

Charles's Gift

Foreword

Children are no different from adults.

They have feelings, emotions, and favour certain people, events and things.

However, it is common for children to think for themselves first, because they may not be readily aware of other people's needs and feelings.

By cultivating children's empathy, they will learn to care and share their possessions and happiness with others.

World Vision encourages children to care about our world at a young age, to be concerned with poverty and to help improve the lives of people in developing countries.

This story is re-written from a true story from Zambia, with an aim to teach children the importance of sharing with others.



Wow!
**Charles has received a huge gift today. It is so big that
it almost cannot get through the door!**



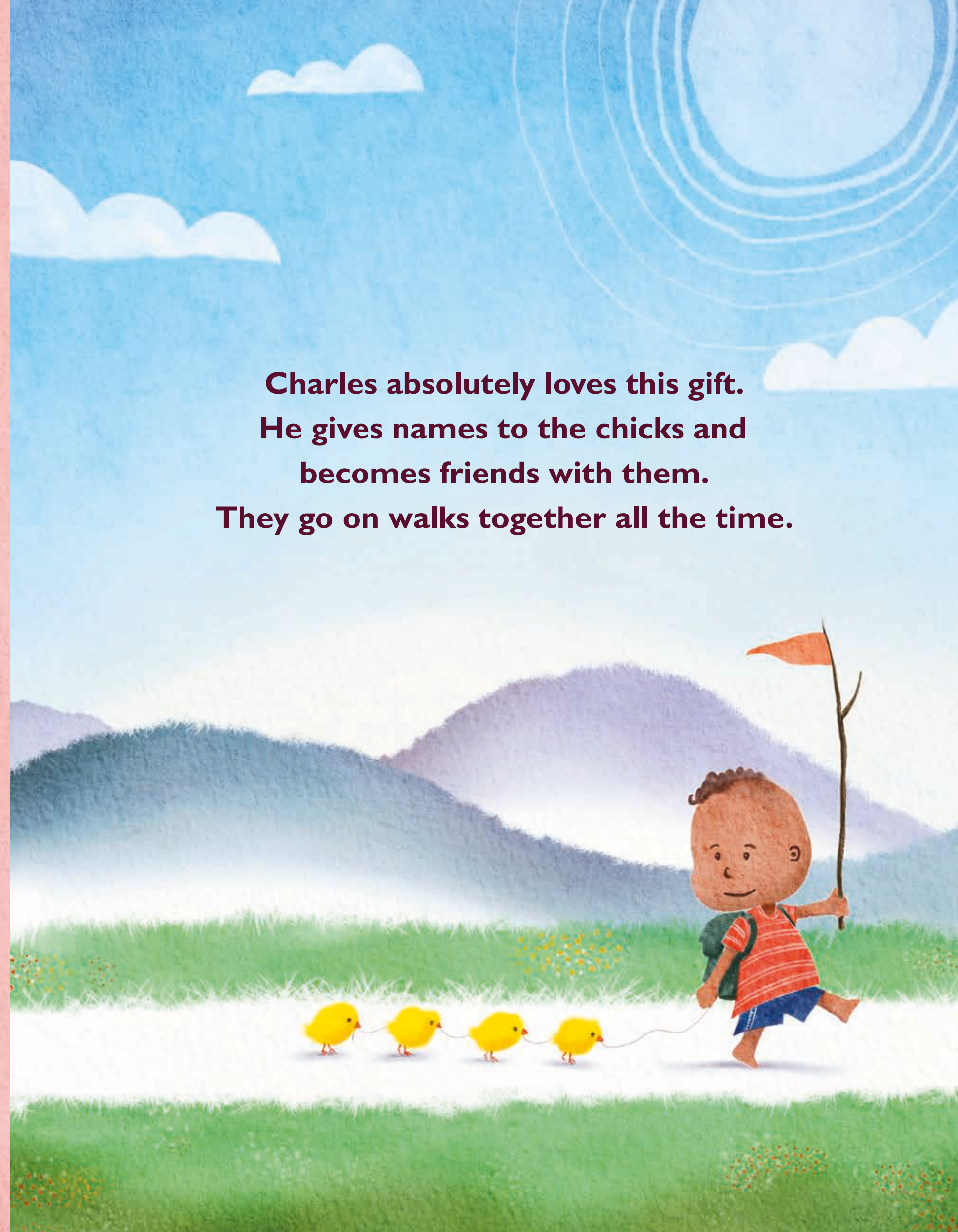
Tweet-tweet!
It even comes with sound!
Guess what it is!



