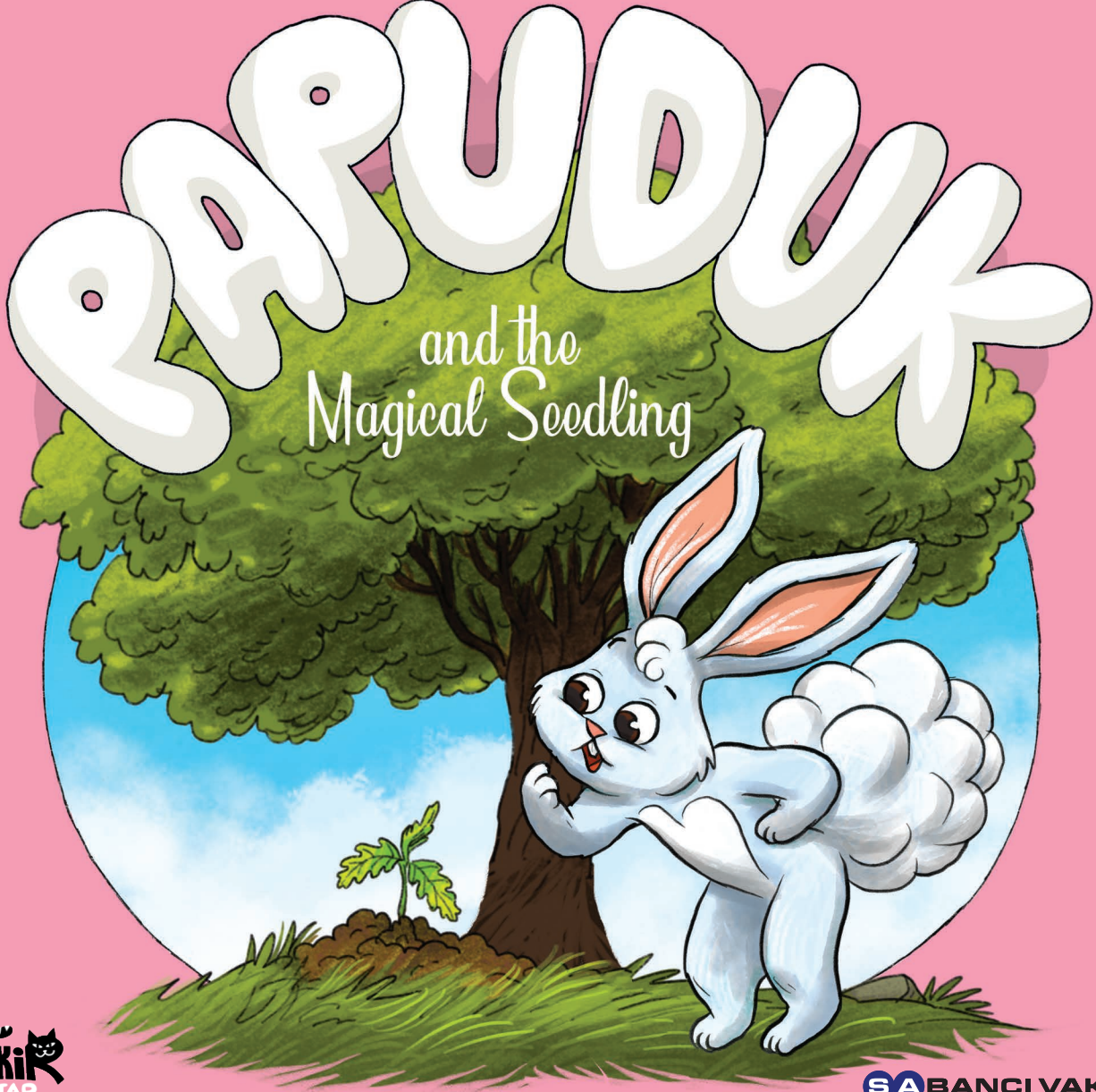


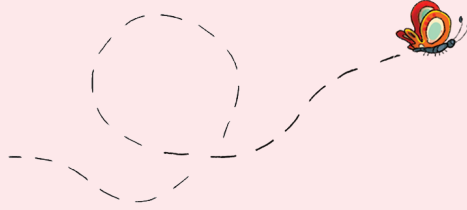
7-9 AGE

Written by: Tolga Öztörün - Lider Hepgenç

Illustrated by: Ece Zeber

Translated by: Sevin Okyay





*Wishing that Papuduk, the hero of the fairy tale my precious Great-Grandmother Lady Hayriye Erduran used to tell us children of several generations, will contribute to raising them to posterity with love for animals and environmental consciousness.*

