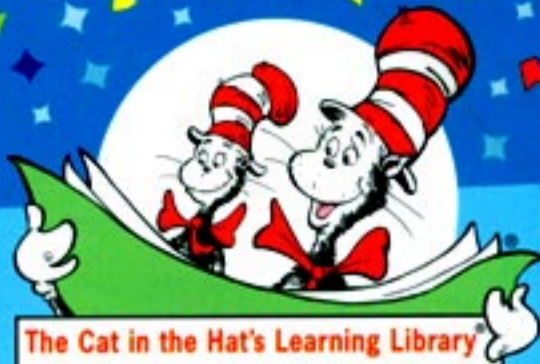




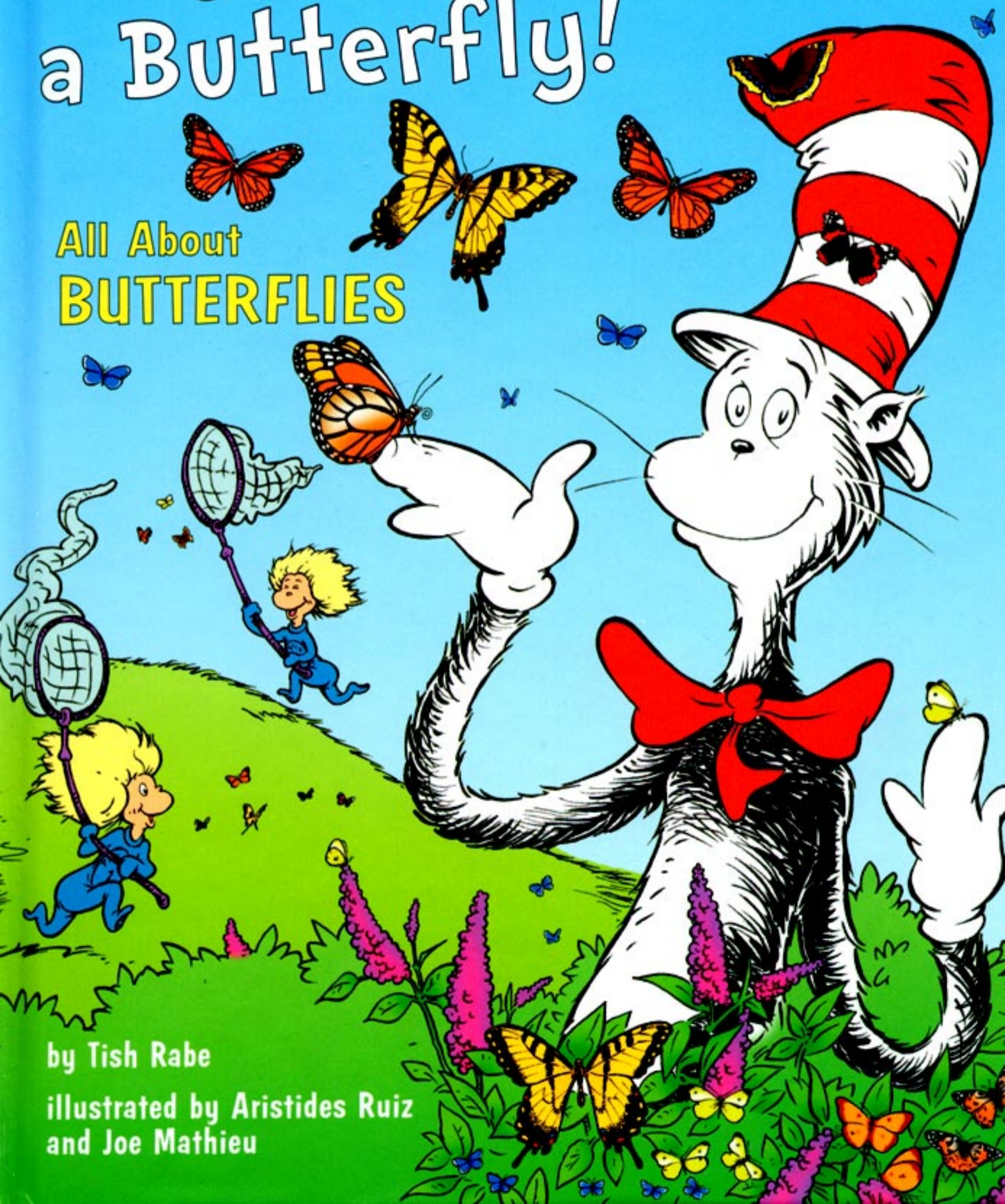
THE **CAT** IN THE **HAT**  
Knows a Lot About That!



The Cat in the Hat's Learning Library

# My, Oh My— a Butterfly!

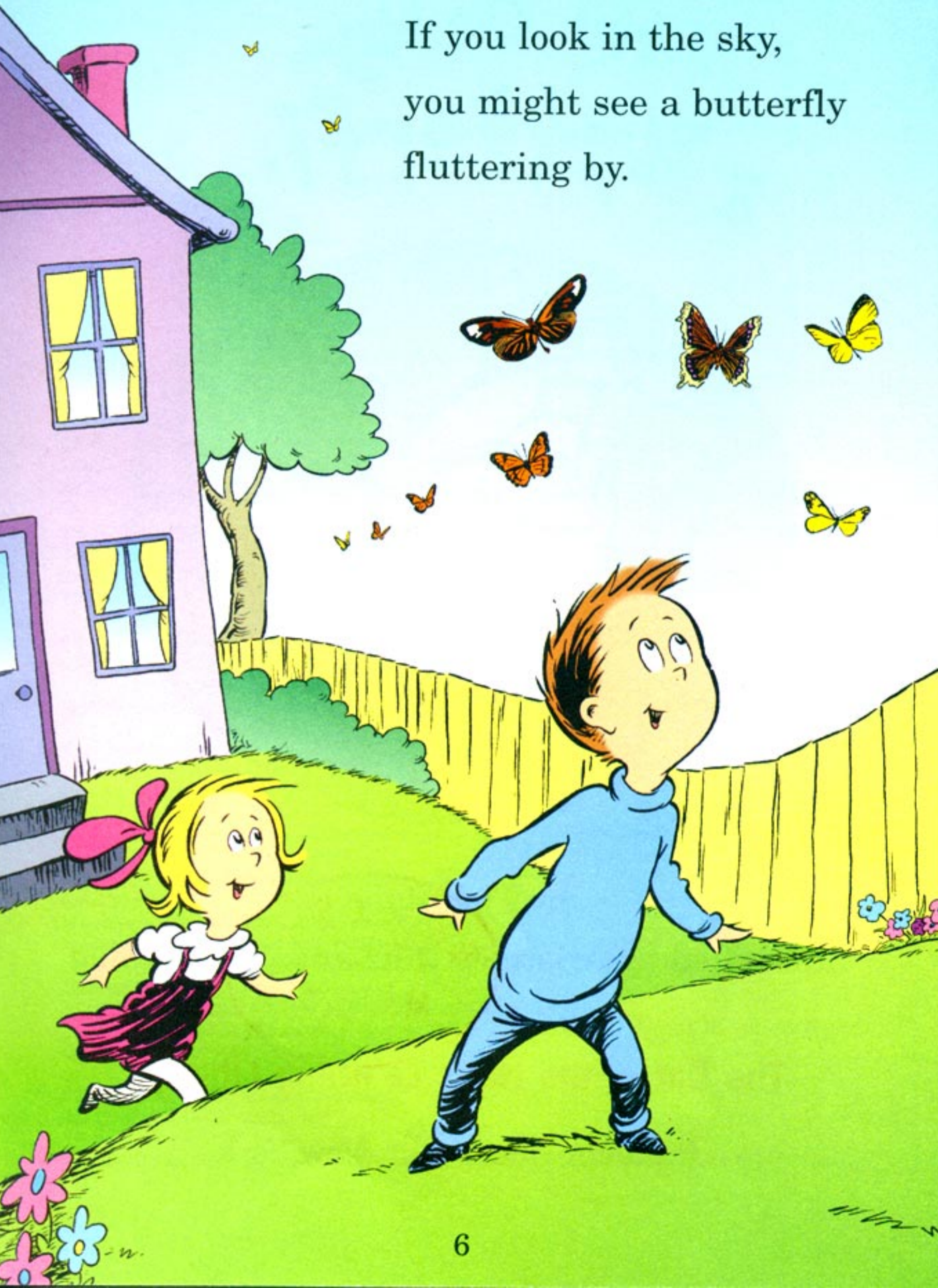
All About  
**BUTTERFLIES**



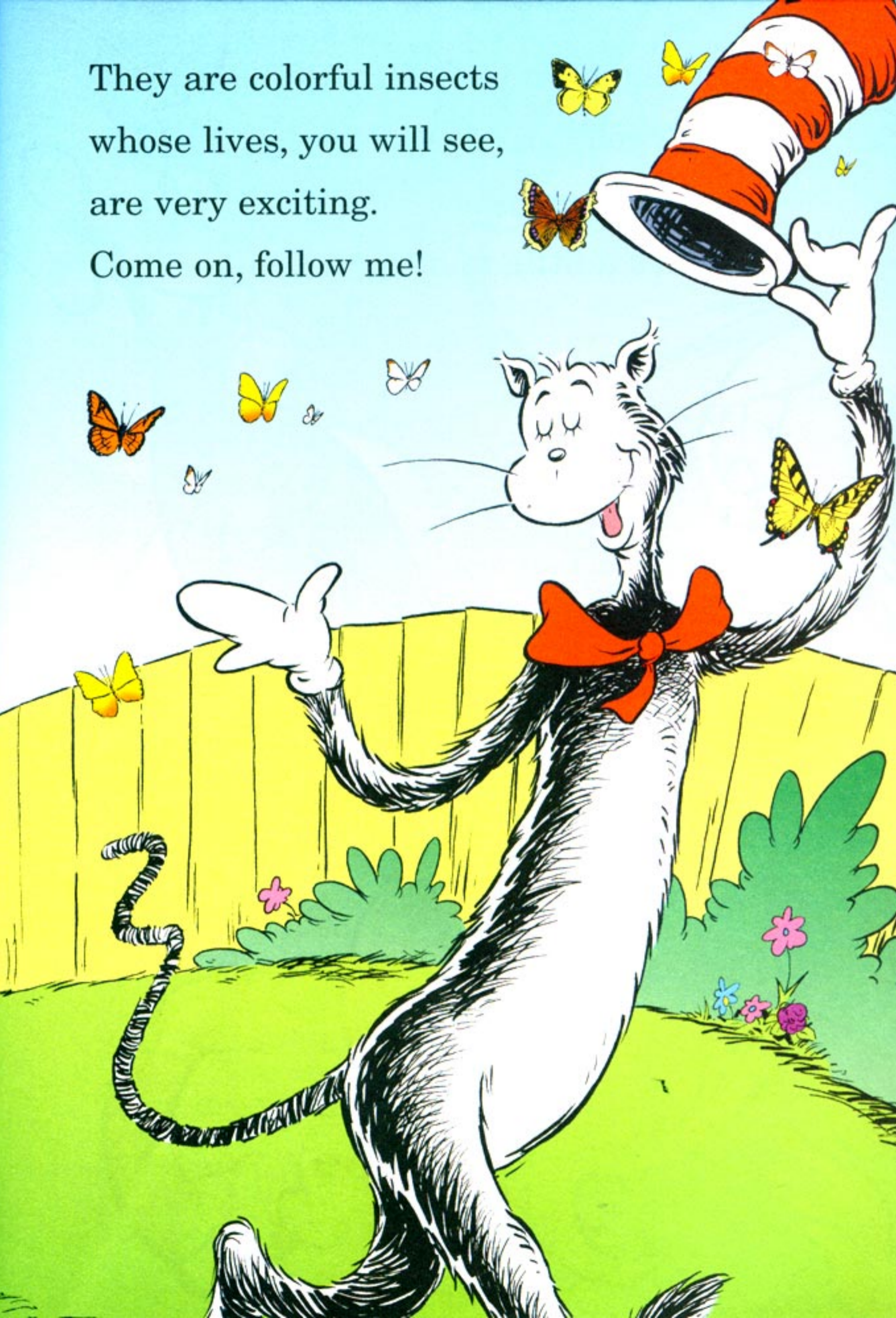
by Tish Rabe

illustrated by Aristides Ruiz  
and Joe Mathieu

I'm the Cat in the Hat.  
If you look in the sky,  
you might see a butterfly  
fluttering by.



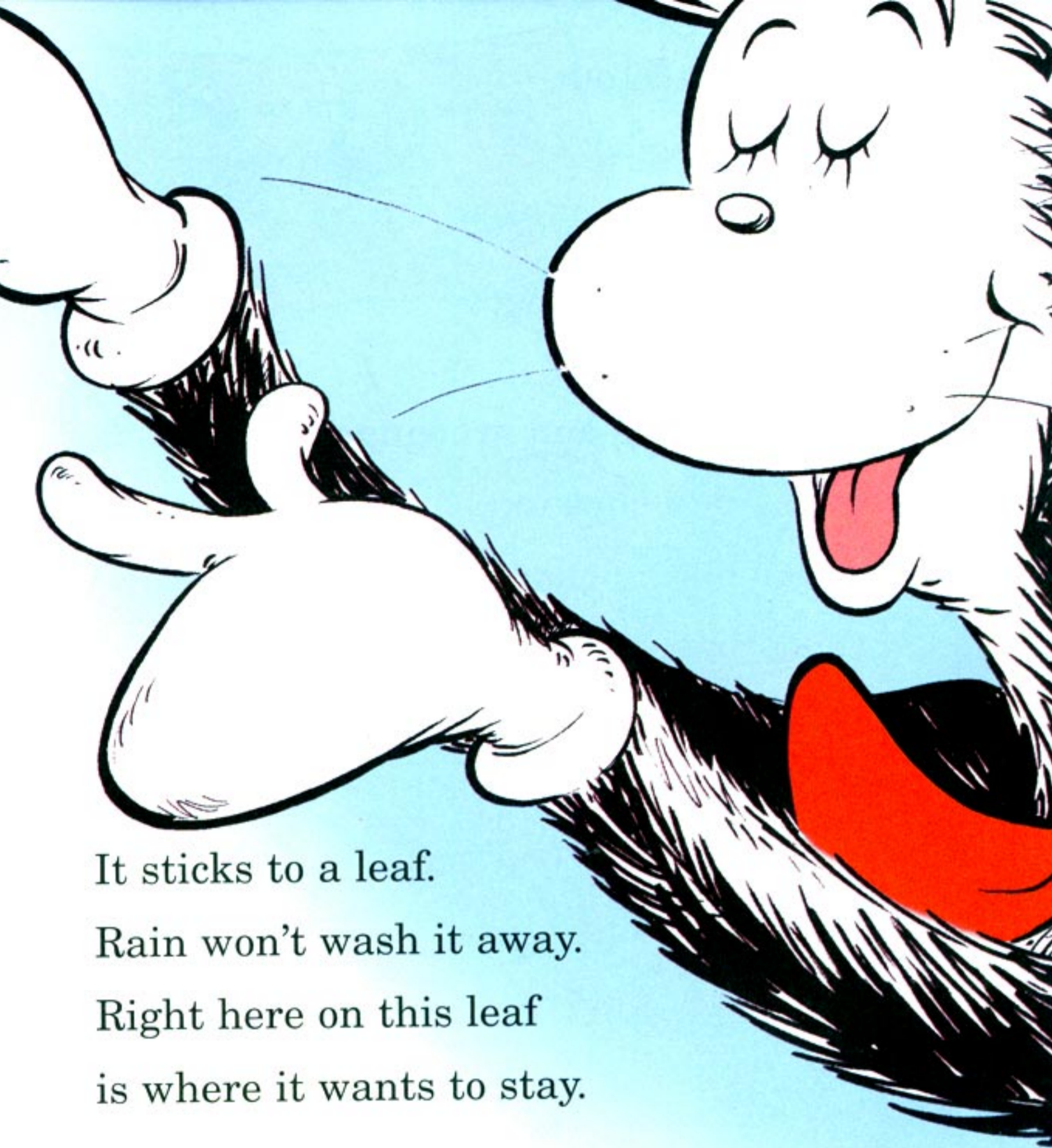
They are colorful insects  
whose lives, you will see,  
are very exciting.  
Come on, follow me!



