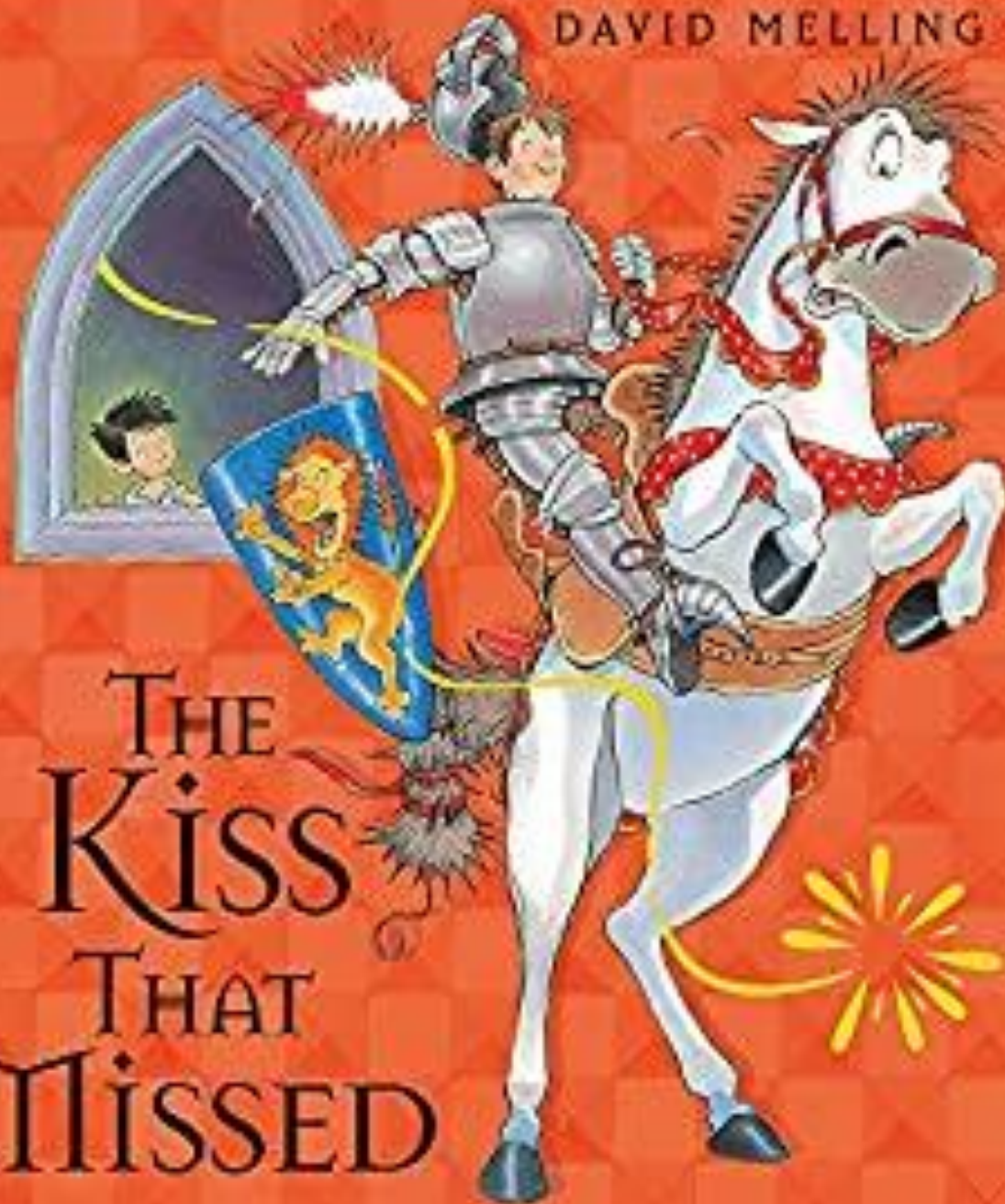


DAVID MELLING

THE  
KISS  
THAT  
MISSED





Once upon a Tuesday the king was in a hurry as usual goodnight he said and blew his son a royal kiss,



It missed.





