



A WALK IN THE WOODS

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A poignant story that demonstrates a grandfather's love for all God's creation taught tenderly to his grandson as they journey through a golden fall forest.

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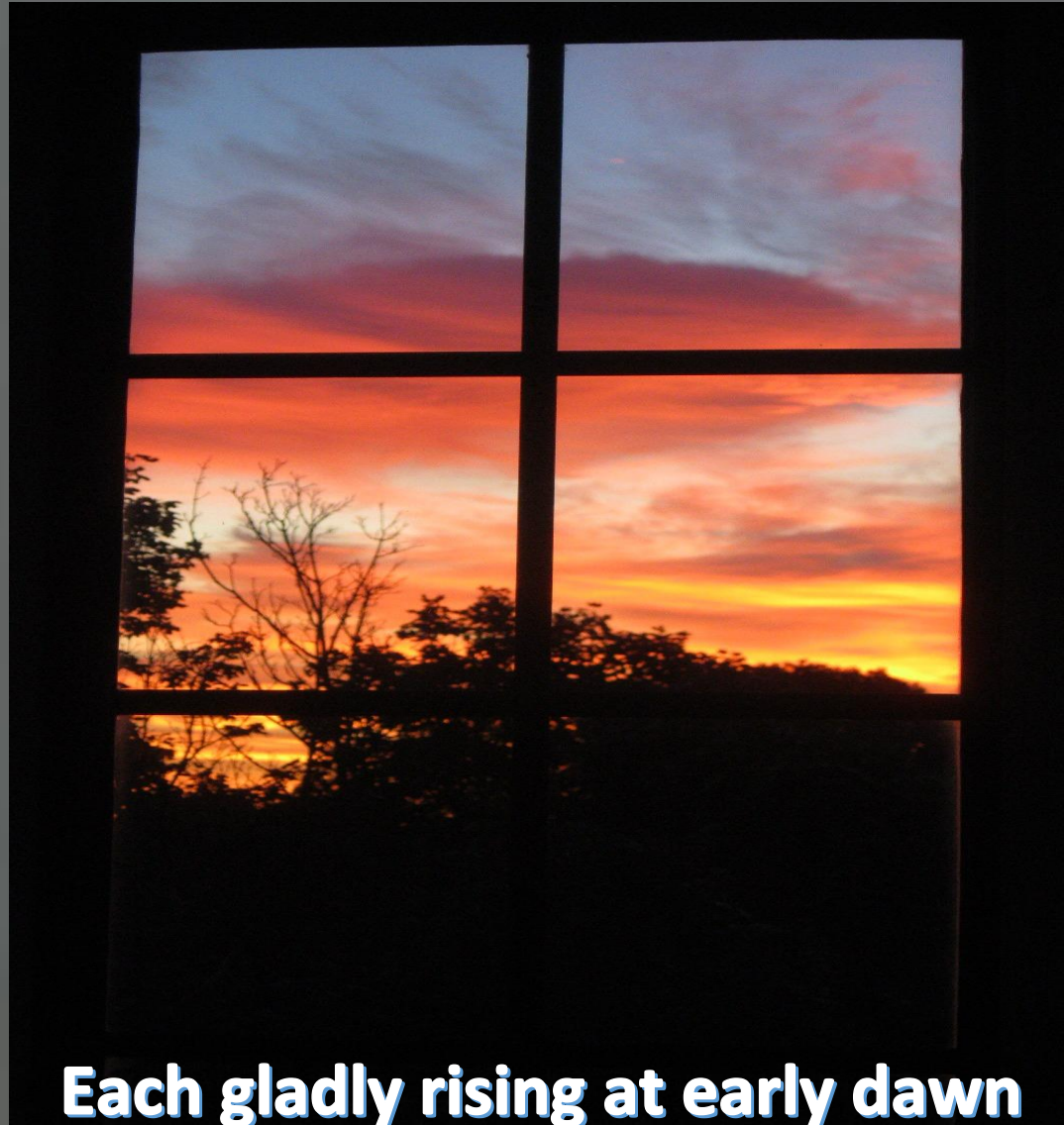
"You alone are the LORD You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You." (Nehemiah 9:6)

In Honor of Loving Grandfathers



**A walk in the woods; just Grampe and me
Imagining the wonders our eyes would see.**





Each gladly rising at early dawn

Both wearing smiles without a yawn.



