

Runaway Turkey

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illustrated by Deane Taylor



Blake
EDUCATION

Better ways to learn

Characters



Zachery



Sienna



Mum

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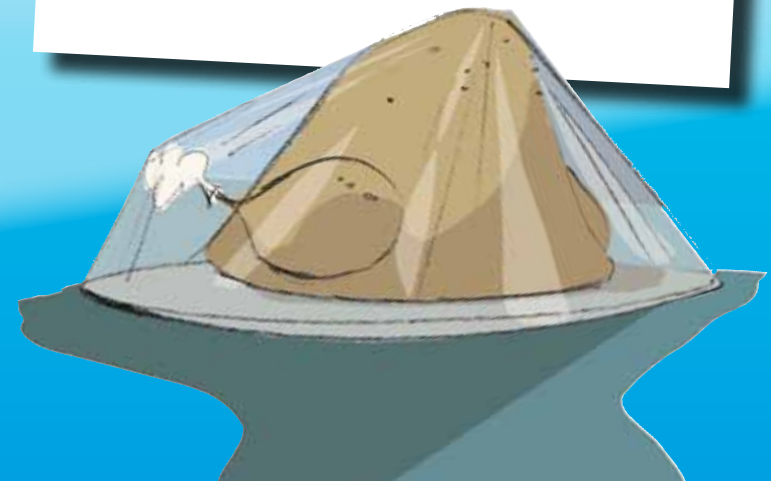
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Chapter 1

Christmas Eve

There was only one more sleep until Christmas Day. Sienna and Zachery were dizzy with excitement.

Beep-beep! A car pulled into the driveway.

"Come and help me bring the shopping inside," yelled Mum from the car.



Sienna and Zachery raced outside to see what she had bought. There were bags and bags of Christmas goodies in the car.

"Mince pies!" shouted Zachery.

"Chocolate Santas!" squealed Sienna.

"OK, come on now kids," Mum said. "We need to get this food inside."

Sienna and Zachery lugged in bag after bag.

"Don't forget the turkey!" called Mum from the driveway.

Sienna could see a big, plump turkey, wrapped in plastic, perched in the boot of the car. Sienna loved Christmas turkey! It wouldn't be Christmas without a turkey for Christmas lunch.



"Go get the turkey, Zachery," Sienna moaned.

"You get it," said Zachery. "I've carried everything in."

Sienna poked out her tongue and turned on the television. Zachery pulled a face and flopped onto the couch with a book.

Mum bustled into the house with the last bag. "I have to go back to the shops for the prawns. I'll be back in an hour," she said.

Sienna watched television. Zachary read his book. Mum rushed out of the house.

Zachery and Sienna heard the car start.

"Where did you put the turkey?" asked Sienna.

"I thought you brought it in," frowned Zachery.

Sienna and Zachery's eyes widened.

"Oh no!" they shouted at once and rushed to the door.



Chapter 2

Runaway Turkey

"Mum, stop!" they shouted.

But it was too late. The car was already half way up the street, with a great, big turkey bouncing in the back.

