THE HAPPY PUPPET

by Frederique

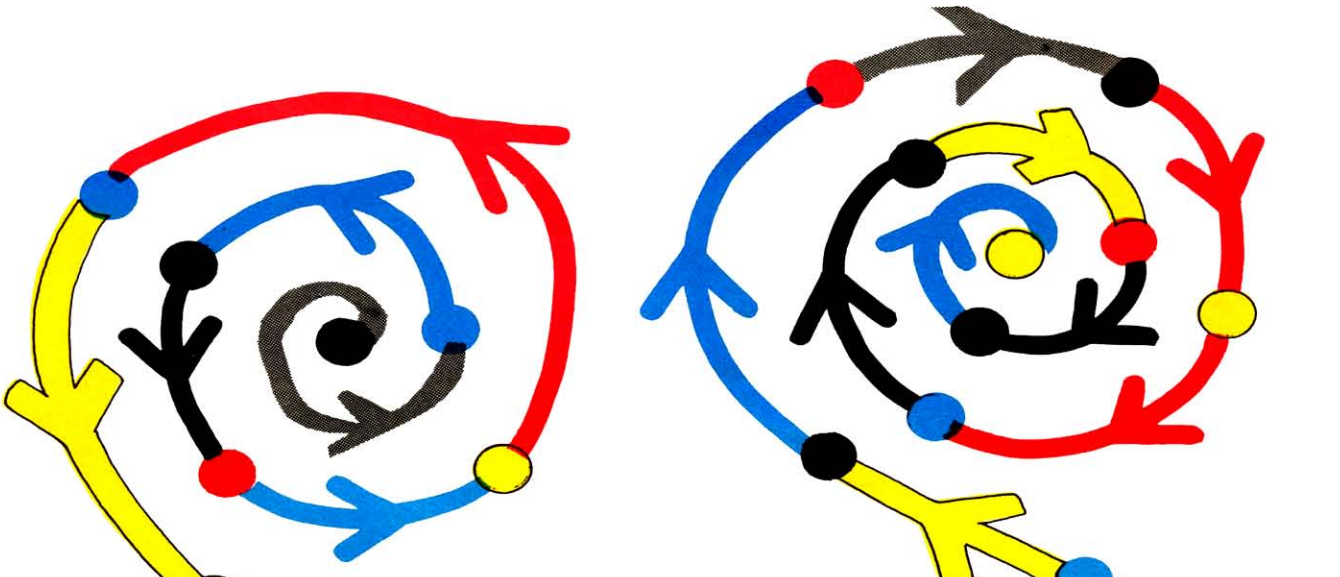**Pictures / Design**
Rebecca Baker
Elliot Green

I talk a lot.
I like playing and making noise.
I like to dance and to sing.
When I am sad, I cry.
When I am happy, I laugh.
I have no legs, but I can run and jump and tumble.
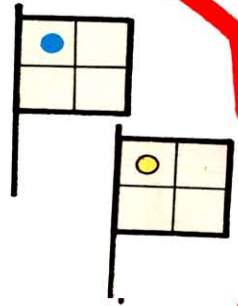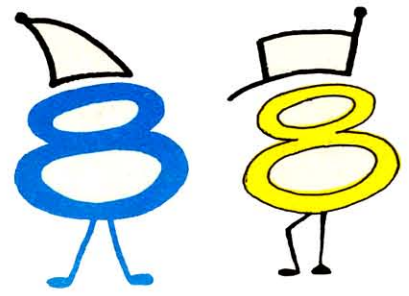All children are my friends.
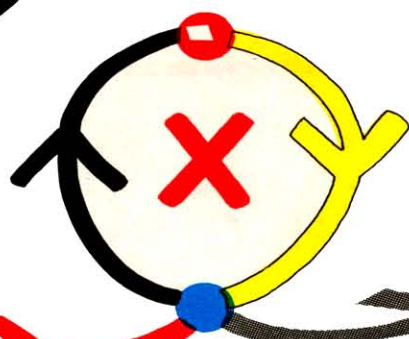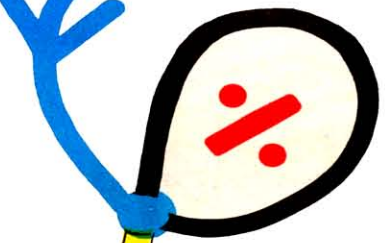Who am I?

