

LEVELED Book • I

We Make Maple Syrup



Written by Karen Mockler • Illustrated by Linda Pierce

We Make Maple Syrup

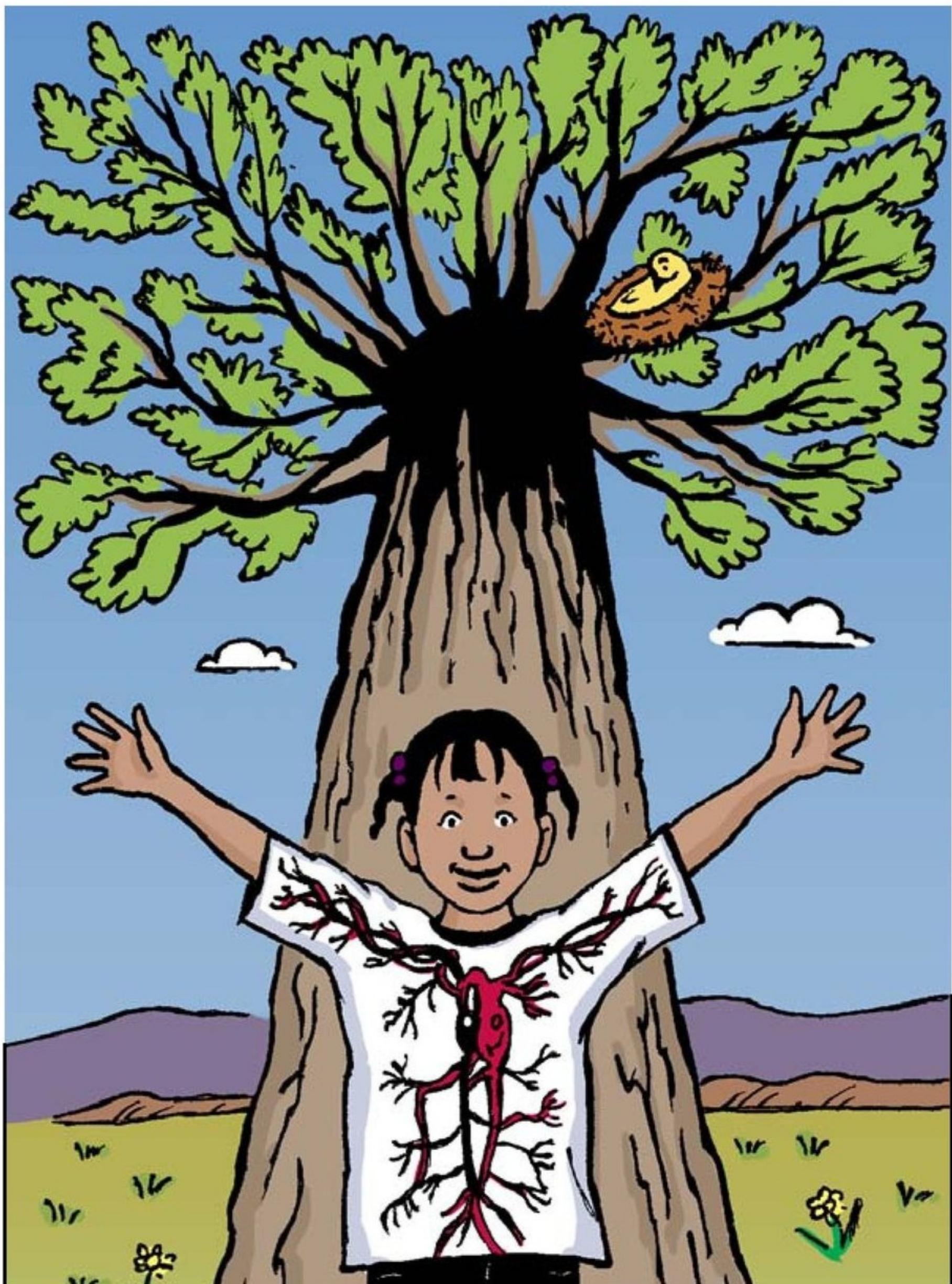


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This is my family.
Every March, we make **maple syrup**.



Real maple syrup comes from
maple **sap**.

Sap is the juice in trees.
It's sort of like the blood in us.



March is a good time to get the sap.
It's still cold outside, but we wear our
boots and hats.

We go out to the woods behind my
grandparents' home.
We look for maple trees.



