

THE RAINBOW





It was a rainy summer day and Dolly the ladybird and Berry the snail sat sadly underneath a giant leaf.



Then the sun came out but the shower didn't stop.



Soon a colourful rainbow stretched across the sky. Berry and Dolly jumped up and down excitedly.

"It's beautiful!" they shouted.



Berry thought it would be a good idea to climb up the rainbow and slide down the other side. "It's impossible to climb a rainbow, Berry," Dolly said to the little snail. But Berry was very determined.



His first try didn't work.

"Perhaps I should try from the other side," said Berry and he quickly ran to the other end of the rainbow.



But he couldn't climb up the rainbow from that end either. Dolly tried to talk him out of his plan.

"Berry, trust me. You can't climb a rainbow," she said.



Berry had a new plan.

"I'll use a ladder!" he announced.

"Oh, Berry, I don't think it's a good idea," Dolly said anxiously.



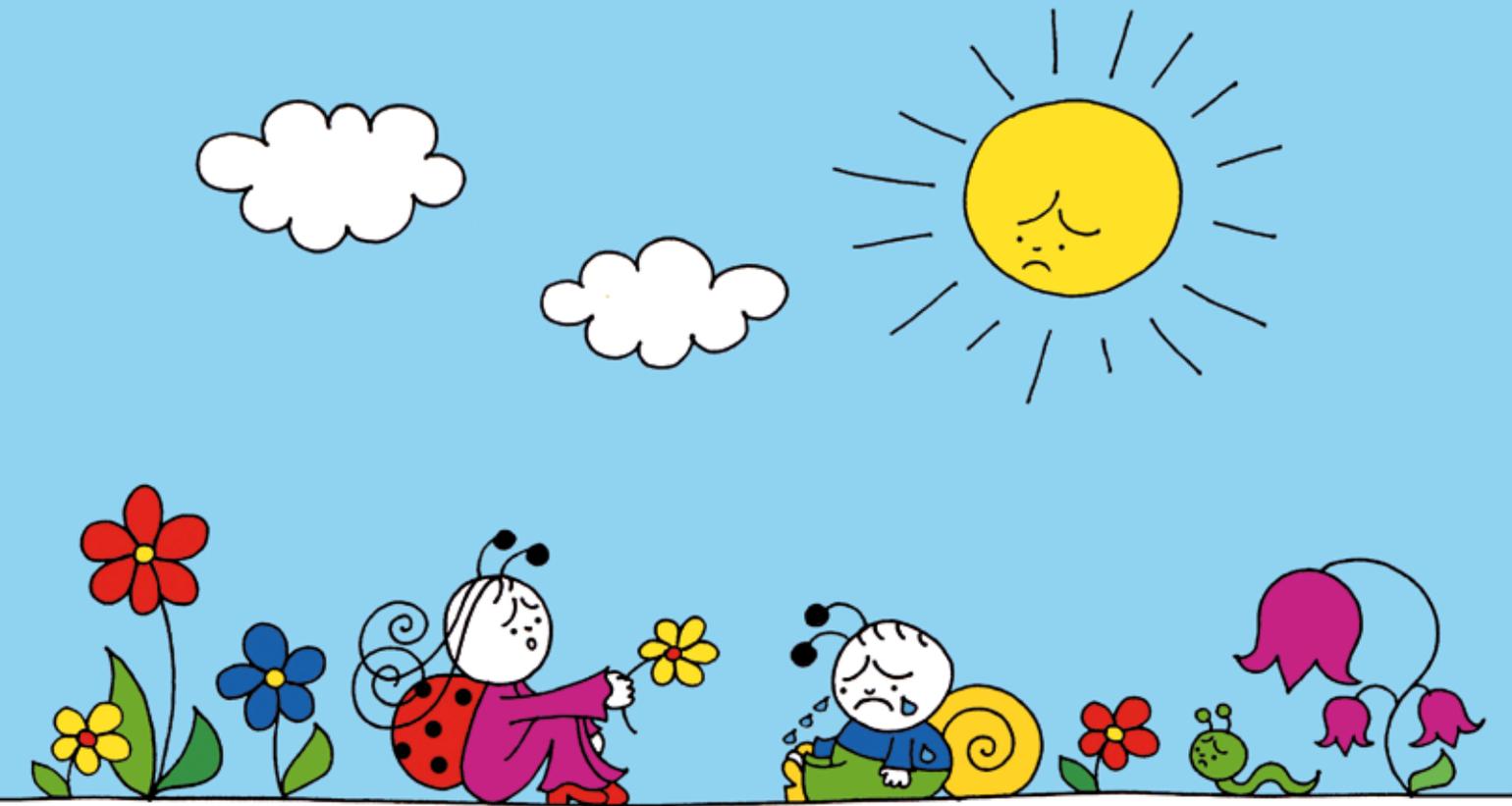
Dolly was right. When Berry tried to jump from the ladder to the rainbow, the ladder toppled over and Berry fell to the ground. This made Berry mad. "Come and play something else." Dolly said.



