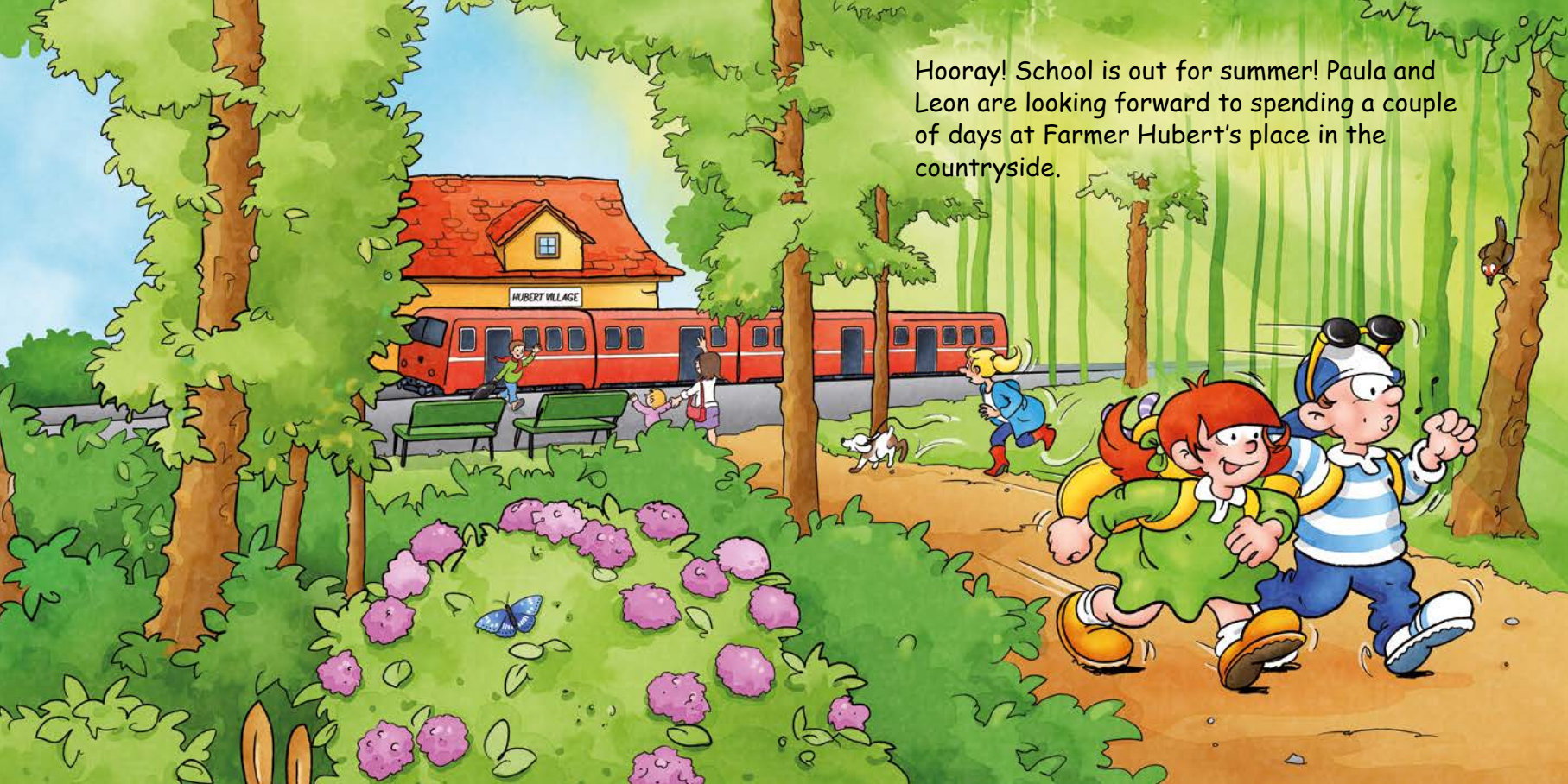


FARMER HUBERT



and the colourful school

Hooray! School is out for summer! Paula and Leon are looking forward to spending a couple of days at Farmer Hubert's place in the countryside.



"Hello children, there you are," Hubert welcomes both happily. "Well, we'd better be heading off to school." "Whaaaat!???" Leon yawns. "School? But it's summer holidays!!!"

