Cones
ON THE RAILS
By Chris Madeley
Illustrated by Zara Hussain
UKRIA
WINNER
GC
PASSENGER SAFETY

Cones On The Rails
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Illustrated by Zara Hussain

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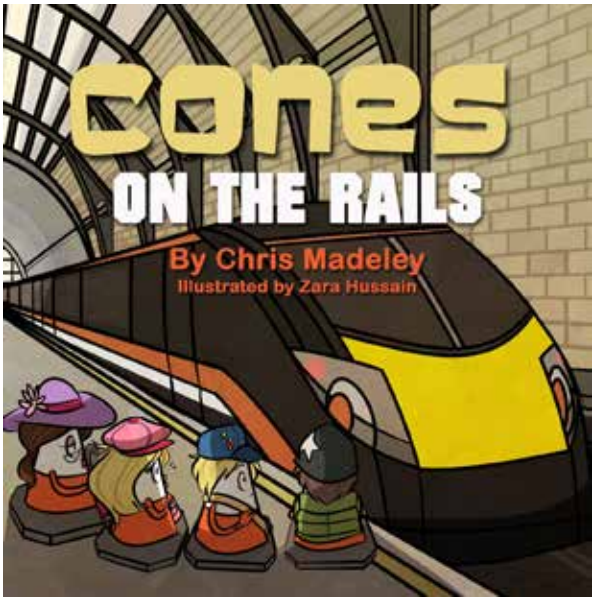
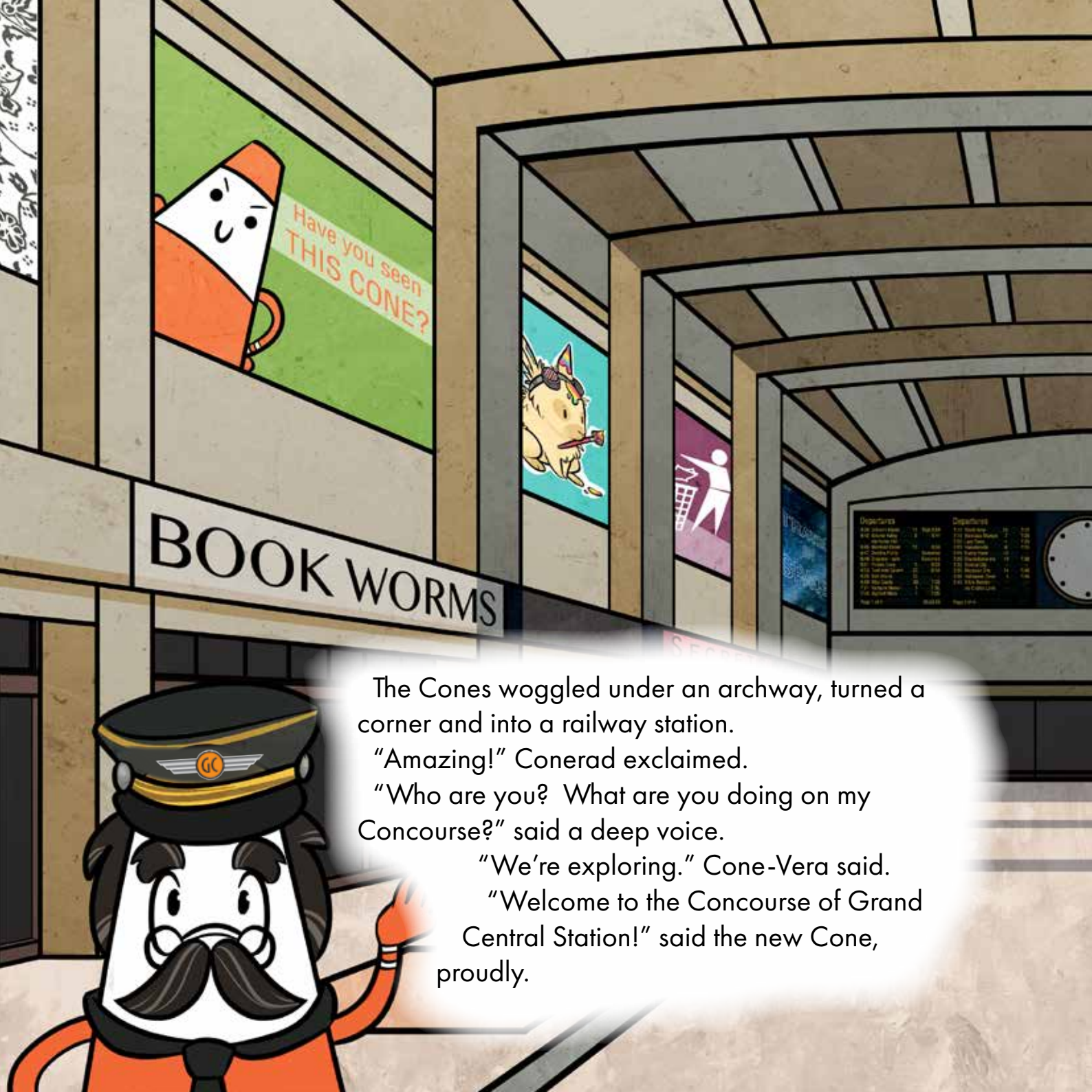
Thank you so much for visiting our school. The staff and children thoroughly enjoyed hearing about The Cones.
Hilary Ryder - St Winefrids School

Good books to read to the grandkids, it had them asking questions about road safety, which is always good.
J Pitts

Excellent books that my son absolutely loves. Well written, with great illustrations.
Philip Butler



Conerad, Conestance, Cone-Vera and Conen were very excited. They were ready for another adventure!
They were standing outside a beautiful building with arches and lights.
"This looks exciting," Conen whispered. "Shall we go in and see what we can find?"
"There are no humans about," said Conerad, "so let's go."



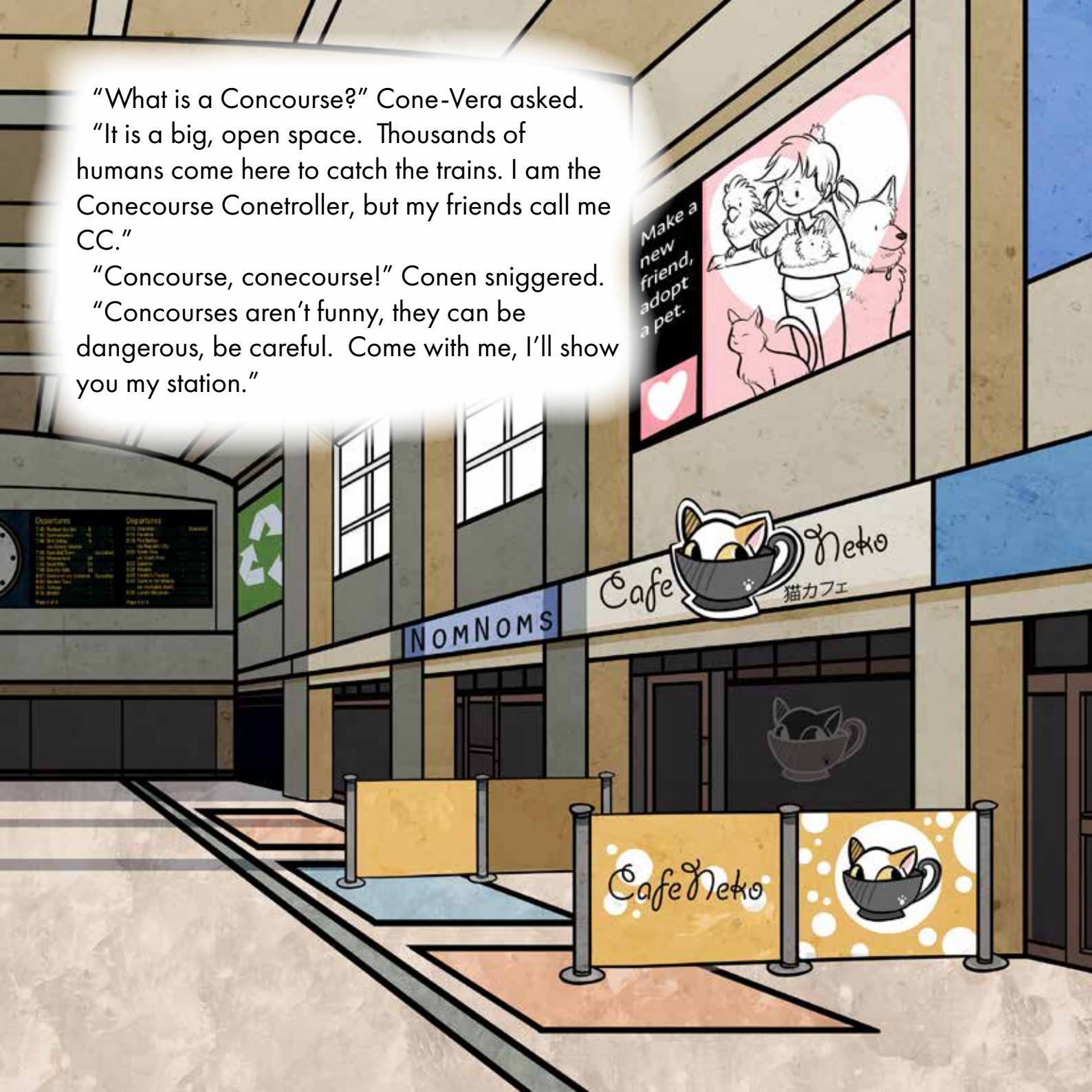
The Cones woggled under an archway, turned a corner and into a railway station.

