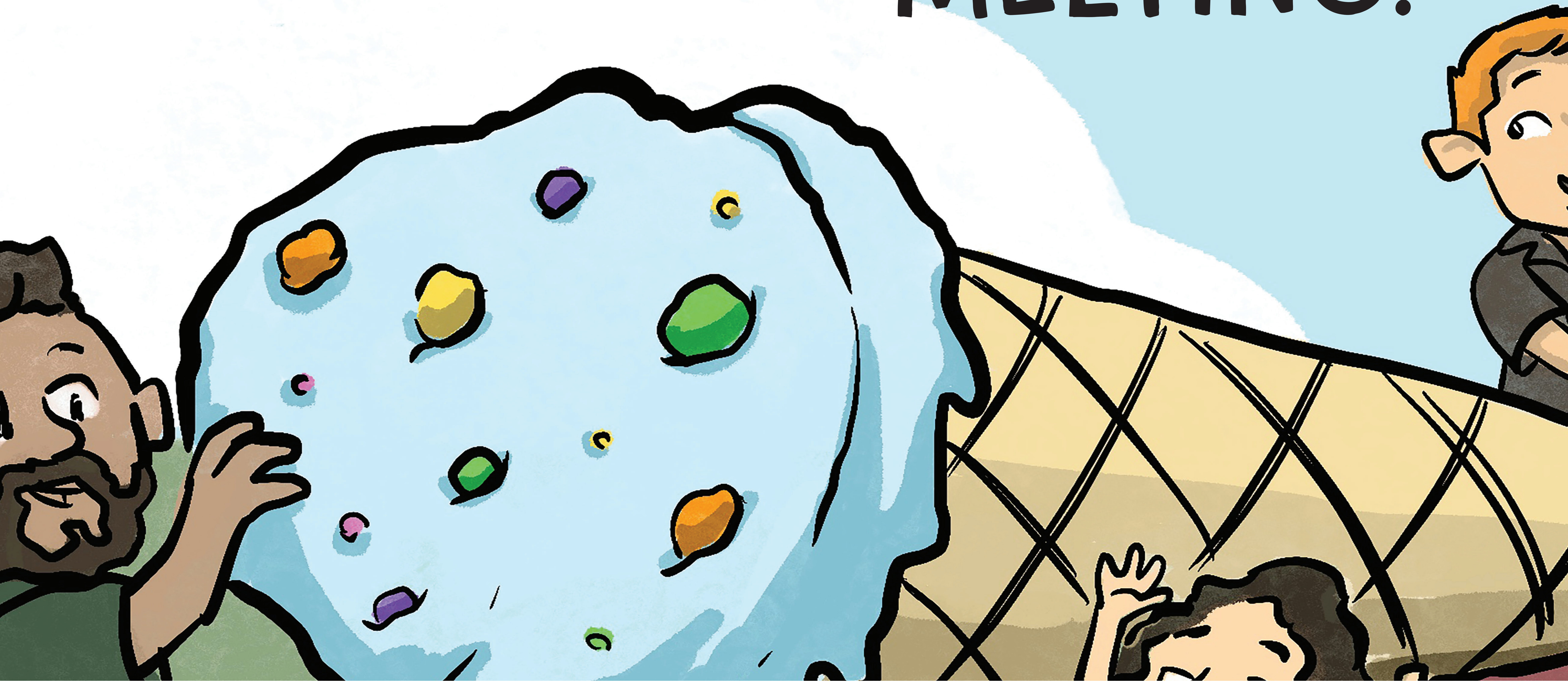


the dust palace presents

THE ICE CREAM IS

MELTING!

