

Unity in Diversity

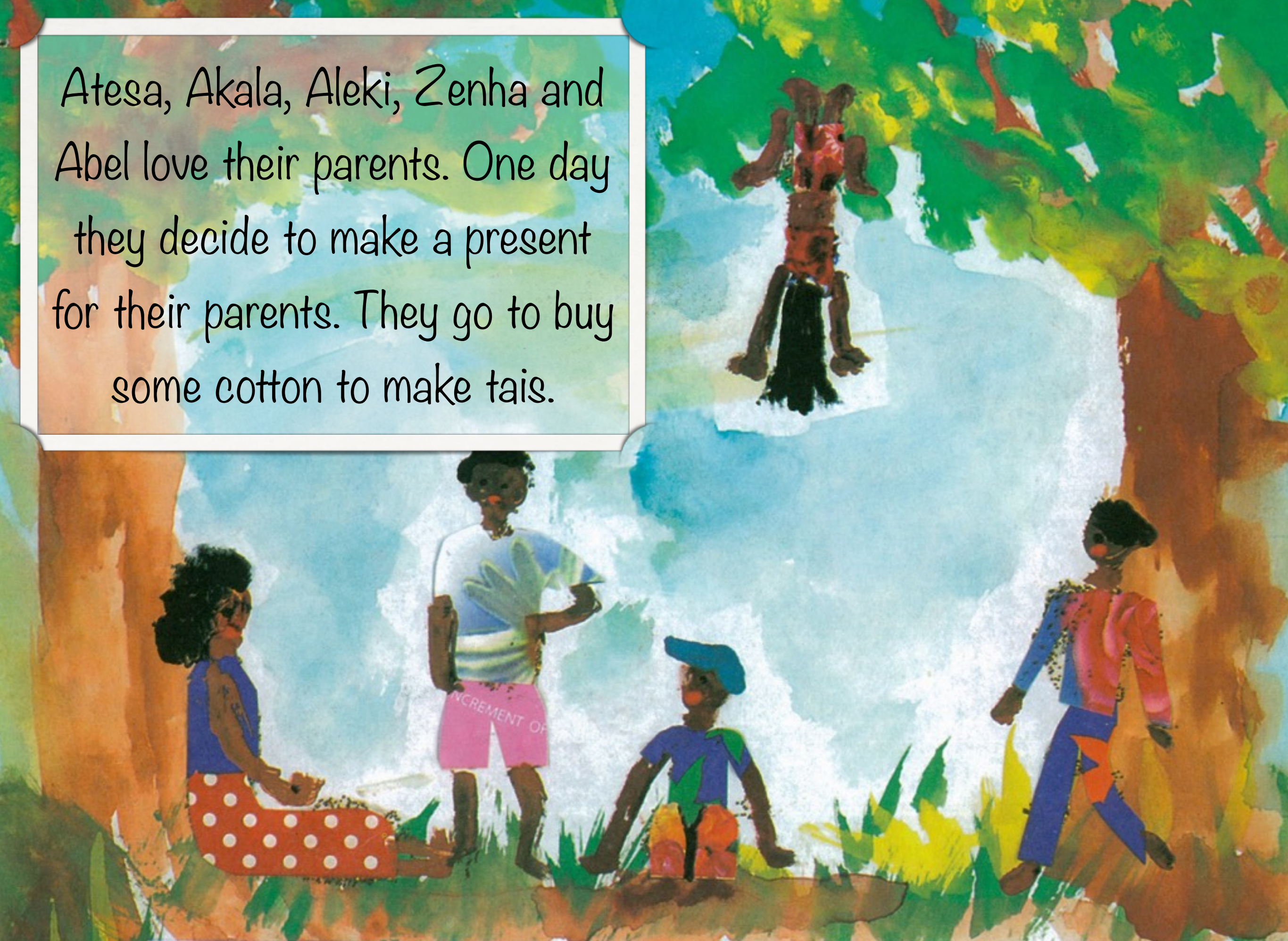


Melanie Lotfali

God's Tais



Atesa, Akala, Aleki, Zenha and Abel love their parents. One day they decide to make a present for their parents. They go to buy some cotton to make tais.




Atesa's favorite colour is green.
She makes a green tais. Akala likes
yellow. She makes a yellow tais.






Aleki's favorite color is red.
He uses red cotton to
make a tais for his parents.
Zenha thinks that pink is
the most beautiful.



Abel says that blue is the
best. He makes a blue tais.



When they finish their tais
the children go and play.
They leave the scraps of
cotton on the ground.

