

TAREA THE MUD MONSTER



♀
Suzie the Gnat



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Suzie and Jared were best buds

Suzie was a gnat, Jared was made of mud.

They lived in a swamp, it was their home

Just the two of them, all alone.





While playing 'I spy' one sunny day

Suzie and Jared spied kids at play

Catching frogs and playing games at the pond.

Alone in the swamp, Jared and Suzie yawned.





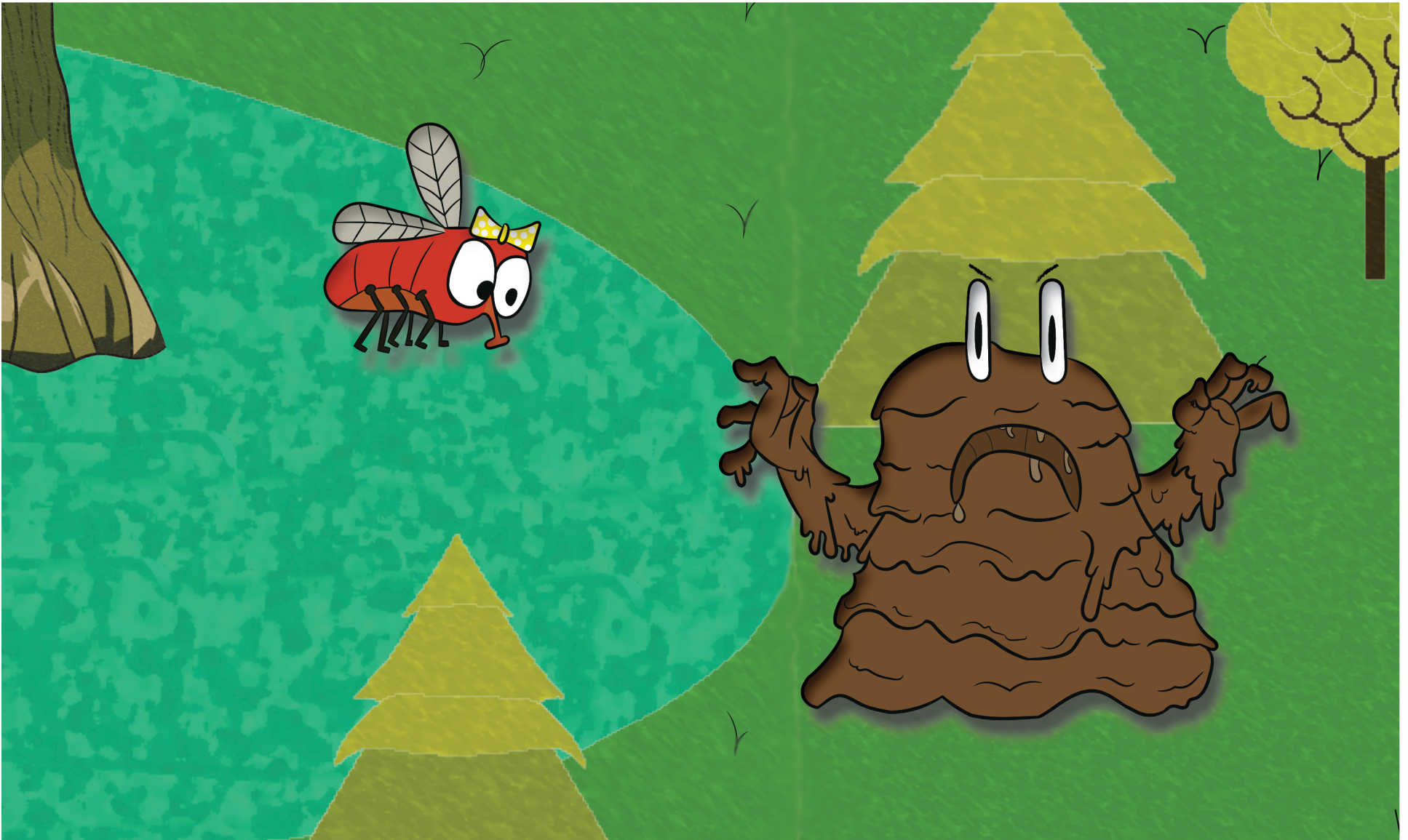
Suzie said, “Jared, let’s go and join in the fun.”

