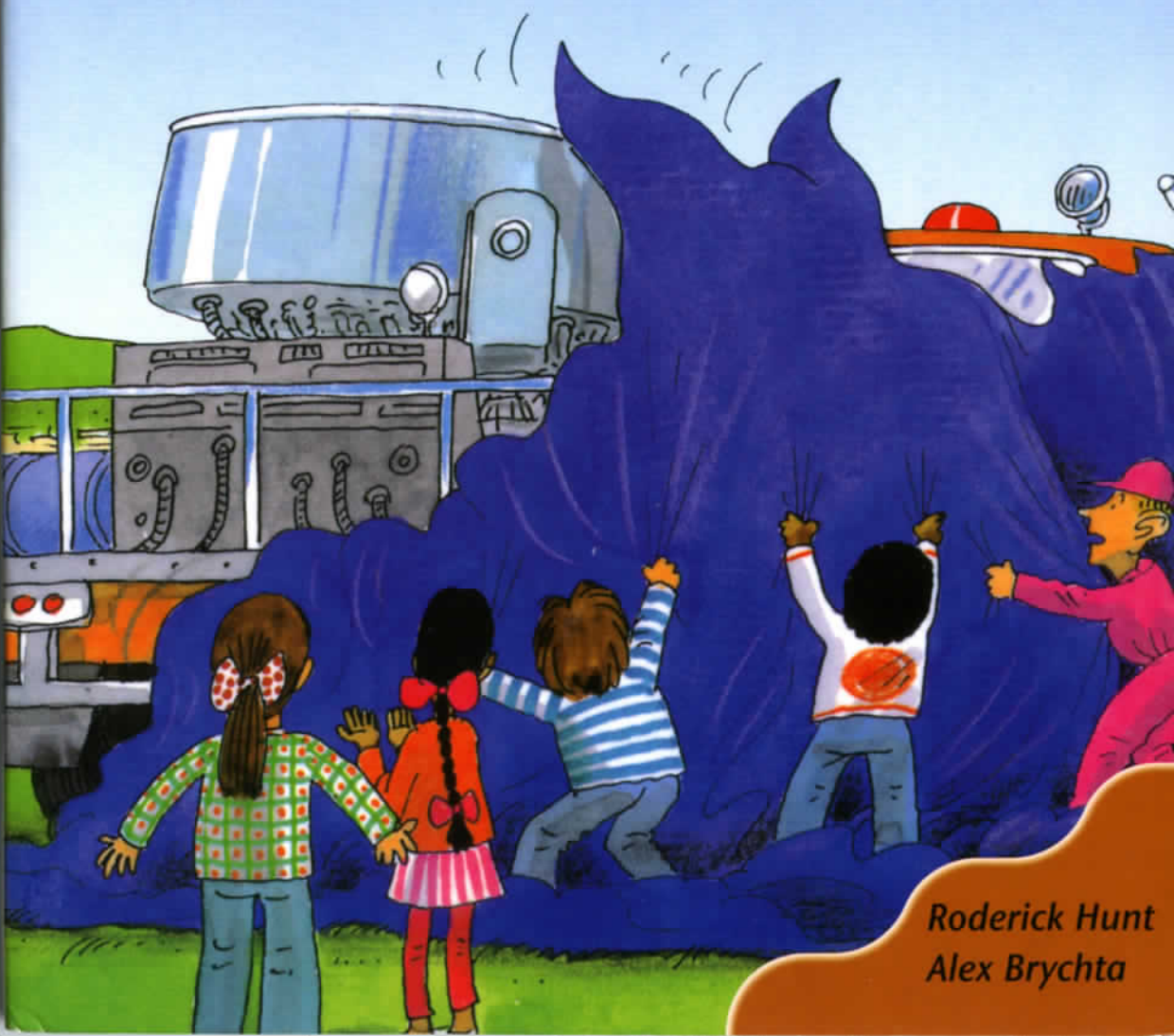




Oxford  
Reading  
Tree

# The Rainbow Machine



Roderick Hunt  
Alex Brychta

### **What's this story about?**

The key glows when there is a rainbow in the sky. The magic takes the children to a machine that makes rainbows. Fred is in charge of the machine but he doesn't know how to work it. Nadim knows about computers, but can he use this one?

### **Talk together**

Read the title and look at the picture of the lorry. Ask, "How do you think a rainbow machine might work?" and "Do you know how rainbows are made?" Look at the pictures to see what happens.

### **Read the story**

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

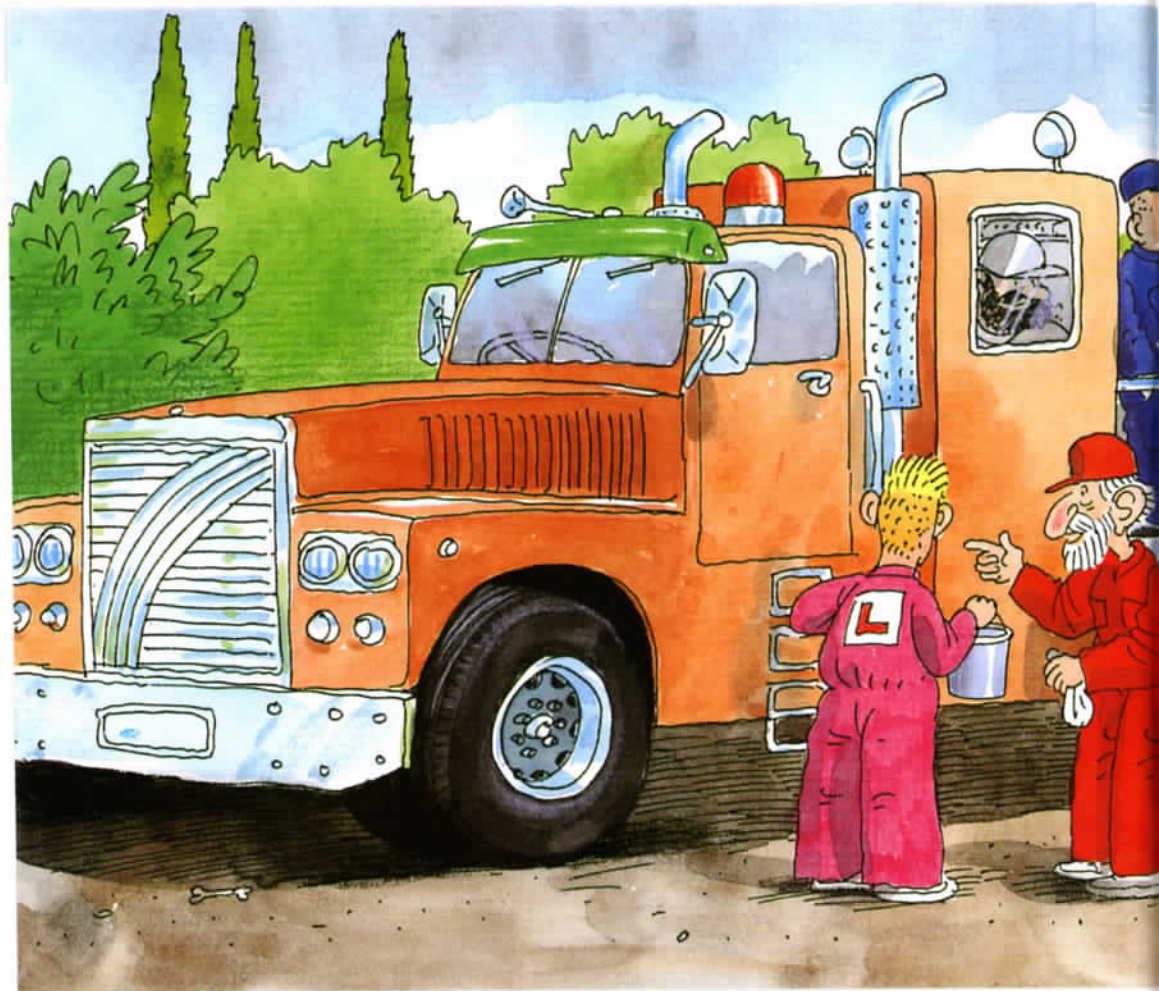
- C** Listen as the child reads aloud. Praise him/her for reading with expression.
- W** Page 6, notice that 'rainbow' is made up of two words, 'rain' and 'bow'. Look for two words in 'everyone' (page 6) and 'sometimes' (page 7).
- C** Page 9, ask, "What does a traffic warden do?"
- W** Find 'thought' on page 11 and 'through' on page 12. Ask the child to notice the letters that are in both words.
- C** Page 19, notice whether the child reads the last sentence as a question. Praise him/her for noticing the question mark.
- C** Page 31, ask, "Whose fault do you think it was?" and "Do you think Nadim was brave to own up?"
- C** Page 32, ask, "How would you explain rainbows to Kipper?"



