

STORY RHYME!
COMPETITION

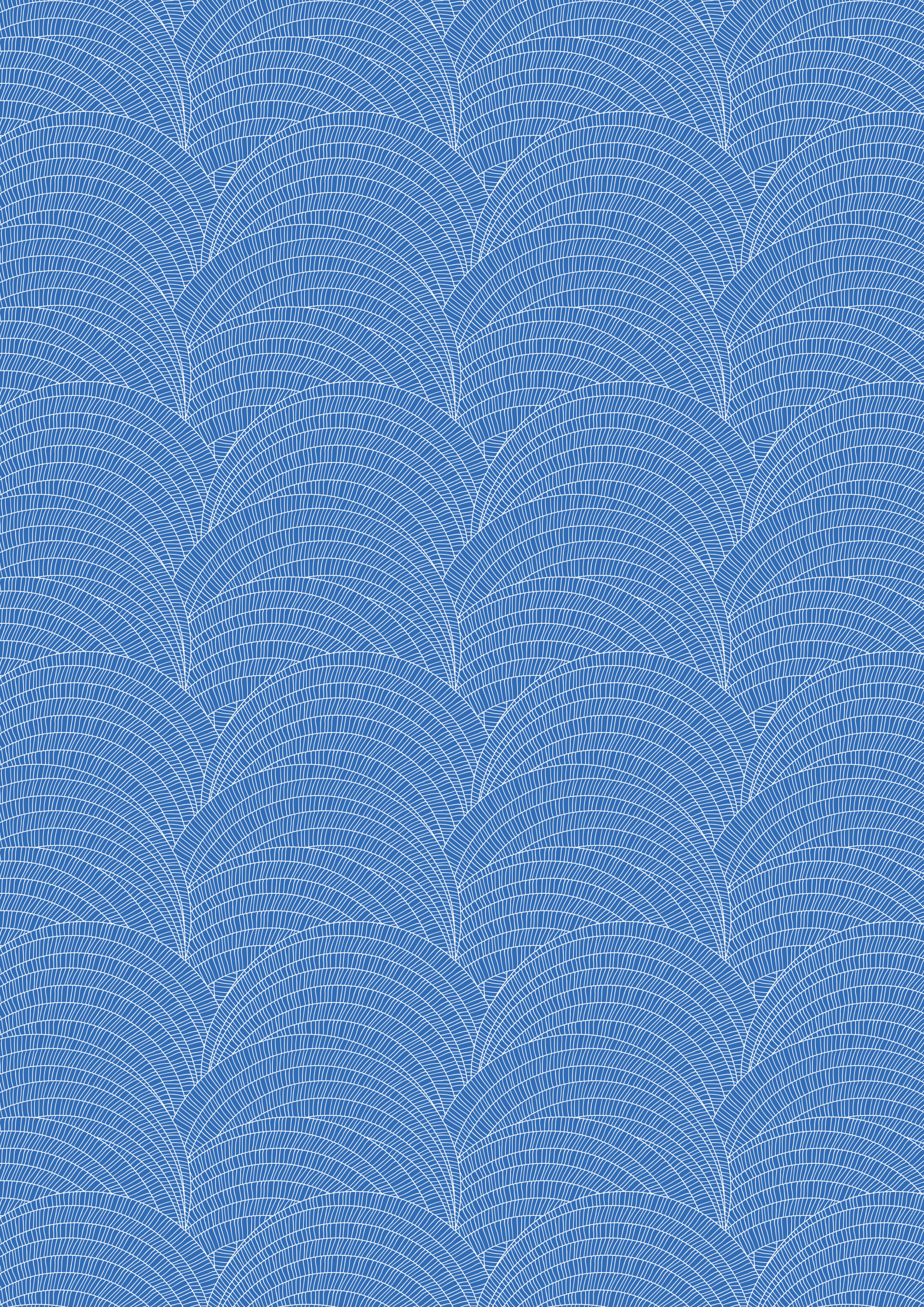
Storytime™

9TH
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE!

BRAND NEW SECTIONS!
FUN FACTS, STORY CLUB
& MY MIND MATTERS!

THE QUEST FOR CLEVERNESS

Pollyana's Perfect Morning, Stolen Treasure,
a Nodding Tiger, plus THE EARTH GODDESS!



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NINE YEARS OF
INCREDIBLE STORIES!**

storytime™ has been given a birthday
makeover – turn the page to discover its
exciting new features! Long live stories!

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**Flutter through South America,
China and Ancient Greece!**

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NEW! How to start a story club!

SEE PAGE 50!



NEW THEMES PLUS
wellbeing activities!

LET'S TALK ABOUT... NEW BEGINNINGS



I feel anxious about going to a new school!

I'm so excited about this party that I might burst!



It's totally normal to feel lots of different emotions when you're doing something new!



DEALING WITH NEW SITUATIONS

If you're feeling a lot of emotions when you're in a new situation, think about a new situation you experienced in the past and write about it.

How did you get through it?

What good things came out of it?

What did you learn then that could help you now?



MIND WORKOUT: MAP YOUR FEELINGS!

Create a spider diagram with words and colours. Write down the situation you are facing in the centre of the page and then write, draw and colour in all of the different feelings and emotions you have around it. Remember, we can feel a mix of emotions, all at the same time! Expressing these creatively might help you feel lighter. You can download a spider diagram to fill in from storytimemagazine.com/free.

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THE MOLE AND HIS MOTHER

Beneath the tangled roots of an old tree, there was a burrow in the forest soil. In that burrow lived a mother mole and her little son.

They were happy underground because it was warm and snug and there were plenty of wriggly earthworms to eat!

Moles grow up faster than humans. When the young mole was only a year old, it was time for him to go to school! His mother took him by the paw and led him out of their dark home.

They went to a classroom in a hollow tree, where a wise owl taught the little animals of the forest the things they needed to know.





The mole enjoyed school very much, but when his mother came to collect him that afternoon, he looked glum. He didn't say a word as they walked home.

"What's wrong, my dear?" she asked when they got back to their burrow.

The little mole sighed. "At lunchtime, the other animals were talking about all the wonderful things they could see. That was when I realised that I could hardly see anything with my little mole eyes!"

He blinked and shed a tear.

His mother sighed. "It is true that many other animals can see well, while we moles are almost blind. But we have our own ways of sensing the world. Shall we try?"

She dropped something at his feet. "What do you think that is?" she asked him.

The little mole felt for it with his paws. It seemed to be small, round and smooth.

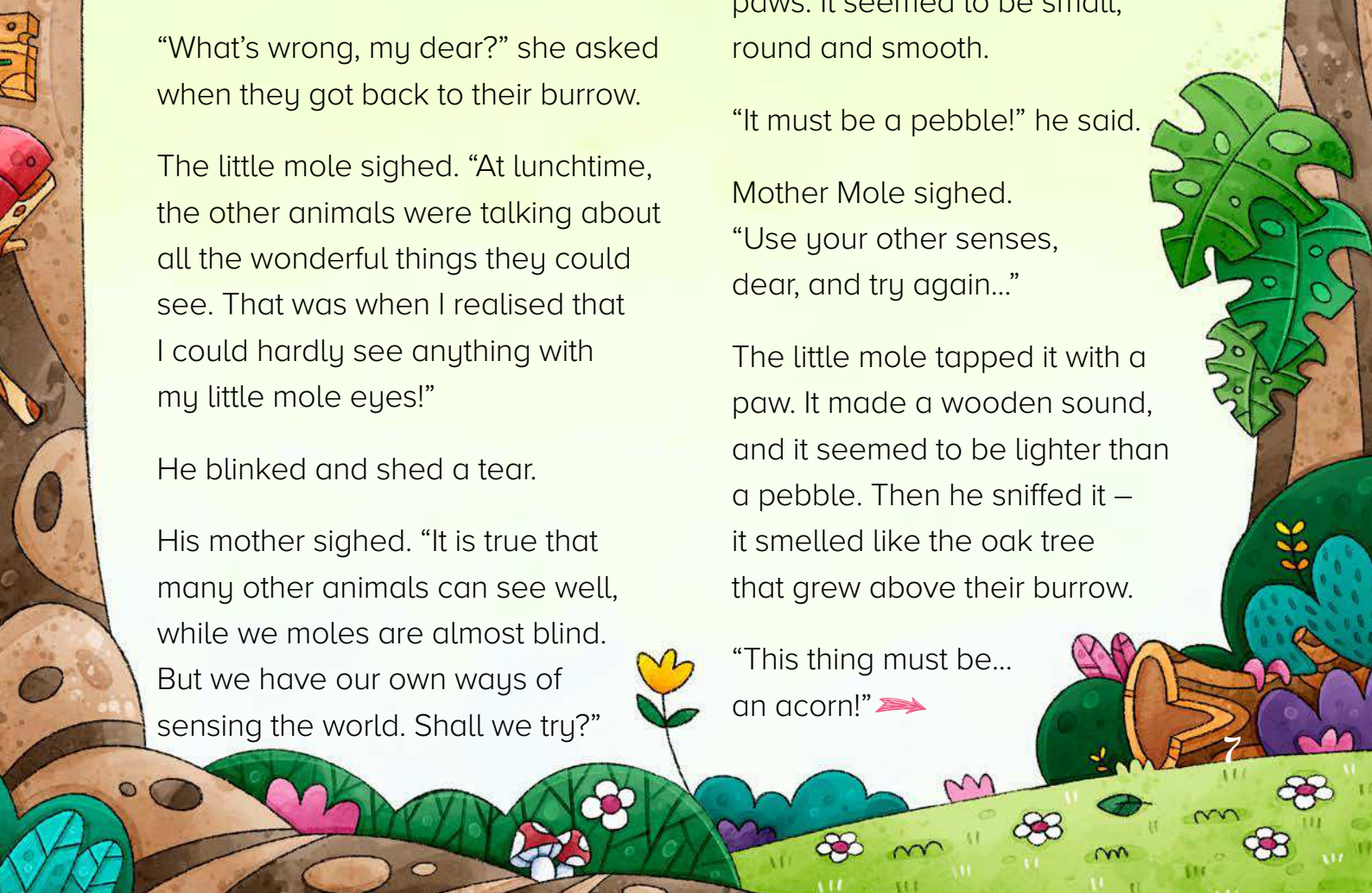
"It must be a pebble!" he said.


Mother Mole sighed.

"Use your other senses, dear, and try again..."

The little mole tapped it with a paw. It made a wooden sound, and it seemed to be lighter than a pebble. Then he sniffed it – it smelled like the oak tree that grew above their burrow.

