

# Lydia meets COLORFUL WORLD

LET'S TALK ABOUT  
**TOLERANCE**  
**ACCEPTANCE**  
**& DIVERSITY**



Ray the Gray

Lydia

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Zen brigada

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**LYDIA MEETS COLORFUL WORLD**

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& DIVERSITY

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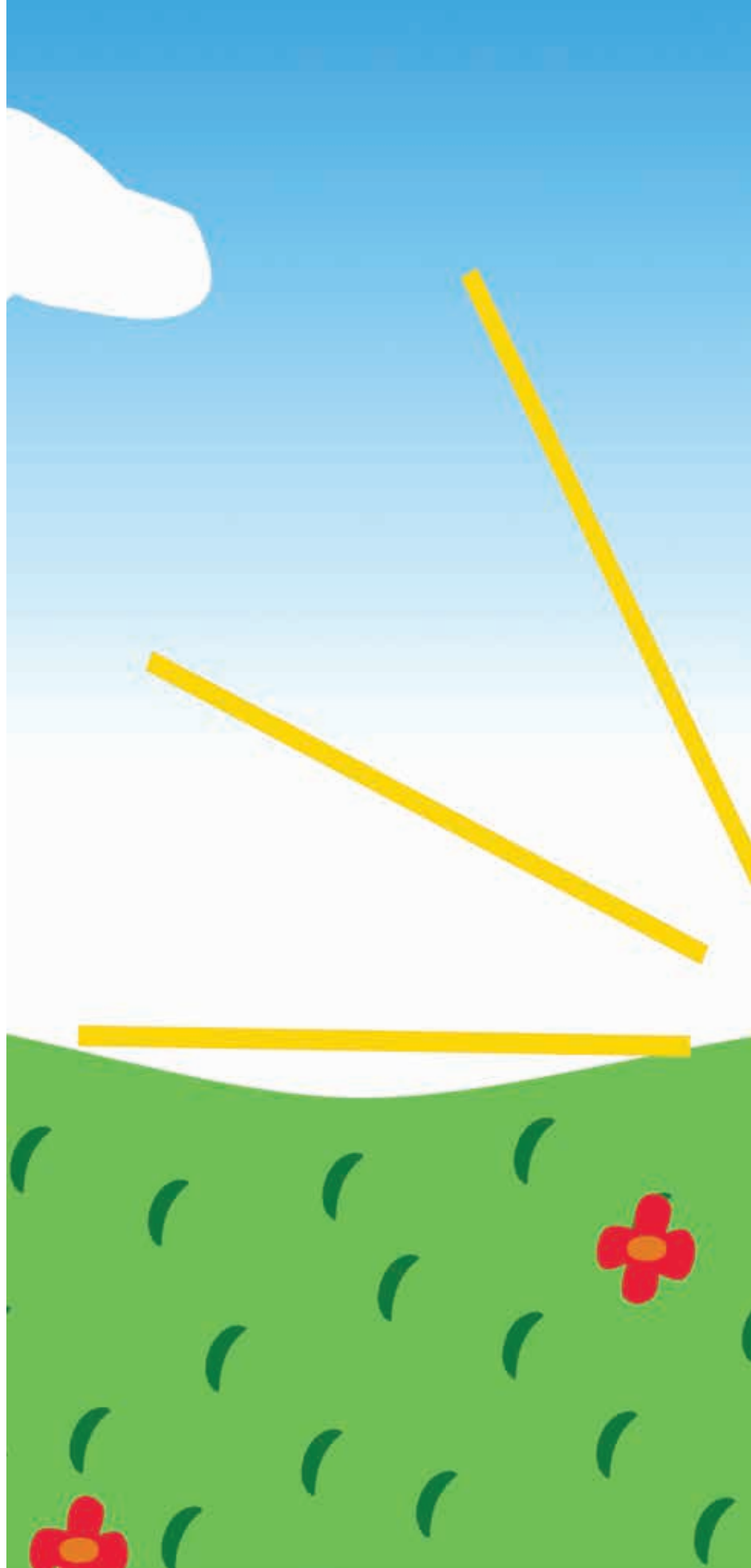
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Lydia and her spiky friend  
Ray the Gray are ready,  
waiting to embark on  
an **adventure** of a  
lifetime. What awaits us in  
Greendonia and Coloria?







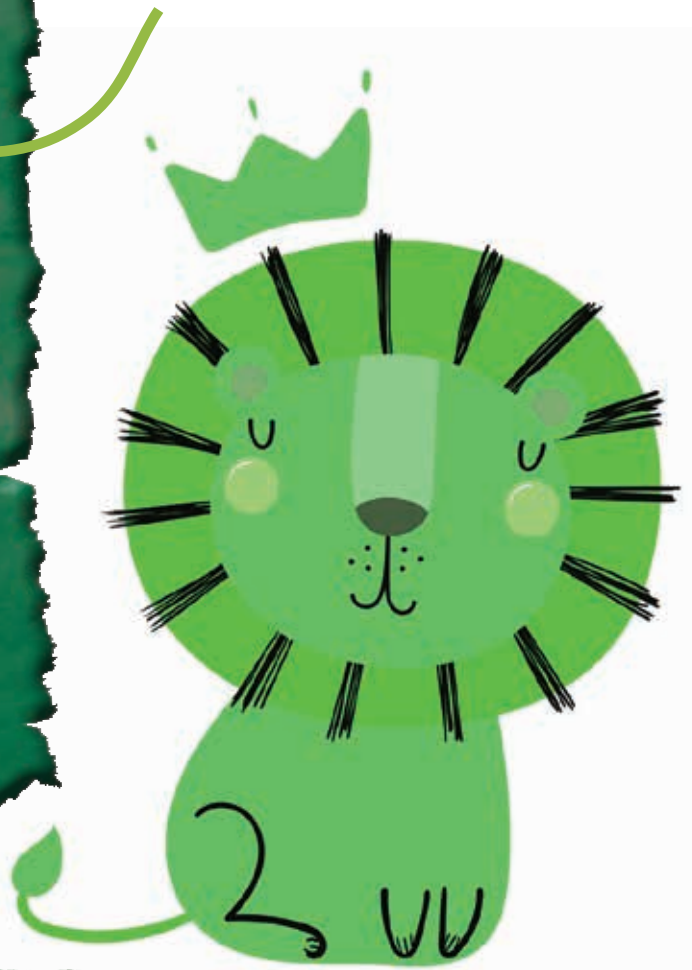
**Let's get going..**

Night is upon Greendonia, its inhabitants are peacefully asleep. Hold on! No need to be afraid! The night is not that dark here. It is just **A DARKER SHADE OF GREEN**. Look a little closer and you'll always see what is going on.