"Amazing!" Conerad exclaimed.

"Who are you? What are you doing on my Concourse?" said a deep voice.

"We're exploring." Cone-Vera said.

"Welcome to the Concourse of Grand Central Station!" said the new Cone, proudly.


"What is a Concourse?" Cone-Vera asked.
"It is a big, open space. Thousands of humans come here to catch the trains. I am the Conecourse Conetroller, but my friends call me CC."
"Concourse, conecourse!" Conen sniggered.
"Concourses aren't funny, they can be dangerous, be careful. Come with me, I'll show you my station."
Make a new friend, adopt a pet.
NOMNOMS
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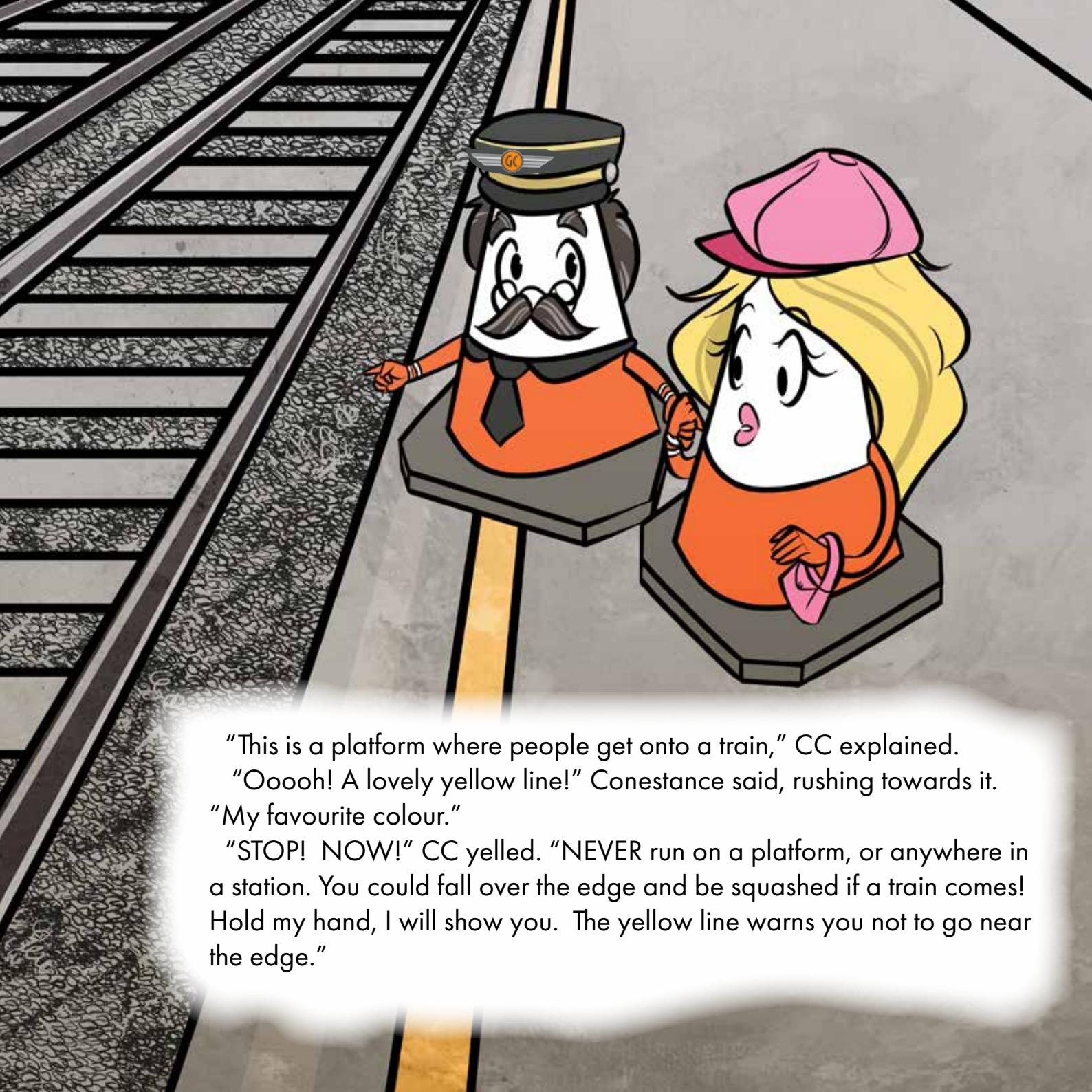
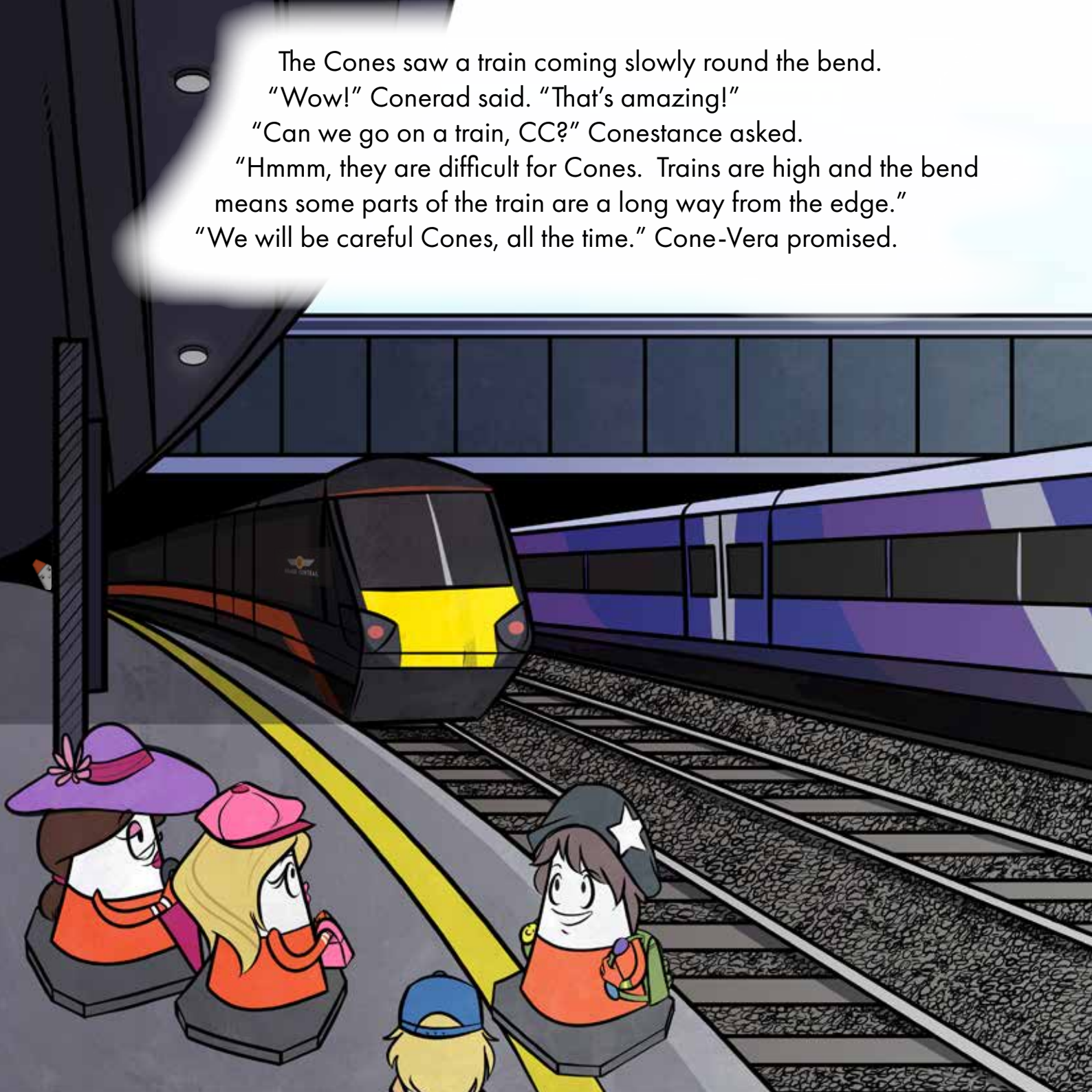
Cafe Neko



"This is a platform where people get onto a train," CC explained.

