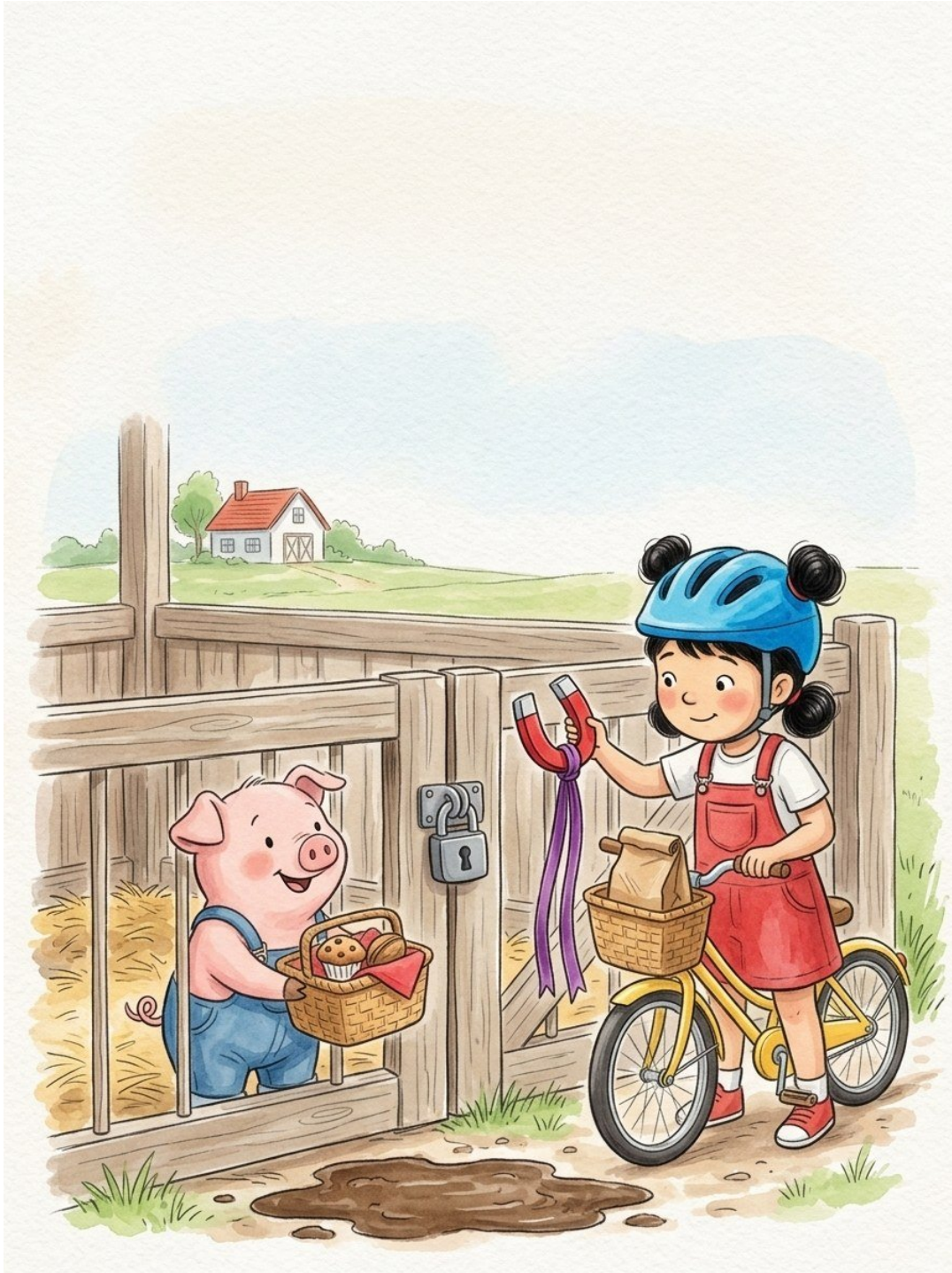




Pip and the Magnet



Pip the pig sat in his pigpen on the farm. He wanted to go on a fun picnic. Pip had a good lunch packed and ready. He had a sweet muffin and a big walnut inside his large basket.



He even packed a soft red napkin. He just needed to get out of the pigpen. Kim rode her bike to the pigpen. She wore a bright blue helmet, and her picnic lunch was in her bike basket. Kim had a silver key to the gate.



The gate was shut tight with a heavy padlock. "I will let you out, Pip," said Kim. She held the key, but she still had on her thick mittens. Oh no! The thick mittens made the key slip from her hand.



It fell right into a deep, muddy puddle next to the pigpen. A small insect buzzed over the mud. Pip let out a sad snort. The key was lost in the thick mud. Kim took off her mittens and bent down to look.



A little kitten walked up to sniff the mud, and a fast brown rabbit hopped by the gate. Nobody could see the key. "Do not fret, Pip," said Kim. "I will be right back with a plan." Kim ran back to the house.



Soon, Kim came back. She had a strong magnet in her hand. She also had a long velvet ribbon. Kim tied the heavy magnet to the ribbon. She put the other end around her hand so she would not drop it.



"This will work," Kim said. Kim dropped the magnet into the muddy puddle. She let the magnet sink deep into the muck. She swished it from side to side. Suddenly, she felt a tug. Kim pulled the ribbon up. The magnet had grabbed the silver key!



Kim wiped the mud off the key and slipped it into the padlock. The lock popped open with a loud click. Kim opened the gate. Pip trotted out with a happy snort. Now he and Kim could finally enjoy their picnic!