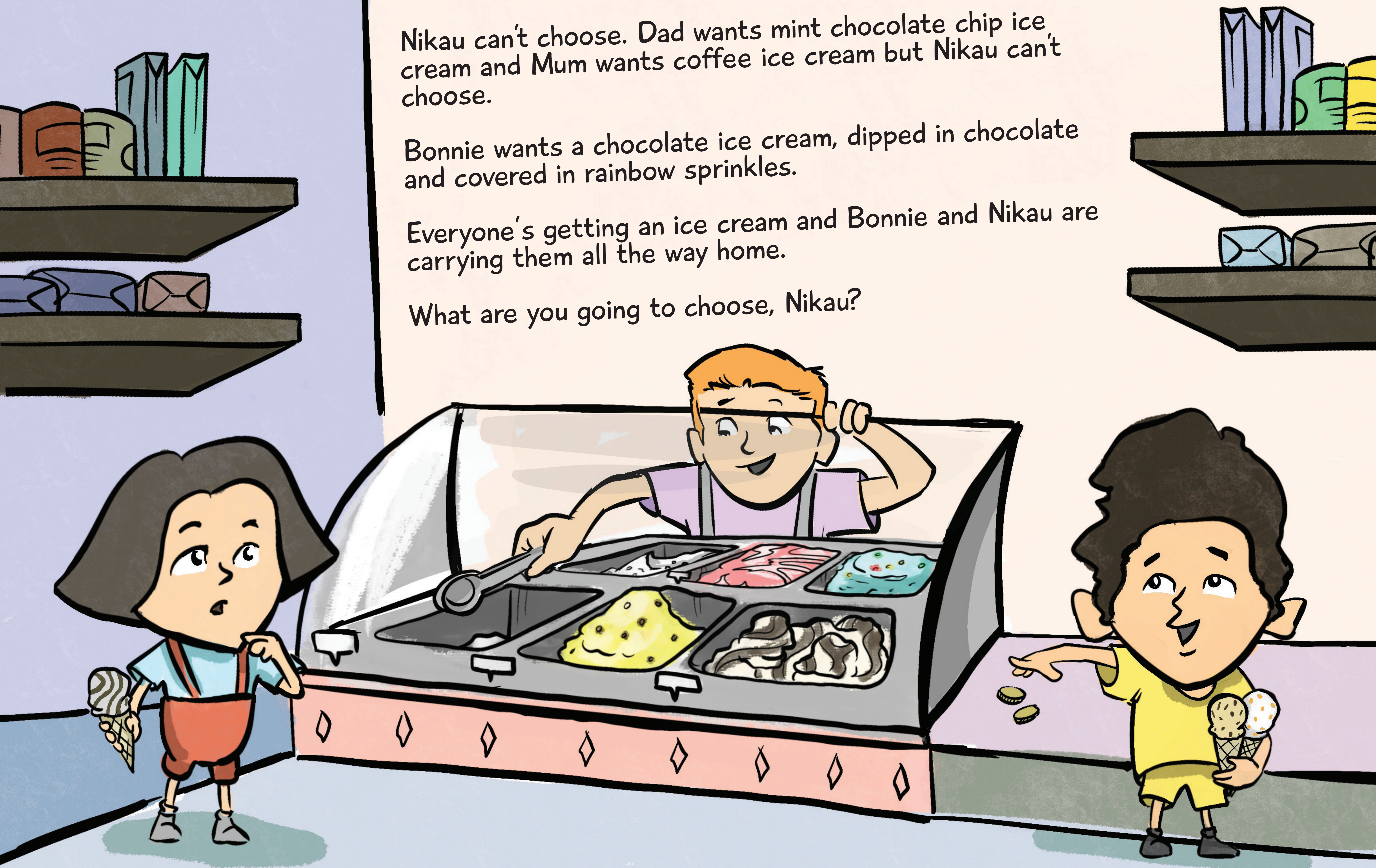



Nikau can't choose. Dad wants mint chocolate chip ice cream and Mum wants coffee ice cream but Nikau can't choose.

Bonnie wants a chocolate ice cream, dipped in chocolate and covered in rainbow sprinkles.

Everyone's getting an ice cream and Bonnie and Nikau are carrying them all the way home.

What are you going to choose, Nikau?





Nikau chose goody
goody gum drops
because Nikau loves
goody goody gum
drops!

But it's sooo hot today. Too hot! The ice
creams are starting to melt!

"Let's go the shady way home," says Bonnie.

