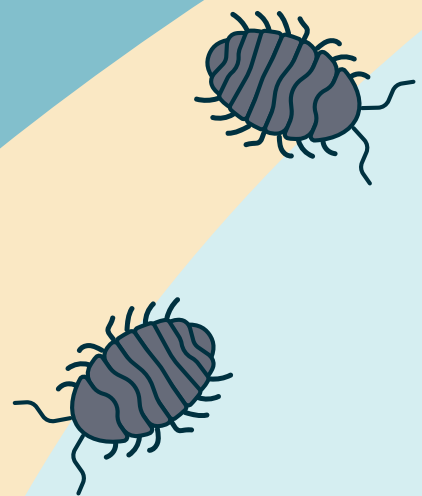




# Ellie explore les habitats



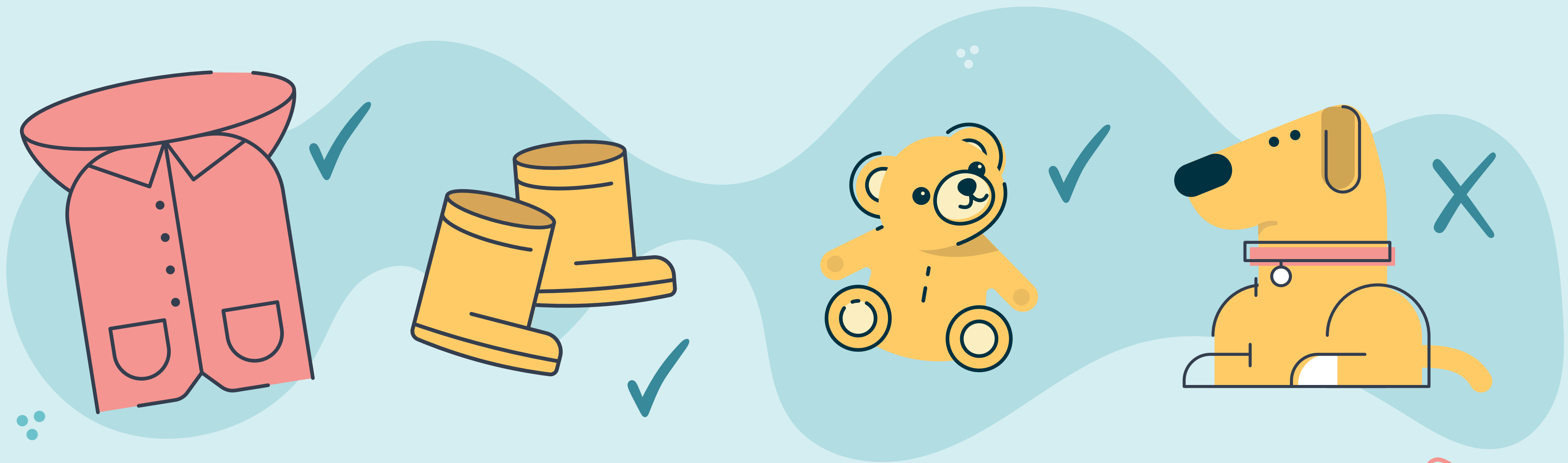


It was a lovely sunny day.  
Autumn was underway, and the  
days continued to get shorter.

Ellie was excited – she was  
going to her grandparents’  
house to play. She always had  
so much fun there. They had a  
lovely garden and she especially  
loved playing on the swing that  
her grandfather had hung in the  
old apple tree for her.

She was also taking her  
best friend with her. Double  
excitement! She was a happy  
little girl!





Finishing her breakfast, she ran to brush her teeth and get her things ready.

Coat? – yes (just in case it rained again!).

Wellies? – yes (it had been raining and the ground was wet!).

Mags? – of course! (she never went anywhere without her favourite teddy bear!)

Ellie's Mum could not remember how many times Mags had been washed in the washing machine, but she knew it was a lot!

Finally, what about Rusty, Ellie's dog? – No, he wasn't going this time, as Kai, Ellie's stepdad, had to take him to see the vet that day.

