

## Dear Parent:

### Your child's love of reading starts here!

Every child learns to read in a different way and at his or her own speed. Some go back and forth between reading levels and read favorite books again and again. Others read through each level in order. You can help your young reader improve and become more confident by encouraging his or her own interests and abilities. From books your child reads with you to the first books he or she reads alone, there are I Can Read Books for every stage of reading:



#### SHARED READING

Basic language, word repetition, and whimsical illustrations, ideal for sharing with your emergent reader



#### BEGINNING READING

Short sentences, familiar words, and simple concepts for children eager to read on their own



#### READING WITH HELP

Engaging stories, longer sentences, and language play for developing readers



#### READING ALONE

Complex plots, challenging vocabulary, and high-interest topics for the independent reader



#### ADVANCED READING

Short paragraphs, chapters, and exciting themes for the perfect bridge to chapter books

**I Can Read Books** have introduced children to the joy of reading since 1957. Featuring award-winning authors and illustrators and a fabulous cast of beloved characters, I Can Read Books set the standard for beginning readers.

A lifetime of discovery begins with the magical words **"I Can Read!"**

Visit [www.icanread.com](http://www.icanread.com) for information on enriching your child's reading experience.



*Ree Drummond and Diane deGroat gratefully  
acknowledge the editorial and artistic contributions  
of Amanda Glickman and Rick Whipple.*

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**I Can Read!** **1** BEGINNING READING

