

Why not me?

Story by Ruth Merttens
Illustrated by Jackie Abey

It was library van day in the forest.
All the animals had come to change
their books, but Woodpecker was very
cross.



“There’s never any fairy stories or tales about Woodpeckers!” he complained. “All the other creatures get stories or tales, but not me. It’s not fair!”



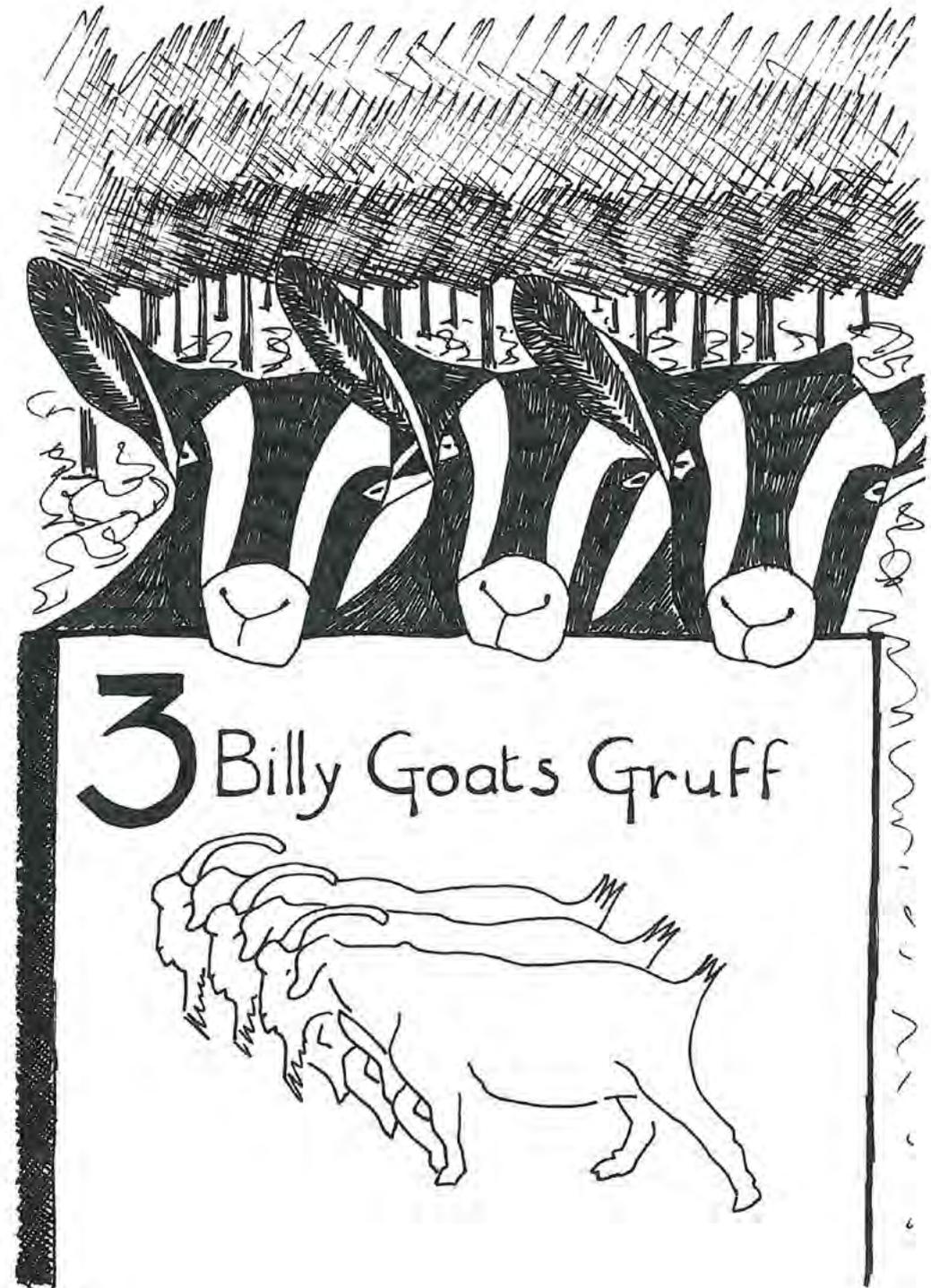
Fox was sitting in a corner finishing his book. "There's lots about me," he boasted. "Foxes come into LOADS of tales." He gave a cunning smirk and went back to his book.



There was a low growl from behind a tree and Wolf appeared. “Not as many as the stories about WOLVES!” He growled again. “Remember, I am the one who is BIG and BAD.”



“Well, we have a story named after us!” cried the three Billy-Goats Gruff, and they trotted happily into the library van.



