

# SAM

## AND THE FIREFLY



by

P. D. EASTMAN









# Sam and the Firefly



Written and Illustrated by  
P. D. EASTMAN

BOOK CLUB EDITION

Beginner Books

For Mary,  
Tony, and Alan

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



The moon was up  
when Sam came out.

“Now is the time for fun,” he said.

“WHO,” said Sam, “WHO!

Who wants to play?”

But no one said a thing.

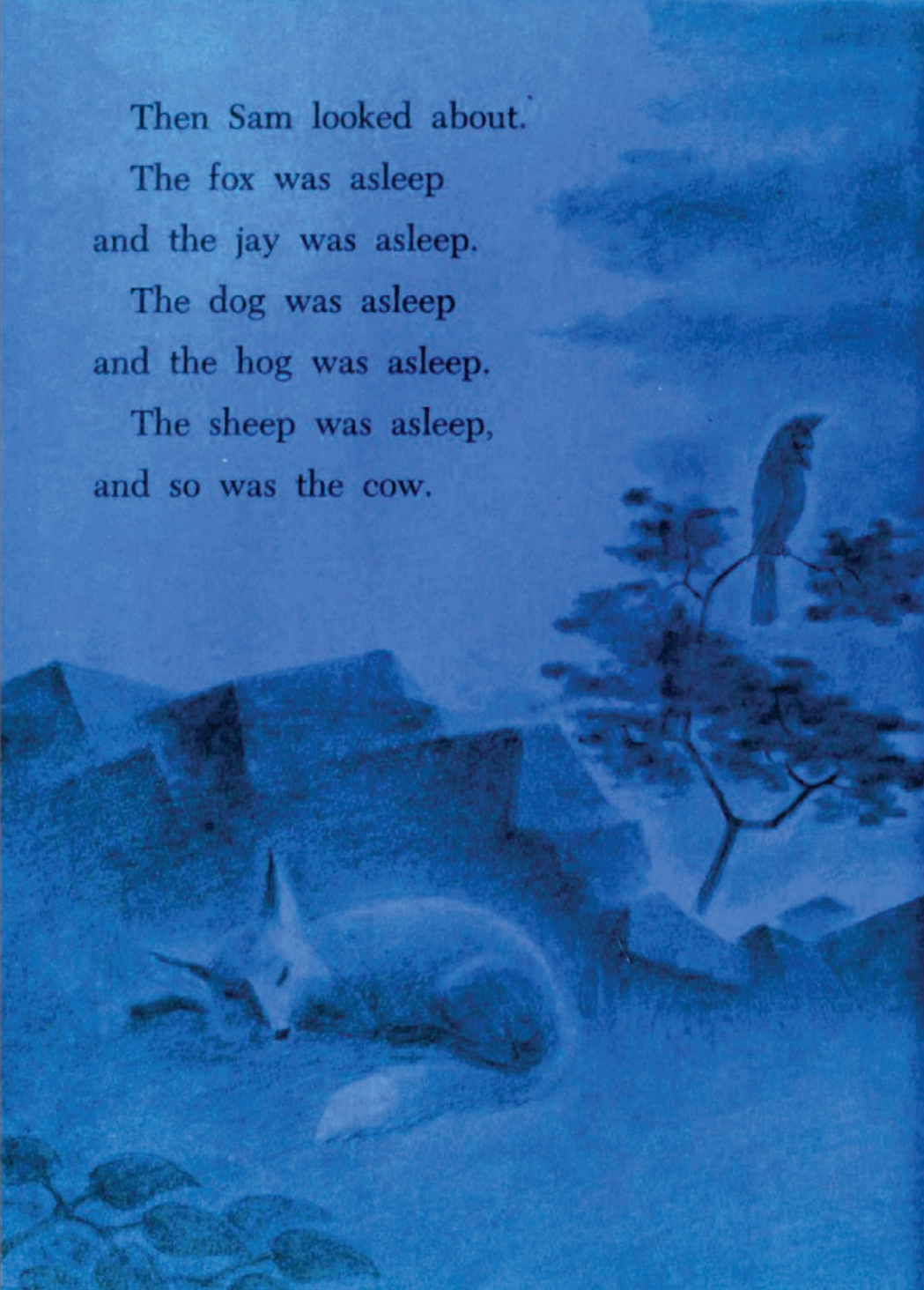


Then Sam looked about.

The fox was asleep  
and the jay was asleep.

The dog was asleep  
and the hog was asleep.

The sheep was asleep,  
and so was the cow.







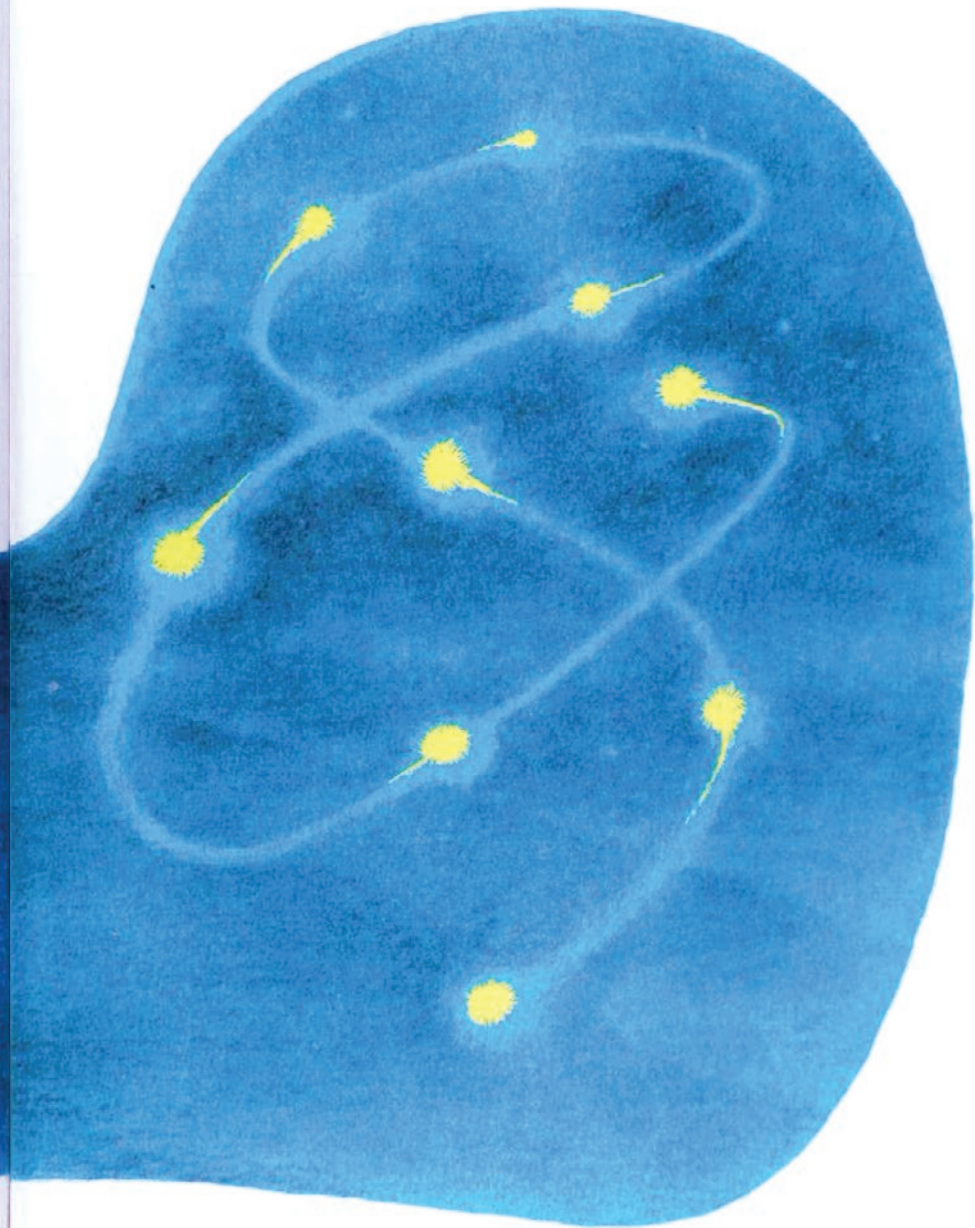
Then Sam went down to the lake.  
But no one was there.  
All he could see was the moon  
and the shine of the moon  
on the water.

"It takes two to have fun.  
who," said Sam, "who!  
Who wants to play?"  
But no one said a thing.

