Webster's Gecko Goof

Clicky and Nettie were baking muffins one Sunday afternoon
While Router sat waiting for drips from the spoon.
Suddenly, Webster dashed in with exciting news.
A brand new reptile was coming to the zoo!

“It’s a yellow-spotted fire gecko, and it’s so cool!”
“Really?” teased Nettie. “I bet all it does is drool.”
“Nuh-uh!” said Webster. “Uh-huh!” Nettie said.
“Don’t argue,” interrupted Clicky. “Look up the facts instead.”
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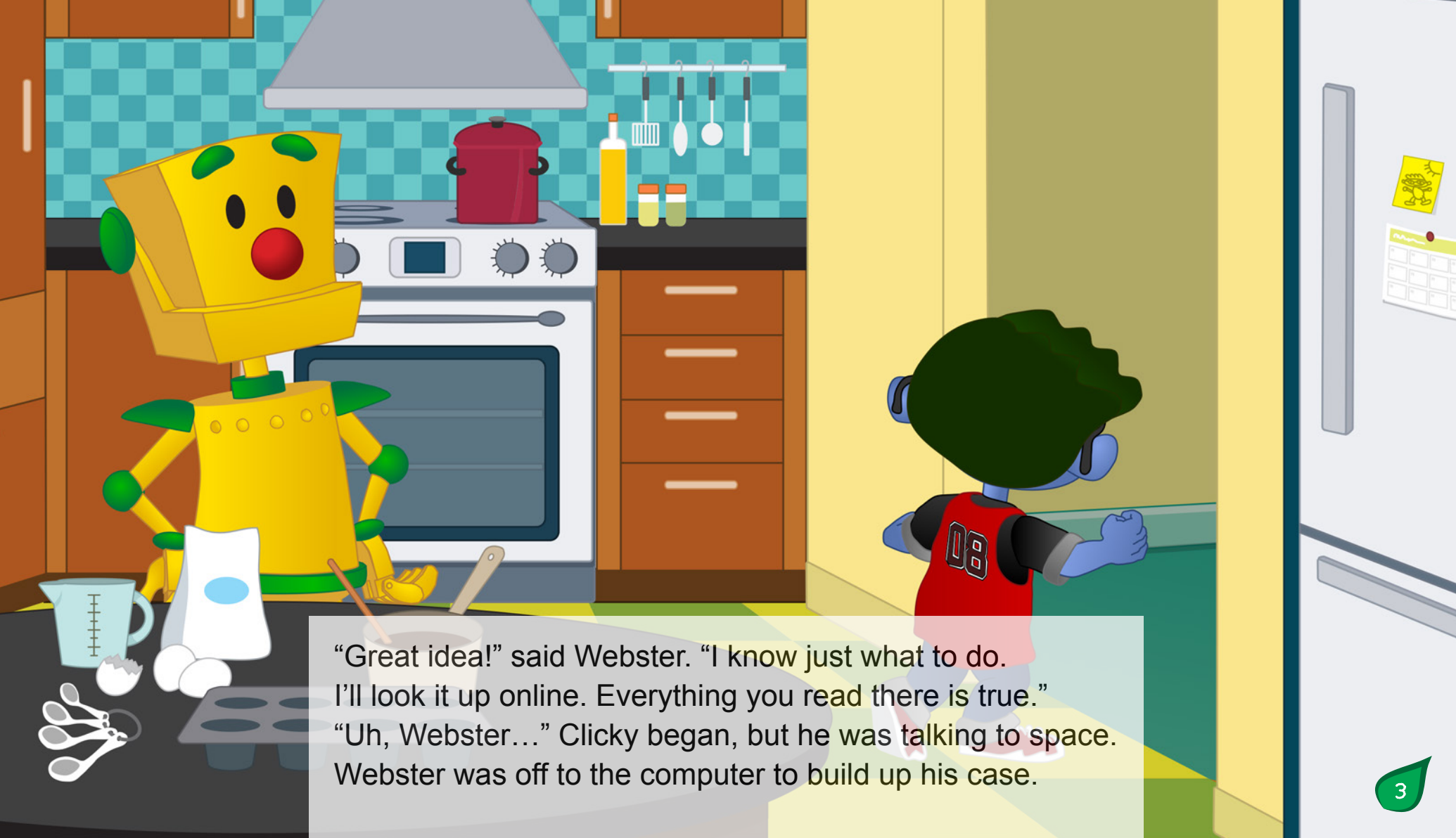
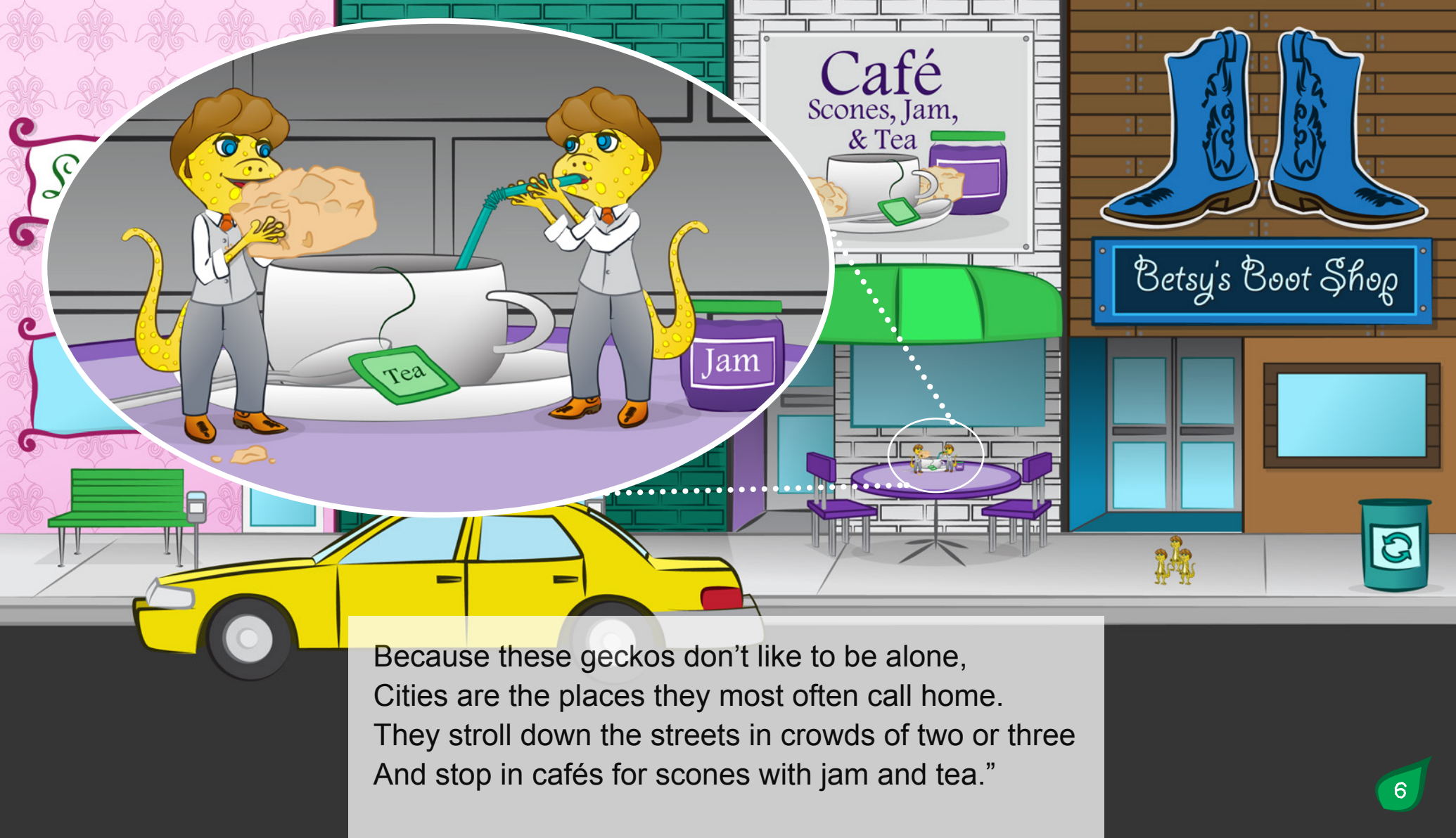


