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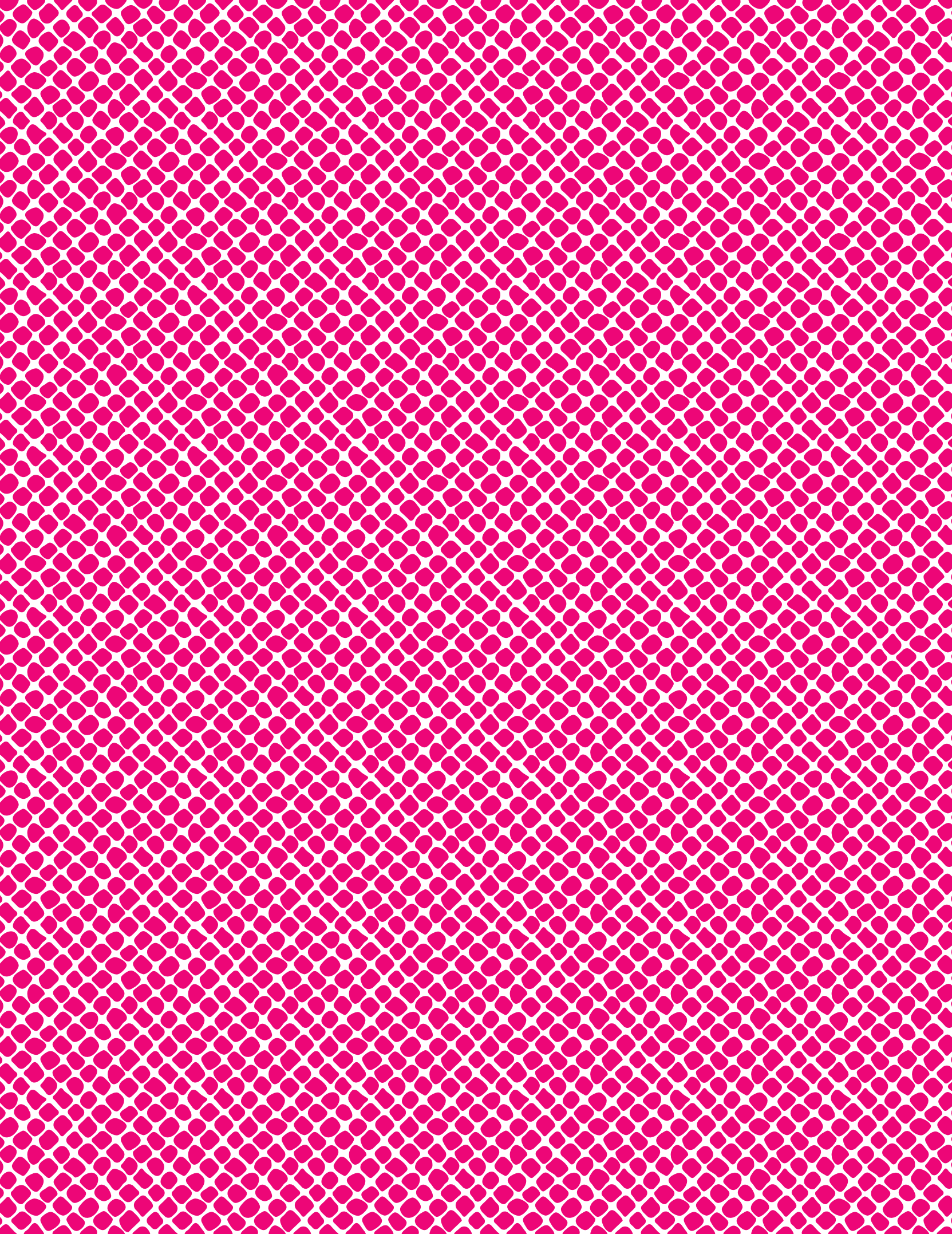
OPERATION UNICORN
A mythical being in disguise!



BALOO'S BATH DAY
Mowgli bathes a big bear!

THE GRIFFIN

The Great William Tell, a Girl Who is Magic
at Maths and a **TIGER WITH NO MANNERS!**



STORIES FULL OF CLEVER CHARACTERS AND COOL TRICKS!

Check out the fantastic adventures
of a smart smith, a girl genius,
a wise monk and a clever farmboy!
THIS ISSUE BELONGS TO:

SPOT IT!

"Don't worry, you
silly bear – I will
get you clean!"

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Creative Director: Lulu Skantze

Editor: Sven Wilson

Commercial Director: Leslie Coathup



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ILLUSTRATORS:

Luján Fernández *Operation Unicorn*

Giorgia Broseghini *Baloo's Bath Day*

Caio Bucarety *William Tell*

Flavia Sorrentino *The Enchantress of Number*

Ekaterina Savic *The Griffin*

William Luong *The Unmannerly Tiger*

L Schlissel *The Magic Mouthful*

Nicolas Maia *The Blacksmith*

and the Iron Man

With stories from Portugal,
Switzerland, Korea and Uganda!

READ HAPPILY EVER AFTER...

THIS MAGAZINE
IS MAGICAL!

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Hit the target
like William Tell!

SEE
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OPERATION UNICORN

“MUM! I’m home!” Matilda yelled as she ran through the front door of the house.

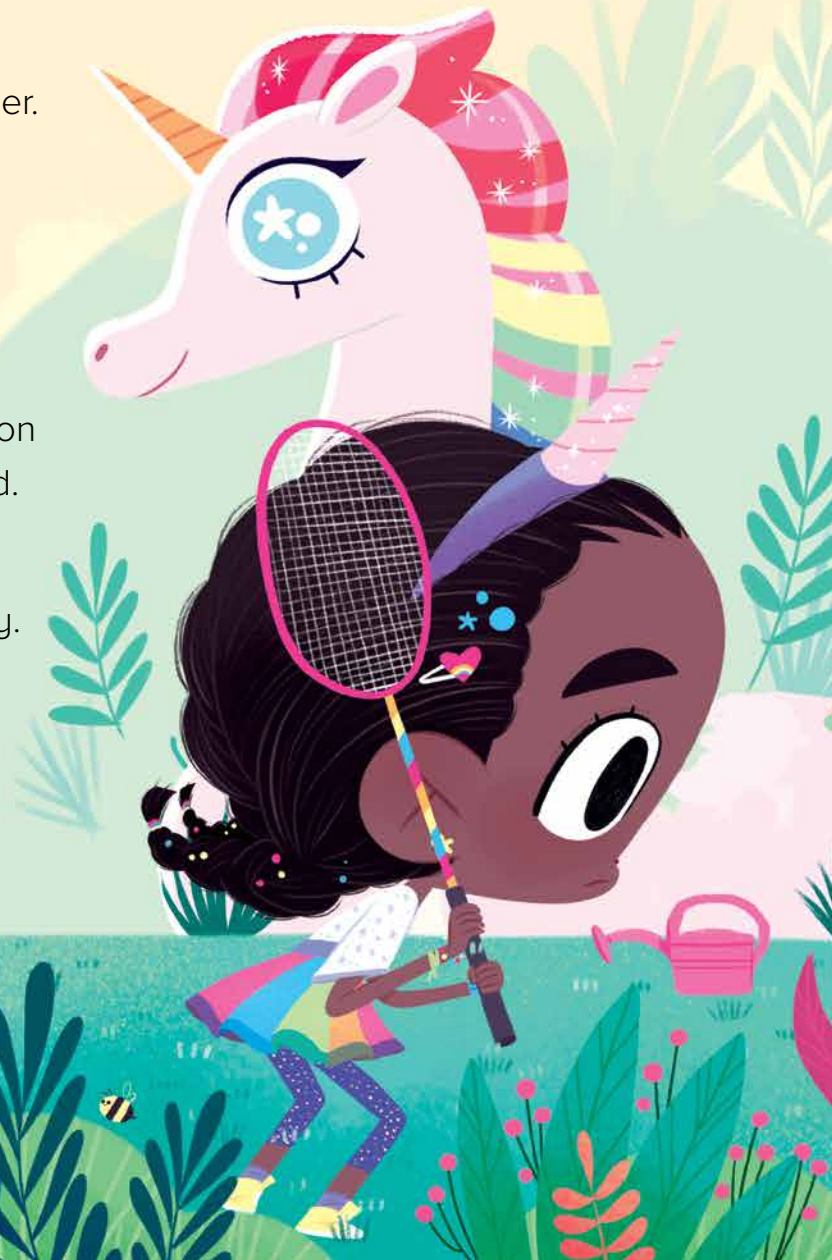
She charged down the hallway, leaving her coat, shoes and schoolbag behind her.

Mum’s voice came out of the kitchen. “Hope you had a good day at school, honey! And PICK UP YOUR THINGS!”

Matilda scooped up her belongings, stomped up to her room, threw her stuff on the chair, and belly-flopped onto the bed. It was covered in a unicorn bedspread.

It went with her stuffed unicorn, Mr. Hoofy. It also matched the rainbow-coloured poster on the wall, the UniMajik figures, and the unicorn stickers on her desk.

It was safe to say that Matilda liked unicorns a LOT.



She went over to the window and stared out into the garden. It was a bit of a mess, and at the far end there were lots of bushes that were slowly turning into trees.

Oh, and there was also a paddling pool, which had been bought for Matilda's birthday party. Next to it was a giant inflatable unicorn pool ring. Matilda had found it online and insisted that Mum order it, too. The pool ring turned out to be even bigger than the paddling pool!

It was already getting dark, but Matilda thought she saw a pale shape move out of the bushes at the end of the garden and sniff the inflatable unicorn – it looked like another unicorn!

She blinked and looked again... but the pale shape was gone.

Matilda was sure she must have been imagining things, but she decided to investigate anyway. She took her badminton racket and went out into the garden. Mum saw her going outside and smiled. "Badminton practice, sweetie?"

Out in the garden, Matilda sneaked from the lawnmower to the other lawnmower to the concrete birdbath. When she got to the sheltered grassy bit by the back fence, she saw it.

It was smaller than she had expected – the size of a very big dog rather than a horse, but slender and graceful. Its coat was pearly grey dappled with pure white, but it was spattered with mud, and its long shaggy mane hung over its eyes. And there was a shiny horn growing from the middle of its forehead! ➡



The unicorn seemed just as surprised as Matilda was. It looked as if it was going to leap away at any moment!

Matilda very slowly put down her badminton racket and spoke in a slow, soft voice.

“I’m very sorry to have scared you, Mr. Unicorn! But how did you end up in my garden?”

The unicorn’s big violet eyes narrowed, and it spoke in a whinnying voice that sounded a bit upset.

“It’s Miss Unicorn, if you please – and I ended up in this ‘garden’ quite by accident!”

The unicorn stared at Matilda, and the look on her face softened a bit.

“I’m sorry for snapping at you! I’ve had a difficult day. You seem to be a girl of good heart – we unicorns have a nose for that sort of thing. And you can call me Cassiopeia.”

The unicorn continued, “We unicorns come from a land called the Worldpool Meadows. In that land, the grass is always green, the sun is always warm, and there are many dozens of ponds, which are gateways to other worlds!”

The unicorn shook her head sadly. “Unfortunately, I slipped into one of these pools and came out in a pond near here. Two dogs ran out of the bushes and started chasing me. Then I got to a busy road with many noisy machines, and there were all these buildings and... well, I found myself in

SPOT IT!

Can you find the 5 toys hiding in these scenes?



this garden! I saw your unicorn-thing, and it seemed to be a good sign!”

Matilda was struck with wonder at the unicorn’s tale.

“If we can find the pond, can you get home safely?” she asked.

The unicorn whinnied and nodded. “I am sure I can, but I don’t remember where it was! The pond was kidney-shaped, there was a great oak tree, and a place where many roads joined with bright many-coloured lights...”

“That’s the duck pond in the park!” said Matilda. “I think I can get you back there tomorrow.”

