

Can This Round Bird Fly?

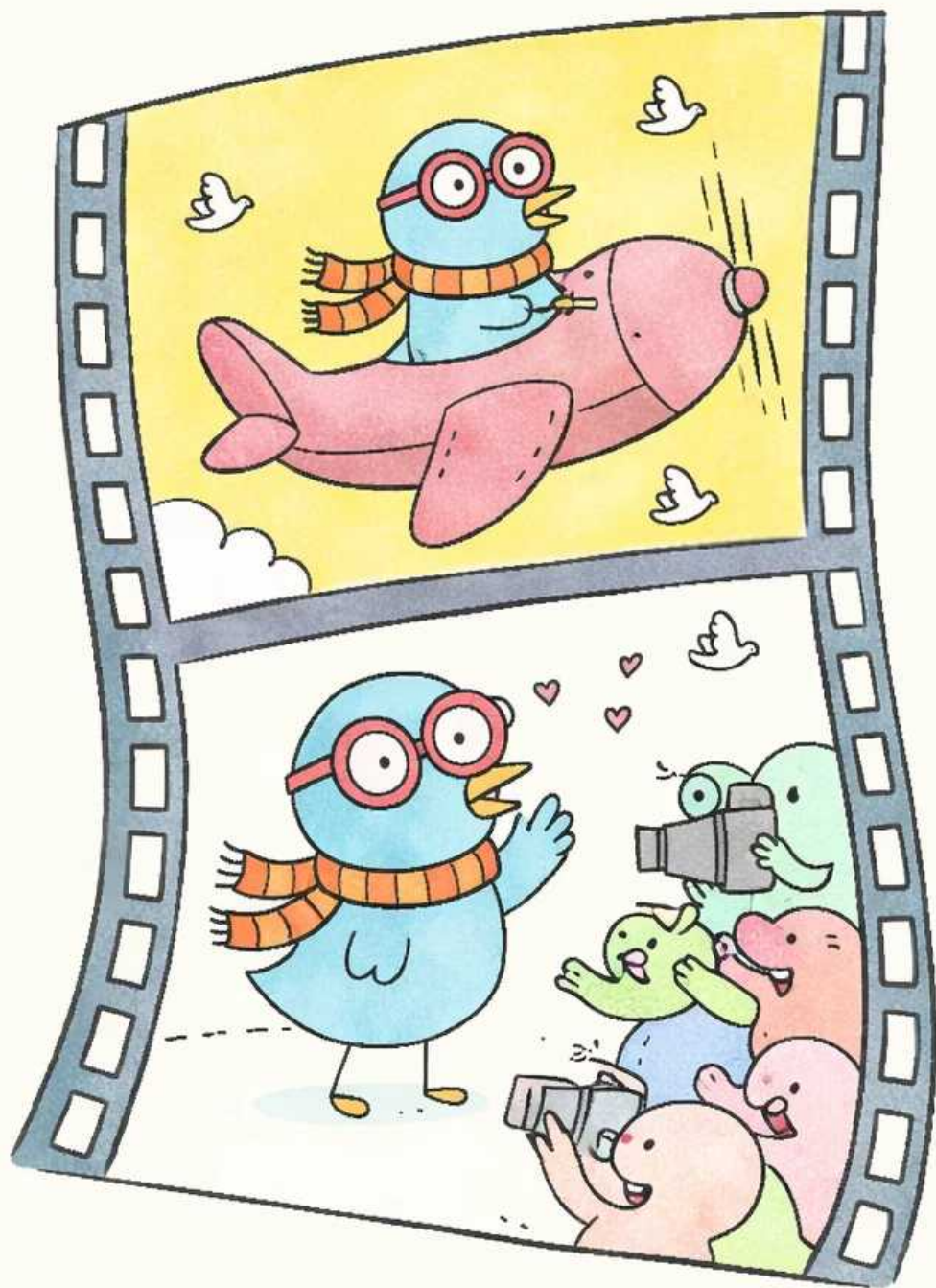


Each day, I dream **about**
flight. I dream at each meal. I
dream in the bath. I dream
so hard that I shake.

But my wings are small. My
body is **round**. I flap and
flap, but my feet will not lift
off the **ground**.

Well, today is the day! I put
on my backpack and march
up the stone path. **Now** I get
to train for flight.