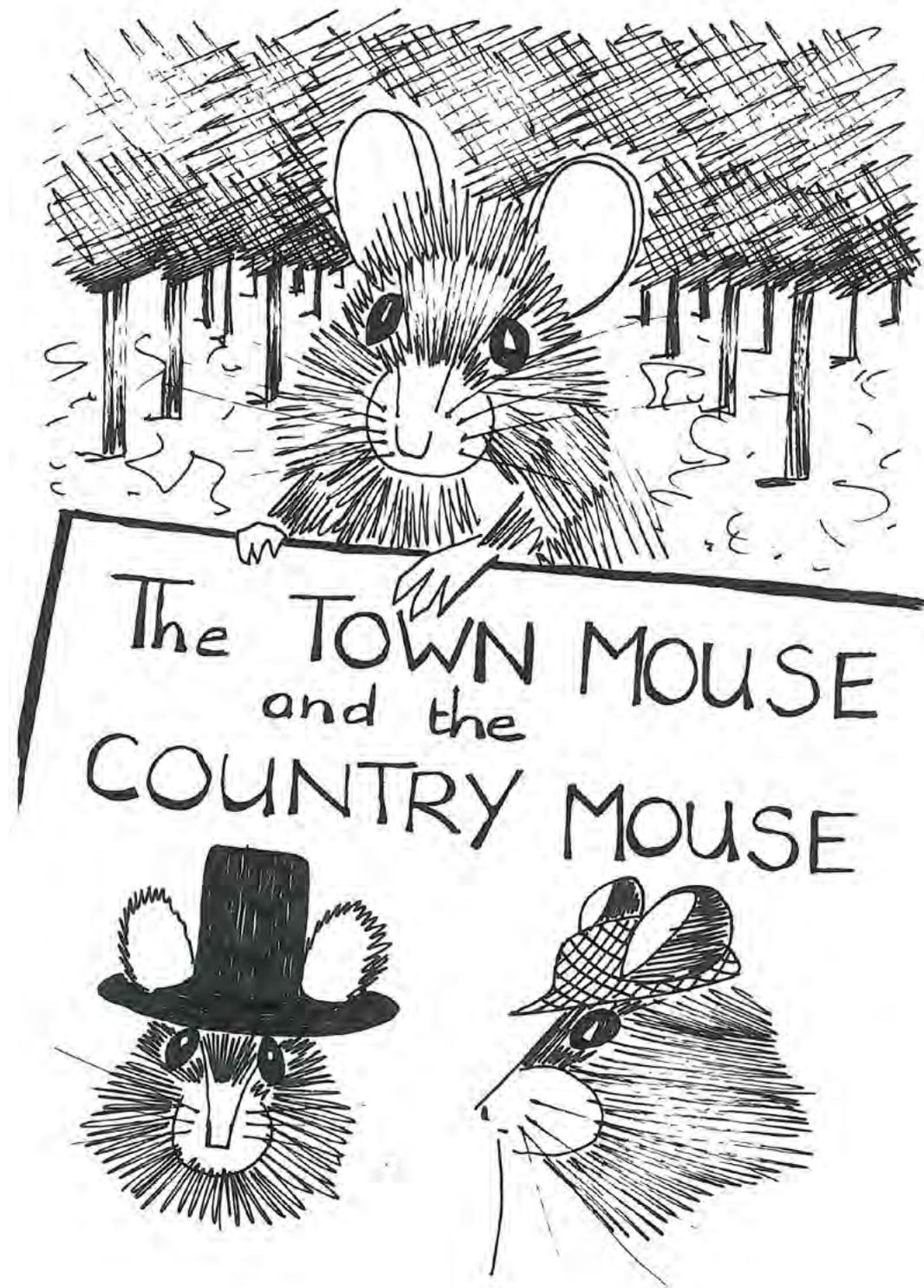
“Chick, chick, chick, chick,
chicken, lay a little egg for me!”
sang the chickens happily. “We
are often in stories. Bad luck
Woodpecker.”



