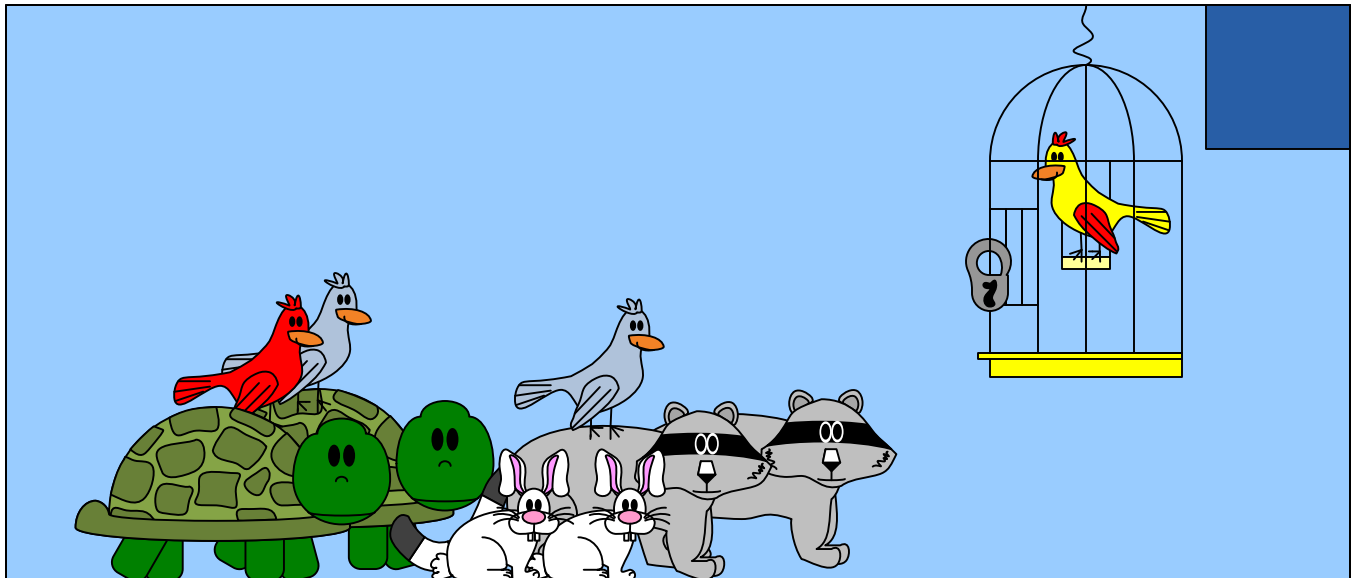


Brit's Rescue

Written and Illustrated by Jennifer Cheatham

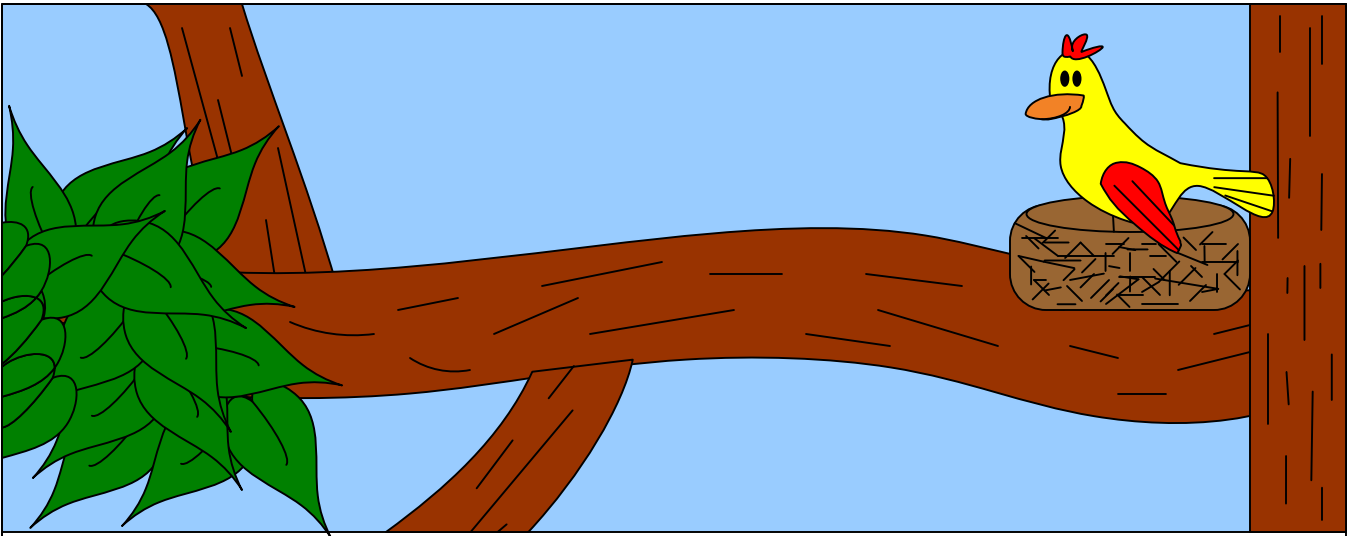
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Brit's Rescue

