

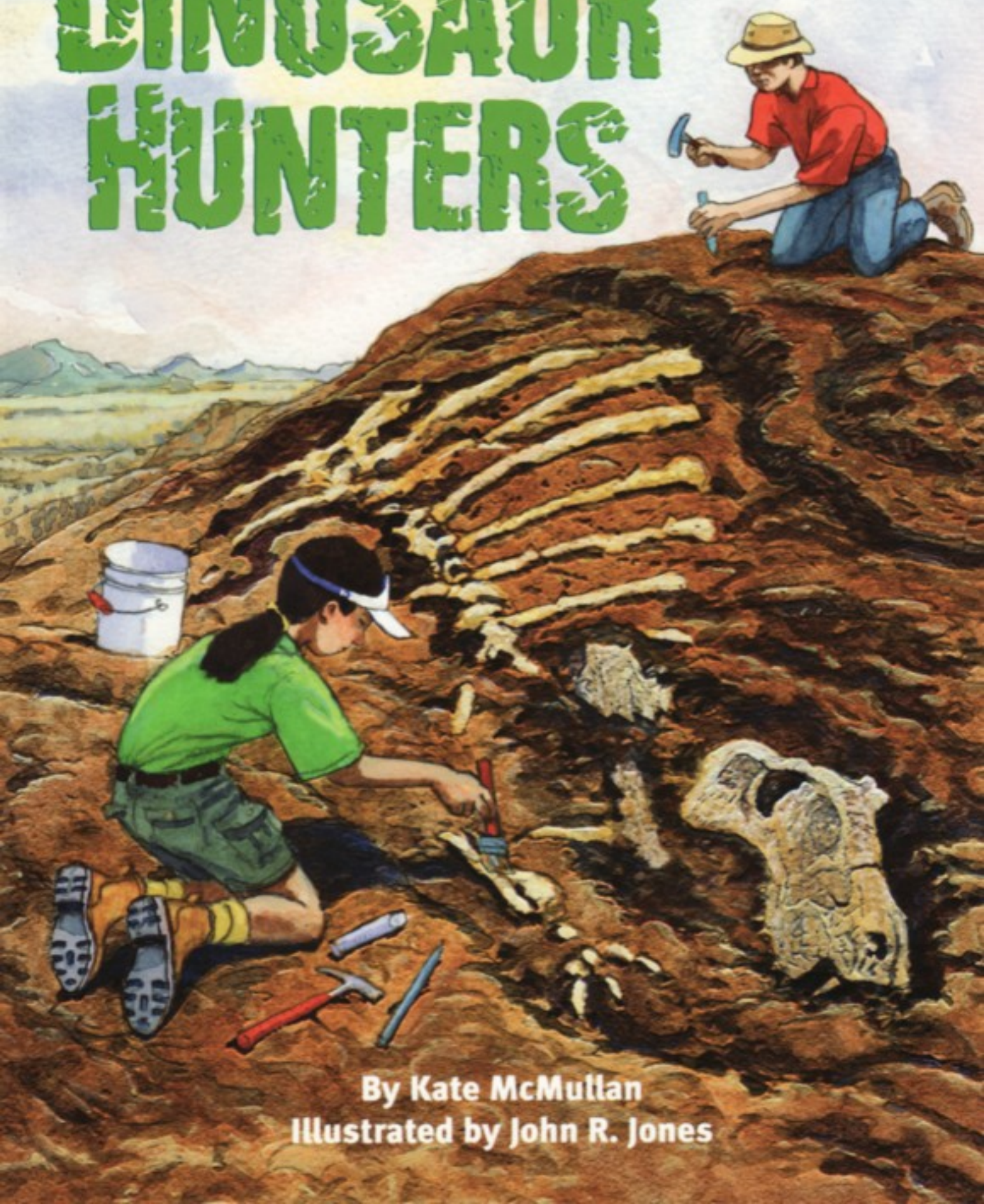
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DINOSAUR HUNTERS



