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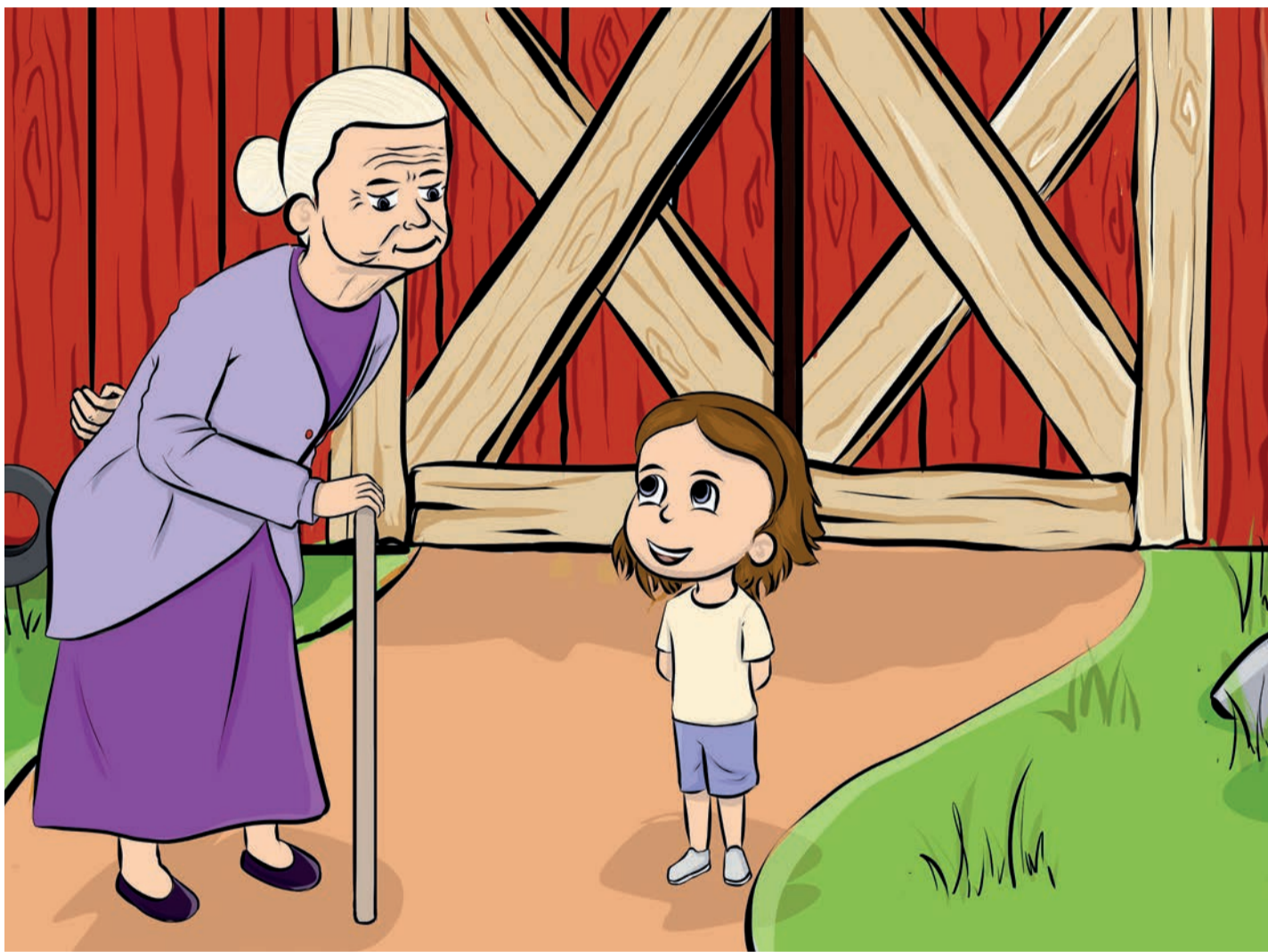
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# A wise beetle

## Pre-reading questions

1. What kind of animal is a beetle? What do beetles look like?
2. What do dung beetles do?
3. Look at the illustration on page 11. What do you think this story might be about?



