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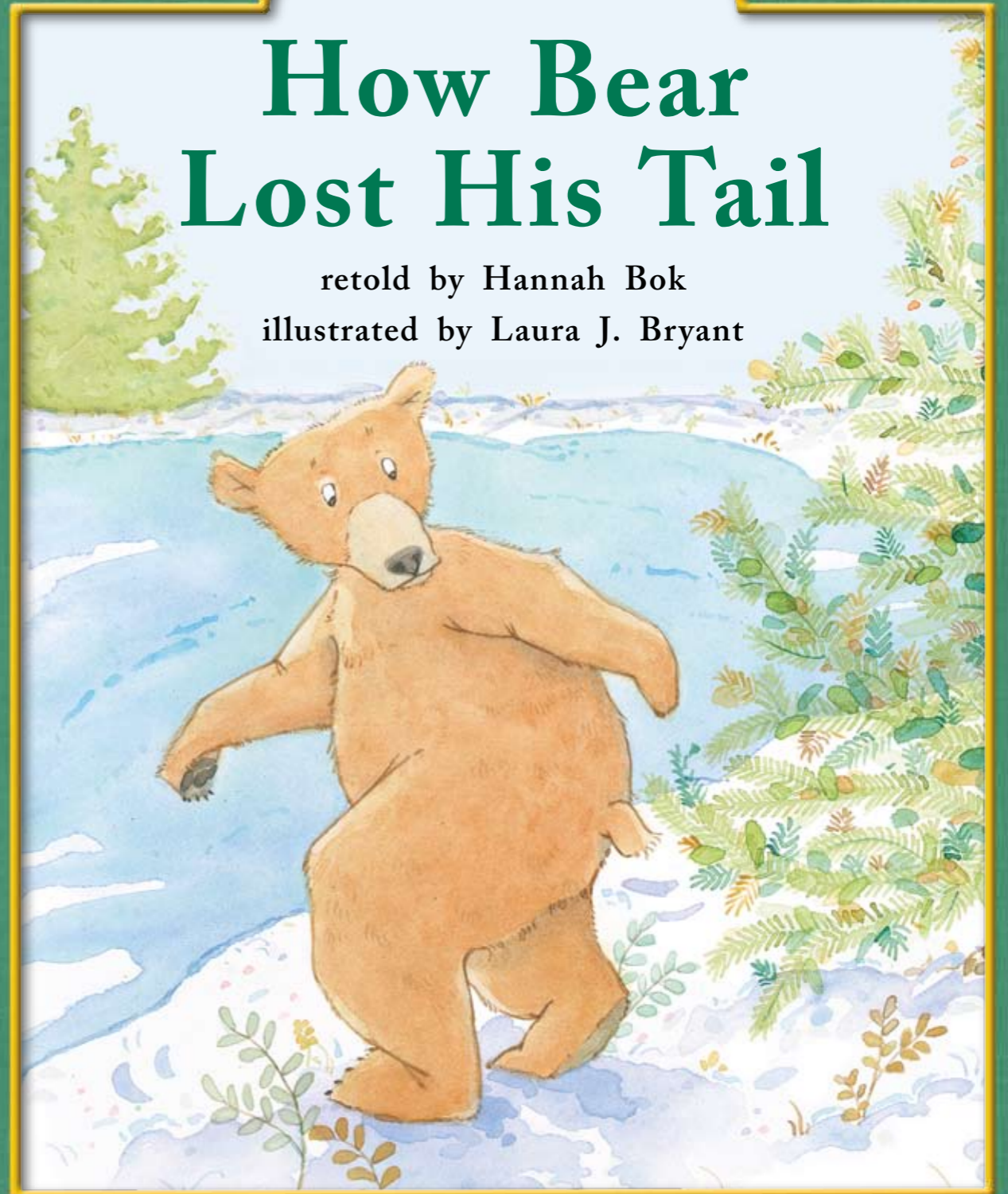
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CLASSIC TALES

How Bear Lost His Tail

retold by Hannah Bok
illustrated by Laura J. Bryant



Book 83

Level K

How Bear Lost His Tail

Retold by Hannah Bok

Heinemann

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How Bear Lost His Tail

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❧ A Classic Tale ❧

Long ago, Bear had a long, bushy tail.
He was so proud of his tail that he showed
it off to everyone.

