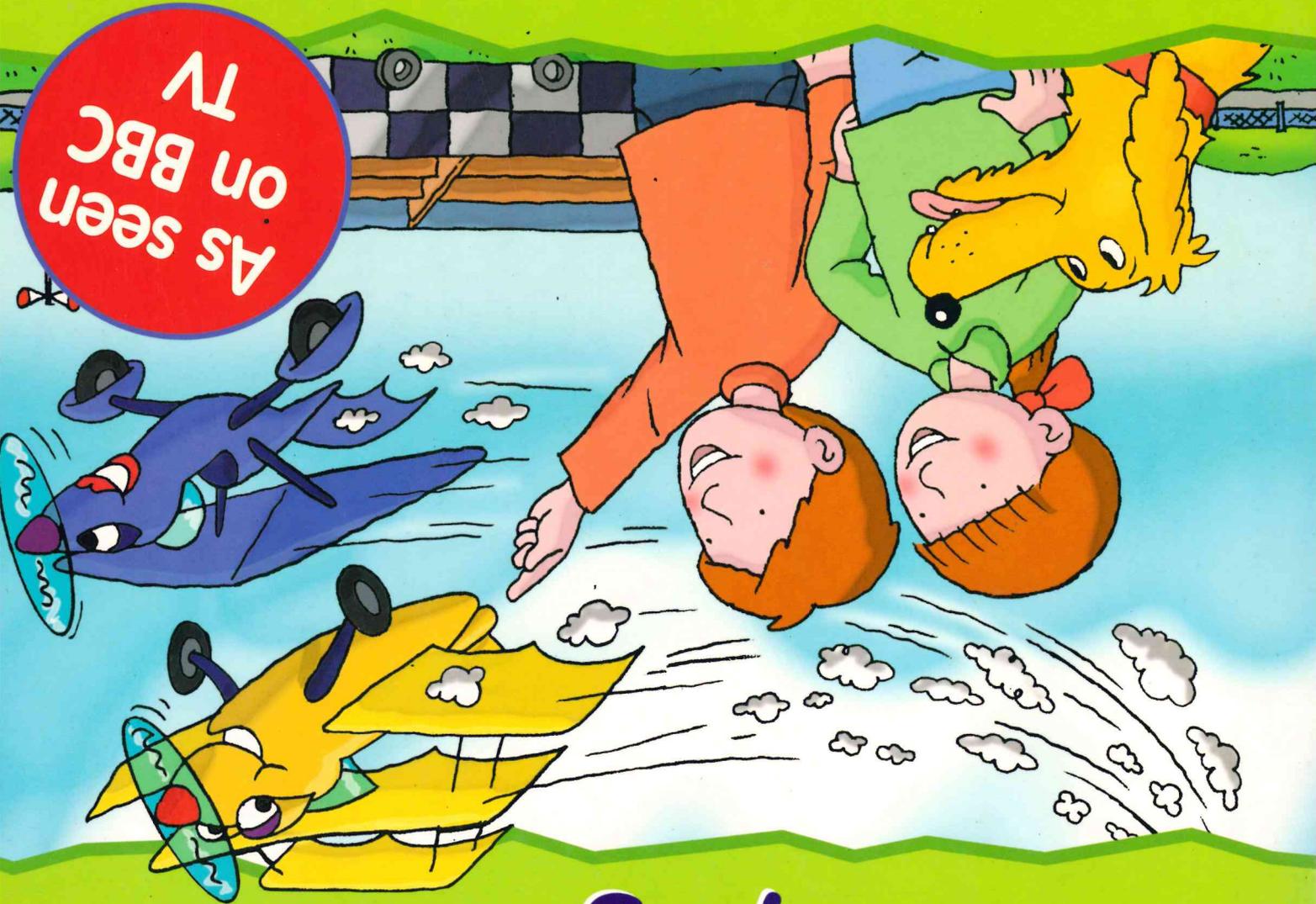


Featuring characters from Oxford Reading Tree

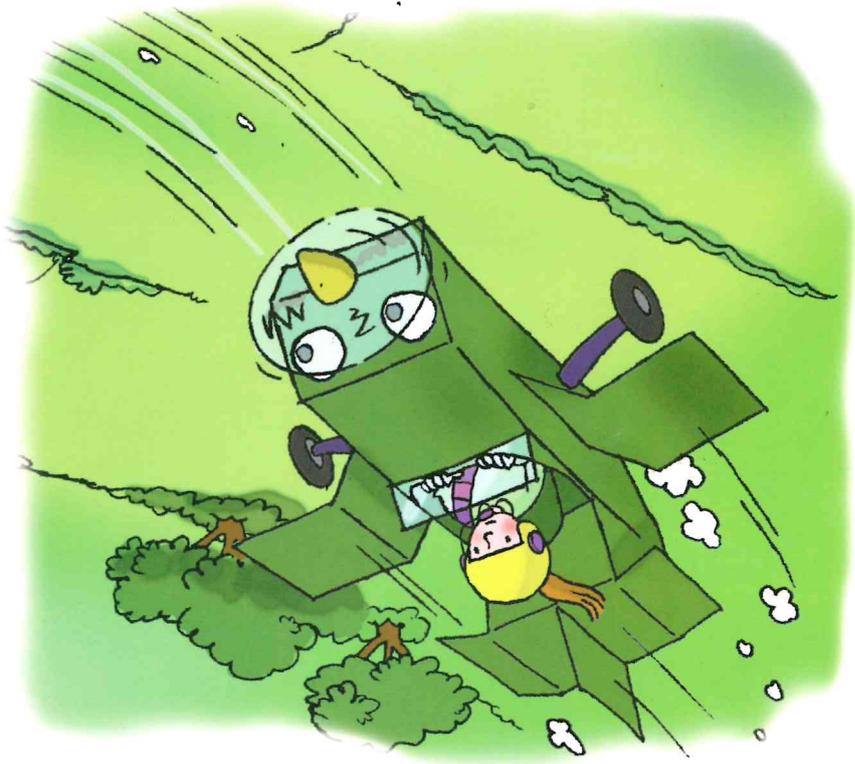
As seen
on BBC
TV



The Flying Circus

The Magic Key

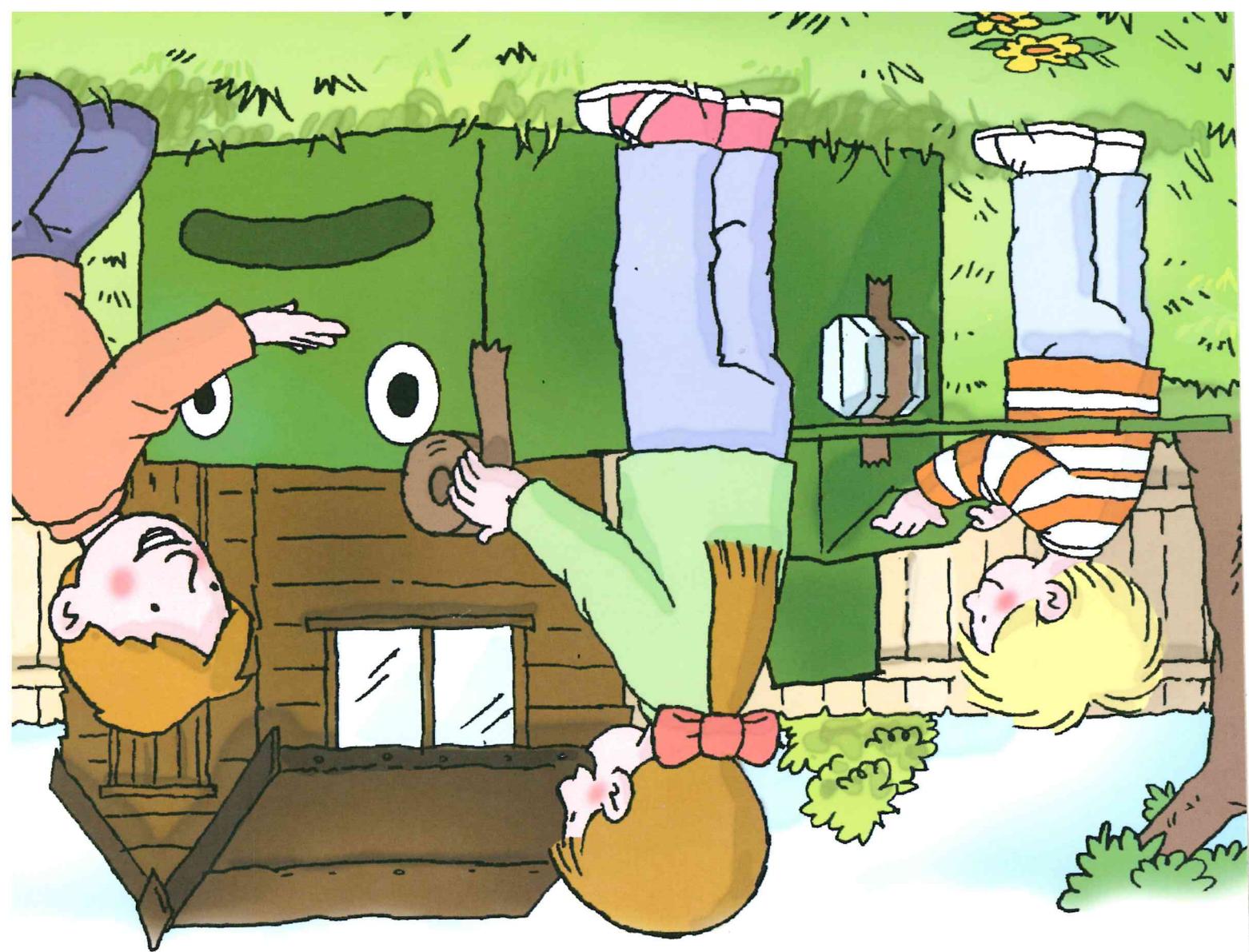
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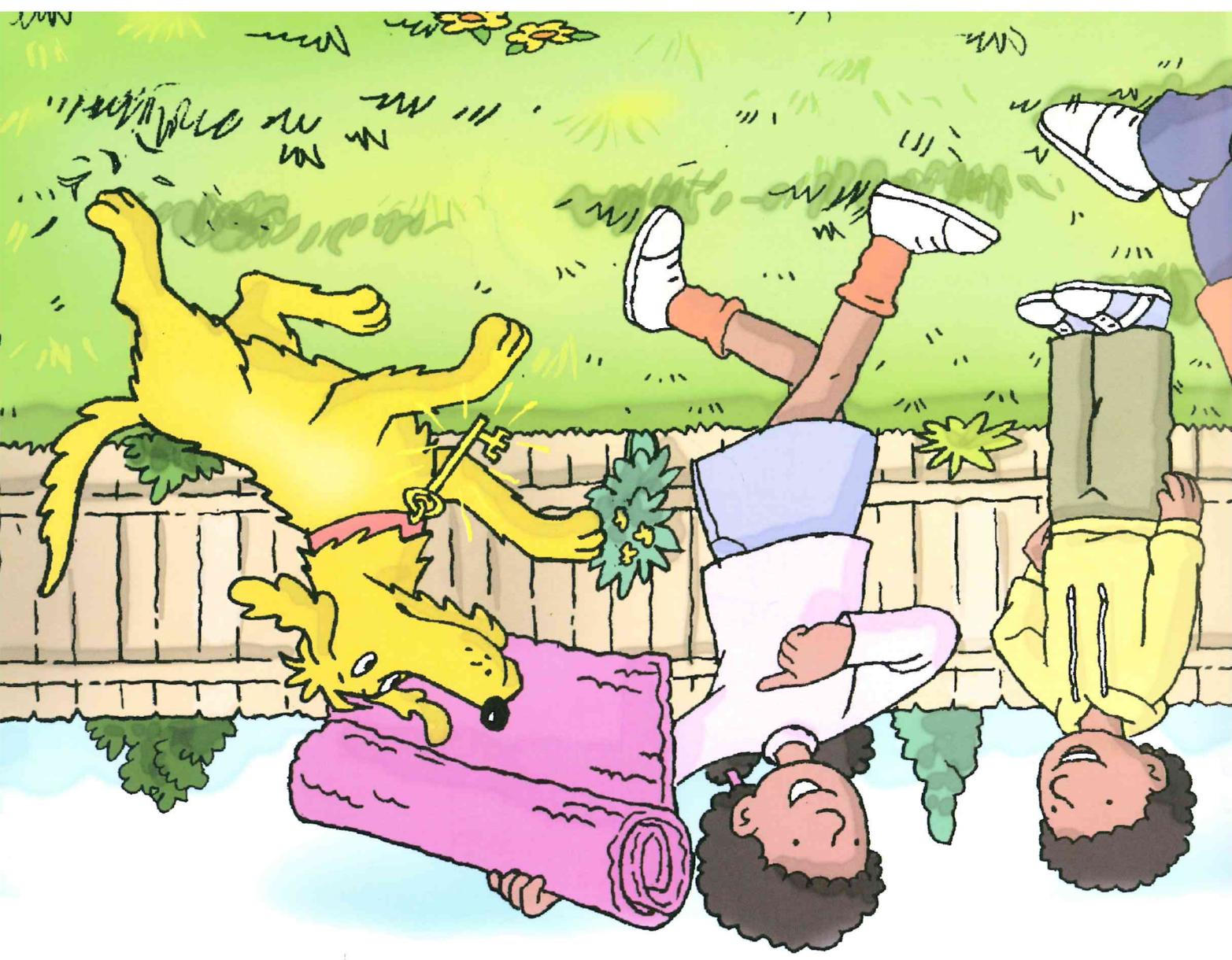
The Flying Circus

The
Magic
Key

Chip was building a flying machine in the garden. The others were trying to help him, but things weren't going the way Chip planned. 'I'm going to get a rug for us to sit on in the cabin,' said Wilma. 'But . . . ?' Chip began. He didn't really want a rug in there!



Wilma came back with Floppy's rug. Floppy wasn't very happy about that!
Biff pulled Chip by the arm. 'It's your flying machine,' she reminded him. 'So why don't you take charge?'
I wish he would take charge, thought Floppy. I want my rug back.
The key on Floppy's collar started to glow.