# CHARLIE

the Ranch Dog

## CHARLIE'S SNOW DAY

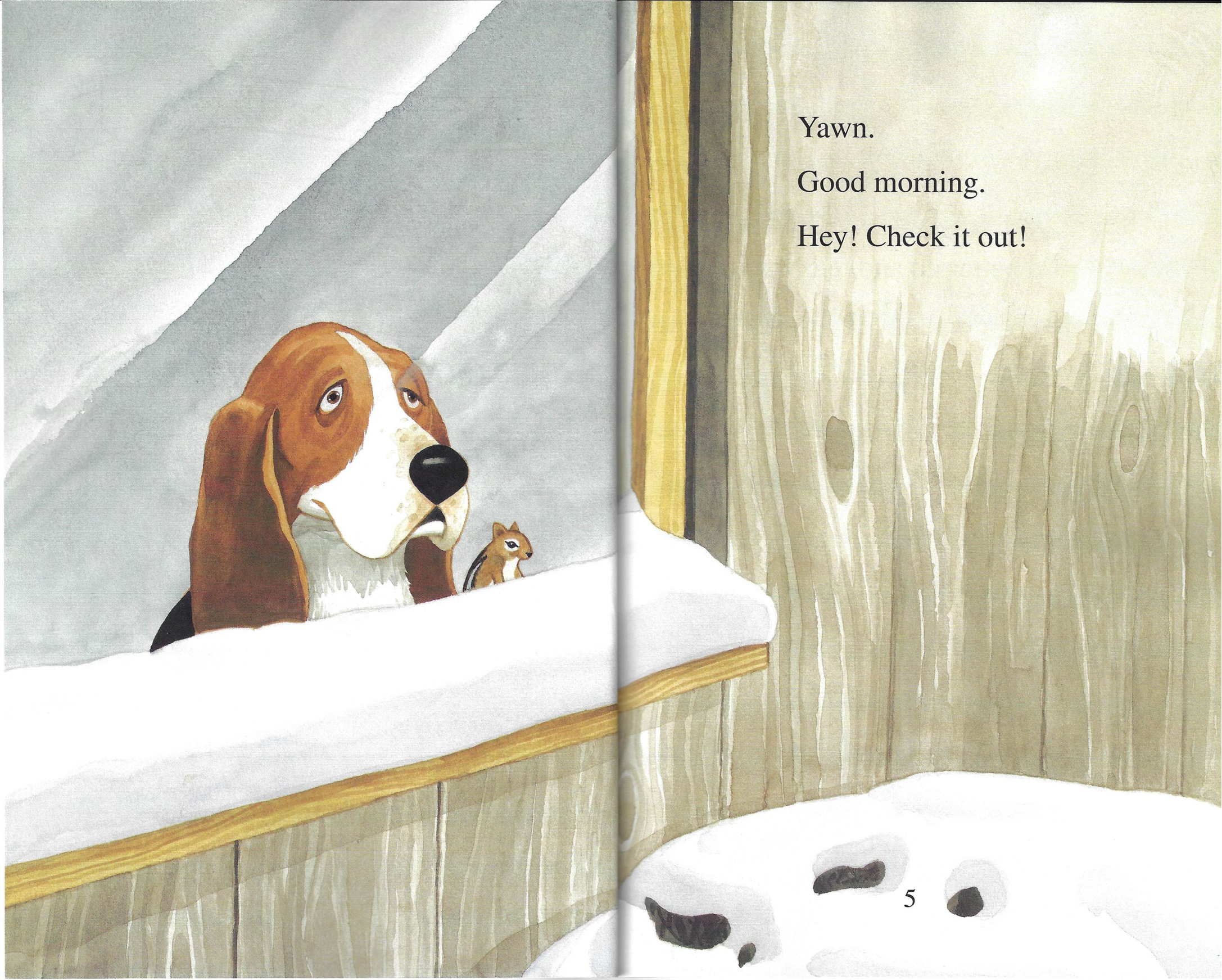


based on the CHARLIE THE RANCH DOG books  
by REE DRUMMOND, The Pioneer Woman  
and DIANE deGROAT

**HARPER**

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Yawn.

Good morning.

Hey! Check it out!



Everything is white outside.

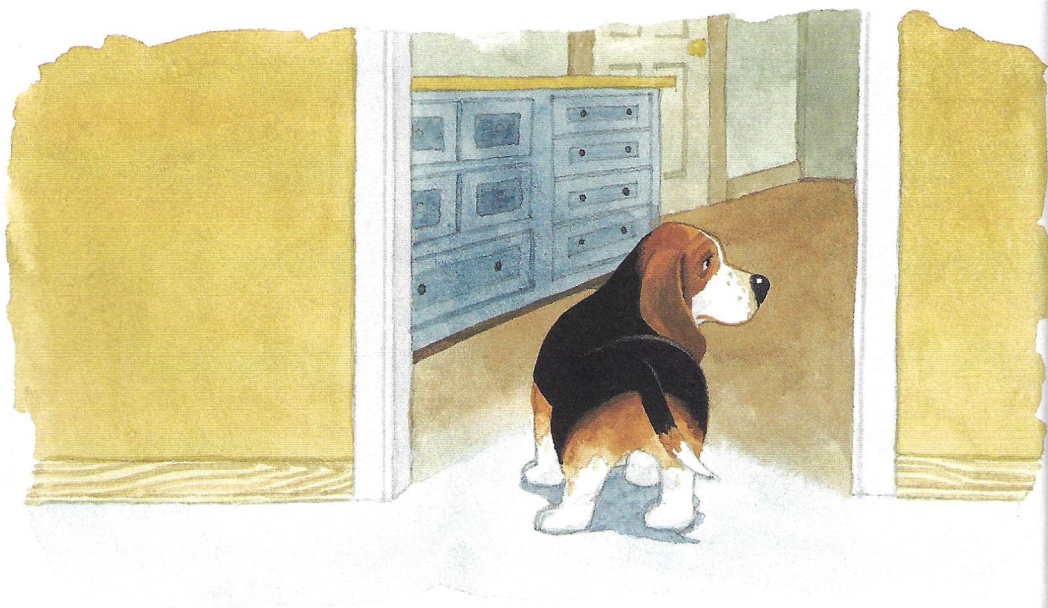
It's snow!

I'd better go and tell Mama.





