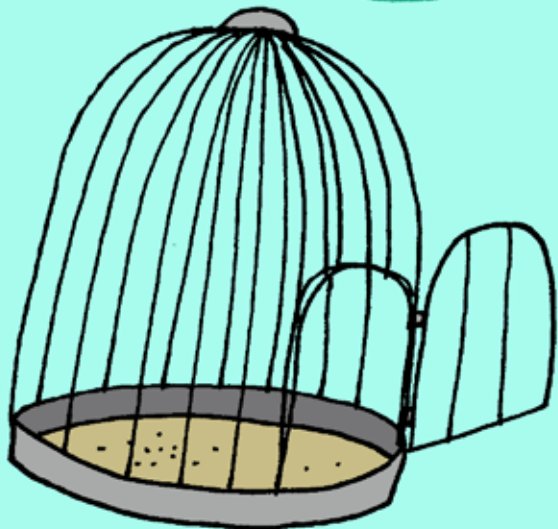


Songbird,

FLY!



WRITING by Christopher Burns
DRAWING by Stephanie McMillan

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Songbird, Fly!

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Requests for information should be addressed to:

Forward Spiral
P.O. Box 460673
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33346

ForwardSpiral.org@gmail.com

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Dedicated to everyone trying to
help create a better world.
Keep fighting!!!

And a special thanks to a special person...
thanks Steph!!!!

Samantha the song bird
listened from her cage
as the humans around her
screamed in rage



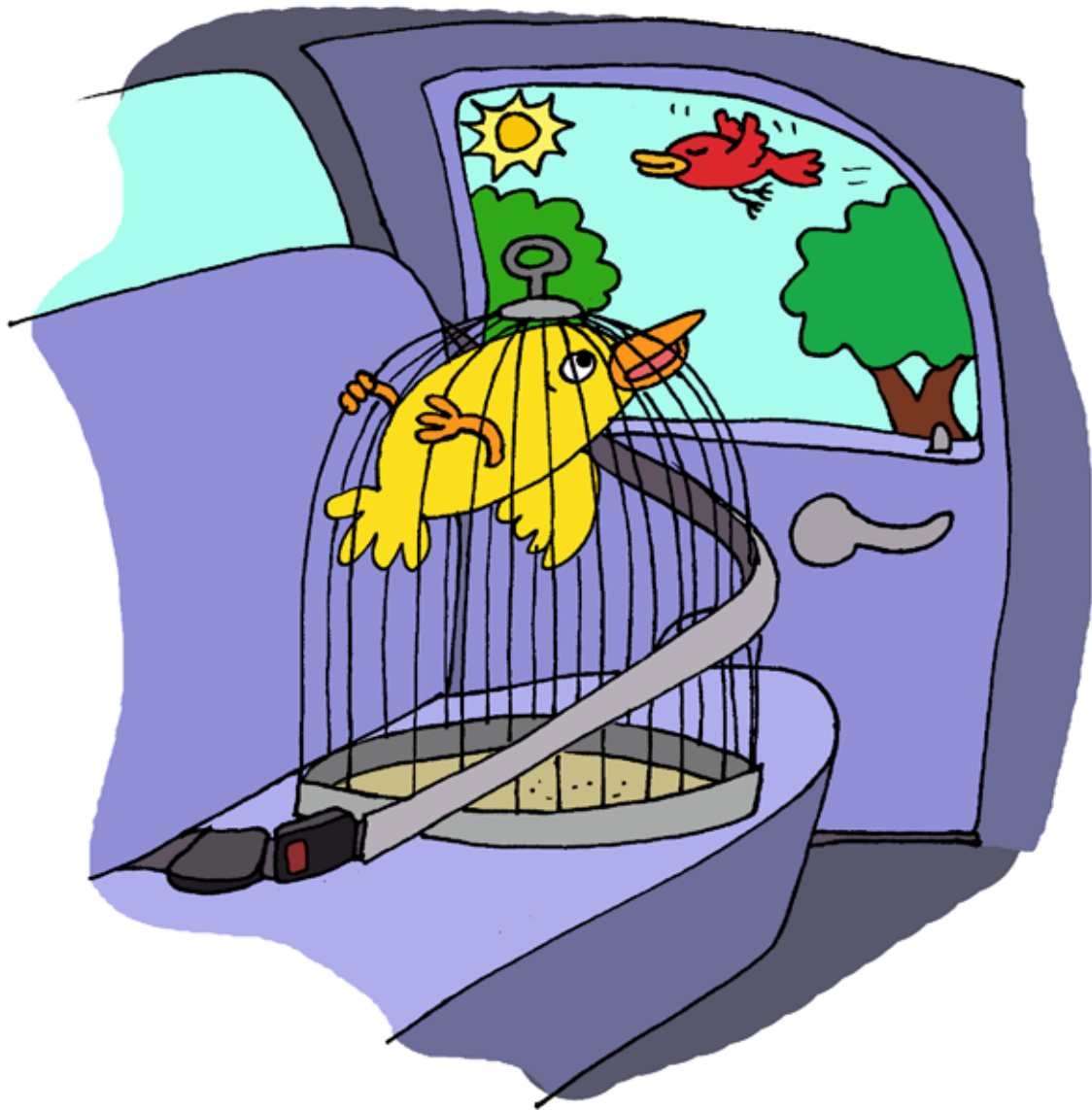


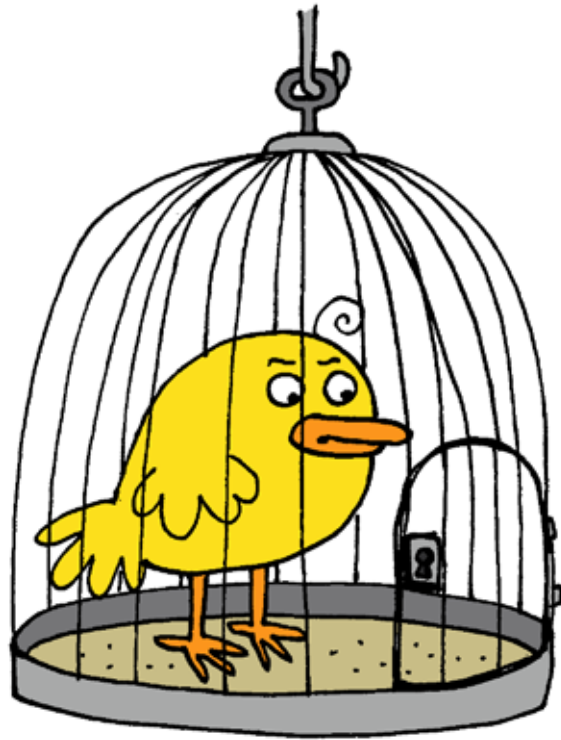
How prices are high
how they're in a bad mood
how they're having trouble
buying enough food.

Now Samantha wondered:
How can that be?
She had heard of a world
where all could live free.



She hadn't been out much
and not too far,
like once in her cage
in the back of a car.





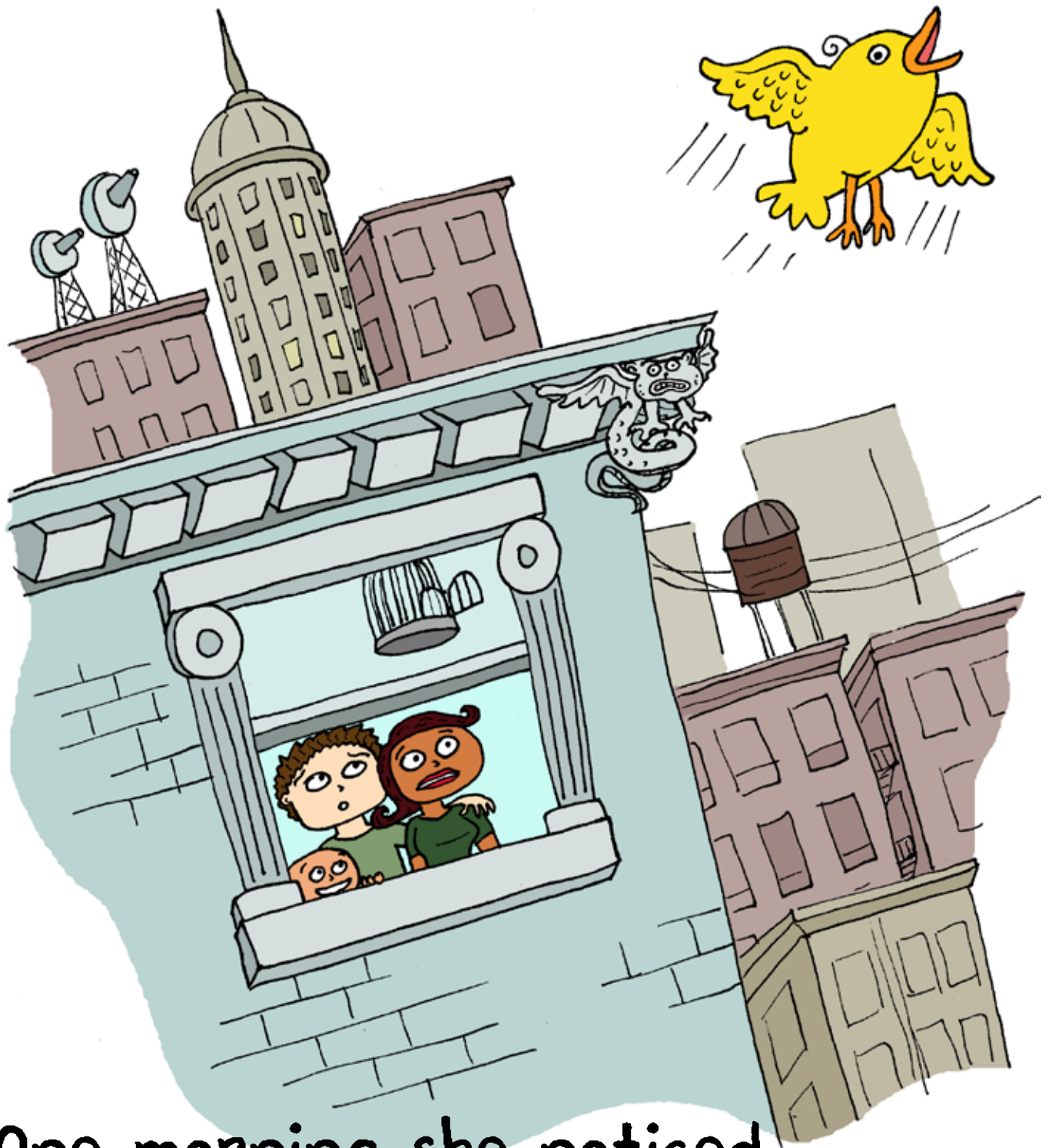
But the world she heard of
she was sure did exist.
And if she got the chance,
she wouldn't resist.



