



The Clever Monkey

A folktale from West Africa

as told by Rob Cleveland ♦ illustrated by Baird Hoffmire



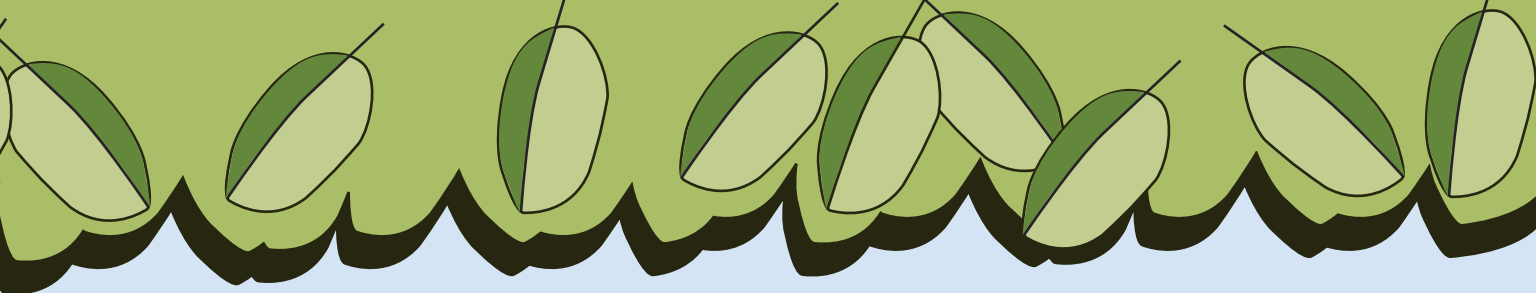
AUDIO

Audio with
Highlighting



ANNOTATE

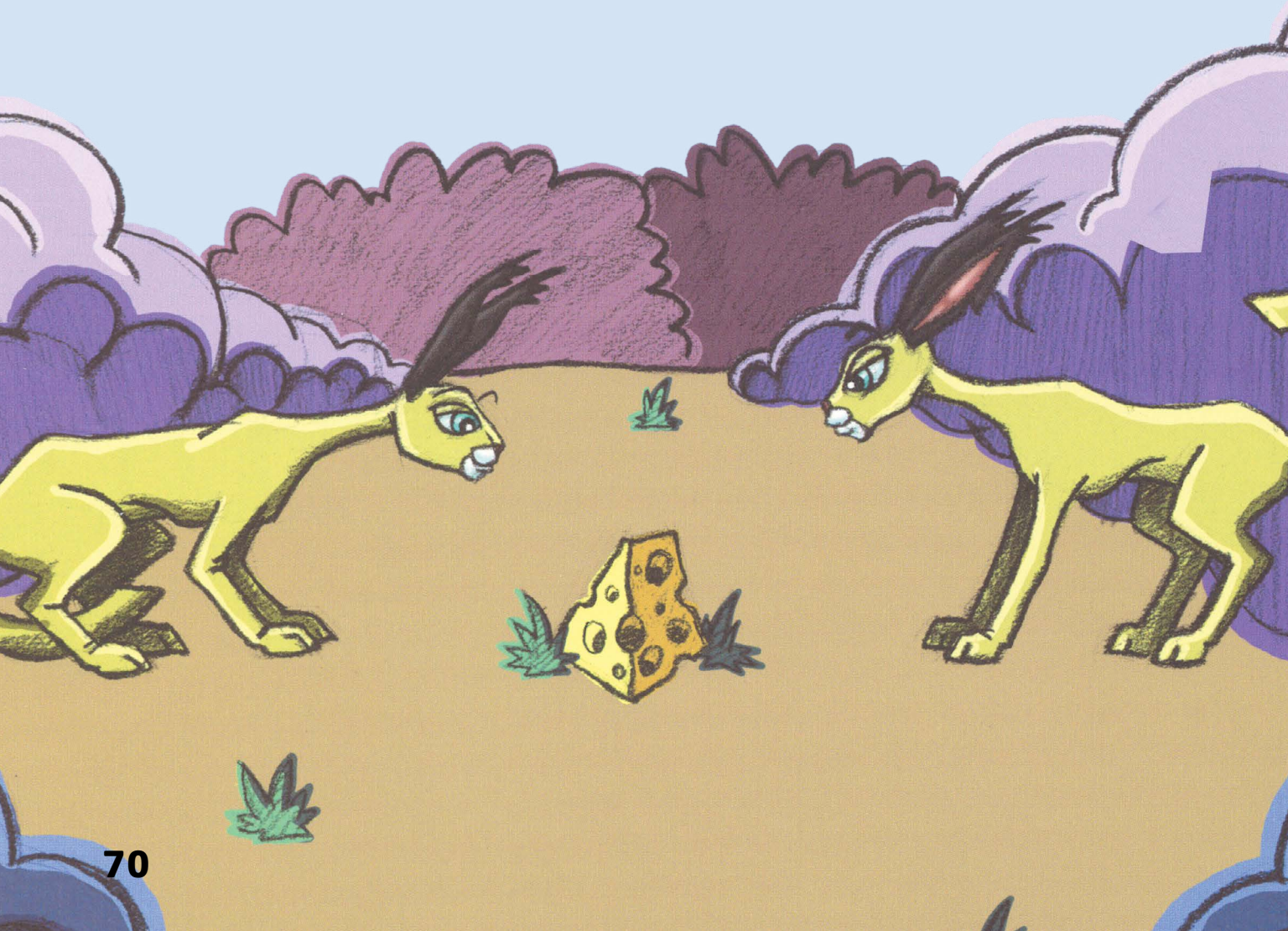





In a jungle in West Africa, two cats
found a large piece of cheese.

