

# Digiduck's BIG Decision



Written by **Lindsay Buck**, *Childnet International*  
Illustrated by **Ciara Flood**

# Digiduck's BIG Decision

Printed with kind support from

**Microsoft**

© Copyright Childnet 2011 – 2012. All rights reserved.

First published 2012 by Childnet International.  
Printed by Freestyle Print Ltd – [www.freestyleprint.com](http://www.freestyleprint.com).

This edition published 2014.

ISBN 978-0-9573506-3-2

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner Childnet.

Text by Lindsay Buck, Childnet, 2012.

Design and illustration by Ciara Flood 2012.  
[www.ciaraflood.co.uk](http://www.ciaraflood.co.uk)

The rights of Ciara Flood as the illustrator of this work have been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988.

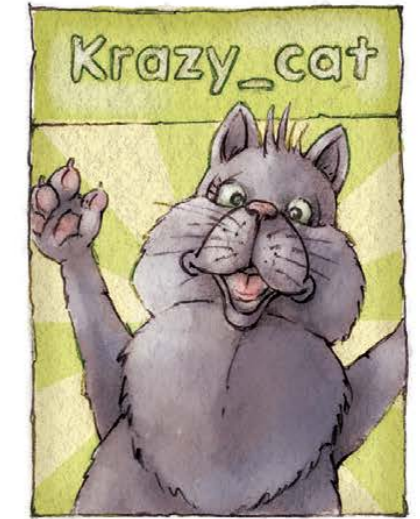
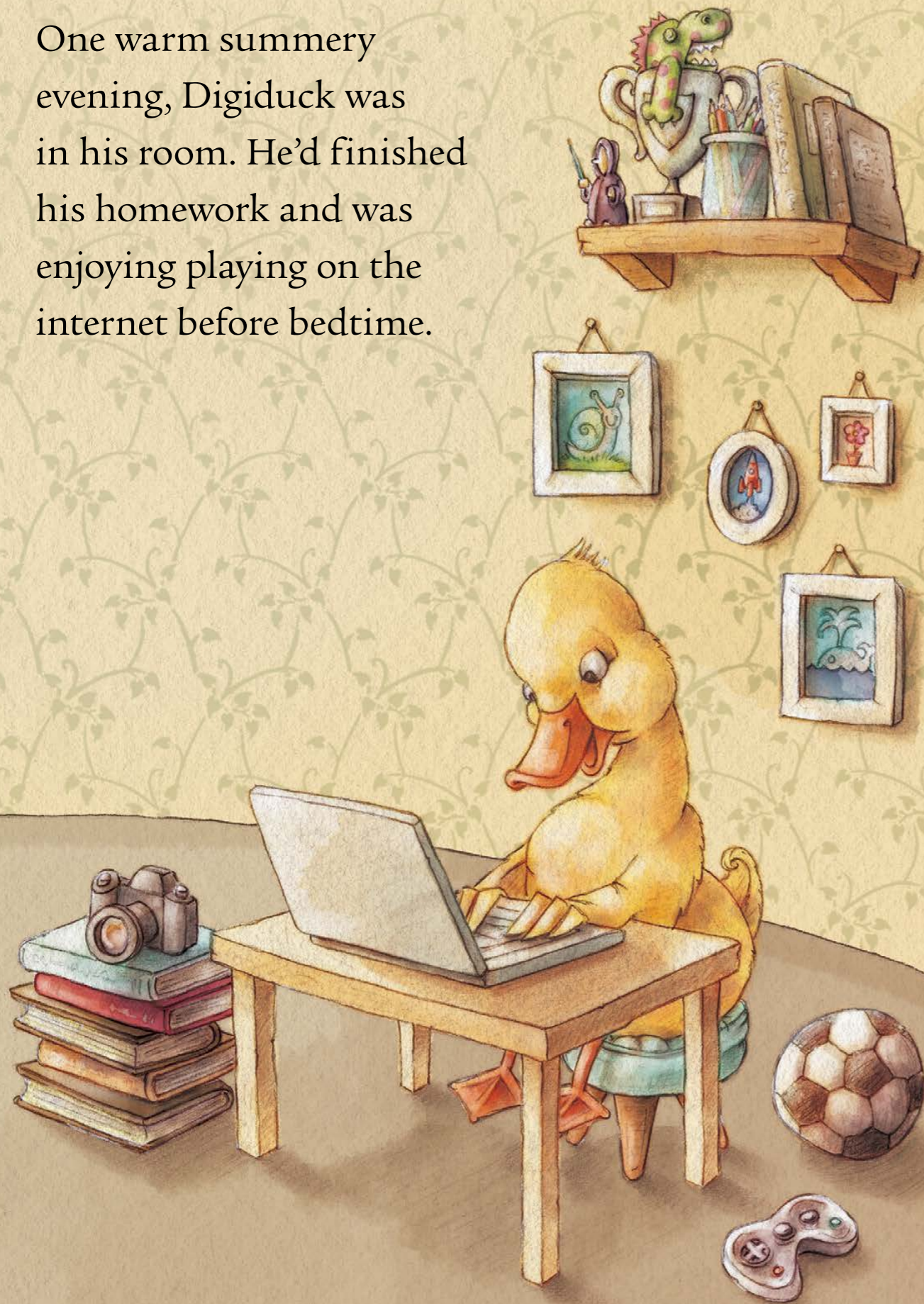
Thanks to [fontdiner.com](http://fontdiner.com) for the use of the cover typeface.



Written by **Lindsay Buck**,  
*Childnet International*

Illustrated by **Ciara Flood**

One warm summery evening, Digiduck was in his room. He'd finished his homework and was enjoying playing on the internet before bedtime.