JUST A HAND-PUPPET.

|| + || + || + || + || + || + || + ||

I like to play with words,
with numbers, with dots,
with lines, with arrows, with strings,
with secret signs, and with children.
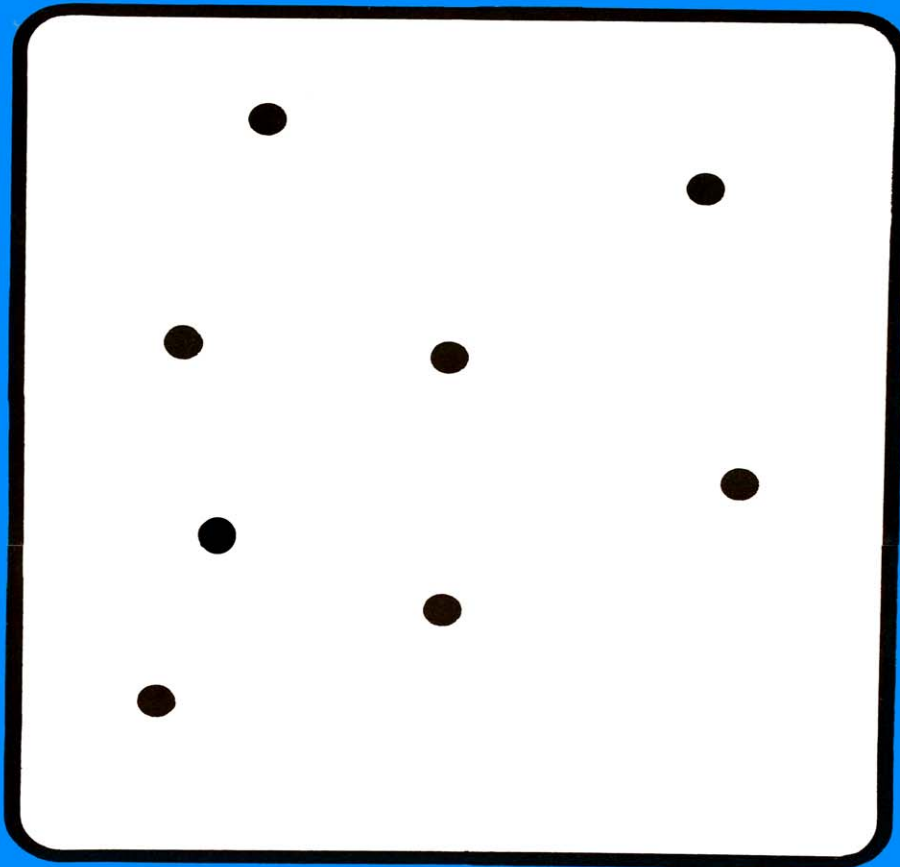
I am a magician in a strange world.

