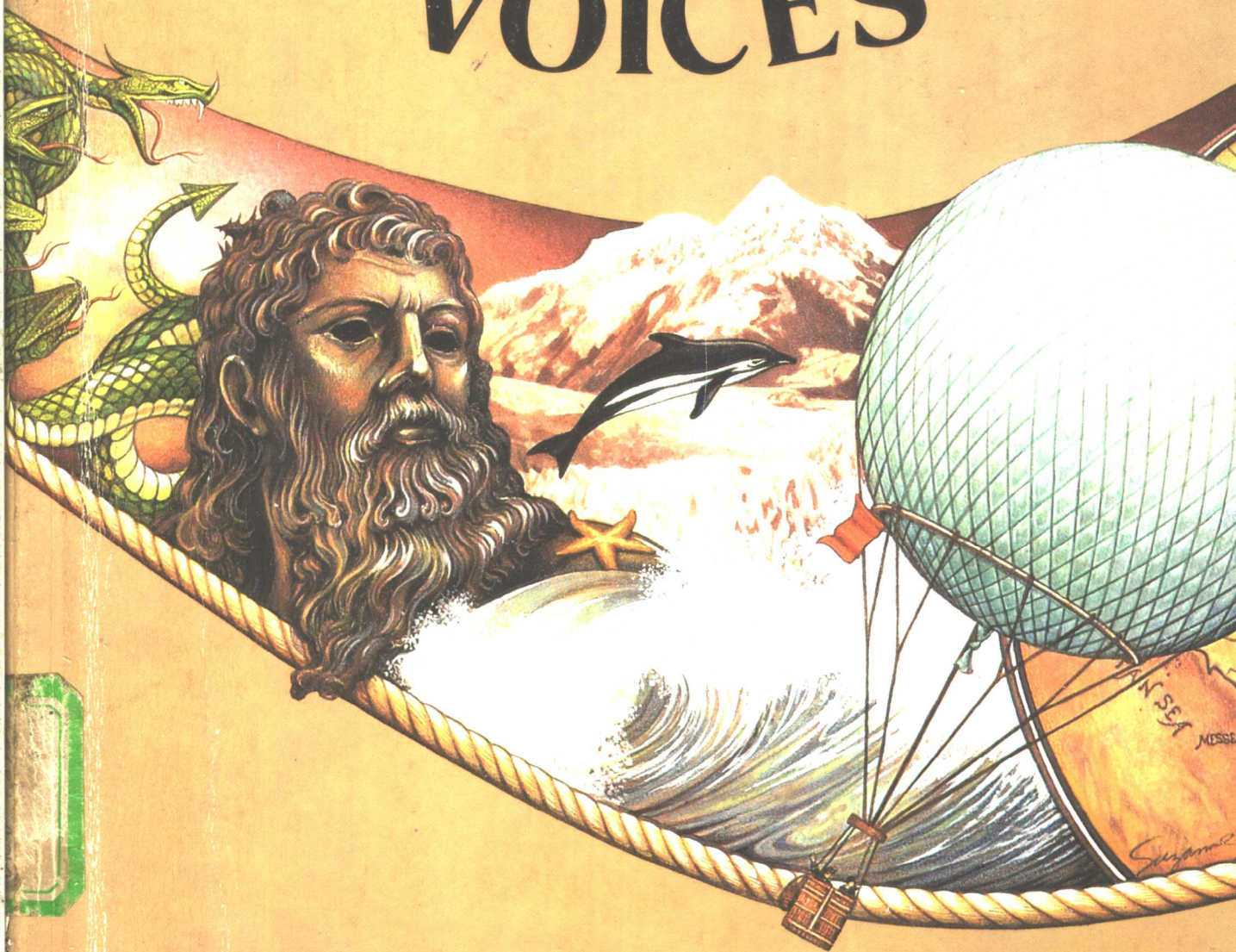


VOICES





VOICES

SENIOR AUTHORS

Virginia A. Arnold · Carl B. Smith

LITERATURE CONSULTANTS