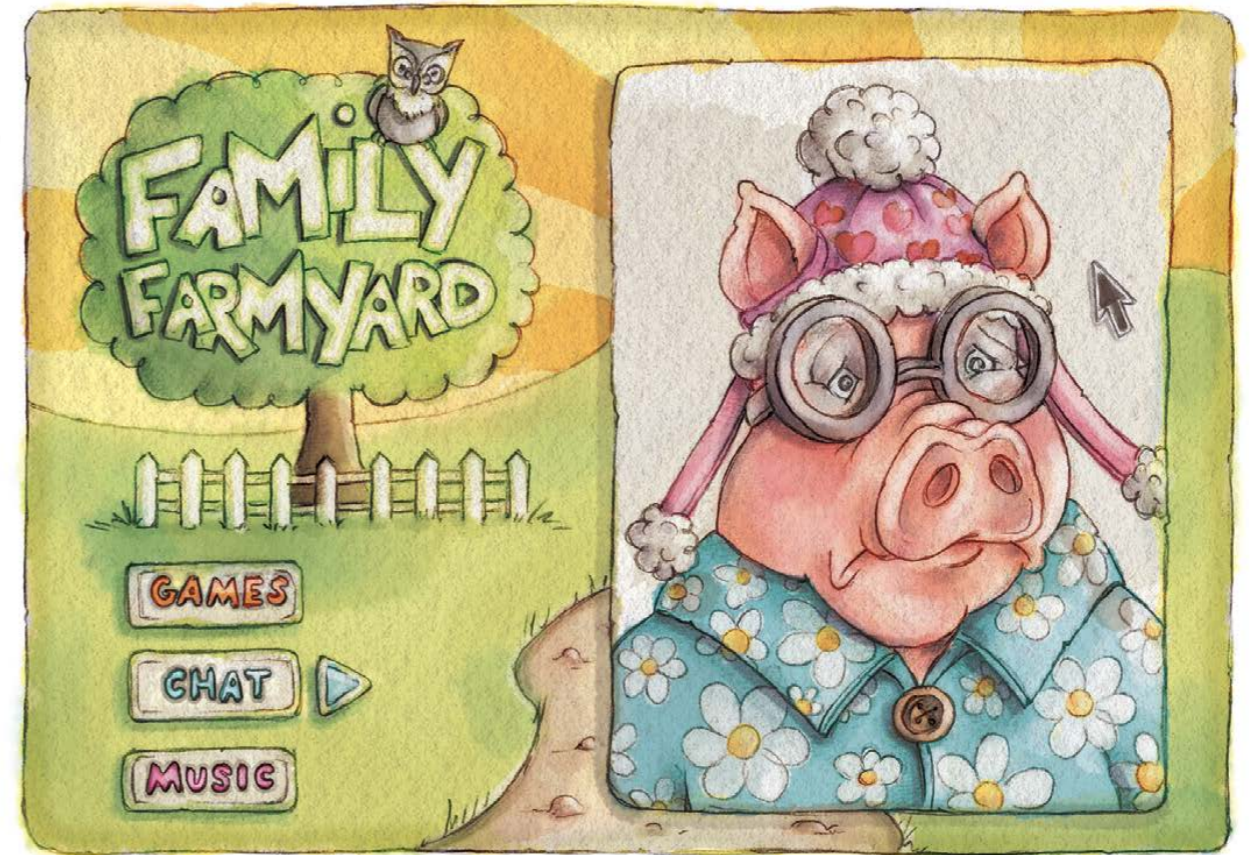


Family Farmyard was his favourite website. He could play games and chat to his friends. Great fun! Many animals liked to play at the Farmyard, including Digiduck's best friends from school.

Digiduck's screen went ping and he saw a new message from a friend. "How exciting!" he thought. He opened it and giggled.



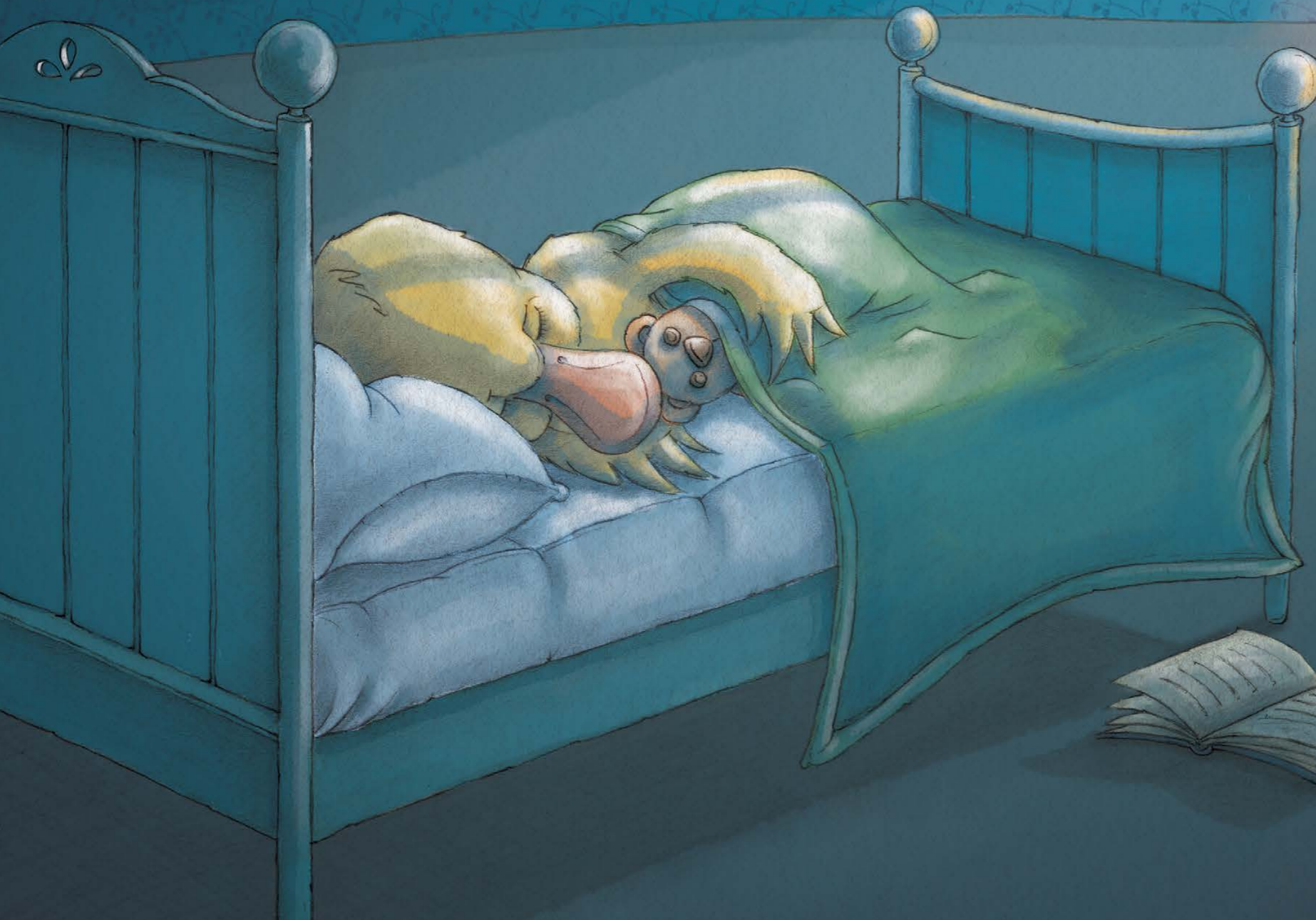
Someone had made a picture of Proud.pig looking very silly indeed. "That is so funny!" chuckled Digiduck. "I must show my friends."