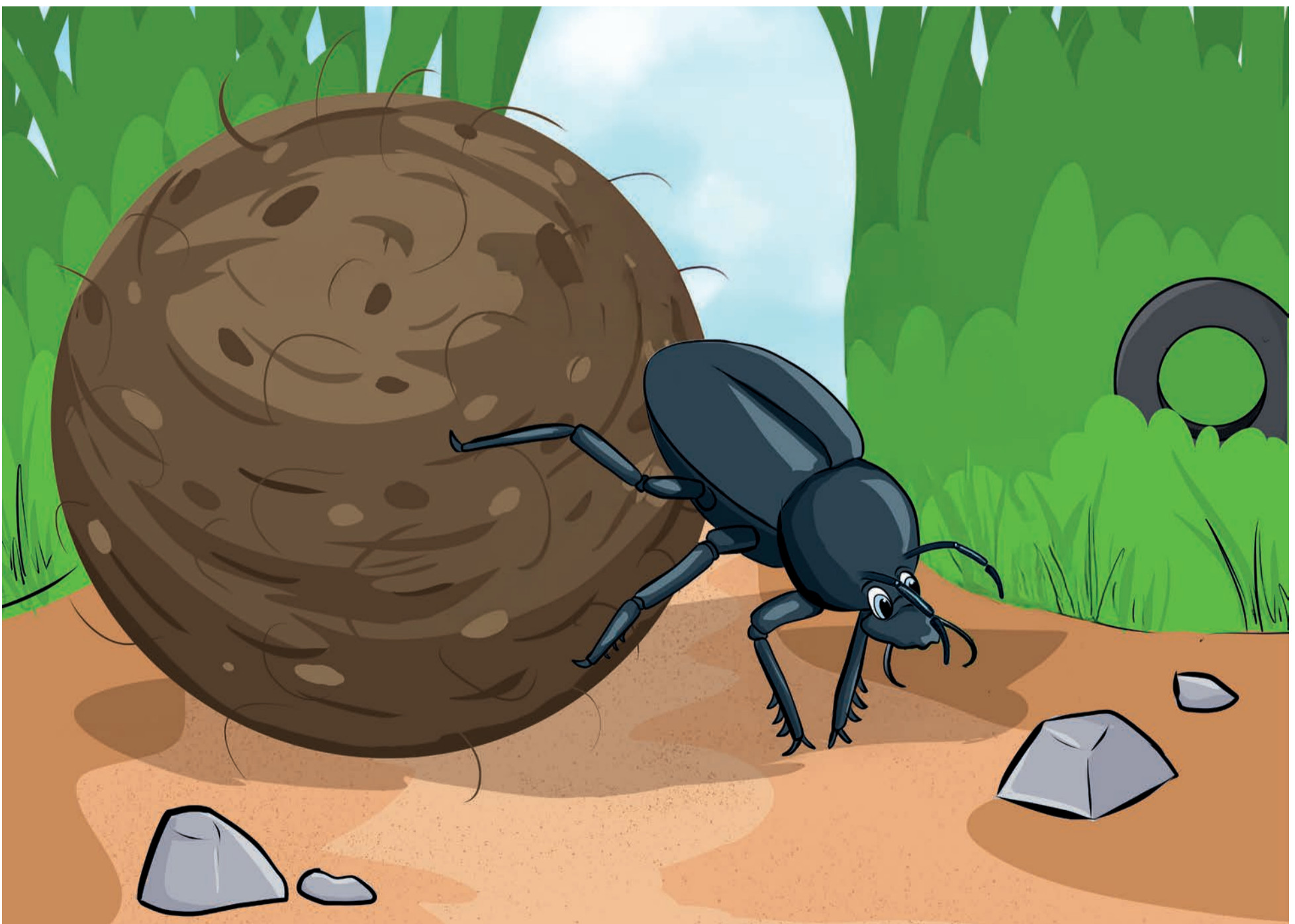
Granny Rose was very old. She had so many wrinkles. She looked like a paper bag which had been scrunched up and flattened out again. She lived on a farm with her granddaughter, Lieda. They loved to go for long walks.

