Pistachio People

This book belongs to:

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Valerie Meotti is the artist and illustrator behind the Pistachio People—a project that has evolved over decades. The Pistachio People were originally created by gluing pistachio shells together, adding soft assorted hair, and hand-painting each one. These small, whimsical characters were sold at art fairs across Long Island, NY, in the 1980s, where they became beloved by children. However, their fragility made them too delicate for little hands, and the time-consuming process of creating each figure limited their production.

As time passed, she began illustrating and documenting the pieces kept. This eventually led to the creation of the self-published book, *Pistachio People – Mr. Achoo's New Shoes.* While working full-time in the graphic design industry, she continued to pursue her passion for watercolor and collage, blending her love for illustration with various other mediums.

In the 1990s, she taught herself ceramics and purchased a kiln. This new direction allowed her to create more elaborate and collectible figures. However, with the demands of a growing family, she found it increasingly difficult to dedicate enough time to create them at the scale she wanted, and selling them at art fairs was not financially sustainable.

Determined to find a solution, she began experimenting with different clays, seeking a durable and workable material. She eventually discovered paper clay, which, once properly sealed and protected, proved to be the perfect medium for her work. Over the years, the Pistachio People have continued to evolve in both design and technique. This book, combines digital skills with her sculpting and painting experience to create a new artistic expression for these beloved characters.

