

The 2019 National WORDS Competition - Storybooks

Volume 1



WORDS

Future
of
Indonesia



The 2019 National
WORDS Competition

22 Storybooks

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American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF)

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All storybooks including illustrations are courtesy of participants of National WORDS Competition 2019.

These storybooks have been lightly edited for clarity.

Foreword

As Director of AMINEF, the binational Fulbright Commission in Indonesia, I am pleased to provide a few words of explanation and encouragement for this series of books, which represents one of the outcomes of the Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETA) Program this year, 2018-2019.

American ETAs work together with local co-teachers of English in various secondary schools throughout the archipelago. The program is now in its 15th year in Indonesia.

In 2007, the fourth cohort of ETAs came up with the idea to hold what they called a “WORDS Competition” at the schools where ETAs are placed and then to bring together for a national competition the student winners of those local contests. In previous years, this has mostly meant a speech and talent contest and has since its beginning always been an exciting part of the AMINEF year. The 10th or 11th-grade students got to demonstrate their prowess in spoken English (helped of course by their ETA and co-teachers over the previous months) as well as to tell their personal stories and to show off local cultural riches and their own talents. This format was fine-tuned by last year’s cohort into a storybook and storytelling competition instead of a speech and talent contest.

This year’s cohort of 22 ETAs – who by the way come from all over the US and are very diverse in background and interests, and are spread out in 22 schools in eight provinces in Indonesia – together with the AMINEF American Program staff who work closely with them came up with this year’s storytelling theme “The Future of Indonesia.”

The national competition was held in Jakarta on April 4th at @america. Each of the 22 students participating had to first win their local school competition to qualify for the national competition. In addition to the competition itself, there were also evening activities (bowling at a local bowling alley), a trip to Monas, and a visit to the newly built US Embassy in Jakarta. Other sessions focused on peace education and tolerance building in collaboration with Ayu Kartika Dewi, a Fulbright Visiting Student alumna who is currently Managing Director of the Indika Foundation and co-founder of SabangMerauke.

But the real excitement of the event was in the oral presentation of the stories and the judging of the presentations and the physical books themselves. The jury consisted of Americans and Indonesians and included Aziza Noor, a graphic book artist, and Fulbright Visiting Student alumna; Brad Horn, Regional English Language Officer at US Embassy, Jakarta; Peggy Shaw, Education Coordinator, Public Affairs Section, US Embassy, Jakarta; Aditio Tantra Danang of Dongeng Toleransi, and Theresia Pratiwi, Fulbright Visiting Student alumna and English language specialist.

The winning storybooks books were “Big Sharkie and Little Remor” by Tiara Fitra Ramadhani Siregar (SMAN 1 Padang Sidempuan, North Sumatra), who was the grand-prize winner; “Bella, The President” by Carina Hakim (SMA Don Bosco Padang, West Sumatra) who took home the second prize; and “Unexpected Journey” by Laksmi Anindita Kusnanto (SMAN 1 Temanggung, Central Java) who garnered third place.

As a prize for this year’s national competition, AMINEF chose to work with Ferdinandus ‘Nando’ Watu, a Community College Initiative Program alumnus. Nando is involved with ecotourism efforts in his hometown of Detusoko, Ende, East Nusa Tenggara. The winning storybooks were combined in a collection of storybooks that AMINEF donated to the Taman Bacaan Masyarakat Ende and RMC Detusoko libraries in Ende. The three national winners, Tiara, Carina, and Laksmi, and their ETAs traveled to Ende to lead reading and writing workshops for these communities, among other activities.

I want to congratulate here the student winners of the competition and to salute all the 22 student participants for their creativity, enthusiasm, and high spirit. I also want to thank all the judges who gave their time to help make the WORDS competition a success. The 2018-2019 ETAs did a tremendous job in conceptualizing and realizing the whole project and showed dedication and enthusiasm at all stages. Finally, my thanks to this year’s ETA Coordinator Arshelle Carter, and the tireless staff of AMINEF’s American Program led by Astrid Lim: Ceacealia Dewitha, Muhammad Rizqi Arifuddin, Thasia Rayinda.

Alan Feinstein,
Executive Director,
AMINEF

About the WORDS Competition

In 2007, the fourth cohort of ETAs came up with the idea to hold what they called a “WORDS Competition”. They planned competitions at the schools where they were placed. Then, the first place winners of the local competitions along with their ETA’s gathered in Jakarta for a national competition.

Following this same format for ten years, the WORDS Competition was a speech and talent competition. In 2018, WORDS was revamped as a storybook and storytelling competition and includes a service-learning component.

Since the beginning, the WORDS Competition has always been an exciting part of the AMINEF year. The 10th or 11th grade students demonstrate their prowess in spoken English (helped of course by their ETA and co-teachers during months of preparation) as well as to tell their imaginative stories to show off local cultural riches and their own talents.

2019 marks another Indonesian presidential election. Capturing this moment, the theme for this year’s WORDS competition is “The Future of Indonesia.” The top 3 winners of the national competition and their ETAs will participate in a service-learning trip to Flores Island. For the service component, the students and ETAs will volunteer their time to share their storybooks and engage with community members in Ende, Flores.

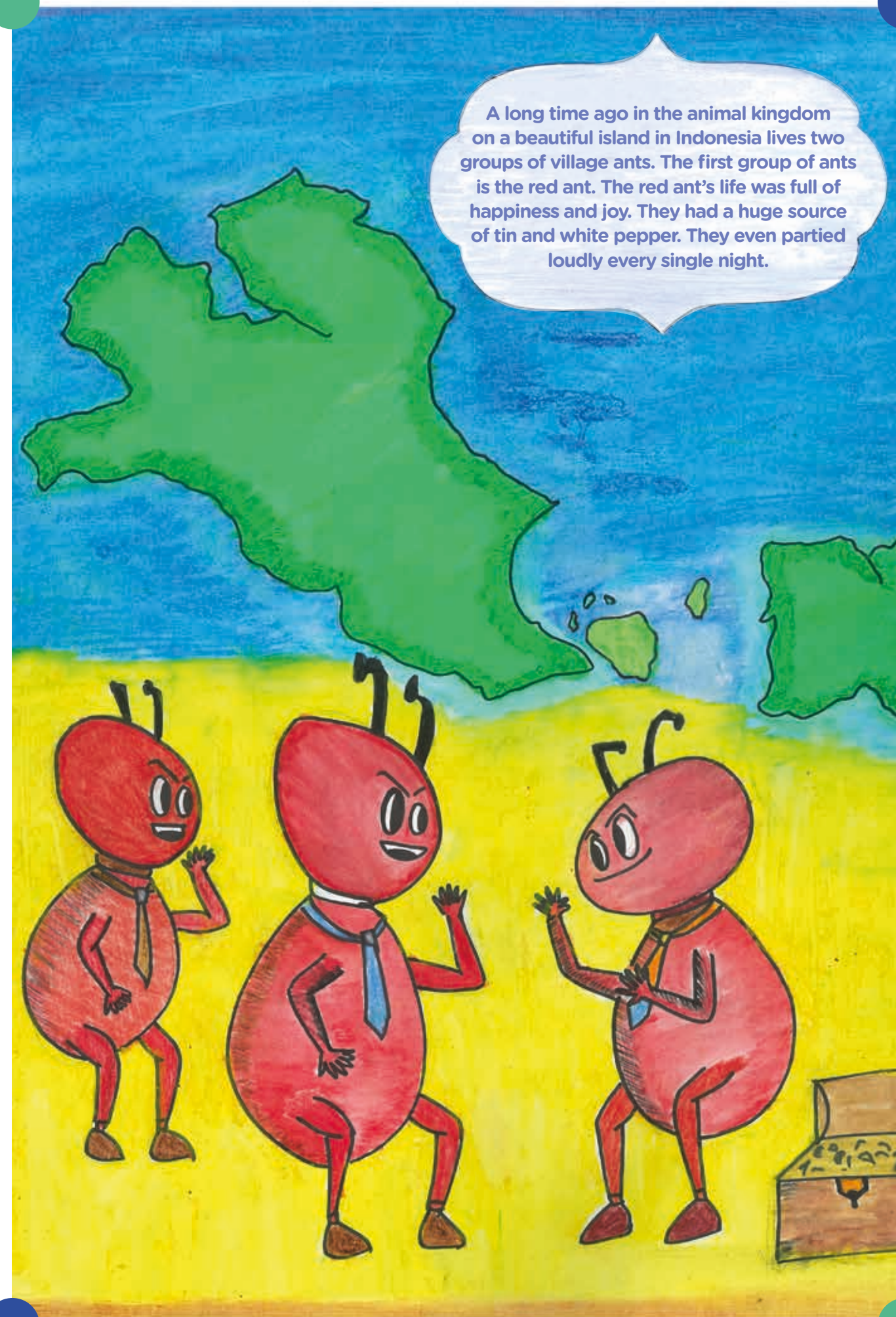
ANTS THAT LIET THE NATION



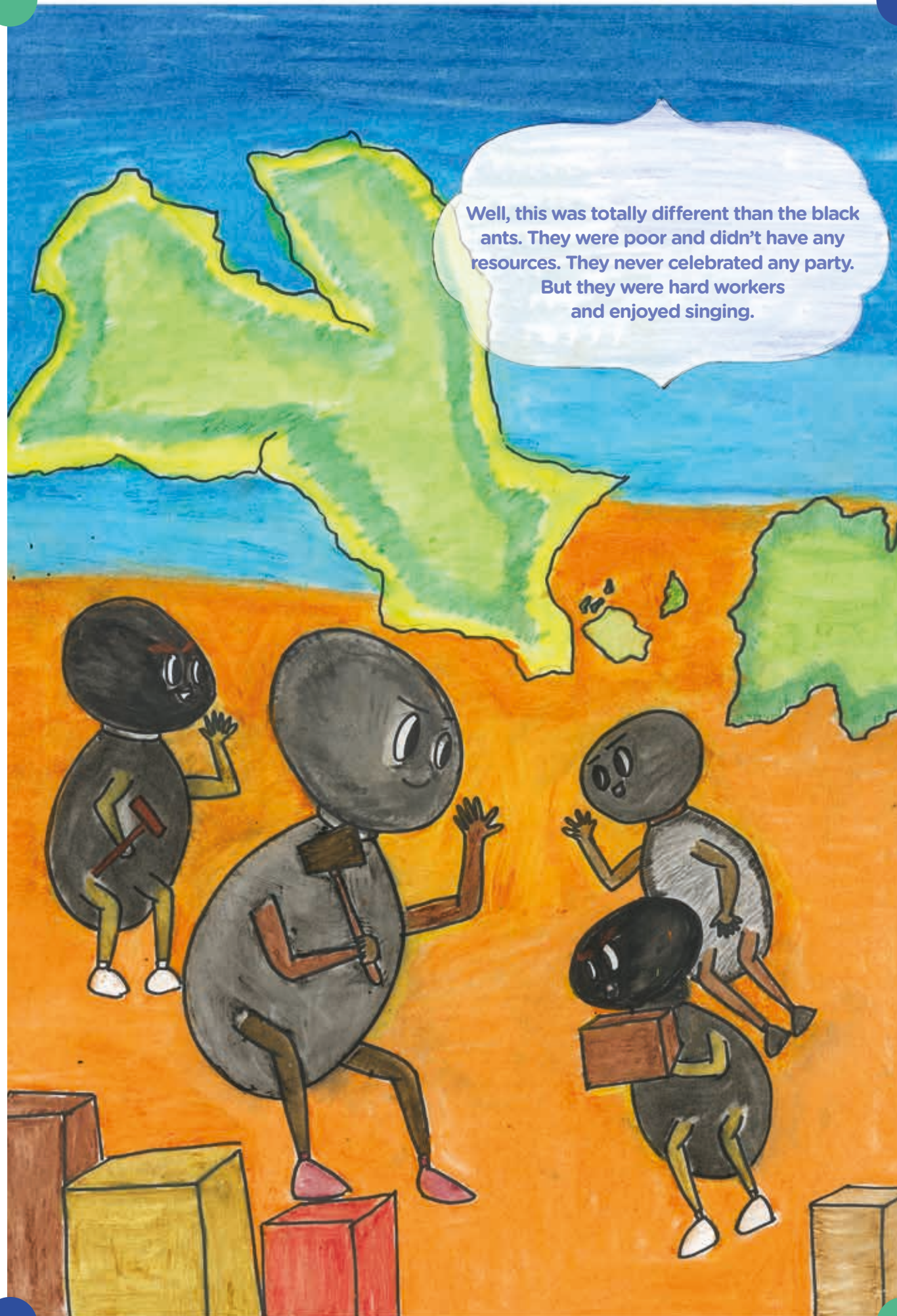
Amanda Christie

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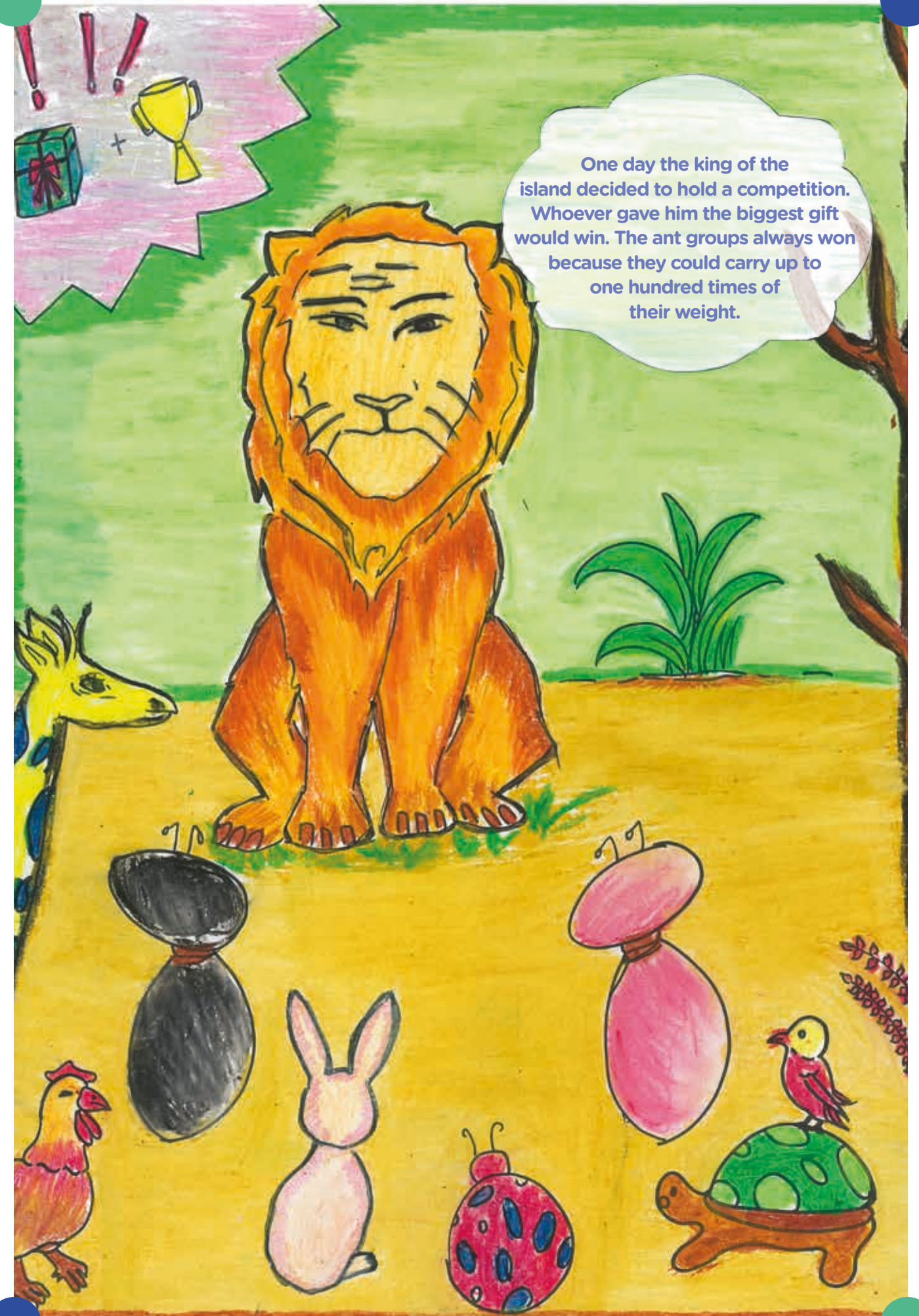
- Chapter 1 The Beginning (The Red Ants the Black Ants)
- Chapter 2 Competition
- Chapter 3 First Announcement
- Chapter 4 The Red Ants Anger
- Chapter 5 Singing Black Ants
- Chapter 6 Looking for the Red Ants
- Chapter 7 Found and helped
- Chapter 8 Back to the palace
- Chapter 9 Together



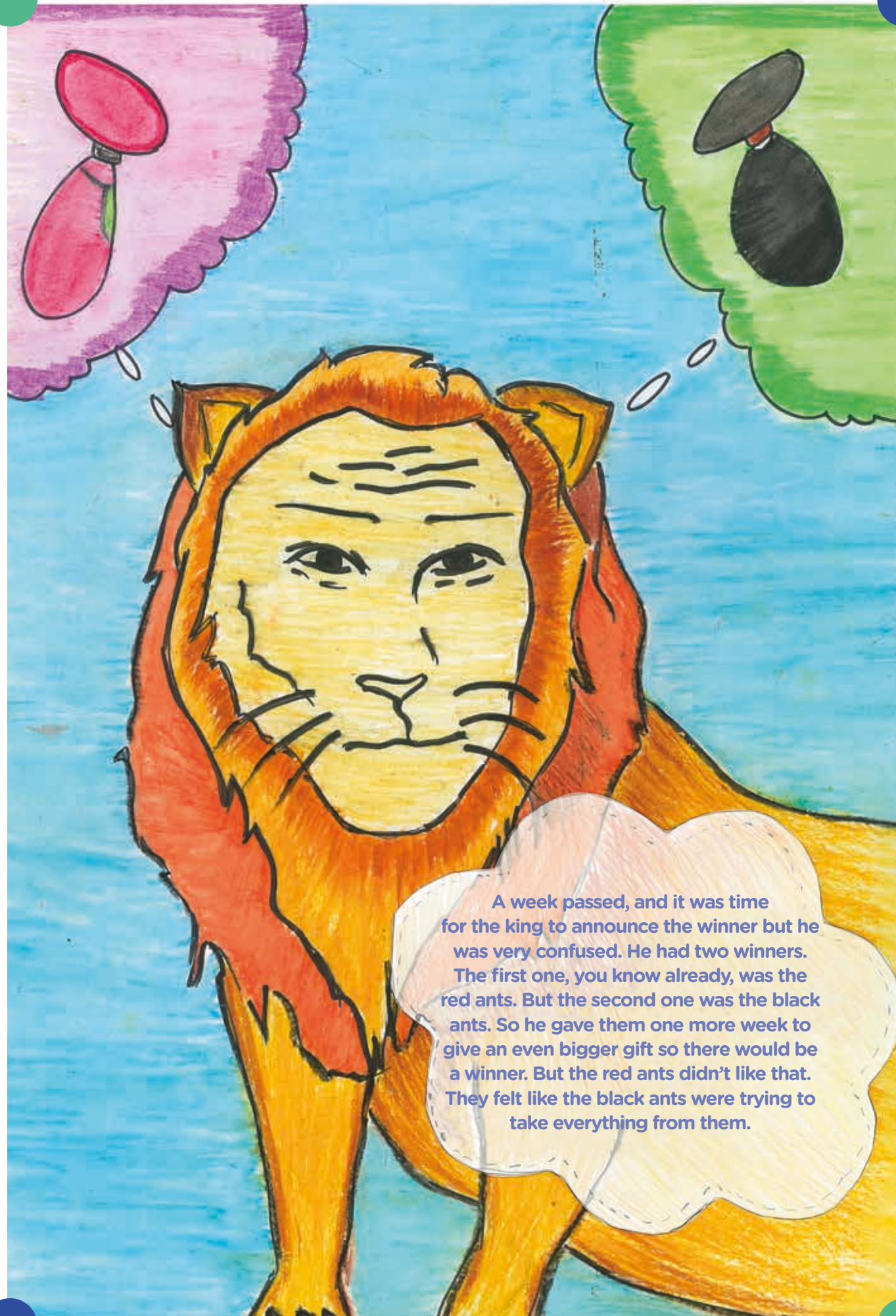
A long time ago in the animal kingdom on a beautiful island in Indonesia lives two groups of village ants. The first group of ants is the red ant. The red ant's life was full of happiness and joy. They had a huge source of tin and white pepper. They even partied loudly every single night.



