



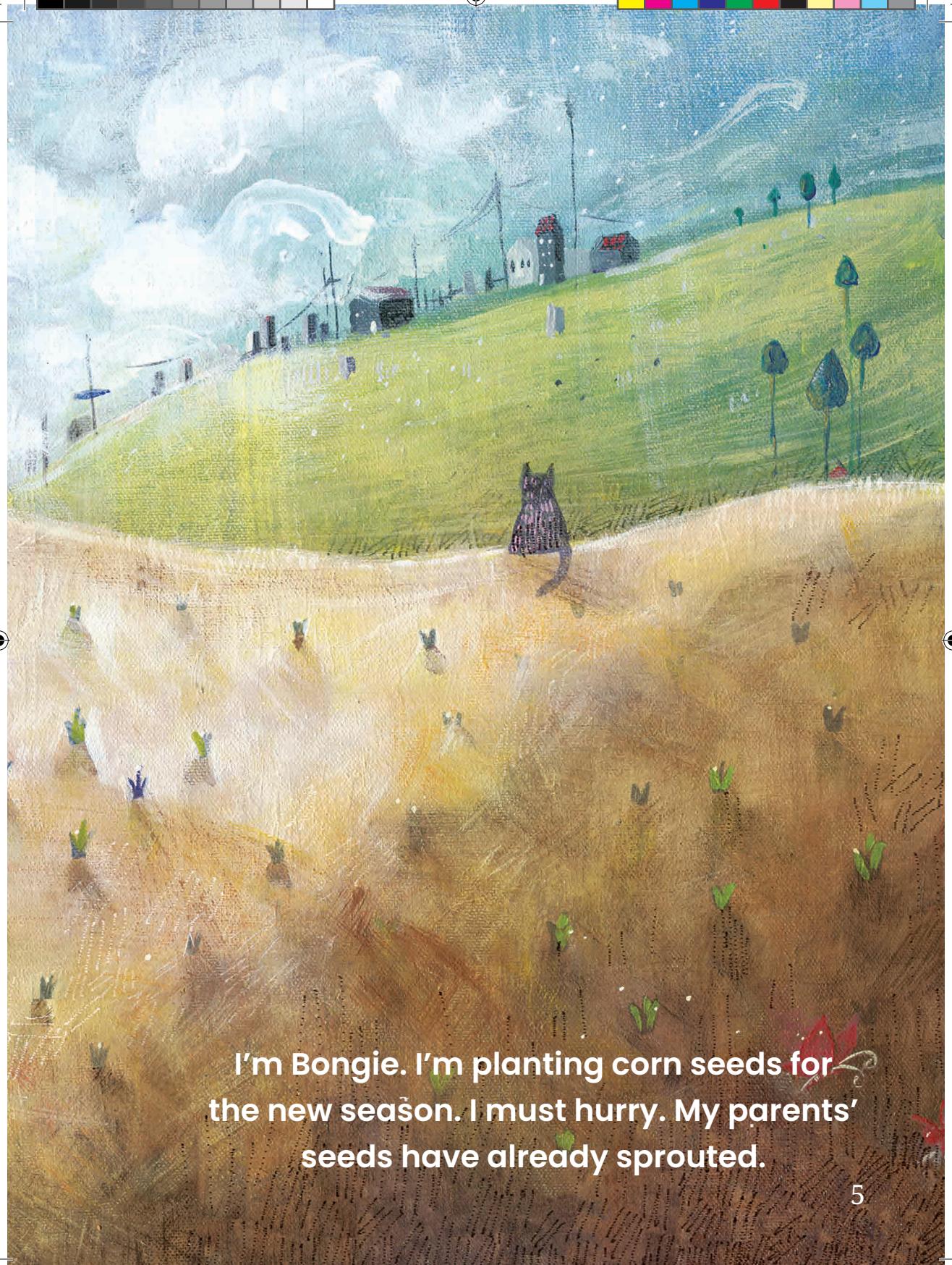
An A-maize-ing Story

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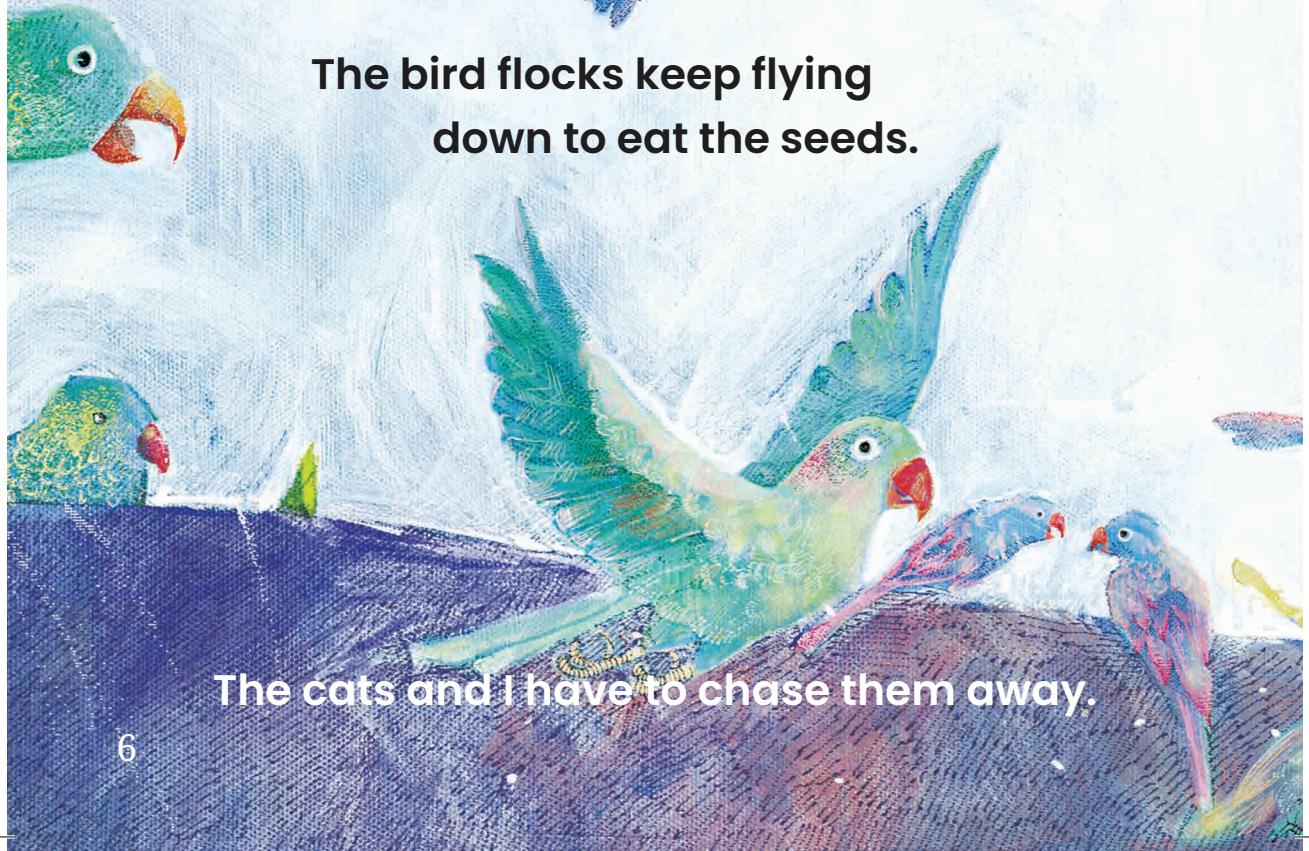




I'm Bongie. I'm planting corn seeds for
the new season. I must hurry. My parents'
