Dylan Duck
And
The Time Machine



Written by Helen Sweet


Dylan Duck was a duckling who loved playing games and having adventures with his Daddy and Dad.


One day, they went out for a waddle
to their favourite pool.


When they got there, Dylan was excited to see that something new had appeared overnight.
It was a giant lily pad!

One of Dylan's favourite games was to jump up and down on the lily pads as they floated in the water.

This one was big enough for them all.



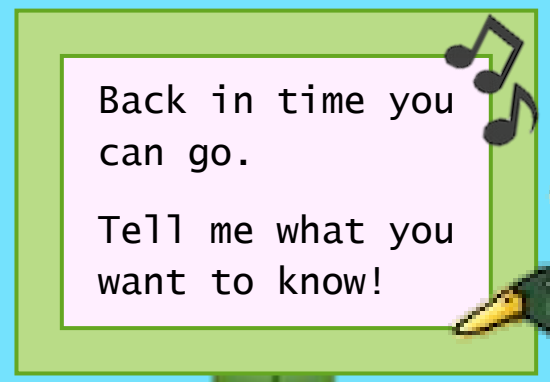

‘Come on, let’s jump!’ he quacked.
1,2,3 go….
As soon as they landed, the ducks knew that this was no ordinary lily pad…

It started to shake and hum just like a machine!

Then Dylan spotted the button. He pressed it.

A screen opened.

The machine played a jingle...



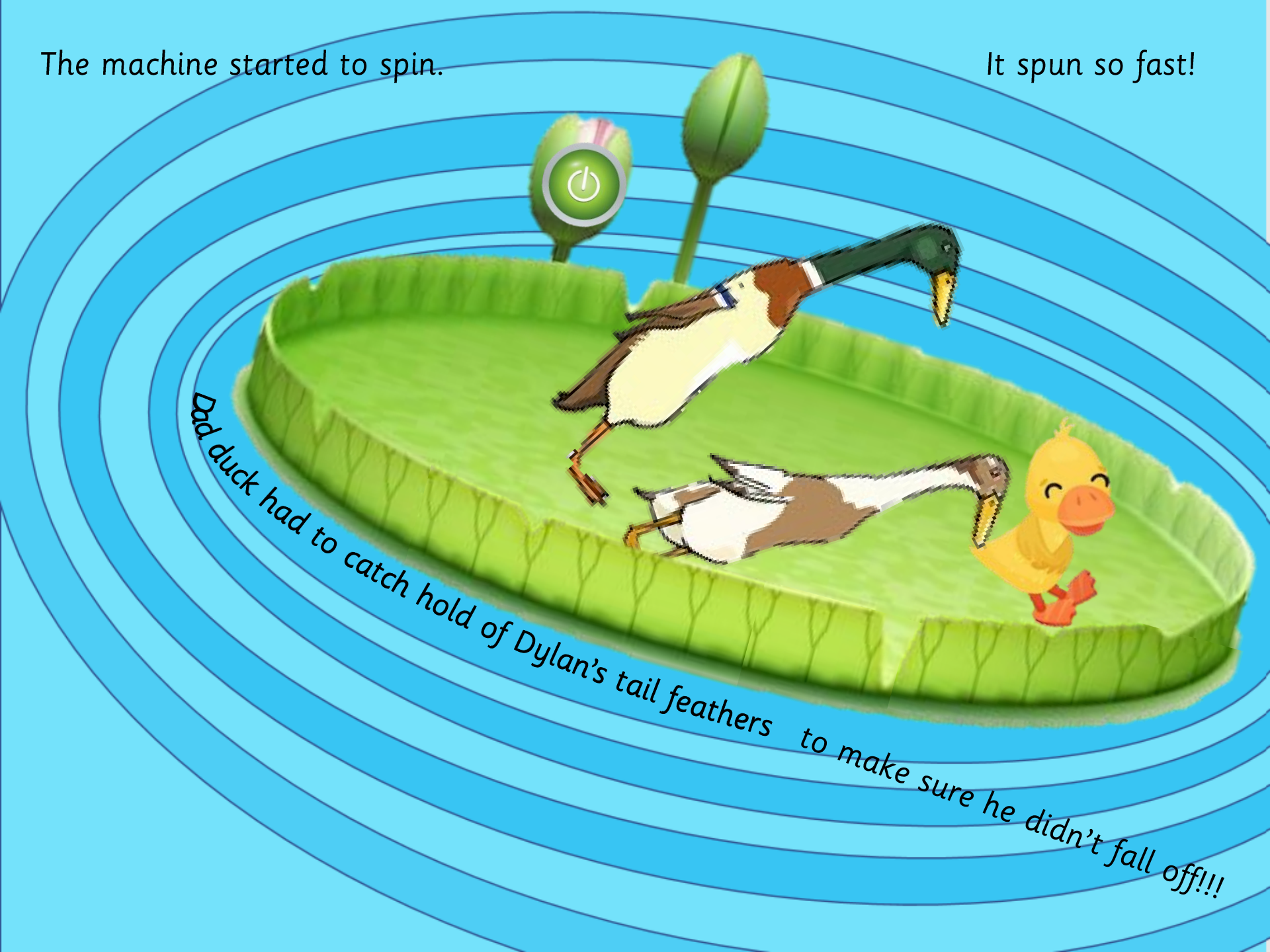
Dylan was about to open his beak....

'Before you begin...' quacked Daddy Duck.

But he didn't get to finish....

The machine started to spin.

It spun so fast!



Dad duck had to catch hold of Dylan's tail feathers to make sure he didn't fall off!!!

A few seconds later, three surprised ducks found themselves sitting on the lily pad by a river.

They could see one duck hissing and squawking at another. Feathers were flying.