The doorbell rang and Kai answered it, opening the door to the happiest, smiling face with the biggest grin! Vishnu, Ellie's best friend, stood there with his wellies and raincoat in hand.

"Good morning, Mr Kai!" he said, and then rushed past him to Ellie. Soon the two children were bouncing up and down excitedly in the hallway.



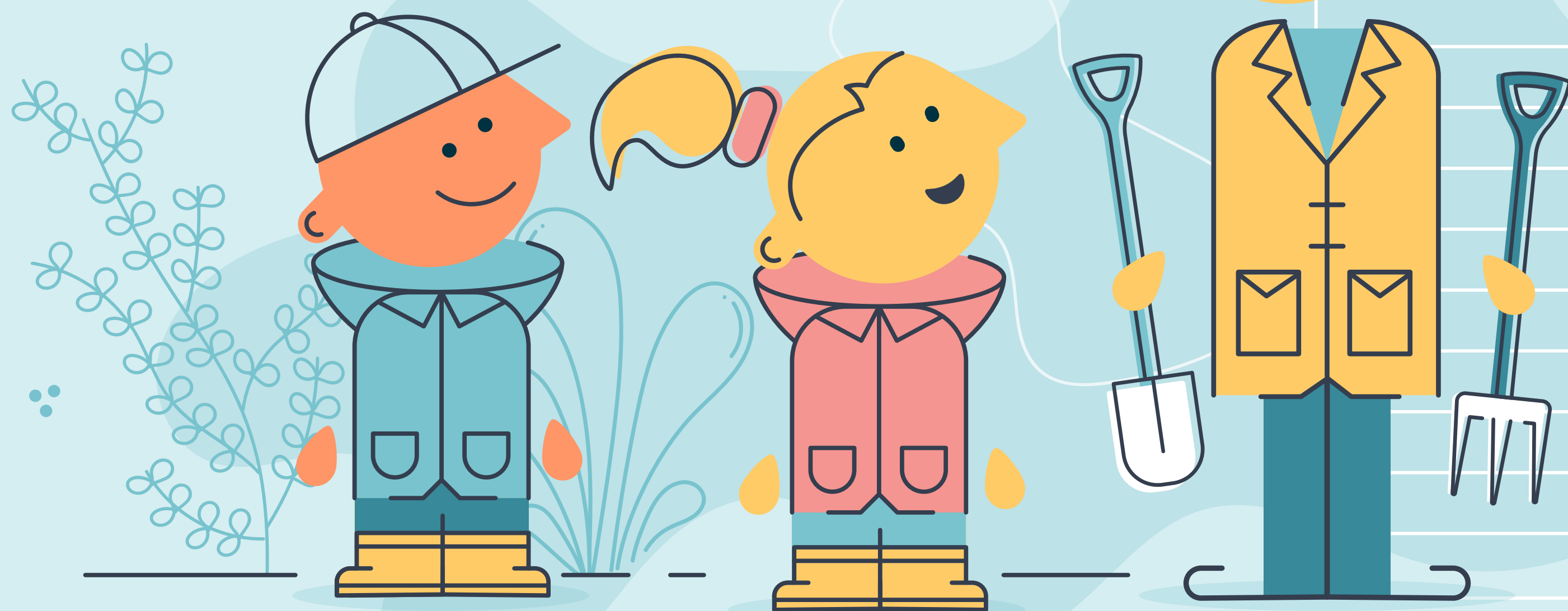
Laughing, Susan, Ellie's Mum, gathered up the fallen wellies and coats and bundled them and the happy children into the car.

Arriving at Nanny and Poppa's, the two children and Mags bundled out of the car and, straightaway, Ellie ran to hug her grandparents.



After a glass of milk and two homemade biscuits, it was off out to play in the garden whilst Poppa gardened.

“I’m tidying so the garden will be ready when winter comes,” he said, striding from the shed with a fork and spade in his big hands.



