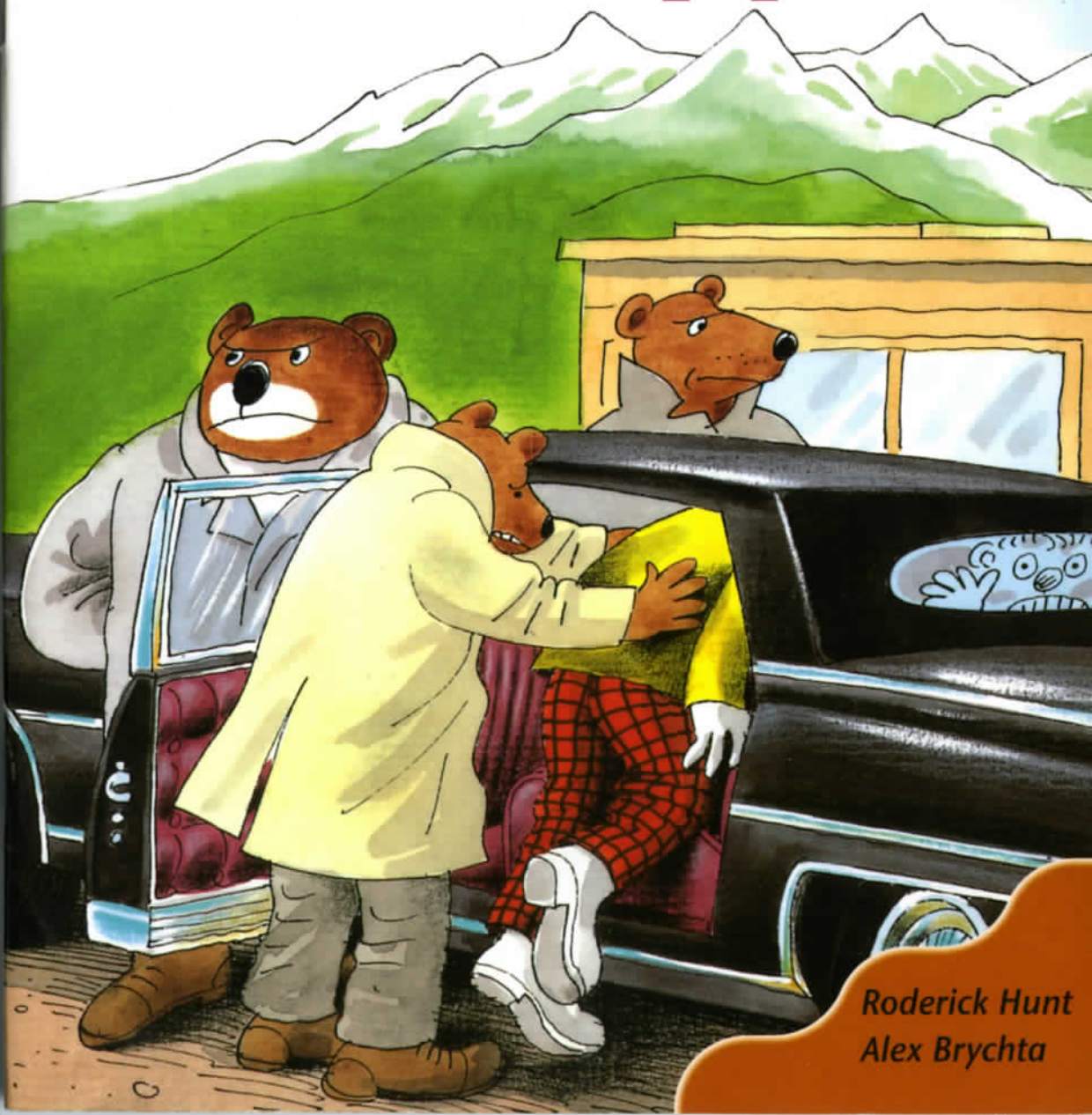




Oxford
Reading
Tree

The Kidnappers



Roderick Hunt
Alex Brychta

What's this story about?

The magic key glows and takes Kipper and his toys to the Teddy Bears' Picnic in Switzerland. He and the toys help some famous bears who have been kidnapped.

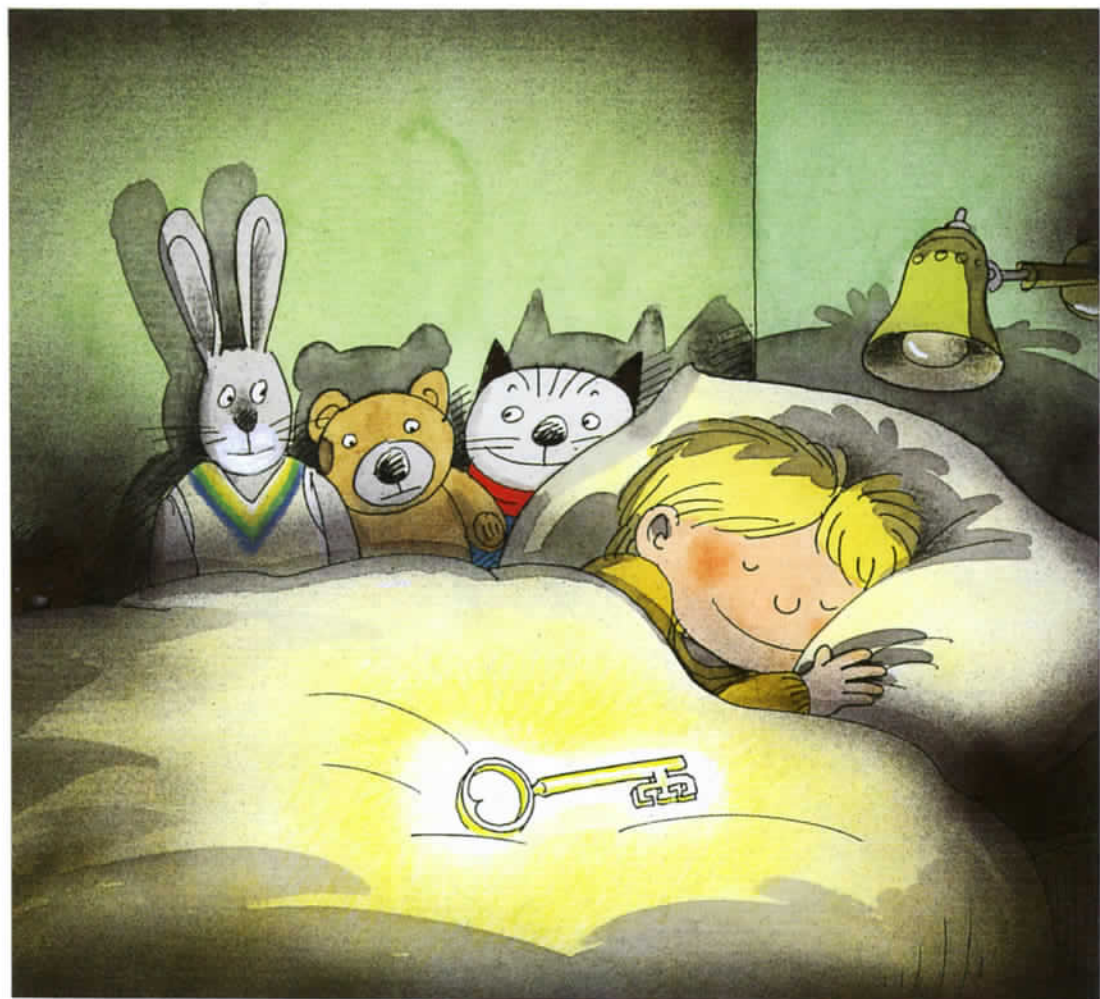
Talk together

Read the title and talk about the picture on the cover. Look through some of the pictures and ask, "What do you think happens in the story?" and "Where do you think this story takes place?" Read the blurb on the back cover and ask, "Why do you think the magic has turned Kipper into a bear?"

