



# THE PARABLE of WILLY WHEAT

A Story To Be Shared By **All** Ages...



Written and Illustrated by Kathy Bleichrodt

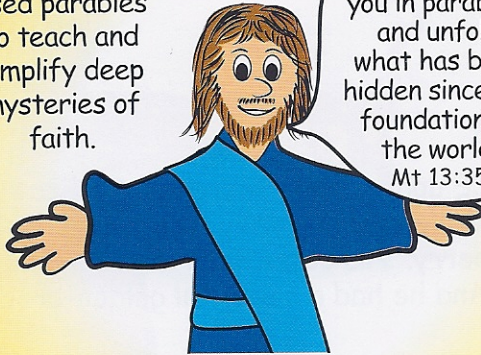


(A note for the adults...)

The Parable of Willy Wheat is a story to be enjoyed by readers of all ages.

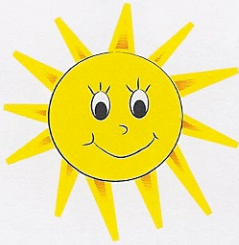


Jesus often used parables to teach and simplify deep mysteries of faith.

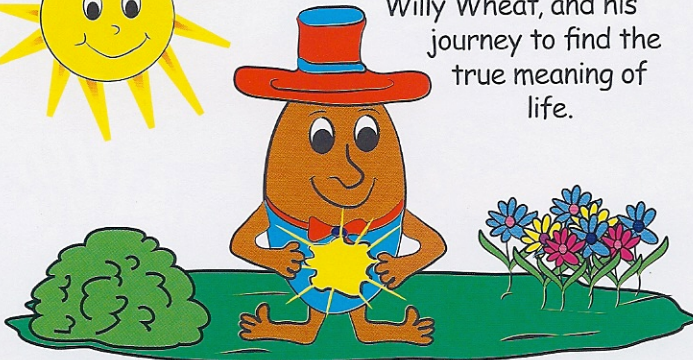


I will speak to you in parables, and unfold what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.  
Mt 13:35

Those who were simple and childlike were able to understand the deeper, hidden meaning of the parables.



This is the story of one grain of wheat: a wheat berry named Willy Wheat, and his journey to find the true meaning of life.



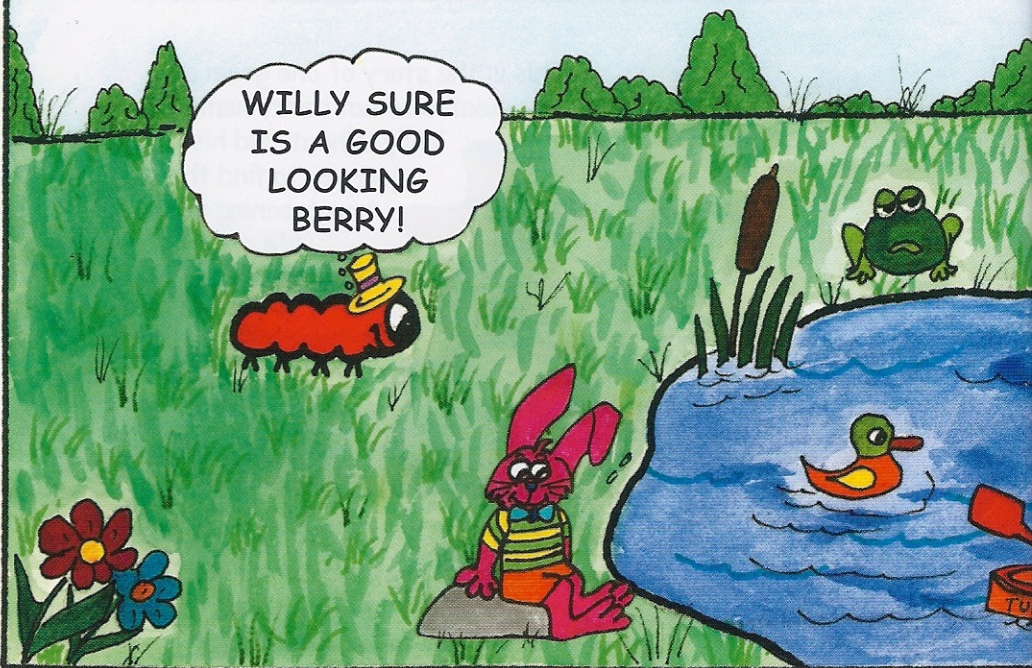
Allow yourself to enter into the story as your own. May you learn much about your own spiritual journey as you discover the LIFE within.



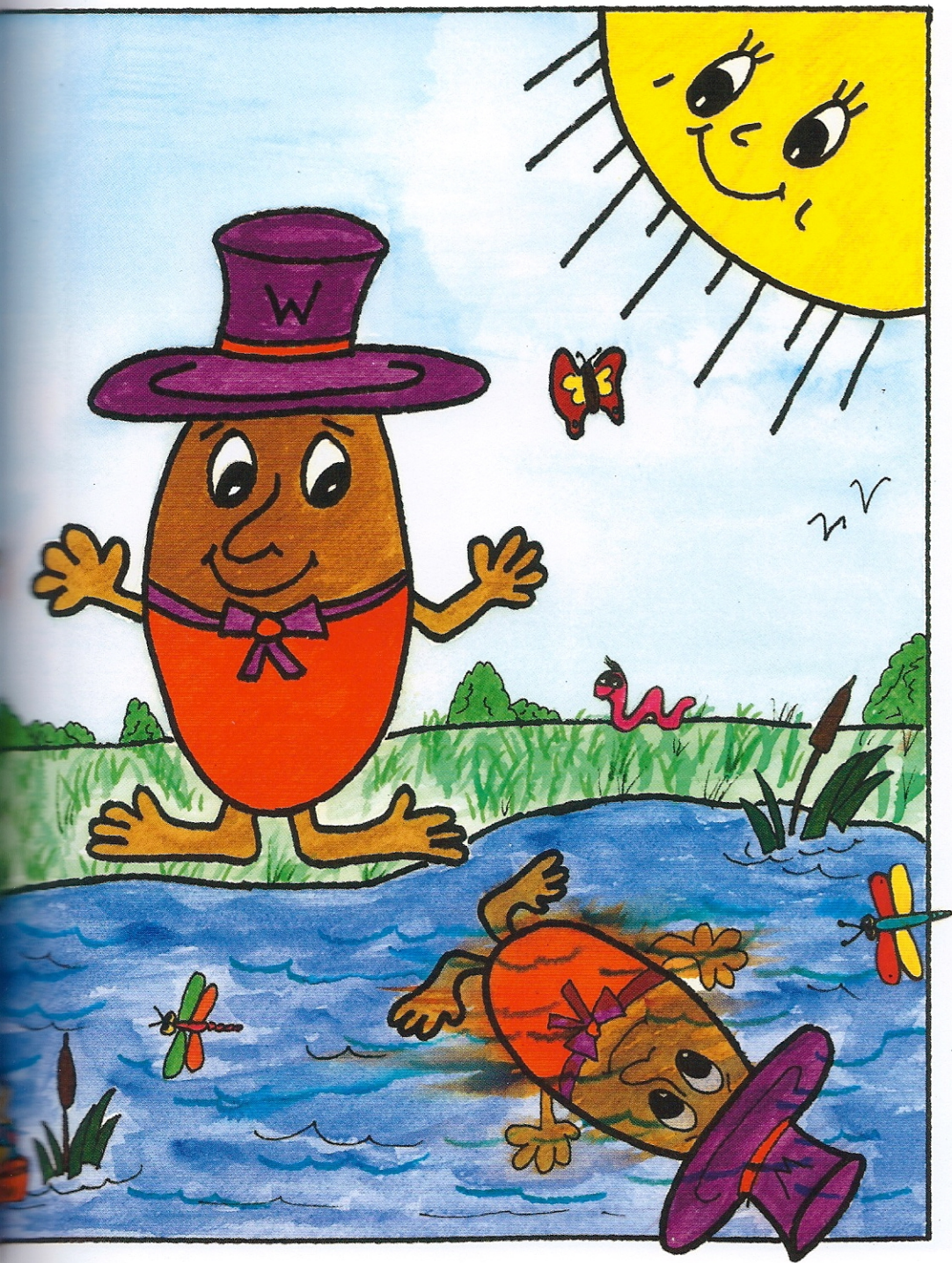


ONCE upon a time, there was a wheat berry named Willy Wheat. Willy was such a handsome wheat berry. His outer shell was nice and hard and shiny. And he had a beautiful golden-brown color.

WILLY SURE  
IS A GOOD  
LOOKING  
BERRY!





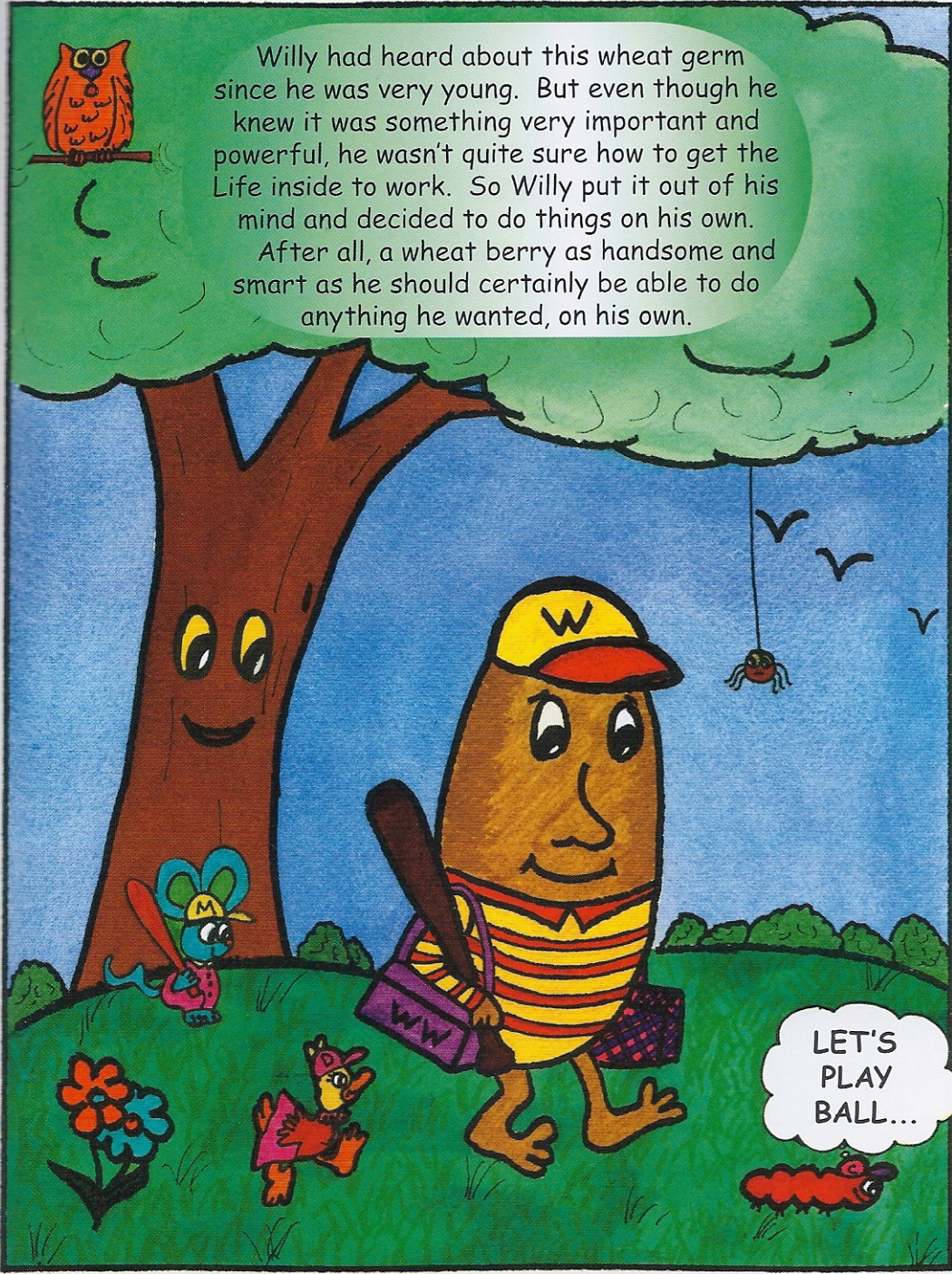






But Willy was not only beautiful to look at, he was also very smart. He knew his outer appearance was not the most important part about himself. The most important part was inside Willy. For inside was a special living thing called a "wheat germ," which had a funny name, but was also very powerful and Life-giving!





