

# ***Voices in the Park***

*Anthony Browne*



It was time to take Victoria, our pedigree Labrador, and Charles, our son, for a walk.



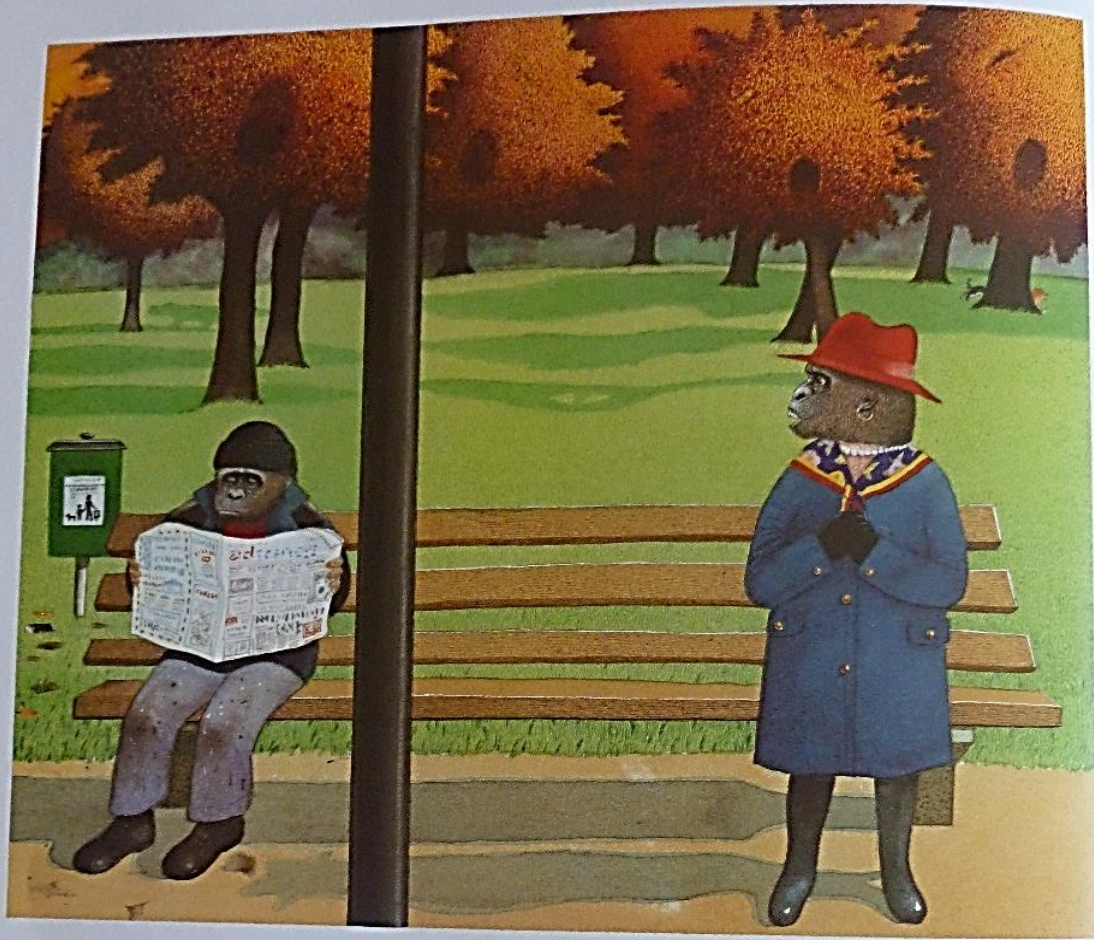


When we arrived at the park,  
I let Victoria off her lead.  
Immediately some scruffy  
mongrel appeared and started  
bothering her. I shooed it off,  
but the horrible thing chased  
her all over the park.



I ordered it to go away, but it took no notice of  
me whatsoever. "Sit," I said to Charles. "Here."