Read the story

W = Word recognition **C** = Language comprehension

- C** Listen as the child reads aloud. Praise him/her for reading fluently and for using expression to make the story sound interesting.
- W** Page 3, help the child read 'Catsimir'. Show him/her how to break it down into syllables, 'Cat-sim-ir'.
- C** Page 12, ask, "What can we find out about Switzerland from the picture?" (e.g. there are mountains, chalets). Then ask, "Which parts of the picture are made up for the story?" (e.g. goats are dressed as people).
- W** Page 21, ask the child to find 'fast' and 'faster'. Ask, "What do we do to 'fast' if we want to write 'faster'?"
- C** Page 23, ask, "What do you think the plan might be for rescuing the kidnapped bears?"
- C** Page 32, ask, "How can Kipper make the others believe him?"



Kipper was sad because the magic key would not glow. He looked at the key for a long time. At last he fell asleep. Suddenly, the key glowed and the magic began to work.



Kipper's toys were coming to life. Teddy gave Kipper a shake.

"Wake up," he said. "The magic key is glowing. The magic is working."



Kipper sat up and rubbed his eyes. He looked at his toys.

“Come on, Kipper,” said Catsimir. “Hurry up! It’s time for a magic adventure.”



The toys ran to the little house.

“Hurry up, Kipper,” called Teddy. “Be quick, or it will be too late.”

Kipper could feel the magic working. It pulled him inside the magic house.



The magic whizzed Kipper round and round.
“Oh help,” called Kipper. “I feel different.
This is a different sort of magic.”



The magic took them to an airport. It was a very busy airport. Catsimir was excited.

“Maybe we can catch a plane,” he said.

“Maybe we can have an exciting adventure!”



There were bears everywhere. They were going to Switzerland.

“They’re going to the Teddy Bears’ Picnic,” said Teddy. “They have one every year.”



"Maybe we can go too," said Bunbury.
Kipper was not so sure.

"How can we?" he asked.

"Of course we can go," said Teddy. "This is a magic adventure."



Kipper and his friends went on the aeroplane to Switzerland. They flew over lakes and mountains.

“What a beautiful place for a picnic!” said Kipper.



When the plane landed everyone got off. There were lots and lots of bears. Kipper had never seen so many. They had come from all over the world.

“It’s going to be a big picnic,” said Kipper.



There was a bus at the airport. It was going to the Teddy Bears' Picnic.

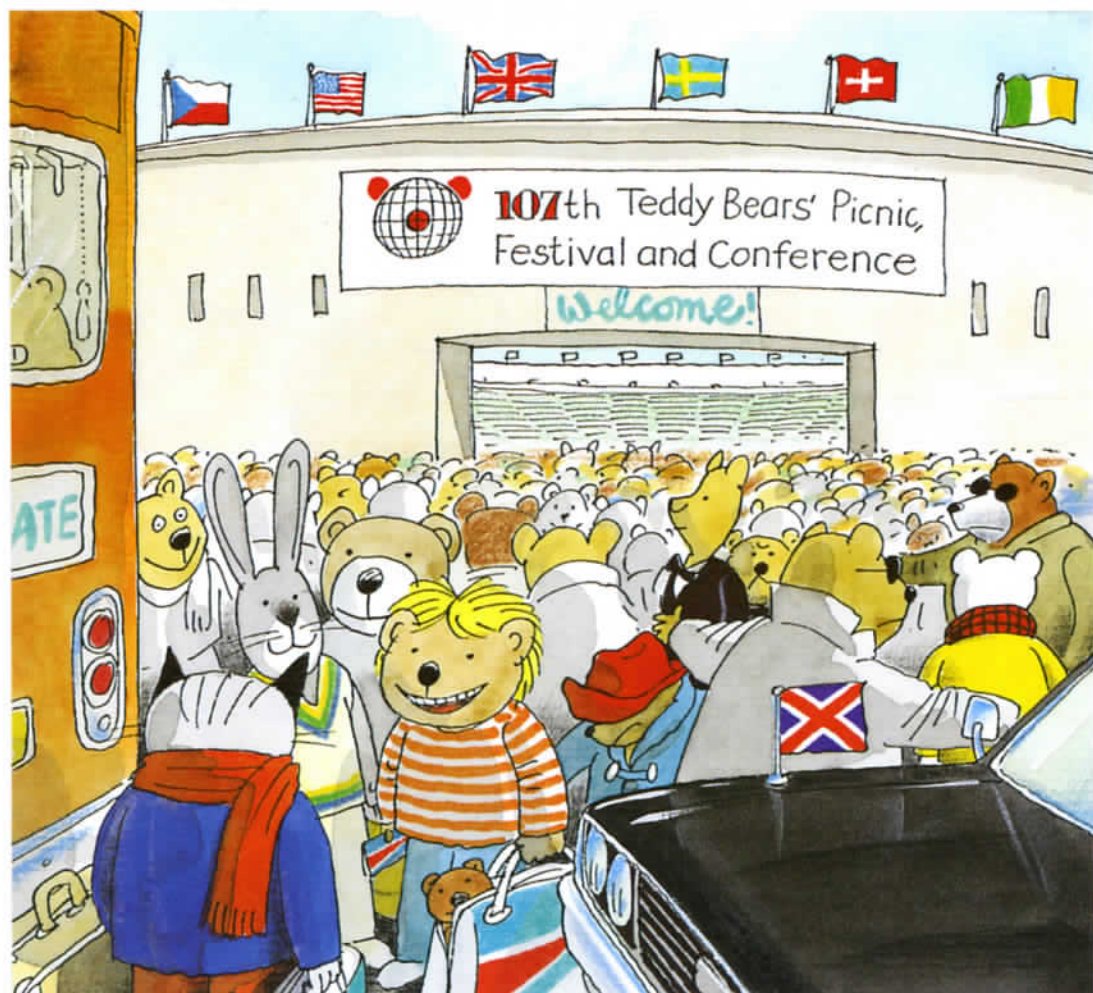
"Come on," said Catsimir, "if we run we can catch this bus."



Kipper liked Switzerland.

“It’s beautiful here,” said Kipper.

It was fun on top of the bus. The bears waved at everyone and everyone waved back.

