



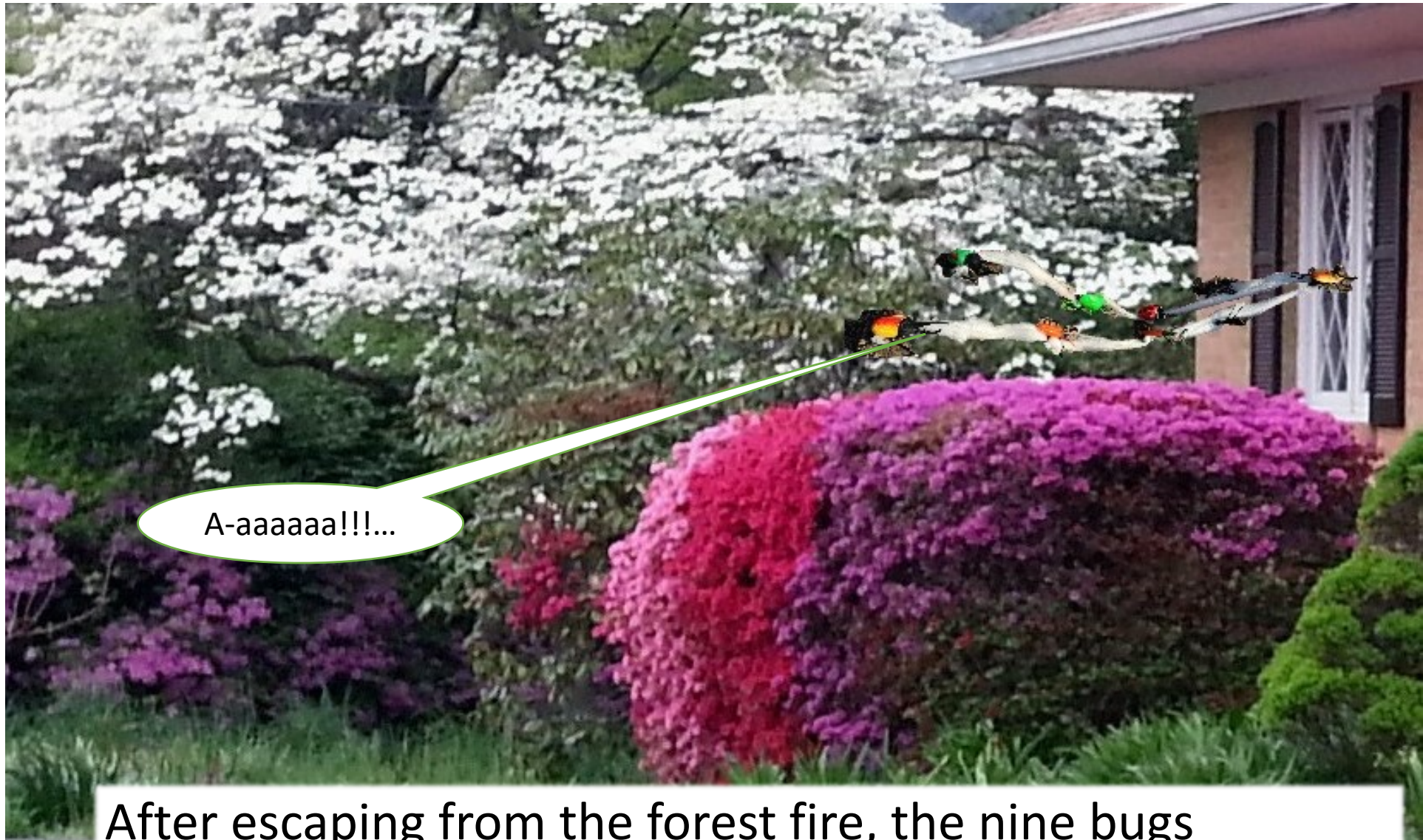
# The Bug Story

Book 4

A Lost Tiger

by Jonathan

Photography by Zoe



After escaping from the forest fire, the nine bugs accidentally flew into an open window...

They crash-landed on the floor.

Ouch!

That was scary!!!






Tiger was so scared, he run out of the window, to the bush outside, ...



...to the front yard, and to the road.

Tiger ran so fast that he saw everything blurry.

