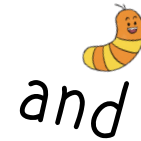


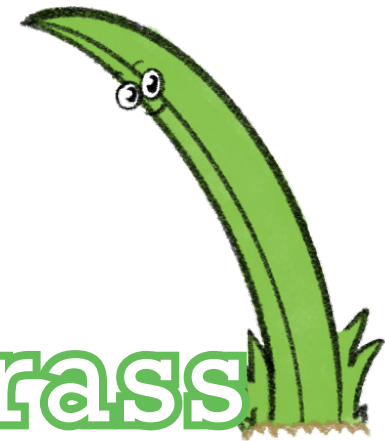


The Moss Phlox



and

the Grass





 Daeun Jeong

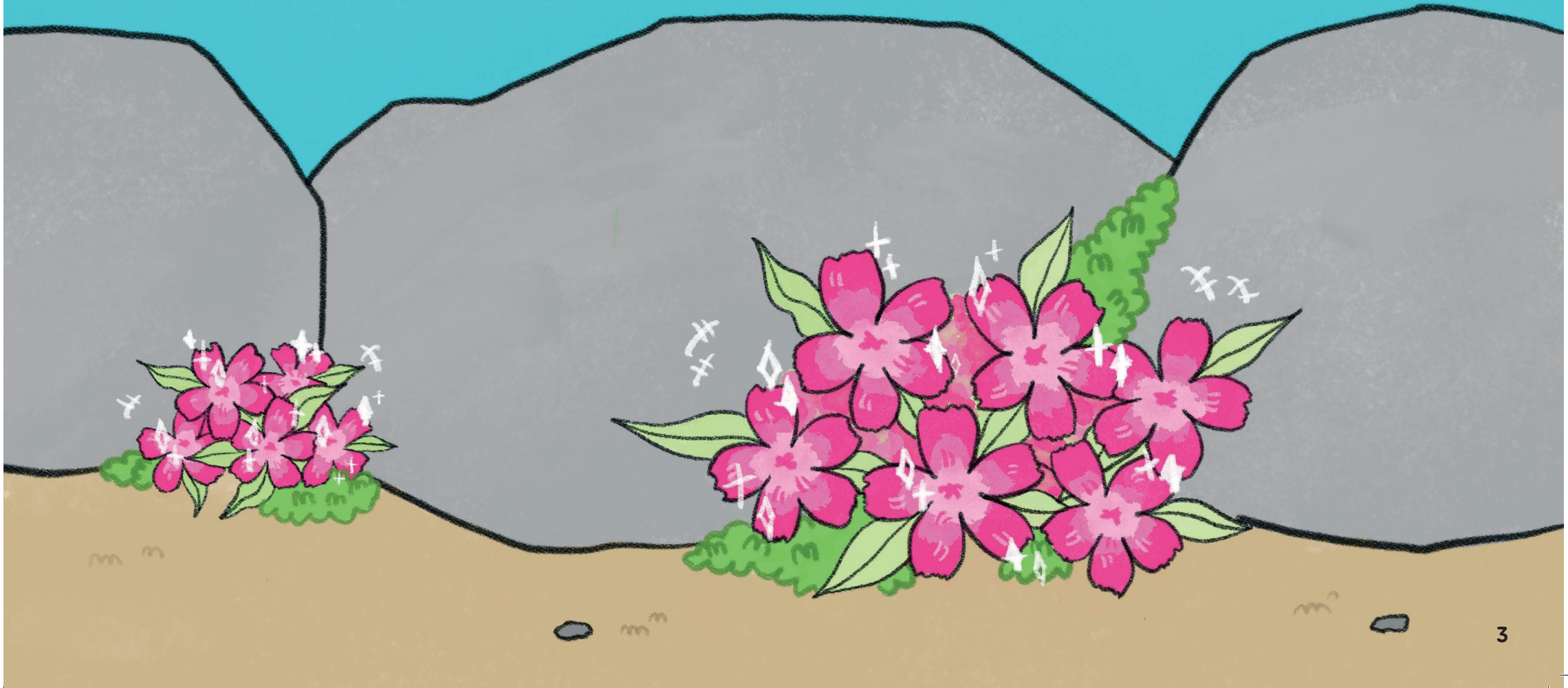
### [ The Moss Phlox and the Grass ]

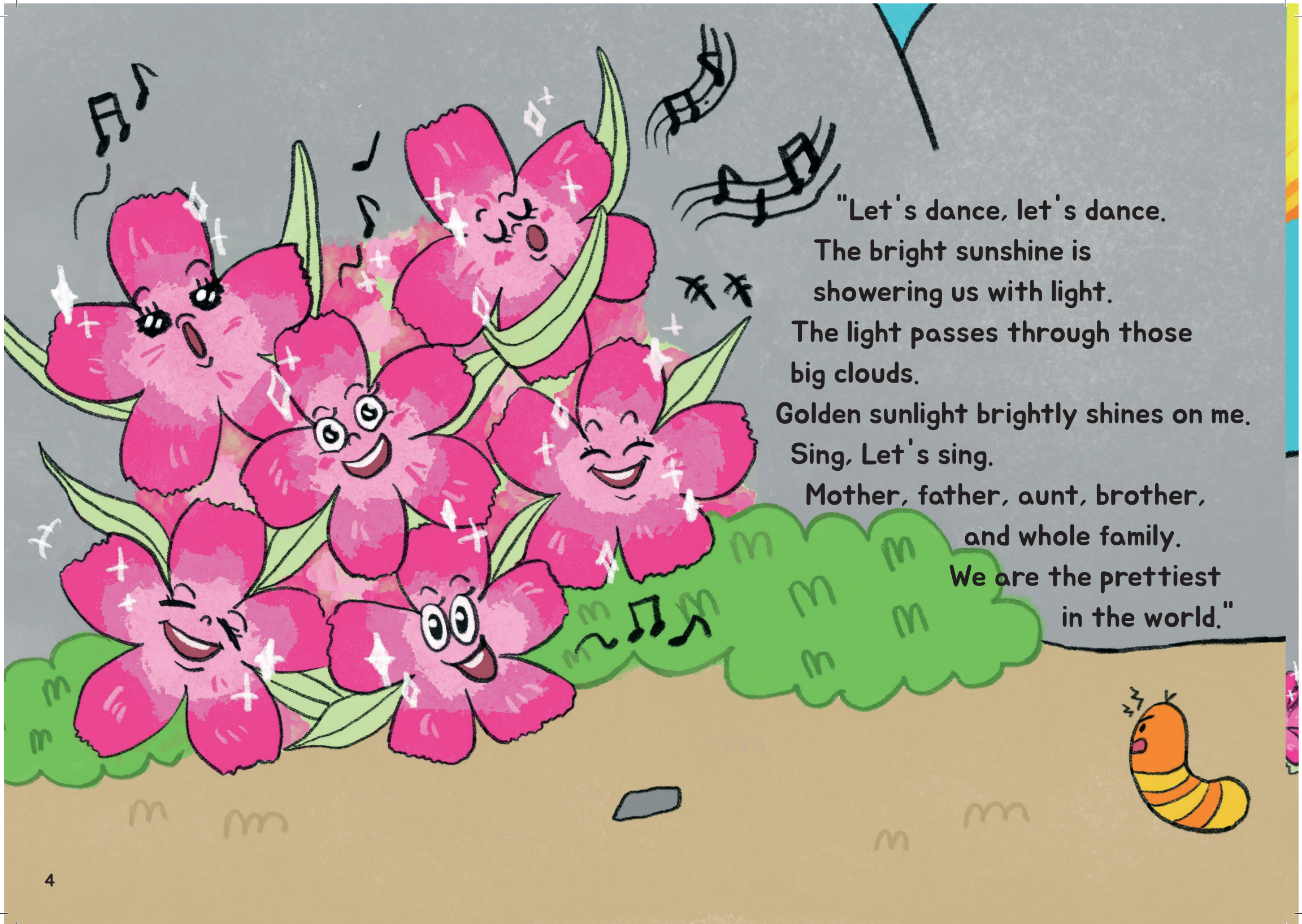
During my first semester of 2021, I took part in a creative activity class that made English short story picture books. This is the moment I wanted to create stories that would be able to tell children about God's love. In this story, "grass" represents God's love. Through love, it helps and protects the "moss ploxes". It conveys the type of love that gives and sacrifices without expecting anything in return, a love that is unconditional, a love that always gives first. As the "moss ploxes" are showered with love from the "grass", they begin to appreciate the "grass" and reciprocate the love. This is just like our relationship with God. When we are showered with God's love, we learn to appreciate everything He has given us, and we find the desire to reciprocate the love and build a stronger relationship with Him.



