

To my parents, Joseph and Nancy, for their love and always believing in me. ~ Kim

FREDDIE

the

FLY

-MOTORMOUTH-



a story
about learning to listen

Written by **Kimberly Delude**

Illustrated by **Brian Martin**

BOYS TOWN
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Boys Town, Nebraska

Freddie the Fly: Motormouth

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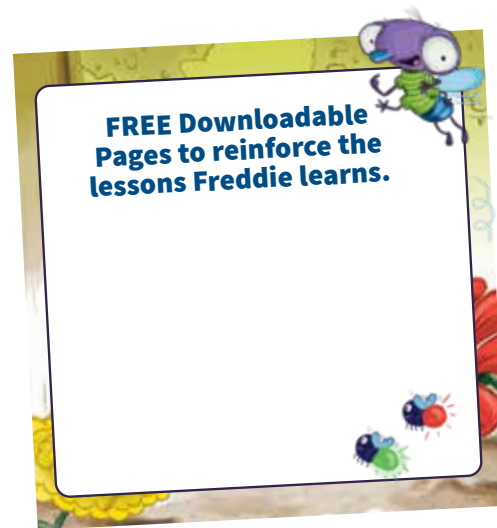
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Hi. I'm **FREDDIE**.

Kids at school said I had a motormouth.

I thought that meant I had a car in my mouth,
so I grabbed a mirror to get a closer look.

"Freddie!"

I looked as far back...

"Freddie!!"

...in my throat as I could.

There was nothing there except...

"FREDDIE!!!"

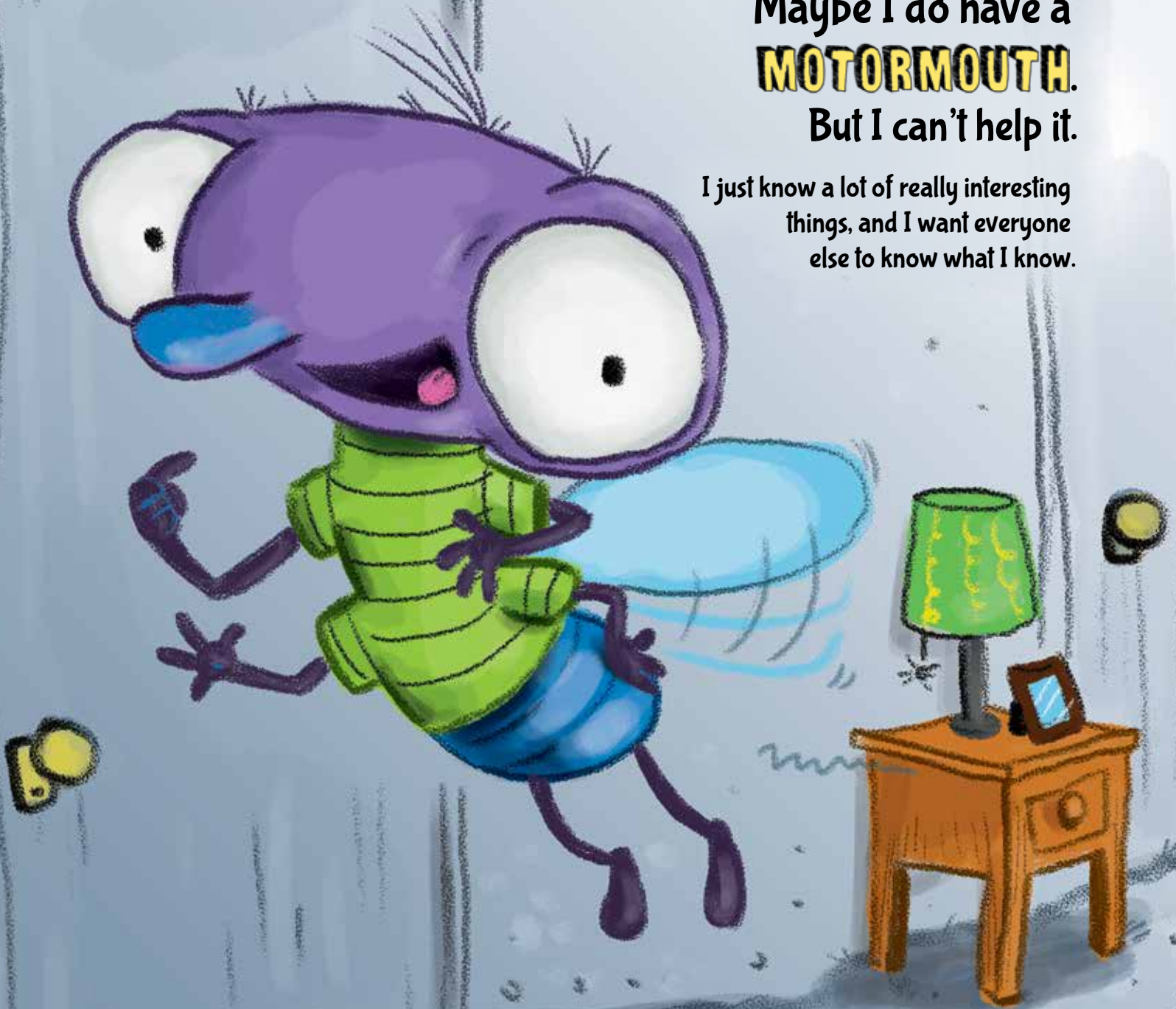
**Put down
the mirror!"**

"Oops. Sorry Mom."