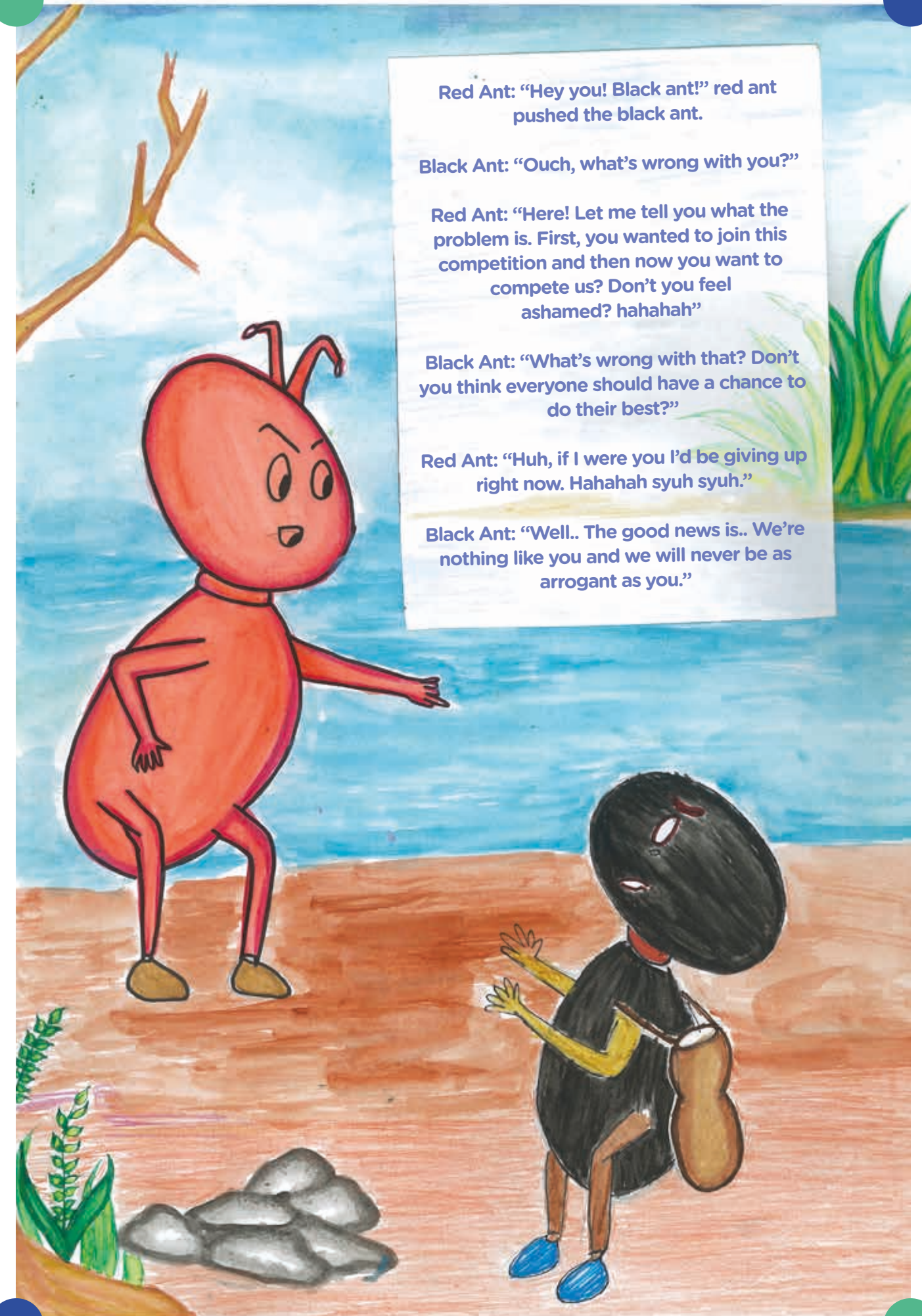
Well, this was totally different than the black ants. They were poor and didn't have any resources. They never celebrated any party. But they were hard workers and enjoyed singing.



One day the king of the island decided to hold a competition. Whoever gave him the biggest gift would win. The ant groups always won because they could carry up to one hundred times of their weight.



A week passed, and it was time for the king to announce the winner but he was very confused. He had two winners. The first one, you know already, was the red ants. But the second one was the black ants. So he gave them one more week to give an even bigger gift so there would be a winner. But the red ants didn't like that. They felt like the black ants were trying to take everything from them.



Red Ant: "Hey you! Black ant!" red ant pushed the black ant.

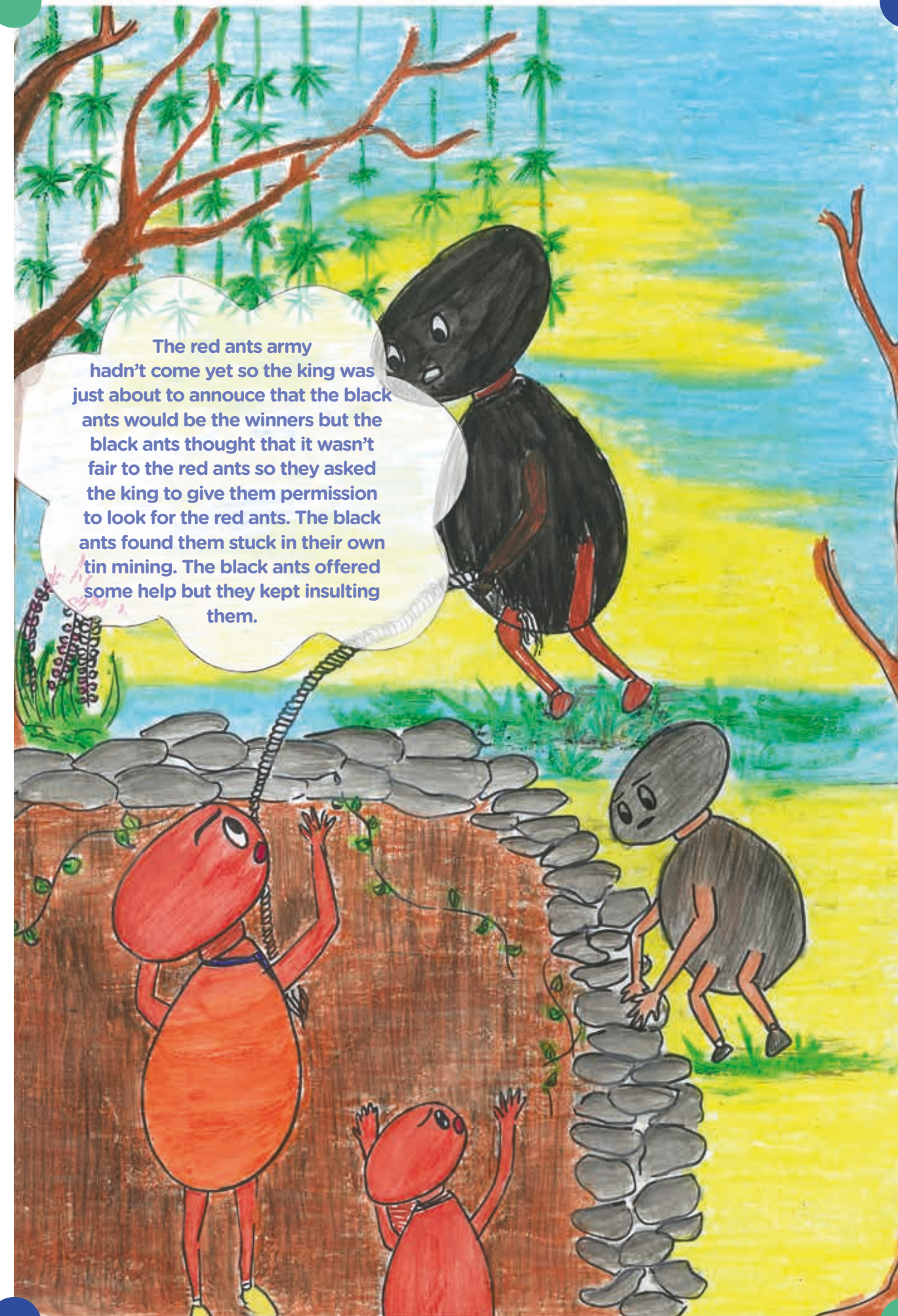
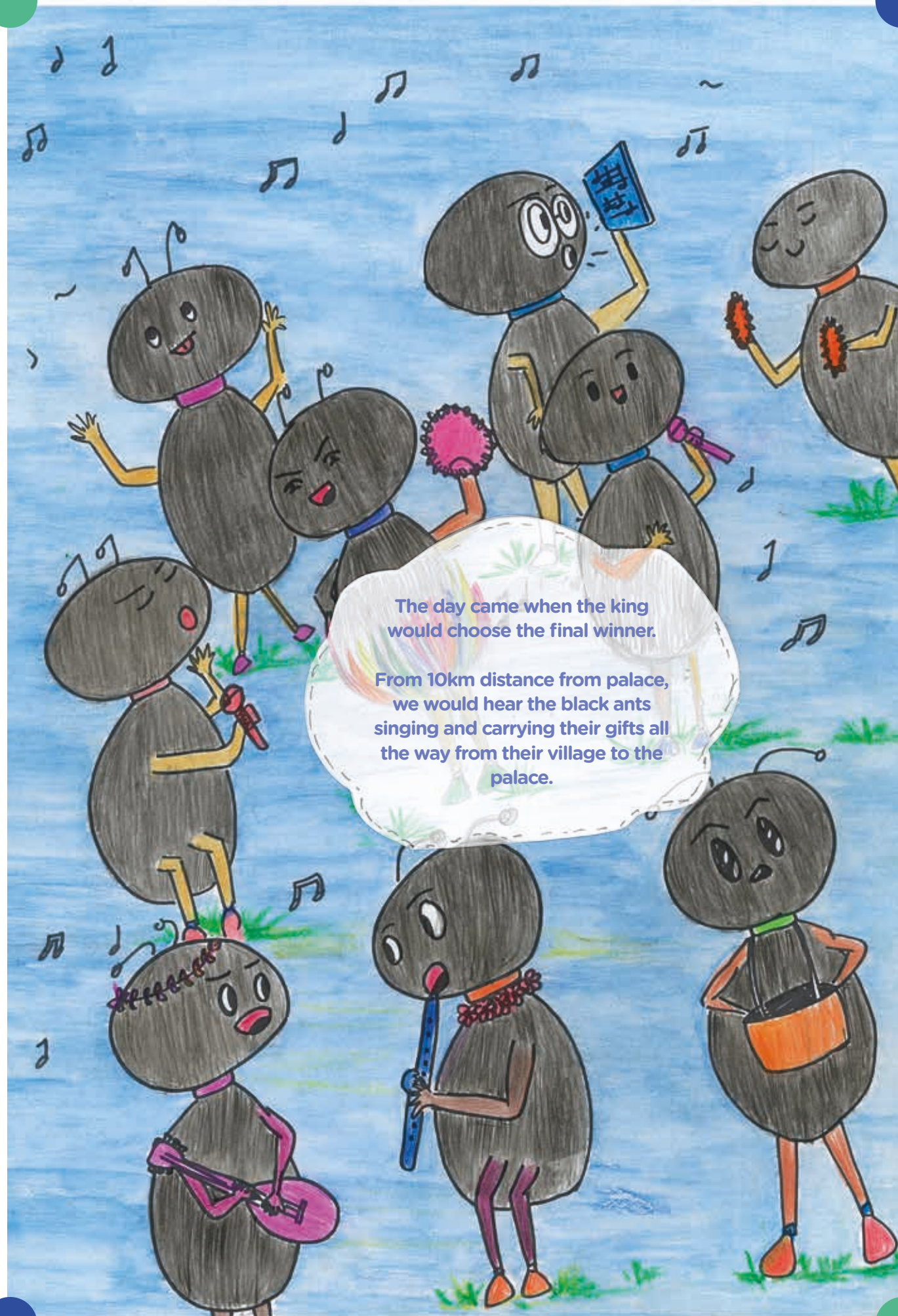
Black Ant: "Ouch, what's wrong with you?"

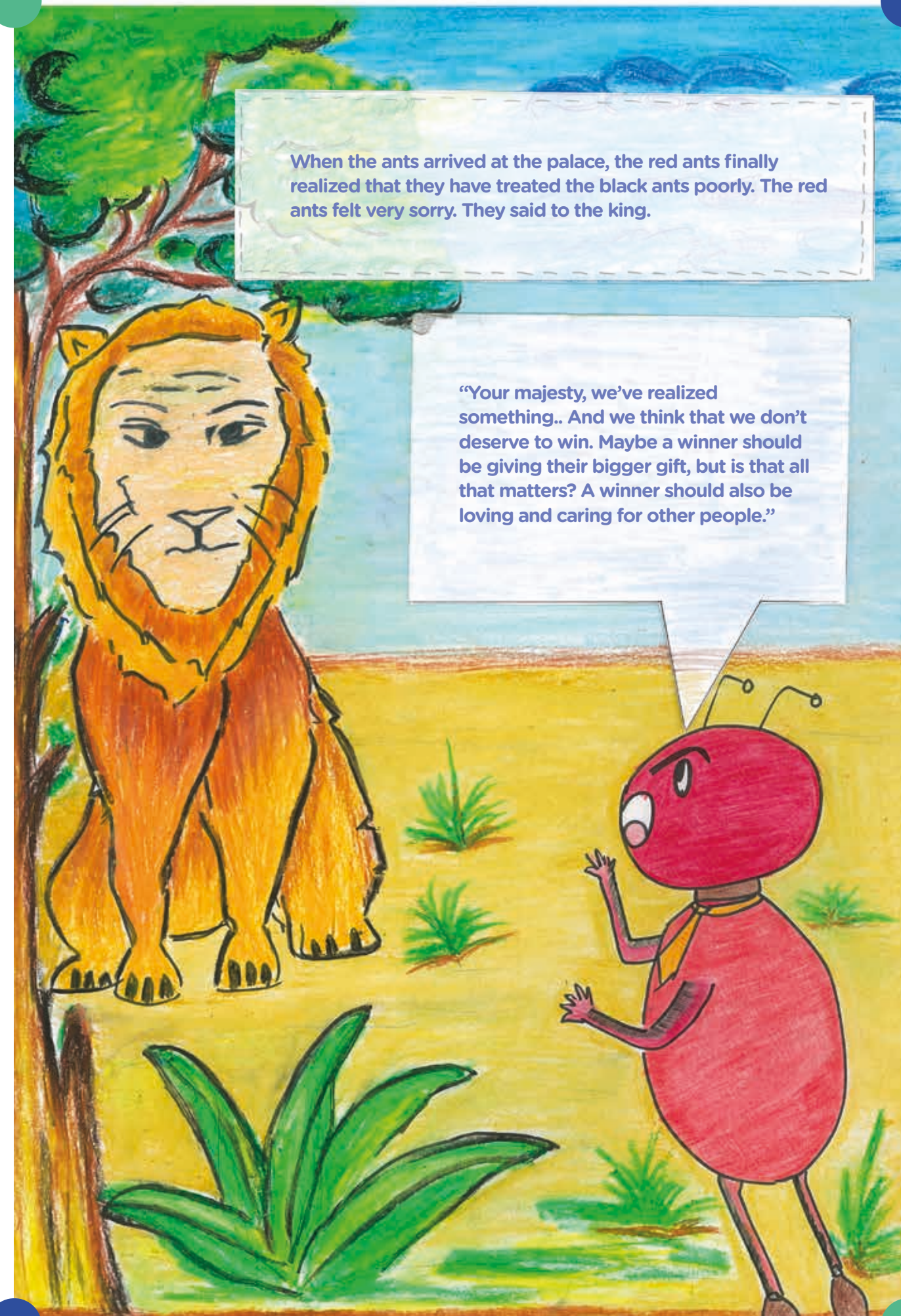
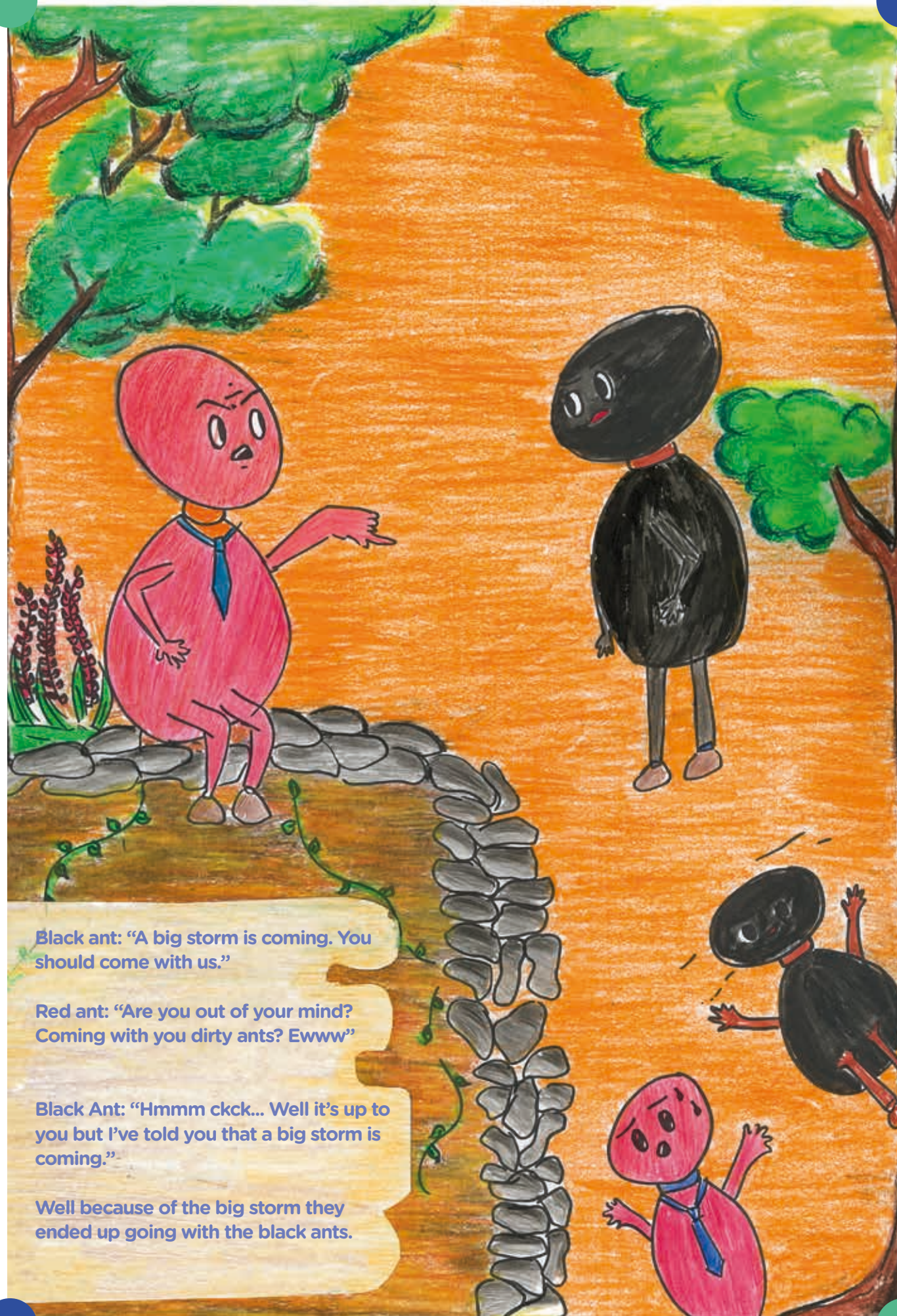
Red Ant: "Here! Let me tell you what the problem is. First, you wanted to join this competition and then now you want to compete us? Don't you feel ashamed? hahahah"

