

Julia Donaldson

Oxford Reading Tree



# Usman's Books

Phonics

Songbirds





**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 do not recognise by saying the sounds of each letter pattern separately (e.g. b - oo - k), then running the sounds together quickly. If they find it difficult to say the sounds, say the sounds for them first, 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 do not recognise 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.



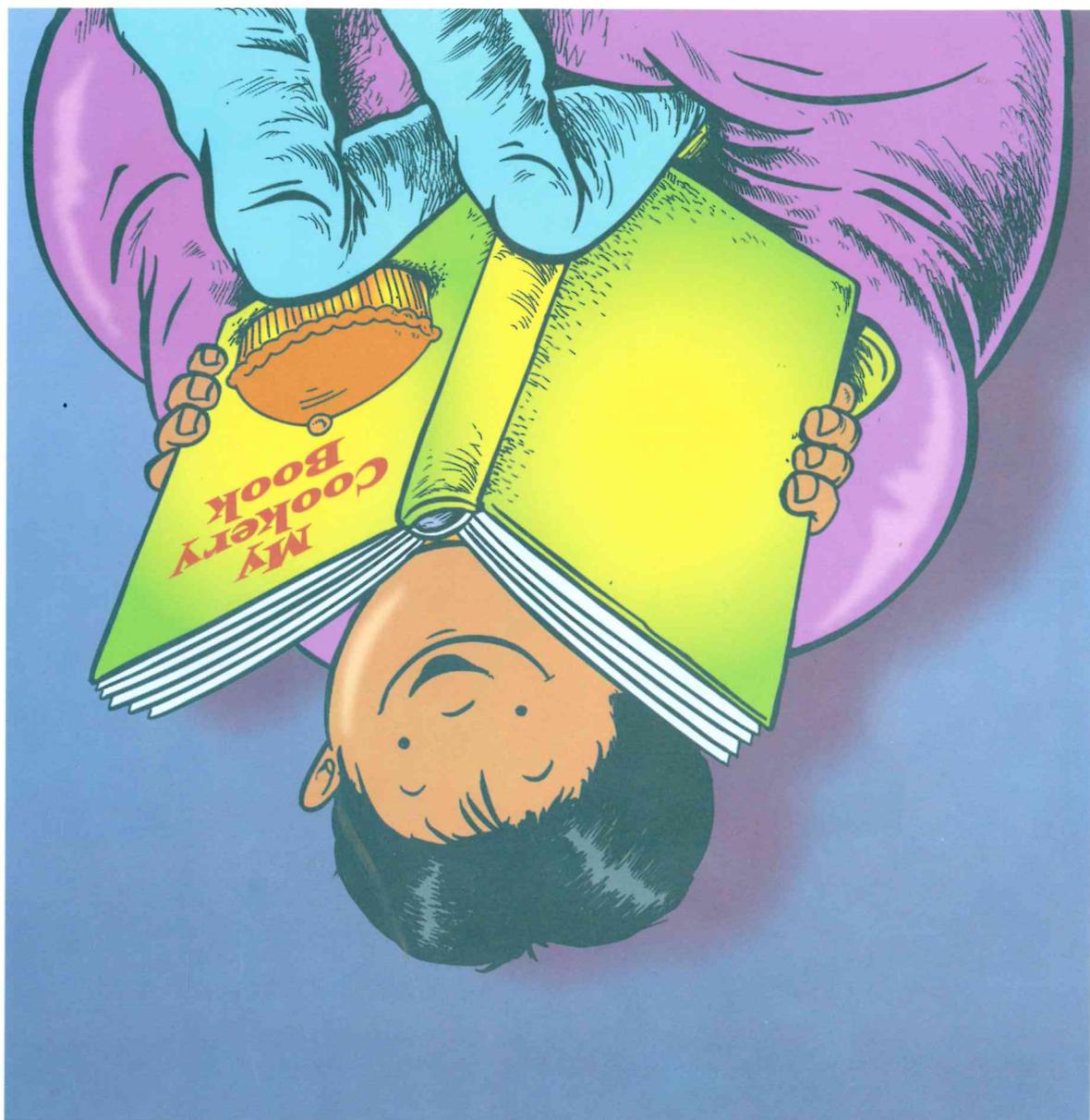
My name is Usman. This is  
my bookshelf.