“Great idea!” said Webster. “I know just what to do.
I’ll look it up online. Everything you read there is true.”
“Uh, Webster…” Clicky began, but he was talking to space.
Webster was off to the computer to build up his case.

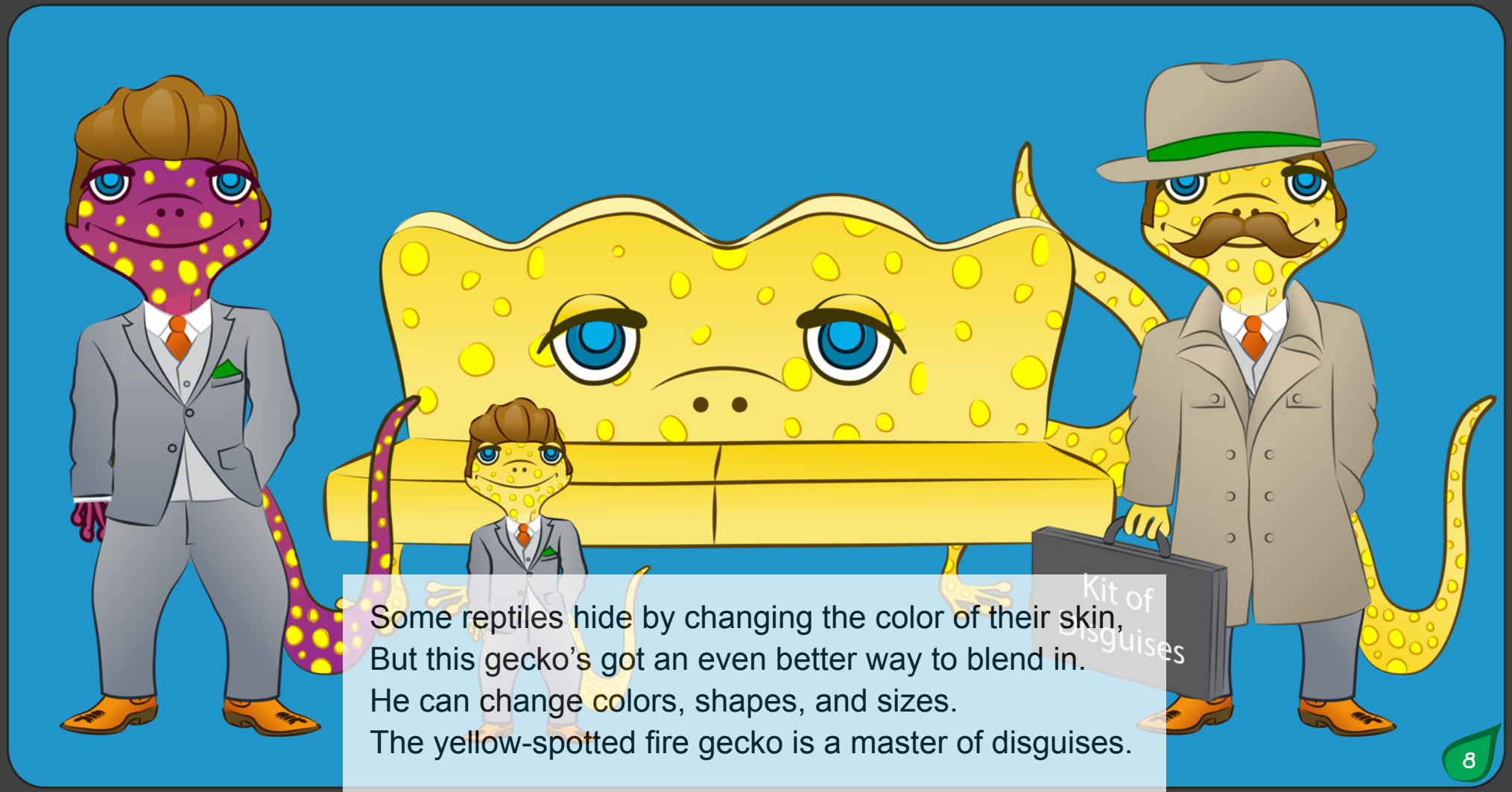
"Aha!" Webster exclaimed. "TotallyTrueZooFacts.com. They'll have what I need to prove Nettie wrong!" And because the information was on a website, Webster never considered that it might not be right.

