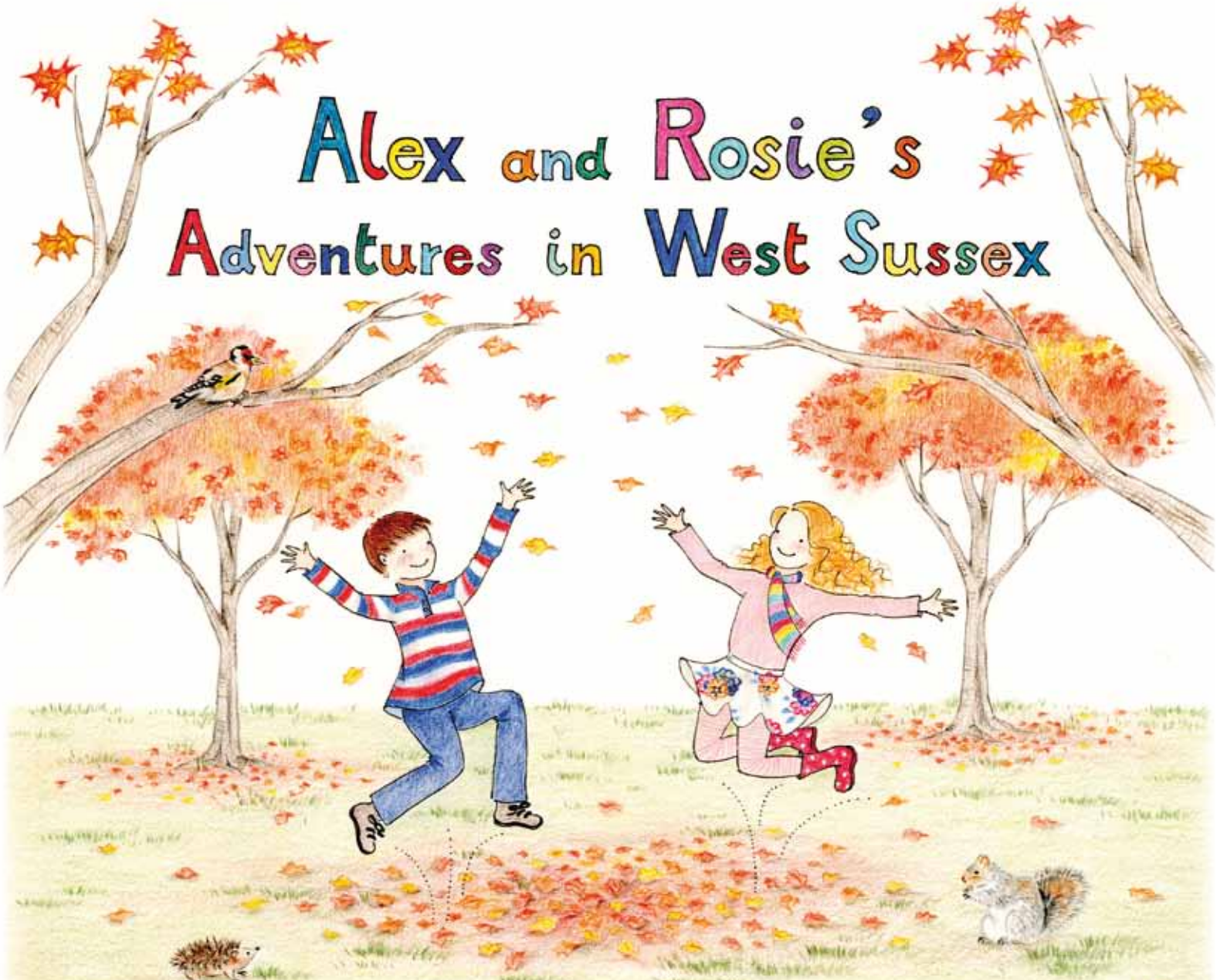
Alex and Rosie's Adventures in West Sussex



Stories for children with autism

David Blakesley and Tharada Blakesley

Alex and Rosie's Adventures in West Sussex

Stories by David Blakesley

Illustrations by Tharada Blakesley

Autism and Nature

Introduction

Autism and Nature is a non-profit organisation dedicated to enriching the lives of children on the autism spectrum, by helping to engage them with the countryside and nature. '*Alex and Rosie's Adventures in West Sussex*' has been written to complement our guide '*Visiting the West Sussex countryside: a guide for parents and teachers of children with autism*'. The book tells the story of two children, Alex and Rosie, who visit natural places described in our guide. We hope that it will appeal to younger children with autism and children with speech and language difficulties, and encourage their interest in the countryside and nature.

This book has been generously sponsored by the Short Breaks Team West Sussex County Council, the Ernest Cook Trust, Woodlands.co.uk and VisitWoods. We are grateful to Pi Design Co., Ltd. who co-sponsored this book as part of Autism and Nature's programme to produce stories for children with autism in Britain and Thailand. We would especially like to thank Debbie Buckwell (Short Breaks Team West Sussex County Council) for distributing this book, and Ruth Aspden (St. Anthony's School) for her enthusiastic support of our work in West Sussex. We would also like to thank Cate Rae (Widgit Software) for her valuable help with symbolising the text. Finally, we would like to thank Barbara Creed for the layout of the book.