seeds have already sprouted.



**The bird flocks keep flying
down to eat the seeds.**



The cats and I have to chase them away.



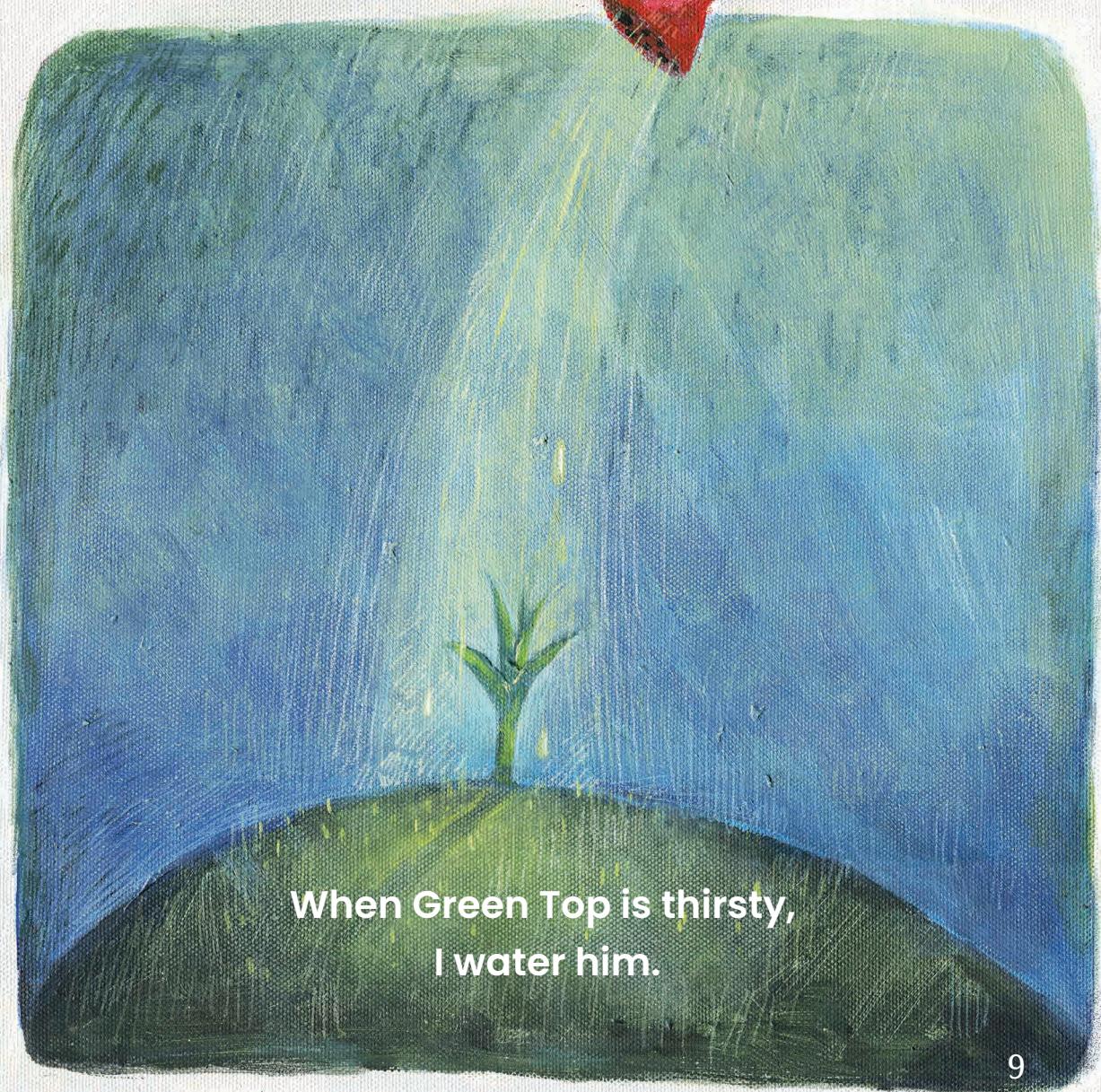
**“Fly away, you bad birds!”
we shout.**

