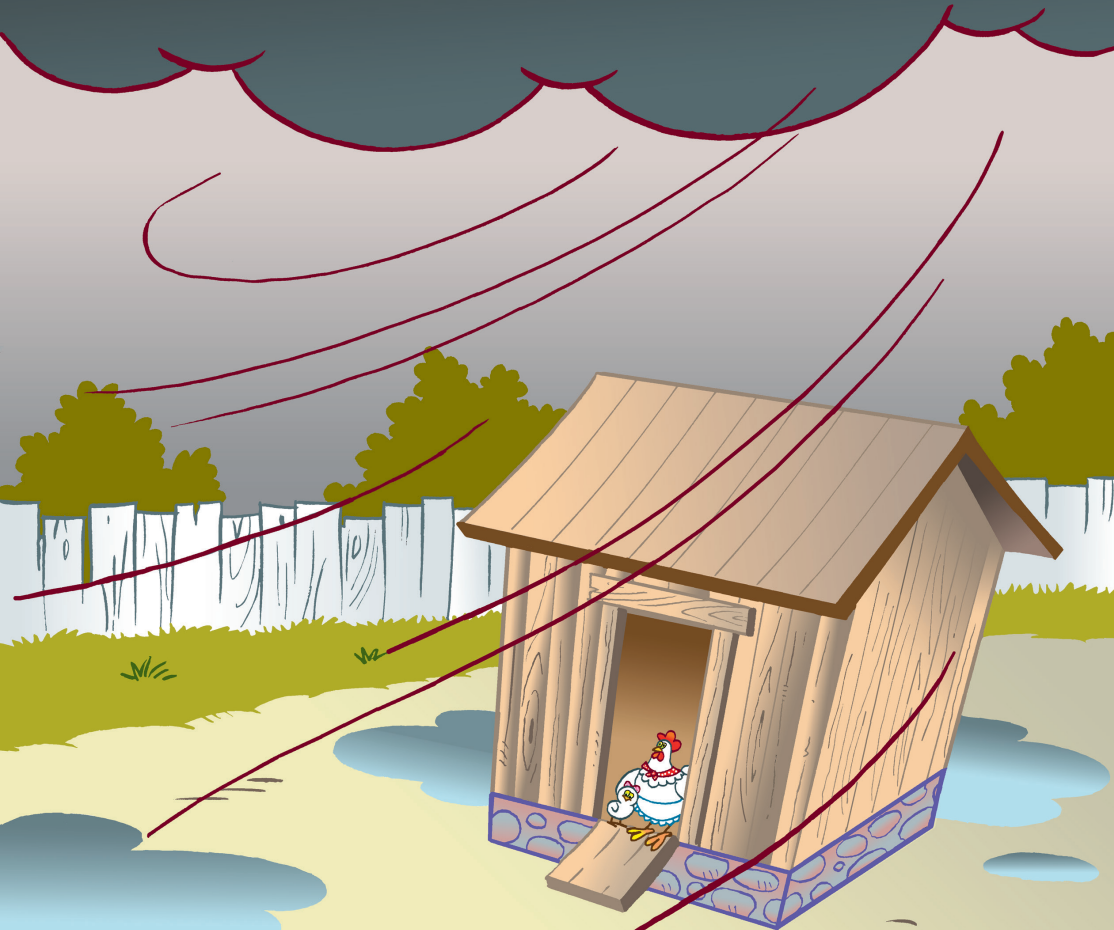


# FARMYARD HEROES



The storm had been building all day. Dark clouds covered the sky, and lightning flashed, followed by the crashing thunder. Henrietta and little Jenny looked out of the chicken coop at the swirling wind and rain.

"I don't like the look of this storm!" Henrietta clucked.

"It's dark and loud," added little Jenny.

"Thankfully, we have a good solid roof over our heads, and Farmer Jones brought all the animals in before the storm started," said Henrietta.



Just then lightning flashed across the sky, followed immediately by a boom of thunder.

"That was really bright and loud!" cried Jenny.  
"What's happening?!"

"The storm is getting closer," Henrietta explained. "We should go inside and wait out the storm."

They were just about to enter the coop when lightning flashed to the claps of thunder.

"Oh no! The lightning has hit Farmer Jones' house!" neighed Holly, the mare.

"What happens when lightning hits something?" Jenny asked.



"It can start a fire," said Henrietta. "I hope Farmer Jones and his family are safe."

It was then that they saw small flames licking up the back of the wooden farmhouse.

"The farmhouse ... it's on fire!" cried Cow. "What do we do?"

"We can't put out the fire ourselves," said Piggy.

"But we need to help Farmer Jones," added Holly.



"I've got it!" piped up Rooster. "We can call for help! Let's make as much noise as we can, and maybe the neighbors will hear us and come over to help put out the fire!"

"Good idea," cried the animals. Together they began to call out:



"WOOF, WOOF!"  
"COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!"

"NEIGH! NEIGH!"

"OINK, OINK!"

"MOO, MOO!"

Big George, the work horse, managed to kick open the stable door. Neighing and bucking with all his might, he began running and making a commotion around the farmyard.

Next door, Mr. Brown was sitting in the kitchen with his wife when the unusual noise and clamor coming from down the road caught his attention. Looking out of the window, he saw his neighbor's horse running around wildly, kicking and neighing.