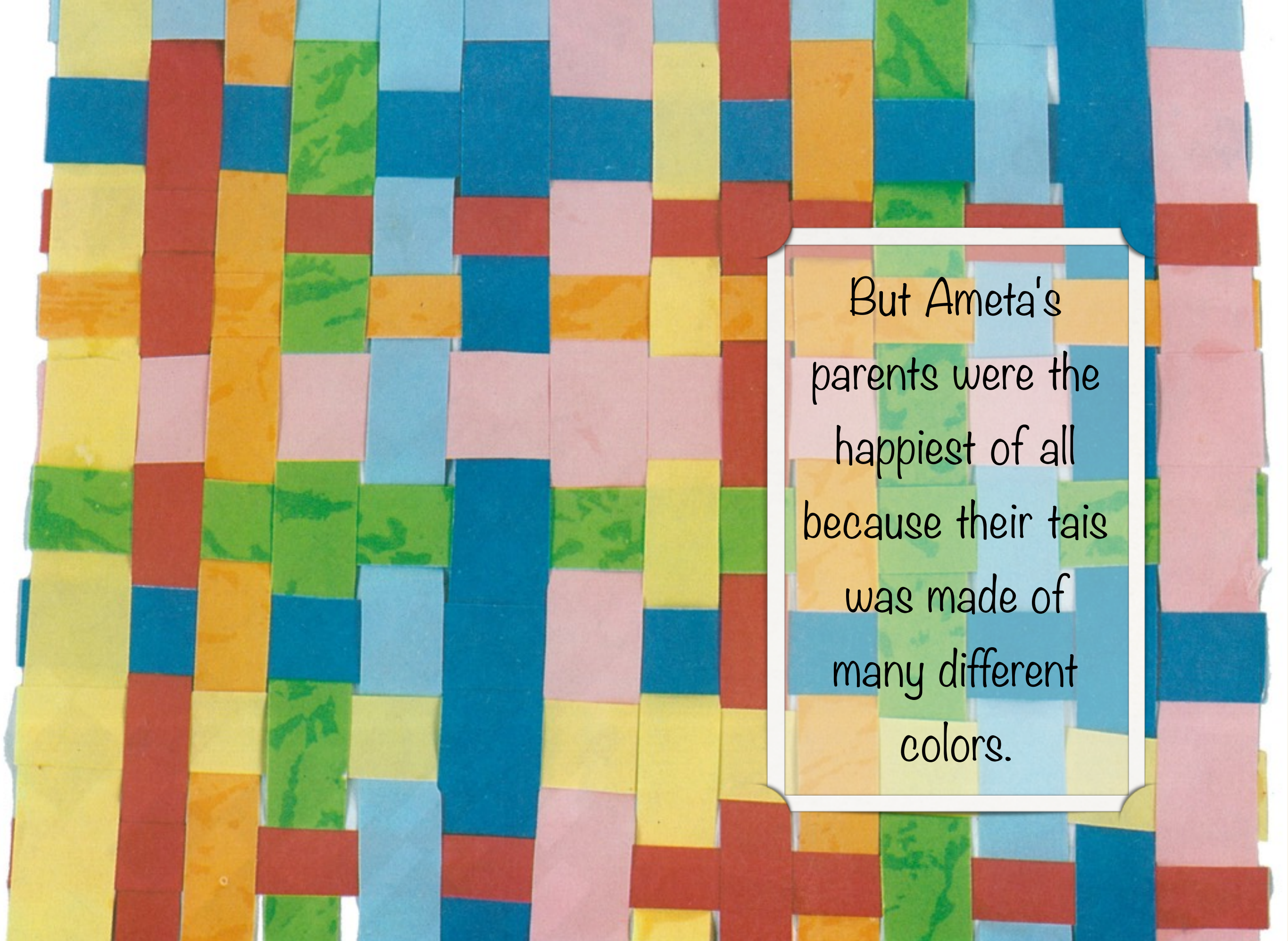
Ameta walks past and
finds the cotton left by the
other children. She uses
the cotton to make a tais.



Atesa's parents like the green
tais that Atesa made for them.




Akala, Aleki,
Zenha and
Abel's parents
also like the
yellow, red,
pink and blue
tais that their
children made
for them.



But Ameta's
parents were the
happiest of all
because their tais
was made of
many different
colors.