**A few days later, a single
sprout shows up.**

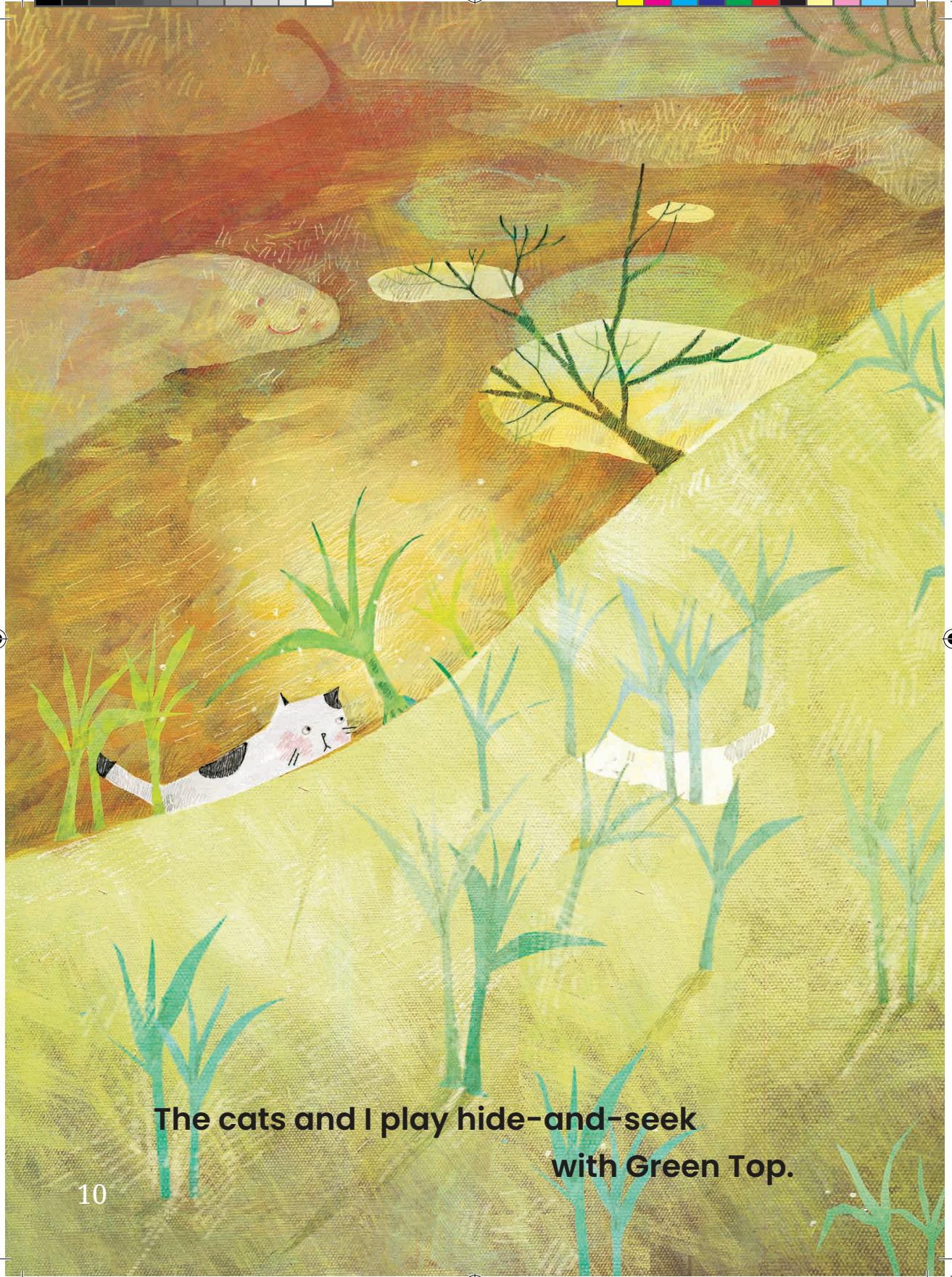




I name it Green Top. I read books to Green
Top so he will grow up quickly.



