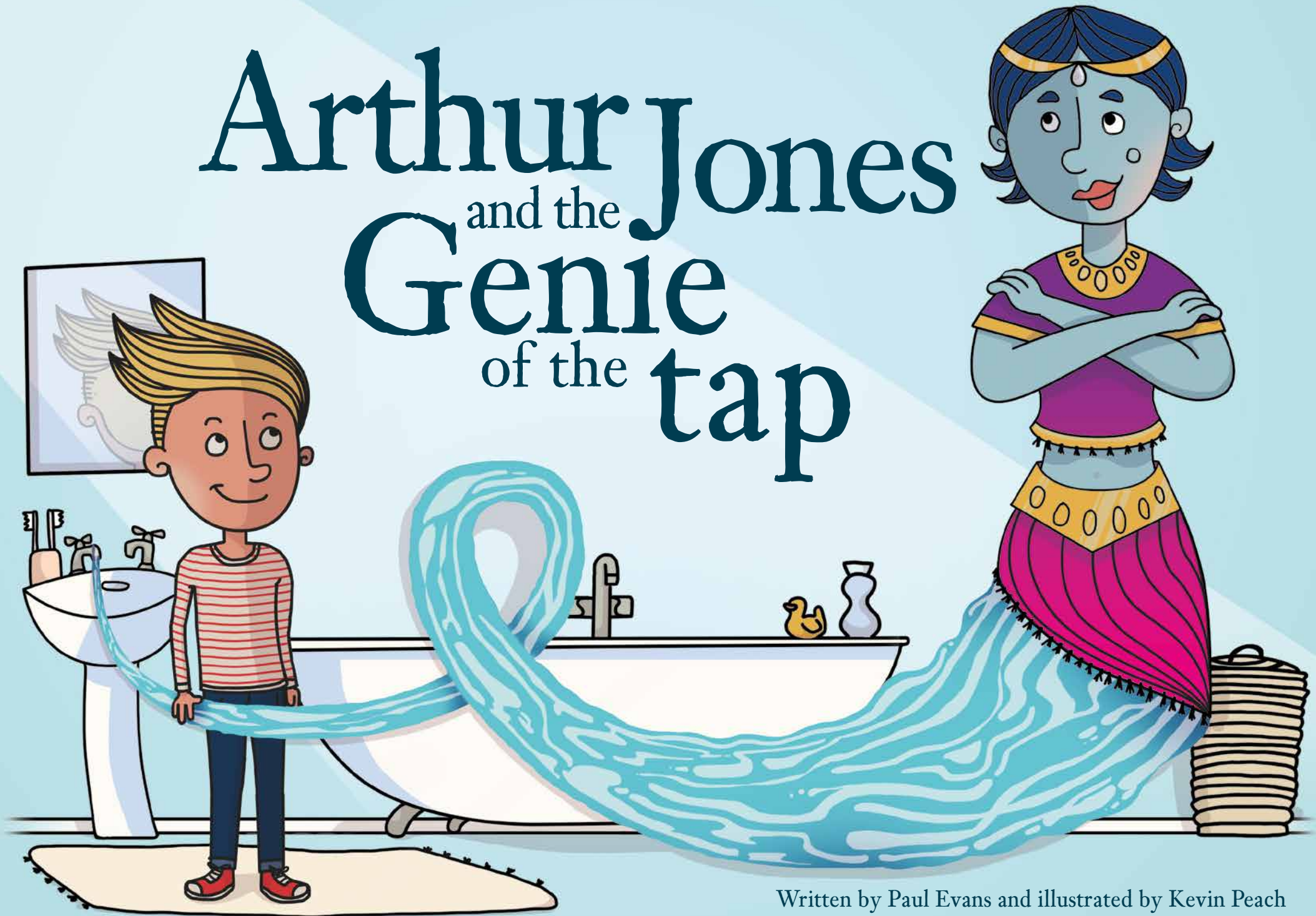


Arthur Jones and the Genie of the tap



Written by Paul Evans and illustrated by Kevin Peach



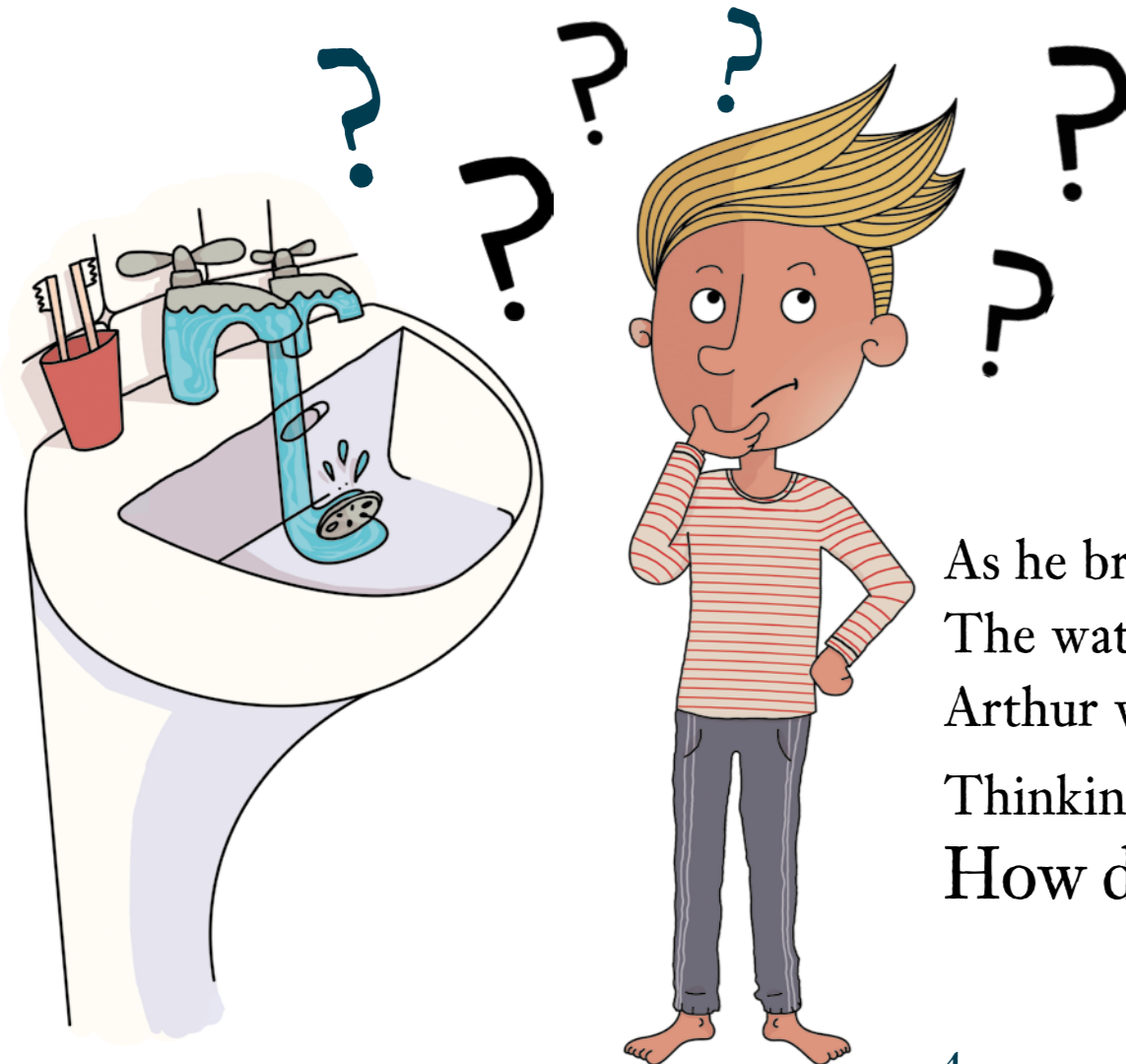
for Freddie and Leo x

Arthur Jones and the Genie of the tap

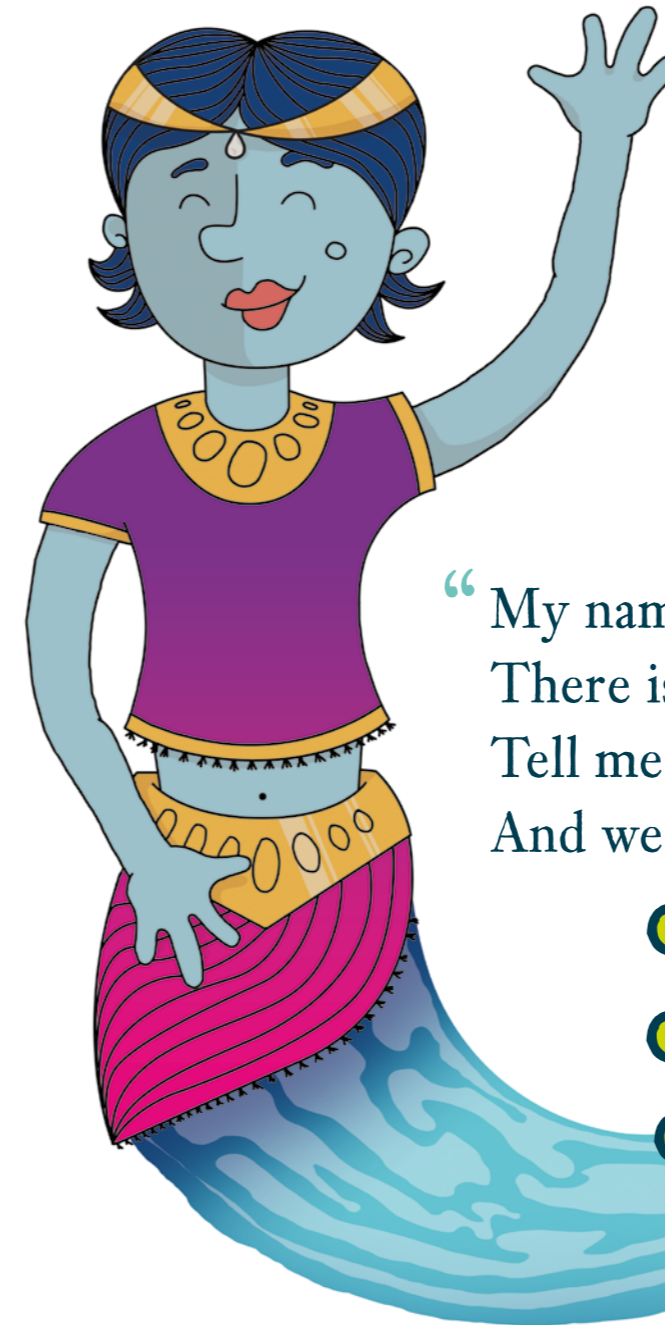
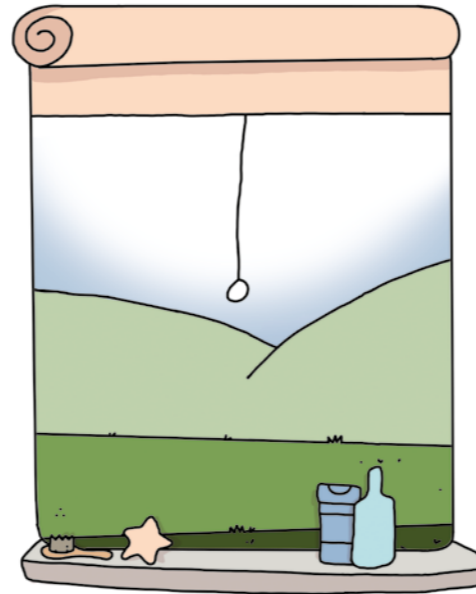
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Written by Paul Evans and illustrated by Kevin Peach

Arthur Jones was a clever young chap,
But there were some things even he didn't know.
Like how the water got to his tap,
(And why *shouldn't* he eat yellow snow?).



As he brushed his teeth one hot sunny day,
The water flowed freely and clear.
Arthur was puzzled as it all washed away,
Thinking - Where had it been?
How did it get here?



His pondering awoke the Genie of the tap,
Who came to grant Arthur three wishes.
She said: "Let's talk water, this isn't a trap,
But be warned, I don't clean or do dishes!"

"My name is Dee, and it's your lucky day!
There is nothing that I do not know,
Tell me your Wish One - wish away -
And we'll start the...

H₂O SHOW



“Wish One...”

said Arthur, holding onto the sink,

“Tell me where my water comes from.
I just turn on the tap for a bath or a drink,
Does it come all the way from West Brom?”