Right here in your yard,  
if you look, you might spot  
a butterfly egg.

It's a little round dot.





It sticks to a leaf.  
Rain won't wash it away.  
Right here on this leaf  
is where it wants to stay.

You may think in these eggs  
there are small butterflies.  
But wait till they hatch  
and you'll get a surprise.

Caterpillars hatch out  
of a butterfly's eggs!



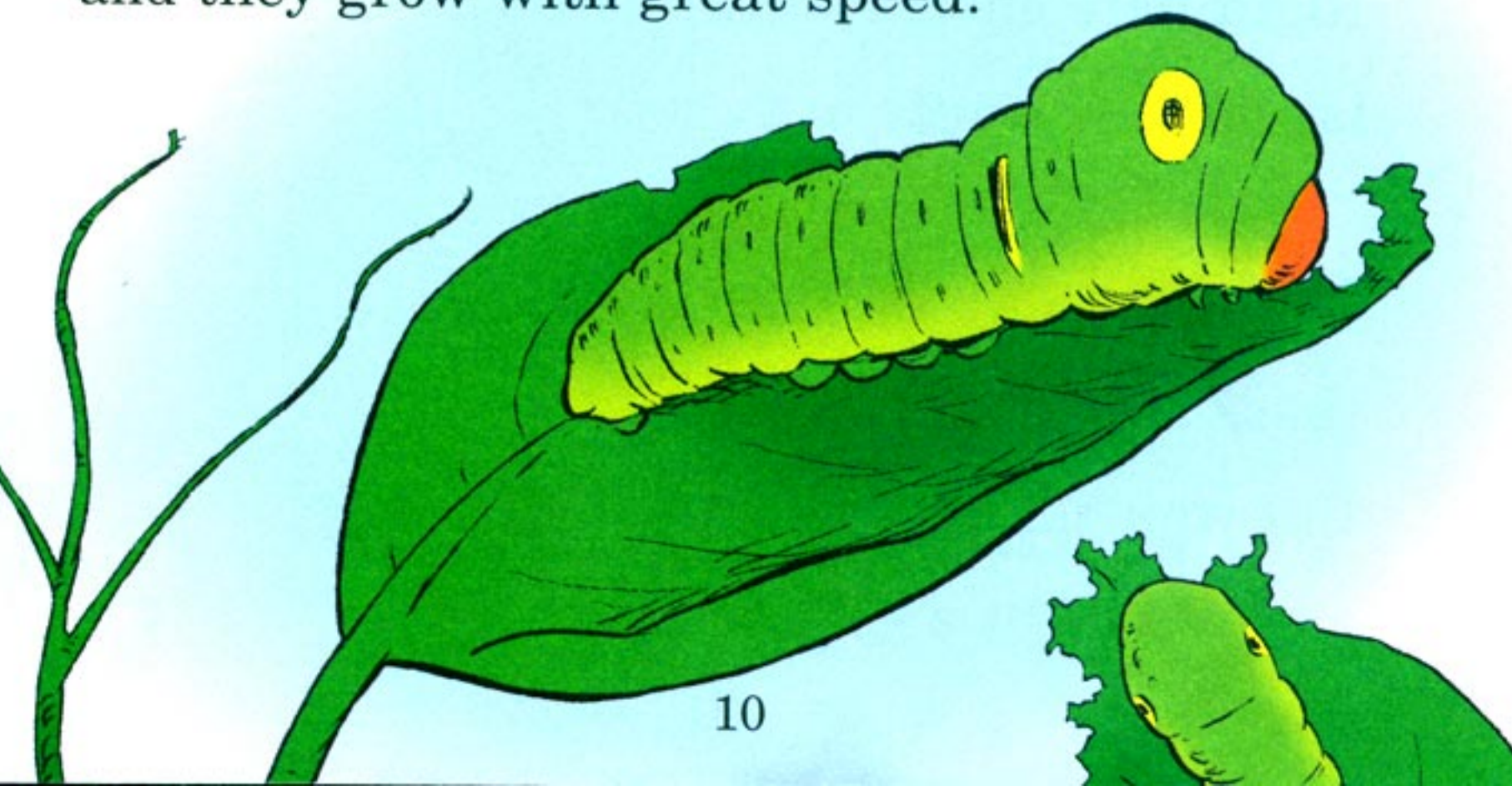
They look like small worms  
and may have sixteen legs.



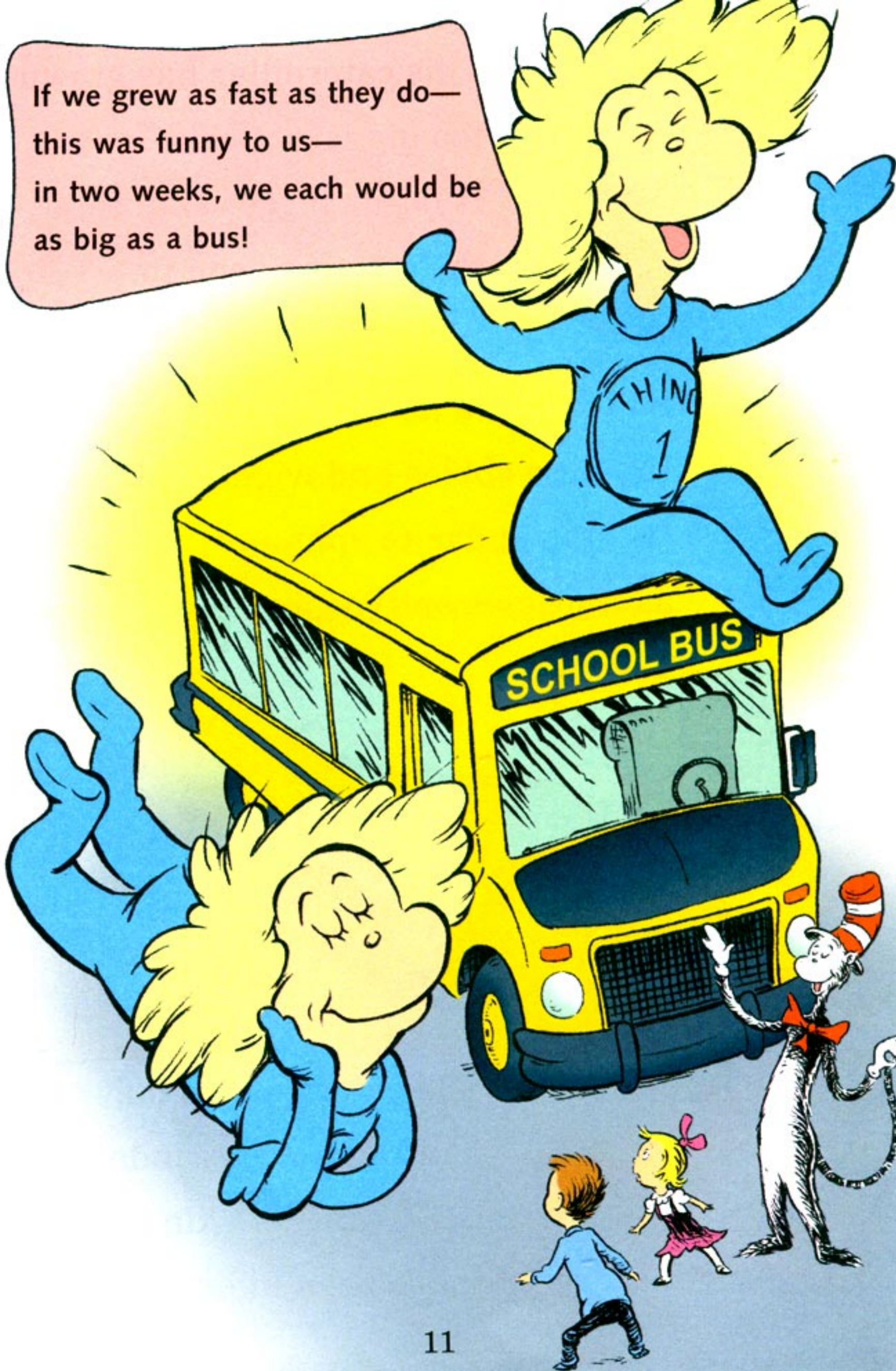
They start chewing and growing  
and growing and chewing,  
and that's about all that they  
spend their time doing!



They eat first their eggshells.  
Then it's leaves that they need.  
They eat all the time,  
and they grow with great speed.



If we grew as fast as they do—  
this was funny to us—  
in two weeks, we each would be  
as big as a bus!



This caterpillar has grown too big for its skin.

It needs bigger skin than the skin it's been in.



So it takes a deep breath,  
then it wobbles and wiggles.  
Its skin starts to split  
as it joggles and jiggles.

THIS IS  
A SPOT  
THAT LOOKS  
LIKE AN EYE.



The old skin falls off,  
and right there, underneath,  
is new, bigger skin  
that's been hiding beneath.





It eats the old skin.

(Oh, yum! How delicious!)

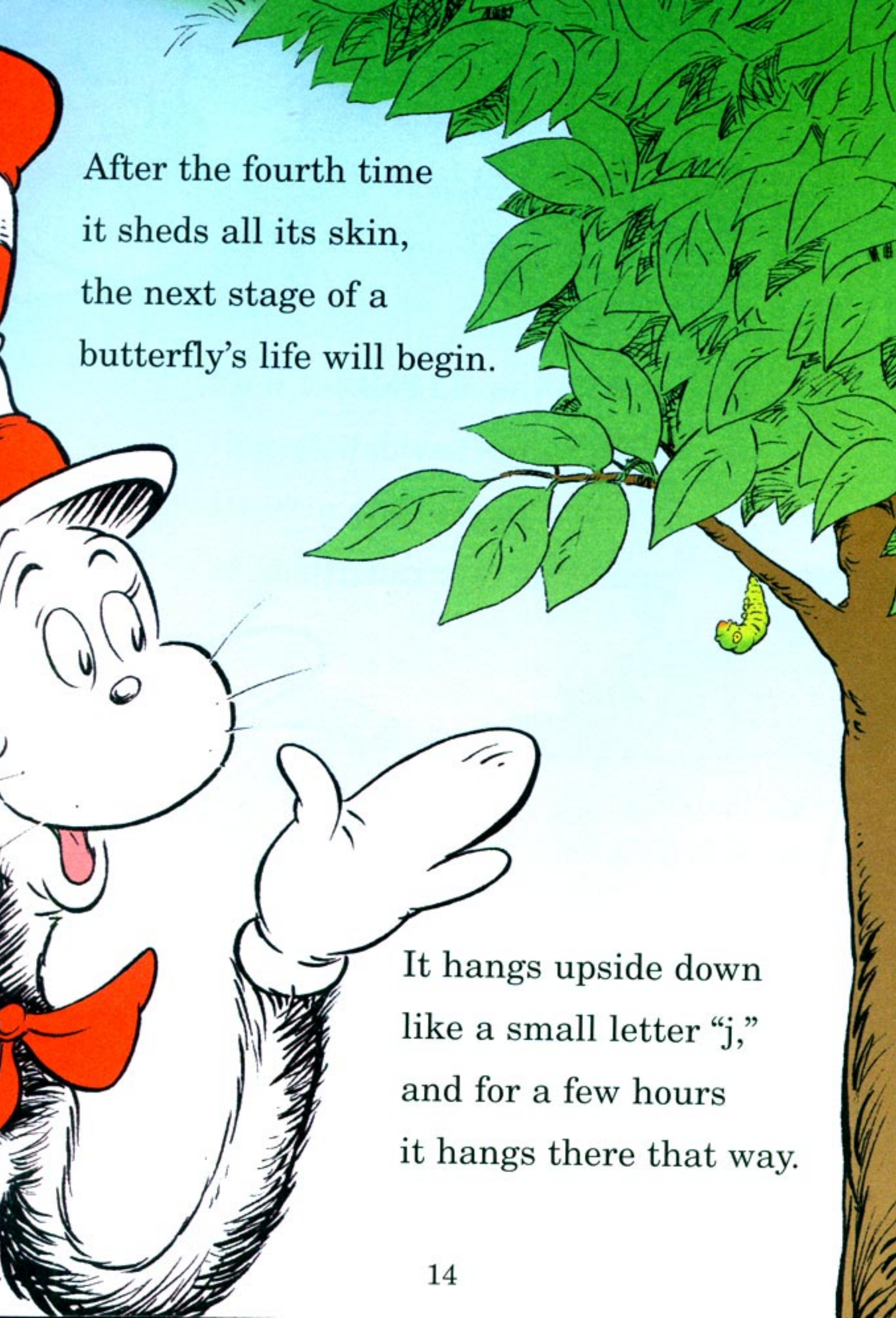
Protein in the skin

makes it very nutritious.




See this caterpillar?  
He really looks cute,  
dressed up in his new  
black-and-orange-striped suit.






After the fourth time  
it sheds all its skin,  
the next stage of a  
butterfly's life will begin.



It hangs upside down  
like a small letter "j,"  
and for a few hours  
it hangs there that way.



Then it changes again.  
The next stage is this—  
a shell forms around it  
called a chry-sa-lis.



