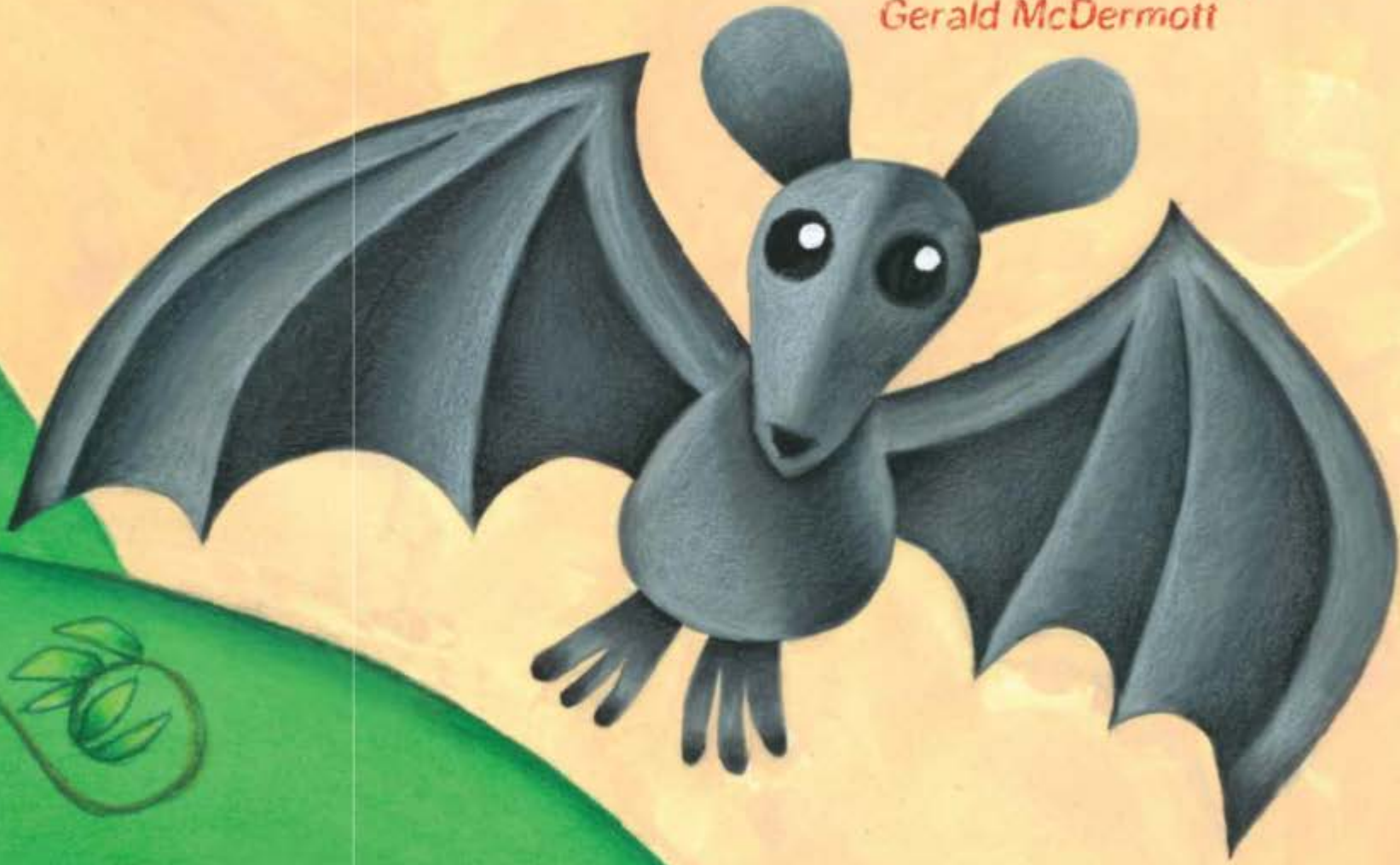




How Bat Got Its Wings

retold and illustrated by
Gerald McDermott



Genre Folktale



Essential Question

How do animals' bodies help them?

