fire service. The Coastguard rescues people on land and at sea.*

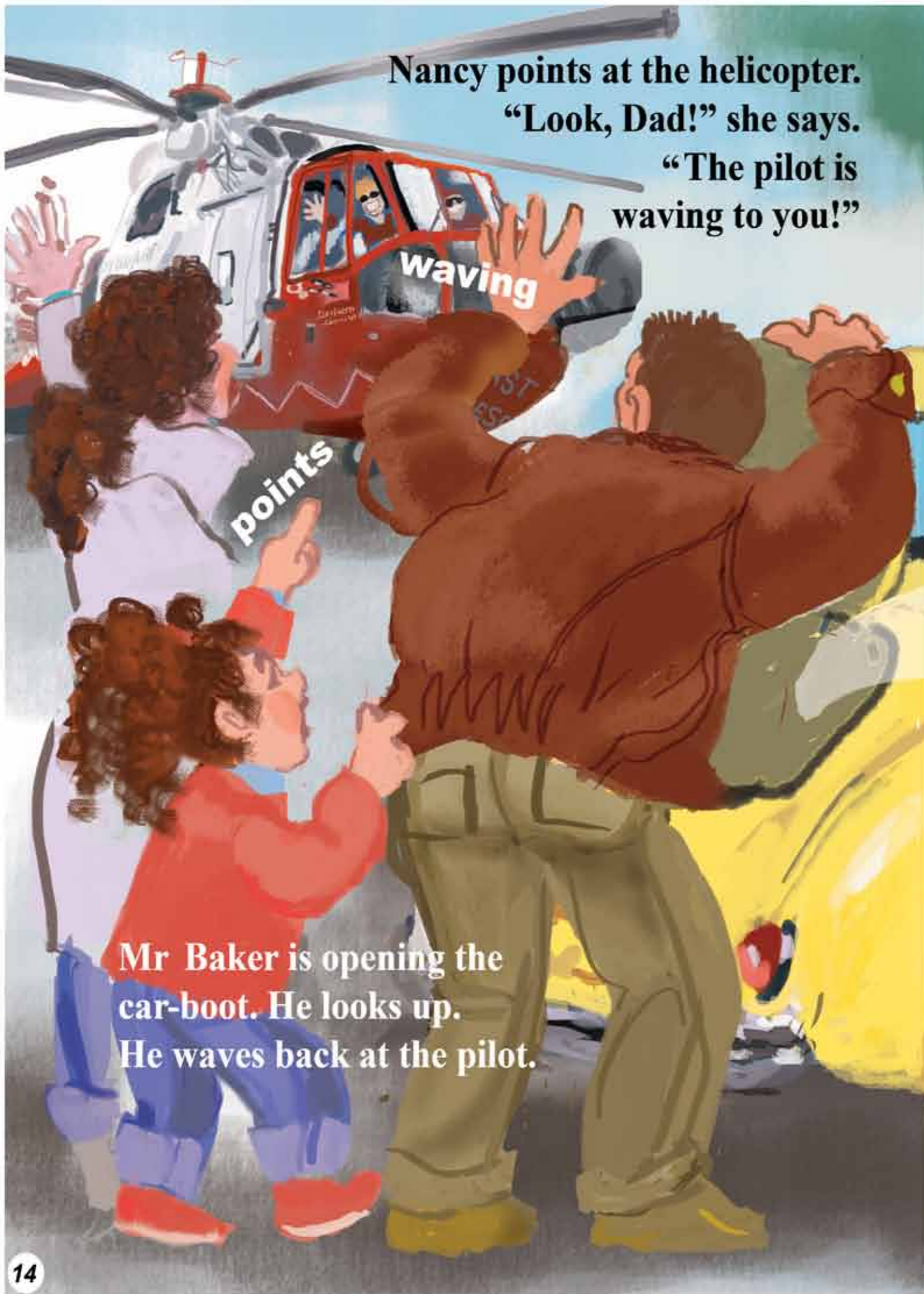


*Fill in the gaps with the right words.*

Mr. Baker is a \_\_\_\_\_.  
He works for the \_\_\_\_\_.  
The Coastguard is a \_\_\_\_\_ service.  
The Coastguard rescues people on land  
and at \_\_\_\_\_.  
The Coastguard works all along the \_\_\_\_\_  
to rescue people. \_\_\_\_\_.  
The helicopters can rescue people  
on \_\_\_\_\_ or at sea.



