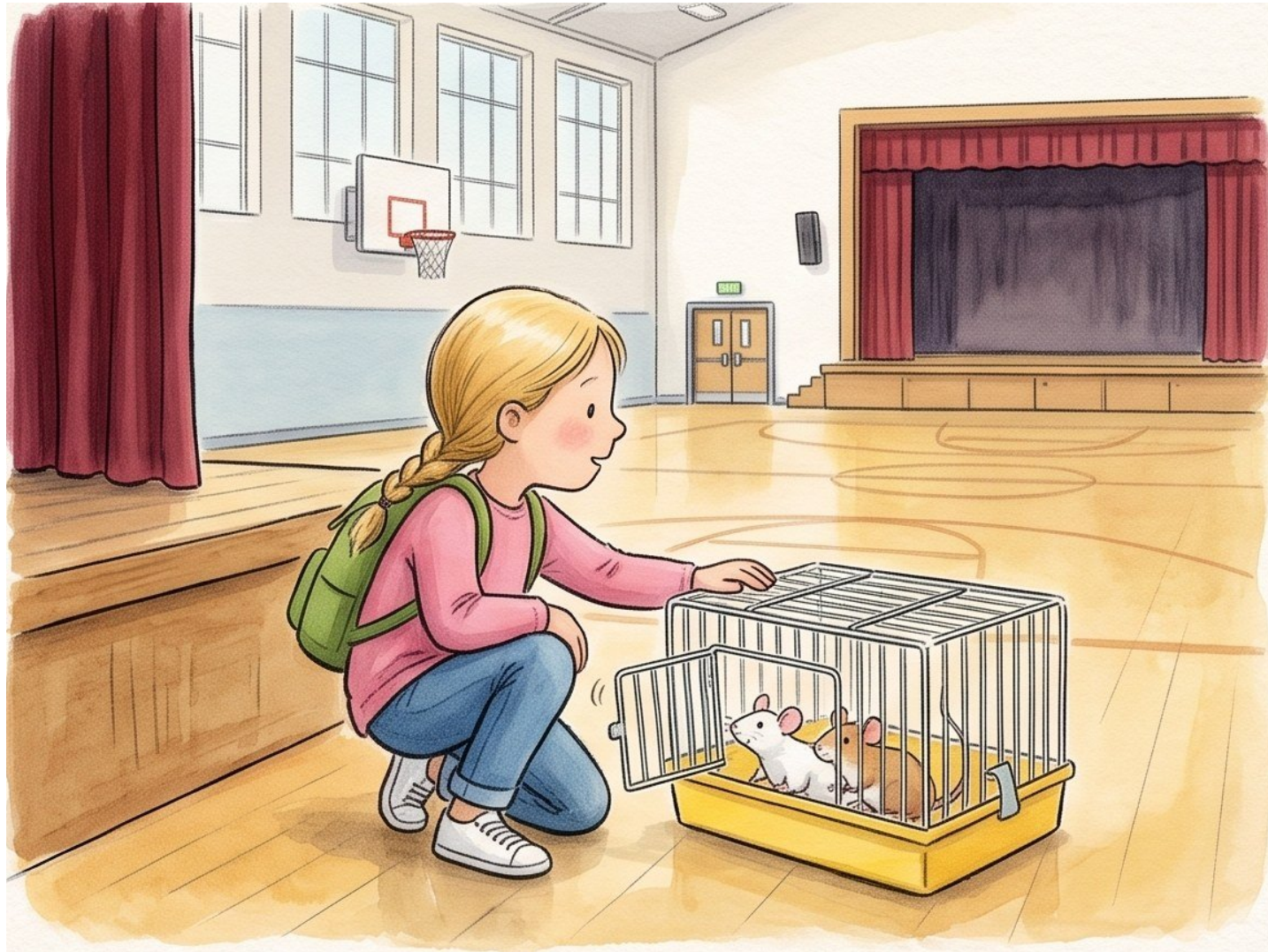




Beth's Mice Run Off



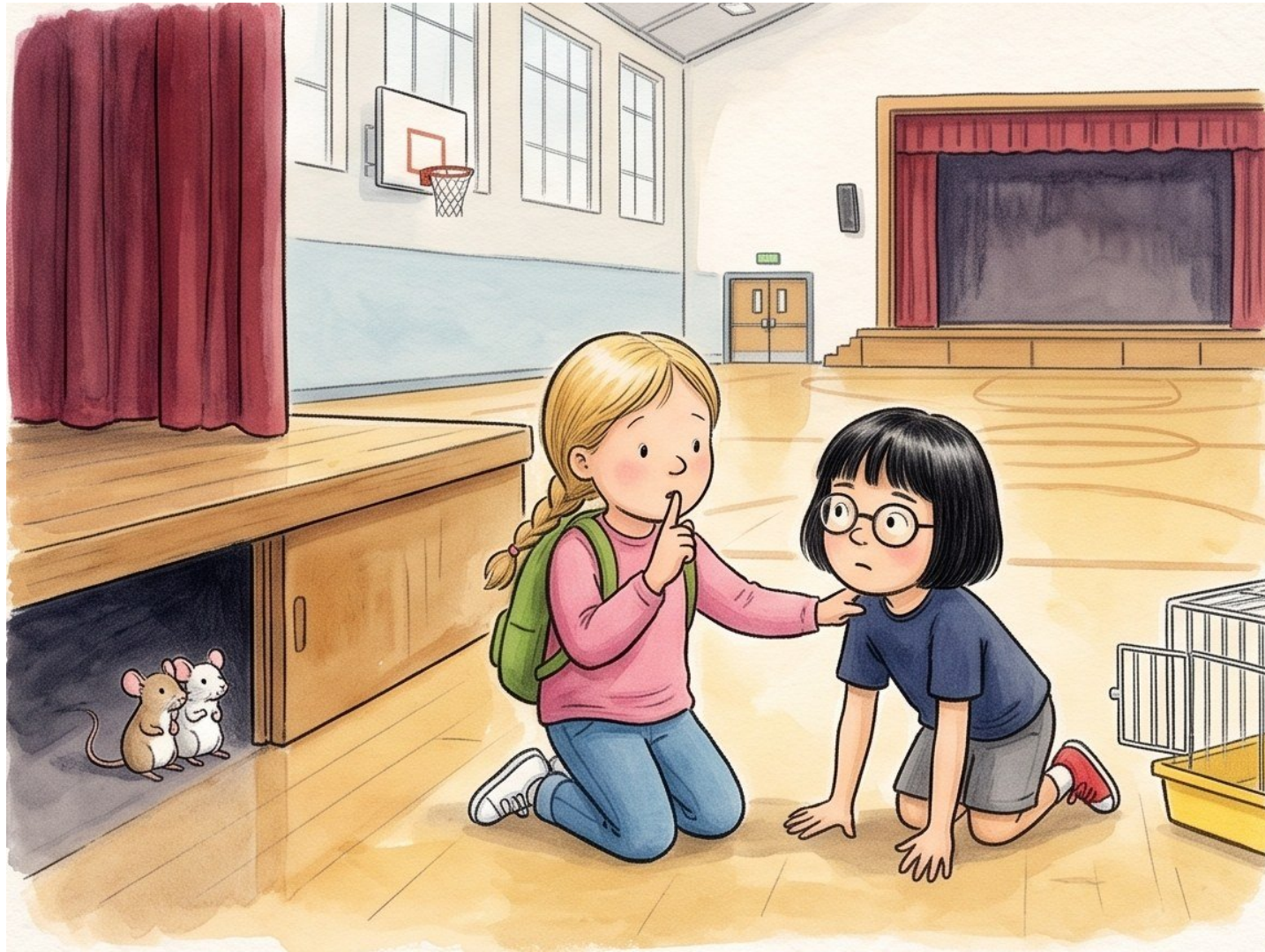
Beth had two pet mice in a cage. She wanted to show them to the kids at the gym.



But the hinge on the cage was bent, and the door would not shut all the way. Beth set the cage down by the stage.



