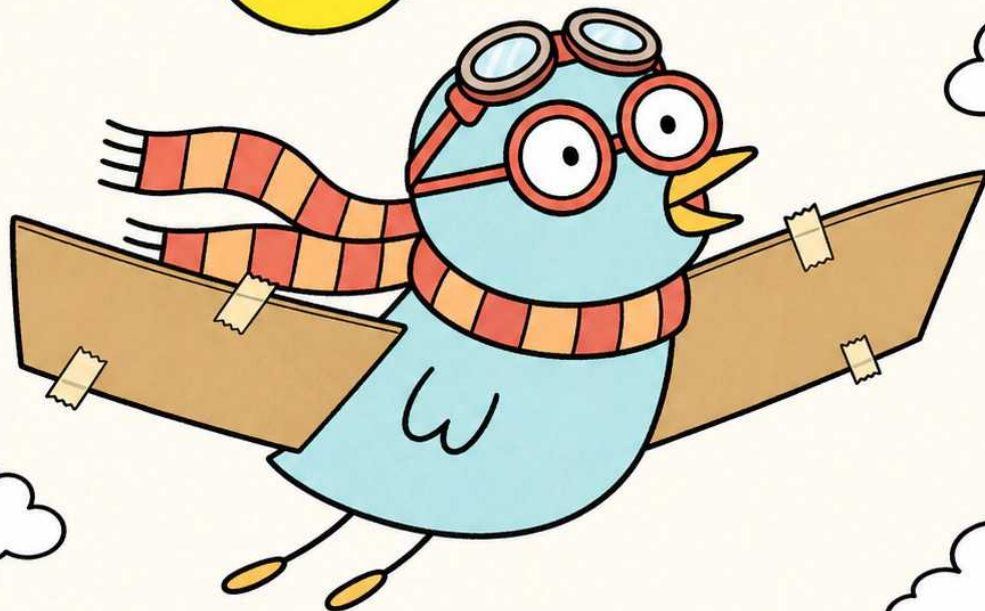