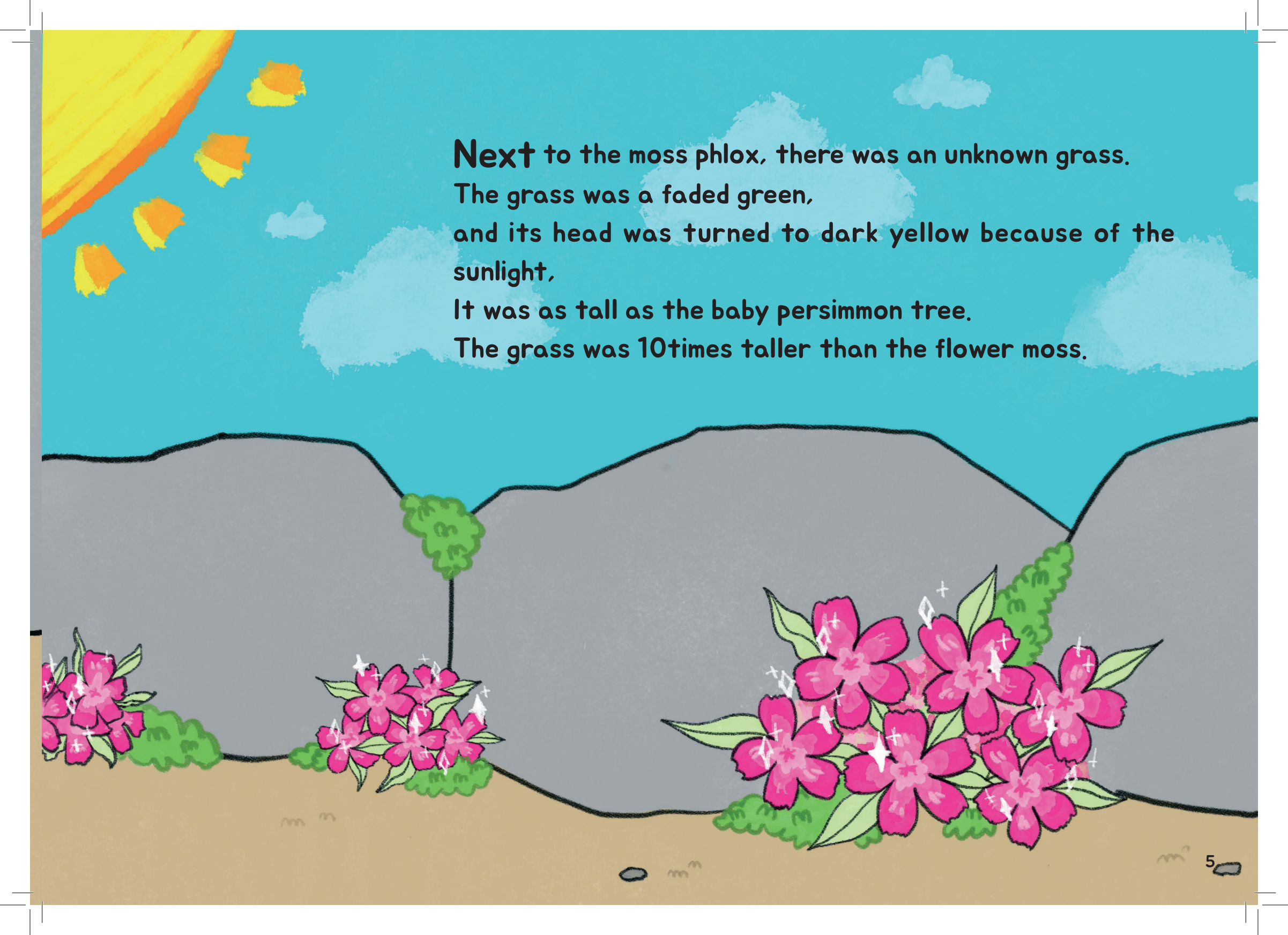
Written by Daeun Jeong  
Illustrated by Soomin Lee, Choyeon Park  
Edited by Soomin Lee  
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It was a spring day where the sunshine beamed softly.  
A cluster of phlox was blooming between  
the cracks in the stones.  
The moss phlox was basking in the sunlight, smiling brightly.  
The moss phlox had shimmering pink leaves.  
The moss phlox had many friends who were just as beautiful,  
and they sang happy songs every day together.





"Let's dance, let's dance.  
The bright sunshine is  
showering us with light.  
The light passes through those  
big clouds.  
Golden sunlight brightly shines on me.  
Sing, Let's sing.  
Mother, father, aunt, brother,  
and whole family.  
We are the prettiest  
in the world."



**Next** to the moss phlox, there was an unknown grass.  
The grass was a faded green,  
and its head was turned to dark yellow because of the  
sunlight,  
It was as tall as the baby persimmon tree.  
The grass was 10times taller than the flower moss.



It was really really really tall

The grass spoke to the phlox.

"Moss phlox, you're so pretty.

