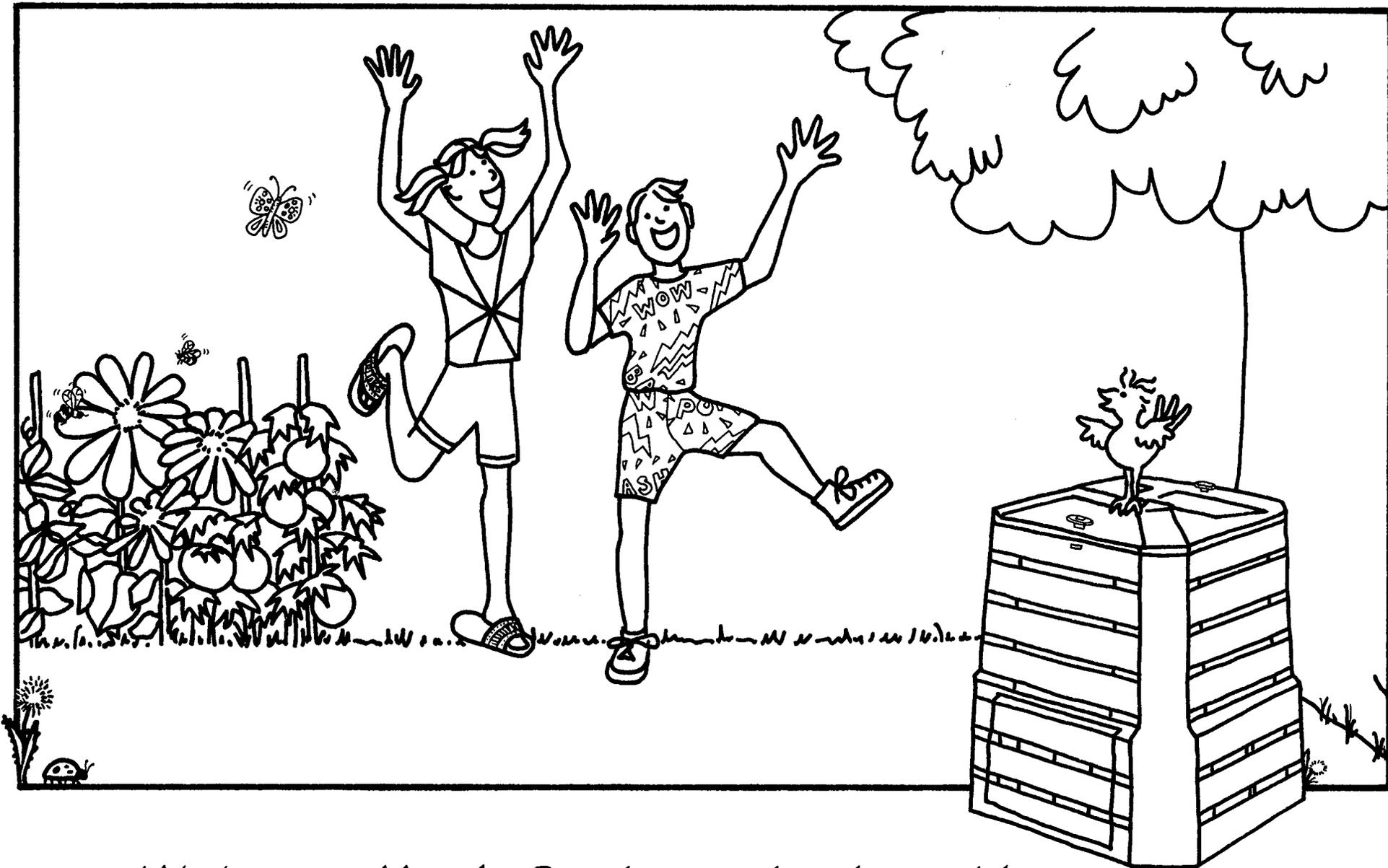
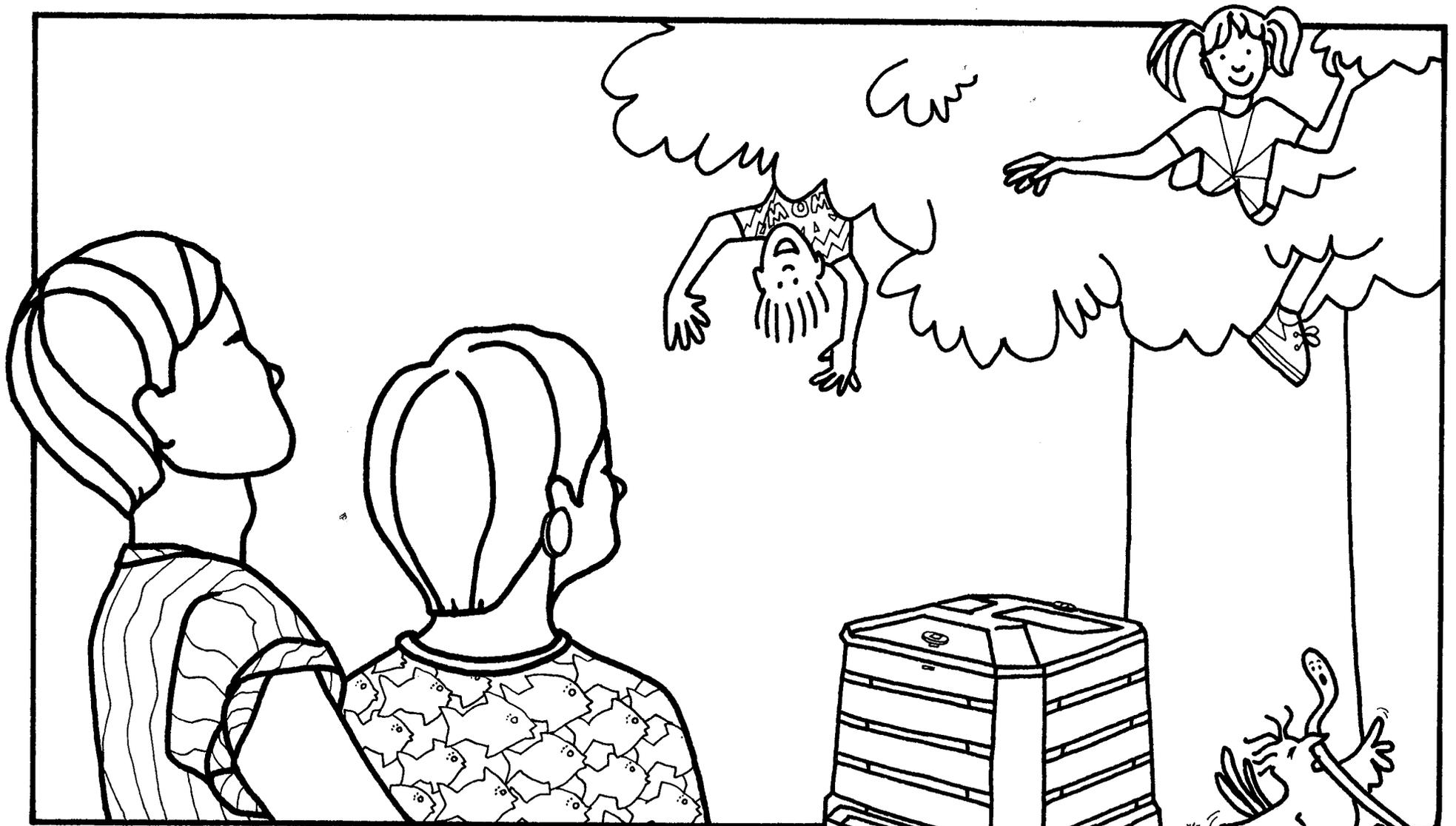