Read about how a little bat got its wings.

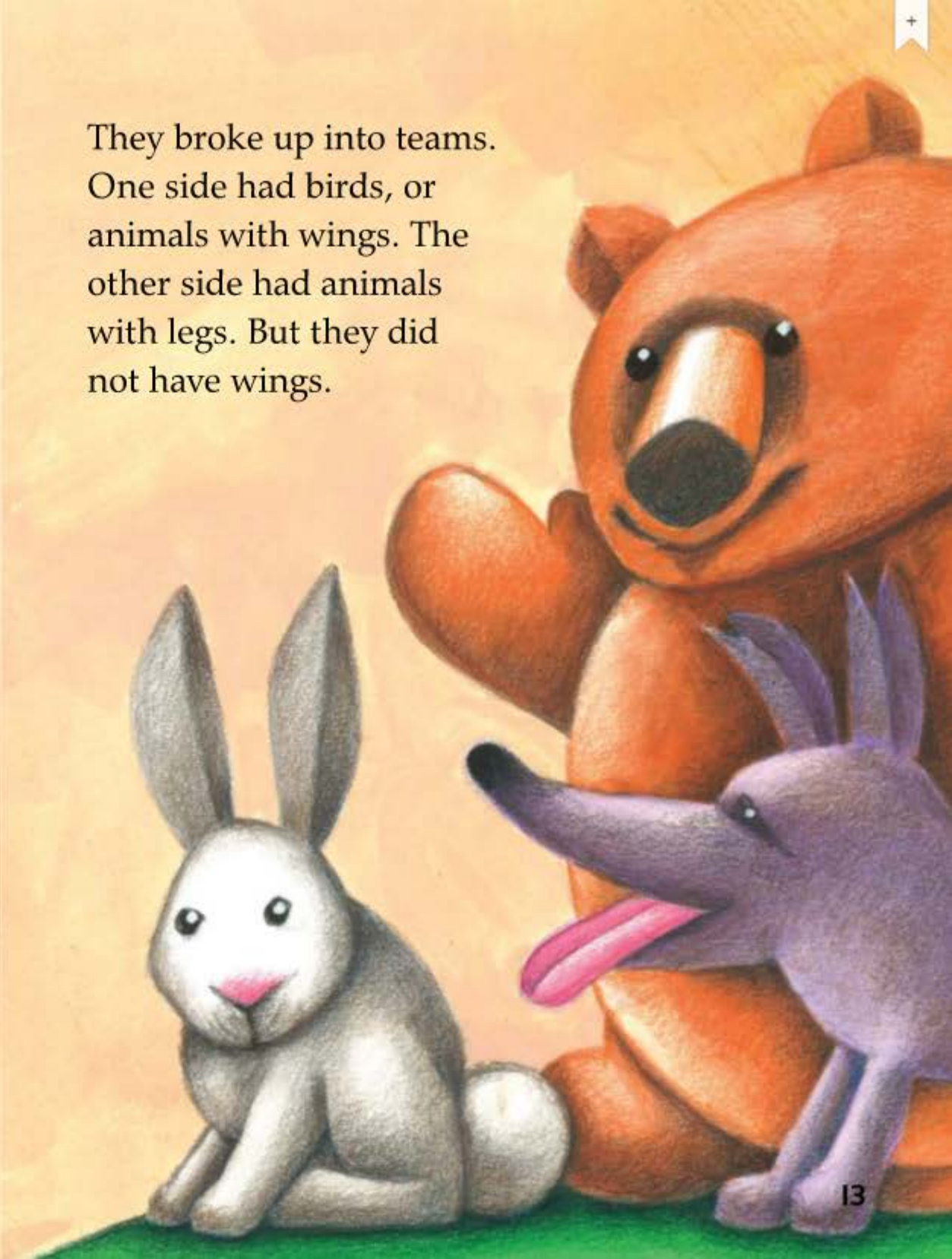


Go Digital!