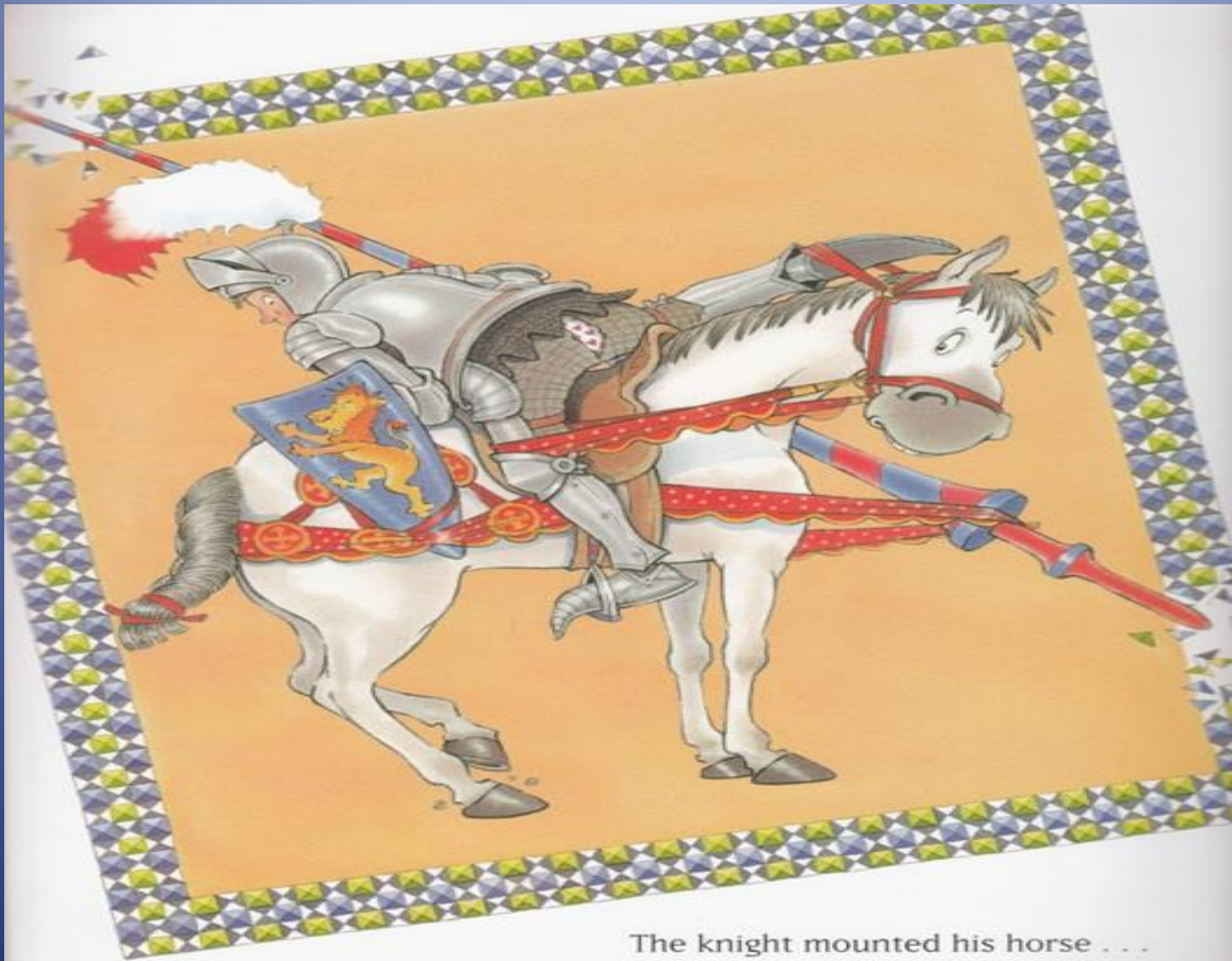
The young prince watched it rattle around the room and bounced out the window and into the night.