Tonight, when one of your leaves falls,  
will you give me a beautiful pink leaf?"

Moss phlox leered at the grass and said,  
"Why? Do you think a little bit of pink  
would make your yellow hair  
pretty?"

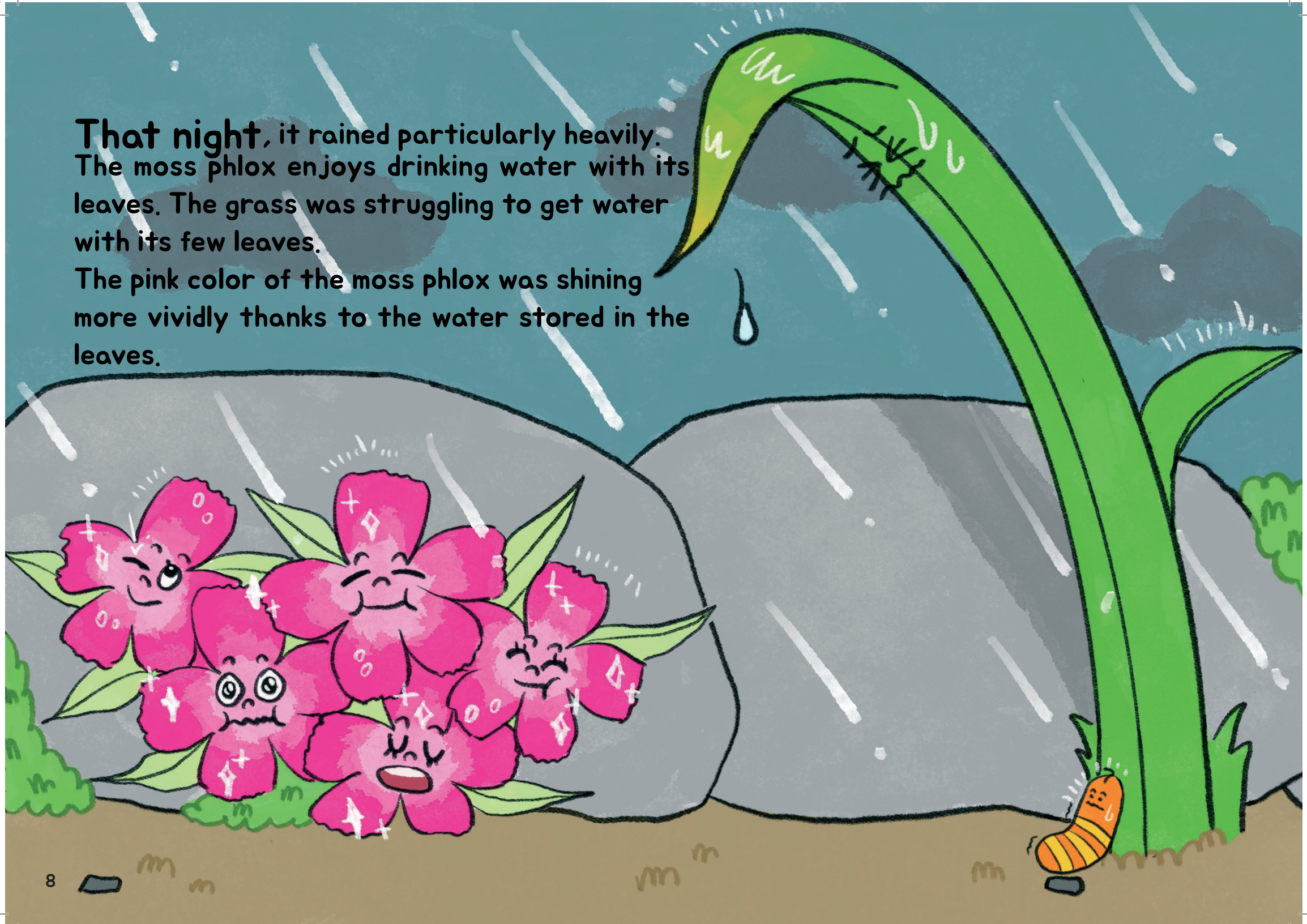
No, I won't give a pink leaf  
to you."



The tall grass was very disappointed and lowered his head.

**That night**, it rained particularly heavily. The moss phlox enjoys drinking water with its leaves. The grass was struggling to get water with its few leaves.

The pink color of the moss phlox was shining more vividly thanks to the water stored in the leaves.







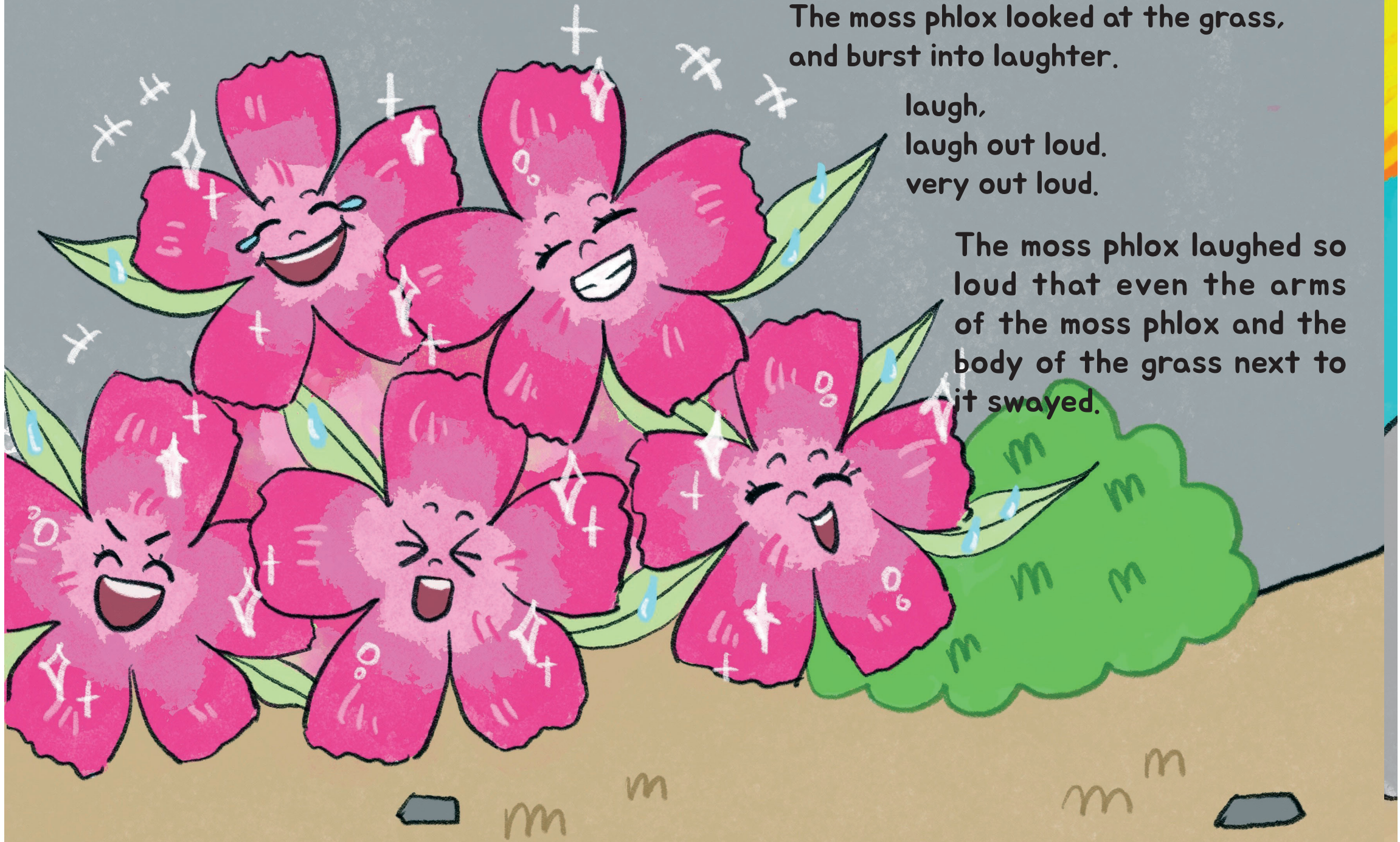
But, then the sun started beaming down as hot as summer.