Joan I. Glazer · Margaret H. Lippert

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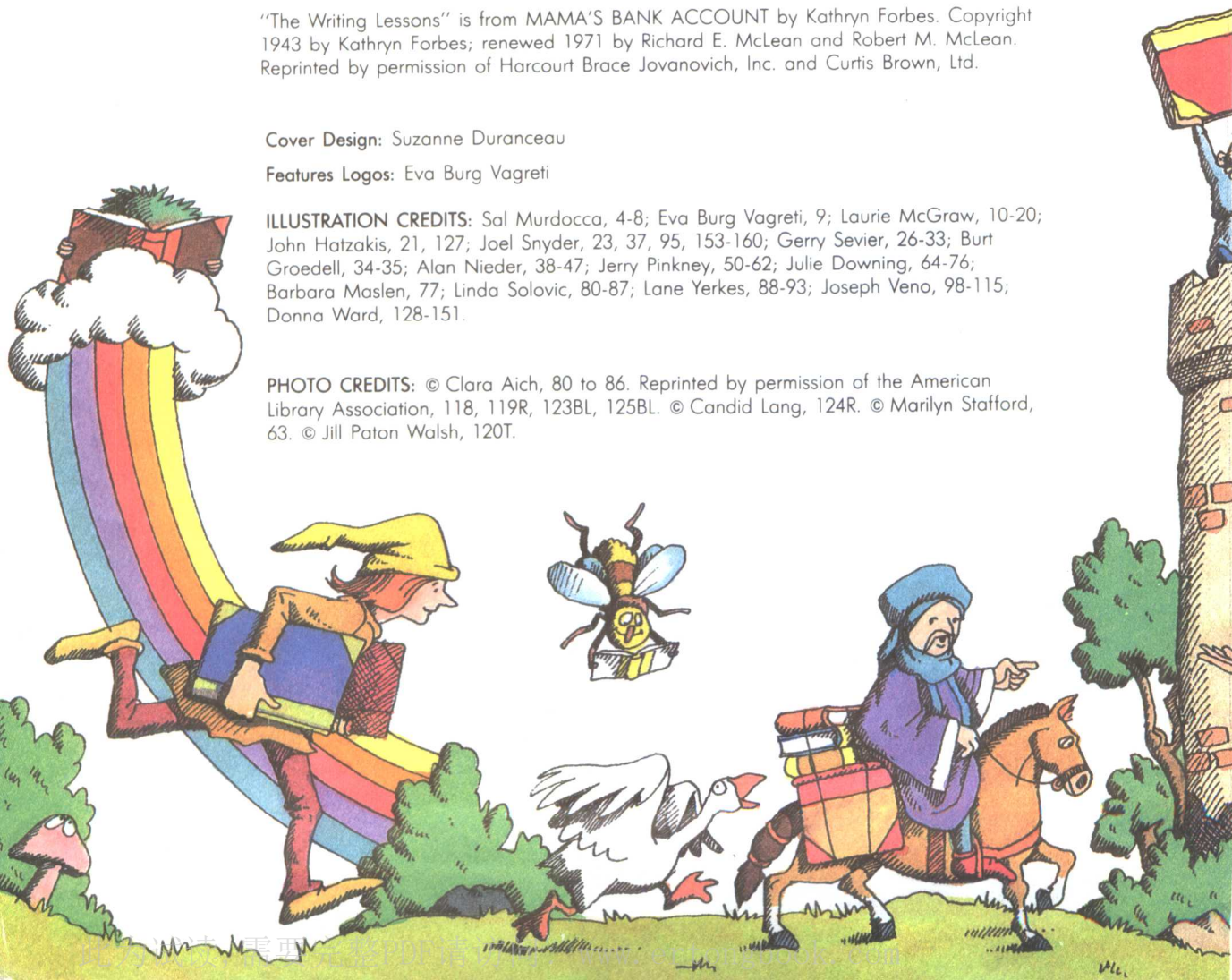
