

Dear Parent:
Your child's love of reading starts here!

Every child learns to read in a different way and at his or her own speed. Some go back and forth between reading levels and read favorite books again and again. Others read through each level in order. You can help your young reader improve and become more confident by encouraging his or her own interests and abilities. From books your child reads with you to the first books he or she reads alone, there are I Can Read Books for every stage of reading:



SHARED READING

Basic language, word repetition, and whimsical illustrations, ideal for sharing with your emergent reader



BEGINNING READING

Short sentences, familiar words, and simple concepts for children eager to read on their own



READING WITH HELP

Engaging stories, longer sentences, and language play for developing readers



READING ALONE

Complex plots, challenging vocabulary, and high-interest topics for the independent reader



ADVANCED READING

Short paragraphs, chapters, and exciting themes for the perfect bridge to chapter books

I Can Read Books have introduced children to the joy of reading since 1957. Featuring award-winning authors and illustrators and a fabulous cast of beloved characters, I Can Read Books set the standard for beginning readers.

A lifetime of discovery begins with the magical words **"I Can Read!"**

Visit www.icanread.com for information
on enriching your child's reading experience.



CHARLIE

the Ranch Dog

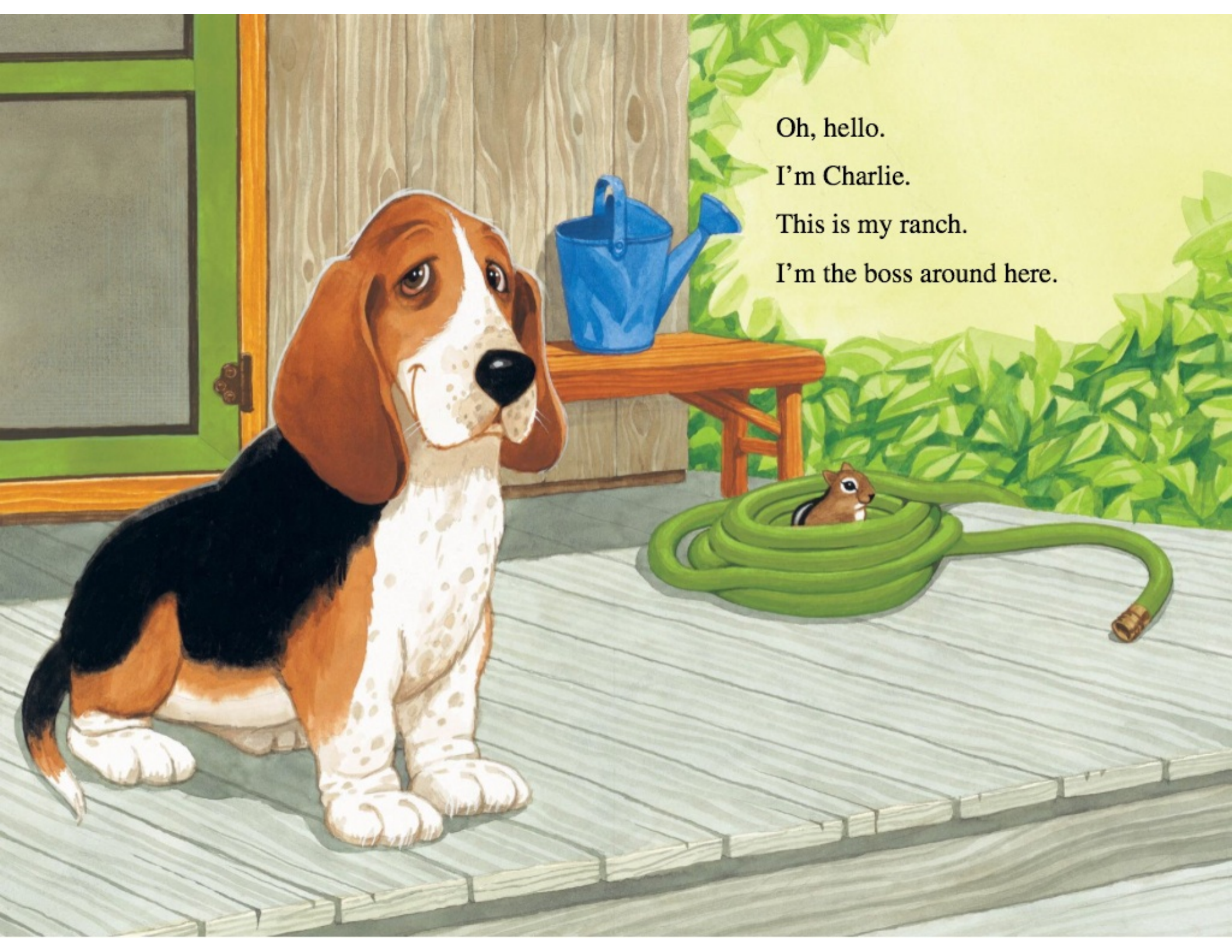
WHERE'S THE BACON?