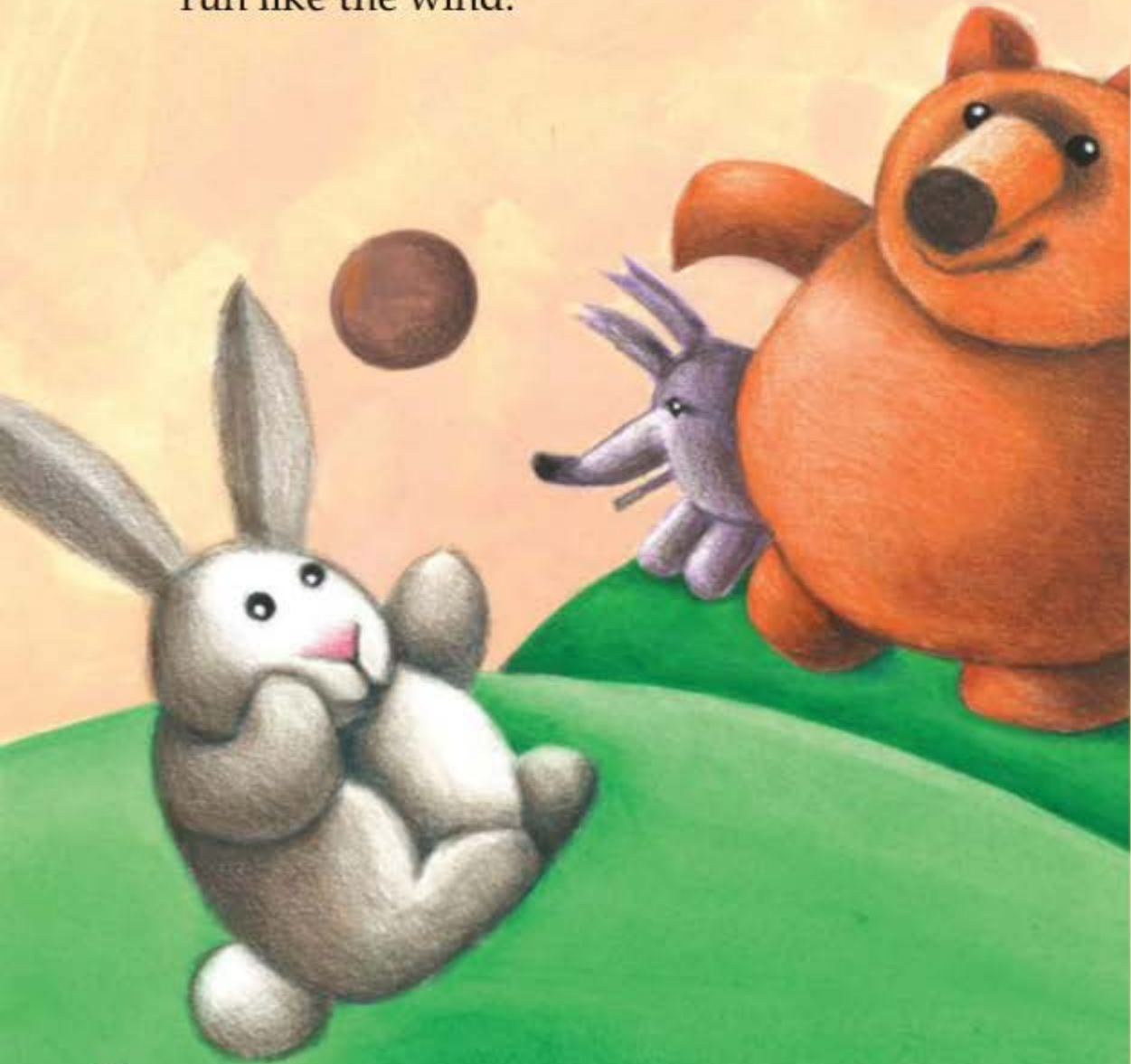


A long time ago, the **animals** had a big game of ball.

They broke up into teams. One side had birds, or animals with wings. The other side had animals with legs. But they did not have wings.



The animals who did not have wings were big and fast. They could toss a ball a long way and run like the wind.



