Piggy Peter Crosses the Road

by Mike Muirhead

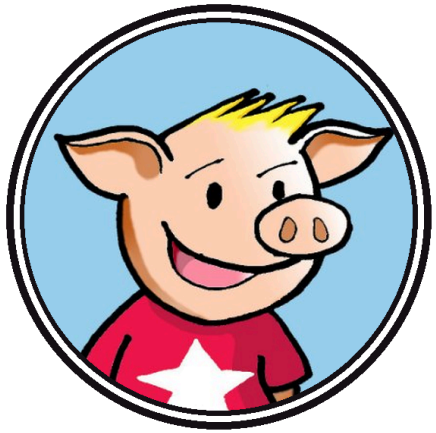


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Piggy Peter Crosses the Road

Story by Mike Muirhead

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Spikey is the first to awake early one morning. He decides to leave his nice warm bed and go out to play. Creeping over to Piggy Peter he whispers, “Come on, let’s go out to play on the farm.”

Peter looks up sleepily and says to Spikey, “But Momma has always told us not to go out on our own. We will get into trouble!”

“Momma won’t miss us,” says Spikey. “Come on.”

“Alright,” says Peter, and the two piggies sneak out of the room.

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They leave the house and walk through the damp grass. The dew splashes up on Peter's nose and he lets out a great big sneeze. Jaunty Jackdaw, who was fast asleep in his tree, falls off his perch and lands on the ground with a thud.

"Good morning," says Peter. "Spikey and I are going to play on the farm. Would you like to join us?"

"Well, now you have woken me up, I may as well join you," says Jaunty, rubbing his rather sore head.

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They pass Moggy Mole, who is busy cleaning his whiskers, and squeeze through a hole in the hedge to get into the next field. The grass in this field is taller and Peter and Spikey can only just see over it. They see Connie Cow in the distance. She has been up and eating grass for over 2 hours. It will soon be milking time and Farmer Fred will be calling her.

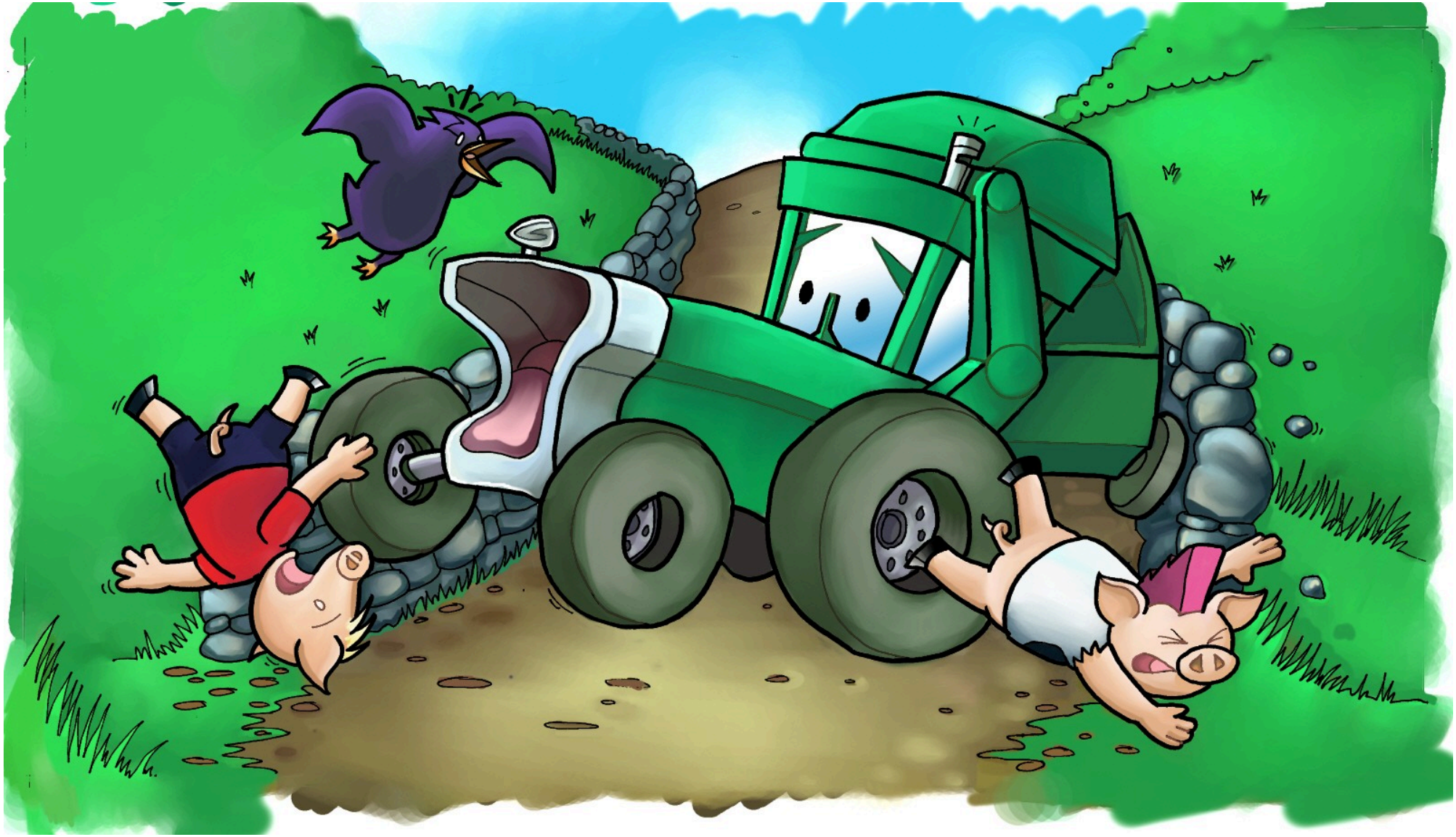
A small road runs through the middle of the field. It leads to the village of Byford. Peter and Spikey stop by the side of the road to get their breath. Peter's heart is beating quickly. He has never been so far from home before, and Momma has told him never to cross the road alone.