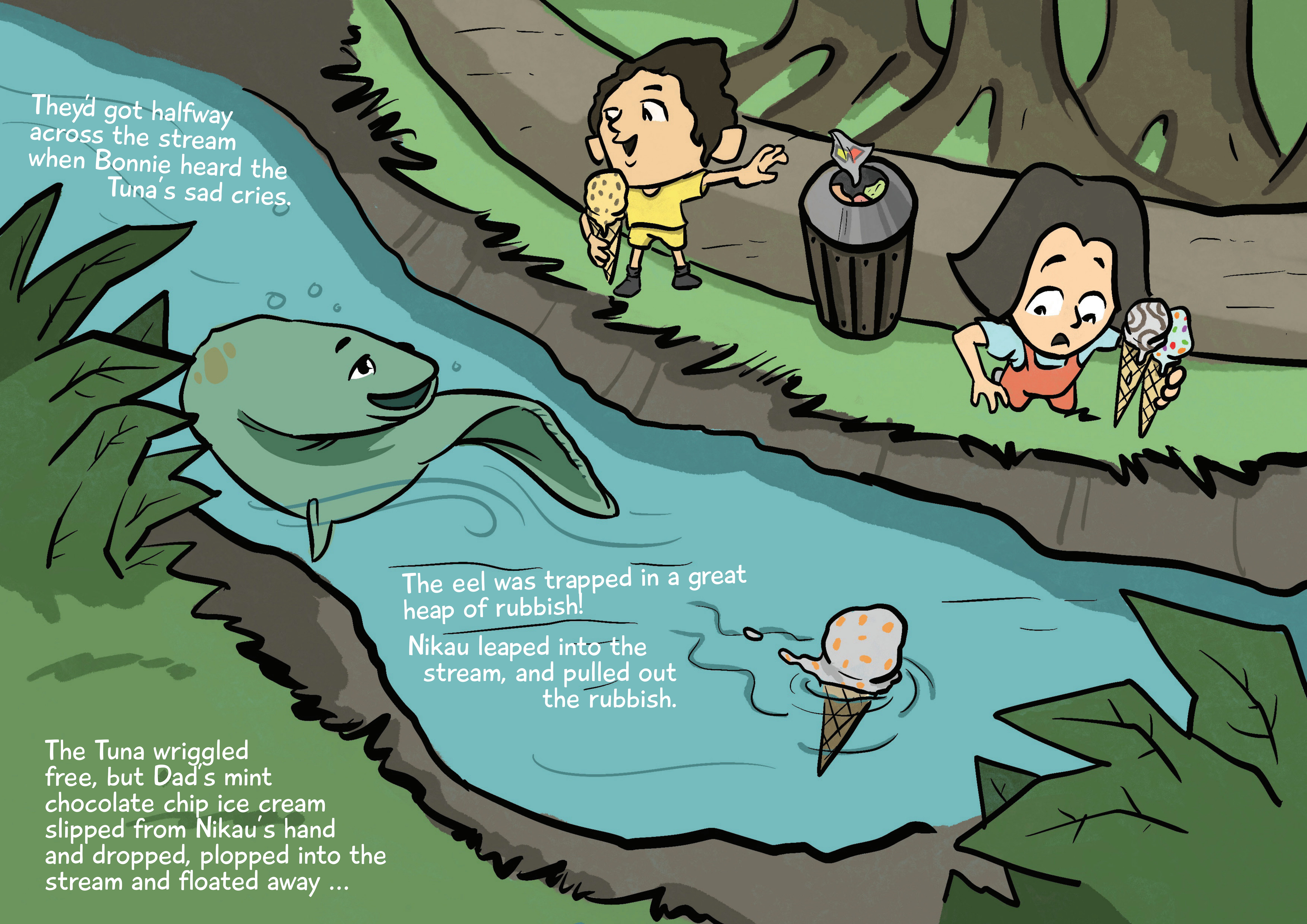
The shady way home sounds much cooler - through
the trees, over the stream and past the estuary.



The Puriri moth pulled itself out of its pupae. Bonnie and Nikau held their breath as they watched. It was such a beautiful bright green.

But even in the shade it's still a hot day!

"We've got to go!" says Nikau, "Or all the ice creams will melt!"