***Serra Sabancı***

# PAPUDUK and the MAGICAL SEEDLING

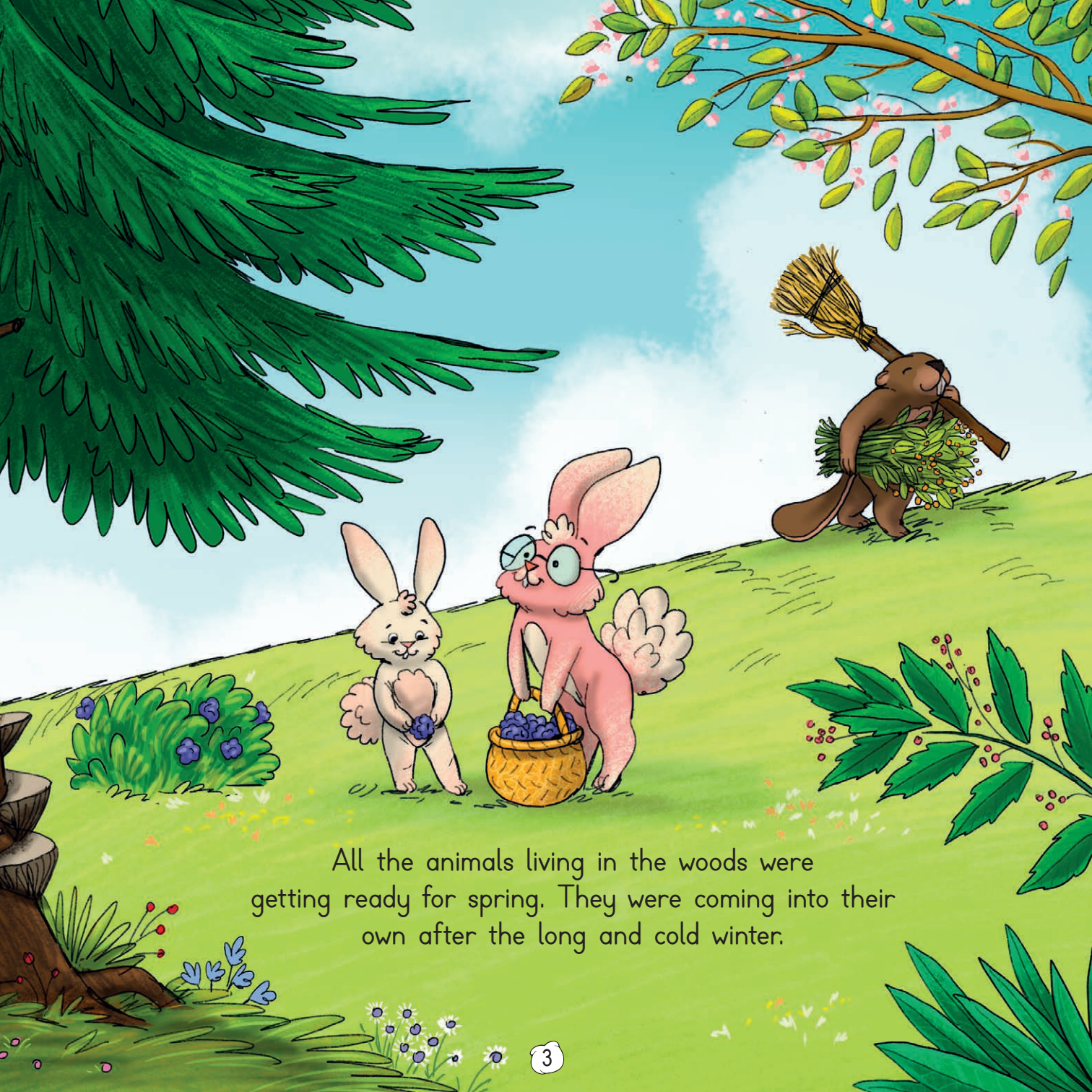




Spring was slowly coming to the woods where Papuduk lived. It was very excited by the color change of all the plants in the woods. It was only the pines that were green as ever. Pines were needle-leaved and these leaves did not change color in winter anyway.







All the animals living in the woods were getting ready for spring. They were coming into their own after the long and cold winter.



While Papuduk was walking in the garden of its house, a tiny seedling drew its attention all of a sudden. It was just thinking "What a different seedling," and it became aware that this seedling wasn't there before. This was the first time that Papuduk had seen it! Close by there was still one more of the same seedling. When Papuduk was examining the seedlings, bunny Spotty who was passing through came to its friend's side.



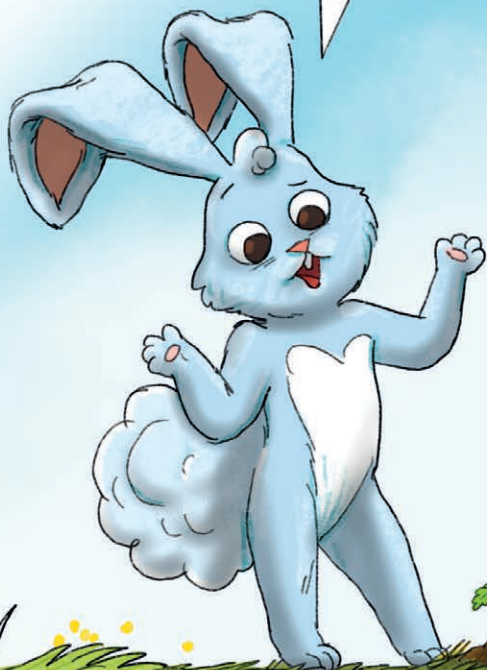
Hey Papuduk,  
what are you looking at  
like that?





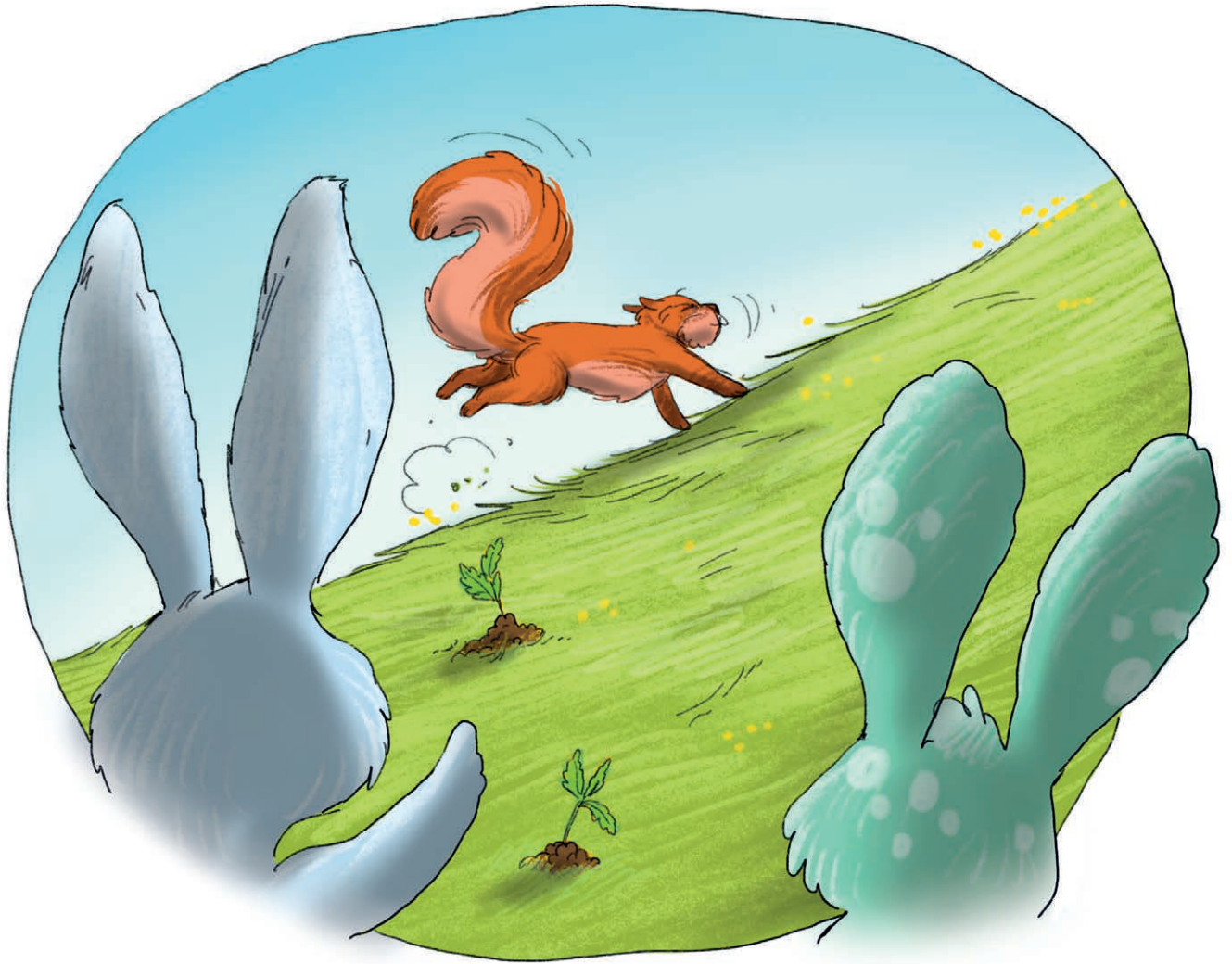
Hello Spotty, I was looking at the seedlings in the garden. I'm sure they weren't here before.