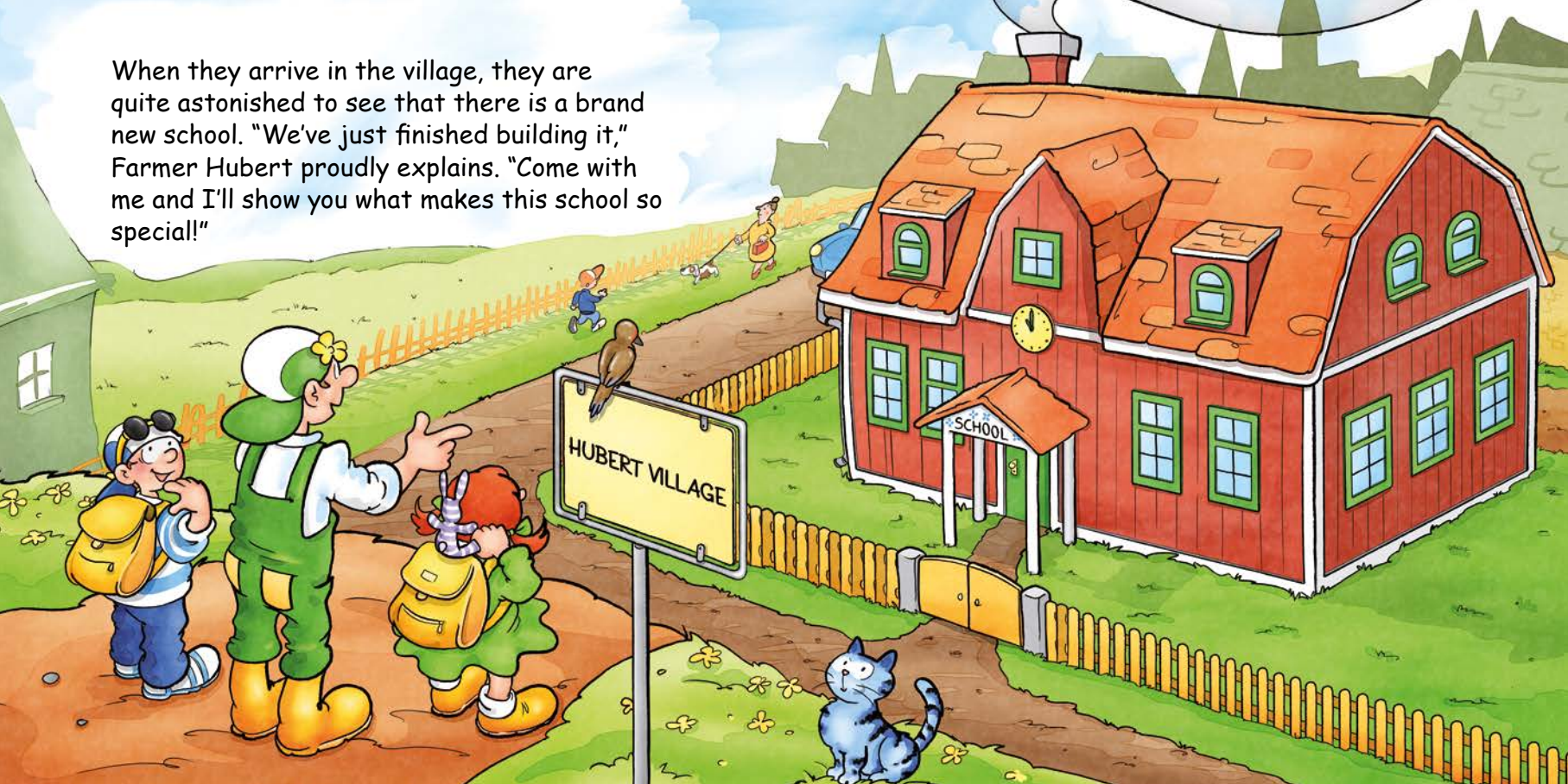


The happy mood is ruined in a moment. Morosely they follow Farmer Hubert to the village.

"Oh, come on now!" soothes Farmer Hubert, smiling at the children. "You won't regret it! I promise!"



When they arrive in the village, they are quite astonished to see that there is a brand new school. "We've just finished building it," Farmer Hubert proudly explains. "Come with me and I'll show you what makes this school so special!"



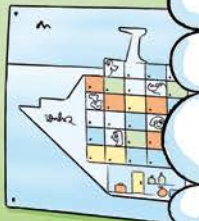
Paula and Leon have a look around, but can't find anything special about the place. Everything looks the same as in any other school except that it smells new ...

"For starters, we painted the walls using vegetable paint." "Oh, with dye plants from your fields?" Paula guesses. "Exactly!" Farmer Hubert says, delighted: "Just wait till you see all the things that were made using my plants!"

