

*For Carlos Tapia
—E.W. and M.F.*

*To my family
—A.G.*

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The Stinky Giant



by Ellen Weiss and Mel Friedman
illustrated by Alessia Girasole

Random House  New York

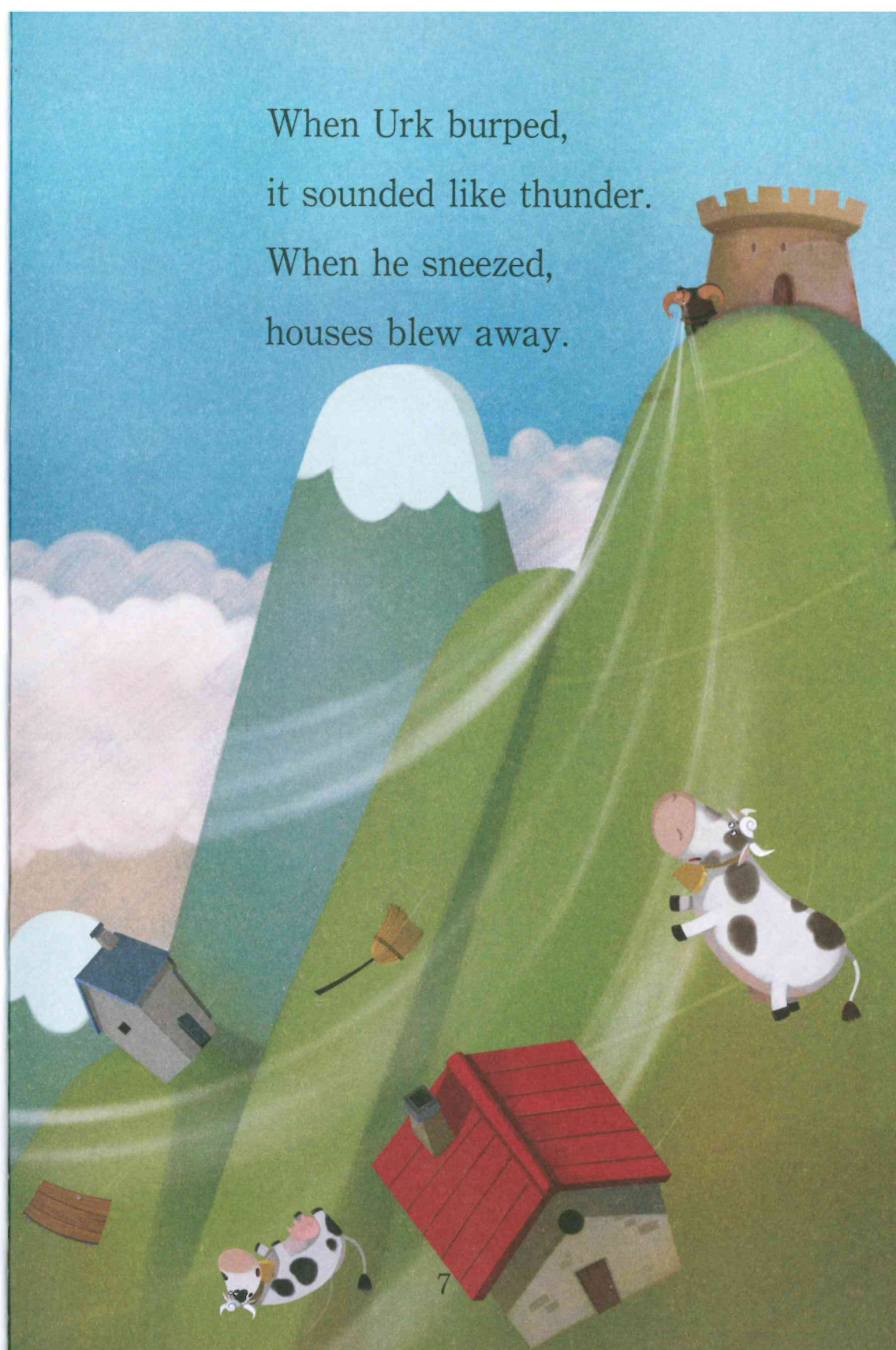
A long time ago,
a brother and sister lived
in a beautiful valley.
The sister's name was Pepper.
The brother's name was Jake.
They had a happy life.
Every day, they sang songs
and watched their sheep.

