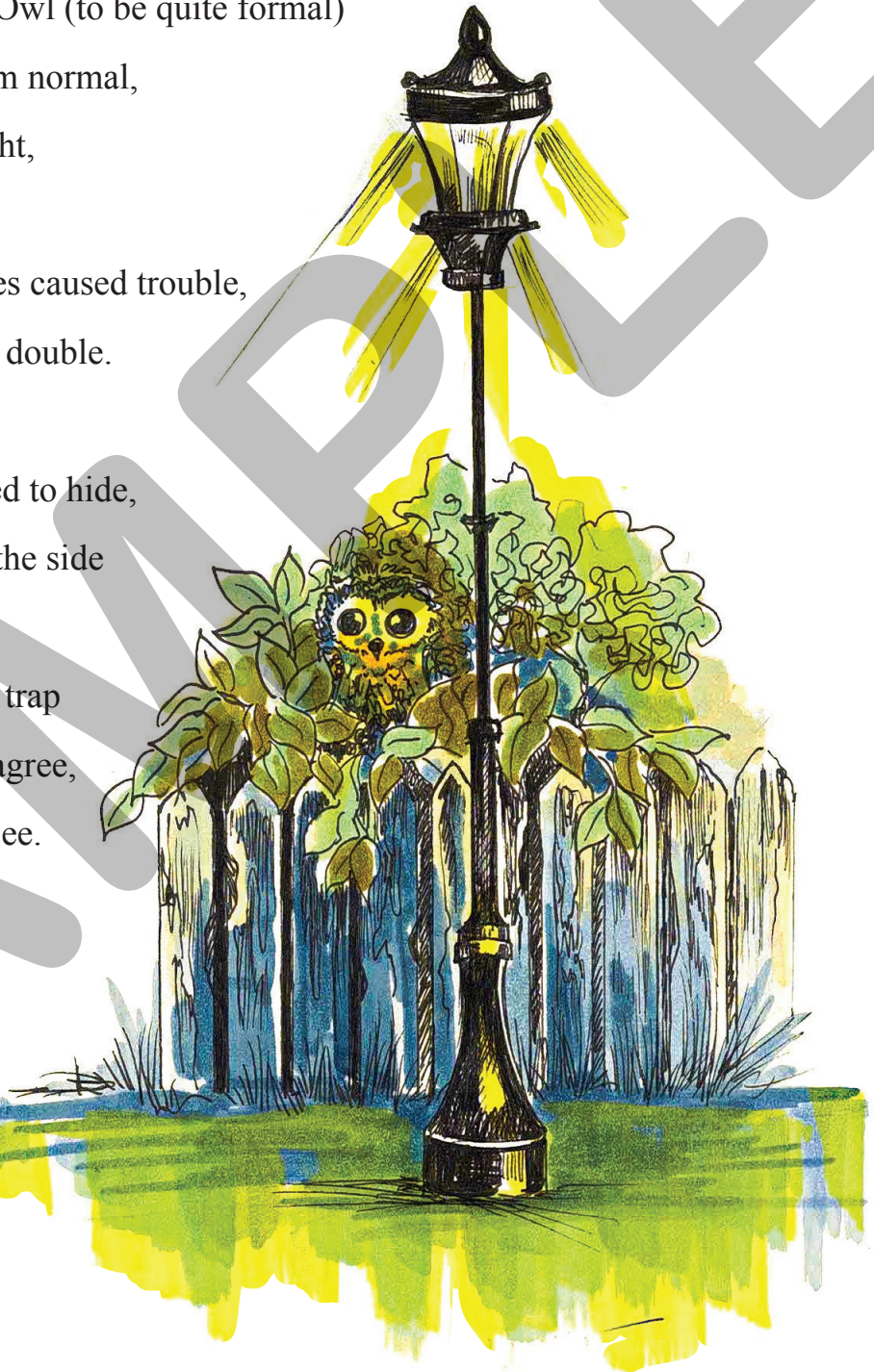
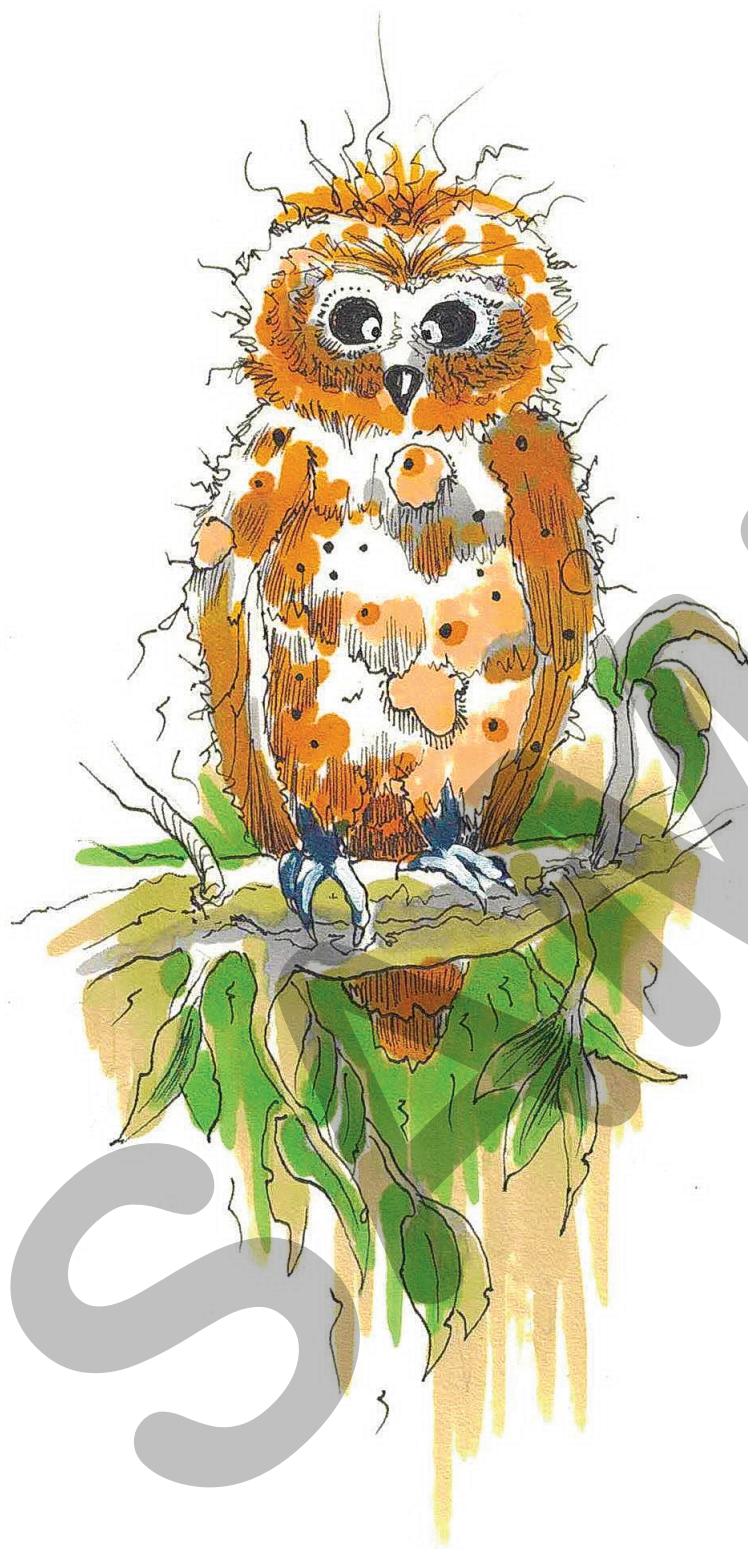


