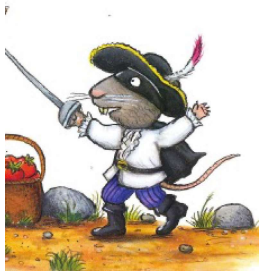
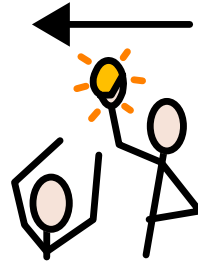


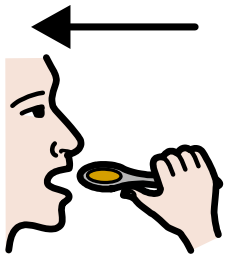
The Highway Rat



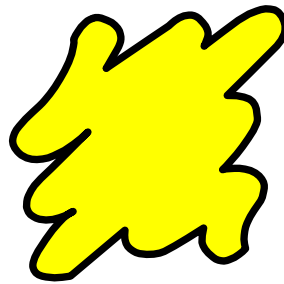
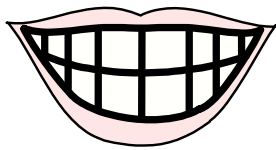
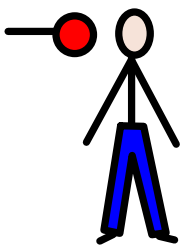
The Highway Rat was bad.



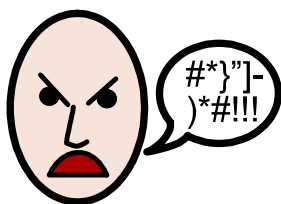
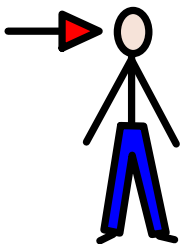
He took what he wanted and



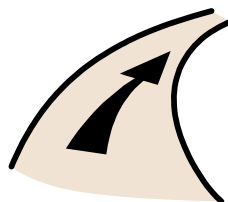
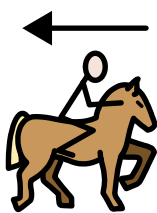
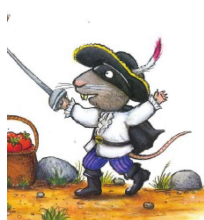
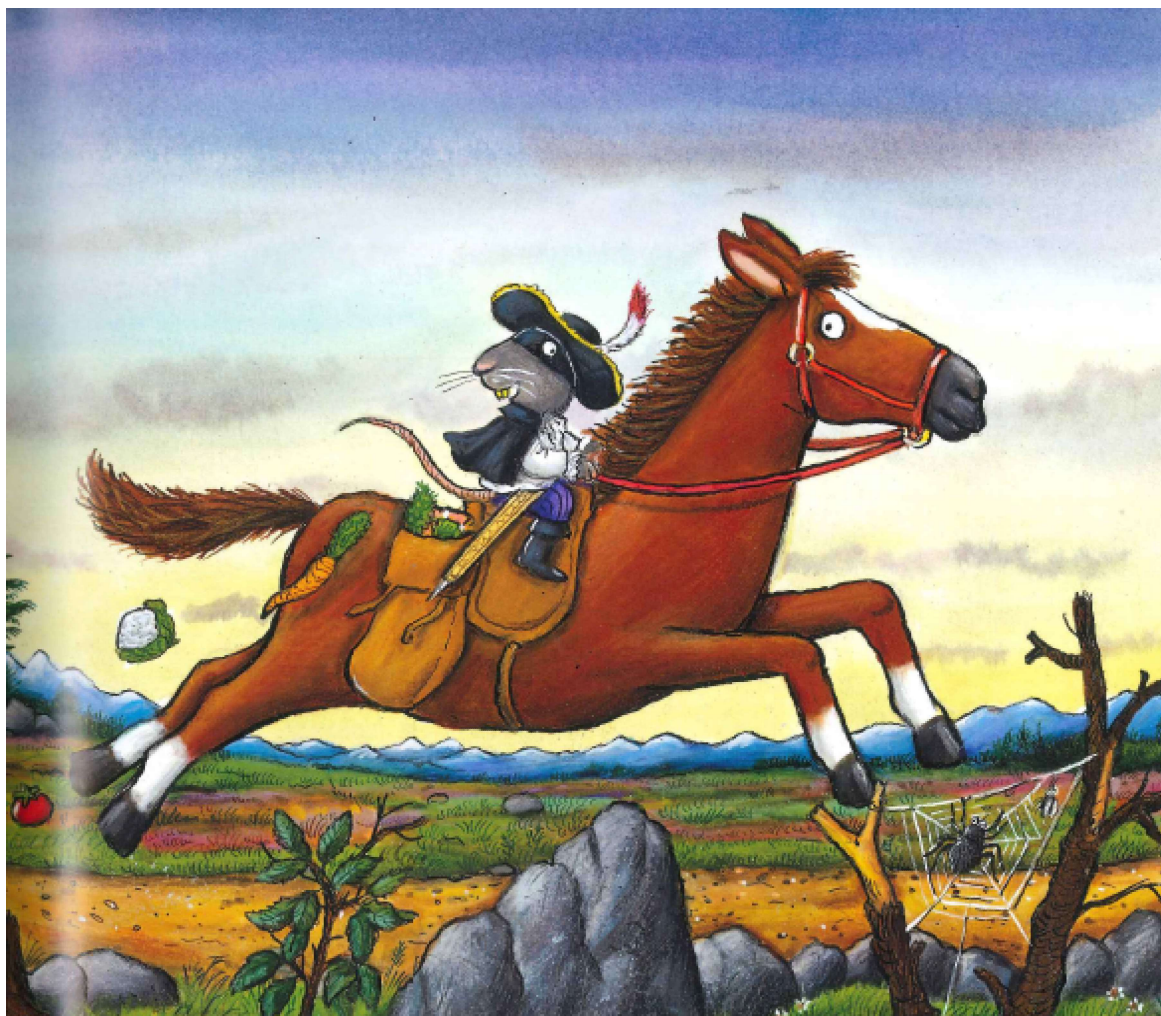
ate what he took.