"I wonder what's all the fuss?" he said. That was when he saw the rising smoke.

"Quick, Shirley!" he said to his wife. "Call the fire station. Get the fire engines out here right away. The Jones family is in trouble." As fast as he could, he hopped in his truck and rushed over to Farmer Jones' house.



Minutes later, the sound of sirens could be heard. Two fire engines arrived on the scene and quickly began to put out the flames. Farmer Jones and his whole family had been trapped on the second floor.

The firefighters helped them through a window and down a tall fire-engine ladder to safety. The house was damaged, but their lives and the rest of the farm had been saved.



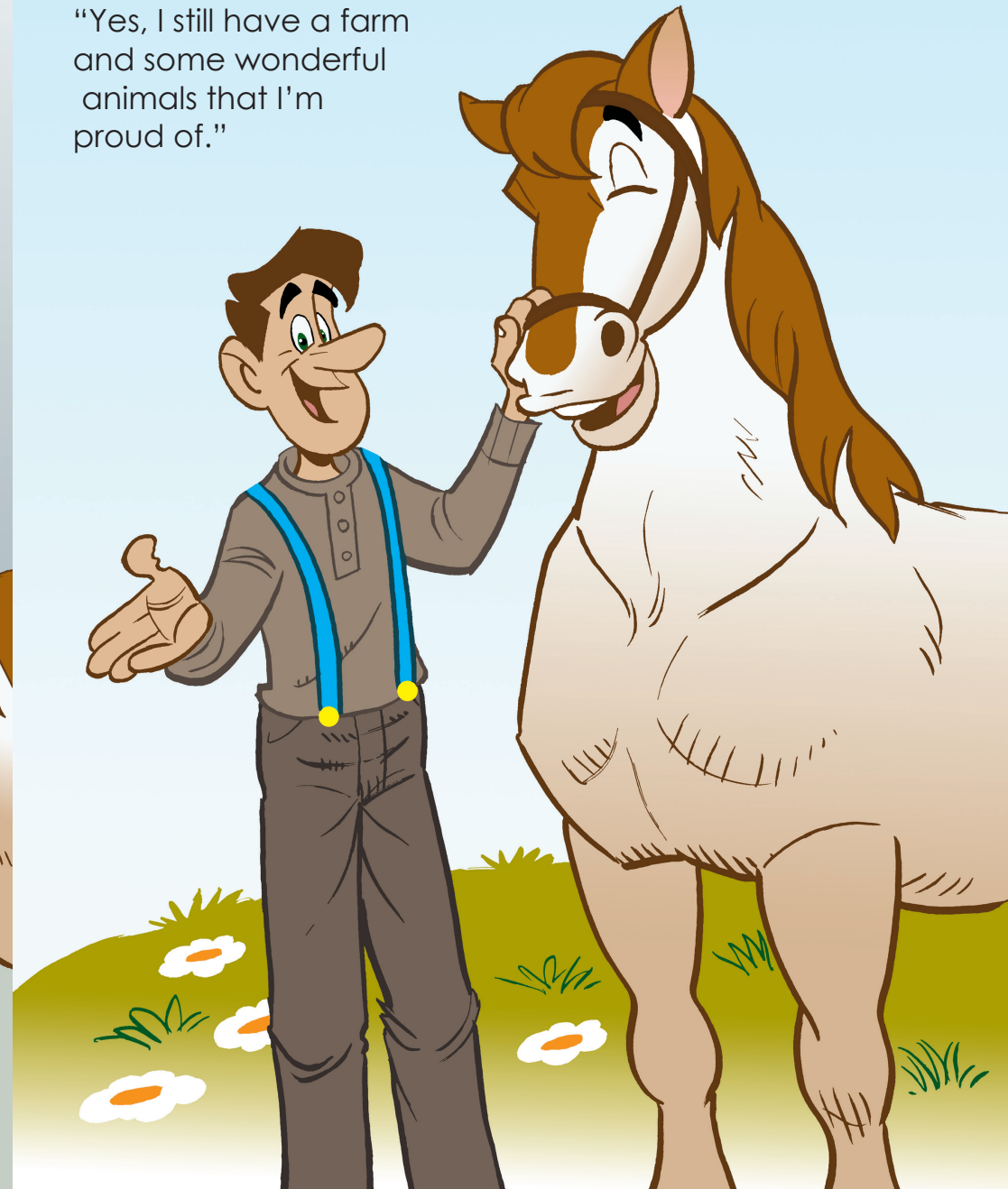
"How can I ever thank you?" said Farmer Jones to Mr. and Mrs. Brown.

"Well, Jones, it was your own animals that saved you," he replied, stroking George's golden mane. "I wouldn't have noticed as quickly if I hadn't heard them making such a fuss."



"NEIGH!" George called out, as Farmer Jones laughed and stroked his nose.

"Yes, I still have a farm and some wonderful animals that I'm proud of."



The farm animals looked on with joy. They were so happy that they had played a part in saving their farmer, his family, and the farm. Little Jenny peeked out from under her mother's wing to see that all was well. Even grumpy old Hunter was wagging his tail happily.

"At first I didn't think we could do much to help Farmer Jones," Jenny said. "I'm glad we found a way to help him and his family."



"Me too!" Henrietta replied. "When we work together, we can make a difference and help someone in need!"