based on the CHARLIE THE RANCH DOG books
by REE DRUMMOND, The Pioneer Woman
and DIANE deGROAT

HARPER

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Oh, hello.

I'm Charlie.

This is my ranch.

I'm the boss around here.

This is Rowdy.

He doesn't live here.

He's just visiting
while his family is away
for a couple of days.

I don't normally have time
for visitors.

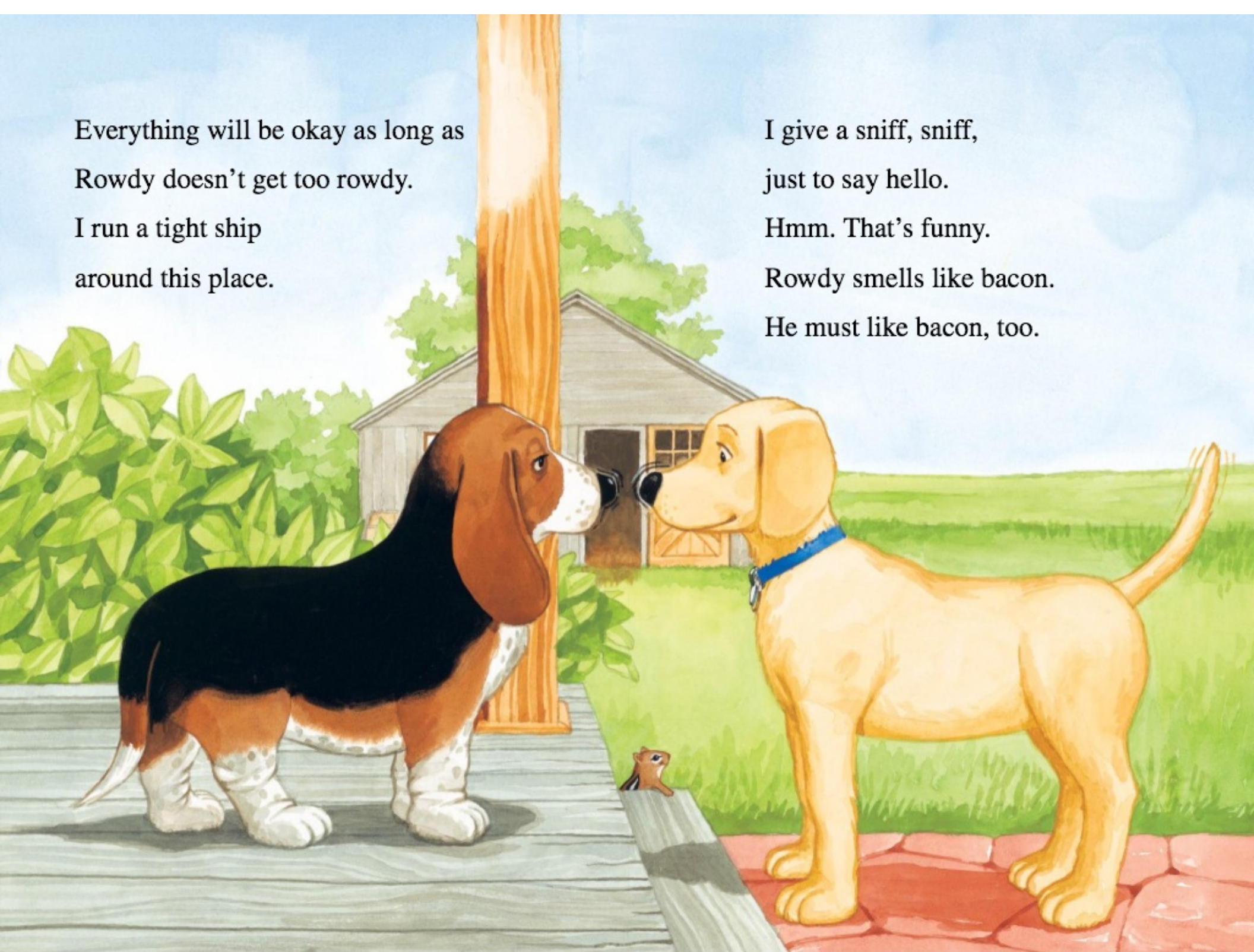
After all, I have work to do!