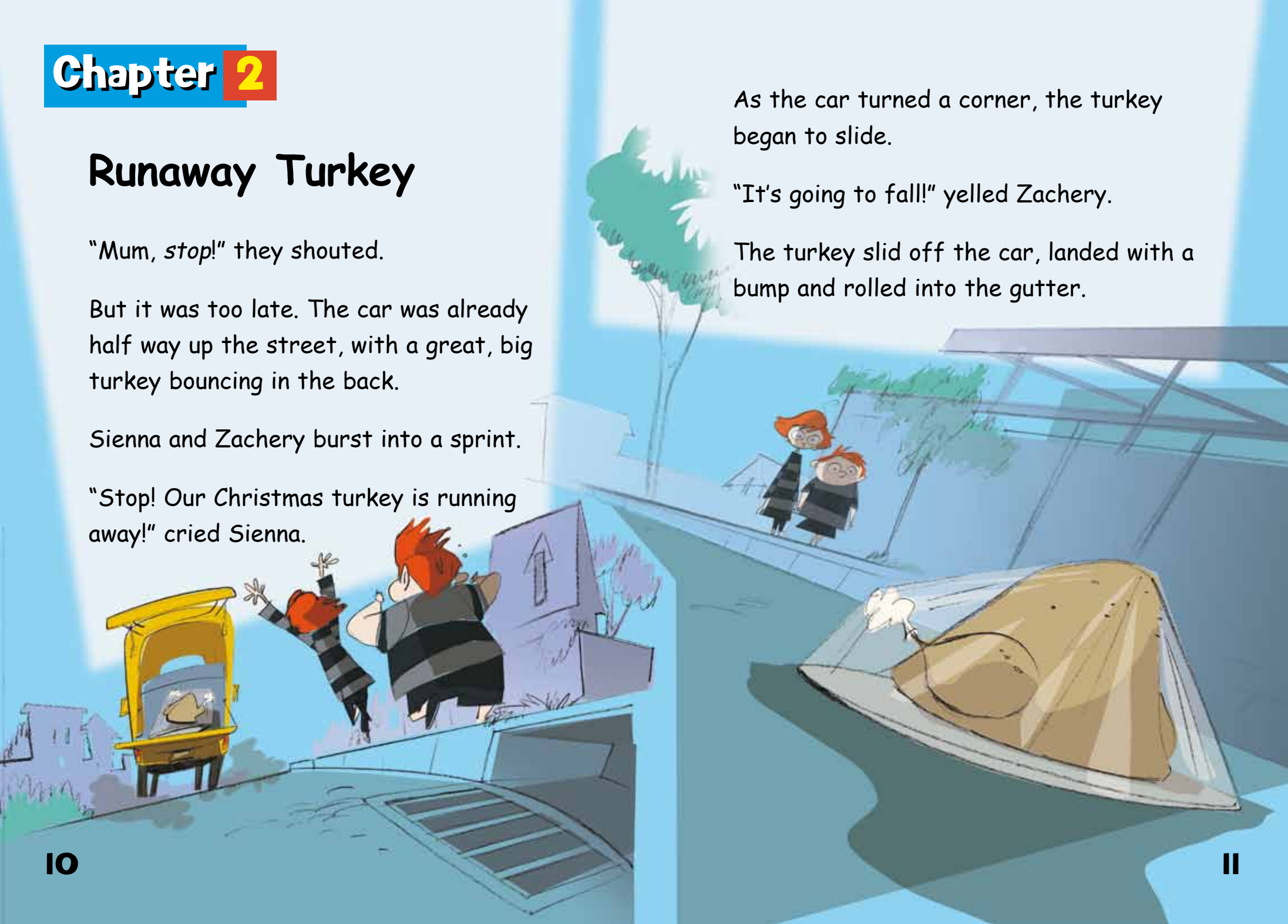
Sienna and Zachery burst into a sprint.

"Stop! Our Christmas turkey is running away!" cried Sienna.

As the car turned a corner, the turkey began to slide.

"It's going to fall!" yelled Zachery.

The turkey slid off the car, landed with a bump and rolled into the gutter.





"I'm sure it's OK," said Sienna, although she didn't sound sure.

"Really?" said Zachery.

"It's all wrapped up. Anyhow, let's go get it," replied Sienna.