44 + 44

Dots are some of my friends.
I understand them very well.
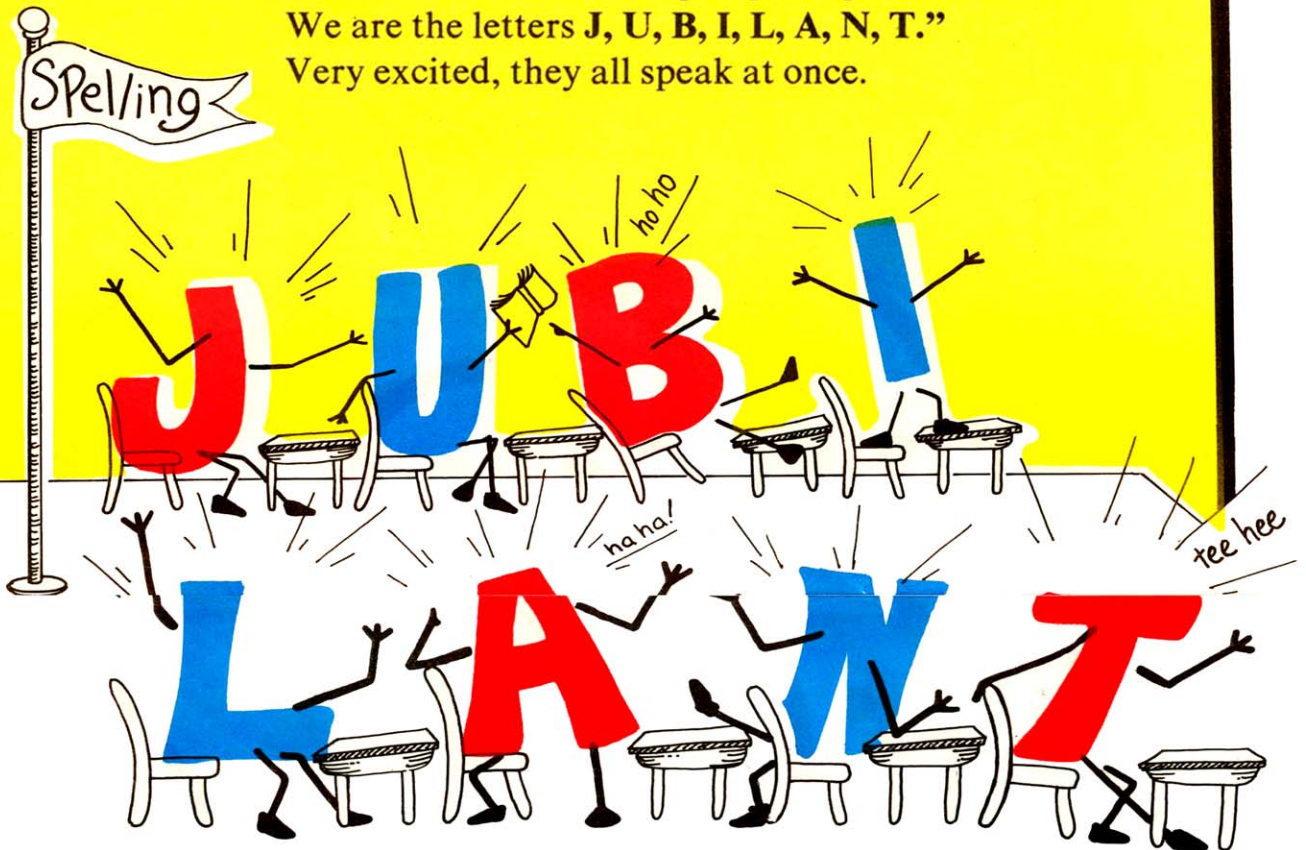Often when we play, I juggle them.
Here are some of my friends.

"We are the eight tiny children of momma dog.
Ruff, ruff," they bark.

Some minutes later, they change their minds.
"We are eight heavy hippopotamuses," they say.
"We are almost 100 years old."

"Look! We are at school.
We are the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8."

"And now, we are having a spelling lesson.
We are the letters J, U, B, I, L, A, N, T."
Very excited, they all speak at once.

"Here we are again," they shout.
"We are in the playground. We are not so
much alike anymore."
"I am the moon," says one of my friends.
"And I am a candle."
"I am a mountain."
"And I am a little stone."
"I am your nose."
"And I am an ice cream cone."
"I am a snake."
"And I am your poisonous tongue."
"But, there is something we cannot change,"
they add. "There are always eight of us."

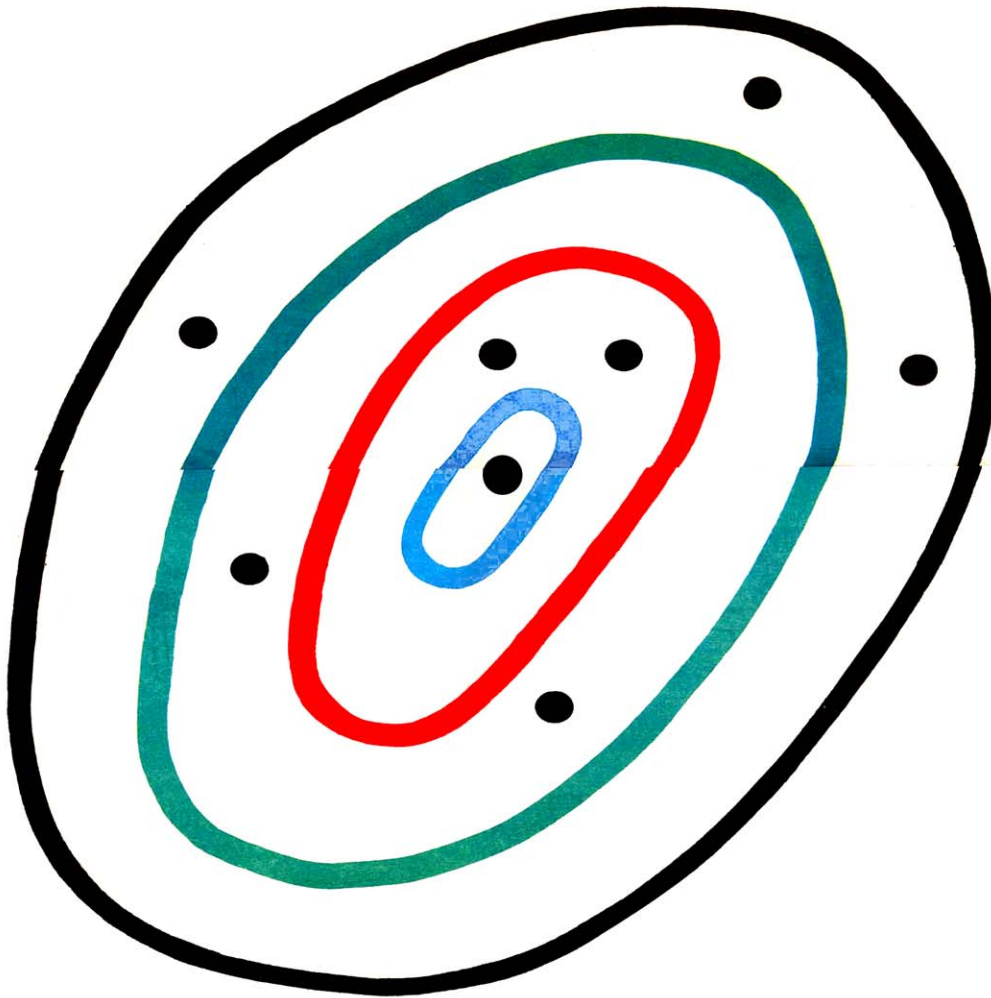Now my eight friends are playing inside some strings.