"This thing must be... an acorn!" →





“Well done!” his mother said cheerfully. “By reaching out with your senses, you can find out so much about the world. Let’s go and explore it together!”

She led him out of the burrow. The sun had gone down, and there was a cool evening breeze. The little mole felt a tingle as it went through his short fur!

He could smell many things in the air – the odour of a nearby fox, the sweetness of wild berries and the scent of night-blooming flowers.

As they walked through the woods in the moonlight, the little mole paid attention to the feel of the grass beneath his paws. He could even sense the vibrations of worms wriggling in the earth!

The little mole smiled at his mother.

“Thank you for taking me on this walk!
We live in a world of wonders – and
we all sense it in our own special ways!” ★

TRY THIS!

We have five senses – sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste. Take a deep breath and then try to name five things you can see, four things you can hear, three things you can feel, two things you can taste. You might be surprised by what you can sense!

THE COMPASS OF LIFE

It was a bright, sunny day in 1883. In the German city of Ulm, horse-drawn carriages clattered down the streets and children played in their gardens.

Little Albert could hear them through his bedroom window, but he had to stay inside because he was ill!

“You must keep nice and warm!” his mum told him as she checked his temperature. “When you get better, you can go out and play with your cousins!”

Albert pulled a face. He didn’t like playing outside much! He preferred solving puzzles, building houses of cards or tinkering with his little toy steam engine.

His mum bustled out of the bedroom and his father peeked through the door.

“How are you, my boy?”

Albert coughed and gave him a smile. “A bit bored.”

“I have something for you to play with!” his father told him with a twinkle in his eye. ➡



In his hand was a round, shiny object. It looked a bit like a pocket watch, but its face was marked with the letters N, S, E, and W, and it only had one big hand.

“This is called a ‘compass’, and it’s an amazing thing!” his father said.

“No matter which way you turn it, the needle always points north! Explorers use it to work out where they are in strange new lands!”

Albert took the little device from his father and looked at it in wonder. He moved it this way and that... and the needle always turned to point north, as if guided by an invisible hand.

Albert thought for a while before speaking. “How does it work?” he asked finally.

“Ah, it uses something called ‘magnetism’!” his father told him with a grin. “The needle is a magnet – and so is the planet Earth. That is why the needle always wants to point north – because of the magnetic field around our planet!”

Albert felt a shiver of excitement run through his body. It was amazing to think that the needle in his compass was being affected by something that he couldn’t see or touch... something that was *everywhere*! Could it be that there were other hidden forces at work in the universe? And if there were, what could they be?



Albert soon got better and was allowed to play with his cousins again. But he was still obsessed with the compass and the forces that affected it.

He did experiments to see how it reacted to iron objects or other magnets.





The boy wanted to understand the rules of the universe that affected his new toy...

Albert's family encouraged his curiosity. His uncle Jakob taught the lad about mathematics, which he could use to work out lots of things.

"Algebra is great fun!" his uncle said enthusiastically. "It's like a game – each equation is a puzzle where you have to figure out what number the 'x' is!"

He sketched out a triangle on a piece of paper. "Here's a clever formula that you can use to work out the length of any side of a right-angled triangle – as long as you know the length of the other sides..."

He wrote $a^2+b^2=c^2$ on the paper. Albert's eyes widened.

This little formula looked so simple, but it could be very useful indeed!

Jakob gave him many more maths problems, and Albert kept solving them... even if it sometimes took him a while to work them out. He became so obsessed with learning about maths that he got his parents to buy him textbooks for the next school year so he could study ahead.

"Thank you!" he told them enthusiastically. "Now I can read them in the summer holidays and learn even more!"



Every Thursday, Albert's family had a visitor who came for dinner. In Jewish families like theirs, it was a tradition to invite a young student to eat with them every week. ➡

Their guest was called Max – he was studying to be a doctor and didn't have much money. Albert's parents helped him by making sure he had a filling dinner!

Albert didn't eat a lot during these meals because he kept asking Max questions about science.

Max liked his enthusiasm. "I think I have some books that will give you a lot of the answers you want!" he said one evening.

The following week, Max brought Albert a series of volumes called *People's Books on Natural Science*. The boy devoured them in no time! They were full of cool facts about

biology, physics, and scientific research that was changing the way people understood the universe.

By reading these little books, Albert found out about the discovery of new planets in Earth's solar system, as well as things like gravity, which kept the planets and their moons in orbit, and magnetism, which moved the needle in his compass. The more he read about the universe, the more it made sense!

The most amazing thing that Albert learned about was the speed of light. He was mesmerized by it... and kept talking about it all the time!



“Did you know that the speed of light is the same everywhere in the universe?”

he told his sister Maja one day.

“Scientists say that nothing can go faster than it. Can you imagine? I bet that understanding the speed of light is very important when it comes to understanding the universe. I might study that when I grow up!”

Albert thought a lot about magnetism, gravity and light. Was there some way of understanding how they all related to each other? He began reading bigger and bigger books that told him more and more about how everything worked. That little compass had started him on a journey of discovery – and who knew what he would find out on the way! ★



WHAT HAPPENED NEXT...

Albert Einstein moved to Switzerland to study mathematics and physics. He got good grades and found a job at a patent office, where he registered inventions.

During that time, he wrote four scientific papers with amazing insights about the universe. Other scientists were fascinated by his ideas and he was given jobs teaching at universities in Zurich, Bern and Prague.

His General Theory of Relativity described the relationship between mass, energy and the speed of light. This was summed up in his famous equation, $E=mc^2$.

In 1933, Einstein moved to the United States and worked on his ‘unified field theory’, which attempted to explain how electromagnetism and gravity interact. (This was never completed.)

Einstein’s ground-breaking theories changed the way we look at the universe. He is famous as perhaps the most brilliant scientist of the 20th century!

GAIA

THE EARTH MOTHER

The Ancient Greeks believed that in the beginning, there was only darkness. It was called Chaos, and out of it came the goddess Gaia.

She was the mother of everything beautiful in the world. Her body formed the Earth itself – the hills and the plains and the fertile soil. Gaia was the goddess of creation and all living things.

“I would like to have a husband, and children as well!” she thought to herself.

So Gaia created the sky god Uranus, who was vast and blue and towered high above her. She made him the ruler of the world and crowned him with stars. Gaia also created Ourea, god of the mountains, and Pontus, the god of the great ocean that encircles the Earth.



Gaia and Uranus had eighteen children together. Twelve of them were giant beings called Titans, and the other six were creatures called the Cyclopes and the Hundred-Handed Ones.

Uranus was scared of his children, for he feared that they would one day overthrow him. He imprisoned the Cyclopes and the Hundred-Handed Ones far beneath the Earth.

This made Gaia furious, so she summoned the Titans.

“Uranus should not treat his kids like that!” she raged. “Who will defeat him and take his place as ruler?”

Cronus, the youngest of the Titans, stepped forward.

“I will do it, Mother!” he said bravely. He led his brothers and sisters in a great war against Uranus, and after many battles they defeated him. Then, Cronus sat on Uranus’s granite throne and took his place as the ruler of the world.

However, Cronus was just as cruel and selfish as his father, and did not free his six siblings from their underground prison.

Gaia was upset with her son. “You are also not a good ruler!” she told him sternly. “Your children might overthrow you, just as you overthrew Uranus!”

Cronus had several children with his wife, Rhea. They were the gods Poseidon, Hera, Hestia, Demeter and Hades. ➡



But Cronus kept them prisoner inside his huge body, so they would not be a threat to him.

Rhea gave birth to their sixth child – a son that she named Zeus. Rhea did not want him to become Cronus’s prisoner like his siblings, so she went to her mother-in-law, Gaia, for advice.

“How can I save my baby from Cronus?” she asked the Earth-goddess with tears in her eyes.

Gaia smiled in her mysterious way. “Do not worry, I will make sure that he is taken care of. Cronus will never find him!”

“But what shall I do when Cronus asks to see our son?” sniffed Rhea.

Gaia took the baby’s blanket and wrapped it around a rock. “Give him this instead. Cronus will not know the difference!”

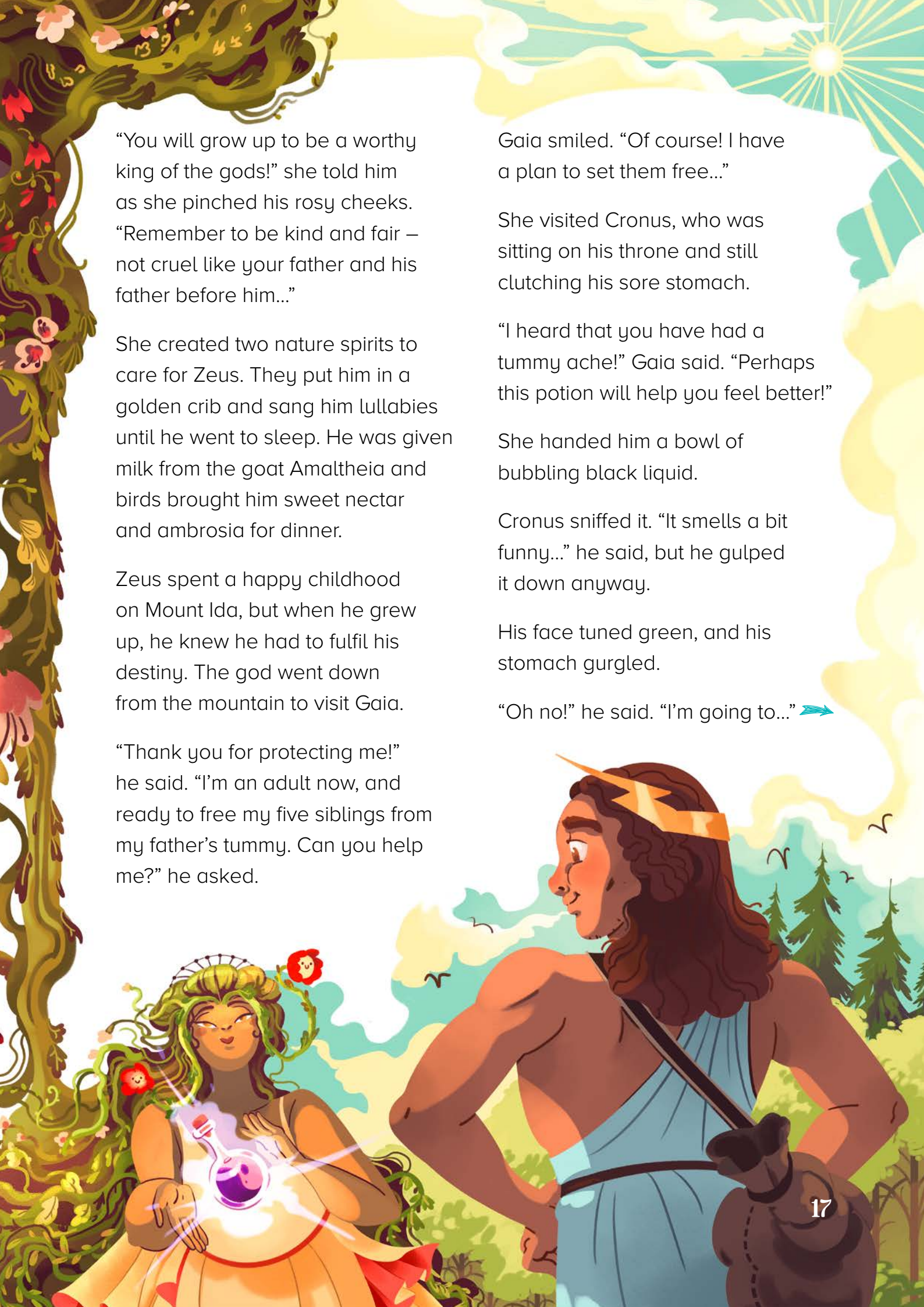
Rhea took the rock to the Titan king, who was lounging on his throne.

