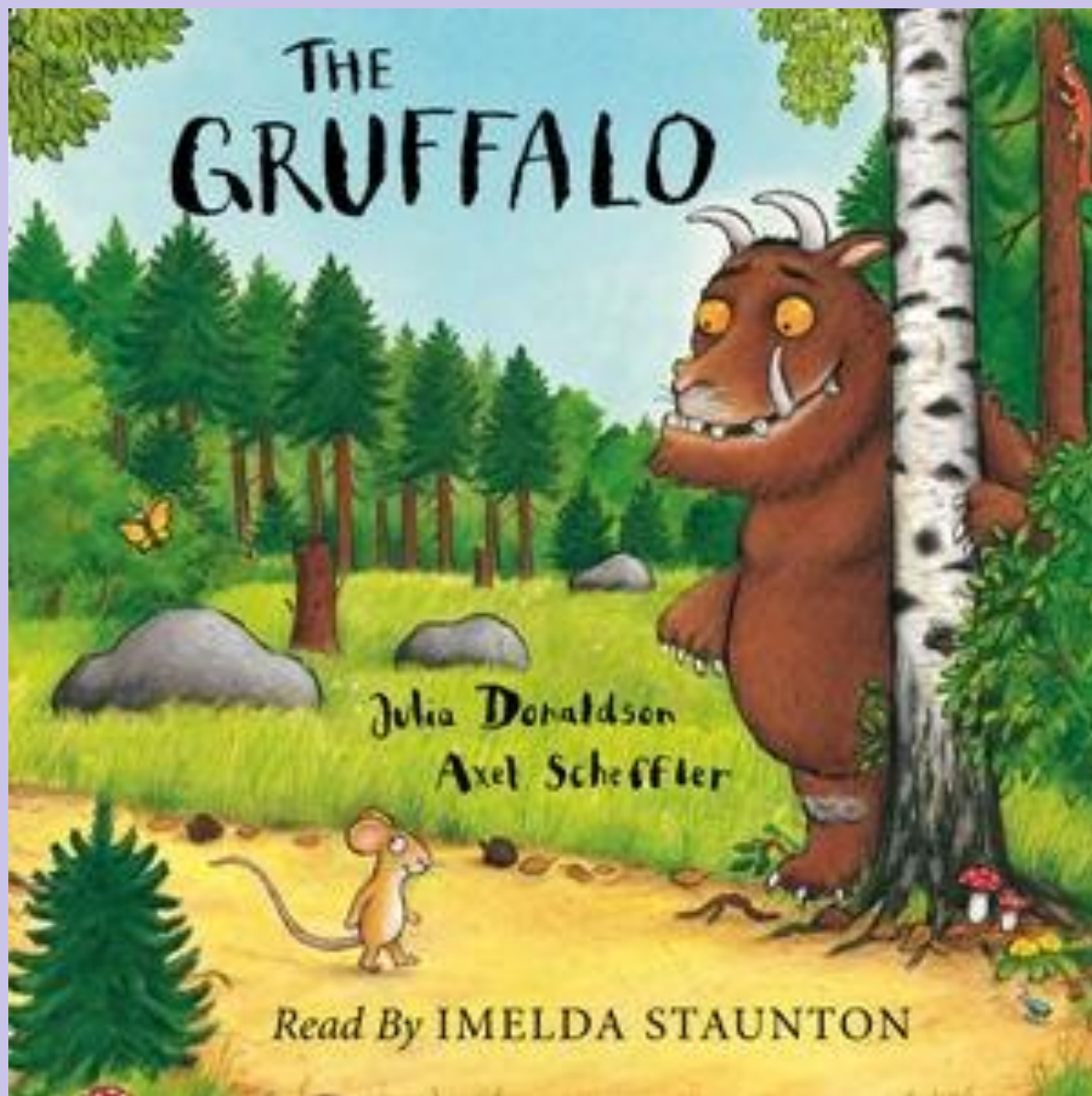
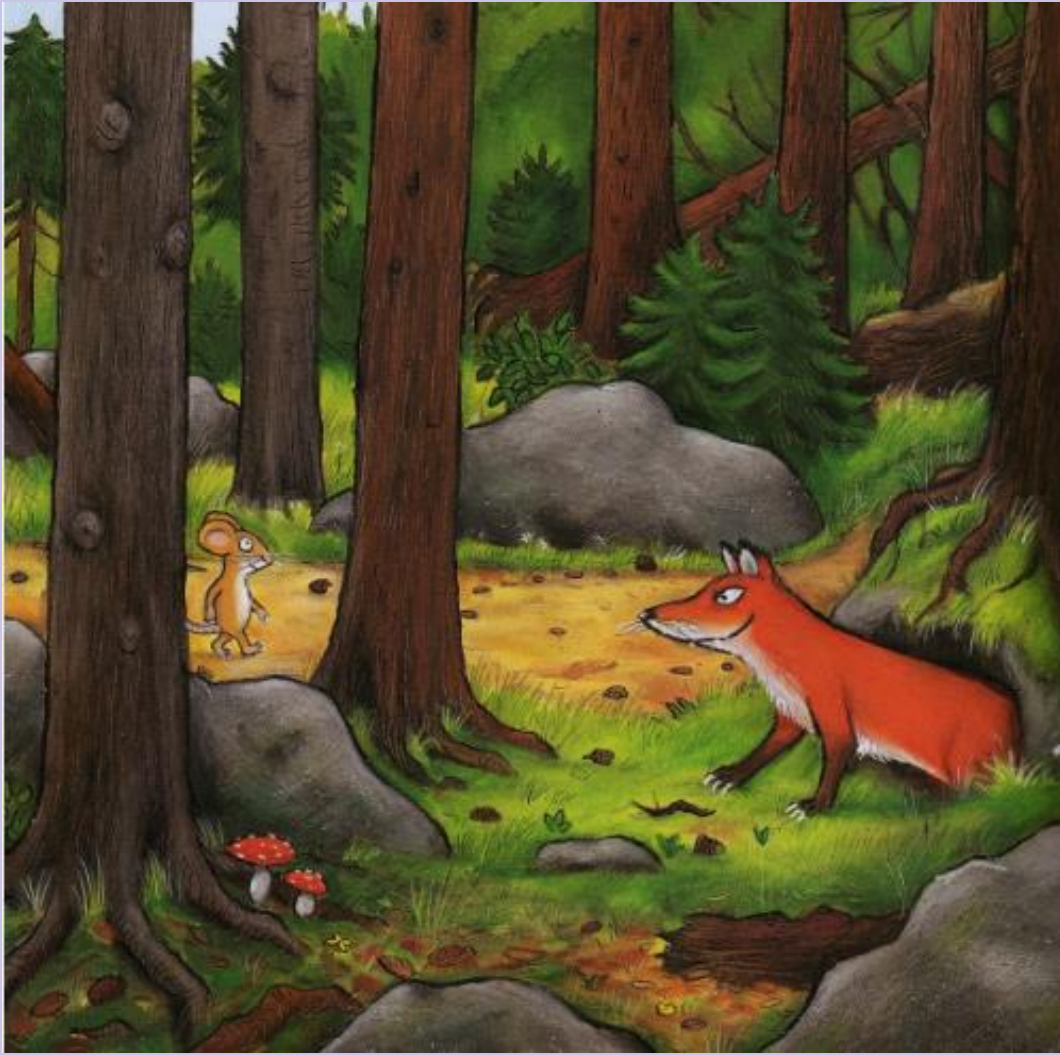