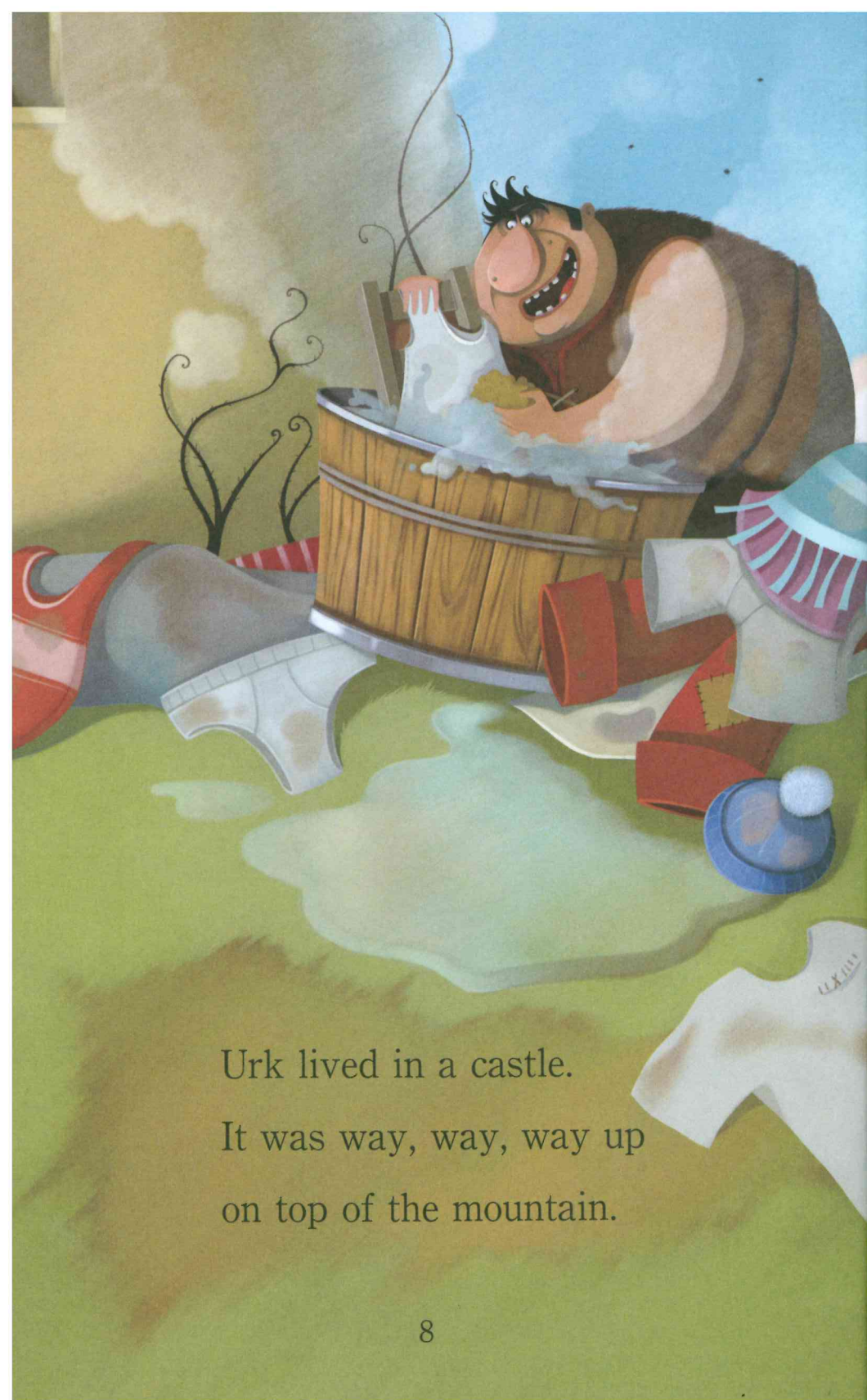


They only had one problem.
The problem's name was Urk.
Urk was a huge, mean giant.
He was rude.
He was ugly.

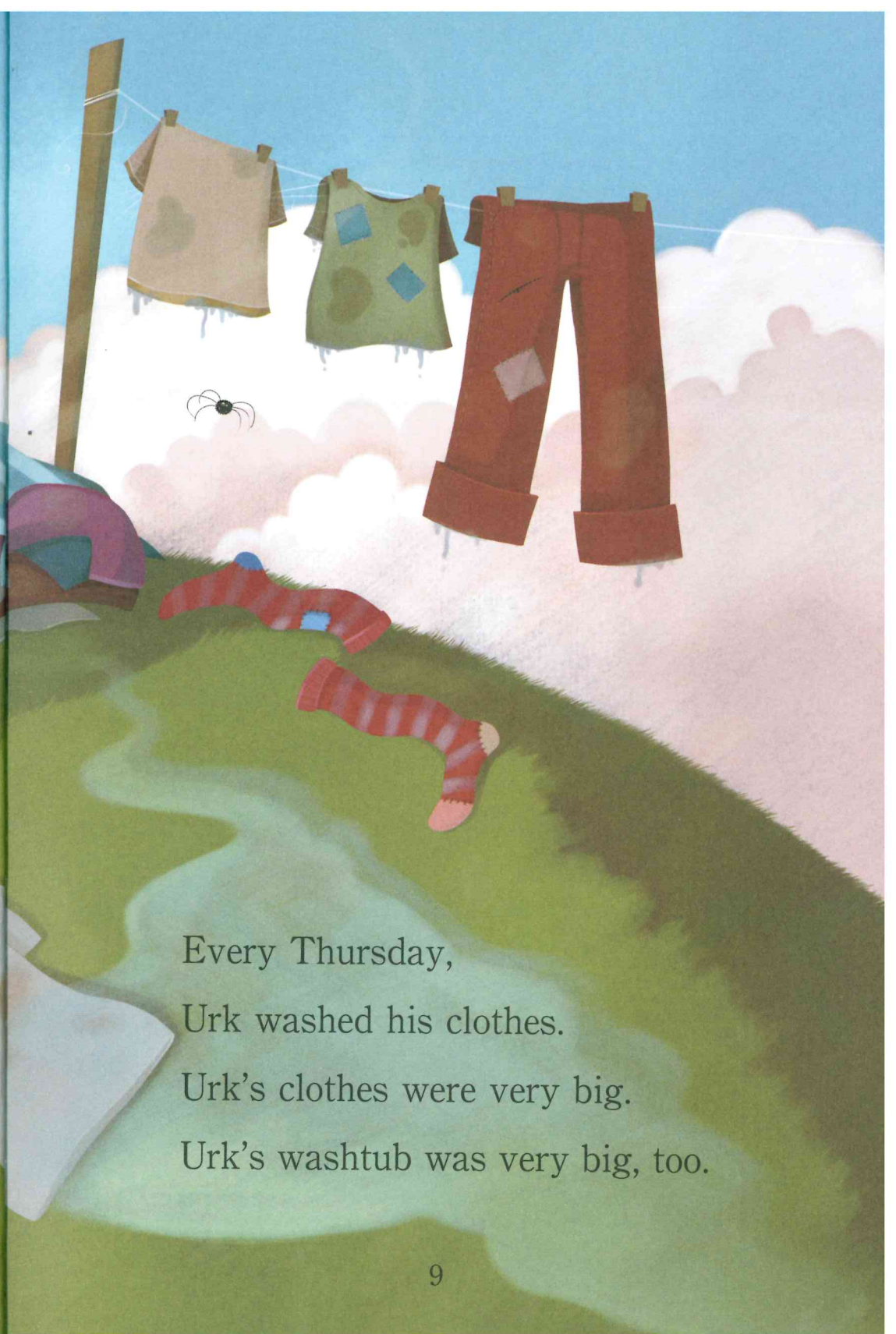


When Urk burped,
it sounded like thunder.
When he sneezed,
houses blew away.




A large, round, brown-skinned man with a wide, toothy grin is leaning over a massive wooden tub. He is washing clothes, with a white shirt and a yellow sock visible in the soapy water. Steam rises from the tub. On the grassy mountain peak around the tub, there are various items of clothing: a red and white striped sock, a white shirt, a red and white striped sock, a blue hat with a white pom-pom, and a red and white striped sock. The background shows a blue sky with white clouds.