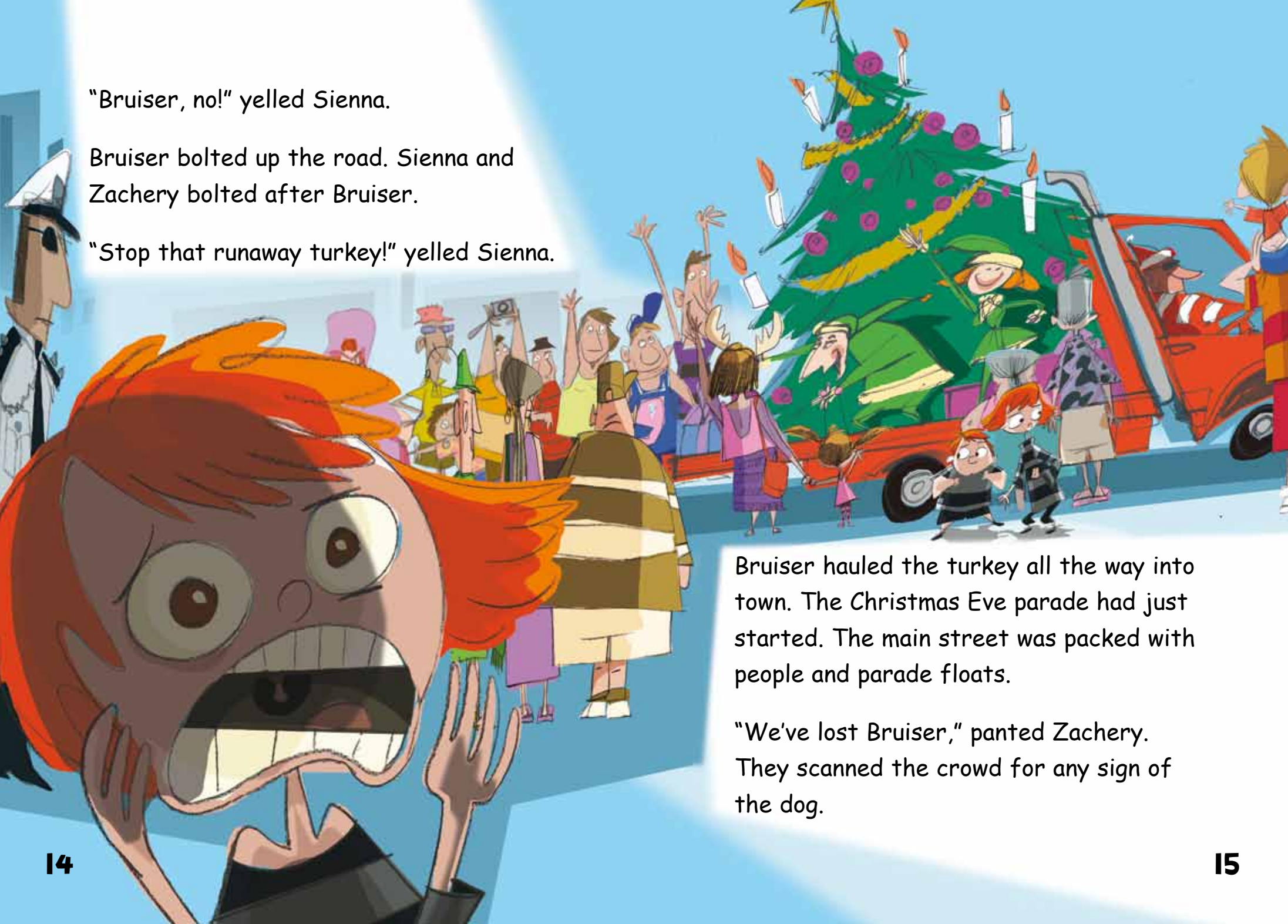
Sienna and Zachery ran towards the turkey. As they got closer, they saw Bruiser, the neighbour's dog. Bruiser was huge.

Sienna looked at Zachery. Zachery looked at Bruiser. Bruiser looked at the turkey.

"Bruiser ..." warned Zachery.

The dog lunged forward and grabbed the turkey.





"Bruiser, no!" yelled Sienna.

Bruiser bolted up the road. Sienna and Zachery bolted after Bruiser.

"Stop that runaway turkey!" yelled Sienna.

Bruiser hauled the turkey all the way into town. The Christmas Eve parade had just started. The main street was packed with people and parade floats.

"We've lost Bruiser," panted Zachery. They scanned the crowd for any sign of the dog.