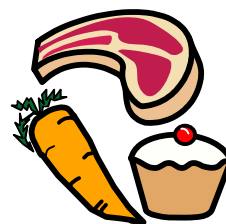
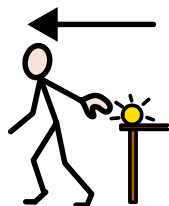
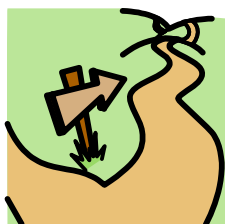
His teeth were yellow.



He was rude.

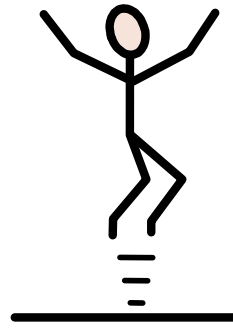


The Highway Rat rode along the



highway and stole the travellers' food.

A

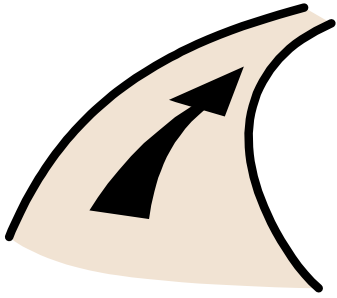


A

rabbit

came

hopping



along

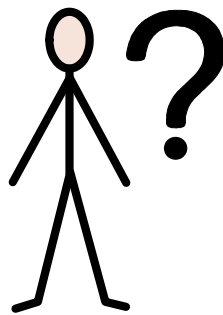
the



road.



The Highway Rat blocked her way



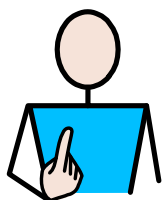
and

cried out

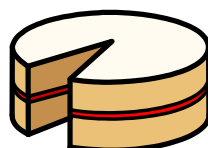
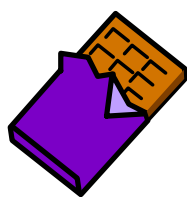
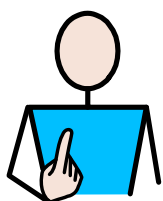
"Who

goes

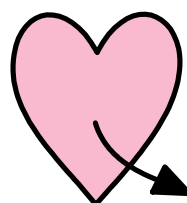
there?"



