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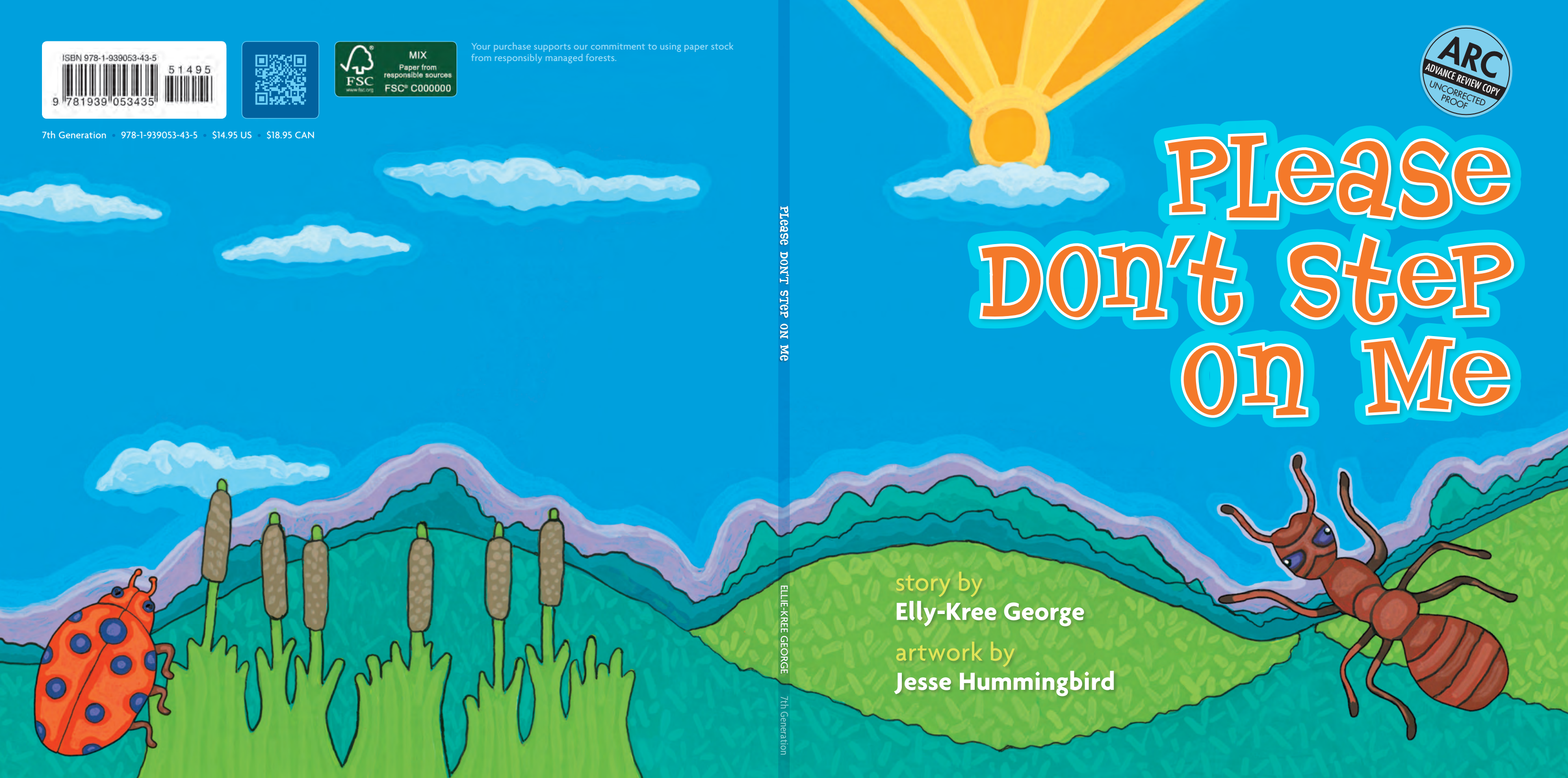
# Please Don't Step on Me

story by  
Elly-Kree George  
artwork by  
Jesse Hummingbird

PLEASE DON'T STEP ON ME

ELLY-KREE GEORGE

7th Generation







PLEASE DON'T  
STEP ON ME



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# PLEASE DON'T STEP ON ME



story by  
**Elly-Kree George**

artwork by  
**Jesse Hummingbird**

7th Generation  
Summertown, Tennessee

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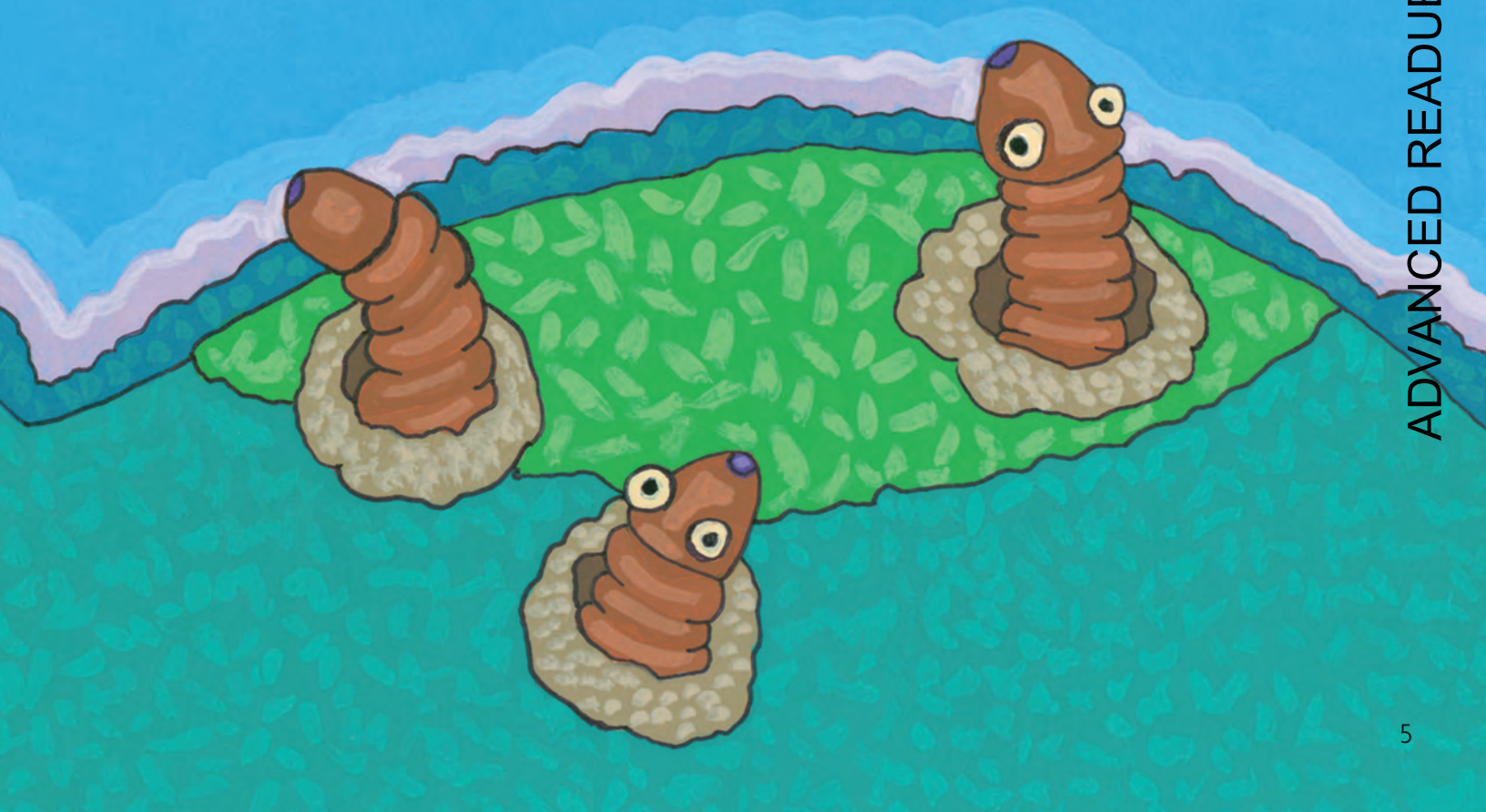


"Hi there!  
Please don't  
step on me!"