"We are rabbits," they say, "and we are all inside the black string."
"Exactly five of us are white rabbits. They are inside the green string."
"Exactly three of us have a broken leg. They are inside the red string."
"One and only one of us has a cold and sneezes all of the time.
Look inside the blue string."

CAN YOU POINT TO THE TWO WHITE RABBITS WHO
DID NOT BREAK A LEG?

CAN YOU POINT TO THE TWO RABBITS WHO HAVE A
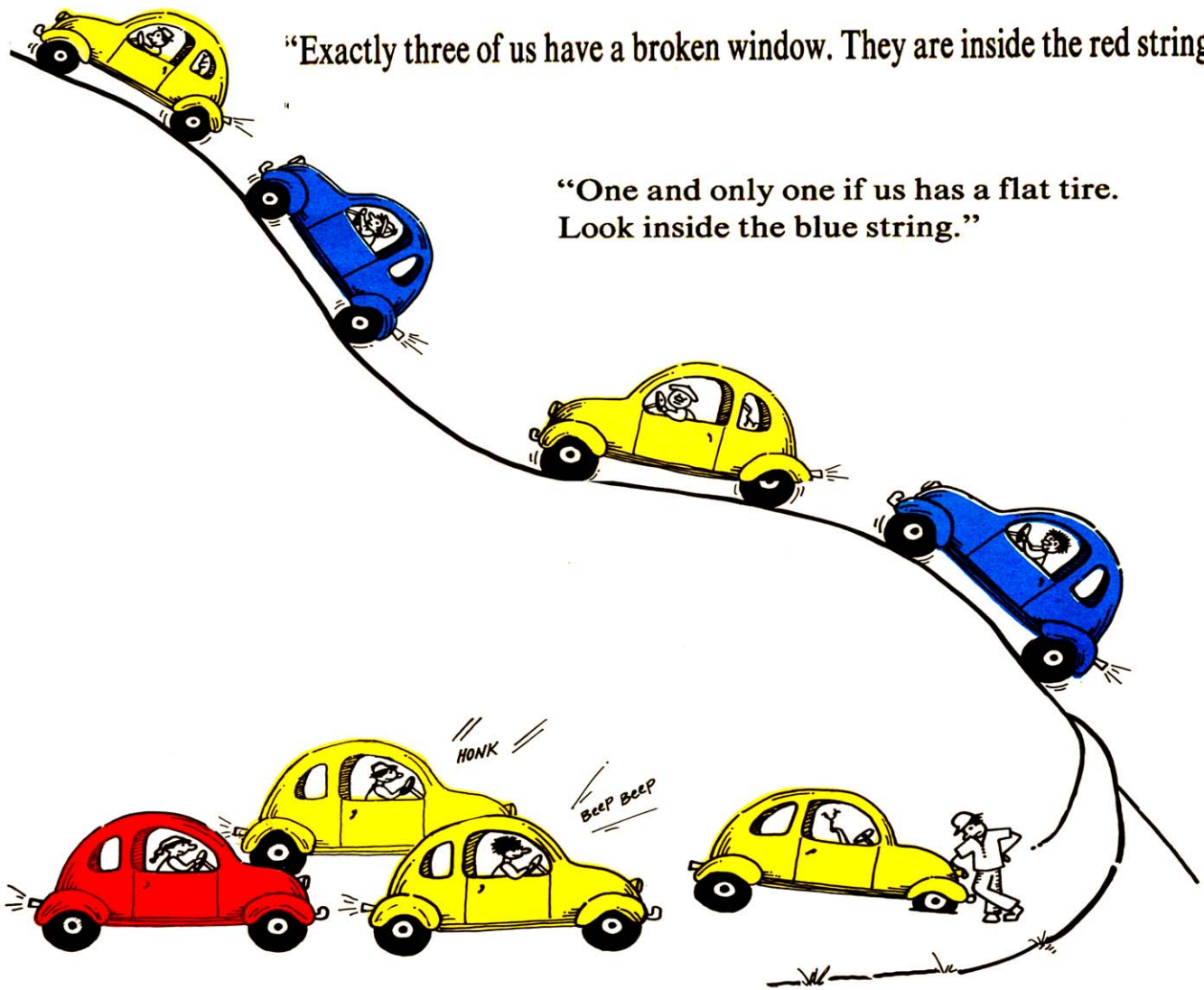BROKEN LEG BUT WHO DO NOT HAVE A COLD?

