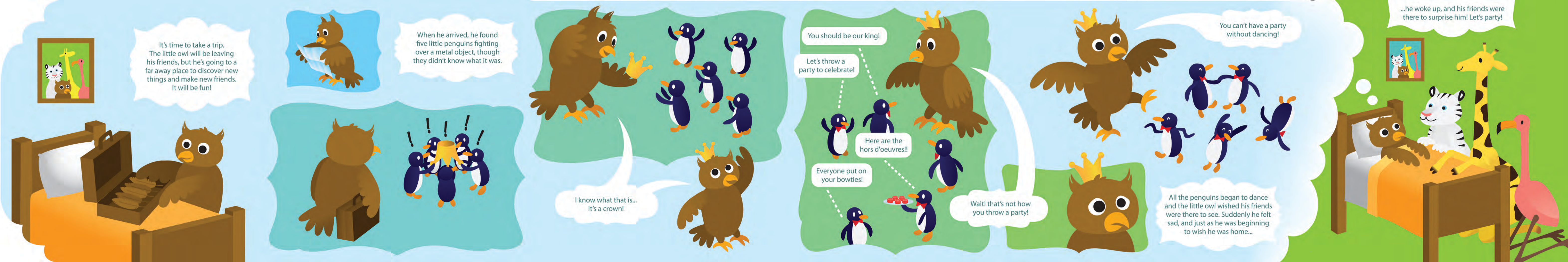


Time For A Trip

Written and Illustrated by Janna Laxton

This book is dedicated to Taylor, age 16



Safe Haven Family Shelter assists families in need with housing, food, and counseling in the Nashville and middle Tennessee area. In a project initiated by Bryce McCloud of Isle of Printing, our Illustration 3 class got a chance to meet some of the children of families living at Safe Haven, to tell their stories.

I had the pleasure of meeting Taylor, a polite and sensible young man who loves his family and his friends. Most of the elements of this story are derived from my conversation with him. I asked him what his favorite animal was, and without hesitation he said an owl because they are observant and considered wise. I asked him how he sees himself, and he said he also feels like he is observant, and that he likes helping people. He talked a lot about his friends, so I asked him what kind of animals he thought they were like.

I asked him, "what is home?" At first, he gave a generic answer about being surrounded by people you love, where you feel at peace, etc. But then he said something very interesting. "If you go somewhere, like a different country...when you come back, you feel at home." I really loved the idea of home not being about where you are--but where you return to, and decided to make this story reflect that concept.

Home is the place you come back to