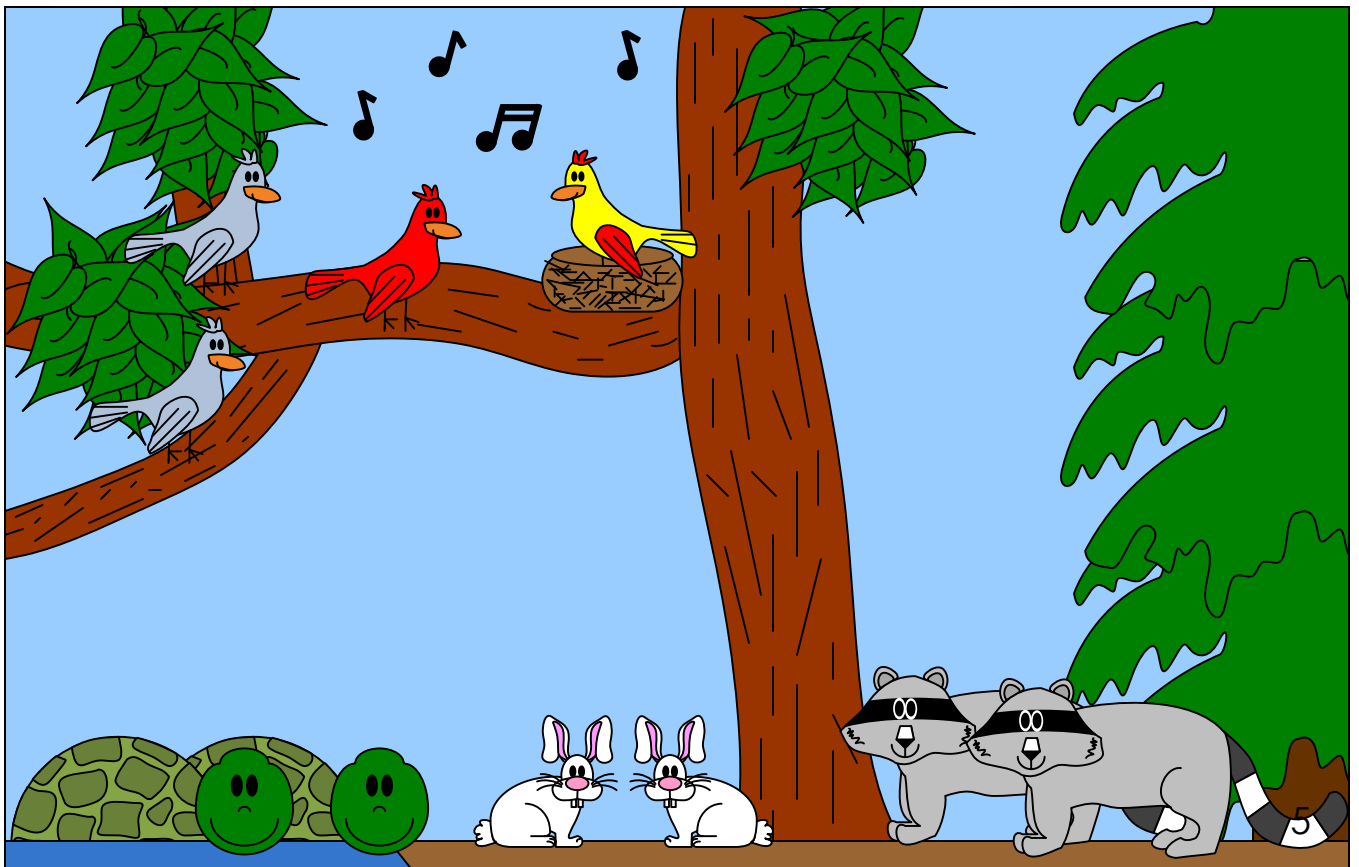
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Brit the bird was a very cool bird. He had a lot of skills and he was good at many things. He could hop like a rabbit. He could run fast like a raccoon. He could fly high like an airplane. He could sing like a rock star. Brit the bird was very cool. He could do almost anything.