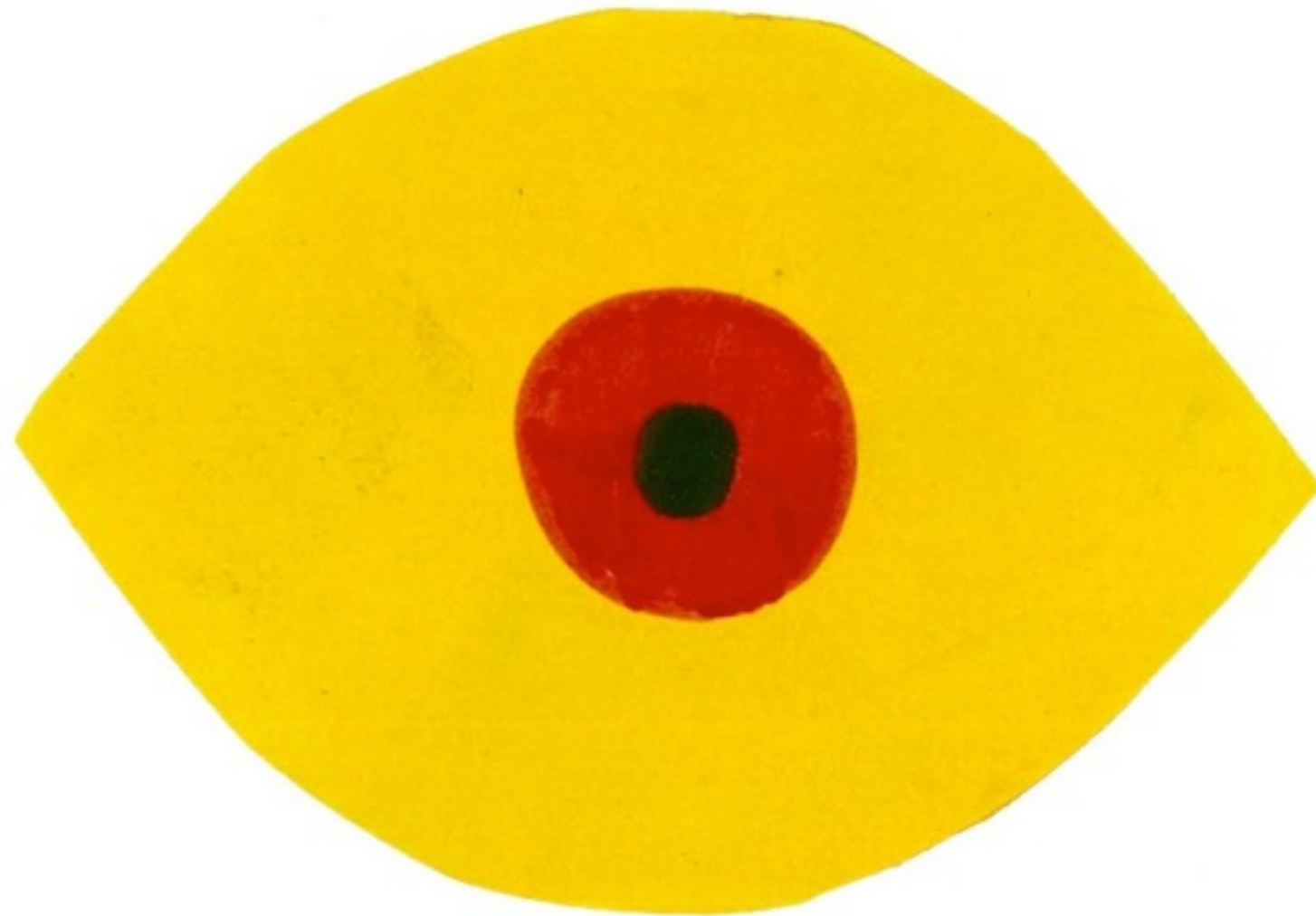


The people of the world are many
different colors. Different coloured
cotton makes a tais more beautiful.
And different colored people make
our world family more beautiful.



“The Earth is but one country,
and mankind its citizens.”

The Eye that Wanted to Live Alone





Once upon a time there lived a Body. This Body had all the things that bodies usually have, like two eyes, two hands, tummy, back, hair, ten fingers, and a bottom.



**Message:
To Eye from Tummy**

The parts of the Body were different and played different roles but they all worked together successfully. For example, when Tummy felt empty, she told Eye to look for something to eat.



Eye looked for food and
then told Hand to take it.

Hand took the food,
Mouth opened and
received the food. Teeth
chewed the food and
Tummy received the food.

Tummy turned it into
energy which it sent to
Arms and Legs so that
they could do their work.
And so, all the parts of
the body worked together
in harmony.



But, one day, Eye started to think that she was more important than the other body parts. She thought: "If I don't look for food, Hand doesn't know where to get it. Then, Mouth doesn't know to open and Tummy stays empty. I am the most important!"

