



How the Tortoise Built Her House



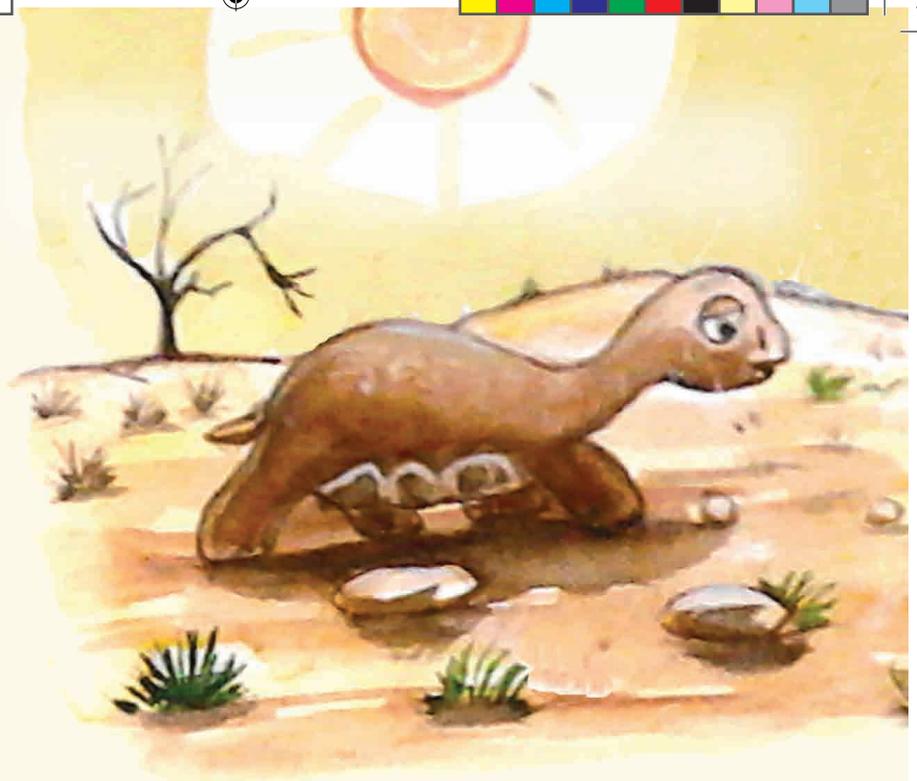
Author: Elizabeth B.Shusha
Illustrator: Iddi Marumba





