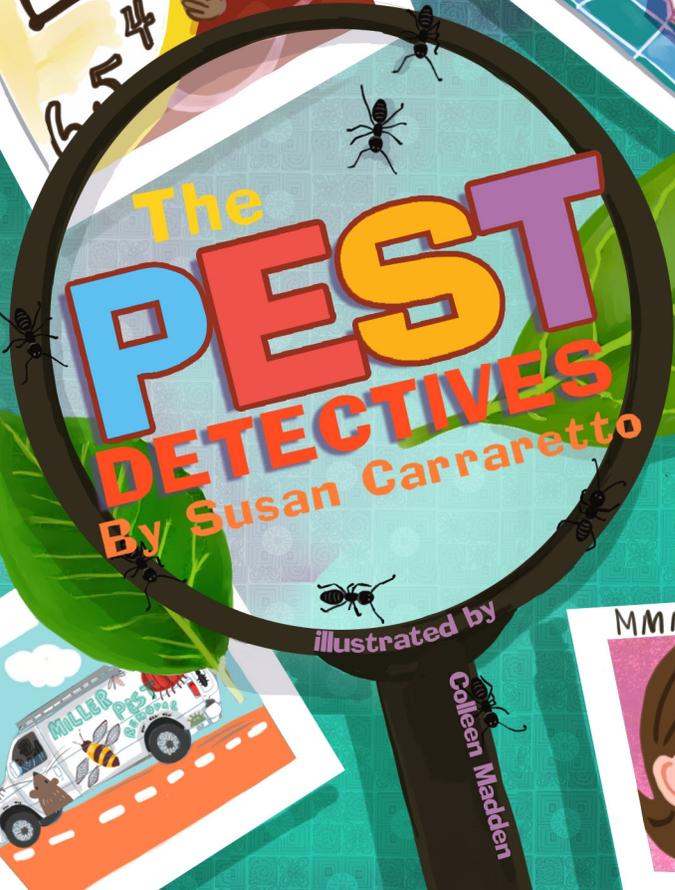




COMMITMENT TO YOUR ENVIRONMENT  
**NATIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION inc.**  
*International*



The  
**PEST**  
**DETECTIVES**



**By Susan Carraretto**  
**Illustrated by Colleen Madden**



Brought to you by the National Pest Management Association,  
a non-profit organization committed to the protection of  
public health, food and property.



# Hi, I'm Millie.

I'm eight and three quarters and I know more about bugs than my mom, my teacher, all the kids at school and pretty much everyone else I've ever met... except my Dad.



My Dad knows everything about bugs, rodents and all sorts of other little critters.

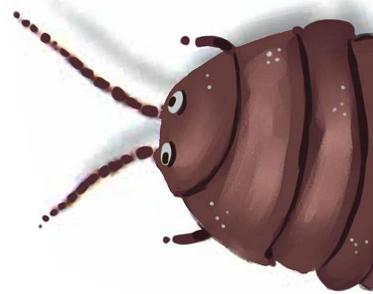
But he calls them "Pests."

They become pests once they show up in people's homes and invade their personal space.



He knows so much about pests because it's his job. He's a Pest Professional – a real life "Pest Detective."

And I'm his helper.



I go along with him every Saturday and together we investigate and solve real life pest mysteries. He says he saves his toughest cases for Saturdays, so I can help him.



During the week, he has to go without me. It seems my parents and my teacher want me to learn about more than just bugs.

That's okay with me because when I grow up, I'm going to become a special bug scientist called an entomologist and I'll study insects every day.

I keep a special scrapbook with my favorite buggy facts and notes from our most exciting Saturday mystery pest cases.

Here, I'll show you...



MY

FAVORITE



they never walk straight!



from Madagascar!  
Hisssss!

Egg Mass



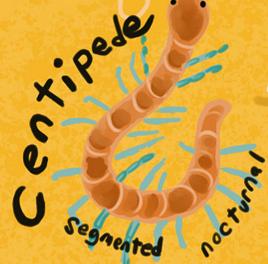
Caribbean Crazy Ant



the dreaded Yellowjacket

Ladybugs

ladybug ladybug fly away home...