Didn't you plant these seedlings yourself?



No, I didn't.  
Look, two more here.  
And they are identical.

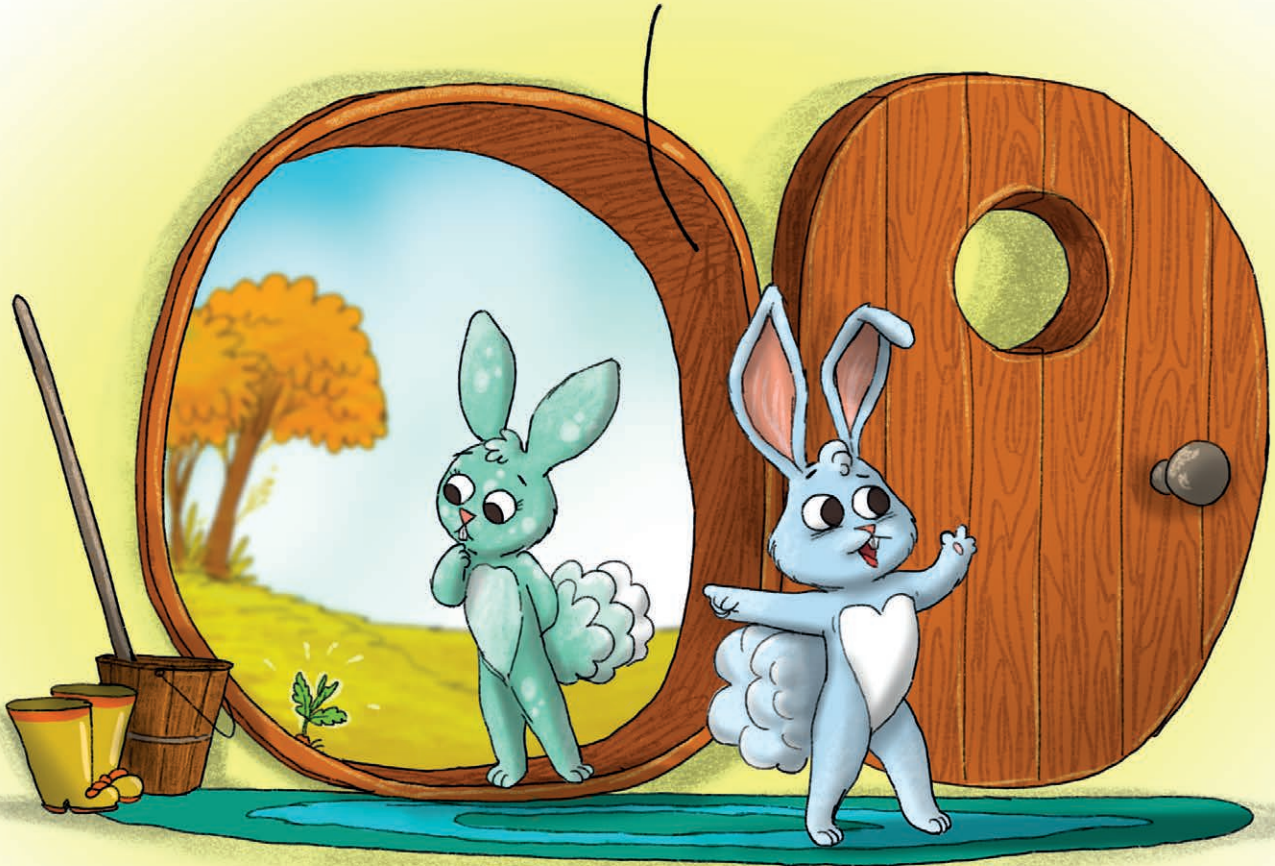
Oh my! Where  
did these seedlings  
come from now?



To see so many seedlings that they hadn't come across before baffled them. They wondered how this could have happened in such a short time. While examining the seedlings, they saw an agitated squirrel that passed by them running. They called it, thinking that "Maybe it has seen who planted the seedlings?", but the squirrel didn't hear them.

Or did Papuduk's mother plant them?  
They decided to ask her.

Mama dear, have you planted these seedlings.  
And they are seedlings of what?



After Papuduk's mother said that she did not plant  
the seedlings she gave a riddling answer.




What you saw are magical seedlings. No, I want you to research and find the magic of those seedlings by yourself.