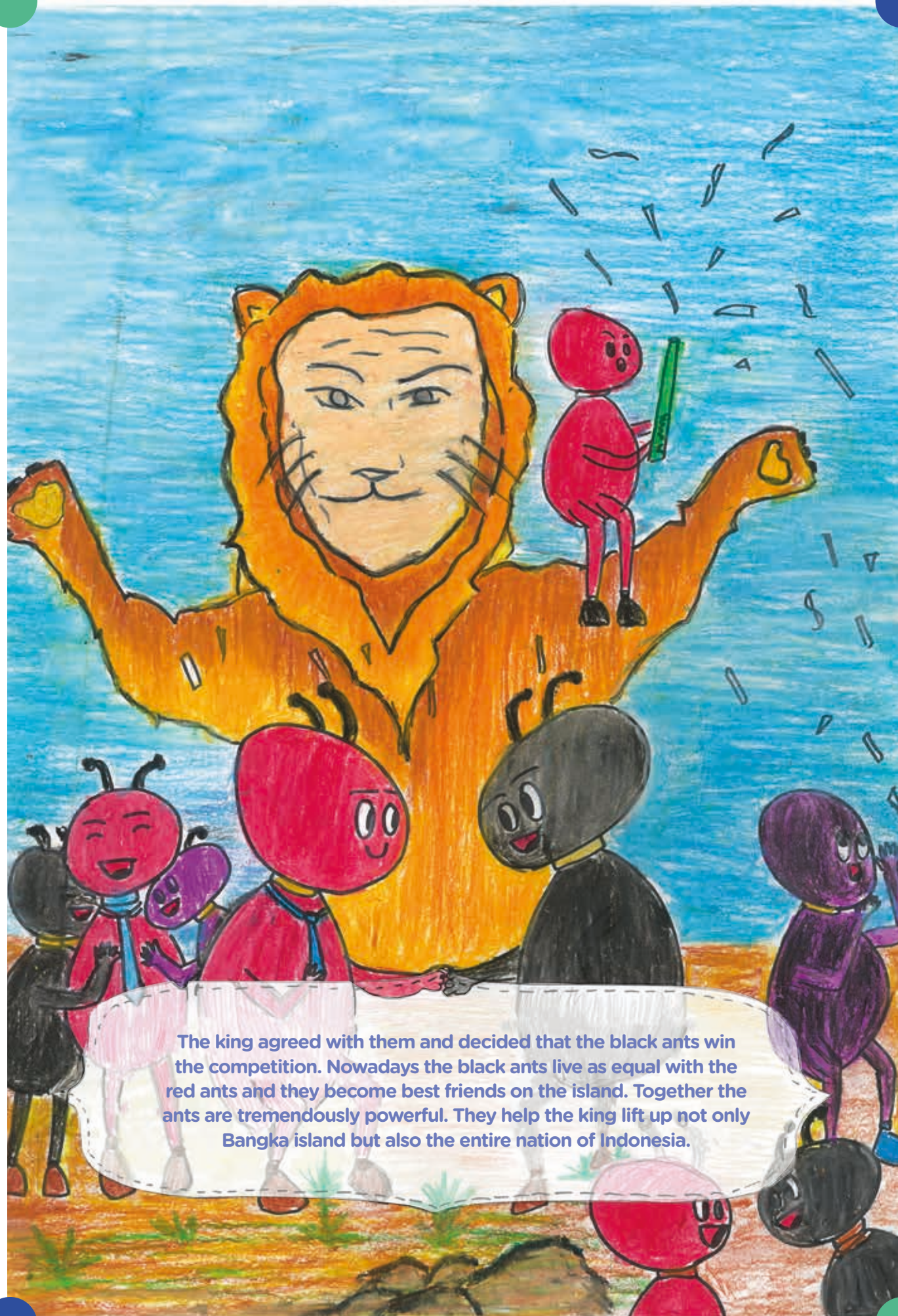
Black Ant: "What's wrong with that? Don't you think everyone should have a chance to do their best?"

Red Ant: "Huh, if I were you I'd be giving up right now. Hahahah syuh syuh."

Black Ant: "Well.. The good news is.. We're nothing like you and we will never be as arrogant as you."







The king agreed with them and decided that the black ants win the competition. Nowadays the black ants live as equal with the red ants and they become best friends on the island. Together the ants are tremendously powerful. They help the king lift up not only Bangka island but also the entire nation of Indonesia.

From this simple story we can learn that to be a winner we need to have a big heart for everyone so that we can build the future of Indonesia by appreciating each other's differences.

Differences make our country more colorful, wonderful and powerful.

About the Author



My name is Amanda Christie. I was born on December 11th 2003 and I go to SMA Santo Yosef in Pangkalpinang, Bangka-Belitung. Bangka-Belitung is such a wonderful island with many beautiful beaches. I love reading, writing and watching tv. One of my favorite tv shows is Grey's Anatomy. In the future I hope to be a diplomat so that I can explore different cultures in order to strengthen organizations and the nation so that it may advance its interests abroad. I look forward to meeting everyone!



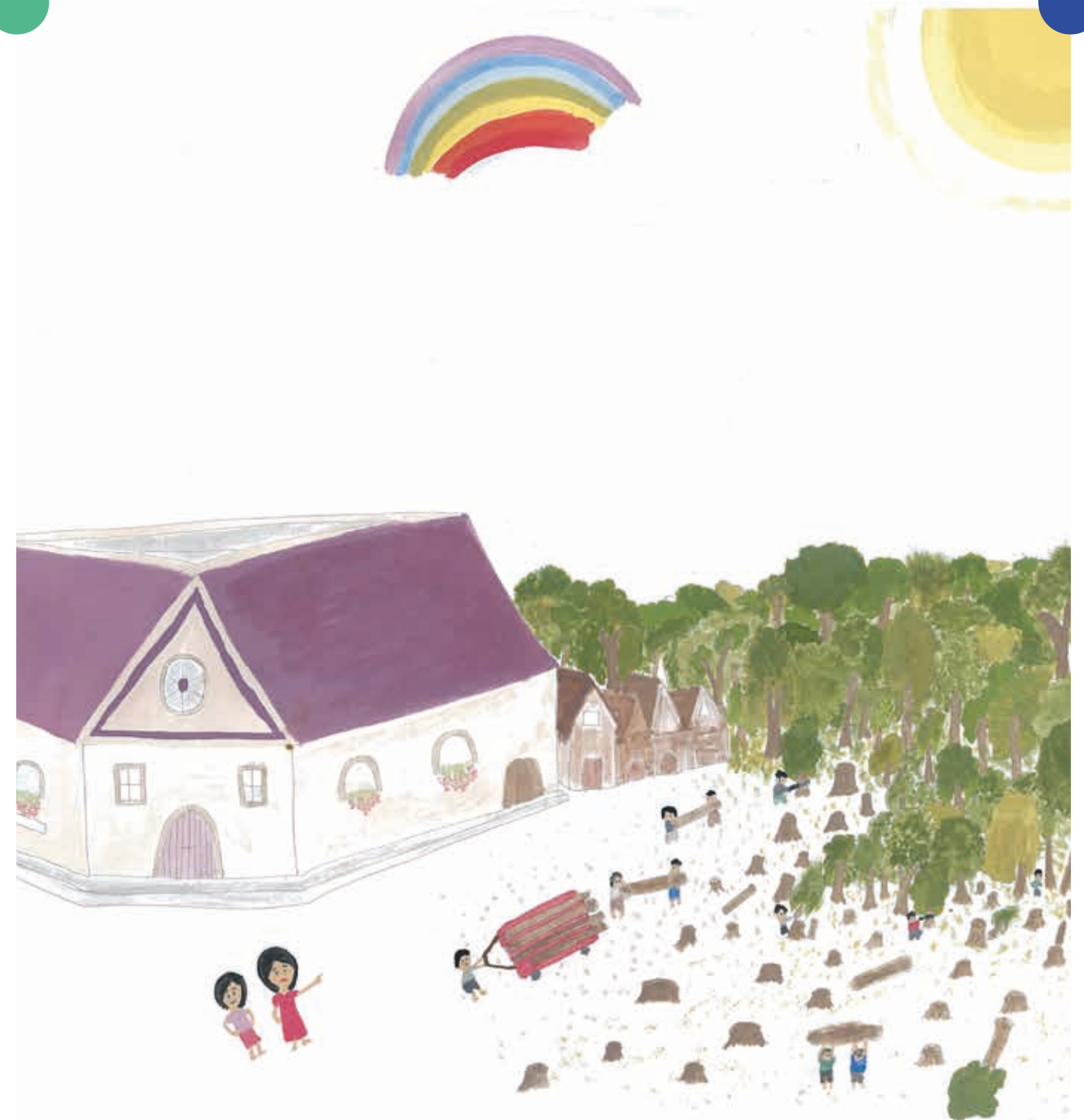
BELLA the PRESIDENT

Carina Hakim

By 2030, Indonesia becomes a country that helps the rest of the world.
To learn how this happened, let's start from the beginning of the story.



Indonesia was a very beautiful country with many forests.
The world needed its wood for furniture and construction.
Unfortunately, the forest had grown smaller.
One of the factors was illegal logging.



There lived a family in a beautiful village on one of the islands in Indonesia.
Bella and her mother had a big company in the wood industry.
Bella's father had passed away a few months ago.
They were a rich family. But, they never felt they had enough.
Their business needed more wood to export,
so every day they cut the trees without planting more.



They were ignorant, stubborn and selfish people in their area.
 The forest was growing smaller so that when there was rain,
 it brought great floods. Bella and her mother didn't care,
 because they lived in a two-story house and the water could not reach them.
 The other villagers' houses flooded but they couldn't do anything because
 they need the money they earned from working for Bella and her mother.



One day, there were heavy rains in the area.
 The flooding was higher than usual, and the people started to panic.
 After flooding passed, the chief held a meeting with the villagers
 including Bella and her mother.

The chief of the village recommended that villagers focus on the
 environment but Bella's mother refused and said,
 "Don't do that! It would be a waste of time.
 Keep cutting the trees down! You need money, right?".
 The villagers said, "Oh yeah, that's true.
 Cut the trees! Without them, we have no money".





A few weeks later, storms brought loud thunder and lightning to the area.

This time, the rain was even worse. It went on for a week.

The water got higher, higher and higher.

The villagers were so panicked that they ran away in search of higher places.

Bella and her mother went to the roof of their house.



Suddenly, both of them slipped from the roof because the rain was so strong.

They were washed away in and out of the water.

Luckily, the mother grabbed onto a log, she shouted, "Bella, hold my hand tightly!"

They both floated in the water at first but the current was too strong and the log was not enough for both of them.

Her mother said to Bella, "Bella, it can't be for two of us."

Save yourself, I love you," she disappeared into the flood.

Bella cried a lot and shouted, "Mom, nooo!! Don't leave me alone!!"



After the big flood, Bella always tried to forget that day but she couldn't.

One night, she was laying on her bed.

She missed her mother so she cried and sang her mother's favorite song.

Bella soon fell asleep. In her dream, her mother came to her and said,

"Bella, I've missed you so much, my little girl

Remember, I want you to be a good girl and have a bright future.

Help other people, take care of the environment and make Indonesia a better place.

I'll always be by your side."

They hugged each other and her mother disappeared once again.



Since that night, Bella promised herself that she wouldn't let her mom down.

She started working hard with other villagers to make both cities and forests greener.

She held seminars to promote the importance of caring for the environment by planting trees and keeping the ecosystem in balance.





Bella also founded an organization which promoted the environmental movement.

That organization spread all over Indonesia in just a few years.

Because of that, many people began to care about the environment.

The flooding in Indonesia reduced drastically.

Then, she received many awards from the Indonesian government
as well as from international organizations.

She was invited to speak at the general assembly of the United Nations.

UNITED
NATIONS



Bella, 2030

Bella became one of the most inspirational people in the world.

Finally, the citizens of Indonesia elected her as president.
She used this position to protect the environment and turn Indonesia
into a country that could help the rest of the world.

The end.

About the Author

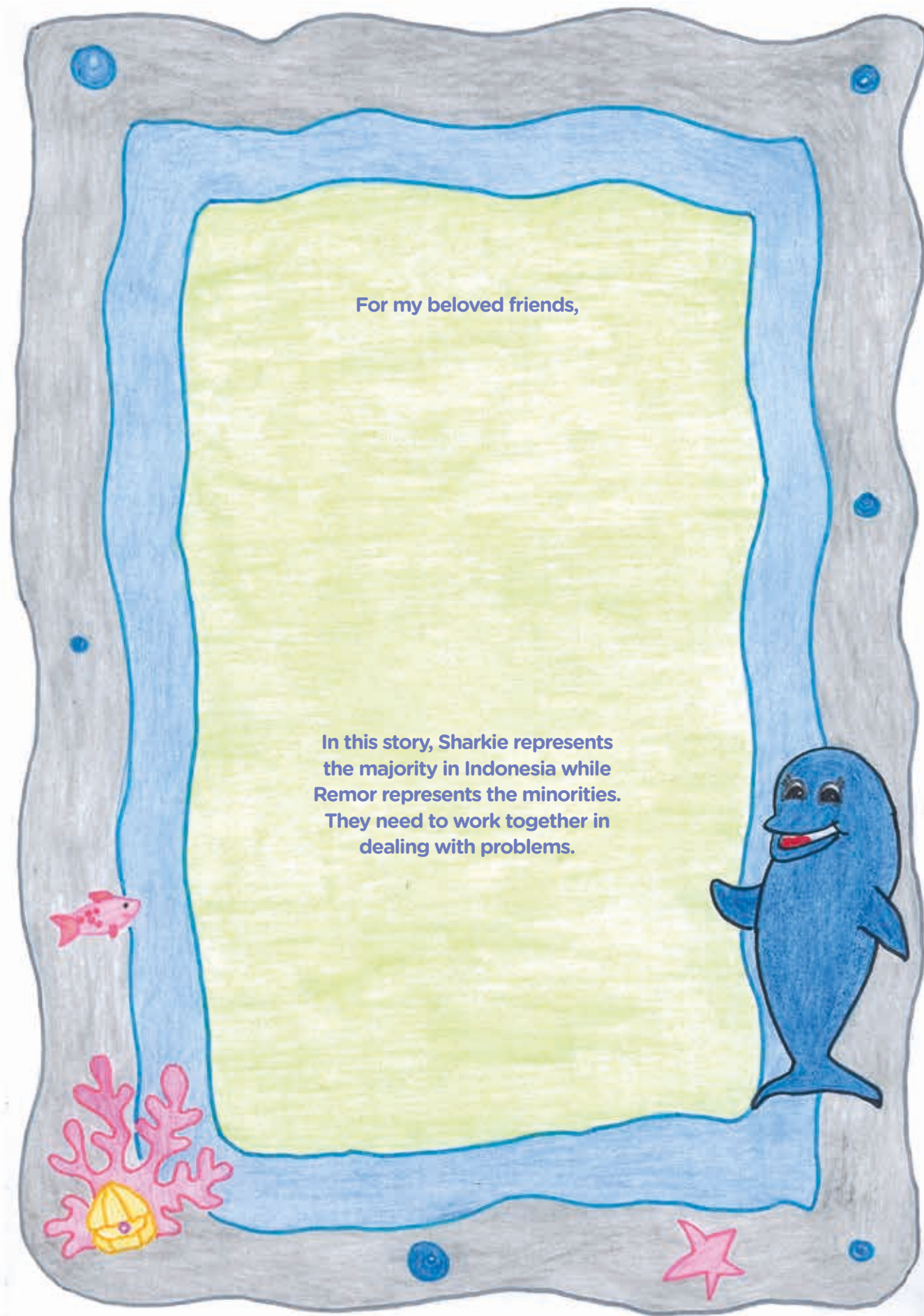


Hi! my name is Carina Hakim. I am a student at SMA Don Bosco Padang, West Sumatra. My hobbies are singing, dancing, playing guitar, cooking, acting, and traveling. I am also interested in fashion and beauty. I am very grateful to be from Indonesia. I love my country!