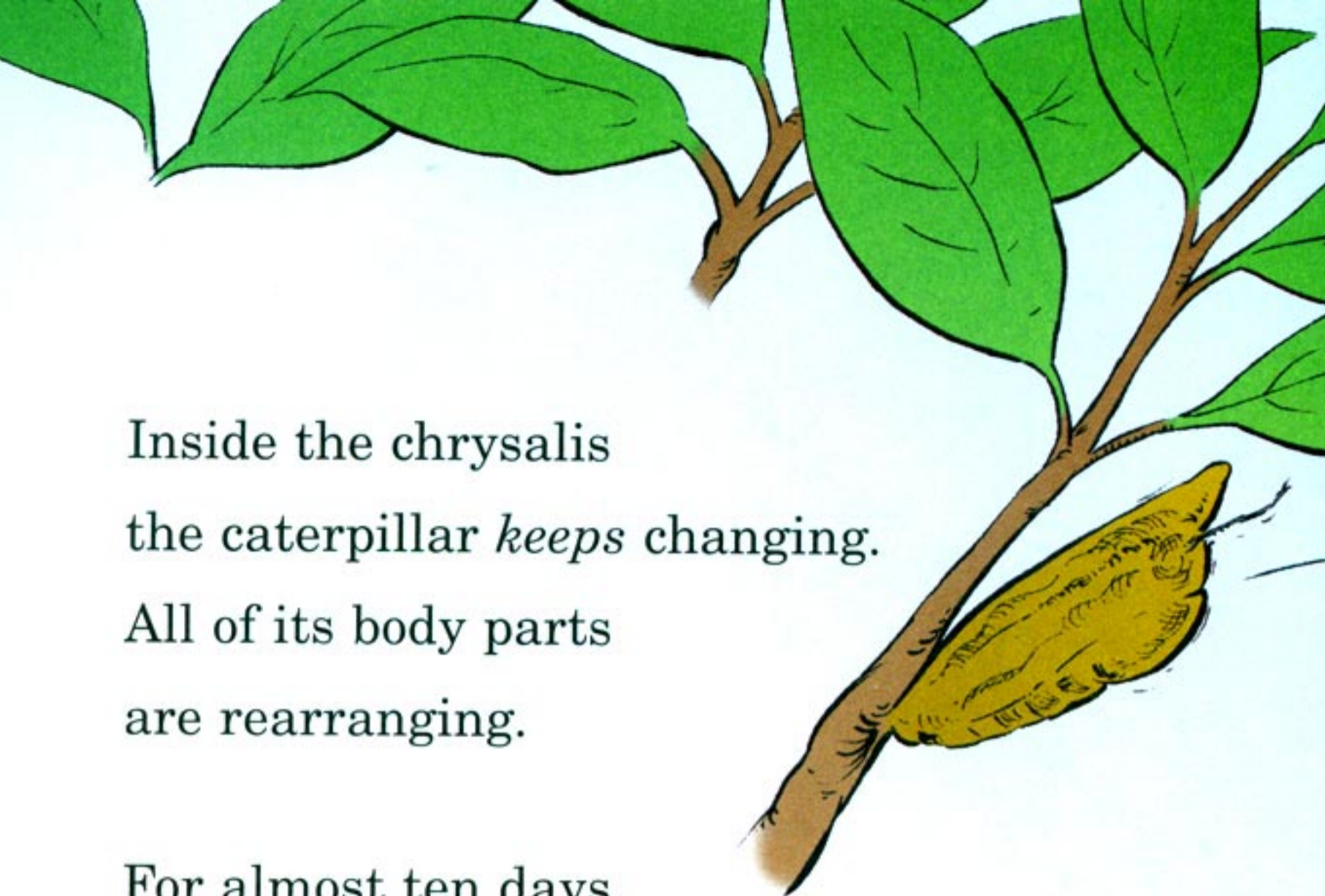
CHRYSALIS

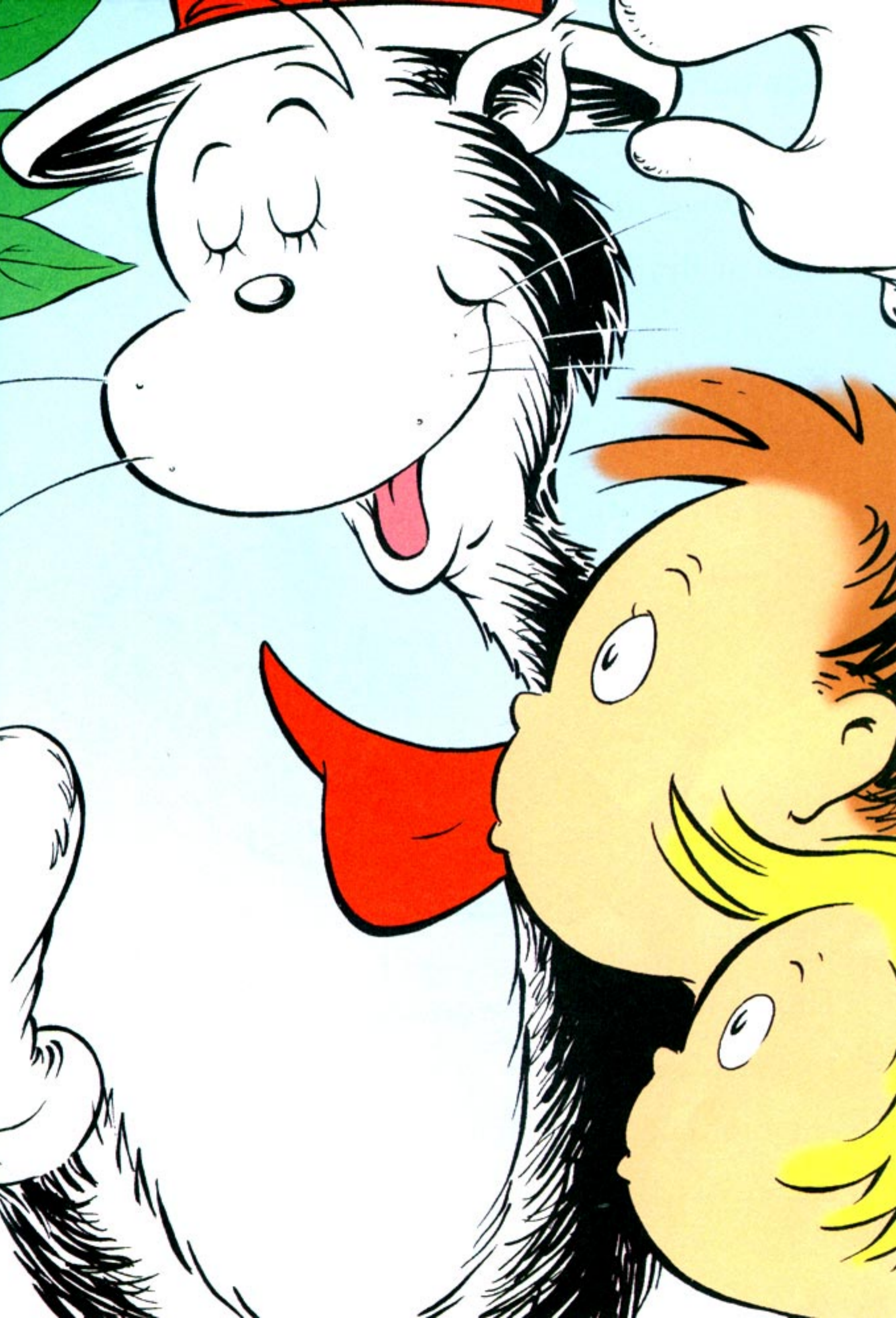


Inside the chrysalis  
the caterpillar *keeps* changing.  
All of its body parts  
are rearranging.

For almost ten days  
it can't move and can't eat.  
Then one day  
the butterfly's change is complete.

A tiny black leg  
begins to poke through.  
Within seconds, another  
leg pops into view.





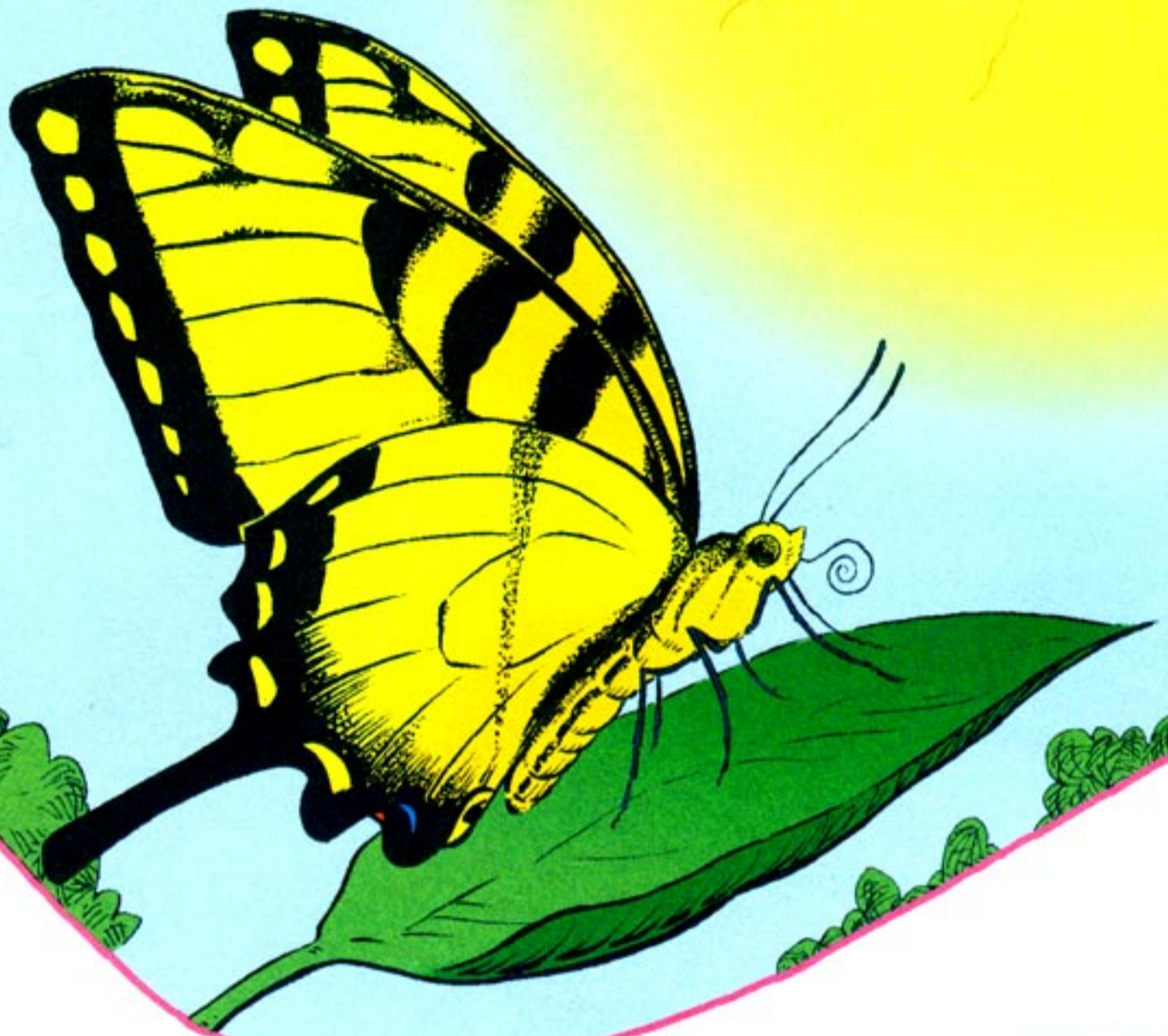
She bursts into the air!  
A bright new butterfly!  
Her wings are so soft  
that at first she can't fly.

She must wait till they harden.  
Till then, she must stay.  
If an enemy comes,  
she cannot fly away.



Her antennae start working  
to sense what's around her—  
the motions, the smells, and  
the sights that surround her.

In hours, her new wings  
get harder and so



she is ready to fly,  
she is ready to go!



See these two caterpillars?

They're different. Here's why—  
one will soon be a moth,  
one a bright butterfly.

One makes a chrysalis,  
and now we know  
inside it a butterfly's  
starting to grow.