She'd escape from her cage,
escape from the city
to a land that she'd heard
was green and pretty.

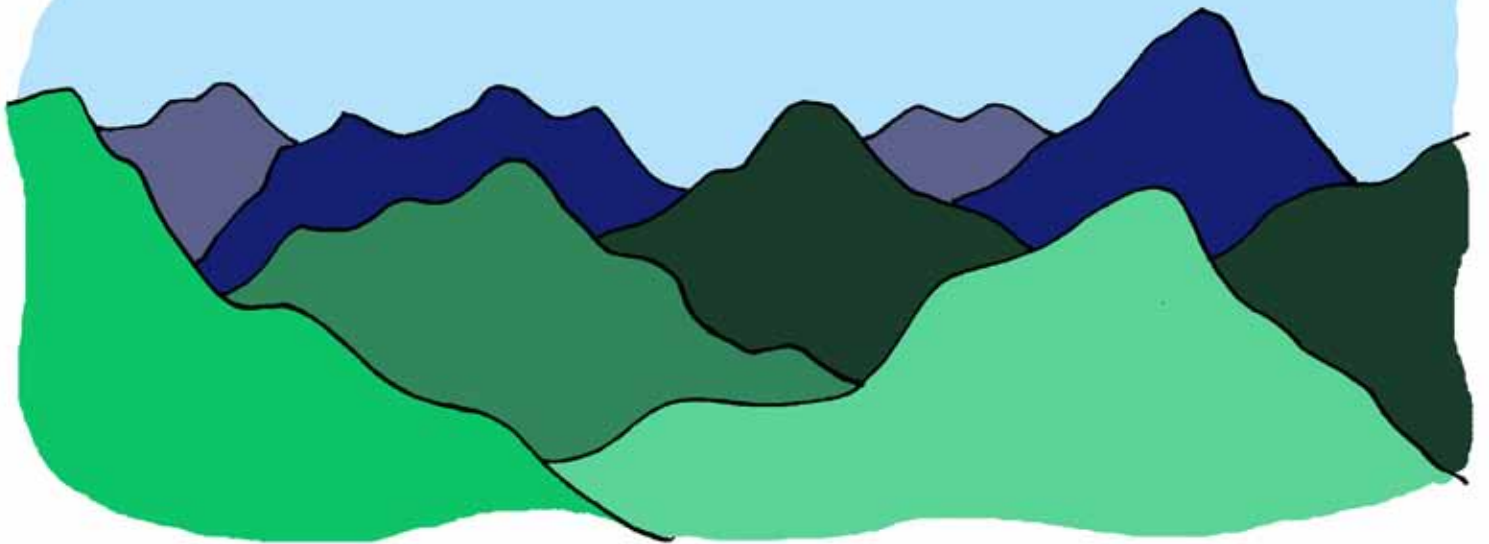
And get away
from the angry crowd,
where she could fly all day
and sing out loud!





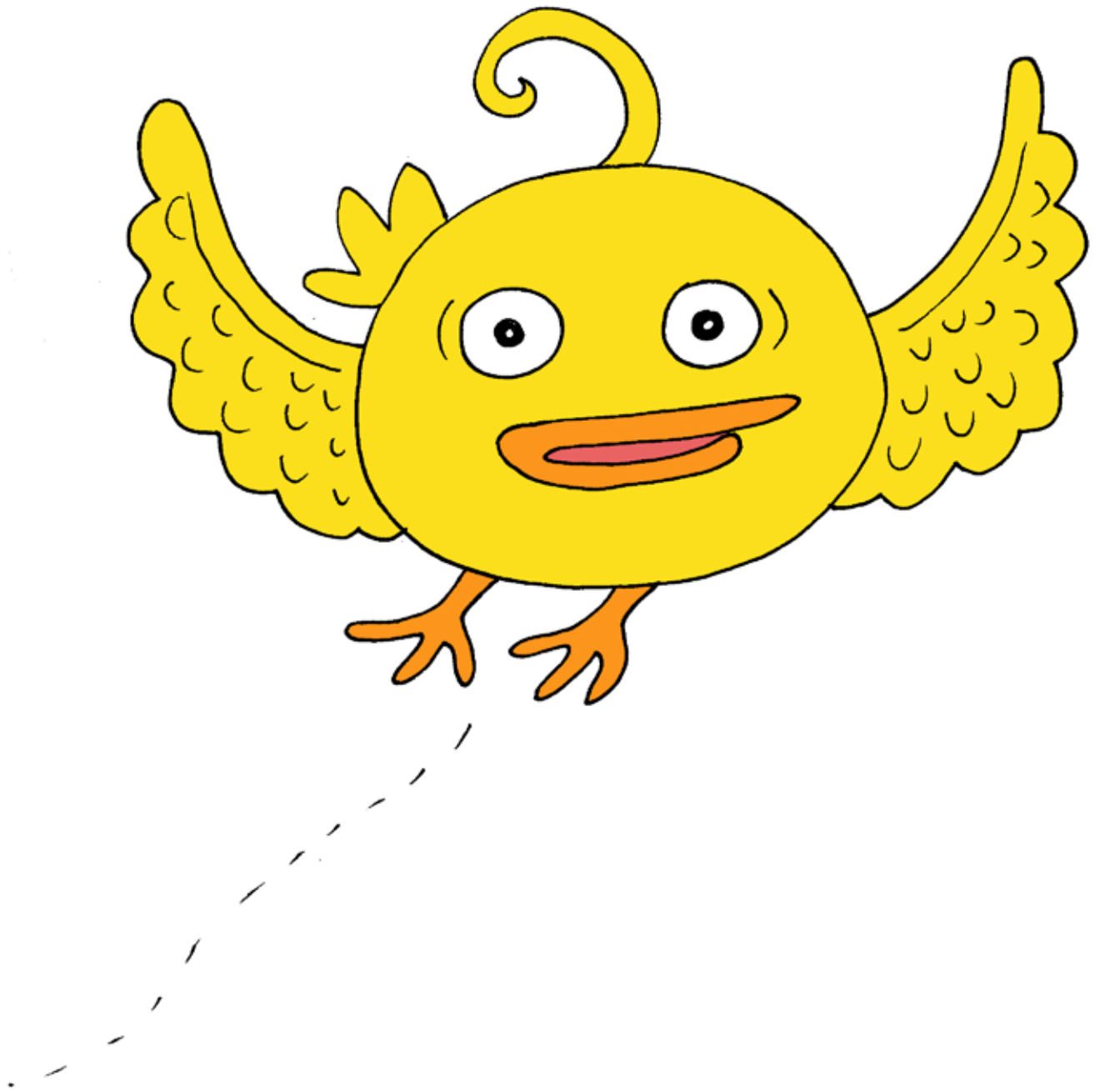
One morning she noticed
while everyone was fighting
that her door was open!
And she flew out like lightning!

She flew and flew
mile after mile
high in the air
with a great big smile.



Pushing and pushing
for what seemed like days
she felt the excitement
when she cleared the haze.



