

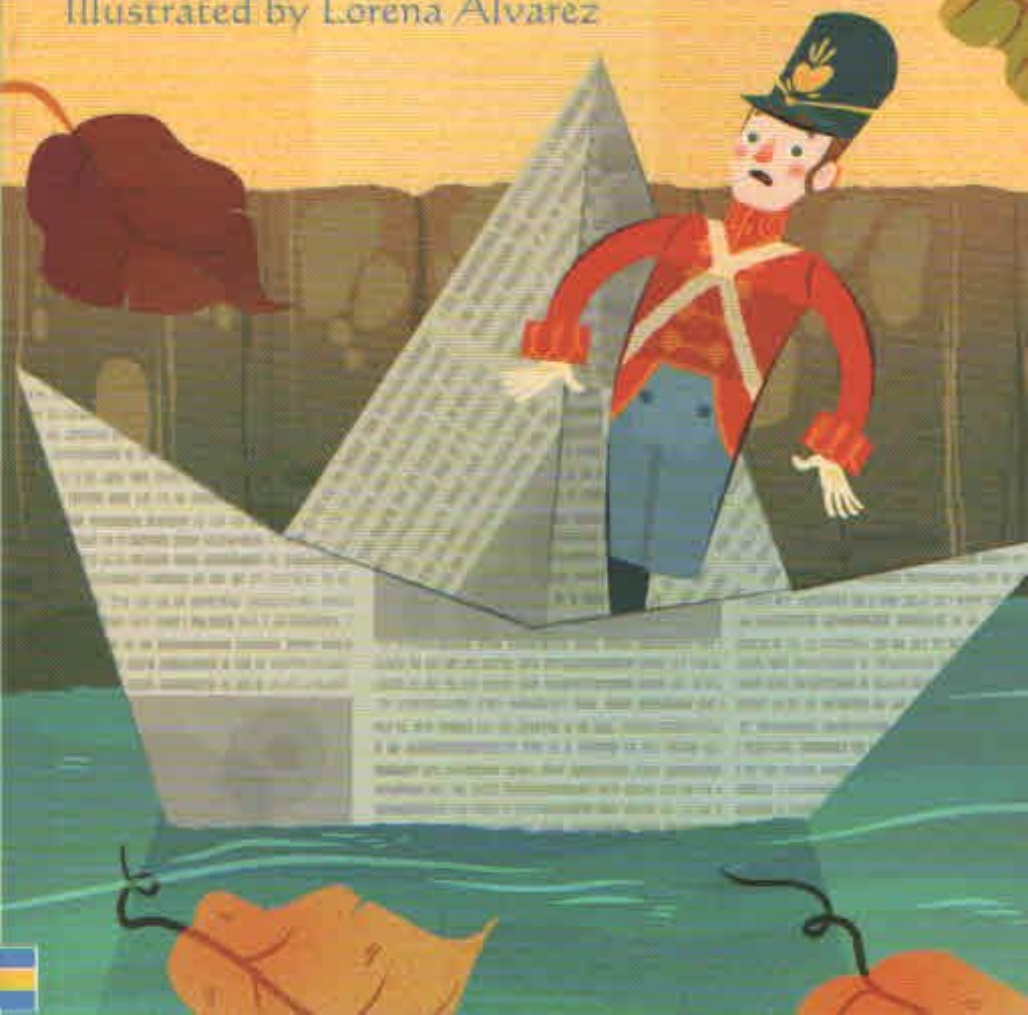
USBORNE FIRST READING



The Tin Soldier

Retold by Russell Punter

Illustrated by Lorena Alvarez



The Tin Soldier

Based on a story by
Hans Christian Andersen

Retold by Russell Punter



Illustrated by Lorena Alvarez

Reading consultant: Alison Kelly
University of Roehampton

"Happy birthday Tom!"
said Grandpa.

Wow, thanks!

"Just what I wanted,"
Tom cried, "tin soldiers!"

"Oh dear! This
soldier only has one
leg," said Grandpa.



Attention!

Quick,
march!

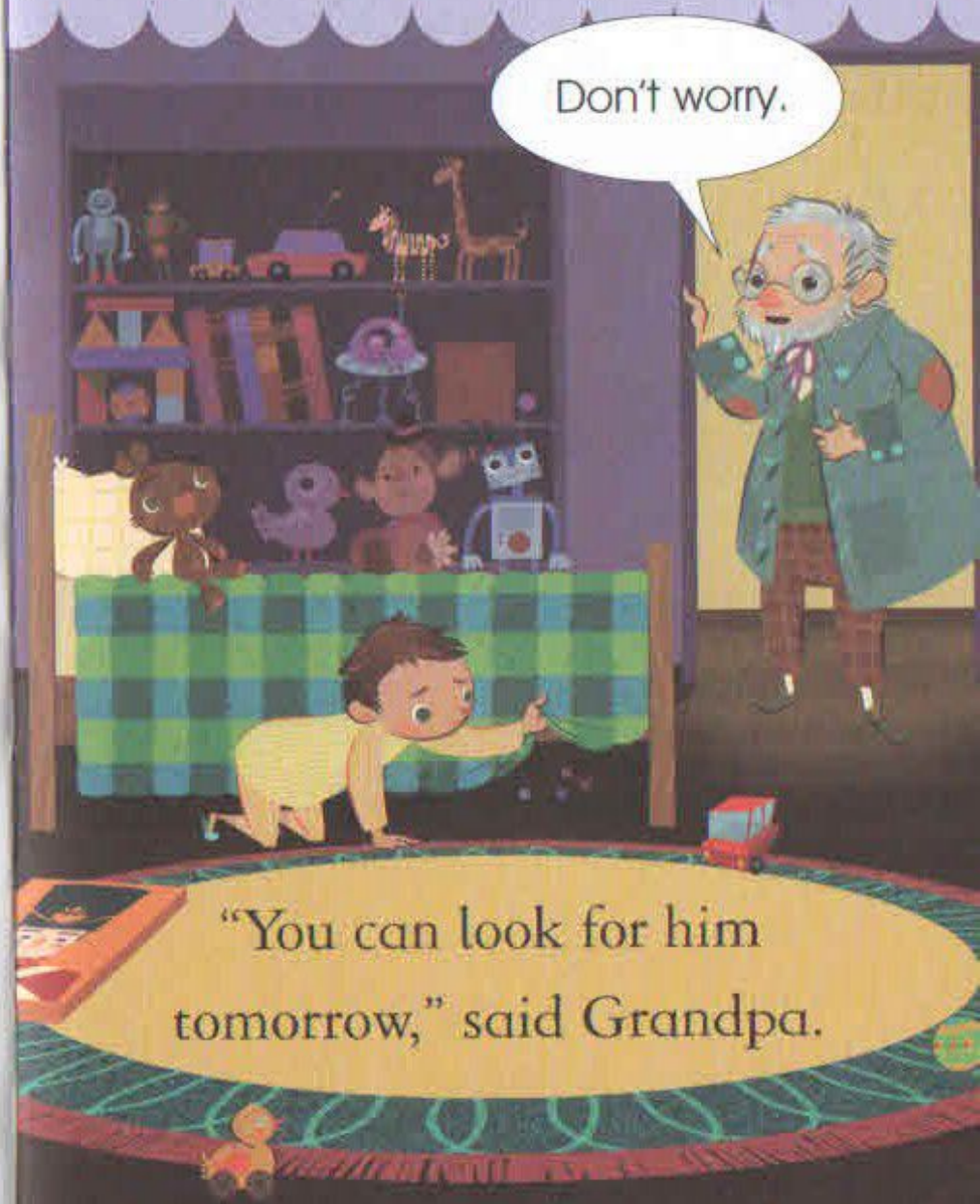
Tom didn't mind.
He spent all day playing.

