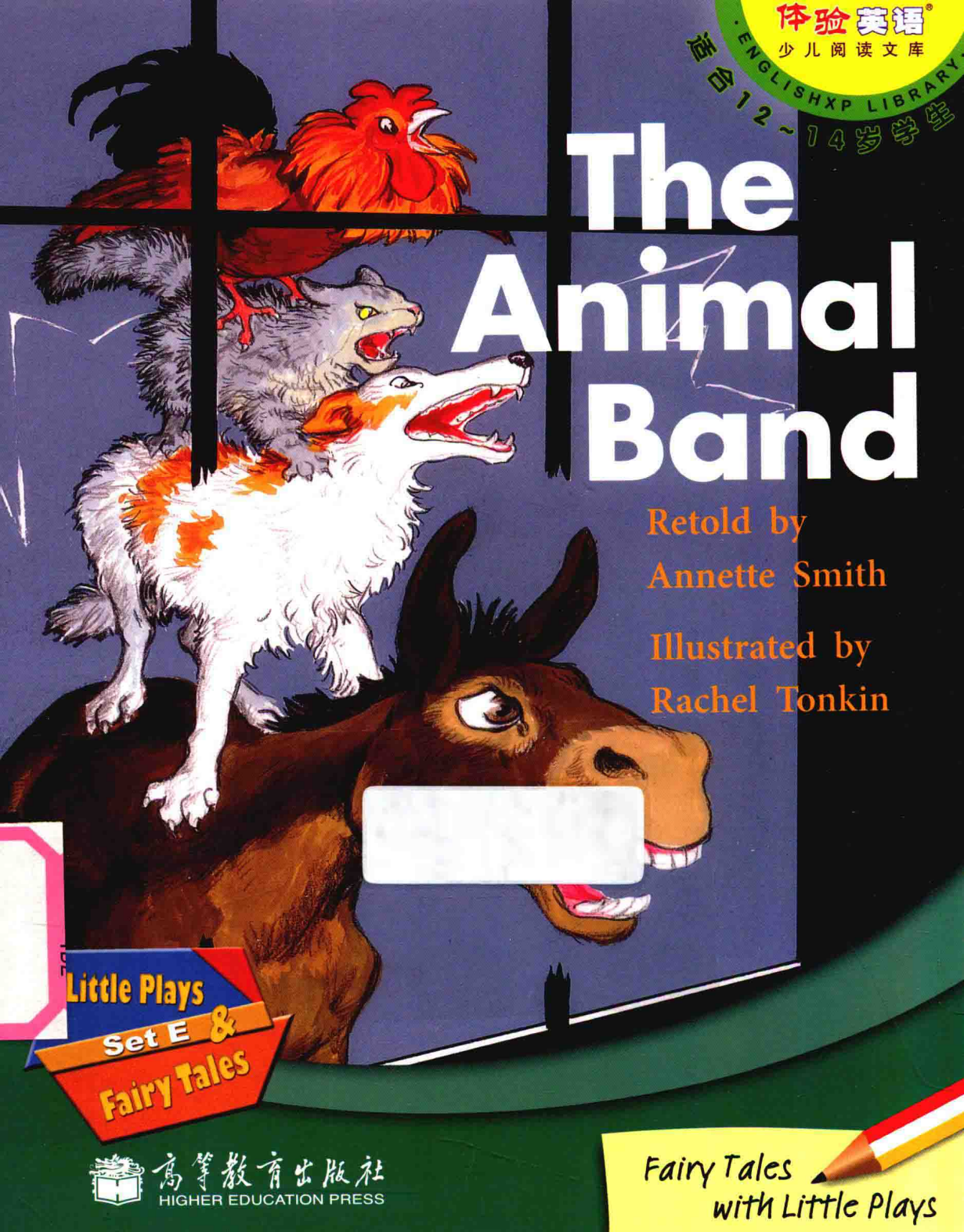


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The Animal Band

Retold by
Annette Smith
Illustrated by
Rachel Tonkin



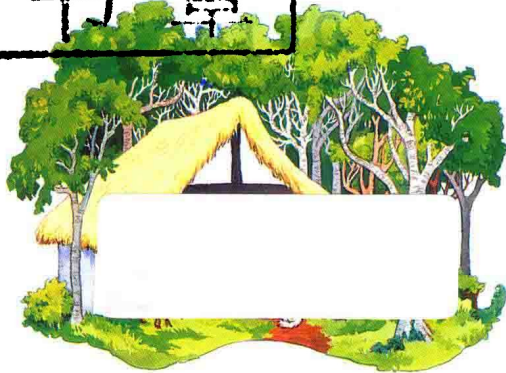
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Fairy Tales
with Little Plays