“Meet our new son!” she told him as she gave him the blanket-wrapped bundle. Cronus put it inside his body and then grabbed his belly in pain.

“He’s a heavy one!” he groaned. “I’m getting a tummy ache!”



In the meantime, Gaia took baby Zeus to distant Mount Ida. It was a high mountain that was covered with beautiful forests.



“You will grow up to be a worthy king of the gods!” she told him as she pinched his rosy cheeks. “Remember to be kind and fair – not cruel like your father and his father before him...”

She created two nature spirits to care for Zeus. They put him in a golden crib and sang him lullabies until he went to sleep. He was given milk from the goat Amaltheia and birds brought him sweet nectar and ambrosia for dinner.

Zeus spent a happy childhood on Mount Ida, but when he grew up, he knew he had to fulfil his destiny. The god went down from the mountain to visit Gaia.

“Thank you for protecting me!” he said. “I’m an adult now, and ready to free my five siblings from my father’s tummy. Can you help me?” he asked.

Gaia smiled. “Of course! I have a plan to set them free...”

She visited Cronus, who was sitting on his throne and still clutching his sore stomach.

“I heard that you have had a tummy ache!” Gaia said. “Perhaps this potion will help you feel better!”

She handed him a bowl of bubbling black liquid.

Cronus sniffed it. “It smells a bit funny...” he said, but he gulped it down anyway.

His face turned green, and his stomach gurgled.

“Oh no!” he said. “I’m going to...” ➡



Cronus coughed, and out came the stone and all five of Zeus's brothers and sisters! They were furious at Cronus, but glad to be free.

That was when Zeus appeared with a rumble of thunder. It was the first time he had met his siblings!

"Come, brothers and sisters!" he yelled. "It's time to fight for freedom!"

Zeus was the god of thunder, and he could use the power of storms as a weapon! He threw a bolt of lightning at Cronus, and it knocked him off his feet.

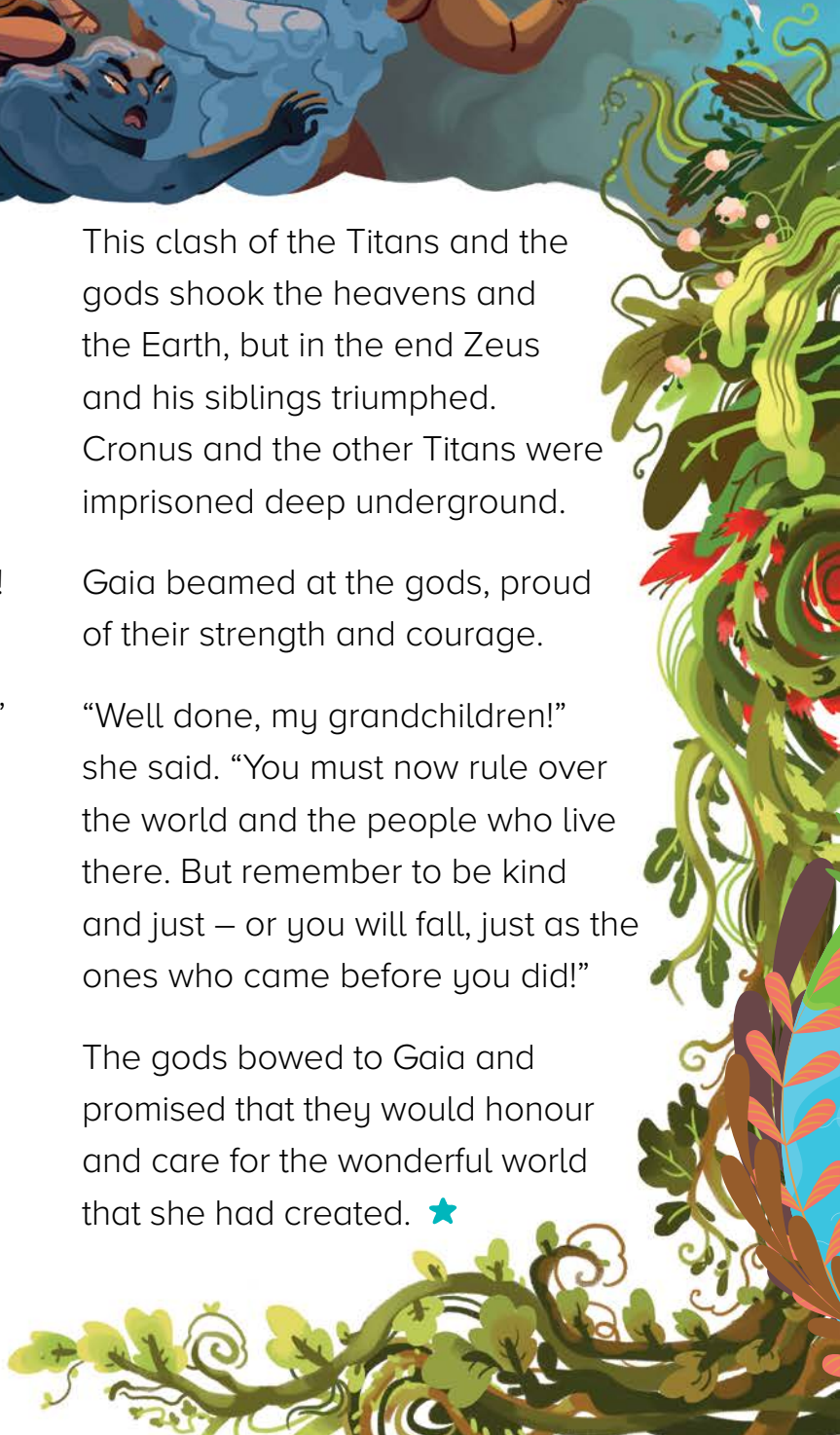
The other gods cheered and joined him, using their own powers. The other Titans fought alongside Cronus, and a great war began.

This clash of the Titans and the gods shook the heavens and the Earth, but in the end Zeus and his siblings triumphed. Cronus and the other Titans were imprisoned deep underground.

Gaia beamed at the gods, proud of their strength and courage.

"Well done, my grandchildren!" she said. "You must now rule over the world and the people who live there. But remember to be kind and just – or you will fall, just as the ones who came before you did!"

The gods bowed to Gaia and promised that they would honour and care for the wonderful world that she had created. ★



YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT...

OUR AMAZING EARTH

The Ancient Greeks believed that the Earth was the body of the goddess Gaia! Now you know about her myth, find out some fantastic facts about our planet!

It's unique... as far as we know!

The Earth is the *only* planet that we know has life on it. There might be others, but we haven't found them yet.

It's old! Our planet formed about 4.5 billion years ago, and life first appeared on it about 3.7 billion years ago. Humans like us have only been around for 2 million years or so.

It's full of life! Our world is home to living things of all kinds – including mammals, reptiles, birds, plants, fungi and bacteria. Scientists think there are *at least 8.7 million different species* on our planet!

It's just right! Luckily, our planet is just the right temperature to have liquid water on it... which is very important for supporting life. Most other planets are too hot or too cold. The Earth is in what scientists call '*the Goldilocks Zone*', because it's 'just right' – like Goldilocks's porridge!

It's wet! More than 70% of the Earth's surface is covered with liquid water!

It's under threat! Our planet is home to innumerable different kinds of life – but it's in danger because of *climate change and global warming!* Our pollution is causing it, and the heating of the planet is harming the ecosystem that we need to survive.

YOU CAN HELP!

Download our Eco Pack to discover all sorts of ways you can help our planet!

Scan the QR code here to go to storytimemagazine.com/ecopack



THE HAPPY FAMILY

Adapted from a tale by Hans Christian Andersen

Some people think that burdocks are just weeds, but they are actually fabulous plants. They grow spiny purple blossoms, and their rippling leaves are big enough to use as an umbrella!