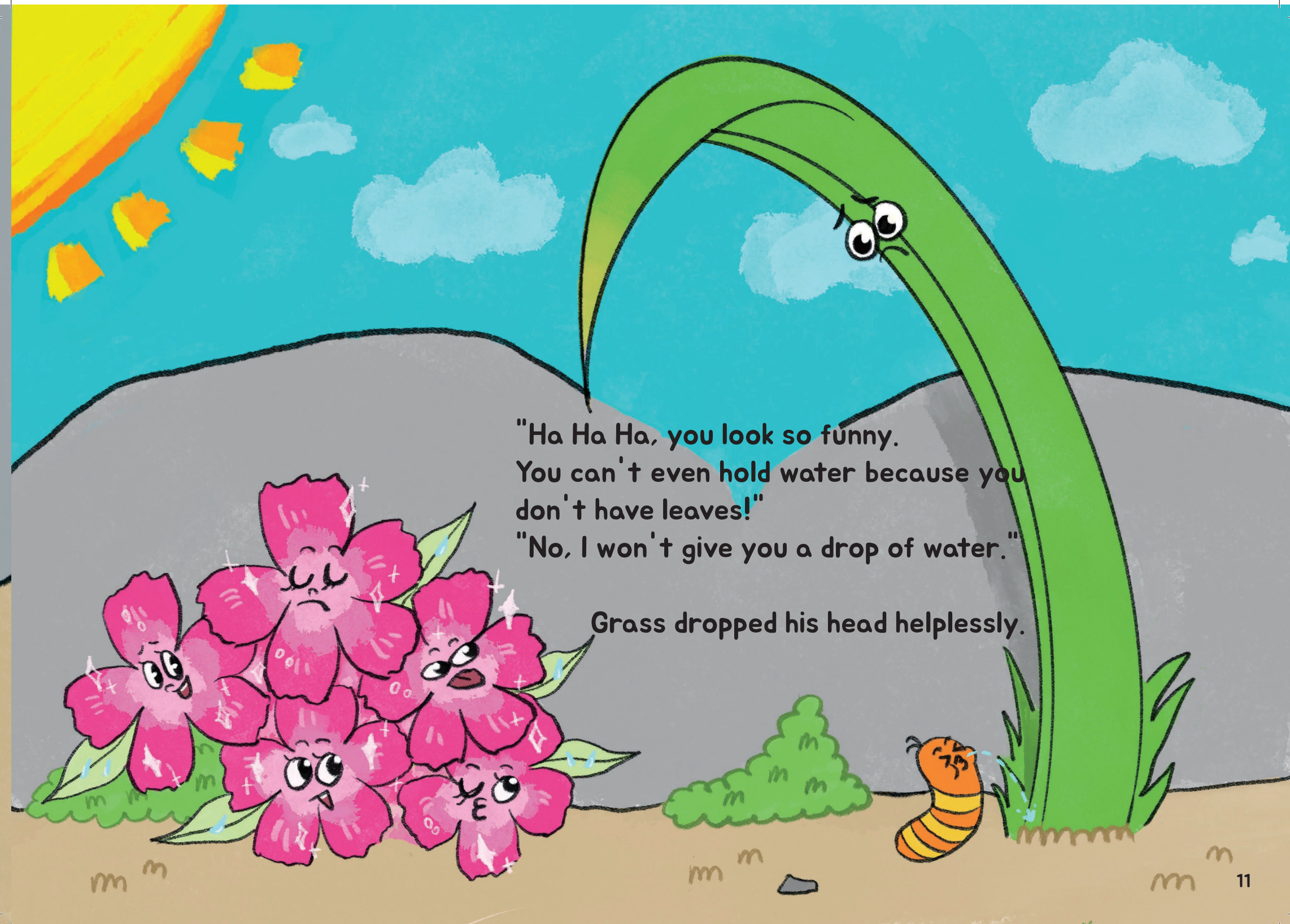
The grass said,  
"Moss phlox, I'm too hot."  
"Please drop some of the fine water droplets that fills your leaves."

The moss phlox looked at the grass,  
and burst into laughter.

laugh,  
laugh out loud,  
very out loud.

