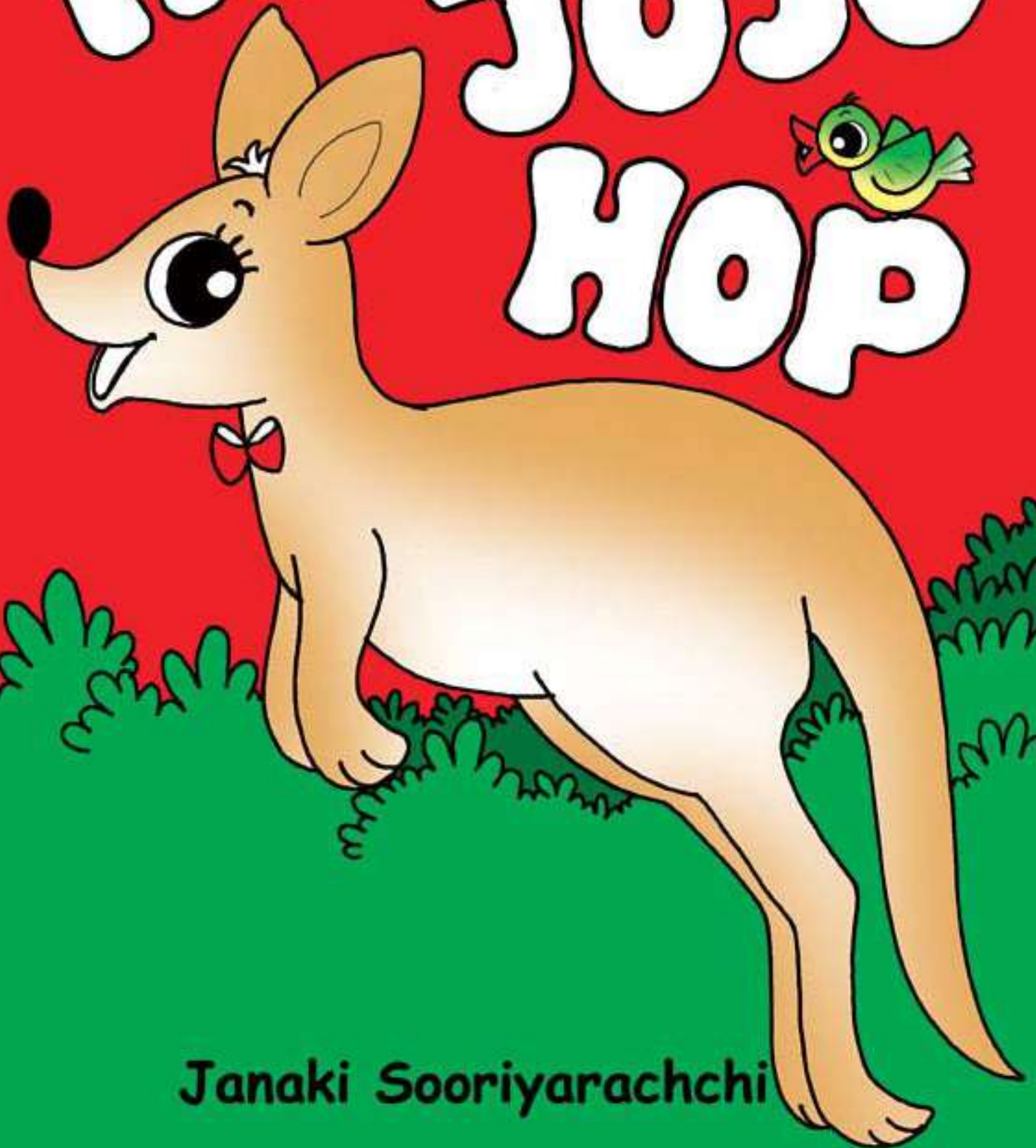


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Janaki Sooriyarachchi

# HOP JOJO HOP



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Written & Illustrated by  
**Janaki Sooriyarachchi**

This book is dedicated to  
my beloved father

## Hop Jo-Jo Hop

Jo-Jo was a little Kangaroo who couldn't hop.