The Animal Band

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主任: 刘道义 张连仲

编者: 刘春英 刘剑 谢卫军 武守侠 陈安琪

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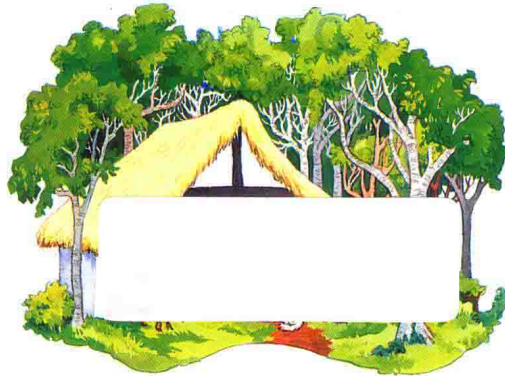
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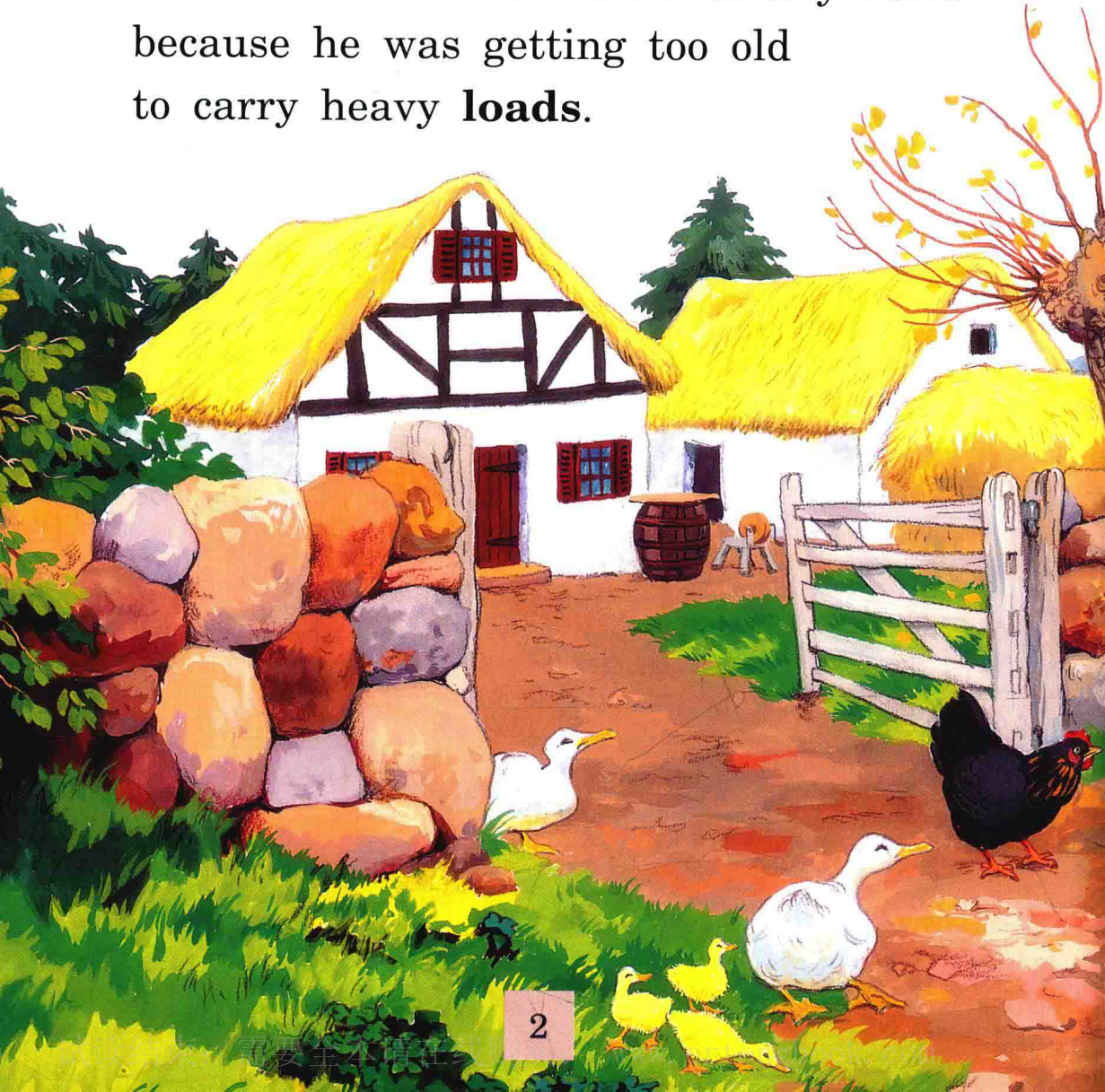
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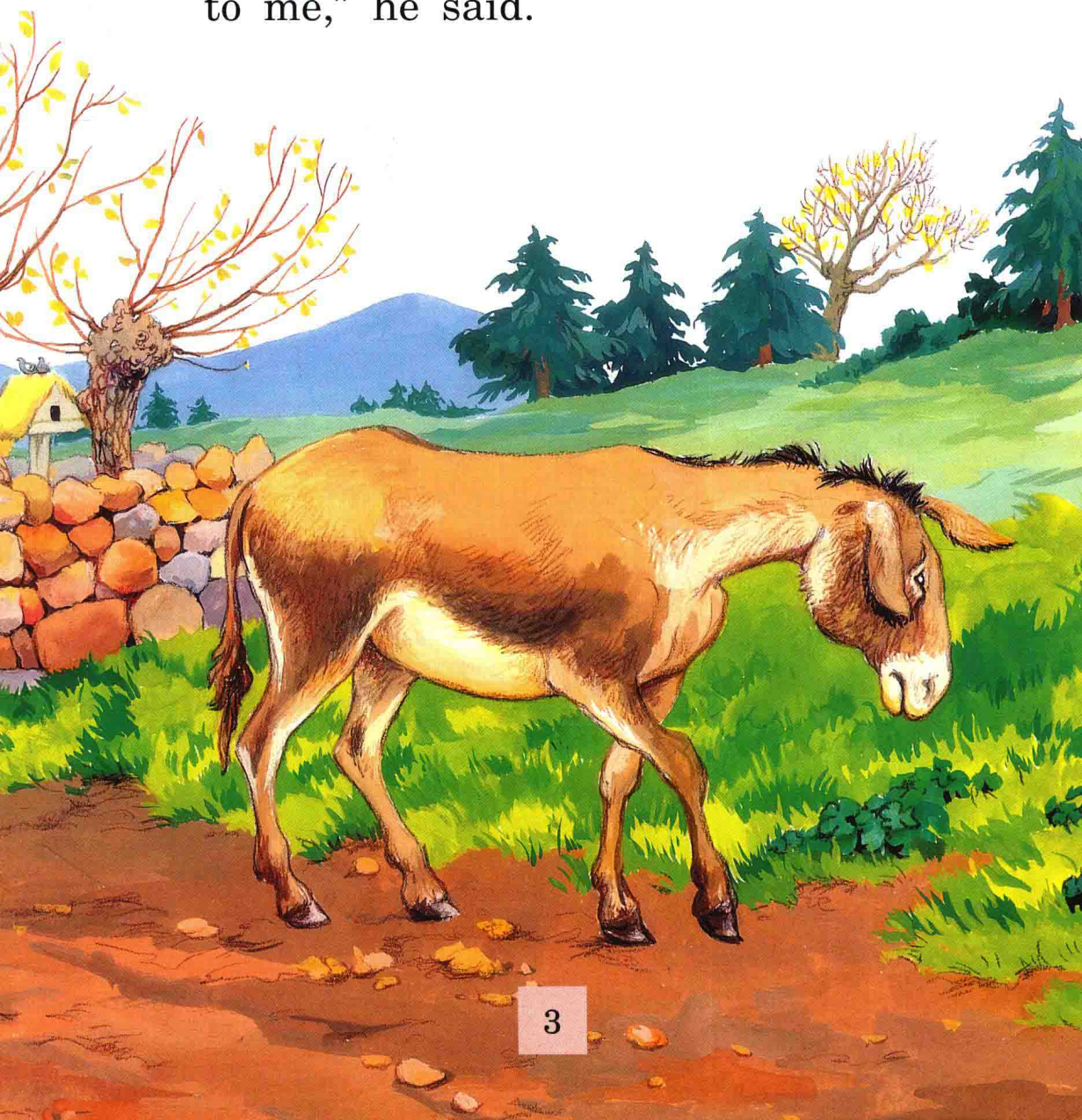


