

BEN THE BEAR

AND HIS OTHER BELLY BUTTON

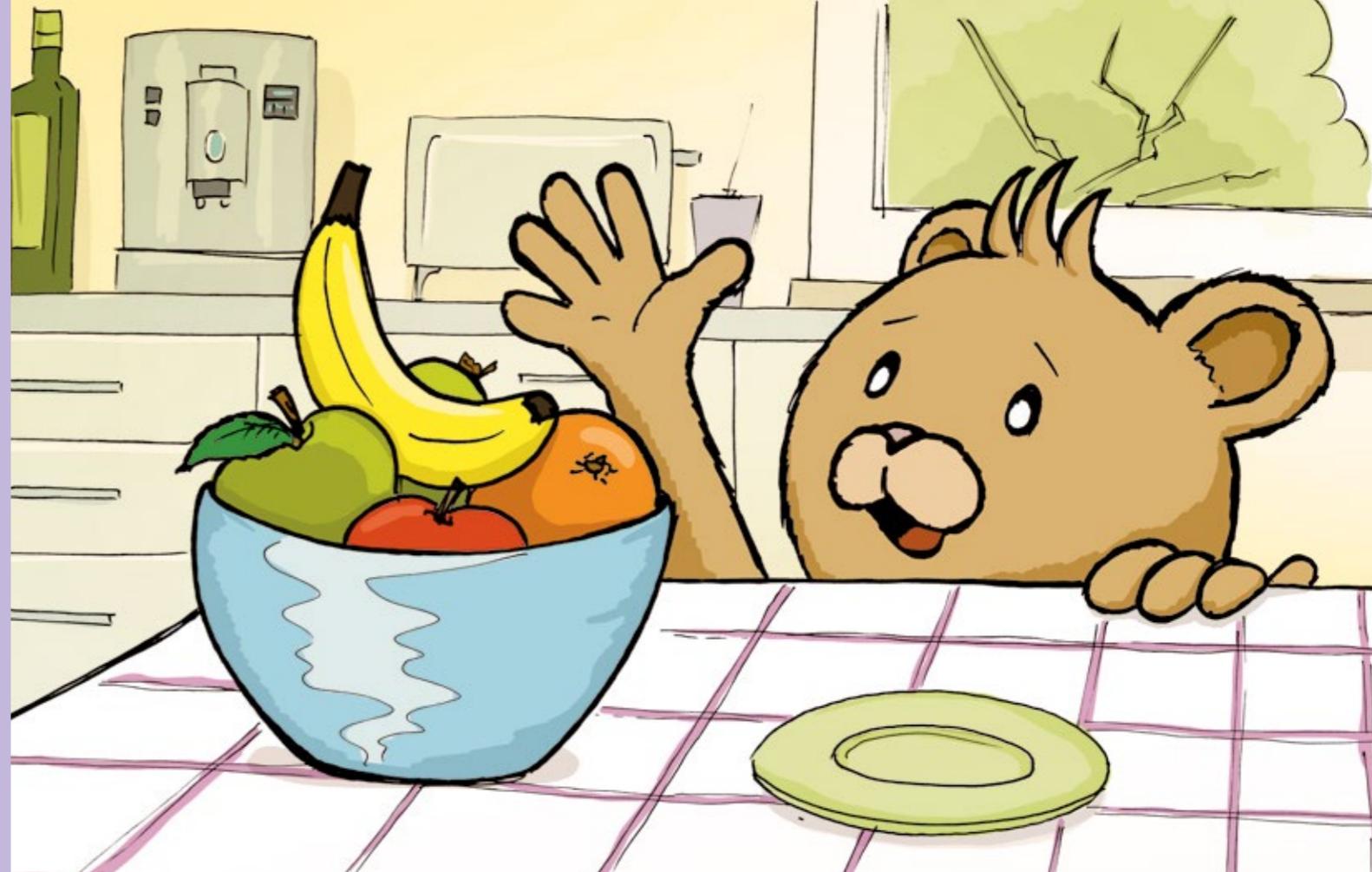


A story about a strong bear boy and his gastrostomy button.