Maybe I do have a
MOTORMOUTH.
But I can't help it.

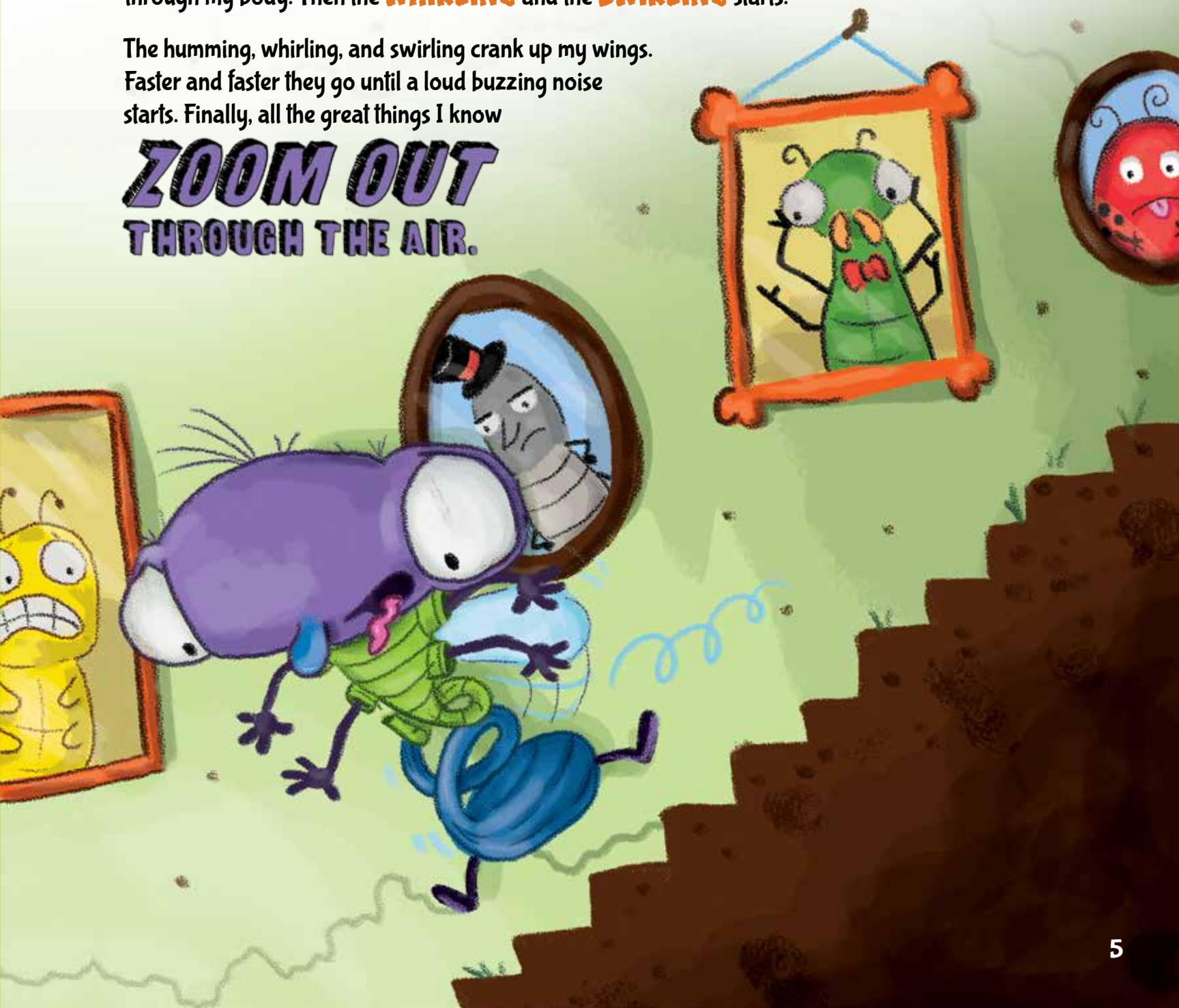
I just know a lot of really interesting
things, and I want everyone
else to know what I know.



You see, once someone starts talking about any subject, I can feel a small **HUM** race through my body. Then the **WHIRLING** and the **SWIRLING** starts.

The humming, whirling, and swirling crank up my wings. Faster and faster they go until a loud buzzing noise starts. Finally, all the great things I know

**ZOOM OUT
THROUGH THE AIR.**



This morning, Mom asks if I want eggs for breakfast. The humming in my body begins as my wings slowly whirl and swirl.

Then, **ZOOM!** I go off blabbing for **20 MINUTES.** I talk about the chickens and their eggs in my favorite video game. I could talk about this forever. And I would have, but it's time to go to school.