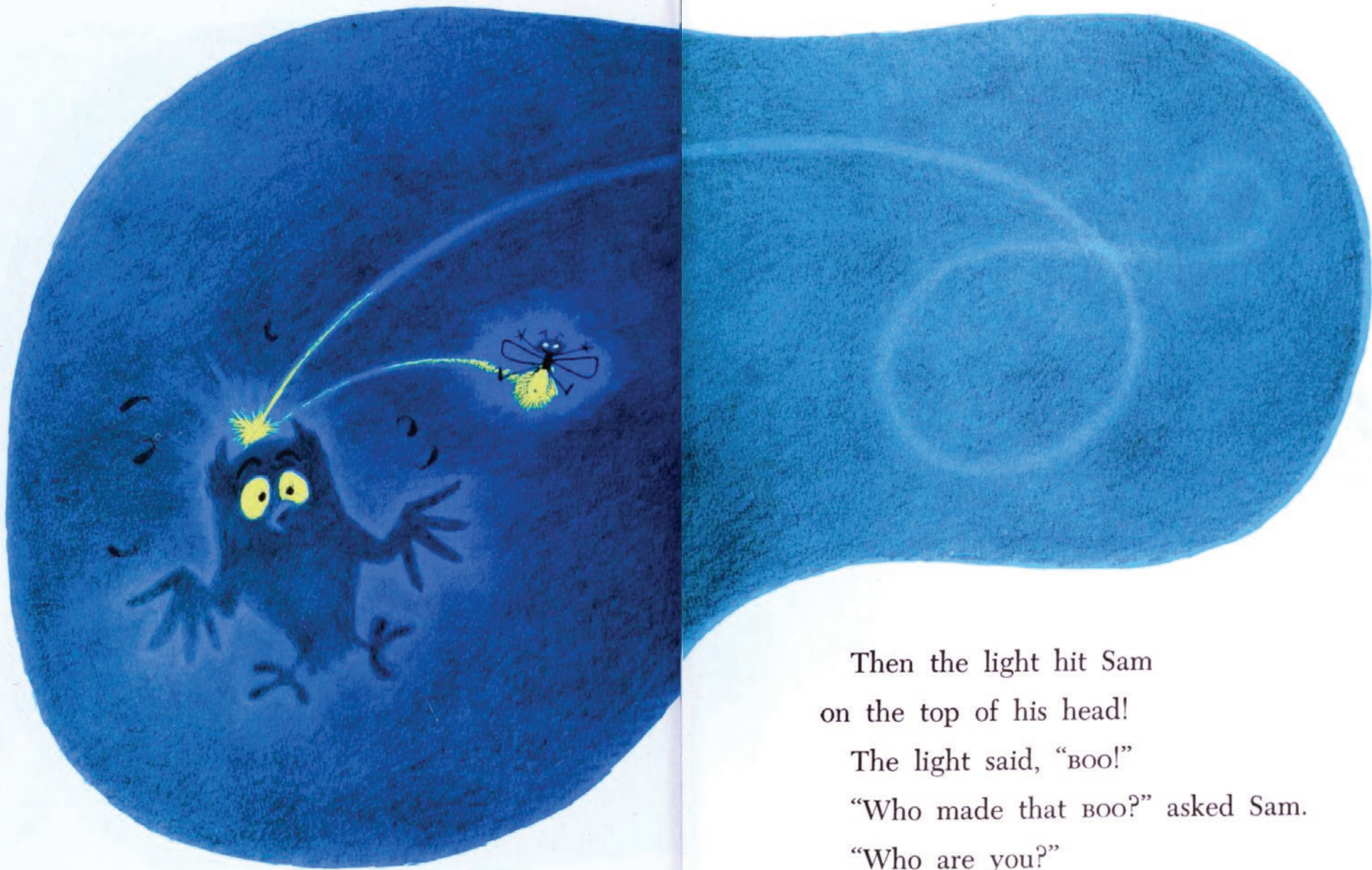




Then Sam saw a light!  
He saw the light hop.  
He saw the light jump.  
It went here, it went there.  
It went on, it went off.  
But no one said a thing.







Then the light hit Sam  
on the top of his head!  
The light said, "boo!"  
"Who made that boo?" asked Sam.  
"Who are you?"



"I am a firefly.

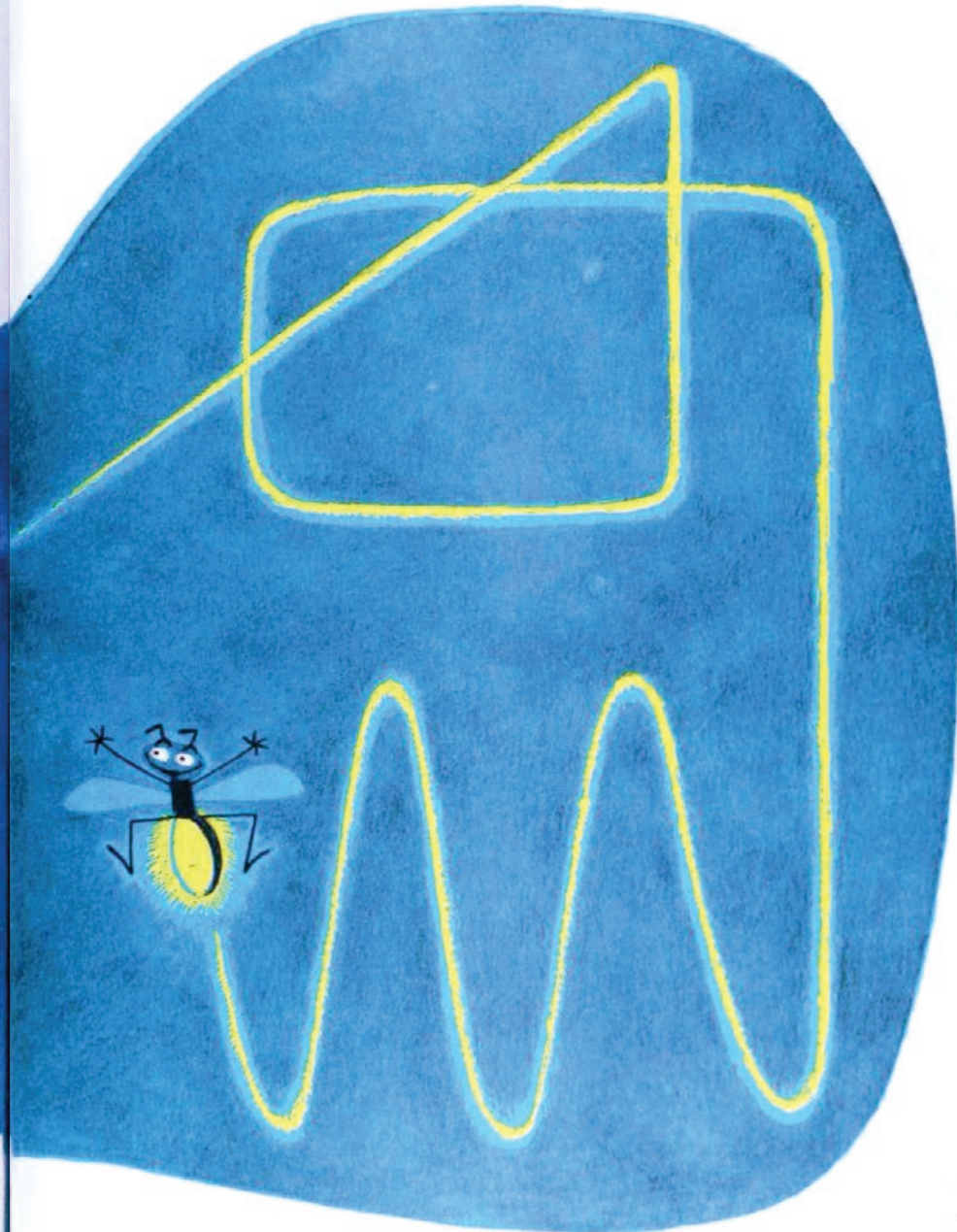
My name is Gus.

And I have a trick I can do  
with my light. Look, look!

I can put it on  
and KEEP it on,  
like this."

Then Sam saw something new!

The firefly made lines  
with his light.







"Say!" said Sam.

"WHAT a trick! This is NEW!

Oh, the things we can do  
with a trick like THAT!

Let me show you.

Now put on your light  
and KEEP it on.