Just then Jaunty swoops down and screeches, "Peter, Spikey, look over there! The lambs are frolicking in their field. Let's go and join them."

Without thinking, Peter and Spikey dash out across the road to join the lambs.

"Look out!"

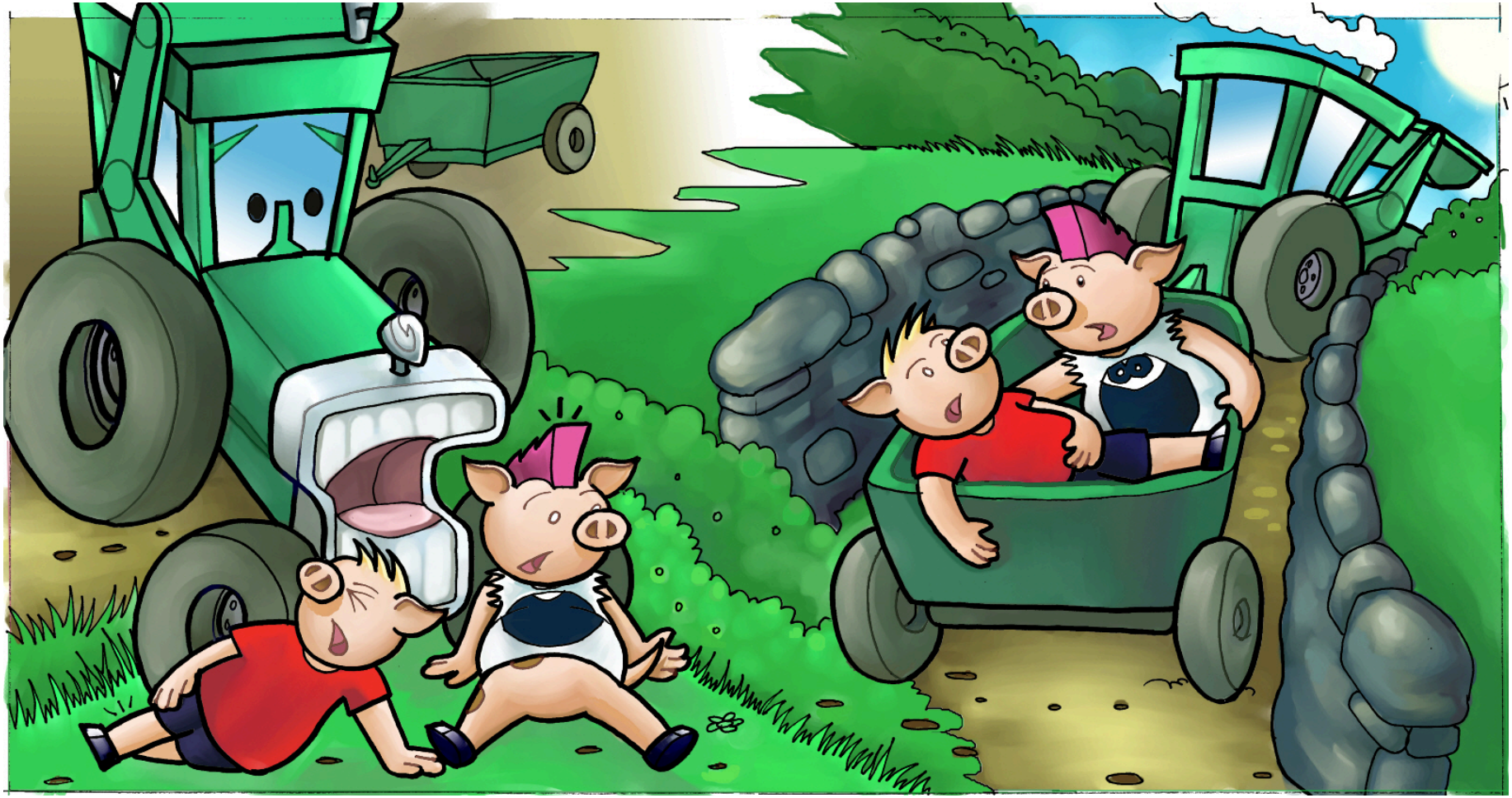
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It was Trundle Tractor, coming over the hill on his way to pick up Farmer Fred. But it was too late! He hit Peter and sent him flying into the air. Peter landed on the road with a crunch; his leg was badly twisted. Spikey was slightly luckier. He managed to scramble out of the way, although Trundle did run over his tail.

