

Ellen had chicken pox. She was covered in spots.

"You mustn't scratch them!" said Mum.

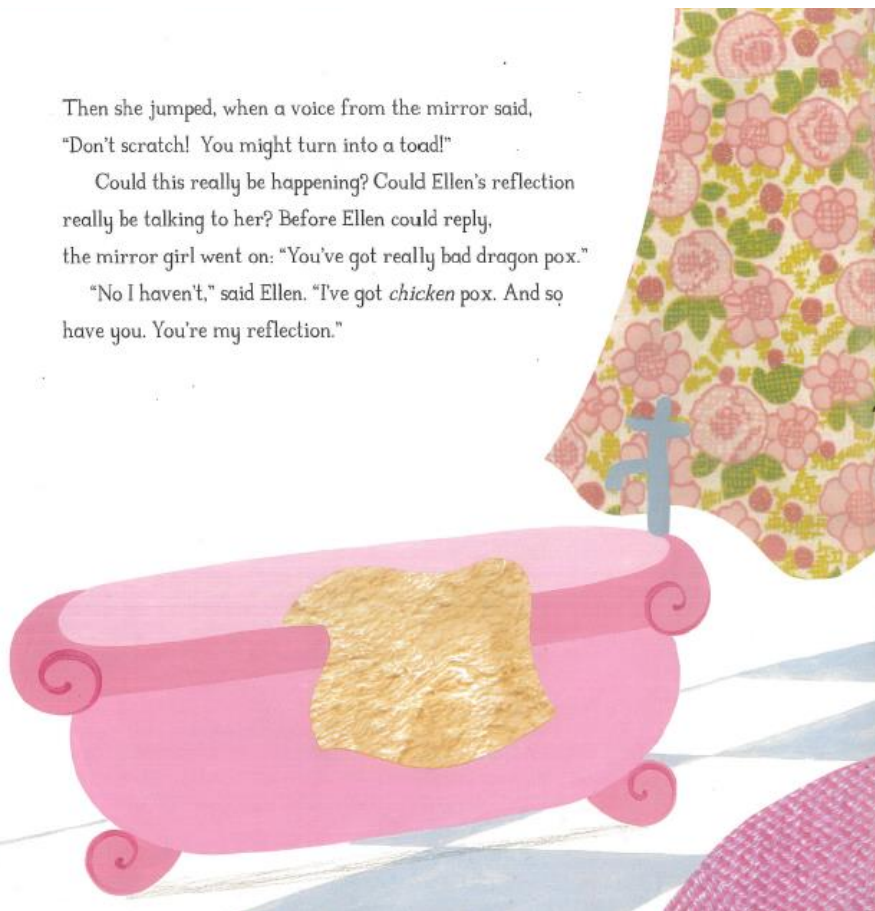
Ellen put on her right slipper (she had lost the left one) and went to look at her spots in the bathroom mirror. The spot on her nose was so itchy! Surely a tiny little scratch wouldn't do any harm? Ellen lifted a finger to her nose ...



Then she jumped, when a voice from the mirror said,  
"Don't scratch! You might turn into a toad!"

Could this really be happening? Could Ellen's reflection really be talking to her? Before Ellen could reply, the mirror girl went on: "You've got really bad dragon pox."

"No I haven't," said Ellen. "I've got *chicken* pox. And so have you. You're my reflection."







"Don't be silly," said the mirror girl, and the next second she had jumped out of the mirror and was in the bathroom with Ellen. "I'm Princess Mirror-Belle. You really ought to curtsy, but as you're my friend I'll let you off."

"Are you really a princess?" asked Ellen. "But you look just like me. You've got the same pyjamas. You've even lost one of your slippers like me."

"Oh no I haven't," said Mirror-Belle. She paused for a second and then continued: "My slipper was stolen by a goblin. They're always stealing slippers. They like to sleep in them."

Ellen laughed. "Do they have little sheets and pillows?" she asked.





