



The Stone Castle

**based on a
fairytale by
Brothers Grimm**

Once upon a time in a land far away, lived three brothers on their family farm. The oldest brother, Charles, was the most serious of the three. He wore a beard and enjoyed the hard work of the farm. The middle brother, Ralph, was the jolliest one. He could be happy doing anything as long as everyone else was happy. The youngest brother, Henry, was the most caring. He worried about any living thing that was in trouble... whether it was a puppy or snake.





One year, there was a bad storm that destroyed most of their crops. After their supplies ran out, they had no choice but to go out in the woods to find food for themselves, their chickens, and their faithful dog, Arf. When the forest animals saw the brothers come out into the woods, they became very nervous.

The woodland animals knew that when people came to the woods looking for food that they had to be extra careful, because their lives could be in danger. However, they were surprised to see these brothers. They'd past their farm many times, but they had never seen them out hunting before.

It was true they had never been hunting. None of them had even eaten meat for years, not since their youngest brother, Henry, had learned to talk. The first time Henry had found out where meat came from, he was very upset. He couldn't believe that something had died to give them supper.





Around midmorning, they passed some ducks swimming in a pond. “That could be lunch,” Charles said.

“No!” Henry shouted.

“Before you were born,” Charles looked accusingly toward Henry, “we used to eat duck all the time. Dad would catch them Mom would cook them.”

“I’m not going to let you kill those poor little creatures!” Henry yelled.

“Let’s keep looking,” Ralph agreed.

Charles put his hands on his hips and muttered, "We could starve, and these feathered fellows would be floating around, laughing at us."

"They deserve to be able to float around freely without being in fear for their lives!"

Henry insisted.

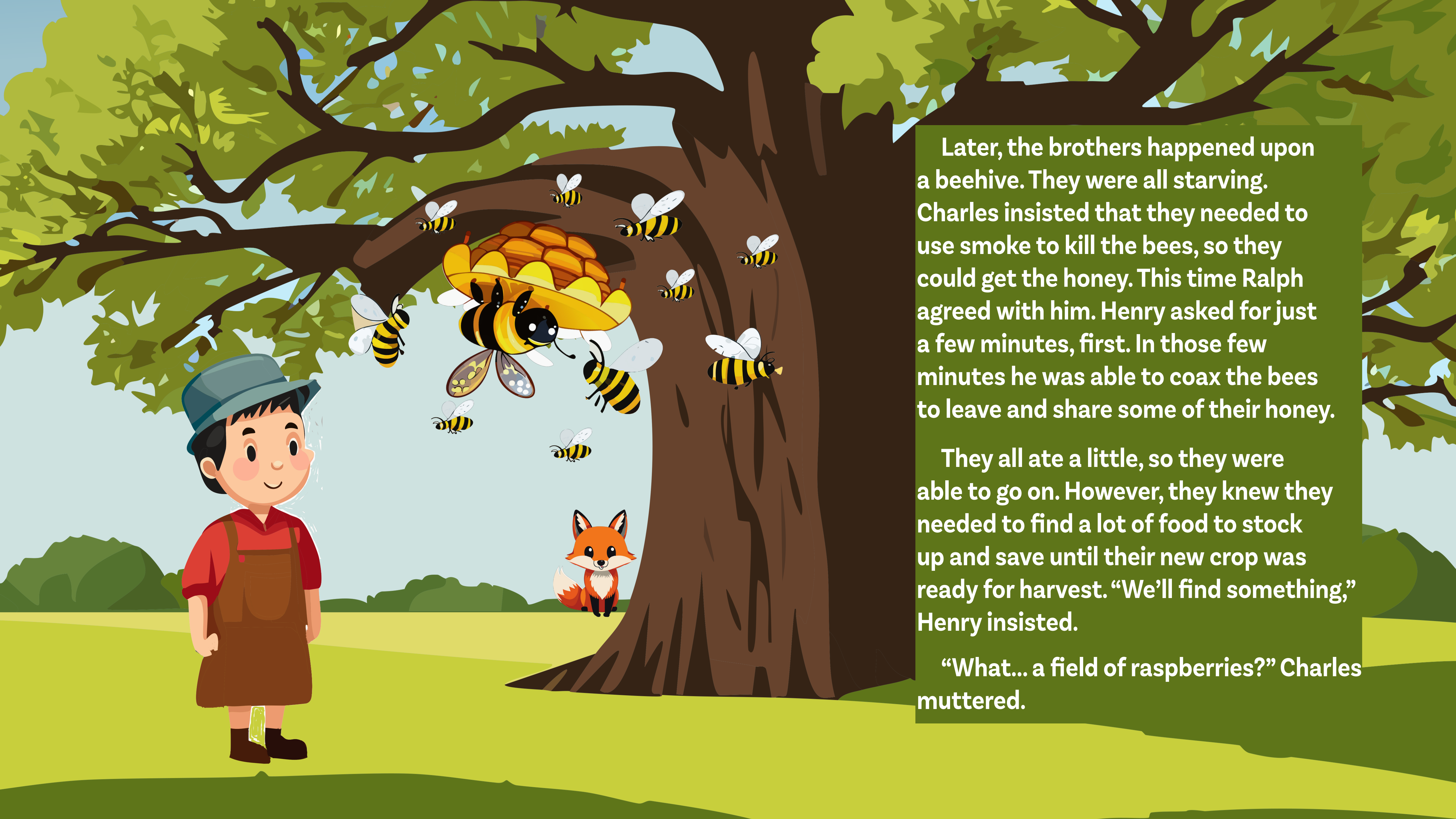
"I just want us all to get along," Ralph said.