"Here we are again," they shout. "We are pretending we are cars."

LOOK ONCE AGAIN AT THE PICTURE ON PAGE 5.

"Exactly five of us are yellow cars. They are inside the green string."

"Exactly three of us have a broken window. They are inside the red string."

"One and only one if us has a flat tire. Look inside the blue string."
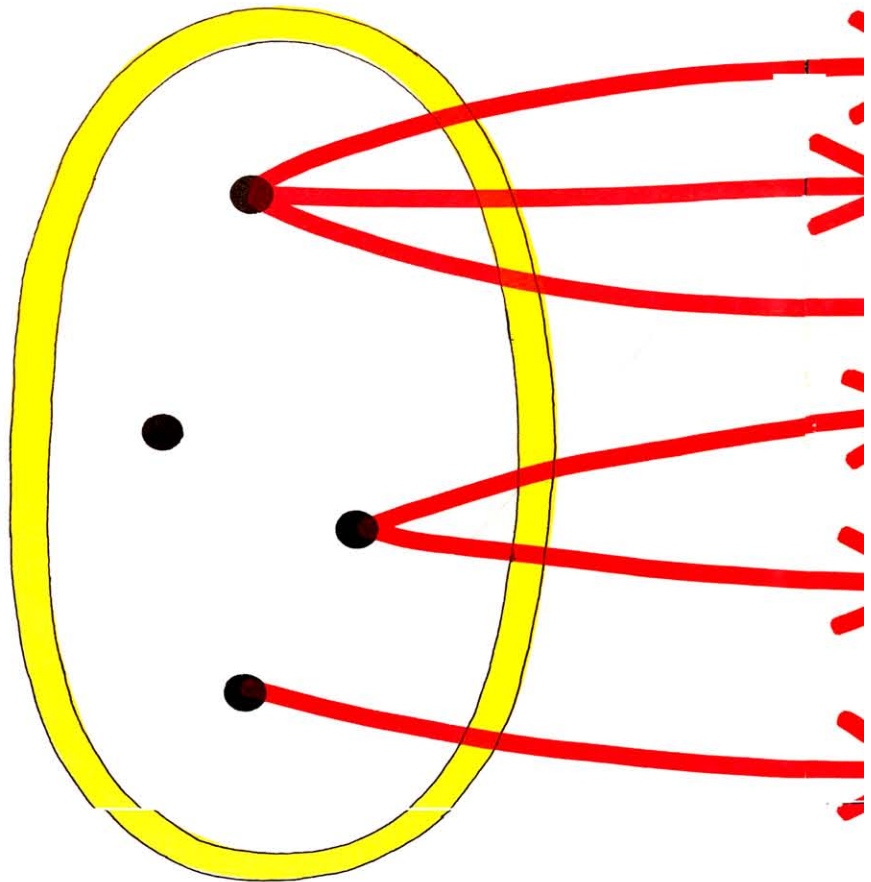
HONK

BEEP BEEP

NOW YOU CAN SEE THEM ON PAGE 5 AND ON PAGE 6.
ON BOTH PAGES, TOUCH EACH YELLOW CAR THAT HAS NO BROKEN WINDOW;
TOUCH EACH YELLOW CAR THAT HAS A BROKEN WINDOW, BUT NO FLAT TIRE.