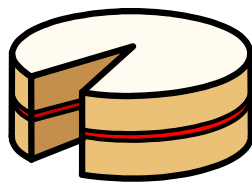
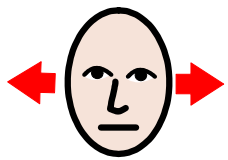
"Give me your pastries and puddings! Give



me your chocolate and cake! For I am the



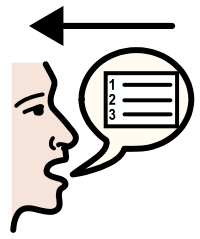
Highway Rat and whatever I want I take."



"I have no cakes" the rabbit



replied. "I just have a bunch of clover."



"Hand it over" the Highway Rat ordered.

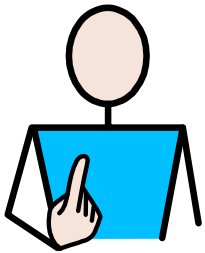


"The clover will be tasteless and is

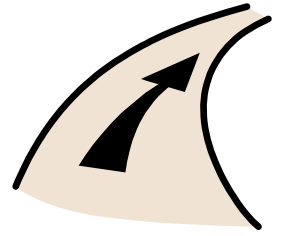
dull as can be, but I am the



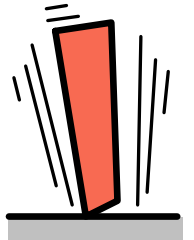
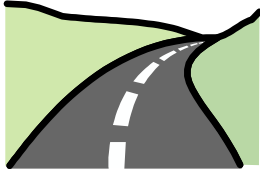
Highway Rat and this clover belongs to



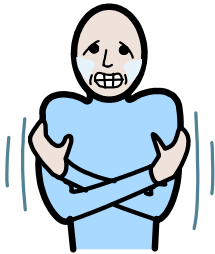
me."



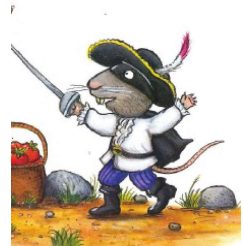
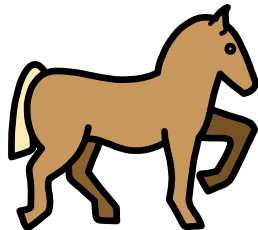
A squirrel came bounding along



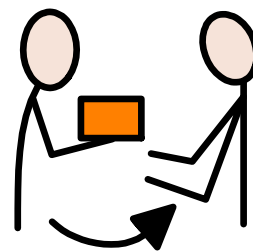
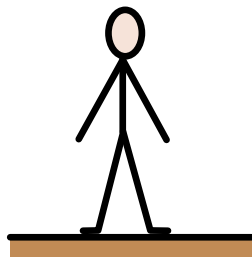
the road, then stopped with a shake



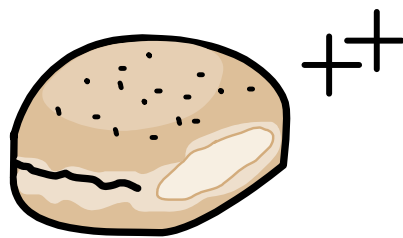
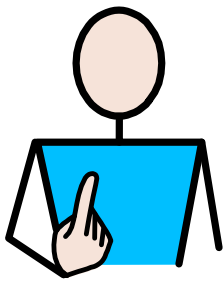
and a shiver"



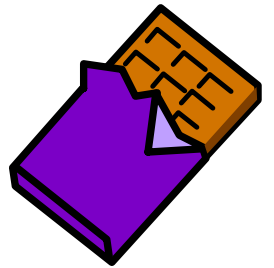
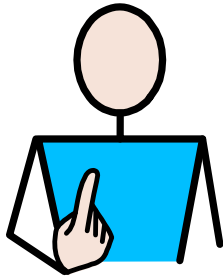
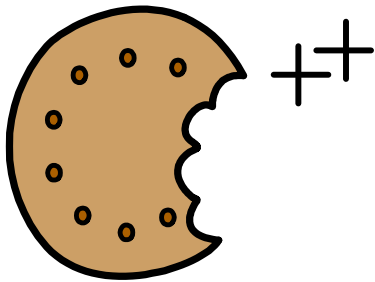
Reining his horse was the Highway Rat



who shouted "stand and deliver!"