THE GRUFFALO

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Read By IMELDA STAUNTON





A mouse took a stroll through the deep dark wood.

A fox saw the mouse, and the mouse looked good.



"Where are you going to, little brown mouse?
Come and have lunch in my underground house."

"It's terribly kind of you, Fox, but no -
I'm going to have lunch with a gruffalo."

"A gruffalo? What's a gruffalo?"

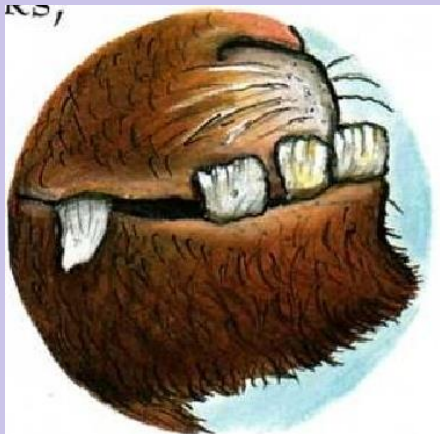
"A gruffalo! Why, didn't you know?"



He has terrible
tusks,



and terrible
claws,

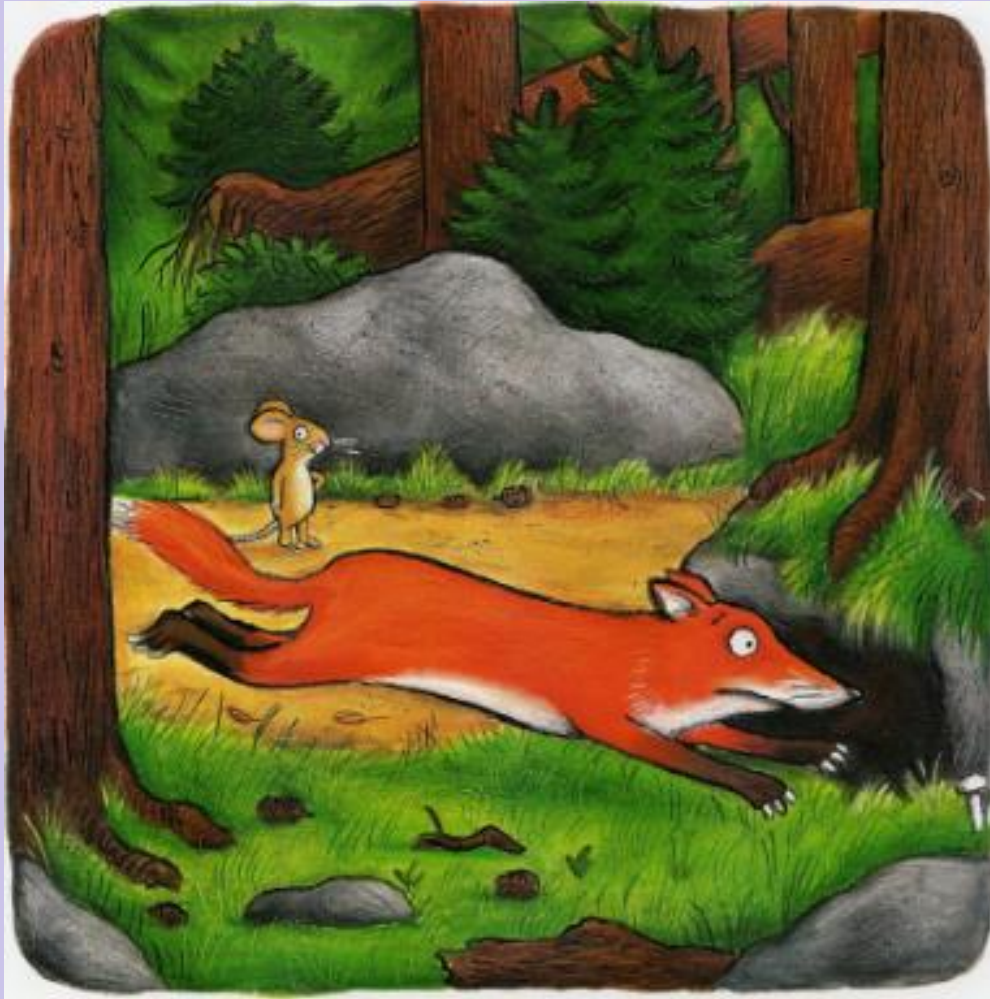


And terrible
teeth in his
terrible jaws."



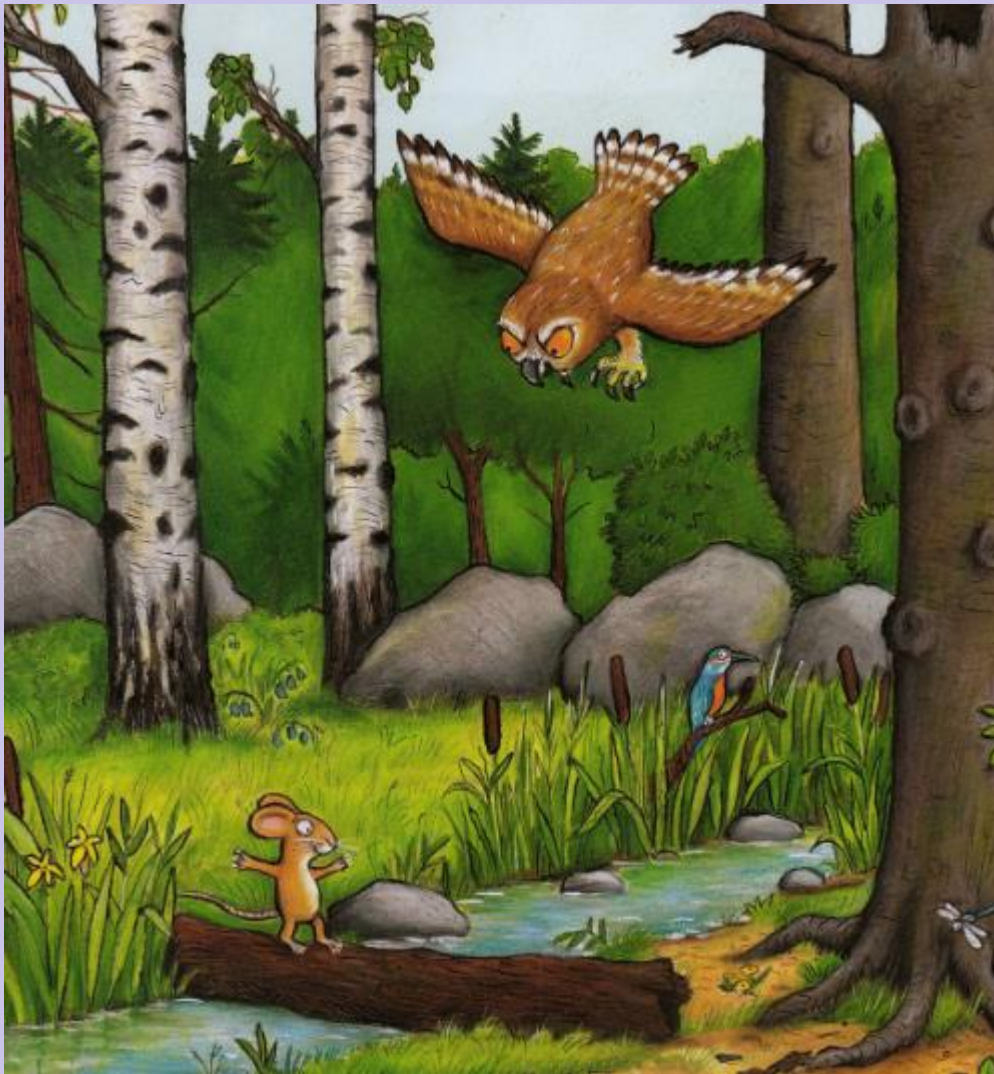
"Where are you meeting him?"