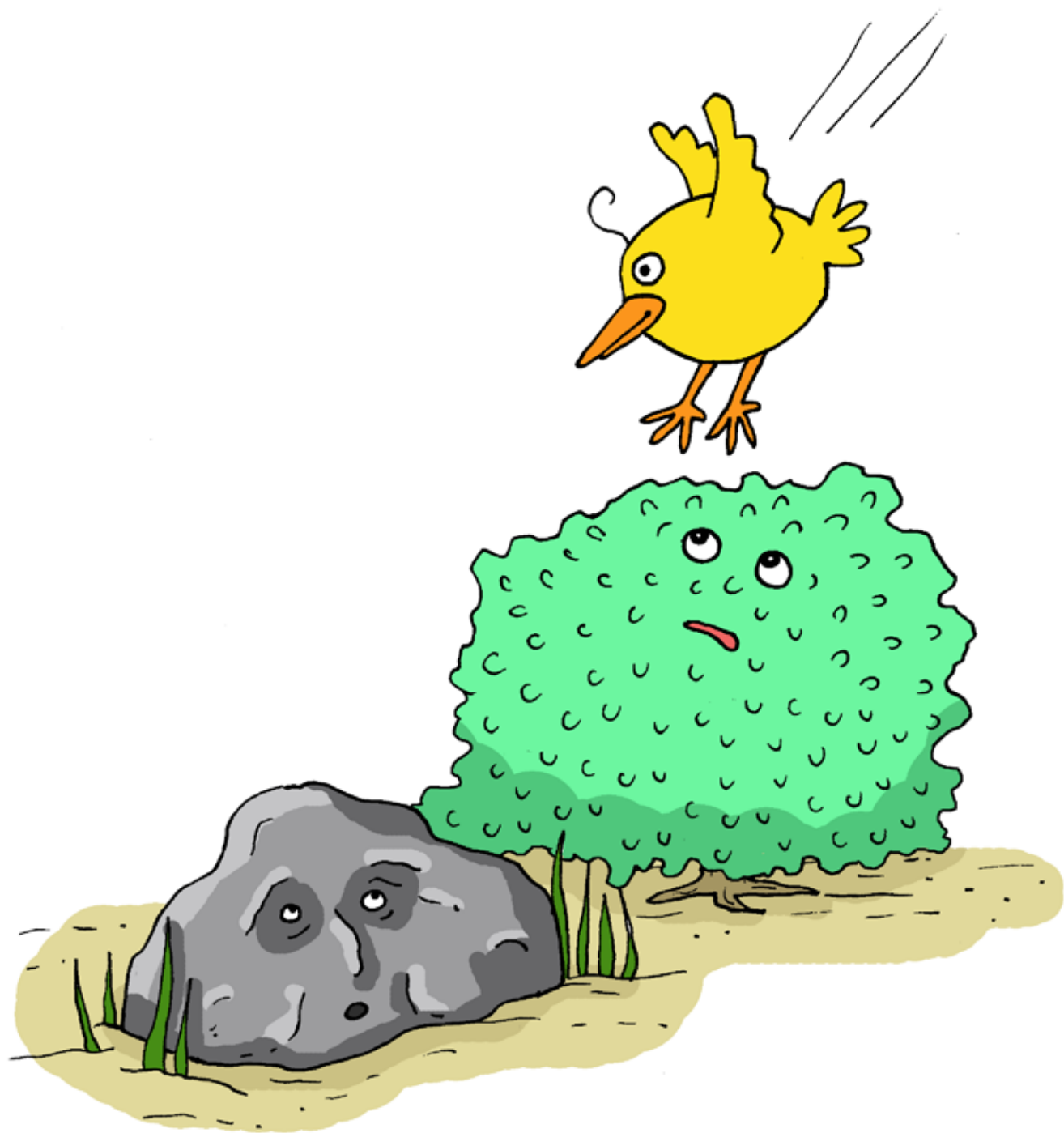


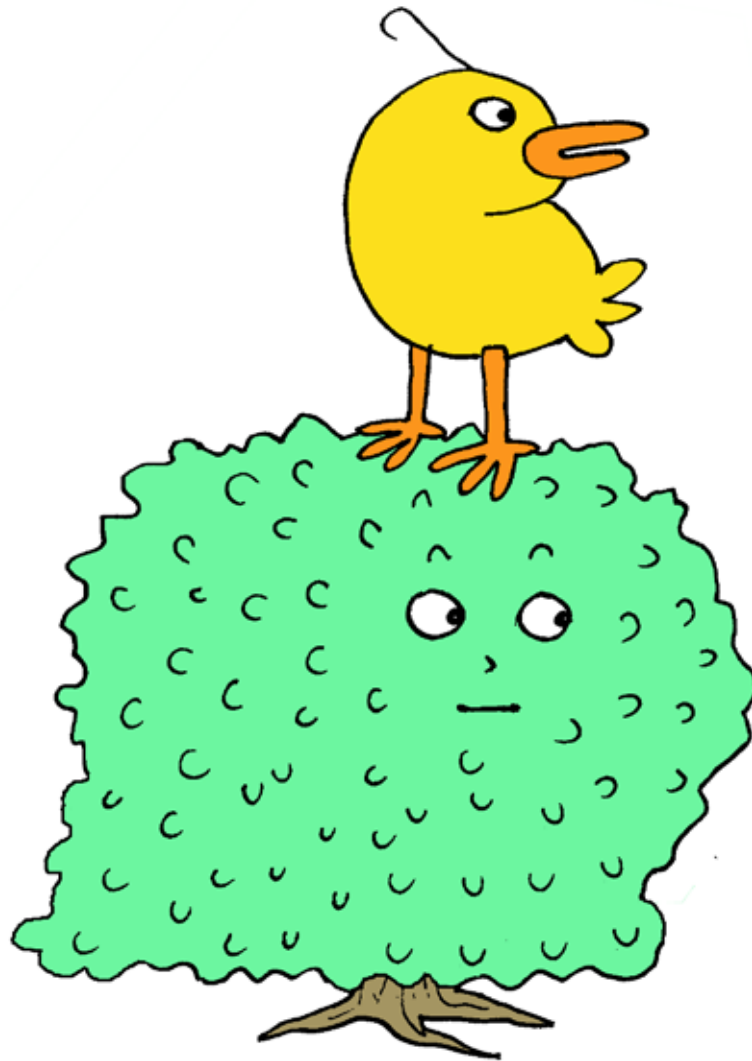
What she saw in front of her
was too much to take!
Mountains and rivers -
it almost seemed fake.

Trees so green
and waters so blue,
and a sky above
with a pinkish hue.



She landed on a bush
right next to a boulder,
and as she looked around
she was tapped on her shoulder.

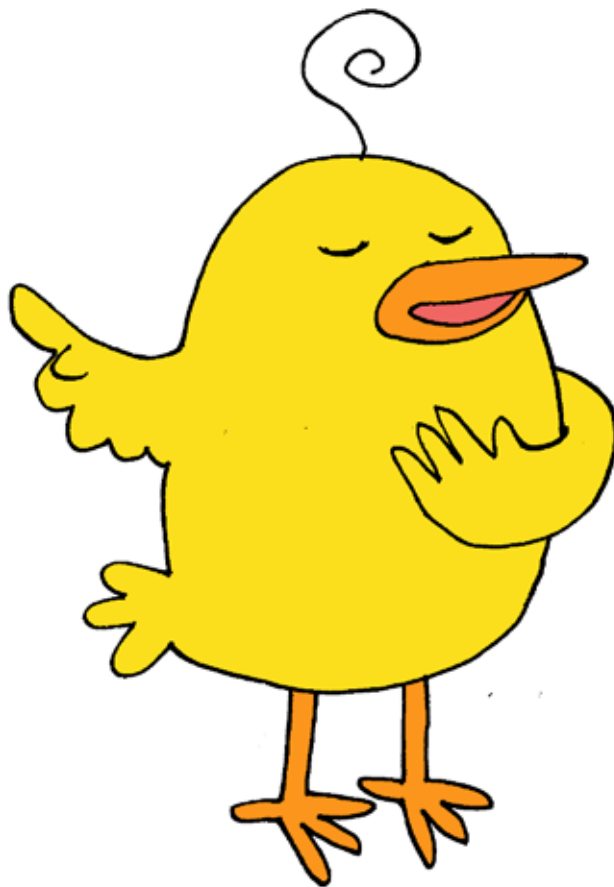




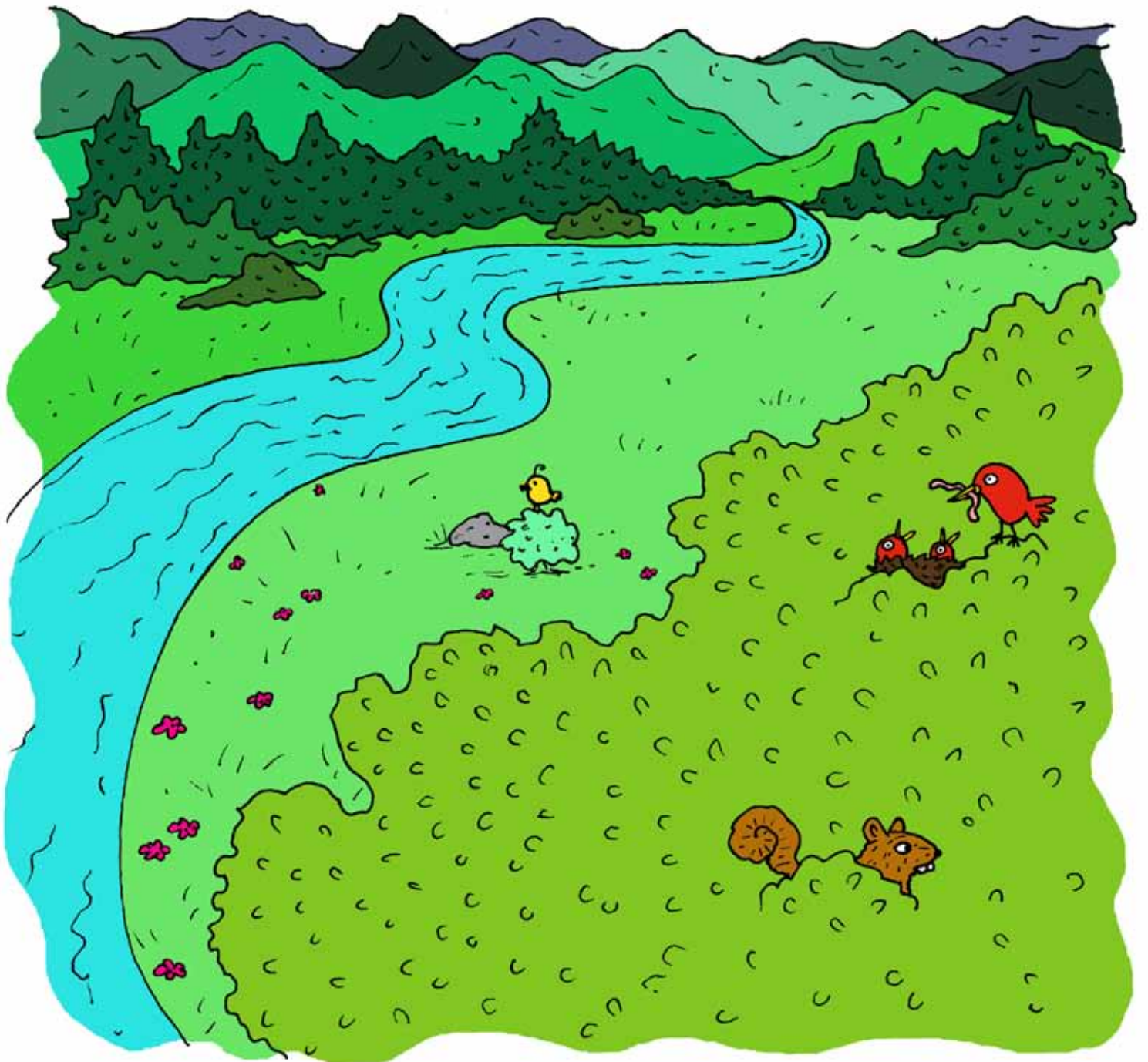
"Who are you?
Why are you here?"
asked a pleasant voice,
"Can I help you my dear?"