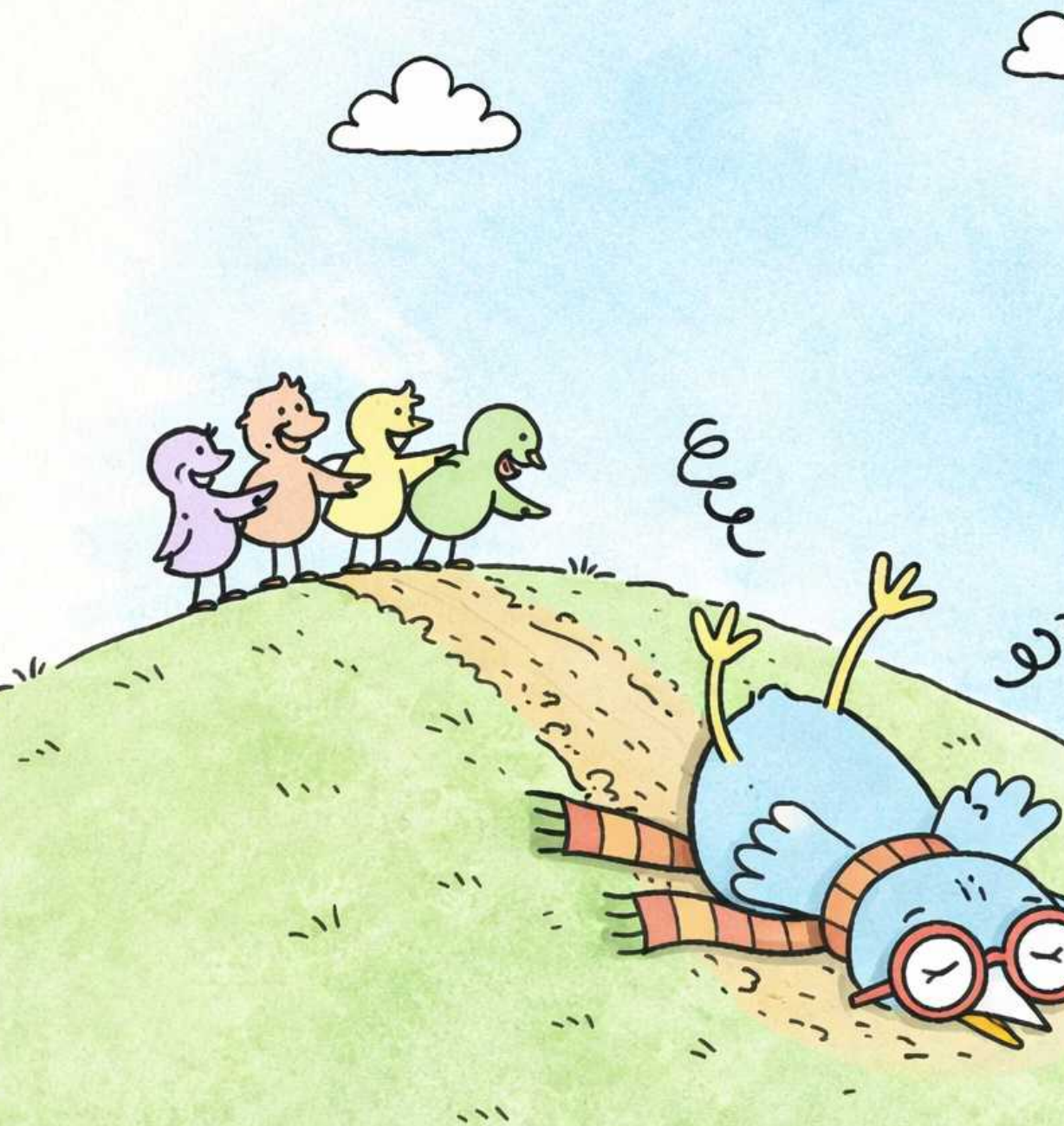




As I march, I see it all in my daydream. I will fly a plane! I will shoot **out** from the **clouds** like a star! A film crew will chase me **down** the path. 'Look here!' the fans will **shout**. 'Can we get a snap? Can we pat a wing?' I test my film-star wave. Left, right, left. **Wow**. I am good.

My first day is not so good. I flap as hard as I can. I get **about** a foot off the **ground** and **bounce** in the wind.

Then, splat! I crash beak-first into the dirt. I lie there with my beak in the dirt and my legs up high. Four birds **howl** with glee. One snorts.