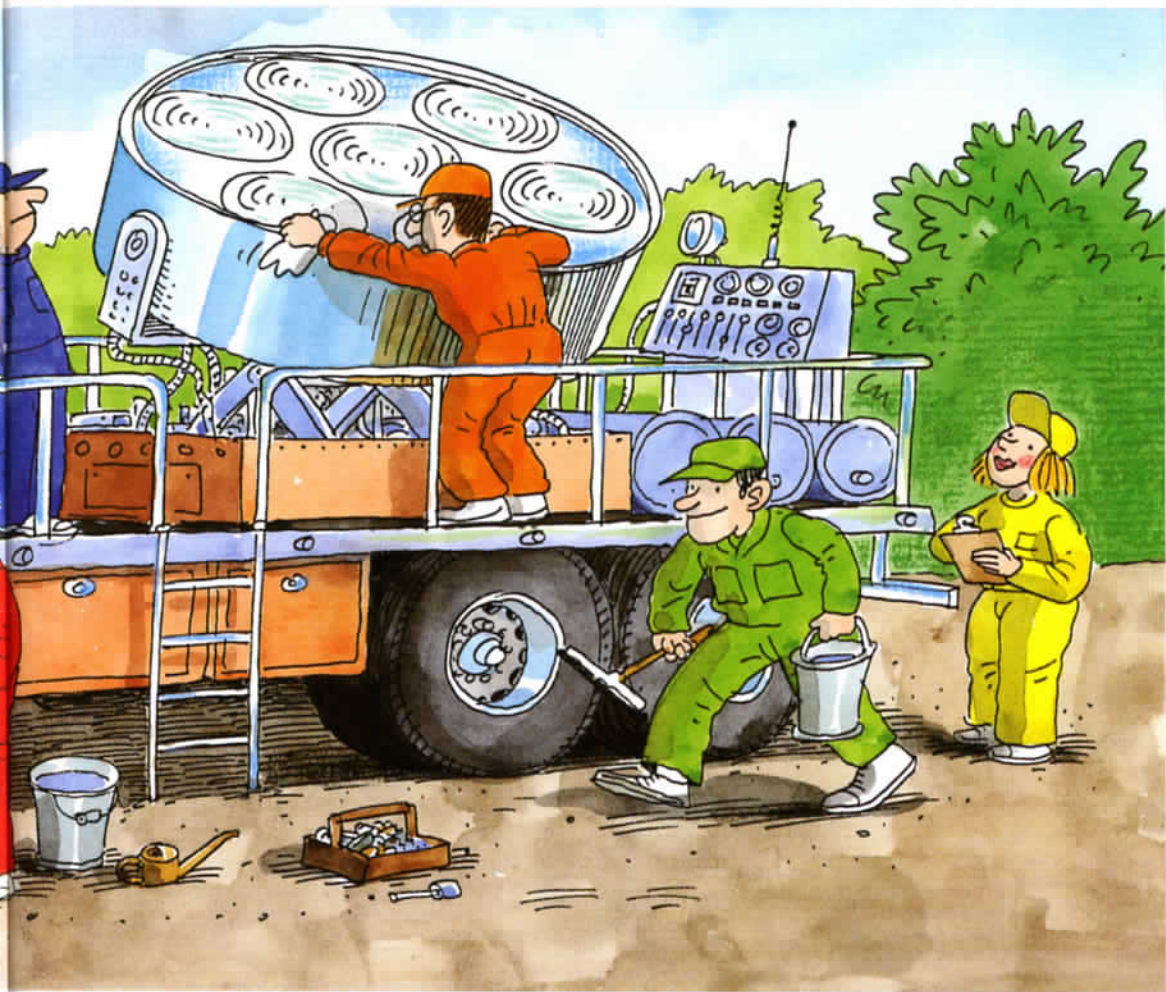
It was raining, but the sun was shining at the same time. The children looked up and saw a rainbow across the sky.

“I wonder where the rainbow begins?” asked Wilf, “and where it ends?”



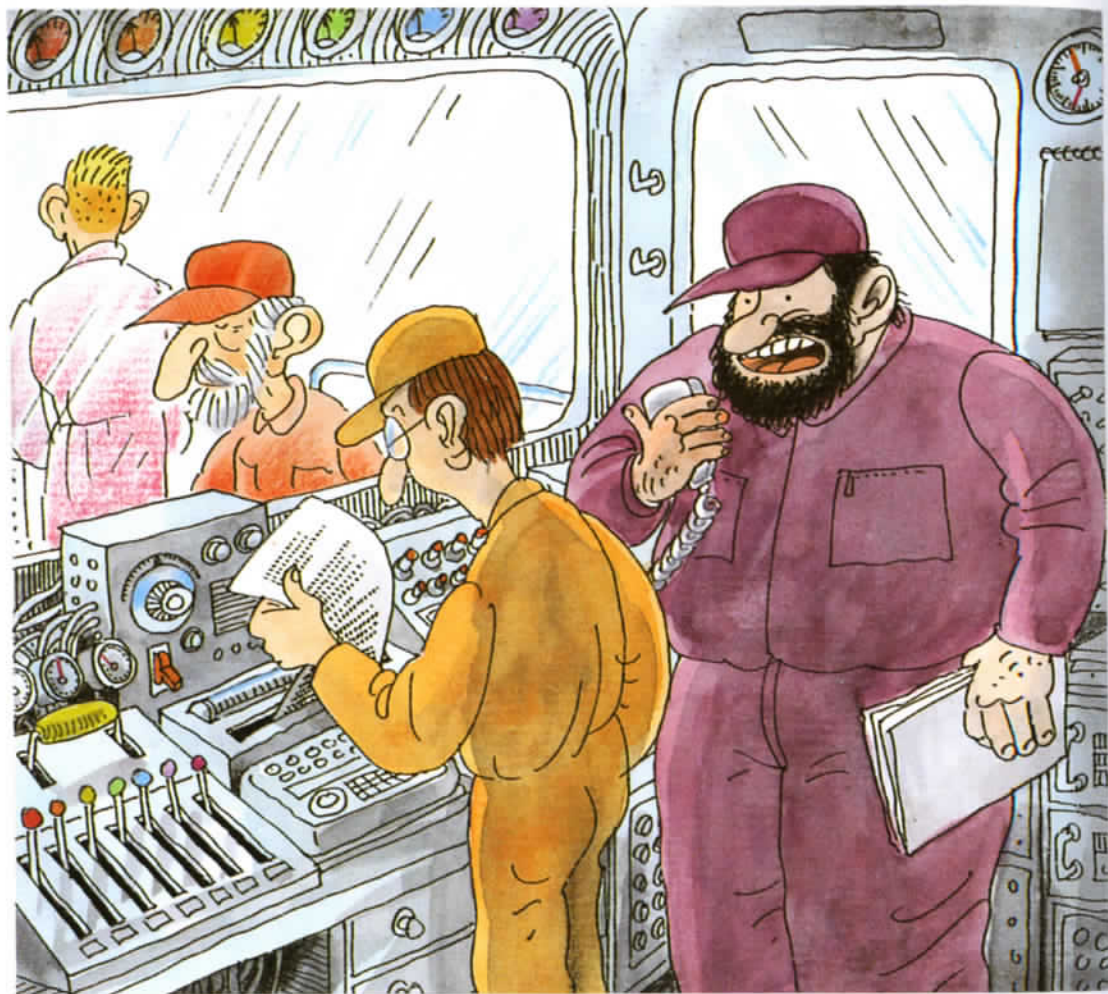


In a place far away, there was a lorry. It was a very big lorry because on the back was a very big machine. The machine made rainbows and was called The Rainbow Machine.



There are seven colours in the rainbow. It took seven people to look after the rainbow machine. They cleaned it and polished it and they made sure it worked properly.





The rainbow machine had to be ready at any time. Sometimes weeks and weeks went by and a rainbow was not needed. But when the call came, the rainbow makers had to work fast.



Off they went in the lorry. While it was going along, the rainbow makers got the machine ready. Then, one... two... three... Go! They pressed a button and the rainbow shot out of the machine.