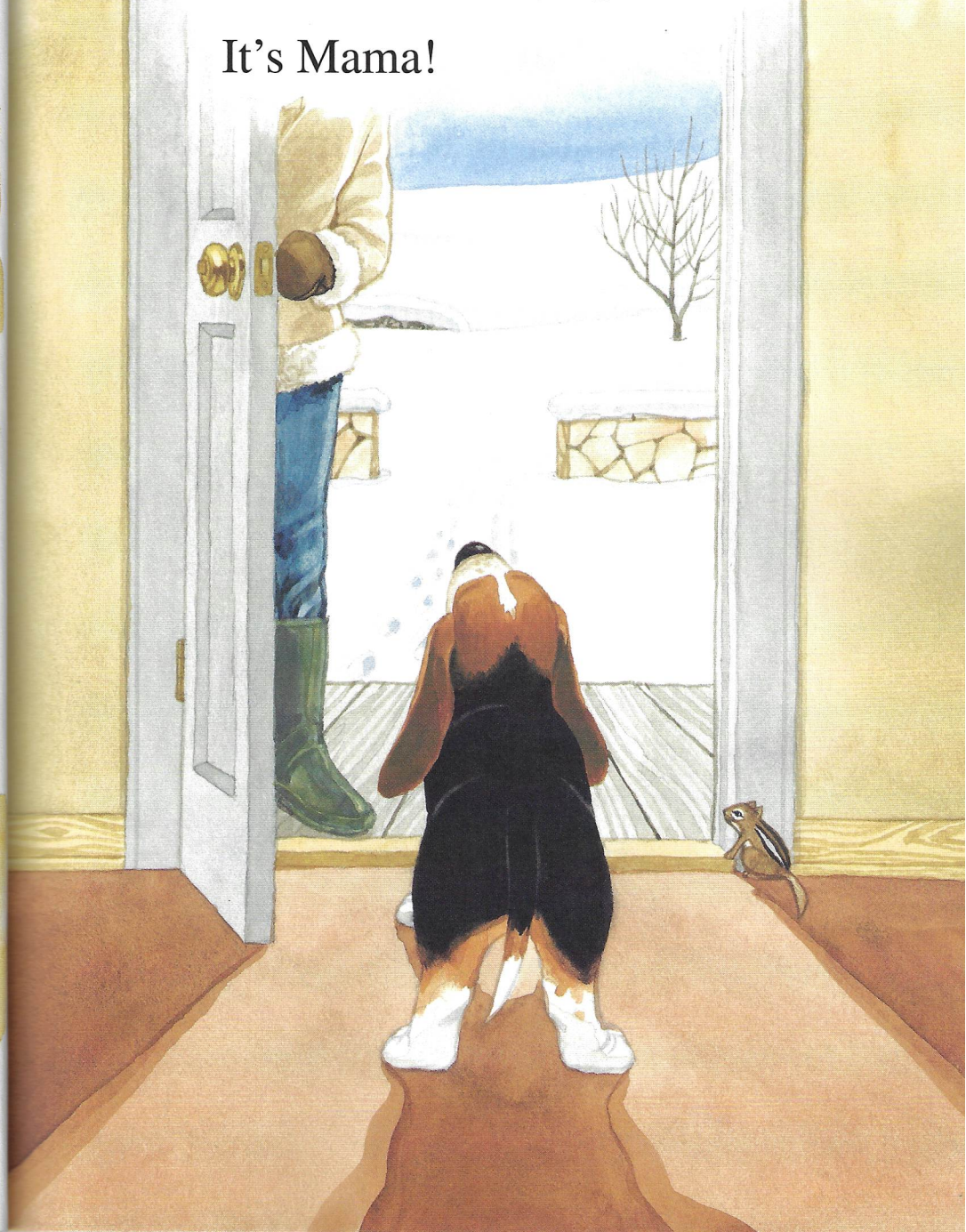
Am I going to stay inside all day?  
That doesn't sound like much fun!



Sniff, sniff.

Someone is on the porch.

It's Mama!





Walter and I follow Mama  
across the pasture,  
to the big hill.

My big sister is at the tippy top.

She is sitting on a sled.

“Yahoo!” she shouts,  
and flies down the hill.

She is going so fast!





I want to try, too.

I bet I can go even faster.

“Come on,” I say to Walter.

Together, we take a running start.

I’ll show him how it’s done!



12

WHOOSH!

The snow sprays my nose.

My ears flap in the wind.

This is great!



13



Walter and I slip and slide  
faster and faster.



Uh-oh.

How will we stop?

**CRASH!**

We smash into a pile of fluffy  
snow.



