

Lesson 24



TARGET VOCABULARY

tumbling

flung

tangled

empty

swift

peacefully

stream

blazed

Vocabulary
Reader



Context
Cards



Vocabulary in Context

- Study each Context Card.
- Ask a question that uses one of the Vocabulary words.

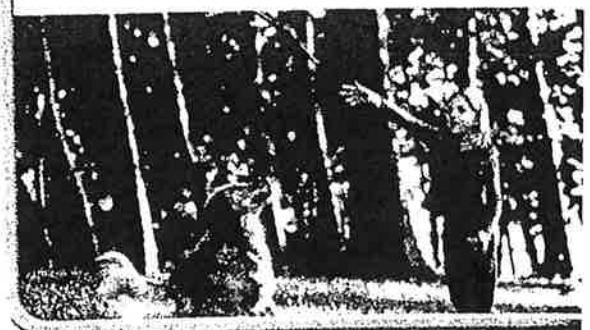
tumbling

This acrobat is tumbling through the air.



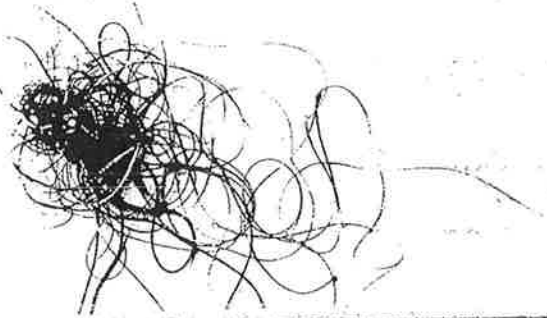
flung

When something is flung, it is thrown with force.



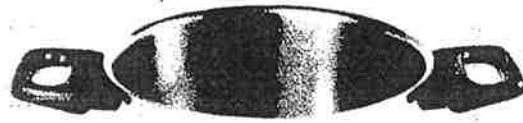
tangled

These pieces of string are tangled. It is hard to separate them.



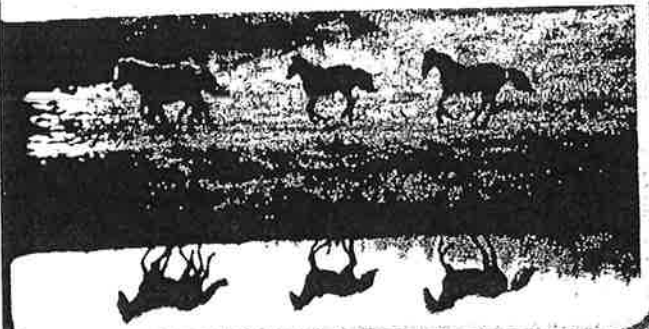
empty

This pot is empty. There is nothing in it.



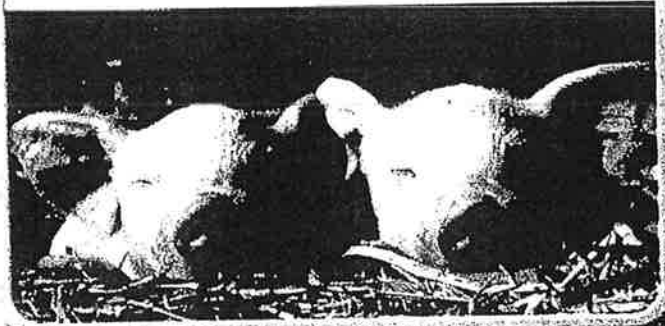
swift

Swift horses move very fast.



peacefully

The farm animals are sleeping peacefully. Nothing is bothering them.



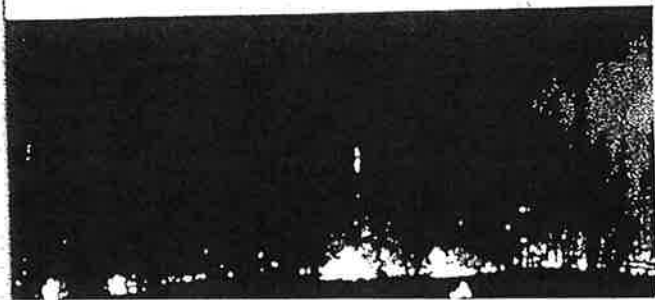
stream

This stream flows into a larger river.



blazed

A forest fire blazed, or burned brightly, for many hours.



Background



TARGET VOCABULARY

Fantastic Folktales

People have been telling folktales for many, many years. Folktales often have events that could not happen in real life. Stars may be flung into the sky. A sun that blazed above may come tumbling down. In a folktale, a swift wind can get tangled in the trees. A chicken and a stream may talk to each other. Amazing things can happen, such as gold appearing in an empty pot. Folktales usually end peacefully.



Comprehension

✓ **TARGET SKILL** Cause and Effect

In *Half-Chicken*, some events cause other events to happen. The first event is the cause. The second event is the effect. Use a chart like this one as you read to list some causes and effects in the story.

| Cause | Effect |
|-------|--------|
| | |

✓ **TARGET STRATEGY** Visualize

Use the story details about causes and effects to visualize what happens to Half-Chicken. Look for words and phrases that help you create pictures in your mind.

Main Selection



TARGET VOCABULARY

tumbling swift
flung peacefully
tangled stream
empty blazed



TARGET SKILL

Cause and Effect Tell how one event makes another happen.

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |



TARGET STRATEGY

Visualize Picture what is happening as you read.