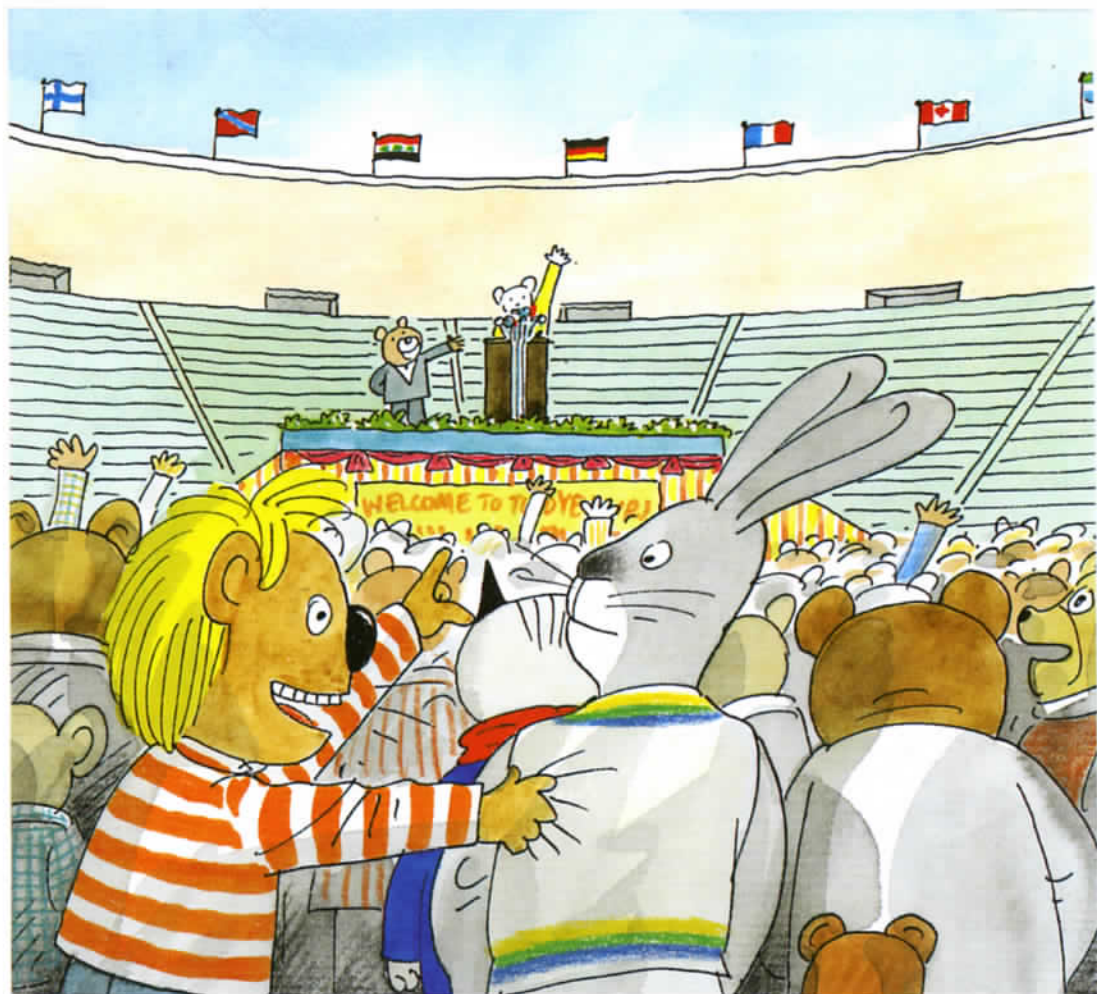


At last the bus arrived. Everyone got off.
“I’ve never seen so many bears,” said Kipper.
“We’d better stay together, in case we get lost.”

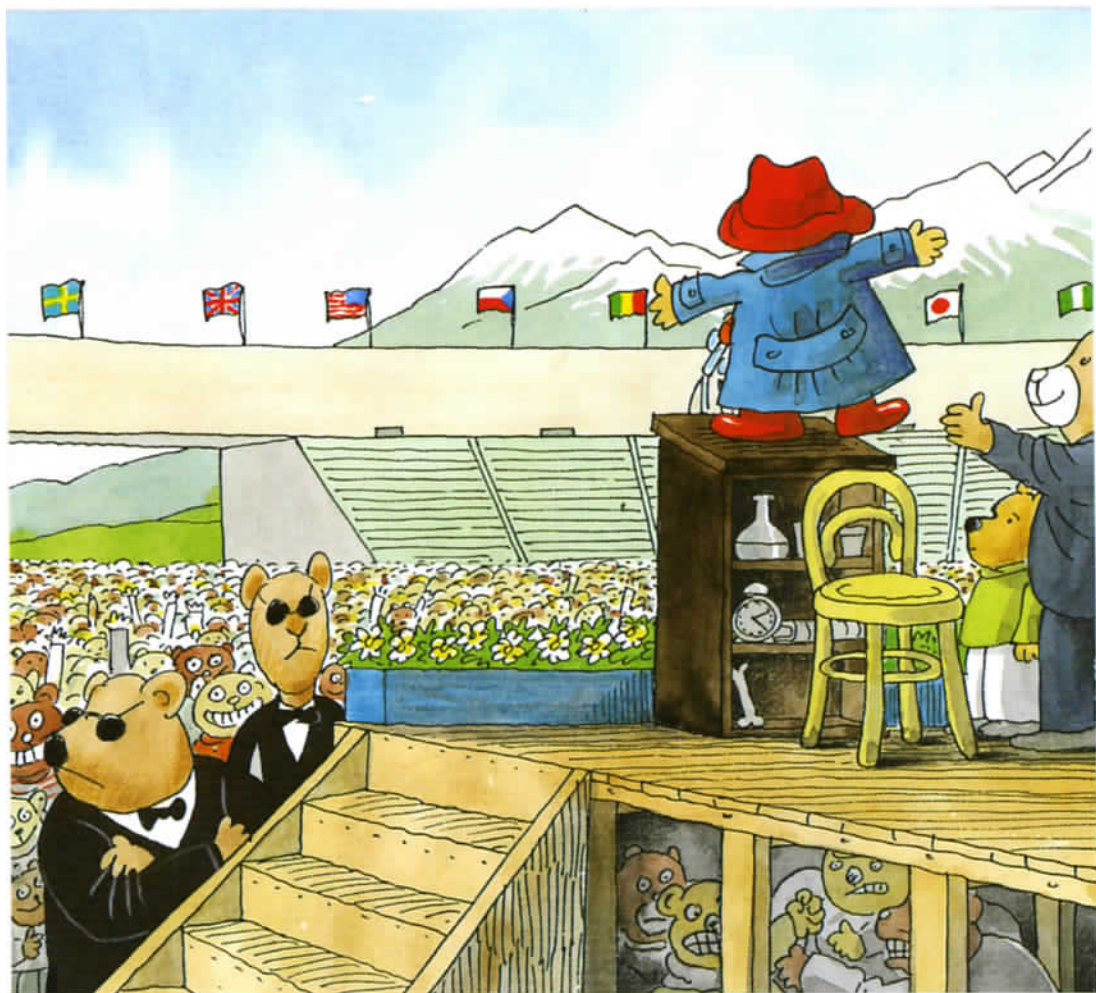


Kipper and his friends found a good place to sit. Suddenly, everyone shouted and cheered. A famous bear had come on to the stage. He waved at the crowd.

“Welcome to the Teddy Bears’ Picnic,” he said.