These are images of the original Pistachio People

PISTACHIO PEOPLE

NERDY BIRDIE

Dedicated to Jessie and Allie
Your love and enthusiasm keeps me creating

Illustrated and written by Valerie Meotti
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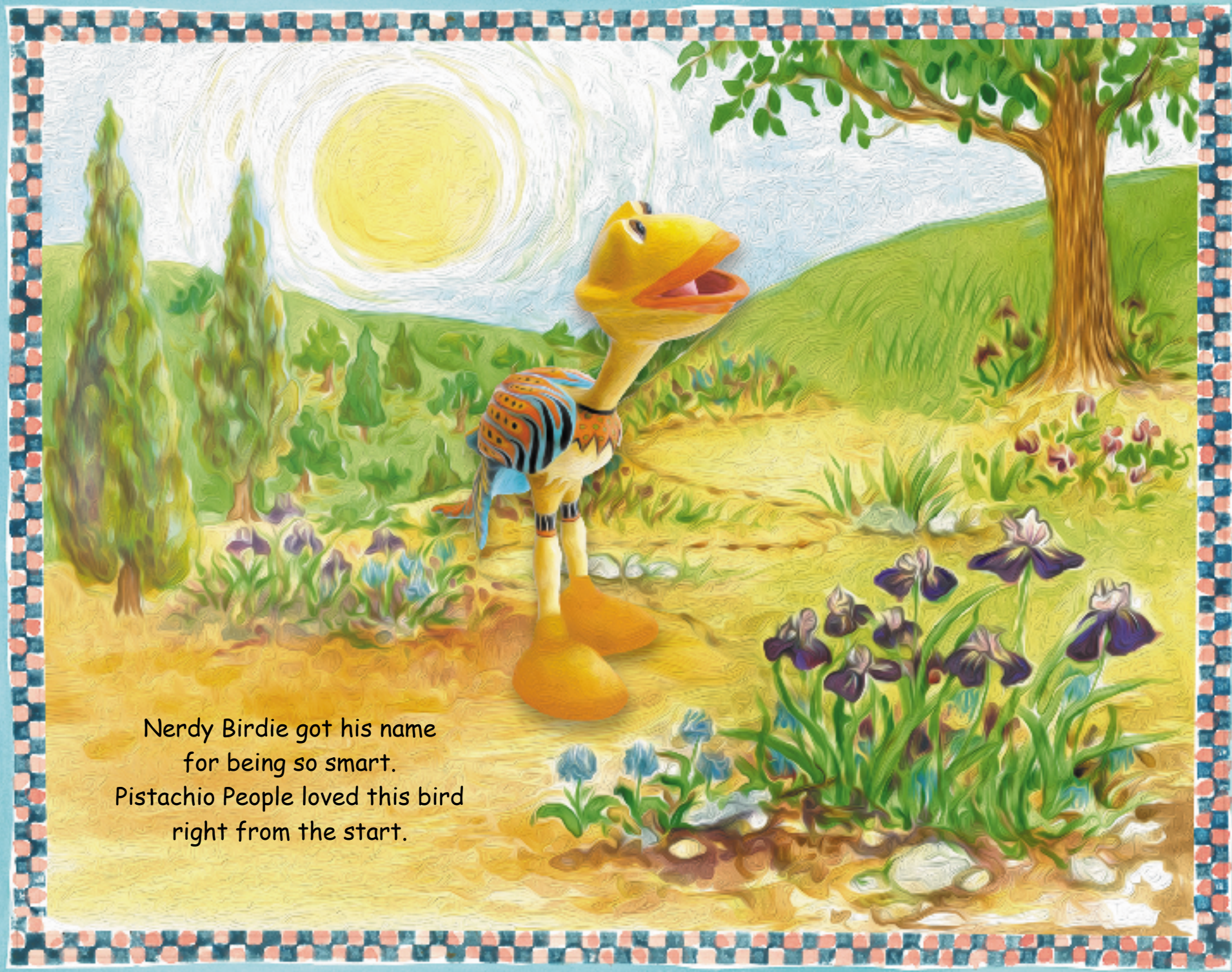
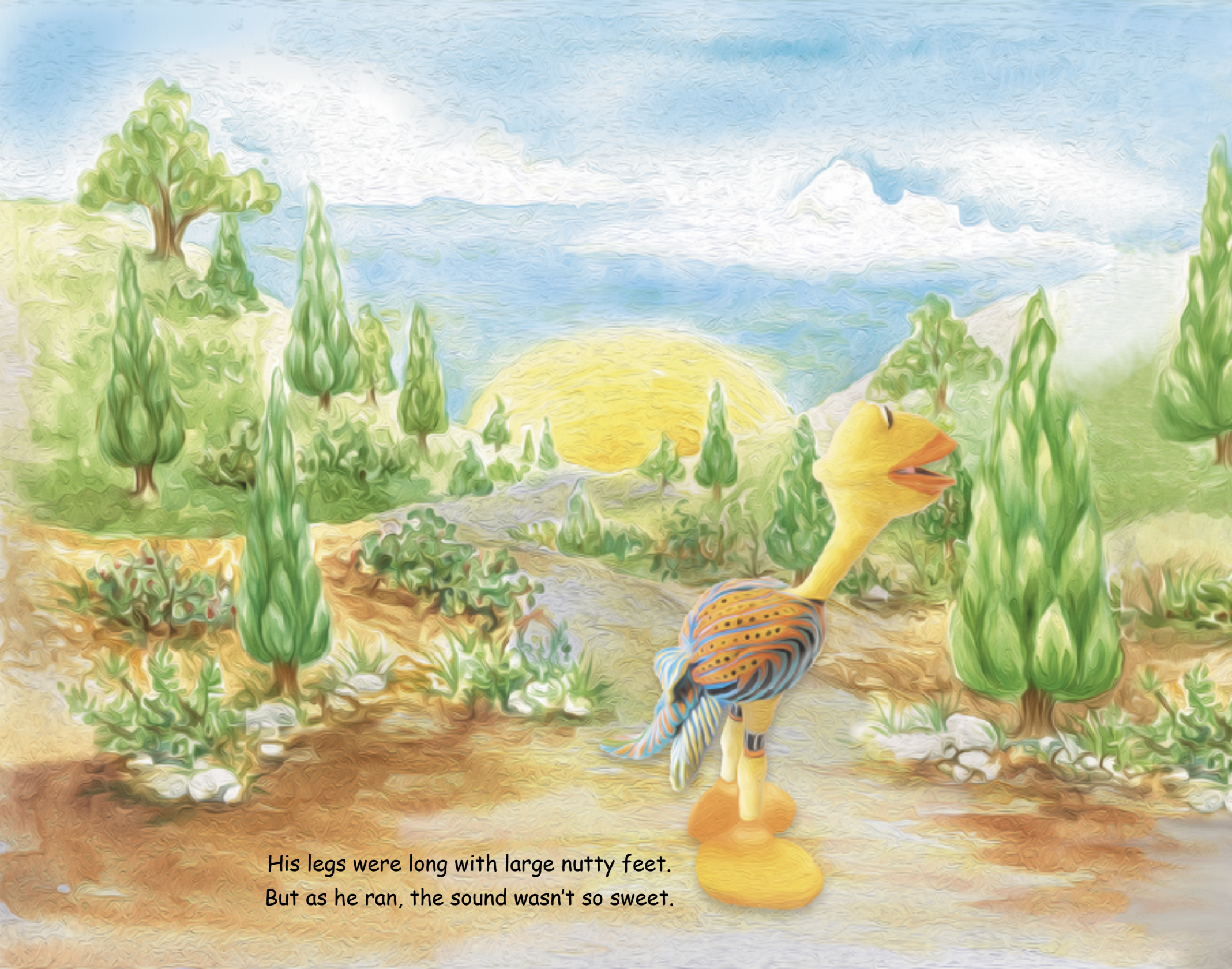
Pistachio People


Nerdy Birdie got his name
for being so smart.
Pistachio People loved this bird
right from the start.

