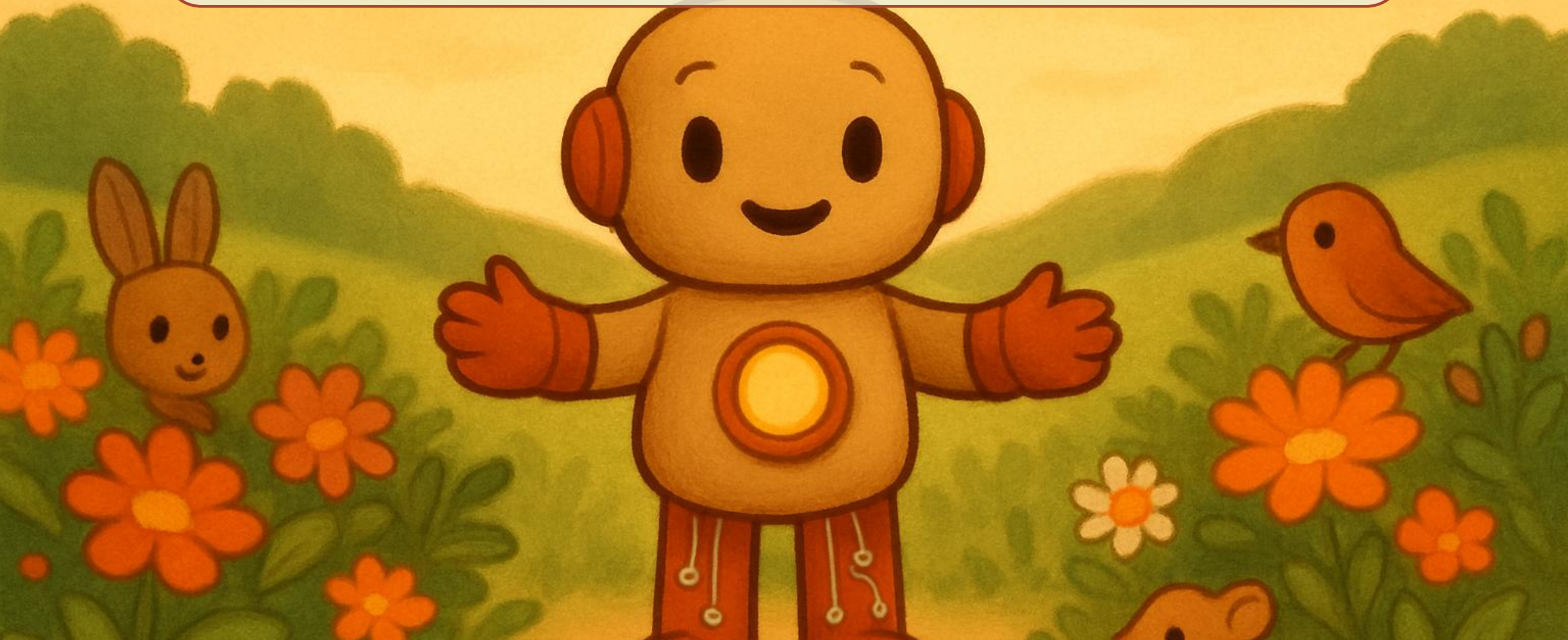
Byte and the Whole Wide World

A Byte story about **bias** in AI

by Dr. Joe Watkins



Before we begin — a note for grown-ups

Bias means an AI's picture of the world comes out lopsided … because it only ever learned from a narrow set of examples. It is usually not deliberate; it is a gap in what the AI was shown, and more varied examples make it fairer.

In this story, Byte can only paint the few garden friends they were shown … until their friends take them out to meet the whole wide world.