But beware! There are **STRICT RULES** in Greendonia and its inhabitants follow them blindly. No need to bother with them. Just remember, the most important rule is...

Yay! You were right! Everything must be a shade of green! Small exceptions are granted for the colors black and white, per decree of King Delirius III. But why? The King caught a **PECULIAR BUG** which made him see the world black and white. Only at times of tremendous joy would he get the odd flash of a green shade.



One more thing! Everyone had to look beautiful and **PERFECT!**



Our sweet Lydia **FELL SHORT** of beauty requirements. The King decreed sheep should be fluffy and round, but Lydia grew more square-like by the day!

Lydia dreamed of the day when she too would be fluffy and round. And most of all... Um... though she was embarrassed to admit it, she wished for a **COLORFUL DETAIL** here and there on her summer outfit.

She was tired of life in **ONLY ONE** color and the constant teasing made her sad.





OH PLEASE,  
LOOK AT  
HER!

WELL, SHE  
BECAME A  
SQUARE!



HOW ON EARTH  
IS SHE NOT  
ASHAMED OF  
HERSELF...

I HEARD SHE'S EVEN  
TALKING ABOUT COLORS!



Overwhelmed by **sadness** she made a firm decision to change things and be happy again!



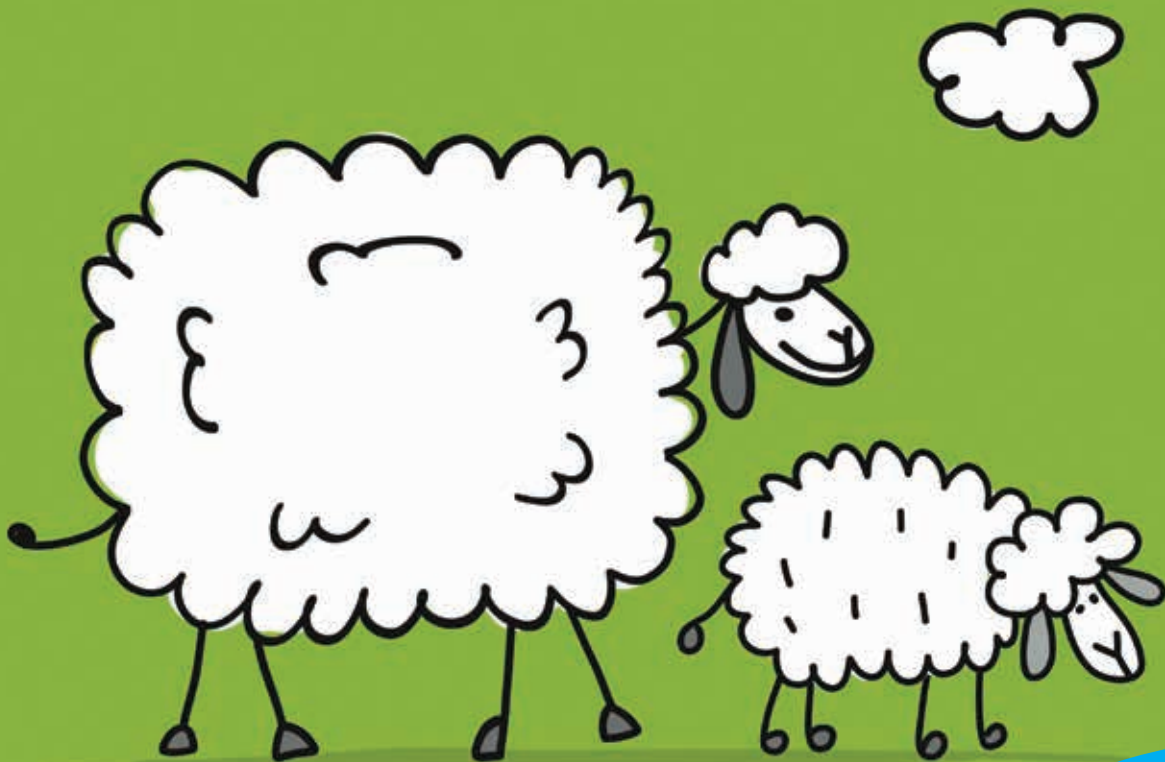
Lydia read about all the latest exercises in the Green Post magazine. A fluffy and round coat was guaranteed for those who exercised on mornings with southerly winds blowing. Each morning Lydia would **WAKE UP EARLY**, paying close attention to the wind forecast.



But she had to take care of the hardest part as well! She needed to become round again, so the teasing would finally stop. She would **EXERCISE** all the time, not eat anything all day long. But come the night, all her efforts were for nothing, as she would devour the entire fridge before bedtime.




Discouraged and sad, one morning Lydia went for a walk with her friend Patricia. Lost in thought, they didn't realize how long they had been walking, when they reached the border. On the other side of the river stood **THE COUNTRY OF COLORIA!**