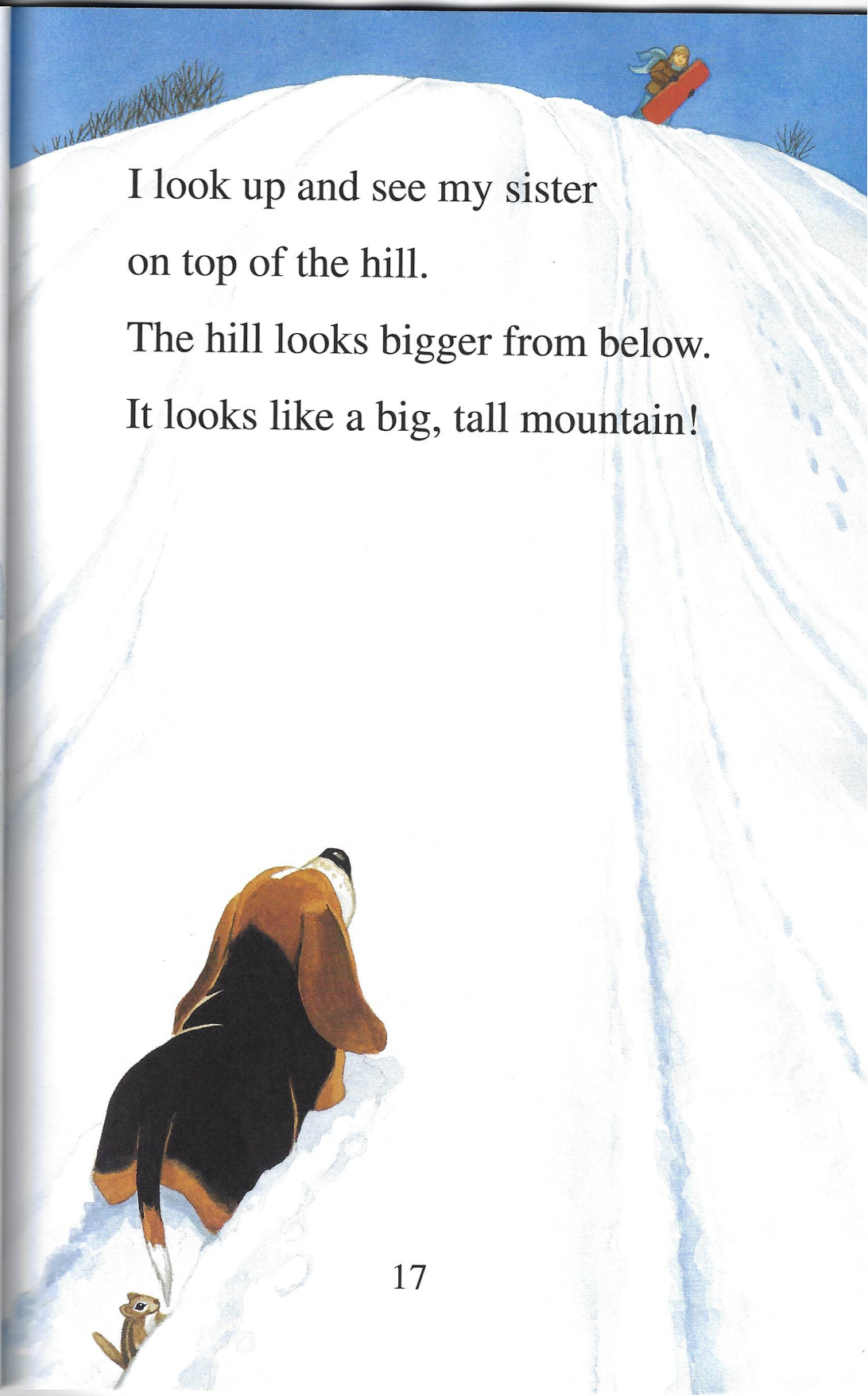


Wow! That was fun!  
I can't wait to go again!



I look up and see my sister  
on top of the hill.

The hill looks bigger from below.  
It looks like a big, tall mountain!





I start to go up.

And up.

And up.

Pant, pant.



18

My paws skid on the icy slope.

Cold, wet snow sticks to my fur.

My ears aren't very floppy  
anymore.

They are frozen stiff!

This is no fun.



19



Finally, I get to the top.

I don't want to play outside anymore.

All I want is a nap in the warm house!

20

Walter wants to go again.

What's wrong with that guy?

There is no way I am ever  
climbing up that hill again.

21



WHIR! Walter sprays snow  
everywhere.

WHOOSH! Sister glides by on her sled.

ZIP! Daddy and Mama fly by.