"Here, by these rocks,
And his favourite food is roasted fox."



"Roasted fox! I'm off!" Fox said.
"Goodbye, little mouse," and away he sped.

"Silly old Fox!
Doesn't he know,
There's no such
thing as a gruffalo?"



On went the mouse
through the deep
dark wood.

An owl saw the
mouse, and the
mouse looked good.

"Where are you
going to, little brown
mouse?

Come and have tea in
my treetop house."



"It's terribly kind of you, Owl, but no -
I'm going to have tea with a gruffalo."

"A gruffalo? What's a gruffalo?"

"A gruffalo! Why, didn't you know?"



He has knobbly
knees,



and turned-out toes,



And a poisonous
wart at the end of
his nose."



"Where are you meeting him?"

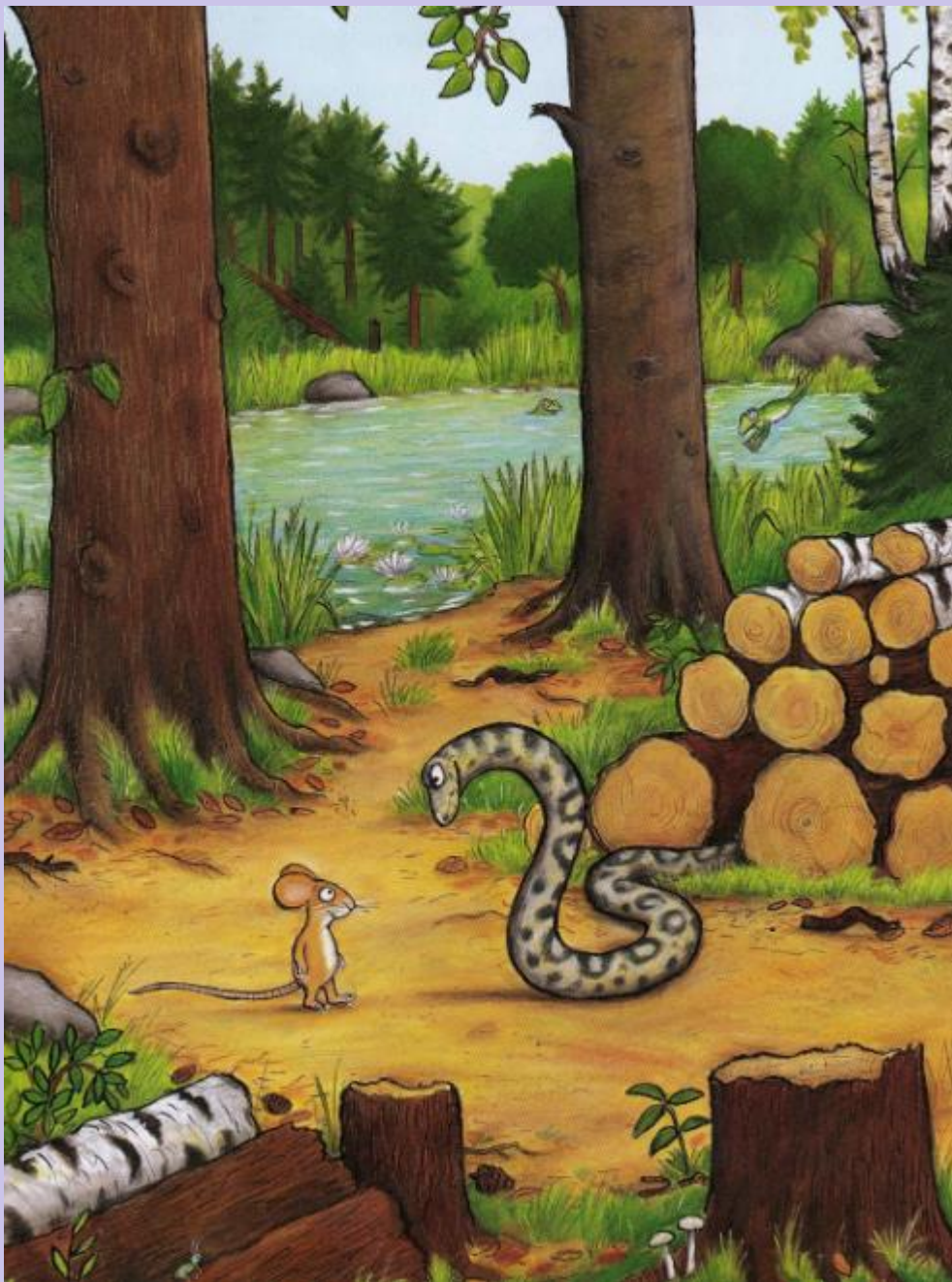