They were not looking after their three ducklings in the nest.




The screen was flashing. Daddy duck went over and read it.
Time:
Long before
Dylan hatched

As Dylan looked, he had a funny feeling inside - one of the big ducks seemed familiar!

Daddy and Dad took him under their wings.

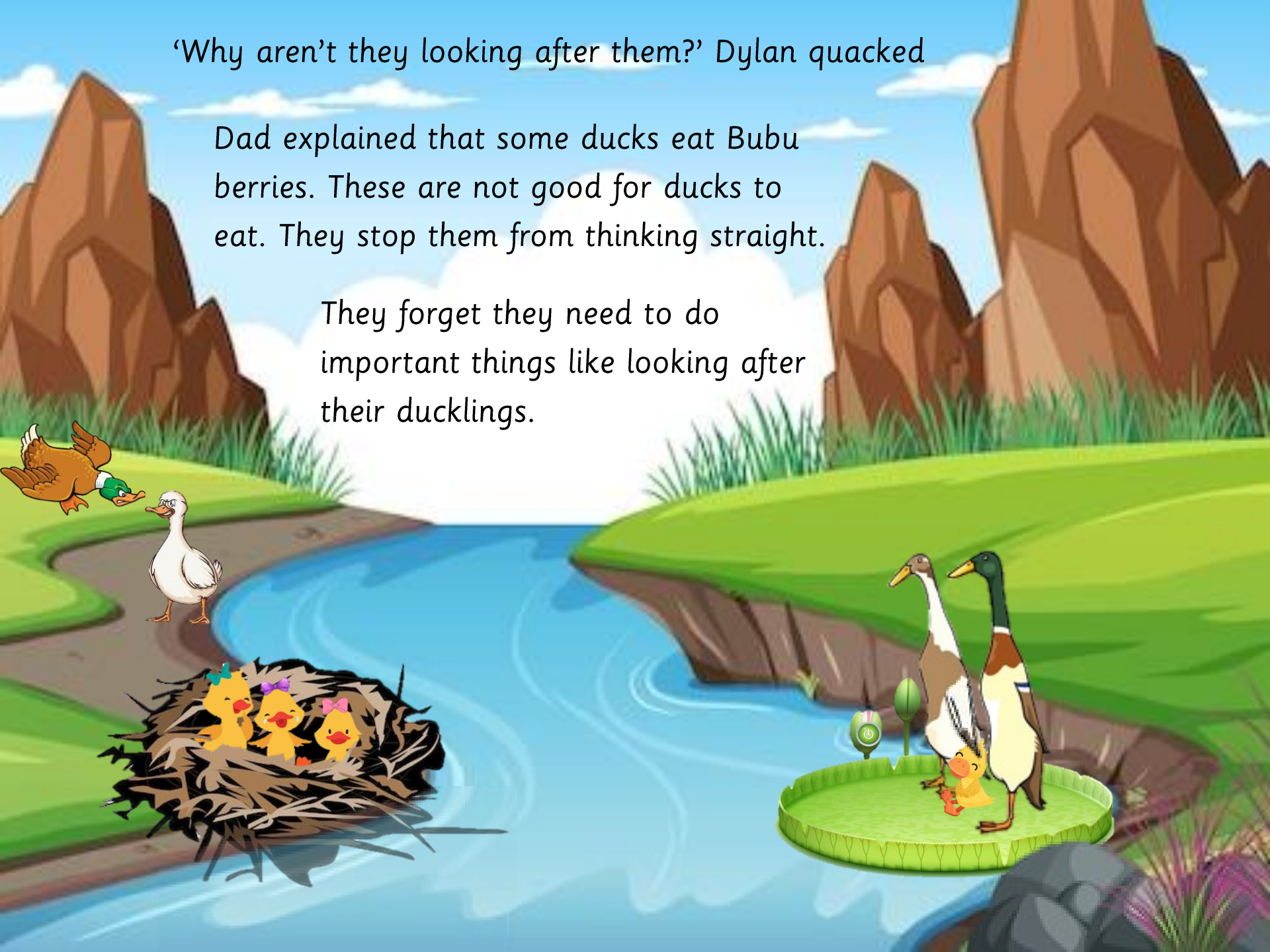
'That's Betsy, your birth Mother duck,' they explained to Dylan.