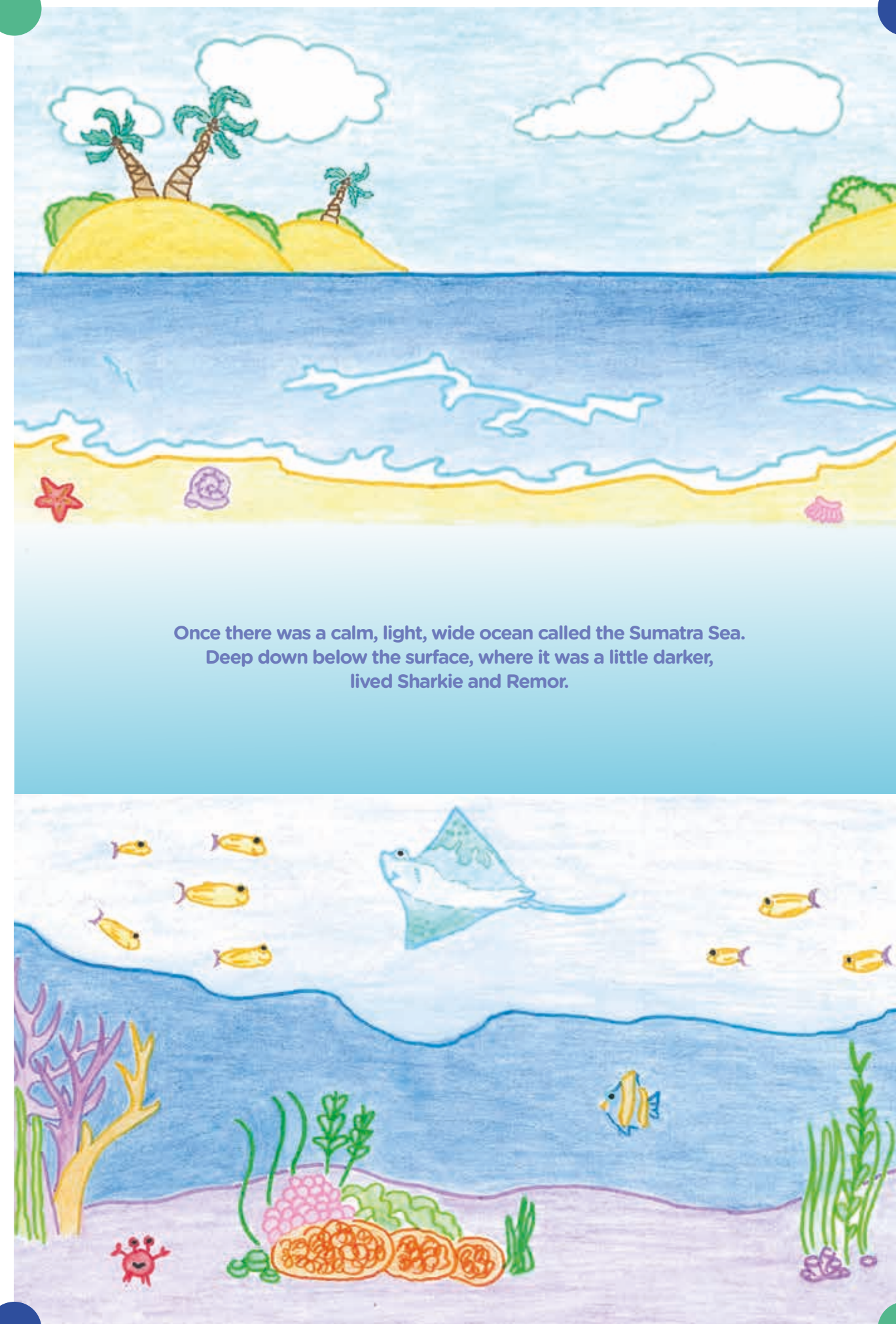
BIG SHARKIE and LITTLE REMOR

Tiara Fitra Ramadhani Siregar

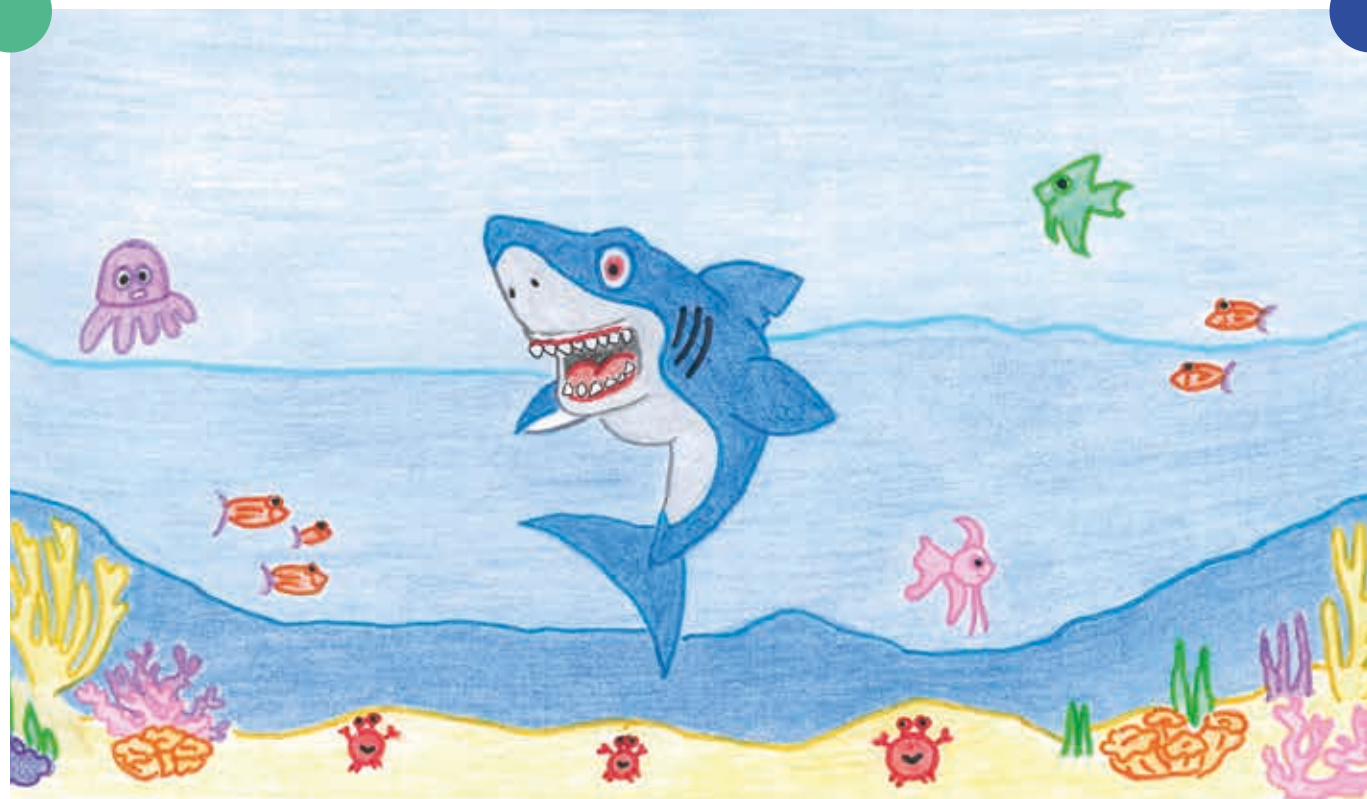


For my beloved friends,

In this story, Sharkie represents
the majority in Indonesia while
Remor represents the minorities.
They need to work together in
dealing with problems.



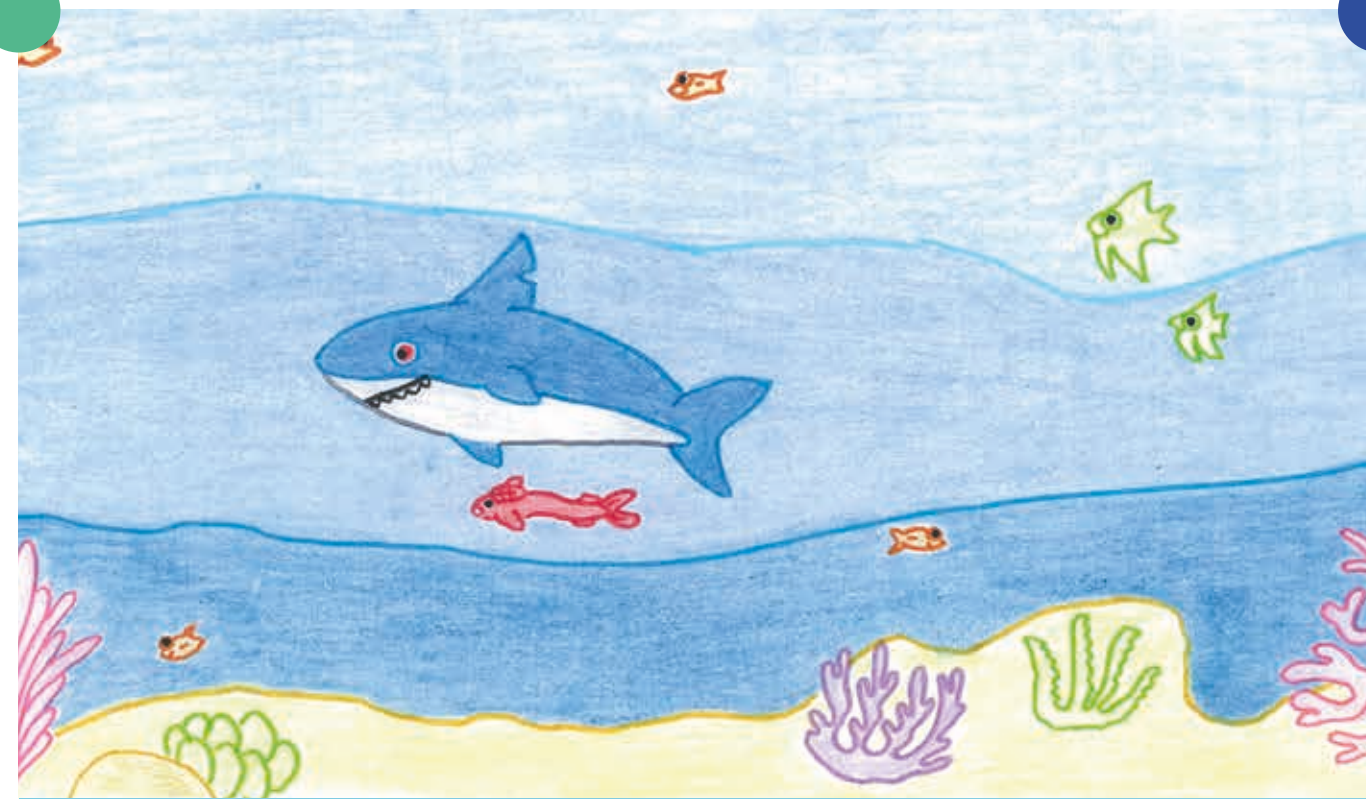
Once there was a calm, light, wide ocean called the Sumatra Sea.
Deep down below the surface, where it was a little darker,
lived Sharkie and Remor.



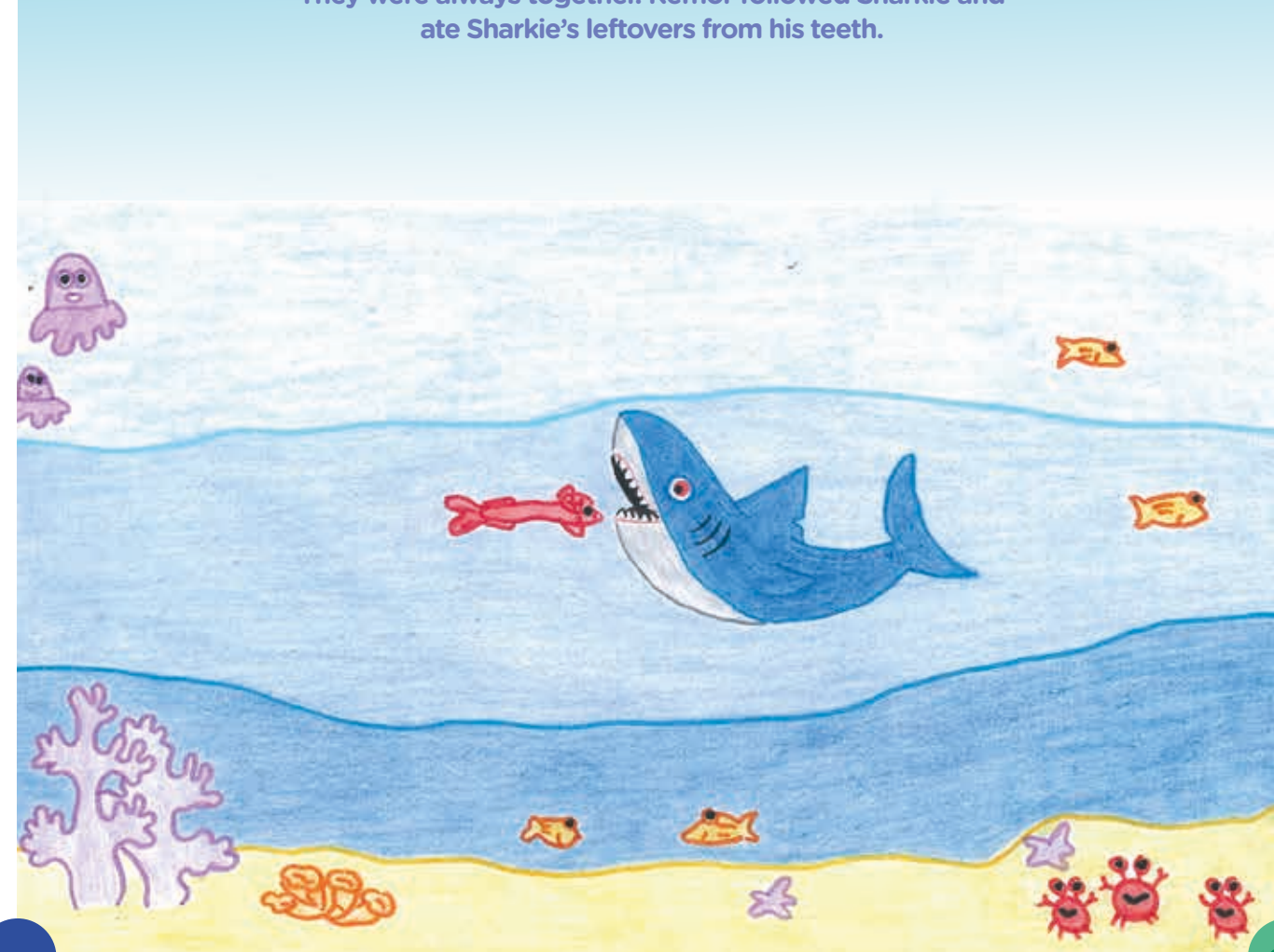
Sharkie was a strong and respected great white shark.
He had strong teeth, sturdy fins, and sharp eyes.

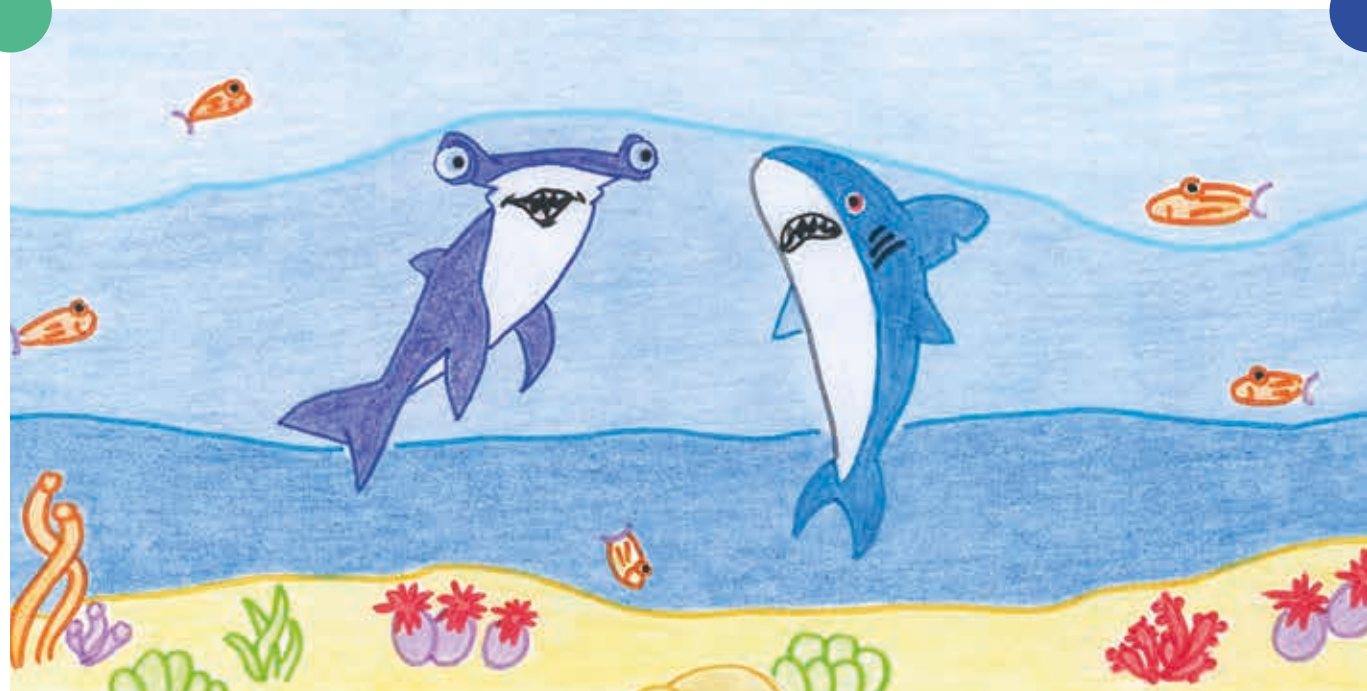


While Remor was a cheerful and weak remora fish.
He had less sturdy teeth, small fins, and big eyes.



