

Julia Donaldson

Oxford Reading Tree



# Tara's Party

Songbirds



Phonics

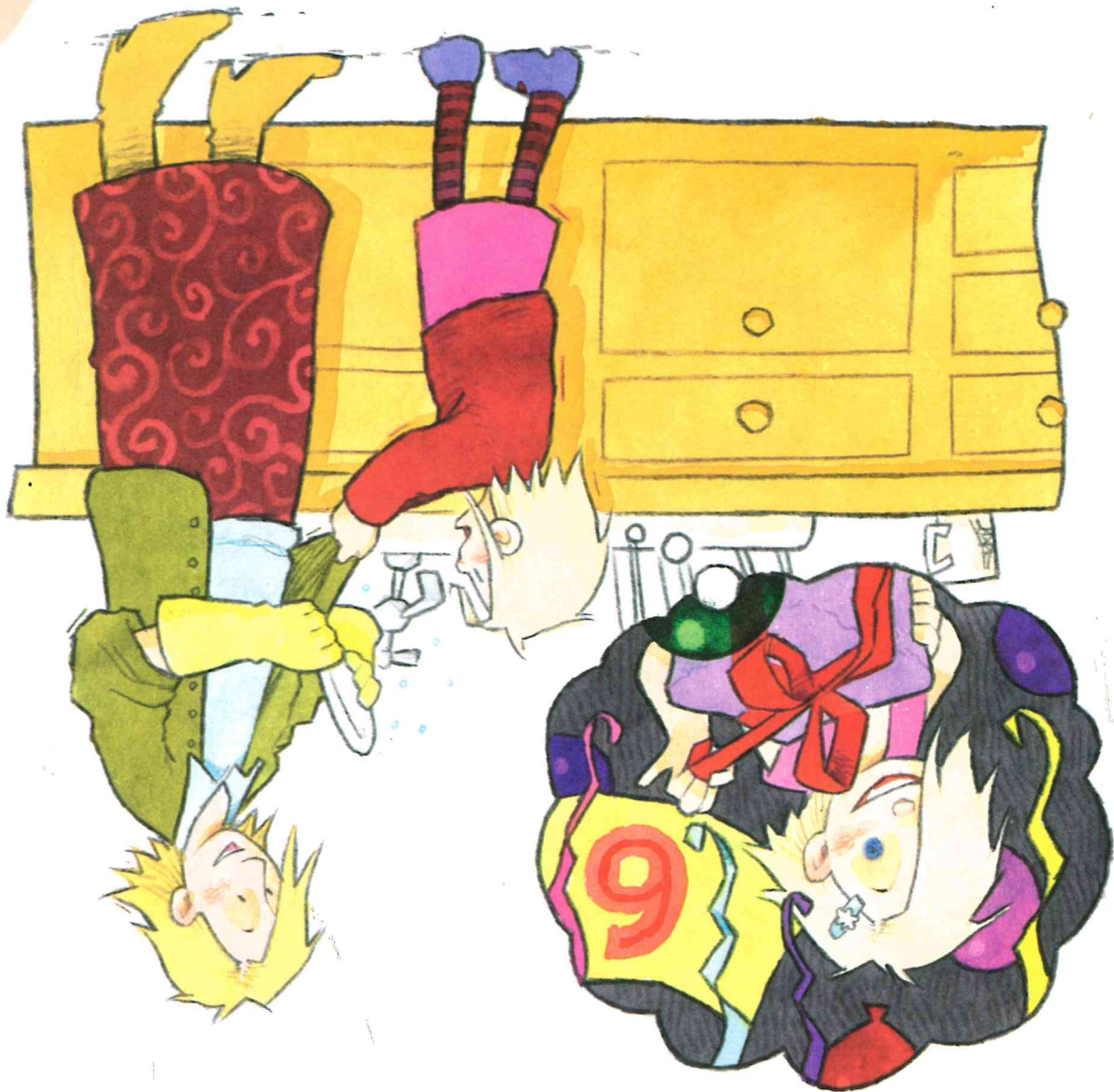


### Talk together

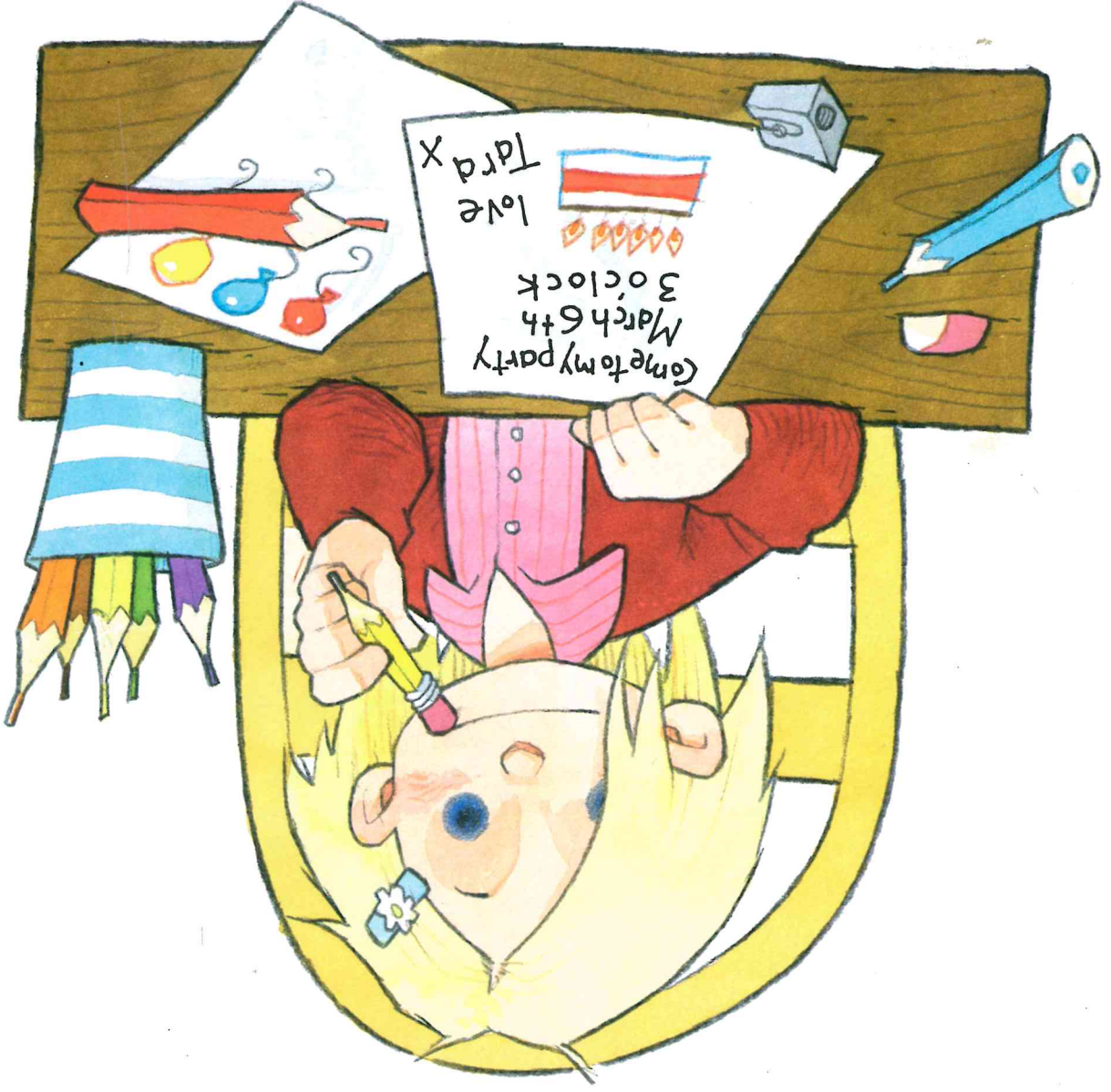
- Ask your child to point to each letter pattern in the box on the back cover and say the sound that it makes in words. Tell your child that each of these letter patterns can make the same sound.
- Look out for these letter patterns in the story and try and remember the sound they make.