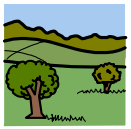




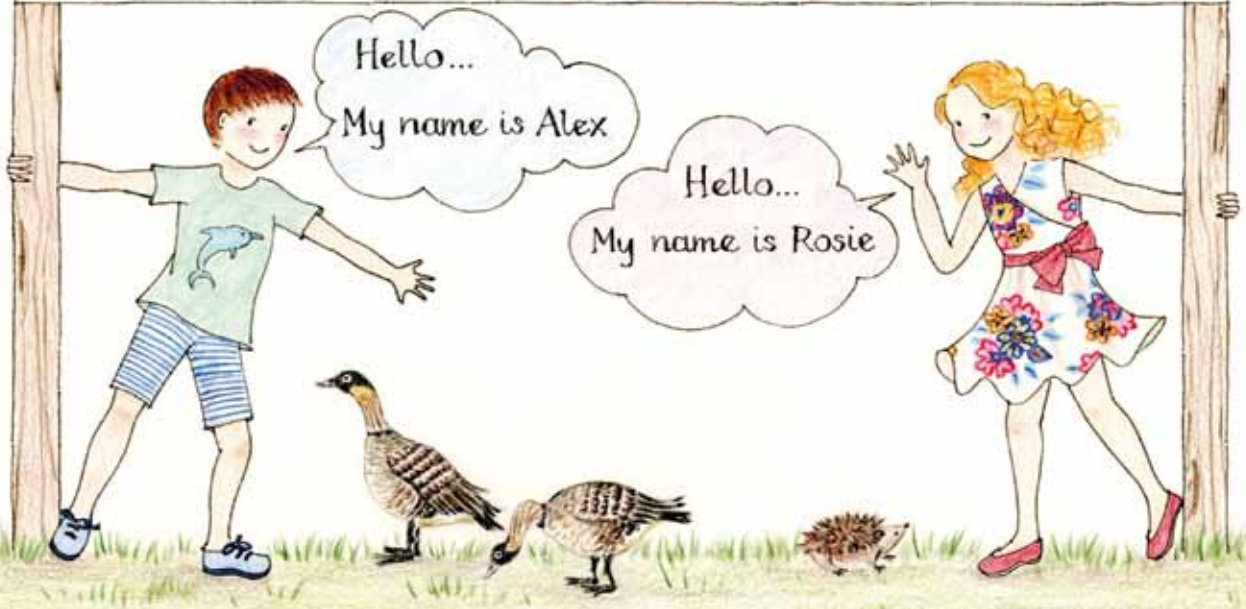


Alex and Rosie enjoy visiting the countryside.



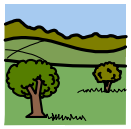


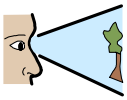
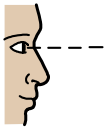
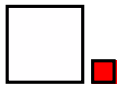
This is a story about their favourite places.



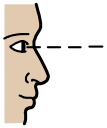
Harting Down

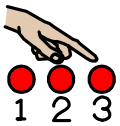


 Alex  and Rosie  enjoyed  walking  on Harting Down.

  The view was amazing, but everything looked   so small.



  Alex looked  at the farm animals  through his binoculars.

  Rosie counted  buttercups  and daisies  in the meadow.

Bracklesham



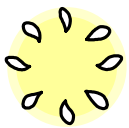
Alex and Rosie were very excited!

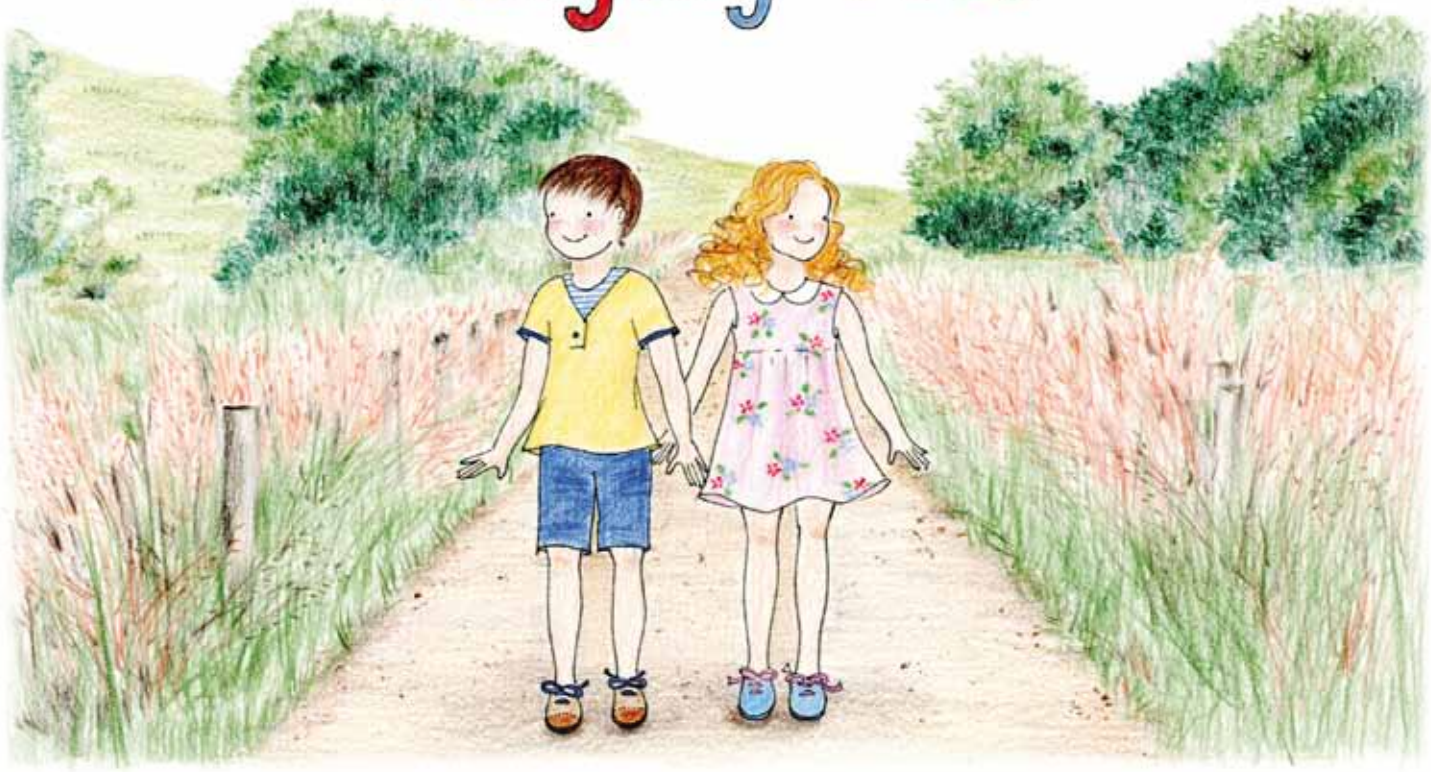
They found fossils on the beach at Bracklesham.