"I'm Samantha,"
she replied.

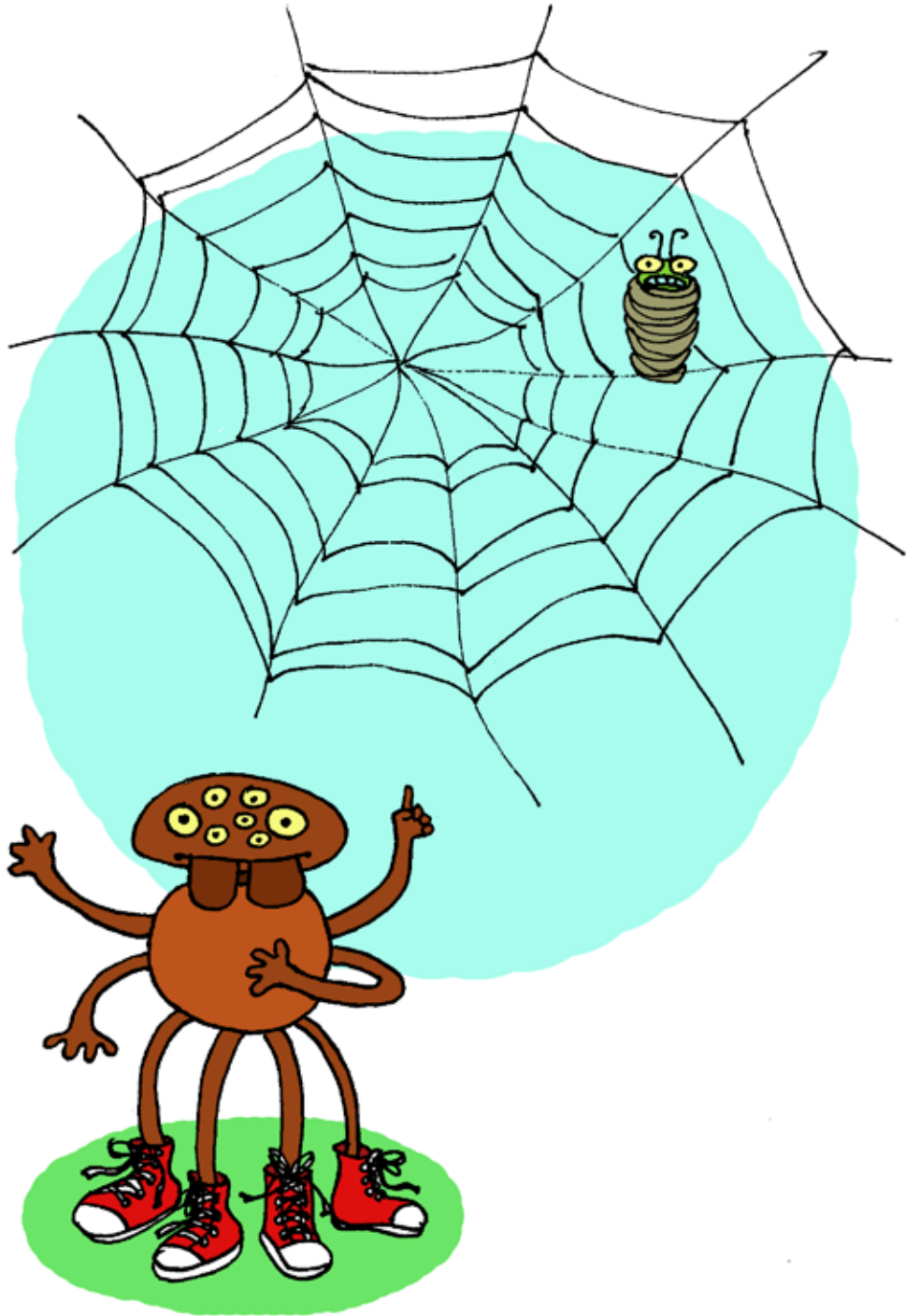
"A songbird from the city.
I just arrived."



"What a beautiful place!
It's so nice to meet you!
Who do I have the pleasure
of speaking to?"



"I'm Roy Orbweaver,
Spider Extraordinaire!
This is my home.
I live over there."





"We all work together,"
said Roy,
"to maintain our home."
"But I do nothing,"
cried the boulder.
"I sit here alone."

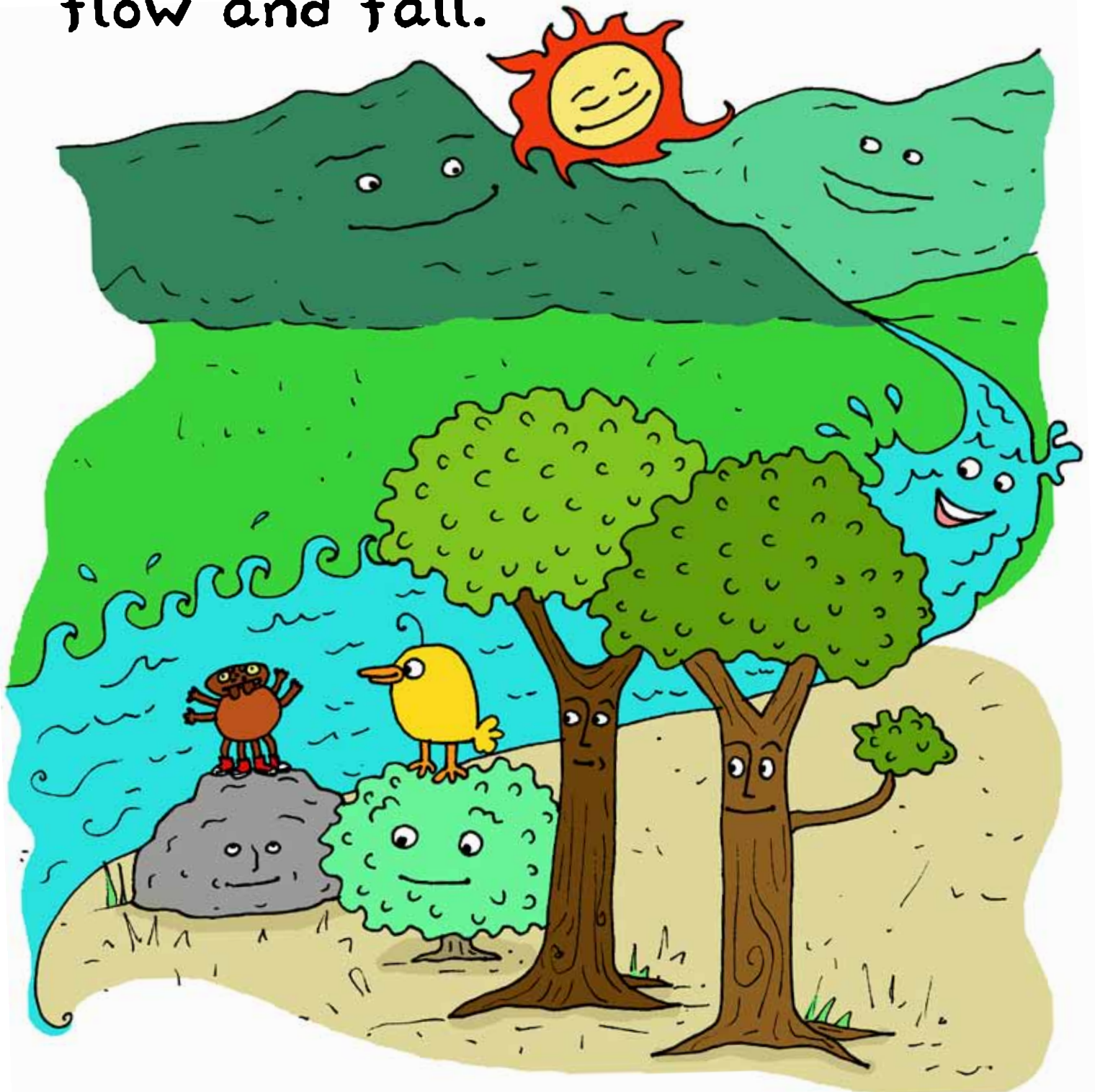
"Oh but you do," said Roy.
"You keep everything in place,
by your size and weight
and natural grace."