"Never mind that," said Mirror-Belle. "We need to get started on the cure for dragon pox." And she put the plug in the bath and turned on the taps.

"But I haven't got dragon pox," said Ellen.

"Well, I have," Mirror-Belle said firmly. "You see, a dragon captured me last week and carried me off to his mountain lair. Luckily a knight came and rescued me, but when I got home I came out in these terrible spots."

"Did the knight want to marry you?" asked Ellen. But Mirror-Belle seemed not to hear her.

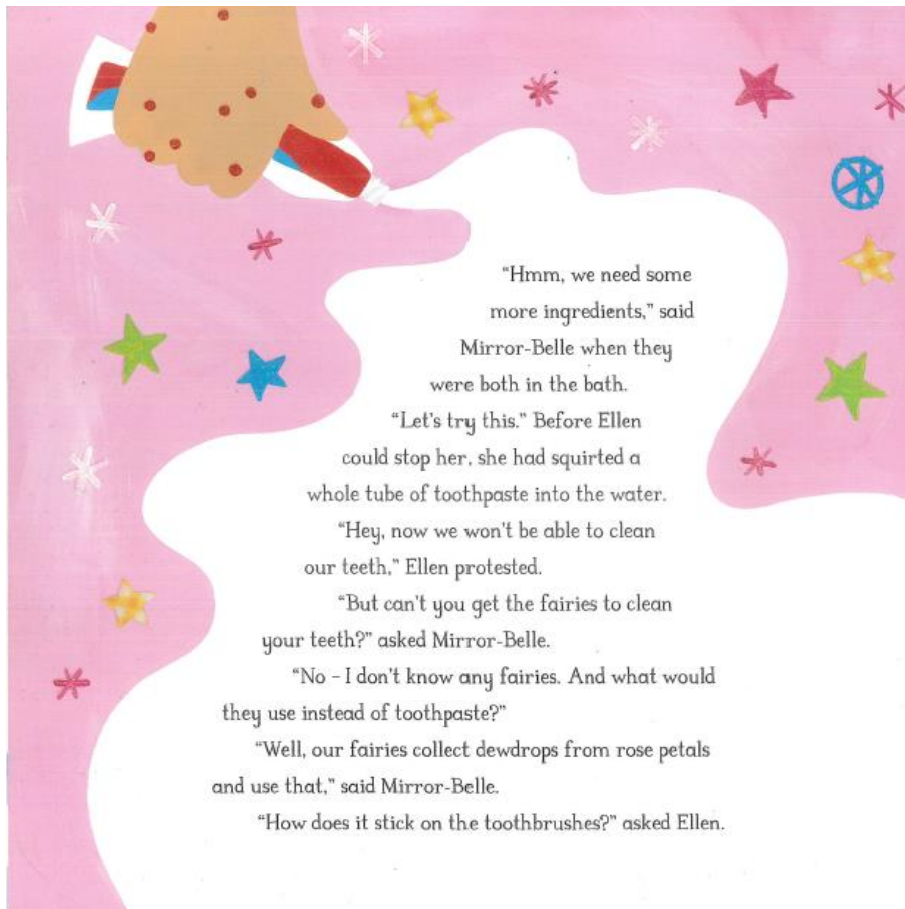




"Now then," said Mirror-Belle.  
 "On with the cure! This stuff looks good."  
 She grabbed a bottle of bubble bath  
 and squirted it into the water.  
 Then, "How odd!" she exclaimed, as  
 hundreds of bubbles appeared.  
 "Don't you have bubble bath  
 back home?" asked Ellen.  
 "Certainly not," said Mirror-Belle.  
 "But we do have bubble fish. They're  
 much better. They swim about in  
 the bath and blow thousands of bubbles."  
 "But isn't the bath water a bit hot  
 for the fish?" asked Ellen.  
 "Never mind that," said Mirror-Belle.  
 "Let's get in."