Before he could send the photo to everyone, Mummy Duck called up the stairs, "Bedtime darling duck! Wash your feathers, hop into bed and I'll be up as quick as a flap to tuck you in."

Digiduck felt sleepy so didn't argue, he didn't want to be tired for Proud.pig's party tomorrow. "I'll send the photo in the morning," he decided. Soon enough he was sound asleep.

The sky grew dark and the stars were shining brightly. All that could be heard were the soothing snores of Mr and Mrs Duck.



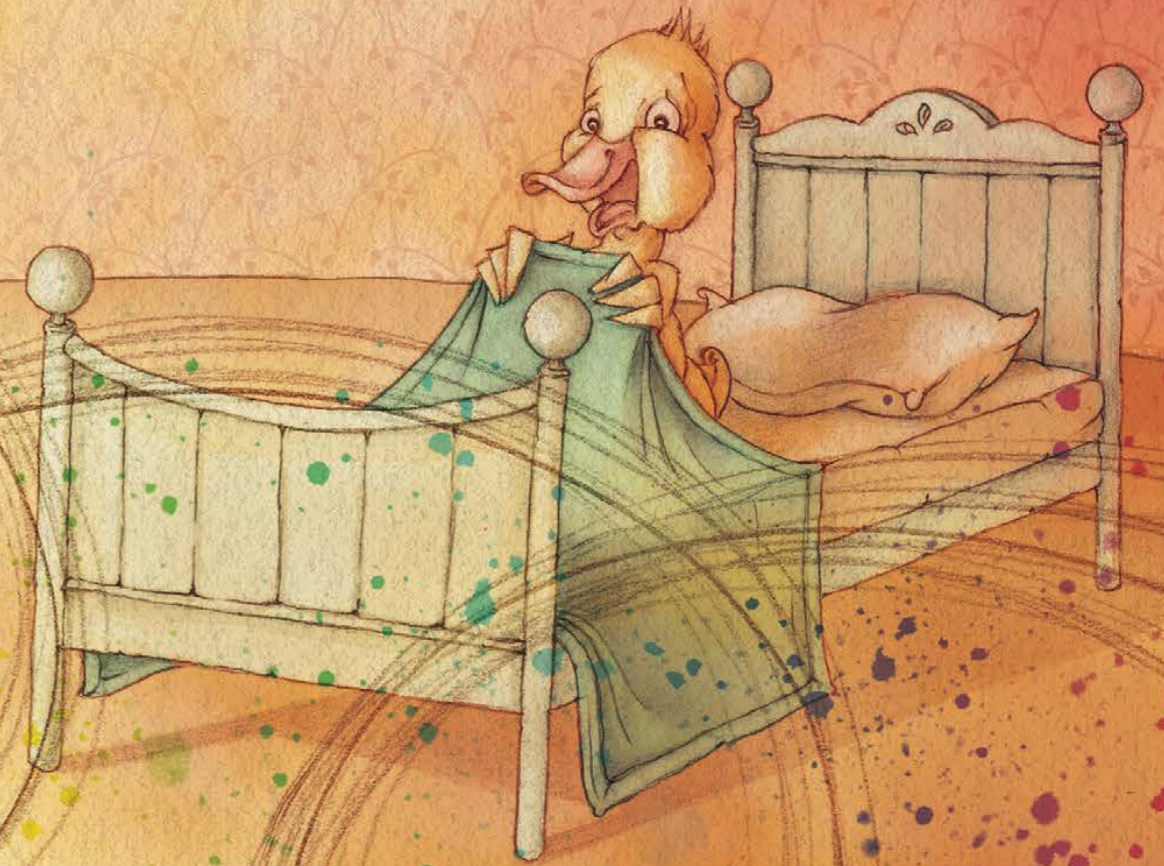
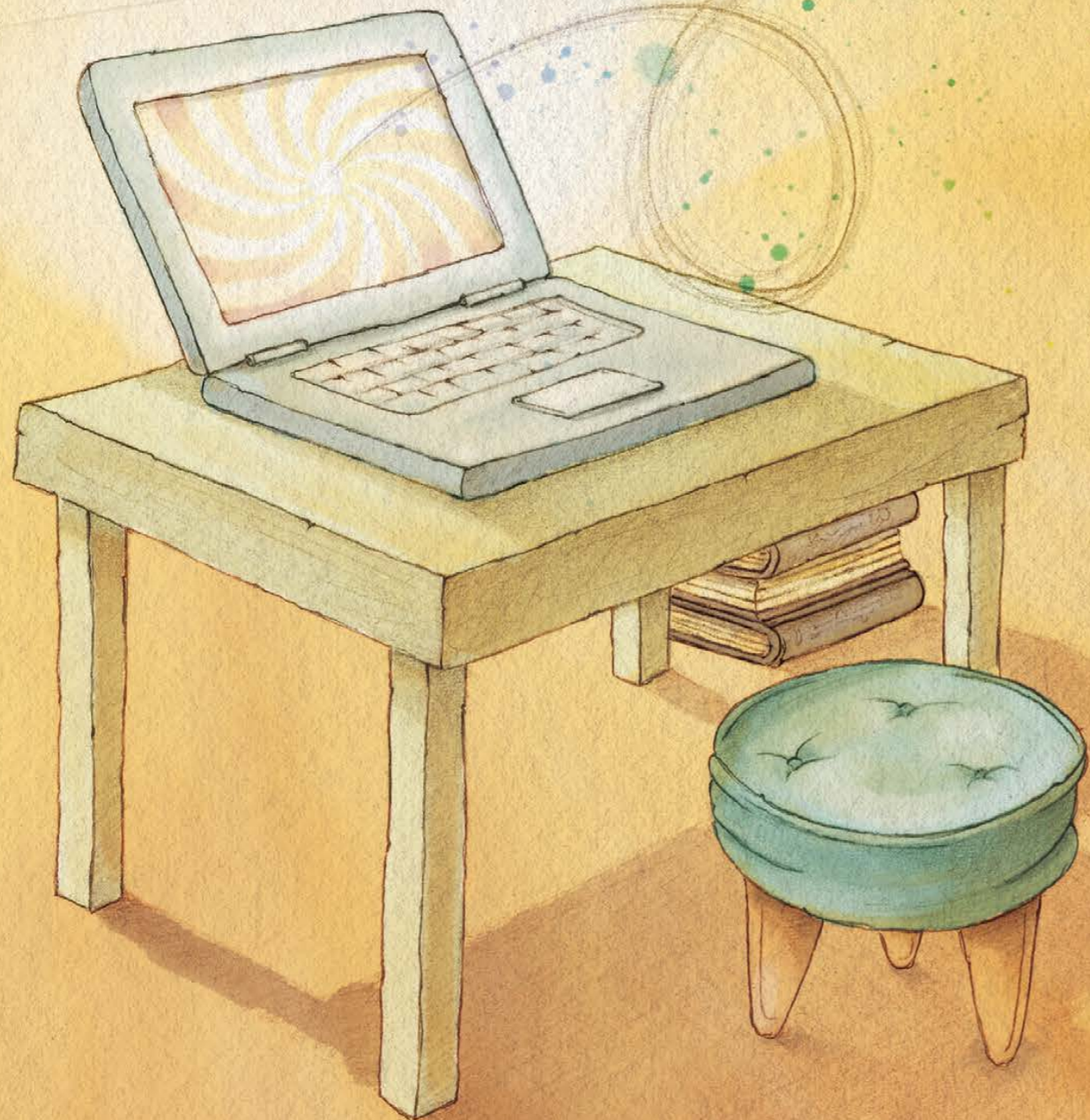
All of a sudden, a mysterious glow filled the room...



A dazzling flash and a loud

# wheeee

soon had Digiduck sitting up in bed wide awake!



