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Pattu the Poet



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KAPWING

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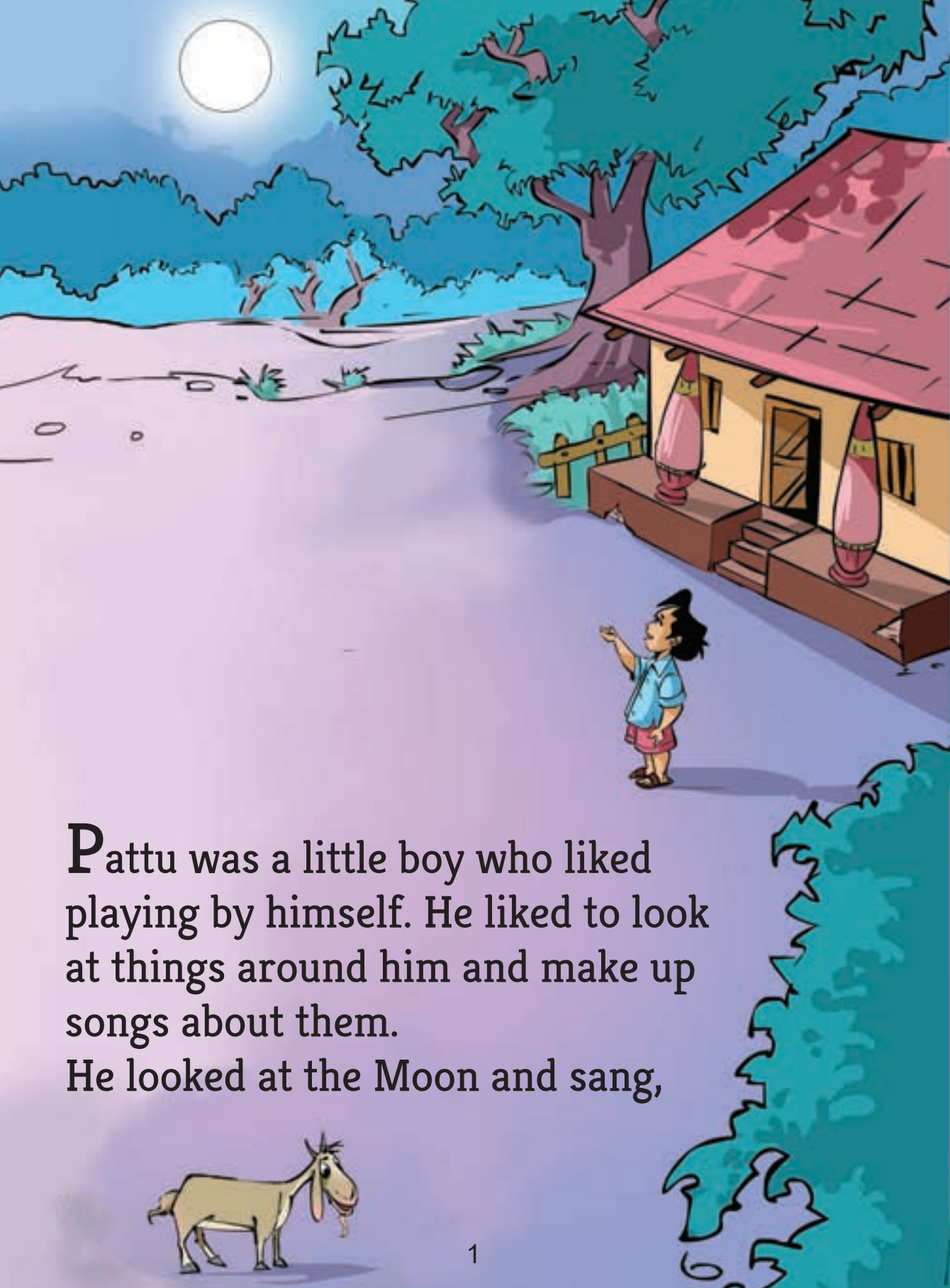
Classics for Kids

Pattu the Poet

Story told by
Indira Ananthakrishnan

Illustrations
M. Subramanian





Pattu was a little boy who liked playing by himself. He liked to look at things around him and make up songs about them. He looked at the Moon and sang,



“Man on the Moon,
Man on the Moon,
Grant me a boon,
To fly to you soon!”