I like reading my books.



I wish I could step into a book!



If I could step into this book...



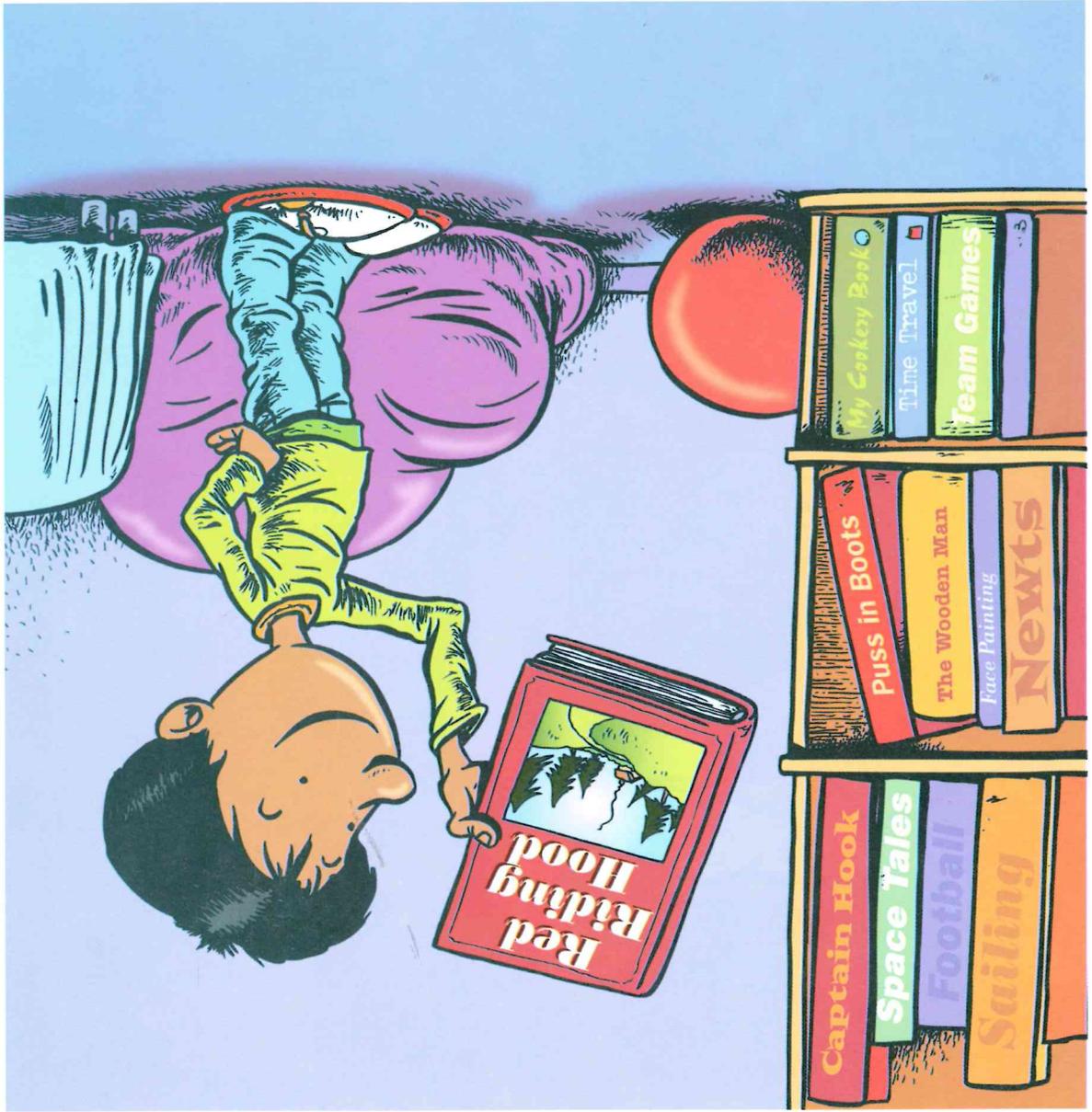
I would meet a cook.