### Reading the story

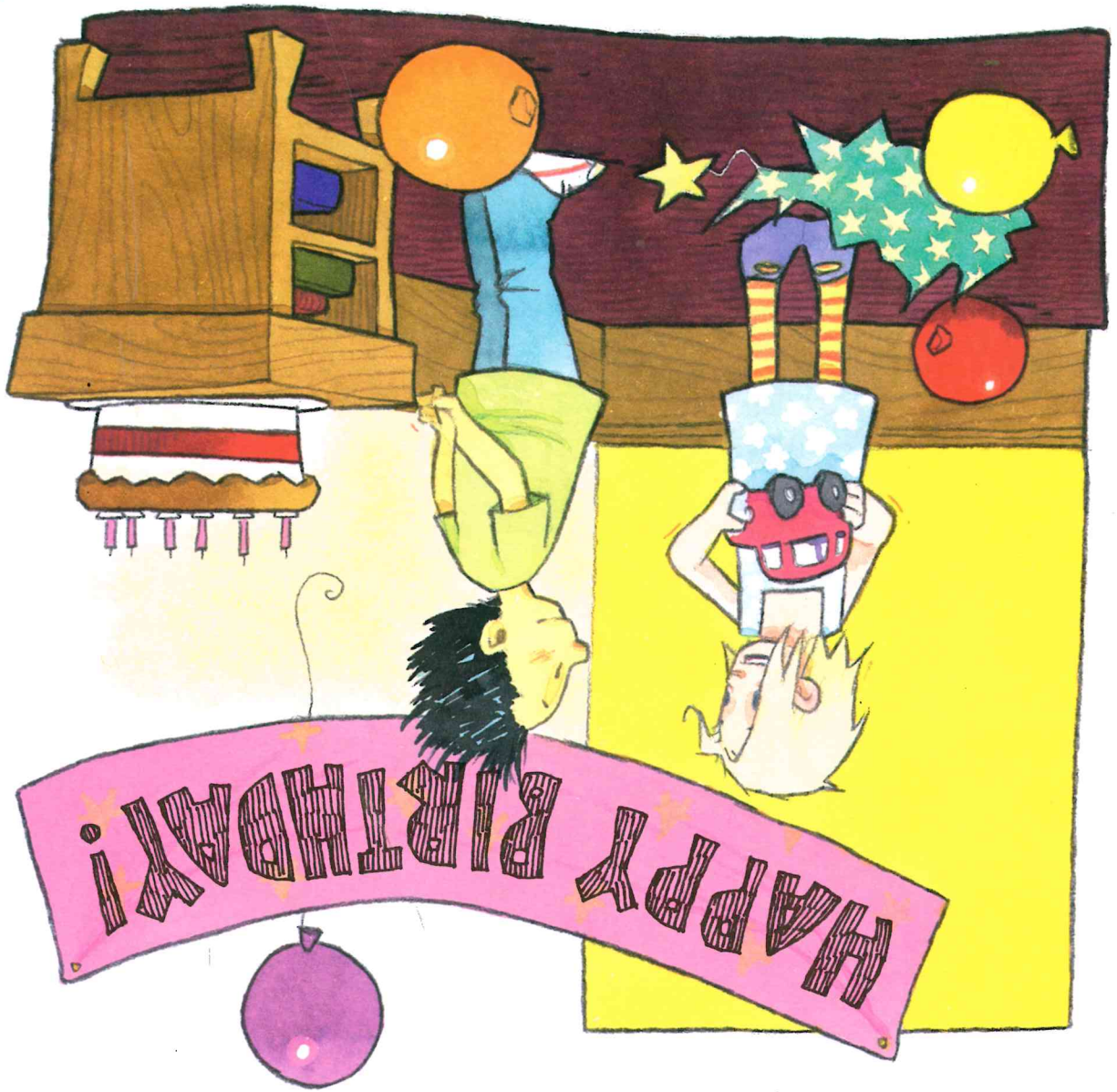
- Remember children learn best when reading is relaxed and enjoyable so give lots of praise.
- Encourage your child to try to read any words they don't recognize by saying the sounds of each letter pattern separately (e.g. *p - ar - t - y*), then running the sounds together quickly. If they find it difficult to say the sounds, say the sounds for them first and then see if they can hear the word.
- Explain that it is important when running the sounds in a word together to check to see if it sounds like a real word as some words are less regular (e.g. *some*). Read these words to your child if they don't recognize them. Point out the letters that make the usual sound in each word (e.g. the *s* in *some*). This will help your child to remember these words.



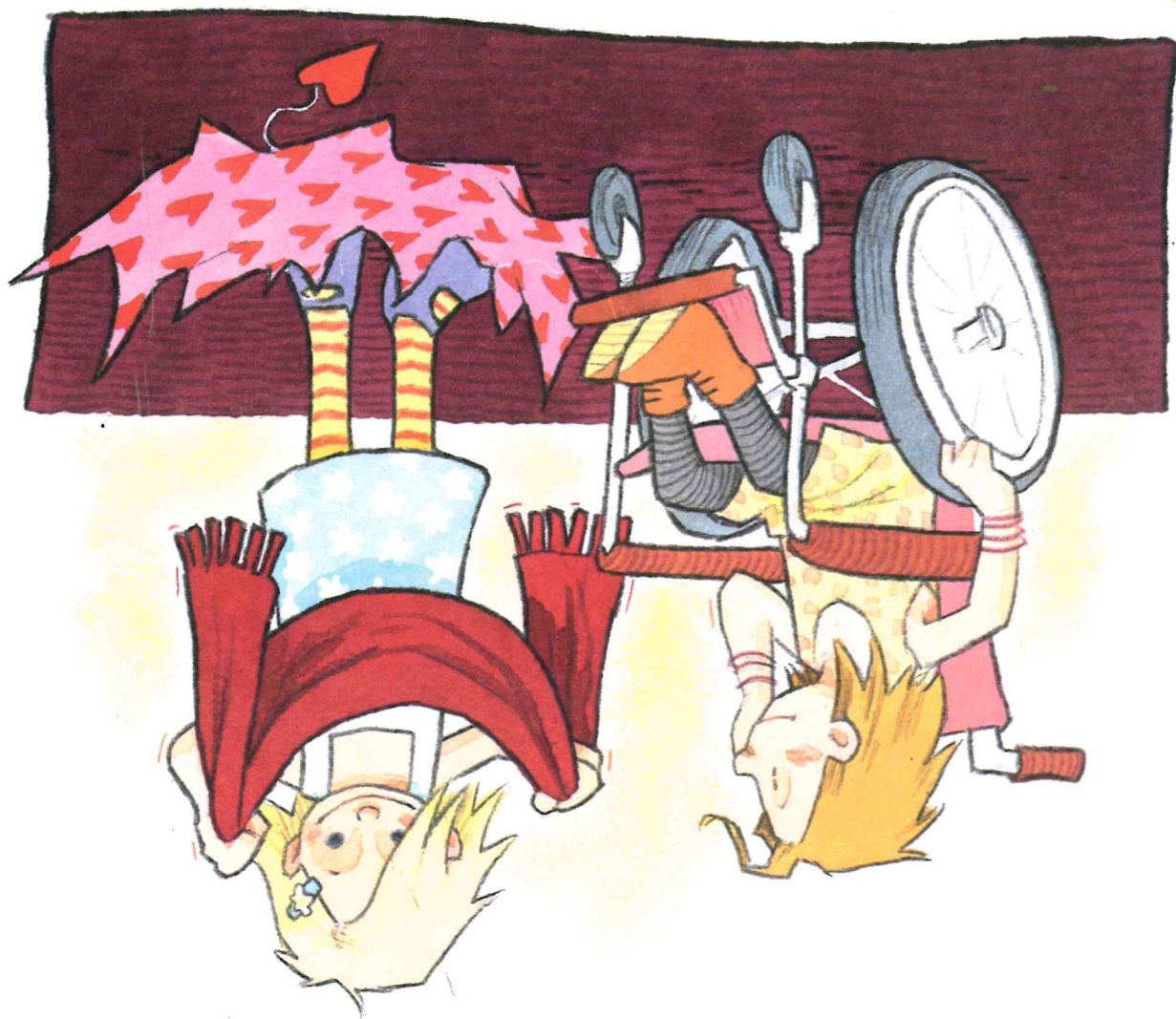
Tara was six.  
"Can I have a party?" she asked.  
"Yes," said Mum.