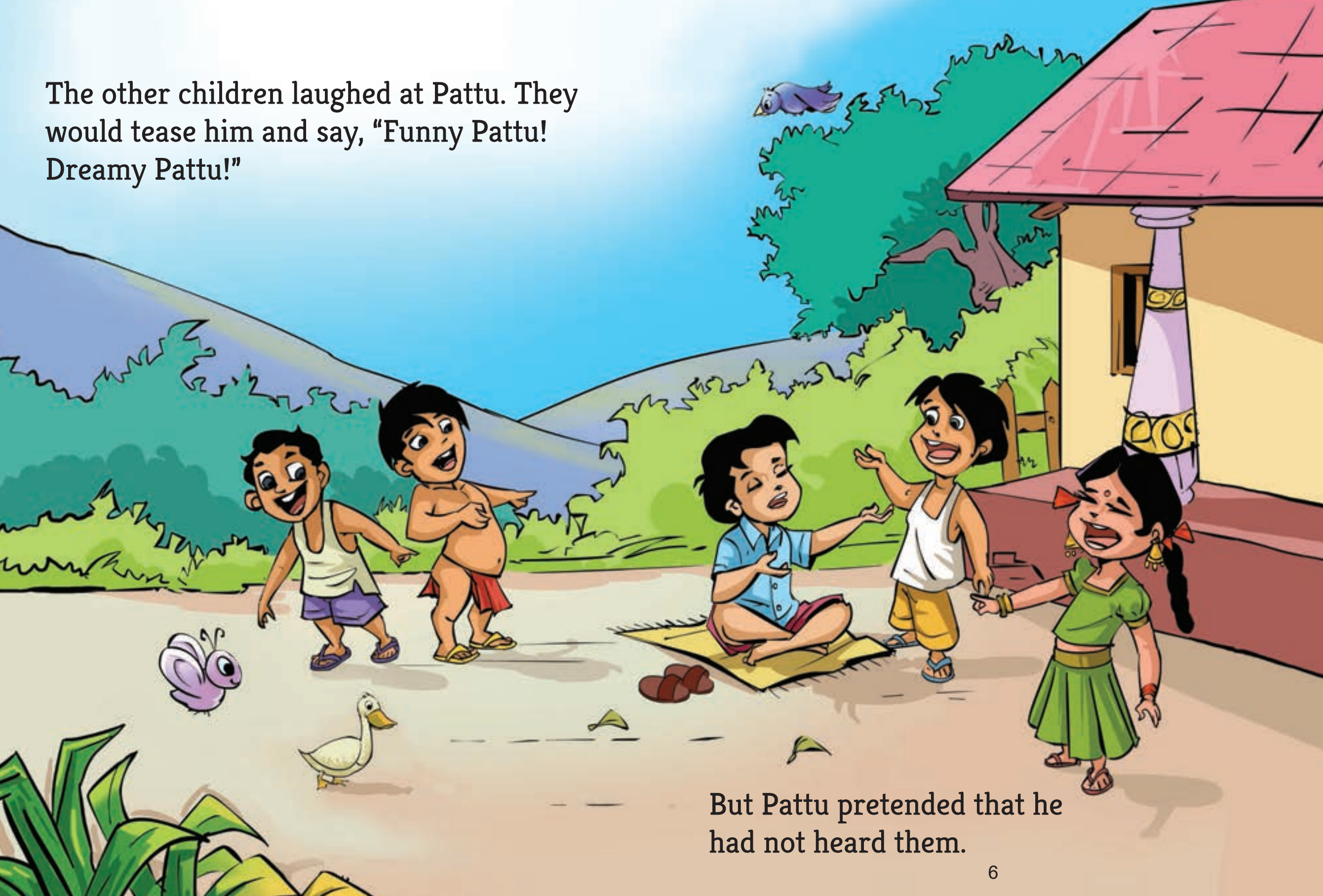
Pattu saw that the man on the Moon had a big smile on his face. He clapped his hands happily.