A **folktale** is a story that is often told by people of a country.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Alma Flor Ada



Alma Flor Ada comes from a family of storytellers. She first heard the story of Half-Chicken from her grandmother. It was one of her favorites as a child. She loved the folktale so much that she decided to write her own retelling of it.

MEET THE ILLUSTRATOR

Kim Howard

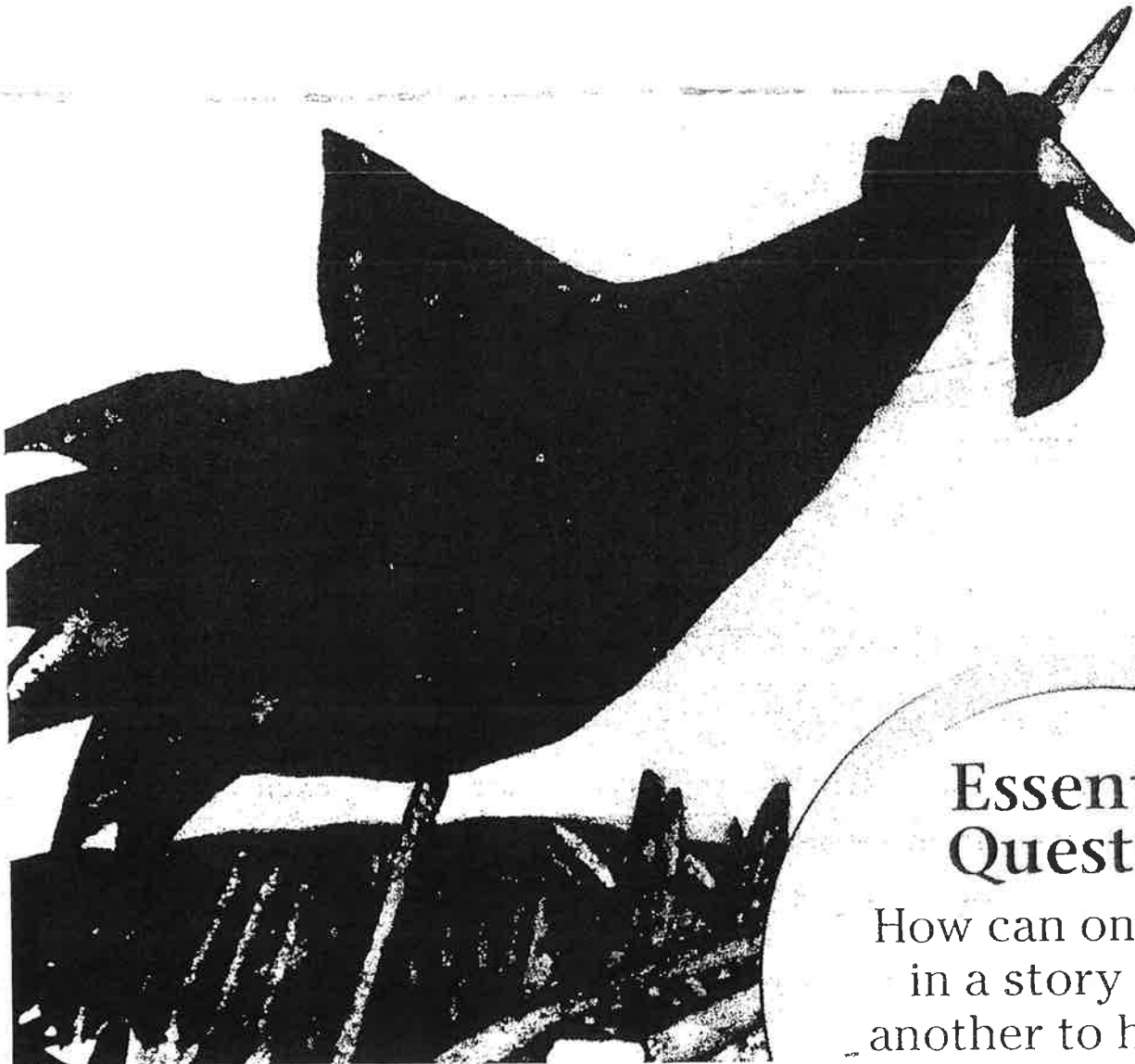


Kim Howard has illustrated more than twenty-five children's books. Her style is full of color and detail. When she is not illustrating, she is painting and making collages. She also teaches students all over the world about art.