The four birds swoop

around me in loops.

Show-offs. 'Give it up,' says one. 'Wings that small will never fly.' 'Yes,' says the next bird. 'Birds like that don't fly.'

I get up, brush the dirt off my scarf, and go **down** the path. The sunshine is warm on my back. But inside, I am cold.

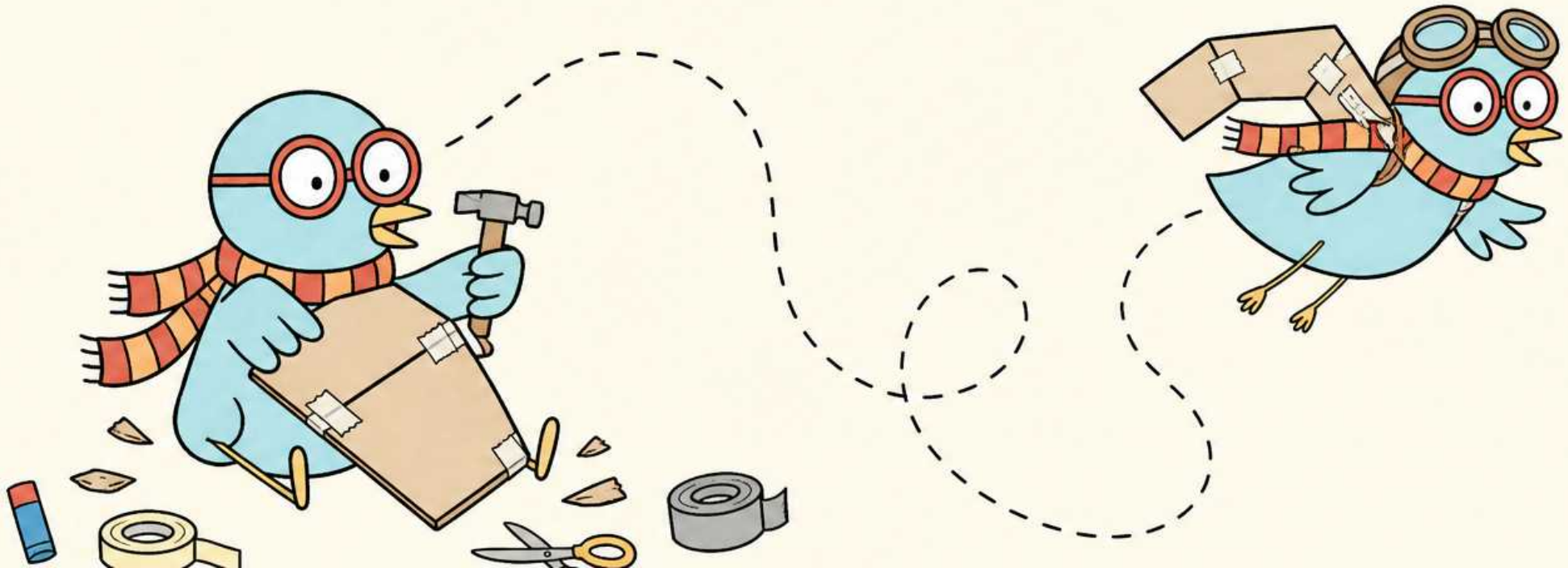
Birds like me don't fly. That
line is a stone in my chest.

The flock can swoop and
loop and zoom, and I can
not get off the **ground**. But
the daydream will not stop.