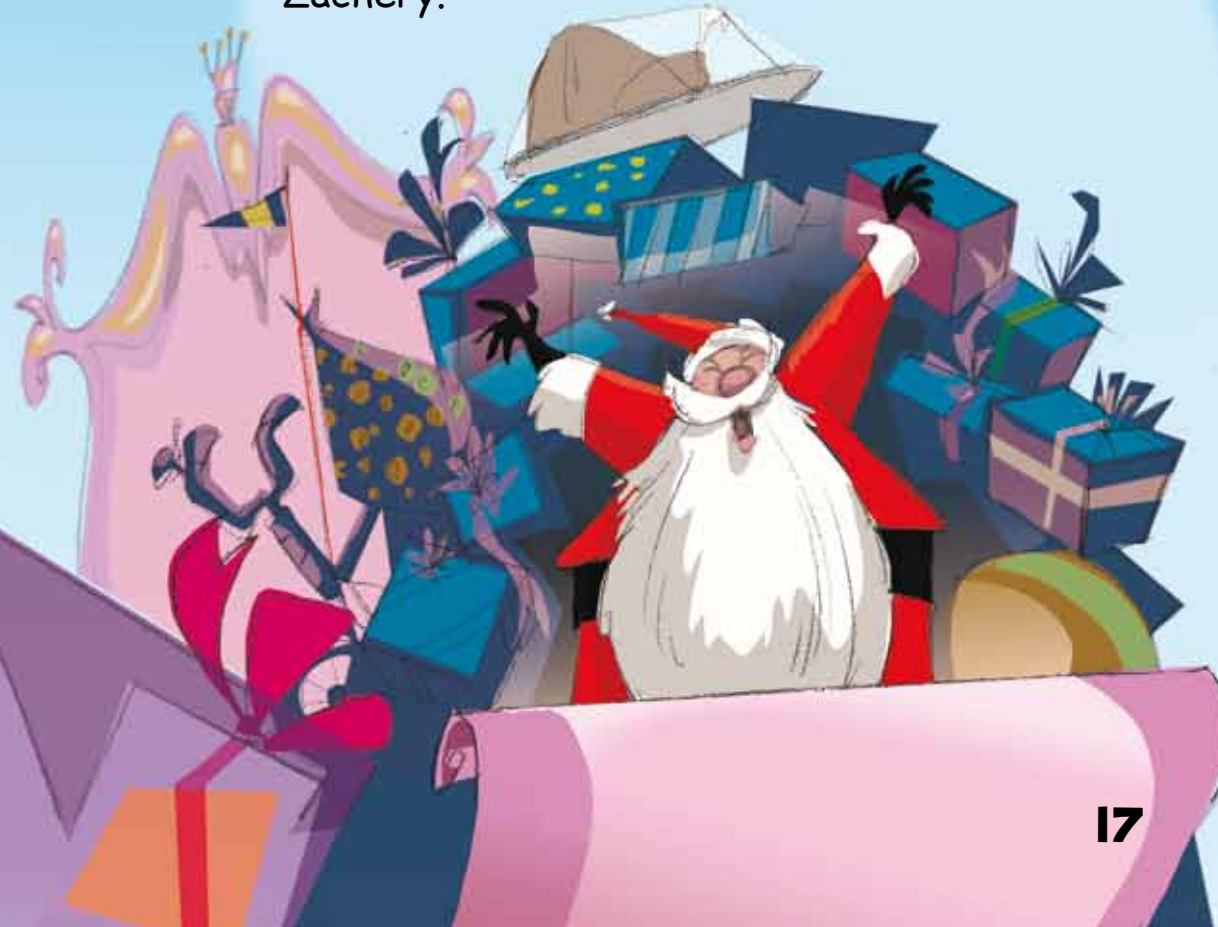
Bruiser was very tired, so he climbed up onto a platform to have a rest with his turkey.

Suddenly, the platform began to move. Bruiser jumped off in fright, leaving the turkey behind.

"Look!" yelled Sienna, pointing to the parade.

There on a parade float was Santa, sitting high in his sleigh. He waved to the crowd and the crowd waved back. And there, on the top of Santa's sack of presents, was Sienna and Zachery's Christmas turkey.

"Stop that runaway turkey!" cried Zachery.