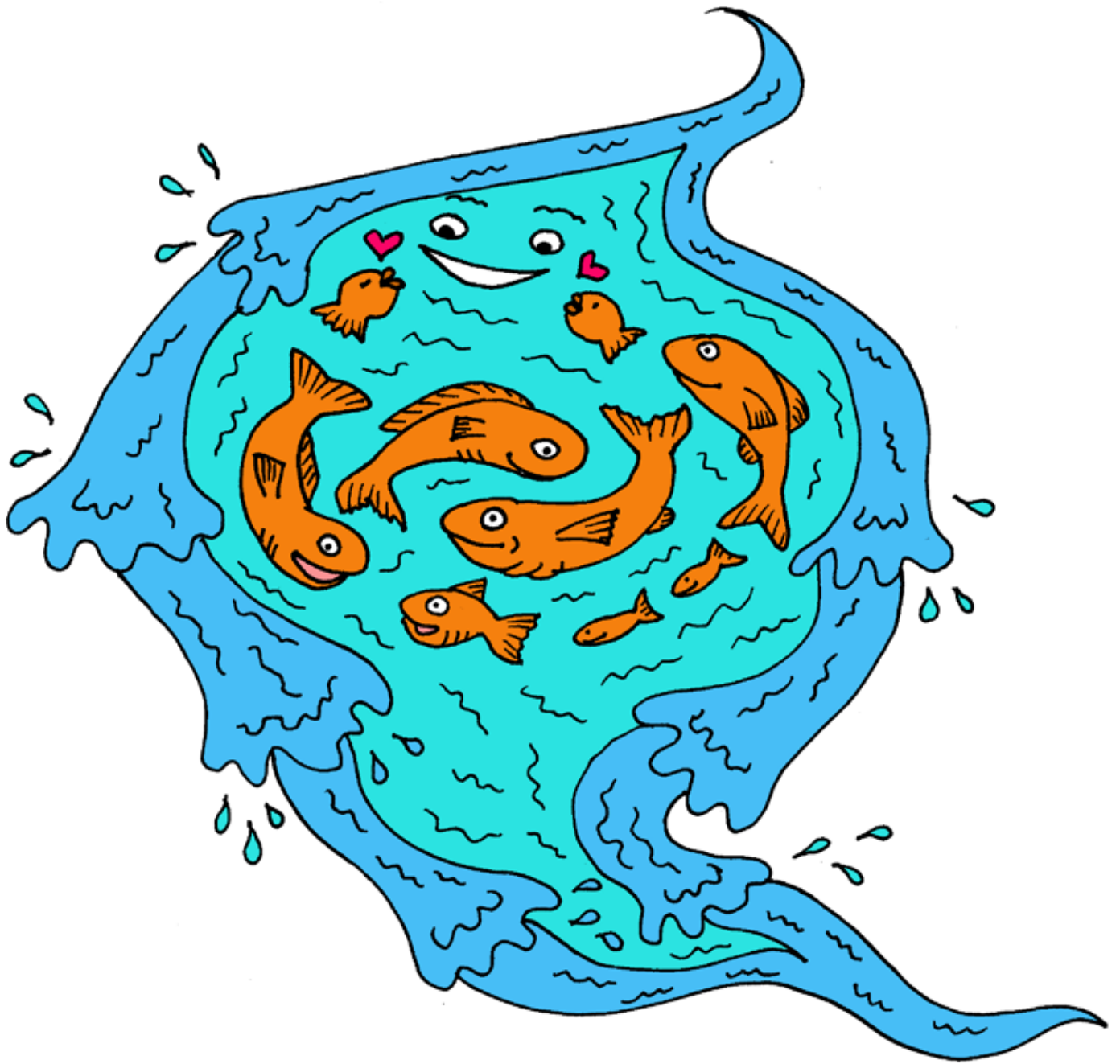


"And along with the trees,
their roots deep underground,
no better pair
could ever be found."

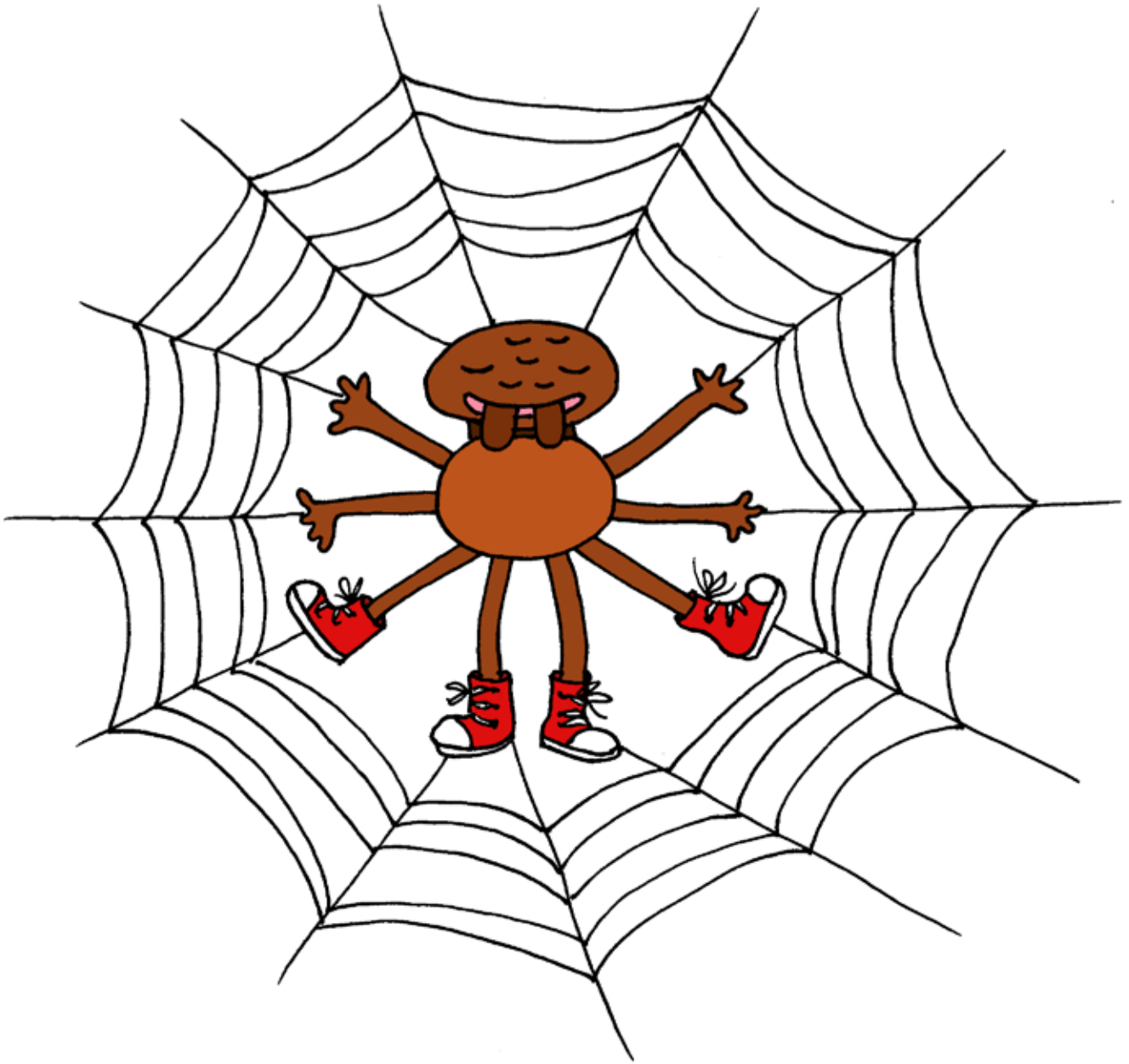


"The trees and the boulders
let the mountain stand tall,
which lets the river
flow and fall."





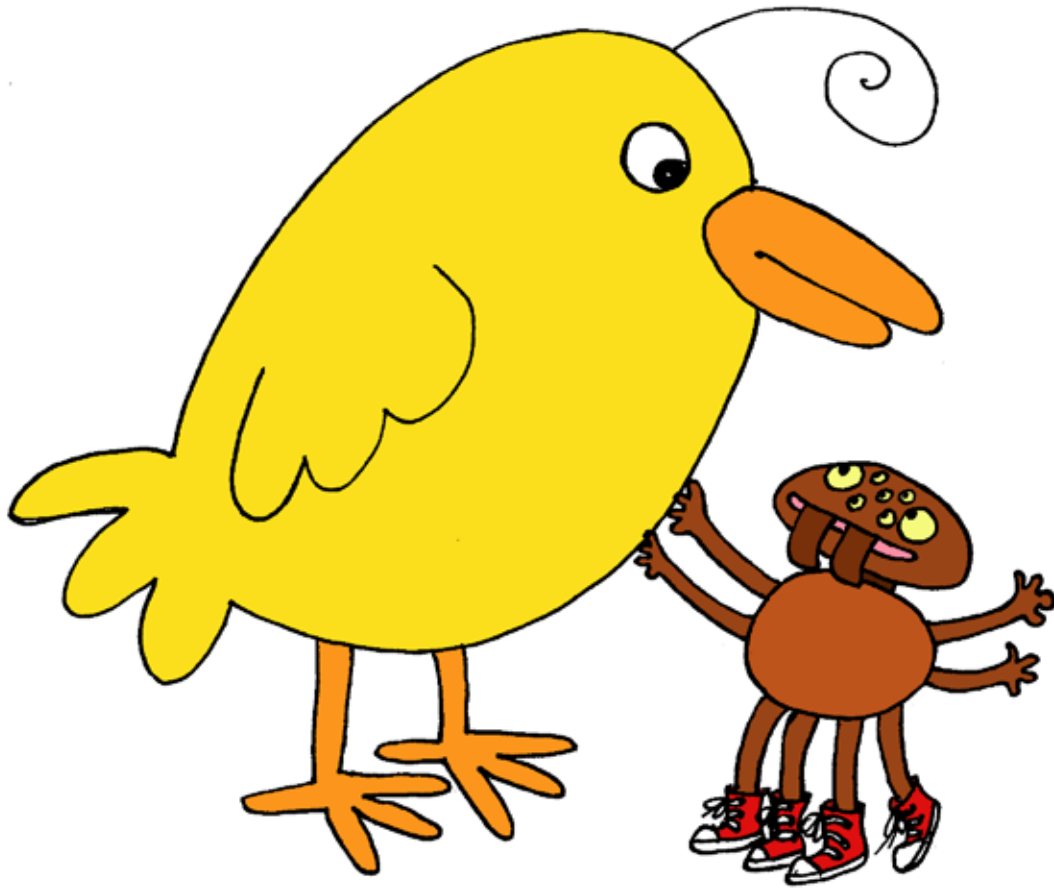
"And the river provides
a home for the fish.
And where the river pools,
you can make a wish!"