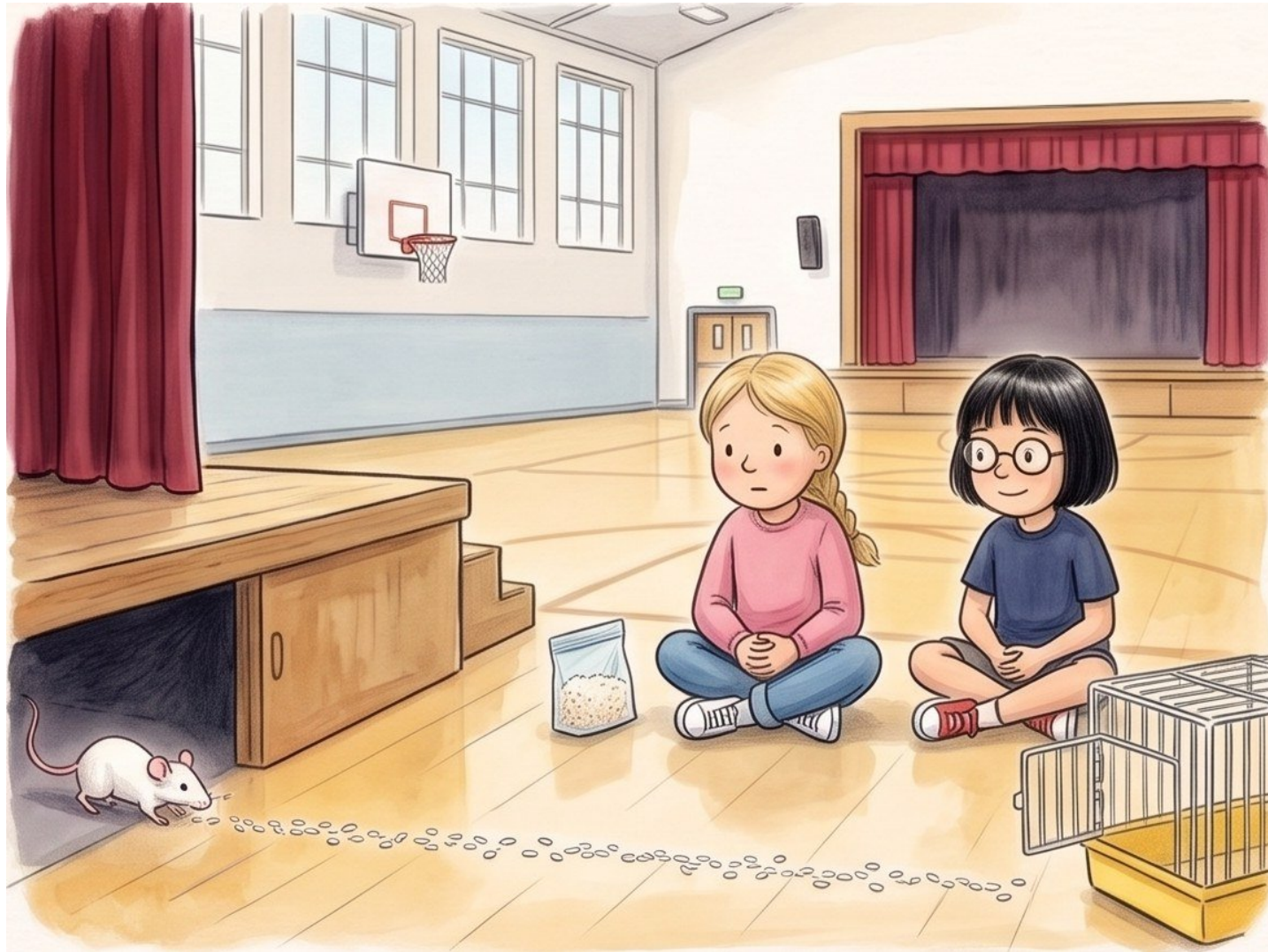
The mice gave the door a push and ran! They hid under the edge of the stage. "Mice!" yelled Jan. She lunged at them.