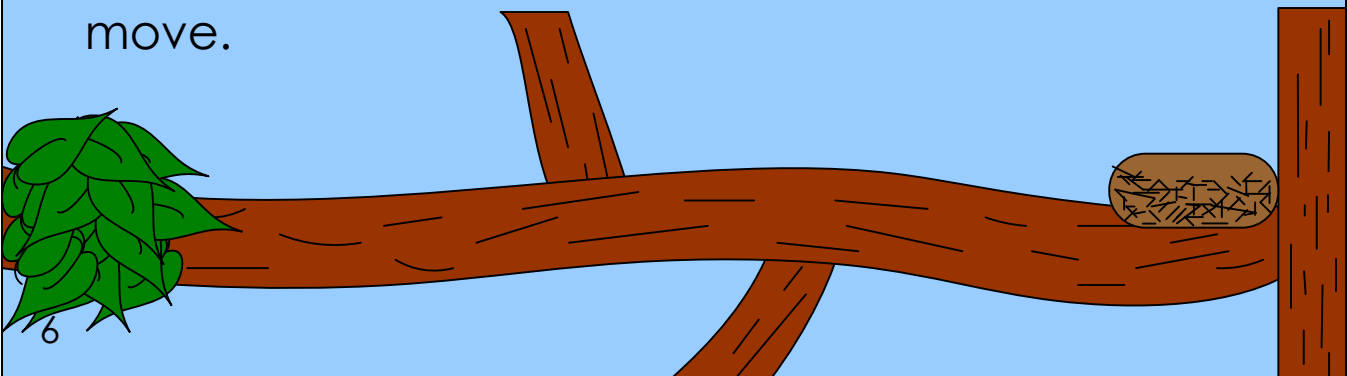
Brit lived in a forest near a small town. His house was a nest in a very large tree right by a stream in the forest. Brit had a lot of friends. Brit's friends would go to Brit's house every day to spend time with him. Other birds liked to sing with him. The raccoons liked to run with him. The turtles liked to swim in the water and hear Brit sing. The rabbits liked to hop with him. Brit and his friends had so much fun every day.



One day, when Brit was singing a pretty song with his bird friends, the turtles were swimming in the water, the raccoons were running and the rabbits were hopping around, a strange woman walked through the forest. Brit and his friends could hear her feet as she walked through the forest. Their hearts beat fast. They did not know why a woman was walking in the forest. Brit and his friends all hid from the woman, but it was too late. She had followed the sound of Brit's pretty song to his nest!

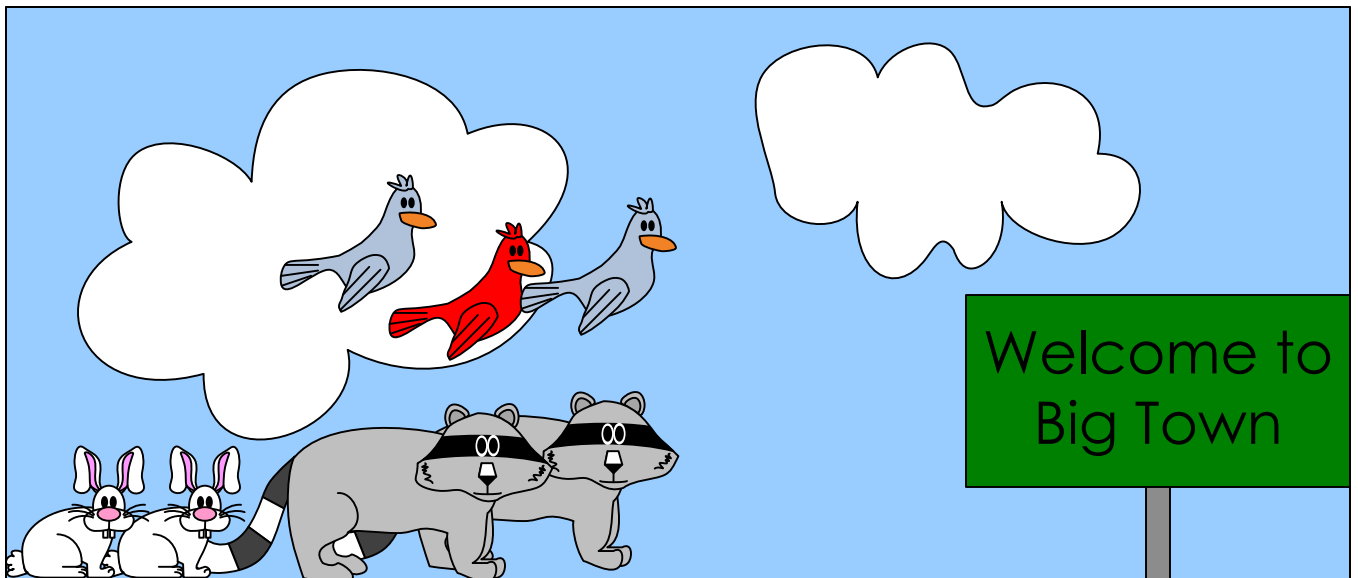
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The strange woman stood at the bottom of the tree and looked around. She looked and looked, and then she saw him! She saw Brit in his nest! Brit did not have any place to hide. The woman began to laugh. She took Brit in her hand and put him in a bird cage! Brit's friends all watched from the places where they were hiding. They did not know what to do. They did not make any sounds. They did not move.