Now these cats loved cheese more
than anything.

They could not believe their good
fortune.





“How should we divide our cheese?” asked one cat.

“I will be happy to cut it into two equal pieces,” said the other cat.



CLOSE READ



Underline the words that help you know the author's purpose.



“How do I know that you will divide it fairly?” asked the first cat. “I will divide the cheese.”




“How do I know that you will divide it fairly?” asked the second cat. “I will divide the cheese.”



CLOSE READ

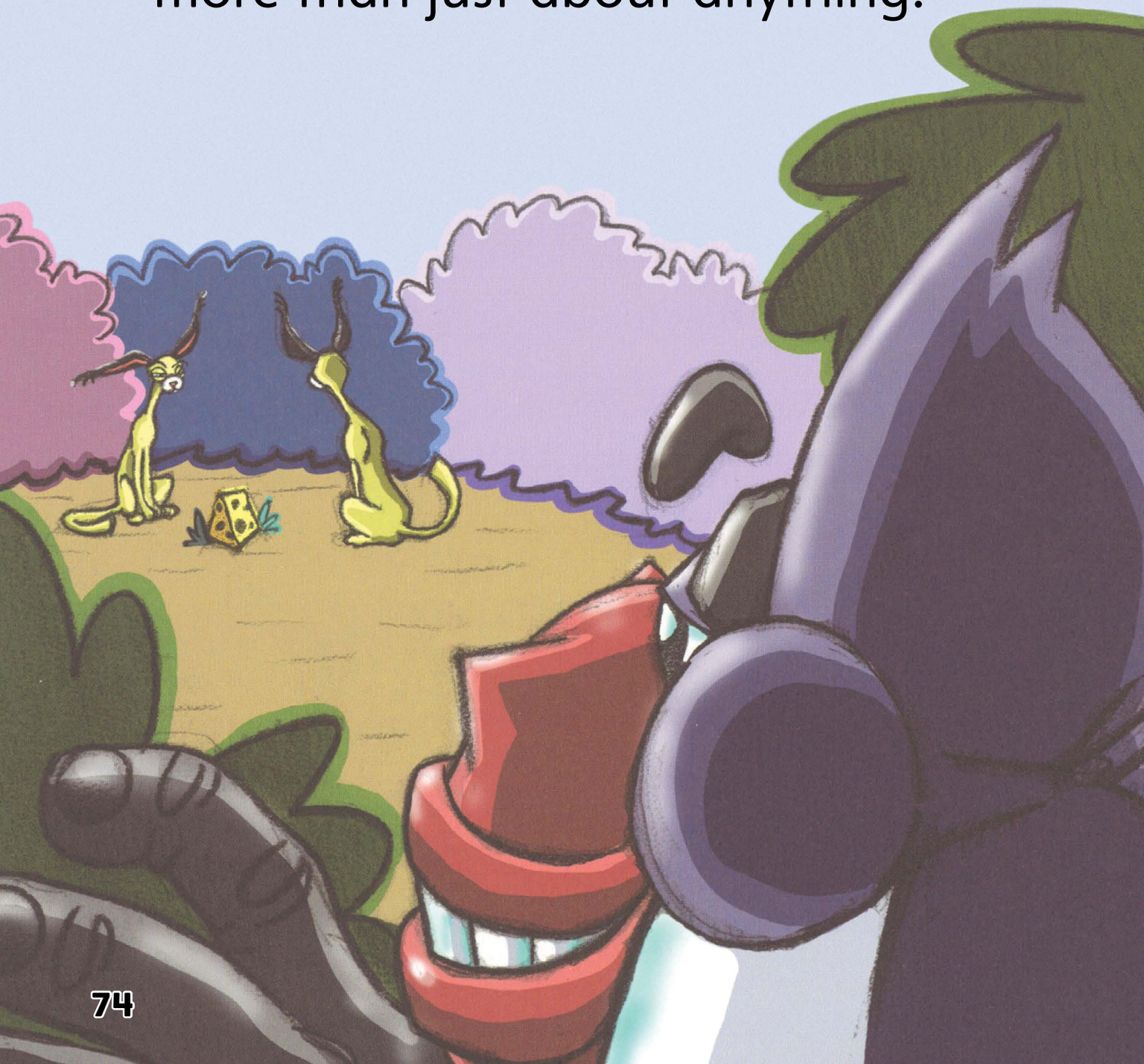


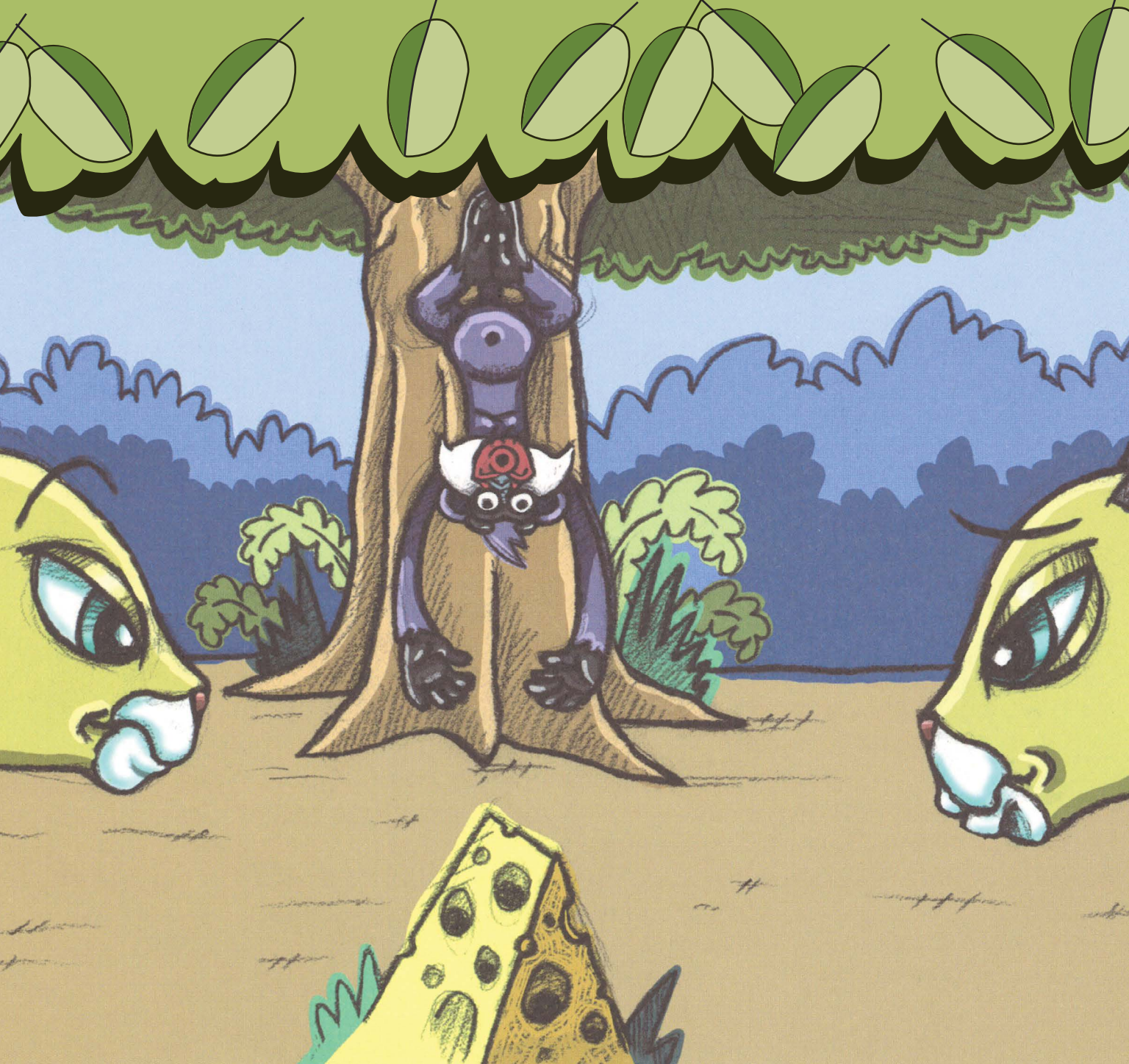
Highlight the details that connect to how people in a society, or group, can solve a problem.



In the tree above the two cats,
a monkey was watching.

Now this monkey also loved cheese
more than just about anything.





He swung down from the tree and went over to the cats.

“I will be happy to divide the cheese into two equal parts for you,” said the monkey.

The cats agreed, and after much thought, the monkey divided the cheese into two parts.