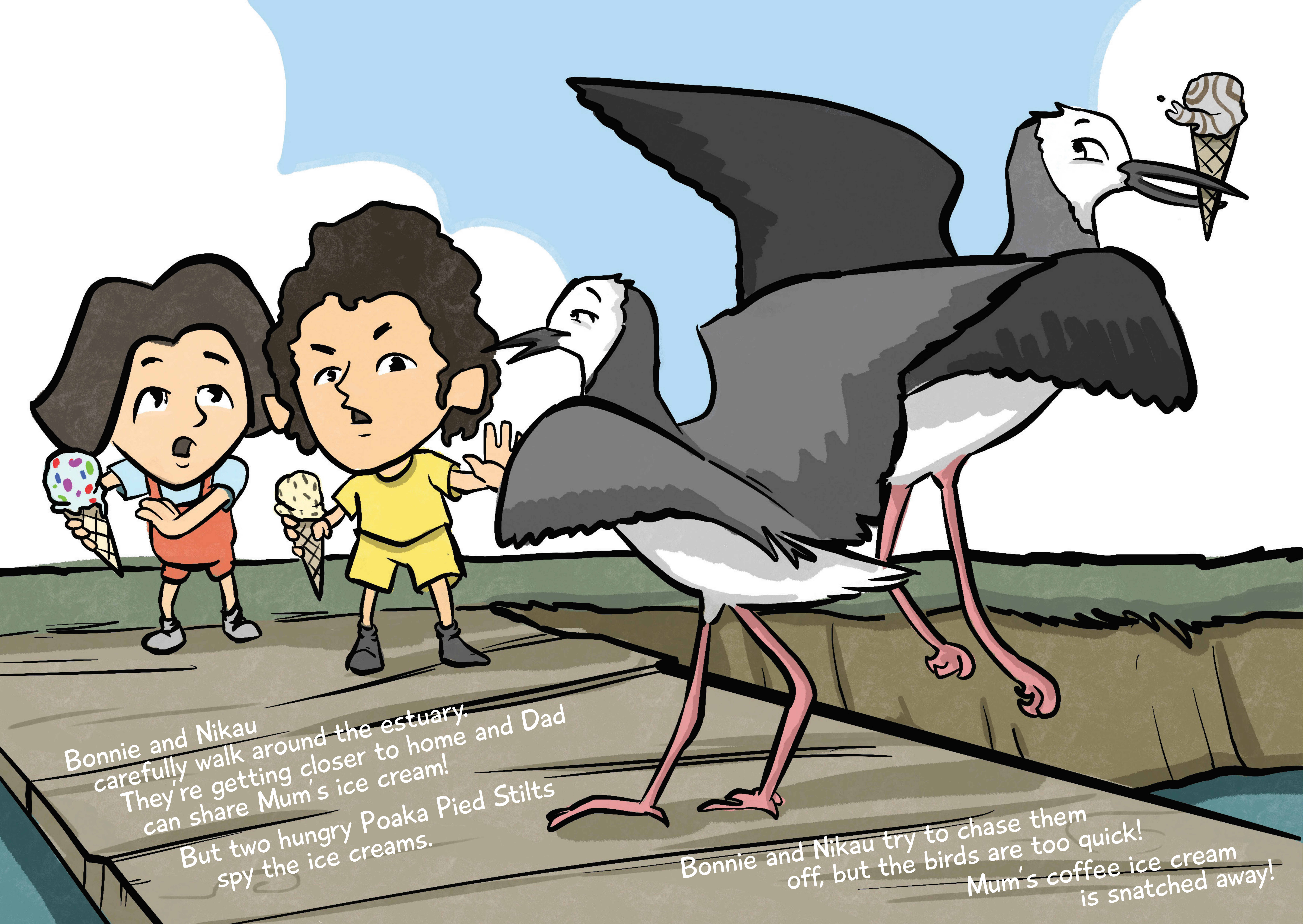


They'd got halfway
across the stream
when Bonnie heard the
Tuna's sad cries.

The eel was trapped in a great
heap of rubbish!

Nikau leaped into the
stream, and pulled out
the rubbish.

The Tuna wriggled
free, but Dad's mint
chocolate chip ice cream
slipped from Nikau's hand
and dropped, plopped into the
stream and floated away ...



Bonnie and Nikau
carefully walk around the estuary.
They're getting closer to home and Dad
can share Mum's ice cream!

But two hungry Poaka Pied Stilts
spy the ice creams.

Bonnie and Nikau try to chase them
off, but the birds are too quick!
Mum's coffee ice cream
is snatched away!


Suddenly a giant wind wooshes around Bonnie and Nikau.

"Hold onto me, Nikau!" shouts Bonnie,
"There's a storm coming!"

Then BOOM!
The rain comes down!

They run for shelter.