Urk lived in a castle.
It was way, way, way up
on top of the mountain.

A clothesline is strung across the mountain peak, with three items of clothing hanging on it: a white shirt, a green shirt with blue patches, and a pair of red pants. A small black spider is on the clothesline. On the grassy mountain peak below, there are two red and white striped socks. The background shows a blue sky with white clouds.

Every Thursday,
Urk washed his clothes.
Urk's clothes were very big.
Urk's washtub was very big, too.

A two-page spread from a children's book. The illustration depicts a flood scene. On the left page, a boy with a worried expression, wearing a brown hat and a light-colored shirt, is partially submerged in the water, holding onto a large tree trunk. On the right page, a girl in a red dress and a pink headscarf is hanging from the same tree trunk, looking down with a concerned expression. In the foreground, two white sheep with grey faces are floating in the water. The background shows rolling green hills under a blue sky with white clouds. The text is positioned on the left page, and the page numbers are at the bottom of each page.

When he was done
washing his clothes,
Urk emptied his washtub.
The water came roaring
down the mountain.
It made a huge flood.

Sometimes things were swept away.
Sometimes some of Pepper and Jake's
sheep were lost.

So Pepper and Jake had to walk
way down the valley
to get their sheep back.
Pepper and Jake were tired
of Urk and Urk's laundry.



One day,
Jake fell into a big puddle
of Urk's dirty wash water.
He came out all stinky.
"That's it.
We are going to talk to Urk,"
said Jake.



They looked up at Urk's castle.
It would be hard to get there.
But they knew they had to go.
So they made some
egg-and-salty-pickle sandwiches.
They filled a goatskin bag
with water.

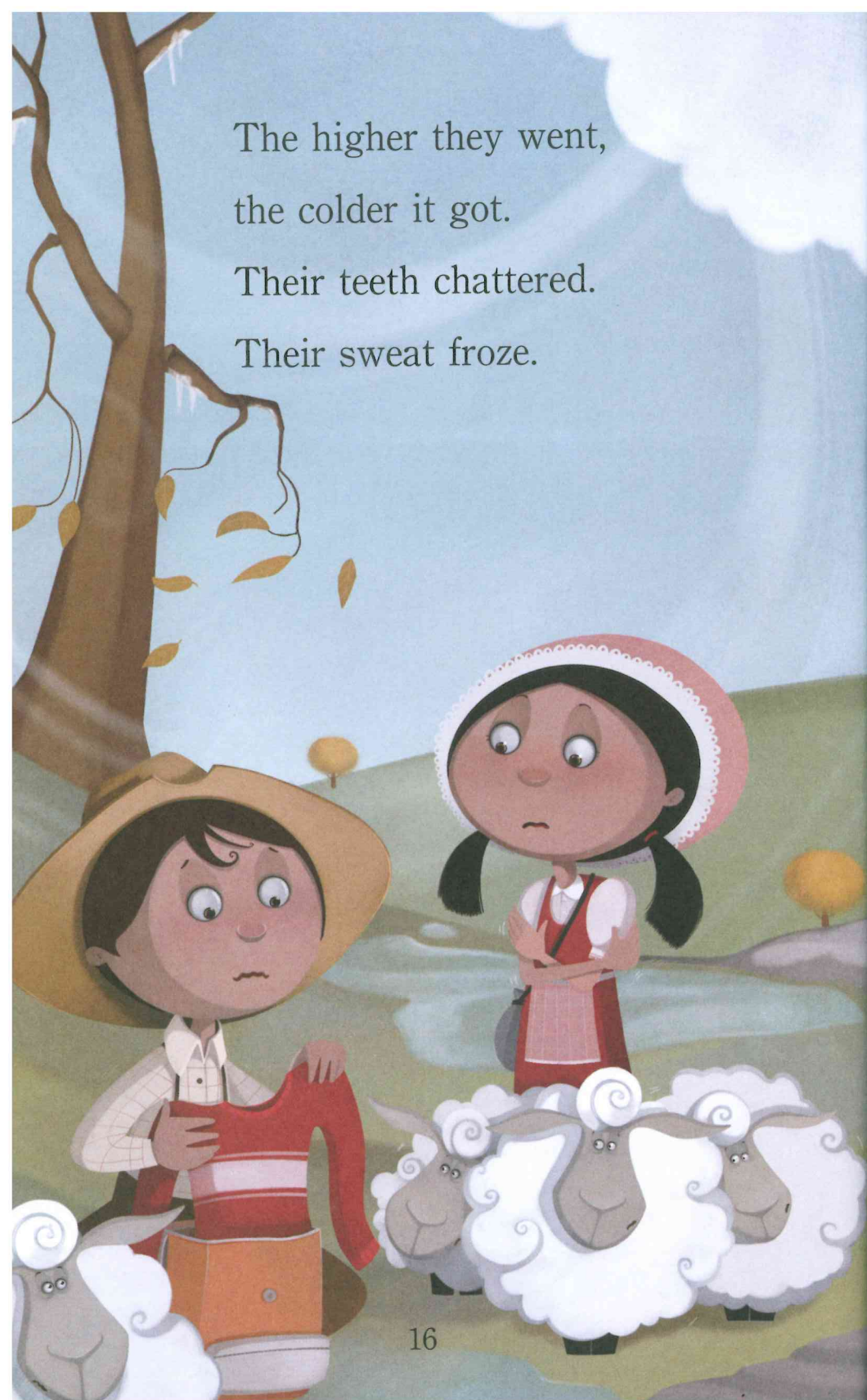


And they set out
to climb Urk's mountain.
They climbed up, up, up.

The higher they went,
the colder it got.

Their teeth chattered.

Their sweat froze.



After a while,
they got hungry.