"We shouldn't argue about it. We'll find something else."





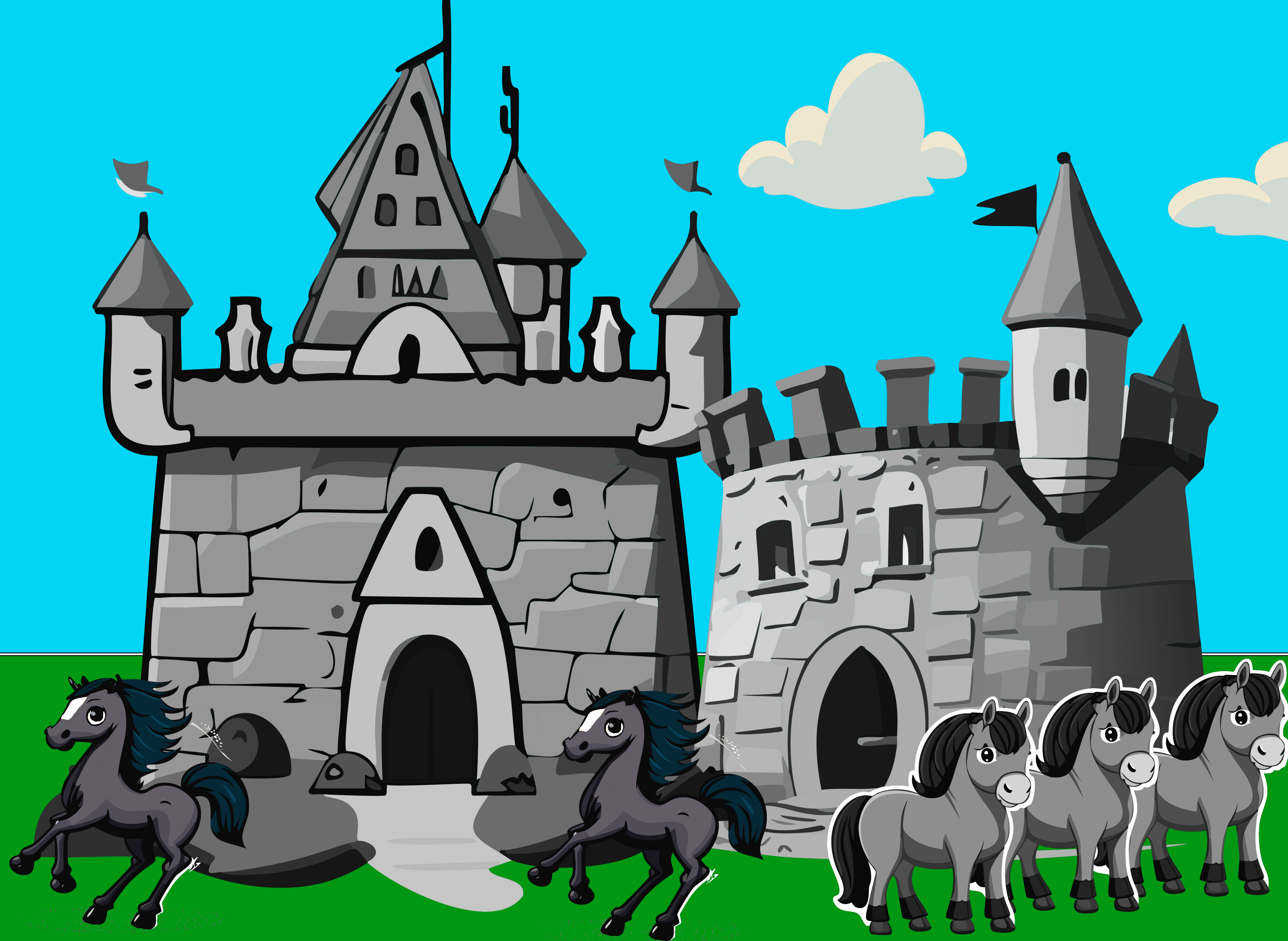
As they were walking, they came upon an anthill. Charles was so grouchy, he almost stepped on them, but Henry rescued them.