30  
enla

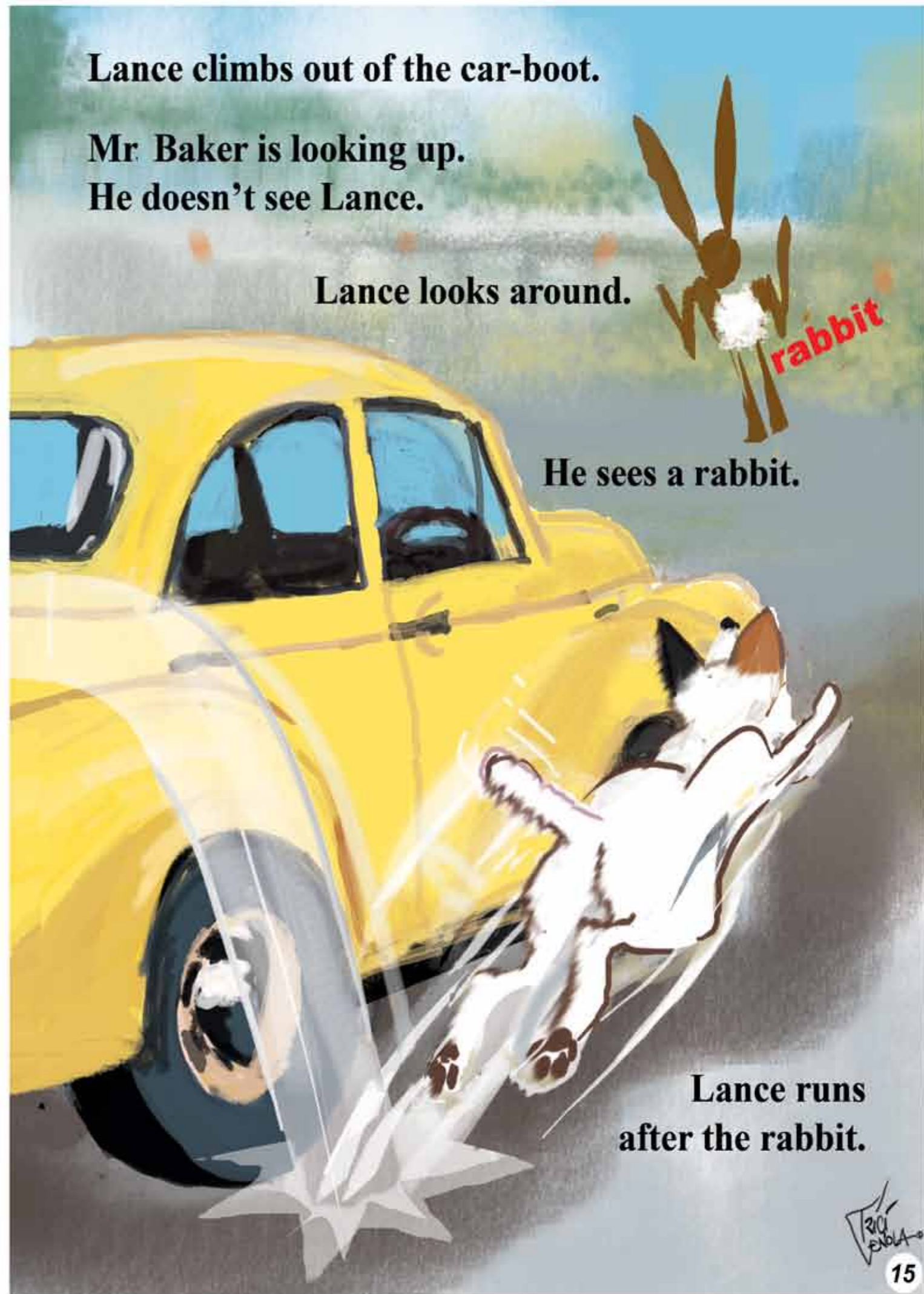


**Nancy points at the helicopter.**  
**“Look, Dad!” she says.**  
**“The pilot is waving to you!”**

**points**

**waving**

**Mr Baker is opening the car-boot. He looks up. He waves back at the pilot.**



**Lance climbs out of the car-boot.**  
**Mr Baker is looking up.**  
**He doesn't see Lance.**

**Lance looks around.**

**rabbit**

**He sees a rabbit.**

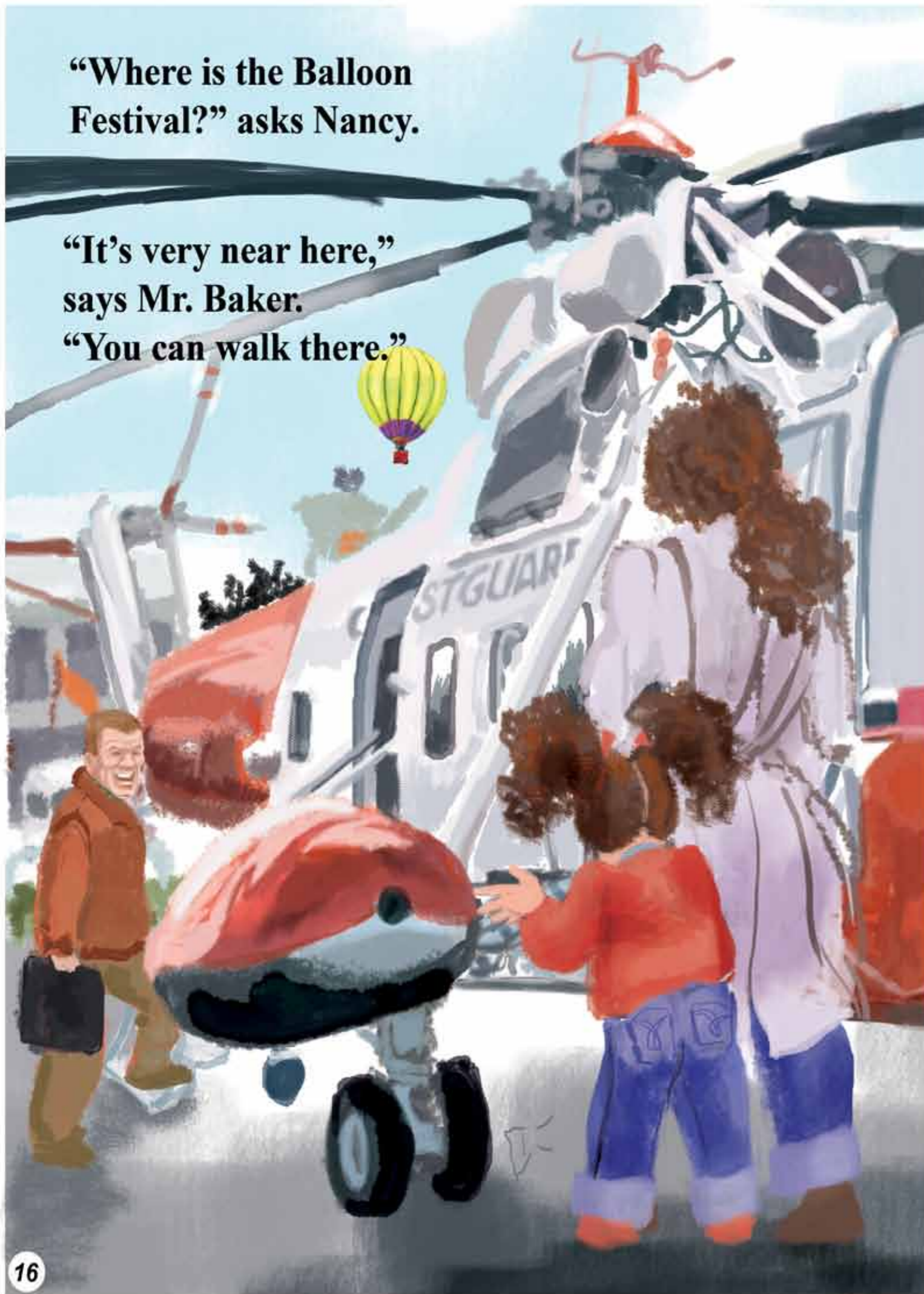
**Lance runs after the rabbit.**



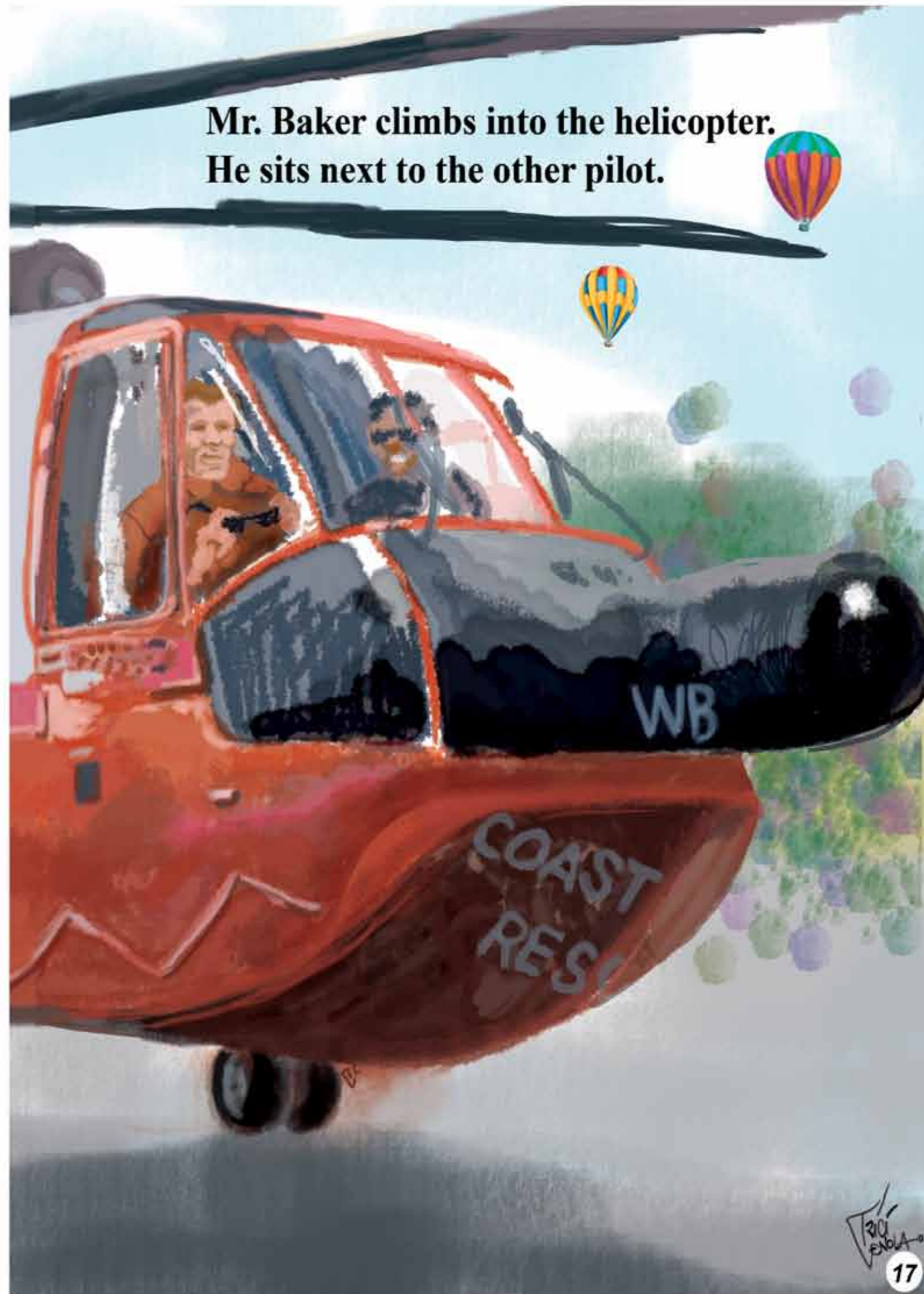
**“Where is the Balloon Festival?” asks Nancy.**

**“It’s very near here,” says Mr. Baker.**

**“You can walk there.”**



**Mr. Baker climbs into the helicopter.**  
**He sits next to the other pilot.**



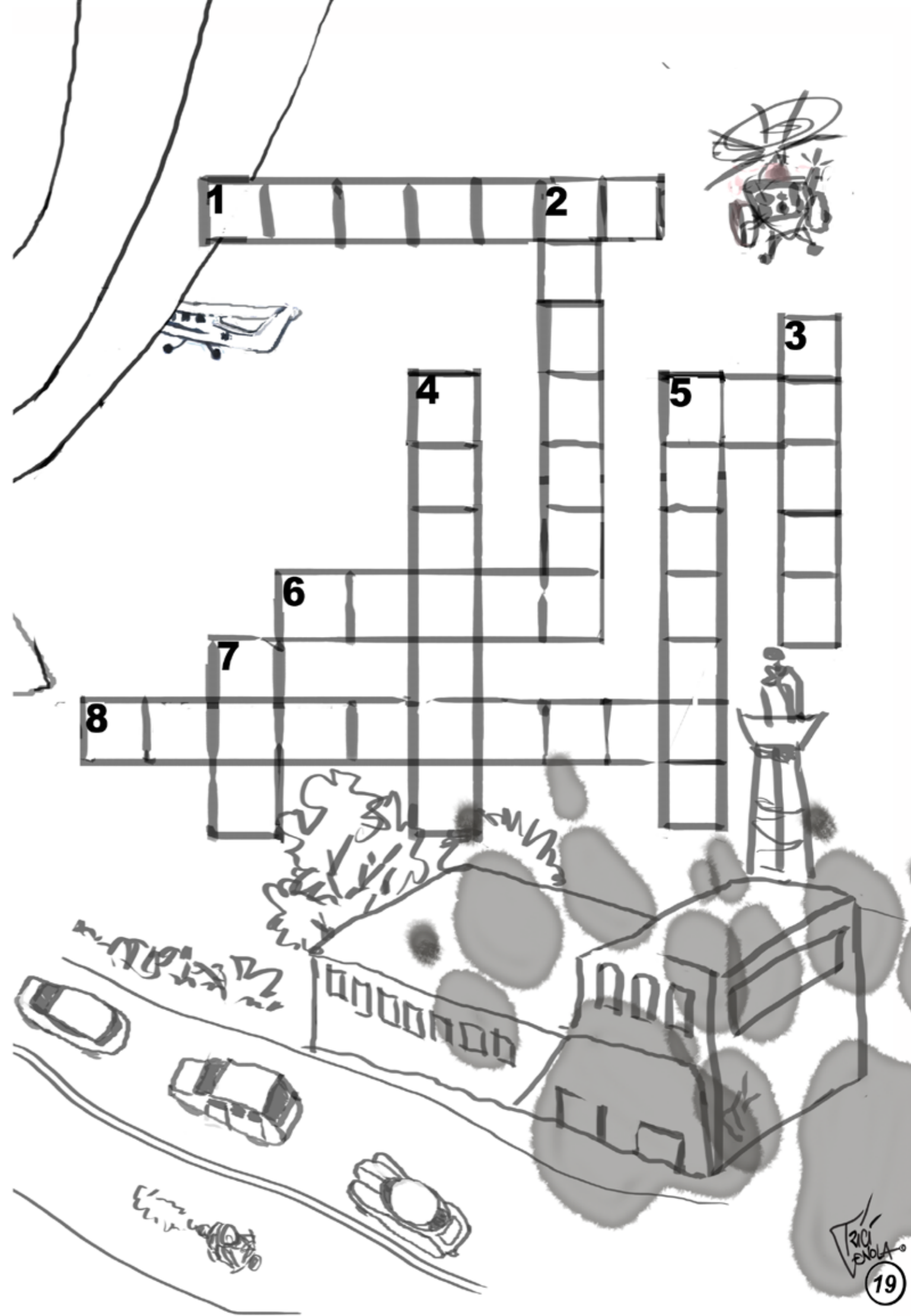
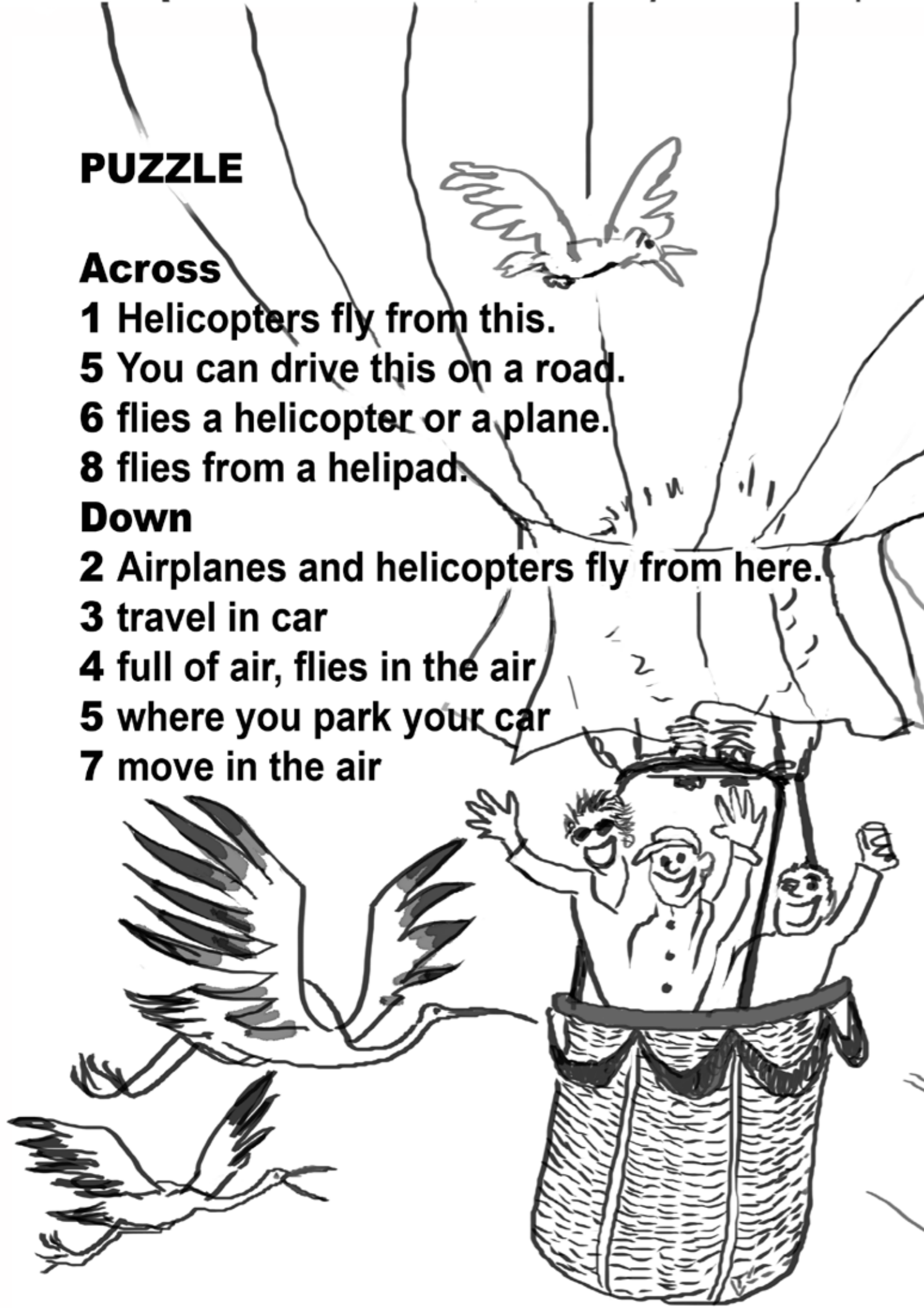
# PUZZLE