HALF-CHICKEN

by Alma Flor Ada
illustrated by Kim Howard

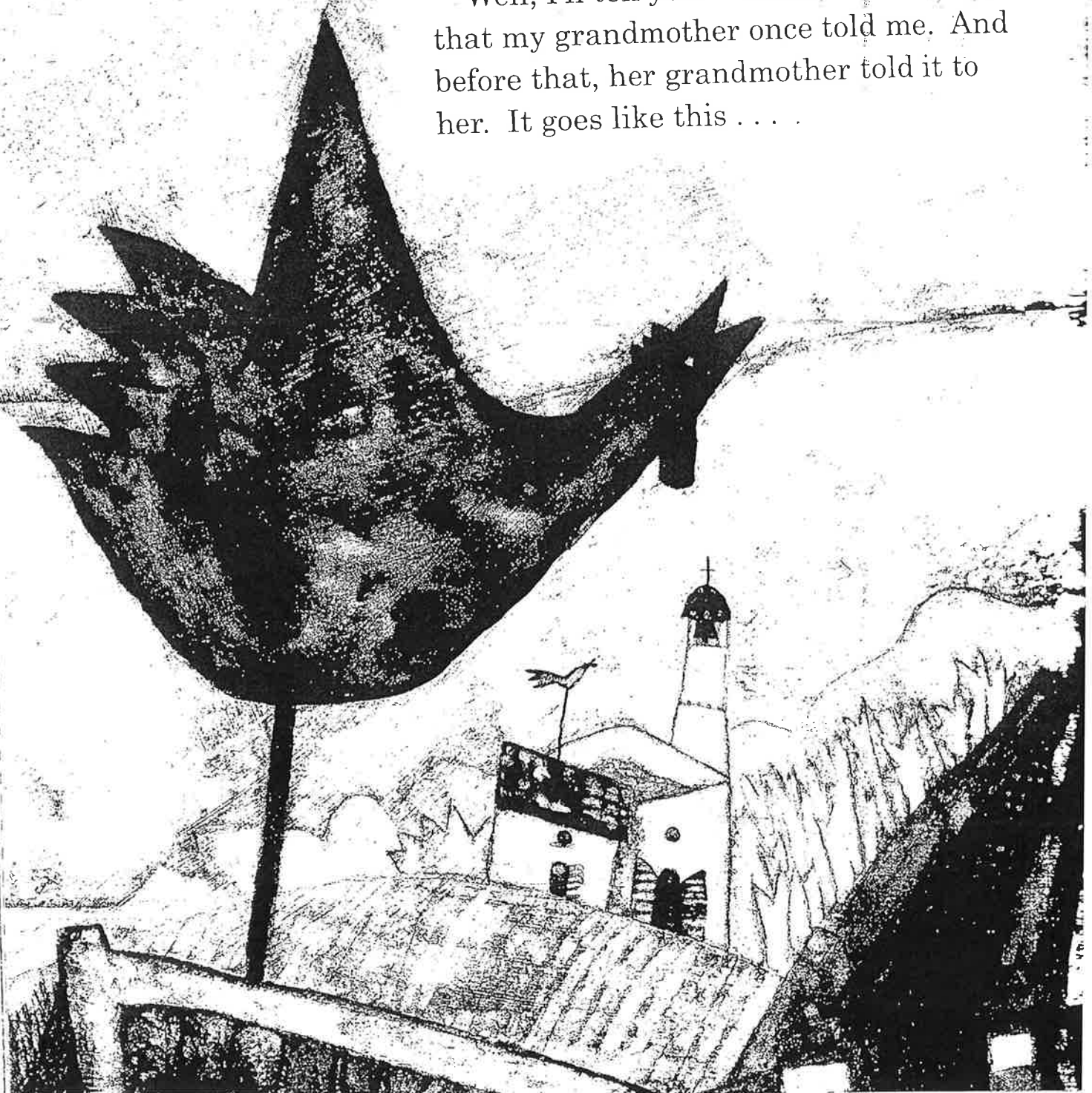


Essential Question

How can one event
in a story cause
another to happen?

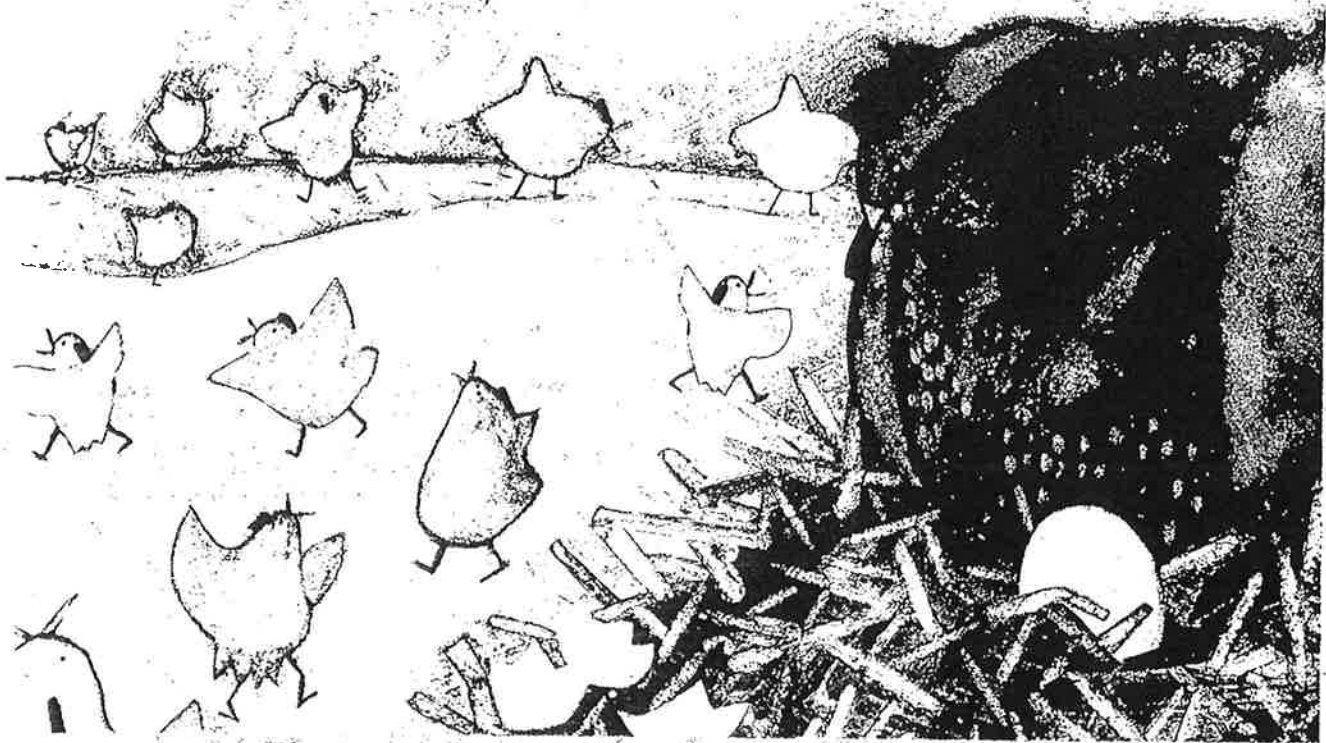
Have you ever seen a weather vane?
Do you know why there is a little rooster
on one end, spinning around to let us
know which way the wind is blowing?