“I know him,” said Kipper. “He’s a very famous bear indeed. I’ve read all his books.”



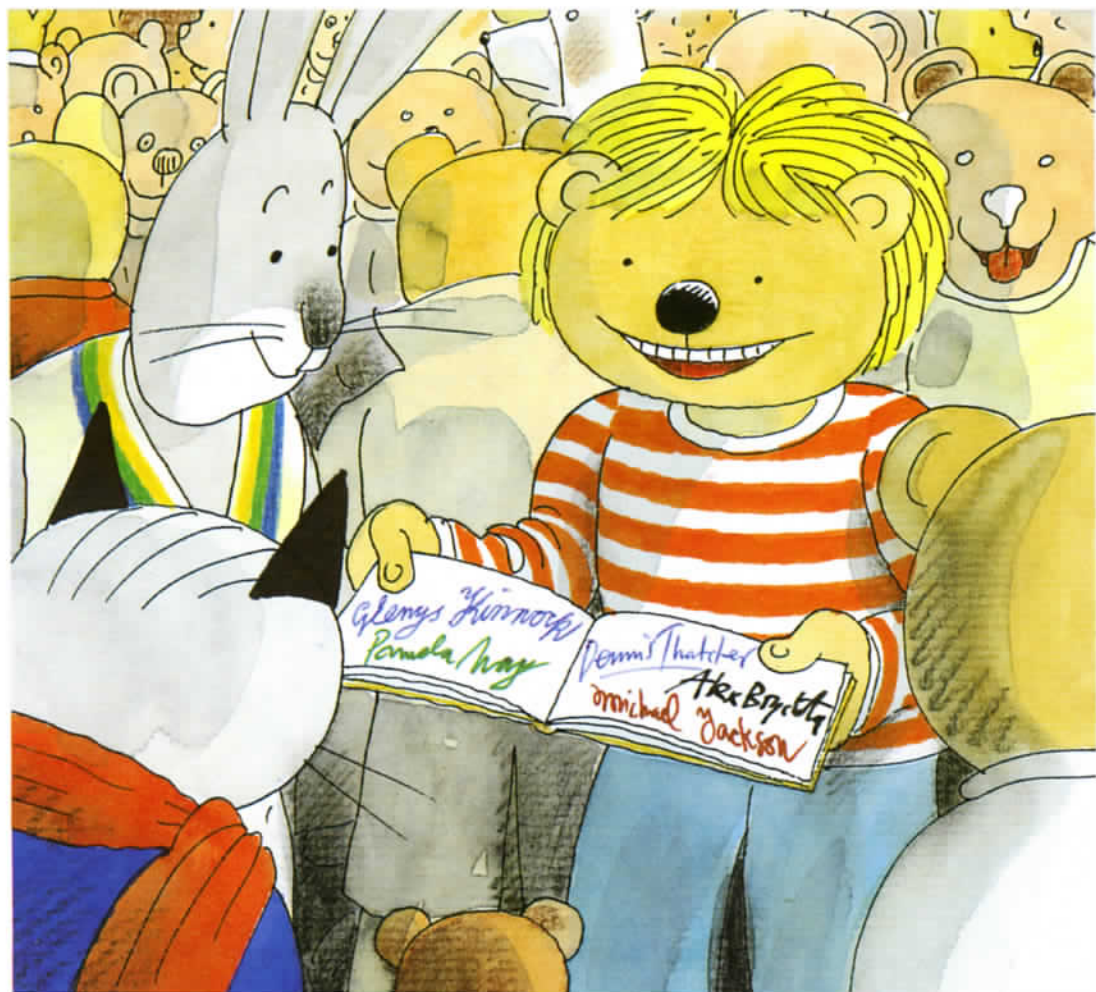
Another famous bear came on to the stage.
He began to tell jokes and sing funny songs.
Everyone laughed and cheered.

"I know that famous bear, too," said Kipper.
"I've seen him on TV."



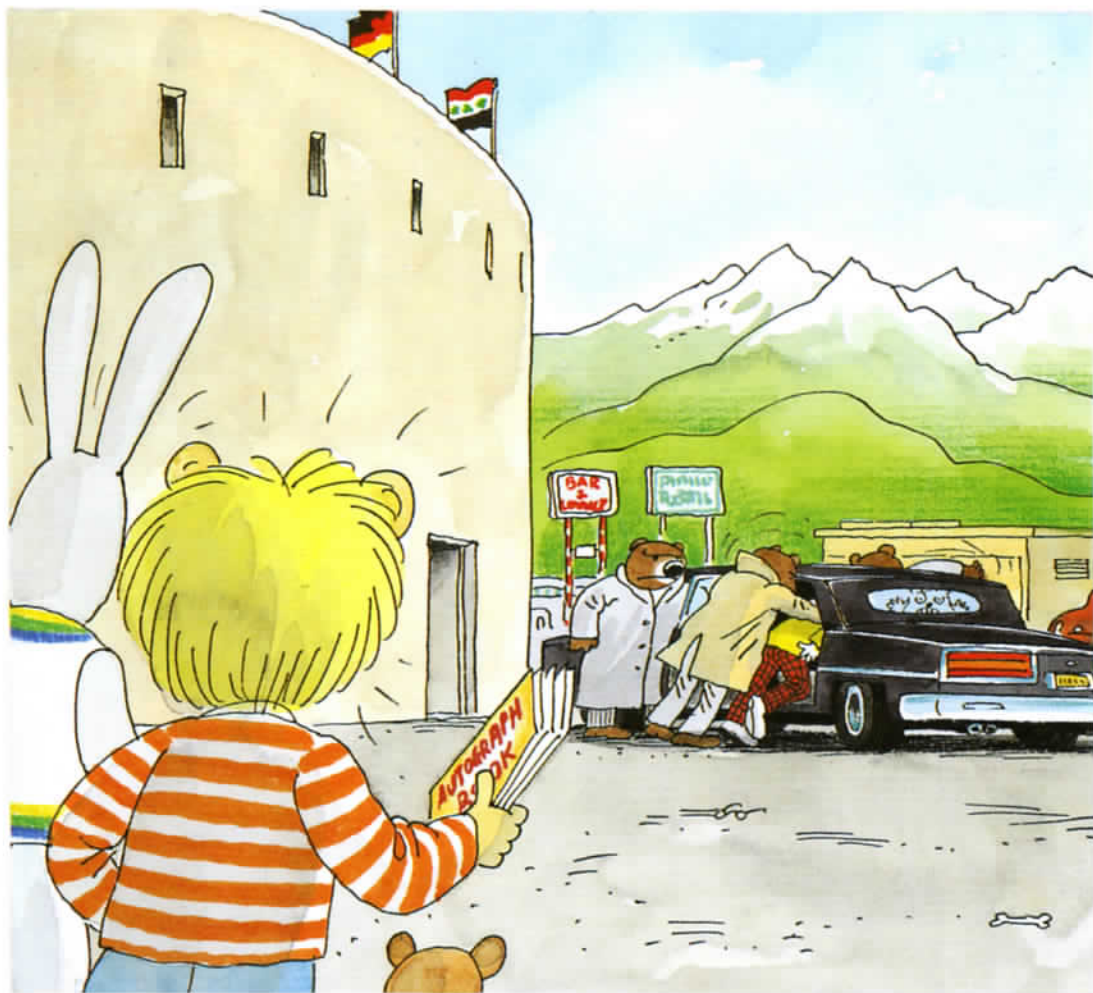
A famous pop group came on to the stage.
They played while the bears had their picnic.