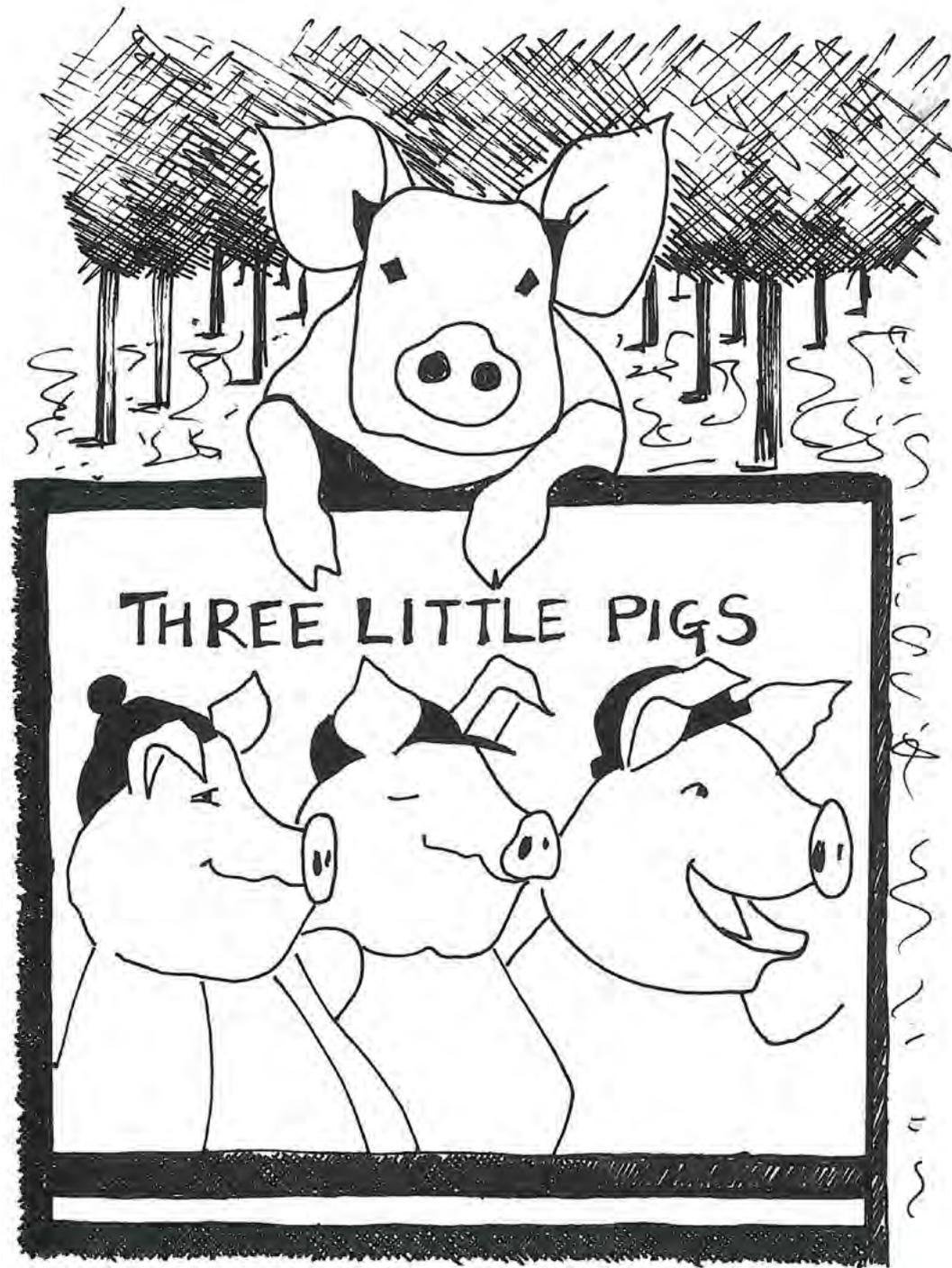
“You see,” said Woodpecker indignantly, “I ‘m the only one with no stories about me!” She shook her feathers. “And I am SUCH a bright and colourful bird...”



“You don’t have to be colourful to be in a story,” said Mouse.
“I am quite plain and grey, but I have several tales about me.”
She stroked her whiskers proudly.



“Even pigs get themselves in tales!” squealed the piglets scurrying along to the library with their books. “And no-one thinks that we’re good-looking!”