**When Green Top is thirsty,
I water him.**



10

**The cats and I play hide-and-seek
with Green Top.**



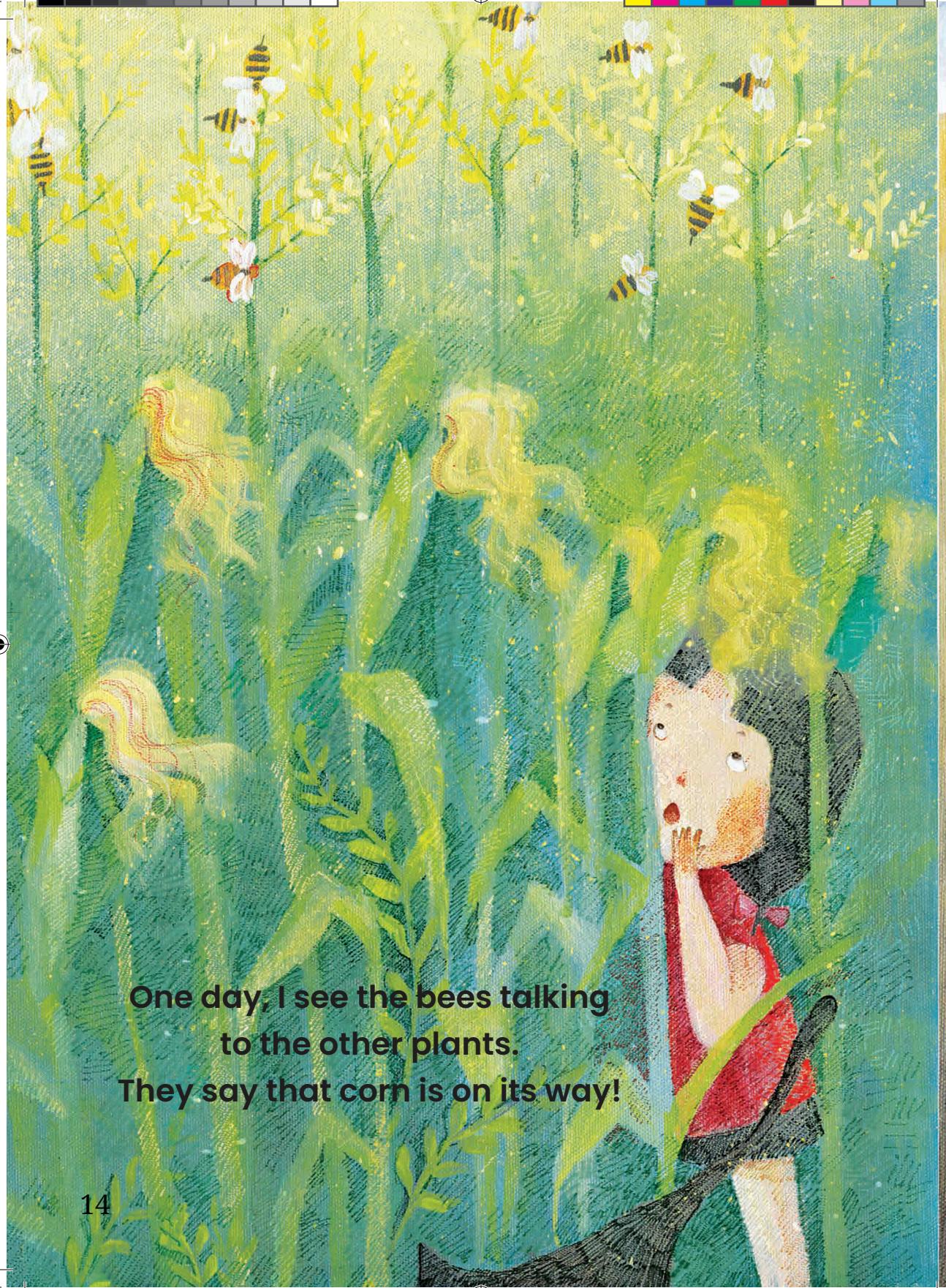


**I bring a new kind of food for Green Top.
It is called fertilizer.**



Green Top grows every day.





