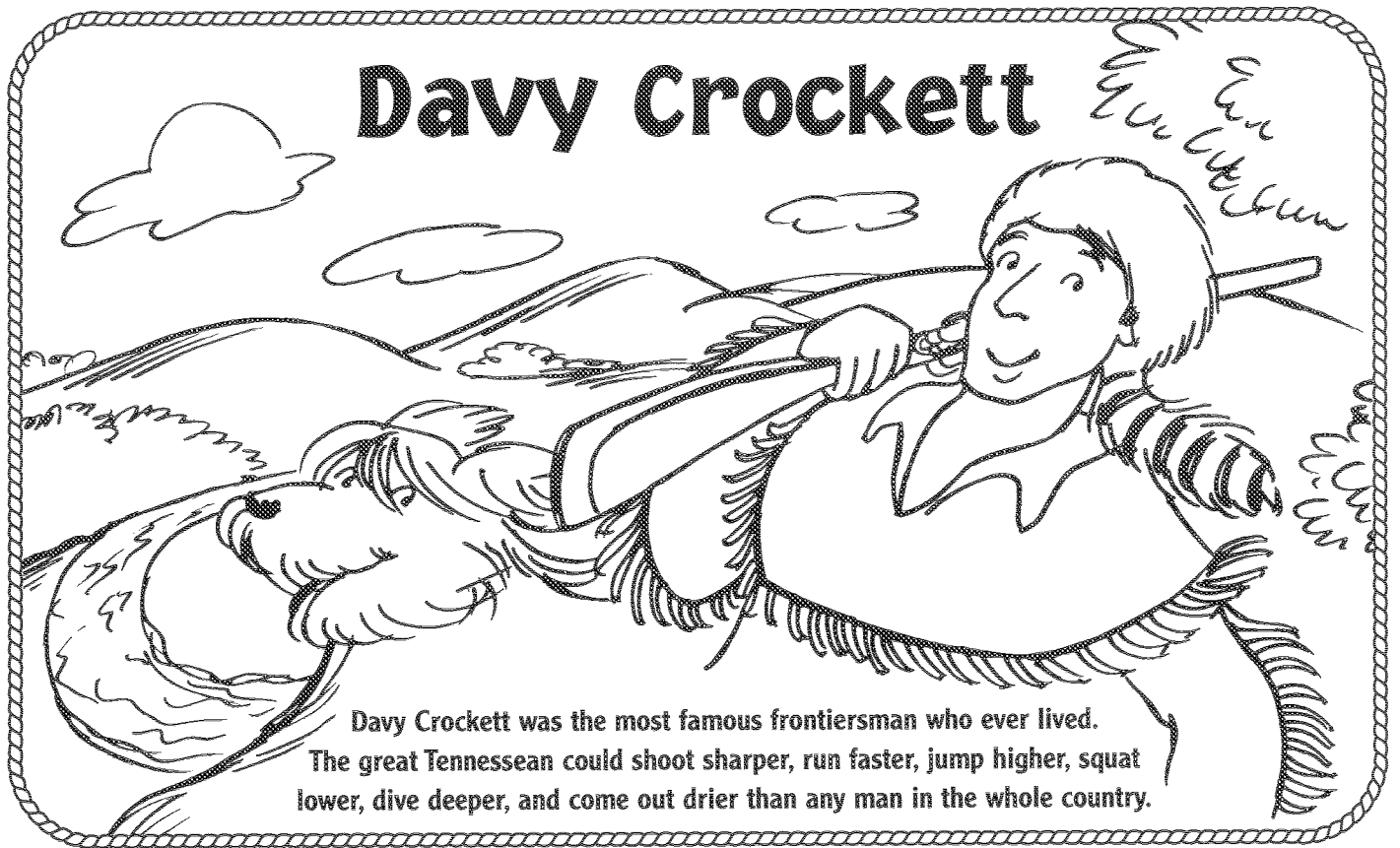


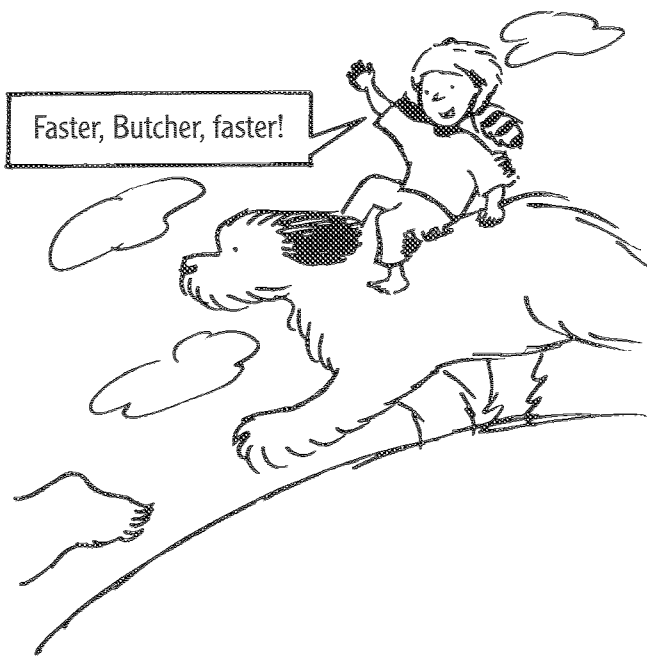
Davy Crockett



Davy Crockett was the most famous frontiersman who ever lived. The great Tennessean could shoot sharper, run faster, jump higher, squat lower, dive deeper, and come out drier than any man in the whole country.

□ 1 □

Davy's childhood revolved around animals. He loved to climb onto his sheepdog, Butcher, and chase bears that had just woken from their naps. You've never seen bears run so fast!