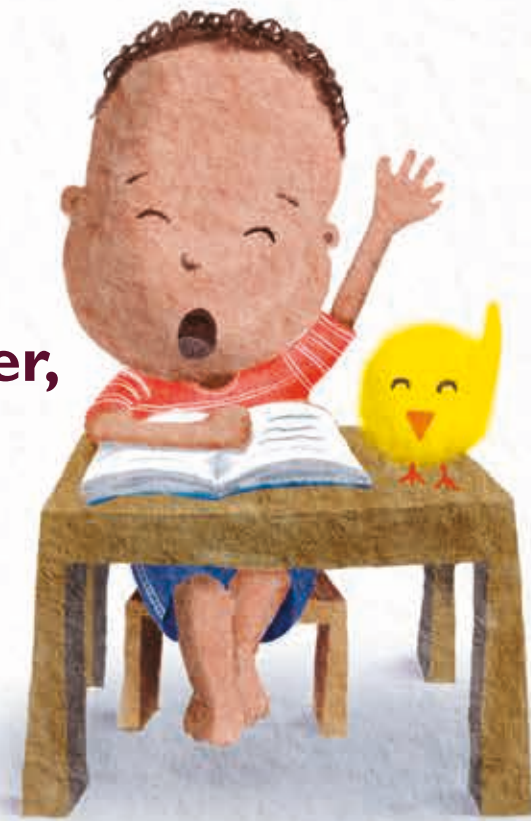
**Four chicks and
a big bag of chicken feed!**



**Charles absolutely loves this gift.
He gives names to the chicks and
becomes friends with them.
They go on walks together all the time.**



They go to school together,



play games together,



go on adventures together,



poop together,



and sleep together...



**As the days go by,
Charles realises that the chicks have not
only grown up, but also produced some white and
round little gifts for him.**

Do you know what they are?



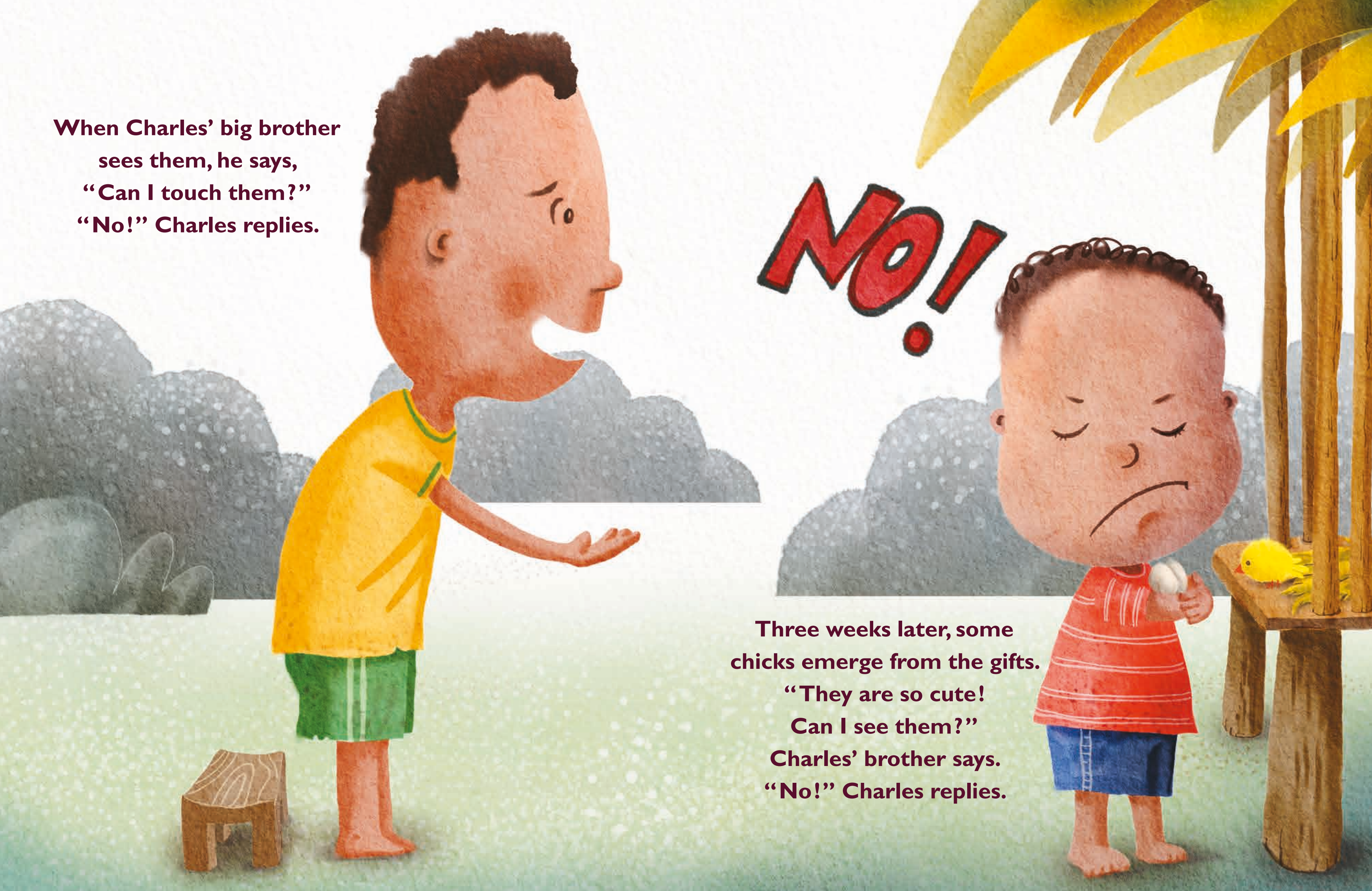
**When Charles' big brother
sees them, he says,
"Can I touch them?"
"No!" Charles replies.**