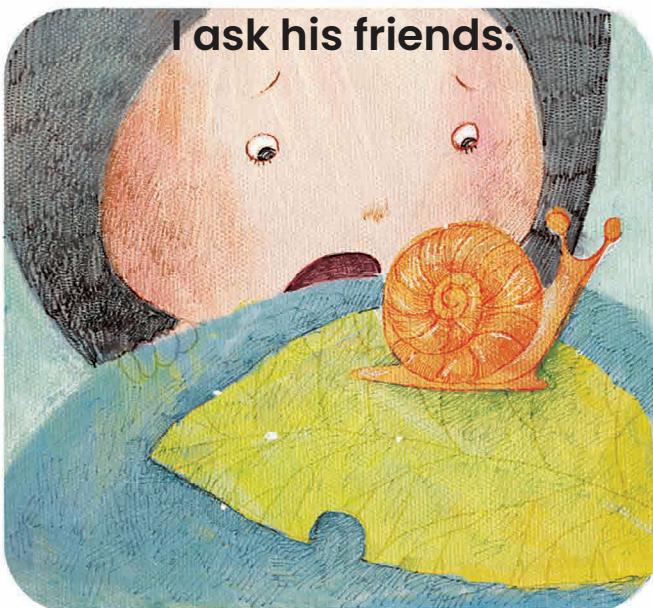
**One day, I see the bees talking
to the other plants.
They say that corn is on its way!**



I quickly run to Green Top.
My parents' plants are happy.
Why is Green Top so sad?



I ask his friends:



-Does anyone
know why
Green Top
is sad?"

Snail doesn't.

Caterpillar
doesn't.





Only Frog
answers.
He says,

“ribbit ribbit”