The birds were fast but not as big. Yet with their wings, they could **carry** a ball way up in the air. The animals with legs could not jump up and grab it.



At last, game day came. The animals
and birds met on the playing field.
Both teams felt very excited.

“We will win!” came the calls.



Just then, an animal with four
very little legs stepped up. It was
a gray bat.

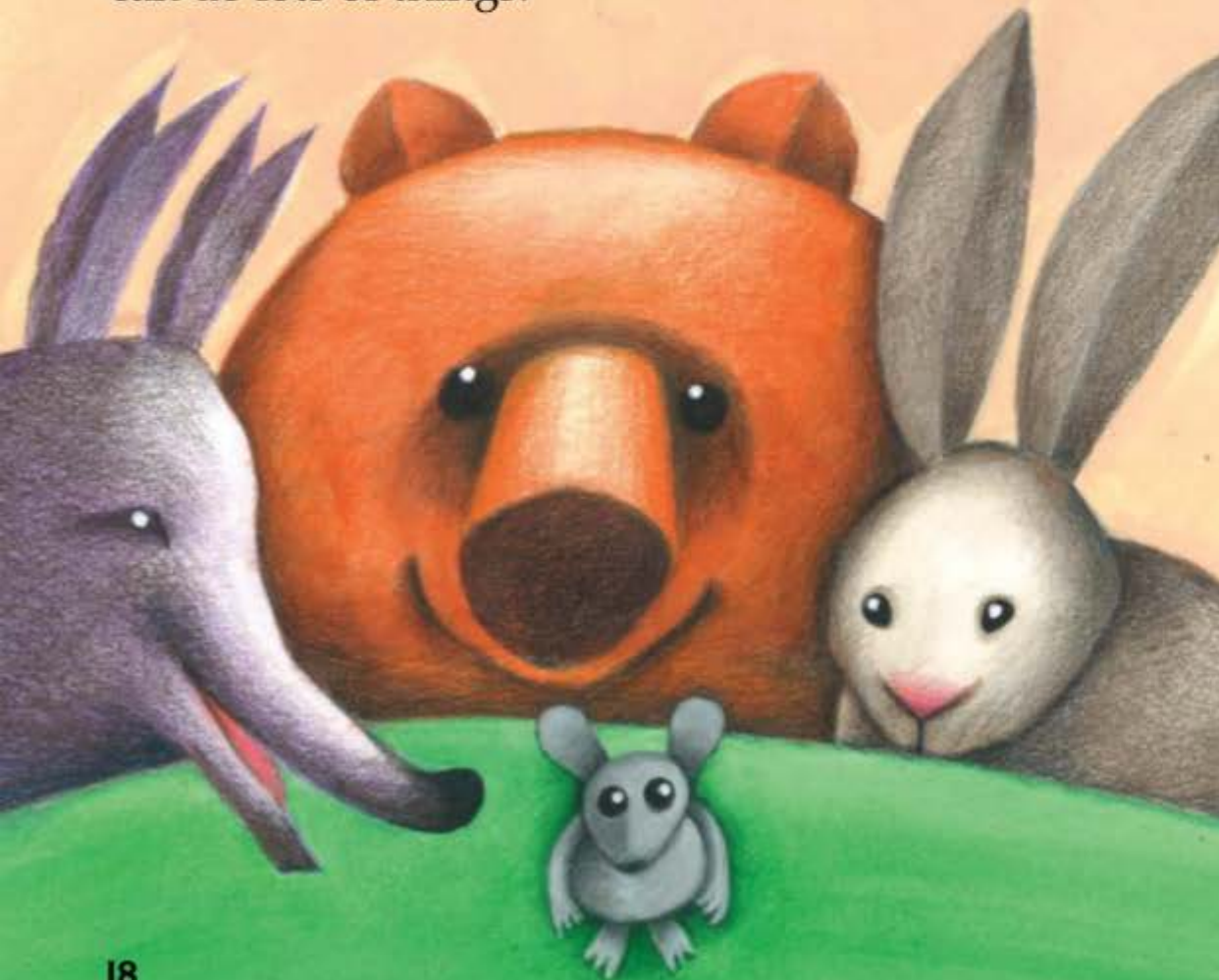
He went to the animals.



