

VAGELIS ILIOPOULOS  
illustrated by EFFIE LADA

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VAGELIS ILIOPOULOS • EFFIE LADA

NOT

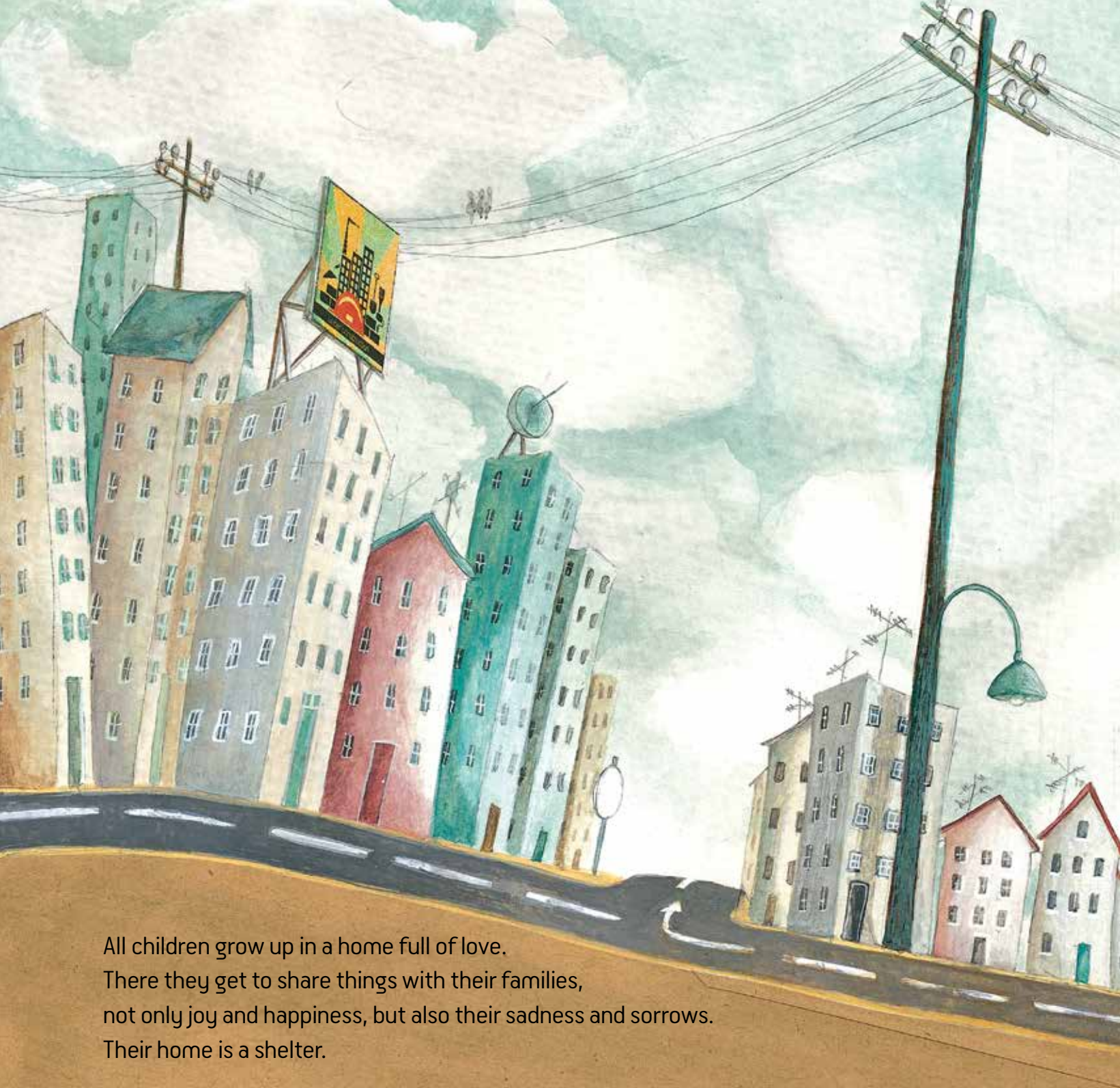


Translated by  
Marita Arvaniti



**PATAKIS**  
PUBLISHERS





All children grow up in a home full of love.  
There they get to share things with their families,  
not only joy and happiness, but also their sadness and sorrows.  
Their home is a shelter.



All of them?  
Not me...





All children get to celebrate their birthdays and every single holiday.  
They fill the year up with endless fun.





All of them?  
Not me...