"Hmm, we need some  
 more ingredients," said  
 Mirror-Belle when they  
 were both in the bath.  
 "Let's try this." Before Ellen  
 could stop her, she had squirted a  
 whole tube of toothpaste into the water.  
 "Hey, now we won't be able to clean  
 our teeth," Ellen protested.  
 "But can't you get the fairies to clean  
 your teeth?" asked Mirror-Belle.  
 "No - I don't know any fairies. And what would  
 they use instead of toothpaste?"  
 "Well, our fairies collect dewdrops from rose petals  
 and use that," said Mirror-Belle.  
 "How does it stick on the toothbrushes?" asked Ellen.







"I do wish you wouldn't ask so many questions," said Mirror-Belle. "Let's get on with the cure. How about this?" And she squirted in some white foam from a spray can.

"Stop!" cried Ellen. "That's my dad's shaving cream."

"Well, I think he should stop shaving, like my father the King," said Mirror-Belle.

"Does your father have a beard then?" asked Ellen.

"Of course he does. It's so long it reaches the ground. He needs two servants to walk ahead of him to carry it. And sometimes birds make their nests in it."

Ellen laughed. "And do the birds fly in and out feeding worms to their babies?" she asked.





Mirror-Belle didn't reply. Instead, she poured a bottle of shampoo into the bath.

"How will we wash our hair now?" asked Ellen.