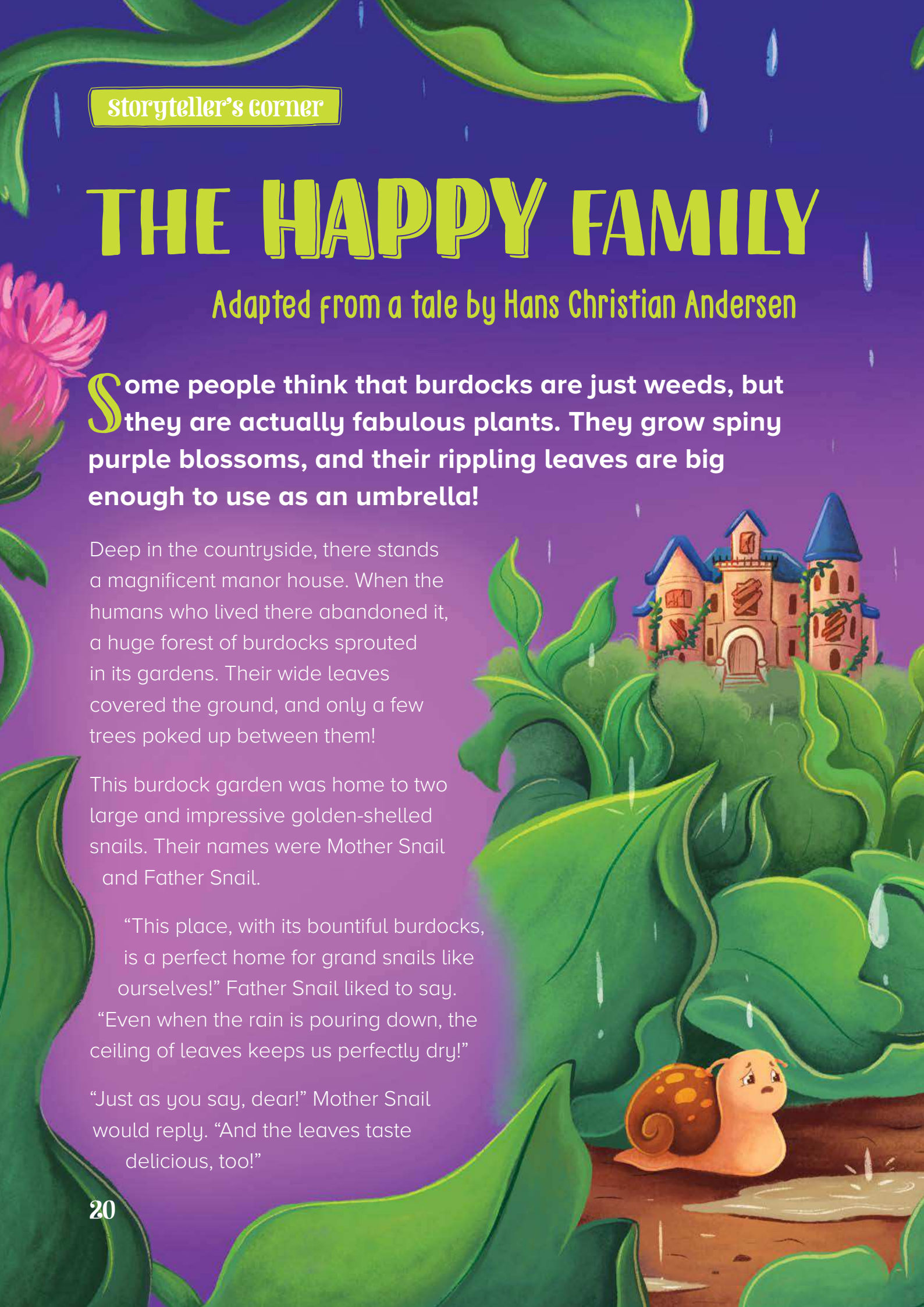
Deep in the countryside, there stands a magnificent manor house. When the humans who lived there abandoned it, a huge forest of burdocks sprouted in its gardens. Their wide leaves covered the ground, and only a few trees poked up between them!


This burdock garden was home to two large and impressive golden-shelled snails. Their names were Mother Snail and Father Snail.

“This place, with its bountiful burdocks, is a perfect home for grand snails like ourselves!” Father Snail liked to say.

“Even when the rain is pouring down, the ceiling of leaves keeps us perfectly dry!”

“Just as you say, dear!” Mother Snail would reply. “And the leaves taste delicious, too!”





Mother Snail and Father Snail were happy there – but they also felt a bit lonely.

That changed one stormy night! Lightning flashed, thunder rumbled, and raindrops thudded against the burdock leaves. Mother Snail and Father Snail sheltered in their lush garden, safe and dry.

But then they saw a small, round shell being swept along by a stream of rainwater. It came to a stop in the muddy soil, and a head with two antennae emerged from it.

It was a snail like them – but it was much smaller, and with a muddy-coloured shell.

“What are you doing here?” said Father Snail. “I know it’s stormy, but this is *our* garden. Move along!”

But when Mother Snail looked into the sad eyes of the little stranger, her heart melted.

“Oh, Father Snail!” she cried, “We have so many burdock plants in our garden, surely we can give shelter to this little chap!”

That was how the little snail came to live with them. He was both polite and good natured, and before long, Mother and Father Snail decided to adopt him. They named him Ernest!

The little fellow brought joy into their lives. Ernest loved to chatter and play, and he would scale even the highest stalks using his sticky little snail-foot.

“Be careful!” Mother Snail would cry out to him. “Hold on tight!” ➔



The months passed happily for the little family, but the older snails were worried about one thing.

“Ernest is now grown up!” said Mother Snail one evening. “He should get married – but who would be a suitable bride?”

“Let’s ask the insects in the garden!” declared Father Snail. He stopped a scurrying ant by waving his antennae at her.

“Our son needs a bride!” he told her gruffly. “We are important snails, with a fine garden of burdocks – do you know a lady who would be a suitable match for our son?”

The ant thought for a moment before replying.

“Well, I do know *one* important lady,” she replied. “She lives in an underground palace with hundreds of rooms and thousands of servants. She is our queen!”

Father Snail thought she sounded like the perfect bride for young Ernest – but the lad did not agree!

“I’m sure the ant queen is very nice, but being royal seems to be more trouble than it is worth!”

His mother and father nodded wisely. They then asked all the creepy-crawlies in the garden if they knew anyone else Ernest might like.

“Oh, I know a lady snail!” chirped a cricket. “She lives in a gooseberry bush in a nearby field!”

Mother Snail and Father Snail asked the lady snail to visit them, so she could meet Ernest. The young couple had a very nice time chatting over cups of burdock tea, and before long, they fell in love.

The snails held a great wedding party in their burdock garden, and invited all the insects and earthworms and spiders to celebrate this happy occasion.

Ernest and his wife had dozens of cute little snail-kids. Mother Snail and Father Snail loved spending time with their grandchildren!

This would never have happened if they hadn't invited a stranger into their garden many years before...

Father Snail loved to sit beneath the burdock plants in the evening and watch the little snails crawl all over the leaves.

"It's a bit crowded here now," he would say, "but I wouldn't have it any other way!" ★

COUNT THEM!

Snails are *everywhere*! How many can you count on this page? Some are hiding out among the burdock leaves!



Answer: There are 14 snails!



THE QUEST FOR CLEVERNESS

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, King Pedro was worried about his son. “He doesn’t pay attention to his lessons and never does his homework!” he cried. “How will he learn to become a good king?”

Pedro hired the cleverest people in the kingdom to teach Prince Alfonso. The wisest scientists, philosophers and poets in the land did their best to get him interested in learning, but the lazy boy paid no attention and couldn’t be bothered reading the books they gave him.

One by one, the wise men gave up. “I’m afraid your son is just not very clever!” they told the ruler.

A man in a dusty gown came to the king’s palace one day. He had a straggly beard and a twinkle in his eye.

“Not all people are the same!” he told the king. “Some people learn by *doing* and *exploring*, rather than listening and reading. The young prince should go out into the world and discover things for himself!”



The king agreed, and Prince Alfonso got ready for his great adventure! He saddled his finest horse and put on his warmest travelling cloak.

King Pedro hugged his son. “Be careful,” he said, “and have a wonderful time learning about the world!” He handed Alfonso a purse full of gold coins.

Trumpets sounded as the prince trotted out of the palace. Alfonso was excited! Who knew what he would discover on his travels?

The prince visited many different lands and met many different people. He was curious, so he asked them lots of questions! Without realising it, the prince became wiser and more knowledgeable about the world each day. He observed the folk around him, managed his money

carefully, and learned practical skills that helped him to get by. For the first time, Alfonso realised that he was actually a very smart boy, and he felt happy inside!



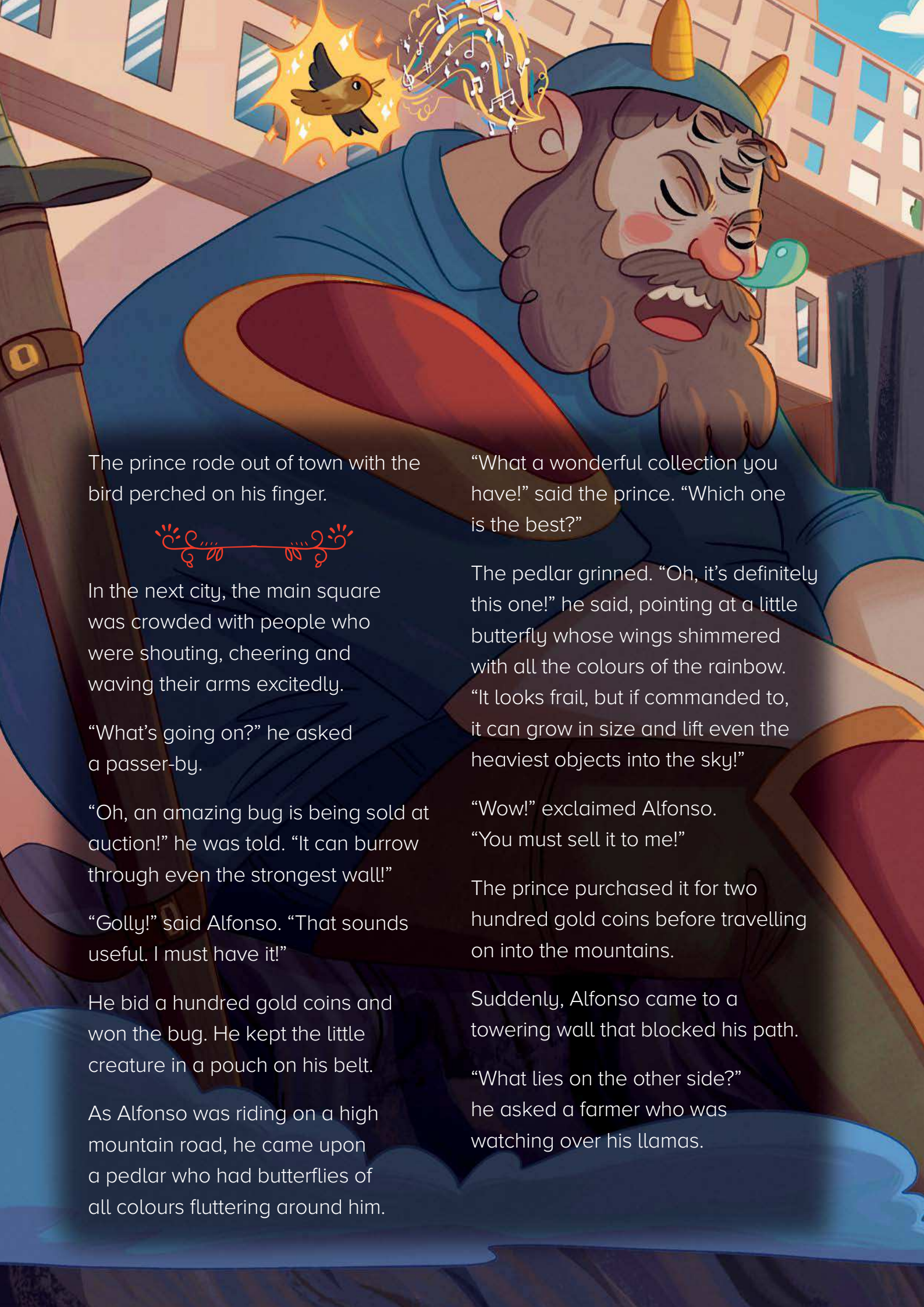
One afternoon, as Alfonso was walking through a marketplace, he saw a merchant who had many different birds for sale. The prince immediately noticed a little one that was kept under a glass dome.