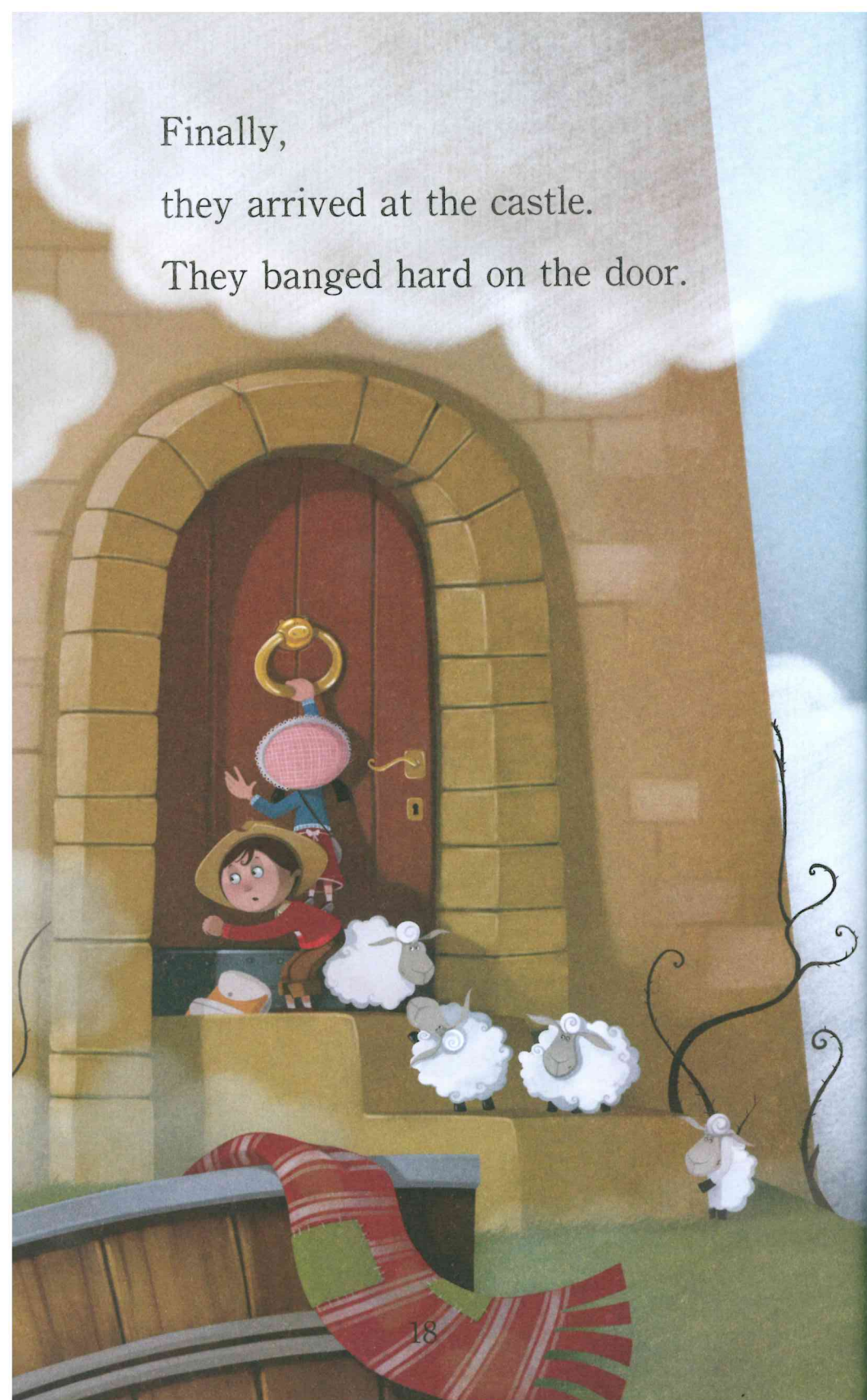
They stopped to eat
their sandwiches.

Their lunch made them thirsty.

But the water in the goatskin
was frozen solid.



Finally,
they arrived at the castle.
They banged hard on the door.



The door swung open.
There, sitting at his table,
was Urk.
He was having a gigantic
bowl of smelly soup.



“Well,”
said the giant,
“what do you want?”



“We want you to stop flooding us
with your dirty wash water,”
said Pepper.

The giant’s laughter boomed
across the room.

But Jake and Pepper
scowled at him
so he would know
how serious they were.
Urk just kept laughing.

"Okay,"

Urk finally said.

"I have an idea.

We giants have a secret riddle.

No one has ever been able
to answer it.

"If you can't answer the riddle,

I will boil you for soup.

And I will throw
your sheep in, too.

If you can answer it, I lose.

I will move away."



“Where will you move to?”

asked Pepper.

“You can pick,

because I won’t lose,”

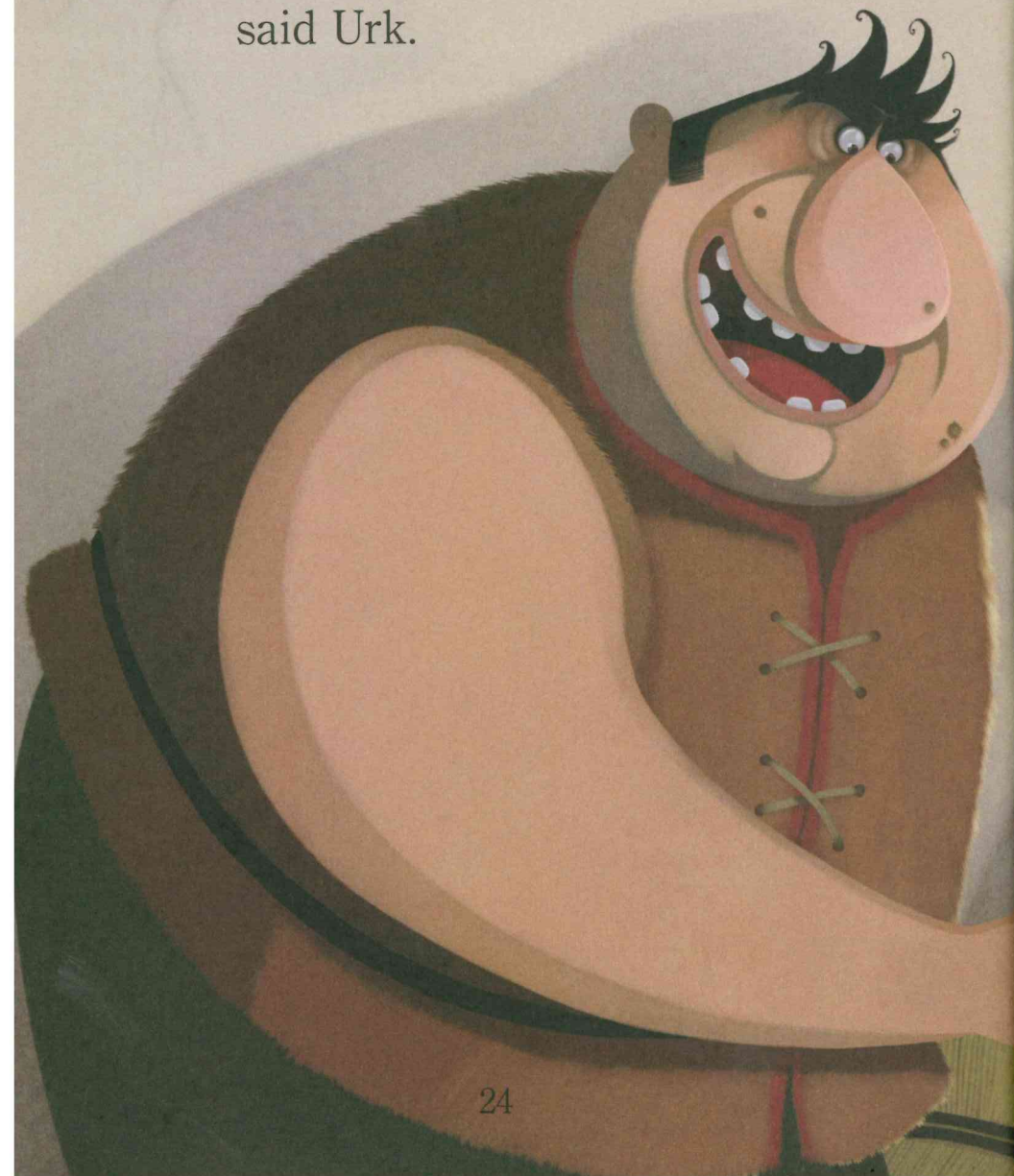
said Urk.