I could put a hat on too

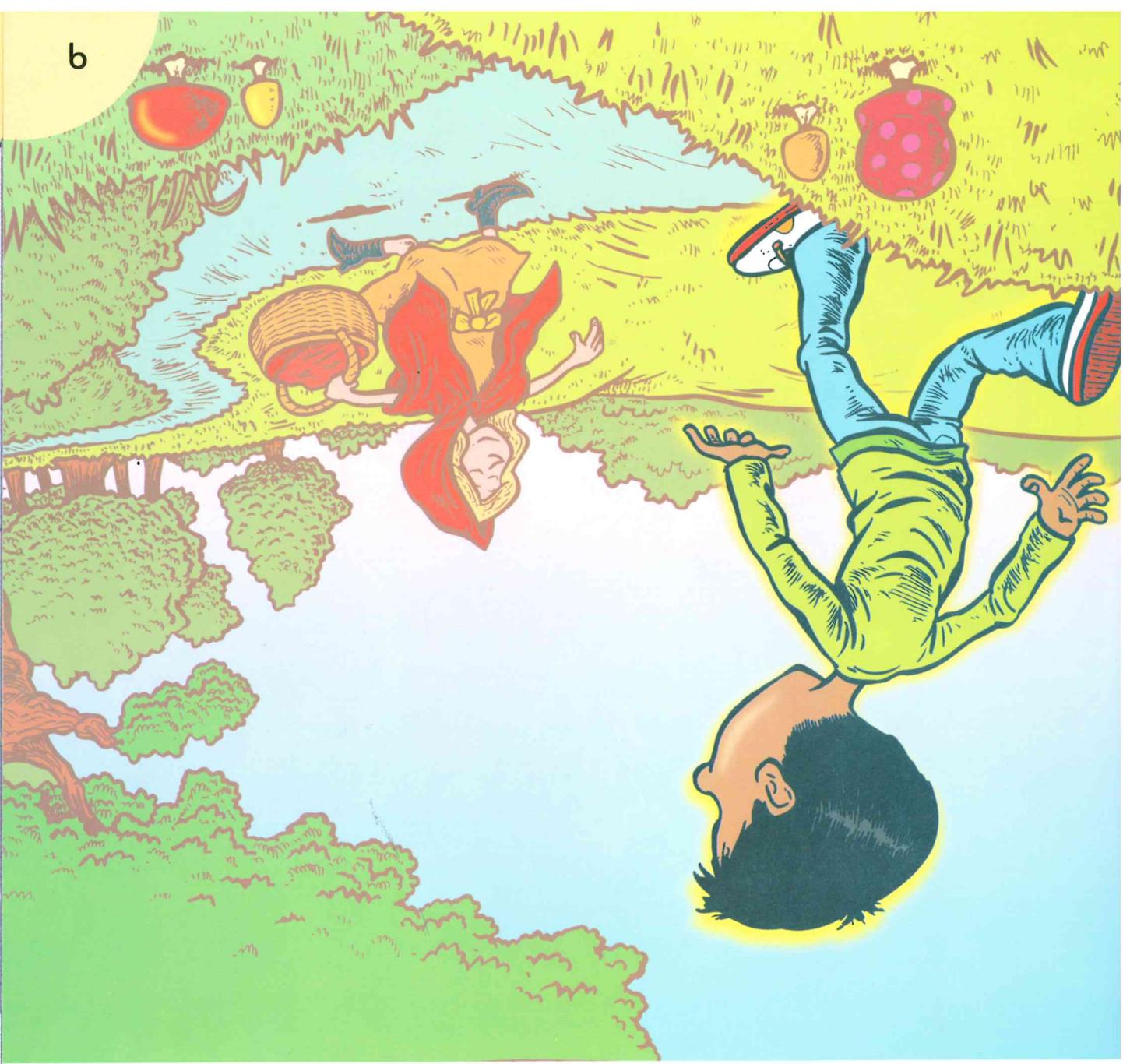


and we would cook a good pudding.



If I could step into this book...

b



I would meet Red Riding Hood.



I could help her carry her basket





If I could step into this book...



