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Opening extract from **Wonderful Earth**

Written by Mike Inkpen and Nick Butterworth

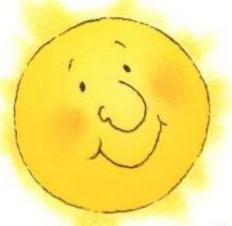
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Out of all the millions and billions and billions and zillions of planets, God picked out one to be special. Why this one? I don't know.

It wasn't even big. It was the earth.

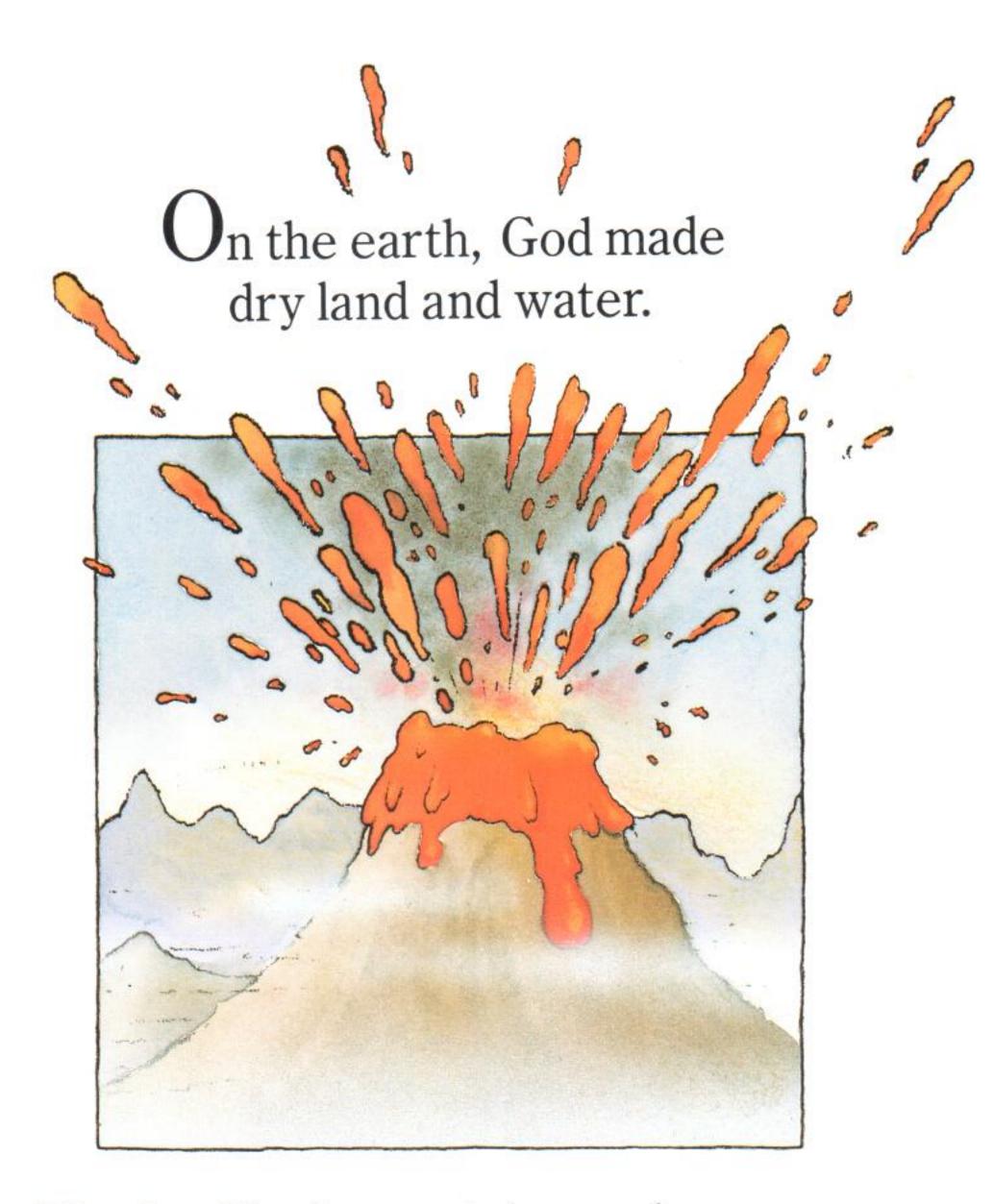
God made the earth spin, which made the day and night, and he made the moon go round the earth, which made the months, and he made the earth go round the sun, which made the years.

Then, with his finger, he gently nudged the North Pole a little to one side, which made the summer turn to winter and back again.