Anxiously awaiting the rising sun
Heralding a day of banter and fun.

A photograph of a grassy field with footprints and shadows. The footprints are dark, circular marks in the grass, arranged in a line that leads from the top right towards the bottom center. Long, dark shadows of trees or bushes are cast across the top left and middle of the field. The grass is green and slightly out of focus.

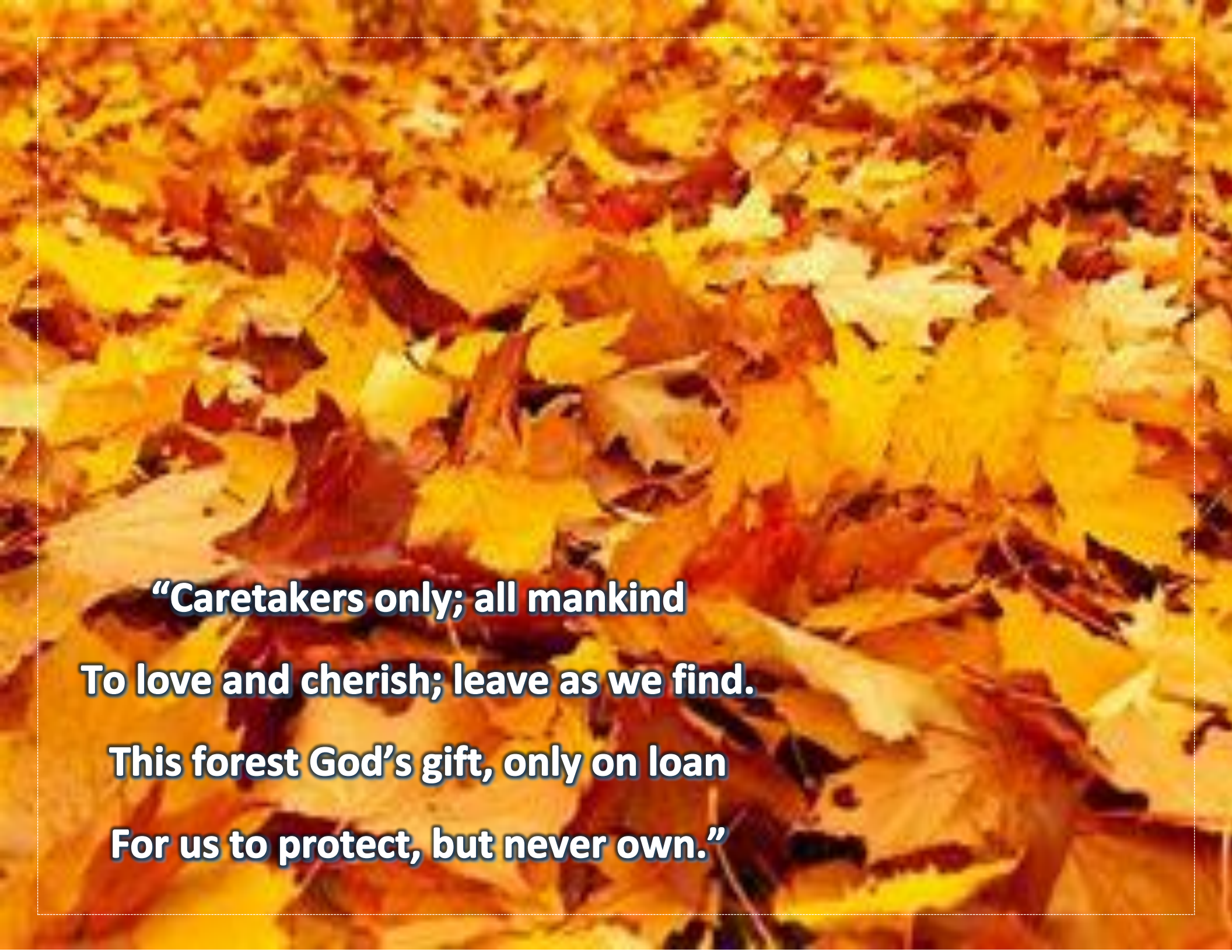
**Our footprints left in the morning dew
What lies ahead I have no clue.**