“I could
tell you that,”
said the Genie
all smiles,

“But I’ve got a much better plan.
We’ll travel in time (and seventy miles),
To where your water journey began.”

We start... in the midst of
a revolution.
Birmingham’s population is growing.

They need more water, a long-term solution,

CLEAN and constantly flowing.



An impossible task, they all seemed to think,
“We’ve had it, we’re done for!” they cried.
There was no clean water to wash with or drink,
No matter how hard they tried.

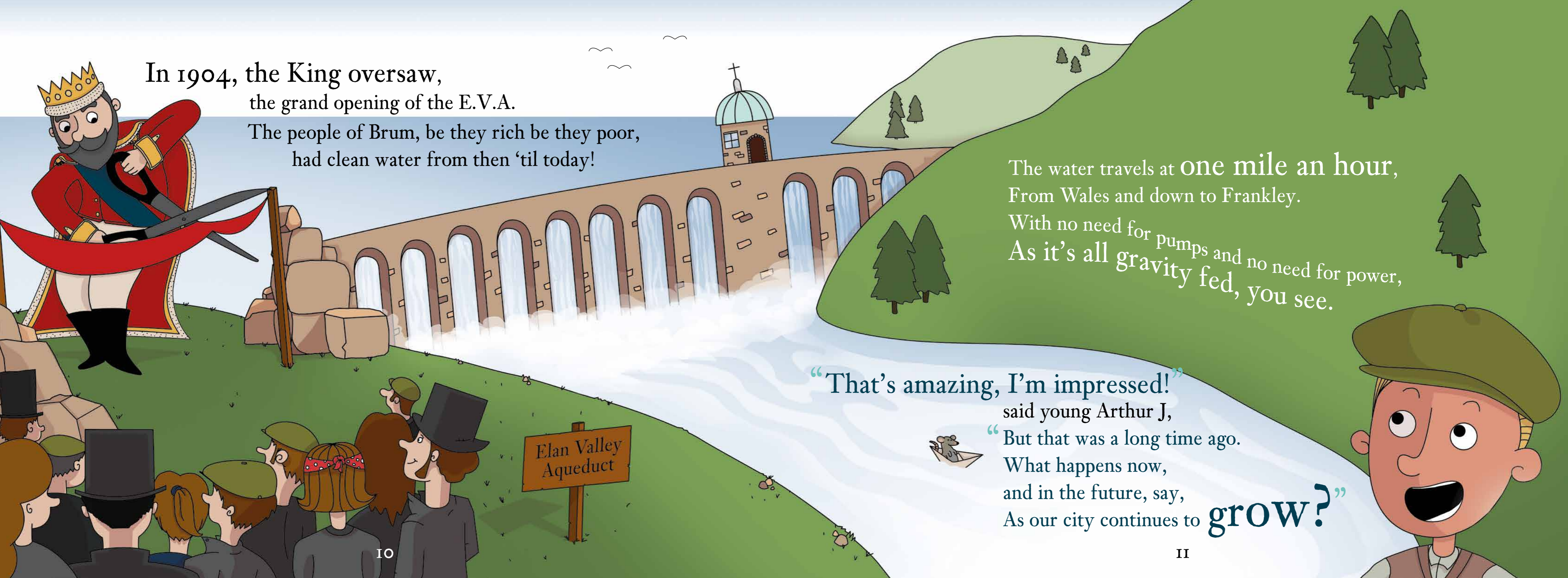
“What did they do?”
asked Arthur, distressed,
“Did they manage to think of a plan?”
“They did,” said the Genie.
“They looked to the west, and the valleys and hills of Elan!”



The Elan Valley,
in beautiful Wales,
With water all over the place.
It seemed like the answer to all their ails,
So they got their
top men on the case.

Fifty thousand men building dams by hand,
And a seventy mile-long aqueduct.
They didn’t have diggers back then, understand,
So it took them twelve years to construct.





In 1904, the King oversaw,
the grand opening of the E.V.A.
The people of Brum, be they rich be they poor,
had clean water from then 'til today!

The water travels at **one mile an hour**,
From Wales and down to Frankley.
With no need for pumps and no need for power,
As it's all gravity fed, you see.

“That’s amazing, I’m impressed!”
said young Arthur J,
“But that was a long time ago.
What happens now,
and in the future, say,
As our city continues to **grow?**”

“Is that **Wish Number Two**,
my inquisitive friend, to see what happens today?
Let’s travel the pipe, **beginning...**

...to end,
And see what Severn Trent have to say!”