Jaunty Jackdaw looked down and shrieked, “Oh no! I will fly off and find Momma Pig.”

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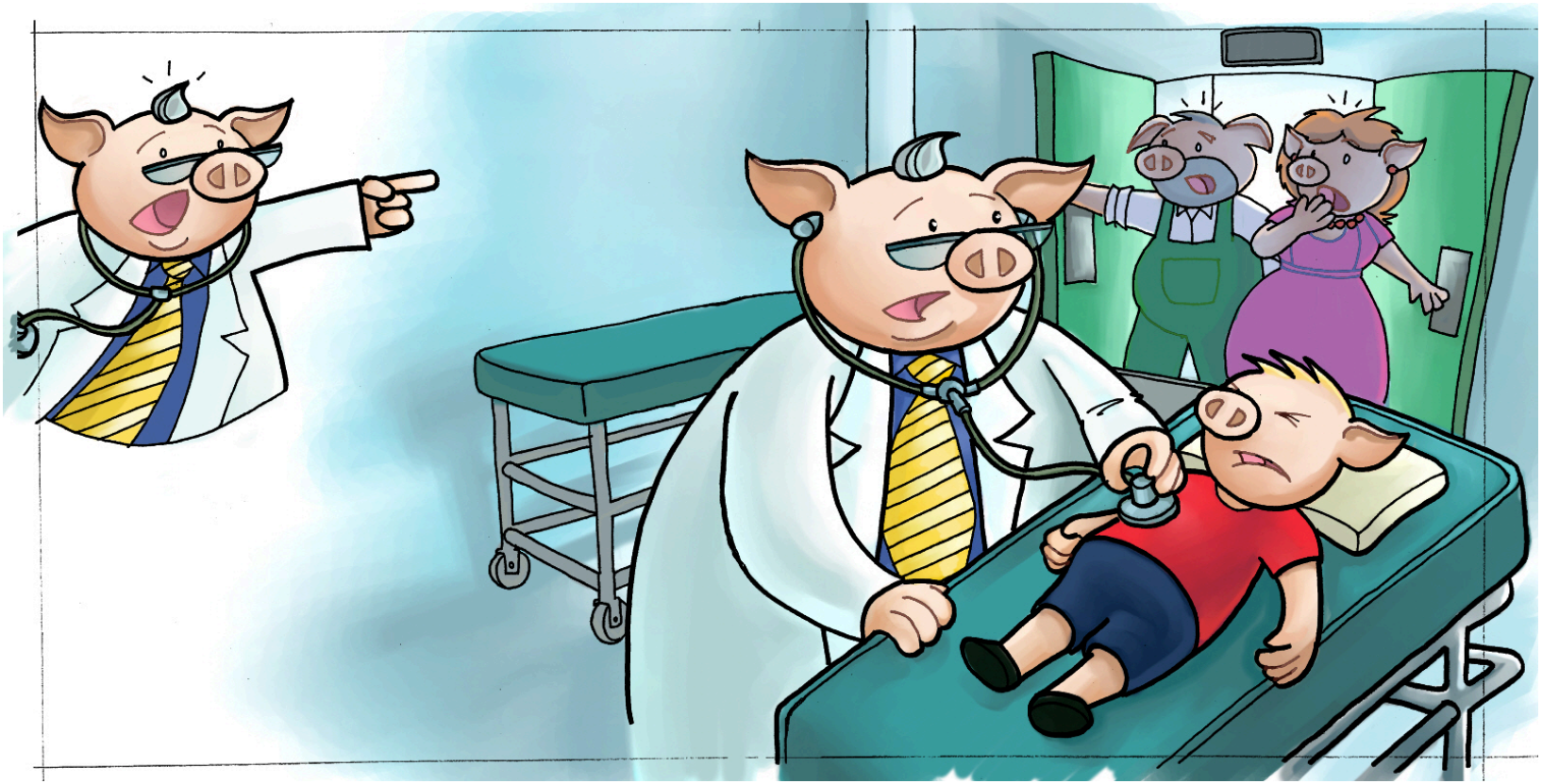
Trundle, looking very concerned, unhitched his trailer and went over to the two piggies. Peter is crying; his leg is hurting badly. Spikey is staring at his throbbing tail, looking rather bemused.