I'm WILLIE THE WORM!! I want you to meet some of my friends.  
We want you to be nice to us. C'mon, be our friend.

We dig tiny holes in the ground so the rain can go down  
where it belongs instead of running off."





Here's BUSY BEE. . . .





Without bees the plants, fruit trees and flowers couldn't make seeds,  
and there wouldn't be anymore of them.

A bee won't sting if you leave it alone.

A bee also makes honey for you to eat.







“Hi! I’m BETSY  
BUTTERFLY!”

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I help the flowers make seeds too.  
You can see me flying around the flowers in the sunshine,

But be careful not to hurt me when I'm a CATAPILLAR like this.  
I am always one of these BEFORE  
I'm a BUTTERFLY."







Here's my friend FREDDY THE FIREFLY.

"On summer evenings, I turn on and off.  
You sometimes call me a LIGHTNING BUG.



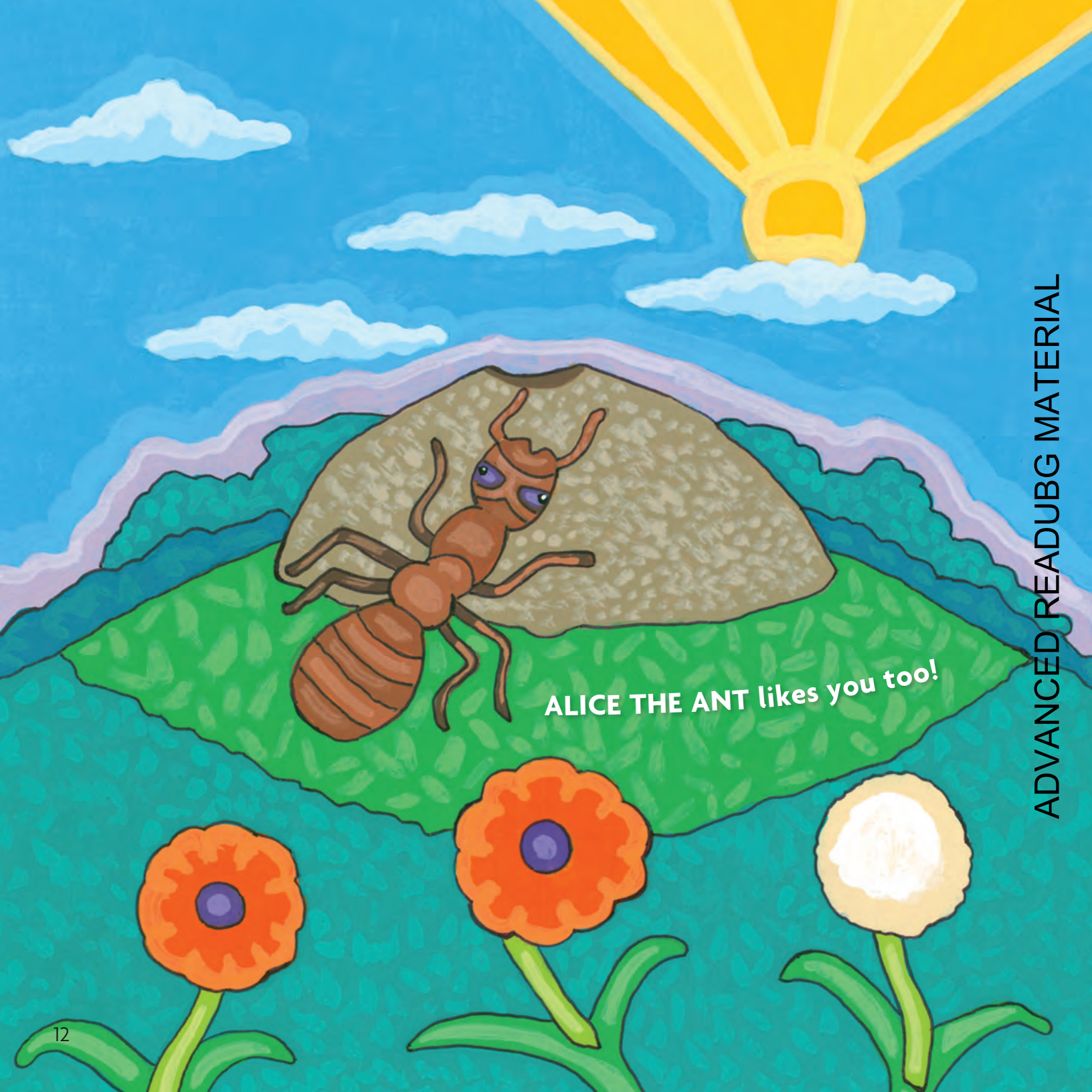


please don't catch me, because I like to be free like you.

If you do catch me, please turn me loose  
after you see what I look like.

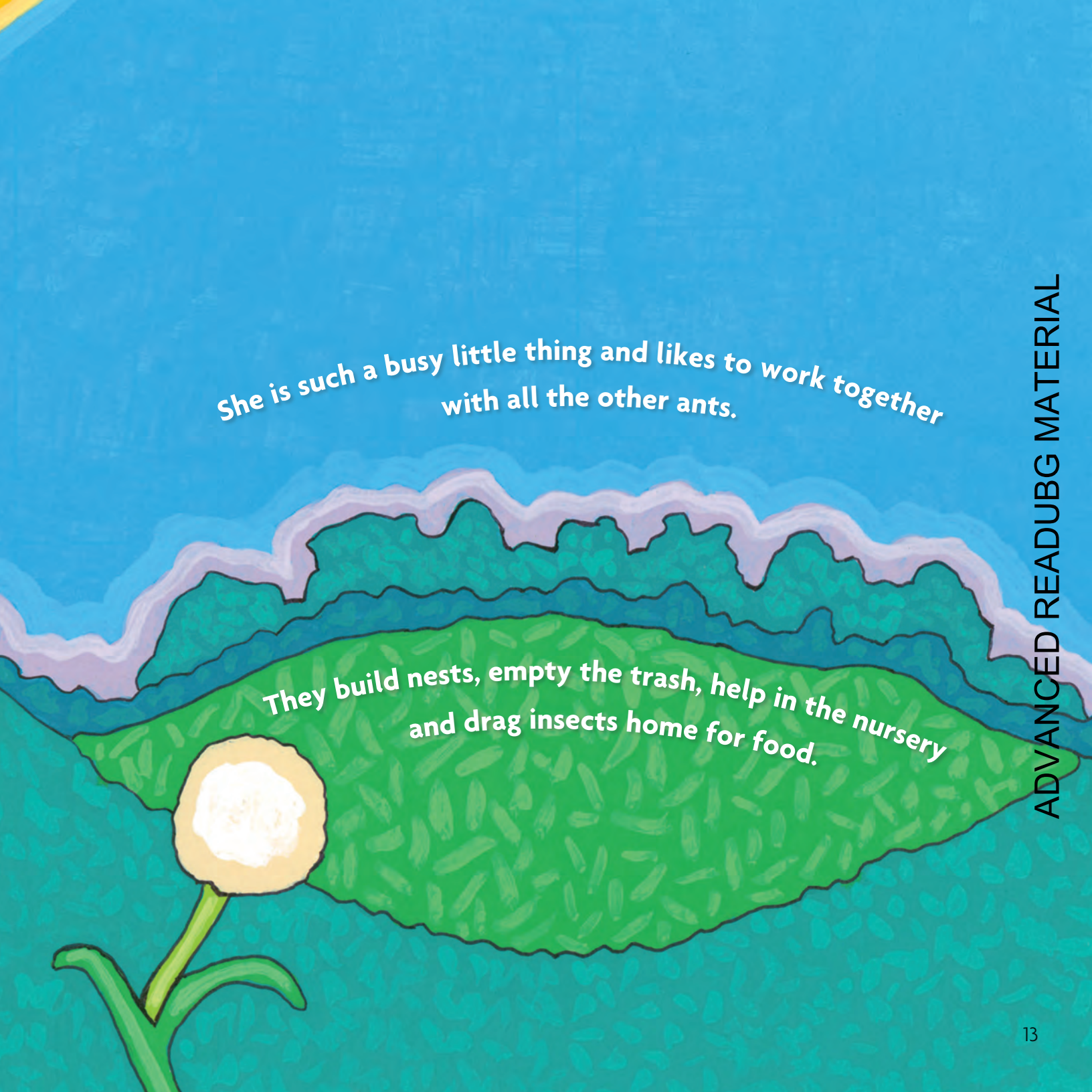
THANK YOU!!