 Alex  found  a fossil  shark's  tooth.

 Rosie  found  beautiful  fossil  shells.

Kingley Vale




Alex

and Rosie

enjoyed

walking along

the quiet

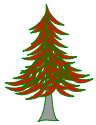
lane.


When they arrived

at the nature reserve
they had a

rest.



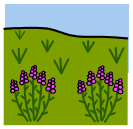
In the wood, the Yew trees are 2000 years old.

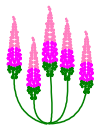
Alex and Rosie gave each tree a big hug.

Stedham Common



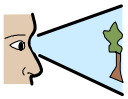
  

The heathland is very colourful in summer.

Rosie likes heather, because pink is her favourite colour.




Alex saw a lot of blue butterflies.



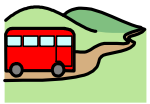



He was happy, because blue is his favourite colour.

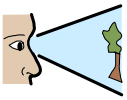
Pagham Harbour





Alex and Rosie went to Pagham Harbour on a winter's day.

It was cold, but they saw a lot of ducks and geese.



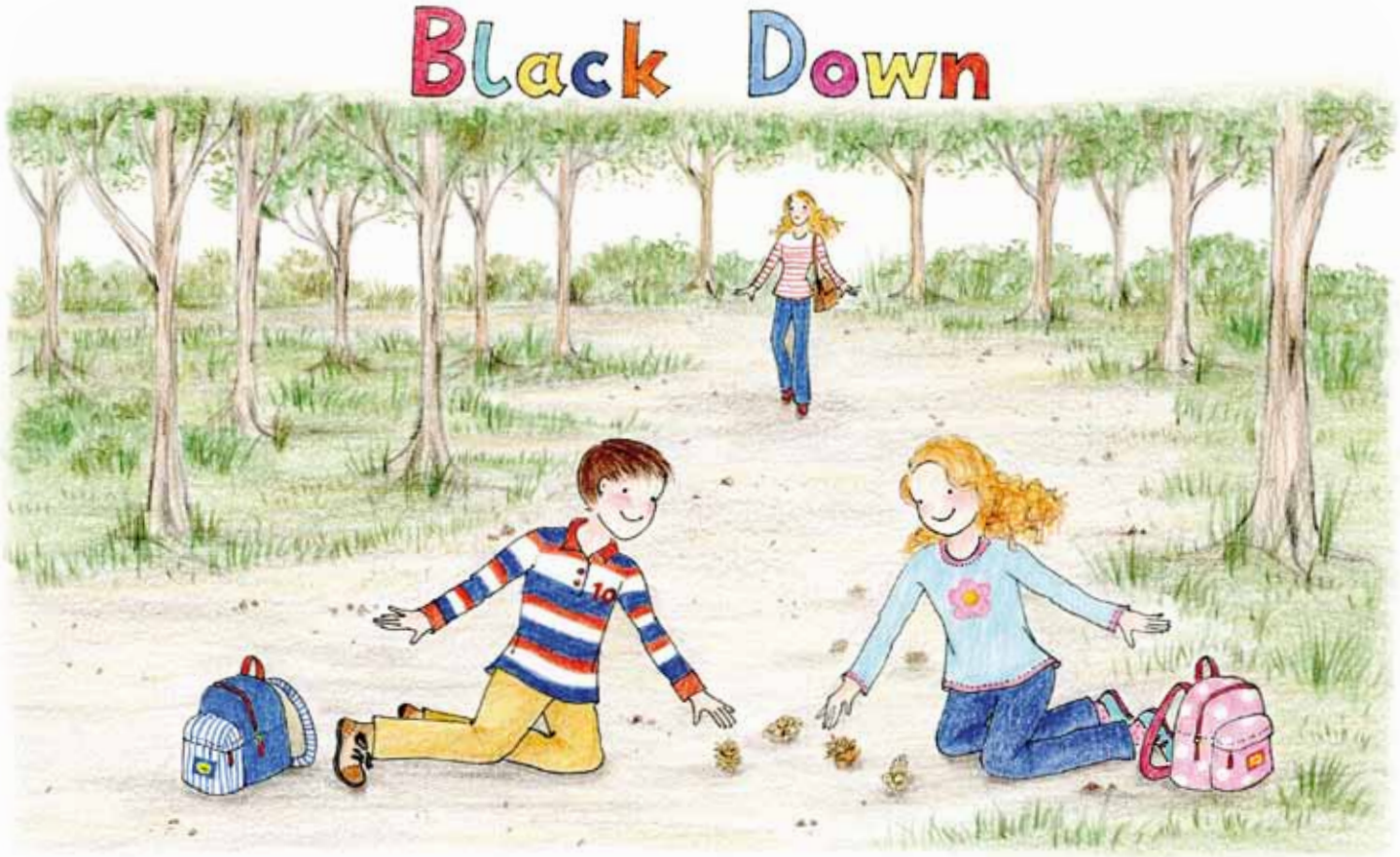
 

Alex was excited!

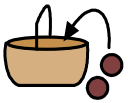
He found a fossil sea urchin.

Black Down



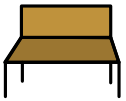
   

Alex and Rosie walked through the forest at Black Down.

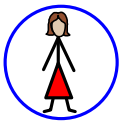
  

Along the way, they collected a lot of pine cones.