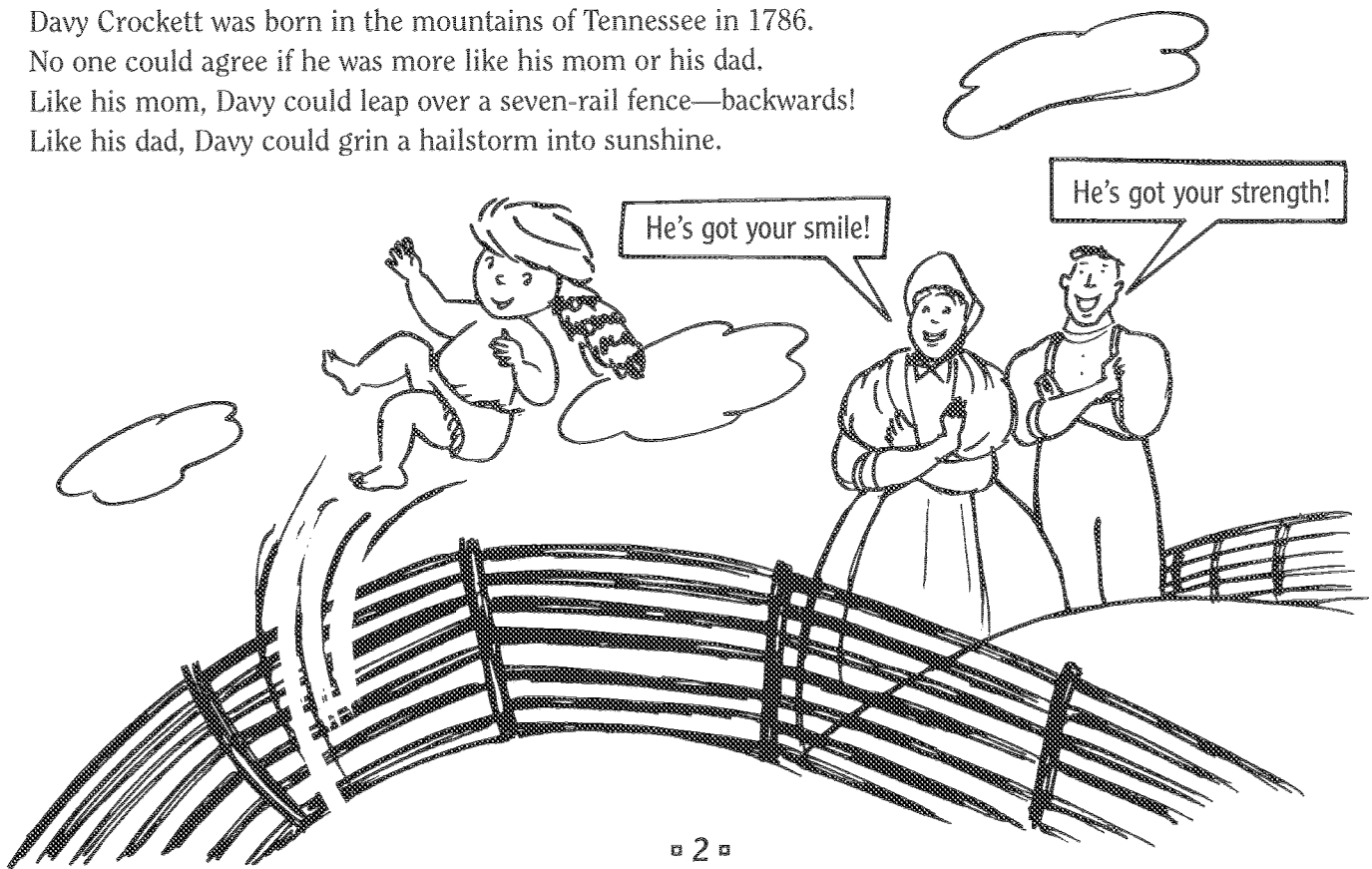


With all that fresh air and exercise, Davy grew fast. By the time he was eight years old, he weighed more than 100 pounds. He couldn't ride Butcher anymore, but he still liked to chase sleepy bears.