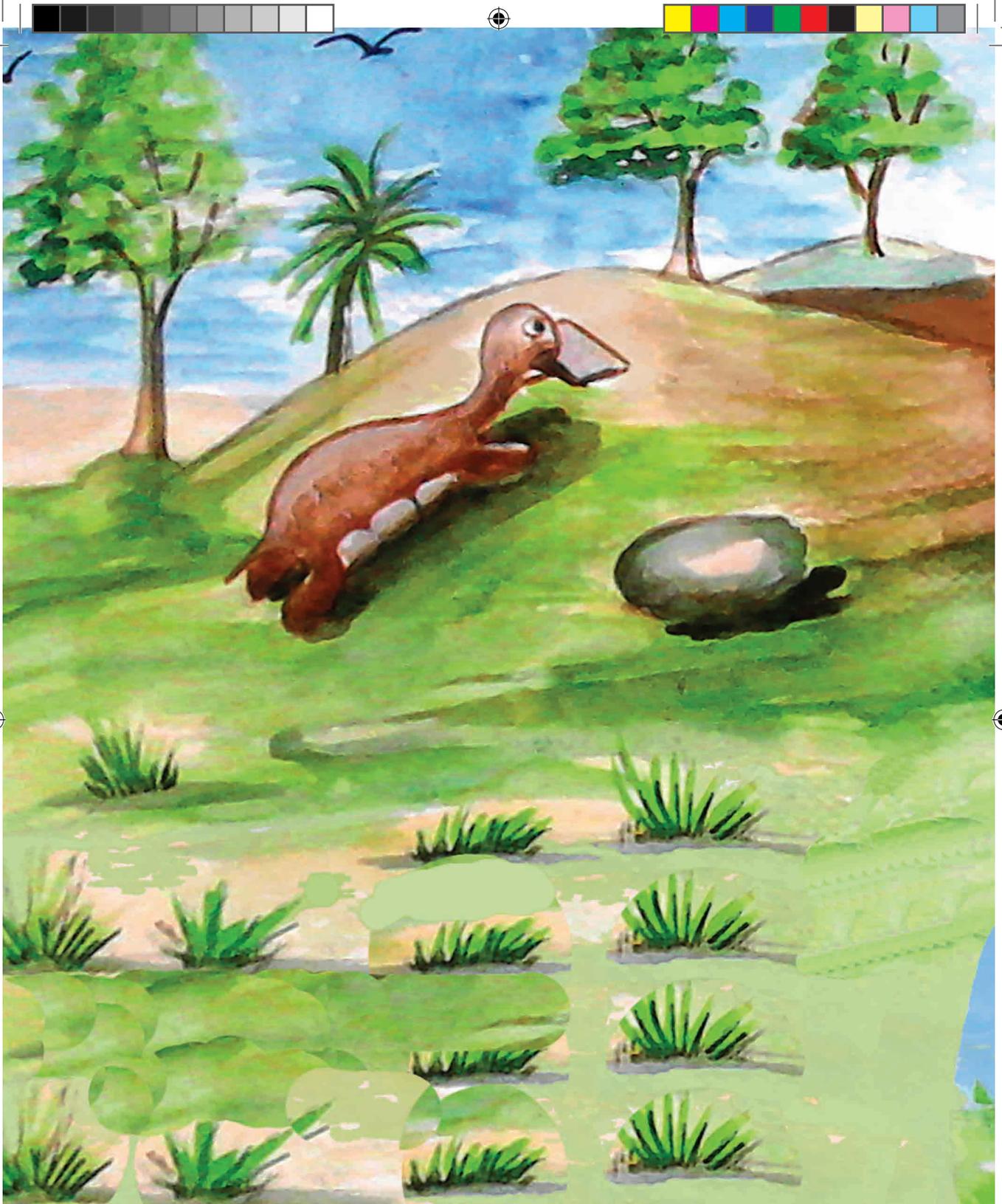
Once upon a time, the tortoise had no shell.





She had no shelter on hot, rainy,
or cold days!