The woman walked away with Brit stuck in the cage. When she was far away from the large tree and the stream, Brit's friends came out of their hiding places and talked about what had just taken place. Who was that woman? What was she doing in the forest? Why did she take Brit? Where did she take him? They did not know what was going on, but they thought that Brit was in danger. The woman had to be a crook! She stole Brit from his house! They thought they needed to help Brit. Whatever that strange woman was doing, it had to be no good. They were worried about Brit. They had to rescue him.

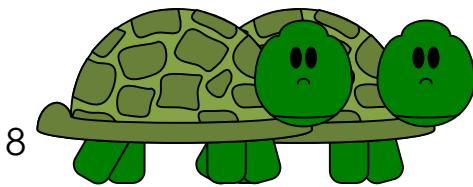
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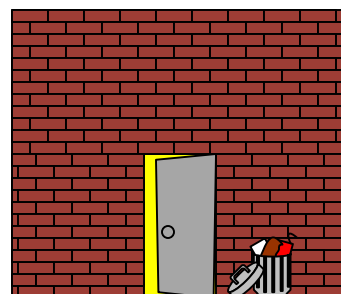
Brit's friends knew it was not safe to go into the town. They would all be in danger if they followed the tracks more. They made a plan to rescue Brit. They had to wait for it to be night.

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The raccoons were very good hunters, so they followed the strange woman's tracks through the forest. The rabbits hopped along behind them. Brit's bird friends flew near the raccoons. The turtles followed along slowly behind all the others. The raccoons followed the woman's tracks to the end of the forest. The tracks went into the town and into a building.



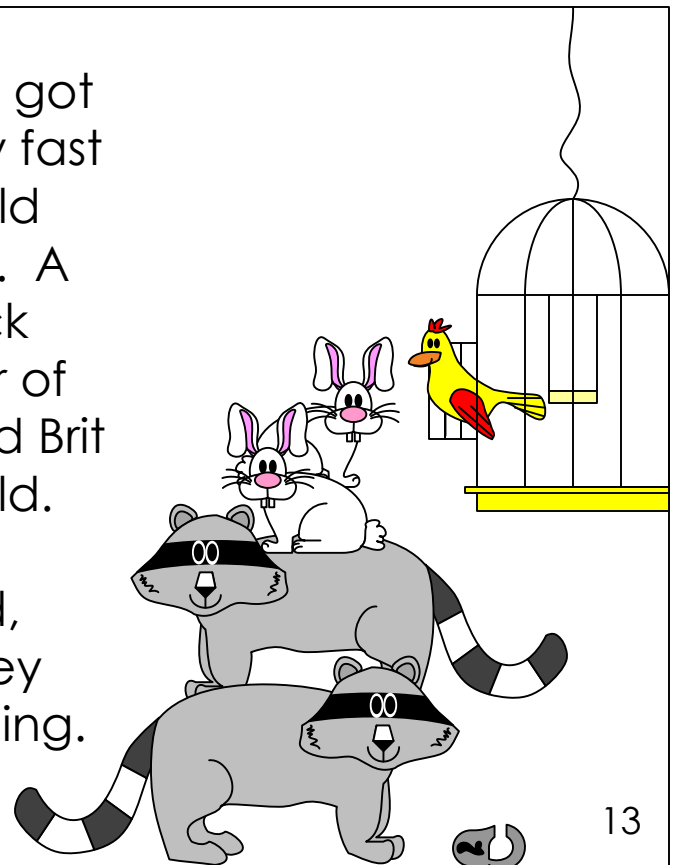
When it was dark, the raccoons and other friends followed the tracks into the town. They followed the tracks right up to a building where people went to see a show. They went around to the back of the building so people would not see them. They saw that the back door to the building was cracked open! One by one the friends all snuck inside the building through the open door. They did not see any people in the building, so they thought they were safe.