“The yellow-spotted fire gecko,” Webster read, “is a rare reptile,
Easily identified by his pompadour hairstyle.
The gecko likes to dress up, most often in suits,
Accompanied by a pair of orange cowboy boots.



Because these geckos don't like to be alone,
Cities are the places they most often call home.
They stroll down the streets in crowds of two or three
And stop in cafés for scones with jam and tea."

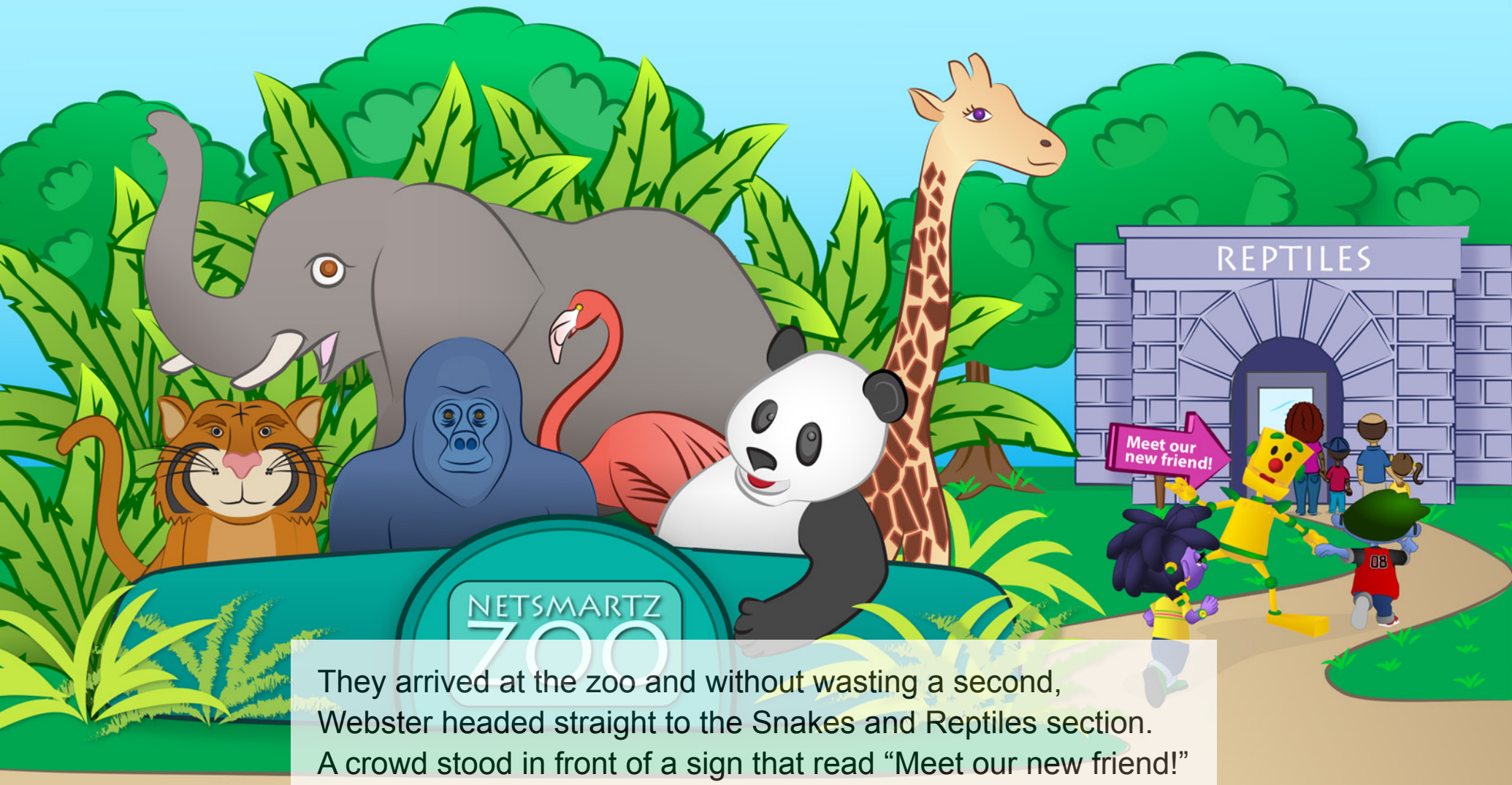
“Tea-drinking geckos?” Nettie interrupted. “That sounds absurd! I don’t believe this. Not one single word.”
“Webster,” asked Clicky, “is this really all true?”
“Yes!” said Webster. “And there’s even more it can do!