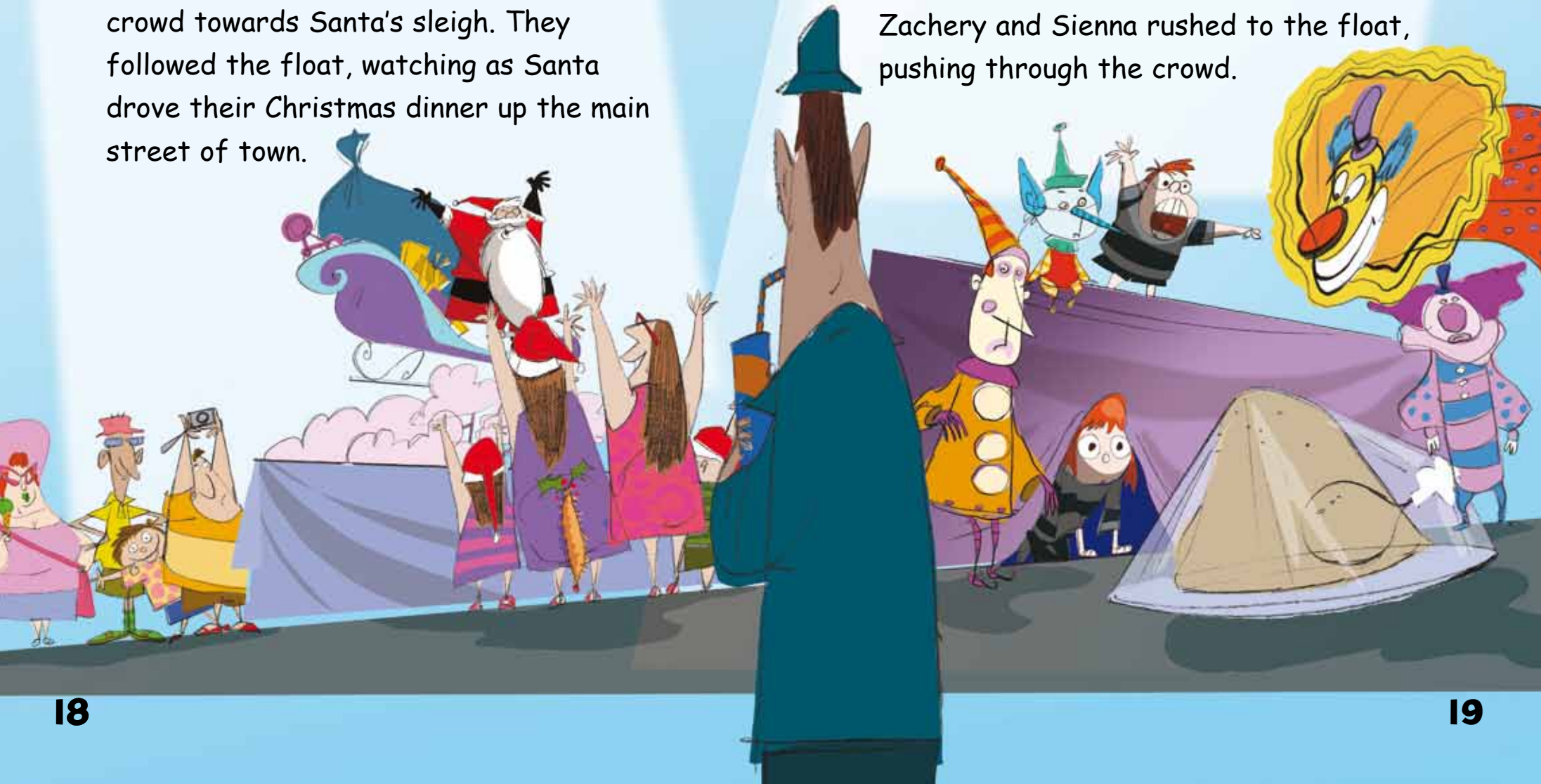
The Turkey Flies

Sienna and Zachery edged through the crowd towards Santa's sleigh. They followed the float, watching as Santa drove their Christmas dinner up the main street of town.

Suddenly, the float stopped with a jolt. The Christmas turkey rolled off the sleigh and hit the ground with a thump.

"Grab that turkey!" yelled Zachery.

Zachery and Sienna rushed to the float, pushing through the crowd.