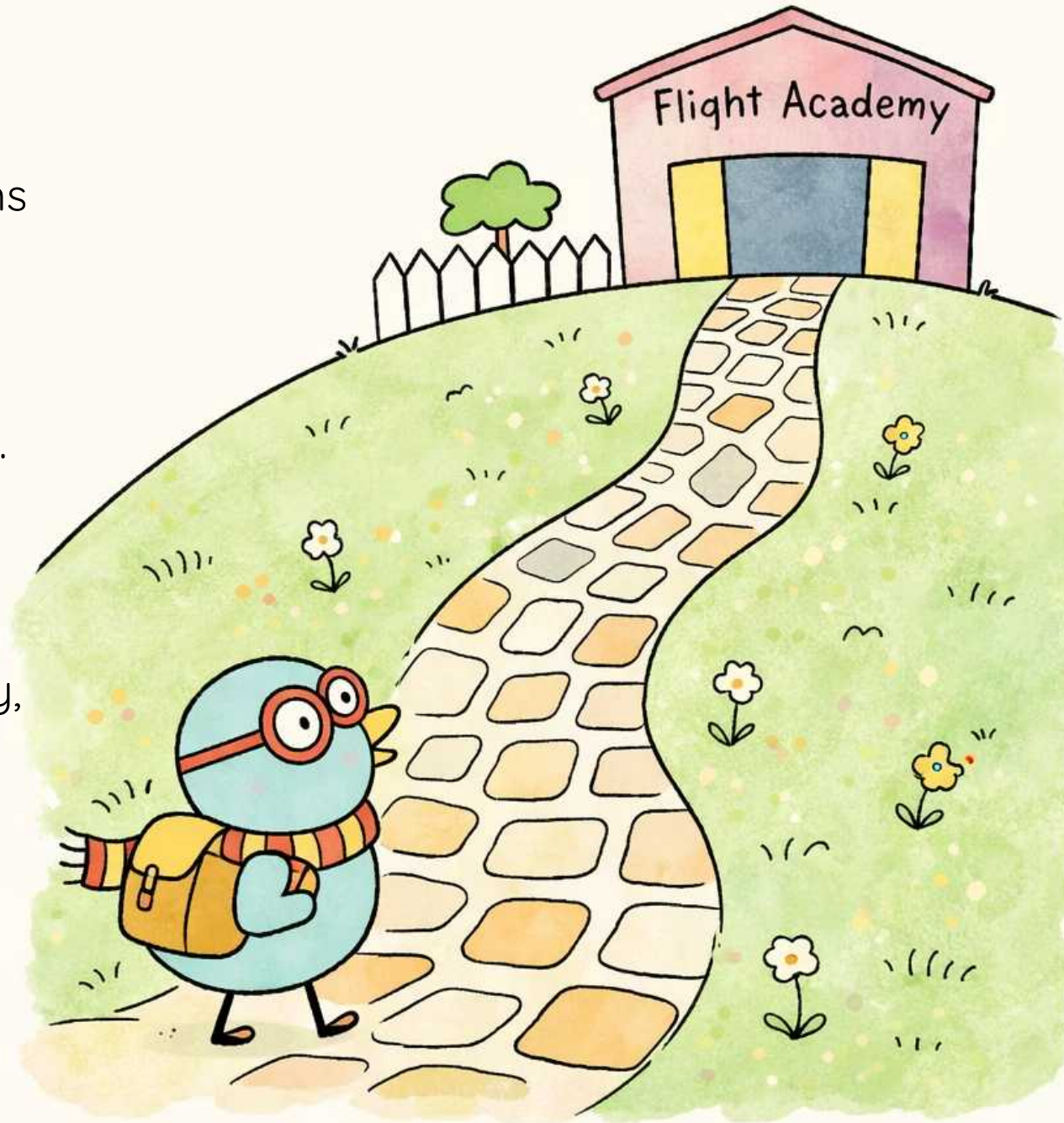