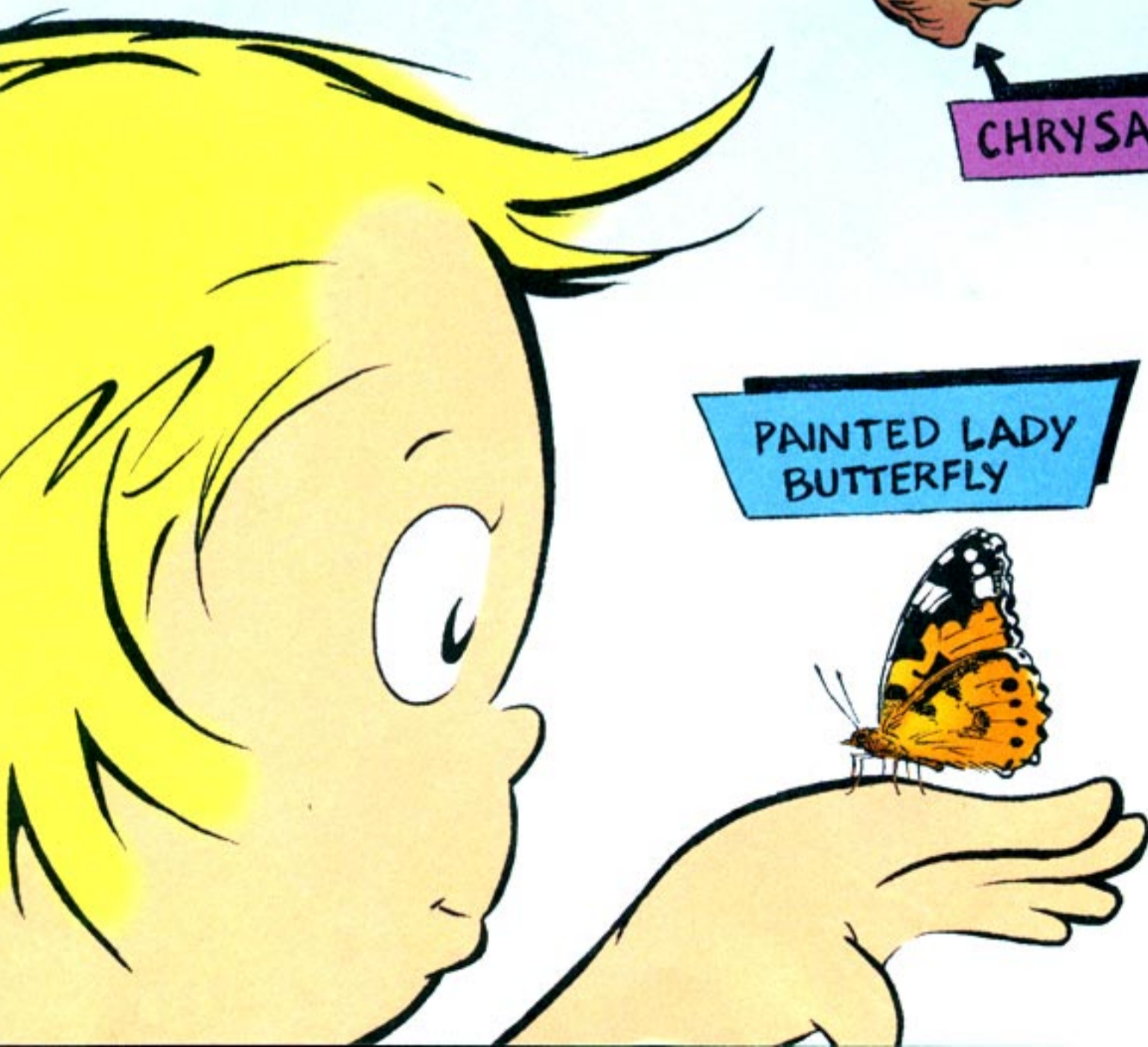


PAINTED LADY  
CATERPILLAR



CHRYSALIS

PAINTED LADY  
BUTTERFLY





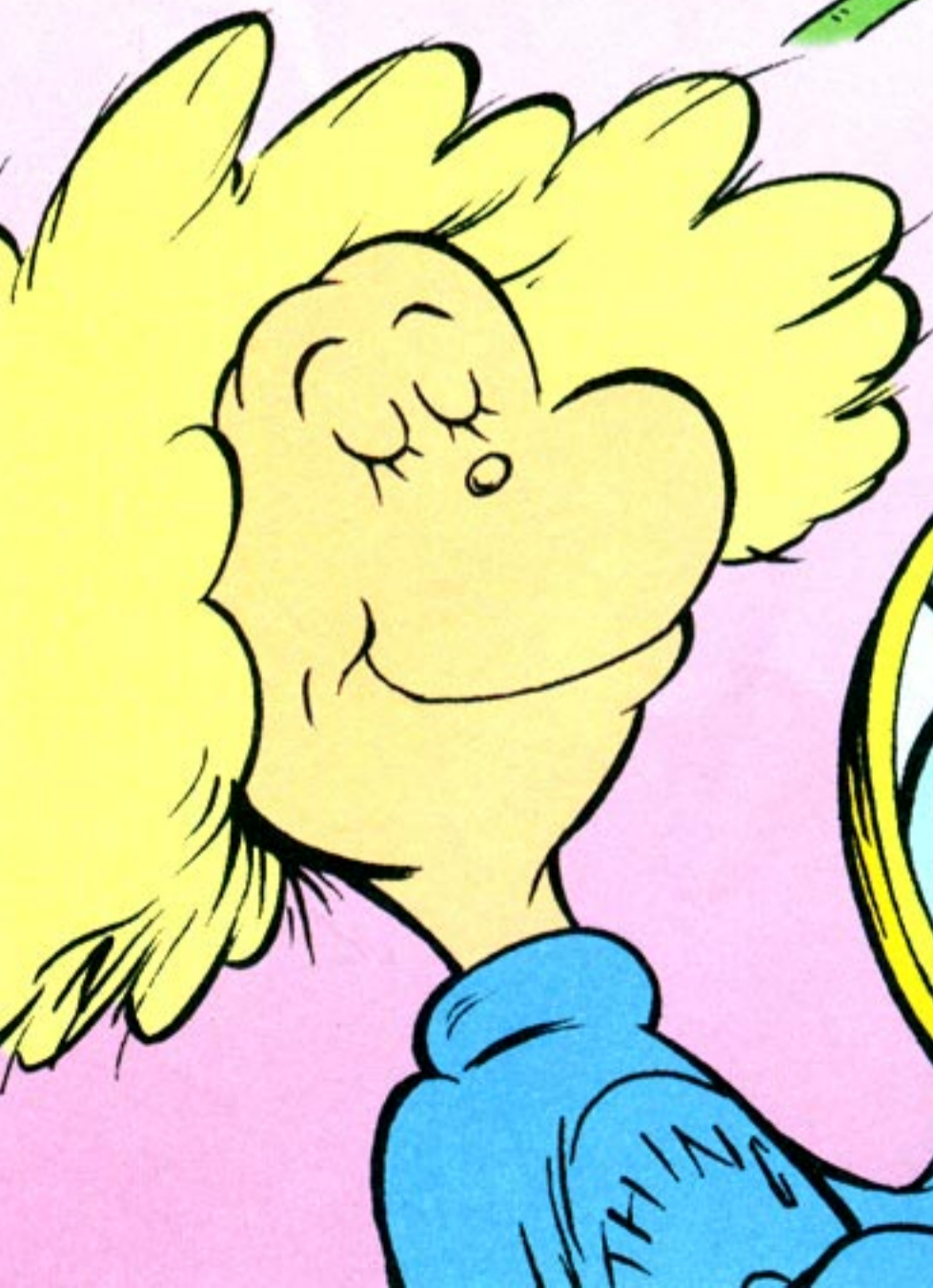
One spins a cocoon  
like a blanket to hide it,  
and then a new moth begins  
growing inside it.



SILKWORM MOTH  
CATERPILLAR



COCOON

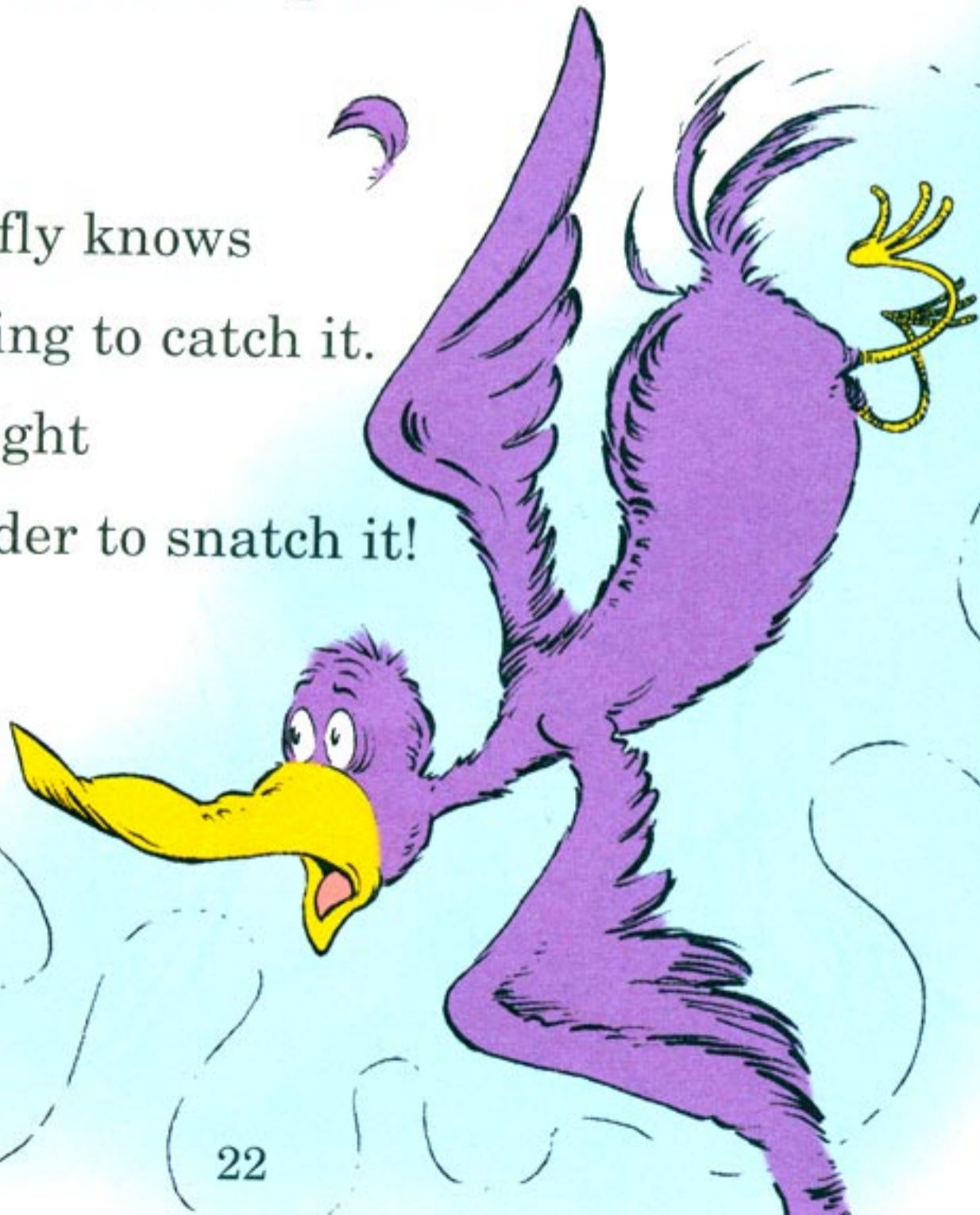


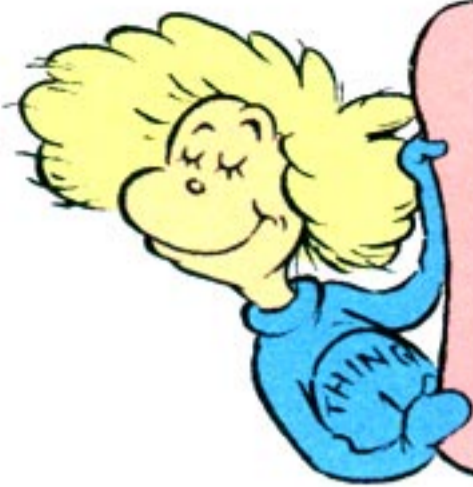
SILKWORM MOTH



Spiders, frogs, beetles,  
birds, lizards, and mice  
think bright butterflies  
for a snack are quite nice.

Every butterfly knows  
birds are trying to catch it.  
Its wobbly flight  
makes it harder to snatch it!





This butterfly's colors warn foes it might meet, "I am poison. I'll hurt you. I'm NOT good to eat!"

SMALL  
POSTMAN  
BUTTERFLY



Some cover their bright wings with dark wings, you see. This helps them to blend with the leaves on a tree.