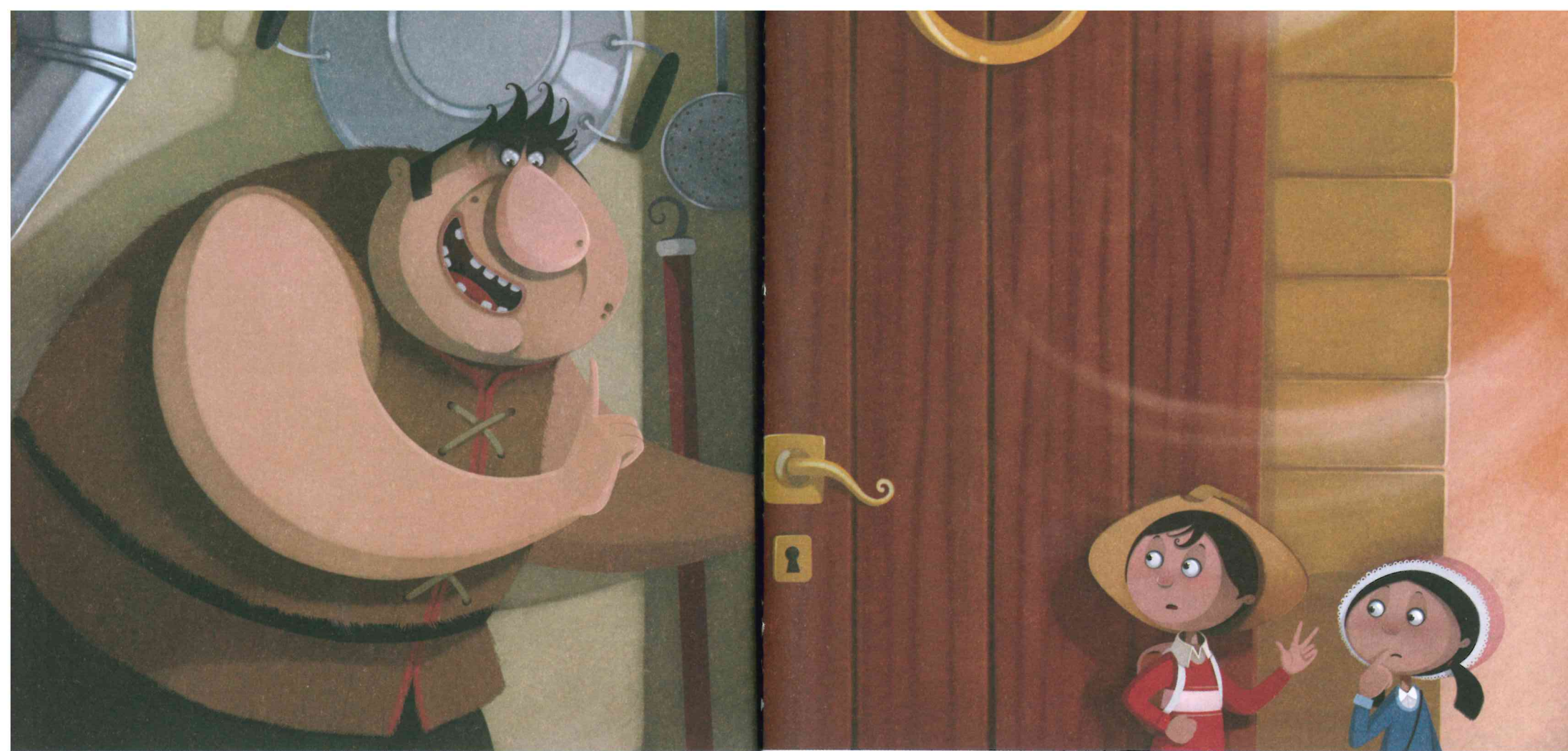
Jake pointed to the map.

“Here,”

he said.

They shook on it.





Urk gave them the riddle.

“There is something
you see every day,
and it is one thing
but also three things.

“I will give you three days
to come up with the answer!”
shouted the giant.
“Now go home!”

Pepper and Jake went
down, down, down the mountain.



“Look,” said Pepper.
“The ice in the bag
has turned back to water.”
Jake was so thirsty,
he drank half the water.

When they finally got home,
they started thinking
about the riddle.

What could be one thing
but three things?