The Magic Box in My Backyard

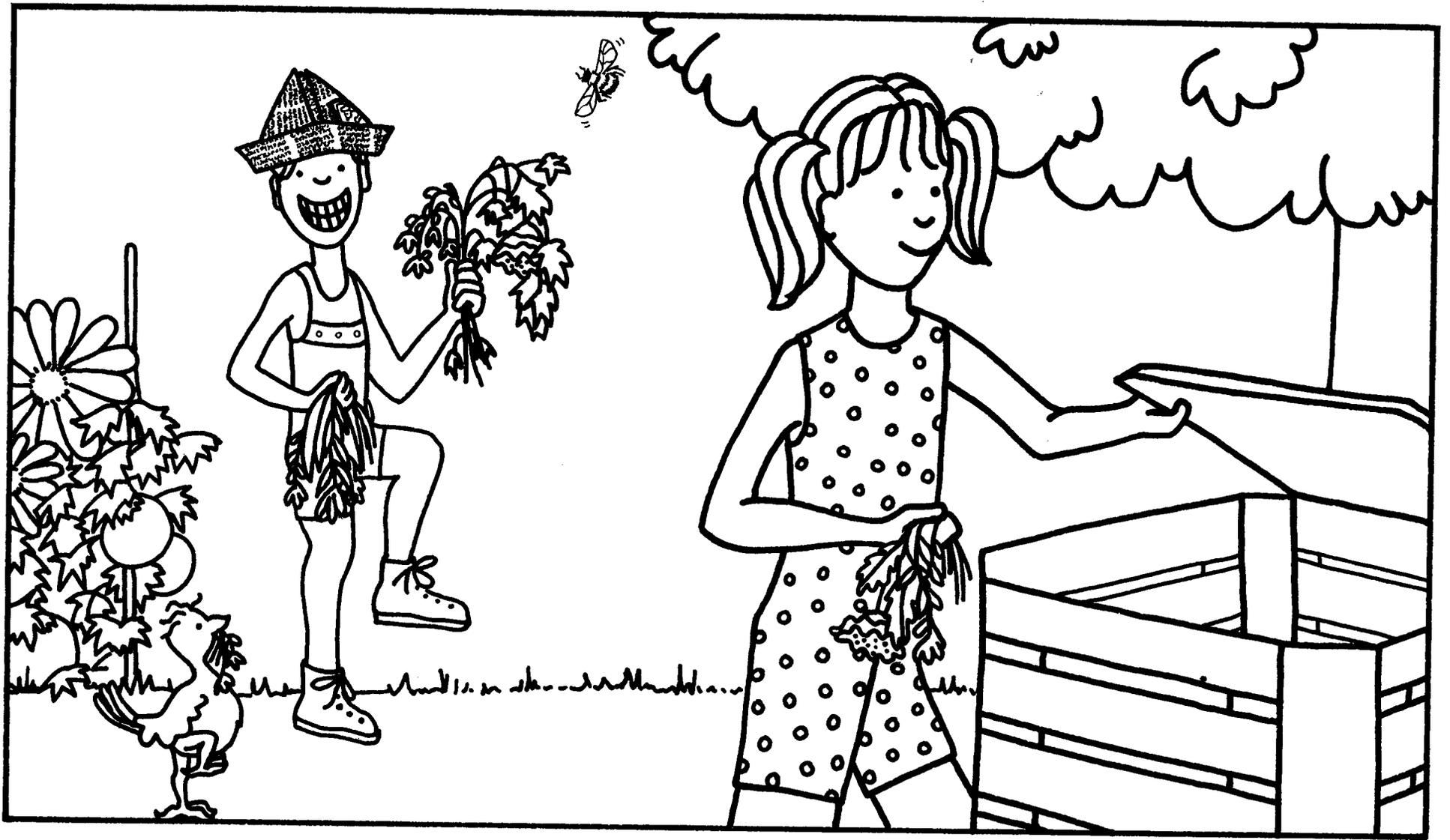
Written by Judy Pollard Smith
Illustrated & Lettered by Veronika Brath
Coloured by _____



We have a Magic Box in our backyard !