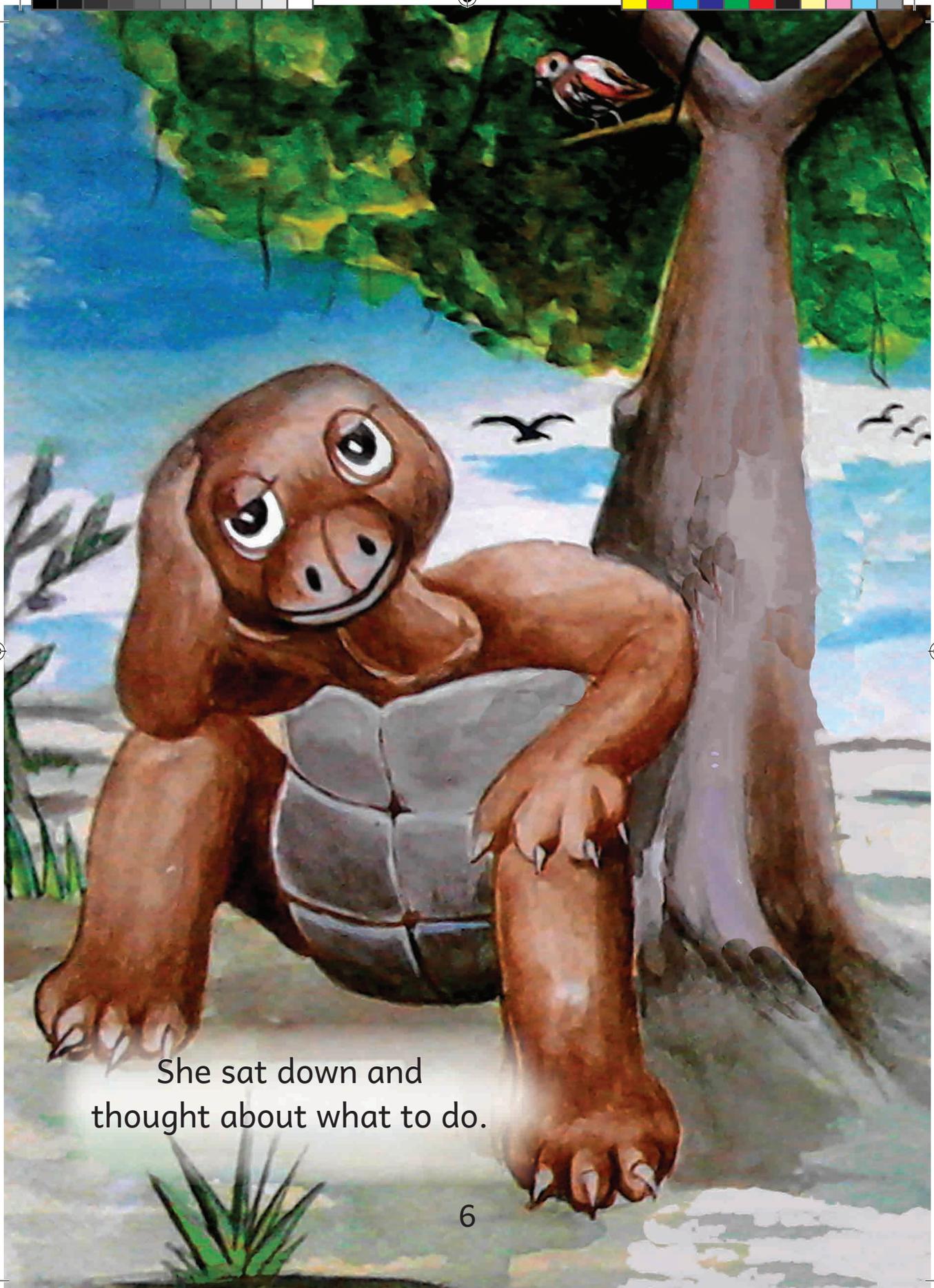


She wanted to build herself a house.
So, she started collecting materials.



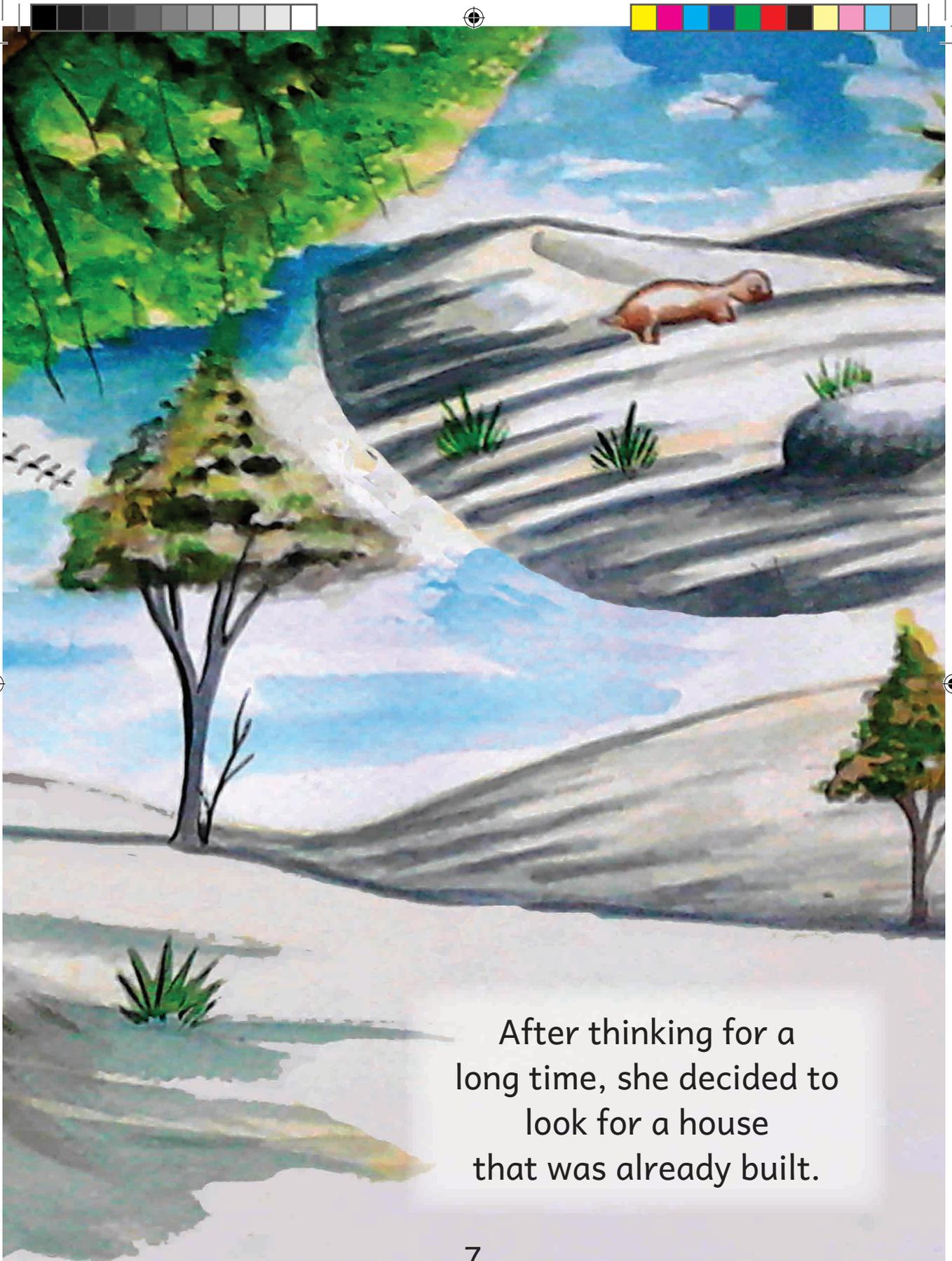
The tortoise moved quite slowly. She worried she would never be able to collect enough branches to build a proper house.