Pattu was about to eat a rasgulla, when a fly sat on it. Pattu scolded the fly.

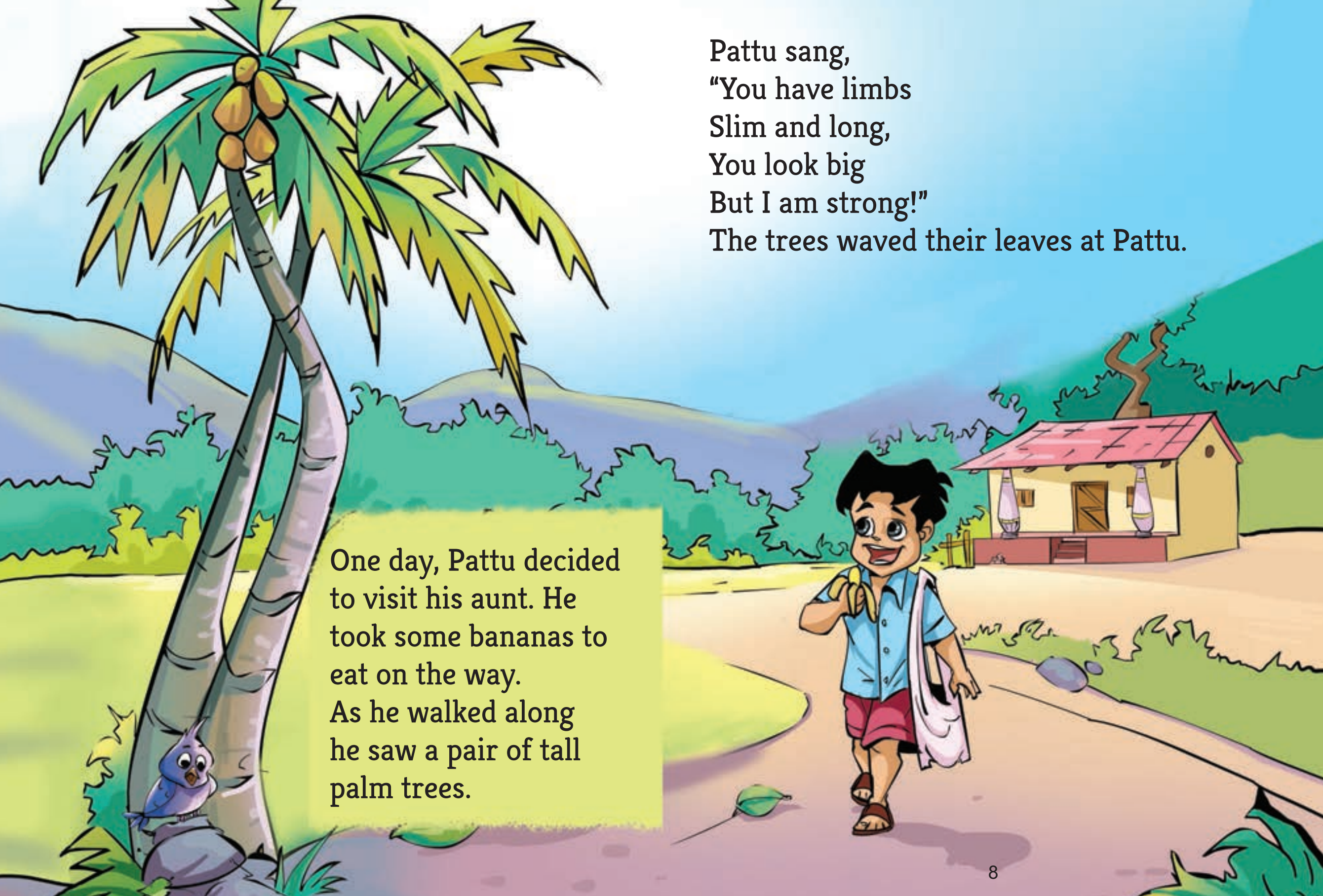
“Are you trying to eat
My sweet?
Fly away,
Or you pay!”
The fly flew away quickly.



