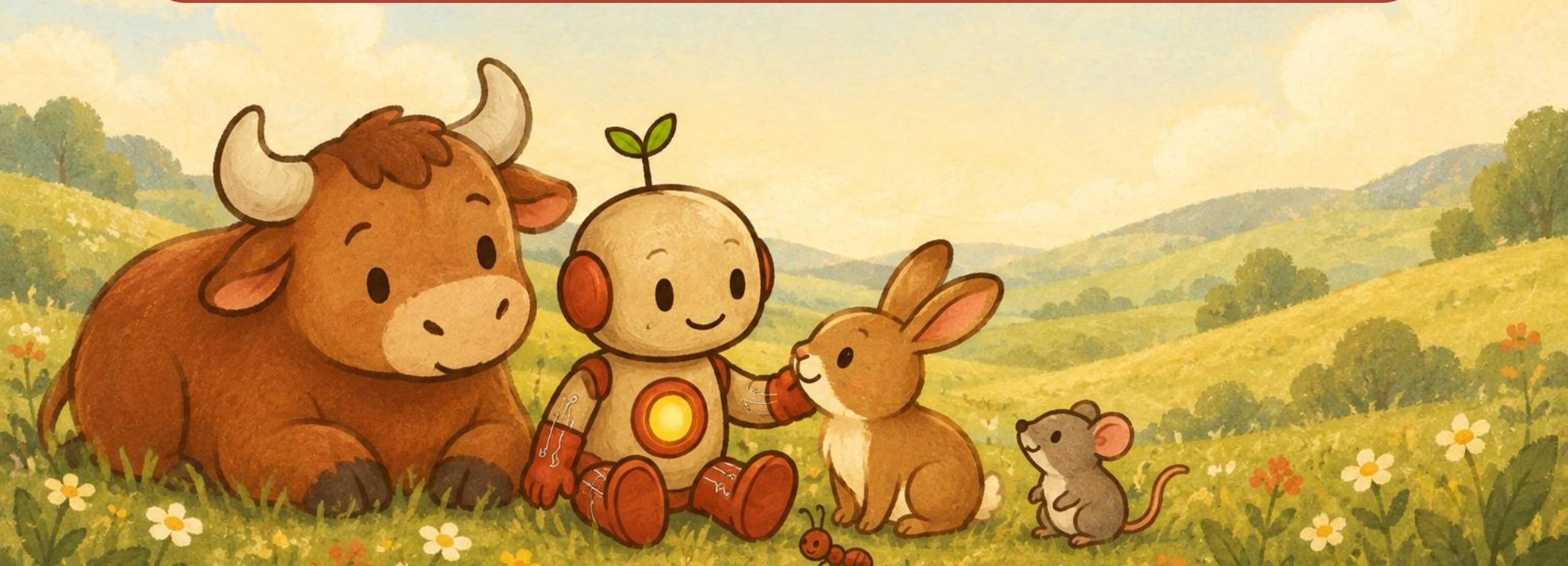
Who's a Good Helper?