**and then jumps
into the water.**

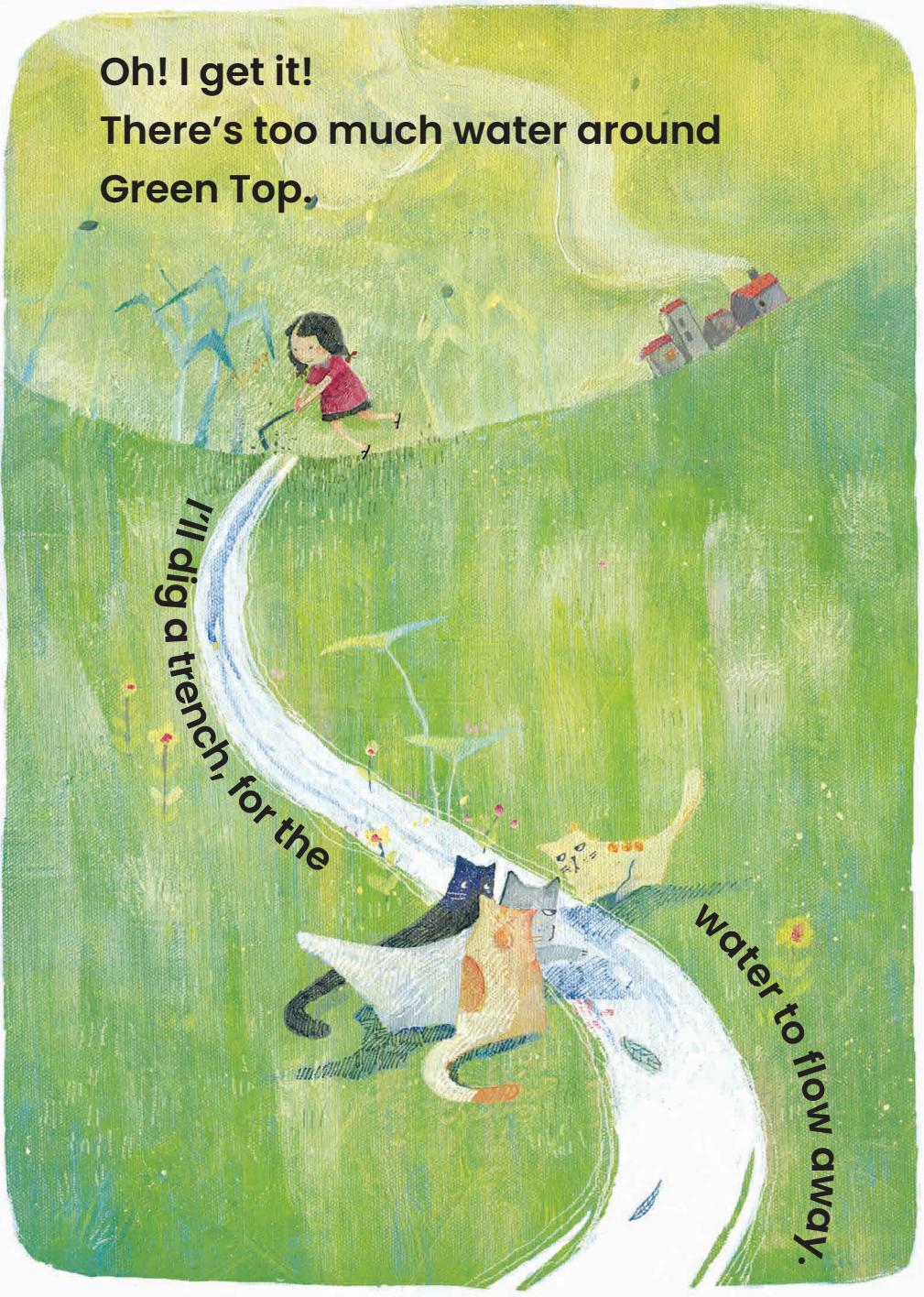
**What does
that mean?**



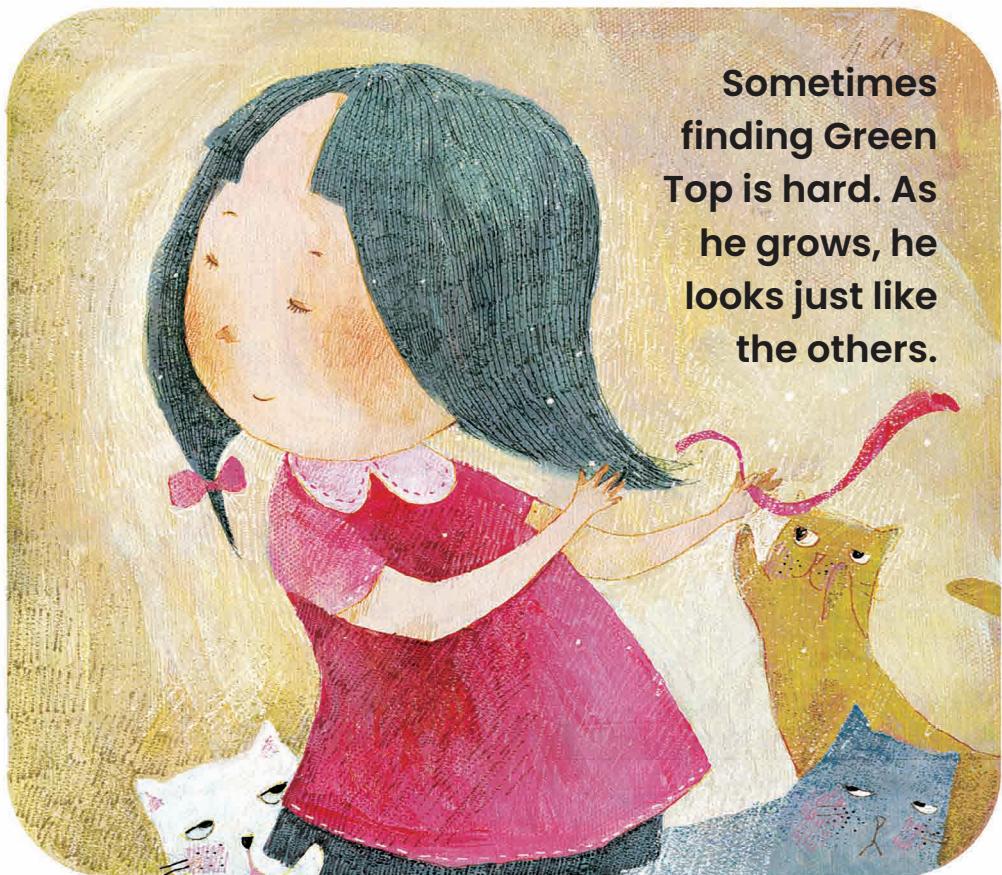


Oh! I get it!
There's too much water around
Green Top.

I'll dig a trench, for the
water to flow away.