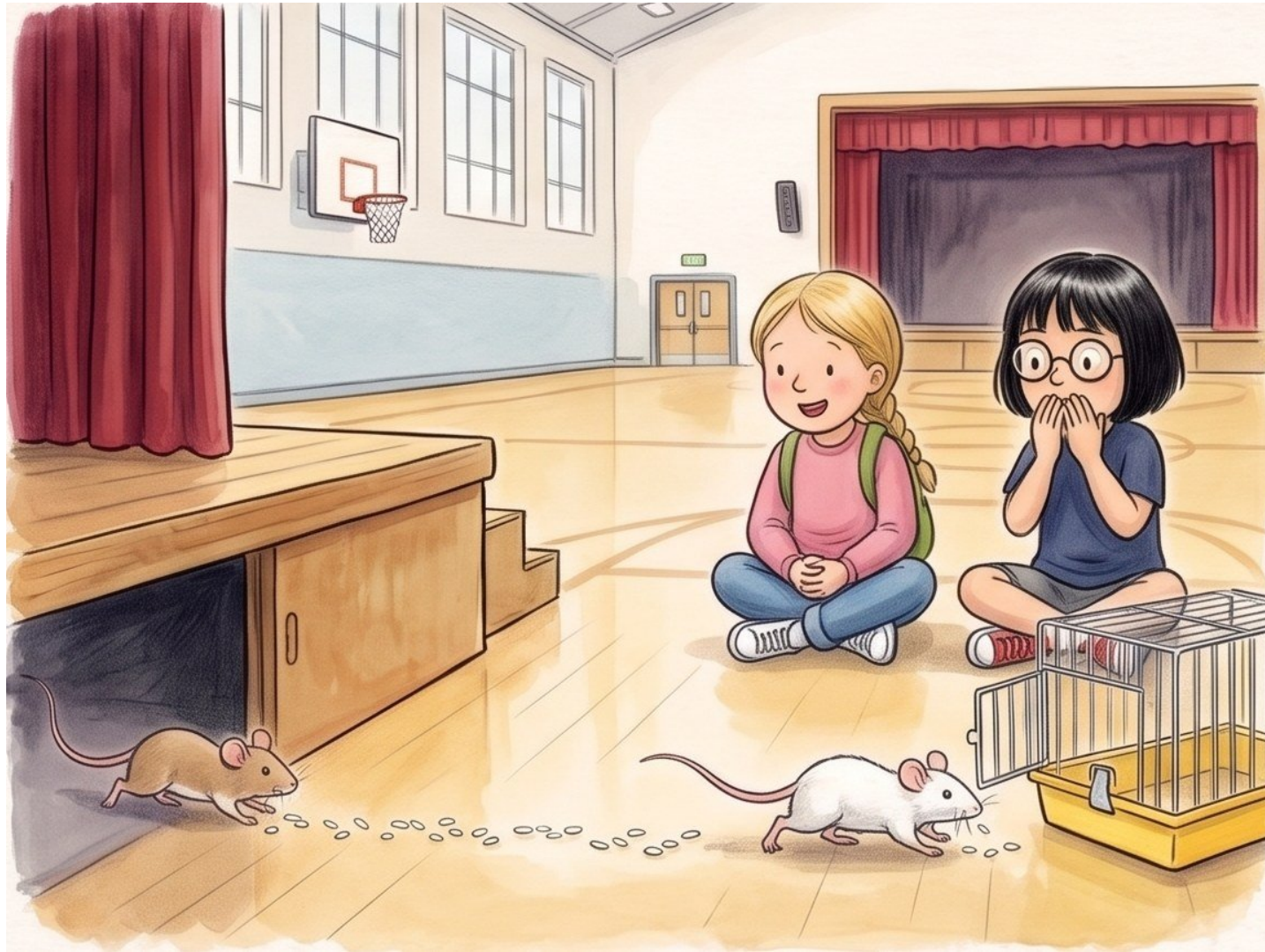
The mice ran far back into the dim space.
"Hush, Jan," said Beth. "This gym is huge and strange to them, and you look like a giant."