“This is the best picnic I’ve ever been to,”
said Kipper.



Kipper had an autograph book. He wanted some of the famous bears to sign their names.

"I can show them to Biff and Chip," said Kipper. "Then they'll know I've had a magic adventure."



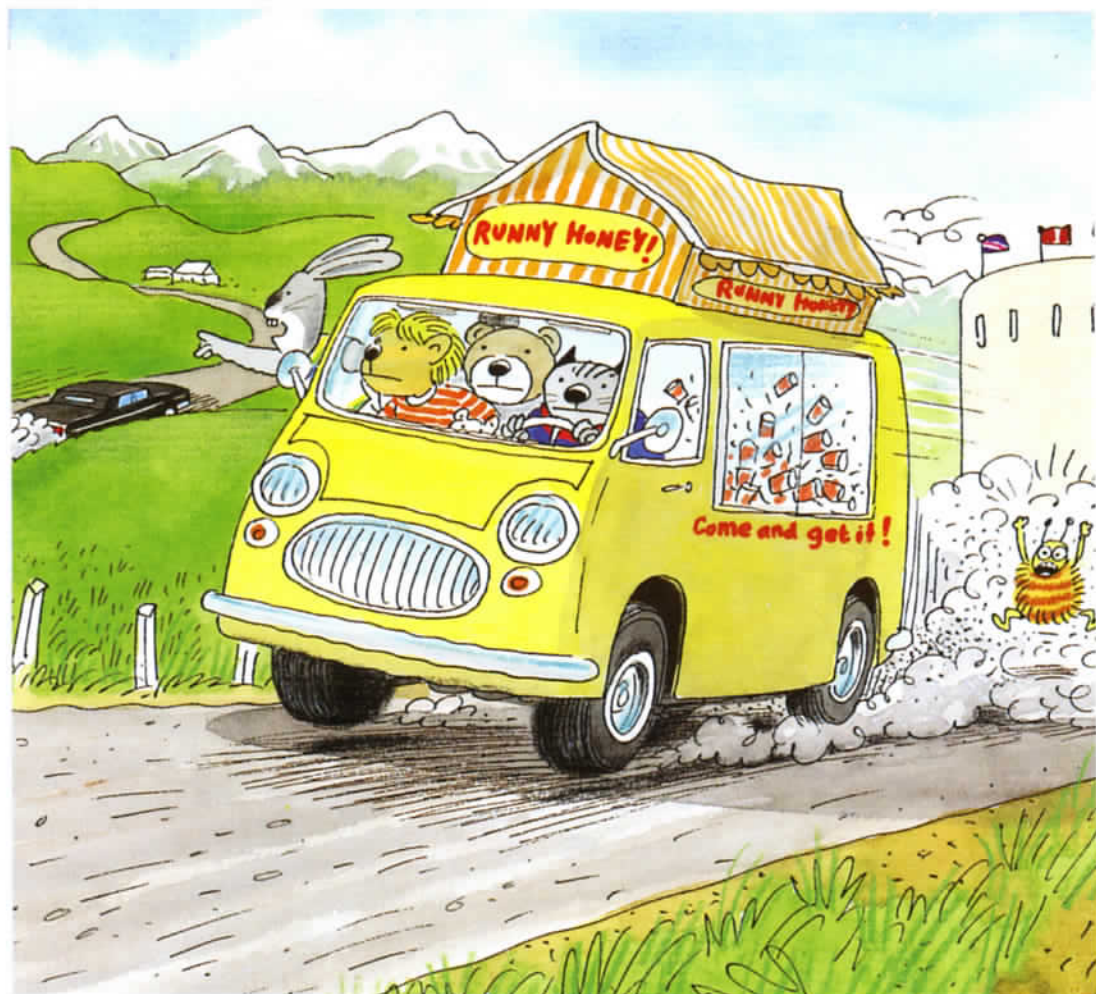
They went to find the famous bears. But there was trouble. Some nasty bears were pushing the famous bears into a car.

“It’s a kidnap,” said Bunbury. “We must do something.”



The car sped away. Catsimir saw a van.

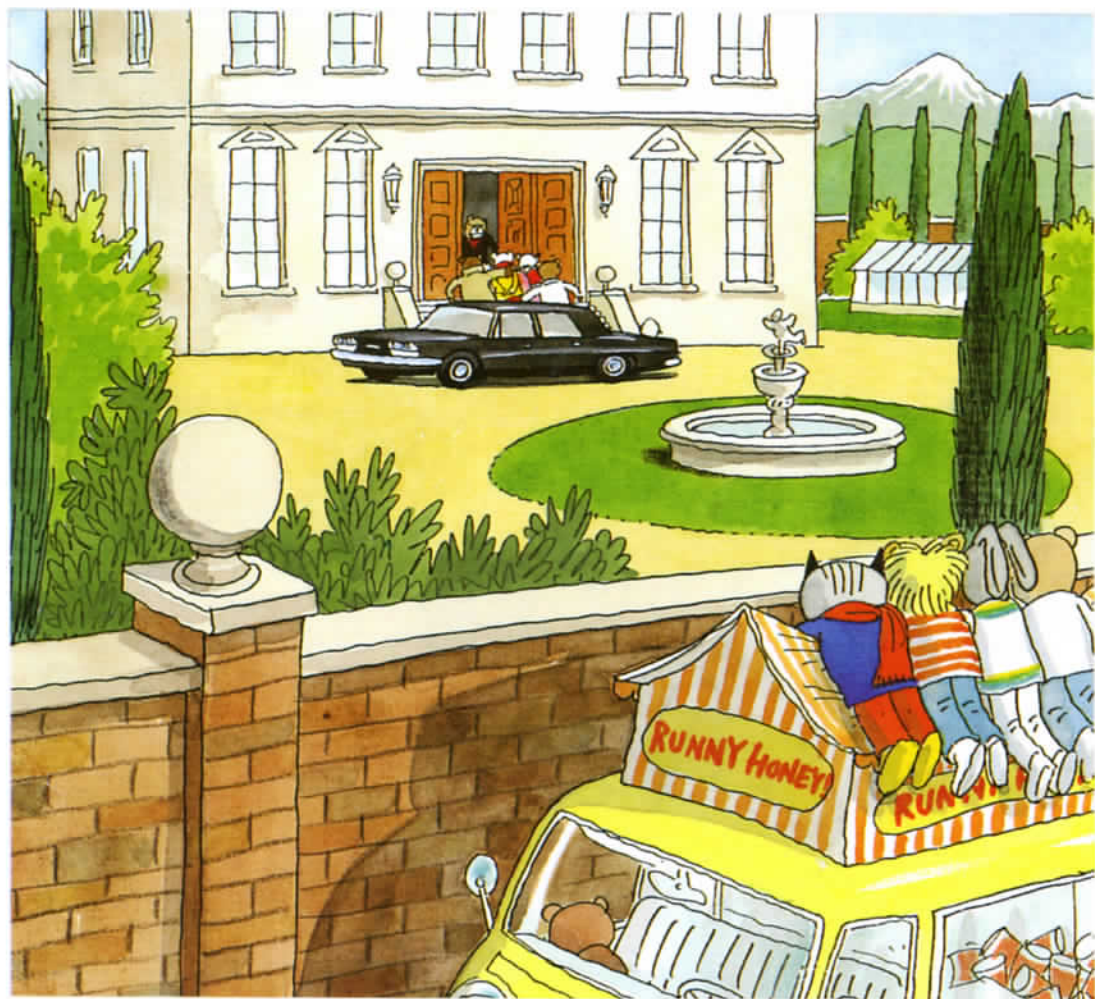
“Come on!” he shouted. “Get in! We can follow the kidnappers in this van!”



