



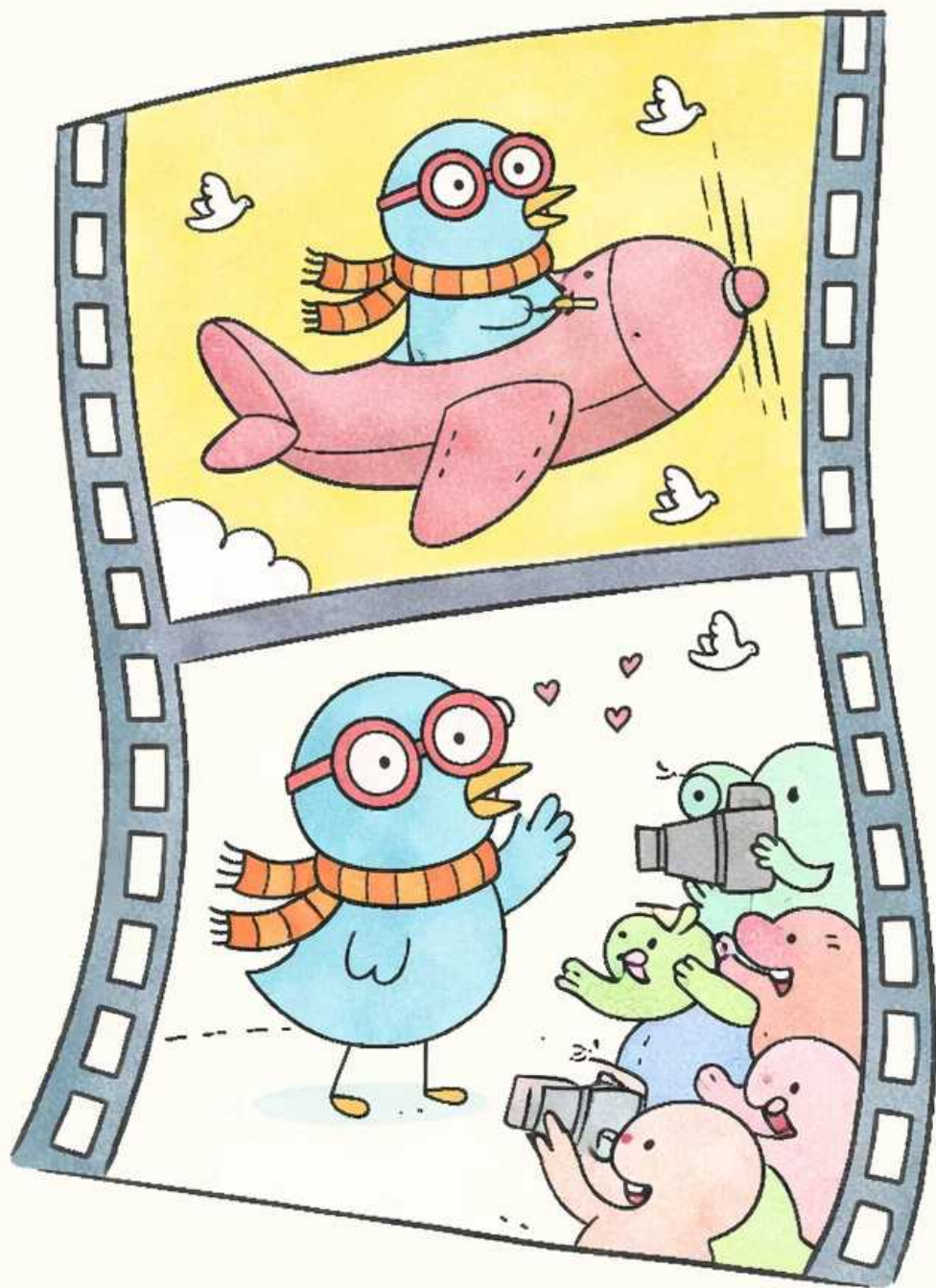
Can
Birds
Like Me
Fly?

Every day, I dream **about** flying. I dream **about** it at lunch, in the bath, in bed. I dream so hard my feathers shake.

But my wings are small and my body is big. When I flap, my feet stay on the **ground**.

