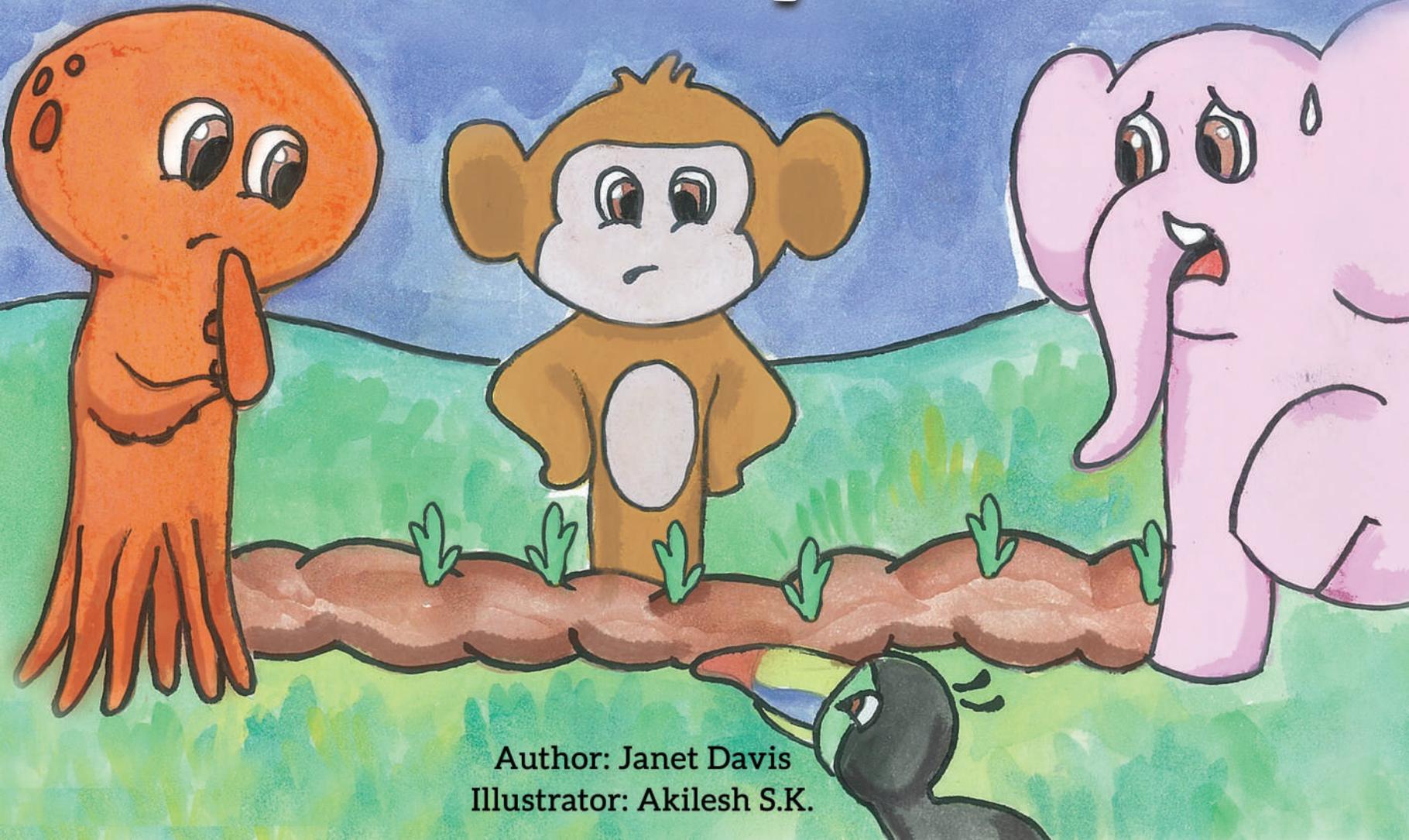


Flinto & Friends:

Where is My Carrot?



Author: Janet Davis
Illustrator: Akilesh S.K.

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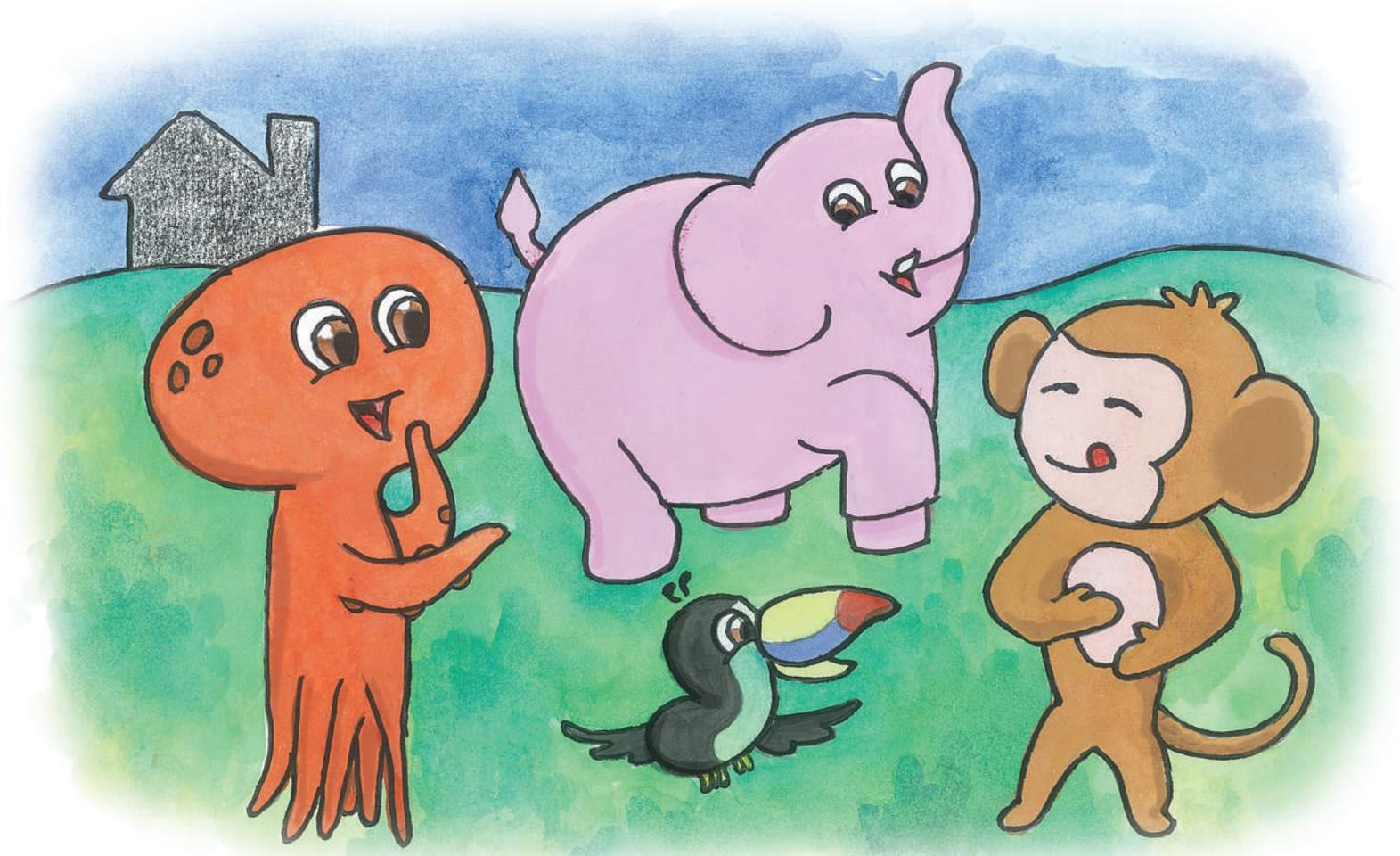
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Flinto the octopus, Mia the toucan, Benji the monkey, and Bobo the elephant were returning from a dinner at their dear friend's place.