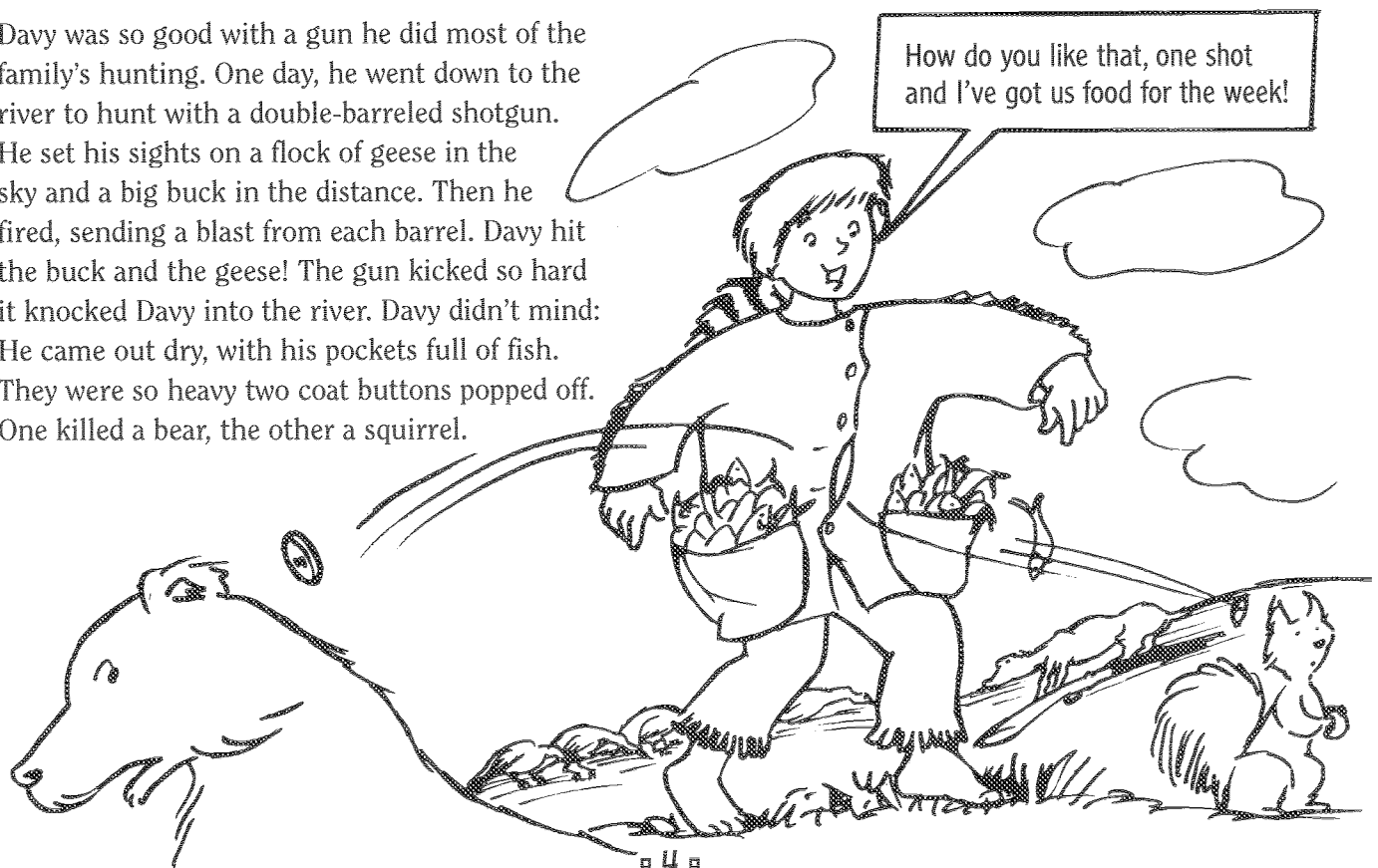
□ 3 □

Davy Crockett was born in the mountains of Tennessee in 1786. No one could agree if he was more like his mom or his dad. Like his mom, Davy could leap over a seven-rail fence—backwards! Like his dad, Davy could grin a hailstorm into sunshine.



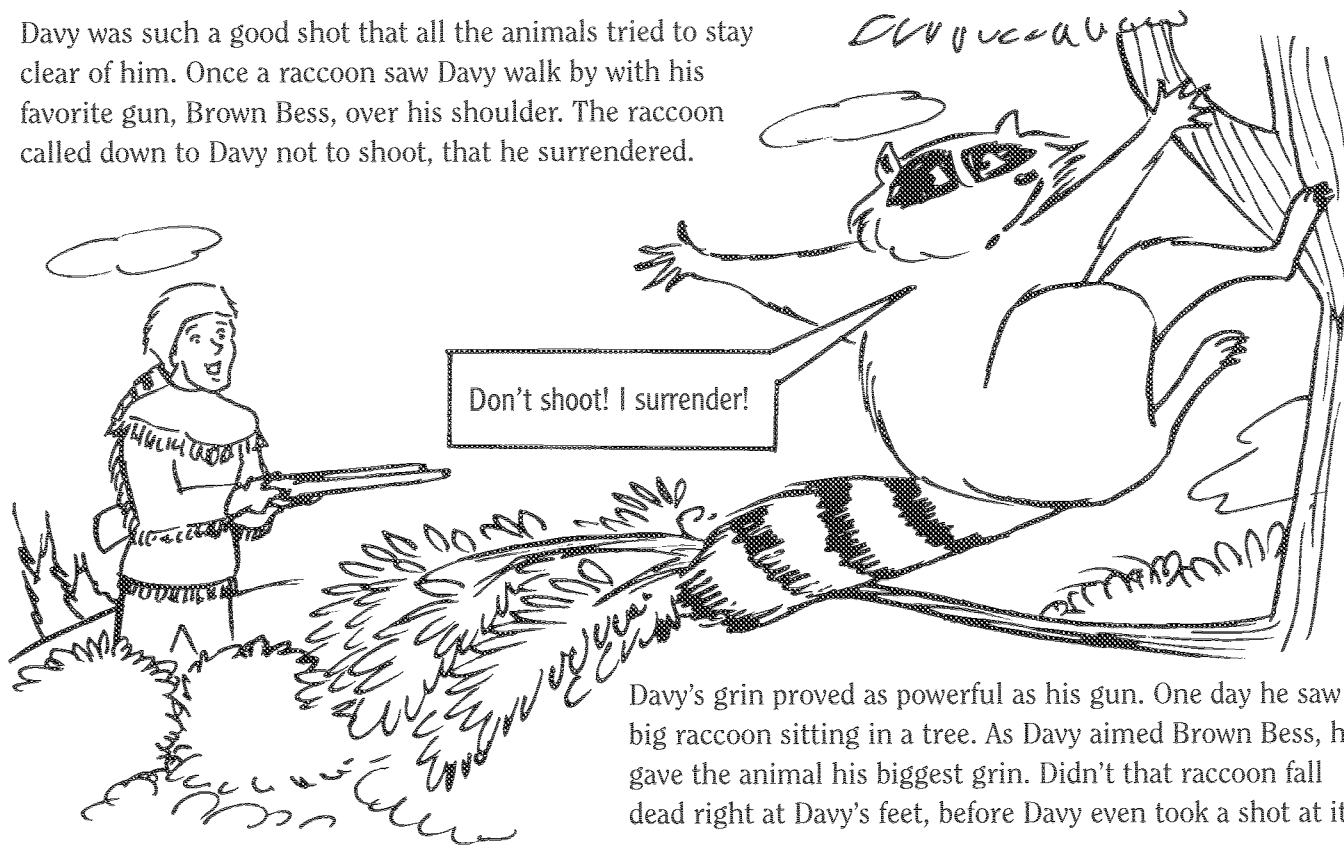
□ 2 □

Davy was so good with a gun he did most of the family's hunting. One day, he went down to the river to hunt with a double-barreled shotgun. He set his sights on a flock of geese in the sky and a big buck in the distance. Then he fired, sending a blast from each barrel. Davy hit the buck and the geese! The gun kicked so hard it knocked Davy into the river. Davy didn't mind: He came out dry, with his pockets full of fish. They were so heavy two coat buttons popped off. One killed a bear, the other a squirrel.