## Across

- 1 Helicopters fly from this.
- 5 You can drive this on a road.
- 6 flies a helicopter or a plane.
- 8 flies from a helipad.

## Down

- 2 Airplanes and helicopters fly from here.
- 3 travel in car
- 4 full of air, flies in the air
- 5 where you park your car
- 7 move in the air



Lance chases the rabbit. But the rabbit is very fast. Lance can't catch the rabbit. Lance runs into the balloon field. He is very tired. He wants to sleep in his basket.





Lance climbs up the steps.



He jumps  
down  
into  
the basket.

Lance lies down.

He closes his eyes.



## PUZZLE

Here are some words from the story. Some letters have been left out. Can you write in the words? All the pictures for the words are on this page.

1. b\_\_l\_\_on

2. ba\_\_e\_\_

3. \_\_e\_i\_\_p\_\_e\_\_

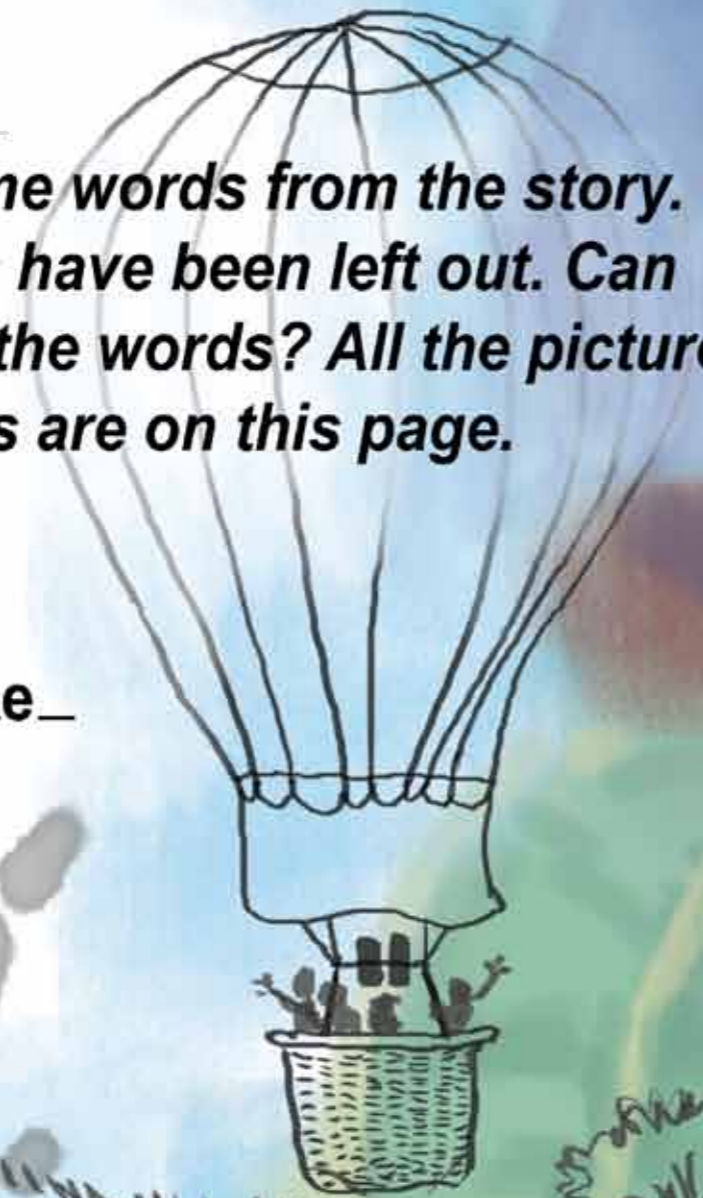
4. \_\_p\_\_

5. c\_\_

6. ra\_\_t

7. \_\_g

8. fi\_\_d





Lance is sleeping  
in the basket.

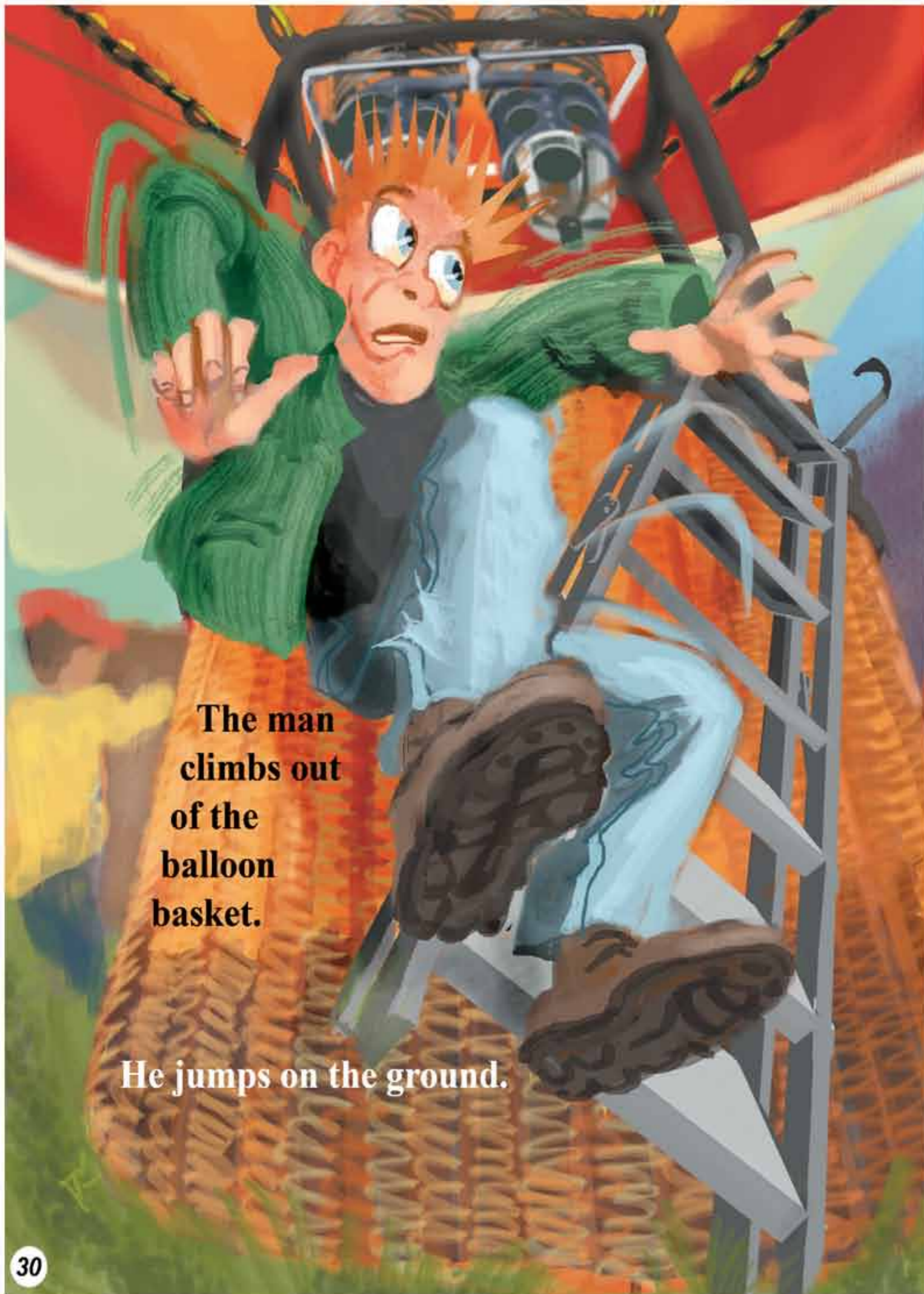
The man stands on his tail.