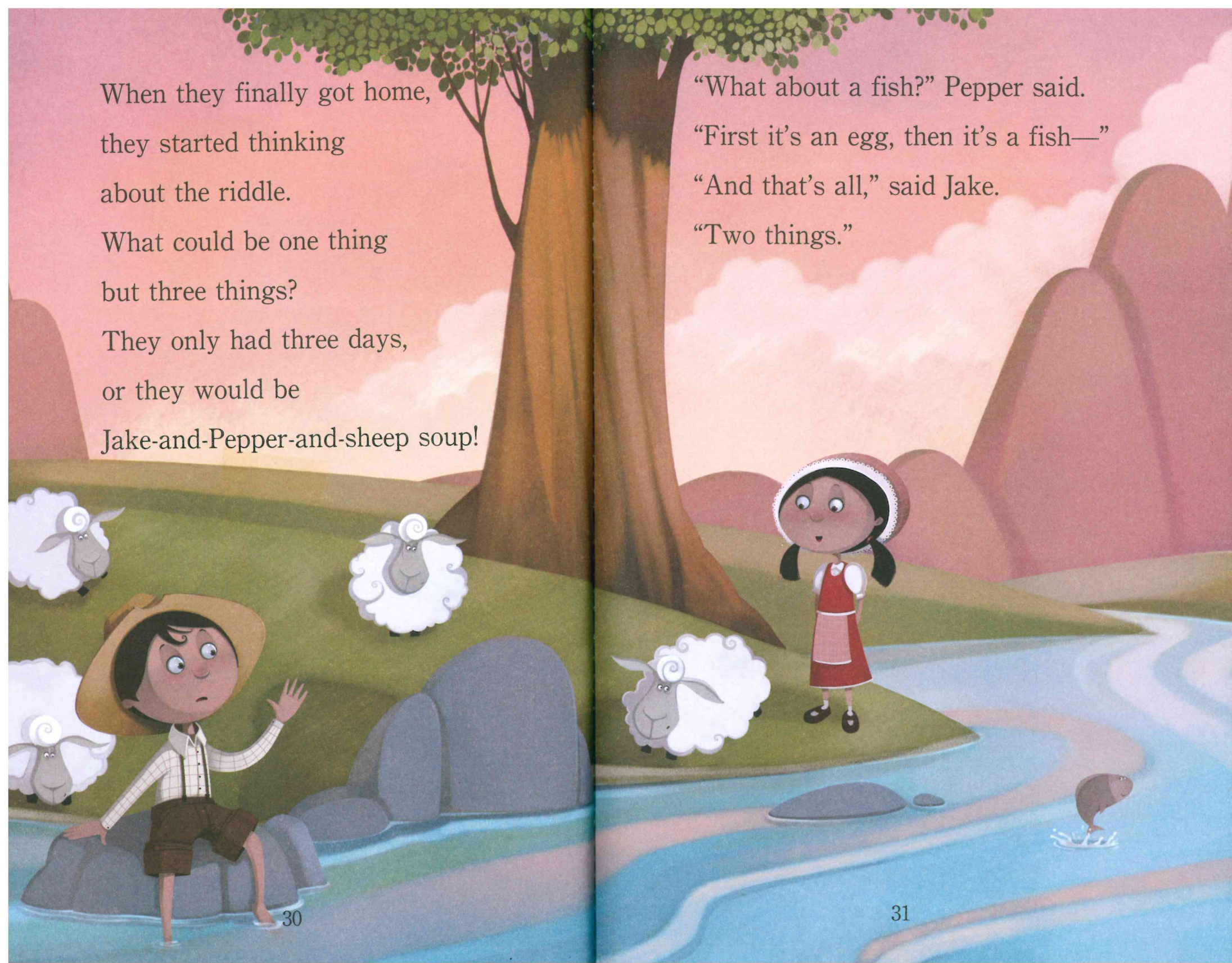
They only had three days,
or they would be
Jake-and-Pepper-and-sheep soup!

“What about a fish?” Pepper said.

“First it’s an egg, then it’s a fish—”

“And that’s all,” said Jake.

“Two things.”