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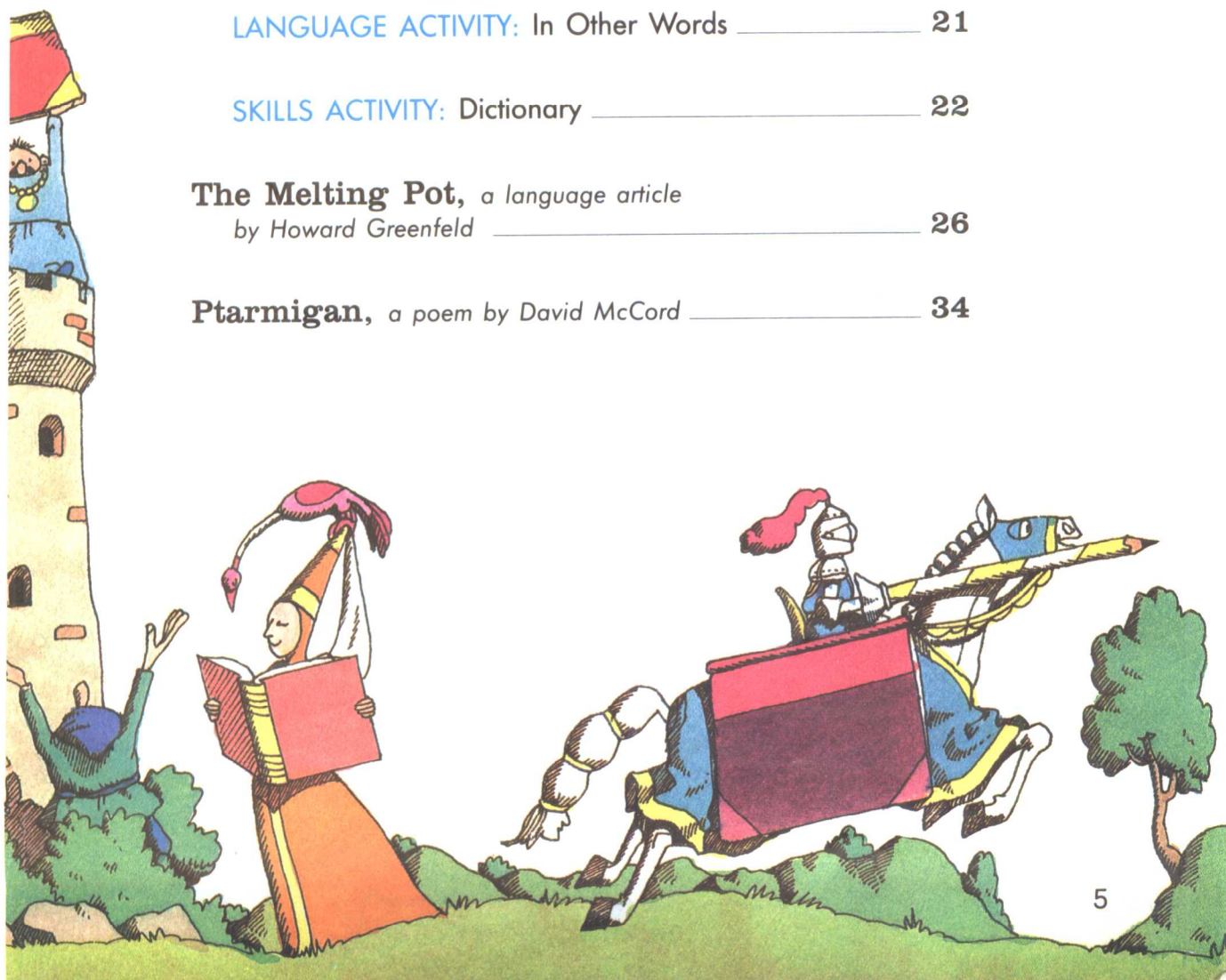
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