He was very sad about this.

He didn't even know how to hop!

All his kangaroo friends hopped off to school every day.

They laughed at little Jo-Jo, because he couldn't hop the way they could.



One morning, while he was standing beside the fence crying, Snaky, who was on his way to school, saw him and stopped.



He went up to Jo-Jo and said, “Jo-Jo, why are you crying?”  
“Boo—hoo—hu—uh—uh,” sobbed Jo-Jo.  
“All the others are hopping off to school, b-b-but I can’t hop!” Jo-Jo’s crying got louder and louder.



The snake felt very sad.

“Oh! Don’t cry my friend. I’ll teach you how to hop,”  
said Snaky, and he tried to hop back and forth.

But his long, slim body wasn’t made for hopping, so it was  
very funny to see.

“Oh, no! That’s not the way to hop,” wailed Jo-Jo, and he  
cried even louder.



Then, Alligator, who heard Jo-Jo crying, came up to him. “Why are you crying, Jo-Jo?” he asked.

“All the others are hopping off to school. But I don’t know how to hop,” said Jo-Jo with tears still streaming down his furry face.

“Don’t cry Jo-Jo...I’ll teach you how to hop,” said Alligator. Then, Alligator stood up on his two back legs, and tried to hop. But he couldn’t hop a bit. He was much too heavy, and his short, stubby legs couldn’t get him even a little off the ground.



“No, no! That’s not the way to hop,” Jo-Jo cried even harder.

Then, Tortoisey, who heard Jo-Jo crying, joined them.

“I’m sure I can teach you how to hop,” he said, as he tried to hop. But he couldn’t even move with his big hard shell.

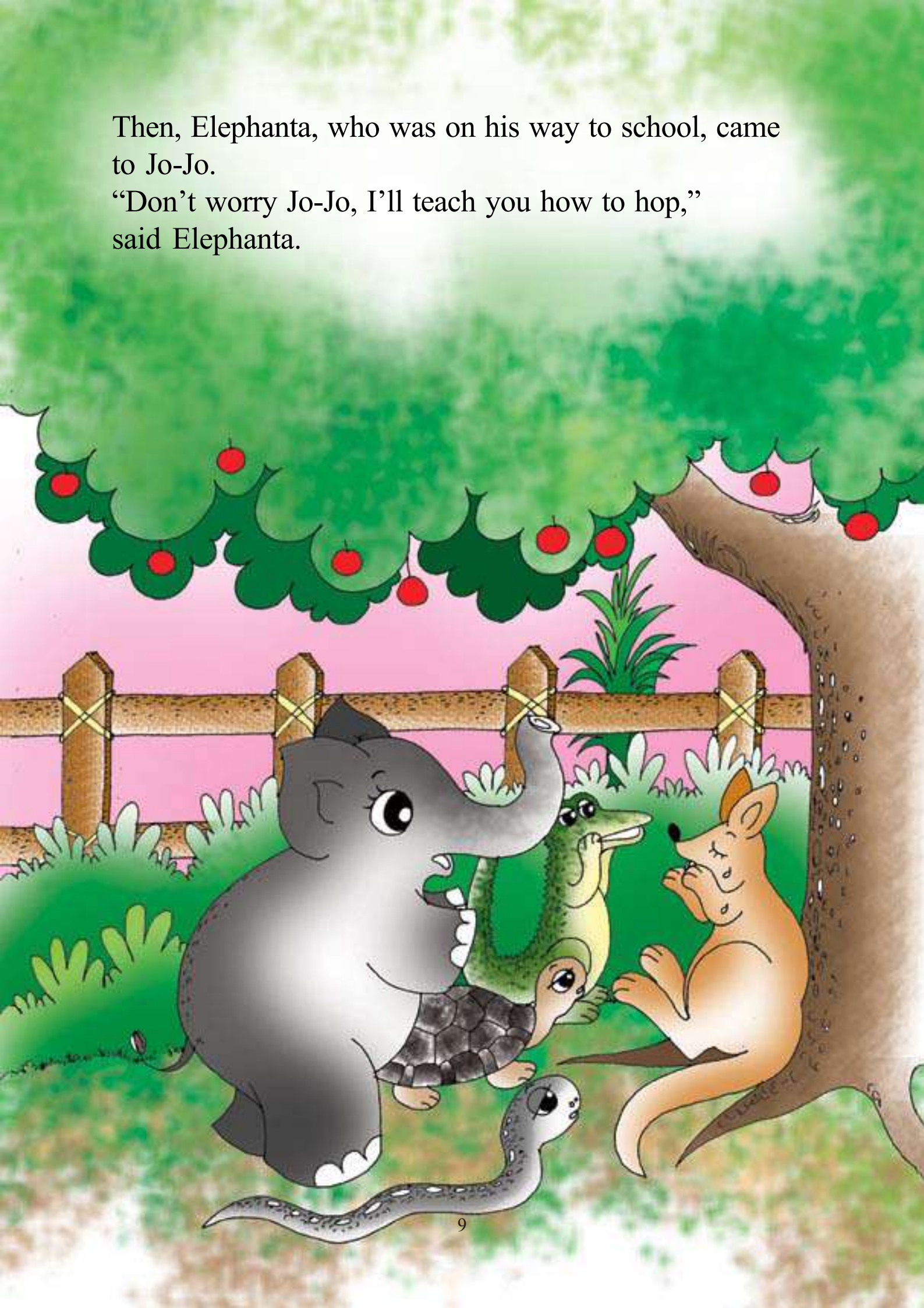
“No, no! That’s not the way to hop,” Jo-Jo cried even louder than before.