"We each contribute
to everything you see.
And in exchange for our work,
we all get to live free."

So Samantha asked,
"May I stay for a while?"
The trees, fish and boulders
all began to smile.

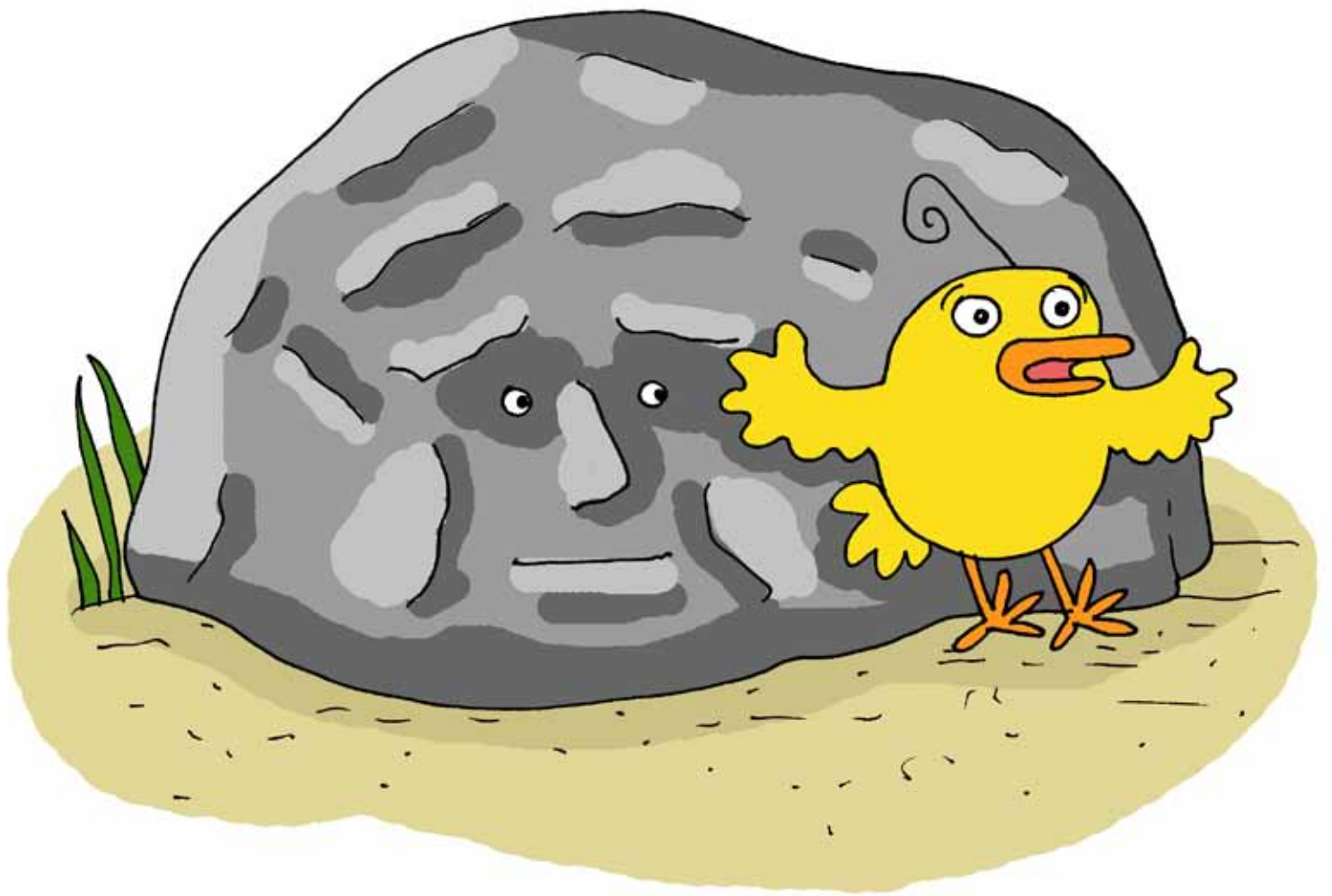




But Roy looked concerned,
yet politely smiled.
"Stay as long as you wish,
my dear child."

"We'd love to have you.
But what's coming is no good.
They want to take all the boulders.
They want to take all the wood."



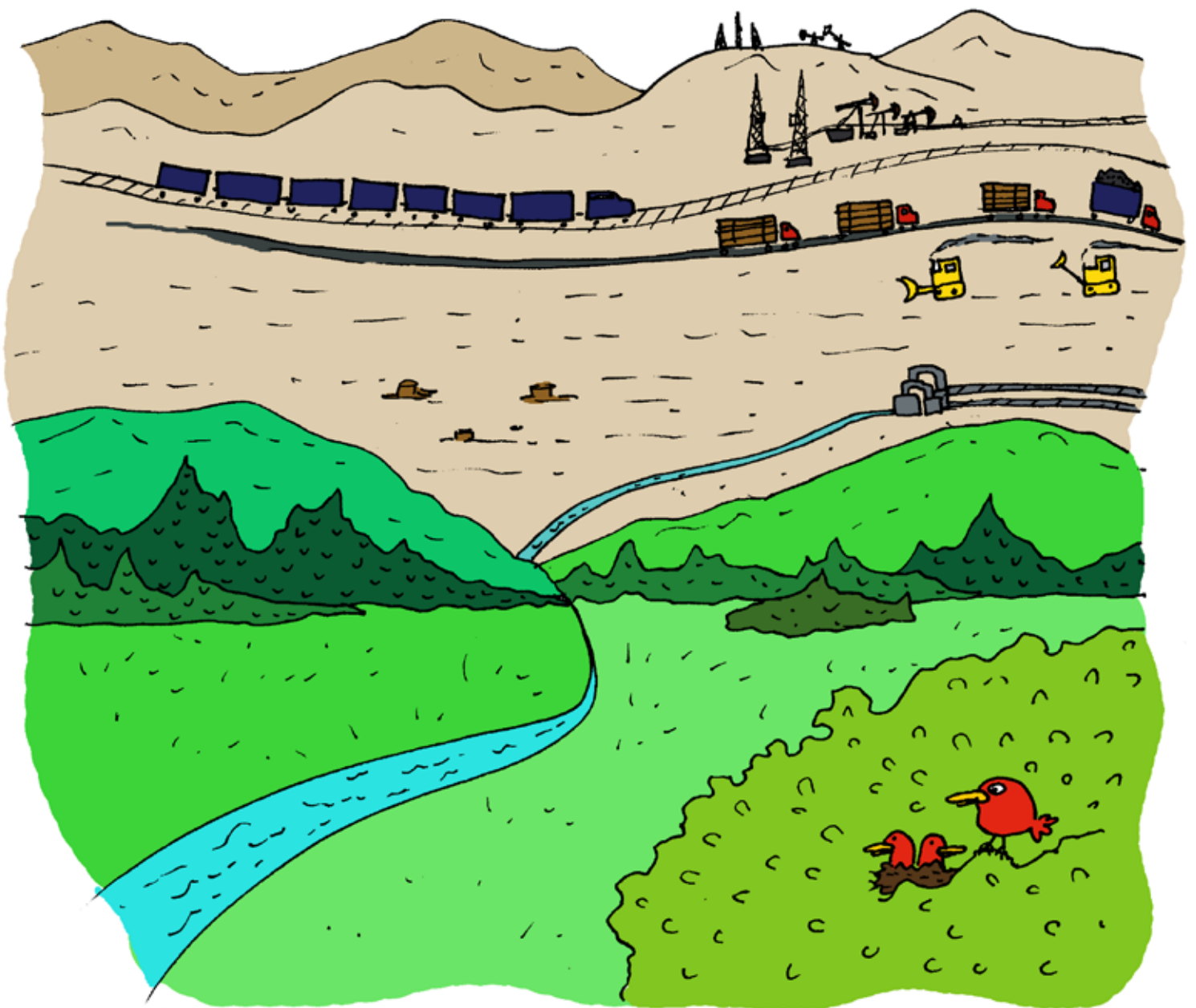


"Take the boulders?"