Matilda went into the house to get her old woollen blanket, a bag of rolled oats and some apples, and then sneaked them out to her new friend. Cassiopeia happily munched on the apples and oats, and Matilda then covered her with the blanket.



The next day, when she got back from school, Matilda went to the end of the garden to meet Cassiopeia, who nuzzled her in a friendly way.

“Here’s the plan to get you home!” said Matilda. “I’m going to ask Mum to take me to the pond, and you should follow us as sneakily as you can!” ➡





Matilda then put her hand in her pocket. “I’ve also got something special that will stop you being seen – spies wear them all the time on TV!”

With that, Matilda took out a pair of sunglasses and put them on Cassiopeia’s long face. The unicorn crossed her eyes trying to look at the glasses, and decided that she liked her cool new accessory!



“Mum! Can we go to that pond in the park? I need to find some bugs for my ecology project!”

She took some persuading, but Mum finally agreed to take Matilda for a walk in the park.

They set off down the street, and when Matilda peeked behind, she saw Cassiopeia quietly leap the fence and follow them, ducking behind cars and hiding behind hedges in her sunglasses.

Cassiopeia was good at this – she managed to keep behind them, and even sneaked across the main road when nobody was looking. She was like a pale, silent ghost!

When they got to the park and the pond, Matilda relaxed a bit. She sketched and counted tadpoles, frogs and dragonflies while her mum sat on a bench and read a big thick novel.

When Matilda's mum was busy reading, Cassiopeia came out of the trees, looked at Matilda over her glasses, and whinnied quietly. She then silently slipped into the pond and disappeared.

The next day after school, Matilda felt a bit sad. She moped about in the garden and slumped down beside the old concrete birdbath – life seemed a bit empty now that her magical unicorn friend was gone!

However, she saw something silvery in the water of the birdbath. Instead of the sky, the reflection in the water showed the face of Cassiopeia! Matilda grinned as her unicorn whinnied and shook her mane. ★

COLOUR IT!

Colour in your own magical unicorn friend by downloading the picture from storytimemagazine.com/free. Tag and share your creations with us!



short stories, Big Dreams

BALOO'S BATH DAY

It was a summer's day in the jungle, and Mowgli was up early. His friend Baloo had asked him to come to the great cliffs because he had a special surprise to share!

As Mowgli got close to the cliffs, he heard a loud noise. A crashing and a bashing and a yowling, mixed with a very strange buzzing sound!

Suddenly, a great big shape burst out of the bushes ahead of him. It was hairy and sticky and leafy and seemed to be surrounded by a cloud of... bees?

Mowgli realised that this monster was actually his friend Baloo – but he was covered in leaves, bees, and yellow sticky stuff.

“Baloo! What happened to you?!” shouted Mowgli.

Baloo yowled and cried out, “Man-cub! Is that you? I found a tasty honeycomb that I wanted to share with you... But when I tried to grab it, I got covered in honey, and the bees who made it tried to sting me!”

Luckily Baloo’s thick fur stopped him from getting badly stung, but he was still sore and upset.

Mowgli thought quickly. “Follow me, big bear!” he shouted, and sprinted downhill towards the river. Baloo ran after him, and they dived into the cool fast-moving water together.

Mowgli could hear a roaring sound ahead, and the current got stronger. Before the two knew what was happening, they were washed over a waterfall – into a deep pool beneath.

The two came to the surface, coughing and spluttering, and when they saw each other they burst out laughing.

“I’m sorry you didn’t get to taste a honey breakfast!” said Baloo. “And my fur is all matted with honey and mud and leaves!”

Mowgli swam over to Baloo and climbed onto the bear’s wide back.

“Don’t worry, you silly bear – I will get you clean!”

Mowgli used a leafy branch to scrub and comb out Baloo’s sticky fur, and rubbed him down with sweet-smelling flowers. When bathtime was done, they played in the water together. Both agreed that swimming with a friend was even better than a honey breakfast! ★



WILLIAM TELL

Hundreds of years ago, in the country of Switzerland, there lived a brave man named William Tell.

He came from Uri, high up in the mountains called the Swiss Alps. The farmers of Uri were famous for being tough and strong, and William Tell was said to be the toughest and strongest of them all!

He could climb a mountain without fear, sail a boat through the fiercest storm, and plough the stoniest field, but he was best known for his skill with a crossbow.



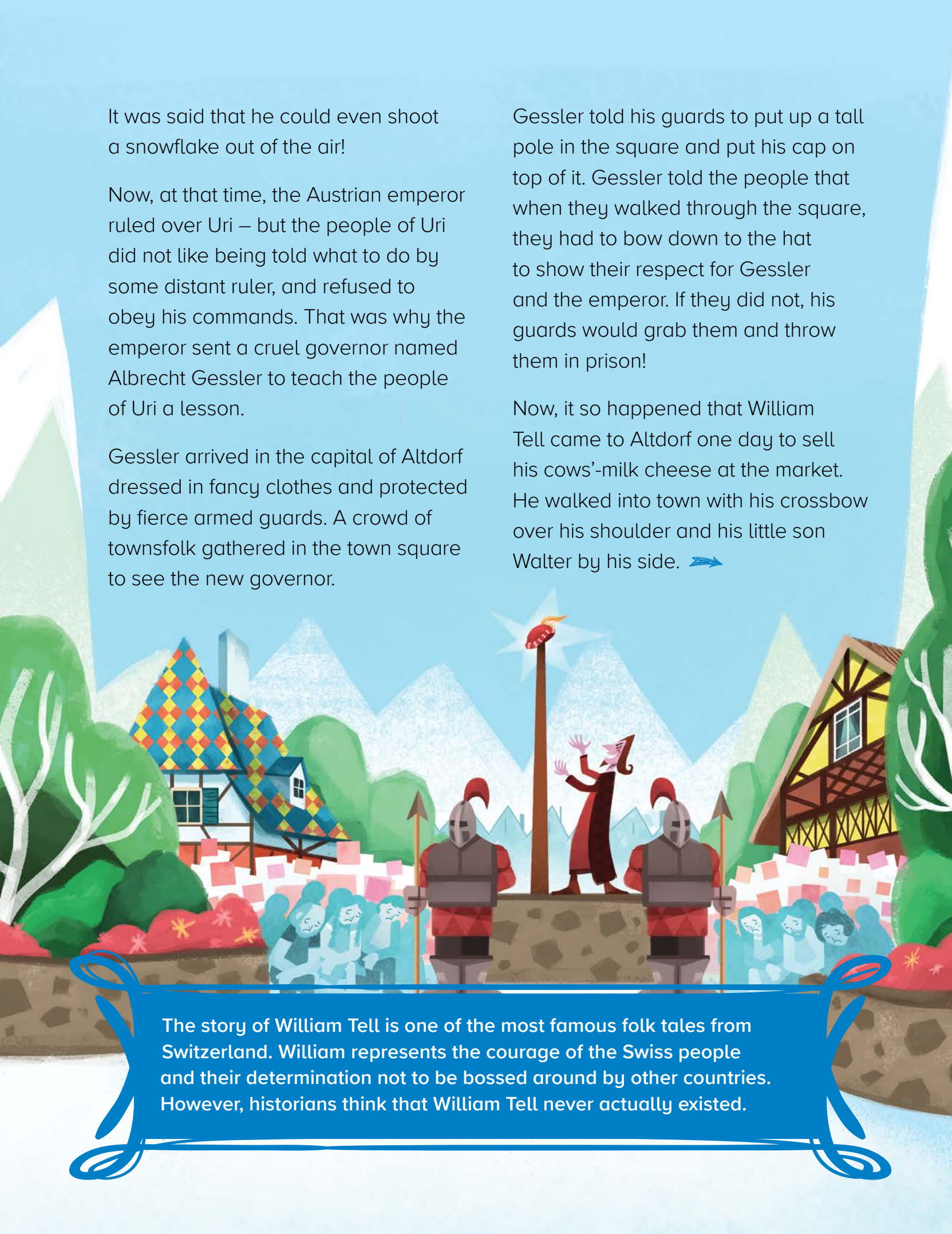
It was said that he could even shoot a snowflake out of the air!

Now, at that time, the Austrian emperor ruled over Uri – but the people of Uri did not like being told what to do by some distant ruler, and refused to obey his commands. That was why the emperor sent a cruel governor named Albrecht Gessler to teach the people of Uri a lesson.

Gessler arrived in the capital of Altdorf dressed in fancy clothes and protected by fierce armed guards. A crowd of townsfolk gathered in the town square to see the new governor.

Gessler told his guards to put up a tall pole in the square and put his cap on top of it. Gessler told the people that when they walked through the square, they had to bow down to the hat to show their respect for Gessler and the emperor. If they did not, his guards would grab them and throw them in prison!

Now, it so happened that William Tell came to Altdorf one day to sell his cows'-milk cheese at the market. He walked into town with his crossbow over his shoulder and his little son Walter by his side. ➡



The story of William Tell is one of the most famous folk tales from Switzerland. William represents the courage of the Swiss people and their determination not to be bossed around by other countries. However, historians think that William Tell never actually existed.

William Tell saw the governor's hat on the pole in the town square, but he was too proud to bow to the hat of the foreign governor and walked past with his head held high.



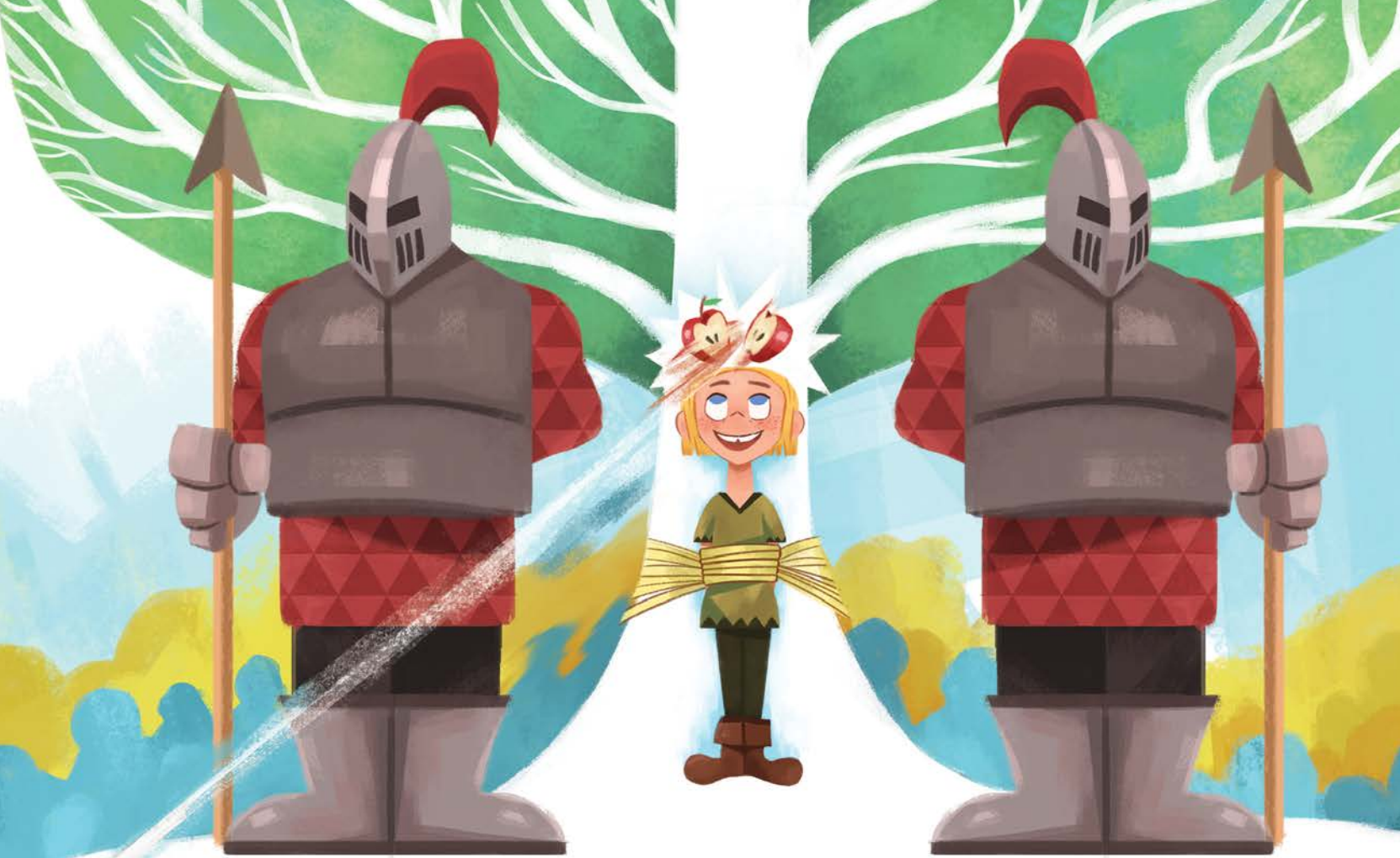
Gessler's guards surrounded William and Walter and pointed their weapons at them, while Gessler himself came down to see the bold farmer who refused to bow to his hat. A crowd of citizens gathered to see what would happen next...