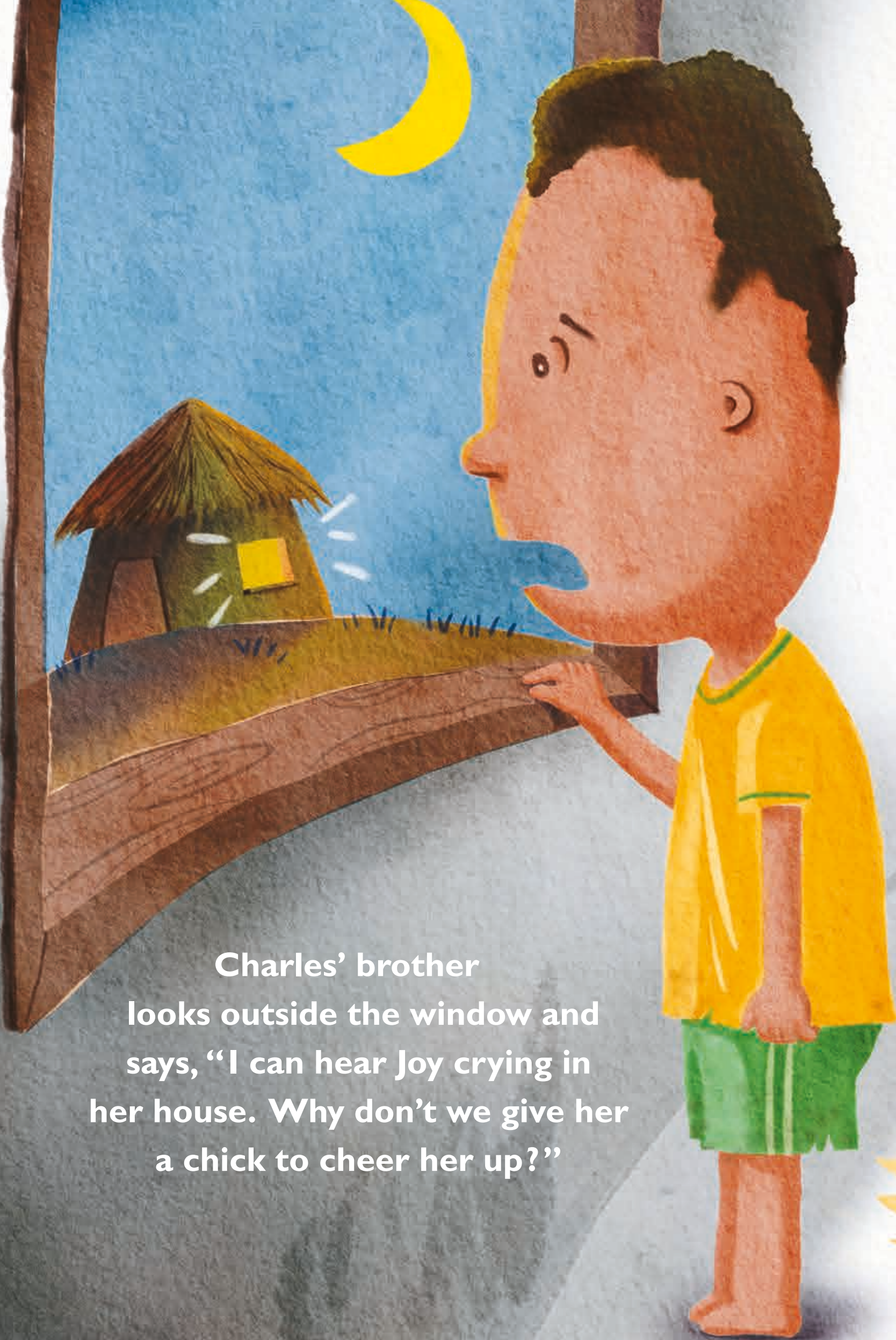
No!