Catsimir drove the van as fast as he could.
The car went even faster. It drove up a mountain road.

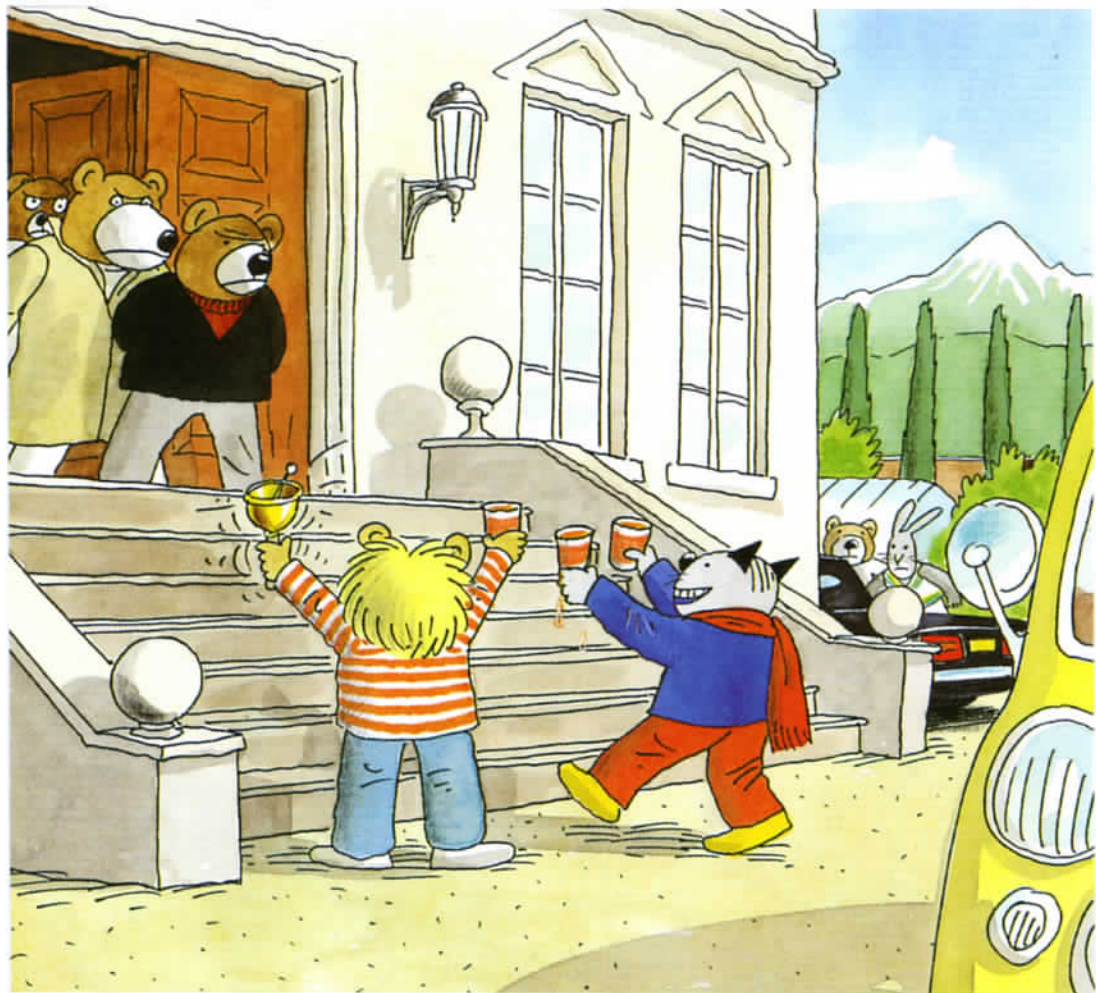
"Faster, faster," called Bunbury.

"Don't lose them!" called Teddy.



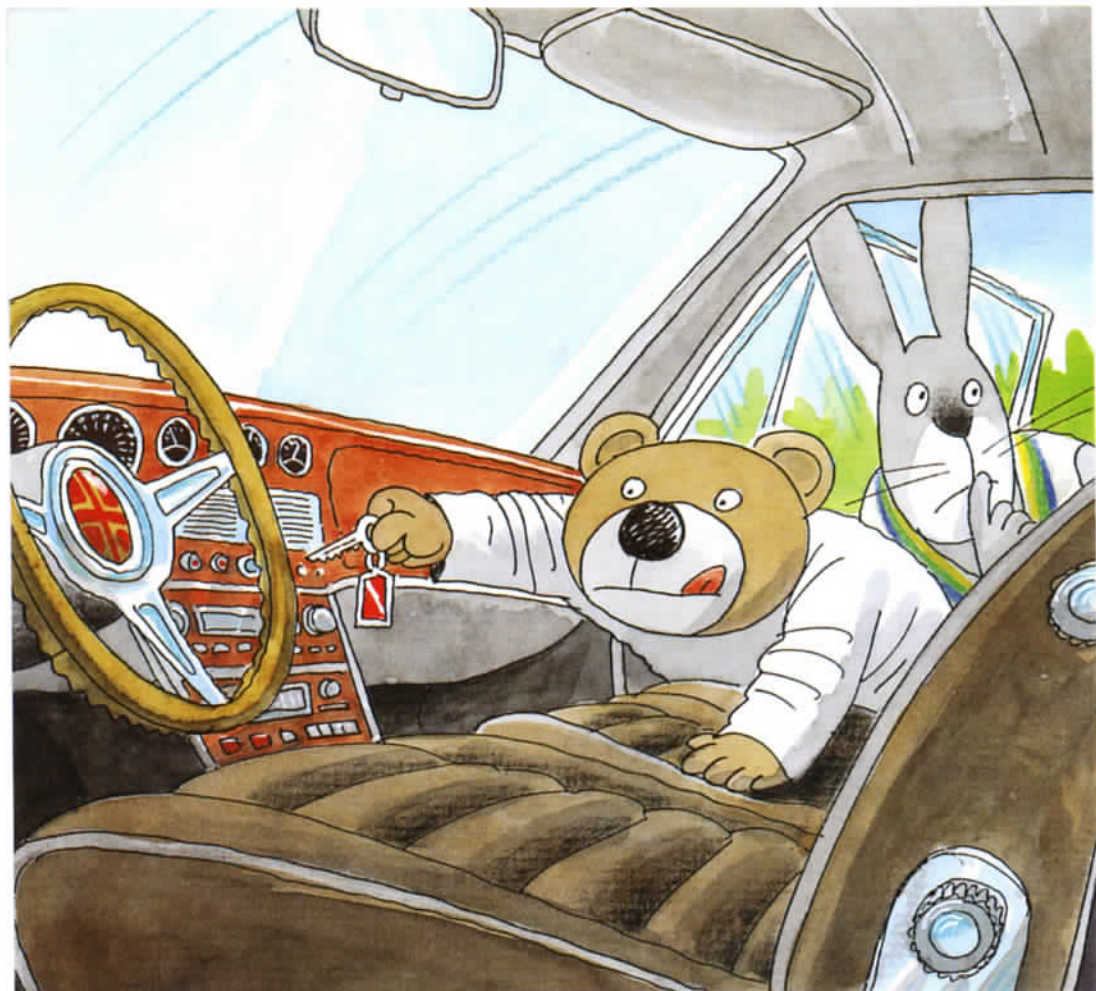
The car drove through some big gates and stopped in front of a house. The famous bears were pushed inside.