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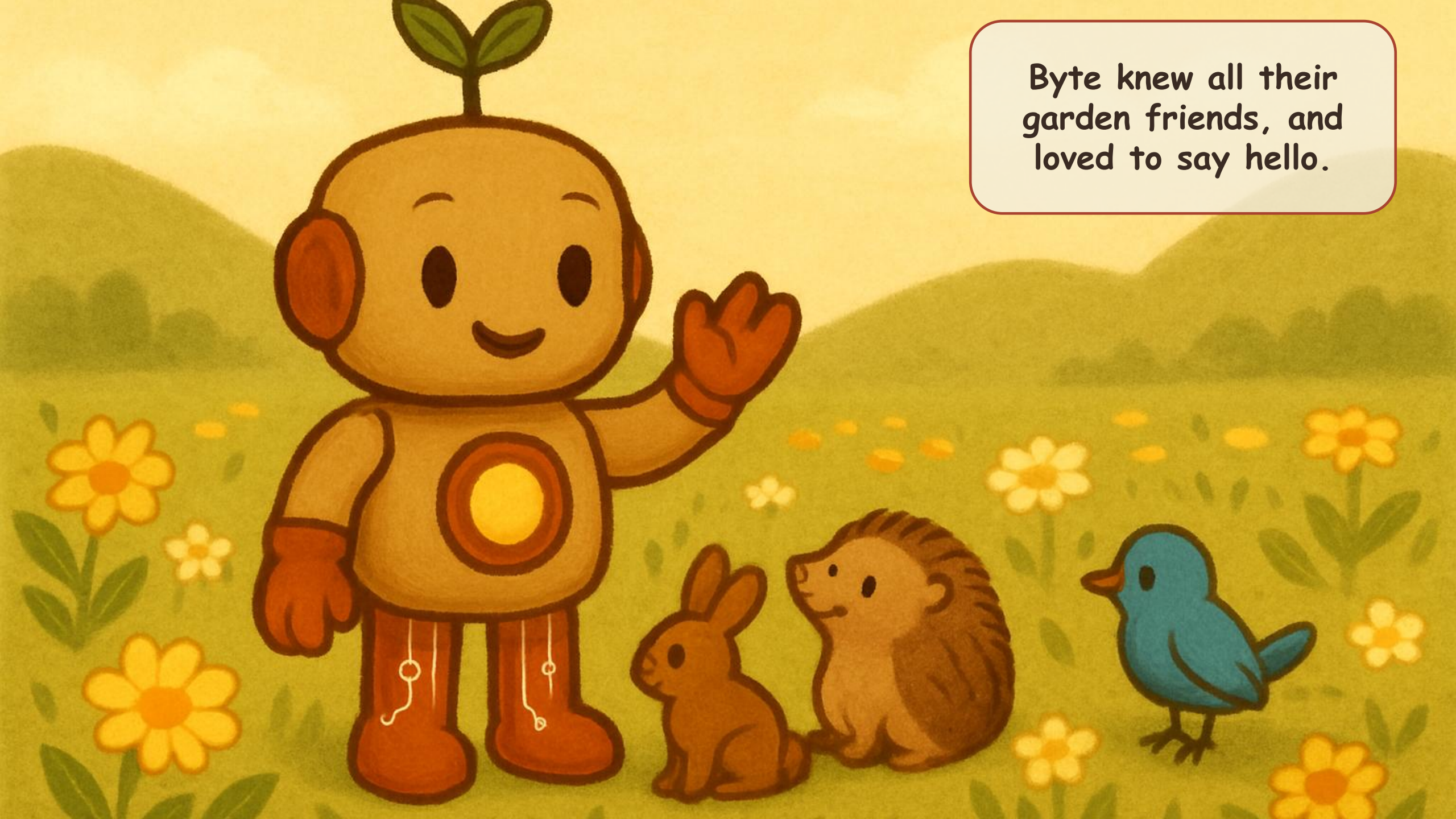
Byte is a little robot who learns about the world by looking at pictures.