Centipede  
segmented nocturnal

Other Cool bugs

Coccinellidae  
A K Lady Bug

I think beetles are super cool and I know lots about them. My favorite insect - the ladybug - is a beetle.



oooh!  
so pretty!

Thank you!

a golden  
buprestid



the jeweled  
beetle

wild  
aster



a LONG  
HORNED  
BEETLE

The  
Very  
Nasty



who, me?  
Japanese  
beetle

a june bug



dogwood



GRRR!  
STAG  
BEETLE

oriental  
ice poppy



BEETLES  
are  
Everywhere!

Beetle  
MY Favorite Bug!





# Case # 1

# Tiny

# Visitors



Cimex lectularius Linnaeus

Let's have a SLEEP OVER!  
(mwahahaha!)



**DISCOVERY!**  
1. Mr Lunney stayed in a hotel that had **BED BUGS**.  
2. The bb's came home in his luggage.  
3. The bb's moved into their house - BEDS, SOFAS, Dressers  
4. Dad treated the **WHOLE HOUSE** and did his **PREVENTION TALK**.

LOOK IN THE CRACKS AND CREVICES



bed bugs ♡

# RED WELTS

Wash all PILLOWS, too!



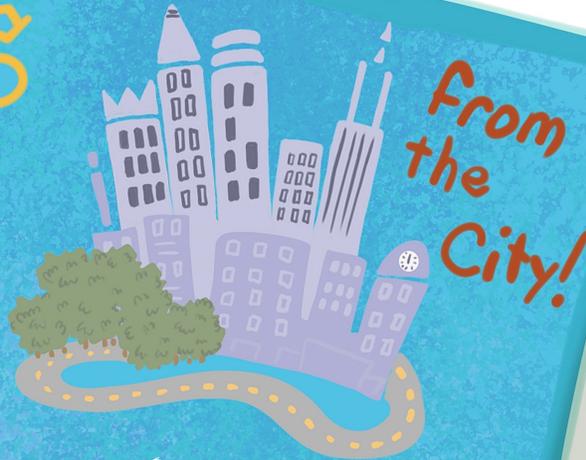
Search HIGH<sup>n</sup> LOW



They "ride" home in your luggage



Wash ALL of your vacation clothes



**HOT** and Soapy Wash and dry



Put your clothes in sealed plastic bags, while you're in a hotel.



# Hickory Dickory DICK

## Case #2



EEK!  
was that a  
SQUEEK, SQUEEK  
running up  
the clock?



EEEEEEK!  
Mice can fit into  
the size of a DIME!



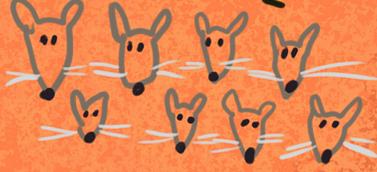
Food  
mice eat



Sick  
sick  
sick



GENERATIONS  
OF MICE



Mice  
Mice

you have  
MICE.



↑ Mice  
dog food!



↑ Chewed  
insulation  
in the garage

Treat  
EVERY  
3mos  
Winter, Sp, Sum, Fall

# Case #3 - Guess Who's Eating



\* \* baby termites are just smaller termites. aww... i mean, EWWW!!

# The Irwin's Deck (for Dinner?)



- Termites Do SERIOUS damage to a home
- eat wood 24-7



Mrs. Irwin's amazing PBJ cookies!



YUM-ME!

ASH TAPES



EM-3RPHS

Oh, I hear Dad calling...

Dad and I are about to head out to solve a pest mystery right now.

You can come with us!

Dad drives a big van filled with supplies that we use to investigate pest problems. The back of the van is full of that stuff, and on Saturdays I throw my gear in too.

We're heading out on a really mysterious case. Mrs. Romero called to say she just found a little hole in her bathroom with a small pile of sawdust on the floor. There are lots of ants coming out of it.



Okay,  
I've got my notepad, camera, flashlight and magnifying glass.  
I'm ready!

Whenever we arrive at a new job,  
the first thing we do  
is ask the client lots of  
important  
questions.  
Dad does the talking  
and I  
take notes.