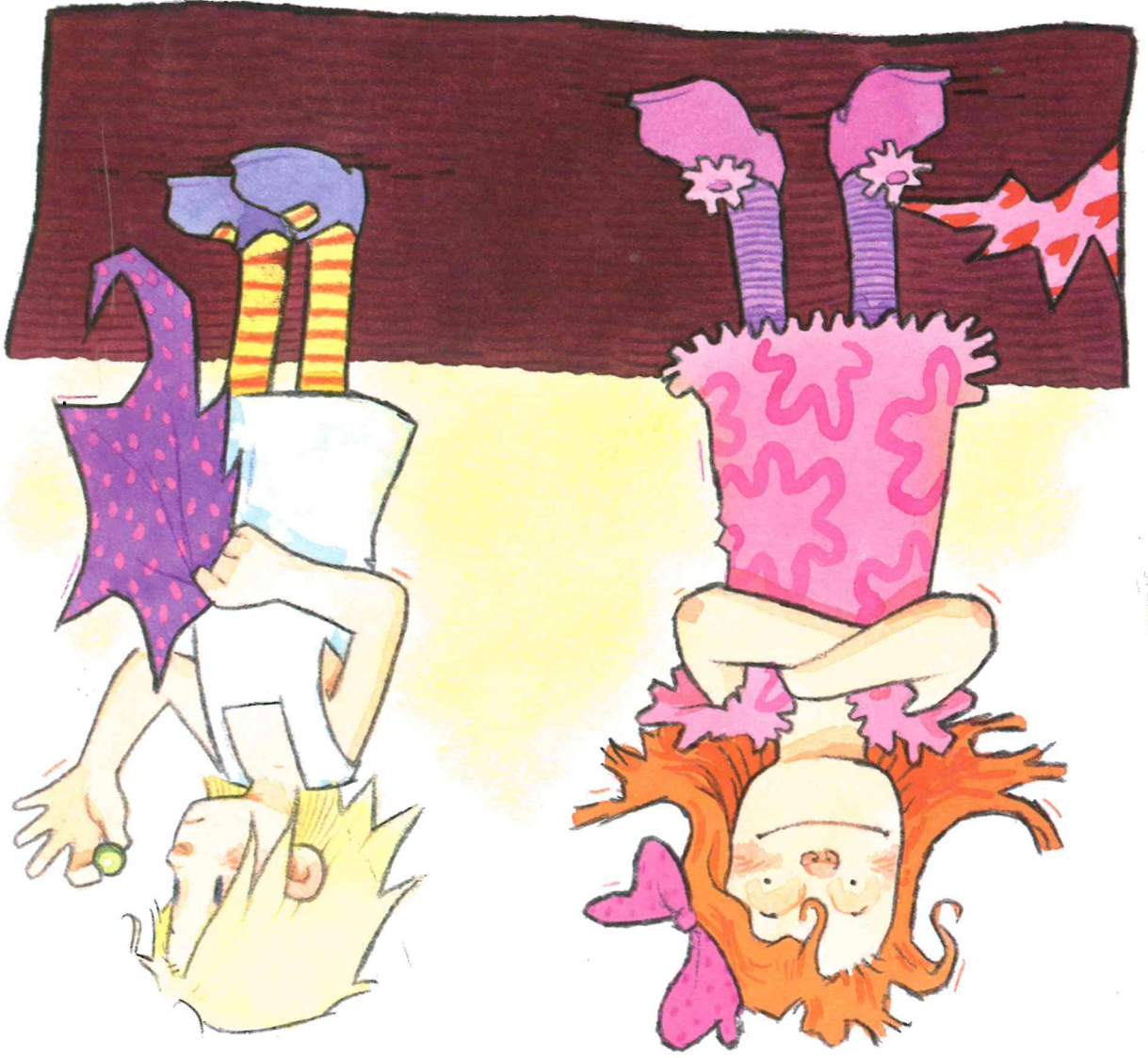
Tara sent cards to her friends.



Veejay came to the party.  
He gave Tara a toy car.



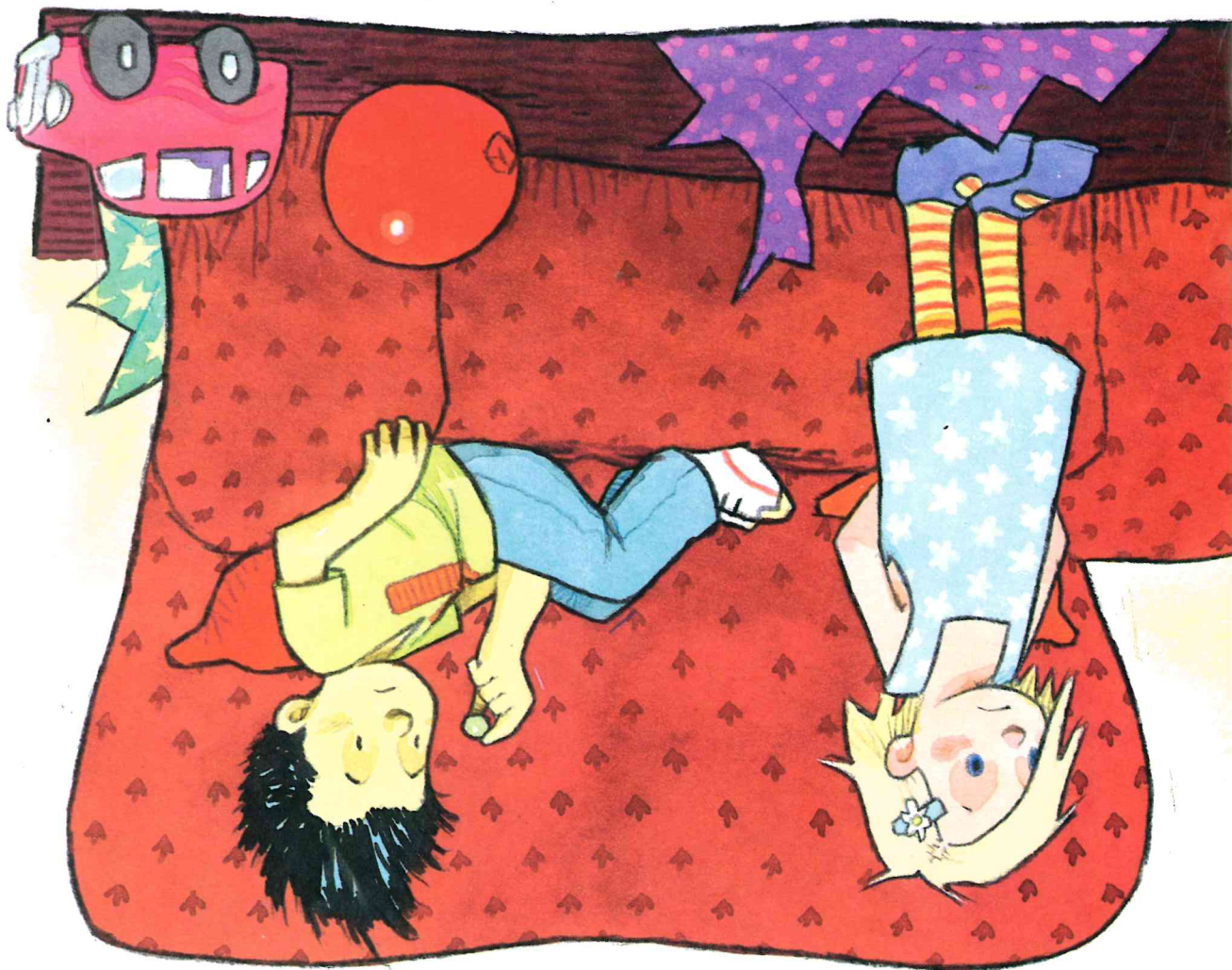
Emma came to the party.  
She gave Tara a scarf.