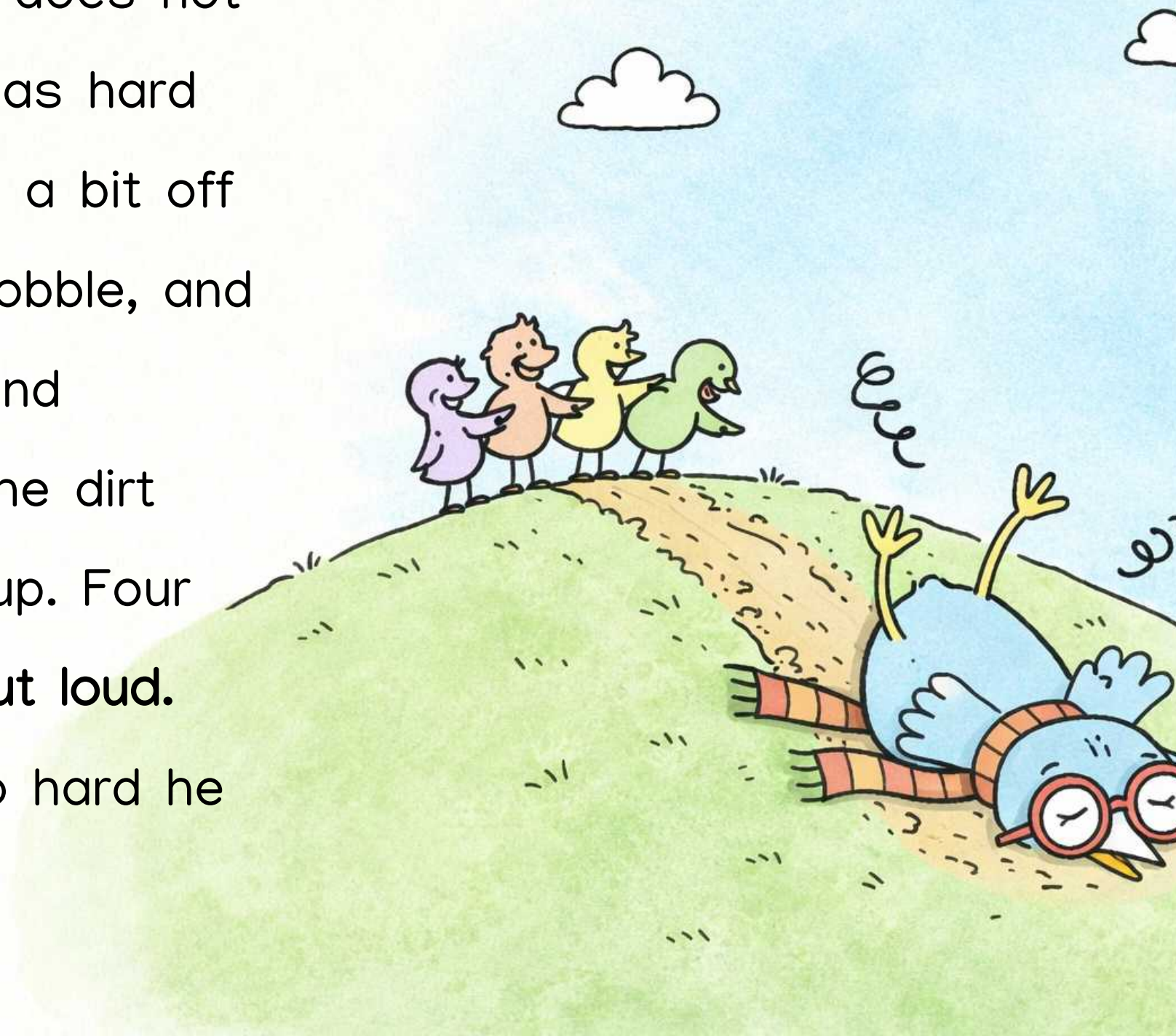
Today, that changes. I grab my backpack and march up the path to flight class.





On the way, I dream about it all. I will fly planes! I will dive down from the sky like a shooting star. Crowds will follow me around and shout, 'Look! Can we get a photo? Can we get an autograph?' I try my star wave. Left, right, left. I am set!

My first class does not go well. I flap as hard as I can. I get a bit off the ground, wobble, and then splat! I land beak-first in the dirt with my legs up. Four birds giggle out loud. One snorts so hard he tips over.