At bedtime, he packed the soldiers back in their box.



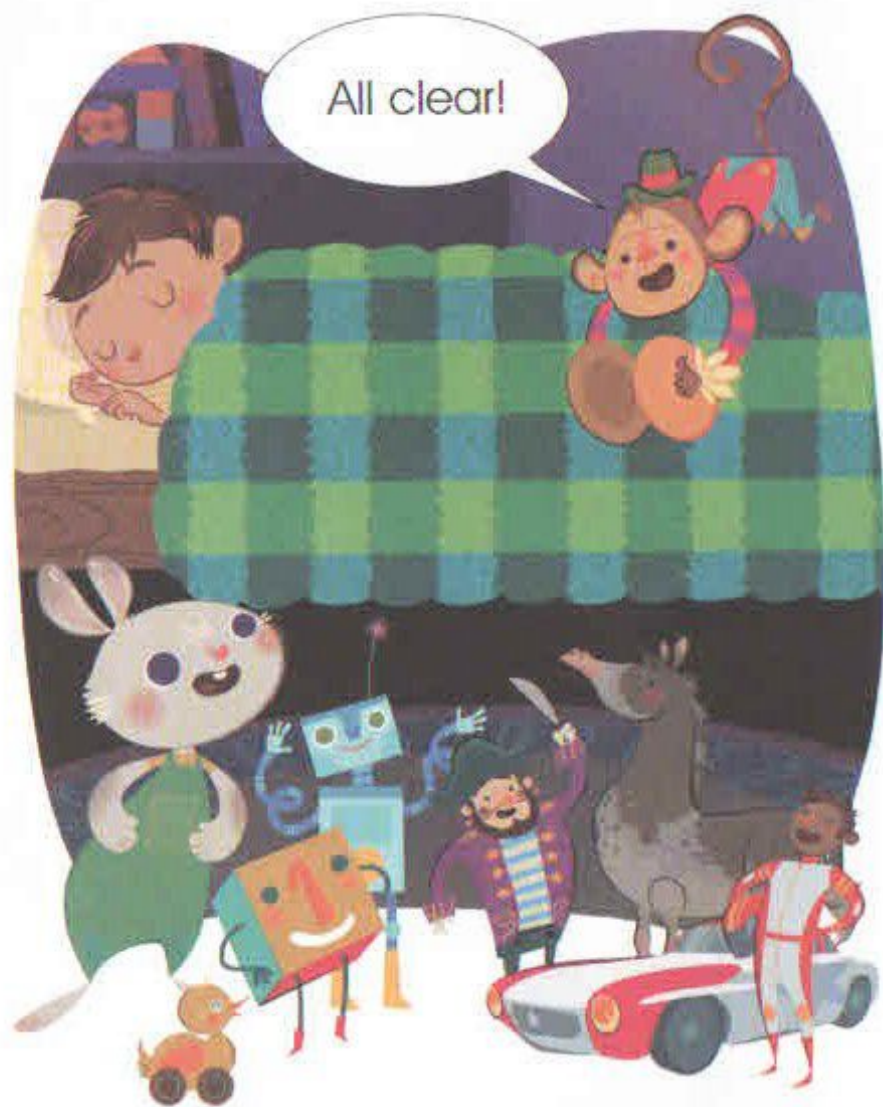
But the one-legged soldier was missing.

"Where's he gone?"
wondered Tom.

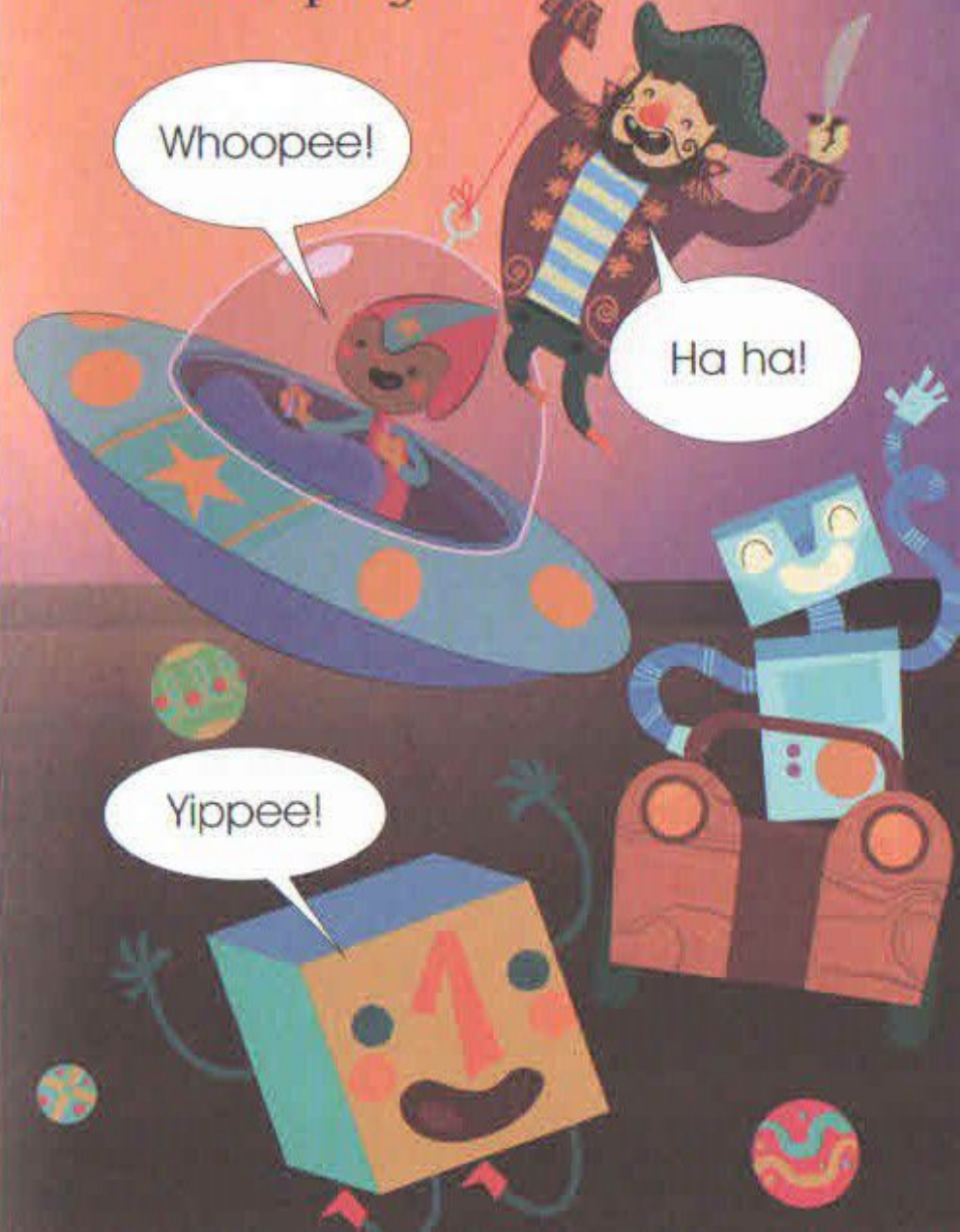


"You can look for him tomorrow," said Grandpa.