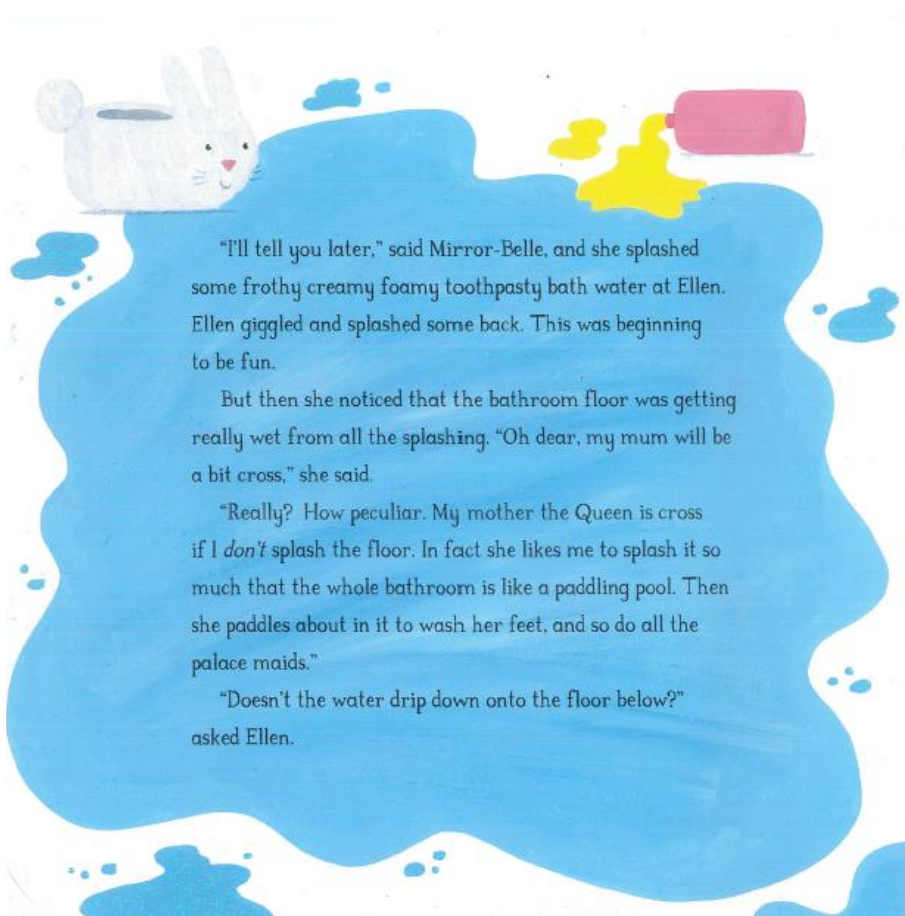
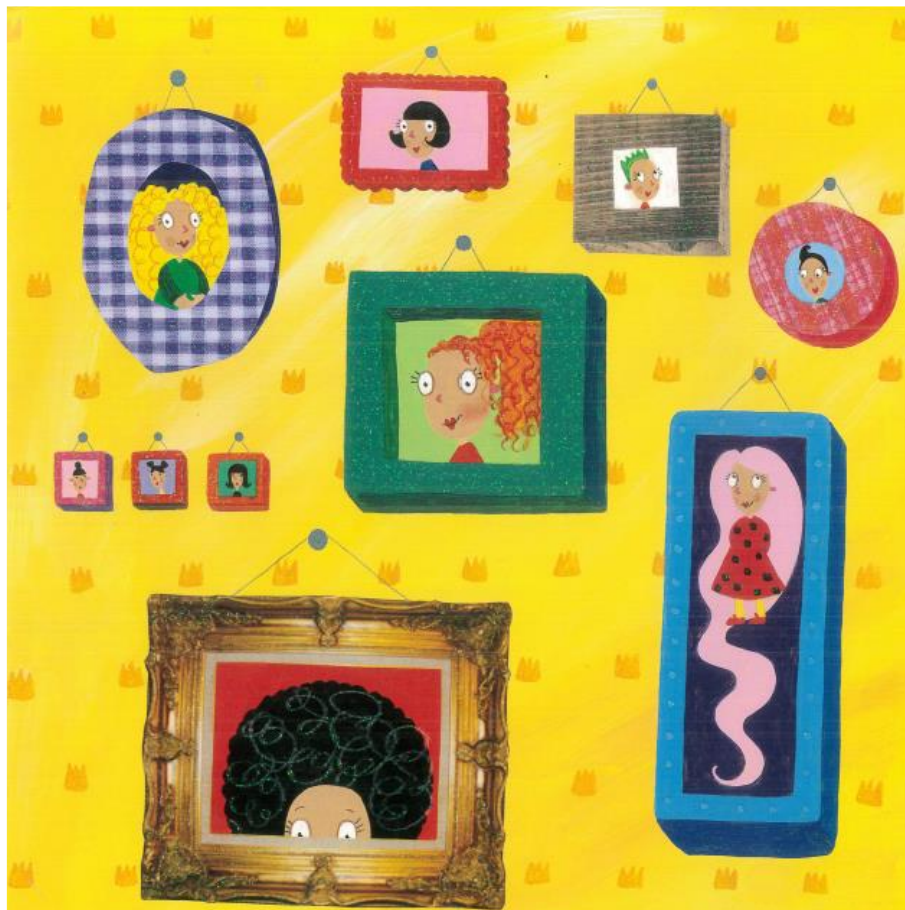
"I wouldn't bother washing it," said Mirror-Belle.

