Max's Tale



Written by Helen Sweet


This is the story of a little fox cub with the bushiest of tails.
His name was Max.


However, the story begins long before Max was born.
On the edge of Taith Bywyd Woods lived two foxes called Vixen and Lucas.



Vixen and Lucas were wild foxes who liked going out to explore the Big City streets. They liked seeing the bright lights and fast cars.


The big city streets were exciting, but they could be dangerous too.
One day Vixen and Lucas met a big bad wolf!
He gave Vixen and Lucas some special new berries to eat – Gagaberries.



Vixen and Lucas thought the Gagaberries were so delicious.

The best berries they had ever tasted.

They couldn't wait to find the big bad wolf to ask him for some more!


But foxes are not meant to eat Gagaberries.
They are not good berries for them to eat.
When foxes eat Gagaberries their heads get in a spin, they can't think straight.
They don't know their whiskers from their tails!

Foxes who eat Gagaberries do not make good choices for themselves.

When Vixen and Lucas ate Gagaberries they did not make good choices.



They forgot to look after themselves.

They forgot that the Big City streets could be dangerous.

Sometimes they stayed out all night.

Sometimes they did not get enough food to eat.



But still, they could not resist going out to get more and more Gagaberries!


One day, Sally Squirrel saw Vixen coming back from Big City.
Her head was hanging low, her tail was between her legs.


Sally asked Vixen if she was ok....
Vixen was tired.
She told Sally that she was going to have a cub one day soon!
She was worried about how she and Lucas were going to look after it.

Sally told Vixen that she must stop eating Gagaberries!

They are not good for foxes to eat.

But they are really bad for foxes who have a cub growing in their tummy!

Sally told Vixen that she would try to help her.



Vixen wanted to stop eating the Gagaberries so that she could take better care of herself and the cub growing in her tummy.

But it was hard!

The Gagaberries were so delicious that she really wanted to eat some more.



Vixen stopped seeing Lucas because he kept going to Big City.

And..

he kept on eating Gagaberries!

This made it even harder for Vixen.



The day came when Vixen's cub was born. It was a boy!

He had soft brown fur and the bushiest of tails!

Vixen called him Max.

She loved him.

She put her tail around him to keep him warm.

Vixen felt happy.

But she also felt worried....



Sally was worried too!