The other animals would say,
“Bear, you have the most beautiful tail of all.”

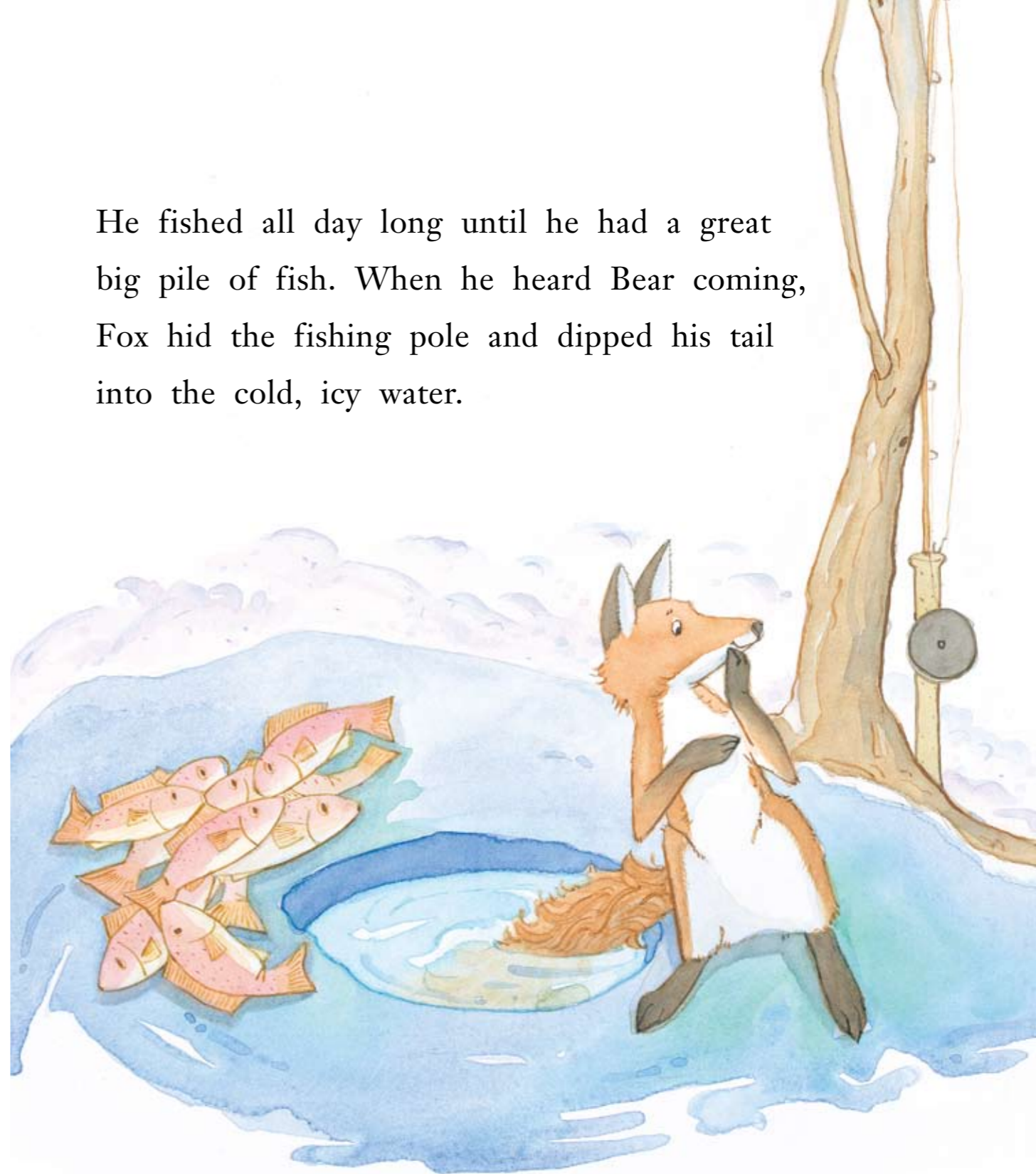




This made Fox unhappy. He thought his own long, bushy tail was the most beautiful tail of all. So Fox made a plan.