**Three weeks later, some
chicks emerge from the gifts.**

**"They are so cute!
Can I see them?"**

**Charles' brother says.
"No!" Charles replies.**





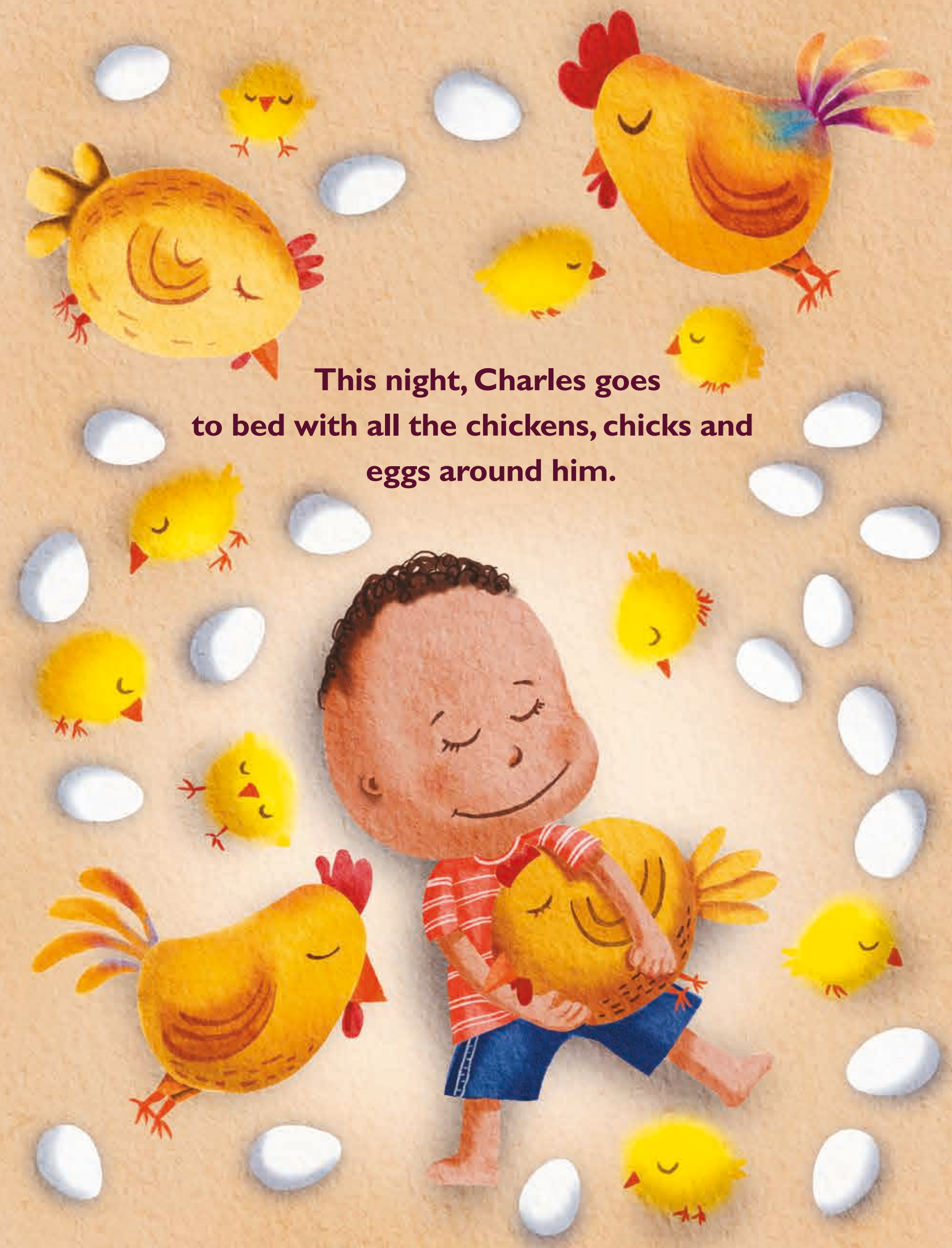
Charles' brother looks outside the window and says, "I can hear Joy crying in her house. Why don't we give her a chick to cheer her up?"