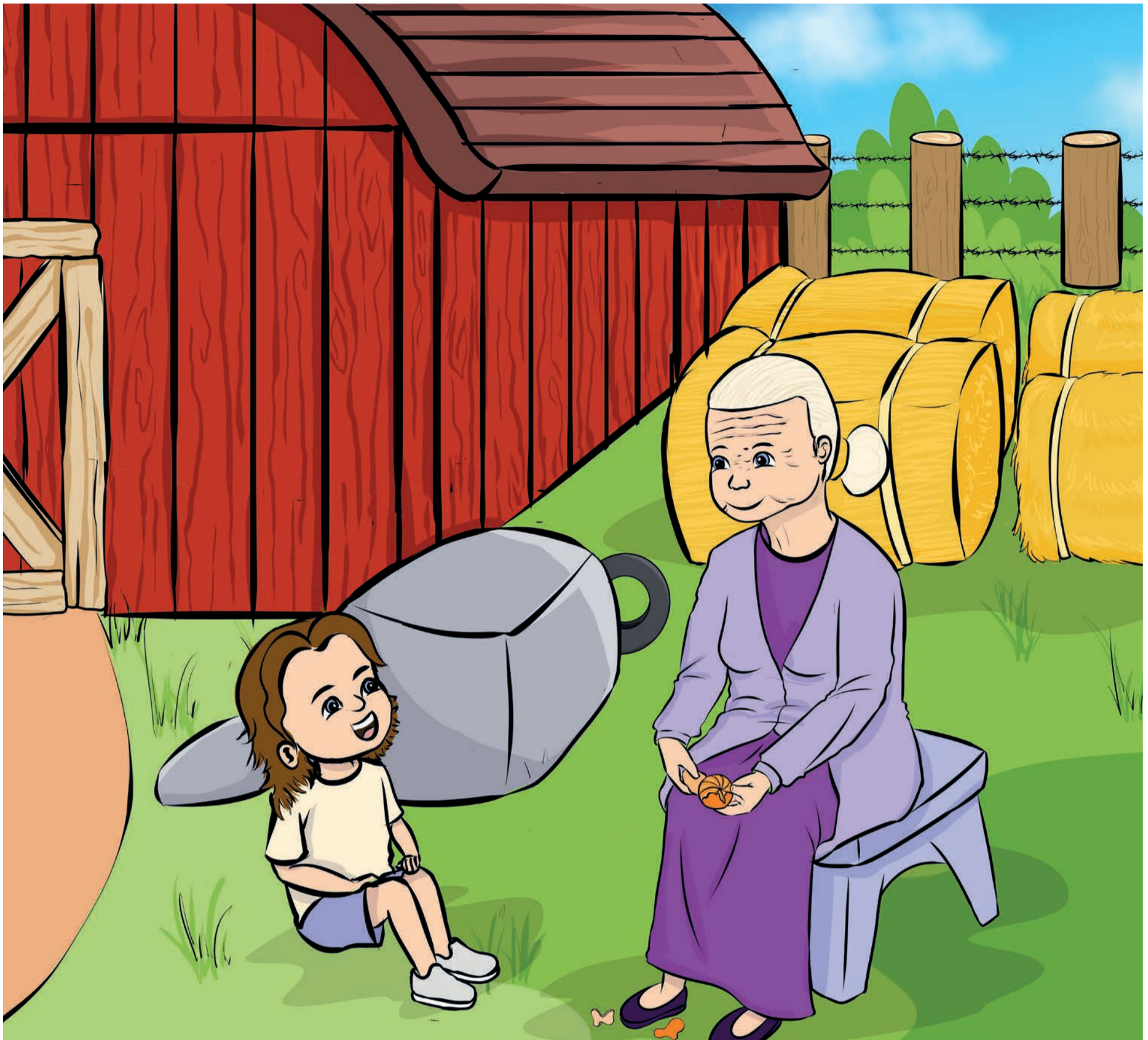
One day, they saw a tiny dung beetle pushing a ball of dung along the path with its back legs. The dung ball was as big as a tennis ball.

