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Atchoum !

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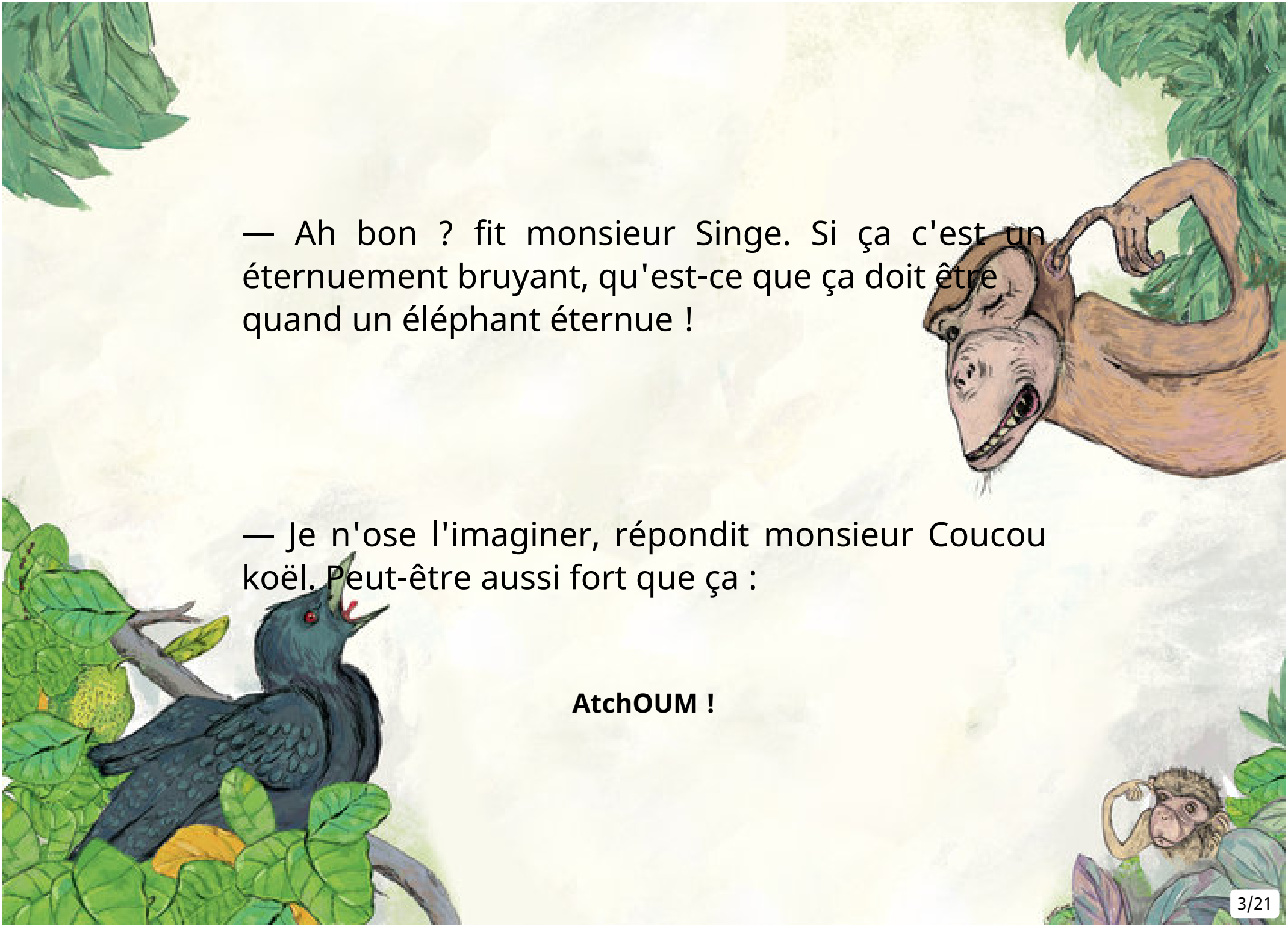
Level 2

— **Atchoum** ! éternua monsieur Singe, qui avait un gros rhume.