Trundle gently picks Peter up with his bucket and puts him into his trailer. “We had better go and see Doc Hogwell. Your leg might be broken,” said Trundle.

Spikey jumps into the trailer to sit with Peter, who is still in great pain.

Trundle re-hitches his trailer, blows a large puff of smoke from his exhaust and drives off down the hill to Byford and Doc Hogwell’s hospital.

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Doc Hogwell had just arrived back from visiting Grumpy Goat, who had cut himself and insisted the Doc came out to see him.

Doc Hogwell looks at Peter and says quickly, “Bring him into my hospital immediately.”

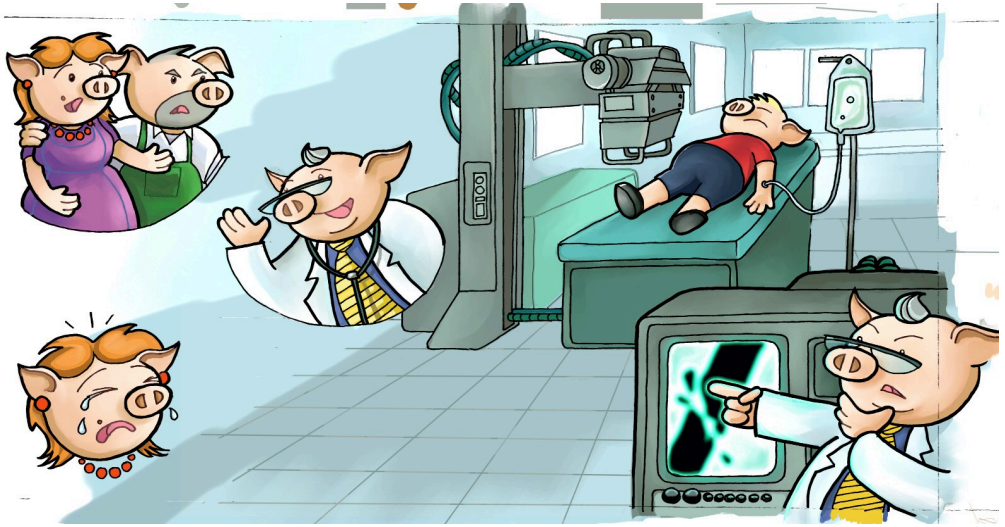
By now Peter is moaning and looking very pale. Doc Hogwell places his stethoscope on Peter’s chest and then examines his leg.

There is a loud knock on the surgery door and in come Momma and Poppa Pig. They are both very worried. “How is he?” says Momma.

“Well, he has been run over by Trundle Tractor, but it wasn’t his fault,” says Jaunty.