He taught them all what he learned thinking
and always helped with ideas to be tinkering.

He had no hands to do everyday things but really had
the most beautiful magical wings.


His legs were long with large nutty feet.
But as he ran, the sound wasn't so sweet.

Clip-pity clop was the sound on the street.
Clip-pity clop-pity, was the repeating beat.

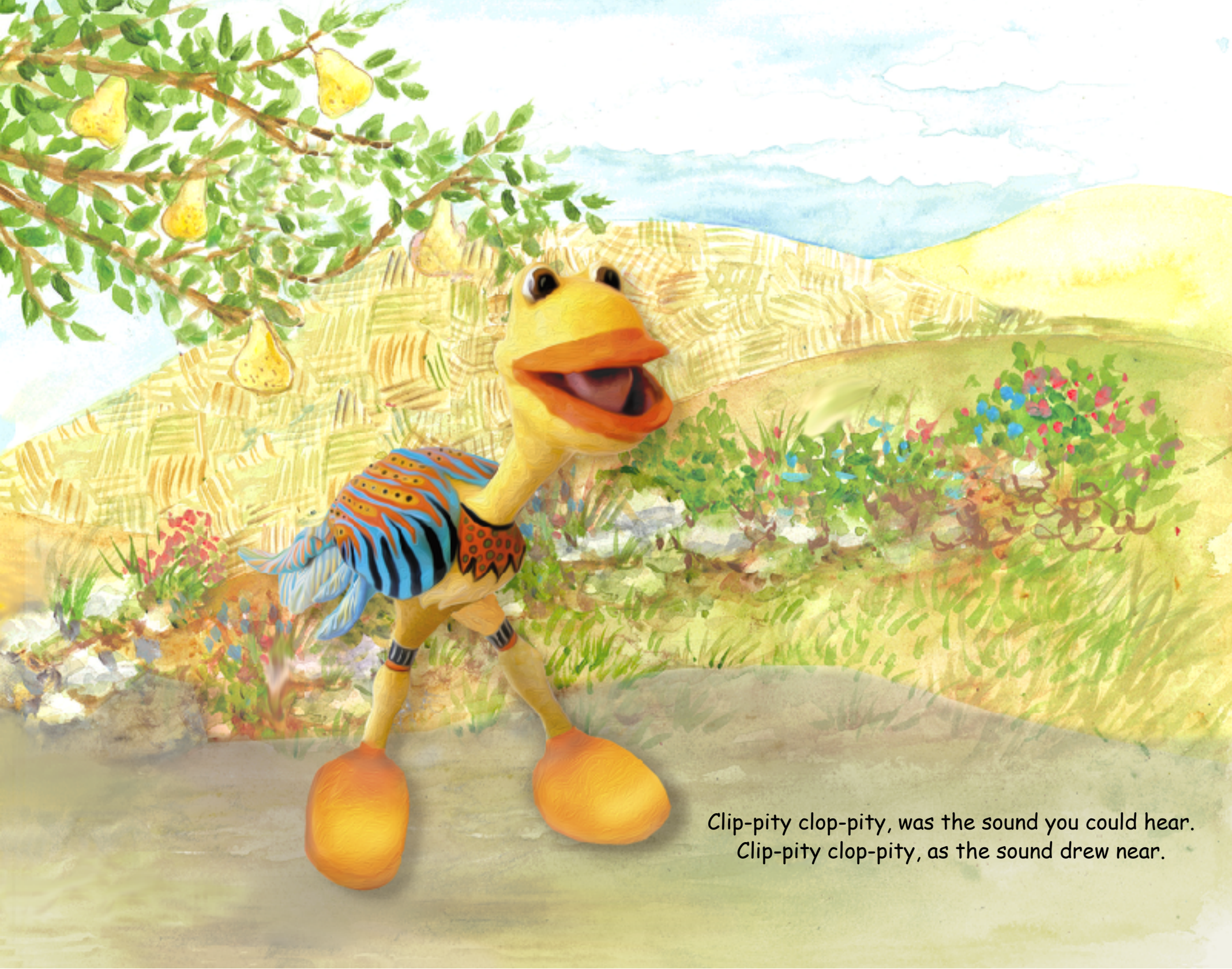
Pistachio People said; "How can we help Nerdy?
This is not the sound of a very sweet birdie."

He looked real cute with feathers down his tail
bouncing up and down along the winding trail.