This book belongs to

This is the story of a little bear called Ben. Like all little bears, Ben loved sweet things: Sticky honey was his favourite, of course, but he also liked sweet fruit and chocolate. Ben could never seem to get enough of these treats!

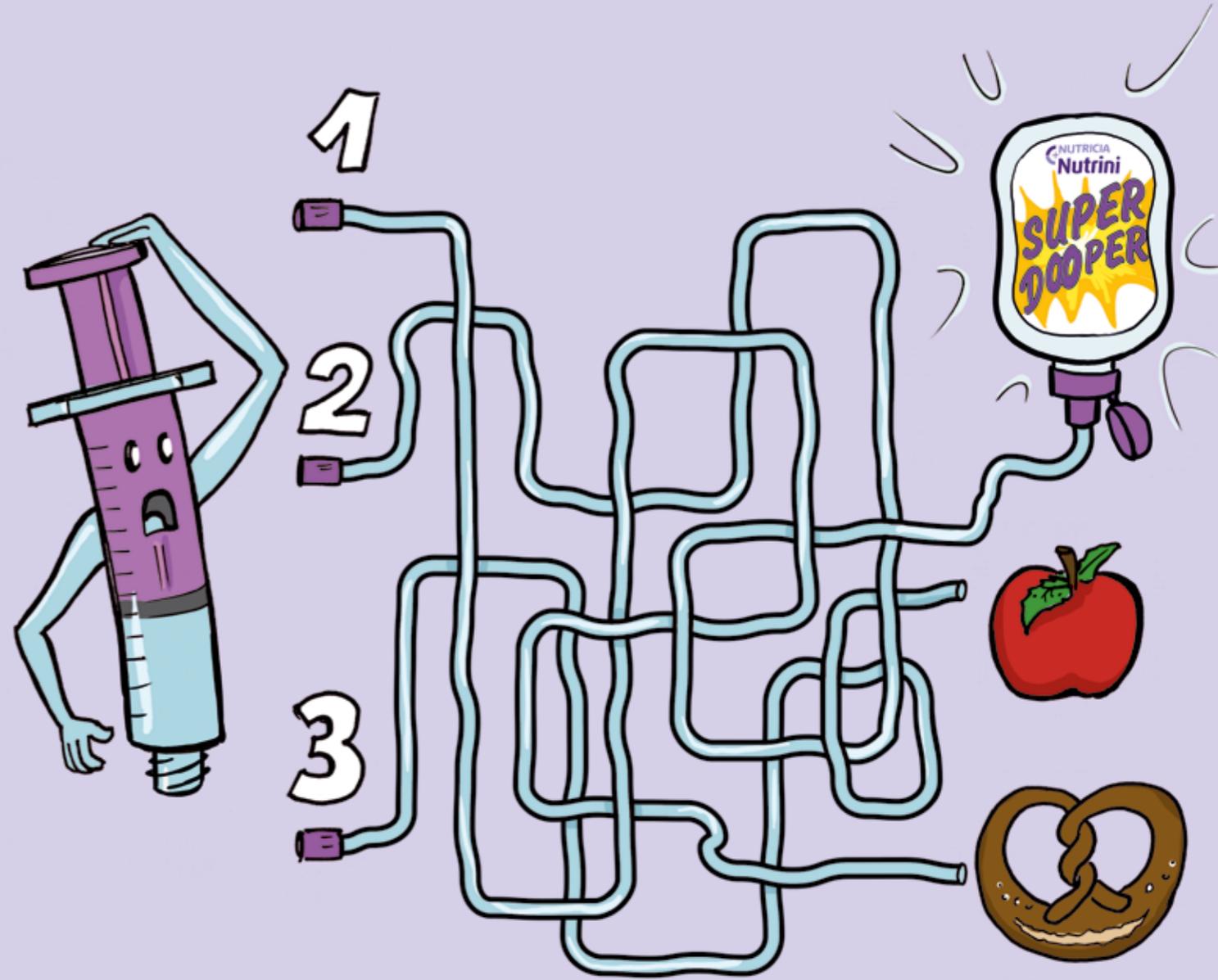


However, Ben wasn't quite like other little bears. Something inside his body didn't work that well. Ben couldn't eat as much of all these yummy things as he needed to, in order to Grow and stay healthy.