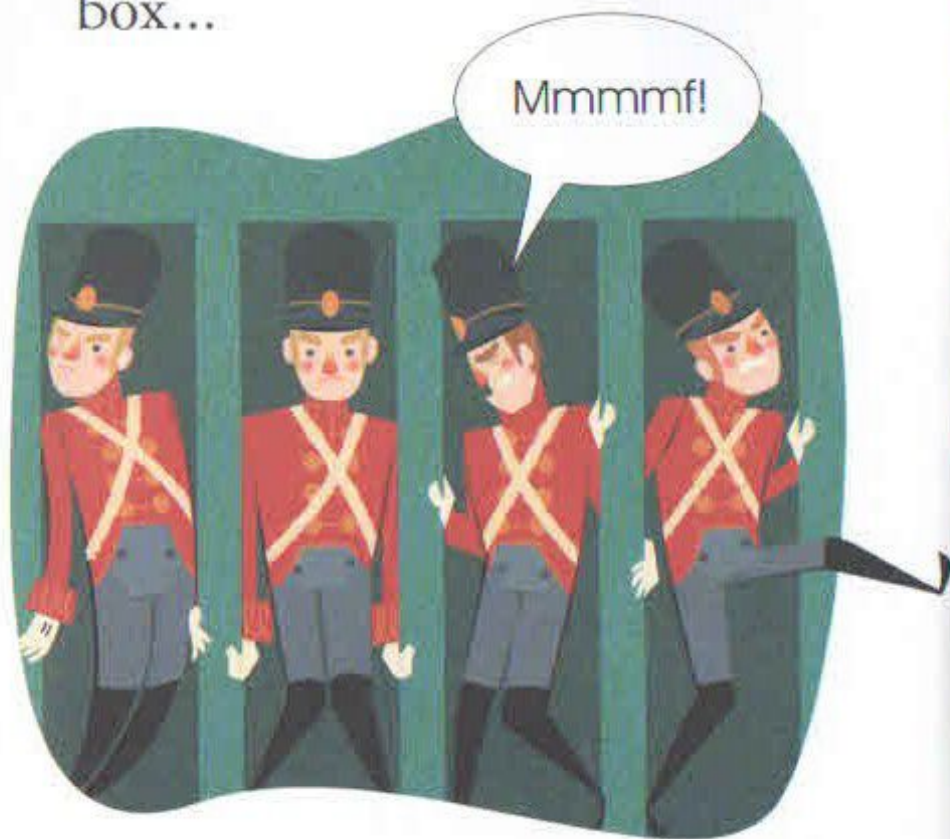
Tom's other toys waited
until he was asleep.



Now it was their
turn to play.



The soldiers tried to join in.
But they were stuck in their
box...



...except for the
one-legged soldier.

He had fallen behind a
pile of toy building blocks.

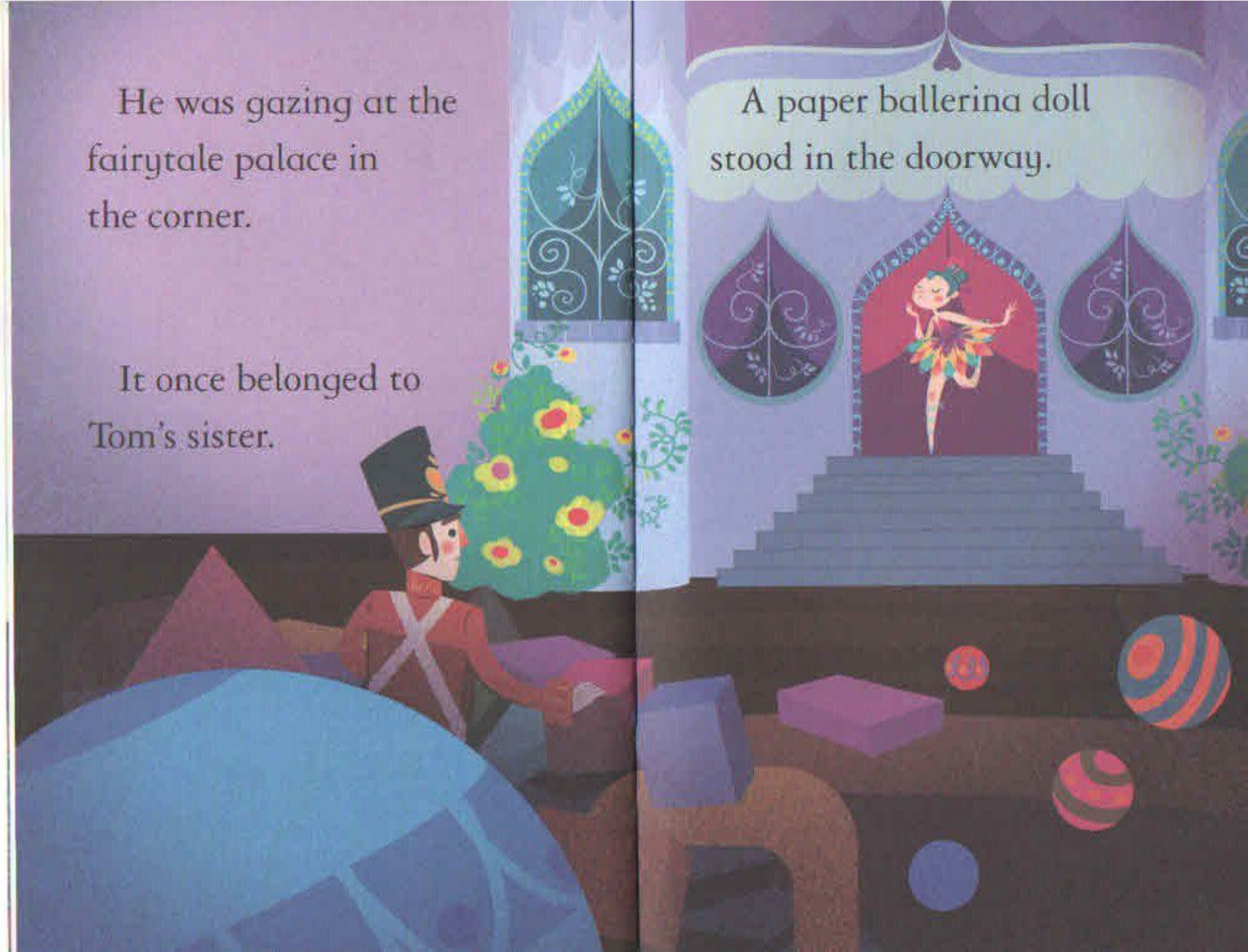


But he didn't join in
the games.

He was gazing at the
fairytale palace in
the corner.

It once belonged to
Tom's sister.

A paper ballerina doll
stood in the doorway.