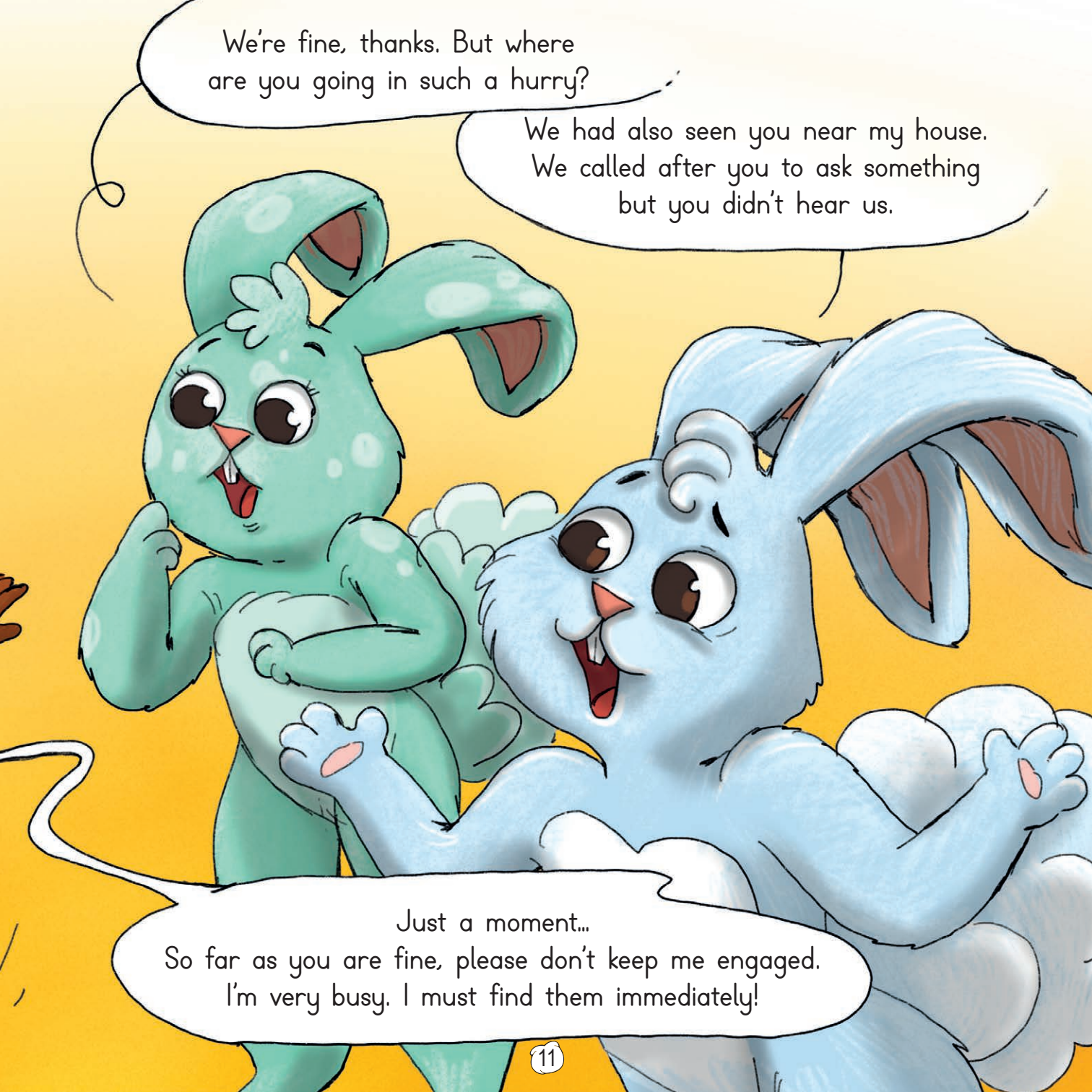
This research task would be the beginning of a new adventure for Papuduk.

Upon which Papuduk and Spotty decided to form a research team. They thought that they could learn much more with the help of their curious and skillful friends. On the way to their dens they saw five more seedlings on the road, which made them much more curious. Meanwhile they had already reached the tree that their friend magpie lived in. Just when they were about to call out for it, the squirrel getting out of the bushes like a flash bumped into Papuduk and Spotty.



Oh, I'm so sorry. You're not hurt in any way I hope, you're fine?



A cartoon illustration of two rabbits. On the left is a green rabbit with large, expressive eyes, a small orange nose, and a wide, toothy grin. It has long, upright ears and is wearing a white shirt. On the right is a blue rabbit, also with large eyes and a wide smile, showing its teeth. It has long, floppy ears and is wearing a white shirt. Both rabbits appear to be in a state of surprise or excitement. The background is a solid yellow color. There are three speech bubbles: one from the green rabbit at the top left, one from the blue rabbit at the top right, and one from the green rabbit at the bottom.

We're fine, thanks. But where  
are you going in such a hurry?

We had also seen you near my house.  
We called after you to ask something  
but you didn't hear us.

Just a moment...  
So far as you are fine, please don't keep me engaged.  
I'm very busy. I must find them immediately!





Papuduk and Spotty wanted to ask it what it was looking for in such a rush, but the squirrel had already moved away. When not knowing what to make of this, they lifted their heads to call the magpie and saw it playing at the high branches of the tree.



Seeing its friends, the magpie left its game unfinished and came over to Papuduk and Spotty. Papuduk rapidly told it what had happened. These mysterious goings-on intrigued the magpie, too, and it joined the seedling research group at once.





They finally went to inform the Pink Porcupine. When they reached their friend's den, the three buddies' eyes almost popped out of their heads. Papuduk spoke excitedly:

Just look! There's also the same seedling at the entrance of this burrow. The Pink Porcupine should know the mystery of these seedlings. I think we'll find the answer to all our questions here.

The three buddies started to call their friend excitedly.





Pink Porcupine!  
Pink Porcupine!  
Are you there?

I am but what in the  
world is this racket early  
in the morning, eh? I say!  
What is this seedling?




This question of Pink Porcupine's caused our three buddies to become disappointed. They went to it, and told their friend all that had happened. Pink Porcupine, who listened to their story in awe, also decided to join the group.





They thought about what to do first. Who would have known this, they wondered. While thinking, they again saw a seedling just ahead which wasn't there before. Getting more and more excited, they decided to hide. They would wait until they saw who planted these seedlings.