Willy had heard about this wheat germ since he was very young. But even though he knew it was something very important and powerful, he wasn't quite sure how to get the Life inside to work. So Willy put it out of his mind and decided to do things on his own.

After all, a wheat berry as handsome and smart as he should certainly be able to do anything he wanted, on his own.

LET'S  
PLAY  
BALL...

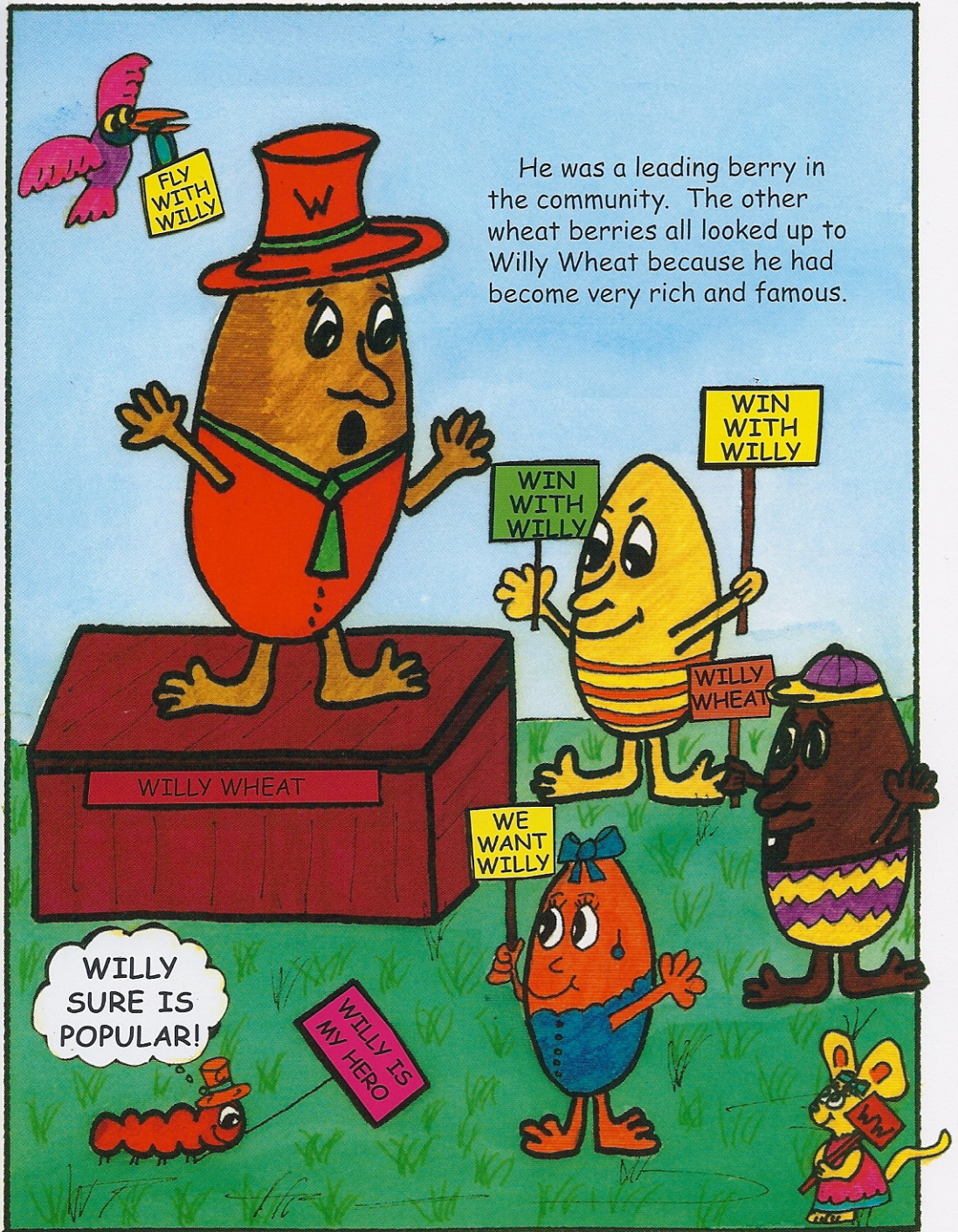




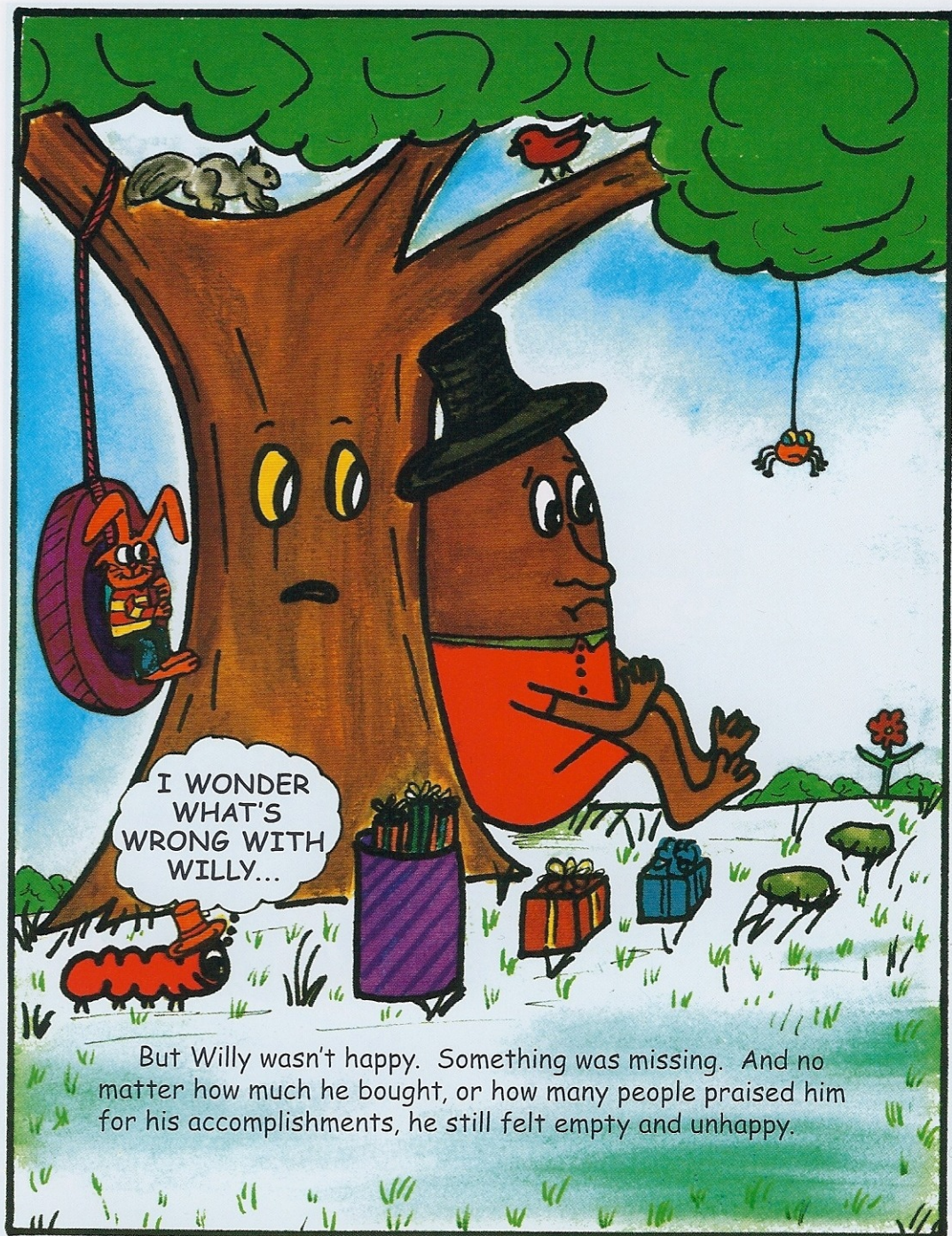
Willy had jobs that made him lots of money.



He was a leading berry in the community. The other wheat berries all looked up to Willy Wheat because he had become very rich and famous.

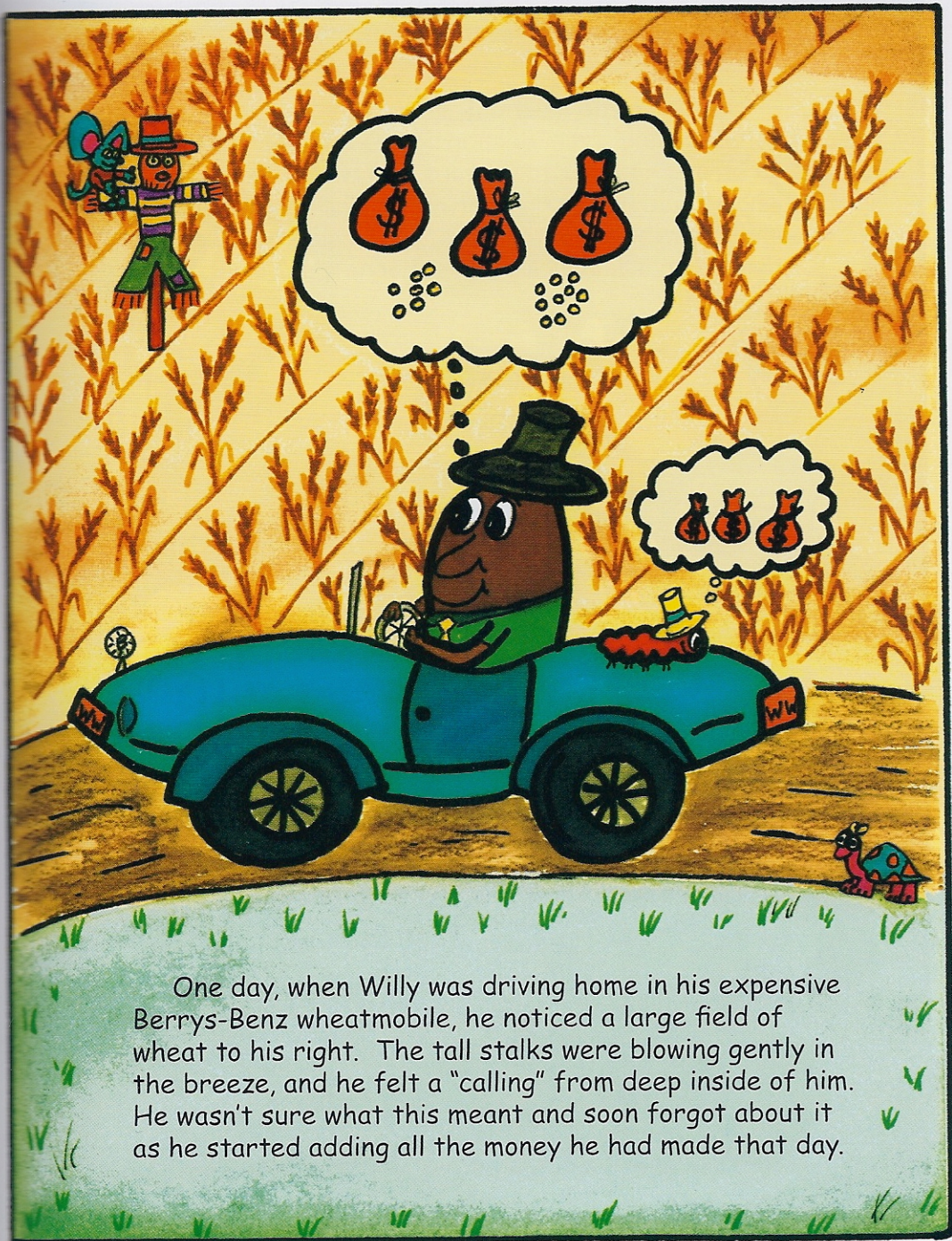






But Willy wasn't happy. Something was missing. And no matter how much he bought, or how many people praised him for his accomplishments, he still felt empty and unhappy.