"The food was excellent!" said Benji, rubbing his round tummy.

"Yes, all because the vegetables were fresh. Myna grows them all in her backyard," said Mia.

"Maybe we should try growing our own vegetables too," suggested Flinto.



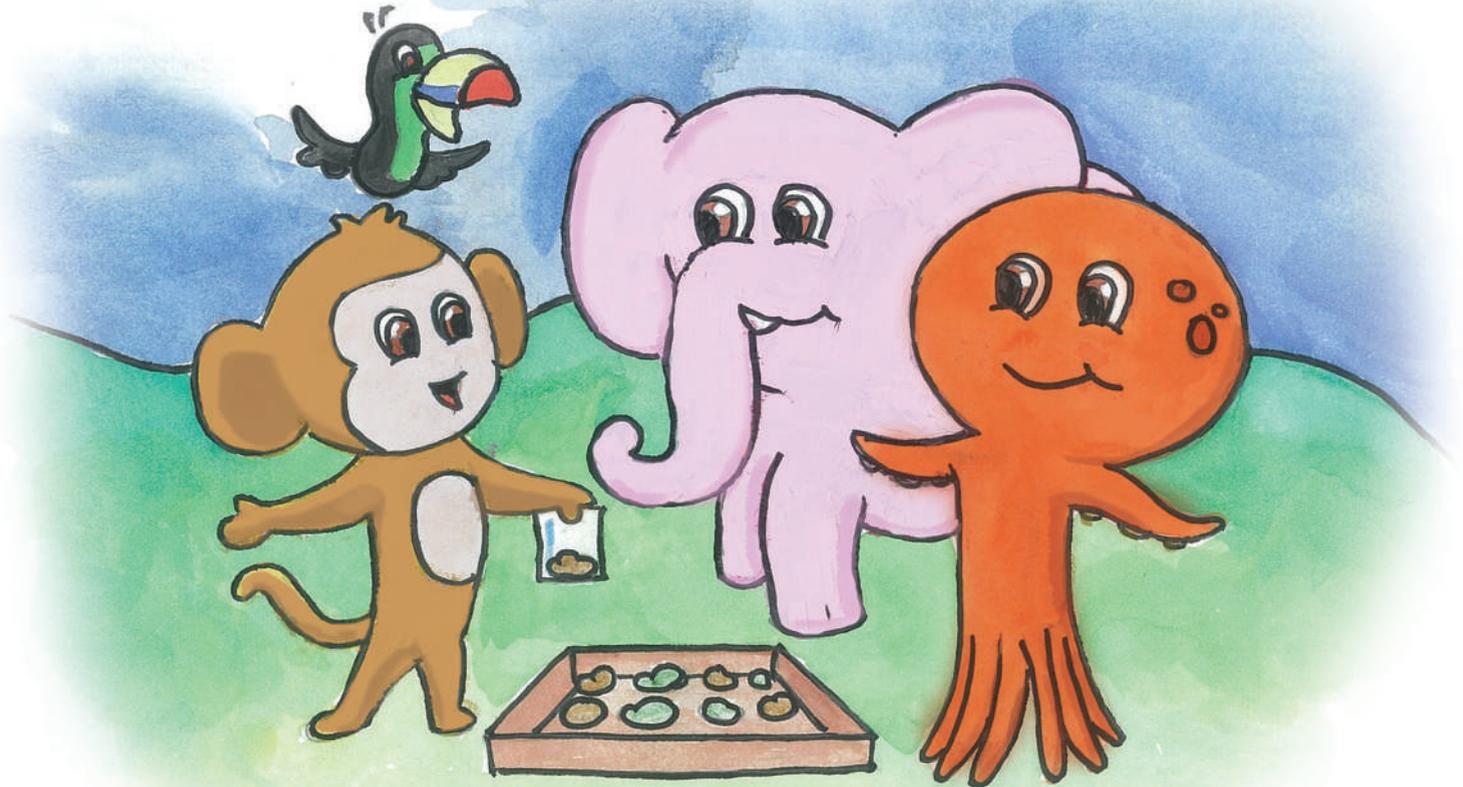
Loving the idea of growing their own vegetables, the four friends went to the market to buy some seeds, the very next day.

“I love carrots,” said Bobo. “They are very crunchy.”

“I’ll grow spinach,” said Flinto. “It makes me strong.”