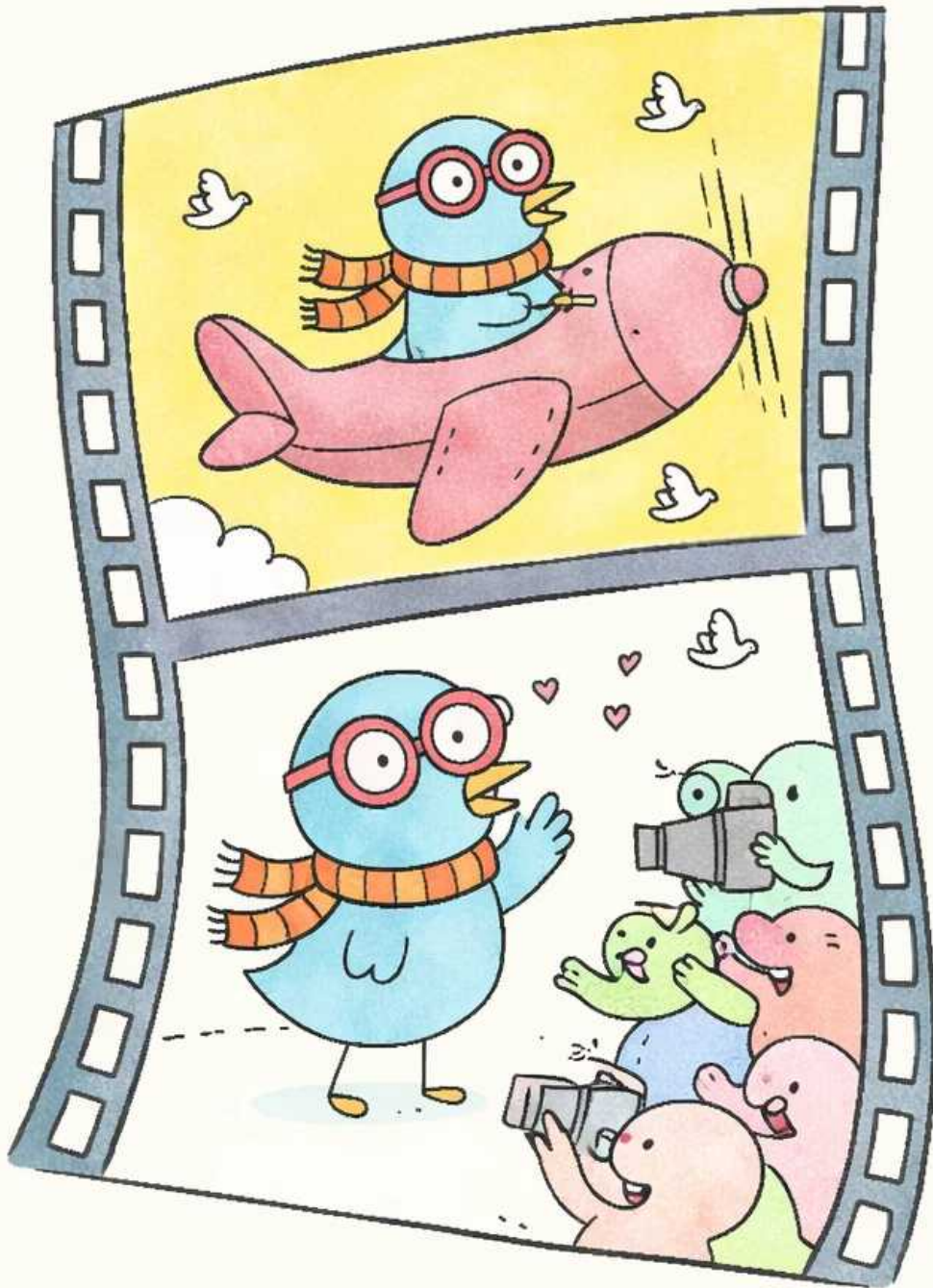