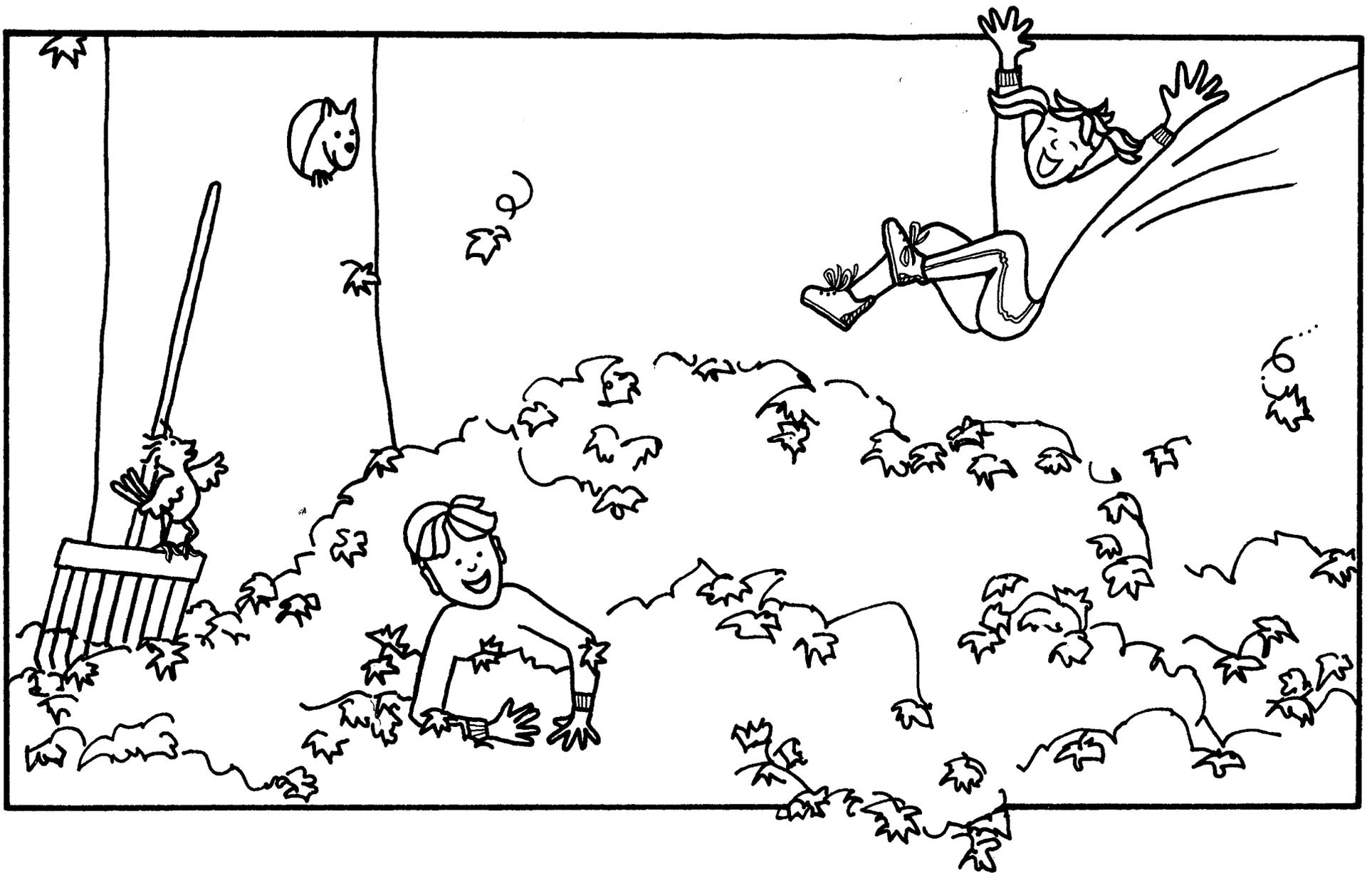


My dad calls it
"the composter".

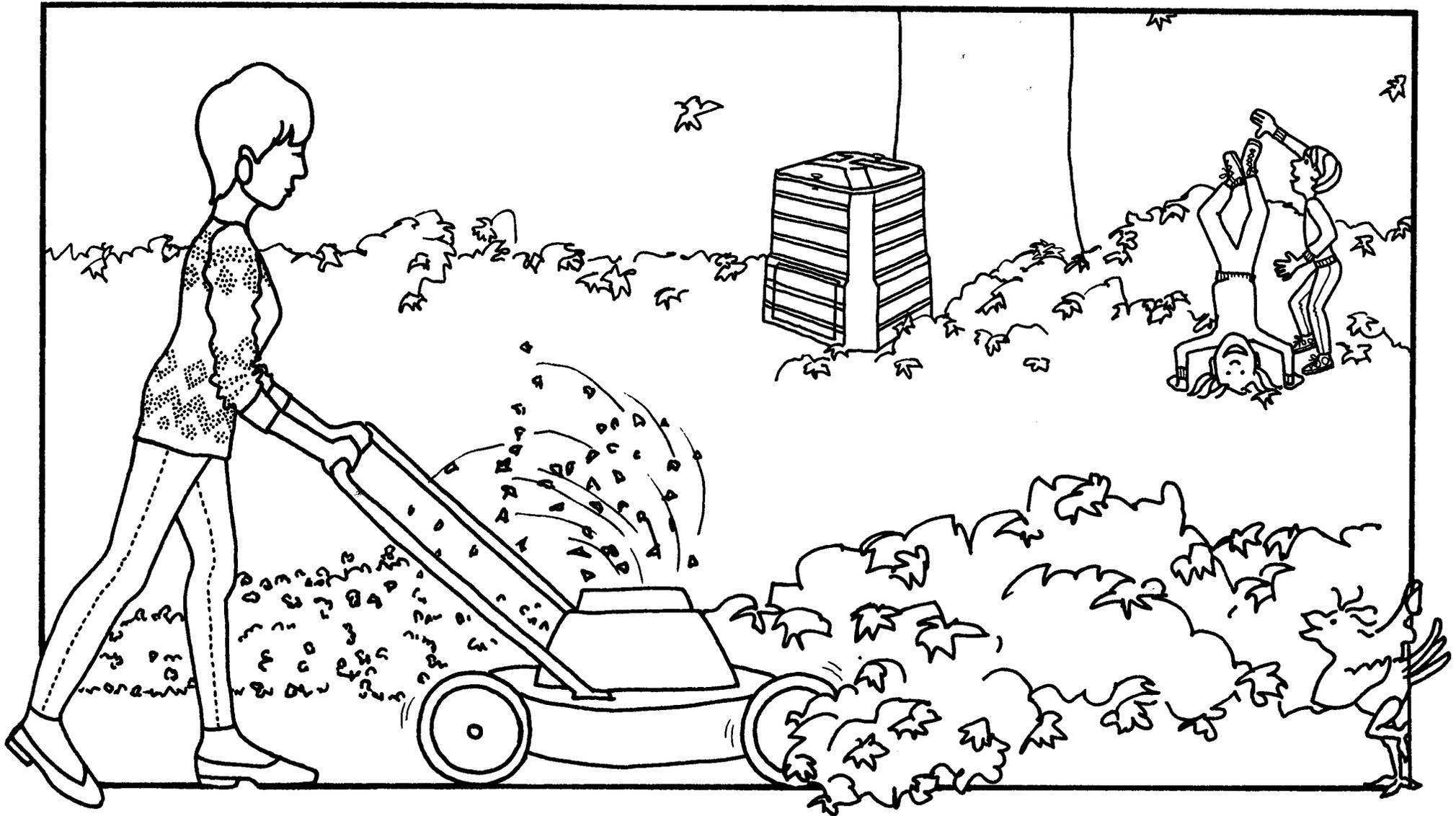


Magic Box is always hungry.
My brother helps me to feed it
each day.