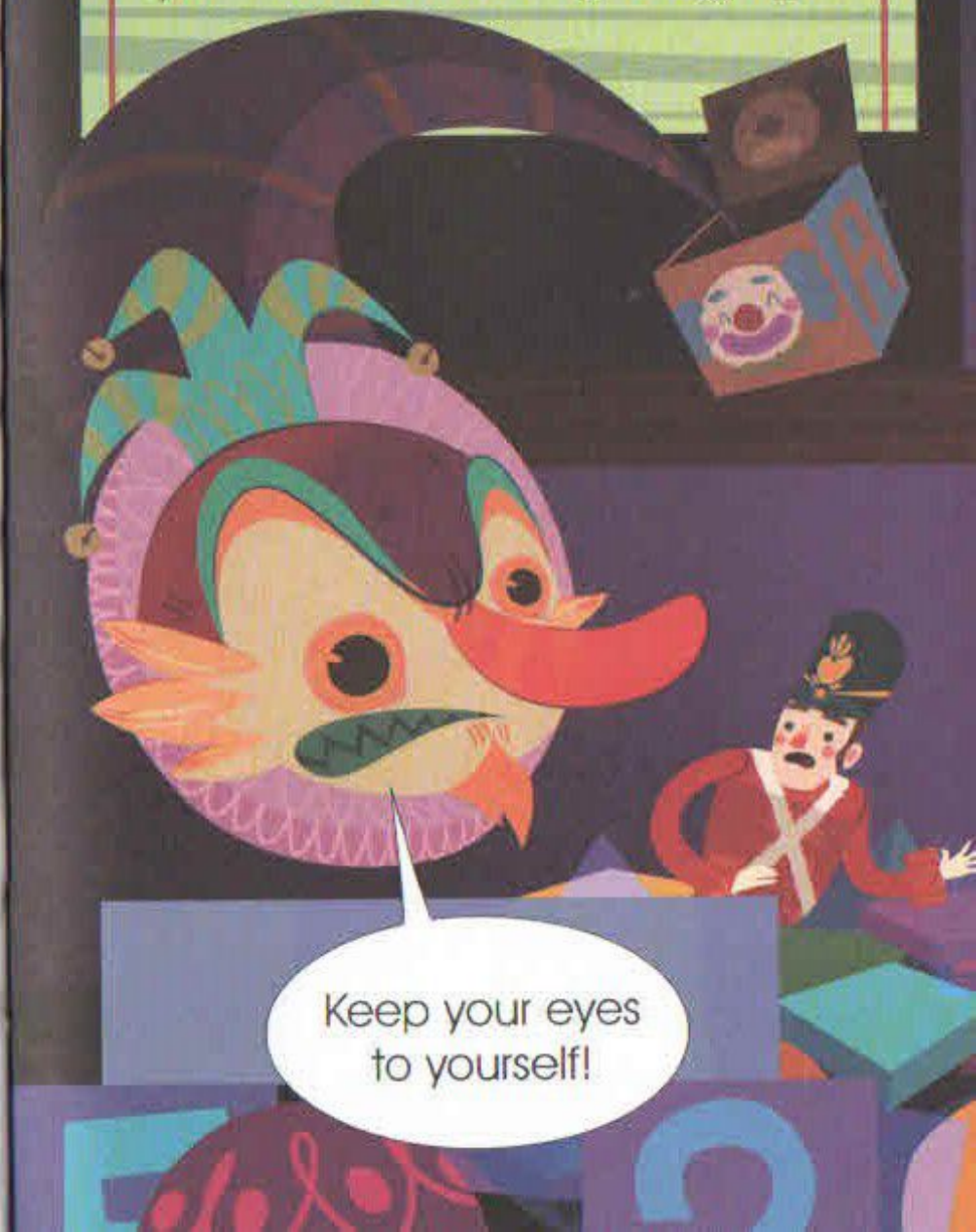


The pretty ballerina was dancing on one leg.



"She'd be a perfect wife for me," said the soldier.

Suddenly, the grumpy jack-in-the-box sprang up.



The soldier ignored him.
He smiled at the ballerina.



She smiled back.

The jealous jack-in-the-box
turned bright red.



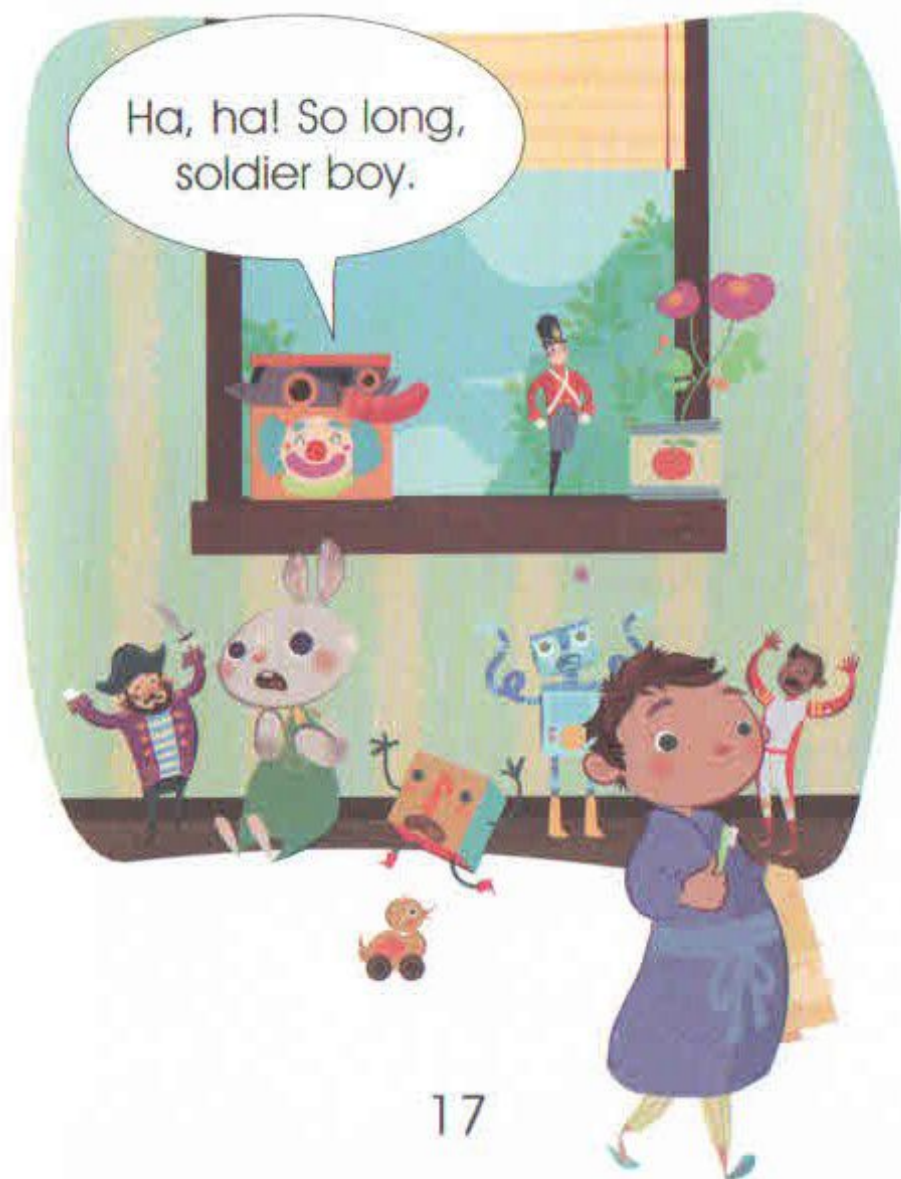
“Just wait,” he fumed.

The next morning, Tom
found his missing soldier.



He put him by
the window.