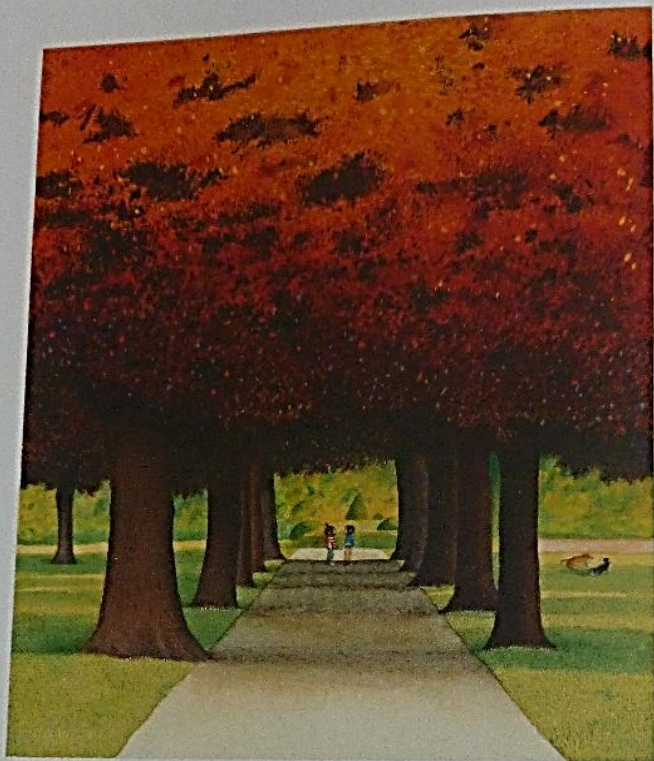


I was just planning what we should have to eat that evening when I saw Charles had disappeared. Oh dear! Where had he gone?



You get some frightful types in the park these days! I called his name for what seemed like an age.





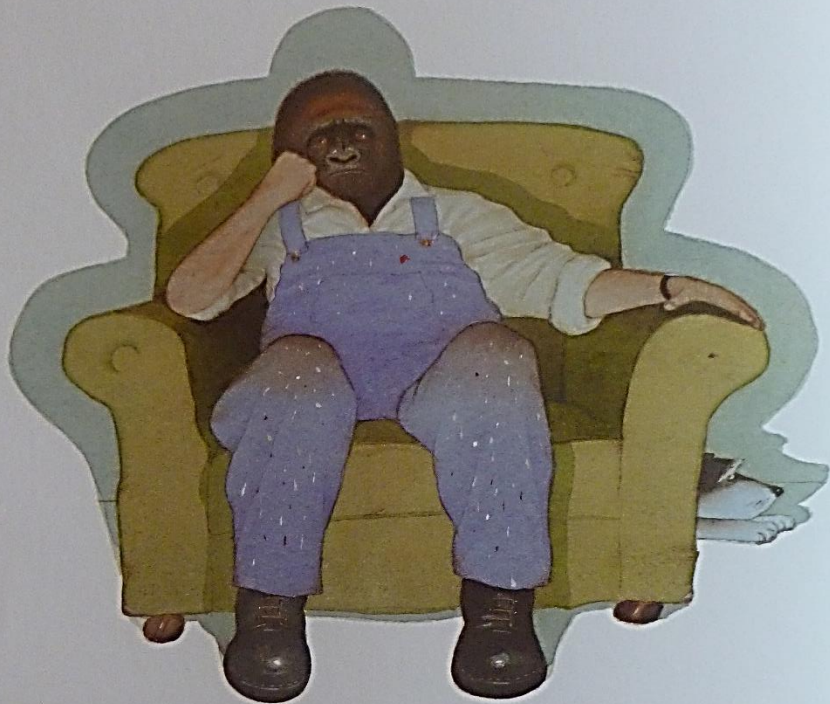
Then I saw him talking to  
a very rough-looking child.

“Charles, come here. At  
once!” I said. “And come  
here please, Victoria.”

We walked home in silence.