Each season will be interesting with Magic Box.
My dad says that when Autumn comes, we can rake the leaves and jump in them.



Then mom will mulch them with the lawn-mower
so we can feed them to Magic Box.

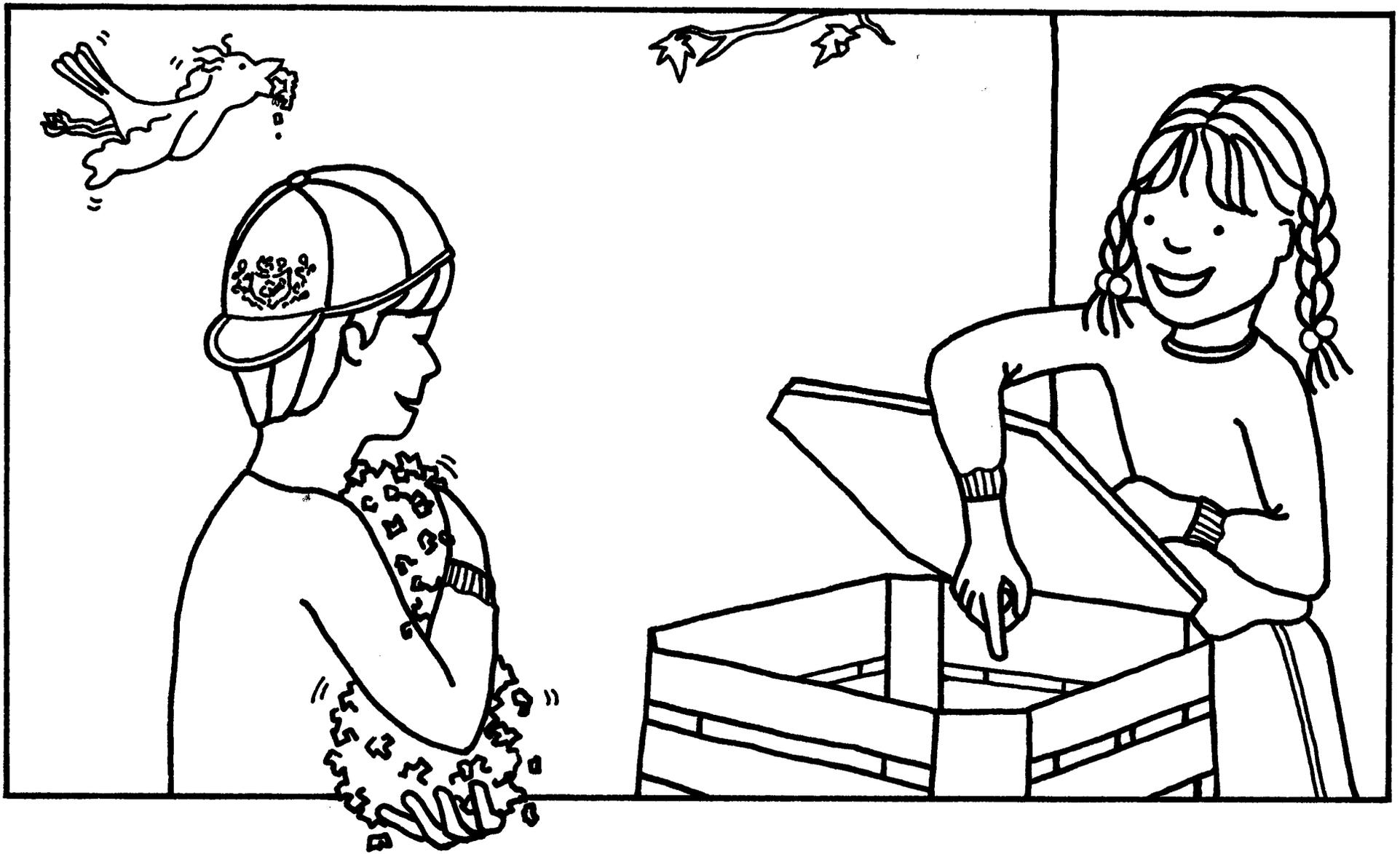


All Winter we keep feeding Magic Box
our kitchen waste.

