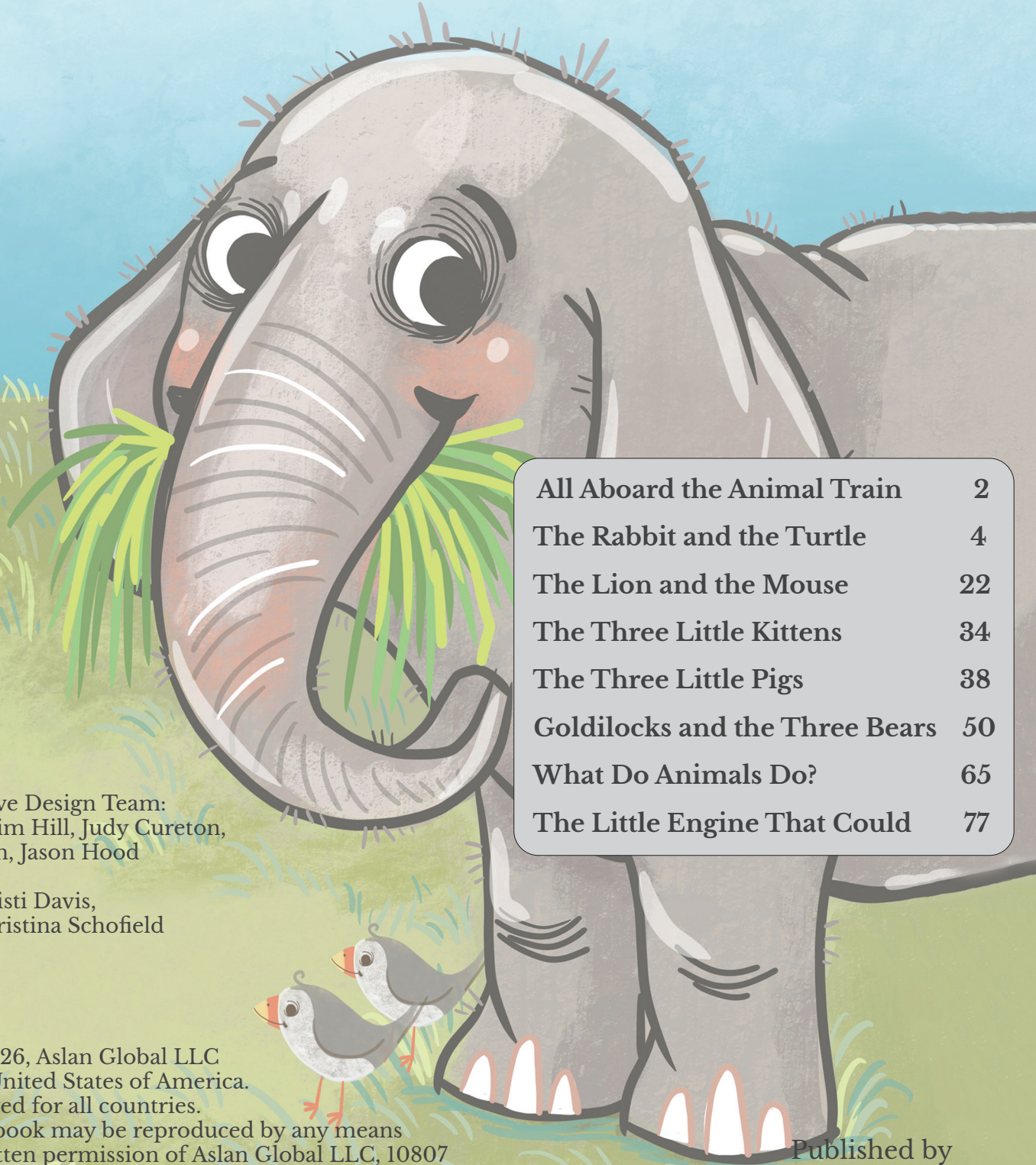


ANIMAL TALES



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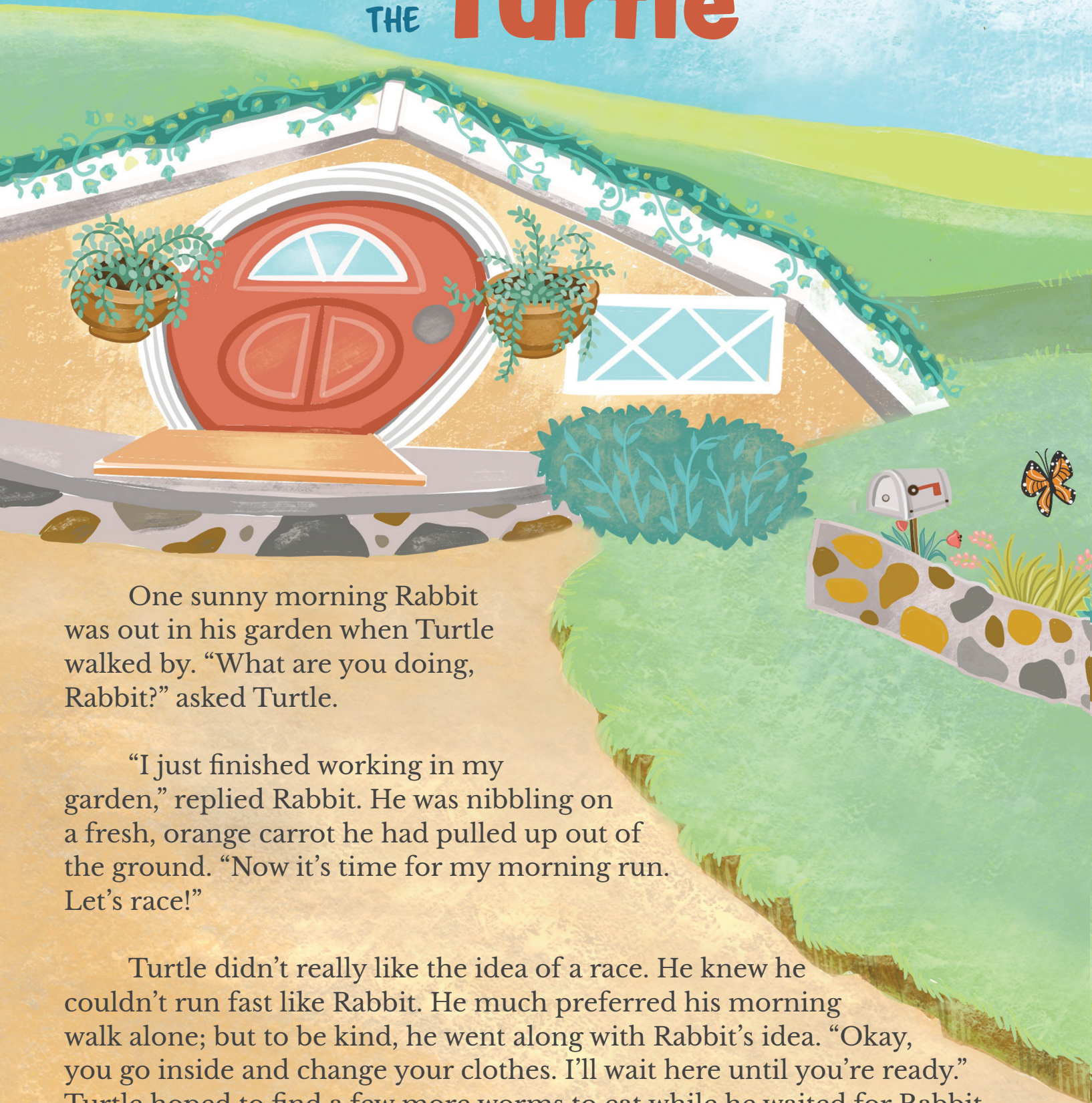
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THE Rabbit AND THE Turtle



One sunny morning Rabbit was out in his garden when Turtle walked by. “What are you doing, Rabbit?” asked Turtle.

“I just finished working in my garden,” replied Rabbit. He was nibbling on a fresh, orange carrot he had pulled up out of the ground. “Now it’s time for my morning run. Let’s race!”

Turtle didn’t really like the idea of a race. He knew he couldn’t run fast like Rabbit. He much preferred his morning walk alone; but to be kind, he went along with Rabbit’s idea. “Okay, you go inside and change your clothes. I’ll wait here until you’re ready.” Turtle hoped to find a few more worms to eat while he waited for Rabbit.





“Ok, I’m
ready!”

exclaimed Rabbit
as he came
bouncing out of his
house. Rabbit was wearing his
new running clothes and his blue running
shoes. He had tied the laces extra carefully. He
loved to race, especially when he *knew* he would win.
“Who will be the judge?”



“Oh, I don’t care. You decide.”
And Turtle yawned.

“Here comes Mrs. Squirrel. Let’s ask her!” Rabbit exclaimed.

“Yes! Yes! Yes! I’d be delighted to be the judge,” chattered Mrs. Squirrel after hearing about the race. She was a cheerful squirrel, always ready to help. “Why don’t you race one time around the pond? Whoever makes it back across the bridge first will be the winner.”

“We already know who that will be,” chuckled Rabbit. Turtle wisely decided to ignore Rabbit’s unkind remark.



Mrs. Squirrel
gave the signal,

**“GET READY!
GET SET!
GO!”**

Turtle took one last
drink of water before he
started walking.