ALICE THE ANT likes you too!

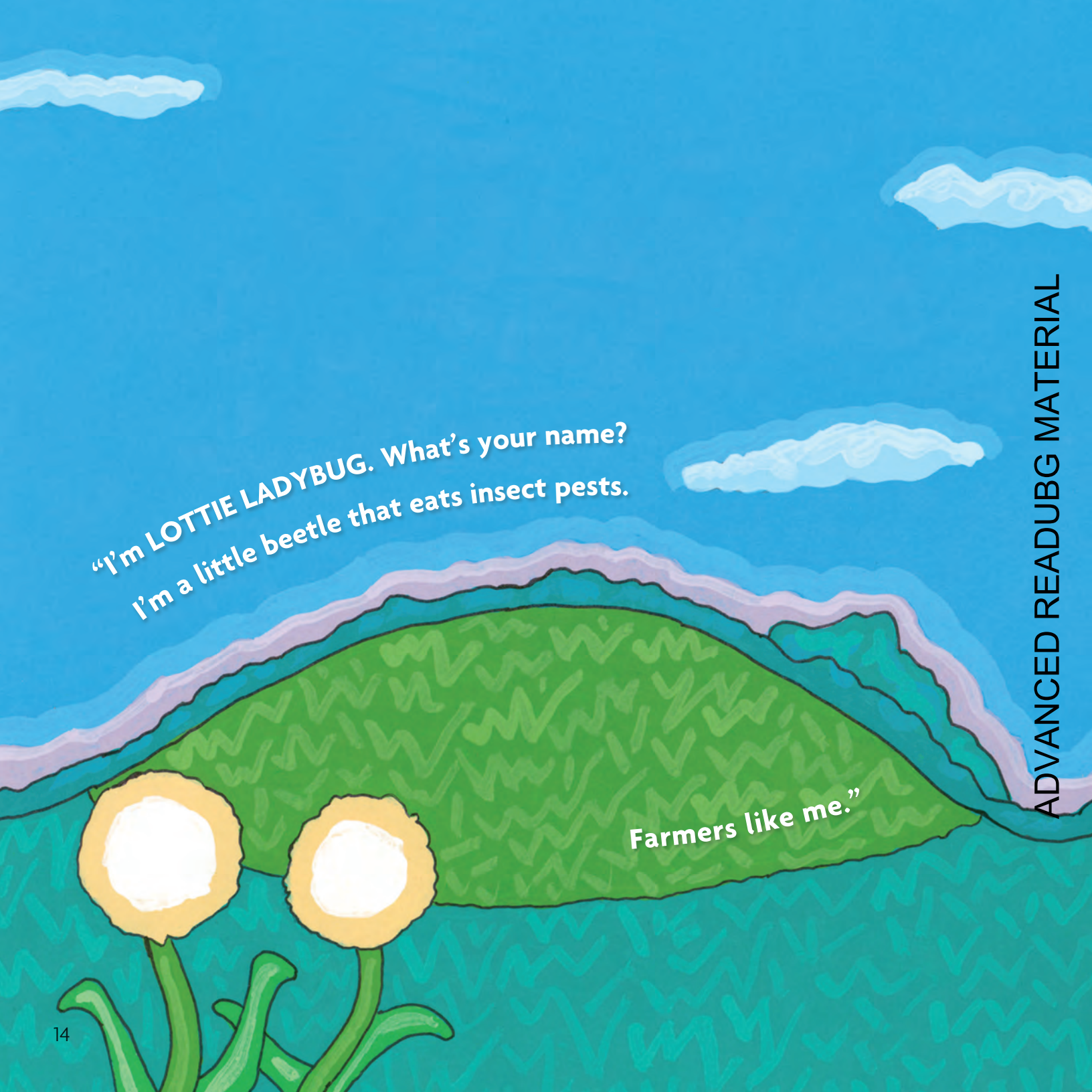




She is such a busy little thing and likes to work together  
with all the other ants.

They build nests, empty the trash, help in the nursery  
and drag insects home for food.





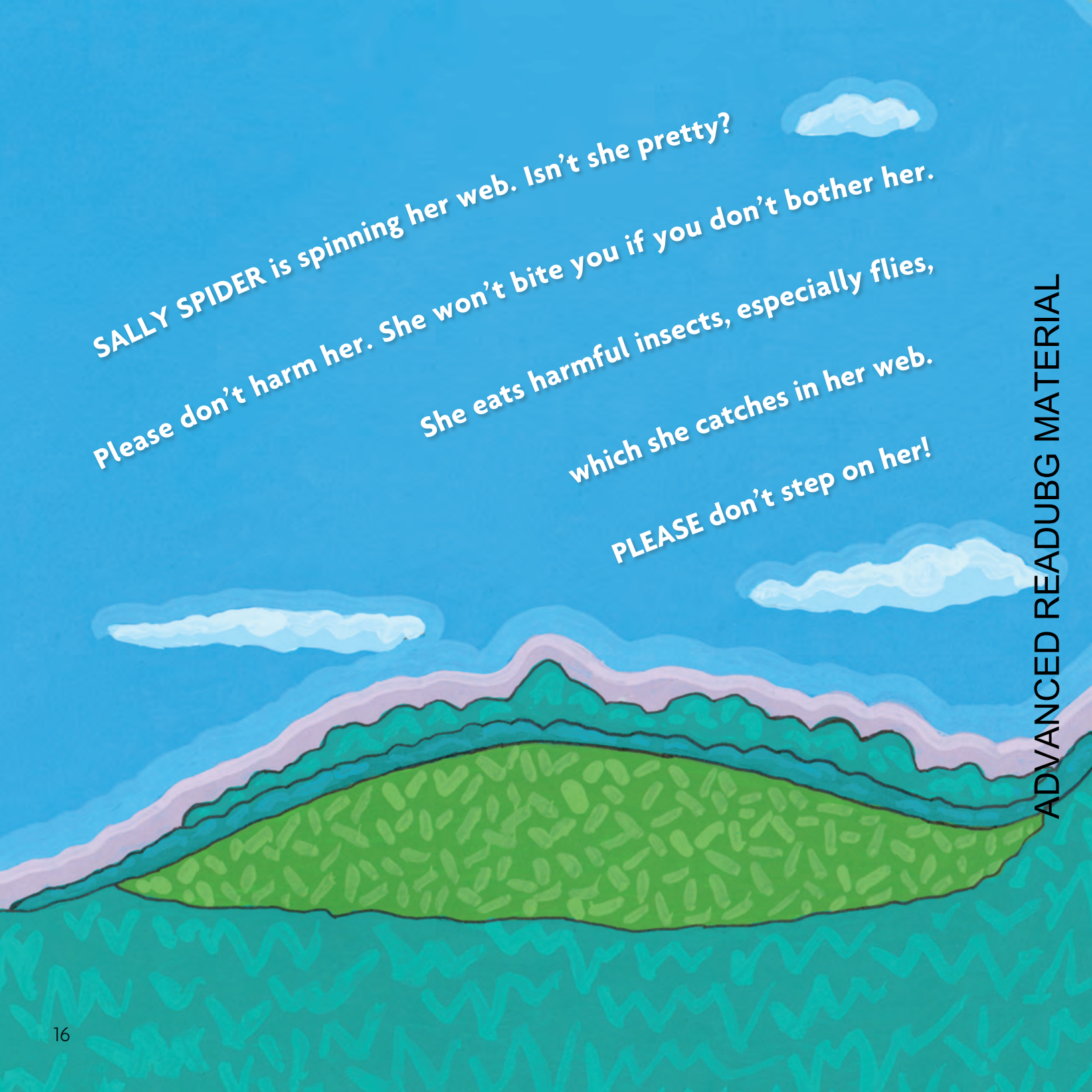
"I'm LOTTIE LADYBUG. What's your name?  
I'm a little beetle that eats insect pests.

Farmers like me."









SALLY SPIDER is spinning her web. Isn't she pretty?

