

LEVELED BOOK • J

The Ship of Shapes



Written by Rus Buyok • Illustrated by Mike Bowers

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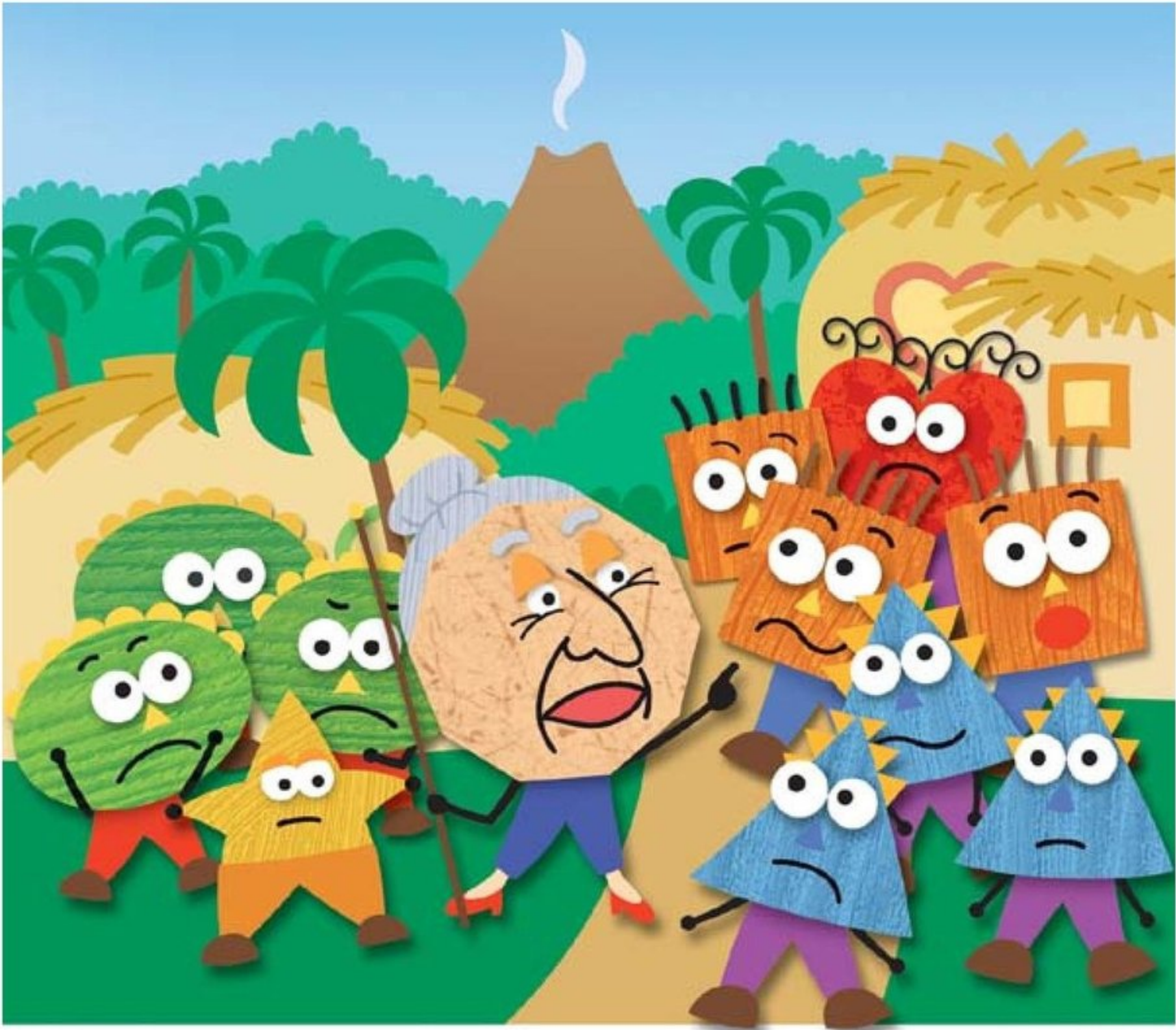


One day, **Elder** Decagon saw that the shapes on Shape **Island** had become lazy.

They sat in their huts, fanning themselves until it was time to eat.



The different shapes didn't like to spend time with each other. The Rectangles stayed with the Rectangles, the Circles with the Circles, and so on.



Elder Decagon came up with a **plan**.

“Oh, oh, oh!” she exclaimed.

Worried, the shapes gathered around her.

“Big Scary Fire Mountain just spoke,” she said.

“It will **erupt** soon, and all our pants will be on fire.”