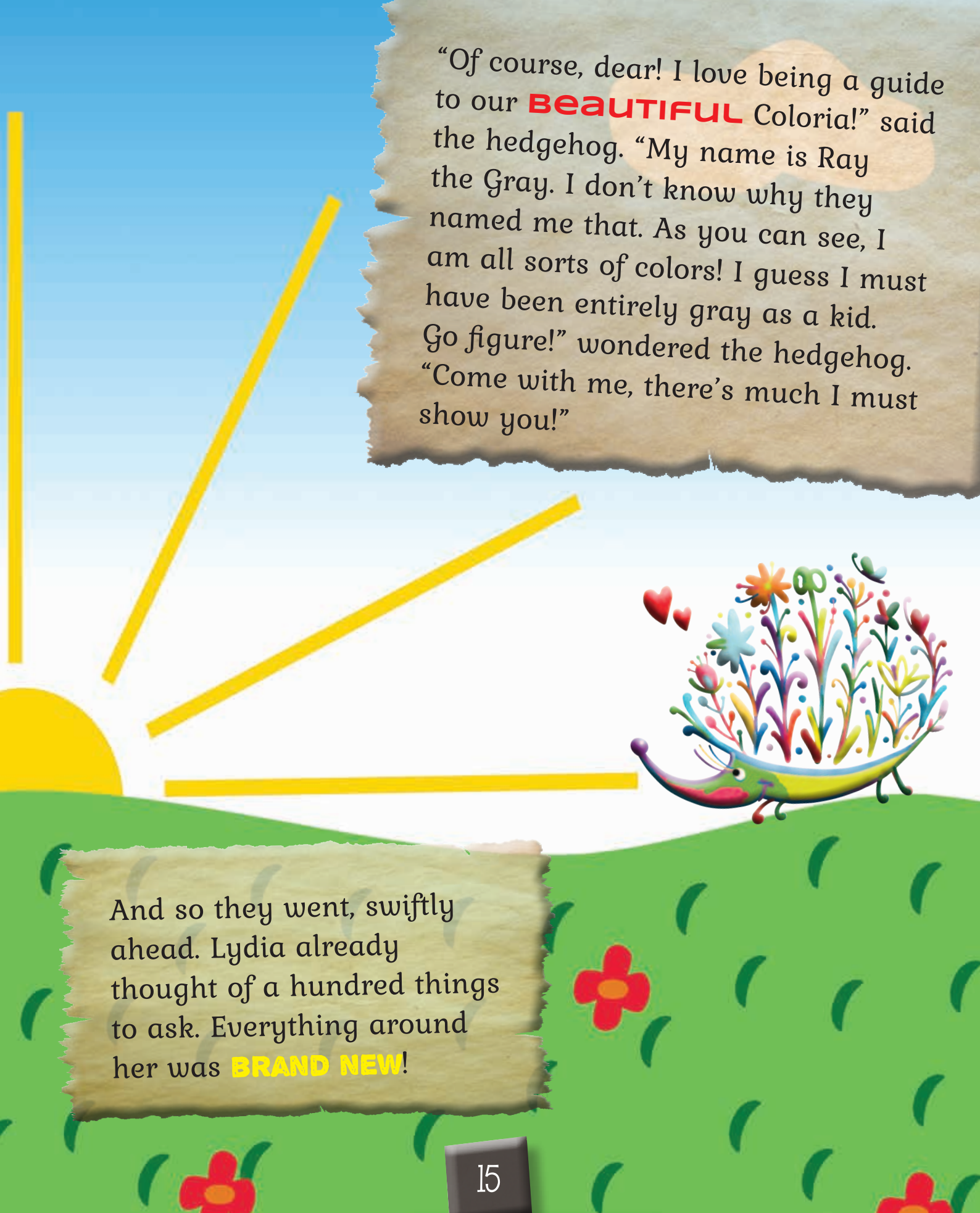
Lydia was stunned! Wherever she looked, colors of all sorts, endlessly. Coloria's inhabitants were wearing the most colorful of clothes, packed with adornments. But what surprised her the most, Colorians were of **ALL SHAPES AND SIZES**: big, small, round, long, thin, stubby...






On the other side of the forest clearing Lydia noticed a hedgehog with a funky **FLOWERLIKE** hairstyle.

“My name is Lydia. I come from Greendonia. Here in your land, it feels so **NICE AND RELAXED!** I’ve already forgotten how stressful yesterday felt. Could I join you for a walk?” Lydia asked.

A vibrant, colorful illustration. In the top left, a bright yellow sun is partially visible, with several long, thin yellow rays extending across a clear blue sky. Below the sky is a rolling green hill. The hill is decorated with several stylized red flowers with yellow centers and green leaves. In the foreground, a colorful beetle is walking towards the right. The beetle's body is a mix of purple, blue, and green, and its back is covered in a dense, colorful pattern of various flowers and plants in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. The beetle has small legs and antennae.

“Of course, dear! I love being a guide to our **BEAUTIFUL** Coloria!” said the hedgehog. “My name is Ray the Gray. I don’t know why they named me that. As you can see, I am all sorts of colors! I guess I must have been entirely gray as a kid. Go figure!” wondered the hedgehog. “Come with me, there’s much I must show you!”

And so they went, swiftly ahead. Lydia already thought of a hundred things to ask. Everything around her was **BRAND NEW!**