“I’m afraid it’s a rather nasty accident. He has broken his leg and he is in shock and pain,” adds Doc Hogwell.

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Momma Pig starts to cry and Poppa puts his arm around her. “Will he be all right?” Poppa asks.

“I think so,” says Doc Hogwell. “But first I must treat him for shock. Then I must X-ray his broken leg and finally put on a plaster to make it heal. It will be about 6 weeks before he is better. He will have to stay in hospital for 2 days.”

With tears rolling down her face Momma asks, “And how is Spikey? Will he be all right?”

“Well, he has been lucky. He is a little bit shocked, and it looks as though he has had his tail straightened for ever. He will need a bandage, but he will be able to go home.”

“Why did they run away?” Momma asks. “They are very naughty boys. They have been told not to go near the road.”

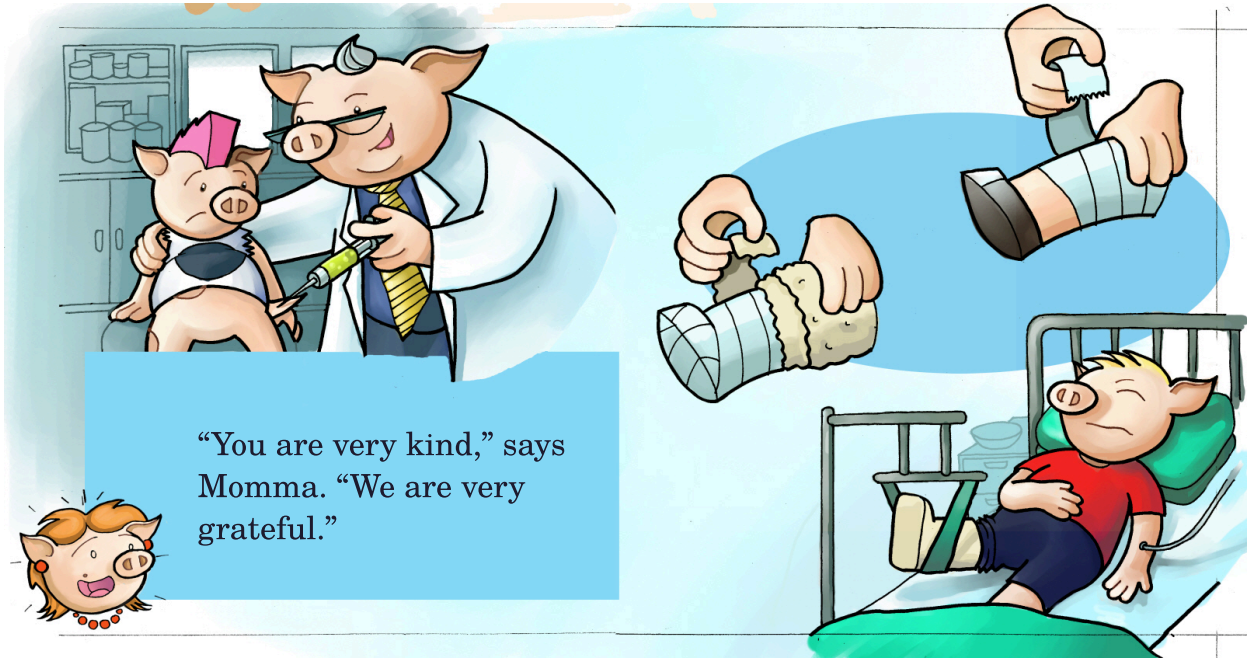
Doc Hogwell lifts Peter onto a trolley and gives him an injection to stop the pain and a drip of fluids to help him get over the shock.

Doc Hogwell takes Peter to the X-ray room to see how badly Peter’s leg is broken and what he must do to mend it.

Peter lies under the X-ray machine. There is a clicking sound and two pictures of Peter’s leg appear after a few minutes.

Doc Hogwell studies them carefully. The leg is broken across the middle. “I won’t have to operate,” he says, “but a plaster will be necessary. You will need a quick anaesthetic, but I need to wait a while for you to get over the shock,” he said to Peter.

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Spikey is sitting quietly in the corner, still looking at his straightened tail. "Let's have a look at you," Doc says to Spikey. "Your tail needs a bandage. I am afraid it will be straight from now on, though."

"I am going to give your tail an injection to take all the pain away and then mend it. You won't feel anything!" said the Doc.