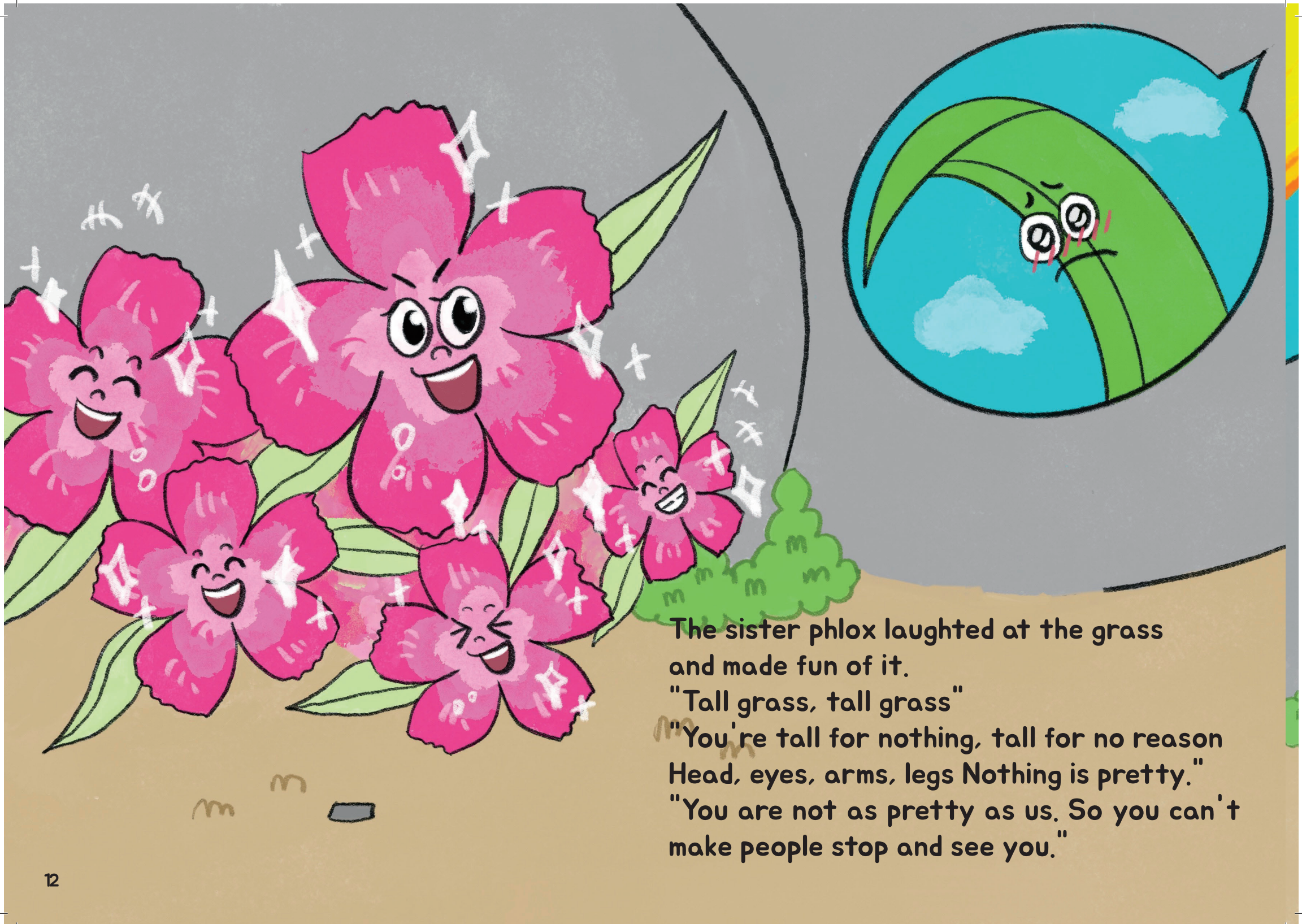
The moss phlox laughed so  
loud that even the arms  
of the moss phlox and the  
body of the grass next to  
it swayed.





"Ha Ha Ha, you look so funny.  
You can't even hold water because you  
don't have leaves!"  
"No, I won't give you a drop of water."

Grass dropped his head helplessly.



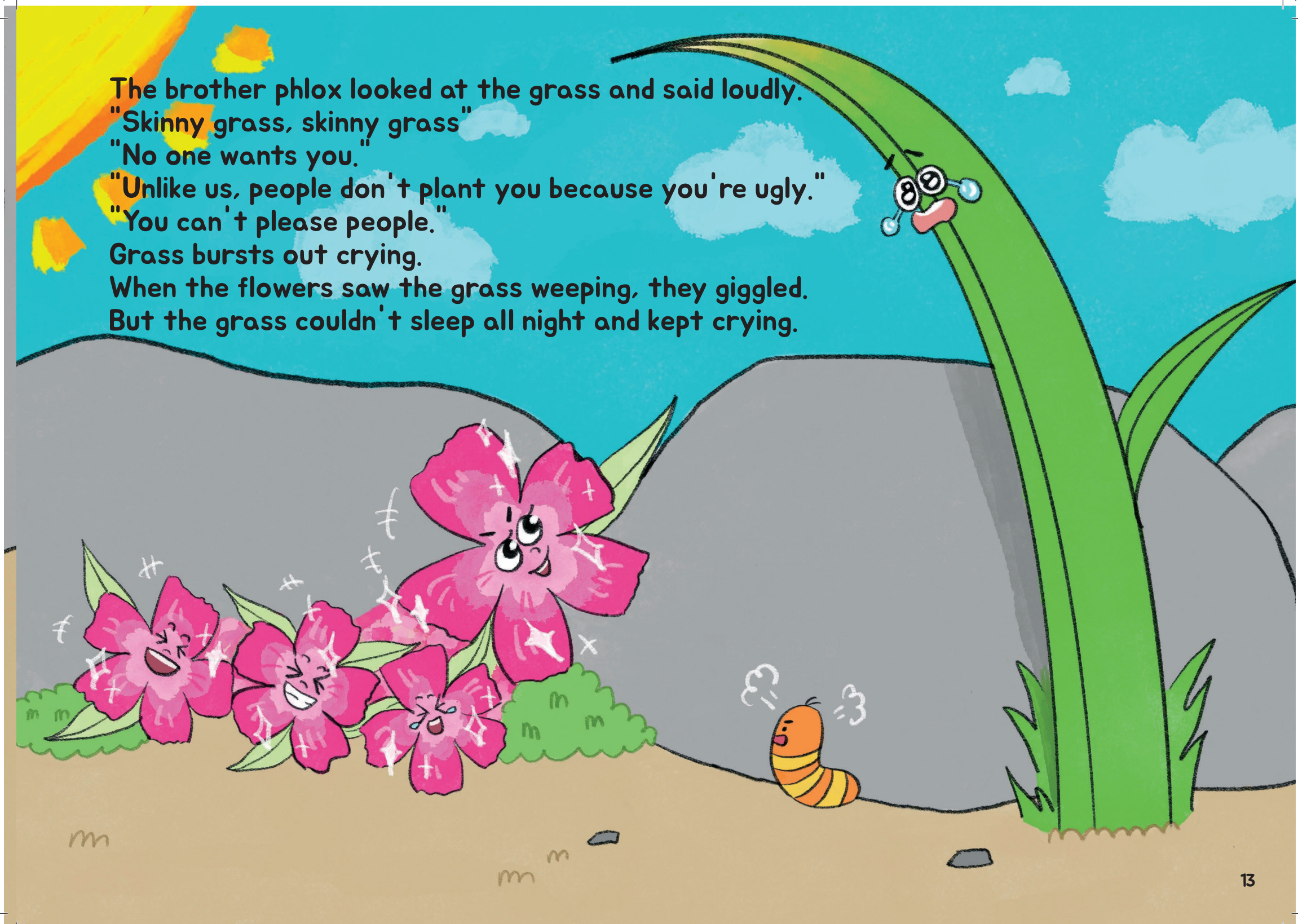
The sister phlox laughed at the grass and made fun of it.