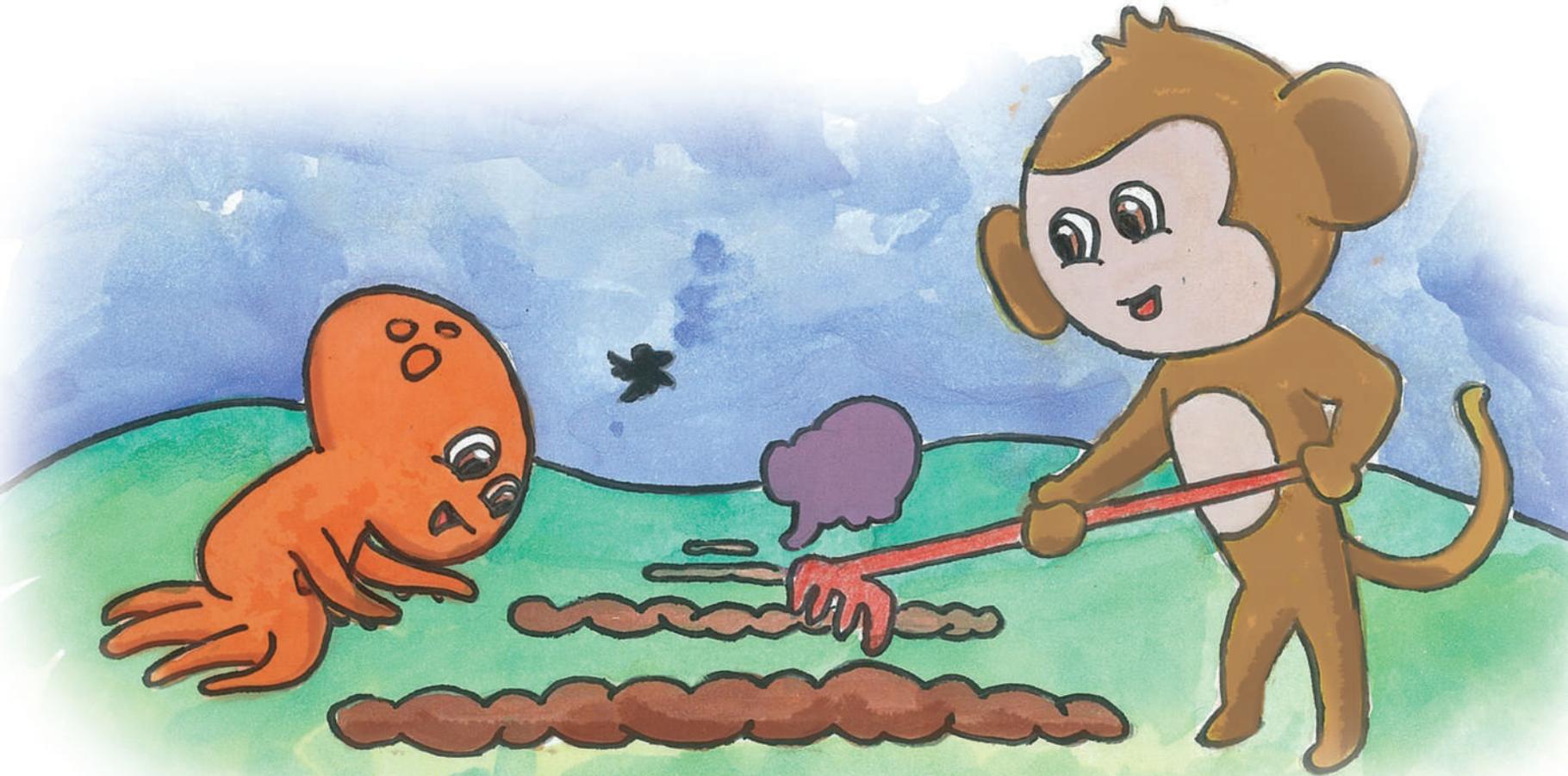
“I’m going to grow some beans,” said Mia. “I can make a delicious salad with them.”

“And I think, I will grow some peas,” decided Benji. “They are so tasty!”



They carefully raked the soil and planted their seeds. They also took turns to water the plants regularly.

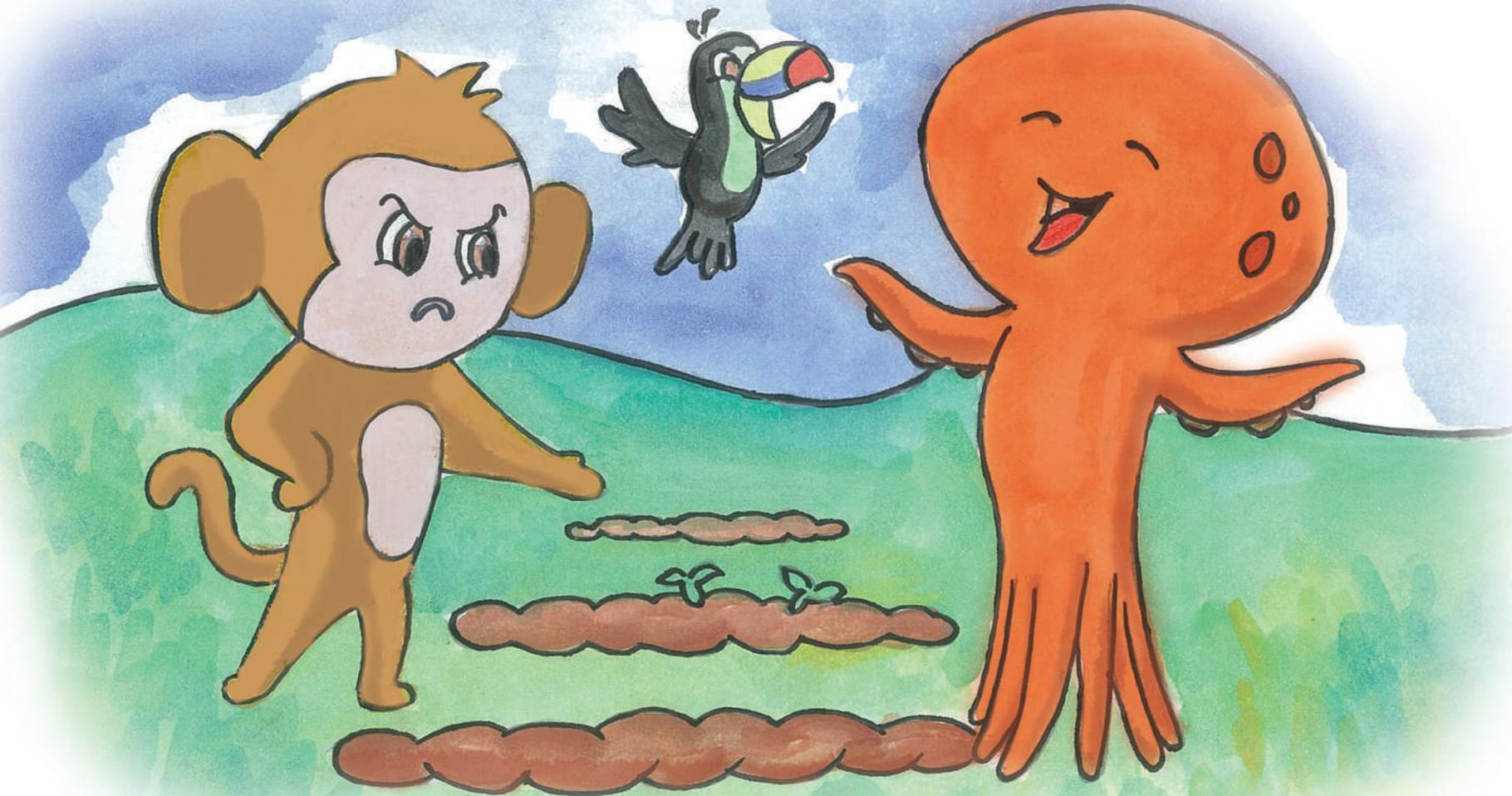
Each day, they checked their vegetable patch eagerly to see if there was any progress.