□ 4 □

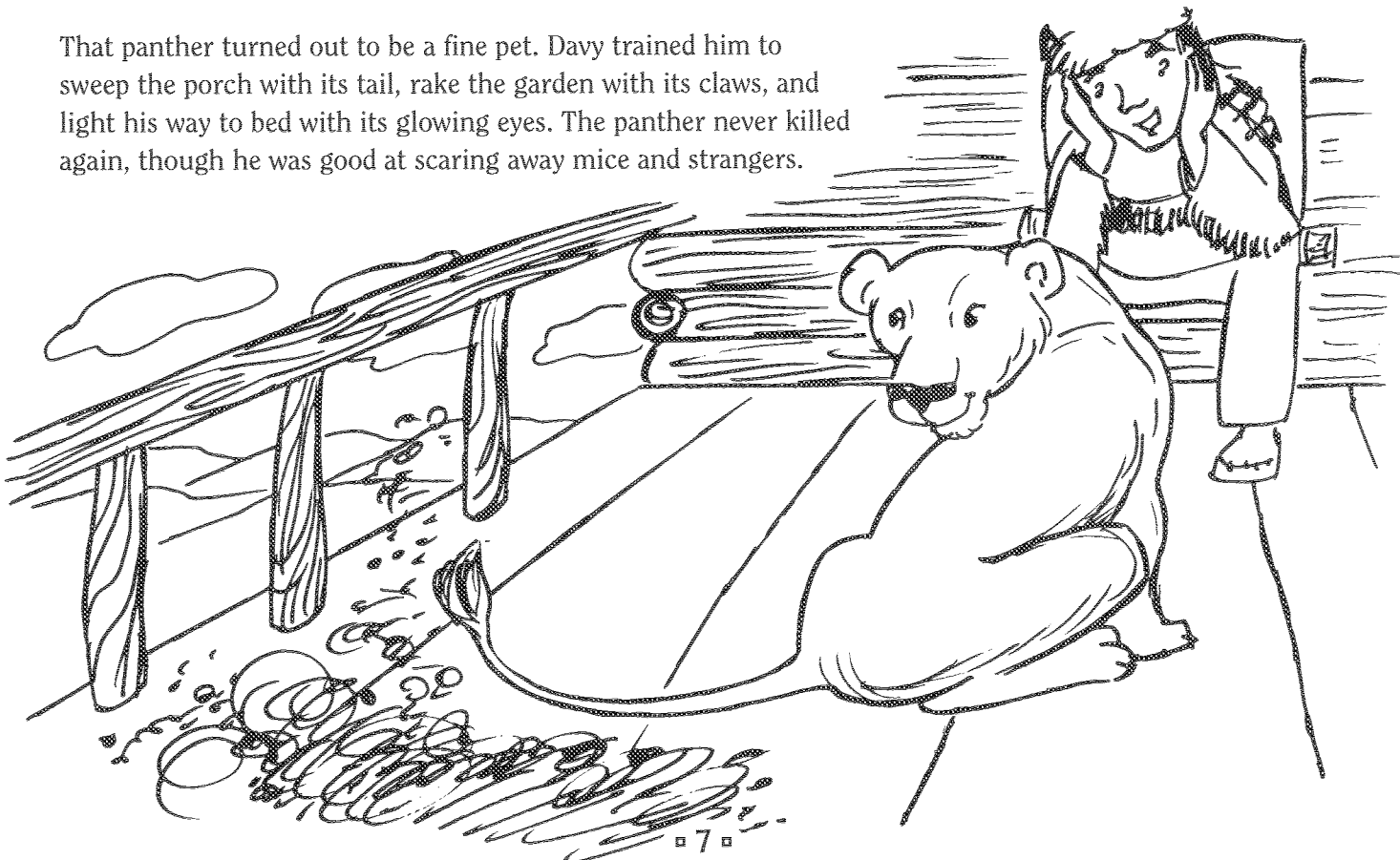
Davy was such a good shot that all the animals tried to stay clear of him. Once a raccoon saw Davy walk by with his favorite gun, Brown Bess, over his shoulder. The raccoon called down to Davy not to shoot, that he surrendered.



Davy's grin proved as powerful as his gun. One day he saw a big raccoon sitting in a tree. As Davy aimed Brown Bess, he gave the animal his biggest grin. Didn't that raccoon fall dead right at Davy's feet, before Davy even took a shot at it!