"Ooooh! A lovely yellow line!" Conestance said, rushing towards it. "My favourite colour."

"STOP! NOW!" CC yelled. "NEVER run on a platform, or anywhere in a station. You could fall over the edge and be squashed if a train comes! Hold my hand, I will show you. The yellow line warns you not to go near the edge."



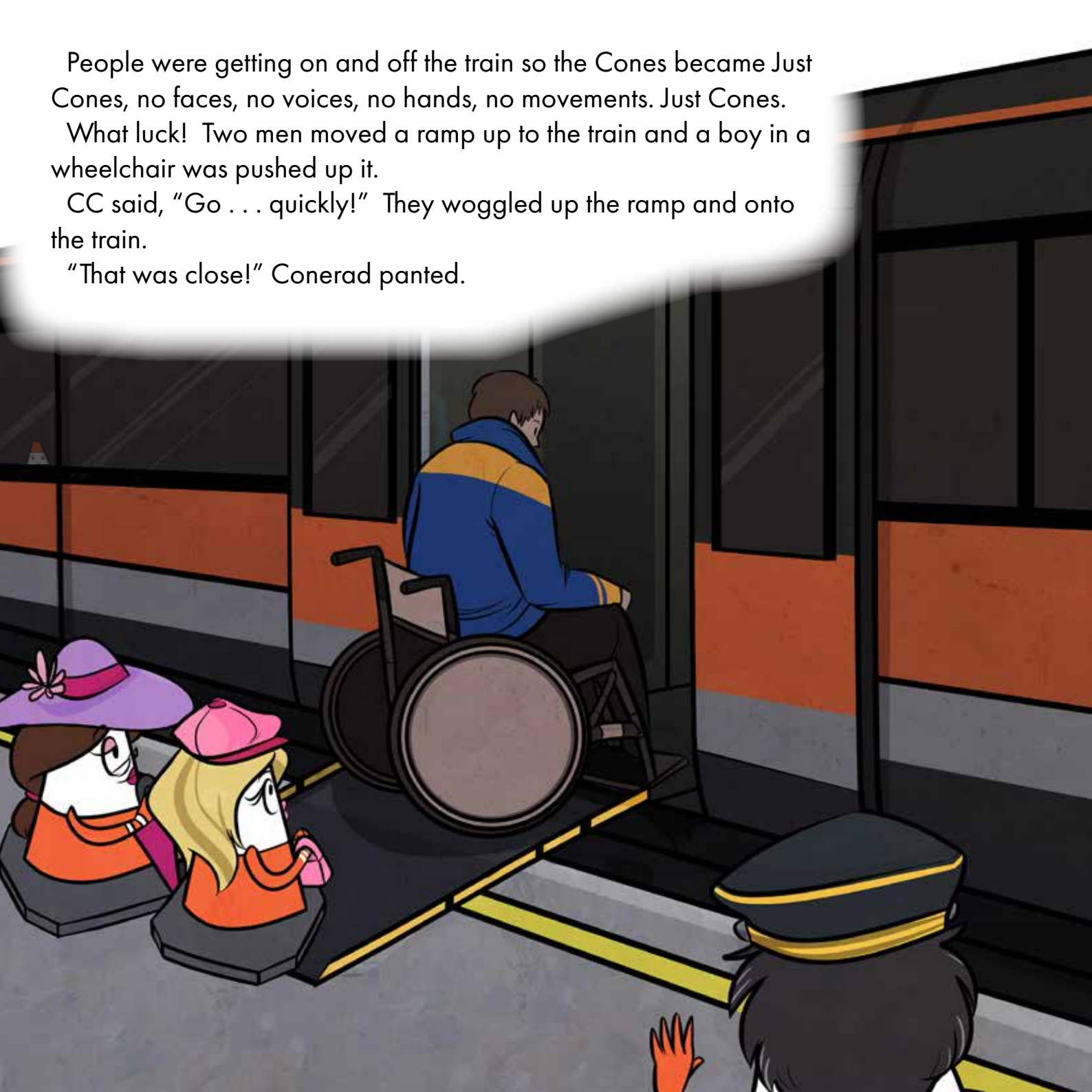
The Cones saw a train coming slowly round the bend.
"Wow!" Conerad said. "That's amazing!"
"Can we go on a train, CC?" Conestance asked.
"Hmmm, they are difficult for Cones. Trains are high and the bend means some parts of the train are a long way from the edge."
"We will be careful Cones, all the time." Cone-Vera promised.

People were getting on and off the train so the Cones became Just Cones, no faces, no voices, no hands, no movements. Just Cones.

What luck! Two men moved a ramp up to the train and a boy in a wheelchair was pushed up it.

CC said, "Go . . . quickly!" They woggled up the ramp and onto the train.

"That was close!" Conerad panted.