Arthur, meet Ron, an engineer,
Who looks after your water supply.
He’s been checking the pipe for many a year,
To make sure it **never runs dry.**

But after more than a century,
It’s creaking and starting to wear.
Like your Grandad Fred with his dodgy knee,
It’s long overdue a repair.

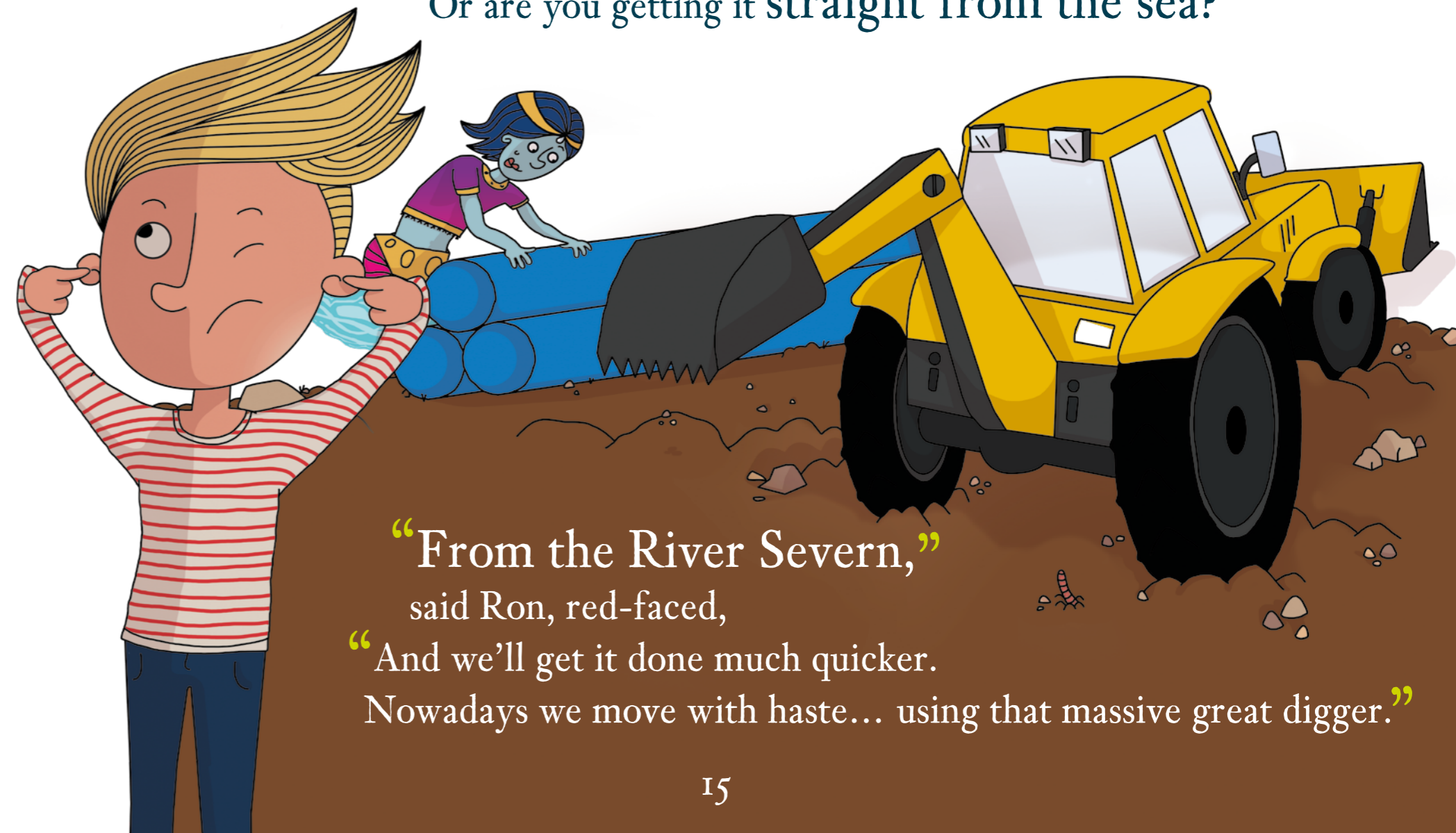
“That’s right,” said Ron, “but we can’t fix it now,
As the water continuously flows.
So we needed to think of another way how -
Hey, what’s with the **Victorian clothes?**”



“More than one million people
use water from Elan,
And they love the look and the taste.
So we’ve come up with a cunning plan,
To fix the pipe apace.”