"So you refuse to show respect to the emperor?" sneered Gessler. "I should throw you and your son in prison!"

Gessler then smiled evilly. "But I have a better idea! Everyone says you are the best bowman in Uri. If you can shoot an apple in half from fifty paces, I will set you and your son free!"

William Tell agreed to this challenge – but he was upset when Gessler told his guards to grab Walter and tie him to a tree on the far side of the square!





Gessler then took an apple and put it on Walter's head with a wicked grin.

William Tell was furious and struggled against the guards, but Walter called out to him.

"Father, don't worry, I am not afraid – I know you are the best bowman in Uri!"

On hearing this, William Tell calmed down. He pulled out his crossbow and two of the heavy bolts that it shot. He loaded one in his crossbow and put the other in his belt.

He carefully took aim at the apple and saw how calm Walter looked. The crowd watching in the square held its breath.

When he shot the crossbow, the bolt flew through the air and hit the apple dead-centre, splitting it in two.

Everybody in the square was silent, and then the guards untied Walter from the tree. Gessler did not look so pleased with himself anymore. He asked William Tell, "Why did you take out two bolts instead of one?"

William Tell growled, "If anything had happened to my son – the second bolt was for you!"

Gessler was furious! Breaking his promise, he ordered his guards to tie up William Tell, but little Walter managed to escape into the crowd. ➡

Gessler commanded that William Tell be sent to the grim dungeons of Küssnacht Castle on the far side of Lake Lucerne.

However, when the guards were taking him across the lake, a mighty storm struck. The guards were scared that their boat would sink and they would all drown.

William Tell told them, “Undo my chains and I will get us safely to shore!” The guards released him, and William Tell rowed them through the storm to safety.

When they reached a great stone slab on the shore, William Tell pushed the guards aside and leapt ashore. Before they could pick themselves up, he had disappeared into the mountains!

Gessler sent guards to hunt for William Tell, but they never found him. Stories of how he had humiliated the Austrian governor inspired the people of Uri and their neighbours in Schwyz and Unterwalden to rebel against the Austrians, and made him a legendary hero among the people of the Alps.

William Tell then joined the revolution that freed his homeland from Austrian rule and led to the creation of the nation we call Switzerland! ★



THE ENCHANTRESS OF NUMBER

About two hundred years ago, in England, there lived a girl named Ada. She had pale skin, dark curly hair and an incredible imagination!

Ada's childhood was like something out of a fairy tale. Her father George was handsome, famous, rich and talented. If he had been born today, George might have been a pop star – but pop music hadn't been invented yet, so he became a poet.

When George's wife Anabelle became pregnant, he declared that he wanted the child to be "a glorious boy", but it wasn't – it was a girl! When he heard this news, George left his young family and never saw his daughter again.

The baby girl was named Ada, and her childhood was quite lonely. Anabelle couldn't take care of her and sent Ada to live with her grandmother in the country. Luckily, her grandma was a nice lady who took good care of her. ➡





company. She imagined they could transform from one shape into another and multiply into many more fairies! Ada thought that one day her 'fairies' might be able to help her unlock the secrets of the universe.

When she was in bed, Ada also came up with a design for a steam-powered flying machine that would let her soar across the countryside. She wrote down all her plans in a book she called *Flyology*, and dreamed of building her invention one day.



Ada's mother did not want Ada to become a poet like her father, and didn't like her vivid imagination, so she arranged for her daughter to learn about science and mathematics instead of poetry and art. Ada turned out to be brilliant at these subjects, and her studies really sparked her vivid imagination!

She was often ill as a child and spent a lot of time sick in bed, but Ada thought of mathematical equations as being like 'fairies' that kept her

Ada was very smart and inquisitive, but she didn't have many friends in the countryside. However, all that changed when she turned 17. That was when Anabelle took Ada to London, where she went to many parties. This was a big change for the lonely young girl, and everybody was enchanted by this smart and beautiful young woman! At one party, Ada met a man named Charles.



Now, Charles was also a brilliant mathematician, and he was excited to meet a lady who loved maths as much as he did. They became great friends and enjoyed working on exciting new mathematical ideas together. Charles even called his new friend the 'Enchantress of Number'!

One day, Charles asked Ada to come and look at an incredible new invention he was working on.

It was a big and complicated device made up of hundreds of rods, cogs and gears, and Charles called it his 'difference engine'.

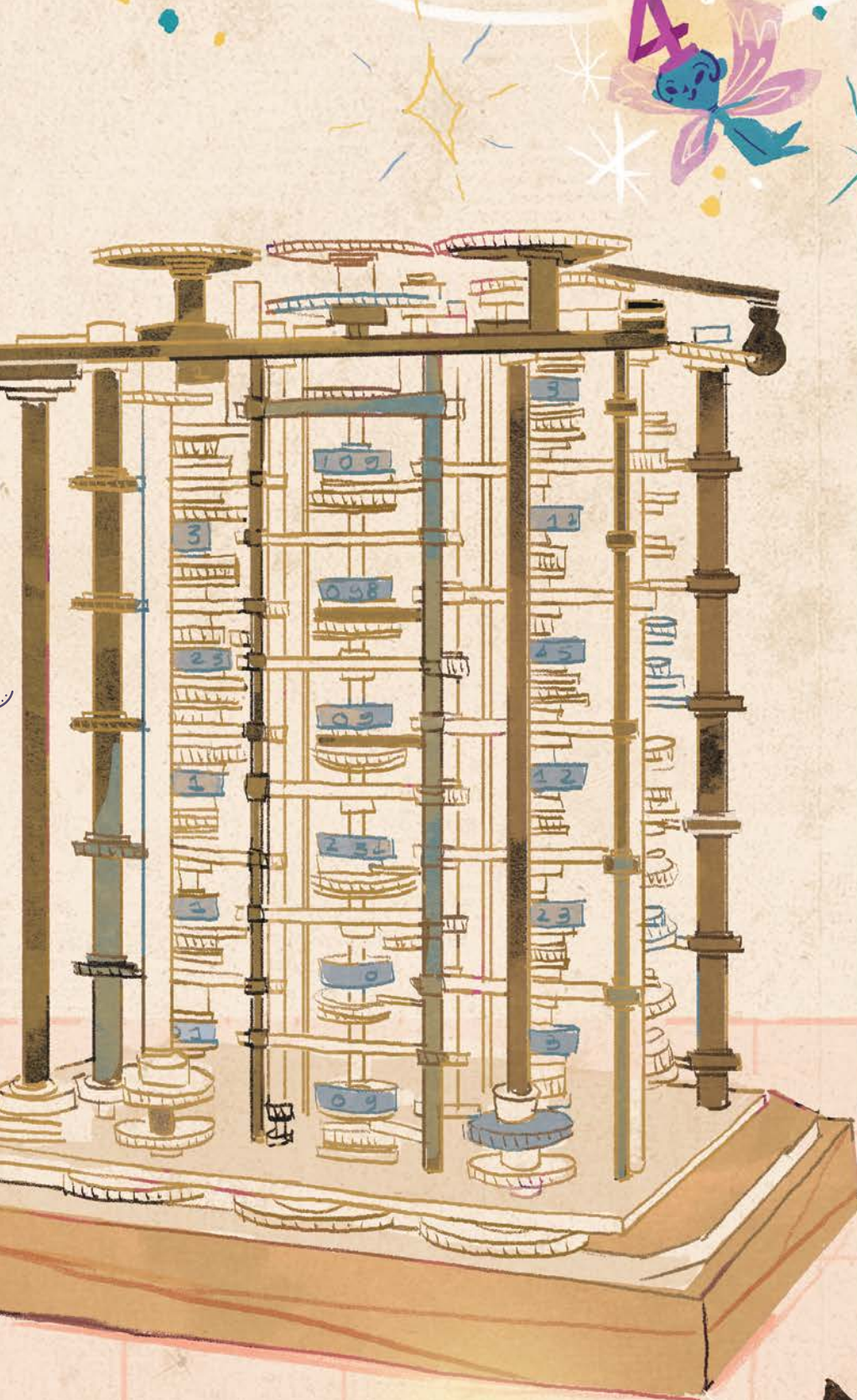
It was a machine that could do complicated maths much faster and more accurately than any human, and it immediately sparked Ada's imagination. She came up with all sorts of ideas about what this machine could be used for. ➡



Charles told Ada that he was planning to build a new and even more powerful version of this machine, and Ada helped him work on an article about all the things this new 'analytical engine' could do. Ada came up with a brilliant idea: what if one of these engines could do lots of sums, one after the other, and use them to create pictures or even music? This machine could help her mathematical 'fairies' to do their magic!

The two friends spent the next eight years working on ideas for this amazing machine. Charles' project turned out to be the first design for a computer, and young Ada created what we would one day call 'computer programming'! ★





WHAT HAPPENED NEXT...

Countess Ada Lovelace would go on to come up with many more amazing mathematical ideas. She also had a wild life, just like her father – the famous poet George Gordon, Lord Byron!

Nowadays, Charles Babbage is thought of as the father of the modern computer, and Ada is thought of as the mother of computer programming – and their creations have changed the world!

The computer programming language Ada is named after her, and a robot artist was called Ai-Da by its creators in her honour. She is an inspiration for all children interested in maths, computing and engineering.



THE GRIFFIN

Once upon a time, in a land far away, there lived a king. He had only one daughter, who he loved dearly.

Now it happened that the king's daughter became ill, and the nurses and wise men said that she could only be cured by eating an apple.

The king declared that whoever would bring his daughter an apple and cure her would get to marry her and become his heir.

In the kingdom, there was a poor apple-farmer who had three sons. One was called Uele (which means 'frog's legs'), one was called Seame (which means 'hog's bristles') and the youngest was called Simple Hans.

When Uele heard that the king wanted apples to cure his daughter's sickness, he set off for the palace with a basket full of them. On the road, he met a strange little man made of iron who asked him, "What do you have in your basket, young sir?"



Uele cheekily replied, "Frog's legs!"

The little iron man looked at him and said, "As you say, so shall it be!"

Uele went to the palace, but when he opened the basket in front of the king, it was filled with nothing but frog's legs. Some were still wriggling!

The king was furious and had Uele thrown out of the palace.

The next day, Seame set off for the palace with a basket of apples, and on the way he met the little iron man.

"What do you have in your basket, young sir?" the iron man asked.

Seame decided to be clever and said, "Hog's bristles!"

The little iron man just looked at him and said, "As you say, so shall it be!"