The other children laughed at Pattu. They would tease him and say, "Funny Pattu! Dreamy Pattu!"



But Pattu pretended that he had not heard them.



Pattu sang,
"You have limbs
Slim and long,
You look big
But I am strong!"
The trees waved their leaves at Pattu.

One day, Pattu decided
to visit his aunt. He
took some bananas to
eat on the way.
As he walked along
he saw a pair of tall
palm trees.



As Pattu walked on, he saw an owl staring at him from a tree. Pattu sang to the owl,
“Big eyes, big eyes,
How you stare!
Trying to scare me?
I don’t care!”

The owl closed his eyes, tucked his head under his wing and went to sleep.





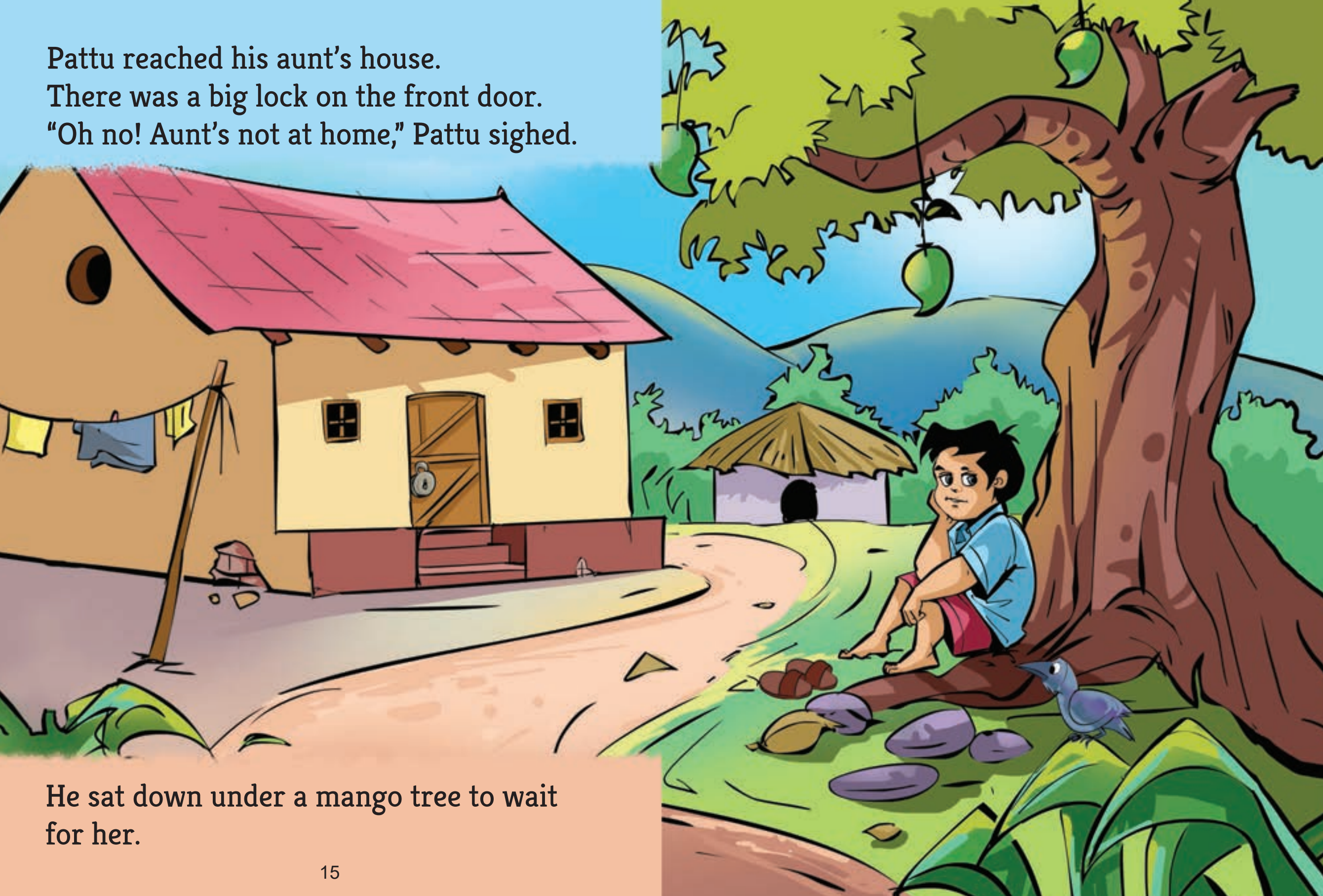
Near by, he saw a dog digging a hole in the mud with his paws. As he dug, the mud flew up all around him and over him.