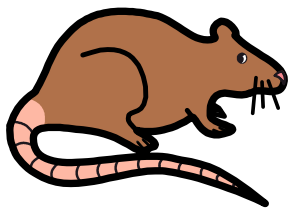
"Give me your buns and



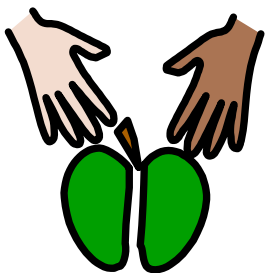
biscuits! Give me your chocolate



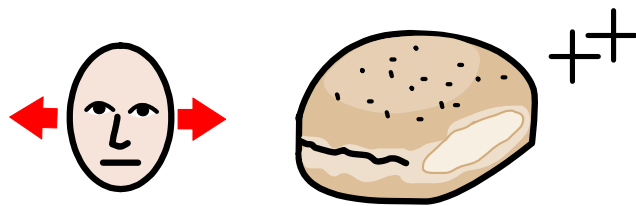
eclairs! Yes, I am the Highway Rat



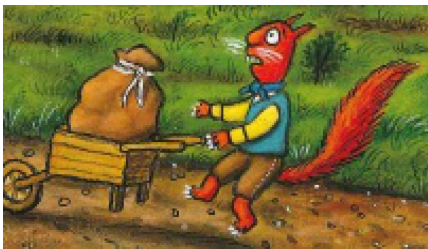
and the rat thief never



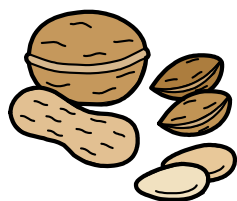
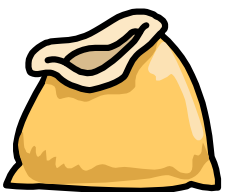
shares."



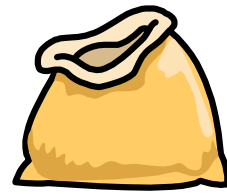
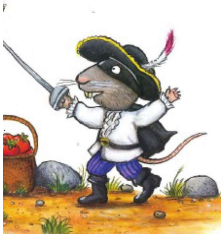
"I have no buns" the



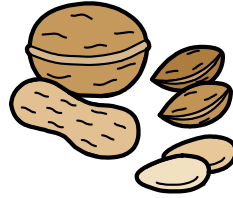
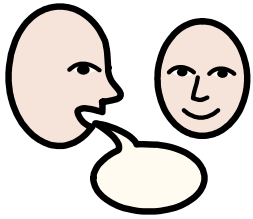
squirrel replied. "I just have a



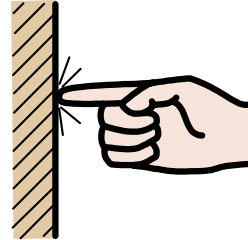
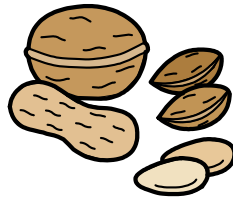
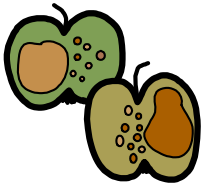
sack of nuts."



The Highway Rat snatched the sack and



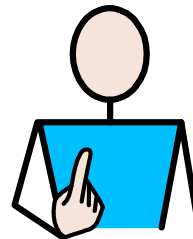
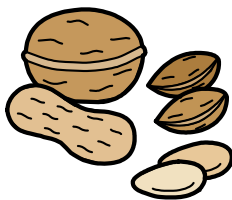
said "These nuts are probably



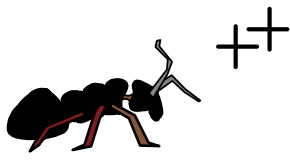
rotten. These nuts are hard as



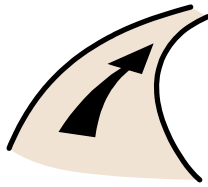
can be. But I am the Highway Rat and



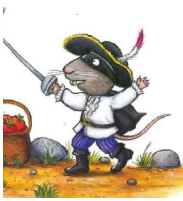
these nuts belong to me!"