Lance wakes up.



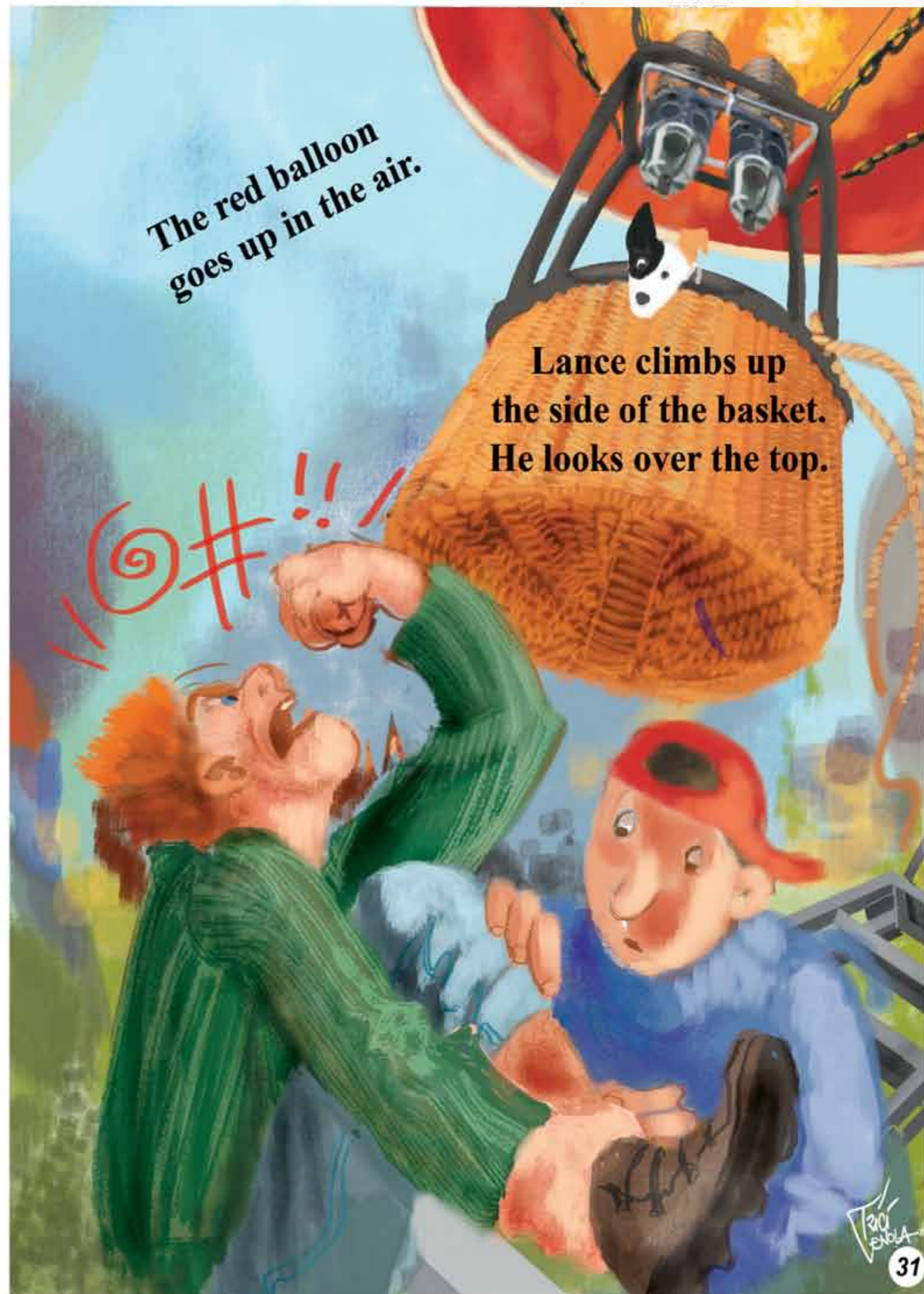
He bites  
the man's leg.

The man jumps up.  
"Help!" he cries.



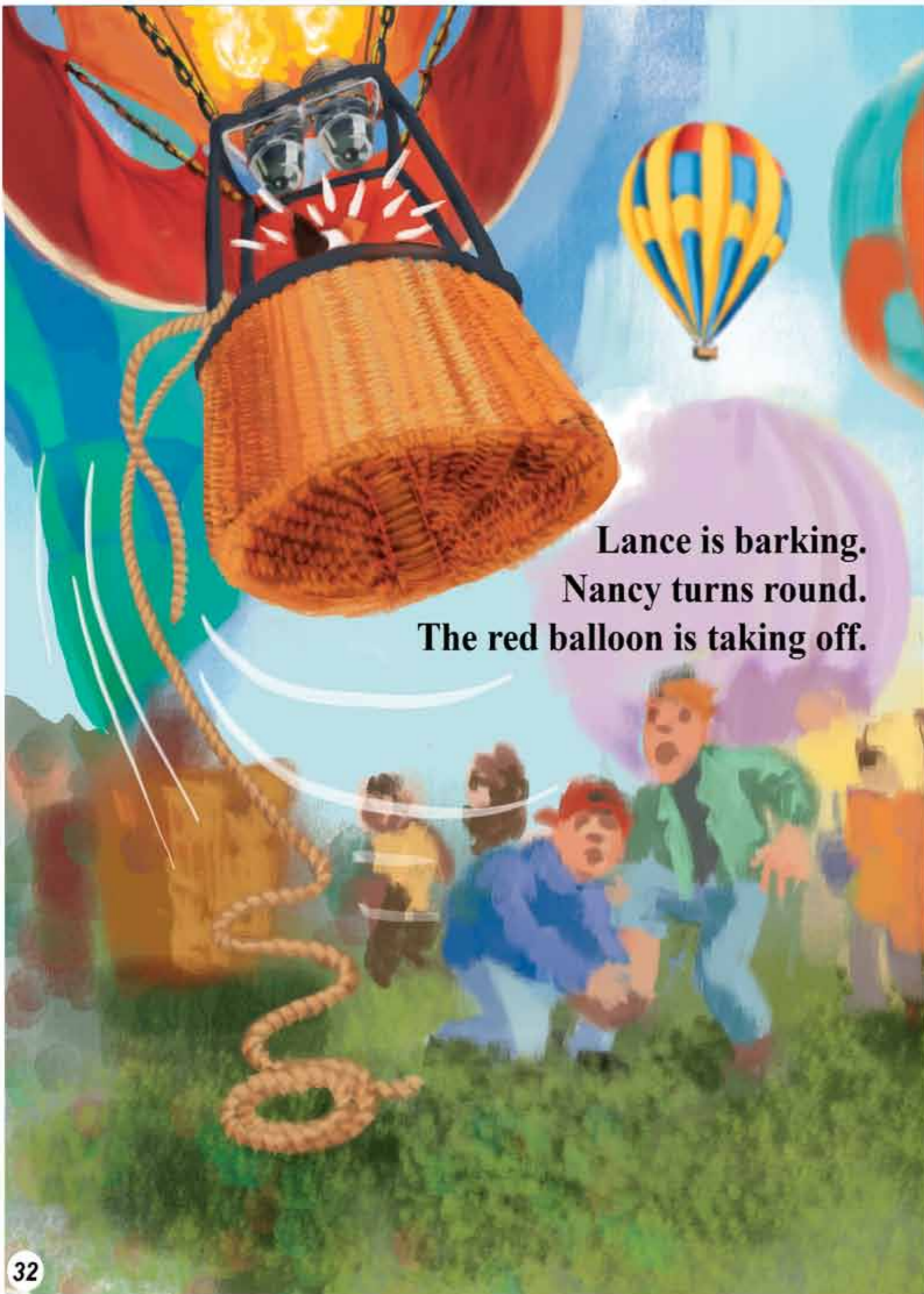
**The man  
climbs out  
of the  
balloon  
basket.**

