


I thought I knew how a dishwasher worked...





You load the dishwasher, put in the detergent, then switch on. The switch is linked to a special siren which emits a high-pitched whistle that can only be heard by cats.

At the signal, all the cats in the neighbourhood come running to your house and climb into the machine through the specially designed cat-flap at the back (that's the banging you hear). They lick all the plates, cups, pans and cutlery clean, singing happily to themselves (that's the humming you hear).

When everything is spick and span, they leave, last one out sprinkling the detergent around the machine to get rid of any catty smells.

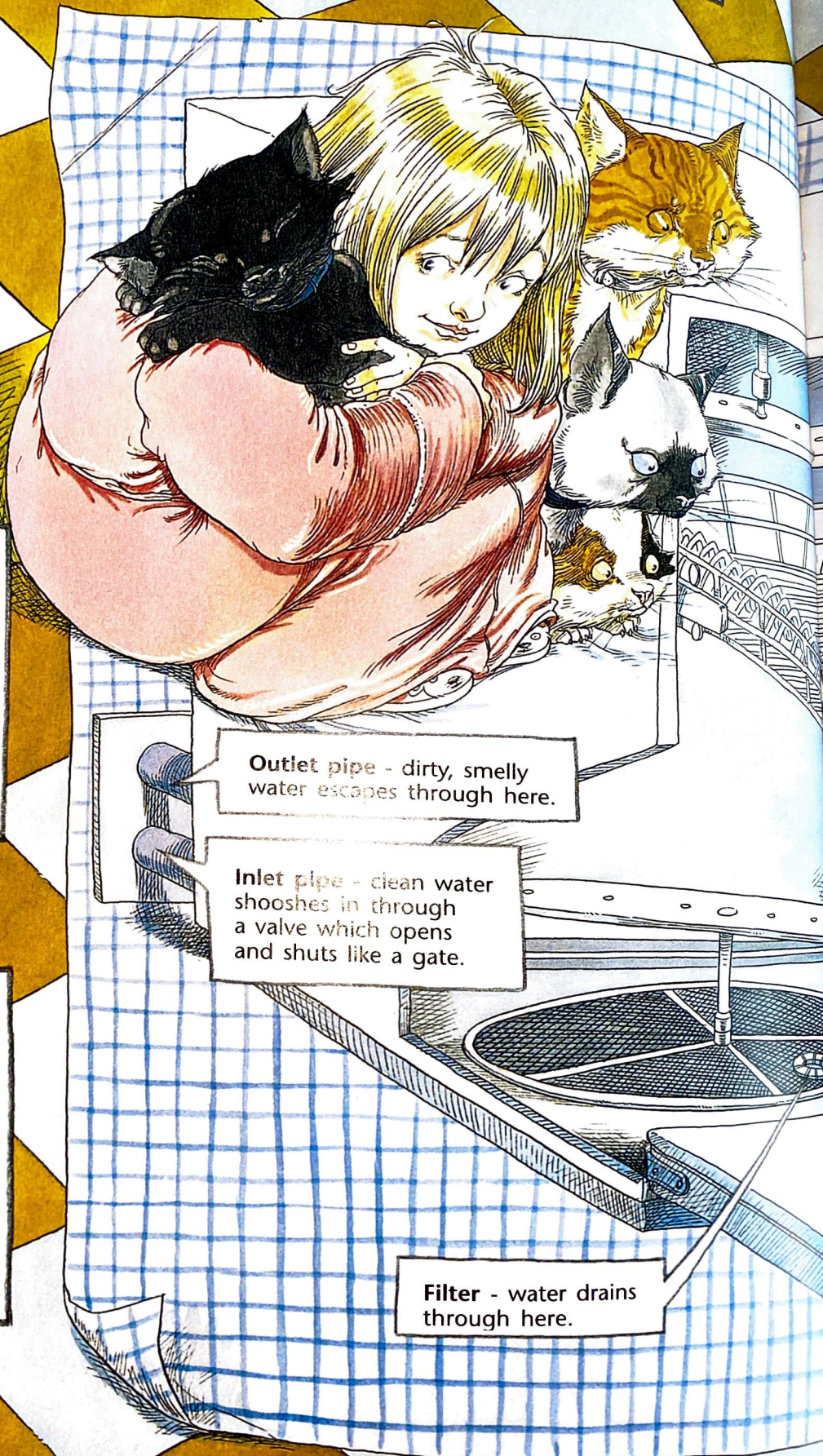
until I met Dudley...

Dudley showed me how a dishwasher works...

1. Before pressing the start button, always fill the dishwasher dispensers with a cleaner called detergent and a liquid called rinse-aid. Don't forget to check there's enough salt in the salt container to help remove the tiny specks of calcium from the water.

2. Once the machine is loaded and switched on, it controls the whole washing process by working through a step-at-a-time programme. **CLICK** - step one - cold water gushes into the bottom of the machine through a small inlet pipe.

