

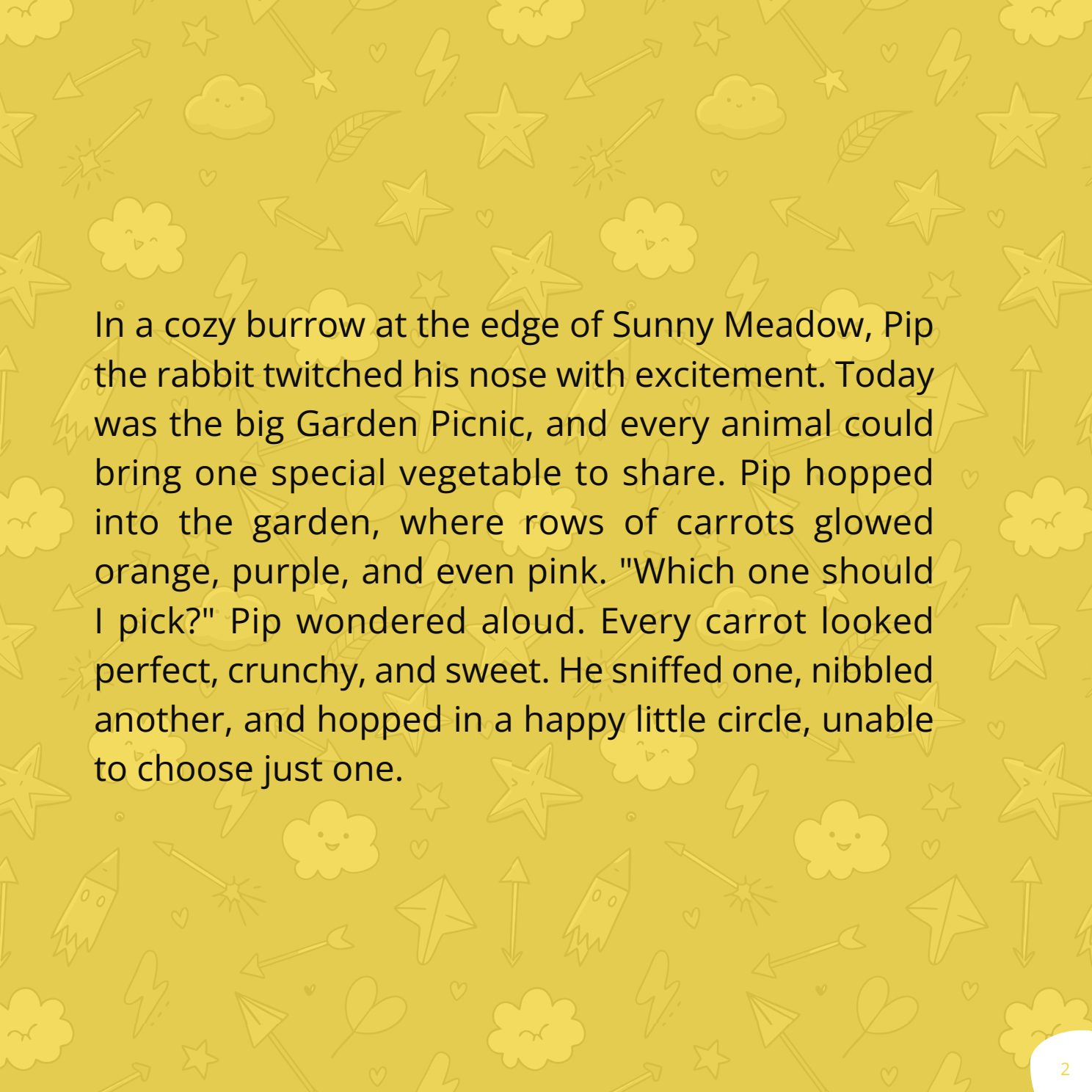


PICK ONE

by childbook.ai

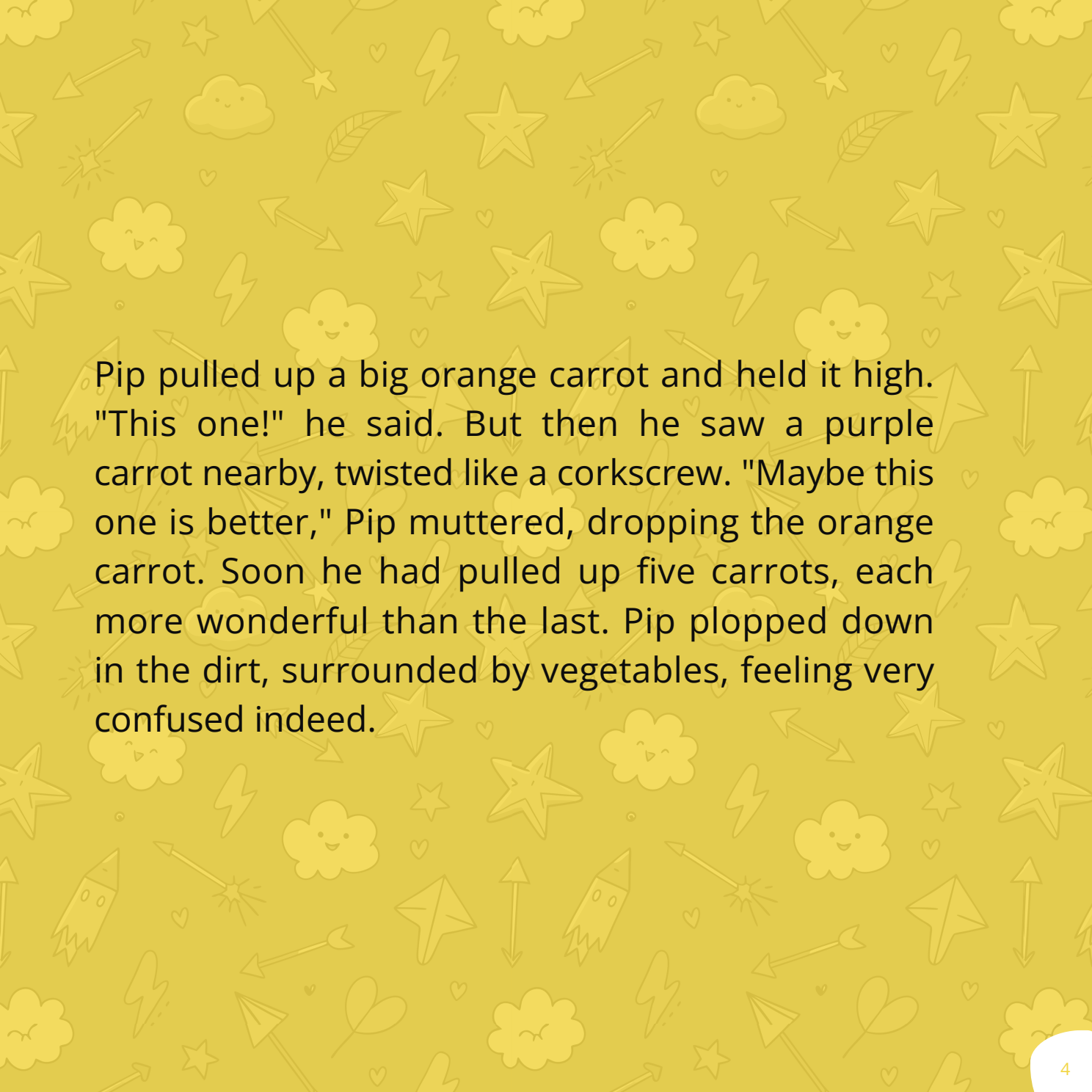


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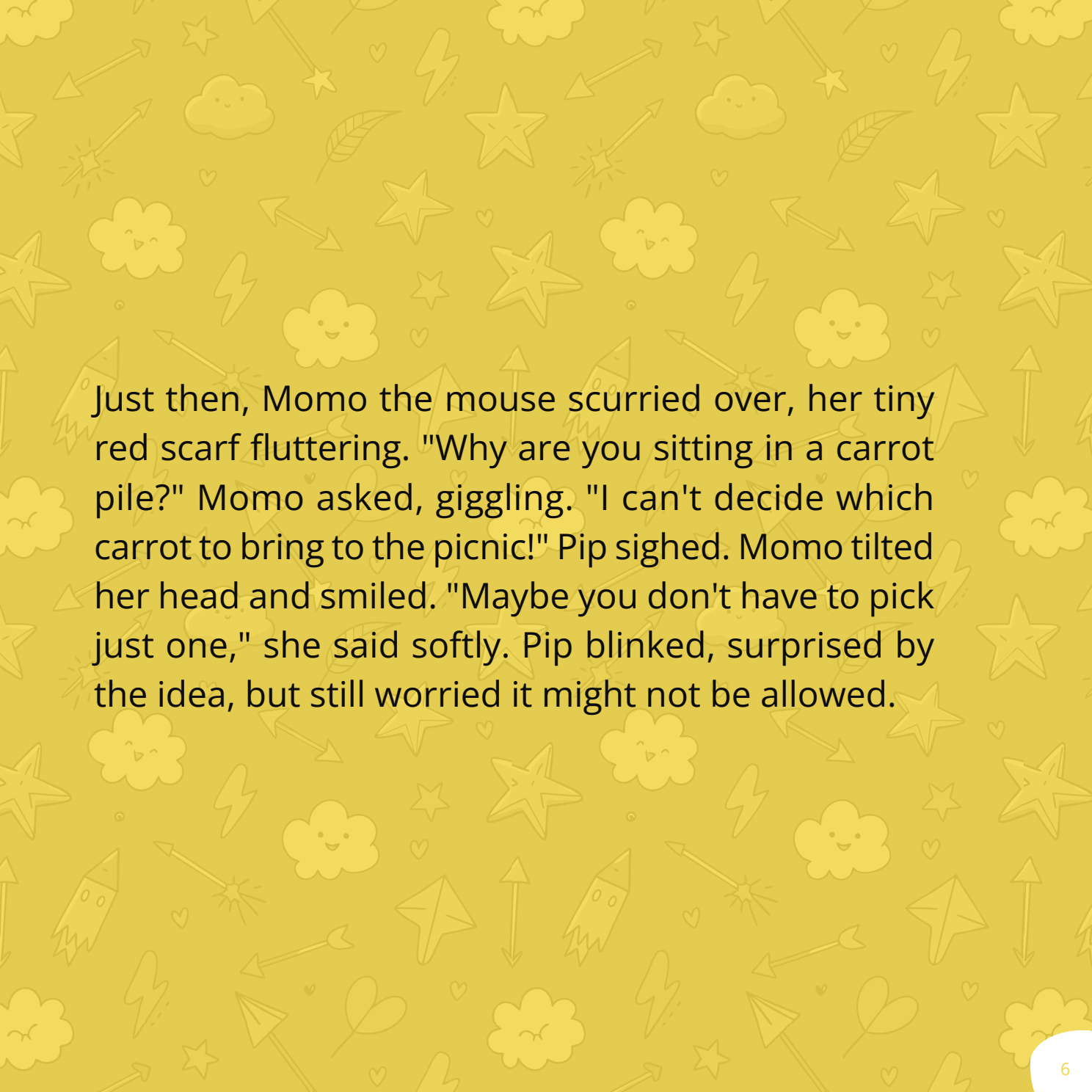
In a cozy burrow at the edge of Sunny Meadow, Pip the rabbit twitched his nose with excitement. Today was the big Garden Picnic, and every animal could bring one special vegetable to share. Pip hopped into the garden, where rows of carrots glowed orange, purple, and even pink. "Which one should I pick?" Pip wondered aloud. Every carrot looked perfect, crunchy, and sweet. He sniffed one, nibbled another, and hopped in a happy little circle, unable to choose just one.