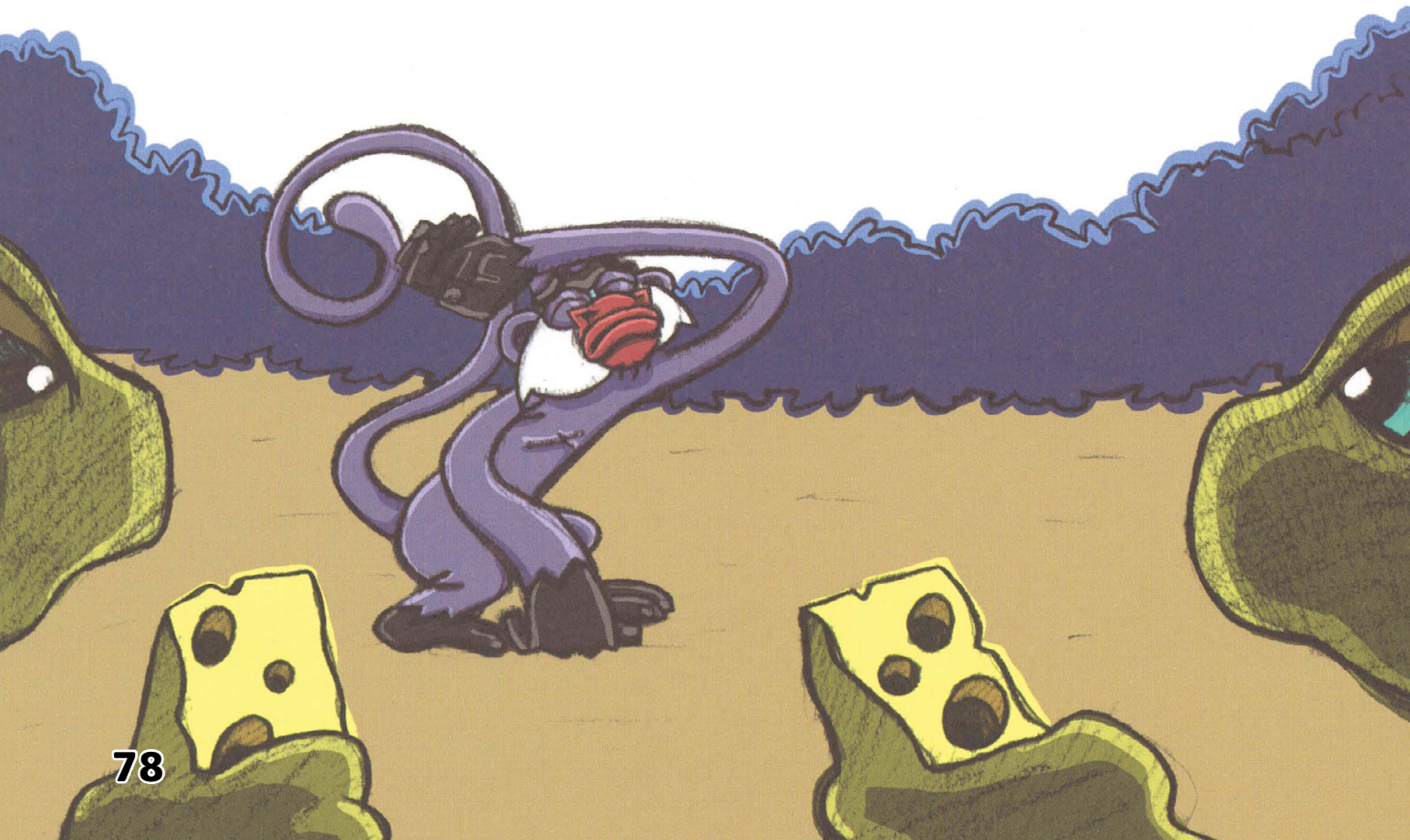
The two cats thanked the
monkey and got ready
to eat their cheese.





“Uh-oh,” said the monkey.

“I have made a mistake.
The pieces are not equal.”





The monkey picked up one of the pieces of cheese.

“Don’t worry, I can make them the same size.”



VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

Underline the word that helps you figure out what **equal** means.