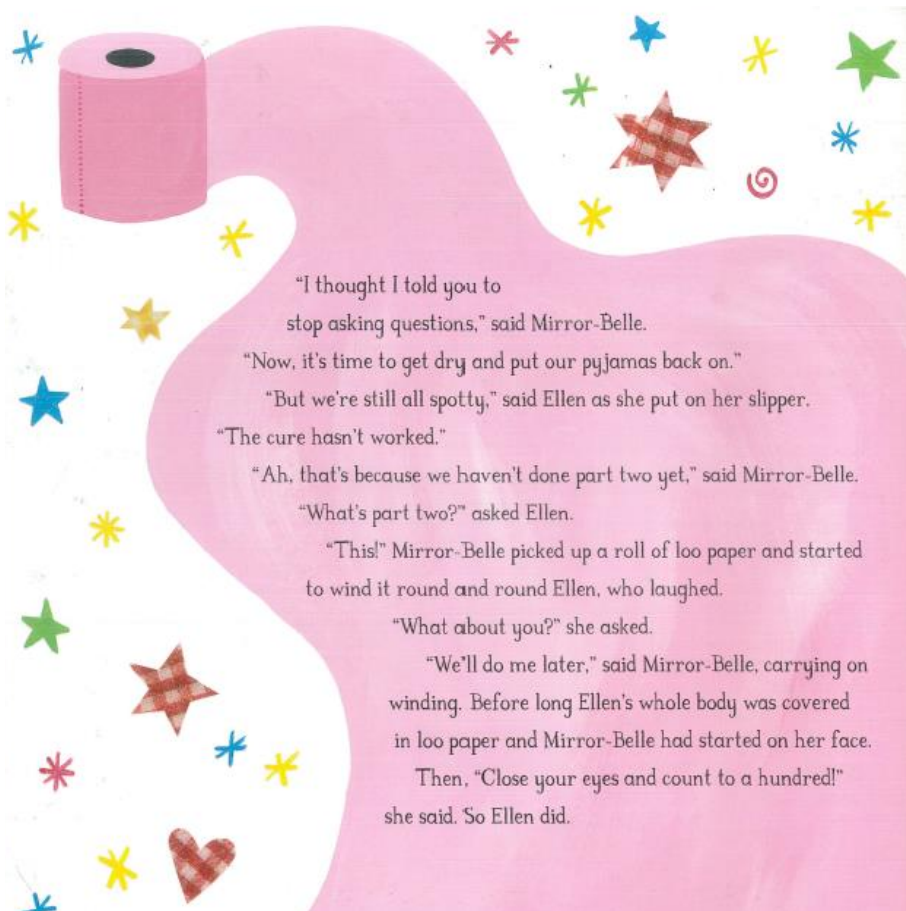
"When my hair gets dirty I just say a magic spell and wish for some different hair. My hair doesn't always look like yours, you know. Last week I had golden curls and the week before I had . . . er, red ringlets."

"I'd love to do that," said Ellen. "What is the magic spell?"













"...98, 99, 100!" Ellen ripped the paper off her face and opened her eyes.

"Where are you, Mirror-Belle?" she asked.

She looked around the empty room and saw that the door handle was turning.

But it wasn't Mirror-Belle. Instead, Ellen's mum came into the room.

"Ellen, what *have* you been doing?" she said, as she looked at the watery foamy room and all the empty tubes and bottles.

"It wasn't me, it was Princess Mirror-Belle," said Ellen.

"She came out of the mirror. She was trying to cure my dragon pox ... I mean, chicken pox."

"Oh, and I suppose she's gone back into the mirror now?" said Ellen's mum.

Ellen looked at the mirror over the basin. It was covered in toothpasty bubbles. "Yes, I think she has," she said.





Ellen's mum sighed. Then she looked at Ellen. "Actually, your spots do look quite a bit better," she said. "That one on your nose has disappeared. And look!" she added, picking something out of the basin. "Here's your left slipper."

Ellen said nothing, but she smiled as she put the slipper on. She knew that it wasn't really her slipper. It belonged to Princess Mirror-Belle.







# Lost!



Object:

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Colour:

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Material:

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If found, please contact:

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Description:

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# Bubbling Magic Potions

## Science Experiment



### Method

1. Begin by placing the bowl or cauldron onto the tray – this will make clean up easier!
2. Then pour some vinegar into the bowl/cauldron.
3. Next, stir in some food colouring or powder paint.
4. Then add a squeeze of washing up liquid.
5. Next, sprinkle in some glitter and sequins.
6. Then add some bicarbonate of soda and stir the mixture with your magic wand or spoon.
7. Watch what happens as your potion begins to fizz and bubble!
8. Continue adding bicarbonate of soda, washing up liquid and vinegar to continue the reaction. Try adding different coloured powder paint or food colouring too! Bubble bath could also be used instead of washing up liquid.

### You will need:

Bicarbonate of soda (also known as baking soda)

Distilled white or malt vinegar

Washing up liquid

Food colouring or powder paint

Glitter and sequins

A bowl or plastic cauldron

A magic wand or spoon