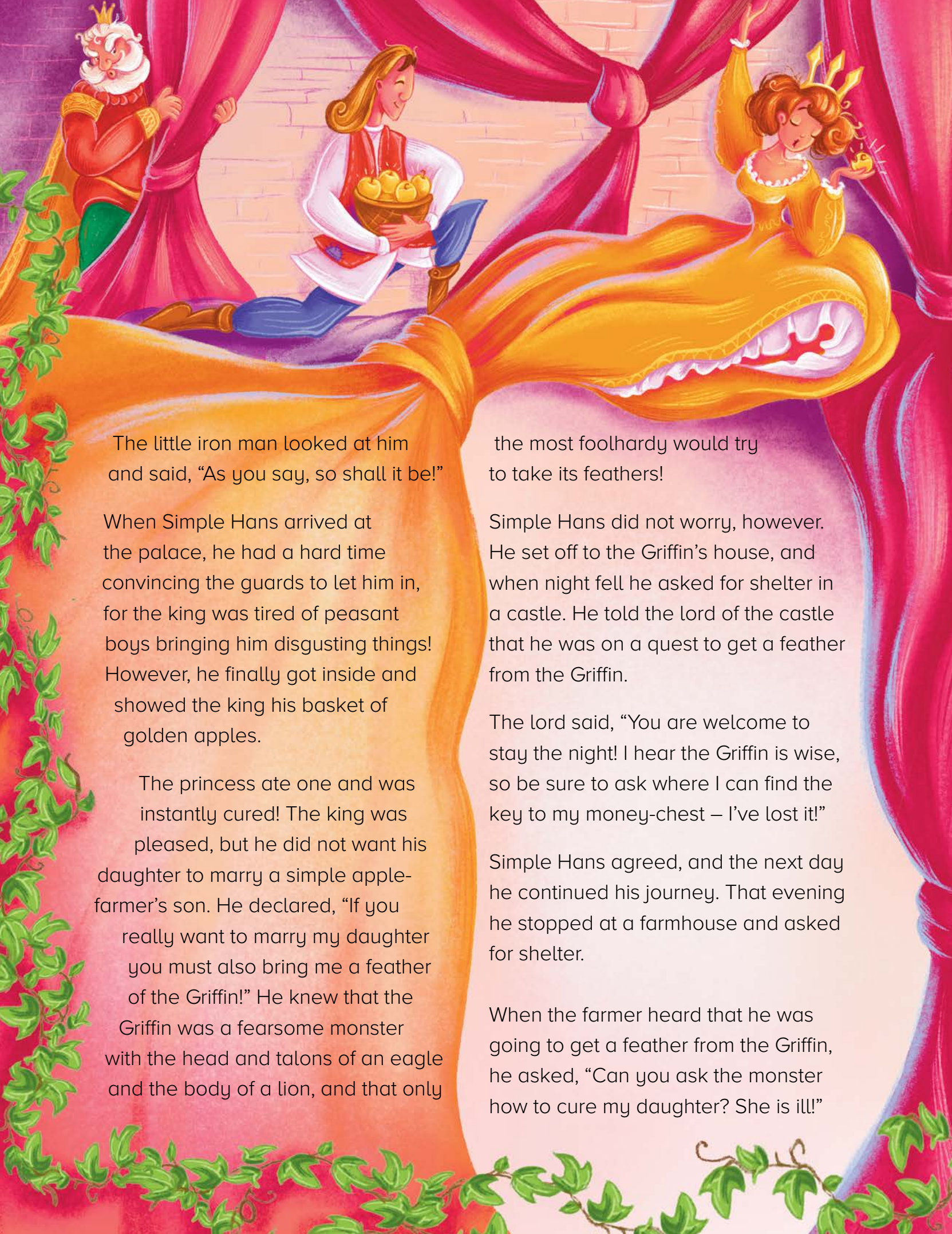
Seamus went to the palace and opened his basket, but when the king saw that it was filled only with hog's bristles, he kicked him out of the palace too!

Simple Hans then set out for the palace with a basket of fine apples, and he too met the little iron man on the road.

"What do you have in your basket, young sir?" asked the little iron man.

Simple Hans simply replied, "I have fine apples, with which to cure the king's daughter!" ➡





The little iron man looked at him and said, "As you say, so shall it be!"

When Simple Hans arrived at the palace, he had a hard time convincing the guards to let him in, for the king was tired of peasant boys bringing him disgusting things! However, he finally got inside and showed the king his basket of golden apples.

The princess ate one and was instantly cured! The king was pleased, but he did not want his daughter to marry a simple apple-farmer's son. He declared, "If you really want to marry my daughter you must also bring me a feather of the Griffin!" He knew that the Griffin was a fearsome monster with the head and talons of an eagle and the body of a lion, and that only

the most foolhardy would try to take its feathers!

Simple Hans did not worry, however. He set off to the Griffin's house, and when night fell he asked for shelter in a castle. He told the lord of the castle that he was on a quest to get a feather from the Griffin.

The lord said, "You are welcome to stay the night! I hear the Griffin is wise, so be sure to ask where I can find the key to my money-chest – I've lost it!"

Simple Hans agreed, and the next day he continued his journey. That evening he stopped at a farmhouse and asked for shelter.

When the farmer heard that he was going to get a feather from the Griffin, he asked, "Can you ask the monster how to cure my daughter? She is ill!"

Simple Hans agreed, and the next day he continued on his journey.

On the third day, Hans came to a wide river. There was no ferry, but a very tall man would carry any traveller across the river.

The tall man carried Simple Hans across, and on the way Hans told him he was on a quest to get a feather from the Griffin.

“Ah!” said the tall man. “Can you ask the Griffin how to break the magic curse that makes me carry travellers across this river?”

Hans agreed, and then continued to the Griffin’s house in the mountains.

He knocked at the door, which was opened by the Griffin’s wife. Hans told her about his quest for the Griffin’s tailfeather, and the questions he wanted to ask it.

“The Griffin is not home,” she told Simple Hans, “and it is just as well for you! The Griffin eats any human it finds. But if you hide under its bed, you can pluck out a tailfeather when it sleeps, and I will ask your questions for you!”

Hans agreed, and that night he hid under the Griffin’s bed. When the Griffin came in and went to sleep, Hans sneaked a hand out from under the bed and plucked out one of its feathers. ➡



The Griffin awoke suddenly



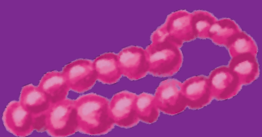
SPOT IT!

Can you spot
these objects
in the picture?

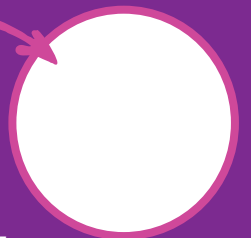


Answer: there are 5 candles.

and squawked in surprise!



How many
candles can
you count in
the scene? Write
your answer here!



“Wife!” it screeched. “I think someone pulled out one of my feathers... and why does the house stink of human?”

His wife replied, “Why, a human visited earlier today, asking how the tall man by the river could break his curse, how the farmer’s daughter could be cured, and where the lord of the castle has left the key to his money-chest!”

The Griffin replied, “That is simple! The tall man by the river needs only to dump one of his passengers in the middle of the river, the farmer’s daughter will be cured if they remove the toad’s nest made of her hair under the stairs, and the lord’s key is under a log behind the kitchen door!”

The next day, Simple Hans sneaked out of the Griffin’s house and set off back to the palace. He was carried across the river by the tall man, and once he was safely ashore he told him how to break the curse. At the farmer’s house he told the farmer about the toad’s nest under the stairs, and when they removed it, the farmer’s daughter was cured! The grateful farmer gave Simple Hans many fine cows, goats and sheep.



Next, Simple Hans came to the lord’s castle and told the lord where he might find his treasure-key. The lord was so grateful that he weighed Hans down with gold and silver.

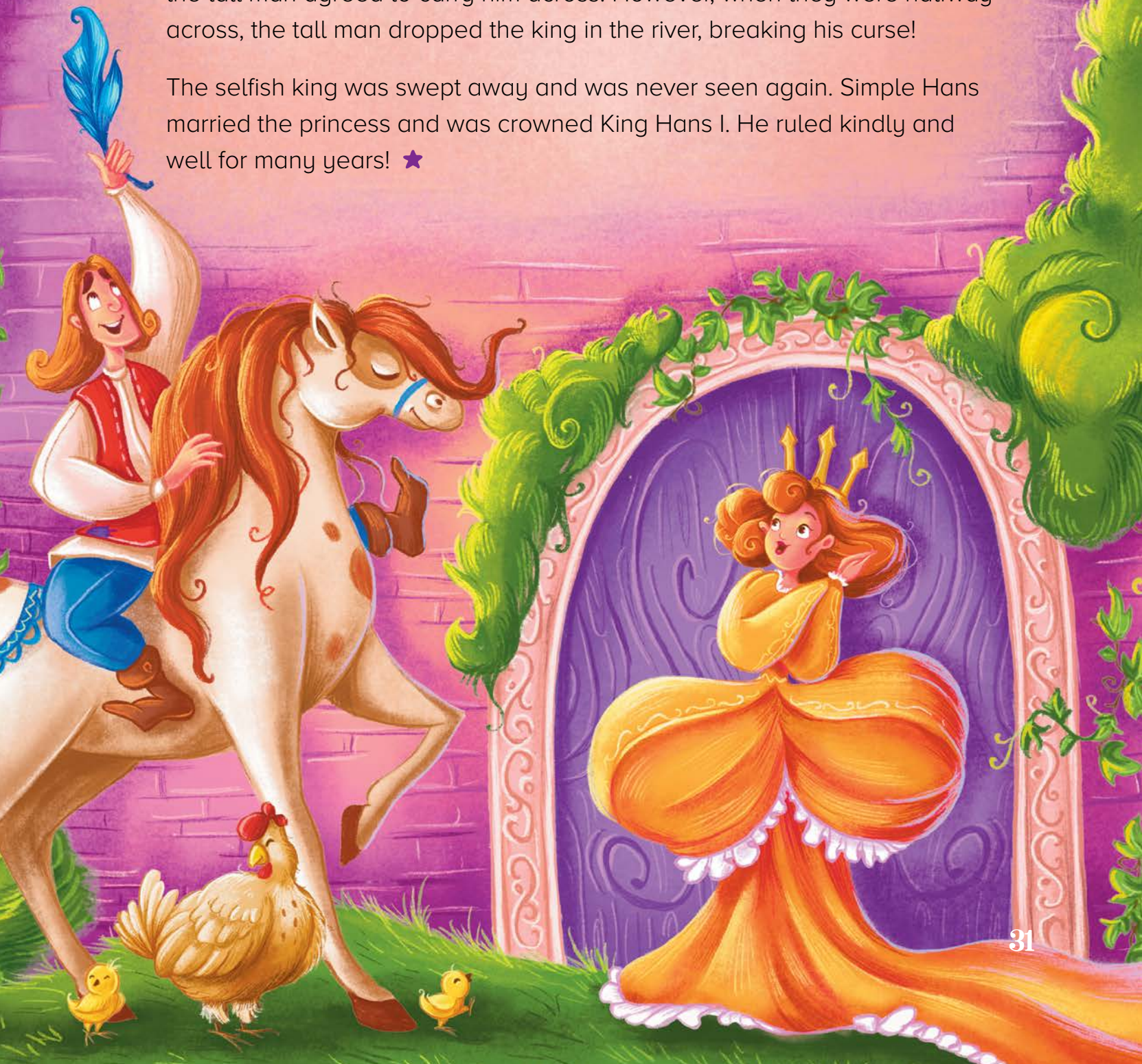
When Simple Hans arrived back at the palace, the king was amazed to see the apple-farmer’s son carrying not only the Griffin’s feather, but gold and silver as well, and with a herd of fine animals besides.



“How did you get such things?” he asked. Simple Hans replied, “Why, the Griffin will give you anything you want if you just ask!”