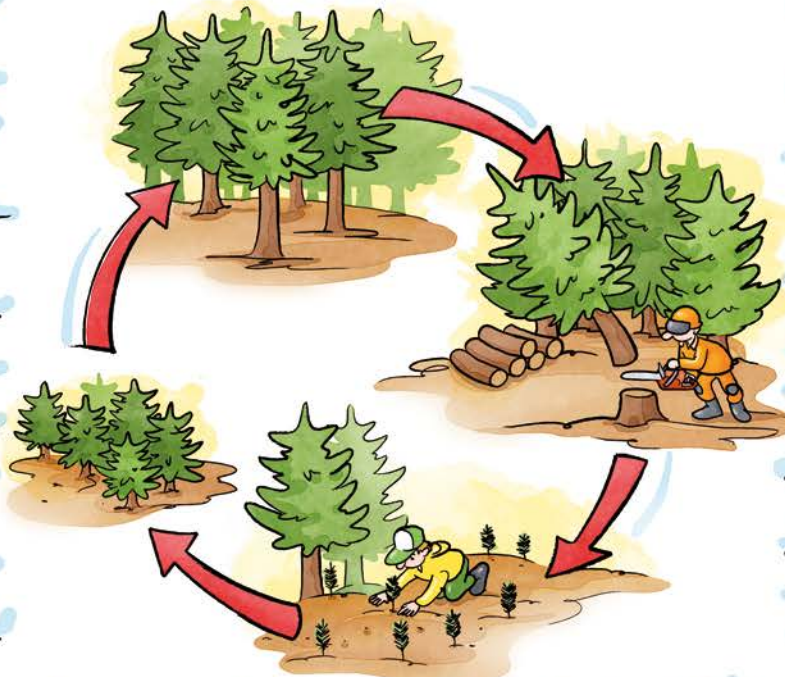




"The furniture is made of wood. And the school is also heated with it." "Whaat?!" exclaims Leon. "You mean you heat the school with desks and chairs?" "No," Farmer Hubert laughs, "with the wood left over from making furniture."



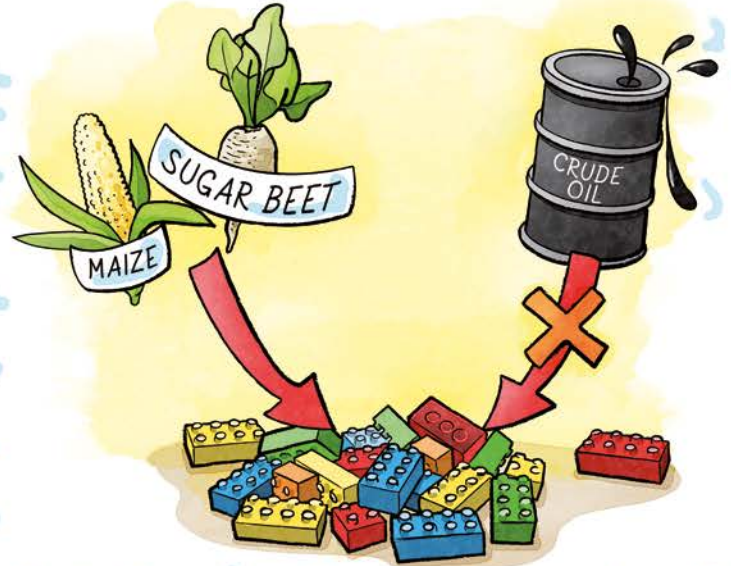
"Wood is a great resource because you can keep on growing it indefinitely, it's renewable."



Paula and Leon become more and more curious. They look for other things that are made using plants. Leon discovers a toy box with colourful building blocks. "And what about these?"



"You can't tell by looking at them, but these building blocks were also made using plants," Farmer Hubert explains. "They're made of bioplastics. And the bioplastics are made using sugar beets and maize and not crude oil."



"Oh, I get it ...," Paula says, "... the carpet is made of plants." "No," Farmer Hubert laughs, "it's made of sheep's wool." "And the curtains?" Leon asks. "They are made of cotton," Hubert replies.



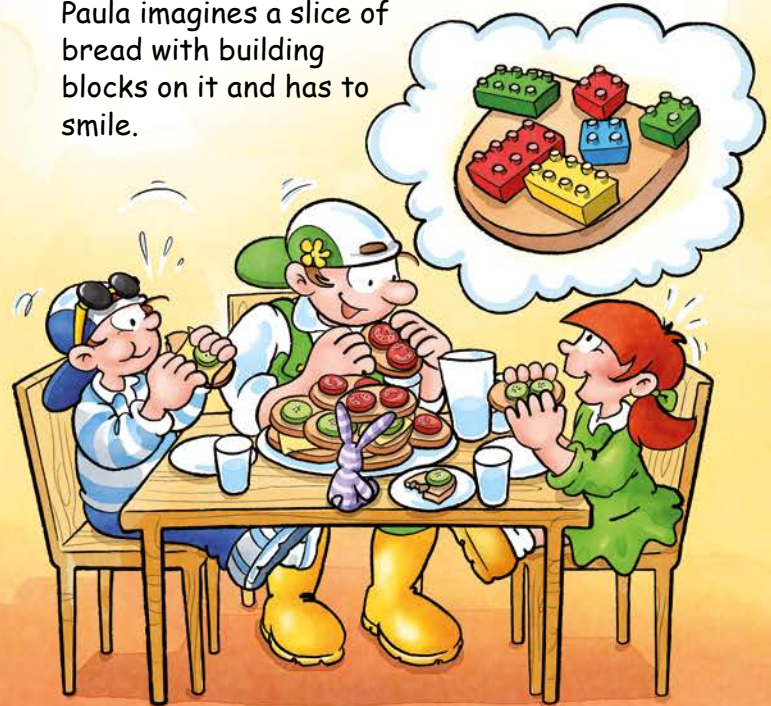
Leon laughs so hard that tears run down his cheeks. "Hahaha! Just imagine: sheep growing on trees!"