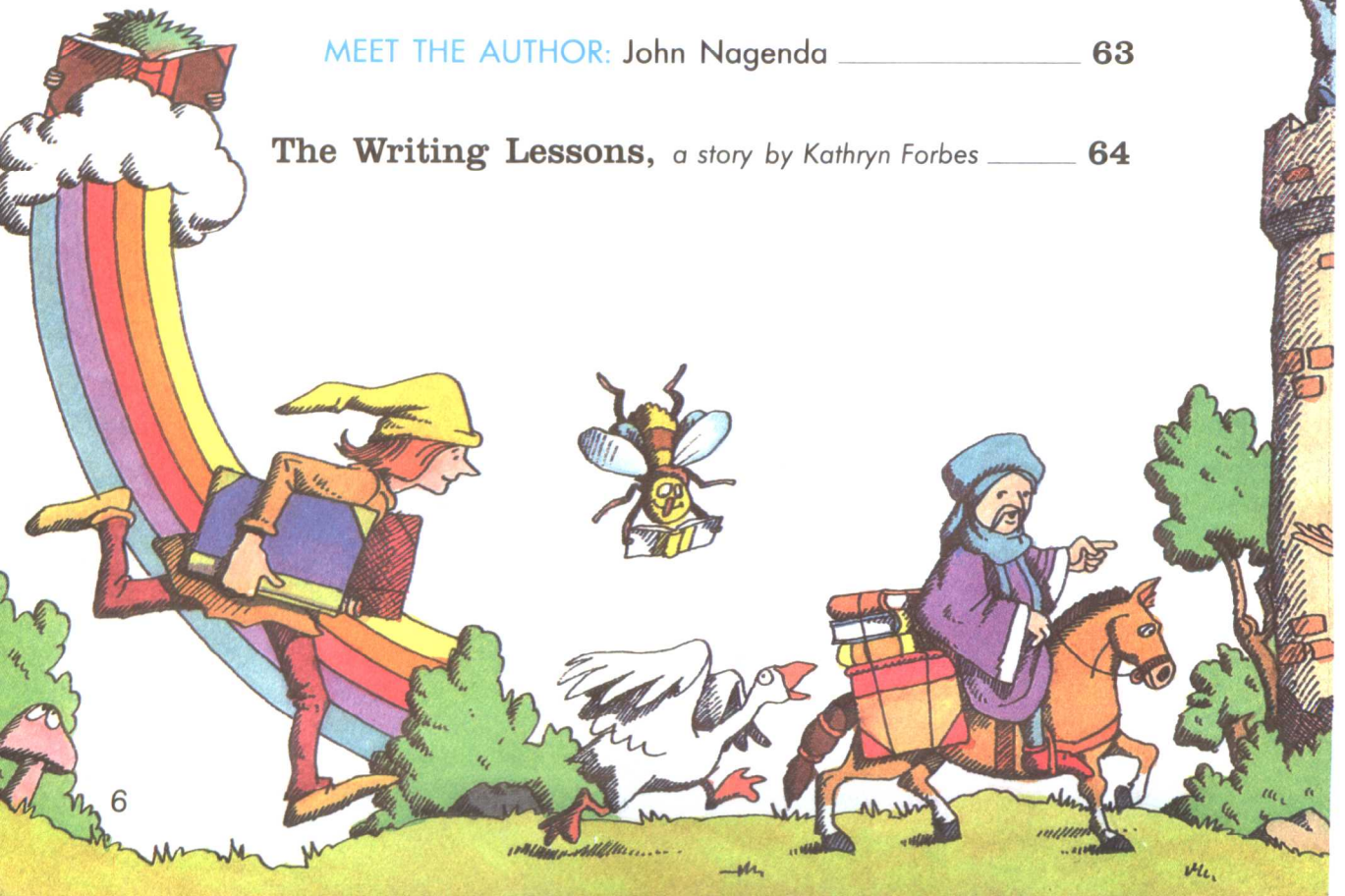
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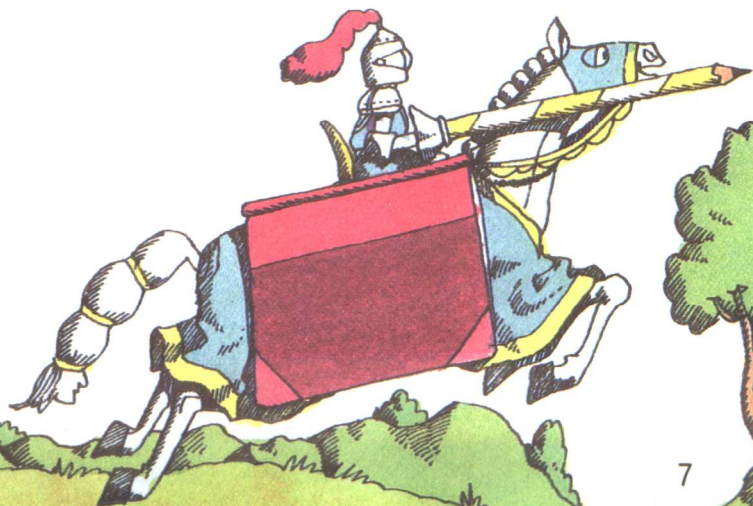
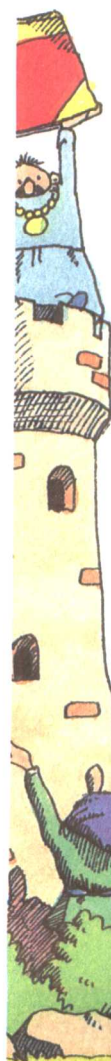
