

Fiction

A Hike in the Woods

by Betsy Hebert
illustrated by Luanne Marten



Mc
Graw
Hill

PAIRED
READ

Poetry

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Visualize

Skill: Theme

Vocabulary

drops, excite, outdoors,
pale

Phonics

r-controlled vowels /âr/:

are, air, ear, ere

Vocabulary Strategy

Similes

Word count: 443



Essential Question

What excites us about nature?

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**PAIRED
READ**

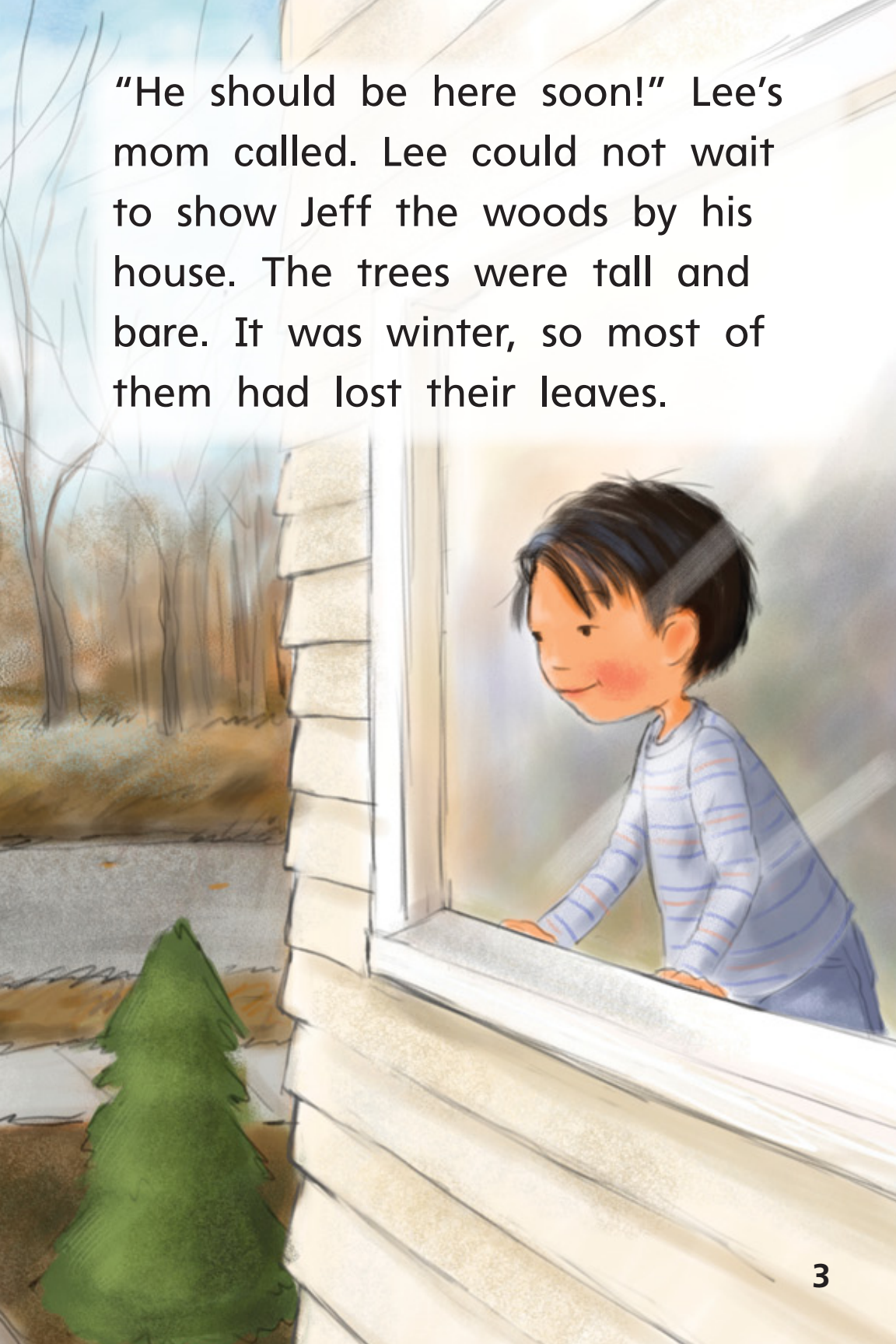
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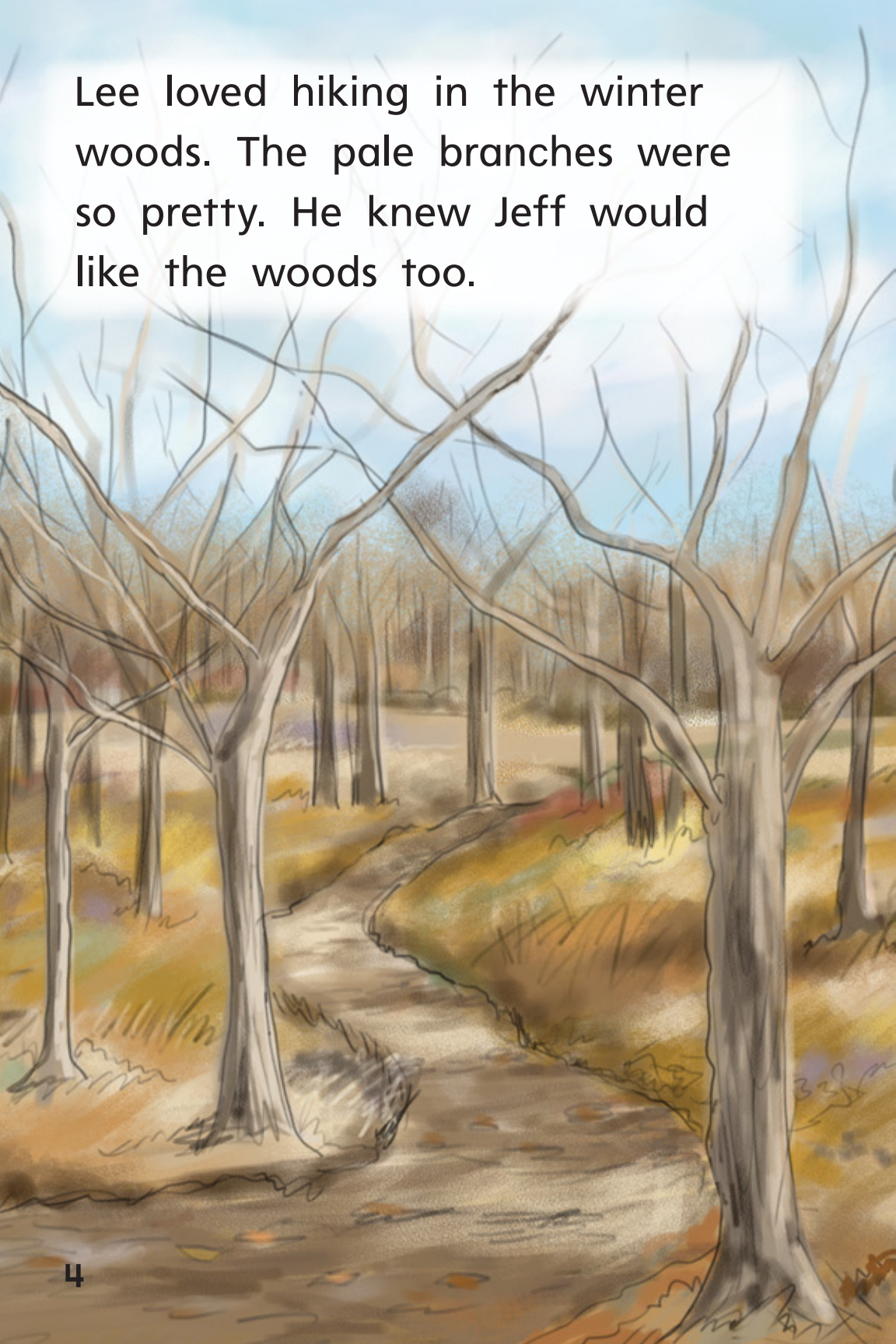
Waiting

"I can't wait for Jeff to get here!" Lee said. He looked out the window. Jeff was coming over for the first time. Lee had a great plan for the day.