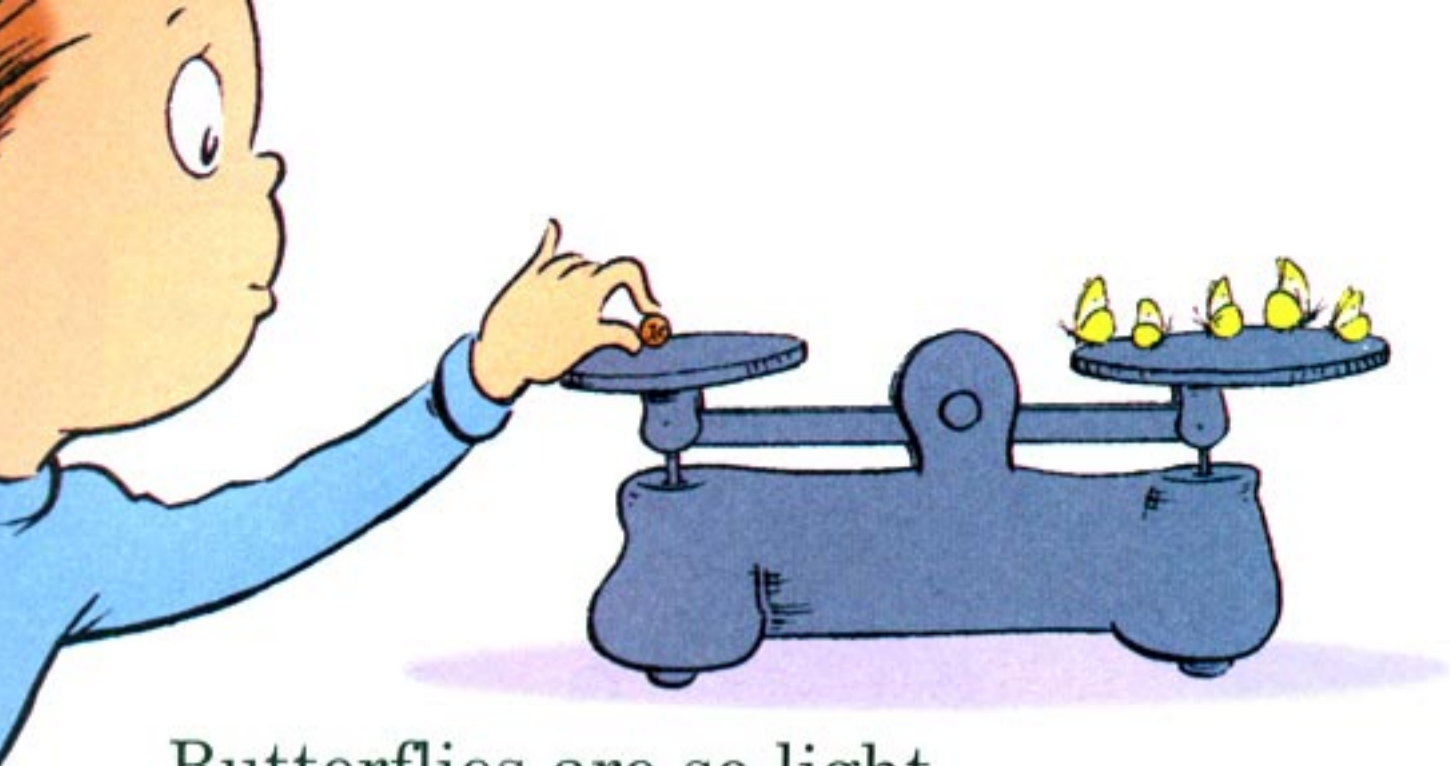


TOP OF WING

UNDERSIDE



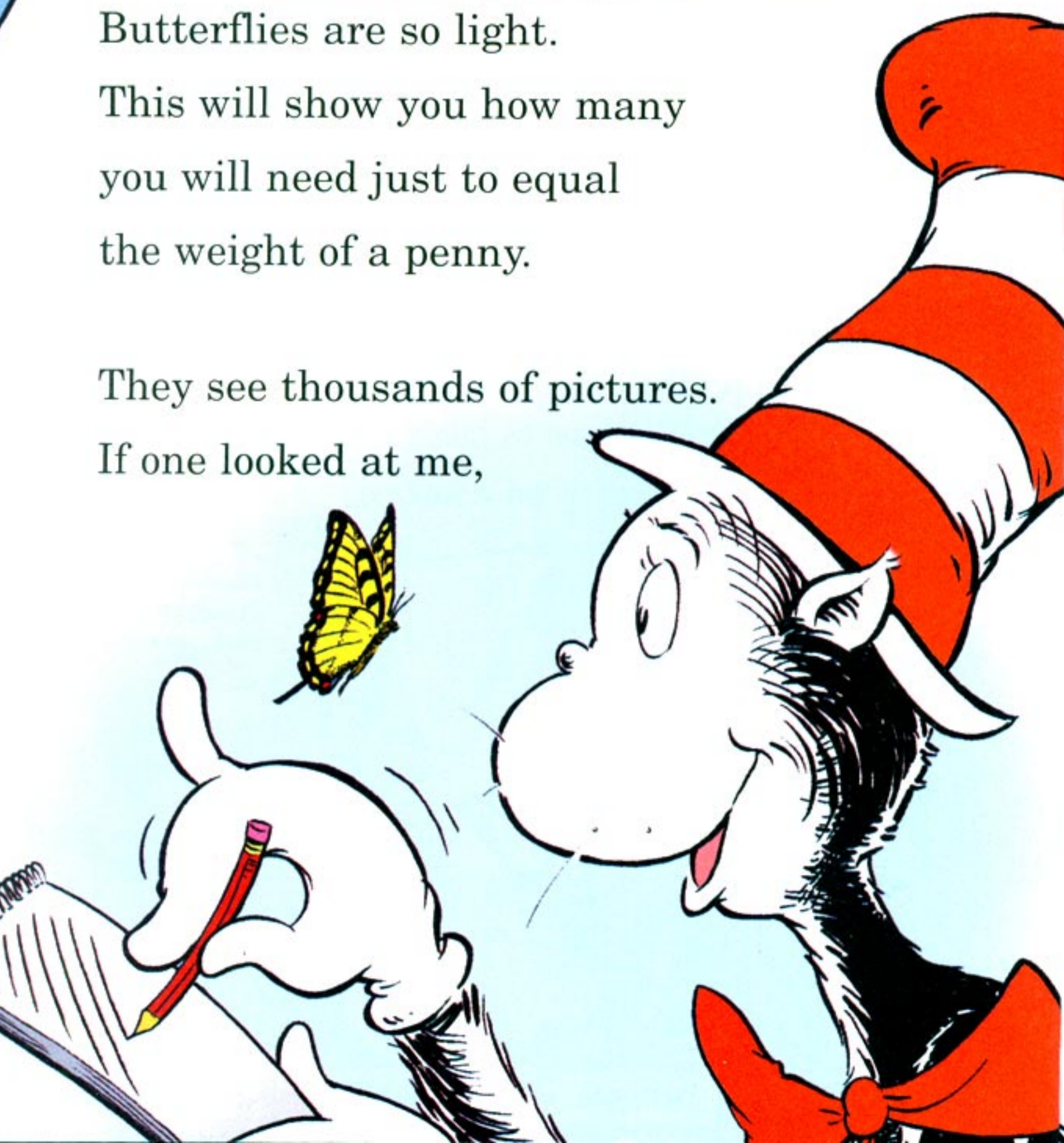
INDIAN LEAF BUTTERFLY

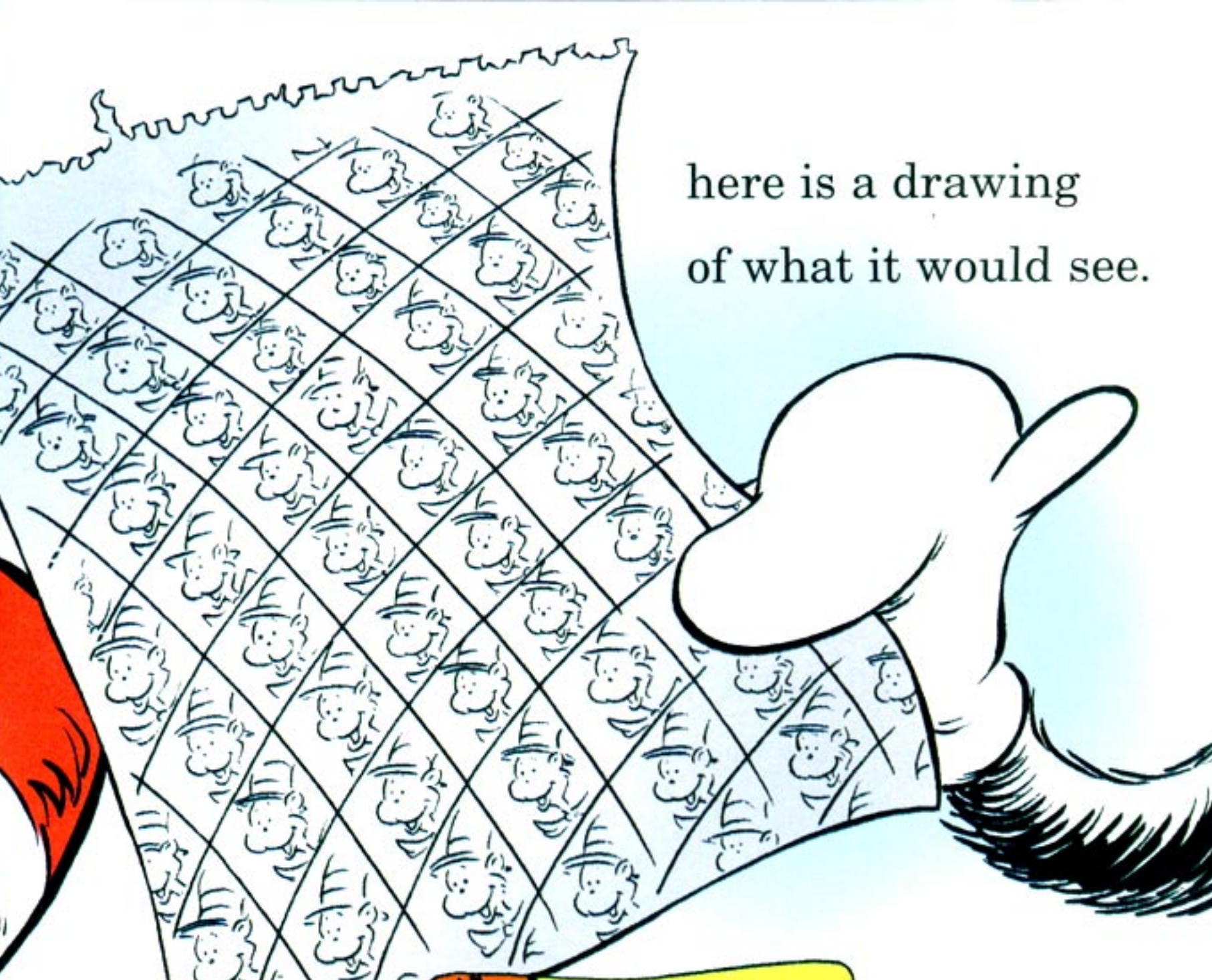


Butterflies are so light.

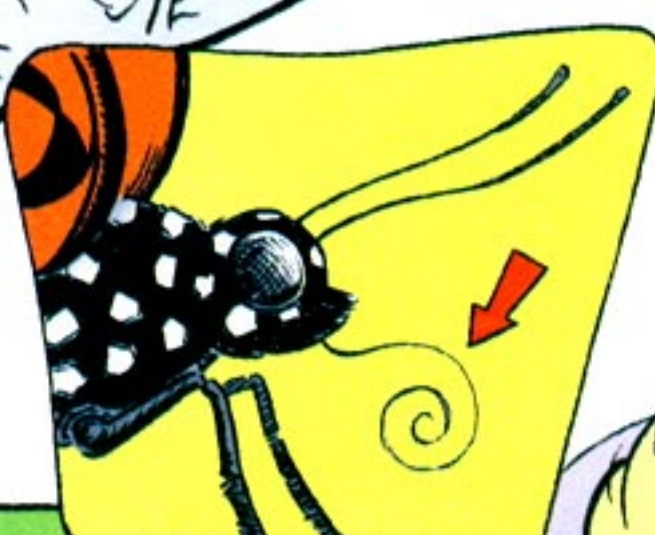
This will show you how many  
you will need just to equal  
the weight of a penny.

They see thousands of pictures.  
If one looked at me,

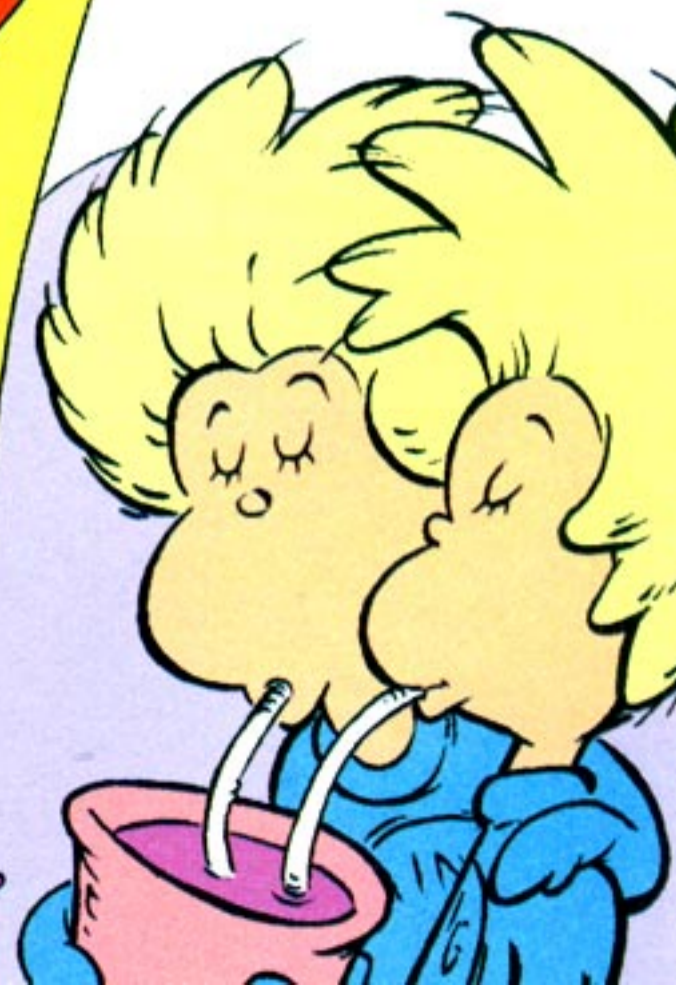




here is a drawing  
of what it would see.



With this tube, the pro-bos-cis,  
a butterfly draws  
nectar from flowers  
like we drink from straws!



We have a new hobby  
we just started trying.  
It's fun and it's free,  
and it's called butterflying.

We look to find butterflies.  
They're everywhere—  
in our yard, near a stream,  
on the ground, in the air.



PINE WHITE



MOORNING CLOAK

PAINTED LADY



We write down the day  
and the time that we saw them.  
We write down the place,  
then take crayons and draw them.





When you find butterflies, there are ways you can see by the size, shape, and color what kind they might be.

Butterflies get their names from all different things. Swallowtail butterflies have long tails on their wings.



Here is a lacewing. Its wings look like lace.



This owl butterfly looks like a baby owl's face.



UNDERSIDE OF THE INSECT ►



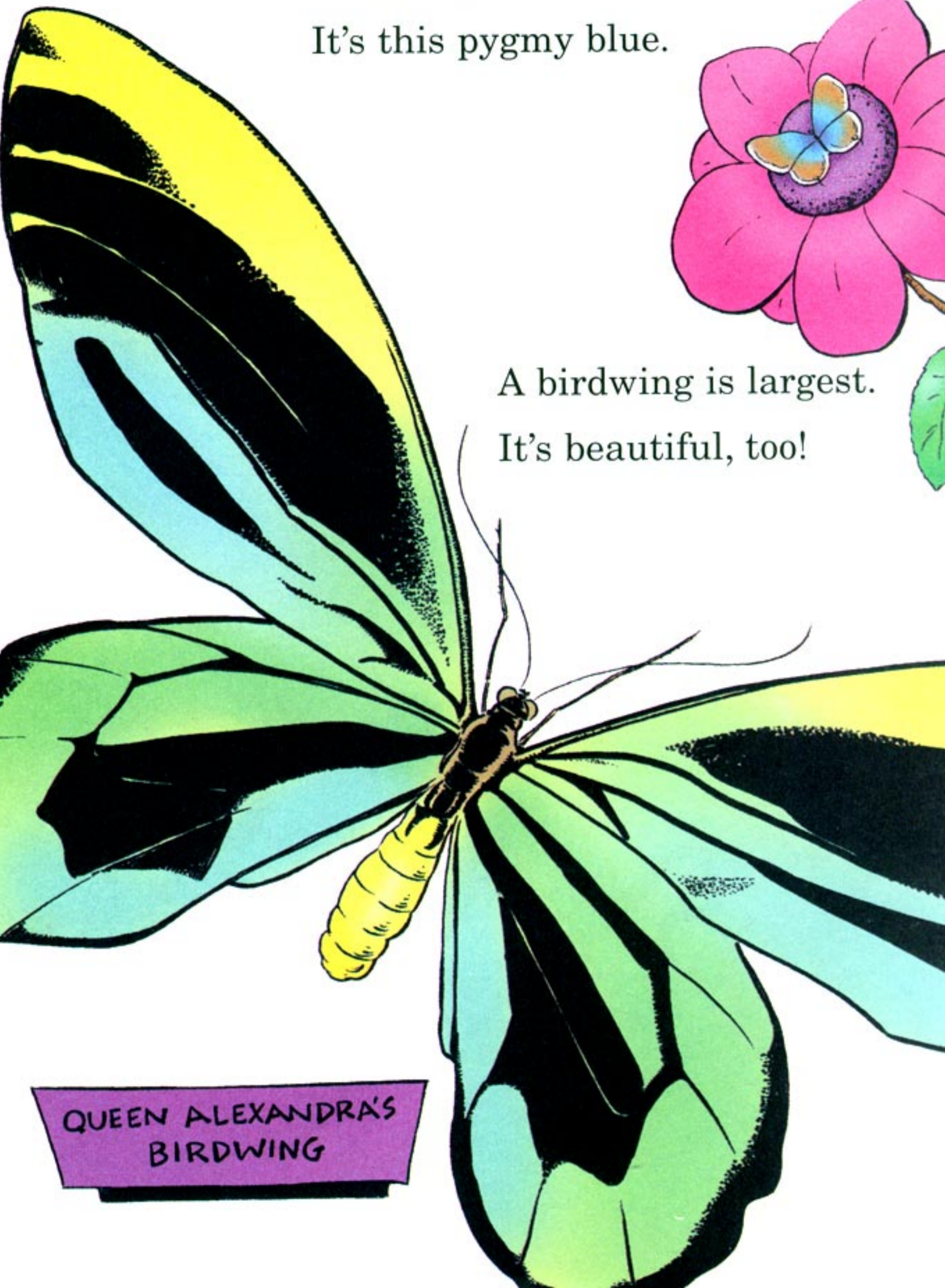
Which one is the smallest?

