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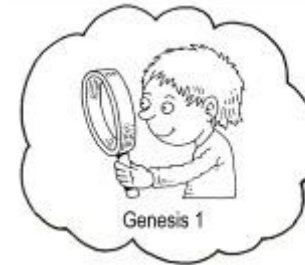
The Amazing Bird's Nest Mushroom

is a Peridioles Fungus

By Jill Kemp

Illustrated by Richard Gunther

Original idea by Richard Gunther



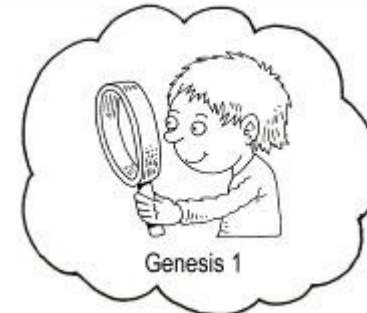
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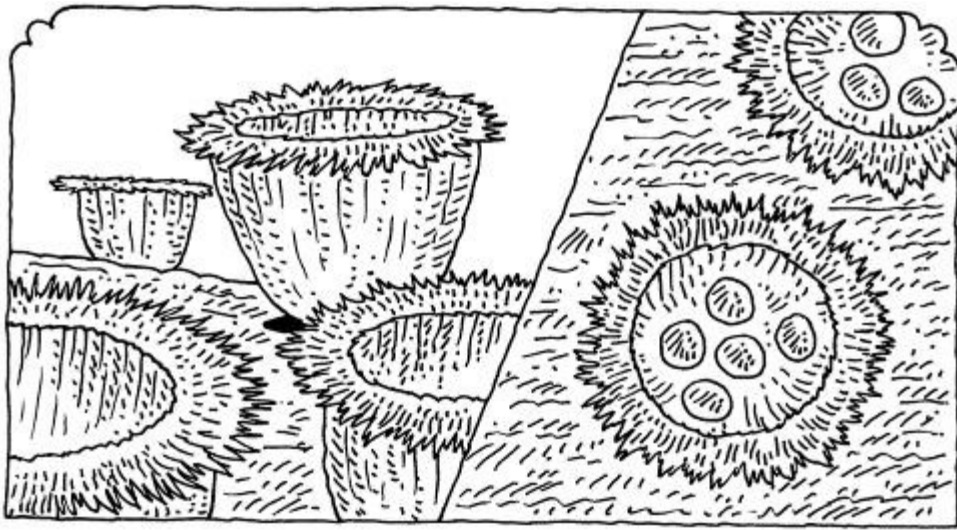
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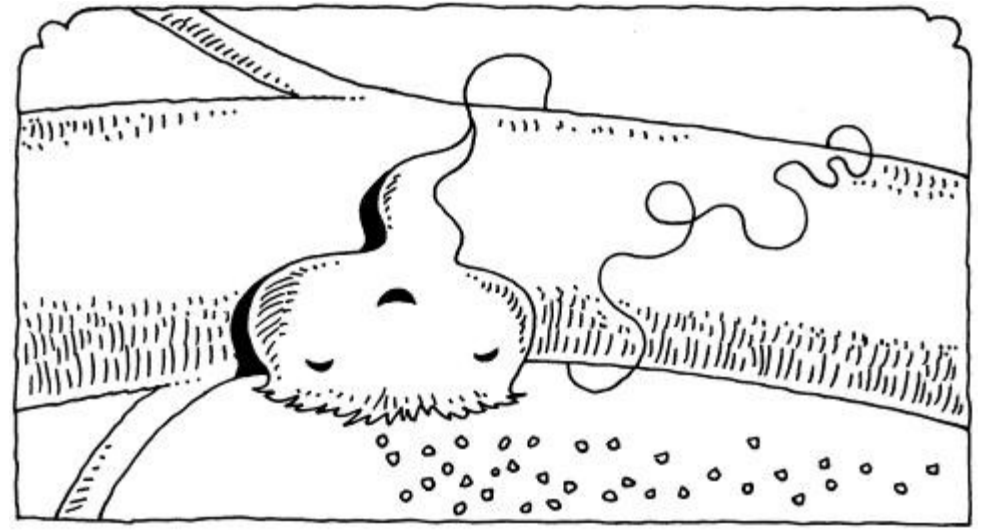
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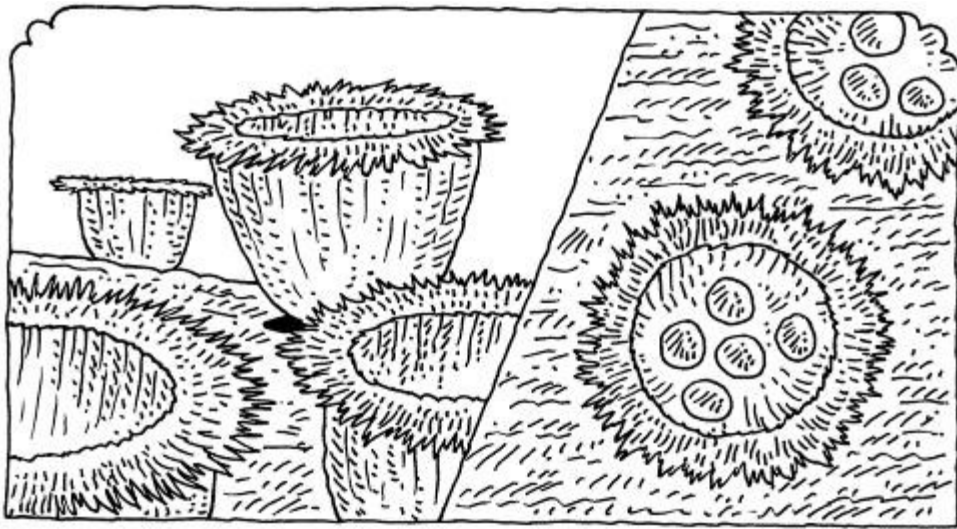
The tiny Bird's Nest mushroom looks like a small bird's nest with eggs inside it, but the way it spreads its spores is truly amazing!