One day, when Willy was driving home in his expensive Berrys-Benz wheatmobile, he noticed a large field of wheat to his right. The tall stalks were blowing gently in the breeze, and he felt a "calling" from deep inside of him. He wasn't sure what this meant and soon forgot about it as he started adding all the money he had made that day.



But again the next day, on his way home, Willy felt a "calling" from deep inside. This time it was so strong he **HAD** to find out just what it was. But whom could he ask? After all, he was now the most important berry in the town. How could he lower himself to ask advice from someone else?

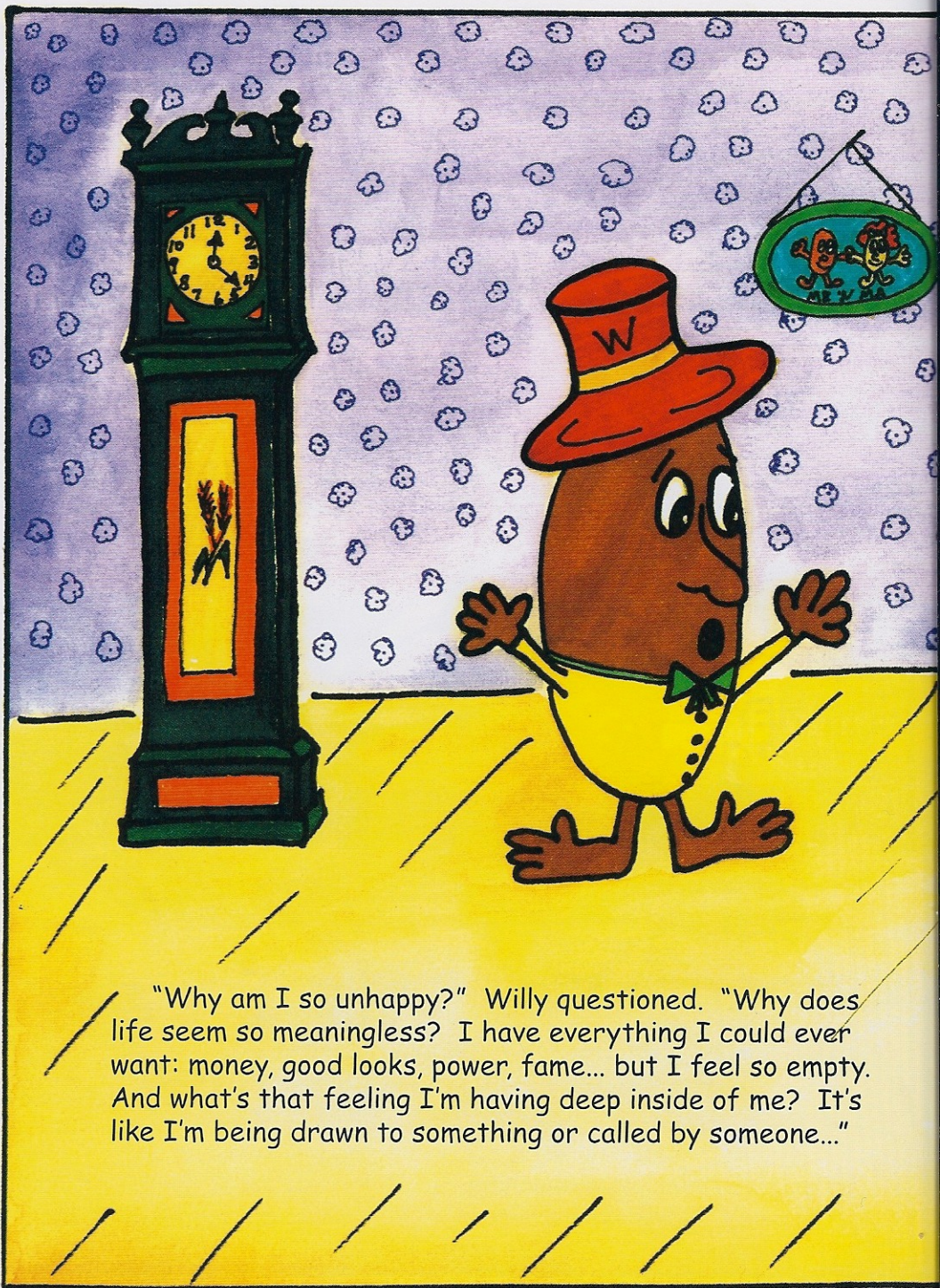






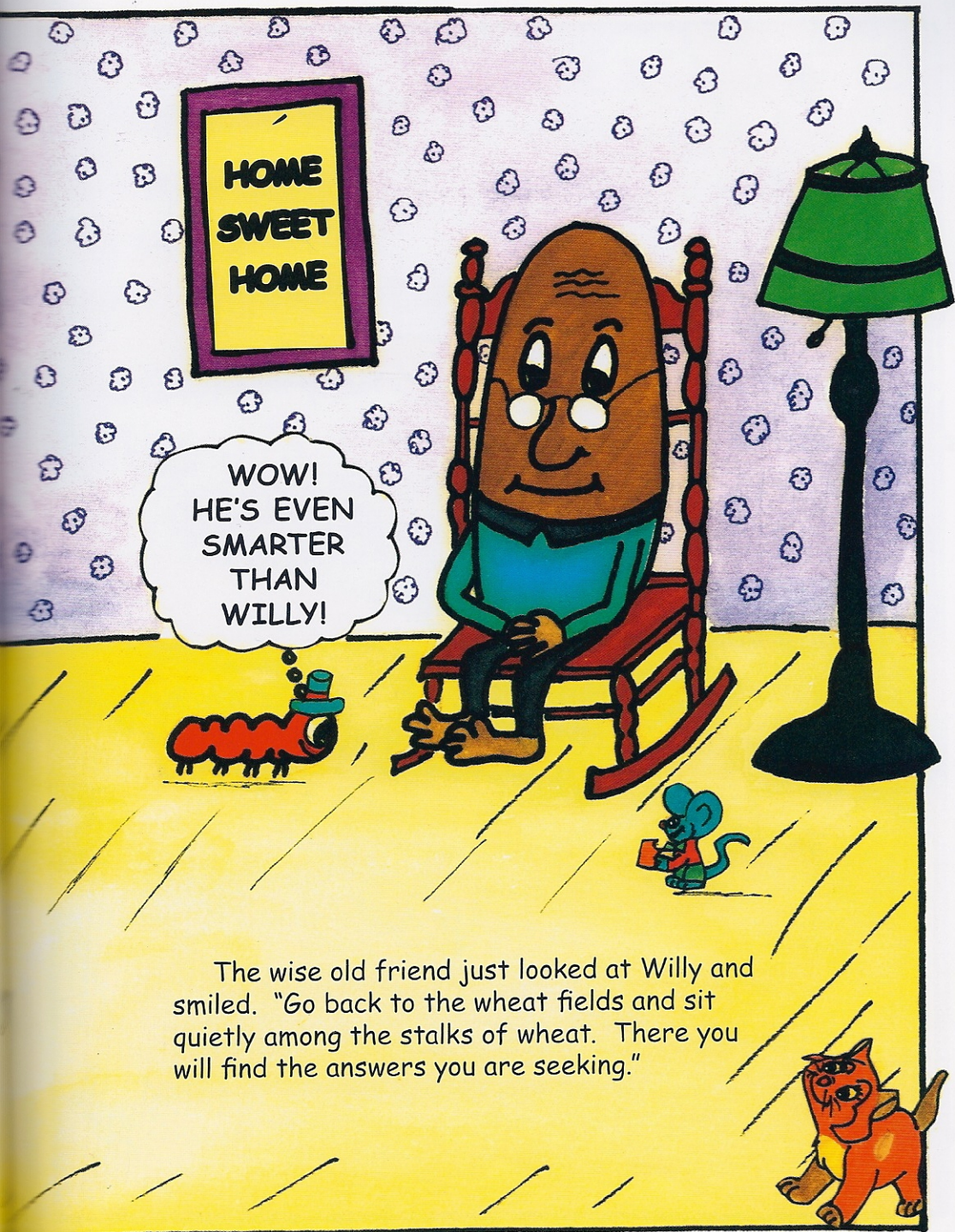
Finally, one day, when everything had gone wrong and life was seeming so meaningless, Willy decided to humble himself and ask the advice of a very wise old friend.





"Why am I so unhappy?" Willy questioned. "Why does life seem so meaningless? I have everything I could ever want: money, good looks, power, fame... but I feel so empty. And what's that feeling I'm having deep inside of me? It's like I'm being drawn to something or called by someone..."





The wise old friend just looked at Willy and smiled. "Go back to the wheat fields and sit quietly among the stalks of wheat. There you will find the answers you are seeking."





Willy Wheat took the wise friend's advice and went early the next morning to sit in the middle of the wheat field.