When they got to the float, Sienna gasped. "It's gone! The turkey's gone!"

Zachery looked around wildly. "There!" he yelled, pointing to the sky.

A flock of huge crows had picked up the turkey and were flying away with it.

"Stop that runaway turkey!" yelled Zachery.

Zachery and Sienna raced after the crows. They ran all the way across town. Finally, the birds landed in a tree, resting their turkey on a branch.

"Now's our chance," said Zachery. He charged up to the tree, yelling "Shoo! Shoo! Get away from our bird, you birds!"

The crows flapped away, leaving a large, plump Christmas turkey sitting alone in a tree.



The Taste Test

"How do we get it down?" asked Sienna.

"I know!" cried Zachery, looking across the street. He could see Mr MacDougall standing on a ladder, cleaning out his gutters.



"Mr MacDougall, our Christmas dinner is stuck up that tree," explained Sienna. "Can you help us?"

Mr MacDougall stared at the children. To explain, Zachery simply pointed to the turkey sitting in the tree.

"Oh dear, I see what you mean," said Mr MacDougall.

Mr MacDougall carried his ladder across the street, leant it against the tree and climbed up to the turkey.

"Here you go," said Mr MacDougall, back on the ground, "one huge turkey, just in time for Christmas lunch."

Zachery and Sienna smiled. "Thank you so much, Mr MacDougall."

"Now, let's get home before Mum finds out!" said Sienna.



On Christmas Day, the house was filled with the wonderful smell of roast turkey.

"I can't wait to eat this," squealed Sienna, as Mum sliced and served the meal.

Dad took a bite of the turkey.

"Mmmm," he said. "Best turkey ever!"

Mum smiled proudly.

"I agree," said Zachery. "This turkey is a runaway success!"



Glossary



bolted

moved very fast



boot

a space at the back of a car, for storing things in



bustled

moved with energy and busyness



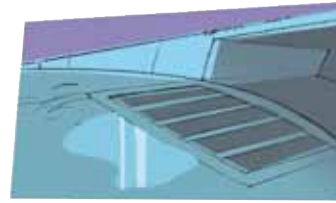
float

a platform on wheels, carrying a display *OR* to sit on the top of a liquid



goodies

nice things to eat



gutter

the edge of a road or an open pipe on the roof, down which rain flows



lugged

carried with effort



lunged

moved forward suddenly, to attack something



mince pie

a small pie filled with chopped fruit



sprint

a short, fast race

Looking at a narrative

Orientation

(Who? What? Where?)

Who?

What?

Where?



Sienna
Zachery
Mum

Mum brings home
food for tomorrow's
Christmas lunch.



Sienna and
Zachery's home

Complication

(What happens? What goes wrong? How does the character feel?)



Sienna and Zachery forget to bring the turkey inside from the car.
Mum drives off with the turkey in the open boot of the car.
Sienna and Zachery chase the turkey all over town.

Resolution

(How the problem is solved)



Mr MacDougall helps get the turkey out of a tree.
Sienna and Zachery take the turkey home, in time for
Christmas lunch.
The turkey is served on Christmas Day and it tastes great.

Action verbs to look out for

<i>bolted</i>	<i>burst</i>	<i>bustled</i>	<i>edged</i>	<i>flopped</i>
<i>hauled</i>	<i>lugged</i>	<i>lunged</i>	<i>pulled</i>	<i>raced</i>
<i>rolled</i>	<i>rushed</i>	<i>scanned</i>	<i>slid</i>	<i>watched</i>

Saying verbs to look out for

<i>asked</i>	<i>called</i>	<i>cried</i>	<i>explained</i>	<i>moaned</i>
<i>replied</i>	<i>said</i>	<i>shouted</i>	<i>squealed</i>	<i>yelled</i>

Author Laura Sieveking

I live with my husband, baby girl and our imaginary dog called Adrian (if you could see him, he'd be big and fluffy). On Christmas Day we all go to my mum's house. She brings out a huge Christmas turkey (not the runaway kind), and we eat turkey and mince pies until we feel like we're going to explode!

Illustrator

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