The Owl with Astigmatism*

Joseph Sylvester Murgatroyd Owl (to be quite formal)
Was, un-fort-u-nate-ly, far from normal,
His problem was about his sight,
He couldn't see at all at night
And in the daylight too his eyes caused trouble,
Because he always saw things double.

To catch his food he was forced to hide,
Beneath a light at night, or to the side
Where moths and insects flap,
Then Joey Owl could catch or trap
Them, bad for Owls you will agree,
And all because Joe couldn't see.





Instead of rats and micey things
Joey lived on bugs! And insects wings!
His life just then was rather tough,
To make him fat, they weren't enough!
Instead he grew thin and rangey,
Joe moulted 'till he looked quite mangey**

His Mum, (Jemima Owl), was most perplexed***
She didn't know what was the best
To do for Joe you see, the nest
Grew quite wet with tears.
As Jemima tried to calm her fears
Poor Joe grew so thin and fragile
He looked more like a crawly reptile.

A passing dog said, "your best bet
Is to take young Joe to see a vet"****
Willy the Wagtail, as he ate a slater
Said "I'd go sooner, not do it later!"
All the farmyard folks concurred#
Not a voice against the plan was heard.

So off they went their hopes were high
 The vet hmed, and sniffed, then gave a sigh,
 He puffed his cheeks, his head he shook
 And said, "His eyes are really very crook
 He needs an op-tom-et-trist^{###} to fix 'em."
 So Mum dragged Joe off to Dr Sticksem.