After the injection Doc Hogwell rubbed some cream into Spikey's swollen tail and wrapped it in a bandage.

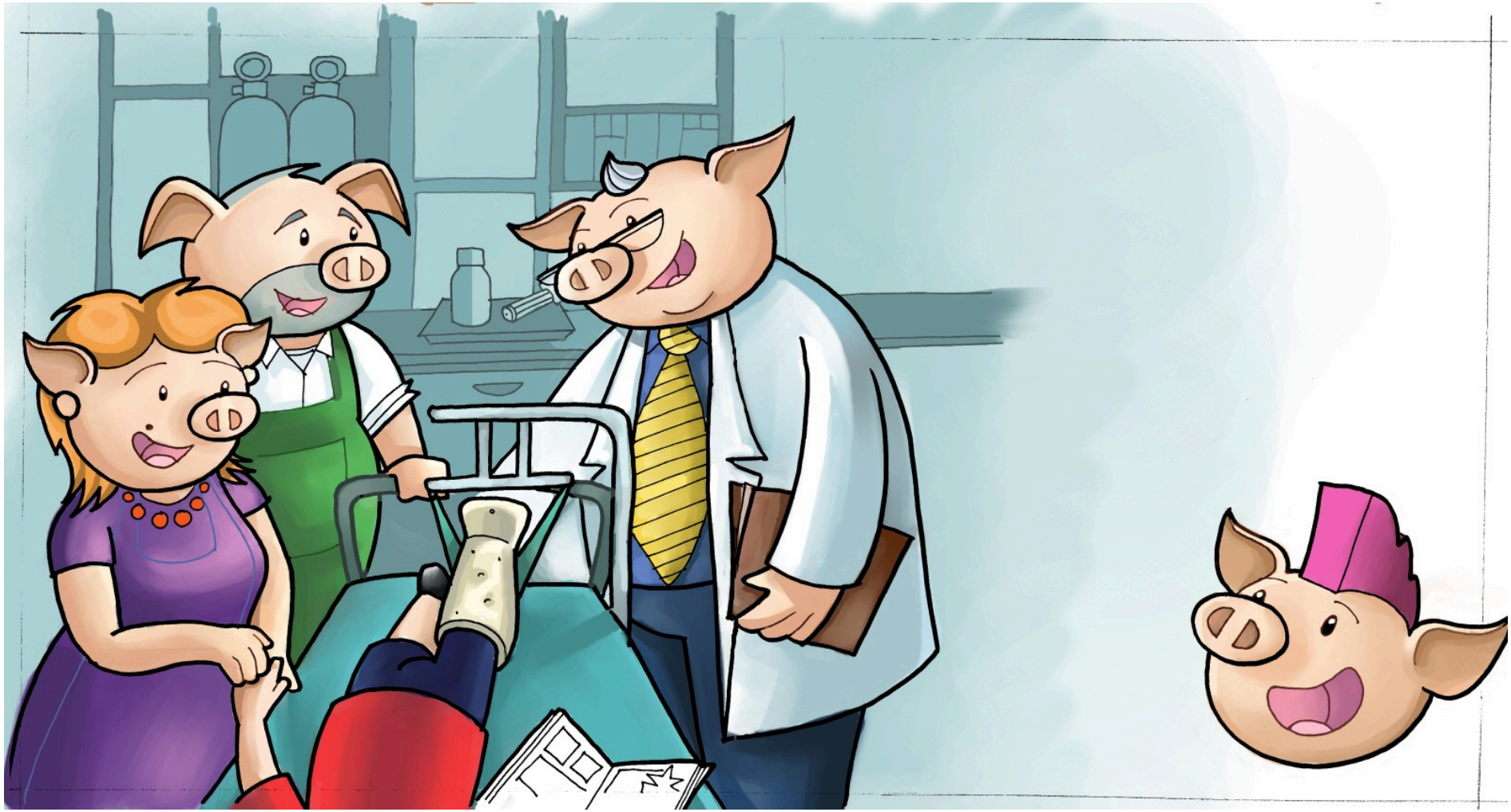
"Spikey can now go home," Doc Hogwell said to Poppa. "However, he will need to come back in a few days for a check-up."

"I must ask you all to leave now, as I need to treat Peter," said Doc Hogwell. "He is now over the shock and we can give him a quick anaesthetic."