"Tall grass, tall grass"

"You're tall for nothing, tall for no reason  
Head, eyes, arms, legs Nothing is pretty."

"You are not as pretty as us. So you can't  
make people stop and see you."

The brother phlox looked at the grass and said loudly.  
"Skinny grass, skinny grass"  
"No one wants you."  
"Unlike us, people don't plant you because you're ugly."  
"You can't please people."  
Grass bursts out crying.  
When the flowers saw the grass weeping, they giggled.  
But the grass couldn't sleep all night and kept crying.

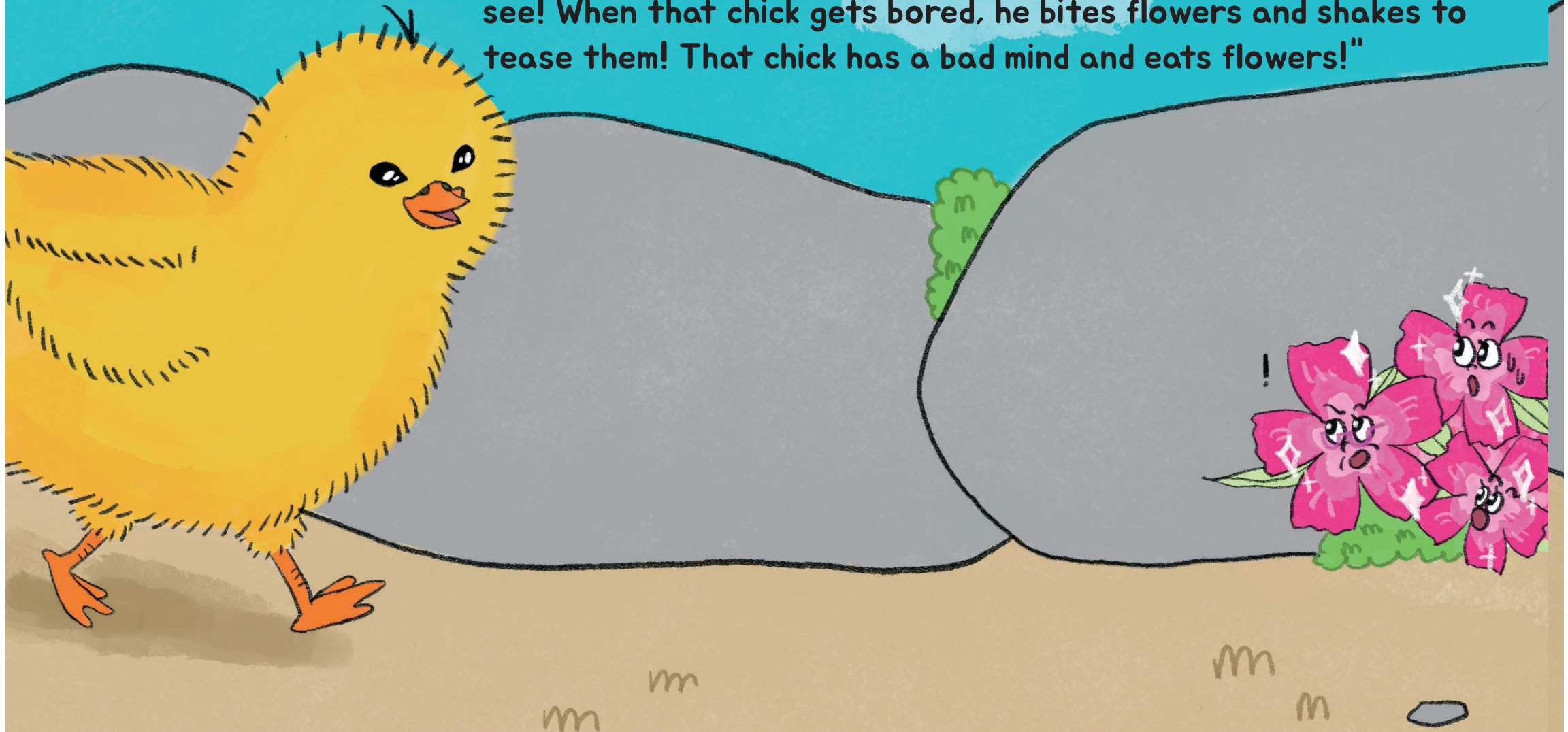


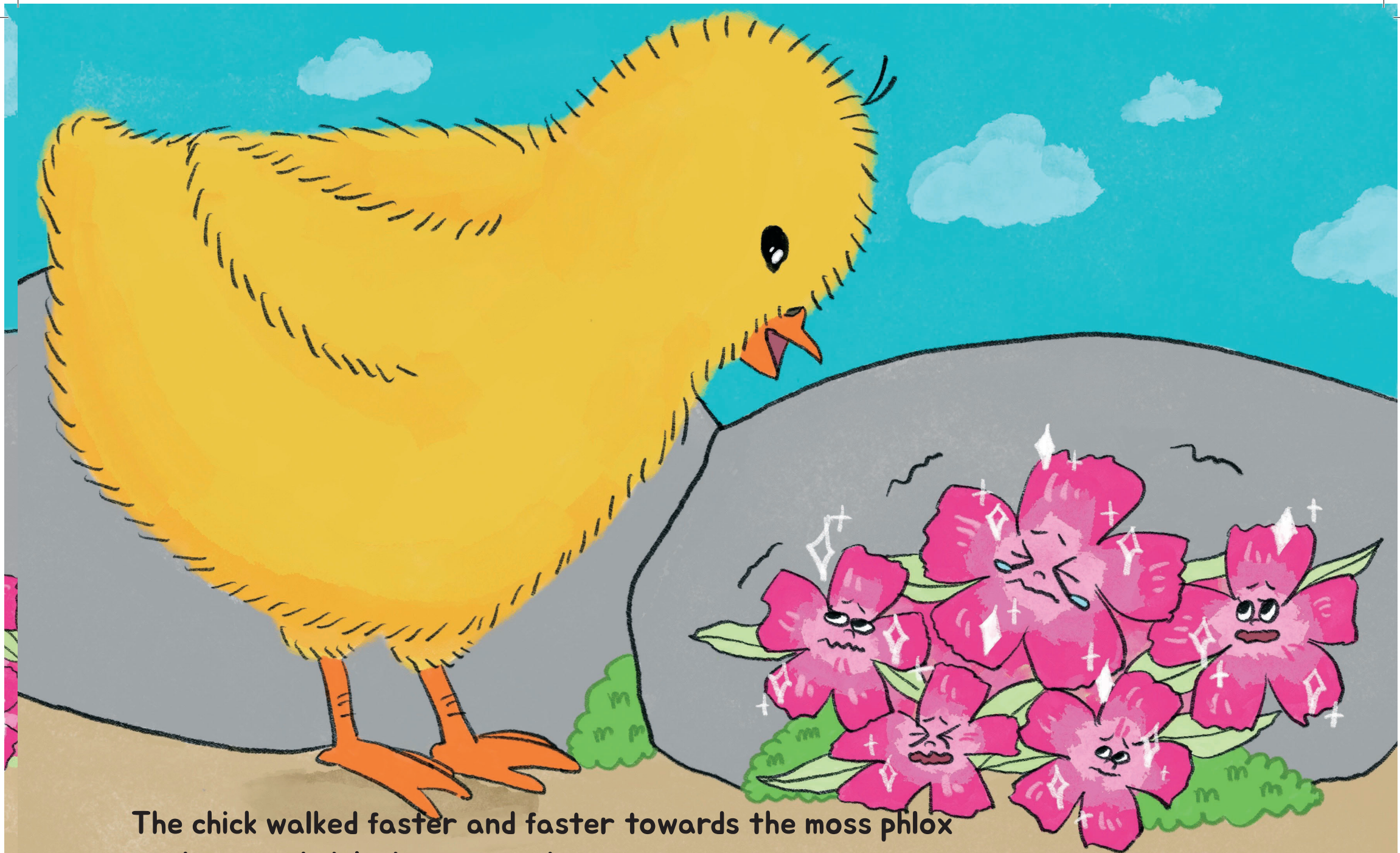
It was the next day.