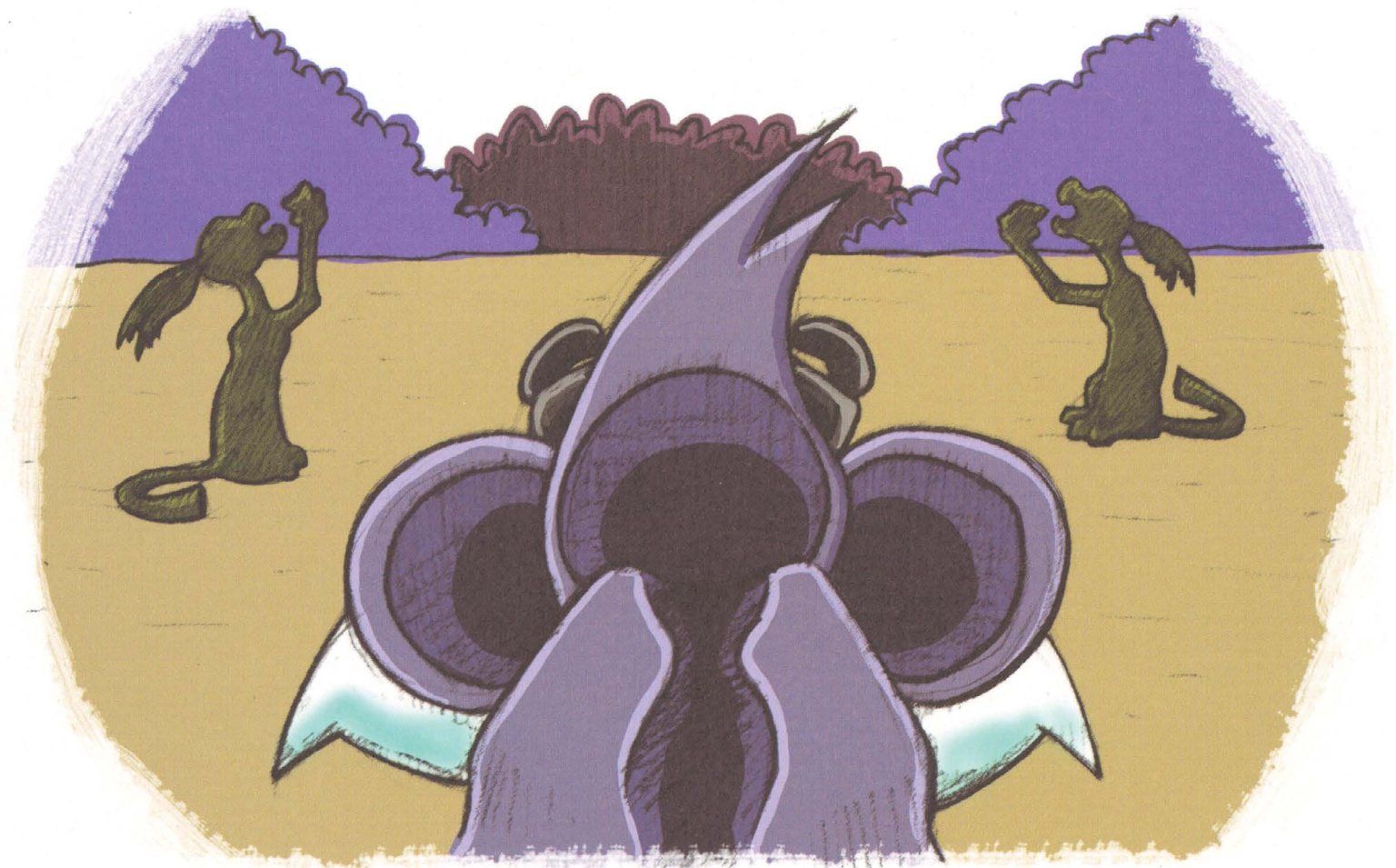


The monkey then ate a little bit of the cheese.

“There, now they are the same size.”



The cats again thanked the monkey and prepared to enjoy their cheese.





“Uh-oh,” said the monkey. “I am afraid that I ate too much. The two pieces are not the same size. But I can fix it.”

The monkey then ate a little bit of the other piece of cheese.

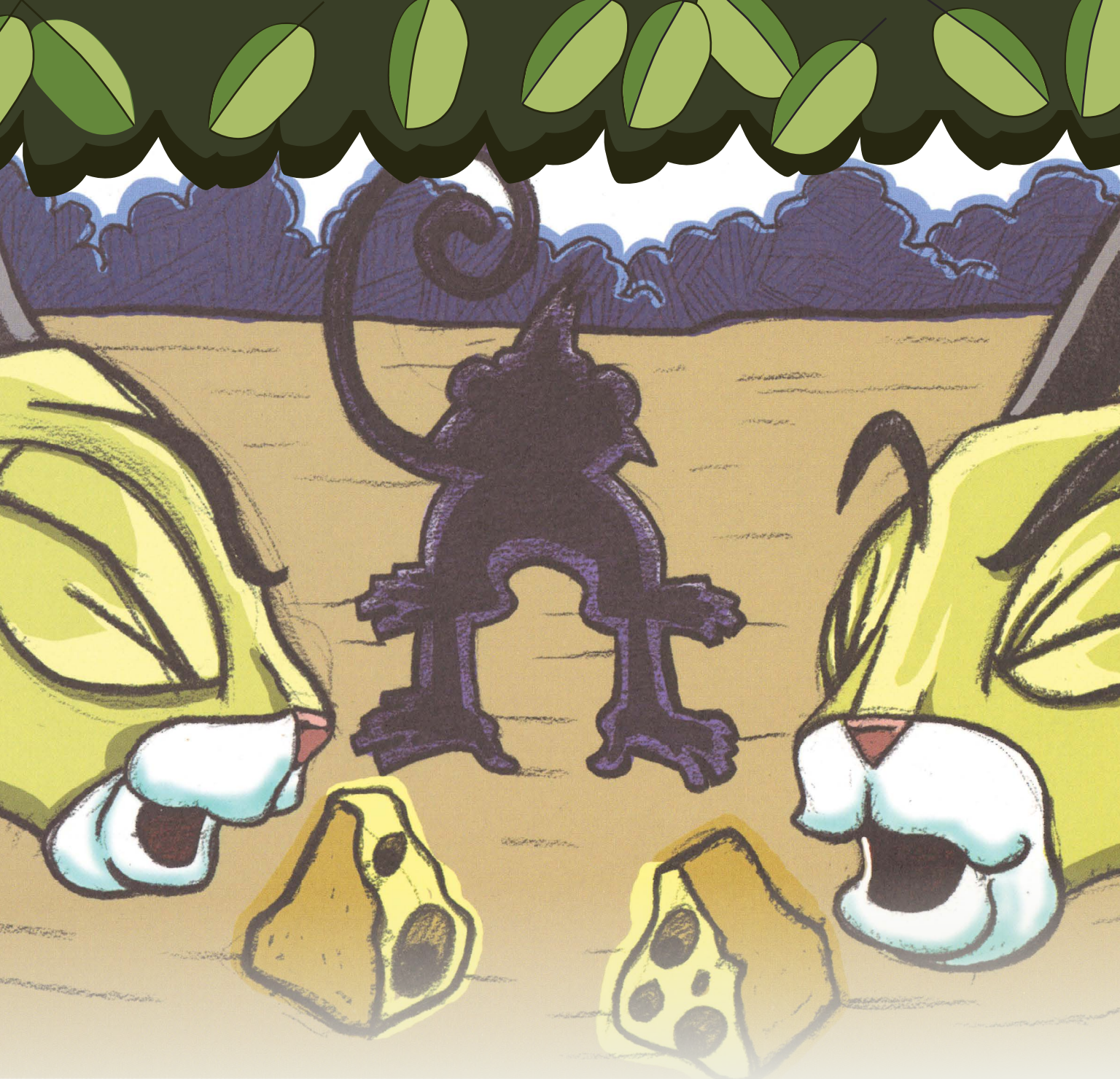
“Now,” said the monkey, “they are the same size.”