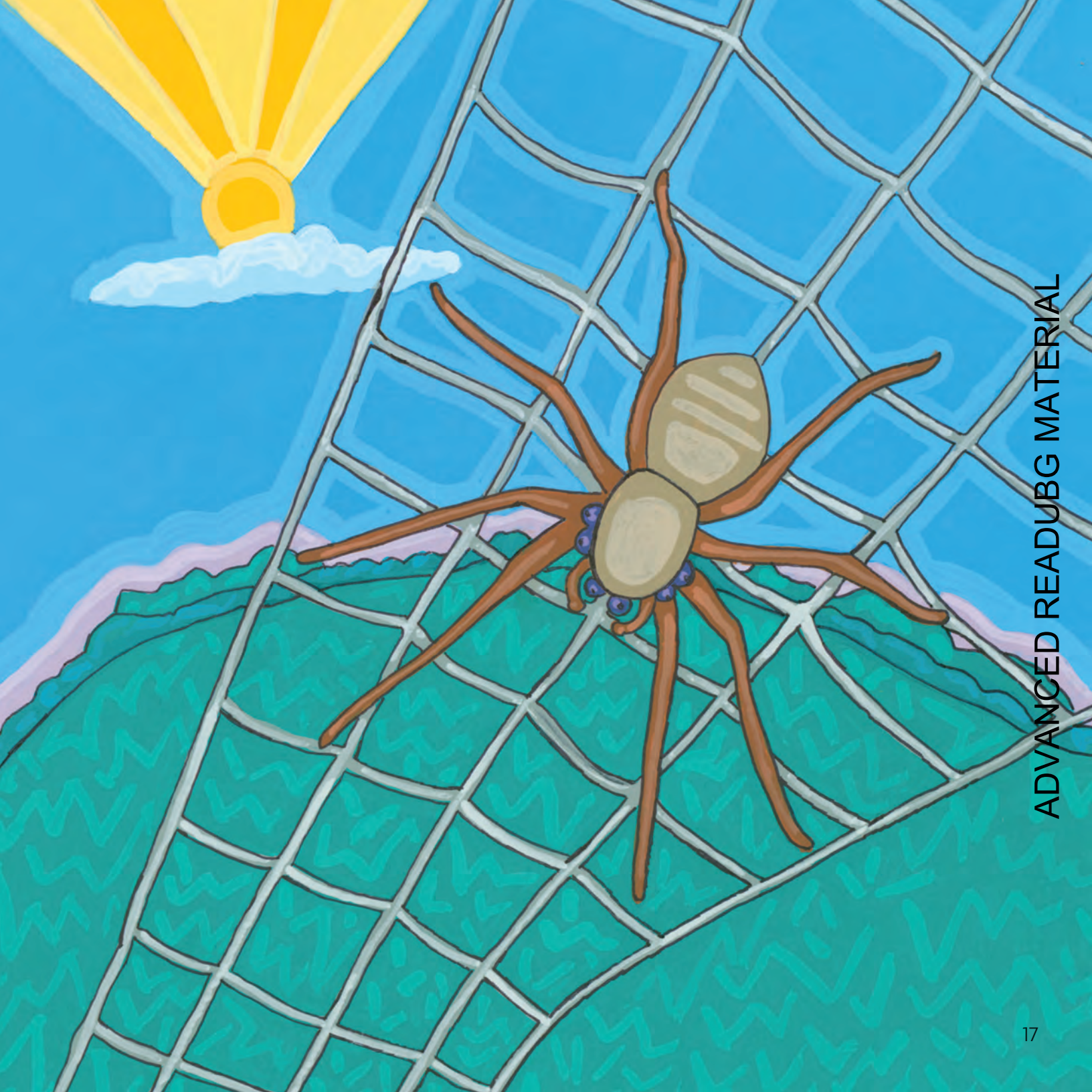
Please don't harm her. She won't bite you if you don't bother her.

She eats harmful insects, especially flies,


which she catches in her web.

PLEASE don't step on her!









DADDY LONG LEGS is coming down the garden path!

"Hello there! I guess most everyone likes me.

I look like my cousin SALLY SPIDER, and I want to be your friend too.

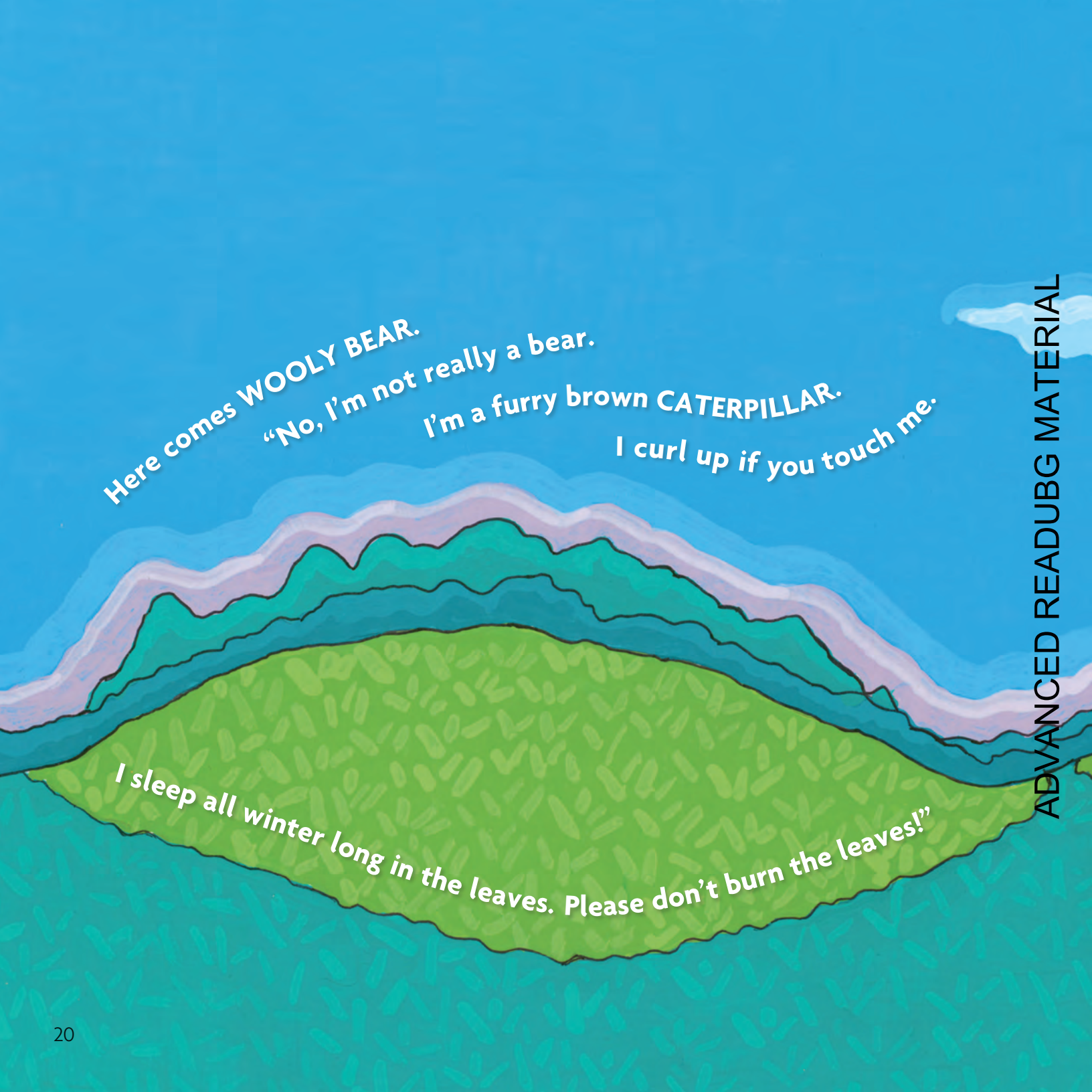
Sometimes they call me a CRANE FLY.

I like to walk on your arms and legs, but please don't hurt me."









Here comes WOOLY BEAR.

“No, I’m not really a bear.

I’m a furry brown CATERPILLAR.

I curl up if you touch me.

I sleep all winter long in the leaves. Please don’t burn the leaves!”





I make a cocoon in the spring. Later, I crawl out one end,  
and PRESTO . . . I'm a MOTH!!!”