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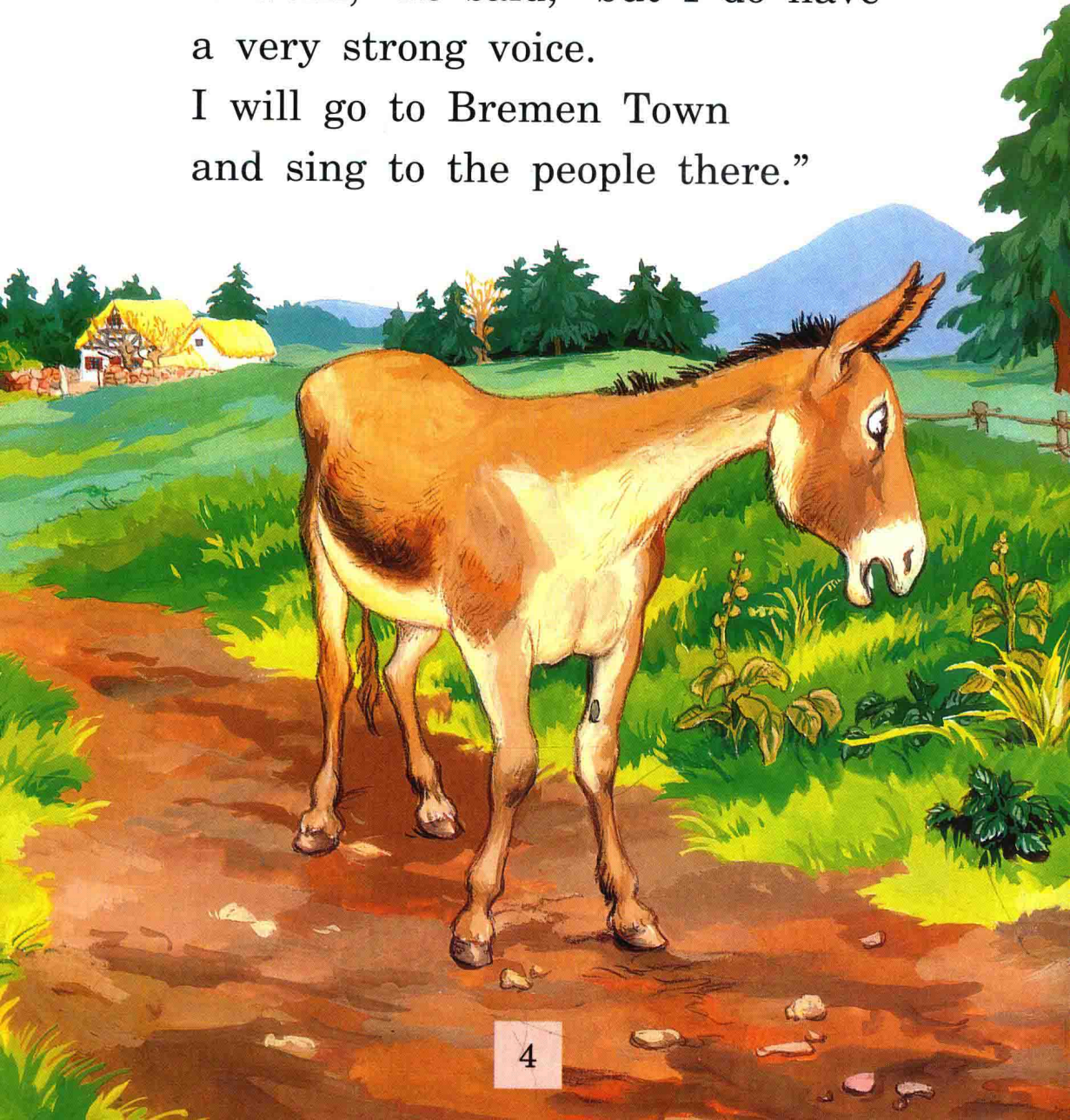
Once upon a time,
there was an old donkey
who lived on a farm.
His **master** didn't want him any more
because he was getting too old
to carry heavy **loads**.