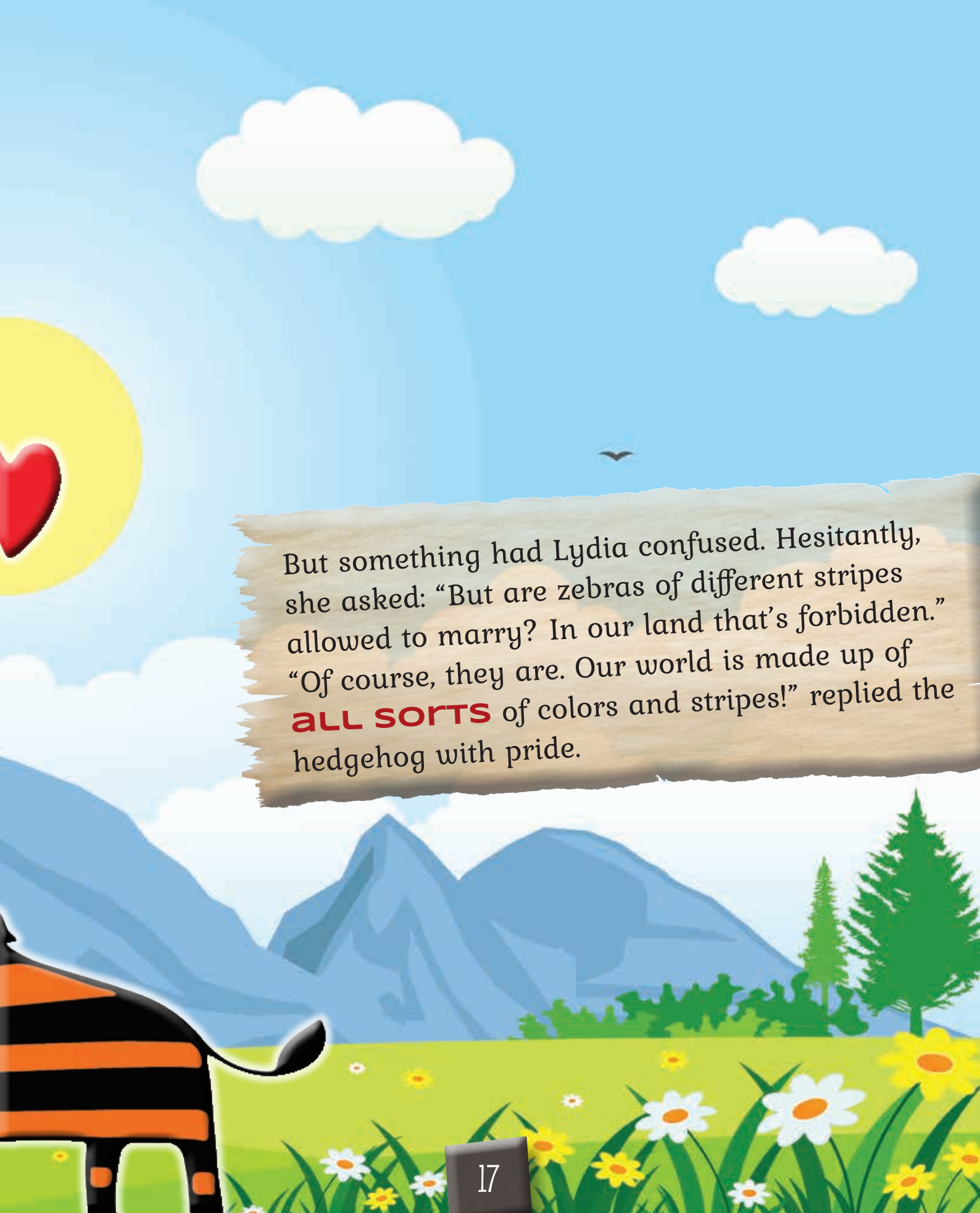


In the middle of a wide and fragrant valley two zebras caught her attention. They seemed **IN LOVE**, chatting in the morning sun.

Lydia noticed: "They seem really happy!"

"Yes, they met last year and got married. Bing got here from the faraway land of Ming. Gaby immediately had eyes for him. Rumor has it a little one is **ON THE WAY** too!" announced Ray the Gray.






But something had Lydia confused. Hesitantly, she asked: “But are zebras of different stripes allowed to marry? In our land that’s forbidden.” “Of course, they are. Our world is made up of **all sorts** of colors and stripes!” replied the hedgehog with pride.

Lydia was still **CONFUSED**. She just had to ask... “Um, but if the stripes are going in different directions, does it mean their baby zebra is going to be covered in squares? I seem to remember our king mentioning something of the sort.”





Ray promptly replied: “Don’t worry about it! **Nature made sure** their colors and stripes mix up in the most beautiful of ways!”

As Lydia and Ray the Gray got to another serene forest clearing, they met Bing and his five baby zebras.

“But look **HOW CUTE** they are!” exclaimed Lydia.

“Where is their mom?”

“Dad is looking after the babies, while mom is gathering food and preparing dinner,” explained Ray.



“Back home it is always mom that stays with the children. Dad works and only gets to see them here and there. The king says that’s the best way,” said Lydia.

“It doesn’t really make a difference here. We let the parents decide what works best for them. In some families it is mom who stays with the kids most of the time, while in some, it’s dad. The **MOST IMPORTANT THING** is that everyone’s happy!” said Ray.



Lydia reflected: “Come to think of it... the most important thing is that **EVERYONE STAYS HAPPY!**”

And so, Lydia and her spiky friend soldiered on. They walked all day long until exhausted, they reached the edge of the desert. Once there, they saw an endless caravan of camels marching towards Coloria.

“What is this? I’ve never seen anything of the sort before!” asked a confused Lydia.

Ray the Gray patiently explained: “Those are camels from the neighbouring kingdom of Gaso Land.



There's a war there and they must escape. Much of their kingdom is torn down and there is little food left. To make things worse, there's no work to be found." Concerned, Lydia asked: "But where are you going to put them all?"

**"THERE'S ROOM FOR EVERYONE.** Some camels are going to find work and stay, while some other ones are going to keep going, looking for better luck elsewhere," explained Ray calmly.

"Odd, our king is not letting anyone into Greendonia. Though many want to leave..." said Lydia pensively.