“Can I play on this team?” he asked.

“You are much too small to play,”
laughed the animals. “And look at
those little legs. We can’t win with
you!”

“I may be little,” said Gray Bat. “But I
can do lots of things.”



Next, Gray Bat went to the birds.

“Can I play on this team?” he asked.

The birds shook their heads. “**Our**
team has wings,” they explained.

“But the animals say I am not big
and can’t play with them,”
said Gray Bat.



Then Blue Jay spoke up. "Maybe there is a way for Gray Bat to play with us."

"Tell us **about** it," said Raven.

"We can **give** him wings!" said Blue Jay.

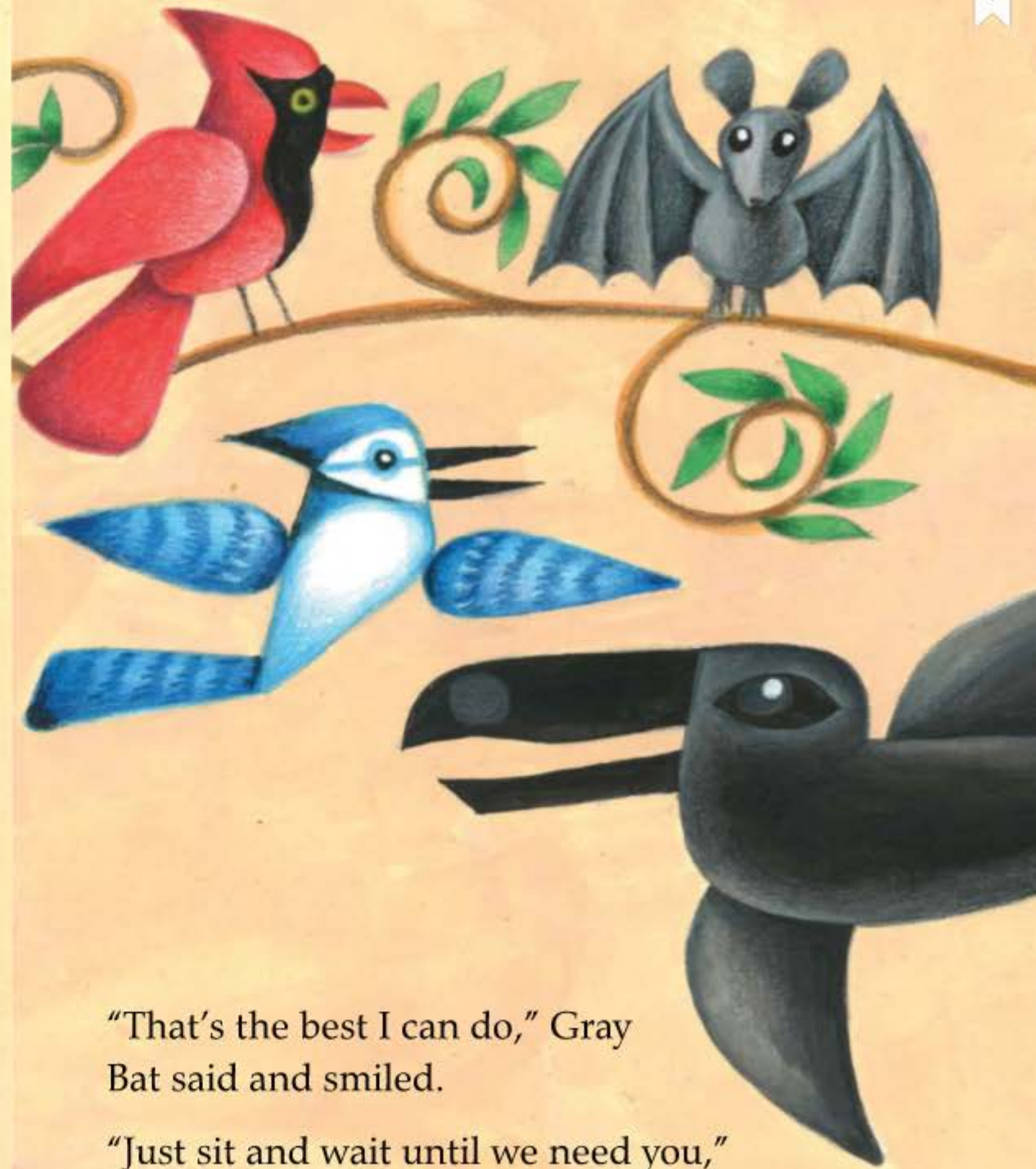
"That is **splendid!**" Cardinal exclaimed.



