

# FLORENCIA KIRANA WILMAN

- THE DAY COFFEE CALLED US HOME -

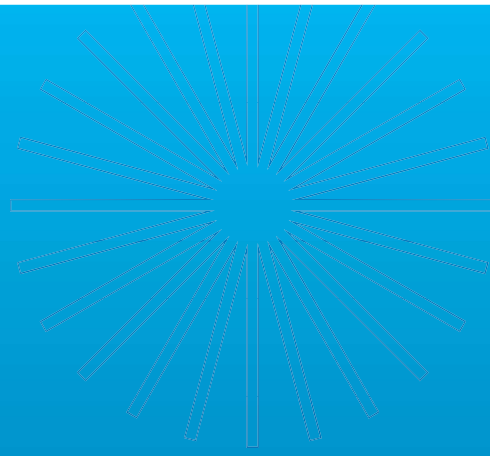
Florecia Kirana Wilman

FIRST  
WINNER

*The Day Coffee  
Called Us Home*

The 2026  
**WORDS**  
Storytelling & Storybook Competition  
**MY COMMUNITY**





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**American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF)**

Intiland Tower, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Jl. Jend. Sudirman No. 32, Jakarta 10220

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These storybooks have been lightly edited for clarity.

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# Foreword

The seventeen stories presented in this book came from a collaborative process between students and their teachers— both their home institution teacher (co-teacher) and the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) serving in their schools. At the heart of the collaborative process is the desire to foster understanding and to bridge differences. The schools where they taught were selected through a collaborative process between AMINEF, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, and the Ministry of Religious Affairs to host the ETAs. Indeed, everything about this program underlines cooperation between all parties involved.

After a long selection and preparation process, the ETAs served in Indonesia for eight months. They came from various states in the US, from New York to California, Vermont to Louisiana - some from urban areas, others more rural. Together, they represent the rich landscape of places and cultures in America. Likewise, in Indonesia, the ETAs were exposed to and experienced life in various places and cultures. They co-taught English in various areas, spreading from Padang, Jambi, Lampung, Kulon Progo, Kudus, Sidoarjo, Praya, Palangkaraya, Makassar, and Kendari.

Over the eight months the ETAs, co-teachers, and students, in essence, serve as cultural ambassadors to one another. They forged friendships beyond the classroom walls and invested their time and energy in the communities. And this year's theme for the WORDS Storybook competition is indeed "My Community".

The stories you are about to read here were written by the stars of each school. The authors won a local competition organized by the ETAs and the co-teachers. They then worked intensively on their books and on how to best narrate the stories. In April, the students, co-teachers, and ETAs were invited to Jakarta to celebrate their journey – from beginning to learn English to becoming authors and, subsequently, storytellers.

The students performed confidently in front of a panel of four prominent judges who are all Fulbrighters from Indonesia and the US: Ahmad Fuadi, an author of best-selling novels including "Negeri 5 Menara" and a prominent public speaker; Anna Grundström, a performing artist and independent researcher based in Brooklyn, New York; Azalia Muchransyah, filmmaker, scholar, and lecturer at BINUS University; and Douglas Ramage, AMINEF Board Member and founding Managing Director of Bower-GroupAsia Indonesia.

The third place went to Clarintha Glory Amungin Allokendek from SMK Raden Umar Said Kudus with "Hannah The One-Man Team" whose story reminded us of the importance of collaboration with others. Putri Permata Sari from SMK 9 Padang's story "The Pursuit of Happiness", won second place. It is a beautiful story about self-acceptance and creating a community of your own.

In first place was Florencia Kirana Wilman from SMK 6 Padang, with her story "The Day Coffee Called Us Home." Ms. Wilman presented a powerful reminder that, amid disasters and challenges, communities can work together and find solutions. Her story showed that sometimes what the community needs is one person to plow the way, helping each other, and others will follow.

The WORDS Competition is a celebration for all: the students, the ETAs, and the co-teachers. It is a celebration of a new, and hopefully lasting, connection among people. And AMINEF is proud to have been part of these connections.

**Dr. Sandra Hamid**

Executive Director, AMINEF

# About the WORDS Competition

**WORDS** is a national English-language competition that brings together one student from each Fulbright ETA host school. Launched as a speech and talent contest in 2007, it evolved into a storytelling and storybook competition in 2018.

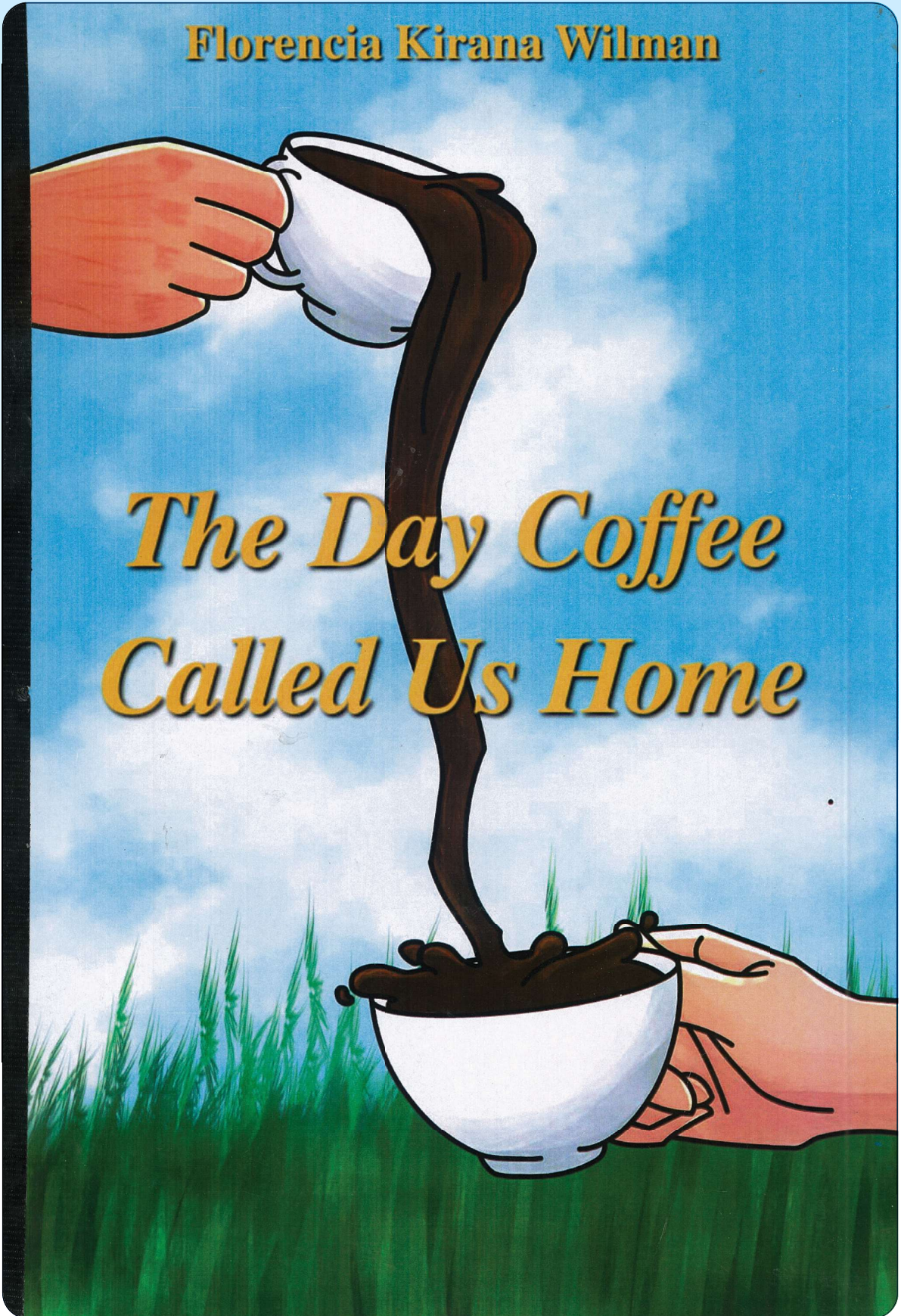
Finalists first win their school-level competition, which Fulbright ETAs organize in collaboration with the co-teachers. ETAs support students through brainstorming sessions, workshops, and performance feedback.