Then, Elephanta, who was on his way to school, came to Jo-Jo.

“Don’t worry Jo-Jo, I’ll teach you how to hop,” said Elephanta.



But, when Elephanta tried to hop, he only fell down, making a big noise.

“Oh, no! That’s not the way to hop,” Jo-Jo sniffed, crying even more.



Then, Birdie flew down and landed in front of Jo-Jo.  
“Wait! I’ll teach you how to hop,” said Birdie.  
And he spread his wings up and fluttered in the air.  
He could only fly.

“Oh, no! That’s not the way to hop,”  
Jo-Jo cried even more.



Just then, Jo-Jo's best friend Porcupiny, who was watching everything from under a nearby bush, stepped out. It made him very sad, to see his friend crying. But what can I do, he wondered. "Aha!" he shouted, as he got a good idea.

He crept up to Jo-Jo from behind, so Jo-Jo couldn't see him. He stood behind Jo-Jo and gave him a tiny pinch on his back, and ran away.



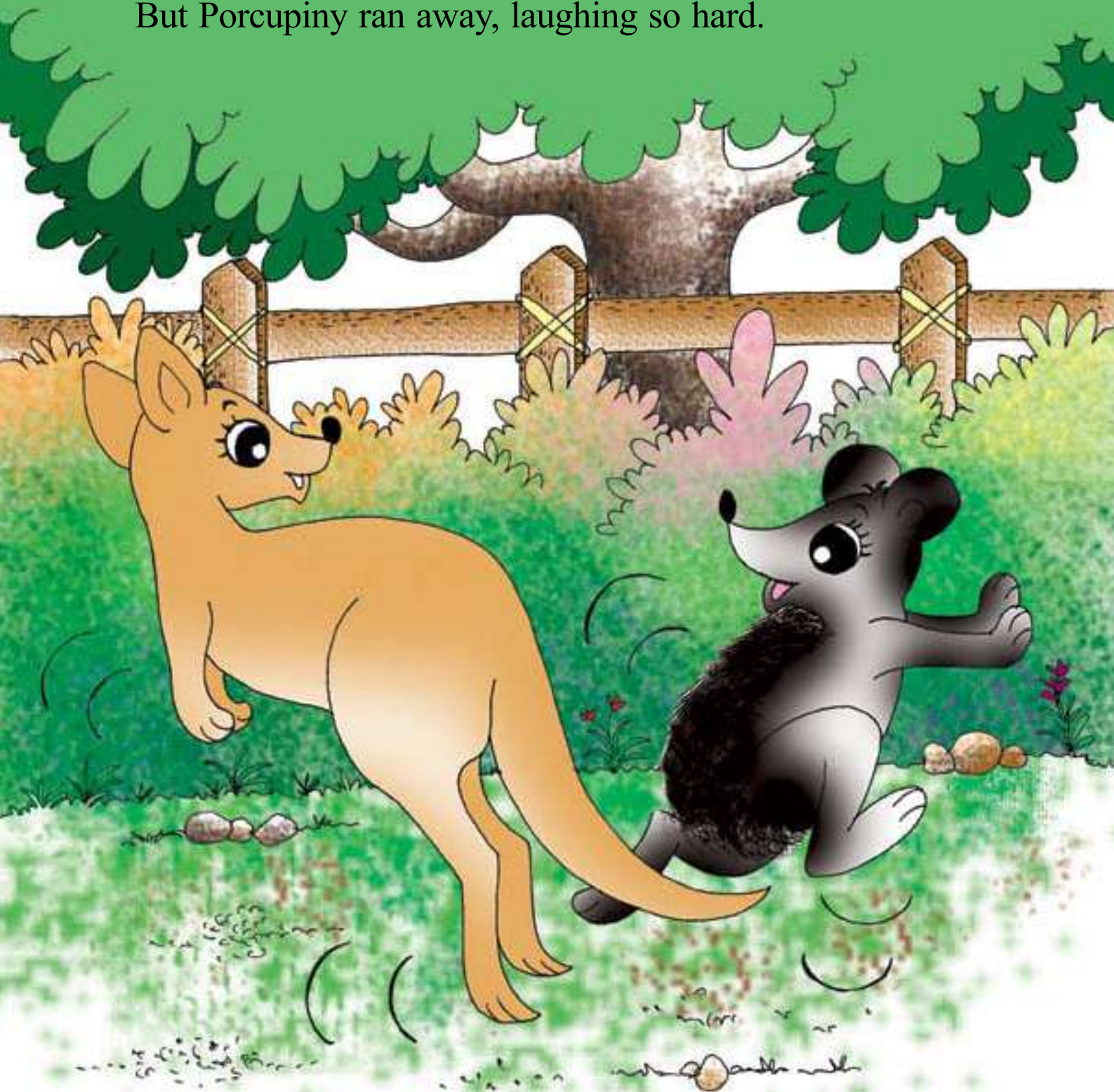
“Ouch—!” Taken by surprise, Jo-Jo hopped high in the air and turned around to see what really happened.

“Oh, you !!! I’ll catch you, I’ll catch you!”

Jo-Jo yelled to his friend.

He hopped after Porcupiny, shouting.

But Porcupiny ran away, laughing so hard.



Jo-Jo hopped faster and faster after Porcupiny, determined to catch him.

“Hey, There you are, there you are.....You are hopping, hopping, hopping,” shouted all the others.

“Oh, yes...I’m hopping, I’m hopping, I’m hopping!”

Jo-Jo was very happy.

He hopped, hopped and hopped.

All his friends clapped, clapped, and clapped.

“Hop, Jo-Jo, Hop!

Hop-Jo-Jo-Hop!”



Jo-Jo hopped up to Porcupiny, and thanked him.



Afterwards, Jo-Jo hopped off to school with his friends, laughing all the way.