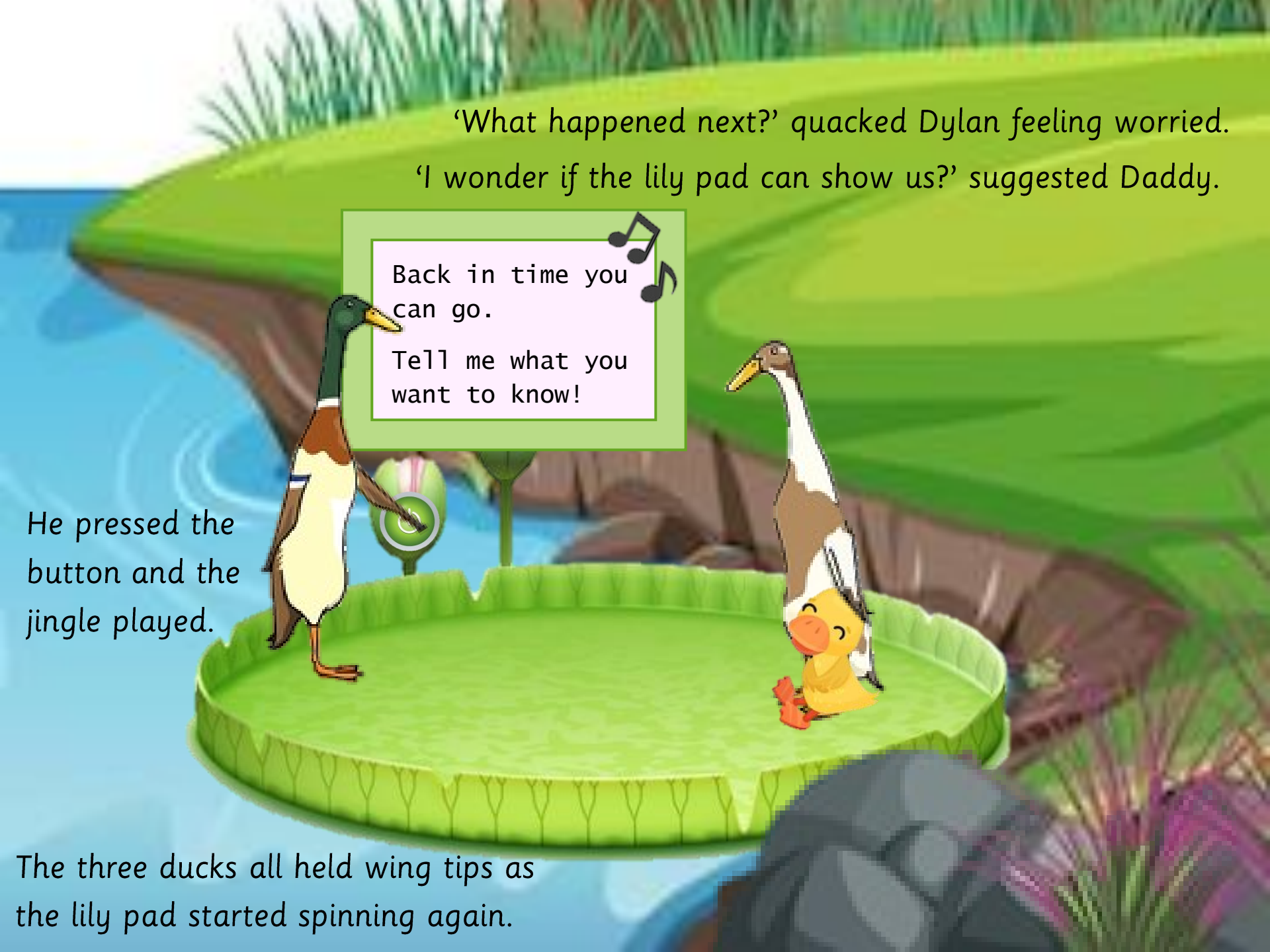
Long before you hatched out, she and that duck had those three ducklings.




‘Why aren’t they looking after them?’ Dylan quacked
Dad explained that some ducks eat Bubu berries. These are not good for ducks to eat. They stop them from thinking straight.
They forget they need to do important things like looking after their ducklings.

‘What happened next?’ quacked Dylan feeling worried.

‘I wonder if the lily pad can show us?’ suggested Daddy.



He pressed the button and the jingle played.

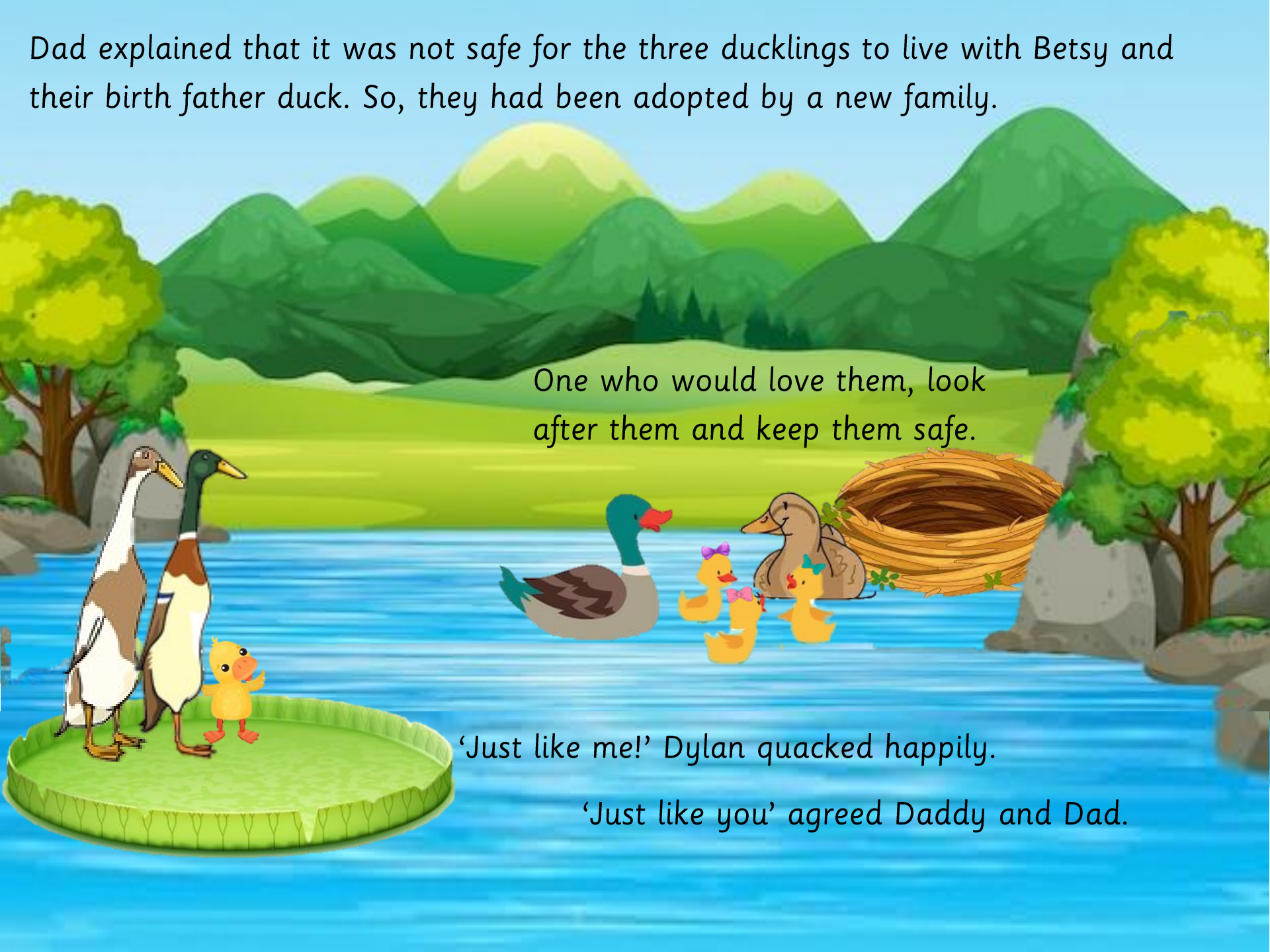
The three ducks all held wing tips as the lily pad started spinning again.