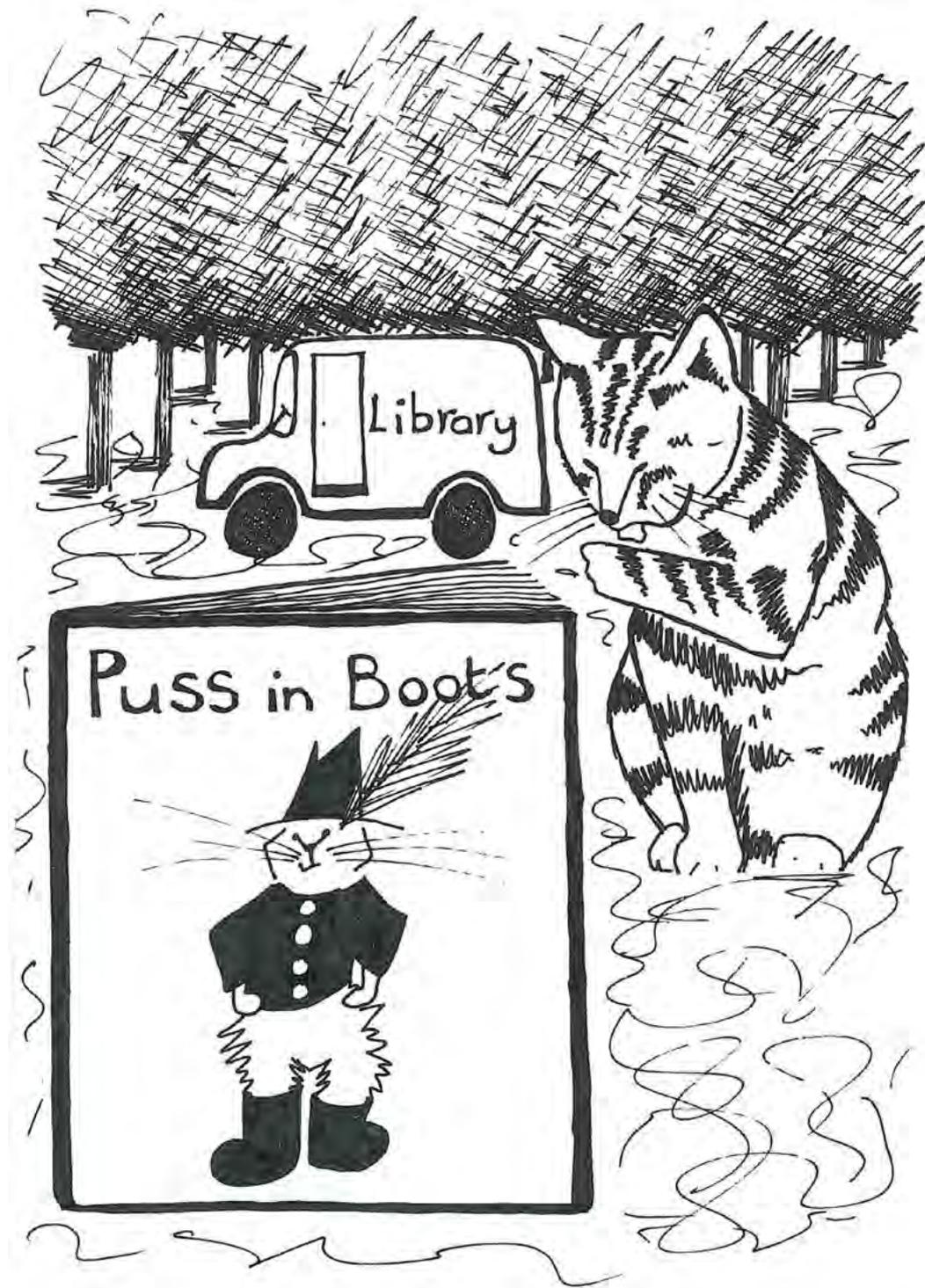
“Well, I’m certainly no beauty,” snuffled Rat. “but there are plenty of tales which have me and my family!”



“Maybe I am TOO beautiful for a story...” muttered Woodpecker.



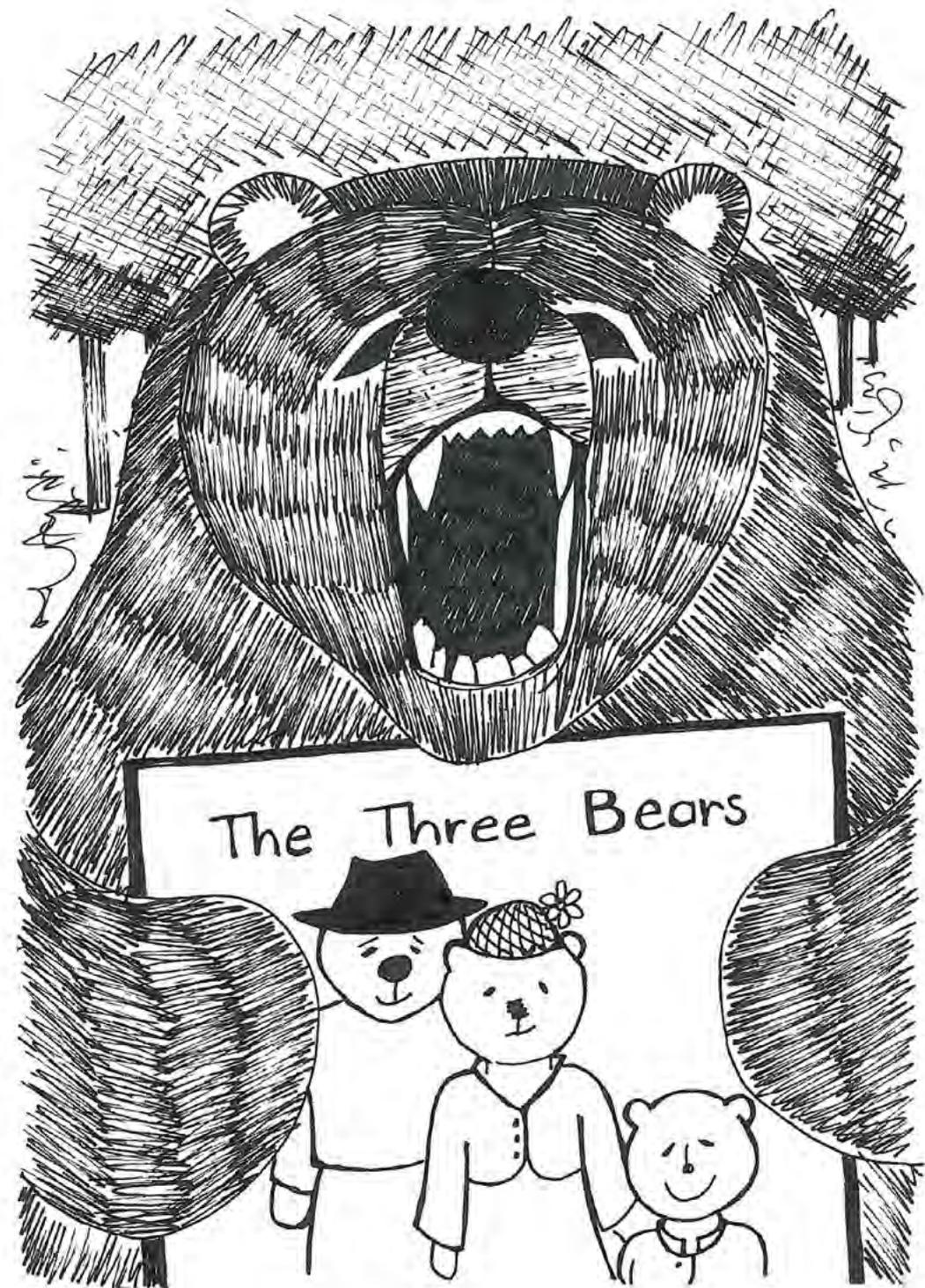
“I don’t think so,” purred Cat.
“After all, I am one of the most beautiful creatures alive, and there are LOADS of tales about me!” She gave herself a quick lick to smooth down her fur.