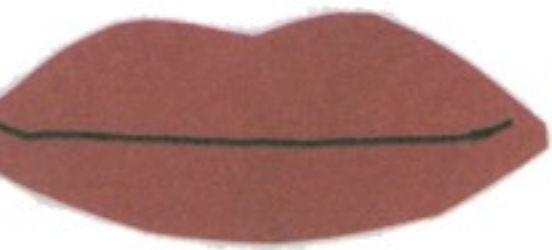


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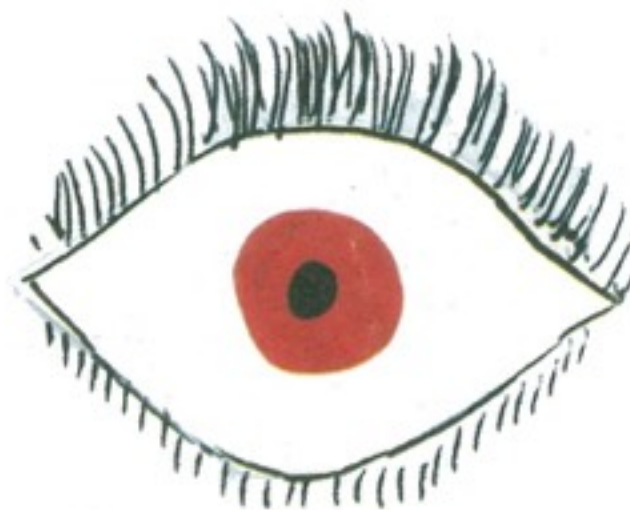


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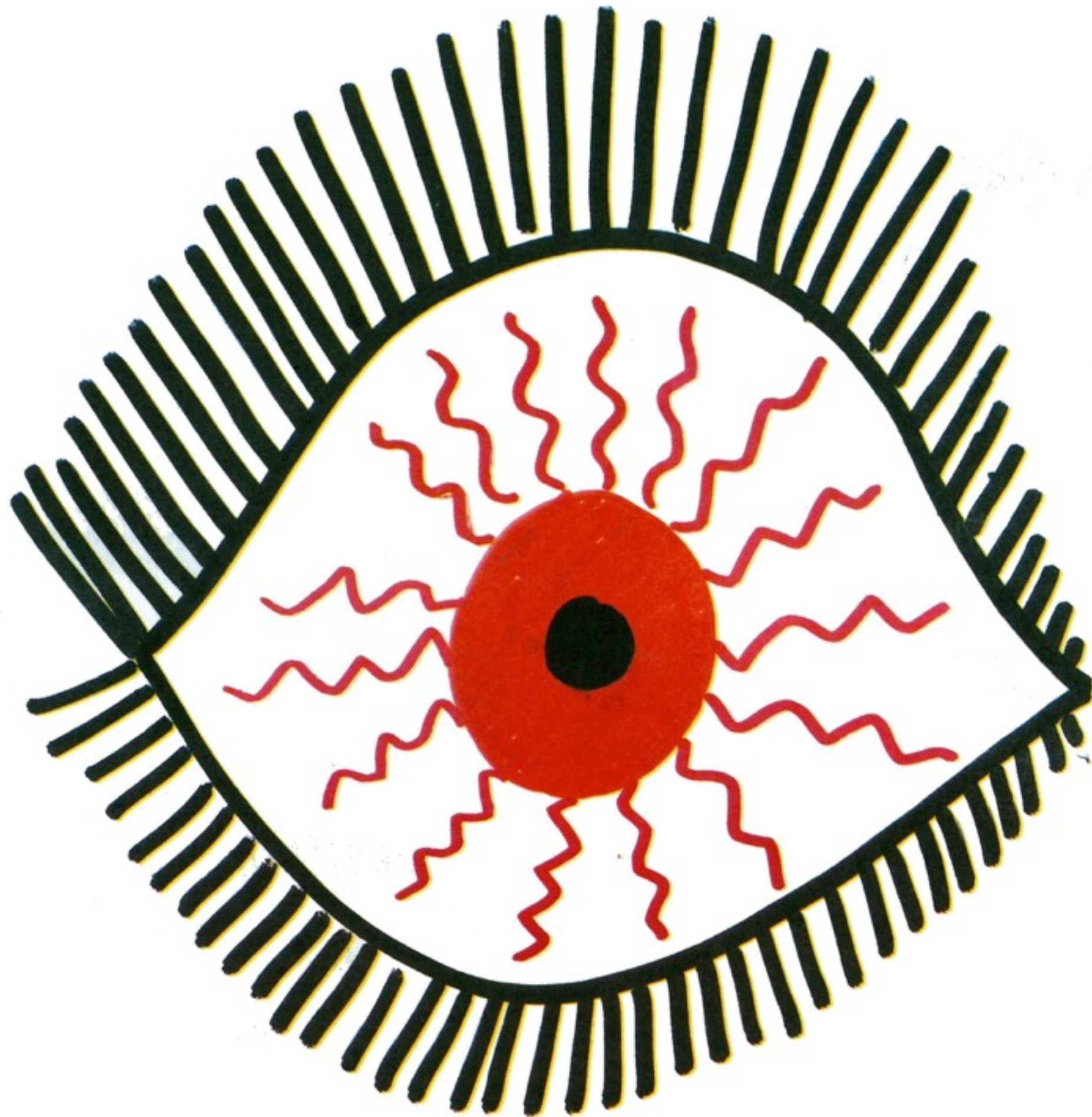
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Eye ordered the other body parts to call her Queen Eye. She told them that she was the most important and they should honor her. But the other body parts didn't agree. They said to Eye: "No, we all need each other. We all help each other and depend on each other."