It's this pygmy blue.



A birdwing is largest.

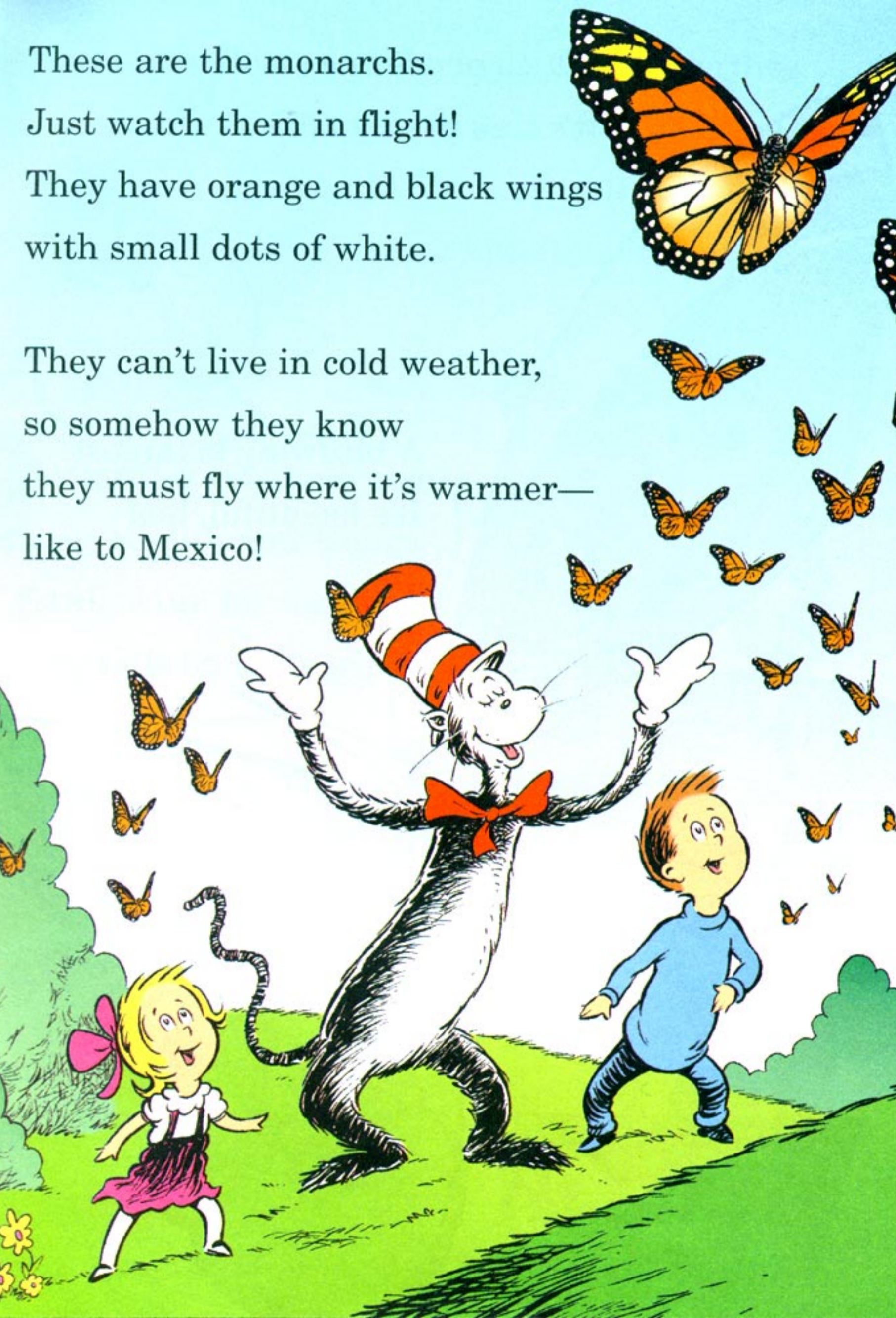
It's beautiful, too!



QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S  
BIRDWING

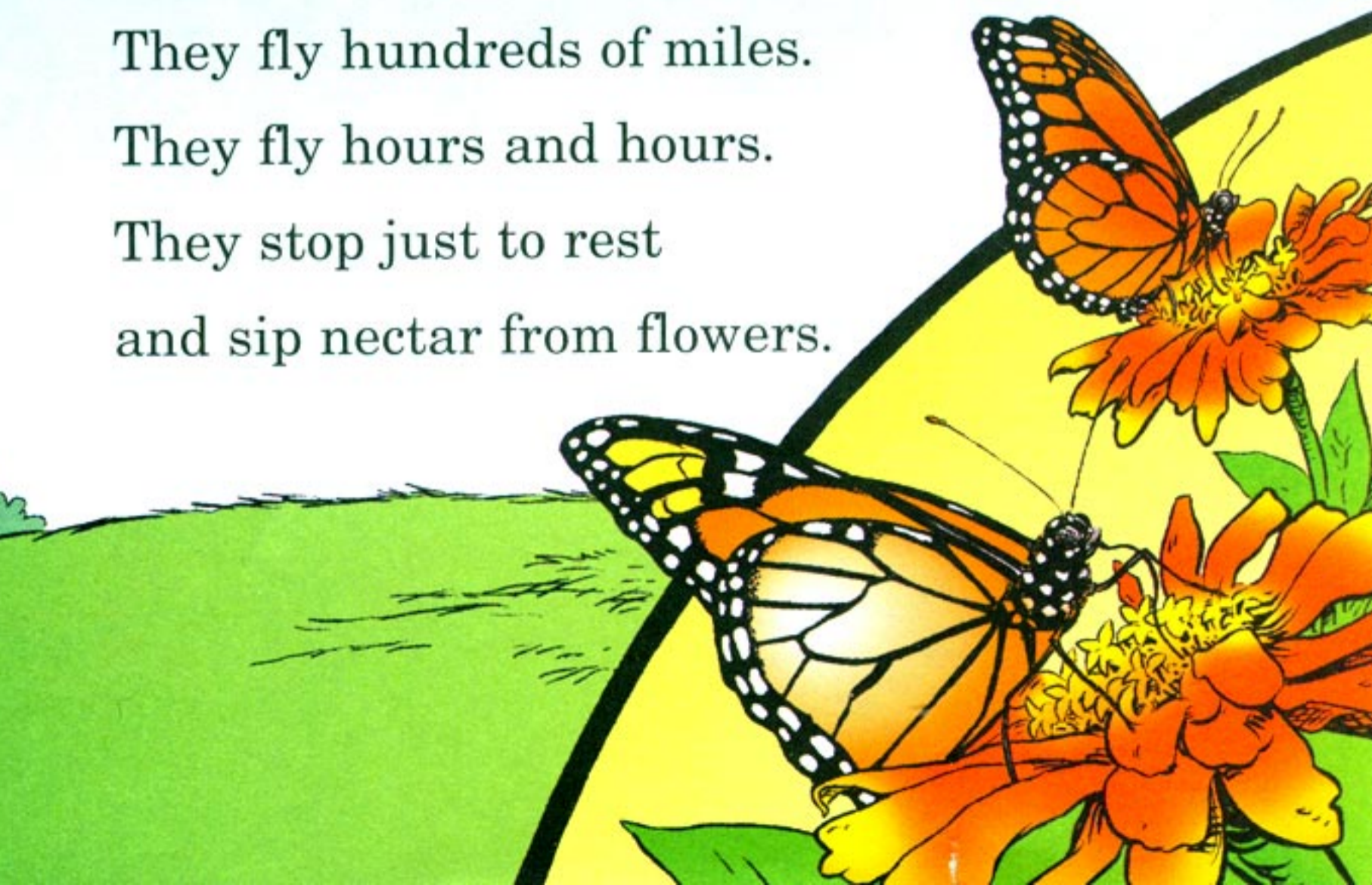
These are the monarchs.  
Just watch them in flight!  
They have orange and black wings  
with small dots of white.

They can't live in cold weather,  
so somehow they know  
they must fly where it's warmer—  
like to Mexico!





They fly hundreds of miles.  
They fly hours and hours.  
They stop just to rest  
and sip nectar from flowers.



Monarchs hide in a storm  
when the thunder is crashing.  
They know they're in danger  
when lightning is flashing.



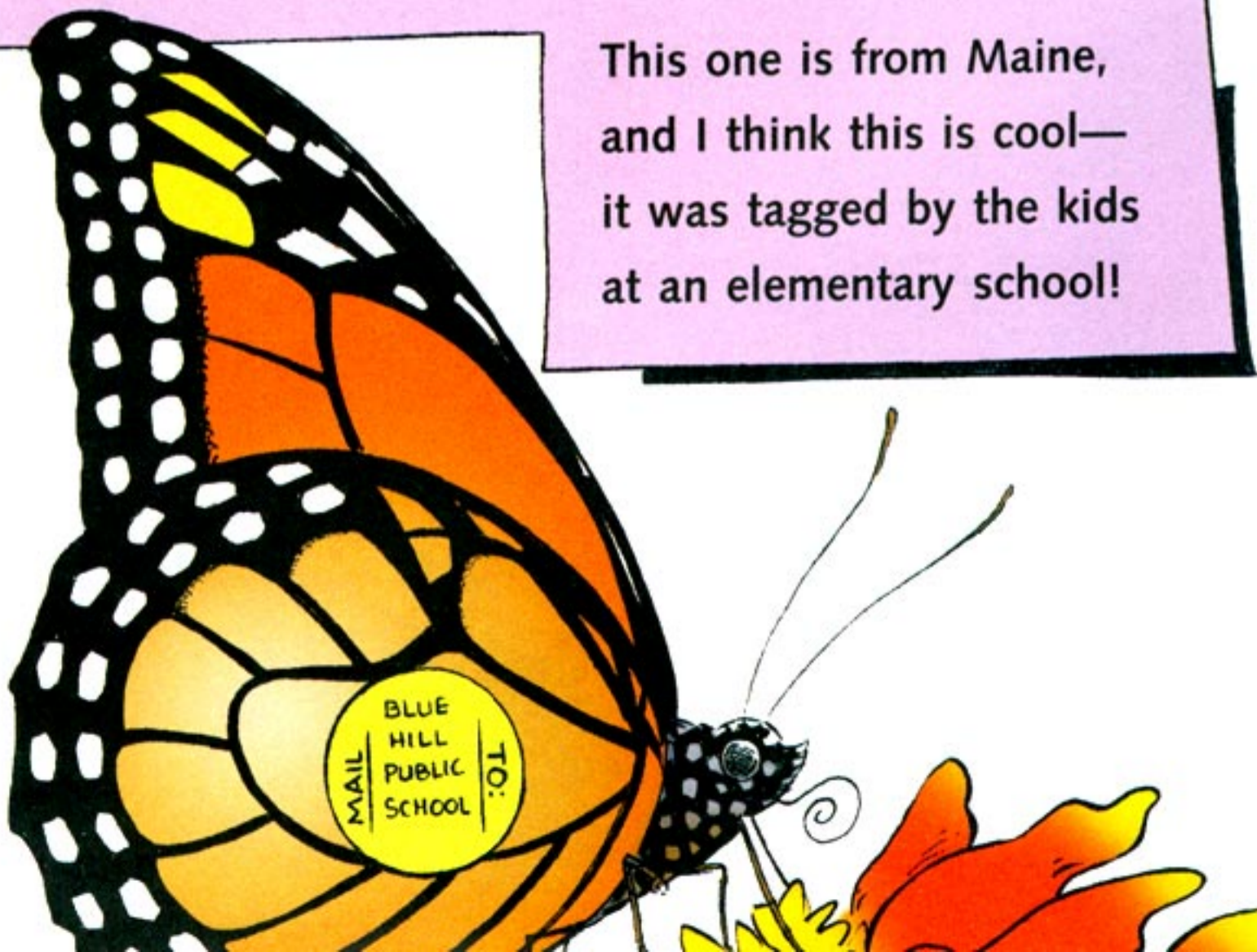


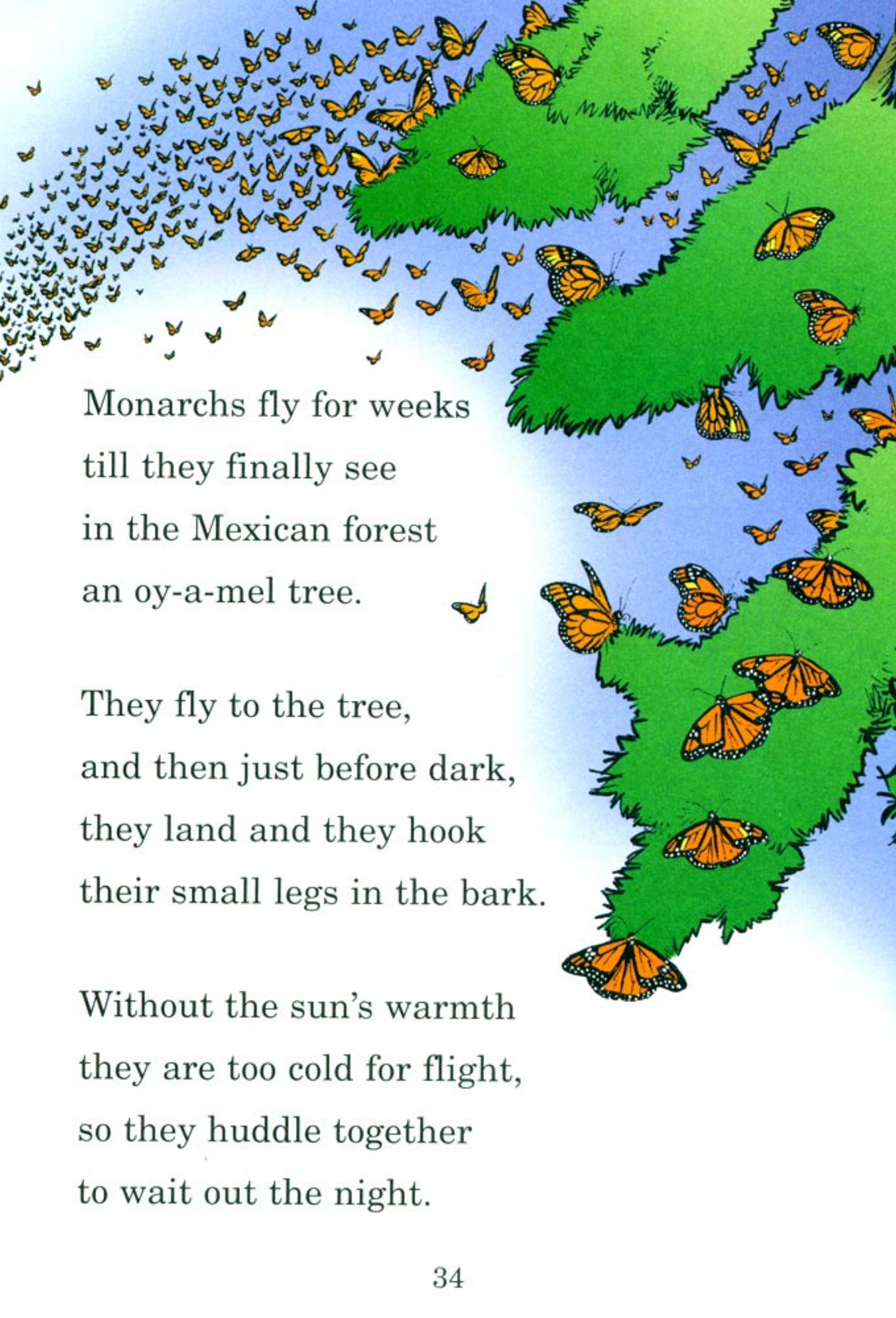
How do these butterflies know where they're going? Scientists really have no way of knowing!