“It looks dangerous,” said Kipper, “but we must rescue them. I have a plan.”

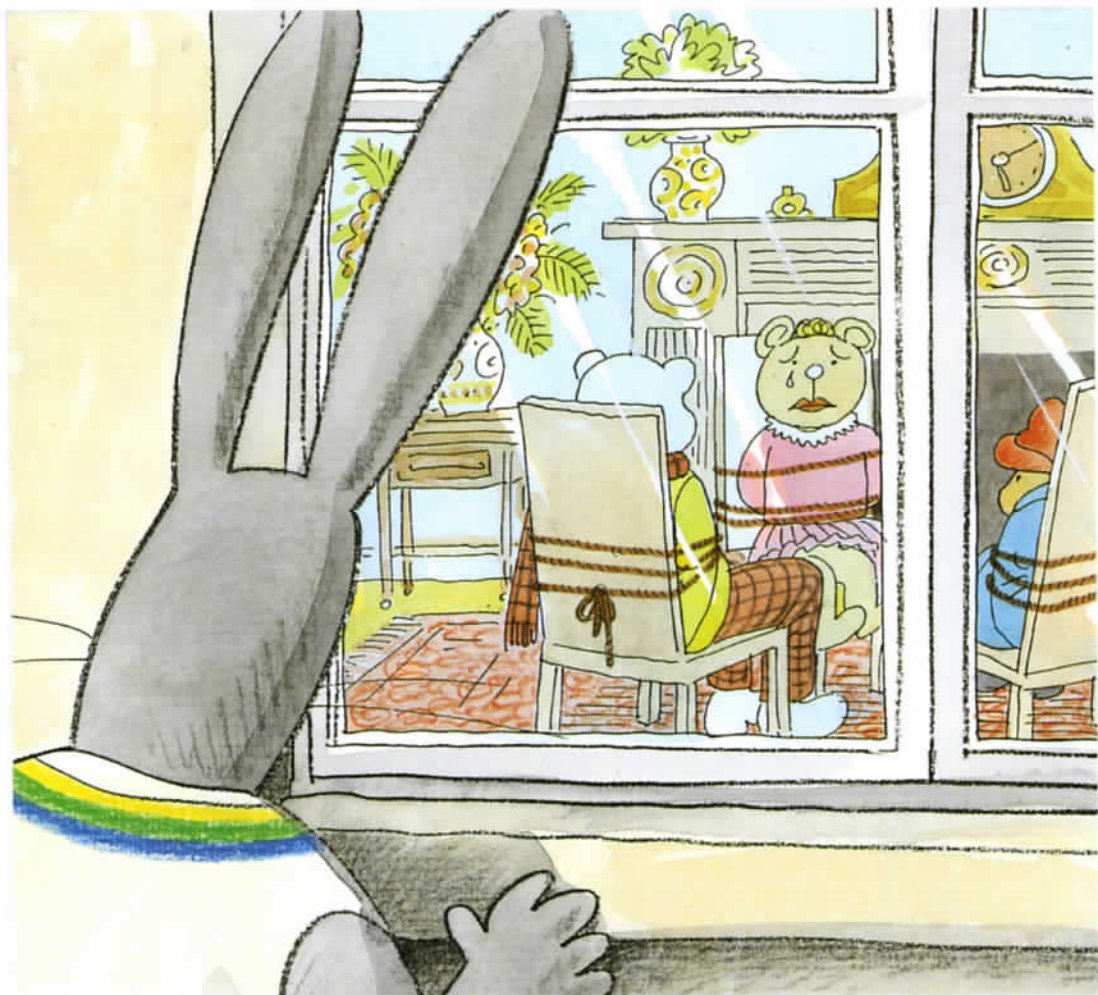


Kipper and Catsimir went to the house. Kipper rang a bell. Some nasty bears came to the door.

“Free honey!” called Kipper. “Free honey for every bear.”



The nasty bears were greedy and they couldn't resist the honey. They didn't see what Teddy and Bunbury were doing. Teddy went to the car and took out the keys.



Bunbury went to the back of the house and looked through a window. He saw the famous bears. They were tied up.