"Look!" shouts Bonnie, "A bus stop!"
But it's on the other side of a big, busy road!

Bonnie runs across, dodging cars and trucks,
and gets to the bus stop. But where's Nikau?
The road was too dangerous
for Nikau, so Nikau
didn't cross.

Oh no! Bonnie had dropped
their chocolate ice cream, dipped in
chocolate and covered in
rainbow sprinkles on the road.

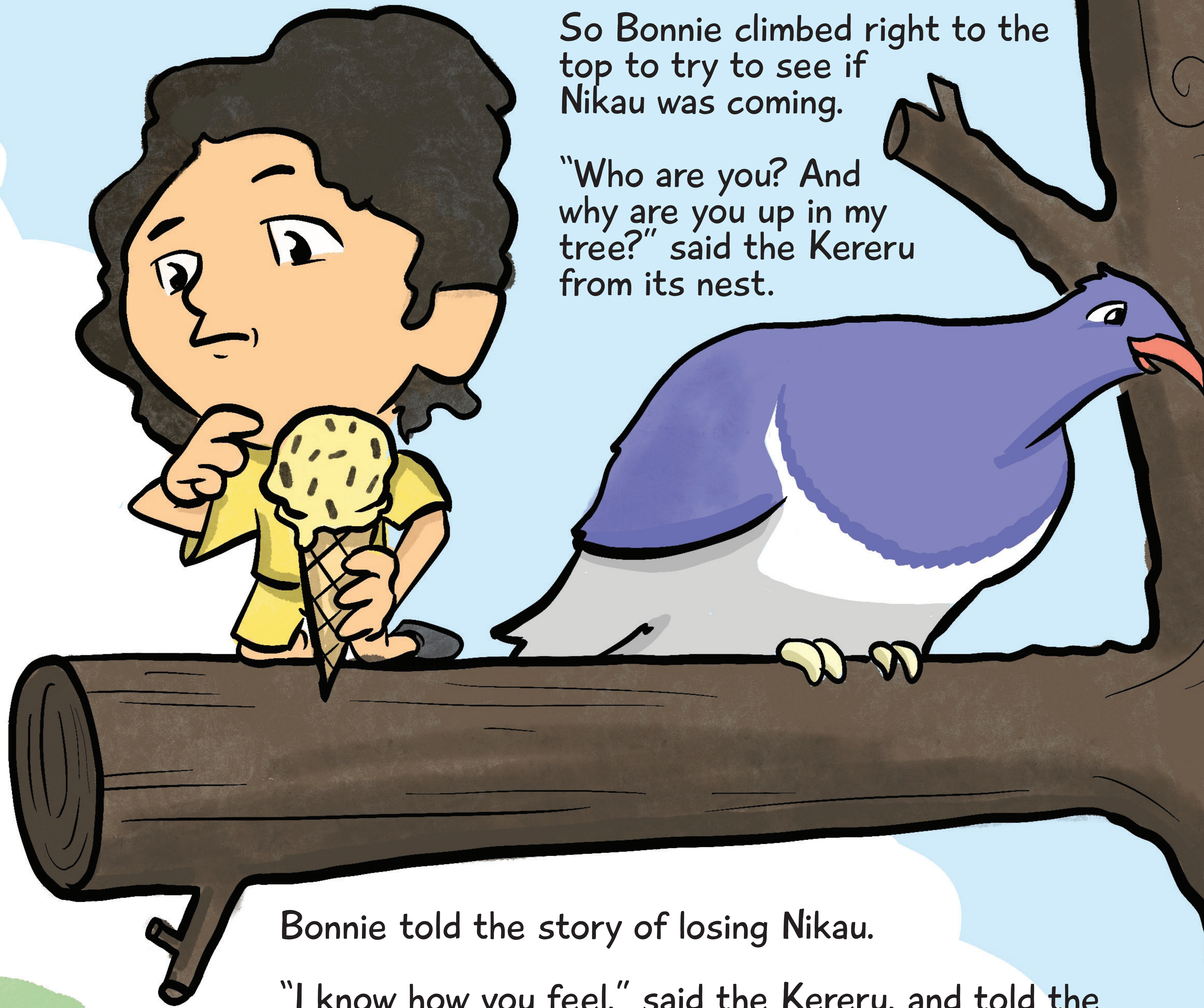
But Bonnie doesn't
care about the
ice cream, not when
Nikau's still stuck out
in the rain!