He watched in amazement as a large ball of feathers hurtled out of the screen and rolled across the floor.

Digiduck was looking at an old owl, grey from tip to tail. “Wise\_Owl,” said the owl, peering over his spectacles and holding out a wing to shake.



“Ooof! I always have trouble with the landing,” muttered the tangle of feathers as it straightened itself up and dusted itself down.

“I know you!” exclaimed Digiduck.  
“You’re in charge of the Farmyard website.”  
Wise\_Owl smiled and said, “I’m here for  
a very important matter. You’re thinking  
of sending that photo, so I’m going to show  
you what might happen if you do.”

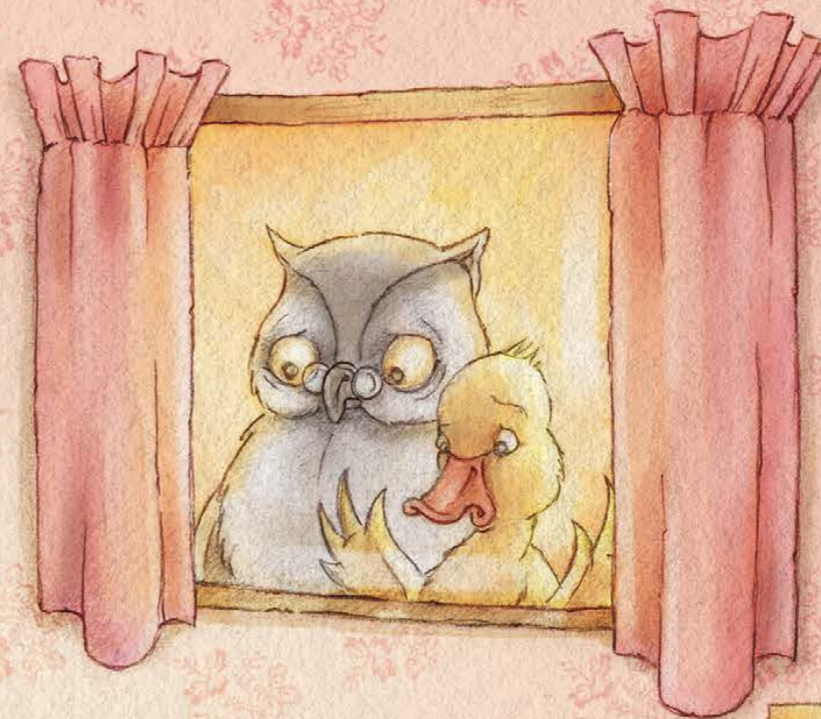
There was no time to ask what on earth  
Wise\_Owl was talking about!