Pattu felt hungry. He sat down on a log and took out a banana from his bag. He peeled it and began to eat.

Pattu laughed and sang,
“Why are you digging,
A hole so big?
You look as if
You’re dancing a jig.”
The dog wiggled his nose at Pattu.



Pattu reached his aunt's house.
There was a big lock on the front door.
"Oh no! Aunt's not at home," Pattu sighed.



He sat down under a mango tree to wait
for her.



A tall, thin thief was tip-toeing up to the house with his bundle of loot. He heard Pattu's song and stopped. Somebody had seen him! He stared around but could see nobody.

It soon became dark and Pattu felt sleepy. "I'll keep myself awake by singing," he thought.

He sang the song he had made up for the palm trees.

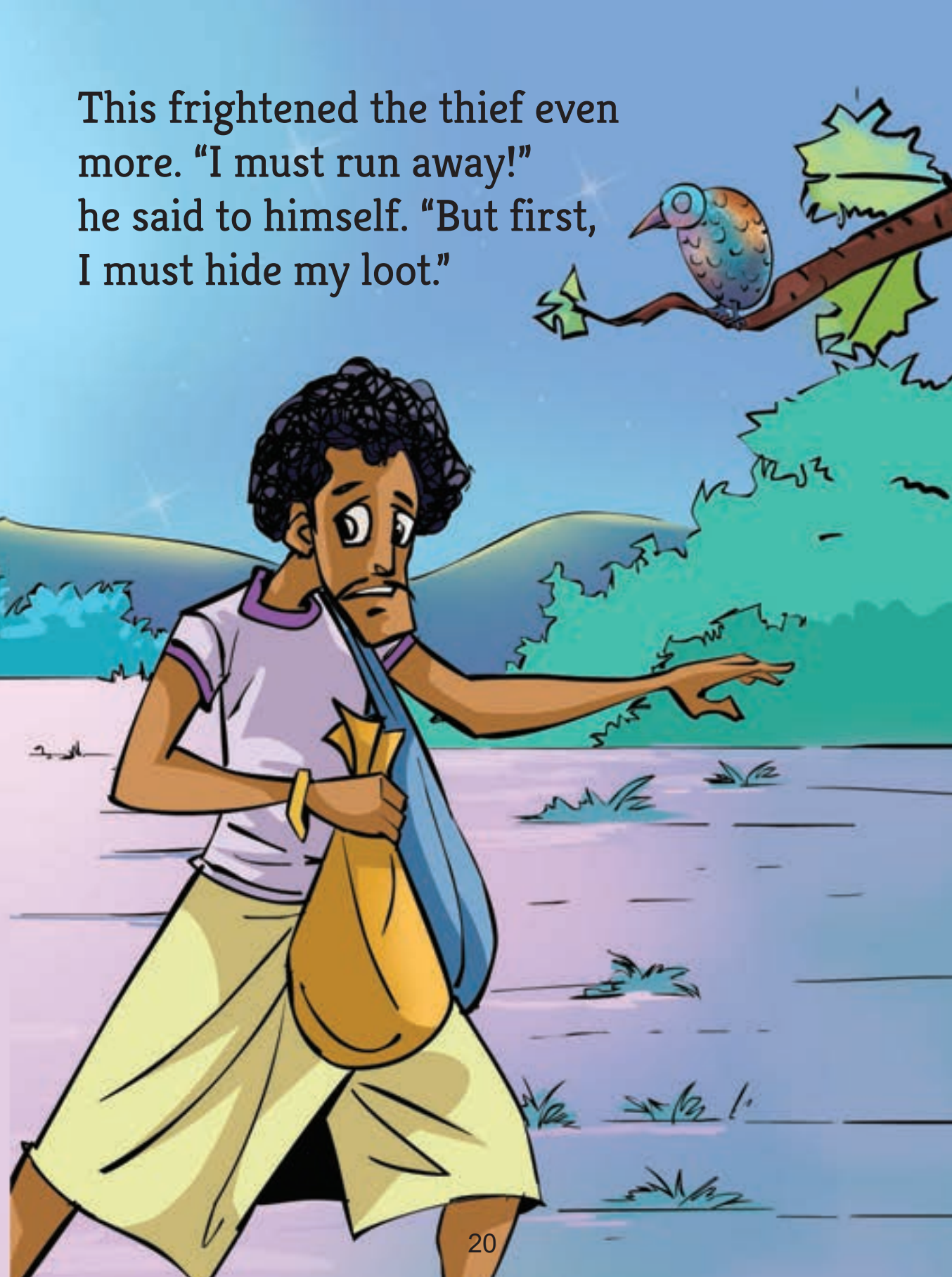
"You have limbs slim and long,
You look big but I am strong!"





An owl flew down from the sky. Pattu remembered his song about the owl. He sang it again, "Big eyes, big eyes, how you stare! Trying to scare me? I don't care!"

This frightened the thief even more. "I must run away!" he said to himself. "But first, I must hide my loot."





The thief took a shovel and began to dig a hole in the ground to bury his loot.

"I'll come back and take it when it is safe," he thought.
He dug and dug till the mud flew all around him.