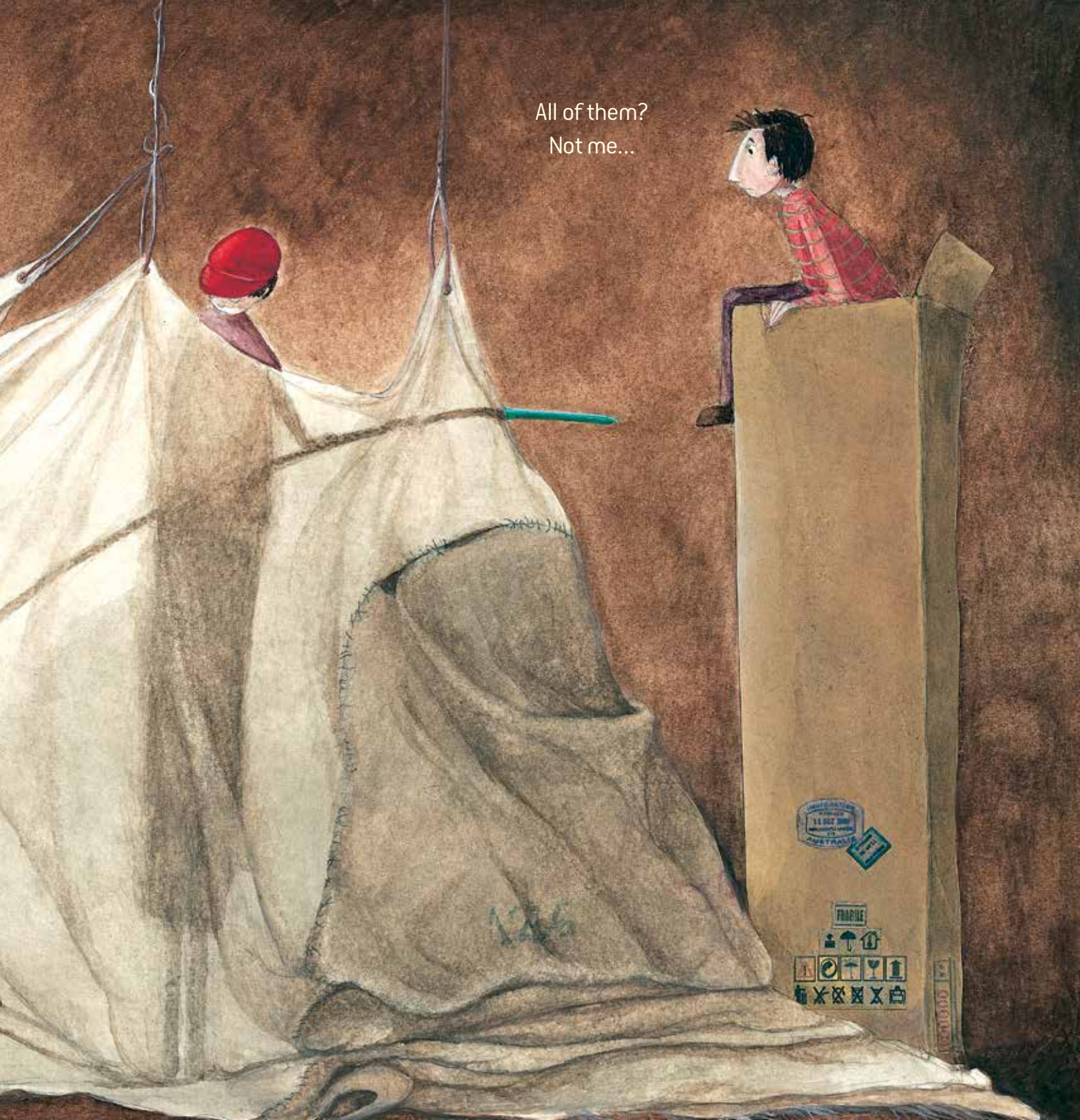


All children read books  
full of fairytales and then  
pretend to be heroes.  
The heroes of those tales  
become their best friends.





All of them?  
Not me...