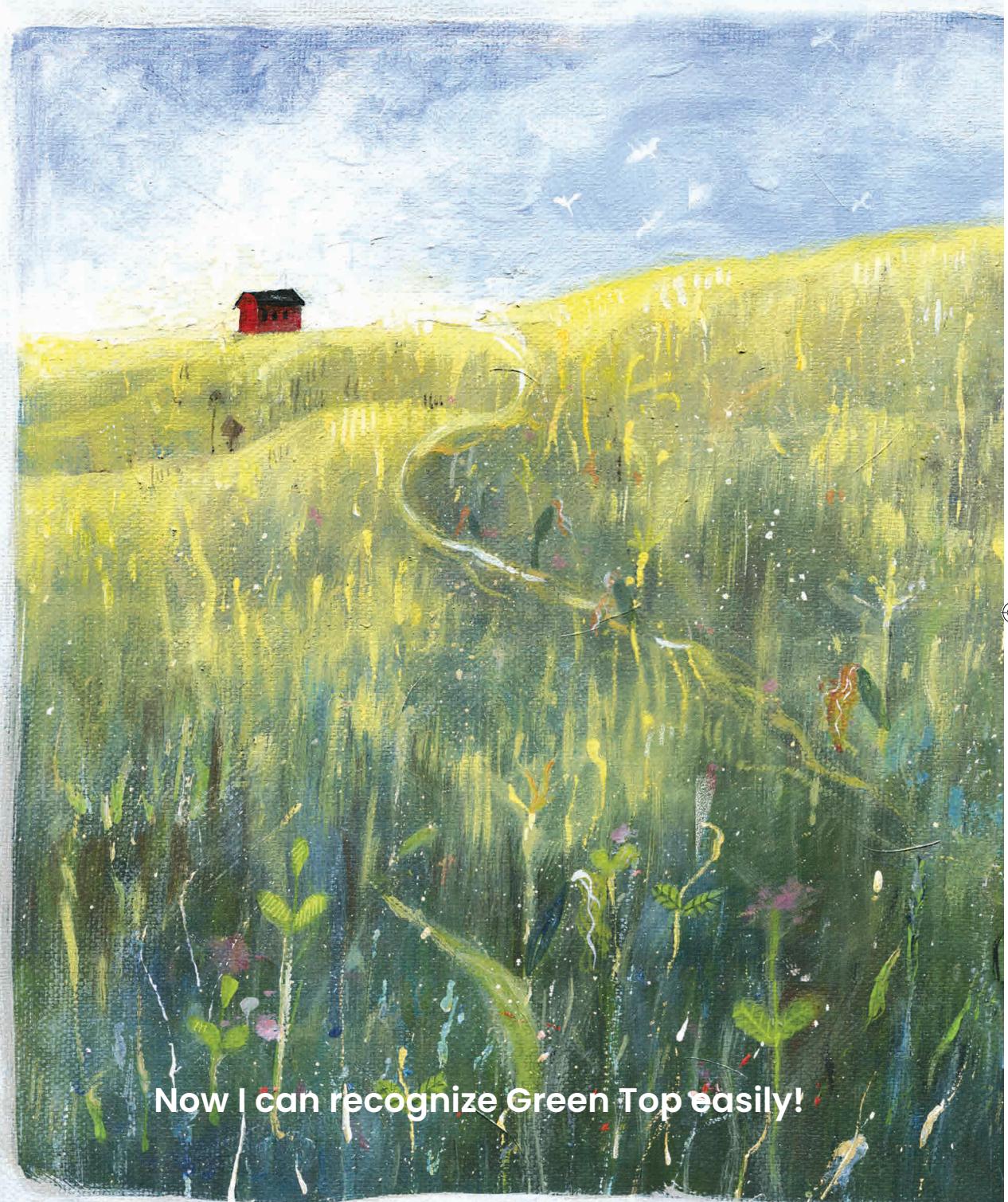


The illustration shows a green hillside with a small town of houses on a ridge in the background. A girl in a pink dress is digging a deep blue trench with a shovel. Water is flowing down the trench towards a large, stylized animal figure in the foreground. The animal has a long, coiled body and a small crown on its head. The text "I'll dig a trench, for the water to flow away." is written along the length of the trench.



I'll tie a red
ribbon around
my corn plant.





Now I can recognize Green Top easily!



21





Two more weeks pass. Green Top grows taller.



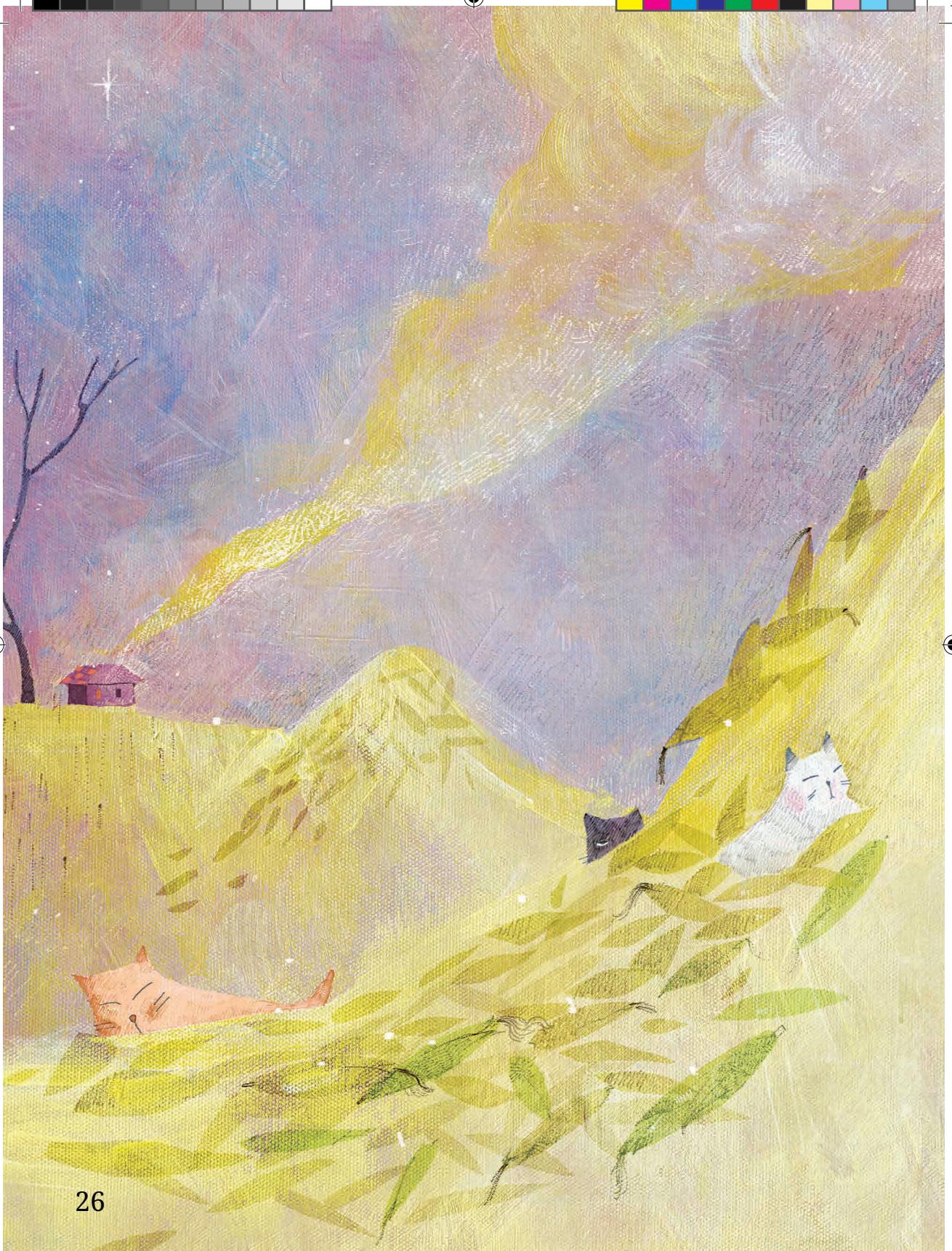
At last, it's harvesting season.