Berry still didn't give up. He got a big bunch of balloons and flew over the rainbow. "Look, Dolly, I'm sure I can jump on top of it from here."



But that idea didn't work either. When he let go of the balloons, he fell to the ground and the balloons flew off over the clouds. Dolly ran over to Berry.
"Are you all right?" she asked.
"I'm fine," Berry sulked.



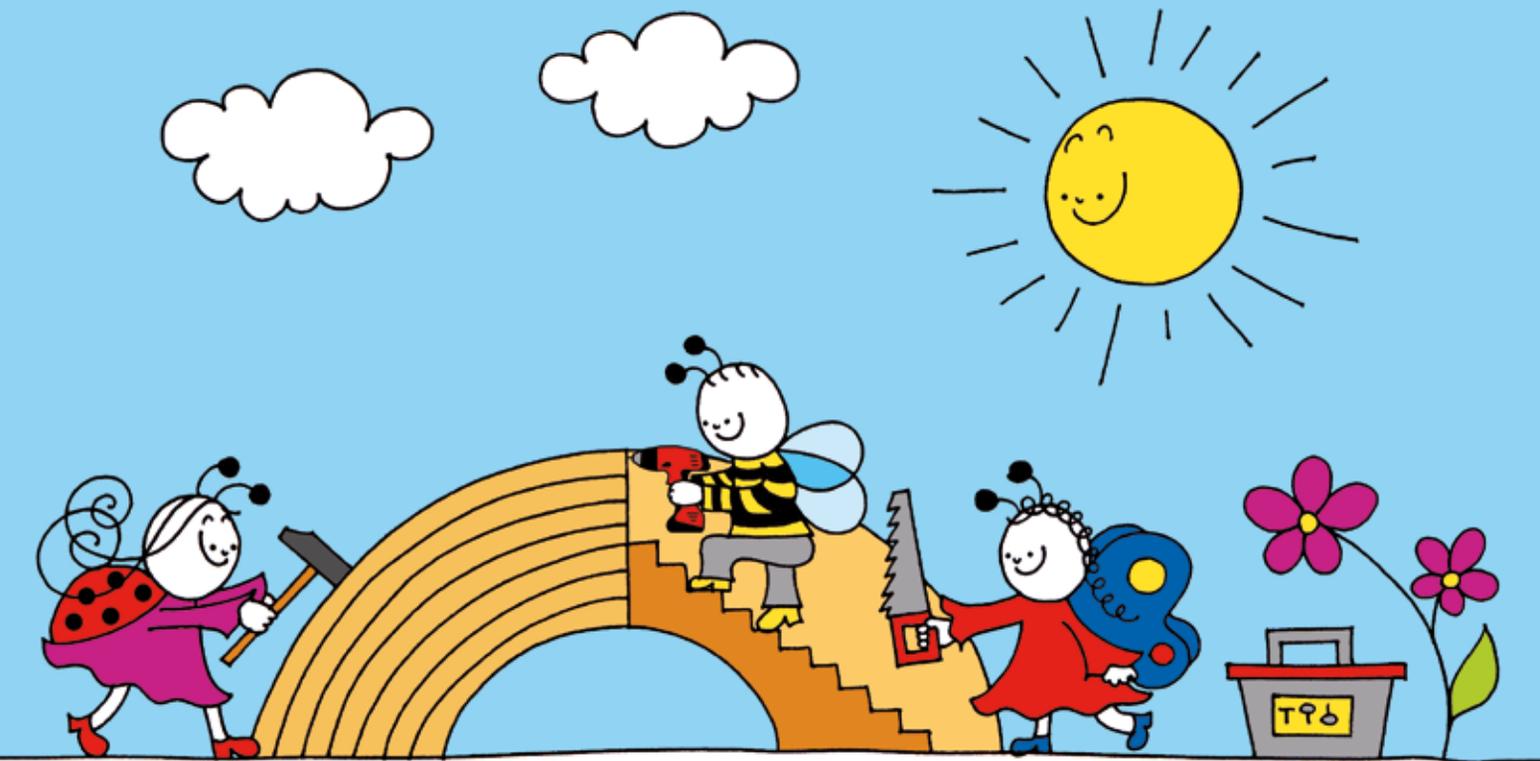
Berry was very sad and Dolly tried everything to cheer him up. "I got you some flowers," she said kindly. But Berry couldn't be comforted. Then the rain slowly stopped and the rainbow disappeared.



They walked home hand in hand and Dolly said nice things to the little snail.
"Chin up, Berry. It's your birthday the day after tomorrow and I'm sure you'll get some super presents."



Dolly had a great idea when she got home. "I'll make a rainbow slide for Berry's birthday," she said to herself. "Then his dream can come true, and he can slide down a rainbow."



Balthazar the bee and Flutter the butterfly helped her.