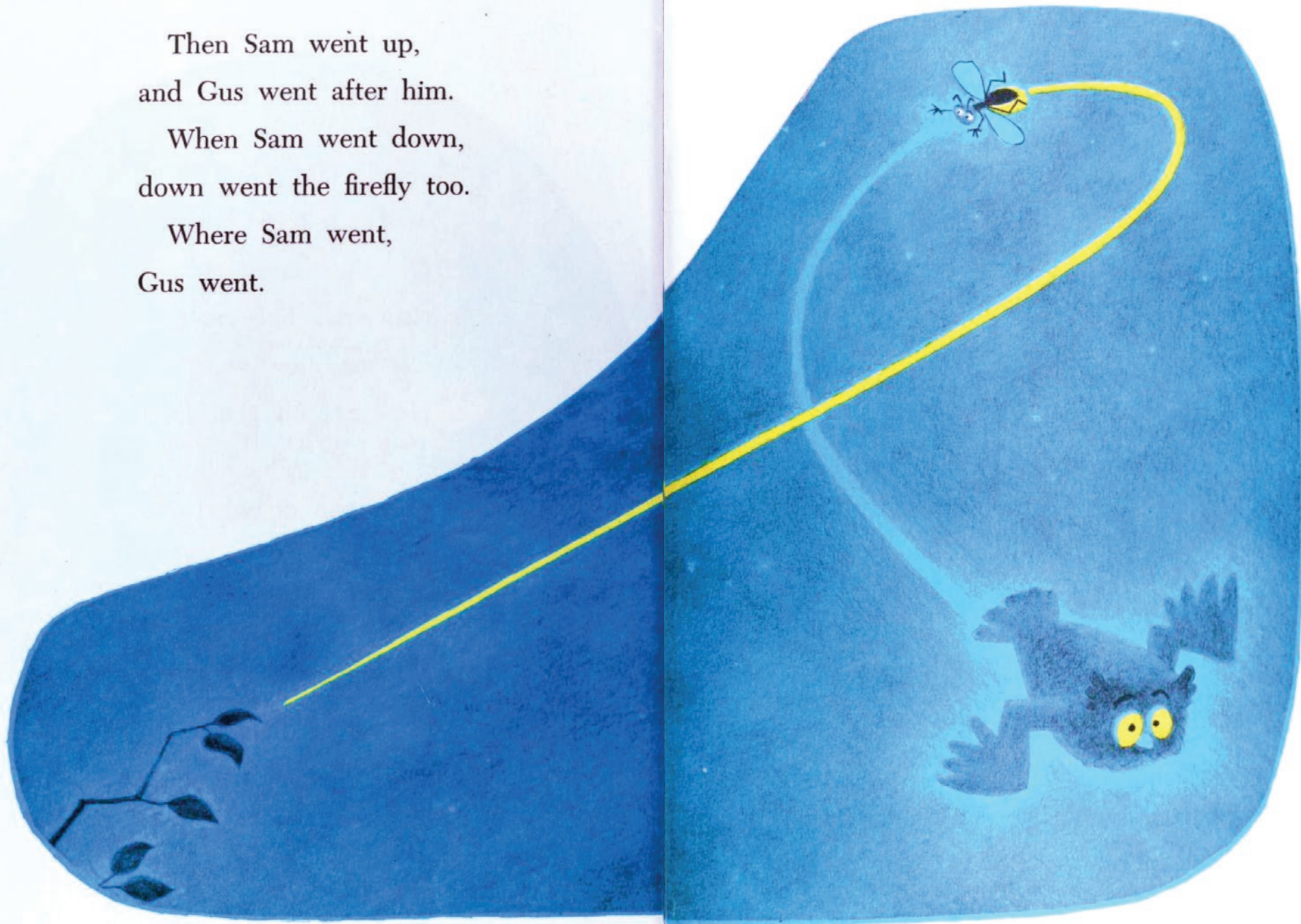
Then you do what I do,"  
he said to Gus.



Then Sam went up,  
and Gus went after him.

When Sam went down,  
down went the firefly too.

Where Sam went,  
Gus went.





Then Sam stopped,  
and Gus stopped too.

"Now just look there," said Sam.

"See what we did!"



# GUS AND SAM

"Why! We made words,  
BIG words!" said Gus the Firefly.

"Say, I LIKE this game!

I want to do it again.

This word trick is fun.

Come on. Make MORE words."



So away the two went,  
Gus after Sam.

They made lots of new words.

They made FISH.

They made WISH.

They made HOUSE  
and A MOUSE.

Then

FOX

DOG

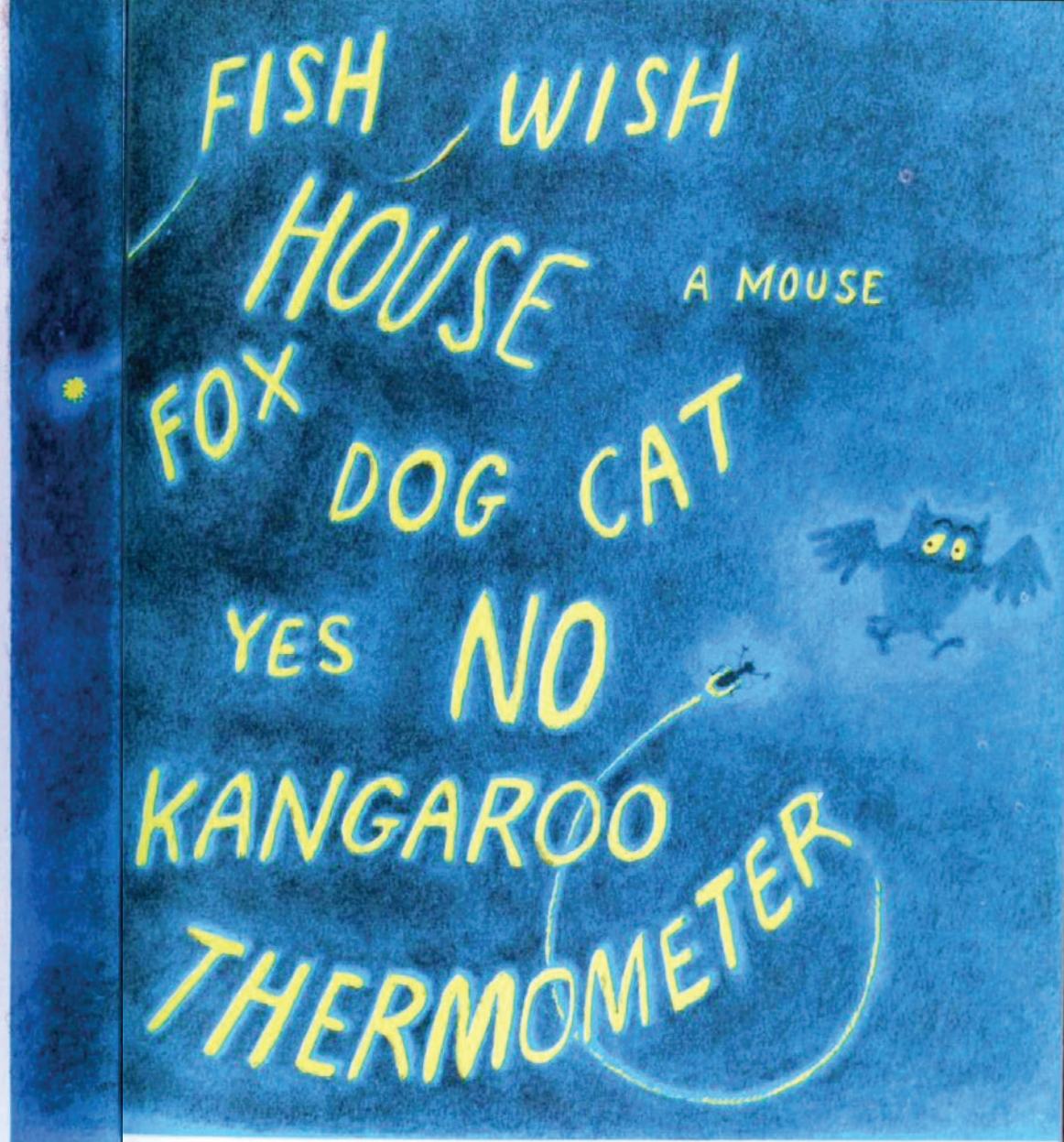
CAT

YES

NO

KANGAROO

and THERMOMETER!



Sam and Gus made a lot  
more words.

THEN . . .





Sam looked about.  
He was all alone!  
WHERE was Gus?  
Then Sam looked down.  
He saw some cars.  
And there was the firefly  
down by the cars!  
“Come back here!” called Sam.  
“What are you up to?”





What was Gus up to?  
Gus made some words.  
Gus made GO FAST and SLOW.  
He made GO RIGHT  
and GO LEFT.

And DID those cars go!  
They went BASH!  
They went SMASH!  
Gus did words  
that made the cars CRASH.  
Oh, what a mess those cars were in!  
“Dear me!” said Sam.  
“This will not do!  
He should not do THIS!  
Gus did a bad trick  
with those words.”