“Wow, it must be strong,” Lieda said.

“Look how big that ball is compared to the beetle.”

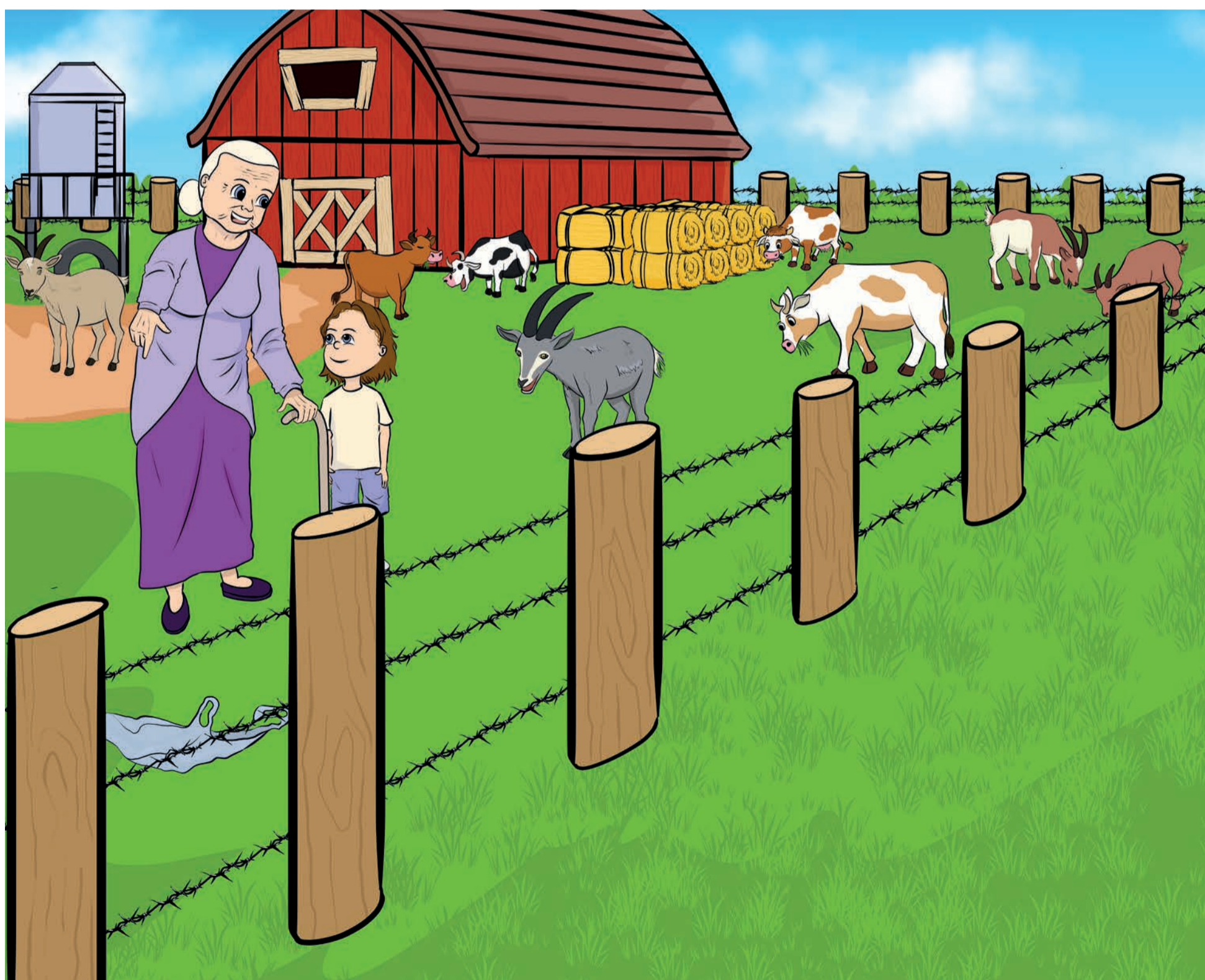
“That dung ball will make a nice home for the baby beetles and give them food,” said Granny Rose.