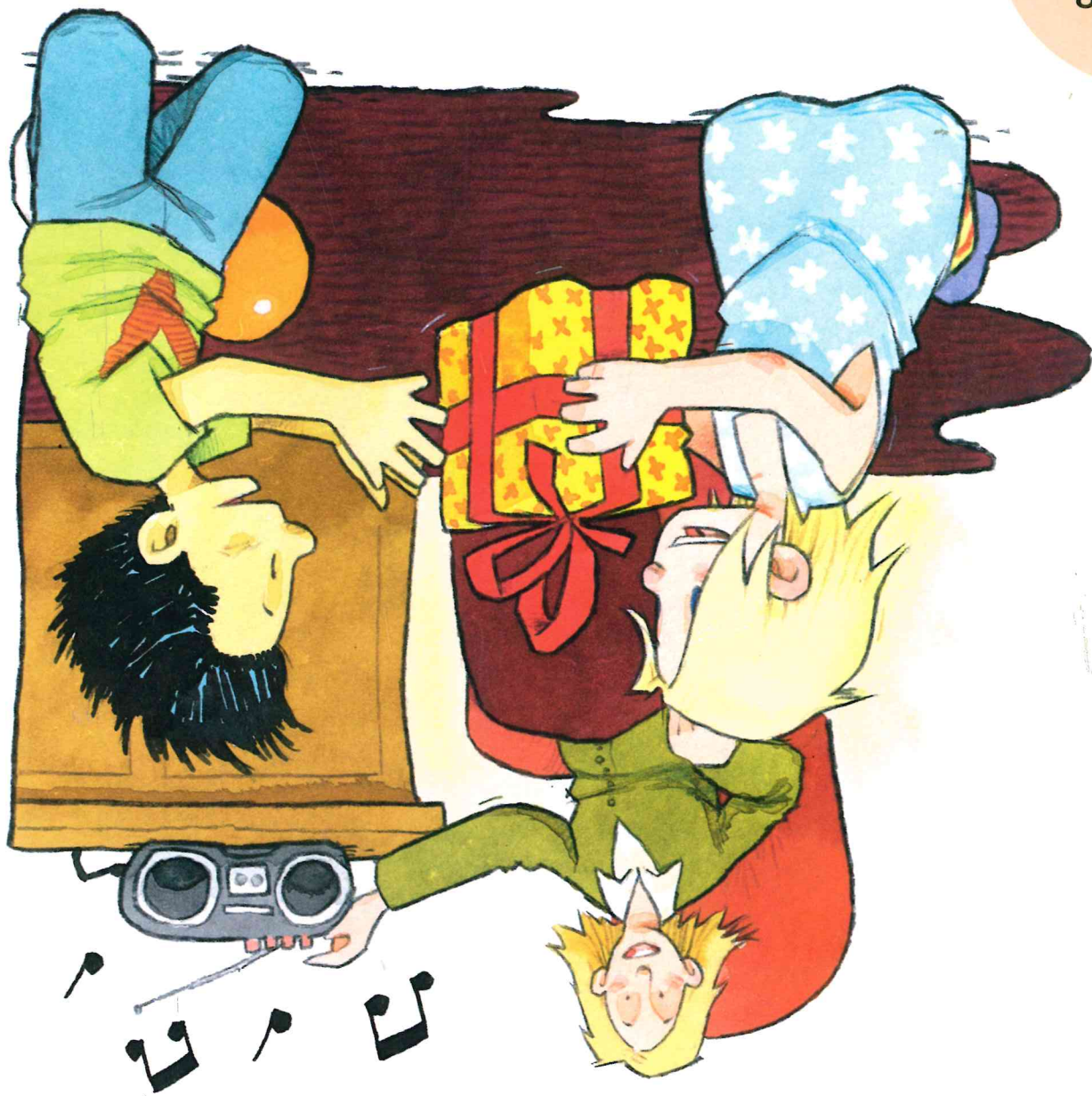
Martha came last.  
She gave Tara one marble.



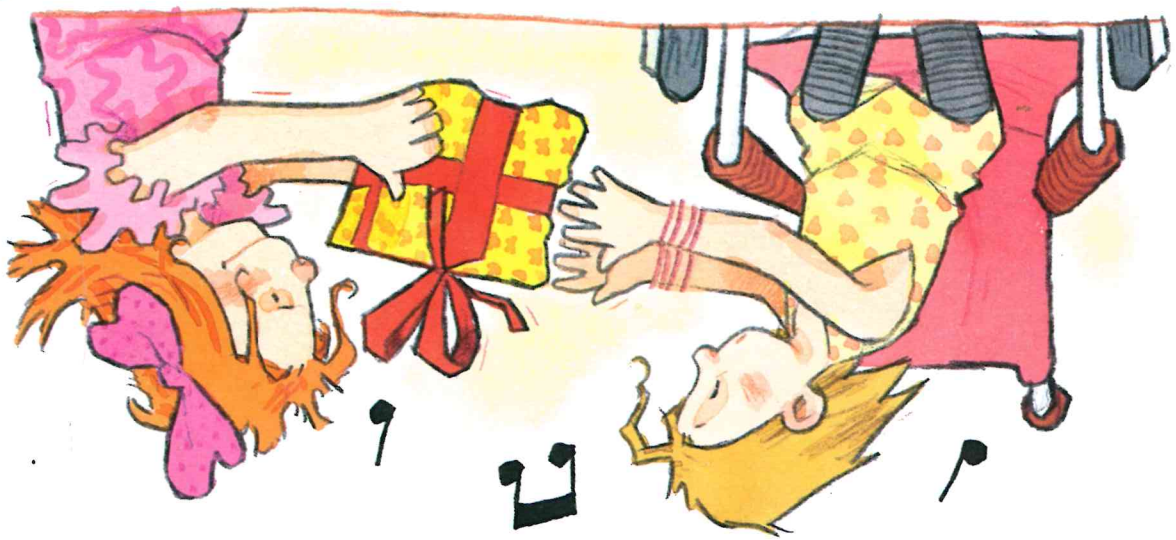
Then Martha put on the scarf.  
"I want it," she said.



