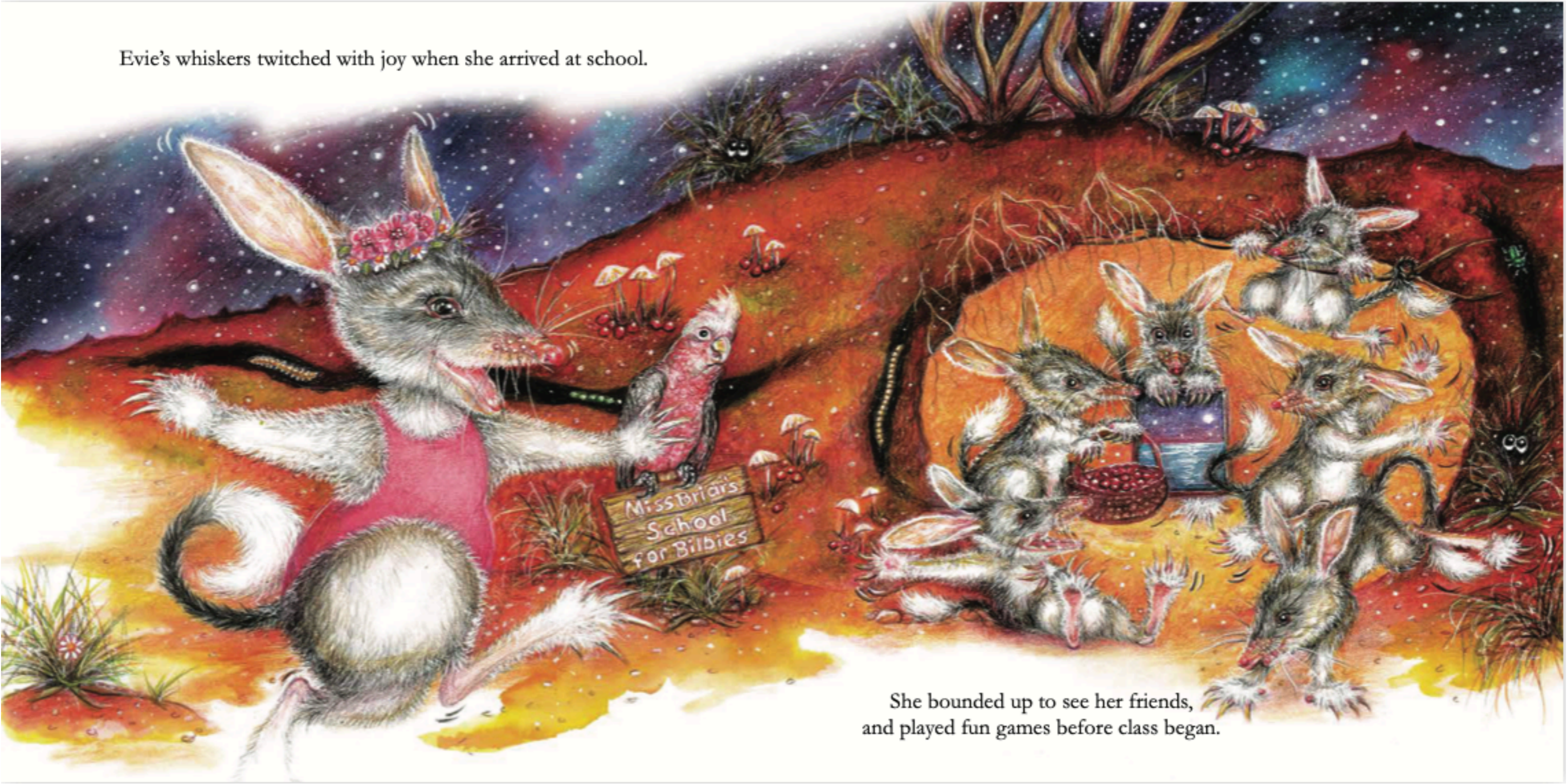


Evie's whiskers twitched with joy when she arrived at school.



She bounded up to see her friends,
and played fun games before class began.

When it came time to listen to instructions, though, Evie didn't do so well.