Butterflies can be tagged to show where they're from. This way we can learn how far they have come.



This one is from Maine, and I think this is cool—it was tagged by the kids at an elementary school!

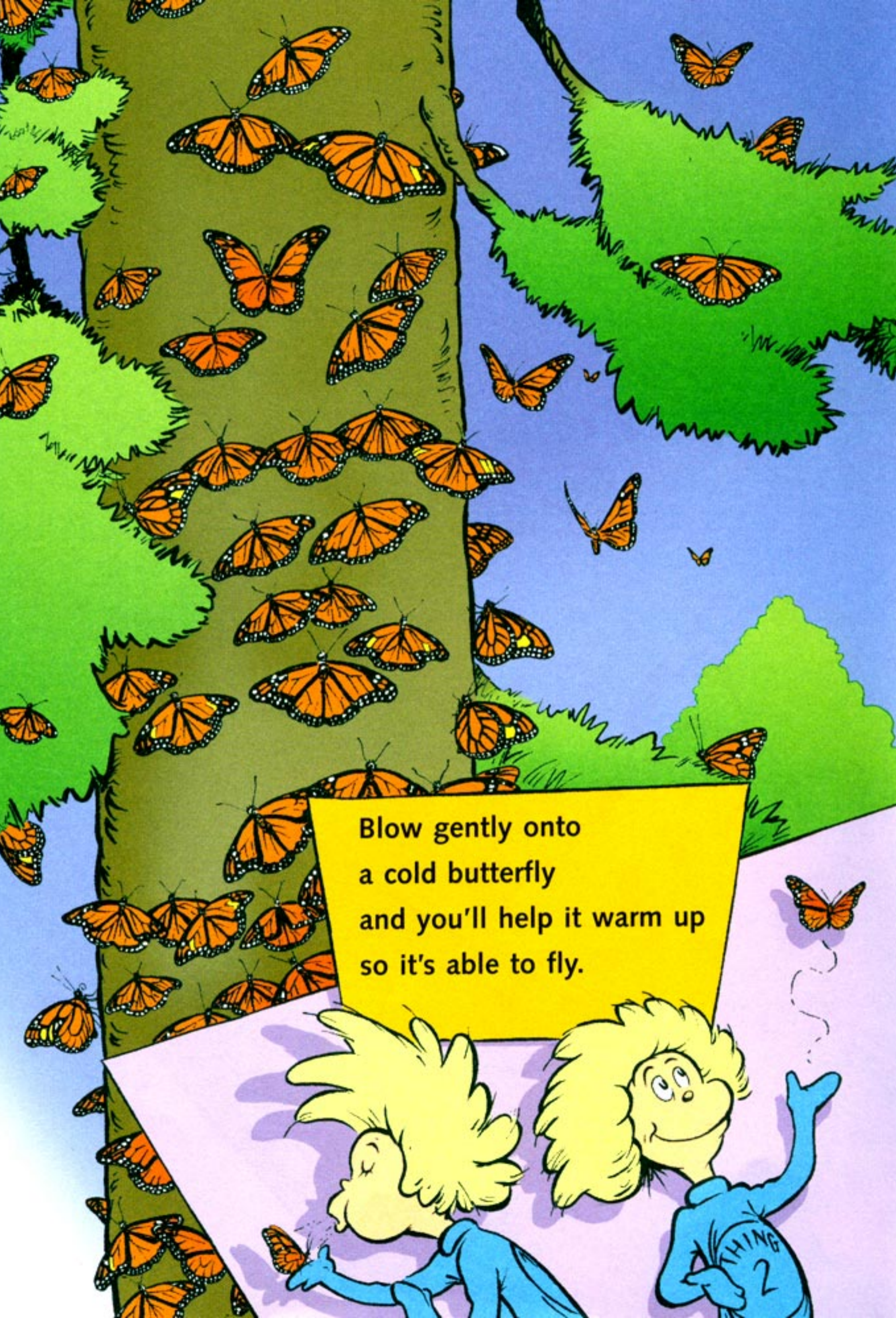




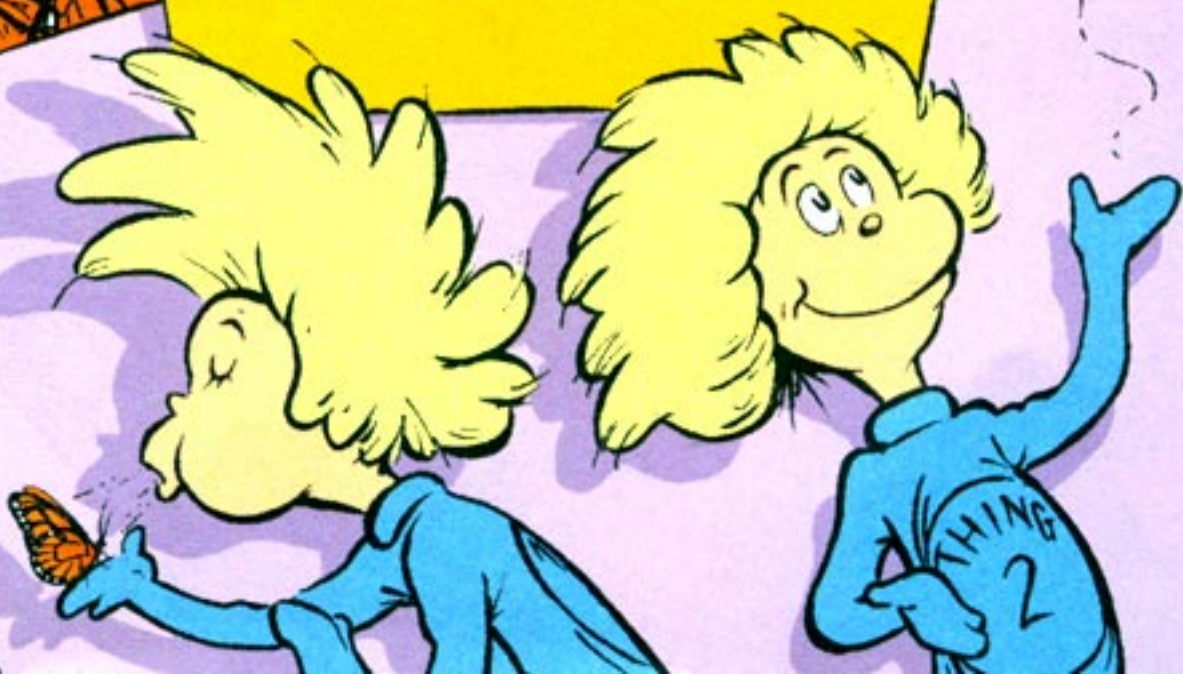
Monarchs fly for weeks  
till they finally see  
in the Mexican forest  
an oy-a-mel tree.

They fly to the tree,  
and then just before dark,  
they land and they hook  
their small legs in the bark.

Without the sun's warmth  
they are too cold for flight,  
so they huddle together  
to wait out the night.



Blow gently onto  
a cold butterfly  
and you'll help it warm up  
so it's able to fly.



In the spring, when it's warm,  
monarchs lift off from the trees.  
They flutter and swoop  
and they dance in the breeze.

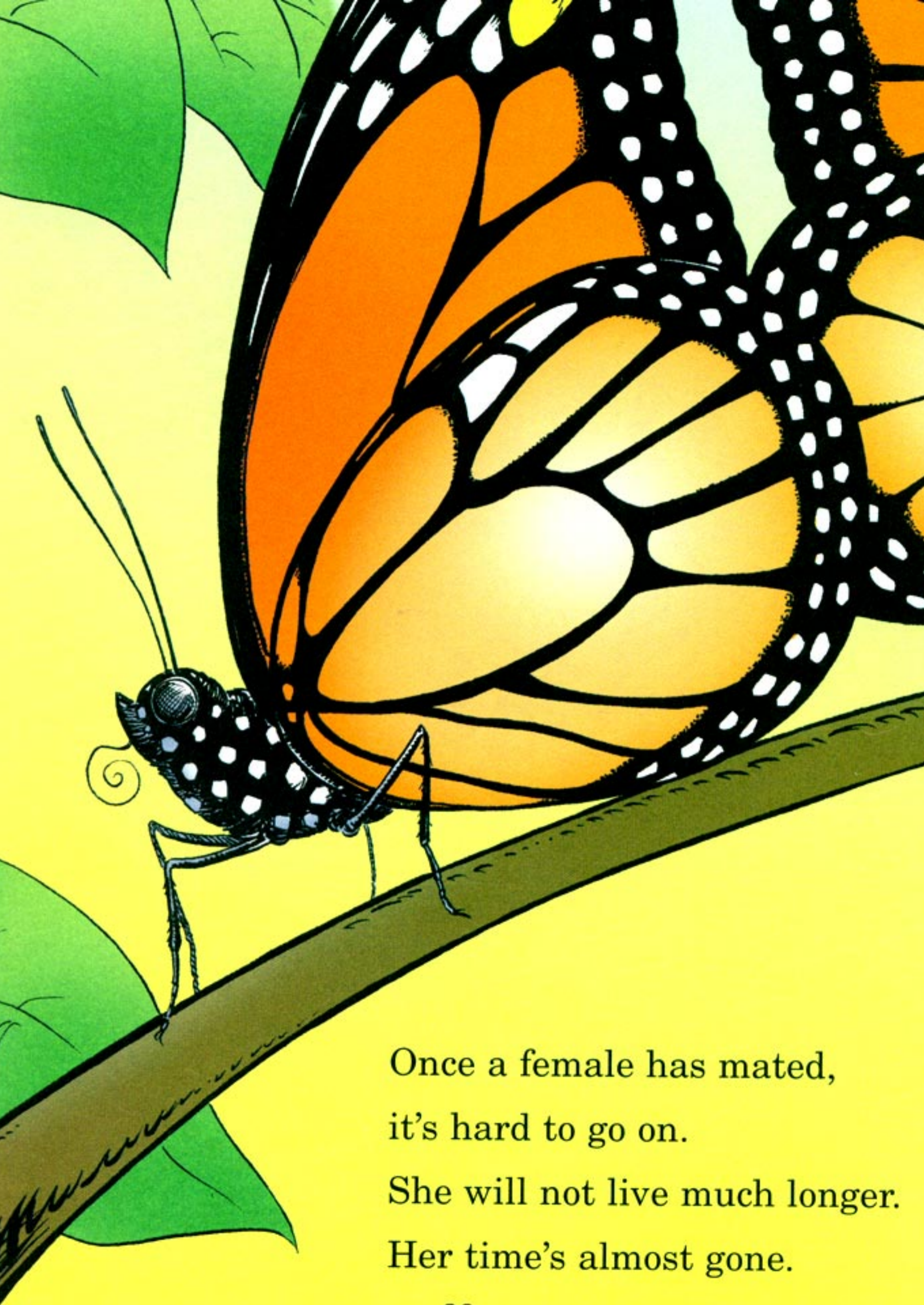
Now that it's warmer,  
these butterflies know  
they must mate and lay eggs  
so new babies can grow.



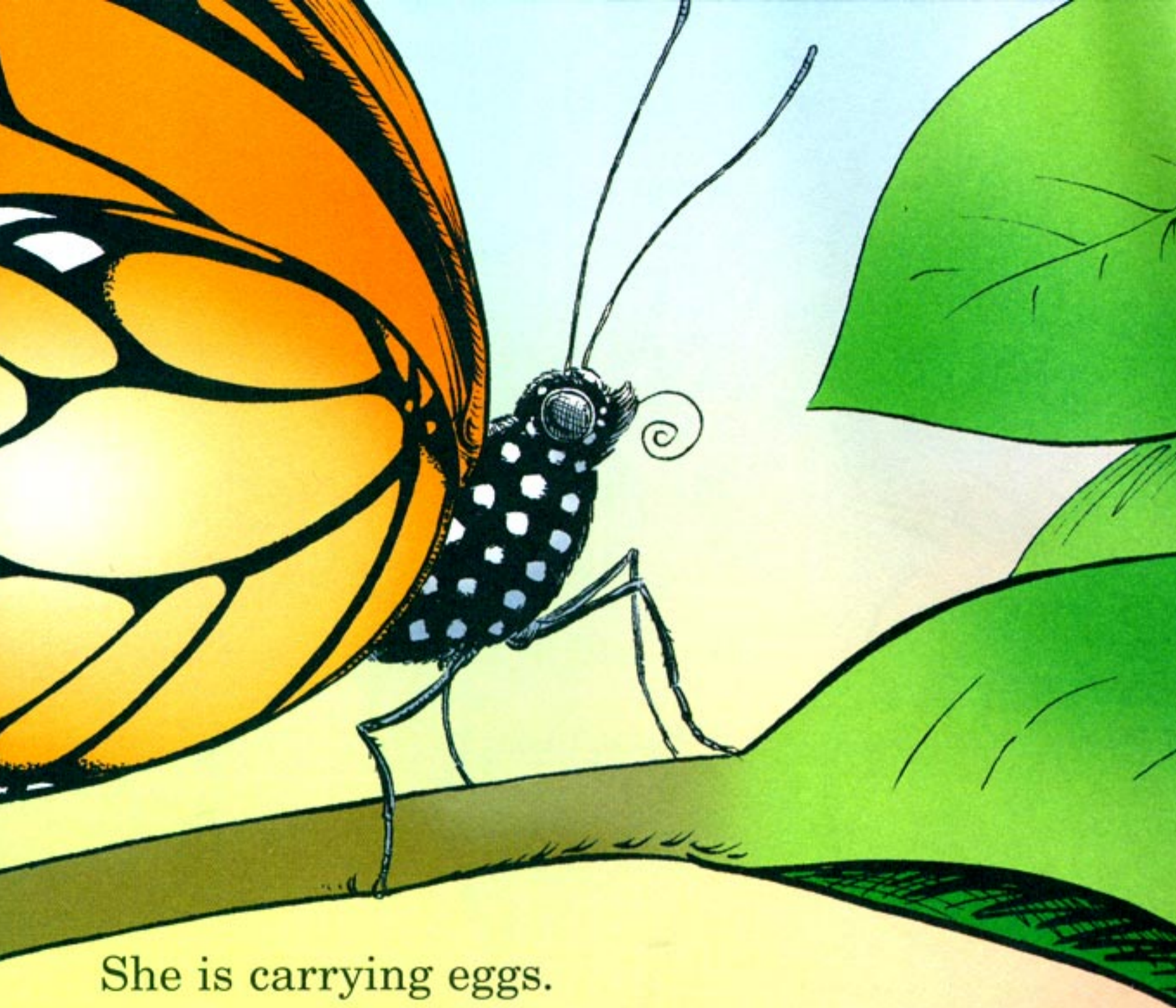




Males look for females to mate with—it's true—that have colors and markings that look like theirs do.