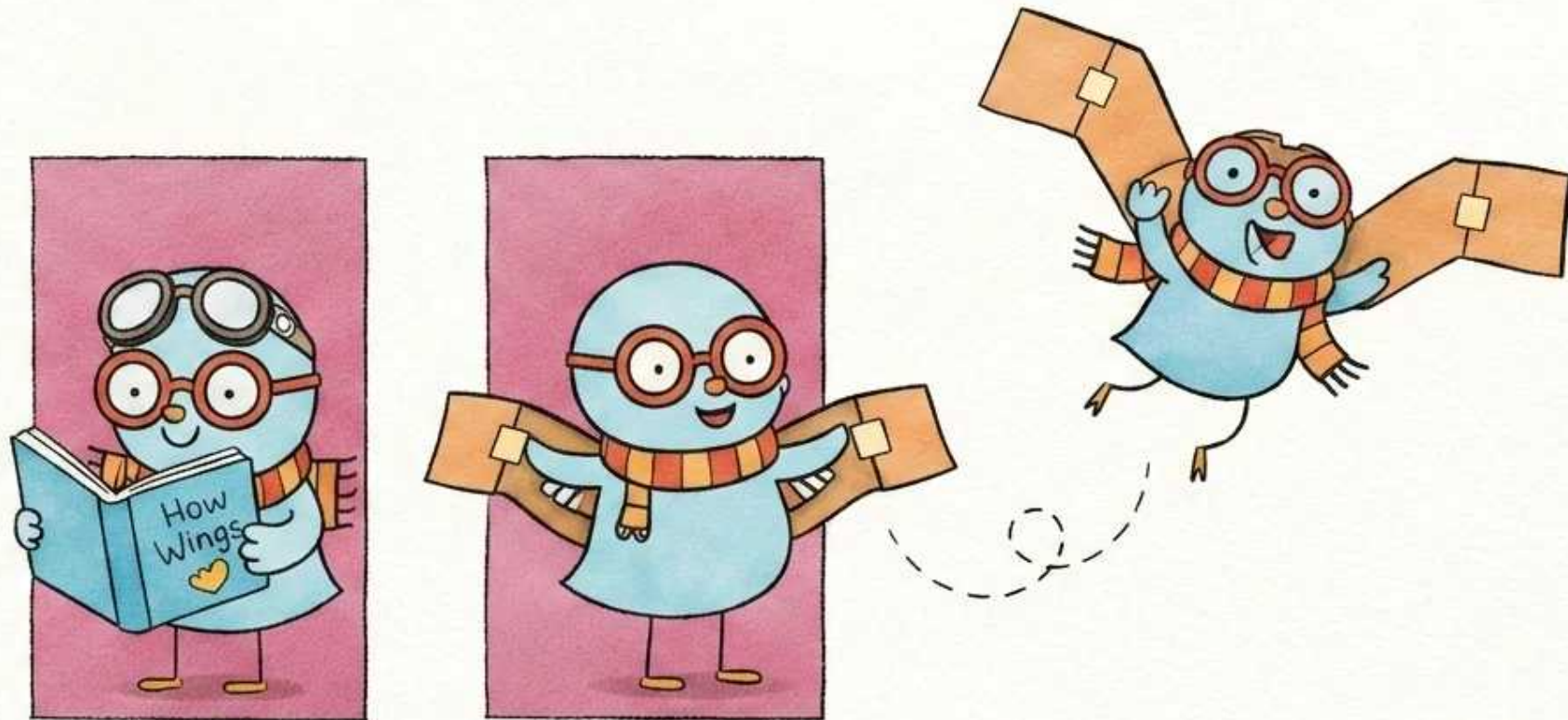
What if the flock is not
right **about** this? What if
birds like me can fly, but
not like them?