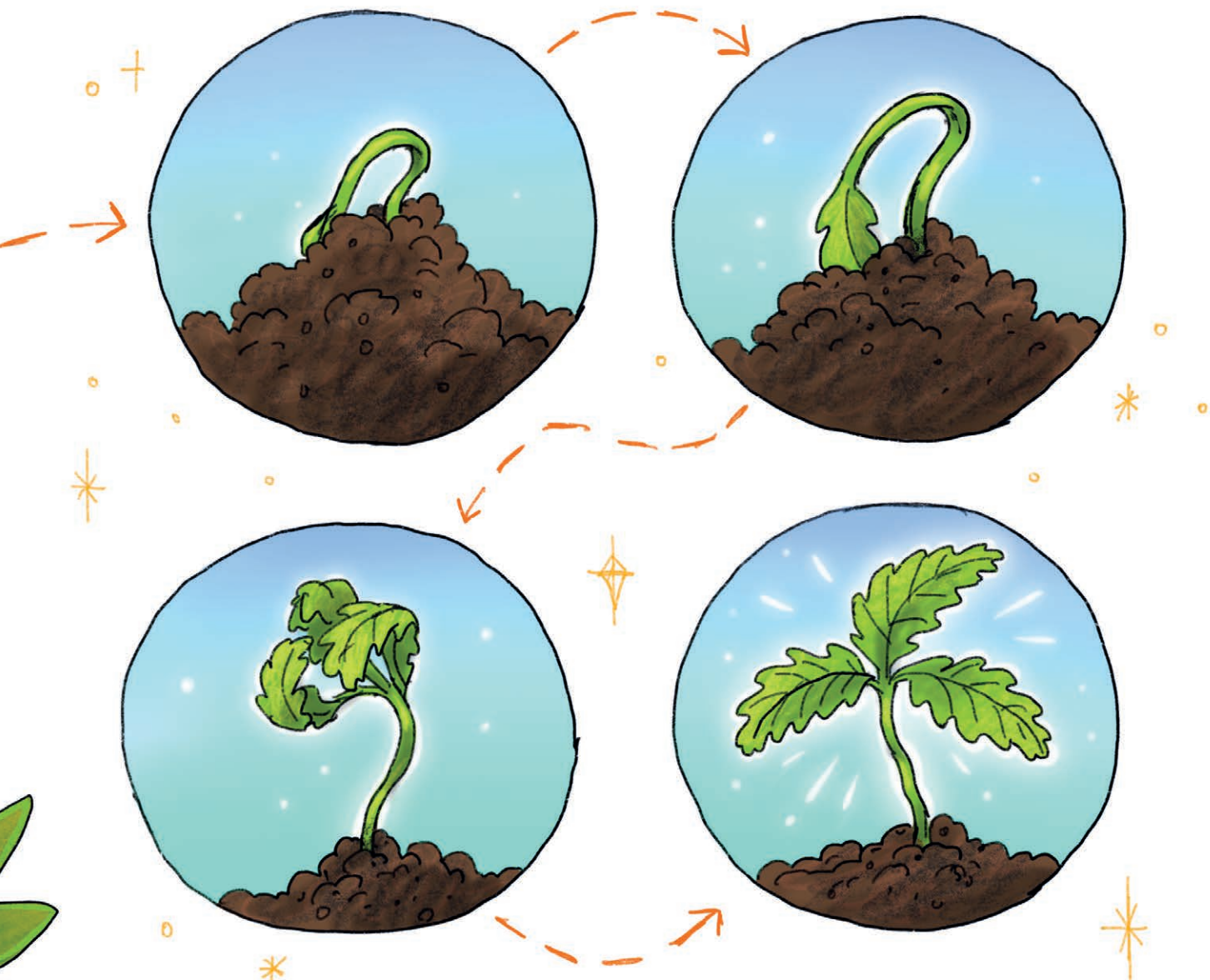
The two rabbits immediately hid behind the bushes just a little further, the magpie perched on a branch, and the porcupine dug a little hollow for itself. They started to watch silently.

Well then, how would you solve this mystery if it were you?

All the team were impatient to learn whatever was happening. Papuduk wanted to solve this secret as soon as possible so that it'd go and tell its mother.








Just then a new seedling said hello to life, before their very eyes. They witnessed the seedling crack the ground and reach for the sky.

The four friends who couldn't understand what was happening came out of their hideouts in awe and rallied around the seedling.



They have realised that someone didn't come and plant these seedlings. But then how? The agitated squirrel that they had seen just now approached our team running again. It bent over the newly emerging seedling.





It's not here, either... But I'm sure that I put it here.

Will you tell us what you're looking for?

We squirrels pick acorns every autumn and hide them in places to eat in winter. As you know, the winter has past. I ate most of the acorns I had hidden. I want to eat the remaining ones now, but I just can't find them. I'm sure that I had buried one right here, but instead of the acorn I came across with this seedling.



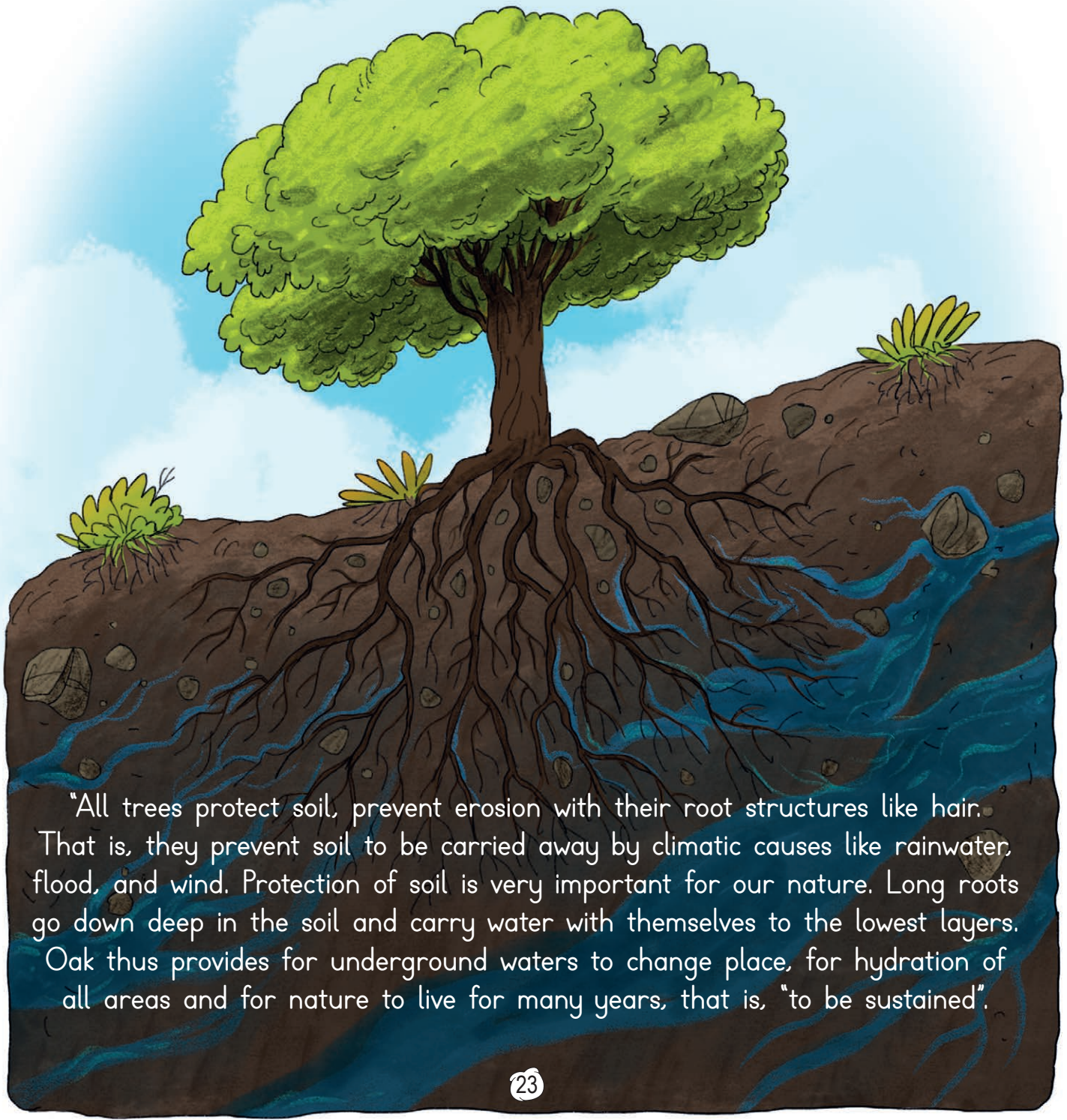
Just then they heard a thunderous laughter.