TRY TO MAKE UP ANOTHER STORY FOR MY EIGHT FRIENDS.

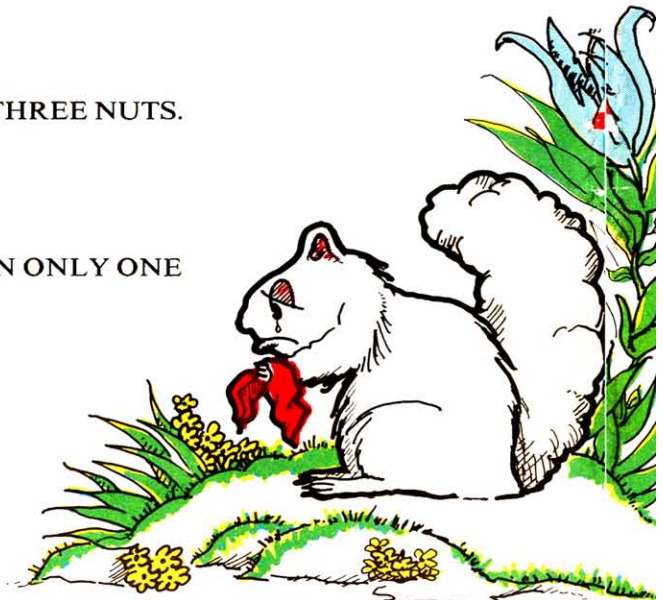I also understand arrows. They tell me a lot of stories.

Look at this picture. Inside the yellow string,
all of the dots are squirrels; inside the blue one,
they are nuts. The squirrels are hungry. One
of them is greedy; he has eaten three nuts.
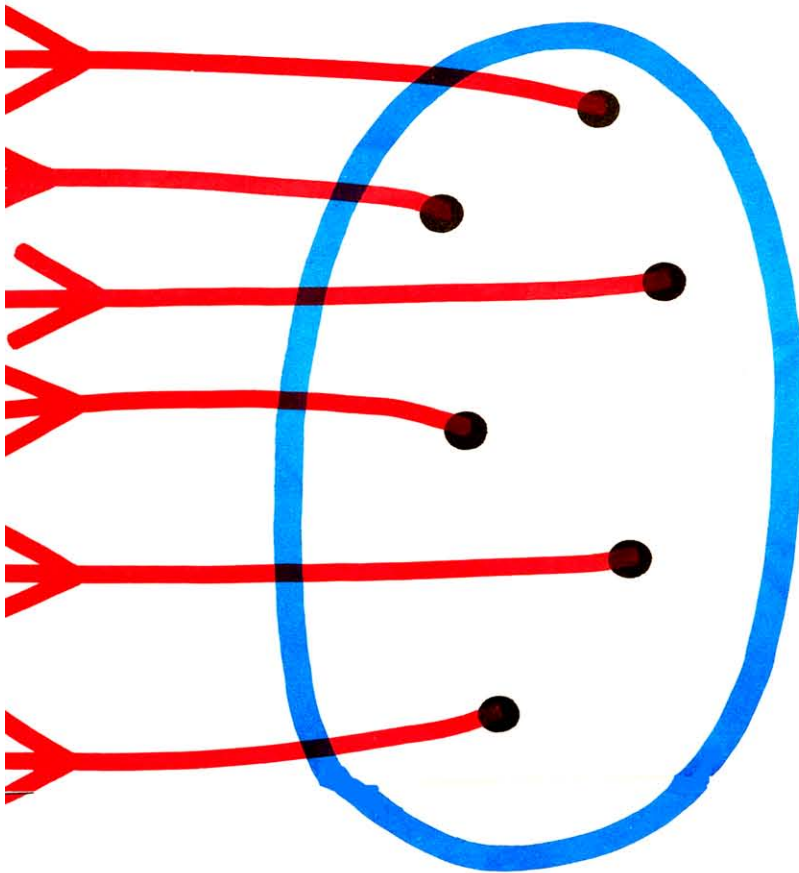
WITH YOUR FINGER, TOUCH EACH OF THE THREE NUTS.

Another squirrel has eaten two nuts.