So the birds took the skin off the top of a big drum. Then they took sticks and made **special** wings for Gray Bat.



"Let's see if he can fly," said Blue Jay.
Gray Bat flapped his wings.
He went zig and zag. He could not go
in a line like a real bird.



"That's the best I can do," Gray
Bat said and smiled.

"Just sit and wait until we need you,"
said the birds.



At last, the game began.

The animals and birds played their best to win. The ball zipped up and down.

Gray Bat just sat and waited.



When the end of the game was close, each team had **eight** points. Gray Bat still had not played.

With a little time left, the animals took the ball and ran with it.

Just then, Gray Bat stood up.

"Let me help," he said.

He flew up, up, up with his special wings. He grabbed the ball and carried it in his zig-zag way. The animals could not catch him.



"We win!" yelled the birds. "Gray Bat did it!"

To this day, Gray Bat plays on the bird team. He flies in his own way.

And that is how the bat got wings.

About the Author

Gerald McDermott says, "Animals, animals, animals! I love to draw them jumping and hopping and flying across the pages of my books. You can draw animals, too!" Gerald McDermott has illustrated folktales starring interesting animals from all over the world.



Author's Purpose

Gerald McDermott wanted to retell an old folktale. Think of a story about an animal. Draw the animal in your story. Write about it.



Respond to the Text

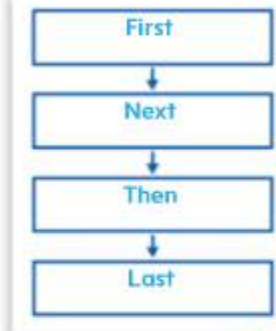
Retell

Use your own words to retell *How Bat Got Its Wings* in order.

Write

Write a folktale explaining how an animal got a special body part. Use these sentence starters:

At first, my animal....
Then, my animal gets....
The body part helps my animal....



Make Connections



? Think of an animal you know. How could it use its body to help win a game? **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**



Genre Nonfiction

Compare Texts

Read about how bats live.

Bats!

Bats!

Bats!