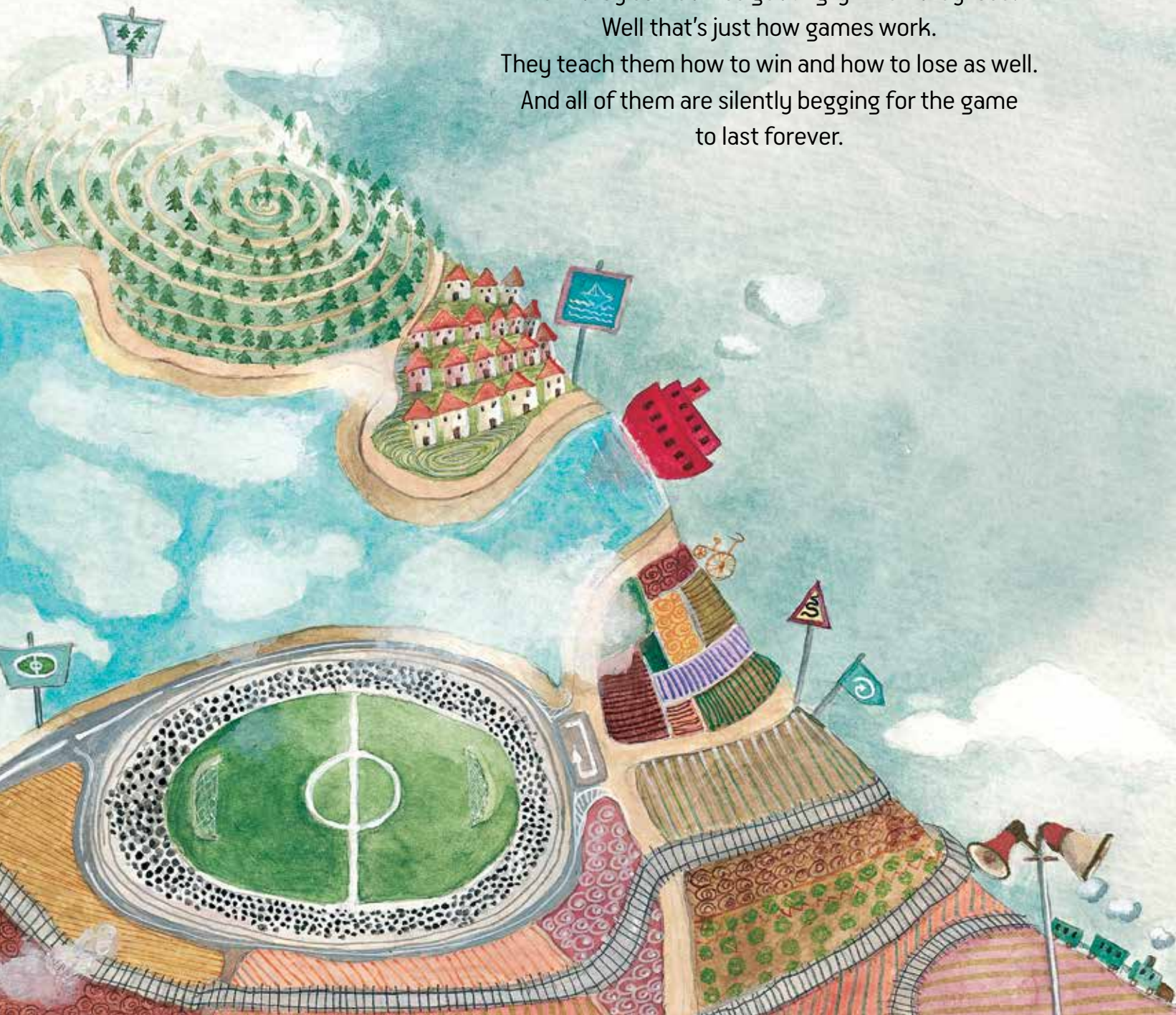
All children enjoy playing at the football field, the yard,  
the sea, the mountains and forests.

And if they sometimes get angry when they lose?

Well that's just how games work.

They teach them how to win and how to lose as well.

And all of them are silently begging for the game  
to last forever.