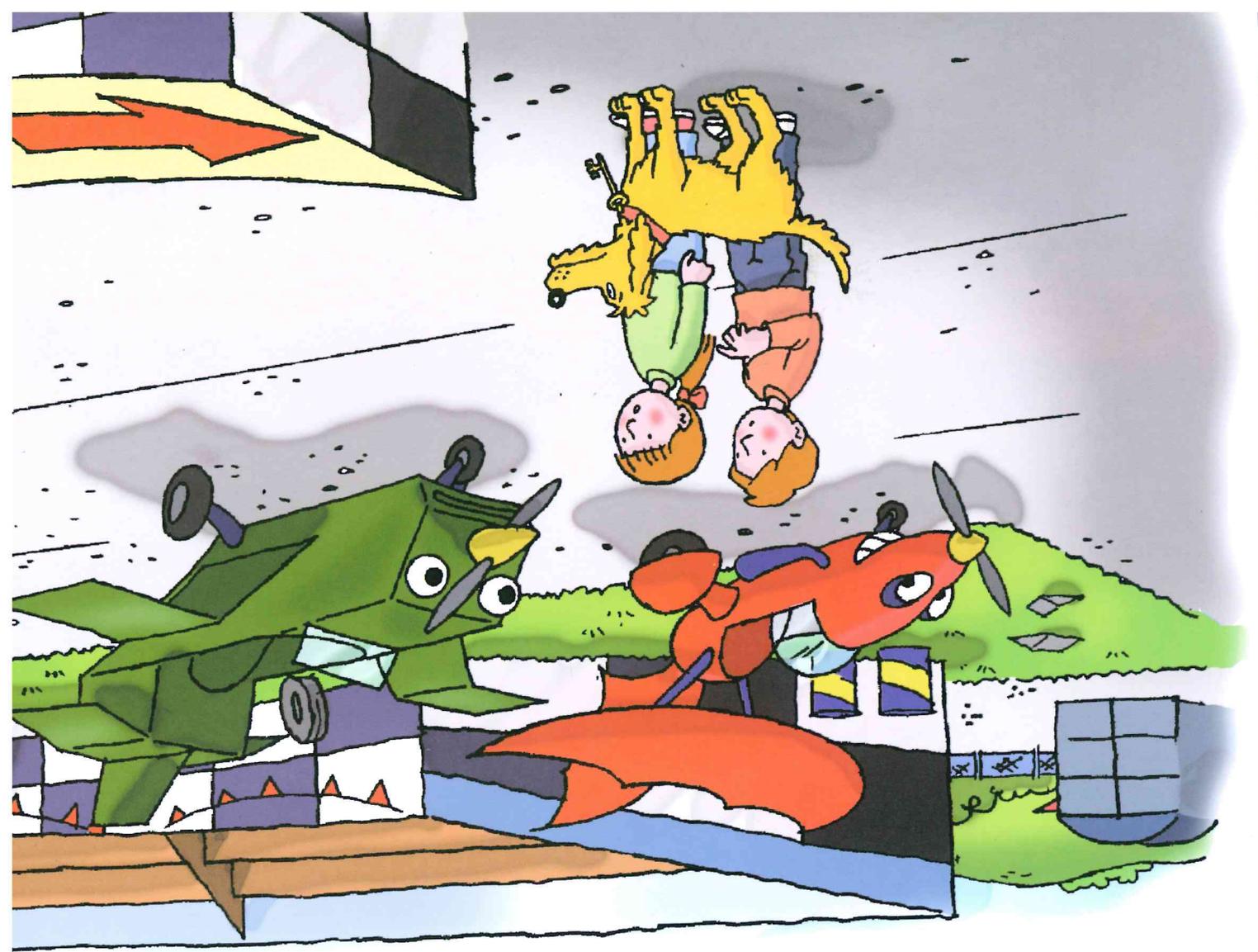


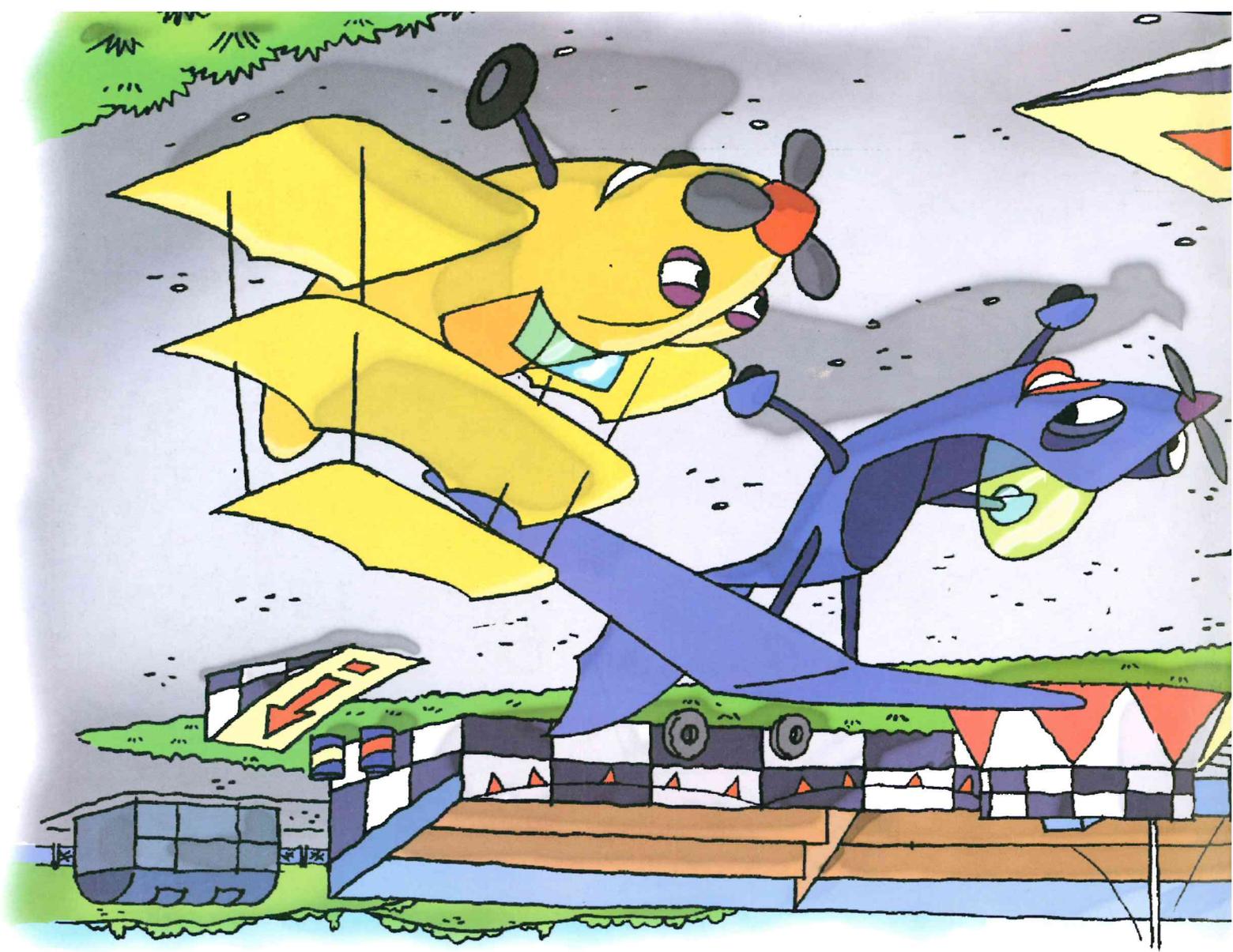
Suddenly Chip, Biff, and Floppy were dragged into a vortex of brilliant colours and lights. They were flying round and round, faster and faster . . .





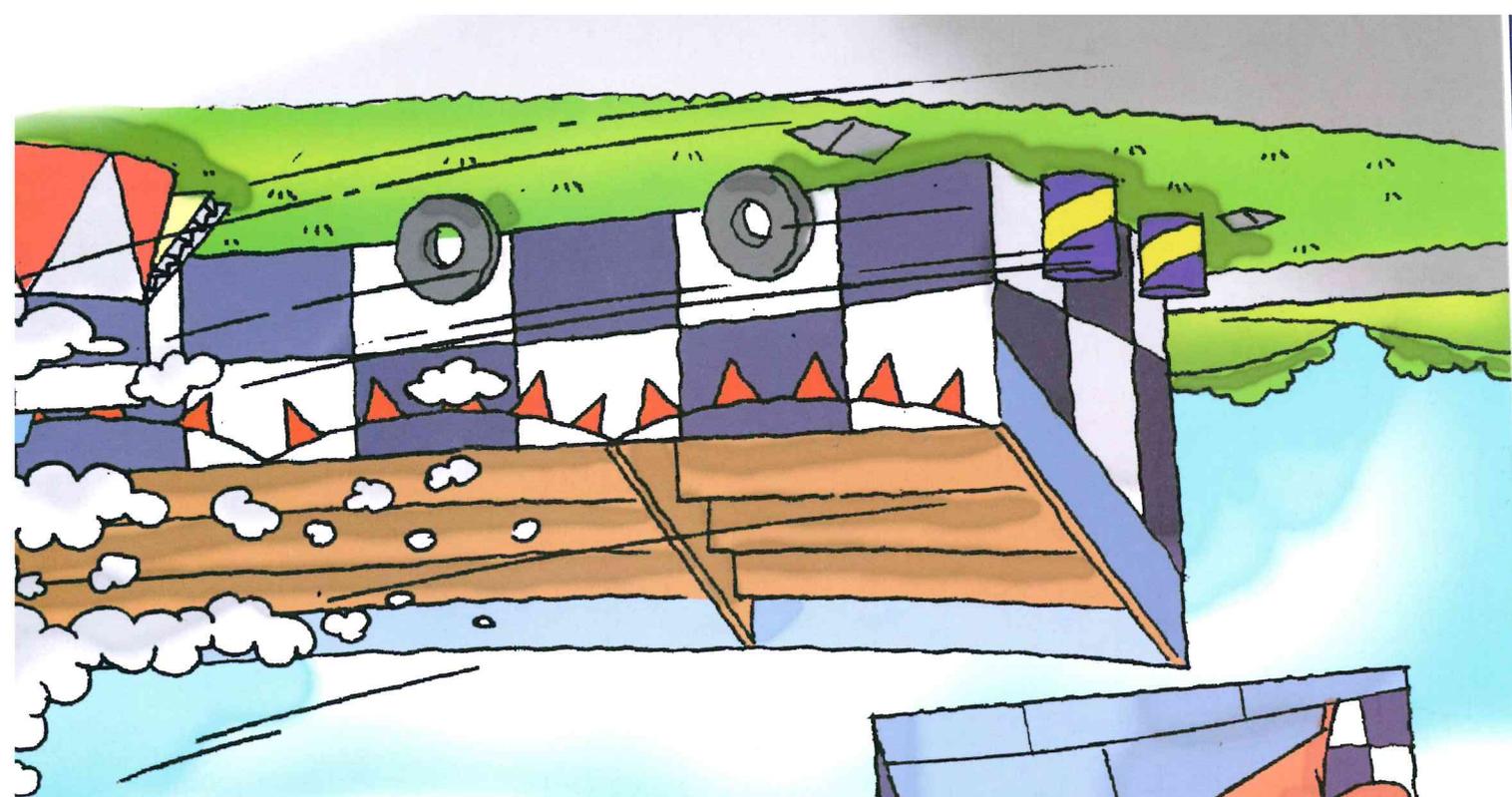
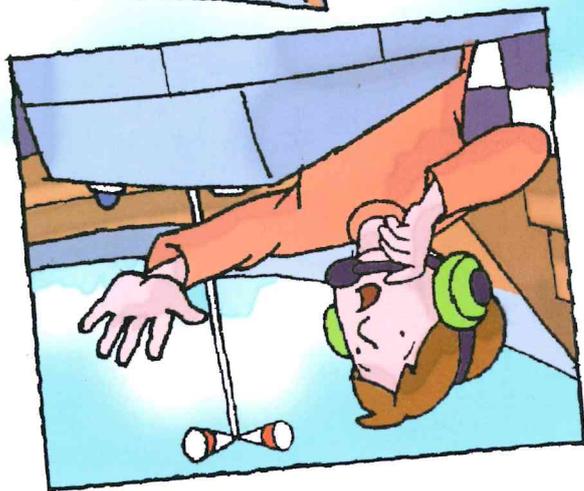
They landed in an airfield with four flying machines on the runway.
'This is Blue to Flight Command,' the blue machine said suddenly.
'Requesting permission to take off.'
Biff and Chip stared at each other.