Jared said, “No, I won’t be liked by anyone.

Look at me, I’m all dirty and gross.”

“But you’re a great guy,” said Suzie.

“I like you the most!”



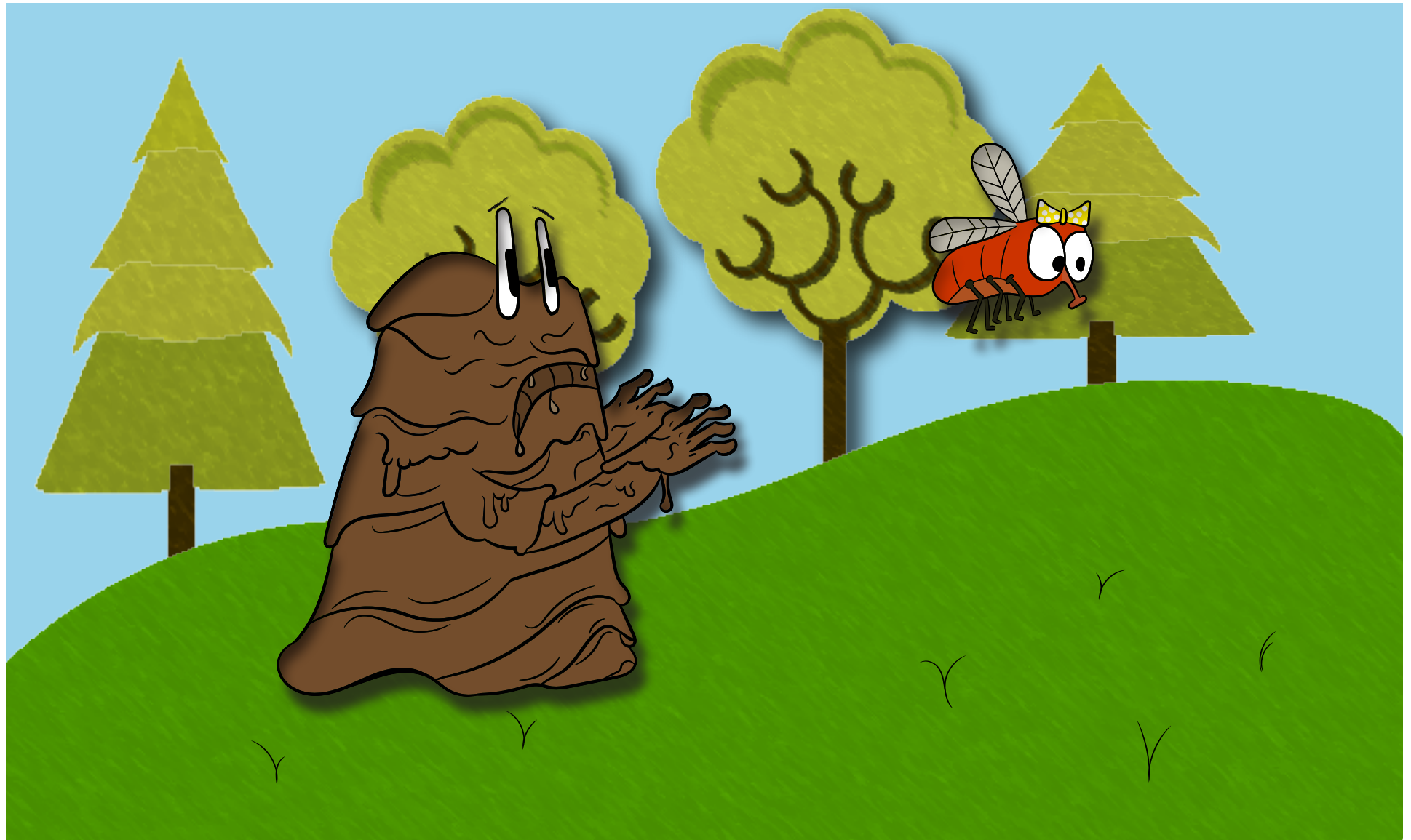


“Well,” said Jared. “Maybe if I can get clean we can go over and play.”

**“That’s a great idea,” said Suzie.
“There must be a way!”**

They got some ideas and put them in action.

Could they clean Jared to his satisfaction?





Suzie and Jared tried lots of things.

They started at the park going super fast on
the swings.

The *WHOOSH* of the wind wasn't quite
good enough.

It was time to try some other stuff.