When Eye heard
that they didn't
accept that she was
most important, she
was angry. She
said: "If you don't
accept that I am
queen, and if you
don't honor me, I will
not live with you."



Eye popped out of
Face. She went to live
alone on the table top.



The body parts felt very sad that Eye didn't want to live with them. A couple of hours later, Tummy felt empty. She sent a message to Eye's place, but there was no Eye. So the message was sent directly to Hand. Hand received the message but didn't know what to do. He didn't know where to find food.



Hand began to look for food by feeling. This took a long time but in the end he found a banana and gave it to Mouth. Mouth received it. Teeth chewed it. Tummy turned it into energy and sent it to Arms and Legs. Body suffered, but it didn't die.




Meanwhile Eye sat alone on the table top. She sat and thought about how she was more important than the other parts. But after some time she also began to lose energy. Alone she could not get food, chew it or turn it into energy.



In the end she was about to die. She called the Body and said: "Help me please. I am about to die." The Body said to Eye: "You are right. You can't live alone. We need your help and you also need us. Let's help each other." Hand picked up Eye and put her back in Face.




Eye began to receive energy from the food that Tummy received from Hand and Mouth. Eye didn't die. She felt happy. Eye said sorry to the other parts and said: "I made a mistake. You were right. We should all work together. We are all important, and we need unity to live well together."



“Be ye as the fingers of
one hand, the members
of one body.”

A Perfect Chord



A red bird is perched on a brown branch. The bird has a large red body, a black eye, and a black beak. Its wings are drawn with simple black lines. The branch has several green leaves. In the background, there is a bright blue sky with five red musical notes floating around. Each note is a red circle with a green line extending from it, curving upwards and to the right. The ground is a light brown color.

Indi-bird loved to
sing. She knew
how to sing one
note. She sang it
beautifully and
with all her heart.

One day Jarrah-bird came to visit. He also knew how to sing one note. They sang together.




Attracted by the sound, Tai-bird landed on the branch. He also knew how to sing just one note. It was different from the others. He added his note to the chord.



Marama-bird heard the beautiful harmony of the three different notes. "I can sing a note too," she chirped. She joined the group.






Tama-bird flew in with a
long loud “Cheeeep
Cheeeep”. Joyfully he added
his note to the music.

The harmony of the different notes was like a magnet for Mihi and Skye. They glided over to the branch. They opened their beaks and sang their notes. Each bird's note was different from the others. Each note was beautiful. Together they made the perfect chord.





“The diversity in the human family should be the cause of love and harmony, as it is in music where many different notes blend together in the making of a perfect chord.”

Stars of One Heaven





Clara was all alone. Clara was lonely. She looked up at the sky. She saw the sky was full of stars.

She turned to one and said: "You are so lucky. You have so many friends. I am all alone. I want a friend."



Star said: “Clara, why don’t you ask God for a friend?”

So Clara prayed. She asked God to send her a friend.

When she opened her eyes she saw that God had sent her a friend.

“Oh no!” said Clara. “I want a friend just like me! He is different from me!”



Clara closed her eyes and
prayed again. Then, she
opened her eyes.

“Oh no!” sobbed Clara.

“I want a friend just like me!
She is different from me!”



Clara closed her eyes and
prayed again. Then, she
opened her eyes.

“Oh no!” cried Clara. “I want a
friend just LIKE ME! She is
DIFFERENT from me!”

Clara threw herself on the
grass. She cried and cried.
The new friends wandered
away.



That night she turned to Star.
“Why does God keep sending
me the wrong thing?” she
asked.

Star said to Clara: “When you
look up to the sky, what do
you see?”



Clara said: "I see beautiful stars shining brightly."

Star said: "That's right. We are all different shapes, colors, and sizes. But when you look up you see our unity. You see we are all stars."



“When I look down,” said Star,
“I see beautiful human beings.
It doesn’t matter that you are
different shapes, colors, and
sizes. You are all human
beings.”

“Oh yes!” laughed Clara. “Now,
where did they go, those
friends just like me?”



“...love will make
them all the stars of
one heaven”