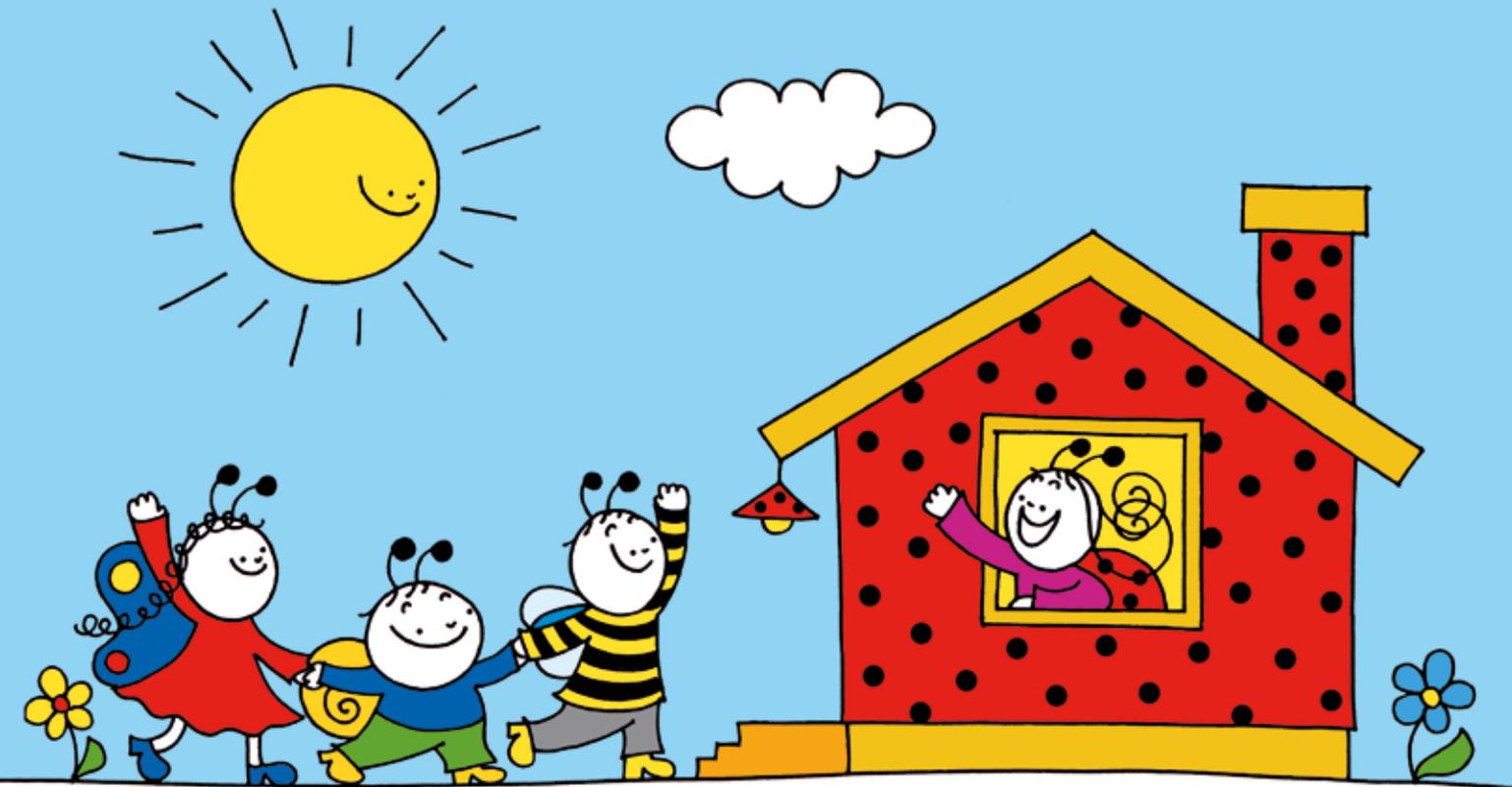
They painted the slide with colourful paint.



They wrapped it in yellow paper and tied it up with a blue ribbon.



The three friends even baked a cake for Berry. They put three candles on it.



When the time came, Balthazar and Flutter took Berry to Dolly's house where everything was ready for the birthday party.



"And here's your present," yelled Balthazar and pulled the wrapping paper off the slide. Berry jumped for joy.
"A real rainbow! A rainbow slide!"
Dolly gave Berry the chocolate cake.



"Can I try the slide?"

"Sure you can," Dolly replied.

Berry liked the rainbow slide very much. He slid on it again and again. Flutter and Balthazar were so happy, they started to dance.



"You know, Dolly," said Berry. "It really is a nice present. Thank you."



Lots of friends joined in the birthday celebrations. There was Leapy the grasshopper, Eddy the potato beetle, Zephyr the dragonfly, and even Stanley the stag beetle came. The little snail let everybody try his new slide.



Berry, Dolly and their friends played on the slide until it got dark. Berry went to bed very happy that day.

"What a wonderful birthday I've had!" he sighed with a smile.