But I'll be a good boss man
and show Rowdy around the ranch.



Everything will be okay as long as
Rowdy doesn't get too rowdy.
I run a tight ship
around this place.

I give a sniff, sniff,
just to say hello.
Hmm. That's funny.
Rowdy smells like bacon.
He must like bacon, too.



That reminds me. It's breakfast time!

(Breakfast is my life.)

I run into the kitchen.

Huh? Excuse me?

My bacon is gone!

My water bowl is empty, too.



Sniff.

Sniff, sniff.

Sniff, sniff, sniff.

I walk around and around.

My nose follows the trail of bacon.



I run right into Rowdy!

He's standing in my personal space.

I wonder if he's ever even heard
of personal space!



My belly rumbles.

What a bad morning for a ranch dog.

No bacon. No water.

No personal space.

Huh?

Where did Rowdy go?

I don't see him anywhere.

I hope he's not being rowdy!



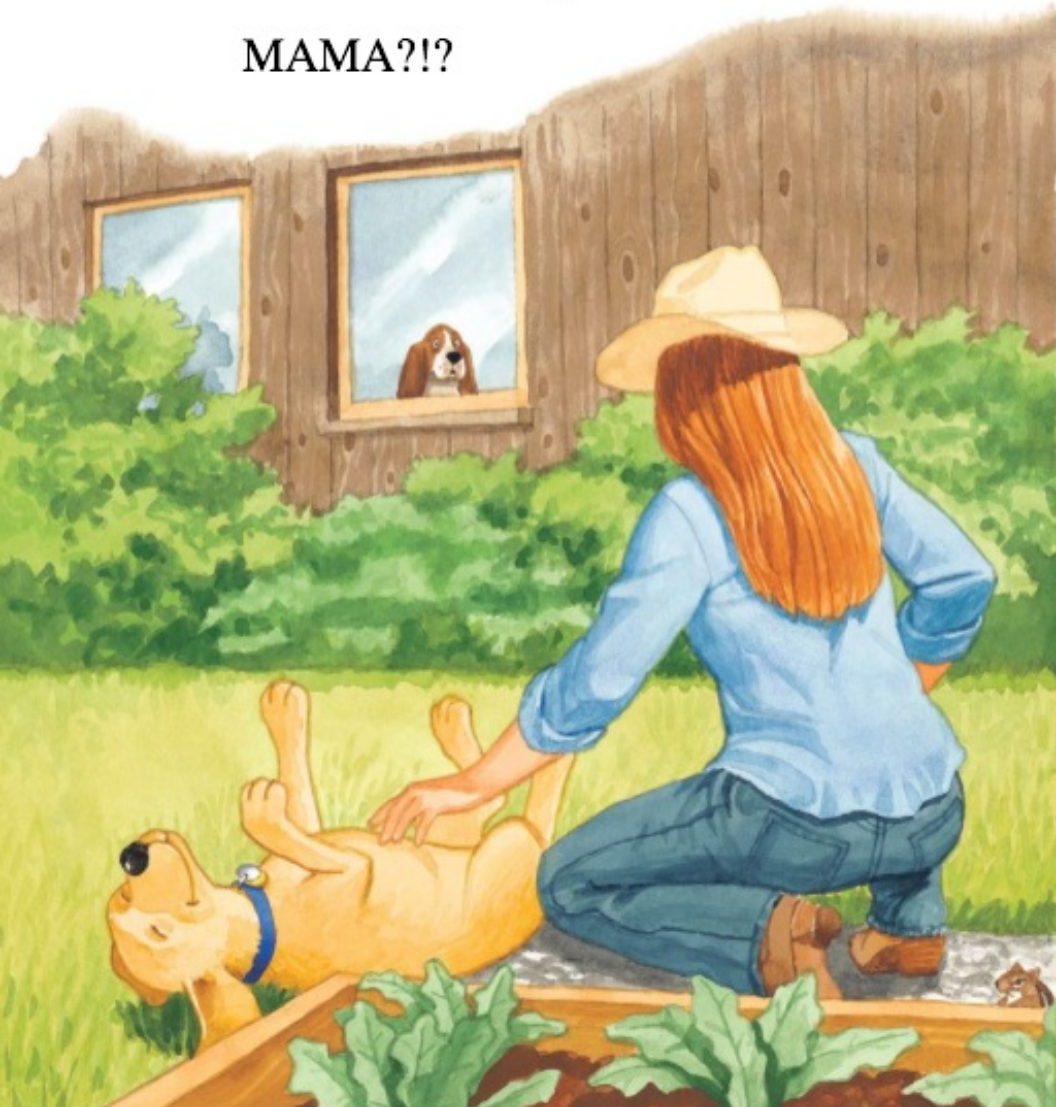
I find Rowdy.

He's playing in the garden.

He lies down next to Mama.

She rubs his belly.

MAMA?!?



Okay, this is going too far.

I give Rowdy "the look."

He runs past me into the house.