The words were muffled, as if buried in mud.

oom... BLAH!
arp blehh BLAH... eep
sloop... neep
BLAH!
blah! moos
BLAH!

oom!
BLOO... BLAH!

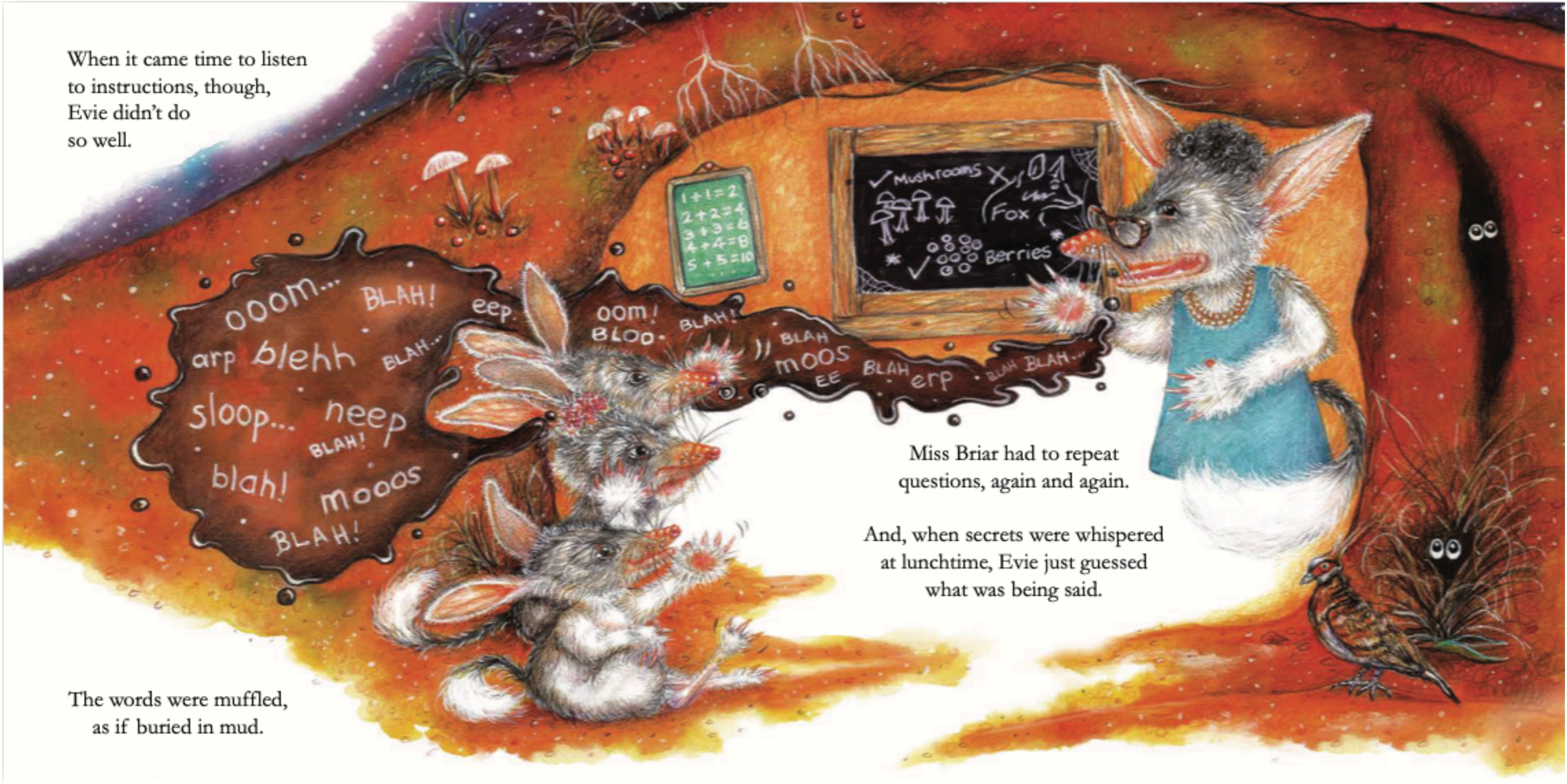
BLAH
MOOS
EE BLAH erp
BLAH BLAH...