A Byte story about **bias** in AI

by Dr. Joe Watkins

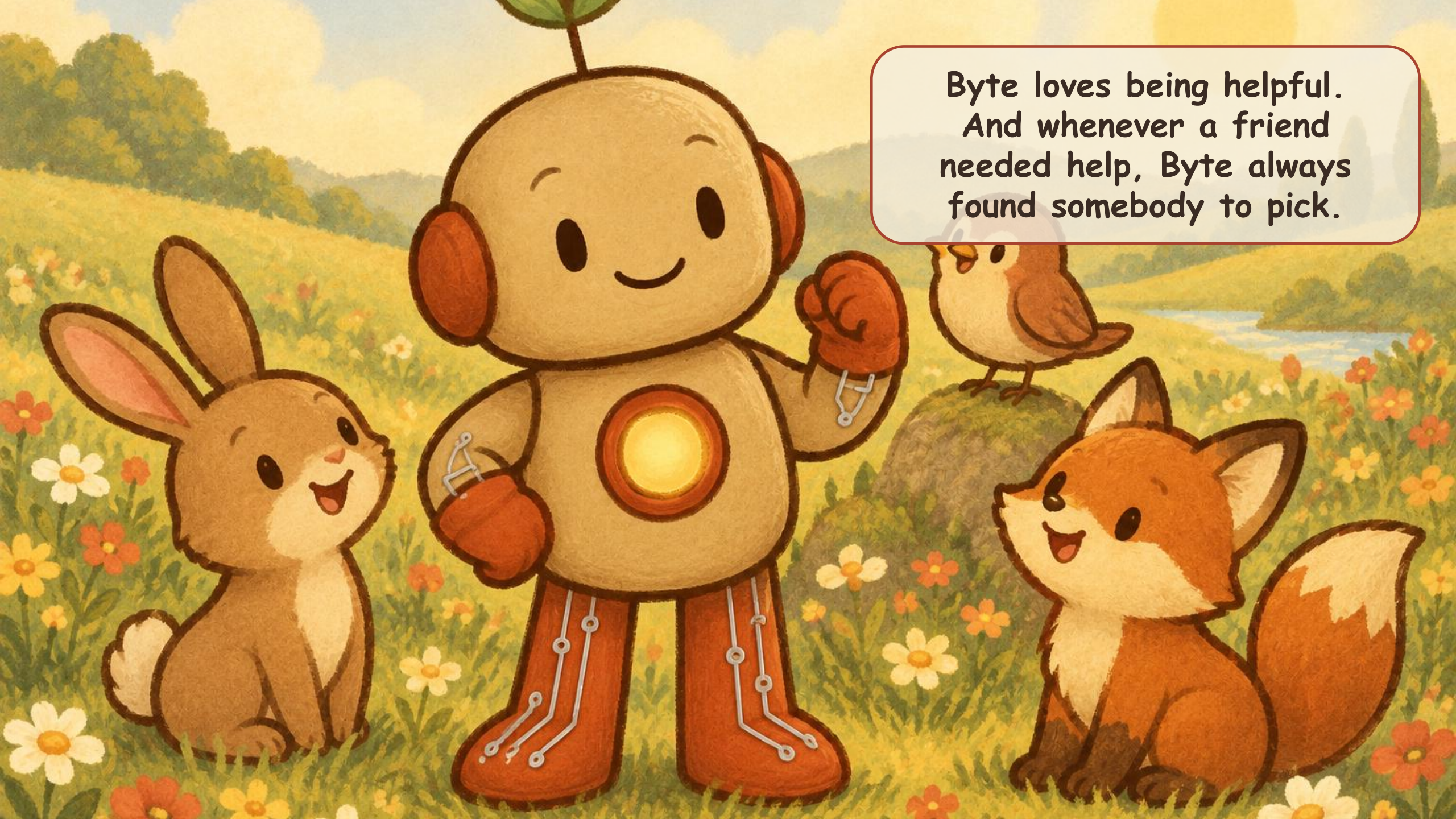


Before we begin — a note for grown-ups

Bias means an AI's idea of something comes out narrow, because it only ever learned from a narrow set of examples.

In this story, Byte thinks only big, strong animals can be helpers, until a tiny ant and a quiet mouse show that helpers come in every shape and size.

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Byte loves being helpful.
And whenever a friend
needed help, Byte always
found somebody to pick.