The yellow chick walked towards the grass and moss phlox with a playful grin.

Grandma phlox said,

"We have to be careful! That chick bites the flowers as it can see! When that chick gets bored, he bites flowers and shakes to tease them! That chick has a bad mind and eats flowers!"





The chick walked faster and faster towards the moss phlox and stopped right in front of it.

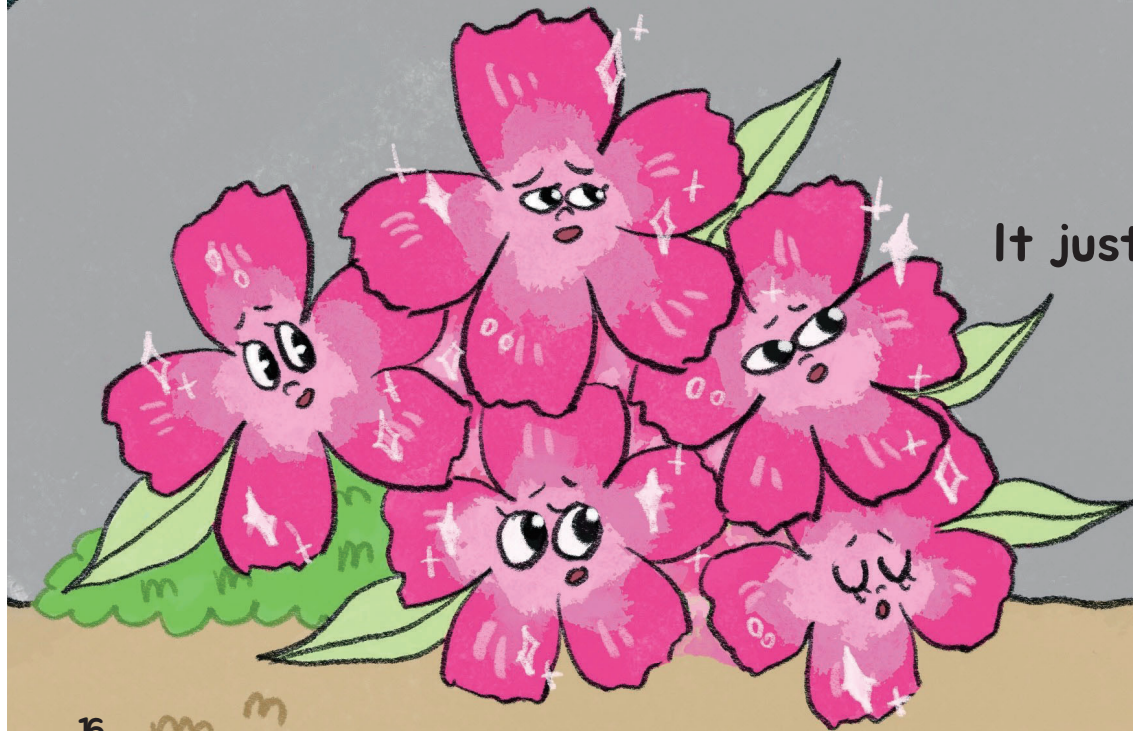
The moss phlox was crouching and trembling with fear.

Then, something happened.  
The grass held out its chest strongly  
towards the chick.  
Then,  
the chick slowly approached it and bit it.