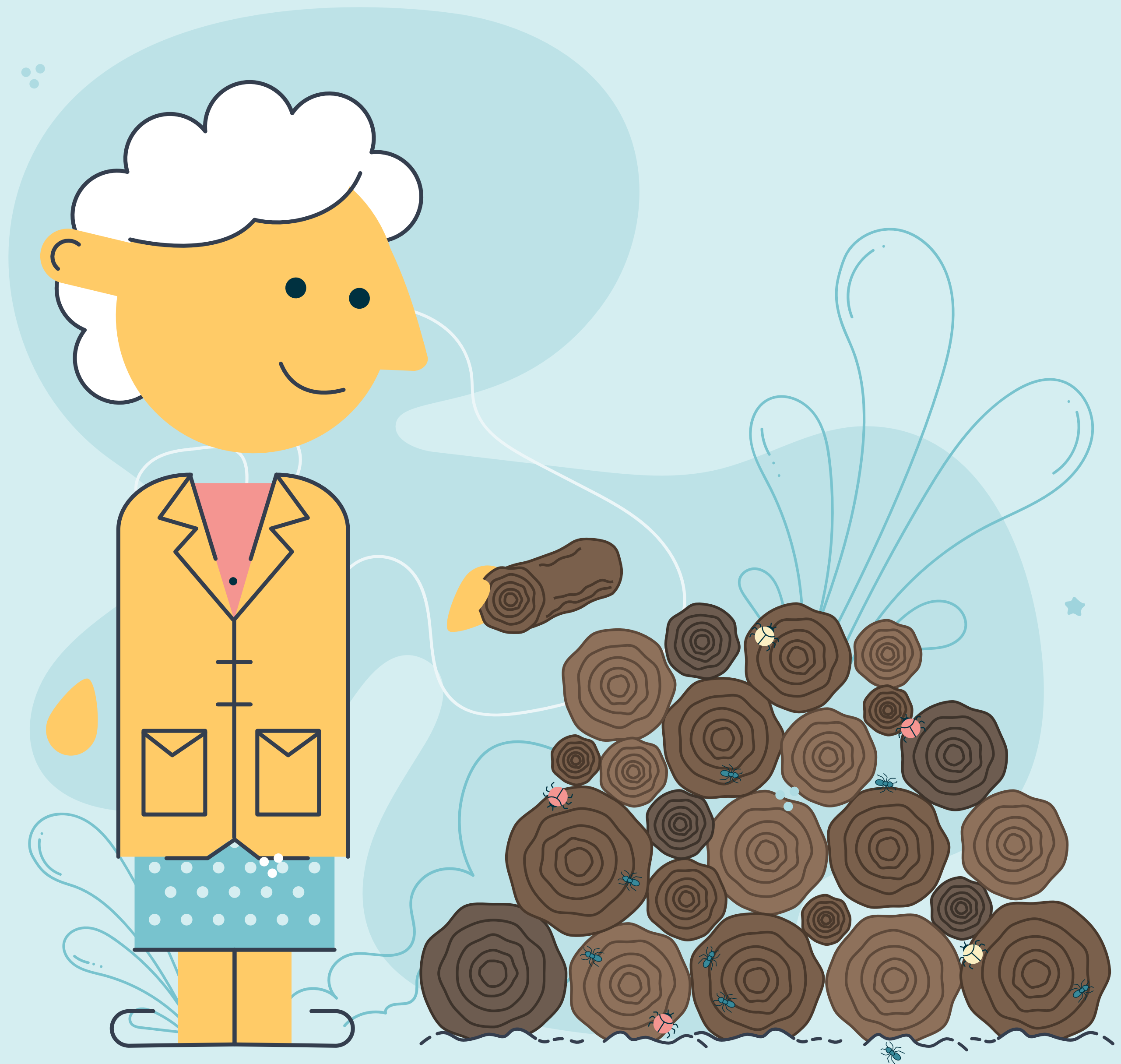
A short while later after playing hide and seek, the two, now slightly tired children, sat on the bench, watching as Nanny put some wood in a pile underneath the hedge.


“What are you doing, Nanny Cooper?” Vishnu asked.

Nanny smiled at the boy. “I’m putting these bits here for insects to snuggle up in,” she replied.