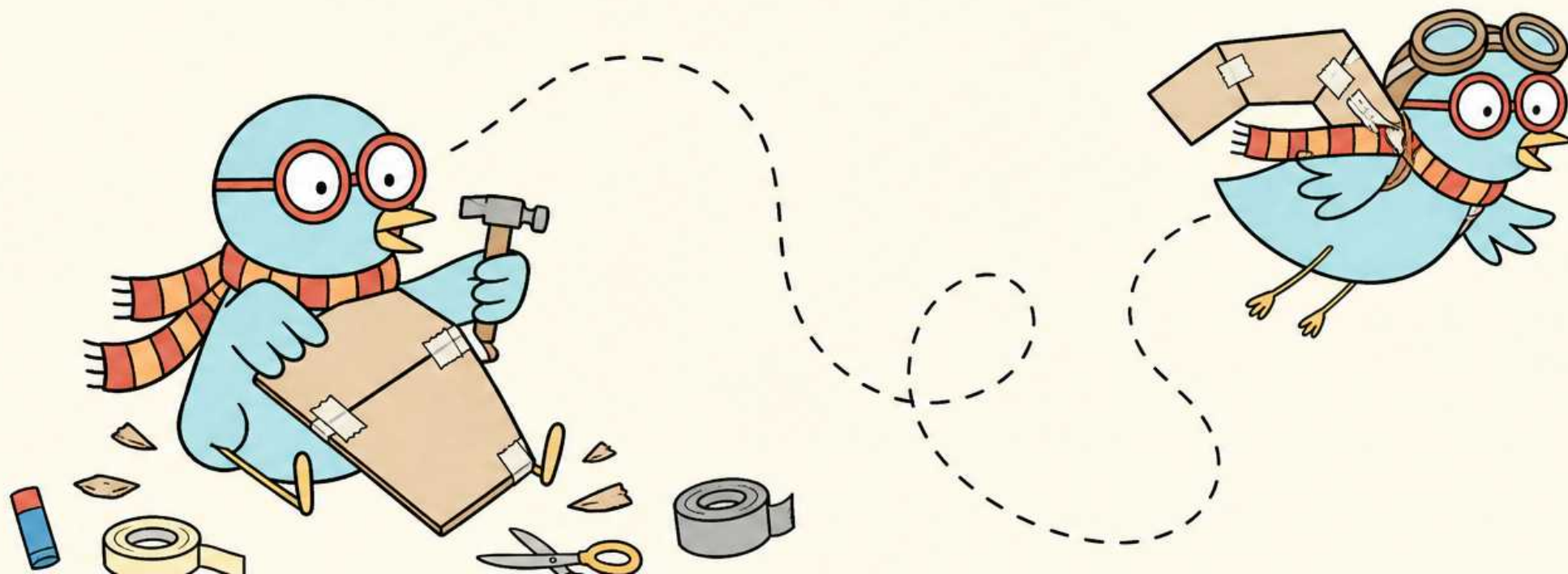


They swoop around my head in big loops, just showing off. 'Give up,' says one. 'You will never fly with tiny wings like those. Birds like you don't fly.' I pick myself up, brush off my scarf, and walk down the path. The sun feels hot. But my heart feels cold.