A photograph of a gravel road with long shadows cast across it. A red beetle is on the road in the lower-left quadrant. A speech bubble tail points from the beetle to a speech bubble on the right containing the text "A-aaa-aah!!".

A-aaa-aah!!

Tiger did not notice a cherry tree. He run onto it and got stuck.

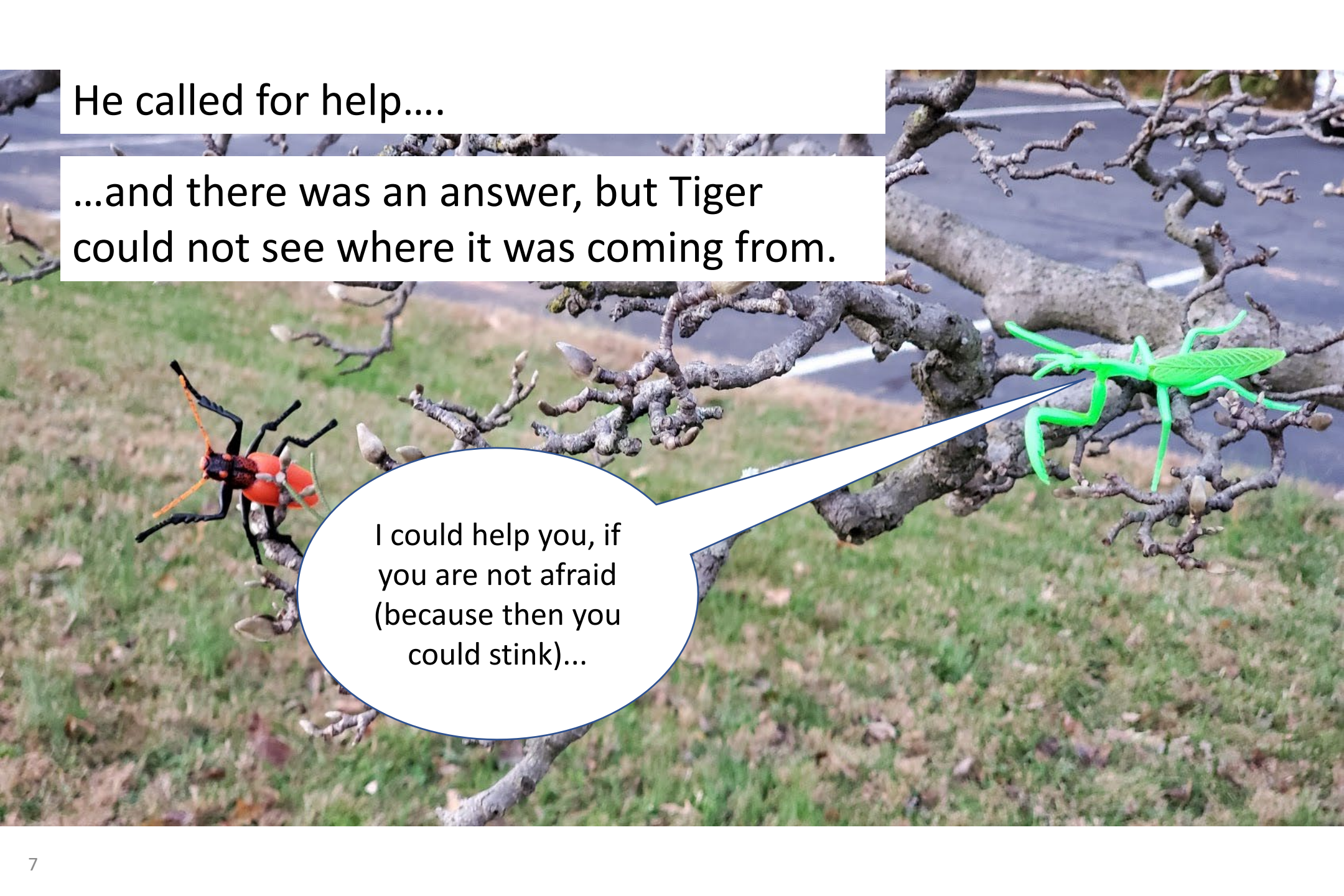
He tried to get free, but could not do it. Tiger missed his friends.



Sigh... Why did I run away?

He called for help....

...and there was an answer, but Tiger could not see where it was coming from.