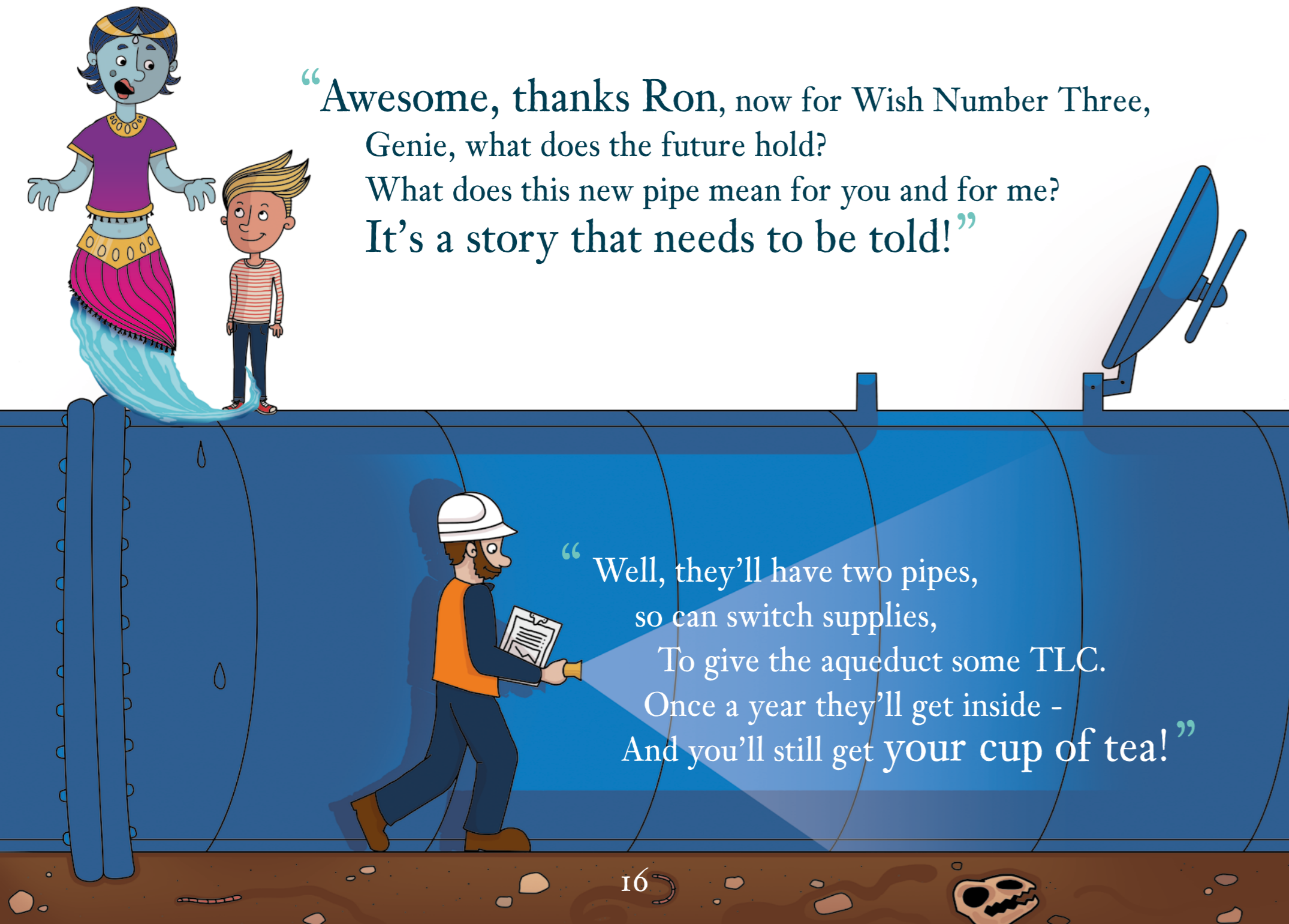
We’re building a new pipe
(but not quite as long),
As a back-up supply for the city.
So celebrate, rejoice,
shout aloud, bang a gong,

Cos Severn Trent’s gettin’ busy!”