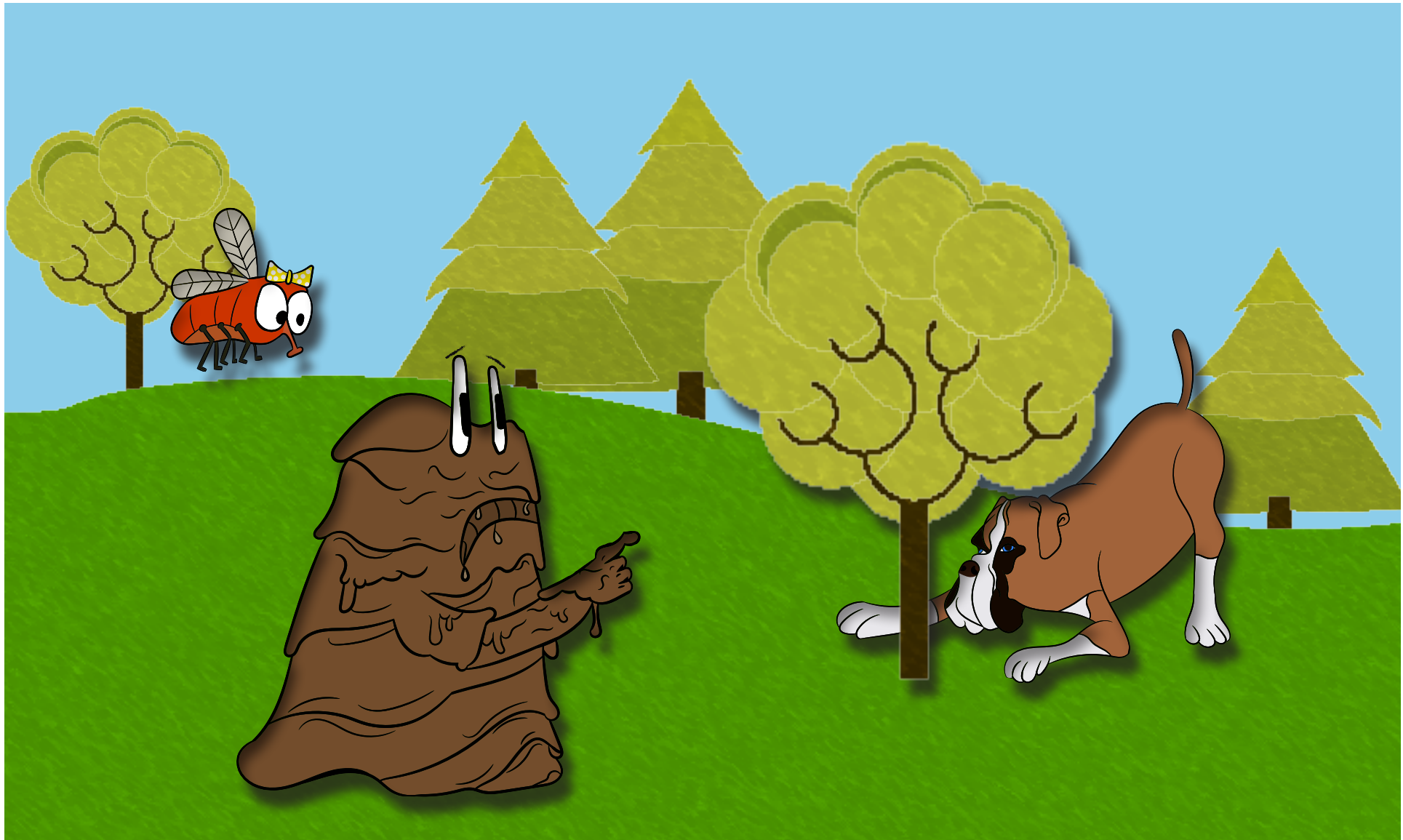


They spotted a dog who was sniffing a tree.

Jared pointed and said, “Maybe he can help me.”

**Jared and Suzie discovered the dog’s name
was Nick.**

To help clean Jared Nick offered lots of licks.