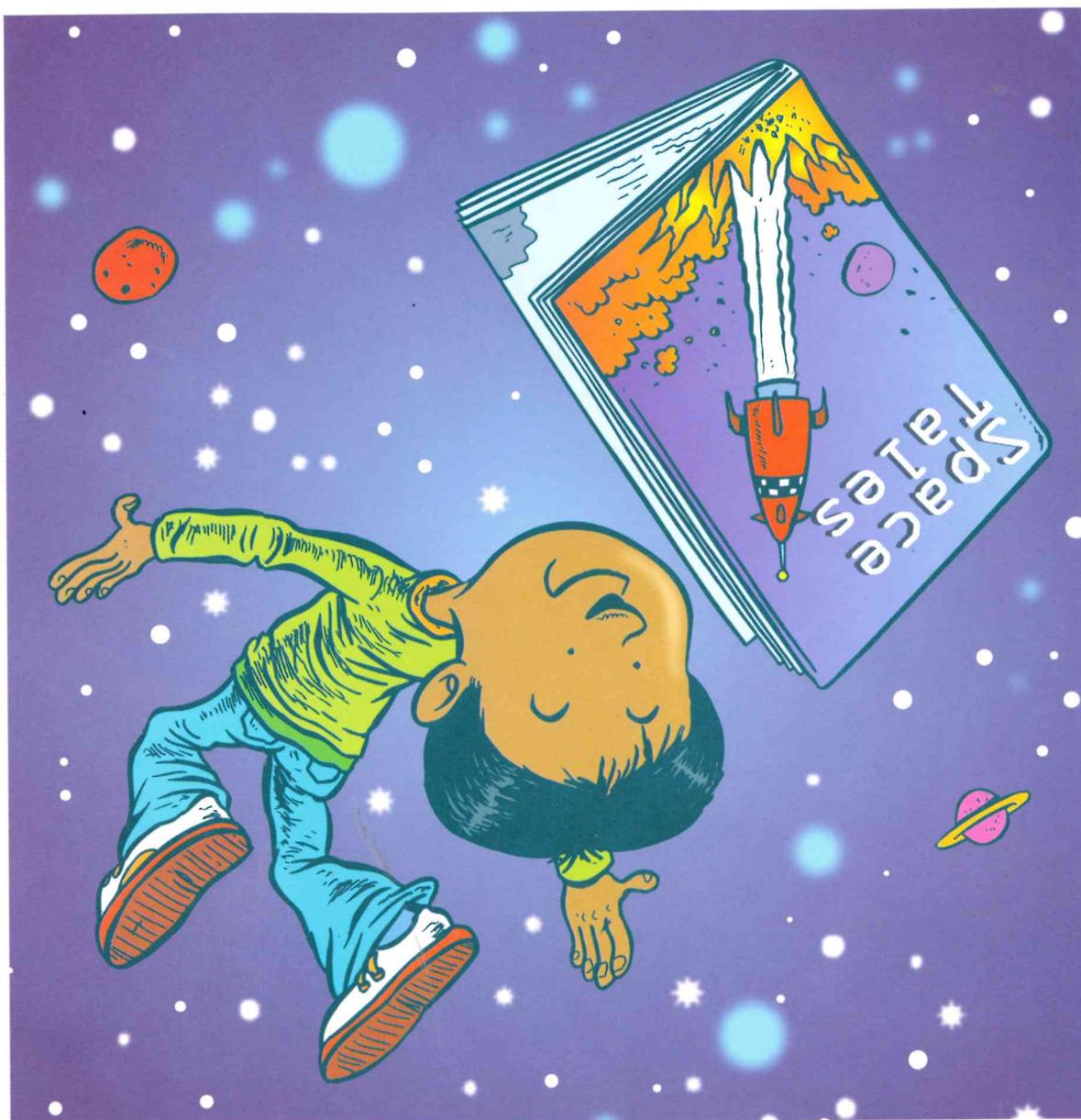
I would meet Puss in Boots.



I could pull on some boots too



and I would chase mice with him.