CLOSE READ



Underline the details that help you know that the author's purpose is to entertain.



The cats again thanked the monkey and prepared to enjoy their cheese.

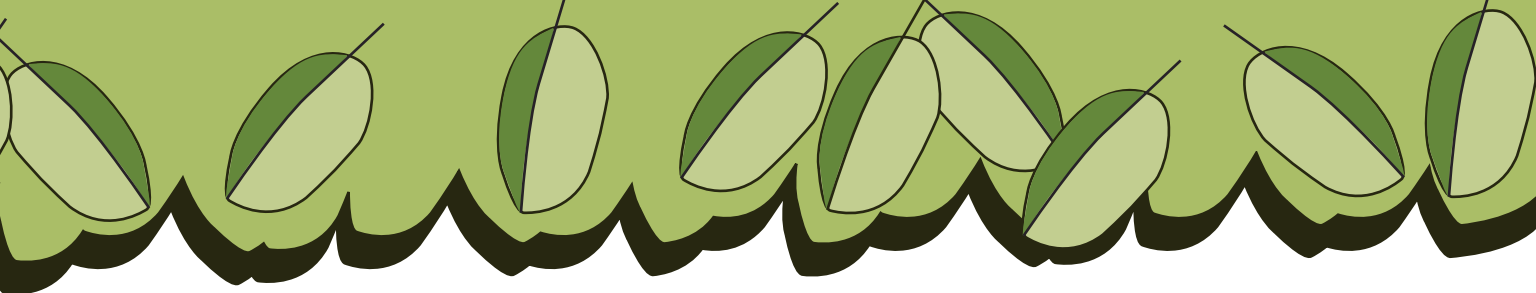
“Uh-oh,” said the monkey. “I did it again. I ate too much. Now the pieces are not the same size, but I can fix it.”



CLOSE READ



Highlight the details that help you understand how people in society should treat each other.




“That is alright,” said the first cat. “They don’t have to be exactly the same size.”