Dot Can!



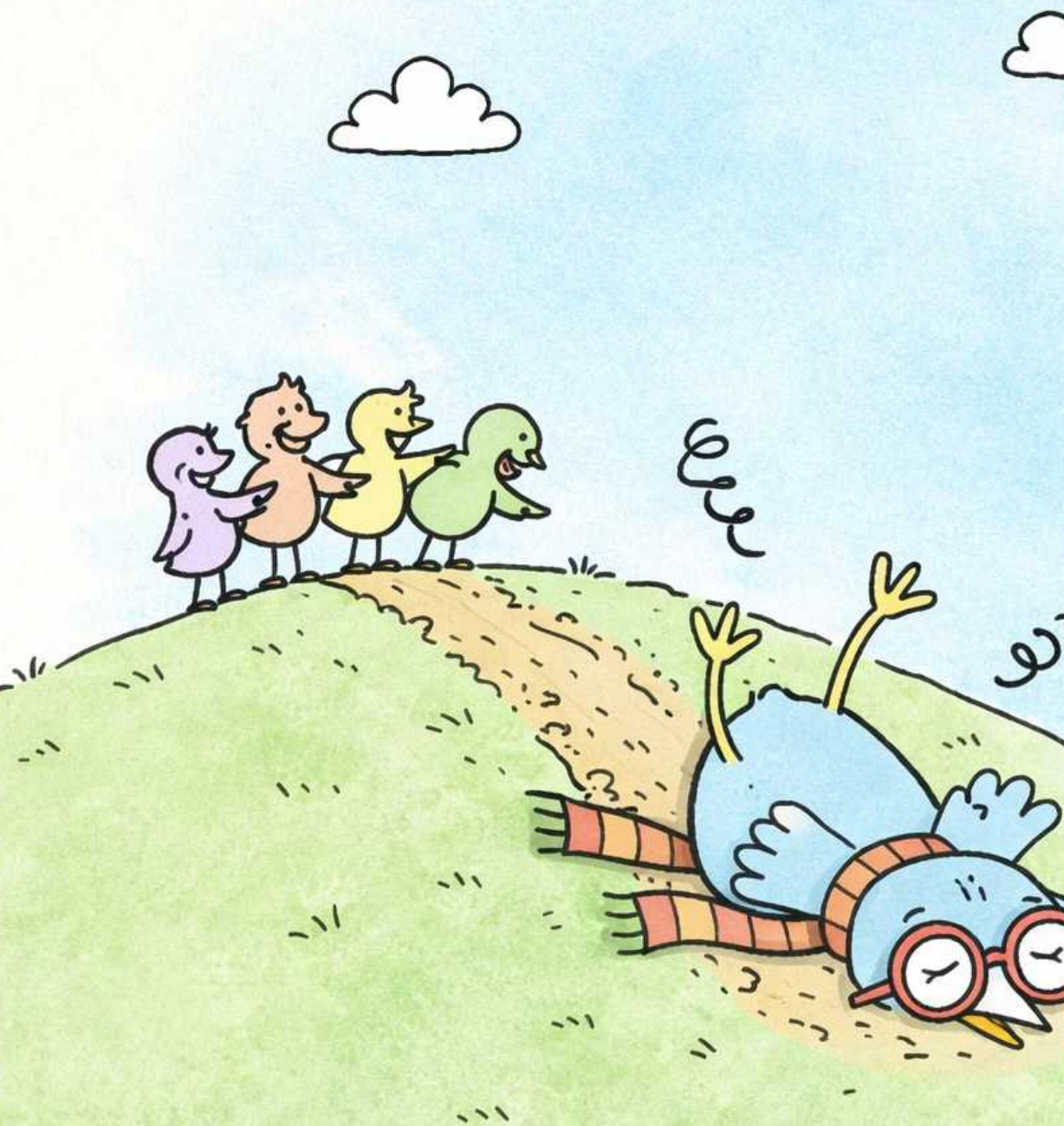
Every single day, Jay dreams about flying. Jay dreams about it at breakfast. Jay dreams about it in the bath. Jay dreams about it so hard at night that Jay's feathers shake. But this is the thing. Jay's wings are small. Jay's body is big. No matter how hard Jay flaps, both feet stay stuck to the ground. Today, that changes. The **moment** the sun is up, Jay puts on a backpack and marches up the cobblestone path to flight class.