$1+1=2$
 $2+2=4$
 $3+3=6$
 $4+4=8$
 $5+5=10$

✓ Mushrooms X
✓ Berries
Fox

Miss Briar had to repeat questions, again and again.

And, when secrets were whispered at lunchtime, Evie just guessed what was being said.



The next day, she held her mother's tail tightly.

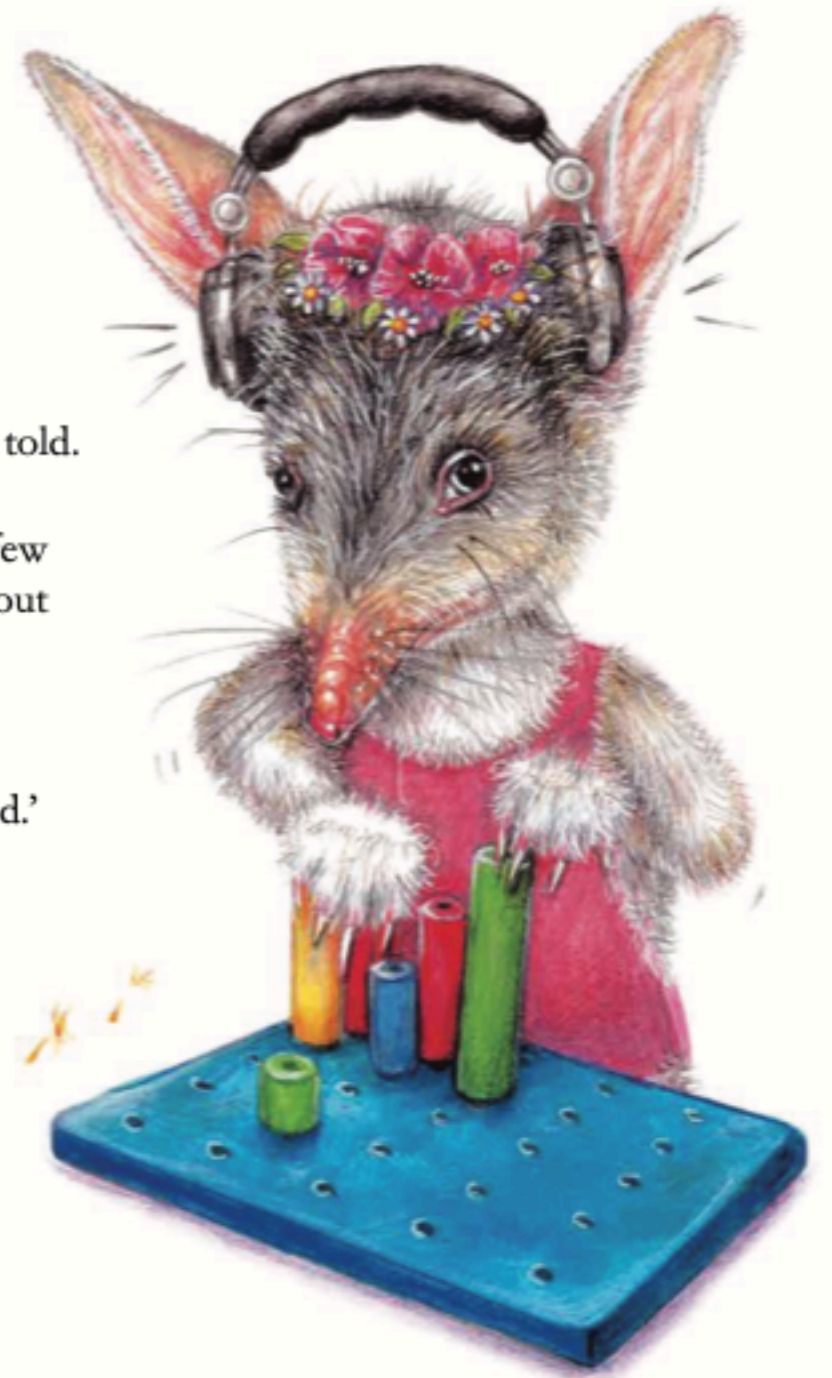


Her nose quivered
as they
entered the clinic.