Some reptiles hide by changing the color of their skin,
But this gecko's got an even better way to blend in.
He can change colors, shapes, and sizes.
The yellow-spotted fire gecko is a master of disguises.

The gecko juggles and flies on a trapeze
While reciting poetry in Latin and Japanese.
And if that isn't enough to brighten your day,
He also makes the world's best chocolate soufflé!"

“Wow-wee!” exclaimed Webster. “This is better than I dreamed!”
“Careful,” cautioned Clicky, “things online aren’t always what they seem.
We should take a trip to the zoo to check our facts
And make sure the information from that site is on track.”



They arrived at the zoo and without wasting a second, Webster headed straight to the Snakes and Reptiles section. A crowd stood in front of a sign that read “Meet our new friend!” Eagerly, Clicky, Nettie, and Webster joined right in.

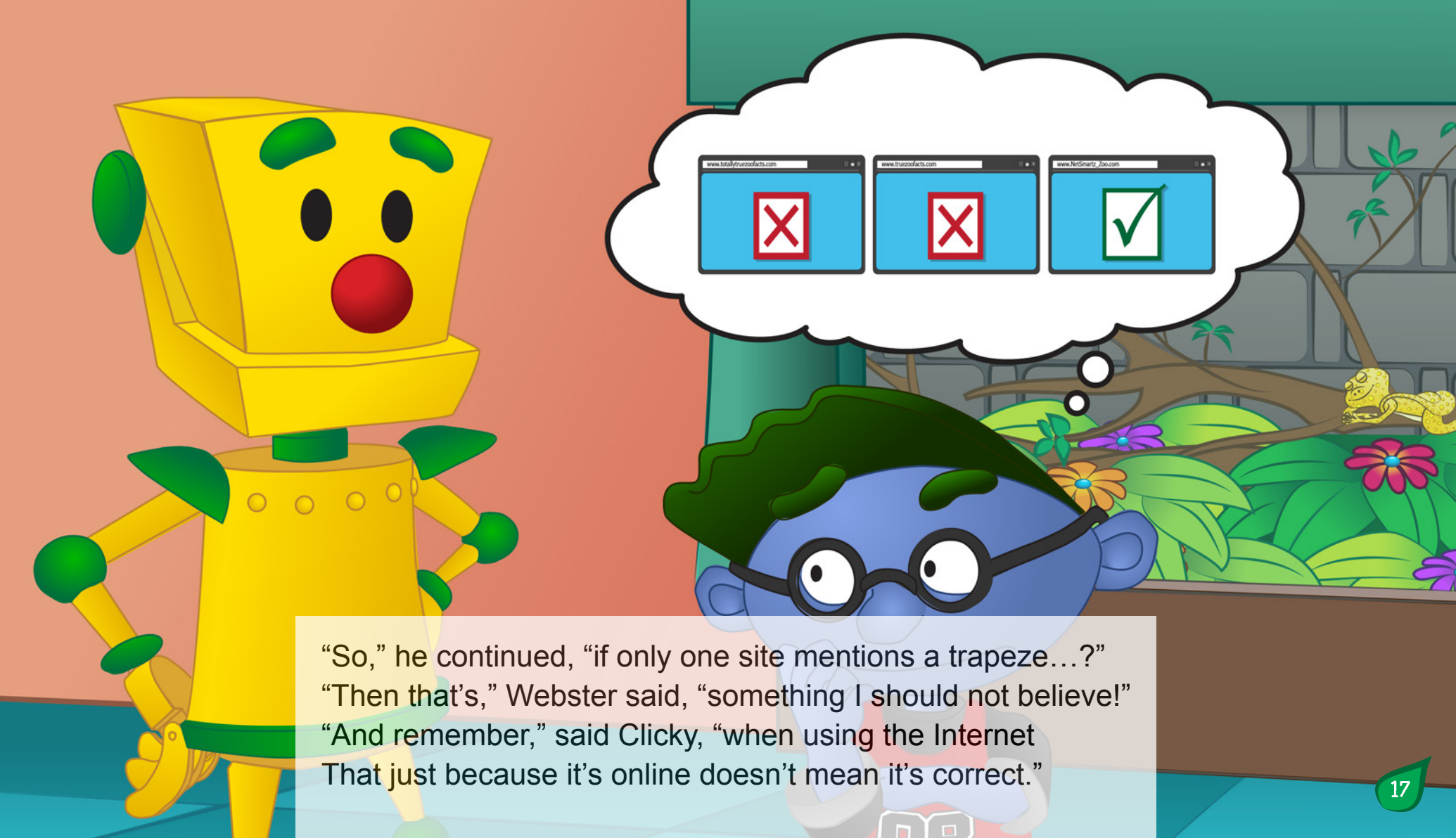
Suddenly, the curtains opened and the crowd gasped
Because finally, there, behind the glass
Was the creature they had all come to meet,
Curled up on a tree branch, fast asleep.

Webster looked the gecko over, his face full of doubt.
Where were all the cool things he'd read about?
He saw no suit, no boots, no pompadour.
Just a tiny lizard sleeping and nothing more!

“Hi there!” called a zookeeper with a smile.
“Are you here to meet our newest reptile?