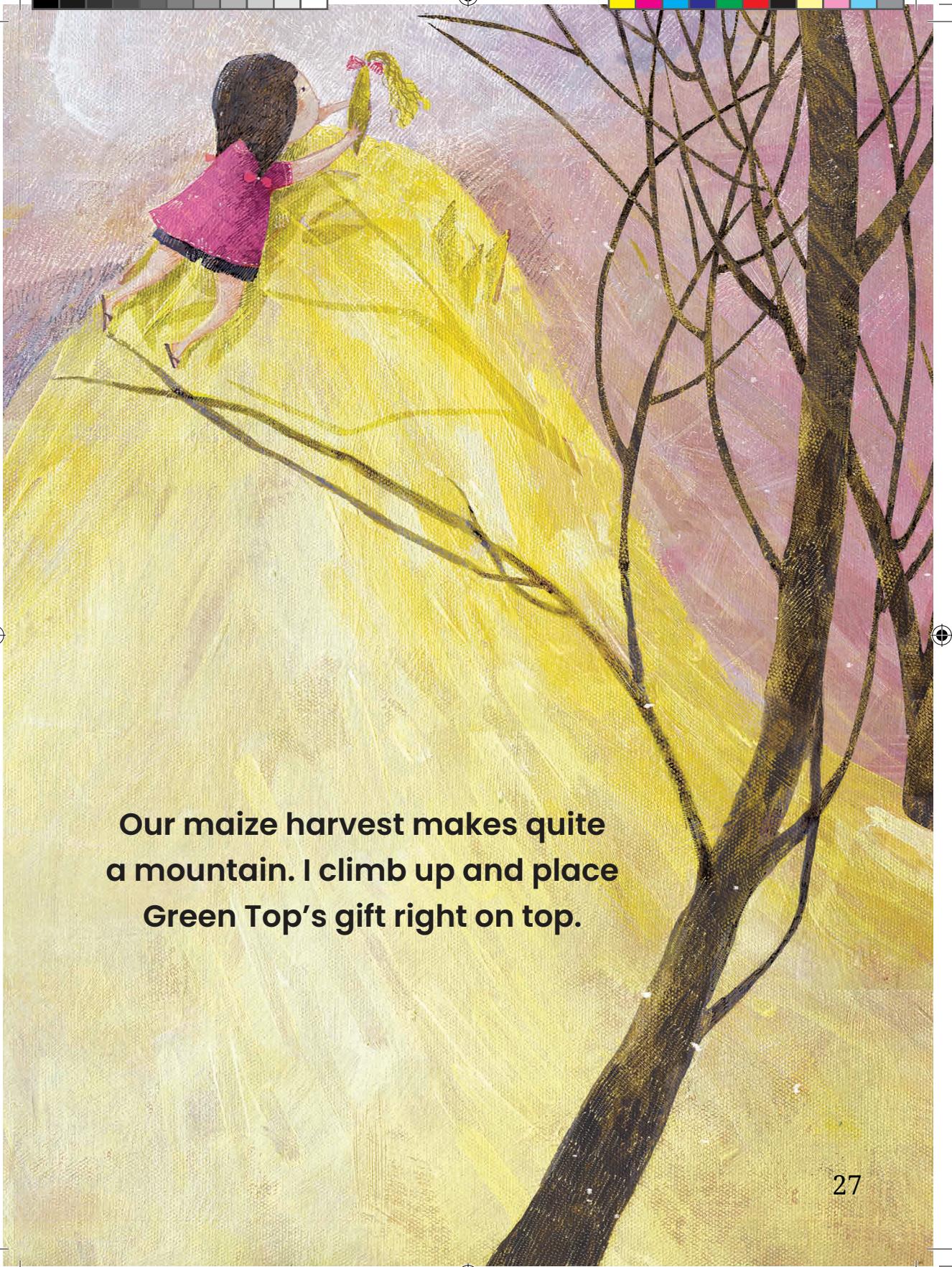


Green Top gives me a gift.

It's corn!







**Our maize harvest makes quite
a mountain. I climb up and place
Green Top's gift right on top.**