Ben was still able to swallow, but he couldn't eat enough normal food to help him grow. That is why he was the chosen little bear to be given this special food – which flowed directly into his tummy through a thin tube. The grown-ups called this tube a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube. Ben thought that name was much too long; he just called it his tummy tube.

Oh no, what a mess! Can you help Simon the Syringe to find the right tube that leads to Ben's special food? Remember, normal food won't fit through the thin tube!



One day, though, he was told that his tummy tube was getting old and didn't work properly anymore, and that he would need a new one fitted that would also make it much easier for him to play and run around with the other little bears. Ben and his parents therefore set out for the hospital. When they got there, he was given some medicine that made him fall into a deep coma whilst the doctors replaced his old tube with a brand spanking new one. It looked totally different to his old tube; it actually didn't look like a tube at all but more like an extra belly button. Even the grown-ups just called it a button!



Today, Ben would like to tell you more about his extra belly button!

Ben's new button feeding device looks completely different to his old tube; it's much, much smaller. It lies flat against Ben's tummy and you can hardly see it underneath his T-shirt. Ben even often forgets that he has a gastrostomy button.



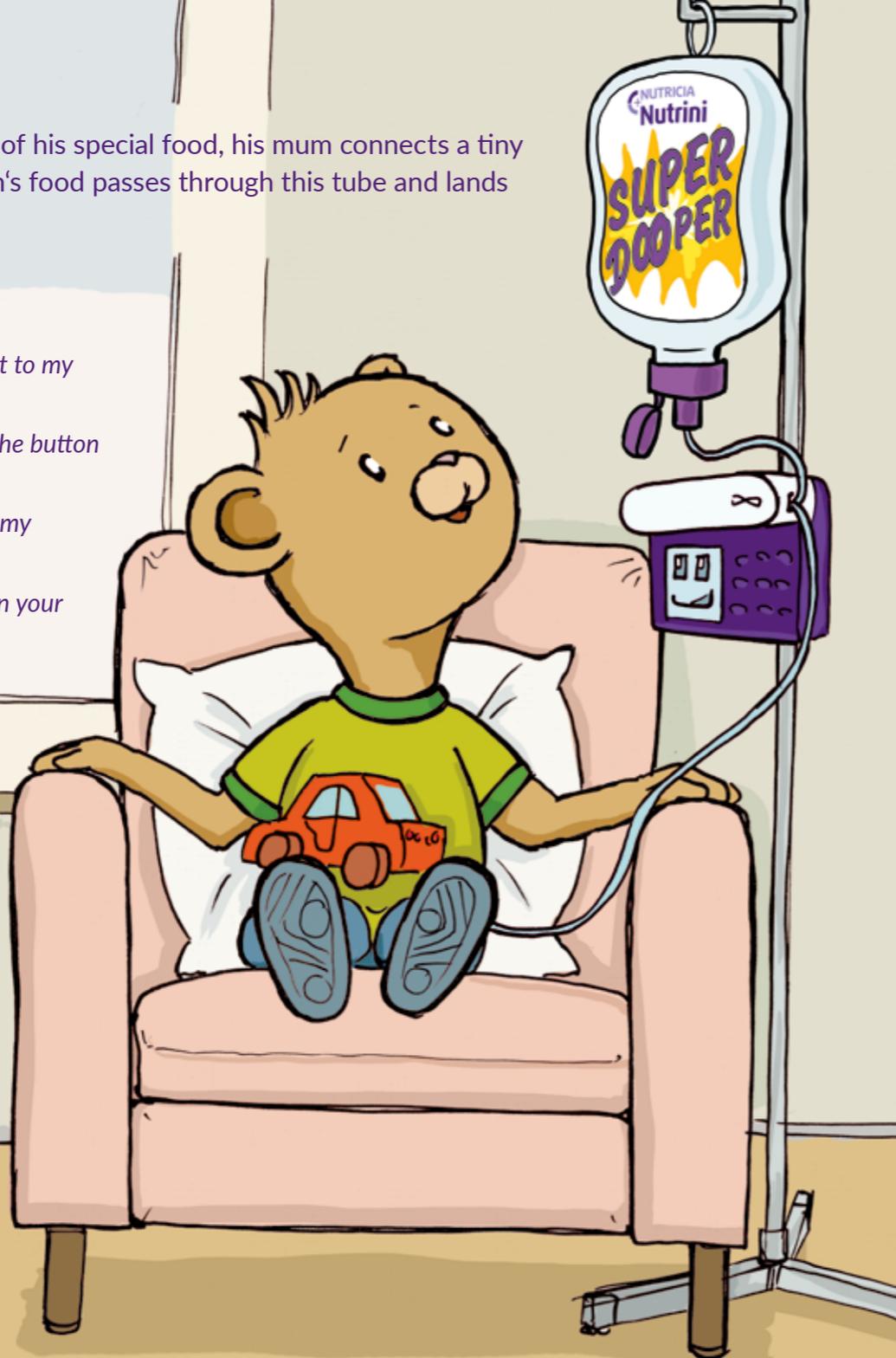
*My new tube is round and small,
and I don't feel it at all.*