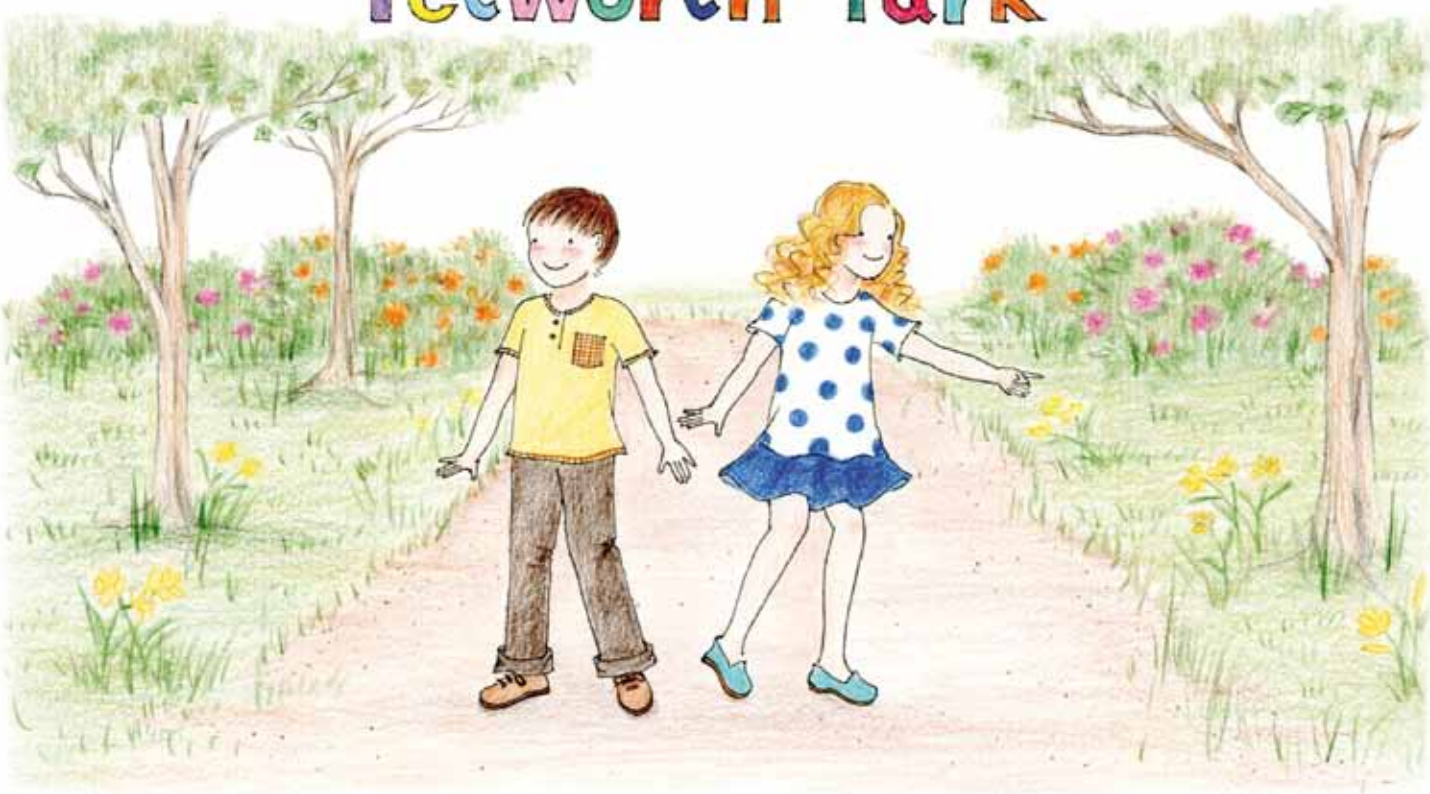
   

Alex and Rosie sat on a seat to have a drink.

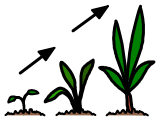
It was quiet, so their mother read a story to them.