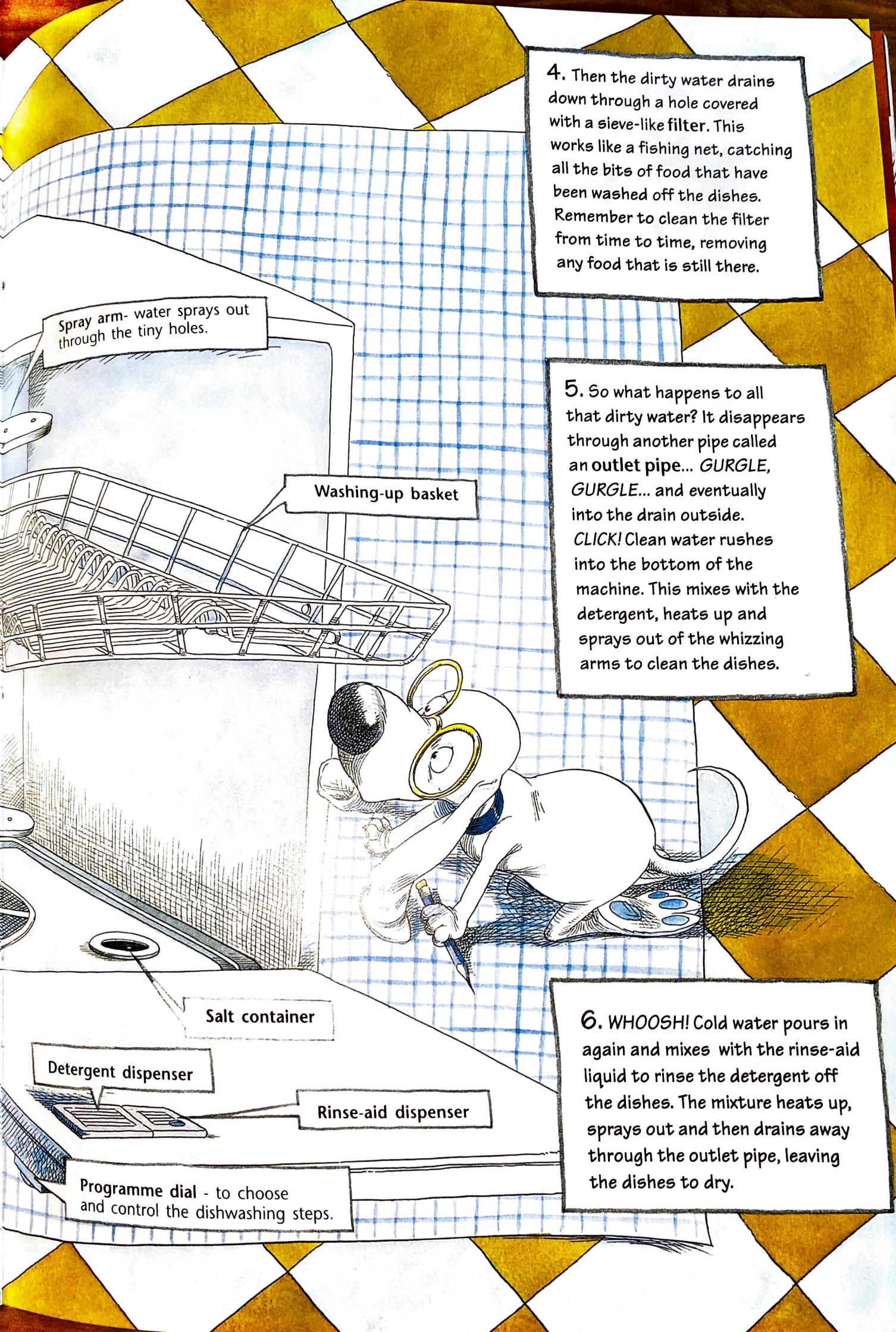
3. Next step - **CLICK** - an electric pump pushes the water out through the spray arms. These whizz round very fast like garden sprinklers, spraying the water over the dishes and getting rid of those blobs of ketchup (**UGH!**), left-over bits of brussel sprouts (**YUK!**) and other food.



Outlet pipe - dirty, smelly water escapes through here.

Inlet pipe - clean water shooshes in through a valve which opens and shuts like a gate.

Filter - water drains through here.



Spray arm- water sprays out through the tiny holes.

Washing-up basket

Salt container

Detergent dispenser

Rinse-aid dispenser

Programme dial - to choose and control the dishwashing steps.

4. Then the dirty water drains down through a hole covered with a sieve-like filter. This works like a fishing net, catching all the bits of food that have been washed off the dishes. Remember to clean the filter from time to time, removing any food that is still there.

5. So what happens to all that dirty water? It disappears through another pipe called an outlet pipe... *GURGLE, GURGLE...* and eventually into the drain outside. *CLICK!* Clean water rushes into the bottom of the machine. This mixes with the detergent, heats up and sprays out of the whizzing arms to clean the dishes.

6. *WHOOSH!* Cold water pours in again and mixes with the rinse-aid liquid to rinse the detergent off the dishes. The mixture heats up, sprays out and then drains away through the outlet pipe, leaving the dishes to dry.