**Grampe makes life a great adventure
Unfolding mysteries on every venture
Oh, how he loves God's splendid creation
Counting his blessings with great jubilation.**

**To the edge of the woods my Grampe led
Delivering this message, he clearly said,
“All God makes is marvelous and good
Let us partake; leaving it as we should.”**





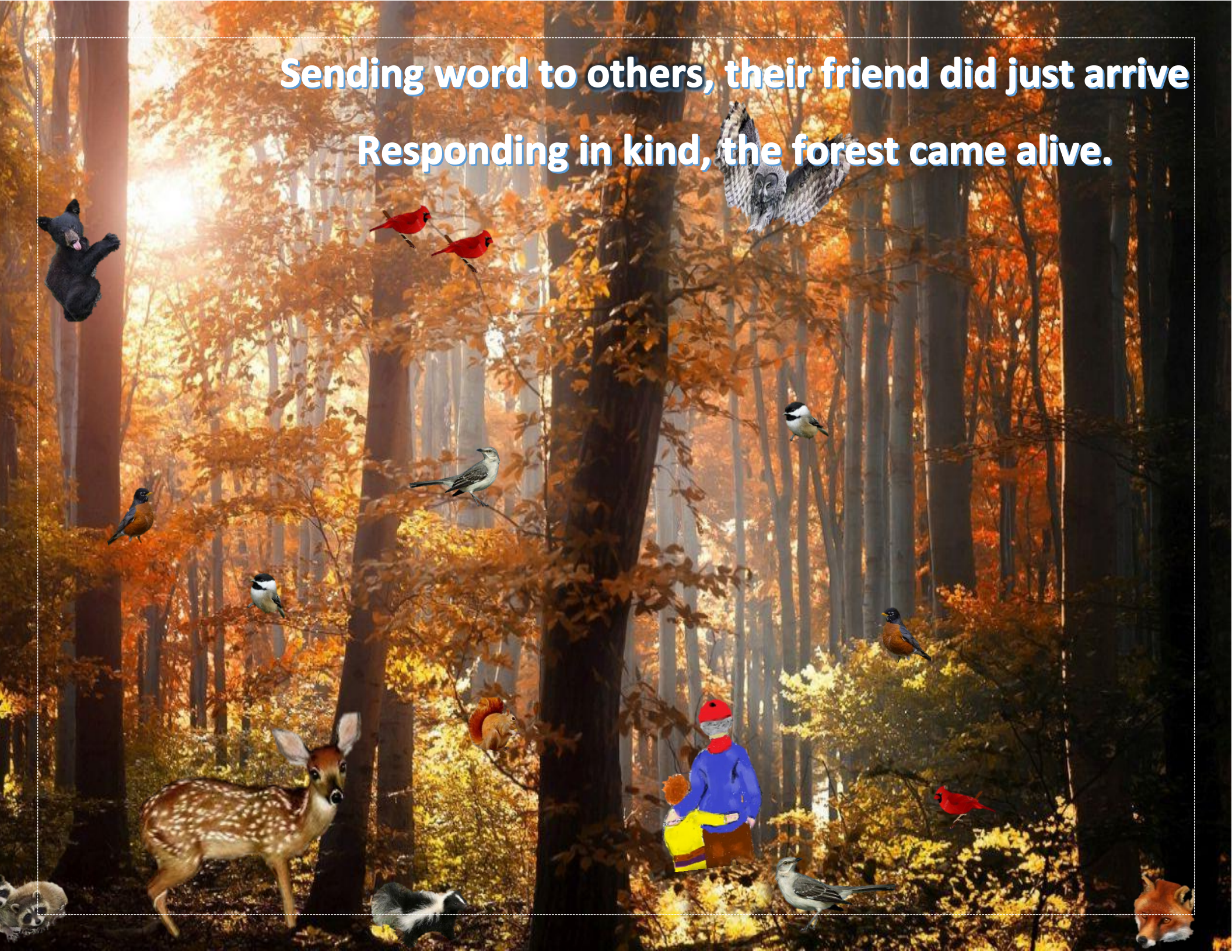
**“Caretakers only; all mankind
To love and cherish; leave as we find.
This forest God’s gift, only on loan
For us to protect, but never own.”**