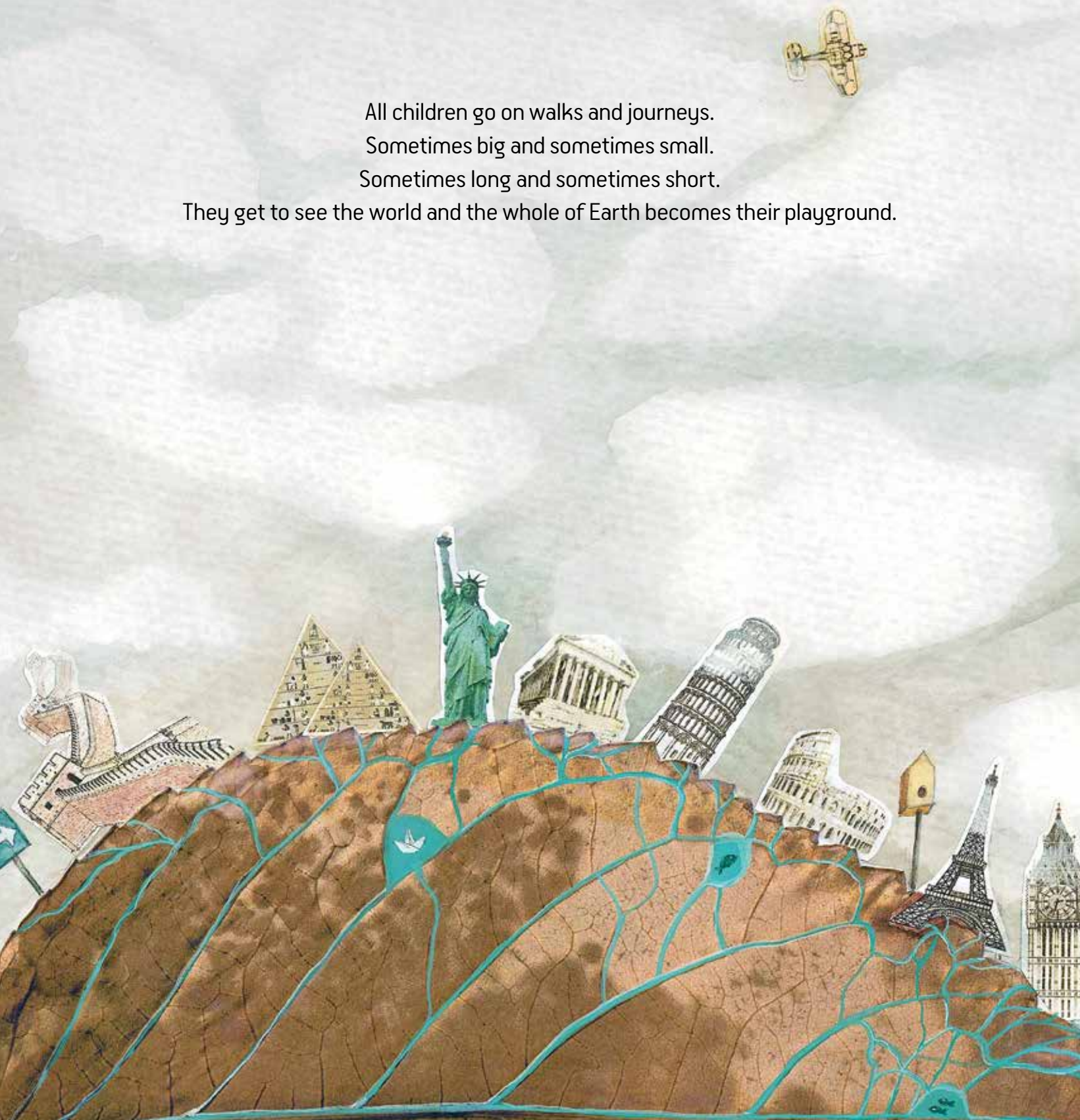


All of them?  
Not me...





All children go on walks and journeys.  
Sometimes big and sometimes small.  
Sometimes long and sometimes short.  
They get to see the world and the whole of Earth becomes their playground.





All of them?  
Not me...