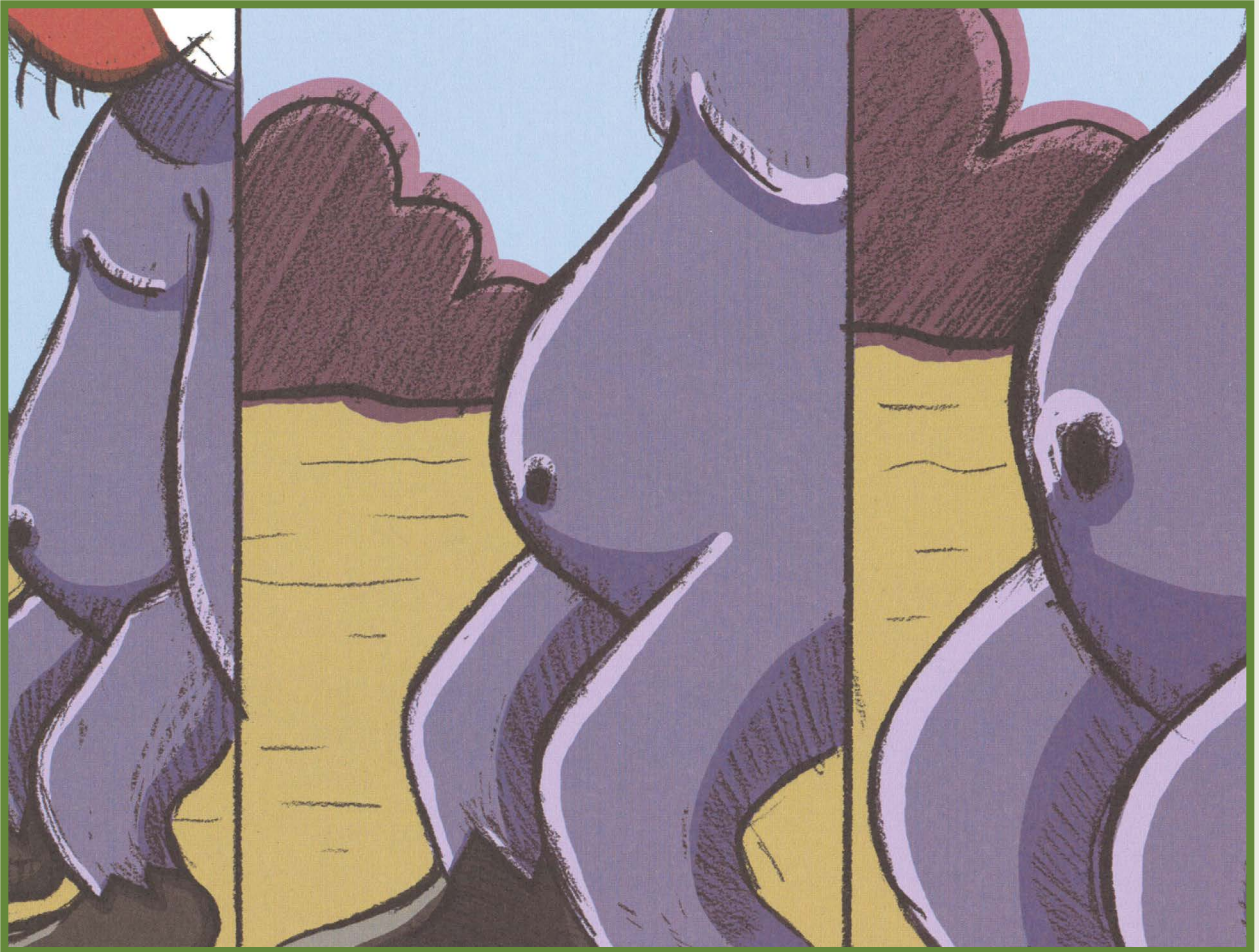
“Yes, they do,” said the second cat. “We need to have the cheese divided equally.”



So the monkey continued trying
to divide the cheese into two
equal pieces.

The two pieces of cheese became
smaller and smaller.





And the monkey's belly got bigger and bigger.