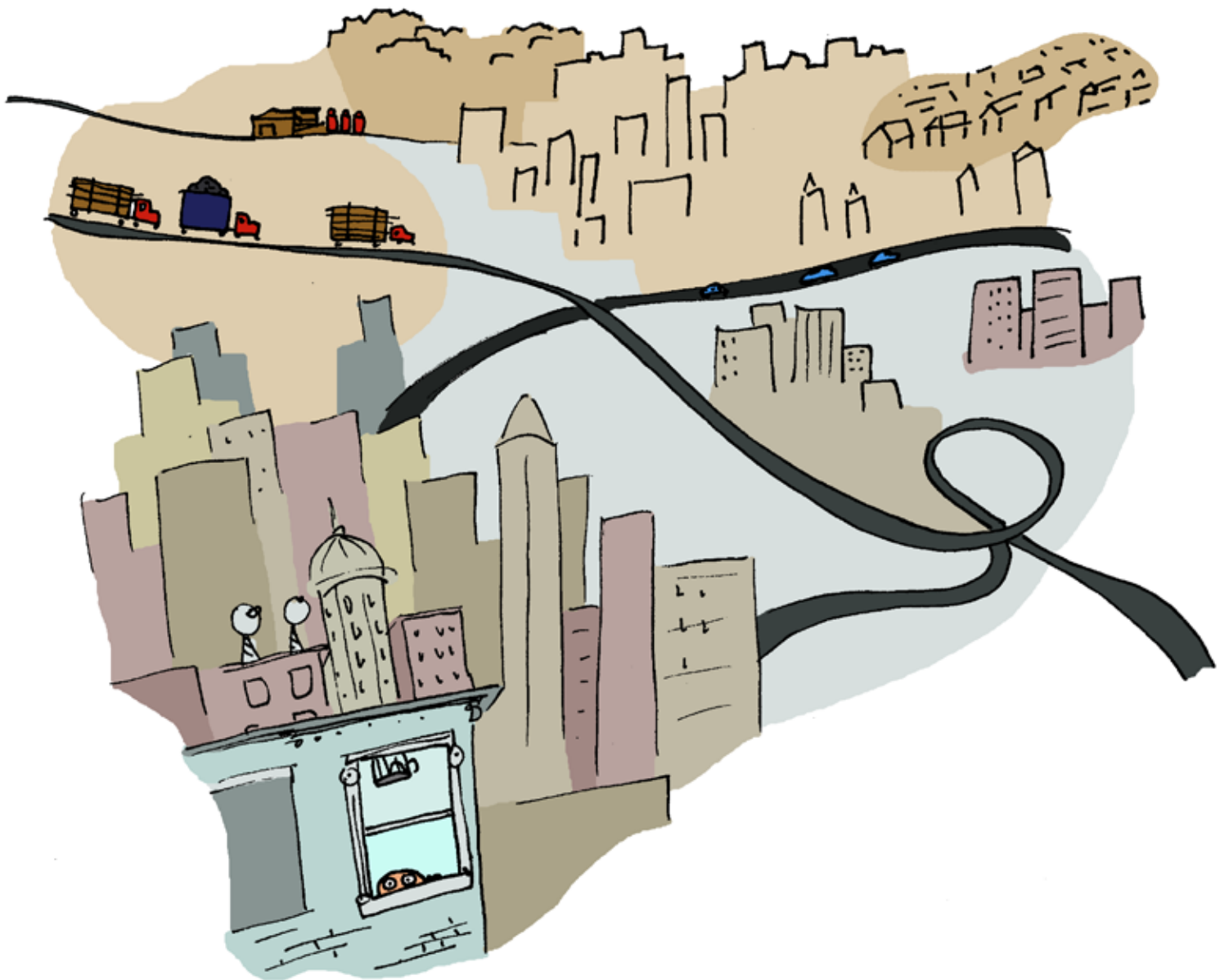
Samantha asked, "When?"

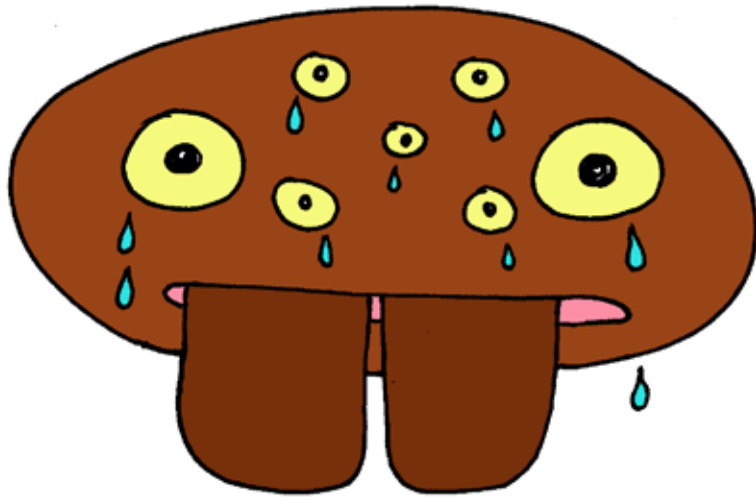
"How can they take
what doesn't belong to them?"

"They don't own them," said Roy.
"Not you, or me.
But they take what they want.
Don't you see?"



"Surely you know this,
from where you came.
It's not just in the city;
here it's the same."





And when they're finished
there will be nothing left
except a bleak, barren
wasteland -
the result of their theft.

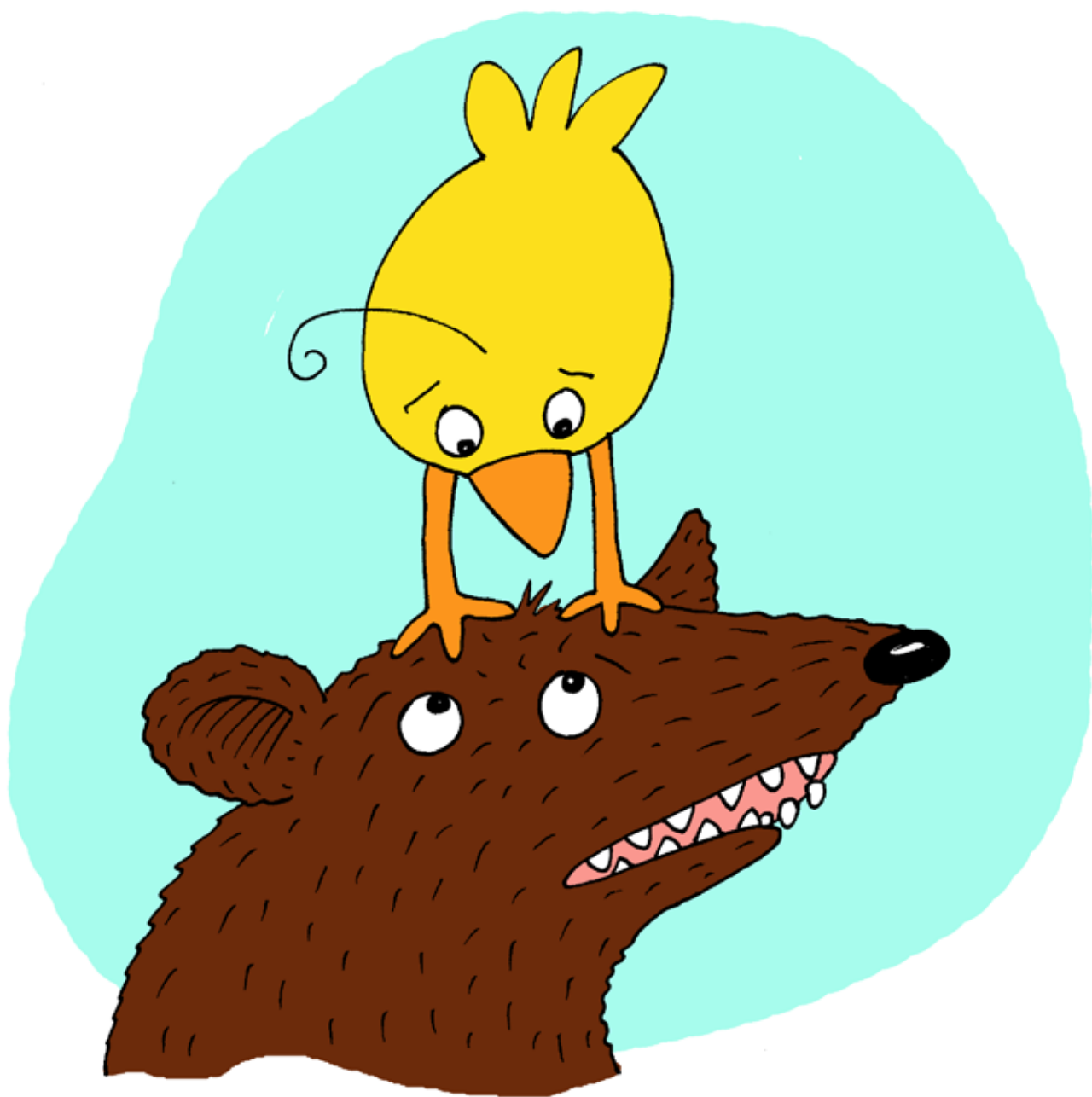
At that, Samantha flew
high in the air.
She swooped back down
and landed on a bear!



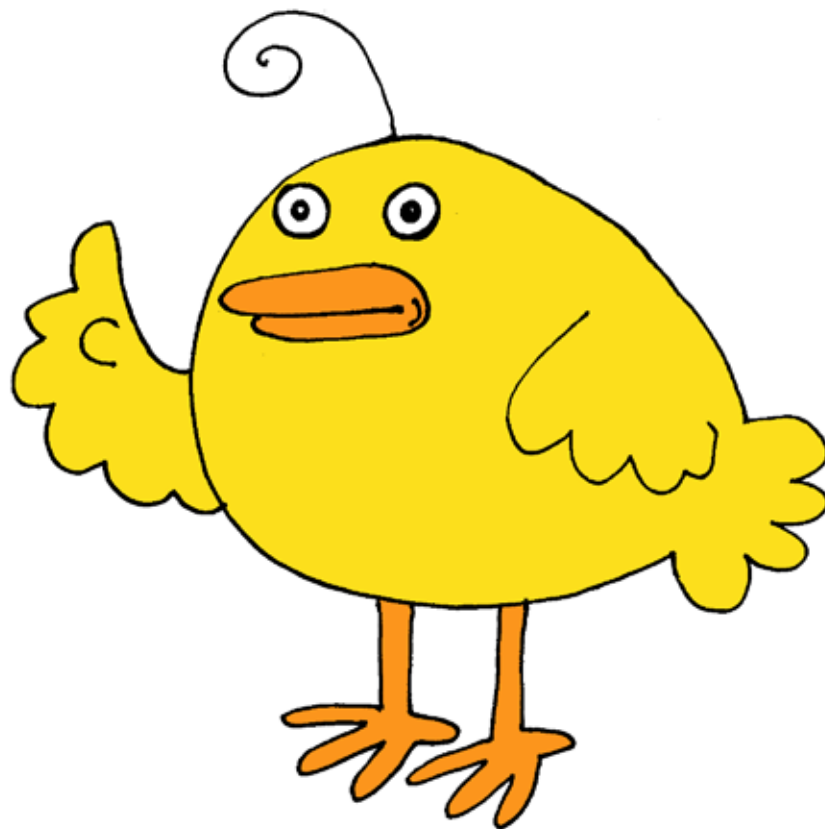


"Can you help us, bear,
prevent what's to come?"
"Of course," said the bear.
"We all live as one."