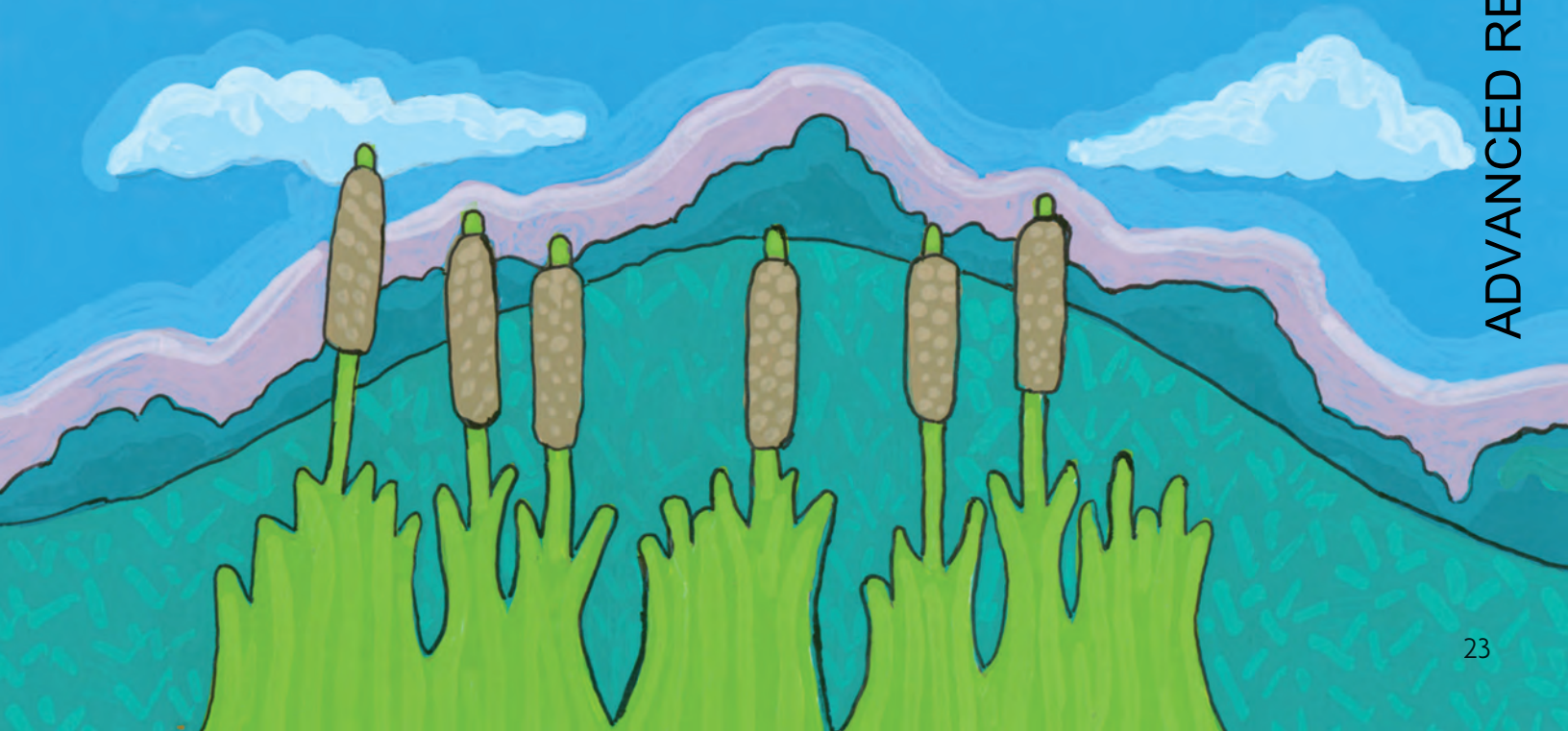


Danny Dragonfly greets you!!

He's a beautiful water insect.

He can fly very fast, a mile a minute.

He eats mosquitoes, so be good to DANNY!!







"I'm HERMIE THE HORNET.

I won't hurt you if you leave me alone!!

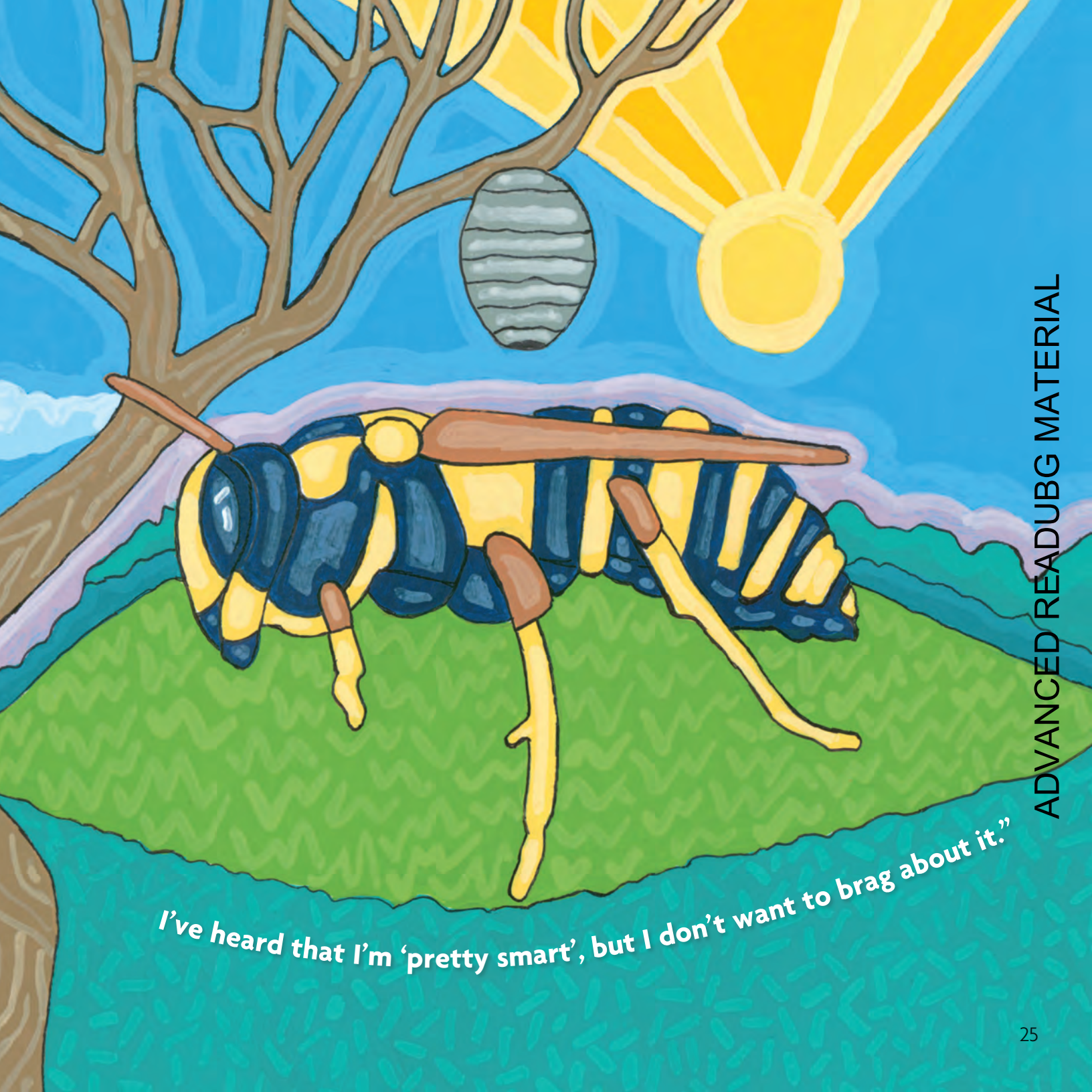
I only sting if I get nervous or frightened. HONEST!!

I eat harmful insects.

Like my cousins, the bees and ants, I like to work together with my colony.

We get a lot more done with teamwork, just like you do.