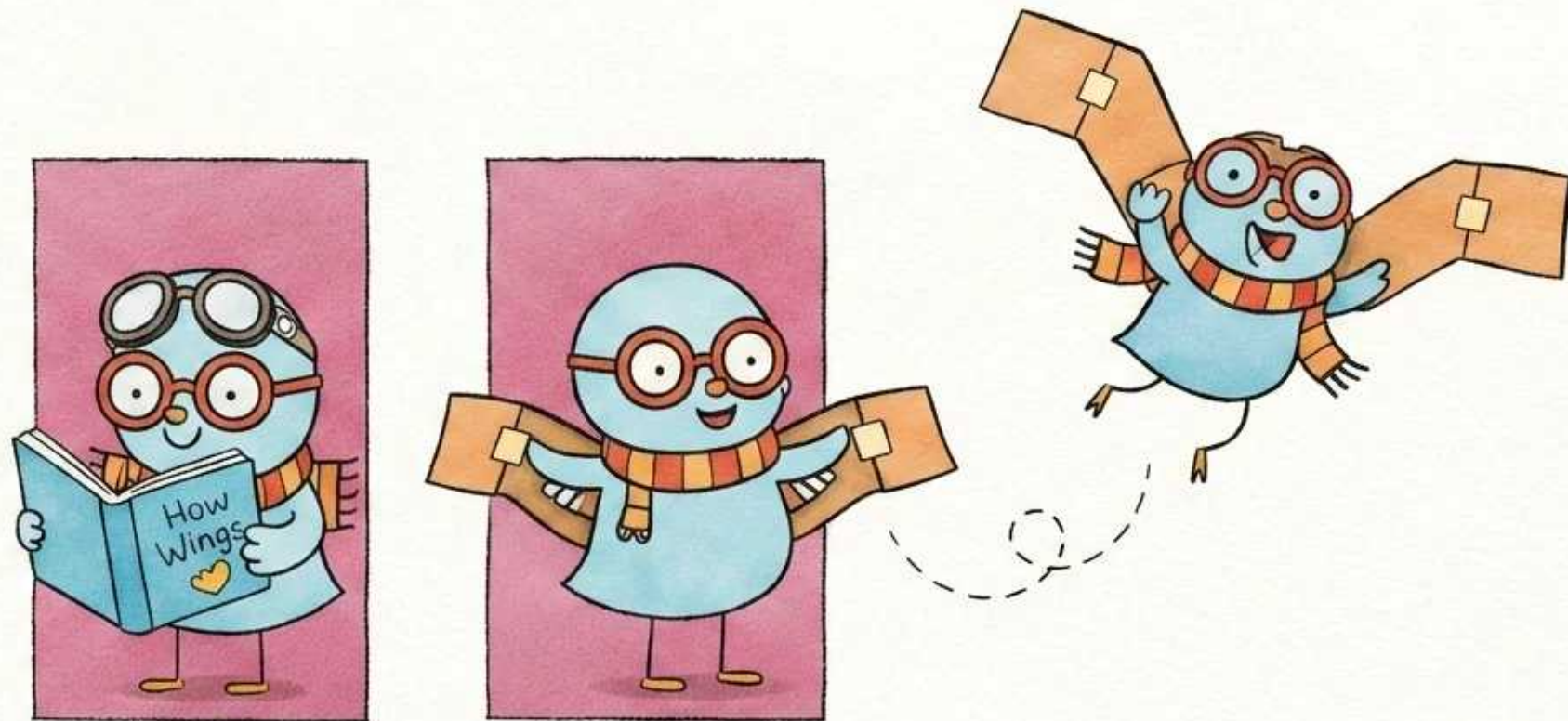
Birds like me don't fly.
Those words sit in my
chest like a rock. I **slouch**. I
frown. They can zip and
soar, but my feet will not
budge. Still, when I try to
let go of my dream, it holds
on tight. What if they are
not right? What if birds like
me just fly in a new way?