This time they landed by a lakeside. They could see the three ducklings having great fun splashing about with two big ducks in front of a comfortable nest.



Dylan was pleased to see that they were happy. ‘Who are they with?’ he asked?

Dad explained that it was not safe for the three ducklings to live with Betsy and their birth father duck. So, they had been adopted by a new family.



One who would love them, look after them and keep them safe.

‘Just like me!’ Dylan quacked happily.

‘Just like you’ agreed Daddy and Dad.

‘But what about Betsy?’ asked Dylan.

‘Let’s press the button and see!’ said Daddy.



Whooosh.

The lily pad landed back on the river.

Dylan could see Betsy sitting in a nest with another duck.

Between them sat a beautiful egg.





‘Is that my egg?’ Dylan quacked in amazement.

‘Yes it is!’ said Daddy.

‘And that is Dean, your birth father duck.’

‘Ooohhh listen…!’


They could hear a tapping sound.
Then, they could see a crack in the egg!
As they watched the crack got bigger and bigger until...

Out popped a tiny little duckling.

Betsy and Dean flapped their wings with delight!

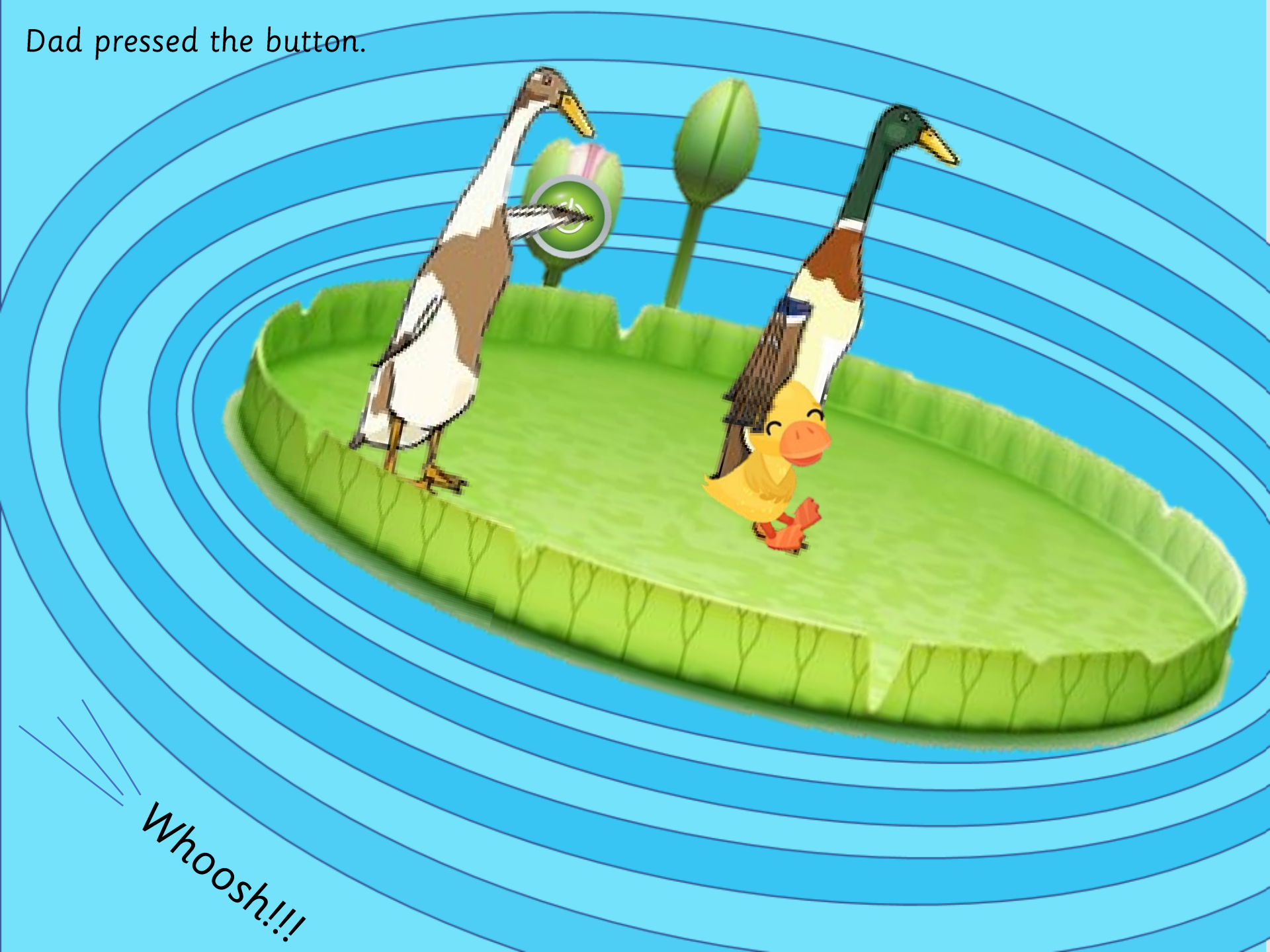




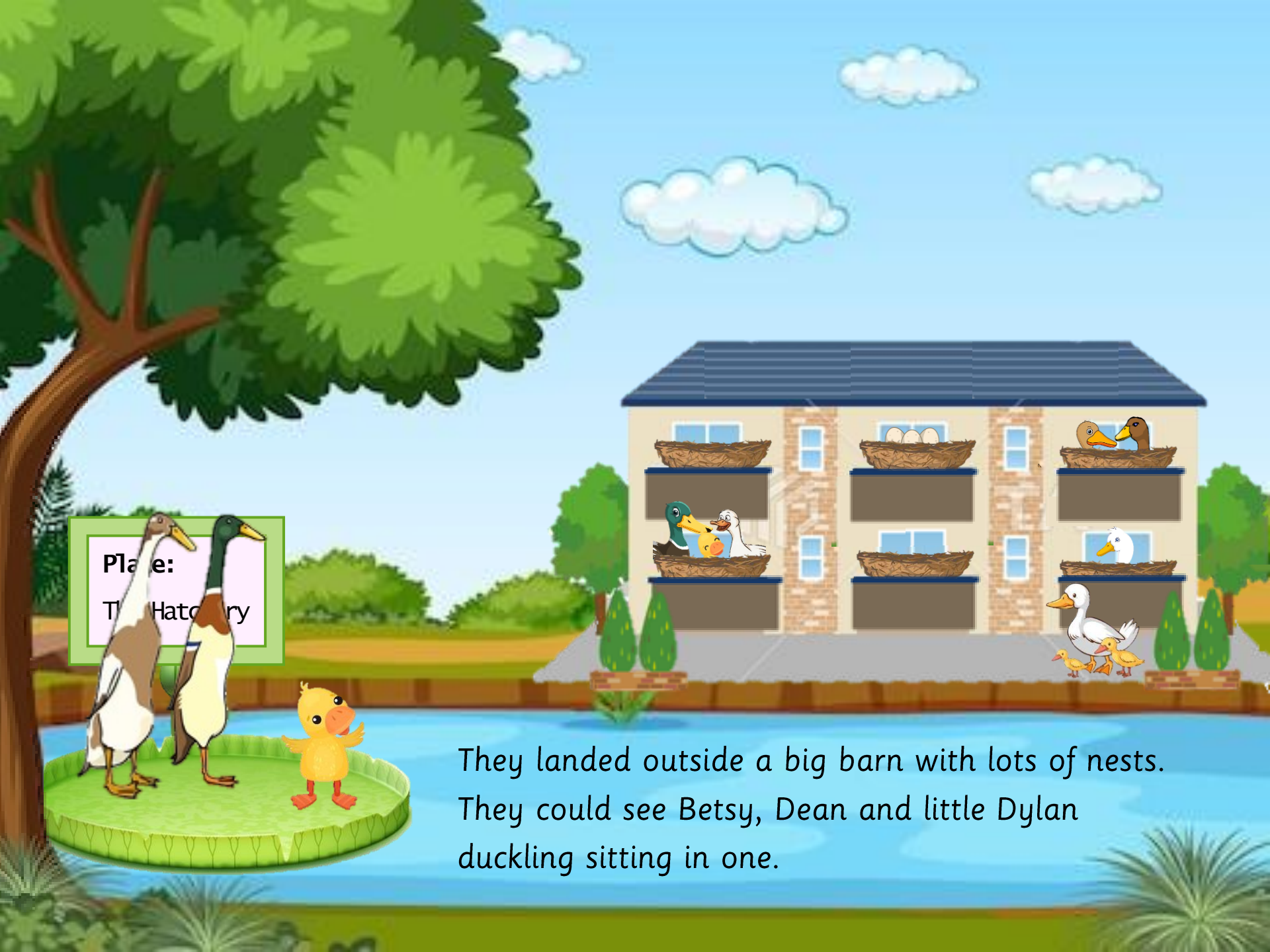
‘That’s me!
That’s me!’
quacked Dylan
hopping happily from one
foot to the other.

‘What happened next?’ he asked.

Dad pressed the button.



Whoosh!!!



They landed outside a big barn with lots of nests. They could see Betsy, Dean and little Dylan duckling sitting in one.

‘Where are we?’ asked Dylan.

Daddy explained that this is a hatchery. A place that helps duck families in tricky situations.