22

I give everyone "the look."  
Everyone is having a blast  
except me.

I'm cold!



23



“Walter!” I hear Sister cry out.

Huh?

Where IS Walter?



Sniff, sniff!

I catch a whiff of Walter,  
but I don't see him anywhere.

He could be in big trouble.

He could be trapped under the snow!





ZOOM!

I take off  
faster than a rocket.



26

RRRRRRROOOOWW-OOOOOH!

I howl so Walter knows I'm coming.  
Okay, and because I love to howl.



27



Sniff, sniff!

I follow my nose.

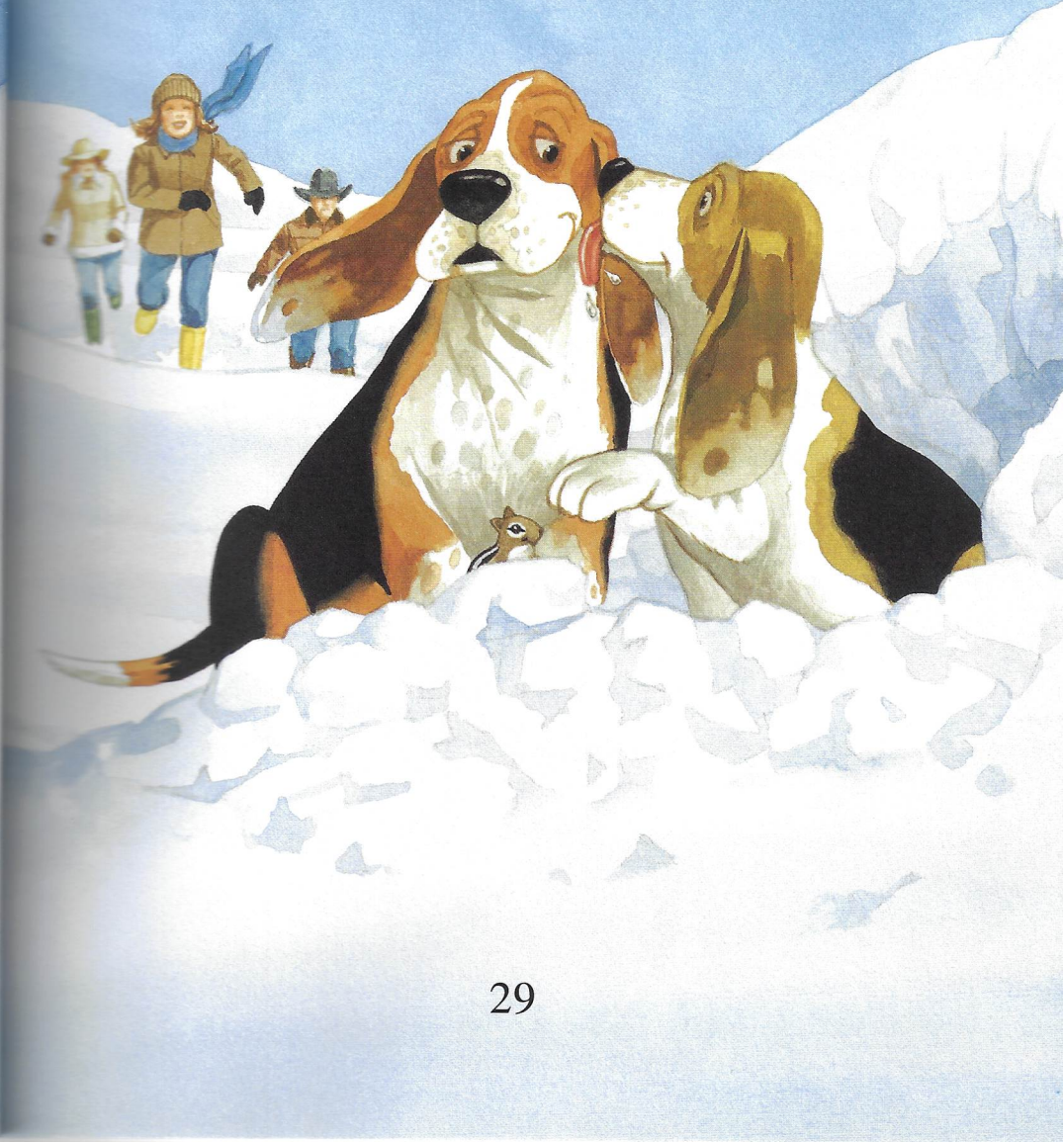
I dig through a giant mound of snow.