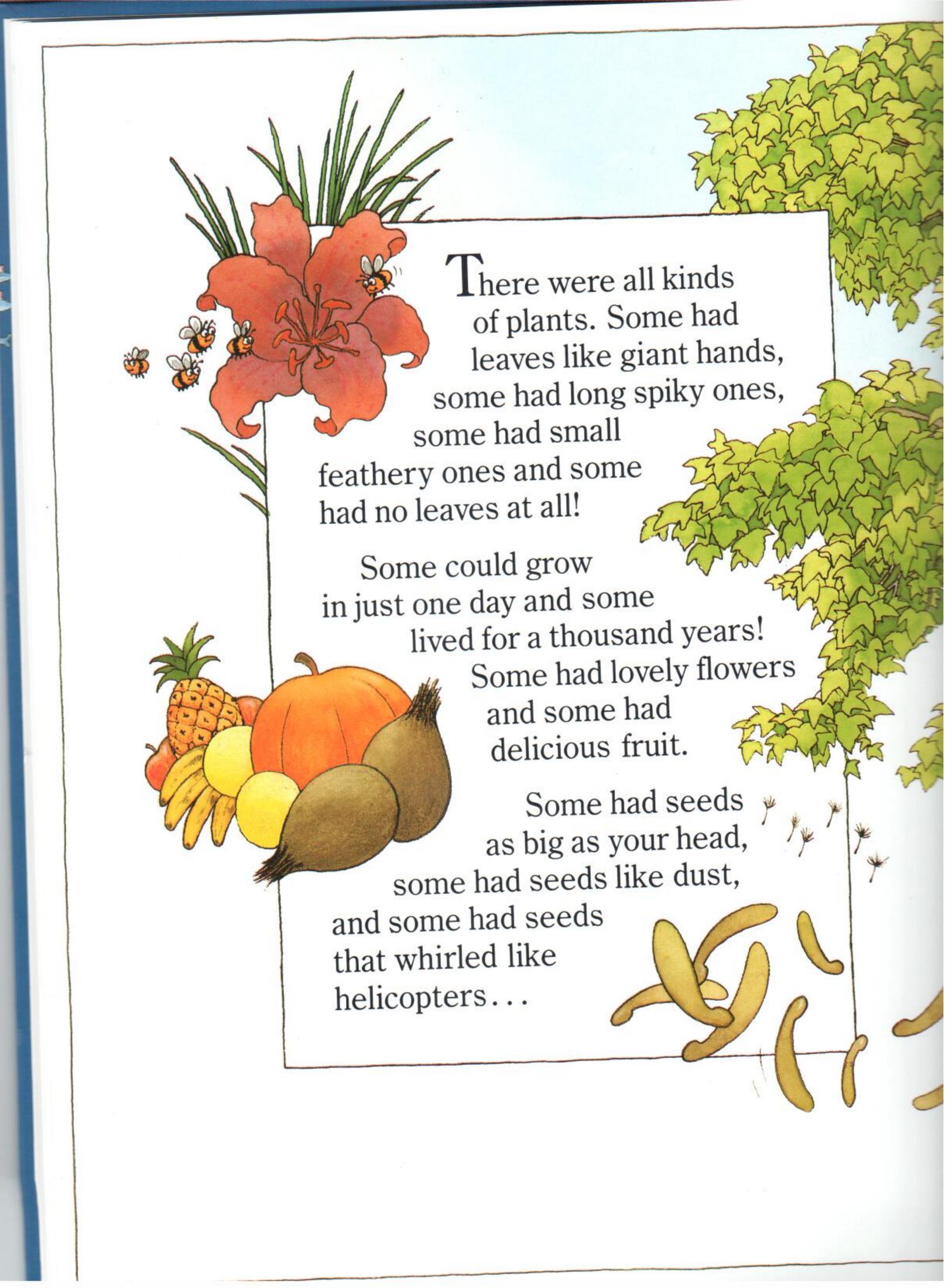
It was all very complicated, like making a giant clock.



But it all worked perfectly!



The land had mountains and canyons and deserts and huge exploding volcanoes!



And he made a whole lot of animals that you have probably never heard of...



The pink fairy armadillo The rubber boa The bush squeaker

And last but not least, he made something really wonderful!

What do you think it was?

Our poor old world isn't very well at the moment.

It's in a terrible mess. We're spoiling the beautiful place God gave us to live in.



We must stop to think.

Does he really want us to chop down the trees? Does he really want us to make all that smoke? How can we clean up the rivers and the rain? How can we look after the plants and animals?

Well it won't be easy. But if we ask him to help us change, maybe...

just maybe...