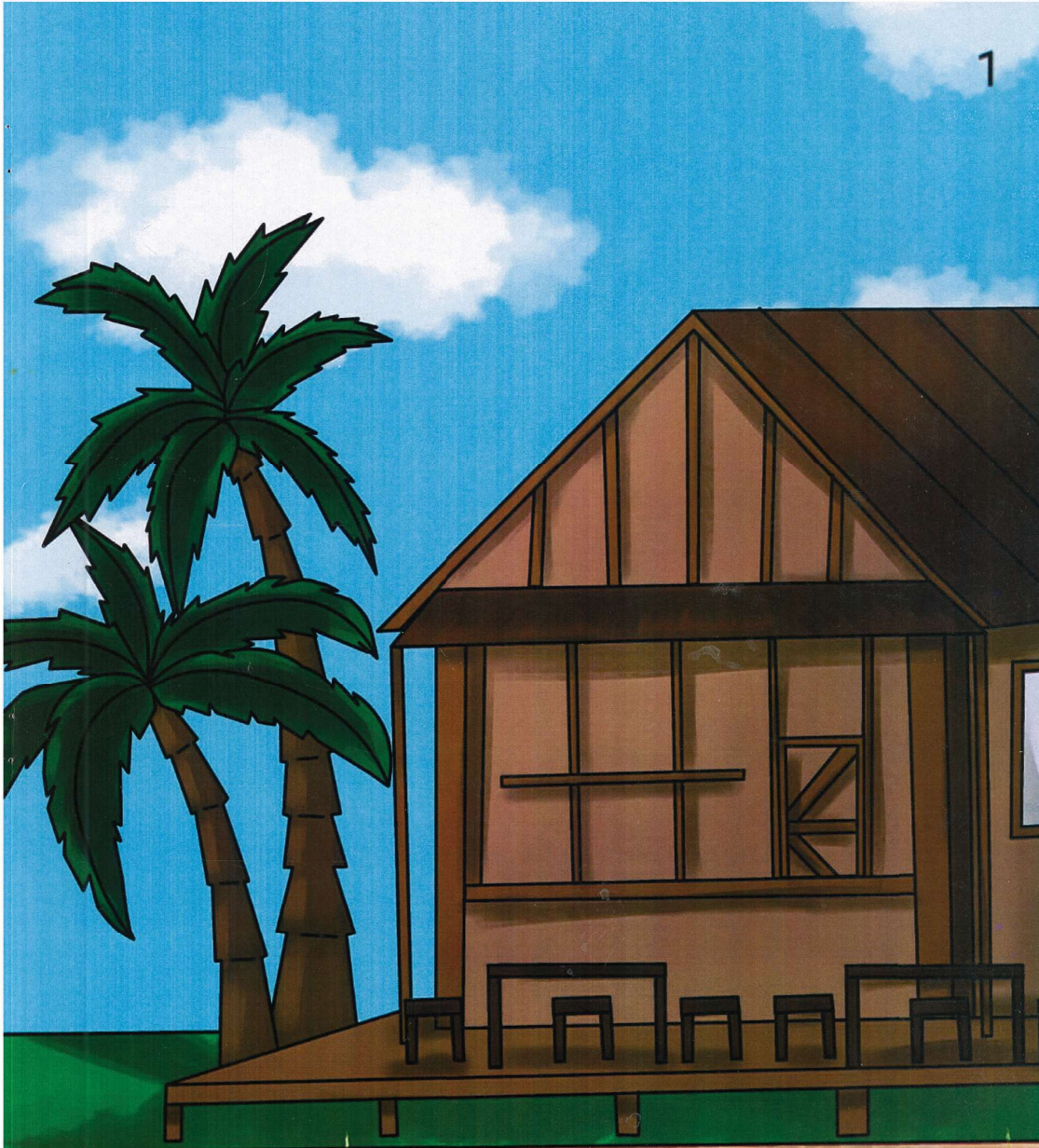
A highlight of the AMINEF year, the WORDS Competition allows 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders to showcase their storytelling skills, English proficiency, and cultural insights. In 2026, seventeen finalists will bring the theme **“My Community”** to life through their original stories.



**Florecia Kirana Wilman**

*The Day Coffee  
Called Us Home*





**In the middle of beautiful rice fields, lives my home, Kampung Guo. Every day, people crossed an old wooden bridge to school, the market, or neighbours' homes. At the bridge's edge stood Nenek Siti's tiny coffee stall, where everyone loved to stop.**



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After school, I helped Nenek there.

“Rina, pass the sugar,” she’d say with a smile.  
We’d chat while frying pisang goreng as  
villagers sat on wooden benches, sipping kopi  
tubruk.