The old donkey was very sad.
“I will have to go away
before something happens
to me,” he said.



So off he **hobbled** down the road.
“I may not be strong enough
to work,” he said, “but I do have
a very strong voice.
I will go to Bremen Town
and sing to the people there.”

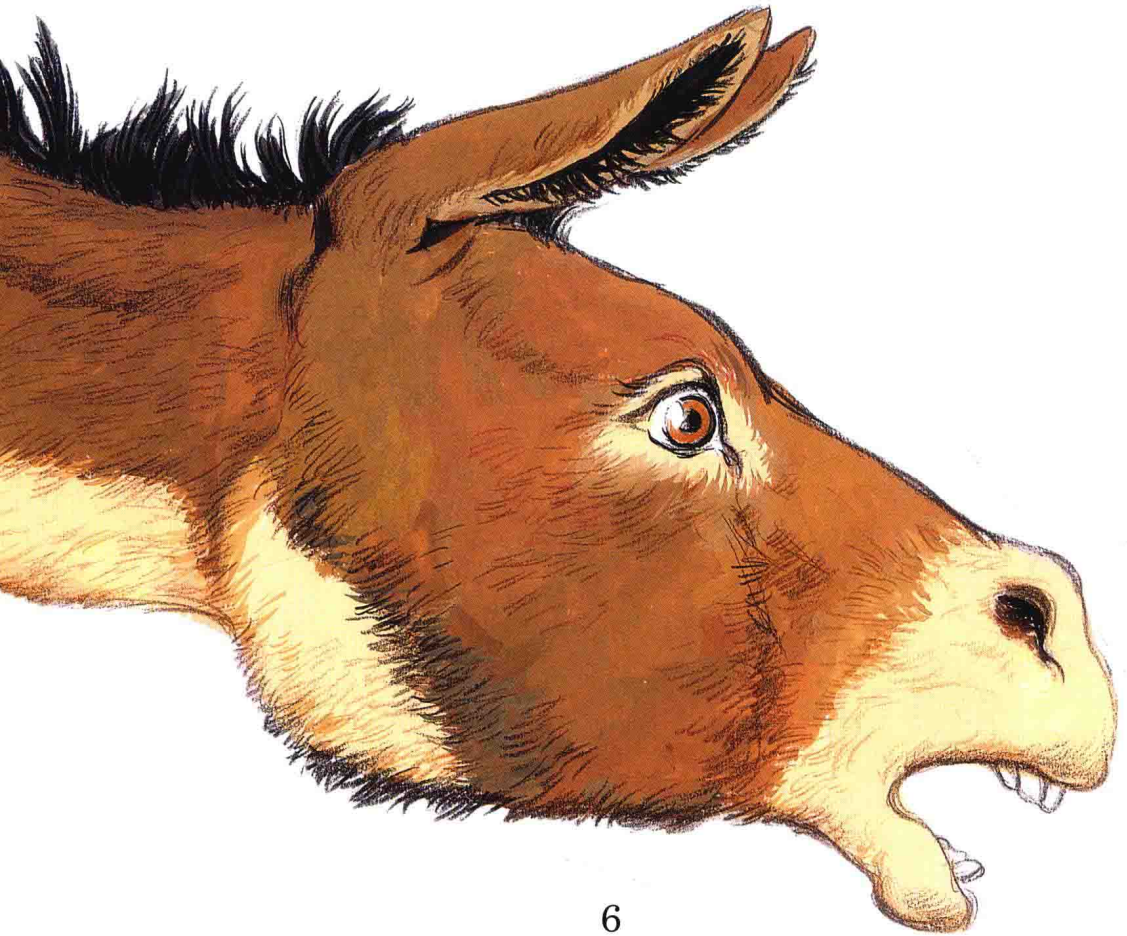


The donkey had not gone far
when he met an old dog
resting by the side of the road.



“What are you doing here?”
asked the donkey.

“My master doesn’t want me any more,”
said the old dog,
“because I am too old
to go hunting with him.”

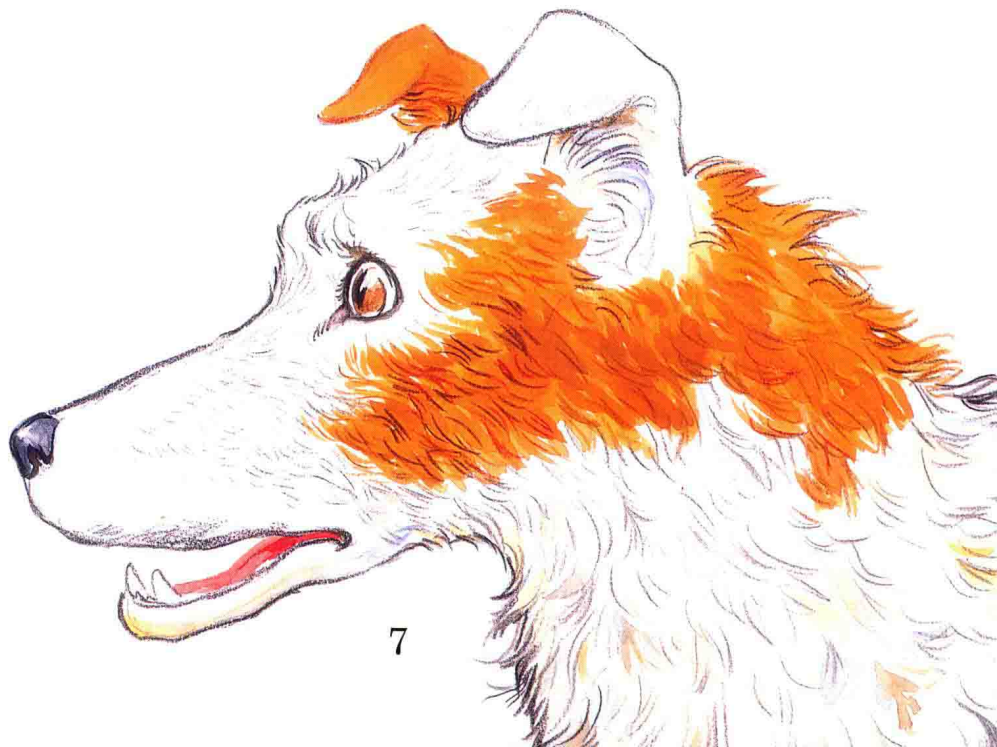


“Can you sing?” asked the donkey.

“I have a very fine voice,”
barked the dog.

“Then come with me to Bremen Town,”
said the donkey.

“You can sing in my **band.**”