Fox knew that Bear loved fish more than anything else. So Fox cut out a hole in the ice.

He fished all day long until he had a great big pile of fish. When he heard Bear coming, Fox hid the fishing pole and dipped his tail into the cold, icy water.



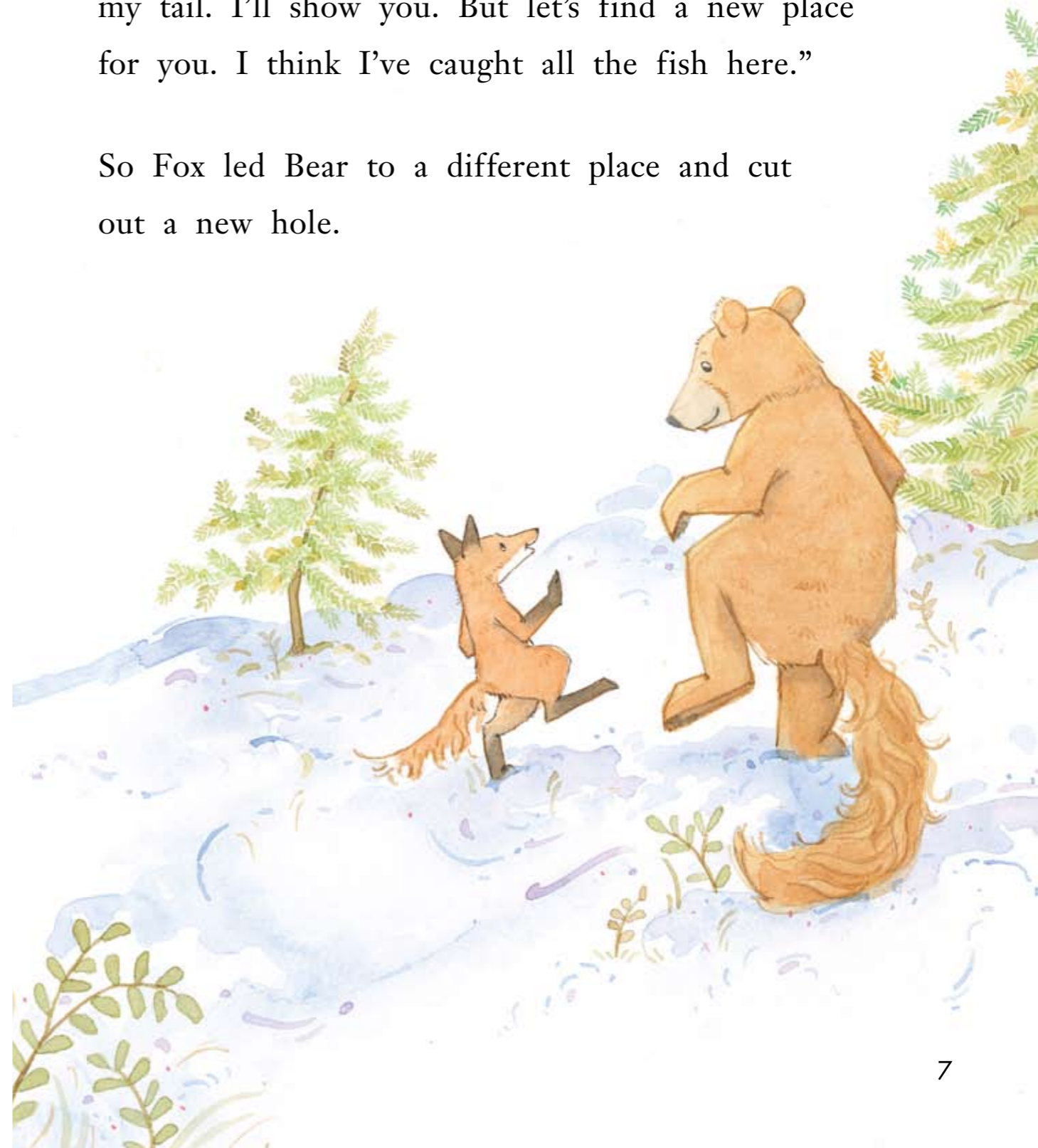


Just then, Bear walked by the lake. He couldn't believe what he saw—a great big pile of fish!