The red machine sighed, 'You're the Flight Commander!' he said to Chip.
Then the yellow machine spoke, 'Yellow to Flight Command,' he said. 'Do I have permission to take off?'
The red machine turned to Chip, 'Get up there and tell us to take off,' he said impatiently.

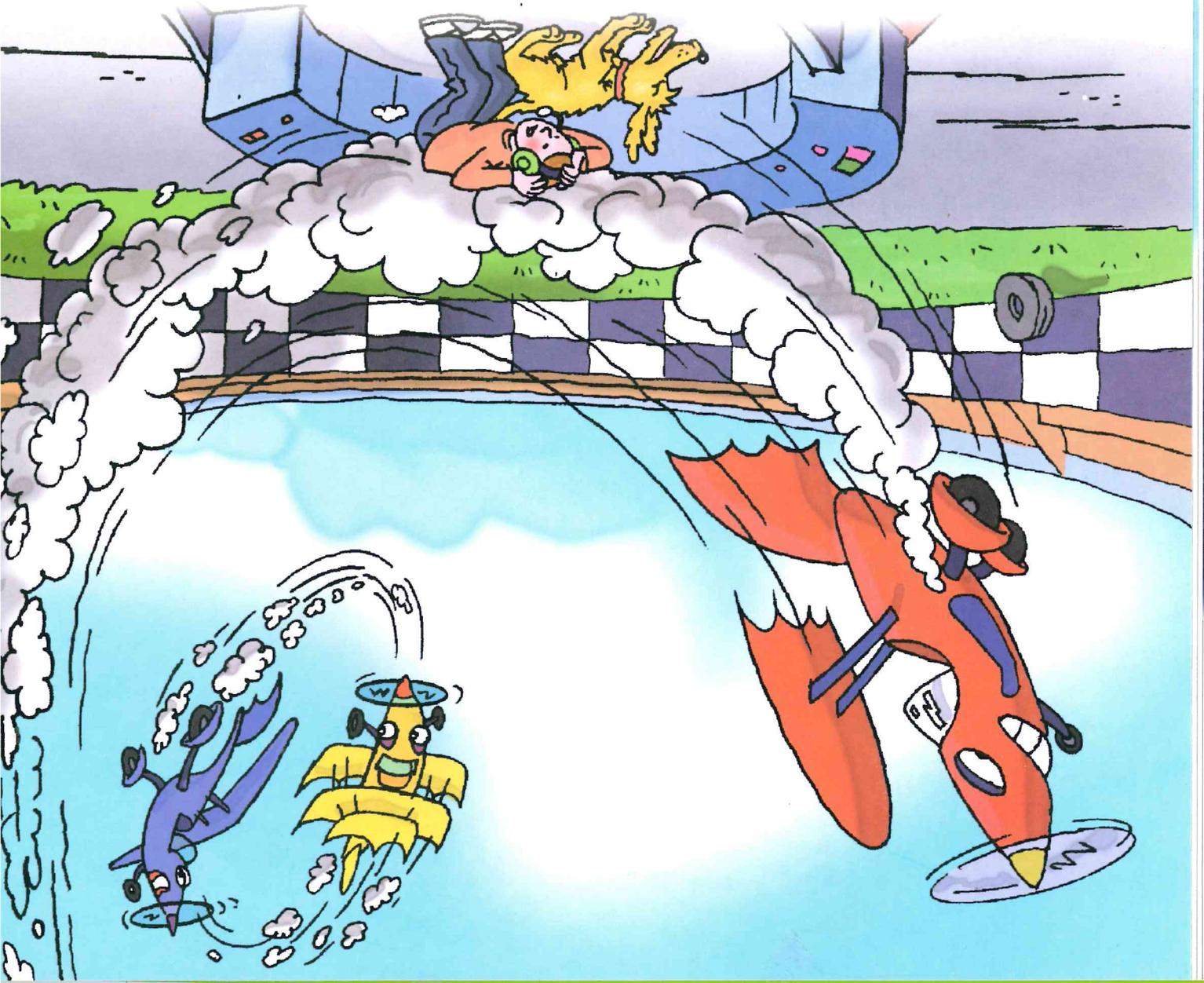
Chip thought he'd better do as he was told! So he and Floppy climbed up to the control platform. Chip put on the headphones and switched on the microphone. 'Er...this is your, um, flight commander speaking,' he said. 'I hope you're all ready to...er...take off?' The planes stared at him impatiently. 'You can take off now,' said Chip. 'If you want?'



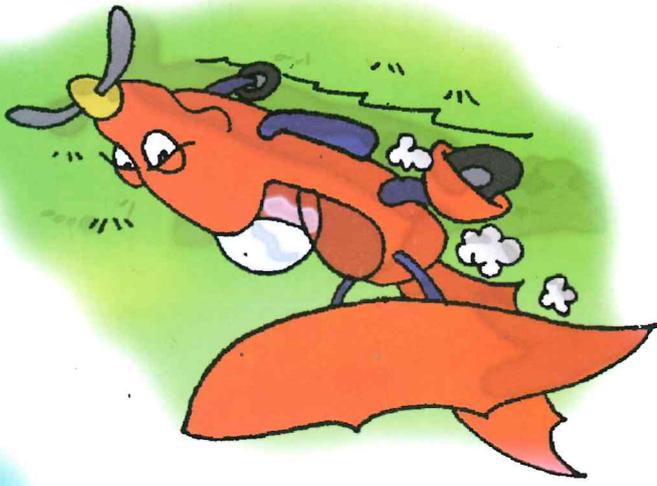
And with that, the red, yellow, and blue planes all zoomed off at once. But the green one didn't move. 'I've never flown without my instructor before,' he told Biff nervously.



Up in the air, the other planes were flying around all over the place. Spinning and diving and doing loop-the-loops. The red plane was very daring and flew close to the others – a little TOO close at times! He swooped over the control platform – flying so low that Chip and Floppy had to duck!



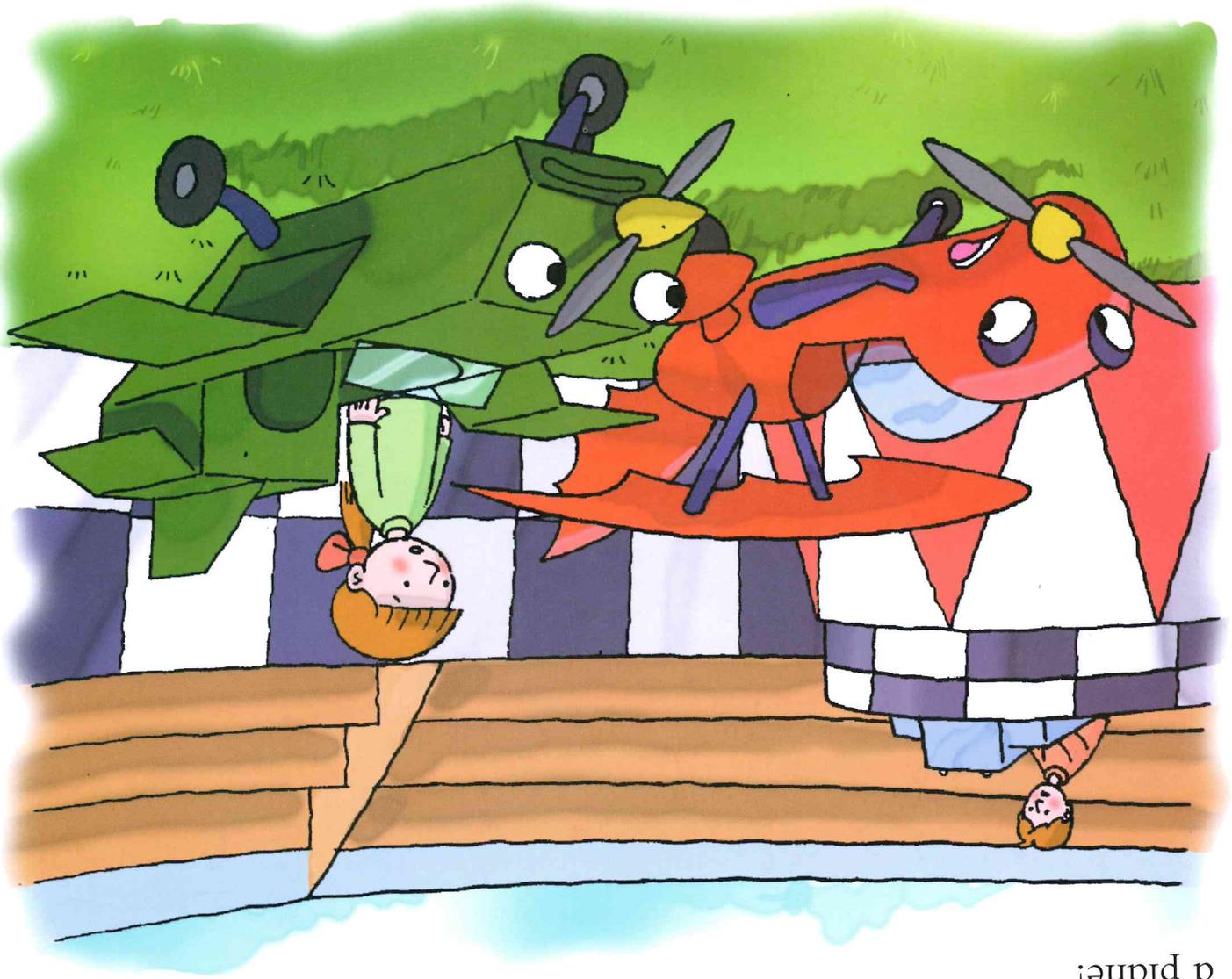
'Er...um...I think the red machine ought to give the yellow one a chance now,' said Chip.
The red machine just ignored him, but soon he ran out of fuel and came in to land.
Chip was delighted. 'He did what I told him!' he cried. But Floppy wasn't sure that was really what had happened!