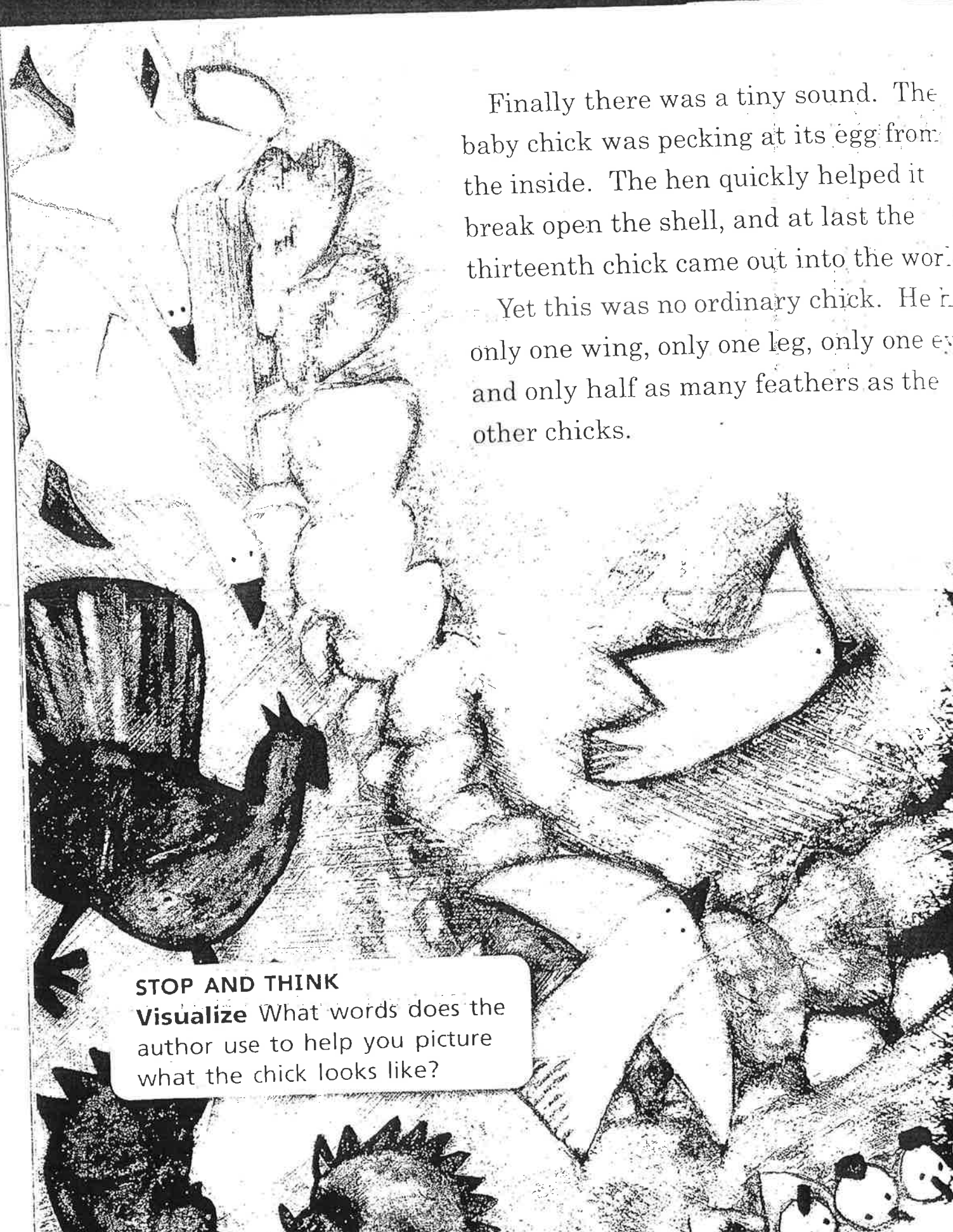
Well, I'll tell you. It's an old, old story
that my grandmother once told me. And
before that, her grandmother told it to
her. It goes like this



A long, long time ago, on a Mexican ranch, a mother hen was sitting on her eggs. One by one, the baby chicks began to hatch, leaving their empty shells behind. One, two, three, four . . . twelve chicks had hatched. But the last egg still had not cracked open.

The hen did not know what to do. The chicks were running here and there, and she could not *chase after them* because she was still sitting on the last egg.