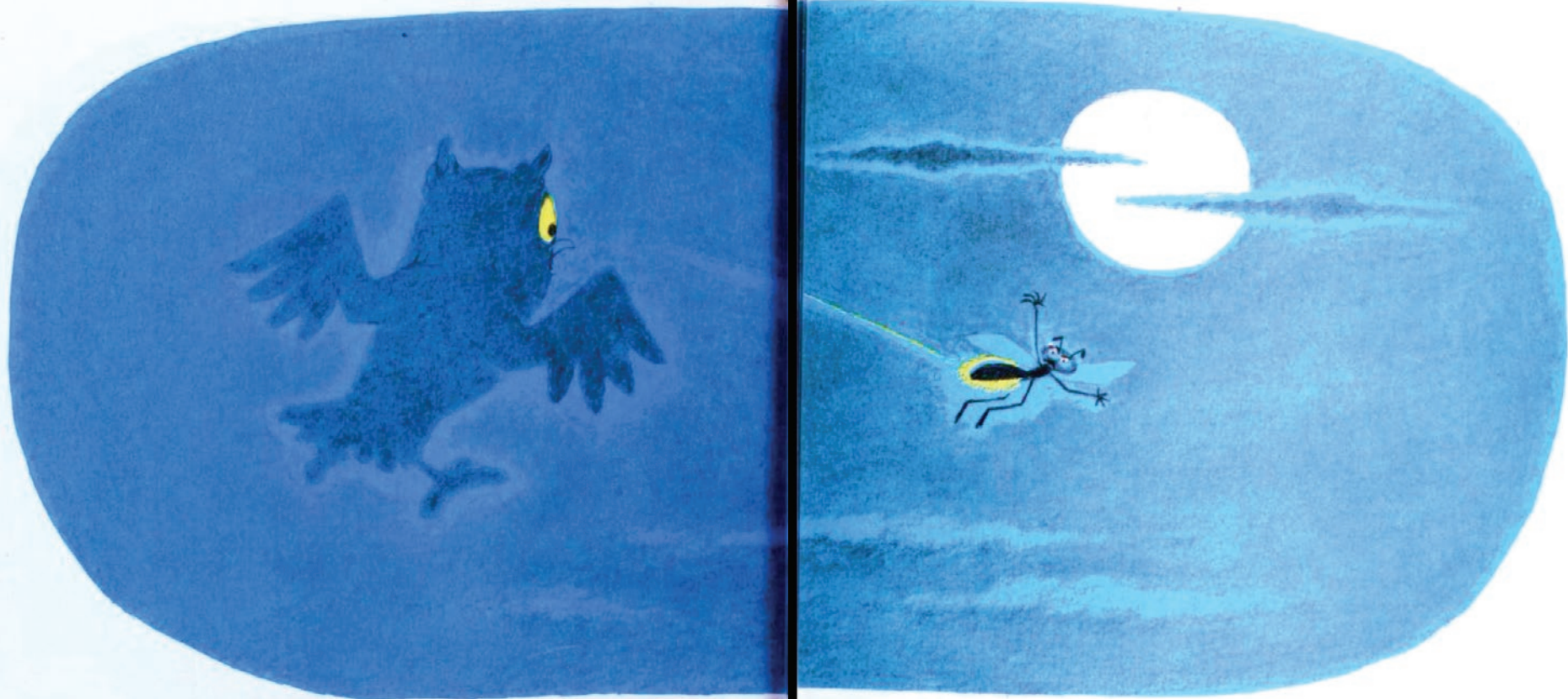


"Now see here, Gus . . ."



But Gus would NOT see.  
He would not hear.  
"YOW wow!  
I like to make words,  
LOTS of words," he said.  
"I LIKE this game!  
Let me be, you old GOOSE, you!"  
And away he went.





"Stop, Gus! Stop!  
Come back!" called Sam.  
"That was a BAD trick.  
Come back here now.  
Bad tricks are not fun!"

"Oh, go on home!" said the firefly.  
"You old GOOSE! You old HEN!  
What do you know about fun?  
GOOD-BY!" And away Gus went.



Now Gus did more tricks.  
He did word tricks  
on some airplanes.

He made them go up.  
He made them go down.  
He made them go this way.  
He made them go that way.  
now what a mess

the airplanes were in!

"No, Gus! No!" said Sam.

But Gus did not want to stop.

Not yet. This was fun!





Then Sam saw Gus  
do another bad trick.

It made the firefly laugh  
and laugh.

It was funny  
to see them go in free  
to the movie show!

“Stop your tricks,” called Sam.

“No more words!

Stop, Gus! Stop!

Now STOP!”

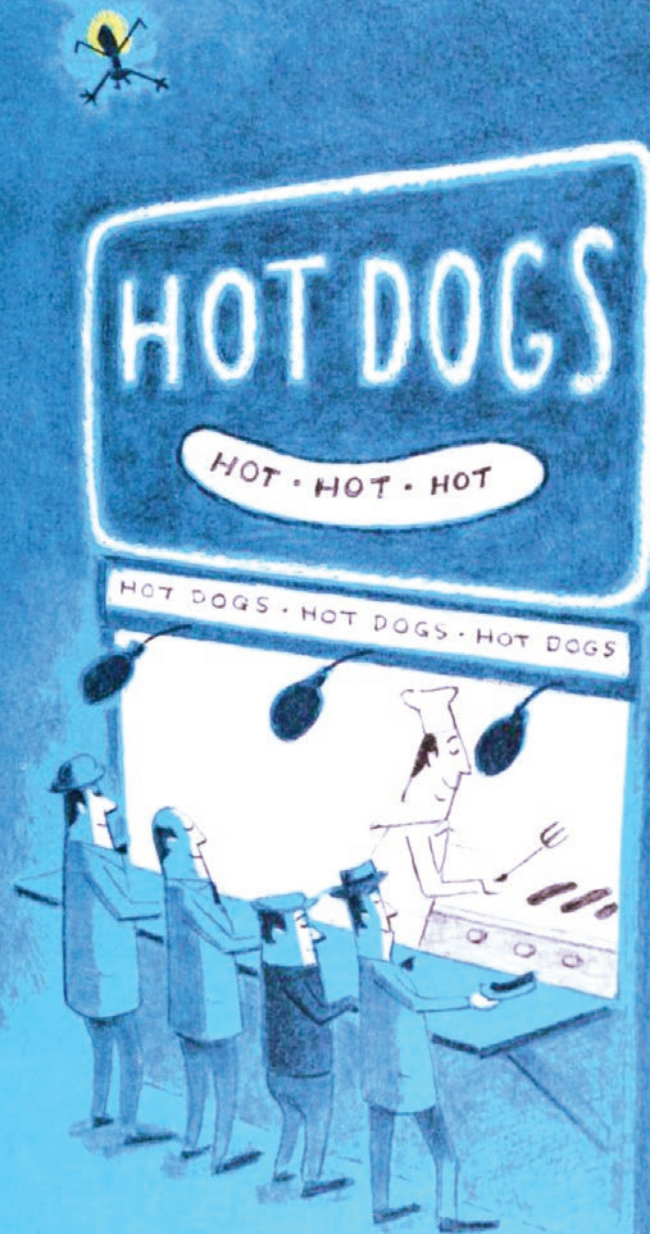
COME IN!  
FREE SHOW







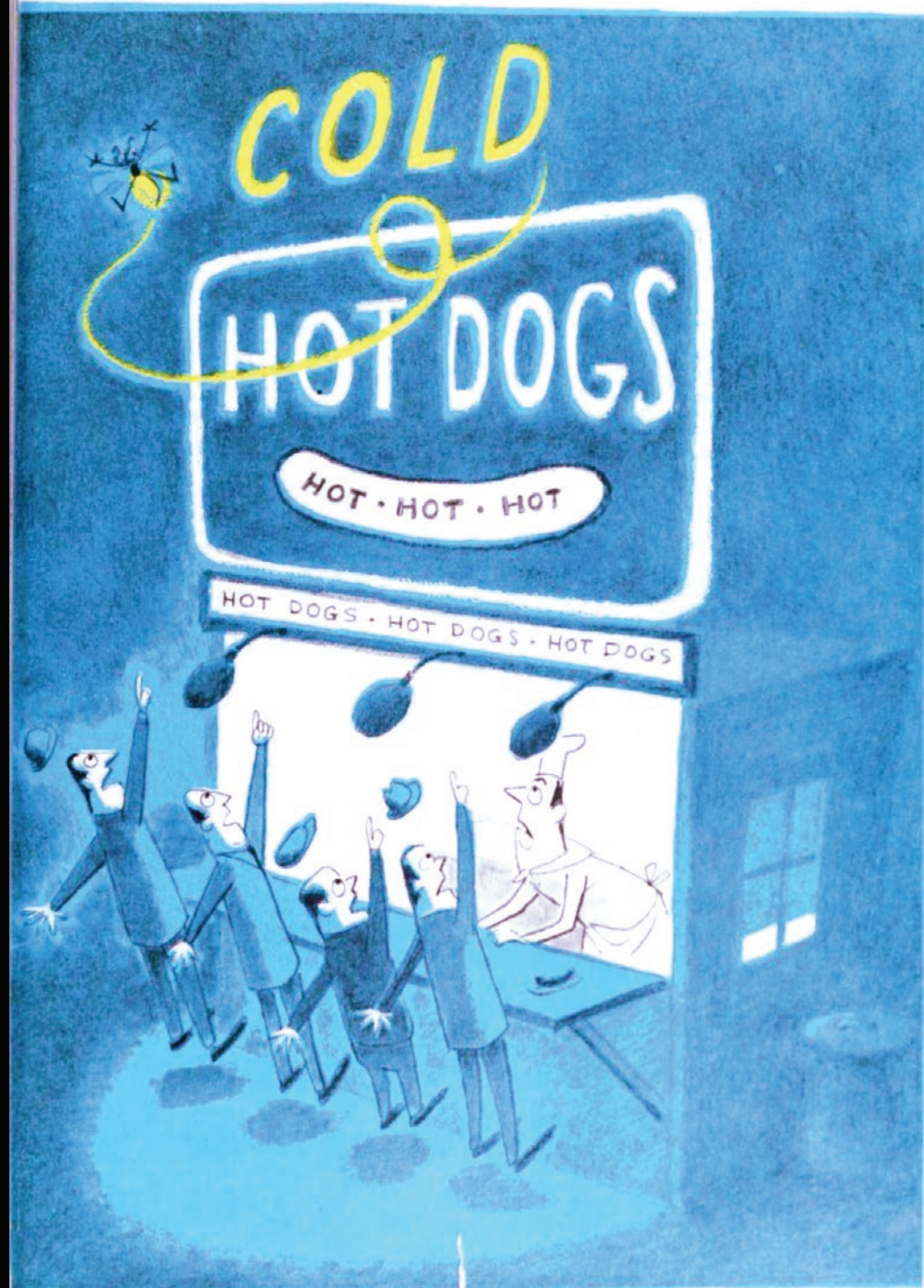
But Gus the Firefly did NOT stop.  
“I have one more trick,” he said.  
“A LITTLE trick.  
Look, Sam! Look!  
A ONE WORD trick!”