The greedy king immediately rode off to the Griffin’s house. He galloped past the lord’s castle and the farmer’s house, and when he got to the river, the tall man agreed to carry him across. However, when they were halfway across, the tall man dropped the king in the river, breaking his curse!

The selfish king was swept away and was never seen again. Simple Hans married the princess and was crowned King Hans I. He ruled kindly and well for many years! ★



THE UNMANNERLY TIGER

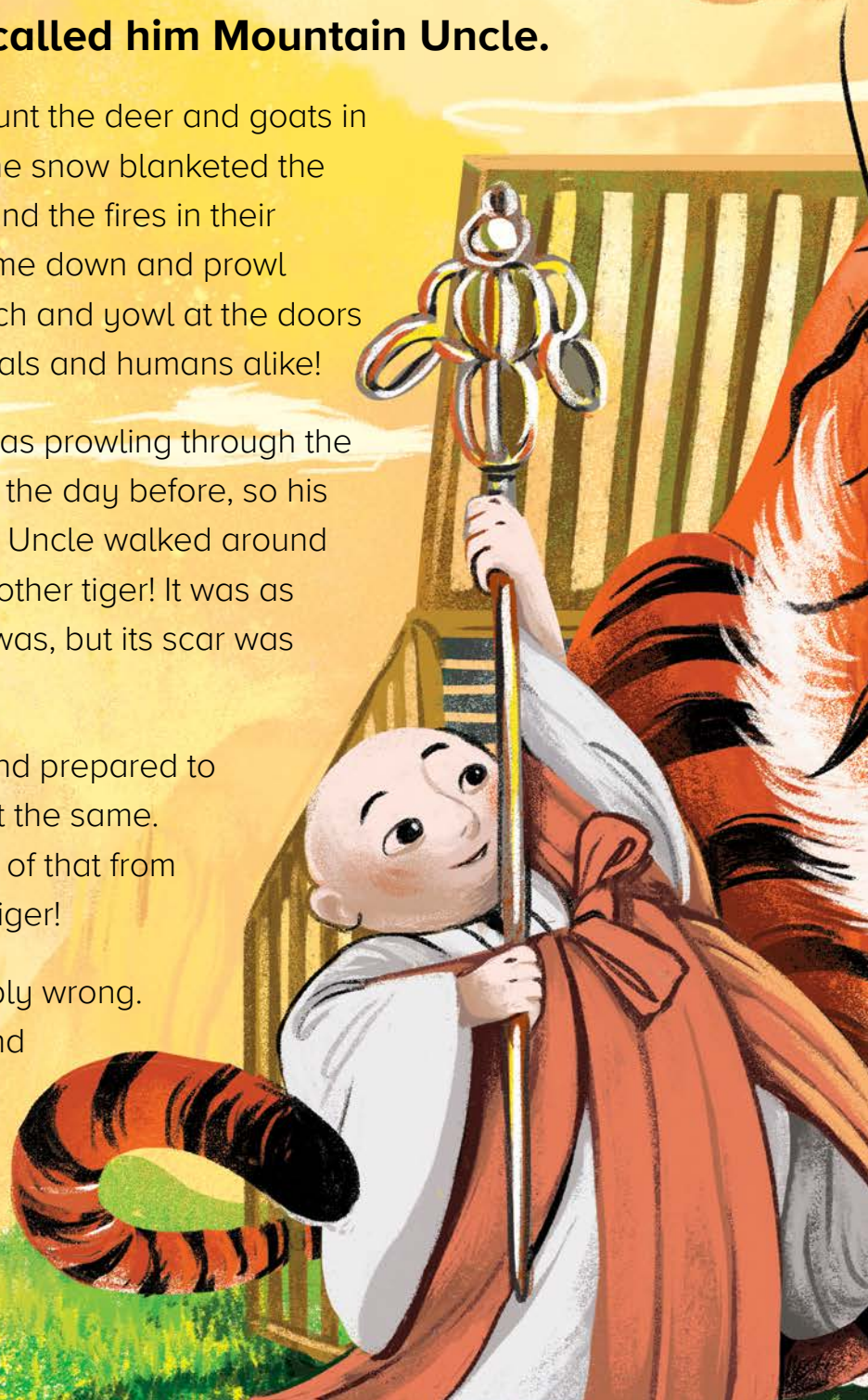
Many centuries ago, in the highlands of Korea, there lived a fierce old tiger. He was big and scarred and grumpy, and the villagers called him Mountain Uncle.

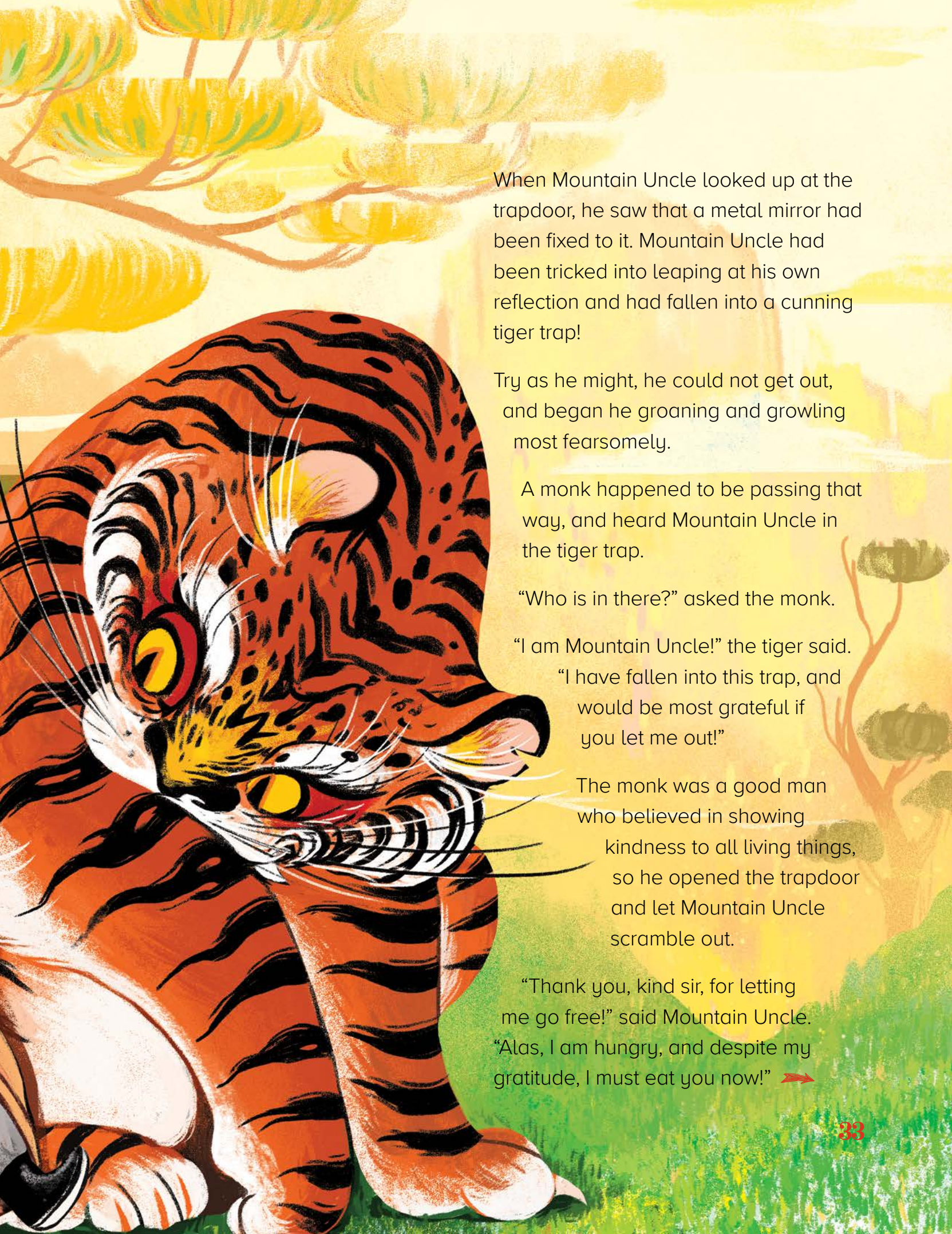
In summer, Mountain Uncle would hunt the deer and goats in the mountains, but in winter, when the snow blanketed the land and the villagers shivered around the fires in their cottages, Mountain Uncle would come down and prowling around the villages. He would scratch and yowl at the doors of barns and houses, terrifying animals and humans alike!

One autumn day, Mountain Uncle was prowling through the forest. He had not eaten that day or the day before, so his stomach was growling. As Mountain Uncle walked around a large tree, what did he see but another tiger! It was as large and fierce and scarred as he was, but its scar was over its right eye and not its left!

Mountain Uncle instantly growled and prepared to pounce – and the other tiger did just the same. Mountain Uncle was not having any of that from a stranger and leaped at the other tiger!

Unfortunately, something went terribly wrong. He slammed into something hard and tumbled into a pit, and a wooden trapdoor slammed shut above him.





When Mountain Uncle looked up at the trapdoor, he saw that a metal mirror had been fixed to it. Mountain Uncle had been tricked into leaping at his own reflection and had fallen into a cunning tiger trap!

Try as he might, he could not get out, and began he groaning and growling most fearsomely.

A monk happened to be passing that way, and heard Mountain Uncle in the tiger trap.

“Who is in there?” asked the monk.

“I am Mountain Uncle!” the tiger said.

“I have fallen into this trap, and would be most grateful if you let me out!”

The monk was a good man who believed in showing kindness to all living things, so he opened the trapdoor and let Mountain Uncle scramble out.

“Thank you, kind sir, for letting me go free!” said Mountain Uncle. “Alas, I am hungry, and despite my gratitude, I must eat you now!” ➔

A large tiger with orange and black stripes is shown in a dynamic pose, lunging towards a small monk. The monk, wearing a white robe with a brown sash and a small orange headpiece, is looking up at the tiger with a concerned expression. The background features a warm, yellow-orange sky with a large sun or moon, stylized trees, and a rocky mountain. A small, spotted toad is visible on a rock to the right. A red circular callout with a decorative border is in the top left corner.

ACT IT OUT!

This is a fun story to act out at home or at school. Print out our masks from storytimemagazine.com/free and put on your own performance!

The monk was a bit upset and more than a little afraid when Mountain Uncle said this.

“This is most ungrateful and impolite of you, tiger!” exclaimed the monk. “We must ask the spirit of this tree to judge whether you should be allowed to eat me after I kindly freed you from the trap!”

Mountain Uncle agreed, and they asked the spirit of the tree to make a judgement. The spirit of the tree thought for a moment and replied, “Mountain Uncle, you have no right to eat the man that saved you!”

Mountain Uncle did not like this answer, and his stomach began to growl again.

“We cannot trust a tree! We must ask the spirit in that boulder over there, for it is much older and wiser!”

So the monk and the tiger asked the spirit of the boulder whether Mountain Uncle should be allowed to devour the man who had set him free. The spirit of the boulder quickly replied, “It is wrong to eat someone who has helped you!”

Mountain Uncle was not happy about this, so the monk suggested that the wise toad who lived in a crack in the rock further up the mountain might be able to help.

The monk climbed up the mountain to the toad’s home, with Mountain Uncle following close behind and licking his chops. The monk was fat, and the tiger was getting hungrier with every step...

When the toad was called out of his home and told the problem, he did not make a quick decision like the tree and the boulder. He thought about the question before saying, "I must see this tiger trap before I can pass judgement!"

The tiger thought this was a great idea and raced back down the mountain to the tiger trap, for he was impatient and hungry. As soon as the tiger left, however, the monk ran back down to the village and safety, while the old toad crawled back into his hole. He did not really want to see the tiger trap, but instead wanted to give his friend the monk a chance to escape!