Soon enough, small green shoots started coming out of the soil. Flinto was the first to get excited as he could see the spinach growing.

“When are my peas going to come?” asked Benji, a little jealous of Flinto’s greens.

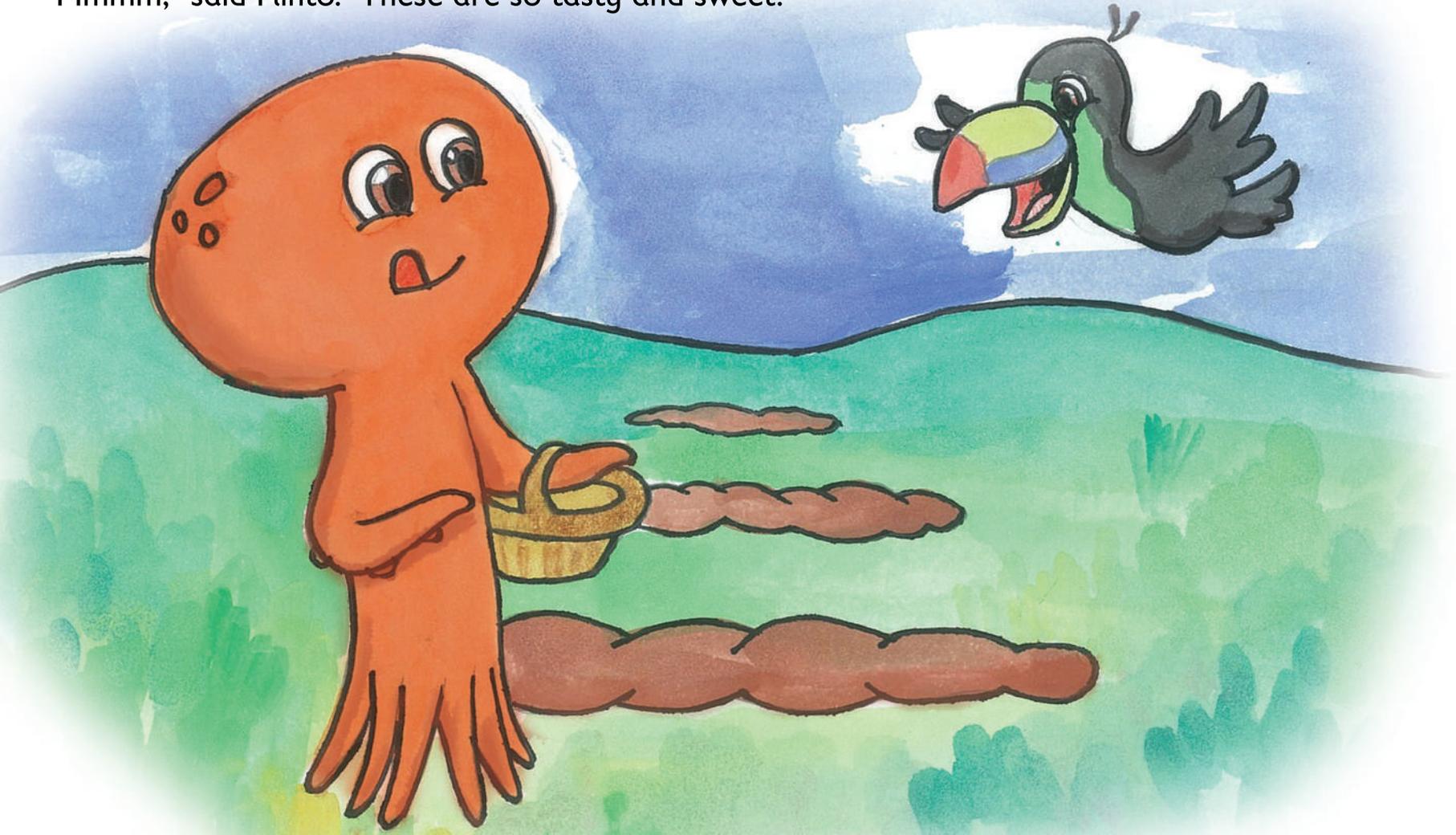
“Have patience Benji, they will come soon,” assured Mia.



After a few weeks, the plants were finally fully grown and the four friends were eager to taste their produce.

First, they tasted Mia's beans. They were so fresh that they needn't be cooked.