In about 10 seconds Peter is fast asleep and snoring. Doc Hogwell holds Peter's crooked leg and straightens it out. He then wraps cotton wool round the leg and rolls wet plaster bandages around it.

Soon Peter's leg is covered in white plaster, which quickly goes hard. The broken bone will now heal itself. Doc Hogwell takes another X-ray to check all is well and then Peter is moved to a soft bed to recover.

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At 10 o'clock the next day Momma and Poppa return to the hospital. Piggy Peter is feeling much better, but his leg is still very sore.

"I must keep him in for another 24 hours," says Doc Hogwell, "and if everything is fine he can then go home."

A few days later Spikey is taken back to the hospital. His tail has healed well and Doc Hogwell is very pleased. As he takes the bandage off he says to Spikey, "Remember to cross the road correctly in future."

"Yes, I will," Spikey says.

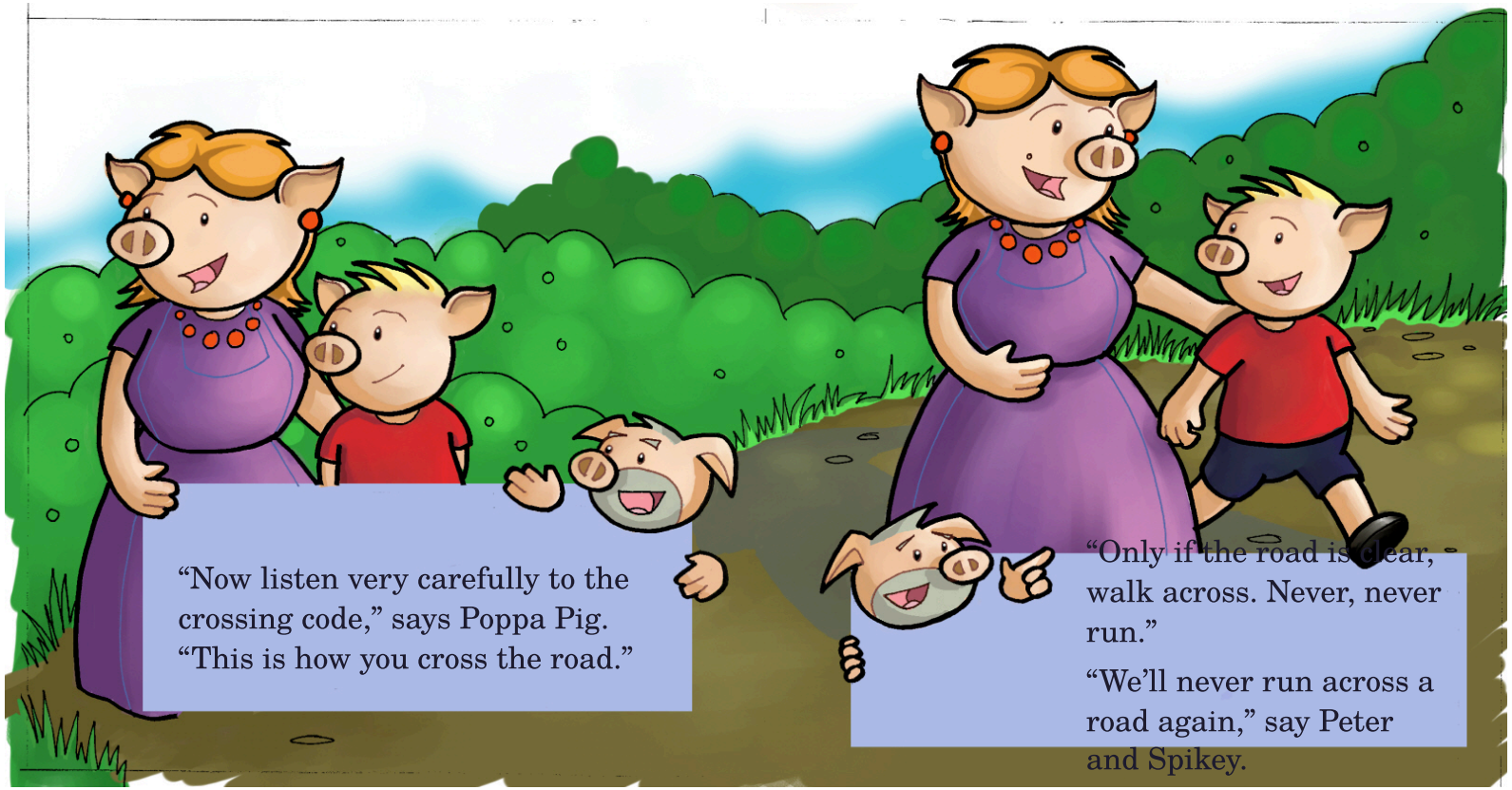
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For the next 6 weeks Piggy Peter has his leg in plaster while it slowly gets better. He has not enjoyed this, as he has not been able to bathe in his wallow and his leg has been very itchy.