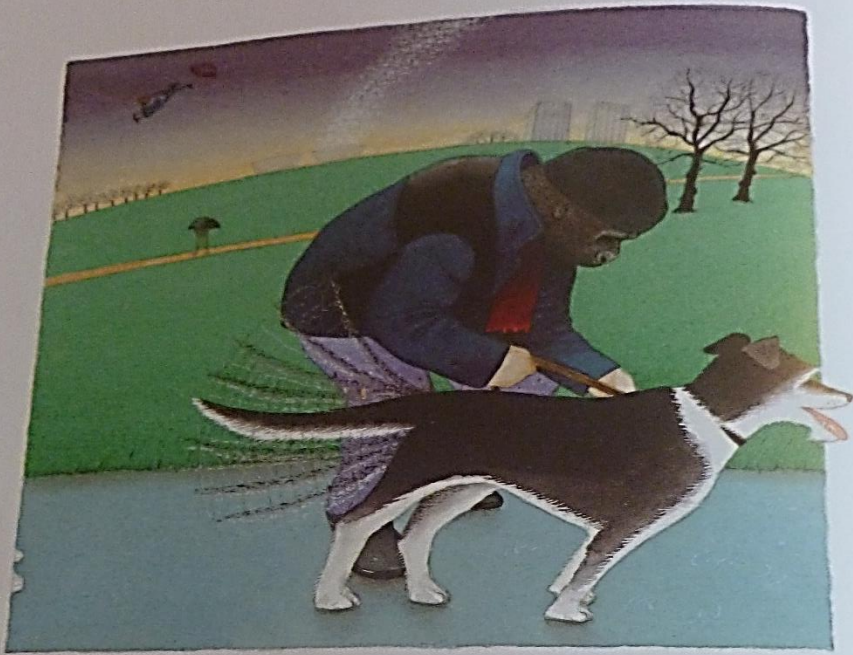




**I** needed to get out of the house, so me and Smudge took the dog to the park.





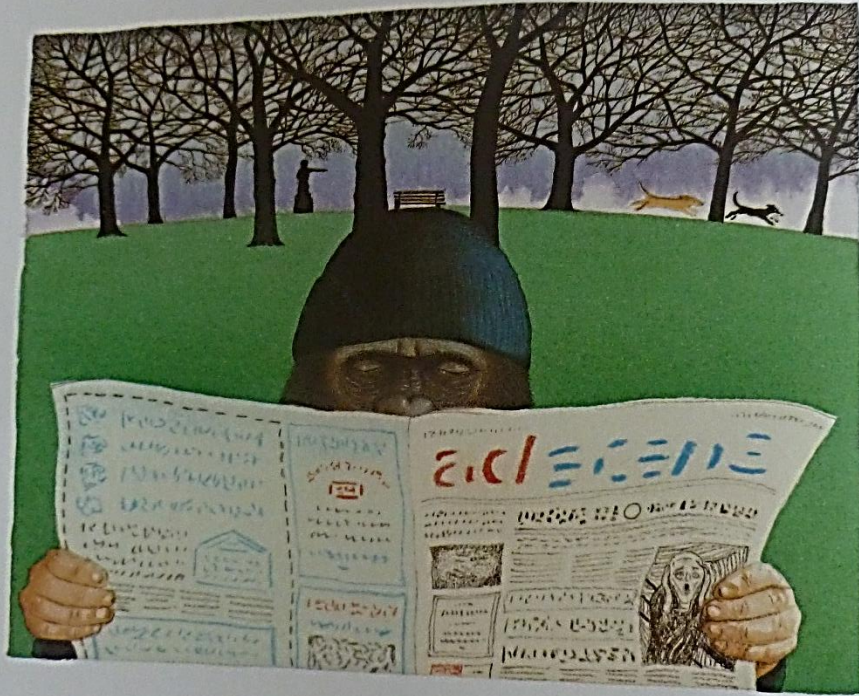


**He loves it there. I wish I  
had half the energy he's got.**

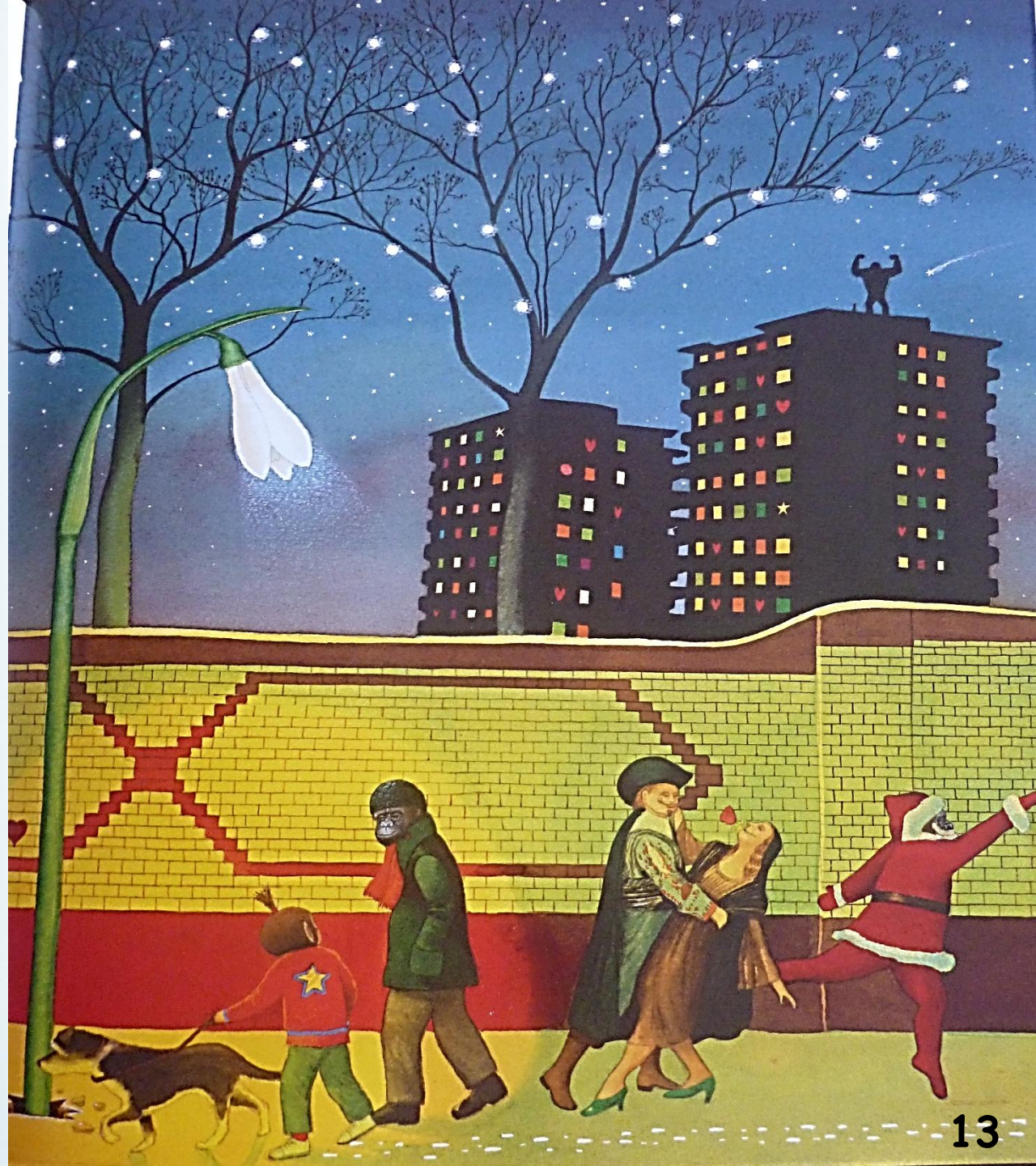




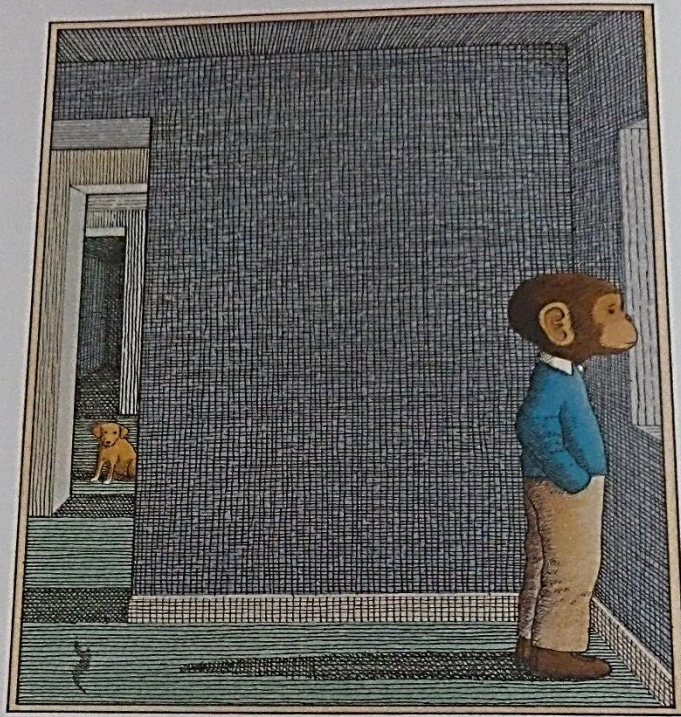
**I settled on a bench and looked through the paper for a job. I know it's a waste of time really, but you've got to have a bit of hope, haven't you?**



**Then it was time to go. Smudge cheered me up. She chatted happily to me all the way home.**







I was at home on my own again. It's so boring. Then Mummy said that it was time for our walk.