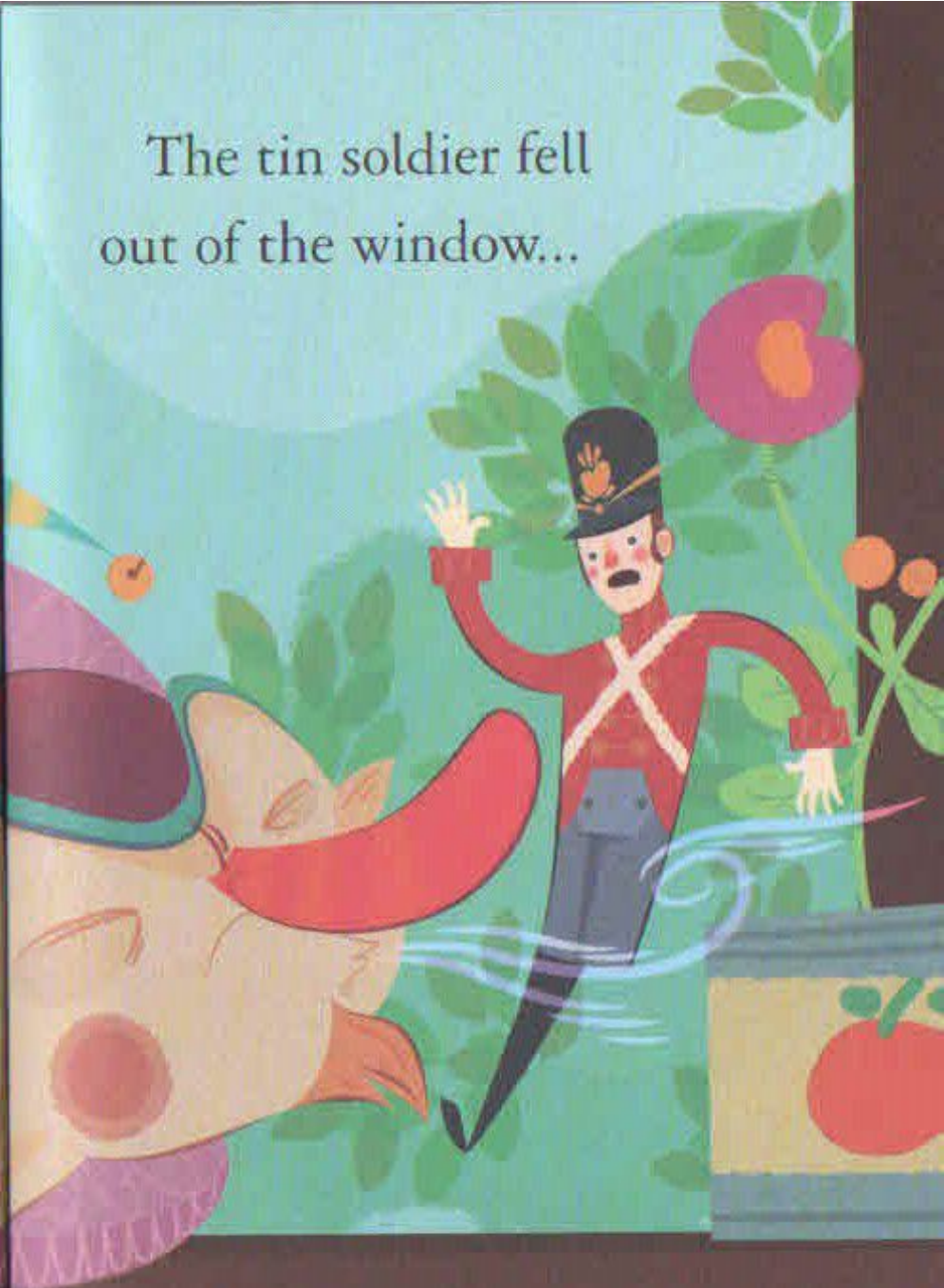
The cruel jack-in-the-box
saw his chance.



He took a deep breath, and
blew as hard as he could.



The tin soldier fell
out of the window...



He landed...

Woooah!

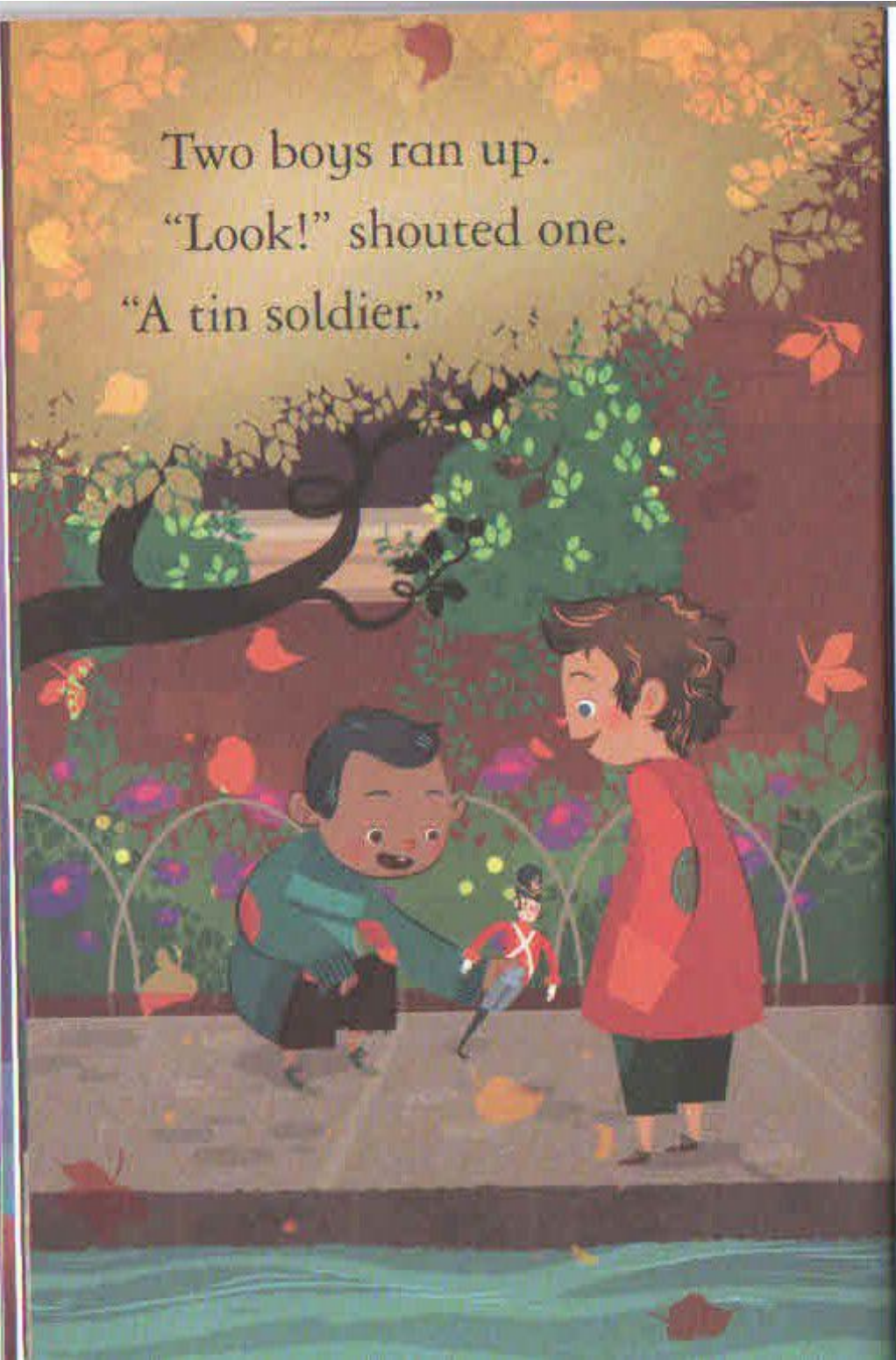
...on the street below.