"It's Tara's scarf," said Emma.  
Martha started to cry.



"Let's play Pass the Parcel," said Tara.  
Tara passed the parcel to Vejay.



Emma passed the parcel to Martha.



Vejay passed the parcel to Emma.



Martha didn't pass the parcel.  
She started to rip off all the paper.

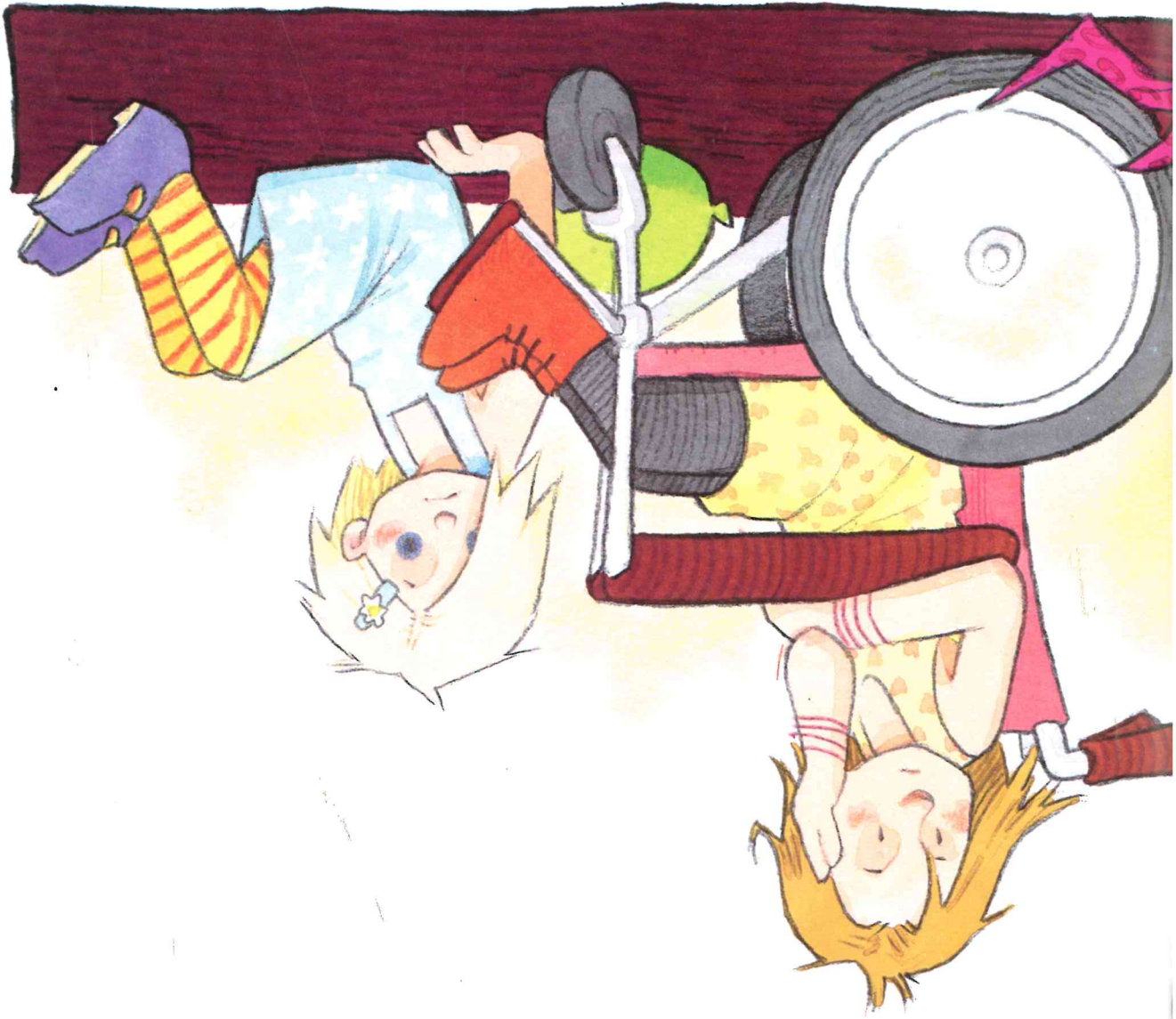


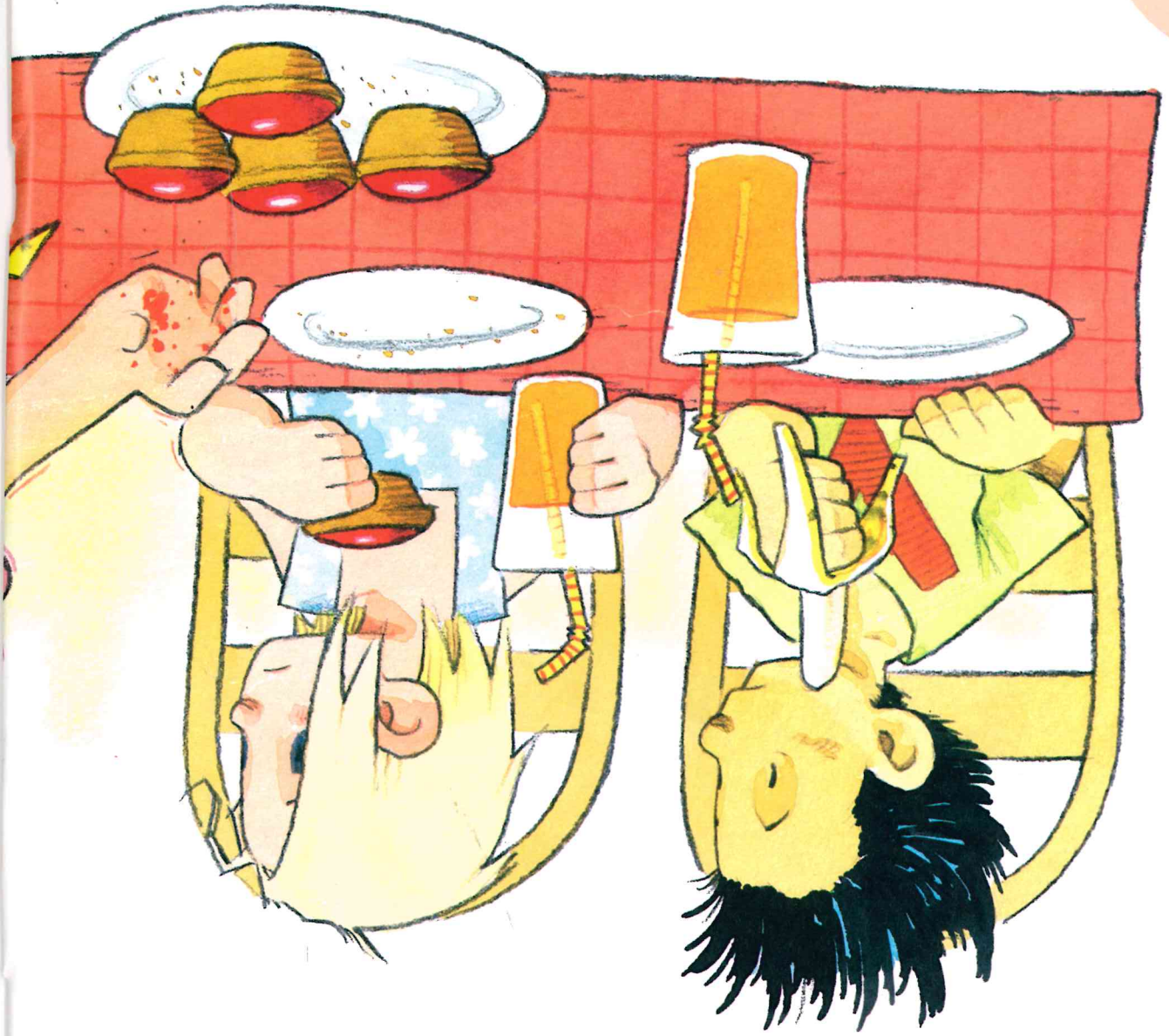
"Pass the parcel!" said Tara.  
Martha started to cry.  
"I'm not playing," she said.