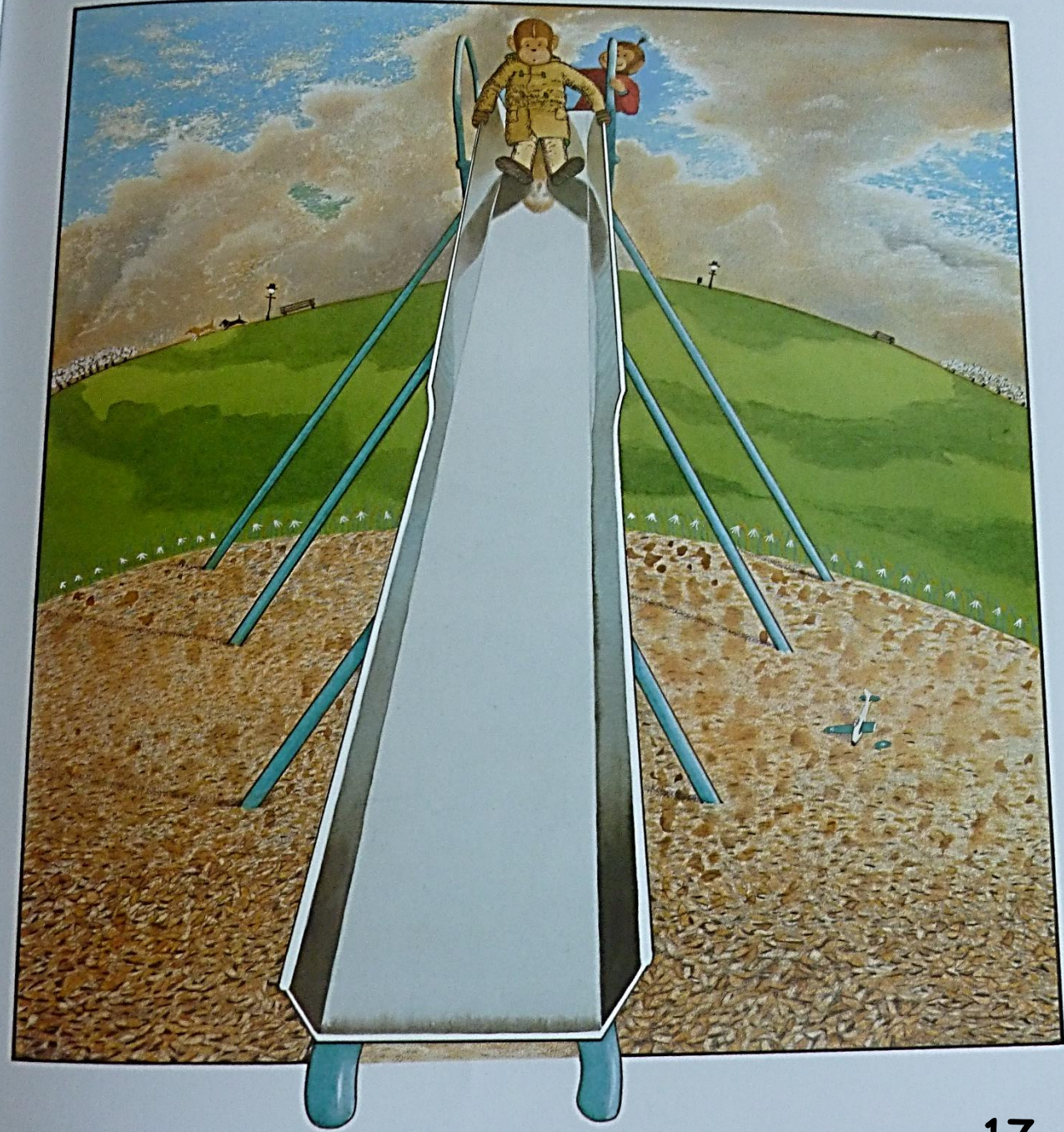


There was a very friendly dog in the park and Victoria was having a great time. I wished I was.