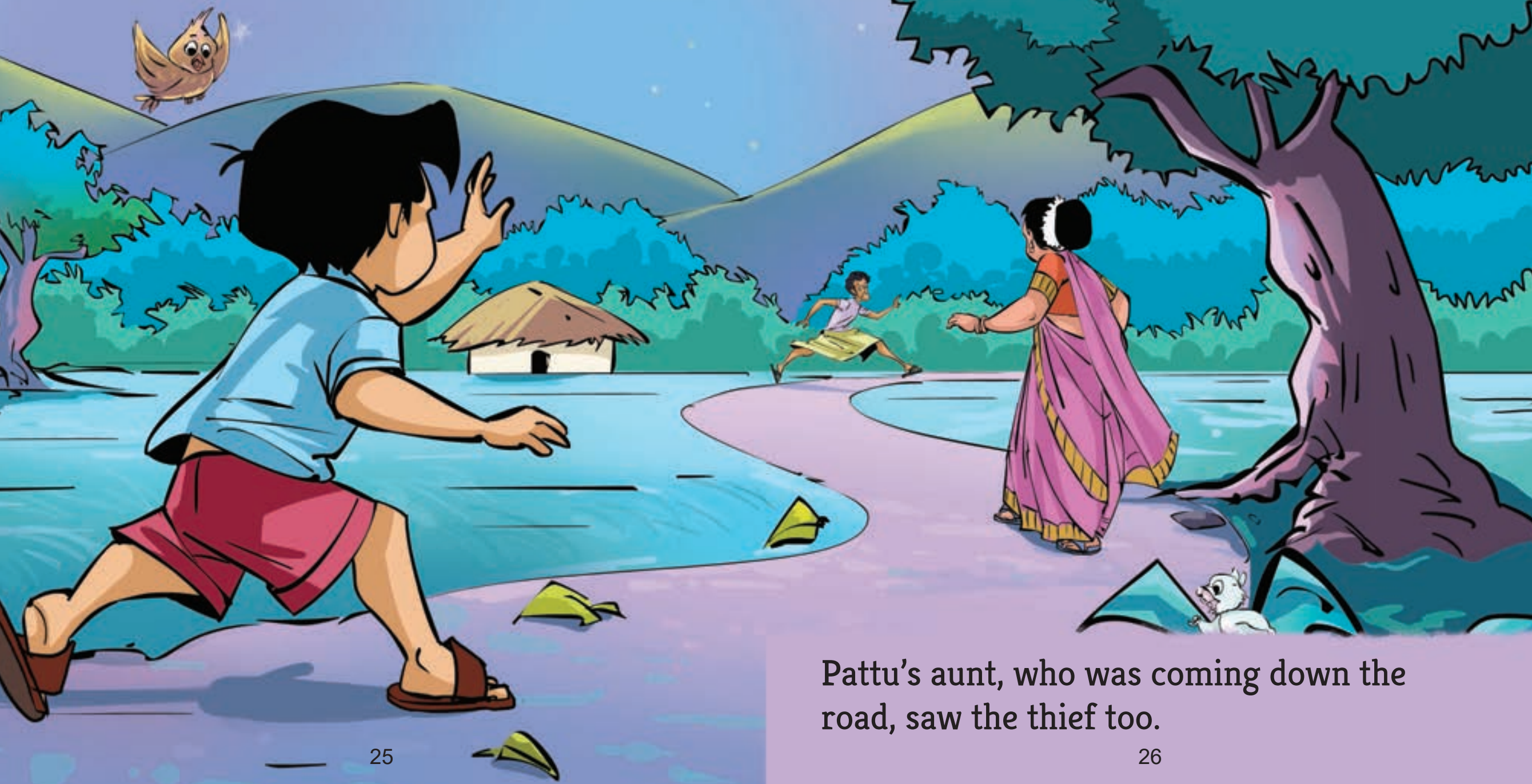
Just then, Pattu
remembered the song
he had sung for the dog.
He sang loudly,

“Why are you digging,
A hole so big?
You look as if
You’re dancing a jig.”
The thief had heard enough. He threw down
the shovel and ran like the wind!

CRASH



Pattu heard the crash and saw the thief running away.
“Stop! Thief!” he shouted
and ran after him.



Pattu's aunt, who was coming down the
road, saw the thief too.



But the thief ran so fast

ZOOOOOOOOOM

that they could not catch him.

Pattu and his aunt went back home.

She ran after the thief with Pattu.
“Catch the thief!” they cried.

ZOOOOOM

“How did you scare away the thief?” asked Pattu’s aunt. “I don’t know. I was just sitting under the tree and singing my songs,” said Pattu.

They collected all the stolen things that the thief had left behind and took them into the house.