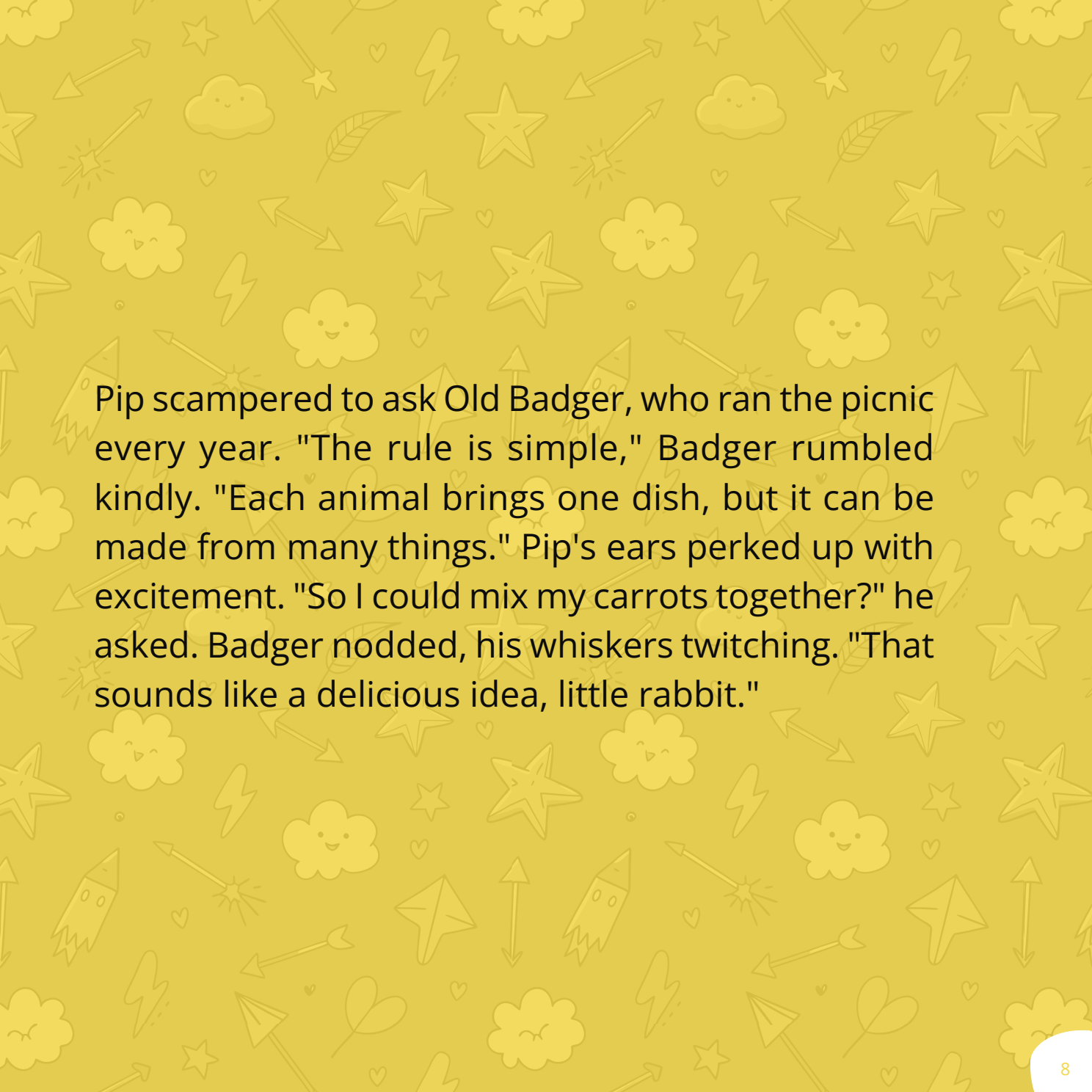
Pip pulled up a big orange carrot and held it high. "This one!" he said. But then he saw a purple carrot nearby, twisted like a corkscrew. "Maybe this one is better," Pip muttered, dropping the orange carrot. Soon he had pulled up five carrots, each more wonderful than the last. Pip plopped down in the dirt, surrounded by vegetables, feeling very confused indeed.





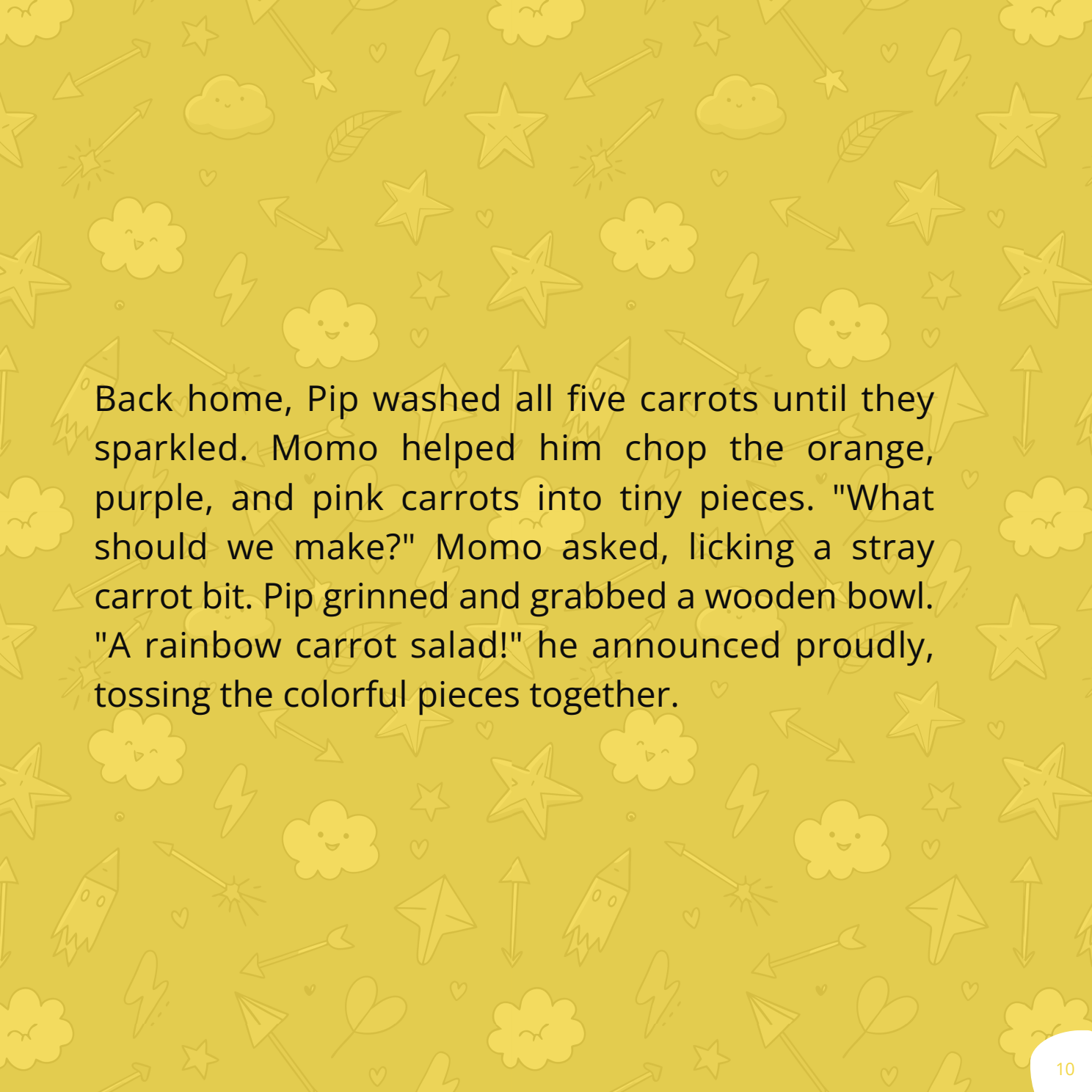
Just then, Momo the mouse scurried over, her tiny red scarf fluttering. "Why are you sitting in a carrot pile?" Momo asked, giggling. "I can't decide which carrot to bring to the picnic!" Pip sighed. Momo tilted her head and smiled. "Maybe you don't have to pick just one," she said softly. Pip blinked, surprised by the idea, but still worried it might not be allowed.