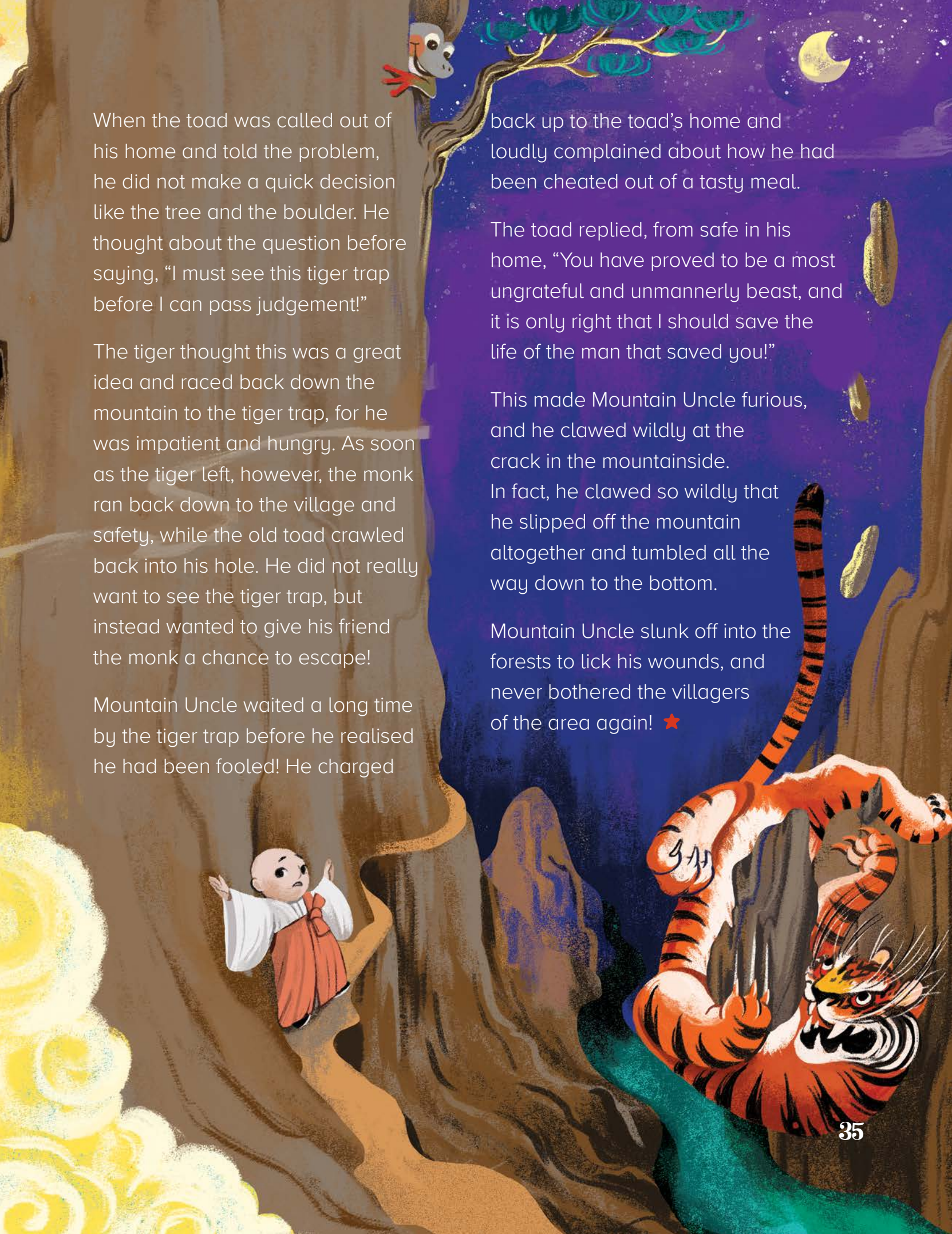
Mountain Uncle waited a long time by the tiger trap before he realised he had been fooled! He charged

back up to the toad's home and loudly complained about how he had been cheated out of a tasty meal.

The toad replied, from safe in his home, "You have proved to be a most ungrateful and unmannerly beast, and it is only right that I should save the life of the man that saved you!"

This made Mountain Uncle furious, and he clawed wildly at the crack in the mountainside. In fact, he clawed so wildly that he slipped off the mountain altogether and tumbled all the way down to the bottom.

Mountain Uncle slunk off into the forests to lick his wounds, and never bothered the villagers of the area again! ★



THE MAGIC MOUTHFUL

A long time ago, in the beautiful islands known as the Azores, there lived a lady who was very unhappy.

You see, she was married, but she and her husband could not go a day without arguing. As soon as they woke up in the morning and as soon as they came home in the evening, they would fight!

This made the woman tired and upset. One day, she took her water-jug down to the well, and an old lady was sitting there with her own water-jar.

The little old lady looked at her and said, "You seem so unhappy! What is wrong?"

Maria replied, "Oh it's nothing... my husband and I fight all the time, and it is making me so miserable!"

The little old lady nodded wisely and said, "I have a cure for that!" She then picked up her water-jar and poured her water into Maria's jug.

"The water in my jar is magical!" she told Maria. "Whenever you are in an argument with your husband, just take a mouthful of this water and hold it there!"

Maria thanked the old lady for her kindness, and carried the jug with the magic water home.





For the next week, whenever her husband was angry at her or said something mean, Maria did not reply, but instead took a mouthful of the old lady's magic water from the jug.

A week later, things were a lot more peaceful at home – but Maria noticed that the old lady's water was about to run out. She hurried back to the well, hoping that she could find the old lady and get more of her wonderful water.

When she arrived at the well, the old lady was there, and she smiled when she saw Maria hurrying towards her.

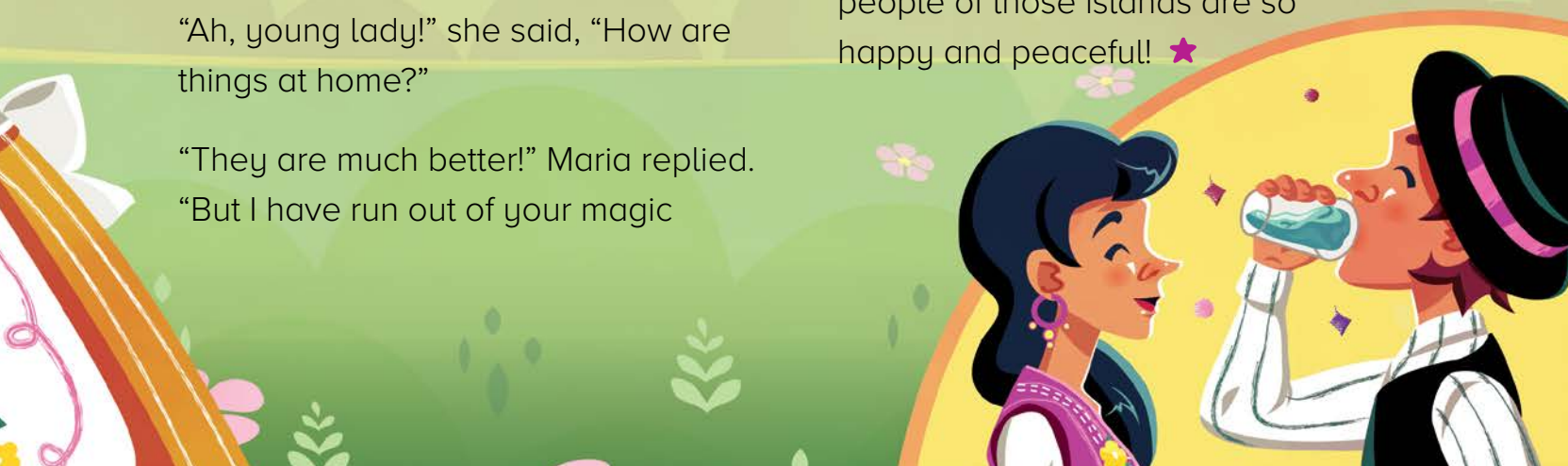
"Ah, young lady!" she said, "How are things at home?"

"They are much better!" Maria replied. "But I have run out of your magic

water, and am afraid that my husband and I will start fighting again!"

The old lady just grinned and patted her on the cheek. "There was no magic in my water at all – it came from this well! But when you took a mouthful of water, you were not able to reply to your husband's mean words, and the fights ended before they could start!"

Soon this secret spread to all the people of the Azores. Now, when they are about to get into an argument, they pretend they have a mouthful of water instead. That is why the people of those islands are so happy and peaceful! ★



THE BLACKSMITH AND THE IRON MAN


The country of Uganda is famous for its blacksmiths, and all Ugandans knew that Wakaluga was the greatest blacksmith of them all.

Wakaluga was so skilled that people would come from miles around to watch him shape red-hot iron into wonderful tools with only a hammer and anvil.

One morning, when he went to his forge, Wakaluga found a very important-looking man in a white robe waiting for him. The visitor was a messenger from the king of that land.

“Wakaluga the smith! The king of Uganda has heard of your skill and wishes you to visit his court! Gather your tools, for we must leave immediately!”





The two journeyed for many days to reach the capital city, and Wakaluga was impressed by how big the buildings were, how big the crowds were, and how rich and important everyone seemed!

Wakaluga was even more impressed by the king's great palace. He was called in before the ruler, who was seated on a carved wooden throne with many servants around him. Behind him were many drummers, playing the royal drums that are very important in that kingdom.



The king was a large man with a deep and serious voice, and Wakaluga was a bit frightened. He had heard stories about how the king would punish anyone who did not obey him.

“Wakaluga the blacksmith!” said the king, “I have been told that you are the greatest metalworker in this land, and I have a task for you!”

The king nodded to his servants, who were holding sacks. The servants emptied the sacks, and many pieces of iron tumbled onto the ground.

“Wakaluga, I want you to make this iron into a man that can walk and talk and think, and has blood flowing in his veins. You have two weeks!”

Wakaluga was going to protest, saying that such a thing was impossible, but he was too nervous to speak to the king. Instead, he bowed, gathered up the pieces of iron, and left. ➡





On the side of the dusty road, Wakaluga saw a man with wild hair and ragged clothes. The man was grinning at him.

“You must be the famous blacksmith Wakaluga!” said the wild man.

“Why is the greatest blacksmith in Uganda looking so glum?”

Wakaluga replied, “The king has given me an impossible task – he wants me to make this metal in my bag into a walking, talking iron man!”

As the blacksmith walked home, carrying the heavy iron, he worried about what he could do. He did not believe he could make a living man from iron and was worried that the king would throw him in prison.

He came up with all sorts of plans. Could he make a suit of iron, and put a man inside it? Or should he just run away and go to live in another land?

The wild man laughed. “Why, when someone gives you an impossible order, there is only one thing to do! Come here, I will tell you how to get out of this!”

After the wild man had told him what to do, Wakaluga turned around and went back to the capital – and when he arrived, he asked to see the king! This is what he told the mighty ruler:



“Oh great king, to make this metal into an iron man, I will need very special water and charcoal! I need ten tons of charcoal made from human hair – and a hundred buckets of human tears. Otherwise, I cannot do as you ask!”

The king sent out messengers to the far corners of his kingdom, ordering all of his people to shave off their hair and send it to the palace – and they must also cry for him and gather their tears!