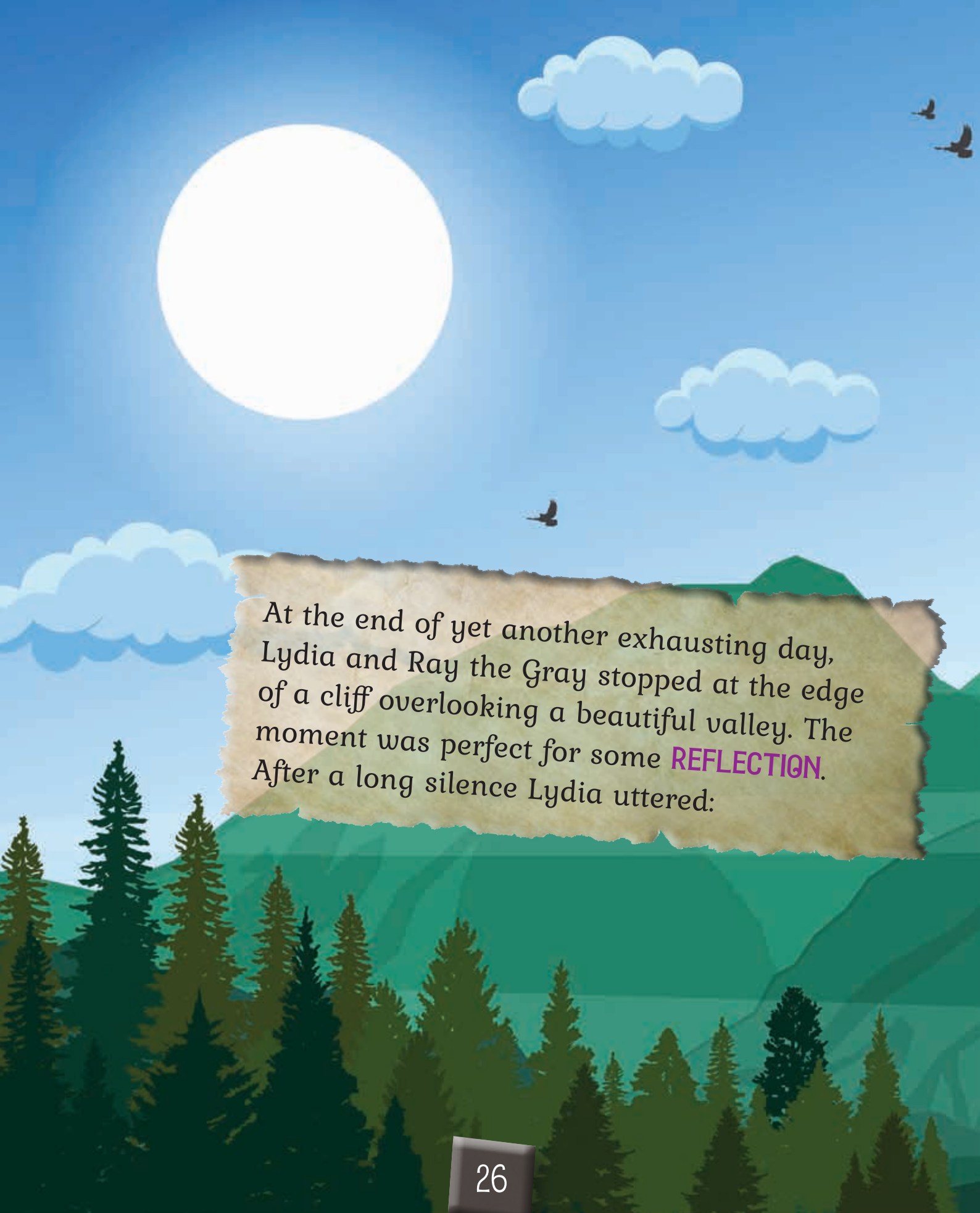
In a valley bathed  
in the setting **sun**  
the inhabitants of  
Coloria got to meet  
the camels. Colorian  
llamas that grow  
and sell fruit could  
certainly use some  
additional help.





The llamas were intrigued by the two humps on the camel's back. The camel immediately offered his help. His back was ideal for carrying fruit baskets. He seemed to really like his new job. And he even made **NEW FRIENDS**.






At the end of yet another exhausting day, Lydia and Ray the Gray stopped at the edge of a cliff overlooking a beautiful valley. The moment was perfect for some **REFLECTION**. After a long silence Lydia uttered:

“I have something to confess, my friend. There were many times I didn’t feel happy. I guess it was because I was **DIFFERENT** and everyone teased me about it back home. Here, for the first time, I feel happy and free.”



“I am so glad to hear that. Because we should all be **HAPPY**,” replied Ray. They were tired and they both soon fell asleep. Another day full of new acquaintances lay ahead of them.



The morning rain freshened up the air, with the rising sun putting up a memorable show: a rainbow made up of endless colors. Lydia had never seen a rainbow before. “I can’t believe this. **WHO COLORED THIS?**” Lydia was so surprised.


“That’s a rainbow and we can see it when the sun comes out after the rain. Nature is wondrous and **FULL OF COLORS**. Light helps us see colors in all their glory,” explained Ray.



“I’d love for us in Greendonia to have **RAINBOWS** too. Who knows...” sighed Lydia. At that moment they noticed a flock of playful sheep on a nearby hill chatting to each other. “Oh my, but they look like me!” shrieked Lydia. “I’ve always wanted a dress like that!”

“You’ll get the chance to talk to them too. Sheep are very well **RESPECTED** in Coloria because they get fashion and know how to dress nicely,” said Ray the Gray. “But let’s be on our way towards the sea now.”





Lydia would remember the past few days forever. Every day she'd seen something for the **FIRST TIME** ever. And now, she found herself in front of yet another wonder: a vast sea!

“Can I touch it? Will I melt if I do?” Lydia asked concerned.

“**DON'T WORRY**. Nothing will happen to you! You'll only get wet, but the warm sun and wind will dry you right up,” said the hedgehog convincingly.

“The sea is **so calm**. Does anybody live here?” Lydia asked curiously.

“Well, of course. That’s why we’re here. Let me show you! But once in the sea, we can’t breathe and see the way we do on land. That’s why I’ve gotten this ready!” the hedgehog explained with excitement.

Confused, Lydia laid her eyes on a bunch of odd tools. But her friend directed her:



“It will be **EASIER** to see under water if you use this mask. And you can breathe using this snorkel. Wearing these fins on your feet will help you swim faster. Should we go?” asked the hedgehog. “Let’s go!” replied Lydia impatiently.



It is the first day of **SCHOOL** in the bay today and all parents are proudly accompanying their children to the edge of a reef where they'll meet Adrienne, their schoolteacher.

Mom and dad octopus **DRESSED UP** real nice and got their little Bibi ready for school. They're waiting for a cab, as the school is on a neighbouring reef.