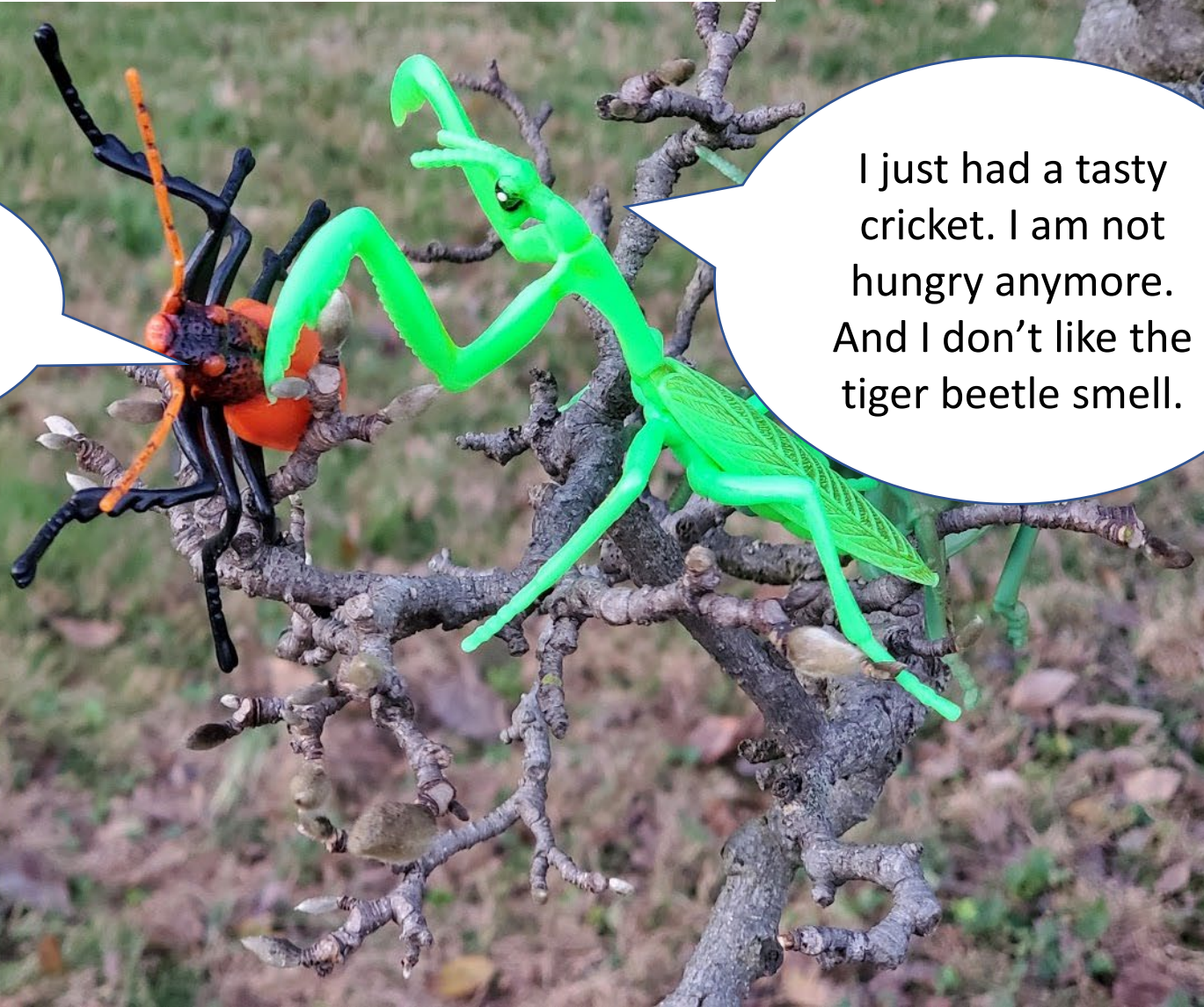


I could help you, if you are not afraid (because then you could stink)...

At last, he saw the insect. It was a mantis.

Hello. But you are a mantis! Why don't you eat me?

I just had a tasty cricket. I am not hungry anymore. And I don't like the tiger beetle smell.





The mantis used his super-muscles to free Tiger.



My name is Grabs.  
Nice to meet you.  
Please don't  
accidentally slice me  
up!