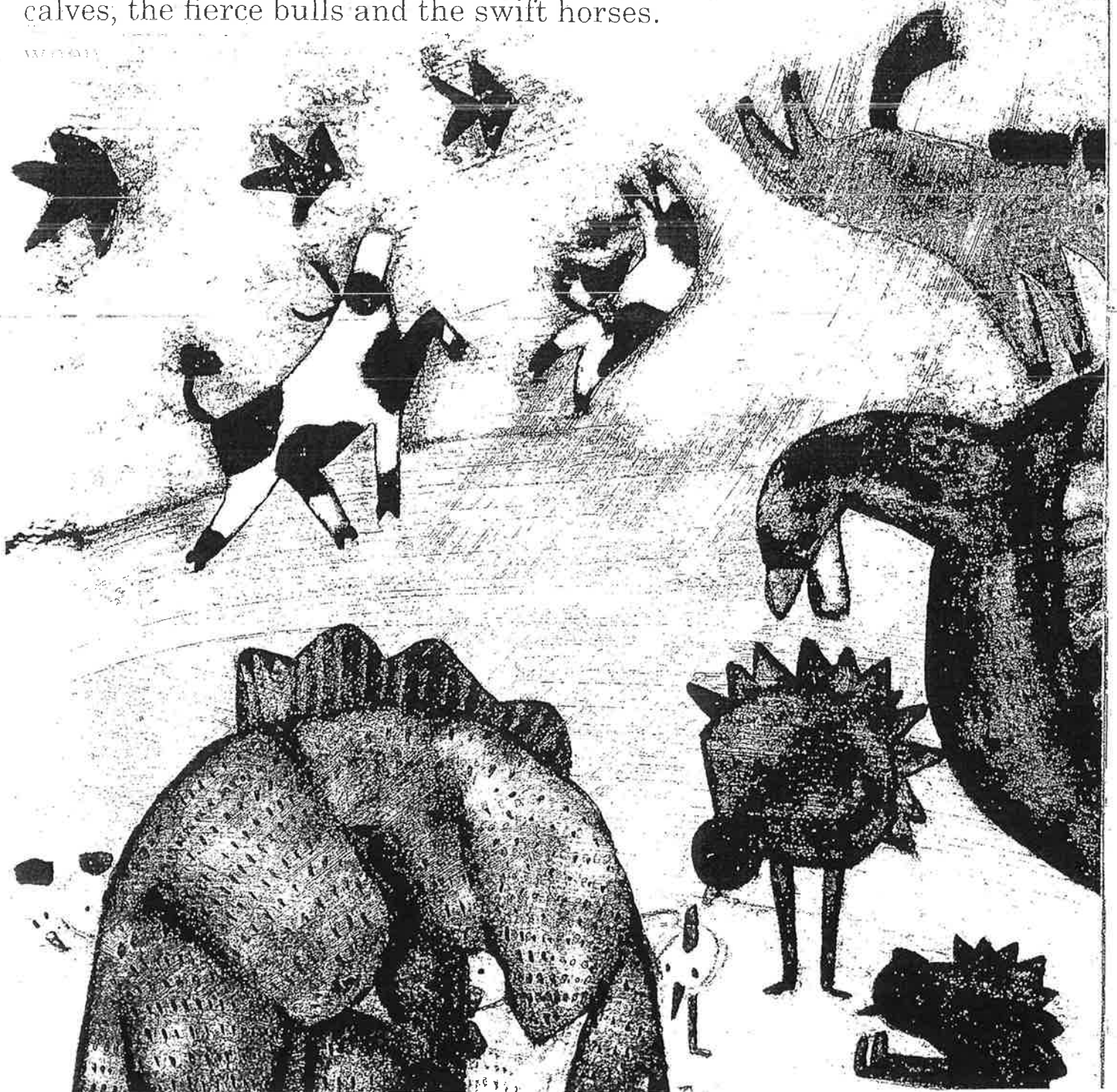
Finally there was a tiny sound. The baby chick was pecking at its egg from the inside. The hen quickly helped it break open the shell, and at last the thirteenth chick came out into the world. Yet this was no ordinary chick. He had only one wing, only one leg, only one eye and only half as many feathers as the other chicks.

STOP AND THINK

Visualize What words does the author use to help you picture what the chick looks like?

It was not long before everyone at the ranch knew that a very special chick had been born.

The ducks told the turkeys. The turkeys told the pigeons. The pigeons told the swallows. And the swallows flew over the fields, spreading the news to the cows grazing peacefully with their calves, the fierce bulls and the swift horses.