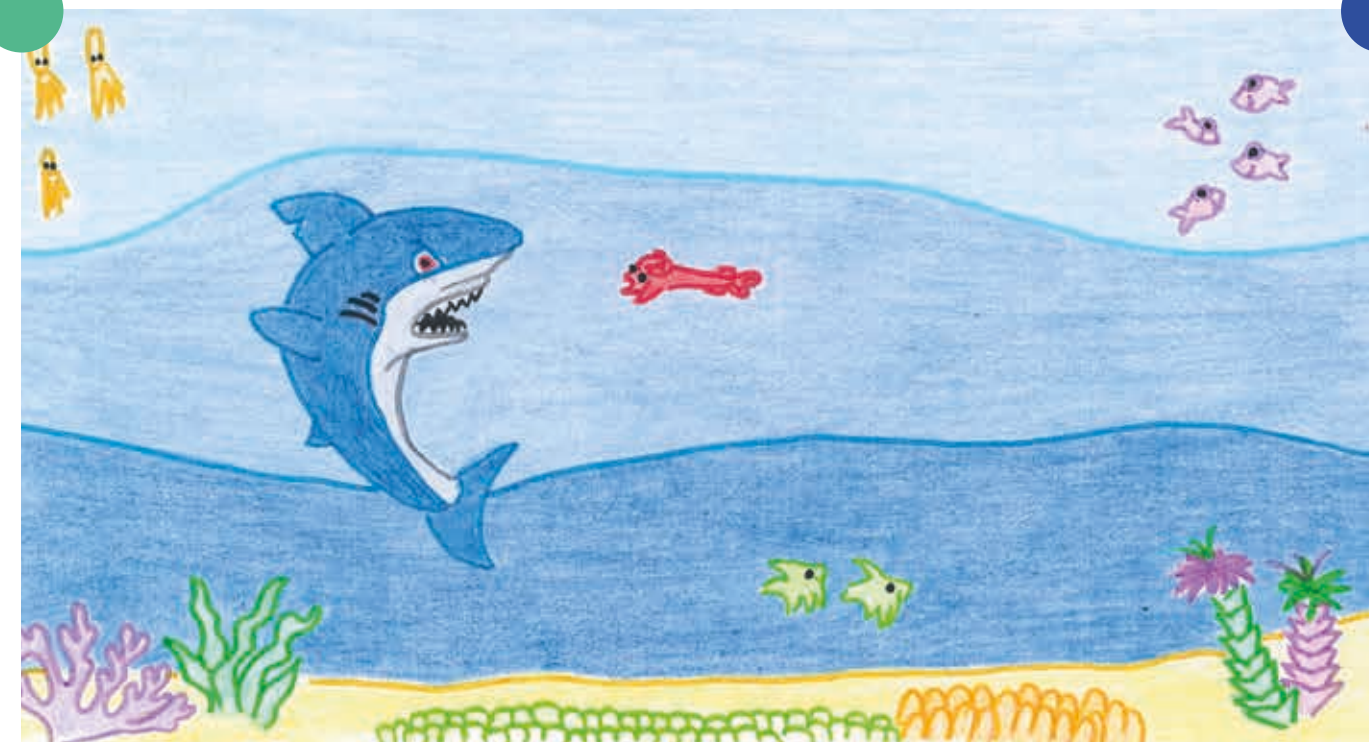
Sharkie and Remor had been friends since they were little.
They were always together. Remor followed Sharkie and
ate Sharkie's leftovers from his teeth.





One day when Sharkie was alone, he bumped into a friend named Hammer.
Hammer chuckled and said,

“Sharkie... the strongest great white shark
who is always with a weak remora fish.
You know what? He has been
using you!! He just wants
to eat your leftovers.
And because of that,
you bring shame to us.
Sharkie, you better cut it off
before it's too late!!” Then he left.
Sharkie was wrathful,
and he searched for Remor.



“Remor!! You are wicked!! You used me. You just want my leftovers and because of you,
I have brought shame to my population!!

I thought we were best friends.
Now, I don't want to see your face anymore!! Be
gone!!” Then Sharkie left.

Remor was shocked
by the words of Sharkie,
he was speechless and
then burst into tears.

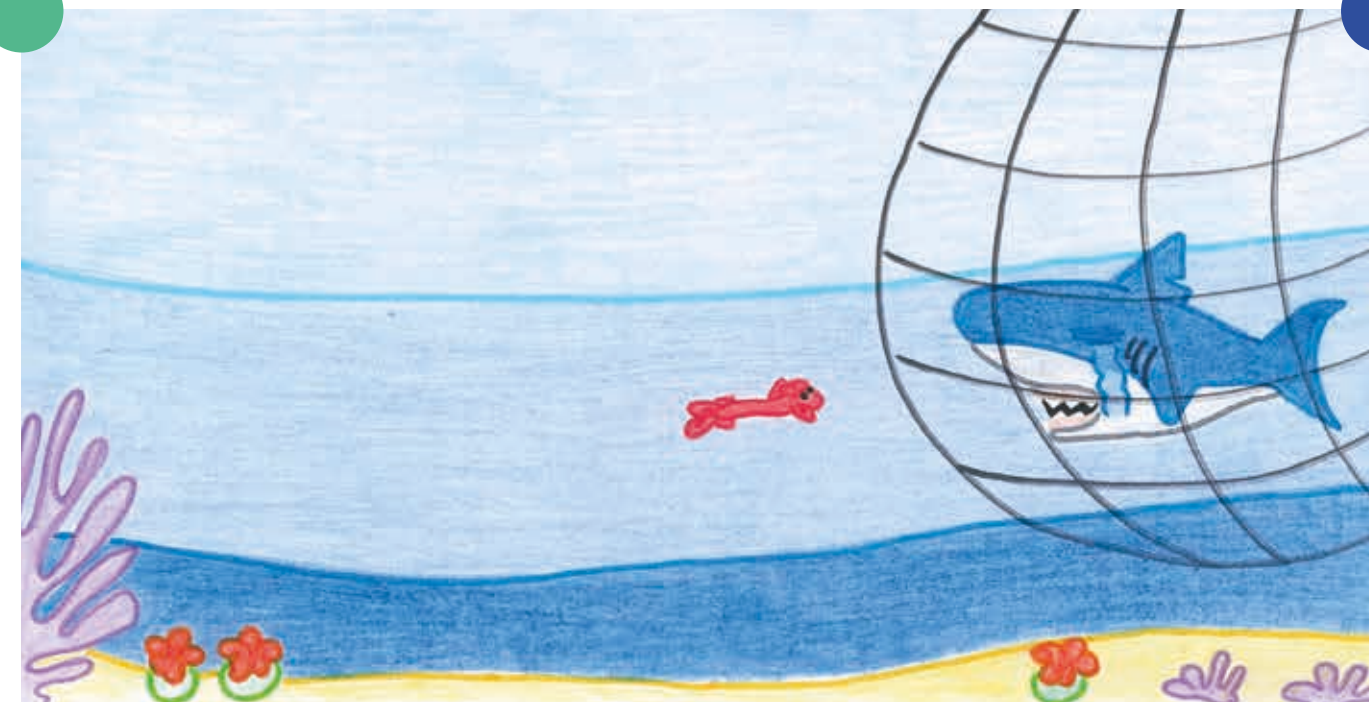




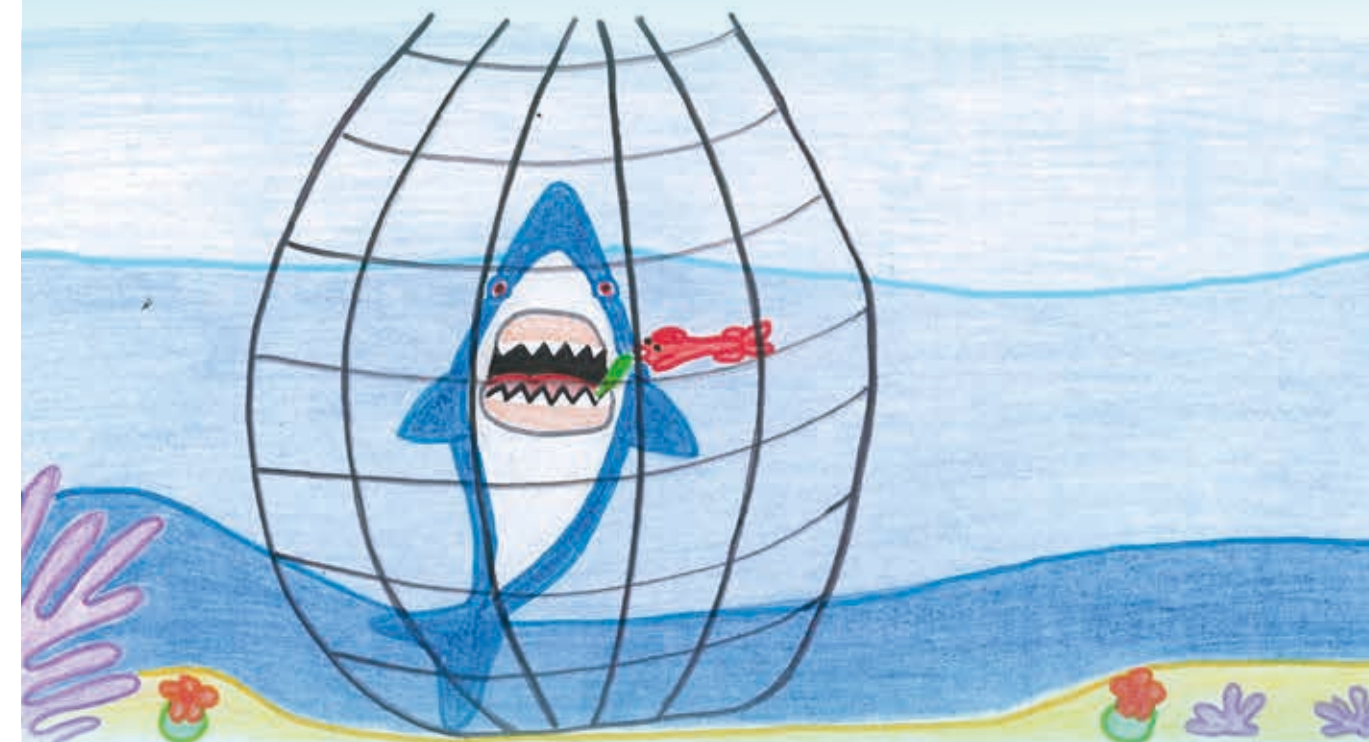
The next morning, Sharkie went through the days like usual, but without Remor.
After he had eaten his prey, he left something stuck in his teeth,
he tried to remove it but he failed.
Sharkie's gum started to swell.
He couldn't bite anything.



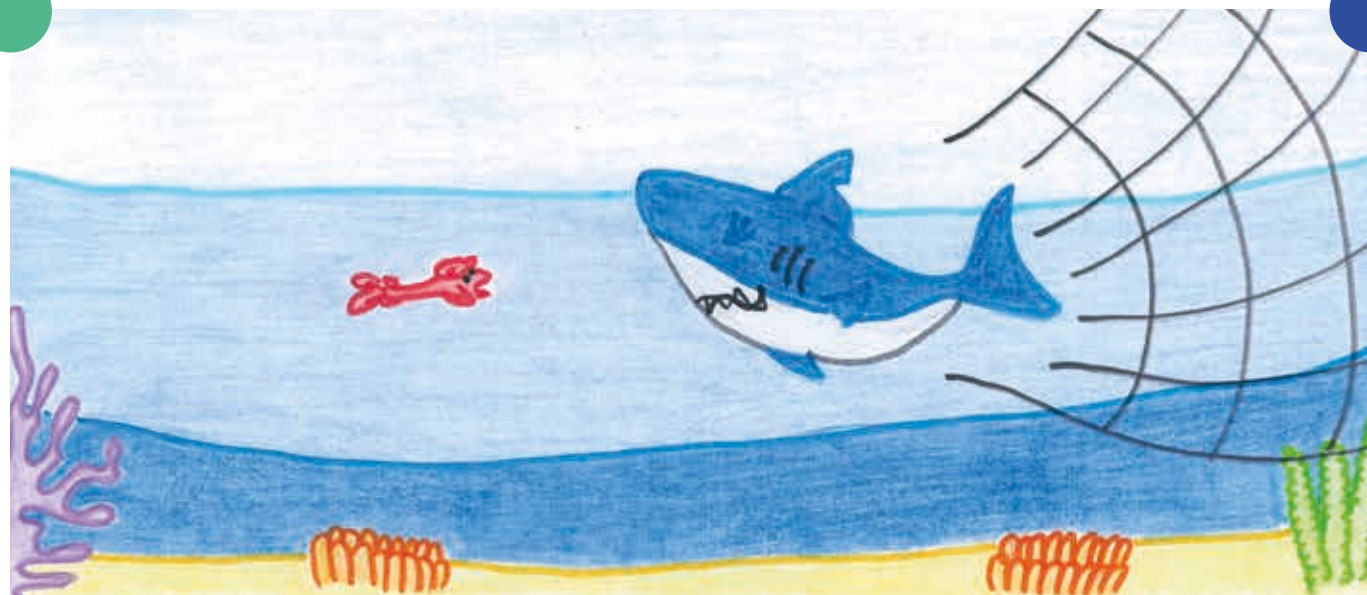
Suddenly, a net came into the sea.
Sharkie didn't expect that. The net caught him.
He tried to bite the net but he couldn't.
He panicked and swam around randomly.
He saw a little fish from a distance.
He screamed for help. "Help...you there...please help me...!"



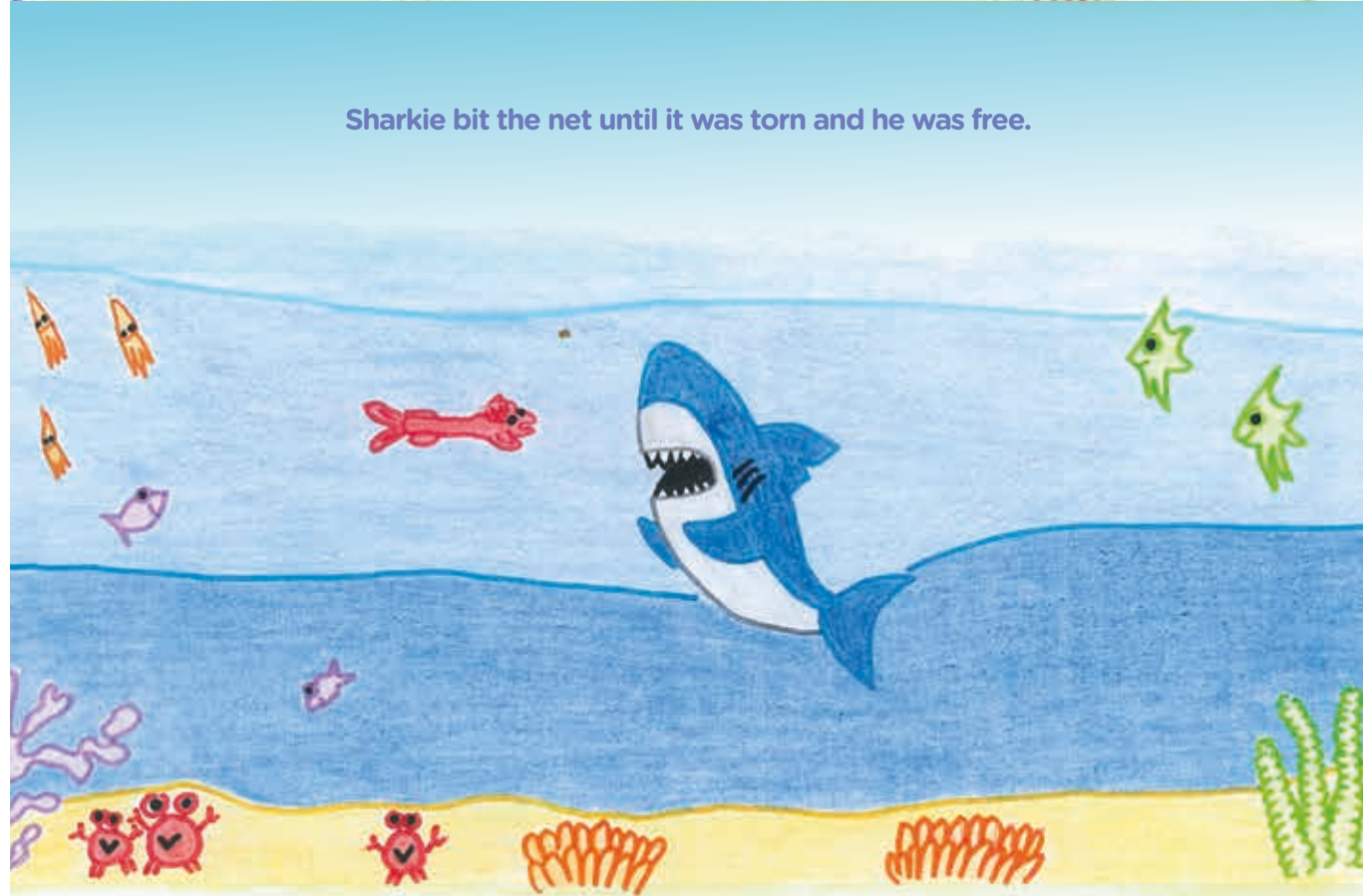
The little fish swam quickly towards him. It was Remor.
Then Remor said, "OMG, Sharkie... just bite the net.
You can do it. Your teeth are sharp!!"
"I can't bite anything! My gum is swollen. Something is stuck in my teeth."



"Open your mouth! I'll fix that."
Then Remor took the leftovers from Sharkie's teeth.