The people of Uganda did as he asked. They sent their hair to the capital where it was turned into charcoal – but when piled up it was less than one ton, and the teardrops

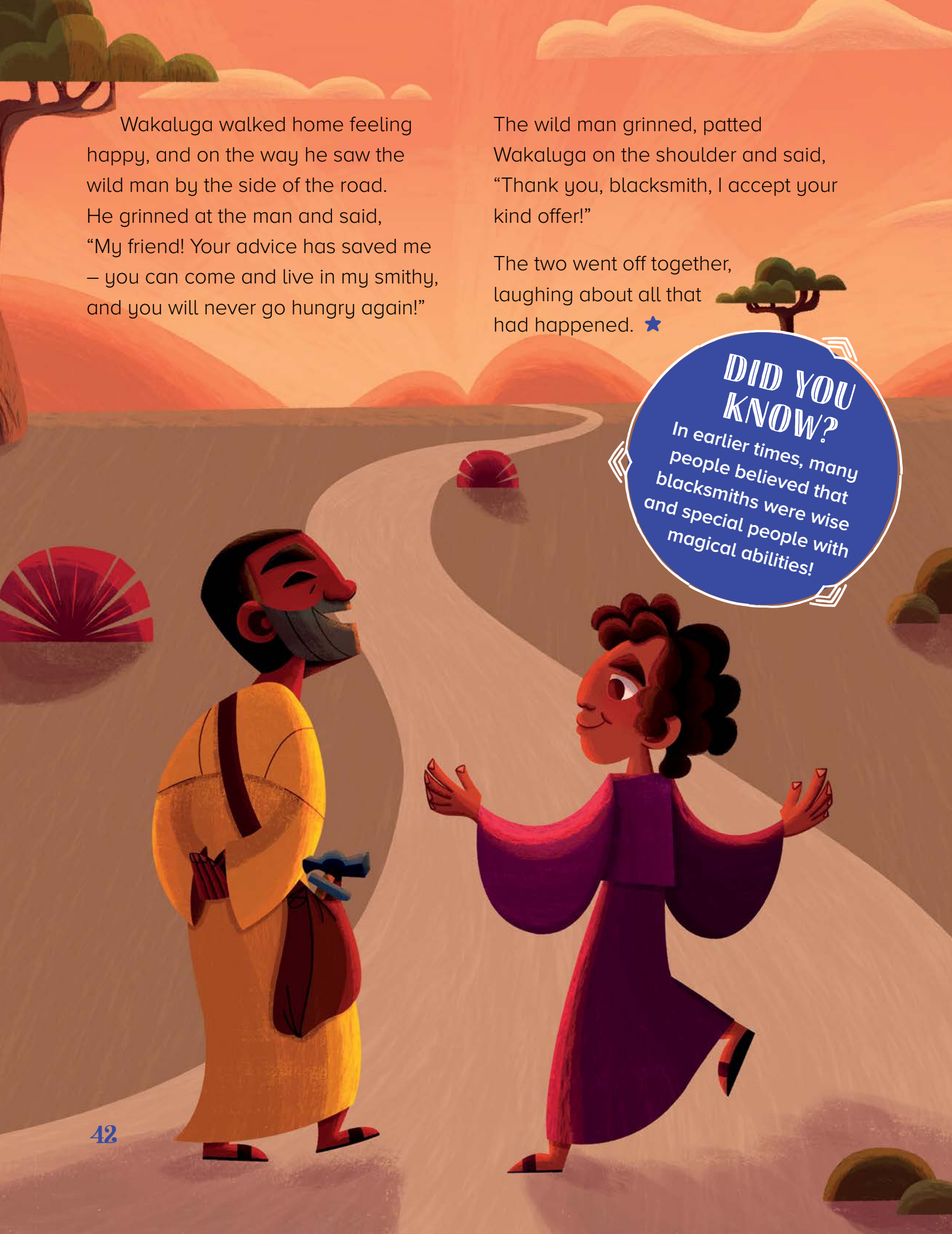
of all the people in the kingdom did not even fill two buckets.



When he heard this news, the king called Wakaluga before him and said, “Blacksmith, you have asked the impossible of me. I cannot give you the charcoal and the tears you need to make my man of iron!”

Wakaluga replied, “That is fine, your majesty, for you had also asked the impossible of me. No smith can make a living man of iron!”

The king realised how unreasonable his own orders had been. He burst out laughing, and let the blacksmith go home to his village. ➡

An illustration of a man and a woman walking on a winding path in a desert landscape. The man, on the left, is wearing a yellow robe and has a grey beard. The woman, on the right, is wearing a purple dress and has dark, curly hair. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background features rolling orange hills, a small green tree on the left, and a large blue speech bubble on the right. The sky is a warm orange color.

Wakaluga walked home feeling happy, and on the way he saw the wild man by the side of the road. He grinned at the man and said, “My friend! Your advice has saved me – you can come and live in my smithy, and you will never go hungry again!”

The wild man grinned, patted Wakaluga on the shoulder and said, “Thank you, blacksmith, I accept your kind offer!”

The two went off together, laughing about all that had happened. ★

DID YOU KNOW?

In earlier times, many people believed that blacksmiths were wise and special people with magical abilities!

STORYTIME PLAYBOX

Use fairies to do sums, find the characters hiding in the word search, get a tiger out of a maze, make a bee plant pot, and hit the target like William Tell!

1 BLACKSMITH'S BARGAINS!

Blacksmiths are experts at making things with iron. **Which five objects do you think would be made by a blacksmith?**



2 TIGER TRAP

Mountain Uncle is stuck in another maze-like trap – can you help him **find his way out?**

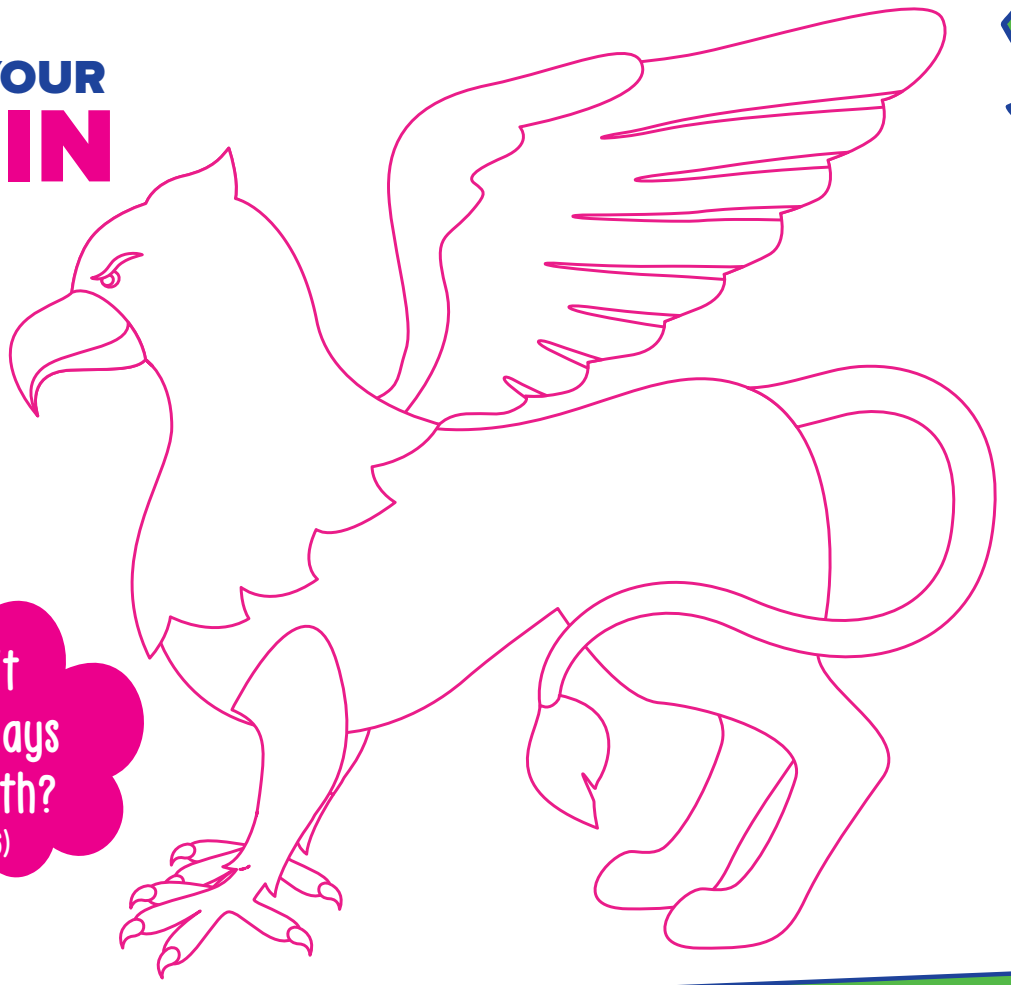
Find the way within!



3

COLOUR IN YOUR GRIFFIN

The Griffin is a mythical beast – so you can colour it in any way you like!
Which colours do you think this magical monster should be?



Why don't griffins always tell the truth?
(answer on p46)

4

MATHS MAGIC

Ada Lovelace's mathematical fairies are using their magic in these equations! Can you work out which ones are the **addition fairy**, the **subtraction fairy**, the **multiplication fairy** and the **division fairy**?



A

6



2 = 12

C

9



3 = 3

B

10



5 = 5

D

2



4 = 6

5 WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?

These characters from 'The Magic Mouthful' are trying to say something, but they forgot to spit out their water first! **Which two-letter words are missing?**

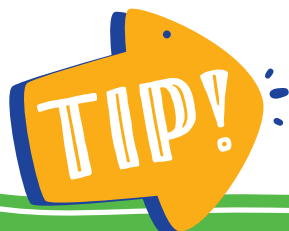
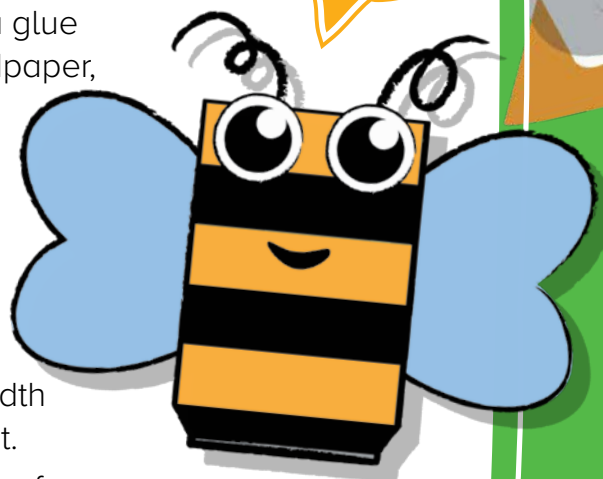


6 MAKE A BEE PLANTER!

Want to grow your own flowers or herbs? Follow these instructions to make a bee plant pot inspired by 'Baloo's Bathtime'!

- You will need: a can, a black pipe cleaner, googly eyes, a glue stick, yellow and black paint, a brush, masking tape, sandpaper, scissors, a hammer and nail, and an adult helper!
- Use sandpaper to rub away sharp edges. Use a nail to carefully punch some holes in the bottom of the can.
- Paint the can yellow – you might need 2-3 coats.
- Wrap a piece of masking tape around the tin, one finger-width up from the bottom.
- Add a piece of masking tape around the tin, one finger-width above the first, and then another a finger-width above that.
- Paint black paint in the finger-width gaps between the bits of masking tape and wait for it to dry. Then, peel off the tape.
- Print and cut out the bee-wings on the PDF from www.storytimemagazine.com/free and glue the middle of the wings to the back of the can.
- Use glue to stick googly eyes or paper eyes to the front of the can.
- Cut the pipe cleaner in half, then curl in one end of each half. Glue the other ends of the pipe cleaner halves behind the eyes, inside the tin, so they stick up like antennae.
- Paint on a little smiley mouth under the eyes. The pot is ready to be filled with potting mix or soil and used!