"Welcome aboard the 7.00 Grand Central train to Conecaster. My name is David and I am your Senior Conductor. Have a lovely journey."
The doors closed and the train slowly left the station. As no-one was about, the Cones chatted together. They all agreed, trains are really good fun!
"We have a 'Coneductor' and we're going to 'Conecaster!'" Conen giggled.
GRAND CENTRAL
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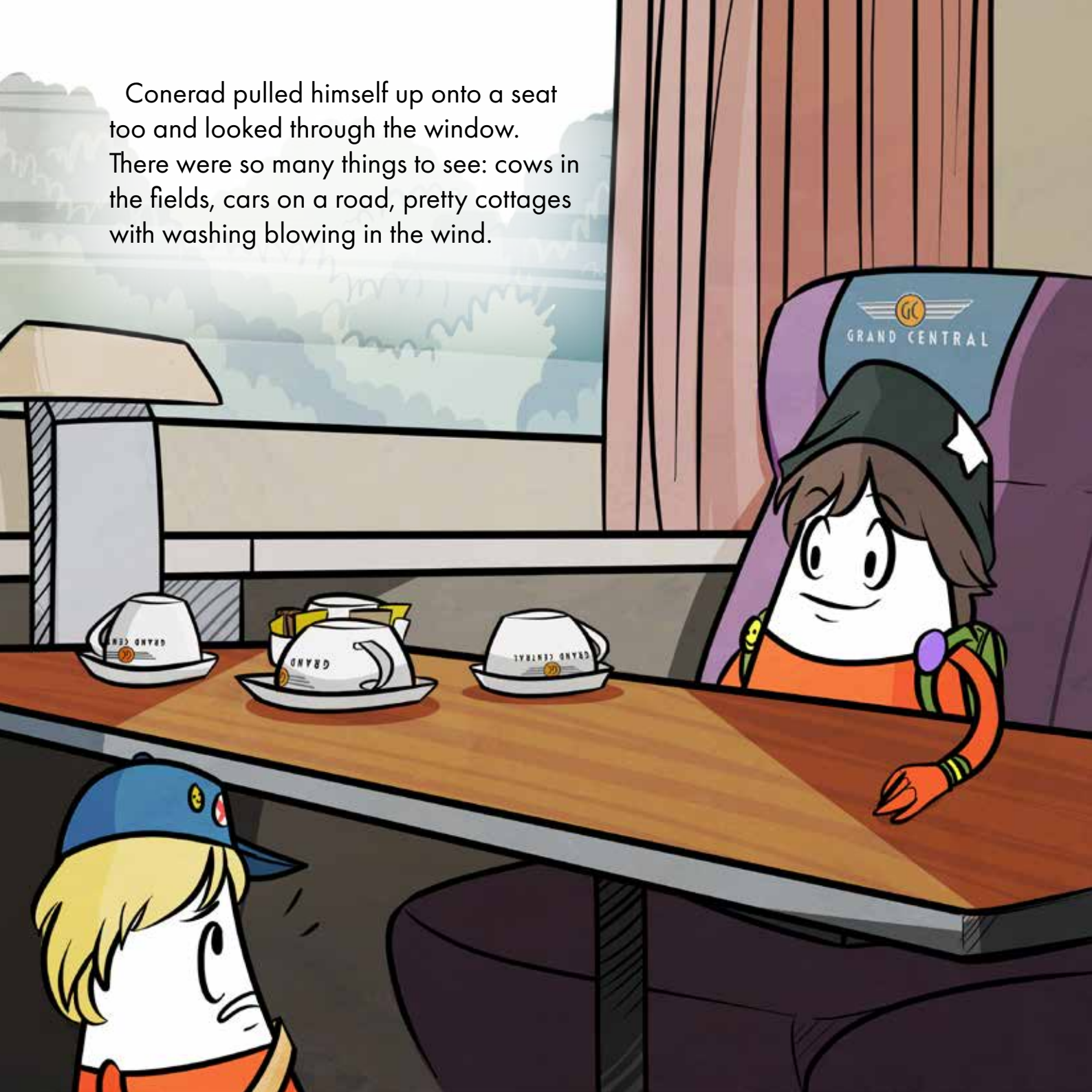
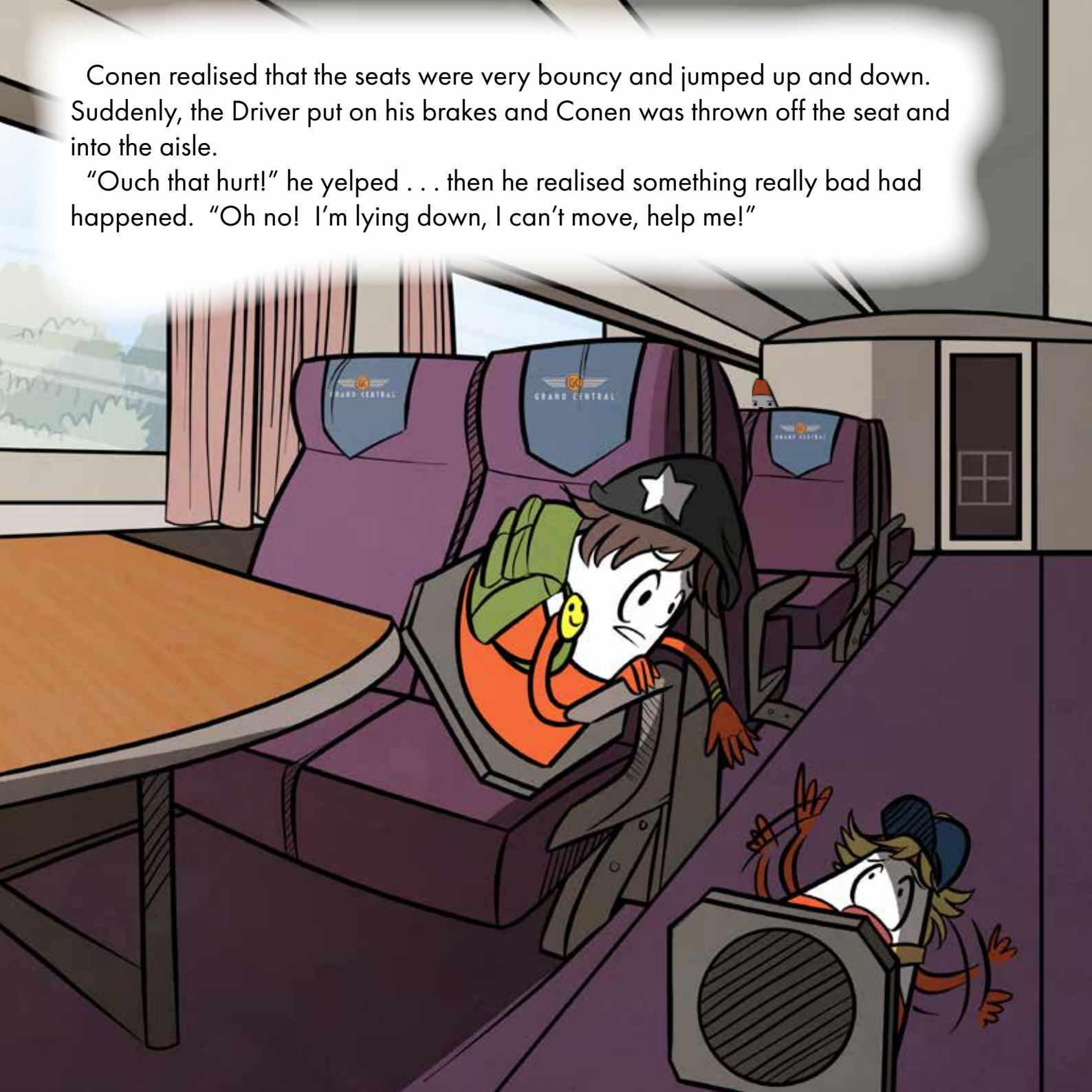
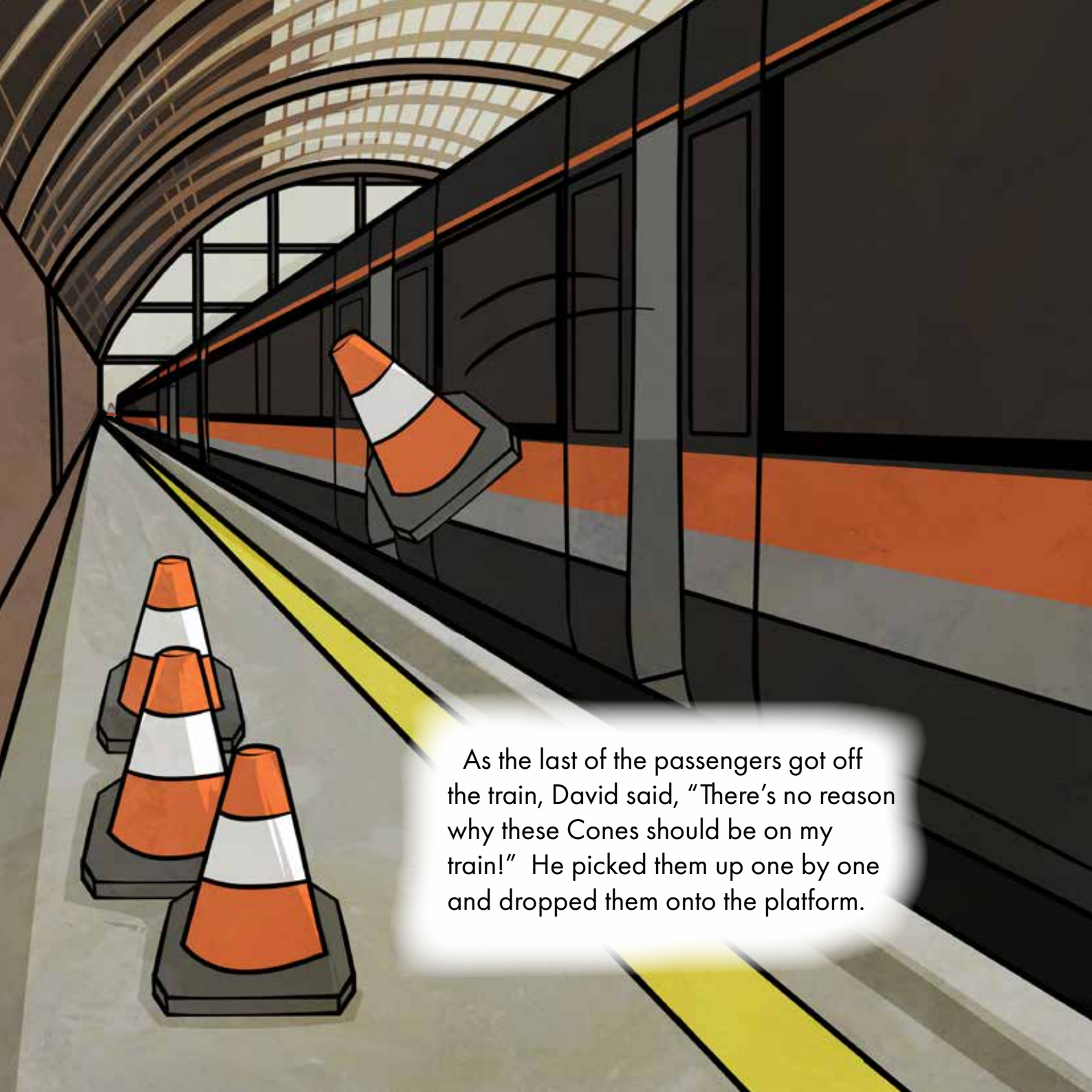
Conen nudged Conerad and nodded towards the door. Very slowly they quietly moved away from Conestance and Cone-Vera and into the next carriage.
"Wonderful!" Conen said, "no humans!" One of the seats had the arm-rest up so he got hold of the table and, with a lot of huffing and puffing, climbed onto the seat. "Brilliant, I can see everything now. How exciting!"
GRAND CENTRAL
GRAND CENTRAL



Conerad pulled himself up onto a seat too and looked through the window. There were so many things to see: cows in the fields, cars on a road, pretty cottages with washing blowing in the wind.