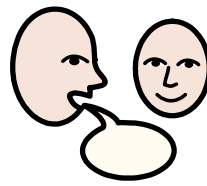
Some ants came crawling along the



road.



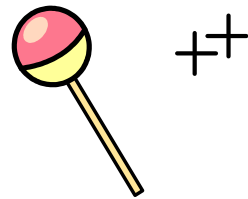
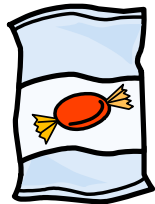
The Highway Rat stopped them and



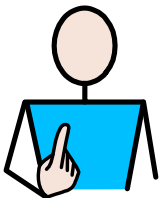
said



"Halt!



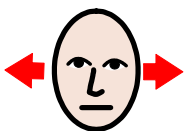
Give me your sweets and your lollies! Give



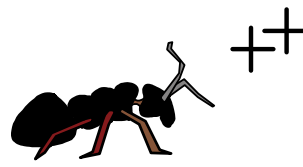
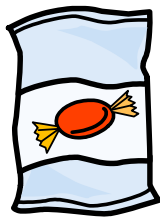
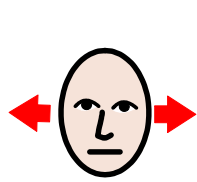
me your toffees and chews"



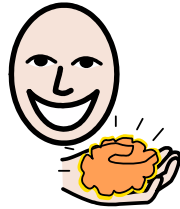
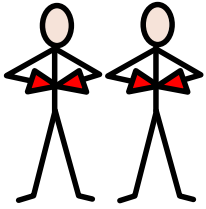
"For I am the Highway Rat and nobody dares to



refuse."



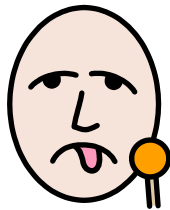
"We have no sweets" the ants replied.



"We just have this nice green leaf."



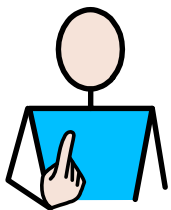
"Not anymore" declared the Highway Rat, "this



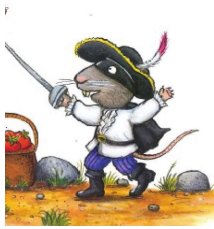
leaf is bitter and thin as can be, but



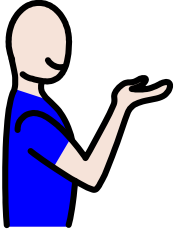
I am the Highway Rat and this leaf belongs



to me!"

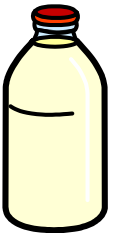
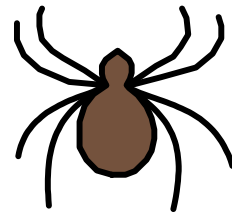
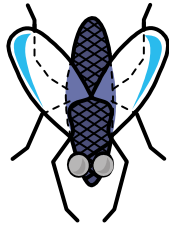


The Highway Rat never said please or

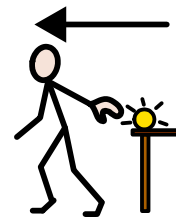
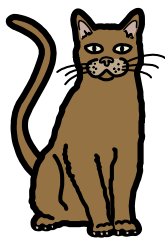


thank you.

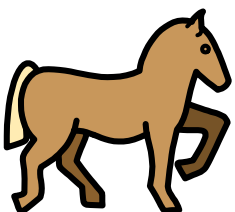
He carried on his way.



He took flies from a spider, milk

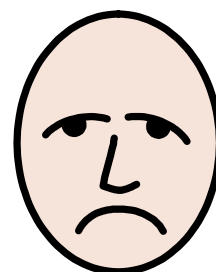


from a cat and he once stole his own



horse's

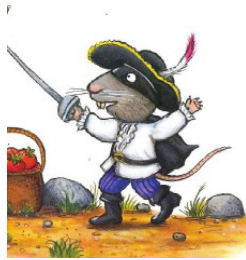
hay!