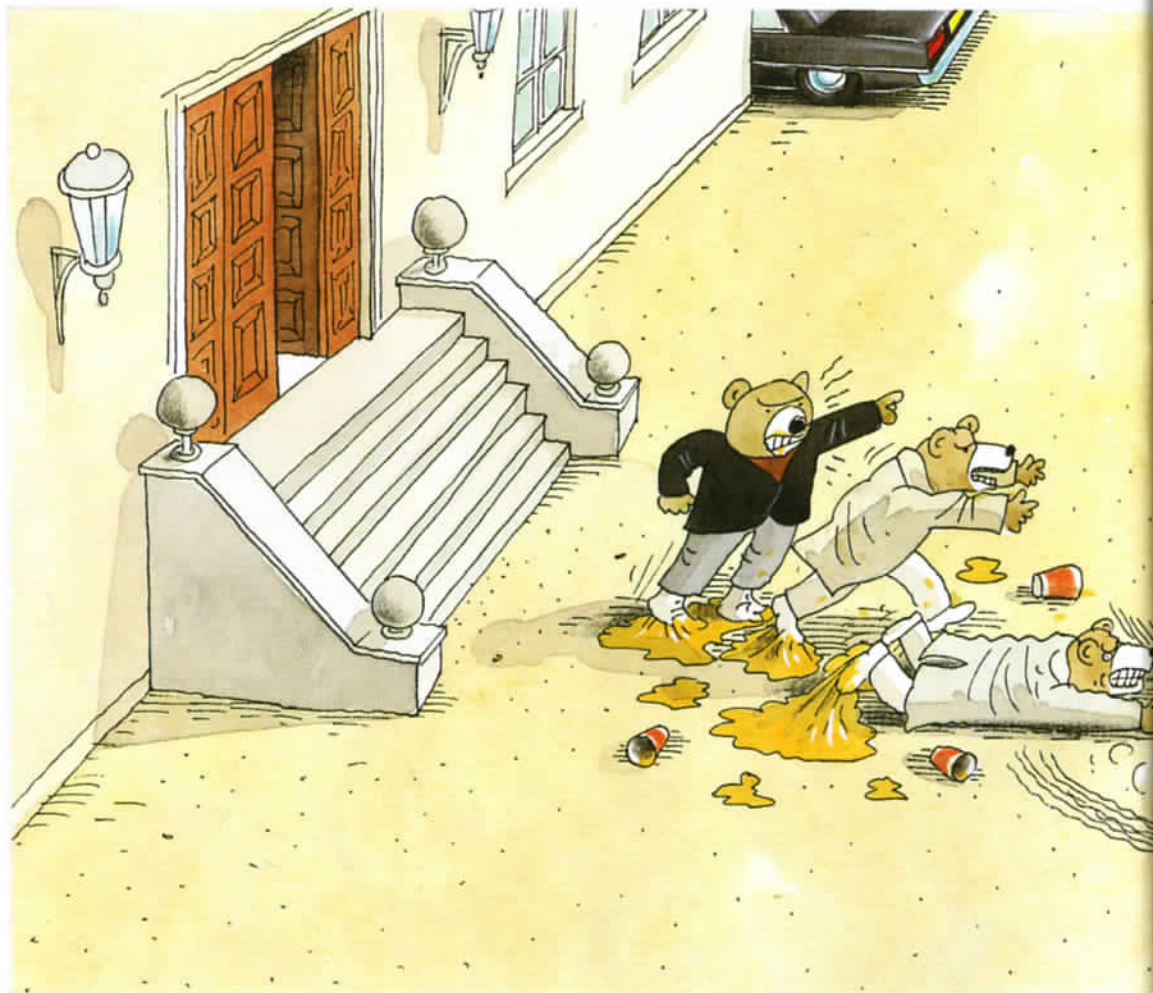


Bunbury set the famous bears free. Then they all climbed out of the window.

“Come on,” said Teddy. “Follow me and don’t make a sound.”

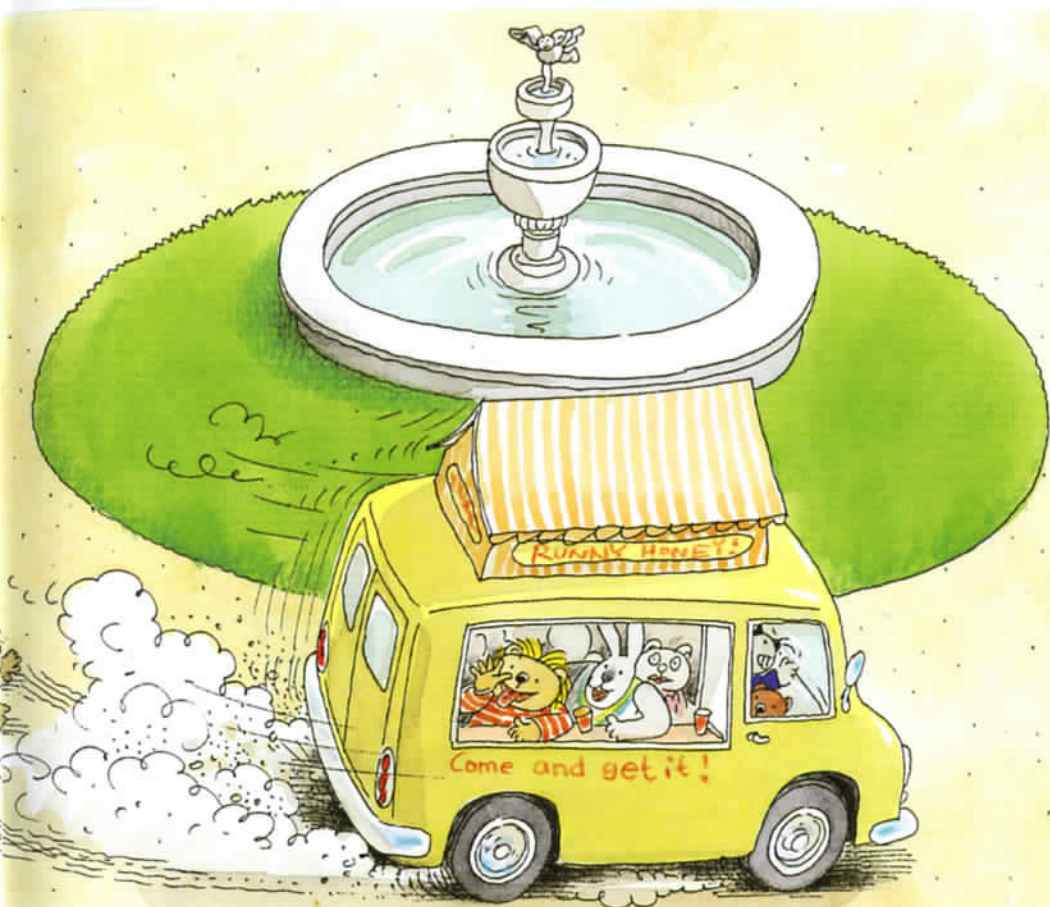


The famous bears crept into the honey van.
The nasty bears didn't see them because they
were too busy eating the honey.



One of the nasty bears saw that the famous bears were escaping.

“They’re in the honey van!” he shouted. “Go after it!”



Catsimir drove the honey van as fast as he could. The nasty bears ran after the van but they got stuck in the honey.

“Hooray!” shouted Kipper.



The famous bears were pleased with Kipper and his friends.

“You were very clever,” they said. “Thanks to you the Teddy Bears’ Picnic can go on!”



The magic key began to glow. It was time for Kipper's adventure to end.

"I can't wait to tell Biff and Chip about it," he said.



“The magic key glowed last night,” said Kipper.
“I had a magic adventure.”

“We don’t believe you,” said Biff.

“No, it was just a dream,” said Chip.

Play a game

Fact or Fiction

To help the child to see how a writer can use ideas from a real place as a setting for a story.

- Choose something from a picture and say, "Fact or fiction?"
For example, Look at page 8 and say, "You get on a plane at an airport – fact or fiction?", or "Toys can talk – fact or fiction?"
- Look at page 20 and say, "A bee can sell honey – fact or fiction?", or "Mountains can have snow on them – fact or fiction?"
- Let the child choose a page and ask you to say whether something in the story is fact or fiction.

Other ideas

You can use these ideas straight away, or on another day.

- Look at the pictures of the airport on pages 6, 7 and 8. Read all the notices and decide which ones are real and which have been made up.
- Use library books or travel brochures to look at pictures of Switzerland.

The Kidnappers

The magic key turns Kipper into a teddy bear. But who are the famous bears and how does Kipper rescue them from kidnappers?



Stage 8 Stories

Recommended order of reading:

The Kidnappers	The Flying Carpet
Viking Adventure	A Day in London
The Rainbow Machine	Victorian Adventure

Available in packs

Stage 8 Stories Pack (one of each title) ISBN 978-0-19-846604-8

Stage 8 Stories Class Pack (six of each title) ISBN 978-0-19-846605-5

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Orders and enquiries to Customer Services:
tel. 01536 741171

For further information, phone the
Oxford Primary Care-line: tel. 01865 353881

text © Roderick Hunt 1990
illustrations © Alex Brychta 1990
First published 1990
This edition published 2008

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

ISBN 978-0-19-846607-9



9 780198 466079