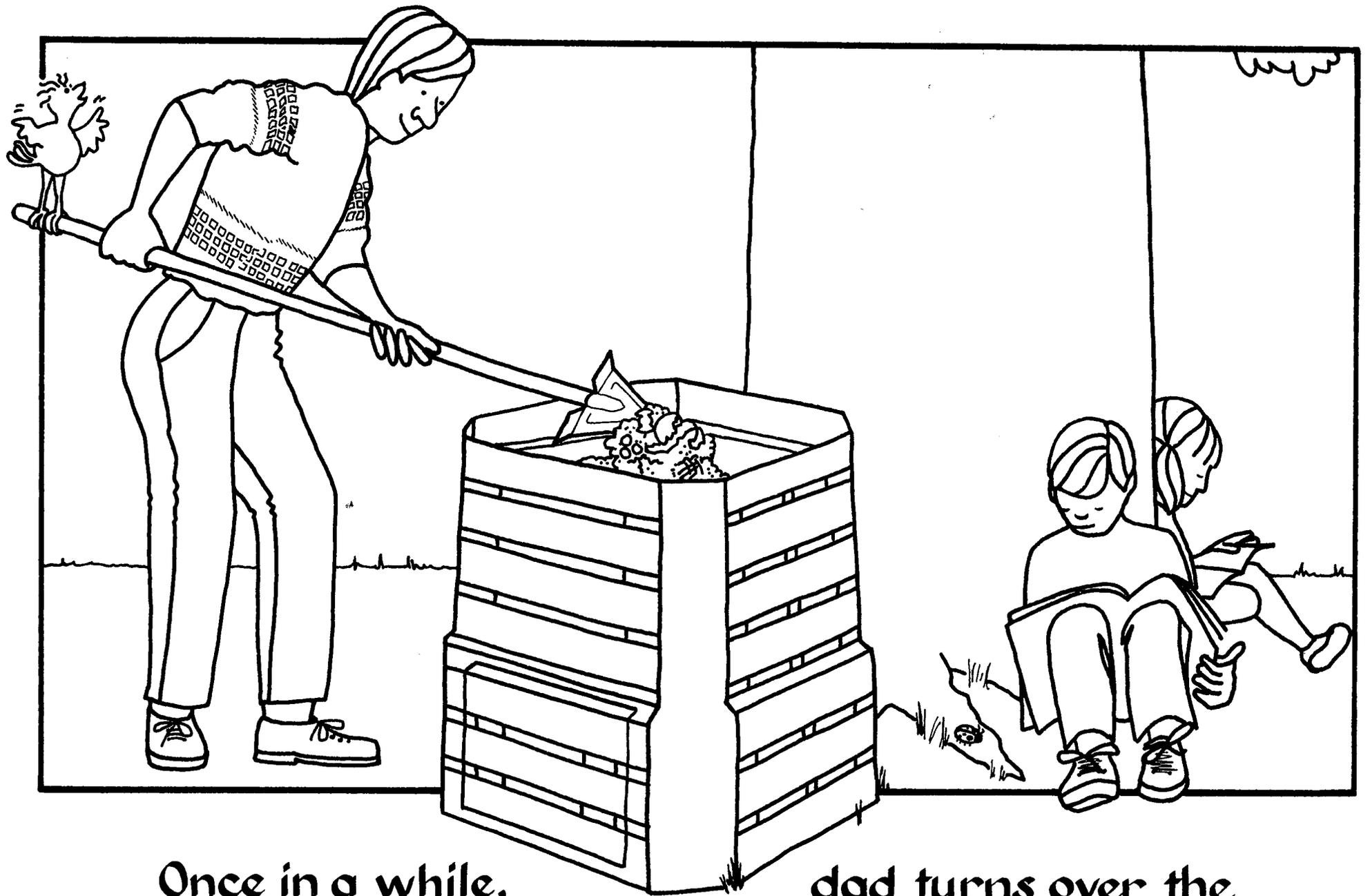




It likes to eat apple peelings and potato peelings.
It likes to eat egg shells and lettuce leaves and
carrot tops too.



“My turn to feed you Magic Box!” I tell it.
“Enjoy your dinner!” my brother says.



Once in a while, dad turns over the food scraps inside of Magic Box. This puts extra air into it.



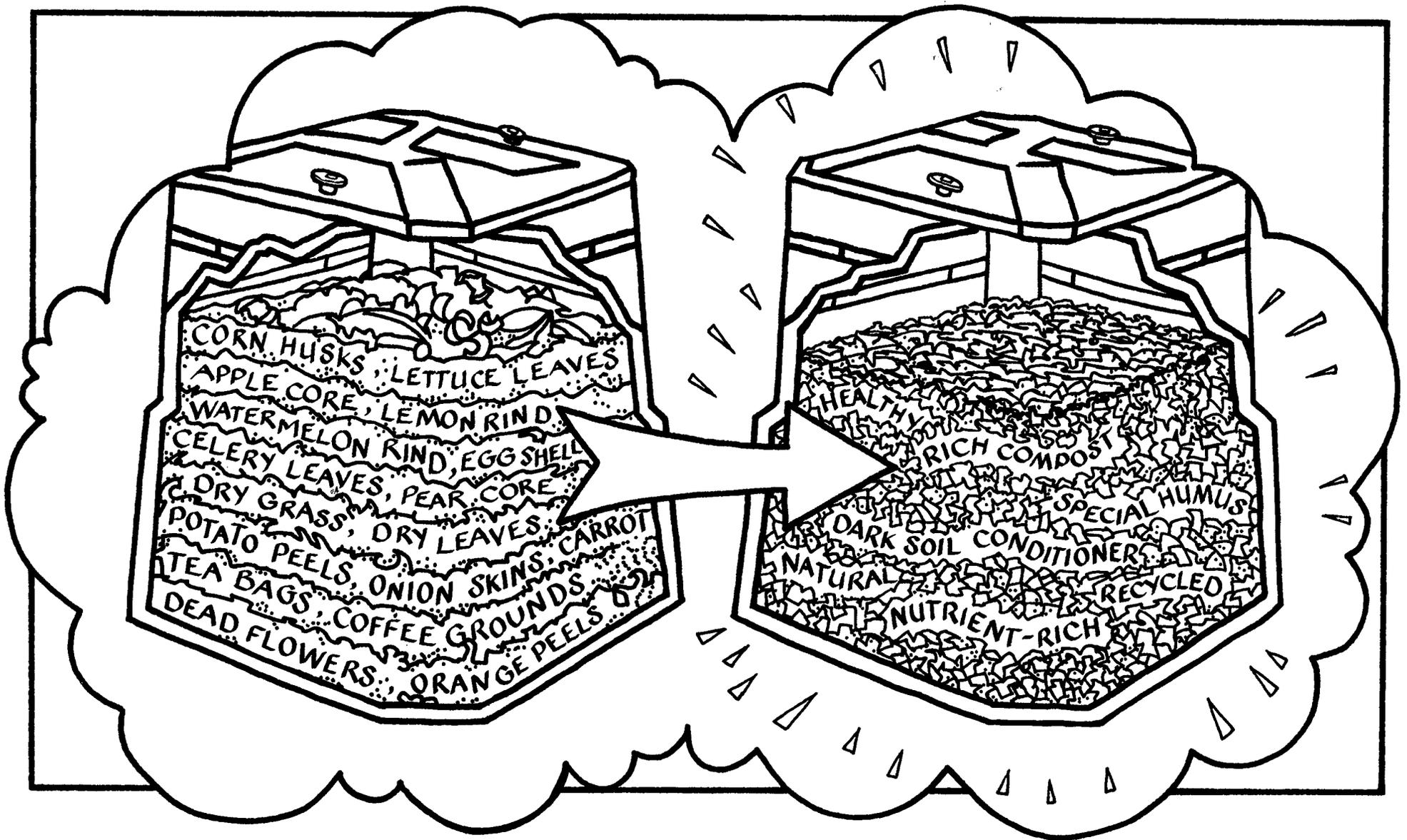


Later on, when we open the little door at the bottom of Magic Box, we will see that our lettuce leaves, carrot tops, apple peels, egg shells and dead flowers have disappeared.