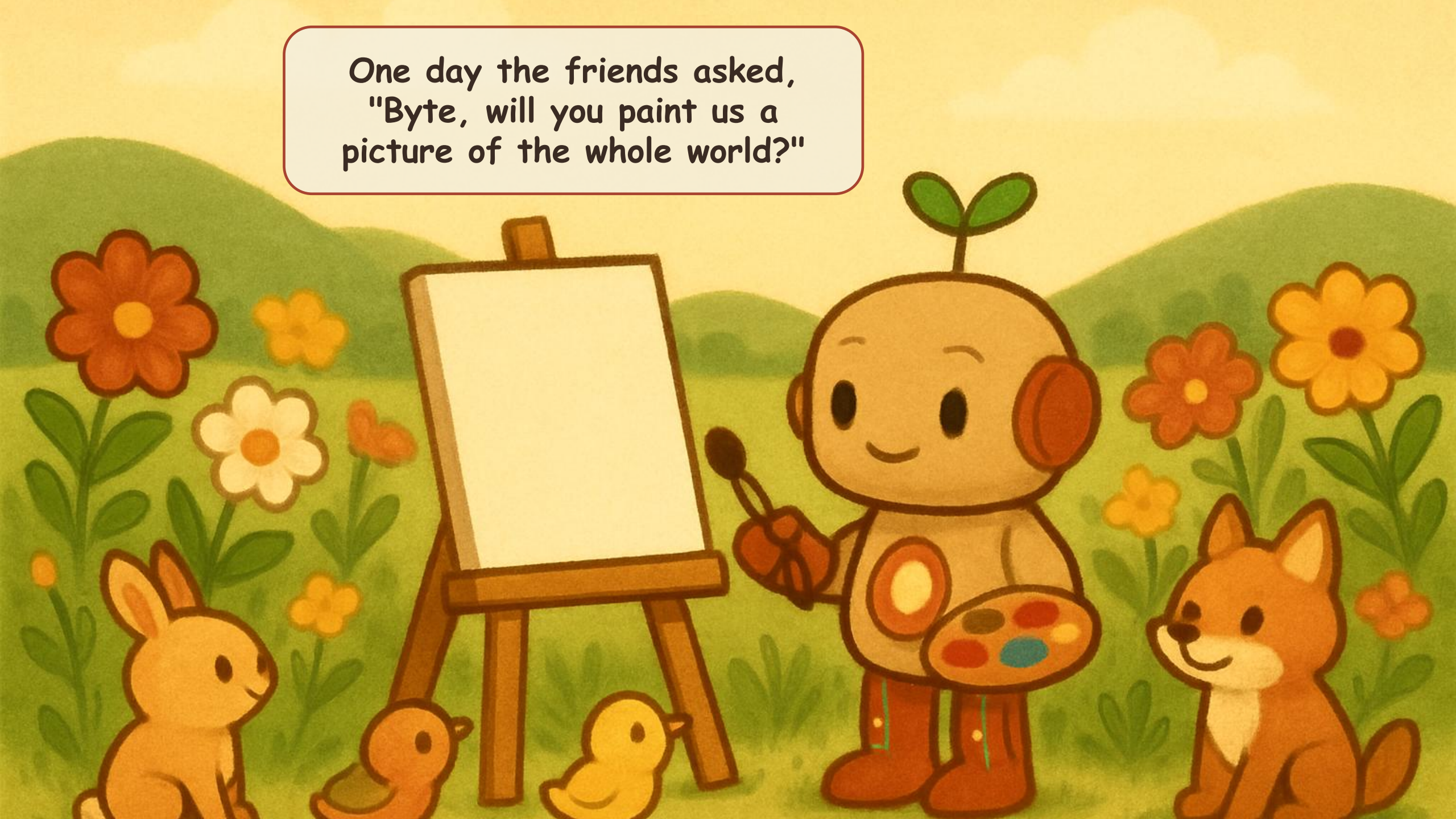


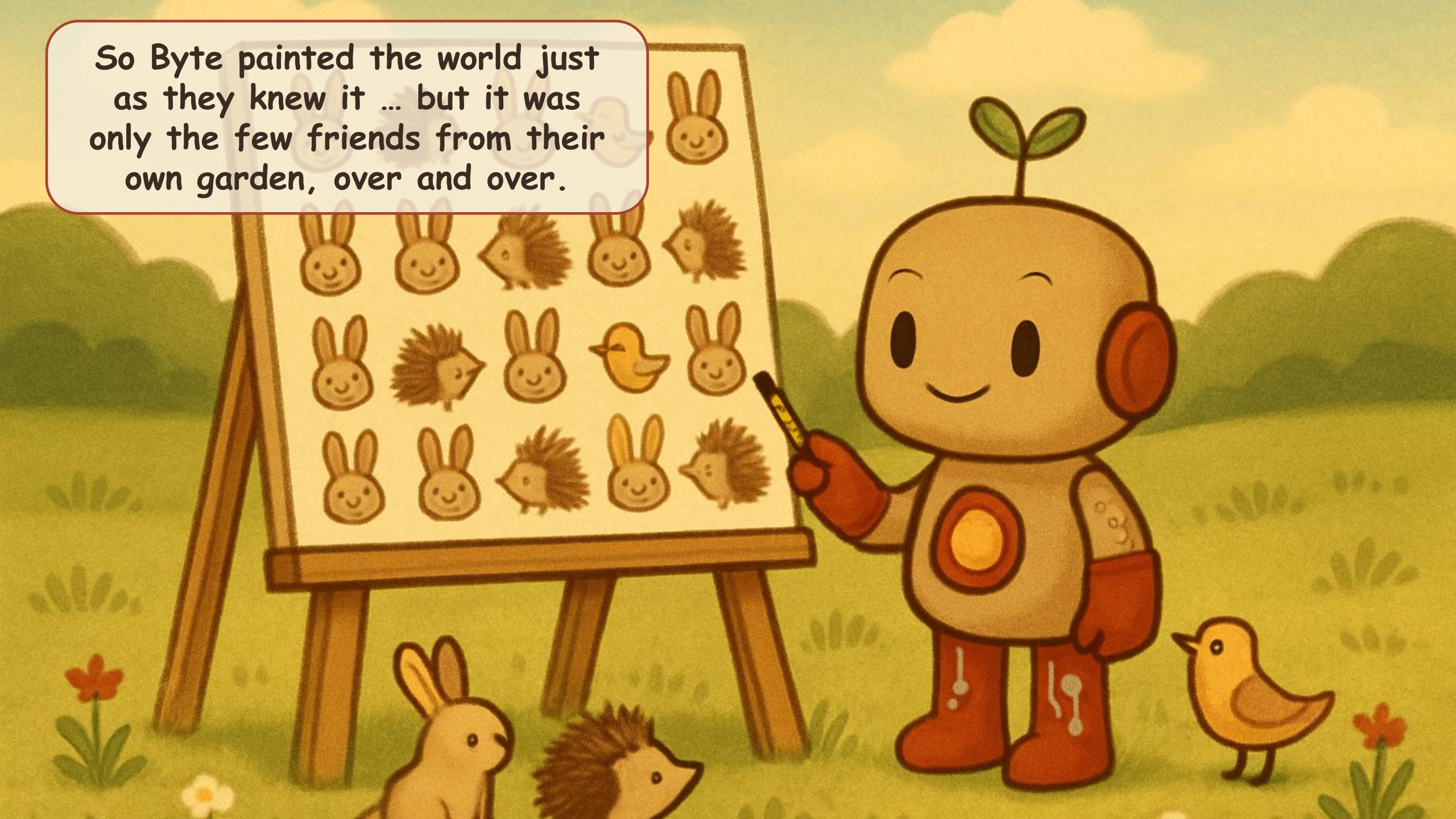
Talk together

Byte learns from pictures. How do YOU learn what something is?