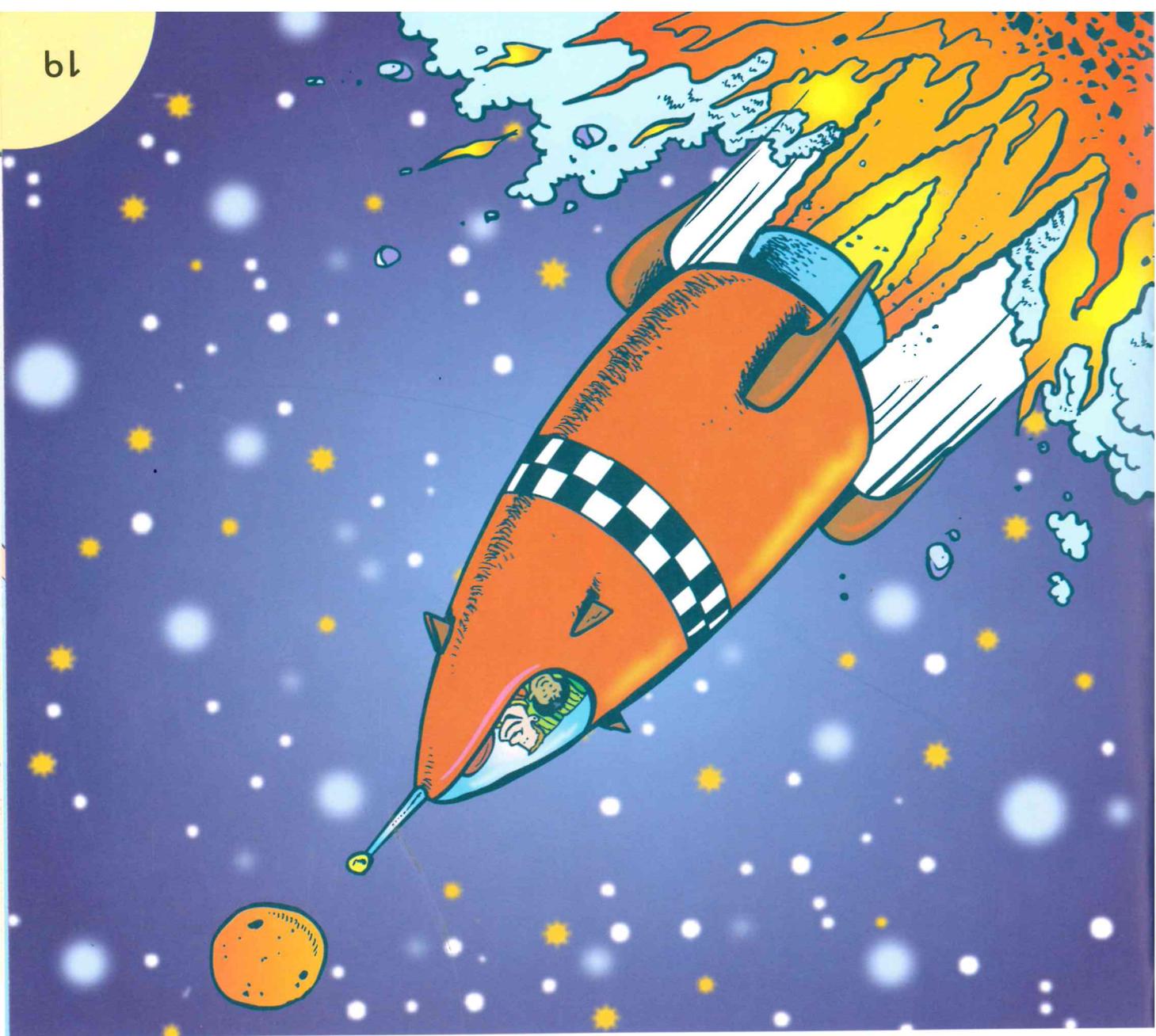
If I could fly into this book...