Entering the woods, the birds began to tweet

A song just for Grampe; a melody so sweet.



Sending word to others, their friend did just arrive
Responding in kind, the forest came alive.



Studying Grampe's face was the chick-a-dee dee
Reading his mind to see what he could see
That Grampe hid a secret, to him was so apparent
Solving the mystery, he became the declarant.



Surprise! Surprise! He announced to the doe!

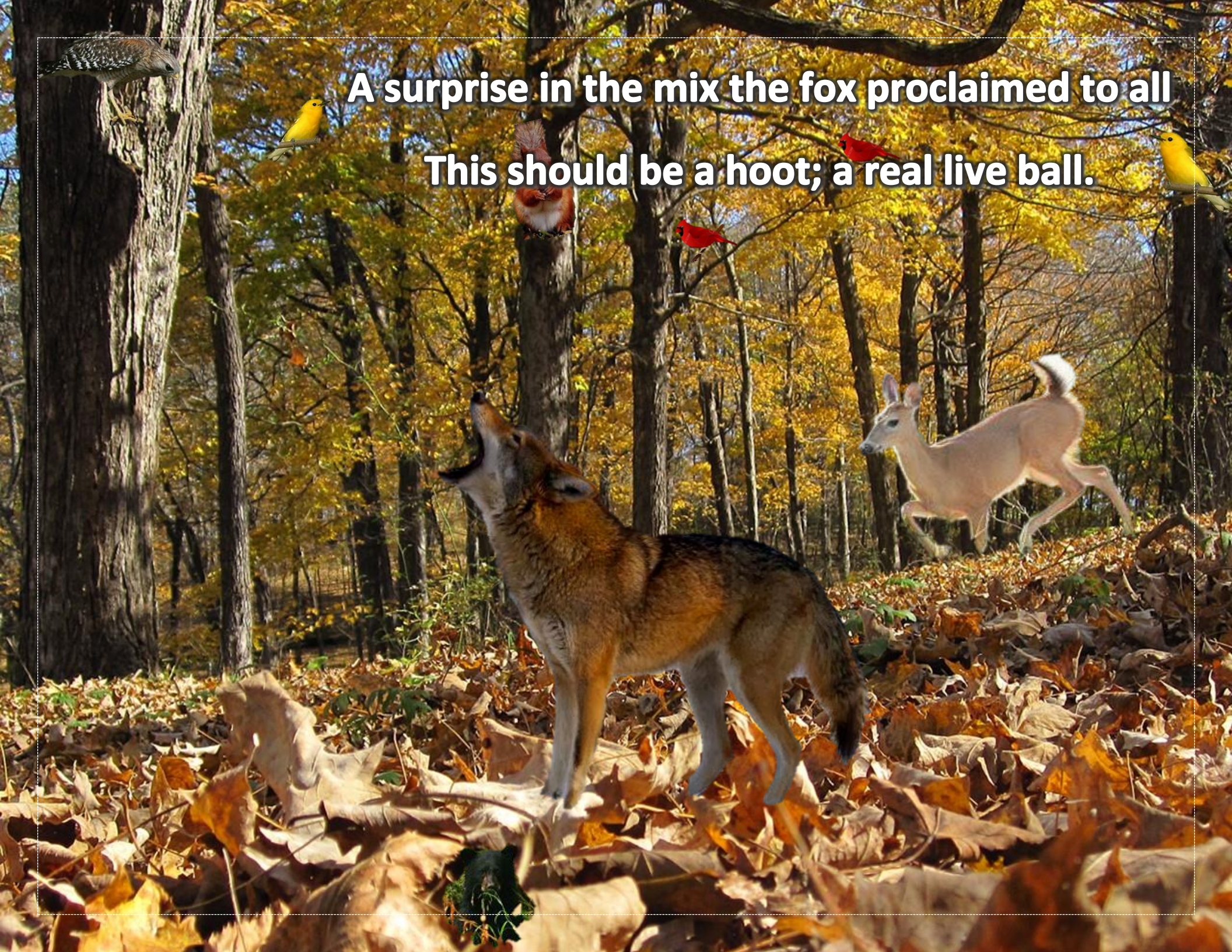
Surprise! Surprise! The doe told the crow!