“Excuse me!” barked Dog. “I think we can agree that there are more traditional tales about me than you, Cat!”



“Well, it helps to be BIG and SCARY,” growled Bear, “then you get into lots of stories.”



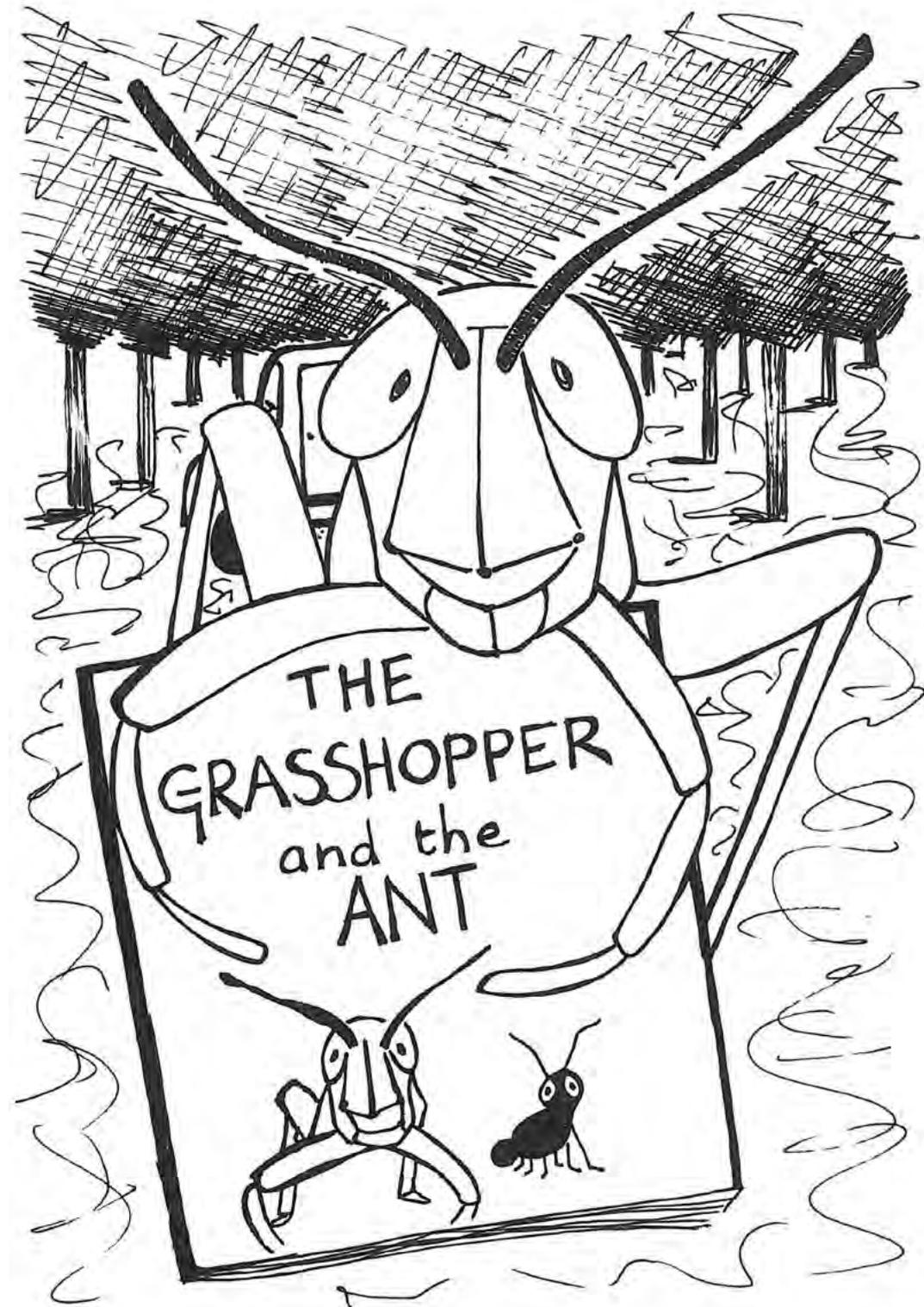
“Did I hear you say BIG?” said a voice, and the Beast came towards the library van. “I think I count as BIG!”