“Like a Bug Hotel!” Ellie cried.  
“We built one at school last term!”

“Exactly,” replied Nanny. “Looking after insects is very important, because they all have such important jobs to do.”



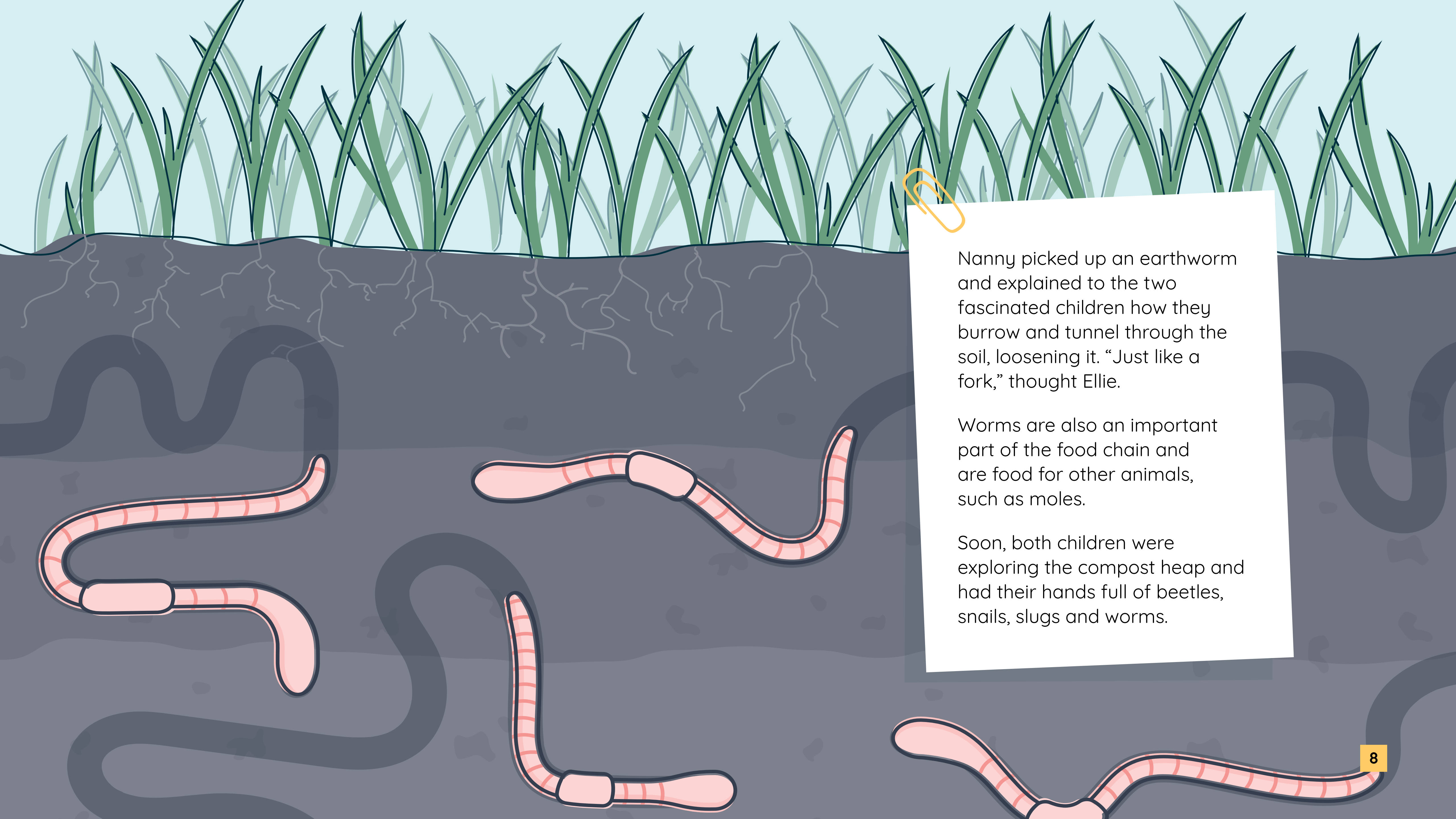


Taking the children's hands, she led them to the compost heap and showed them the slugs that were there, happily munching on the potato peelings and old cabbage leaves.