My teacher, Ms. Stinger, asks if anyone wants to share what they did over the weekend. I cross my arms trying to stop the **WHIRLING** and the **TWIRLING**. But they break free, and for the next **20 MINUTES** I share everything about my trip to the zoo.

As I talk, the words whiz around inside my head. It's like they're **BURSTING** to get out, like a **SWARM OF BEES** racing from the hive. They blast out of me until I am empty.

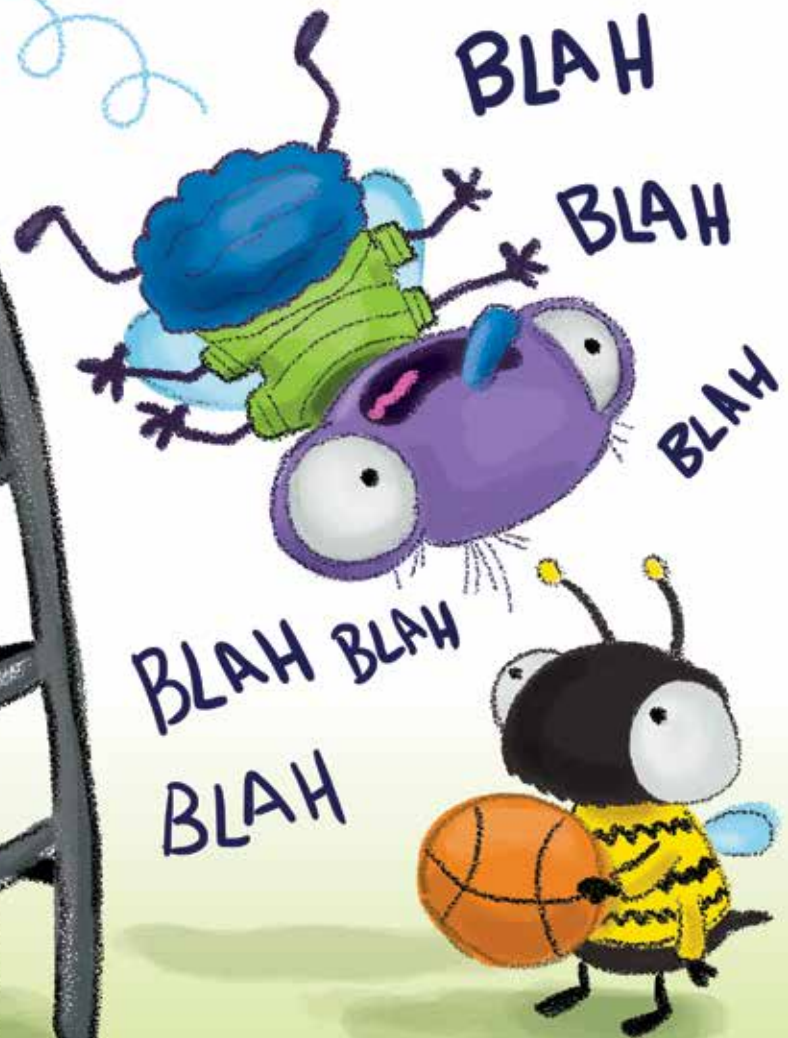
I talk so much, we miss snack time.





At recess, I **WHIRL** and **TWIRL** on the monkey bars.
I am shaking so much with what I want to tell everyone
that I fall from the bars and scrape my knee.

But I just keep talking, all the way to the
school nurse's office.



When I get to the nurse's office, someone else is already there. I've never seen her before. I take a seat on a flower petal chair and say, "Hi."



SLOWLY, THE HUMMING BEGINS. The chair starts to shake as the hum turns to a buzz. I open my mouth to begin talking...

Pages 10-31 are not included in this excerpt.

WHAT'S ALL YOUR BUZZING ABOUT FREDDIE the FLY?

An important lesson about talking less... and listening more.

Freddie the Fly likes to talk and talk and talk. He's so busy buzzing about the latest gossip, he can't listen to anyone else. Freddie doesn't realize how much of a chatterbox he is until he meets Mesquita. Her mile-a-minute mouth mystifies Freddie... until he realizes he and Mesquita have a lot in common!

This is a humorous take on the problem of talking too much, listening too little, and struggling to wait your turn. Sprinkled in all the silly situations are valuable lessons about why listening is the key to greater understanding and better friendships. *Freddie the Fly: Motormouth*, from the pen of award-winning author Kimberly Delude, is for children in grades PreK-5 or any young reader trying to master the art of conversation.

"Freddie the Fly: Motormouth is a fun, interactive way to teach children how to listen. Kimberly Delude does a great job validating and normalizing the difficulty of listening while giving parents and educators concrete skills to practice with their children!"

—Kristen Galloway, Ph.D., LP, BCBA

KIMBERLY DELUDE, M.A., CCC-SLP, worked for a national sports team before earning her M.A. at the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Department of Education. Kimberly has her Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech and Hearing Association and works as a Speech Language Pathologist in the public schools. She spends her days giving kids a voice and uses her *Freddie the Fly* series to help children have fun while improving their communication skills.

BRIAN MARTIN is an award-winning artist whose work has been featured in publications across the country. He is a graduate of Savannah College of Art and Design.



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