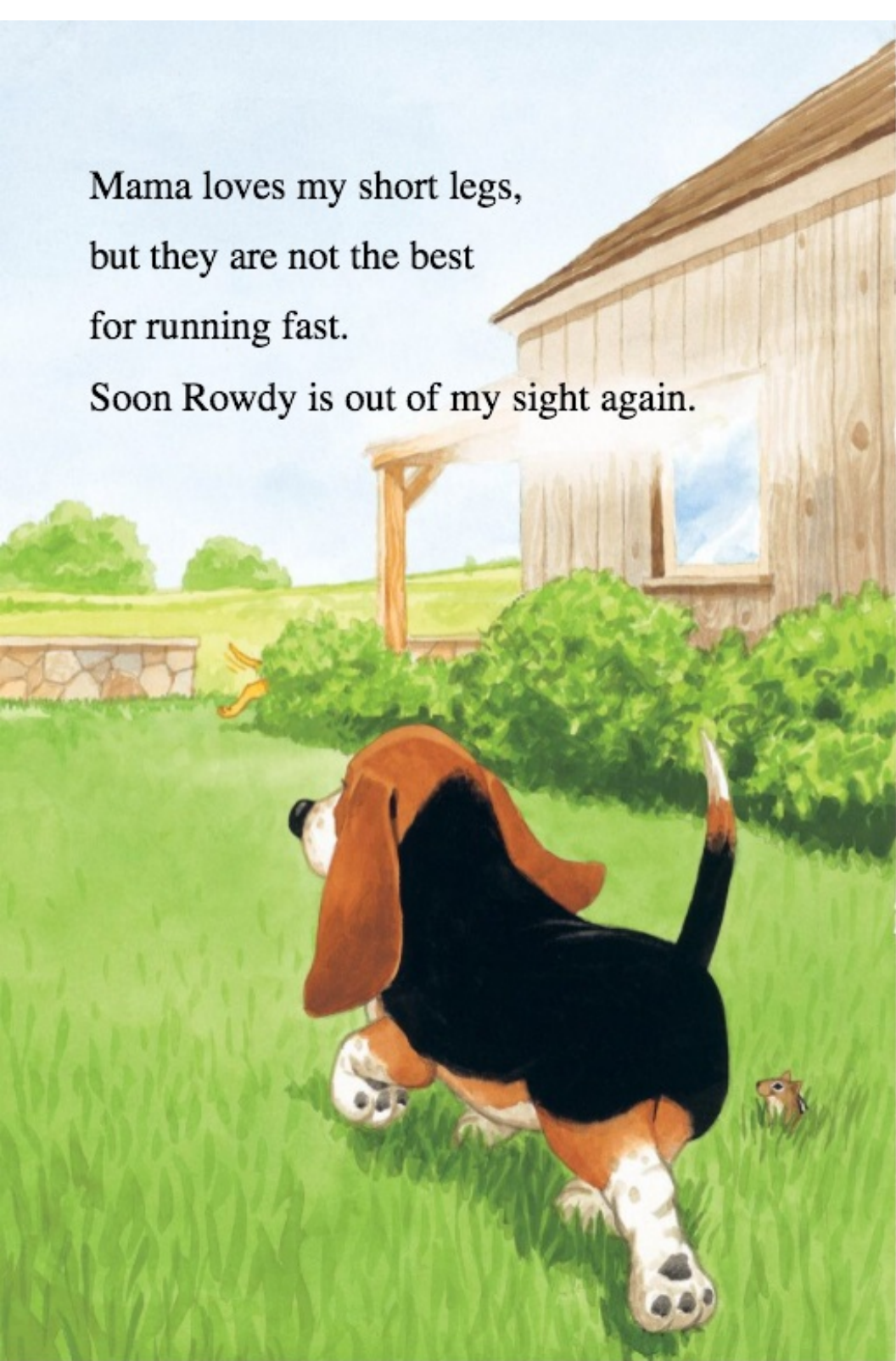
I sniff, sniff.

"Hey, you bacon eater!" I shout.

"Get back here!"



Mama loves my short legs,
but they are not the best
for running fast.
Soon Rowdy is out of my sight again.



Visitors are difficult!
All this running around is tiring.
After all this trouble,
I think I'll just go inside,
lie down, and take a little snooze.



Who is that in my bed?

ROWDY!