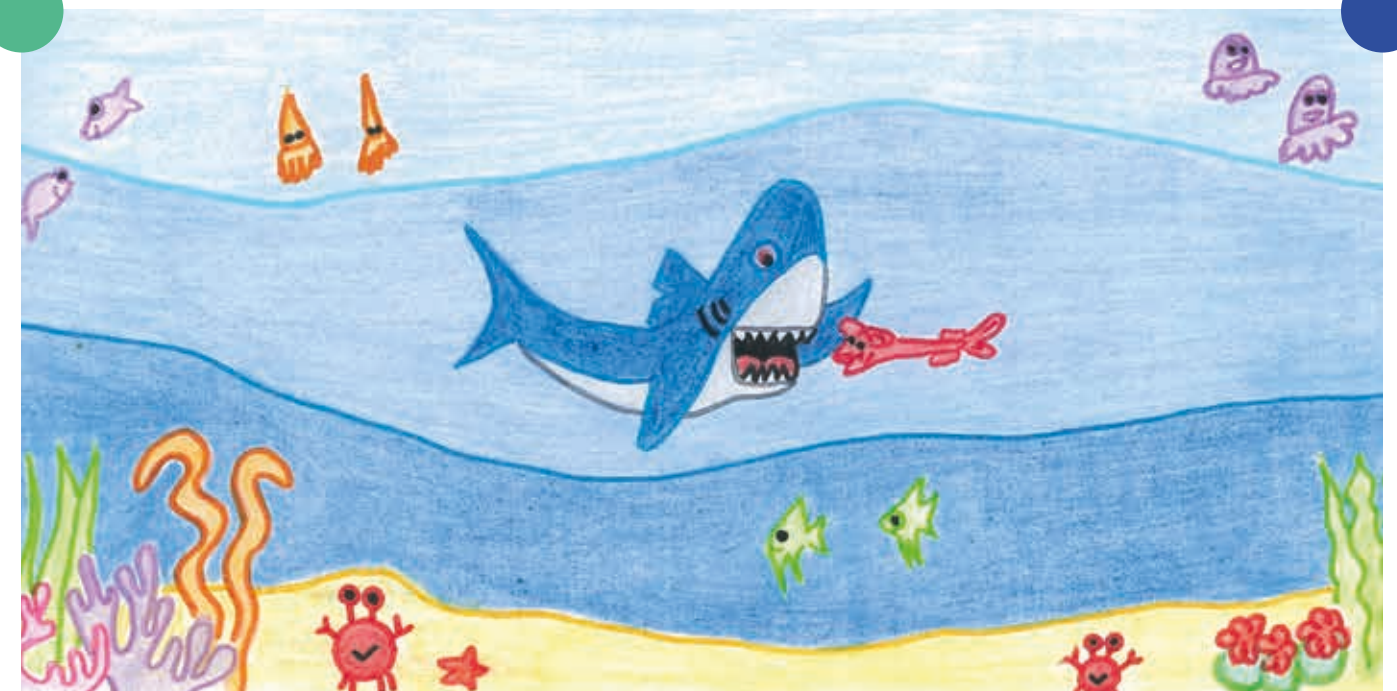


Sharkie bit the net until it was torn and he was free.



Then, Sharkie said to Remor, "Remor, I'm really sorry about everything.
It's okay to eat my leftovers. And you didn't bring shame to anyone.
And, thank you so much. I know I have hurt you so bad,
but can you give me another chance to fix this?"

"Of course, my friend", said Remor.



Then they did a few great high-fives.



"So friends, lately hoaxes threaten Indonesia's unity.
That's why the majority and minority need to work
together to solve problems."

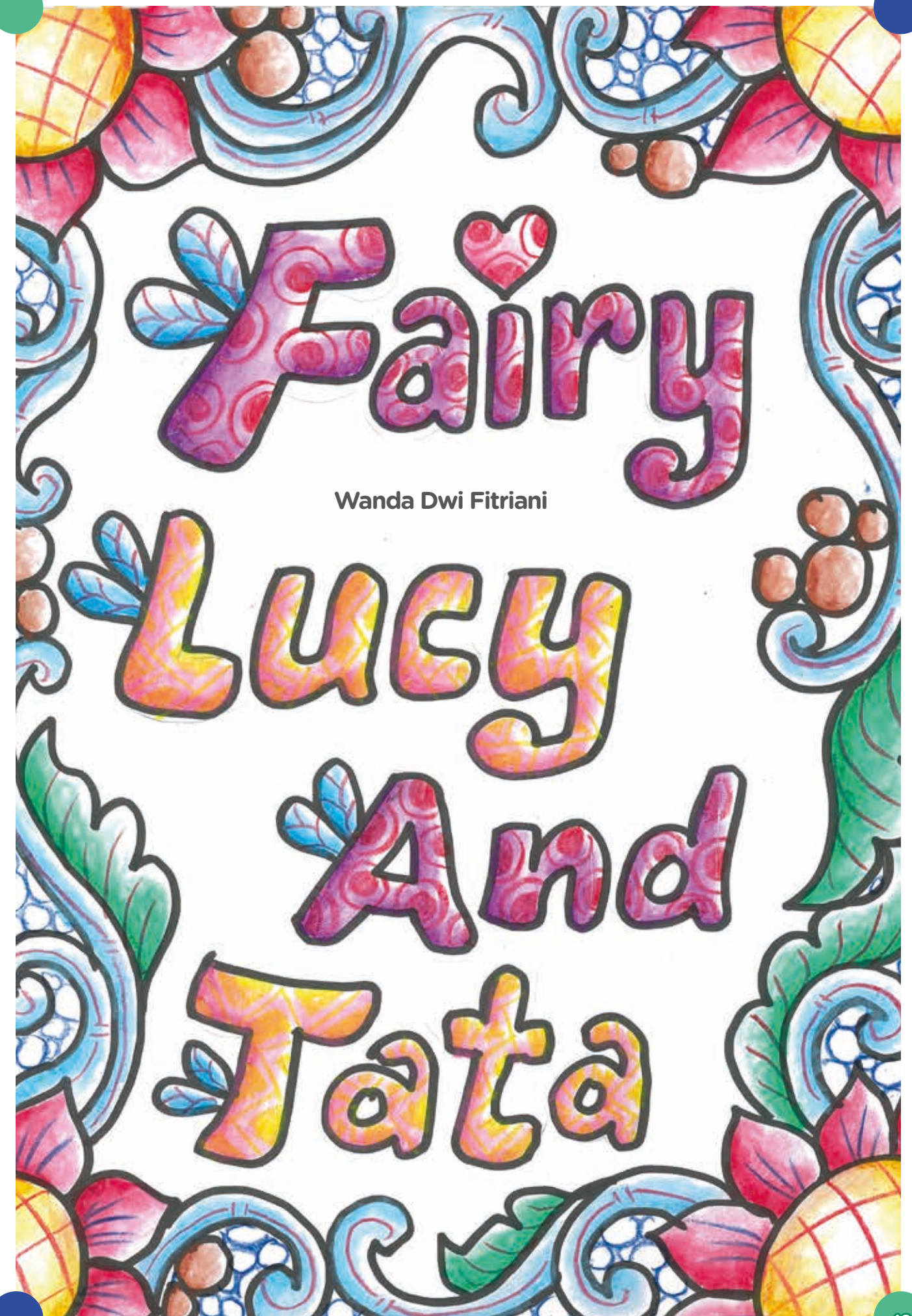


THE END

About the Author



Hello! My name is Tiara Fitra Ramadan Siregar, but you can call me Yaraa. I am sixteen years old and was born on December 5th, 2002. I attend SMA N1 Padangsidimpuan and am in class 10 MIA 2. I live in a small city called Padangsidimpuan in Northern Sumatra. I have no siblings. My hobby is drawing and singing even though my voice is not very good. When I grow up I want to be the Indonesian Finance Minister.

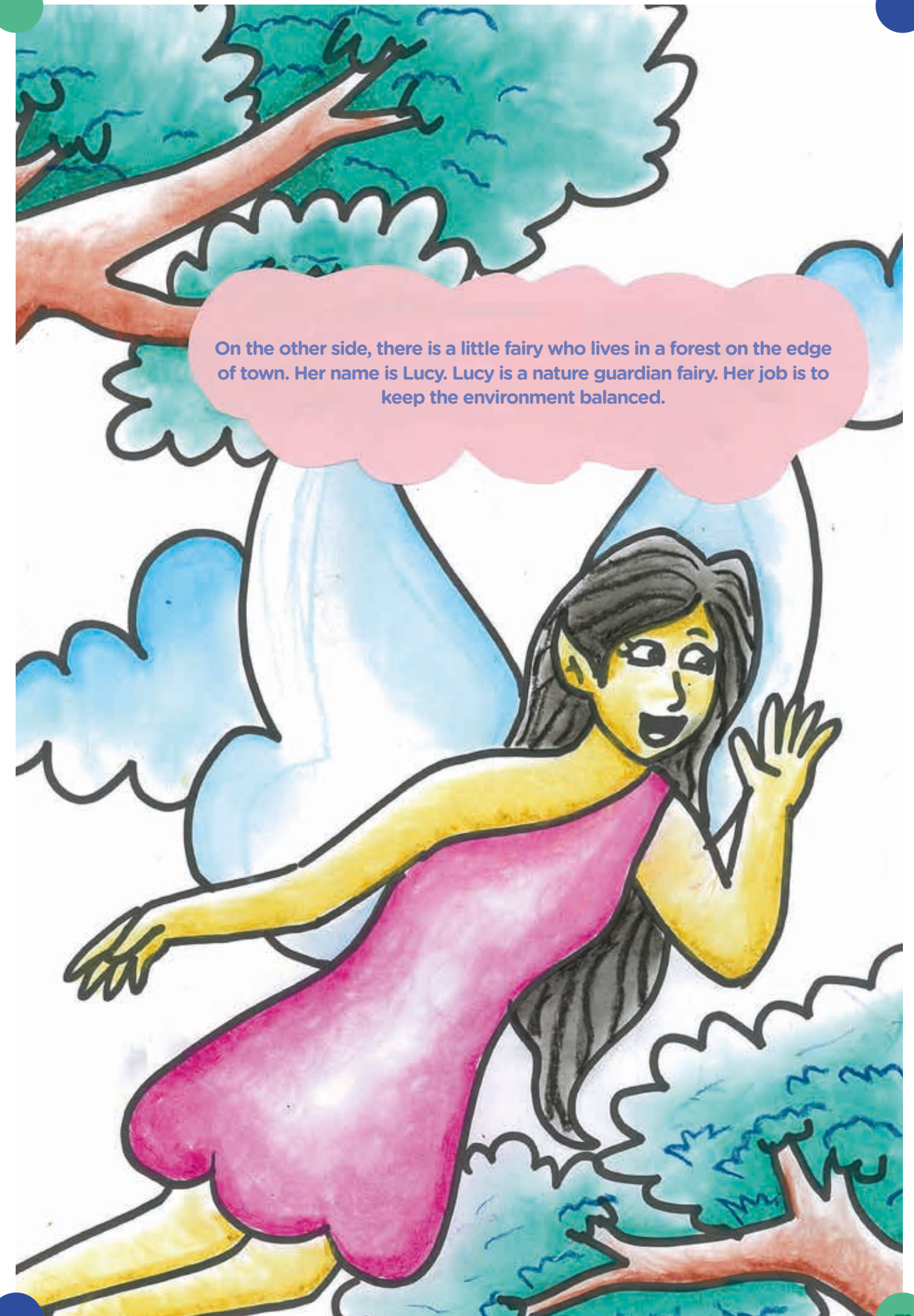


Wanda Dwi Fitriani

Tata is elementary school student in DKI Jakarta, Tata is a cheerful and kind child, she is friendly to everyone around her.

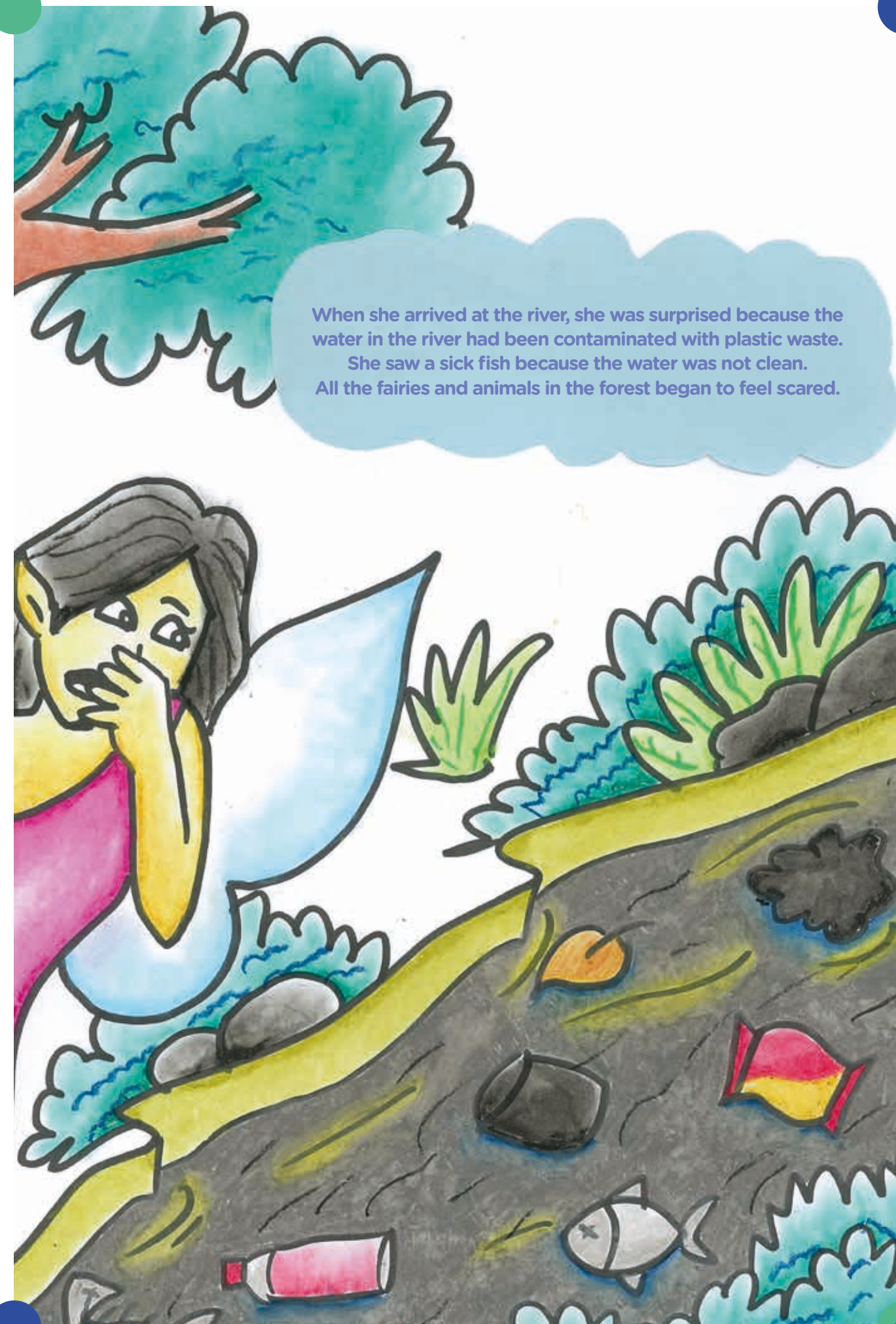


On the other side, there is a little fairy who lives in a forest on the edge of town. Her name is Lucy. Lucy is a nature guardian fairy. Her job is to keep the environment balanced.





One day, when Fairy Lucy walked around in the forest, she was approached by one of the fairy inhabitants of the forest.
“Fairy Lucy! There’s a problem in the river!”
“I’ll be right there soon!” said Fairy Lucy.



When she arrived at the river, she was surprised because the water in the river had been contaminated with plastic waste.
She saw a sick fish because the water was not clean.
All the fairies and animals in the forest began to feel scared.

After, Lucy went to leave the river. Lucy arrived at the end of the river and Lucy was surprised because the river had turned back.



On the other side, Tata went to the city park with her mother to go jogging in the morning. When Tata was jogging with her mother, she saw trash scattered on the riverbank.

"Mom, why is this river black?" Tata asked.

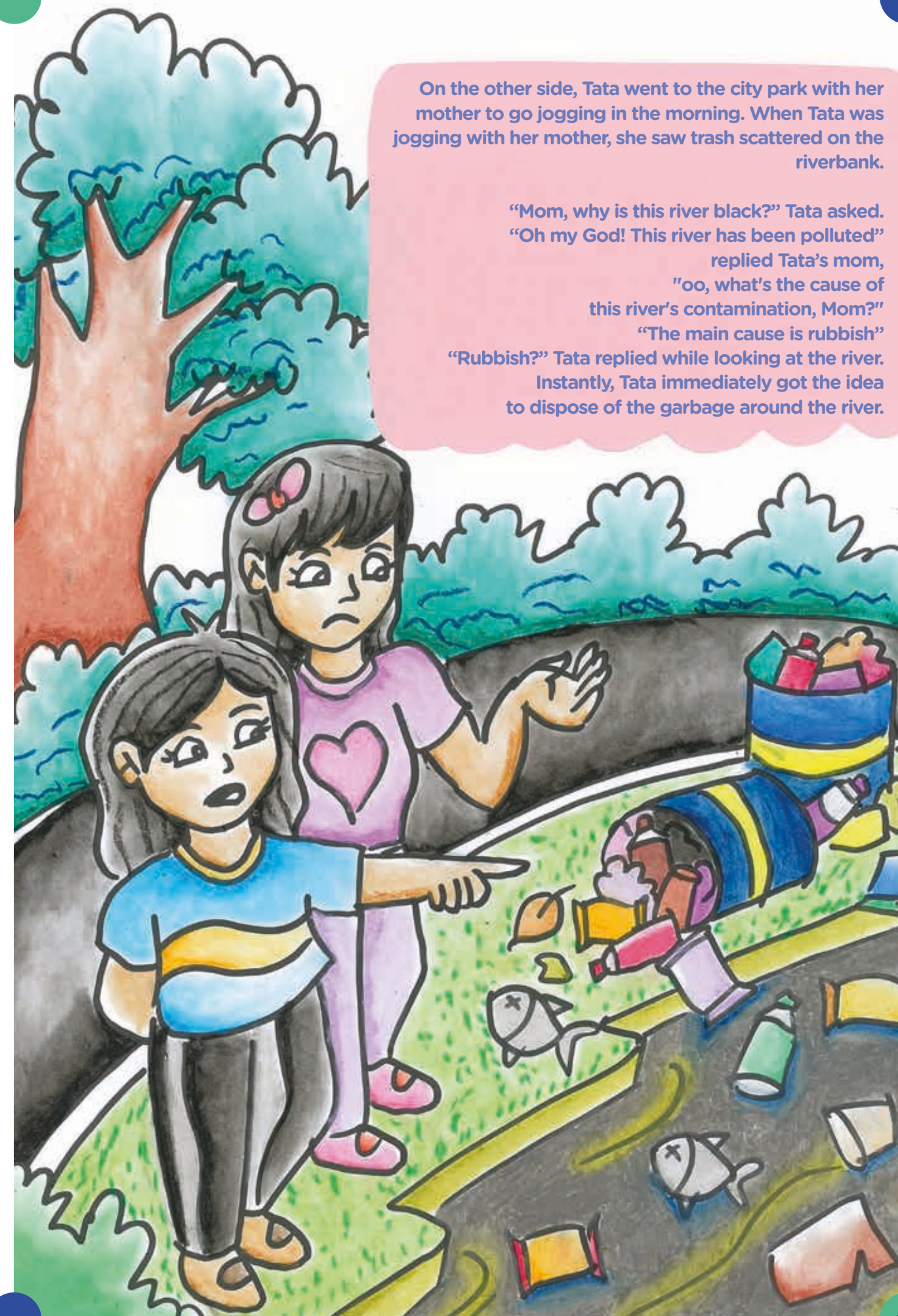
"Oh my God! This river has been polluted" replied Tata's mom,

"oo, what's the cause of this river's contamination, Mom?"