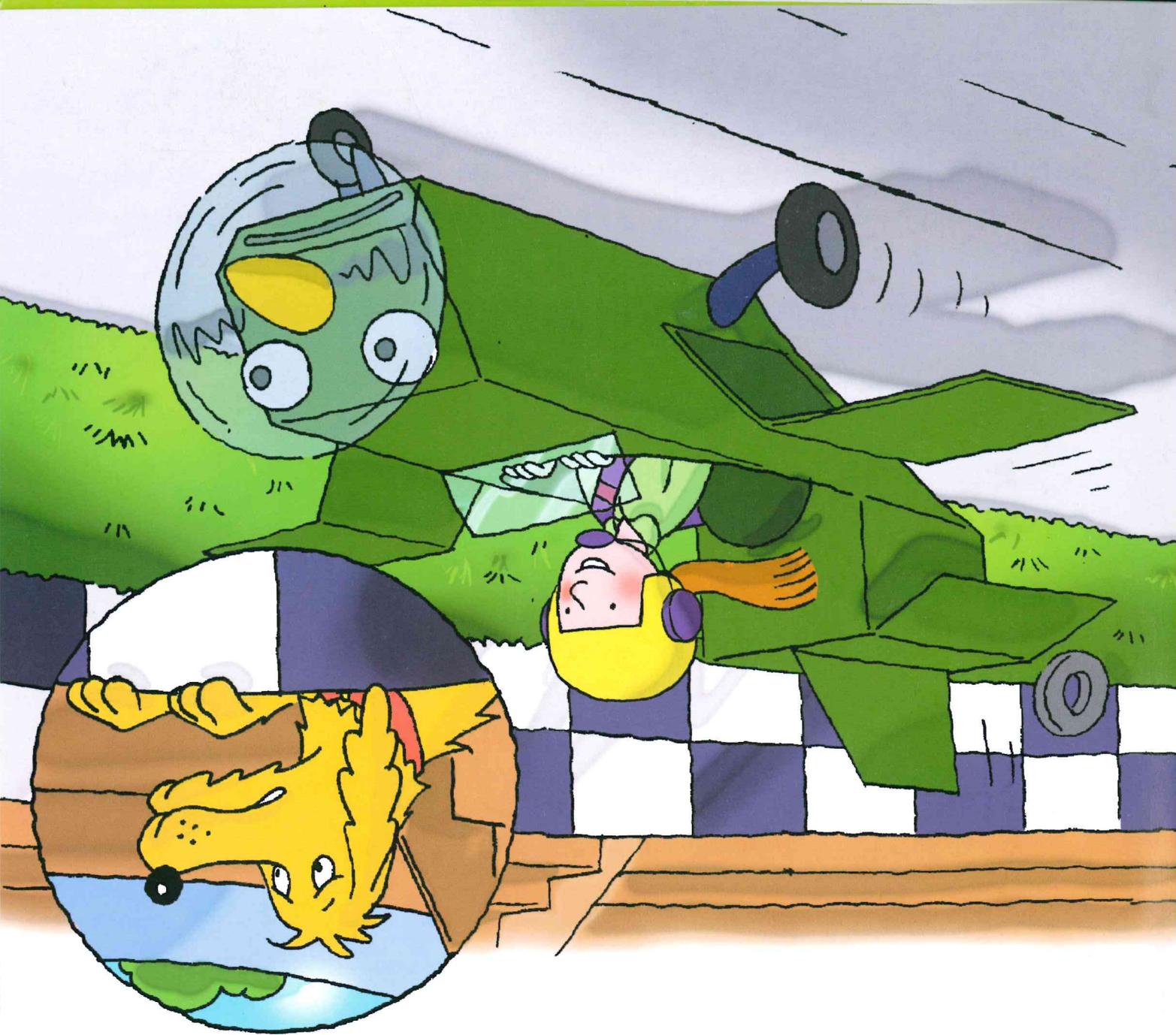
On the runway, the red machine trundled up to the green one. 'If you don't get up there and prove you're good enough to join the show, you're out!' he said nastily.

The green plane was still very nervous and asked Biff if she'd go up with him.

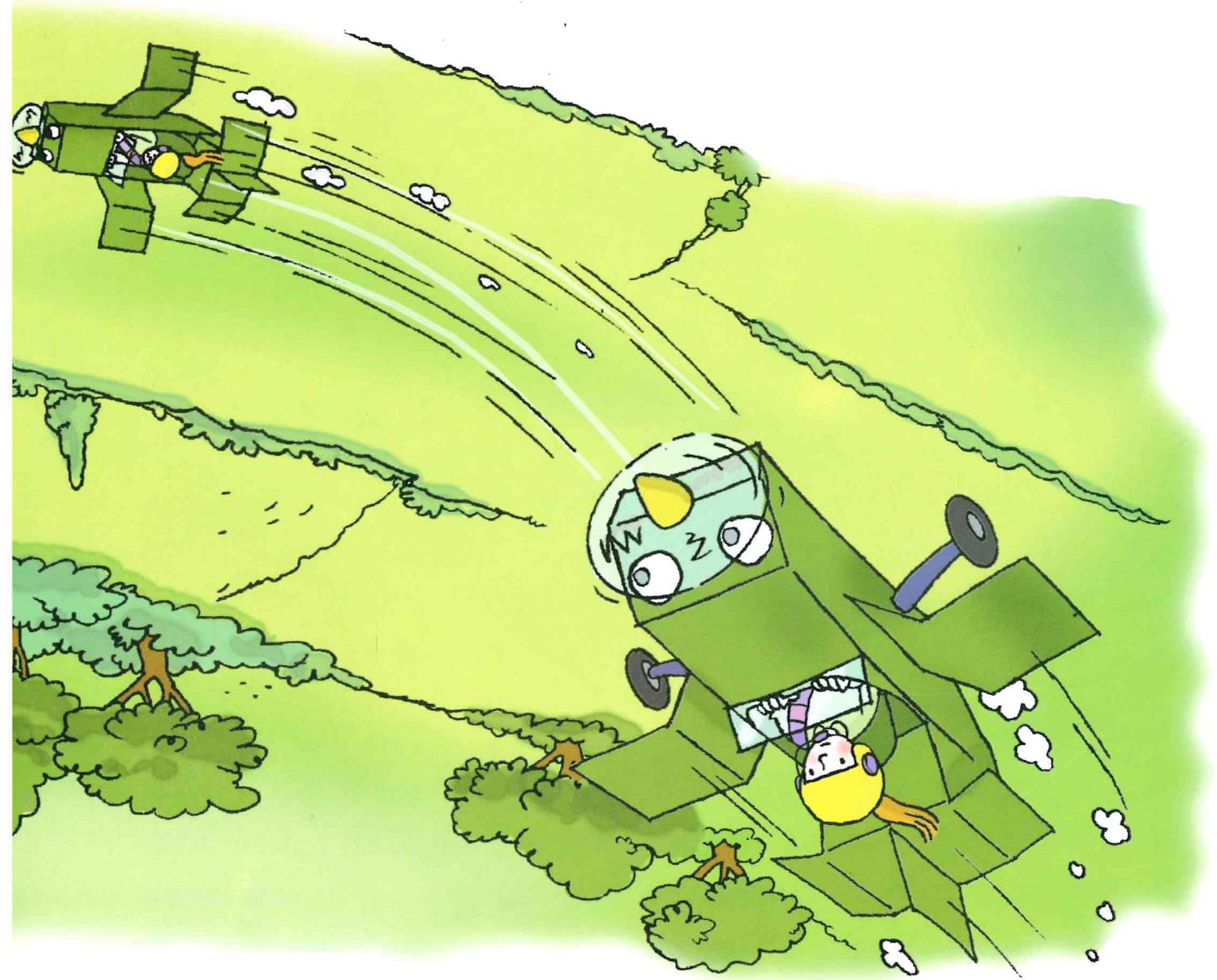
'You bet!' said Biff at once. 'I'd love to!' She'd always wanted to fly a plane!