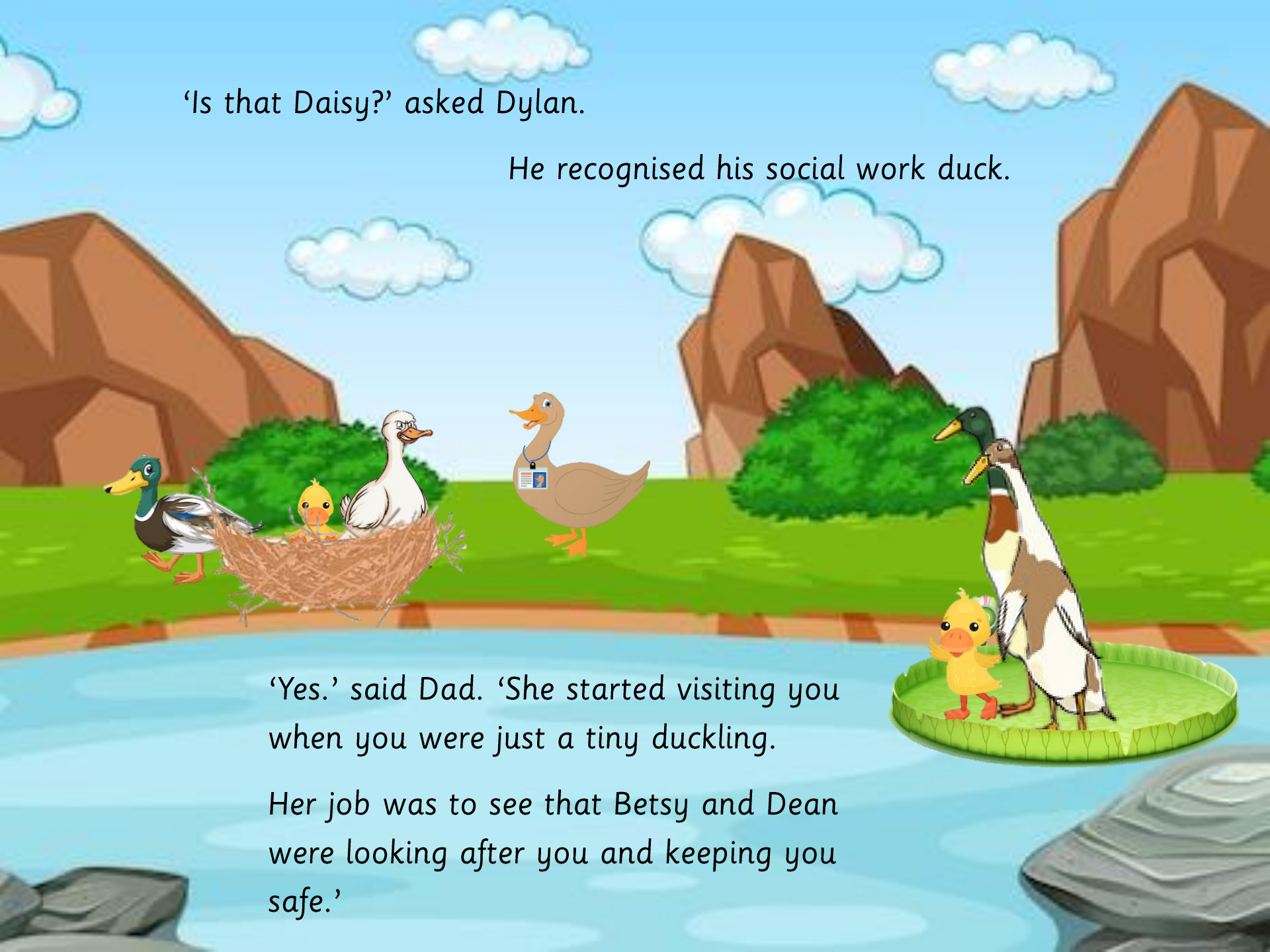


Betsy and Dean were learning how to look after Dylan and keep him safe.

Dylan wanted to see what happened next. So, he pressed the button.



Whooosh.



‘Is that Daisy?’ asked Dylan.

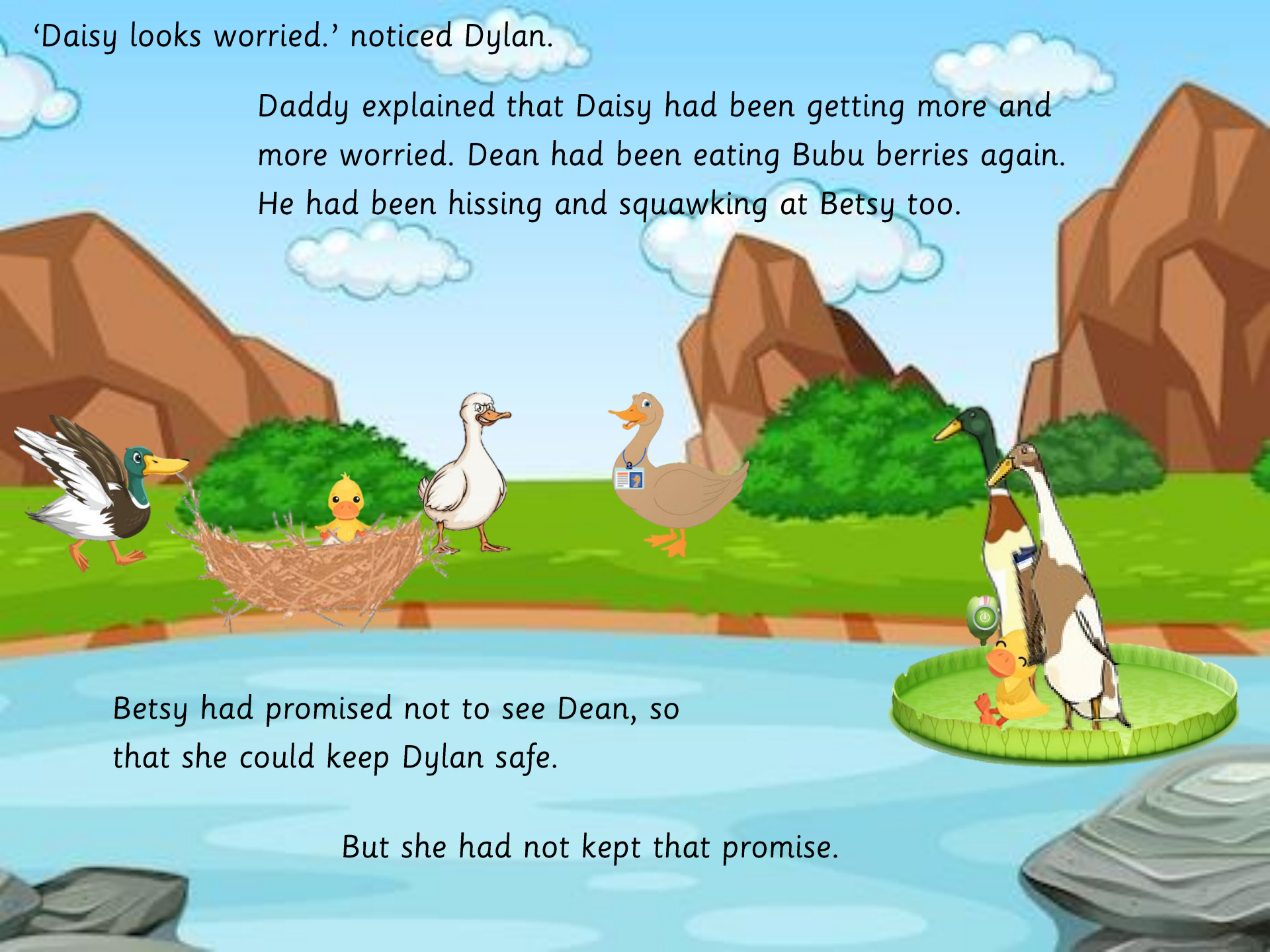
He recognised his social work duck.