Later, the brothers happened upon a beehive. They were all starving. Charles insisted that they needed to use smoke to kill the bees, so they could get the honey. This time Ralph agreed with him. Henry asked for just a few minutes, first. In those few minutes he was able to coax the bees to leave and share some of their honey.

They all ate a little, so they were able to go on. However, they knew they needed to find a lot of food to stock up and save until their new crop was ready for harvest. "We'll find something," Henry insisted.

"What... a field of raspberries?" Charles muttered.



After a while, they stumbled on a castle in a clearing, deep in the woods. It was a funny all-stone castle, with stone horses out front, but behind it, grew fields and fields of wheat and grapes, corn and beans, apple and peach trees... all ready to be harvested. They could only hope that the owners needed help with their harvest.



As they approached the castle, they were stopped by a talking tree, who simply croaked, “Beware! Beware!” over and over.

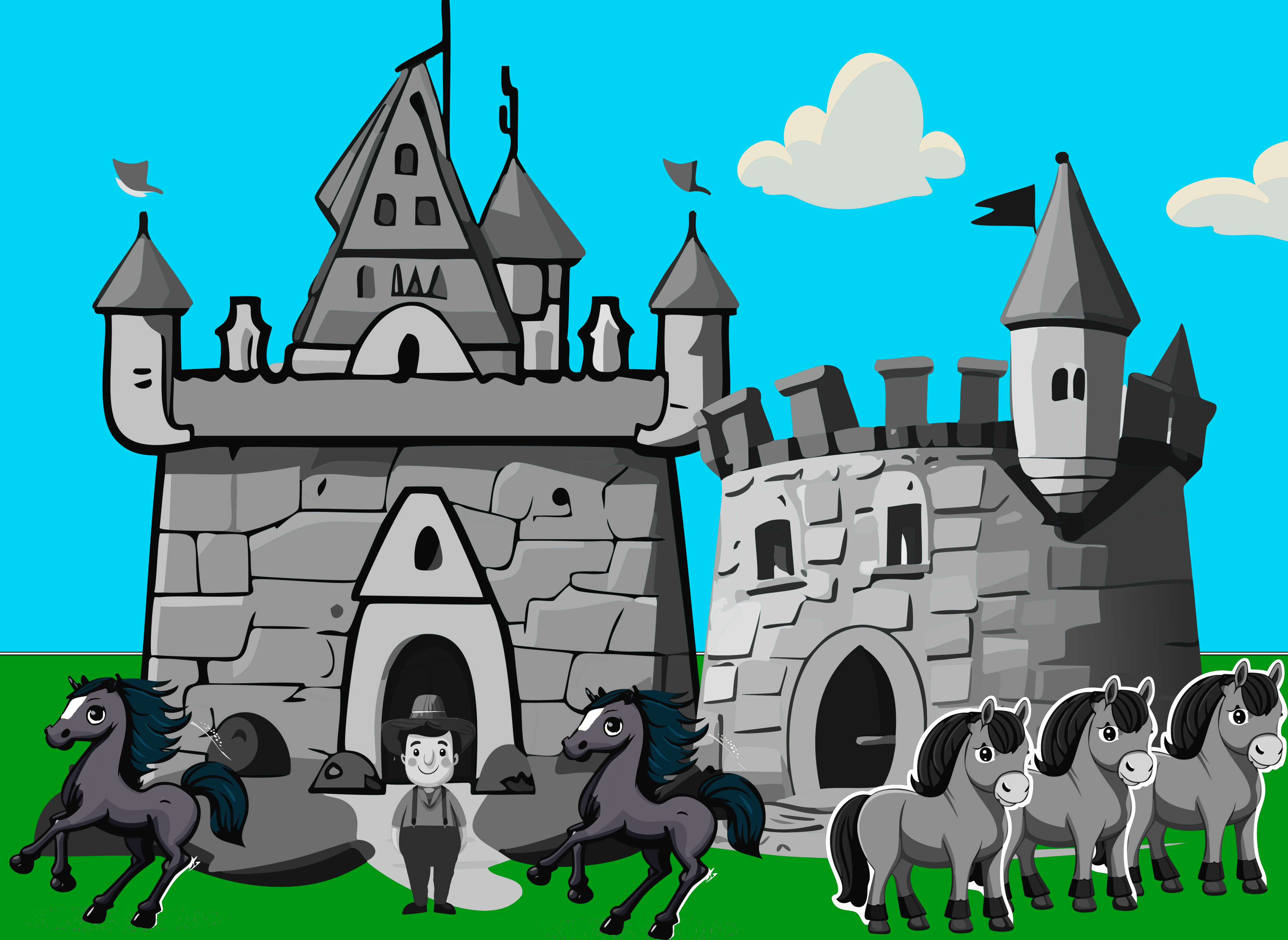
“Look, there is writing on the tree Henry said, reading it out loud.