“It’s not to do with being big,” croaked a small voice, “It’s to do with being able to JUMP!” And Frog jumped into the van.



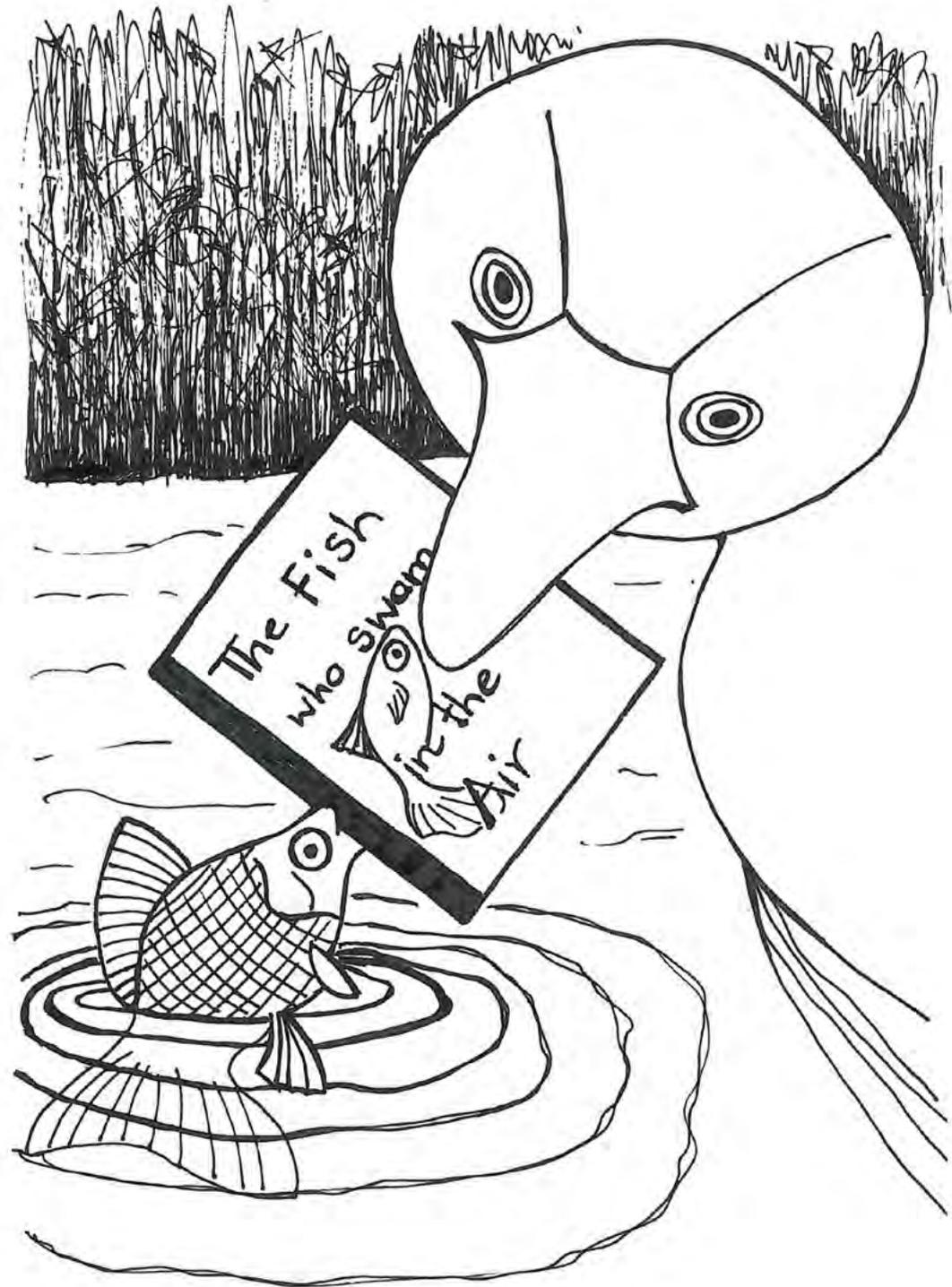
“Yep. Jumping is good!”
Grasshopper came towards the
van. “Maybe that’s how come
I get to be in stories.”