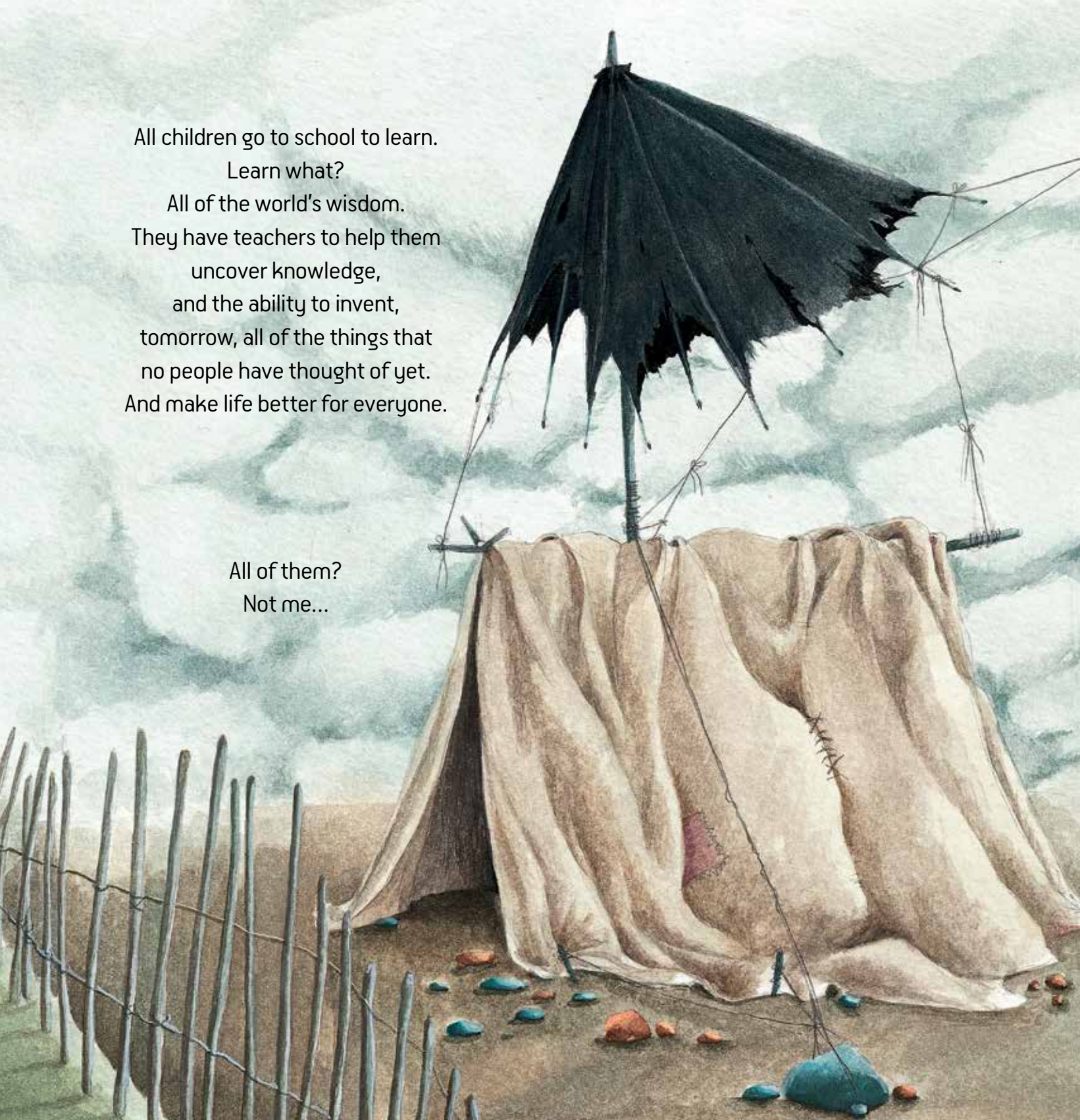






All children go to school to learn.  
Learn what?  
All of the world's wisdom.  
They have teachers to help them  
uncover knowledge,  
and the ability to invent,  
tomorrow, all of the things that  
no people have thought of yet.  
And make life better for everyone.

All of them?  
Not me...





All children eat their favorite foods.

They can, in fact, eat as much as they want. And it's not just the food,  
There's also the cakes, the tarts, the crepes, the ice-cream that they so enjoy.







All of them?  
Not me...



And as I was thinking of all those *NOTs*,  
I saw a kite fly up in the sky.  
A colorful brush in blue canvas.  
Its strings had been cut.  
There was no one holding it anymore.







It traveled by itself.  
I was jealous of its freedom so I called out:

"Will you take me with you?"