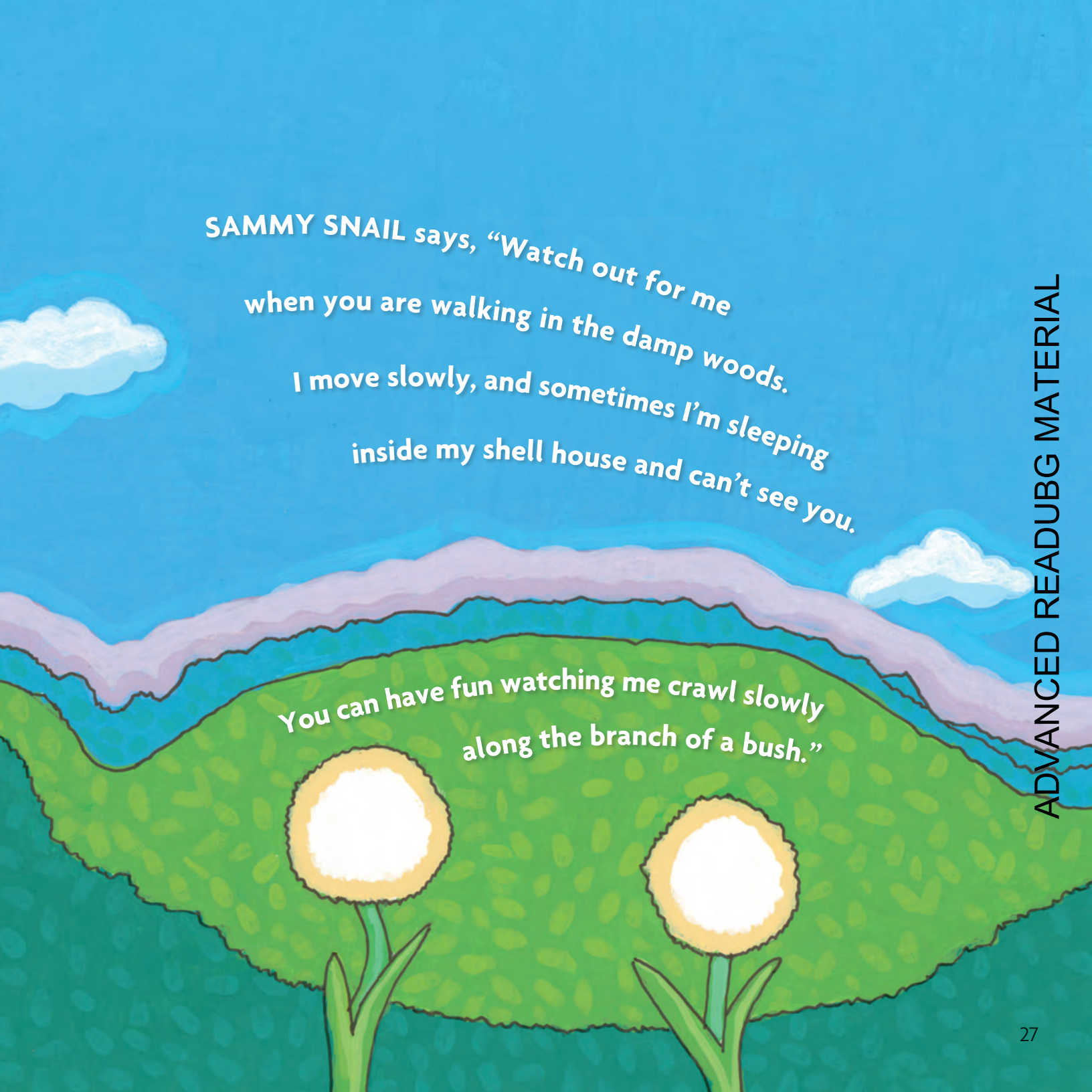


*I've heard that I'm 'pretty smart', but I don't want to brag about it."*





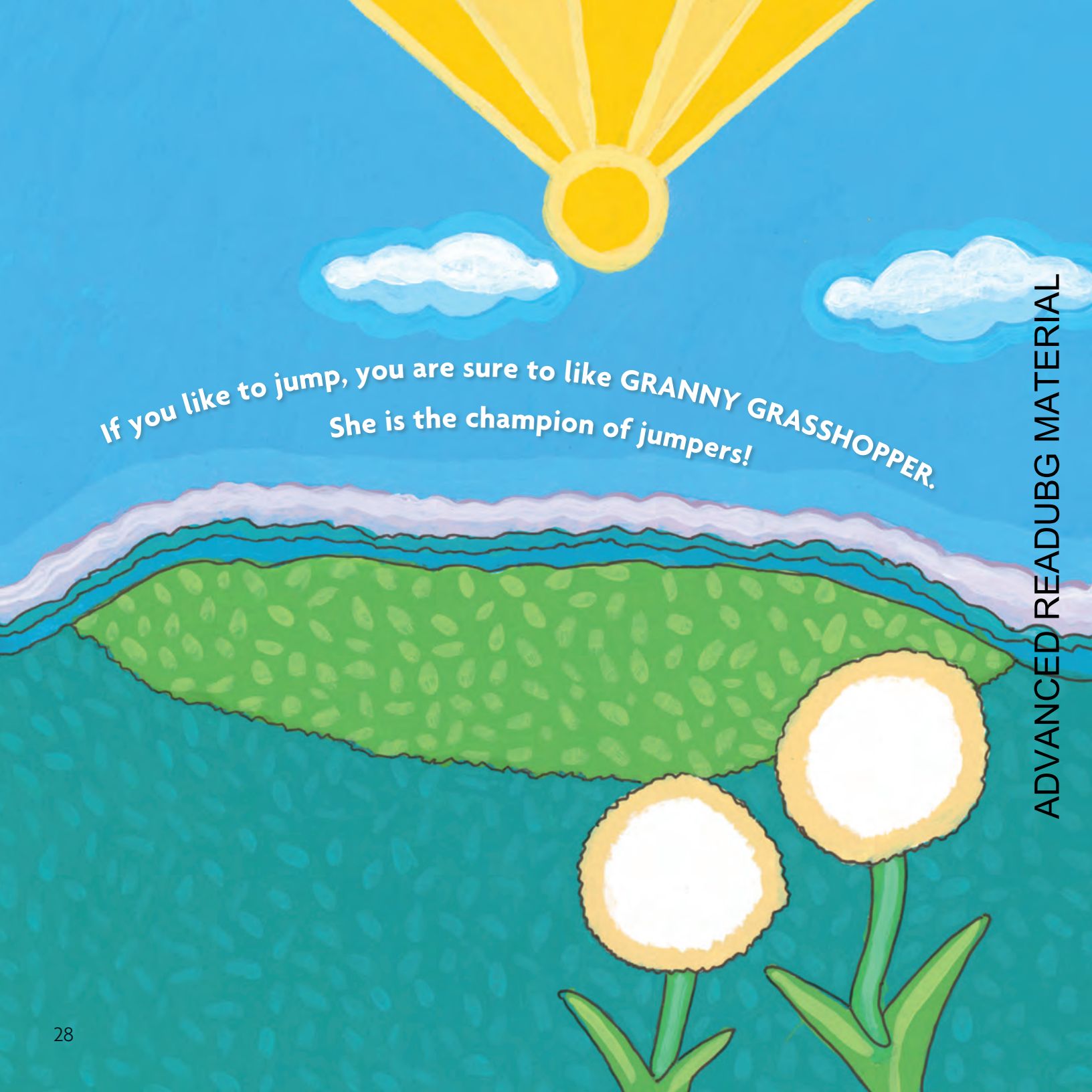




SAMMY SNAIL says, "Watch out for me  
when you are walking in the damp woods.  
I move slowly, and sometimes I'm sleeping  
inside my shell house and can't see you."

You can have fun watching me crawl slowly  
along the branch of a bush."





If you like to jump, you are sure to like GRANNY GRASSHOPPER.  
She is the champion of jumpers!

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She can leap and jump better than  
any of us little creatures.





CRISSEY CRICKET calls out

“CREE-CREE” and “RETREAT – RETREAT” on a summer night.

She likes to make pretty music for you.

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There now, aren't you glad that you have met some new friends?  
The next time you see us, please be kind to us, because there is  
room for all of us, for you, AND FOR ME.



We can help each other. Tell you friends, that I said,  
“PLEASE DON’T STEP ON ME.”