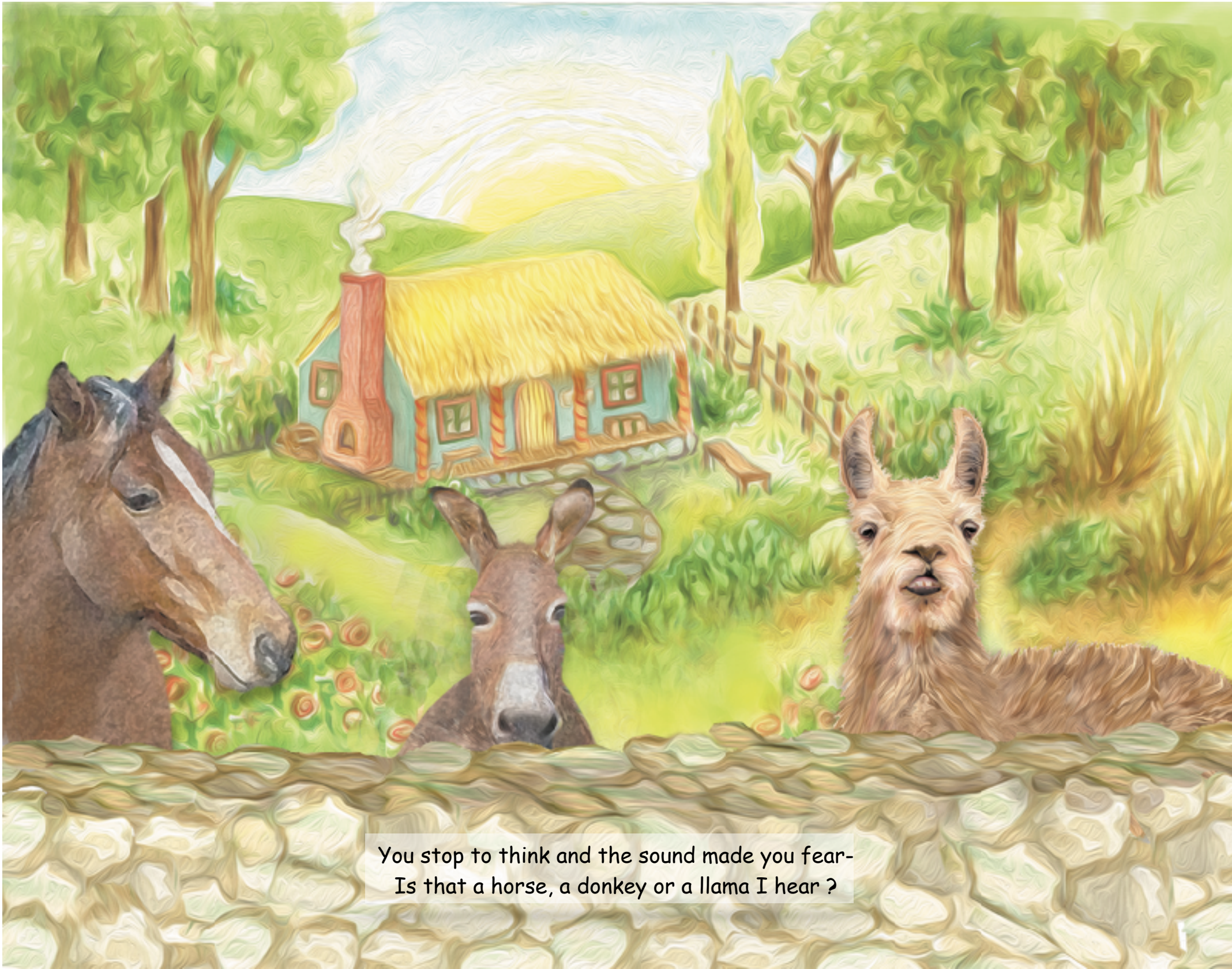
They tried putting padding on his big nutty feet.
He just kept on tripping and felt kind of beat.

They found the biggest shoes they could find.
Not one would fit. Now they were really in a bind.

Nerdy said; "I really can't play quietly today.
I must go out myself to find a better way."



Clip-pity clop-pity, was the sound you could hear.
Clip-pity clop-pity, as the sound drew near.


You stop to think and the sound made you fear-
Is that a horse, a donkey or a llama I hear ?

Then whoosh - Nerdy flies right by with a smile so wide
Clip-pity Clop-pity personified.

Nerdy birdie trotted off down the trail. Clip-pity clop-pity with his bouncy tail.