2



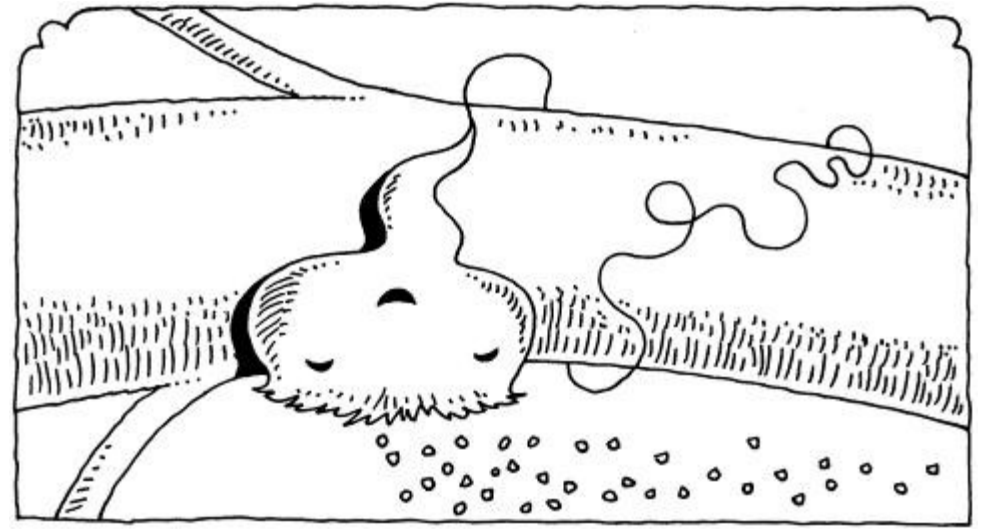
Birds Nest mushroom spores like to grow on dead wood. The pod breaks open and scatters the spores which begin to grow into new Birds Nest mushrooms.