“I doubt it,” quacked Duck, “I think myself it is because we can swim on water and walk on land and also fly in the air!”



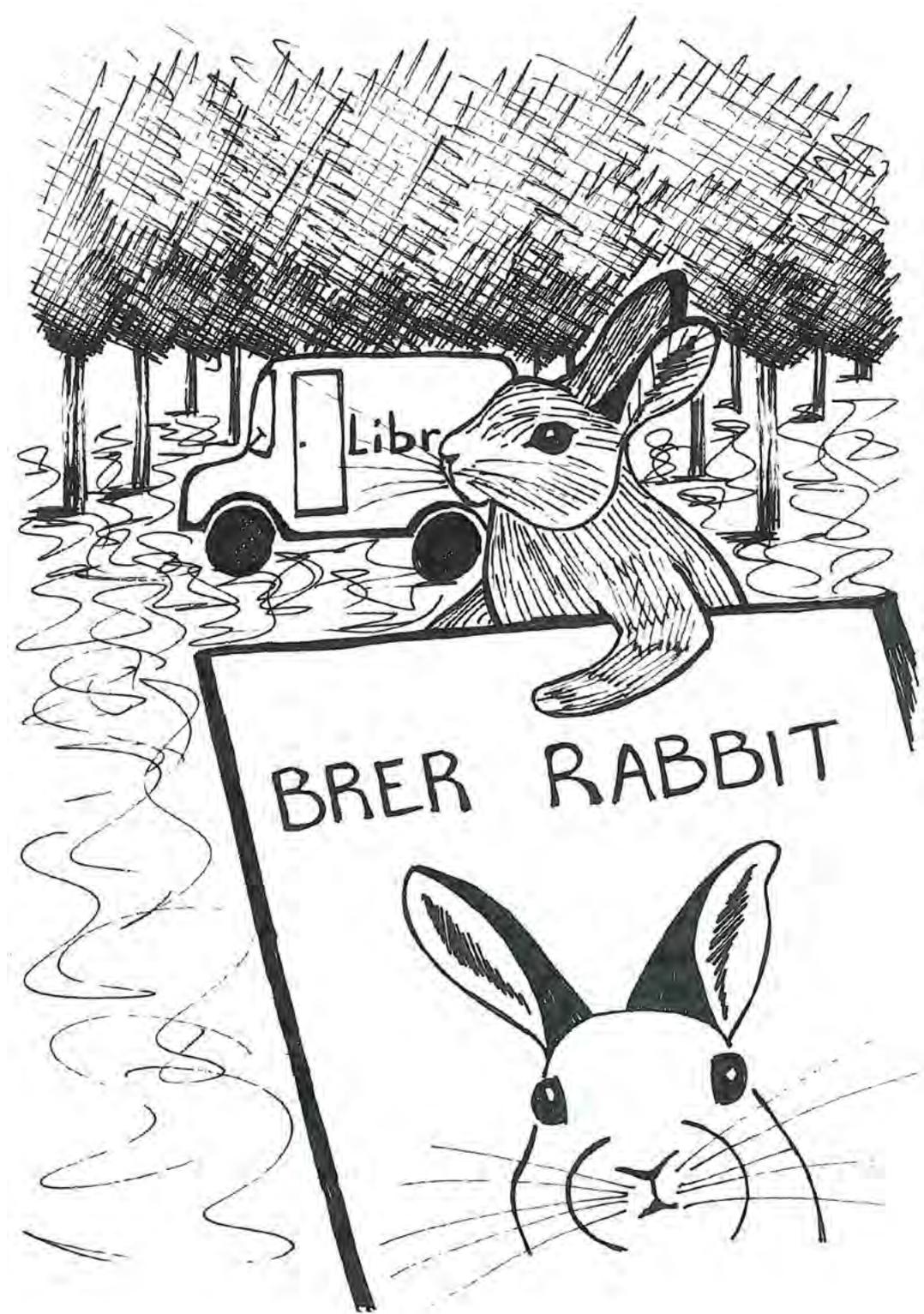
“If you are talking about swimming...” Fish rose out of her pond, “I think I am the best at that. Can someone please change my book for me?”