“Fox,” he said. “How did you get all those beautiful fish?”

“It was easy,” said Fox. “I caught them with my tail. I’ll show you. But let’s find a new place for you. I think I’ve caught all the fish here.”

So Fox led Bear to a different place and cut out a new hole.



“Here is your new hole, Bear,” said Fox.

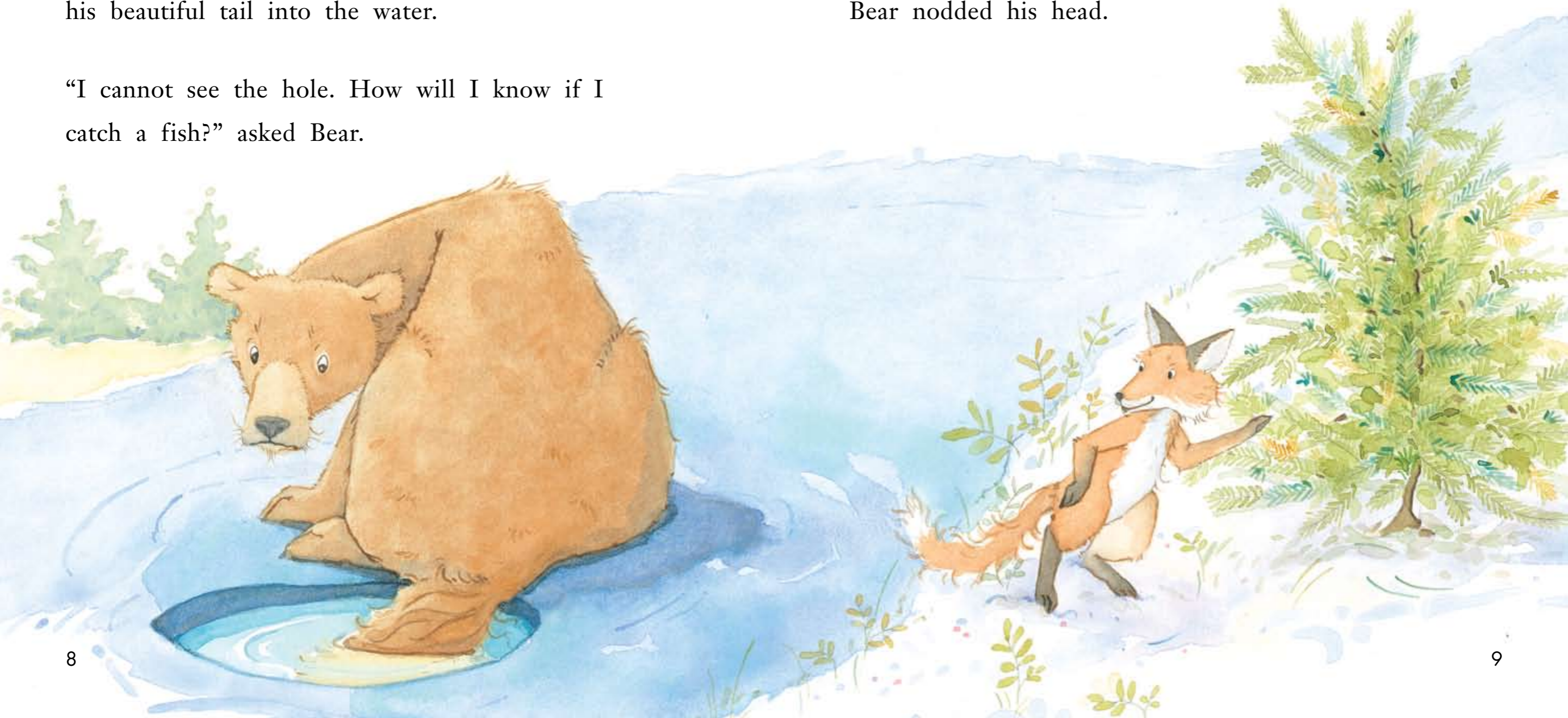
“Turn around and dip your tail into the water.
Soon a fish will grab it.”