“What’s so special about that bird?” Alfonso asked, pointing at it.

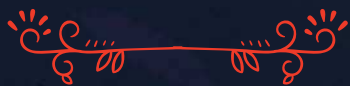
“Oh, it is enchanted!” replied the merchant with a wink. “If its owner commands, it will sing a song that will put anyone to sleep!”

“How impressive!” said Alfonso. “I’ll buy it from you!” ➡





The prince rode out of town with the bird perched on his finger.



In the next city, the main square was crowded with people who were shouting, cheering and waving their arms excitedly.

“What’s going on?” he asked a passer-by.

“Oh, an amazing bug is being sold at auction!” he was told. “It can burrow through even the strongest wall!”

“Golly!” said Alfonso. “That sounds useful. I must have it!”

He bid a hundred gold coins and won the bug. He kept the little creature in a pouch on his belt.

As Alfonso was riding on a high mountain road, he came upon a pedlar who had butterflies of all colours fluttering around him.

“What a wonderful collection you have!” said the prince. “Which one is the best?”

The pedlar grinned. “Oh, it’s definitely this one!” he said, pointing at a little butterfly whose wings shimmered with all the colours of the rainbow. “It looks frail, but if commanded to, it can grow in size and lift even the heaviest objects into the sky!”

“Wow!” exclaimed Alfonso. “You must sell it to me!”

The prince purchased it for two hundred gold coins before travelling on into the mountains.

Suddenly, Alfonso came to a towering wall that blocked his path.

“What lies on the other side?” he asked a farmer who was watching over his llamas.



“Oh, that’s the kingdom of the giants!” the man said. “They have kidnapped a princess – but nobody can get over the wall to rescue her!”

Alfonso knew just what to do. He took his bug out of his pouch, and it chewed a tunnel through the towering wall in an instant.

Crawling through the tunnel, the prince found himself in the land of the giants. Everything was much bigger than normal – the grass, the flowers, and even the insects! He wandered through this amazing country, seeking the place where the princess was imprisoned.

Alfonso came to a tall tower that reached up into the clouds. When he sneaked inside, he found a many-eyed giant sitting in front of a door.

“That must be where the princess is being held!” he said to himself.

He whispered to his bird, “Go and sing in that giant’s ear!”

The bird perched on the huge fellow and sang a sweet tune. All at once, his many eyes closed and he fell fast asleep!

Alfonso took the keys from the giant jailer’s belt and unlocked the dungeon door. When he opened it, a princess peeked out.

“How did you make the giant doze off?” she asked, her eyes wide.

Alfonso laughed. “It’s easy when you have a magic bird!”

He led her out of the castle – but when they stepped outside, they found the giant king and his entire army waiting for them.

“You will never escape!” bellowed the king. He looked furious! ➡➡

Alfonso just chuckled and



SPOT IT!

Search for all
these fun things
in this picture!



Answer: There are 5 llamas!

released his beautiful butterfly.



How many llamas can you find in this scene? Write your answer in the circle!

As it fluttered its wings, magical sparkles filled the air. Alfonso held onto the princess with one hand as the butterfly grabbed them both and carried them high up into the sky!

The giant king and his soldiers could only watch in awe as the three soared into the air. When Alfonso and the princess looked down, the land of the giants looked very small beneath them! The insect carried the pair over the wall and back to Alfonso's homeland.

King Pedro was surprised when his son came in through the palace window, carried by a butterfly and holding the hand of a princess.

"My son," he exclaimed, "how did you manage to accomplish such an amazing feat?"

Alfonso smiled and replied, "I learned a lot by going out and exploring the world – and I will never stop learning new things!" ★



DECORATE IT!

Download a picture of the beautiful butterfly from storytimemagazine.com/free and decorate its magic wings with as many colours as you like! You can use pencils, felt tips, stickers, glitter, recycled paper or anything else you can think of. Make it as magical as the one in this tale!

THE STOLEN TREASURE

By Ellie Williams

I curled up in my bunk as the ship rocked from side to side. My sister Zahra could see that I wasn't feeling well!

"Seasick again?" she giggled. "Some pirate *you* are!"

It was fine for her! She liked our seafaring lifestyle, whether we were sailing the seven seas or searching for buried treasure on desert islands. I'd grown up aboard our ship, the *Golden Chaser*, but the movement of the ocean still made me ill!

I sighed and followed my sister up onto the ship's deck.

"I've told you before, I don't want to be a pirate," I complained.

"I wish we could settle down on dry land!" →



Zahra shrugged. “Why would you want to be stuck in one place when you could be sailing across the ocean in search of adventure?”

Our dad was up on the poop deck, holding onto the ship’s wheel. The sails of the *Golden Chaser* billowed in the fresh ocean breeze, and the ship’s hull cut through the deep blue sea like a cutlass.

My father grinned at me.

“You’re looking a little green there, me hearty. But don’t worry – we’re close to finding Telmo the Terrible’s treasure – I can smell it! I’m sure it’s just ahead of us!”

He pointed at a group of rocky islands thrusting up out of the stormy sea...

Telmo’s treasure had once belonged to our granddad, but the wicked pirate king had stolen it and hidden it on a secret island. The only clue we had about where it could be was an old sea shanty...

My father sang it as our ship ploughed through the waves.

**“A hundred paces west
of the beacon’s foot,
You’ll find the treasure
for which you look.**

**Where rainbows dwell,
I’m hidden well,**

An ancient trunk my secrets tell!”

We were close to the islands now. I could see grass and moss clinging to their rocky slopes, and... what was that up there?



A tall, dark tower was perched on top of an island's highest cliff.

"What's that, Dad?"

My father extended his telescope and peered at it.

"That's Shipwreck Rock Lighthouse. It hasn't been used since long before you were born..."



I thought of the words of the shanty. Beacon... rainbows... I turned the words over in my mind, trying to work out the rhyme's meaning. Suddenly, I jumped up, almost dancing with joy. "I've got it!" I yelled. "We must stop here!"

Dad looked at me for a moment and then nodded. He anchored the *Golden Chaser* in a sandy cove and rowed me and Zahra ashore in our ship's little dinghy.

I led my dad and sister up the steep, rocky slope to where the lighthouse stood.

We were out of breath when we got to the base of the tower. Its door was shut fast with a big, rusty padlock.

"Why did we climb all the way up here?" asked Zahra.

"This is a lighthouse – the beacon in the shanty. And we're at the bottom of the lighthouse, at its foot!"

"Now, which way is west?" I asked.

My sister pulled out her compass and peered at it. "That way!" she said, pointing downhill.

I led Zahra and Dad across the grass, taking adult-sized steps and counting under my breath. ➡

PIRATE TALK!

The 19th of September is 'International Talk Like a Pirate Day', when people have fun speaking like pirates do in movies! Download a cool **Pirate Dictionary** from storytimemagazine.com/free and join in this September!



“Why do you think the treasure is here?” Zahra asked sceptically. “There are lighthouses on loads of islands, and I don’t see any rainbows around!”

I had counted a hundred steps, so I stopped walking.

“It doesn’t have to mean the rainbows that we see in the sky,” I explained. “Look over there!”

I pointed to an area of long grass where several beautiful puffins nestled in their burrows. The birds had black and white feathers and red, orange and yellow beaks.


“Amazing,” whispered Zahra. “They *are* coloured like rainbows!”

She spotted a rotten old tree stump hidden in the long grass. “This must be the trunk in the rhyme,” my sister yelled.

I noticed a small hole in the side of the tree trunk and pushed a stick into it. There was a click, and the trunk opened to reveal a wooden chest. We’d found the treasure!

Zahra lifted the lid, then frowned. “What’s this?” she exclaimed. “There are no gold coins or jewels in here, just some papers and an old key. It was all a trick!”

I took out the papers – they were covered with old-fashioned handwriting. Dad put on his glasses and read the text to us.



“Whoever holds this document shall be the rightful owner of Shipwreck Rock Lighthouse,” he recited, *“and it shall be passed on to their family, as long as it stands...”*

Dad chuckled. “This treasure is better than I ever imagined! Grandad’s treasure is the lighthouse... Now I can finally hang up my sea boots, and we can settle down in our own home!”

Zahra thought for a minute. “A lighthouse... hmmm, I guess that *would* be a pretty cool place to live!” she said. “But I call dibs on the best bedroom!”

She and I ran back up to the looming lighthouse. The key from the chest opened the rusty old lock, and the door swung open.

What a wonderful day! We now had an amazing home, safe on dry land – but with stunning sea views as well. It was a perfect home for a seasick pirate! ★



POLLYANNA'S PERFECT DAY

When Pollyanna woke up, sunlight was streaming through the window of her attic room.

“How perfectly wonderful!” she said as she stretched out. “It’s a lovely sunny Saturday, and I have so many things I want to do!”

That was when she heard a rapping on the attic door.

“Wake up, Pollyanna! It’s Friday – you’ll be late for school!”

Many children would feel disappointed to find out it was a school day, but not Pollyanna! Her father had taught her how to play ‘the Glad Game’ when she was little. The goal was to look on the bright side of everything. She had played it ever since, and it worked every time!

“Oh, that’s good news! I’m looking forward to school now!” she laughed as she leaped out of bed. “I’ll see my friends and learn all sorts of new things!”

Pollyanna ran through the kitchen, grabbed her lunch box and gave Nancy the maid a kiss on the cheek as she did so.



“No time for breakfast!” she giggled.
“But a healthy appetite will make
my lunch taste extra-delicious!”

Pollyanna rushed out and ran
down the hill as fast as she could.

As she went past Mr Pendleton’s
house, the old man waved to her.
“Good morning!” he grinned.

Pollyanna turned to wave back
– and tripped over her own feet!
Before she knew what was
happening, she had tumbled head
over heels into a muddy ditch!

“Are you all right?” asked Mr
Pendleton as he helped her up.