Walter! There you are!



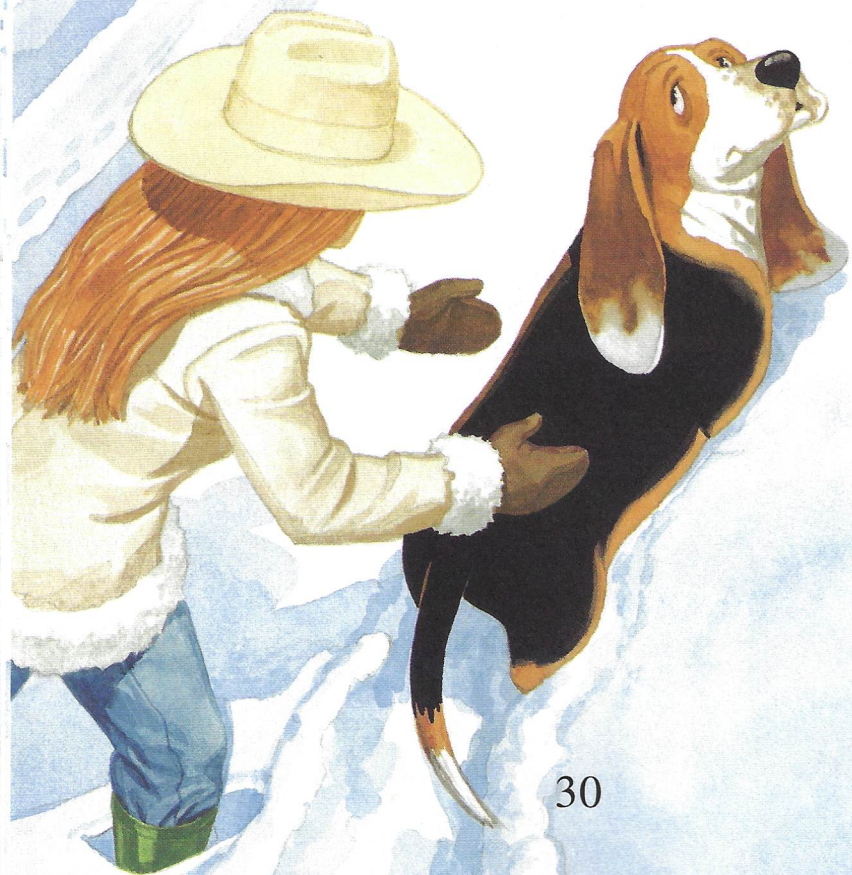
Walter gives my face a huge lick.

Mama, Daddy, and Sister run over.