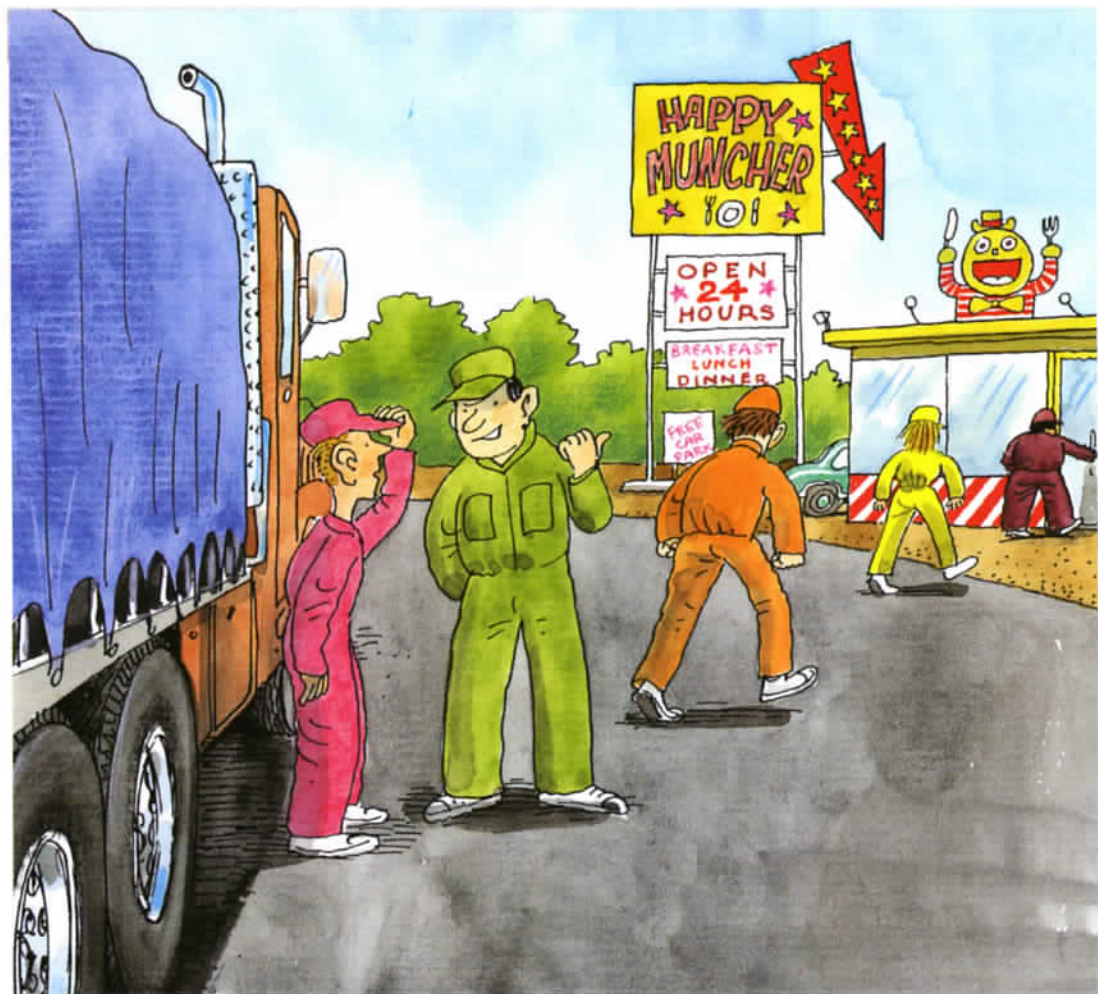


When there was a rainbow, everyone stopped to look at it. Children ran to their mums or dads and said, “What a beautiful rainbow!”

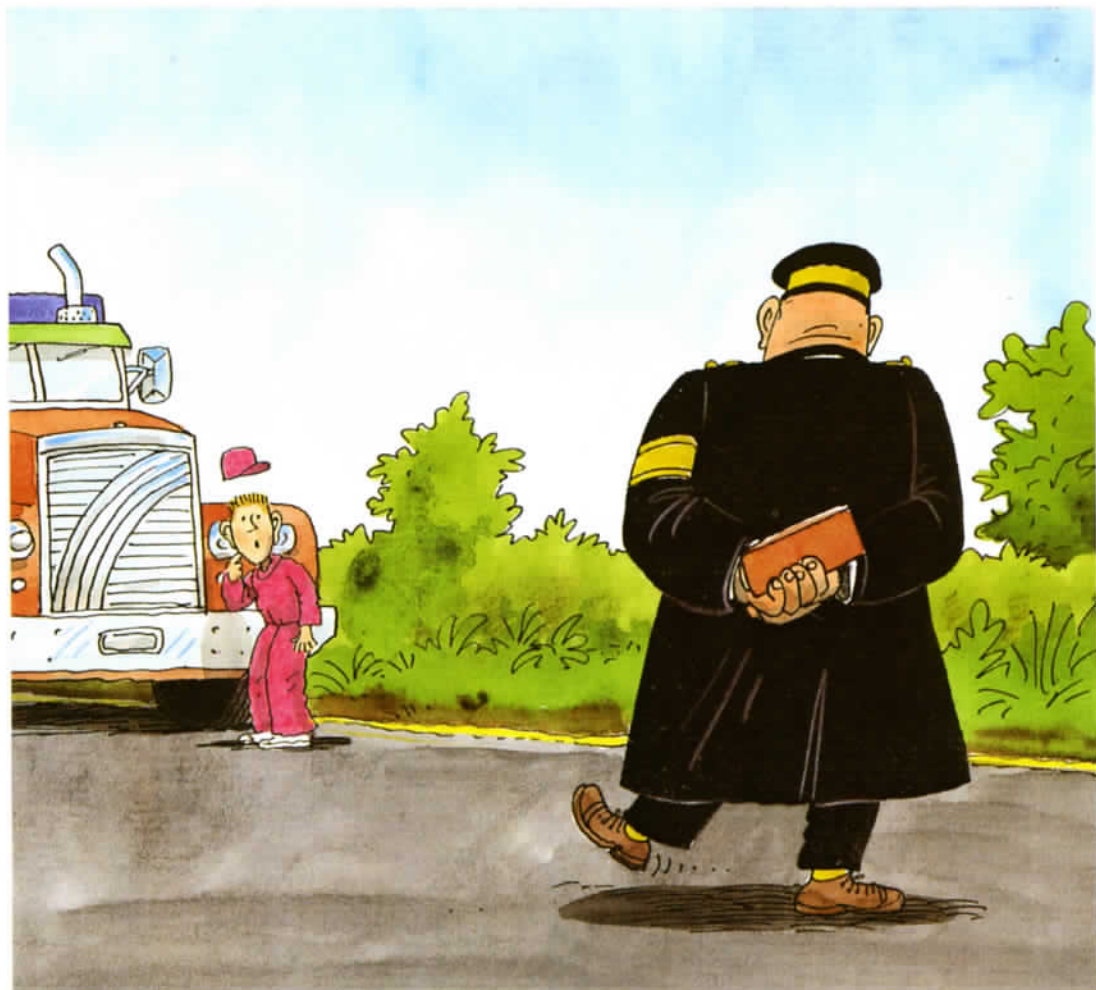




Sometimes the rainbow was very bright but sometimes it was quite pale. Often the children ran towards it. They wanted to find the end of it, and play in all the colours. But, of course, they never could.



One of the rainbow makers was a young man called Fred. He was new and he was learning to be a rainbow maker. One day, the other rainbow makers said, “Look after the lorry, Fred. We won’t be long.”