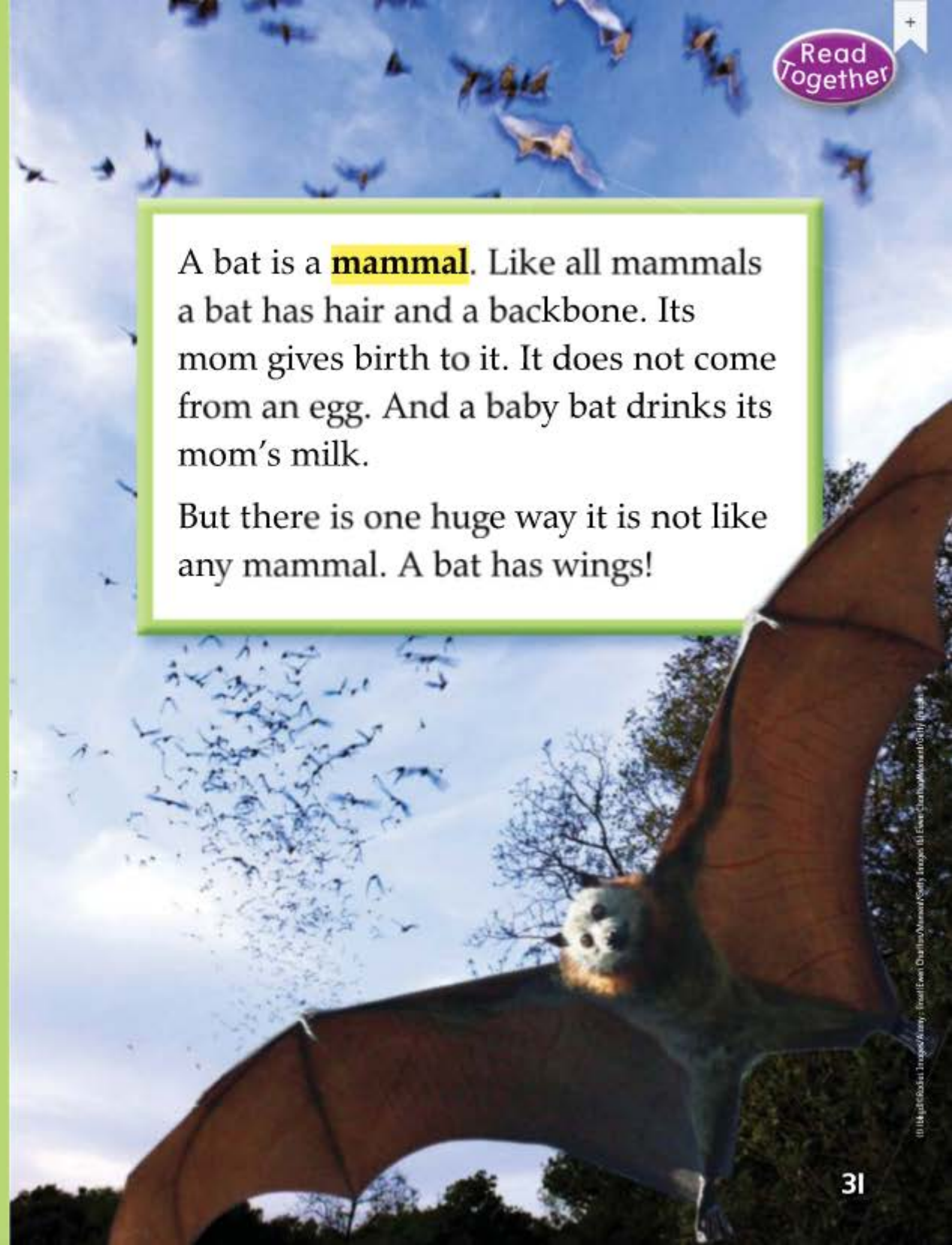
A bat is a special animal. There are more than 1,200 kinds of bats. A bat can be black. It can be white. It can be gray. It can have spots. The biggest bat has a wing span of 6 feet!



Read Together

A bat is a **mammal**. Like all mammals a bat has hair and a backbone. Its mom gives birth to it. It does not come from an egg. And a baby bat drinks its mom's milk.

But there is one huge way it is not like any mammal. A bat has wings!



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Bat or Bird?



Body Part	Bat	Bird
Ears	Big ears to hear at night	No big ears, but has small holes on side of head
Covering	Fur (hair)	Feathers
Wings	Two wings made of thin skin and hair; four fingers and a thumb on each wing	Two wings with feathers
Legs	Two short legs with claws	Two long legs with claws
Nose	Big nose that comes in many shapes and sizes	No nose, but has a bill, or beak

A bat is the only mammal that can fly. But it is not a **bird**.

Look at the chart. It tells the ways a bat and a bird are the same and different.



Bats like to make homes in caves and trees. These homes are called roosts. Lots of bats live together in a roost.

It is daytime. But the bats stay at home to sleep. They like to hang upside down.



At night, the bat wakes up and **hunts**. How does a bat get food when it can't see? A bat makes a sound. When the sound wave hits something, an echo bounces back. The echo tells the bat if something to eat is close.

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Bats help people a lot. A bat can eat hundreds of bugs in an hour. This protects crops because the bugs don't eat them.

Then the bat drops plant seeds. This helps new plants grow. Bats are our friends!



Make Connections
? Why is a bat a special animal? **Essential Question**



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