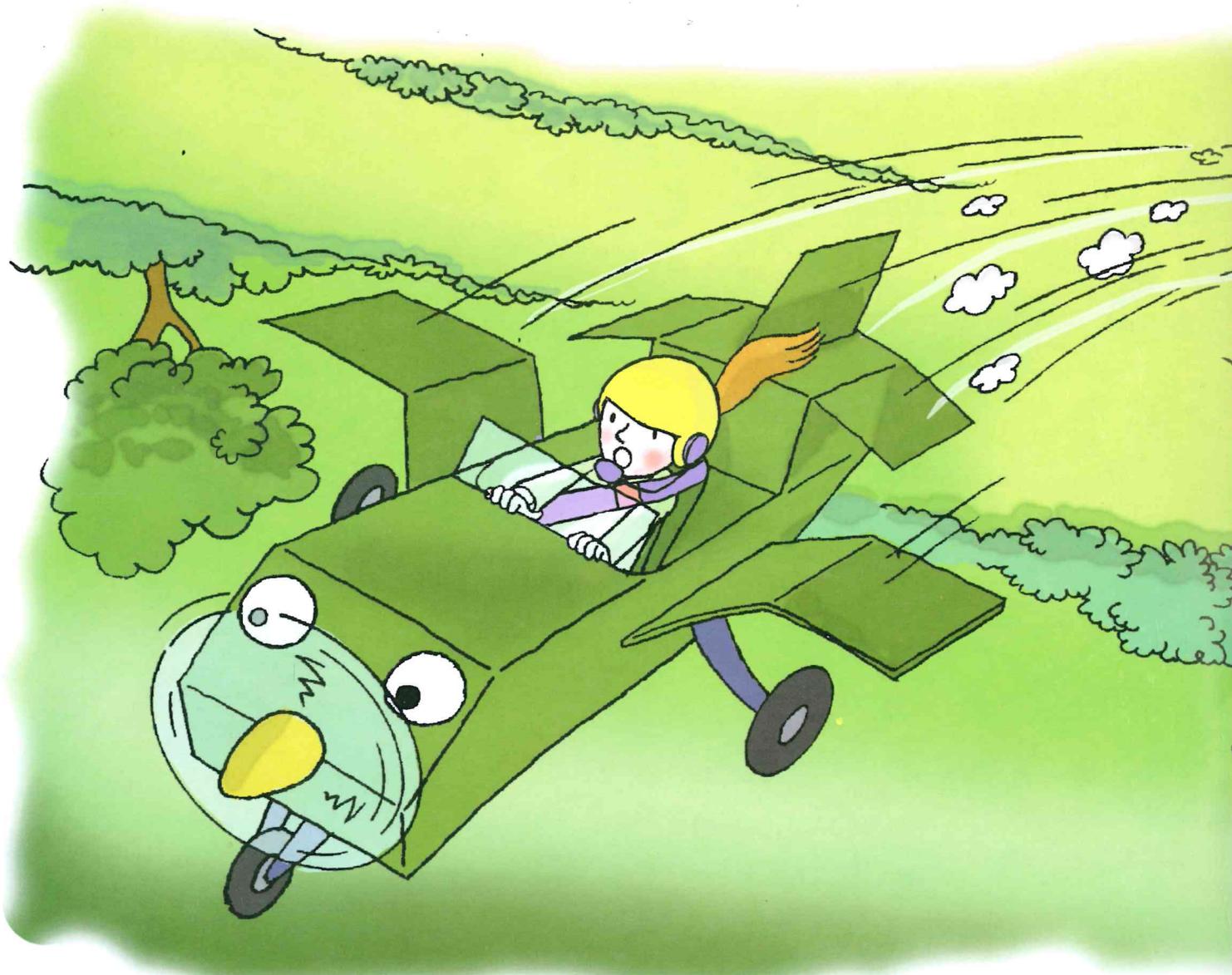
Chip was watching. 'Right then, green machine, you can take off now if you want; he said into the microphone. I wouldn't if I were you, thought Floppy. They're all mad up there!



Once they were up in the air, the green machine relaxed a bit. Biff waved to Floppy and Chip in the control platform. 'This is great!' she yelled. But she didn't think it was quite so great when the green machine started doing loop-the-loops and flying upside down! 'AAAARGH!'



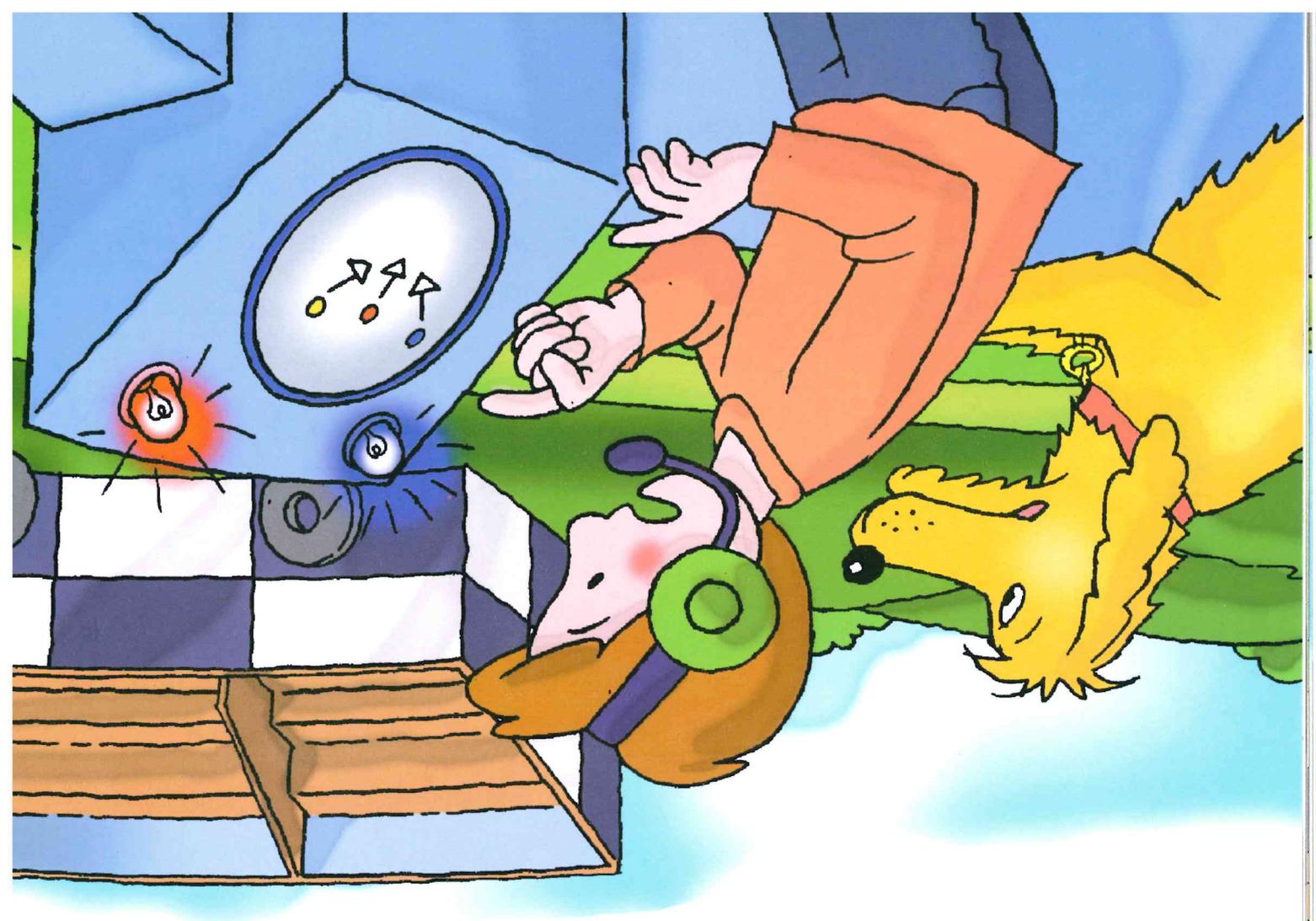
The three machines were all swerving and diving, and they were all very close to one another!
Biff felt sick. 'Chip, it's getting dangerous up here!' she shouted.