“You’re too old to rap!” said Arthur with a shiver,
“Leave the cool stuff to Genie and me.
Will the new water come from the river,
Or are you getting it straight from the sea?”

“From the River Severn,”
said Ron, red-faced,
“And we’ll get it done much quicker.
Nowadays we move with haste... using that massive great digger.”



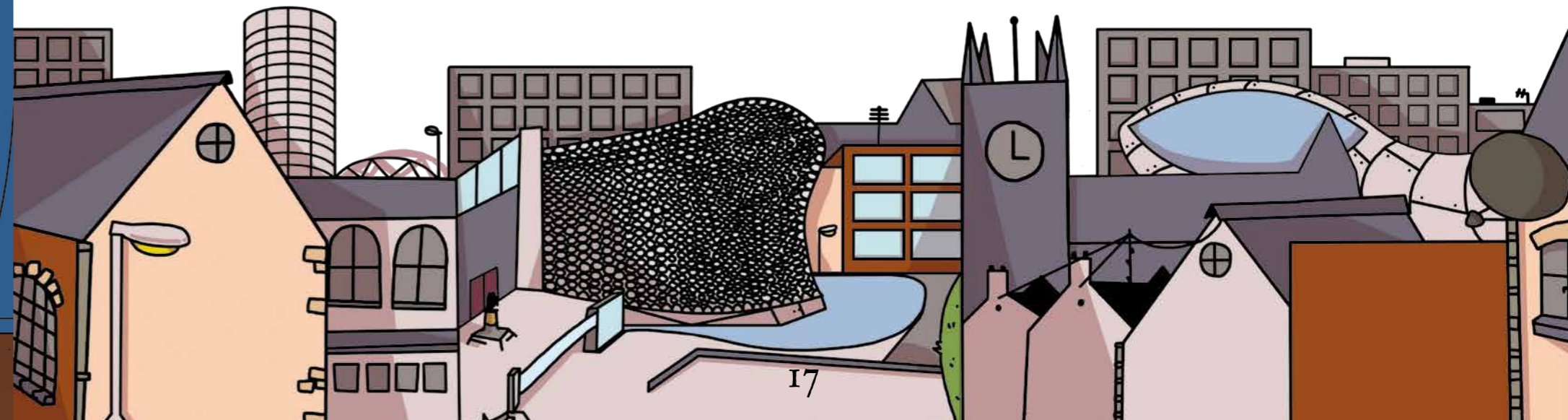
“Awesome, thanks Ron, now for Wish Number Three,
Genie, what does the future hold?
What does this new pipe mean for you and for me?
It’s a story that needs to be told!”

“Well, they’ll have two pipes,
so can switch supplies,
To give the aqueduct some TLC.
Once a year they’ll get inside -
And you’ll still get your cup of tea!”

Look at your city, a hundred years on,
Water when you need it each day.
And it’s all thanks to Severn Trent (and to Ron),

Three cheers, hip-hip **hooray!**

Water is precious, young Arthur my man,
So next time don’t leave it to run.
Don’t use a hose, use a watering can,
But remember, it’s also fun!





“So next time you soak in your bath
HOT and steamy,
Or pour water on your Dad.
Think about me,
your friend the Genie...



And the amazing adventure we had!”



Birmingham's new supply

This book celebrates a major milestone in the resilience of Birmingham's water. For the first time in history, the city will have an essential back-up water supply.

For decades over a million people across Birmingham have been supplied with water from Wales through the Elan Valley Aqueduct.

The aqueduct, is an incredible feat of engineering created by the Victorians to bring water 70 miles from Wales.

The water from Wales is much-loved and Severn Trent want to make sure the people of Birmingham continue to enjoy this wonderful water long into the future.

After a century of use the aqueduct requires regular maintenance and to carry out repairs engineers need take the aqueduct out of action from time to time so they can get inside. The new back-up supply will keep water flowing for people across the city so this vital maintenance can be carried out, ensuring the aqueduct can serve the city for the next 100 years.

To find out more visit www.stwater.co.uk/brp

WONDERFUL ON TAP