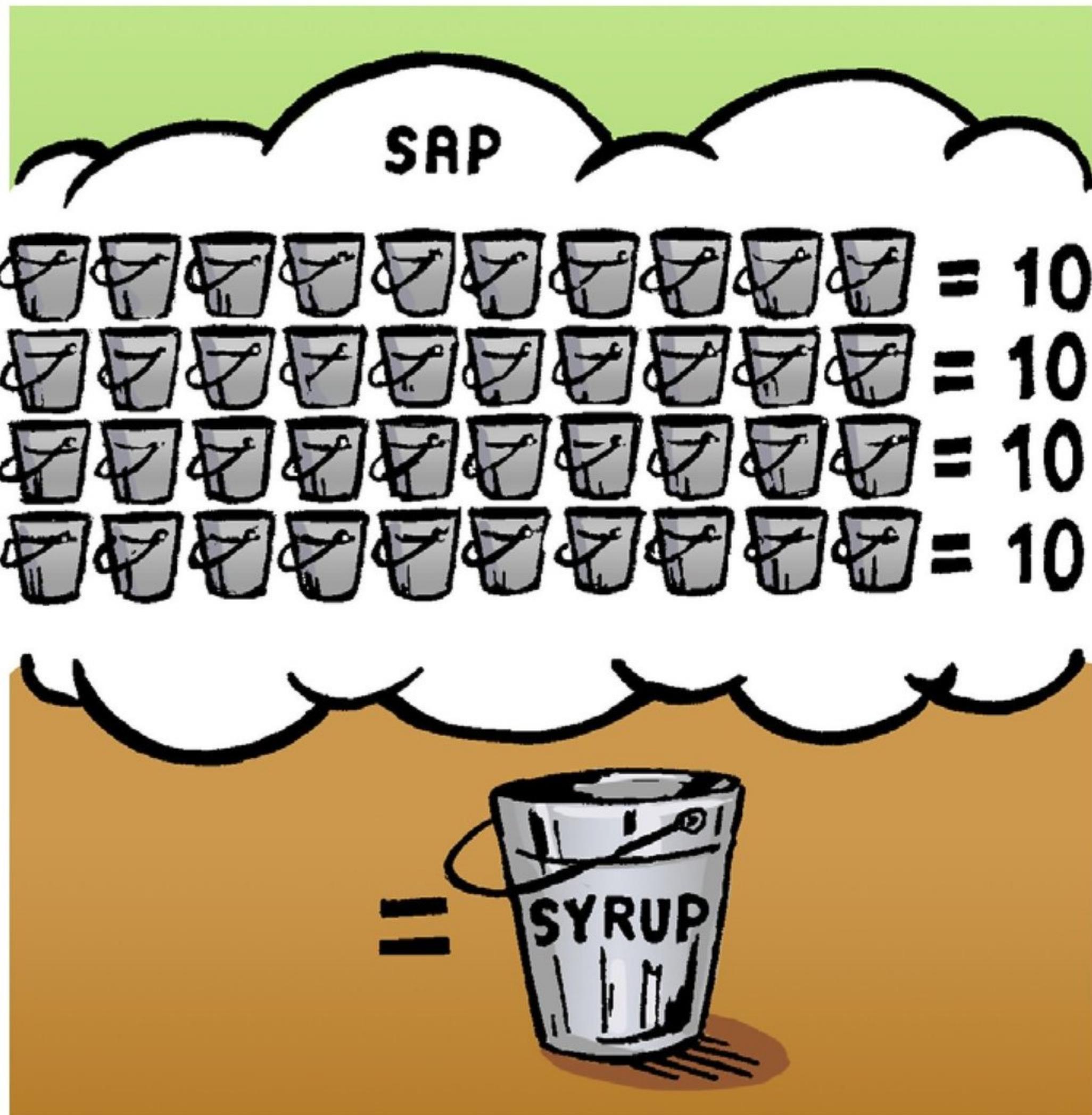
To **tap** a tree, we **drill** a hole.



We push a **spout** in the hole.
Then we hang a bucket under it
to get the sap.
We tap the big trees.
Big trees have the most sap.



We wait for the first drip. *Ping!*
One more drip, and we're on to the
next tree.



All that day, we let the sap drip.
Before dark, we look into our buckets.
We have a lot of sap, but we
want more.
Forty buckets of sap boil down to
make one bucket of syrup!



The next day, we look again.
Now we have what we want.