There were some sweets inside the parcel.  
Veejay found them.

Martha started to cry again.  
"I want the sweets," she said.





They had tea.  
There were jam tarts and bananas.



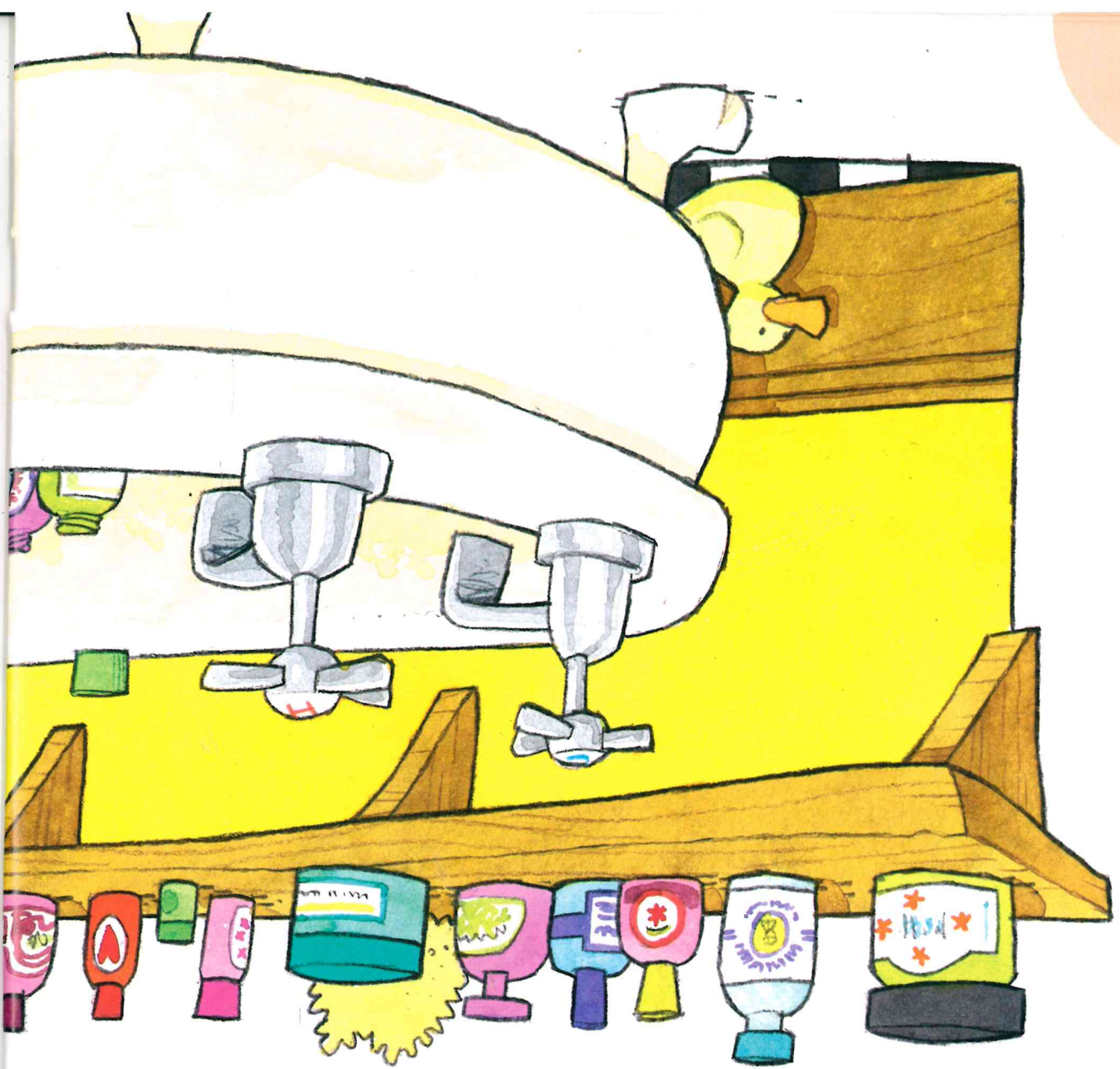
"I'm starving," said Martha.  
She ate ten jam tarts and five bananas.



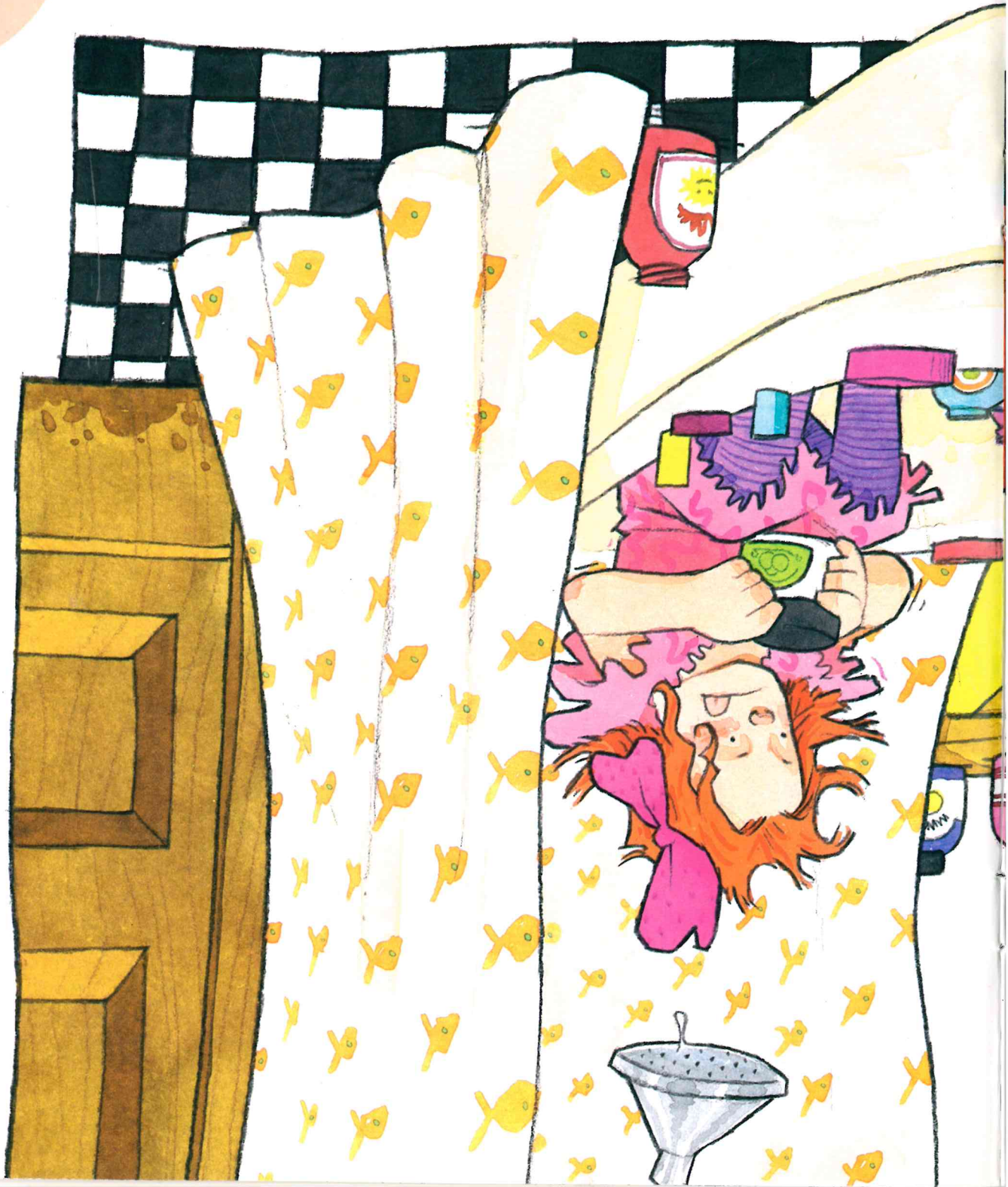
"Let's play Hide and Seek," said Tara.