“He should be here soon!” Lee’s mom called. Lee could not wait to show Jeff the woods by his house. The trees were tall and bare. It was winter, so most of them had lost their leaves.



Lee loved hiking in the winter woods. The pale branches were so pretty. He knew Jeff would like the woods too.





Lee heard a car door shut. Jeff was outside.

“Mom,” Lee called. “Jeff is here!”

STOP AND CHECK

Why is Lee excited?

A Plan

Right away, the boys ran up to Lee's room.

"You have lots of games!" Jeff said. "Which one should we play first?"

"We're going to do something more fun than games," Lee said.

"Cool! What?" Jeff asked.





“We’re going to hike in the woods with my dad,” Lee said.

He pointed out the window.

“There is a creek near here. Dad and I made a trail to it last year. We can hike there today.”

Jeff was quiet as he looked out the window.

"I've never been in the woods before," he finally said. "It doesn't sound like fun."





“But you should try it!” Lee said.
“The woods excite me. I can’t wait to show you my favorite places. Now let’s go find Dad.”

“Okay, I guess,” Jeff said.

STOP AND CHECK

What does Lee want to do?
How does Jeff feel?

Hiking

Soon the boys headed outdoors with Lee's dad. The air was cold, but the sun was shining. The woods were quiet.

"I hope we see deer!" Lee said.





The boys walked softly. They looked for animals. Leaves crunched under their feet.

“Jeff, look!” Lee pointed at a rabbit hopping across the path. Jeff grinned.



At the creek, Dad took out a thermos of hot chocolate. He poured cups for everyone. Jeff warmed his hands on the mug and took a sip. "This is the best hot chocolate I've ever tasted!" he exclaimed.

The boys sat on a big rock, throwing pebbles in the water. They made little waves. Drops splashed up.

Suddenly, a big bird flapped up from behind some creek plants. Both boys jumped at the noise. The bird glided over the water and above the trees.



"It's just a heron," Dad laughed.
"We were being too noisy for
him. You two jumped like scared
rabbits!"



Jeff and Lee laughed too.

Jeff said, "You were right, Lee. The woods are really cool. Now let's find some deer!"



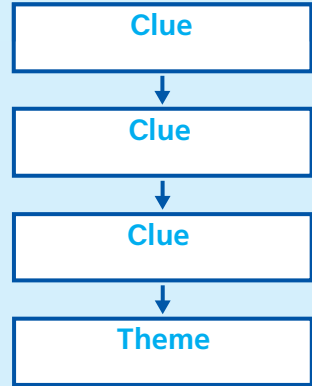
STOP AND CHECK

How does Jeff feel about the woods now? Why?

Respond to Reading

Retell

Use the chart to help you summarize *A Hike in the Woods*.



Text Evidence

1. Is *A Hike in the Woods* fiction or nonfiction? Explain. **Genre**
2. How do Jeff's feelings about the woods change? **Theme**
3. What does Dad compare the boys to on page 14? **Similes**
4. Write about the author's message. **Write About Reading**