**He jumps on the ground.**

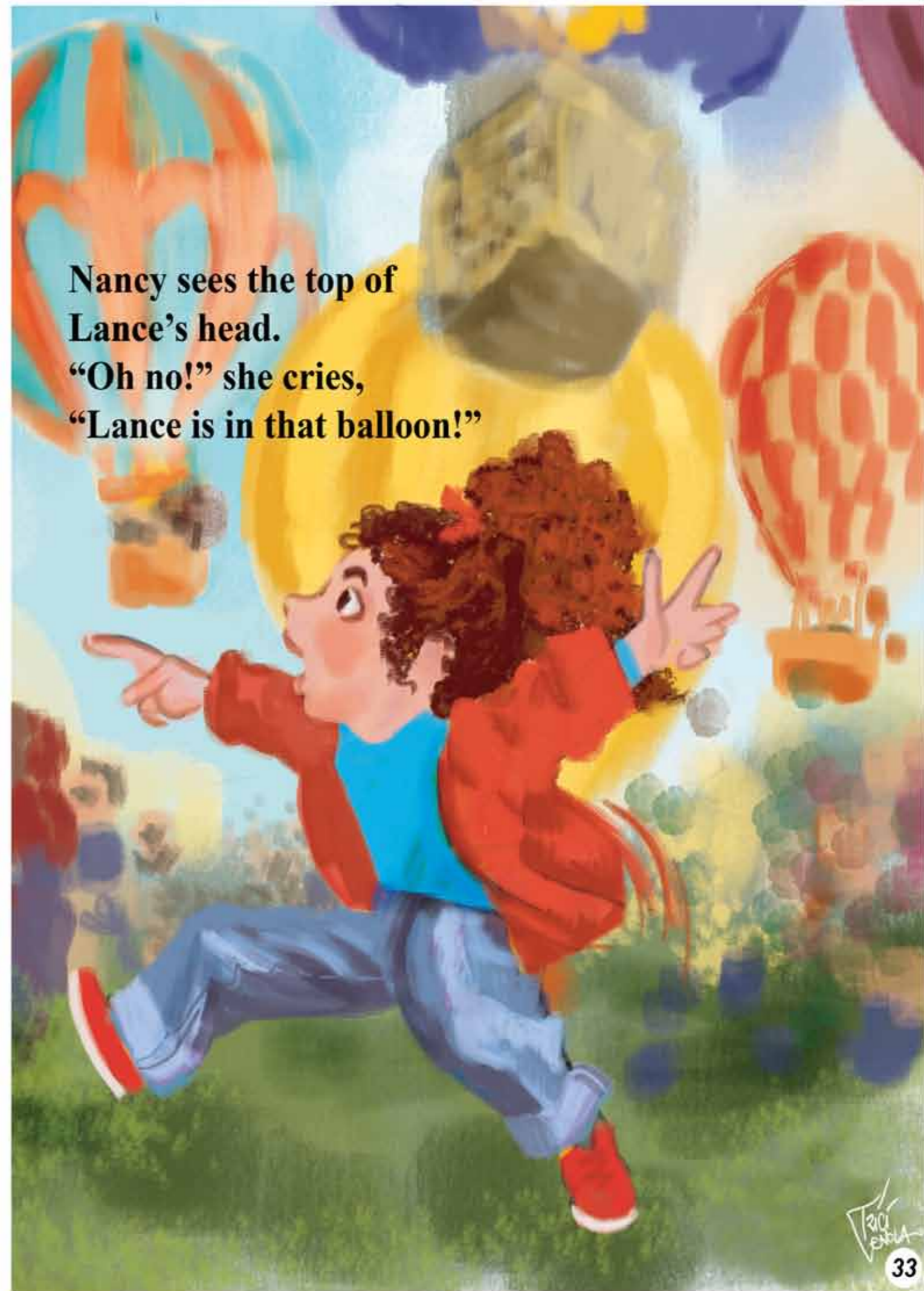


**The red balloon  
goes up in the air.**

**Lance climbs up  
the side of the basket.  
He looks over the top.**



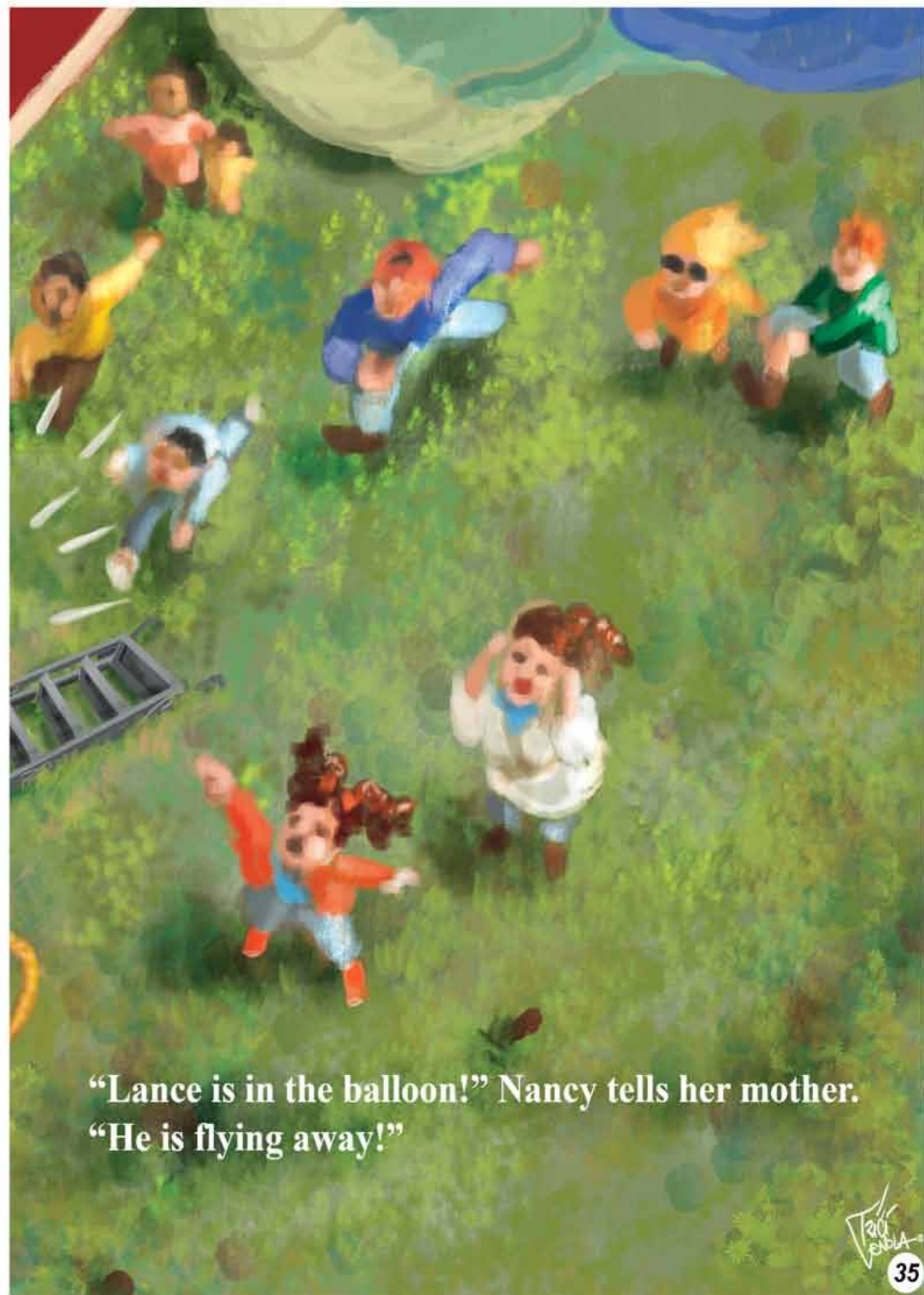
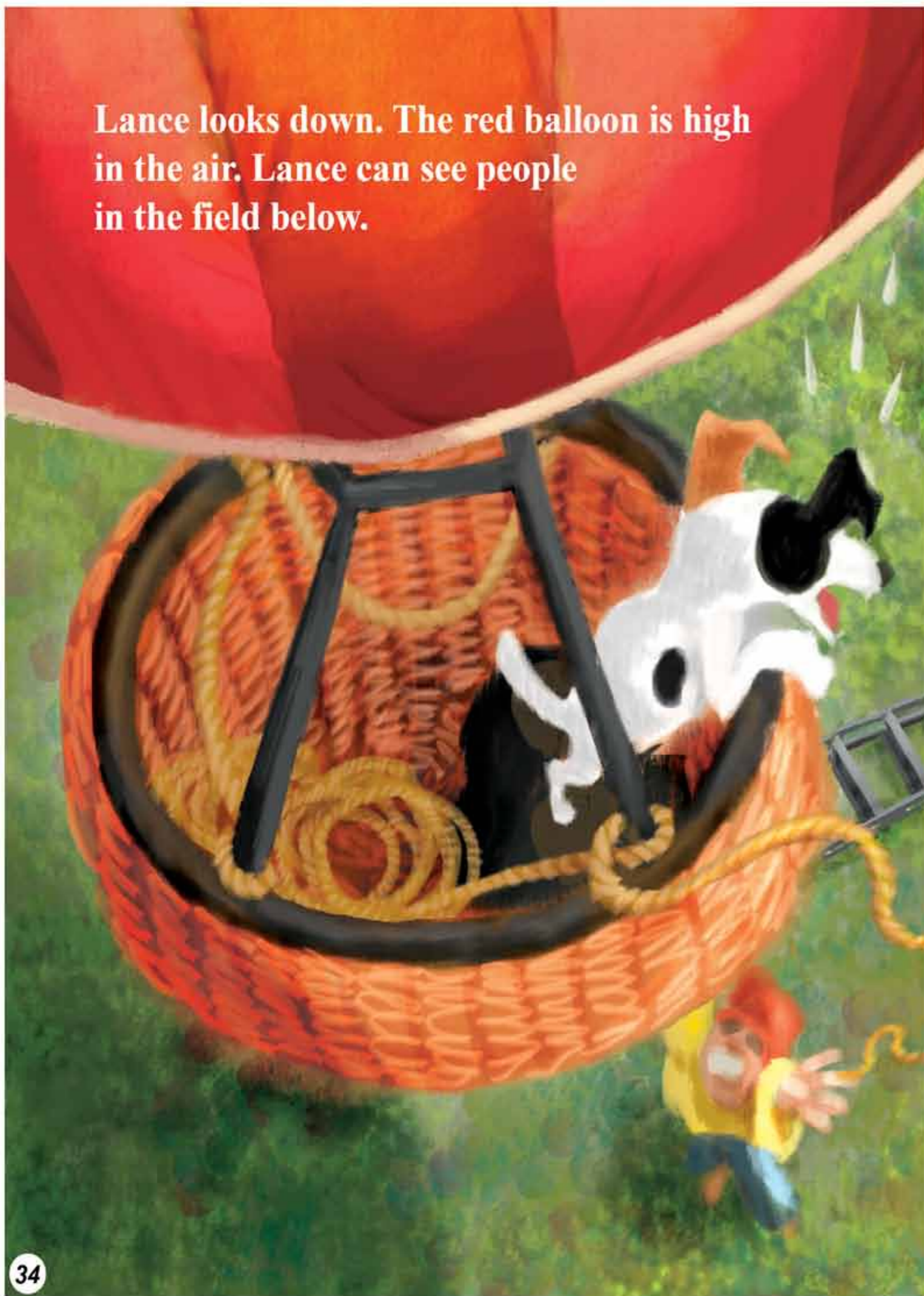
**Lance is barking.  
Nancy turns round.  
The red balloon is taking off.**



**Nancy sees the top of  
Lance's head.  
"Oh no!" she cries,  
"Lance is in that balloon!"**



Lance looks down. The red balloon is high in the air. Lance can see people in the field below.



“Lance is in the balloon!” Nancy tells her mother.  
“He is flying away!”

