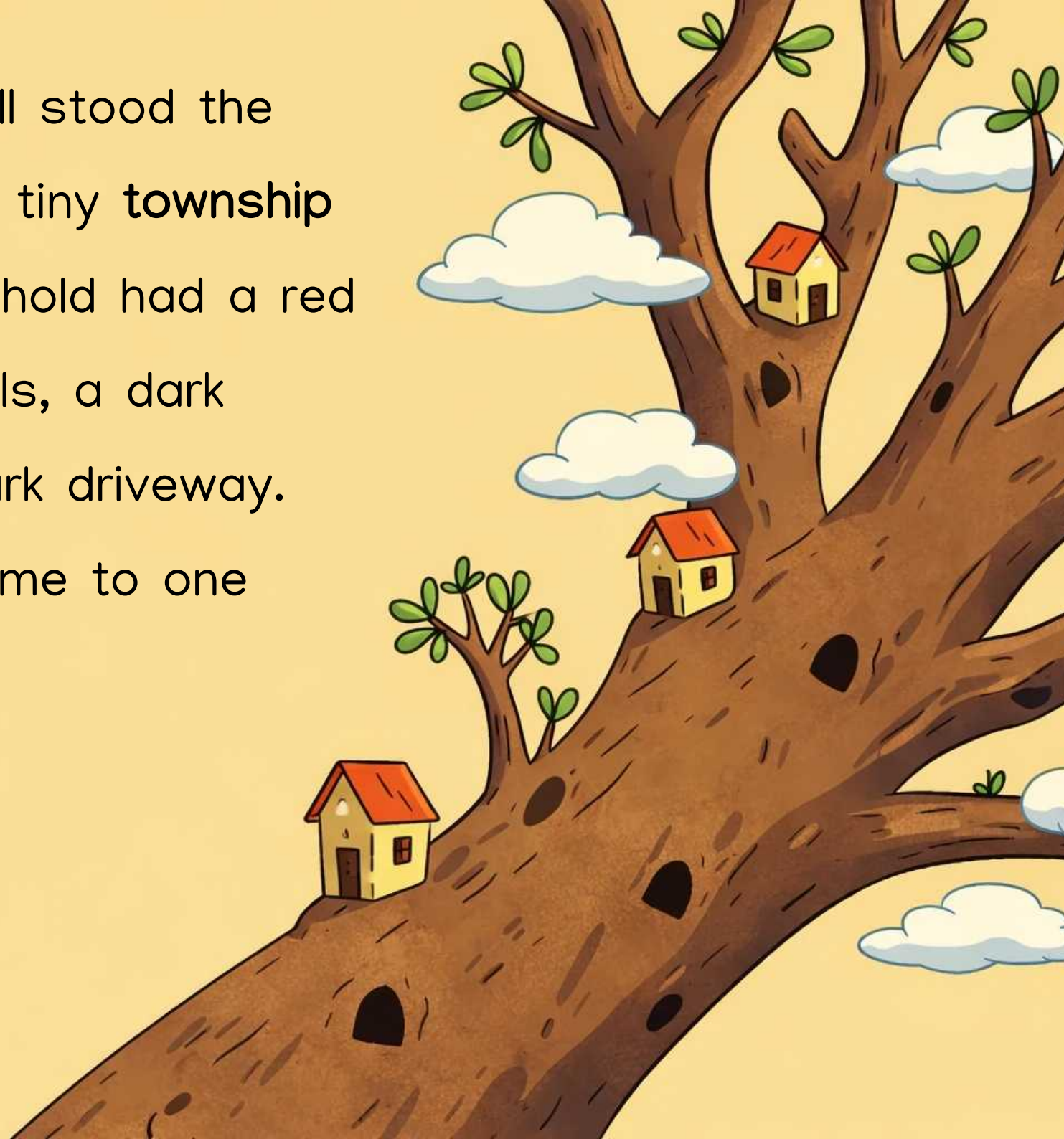


# Who Took My NUTS?



High on a green hill stood the oldest tree, with a tiny township inside. Each household had a red rooftop, yellow walls, a dark doorway, and a bark driveway. Every hole was home to one busy squirrel.





Pip tucks nuts into a hole by the rocks and pumpkins. Before the first **snowfall**, it will be too cold to look for food. She needs a good stock of snacks to last all winter.

Pip checks on her nuts and finds that they are all gone! She is **upset** and asks a small bird for help.

The bird did not take her nuts, as he only eats worms. Now Pip must keep looking.





Pip climbs up to the beehive. The bees are too small to take nuts, but they might have seen who did. The bees did not see a thing.

Pip thinks that the bees are not telling the truth. She is so upset about the nuts that she cannot think straight. The bees make her leave.





Pip asks a fly if he can help her find the lost nuts. The fly has his own things to do. Pip will have to keep up the search by herself.