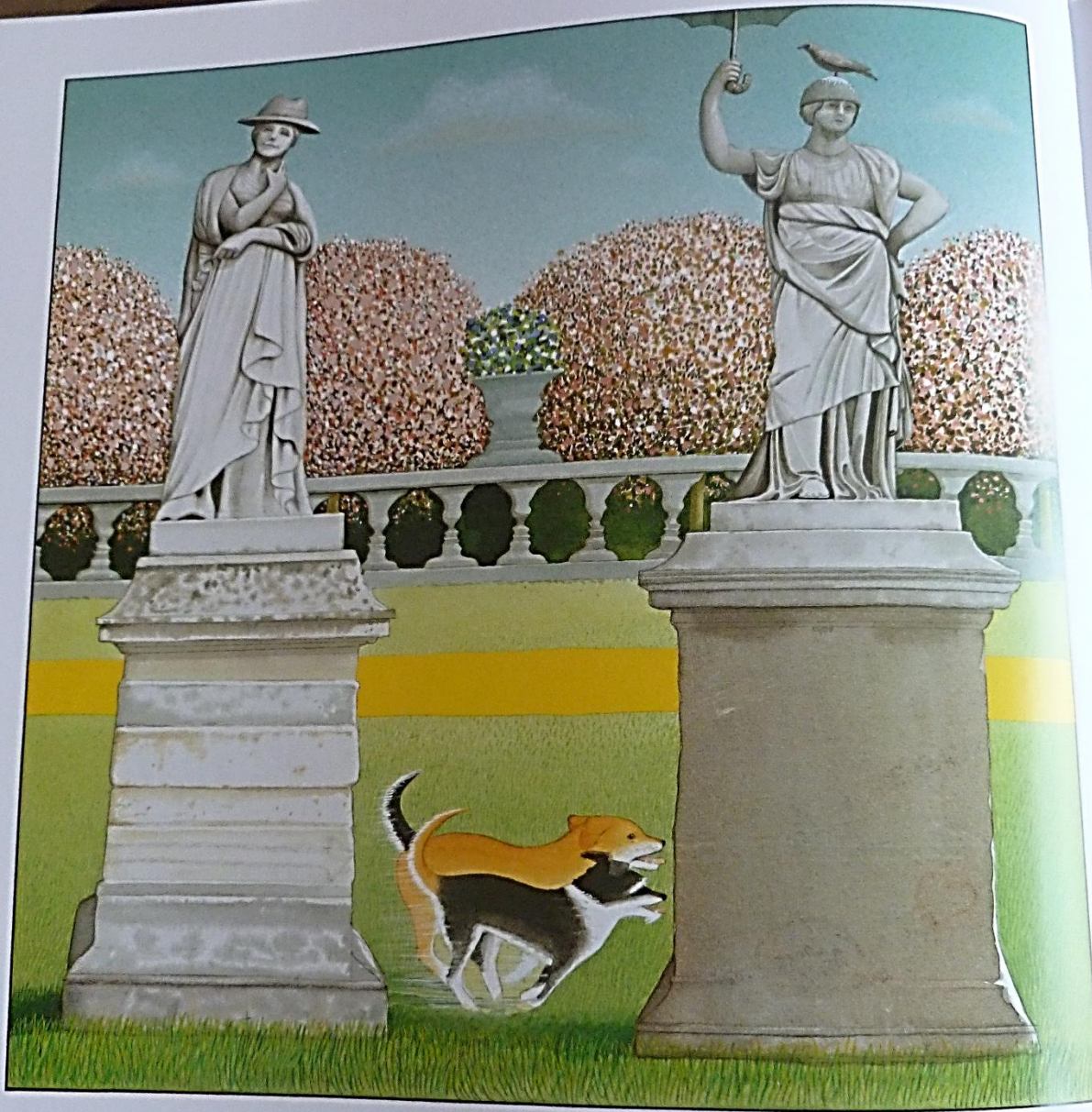




“D’you wanna come on the slide?”  
 a voice asked. It was a girl,  
 unfortunately, but I went anyway.  
 She was brilliant on the slide, she  
 went really fast. I was amazed.







The two dogs raced round like old friends.