"Here, by this stream,

And his favourite food is owl ice cream."



"Owl ice cream!
Toowhit toowhoo!"
"Goodbye, little
mouse," and away
Owl flew.

"Silly old Owl!
Doesn't he know,
There's no such
thing as a gruffalo?"



A mouse took a stroll through the deep dark wood. A snake saw the mouse, and the mouse looked good. "Where are you going to, little brown mouse? Come for a feast in my logpile house."



"It's terribly kind of you, Snake, but no -
I'm going to have tea with a gruffalo."

"A gruffalo? What's a gruffalo?"

"A gruffalo! Why, didn't you know?"



His eyes are orange,



his tongue is black,



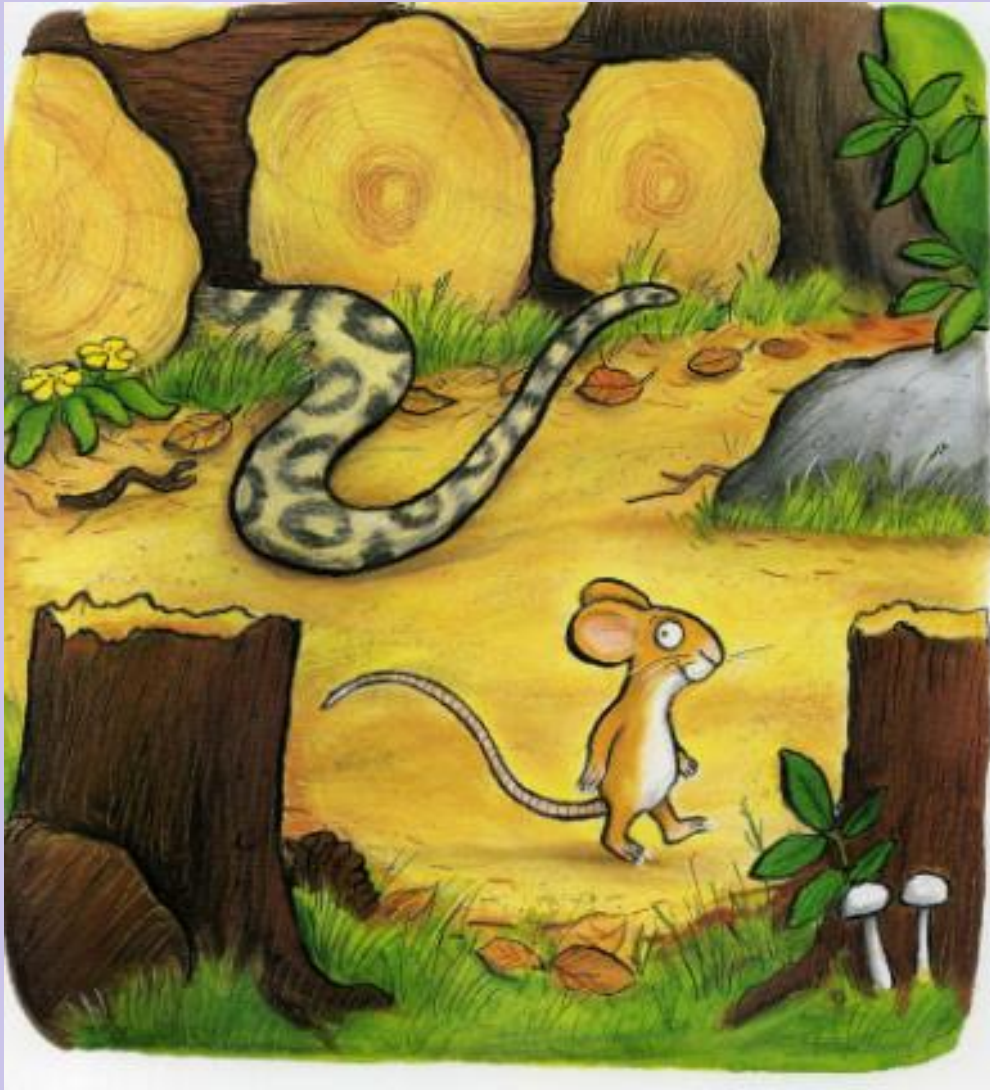
He has purple prickles all over
his back."