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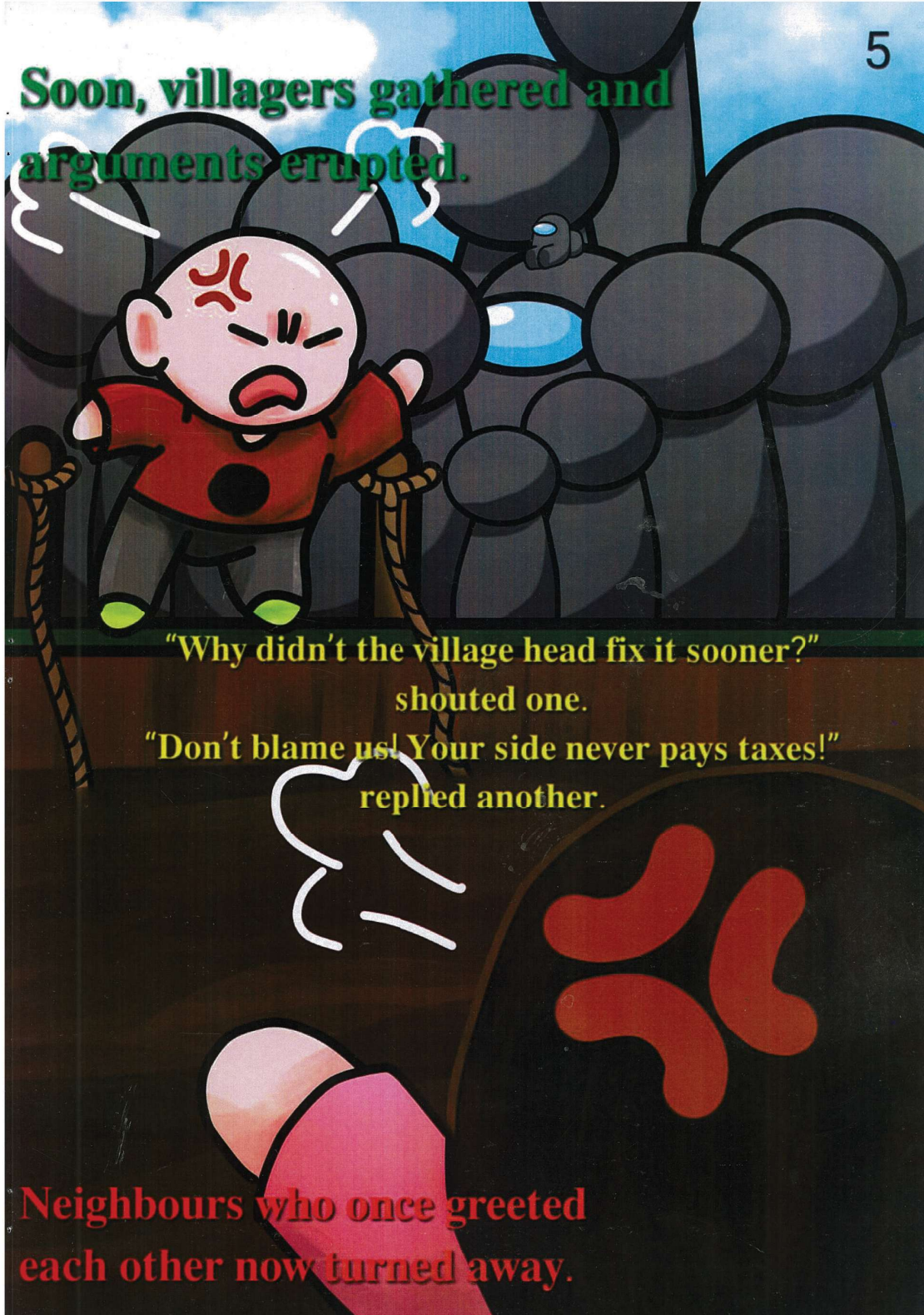
**"Morning, Nenek! One coffee, please,"  
Pak Budi would call.**

**If someone couldn't pay, Nenek waved  
it off "tomorrow, or whenever you  
can."**

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**Then came the big flood. One night the river roared, and by morning the bridge was cracked and swaying.**

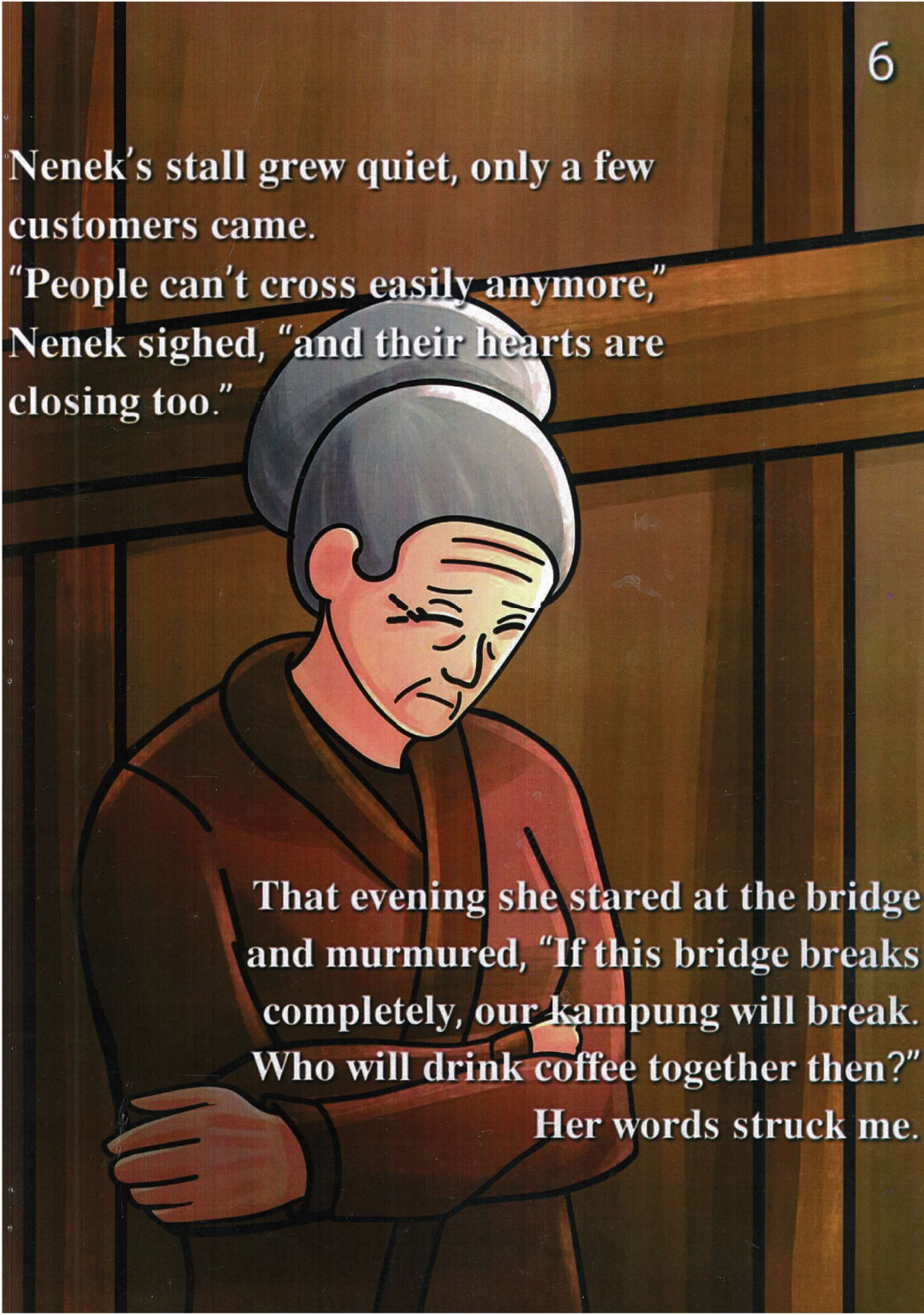
**I ran to Nenek. "It's really bad. People say it might collapse."**



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Nenek's stall grew quiet, only a few customers came.