As they all tried to find where the laughter came from,  
the owner of the voice, the lofty oak tree, started to talk.



"Children, the oak tree is one of the oldest tree species of Anatolia. With its deep, powerful roots and durable trunk it lives for very long years. It has spread almost to all the regions of Turkey, and there are no less than eighteen species living in Turkey."






"All trees protect soil, prevent erosion with their root structures like hair. That is, they prevent soil to be carried away by climatic causes like rainwater, flood, and wind. Protection of soil is very important for our nature. Long roots go down deep in the soil and carry water with themselves to the lowest layers. Oak thus provides for underground waters to change place, for hydration of all areas and for nature to live for many years, that is, "to be sustained".









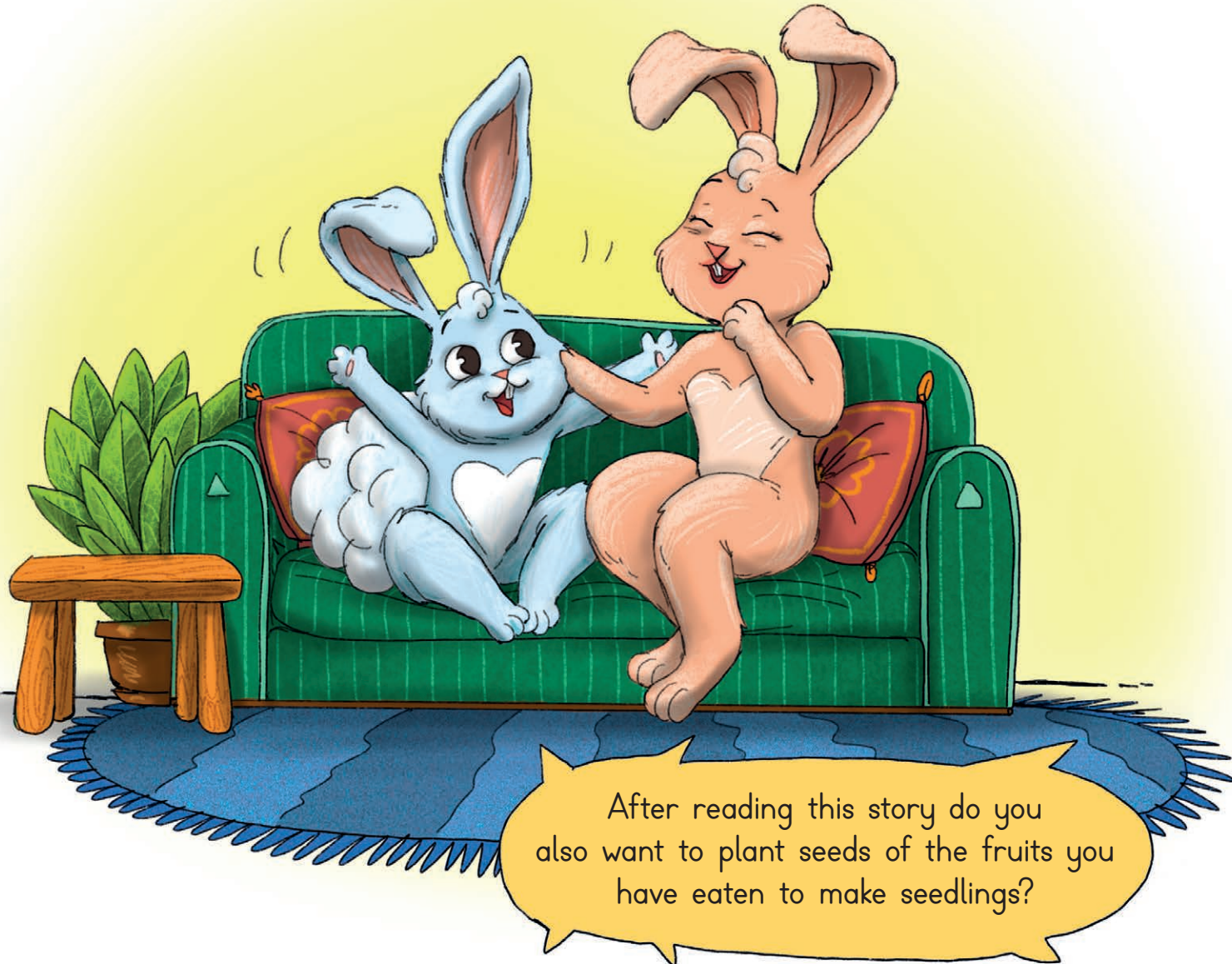
"Trees with gigantic and powerful trunks are the natural shelters of various animals. They nurture the soil and animals with their leaves and fruits. Most of the endemic species that are rare and are faced with the danger of being annihilated in our day, live in oakwoods. 'Endemic' means that which grows only in certain areas depending on the nature of that area. Oaks don't hinder the growth of other trees and grass, they live together with them. The oak is hospitable and peaceful."