The prince told the queen



the queen told the king and the king had a quick word with his royal knights “follow that kiss” he squawked



The knight mounted his horse . . .



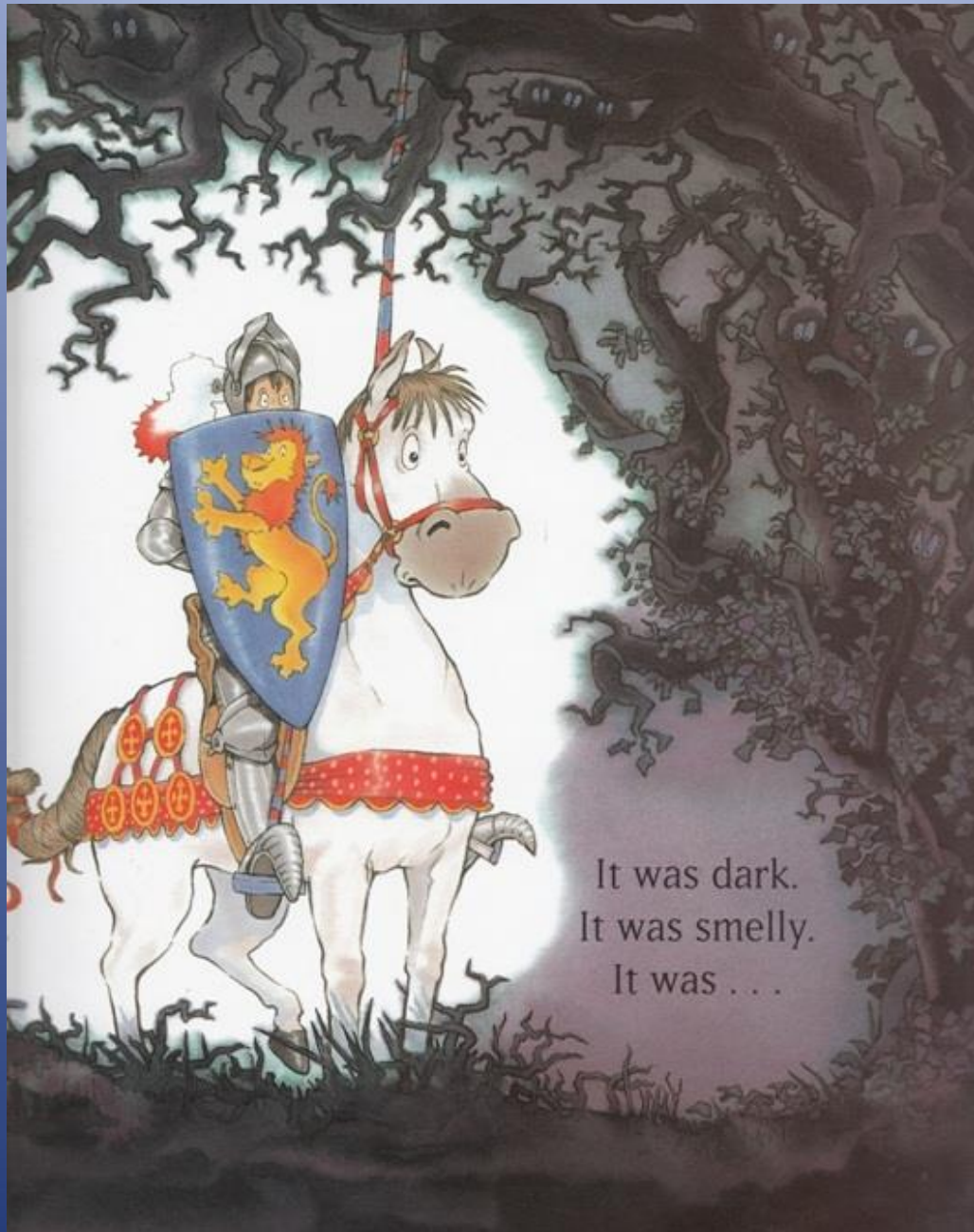


eventually and galloped off in hot pursuit until they came to the wild wood.