Nice to meet  
you too.

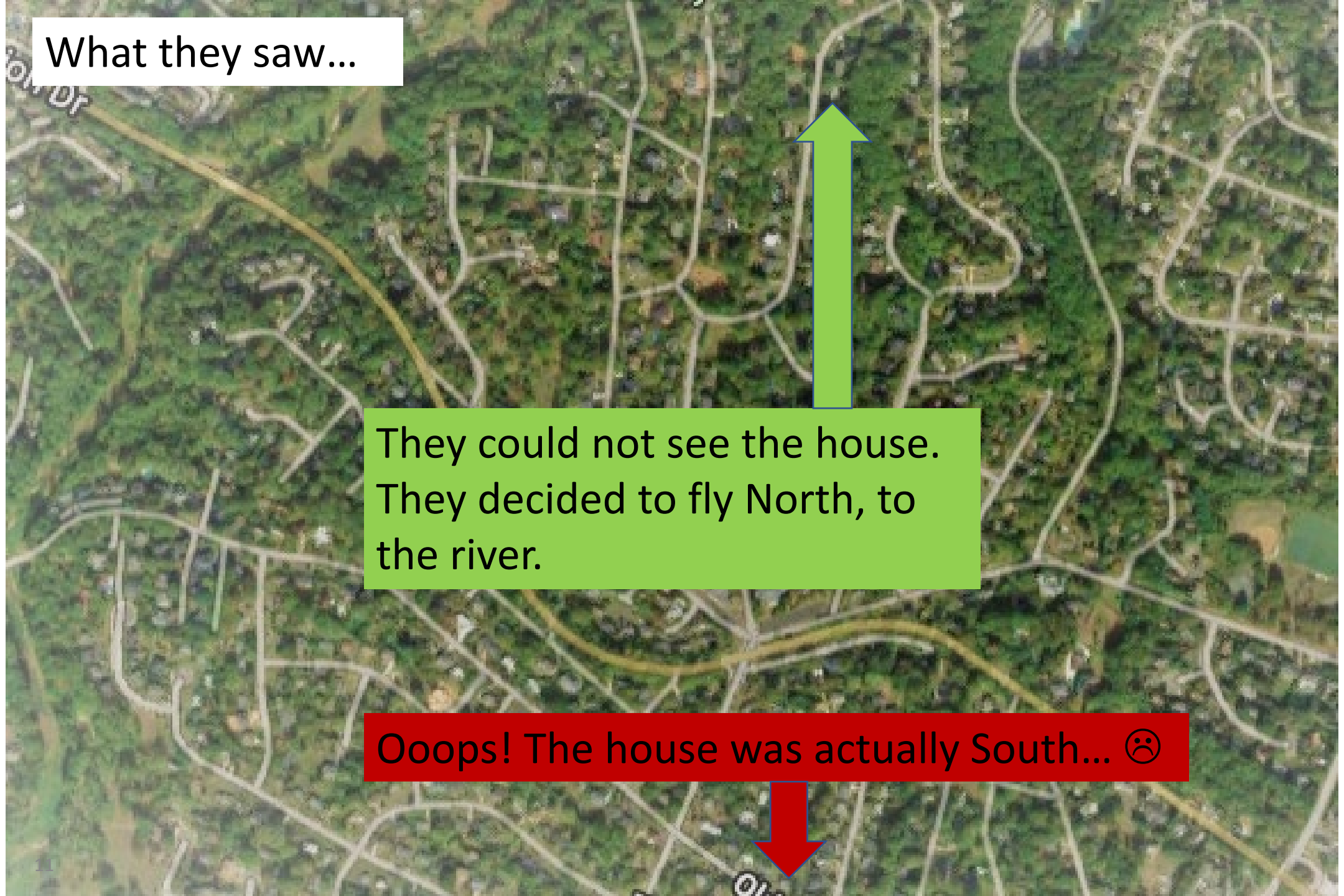
They decided to look for Tiger's friends, but could not find the house with pink flowers.



I must have run for a long time...Sigh...

Let's fly high in the sky, may be we can see the house from there?

What they saw...

An aerial photograph of a rural area with a network of roads and fields. A large green arrow with a blue outline points upwards from the center of the image towards the top of the frame. A green text box is positioned below the arrow, and a red text box is at the bottom of the image with a red arrow pointing downwards.