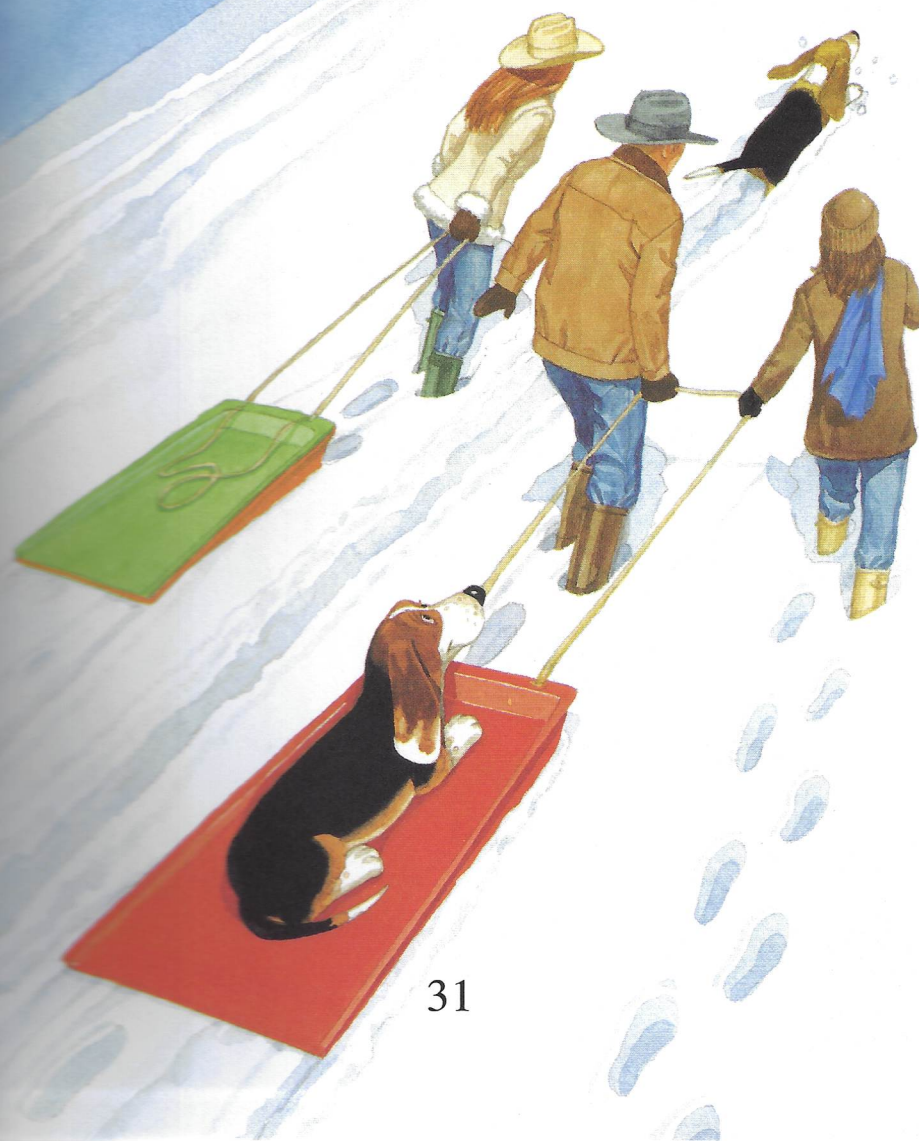


I stare at the steep, slippery hill.  
It will be a long slog back up.  
But it was worth it to save Walter.



30

Hands reach down and scoop me up.  
Mama puts me on a sled.  
Daddy and Sister drag me behind them.  
Now this is more like it!