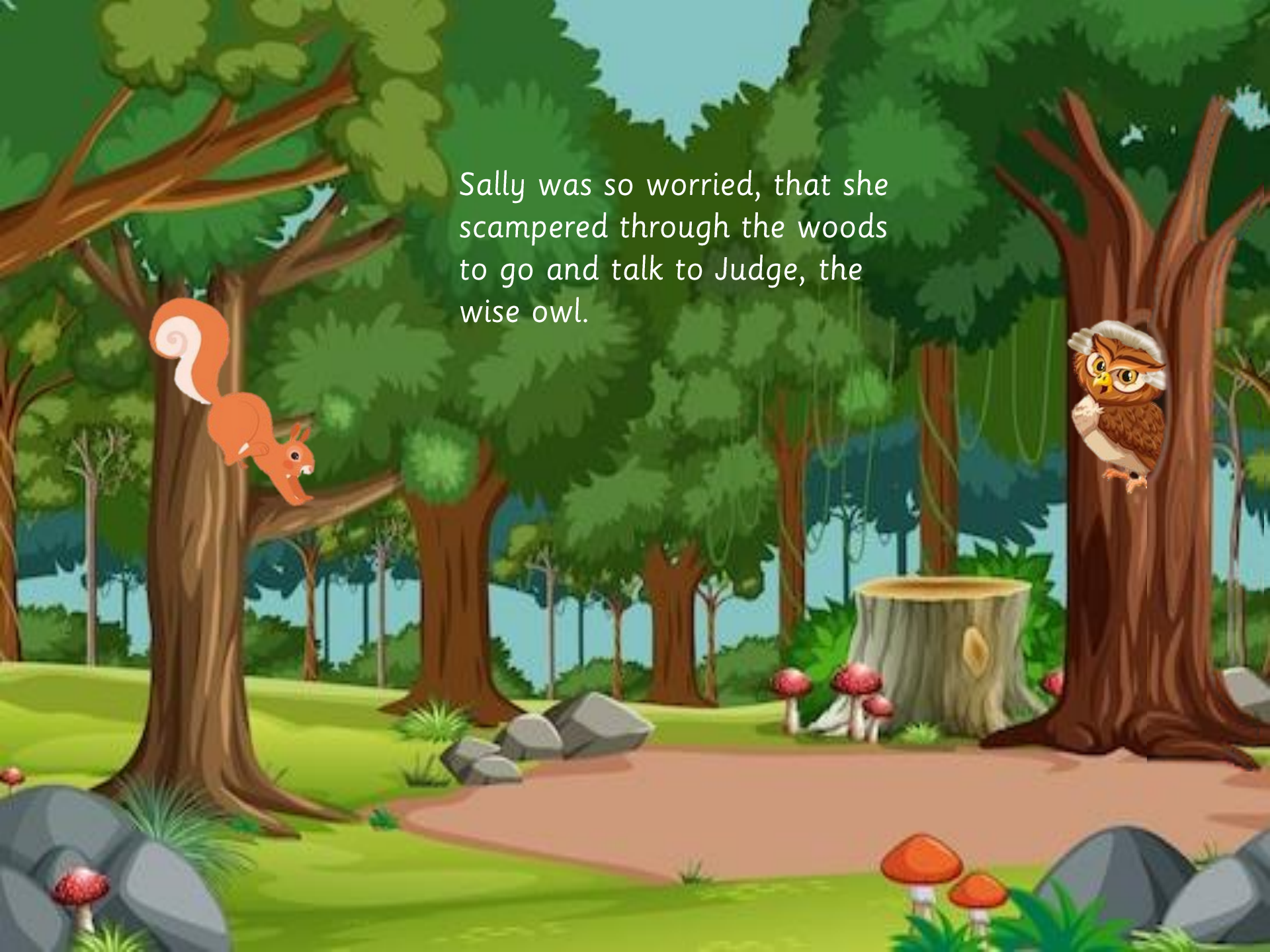
What if Vixen was tempted to eat Gagaberries again?

What if Vixen made poor choices for herself?

Then she would not be able to look after Max.