The Fruit of One Tree

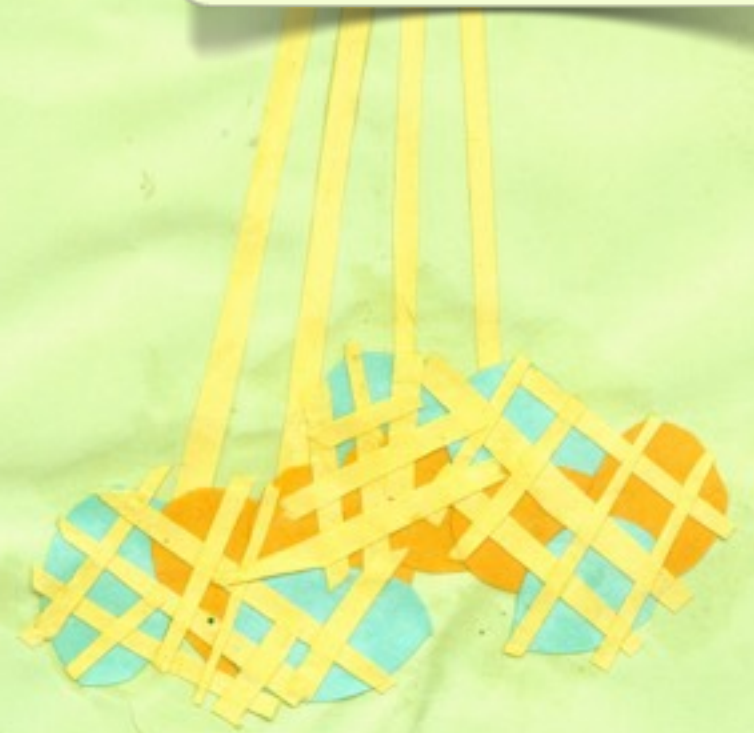


When I get up I
see our fruit
bowl. It is full of
ripe yellow
bananas. Today I
want to eat
bananas for
breakfast, lunch,
and dinner. I peel
a banana and
take a big bite.



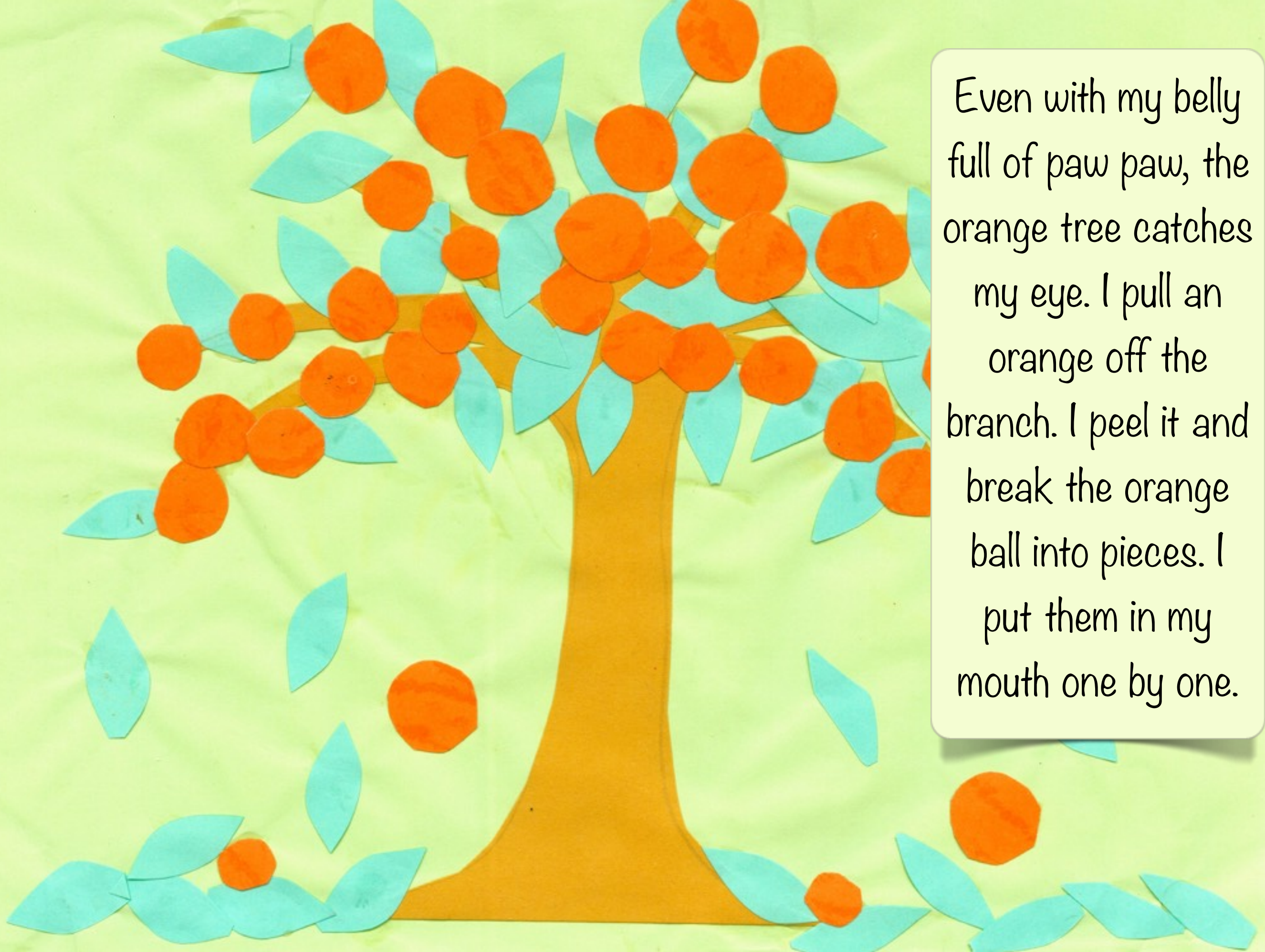


Then I see Maria
selling mangos. I
remember how
sweet and slimy
they are. Maria
sells me some
mangos.