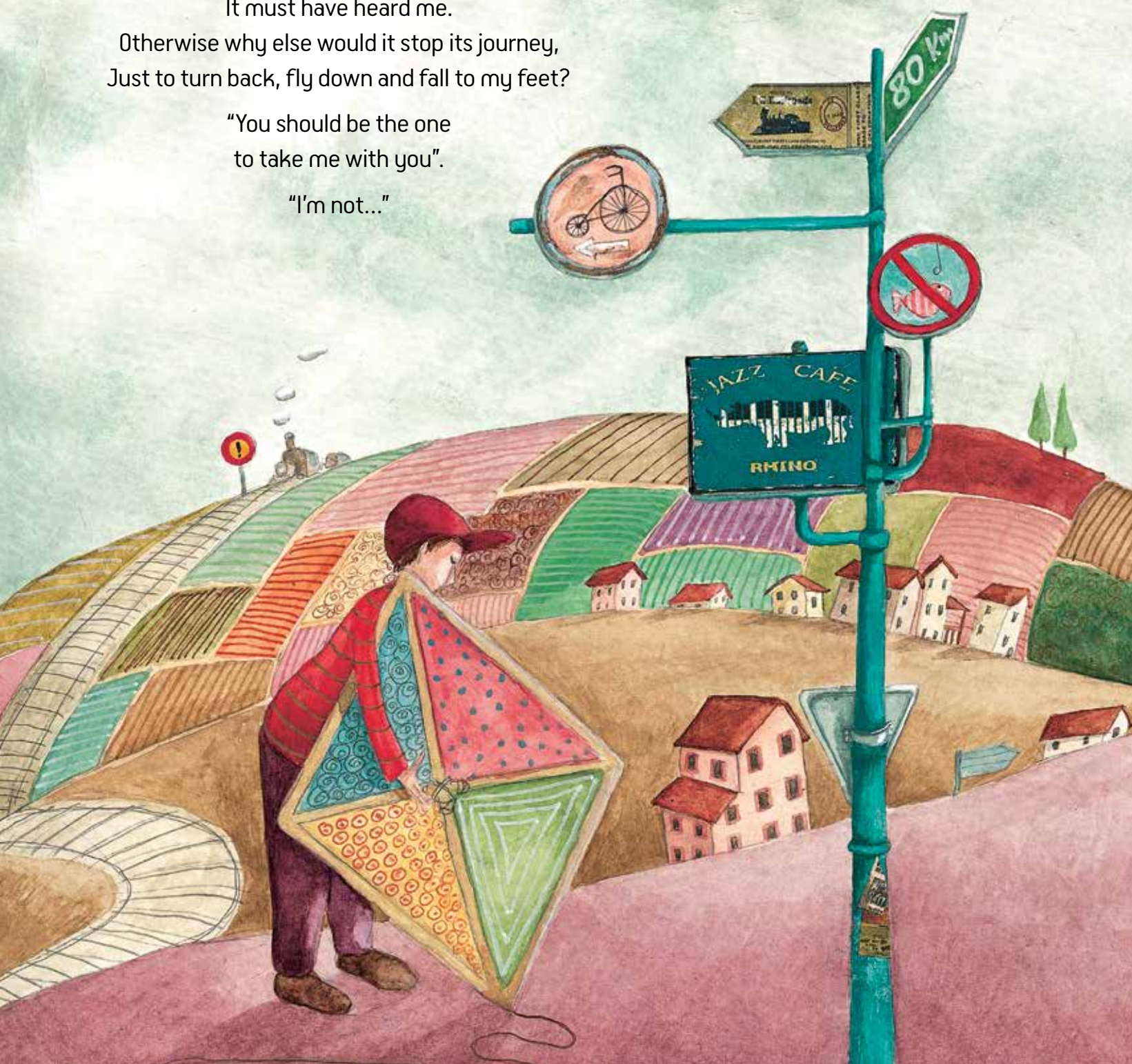




It must have heard me.  
Otherwise why else would it stop its journey,  
Just to turn back, fly down and fall to my feet?

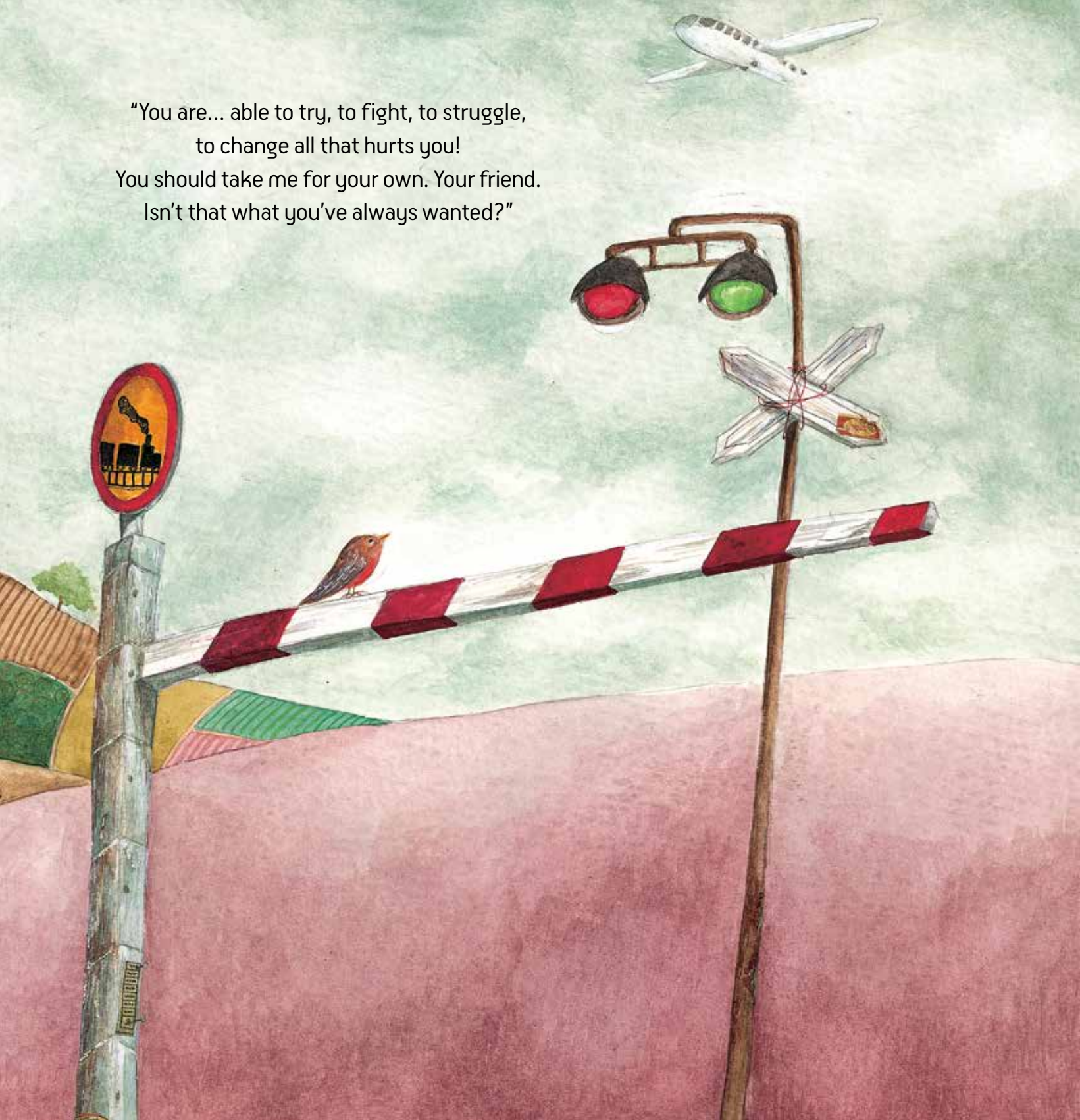
"You should be the one  
to take me with you".