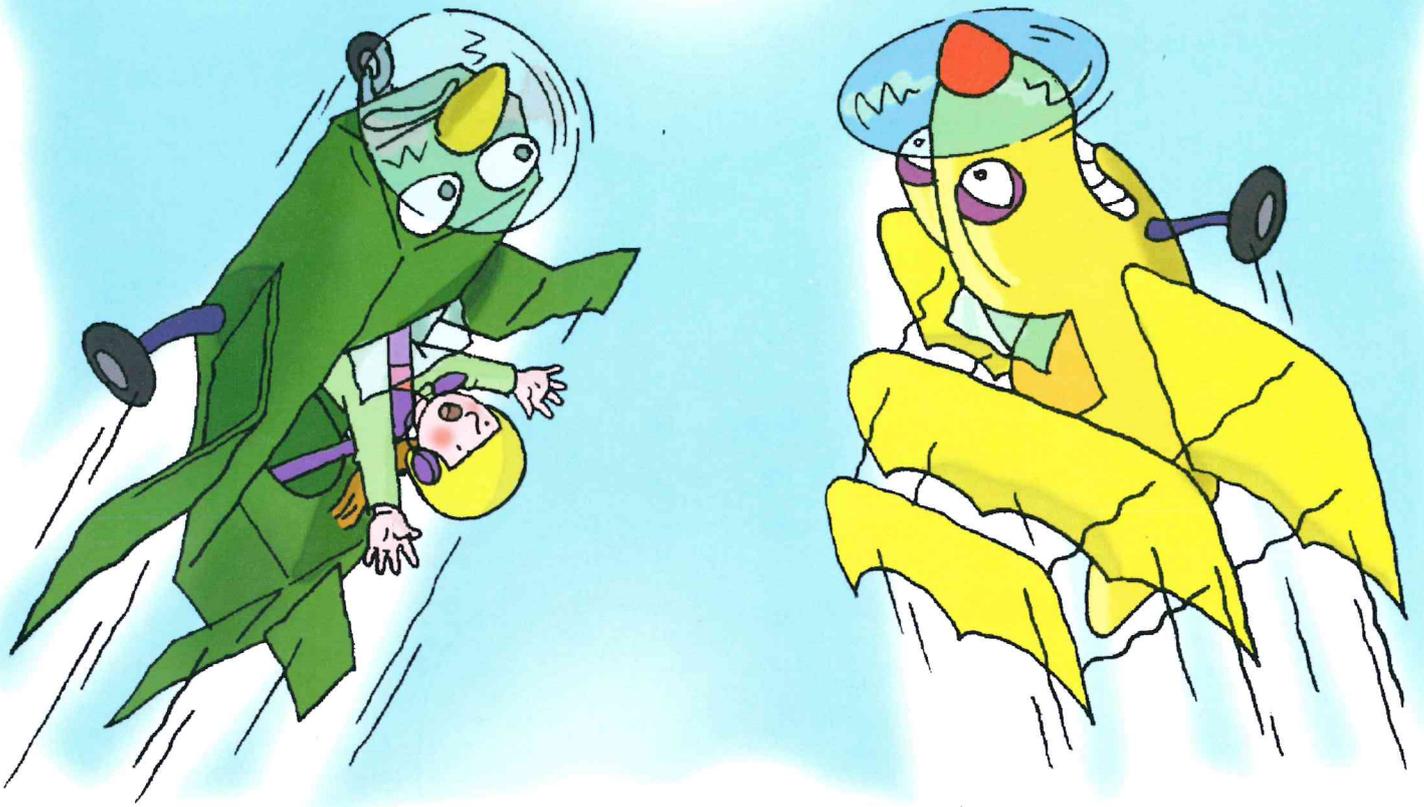
Chip looked anxiously at the control panel, but it was very confusing.

'Er...everyone,' he said, 'I think you ought to stop now; But the flying machines didn't take any notice.

Chip tried again. 'Can the yellow machine...er...no, I mean, the blue machine...go right...no left!'



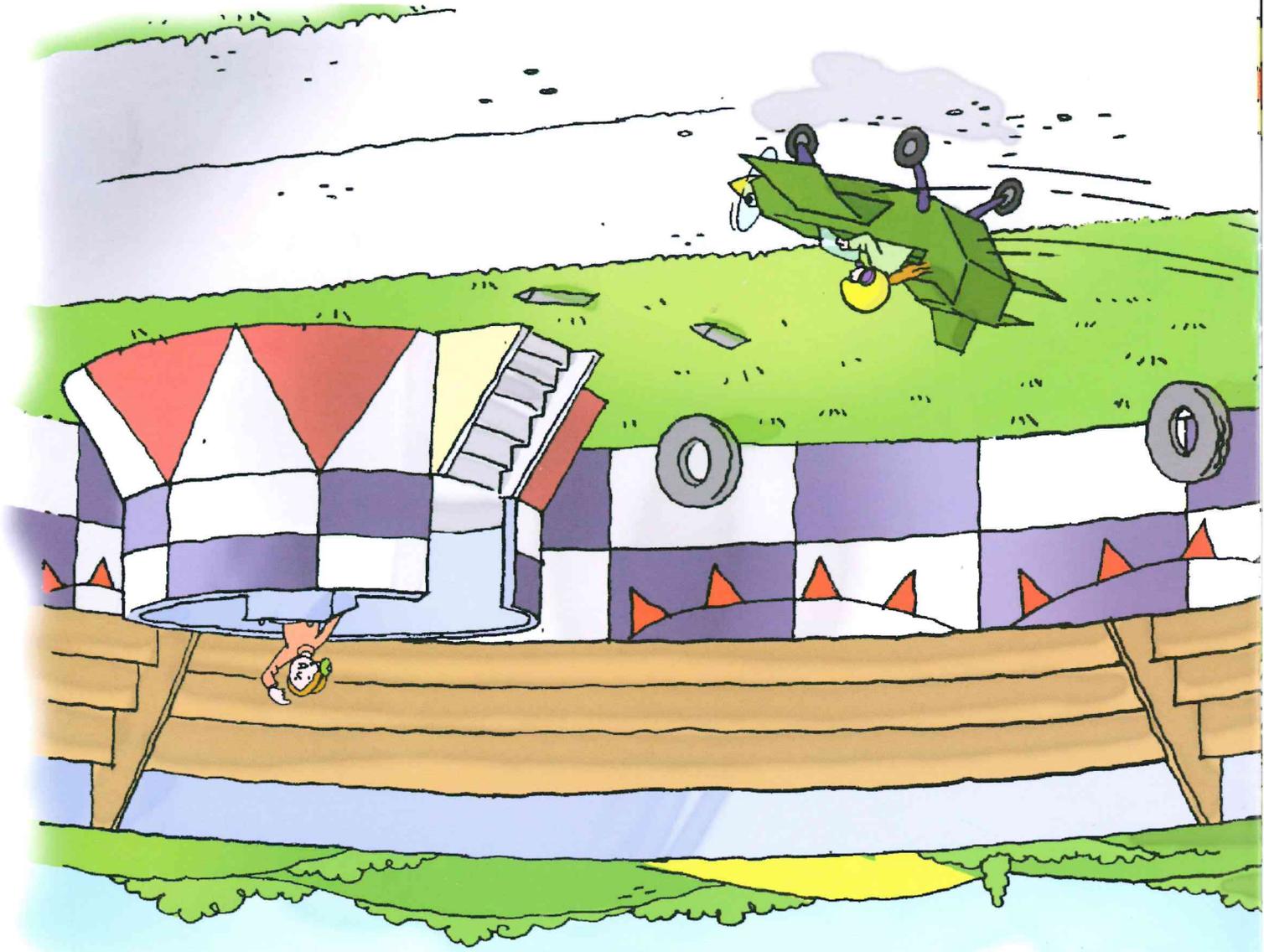
The machines didn't know which way they were supposed to go and soon the green and yellow planes were heading towards each other – spinning out of control!



Chip had to act fast!
'Stop it, green machine!' he said into the microphone. 'Slow down
and come in to land.'
The green plane came out of the dive and landed perfectly.