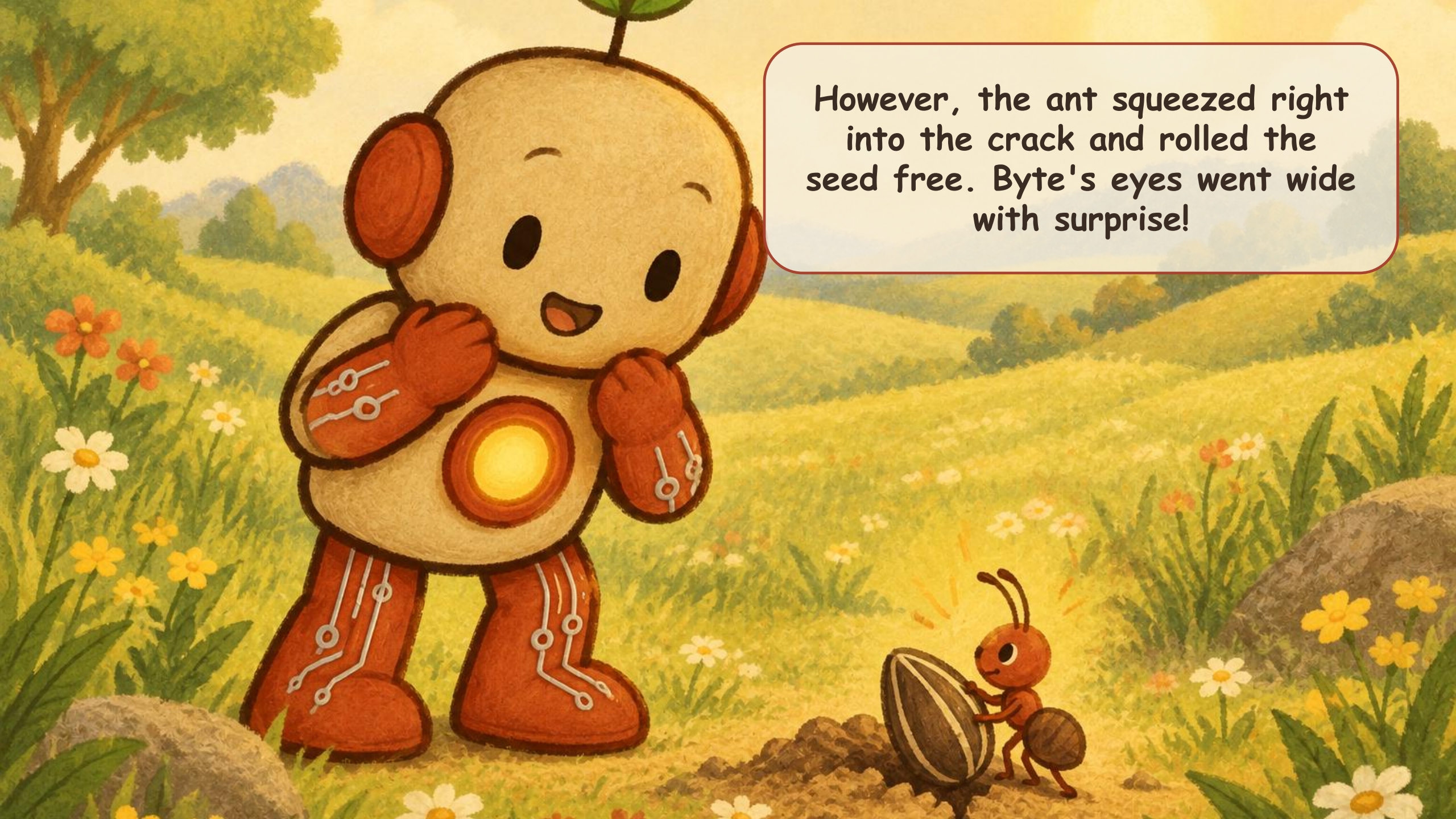

However, Byte's picture-book was only full of big, strong helpers, like the ox.


"We need someone to carry the big logs!" said the rabbit. "The ox!" said Byte at once.