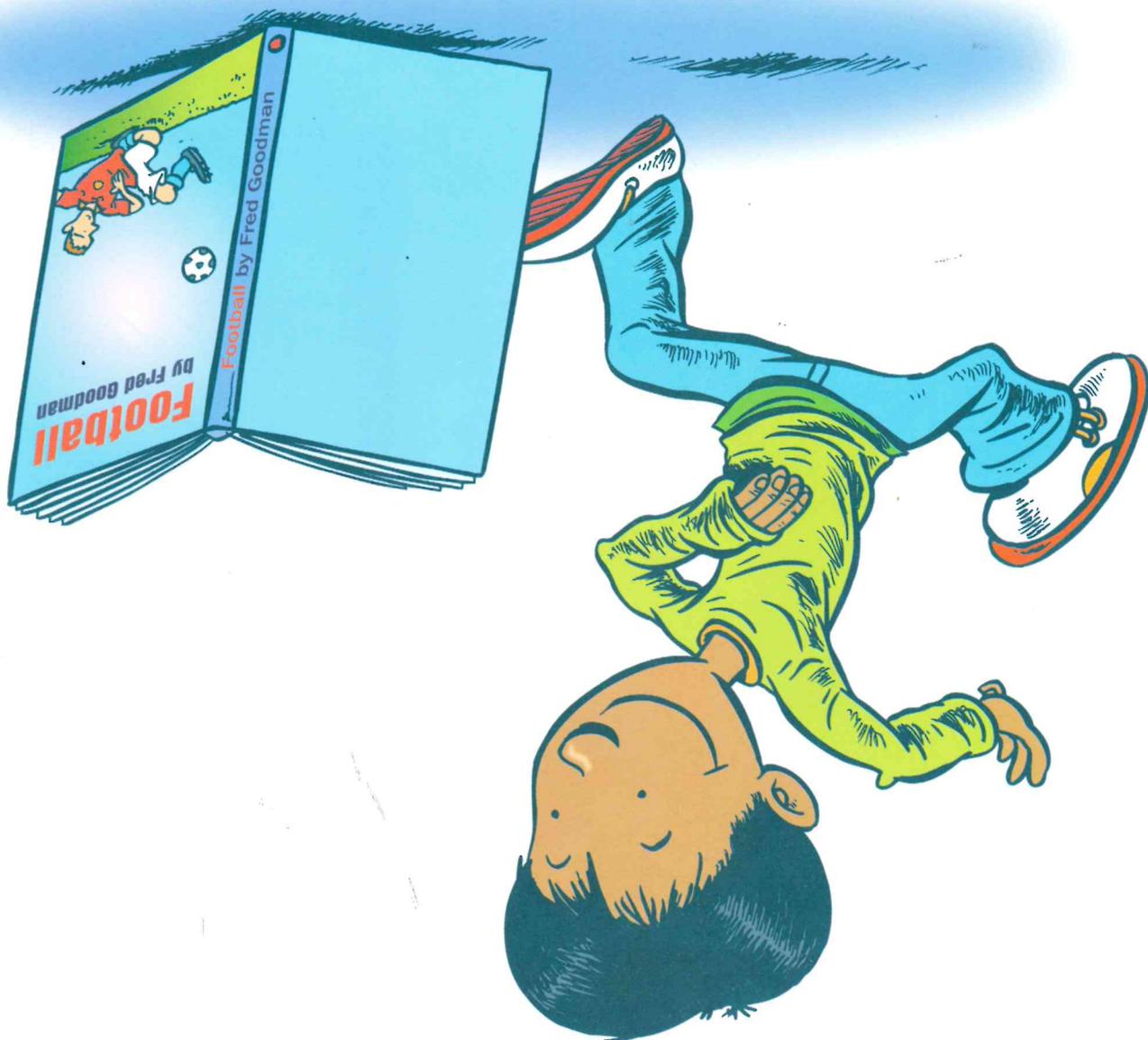
I would meet a spaceman.