She sat down and
thought about what to do.





After thinking for a long time, she decided to look for a house that was already built.



One day, she saw a cave.
She peered inside. It looked warm and dry!

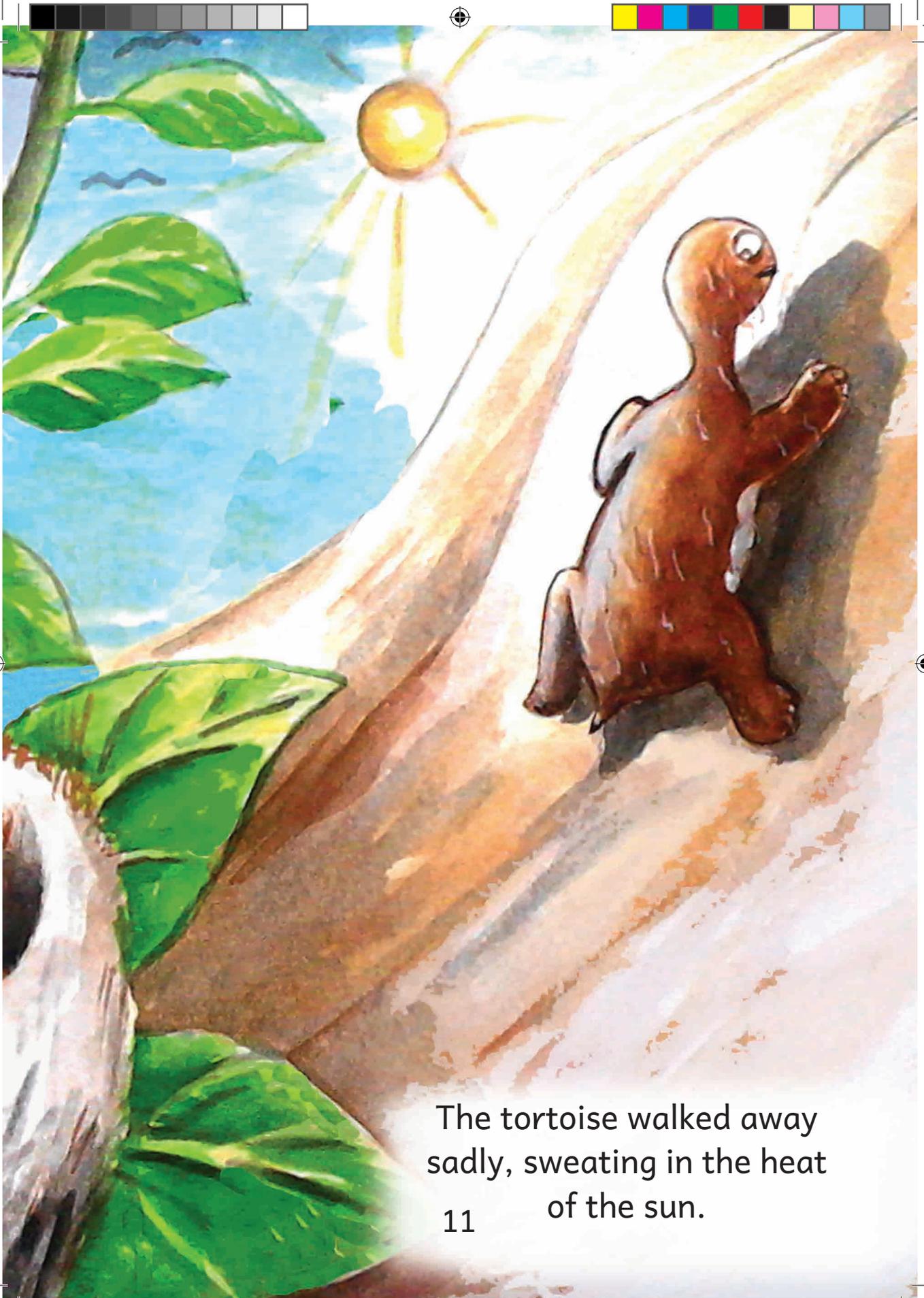
But the cave belonged to a rabbit and her children.