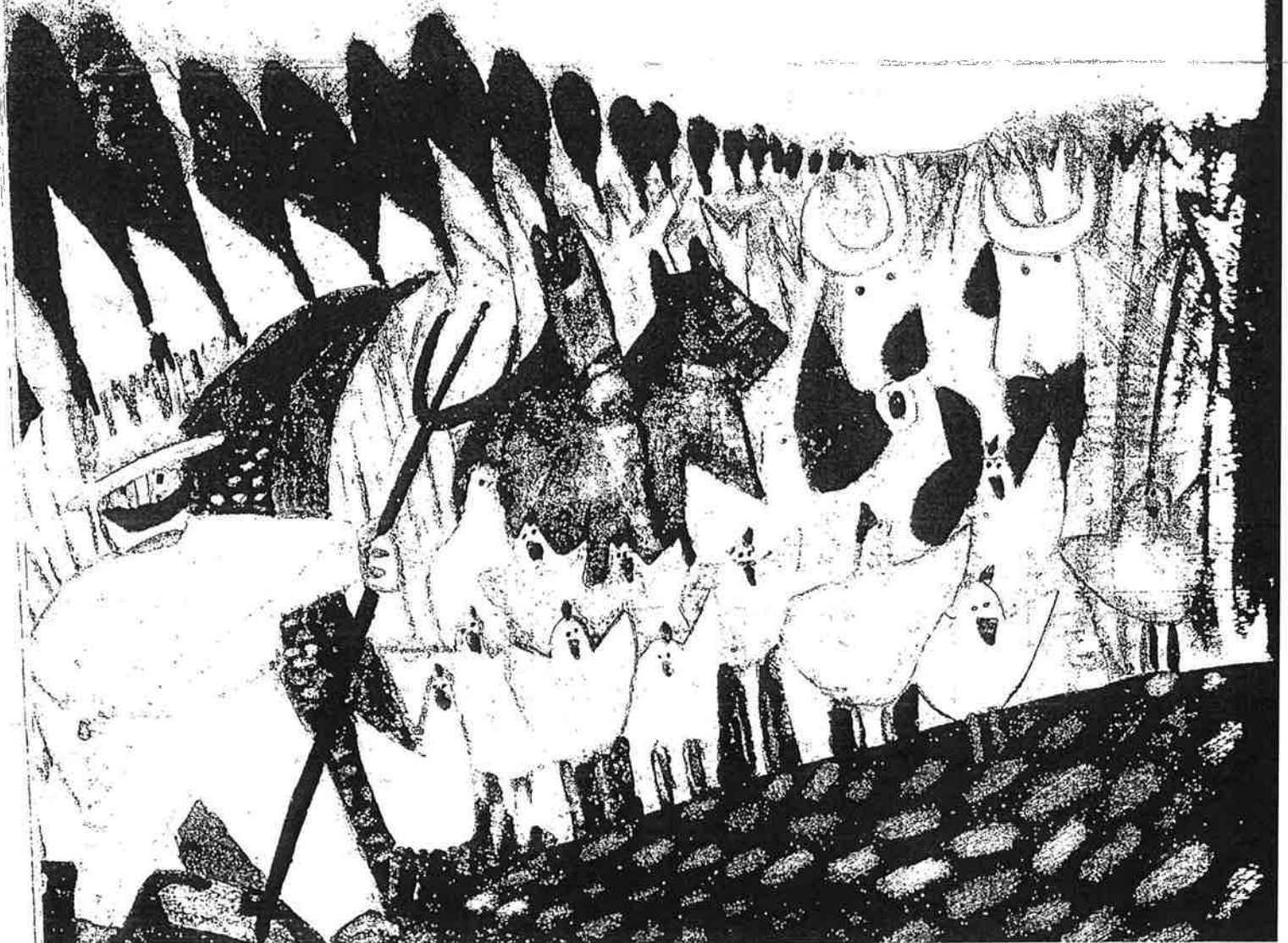


Soon the hen was surrounded by animals who wanted to see the strange chick.

One of the ducks said, "But he only has one wing!"

And one of the turkeys added, "Why, he's only a . . . half chicken!"

From then on, everyone called him Half-Chicken. And Half-Chicken, finding himself at the center of all this attention, became very vain.



One day he overheard the swallows, who traveled a great deal, talking about him: "Not even at the court of the viceroy in Mexico City is there anyone so unique."

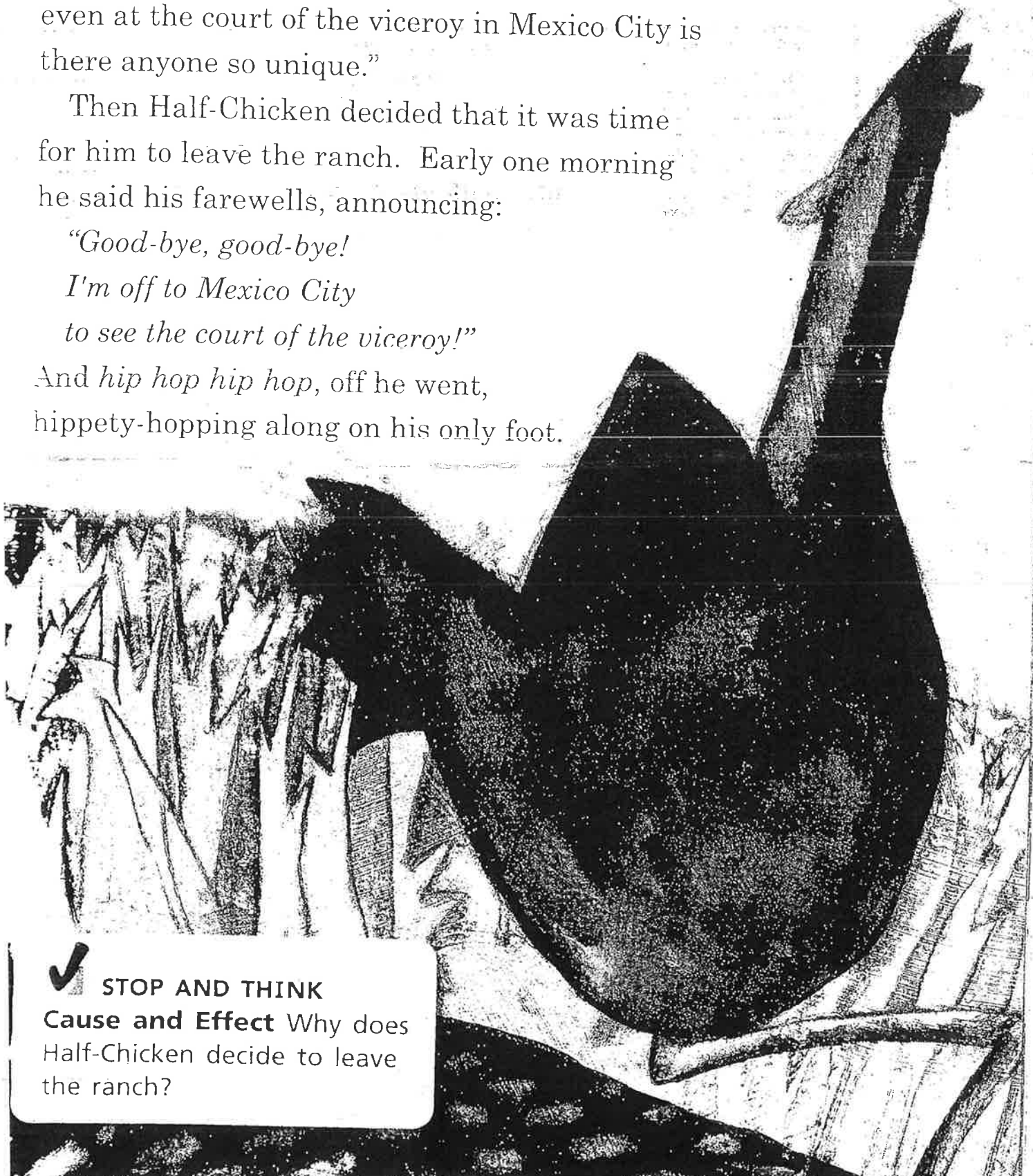
Then Half-Chicken decided that it was time for him to leave the ranch. Early one morning he said his farewells, announcing:

"Good-bye, good-bye!

I'm off to Mexico City

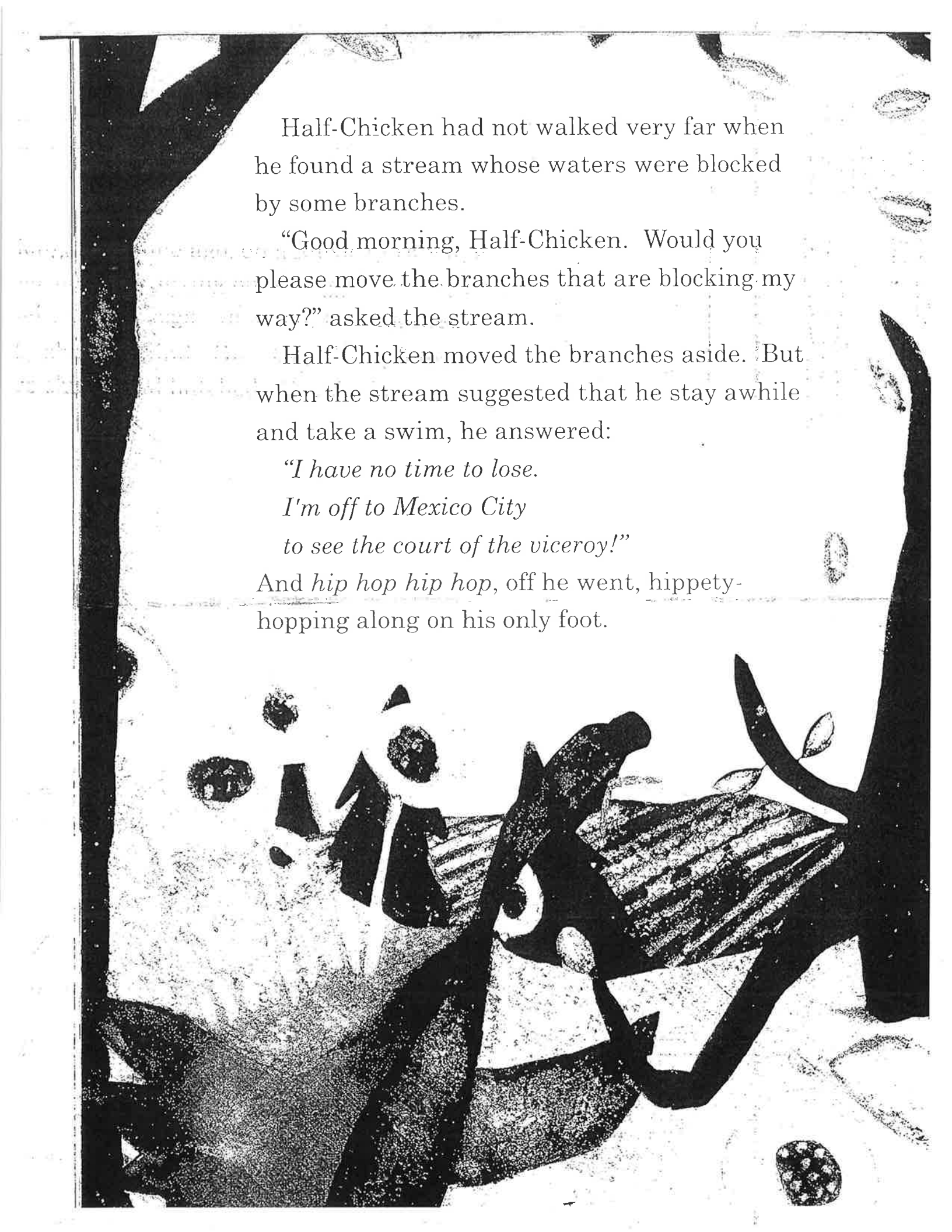
to see the court of the viceroy!"

And *hip hop hip hop*, off he went, hippety-hopping along on his only foot.



STOP AND THINK

Cause and Effect Why does Half-Chicken decide to leave the ranch?