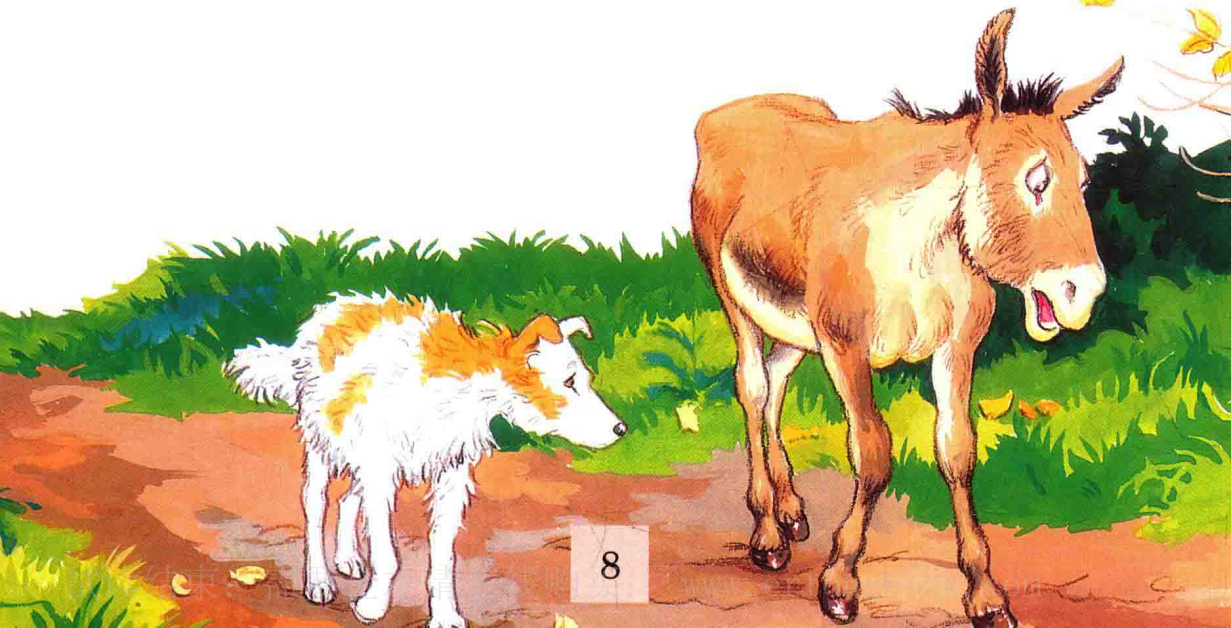


So off they went together down the road.

They had not gone far
when they met an old cat
lying under a tree,
meowing sadly to herself.

“What is the matter?” asked the donkey.

“My master doesn’t want me any more,”
said the old cat,
“because I am too old to hunt mice.”