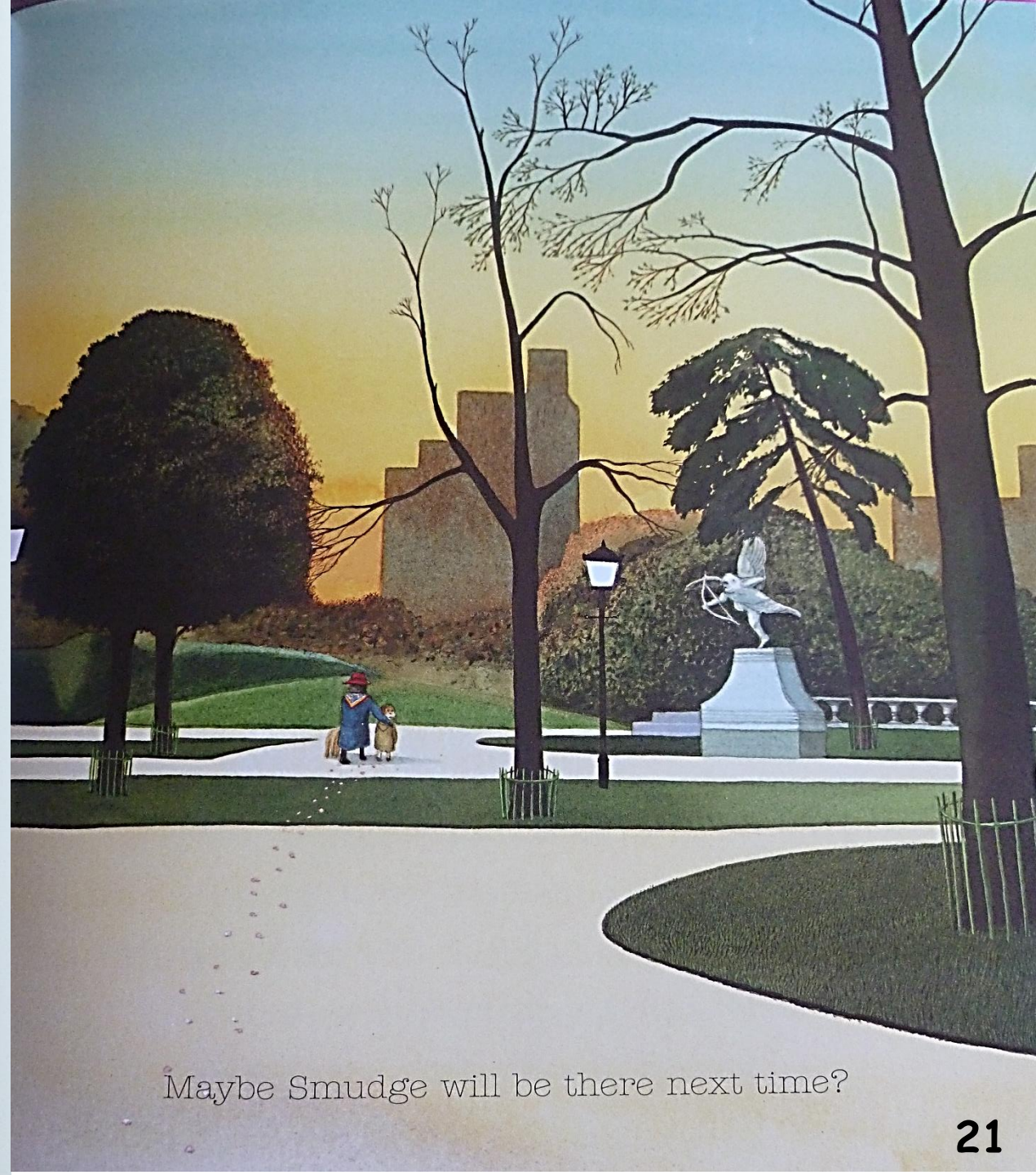


The girl took off her  
coat and swung on  
the climbing frame,  
so I did the same.



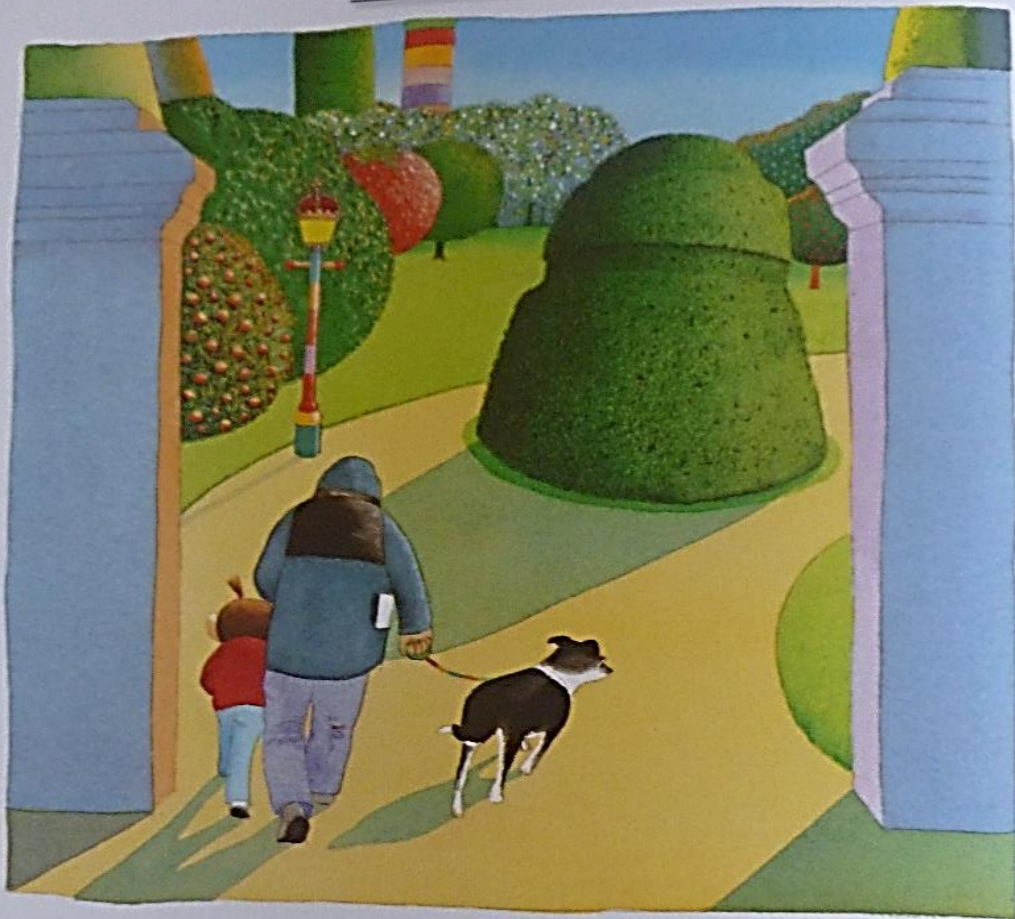


I'm good at climbing trees,  
so I showed her how to do it.  
She told me her name was  
Smudge - a funny name, I know,  
but she's quite nice. Then  
Mummy caught us talking  
together and I had to go home.