The girl’s dress was a bit dirty and
torn, but she was still smiling. The
old man couldn’t help but laugh.

“Oh, I’m ever so fine!” she gushed.
“Look what I found in the ditch!”

She was clasping a bunch of
wildflowers. “They will make
a perfect gift for my teacher!”

Pollyanna made it to the classroom
just as the bell rang. Her dress was
stained and her hair was tangled,
but when she gave the posy of
wildflowers to the schoolmistress,
everyone laughed and cheered.

That was the wonderful thing about
the Glad Game, thought Pollyanna.
When you play it, you spread
happiness to others as well! ★



THE NODDING TIGER

Tang never had much money because he was just a humble woodcutter. He lived with his elderly mother Chun in a simple hut of grass and wood, but they were happy because they loved and cared for each other.

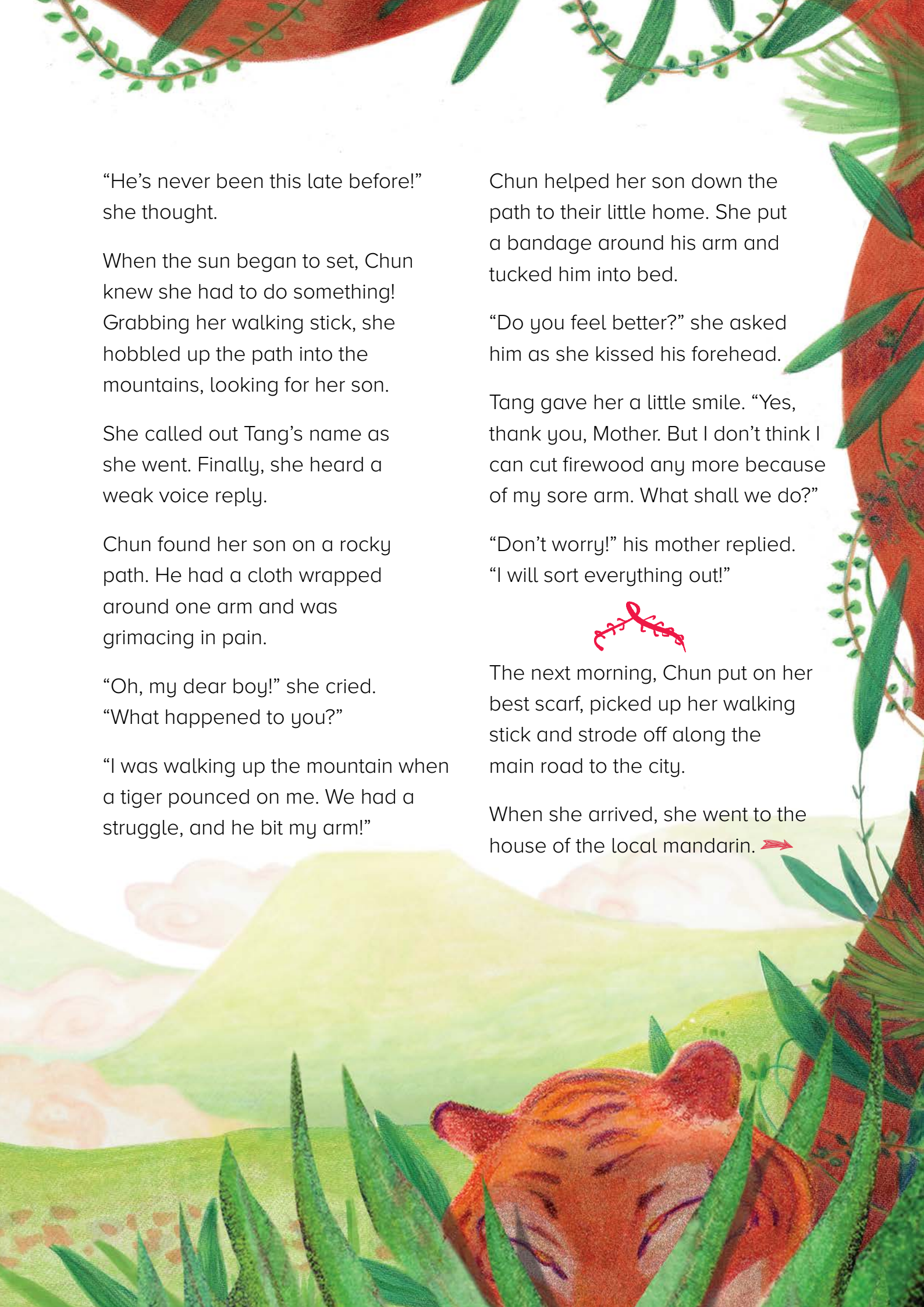
Every day, the young man would walk up into the mountains with his axe to cut down trees, and he would return with a load of firewood. He sold this at the market, and used the money to pay for what they needed.

One spring morning, he kissed his mother on the cheek and told her, “I will cut extra firewood today, so I can get you a nice gift!”

Chun waved goodbye to Tang as he set off into the mountains.

She spent the day sweeping out the hut and doing the laundry. Soon, it was late afternoon – but there was no sign of her son.





“He’s never been this late before!” she thought.

When the sun began to set, Chun knew she had to do something! Grabbing her walking stick, she hobbled up the path into the mountains, looking for her son.

She called out Tang’s name as she went. Finally, she heard a weak voice reply.

Chun found her son on a rocky path. He had a cloth wrapped around one arm and was grimacing in pain.

“Oh, my dear boy!” she cried. “What happened to you?”

“I was walking up the mountain when a tiger pounced on me. We had a struggle, and he bit my arm!”

Chun helped her son down the path to their little home. She put a bandage around his arm and tucked him into bed.

“Do you feel better?” she asked him as she kissed his forehead.

Tang gave her a little smile. “Yes, thank you, Mother. But I don’t think I can cut firewood any more because of my sore arm. What shall we do?”

“Don’t worry!” his mother replied. “I will sort everything out!”



The next morning, Chun put on her best scarf, picked up her walking stick and strode off along the main road to the city.

When she arrived, she went to the house of the local mandarin. →

She rapped on the door with her stick and yelled, "Open up, please!"

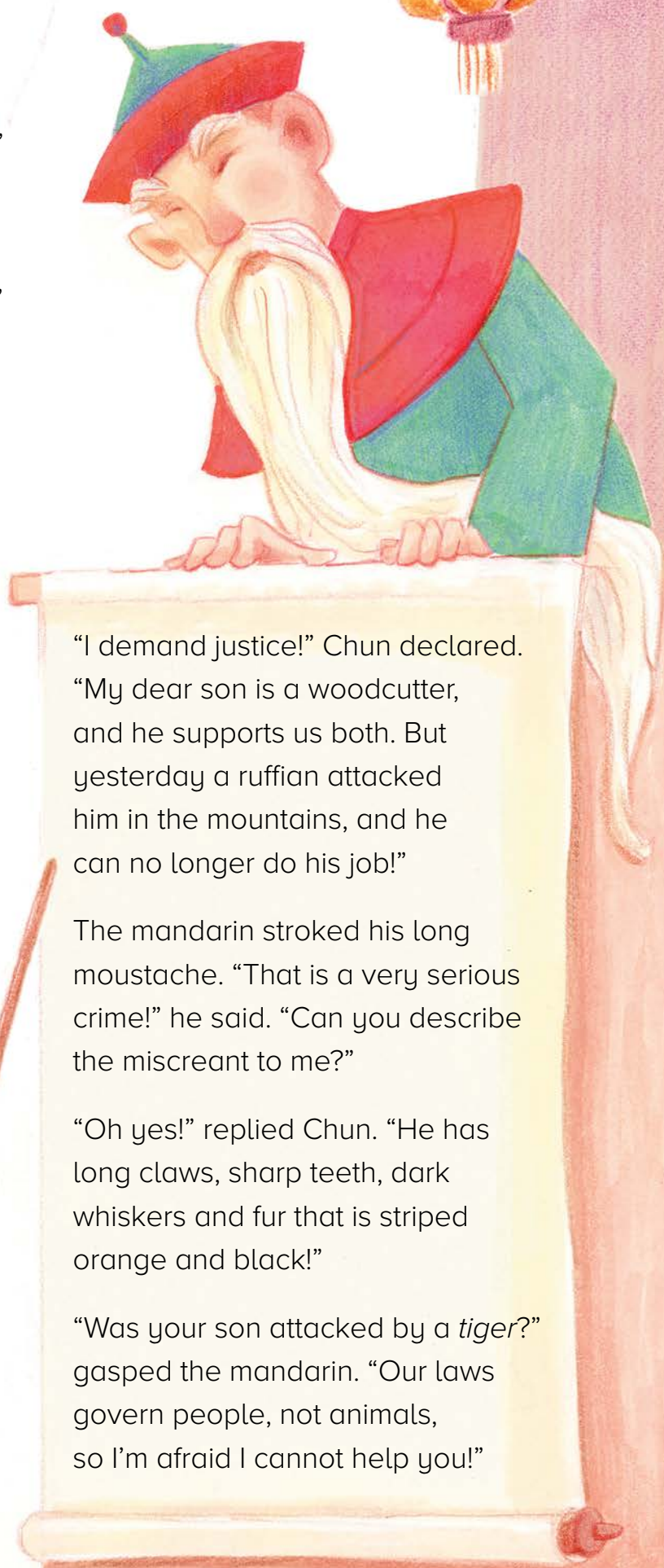
A servant peeked through the door. "What do you want, old lady?" he said. "The mandarin is a busy man!"

"The mandarin's job is to enforce justice," snapped Chun, "and someone has been most unjust to my dear son. Your master must make things better!"

The servant opened the door and let Chun inside.

The mandarin was reading a stack of scrolls when Chun came in. He had a long moustache and a red button on his hat, which meant that he was very important.

"What is it that you want, old lady?" he asked grumpily.



"I demand justice!" Chun declared. "My dear son is a woodcutter, and he supports us both. But yesterday a ruffian attacked him in the mountains, and he can no longer do his job!"

The mandarin stroked his long moustache. "That is a very serious crime!" he said. "Can you describe the miscreant to me?"

"Oh yes!" replied Chun. "He has long claws, sharp teeth, dark whiskers and fur that is striped orange and black!"

"Was your son attacked by a *tiger*?" gasped the mandarin. "Our laws govern people, not animals, so I'm afraid I cannot help you!"

But Chun would not give up.
“The law is the law!” she said firmly.
“I will come back here every day
until you bring the tiger to justice!”