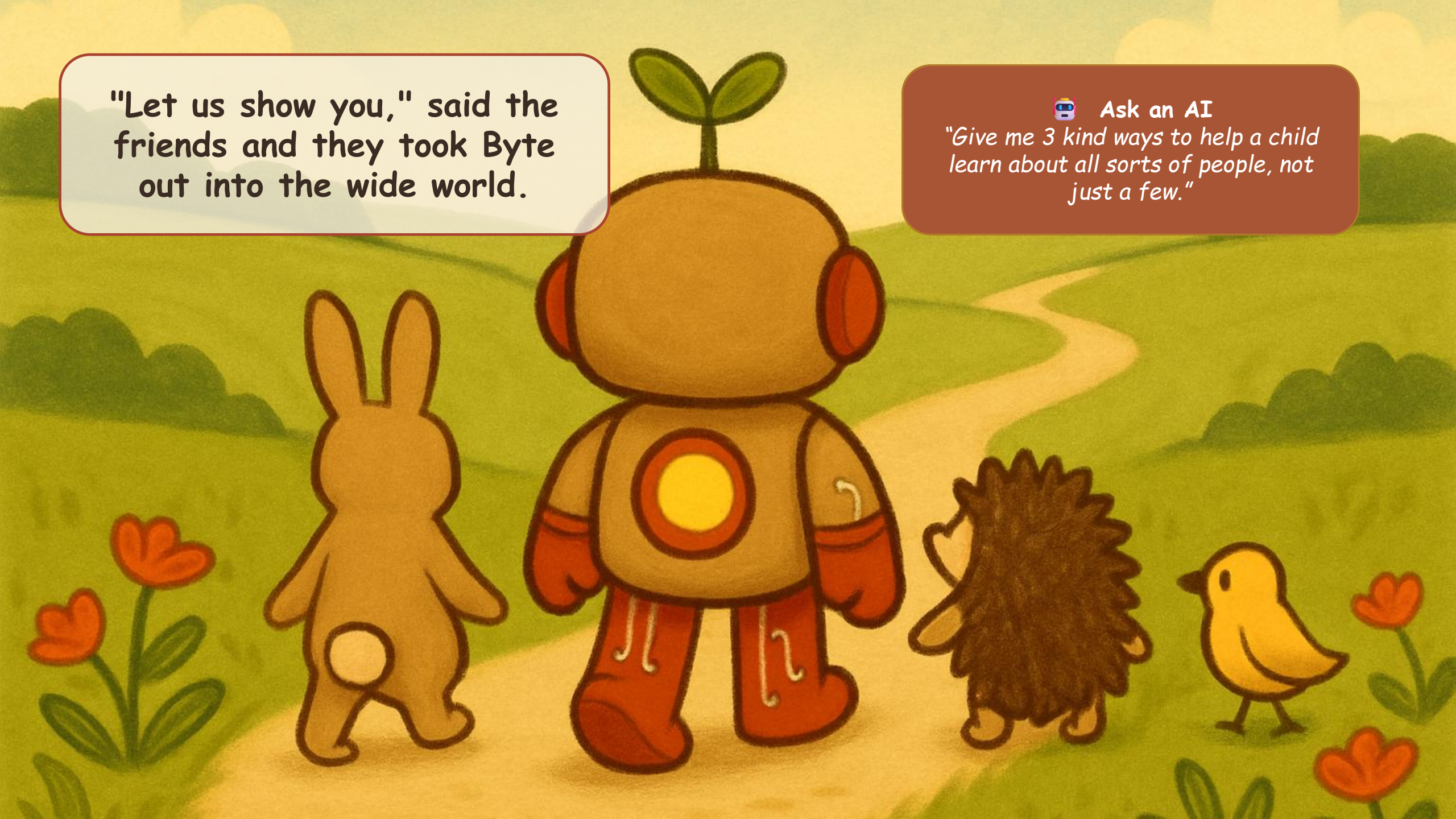

Everything Byte knows, they learned from the pictures they were shown.
Ask an AI
"How does AI learn from examples, explained for a small child."


Byte knew all their garden friends, and loved to say hello.


One day the friends asked,
"Byte, will you paint us a
picture of the whole world?"


So Byte painted the world just as they knew it … but it was only the few friends from their own garden, over and over.


"That is not quite the whole world," said the little rabbit kindly. "There is so much you have not seen yet!"


"Let us show you," said the friends and they took Byte out into the wide world.
Ask an AI
"Give me 3 kind ways to help a child learn about all sorts of people, not just a few."


Over the hills they met someone new … a wise fox that Byte had never seen before.


Byte looked and looked. They had never seen a face like this! "I can only know what I have been shown," said Byte.
Talk together
Why could Byte not recognise the fox yet?


On they went together … over meadow and market, past pond and wood … meeting all kinds of new friends.


With every new friend, Byte's world grew bigger and brighter.


Back home, the friends asked again, "Byte, will you paint a picture of the whole world now?"


So Byte painted once more … and this time the whole wide world was there! Every kind of friend, the wise fox too. Now there was room for everyone.

Let's talk about it together ☘

- What had Byte only ever seen at the start? How did that shape their first painting?
- Why did Byte's first painting show the same few friends again and again?
- Who or what was missing from Byte's first painting — and why?
- How did Byte's friends help them see more of the world?
- If you were teaching Byte, what would you make sure to show them?

🔍 **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