When I go to the tap to wash the mango juice
from my chin, I see our paw paw tree. Paw paw
with lime juice. My favourite!

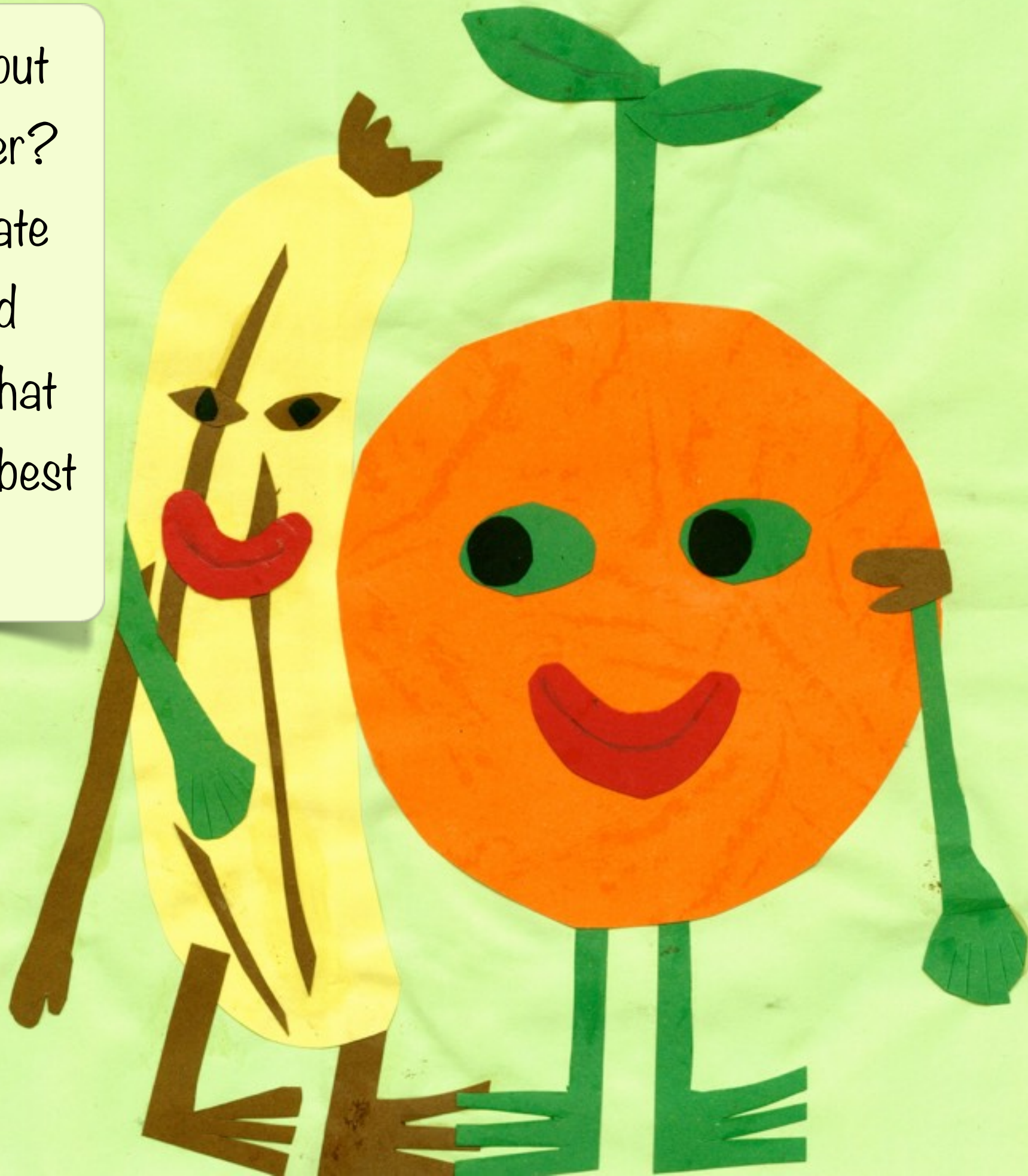


Even with my belly
full of paw paw, the
orange tree catches
my eye. I pull an
orange off the
branch. I peel it and
break the orange
ball into pieces. I
put them in my
mouth one by one.

I start to think: Bananas are
yummy. Mangos are sweet.
Paw paws are delicious.
Oranges are tasty.