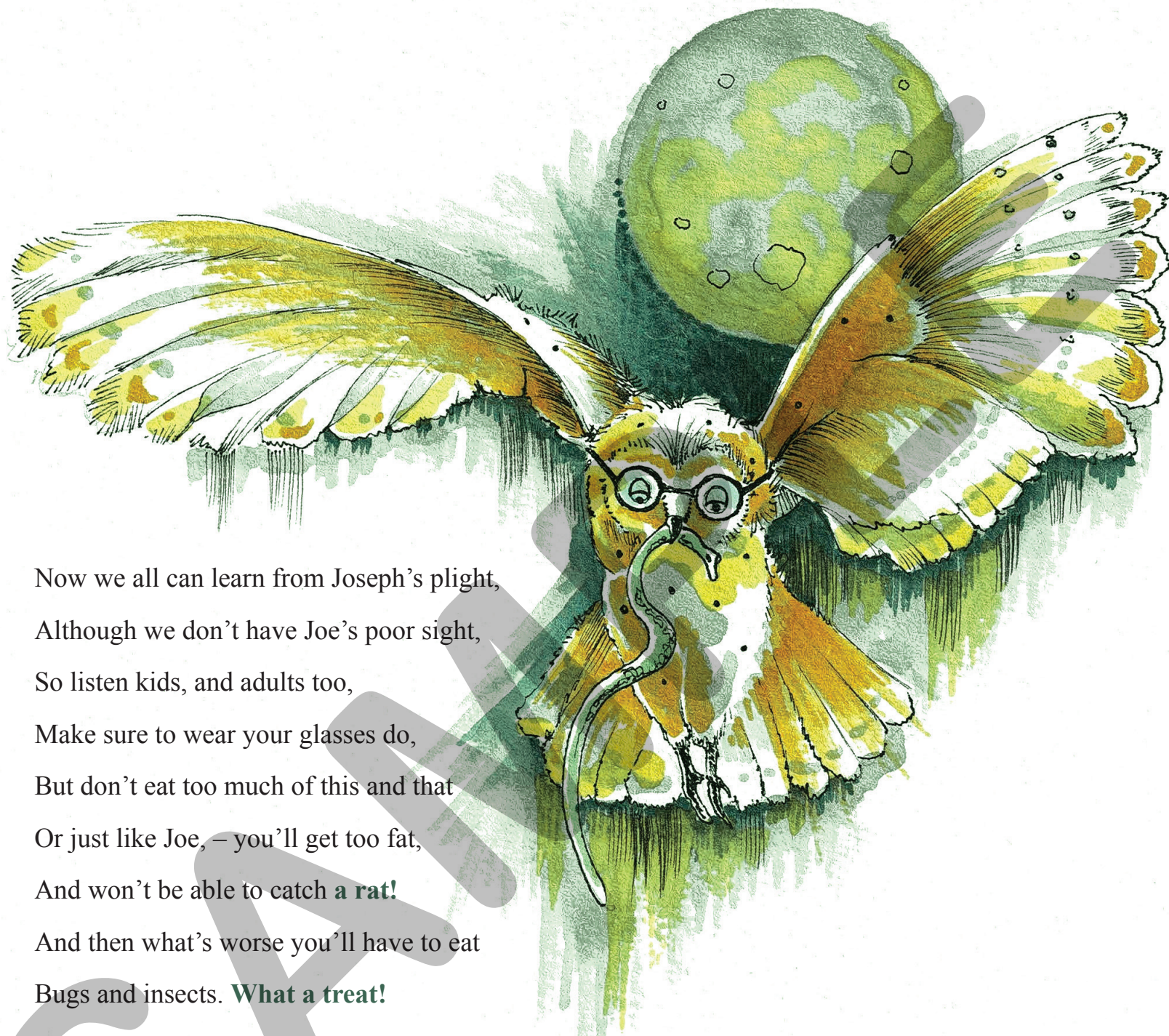


Doc Sticksem said
 "Stick these specs^{###} on Joey's head.
 Joe has bad as-tig-ma-tism but you'll see,
 And so will he, just as well as you or me."

With glasses on and perfect sight,
 Joseph hunted every night
 He grew so fat, he couldn't rest.
 He couldn't fit inside his nest!

So alas, poor Joe then had to diet
 On grubs and cockroaches too, (don't try it!)
 Unhappy Joe ended up in pain,
 Sitting near a light again!





Now we all can learn from Joseph's plight,
Although we don't have Joe's poor sight,
So listen kids, and adults too,
Make sure to wear your glasses do,
But don't eat too much of this and that
Or just like Joe, – you'll get too fat,
And won't be able to catch **a rat!**
And then what's worse you'll have to eat
Bugs and insects. **What a treat!**

* Astigmatism is a problem caused by eyeballs not being the right shape.

** mangey – a disease dogs get that makes their hair fall out

*** perplexed – worried.

**** vet – short for veterinary surgeon, an animal doctor

concurred – agreed

optometrist – eye doctor

specs – short for spectacles (glasses)