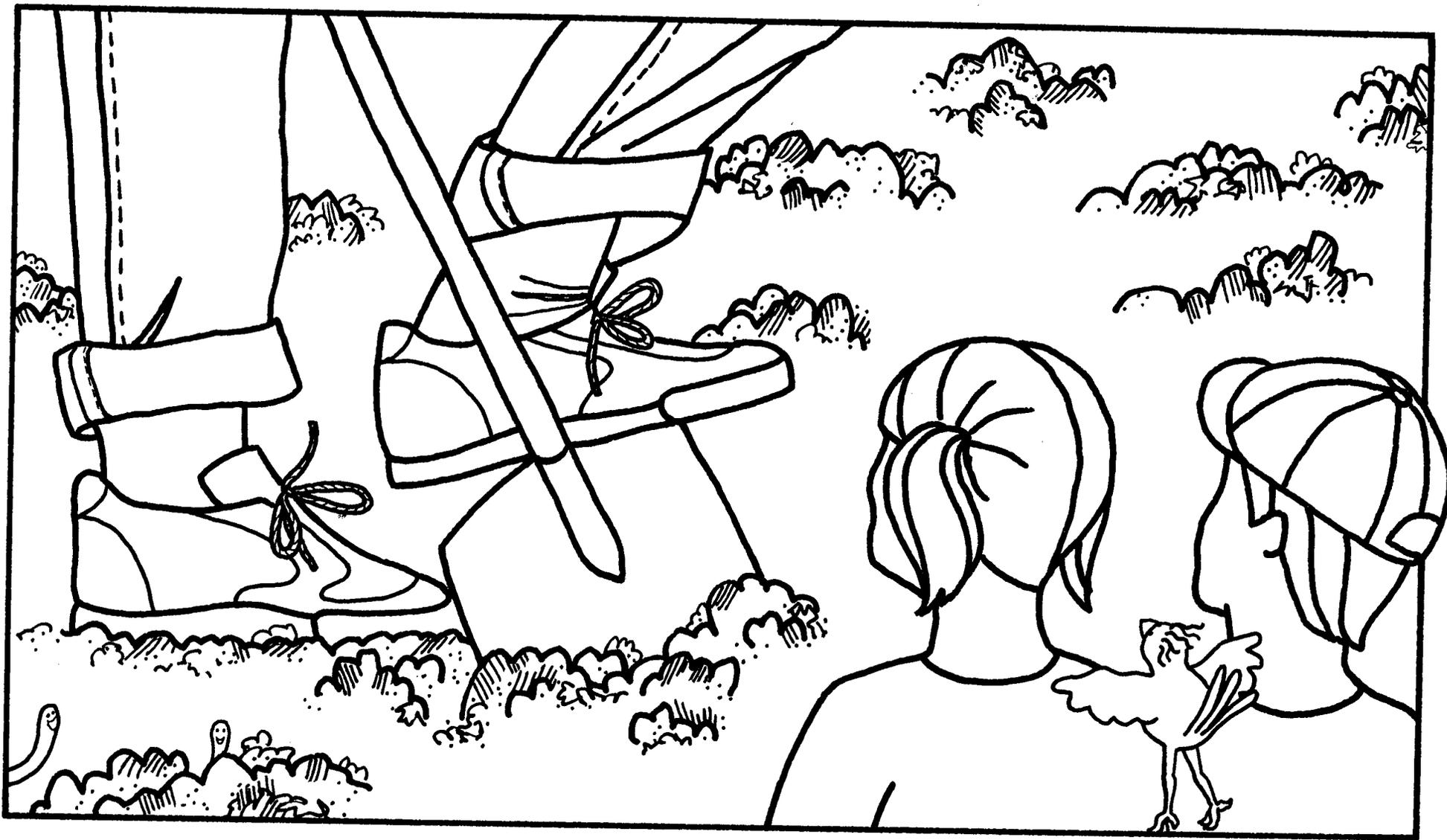


Something very special has happened inside Magic Box.
Can you guess what it is ?