"The main cause is rubbish"

"Rubbish?" Tata replied while looking at the river.

Instantly, Tata immediately got the idea to dispose of the garbage around the river.



When Tata got home, she immediately went to take a shower and play in her room. Suddenly, "tok tok tok" the window sound of Tata's room. She immediately opened the window and looked out the window but saw nothing. Suddenly, "wuuuuuush" Fairy Lucy flew into Tata's room. "Who are you?" asked Tata.

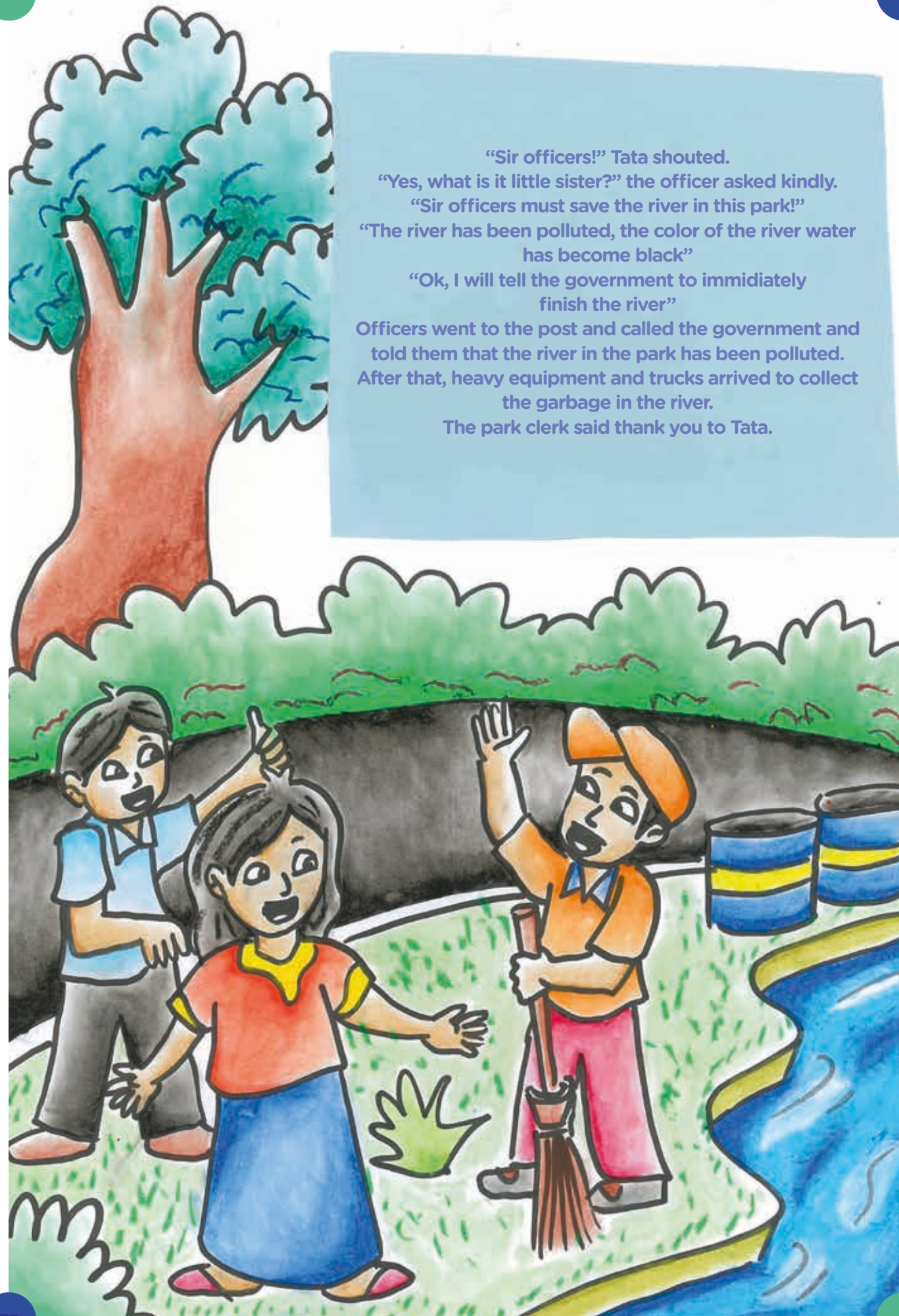
"Hi Tata, let me introduce myself. My name is Lucy and I'm a guardian fairy. Nice to meet you"
 "Why are you here?"
 "I'm here because I want to ask for your help"
 "My help? Why me?"
 "Because you already cleaned up the garbage around the river"
 "Not me, I'm still little"
 "Precisely, because you are still little you can change the world, please help me!"
 "Alright, I'll help you"
 "Seriously?"
 "Seriously"



Tata and her father went to the park. Arriving at the garden. Lucy told Tata to immediately go to her house. Lucy flew, followed by Tata behind and her father. Arriving where Lucy lives, Tata saw the river.

"Daddy look! The river is very polluted" Tata said.
 "Yes kid, you're right. We have to tell the park clerk to immediately clean the river, so it won't get worse"
 Father and Tata ran to find the park clerk while shouting for help.





"Sir officers!" Tata shouted.

"Yes, what is it little sister?" the officer asked kindly.

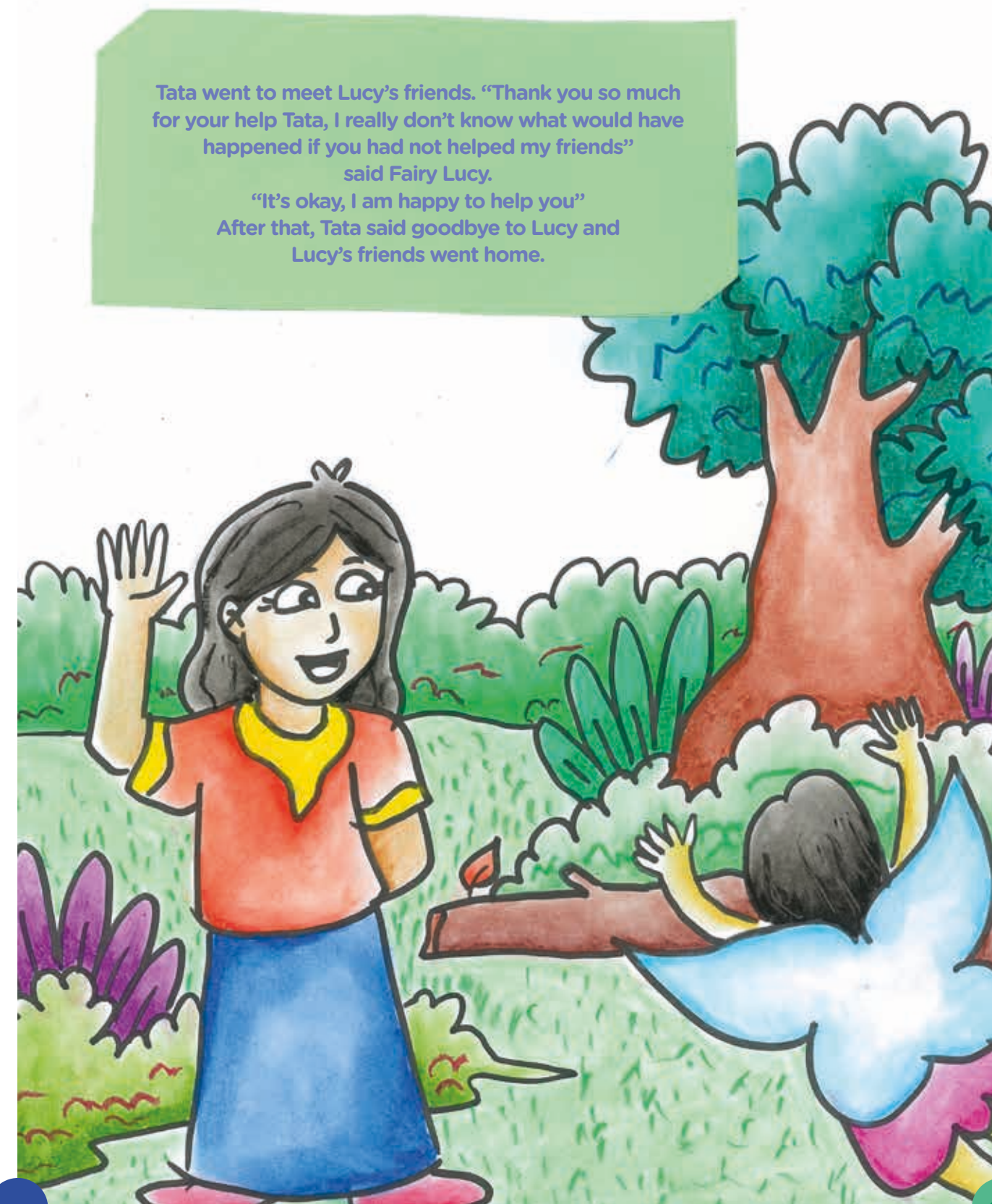
"Sir officers must save the river in this park!"

"The river has been polluted, the color of the river water has become black"

"Ok, I will tell the government to immediately finish the river"

Officers went to the post and called the government and told them that the river in the park has been polluted. After that, heavy equipment and trucks arrived to collect the garbage in the river.

The park clerk said thank you to Tata.



Tata went to meet Lucy's friends. "Thank you so much for your help Tata, I really don't know what would have happened if you had not helped my friends" said Fairy Lucy.

"It's okay, I am happy to help you"

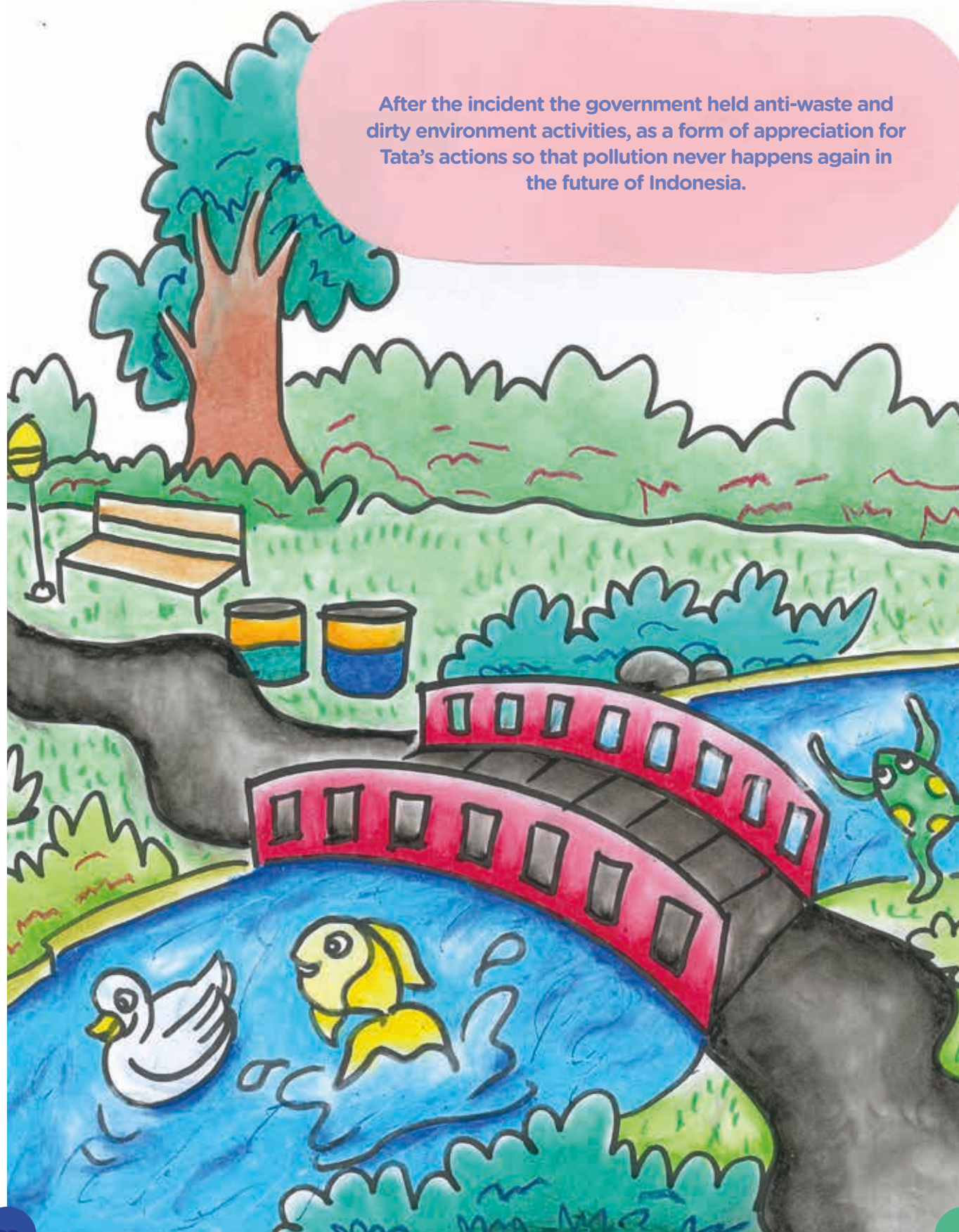
After that, Tata said goodbye to Lucy and Lucy's friends went home.

About the Author



Hello! let me introduce myself. My name is Wanda Dwi Fitriani, you can call me Wanda. I'm 15 years old. I'm in class 10 science 4 right now at MAN Demak in Central Java, Indonesia. I love Indonesia so much and I love everything about Korea too, one of them is Boyband BTS because their song is one way to make me happy. It seems that during this storytelling competition by listening to BTS songs I feel calmer. I like reading especially novels. I have one older brother and one younger sister. I like singing and dance. I like to hangout with my friends. That's all about me, see you.

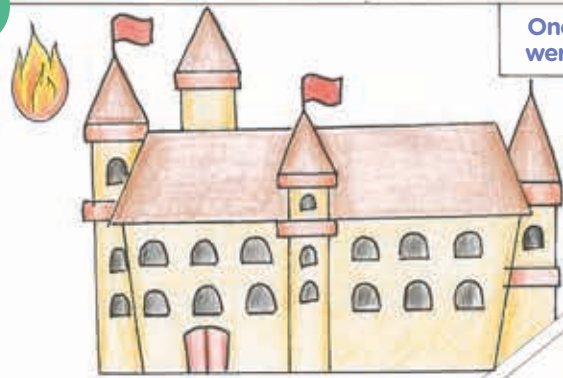
After the incident the government held anti-waste and dirty environment activities, as a form of appreciation for Tata's actions so that pollution never happens again in the future of Indonesia.



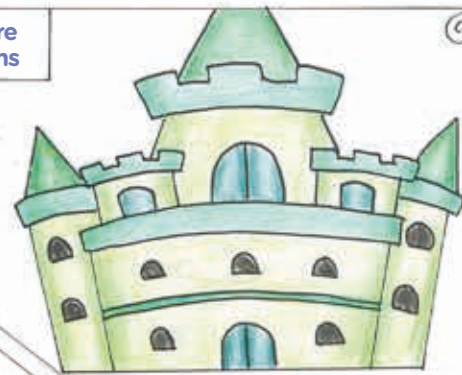


Heartbeat

Riza Biokta Putra Nugroho



Once upon a time there were 5 Island Kingdoms



The kingdom of fire, whose people are very hot headed.

The wind kingdom, who always have their heads in the clouds.



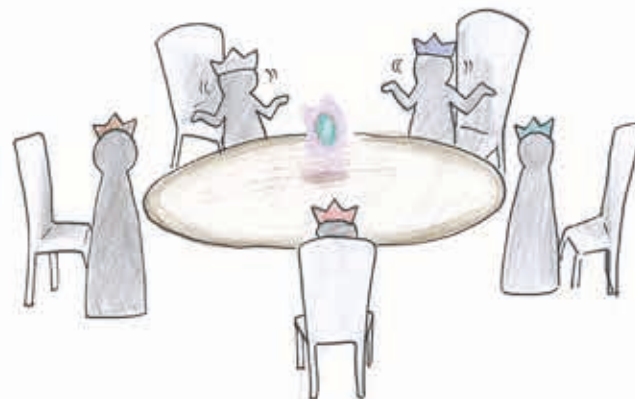
The water kingdom, who is always calm like flowing water.



The earth kingdom, who is stubborn and dirty.



And the light kingdom... they aren't very bright.



Long ago, these kingdoms discovered a magic gem of great power. But they could not agree on how to use it. So they decided to lock it away in secret. The key to the gem was given to a chosen prince once every two year.

That's how the prince of the light kingdom, Sora, came to possess it.