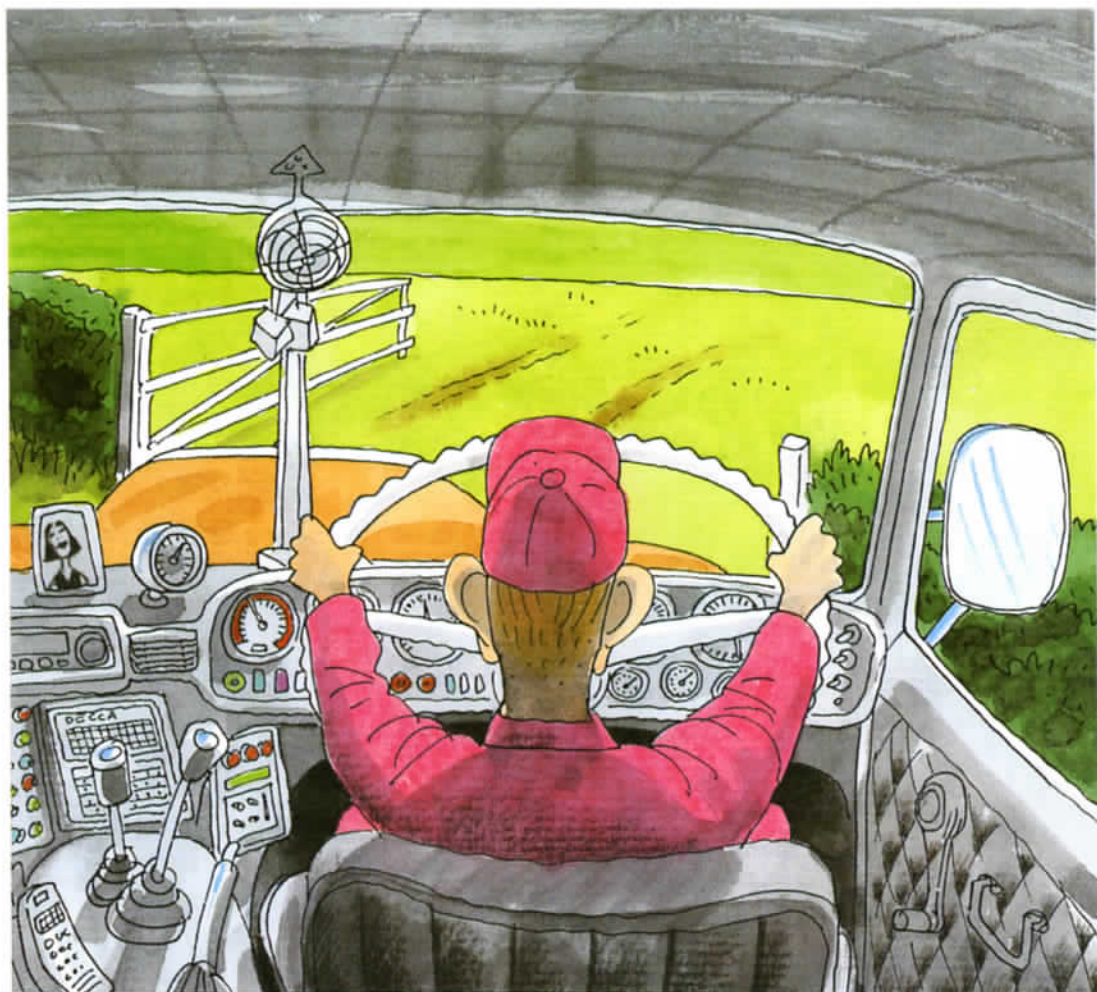


The lorry was on a double yellow line. Fred saw a traffic warden.

“Oh no!” said Fred. “I must move the rainbow machine.”

So he climbed into the driver’s cab and drove away.





Fred drove the lorry along the road.

“This is fun,” he said. “But I’d better not be too long.”

He wanted to turn the lorry round, so he drove into a field.



Oh no! The lorry stuck in the mud. The wheels spun round and round and the lorry sank deeper and deeper.

“Now what shall I do?” thought Fred.



Suddenly, there was a door in the field.  
Biff and Chip came through it with Wilf, Nadim  
and Anneena. Biff had the magic key. A new  
adventure had begun.





The children saw that a lorry was stuck in the field. Then they saw Fred.

“Can you help me?” called Fred. “Will you push the lorry?”

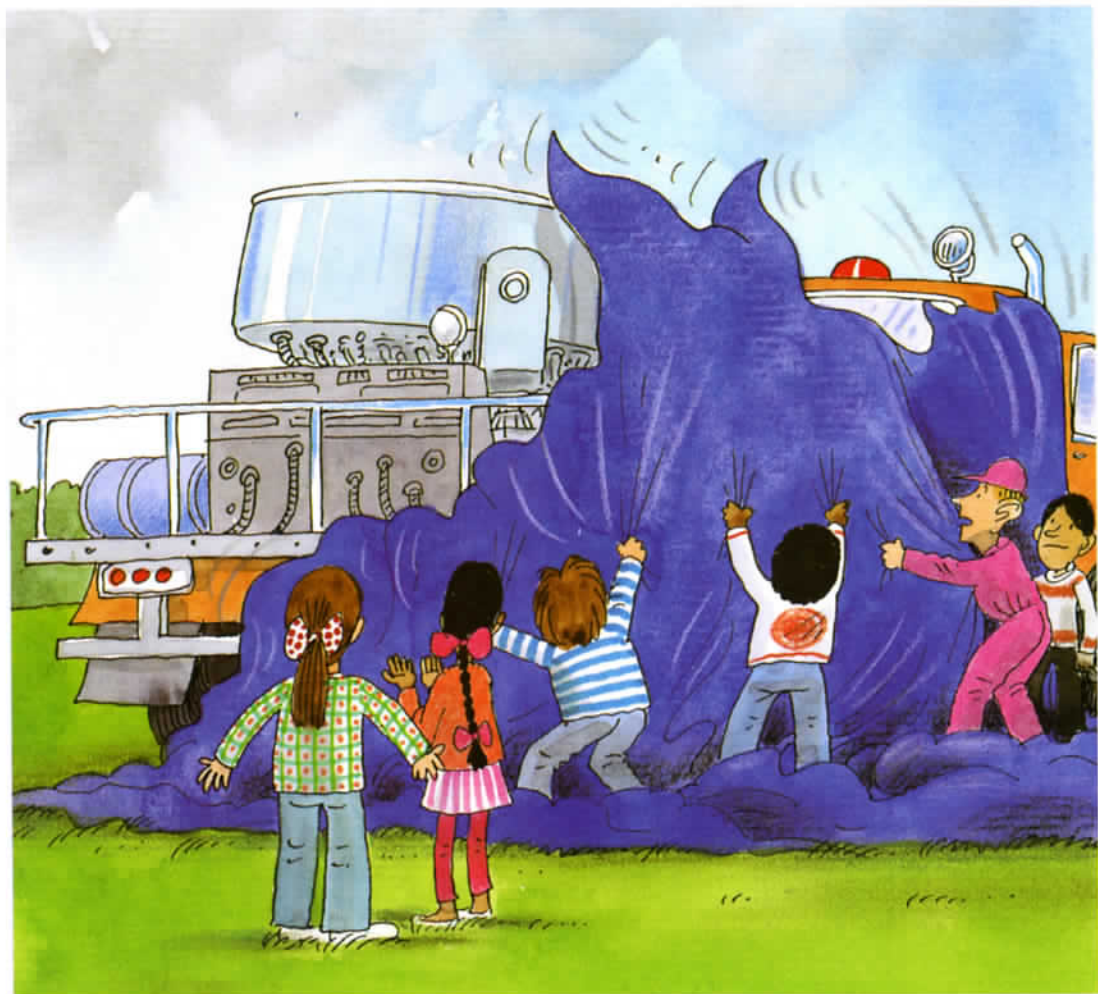


The children pushed, but it was no good.  
The lorry was too big, and it was far too heavy.  
Suddenly, it began to rain even though the sun  
was shining.



On the lorry, things began to buzz and flash.  
“Oh no!” said Fred. “A rainbow is needed.  
This is The Rainbow Machine. It makes  
rainbows. You must all help me.”