## PUZZLE

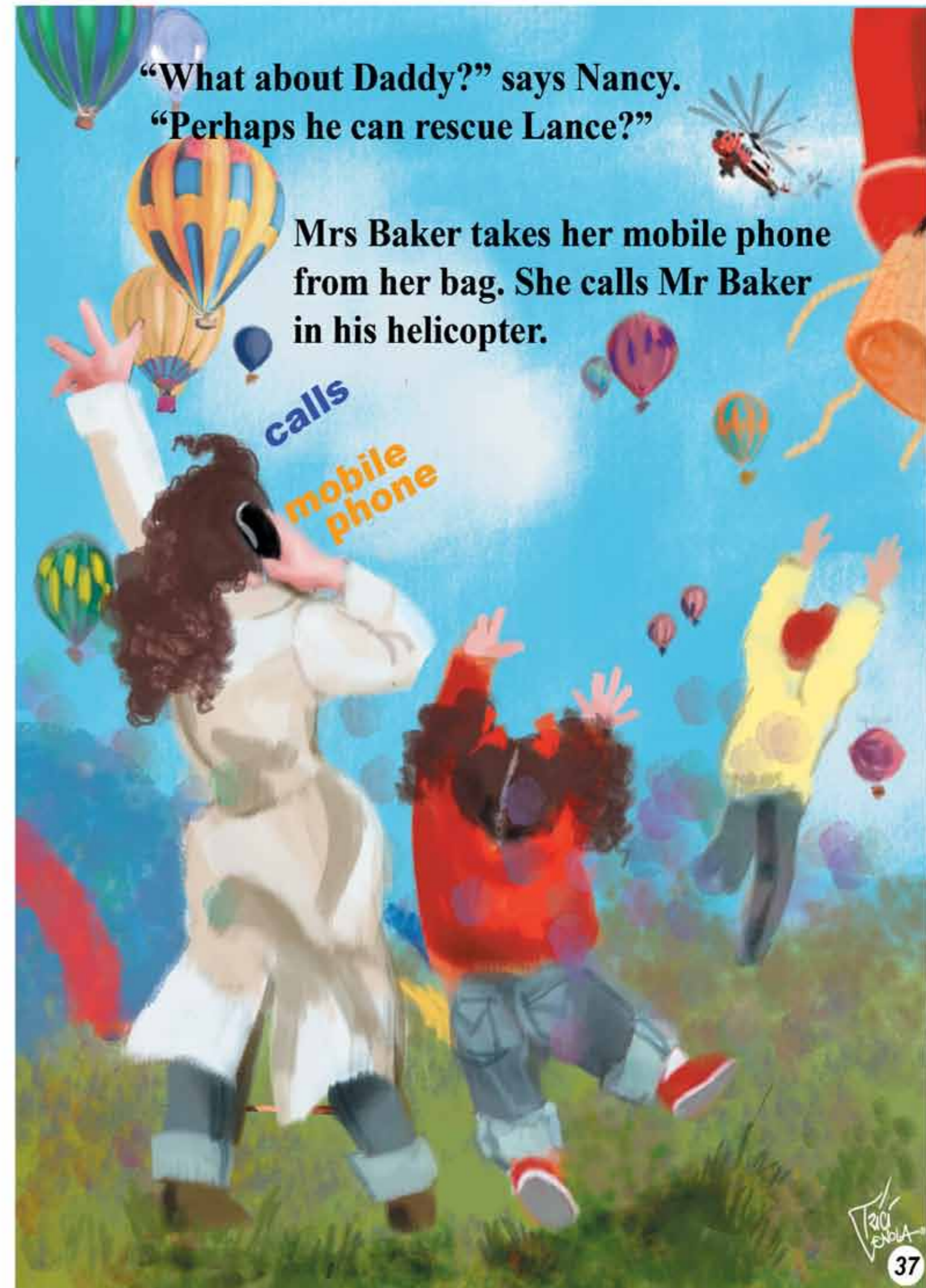
*Put what happens in the right order.*

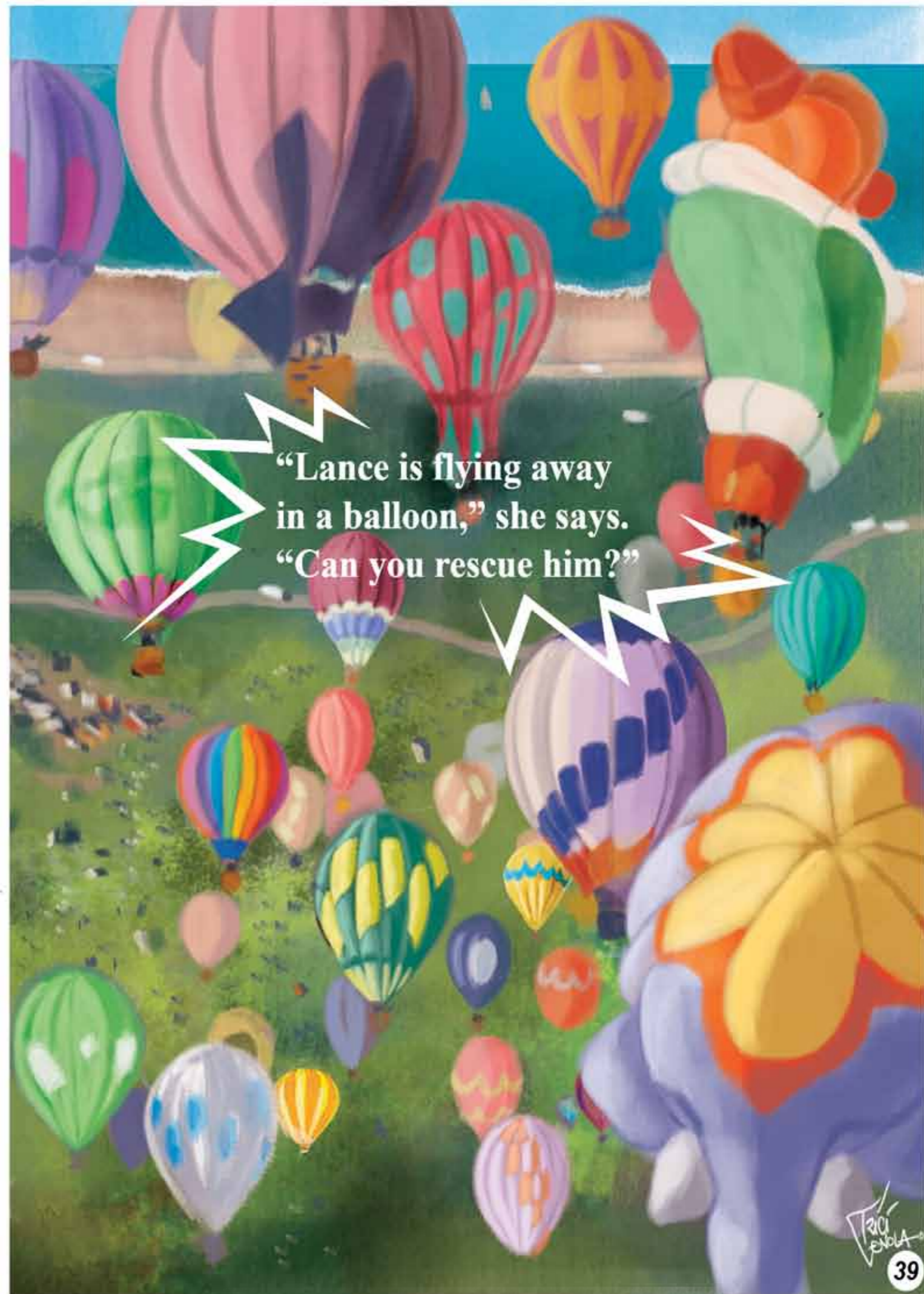
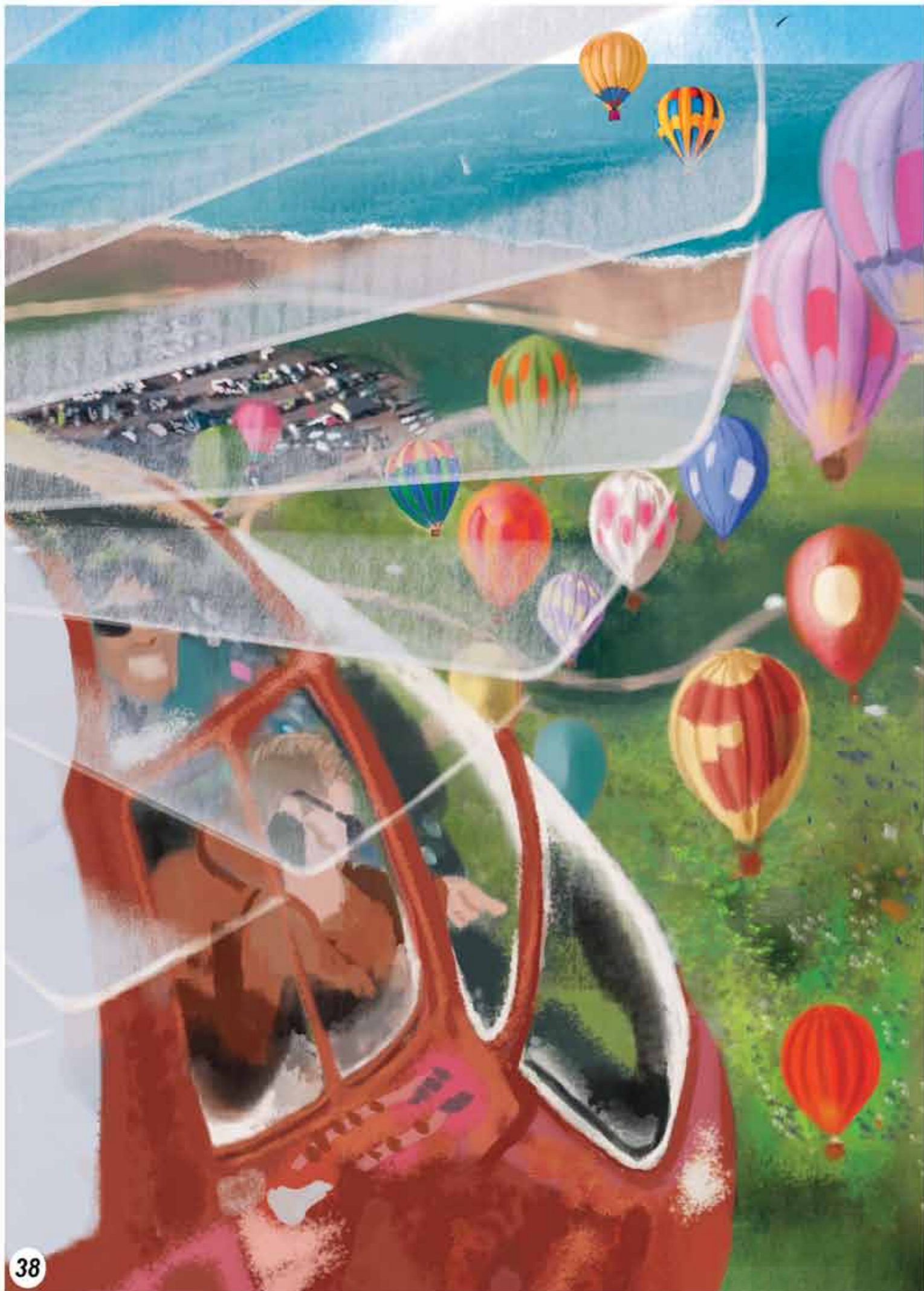
- Nancy and Mrs Baker walk past the balloon.
- Lance bites the man's leg.
- The man jumps out of the balloon.
- Lance sleeps in the balloon basket.
- The man lands on Lance.
- The man unties the rope.
- The man jumps out of the balloon basket.
- Lance climbs into the balloon.