*Instead of one belly button, I now have two
I rather like that, wouldn't you?*

Where is Ben's button hiding? Can you see it?

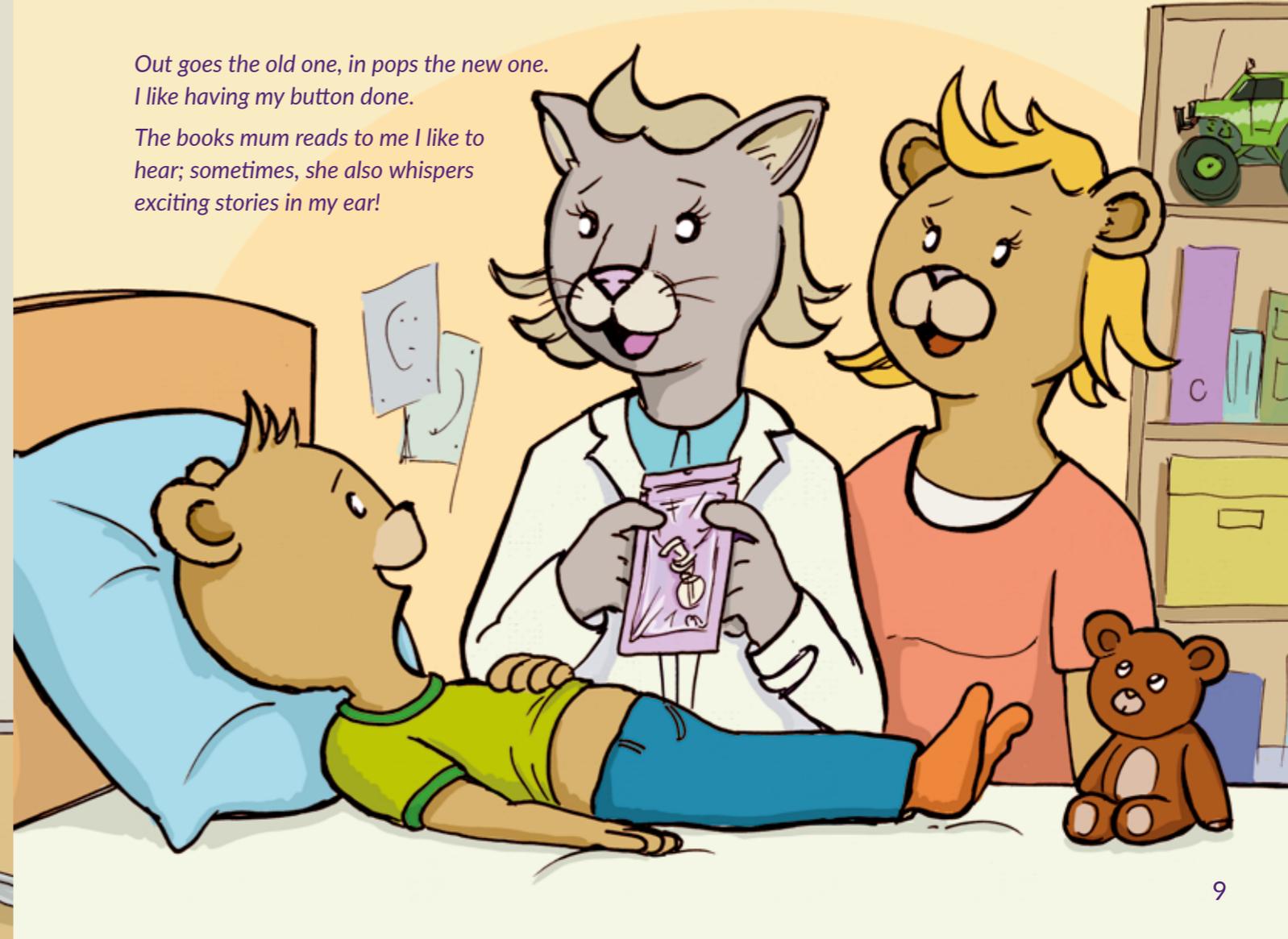
When Ben has to eat some of his special food, his mum connects a tiny thin tube to the button. Ben's food passes through this tube and lands directly inside his tummy.