## Do You Remember?

**How does Willie the earthworm help the ground?** *(SEE PAGE 5)*

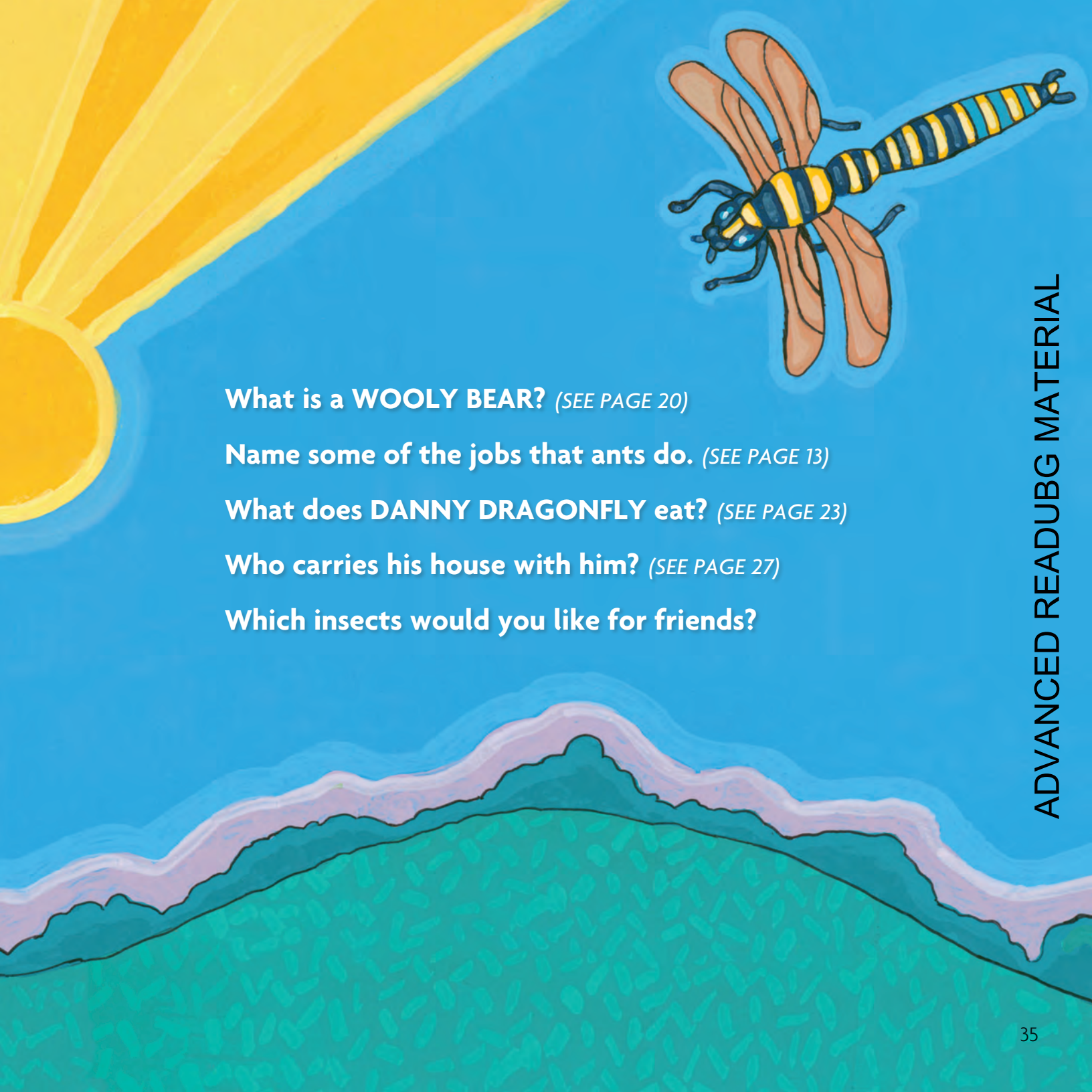
**Why do farmers like the ladybug?** *(SEE PAGE 14)*

**Where does the butterfly come from?** *(SEE PAGE 9)*

**What does the cricket say at night?** *(SEE PAGE 30)*

**What are two things that BUSY BEE does for us?** *(SEE PAGE 7)*





**What is a WOOLY BEAR?** *(SEE PAGE 20)*

**Name some of the jobs that ants do.** *(SEE PAGE 13)*

**What does DANNY DRAGONFLY eat?** *(SEE PAGE 23)*

**Who carries his house with him?** *(SEE PAGE 27)*

**Which insects would you like for friends?**

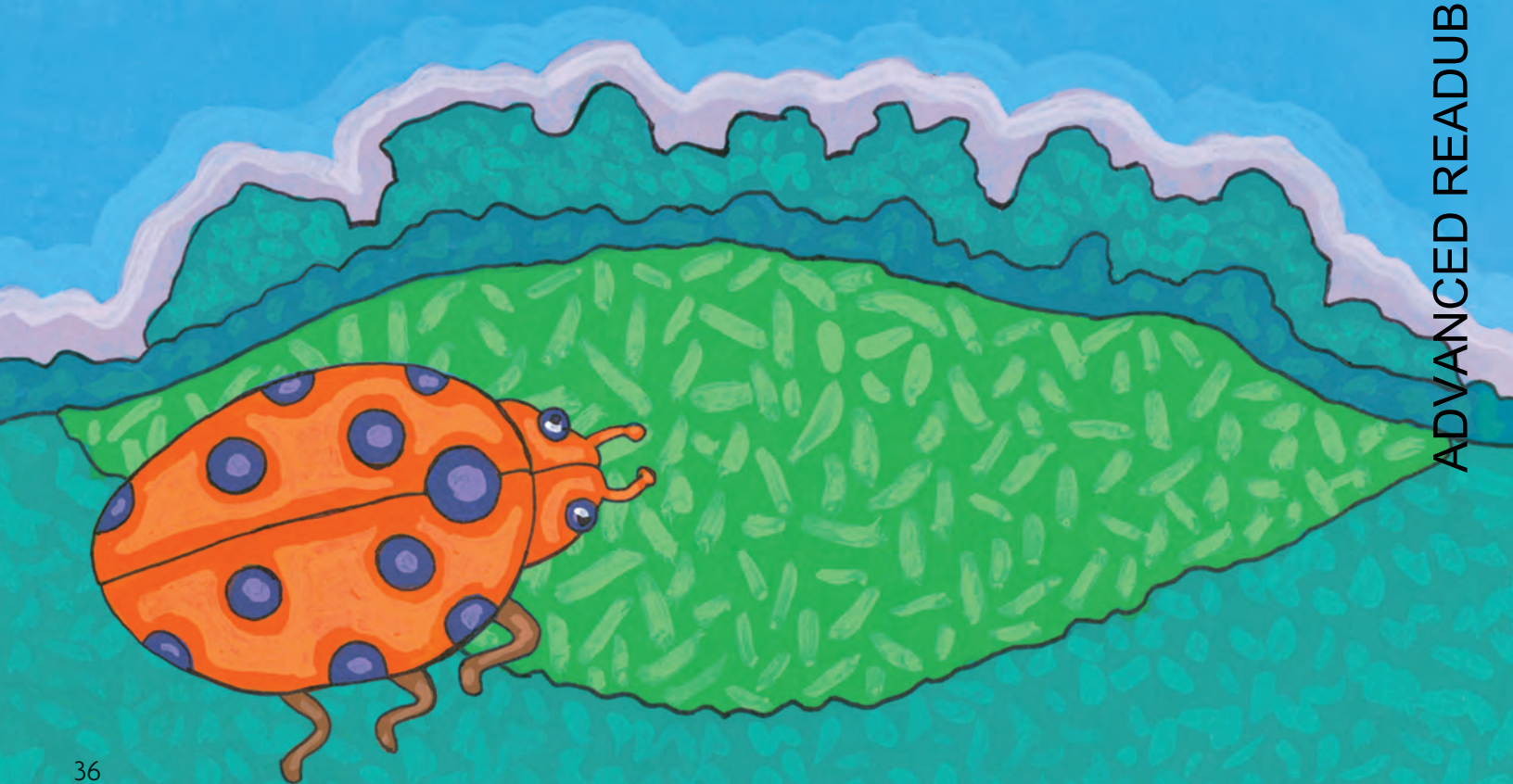


## For Parents and Teachers

Take a field trip, allowing children to look for and identify insects. Carry an identification manual.

Look up each of these insects in a book or online to learn more about them.