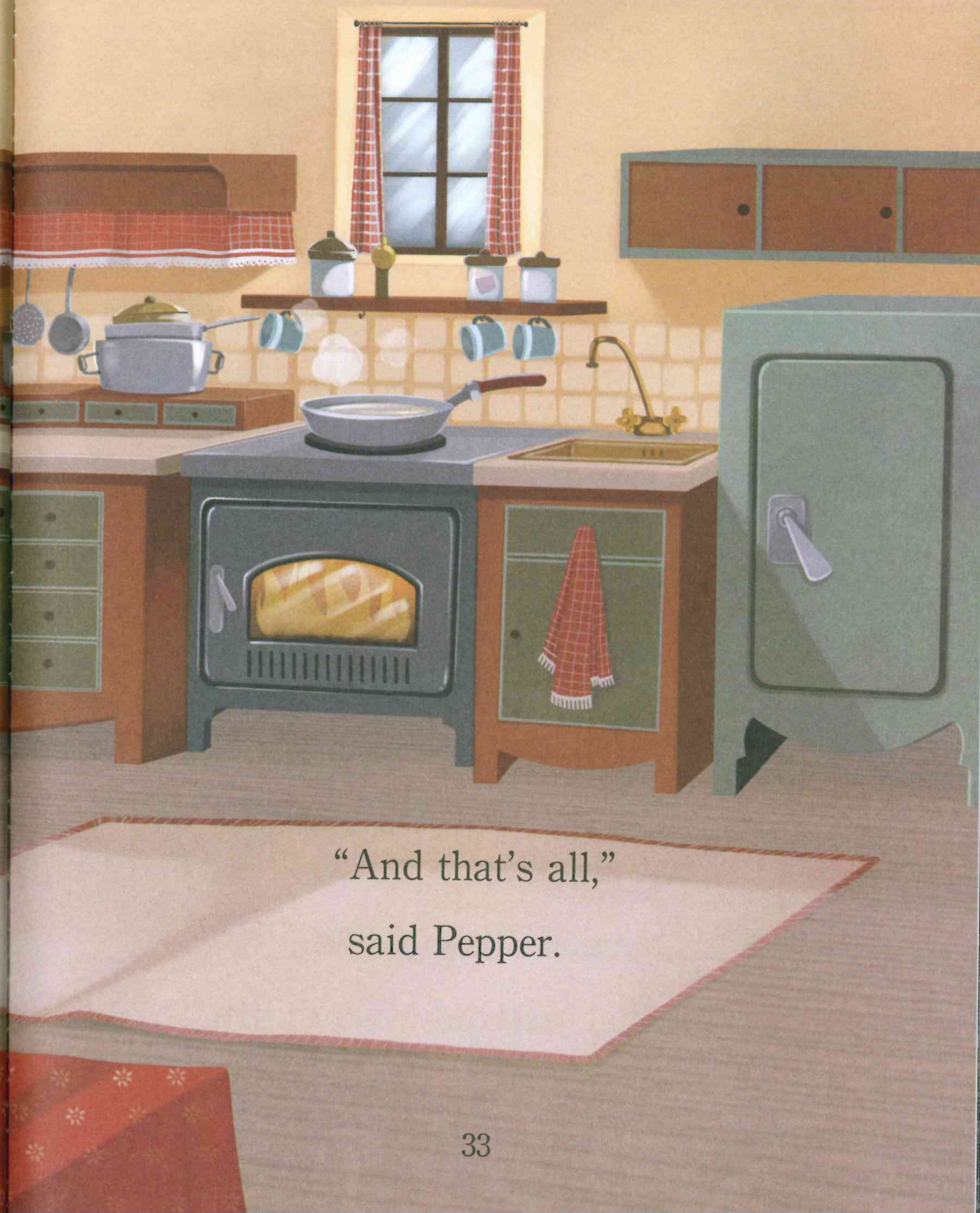
On the second day,

Jake had an idea.

“Peanut butter!”

he said.

“It’s crunchy, or it’s creamy—”



“And that’s all,”
said Pepper.



Then she said,
“What about a book?
It’s open or it’s closed—”
But that was only two things.



After that, they were so tired,
they had to go to sleep.
But they went to bed scared.
If they didn’t come up
with an answer tomorrow,
they would be soup!

On the third morning,
Jake and Pepper
were really worried.
Today they had to go back to Urk.
And they still had no answer.



“Let’s have some dandelion tea,”
said Pepper.

“It will help us think.”

So Jake put water in the kettle
and put the kettle on to boil.



Pepper decided she would have
some iced tea.



Soon the water was boiling.

The kettle whistled.

The steam came jetting
out of the spout.

Jake and Pepper looked at the steam.

They looked at Pepper's ice.

Then they looked at each other.

"Water!"

they said together.



Water, like the stuff
they used to make the tea!



Water, like the ice
in Pepper's glass!



And water, like the steam
coming out of the kettle!



They raced back up the mountain.
They didn't even care that
the water in their goatskin bag
was turning to ice.

And they didn't even care about
Urk's steamy, stinky wash water.
They had won.

"We figured it out!" said Pepper.
"It's water!" said Jake.
"Steam, ice, and liquid!
But all water!"

Urk turned red.



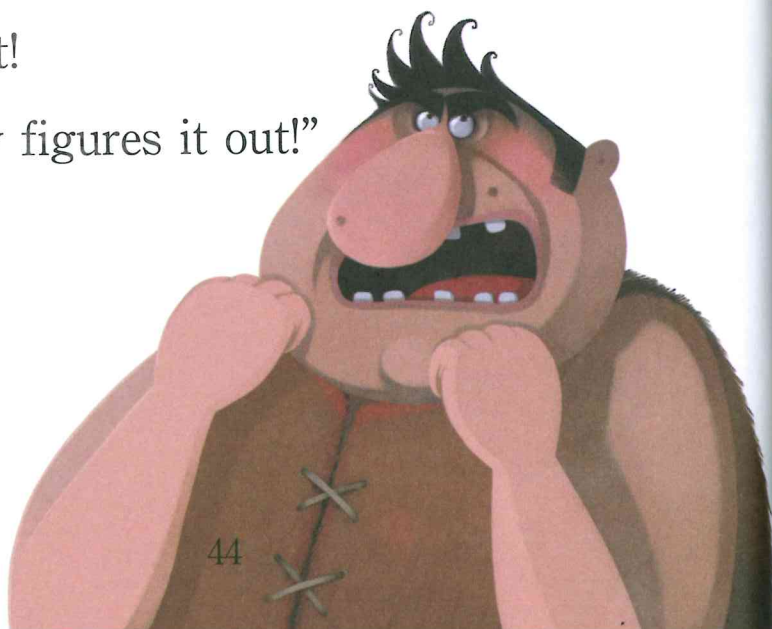
Then he turned purple.



"No!" he shouted.

"You couldn't have figured
that out!