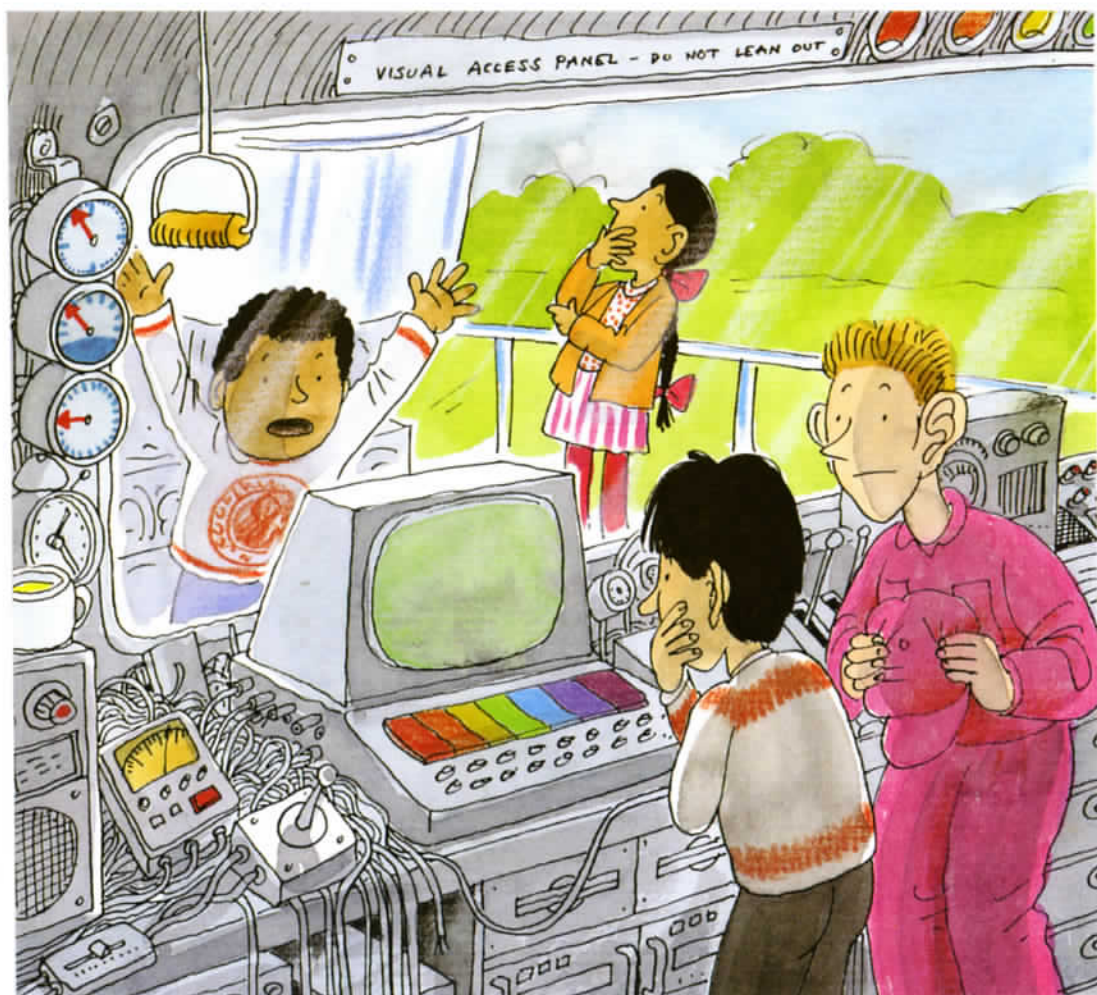




The children helped Fred to pull the cover off the rainbow machine.

“Wow!” said Biff. “Is *that* where rainbows come from?”

“Yes,” said Fred, “but I don’t know how to work the computer yet.”



Nadim was good with computers. He looked at the rainbow keyboard. He didn't really know what to do, but he didn't like to tell Fred.

"Don't worry, I can work it," he said.

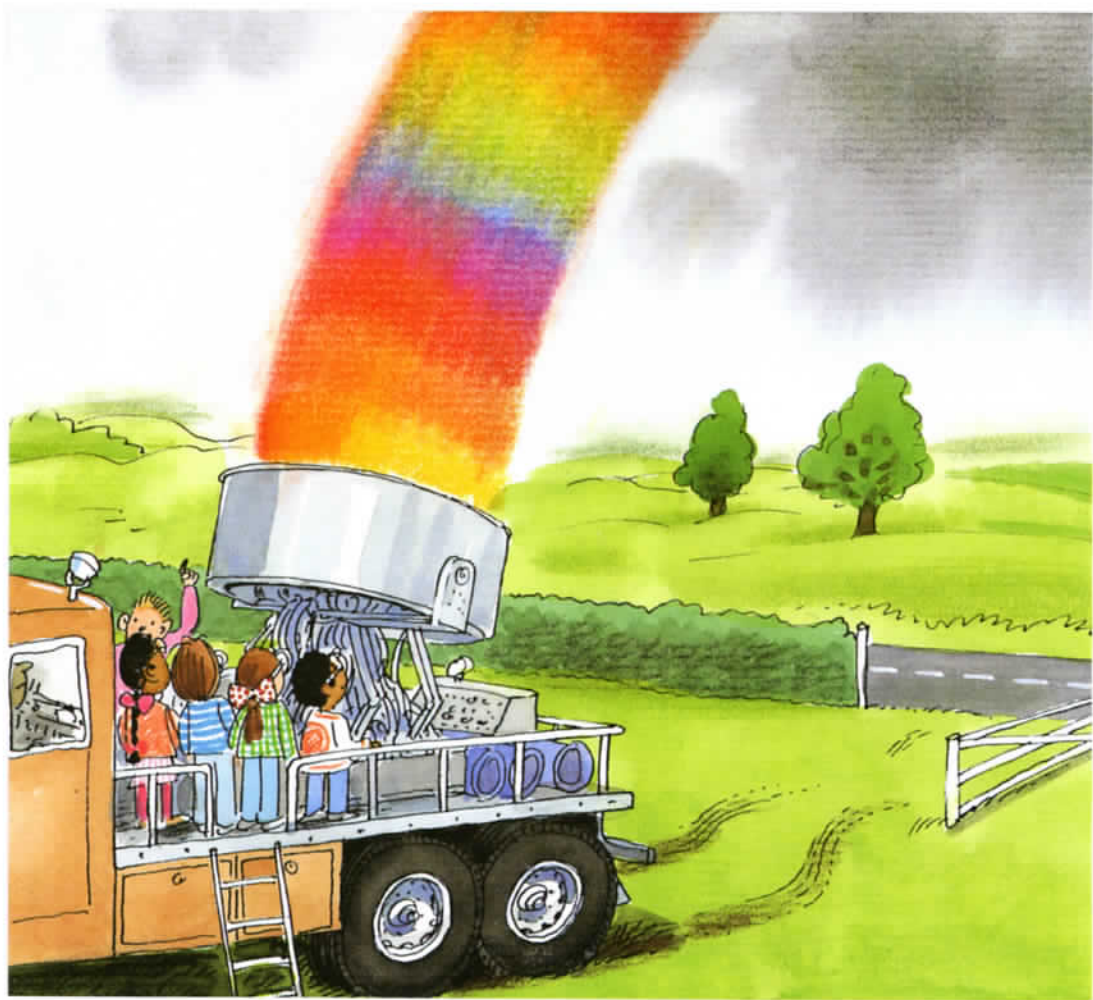
"Right," said Fred. "One... two... three."





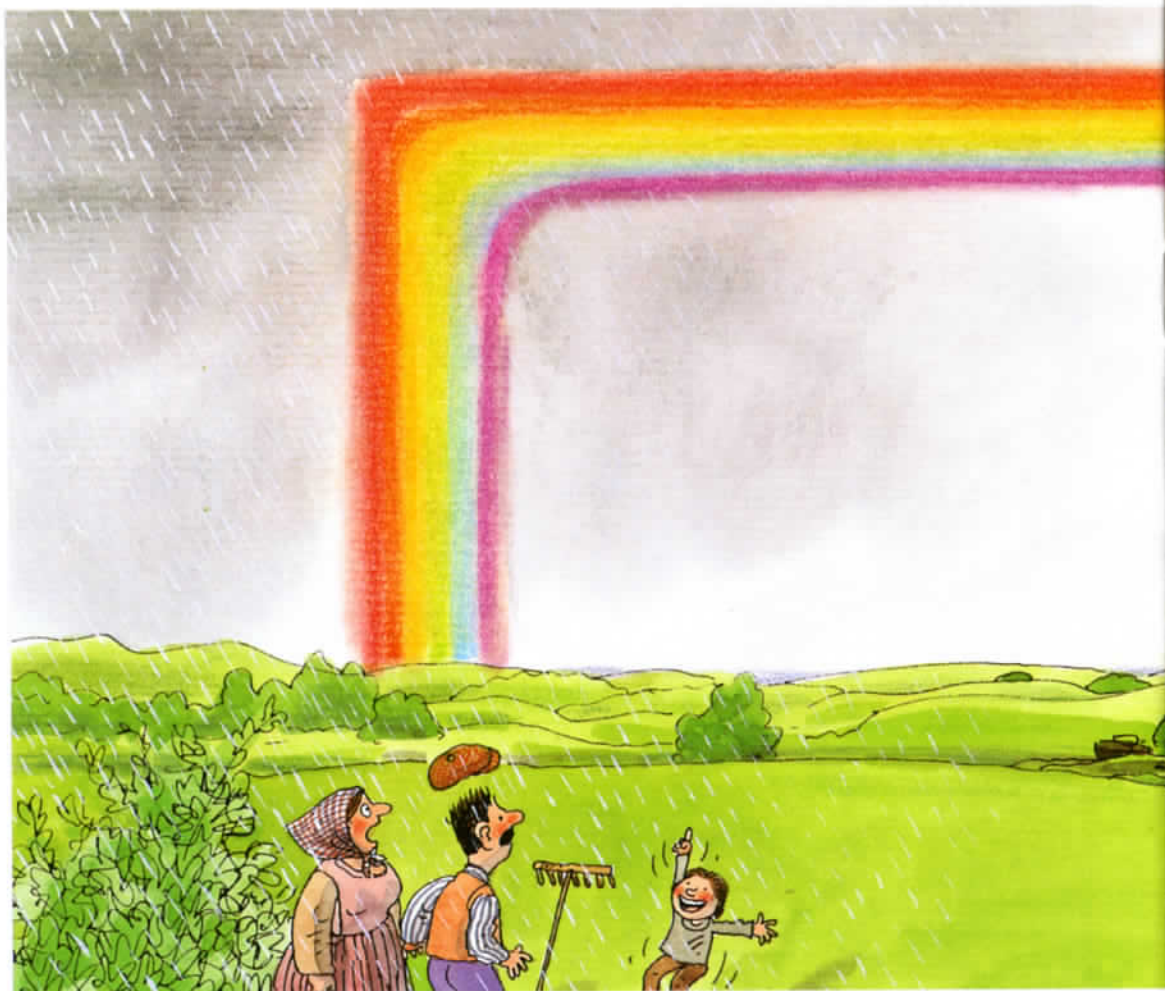
The rainbow machine sent up a rainbow.  
“Hooray! It’s working,” said Wilf.  
The rainbow was too bright for them to see it  
properly so Fred gave everyone some dark glasses.