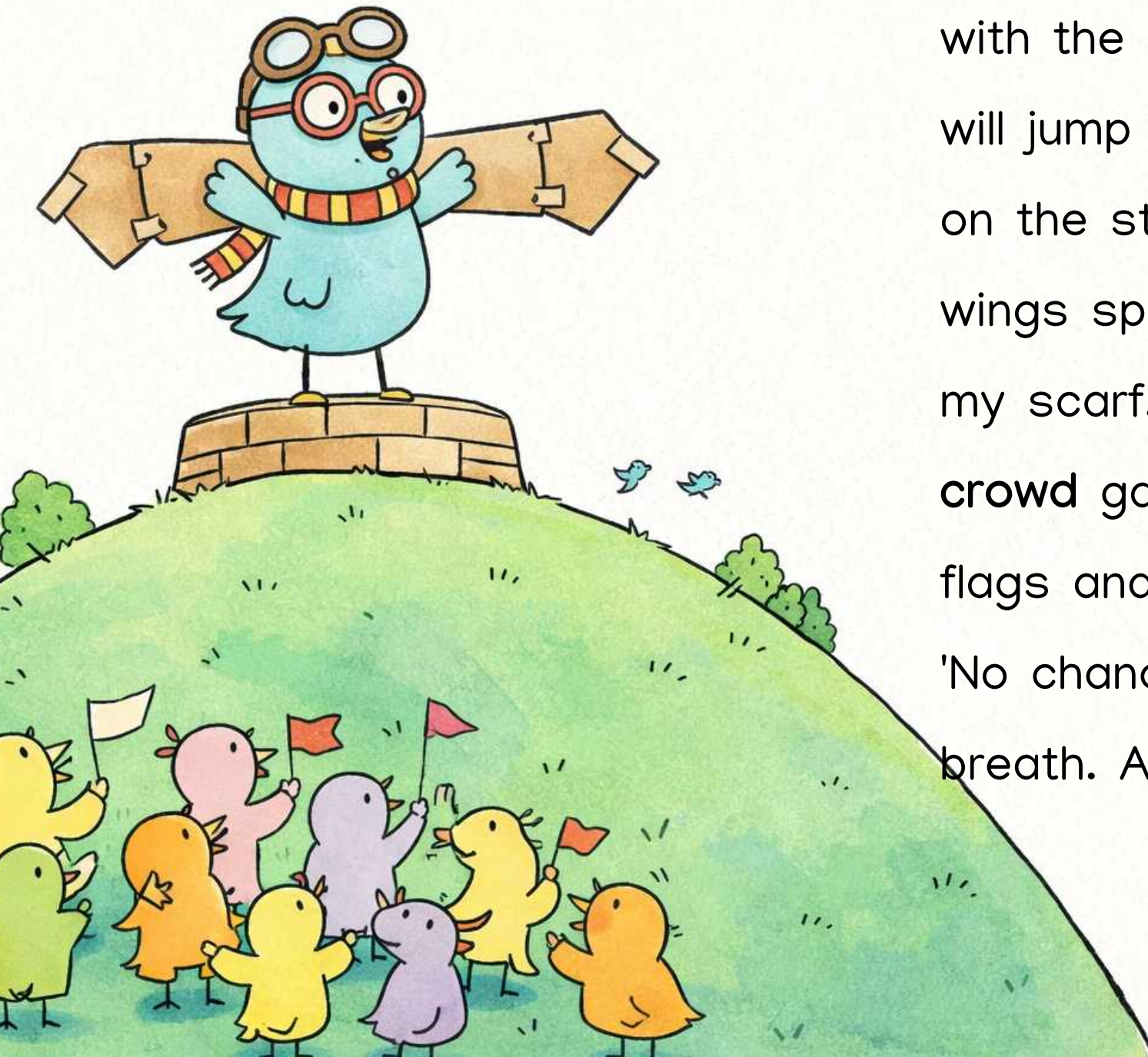


That night, I get a plan so big I spill my juice! If my wings are too small, I will make bigger wings. I grab thick card, tape, and a hammer, because every plan needs a hammer. I cut. I stick. I bang my hand and **shout, 'Ouch!'** But when I hold my new wings up, I can almost see myself flying in the sky.