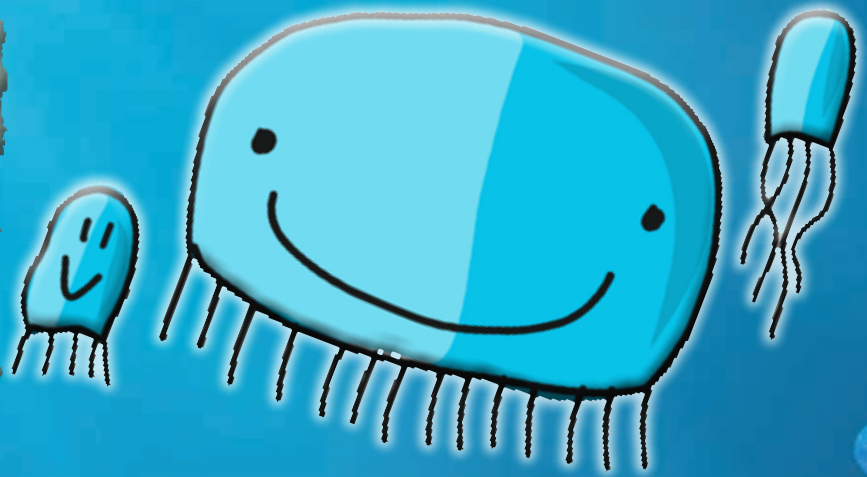
"It appears that the turtle is a little late because of traffic today," said Ray the Gray.





“Jenny the Jelly, her son and daughter, will drift to school using their tentacles, as it’s so close to their home.

Also, cabs are so expensive. Jenny is raising her children **BY HERSELF**. Their dad unfortunately died in a storm,” — Ray explained.



“On her own?” asked Lydia. “Our king says children must have both parents.”

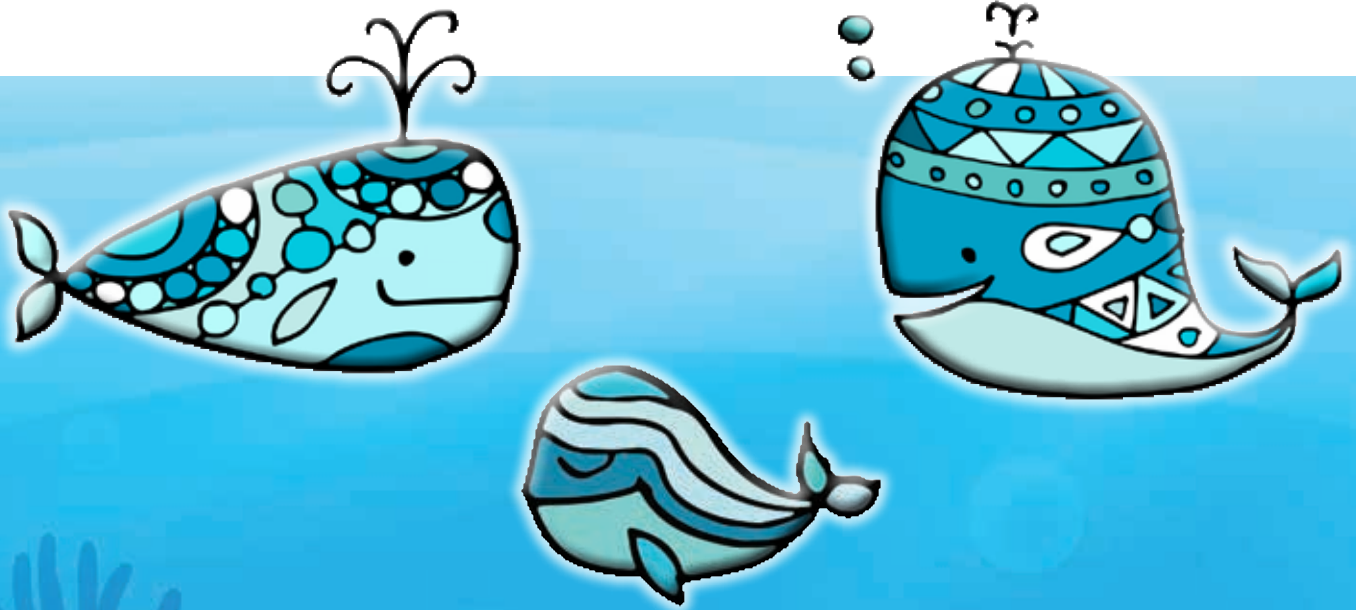
“Well, often children only have one parent, and sometimes they have none. But it doesn’t matter because they all get to grow up into amazing adults as long as they’re surrounded by those who love and respect them,” replied the hedgehog.

“Hmm... **makes sense**,” Lydia thought to herself.

Luke and Tony will also accompany their little Dee to the school's doorstep, as they live close by.

“Hmm... but how did either of them two give birth to Dee?” Lydia asked, confused.

“Dee lost both her parents very young to a fisherman's net. Luke and Tony adopted her and are her **NEW FOREVER PARENTS** now!” explained Ray the Gray.



“Our king would not allow Luke and Tony to take care of Dee. He says it’s not good,” Lydia remarked sadly.

“Well, if we help someone find a home and let them be happy with those they love, I don’t see anything wrong with that,” concluded the hedgehog.

“Hmm... **makes sense**,” Lydia thought to herself.



Upon leaving the sea it took hours for Lydia to take everything in.

“I explored so many new landscapes, met so many new friends, yet one thing was the same throughout: **PEACE AND HARMONY** were everywhere. The inhabitants of Coloria seemed happy and free.”

Lydia also felt happy and free and those were feelings she wanted to hold on to forever.



“Dear friend. I would really like to meet your ruler, if you even have one, as it seems that you don’t really need one,” Lydia asked the hedgehog pensively.  
“It’s as if you were reading my mind. I’ll introduce you to Helga, our queen’s personal secretary. She’ll bring you to the queen and you’ll be able to ask **ANYTHING** your heart desires,” replied Ray the Gray.



And so, Helga brought our two friends to Queen Colorella II. Colorella was named after the beautiful land of Coloria, and Coloria itself, as you've probably already guessed, got its name from the ancient word for colors, as this land is full of them.

Queen Colorella II always holds flowers of various colors in her hands and begins all of her speeches with: **"THE WORLD IS FULL OF COLORS AND EACH OF THEM IS MINE!"**

"Your Majesty, I am so happy I get to meet you!" said Lydia with excitement.

"My dear, you don't need to be so formal. We are all equals here. My only task is to make sure that our equality, freedom and peace live on forever," – the Queen replied solemnly.



“I heard there are many more things you’re interested in. Speak **FREELY**, and I’ll try to help,” said the Queen to Lydia.



