



# The Golden Net

Children's leaflet 1

Bill was a fisherman.

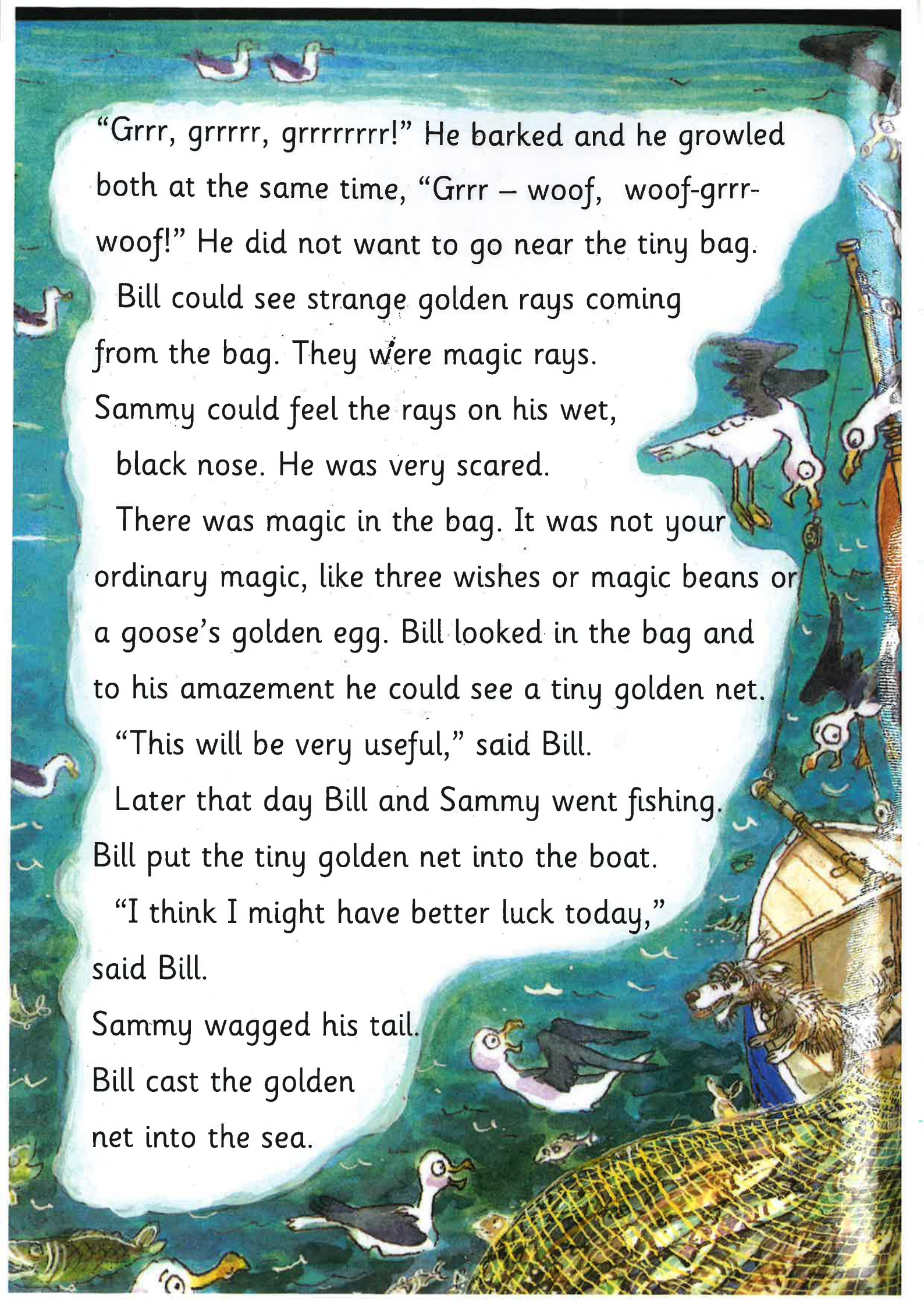
He had a small boat and went fishing every day, together with his dog Sammy.

“I am the unluckiest fisherman in the world,” he said. “Sometimes, the nets break. Sometimes, the boat leaks. Sometimes, the fish jump back into the sea. Sometimes, seagulls fly down and take my fish.”

One day Bill was walking along the beach with Sammy. He could see something on the sand. It was a tiny bag, about as big as Sammy's paw.

Sammy was scared. He barked at the bag, “Woof, woof, woo-ooof!” He growled at the bag,





“Grrr, grrrrr, grrrrrrrr!” He barked and he growled both at the same time, “Grrr – woof, woof-grrr-woof!” He did not want to go near the tiny bag.

Bill could see strange golden rays coming from the bag. They were magic rays.

Sammy could feel the rays on his wet, black nose. He was very scared.

There was magic in the bag. It was not your ordinary magic, like three wishes or magic beans or a goose’s golden egg. Bill looked in the bag and to his amazement he could see a tiny golden net.

“This will be very useful,” said Bill.

Later that day Bill and Sammy went fishing. Bill put the tiny golden net into the boat.

“I think I might have better luck today,” said Bill.

Sammy wagged his tail.

Bill cast the golden net into the sea.





It grew bigger and bigger and bigger.

The golden net was very strong.

Bill and Sammy waited for an hour, then

Bill pulled the net in. He had caught lots of fish.

He counted the fish as he pulled in the net,  
“1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, ...” By the  
time he finished counting, he had 50 fish!

Seagulls flew down to take the fish, but  
Sammy barked and growled at them,  
“Grrr-woof, grrrr-woof, woof-grrrr, woof-grrr-woof!”

The gulls flew away with nothing.

The fish started to jump back into the sea.

So Bill took the net from the water  
and covered up the fish.

Bill was very pleased with the fish and  
he turned his small boat back  
to the shore. He could not  
believe his good fortune and  
was counting the fish again  
when the boat suddenly  
hit a rock and started to



leak. It filled with water very quickly. Bill grabbed the magic net and spread it over the hole.

No more water came into the boat, because it could not get past the magic net.

Bill and Sammy landed back on the shore with their catch.

Bill lay the magic net on the beach to dry.

“Now I am the luckiest fisherman in the world,” he said.

That night he invited all his friends round and they had fish and chips for tea.

Next morning, Bill looked out over the beach. The seagulls were swooping down across the sand and Bill watched as the biggest seagull picked up the magic net and flew away with it.

“Oh no!” he said.

“Good luck never lasts.”