"People can't cross easily anymore," Nenek sighed, "and their hearts are closing too."



That evening she stared at the bridge and murmured, "If this bridge breaks completely, our kampung will break. Who will drink coffee together then?" Her words struck me.

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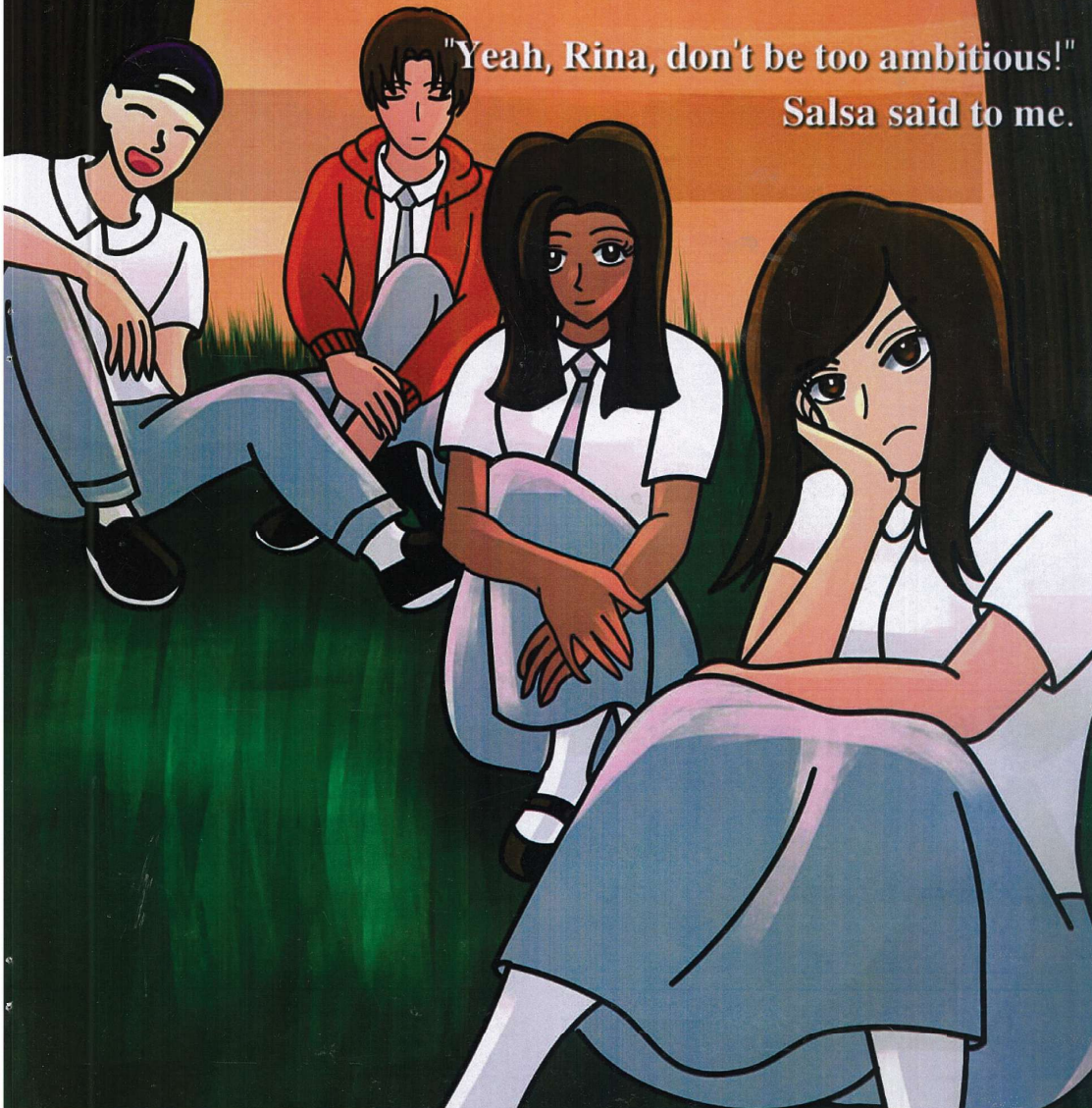
The next day at school, I gathered my friends under the tree.