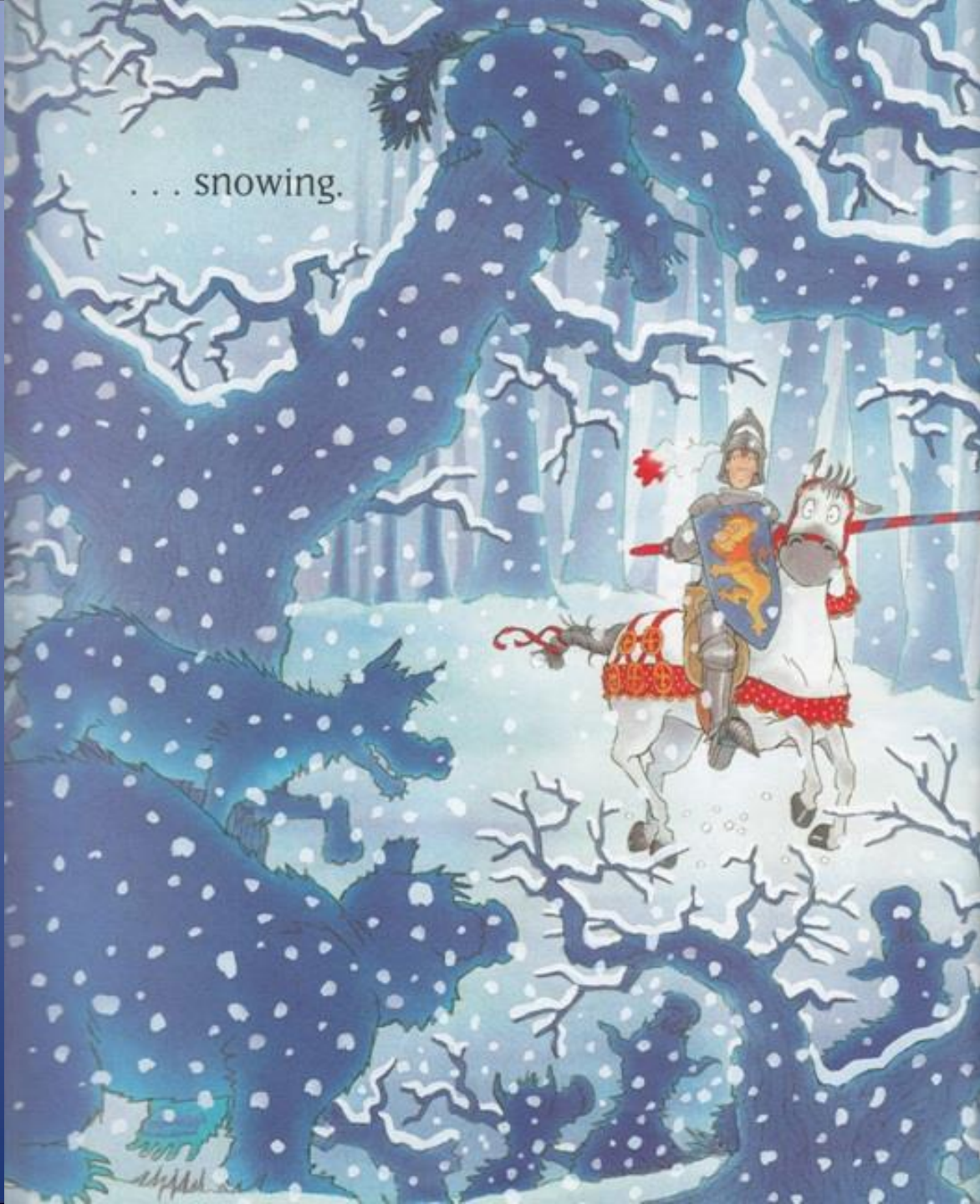


Wild creatures with wild eyes, too much hair and very bad manners lived there.