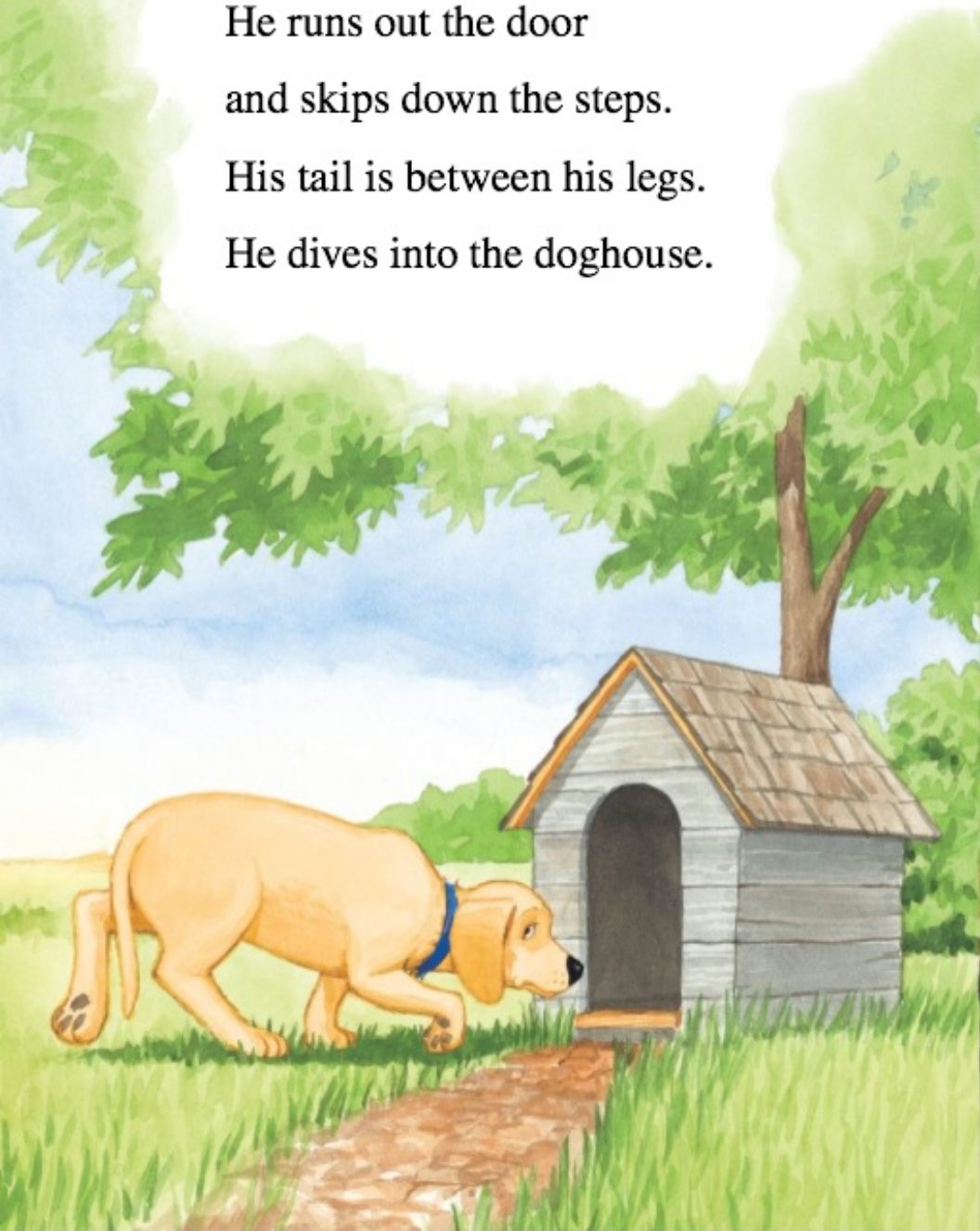
That's it. A ranch dog can only
take so much.



RRRRRRROOOOWWOOOOOH!



Rowdy jumps off the bed.
He runs out the door
and skips down the steps.
His tail is between his legs.
He dives into the doghouse.



Oh, Rowdy.
Now I feel bad.
I didn't mean to scare the big guy.



But goodness me,
Rowdy is hard to manage!
Eating my bacon,
drinking my water,
getting belly rubs from my mama,
and the final straw: sleeping in my bed!



Ahh. Nice and cozy.

Finally, I can get a little rest.



Hmm.

That's funny.

I don't feel very sleepy.

I think about Rowdy.

