



Mighty Mystery



written by Pam Holden
illustrated by Pauline Whimp



Teacher Talk

“Have you sometimes noticed strange things on roadways, such as items that have dropped from vehicles – boxes, ropes, clothing, or strips of rubber? Perhaps you have seen fallen branches, pools of oil, dead birds, or straying animals. What else have you noticed? This is a true story about a driver’s experience on a country road, when he stopped to check something unexpected that puzzled him.”

Key Words

bottom check correct forty river short tried wrong

Teaching Plan

- Use Teacher Talk to prompt discussion about eels.
- Note alliteration: **mighty mystery slippery snakes**
- Identify antonyms: **careful/careless correct/wrong**
- Discuss spelling of prefix **al-**: **altogether already**
- Identify silent **w**: **wrong wriggle writing**
- Understand use of hyphen: **partly-open**
- Review **i before e** spelling rule: **piece believe**
- Promote writing and art as creative follow-up activities.
- Retell and/or act out the story following the sequence.
- Build vocabulary with **Word Power** activities (back cover).

Word Count = 796

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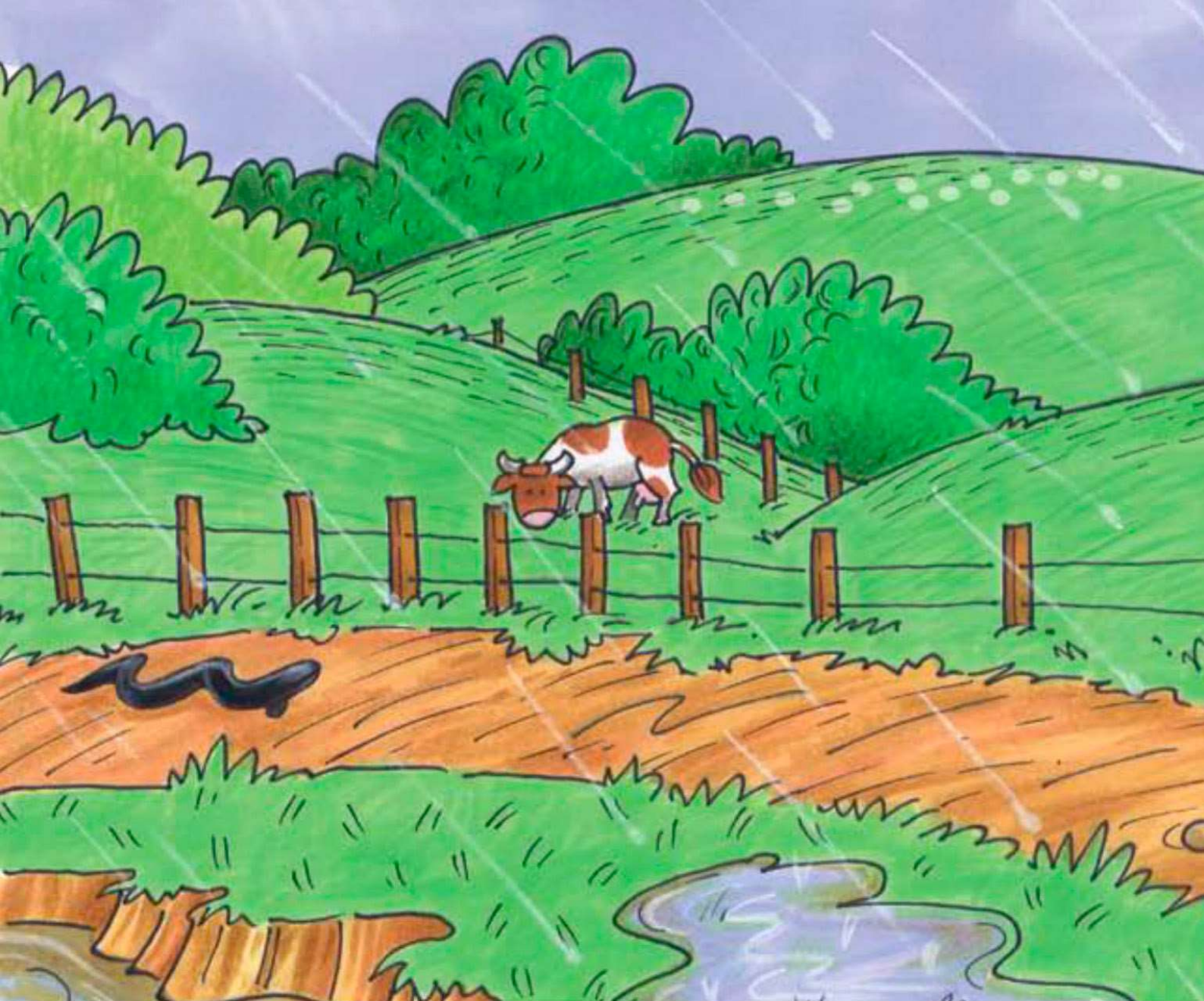
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One rainy afternoon Farmer Jim, with his dog, Buddy, was driving along the bumpy road near his farm when he spied a curved black thing on the road ahead of him. “That could be a branch fallen from a tree,” he thought at first. “But it’s too short and shiny to be a branch. Maybe it’s a piece of rope that has dropped off a truck.”

He slowed down his car and stared hard at the strange thing. “It seems to be moving, so it can’t be a piece of rope,” he thought. As he got closer, he became more and more puzzled.





“That looks like a snake! But snakes aren’t black and slimy. Could it be an eel?” Farmer Jim said to Buddy. “I believe it really is an eel! But why would an eel be crossing the road? Eels are fish that live in streams and rivers.” He decided to stop and examine the thing more closely to check if his guess could possibly be correct.



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