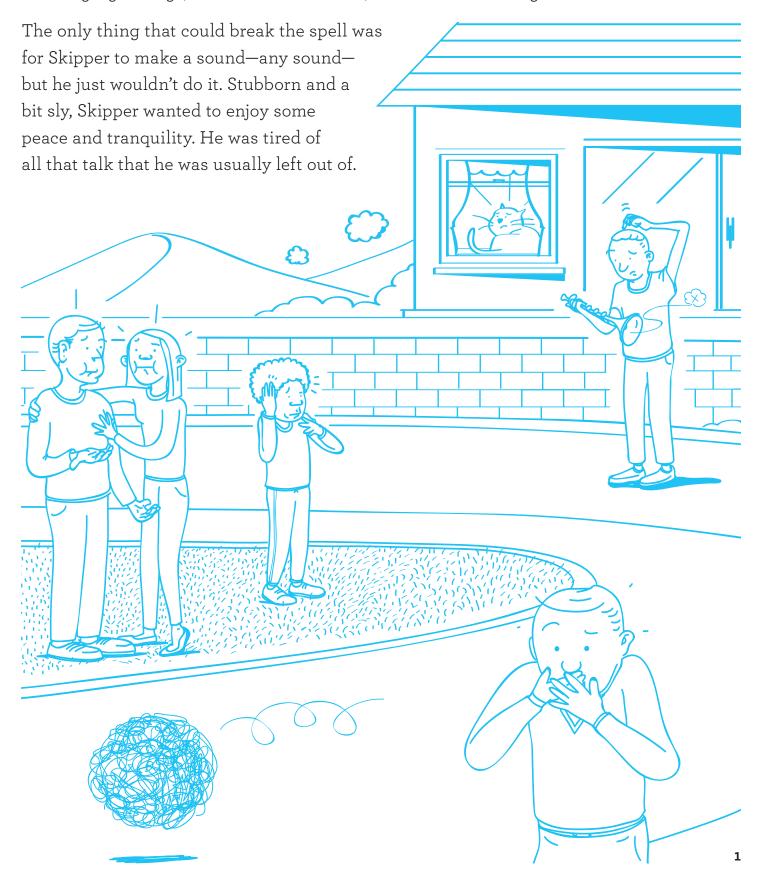
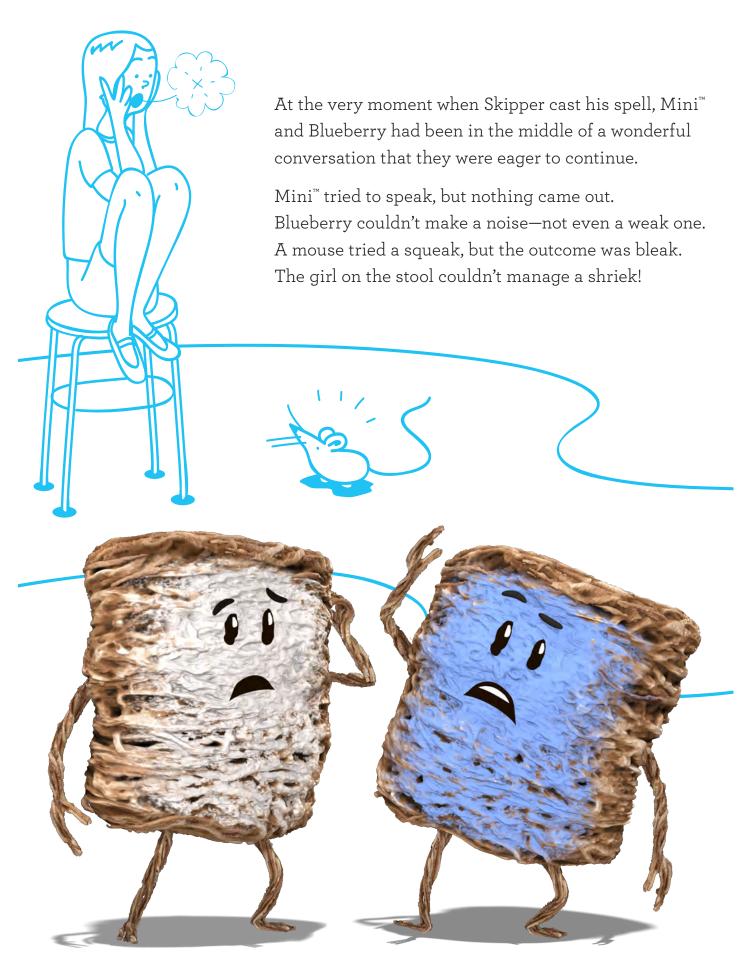
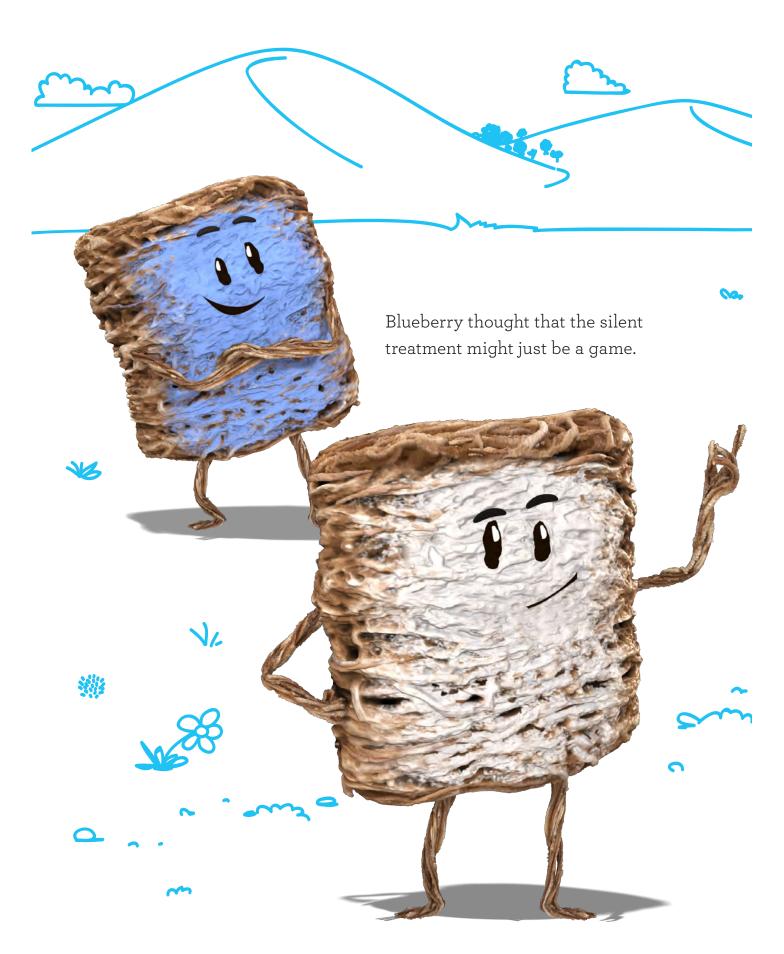
It was a quiet morning in Mini[™] City. Very quiet! No one in the town could speak because the sneaky Skipper had cast a spell of silence. It was a stifling scene. No one could talk and the sad truth could not even be told. People desperately missed their "Good morning!" greetings, their breakfast banter, and their comforting conversations.