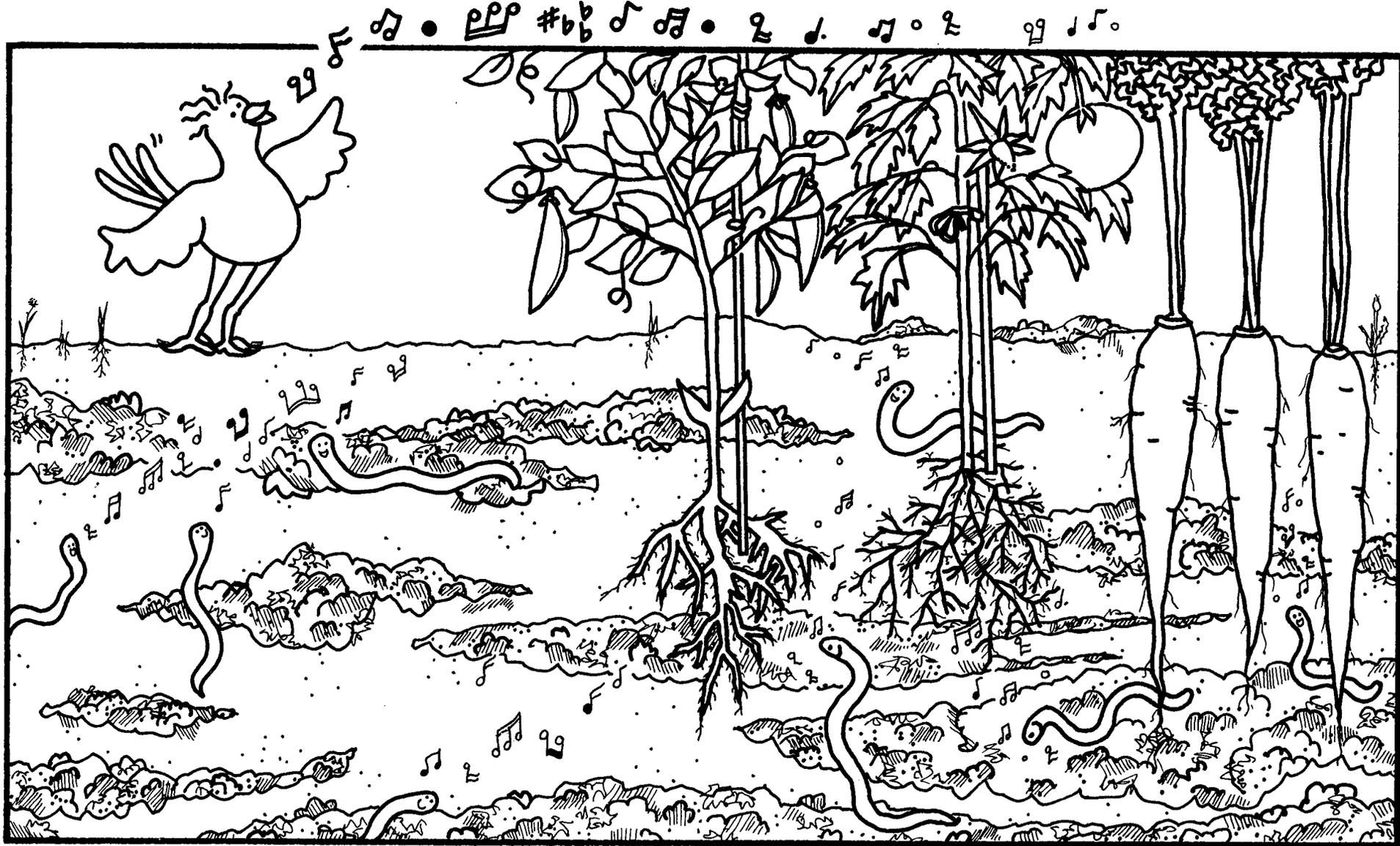




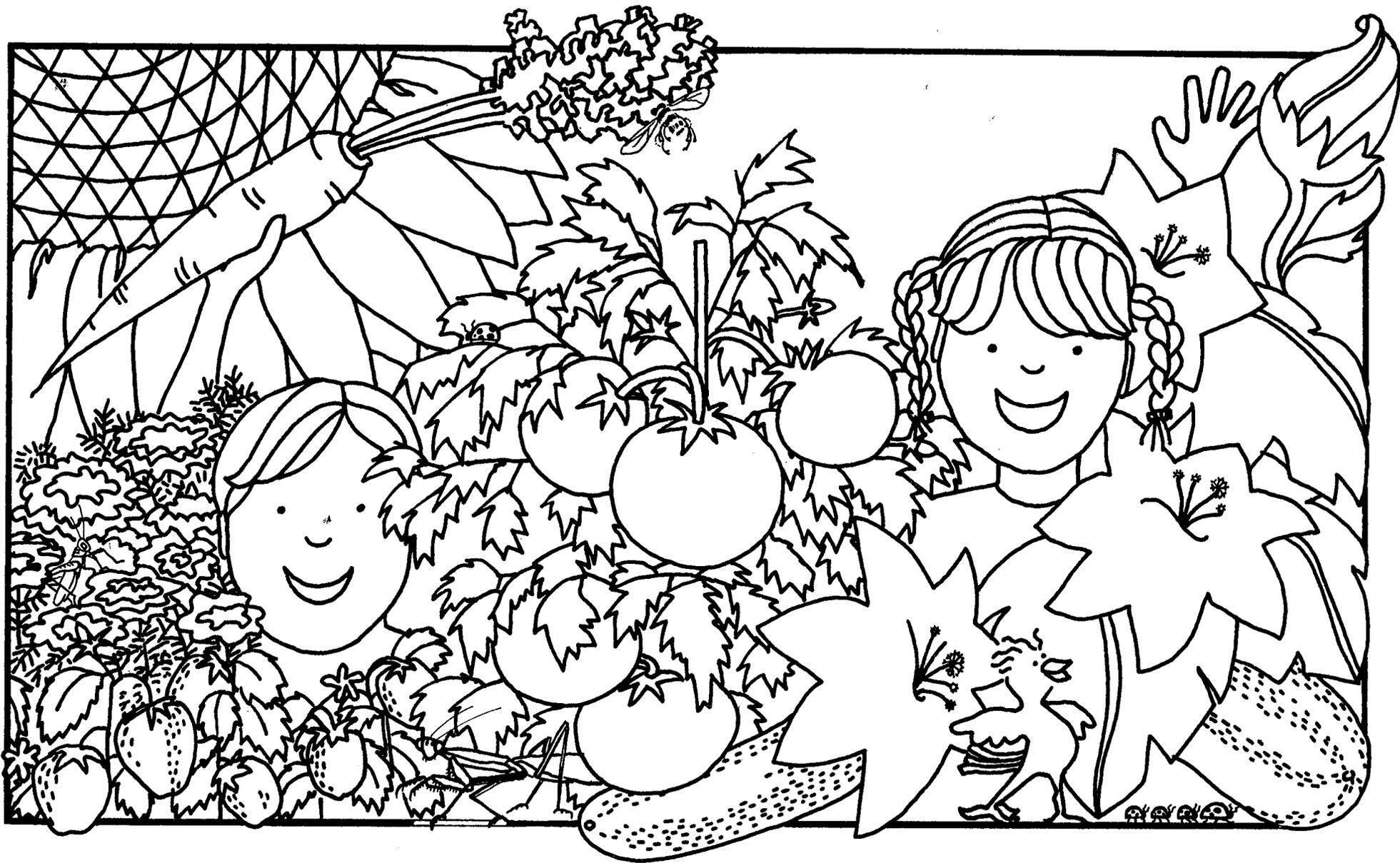
It is composting. The food scraps that we have given to it are turning into rich humus. Humus is a very special soil helper.



In the Spring, dad will remove the humus from the bottom of Magic Box and dig it into the garden.