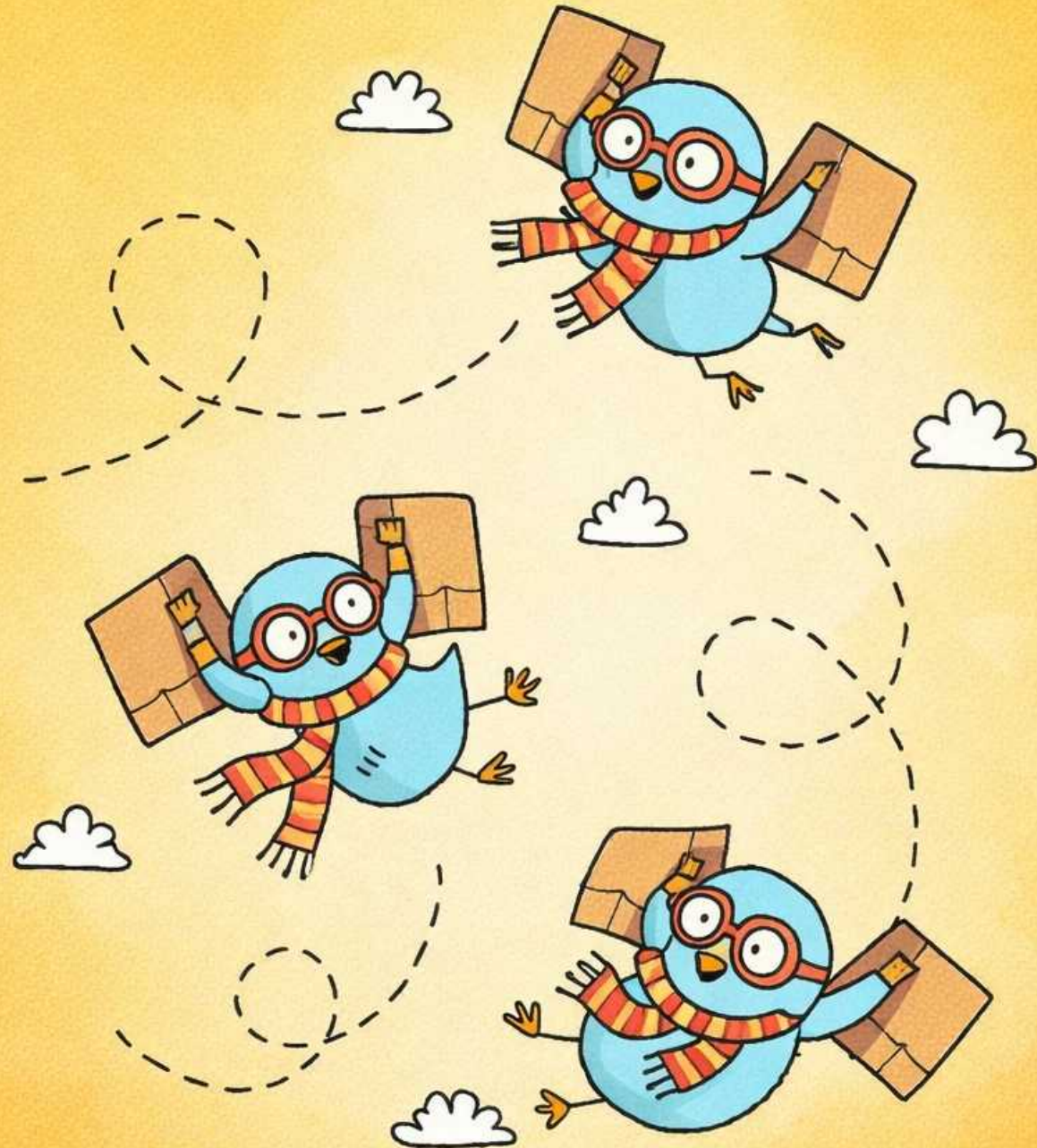
I read every book I can find **about** how wings work.
Lift. Drag. Thrust. I draw on the white panel until my
head spins. Then I make new wings. Bigger. Stronger.
Bendy. I strap on my goggles and stretch my wings
out. They creak. They flex. They might just work!





Word gets out. 'That bird with the homemade wings will jump off the hill!' I stand on the stone wall up top, wings spread wide, wind in my scarf. Down the hill, a crowd gathers. Some wave flags and shout. Some growl, 'No chance!' I take a deep breath. And then I jump.

The wind grabs my wings
and **wow**, up I go! I shoot
into the sky like a cork
from a bottle! I dive. I twist.
I spin like a football. I loop
so fast my goggles fog up.
I do it again with my eyes
shut, just because I can.
'Birds like me do fly!' I
shout, and my voice
bounces **around** the valley.





I swoop down and land with a skid, a stumble, and a big grin. I hold up my golden flight cards. They sparkle in the sun. My own wings. My own way. Birds like me do fly. We just need bigger wings.



Can Birds Like Me Fly?

A bird dreams of flying, even though small wings and a big body keep its feet stuck to the ground. At Flight Academy, a crowd of birds laughs and swoops around, telling it that birds like this one just don't fly. So it heads home, heart heavy, wondering if there's another way to get off the ground. Could a bigger, homemade pair of wings finally help this bird soar? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 96: ou, ow /ow/), this book practices words like 'shout', 'crowd', 'frown', 'ground', and 'about'.

Phonics Focus: ou, ow /ow/

about, around, bounce, crowd, crowds, down, frown, ground, growl, how, loud, ouch, out, shout, slouch, wow

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