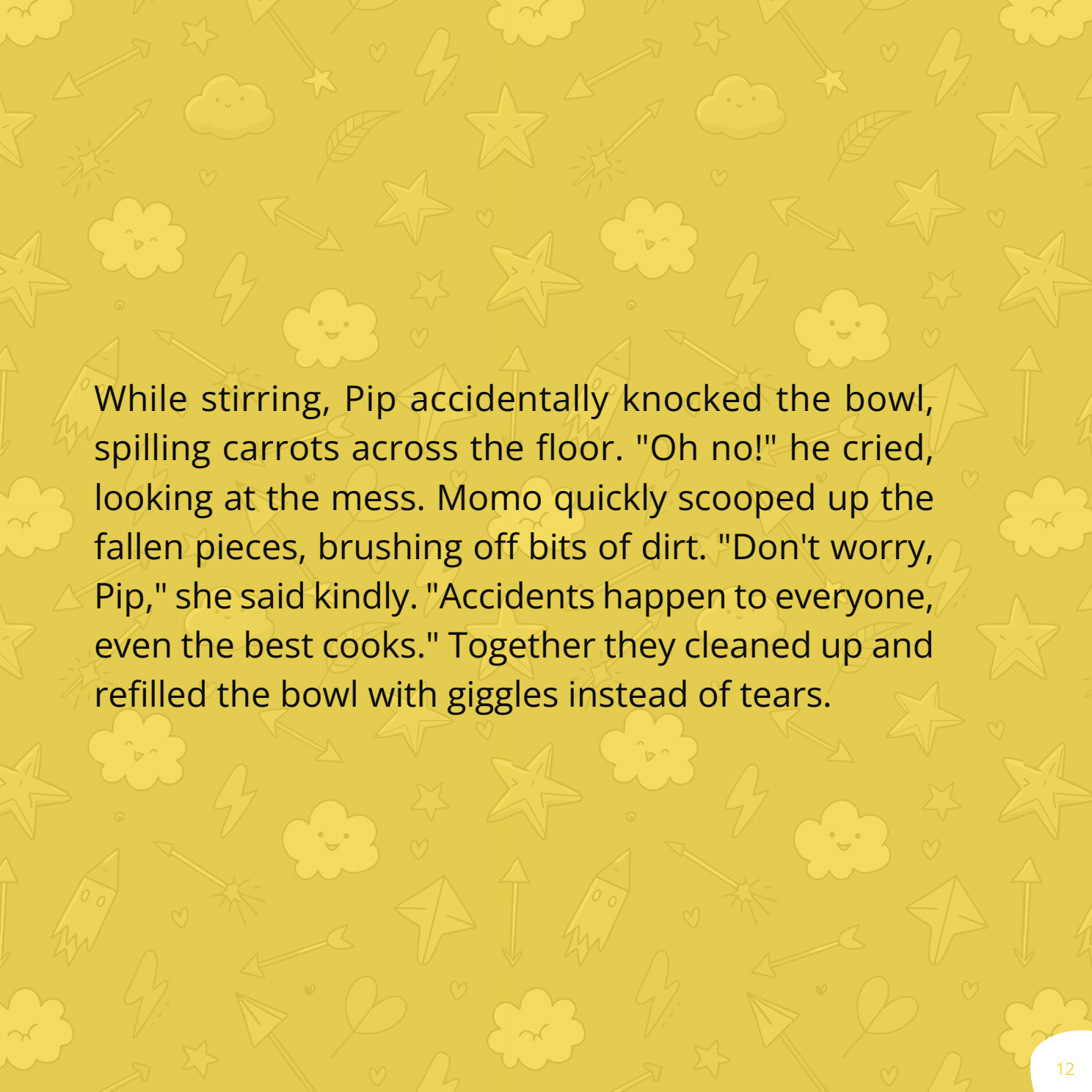
Pip scampered to ask Old Badger, who ran the picnic every year. "The rule is simple," Badger rumbled kindly. "Each animal brings one dish, but it can be made from many things." Pip's ears perked up with excitement. "So I could mix my carrots together?" he asked. Badger nodded, his whiskers twitching. "That sounds like a delicious idea, little rabbit."