7



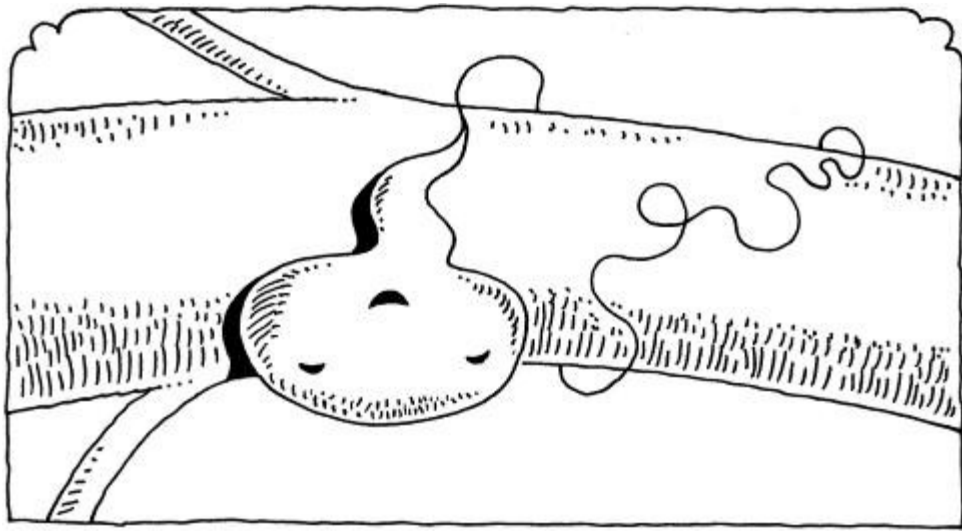
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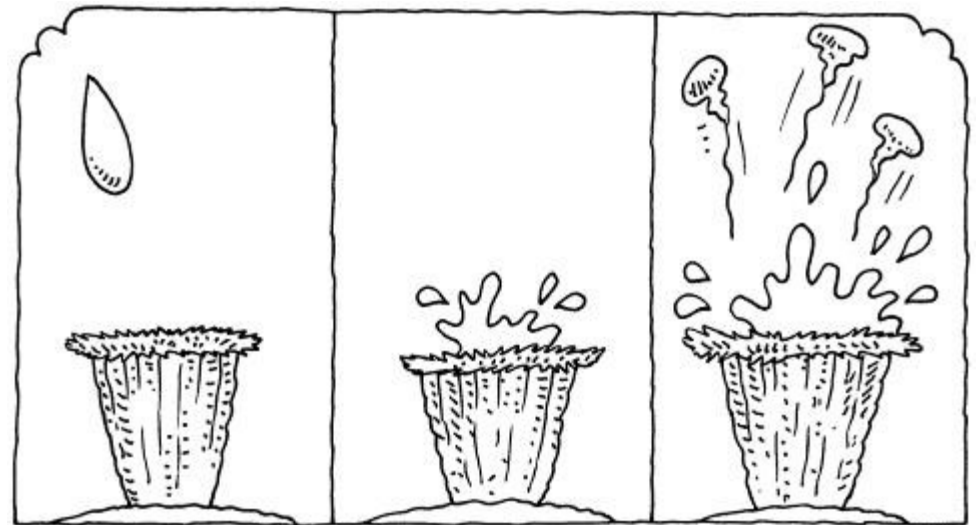
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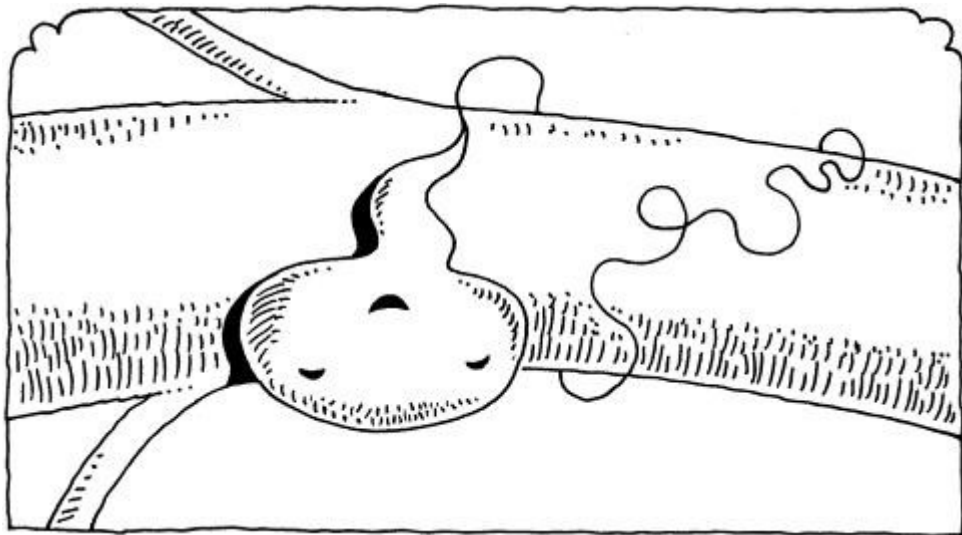
The little pod hangs safely on the branch, high up off the ground, until it is just the right time to scatter its spores.