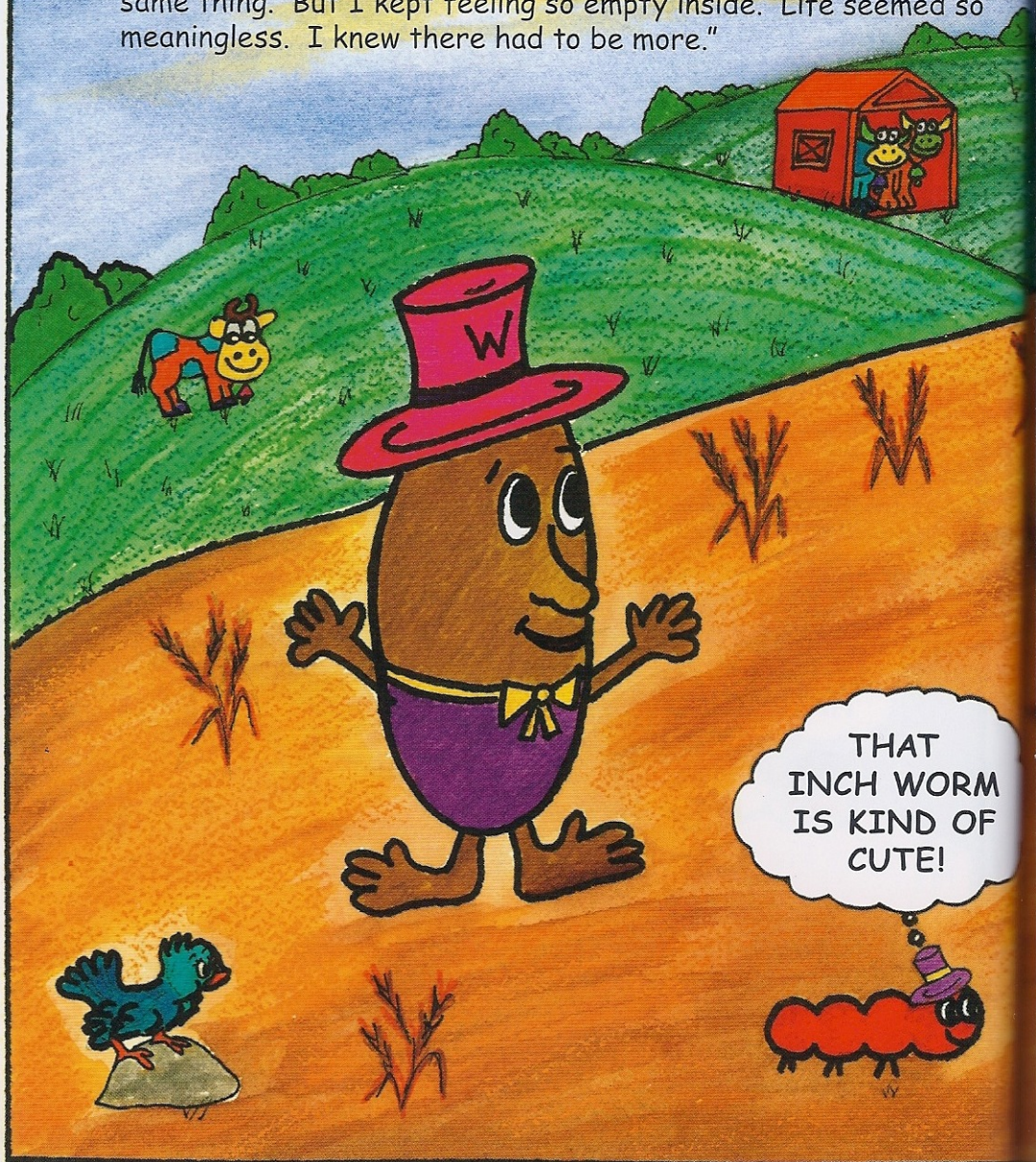
As he sat there looking around, something seemed very familiar to Willy...but what was it?

Just then, one of the plants moved...and smiled! It couldn't be...but it was!!! It was Brenda Berry, one of his old school friends. But she looked so different!



"Is that you, Brenda?" Willy shrieked. "You look so different! What happened to you?!"

"Well," Brenda replied, "While you and the others were out making lots of money with your good jobs, I was doing the same thing. But I kept feeling so empty inside. Life seemed so meaningless. I knew there had to be more."





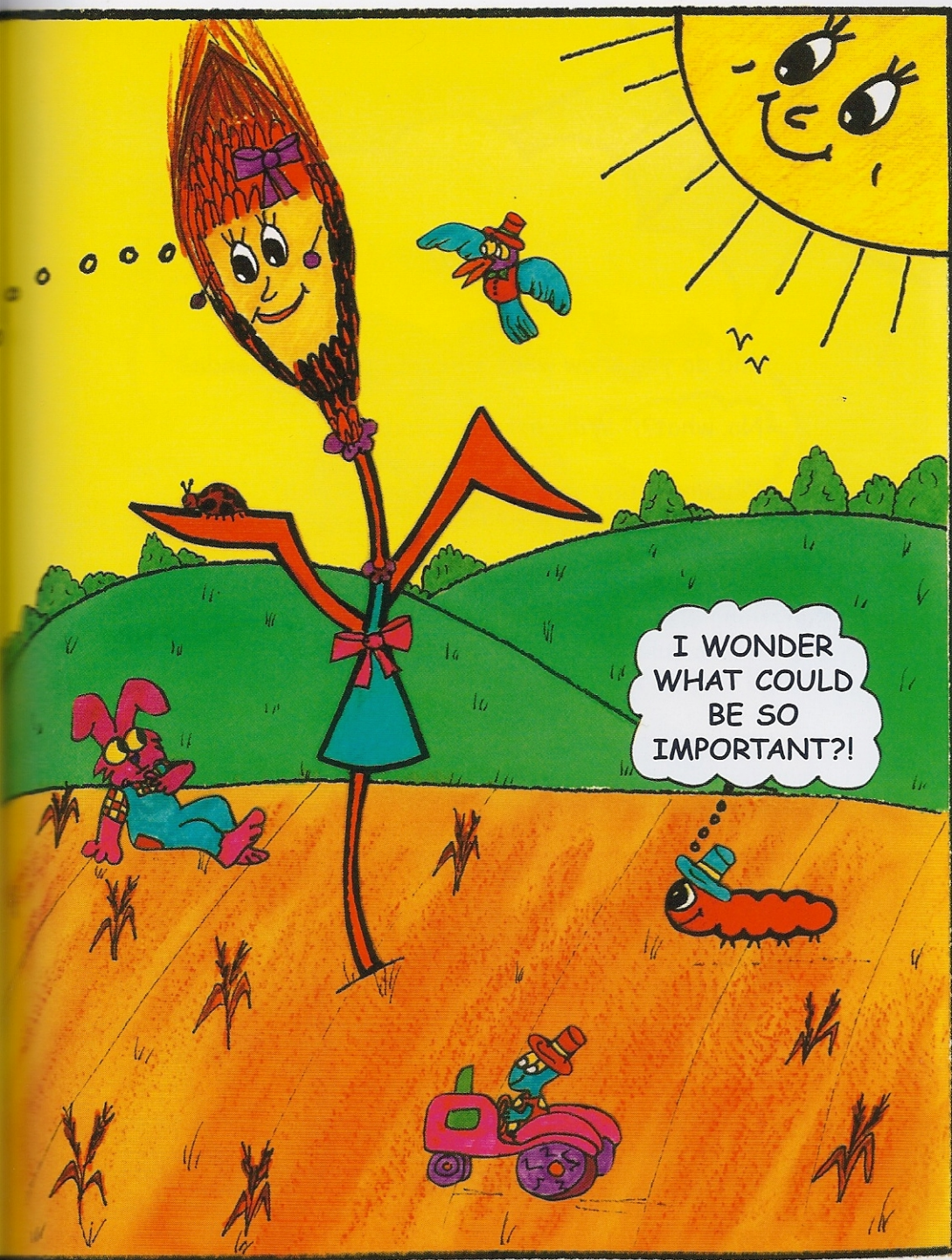






"So one night, while I was sitting under a tree, wondering what life was all about, I began to have this feeling inside of me - like someone was calling me. I had had that feeling many times before but was always too busy to stop and listen. This time was different. I HAD to listen!"









"And do you know what I heard?" asked Brenda.

"No, what?!" Willy asked anxiously.

"I heard a tiny voice inside of me saying, everything I wanted, everything I was looking for, was right inside of me all the time. I didn't have to keep looking for it in things, or money, or in anything else that was outside of me. All I had to do was be quiet and listen inside of me. There I would find all the answers I had ever looked for."

Willy knew a little bit of what Brenda Berry was talking about. He too had heard that little voice calling inside of him.









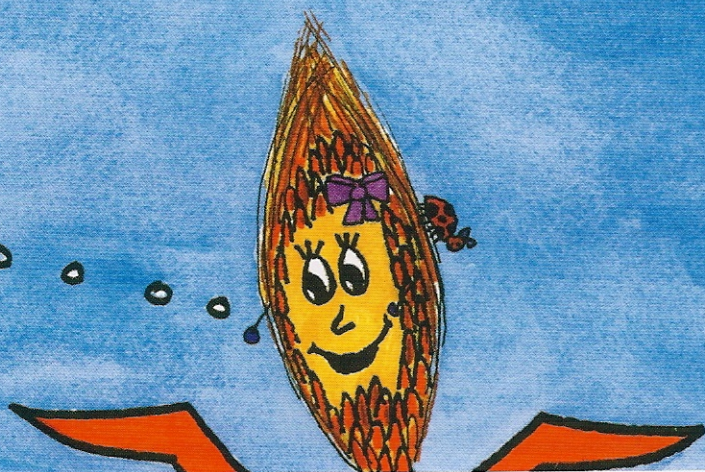




"Well,  
you still haven't told  
me what happened to you!" cried  
Willy. "You look so different!"

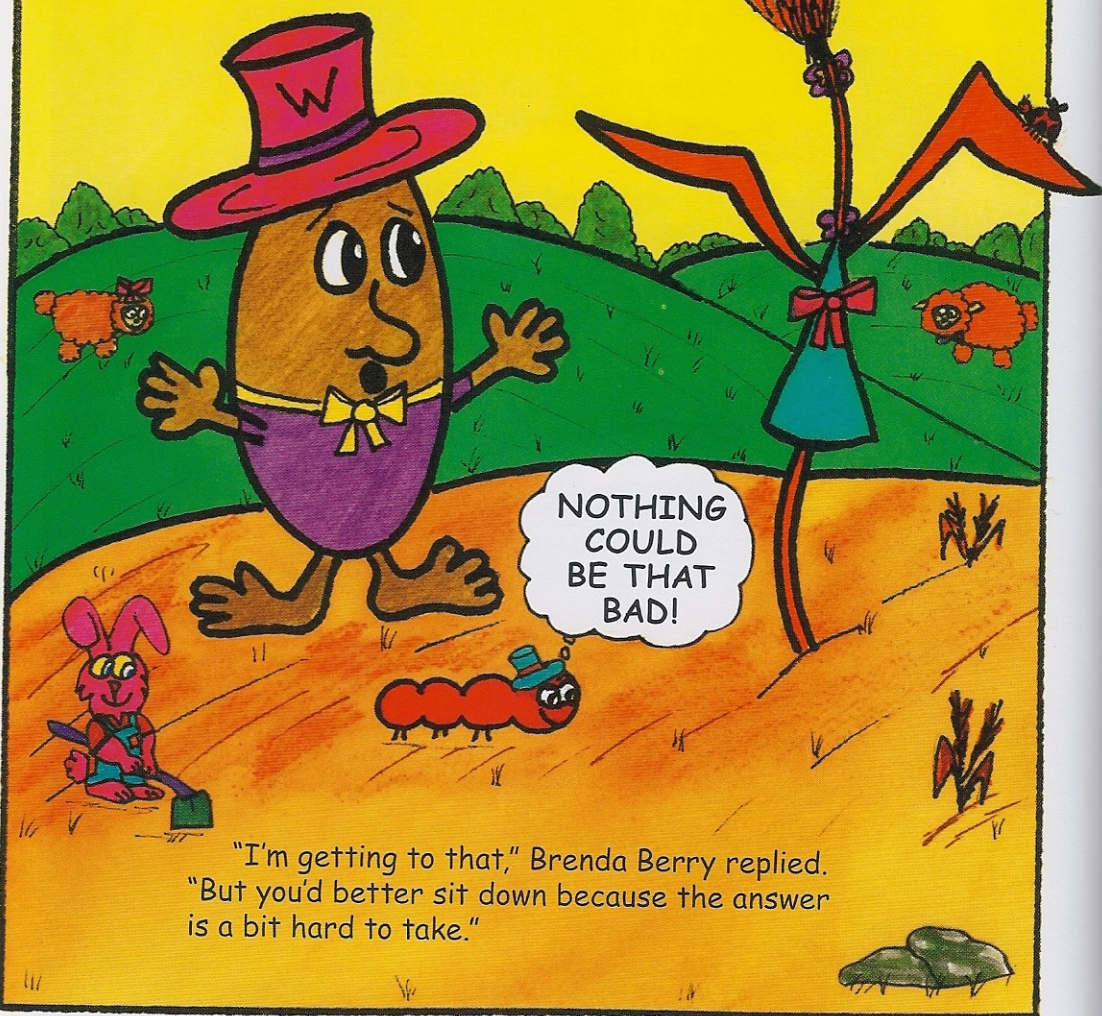
Brenda Berry went on to tell Willy how she realized her beautiful, shiny outer SELF had no meaning by itself. She had made friends and money and had a high position in her community. But none of those things had made Brenda really happy. She still was searching for something.