Lydia had a big smile on her face as she was carefully thinking about the most important things she wanted to ask about. She was thinking about the best way the Queen could help her. And so, she set off, with her long question:

“As you probably already know, I come from Greendonia. Our king forbade us all sorts of things. We can’t even use colors, other than green. I always felt I was **DIFFERENT** and tried to be free, but I couldn’t, because everyone would tease me. It is here that I felt really free for the first time. I would like to stay here, but at the same time I would love to go back home and help others see colors and live freely. What should I do?”





The Queen listened to Lydia carefully. She took a deep breath, and then exhaled, saying:

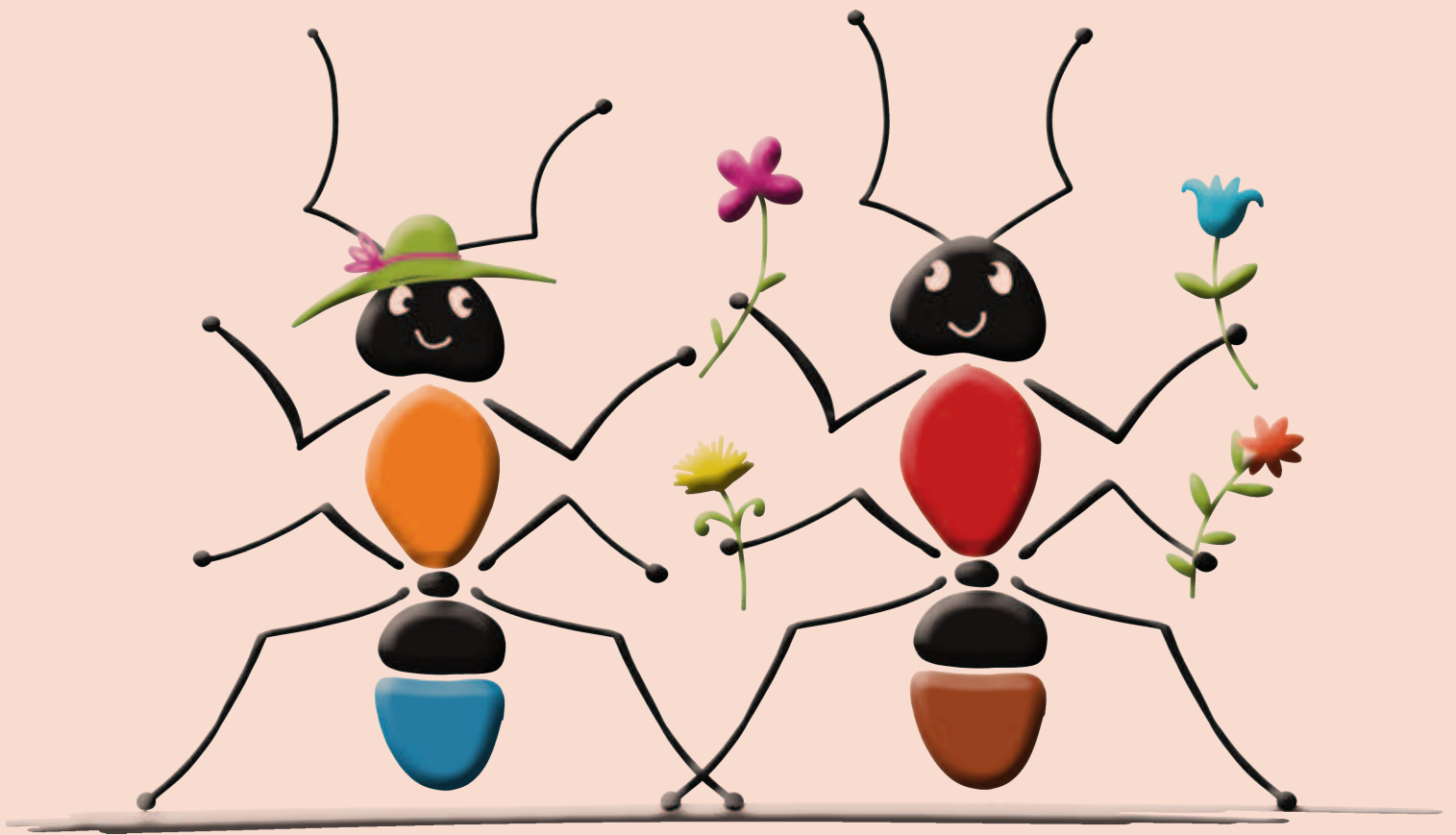
“THE WORLD IS FULL OF COLORS AND EACH OF THEM IS MINE!

Anybody who forbids things is weak and unhappy with their own lives. They want to show themselves to be strong by force, and while doing that they try and hide their own weaknesses and unhappiness. It is those that grant others their freedom and can rejoice in their happiness that are the true strong ones.

Most often we are sad when we feel like we are no longer part of the world around us. The world around us is made up of many colors and each part of it is connected to all other parts, even though we most often don't notice that. For example, the happiness of a butterfly's flight is also part of you. Your sadness is part of the blooming lilac in my garden. All our actions affect those around us, so we need to be careful and mindful about how we act and think. We need to allow everyone to live their lives the way they want and to be responsible for their actions. Prohibitions have never solved anything.

This world is so beautiful and rich because it is full of diversity. The world is made such that we experience different things that make us better and happier. Sometimes that's harder and sometimes easier. For the world to become a better place, we ourselves need to become better first!”





Mesmerized, Lydia listened to the Queen's entire speech, even though she didn't understand all of it at first. She felt such relief. She knew exactly what she had to do.

After her speech, Queen Colorella II introduced Lydia to her husband Gregory. You are probably wondering why he doesn't have a number next to his name? Well, it's probably because queens are ultimately very important... but we digress now... Gregory, the Queen's husband, adores his garden and collecting magical and medicinal plants. He's also an expert in the preparation of very powerful potions. Well, one could say, their effects are truly **magical** at times.

“My dear Lydia! I can see you look relieved and I am glad I was able to help you,” said the Queen.

“Thank you so much my Queen! I want to go back to Greendonia and tell everyone about what I’ve seen!” replied Lydia.