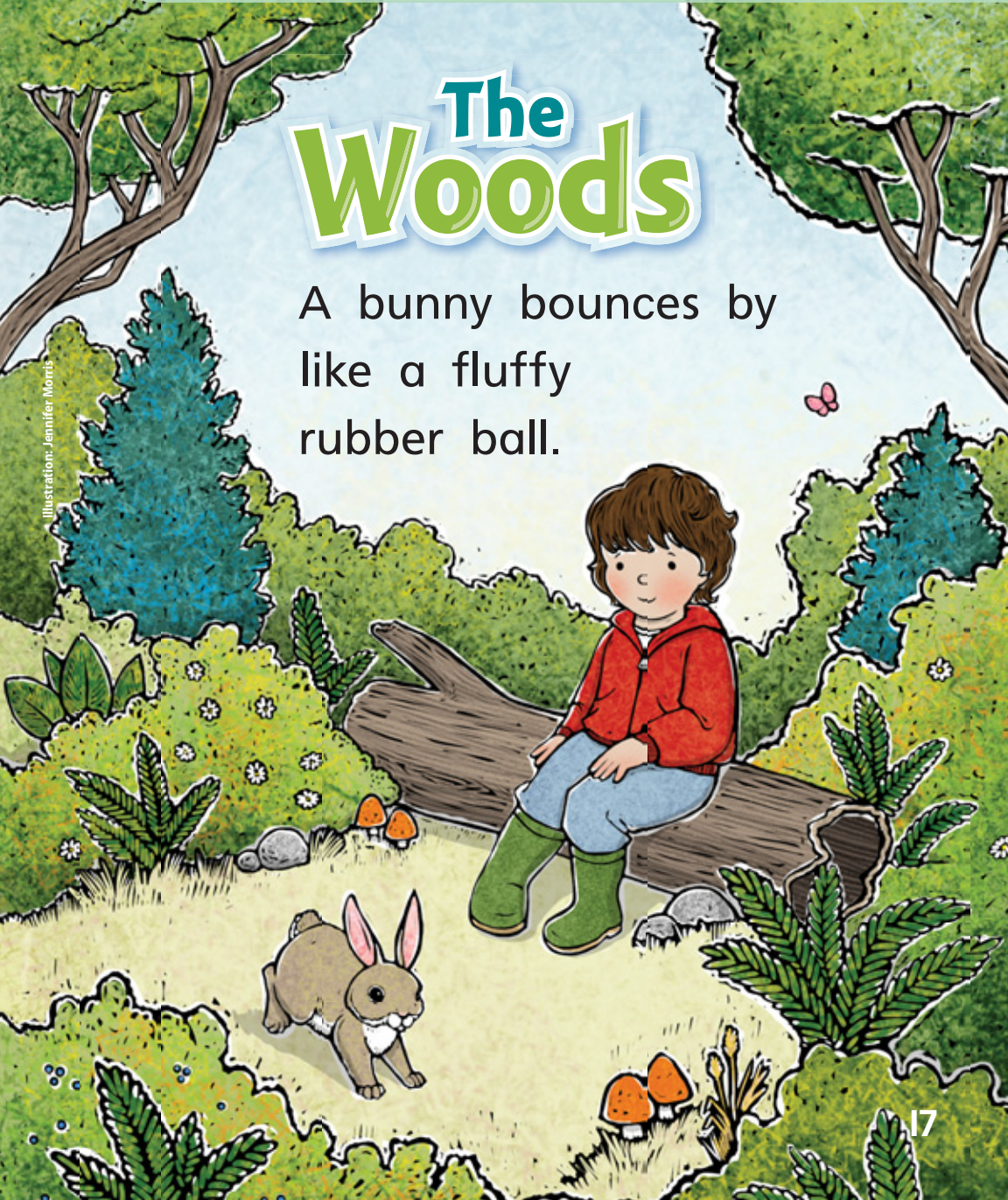


Compare Texts