Who? Who? Called the owl to the hawks
Grampe! Surprise! They called to the fox.



**A surprise in the mix the fox proclaimed to all
This should be a hoot; a real live ball.**



**Staying quietly hidden, they gathered all around
Watching Grampe's boy, making not a sound.**



**On a grapevine swing, he flew through the air
As the cool autumn breeze softly rustled his hair.**



Suddenly needing rest, they found a mossy rug

So soft plush and velvet, it felt just like a hug.

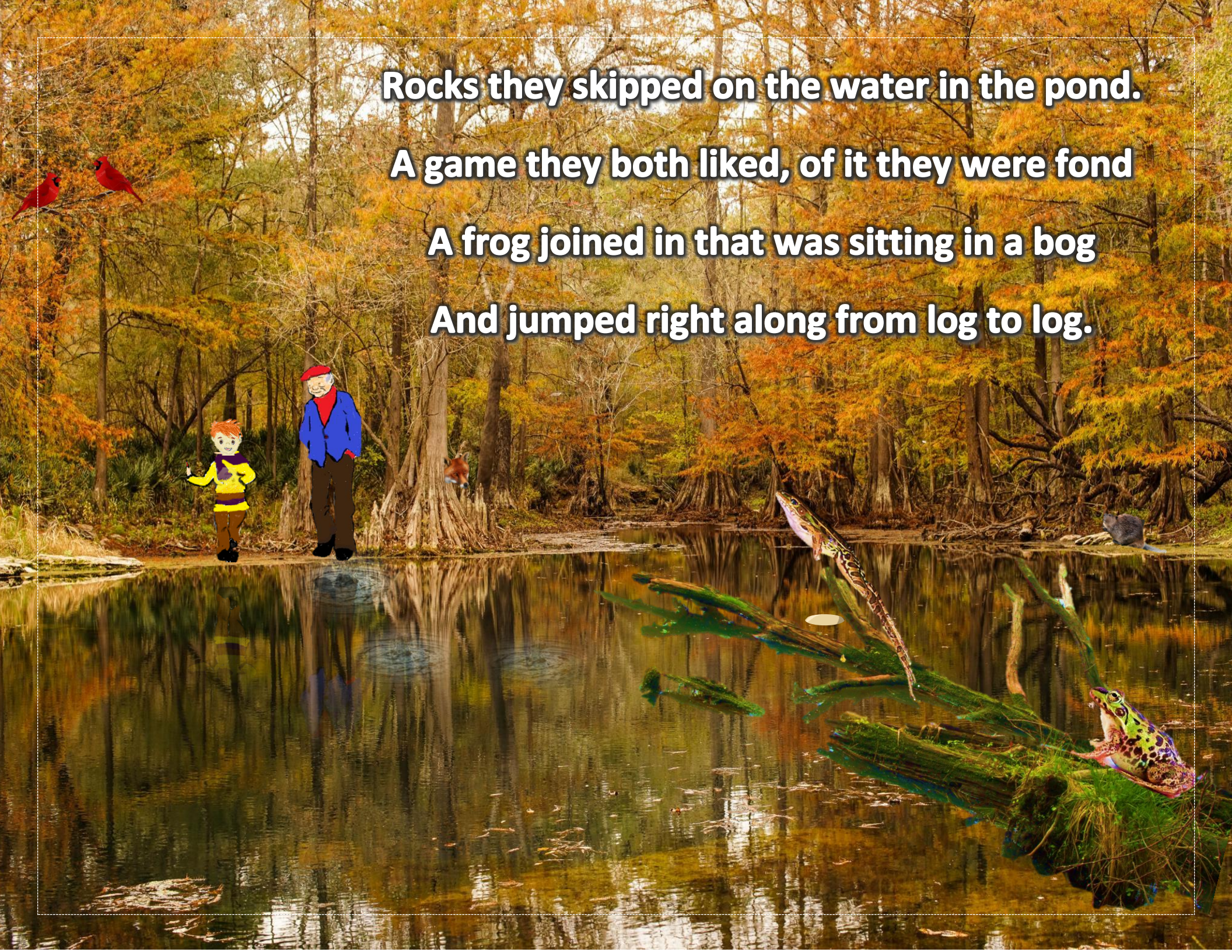


Rocks they skipped on the water in the pond.

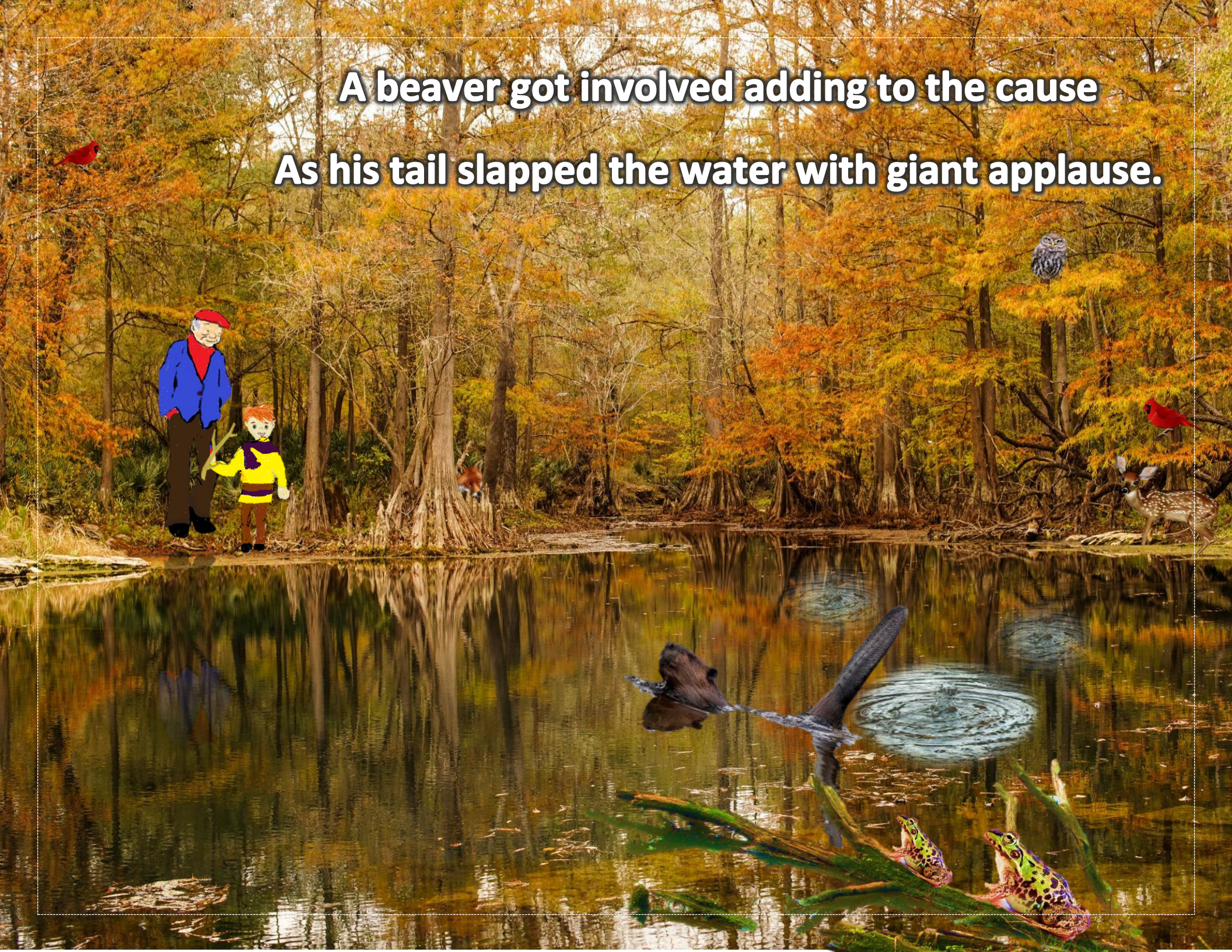
A game they both liked, of it they were fond