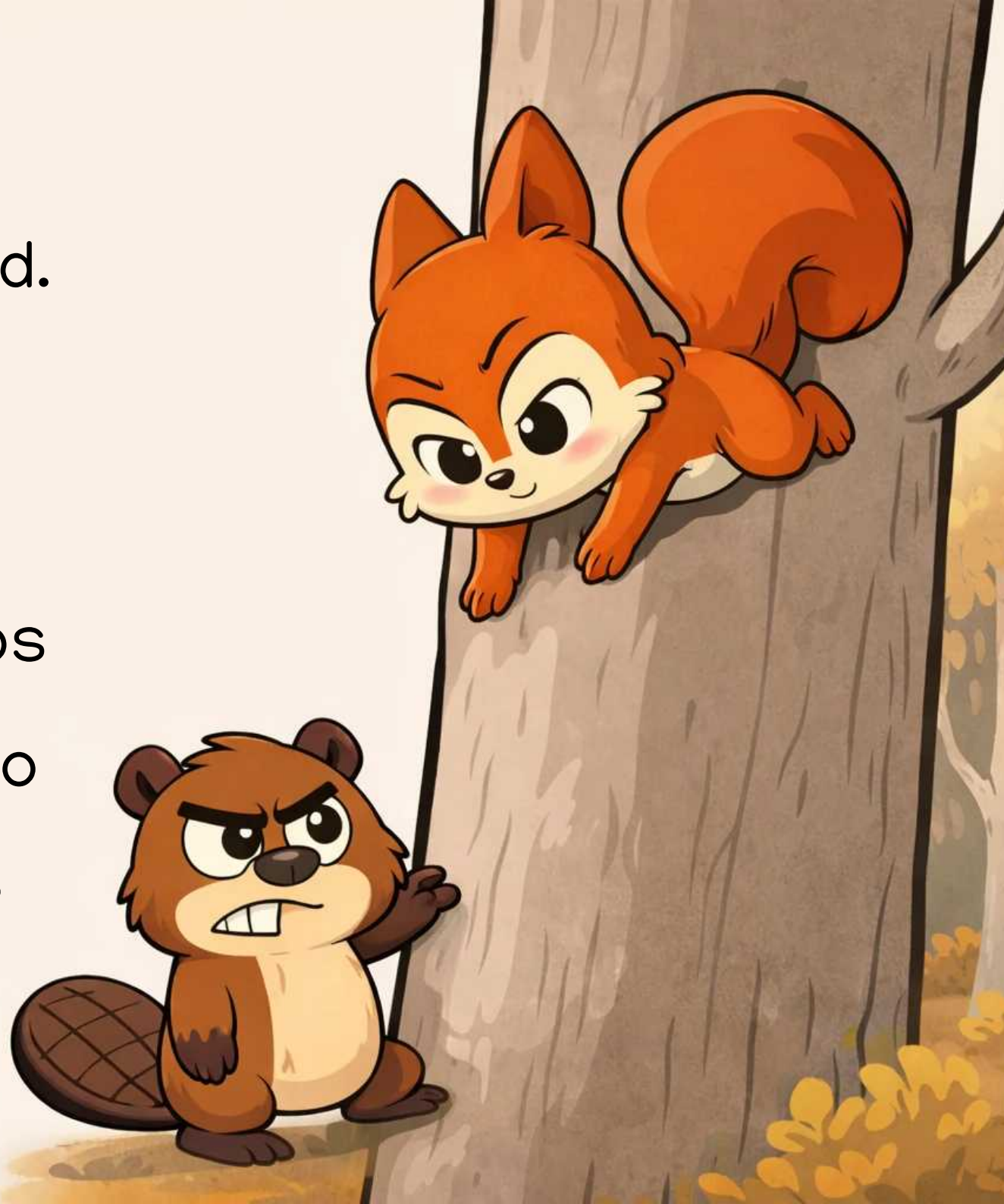
Back up in the tree,  
Pip meets her friend  
Liz on a branch. Liz  
offers to share some  
of her snack for  
breakfast. Pip thanks  
her but says no. She  
does not want Liz to  
run out of food.





Liz does not think that their friends in the tree would steal Pip's nuts. They all see how hard Pip works every weekday to find and store them.

Pip thinks hard  
about what Liz said.  
If no one took the  
nuts, where could  
they be? She climbs  
all the way down to  
the **bedrock** at the  
foot of the tree.





At the foot of the tree, Pip meets a beaver! He dug a hole in the ground to store his own food. His tunnel broke into Pip's store, and the nuts fell out. It was a mistake, and he helps her pick them up.

Pip is good at fixing things. She boards the hole up with some planks. Bang, bang, bang. Then she climbs the tree to her house on the branch.





Now Pip has all her nuts safe and sound for winter. She curls up in her armchair and thinks how kind Liz was to help her.



## Who Took My Nuts?

Pip the squirrel has tucked away forty-nine nuts for winter - but when she checks her secret stash, every single nut has vanished! Who could have taken them? The bluebird says no. The bees say no. Even a passing fly won't help. Can Pip's friend Liz help her work out what really happened before the first snowfall arrives? This decodable reader practices compound words such as 'armchair,' 'beehive,' 'snowfall,' 'weekday,' and 'woodwork.'

**Reading Skills:** Compound

armchair, bedrock, beehive, bluebird, breakfast, cannot, herself, snowfall, township, upset, weekday, woodwork

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