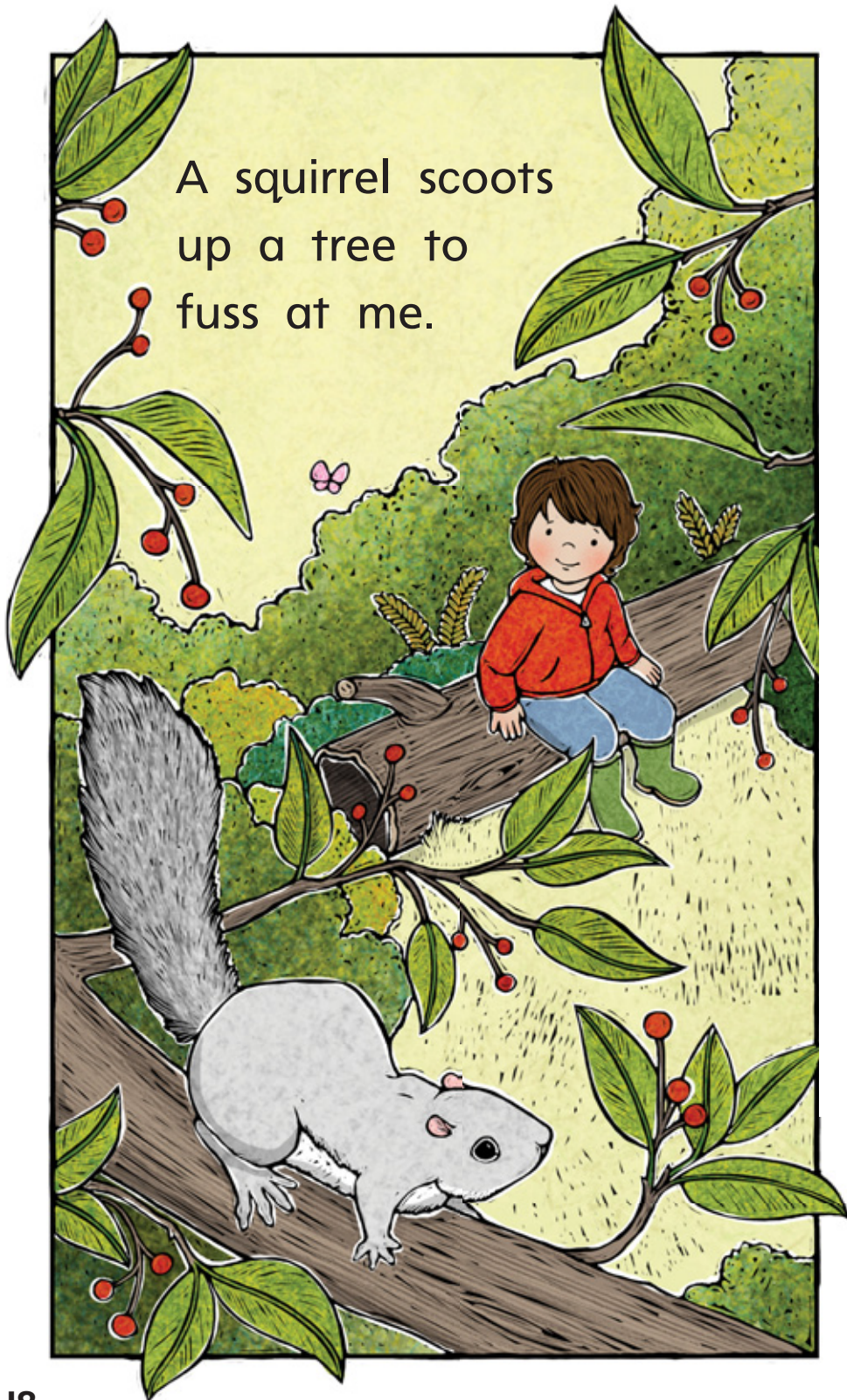
Read a poem about the woods.