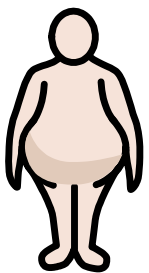
The creatures were sad.



They grew thinner and thinner.

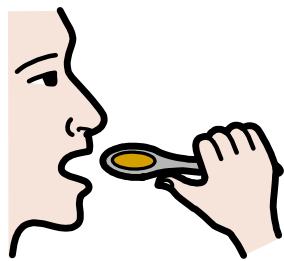


While the Highway Rat grew horribly

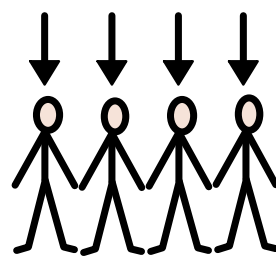


fat

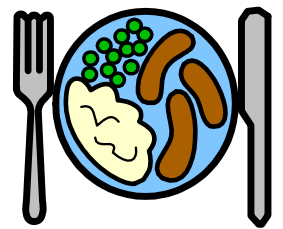
from



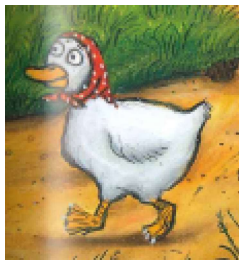
eating



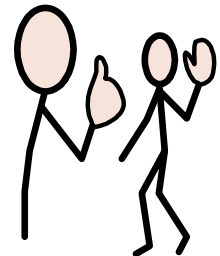
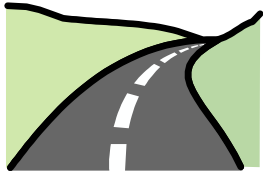
everyone's



dinner.



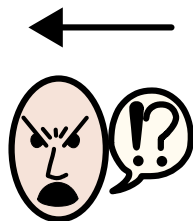
A duck came waddling down the



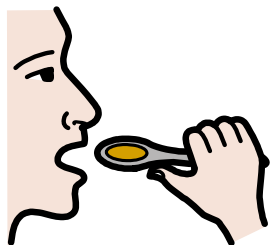
road, then stopped to say "hello!"



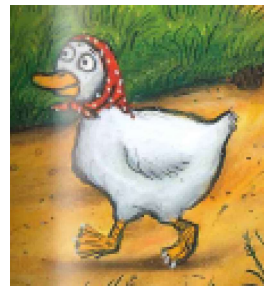
"I see you have nothing" the



Highway Rat complained. "In that case, I'll



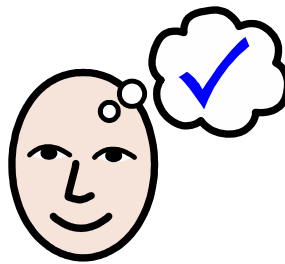
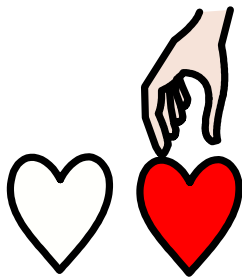
have to eat you!"



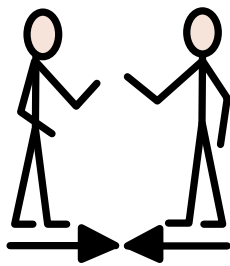
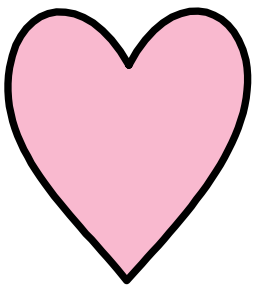
"Hang on" quacked the duck "for



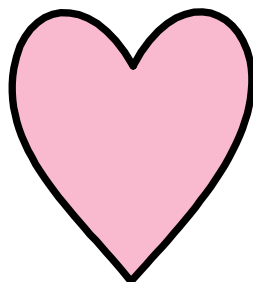
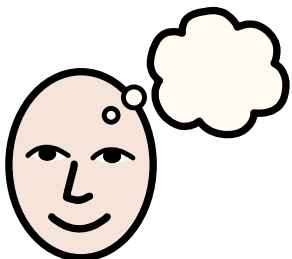
I have a sister with goodies you