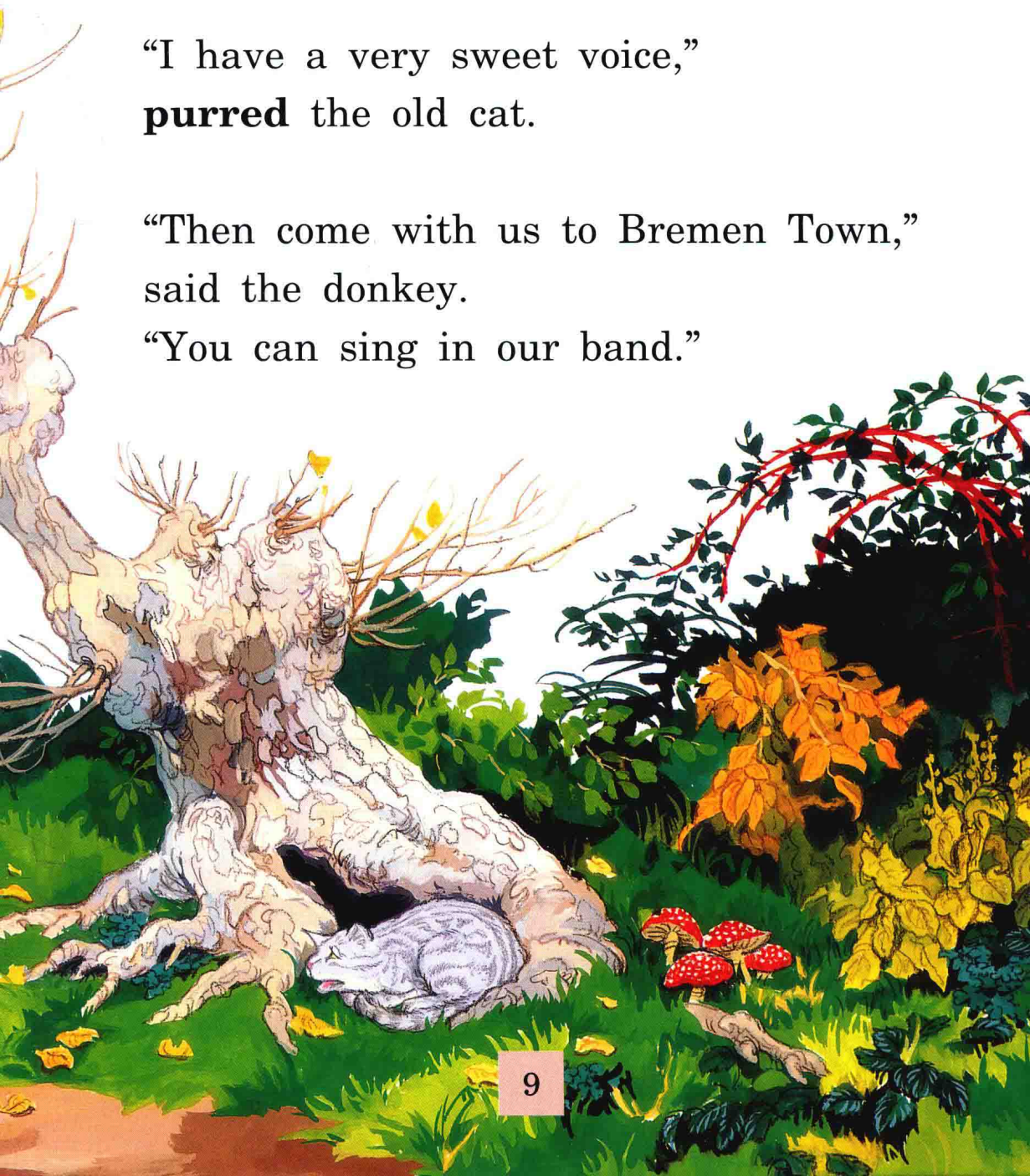


“Can you sing?” asked the donkey.

“I have a very sweet voice,”
purred the old cat.

“Then come with us to Bremen Town,”
said the donkey.

“You can sing in our band.”

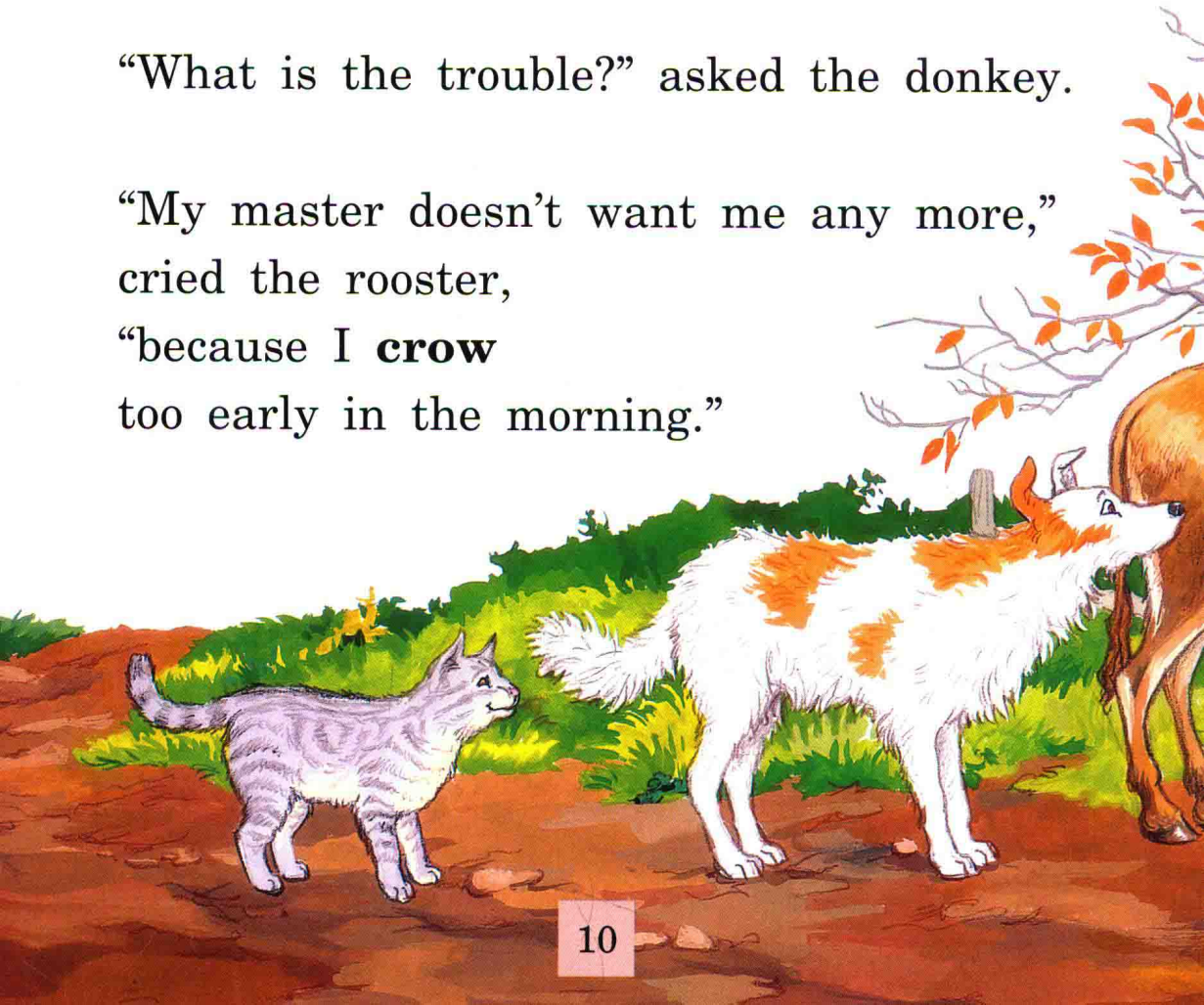


The donkey and the dog and the cat
went on down the road together.