— Quel éternuement bruyant ! s'exclama monsieur Coucou koël en passant la tête à travers le feuillage. J'ai failli tomber de mon arbre !



— Ah bon ? fit monsieur Singe. Si ça c'est un éternuement bruyant, qu'est-ce que ça doit être quand un éléphant éternue !

— Je n'ose l'imaginer, répondit monsieur Coucou koël. Peut-être aussi fort que ça :

AtchOUM !

— Mais non, ce n'est pas assez fort, indiqua monsieur Porc-épic. Quand un éléphant éternue, ça fait beaucoup plus de bruit que ça !

Il éternua alors de toutes ses forces, faisant trembler son petit nez pointu.

AtchOUM !

— Groin ! Groin ! grogna monsieur Sanglier. Ce n'est pas assez fort. Quand un éléphant éternue, ça doit faire un sacré boucan !

Il prit une ample respiration et se mit à éternuer :

AtchOUUM ！ Groin ! Groin !

— Qu'est-ce que c'est que ce vacarme ? interrogea monsieur Cerf.

— Savez-vous quel bruit fait un éléphant quand il éternue ? lui demanda monsieur Singe.

— J'éternue toujours de façon élégante, indiqua monsieur Cerf en reniflant discrètement. Mais un éléphant doit éternuer très fort et sans aucune classe, comme ceci :

Atchooum !
Atchooum !
Veuillez m'excuser, chers amis.

AAATCHooum !

Tous les animaux sursautèrent.

Monsieur Buffle vint se joindre au petit groupe.

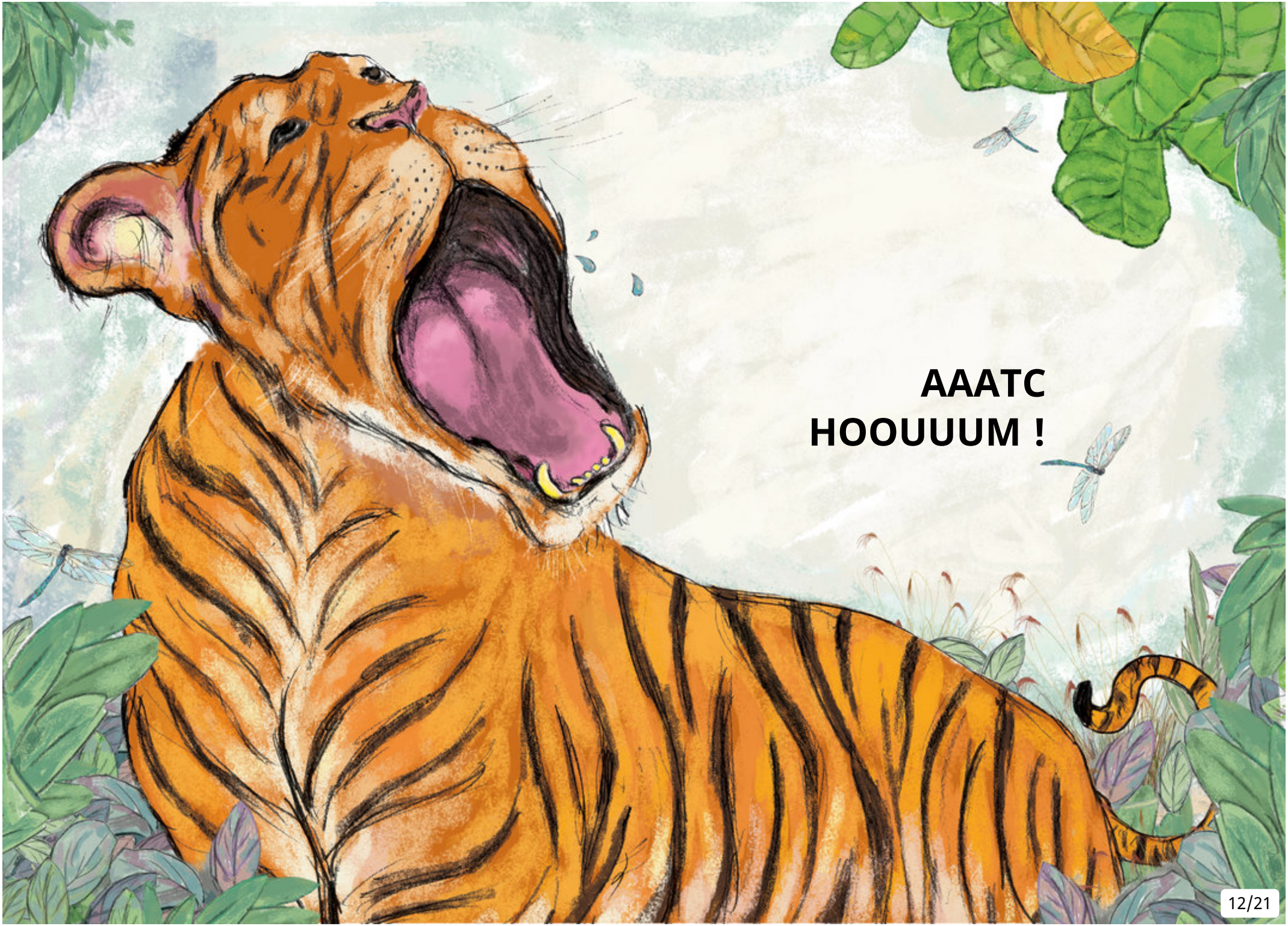
— Ça, c'est un éternuement digne d'un éléphant, dit-il sur un ton fier.