‘Yes.’ said Dad. ‘She started visiting you when you were just a tiny duckling.

Her job was to see that Betsy and Dean were looking after you and keeping you safe.’

‘Daisy looks worried.’ noticed Dylan.

Daddy explained that Daisy had been getting more and more worried. Dean had been eating Bubu berries again. He had been hissing and squawking at Betsy too.



Betsy had promised not to see Dean, so that she could keep Dylan safe.

But she had not kept that promise.

‘Oh! quacked Dylan sadly.

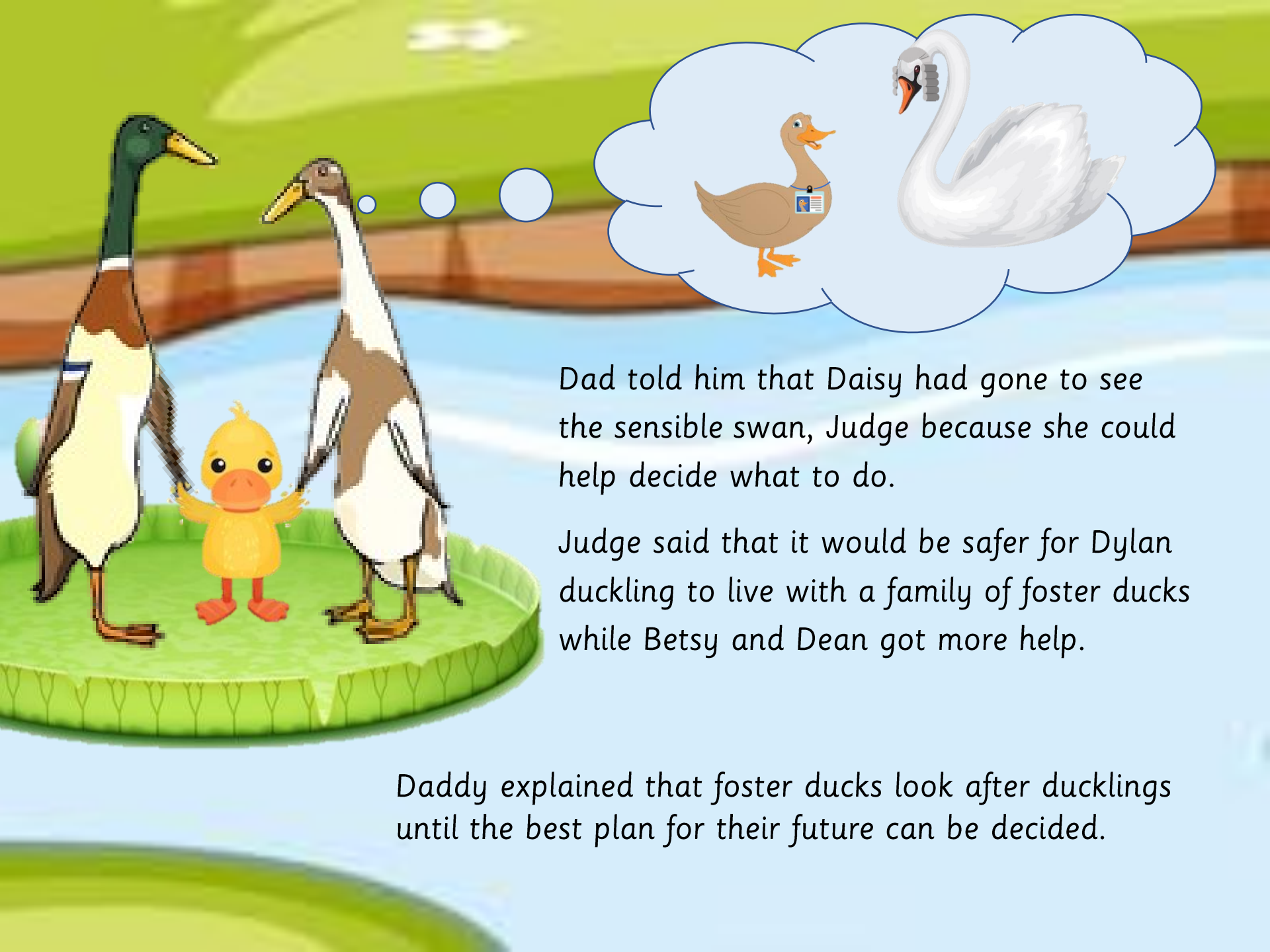


Daddy and Dad put their wings around Dylan.