“Cattle dung makes good food for plants too. There is no rubbish in nature. Everything is reused or recycled,” said Granny Rose. She took an orange from her pocket. “This orange is wrapped in a beautiful skin. We can throw the peels on my compost heap. It will become food for plants, insects and worms.”

As they walked, they saw a plastic bag caught in the fence. “Oh no,” Granny said. “Please pick up that plastic bag, Lieda. If we leave it there, one of our cows or goats will eat it. It will make them sick.” “Will all animals get sick if they eat plastic?” Lieda asked. “Yes, Lieda. Animals cannot eat plastic. Even sea animals can die because plastic can end up in the sea,” Granny replied.



“Granny, can we put the plastic bag on your compost heap? Lieda asked.

“No, Lieda. That plastic is no good,” Granny replied. “No plant or animal can eat it, and it cannot rot. Once it is in the world, it will be there for hundreds of years.”



“Humans are the only animals that make this type of rubbish,” Granny said. This made Lieda sad.



As they walked, they saw a cooldrink bottle, some chip packets, an empty can, and a cardboard biscuit box.

They collected it all and put it in the bag that Lieda had found.

When they crossed the stream, they found more plastic. It had washed down from the town. Lieda thought about all the plastic that people throw away every day.

Our plastic is filling the ocean.  
Our plastic is filling the sea.  
Let's stop throwing waste in the rivers.  
Let's set all the sea creatures free.  
Oh, reduce, and reuse, and recycle  
plastic today, today.  
Reduce, and reuse, and recycle  
plastic today!

(Sung to the tune of  
'My Bonnie lies over  
the ocean'.)