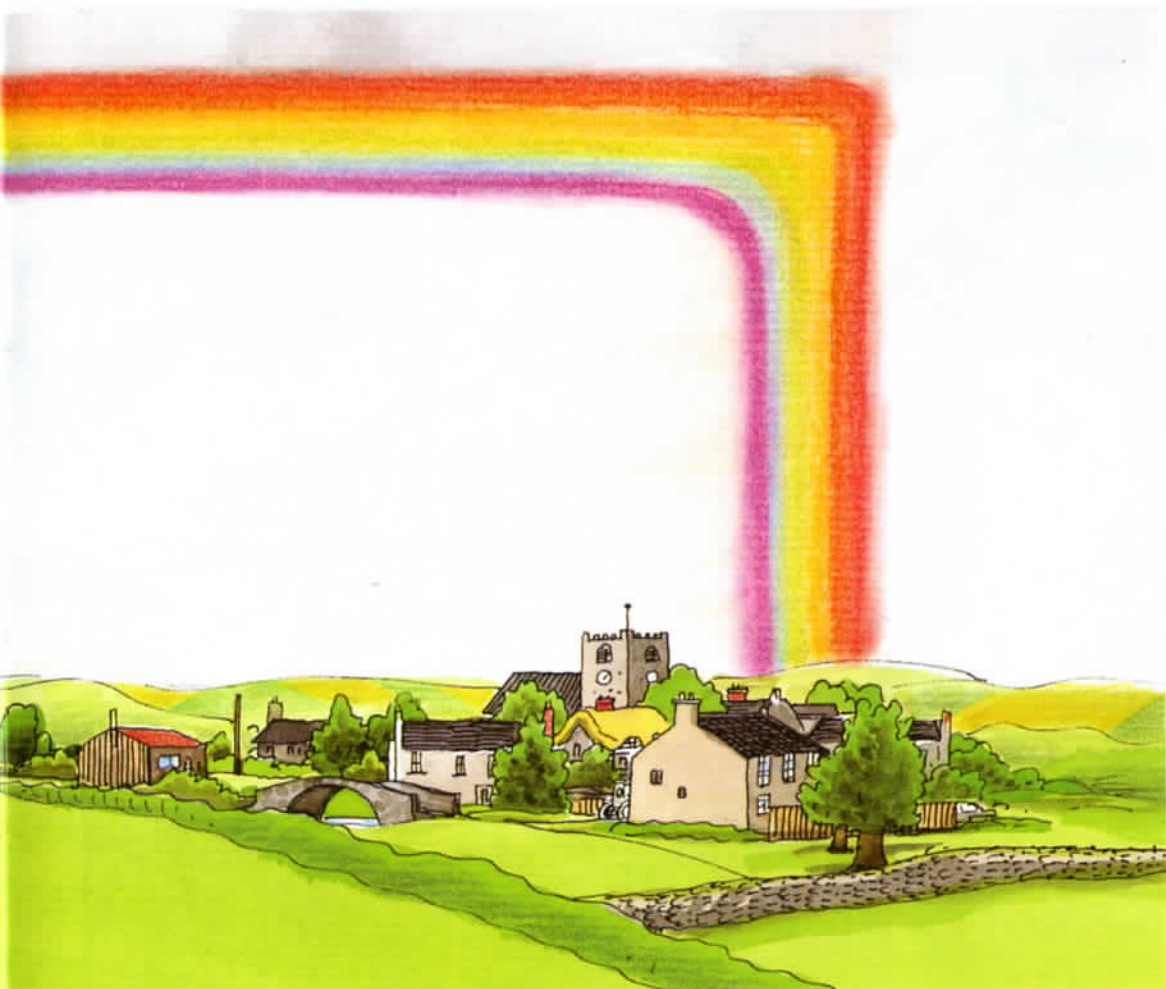
The children looked up at the rainbow they had made. It didn't look quite right. Fred called to Nadim.

“Are you sure you can use that computer?”



The rainbow didn't look right. First it went straight up. Then it went straight along and then it went straight down.

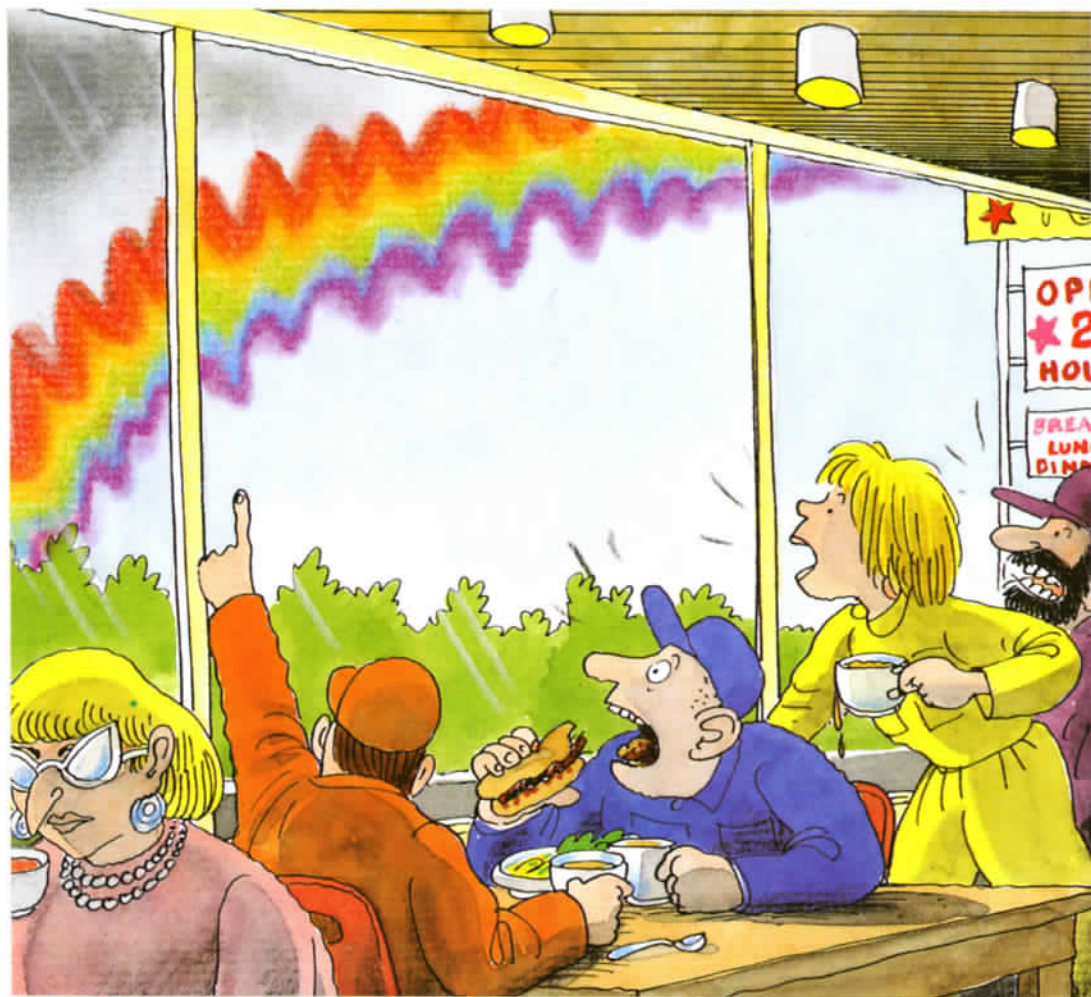
"Oh dear," gasped Anneena. "It's got straight sides."