Le cerf, le sanglier, le porc-épic, le coucou koël et le singe lui lancèrent des regards admiratifs.

— Pas mal, mais peut mieux faire, fit une voix grave.

Le museau de monsieur Buffle se mit à frémir.

Monsieur Tigre sauta des buissons où il était caché. Il renversa la tête en arrière, ouvrit la gueule en grand, et produisit l'éternuement le plus assourdissant qu'on ait pu imaginer.


AAATC
HOOUUUM !

Monsieur Élephant se présenta à son tour dans la clairière.

— Excusez-moi, dit-il à monsieur Tigre, vous avez pris froid, vous aussi ? J'ai attrapé un rhume et je sens que je vais éternuer.

— Quoi ? rugit monsieur Tigre.

— Quoi ? beugla monsieur Buffle.

— Quoi ? brama monsieur Cerf.

— Quoi ? grogna monsieur Sanglier.

— Quoi ? couina monsieur Porc-épic.

— Quoi ? gazouilla monsieur Coucou koël.

— Oh, misère ! marmonna monsieur Singe.

— Aaah… AAH…, fit monsieur Éléphant.
La forêt toute entière retint son souffle.
Tous aux abris ! se dit monsieur Singe.

— Aah... aaah... aaah...

aaah... aaaaaaah...

… tchmmm !

— Ah, ça va mieux, dit monsieur Éléphant. Rien de tel qu'un bon éternuement pour nettoyer une trompe.

Il regarda autour de lui.

Mais où donc étaient-ils tous passés ?

Monsieur Coucou koël se mit à rire.

— Alors, demanda-t-il à monsieur Singe, maintenant, vous savez quel bruit ça fait un éléphant quand ça éternue ?

— Oui, répondit monsieur Singe, mais…

— Ah non, hein, ça suffit les questions ! protesta monsieur Coucou koël en s'envolant à tire d'aile.

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Atchoum !
(French)

Monsieur Singe se pose toujours plein de questions. Les autres animaux essaient de l'aider à trouver les bonnes réponses, mais parfois ils ont de sacrées surprises...

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.

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