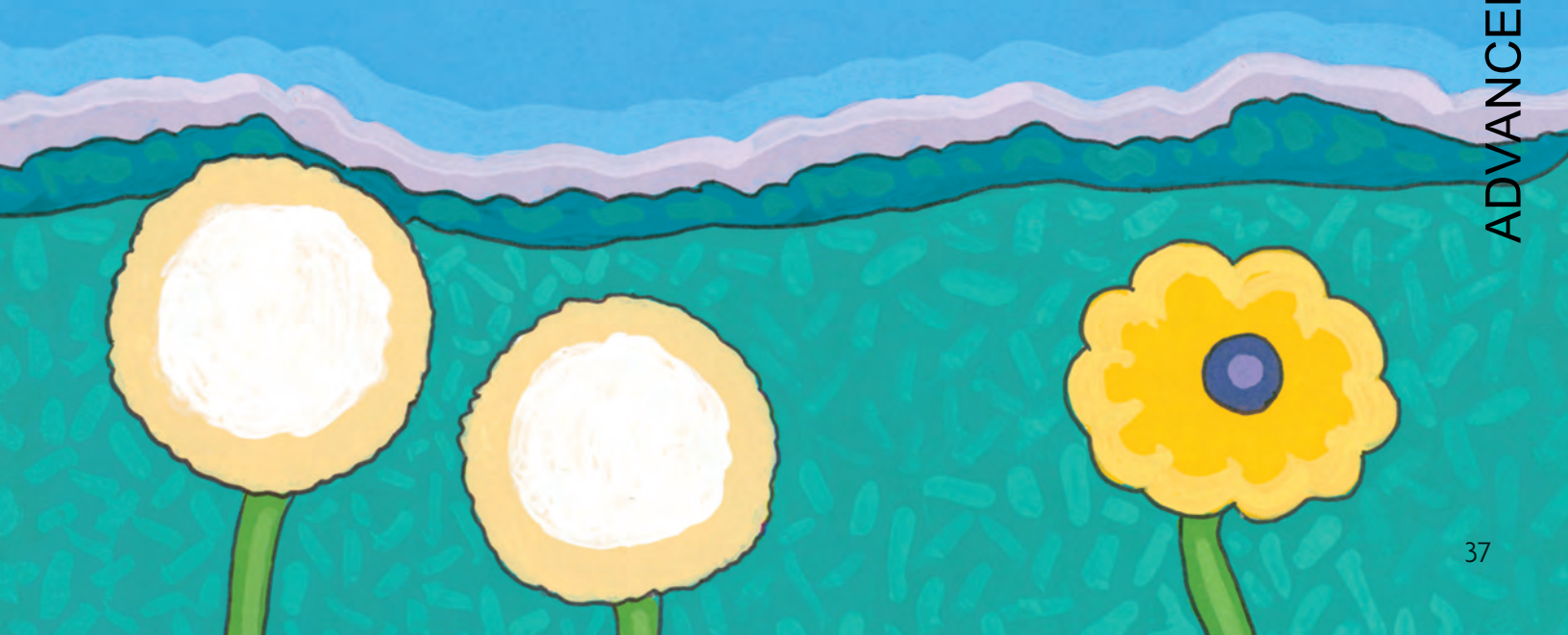
Allow children to make up their own stories about helpful insects. Encourage great imagination in personifying the insects.





## About the Author

**Elly-Kree (McKay) George** (1924-2003) was of Scottish-Cherokee descent and grew up in Ohio. From an early age she loved all facets of nature. Later as a Girl Scout leader and an Audubon Jr. Club leader, she was able to instill a respect of the natural world in both her own children and neighborhood kids. After observing her grandchildren taking nature walks, Elly-Kree wrote *“Please Don’t Step on Me”* to remind them and others to be kind to all creatures. Elly-Kree was married to a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, artist Edwin George, and lived on the Cherokee reservation in North Carolina.





# About the Illustrator

**Jesse Hummingbird** (1952-2021) was born in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and was a member of the Cherokee Nation. He became a fulltime artist in the early 1980s, using a traditional “flat-style” that was made famous by earlier Native Oklahoma artists. In 2015, Jesse was named a Tribal Elder by the Cherokee Nation, and in 2017, a National Treasure, an honor given by the tribe to those who are helping to keep Cherokee art and culture alive. Sadly, on June 17, 2021, Jesse succumbed to health issues. His wife, Sandy, said, “My heart is broken, but I too will power on as I promised him.”

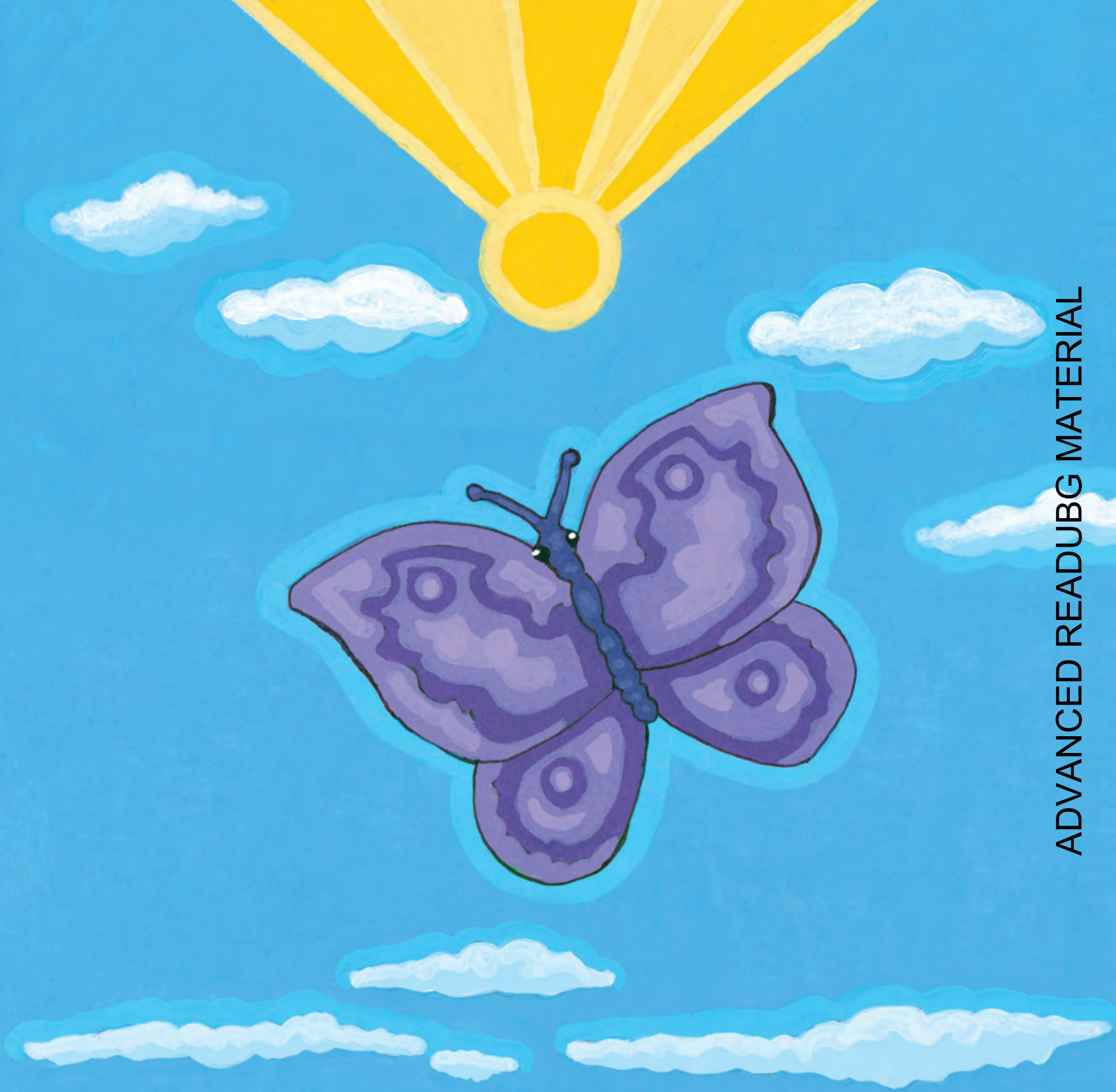
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A special thanks to **Alfreda Beartrack-Algeo** for her help in completing the work of illustrator Jesse Hummingbird. Sadly, Jesse succumbed to health problems and was unable to finish all of his colorful illustrations. Alfreda graciously stepped in and completed Jesse's work in his unique style.



Be nice to us. There is room for all of us.





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