Petworth Park

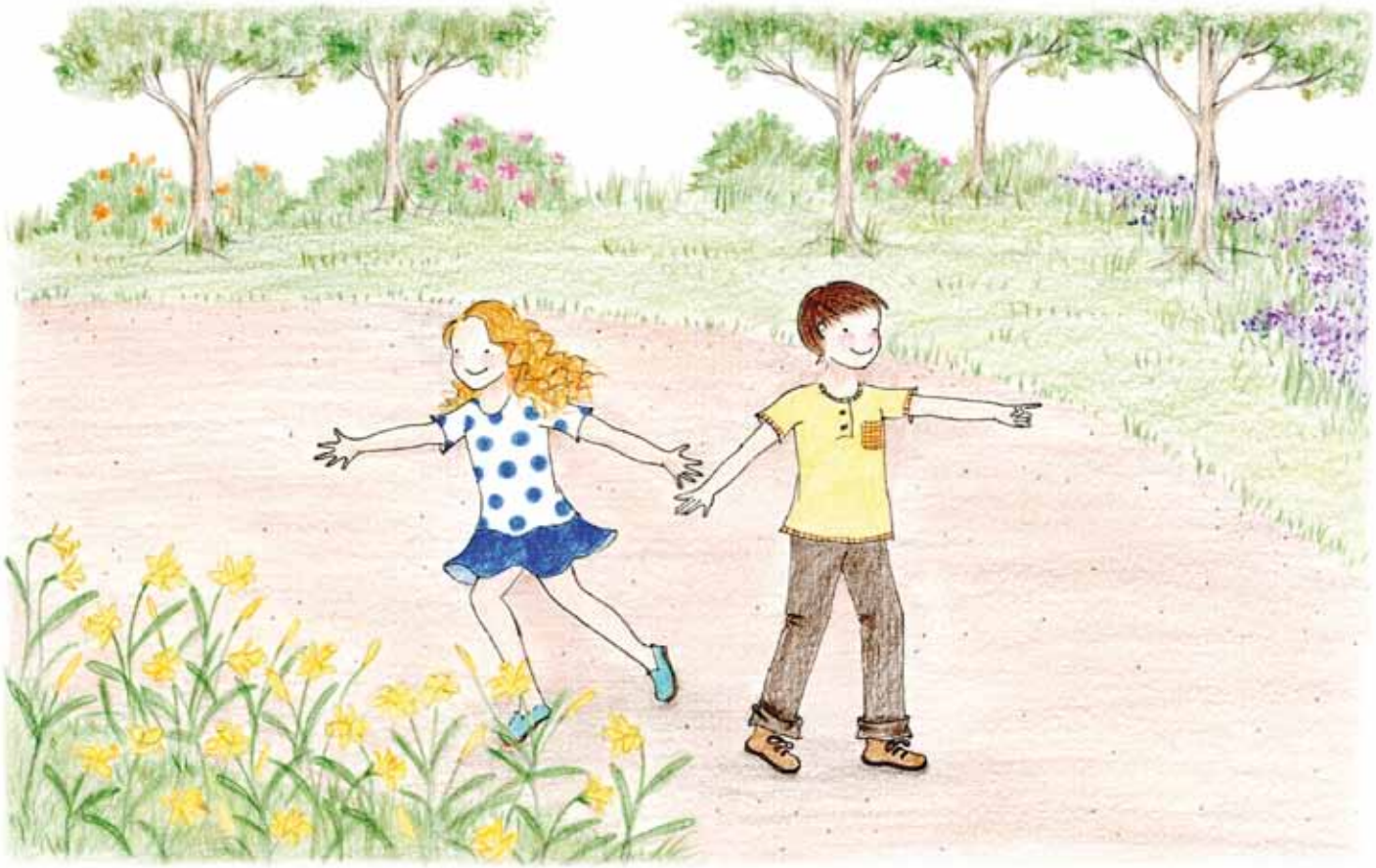


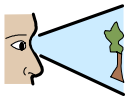
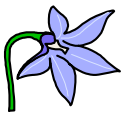
Alex and Rosie visited Petworth gardens in the spring.

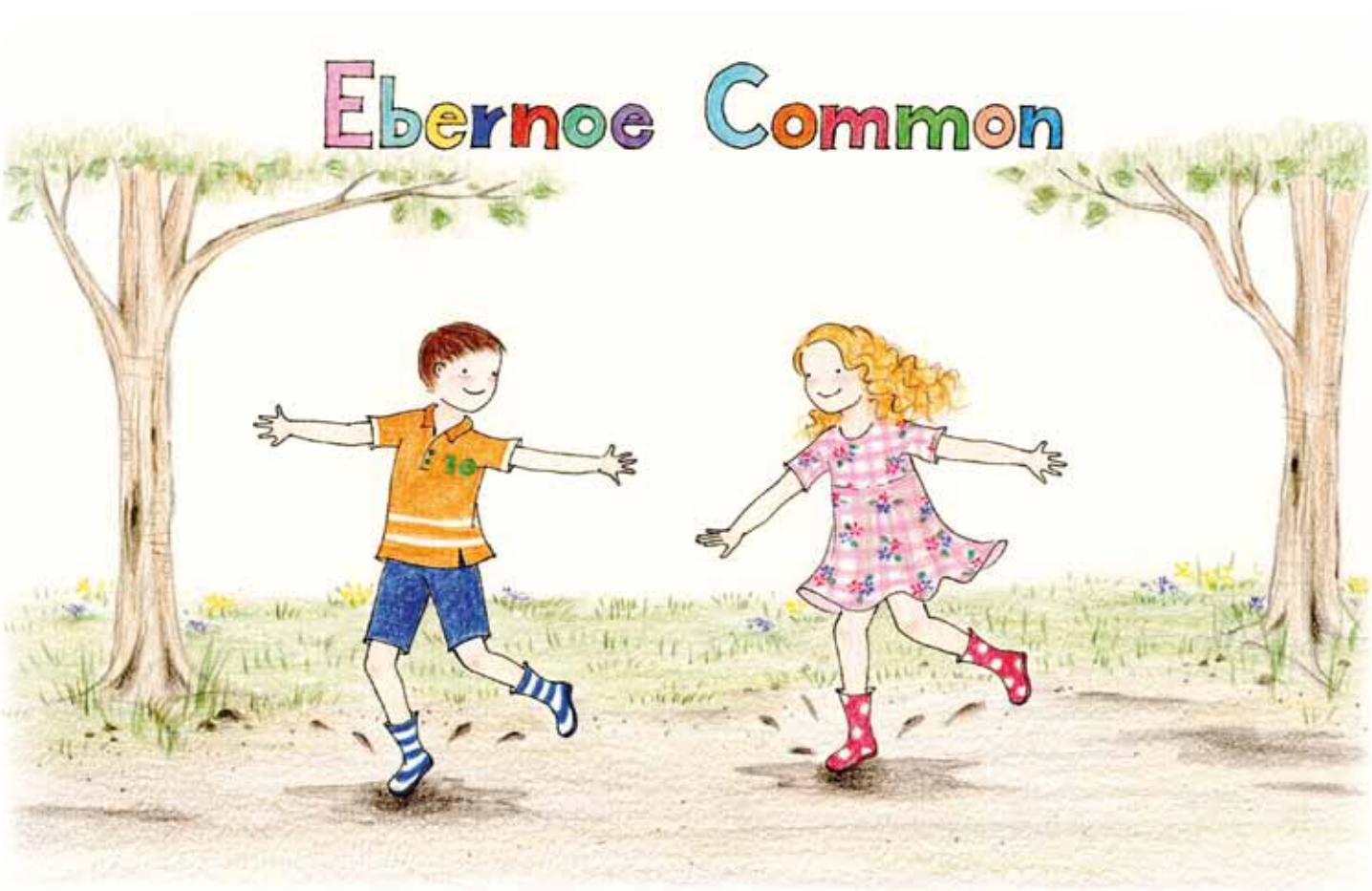
There were a lot of flowers growing under the trees.