Everyone stopped to look at the rainbow.  
Children ran to their mums and dads.

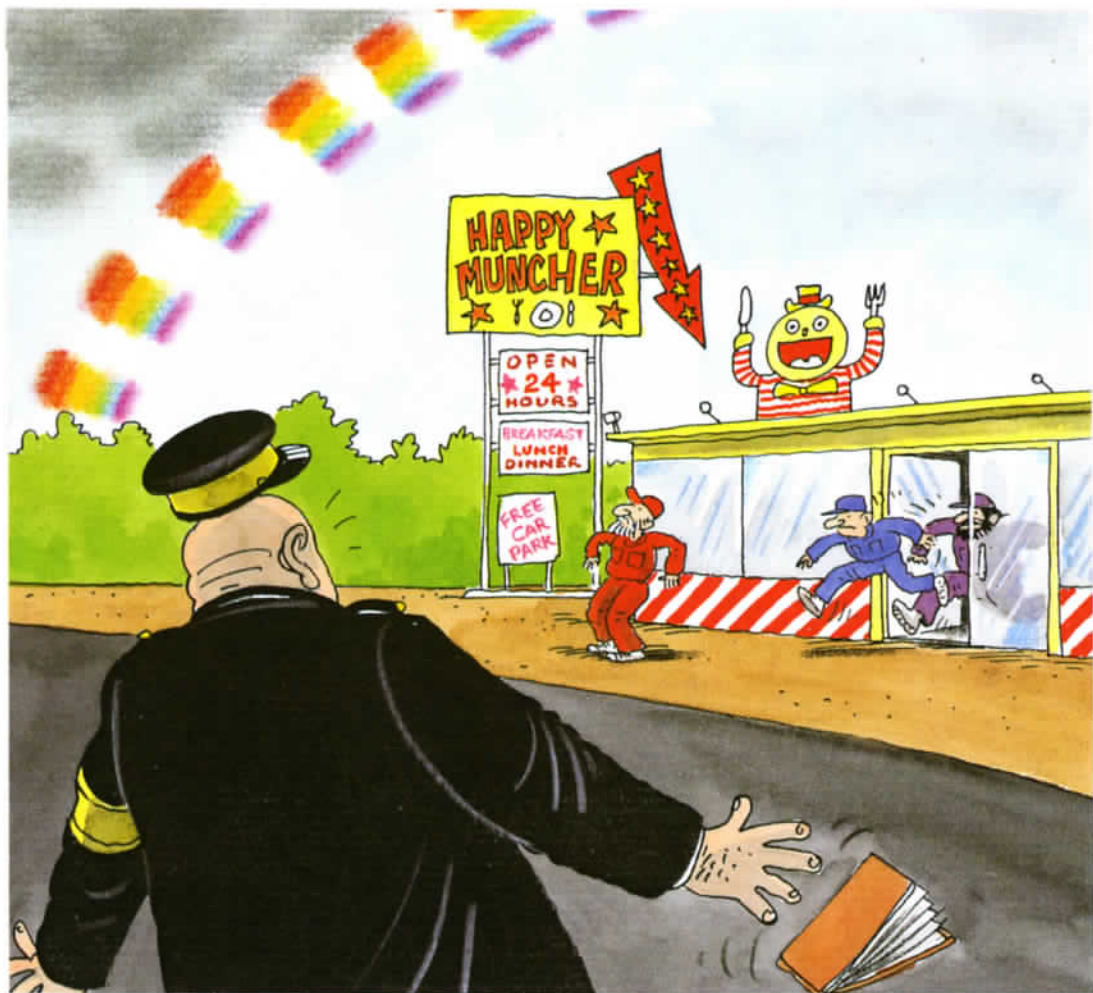
“What a funny rainbow!” they said. “It’s got straight sides. We’ve never seen one like that before.”





The rainbow makers were having a cup of tea. They looked out of the window. Everyone was staring at the sky.

“Oh no!” said the rainbow makers. “What has Fred done?”



They ran out into the road but the rainbow machine had gone.

“Oh no!” said the rainbow makers. “Where has Fred gone?”

In the sky was a broken rainbow.

“What a funny rainbow!” everyone said.



The rainbow changed again. This time it was twisted and it was very bright.

"I like that one," said a little boy. "It looks wonderful."





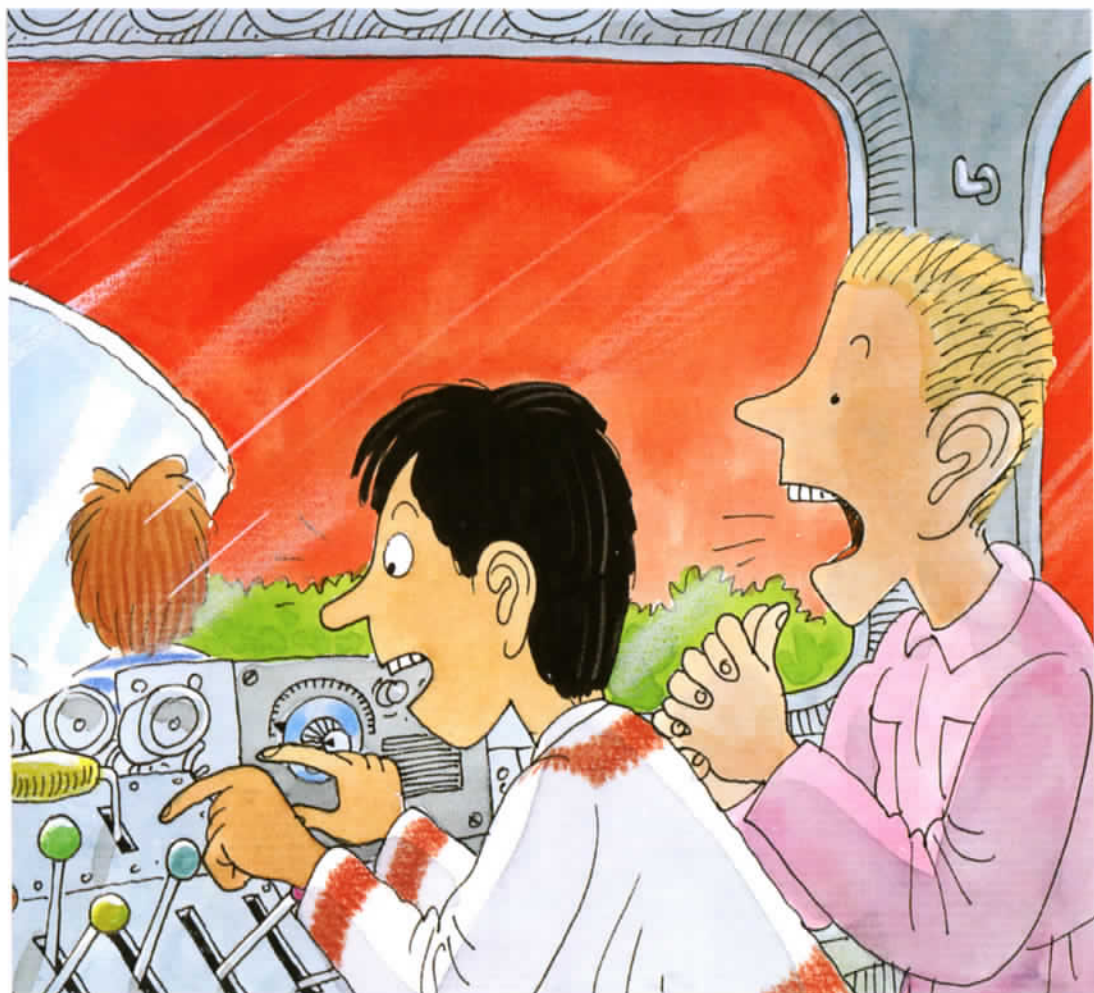
“We must find the rainbow machine,” called the rainbow makers.

They looked up at the sky. The rainbow had changed again.

“Oh no!” said one of them. “I don’t want to look!”



Back at the rainbow machine, something had gone wrong. Nadim had been too clever. The rainbow was leaking and all the red was running out.