He swiftly scooped Digiduck up and they flew  
out into the night, off through time, to the future...



After a bumpy flight they landed outside Shy-Sheep's cottage. Digiduck peered inside and saw his best friends gathered together.



Cool.cow had brought a game that they all wanted to play.

“Why am I not there?” asked Digiduck, confused.  
“We always play together.”  
“Unfortunately you haven’t been invited,”  
replied Wise\_Owl.

“After you sent the photo, Shy-Sheep found Proud.pig crying in the playground. She was very sad to see Proud.pig so upset, especially as the picture had come from you Digiduck. You’re supposed to be friends.”

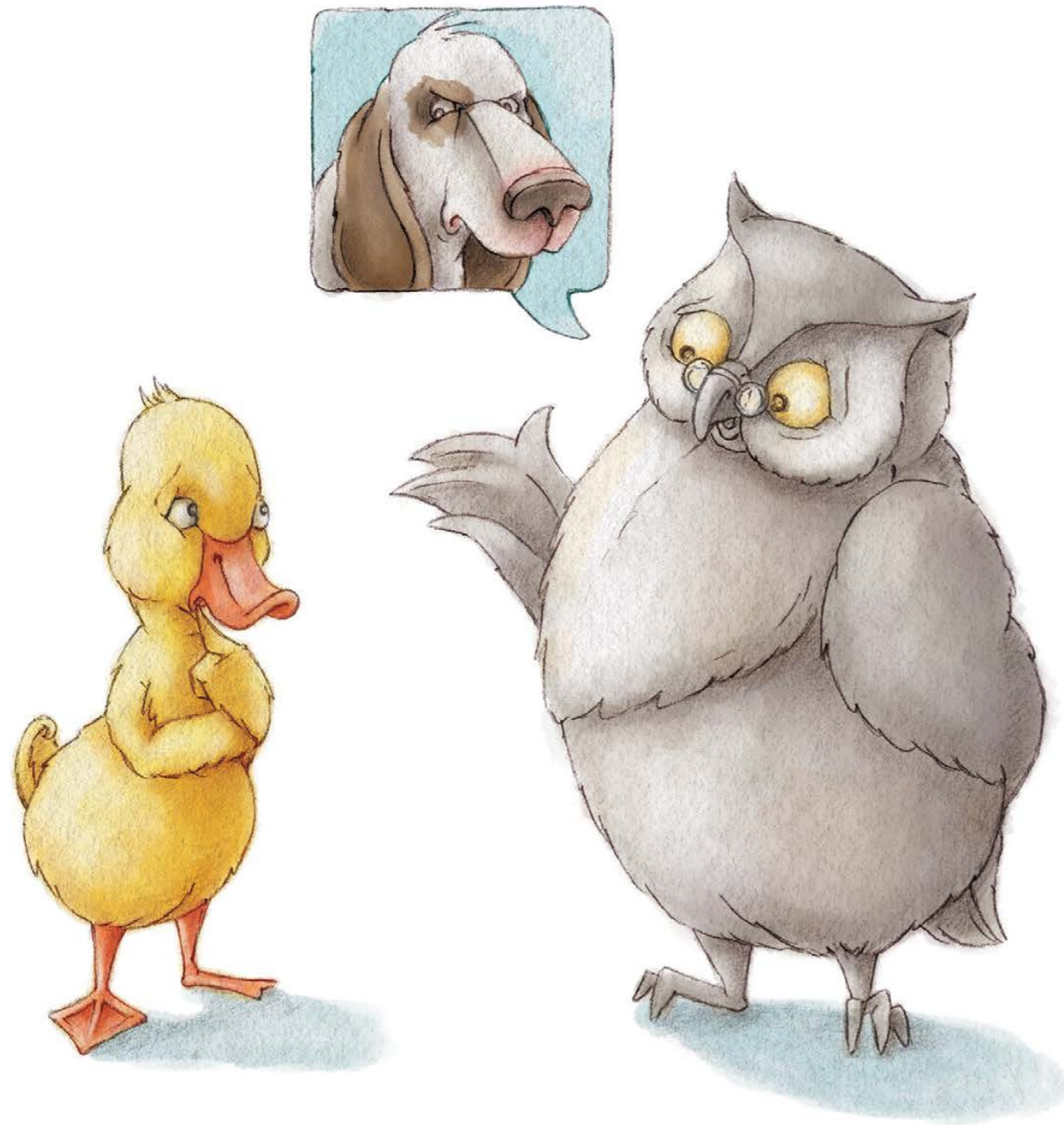


“It was only a joke!” said Digiduck in surprise. Wise\_Owl picked him up and off they zoomed.

Next they flew across a field and hovered over a barn. It was Proud.pig’s party and DJ-Dog was playing!



