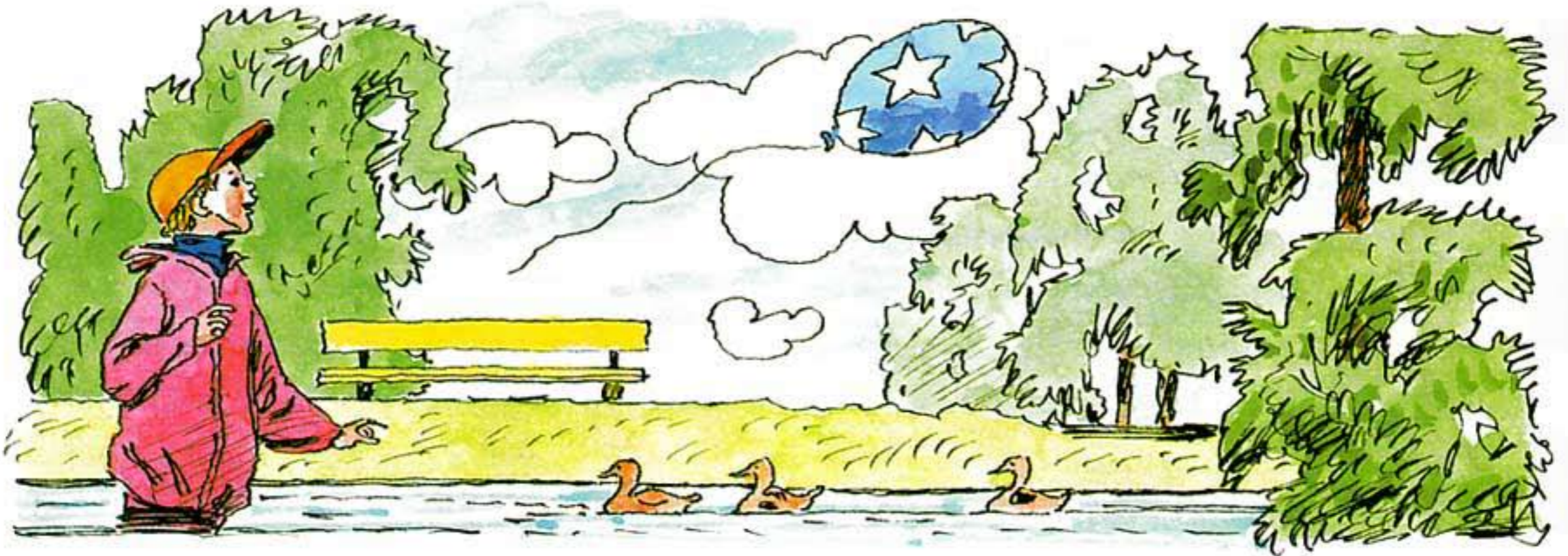


- 29 Read Part I of the story *To The Stars*, then say what balloon Paul liked best.

To The Stars

(after Vera Colwell)



Part I

Nearly every day if it was fine, Paul went to the park with his mother and younger sister. One spring day when the sun was shining and a light wind was blowing, they went for a walk as usual.

When they got to the park gates, they had a surprise. The balloon man was there. He had a lot of bright, colourful balloons. Some were blue, others yellow or red; some balloons had pictures on them.

“Oh, Mummy,” said Paul, “can I buy a balloon, please?”

“Of course, darling,” said Mother. “A windy day is just right for balloons. Let’s buy two balloons, one for you and one for your sister.”

So Mother bought a balloon with the picture of a duck for Paul’s sister and then asked, “What balloon do you want, Paul?”

It was difficult for Paul to choose¹. There were so many fine balloons. Then he saw the best one of all — it was blue with beautiful white stars. He took it and ran. The wind was blowing and it was not easy for Paul to hold the balloon in his hand.

30 Answer the questions.

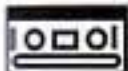
- 1 What was the weather like on the day when Paul went for a walk to the park?
- 2 What surprise did he have?
- 3 What balloons did Mother buy for Paul and for his sister?
- 4 Why wasn’t it easy for Paul to hold the balloon in his hand?

¹ to choose [tʃu:z] — выбирать

31 Read Part II of the story *To The Stars*, then say what happened to Paul's balloon.

To The Stars

Part II

 Paul ran up to the lake. There were some bright ducks there and one of them was standing on its head in the water. Paul wanted to watch the ducks better and he tied his balloon to the railing¹.

Paul looked at the ducks for some time, and then saw a blue balloon on the water. It had white stars on it. Oh! It was his! The wind was becoming stronger and his balloon was flying above the water.

A man in one of the boats on the lake caught it and gave it back to Paul.

“Hold it tight²,” Mother said to Paul.

“I think this balloon is fun,” said Paul. “I wonder what it will do next!”

“That’s a good balloon,” said Paul’s sister. “Let’s play with it.”

“It’s a very bouncy³ balloon,” said Paul.

So it was. They ran after it when it blew away. Then the wind lifted it into the air. Paul jumped but could not catch it.

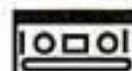
“Catch it!” cried Paul’s sister. But the balloon was very high, higher than the tree and higher than the houses. Soon they could not see it any longer.

“I can’t see it, Mummy,” said Paul sadly. “Where do you think it is going?”

“It think it is going to the sea,” said Mother.

“It had stars on it,” said Paul. “I think it’s flying to the stars... .”

Who knows?



32 Answer the questions.

- 1 What was it fun for Paul to watch on the lake?
- 2 Who caught Paul’s balloon?
- 3 Could Paul hold his balloon tight?

33 What do you think? Say:

- why Mother said it was a good day for balloons;
- why Paul couldn’t catch his balloon;
- why Paul thought his balloon was flying to the stars.

¹ to tie [taɪ] ... to the railing — привязать ... к ограде

² to hold [hould] tight — держать крепко

³ bouncy ['baʊnsɪ] — прыгающий