She climbed up a tree. But, she was chased away by birds chirping and cawing noisily in their nests.





The tortoise walked away
sadly, sweating in the heat
of the sun.



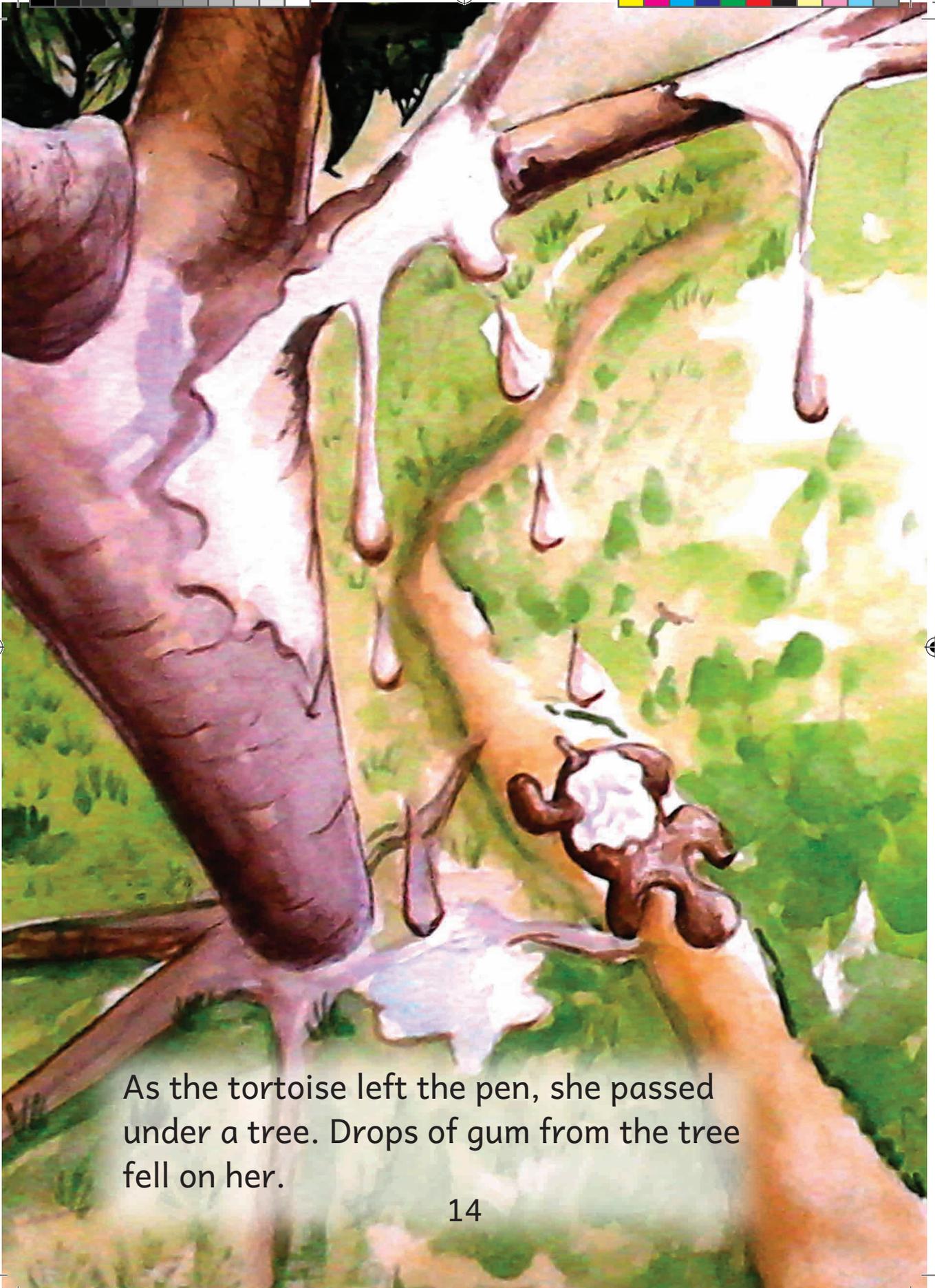
One day, as the tortoise was wandering about,
she found a cow in its pen.
She was with her calves.