6



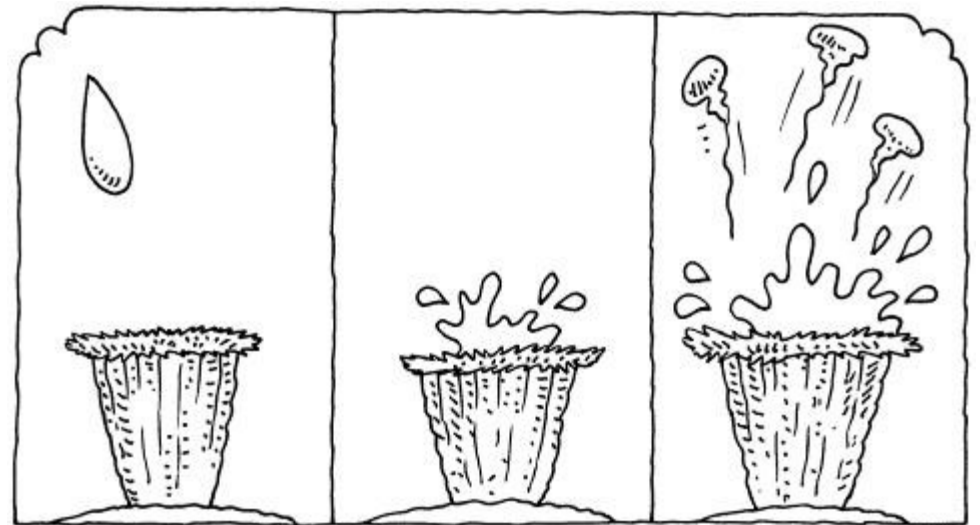
The nest is shaped like a little cup and when it rains the cup fills up with water and splashes the pods right out.