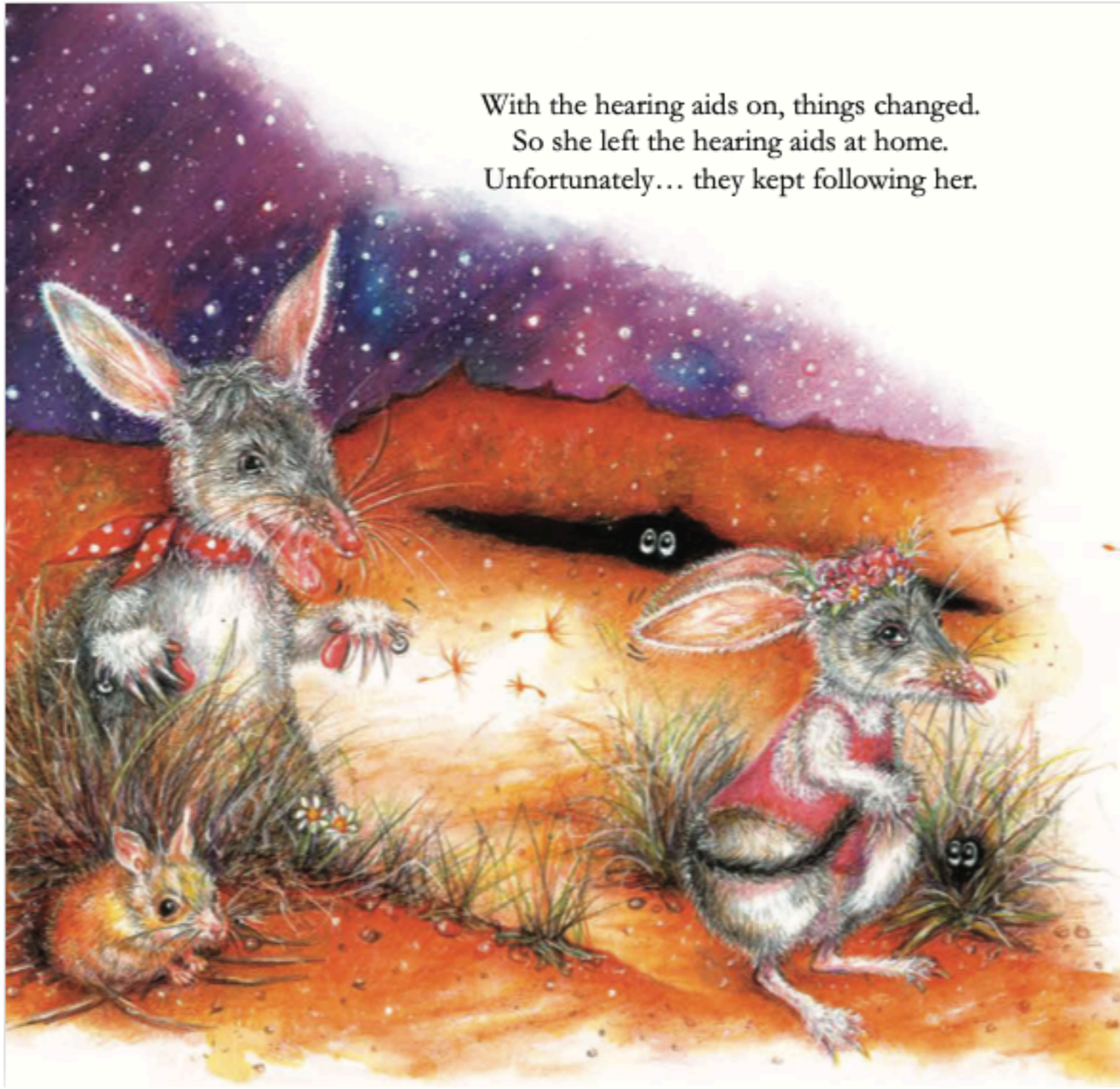
'Don't be scared,' Evie was told.

'You only have to play a few
special games, and listen out
for sounds, okay?'

Evie nodded.
'That doesn't seem so bad.'