Then Gus did his little trick,  
his ONE WORD trick.  
He did a BAD trick  
He did it to the Hot Dog Man.  
He made the word COLD  
near the top of the stand.

The men looked up.  
They saw what Gus did.  
“We want our Hot Dogs HOT,  
not COLD!  
Good-by,” they said.







Gus did not see the Hot Dog Man,  
the man with the net and the jar.

"Look out!" called Sam.

"Look out, Gus!

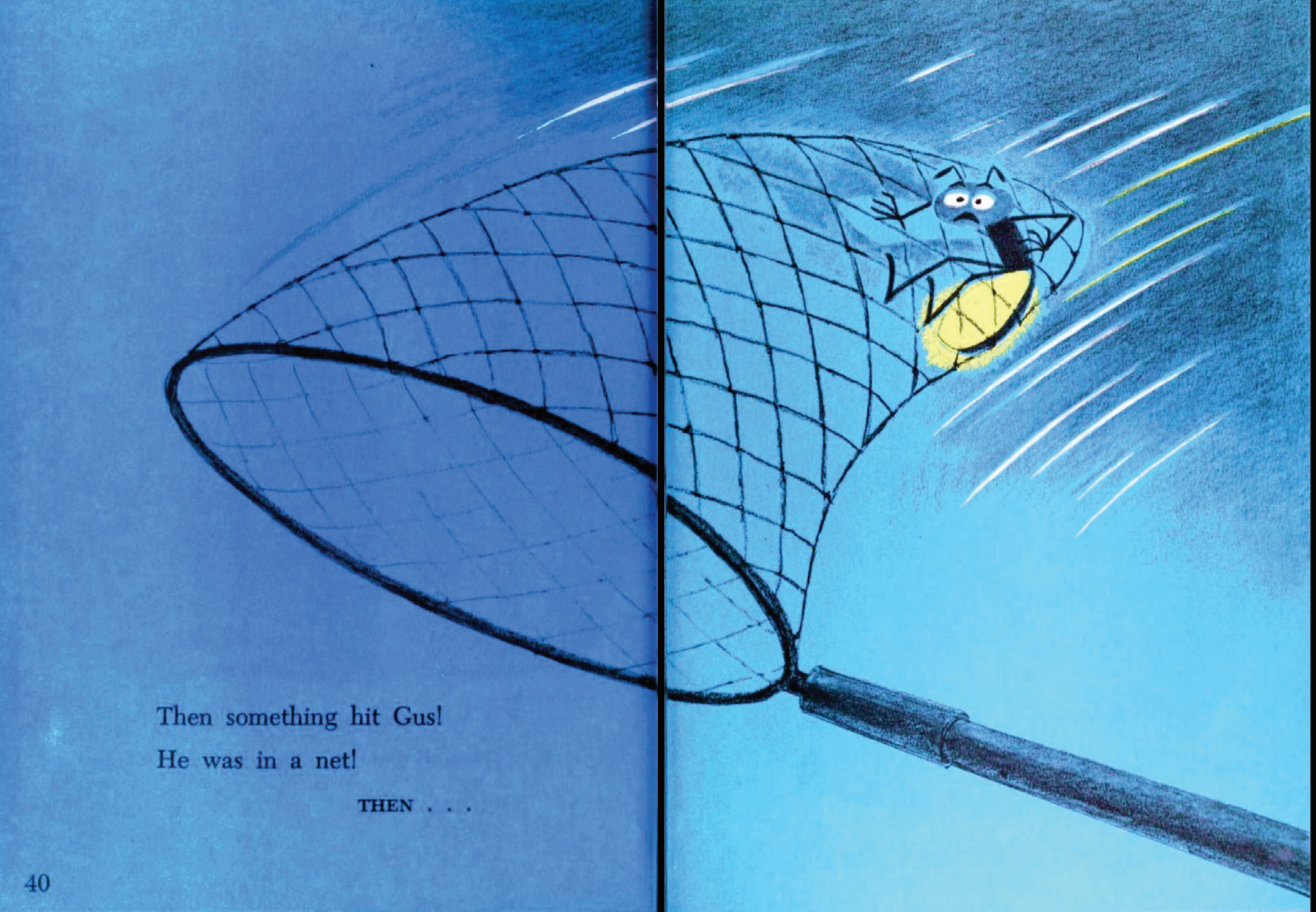
The Hot Dog Man is MAD!"

"I will GET that firefly,"  
said the Hot Dog Man.



"I will take him away from here.  
He will not play another  
trick on ME!"





Then something hit Gus!  
He was in a net!

THEN . . .





GUS THE FIREFLY WAS IN A JAR!

"Let me OUT!"

Gus hit at the walls of the jar!

He hopped about!

He jumped up and down!

But it did no good.

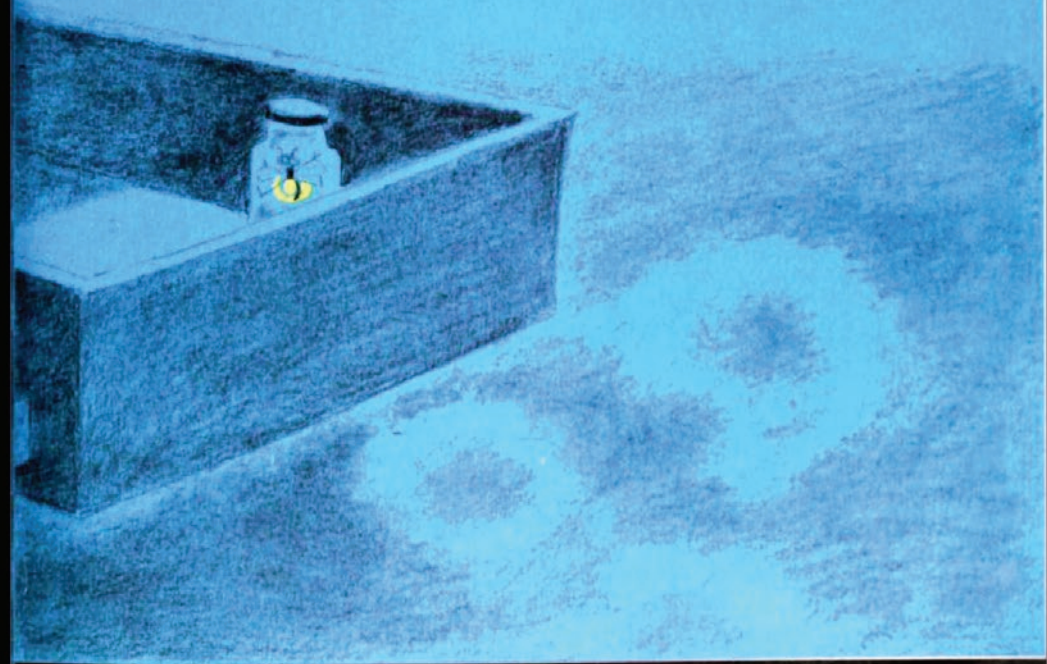
There was no way to get out.





Then Gus in the jar  
was in a car!

The car went away fast.  
Where would it take him?  
Would he do more tricks?  
Would he make more words?  
Would he have fun again with his light?  
Would Gus get out of the jar?