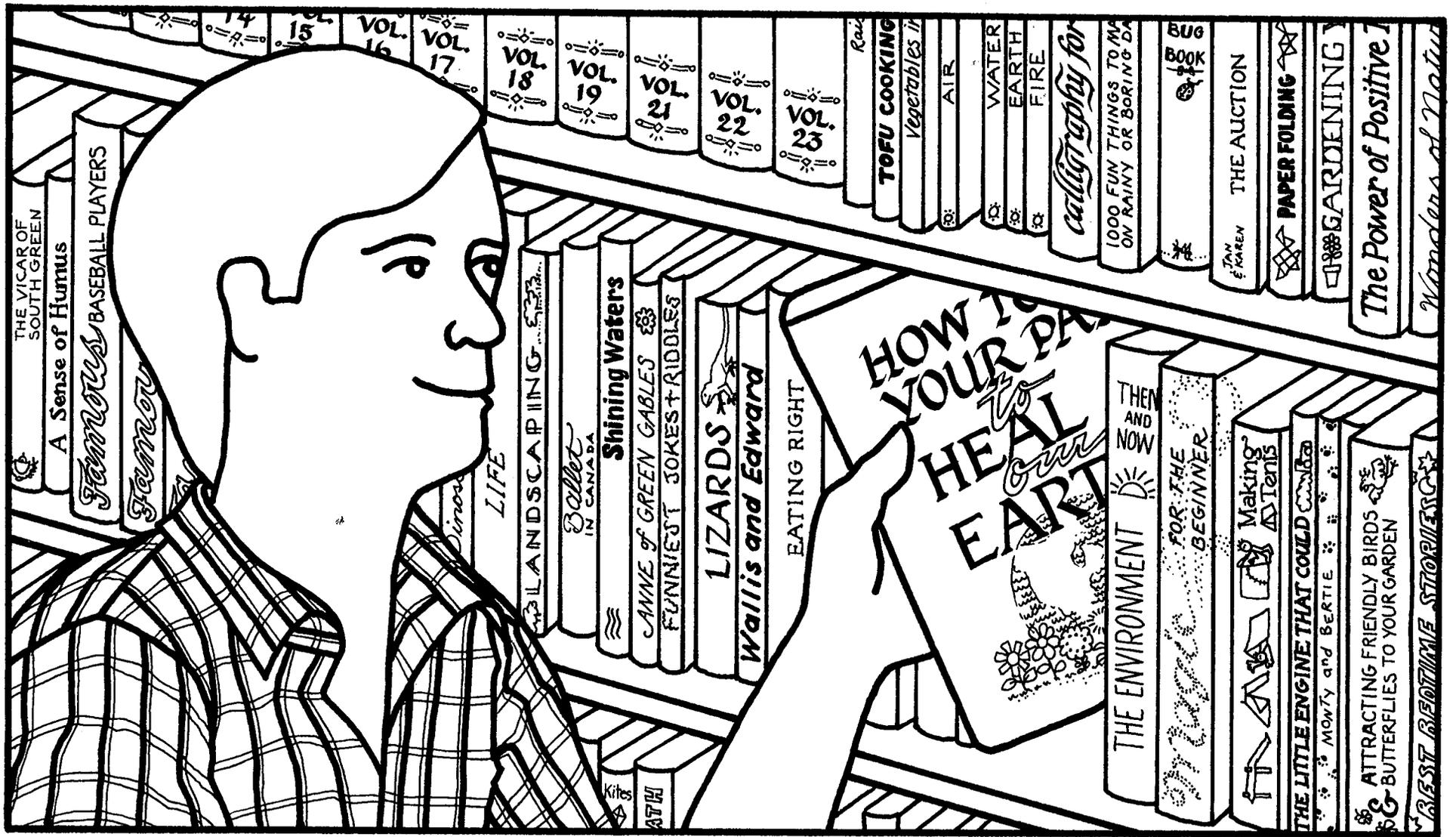
♪ This special humus, also called compost,
will make the garden healthy. ♪
It will help the soil to hold the rain water.



Humus will help all our vegetables to grow big
and taste delicious. In Summer the blooms 
on our flowers will be bigger and brighter too!



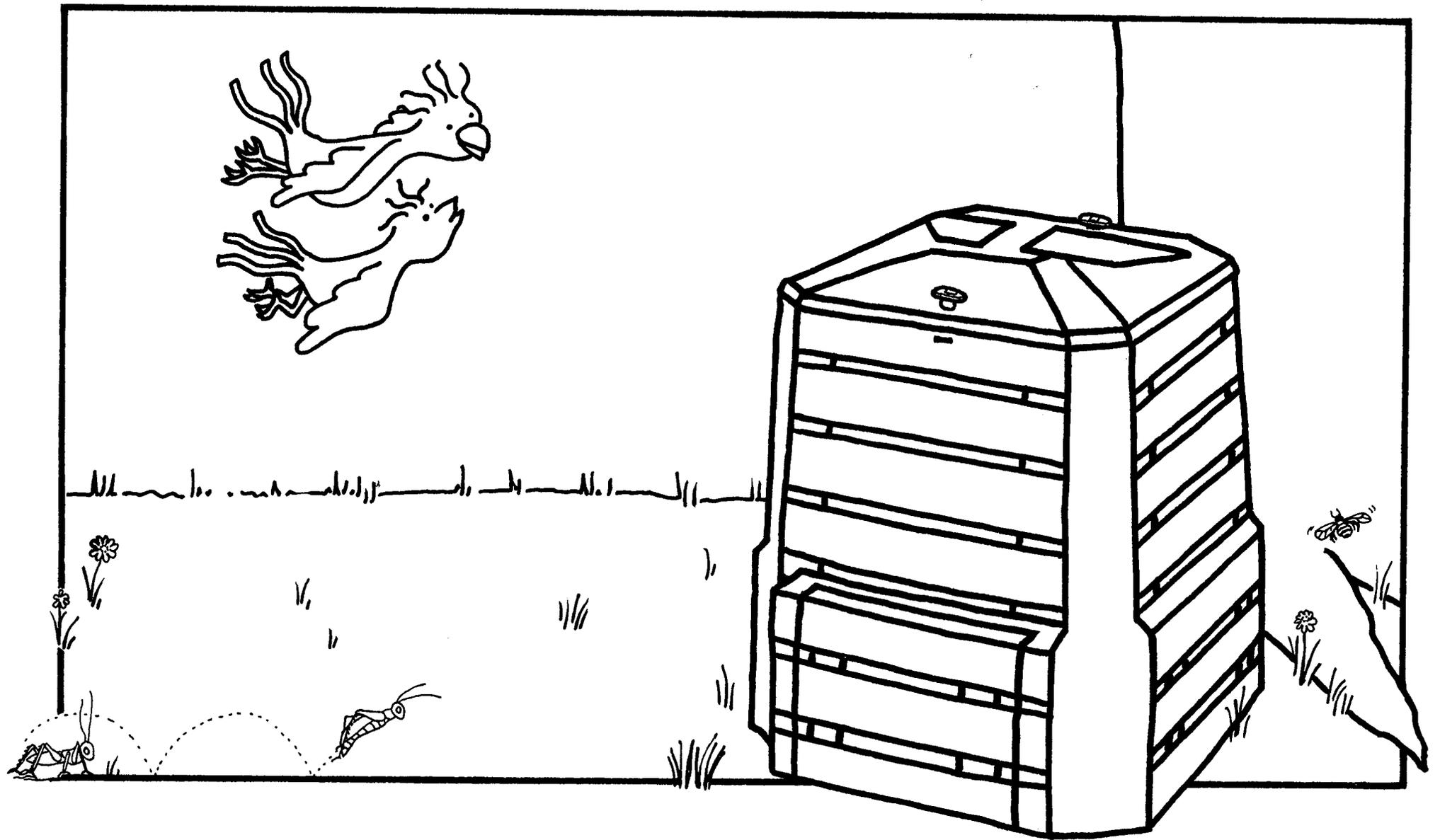
Mom thinks that having a Magic Box in our backyard is a wonderful idea. We now have less household garbage. Our family will help the land-fill site to become smaller.



Dad is happy because Magic Box helps to keep our soil and our environment healthy.



My brother and I are happy because
it is fun to feed Magic Box. ♪ ○



Magic Box is happy too. It is making our yard a greener place!



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