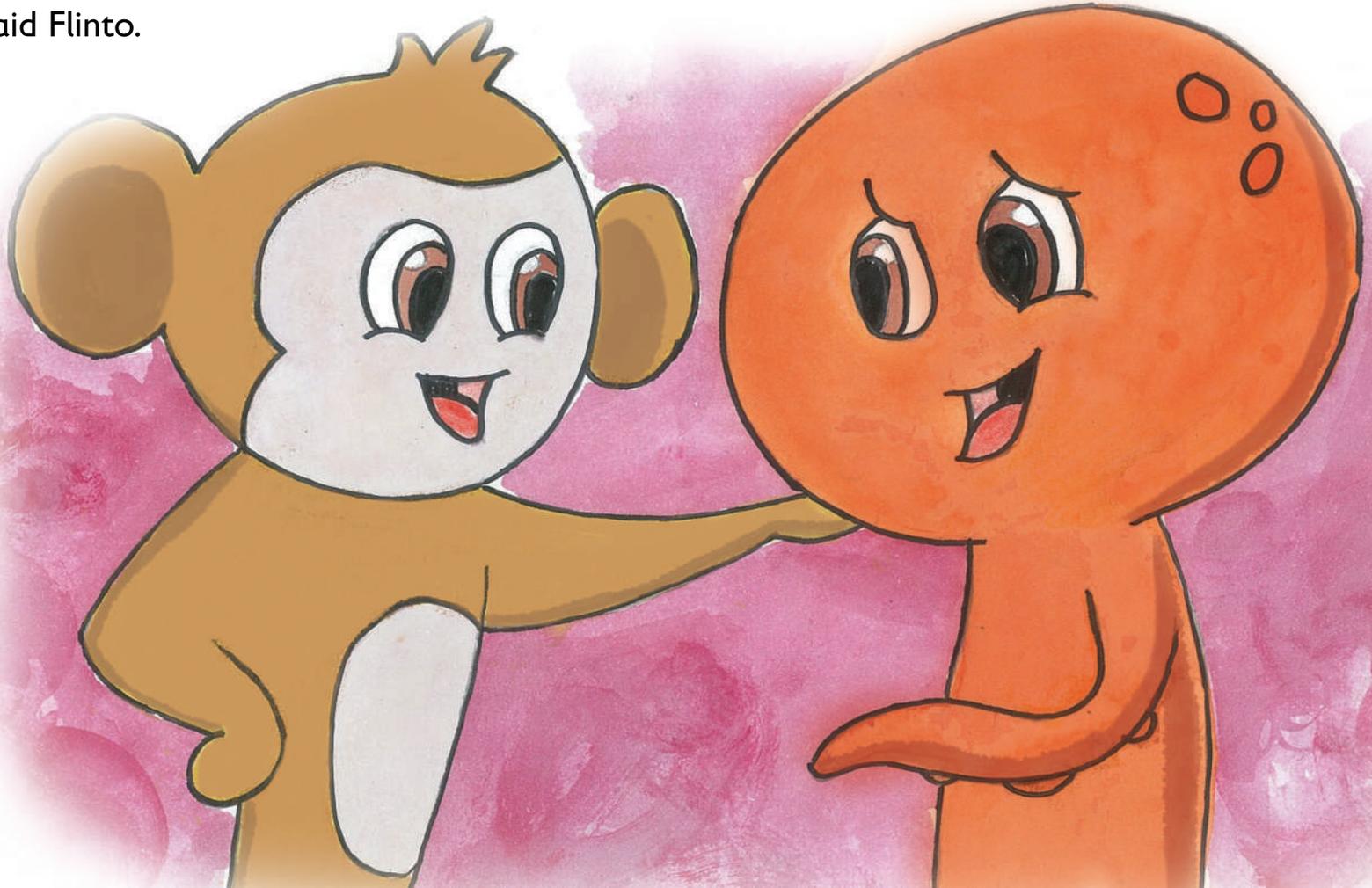
"Mmmm," said Flinto. "These are so tasty and sweet!"



Next, they tried Benji's peas. They popped them out of the pod and gobbled them up. "My peas are round, crunchy, and delicious," said Benji proudly.

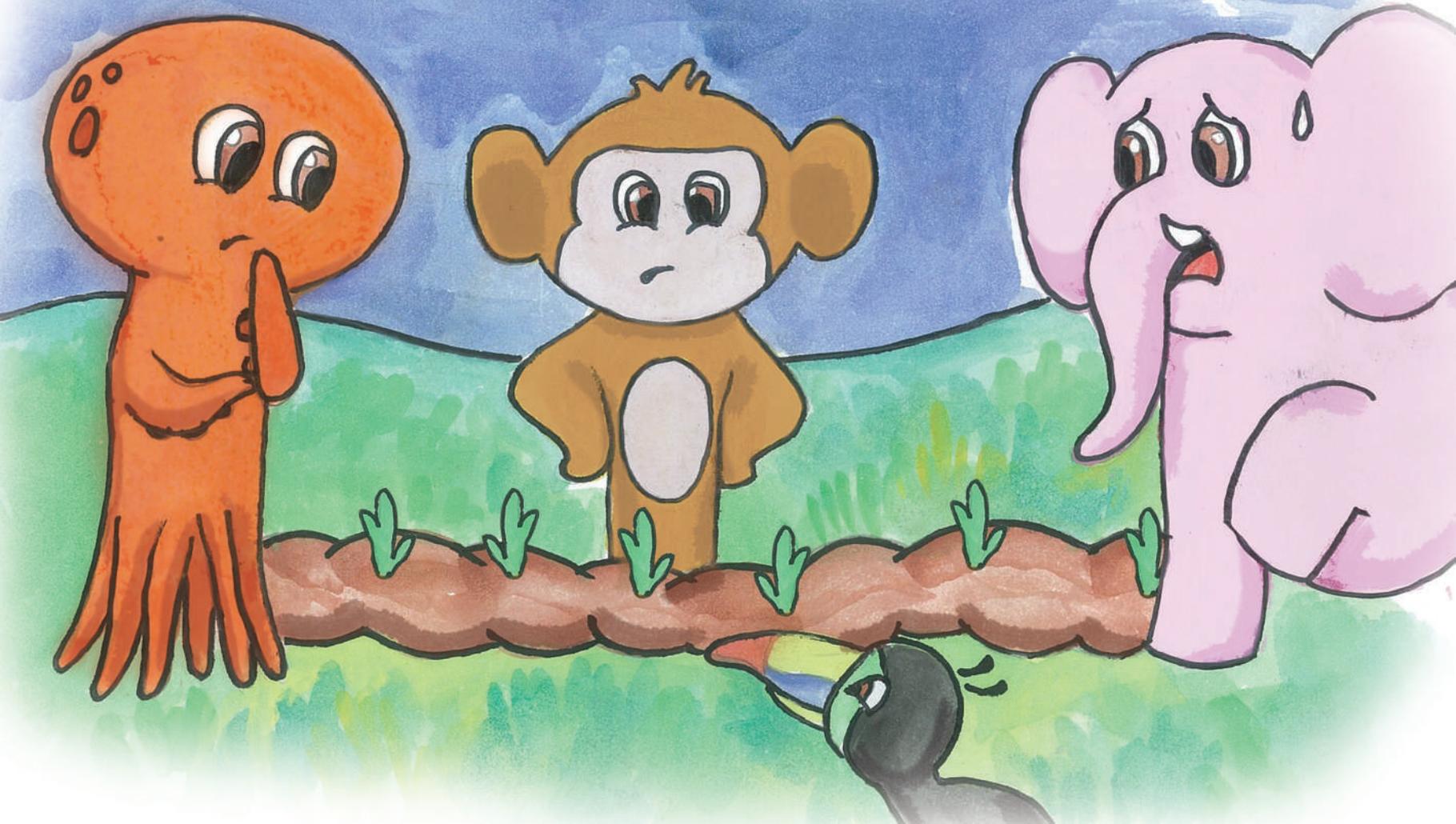
Then, they picked Flinto's spinach.