A frog joined in that was sitting in a bog

And jumped right along from log to log.



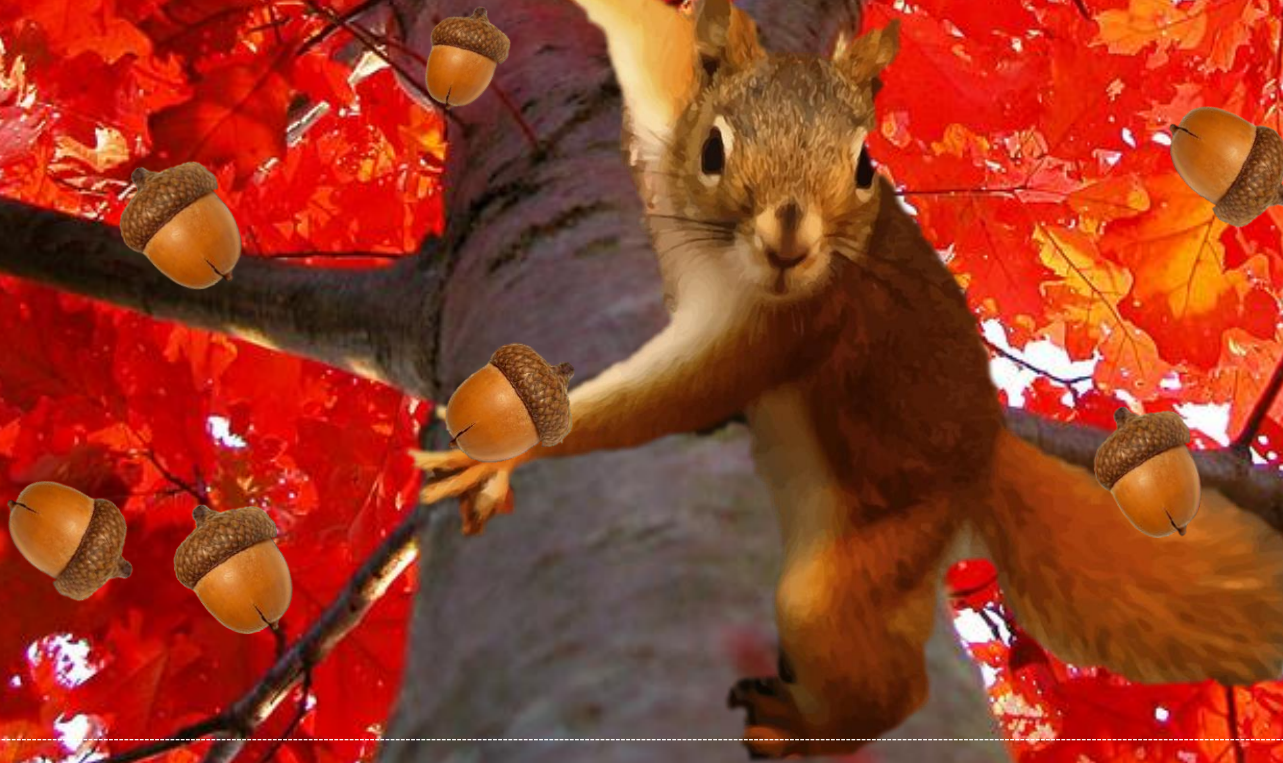
**A beaver got involved adding to the cause
As his tail slapped the water with giant applause.**