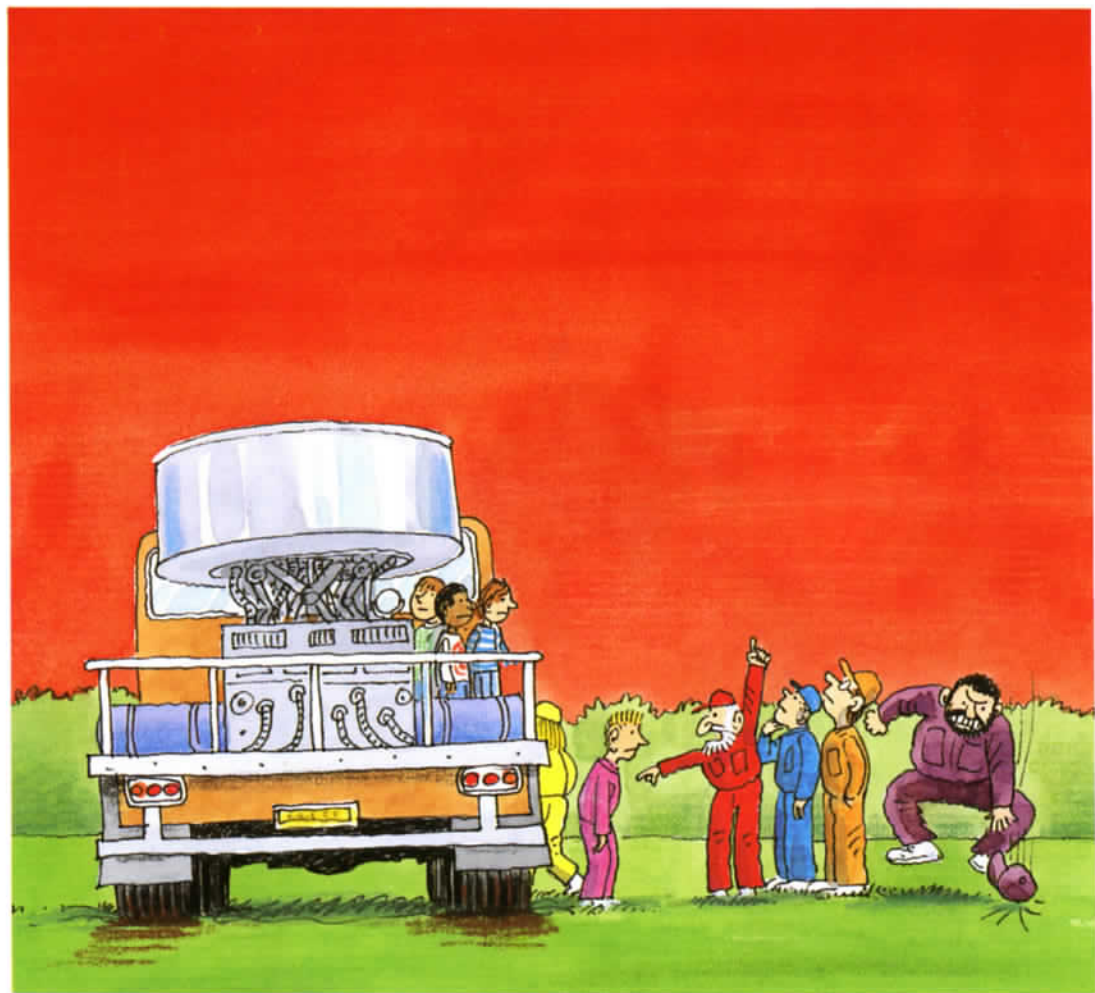
The sky was turning red.

“Oh no!” said Nadim. “I can’t stop the red.  
Turn the rainbow machine off.”

Fred turned pale.

“I can’t turn it off,” he said.





The rainbow makers found the lorry. They were cross with Fred.

“It will take days to get the sky blue again,” they said.



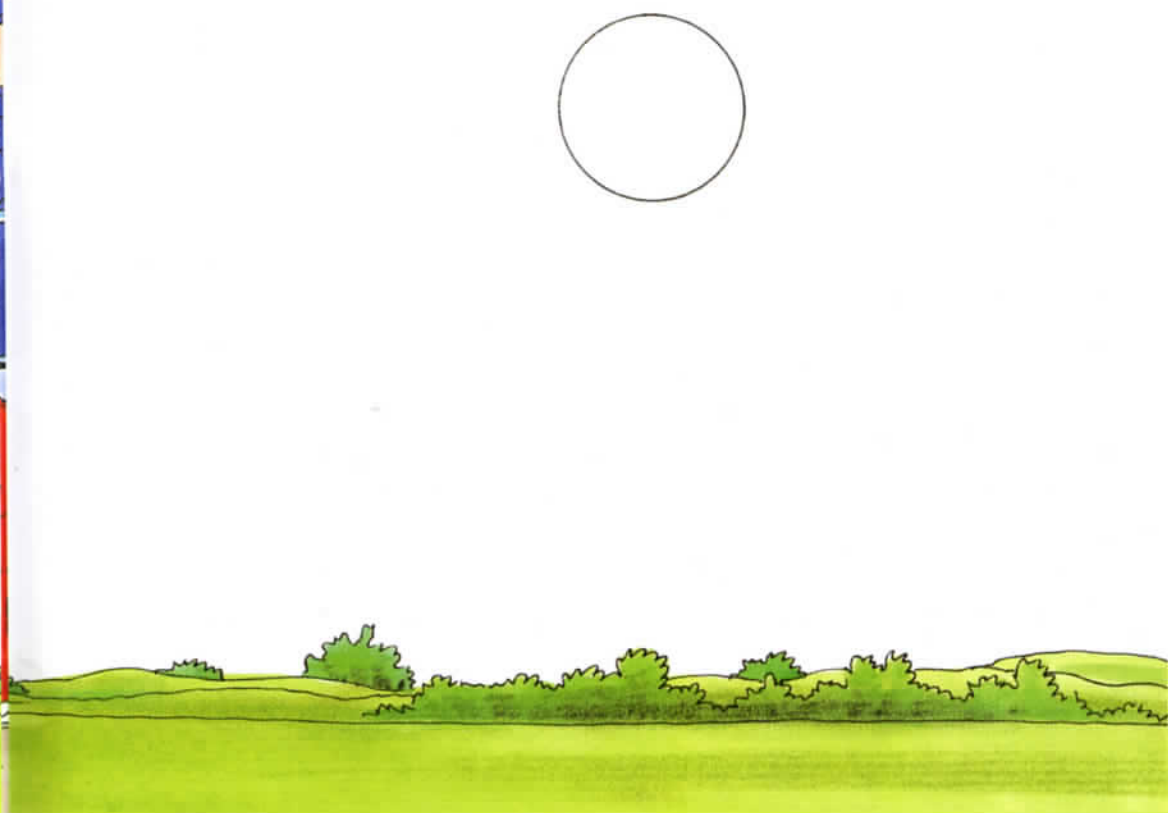
The rainbow machine had to bleach the sky.  
“We’ve never had to do this before,” said one  
of the rainbow makers. “I hope it works.”



The sky had turned white. The sun wasn't yellow anymore.

"It's a lot better than a red sky," said one of the rainbow makers. "A red sky makes everyone bad tempered."





“We’re very sorry,” said Nadim. “It was all my fault. Please don’t blame Fred.”

“It’s all right,” said the rainbow makers. “The sky will soon turn blue again.”

Suddenly, the magic key began to glow.



The sky was blue and the sun was shining.

“The rainbow isn’t really made like that, is it?”  
asked Kipper.

“You had better go to the end of one and find  
out,” said Anneena.

## ***Play a game***

### ***The hardest word***

*To help the child to think of ways to remember how to spell longer words.*

- Open the book at any page and decide which word you think is the hardest. Read the word, then ask the child to spell it. If it is too difficult, look at ways to help, e.g. on page 8, if you decide that the hardest word is 'learning', you could point out that 'learning' has 'ear' in it. The child might think of his/her own way to remember the spelling.
- Then ask the child to choose the 'hardest word' on another page for you to spell.

## ***Other ideas***

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

- Talk about the rainbows in the story and decide which one you both like best, saying why.
- Find 'VISUAL ACCESS PANEL' in the notice on page 17. Talk about what this means. Ask, "What do we normally call it?" Look for and read all the other notices in the illustrations.



# The Rainbow Machine

The magic key takes the children to a machine that makes the rainbow. But things go badly wrong when Nadim tries to make it work.



## Stage 8 Stories

### Recommended order of reading:

The Kidnappers

Viking Adventure

The Rainbow Machine

The Flying Carpet

A Day in London

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

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