"I'll meet you at the big
Pohutukawa tree!" Bonnie
shouts.

Bonnie waited for Nikau at the big Pohutukawa tree, but Nikau didn't come.

So Bonnie climbed right to the top to try to see if Nikau was coming.

"Who are you? And why are you up in my tree?" said the Kereru from its nest.



Bonnie told the story of losing Nikau.

"I know how you feel," said the Kereru, and told the story of losing its chick.

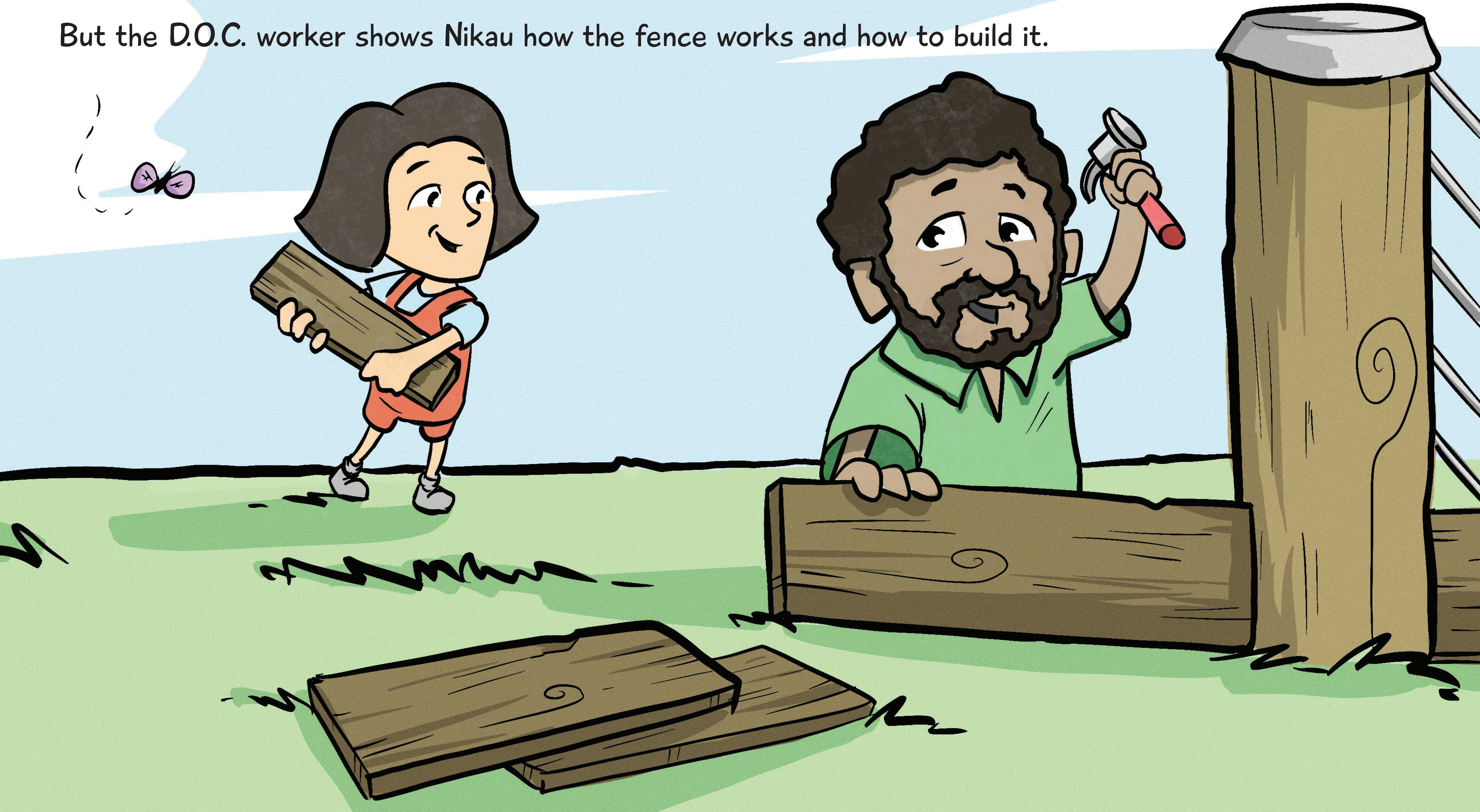
They sat side by side and kept a look out together.