Conen realised that the seats were very bouncy and jumped up and down. Suddenly, the Driver put on his brakes and Conen was thrown off the seat and into the aisle.
"Ouch that hurt!" he yelped . . . then he realised something really bad had happened. "Oh no! I'm lying down, I can't move, help me!"

The train stopped at a station and people got on.
"Cones?" exclaimed David the Conductor, picking them up and carrying them out. "Leaving them in the aisle! How very dangerous! Someone could trip up." He put Conen and Conerad down with the other Cones. "What are they doing here anyway?" he said, puzzled.
GRAND CENTRAL


As the last of the passengers got off the train, David said, "There's no reason why these Cones should be on my train!" He picked them up one by one and dropped them onto the platform.

The train departed and the Cones came alive again. Conestance was furious!

"Who do these humans think they are, throwing us around? I've dropped my handbag and it's down there." Conestance pointed over the edge of the platform and there, on the track, was her bag.

"Conestance, come away from the edge!" Cone-Vera shouted.

"Rubbish! That's my best handbag and I want it back." Conestance stood right on the edge of the platform and gently dropped down onto the line. "There you are, see? I've got my handbag, now I'll get back onto the platform. Help me up!"

They heard a soft noise, creaking and purring as a train came slowly round the bend.

"Help!" Conestance yelled.

"We can't reach you," the others cried.

Conerad was upset. "Now I understand why we don't go on the track. There's going to be serious trouble."

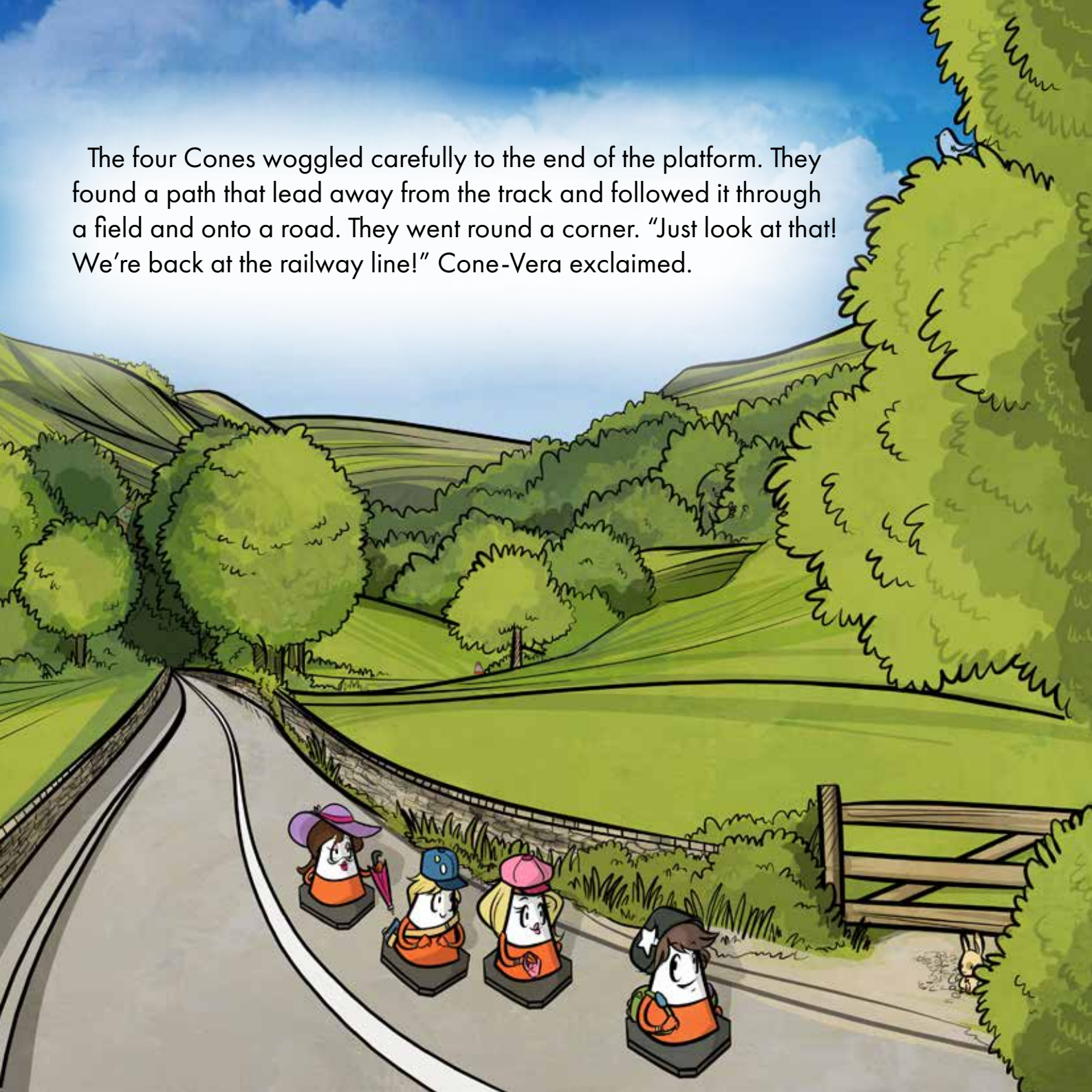
The train driver saw a Cone on the track and with much squeaking of brakes, stopped the train. There was pandemonium! The Station Manager looked very cross. He spoke to some railwaymen. One ran up the platform to speak to the driver. Another two jumped down onto the track, picked up Conestance and tossed her back up onto the platform where she landed with a bump.

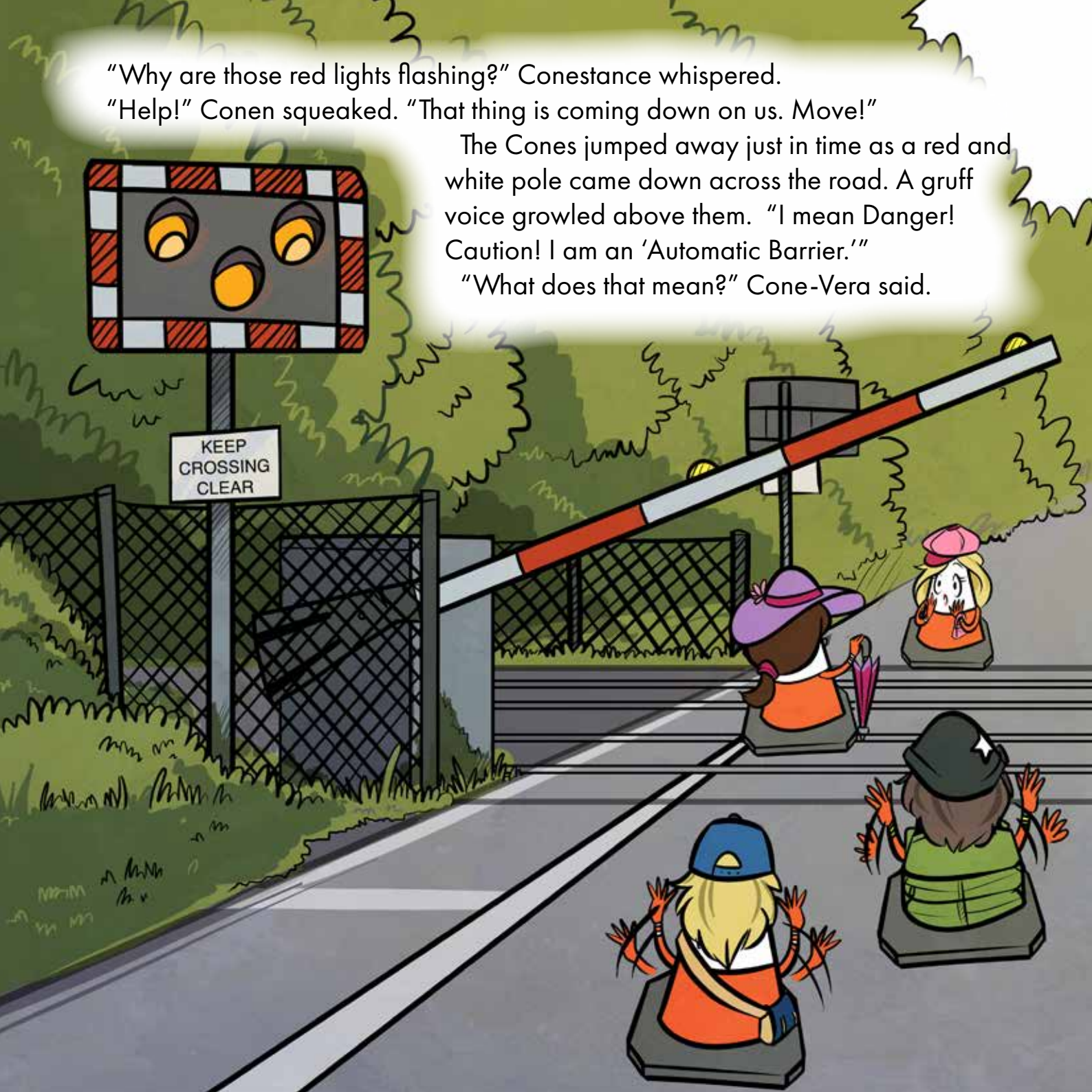
The train left and the four Cones were together on the platform. Cone-Vera looked at Conestance and said, "that was really naughty. Those poor people will be late for work. The Station Manager is very cross."