"Where are you meeting him?"

"Here, by this lake,

And his favourite food is scrambled
snake."

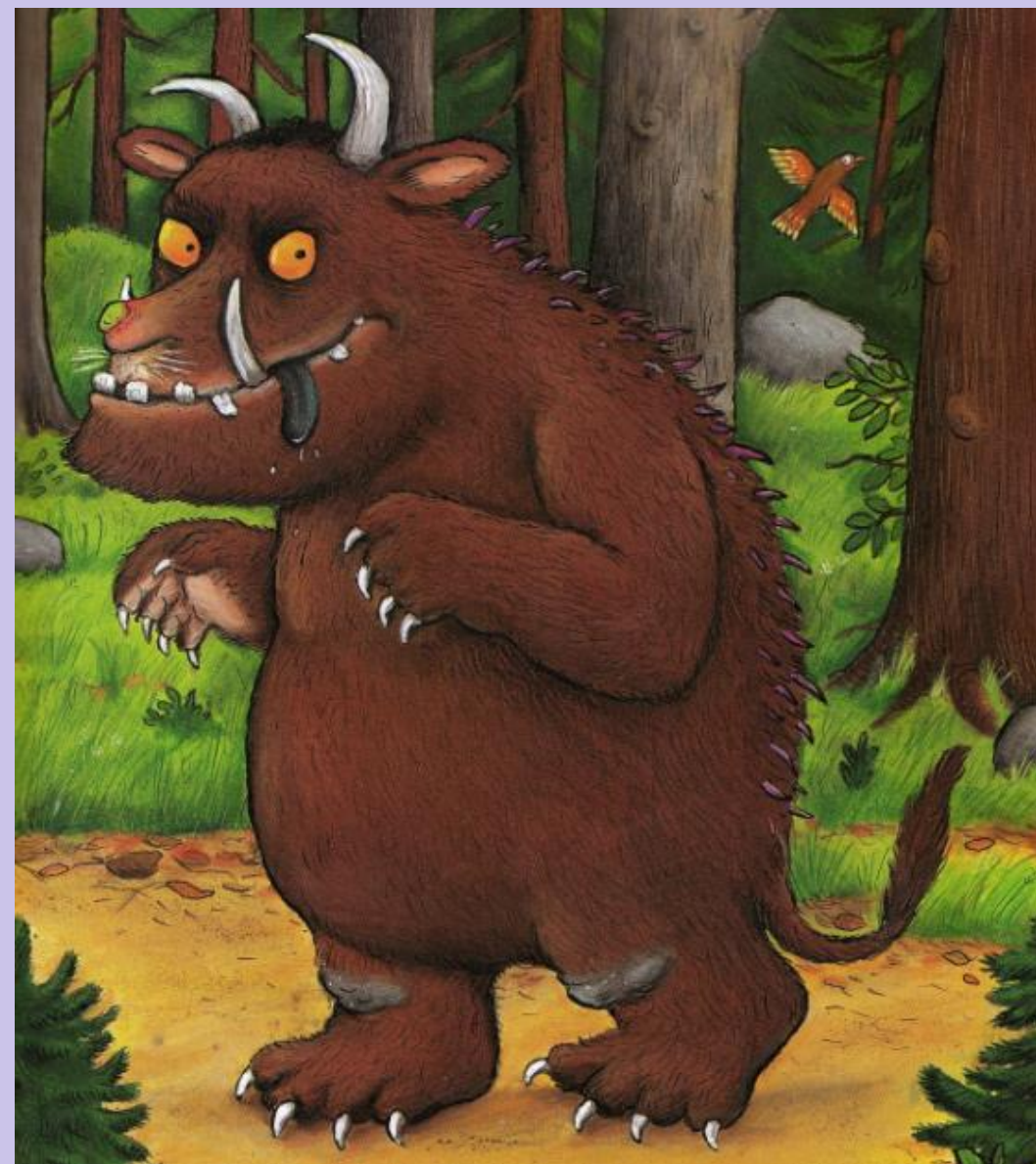


"Scrambled snake!
It's time I hid!"
"Goodbye, little
mouse," and away
Snake slid.



