

The Little Monster Digs a Hole

A Full English translation is available.

小怪獸挖地洞

Author: Wei-Hsin Hsiao **Illustrator:** Hui-Yin Hsueh **Publisher:** Kang Hsuan Educational Publishing Group

Date: 11/2019

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32 pages | 21 x 29.7 cm **Volume:** 1

Adaptation: Selected for the 2020 Bologna Illustrators Exhibition

BFT2.0 Translator: Michelle Kuo

Little monsters love digging tunnels. They live in white houses, and the more sweet treats they eat, the more energy they have to dig deeper and bigger holes. At first, this children's book seems like a cheerful tale about a lively little monster, happily chipping away with its pickaxe. Whenever it spots something sweet and colorful, it gobbles it up, ready for more digging.

But the “little monster” is actually the bacteria and plaque that cause cavities. With humor and imagination, this story helps children connect the dots between a toothache and its cause, encouraging them to take charge of their dental health—before any little monsters move in.



Author **Wei-Hsin Hsiao**

Wei-Hsin Hsiao once dreamed of becoming a baseball player, a sports journalist, or even a dancer—but eventually discovered that her true passion was storytelling. Today, she delights in crafting tales for readers of all ages, from grown-ups to children.



Illustrator **Hui-Yin Hsueh**

Hui-Yin Hsueh is an illustrator and occasional pottery artist who often draws inspiration from people, plants, and everyday landscapes. She is the author of *One Mom, Two Big Heads*, *It's Great to Live Here Together*, and *Big and Small: Everyday Battles Between Mothers and Children*. She has illustrated books such as *Mr. Alzheimer*, *Seven Ways to Eat Carrots*, *Sleepwalking*, and *Phonetic Practices*. Hsueh has received the 11th and 13th Book Design Golden Butterfly Award Honor Awards and was selected for the 2021 Bologna Children's Book Fair Illustration Exhibition.

When Little Monsters Get to Work: An Exploration of Teeth

by Tzu Ning Huang

There's a special kind of charm in stories that start from unexpected angles. Whether told through text or images, whether simple or complex, these narratives unfold like mysteries—inviting readers to piece together clues, peel back layers, and uncover the core message at the end. Such stories make reading feel like a delightful detective game, heightening engagement and curiosity throughout the journey.

The Little Monster Digs a Hole is one such book. At first glance, it seems like a cheerful tale about a lively little monster, enthusiastically digging holes with a pickaxe. Whenever it spots something sweet and colorful, it gobbles it up, energized to keep digging. But the real twist comes at the end—the “little monster” is actually the bacteria and

plaque that create cavities! The bright, white land it's burrowing through is none other than human teeth—and all that tunneling and building? That's tooth decay, slowly but steadily forming in our mouths.

The book cleverly uses contrast to convey its message: tiny black monsters against large, gleaming white surfaces; small creatures digging surprisingly large holes; a world originally monochrome brought to life with the sudden burst of vivid, colorful candies. These contrasts aren't just visually striking—they serve an educational purpose as well. The candy's visual appeal draws children in, while the story subtly reveals its consequences, creating a fun yet meaningful reading experience.

With its bold colors and clean lines,

the book is perfect for shared reading with children. Its large format allows young readers to explore the illustrations more easily, helping them learn to identify shapes and colors. The playful use of onomatopoeia and the winding, dynamic layout of the text adds rhythm and energy to the storytelling. All of these elements combine to make the act of reading not just informative, but also lively and enjoyable.

Through this imaginative and humorous narrative, the book helps children understand the cause and effect of tooth decay. It provides a gentle reminder of the importance of good oral hygiene and encourages kids to adopt healthy brushing habits—before they have to deal with the real pain of a cavity!

This creative picture book comes from Kang Hsuan Educational Publishing Group, an established textbook publisher based in Taiwan. Under its children's imprint *KST Kids*, the company specializes in educational content for ages 0 to 12. In addition to publishing picture books, *KST Kids* serves as a platform for Taiwanese storytellers and illustrators, focusing

on works that not only entertain but also educate—strengthening the bond between children and adults through shared learning.

KST Kids also actively extends its reach through multimedia. Its official YouTube channel features not just early childhood educational videos, but also animated versions of its picture books. This multi-format approach not only enriches storytelling but also reflects the brand's commitment to engaging children across different media, offering parents and educators more ways to inspire and educate.