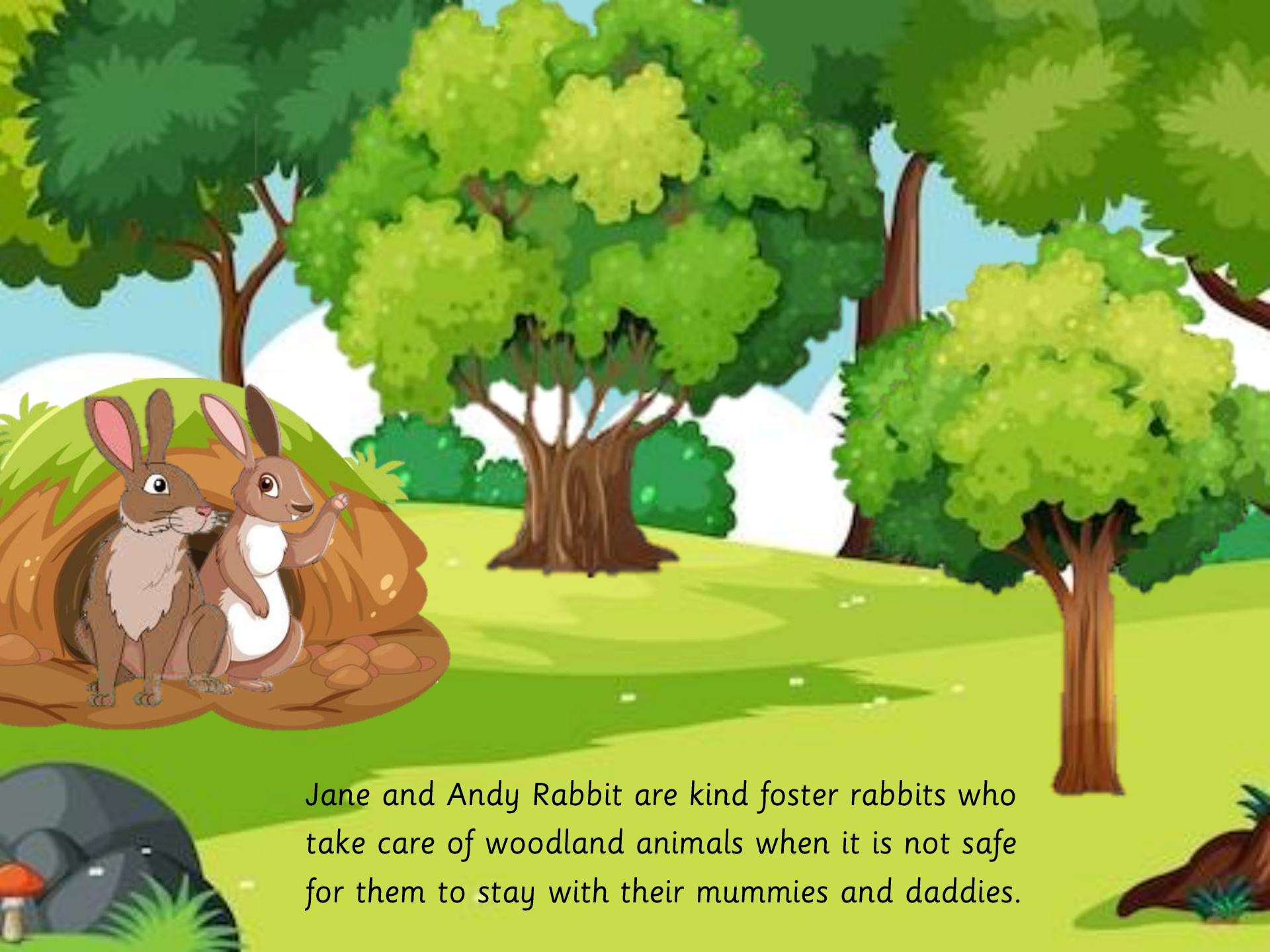
That would not be safe!