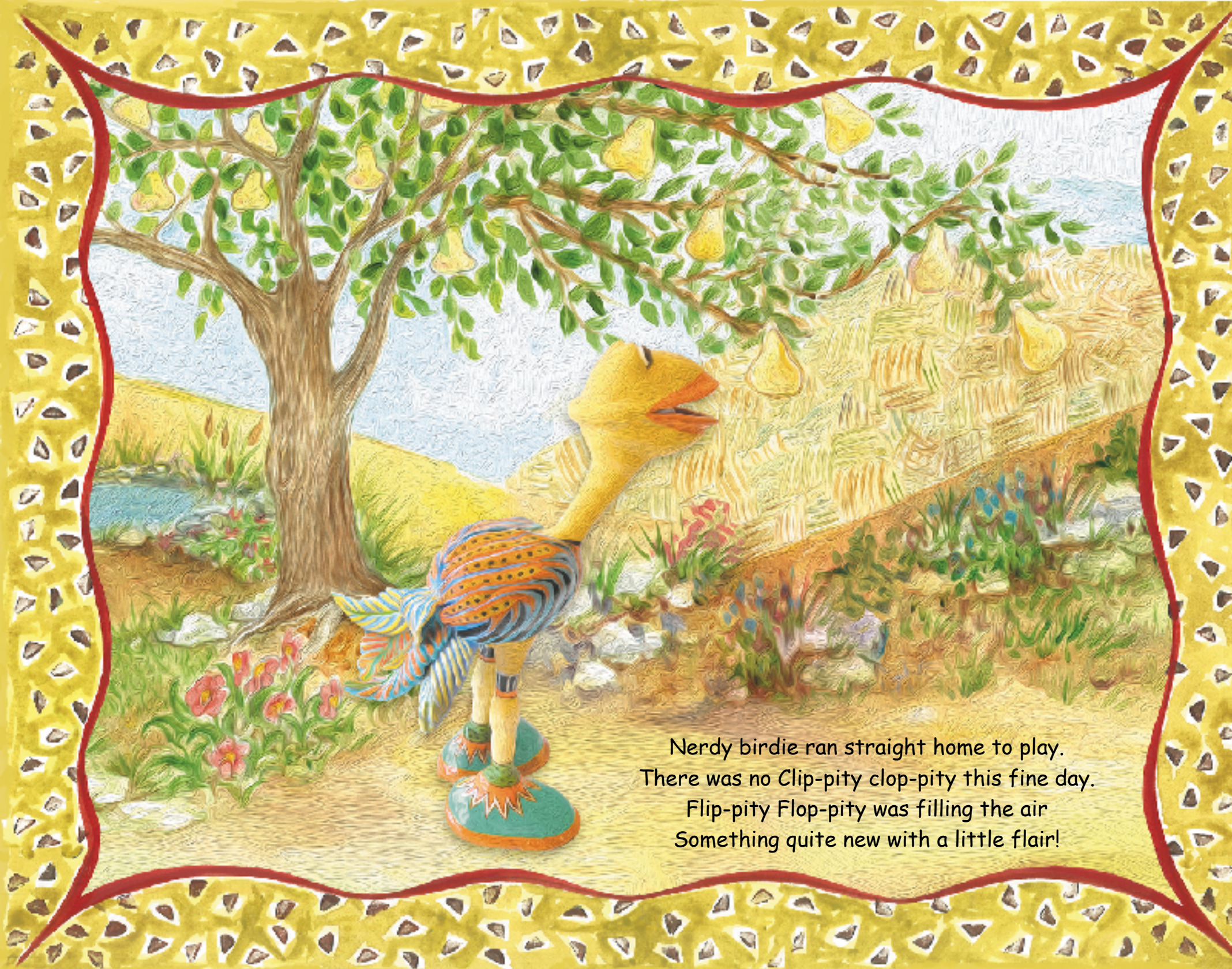
Nerdy stopped to chat with Mr. Achoo who seemed to know a thing or two about shoes.
He said; "Lulu's close by and can always find time. Just follow the trail to the large shoe sign."

At last, a cottage with a large shoe sign.
This must be the place I needed to find.

LuLu greeted Nerdy with a great big smile.
"Come right inside. This will just take a little while."

Lulu showed him all her shoemaker skills.
Nerdy was amazed with all the new shoe frills.

LuLu put his foot into the most beautiful blue shoe.
Nerdy was so very happy and LuLu was too.


Nerdy birdie ran straight home to play.
There was no Clip-pity clop-pity this fine day.
Flip-pity Flop-pity was filling the air
Something quite new with a little flair!

Pistachio People
The End