*When I want food I call out to my mum to come.
She connects the tube to the button to give me some.
My food lands right inside my tummy,
if my mum can do it, so can your mummy!*



Sometimes, Ben's button also needs changing. Ben doesn't mind though. It's no big deal after all. Either the nice nurse does it, or mum and dad. Ben doesn't even have to go to hospital to have his button changed; changing it is so easy that it can be done at home. Ben thinks the whole thing is quite exciting – at least as exciting as the stories which they read to him as he is having his button changed.

*Out goes the old one, in pops the new one.
I like having my button done.
The books mum reads to me I like to hear;
sometimes, she also whispers exciting stories in my ear!*



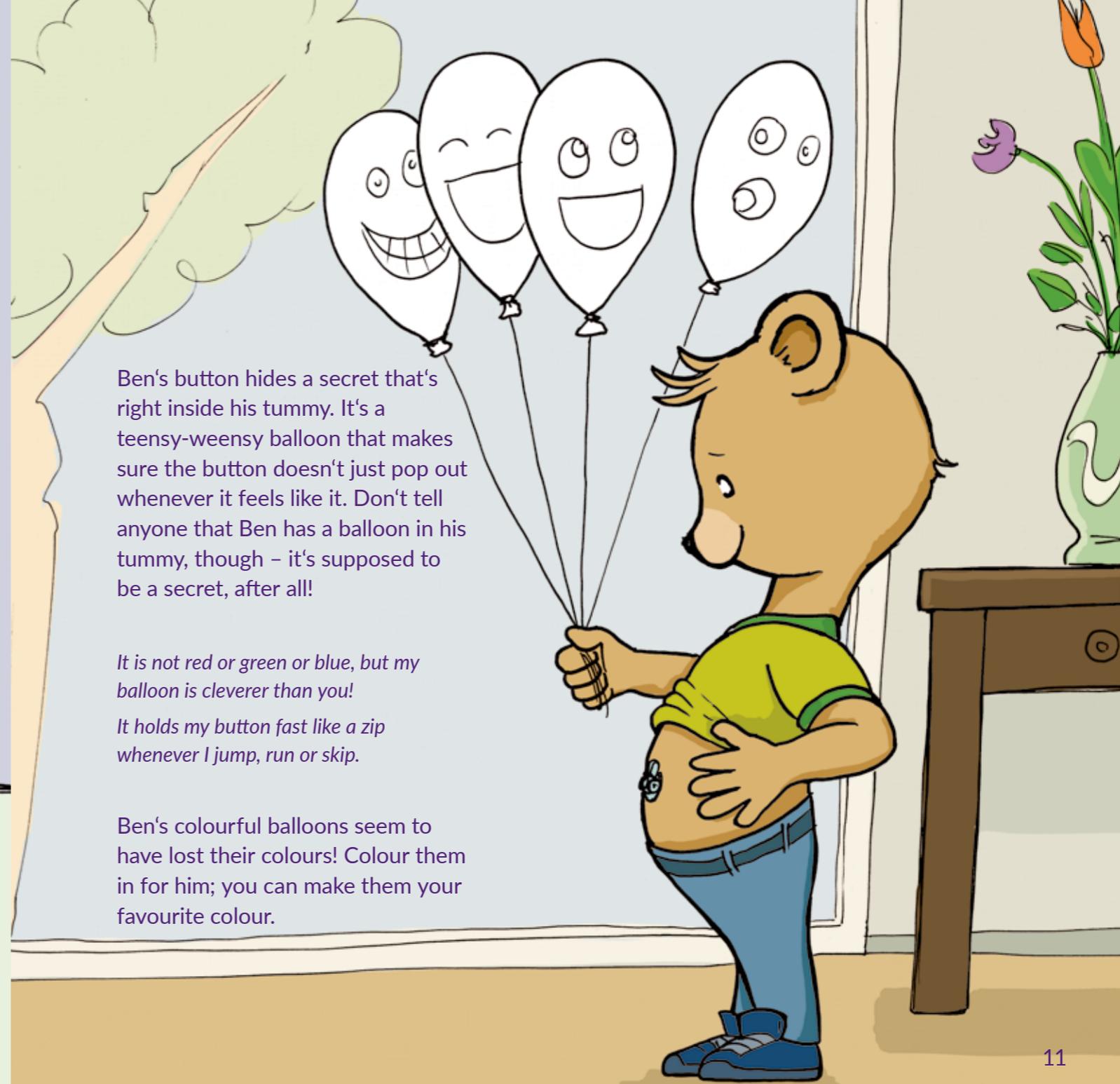


His friend Simon the Syringe is always there when Ben's button needs changing.

Simon simply pulls his hat off for a second and fills himself up with water in no time. This makes the balloon in Ben's tummy grow much, much smaller - which makes the button easy to change.

*Some people find syringes scary,
but I'm no longer wary!*

*Simon the Syringe is as kind as can be;
he's a really good friend to you and me!*



Ben's button hides a secret that's right inside his tummy. It's a teeny-weensy balloon that makes sure the button doesn't just pop out whenever it feels like it. Don't tell anyone that Ben has a balloon in his tummy, though - it's supposed to be a secret, after all!

*It is not red or green or blue, but my
balloon is cleverer than you!*

*It holds my button fast like a zip
whenever I jump, run or skip.*

Ben's colourful balloons seem to have lost their colours! Colour them in for him; you can make them your favourite colour.

Oopsy, the story seems to have run out of colour. If you like, you can colour Ben in with your colouring pens and maybe, you could draw yourself right next to Ben.