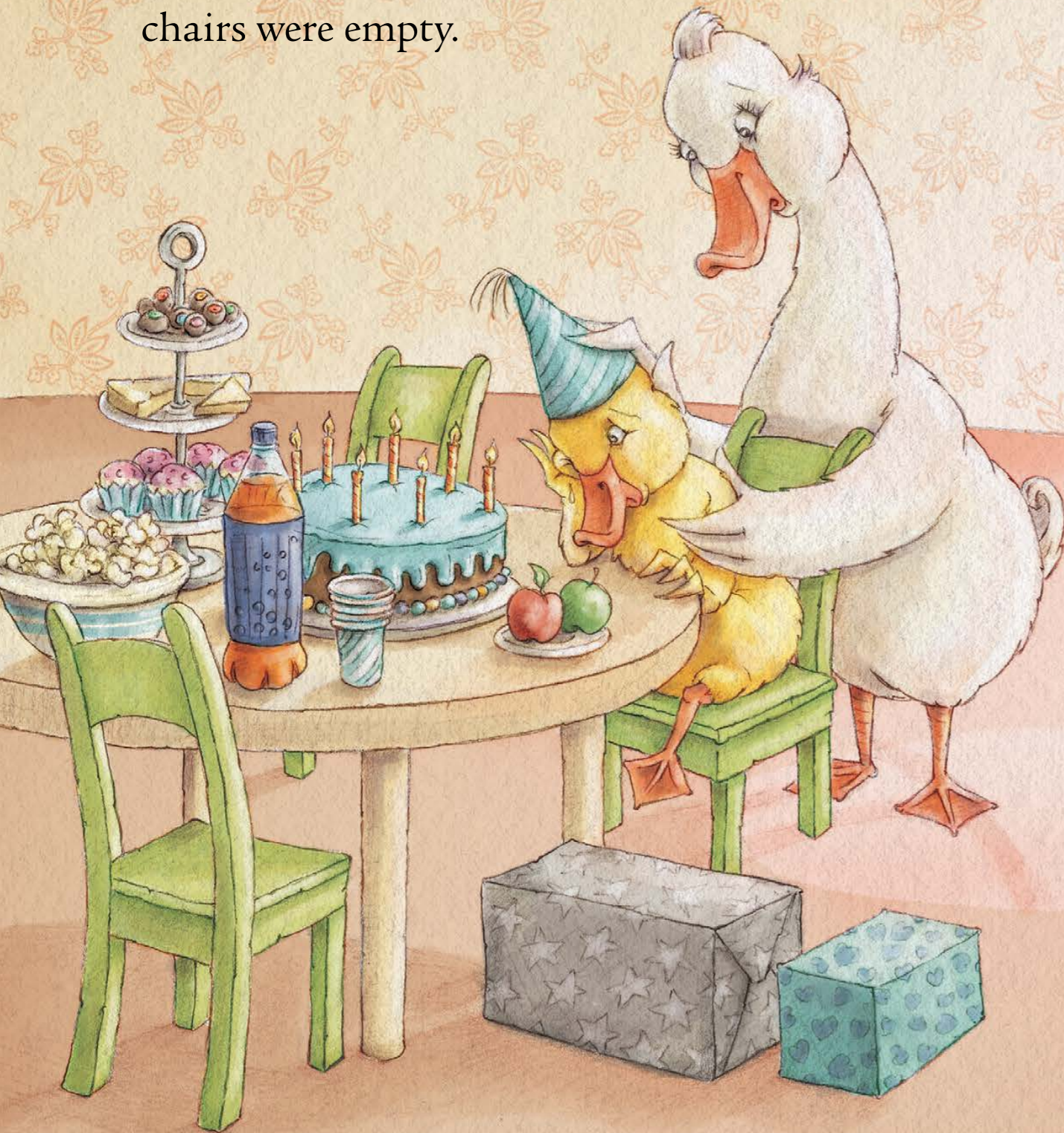
“I’m not there either,” noticed Digiduck.  
“I’m afraid Proud.pig changed his mind,”  
said Wise\_Owl. “Everyone at school was calling  
him names after they saw his photo and  
DJ-Dog was very cross that you had sent it.”



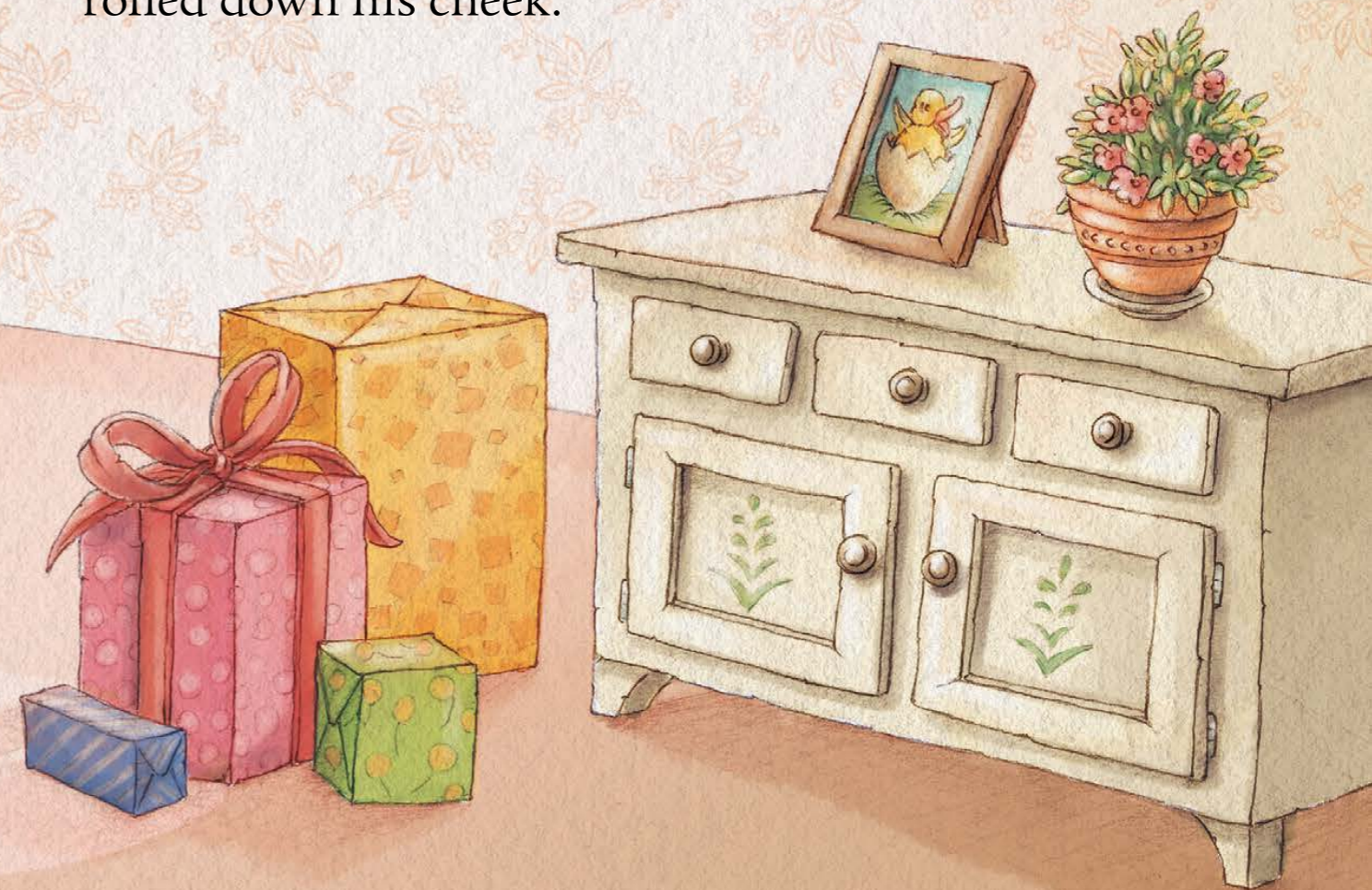
“Oh,” mumbled Digiduck,  
“I was looking forward to that party.”  
Wise\_Owl nodded and off they sped.  
The last stop looked very familiar.  
“This is my house!” cried Digiduck.