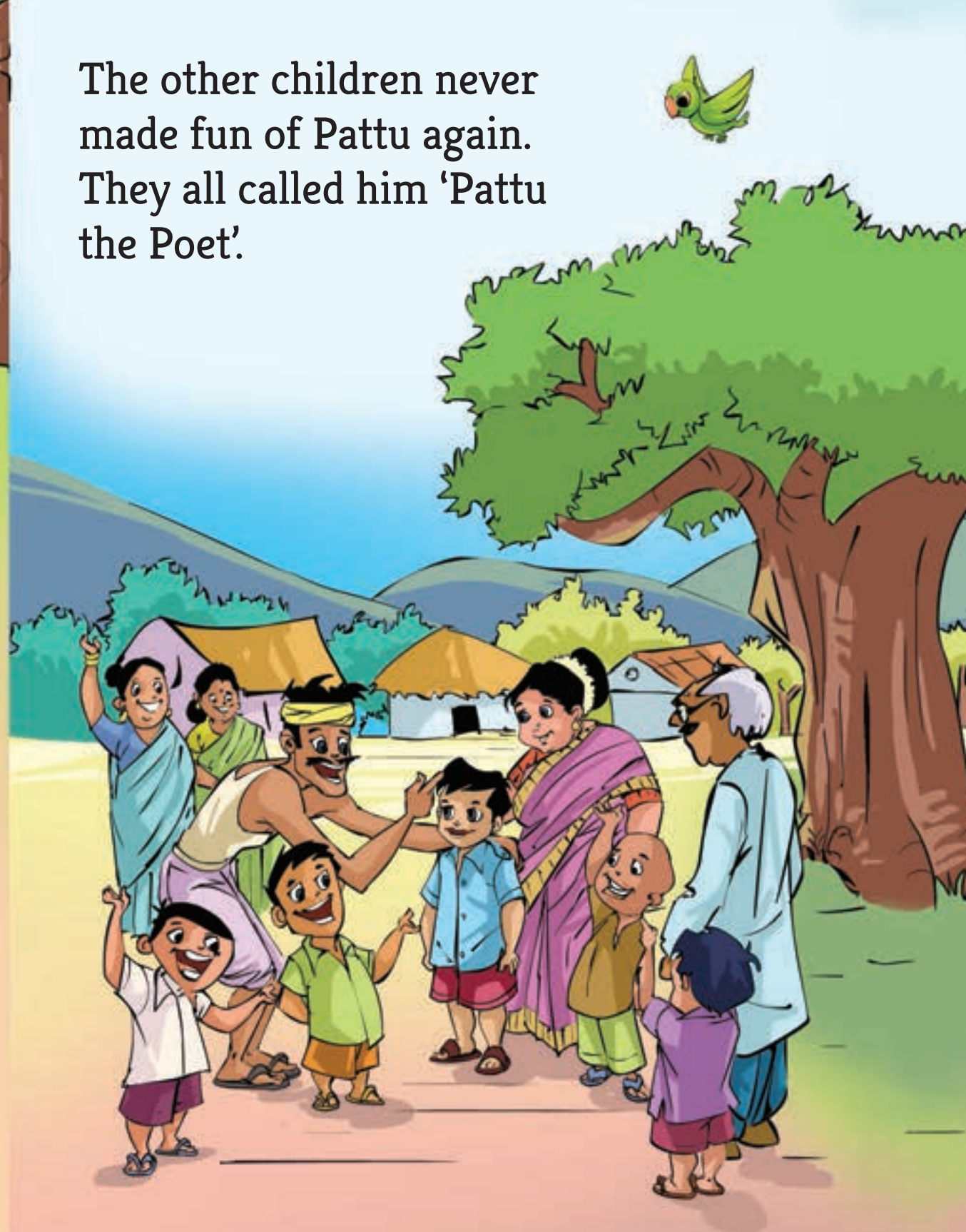




The next morning, Pattu and his aunt went to the village and returned the stolen things to their owners.

Everyone heard how Pattu had scared off the thief with his rhymes. They all said how clever he was!

The other children never made fun of Pattu again. They all called him 'Pattu the Poet'.





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KAPWING

Learning

Boon A special wish

Rasgulla A sweet made from milk

Slim Thin

Stare To look, without blinking, for a long time

Tucked Put under

Ladder

Jig A dance

Tip-toeing Walking silently on toes

Bundle Many things packed together

loot Stolen things