They pressed the button to show him what happened next

Whoosh!!!


The lily pad landed on a pond.
‘We’re at Sally and Max’s foster nest!’ said Dylan happily.
‘How did I get there?’



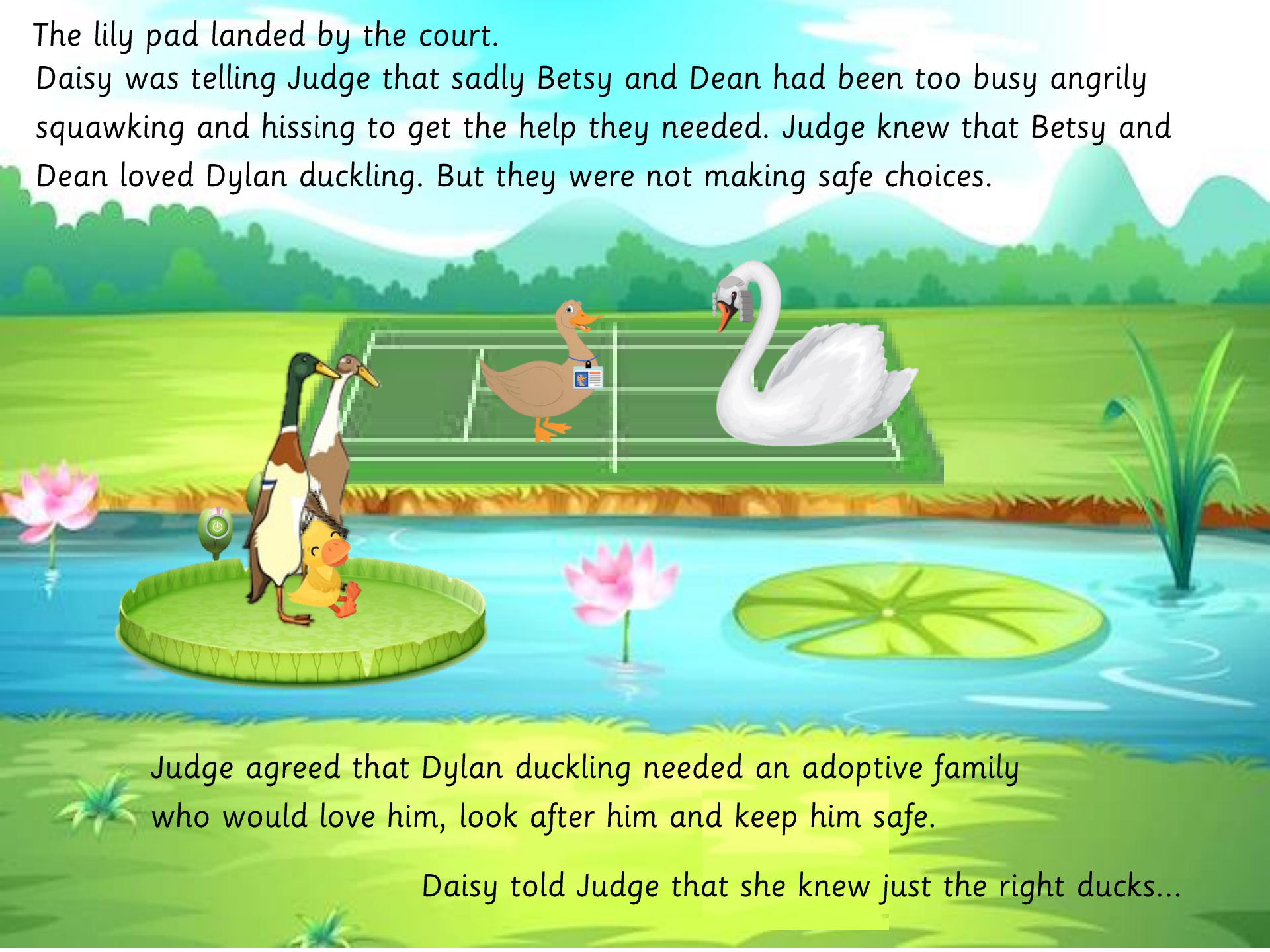
Dad told him that Daisy had gone to see the sensible swan, Judge because she could help decide what to do.

Judge said that it would be safer for Dylan duckling to live with a family of foster ducks while Betsy and Dean got more help.

Daddy explained that foster ducks look after ducklings until the best plan for their future can be decided.


Let's see what happened next.
Whooosh.

The lily pad landed by the court.
Daisy was telling Judge that sadly Betsy and Dean had been too busy angrily squawking and hissing to get the help they needed. Judge knew that Betsy and Dean loved Dylan duckling. But they were not making safe choices.



Judge agreed that Dylan duckling needed an adoptive family who would love him, look after him and keep him safe.

Daisy told Judge that she knew just the right ducks...



‘That was you!!!’
quacked Dylan happily.

‘Yes, it was!!!’ quacked Daddy and Dad smiling as they swooped Dylan under their wings.

It felt warm and safe under Daddy and Dad’s wings.

Dylan couldn’t help falling asleep.

When he woke up, he was back in his own nest near The Pool.

His adventure had given him a lot to think about.

Some of it made him feel mixed up inside



But he knew that Daddy and Dad would always put their wings around him and help him work things out.