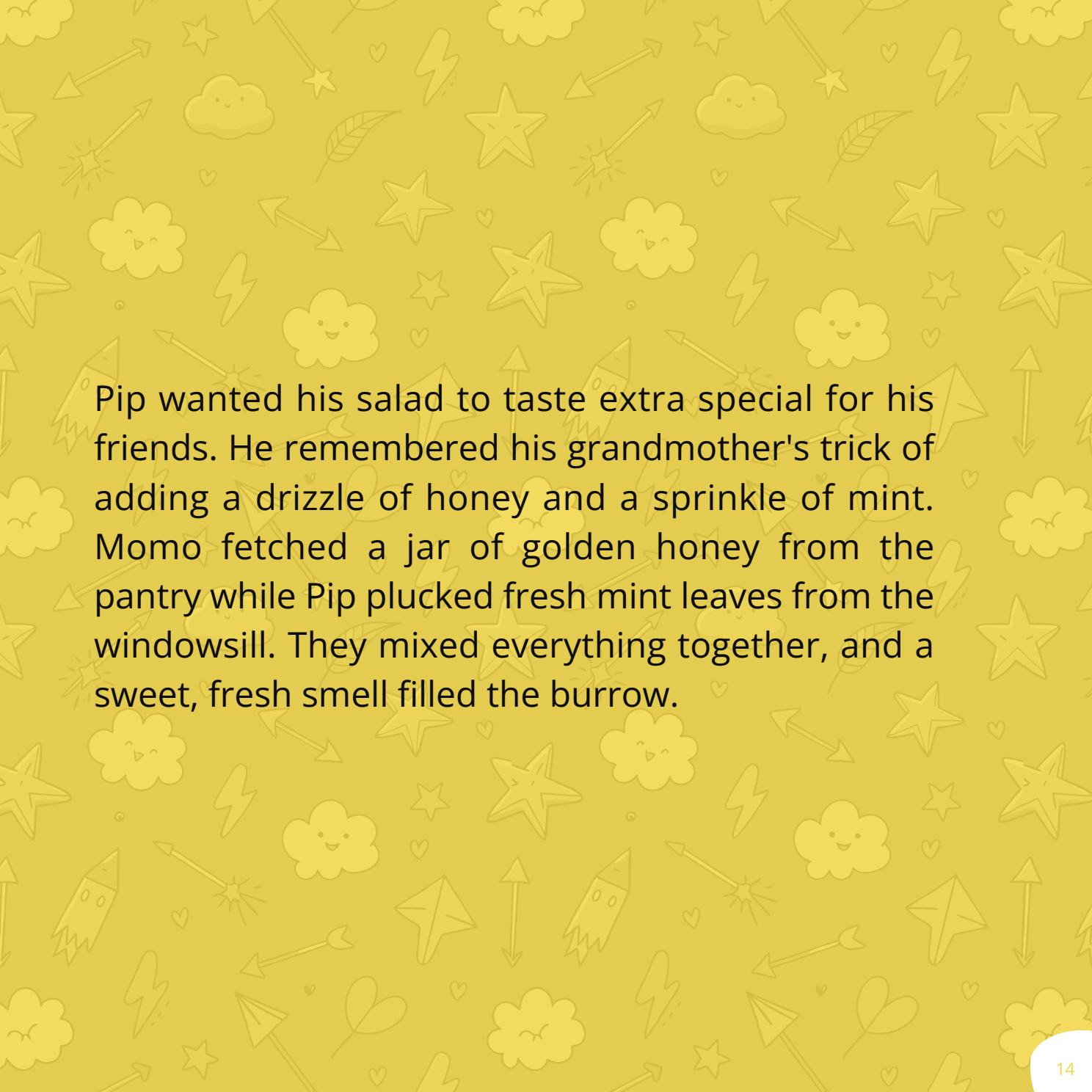
Back home, Pip washed all five carrots until they sparkled. Momo helped him chop the orange, purple, and pink carrots into tiny pieces. "What should we make?" Momo asked, licking a stray carrot bit. Pip grinned and grabbed a wooden bowl. "A rainbow carrot salad!" he announced proudly, tossing the colorful pieces together.





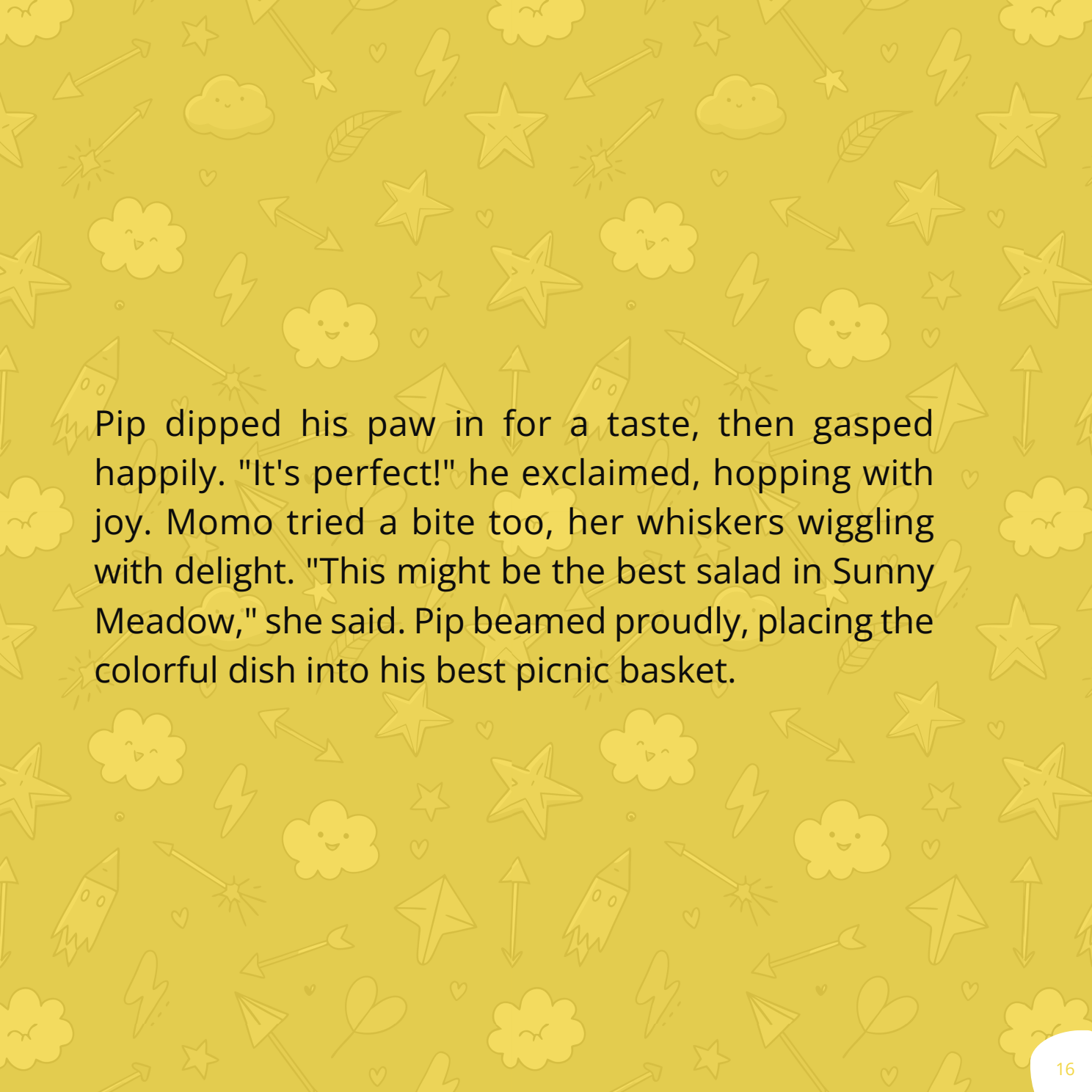
While stirring, Pip accidentally knocked the bowl, spilling carrots across the floor. "Oh no!" he cried, looking at the mess. Momo quickly scooped up the fallen pieces, brushing off bits of dirt. "Don't worry, Pip," she said kindly. "Accidents happen to everyone, even the best cooks." Together they cleaned up and refilled the bowl with giggles instead of tears.