DO YOU SEE THE SQUIRREL WHO HAS EATEN ONLY ONE
NUT?

The last squirrel has nothing to eat; there are no
nuts left. He is sad.

The same picture can tell you another story.

Inside the yellow string, all of the dots are carts;
inside the blue one, they are horses.

WITH YOUR FINGER, TOUCH EACH CART. HOW MANY ARE THERE?
WITH YOUR FINGER, TOUCH EACH HORSE. HOW MANY ARE THERE?

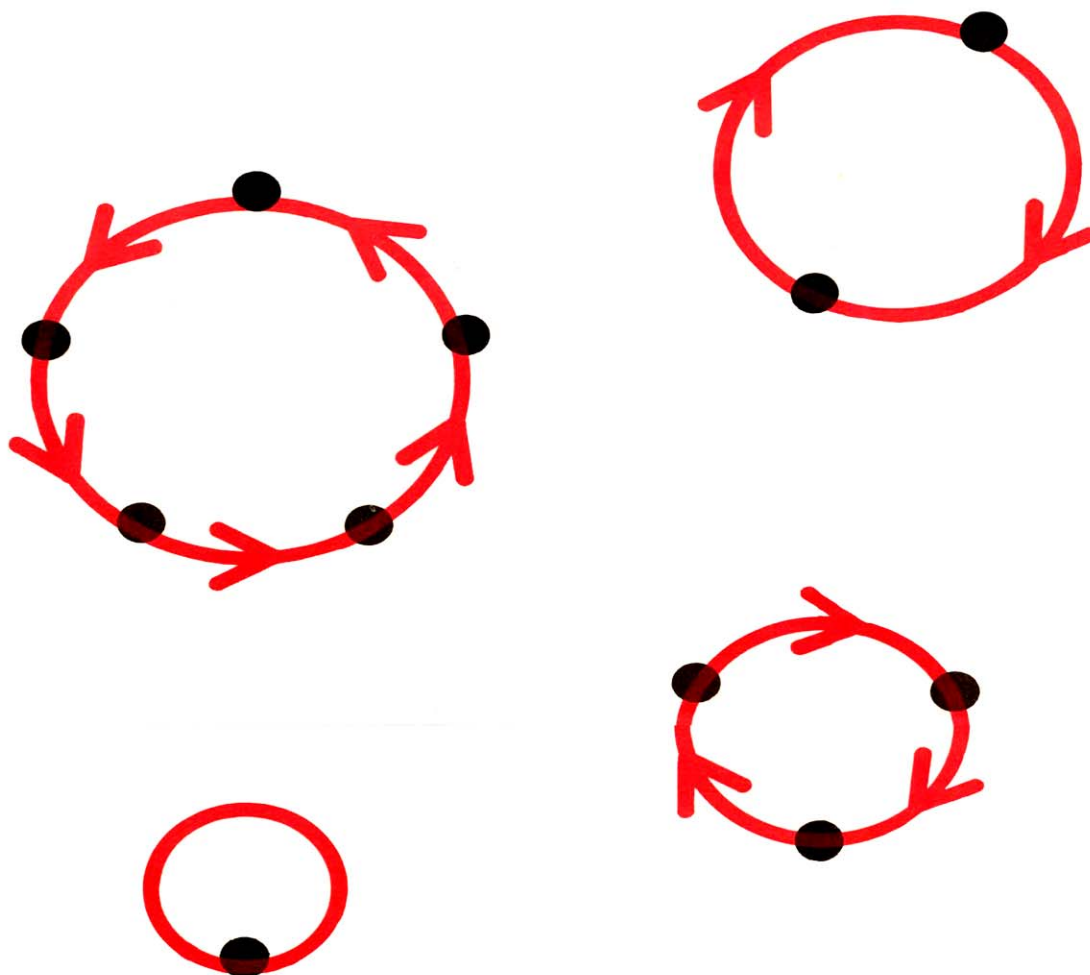Do you see the heaviest cart? It is being pulled by three horses.

POINT TO IT. POINT TO EACH OF THE THREE HORSES.
Do you see the lightest cart? It is being pulled by only one horse.

POINT TO IT TOO.
One cart is left in the shed. There are no horses left to pull it.

Now some more friends of mine are playing another game.

"Today we are monkeys," they say.

TOUCH EACH OF THEM WITH YOUR FINGER AND COUNT THEM.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. "Right! There are exactly eleven of us.
With our right hands, we each take the left hand of a monkey."