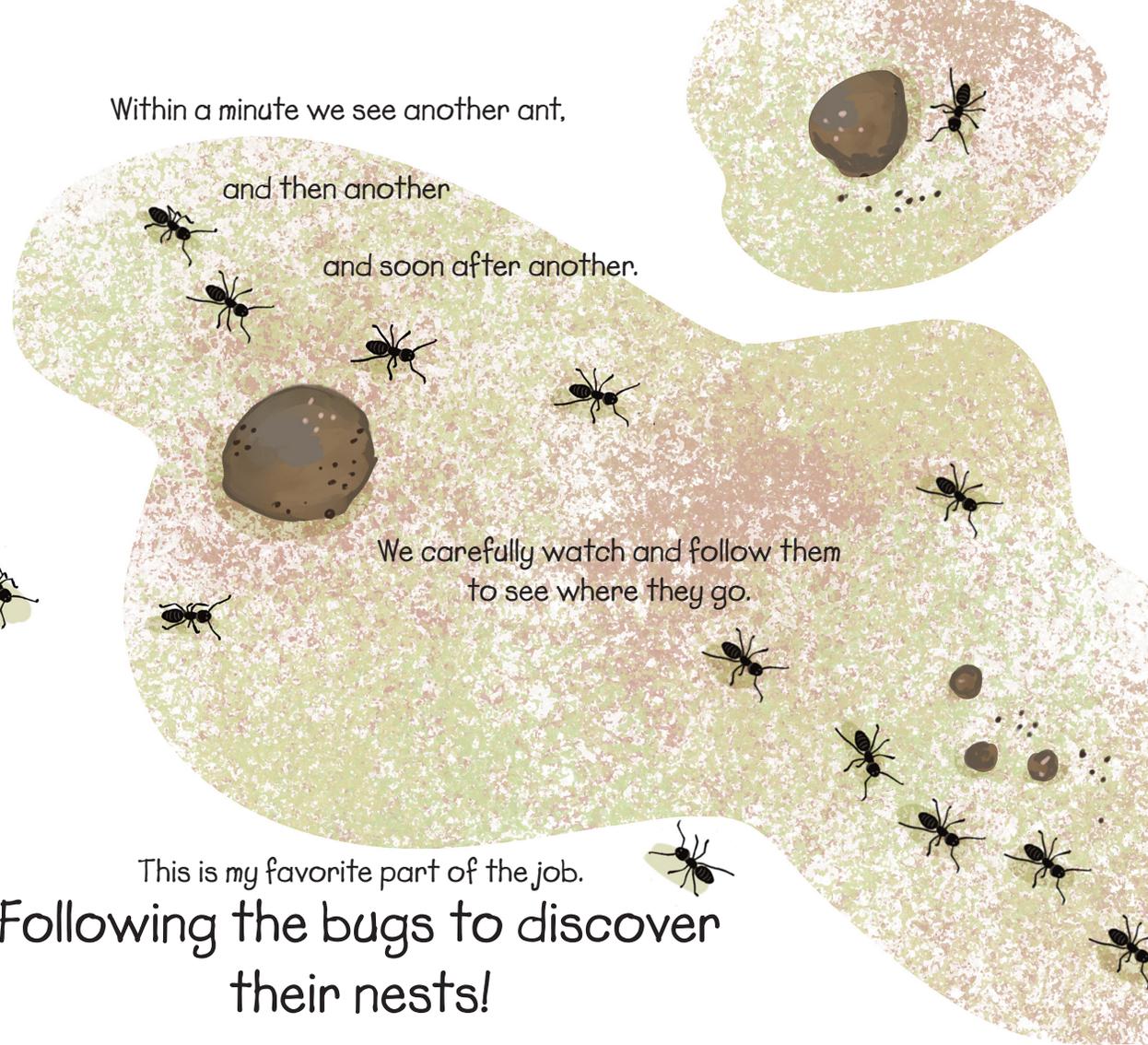
Next, we survey the area. Dad leads the way,  
I stay right beside him and Mrs. Romero follows  
behind us.