“Beware! Beware! Beware! You have past the enchanted creek, and our now, cursed by the spell of the soar honey, which plagues the castle.

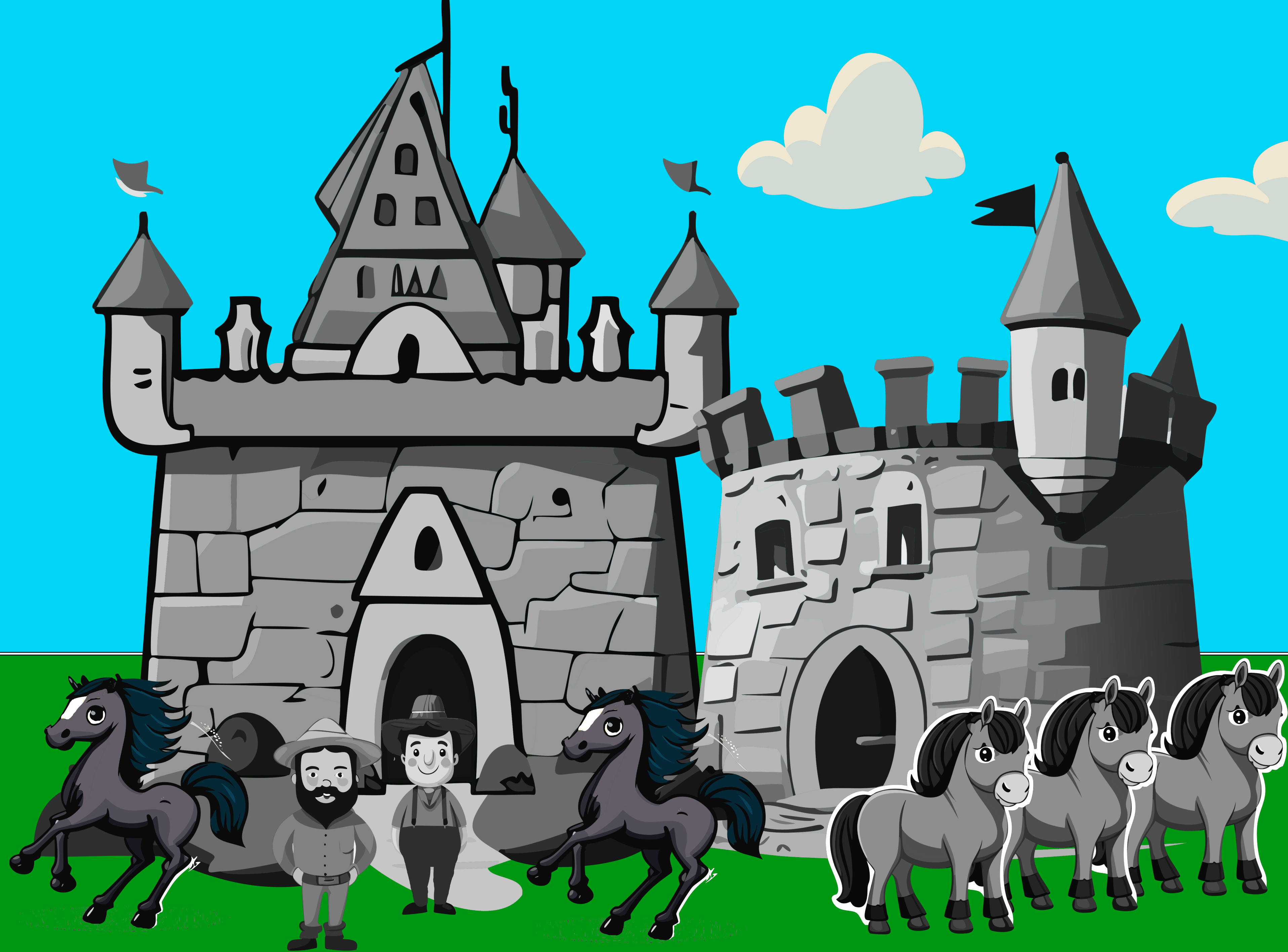
The first person to cross the creek is the first cursed and has twenty-four hours to break the curse before turning to stone in front of the castle.

