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An extract from

Attack of the Giant Hamster

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Billy reached into the cage and lowered Hercules onto his exercise wheel. Hercules sat there with a piece of lettuce sticking out of his mouth.

"Come on then," said Billy, "move."

Hercules stared at Billy, and slowly started chewing.

"You are a hairy, fat, useless slob," said Billy in disgust.





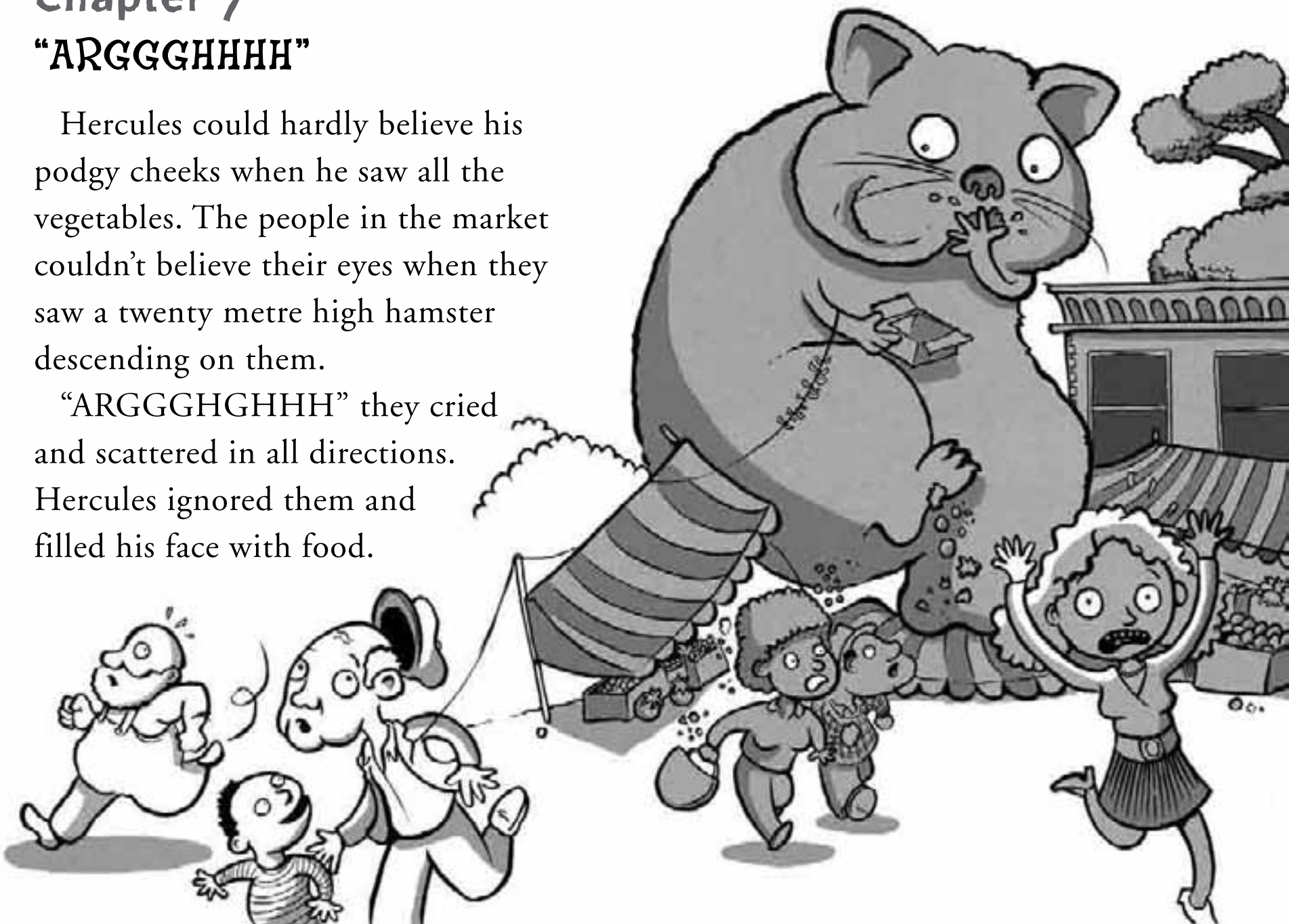
Hercules seemed to smile. Billy sighed and switched on the TV.

"Has your get-up-and-go got up and left?" said a voice on the TV. There was an image of an old lady snoozing in a chair. "Has all your vim vamoosed?" continued the voice-over man. "Then you need Booster Bites – the power snack that puts the power back!"

Chapter 7
"ARGGGHHHH"

Hercules could hardly believe his podgy cheeks when he saw all the vegetables. The people in the market couldn't believe their eyes when they saw a twenty metre high hamster descending on them.

"ARGGGHGHHH" they cried and scattered in all directions. Hercules ignored them and filled his face with food.



The general looked at his watch.

"How long will your hamster sleep for?" asked the general.

"Normally until breakfast time," Billy replied.

"Well then," the general said. "Your professor has got until 7.30 am to get here. If he's not, then we go in."



Chapter 8

Hold your nose!



It was a warm night, so Billy, his mom and dad all spent the night nearby in a police tent with police sleeping bags. But Billy didn't sleep a wink. Partly that was from worry but mainly because Hercules had been snoring. Billy wasn't the only one kept awake. The general was pacing up and down by the rope in a foul temper.

Hercules sped this way and that through the sky like a balloon that had been let go.