NOOOO!



"No! The chicks are mine; the eggs are mine; everything is mine!"





This night, Charles goes to bed with all the chickens, chicks and eggs around him.



The next day, when Charles gets to school, he finds out that many of his classmates are missing.

“Joy is missing;
Luke is missing; Samuel is missing.
What should I do now?”



**“My classmates are gone!”
Charles cries.**

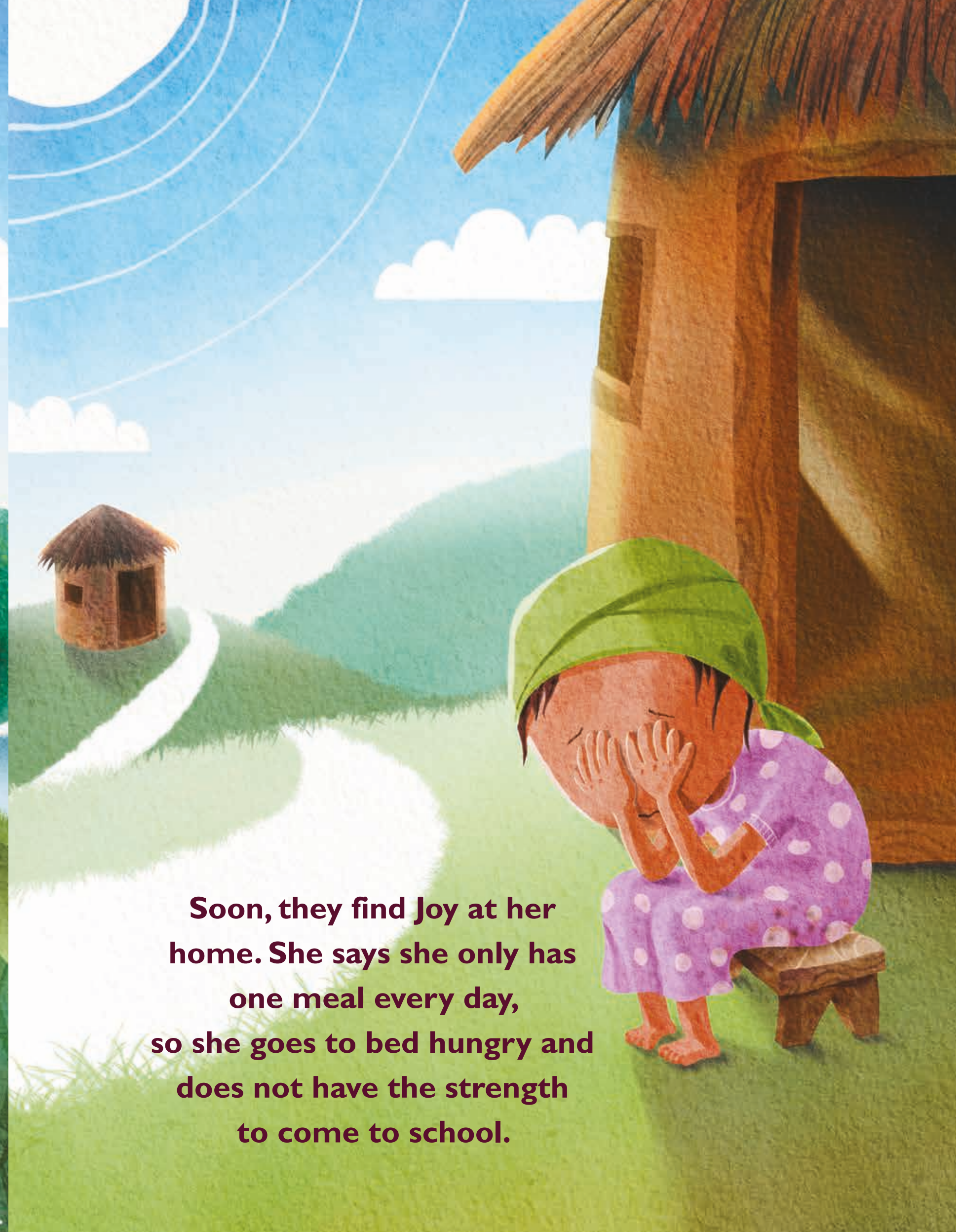