But $Mini^*$ knew that Skipper must be to blame.

The two quickly found Skipper, who was skipping breakfast, of course. When he saw ${\rm Mini}^{\scriptscriptstyle{\mathsf{T}}}$ and Blueberry, he wrote a note for them on the mirror:

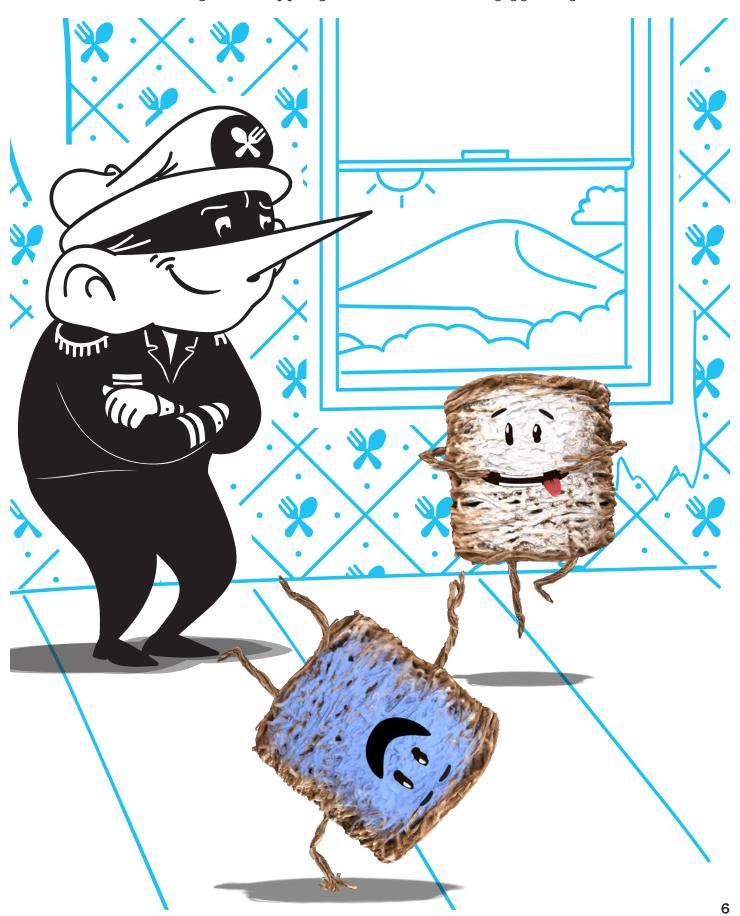




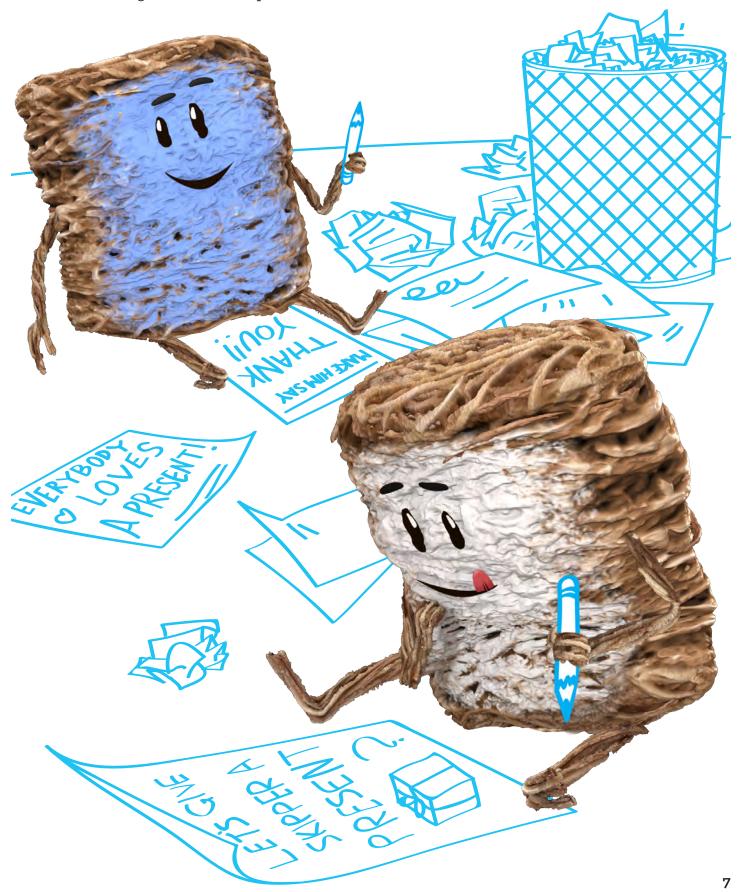
When they returned a few hours later, $Mini^*$ and Blueberry were wearing the most frightening monster costumes they could find.

 $Mini^{\text{m}}$ thought that if they could startle Skipper, he would cry out and break the spell. Alas, when Skipper saw the monsters, he was simply scared sentence-less.

Next they tried to make Skipper laugh by making funny faces, doing crazy acrobatic moves, and even tickling him. Skipper grinned, but he didn't giggle or guffaw.



After their two failed attempts at coaxing Skipper to converse, they weren't sure what to do. They shared ideas by writing dozens and dozens of notes to each other, when suddenly a brilliant idea began to take shape.



And so Mini[™] and Blueberry wrapped a big box with swirly paper and shimmery bows. They delivered it to Skipper with a card:





That was enough to break the spell. Skipper started talking non-stop and so did everyone else in Mini™ City. The breakfast banter was once again flowing like milk from a pitcher. And Skipper had learned that he could join in the conversations too. He began with a loud and clear, "Thank You!"





