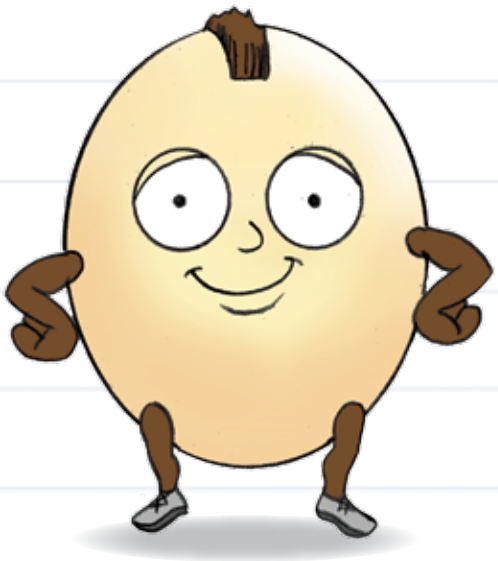
COOLBEAN

The Soybean



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with Judy Mannes & Marsha Rehns

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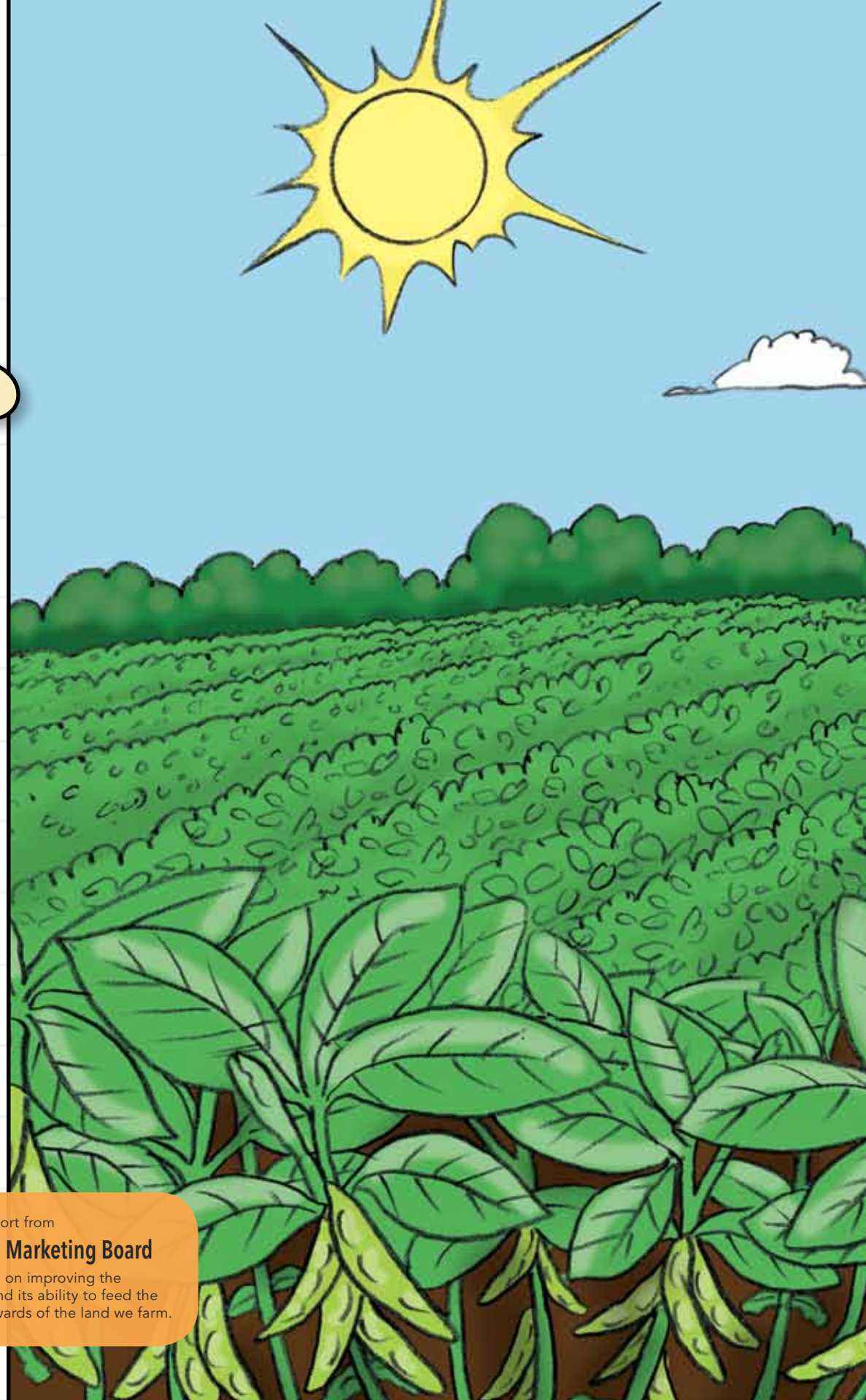
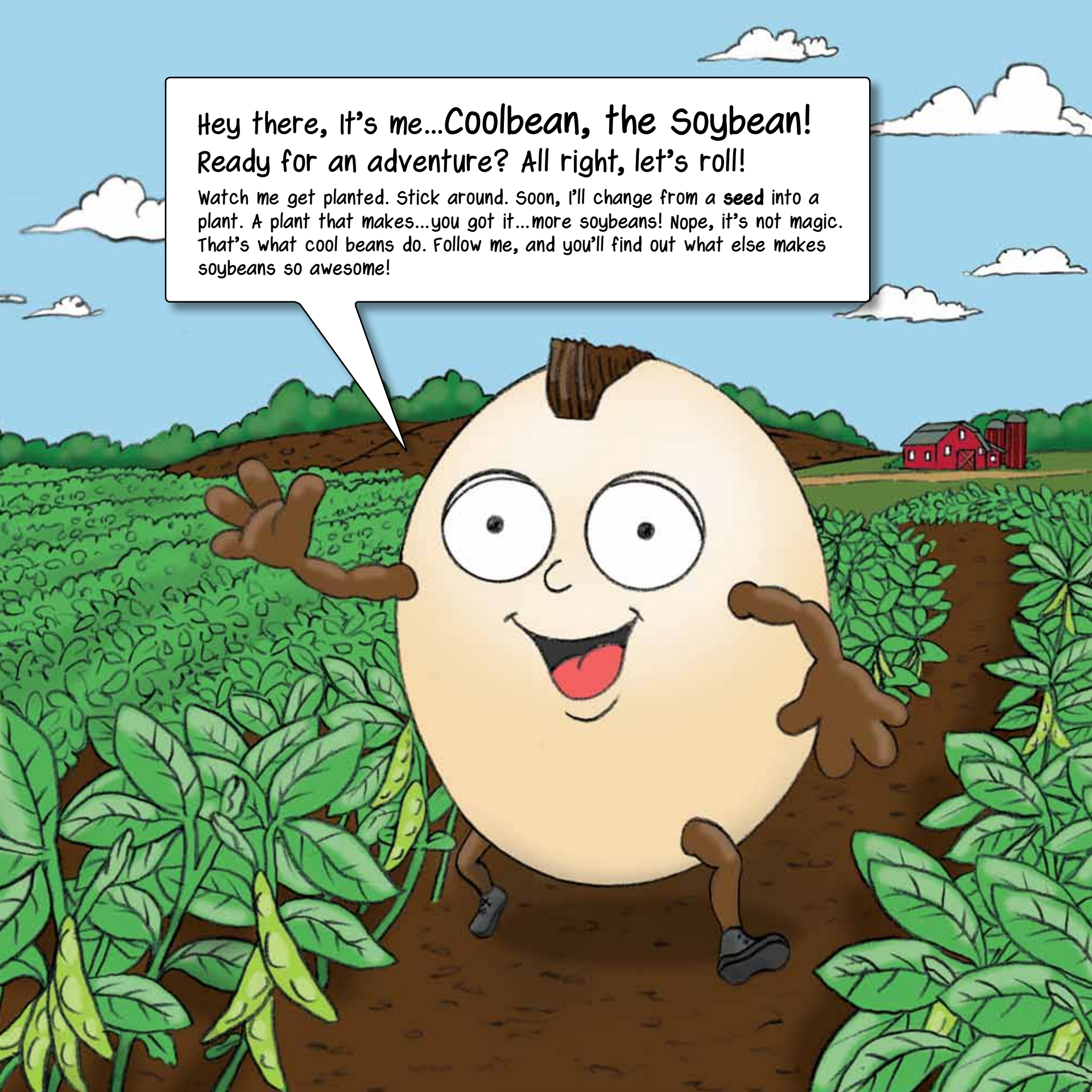
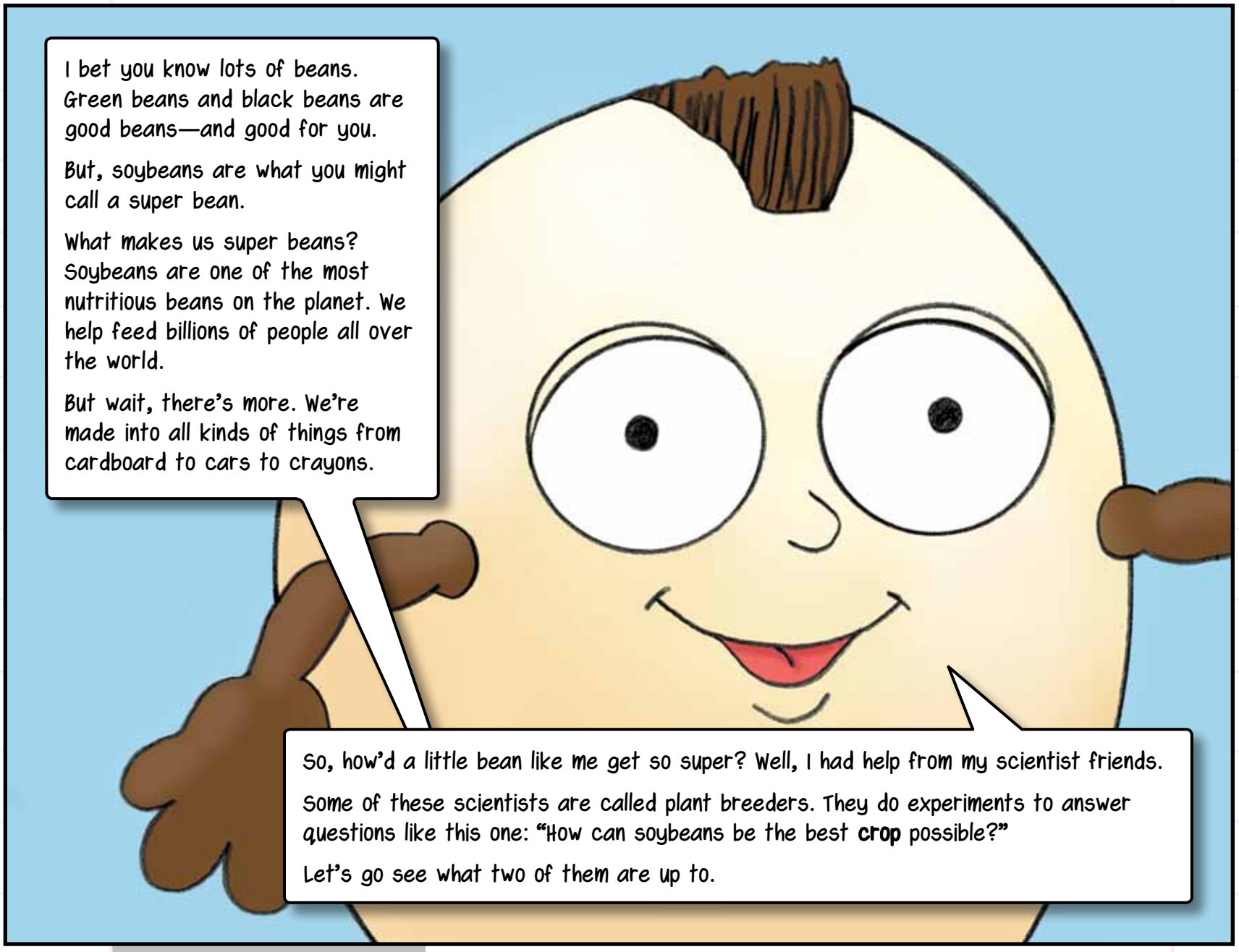



Hey there, it's me...Coolbean, the Soybean!
Ready for an adventure? All right, let's roll!
Watch me get planted. Stick around. Soon, I'll change from a **seed** into a plant. A plant that makes...you got it...more soybeans! Nope, it's not magic. That's what cool beans do. Follow me, and you'll find out what else makes soybeans so awesome!



CROPS are plants that people grow for their use. Most crops become food. Others are used to make medicines, fuels, clothes, and other things.

Think like a Scientist...

Scientists use the **scientific method** to study and learn things. They ask questions and use evidence to find answers. Here are the steps they take:

- Ask a question.
- Observe and gather information (research).
- Come up with possible answers (a hypothesis).
- Experiment to test the hypothesis.
- Observe and record the results.
- Decide if the results prove the hypothesis.

Making Better Soybeans

Plant breeders study **traits** of soybean plants, like how many beans they produce. Plants, like people, **inherit** traits from their parents. Plants pass traits to their **offspring** in their seeds.

Plant breeders select seeds from parent plants that have the best example of the trait they are trying to improve. They repeat this process many times until they get plants with the specific trait they want.

OFFSPRING are the descendants of parent plants or animals. Children are the offspring of their parents.