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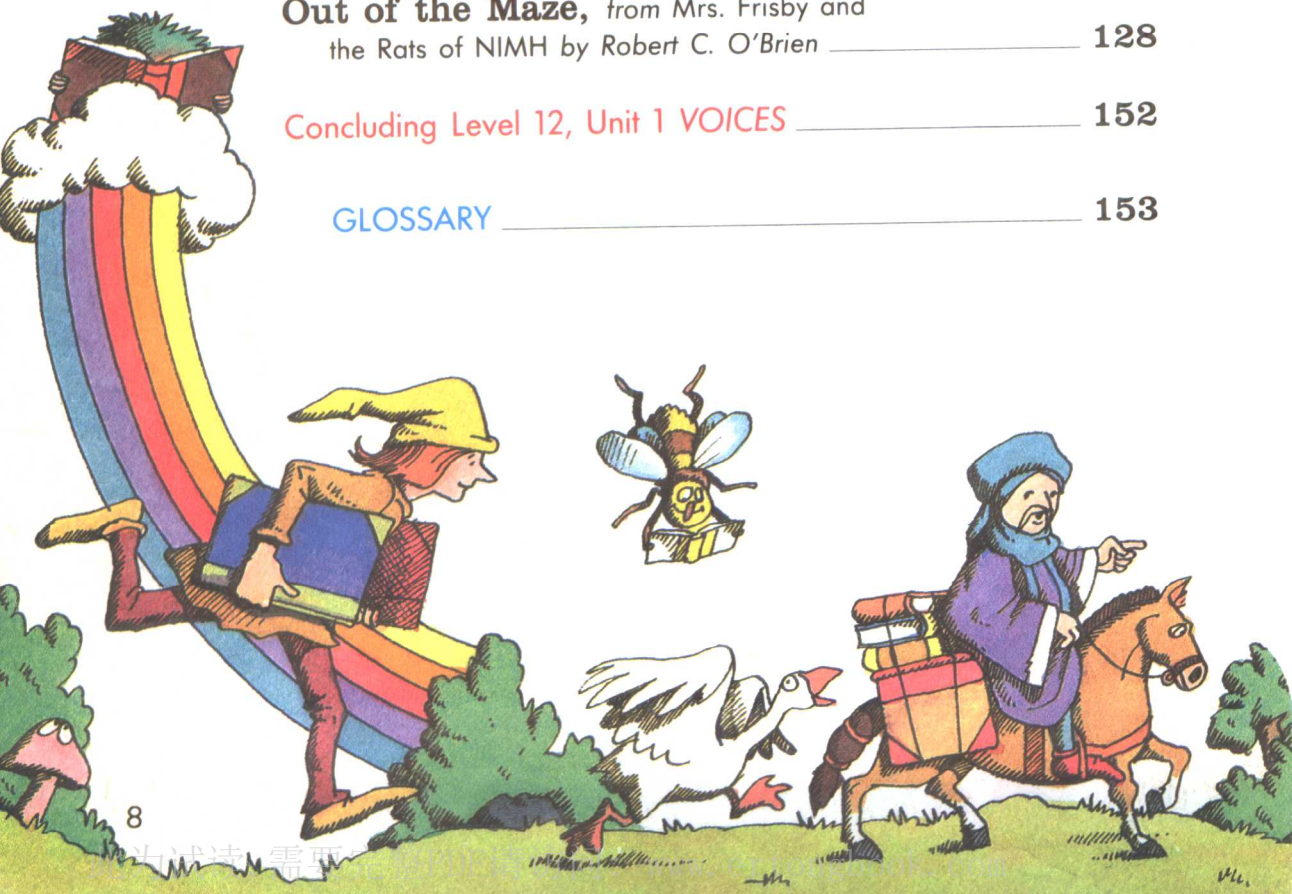
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