Then she asked, "Why can't everyone live like here?"
And the bear replied,
"It's complicated, my dear."



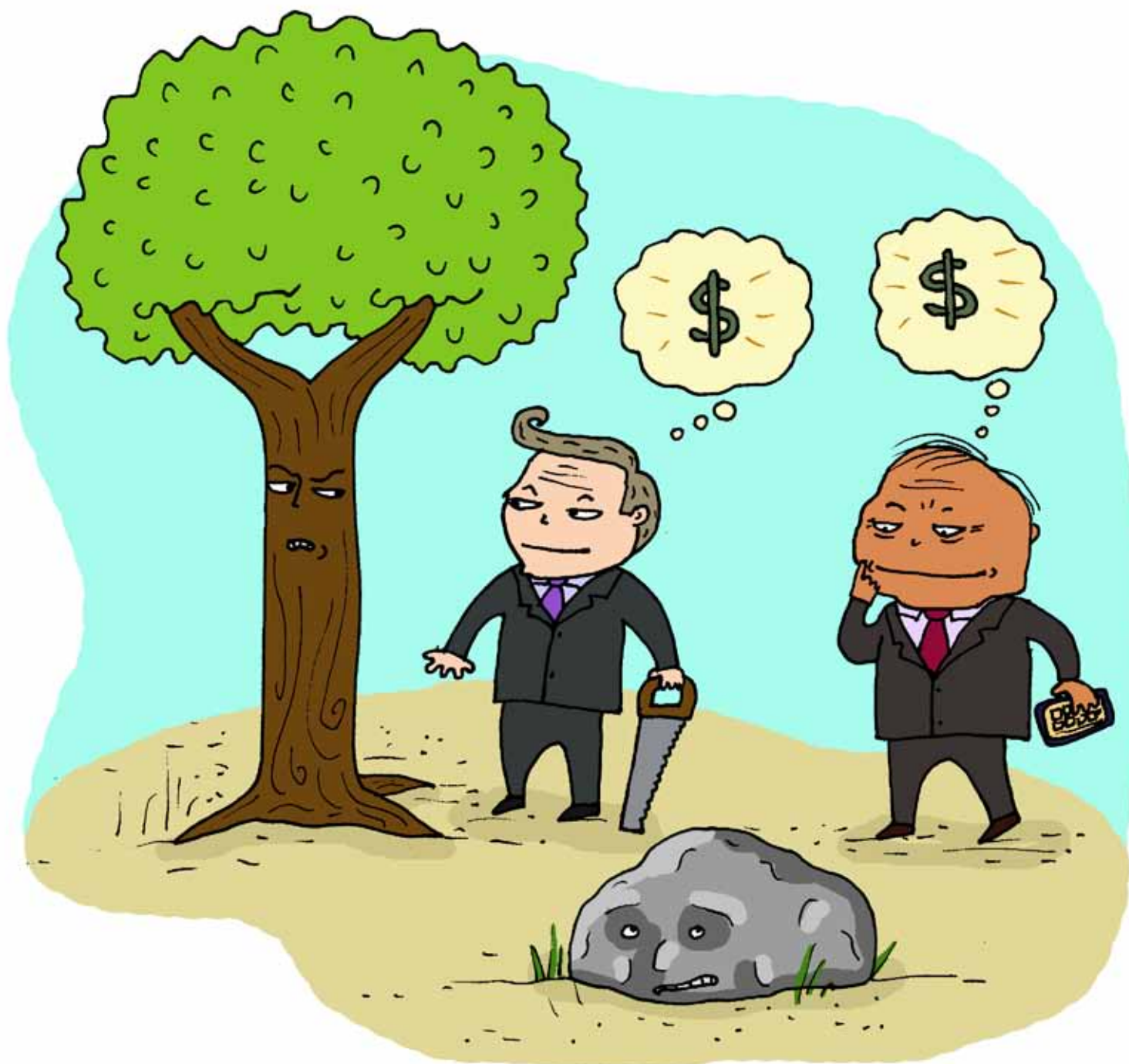
It was then that Samantha
made up her mind.
She would fly and fly
to go and find...

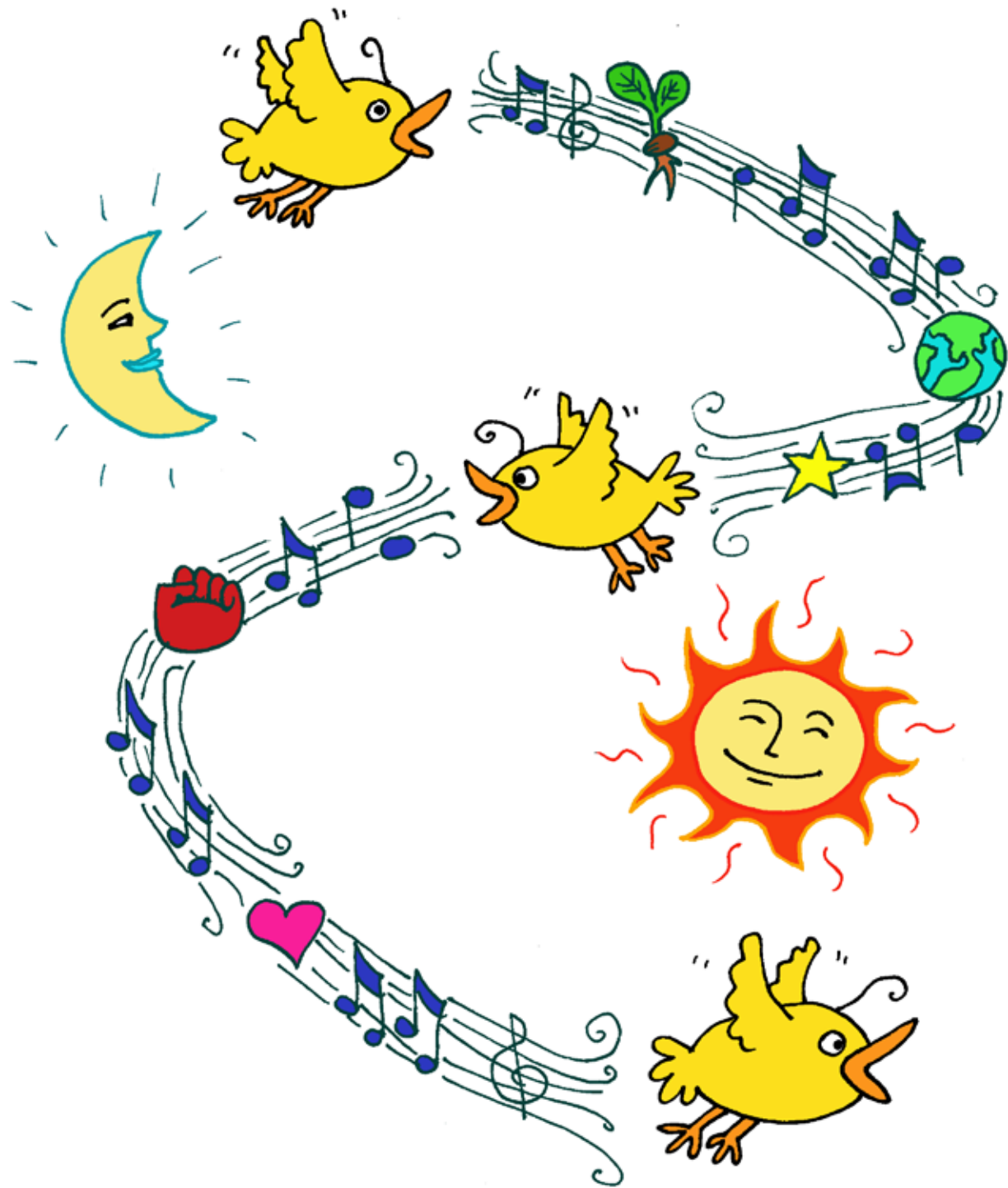




...anyone who wanted
to live like this,
and create a world
where we could live in bliss.

And stop all the people
from assigning false worth
to all that is natural,
and destroying the Earth.





And Samantha is still
flying every day,
singing her song
to find a better way.

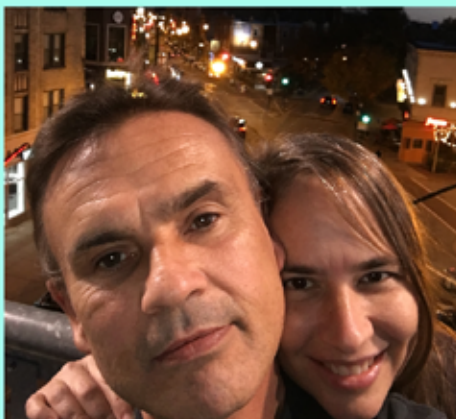


Samantha the songbird escapes her cage and discovers a beautiful world where everyone is free, and the activities of each contribute to the good of all.

But this world is in danger from those who wish to take what doesn't belong to them.

Samantha talks with a spider, a bear, and others who inspire her to take a stand to protect her new home.

The story's important message is presented in appealing rhyme, accompanied by charming illustrations. "Songbird, Fly!" is a story that both children and adults will love revisiting again and again.



Christopher Burns, a truck driver, and Stephanie McMillan, a cartoonist/writer, share a passion for the struggle against exploitation. They live, love, and create together in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



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