On the way, Jay pictures it all. Jay will fly planes and dive out of the sky like a shooting star, right past the clouds. Film cameras will follow close behind. The crowd will chant Jay's name! 'This way!' the fans will shout. 'Can I get a photo? Can I get an autograph? Can I touch your wings?' Jay grins and practices the film-star wave with **excitement**. Left, right, left. Jay is so ready.

The first class does not go well. Jay flaps as hard as Jay can, gets a tiny bit off the ground, wobbles for one grand **moment**, and then splat. Face-first into the hilltop. Jay lies there, beak in the dirt, legs sticking straight up. Four birds behind Jay laugh so hard one of them snorts.



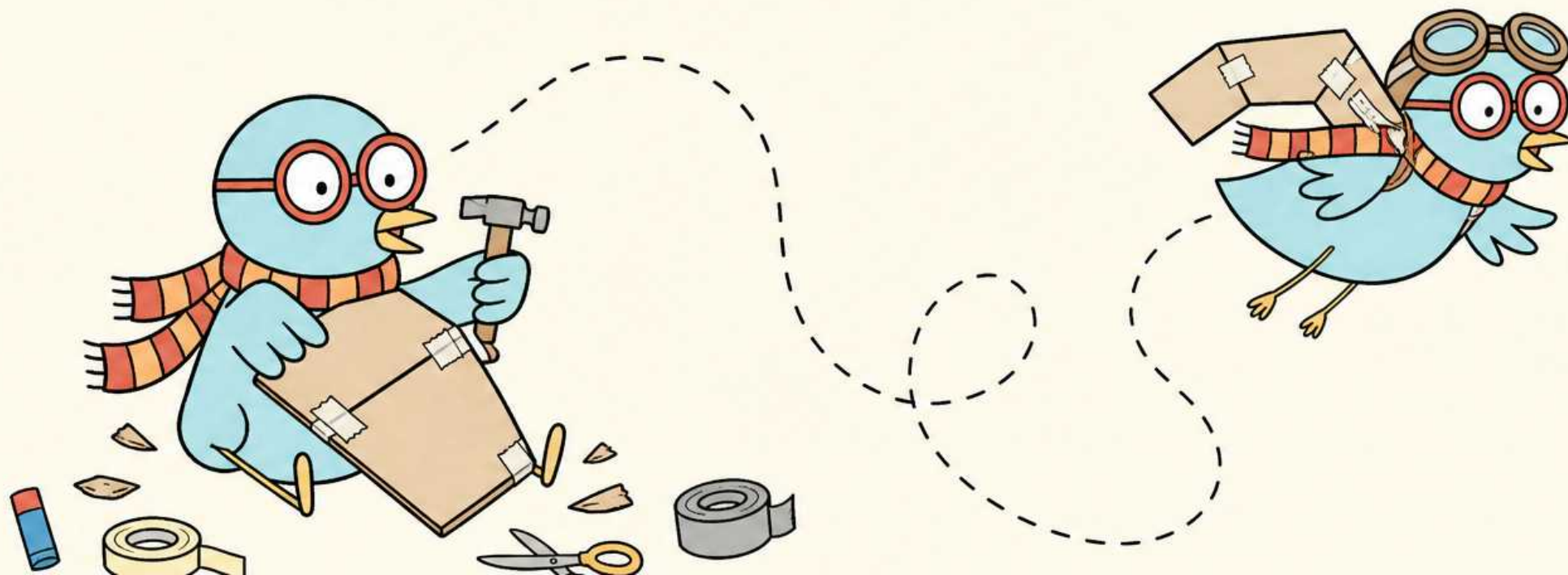


The four birds swoop around Jay's head in perfect loops. Show-offs. 'Give it up,' says one. 'Not with those tiny little wings.' 'Yes,' says another. 'Birds like you don't fly.' That **statement** stings. Jay gets up, brushes the dirt off the scarf, and walks away down the path. The sun feels good on Jay's feathers. But Jay's heart feels cold.