"Silly old snake! Doesn't he know,
There's no such thing as a
gruffal...?"

...OH!"



But who is this creature
with terrible claws
And terrible teeth in his
terrible jaws?
He has knobbly knees,
and turned-out toes,
And a poisonous wart at
the end of his nose.
His eyes are orange, his
tongue is black,
He has purple prickles all
over his back.

"Oh help! Oh no!
It's a gruffalo!"



"My favourite food!" the Gruffalo said.

"You'll taste good on a slice of bread!"

"Good?" said the mouse. "Don't call me good!

I'm the scariest creature in this wood.

Just walk behind me and soon you'll see,

Everyone is afraid of me."



"All right," said the Gruffalo, bursting with laughter.
"You go ahead and I'll follow after."

They walked and walked till the Gruffalo said,
"I hear a hiss in the leaves ahead."



"It's Snake," said the mouse.
"Why, Snake, hello!"
Snake took one look at the
Gruffalo.
"Oh crumbs!" he said,
"Goodbye, little mouse!"
And off he slid to his logpile
house.



"You see?" said the mouse. "I told you so."
"Amazing!" said the Gruffalo.

They walked some more till the Gruffalo said, "I hear a hoot in the trees ahead."



"It's Owl," said the mouse. "Why, Owl, hello!" Owl took one look at the Gruffalo. "Oh dear!" he said, "Goodbye, little mouse!" And off he flew to his treetop house.

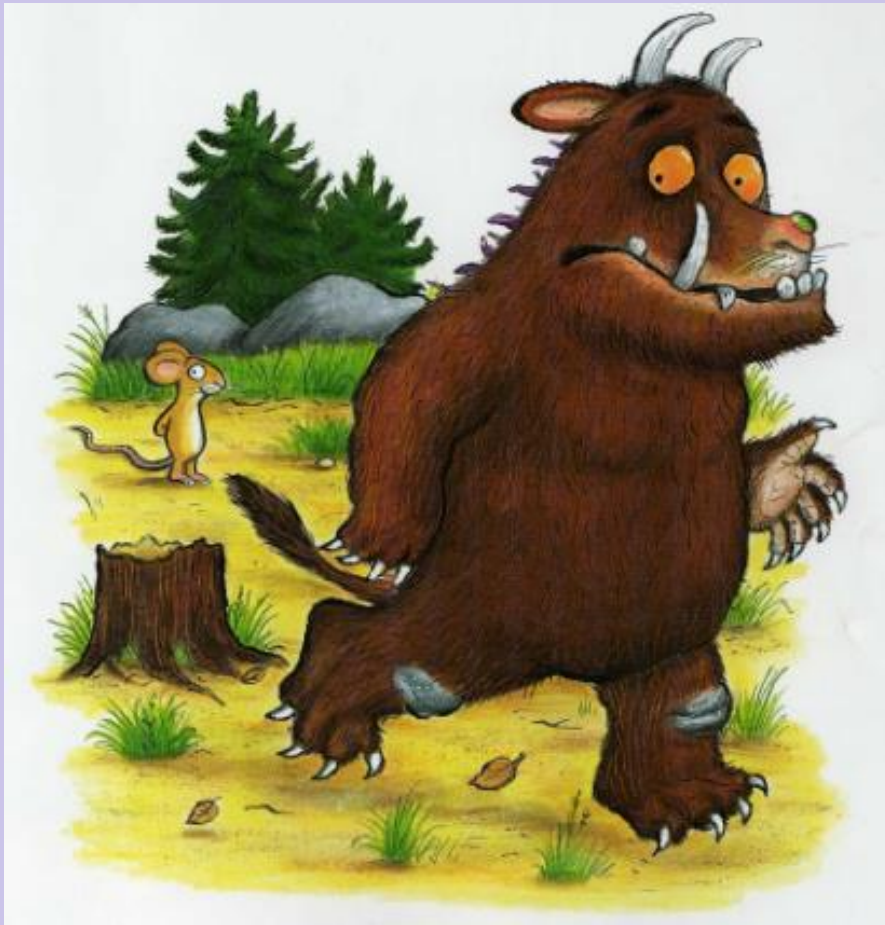


"You see?" said the mouse. "I told you so."
"Astounding!" said the Gruffalo.

