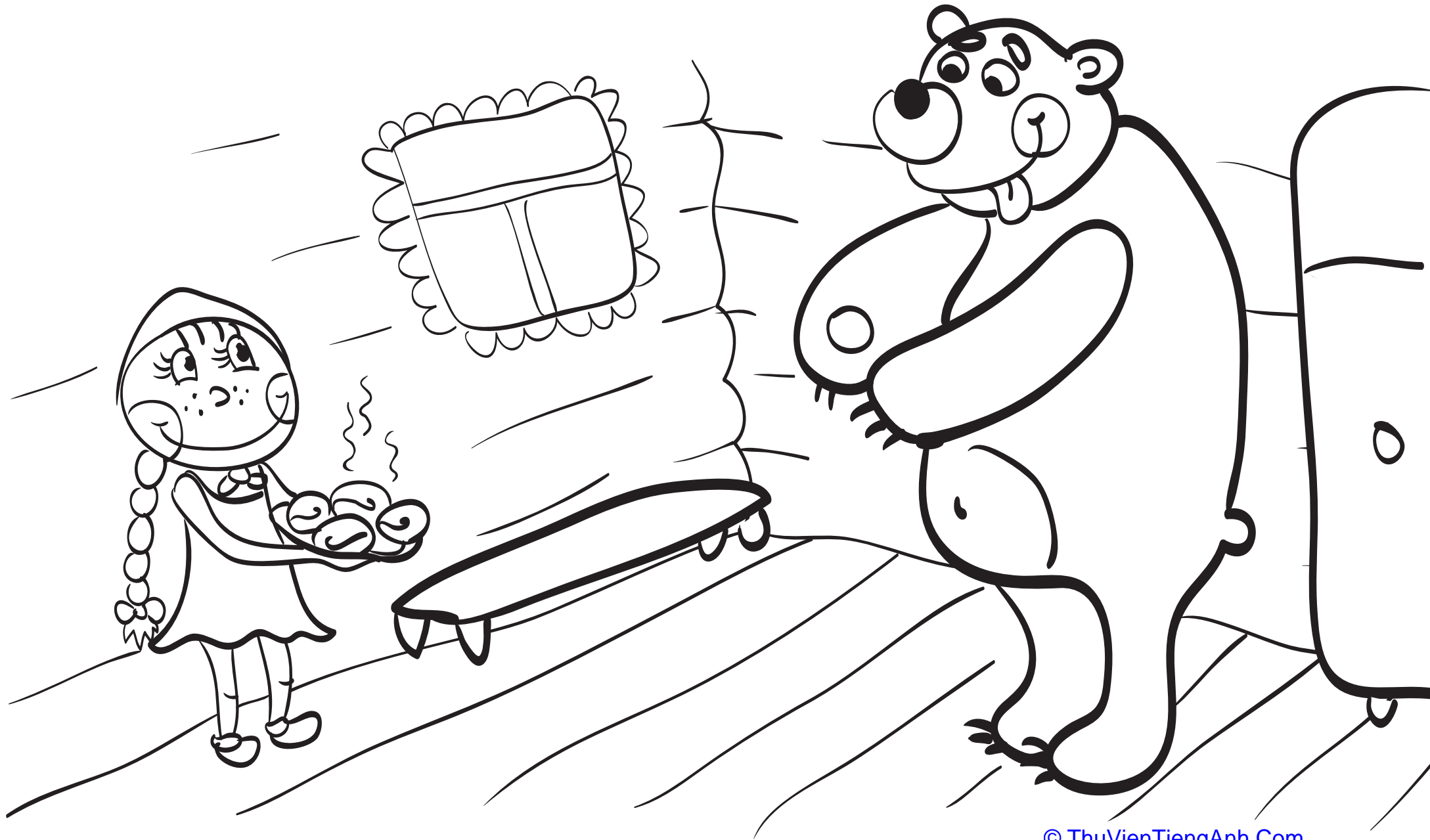


There once was a girl named Masha. Walking home one day, she got lost in the forest. She came upon a cottage, where there lived a grumpy bear. "This is my hut!" roared the bear, "You are intruding. Now I will keep you forever, and you'll be my servant."