"I'm not..."





"You are... able to try, to fight, to struggle,  
to change all that hurts you!  
You should take me for your own. Your friend.  
Isn't that what you've always wanted?"





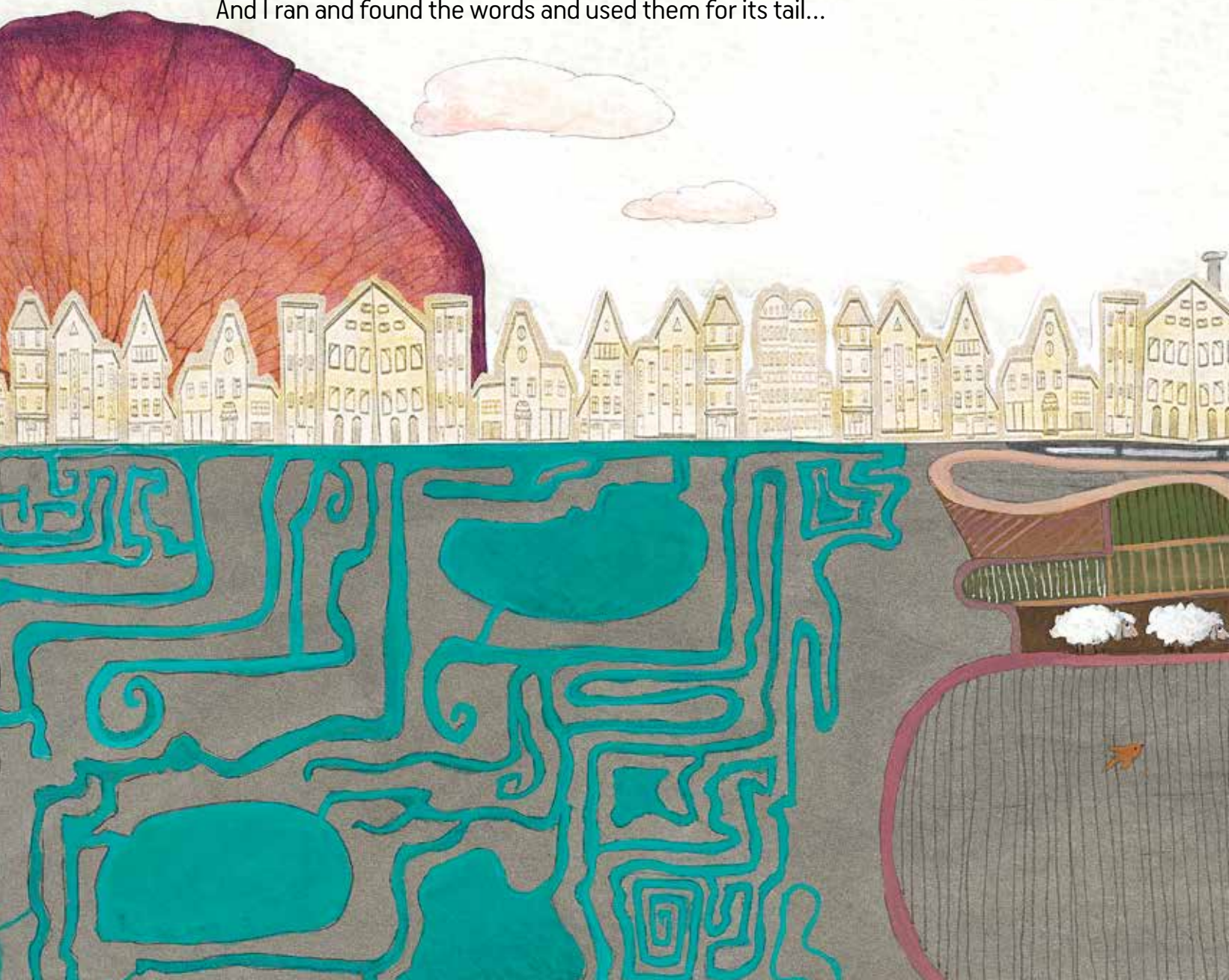
"I wanted that and I still want it".