"Ow!" cried the soldier.



He tried to move. But his
foot was stuck.

Two boys ran up.
“Look!” shouted one.
“A tin soldier.”



“Let’s turn him into a
sailor,” said the other.



They made a little boat out
of an old newspaper.

They stood the tin soldier
in the boat.



Then they dropped it in
the gutter.

The soldier's boat sailed
along the street.



The tin soldier wished
the boat would stop.



I feel sick.

But things were about
to get worse.

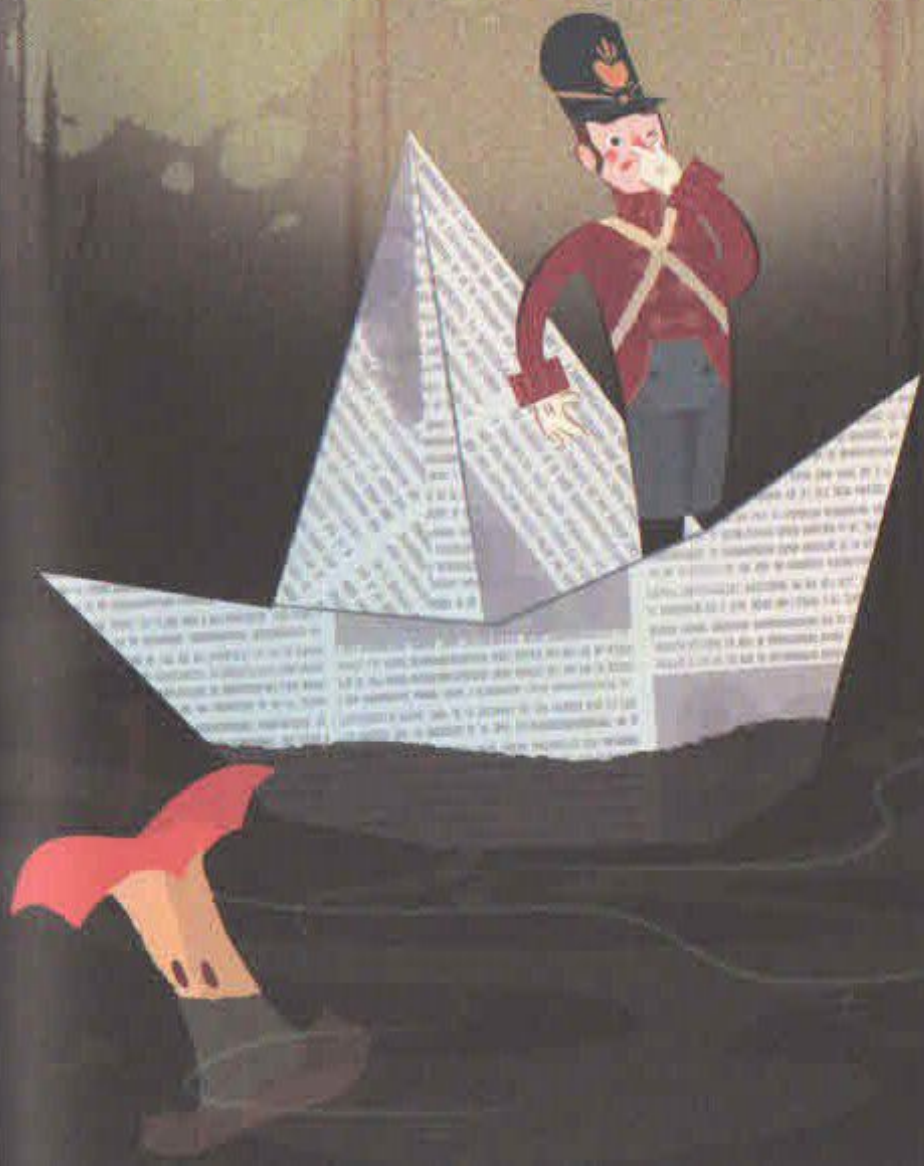
There was a drain hole in
the road ahead.

The paper boat shot down
the drain.



It landed, splosh, in a dirty,
smelly sewer.

"Pooh!" said the soldier, as
he sailed along the tunnel.



He turned the bend. A fat
black rat was in his way.



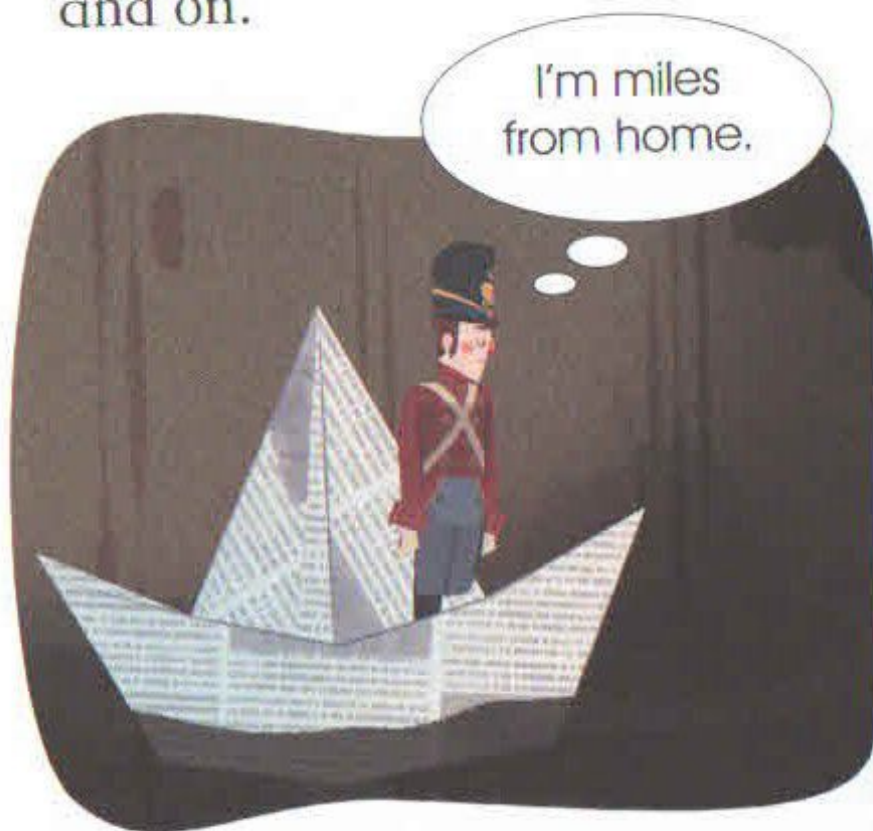
"Pay me a penny to pass!"
ordered the rat.

The soldier had no money.
He couldn't stop anyway.



Hey, come
back!

The soldier sailed on
and on.



"Will I ever see the
ballerina doll again?"
he wondered.

Just then, he noticed
daylight up ahead.



Seconds later, the boat
whooshed out of the sewer.

It landed...

Woooah!

...in a river.

The tin soldier was glad to be out of the sewer.

Whew!