Then Brenda remembered, when she was a little wheat berry, her Grandmother had told her about the special LIFE that was inside her. She had called that LIFE her "wheat germ." That seemed like a funny name for something she later found to be so powerful and LIFE-giving.



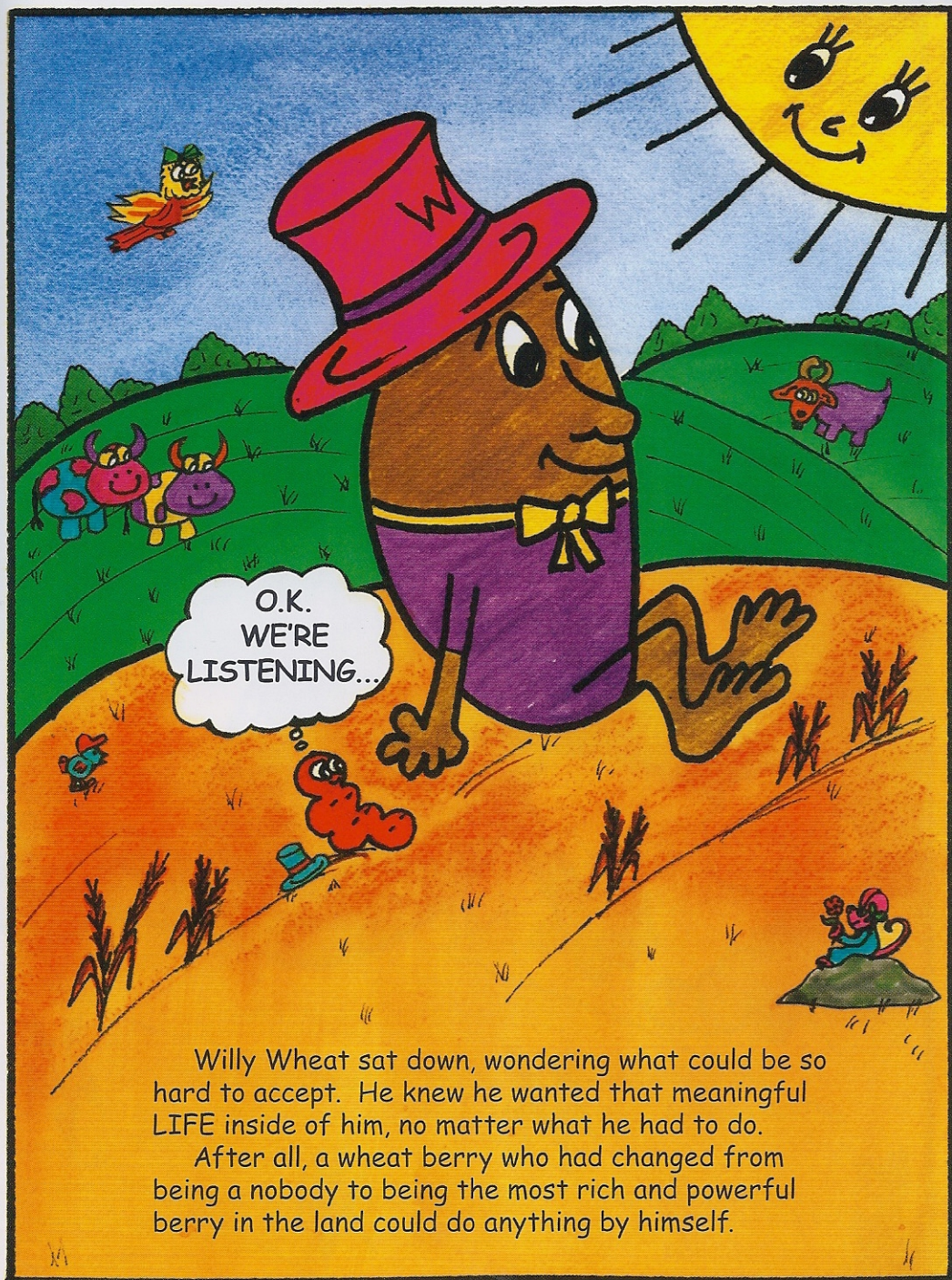


"Well, what good was it if this wheat germ was inside of you? How could you use it and make its LIFE-giving powers work?" Willy questioned.



"I'm getting to that," Brenda Berry replied.  
"But you'd better sit down because the answer is a bit hard to take."





Willy Wheat sat down, wondering what could be so hard to accept. He knew he wanted that meaningful LIFE inside of him, no matter what he had to do.

After all, a wheat berry who had changed from being a nobody to being the most rich and powerful berry in the land could do anything by himself.



But when Brenda told Willy how to tap into the LIFE-giving power within him...he nearly fell over!  
"WHAT DID YOU SAY?!" Willy exclaimed in shock.





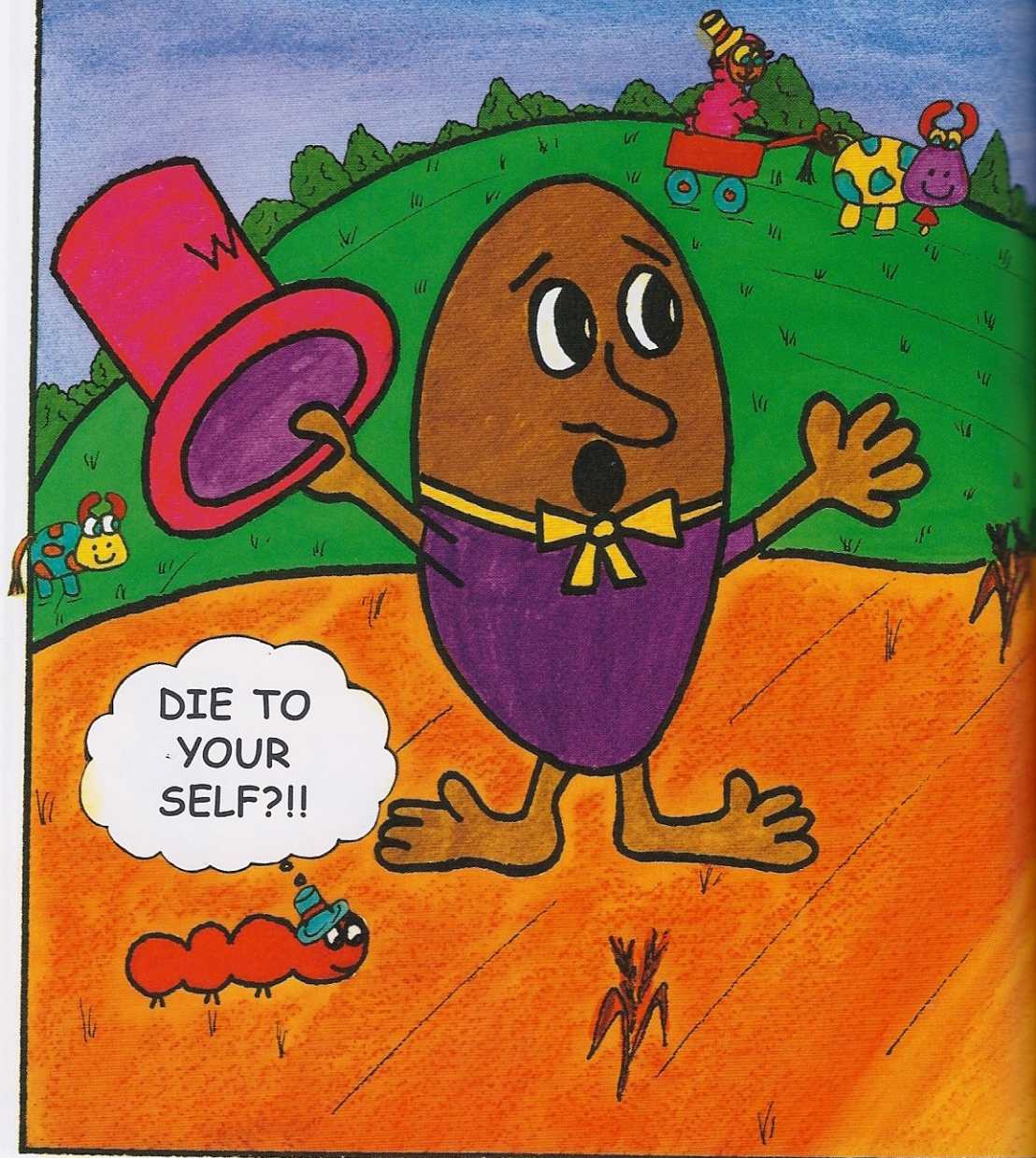


"I said you have to 'die to your outer SELF' in order to receive the LIFE inside of you," Brenda told him.

"The LIFE inside you will remain dormant (asleep), and useless to you, unless you give up your outer SELF."



"But how will I survive? How will I be able to carry on my business? My beautiful shiny, hard, golden-brown covering..."







"That's just it," said Brenda. "YOU yourself will have to stand back and let the LIFE that is inside of you take over.

"You've seen how, by yourself, even with all you have done and gained, you are still unhappy and feeling empty.

"Until you die to your SELF and let the LIFE inside of you grow, you will remain unhappy and searching."