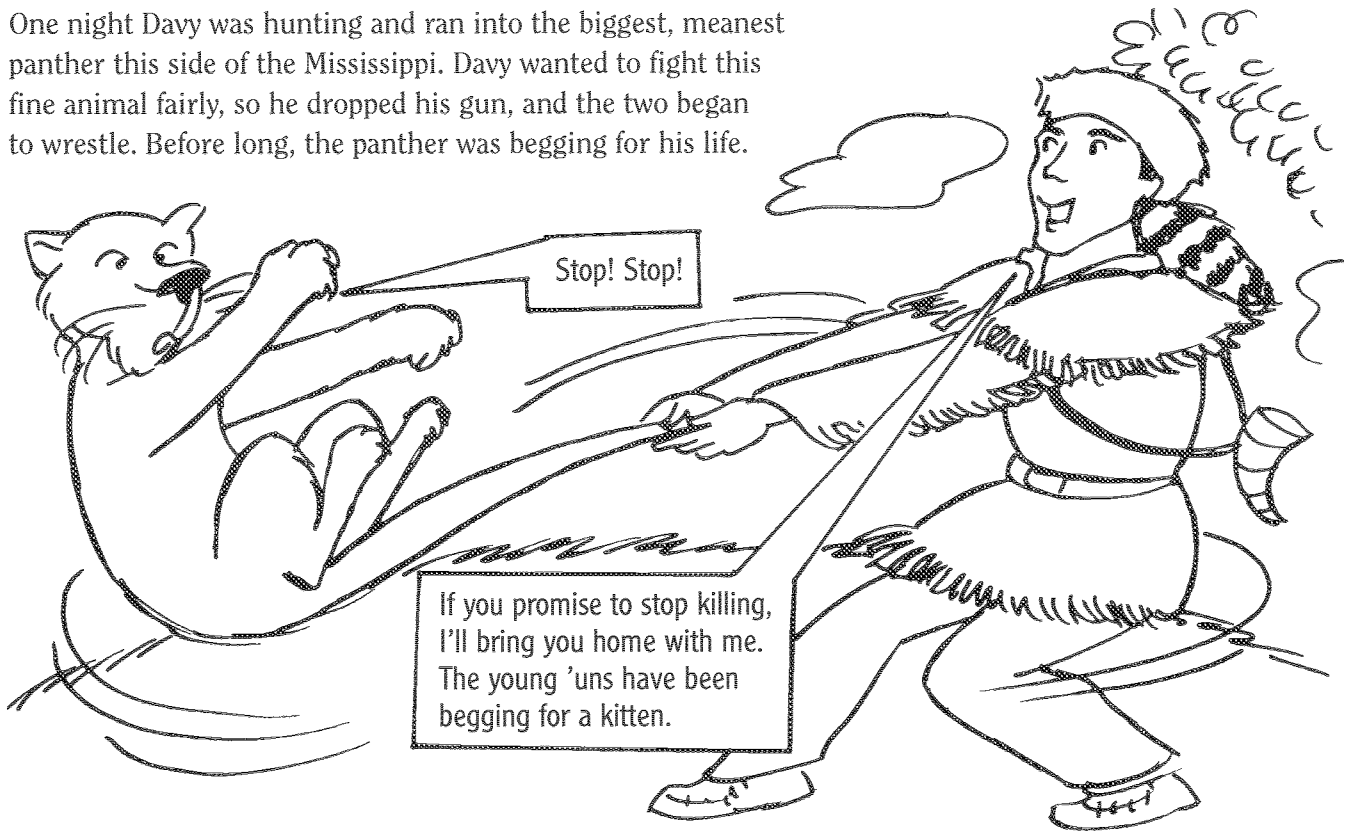
□ 5 □

That panther turned out to be a fine pet. Davy trained him to sweep the porch with its tail, rake the garden with its claws, and light his way to bed with its glowing eyes. The panther never killed again, though he was good at scaring away mice and strangers.