Within a minute we see another ant,

and then another

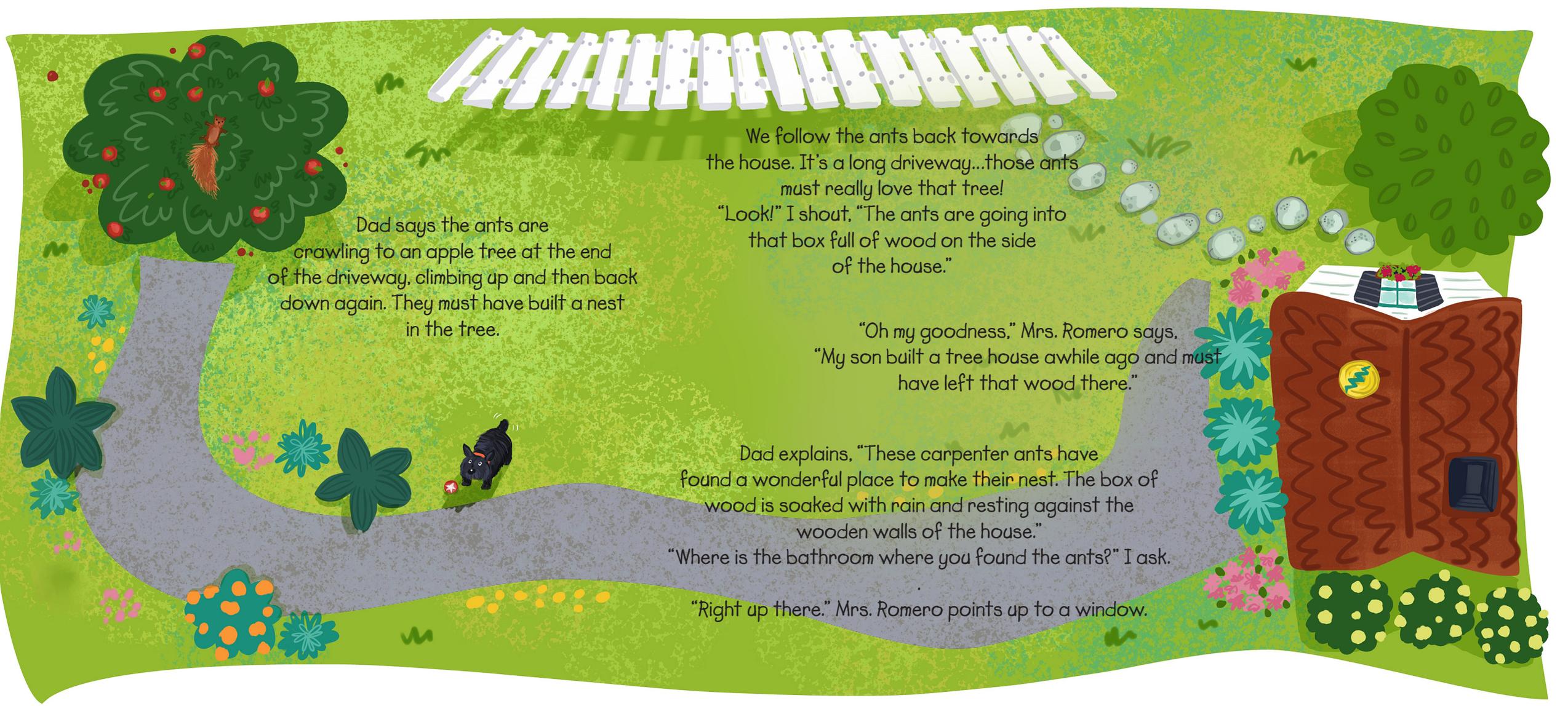
and soon after another.



We carefully watch and follow them  
to see where they go.

This is my favorite part of the job.

Following the bugs to discover  
their nests!



Dad says the ants are crawling to an apple tree at the end of the driveway, climbing up and then back down again. They must have built a nest in the tree.

We follow the ants back towards the house. It's a long driveway...those ants must really love that tree!

"Look!" I shout, "The ants are going into that box full of wood on the side of the house."

"Oh my goodness," Mrs. Romero says, "My son built a tree house awhile ago and must have left that wood there."

Dad explains, "These carpenter ants have found a wonderful place to make their nest. The box of wood is soaked with rain and resting against the wooden walls of the house."

"Where is the bathroom where you found the ants?" I ask.