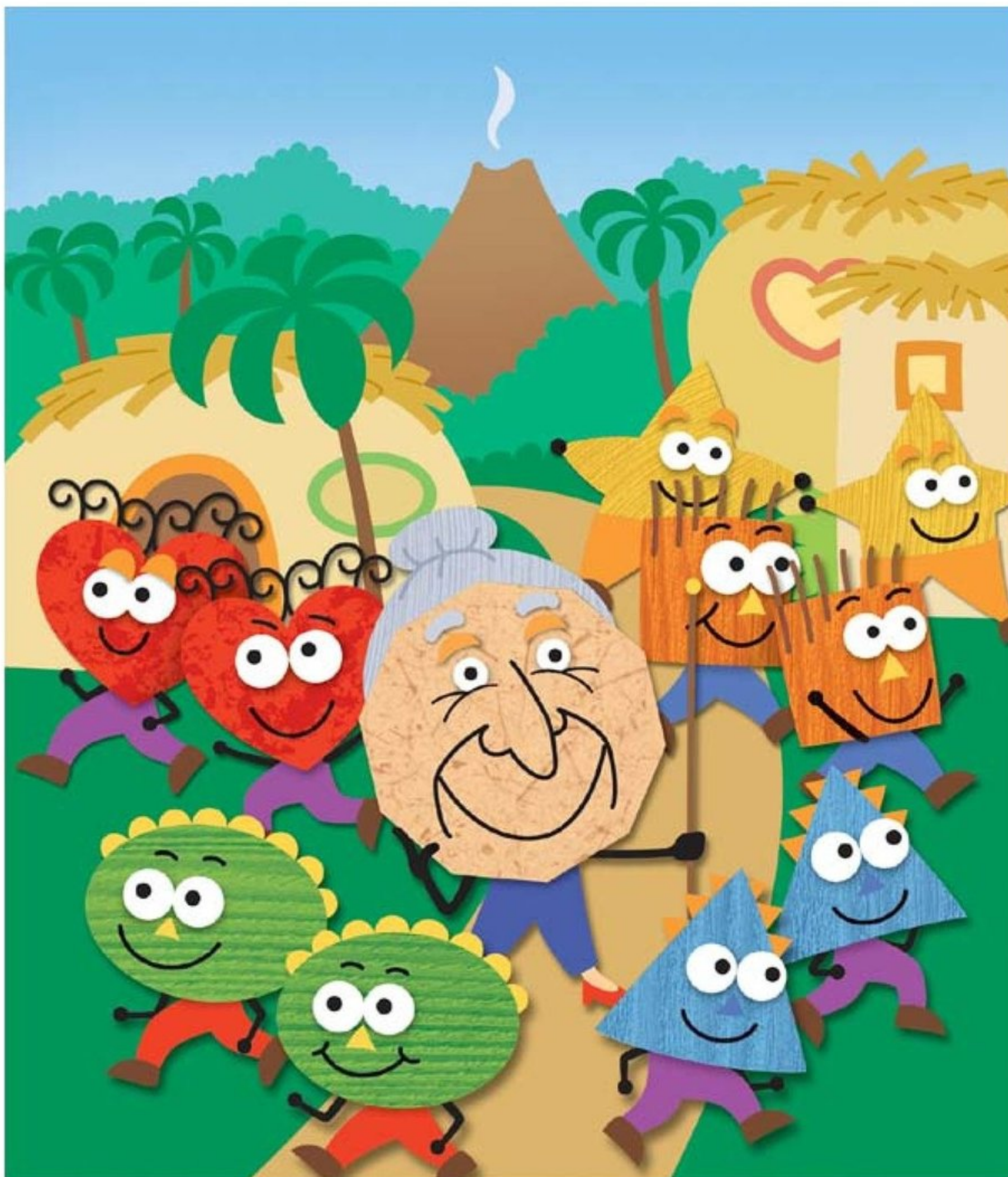
“We must leave the island!”



The shapes were **confused**
and scared.

“Didn’t you hear me?”

“Pants will be on fire!” Elder Decagon
yelled.



“What should we do?” the shapes asked.

“You should build a ship,” she said very slowly.

The shapes cheered for the great idea and hurried off to begin.



The next day, Elder Decagon was surprised to see many ships on the beach.

Each ship was meant for only one kind of shape.



“None of these ships are **shipshape**,” she said.

“The Triangles’ boat will tip in the water.”

“The Ovals’ ship will float, but it won’t move.”

“The Squares’ ship will move, but too slowly.”



“What should we do?” the shapes asked.

“You should build one big ship,” Elder Decagon said very slowly.

This time, the shapes didn’t cheer. They weren’t sure how to work together.



Elder Decagon picked up a stick and started to draw.

She showed them how the Squares' sails would move the Ovals' boat.

The Triangles' bottom would keep it from tipping.

The Stars' propeller and the Hearts' oars would help the ship move faster.

In the end, all of the shapes went into the ship.



The shapes stared at the drawing,
but no one moved.

“Pants will be on fire!” Elder Decagon
yelled.

The shapes went to work.



When it was finished, all the shapes climbed onto the ship.

They waited for Big Scary Fire Mountain to erupt, but it never did. The shapes asked Elder Decagon why it didn't.



She just said, “Look at this wonderful, shipshape ship.”

“It shows that if you work hard together, you can go anywhere and do anything.”

Glossary

confused (<i>adj.</i>)	unclear or uncertain about something (p. 6)
elder (<i>n.</i>)	someone with authority because of his or her age and experience (p. 3)
erupt (<i>v.</i>)	to forcefully eject something that has been pent up, as from a volcano; to come out in a sudden explosion (p. 5)
island (<i>n.</i>)	an area of land surrounded by water (p. 3)
plan (<i>n.</i>)	a way of making or doing something (p. 5)
shipshape (<i>adj.</i>)	clean, neat, or tidy; organized or put together well (p. 9)

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