In the end, *The Little Monster Digs a Hole* is more than a playful monster story—it's a cleverly disguised health lesson, told with heart, humor, and a healthy dose of imagination.

Tzu Ning Huang is an editorial consultant at Books from Taiwan. She loves to listen and tell stories, enjoys conversations and encounters with others, and appreciates time alone. She also loves to use photography and writing to explore the world.

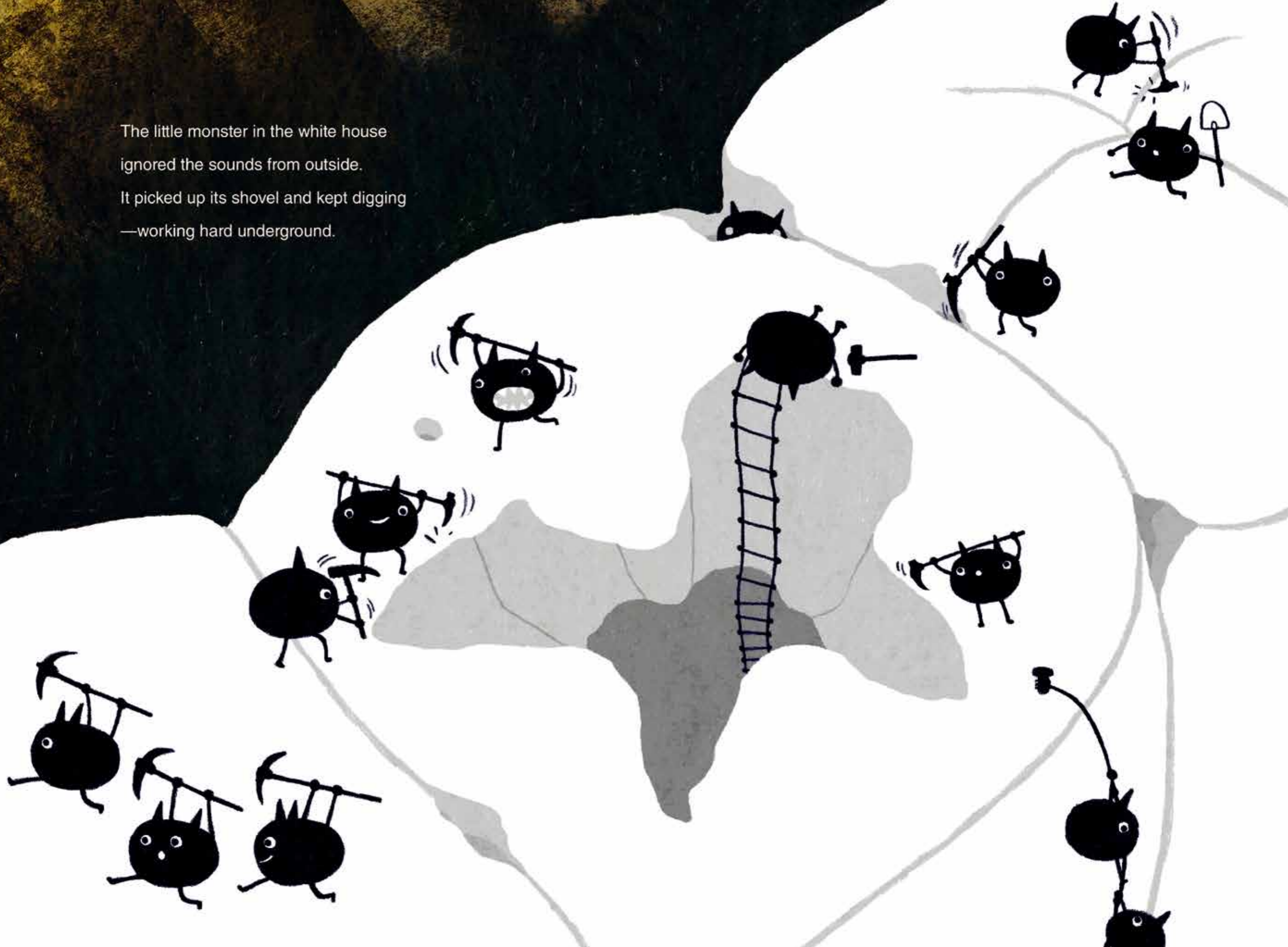


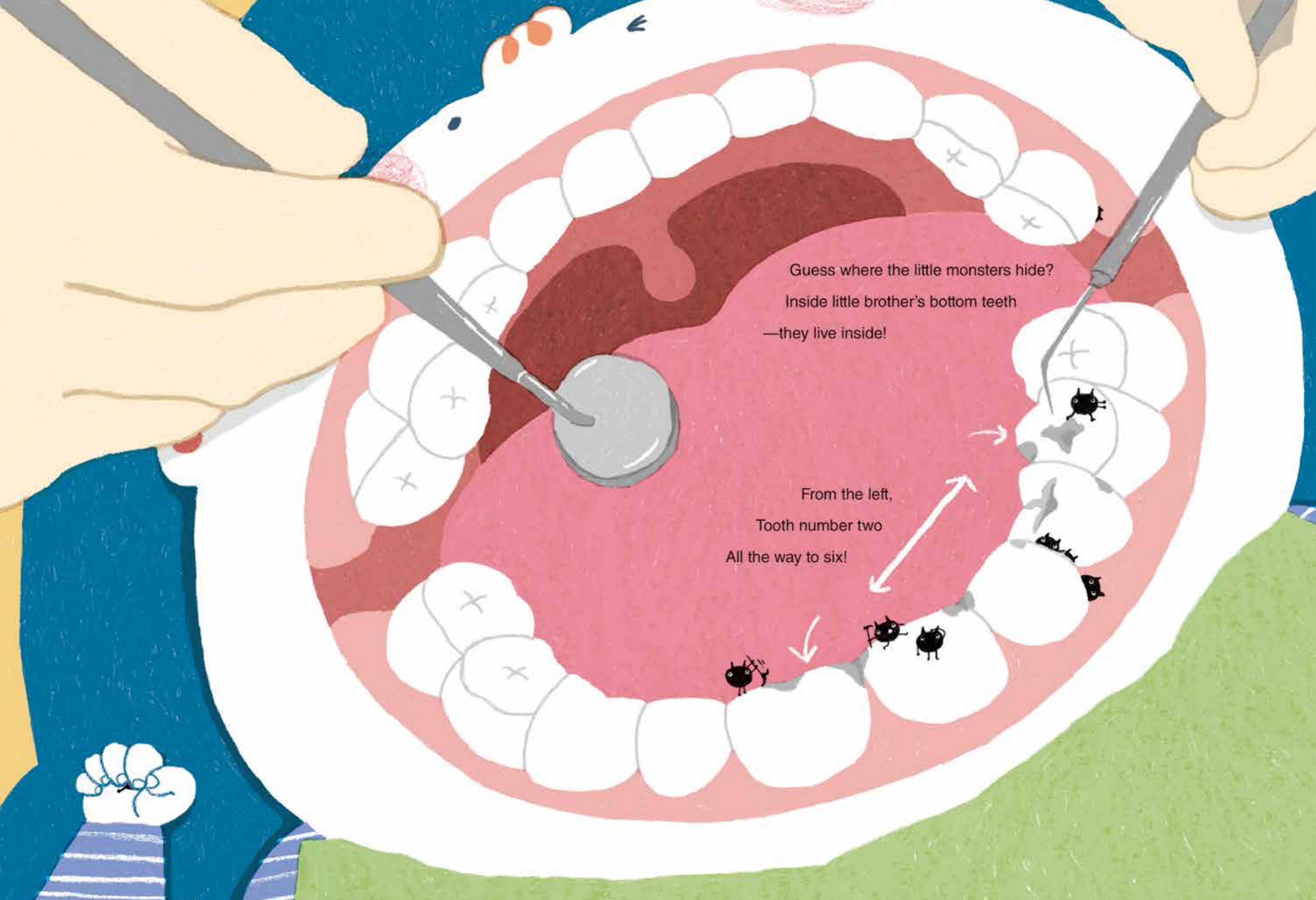
"If you eat candy and don't brush your teeth,
germs will grow and never leave!
Now look—there's a big hole in your tooth!"
said Sister to her little brother.

His tooth hurt too much.
No more sweet and sour treats.
No more colors. No more crunch.
And that made little brother very sad.



The little monster in the white house
ignored the sounds from outside.
It picked up its shovel and kept digging
—working hard underground.





Guess where the little monsters hide?
Inside little brother's bottom teeth
—they live inside!

From the left,
Tooth number two
All the way to six!