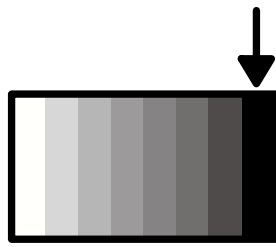
might prefer. I know that she'd



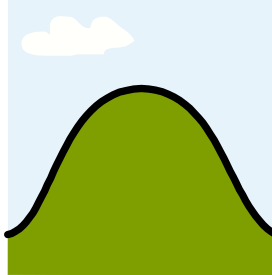
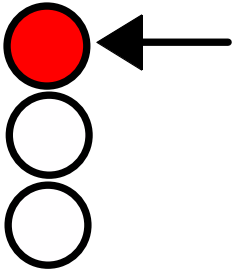
love to meet you and I



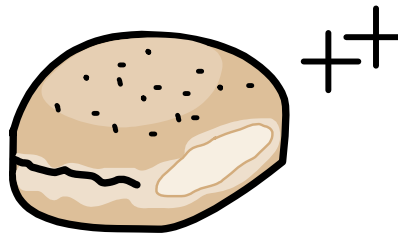
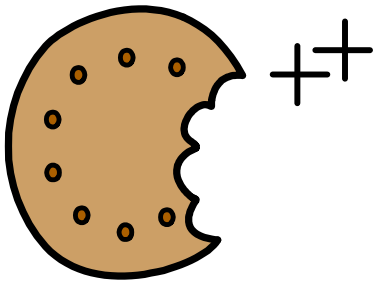
think you'll like her"



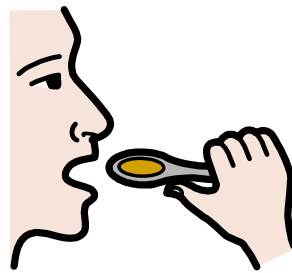
In her deep dark cave, right



at the top of the hill, are

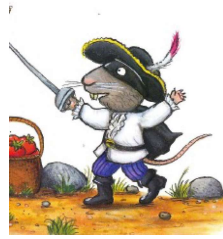


biscuits and buns a-plenty

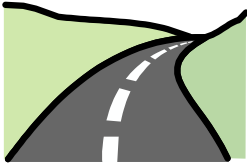


and there you may eat your

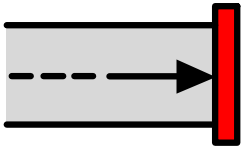
fill."



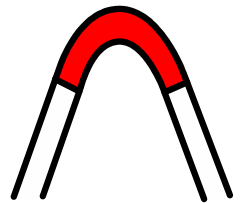
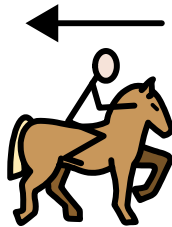
"Lead on!" cried the Highway Rat.



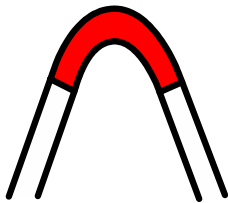
The road seemed it would never



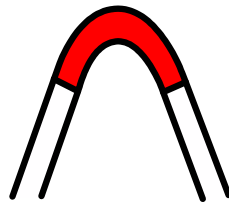
end.



Onwards they rode and upwards, bend

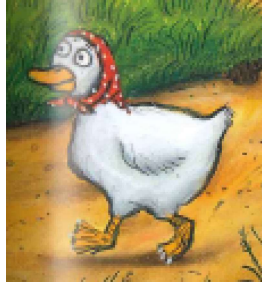


after bend after bend.

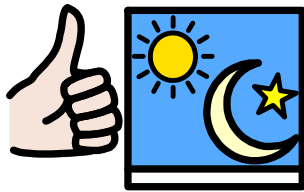




At last they came to the cave



and the duck began to quack



"Good evening sister - sister - sister"

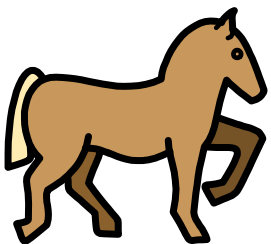


And from the cave said back

"sister - sister - sister..."



The Highway Rat leapt off his



horse.