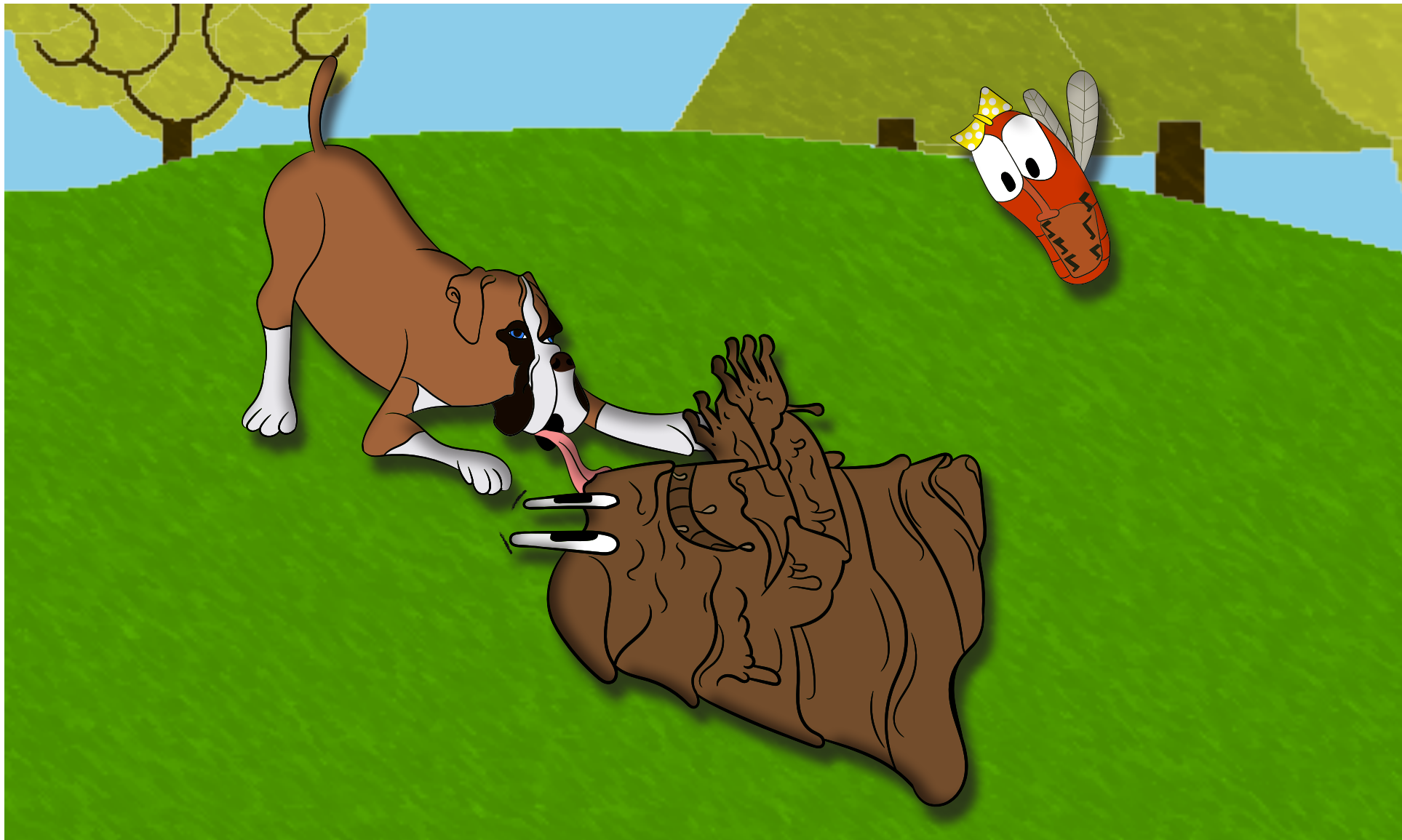


Nick began to lick and Jared began to giggle.

Nick tickled Jared so much that he started to wiggle.

“You’re tickling me,” said Jared. “This simply will not do.”

“Then come with me,” said Nick. “I’ve got another idea for you.”





They followed Nick up a hill as quick as they could.

Then they all rolled down like a big log of wood.

At the bottom, Nick looked clean but Jared did not

Because in his muddy coat, everything got caught.





Jared's spirits were down, it seemed nothing would work.

Jared cried, "All of this trying is driving me berserk!"

"Here," said Suzie, buzzing about the trees.

"Try wiping yourself off with these big leaves."