  Rosie liked  the daffodils, which were bright   yellow.

 Alex  preferred  to look for  bluebells.

Ebernoe Common



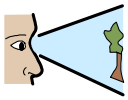
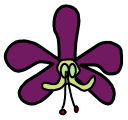
It was very muddy in the wood at Ebernoe Common.

Alex and Rosie had to wear wellingtons.



There were a lot of wild flowers  in the  wood.

 Alex and  Rosie saw   primroses,  cherry blossom and  orchids.

Slindon Estate




Alex
and

Rosie
went to

Slindon
in



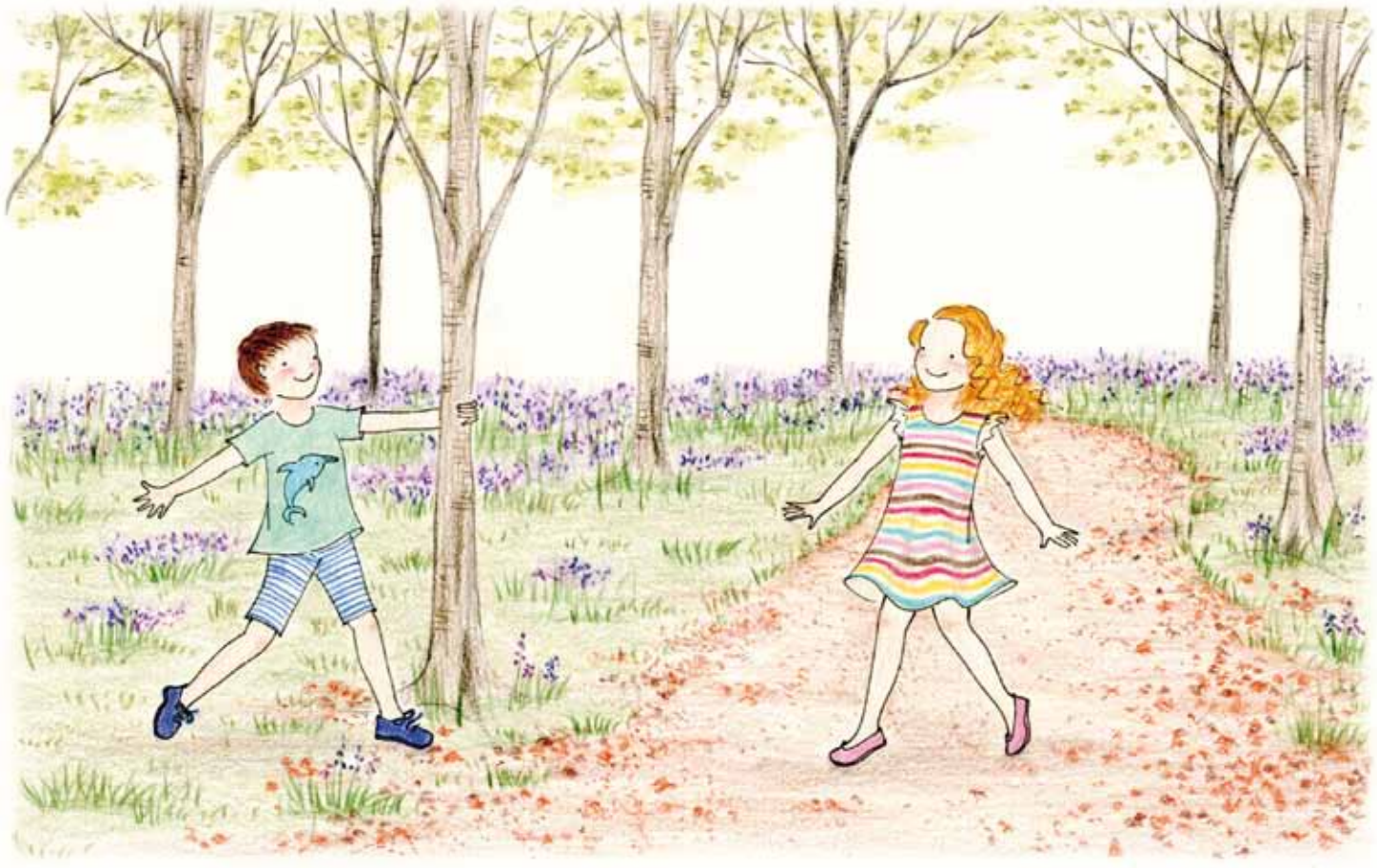
May.

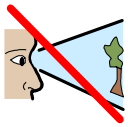
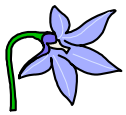

Alex
was excited

because the woodland floor

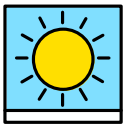
looked

blue!



Alex had never seen so many bluebells before.

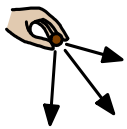
He wanted to walk in the wood all day.

Arundel Wetland Centre



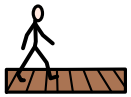
    

Alex and Rosie were happy to visit Arundel.

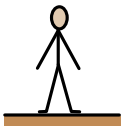
   

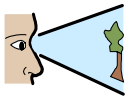
They enjoyed feeding grain to the ducks and geese.




Later, they walked on a boardwalk through the reeds.






They stood very quietly and saw a water vole.