They could not see the house.  
They decided to fly North, to  
the river.

Ooops! The house was actually South... ☹️

When they flew over a river,  
Tiger tumbled from the sky  
right into the water.

He was so tired!

He landed in a creek at the  
Highlands Park.



Tiger passed out in the water.

Soon enough, water striders came and wanted to eat him up!

Grabs was trying to push a leaf to the water.



This leaf is too heavy!

Gulp!

Tiger woke up and used his super-mandibles.

He got one strider. Others run away.

But he knew he did not have enough air. Big bugs need a lot of air...



Air!!!...

I'm out of here!

Heeeelp !!!...

Oh, no!!!

As he was passing out, Tiger saw a strange bug in the water.

It looked a little like Grabs: 4 back legs, 2 front legs, and a triangular head.

But it was under water.  
He recognized it right away.

It was a GIANT WATER BUG!



The giant bug dived under Tiger and swallowed the last of the water striders.

Then he brought Tiger to shore on his back.

His name was Giant.



Thththank  
you!!!

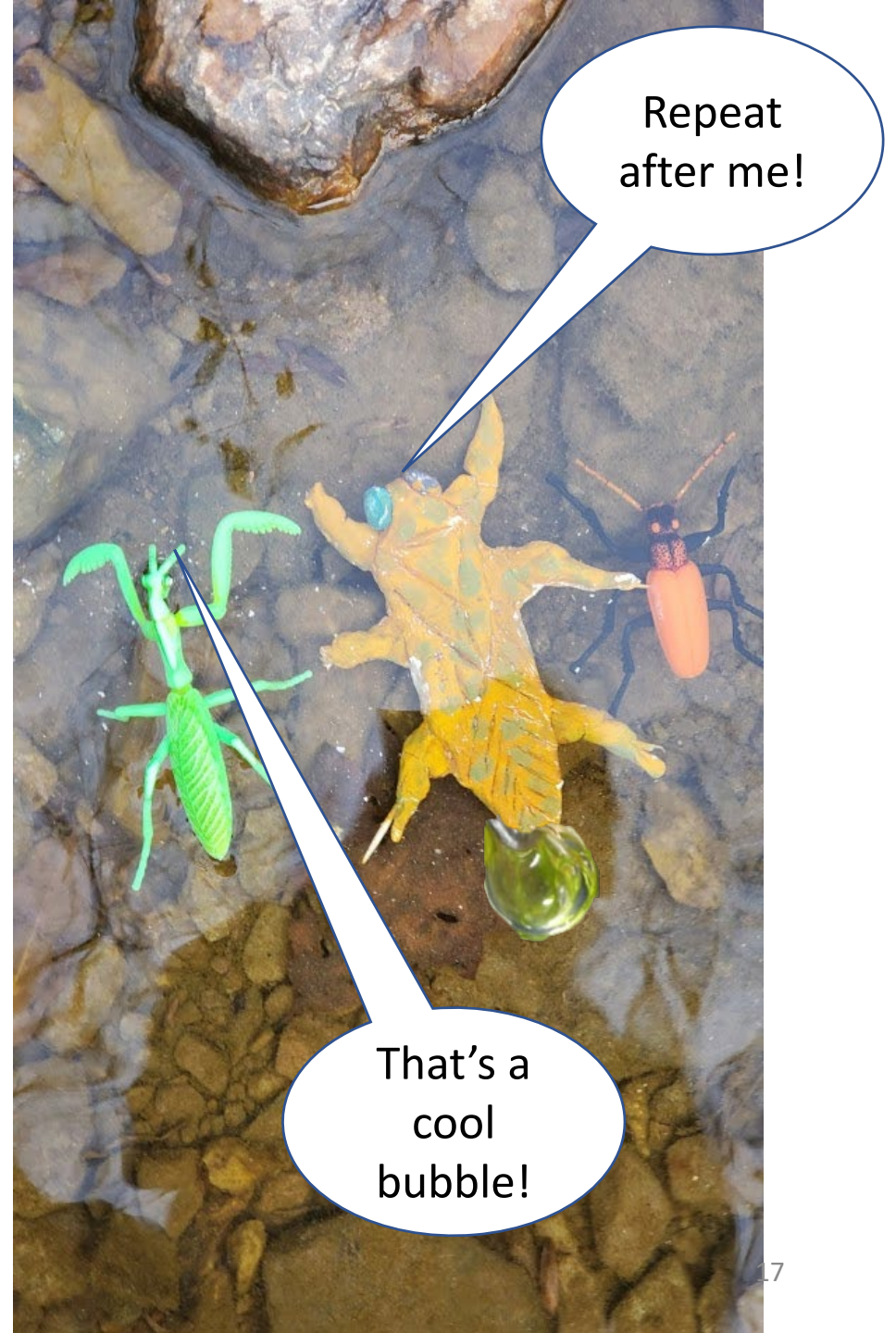
My friend  
is  
saved!!!