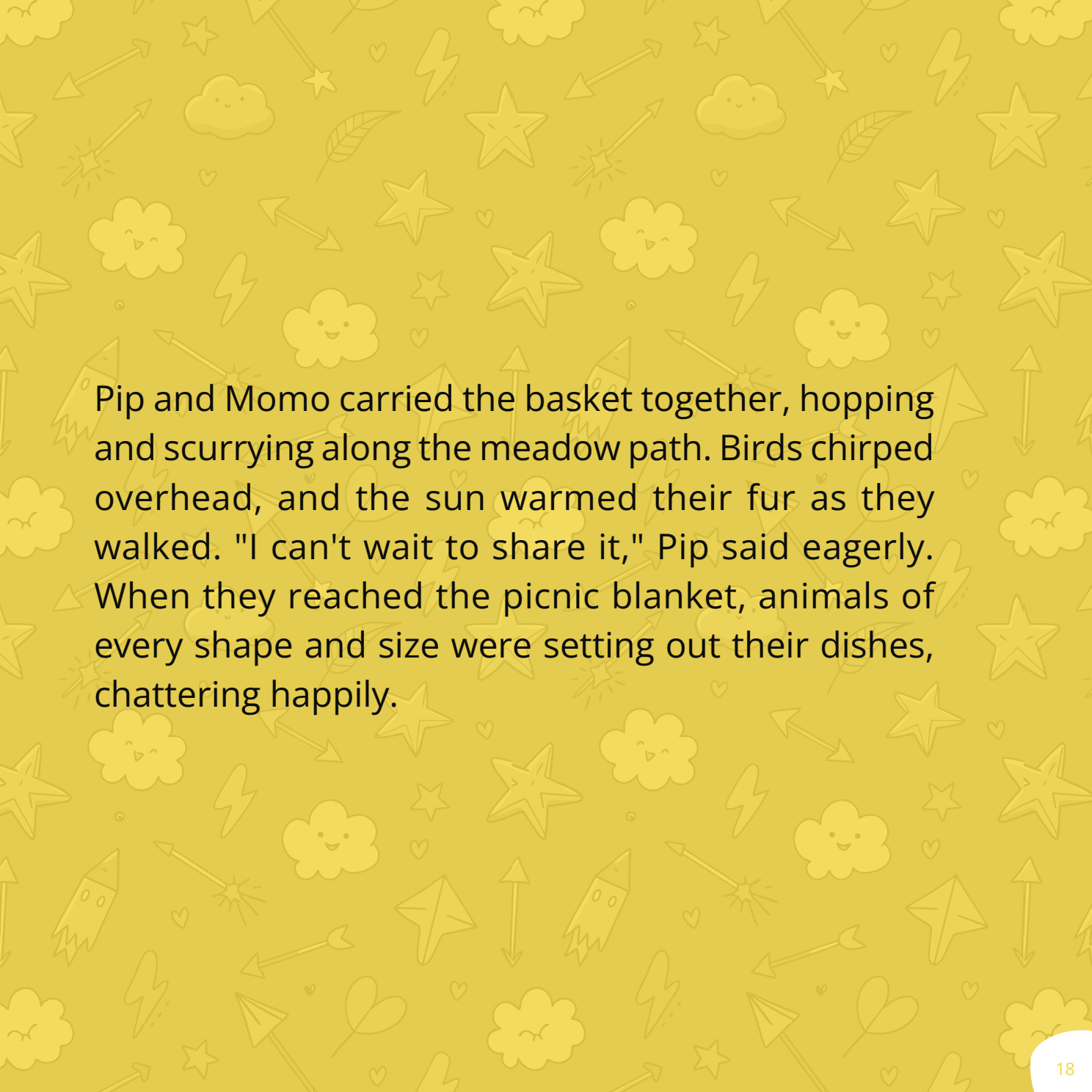
Pip wanted his salad to taste extra special for his friends. He remembered his grandmother's trick of adding a drizzle of honey and a sprinkle of mint. Momo fetched a jar of golden honey from the pantry while Pip plucked fresh mint leaves from the windowsill. They mixed everything together, and a sweet, fresh smell filled the burrow.