"Well," Farmer Hubert says, "I bet you're hungry! How about a bite to eat?"



The children eat their sandwiches with relish. "And our bread's made from ...?" Farmer Hubert asks. "... from plants!" Leon replies. Paula imagines a slice of bread with building blocks on it and has to smile.

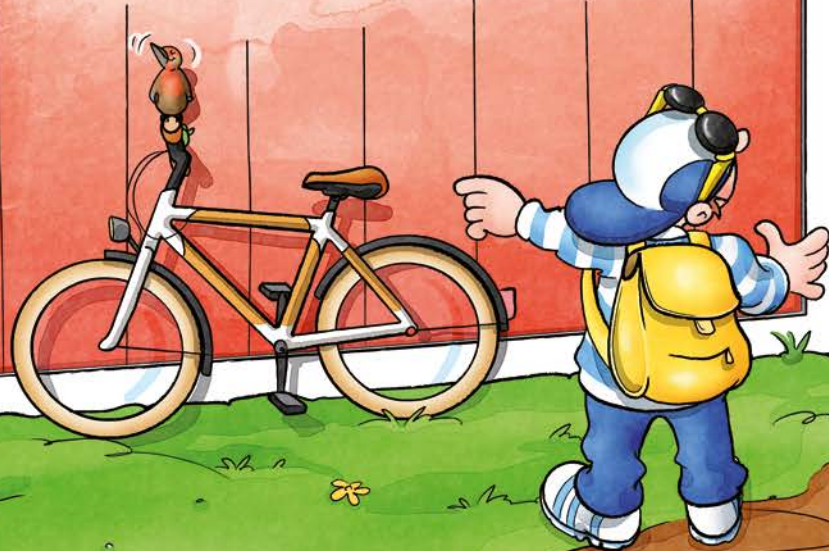


After lunch Hubert gives the kids a wink and points towards the kitchen. "There's a surprise waiting for you in there ..."



"We might have guessed!" Leon says. "What? That we'd have to do the dishes on the holidays?" Paula asks. "No, that even the washing-up liquid is made from plants," Leon laughs.

Once the dishes are done and they're ready to head home, Leon discovers a cool bike in the backyard. "No way this is made of plants," he is certain. "Actually," replies Hubert, "it's made of wood. You wouldn't believe all the things you can make from plants."



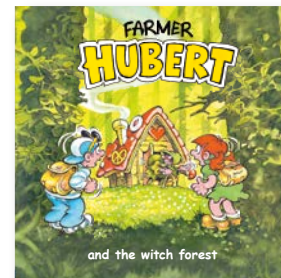
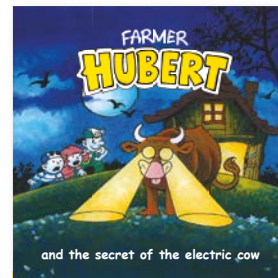
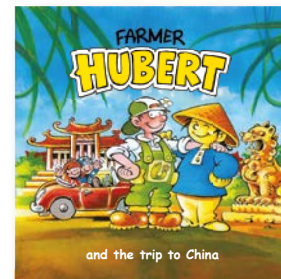
Leon scrutinizes the wooden bicycle and cannot believe his eyes. "Go on, give it a try!" Hubert says. Leon does not have to be asked twice and off he goes ...



... and shouts excitedly: "A colourful school
like that is even better than holidays!!!"



*Published so far
in the series of
Farmer Hubert
books:*





Imprint

Publisher:

Published by the Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e. V. (FNR), Hofplatz 1, D-18276 Gülzow-Prüzen, with support from the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture by decision of the German Bundestag.

Phone: +49 3843 6930-0

Fax: +49 3843 6930-102

www.nachwachsende-rohstoffe.de
www.fnr.de

Illustrations:

Juliane Assies

Design and creation:

WPR COMMUNICATION, Berlin

2017

Printed on 100% recycled paper
using vegetable oil-based inks

FNR order number: 923

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