Into the



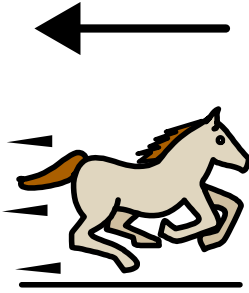
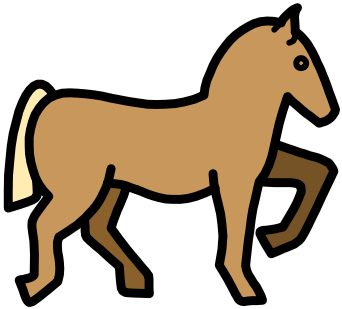
cave



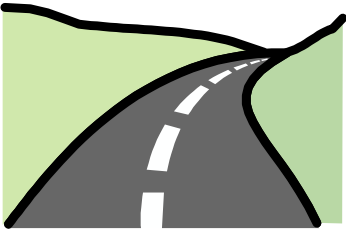
he strode.



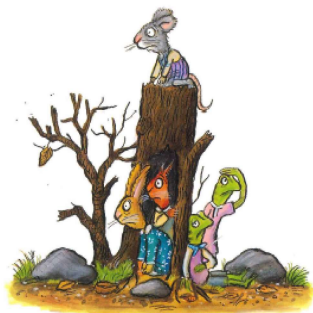
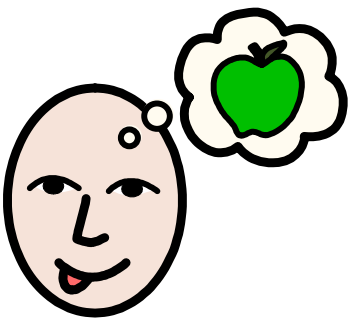
The duck took the



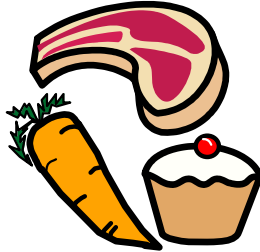
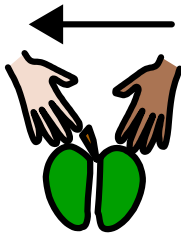
horse and galloped down the



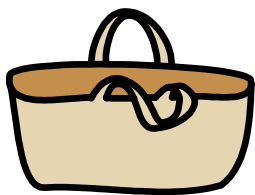
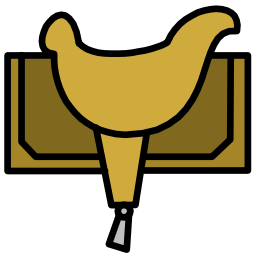
road, back to her



hungry friends.



They shared the food from the



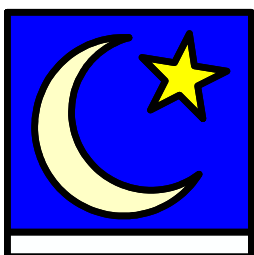
saddle

bags

and

feasted

all



night

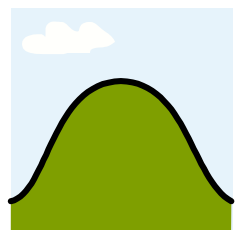
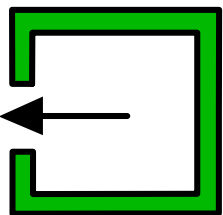
long!



The Highway Rat was in the cave, he



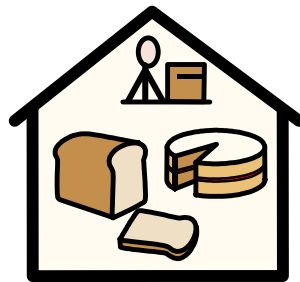
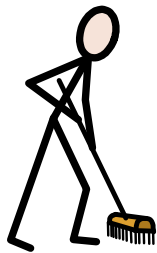
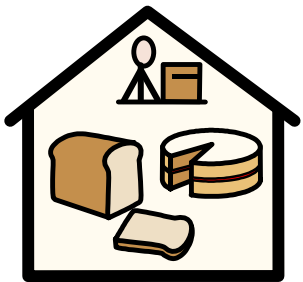
shouted and walked, until, he found his



way out on the other side of the hill.



The Highway Rat now works in a



cake shop, sweeping the cake shop floor.