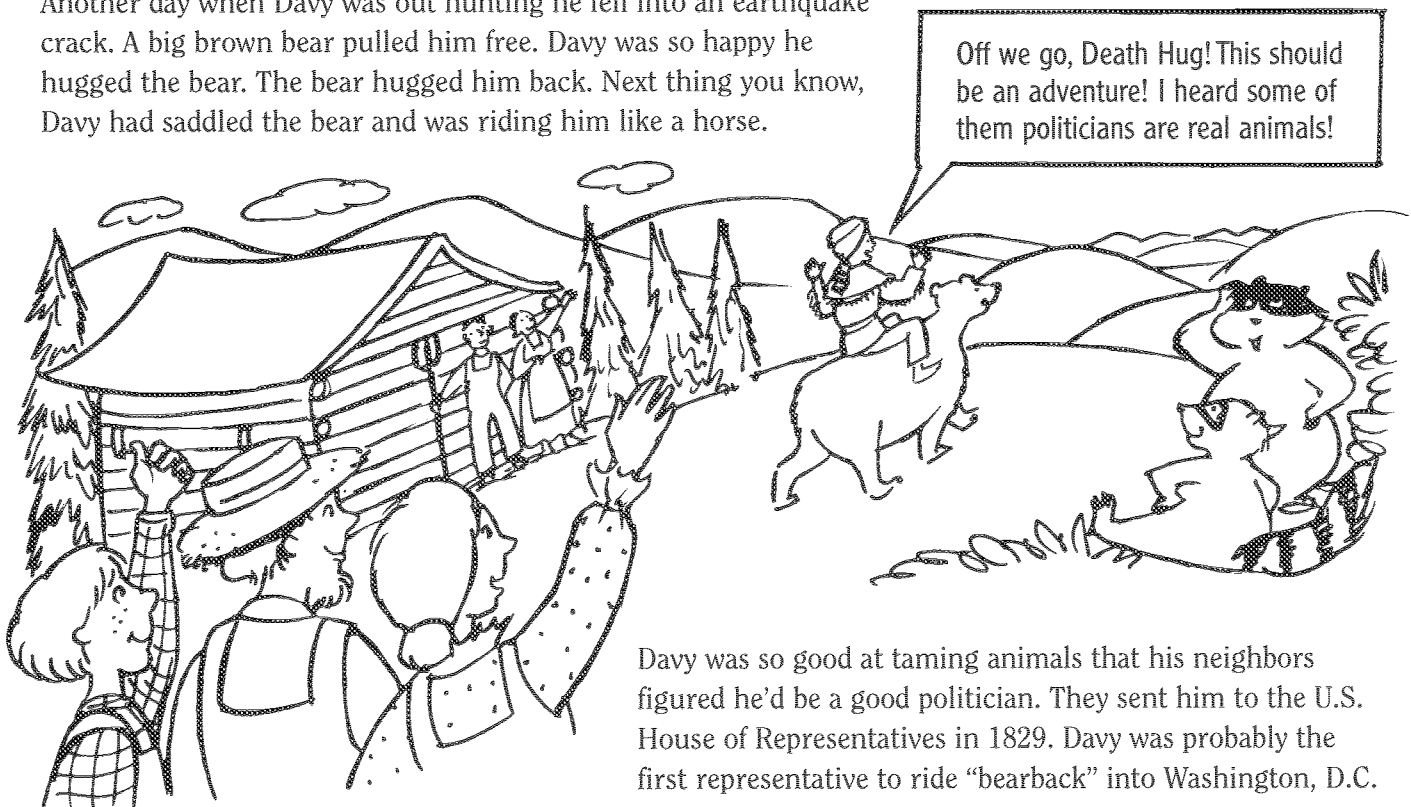
□ 7 □

One night Davy was hunting and ran into the biggest, meanest panther this side of the Mississippi. Davy wanted to fight this fine animal fairly, so he dropped his gun, and the two began to wrestle. Before long, the panther was begging for his life.



□ 6 □

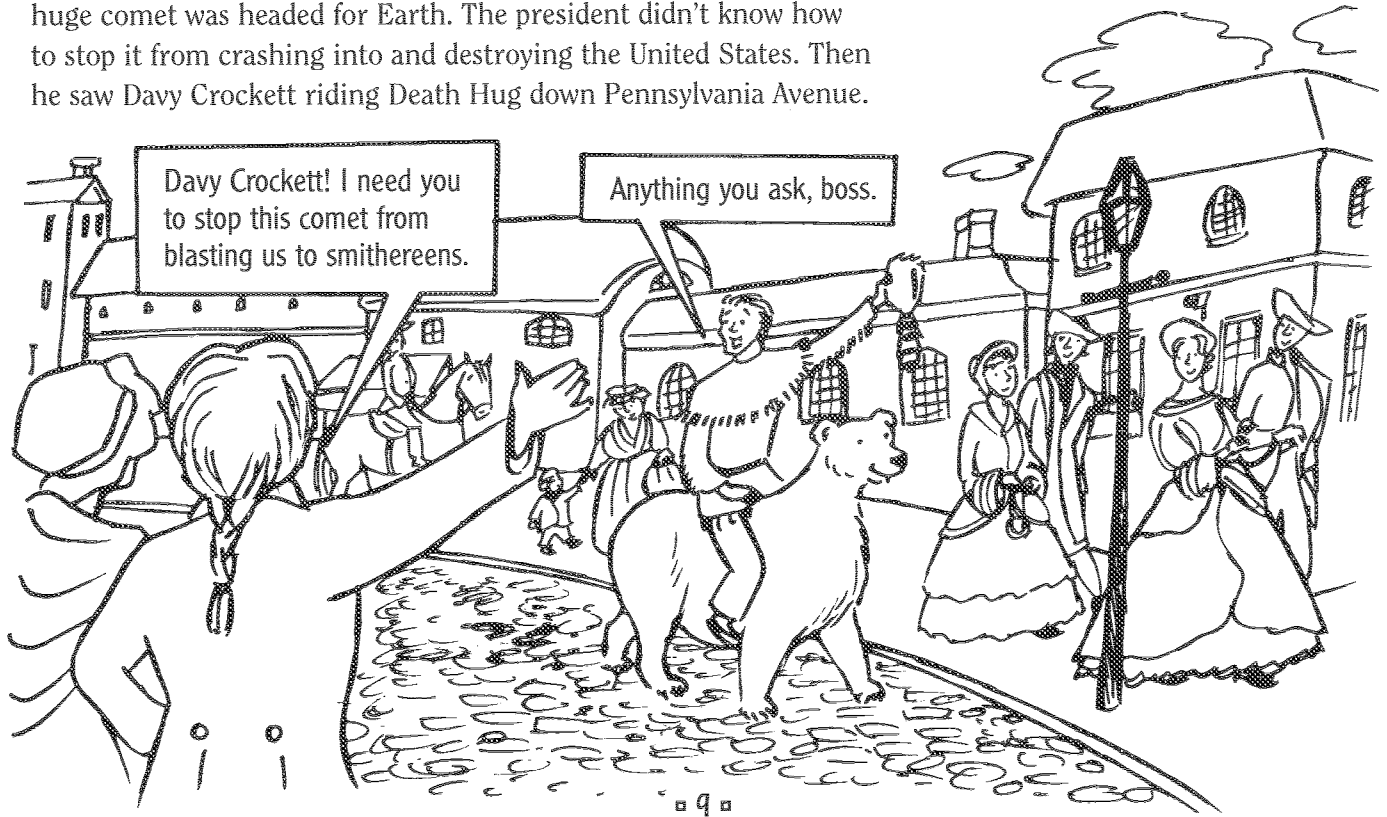
Another day when Davy was out hunting he fell into an earthquake crack. A big brown bear pulled him free. Davy was so happy he hugged the bear. The bear hugged him back. Next thing you know, Davy had saddled the bear and was riding him like a horse.