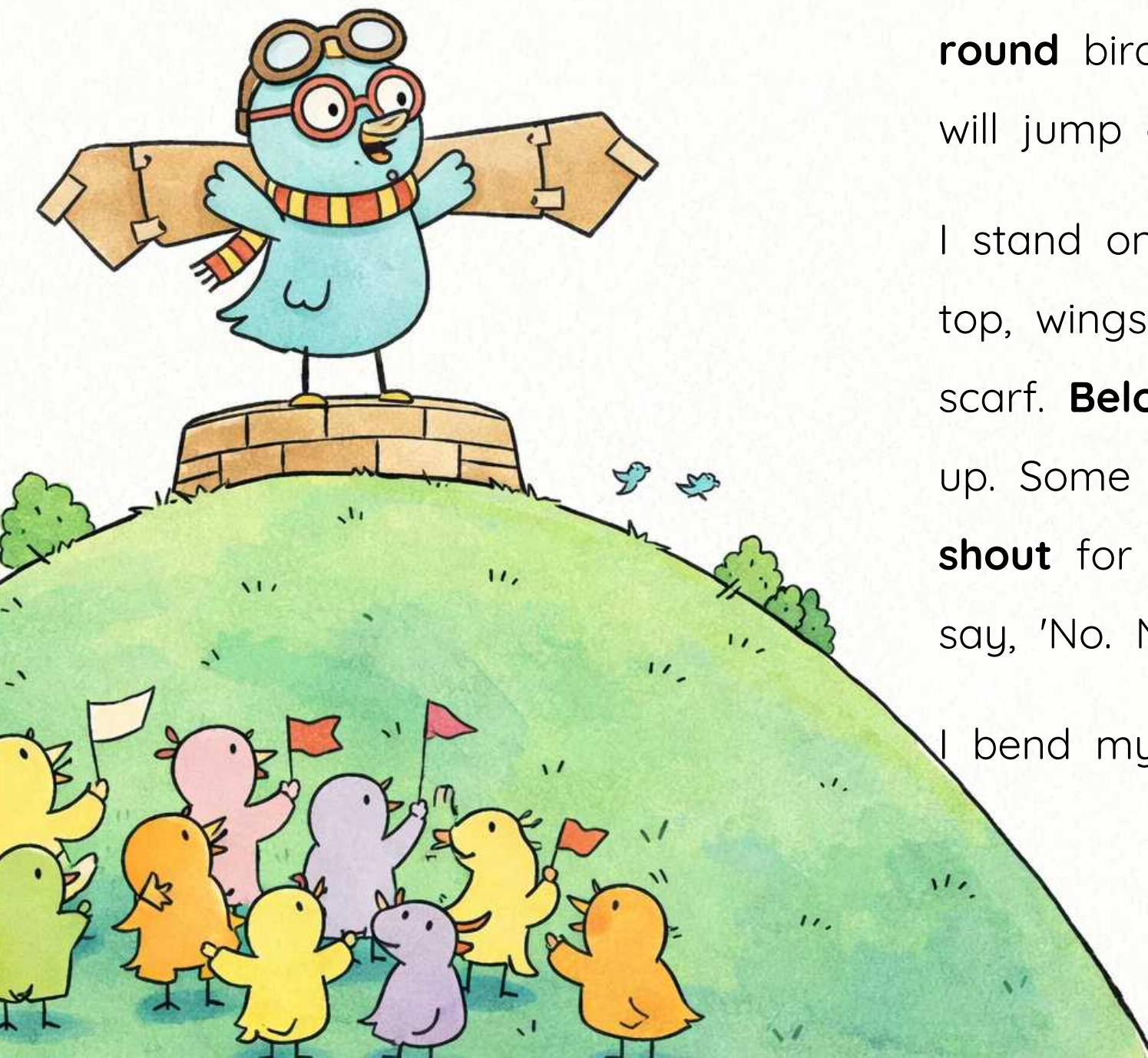


That night, I have a plan so big that I bump my drink and it spills. If my wings are small, I will make big wings! I get card. I get tape. I get a hammer, as each grand plan starts with a hammer. I cut. I stick. I bang my hand and **shout 'ow!'** Then I lift the new wings up high. **Now** I can see it. Me, up in the **clouds**.



I read each book I can get **about how**
wings lift and glide. Then I make new wings.
Big wings. Strong wings. Wings that bend
just right. I strap them on. They creak. They
flex. Yes! This time they could do the trick.