First, you must find everyone of the princess’s pearls that have been scattered in the forest.

Second, you must break the wild-honey curse by kissing only the princess that ate the poison honey. If the wrong princess is kissed, the curse will be complete.



Ralph was the first brother to cross the creek. He worked, tirelessly. He searched high and low. He searched frantically through the grass, desperately trying to find each pearl, while his brothers worked to figure out which princess ate the honey. However, in the end, he turned to stone.



The next day, it was Charles turn, but Henry helped him. They both frantically looked for the pearls, while constantly, trying to figure out which princess must have tasted the poison honey. However, when the twenty-four hours were up, Charles, also, turned to stone.

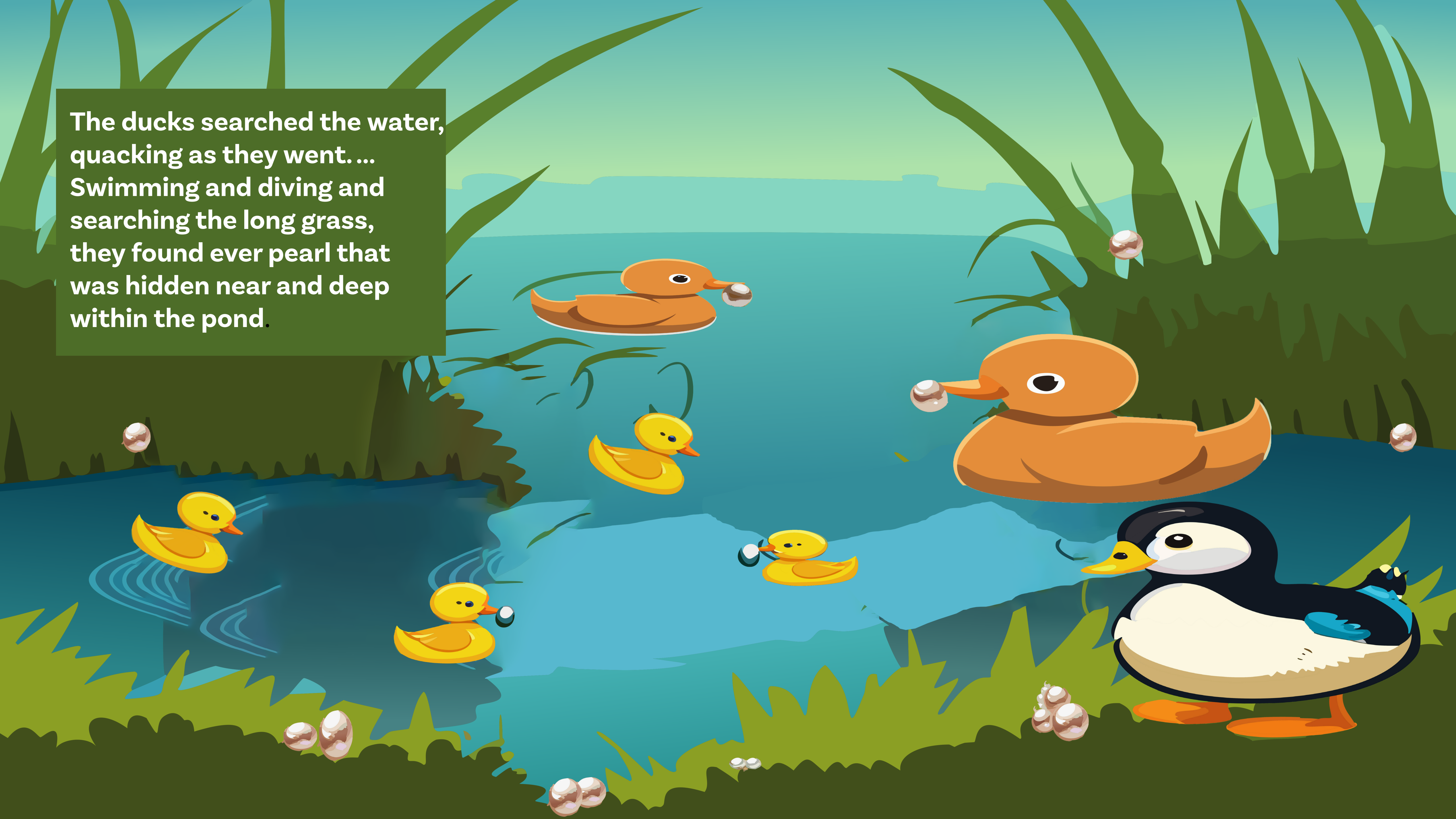


Henry was so upset that he ran to the talking tree and cried. Soon, his forest friends heard him and came out to see what was wrong. “What’s the matter?” buzzed the bees.

As soon as he told his forest friends, they all went to work. “I know where there are some pearls!” Annie, the lead ant, pointed out. “Right next to our Southfork anthill!” Soon, all the ants were chattering about where they had seen pearls, recently. Then, they all started running through the grass, looking. They could each only carry one pearl at a time, but there were so many of them that, eventually, they found every pearl on land that there was to find.



The ducks searched the water,
quacking as they went...
Swimming and diving and
searching the long grass,
they found ever pearl that
was hidden near and deep
within the pond.



While his forest friends were searching, Henry went back inside the foreboding castle, determined to solve the mystery of which princess had accidentally caused the dreaded curse.




“Do you like honey in your tea?” he asked, unsure how to tell a honey-eater from a non-honey-eater. It was such an important question. He couldn’t just guess. If he picked wrong, all his friends work would be for nothing. If he picked wrong, he wouldn’t live to see another day.





“I need expert advice for this,” he said, to himself. “I need something like a scientist... or a honey-maker... or a beekeeper... or... or... a bee!”