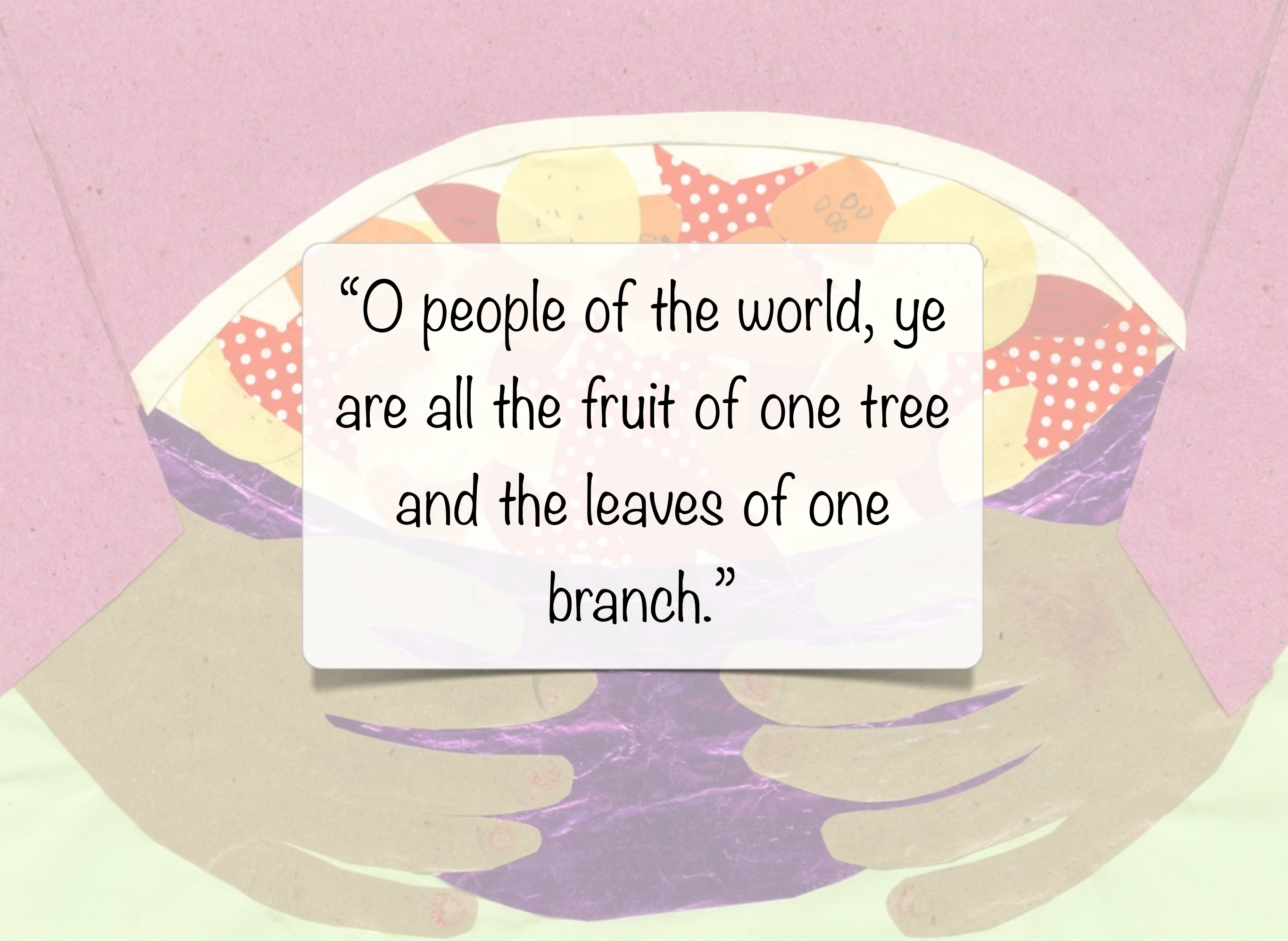


What if we put
them together?
What if we ate
them mixed
together? That
would be the best
of all.



Yummy, sweet, delicious,
tasty Fruit Salad!





“O people of the world, ye
are all the fruit of one tree
and the leaves of one
branch.”

Melanie Lotfali



Melanie Lotfali PhD is a graduate of the Australian College of Journalism in Professional Writing for Children. She is the author of the Fellowship Farm series, Unity in Diversity series, and the Crowned Heart series.

Melanie has taught spiritual education classes for children for the past twenty years in five countries and is currently an active animator and trainer of animators for the Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program. She is a qualified counselor and classroom teacher, and for the past six years has facilitated violence prevention and respectful relationships programs in high schools.

Much of her childhood was spent on the farms, beaches and mountains of Tasmania, where the Fellowship Farm series is set. As an adult she spent four years in Siberia and four years in East Timor as a pioneer.

She currently lives in Lismore, Australia, with her family.

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