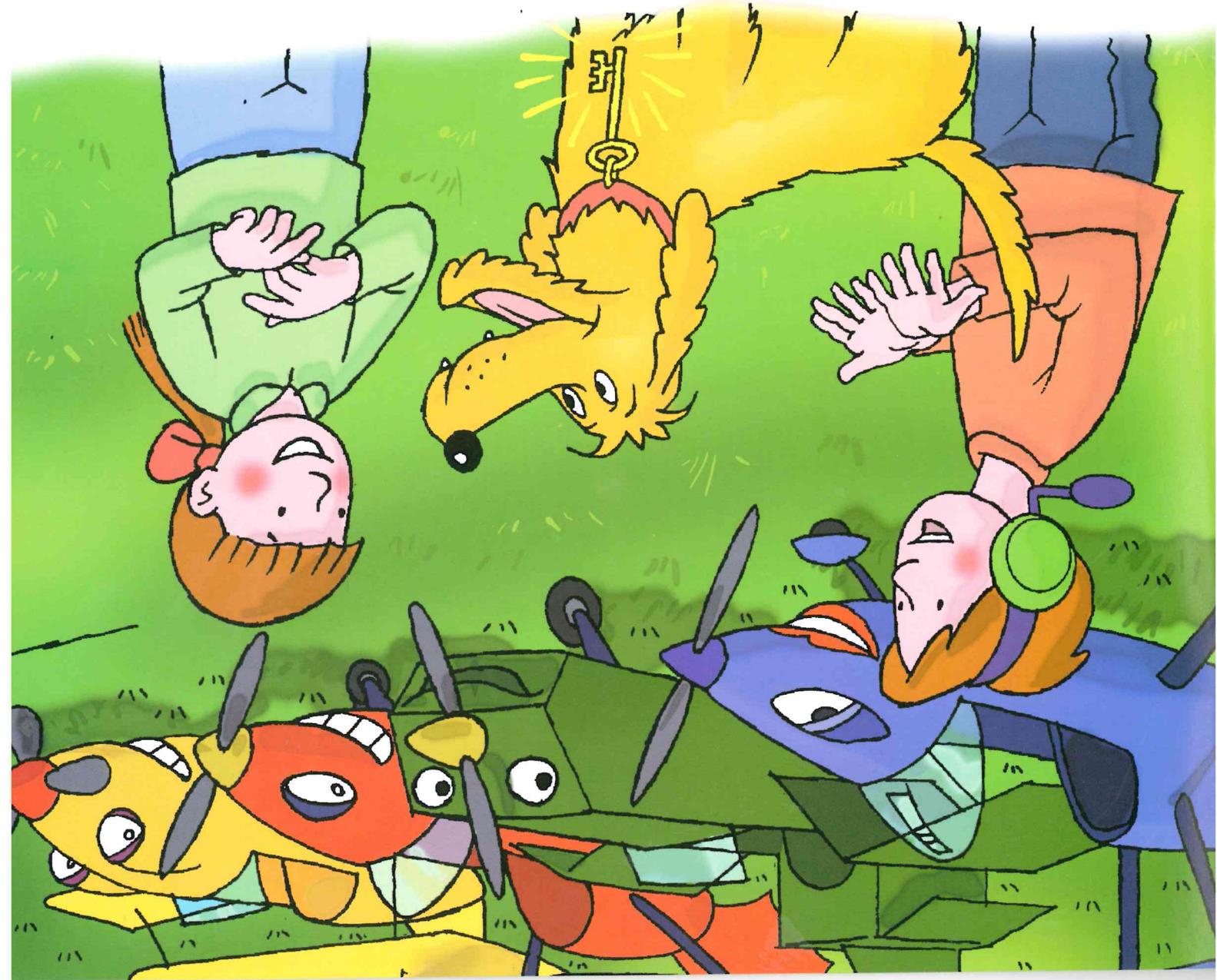
'Blue machine, time to finish!' he commanded. 'Turn right and land!'
The blue plane obeyed and came in to land.
'Yellow machine, slow down,' said Chip. 'Straighten up! Come in
to land!'
Chip breathed a sigh of relief as all the planes landed safely.





'Green machine passenger, leave the aircraft!' shouted Chip. 'I don't need telling!' said Biff as she jumped out of the green machine. Her legs were feeling very wobbly. 'Green machine passenger, walk over here!' said Chip – he was enjoying giving commands now! I think we've got the message, thought Floppy!

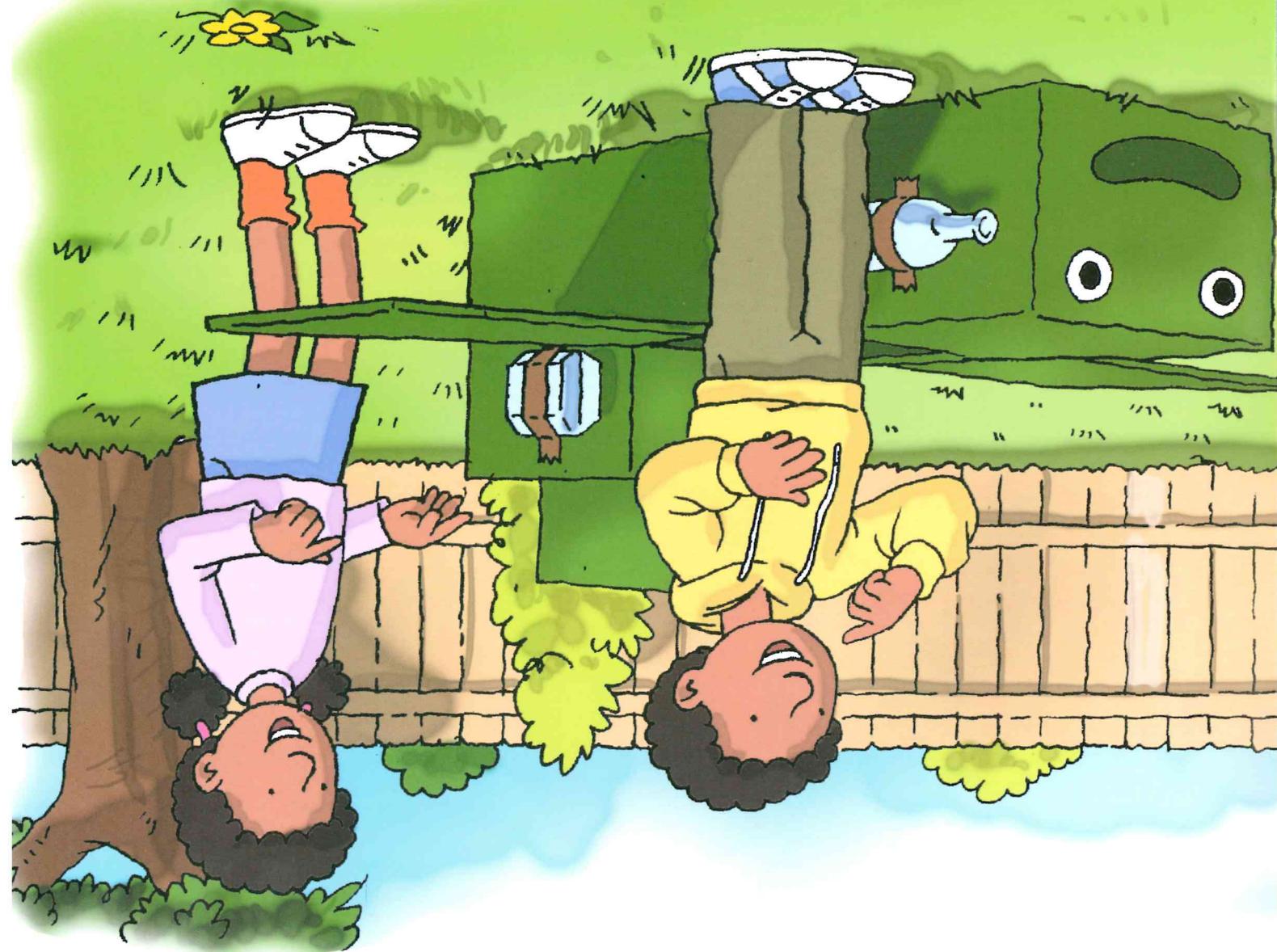
'Thanks, Chip,' said Biff. 'You were great!
'Yes, thanks!' cried the green machine. 'I can join the Flying
Circus now!
Chip turned to look at Floppy. 'The key's glowing,' he said.
We're going, thought Floppy.



They were back in the Robinsons' garden.
Chip decided to take control. 'Wilma, take that rug back to
Floppy's kennel, please,' he said, much to Floppy's delight!
Wilma did as she was told.



Kipper was looking at Chip's microphone. 'Can I have a go?' he asked.
Chip handed the microphone to Kipper. He spoke into it. 'The flying machine is ready for take off!' he said, and climbed in with Teddy. Chip laughed. 'Green machine; he said. 'Take off!'





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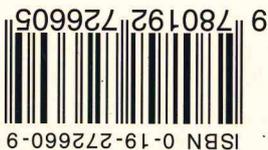
The Flying Circus

When the Magic Key on Floppy's collar starts to glow, the children are off on a new adventure, whizzed by magic to wonderful lands and faraway worlds.



Chip has to take control when he, Biff and Floppy find themselves in the middle of an airfield where four flying machines are lined up on the runway, waiting to take off. But once they're up in the air, will Chip be able to guide them down safely?

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