But he wasn't happy for long. Now his boat was leaking.

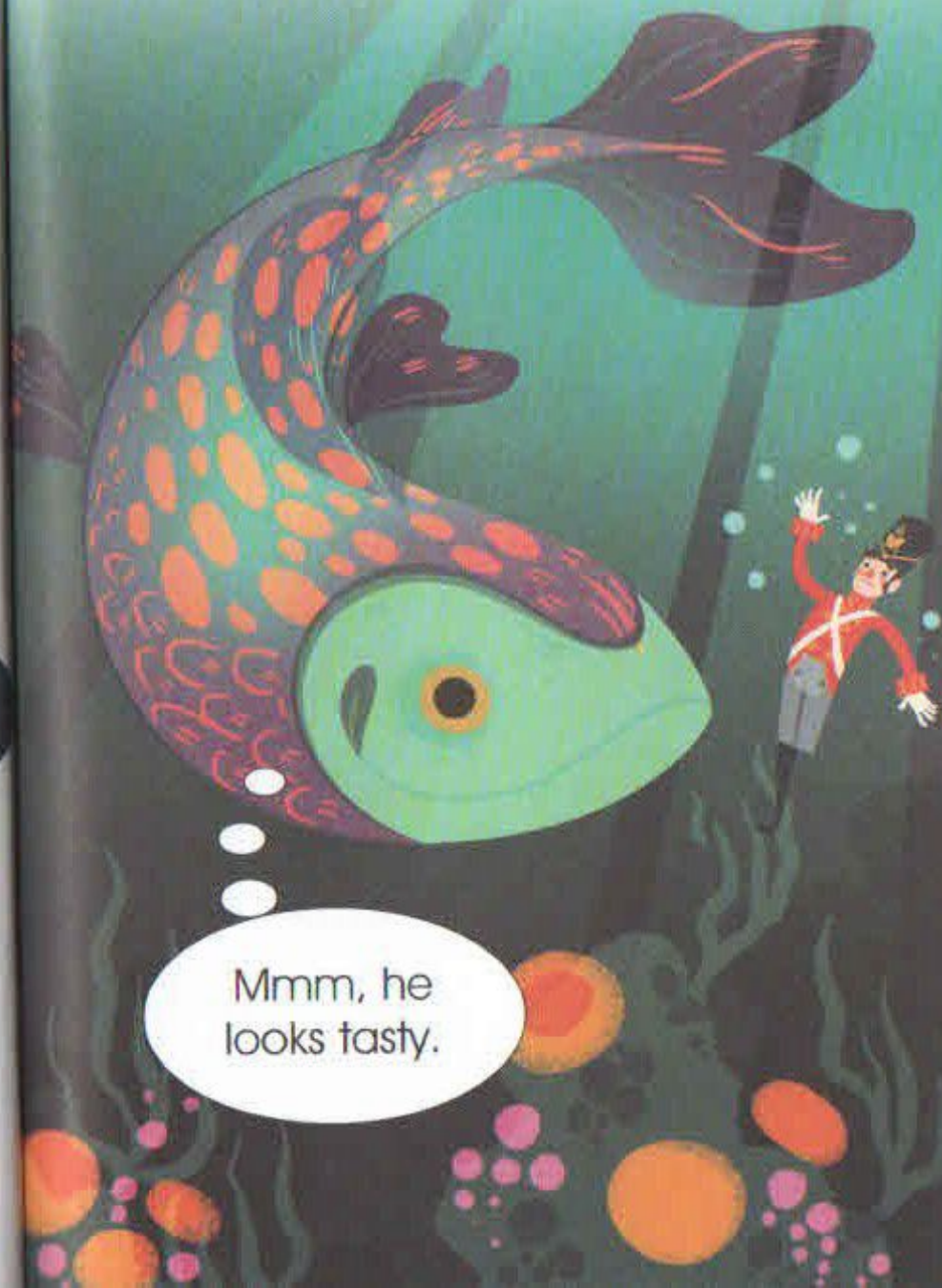
The next moment, he was
sinking like a stone.

Help!



And things were about to
get worse.

A huge fish swam by.



Mmm, he
looks tasty.

It swallowed the tin soldier
in one gulp.

A little hard,
but not bad.

Oh no!

The soldier sat sadly in the
fish's tummy.

I'll be here
forever.

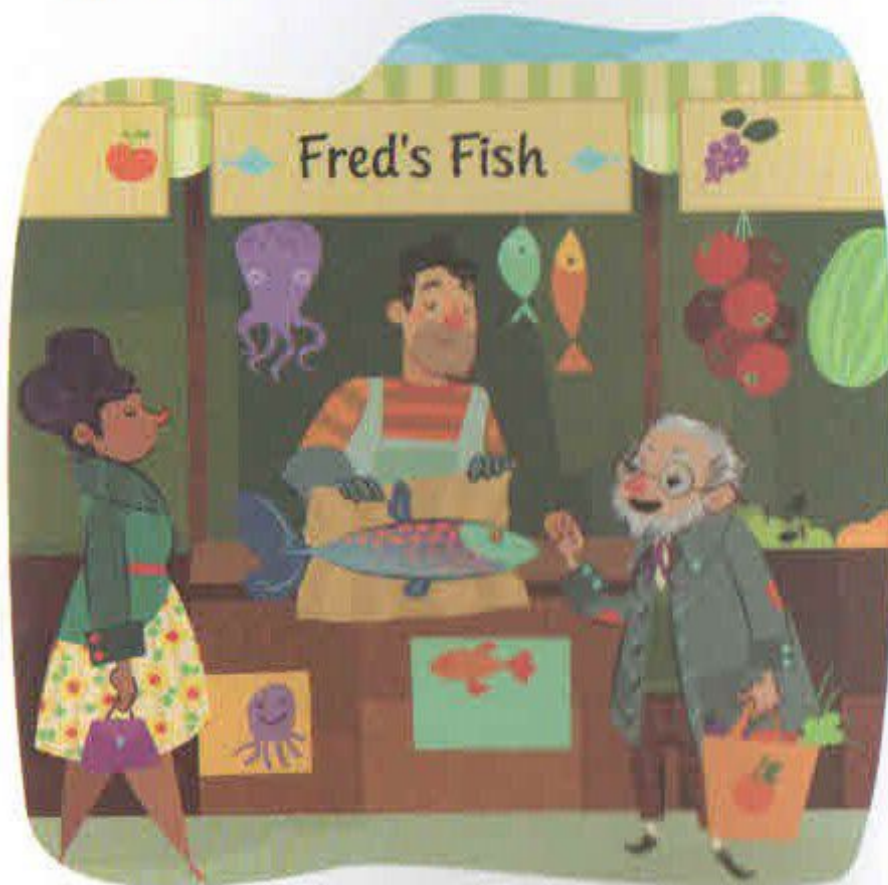
But his luck was about
to change.

A man caught the fish.

What a beauty!