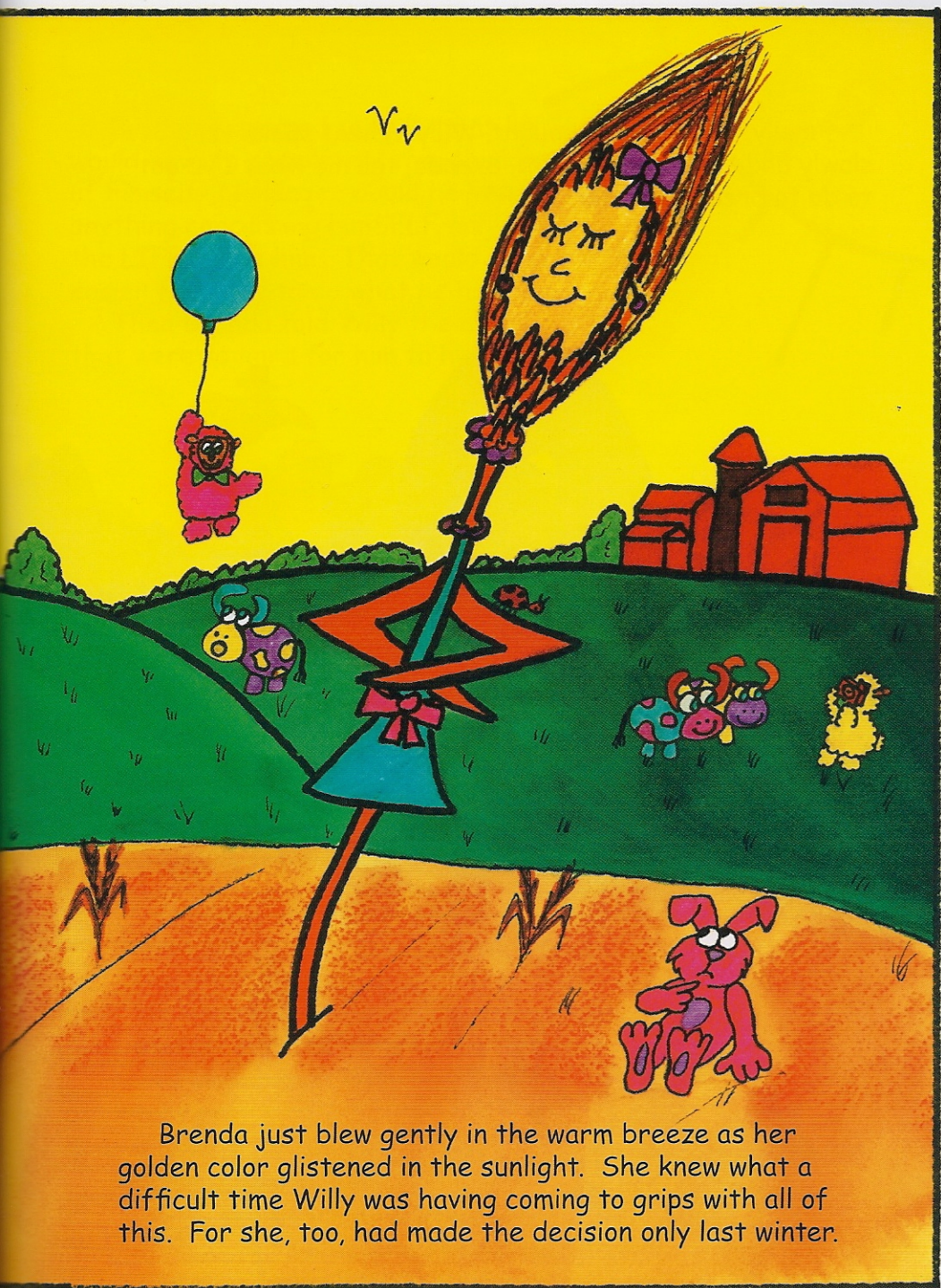




Whoa! Willy didn't know if he wanted to listen to this. But he remembered how miserable he'd been feeling, and Brenda Berry seemed so happy and so peaceful. Willy Wheat sat there quietly in the wheat field for a long time.







Brenda just blew gently in the warm breeze as her golden color glistened in the sunlight. She knew what a difficult time Willy was having coming to grips with all of this. For she, too, had made the decision only last winter.



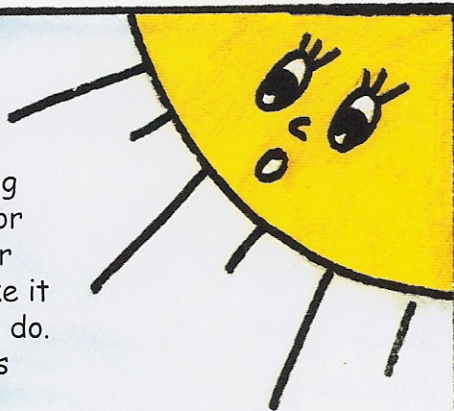
Finally, after much thought, Willy Wheat spoke very slowly and deliberately. "OK, Brenda, tell me what I've got to do to break my outer SELF."





Brenda explained to Willy that he would have to completely stop thinking of himself. No longer would he live for anything concerning himSELF, only for the LIFE inside him. That would make it easier for Willy to do what he had to do.

Then Brenda told Willy the details that were so hard for him to hear...



Willy would have to lay down his life so that many more wheat berries could live. He would be planted in the earth, and the waters from the rain would soften his outer shell, while the earth around him would protect him and give him nourishment.

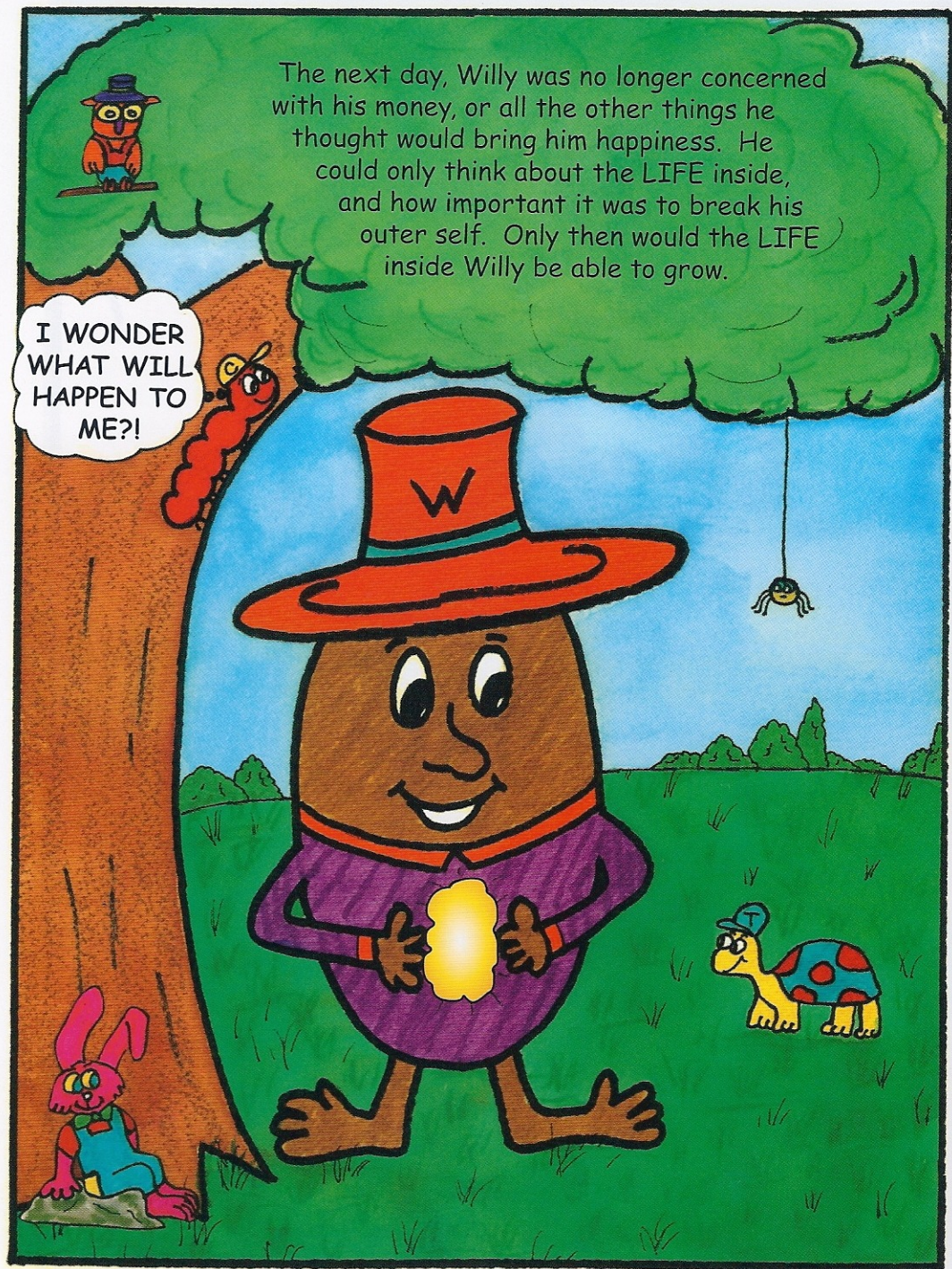
Finally, when Willy had been fully prepared, his outer SELF would die so the LIFE inside of him could grow.





The next day, Willy was no longer concerned with his money, or all the other things he thought would bring him happiness. He could only think about the LIFE inside, and how important it was to break his outer self. Only then would the LIFE inside Willy be able to grow.

I WONDER  
WHAT WILL  
HAPPEN TO  
ME?!





That afternoon, Willy went back to the wheat field and looked all around at the beautiful golden wheat plants that were waving in the sunlight.



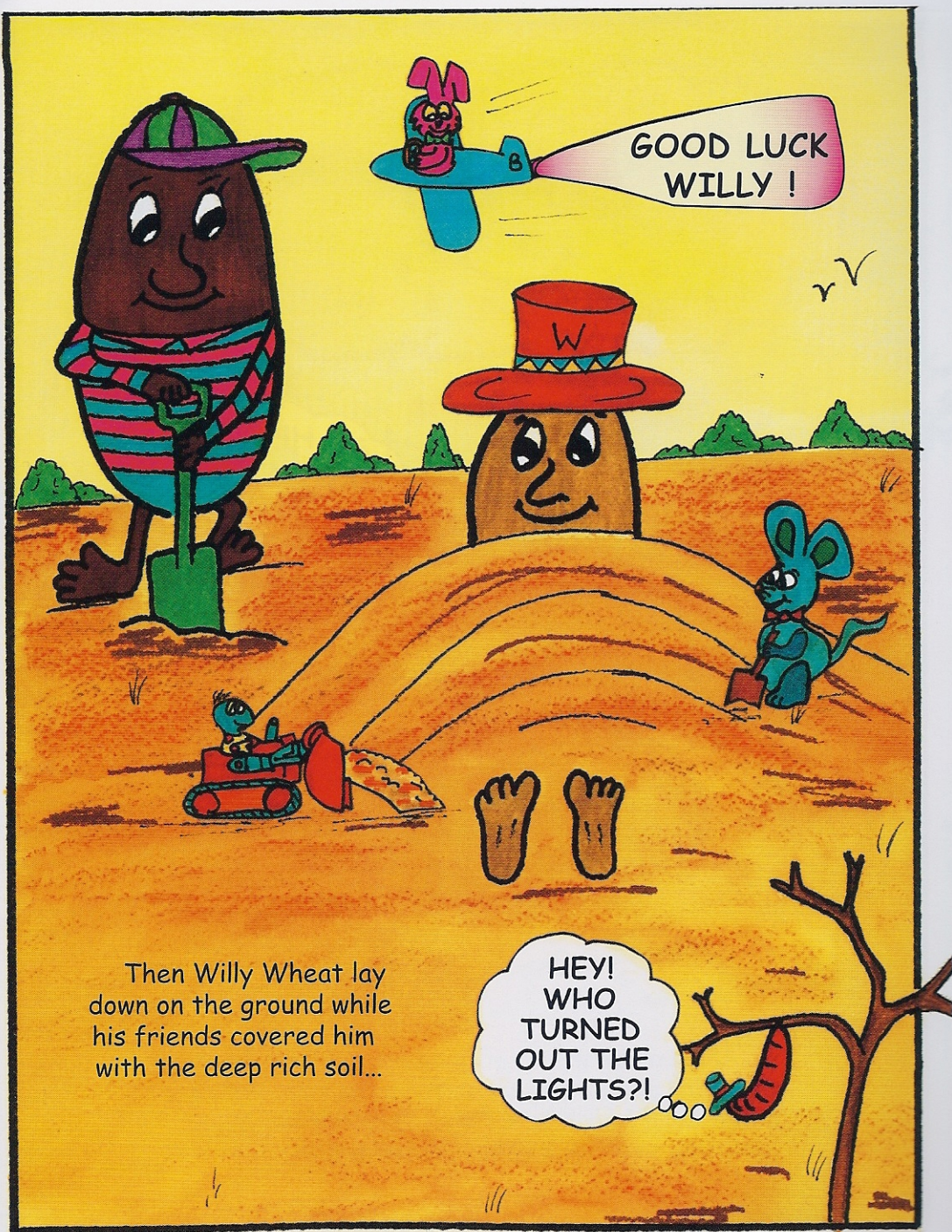




Willy's friends helped  
prepare the soil for him...