He turned and ran out of the castle as fast as he could, darting for the beehive, hoping beyond hope that they would have just the honey-wise advice that he was looking for.



Soon as Henry got to the talking tree, he noticed four pearl-spotters, resting. “Hey are you guys busy? I need your help!”

“No, we are just resting, in case, we’re needed again. Buzzyly was the last spotter to report in. All the pearls have been cleared in our sectors.”

“Great! Can you come to the castle with me? I need your help!”

“Hmmm, this is particularly puzzling,” buzzly said, looking for clues.

“I know,” Hummer agreed, couldn’t have been any of our honey that caused this. That’s for sure.”



“I bet it was caused by one of the bees from Queen Hamisher’s hives,” Wingling said.

“I bet it was them, for sure,” Stinger buzzed. “We might have to get a band together, go over there, and capture one of those nasty drones to get him to tell us





As they arrived in the third bedroom, some more pearl-spotters joined them.

“Come on, fellas,” Henry urged, “We have to figure this out! We only have an hour left!”

“We found the last pearl!” Whitewing announced as she flew in the window. “What is that smell?” she buzzed.

“What smell?” Henry asked.

“I smell it, too,” replied Buzzly.

“It smells like Queen Hamisher’s hive. Yuck!” Whitewing covered her nose with her wings as she sat on the dresser.

“That must be it!” Henry shouted.

“Are you sure Whitewing?”

“She’s right!” Buzzly exclaimed.

“I’m sure of it!”

“Okay. Here it goes.”

As soon as he kissed her, the entire castle shook and everything changed back to color, and all the people and animals came alive again.

The beautiful princess yawned as she woke up. "Who are you?" she asked, looking up at Henry. "What happened?"





The royal family was so grateful to the brothers that they asked them to stay. They gave them a beautiful little cottage out in the woods and placed them in charge of the other workers and harvesting the bountiful fields. Over time, Henry began to fall in love with the beautiful young princess that he had woken from a deadly sleep.

One day, he met her while she was picking flowers in the garden, and he asked her to marry him. She happily said, "Yes."



**They were
married out in
the forest with
their families
and all their
woodland
friends around.**



After the wedding, they came back to their castle and lived happily ever after.