Next, they picked the spinach. "I will cook some for dinner tonight. Everyone's invited!" said Flinto.



The four then stared at the place where Bobo had planted his carrot seeds. There were long, green, feathery leaves growing out of the soil...but no carrots.

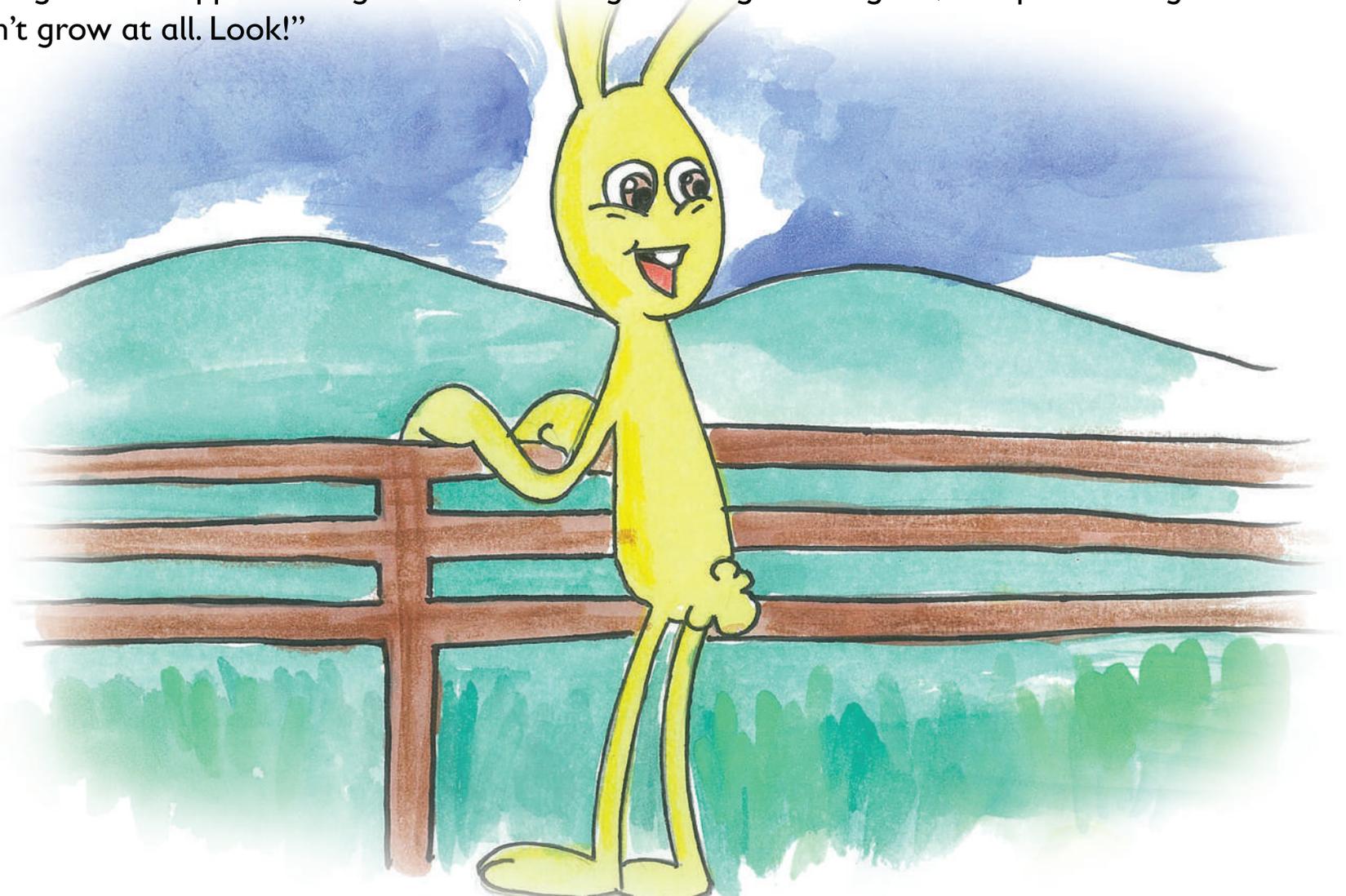
“Where are my carrots?” asked Bobo with concern. “Maybe they sold me the wrong seeds! Do you think someone stole my carrots?”



Just then, they saw Mo the rabbit walking down the road.

“Hey everyone, how are the veggies growing?” he asked.

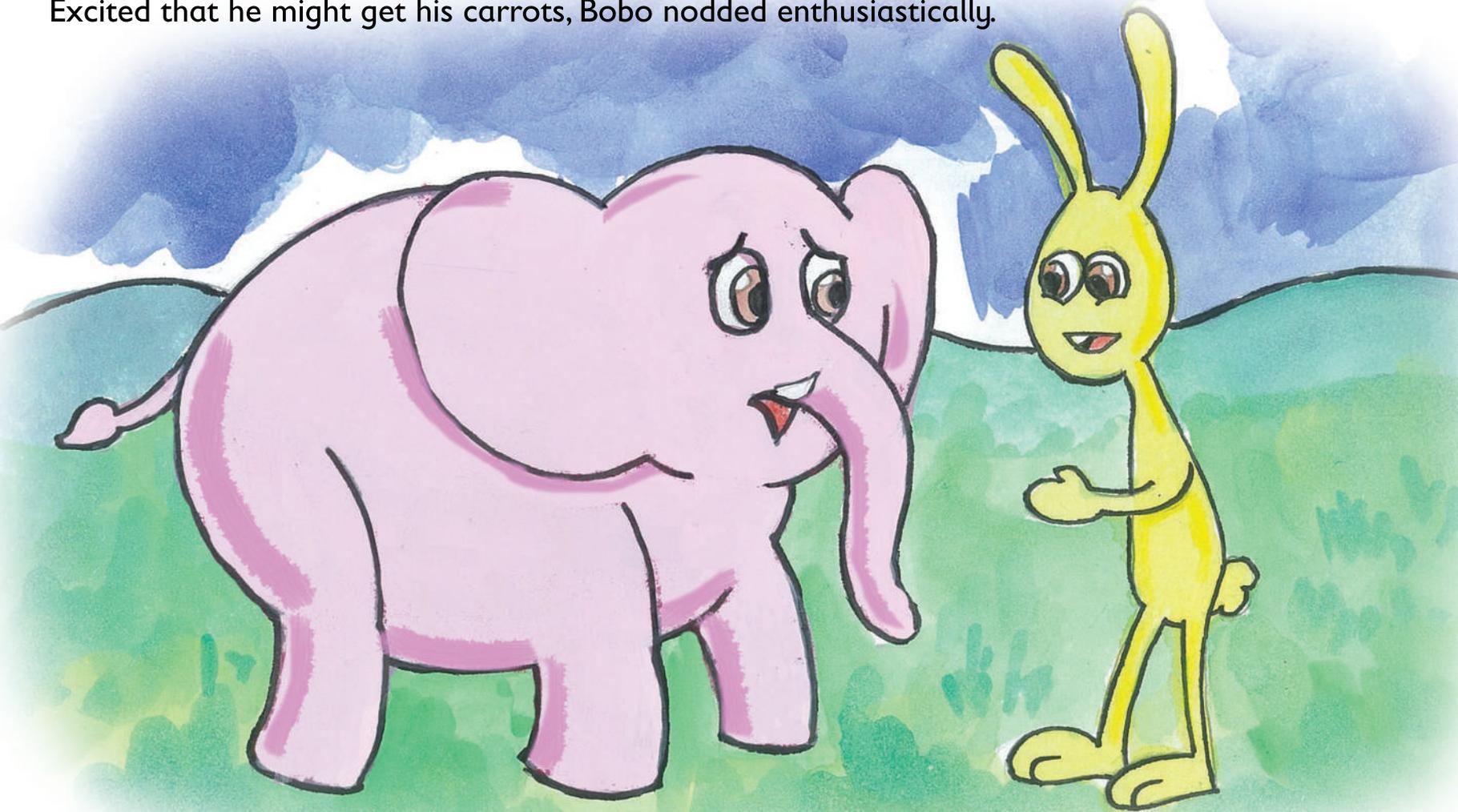
Bobo gave a disappointed sigh and said, “Everyone’s vegetables grew, except mine. My carrots didn’t grow at all. Look!”



