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Opening extract from
**How Tom Beat Captain Najork and
His Hired Sportsmen**

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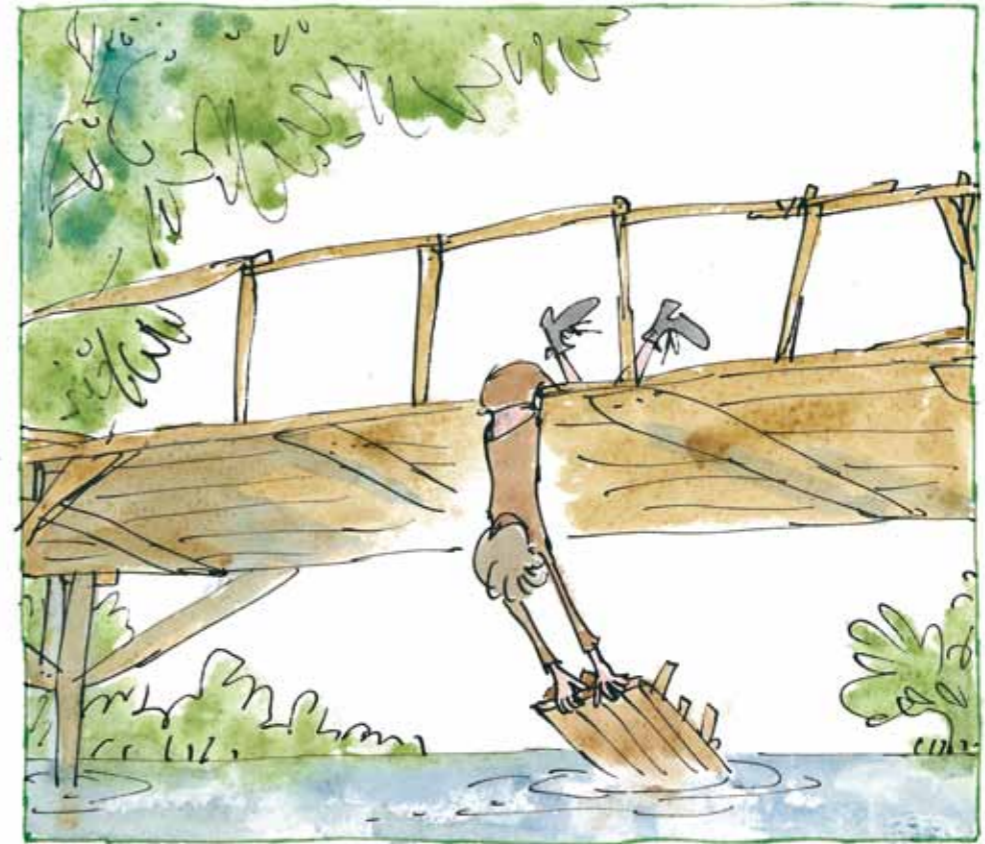
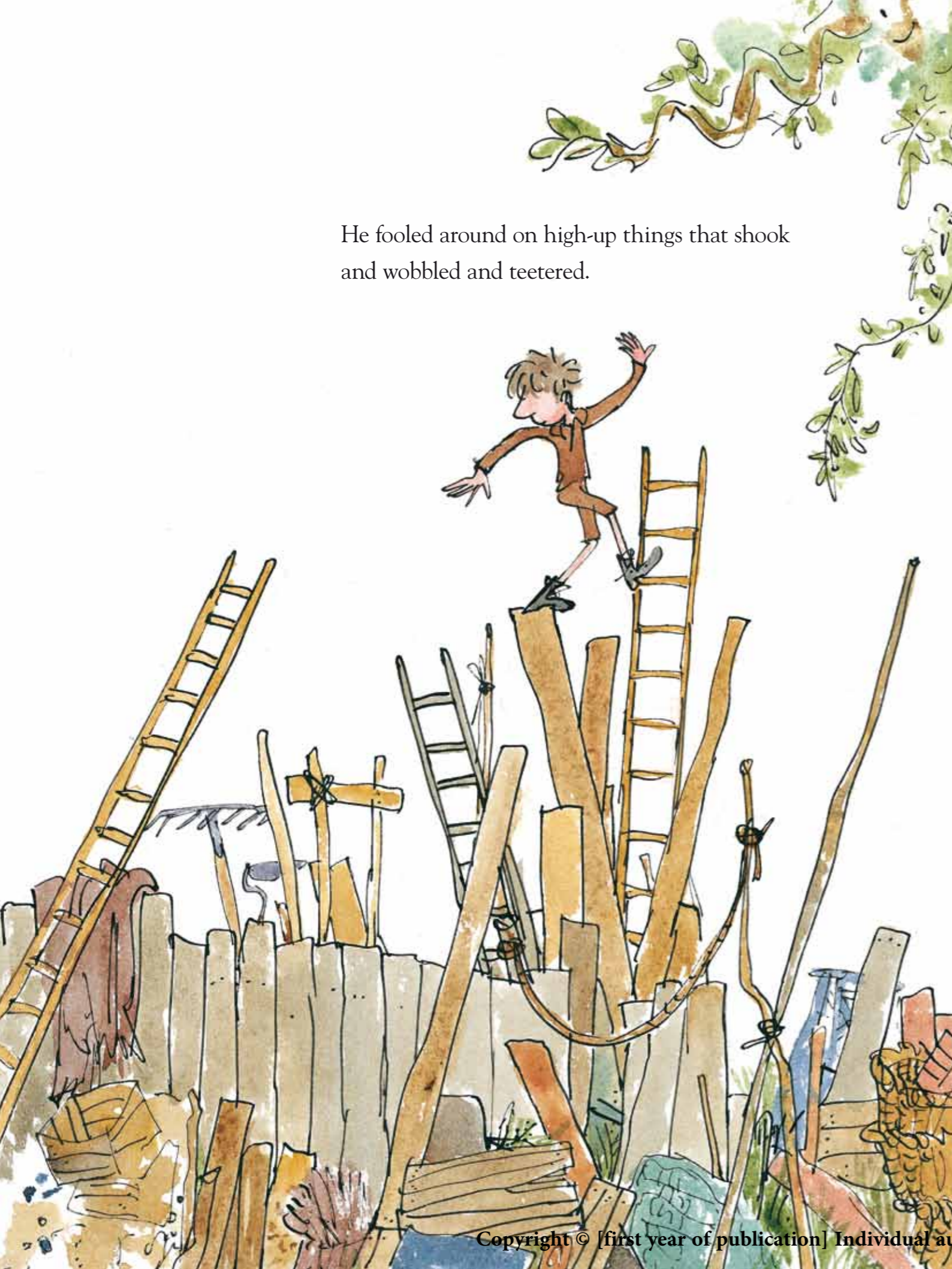


Tom liked to fool around. He fooled around with sticks and stones and crumpled paper, with mewses and passages and dustbins, with bent nails and broken glass and holes in fences.



He fooled around in the mud, and stomped and squelched and slithered through it.

He fooled around on high-up things that shook
and wobbled and teetered.



He fooled around with dropping things from bridges into
rivers and fishing them out.



He fooled around with barrels in alleys.