Through the window, Digiduck saw himself sitting at the table. In front of him was a delicious cake with candles and colourful frosting. However, all the other chairs were empty.



“It’s my birthday, where are all my friends?” wept Digiduck, as tears rolled down his cheek.



Wise\_Owl knew that Digiduck had seen enough. He wrapped his wings around him and off they whizzed.



“And it didn’t stop there,” continued Wise\_Owl.  
“People laughed at Proud.pig for a long time  
because his picture was on the internet.  
Your friends were very worried that you  
might make fun of them too.”

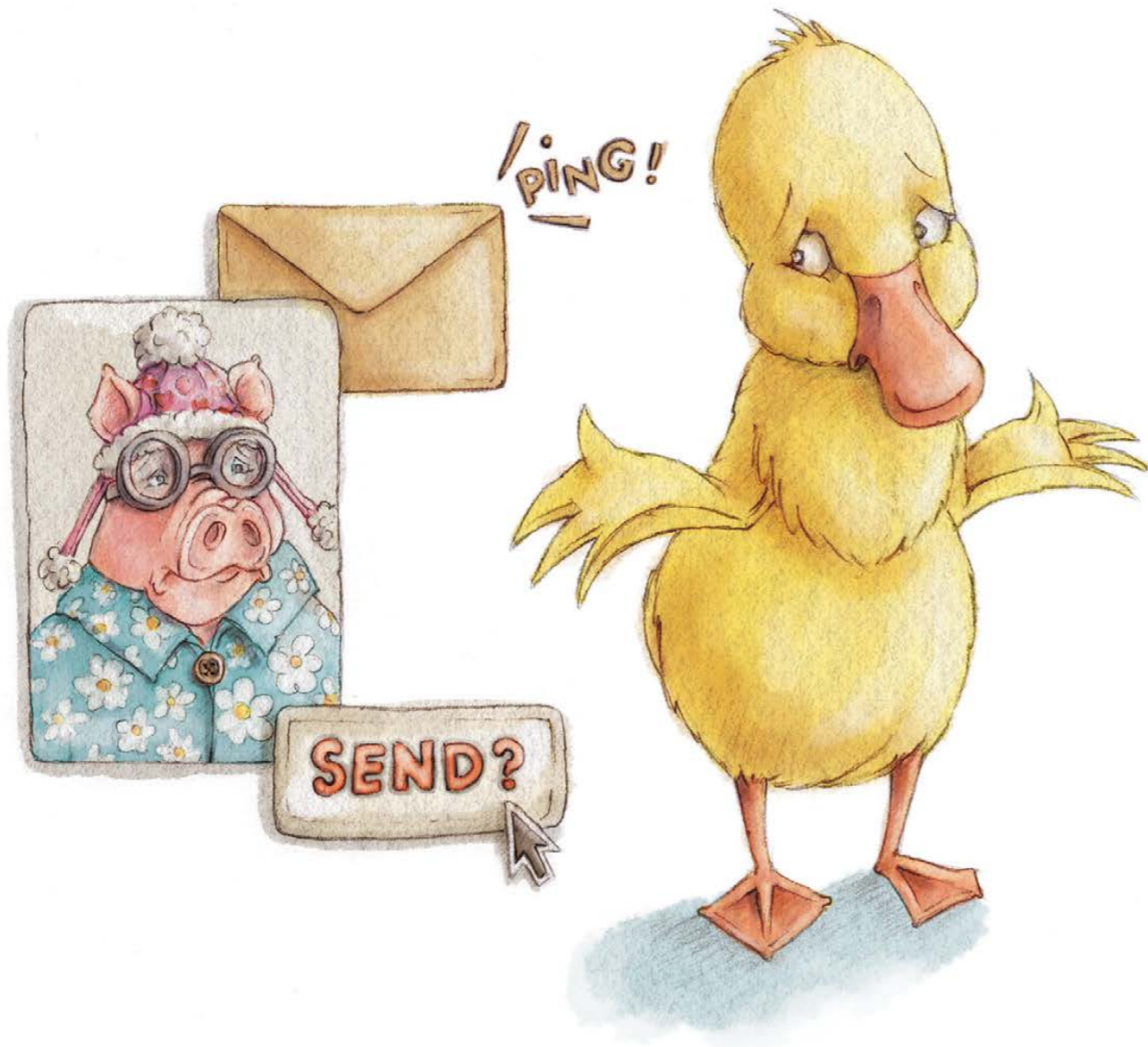
On the journey back  
through time, poor Digiduck  
was feeling sad and puzzled.  
He really needed some help,  
so Wise\_Owl explained everything.