31

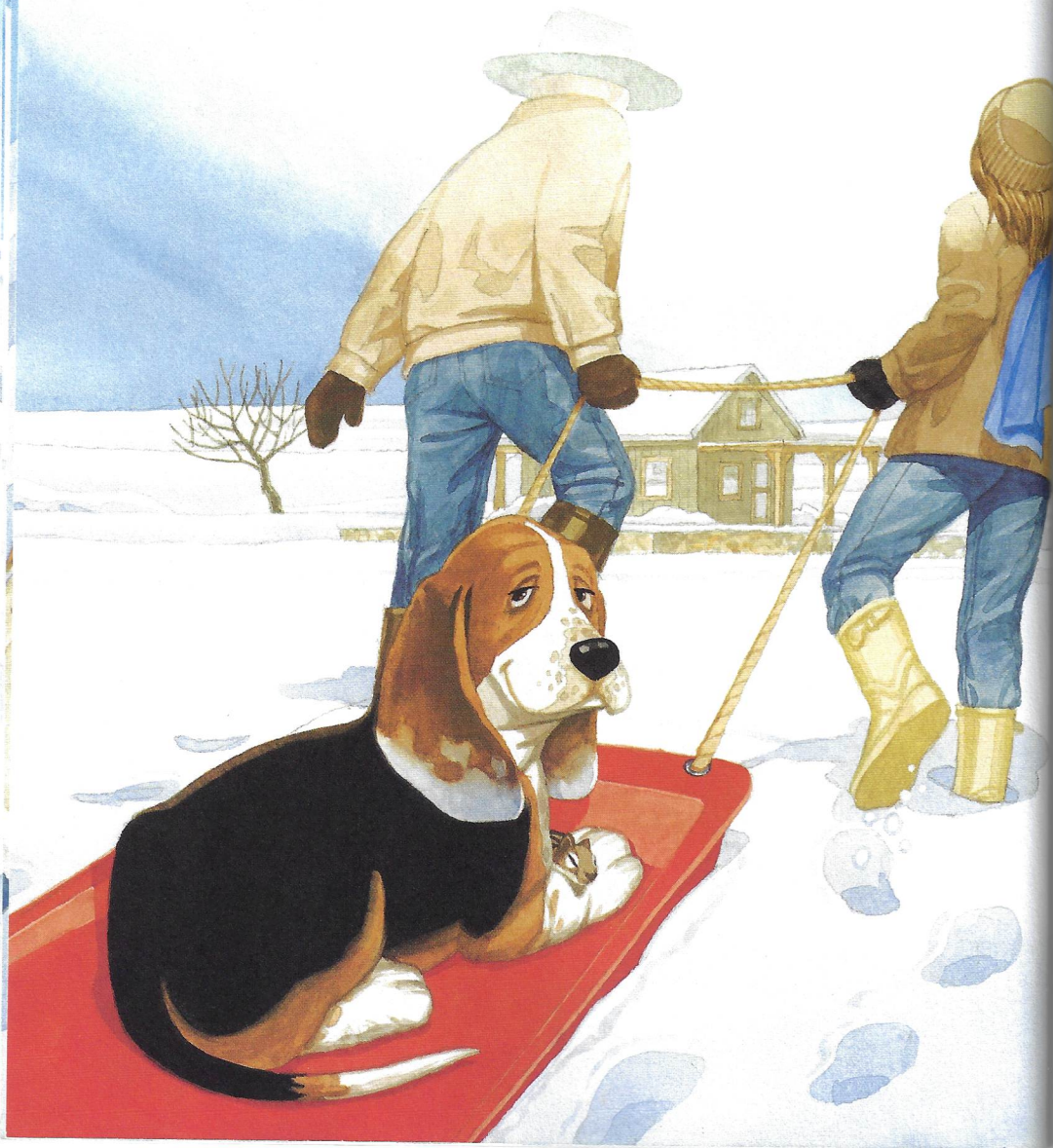


Up and up we go.

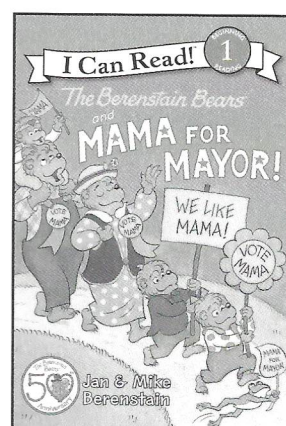
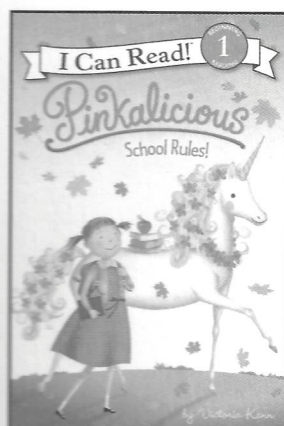
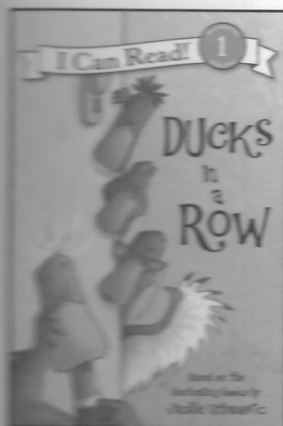
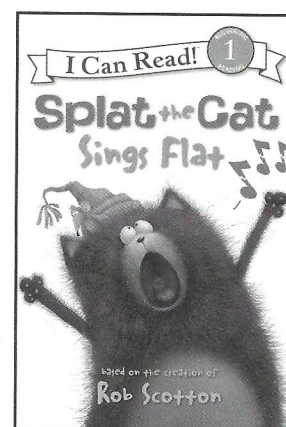
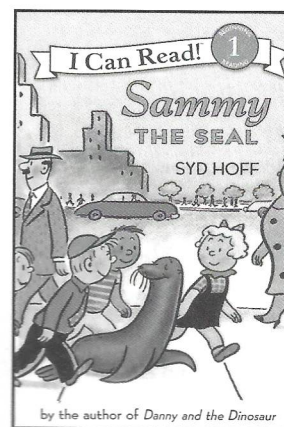
I see the house

and think of my warm, cozy bed.

Maybe Mama will even make bacon!



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