“Can I join you, please?” asked Tortoise. “I’m sorry,” said the cow, “but we can’t help you. It’s full in here already.”





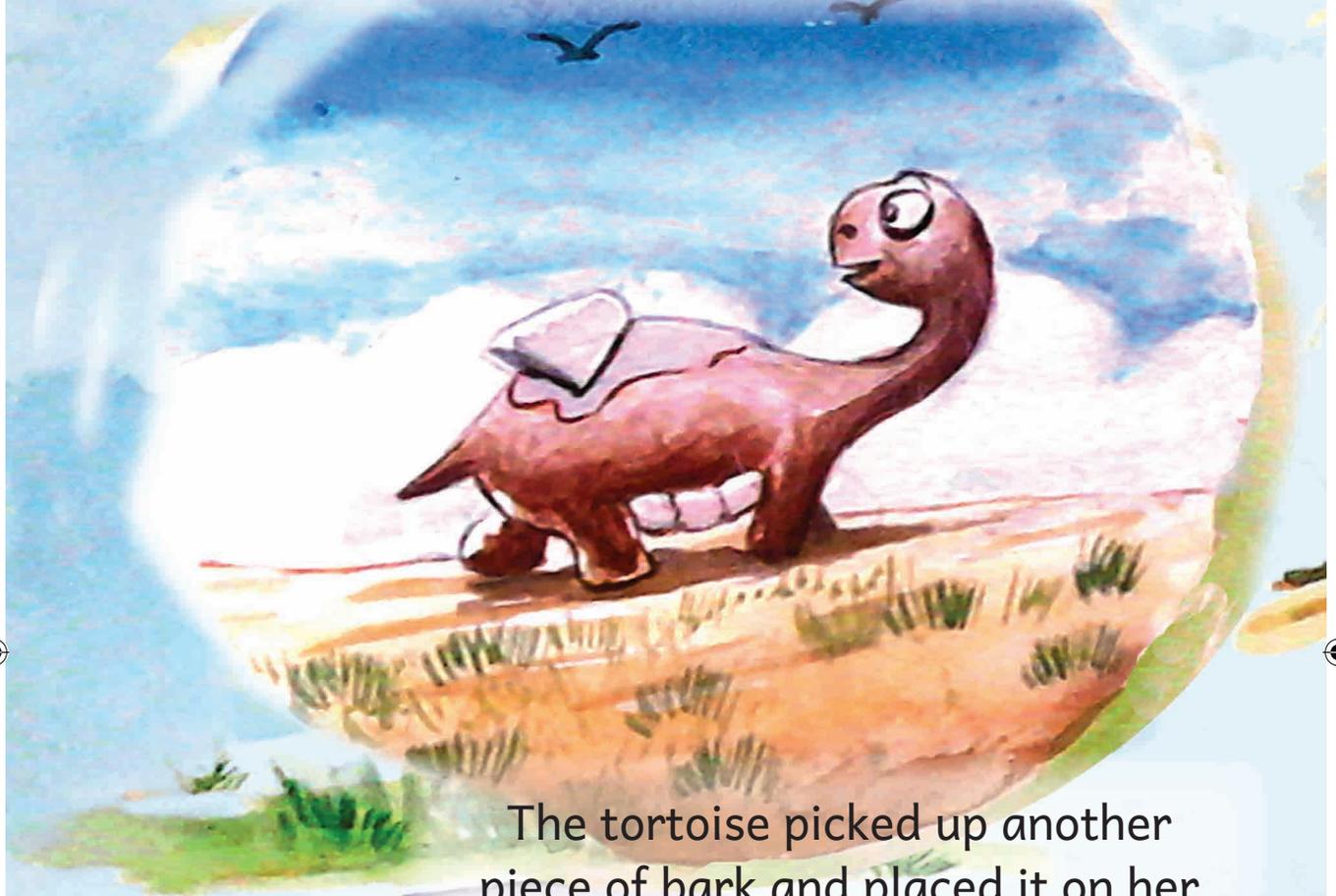
As the tortoise left the pen, she passed under a tree. Drops of gum from the tree fell on her.