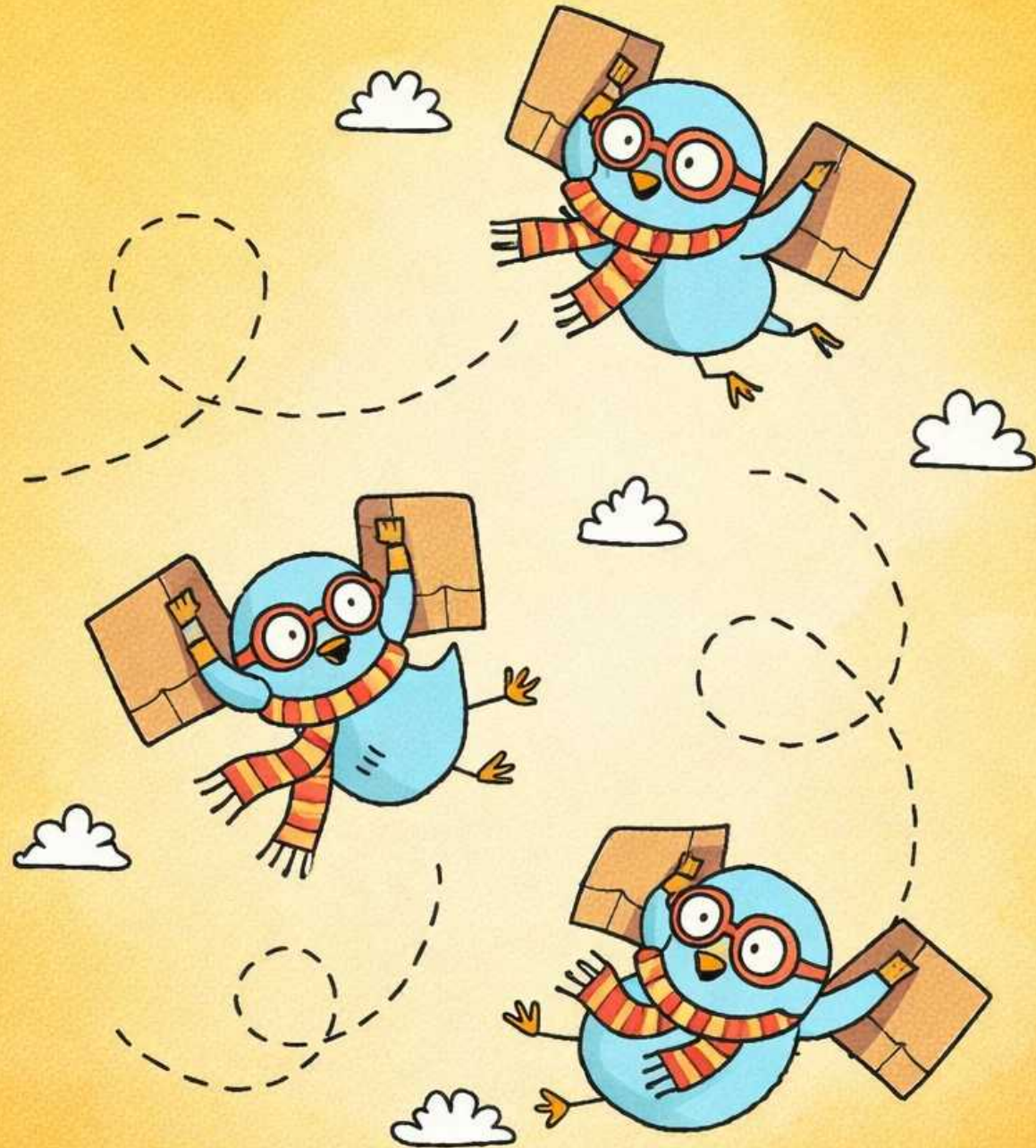


The **town** finds **out**. 'That **round** bird with the card wings will jump off the hill!'

I stand on the stone wall at the top, wings **out** wide, wind in my scarf. **Below** me, a **crowd** looks up. Some wave flags. Some **shout** for me. Some **frown** and say, 'No. Not that bird.'

I bend my legs. And I jump.

The wind lifts my wings.
Wow! I shoot up into
the sky! I swoop. I twist.
I spin. I loop-the-loop,
quick as a wink. Then I
do it all one more time,
for the thrill. 'Birds like
me do fly!' I **shout out
loud,** and my voice
bounces from hill to hill.





I swoop **down** and land
with a skid, a hop, and
my best grin. I lift up my
flight cards, and they **glow**
in the sunshine. My **own**
wings. My **own** plan. My
own win. Birds like me do
fly. We fly on big wings
that we make on **our own**.



Can This Round Bird Fly?

A round little bird has always dreamed of flying, but her wings are too small and her feet stay stuck to the ground. When her first day at flight training ends in a crash, and four laughing birds tell her that birds like her never fly, will she believe them, or find her own way up into the clouds? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 9: /ou/ mixed), this book practices words like 'about', 'ground', 'shout', 'crowd', 'town'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

about, around, below, bounce, bounces, clouds, crowd, down, frown, glow, ground, how, howl, loud, now, our, out, ow, own, round, shout, show, town, wow

Bookbot is not endorsed by or affiliated with UFLI (the University of Florida Literacy Institute) or Jolly Learning Ltd. UFLI Foundations and Jolly Phonics are trademarks of their respective owners.

Learn to read with confidence

The Bookbot app and its carefully designed decodable books help children practise the sounds and words they are learning, building strong phonics and reading skills one step at a time. In the app, children can listen to stories read aloud, follow highlighted words as they are spoken, and read independently when they are ready. Together, the decodable books and oral reading support help develop accuracy, fluency, confidence and a love of reading. Learn more at www.bookbotkids.com.



www.bookbotkids.com