Once a female has mated,  
it's hard to go on.  
She will not live much longer.  
Her time's almost gone.



She is carrying eggs.

They are heavy. That's why  
she cannot get back home.

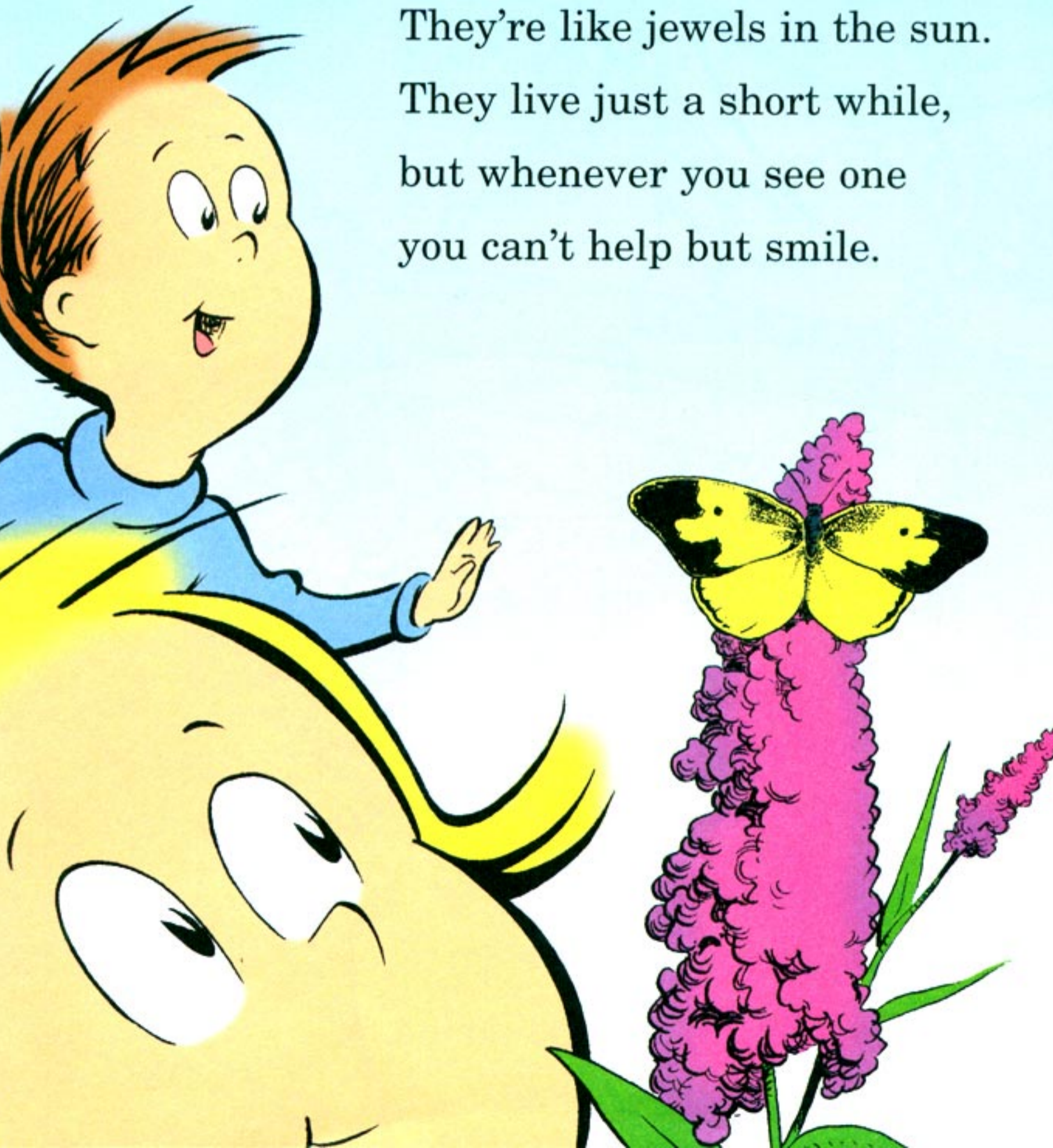
It is too far to fly.

So she searches for leaves  
and lays eggs, one by one.  
She lays hundreds of eggs  
and won't stop till she's done.



Butterflies are surprising  
and beautiful things  
as they soar through the air  
on their bright-colored wings.

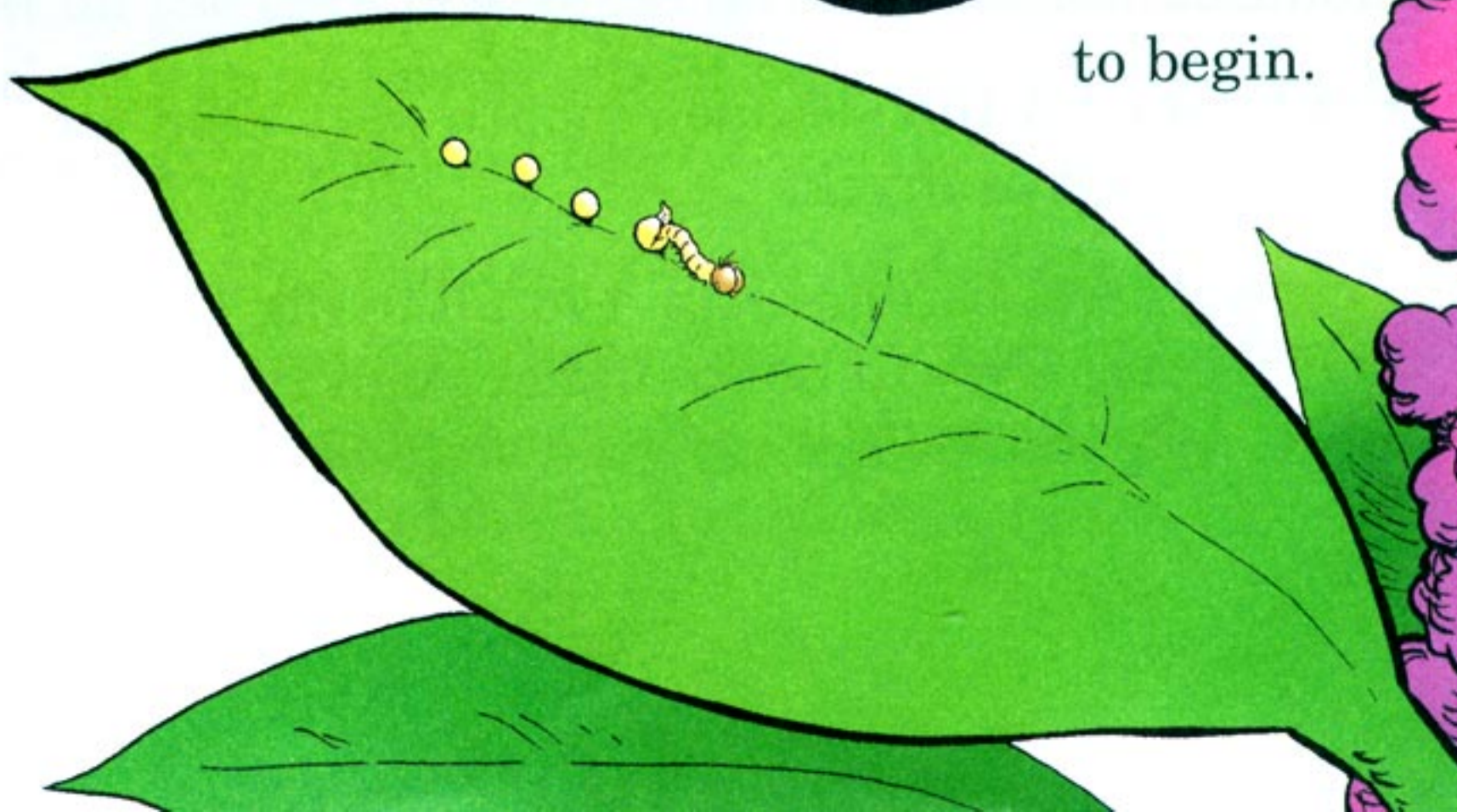
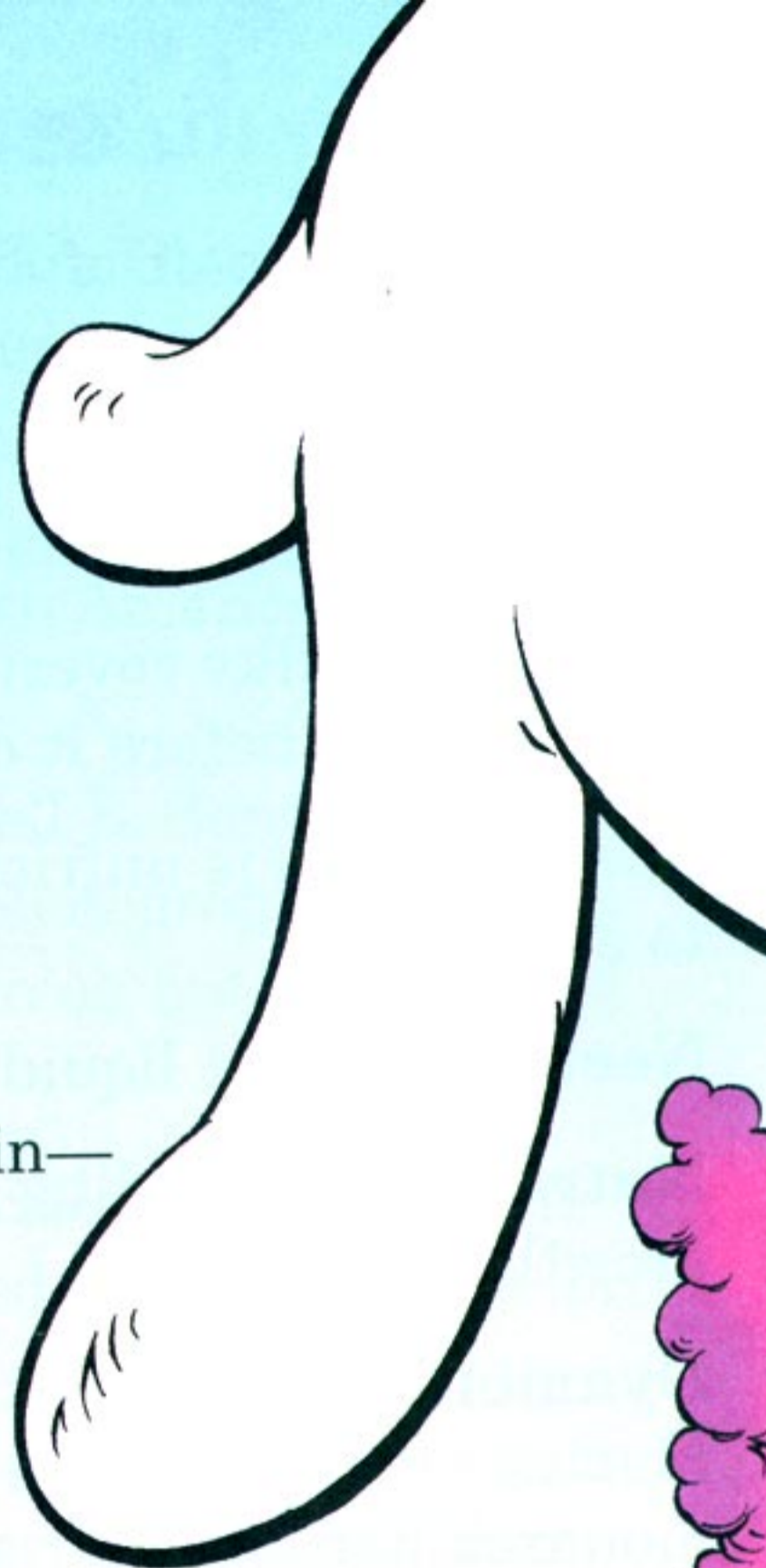
They're like jewels in the sun.  
They live just a short while,  
but whenever you see one  
you can't help but smile.



For you know, on a leaf  
if you look you may find  
an egg that a butterfly  
just left behind.

And in this egg—  
small as the head of a pin—  
a new butterfly life  
is about . . .

to begin.



## GLOSSARY

**Antennae:** A pair of long feelers on the head, used to smell and to sense touch.

**Chrysalis:** A shell that surrounds a grown caterpillar while it changes into a butterfly.

**Cocoon:** A silky covering that a caterpillar builds around itself before it changes into a moth.

**Foe:** One who is unfriendly and ready to do harm to another.

**Nectar:** A sweet liquid found in many flowers.

**Nutritious:** Providing food necessary for life and growth.

**Oyamel:** A type of fir tree that grows in the Mexican forests that are the winter home of the monarch butterflies.

**Proboscis:** A tube-shaped mouth part used for sucking food or drink.

**Protein:** A substance found in all living things that is necessary to build and sustain them. Eggs, meat, fish, and beans are good sources of protein.





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—*Barbara Kiefer, Ph.D.,  
Charlotte S. Huck Professor  
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