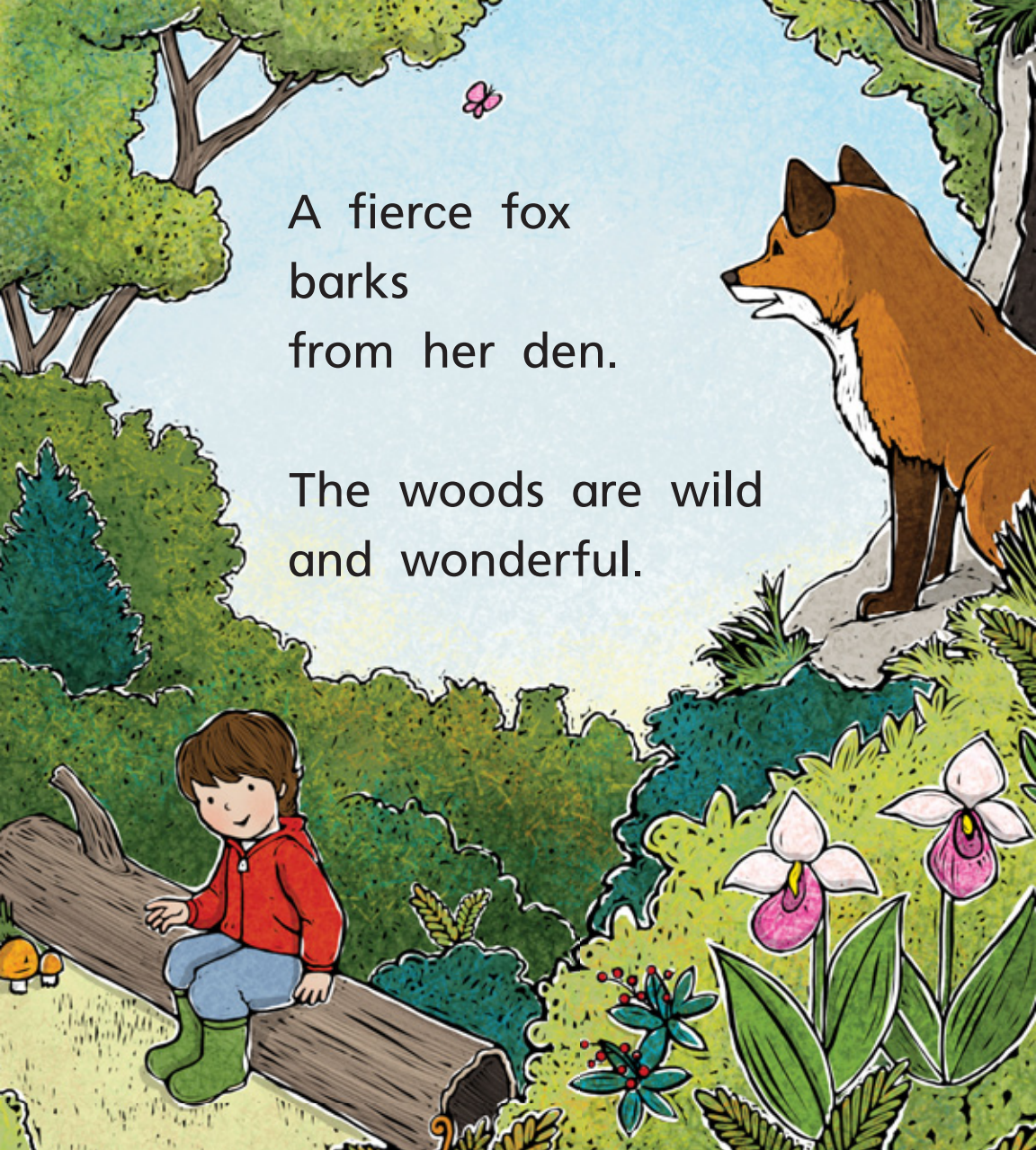
The Woods

A bunny bounces by
like a fluffy
rubber ball.



A squirrel scoots
up a tree to
fuss at me.





A fierce fox
barks
from her den.

The woods are wild
and wonderful.



Make Connections

What do Lee and Jeff like about nature? **Essential Question**

How is the speaker in the poem like Lee? **Text to Text**

Focus on Literary Elements

Repetition Repetition means to repeat a sound, word, or phrase. Repetition can make a poem sound more interesting.

What to Look for In *The Woods*, sounds are repeated. In the first line, *bunny*, *bounce*, and *by* all start with *b*. On page 18, *squirrel* and *scoots* start with *s*.

Your Turn

Write your own short poem about nature. Use repetition at least two times. You can repeat a sound, a word, or a phrase.

Thinkmark

Setting

Where does the beginning of *A Hike in the Woods* take place?

Where does the end take place?

Characters

Who are the characters in *A Hike in the Woods*?

Sequence of Events

What happens at the **beginning**, **middle**, and **end** of *A Hike in the Woods*?

Make Connections

How do you feel about the woods?