It was dark.  
It was smelly.  
It was . . .

... snowing.







There were bears with long claws and growling roars,





swooping owls of all shapes and sizes



and a pack of hungry wolves with dribbling mouths



“Eek!” squeaked the knight, and then suddenly



with a sparkle the royal kiss came by and in turn said goodnight to everyone.

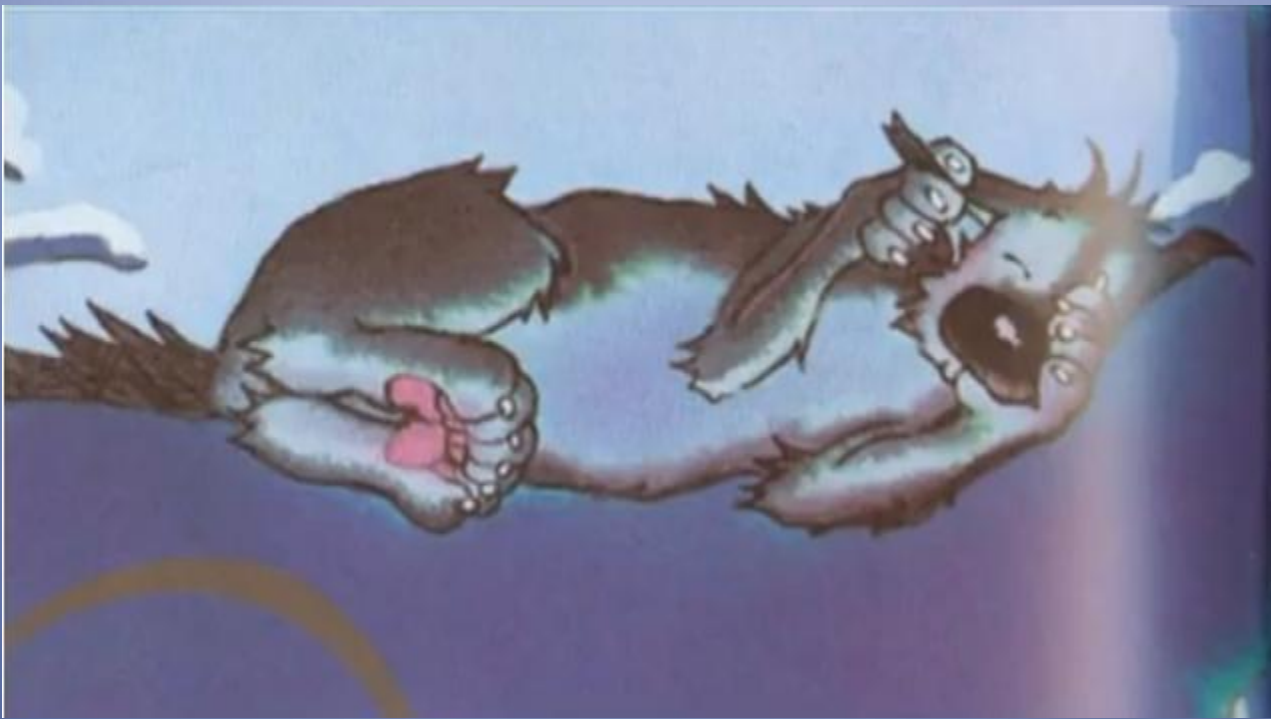




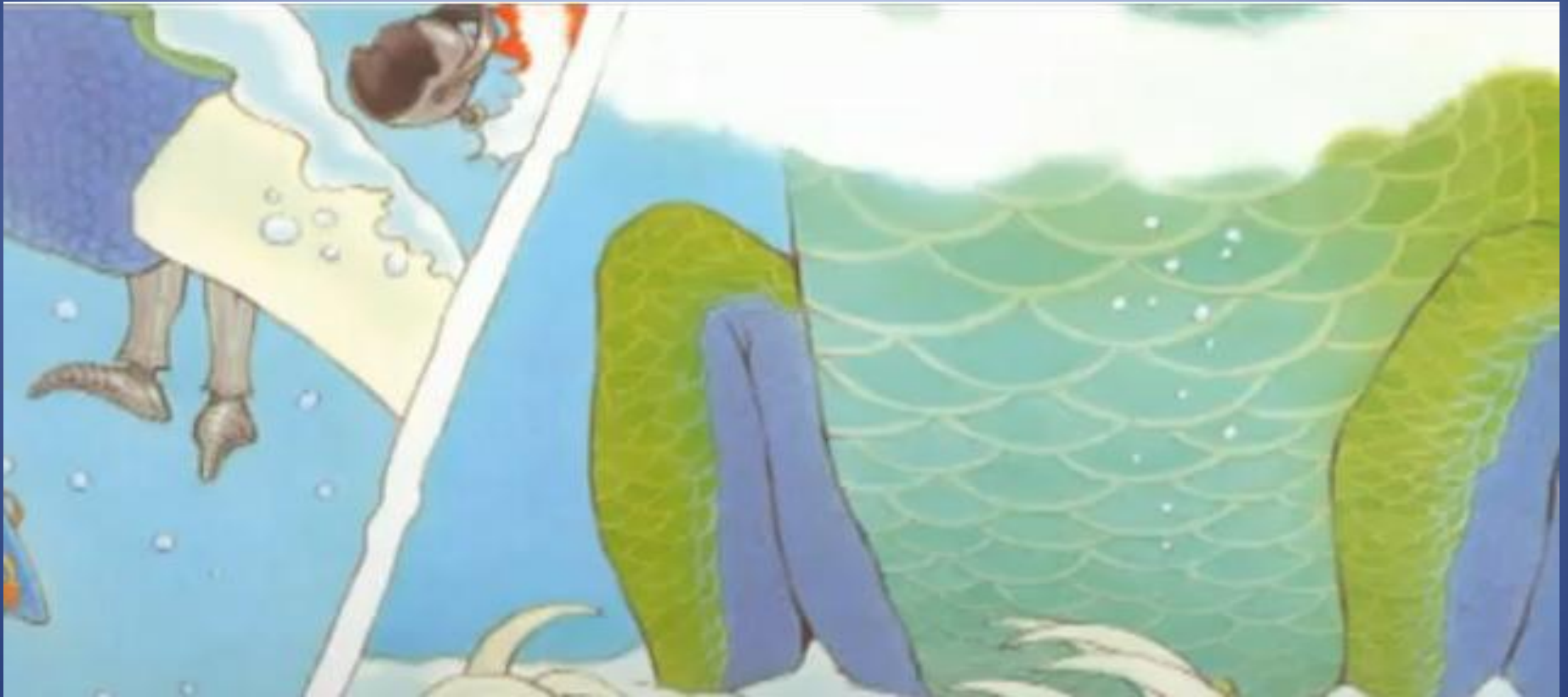
Bears stopped being growly,



owls stopped being swoopy



wolves stopped being dribbly and before you could say follow that kiss they all settled down for a good night's sleep



After a while they sat down on a wrinkly old tree trunk to rest. The wrinkly old tree trunk twitched and slowly rose into the air, above the woods and into the clouds.





At last they found themselves staring into a pair of very hairy nostrils. A dragon with “this lot would be nice for breakfast” eyes leered greedily at them. Suddenly with a sparkle the royal kiss came floating by and flew right up the dragon’s nose.



He sat up, sniffed and blinked; slowly he opened his mouth, took a deep breath and sneezed.



“Hang on” he said as they tumbled through the trees. “Come back” he puffed as he lumbered after them “I want to pick you up and kiss you goodnight.”



Slowly they all made their way back to the castle.





That night the prince was happy,



the queen was happy and the king promised always to stop being in a hurry.



He made sure everyone was comfortable



and slowly read them a bedtime story from beginning to end,





well almost.