Watching from the sky was a stunning bald eagle
Soaring in the air with patterns so regal.



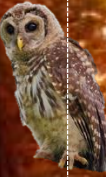
**Up in a tree sat a playful red squirrel
Startling those below, stored nuts began to hurl
“Treats! Treats! He did chatter and call
Grab them in the air before they fall!**



**Then catching Grampe's eye was a big black bear
Delivering a missive while using great care
His big brown eye conveyed a giant wink
Grampe seeing all, knew just what to think.**



So nonchalantly, Grampe moved right along
Followed in mass by the nosey mighty throng
Picking up stragglers, the group grew in size
Anticipating Grampe's well planned surprise.



**Reaching a clearing at the top of the hill
A miracle unfolded, an unspeakable thrill
There stood Gramme with a smile upon her face
Pulling off a caper time could not erase.**



**A banquet set for all creatures great and small
Everybody welcome, please come one and all
The tables had been turned to Grampe's delight
Seeing the animal's faces was quite a sight.**



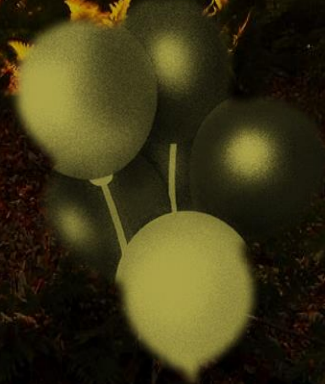
Surprise! Surprise! Grampe shouted with glee
The jokes on you! Snicker! Snicker! Tee Hee!



**The group came alive with laughter and fun
Accepting Grampe's gift; the party had begun.
The tortoise and the hare uniquely set the pace
Finding a way to dance; not running a race.
Birds sang in chorus; sweet music filled the air
While they all "partied hardy" without a care.**



**As the sun quietly set retreating out of sight
The sky suddenly darkened signaling 'twas night.
Having so much fun, they'd lost track of time
How could they not, with a day so sublime?**



**Suddenly aware their shadows had grown long
For sure home was calling to all members of the throng
Then the Master lit a star to lead the way
One final blessing for their picturesque day.**



**The friends in the forest grinned at Grampe's song
To them a final message as he slowly walked along
Surprise! Surprise! Grampe shouted with glee
The joke was on you! Snicker! Snicker! Tee Hee!**



Special Thanks

Did you listen to "This Is My Father's World" that was performed by Noteworthy from Schweitzer United Methodist Church? Just place your mouse on the designated button and sing along with the video.



Recording shot by Mason Scruggs, Catholic High School at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Springfield, Missouri. Our thanks to both the Noteworthy group and St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