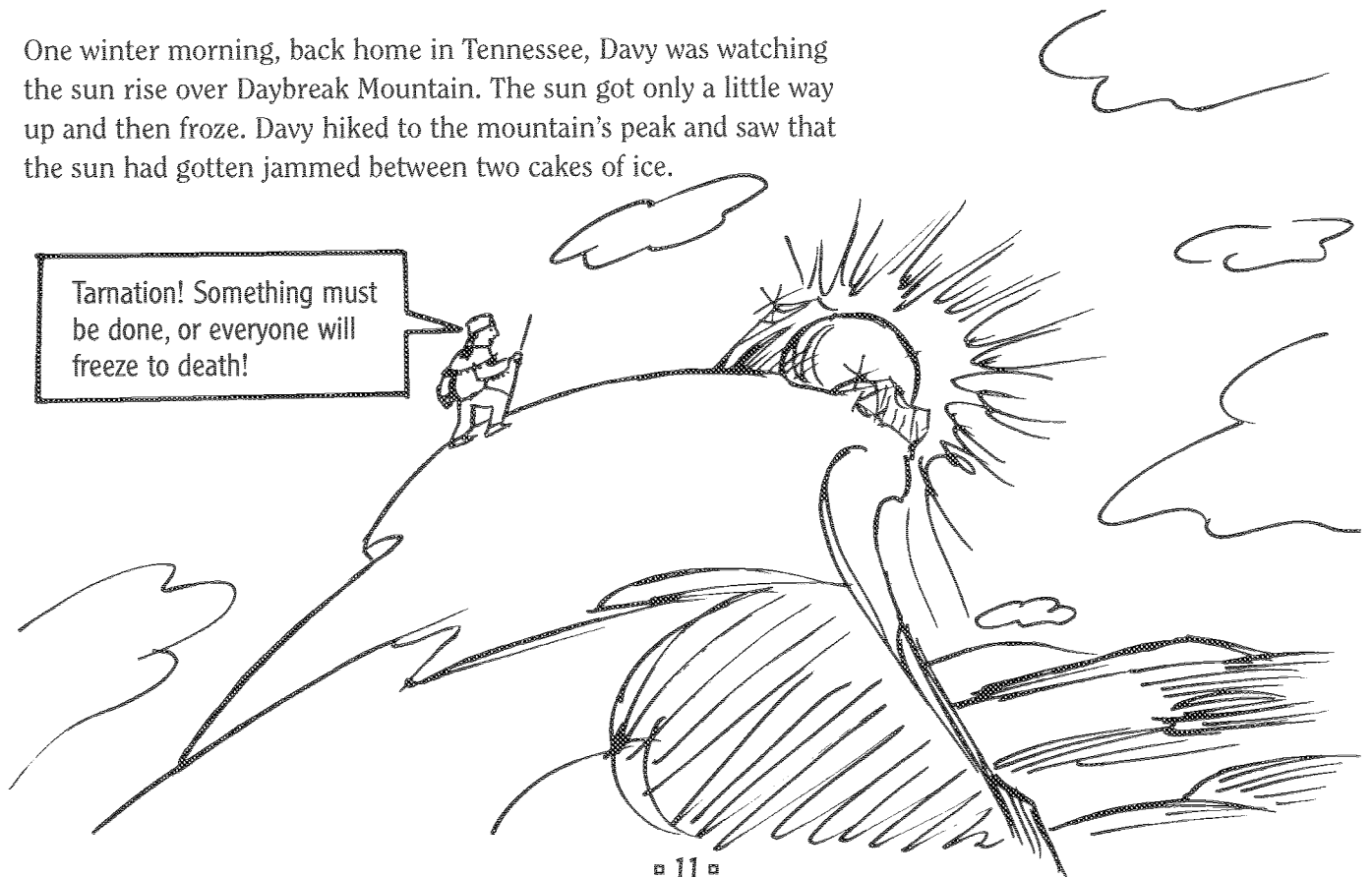
Davy was so good at taming animals that his neighbors figured he'd be a good politician. They sent him to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1829. Davy was probably the first representative to ride "bearback" into Washington, D.C.

□ 8 □

When Davy arrived in Washington, the country was in a crisis! A huge comet was headed for Earth. The president didn't know how to stop it from crashing into and destroying the United States. Then he saw Davy Crockett riding Death Hug down Pennsylvania Avenue.