Mo leaned over the fence to look at Bobo's patch and smiled.

"I will help you find your carrots, if you will share one with me," said Mo.

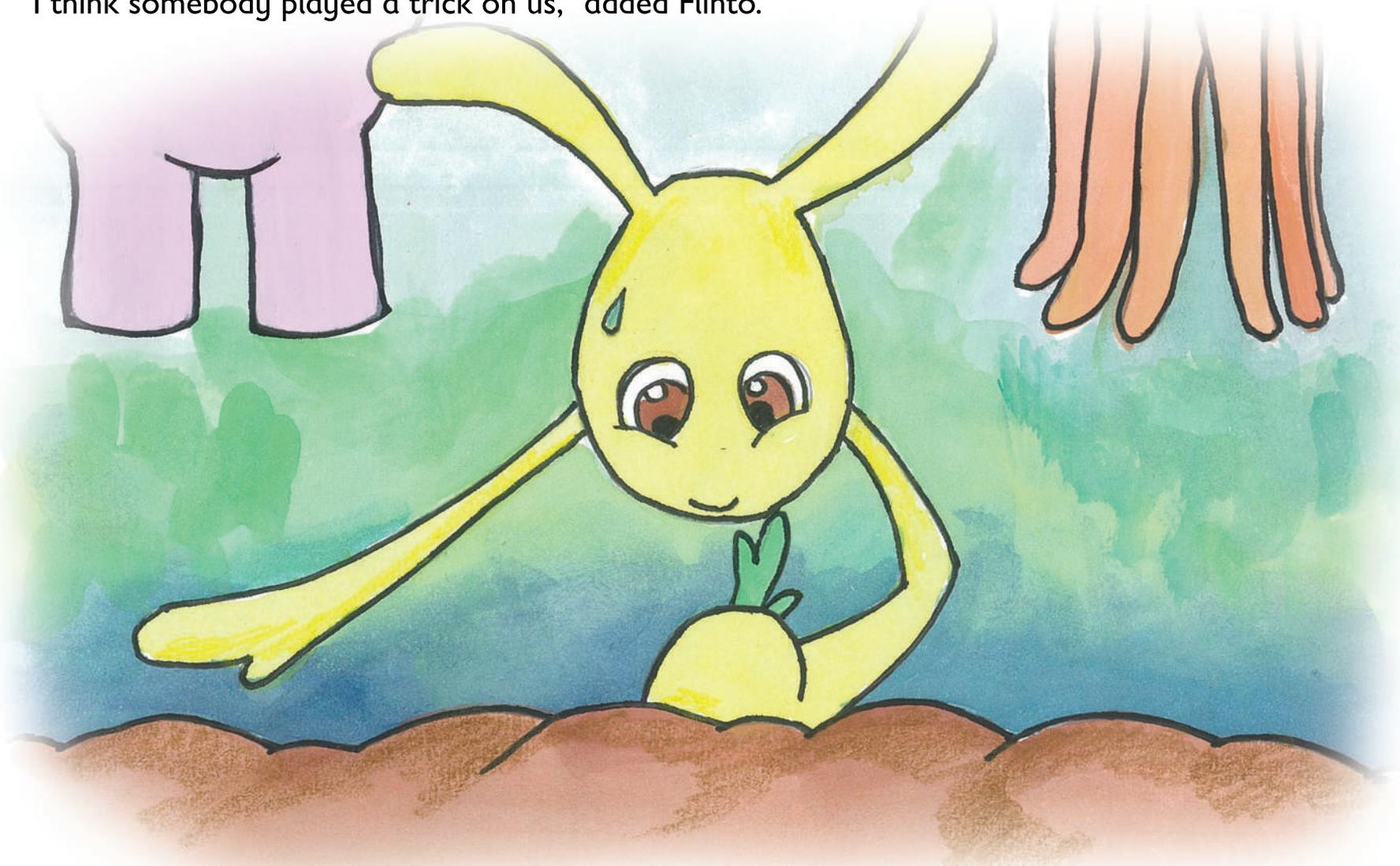
Excited that he might get his carrots, Bobo nodded enthusiastically.



Mo started digging. He dug carefully around the long, green, feathery leaves.

“Who hid my carrots under the soil?” asked Bobo, surprised.

“I think somebody played a trick on us,” added Flinto.