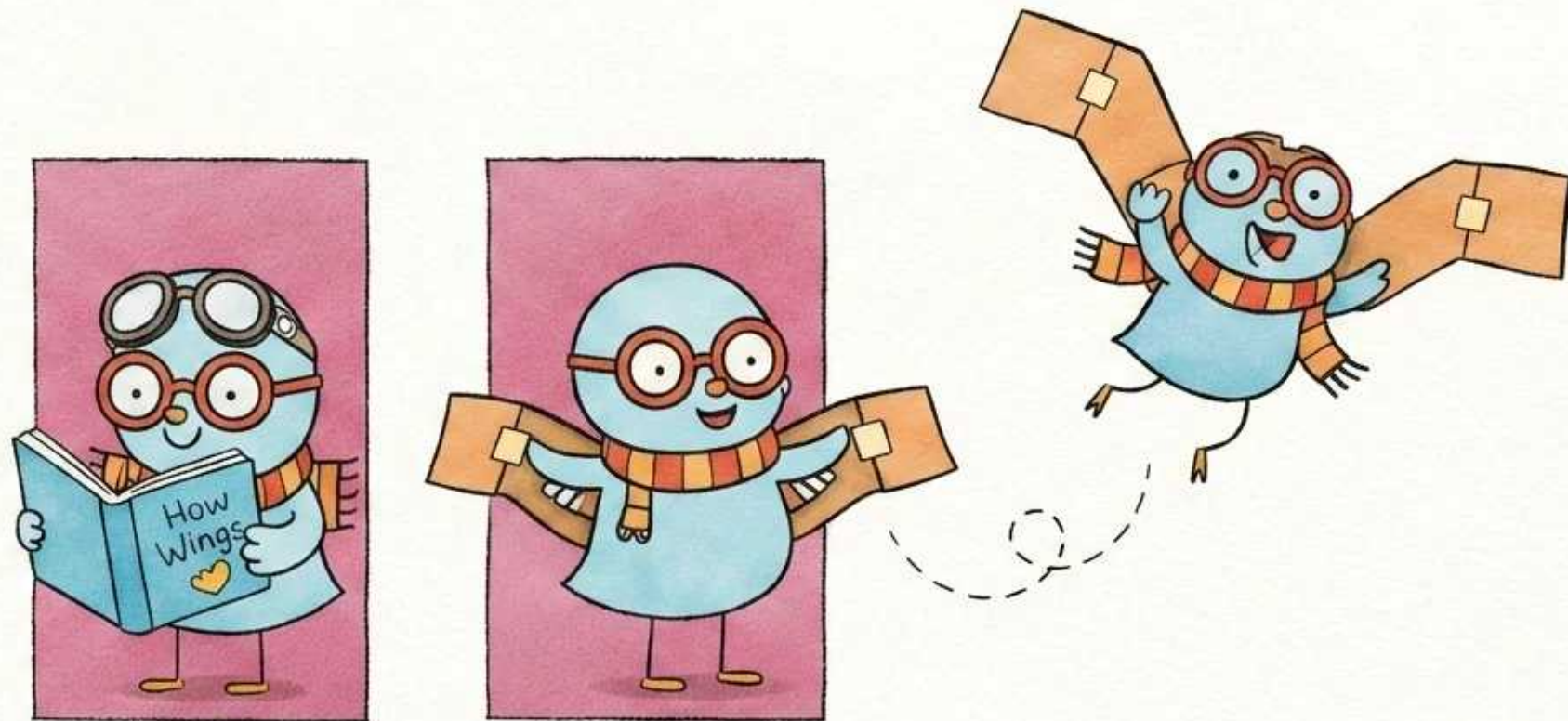
'Birds like me don't fly.' That **statement** sits in Jay's chest like a stone. The other birds can zip and soar and loop the loop. Jay can't even leave the ground. But every time Jay tries to let go of that dream, the dream holds on tighter. What if they are wrong? What if birds like Jay just fly... differently?