“Slugs help to clean up the garden, eating dead leaves, compost and sick or dying plants.”

“And some of my best flowering, healthy plants!” shouted Poppa grumpily!






Nanny picked up an earthworm and explained to the two fascinated children how they burrow and tunnel through the soil, loosening it. “Just like a fork,” thought Ellie.

Worms are also an important part of the food chain and are food for other animals, such as moles.

Soon, both children were exploring the compost heap and had their hands full of beetles, snails, slugs and worms.



After a hand wash and clean-up, it was time for lunch: homemade cheese and onion pie, with lettuce and tomatoes that the children had picked from the greenhouse, followed by an apple from the tree. Yum!

Afterwards, Poppa took out some books about insects and, soon, they were planning a bug hunt!





← What?  
Woodlouse

Where?  
Underneath  
Nanny's logs

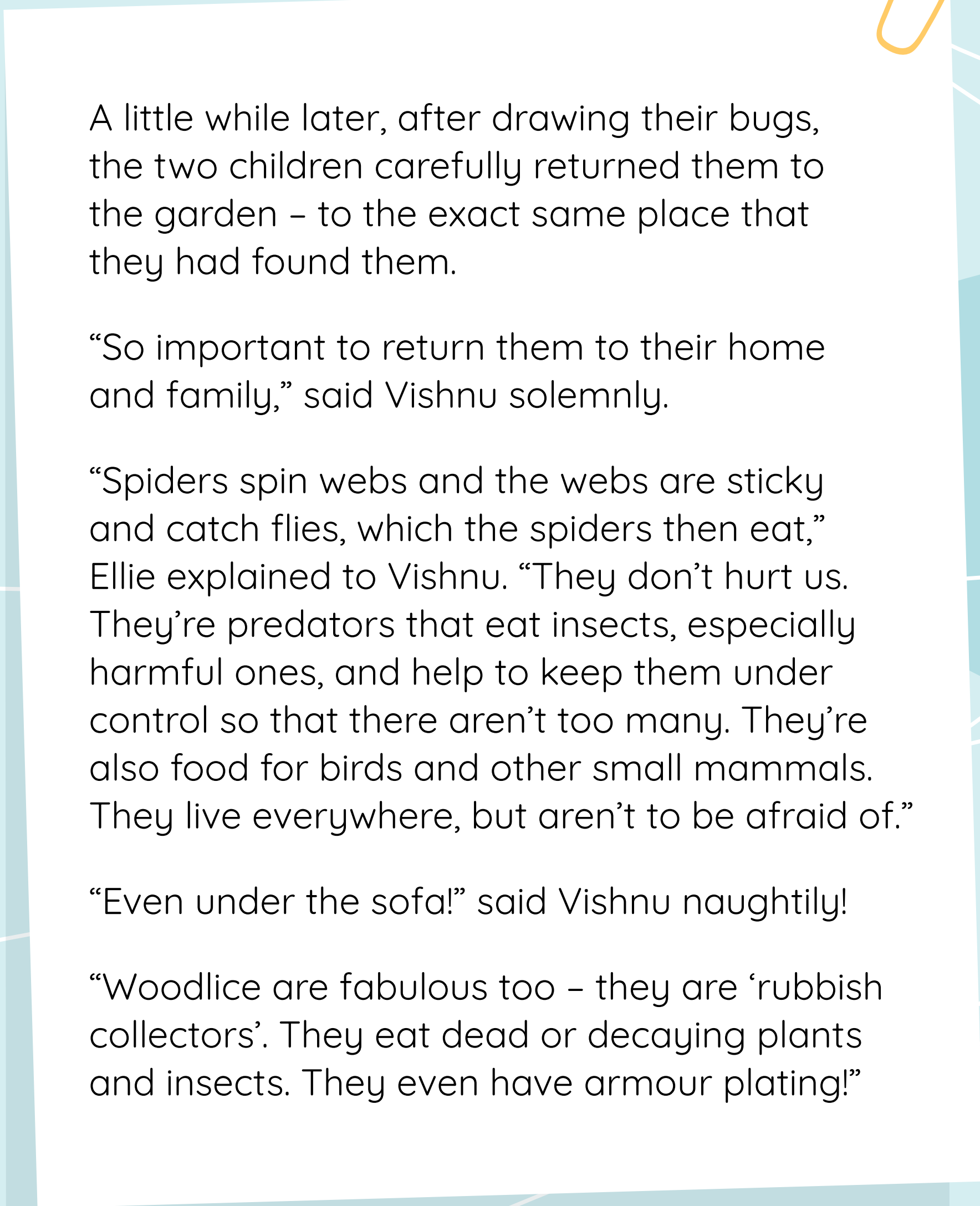
What? →  
Spider

Where?  
In a web in  
Poppa's shed