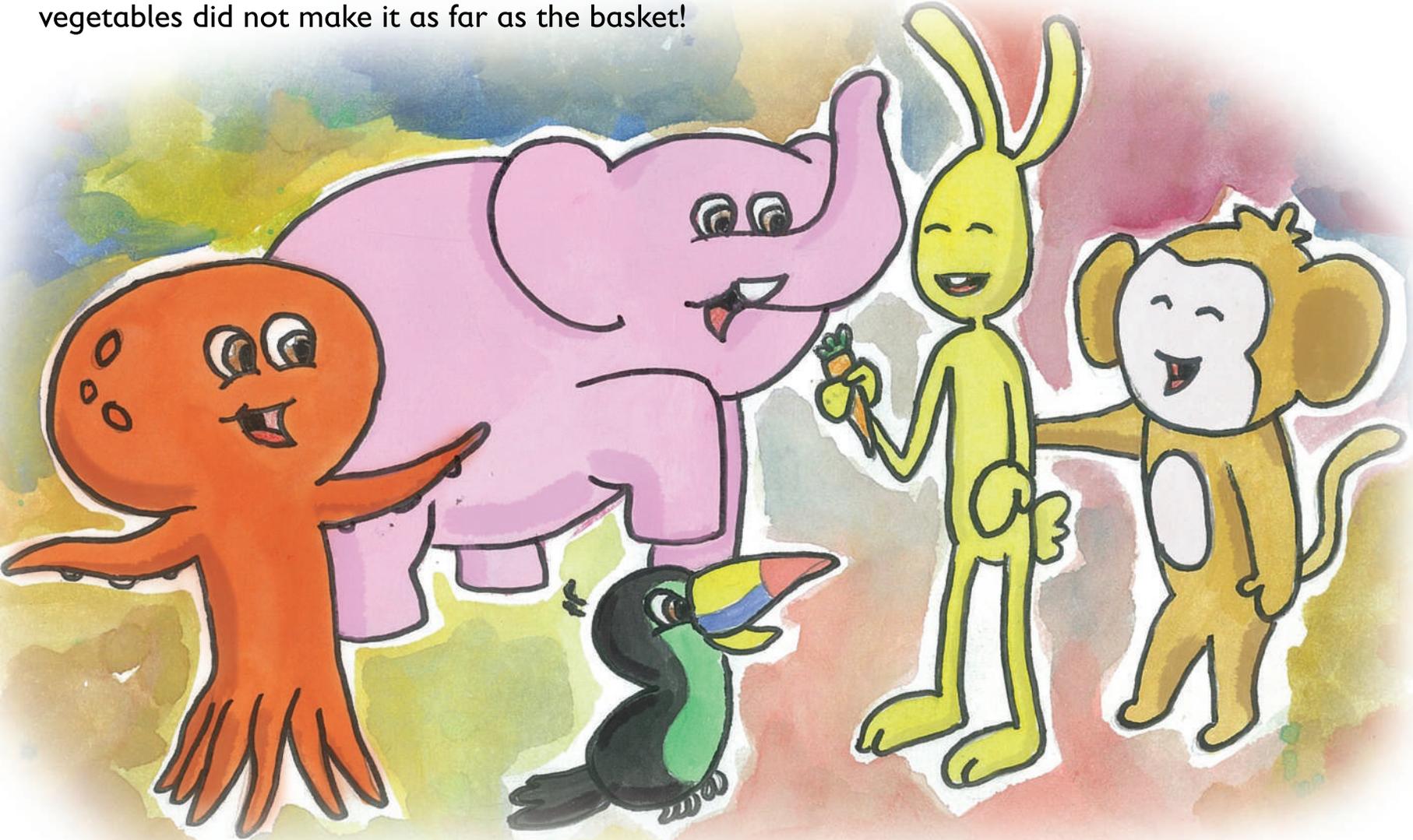
Mo dug some more and pulled the long, green, feathery leaves and there...a carrot came out of the soil!

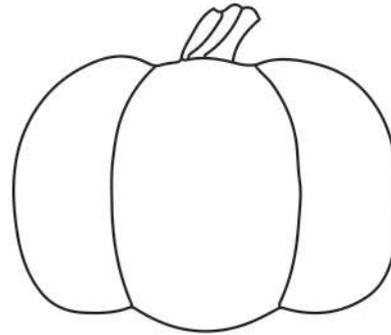
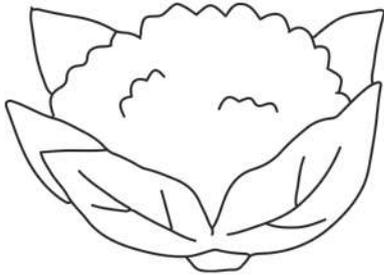
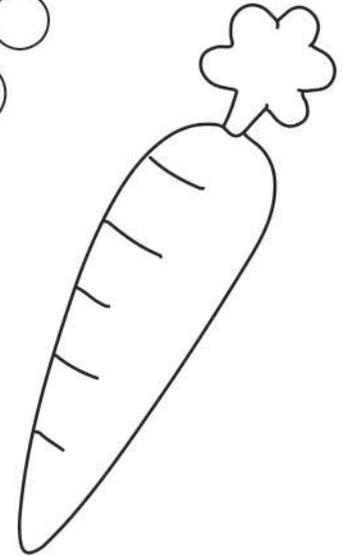
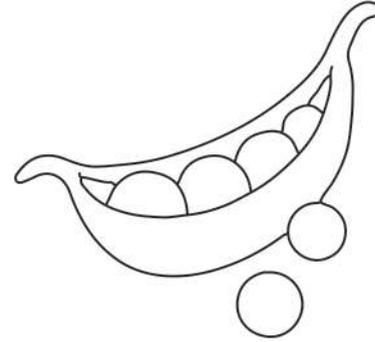
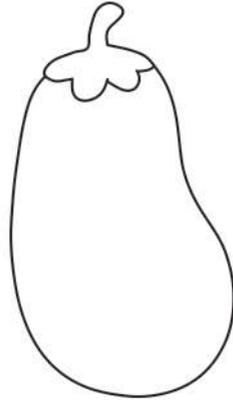
“Nobody hid them,” explained Mo. “Vegetables such as carrots, potatoes, and radishes grow under the soil and you have to dig them out. They are called root vegetables. And yes, we eat the roots,” he said with a smile.



“Thank you Mo,” said Bobo handing over a carrot, which Mo enjoyed with a crunch, even without brushing off the soil.

The friends collected all the vegetables for a good dinner. But don't tell anyone... some of the vegetables did not make it as far as the basket!





COLOUR & NAME THE VEGGIES

Ans: Turnip, Brinjal, Peas, Carrot, Cauliflower, Pumpkin

In a patch of land, Flinto, Benji, Mia, and Bobo sow seeds of spinach, peas, beans, and carrots. Soon, it's time to harvest the vegetables. The four friends are all excited until they notice the carrots have gone missing...

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