Highdown Garden

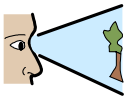
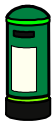




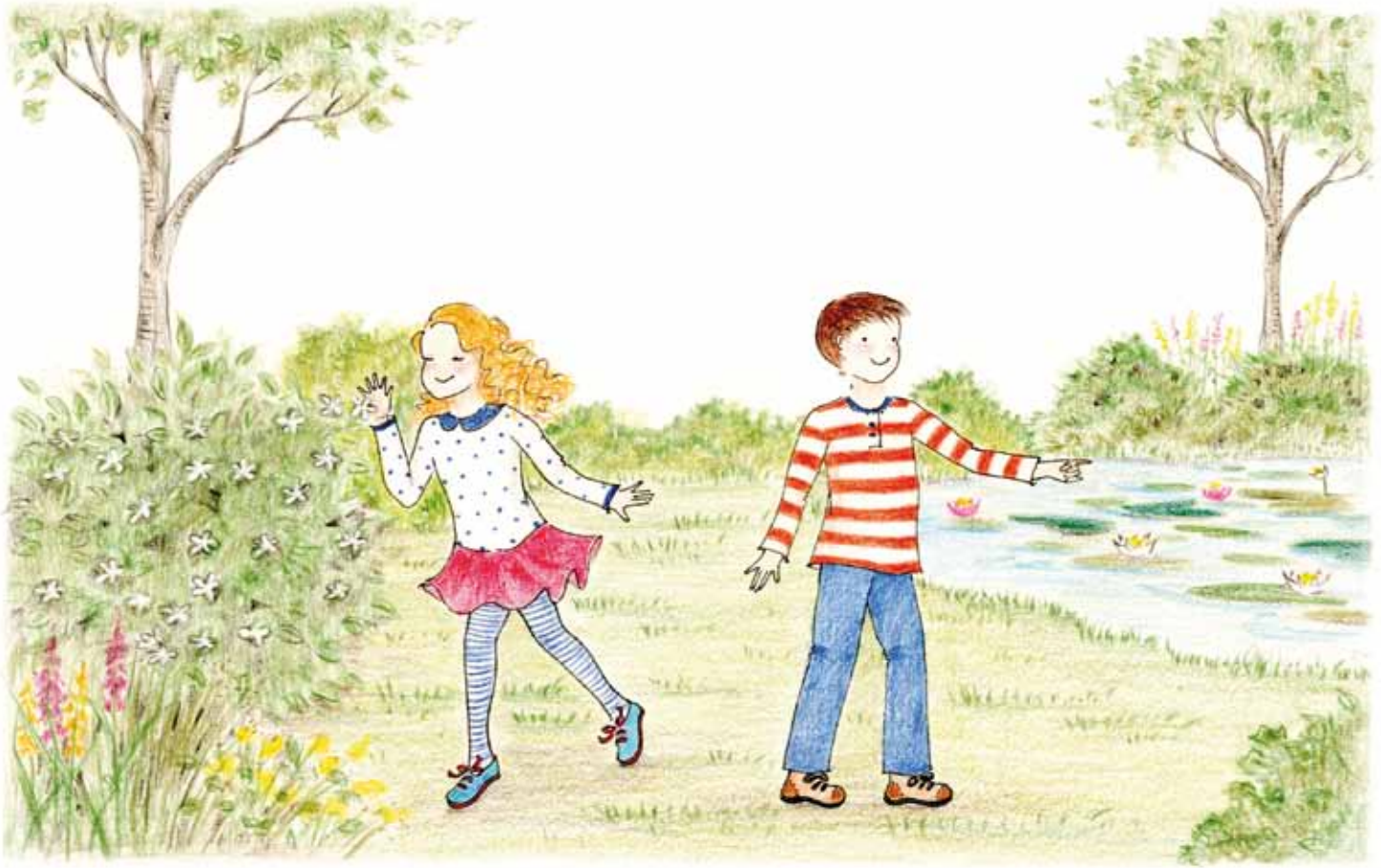


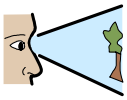
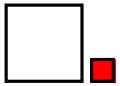
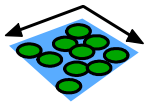
Highdown Gardens are a quiet place to walk.



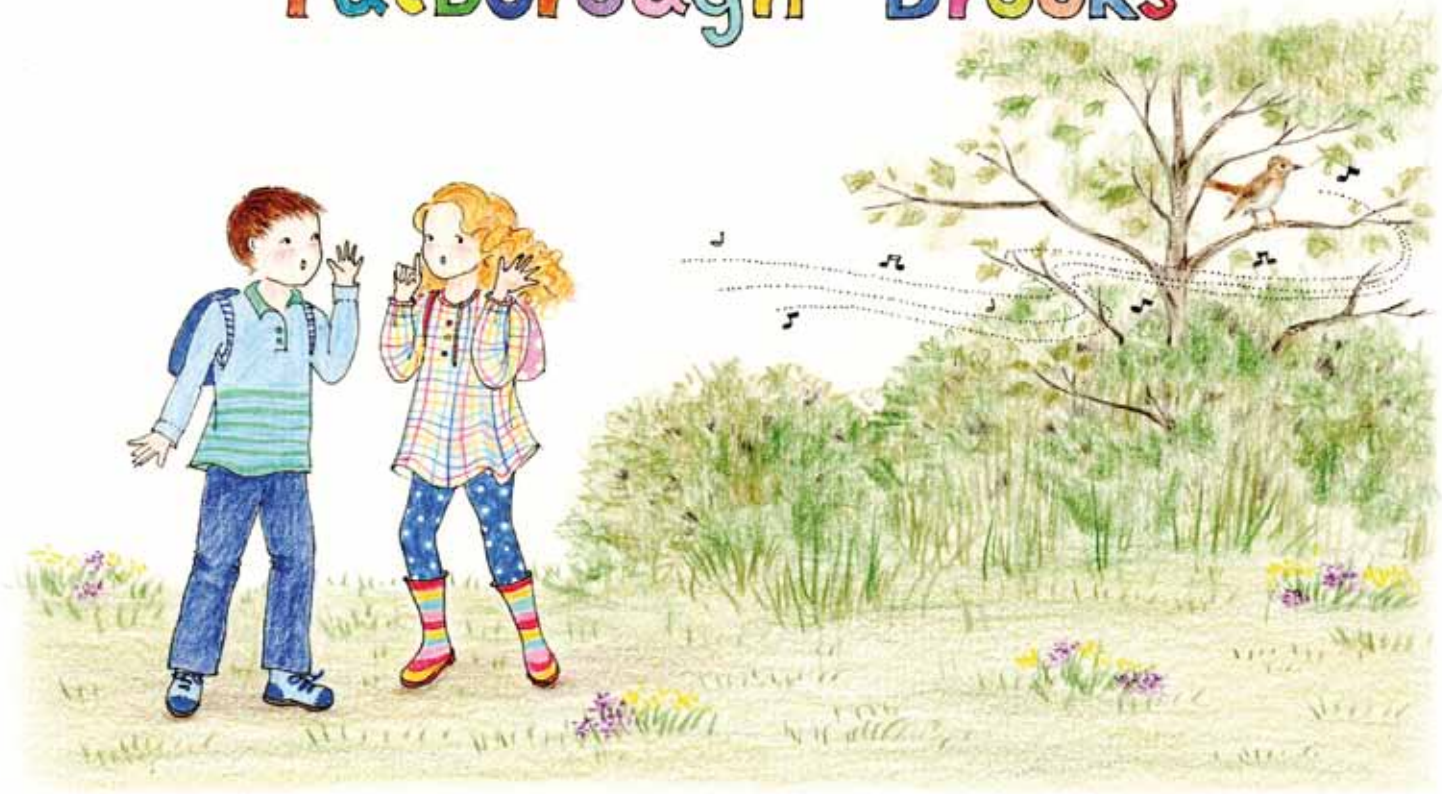
Alex and Rosie were surprised to see a green post box.