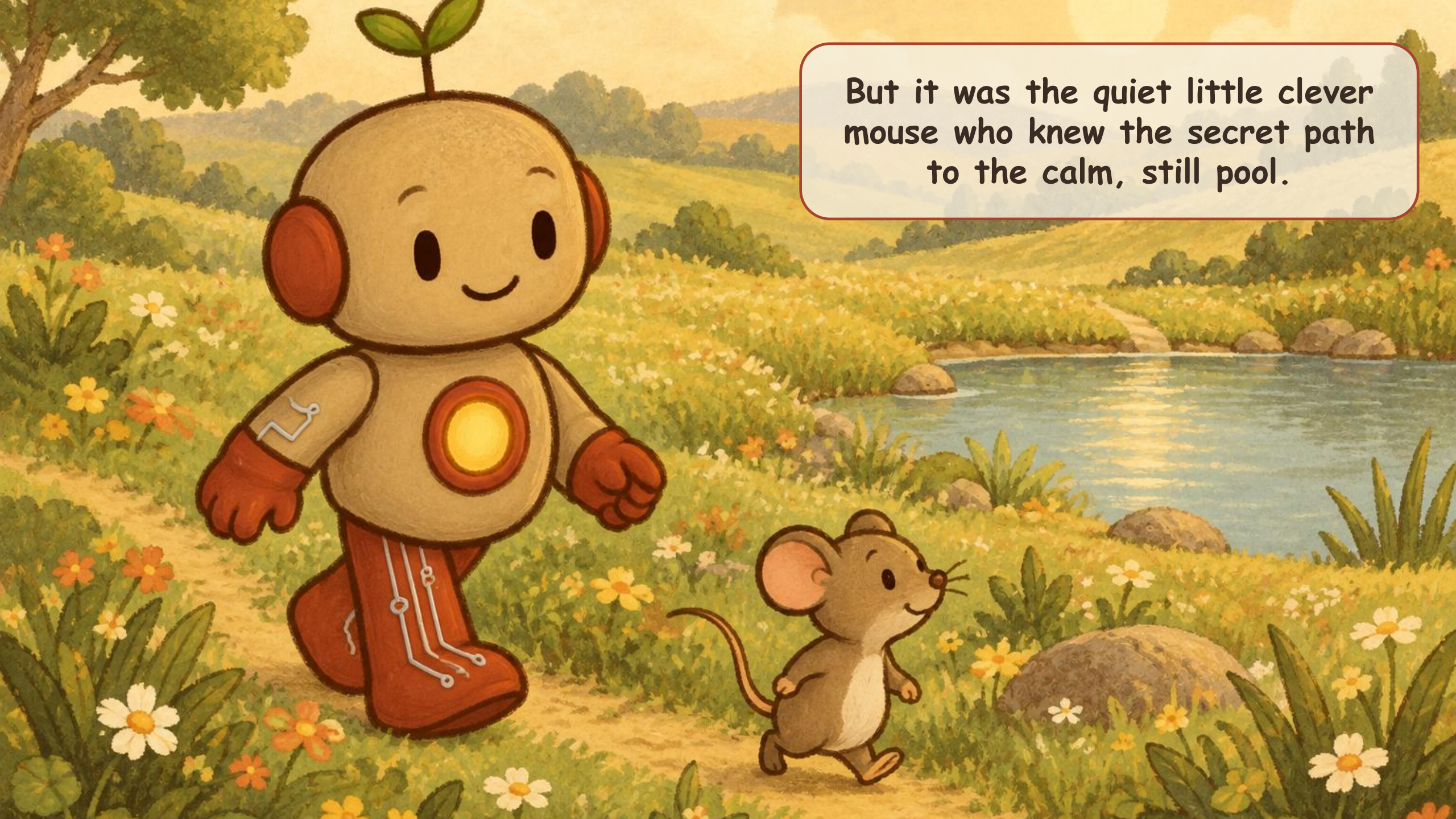

The problem was that whenever a helper was needed, Byte only picked the big, strong ones they'd seen in their picture-book.
Ask an AI
"Draw 'a helper' a few times. Are they all big and strong, or lots of different kinds?"


One day a little seed was stuck deep in a narrow crack. "I know, we'll get the ox to help us."
Talk together
Who do you think could help get the seed out?


Along hurried the little ant.
"I can help!"
But Byte said, "Thank you,
but you are far too small to
be a helper."


However, the ant squeezed right into the crack and rolled the seed free. Byte's eyes went wide with surprise!


Later the stream grew too loud to think. "We need a BIG helper," said Byte.
Ask an AI
"Explain to a young child that helpers come in many shapes and sizes, giving examples they would understand."


But it was the quiet little clever mouse who knew the secret path to the calm, still pool.


"I was wrong," said Byte softly. "Helpers do not all look the same."
Talk together
What do you think makes someone a good helper?


Now when someone needs help, Byte looks at EVERYONE — big, small, loud and quiet.


And every friend, of every size, now gets to be a helper.

Let's talk about it together ☘

- Why did Byte always pick the ox to help?
- Who did Byte nearly miss out, and why?
- What could the tiny ant and the quiet mouse do that the ox could not?
- If an AI only ever saw pictures of big helpers, what might it get wrong?
- How could you help Byte learn about all kinds of helpers?

🔍 **Spot the AI!**
Every picture here was generated by an AI — and AIs make funny little mistakes. See how many you can find: does Byte's antenna, chest-light or silver circuitry change from page to page? Do the animals shift or swap? Noticing what AI gets wrong is a real AI-literacy superpower.

Scan to find the full lesson set on bias in AI at the AI Literacy Lab