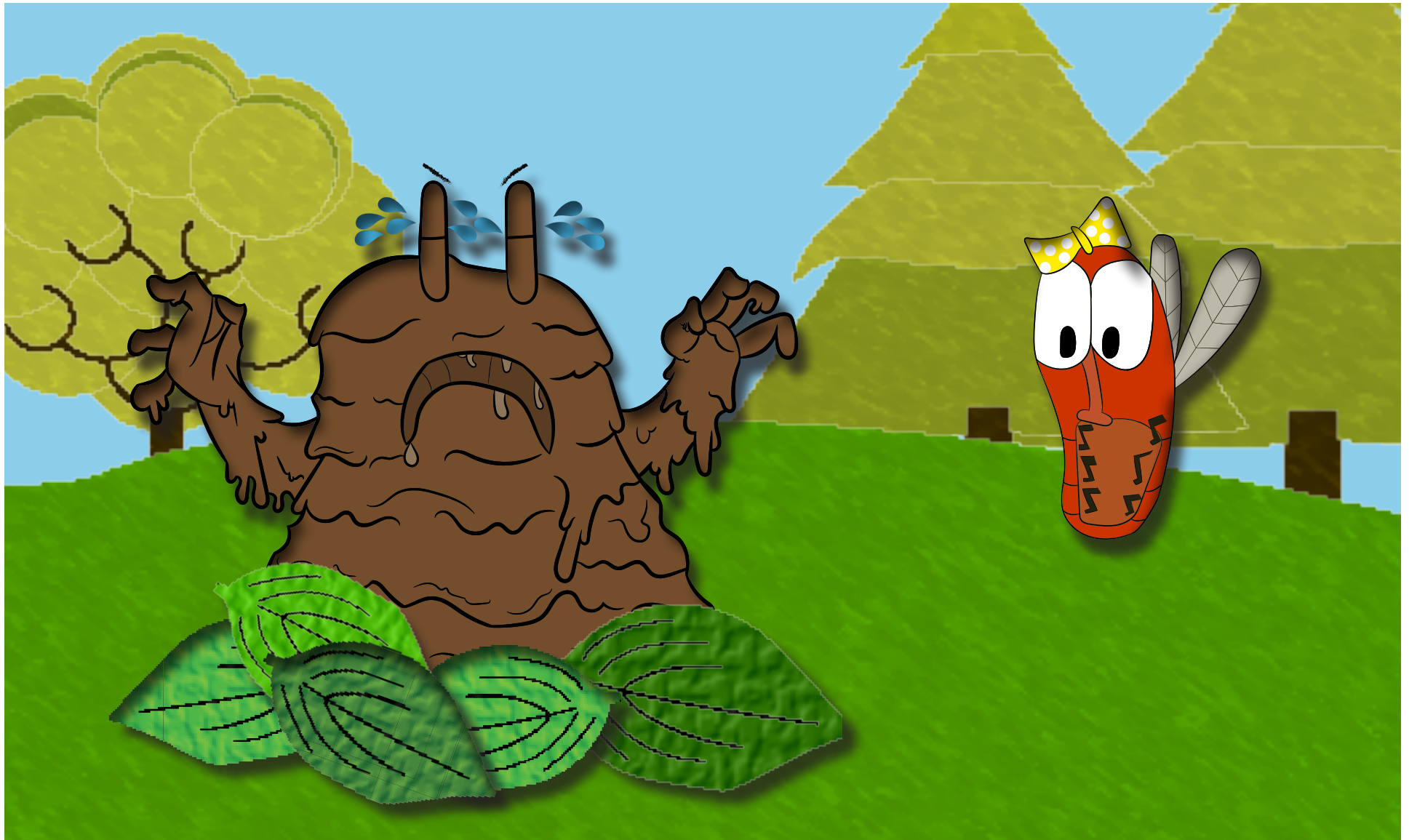


Jared tried this idea but it also failed.

“Nothing will work!” he screamed and he wailed.

Suzie felt bad for her best friend.