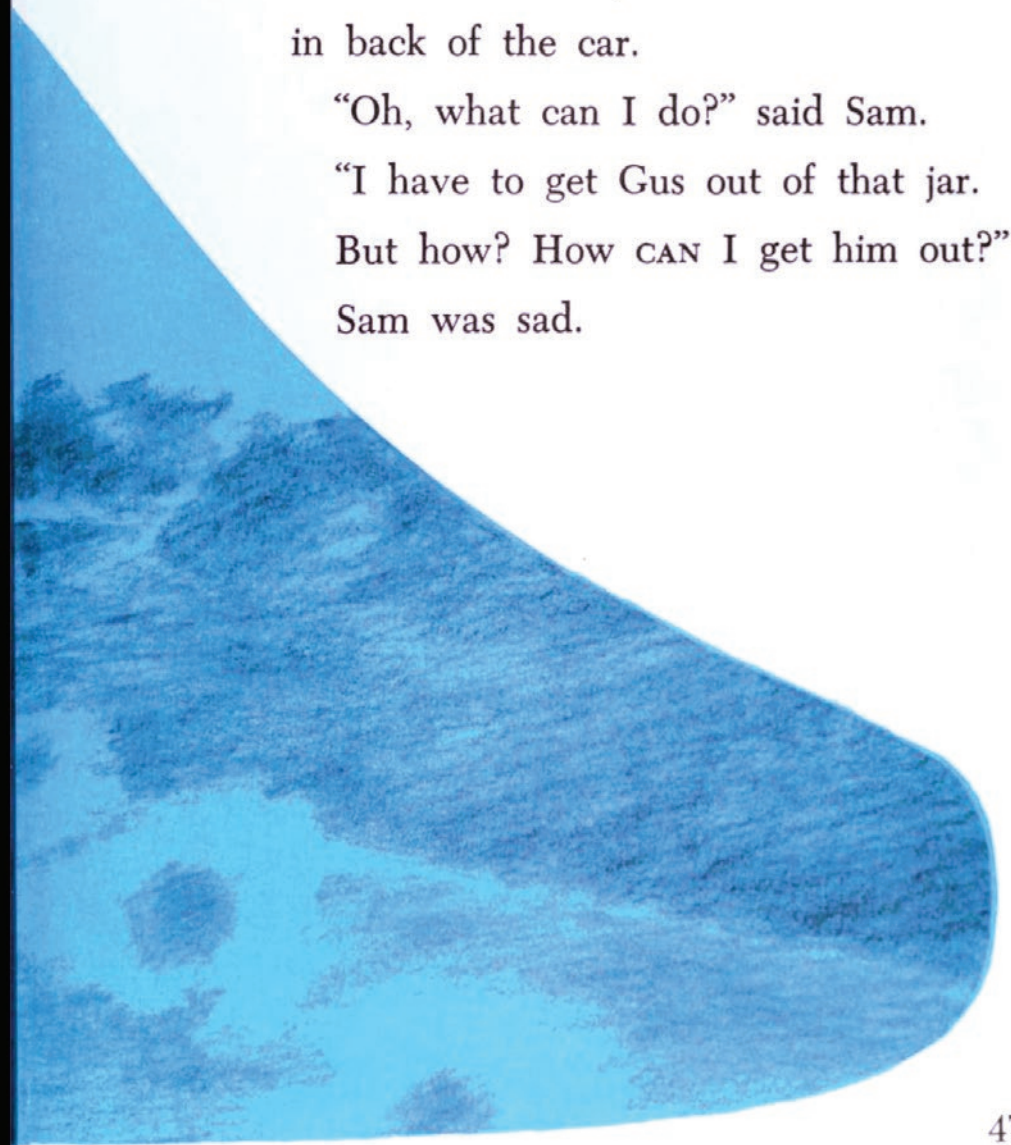


Gus did not know it,  
but Sam was there too.

He was near by  
in back of the car.

“Oh, what can I do?” said Sam.

“I have to get Gus out of that jar.  
But how? How CAN I get him out?”  
Sam was sad.



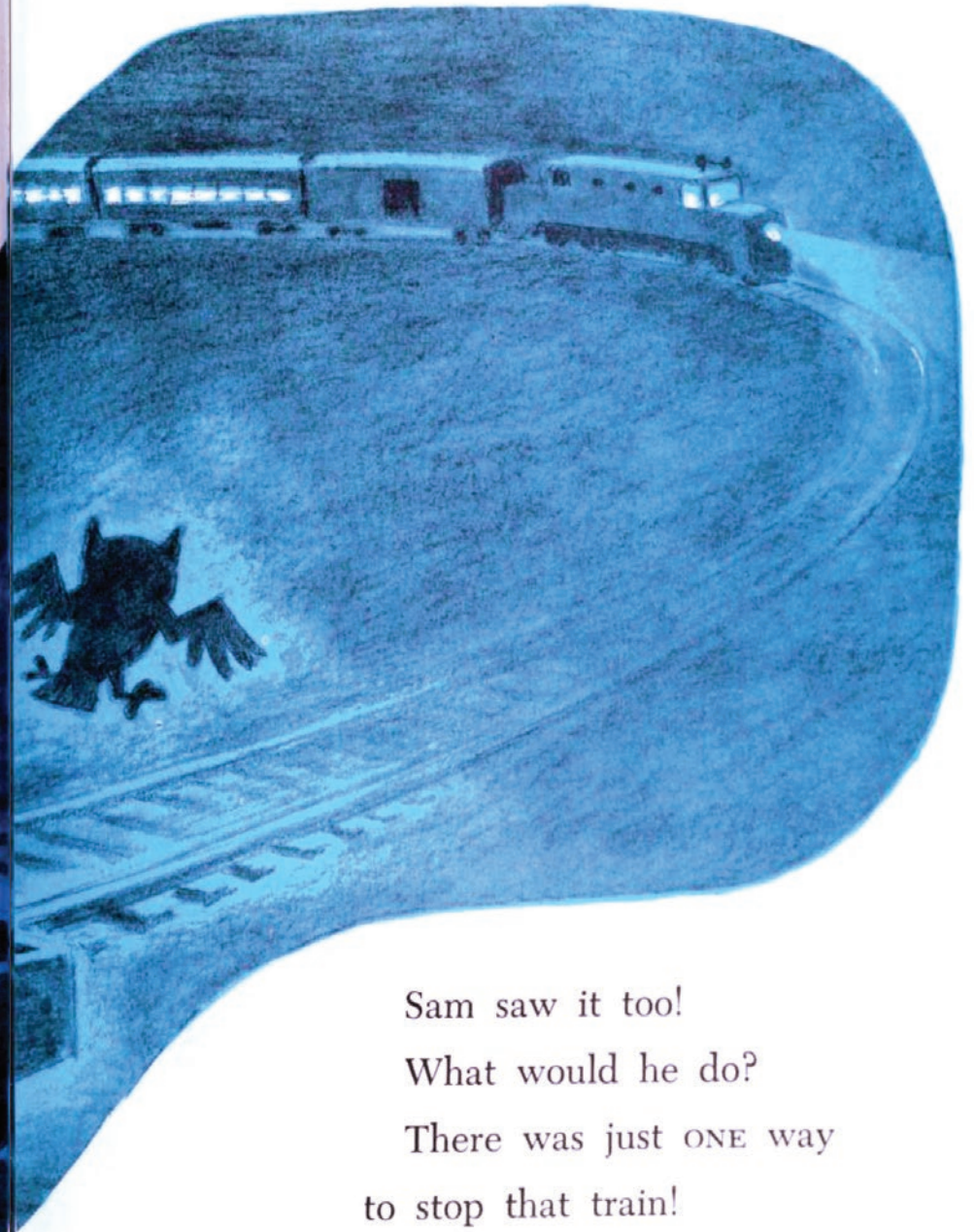


And Gus was sad too.  
“I should have stopped  
when Sam said NO.  
I was bad.  
I just had to have fun,” said Gus.  
“I wish Sam were here  
to get me out.”  
The car went on.  
Then it stopped with a BUMP!





It stopped on some tracks.  
The car would not go!  
The Hot Dog Man got out.  
Then he looked down the tracks.  
What did he see?  
He saw a TRAIN!



Sam saw it too!  
What would he do?  
There was just ONE way  
to stop that train!





Sam went to the car.  
He took the jar,  
the jar with Gus!

THEN . . .





He let the jar fall.