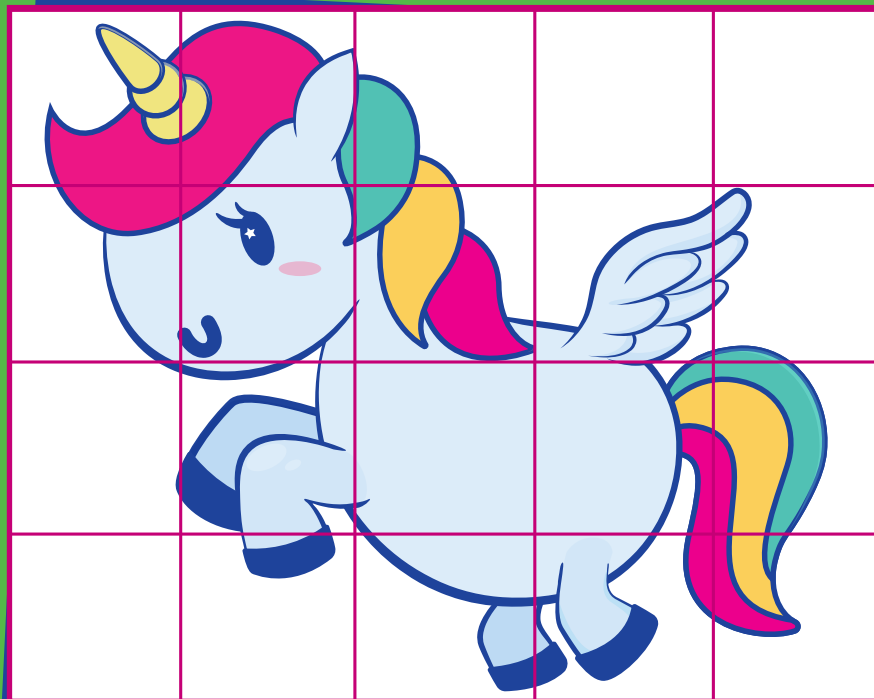
ASK A GROWN-UP!



Put an old saucer underneath the planter when you use it – this will stop water from going everywhere!

7

DRAW A UNICORN!



Using the grid below, draw a unicorn as cool as Cassiopeia, and then colour it in!

LOL!

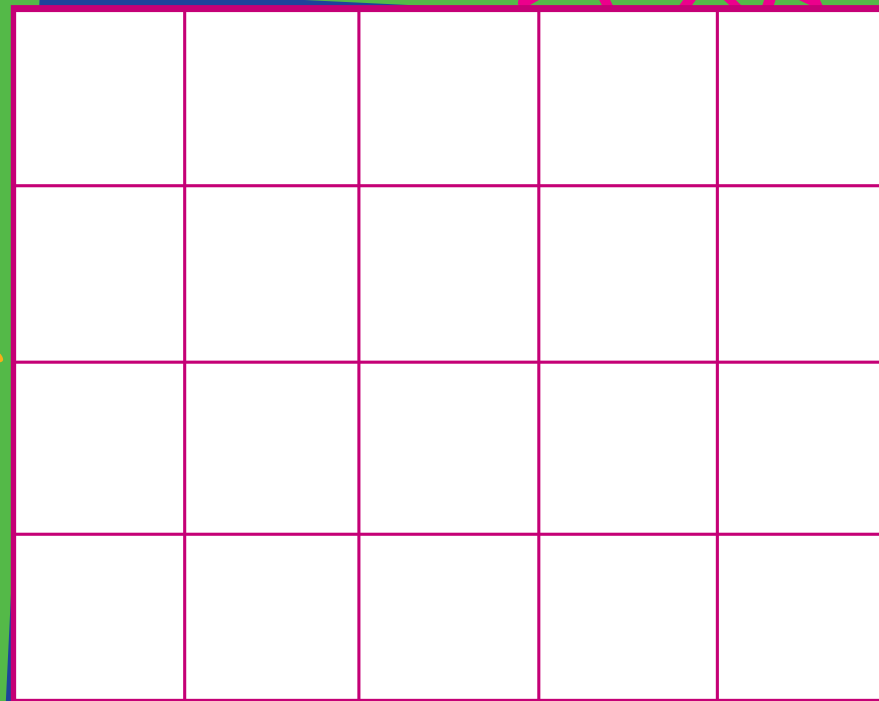
Q. Why did the unicorn want to go to school?

A. So she could wear a uni-form!

TEE HEE!

Q. What do unicorns call their dad?

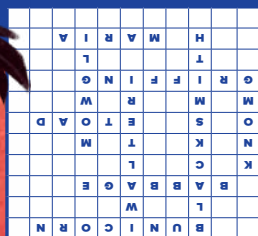
A. Pop-corn!



ANSWERS: 1. Blacksmith's Bargains! – horseshoe, screw, hammer, tongs, knife; 2. Tiger Trap (answer on the right); Griffin Riddle – because they are partly 'lion'; 4. Maths Magic – A. multiplication fairy, B. subtraction fairy, C. division fairy, D. addition fairy; 5. What Are They Saying – A. on, B. of, C. to.

storytime™ WORD SEARCH

Characters from the stories in this issue are hiding in this wordsearch – can you find them all?



ANSWER:

BLACKSMITH
BABBAGE
GRIFFIN

UNICORN
MARIA
MOWGLI

MONK
TOAD
WALTER

HIT THE APPLE!

See if you can hit the target just as well as William Tell with this fun game of skill!

How to Play

To get started, you need 2 or more players and 3 arrow counters for each player. You can download them from www.storytimemagazine.com/free. Cut out the arrow counters and stick coins or metal washers to the tabs to make them heavy. You will also need the target on the right, a piece of string to mark a line, and a pencil and paper to keep score!

- ★ Place the target page flat on the floor (or use a printed-out target instead).
- ★ Use the string to mark a line 1m away from the target – this is what you must stand behind when making your shots.
- ★ Players take turns throwing their counters onto the target! The youngest player goes first.
- ★ Getting your counter in the first ring is worth 1 point, getting it in the second ring is worth 2 points, and getting it on the apple is worth 5 points. Keep track of the points you score. The player with the most points after all players have taken 3 shots wins!
- ★ If your counter lands in one of the smaller circles in the outer ring, do what it says in the circle!

GO
OUTDOORS!

You can make a bigger outdoor target on a driveway or playground using coloured chalk!

Are you
as good as
my dad?





1

EXTRA
SHOT

MISS
A GO

2

5

2
EXTRA
POINTS



STORY MAGIC

Christmas is coming – and books make an ideal gift for anyone! That's why we are reviewing four fabulous new titles this month.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

★ **TIGER, TIGER, BURNING BRIGHT!**

selected by Fiona Waters, illustrated by Britta Teckentrup (Nosy Crow) combines two of our favourite things: animals and poetry! With so many wonderful beasts and a variety of classic poems (all illustrated with colourful art), it has something for everyone.

★ **SNOW GHOSTS** by Tony Mitton, illustrated by Diana Mayo (Bloomsbury) is a unique and magical story about a boy and girl who meet a special winter spirit. The hauntingly lovely illustrations complement the rhyming text beautifully, and they combine to create an unforgettable reading experience!

★ **HOME** by Patricia Hegarty, Illustrated by Britta Teckentrup (Little Tiger) is about a little bear who goes out to discover where other animals live. The story is told in easy-to-read verse, and the gorgeous die-cut illustrations let readers uncover the secrets of nature with him!

★ **THE HISTORY OF EVERYTHING** by Anna Claybourne, Illustrated by Jan Van Der Veken (Laurence King) certainly lives up to its title! Its spectacular illustrations and informative but easy-to-understand text tell us the history of the universe, from the Big Bang and the beginnings of the Solar System to the rise of modern civilization!

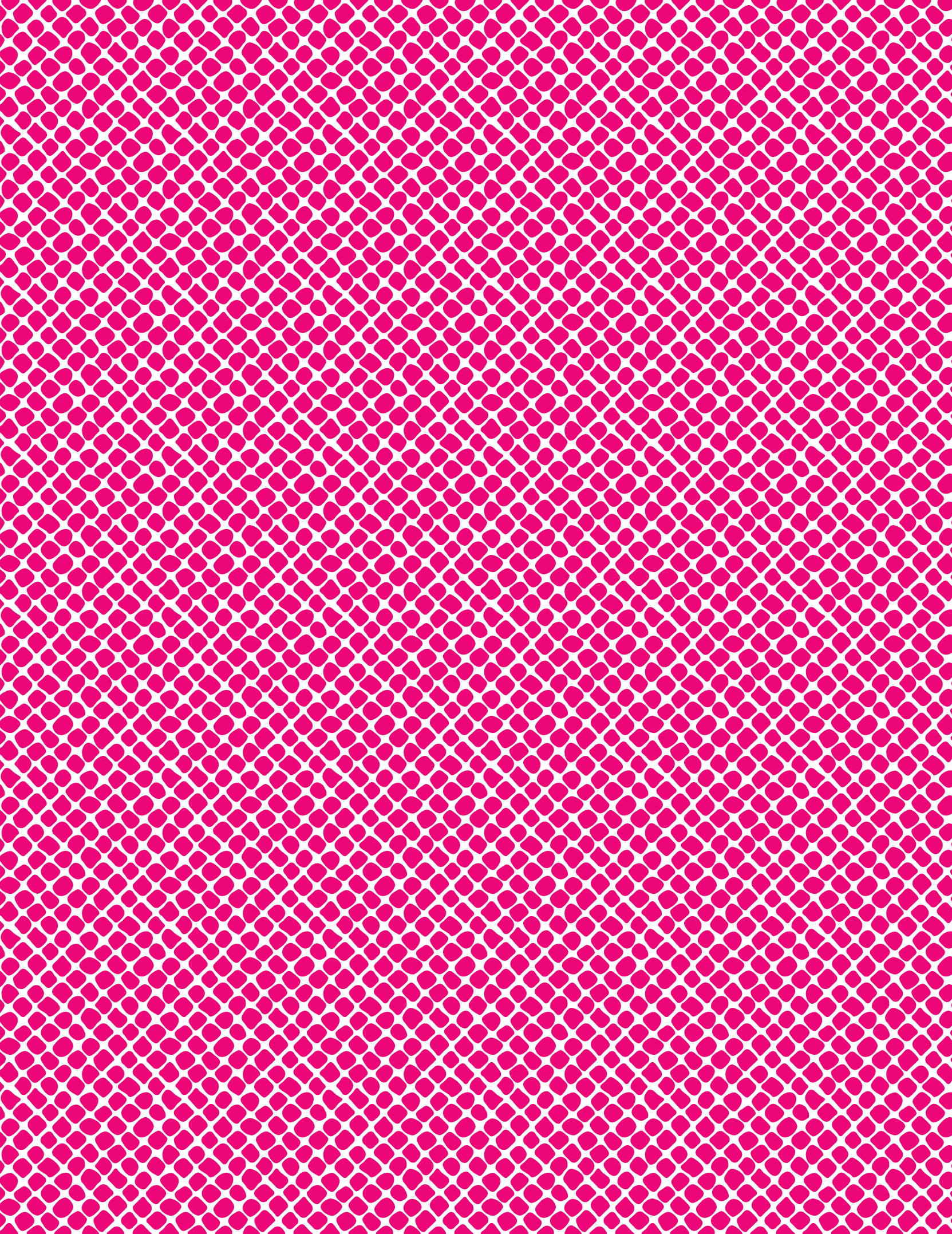


Do you know which story the quote on page 3 is from? Send us your answer and get the chance to win these awesome books – go to: storytimemagazine.com/win

WIN!

NEXT MONTH:
Magical fairies
bring Christmas
cheer to a city!

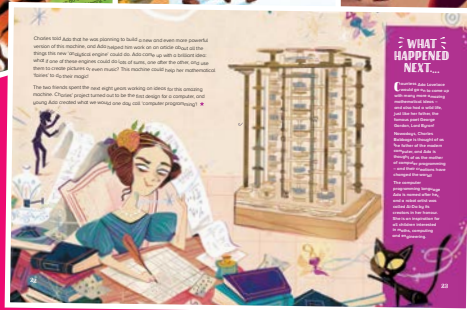




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COMING SOON!
CHRISTMAS
ISSUE