"We are skipping in circles," they shout. "We are really enjoying ourselves."
"I'm skipping all by myself," says one of the monkeys.

CAN YOU FIND THAT MONKEY IN THE PICTURE?

"And now," shout the dots, "we are chairs. A child sits on each of us, and the red arrows show them how to change places."

"One child always returns to the same chair."

CAN YOU FIND THAT CHILD IN THE PICTURE ON PAGE 9?
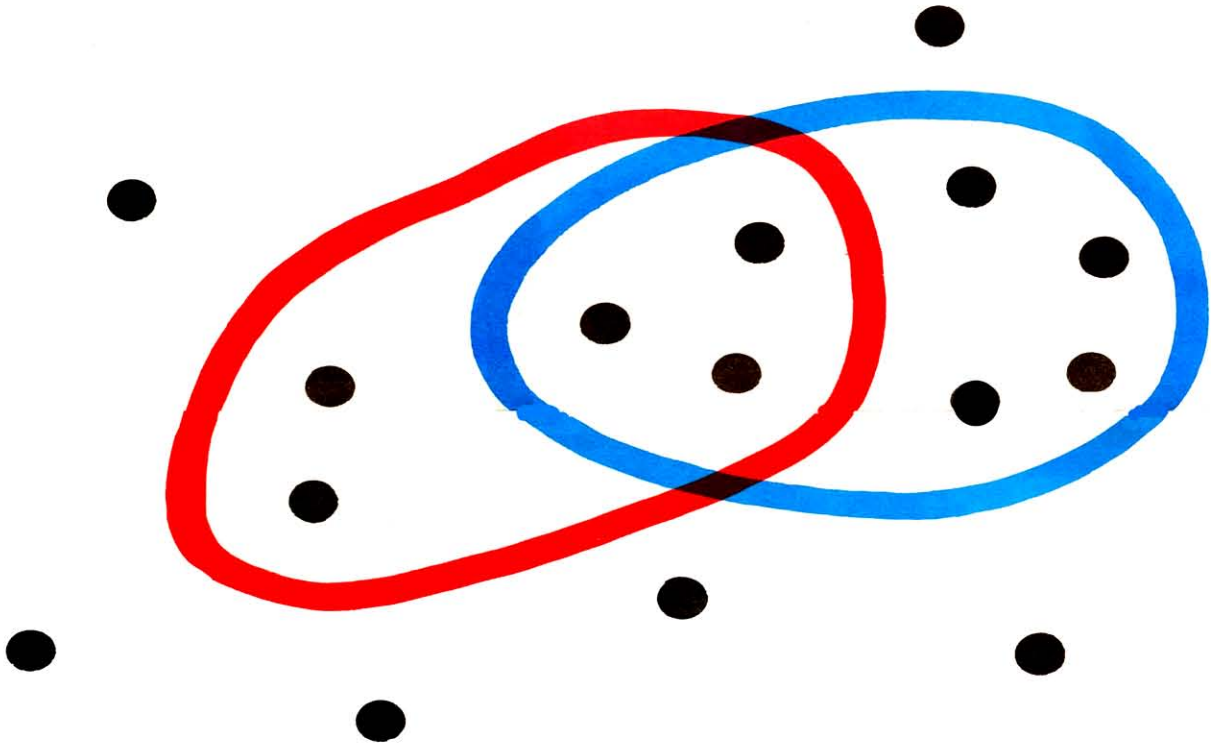
TELL ME ANOTHER STORY THAT THIS PICTURE COULD BE ABOUT.

"We have made up a new game with strings," shout some of my friends excitedly. "We are animals."

"Exactly five of us are cats. They are inside the red string."

TOUCH EACH OF THEM WITH YOUR FINGER.

"Exactly seven of us live on a big farm. They are inside the blue string."

CAN YOU POINT TO THE CATS WHO LIVE ON A BIG FARM? HOW MANY ARE THERE?

I will count them with you: 1, 2, 3. They are right in the middle.

TELL ME ANOTHER STORY THAT THIS PICTURE COULD BE ABOUT.

HOW MANY DOTS ARE OUTSIDE BOTH STRINGS? TOUCH EACH OF THEM WITH YOUR FINGER: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

They are animals, but they are not cats and do not live on a big farm. One of them is an elephant. Try to imagine who the other five are.

"Same dots, same strings," say my friends.
"Today we are toys. Exactly five of us are yellow.
They are inside the red string."
"Exactly seven of us have wheels. They are inside
the blue string."

CAN YOU GO ON WITH THEIR STORY?