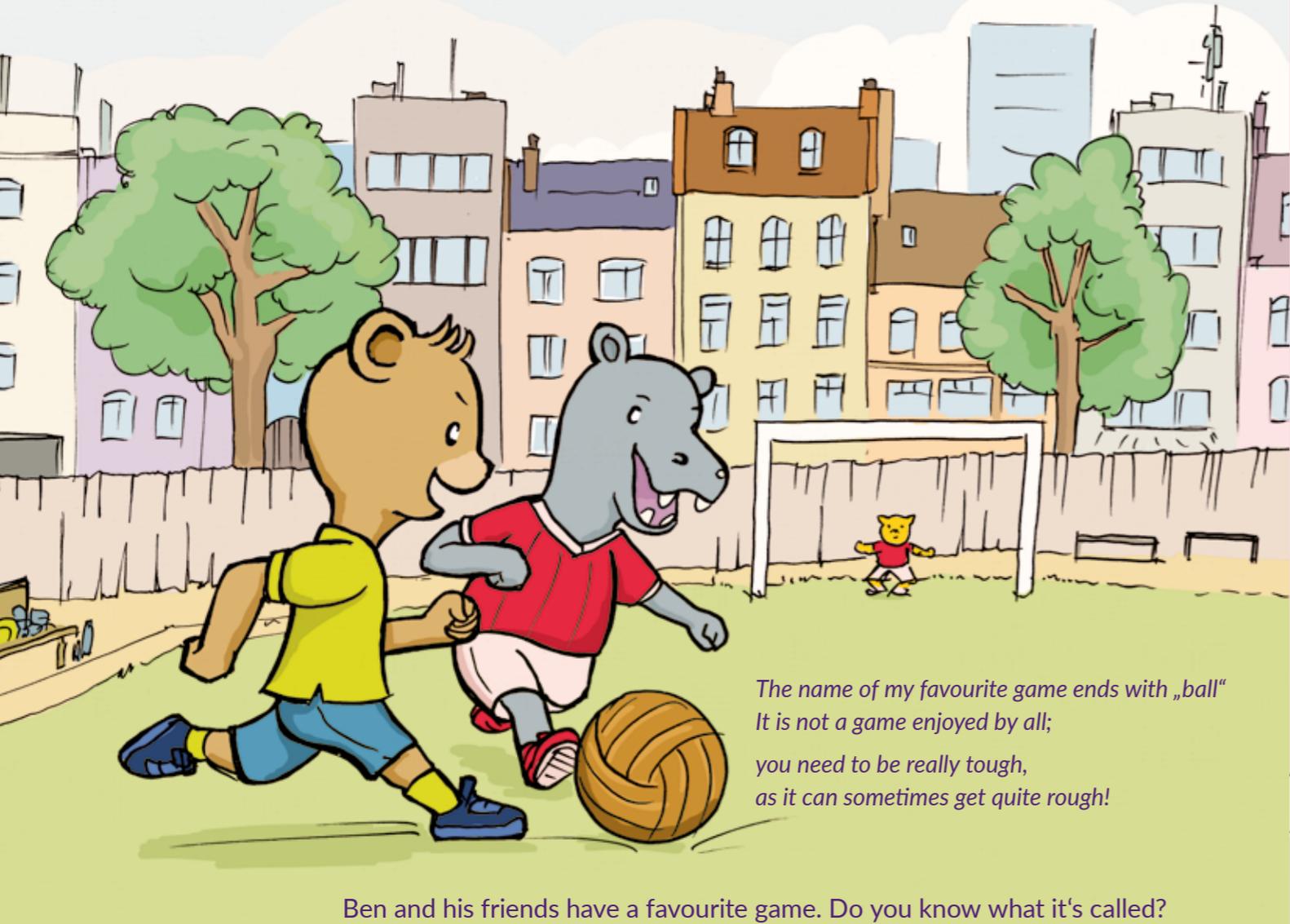


Ben loves water. He likes nothing better than splashing around in the bathtub. Luckily, the button doesn't mind water. Ben's fur ends up nice and clean – and the bathroom ends up full of water!

*When I'm in my bath
I splish and splash,
my button loves water and so do I.
And when I'm all clean, mum just pats me dry.*



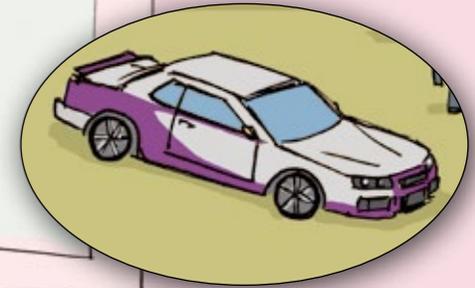
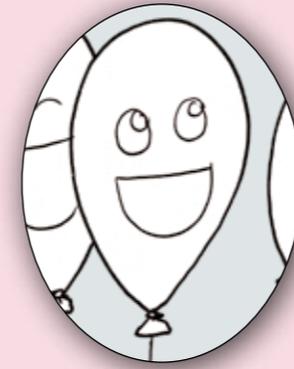
Ben is very lucky to have his feeding button. Thanks to his special food, Ben is a big strong bear again and can play and run around with his friends. No one even knows that he has a second belly button. Ben's feeding button is always well-hidden underneath his jumper and certainly doesn't keep him from enjoying his favourite game!



*The name of my favourite game ends with „ball“
It is not a game enjoyed by all;
you need to be really tough,
as it can sometimes get quite rough!*

Ben and his friends have a favourite game. Do you know what it's called?

Now you know the story of Ben and his new feeding button. All of these things next to Ben were mentioned in the story. Do you remember where you can find them?





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