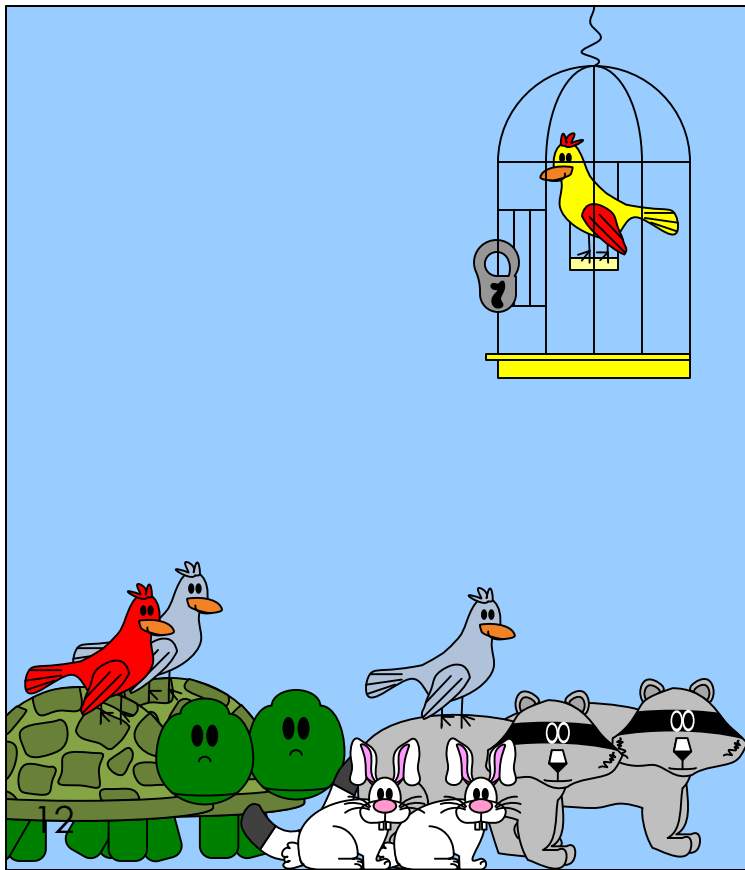
They all looked around for Brit, but they did not see him. Just when they almost thought that Brit was not there, they saw him. He was still trapped in a cage. There was a huge curtain by the cage that was hanging from the top of the room. The friends all ran or flew over to Brit. They wanted to rescue him, but they did not know how to get Brit out of the cage. How could they get the cage open? They saw there was a lock on the cage, but they did not know how they could open the lock. The turtles did not have hands. The birds could not open the lock with their wings. The rabbits and raccoons could not reach the lock because the cage was up high.

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The raccoons and rabbits got on top of each other very fast so they were tall and could reach the cage and lock. A rabbit chewed on the lock until it broke off. The door of the cage came open and Brit flew out as fast as he could. Brit and his friends started running and flying around, looking for the door so they could get out of the building.