"I am really sorry," Conestance said, "I know it was wrong. I only wanted my best handbag back."

"Yes, but you could have been squashed," Conerad said.

The four Cones woggled carefully to the end of the platform. They found a path that lead away from the track and followed it through a field and onto a road. They went round a corner. “Just look at that! We’re back at the railway line!” Cone-Vera exclaimed.



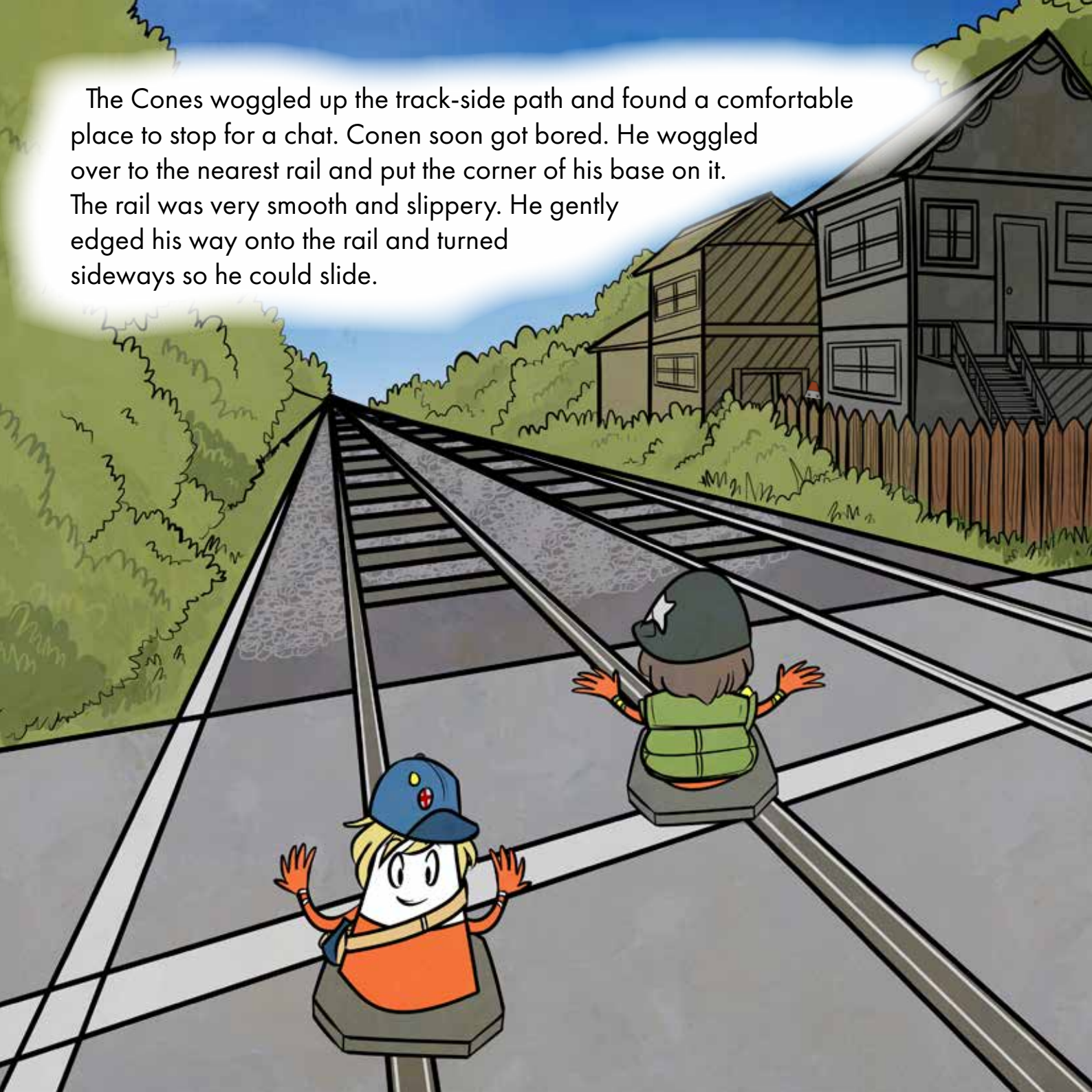

"Why are those red lights flashing?" Conestance whispered.
"Help!" Conen squeaked. "That thing is coming down on us. Move!"
The Cones jumped away just in time as a red and white pole came down across the road. A gruff voice growled above them. "I mean Danger! Caution! I am an 'Automatic Barrier.'"
"What does that mean?" Cone-Vera said.
KEEP CROSSING CLEAR

"It means a train is coming. No moving until it has gone. My barrier stops people getting hurt."
A train came whooshing past.
"I didn't hear that coming!" Conestance exclaimed.
Conen started to go under the barrier.
"STOP!" boomed the barrier.
"Why? The train's gone!" Conen said, cheekily.
"Come on Conerad."
KEEP CROSSING CLEAR

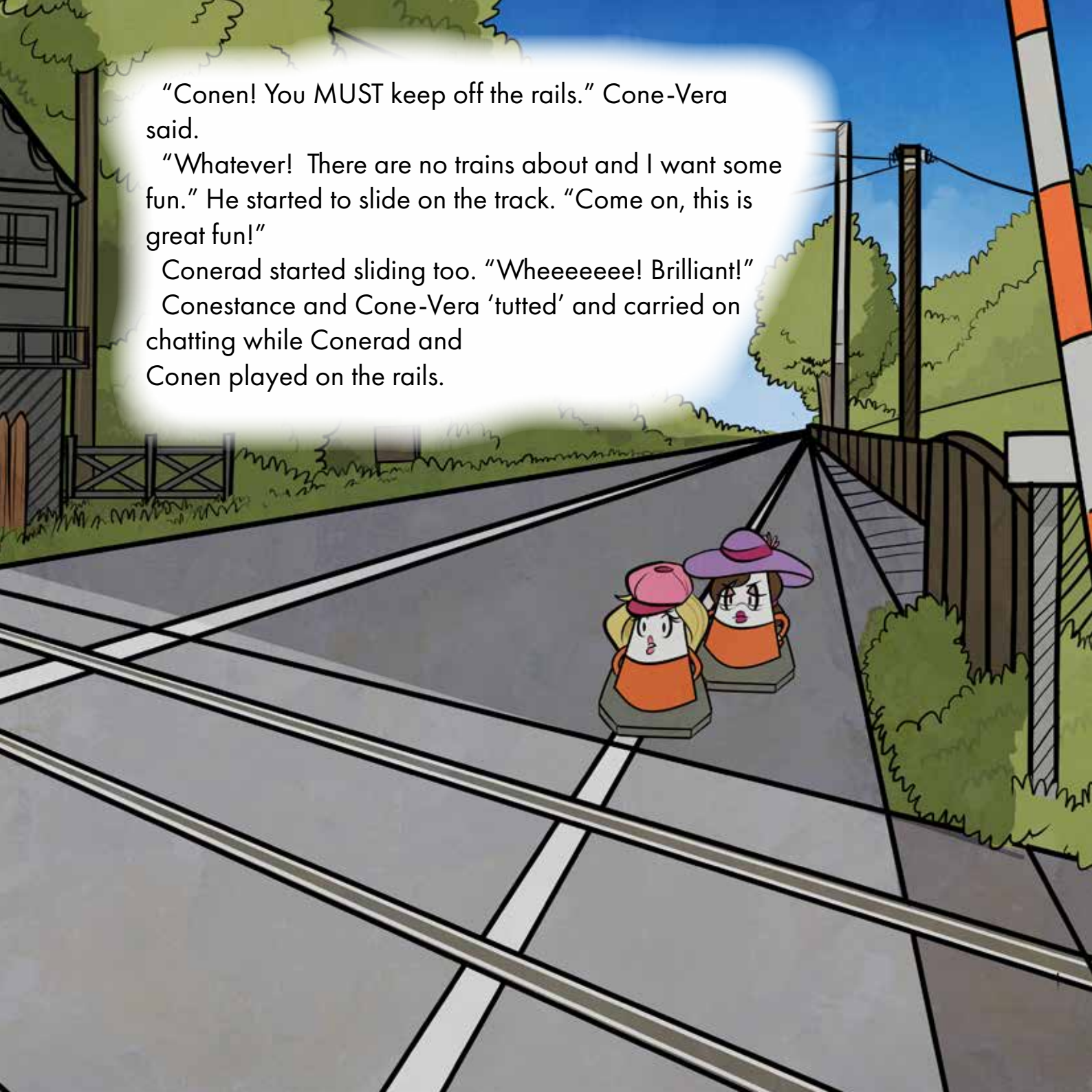
As Conerad followed Conen, there was a loud 'whoosh' as another train came the other way. The draught spun Conen round on his base and he nearly fell over.