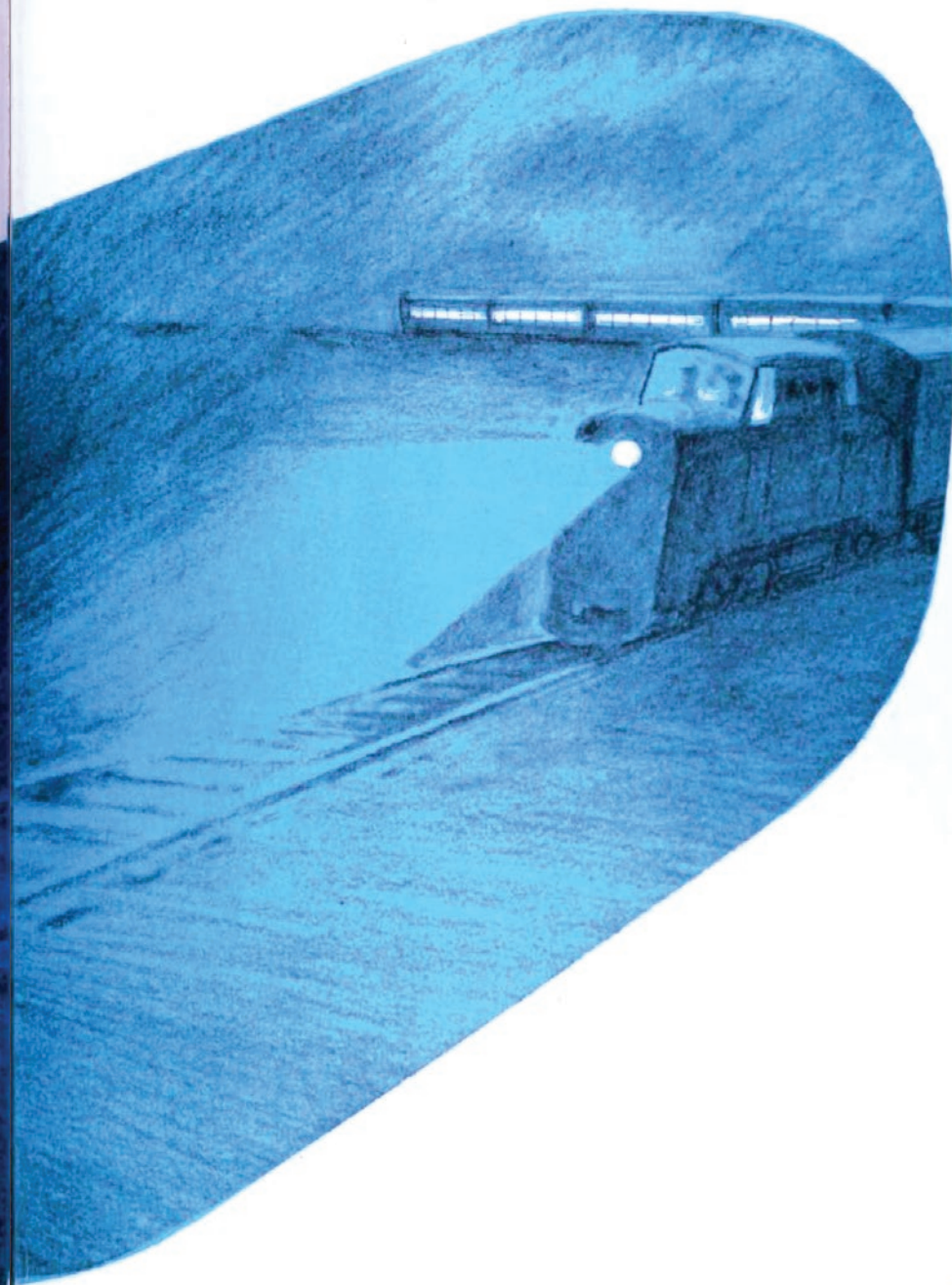
CRASH! And Gus was out!

"You can save the car, Gus!

You can stop the train!

You know what to do!

DO IT!" said Sam.







And the firefly did it!  
He made the word stop.  
He did it fast and he did it big.  
He did it a lot.  
He made lots of big stops.  
“yow wow, Gus!” called Sam.  
“At LAST you did a GOOD trick!”

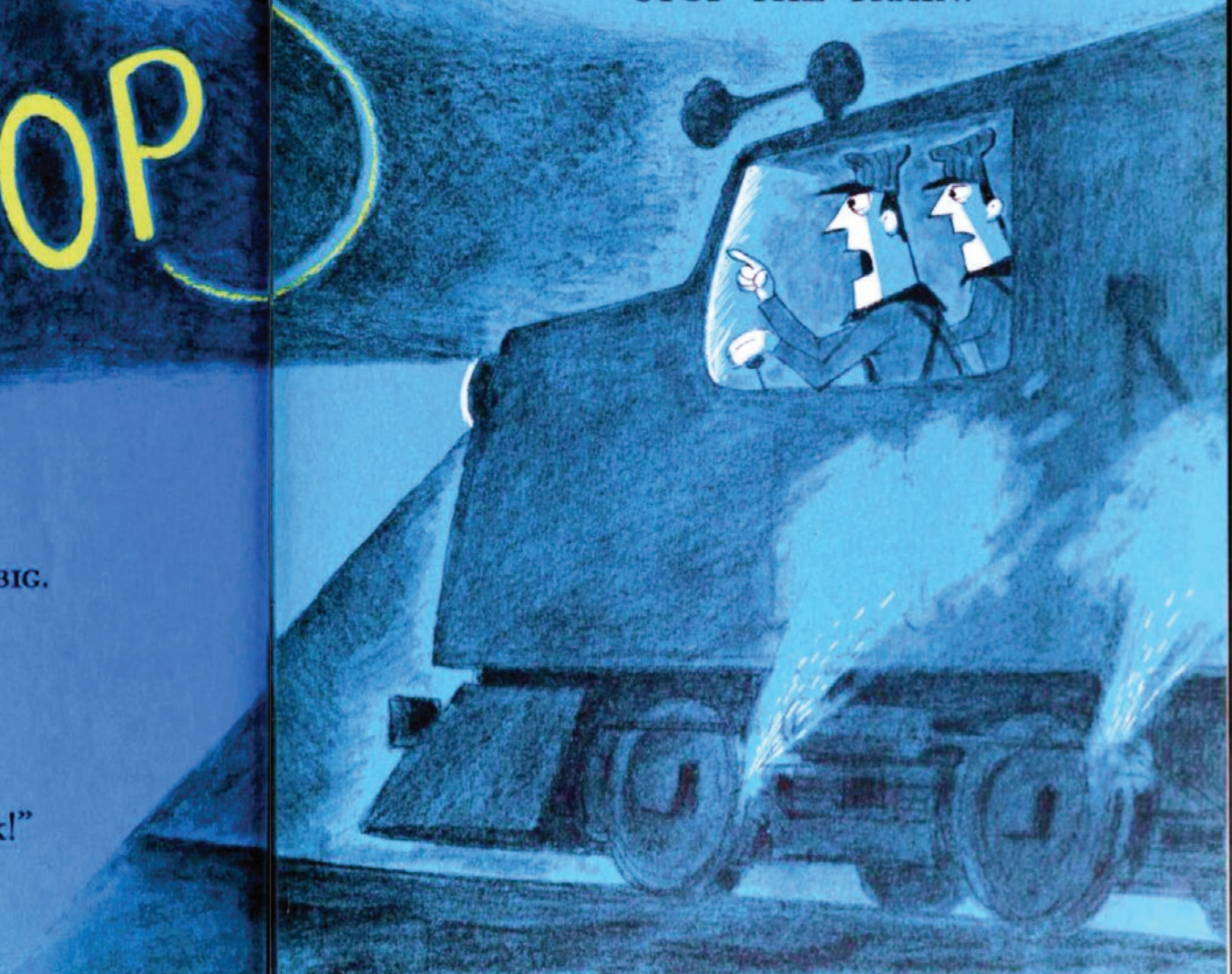
“Look!

It says stop!

Look down there!

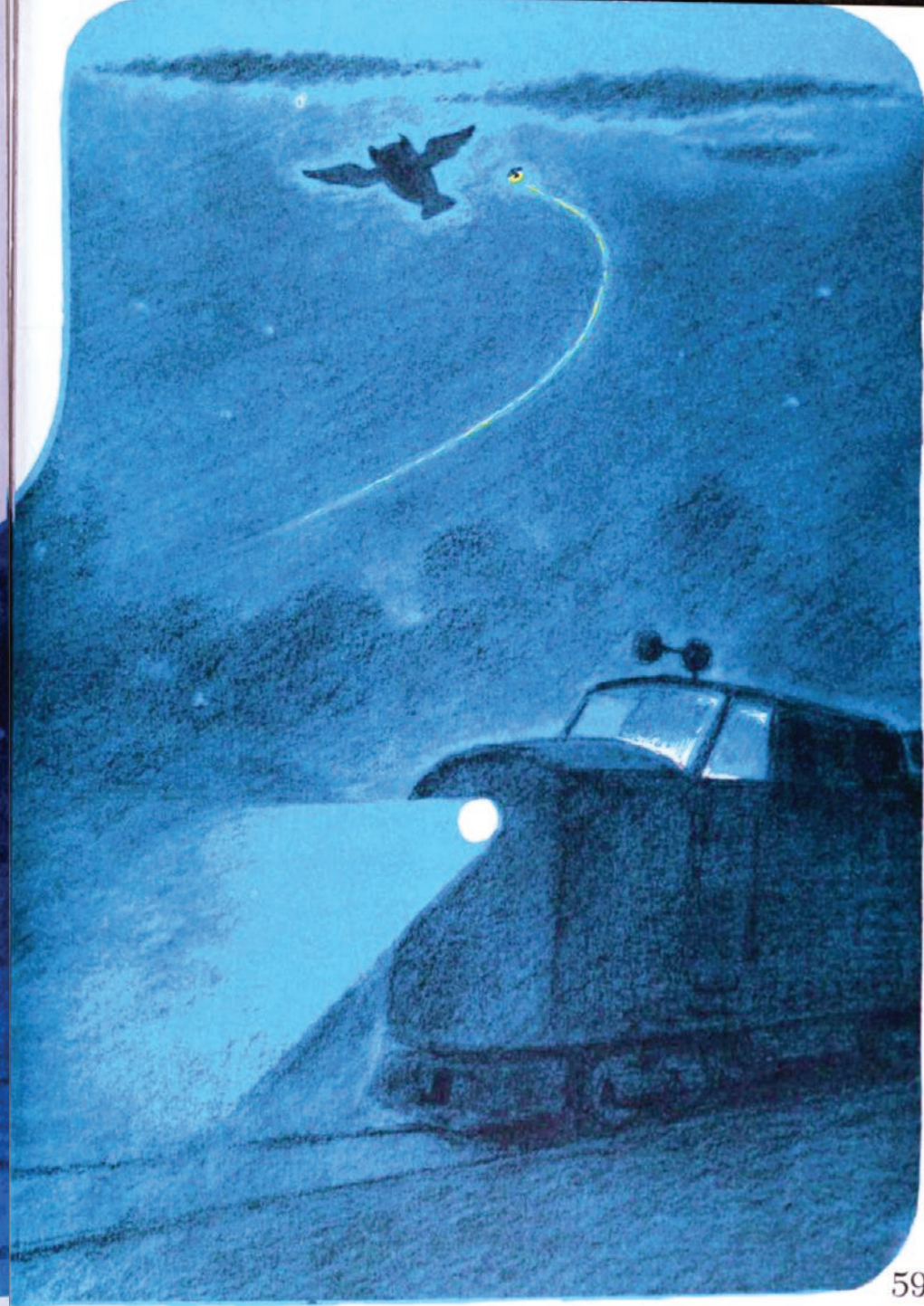
A car on the track!