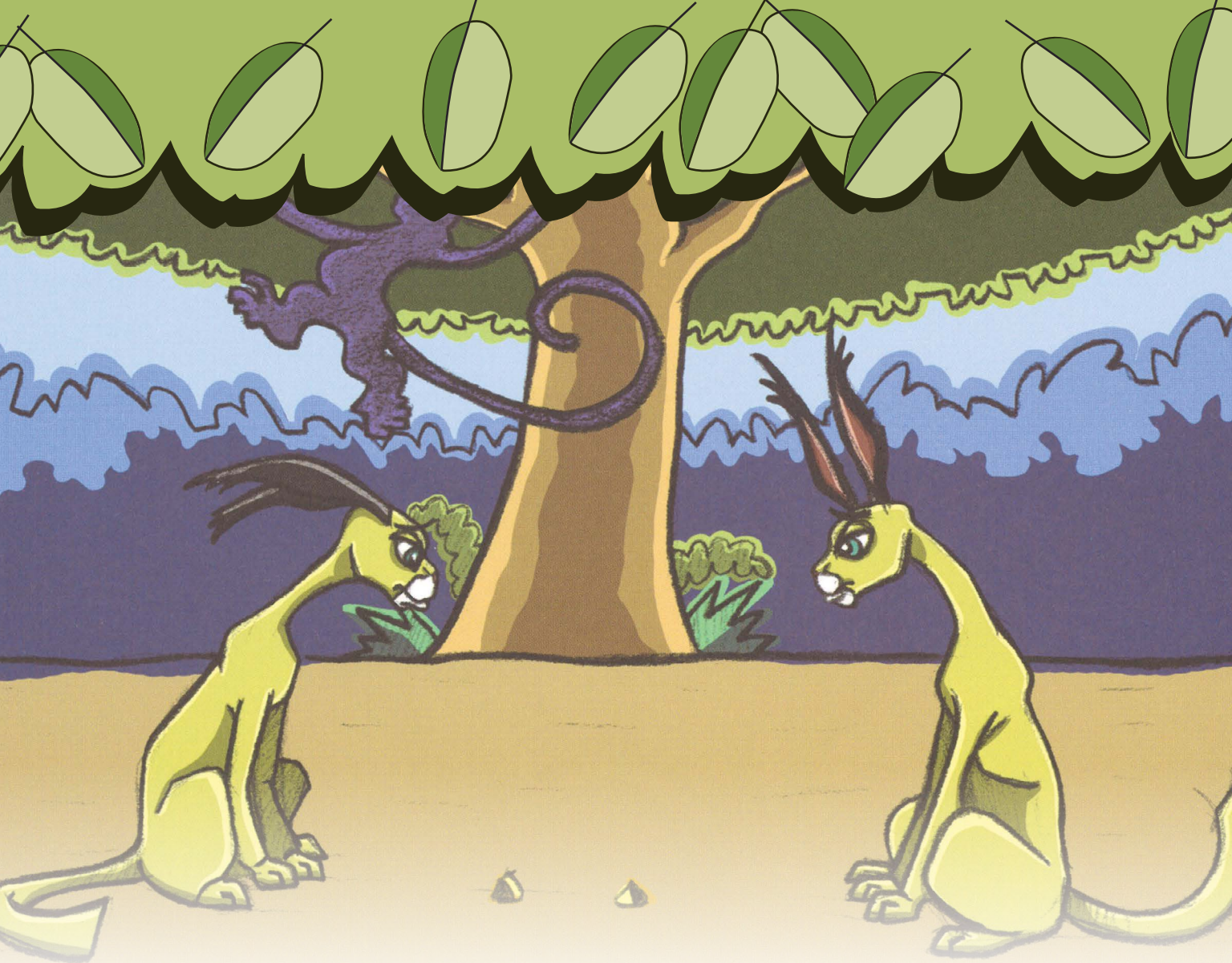
CLOSE READ



Underline the details about the monkey that help you know that the author's purpose is to entertain.



Finally there were two tiny pieces of cheese left. The monkey held them up and looked at them carefully. “I think that these two pieces are exactly the same size. Enjoy your cheese, my friends.”




The monkey swung back up into the tree and left the two cats to look sadly at their two tiny pieces of cheese.

CLOSE READ



Highlight how the cats feel when they look at their pieces of cheese. How should people in a society feel when others help them?



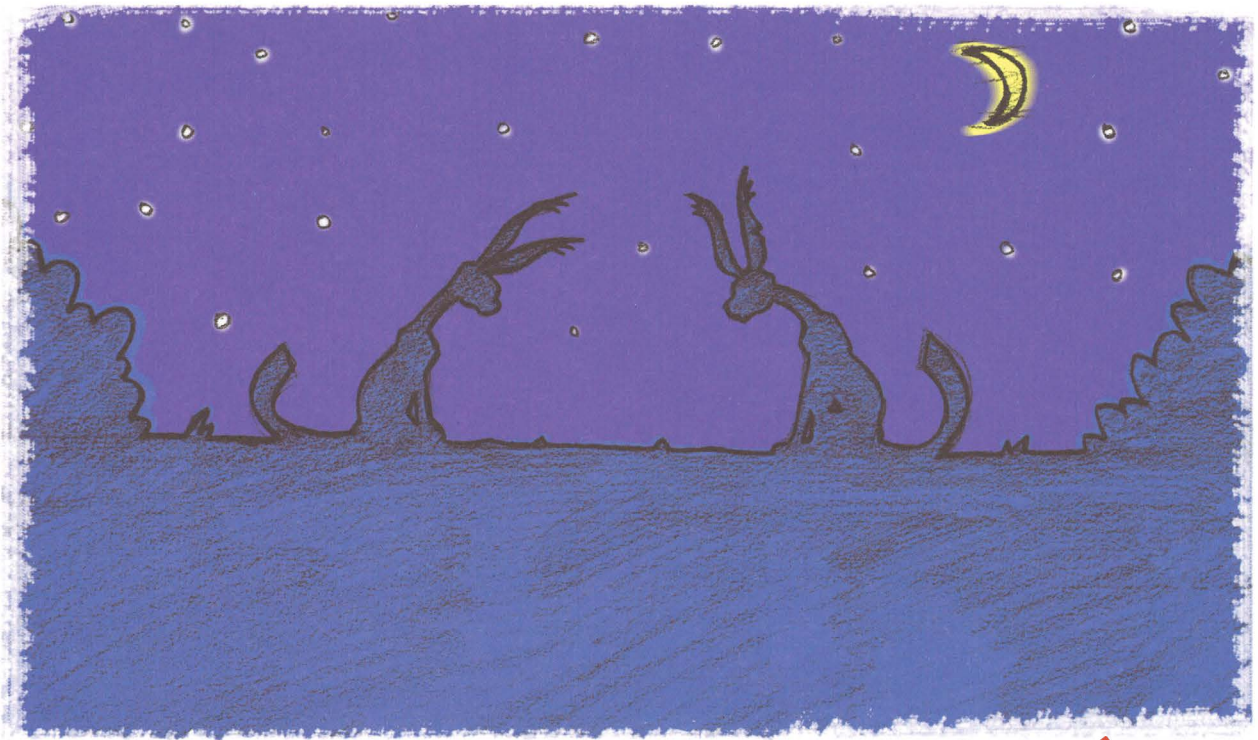
“Your piece is bigger,”
said the first cat.

“No, your piece is bigger,”
said the second cat.



“Is not.” “Is too.” “Is not.” “Is too.”

For all we know, they are still there arguing, and the clever monkey is still smiling.



CLOSE READ



Highlight what the cats do after they get the cheese from the monkey. After a problem is solved, what should people in a society do?