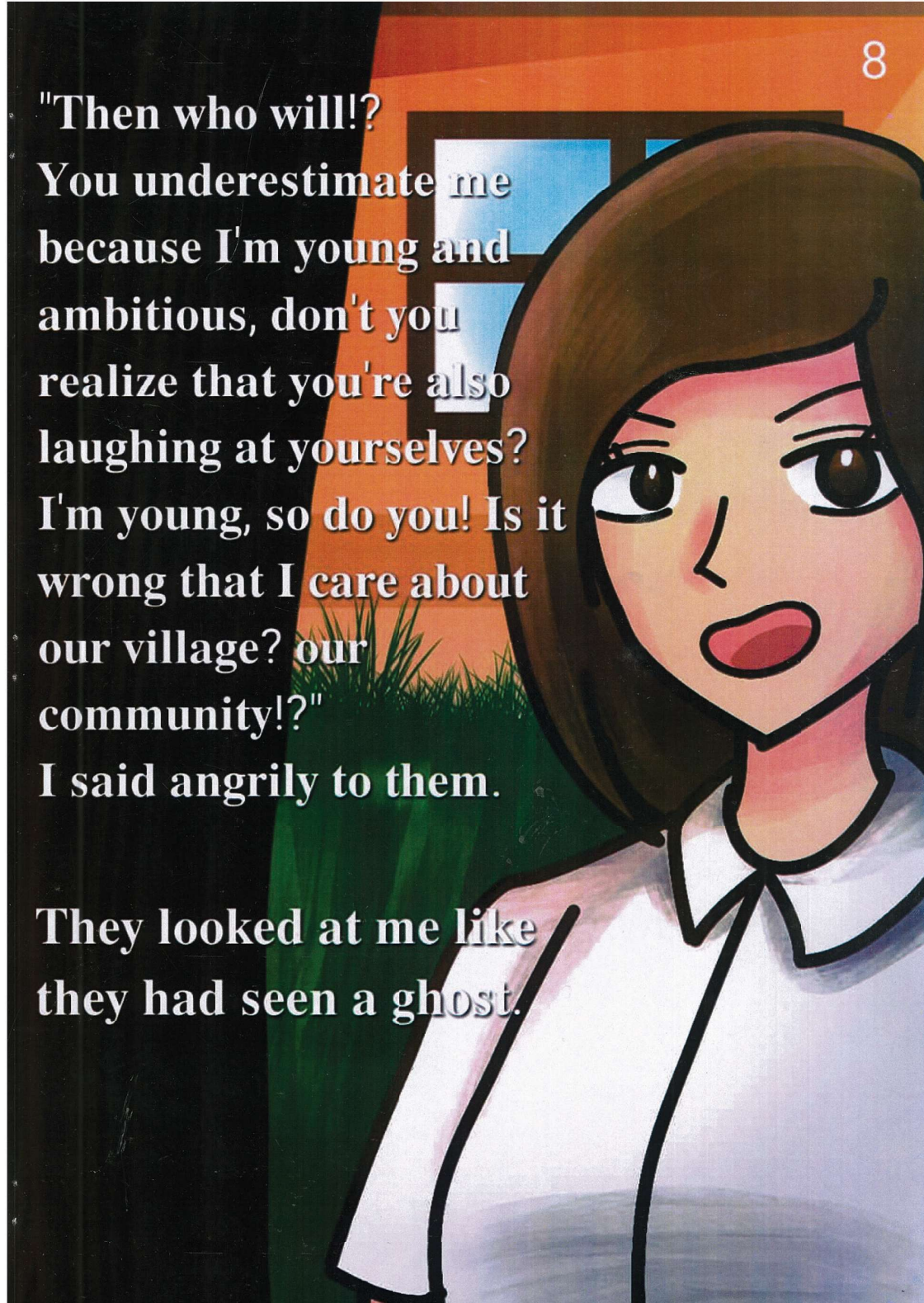
"Guys, we must do something, There's no way we're going to let this bridge just fall apart!" I said.

Rian Laughed "You're just a kid!"

"Yeah, Rina, don't be too ambitious!"

Salsa said to me.





"Then who will!?  
You underestimate me  
because I'm young and  
ambitious, don't you  
realize that you're also  
laughing at yourselves?  
I'm young, so do you! Is it  
wrong that I care about  
our village? our  
community!?"

I said angrily to them.

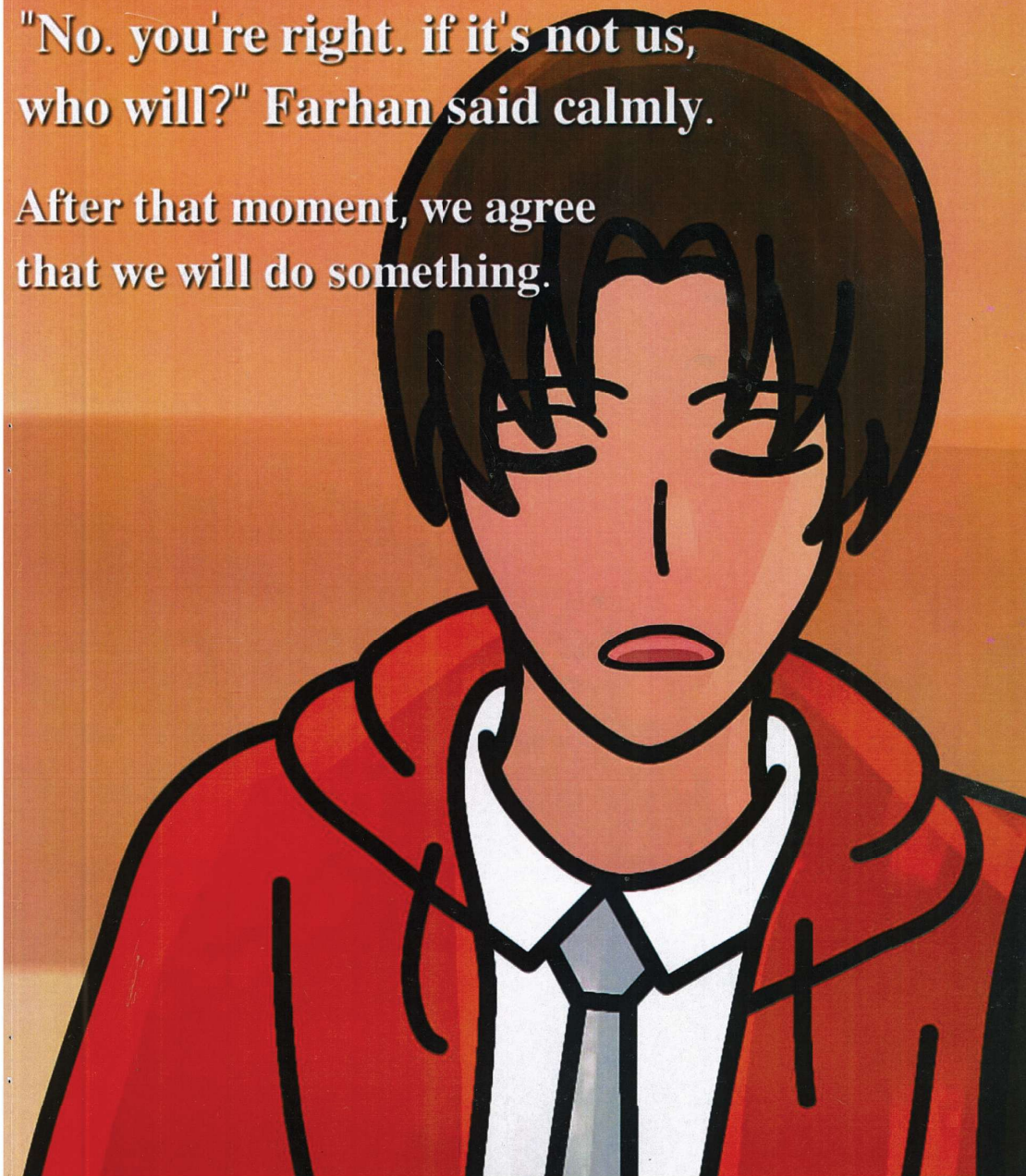
They looked at me like  
they had seen a ghost.