Giant told them how to catch water striders.

He also taught them to breathe under water.

They needed to hold a bubble of air under their wings. Then they could breathe air through their skin. Giant said all aquatic insects did that.



The first time, it did not work out.

But Grabs and Tiger did not give up.

They tried, and tried and tried, and finally it worked!

Finally, they could stay under water for 10 minutes!



All this air makes me float!

Grab on to something!

One day, Giant taught them something REALLY COOL.

They needed to put a lot of air under the wings and keep pushing the abdomen up and down.

This way, the bubble of air turned into a GILL!



A GILL???  
Fish have gills,  
and we are  
bugs – what do  
you mean?!

You are  
...blrp...blrp...  
awesome!!

After this, Tiger could stay  
under water for 30 minutes!

Giant could stay under water  
for 3 hours.

But half an hour was  
**AWESOME** for a non-aquatic  
insect, he said.



Tiger loved the amazing new underwater world.

But he still missed his old friends...



Fish tastes fishy...  
I prefer to eat bugs.

You love catching water-striders, because it is a **CHALLENGE!!**

# The End



(Turn the page for some fun facts about Tiger, Grabs, and Giant!)

# Tiger Beetle



## Superpower:

Super-fast runner,  
super sharp cross mandibles for biting,  
poison and smell for chemical defense

## Food:

Other insects

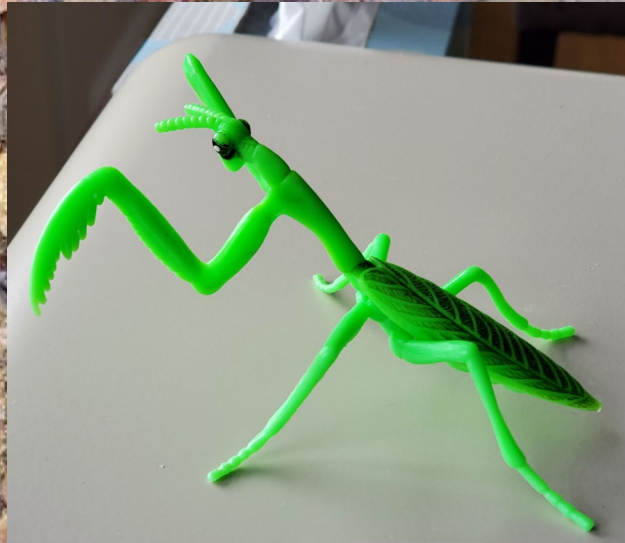
## Other facts:

Tiger beetles are among the fastest bugs in the world. They can run 50 body lengths in a second! They run so fast their brain can not catch up. So, when they run, they cannot see.

Tiger beetles emit smell when in danger. Some of them have *bubble gum* smell.

Tiger beetles can hear bats' echo-location and avoid them in flight.

# Praying Mantis



## Superpower:

Camouflage;

Fierce hunters that strike super fast;

Fearless: just see what they eat!

## Food:

Mostly insects, but also small lizards, mice, birds, snakes, and even fish or turtles!

## Other facts:

Mantises have voracious appetite;

They can kill prey more than 3 times their size;

They can turn their head 180 degrees (half a circle) unlike any other insect.



## Giant Waterbug



### Superpower:

Size,  
venom,  
can breathe under water

### Food:

Fish, insects, small frogs.

### Other facts:

They can walk, swim, and fly;

By using *gaping*, water bugs can stay under water for 3 hours, hiding from predators. They extend their under-wing air bubble and “pump” it to oxygenate it, creating a gill;

Female often stick eggs onto male’s back to guard and carry them around.



To be continued...

# The Bug Story

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