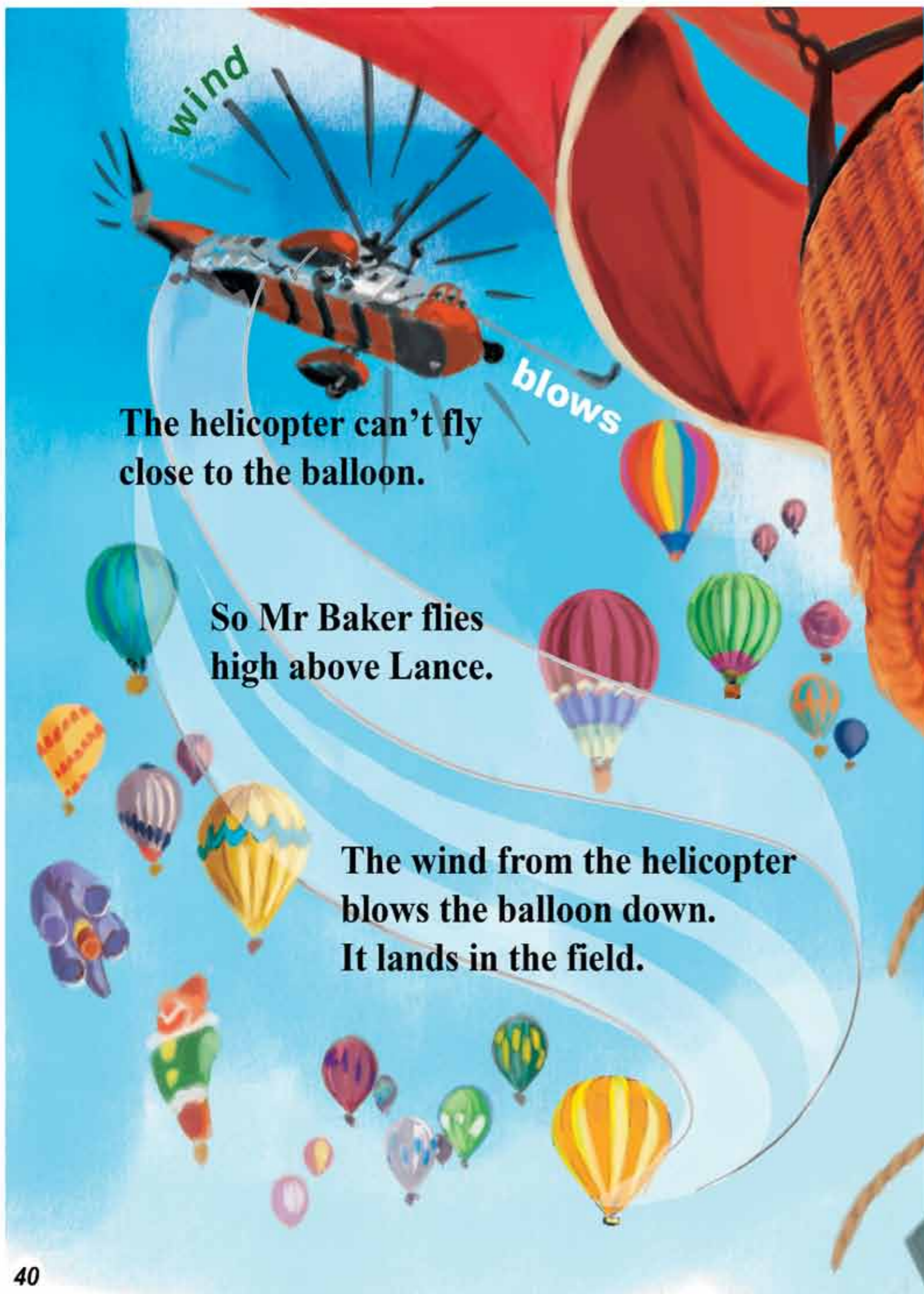


**“What about Daddy?” says Nancy.  
“Perhaps he can rescue Lance?”**

**Mrs Baker takes her mobile phone  
from her bag. She calls Mr Baker  
in his helicopter.**



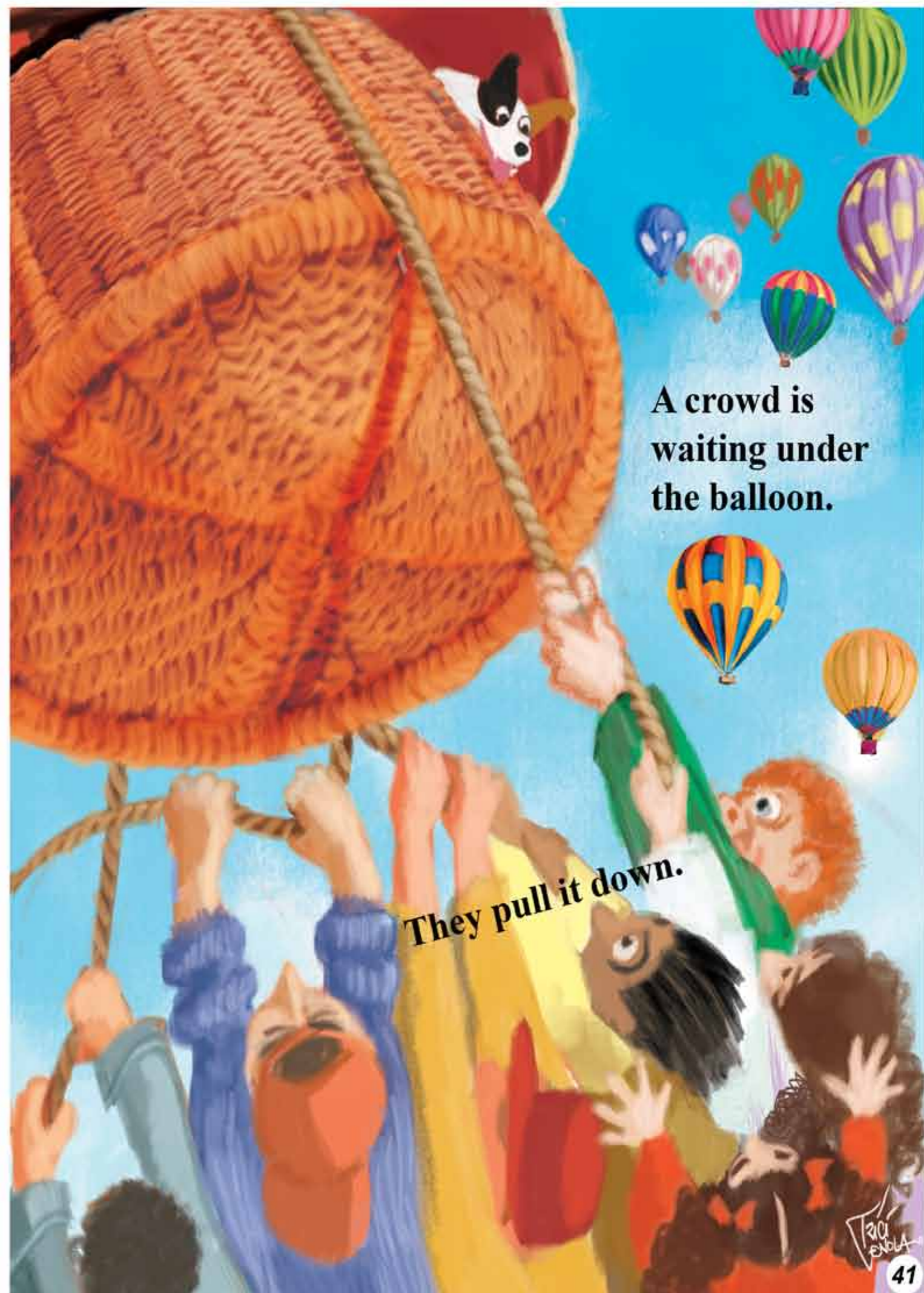




The helicopter can't fly close to the balloon.

So Mr Baker flies high above Lance.

The wind from the helicopter blows the balloon down. It lands in the field.



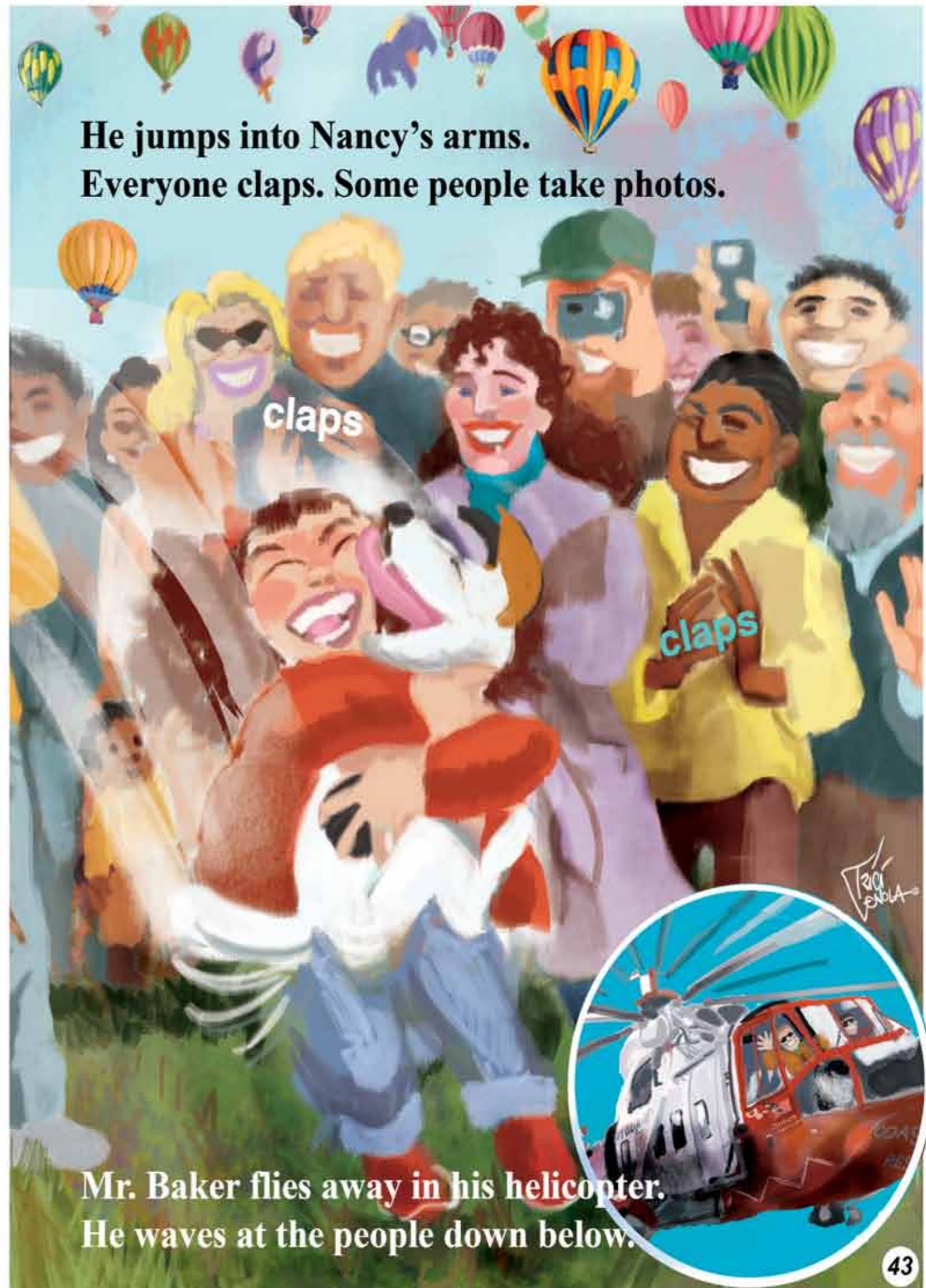
A crowd is waiting under the balloon.