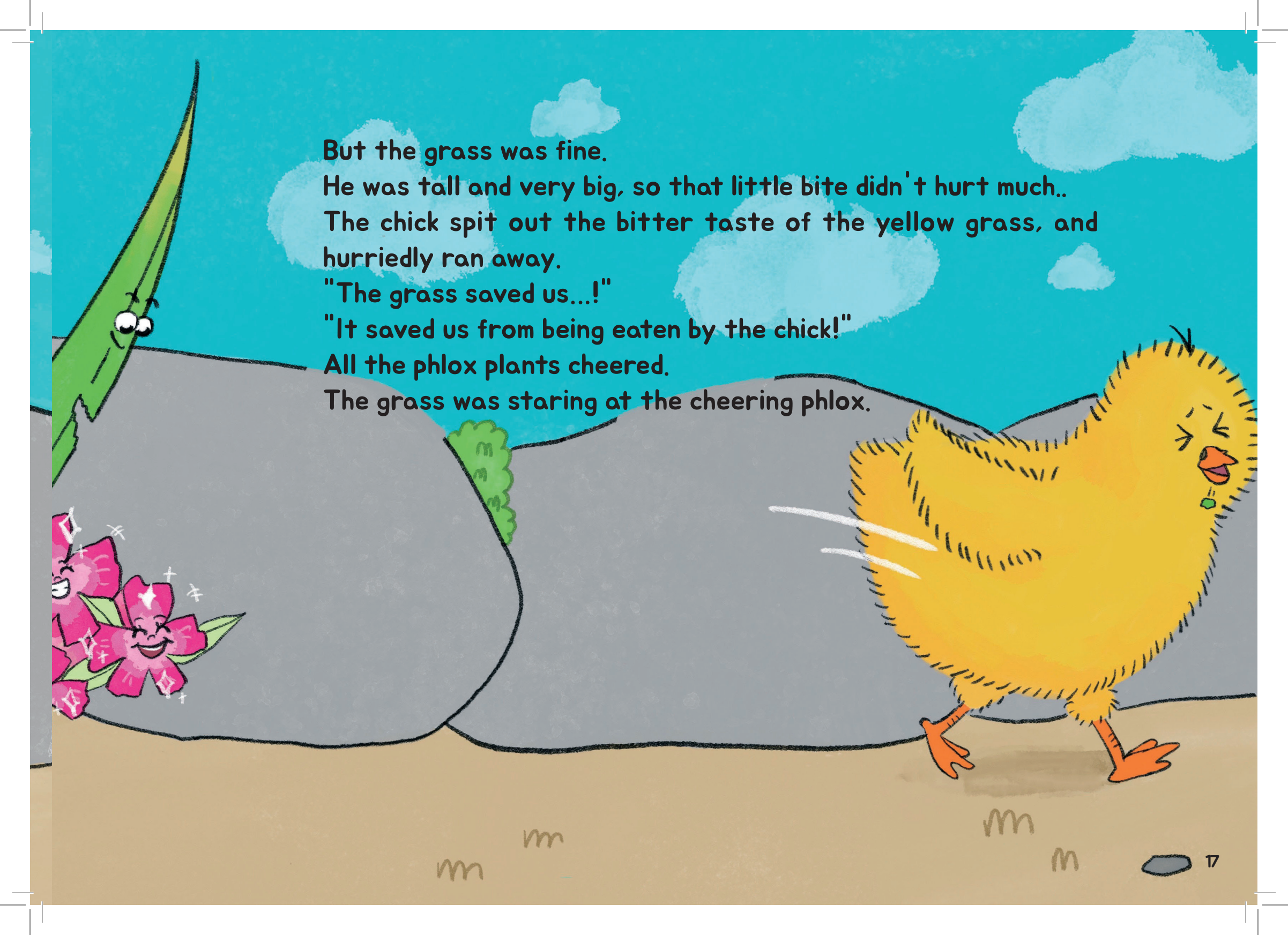


Thunk!

It just bit off the head of the grass.

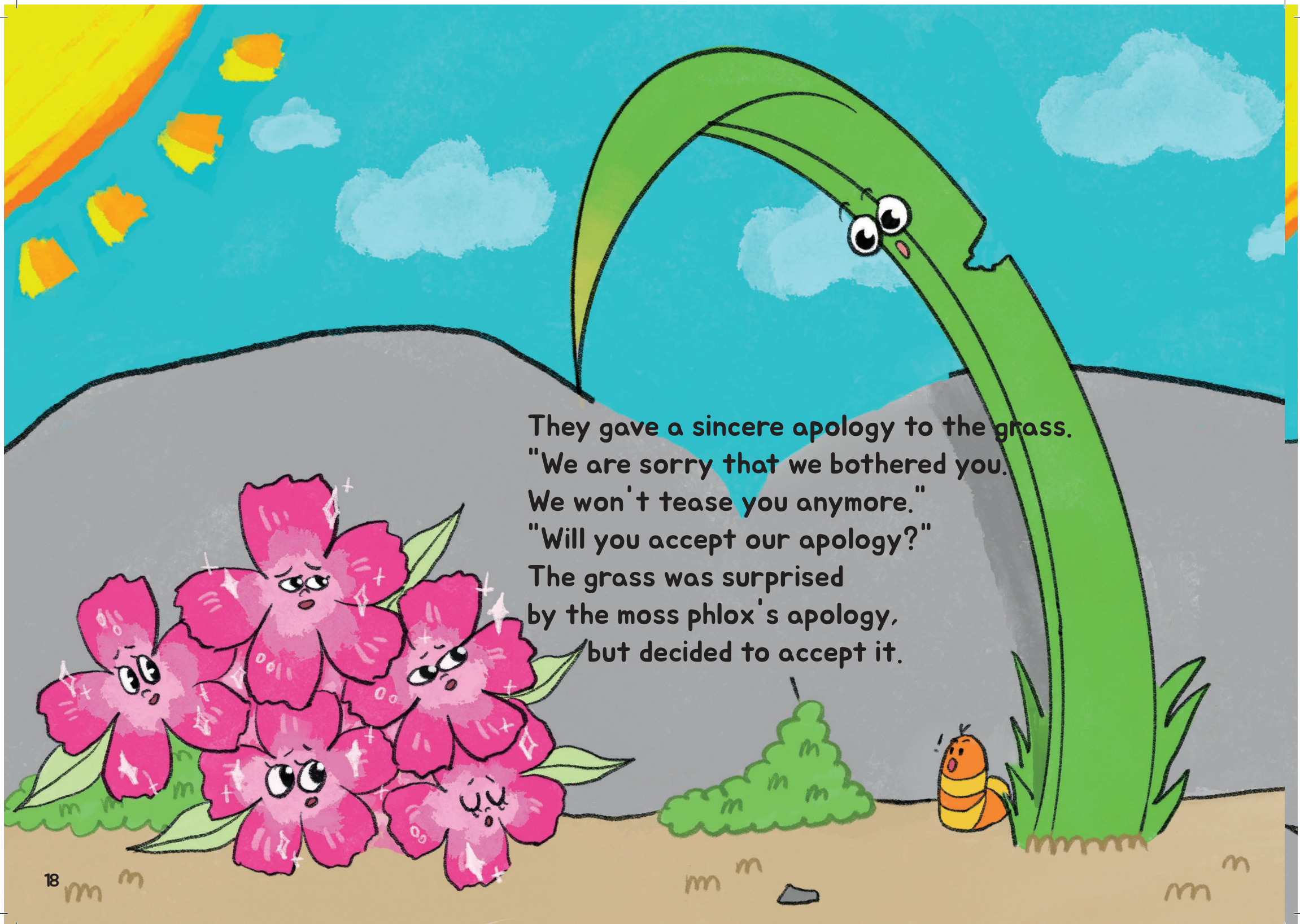





A cartoon illustration of a landscape. In the foreground, a grey, rounded hill sits on a brown ground. To the left, a large green leaf with a face and eyes is visible. Below it, several pink flowers with faces and sparkling effects are shown. To the right, a fluffy yellow chick with an orange beak and feet is walking. The sky is a vibrant blue with several white, fluffy clouds. The text is centered in the upper half of the page.

But the grass was fine.  
He was tall and very big, so that little bite didn't hurt much..  
The chick spit out the bitter taste of the yellow grass, and  
hurriedly ran away.  
"The grass saved us...!"  
"It saved us from being eaten by the chick!"  
All the phlox plants cheered.  
The grass was staring at the cheering phlox.






They gave a sincere apology to the grass.  
"We are sorry that we bothered you.  
We won't tease you anymore."  
"Will you accept our apology?"  
The grass was surprised  
by the moss phlox's apology,  
but decided to accept it.



The moss phlox gathered their hearts  
and spokewith one voice.  
"Thanks! Thanks, grass!  
What a brave friend you are!  
'You are a loving friend!'  
The grass grinned big.  
The moss phlox said,

"I'll give you water drops and give you pink  
leaves."

"Thank you for saving us."



Let's get along.  
The grass replied with a smile.

"Now we are friends!"

Yeah!