Nanny found two pieces of paper and two pens, plus two tubs with lids that the children could carefully put their favourite bug into. The plan was to write down all the bugs that they'd found, where they had found them (which habitat) and then, carefully capturing their favourite one, bring it back inside to learn more about it.

Ellie caught a huge spider, and Vishnu a woodlouse. Both children were fascinated by the creatures and, soon, with Poppa's help they learned all about them.



A little while later, after drawing their bugs, the two children carefully returned them to the garden – to the exact same place that they had found them.

“So important to return them to their home and family,” said Vishnu solemnly.

“Spiders spin webs and the webs are sticky and catch flies, which the spiders then eat,” Ellie explained to Vishnu. “They don’t hurt us. They’re predators that eat insects, especially harmful ones, and help to keep them under control so that there aren’t too many. They’re also food for birds and other small mammals. They live everywhere, but aren’t to be afraid of.”

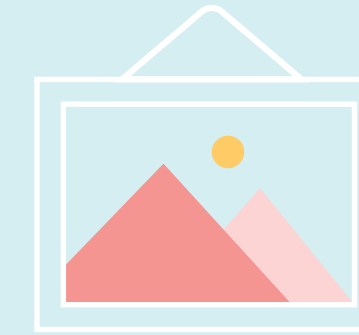
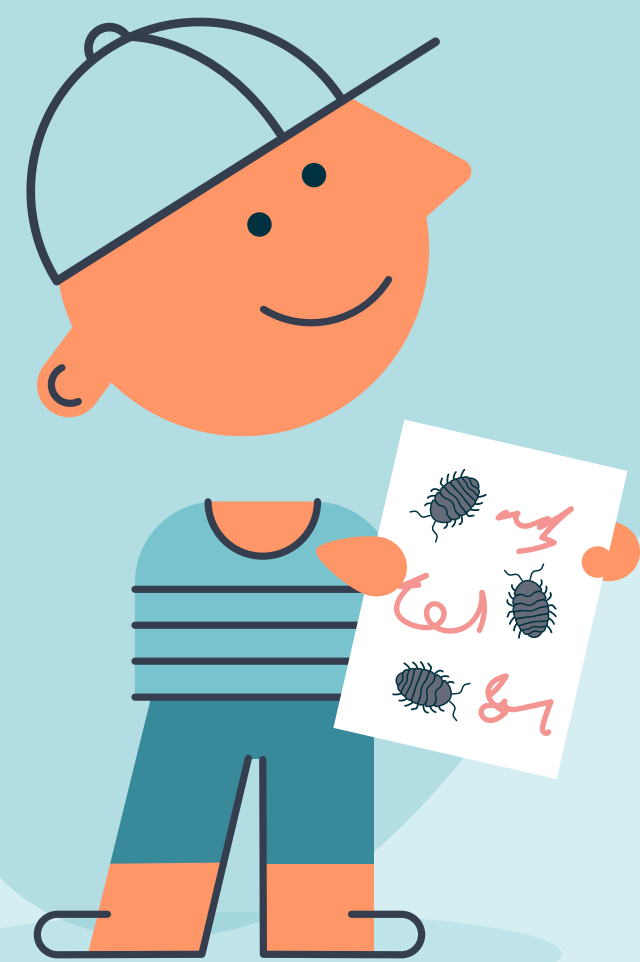
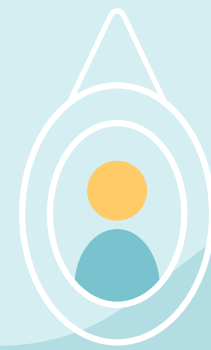
“Even under the sofa!” said Vishnu naughtily!