“This is some trouble I think I can end.”





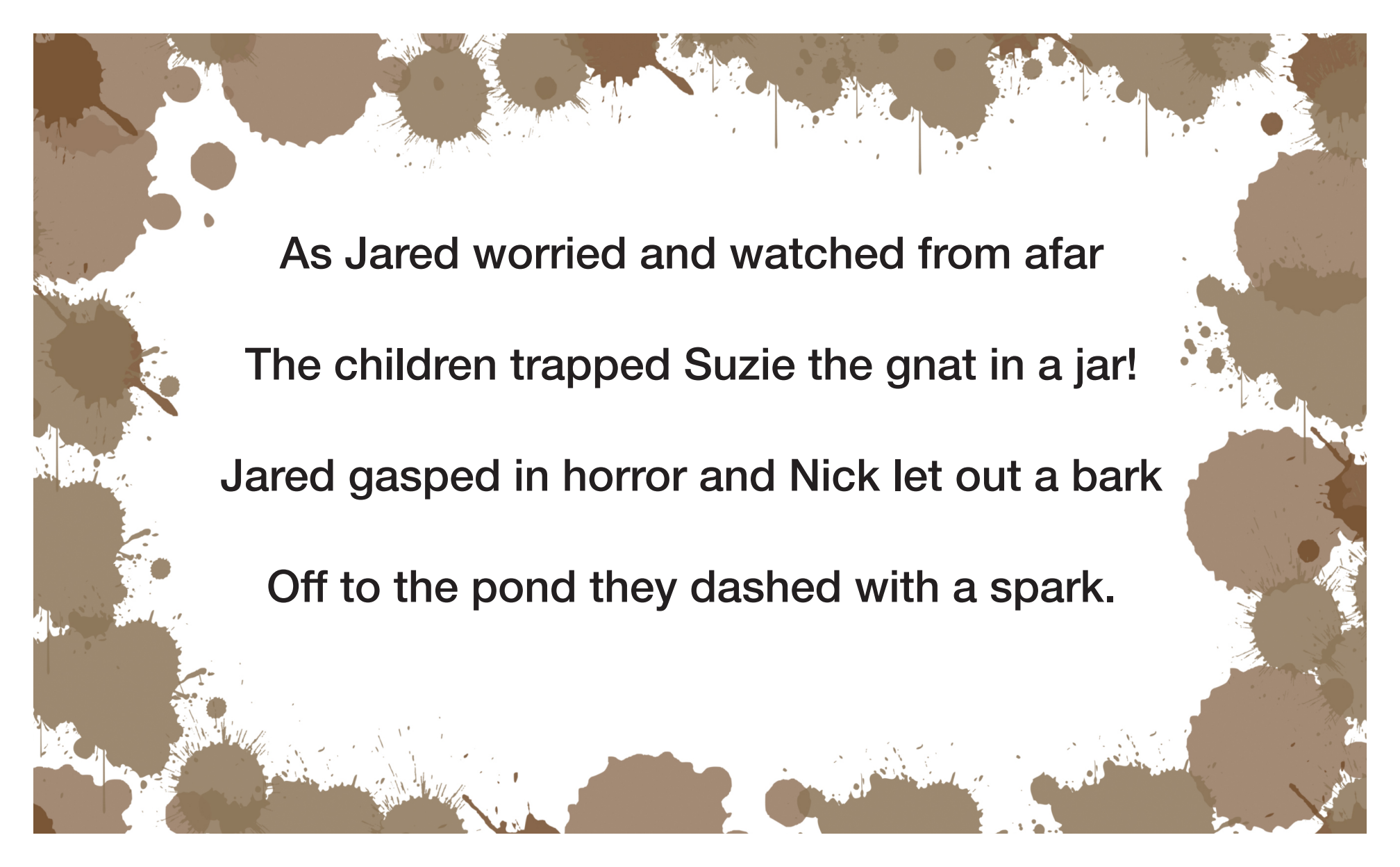
She built up her courage and here's what she did:

She flew to the pond to talk to a kid.

Jared looked on with some doubt in his mind.

He couldn't imagine those kids being kind.





**As Jared worried and watched from afar
The children trapped Suzie the gnat in a jar!
Jared gasped in horror and Nick let out a bark
Off to the pond they dashed with a spark.**





“Stop!” shouted Jared. “That’s my friend Suzie.

If you keep her in there she’ll get all dizzy and woozy!”

The kids looked at Jared with awe in their eyes.

They’d never seen such a sight, what a surprise.





They stared and they stared, they stared quite a while...

Until one of them shouted, “Let’s make a mud pile!”

“Mrmph, gurgle mrmph,” Jared said. “I can’t breathe.”

The kids slid off Jared and yelled, “please don’t leave.”





“I only came to rescue Suzie,” Jared replied in shock.

The children stood around Jared in one big flock.

“We promise if you stay we will set her free.”

“Really?” Jared was confused.

“You want to play with me?”





“Of course,” said the kids. “You seem like a lot of fun.

“Wow,” said Jared. “I thought I would make you all run.”

**“No way,” said the kids. “Our parents make us wash with
soap, water and suds**

We hate being clean, we love to play in the mud.”





They let Suzie go and they all played together.

They played in the swamp in the muddiest weather.

Jared transformed his body into a mudslide

They slid down one by one, each had a ride.