"Here I am then!" it said and whispered in my ear,

What I should do to make it a strong tail.

A tail that will help us fly, fly high, together.

And I ran and found the words and used them for its tail...







Understanding  
Friendship  
Courage  
Respect  
Hope  
Patience  
Solidarity  
Strength  
Love







And those words became the strongest tail of all  
so I can travel with my friendship kite,  
without ever being in danger of falling.

And when I want us to go higher  
where there's no more *NOT*,  
I use more words, and more words,  
and more words...

Where do I find them?  
In the words of love that you give me.  
My readers, my friends.









And as we travel, I'm sending you my brightest smile,  
that lights up the world and warms the hearts.

A friend's smile.

And there are some children in the world whose souls  
are frozen by the *NOTs* and they need the warmth so much!

So much...







Vagelis Iliopoulos was born in Athens in 1964. He studied Pedagogics and Theology at the University of Athens and he is working in the sector of private primary education. In 1997 he published the first story starring "The Little Trianglefish", the most famous contemporary Greek literature hero whose adventures have been published in Korea and China. Until nowadays, he has written more than 60 books for children and young adults. Many of them have received many awards and been published in translation (eg. in Ireland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Serbia, Malaysia, Korea and China). In 2013 he was appointed Messenger of Mental Health at schools by the

Association for the Psychosocial Health of Children and Adolescents. He is presently nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award by the Cypriot Section of IBBY.





Effie Lada was born in a small village in Peloponnese, Greece. She studied painting with the well-known Greek painter Yorgo Voyatzis. She has participated in collective painting exhibitions. Illustration of children's book has always been her main interest, and she has exclusively been working in that field since 1991.

She has illustrated covers of many books and has published more than 60 books.

She is a member of the non-profit organization: Plant Your Roots in Greece, has done voluntary work for the "Children's Village S.O.S." designing Christmas cards and is a member

of the " Circle of the Greek Children's Book" and the "Women's Group for Literature". Member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI)

\*In 1998 she participated as an illustrator in the 15n Mostra internazionale d' illustrazione per l' infanzia in Sarmede, Italy, with the book "The emperor's new clothes".

\*In 2004 she participated in the International Illustrators Exhibition, in Bologna. with the title: " bareffot pictures"

\*On January 26th – February 5th, 2005 was held her exclusive exhibition in Athens (Gazi, 100 Piraeus Str.) under the title: Once upon a time in Athens... under the auspice of the Municipality of the city of Athens and the sponsoring of Livanis Publications.

\*In 2005, she designed the stage for the musical performance of the Irish tale "The Christmas Cuckoo", held on (14-18 December) at the Music Hall of Thessaloniki.

Her book "Infanta's Birthday" (Patakis Publications) was translated in Italian and Korean.

\*In 2006 her book "Sundays in the park" was nominated for the National Illustration Award.

\*2008-2009 Participation in the 26th international exhibition of Illustrations.

18th October-21st December 2008, Sarmede.

2009: Verona, Monza, Siena, Vicenza

\*2009: Illustration award from the Circle of the Greek Children's Book for the book "A rain of stars"

\*Her name was written on the honorary board of IBBY for the illustration of the book "A rain of stars"

\*Nomination for the "Diavazo" award for the book "A rain of stars".

\*2009: Individual exhibition at the Black Duck Gallery with the title "Fairytale under the roofs"

\*2009. "A Rain of Stars" nominated for the State Prize for Children's Book Illustration (short list).

\*2010. Nomination for the 2011, Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award

\*2010. Nomination for the 2012, Hans Christian Andersen Award











All children are happy!

All children have a home.

All children can afford food.

All children have...

All of them?

Not me...

There are so many *NOTs* it's enough to freeze your soul.

And only a friendly smile can bring you warmth.

And words, when they come from the love of your friends can form the strongest kite-tail. For a kite that will always fly high as the sky, because it is the kite of friendship.

Fly where there are no *NOTs*.



“Not” is the second book in the trilogy by Vagelis Iliopoulos and Efi Lada, a trilogy that approach social matters in a way that only a fairytale can.

The first book was published in 2012, and it was called “Why”. In 2018 “All”, the final part of the trilogy, is set to be published.



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