Meanwhile, Nikau searches for the way to the big Pohutukawa tree. But there's a fence in their way! They're halfway over it when -

"Oi you! You can't climb over a predator fence! Get down from there!" shouts a D.O.C. worker.

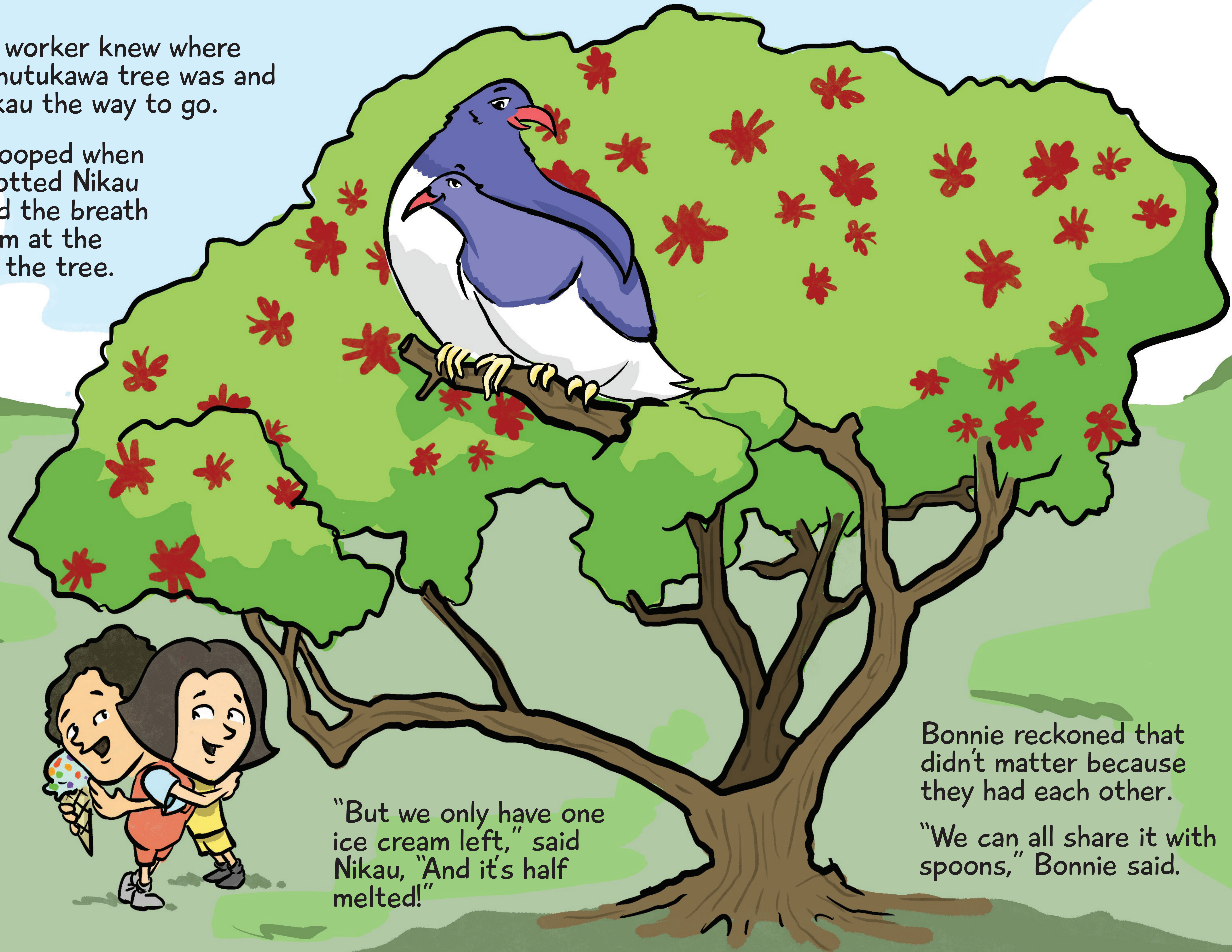
Nikau clammers down, feeling bad for getting told off.

But the D.O.C. worker shows Nikau how the fence works and how to build it.