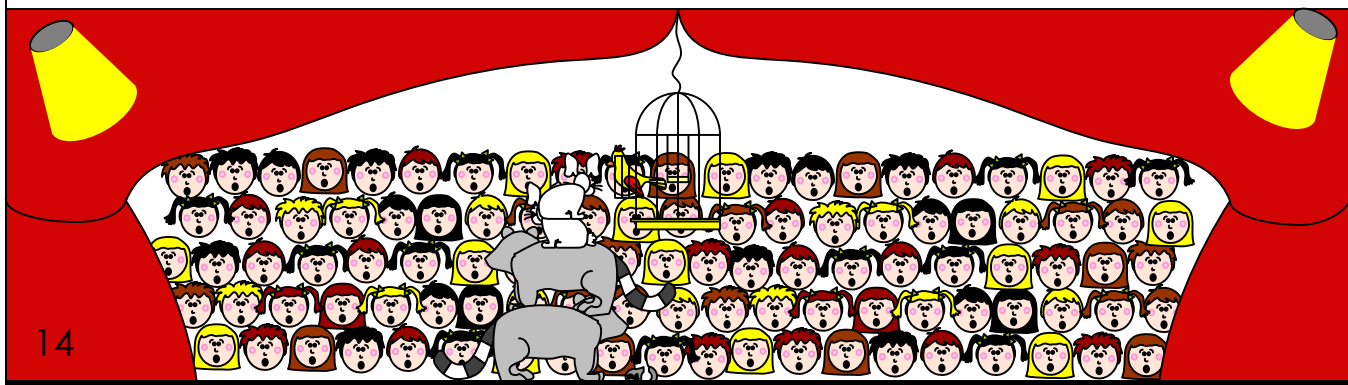


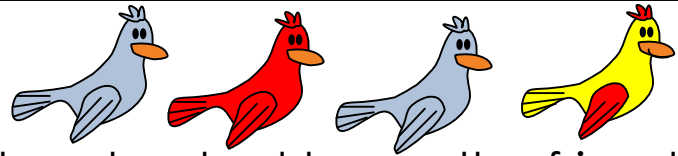
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The friends all stood by the cage and thought about what they could do to open it. As they thought about it, they could hear a woman laugh! The sound of the laugh got louder and louder. The woman was walking their way! They had to act fast!

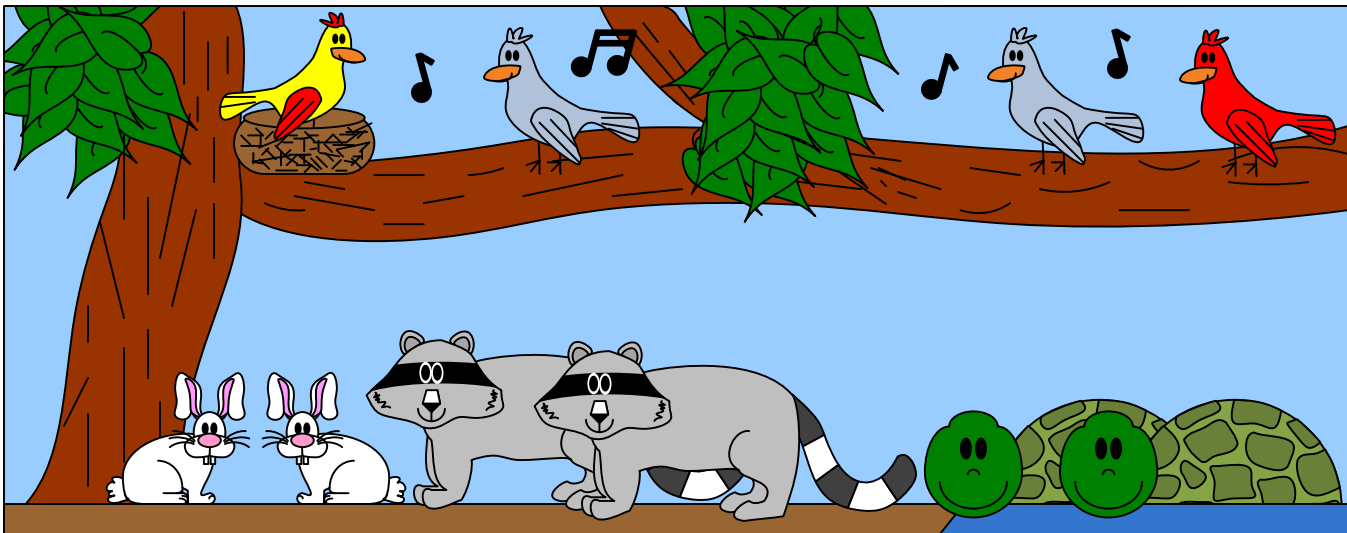
Just then the sound of the laugh stopped and the huge curtain by the cage moved! They were all on a large stage! There were many, many people all sitting, looking at them! There were bright lights on them! The crook had taken Brit to sing on a stage for her! She was making money by having people pay to hear him sing! And now all the people saw all the friends setting Brit free!





The people were just as shocked to see the friends with Brit as the friends were to see the people! The people jumped up and started running around. The people opened the doors and started running out of the building. The friends saw the open doors and went for them as fast as they could. The crooked woman wanted to catch Brit, but Brit was too fast. All the friends ran out of the town and deep into the woods.





They did not go back to the same large tree by the stream. They made a new home where the crooked woman could not find them. They sang, ran, hopped, and flew every day. They were all happy and never saw the strange woman again.