Soon they saw a **rooster**
standing on a fence post
flapping his wings.

“What is the trouble?” asked the donkey.

“My master doesn’t want me any more,”
cried the rooster,
“because I **crow**
too early in the morning.”

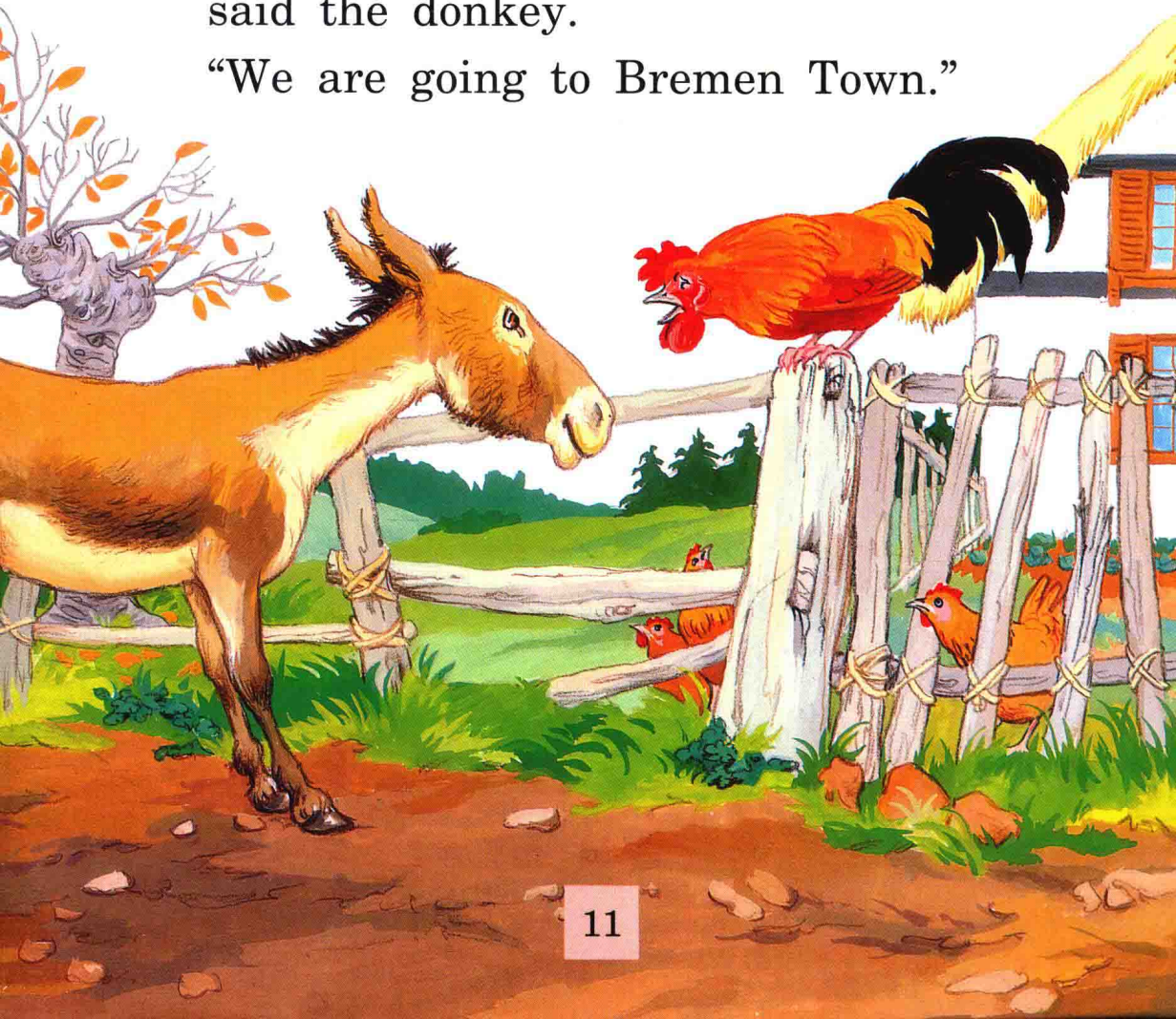


“Can you sing?” asked the donkey.

“I have a **splendid** voice,”
crowed the rooster.

“Then come and join our band,”
said the donkey.

“We are going to Bremen Town.”



As it grew dark,
the four friends came to a forest.
They were all tired
and stopped to rest by a tree.

“I’ll keep watch from up here,”
called the rooster
from the topmost branch of the tree.
“I can see a house with a light
in the window,” he said.

“We could go there for the night,”
said the donkey. “It is cold out here.”





When they got to the house,
the donkey **peered** in the window.

“Who’s in there?” **whispered** the cat.

“There are some **fierce** men
sitting around a table
eating and drinking,” said the donkey.

“They have big sharp knives
and sacks of gold with them.”