 Alex  found a  small  pond  covered  with water lilies.

 Rosie  was happy  to smell the scent  of Jasmine flowers.

Pulborough Brooks

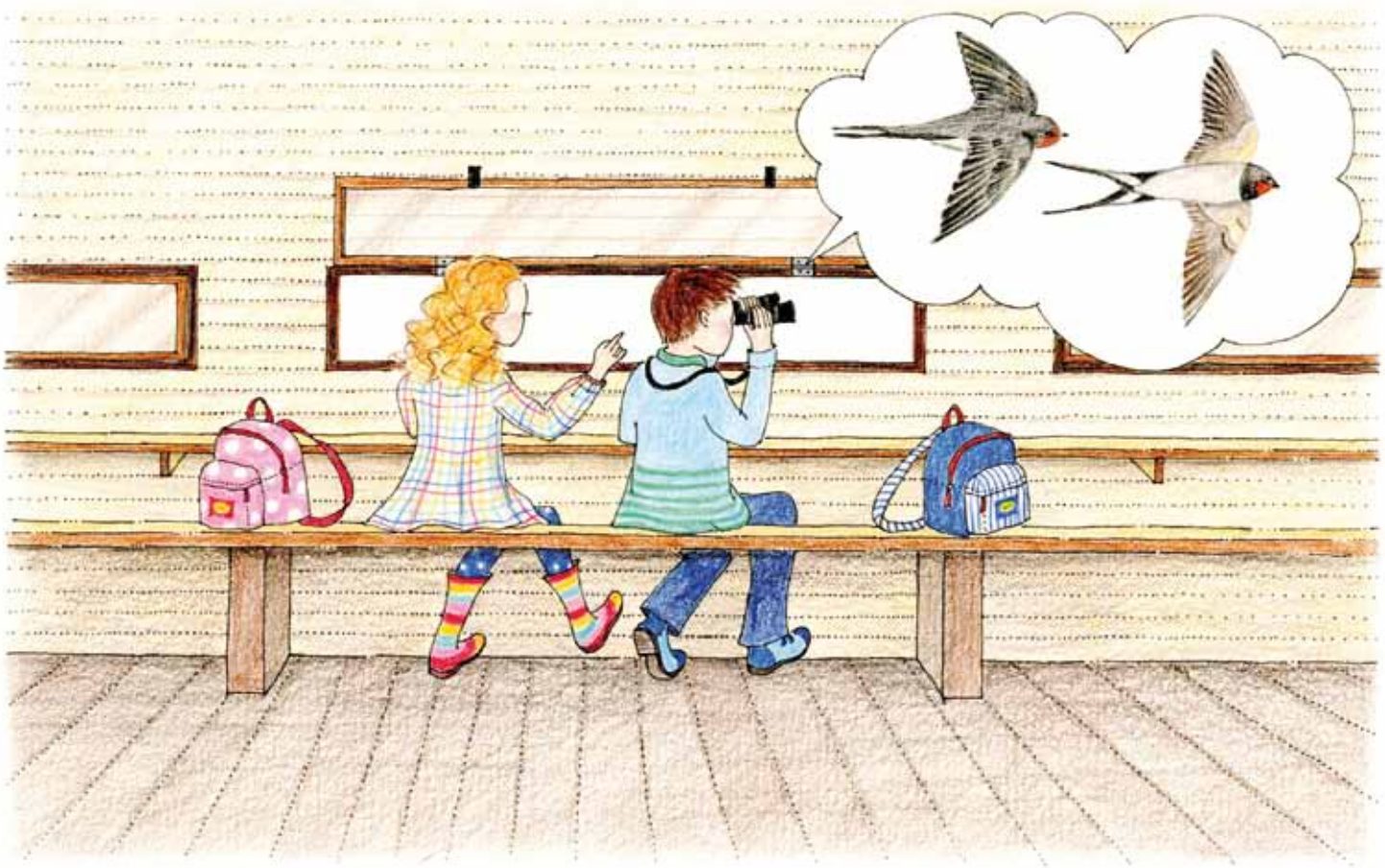


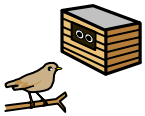
Alex and Rosie visited Pulborough Brooks in springtime.

They listened to nightingales singing in the hedgerow.

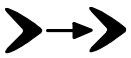








Later, they walked to a hide where you can watch birds.



Swallows were catching insects over the water.

Cissbury Ring



It was a long  walk up  the hill  to Cissbury Ring.

 Alex and  Rosie  enjoyed the exercise. 