STOP THE TRAIN!”

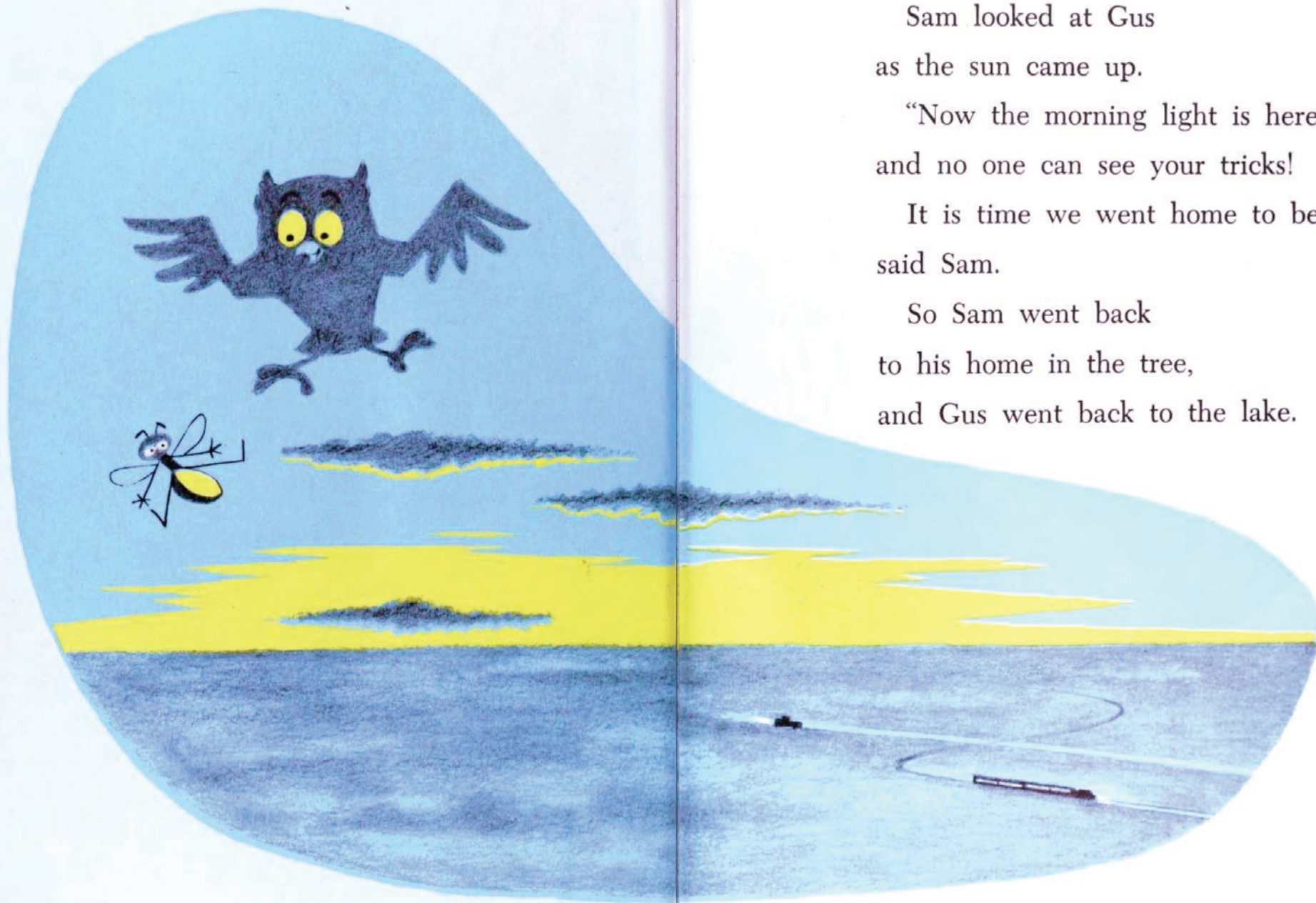




The train DID stop!  
And just in time.  
“What a trick!” they all said.  
“A good, good trick!  
HOORAY for the firefly!  
He stopped the train!”  
But Sam and Gus did not hear.  
They had gone away.







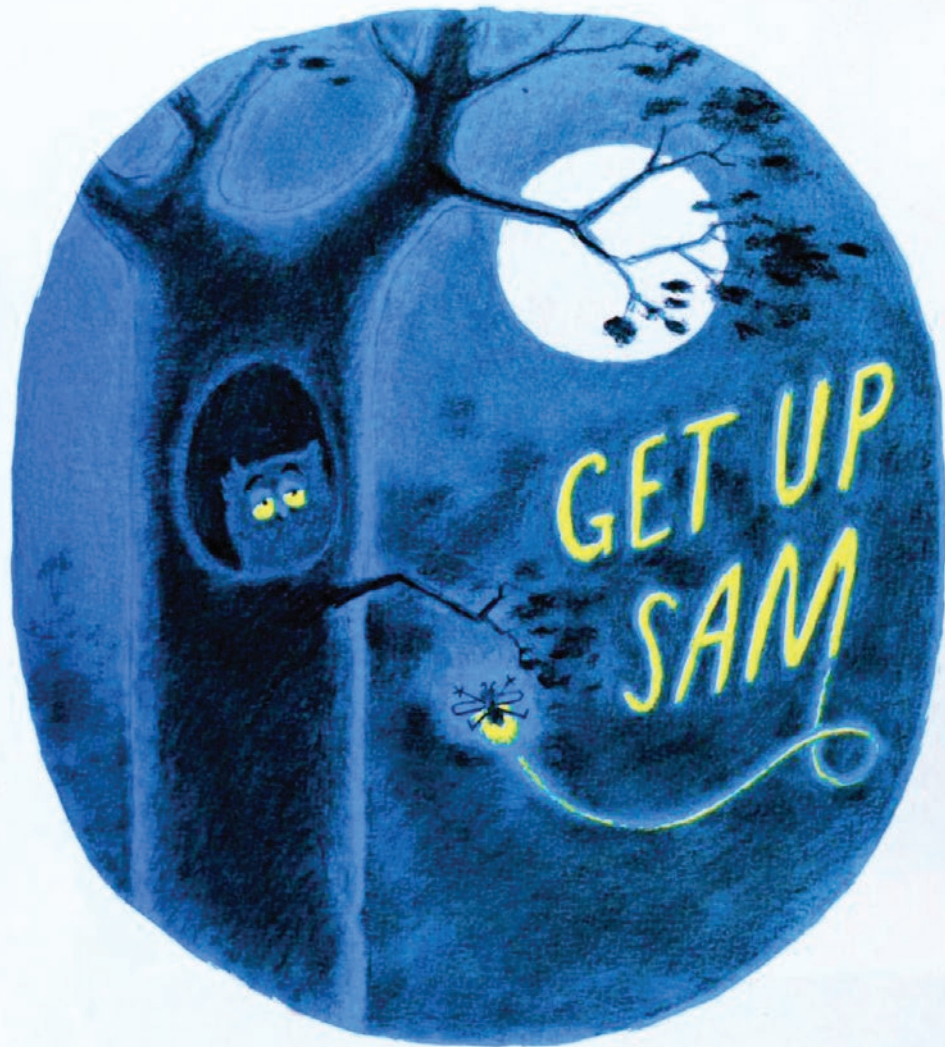
Sam looked at Gus  
as the sun came up.

“Now the morning light is here,  
and no one can see your tricks!

It is time we went home to bed,”  
said Sam.

So Sam went back  
to his home in the tree,  
and Gus went back to the lake.





But night after night,  
when the moon comes up,  
Gus the Firefly  
comes back to play.