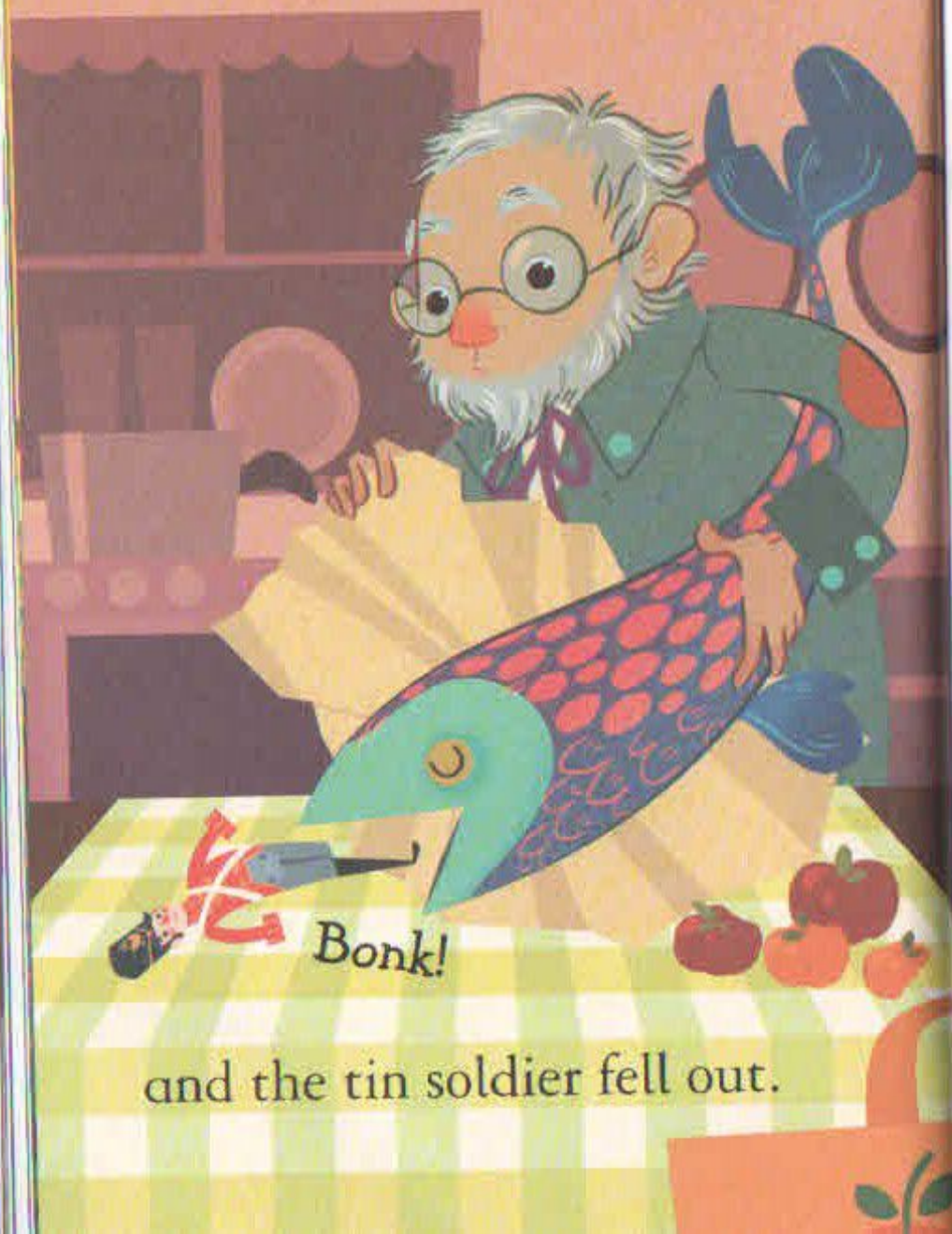
He took it to sell at the market.

Tom's Grandpa bought the fish.



He carried it home for supper.

He unwrapped the fish...



and the tin soldier fell out.

Grandpa took the tin soldier to Tom's room.



"Welcome home, soldier!"
shouted Tom.

All the toys were glad
to see the tin soldier...

except one.

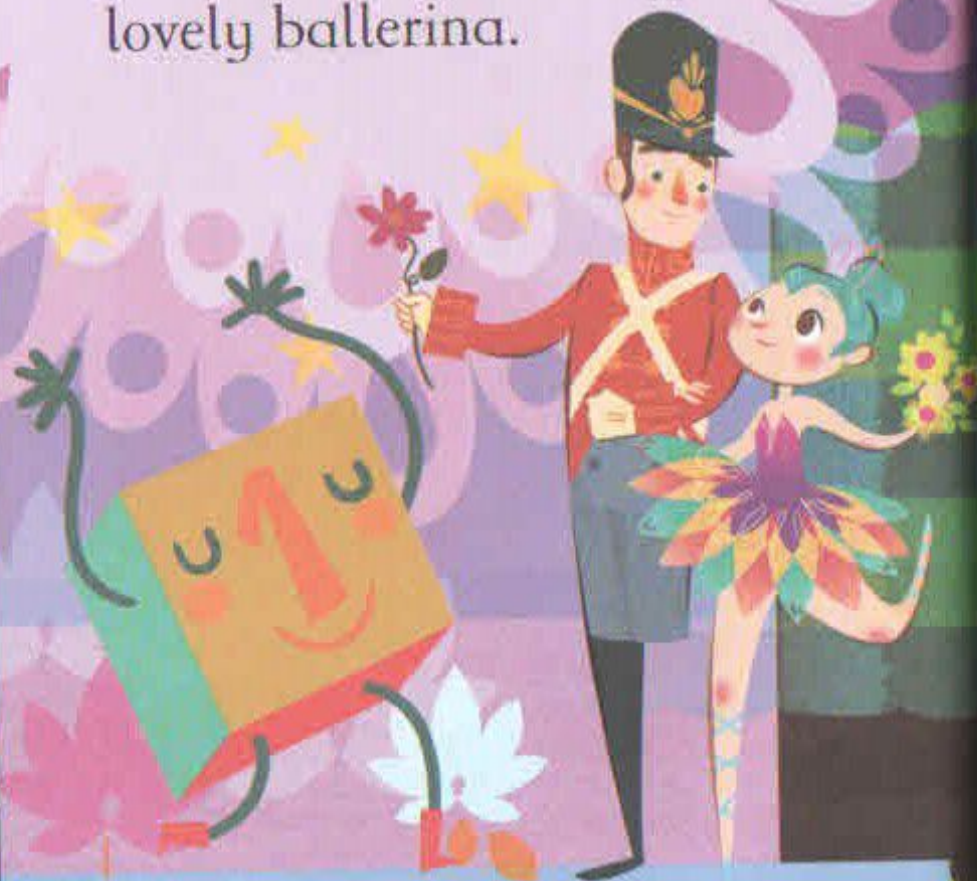
Grrrr!

He went hopping mad...

broke his
spring...

and never
worked again.

The very next day, the
tin soldier married the
lovely ballerina.



And they invited all the
toys to a noisy party.

After Tom was asleep,
of course.



About the story



The Steadfast Tin Soldier was first written
by Hans Christian Andersen in 1838.

The original version had a very sad ending.
The tin soldier and the paper ballerina melted
in a fireplace. All that was left of them was a
heart-shaped piece of tin and a black sequin.

Series editor: Lesley Sims

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The Tin Soldier

Tom is delighted when he receives a box of tin soldiers for his birthday. But he has no idea they come to life while he's asleep! It's not long before one little soldier lands in big trouble in this lively retelling of a classic tale by Hans Christian Andersen.



The Tin Soldier is in the **Usborne First Reading** series, written especially for children who are learning to read, and developed in consultation with Alison Kelly, Principal Lecturer in Education and reading specialist at the University of Roehampton. With delightful illustrations, these books combine great stories with simple text to excite and inspire any beginner reader.

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