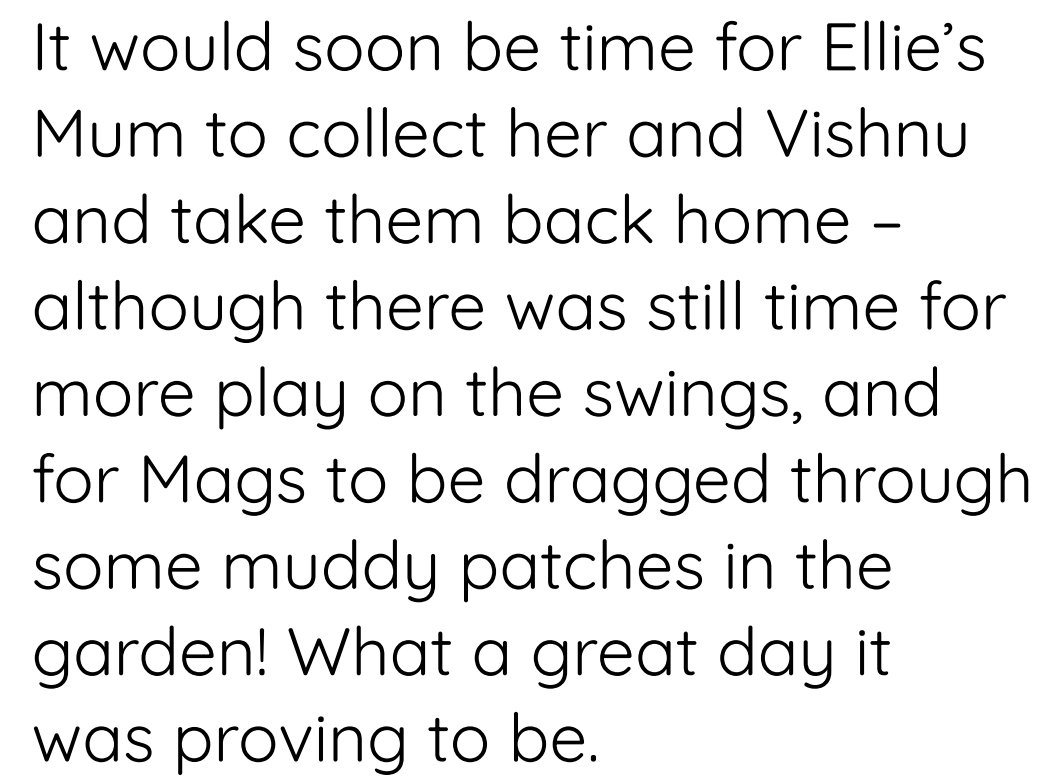
“Woodlice are fabulous too – they are ‘rubbish collectors’. They eat dead or decaying plants and insects. They even have armour plating!”



Later, the happy children munching a slice of warm homemade cake, collected their drawings and showed them to Nanny and Poppa.

They explained where the bugs lived – their habitats – and what they ate, and what ate them. They had also named their body parts and were so proud of all that they had found out. They couldn't wait to show their parents later as well!





It would soon be time for Ellie's Mum to collect her and Vishnu and take them back home - although there was still time for more play on the swings, and for Mags to be dragged through some muddy patches in the garden! What a great day it was proving to be.





For more stories featuring Ellie,  
her family, friends and teddies,  
as well as accompanying  
teaching resources, visit:  
[www.abpischools.org.uk](http://www.abpischools.org.uk)



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