**“Don’t worry, they are still there.
Let’s go look for them.”
Charles’ brother comforts him.**

**So, early in the morning next day,
they set out to look for the missing classmates.**



**Soon, they find Joy at her
home. She says she only has
one meal every day,
so she goes to bed hungry and
does not have the strength
to come to school.**



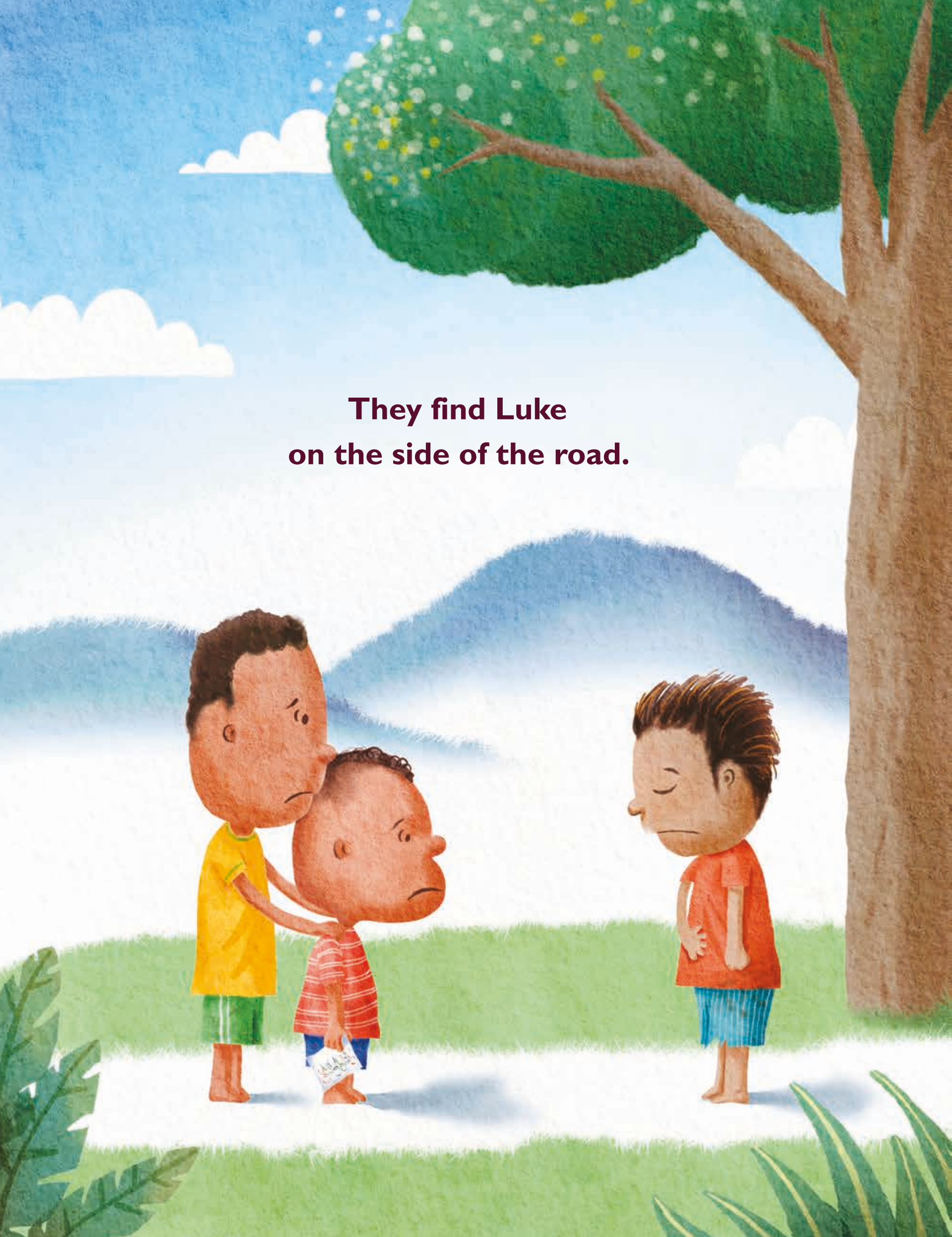
**Both Charles and his brother
feel really sorry for Joy.**