Bear turned his back to the hole and dipped
his beautiful tail into the water.

“I cannot see the hole. How will I know if I
catch a fish?” asked Bear.

Fox said, “I will hide over there so the fish
don’t see me. When I see a fish grab your tail,
I will shout to you. Then you can pull the fish
out of the water. Don’t move until I tell you to.”

Bear nodded his head.



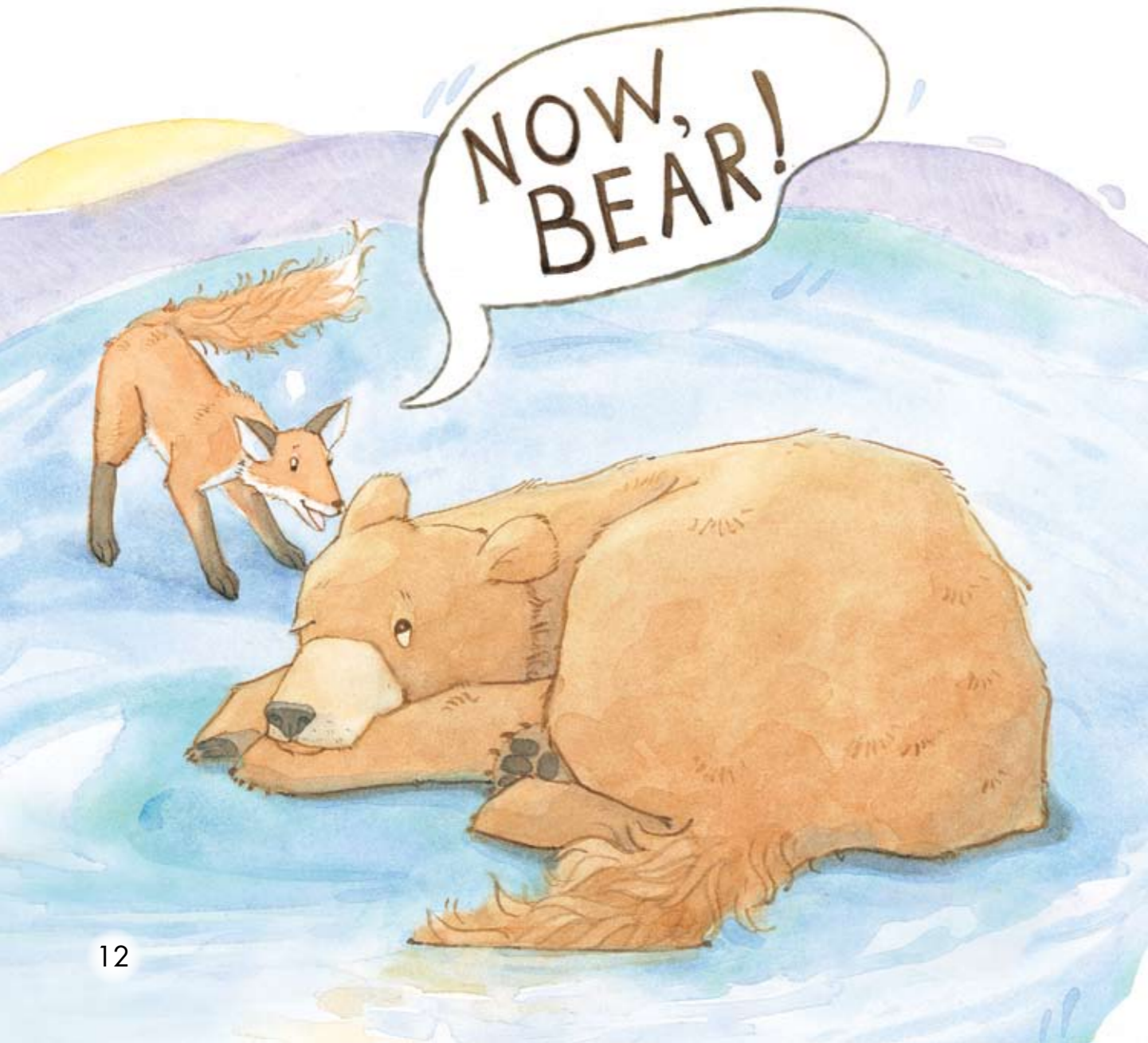


So Bear waited and waited. He was very tired.
Soon he fell asleep.

Bear slept all day and all night. His tail got
colder and colder. The ice got thicker and
thicker. Bear slept and slept.