They pull it down.

Lance climbs out of the balloon.

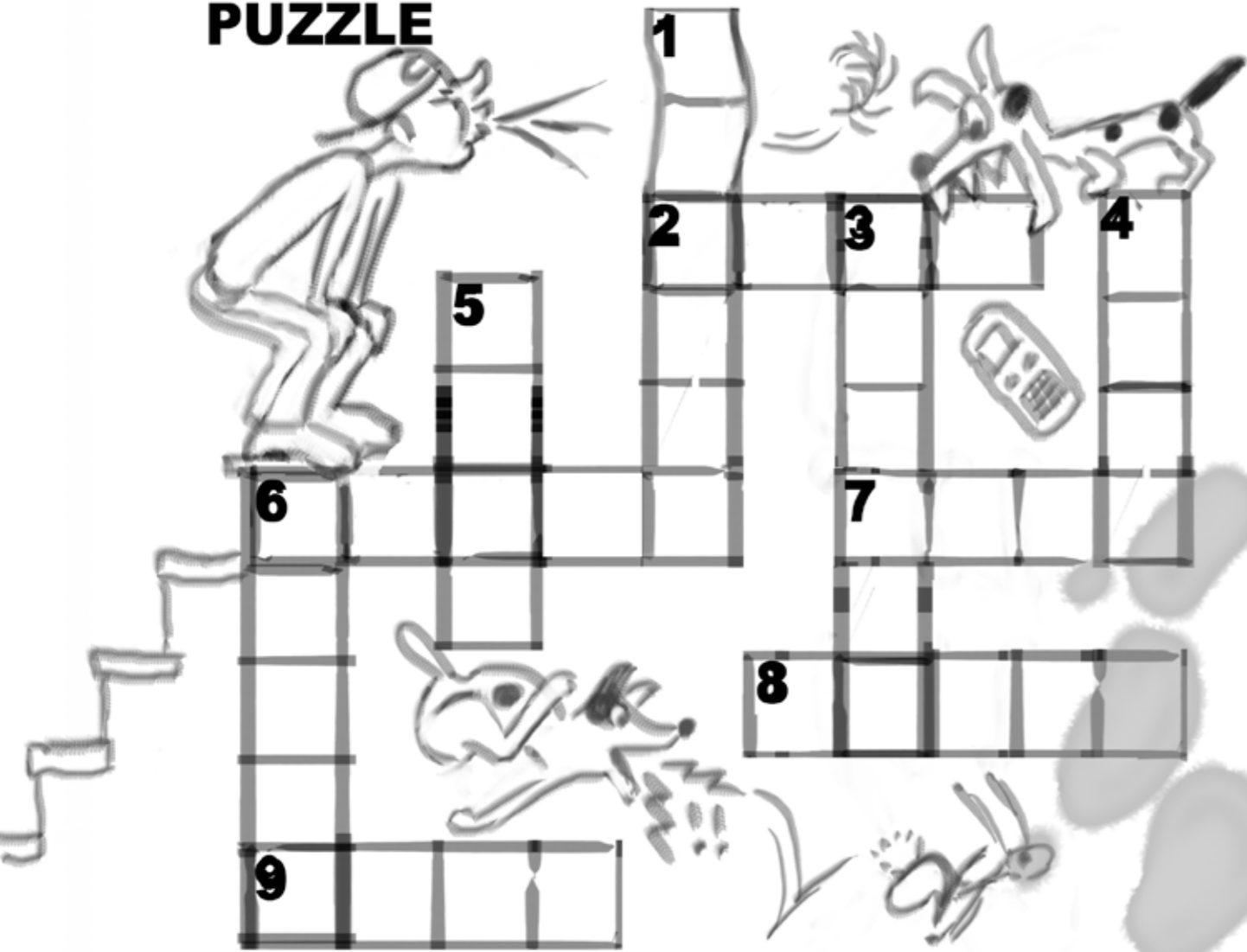


He jumps into Nancy's arms.  
Everyone claps. Some people take photos.



Mr. Baker flies away in his helicopter.  
He waves at the people down below.

## PUZZLE



### Across

- 2** sound a dog makes  
**6** run after  
**7** some dogs do this  
**8** you can climb up these  
**9** use air to move something

### Down

- 1** a phone you can use outside  
**3** small animal with big ears  
**4** this ties balloon to ground  
**5** make sound with hands go up something

## EXERCISES

Pages 2-3

*True or false?*

- a) It's late at night.  
 b) Lance is in his basket.



Pages 4-5

1. How many balloons are at the Balloon Festival?  
 2. Are all the balloons the same shape?

Page 6

1. Who does not go out to the car?  
 a) Mr Baker b) Mrs Baker c) Lance

Page 7

*True or false?*

- a) Lance likes helicopters.  
 b) Lance is sleeping in his basket.

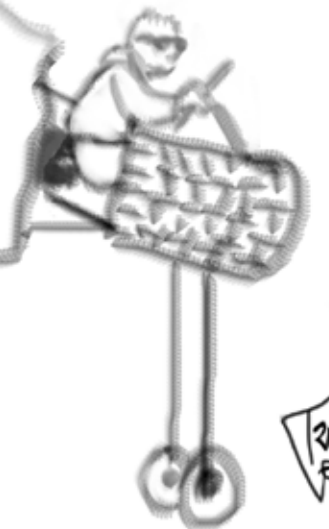
Page 8

1. Where is the helipad?  
 a) in the airport b) in the car c) at the Baker house  
 2. What does Mr Baker park?  
 a) a balloon b) Lance c) the car

Page 10

*True or false?*

- a) The helicopter is making a noise.  
 b) Lance is barking.



page 11

1. Who hears Lance barking?
2. Who is in the car-boot?



page 14

1. What is the pilot doing?  
a) eating b) laughing c) waving  
Who is opening the car-boot?  
a) Mr Baker b) Mrs Baker c) Lance



page 15

*True or false?*

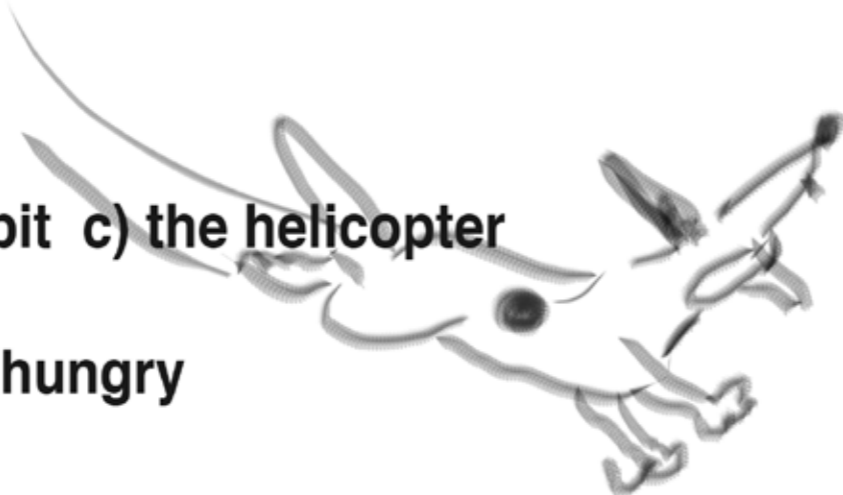
- a) Nancy sees the rabbit.
- b) Nancy sees Lance run away.

pages 16-17

1. Who climbs into the helicopter?
2. Who goes to see the balloons?

page 20-21

1. Lance chases  
a) Nancy b) a rabbit c) the helicopter
2. Lance is very  
a) tired b) fast c) hungry



pages 22-23

*True or false?*

- a) a blue balloon has steps next to it.
- b) Lance climbs up the steps.



pages 24-25

1. Who walks into the balloon field?
2. Who does Nancy not see in the basket?



page 27

1. How many men come back to the red balloon?  
a) one b) two c) three
2. How many men climb into the basket?  
a) one b) two c) three

pages 28-29

*True or false?*

- a) The man lands on Lance.
- b) The man bites Lance's leg.

pages 30-31

1. Who jumps out of the balloon basket?
2. Who climbs up the side of the balloon basket?



pages 32-33

1. Who hears Lance barking?
2. Who is flying into the air?

# Activities & Links

Pages 34-35

1. Where is the red balloon?  
a) in the sea b) in the field c) in the air
2. Where is Lance?  
a) in the balloon b) in the car-boot  
c) at home in his basket

Pages 37-38

- Who does not have a mobile phone?
- a) Mr Baker b) Mrs Baker c) Nancy

Page 39

- Who is in a helicopter?
- a) Mr Baker b) Mrs Baker c) Nancy

Pages 40-41

True or false?

1. The helicopter can fly close to the red balloon.
2. The balloon lands in a field.

Pages 42-43

Who jumps out of a balloon?

Page 44

Who flies away in the helicopter?



## Drawing

1. Draw and label three of these things:  
*balloon, basket, helicopter, mobile phone*
2. Draw a balloon for you to travel in. Use nice colours and shapes. Make your balloon different to all the others.

## More Writing

1. You are the Nancy. Write about your visit to the Balloon Festival.
2. You are Lance. Write about what happened to you.
3. You go up in a hot-air balloon. Write down five things you can see.
4. Write about your pet or an animal you like. What does he/she like to eat? What does he/she like to play with?.

### MP3 file for the audio reading of this story

More stories & activities for young English language learners here.

More of the wonderful work of visual imagination of illustrator Trici Venola

*Kieran McGovern/ Trici Venola, April 2011*