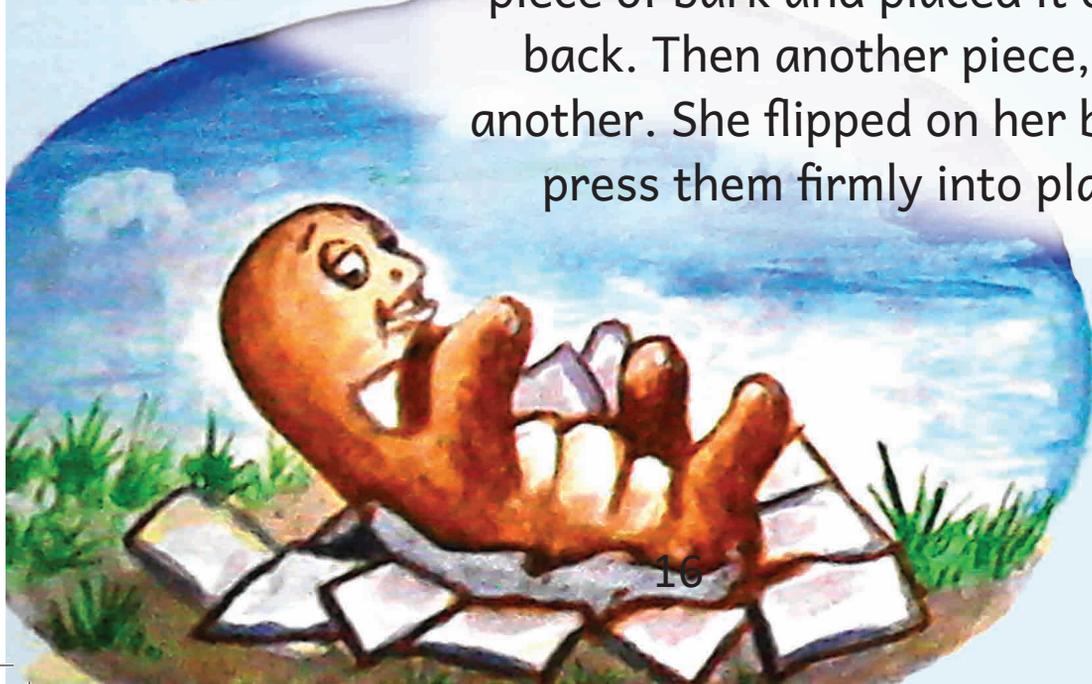


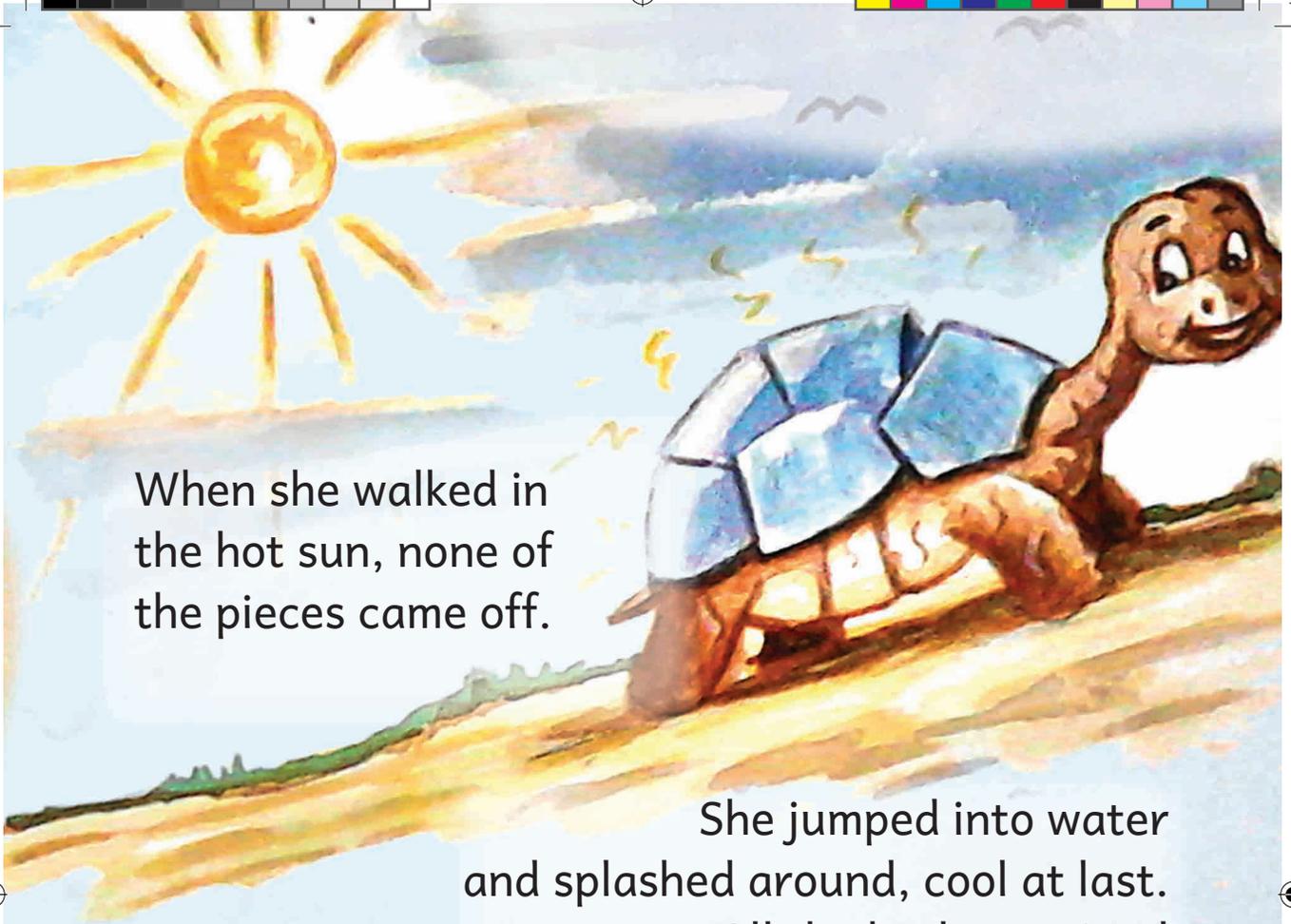
The tortoise loved the cool feeling of gum sliding all over her back. Since it was hot, she stopped under the tree for a while to rest. Her back got soaked with gum.

As she walked away, she noticed a
piece of tree-bark stuck to her back.
It was stuck firmly in place.



The tortoise picked up another
piece of bark and placed it on her
back. Then another piece, and
another. She flipped on her back to
press them firmly into place.





When she walked in the hot sun, none of the pieces came off.

She jumped into water and splashed around, cool at last. All the bark remained stuck to her back!





Tortoise played in the sand. The pieces
of bark remained stuck to her back.



Now the tortoise felt comfortable, no matter what the weather. She was no longer afraid of the heat, rain, or cold. The pieces of bark were stuck on her back forever. Finally, the tortoise had built her home. She carries it around proudly to this day!