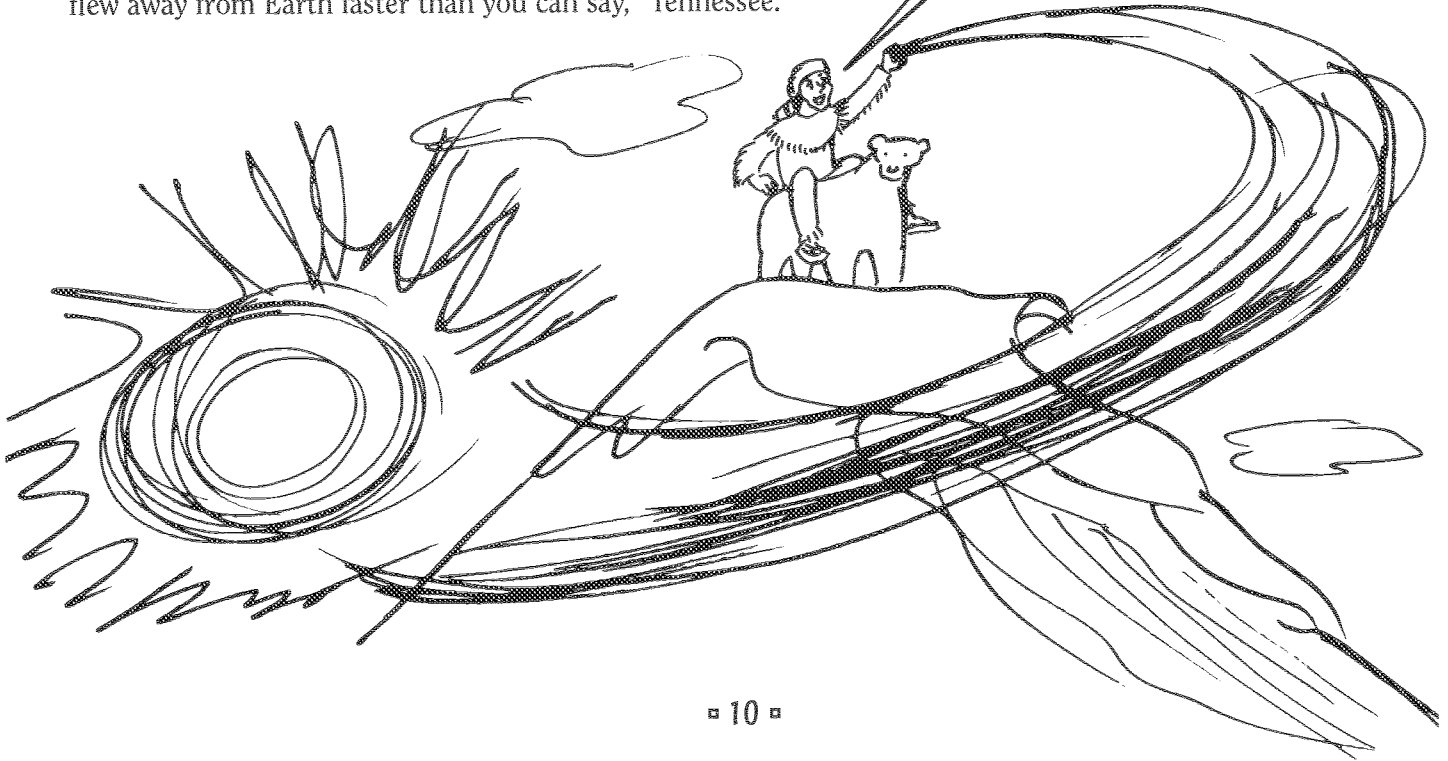


One winter morning, back home in Tennessee, Davy was watching the sun rise over Daybreak Mountain. The sun got only a little way up and then froze. Davy hiked to the mountain's peak and saw that the sun had gotten jammed between two cakes of ice.



Davy rode Death Hug to the top of the tallest mountain. When the comet got close enough, Davy reached out and grabbed the comet's tail. Then he swung it around and around and let it go. That comet flew away from Earth faster than you can say, "Tennessee."

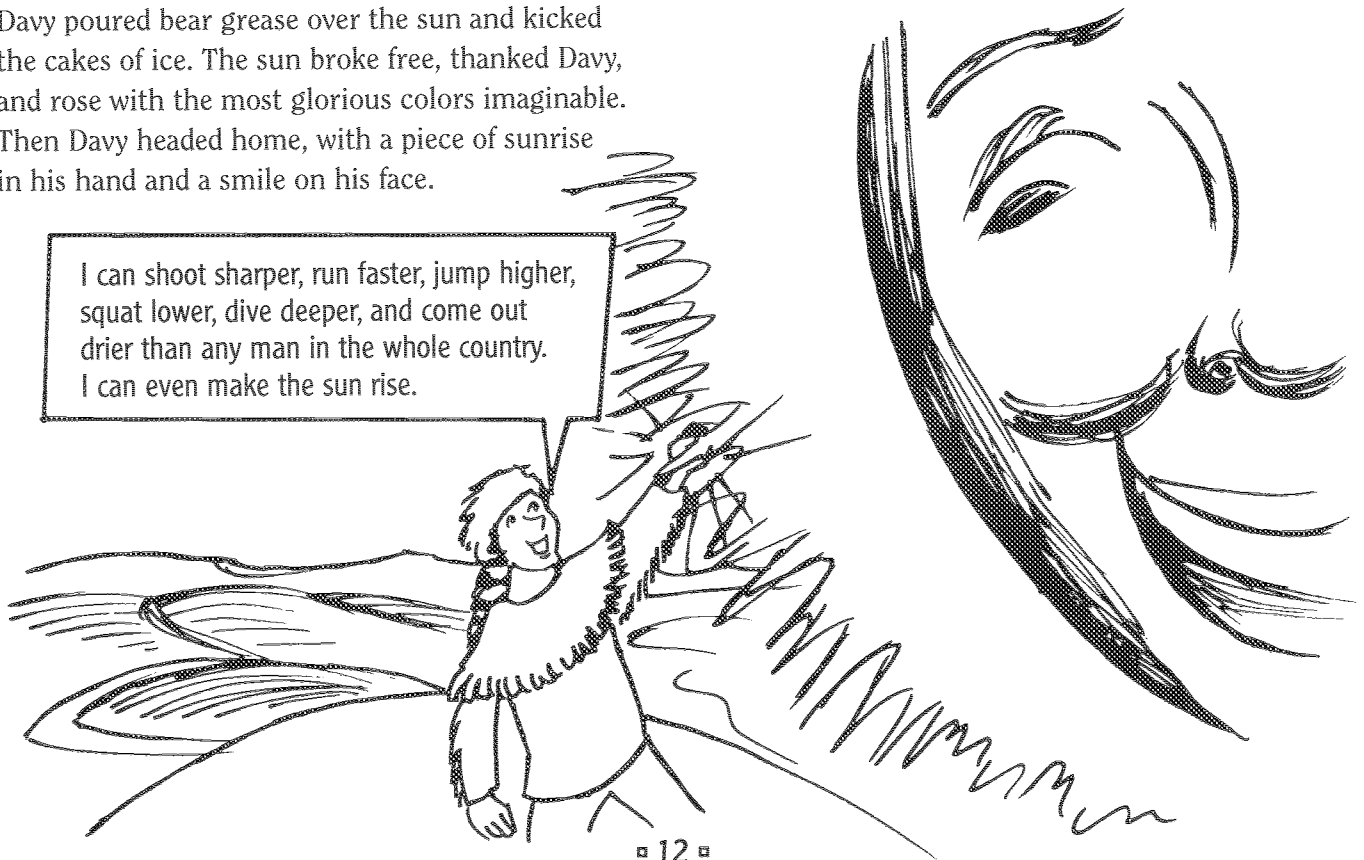
This'll teach you to bother Americans!



▣ 10 ▣

Davy poured bear grease over the sun and kicked the cakes of ice. The sun broke free, thanked Davy, and rose with the most glorious colors imaginable. Then Davy headed home, with a piece of sunrise in his hand and a smile on his face.

I can shoot sharper, run faster, jump higher, squat lower, dive deeper, and come out drier than any man in the whole country. I can even make the sun rise.



▣ 12 ▣