That was what she did! Chun kept coming back to the mandarin’s house and rapping on the door for a week. In the end, the mandarin decided to sign an order that the tiger should be arrested, just so he could get some peace and quiet!

He took the order to the room where his officers and assistants did their paperwork.

“I have a very important job!” he shouted. “Who will arrest the tiger that injured Tang the woodcutter?”

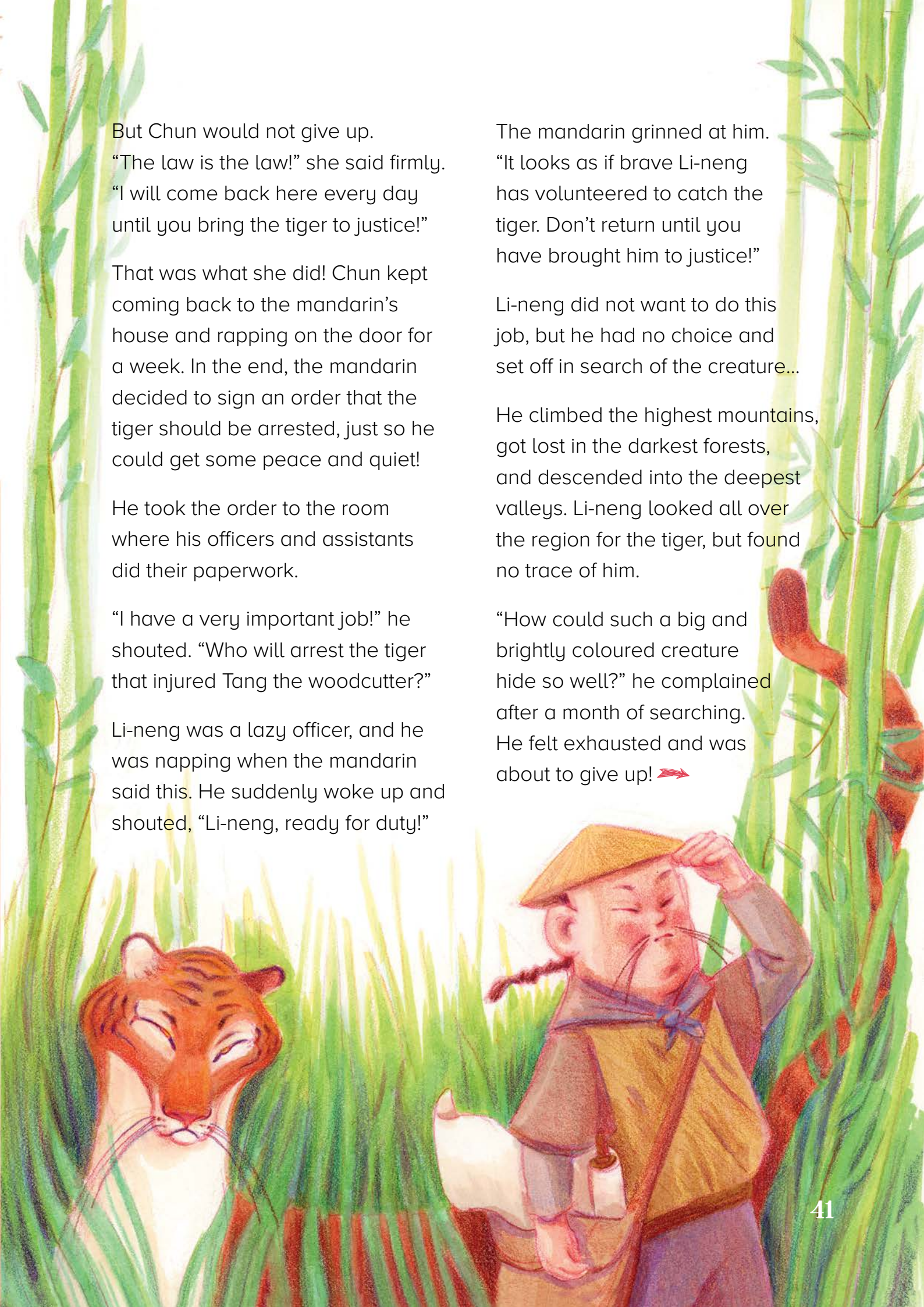
Li-neng was a lazy officer, and he was napping when the mandarin said this. He suddenly woke up and shouted, “Li-neng, ready for duty!”

The mandarin grinned at him.
“It looks as if brave Li-neng has volunteered to catch the tiger. Don’t return until you have brought him to justice!”

Li-neng did not want to do this job, but he had no choice and set off in search of the creature...

He climbed the highest mountains, got lost in the darkest forests, and descended into the deepest valleys. Li-neng looked all over the region for the tiger, but found no trace of him.

“How could such a big and brightly coloured creature hide so well?” he complained after a month of searching. He felt exhausted and was about to give up! ➡



But then, as he was coming down a mountain path, he saw the tiger. The beast sat still and stared at him.

“There you are, you naughty creature!” Li-neng shouted. “You bit Tang the woodcutter and then hid from me all this time! You must come with me and answer for your crimes.”

The officer was expecting the tiger to run away or attack him, but the beast just nodded calmly. He bent down, letting Li-neng put a chain around his neck.

The animal followed the officer calmly as he walked back to the city. Everybody who saw them gasped in wonder at a tiger being led around like a tame dog!

Chun and Tang came to see the mandarin pass judgement on the creature.

“Do you admit that you injured Tang the woodcutter, so he could no longer do his job?” said the mandarin in a stern voice.

The tiger nodded.

“Do you admit that you were wrong, and deserve whatever punishment I decide?”

Again, the tiger nodded.

“The beast should be locked up forever!” yelled Chun.



But the mandarin shook his head. “What good would that do? The tiger has admitted to his crimes, and he is sorry. It would be better to find a way for him to make up for what he has done!”

After thinking for a while, the mandarin said, “Since you have taken away Tang’s ability to earn a living, you must help him and his mother!”

The tiger nodded again.

Tang and Chun returned to their home, and the tiger went back into the nearby mountains. But every morning, he left a gift outside their hut. Sometimes it was food, sometimes it was a roll of silk or some logs of firewood. With the tiger’s help, the young man and his mother lived a good life. In time, they grew fond of the nodding tiger, and he became a welcome guest in their home! ★

DID YOU KNOW?

In Chinese folklore, tigers are dangerous, but they can also be a force for good. They are supposed to protect homes from fire and evil spirits, and in stories they often punish evildoers and protect the innocent.



STORYTIME PLAYBOX

Solve a tricky triangle puzzle, play the Glad Game with Pollyanna, follow a snail's trail and enter our exciting new poetry contest!

1 SPOT THE TIGER

Li-neng is looking for the tiger – but the cunning creature is camouflaged in the wilderness! **See if you can find him!**



2 TRUE OR FALSE

Once you have read the facts about the Earth on page 19, see if you can answer these questions correctly!

A Our planet formed 4.5 million years ago!

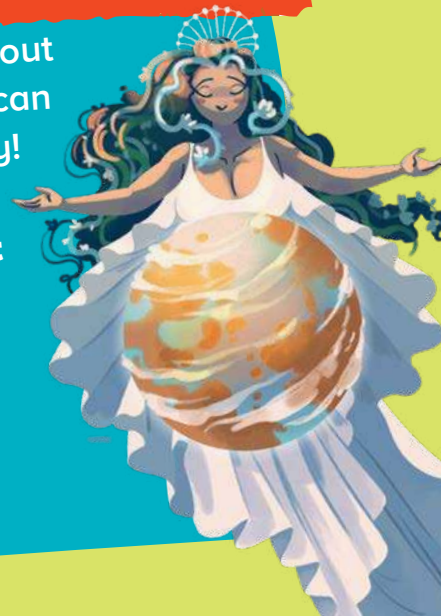
TRUE
FALSE

B Most of the Earth's surface is covered with water!

TRUE
FALSE

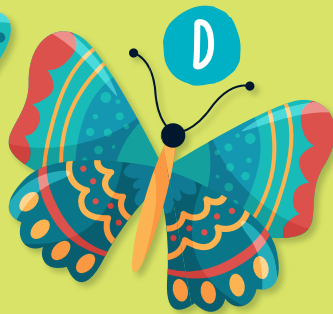
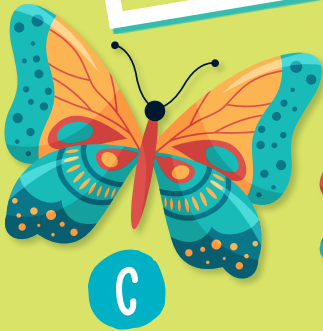
C Our planet is in the Snow White zone!

TRUE
FALSE



3 THE RIGHT WING!

Oh no! Prince Alfonso has lost his butterfly in a swarm of flying insects! Which one matches the picture of the mighty butterfly on the left? Circle the right butterfly when you find it!



4 BE GLAD, NOT SAD!

Pollyanna plays 'the Glad Game' to find something good in any situation! Can you come up with a positive way of looking at each of the situations in the speech bubbles? Read the example below to see how this works before you **play the glad game!**

It's raining, so I can't go out and play!

But it's a great day to read a book instead!

A My friends won't be able to come over.

B I got a cold on the first day of the holidays!

C I had an argument with my best friend.

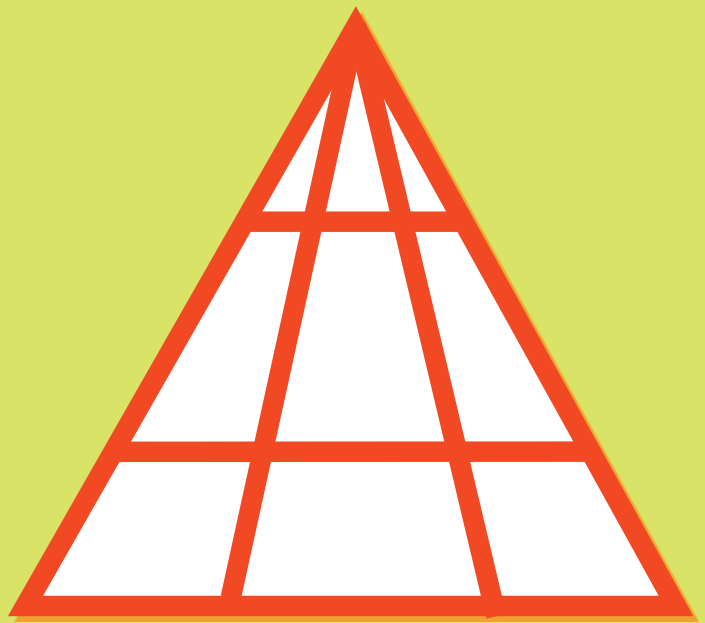
D They ran out of chocolate cake at the restaurant!