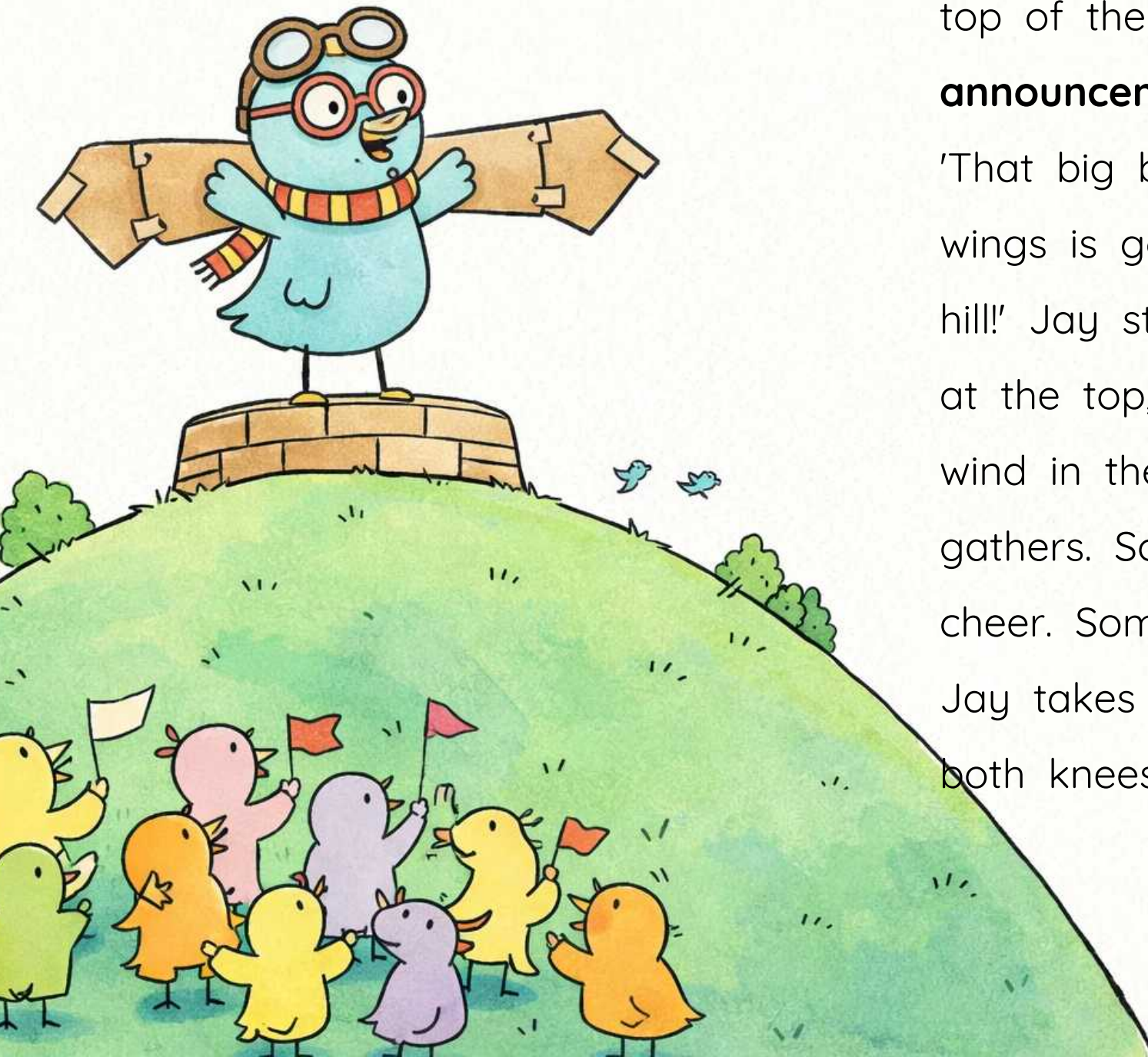


That night, Jay gets an idea so big that Jay knocks over the juice. If the wings are too small, Jay will make bigger ones! Jay grabs card. Jay grabs tape. Jay grabs a hammer, because every great **experiment** needs a hammer. Jay cuts. Jay sticks. Jay bangs a thumb twice and says 'Ow!' very loudly. When Jay holds up the new wings, Jay can almost picture it now. Looping through the sky.