**They decide to give her a gift,
hoping that it is going to help her.**



**They find Luke
on the side of the road.**



**He is picking wild berries
for dinner.**



“What? How can three little berries be enough for your family?” Charles exclaims.



Feeling sorry for Luke, Charles decides to give him a gift, hoping that it is going to help him.



**This day,
Charles finds all of his missing classmates,
and shares his treasured gifts with them.**



“Samuel,
I have a gift
for you!”

A year later, there are more and more chickens and eggs in the village.

Thanks to Charles' sharing, all the children are very happy.





Charles and his brother Love to help others.

Charles, 4, and his brother, 9, live with their grandmother in a country in Africa named Zambia. Their home is in a community called Sinazongwe.

It had not rained much here, so the land was dry and produced very little food. That is why Charles' family and others would often go hungry, only getting to eat one meal a day. Life was hard for them.

Understanding that they were having a difficult time, World Vision came to the community to teach the villagers how to rear animals and grow food with the right seeds, so that they could live a better life. Charles' family was thrilled and learned eagerly.

Grandma soon knew how to build a chicken coop and rear chickens, and not long later was given a few chicks to keep. In just a year, the number of chickens they had grew to 336. Grandma even learned to rear goats and grow beans, which means the family now has goat milk to drink, and eggs and beans to eat.



Although the weather is still dry, Charles and his family now have enough food to have three meals a day. They can even afford to sell some of the chickens to pay for Charles and his brother's school fees, with Grandma saving up some of the proceeds for a better future.

Having received help in the past, Charles and his family are happy to share what they have with others, including food, necessities and the knowledge they learned.

Charles' brother is very diligent, because he wants to become a doctor and help others when he grows up. Even Grandma has become a trainer, who travels around the country to teach people about the benefits and ways of saving.



With their lives improved, Charles and his family now have a big smile on their faces.



The family takes good care of the chickens, so they are having more and more chickens and eggs.



Charles' brother helps herd the goats.



He also helps feed the chickens.



Charles' brother is happy to assist Grandma in working the land.



The brothers are satisfied with their lives.



Charles' brother cherishes the opportunity to learn and spends a lot of time revising what he has learnt.