They comprehended at that moment:  
Some of the hatted acorns that the squirrels  
hide for winter woke up underground to say hello to a new life.  
So nature prepares new trees for future generations.





Papuduk and its friends ran home with the happiness of discovering this knowledge and told everyone about the mystery of the seedling.

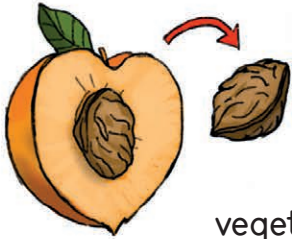


After reading this story do you also want to plant seeds of the fruits you have eaten to make seedlings?

## PLAYTIME

Hello,

I envision a small acorn. Then I imagine that acorn to transform into a delicate seedling, and later to become a gigantic tree with its enormous trunk. In fact, this isn't imagination. Because what I'm talking about is only one of the wonderful miracles of nature. That is, a fact.

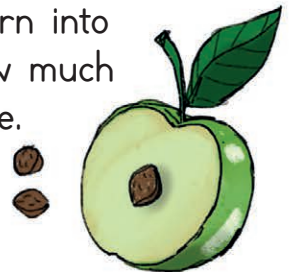


Alright, is this transformation of a tiny acorn to a gigantic tree only valid for oaks? Of course not.



Now brace yourself! You know the fruits and vegetables bought from a market or a greengrocer, the kernels of them are also a seed in fact. Moreover, there are itsy-bitsy green dots on the strawberry. They are also a seed each. Think of apricots, apples, peaches, they all have kernels: Alright then, what do you do with them?

Unfortunately many people throw the kernels of the fruits and vegetables they eat in the garbage bin. Whereas instead of this we can play "being a squirrel" game with you. How? Actually it's very simple. Starting with today, you will collect the kernels of all fruits and vegetables you have eaten in a place. Without keeping these kernels for a long time, you will plant them in a flowerpot or a garden near your house. Soon afterwards, you will see these kernels turn into seedlings. Who knows, maybe these seedlings will grow much bigger and you would have grown your own tree.





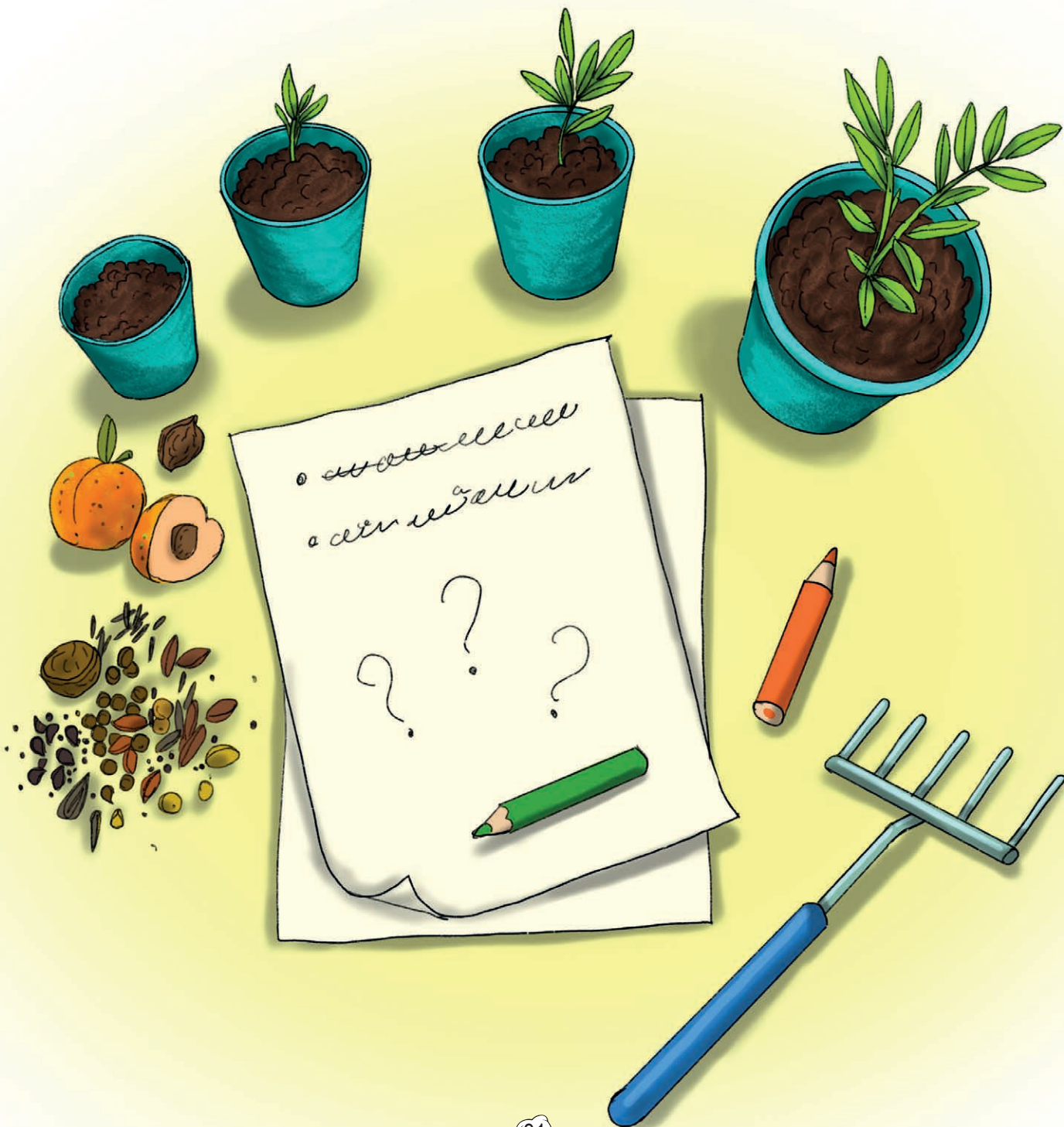




## LET'S ANSWER

1. During winter the leaves of which trees don't change colour?  
Do you remember?
2. My mother knew the mystery of the seedlings but she didn't tell me when I asked her. Why do you think she didn't tell me when she knew the answer?
3. The seedlings drew my attention. I was curious and I started researching. For that purpose I decided to ask my friends for help and make a team. What do you do when you encounter something you don't know and are curious about? For example, what was the last thing you were curious about? What had you done to learn?
4. Together with my friends we hid and watched the seedlings and tried to learn who planted them. With what the squirrel and the oak tree told us, we were able to crack the secret of the magical seedlings. What other methods do you think we could have used for this?
5. Seeds to seedlings, seedlings to tree, trees to woods...  
What can you do to help this cycle of nature that works perfectly?
6. We talked about seeds, kernels, the wonderful cycle of nature. All of these provide our world to be more green and more full of trees. But why do we need trees? What is the vital importance of trees for humans, animals and plants? What vital importance do trees have for humans, animals, and plants?