I could put on a helmet too



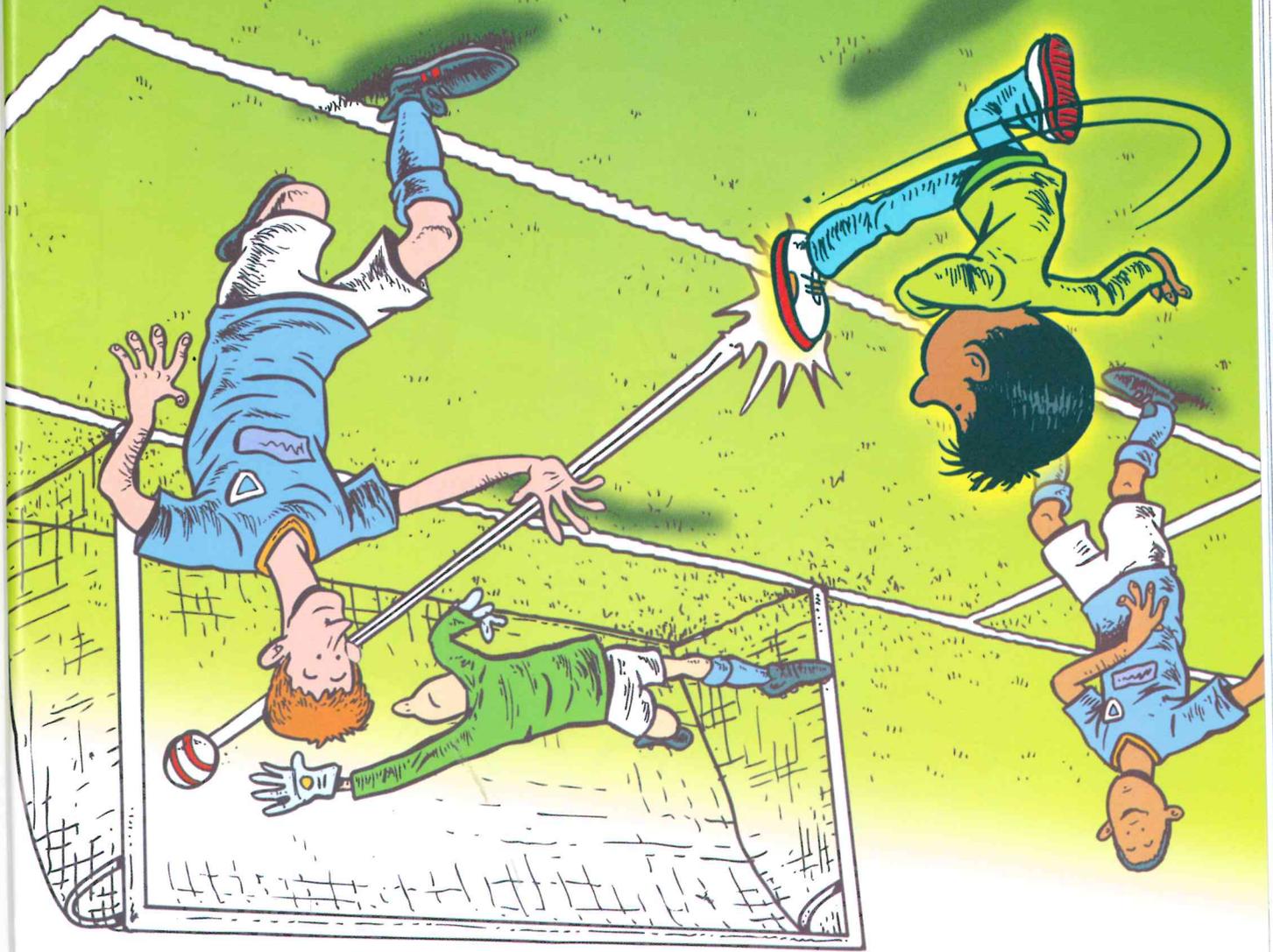
and we would whoosh to the moon in a rocket.