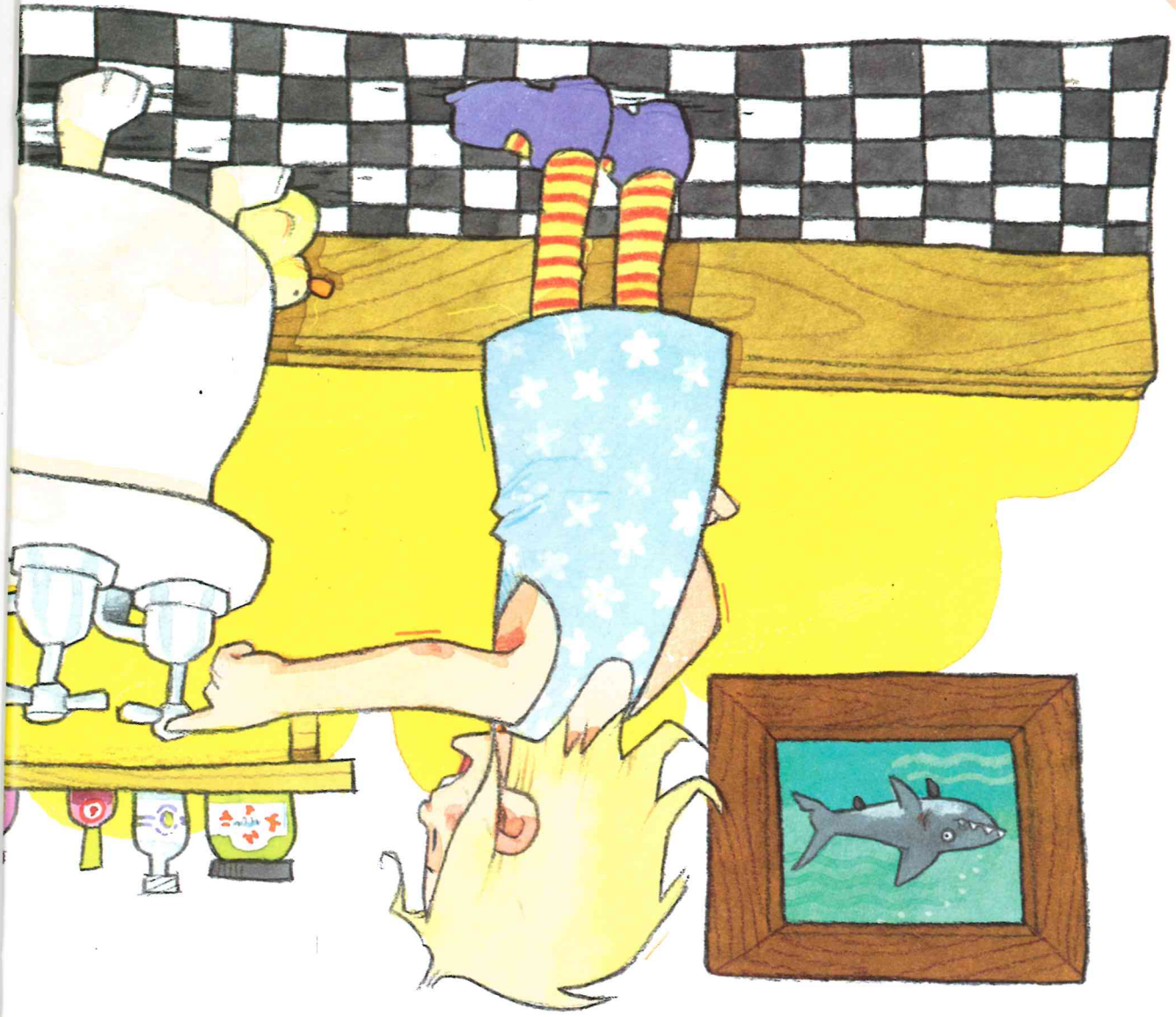


Veejay and Emma hid in the garden.  
Tara found them.