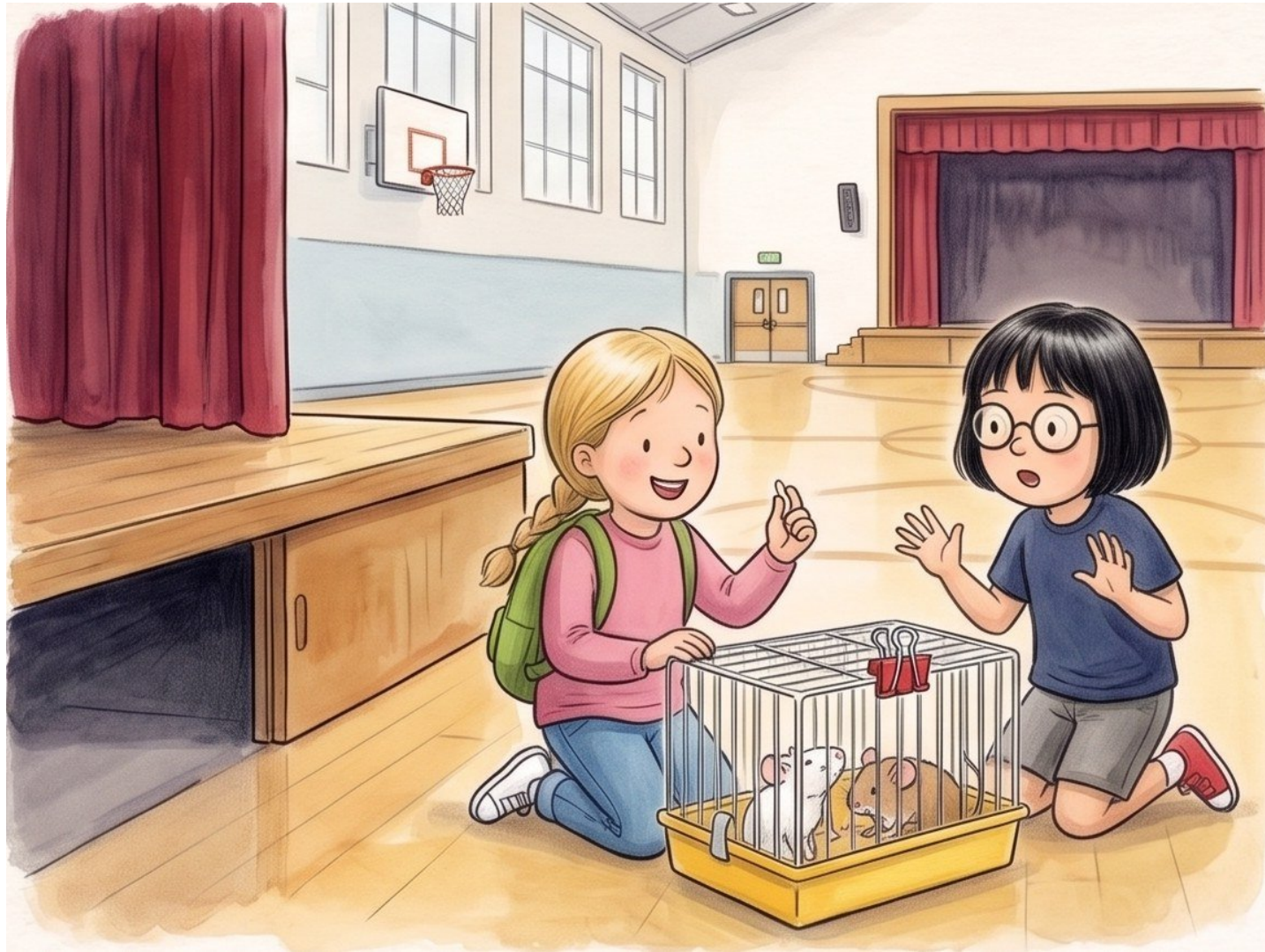
We must be gentle." "What can we do?" Jan whispered. Beth had a plan. She got a bag of rice from her pack.



She made a thin line of rice from the edge of the stage to the cage. Then she and Jan sat still.



Soon a pink nose poked out, and then one more. The mice ate the rice, bit by bit, all the way into the cage.



Beth shut the door and fixed the hinge with a clip. "That was like magic," said Jan. "No," said Beth with a grin. "Just rice."