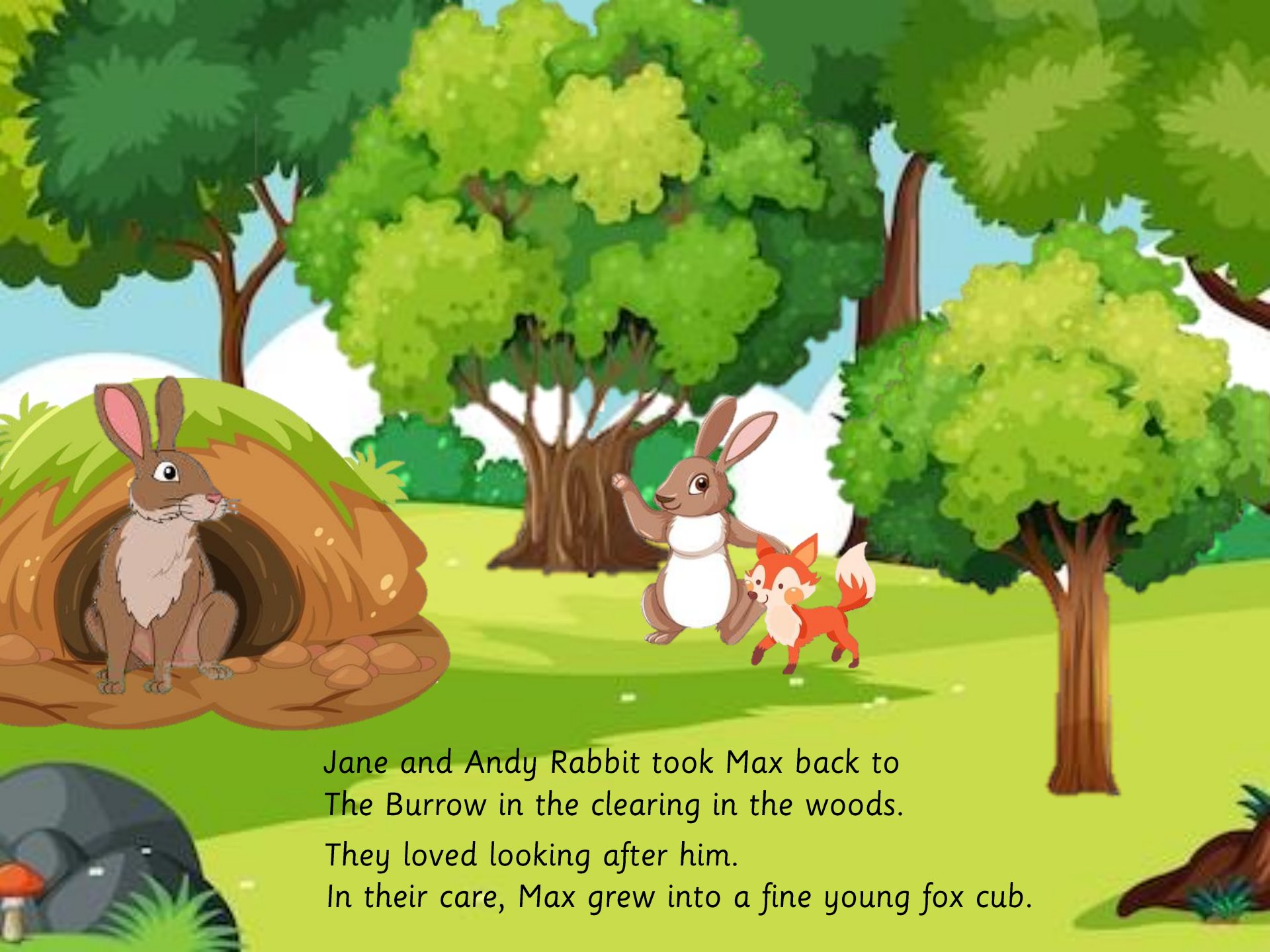

Sally was so worried, that she scampered through the woods to go and talk to Judge, the wise owl.



Judge said that it would be safer for Jane and Andy Rabbit to look after Max while Sally continued to help Vixen.



Jane and Andy Rabbit are kind foster rabbits who take care of woodland animals when it is not safe for them to stay with their mummies and daddies.



Jane and Andy Rabbit took Max back to
The Burrow in the clearing in the woods.

They loved looking after him.
In their care, Max grew into a fine young fox cub.



Max had fun exploring everywhere.

Jane and Andy smiled as they watched him.