I'LL JUST  
HANG OUT  
OVER HERE.

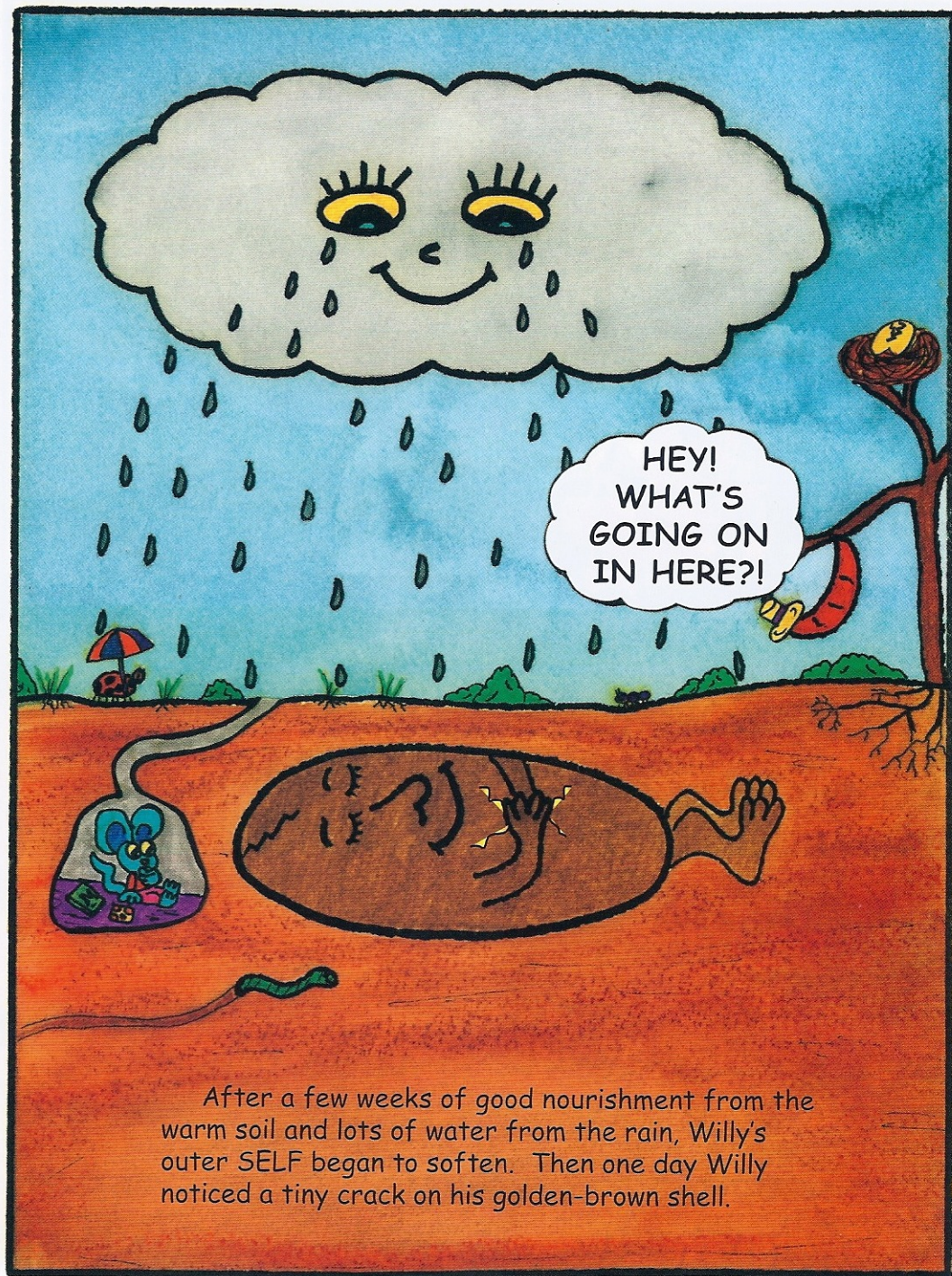




Then Willy Wheat lay down on the ground while his friends covered him with the deep rich soil...

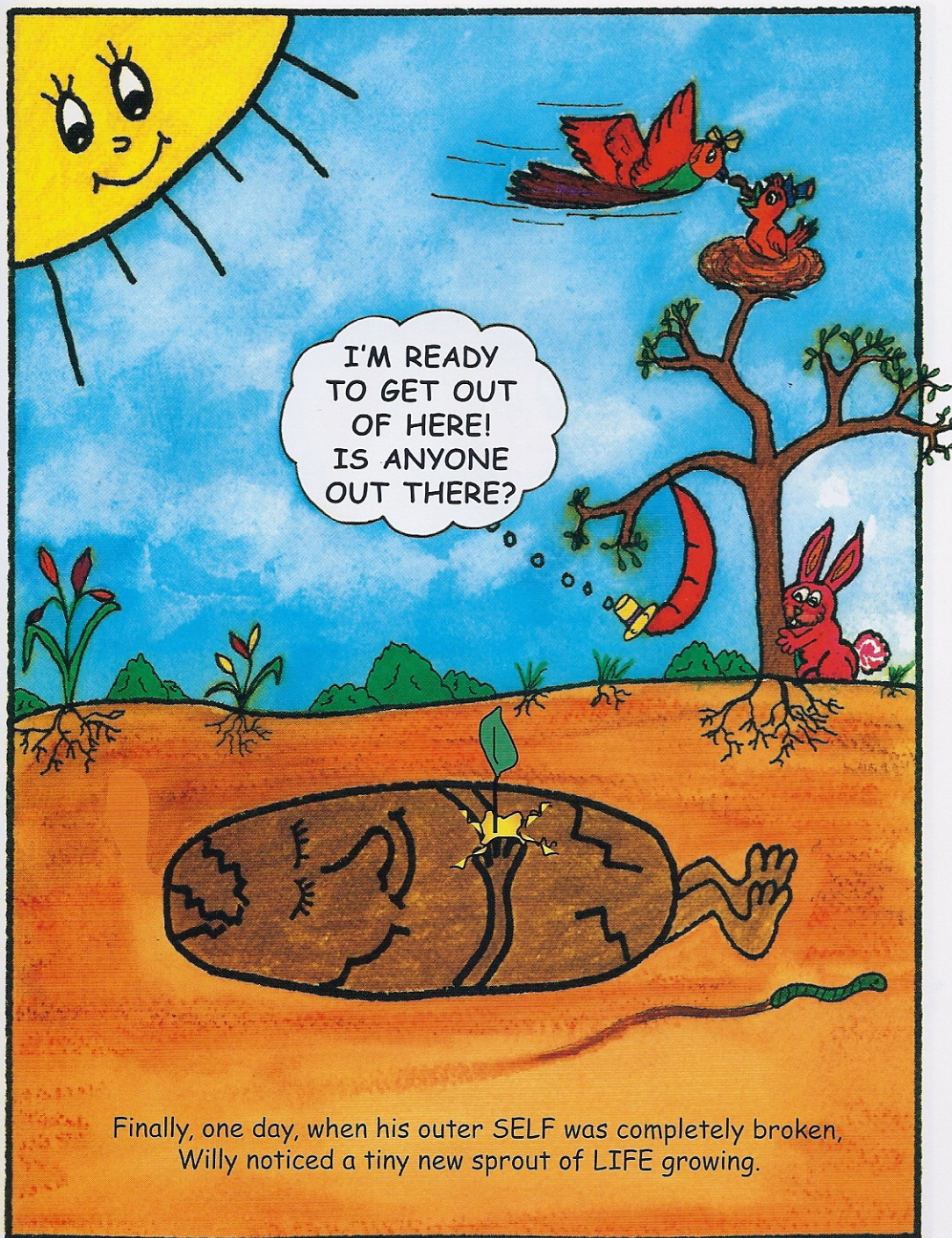
HEY!  
WHO  
TURNED  
OUT THE  
LIGHTS?!





After a few weeks of good nourishment from the warm soil and lots of water from the rain, Willy's outer SELF began to soften. Then one day Willy noticed a tiny crack on his golden-brown shell.



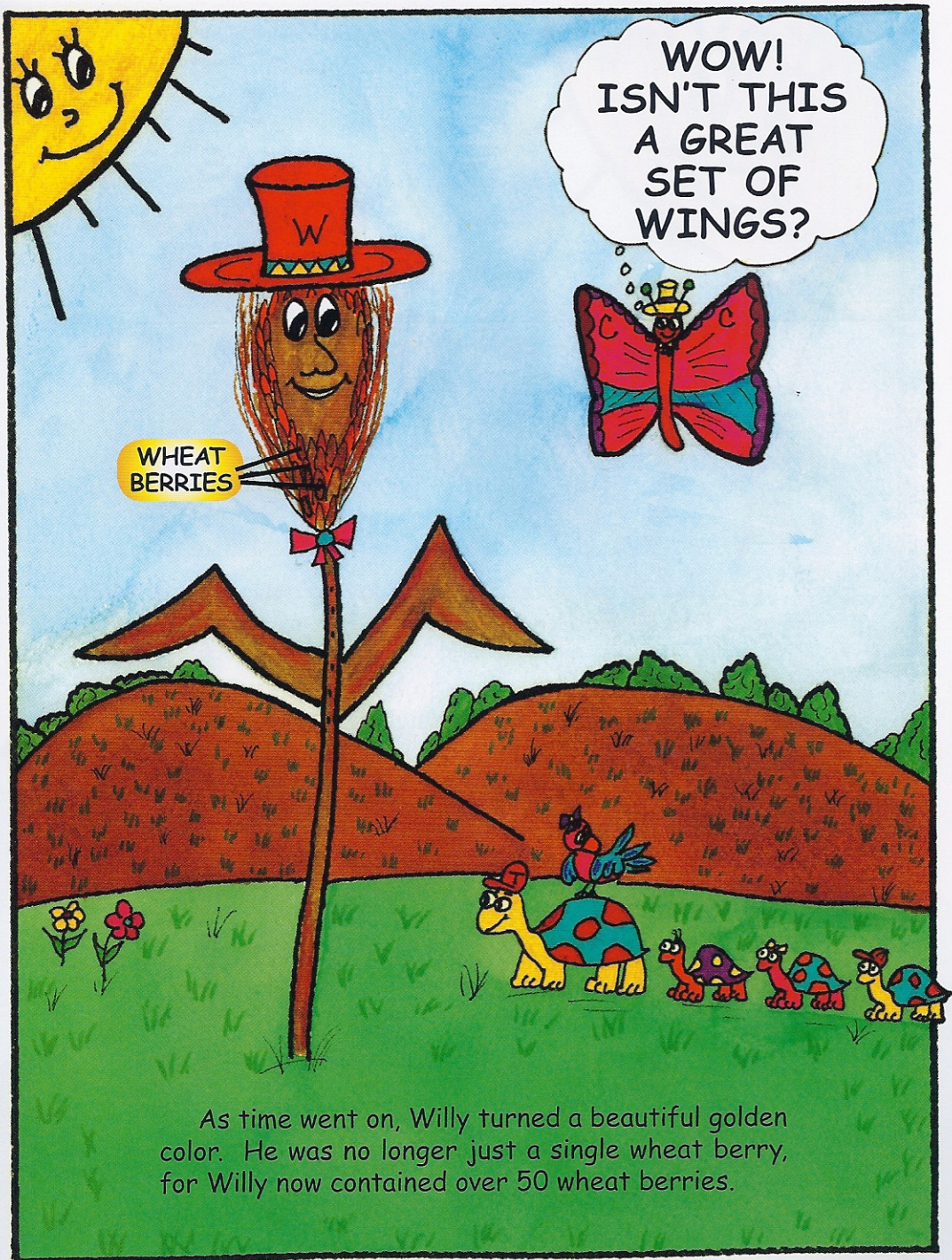


Finally, one day, when his outer SELF was completely broken, Willy noticed a tiny new sprout of LIFE growing.