“Sure, I’ll be happy to take your book back,” boomed Goose. “Especially as I am in several tales myself.”



“Not as many as me!”
squeaked Rabbit as he hopped
along the path to the van.
“Story-tellers just love me!”



“I think you’ll find that there are actually more tales about me,” grumbled Hare, “But people always think that I’m your cousin – which I am NOT!”



“Well I am ugly not pretty,
small not big and I can neither
swim nor fly!”. Spider slid
down his web to land on the
van. “And I have no trouble
finding books about me!”



Woodpecker looked at all the animals. She flicked her tail feathers to show her red bottom. "I am not very big," she admitted. "But I am clever and colourful and quick." She flew off into the branches above the library van. "And SOMEONE needs to write a story about ME!"

Can you?



PGCs	PGCs
/c/ as <u>c</u> , /t/ as <u>t</u> , /a/ as <u>a</u>	/cw/ as <u>qu</u> , /cs/ as <u>x</u> , /y/ as <u>y</u>
/d/ as <u>d</u> , /g/ as <u>g</u> , /o/ as <u>o</u>	/oa/ as <u>ow</u> , <u>o</u> , <u>oa</u> , <u>oe</u> , <u>o-e</u>
/m/ as <u>m</u> , /n/ as <u>n</u>	/ooh/ as <u>oo</u> , <u>ew</u> , <u>o</u>
/i/ as <u>i</u> , /s/ as <u>s</u> and <u>ss</u>	/z/ as <u>z</u> , <u>zz</u> and <u>s</u> , /g/ as <u>gu</u> and <u>gh</u>
/u/ as <u>u</u> , /r/ as <u>r</u>	/er/ as <u>er</u> , <u>ur</u> , <u>ir</u> , <u>ear</u> , <u>or</u>
/h/ as <u>h</u> , /l/ as <u>l</u> and <u>ll</u>	/s/ as <u>c</u> , <u>se</u> and <u>ce</u>
/e/ as <u>e</u> , /b/ as <u>b</u>	/j/ as <u>g</u> , <u>ge</u> and <u>dge</u>
/f/ as <u>f</u> and <u>ff</u> , /sh/ as <u>sh</u>	/l/ as <u>le</u> + <u>tt</u> , <u>gg</u> , <u>bb</u>
/p/ as <u>p</u> , /c/ as <u>k</u> and <u>ck</u>	/ue/ as <u>ew</u> , <u>u-e</u> and <u>u</u>
/ee/ as <u>y</u> , /p/ as <u>pp</u> (+ <u>mm</u> , <u>dd</u> , <u>rr</u> , <u>nn</u>)	/ch/ as <u>tch</u> , /oy/ as <u>oi</u> , <u>oy</u>
/ee/ as <u>ee</u> , <u>ea</u> , <u>e</u>	/ooh/ as <u>ue</u> , <u>u-e</u> , <u>ui</u> /c/ as <u>ch</u> , (/ooh/ as <u>ou</u>)
/w/ as <u>w</u> and <u>wh</u> *, /ch/ as <u>ch</u>	/air/ as <u>ear</u> , <u>air</u> , <u>are</u> , (<u>ere</u> , <u>eir</u>)
/th/ as <u>th</u> , /ng/ as <u>ng</u>	/u/ as <u>o</u> , <u>ou</u> , (<u>o-e</u>) /f/ as <u>ph</u> and <u>gh</u>
/tthh/ as <u>th</u> , /v/ as <u>y</u> , <u>ve</u>	/e/ as <u>ea</u> , (<u>a</u>), /o/ as <u>a</u>
/oo/ as <u>oo</u> , <u>u</u> and <u>oul</u>	/ay/ as <u>a</u> , <u>eigh</u> , <u>ea</u> , <u>ey</u>
/j/ as <u>j</u> , /ar/ as <u>ar</u> and <u>a</u> *	/ee/ as <u>ie</u> , <u>ey</u> ; /or/ as <u>ar</u>
/ou/ as <u>ou</u> , <u>ow</u> and <u>ough</u>	/or/ as <u>oor</u> , <u>oar</u> and <u>au</u>
/or/ as <u>or</u> , <u>ore</u> , <u>aw</u> and <u>a</u>	/or/ as <u>ough</u> , <u>our</u> , <u>ough</u>
/ay/ as <u>ay</u> , <u>a-e</u> , <u>ai</u>	/or/ as <u>al</u> ; /t/ as <u>ed</u>
/ie/ as <u>y</u> , <u>ie</u> , <u>i-e</u> , <u>i</u> and <u>igh</u>	/d/ as <u>ed</u> ; /ng/ as <u>n</u>
	/sh/ as <u>ti</u> , <u>si</u> , <u>ci</u> , <u>ch</u> /zh/ as <u>si</u> , <u>as</u> and <u>s</u>

Code-Breakers

Extended Texts ~ Book 4

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