The D.O.C. worker knew where the big Pohutukawa tree was and showed Nikau the way to go.

Bonnie whooped when Kereru spotted Nikau and hugged the breath out of them at the bottom of the tree.



"But we only have one ice cream left," said Nikau, "And it's half melted!"

Bonnie reckoned that didn't matter because they had each other.

"We can all share it with spoons," Bonnie said.



But when they were almost home, they saw a community group planting little Manuka and Harakeke.

"That looks fun!" said Nikau. Bonnie agreed, so they joined in, planting the baby trees so they'd grow.

That gave Nikau an idea ...

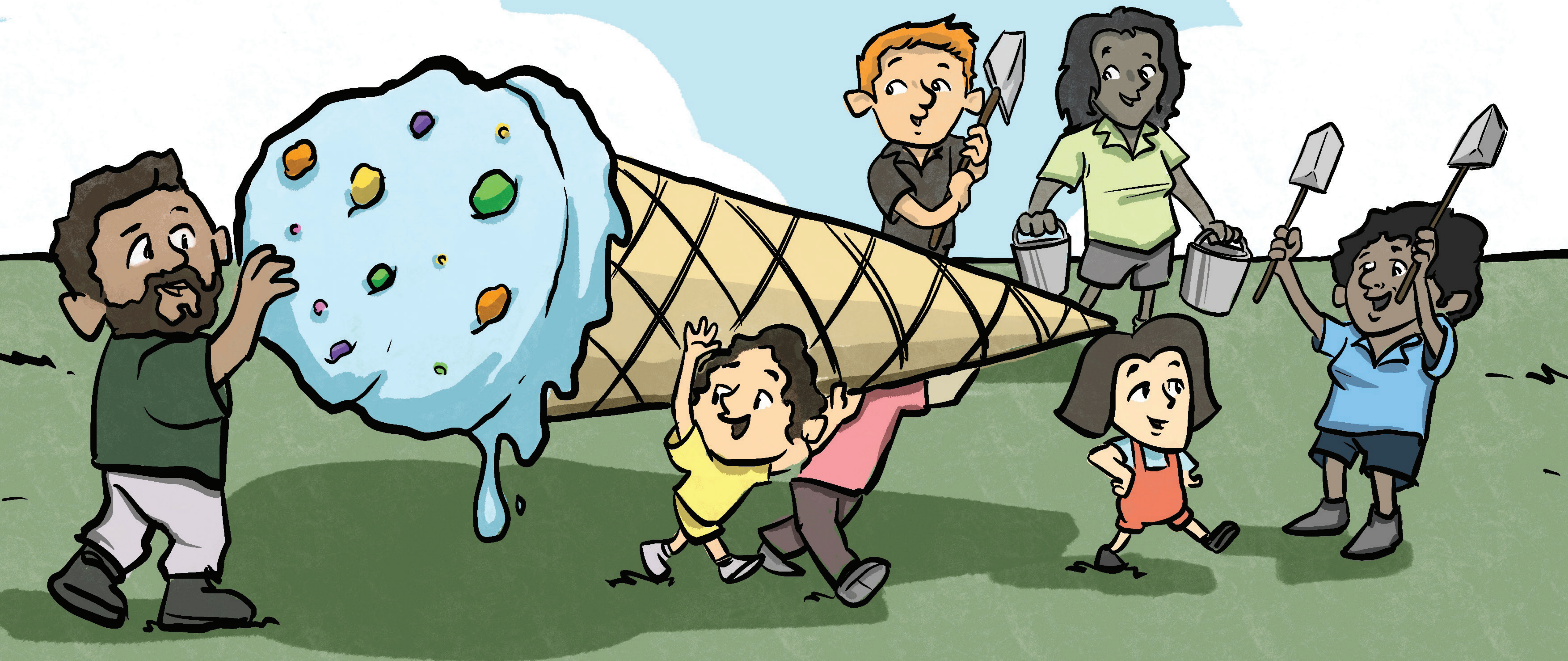
And Nikau's ice cream began to grow.

It got bigger and bigger and still kept growing!

Finally, when it was a giant ice cream, it stopped.

It took the whole community group to pull it out and it was enormous! Enough ice cream for Bonnie, Mum, Dad and the whole community group.

And goody goody gum drops for Nikau!





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