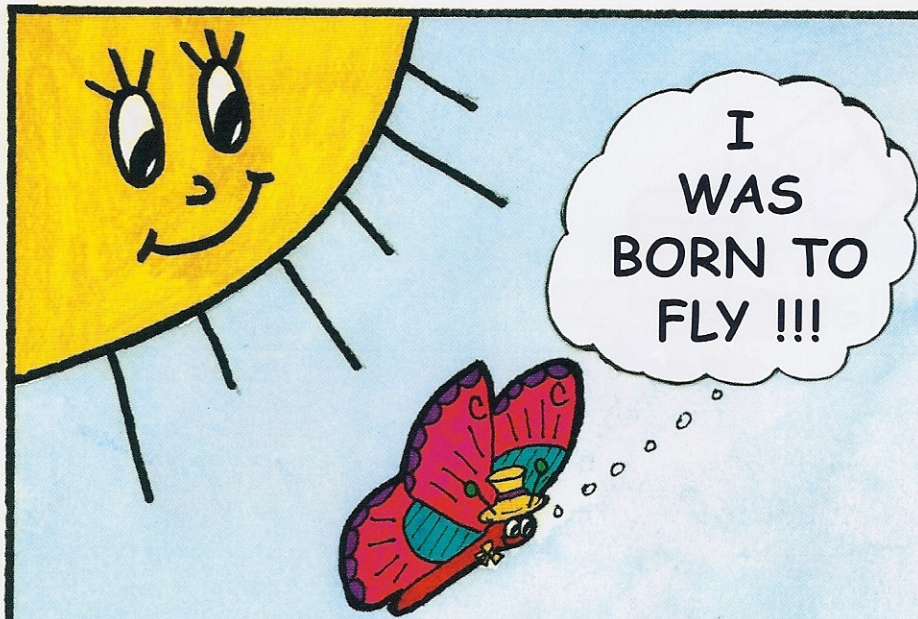






As time went on, Willy turned a beautiful golden color. He was no longer just a single wheat berry, for Willy now contained over 50 wheat berries.

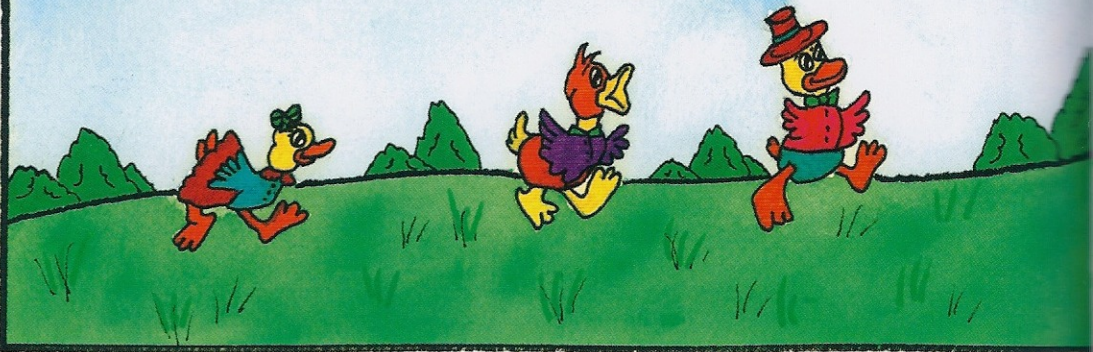




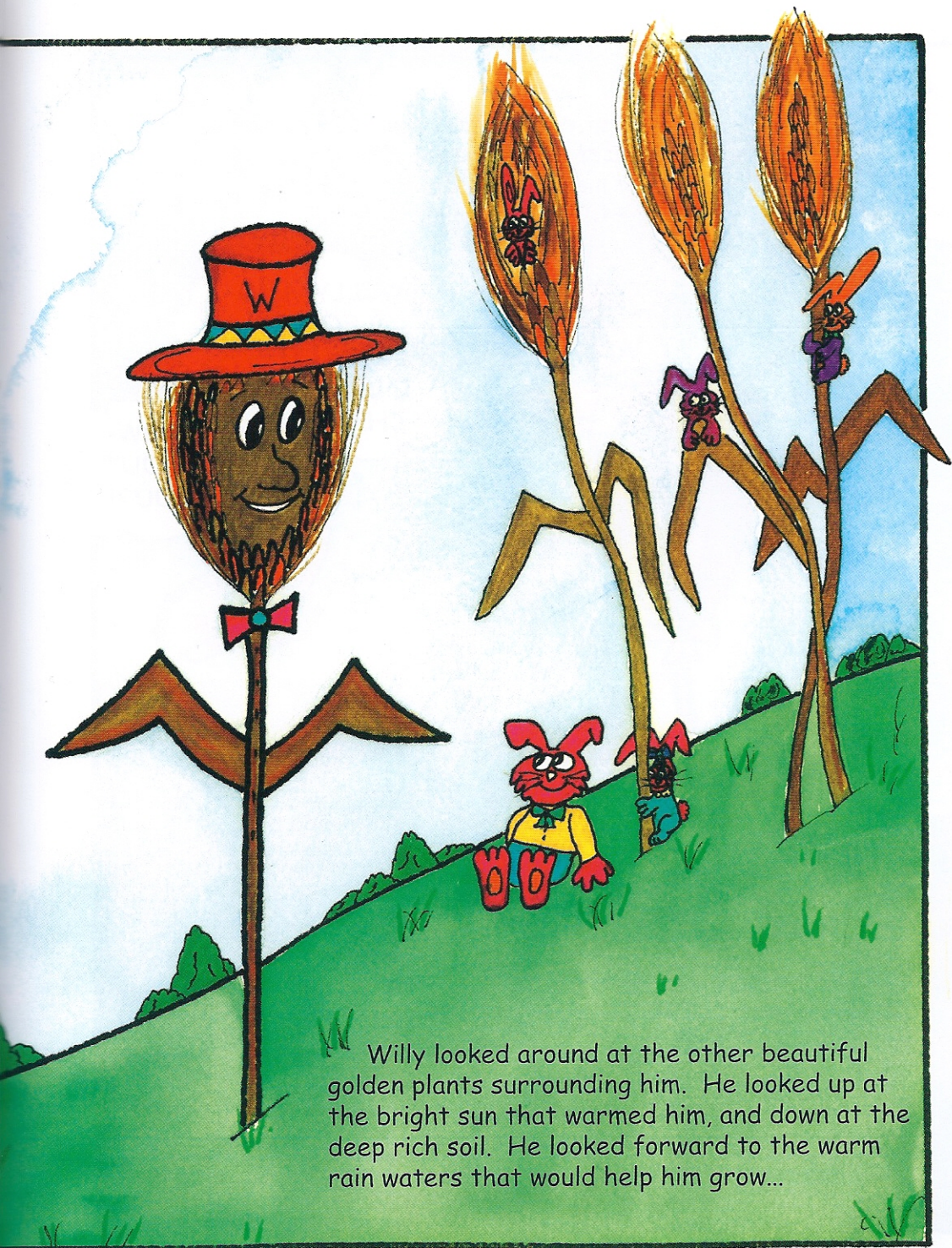
By dying to his outer Self, and laying down his life, Willy Wheat had allowed the LIFE within him to grow.

If he had not been willing to let his outer SELF die, the LIFE within him would have remained dormant (asleep). Willy would have gone on looking for happiness in things outside of himself. He would have remained just a single handsome wheat berry, feeling empty and meaningless.

But now, here was Willy, a large golden wheat plant filled with over 50 new beautiful golden-brown wheat berries.







Willy looked around at the other beautiful golden plants surrounding him. He looked up at the bright sun that warmed him, and down at the deep rich soil. He looked forward to the warm rain waters that would help him grow...





... and Willy Wheat smiled. He felt so peaceful and content. He had found the meaning of Life, and had allowed the LIFE inside him to grow...

WILLY AND  
I FOUND  
THE LIFE  
INSIDE AND  
CHANGED...

HOW  
ABOUT  
YOU?!





*"I solemnly assure you, unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, while the man who hates his life in this world preserves it to life eternal."*

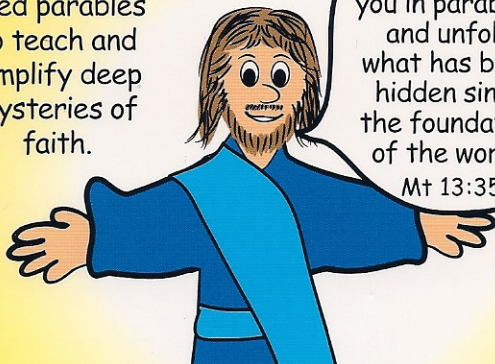
**JOHN 12:24-25**



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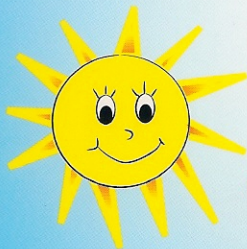


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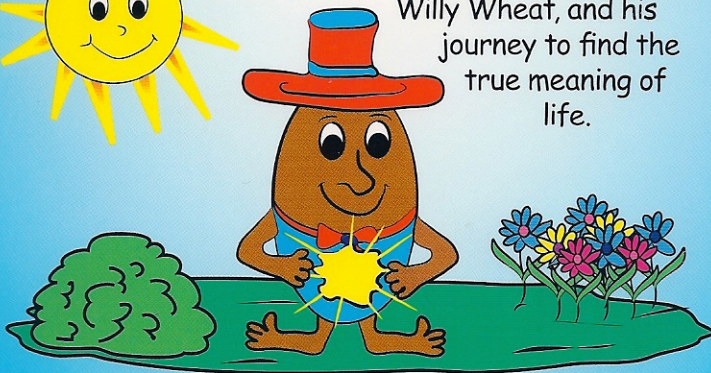


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This is the story of one grain of  
wheat: a wheat berry named  
Willy Wheat, and his  
journey to find the  
true meaning of  
life.



Allow yourself to enter into the story as your own. May you learn  
much about your own spiritual journey as you discover the LIFE within.

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