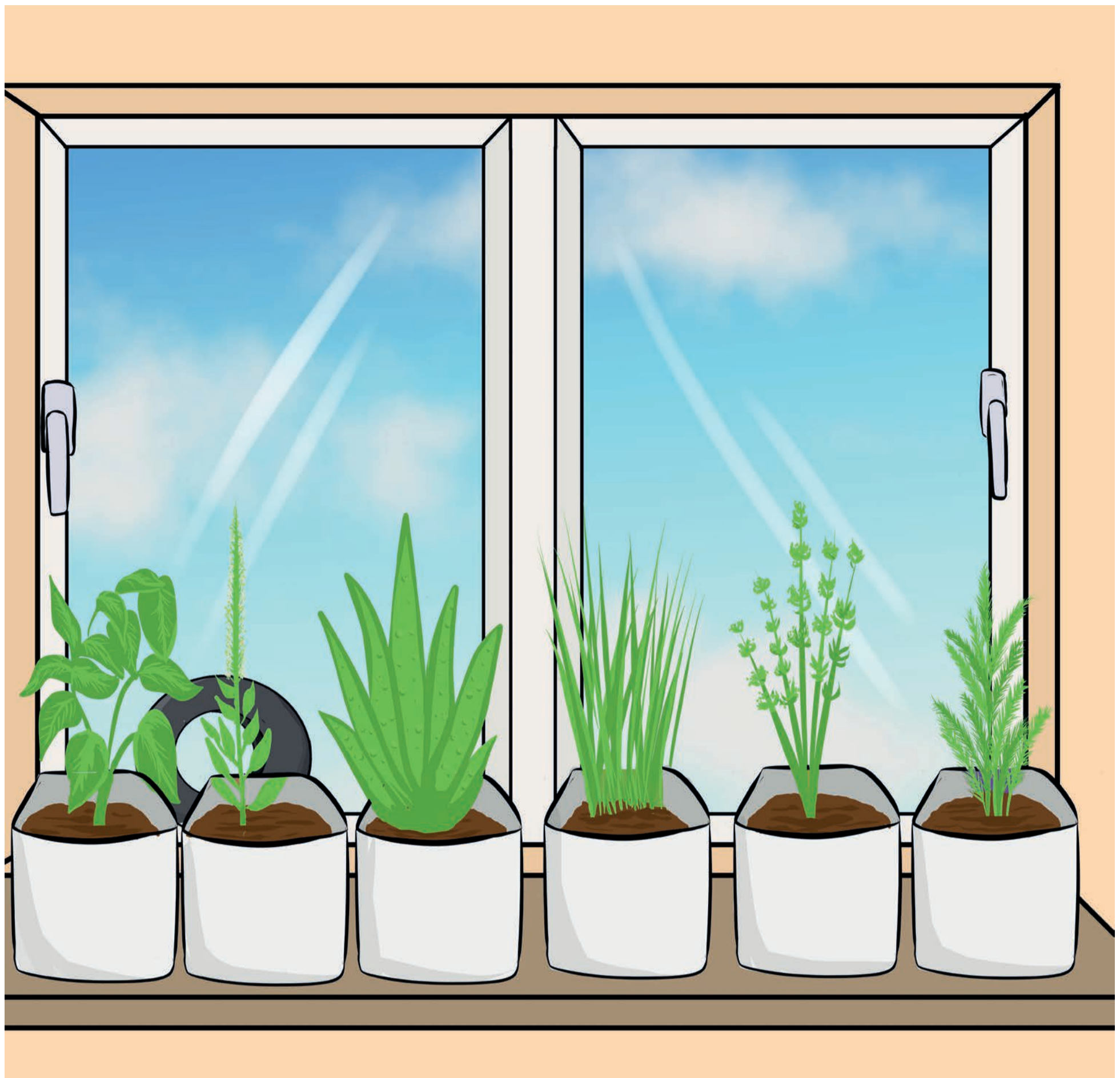
“This is terrible,” Lieda said. “There is so much plastic in the world. What can we do with it all?”

“There are three things we can do,” Granny said. “They are called the three R’s: Rreduce, Reuse, Recycle.”

“Reduce means use less. We must use less plastic,” Granny said.

“When I go to the shop, I don’t buy a plastic bag. I take my shopping home in my basket. Some people take their own cloth shopping bag.”





“Reuse means to use it again for something else. If I must buy plastic, I try to reuse it. I use plastic bottles cut in half to grow seedlings. I use egg cartons to grow herbs,” Granny said.

“So, I reuse that plastic. Then I don’t need to buy anything new.”

“Recycle means you can use the plastic to make new things. There are recycling bins at some shops,” Granny said.

“You can put plastic, glass, tins, and paper in the bins. The recyclers collect everything. They make new things from it. Then the plastic does not end up in our landfills.”



“Yay!” said Lieda. “We can take this plastic to the recycling bin.”

“Sadly, not all plastic can be recycled.” Granny said. “The best thing we can do is use less plastic.”

“That dung beetle showed us something,” Lieda said.

“We should only make rubbish that is useful.”

“I agree,” Granny said.

“Dung beetles are very clever.”



### Post-reading questions

1. What does Granny Rose mean when she says there is no rubbish in nature?
2. Why is plastic harmful if it is left in nature?
3. What are the three R's that Granny Rose tells Lieda about?