**Tolga Öztoran**



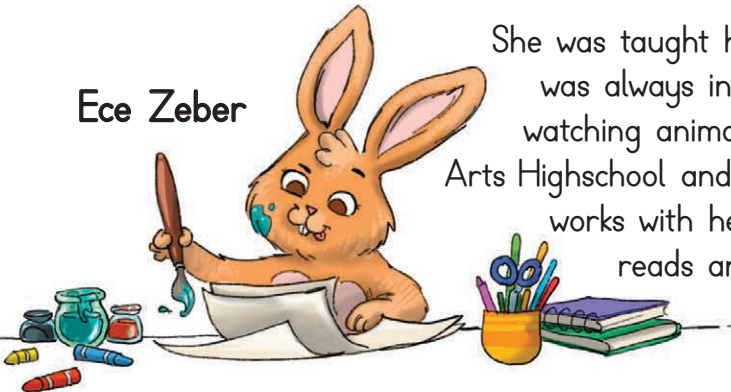
Born in Istanbul in 1977, he graduated from Sakarya University and worked in event companies. He dedicated half of his life to the freedom struggle of stray animals. He shot short films, made radio programs, trained children. He was chosen as Difference Maker by the Sabancı Foundation. He lives in Istanbul and shares his home with a great number of disabled animals.

**Lider Hepgenç**



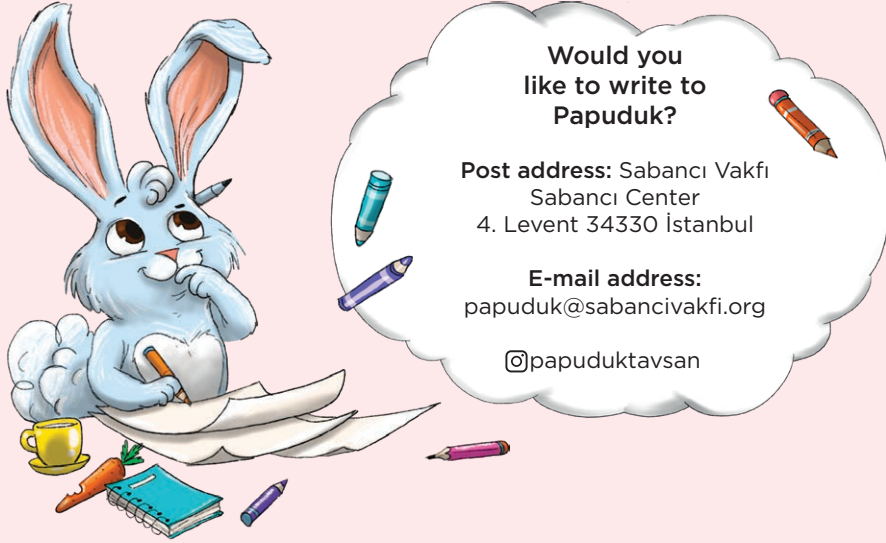
He was born in Izmir in 1987. While serving as sergeant, he decided to let go of his military career and go ahead with his life as creative drama instructor. Ever since, he has carried on creative drama work with children in museums, bookstores, and schools, also writing children's books. He tries to lead a life full of games with his son Adem, his cats Sütlaç and Sufle.

**Ece Zeber**



She was taught how to draw by her mother and father. She was always interested in drawing, also reading books and watching animation films. She studied Art at Balıkesir Fine Arts Highschool and Animation at Anatolia University. Now she works with her husband from home in Eskişehir. She still reads and illustrates children's books and fantasizes.





## Papuduk and the Magical Seedling

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**Translated by:** Sevin Okyay

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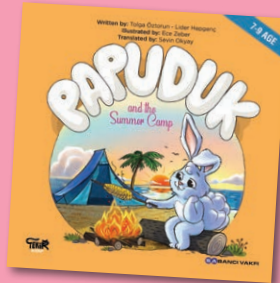
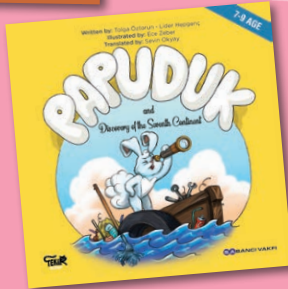
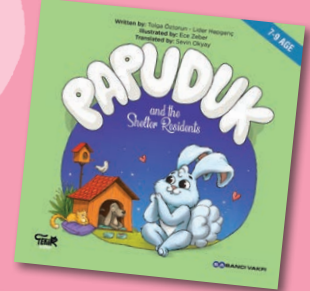
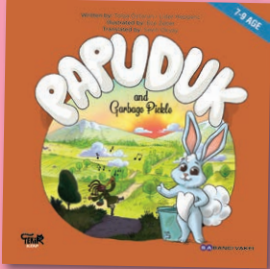
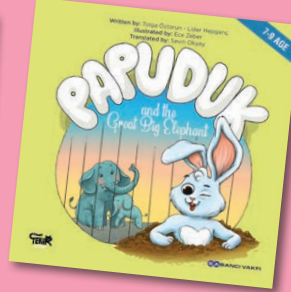
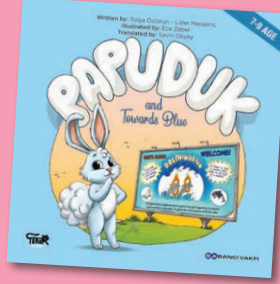
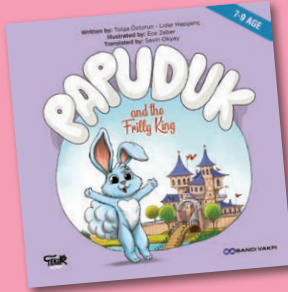
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**You will love Papuduk who embarks on a new adventure in each book to dissuade people from acts that harm animals and nature.**