“It all started when you sent that photo  
to your friends. Everyone in school had seen  
it by lunchtime. Proud.pig was extremely upset.”



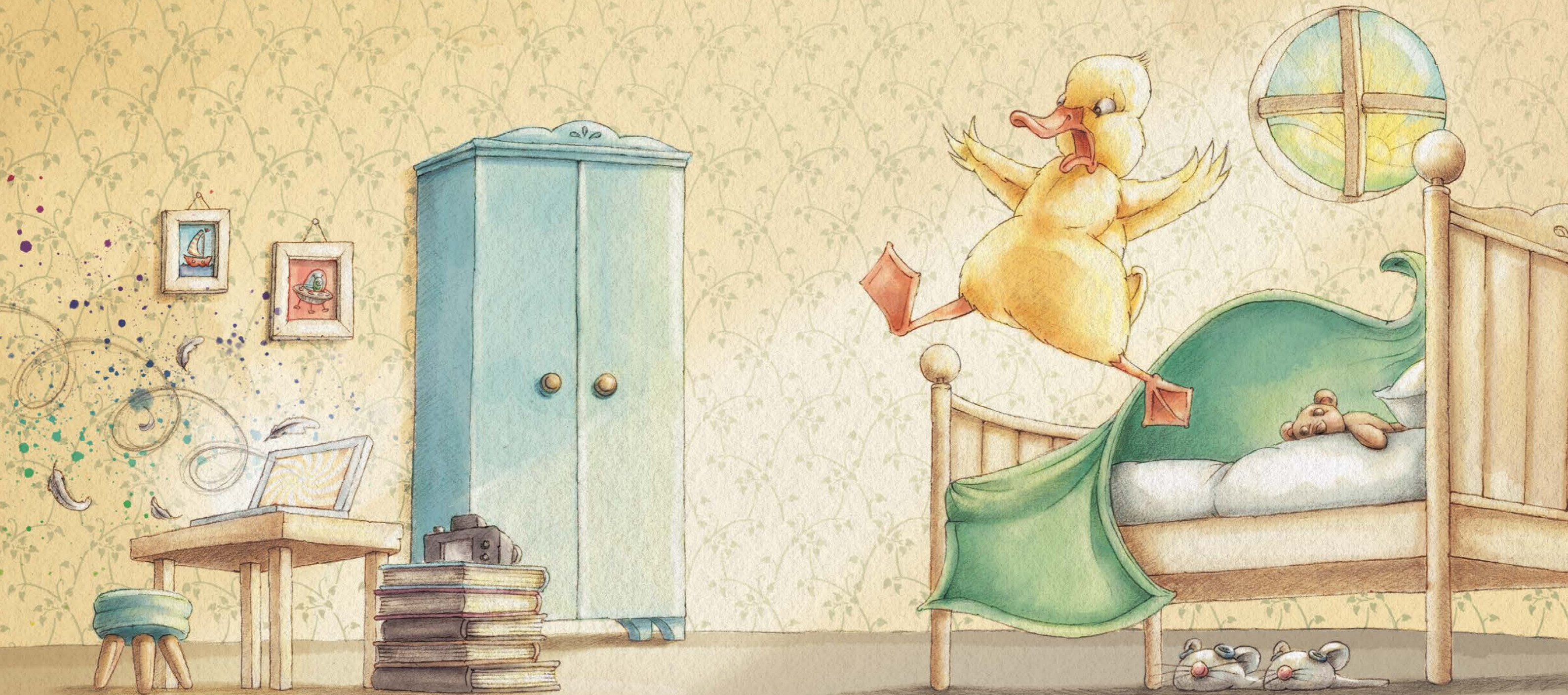
Digiduck suddenly understood that if he sent the photo, it could cause a terrible muddle.  
“I didn’t think anyone would mind,  
I just wanted to make my friends laugh.  
Sometimes we say and do silly things...  
but I never mean to be unkind,” he whispered.

Back in Digiduck’s room, Wise\_Owl drew the covers and comforted him softly,  
“I know that, but sadly your friends didn’t.”



“Digiduck,” he said gently, “you are a lovely duck and a great friend. The internet is a wonderful place to have fun, but you need to behave as you do in the real world. Say kind things to your friends and make sensible choices.”

And with that, Wise\_Owl vanished.  
The sun rose in the sky and Digiduck woke up.  
“The photo!” he remembered.



He rushed across the room and the message was still there, just as it was last night. Digiduck was over the moon! He skipped and sang, "I can do the right thing!"



"But what should we do? Who should we tell?" asked Mummy Duck. "We must tell the Family Farmyard website!" replied Digiduck happily.



Mummy Duck removed the picture and they sent it back to Wise\_Owl. Digiduck smiled, Wise\_Owl would be so pleased with him.



Proud.pig's party after school was terrific and Digiduck enjoyed it more than anybody knew. He brought his camera and took photos that he and his friends all agreed were magnificent.



Digiduck knew he had been given a second chance and promised to do his best to look after others on the internet.



As he shared his photos with his friends, he cheerfully looked forward to everything that they would enjoy together in the future.