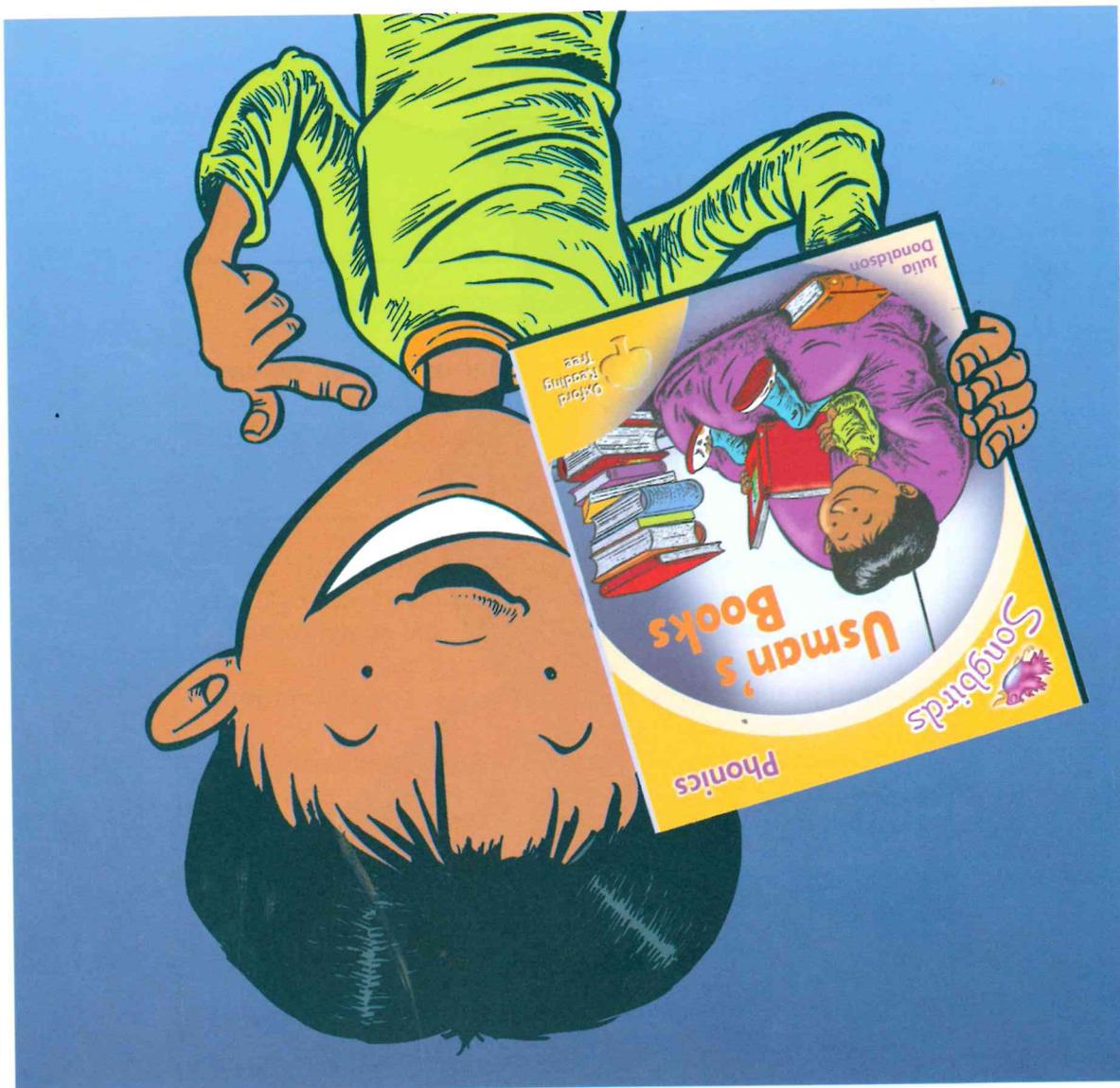
If I could run into this book...



I would meet a football team.



We would play football and I would kick the ball into the goal.



And if you could step into  
this book...



you would meet me!

### Check understanding

- Ask your child
- What would Usman like to do? Why? (Step into his books to meet the characters.)
  - What kind of book would you like to step into? Fiction or non-fiction? Modern or traditional? Why?

### Check knowledge of letter-pattern sounds

- Ask your child to
- Read pages 6 and 7. Find some words which contain the vowel sound oo as in *book* (*could, put, would, cook, good, pudding*).
  - Point to the letter pattern that makes the vowel sound oo as in *book* in these words (*oul, u, oo*).
  - Think of some words which contain the vowel sound oo as in *book* and try writing them on a piece of paper (e.g. *hook, look, took, good, hood, push, full*).

**Example phonic words:** bookshelf books book  
cooker cook good Hood woodcutter could would  
put pudding Puss pull

**Context words:** ball basket football her some the

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Guided Reading Cards also available

Stage 5 Songbirds Class Pack (six of each title)

Stage 5 Songbirds Pack of 6 (one of each title)

Available in packs

No Milk Today

Leroy

The Upside-down Browns

Usman's Books

The Cinderella Play

Sue Kangaroo

Stage 5 Songbirds

Focus Phonics  
oo (as in good)  
Letter Pattern  
oo ou u



What would happen if  
Usman could step inside  
one of his books?

Story by Julia Donaldson • Pictures by Martin Chatterton  
Series editor Clare Kirtley

# Usman's Books



Phonics

Stage 5 Songbirds