3



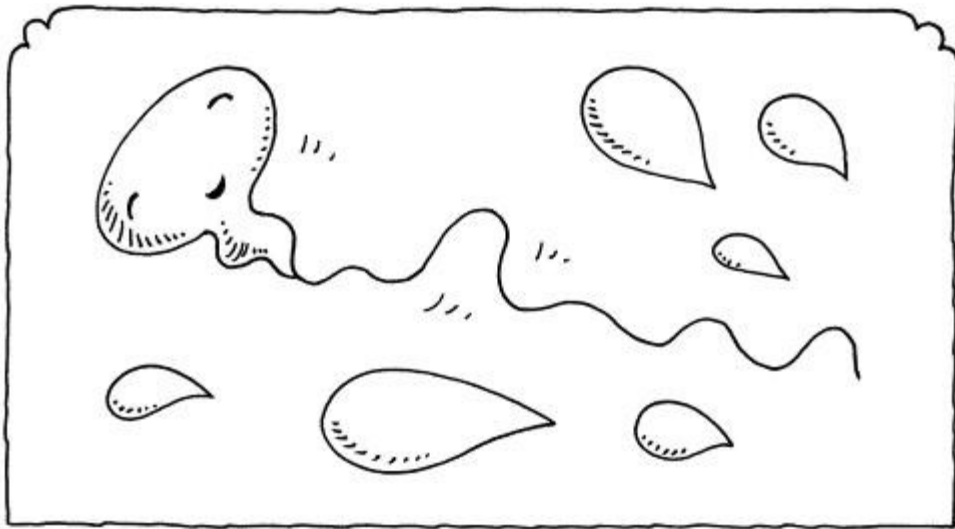
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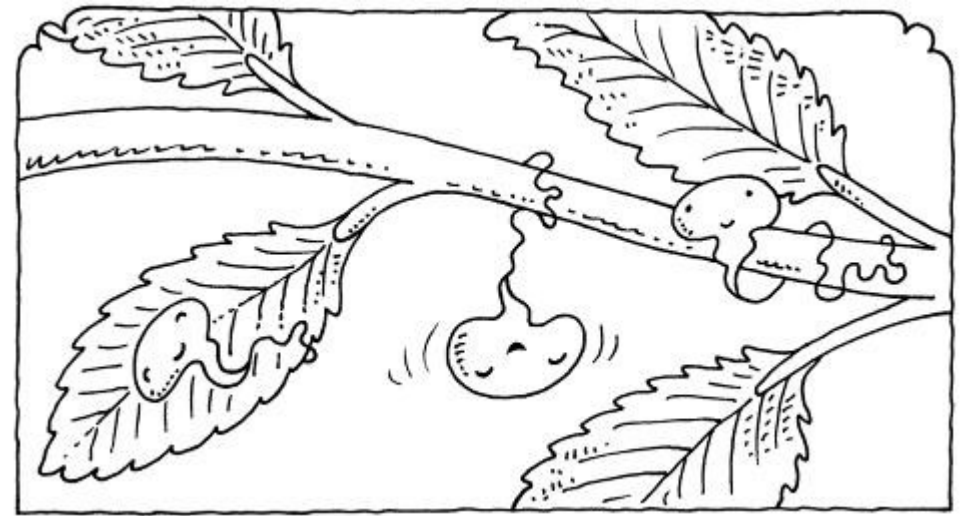
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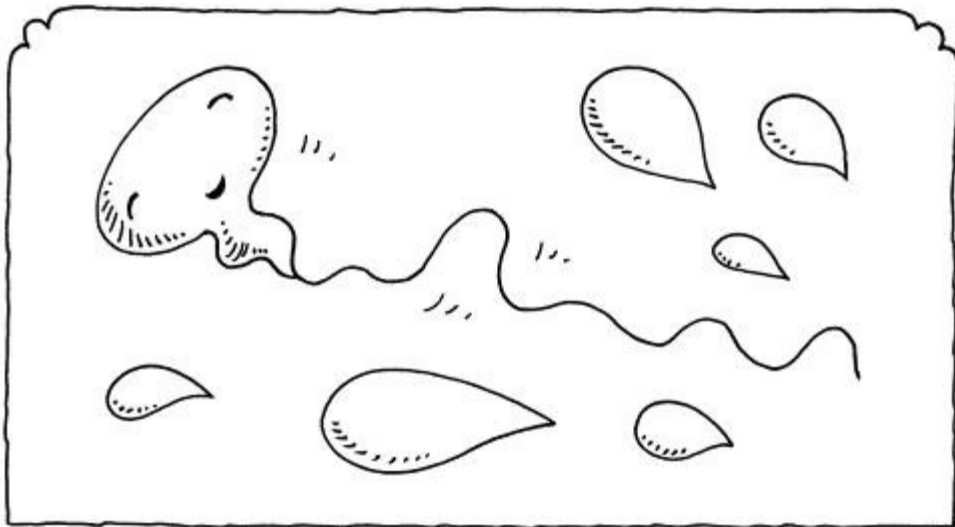
The pod has a tail curled up tightly inside it and when the pod splashes out of the cup, a tail shoots out suddenly, as though it is on a spring.

4



The long tail wraps itself around a branch. then slowly shortens and pulls the pod, with spores inside, tightly onto the branch, in a way that is truly amazing.

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