"DO NOT go near the track until I raise my barrier. You will get squashed."

"Sorry, sorry, sorry." Conen said.



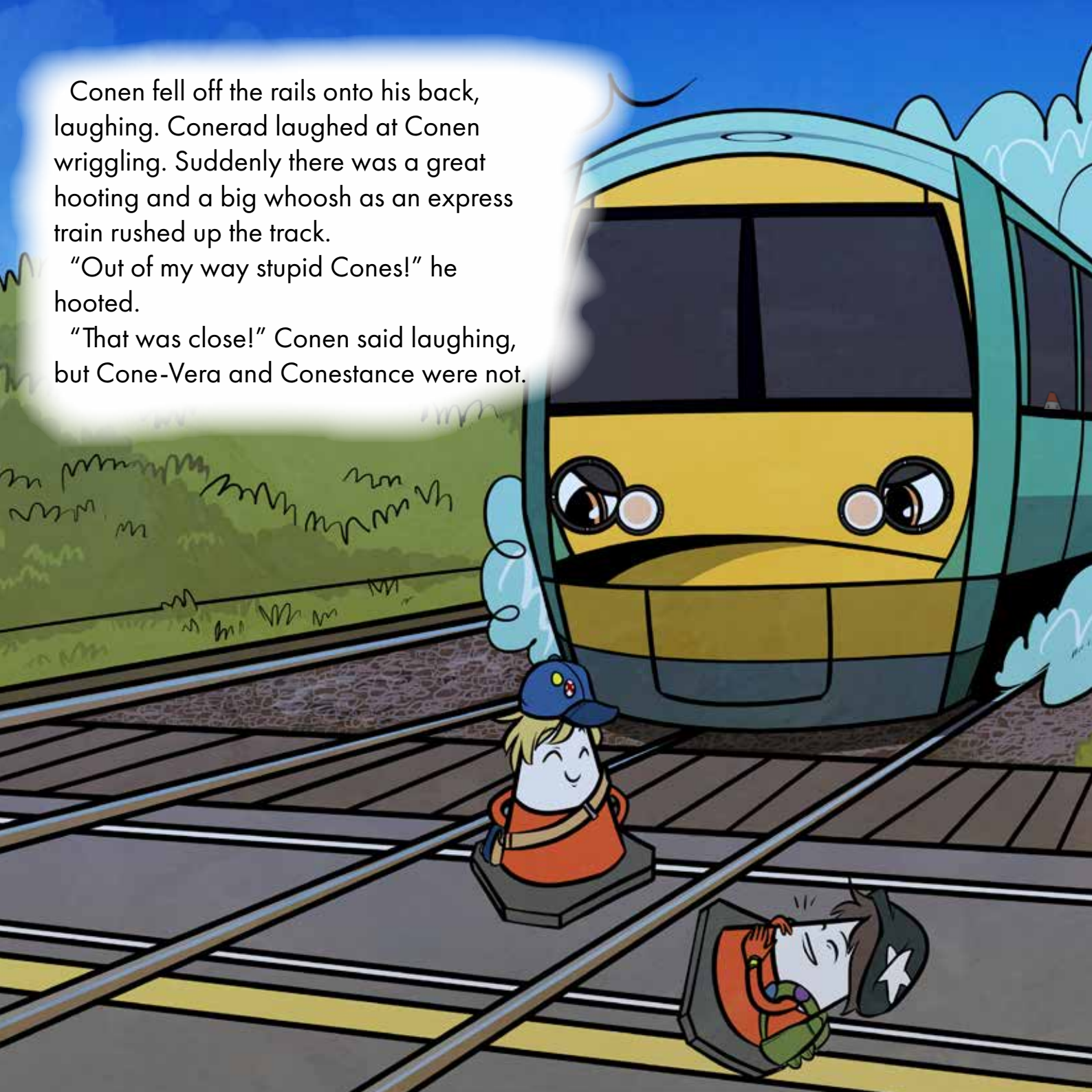
The Cones woggled up the track-side path and found a comfortable place to stop for a chat. Conen soon got bored. He woggled over to the nearest rail and put the corner of his base on it. The rail was very smooth and slippery. He gently edged his way onto the rail and turned sideways so he could slide.


"Conen! You MUST keep off the rails." Cone-Vera said.

"Whatever! There are no trains about and I want some fun." He started to slide on the track. "Come on, this is great fun!"

Conerad started sliding too. "Wheeeeeee! Brilliant!"

Conestance and Cone-Vera 'tutted' and carried on chatting while Conerad and Conen played on the rails.

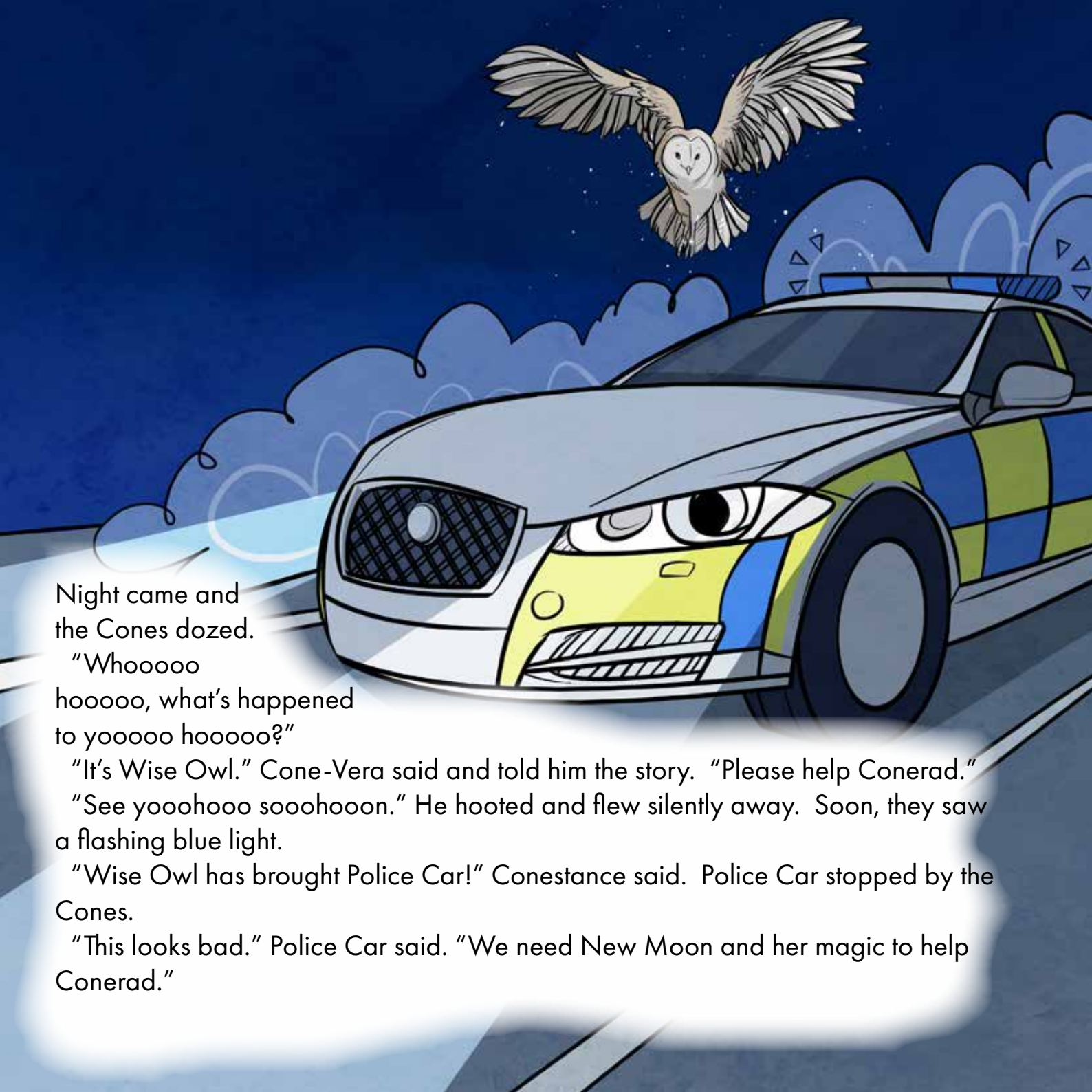

Conen fell off the rails onto his back, laughing. Conerad laughed at Conen wriggling. Suddenly there was a great hooting and a big whoosh as an express train rushed up the track.
"Out of my way stupid Cones!" he hooted.
"That was close!" Conen said laughing, but Cone-Vera and Conestance were not.