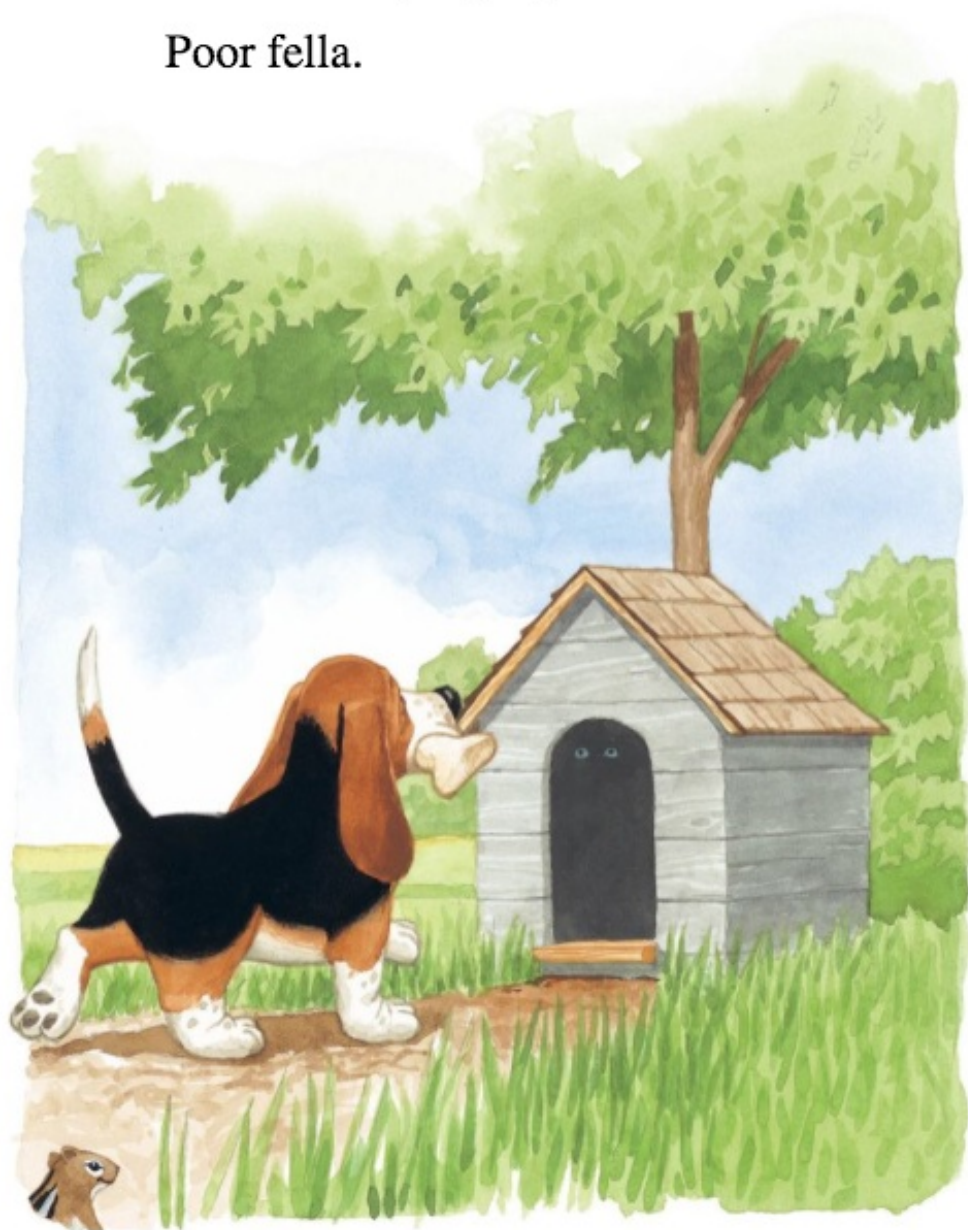
I wonder if he's lonely
outside in the doghouse.



Hey.
Sniff, sniff, sniff.
Something smells good!
What's for dinner?
Mama gives me a soup bone,
and I know just what to do with it.



When I walk up to the doghouse,
I hear Rowdy crying.
Poor fella.