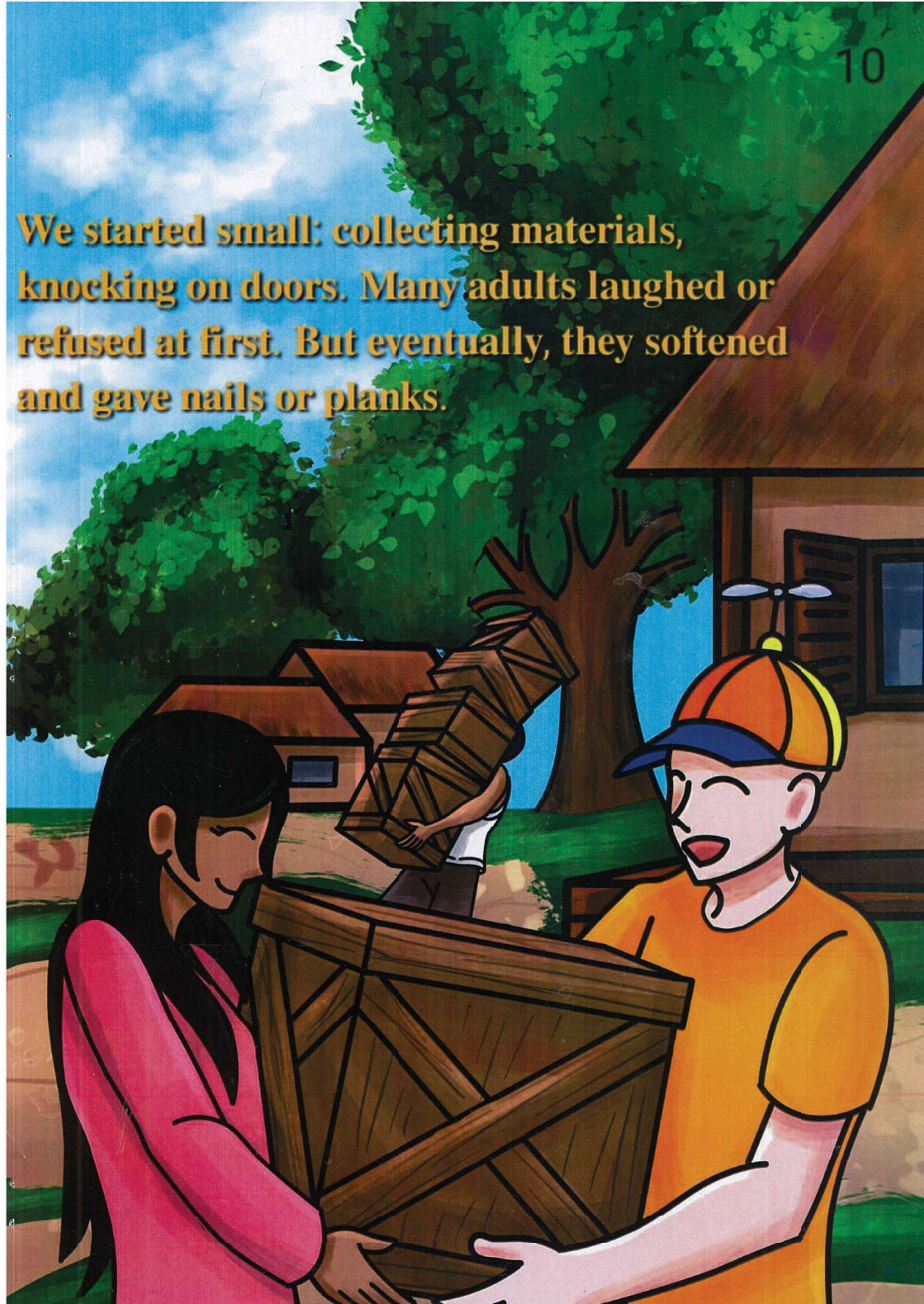
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I break the silence "Guys,  
I'm so sorry-"

"No. you're right. if it's not us,  
who will?" Farhan said calmly.

After that moment, we agree  
that we will do something.





**We started small: collecting materials, knocking on doors. Many adults laughed or refused at first. But eventually, they softened and gave nails or planks.**

Then Nenek made her move. She put up a sign:  
“Free coffee and tea for anyone who helps the  
children fix the bridge today.”