They walked some more till the Gruffalo said, "I can hear feet on the path ahead."

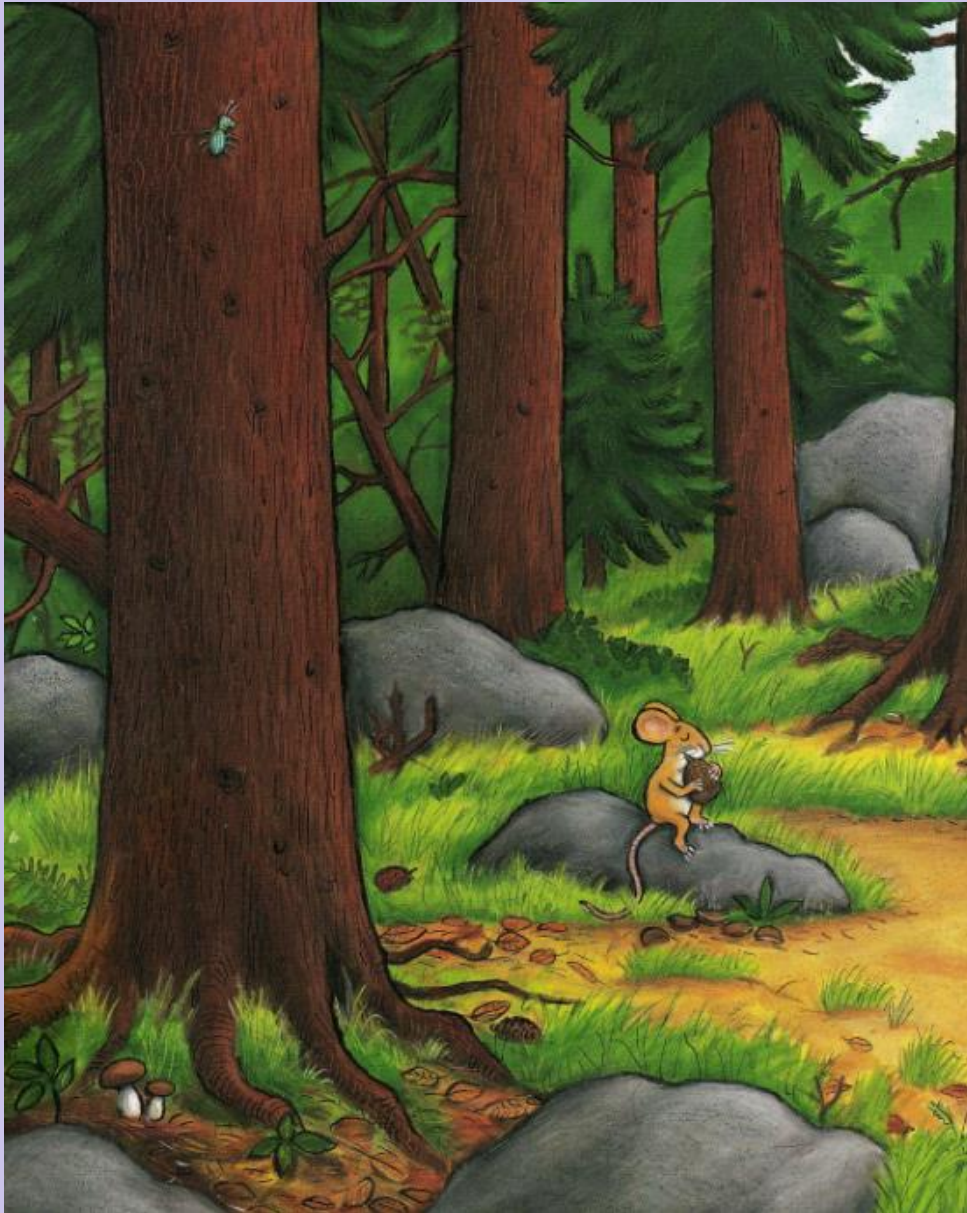


"It's Fox," said the mouse. "Why, Fox, hello!" Fox took one look at the Gruffalo. "Oh help!" he said, "Goodbye, little mouse!" And off he ran to his underground house.



"Well, Gruffalo," said the mouse. "You see? Everyone is afraid of me! But now my tummy's beginning to rumble. My favourite food is - gruffalo crumble!"

"Gruffalo crumble!" the Gruffalo said, And quick as the wind he turned and fled.



All was quiet in the
deep dark wood.
The mouse found a
nut and the nut was
good.