By Kate McMullan
Illustrated by John R. Jones



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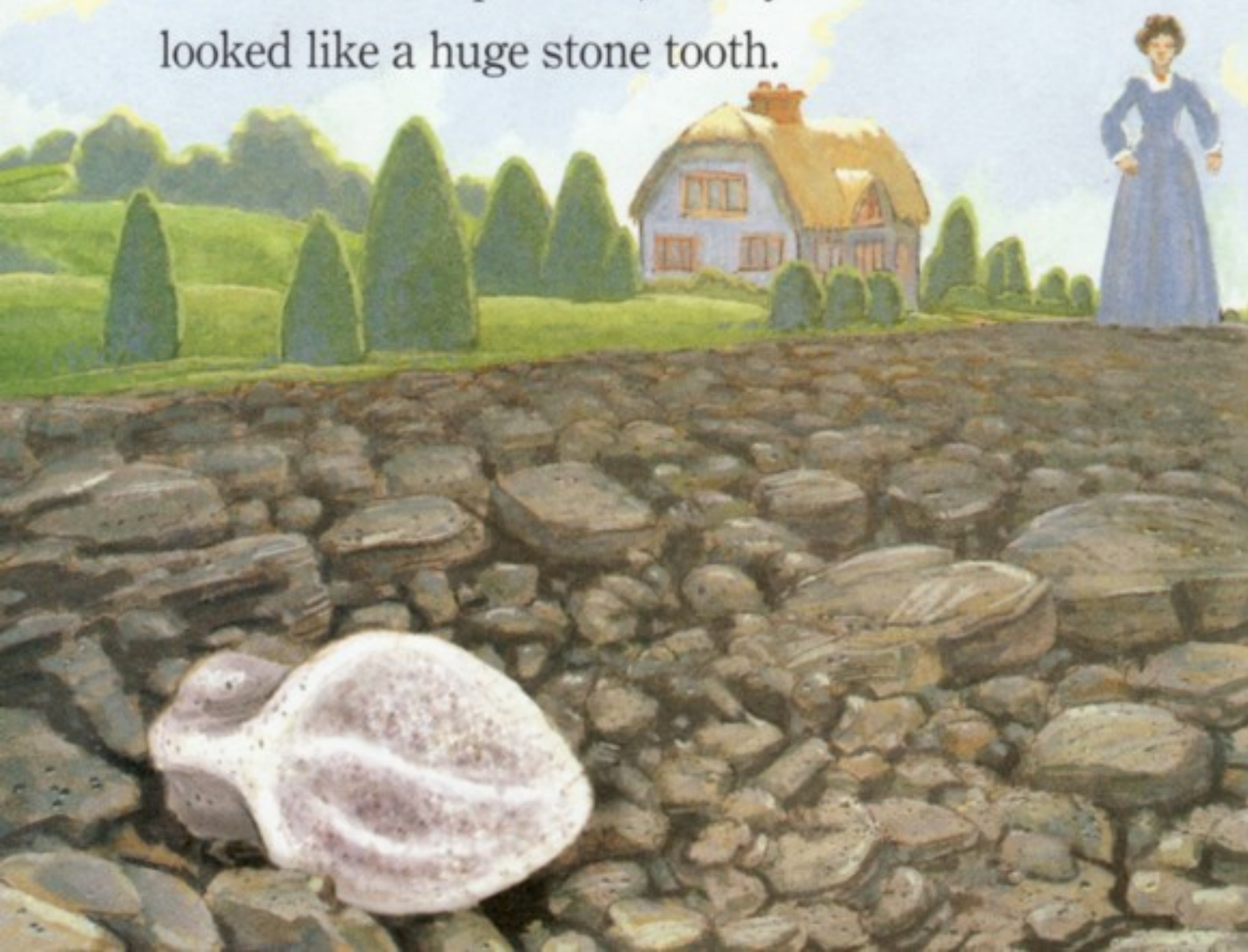
Secrets in Stone

Jim Jensen was a famous dinosaur hunter. He discovered a meat-eater that no one had ever seen before. He also found a giant dinosaur. He called it *Supersaurus* (SOO-pur-SAW-rus), or “super lizard.” Jim Jensen was one of the best dinosaur hunters of his time. That’s how he got the nickname “Dinosaur Jim.”

Of course dinosaurs don’t live on earth today. The last ones disappeared about 65 million years ago. So how could Dinosaur Jim hunt dinosaurs if there weren’t any around?

As time went by, some people became more open to new ideas about how the world might have been thousands or even millions of years ago. But others did not want to think that the world could change so much.

Then, in the 1820s, a huge fossil tooth was found in England. No one knows exactly how it was found. One legend says that a fossil collector named Mary Ann Mantell went for a walk while her husband, Gideon, a country doctor, was with a patient. The road was being repaired. In some broken-up rocks, Mary Ann saw what looked like a huge stone tooth.



Sometimes dinosaur hunters will dig out a big chunk of rock with fossilized bones in it. They do not chip away the rock around the bones. Instead, the rock is left around the fossils to help protect them. The entire rock is wrapped in paper towels and covered with plaster. Then it is put in a crate and sent to a museum.

Other times, bones are taken out of the rock right at a dig. But dinosaur hunters don't hurry. They take pictures of the bones just as they are in the ground. Sometimes they make drawings, too. Then each bone is numbered. All this work will help later, when a skeleton is put together again in a museum laboratory.





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Dinosaur Hunters

A search for giant bones!

Digging up dinosaurs is hard work.

Hidden deep in the earth, fossils are surrounded by solid stone. The digs are usually in lonely places. The sun beats down. And the tools to scrape away the rock are tiny. But to a dinosaur hunter, it's the greatest job in the world!



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