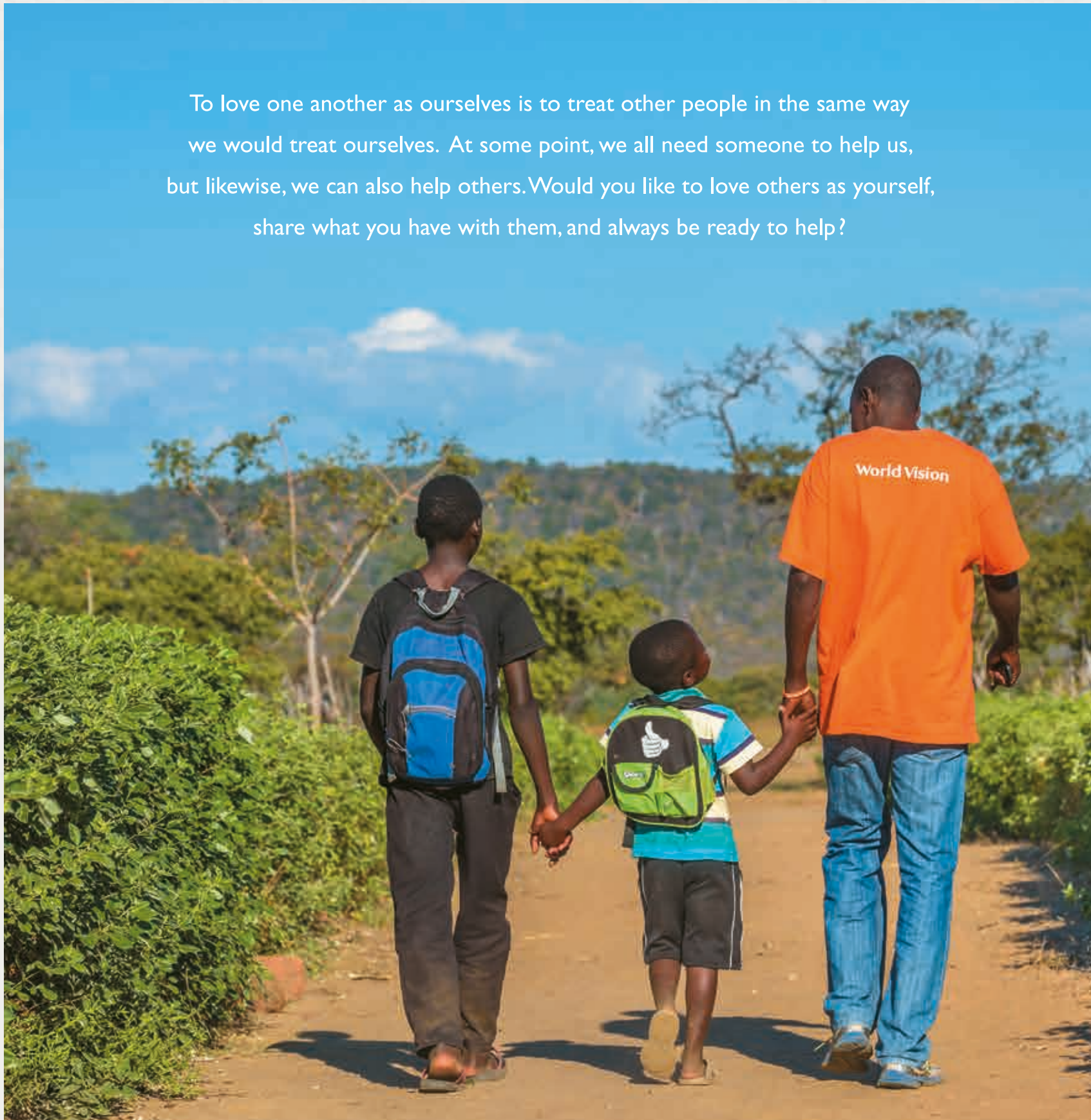
World Vision is providing support for the people in Sinazongwe, Zambia, to improve their lives.



World Vision staff regularly visit Charles and his brother to follow up on their studies, health and life in general.



The phrase "love one another as yourself" is written on the wall in one of the classrooms in the community.



To love one another as ourselves is to treat other people in the same way we would treat ourselves. At some point, we all need someone to help us, but likewise, we can also help others. Would you like to love others as yourself, share what you have with them, and always be ready to help?

Activity: Handprint hen and egg craft

Materials

- Brown drawing paper
- Yellow and red origami paper
- Felt-tip pens
- Googly eyes
- Scissors and glue
- Toilet paper tube
- Green plastic ropes



1 Put your hand on the drawing paper and trace its outline with a felt-tip pen.



2 Connect the starting point and the end point to draw the hen's belly, then cut out the whole body with a pair of scissors.



3 Draw the hen's comb and wings on the red origami paper, the beak and the eggs on the yellow origami paper. Then cut them out.



4 Stick a googly eye, the comb, the beak and the wings onto the hen's body accordingly.




5 Tie the plastic ropes in the middle, trim and stuff them through the toilet paper tube.



6 Finish by sticking the hen and the eggs onto the toilet paper tube.

Remark: You may also smear your hand in handprint paint to create your hen on paper.



Charles, who lives in
Zambia, receives a special
gift that makes him
very happy.

One day, he finds out that
his classmates have gone
missing one by one.
What happened?
What would he do?

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