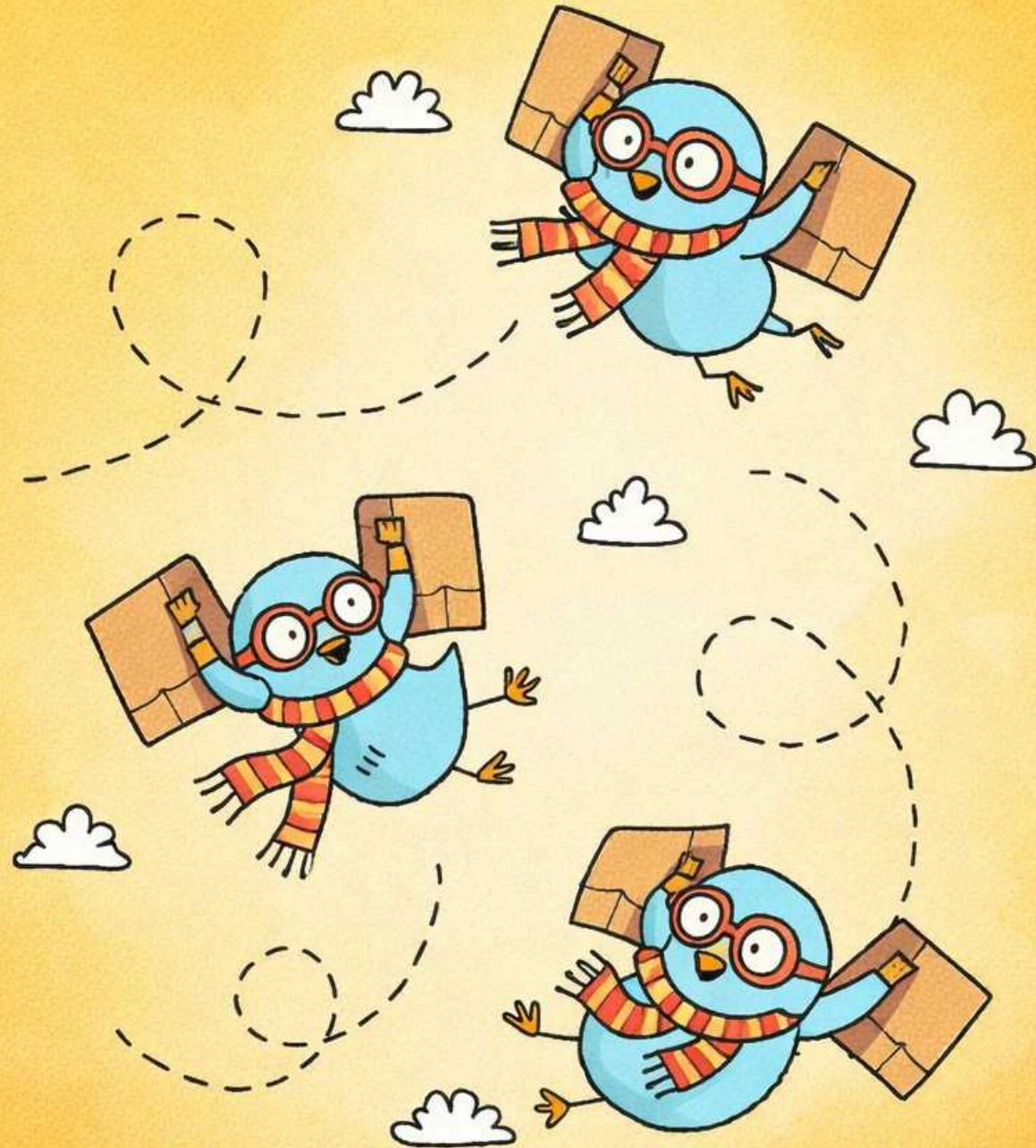
Jay reads every book about how wings work: lift, drag, thrust. Jay draws diagrams until Jay's head spins. Then Jay builds a brand-new pair of wings. Bigger, stronger, and bendy in all the right places. Jay inspects the **equipment**. It looks grand. Jay straps on the goggles and stretches the new wings wide. They creak, they flex, and they feel like they truly might work.





Jay shouts the plan from the top of the hill. The **announcement** spreads fast. 'That big bird with the card wings is going to jump off the hill!' Jay stands on the stone wall at the top, wings spread wide, wind in the scarf. Below, a crowd gathers. Some wave flags. Some cheer. Some whisper, 'No chance.' Jay takes a deep breath, bends both knees, and jumps.

The wind catches the wings and gives Jay a strong push. Jay shoots up into the sky like a cork from a bottle! Jay dives, twists, and spins through the air. Jay loops the loop so fast the goggles fog up, then does it again with both eyes shut, just because Jay can. 'Birds like me do fly!' Jay shouts. The shout echoes across the valley. Down below, the crowd yells in **amazement**.





Jay swoops down and lands with a skid, a stumble, and the biggest grin ever.

Jay holds up the golden flight cards, and they sparkle in the sun. Every card filled in, every card earned, all done Jay's own way. What an **accomplishment**.

Turns out birds like Jay do fly. They just need bigger wings.



Dot Can!

Jay dreams every day about flying, but small wings and a big body keep both feet stuck to the ground. When flight class ends in a face-first splat and four birds jeer that birds like Jay just don't fly, Jay walks away with a cold, stony feeling. What if they're wrong, and Jay just needs to fly differently? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 125: -ment), this book practices words like 'moment', 'statement', 'equipment', 'excitement', 'announcement'.

Phonics Focus: -ment

accomplishment, amazement, announcement, equipment, excitement, experiment, moment, statement

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