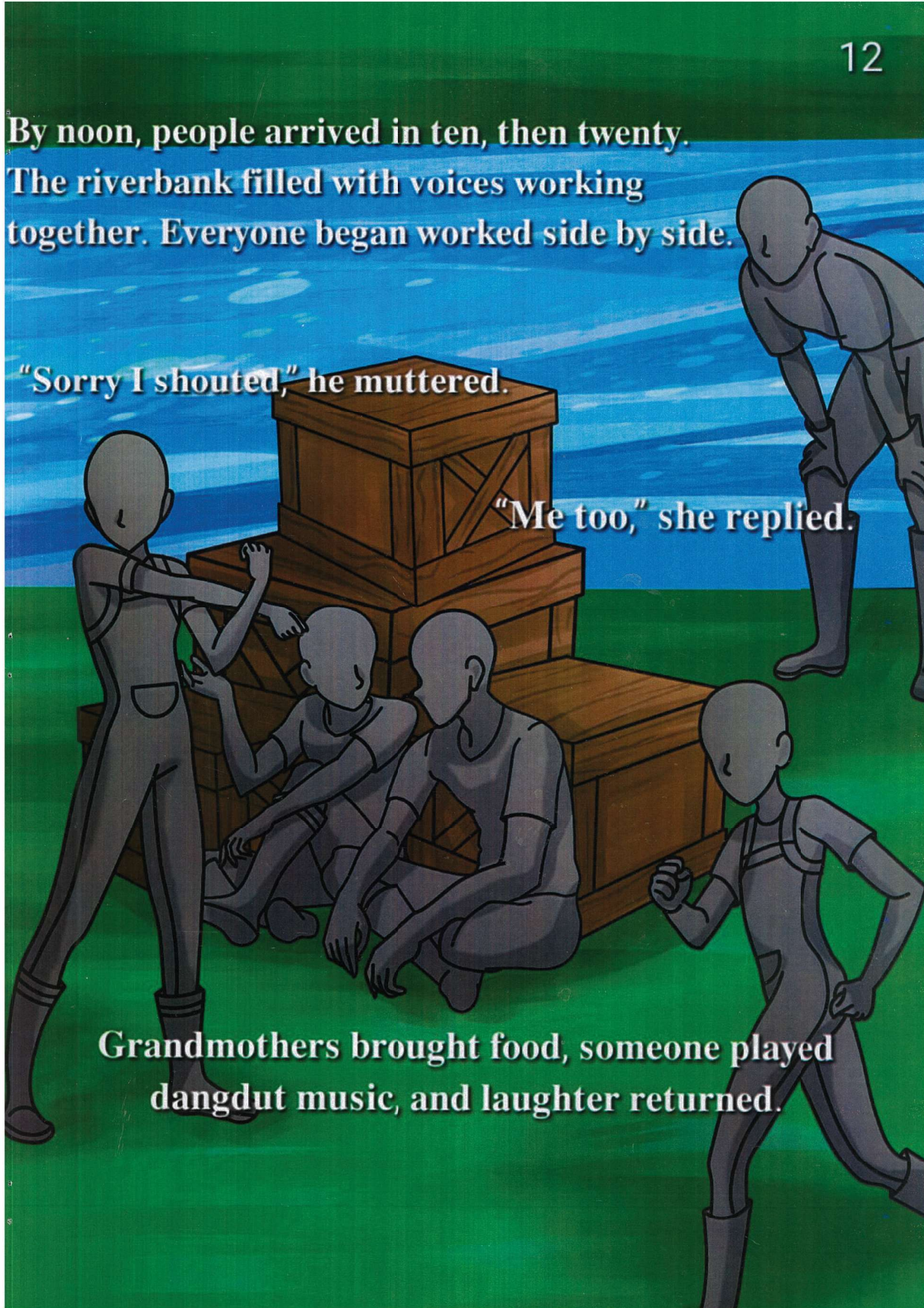


By noon, people arrived in ten, then twenty.  
The riverbank filled with voices working  
together. Everyone began worked side by side.

"Sorry I shouted," he muttered.

"Me too," she replied.

Grandmothers brought food, someone played  
dangdut music, and laughter returned.



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**We didn't build a new bridge,  
just reinforced the old one  
enough to hold.**



That night, the whole kampung gathered at Nenek's stall, tired but happy.



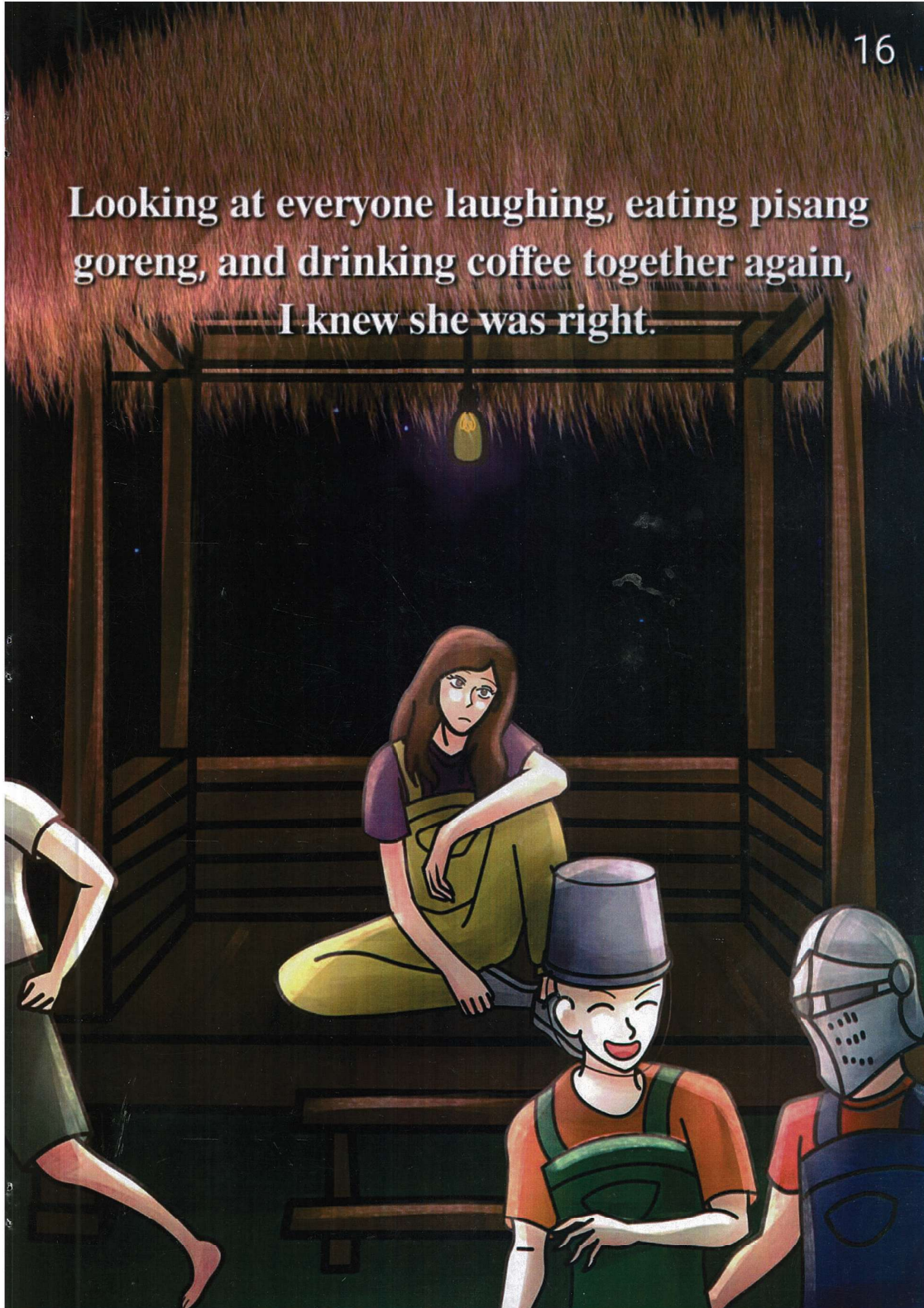
Nenek raised her cup. "Thank you, especially these children who reminded us what matters."