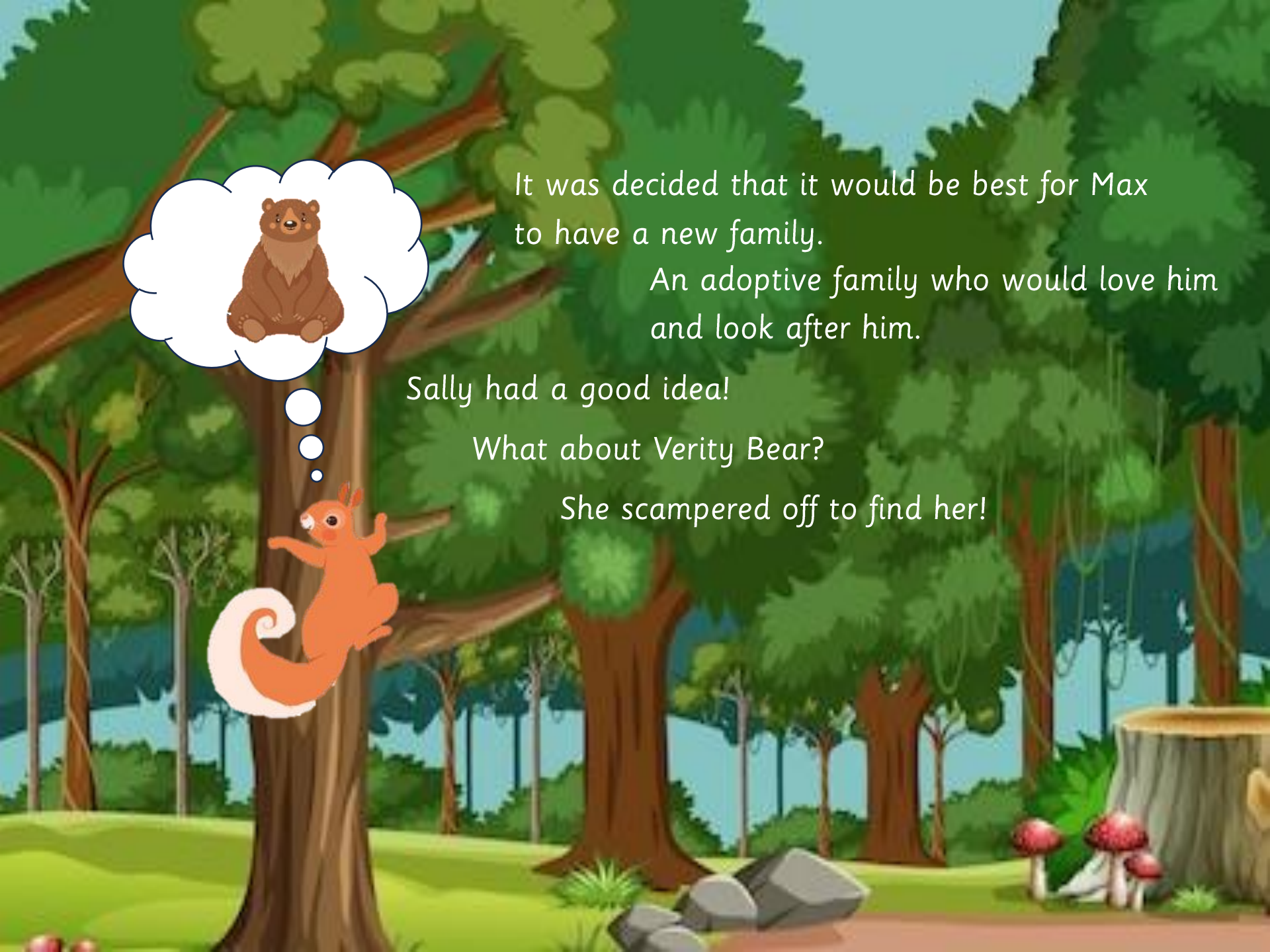
They could always spot him easily because they could see his big bushy tail waving around behind him wherever he went!


Sometimes Jane and Andy
would take Max to see Vixen.
They were always pleased
to see each other!


But Sally continued to be worried about Vixen.
So, Judge flew down to talk it over with them again.


Judge heard that Vixen loved Max very much!
But she had continued to make poor choices.
She had not been able to resist
eating Gagaberries!


Everyone agreed this meant that
Vixen would struggle to look after
Max and keep him safe.


It was decided that it would be best for Max to have a new family.
An adoptive family who would love him and look after him.
Sally had a good idea!
What about Verity Bear?
She scampered off to find her!


Sally knew that Verity had been looking for a cub to love, look after and have adventures with.
Best of all Sally knew that Verity gave the best bear hugs in the woods!
She would be a great Mami for Max.



Sally arranged for Verity to visit Max at The Burrow.

Max went to cwtch up with her straight away. Her fur was soft and warm just like Max's.

He felt safe!


Soon Max was ready to move into Mami's cave with her.
There were lots of new things for him to get used to.
So Mami spent lots of time playing with Max and giving him lots of cwtches.


They explored everywhere together.
Mami always knew where Max was because she could spot his bushy tail wherever he went!


Sometimes Max thought
about Vixen and Lucas.
This made him feel funny inside.
His head would hang low,
and his bushy tail would droop down.


Then his Mami would give him a
great big bear hug.
Max felt safe.
Max felt loved!