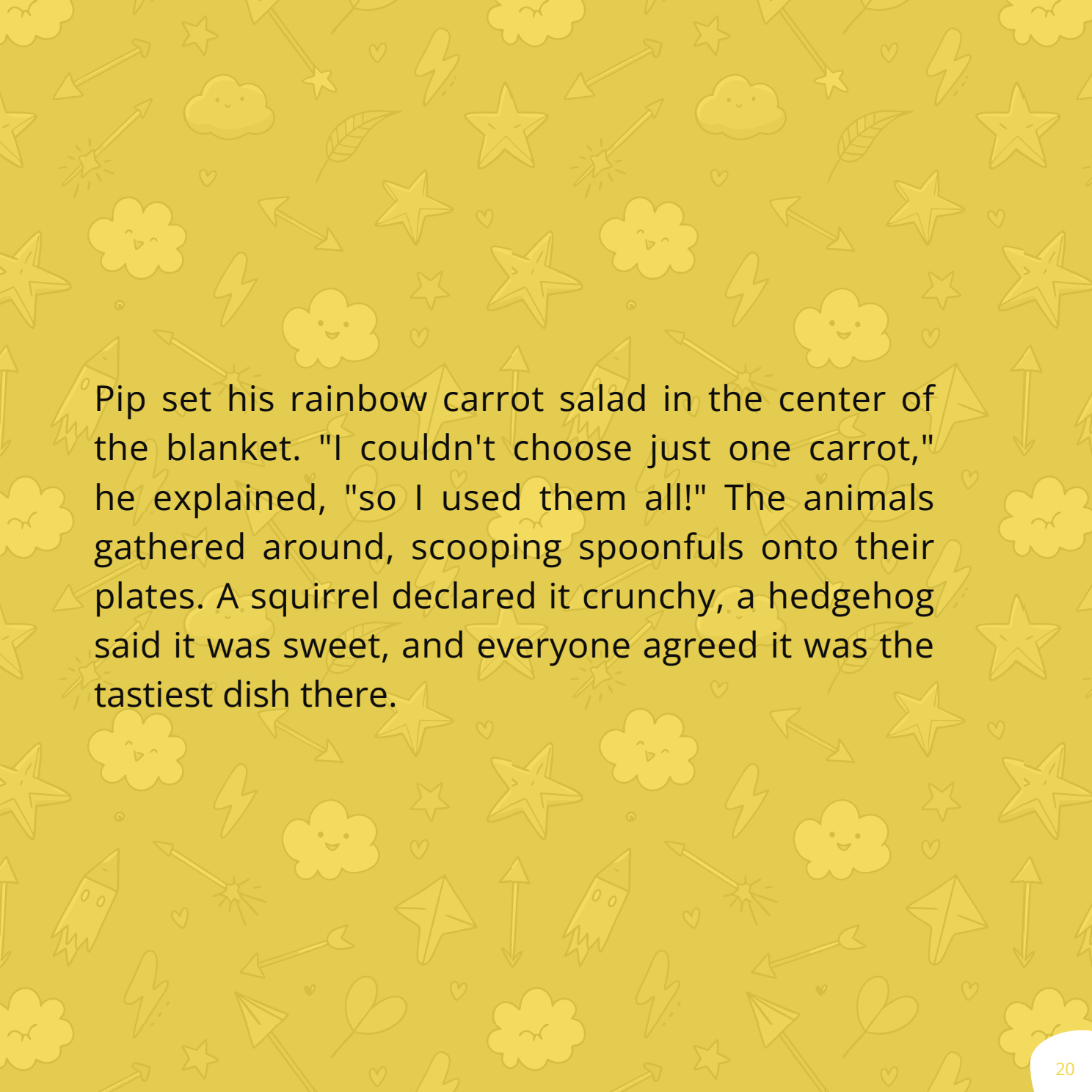
Pip dipped his paw in for a taste, then gasped happily. "It's perfect!" he exclaimed, hopping with joy. Momo tried a bite too, her whiskers wiggling with delight. "This might be the best salad in Sunny Meadow," she said. Pip beamed proudly, placing the colorful dish into his best picnic basket.





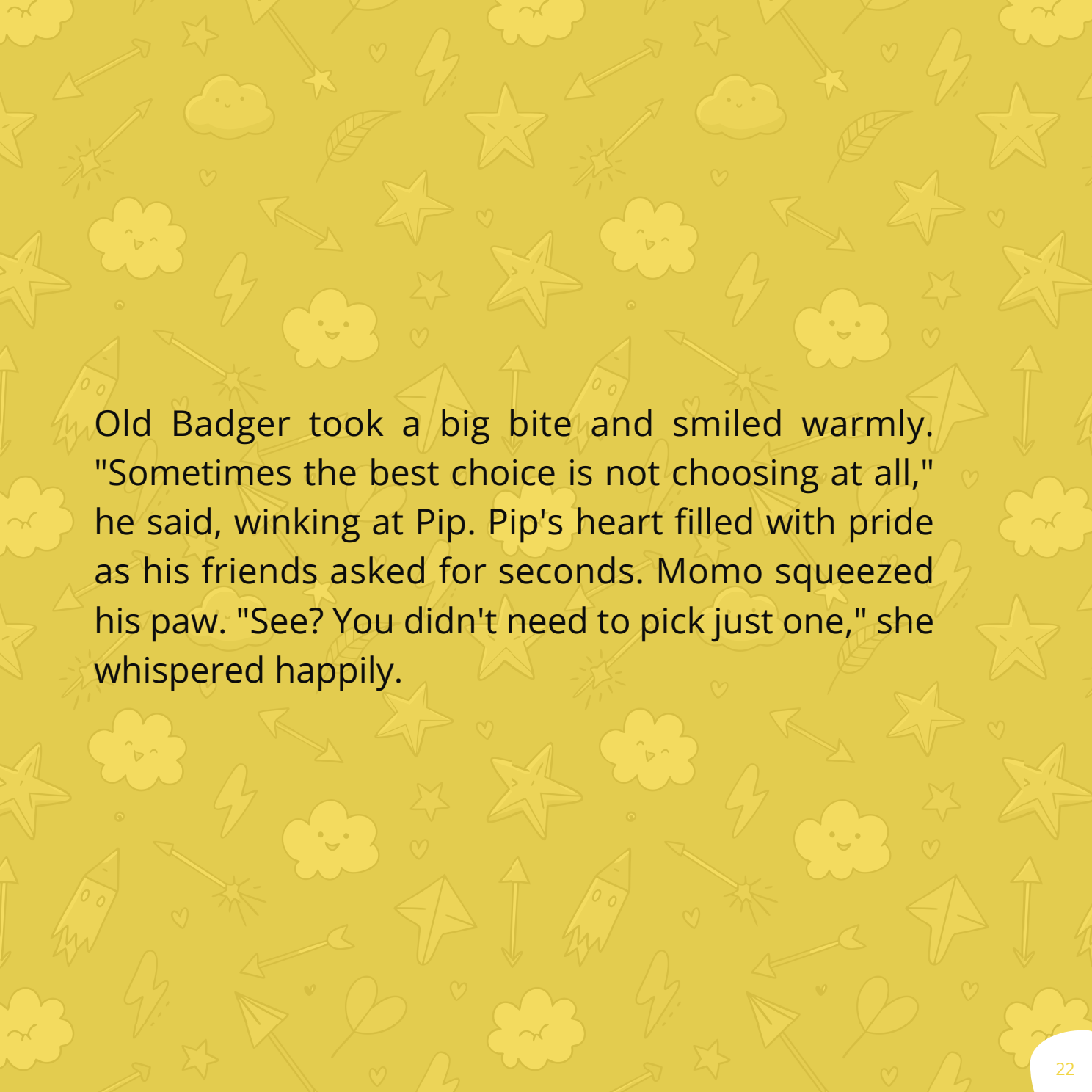
Pip and Momo carried the basket together, hopping and scurrying along the meadow path. Birds chirped overhead, and the sun warmed their fur as they walked. "I can't wait to share it," Pip said eagerly. When they reached the picnic blanket, animals of every shape and size were setting out their dishes, chattering happily.