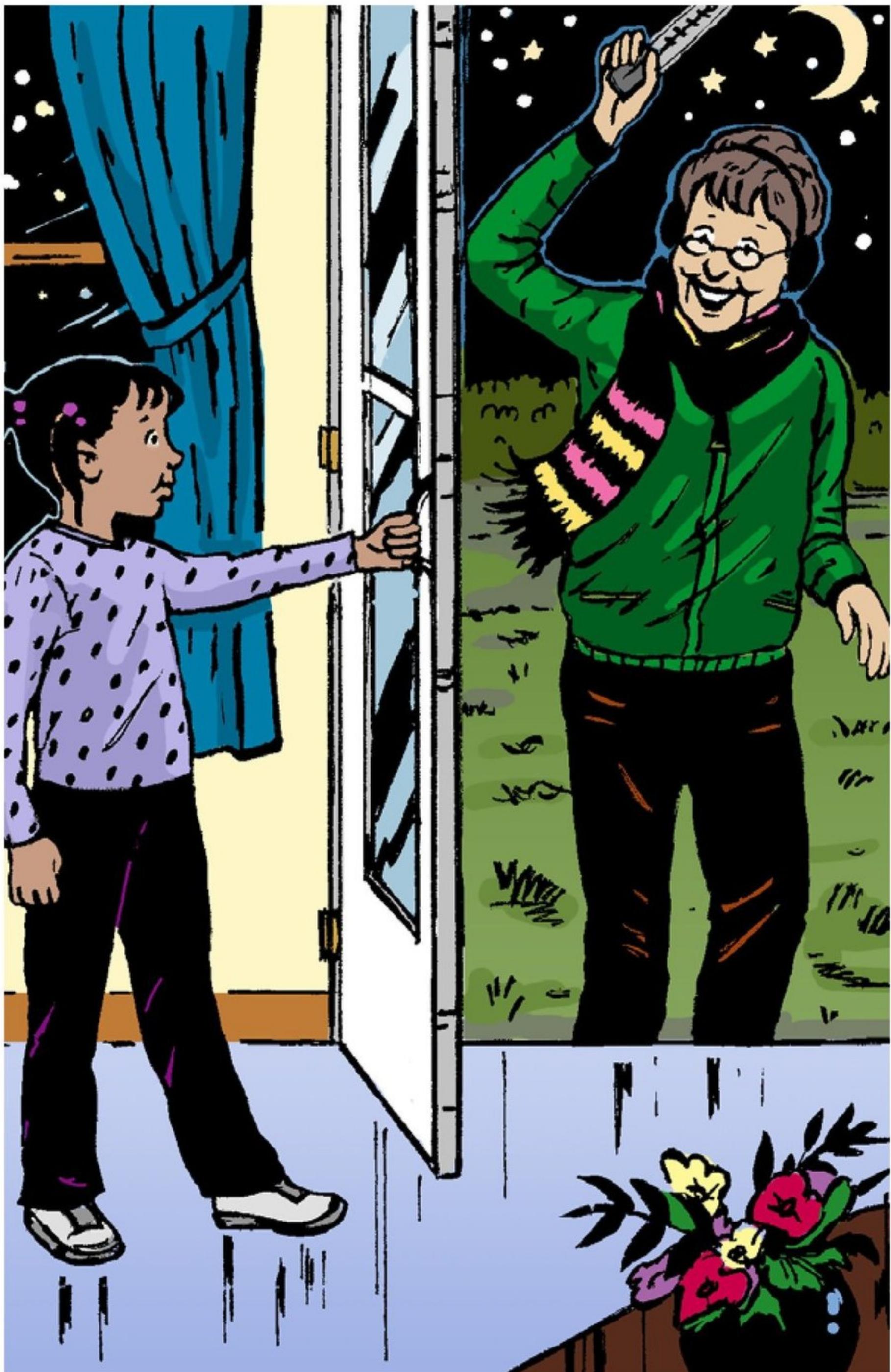
We **boil** the sap outside in two
large pans.

It boils for hours, giving off
a sticky steam.

Now and then, we add more sap.



We let it boil some more.
It boils all day under a blue sky.
The sky grows dark.
The stars come out.



From outside, Grandma calls, "Time
for dinner! Make those pancakes!"



We do.

The syrup cools while the pancakes
cook.



At last, we get to eat!

The syrup takes work, but it's worth it.

Glossary

boil (v.)	to heat a liquid until it bubbles (p. 11)
drill (v.)	to make a hole with a tool (p. 6)
maple syrup (n.)	a sweet syrup made from the sap of maple trees (p. 3)
sap (n.)	the fluid that carries food through a plant (p. 4)
spout (n.)	a tube, pipe, or hole that allows liquid to pass through (p. 7)
tap (v.)	to make a hole in something to drain off liquid (p. 6)

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