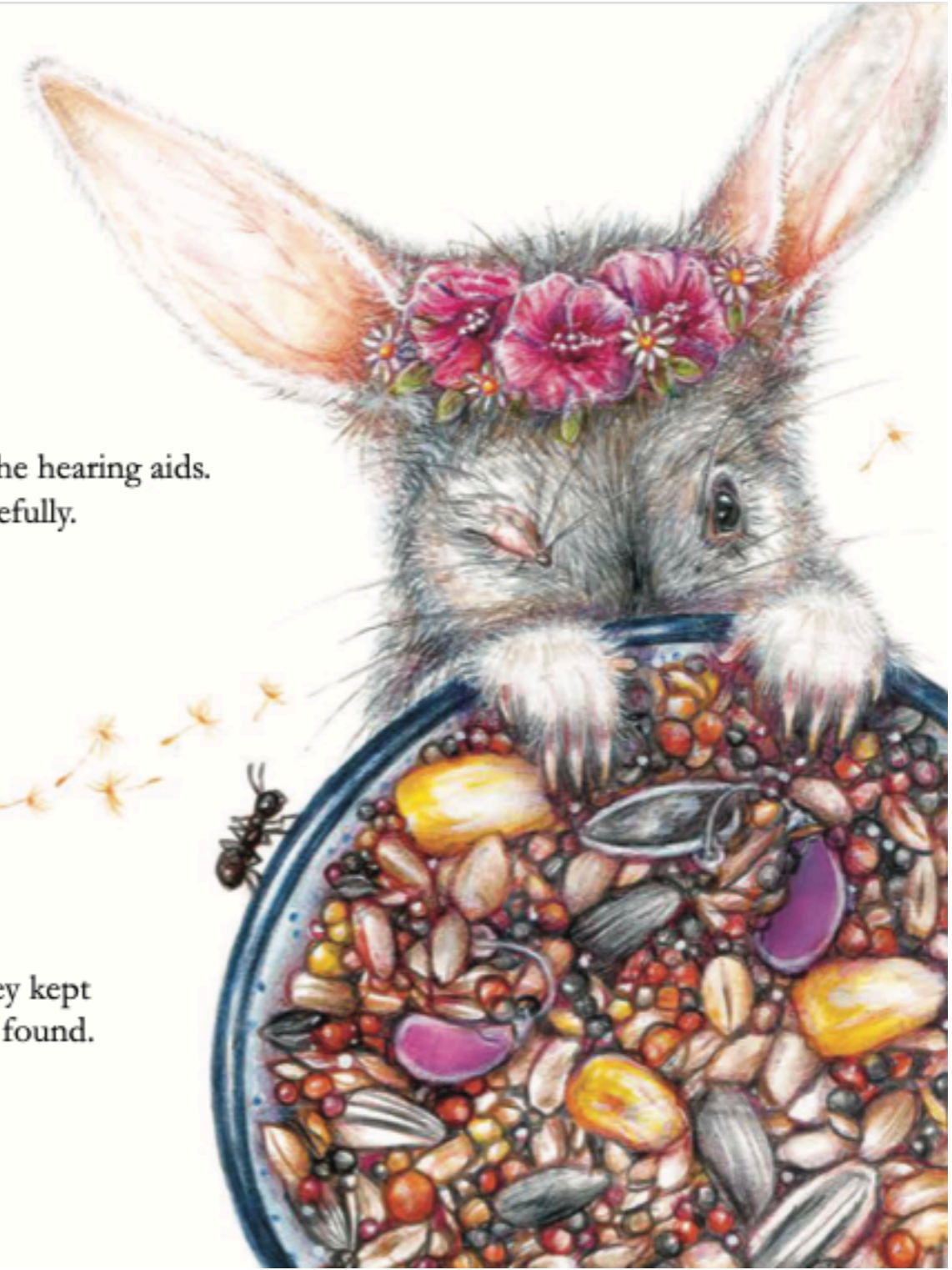


With the hearing aids on, things changed.
So she left the hearing aids at home.
Unfortunately... they kept following her.



So Evie hid the hearing aids.
Carefully.

But they kept
getting found.



And, even better,



she always gets to join in on the secret
whispers at lunchtime.