At the end of the 6 weeks Momma takes him back to hospital, where Doc Hogwell X-rays his leg and removes the plaster. He carefully feels the leg and then says to Momma, “I am very pleased. It has healed well.”

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"Thank you very much," say Momma and Peter.

Outside the surgery Momma takes Peter firmly by the hand. "We will now walk to the road and you will learn to cross correctly," she says.

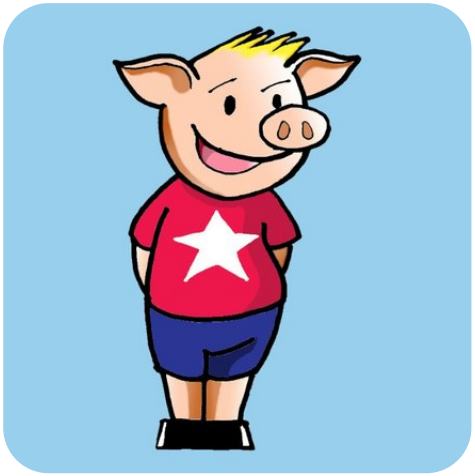
They arrive at the edge of the road and Poppa Pig is waiting with Spikey.

First, find a safe place to cross and STOP. Stand on the pavement near the kerb. Look all around for traffic and listen. If traffic is coming, let it pass, then look all around again. When there is no traffic near, walk straight across the road, looking and listening for traffic while you cross.

"Only if the road is clear, walk across. Never, never run."

"We'll never run across a road again," say Peter and Spikey.

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The End

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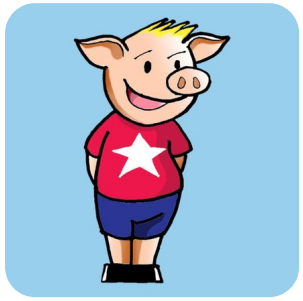
Remember the crossing code

1. Find a safe place to cross, and STOP.
2. Stand on the pavement near the kerb.
3. Look all around for traffic, and listen.
4. If traffic is coming, let it pass. Then look all around again.
5. When there is no traffic near, walk straight across the road. Keep looking and listening while you cross. Never, never run!

Did you know? Trundle was trying to help, but he should not have moved Peter. If someone is badly hurt, keep them still and warm, and call 999 for an ambulance.

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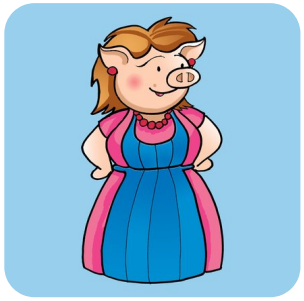
Meet the characters



Piggy Peter



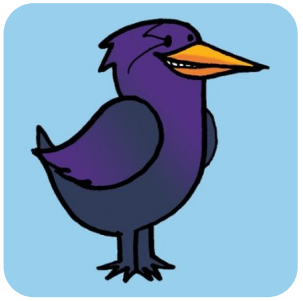
Spikey



Momma Pig



Poppa Pig



Jaunty Jackdaw



Doc Hogwell



Trundle Tractor



Farmer Fred



Connie Cow

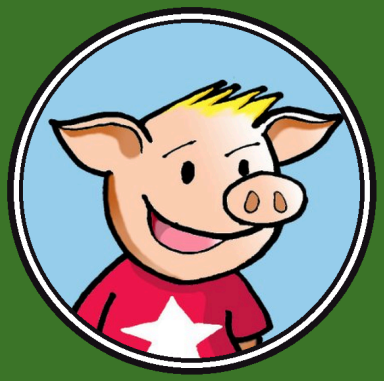


Moggy Mole



Grumpy Goat

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Piggy Peter and his brother Spikey sneak out to play on the farm, and run across the road without looking. Will Peter learn how to cross the road safely?

Look. Listen. Never run.

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