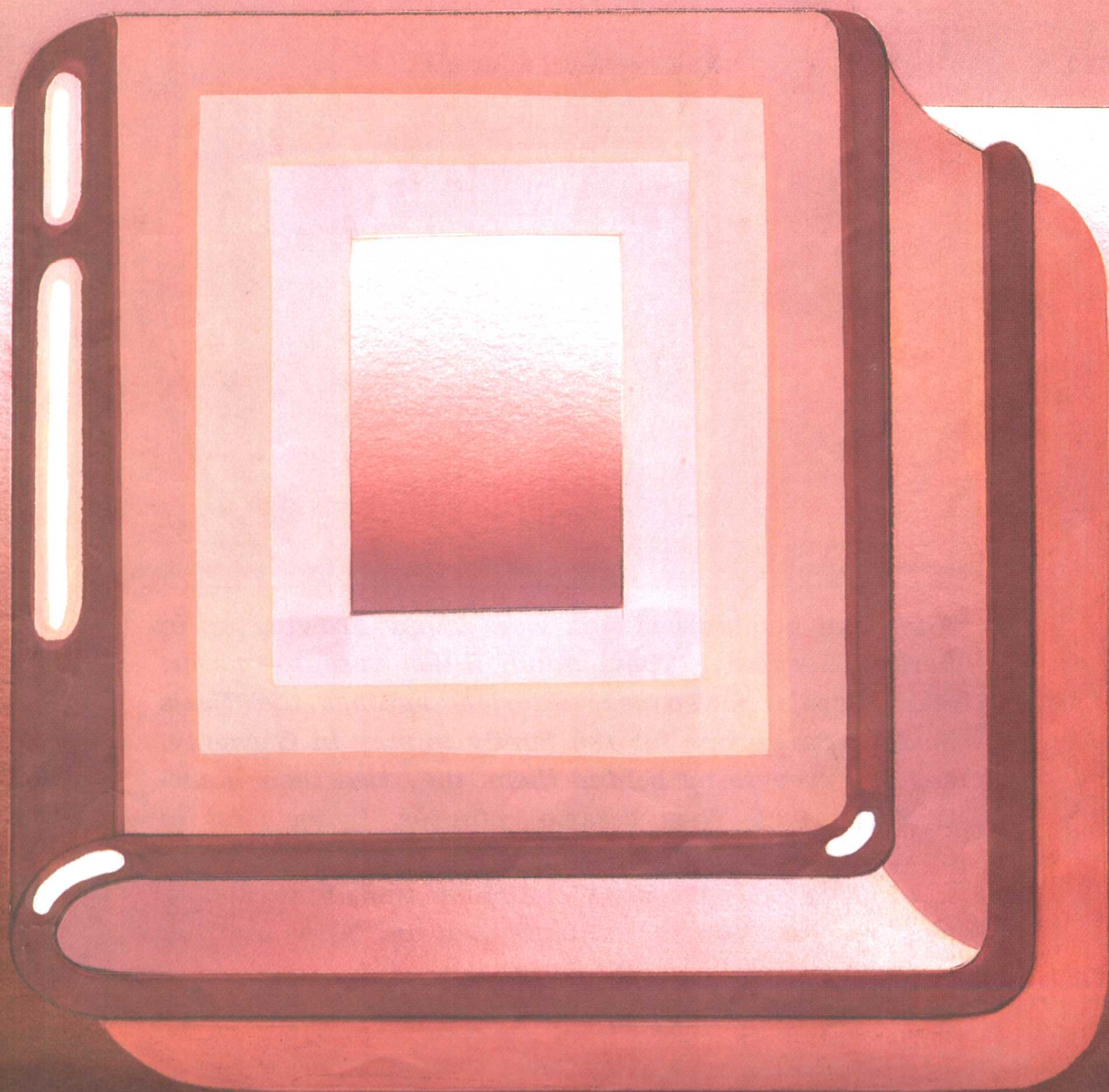
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Introducing Level 12
Unit 1