I’m bringing him a delicious treat.
Would you like to see what geckos eat?”

YUCK! Mealworms, crickets, and slimy insects!
This was not at all what Webster had been led to expect.
The zookeeper grinned and said, “It’s a gecko buffet.”
Webster said, “I read they ate scones and chocolate soufflé.”

“Webster,” asked Clicky, “did you triple-check your facts?”
“Triple-checking,” echoed Webster. “What’s that?”
Clicky replied, “It’s how you test a fact to see if it’s true.
It should be on 3 trustworthy sites, like those that end in .gov or .edu.”



"So," he continued, "if only one site mentions a trapeze…?"
"Then that's," Webster said, "something I should not believe!"
"And remember," said Clicky, "when using the Internet
That just because it's online doesn't mean it's correct."

“Thanks, Clicky!” said Webster. “I think I’ve got it.
And if there’s false information, I’ll know how to spot it!”
“Still,” he said, as they turned to leave,
“I wish he did speak Japanese.”

"Sorry," said the gecko, "couldn't manage.
But I'll have you know, I'm quite good at Spanish."

Webster's found a website that claims all of its information is true. But some of its facts seem strange.

Now Webster is wondering—
can you really trust everything you read online?

Join Webster in learning how to tell
if a website is trustworthy in

Webster's Gecko Goof

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