A stylized black and white illustration of a landscape. In the foreground, a stream flows from the left towards the right. On the left bank, there are several dark, rounded shapes representing rocks or bushes. In the background, there are silhouettes of trees and a small, simple house with a chimney. The overall style is minimalist and graphic, using high contrast between black and white.

Half-Chicken had not walked very far when he found a stream whose waters were blocked by some branches.

“Good morning, Half-Chicken. Would you please move the branches that are blocking my way?” asked the stream.

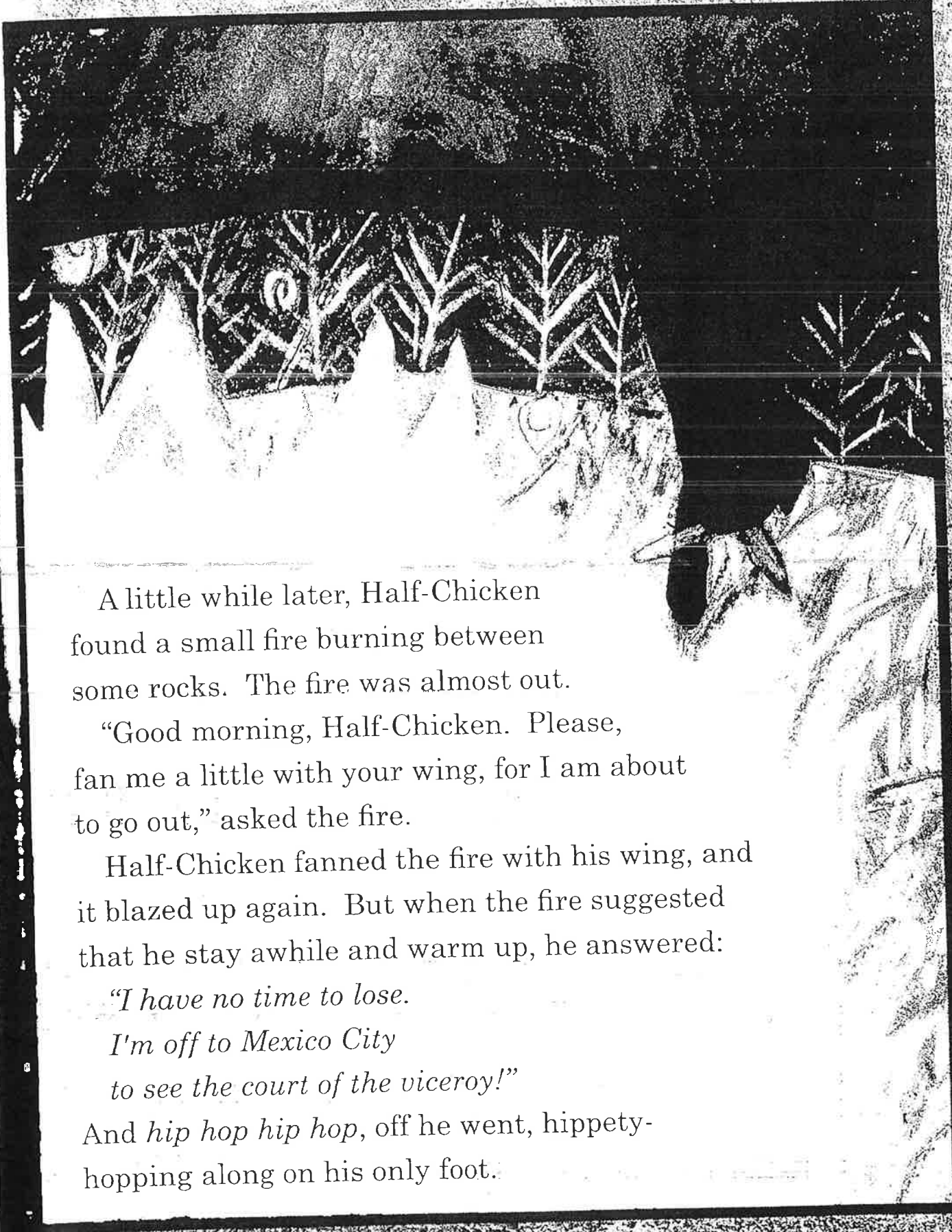
Half-Chicken moved the branches aside. But when the stream suggested that he stay awhile and take a swim, he answered:

“I have no time to lose.

I'm off to Mexico City

to see the court of the viceroy!”

And *hip hop hip hop*, off he went, hippety-hopping along on his only foot.



A little while later, Half-Chicken found a small fire burning between some rocks. The fire was almost out.

"Good morning, Half-Chicken. Please, fan me a little with your wing, for I am about to go out," asked the fire.

Half-Chicken fanned the fire with his wing, and it blazed up again. But when the fire suggested that he stay awhile and warm up, he answered:

"I have no time to lose.

I'm off to Mexico City

to see the court of the viceroy!"

And *hip hop hip hop*, off he went, hippety-hopping along on his only foot.

After he had walked a little farther, Half-Chicken found the wind tangled in some bushes.

"Good morning, Half-Chicken. Would you please untangle me, so that I can go on my way?" asked the wind.

Half-Chicken untangled the branches. But when the wind suggested that he stay and play, and offered to help him fly here and there like a dry leaf, he answered:

"I have no time to lose.

I'm off to Mexico City

to see the court of the viceroy!"

And *hip hop hip hop*, off he went, hippety-hopping along on his only foot. At last he reached Mexico City.