Maybe Smudge will be there next time?





Dad had been really fed up, so I was pleased when he said we could take Albert to the park.



Albert's always in such a hurry to be let off his lead. He went straight up to this lovely dog and sniffed its bum (he always does that). Of course, the other dog didn't mind, but its owner was really angry, the silly twit.



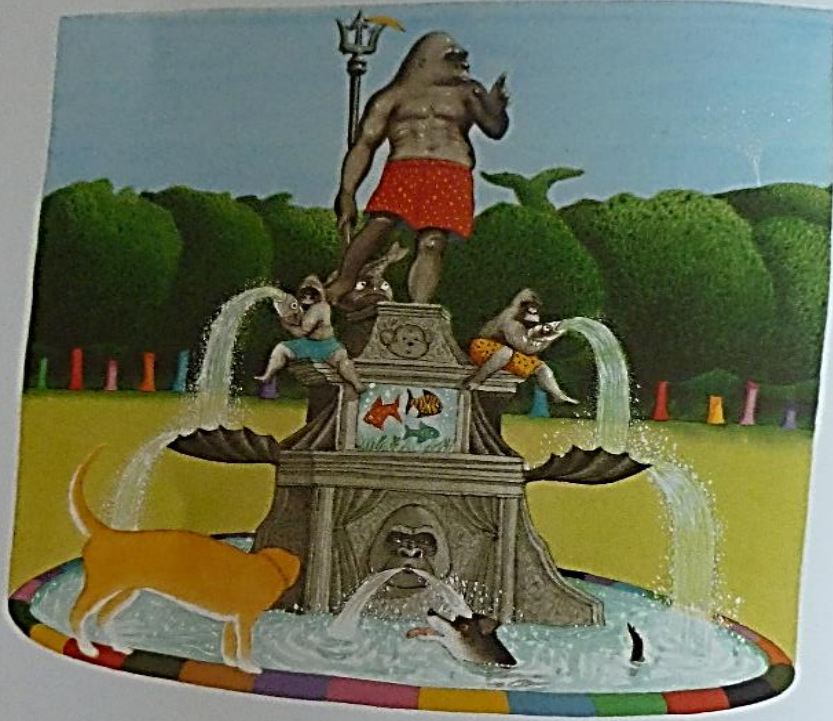


I got talking to this boy. I thought he was a bit of a wimp at first, but he's okay. We played on the see-saw and he didn't say much, but later on he was a bit more friendly.





We both burst out  
laughing when we saw  
Albert having a swim.

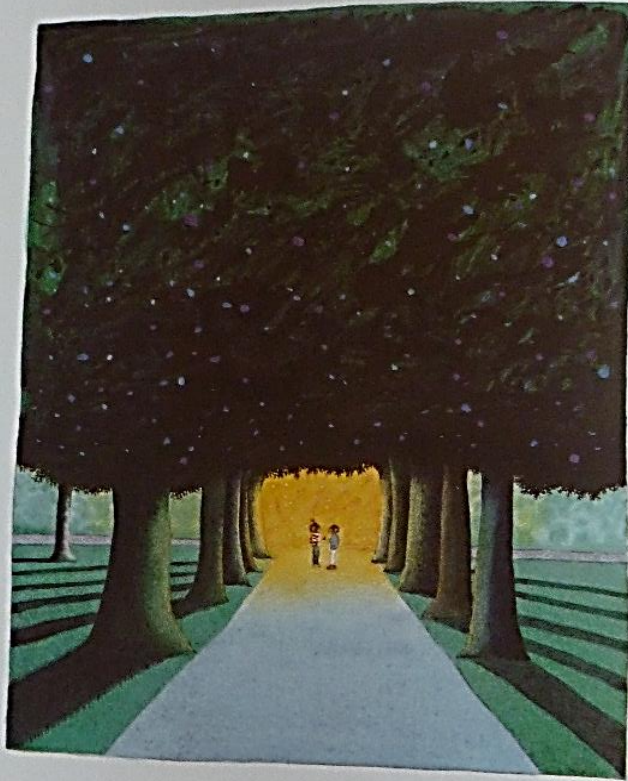


Then we all played on  
the bandstand, and I felt  
really, really happy.





Charlie picked a flower  
and gave it to me.



Then his mum called  
him and he had to go.  
He looked sad.