Fox waited by the tree. He waited until Bear had slept all night long.

At last it was time. Fox crept up to Bear's ear and shouted, "NOW, BEAR!"



Bear woke up and pulled his tail, but it wouldn't move.

"Pull harder," said Fox. "It must be a HUGE fish."

Bear pulled and pulled, until . . . SNAP!



Bear turned around to see the huge fish he had caught. But that is not what he saw.

“My tail,” cried Bear. “My big, beautiful tail!”

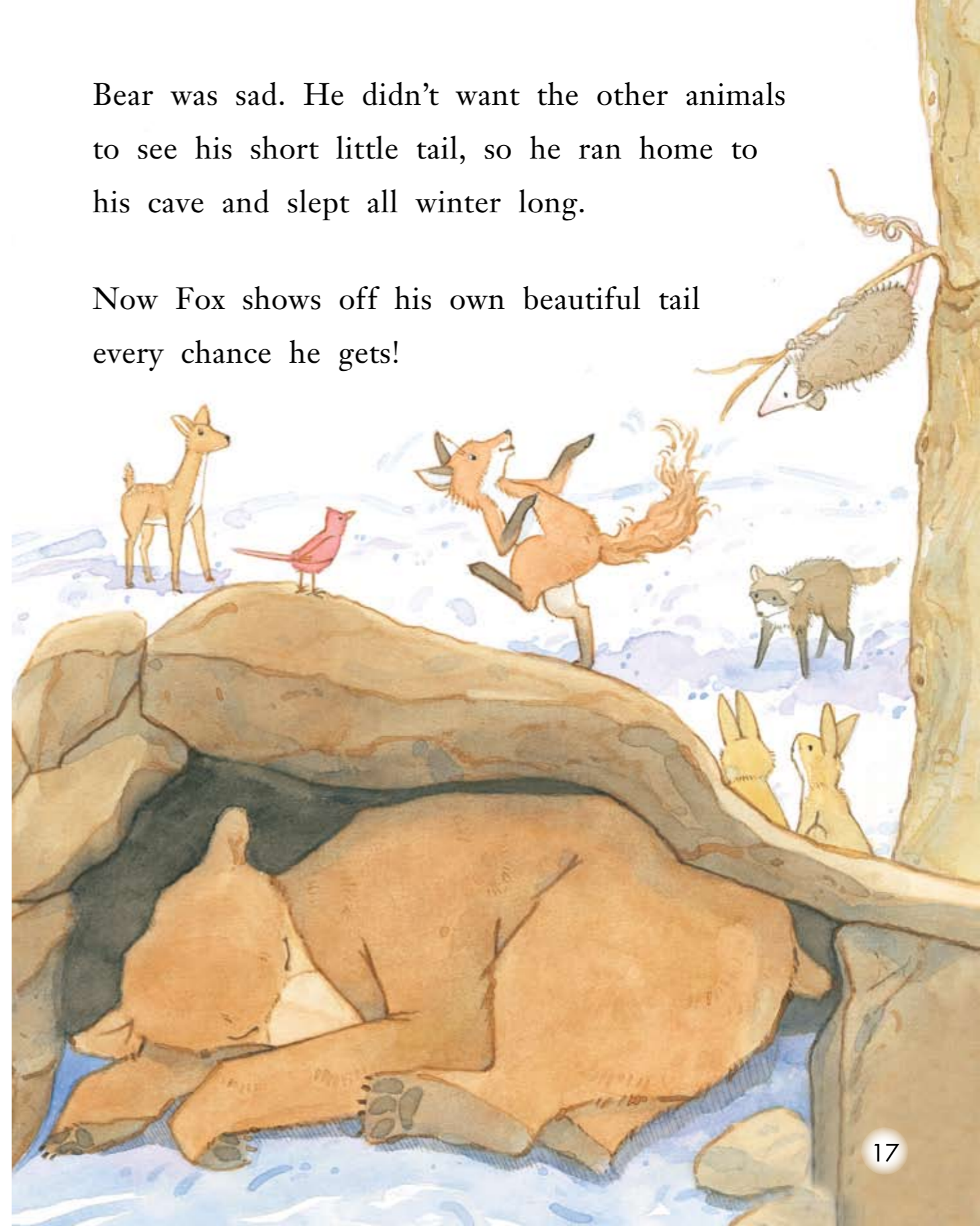
The fishing hole was gone. There in the ice was Bear’s tail. The water had frozen while Bear slept, and his tail was stuck in the ice.