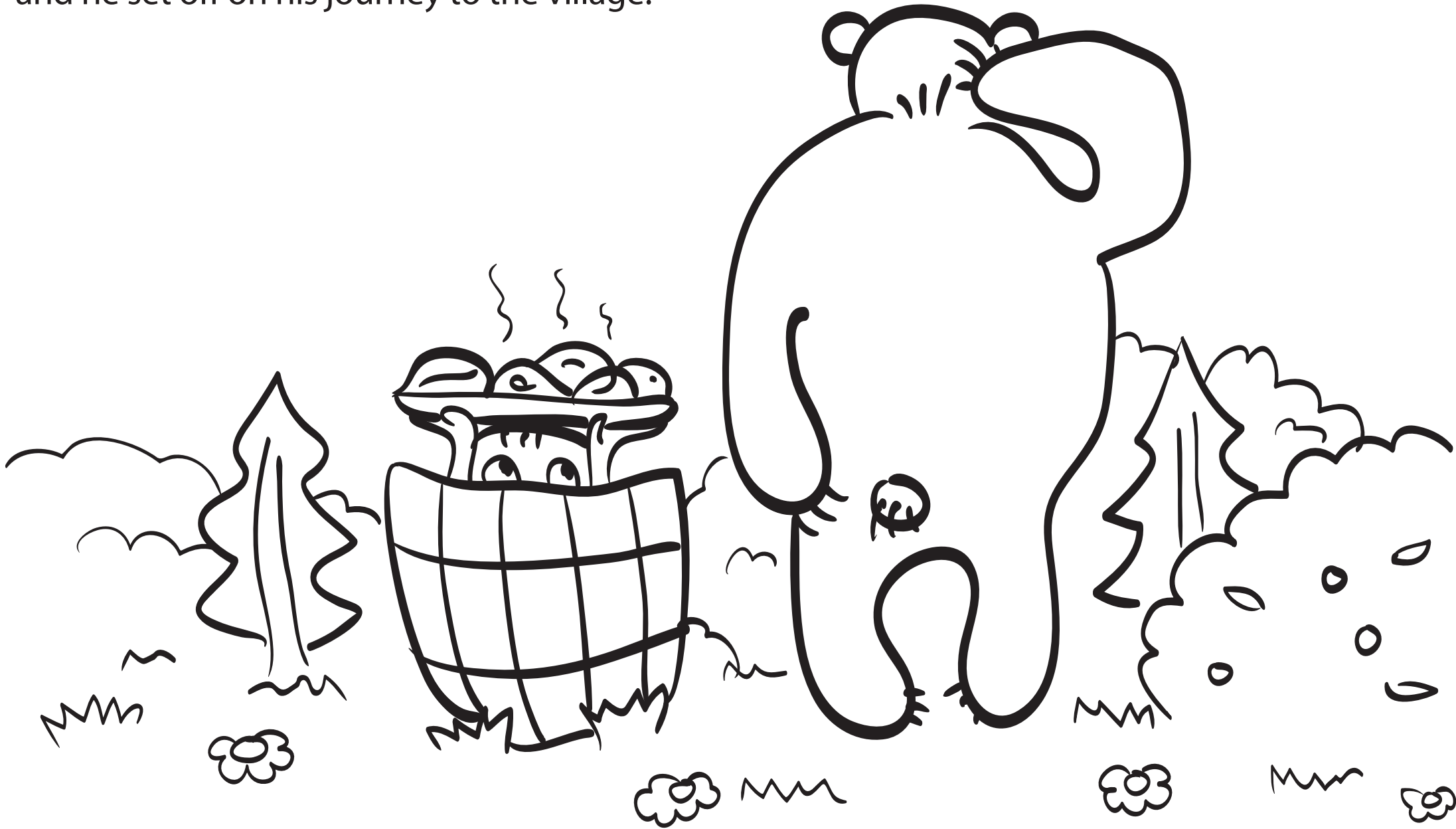


After a few weeks, Masha hatched a plan.

“Master Bear,” she asked, “I’ve baked some pies. Would you take a few to my parents? I miss them terribly and I want them to know I am alive and well.” The bear agreed.



Masha prepared the basket of pies. When the bear wasn't looking, she snuck into the basket and hid beneath the food. So the bear took the basket, with Masha and the pies in it, and he set off on his journey to the village.



As he walked, the bear smelled the delicious pies and stopped to eat one. But from the basket Masha cried, "I see you, I see you! Don't sit down, don't eat my pie, take it to my dear parents, says I!" The bear was startled. Masha must have magical powers if she can see that far, the bear thought. So he kept going.



Each time the bear tried to open the basket and eat a pie, Masha cried, "I see you, I see you! Don't sit down, don't eat my pie, take it to my dear parents, says I!" And each time the bear was more and more spooked. He brought the basket, with Masha inside, home to her parents without even knowing he'd been tricked!