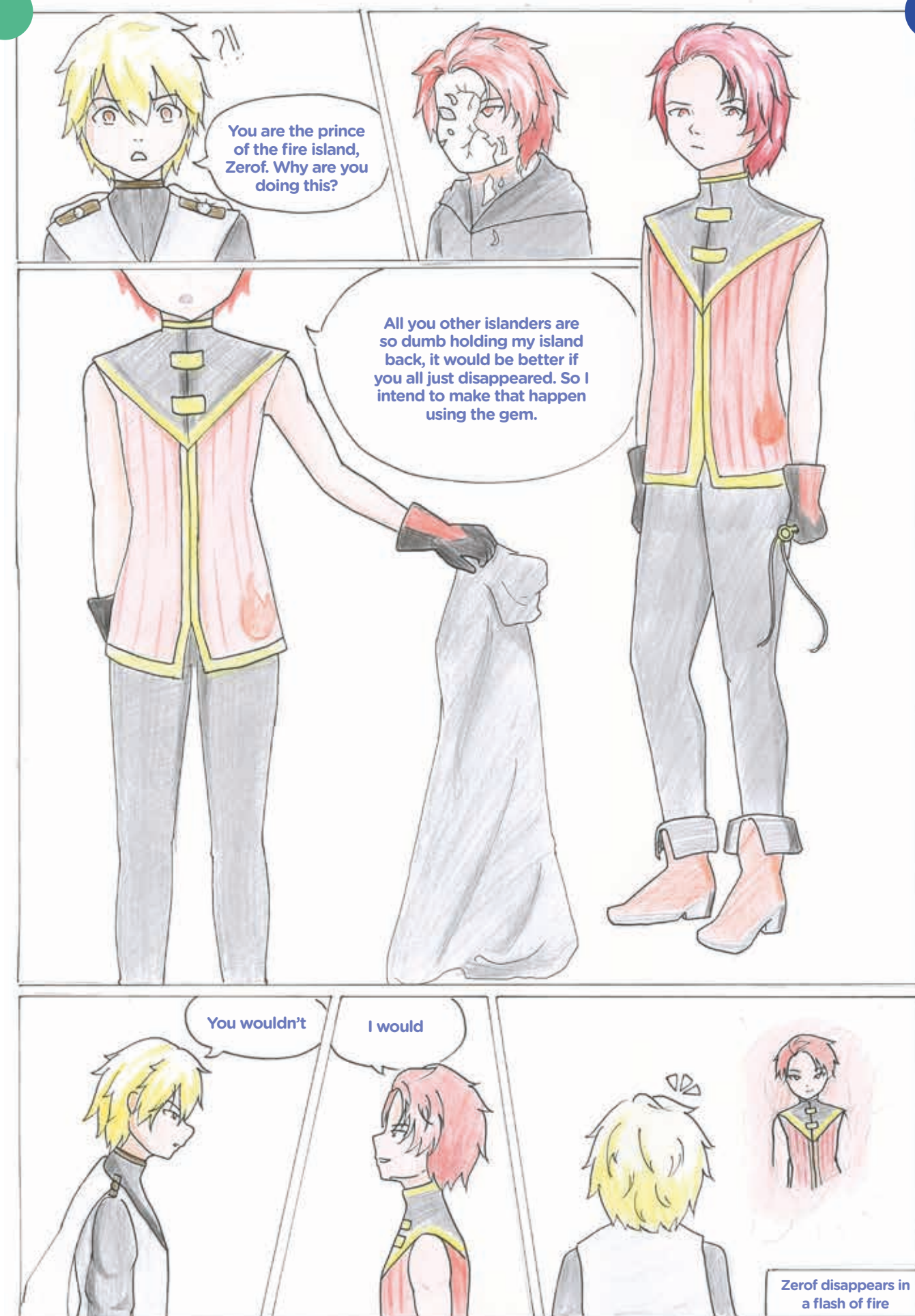
Who are you and why do you try to steal my key?

My name doesn't matter. Give me your key.

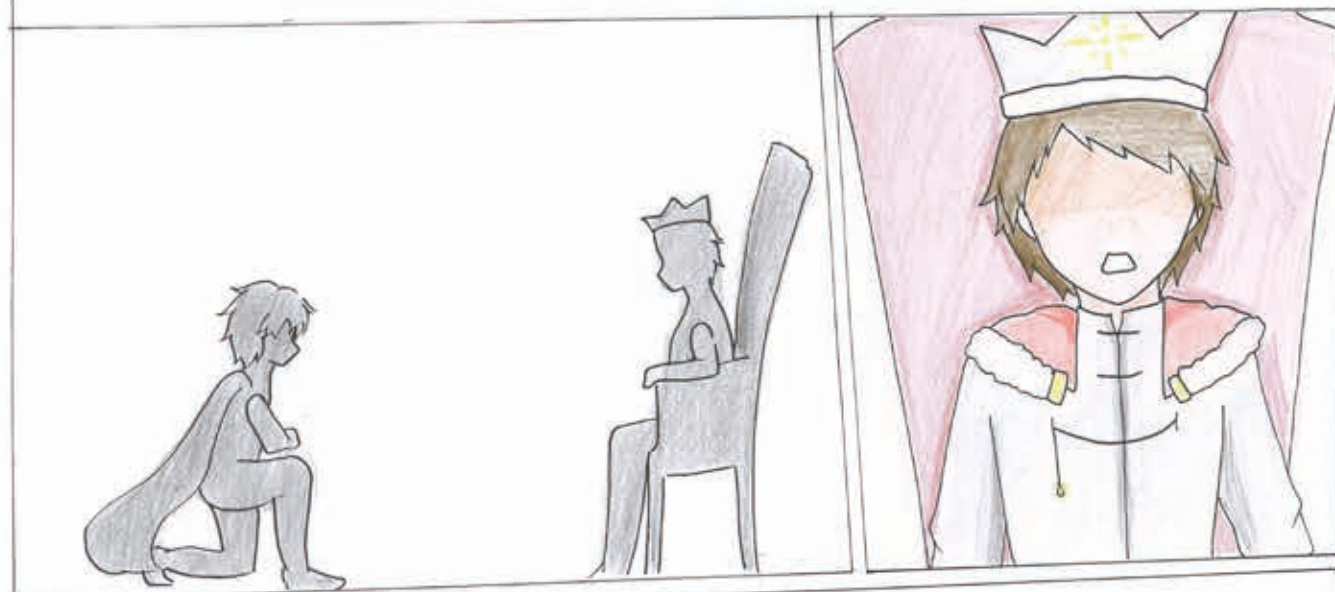
I am the guardian of this key. If you really want it fight me!

Haha. Don't push me, kid. Just give it to me.





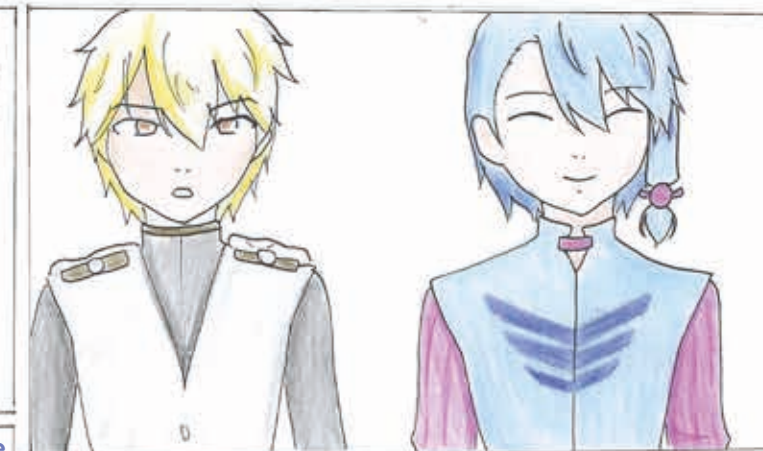
Sora rushed back to his village and explained what happened.
He is told he must gather the other island princes to stop Zerof.



So Sora sailed to the water island to gather the first prince.
When he found him. He agreed to help right away.

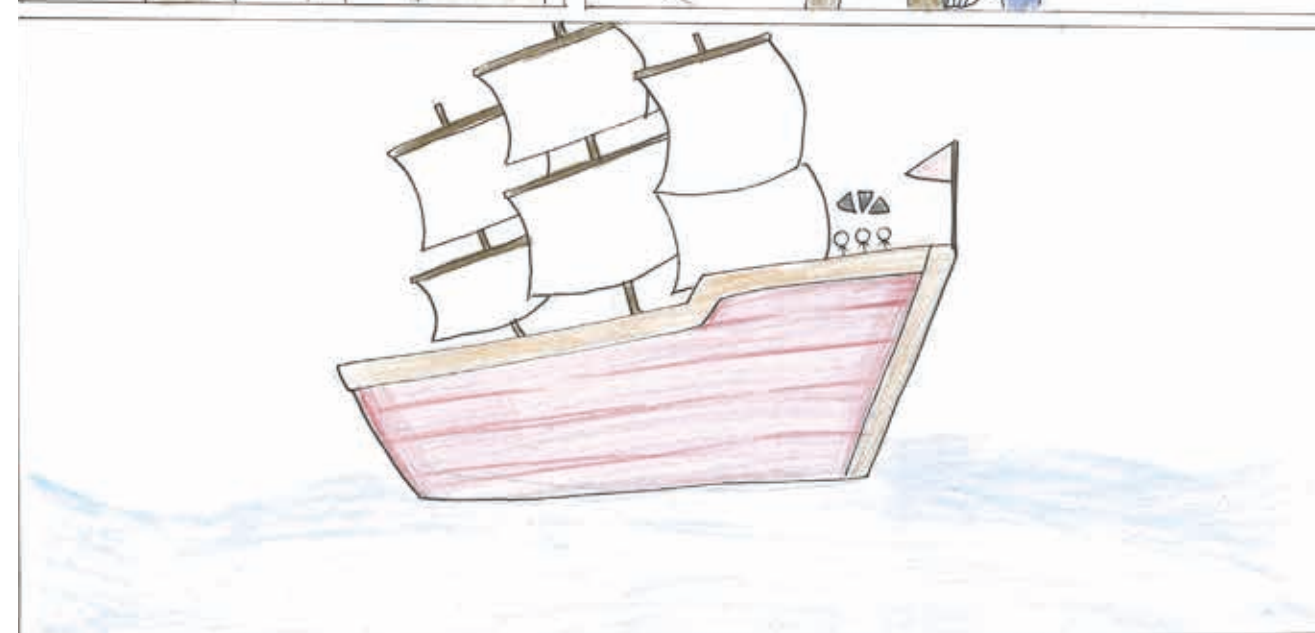


Earth Kingdom



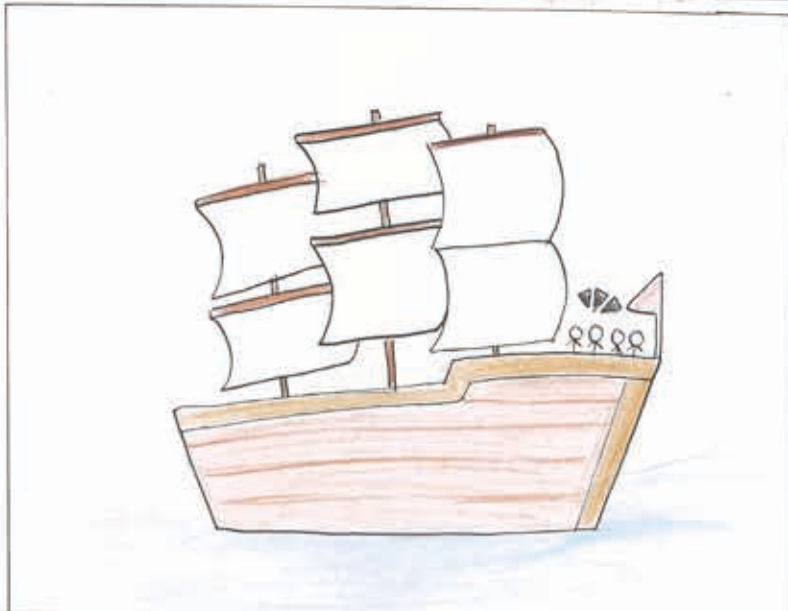
The prince of the earth kingdom

The prince of the earth kingdom was the opposite and had to be dragged kicking and screaming onto the boat.

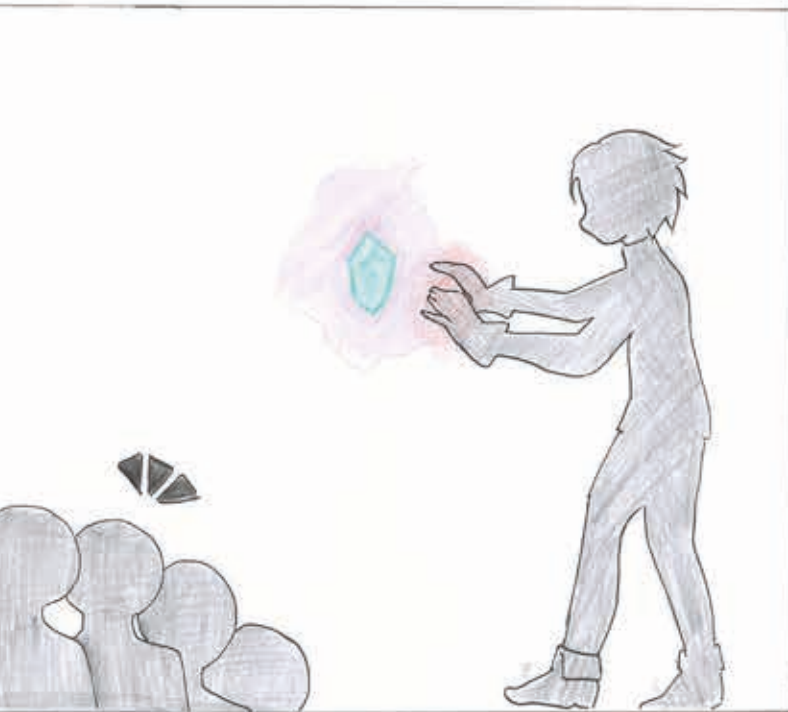
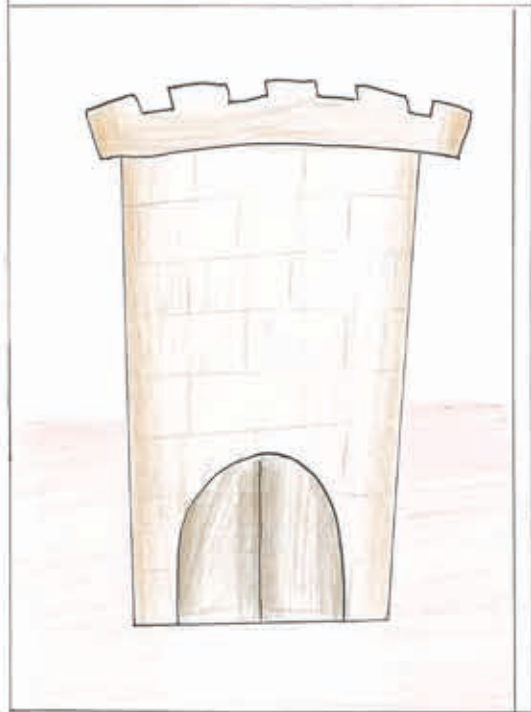




Air Kingdom



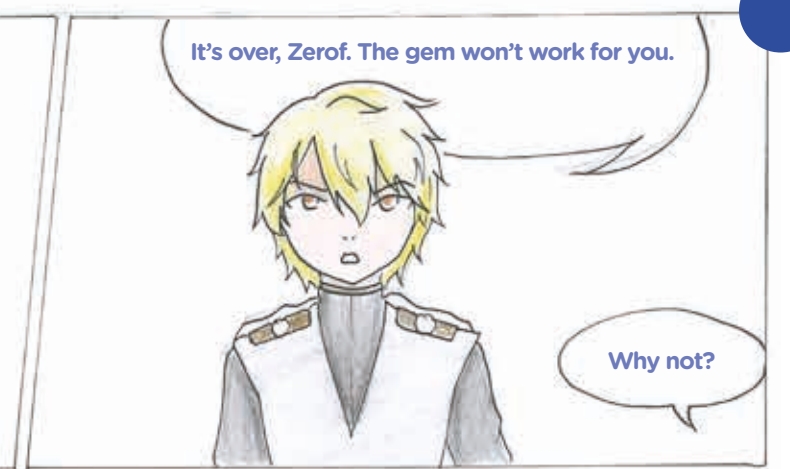
The prince of the air kingdom didn't even agree until they had arrived at their destination, Anahak island, where the gem had been sealed away.



They found Zerof on the island, shouting at the gem.



Why won't you work?!?!



It's over, Zerof. The gem won't work for you.

Why not?



Don't you realize that the gem can only work with the power of togetherness.



What?



Even though you see us as dumb and weaker than people from fire island, we are all special in our own way. No one is better than anyone else. In order to create a better world where everyone can shine, we must work together towards a solution that will make everyone happy. It won't be perfect but it will be better than one group ruling over everyone.



Zerof changes his way



None of us are as great as all of us!

About the Author



Hello! My name is Riza Biokta Putra Nugroho, people usually call me Riza. I was born in Bandung on the 6th of October 2002, and yeah I'm 16 already. I've got a lot of hobbies such as making a song or maybe rap lyrics, writing stories, and I spend most of my time playing basketball. I'm a student at senior high school of Muhammadiyah 1 Gresik, where I take science as my vocation, you can know me better if you want though!

About AMINEF

The American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF) is the binational Fulbright Commission for Indonesia. For twenty-five years AMINEF has carried forward the vision and mission of the Fulbright program in Indonesia, which in 2017 celebrated its 65th anniversary. AMINEF's many programs for educational exchange have increased mutual understanding between the United States and Indonesia and strengthened the ties that unite our two countries. Since 1950, 2,815 Indonesians and 1,120 Americans have participated in exchanges. Approximately 80 percent of the Indonesians received graduate degrees at the master's or doctoral levels from American universities. The remaining 20 percent participated in non-degree exchanges administered by AMINEF.

About the Fulbright ETA Program

The Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program, one of US State Department-funded Fulbright programs carried out in many countries throughout the world, places recent college graduates and young professionals as English teaching assistants in primary and secondary schools or universities overseas. The program helps improve foreign students' English-language abilities and knowledge of the United States while increasing the US student's own language skills and knowledge of the many host countries around the world.

In Indonesia, the Fulbright ETAs are placed in high schools (both SMA, SMK and madrasah) where they assist local English teachers. The program has now been going for 15 years and has affected many thousands of Indonesian students and their communities across the archipelago over that period. AMINEF, in charge of the Fulbright program in Indonesia since 1992, works closely with the Indonesian ministries of Education and Culture and Religious Affairs to administer the ETA program in Indonesia.