Voices



BUYING PENCILS

JUDITH KERR



Anna and her brother Max were happy growing up in Berlin, Germany. Then Adolf Hitler rose to power. Soon Papa's newspaper editorials against the Nazis made it dangerous for the family to stay in Germany. Leaving everything behind them, they fled their homeland in 1933. They became refugees, living first in Switzerland, then in Paris, France.

In this excerpt from When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit, which is based on the author's own life, Anna and her family have just come to Paris.

When Anna woke up in the morning it was bright daylight. Through a gap in the yellow curtains she could see a patch of windy sky above the rooftops. There was a smell of cooking and a clicking sound which she could not at first identify, until she realized that it was Papa typing in the room next door. Max's bed was empty. He must have crept out while she was still asleep. She got up and wandered out into the hall without dressing. Mama and Grete must have been busy, for all the luggage had been cleared away and through the open door she could see that Mama's bed had been turned back into a sofa. Then Mama herself appeared from the dining room.

"There you are, my darling," she said. "Come and have some breakfast, even though it's nearly lunch-time."

Max was already installed at the dining room table, drinking milky coffee and pulling pieces off a long and incredibly thin loaf of bread.

"It's called a baguette,"¹ explained Mama, "that means a stick"—which was exactly what it looked like.

Anna tried some and found it delicious. There was a red oilcloth on the table which made the cups and plates look very pretty, and the room was warm in spite of the blustery November day outside.

"It's nice here," said Anna. "We wouldn't have been able to have breakfast in our pajamas at the Gasthof Zwirn."²

"It's a bit small," said Mama. "But we'll manage."

1. **baguette** (ba get')

2. **Gasthof Zwirn** (gast' hōf tsvirn'): the hotel where the family had stayed while they were in Switzerland.

Max stretched himself and yawned. "It's nice having our own place."

There was something more that was nice. Anna could not at first think what it was. She looked at Mama pouring coffee and at Max tilting back his chair as he had been told a hundred times not to. Through the thin walls she could hear Papa's typewriter.

"I don't really mind where we are," she said as it came to her,—"as long as we're all together."

In the afternoon Papa took them out. They went on the Underground, which was called the Metro and had a peculiar smell. Anna rather liked it. They saw the Eiffel Tower³ (but did not go up it because it would have cost too much) and the place where Napoleon⁴ was buried, and at last the Arc de Triomphe⁵ which was quite near home. By this time it was getting late, but Max noticed that you could go up to the top and that it was quite cheap, probably because it was not nearly as high as the Eiffel Tower—so they went.

No one else wanted to go to the top of the Arc de Triomphe on this cold, dark afternoon and the elevator was empty. When Anna stepped out at the top she was met by an icy blast of wind and a prickle of raindrops and she wondered whether it had been a good idea to come. Then she looked down. It was as though she were standing at the center of a huge sparkling star. Its rays stretched out in all directions and each one was a road lined with lights. When she looked closer she could see other lights which were cars and buses

3. **Eiffel** (i' fəl) **Tower**: an iron tower built by A.G. Eiffel for the 1889 Exposition. The top can be reached by elevator.

4. **Napoleon** (nə pō' lē ən): French military leader, and emperor of France.

5. **Arc de Triomphe** (ärk' də trē onf'): famous landmark in Paris. It is a monument to the Unknown Soldier.



crawling along the roads, and immediately below they formed a bright ring circling the Arc de Triomphe itself. In the distance were the dim shapes of domes and spires and the twinkling spot which was the top of the Eiffel Tower.

"Isn't it beautiful?" said Papa. "Isn't this a beautiful city?"

Anna looked at Papa. His overcoat had lost a button and the wind was blowing through it, but Papa did not seem to notice.

"Beautiful," said Anna.

It was nice to get back to the warm apartment. Grete had helped Mama with supper and it was ready in good time.

"Have you learned any French yet?" asked Mama.

"Of course not," said Grete before anyone else could answer. "It takes months."

But Anna and Max found that they had picked up quite a few words just from listening to Papa and other people. They could say *oui* and *non* and *merci* and *au*