The train whisked Conerad off his feet and threw him into the air. He landed on the path and lay quite still with his eyes closed.

"Come on, help Conerad." Cone-Vera said.

"Conen, you know not to play on the rails. Look what has happened."

Conen hung his head in shame. "I am so very sorry, it seemed to be such good fun."



Night came and the Cones dozed.

"Whoooooo hooooo, what's happened to yooooo hooooo?"

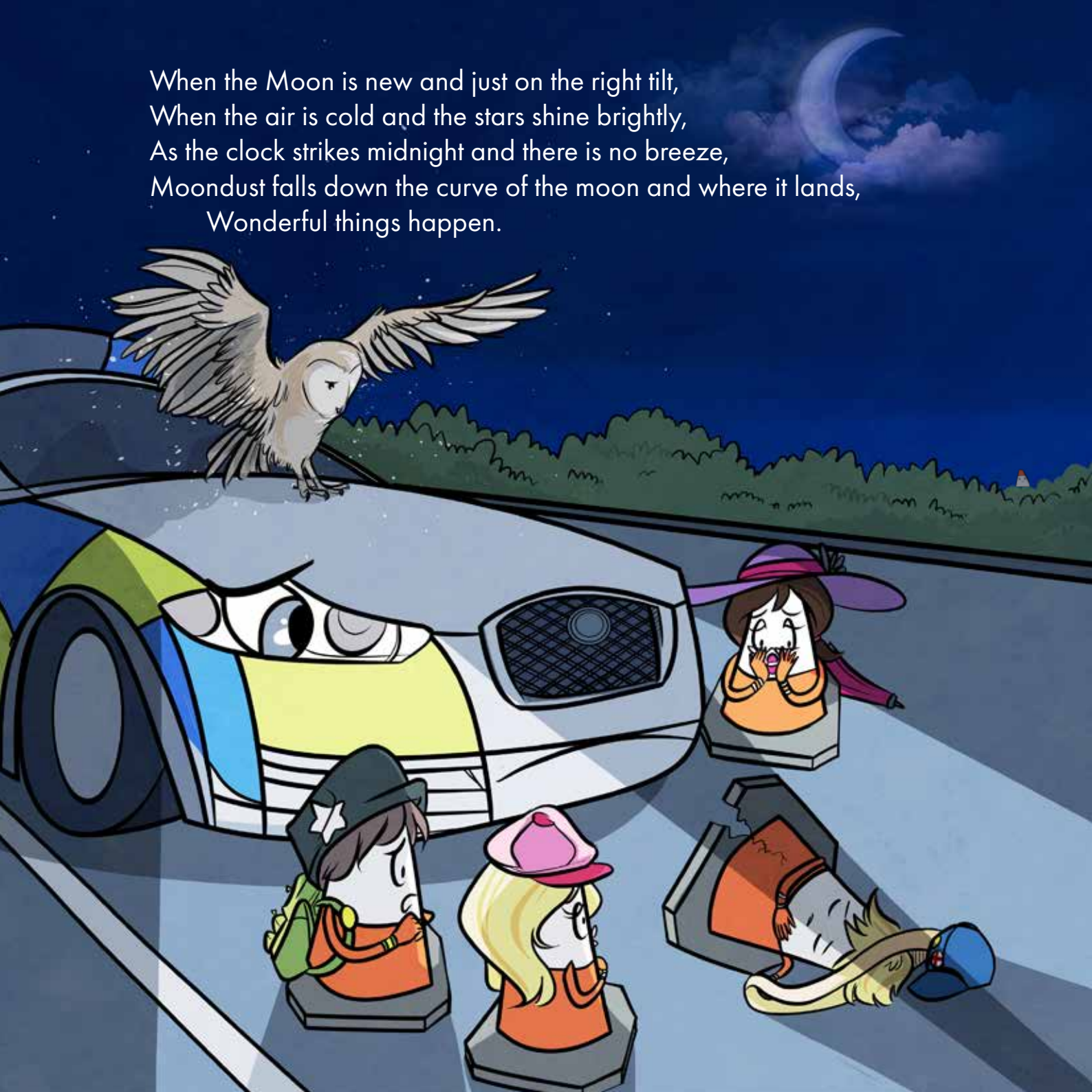
"It's Wise Owl." Cone-Vera said and told him the story. "Please help Conerad."

"See yooohooo sooohooon." He hooted and flew silently away. Soon, they saw a flashing blue light.

"Wise Owl has brought Police Car!" Conestance said. Police Car stopped by the Cones.

"This looks bad." Police Car said. "We need New Moon and her magic to help Conerad."

When the Moon is new and just on the right tilt,
When the air is cold and the stars shine brightly,
As the clock strikes midnight and there is no breeze,
Moondust falls down the curve of the moon and where it lands,
Wonderful things happen.



New Moon gently tipped magic Moondust over Conerad, smiled and moved slowly away across the sky.

"Look, Conerad's hand!" gasped Conestance.

"And the other one!" Cone-Vera laughed.

"Why am I all covered in dust?" Conerad spluttered. His friends told him the story as they brushed the Moondust off.

"You are a lucky Cone," said Police Car, frowning. "I don't want to see you Cones playing anywhere near a railway again."

The four Cones promised they would be very good. They were sorry for all the trouble they had caused. They have had a busy time and learnt a lot about trains and railways, so it is time to leave them to sleep as they become Just Cones, no faces, no voices, no hands, no movements, Just Cones. Police Car and Wise Owl, though, always like the last word.

Police Car parked up with Wise Owl sitting on his blue lights. "I do worry about the Cones," he said.

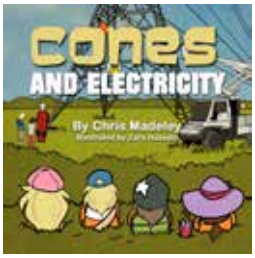
"Meeeheeee tooowhooo!" Wise Owl hooted thoughtfully.

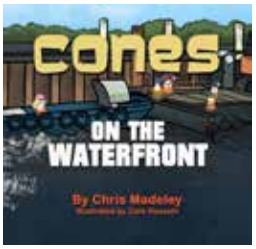
"It's good to have fun and adventures, but they need to think and be careful."

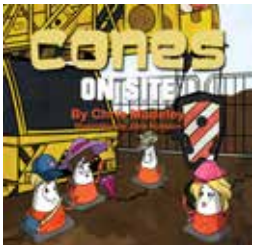
"Tooowhooo trooohooo," hooted Wise Owl. He spread his beautiful wings and flew off into the darkness.

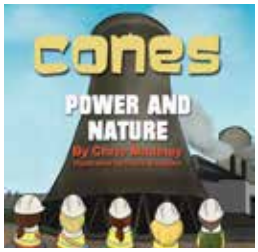
Do you think the Cones will learn to be safe?

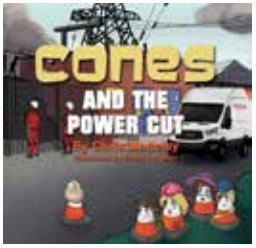
See you soon for more fun and adventures with The Cones.











Helping children learn to live and play within parameters based on moral and ethical values.

Fun characters having great adventures written to promote:

- **Being good friends**
- **Embracing differences**
- **Keeping safe on the roads and in**
- **Lots of other different situations**
- **Having lovely manners**
- **Learning who may keep them safe**

Join the Cones and enjoy the fun!

Available from all good bookshops and on line, "Meet the Cones" and "Cones Make New Friends" introduces the Cones, how they come alive and how they become friends.

The Cones series of books is written to be fun to read while helping children learn to live with each other in the best possible way but always with safety as their first priority.

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