5 TRICKY TRIANGLES

Young Albert liked puzzles and triangles – so he would have loved this brain-teaser! How many triangles are there in the shape on the right?

Write your answer in the box!



6 MAKE A SENSORY BAG GAME!

The mole learned to explore the world using his senses. You can have fun doing the same thing with this game!

ASK A GROWN-UP!

- You will need a medium-sized cloth bag (not see-through!) and different things to put in it – the more varied, the better! We suggest finding natural things that are dry and interestingly textured: pieces of bark, pebbles, feathers, acorns, large dried leaves, seashells, sticks – and anything else you can find in nature that is safe to touch and NOT alive!
- Ask an adult to select a few of the things you have collected and put them in the bag so you do not know exactly what you will find inside.
- You can use the bag to play a guessing game with two or more players. Take turns dipping into the bag and feeling around in it!
- When it's your turn, put your hand in the bag and grab an object. Use your sense of touch to explore it. Ask yourself these questions:

How would I describe its texture?

Does it feel rough or smooth?

Is it heavy or light?

What shape is it? Does it have sharp or round edges?

What three adjectives would I use to describe it?

Is it soft or hard? Can I work out what it is made of?

Guess what it is!



TIP!

For a birthday party, you could fill a sensory bag with small toys, wrapped sweets and snacks, and little stationery items. Players can keep objects if they can guess what they are!

7 FOLLOW THE SNAIL!

The snail family is moving into a new home! Follow the trail below with a pencil to find out where they are going to live...

What a nice place!



The maze consists of 44 numbered dots. The trail starts at dot 1, goes to 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, and finally 44. The trail ends at a house with a chimney.




ANSWERS: 1. Spot the Tiger – see right. 2. True or False – A. FALSE, B. TRUE, C. FALSE. 3. The Right Winger! – F. 5. Tricky Triangles – there are 18 triangles! 7. Follow the Snail! – they are going to live in a castle!



STORY RHYME! COMPETITION

Welcome to the new **Storytime** contest. We'd like you to write a cool poem about your favourite place in the world... Send it in, and you could win an awesome prize!



THE RULES!


- Entrants must be aged 4 to 9.
- Your poem must be written by you, and it must not have been published before.
- Your poem should be written on the **Story Rhyme!** entry form. You can cut out the form opposite or print out one from the **Story Rhyme! Competition pack** (see right).
- Email your completed entry form to **win@storytimemagazine.com** or mail it to: **Story Rhyme! Competition, Storytime, 61 Bridge Street, Kington, Herefordshire HR5 3DJ, UK.**
- **Closing date:** 30th November 2023.
For full T&Cs visit storytimemagazine.com/rhyme

GET YOUR POETRY PACK!

Would you like to get more tips about how to write a poem? Download the free **Story Rhyme! Competition pack** from storytimemagazine.com/rhyme. It's full of fun activities that will help you create a cool poem for the competition!

POEM PRIZES!

Winners get their poem published in Storytime! PLUS, they will also receive:

- A cool certificate
 - A fantastic book bundle
 - A free Storytime Hub subscription for their school for a whole year!
- 

TIPS FOR WRITING A WINNING POEM!

- Your poem should be at least eight lines long and have at least two rhymes in it!
- Give your poem a catchy title and illustrate it if you like!
- Be creative! Come up with an original idea that makes your poem stand out!
- Make a list of your favourite words and rhymes to use!
- Read your poem out loud to yourself. How can you make it sound better?





storytime™

STORY RHYME! COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

FULL NAME AND AGE: _____

SCHOOL: _____

PARENT, CARER OR TEACHER'S EMAIL*: _____

* Not essential, but it makes it much easier for us to contact you if you win – we do not share data!

STORY MAGIC

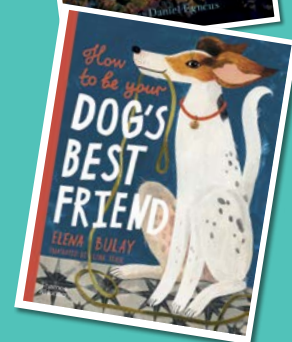
NEW AND BRILLIANT BOOKS!

➔ **THE STORY OF CONSERVATION** by Catherine Barr and Steve Williams, illustrated by Amy Husband (Frances Lincoln) is about something near and dear to our hearts – conservation! This book is illustrated in a beautiful and charming ‘childlike’ style and traces the story of the conservation movement through the years. It’s sure to inspire budding environmentalists!

➔ **THE BIG DREAMING** by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Daniel Egnéus (Bloomsbury) stars a little bear who is nervous about hibernating for the first time. What will happen if he runs out of dreams during the Big Sleep? He visits all his animal friends and gets them to tell him about the dreams that mean the most to them. A perfect bedtime book with sing-song text and lush, appropriately dreamy art!

➔ **HOW TO BE YOUR DOG’S BEST FRIEND** by Elena Bulay, translated by Lena Traer (Thames and Hudson) is a story about Lena and her dog Jo, but it’s also a beautifully illustrated and fact-packed book for anyone who owns a dog (or would like to!) You’ll find out about different dogs, doggy behaviour, what to feed them, how to keep them happy and much, much more...

To purchase them from independent booksellers, visit uk.bookshop.org/shop/storytimemagazine or scan:



STORY CLUB!

START YOUR OWN STORY CLUB!

A story club is a group that gets together to share the fun of stories! In this section of the magazine, we will provide new ideas and activities to make reading with others fun!

WHY START A STORY CLUB?

- ★ It will get you and your friends into the habit of reading!
- ★ Discussing stories with your friends can help you to learn new things and get more out of what you read!
- ★ It’s a brilliant way to build social, literacy and reading comprehension skills while spending time with others!

WHAT SHOULD YOU READ?

We suggest that you start by sharing stories from issues of **Storytime!** You’ll find stories of all kinds in the magazine, so your group won’t have any trouble choosing a good tale to enjoy!

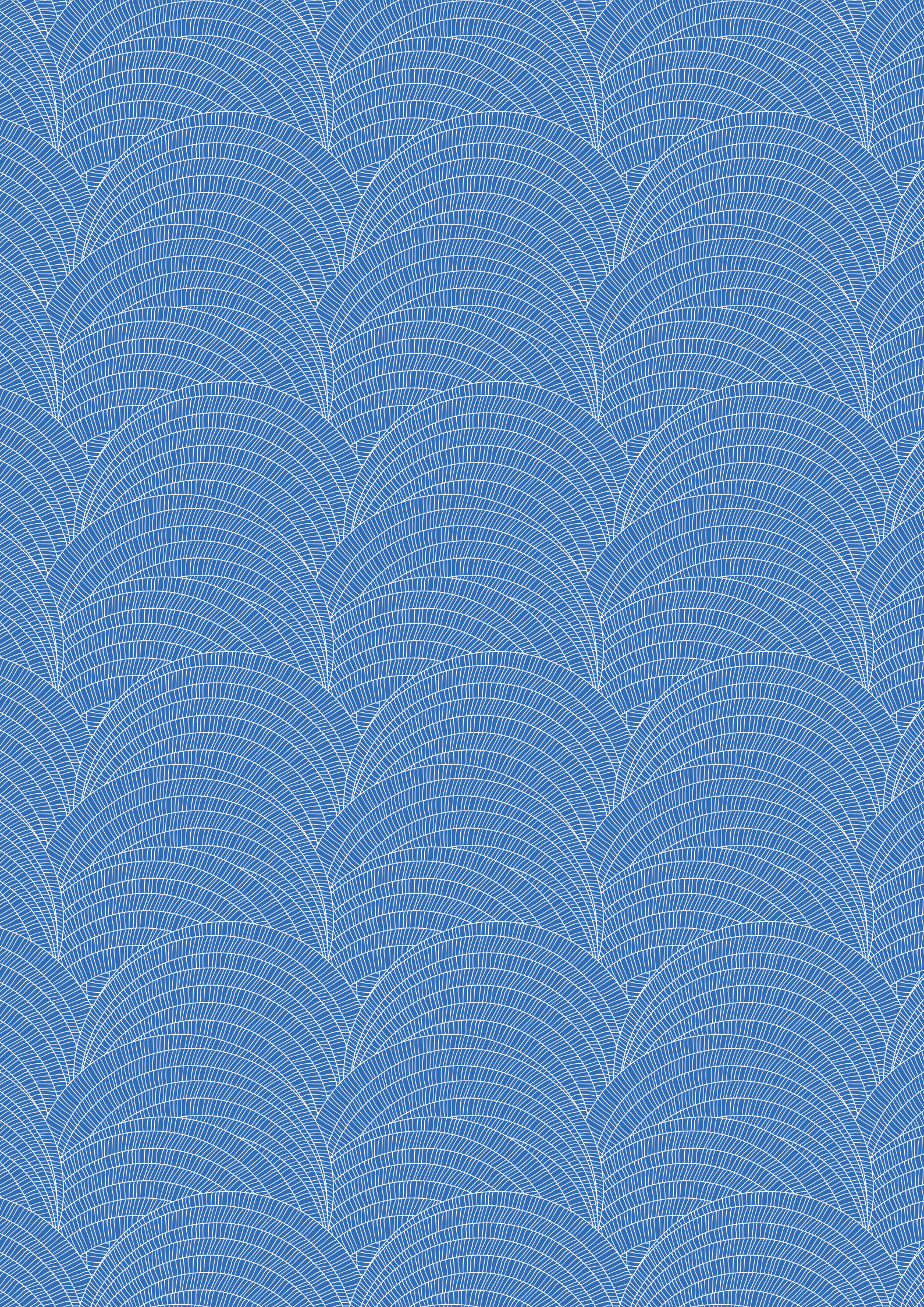
HOW OFTEN SHALL WE MEET?

You can have shorter sessions twice a month or longer ones once a month. Set some reading challenges for the following session – this will keep everyone engaged.

★ Look out for new tips and activities in this section!

You’ll find cool ideas, quizzes and things to do in your club here – they will take your reading experience to the next level!





✓ READING ✓ COMPREHENSION ✓ WRITING SUPPORTS THE ENGLISH NATIONAL CURRICULUM

CELEBRATE OUR BIRTHDAY WITH US!

**START
A STORY
CLUB!**



SCAN THE CODE TO
UNWRAP FREE GIFTS!



**NEXT
MONTH:
The Greatest
Tigress of
All!**