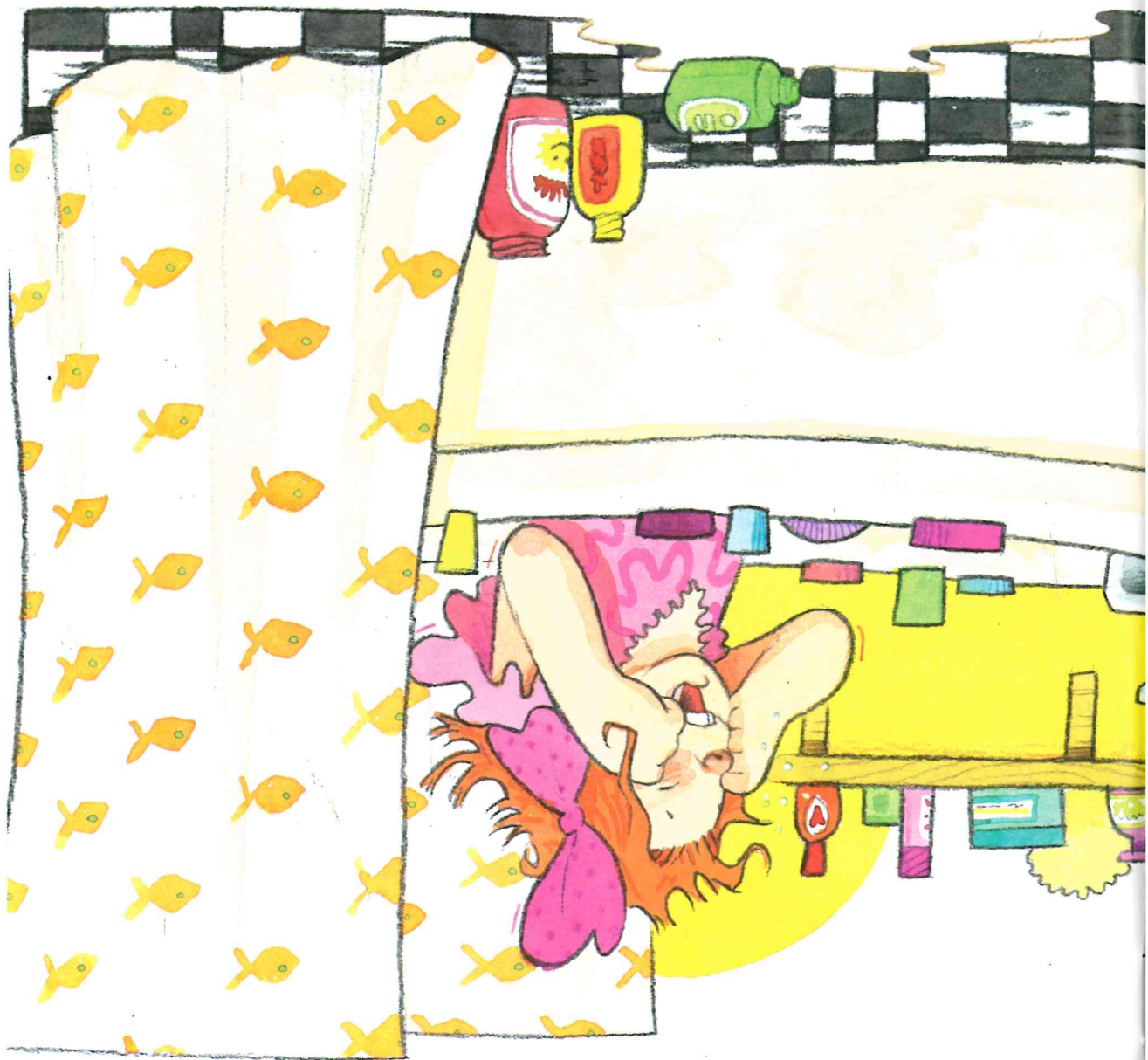


Martha hid in the bath.  
She found a lot of jars.  
She took the lids off them.

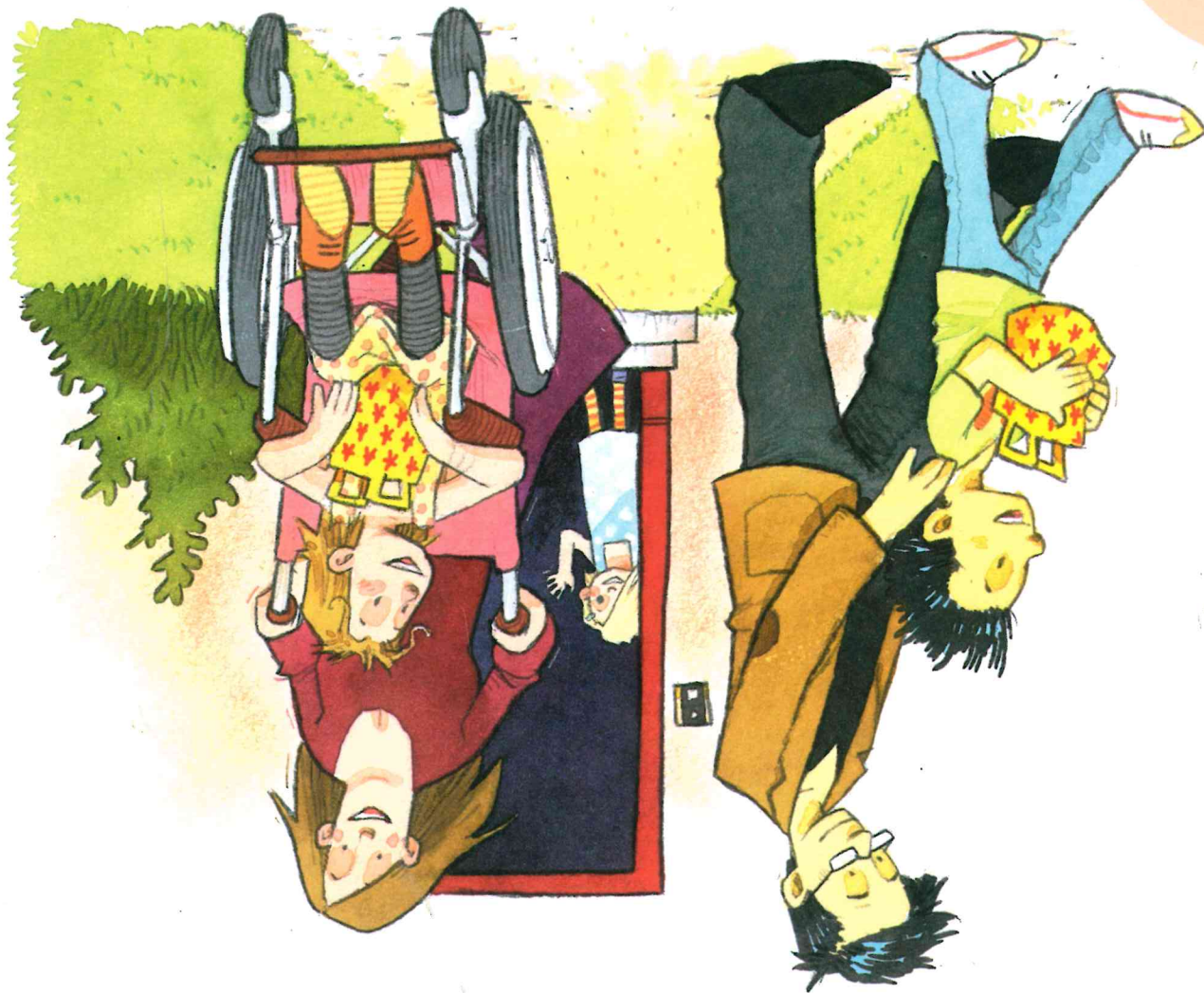




Tara found Martha.  
"Put the lids back on the jars," she said.



Martha started to cry again.



Emma's mum and Veejay's dad came for them.  
"Was it a good party?" they asked.  
"Yes," said Emma and Veejay.



Martha's mum came last.  
"Was it a good party?" she asked.



"No," said Martha. "Everyone was nasty to me."

## Check understanding

- Ask your child
- Did Martha enjoy the party? (No.) Why not? (She thought everyone had been nasty to her.)
  - Describe Martha's character? (Unkind, selfish.)

## Check knowledge of letter-pattern sounds

- Ask your child to
- Read pages 6 and 7. Find some words which contain a long *ar* sound. (*Martha, scarf, Tara's, started*)
  - Point to the letter pattern that makes the long *ar* sound in the words. (*ar*)
  - Write the word *start* on a piece of paper.
  - Think of some words which rhyme with *start* and try and write them on the piece of paper (e.g. *cart, chart, dart, part, tart*).
  - Read page 11. Find some more words which contain a long *ar* sound. (*pass* – in some accents only, *parcel*)

**Example phonic words:** Tara Tara's party cards March car scarf Martha Martha's marble started parcel tarts starving garden jars asked last pass passed bananas bath nasty

**Context words:** all come everyone for friends have her one said some the there they want was were

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Book Band 6 Orange

Focus Phonics  
ar (as in far)

Letter Pattern  
ar a (in some accents only)



Tara has a party but  
Martha won't pass the  
parcel . . .

Story by Julia Donaldson • Pictures by Ross Collins  
Series editor Clare Kirtley

# Tara's Party

Stage 6 Songbirds Phonics



Oxford Reading Tree

Stage 6 Songbirds  
Tara's Party  
Paula the Vet  
Where Were You, Bert?  
Clare and the Fair  
The Deer and the Earwig  
Jack and the Giants

Available in packs  
Stage 6 Songbirds Pack of 6 (one of each title)  
Stage 6 Songbirds Class Pack (six of each title)  
Guided Reading Cards also available