Fox pointed at Bear's new short tail and laughed. "What a silly little tail for a great, big bear," said Fox.

Bear was sad. He didn't want the other animals to see his short little tail, so he ran home to his cave and slept all winter long.

Now Fox shows off his own beautiful tail every chance he gets!



How Bear Lost His Tail

The Play

Characters



Narrator 1



Narrator 2



Bear



Fox



Narrator 1

Long ago, Bear had a long, bushy tail. He was so proud of his tail that he showed it off to everyone. The other animals would say he had the most beautiful tail of all.



Narrator 2

This made Fox unhappy. He thought his own long, bushy tail was the most beautiful tail of all. So Fox made a plan.



Narrator 1

Fox knew that Bear loved fish more than anything else. So Fox cut out a hole in the ice. He fished all day long until he had a great big pile of fish. When he heard Bear coming, Fox hid the fishing pole and dipped his tail into the cold, icy water.



Bear

Fox, how did you get all those beautiful fish?



Fox

It was easy. I caught them with my tail. I'll show you. But let's find a new place for you. I think I've caught all the fish here.



Narrator 2

So Fox led Bear to a different place and cut out a new hole.



Fox

Here is your new hole, Bear. Turn around and dip your tail into the water. Soon a fish will grab it.



Narrator 1

Bear turned his back to the hole and dipped his beautiful tail into the water.



Bear

I cannot see the hole. How will I know if I catch a fish?



Fox

I will hide over there so the fish don't see me. When I see a fish grab your tail, I will shout to you. Then you can pull the fish out of the water. Don't move until I tell you to.



Narrator 2

So Bear waited and waited. He was very tired. Soon he fell asleep.



Narrator 1

Bear slept all day and all night.
His tail got colder and colder.
The ice got thicker and thicker.
Bear slept and slept.



Narrator 2

Fox waited by the tree. He waited
until Bear had slept all night long.



Narrator 1

At last it was time. Fox crept up to
Bear's ear.



Fox

NOW, BEAR!



Narrator 2

Bear woke up and pulled his tail, but
it wouldn't move.



Fox

Pull harder. It must be a HUGE fish.



Narrator 1

Bear pulled and pulled, until . . .
SNAP!



Narrator 2

Bear turned around to see the huge
fish he had caught. But that is not
what he saw.



Bear

My tail. My big, beautiful tail!



Narrator 1

There in the ice was Bear's tail. The
water had frozen while Bear slept, and
his tail was stuck in the ice.



Narrator 2

Fox pointed at Bear's new short tail and laughed.



Fox

What a silly little tail for a great, big bear.



Narrator 1

Bear was sad. He didn't want the other animals to see his short little tail, so he ran home to his cave and slept all winter long.



Narrator 2

Now Fox shows off his own beautiful tail every chance he gets!