“I hope the potion my husband Gregory has prepared for you will help you with your task,” said the Queen as she gave Lydia a blue and gold flask.

“Do I have to drink this?” Lydia asked, confused.

“No! **YOUR HEART** already feels a deep connection with the world around you. This potion is for the one whose heart is unhappy!” replied the Queen.

“Thank you once again, my Queen!” Lydia said full of gratitude.





“Thank you, my friend, for revealing a **BRAND-NEW WORLD** to me! I’ll always be grateful for that! I hope you’ll come to visit me soon,” said Lydia with tears in her eyes.

On the next day Lydia and Ray the Gray got to the river on the border between Coloria and Greendonia. Lydia was carrying the potion on her back and had to be very **CAREFUL** not to drop it.





“It was a pleasure meeting you! I made a new best **FRIEND** and I wish you all the happiness in this world! I believe in you and I hope we will see each other again soon!” said the hedgehog as he waived goodbye with his colorful tail.

All out of breath, Lydia got to the castle where King Delirius III lived. The **UNHAPPY** King was sitting in front of the castle with his eyes closed, muttering something to himself. Upon seeing Lydia, he assumed his servants had sent him his daily glass of milk before bed.



Without fully opening his eyes, the King grabbed the flask, opened it, and drank it **IN ONE GULP!**




Lydia looked at what had just happened in disbelief. She didn't even need to do anything! The King had drunk the **MAGICAL POTION** on his own!



The next morning the King ordered his attendants to **URGENTLY** scrap all laws with prohibitions. His will was put in force immediately!







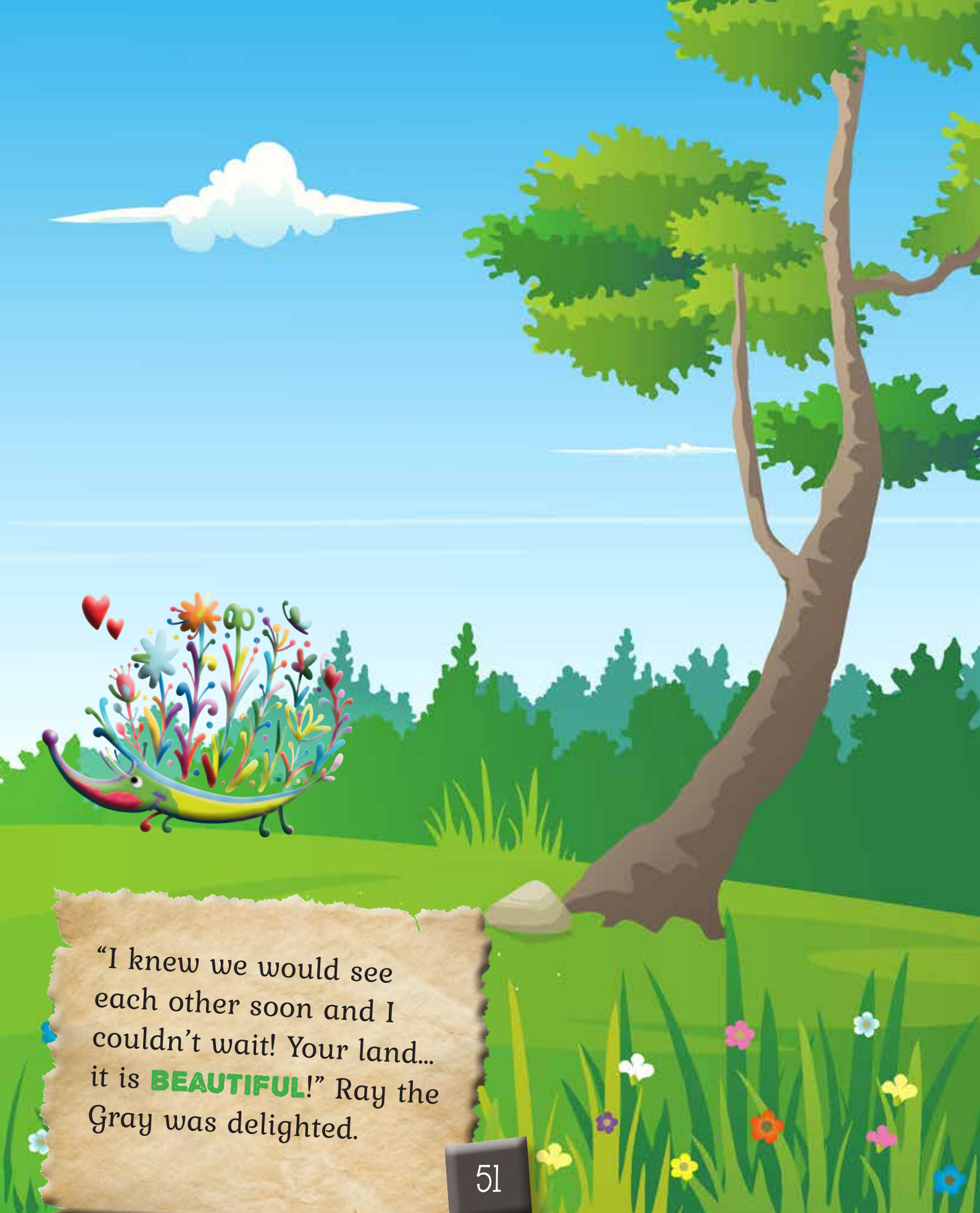
To the great surprise of his attendants and servants, the King stepped into his garden in colorful clothing, his face beaming with happiness.

He stopped, took a deep breath, and then exhaled, saying: "THE WORLD IS FULL OF **COLORS** AND EACH OF THEM IS MINE!"

Suddenly a thunderous applause could be heard from everywhere. Treetops swayed and put on their green, yellow and orange coats.



The following day Lydia was already at the clothing store. She bought herself a brand new shirt with the **COLORFUL** adornment she'd always dreamed of. Indeed, it was a special occasion. Her best friend was coming to visit.



“I knew we would see each other soon and I couldn’t wait! Your land... it is **BEAUTIFUL!**” Ray the Gray was delighted.



The friends spent the entire afternoon **TOGETHER** as happy birds chirped around them. The birds too could finally wear their magical colors.