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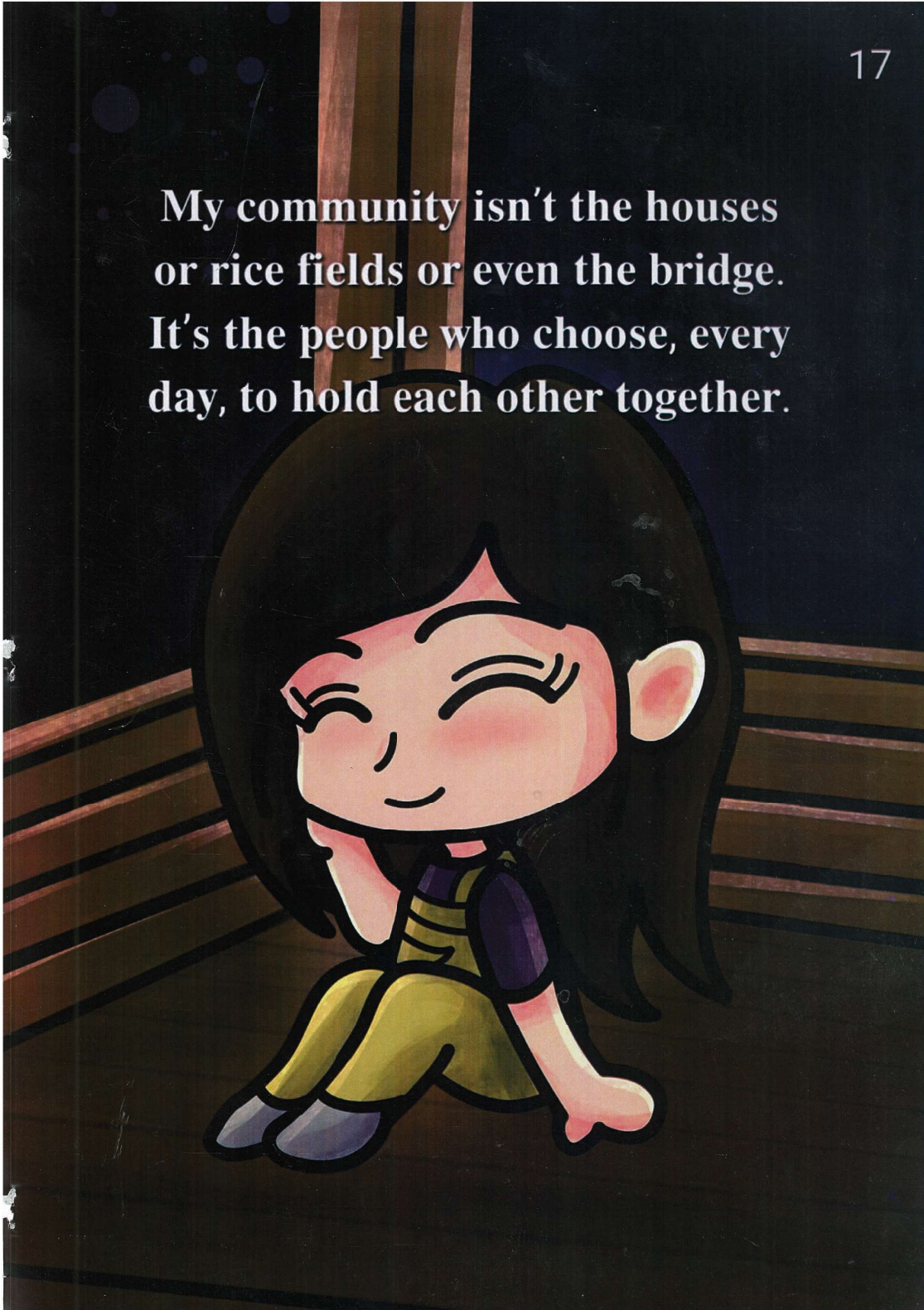
Then she whispered to me,  
"Rina, a bridge isn't just wood and nails.  
A bridge is us choosing every day to stay  
connected."



Looking at everyone laughing, eating pisang goreng, and drinking coffee together again, I knew she was right.

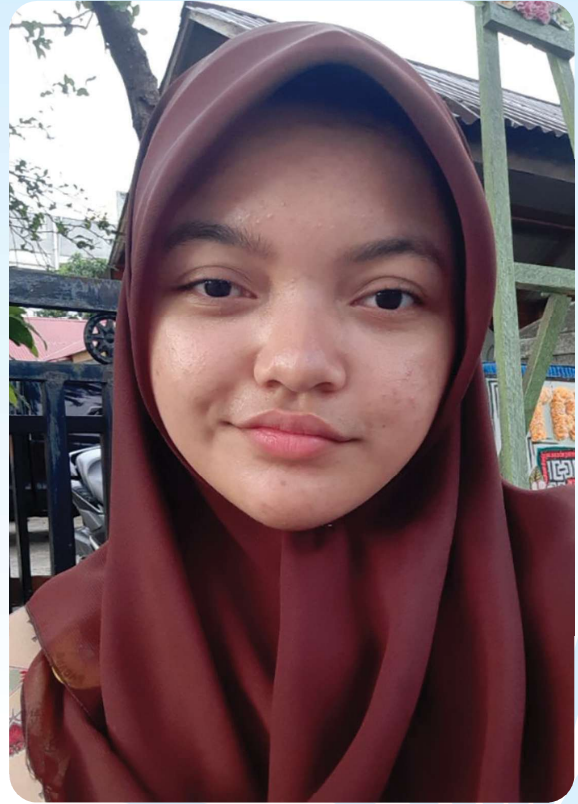


**My community isn't the houses  
or rice fields or even the bridge.  
It's the people who choose, every  
day, to hold each other together.**



# About the Author

**Floencia Kirana Wilman**  
SMKN 6 Padang



Hello! My name is Floencia Kirana Wilman, but everyone calls me Flo. I'm 16 years old. I was born in Padang, West Sumatera on November 21, 2009. I am currently in 11<sup>th</sup> grade with culinary major at SMK Negeri 6 Padang. I love listening to songs, reading comics, and collecting action figures and Pokémon cards. I also like learning new languages because I want to travel the world one day. I dream of being successful for the people around me who always support me.

# About AMINEF

**The American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF)** is the binational Fulbright Commission for Indonesia. AMINEF's many educational exchange programs have increased mutual understanding between the United States and Indonesia and strengthened the ties that unite our two countries.

Since 1952, more than 3,500 Indonesians and 1,400 Americans have participated in exchanges. Annually, 80-100 Indonesians travel to the US through Fulbright grants for degree study, teaching, research, or non-degree professional fellowships. Similarly, up to 60 Americans receive Fulbright support to contribute their expertise in teaching, research, or as Specialists, offering insights to Indonesian institutions.

For detailed information on degree scholarships and non-degree fellowships available to Indonesians and Americans, visit the AMINEF website at [www.aminef.or.id](http://www.aminef.or.id).

# About the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program and ETA in Indonesia

**The Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program**, one of the US State Department-funded Fulbright programs in many countries worldwide, places recent college graduates and young professionals as English teaching assistants in primary and secondary schools or universities overseas.

The program helps improve international students' English-language abilities and knowledge of the US while increasing the US student's language skills and knowledge of the many host countries worldwide.

In Indonesia, the Fulbright ETAs are placed in high schools (SMA, SMK, and Madrasah) that assist local English teachers. The program has been running for over two decades, since 2004, affecting thousands of Indonesian students and their communities across the archipelago. AMINEF works closely with the Indonesian Ministries of Primary and Secondary Education and Religious Affairs to administer the Fulbright ETA program in Indonesia.



**AMINEF**  
American Indonesian  
Exchange Foundation



**FULBRIGHT**  
Indonesia

**AMINEF**  
Intiland Tower, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Jl. Jend. Sudirman Kav. 32  
Jakarta 10220

T. +62 21 5793 9085/86  
F. +62 21 5793 9089

**[www.aminef.or.id](http://www.aminef.or.id)**

 AMINEF/Fulbright Indonesia  
 fulbrightindonesia  
 @FulbrightID

 AMINEFFulbrightIndonesia  
 aminef\_fulbrightindonesia  
 infofulbright\_ind@aminef.or.id