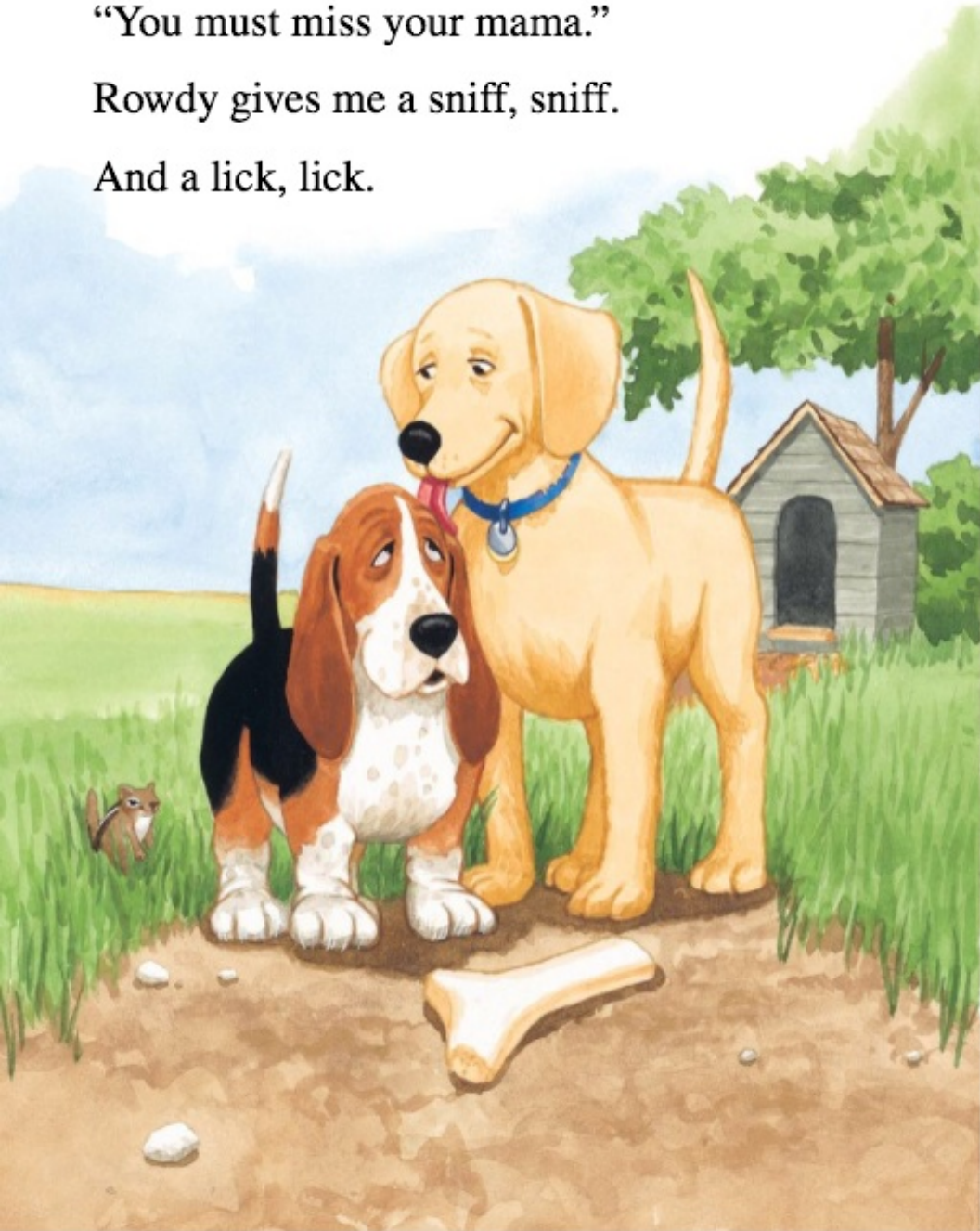


“I’m sorry, Rowdy,” I say.

“You must miss your mama.”

Rowdy gives me a sniff, sniff.

And a lick, lick.



“Maybe there’s room on this ranch
for the both of us,” I say.

Then I share my dinner
with my new friend.





*Ree Drummond and Diane deGroat gratefully
acknowledge the editorial and artistic contributions
of Amanda Glickman and Rick Whipple.*

After dinner, I feel sleepy.

“Time for a nap, Rowdy?” I ask.

I even let him share my sofa.

Zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz.

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FIRST EDITION

I Can Read!

BEGINNING
1
READING

Charlie the Ranch Dog isn't sure what he thinks about visitors. But Charlie will try to give the new dog on the farm a chance—so long as he stays away from Charlie's favorite things!



My
First

Ideal for sharing with emergent readers

1

Simple sentences for eager new readers

2

High-interest stories for developing readers

3

Complex plots for confident readers

4

The perfect bridge to chapter books

**For more information about the
I Can Read Book® series, see inside!**



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