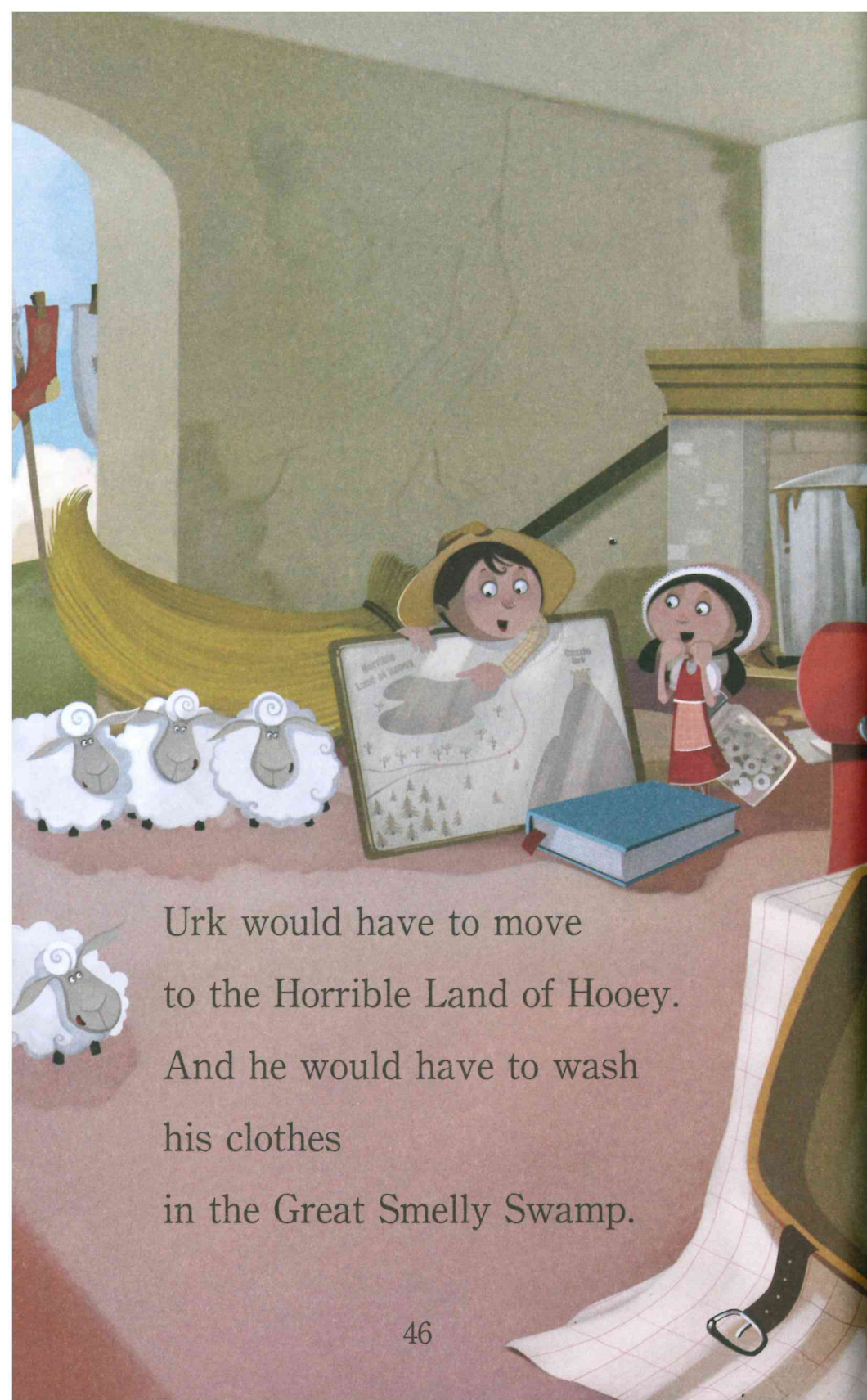
Nobody figures it out!"



But they had.

And a deal was a deal.

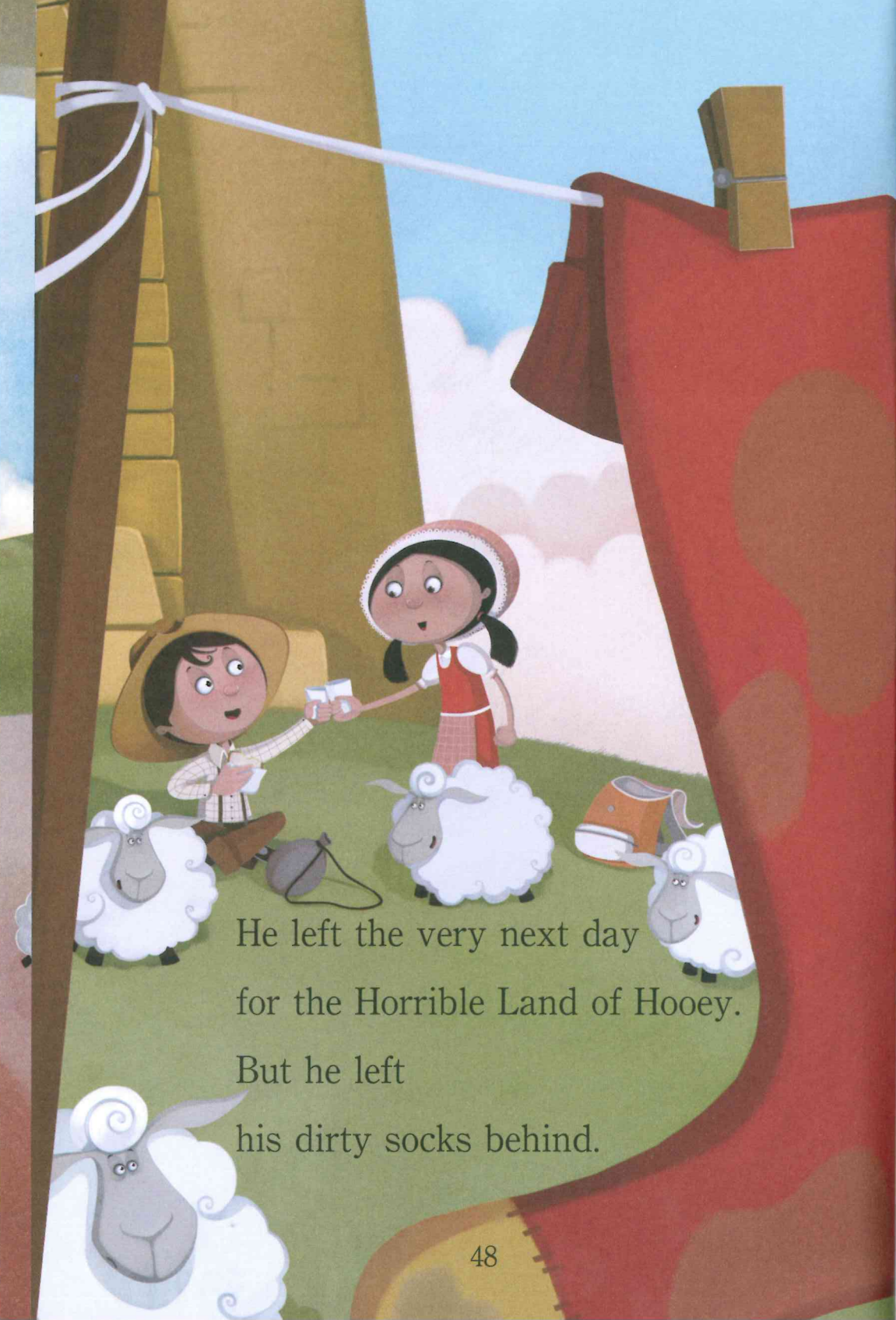




Urk would have to move
to the Horrible Land of Hooey.
And he would have to wash
his clothes
in the Great Smelly Swamp.

Urk hated it,
but a deal was a deal.





He left the very next day
for the Horrible Land of Hooey.
But he left
his dirty socks behind.