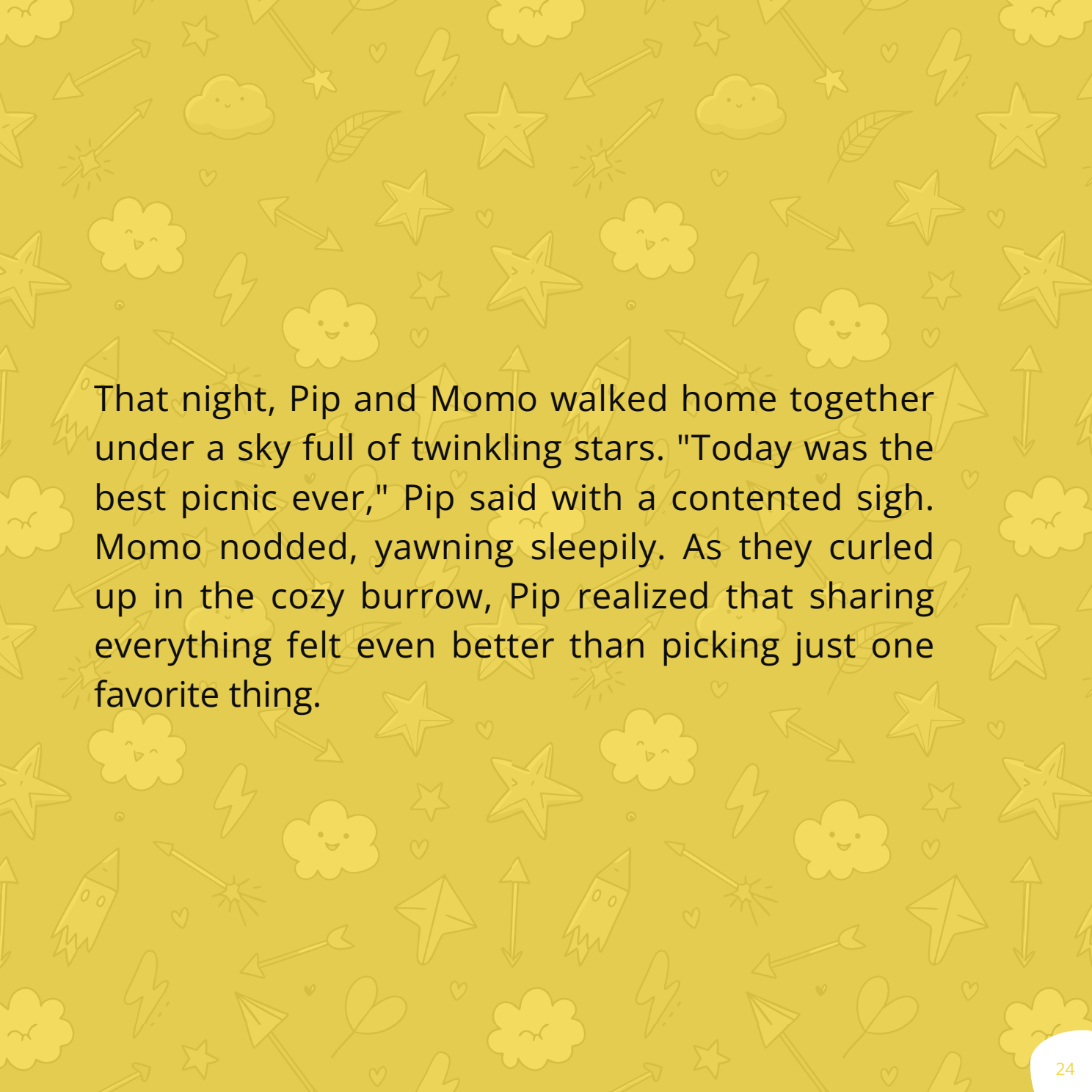
Pip set his rainbow carrot salad in the center of the blanket. "I couldn't choose just one carrot," he explained, "so I used them all!" The animals gathered around, scooping spoonfuls onto their plates. A squirrel declared it crunchy, a hedgehog said it was sweet, and everyone agreed it was the tastiest dish there.





Old Badger took a big bite and smiled warmly. "Sometimes the best choice is not choosing at all," he said, winking at Pip. Pip's heart filled with pride as his friends asked for seconds. Momo squeezed his paw. "See? You didn't need to pick just one," she whispered happily.





That night, Pip and Momo walked home together under a sky full of twinkling stars. "Today was the best picnic ever," Pip said with a contented sigh. Momo nodded, yawning sleepily. As they curled up in the cozy burrow, Pip realized that sharing everything felt even better than picking just one favorite thing.



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