"Right up there." Mrs. Romero points up to a window.



“Wow, look at that pile of sawdust!” I say, trying not to sound too excited. “And I see some ants going in and out of the hole.”

Dad goes over to the bathtub and feels for moisture. “Nothing out of the ordinary here.” he says.

I open the cupboard under the sink and use my flashlight to look around. I feel around with my hand and touch something wet. “Here Dad!” I shout. Sure enough... a leaky sink is to blame.

Dad says, “Do you know what the problem is?”

“I sure do! This leaky sink made the wood underneath wet. The carpenter ants love burrowing through the soft, damp wood to nest, and it leads a perfect path down to the box of wood pieces below. They’ve traveled all the way up here by chewing the wood and spitting it out!”



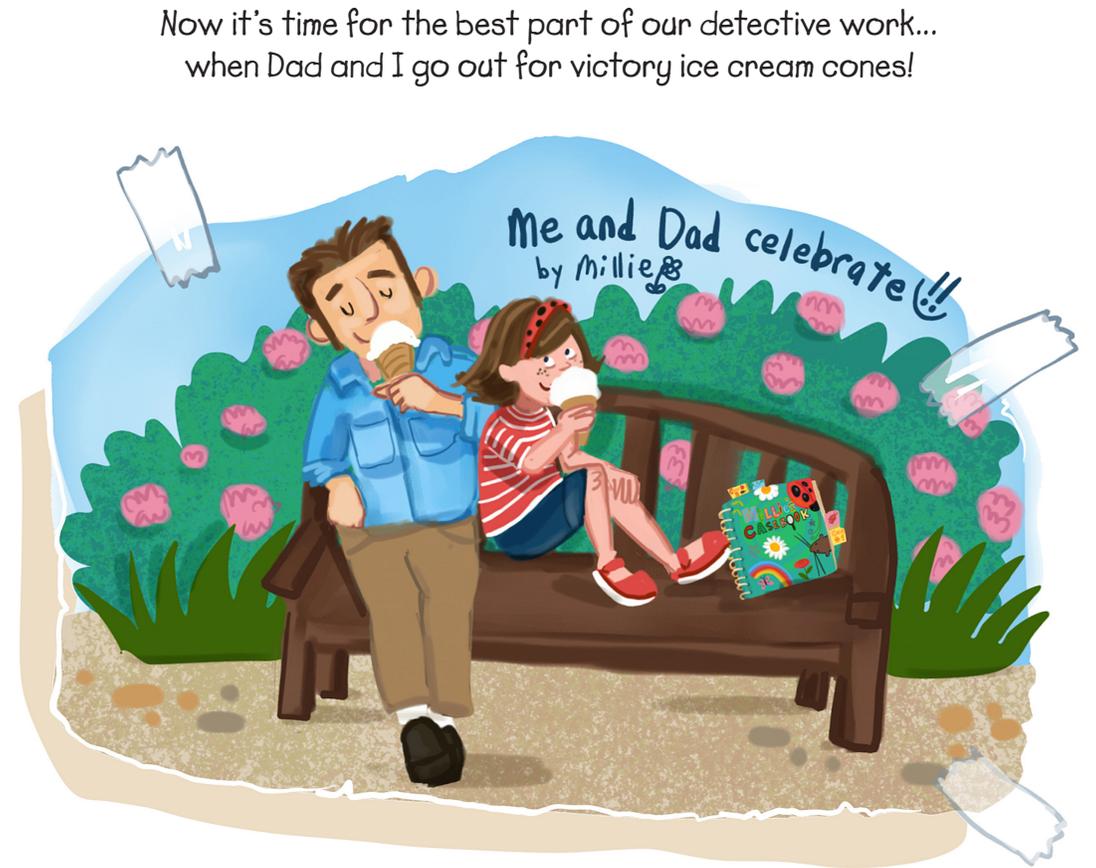
“Fantastic detective work, Millie! You’ve got it.” Dad says.

I’m proud of myself for finding the water and solving the case. But I try not to act too happy. We still have work to do.



Dad explains how we will treat the ants to destroy the nest. Then we will call our carpenter friend to come and repair the wood.

Mrs. Romero is really grateful and thanks us for our hard work.



Case Closed!