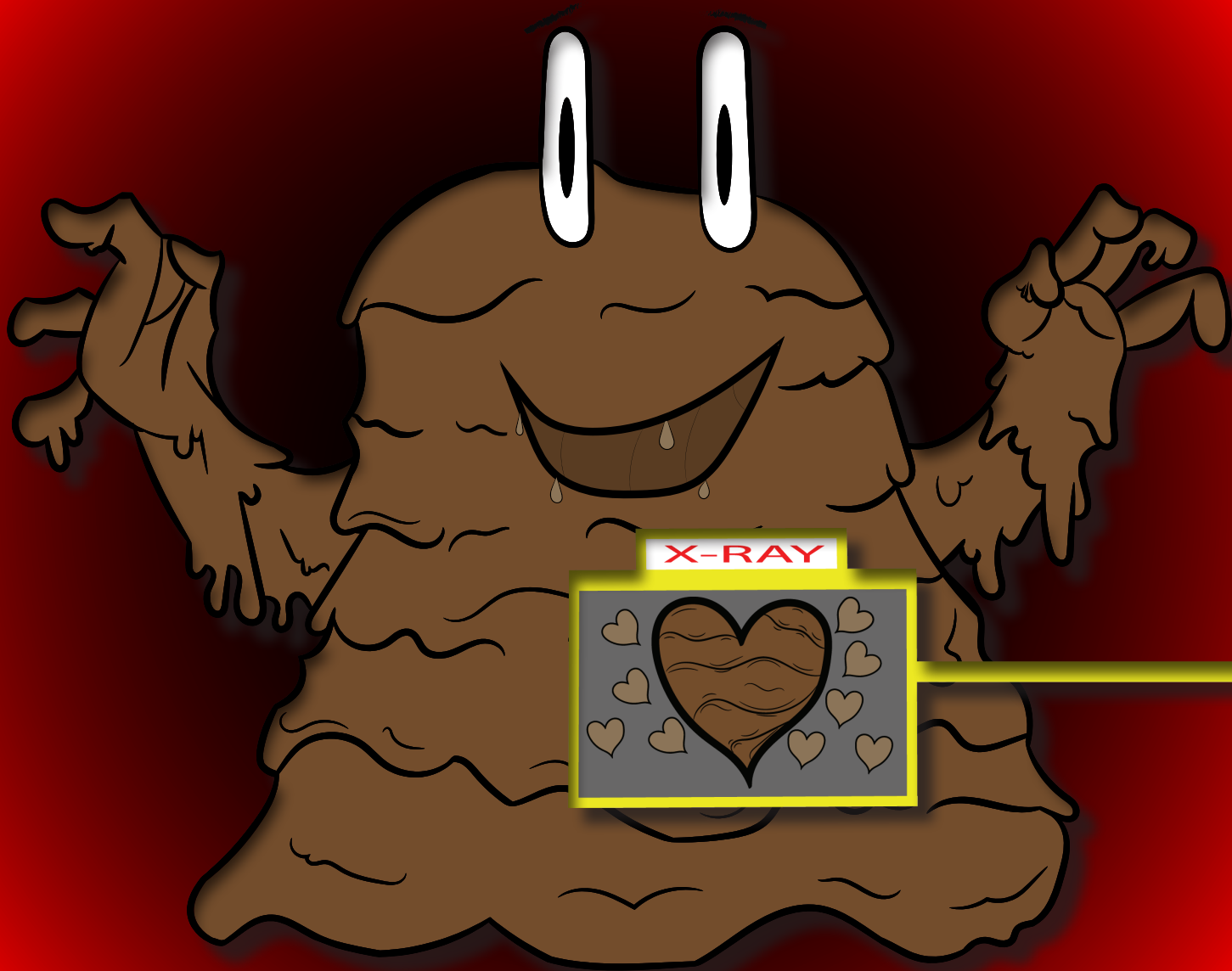


They made mud houses, mud bakeries too.

A mud pie for me and a mud pie for you!

They'd had lots of fun but it came time to part.

Jared felt warm and happy in his big muddy heart.





He said,

“Come back again if it’s not too much of a hassle.”

The kids answered,

“We’ll be back tomorrow to build a mud castle.”





Jared and Suzie learned something really neat.

Being yourself and making friends is such a sweet treat.

Not only that, they learned about appearances too.

**It doesn't matter what you look like,
you just have to be you!**



Jared the Mud Monster and his best friend Suzie the Gnat go on an adventure trying to make Jared appear less scary, making many friends along the way!

However, Jared learns some very important lessons about being your self and making friendships!

This book is filled with important self-acceptance messages and learning to be yourself. Important messages for children of all ages!

