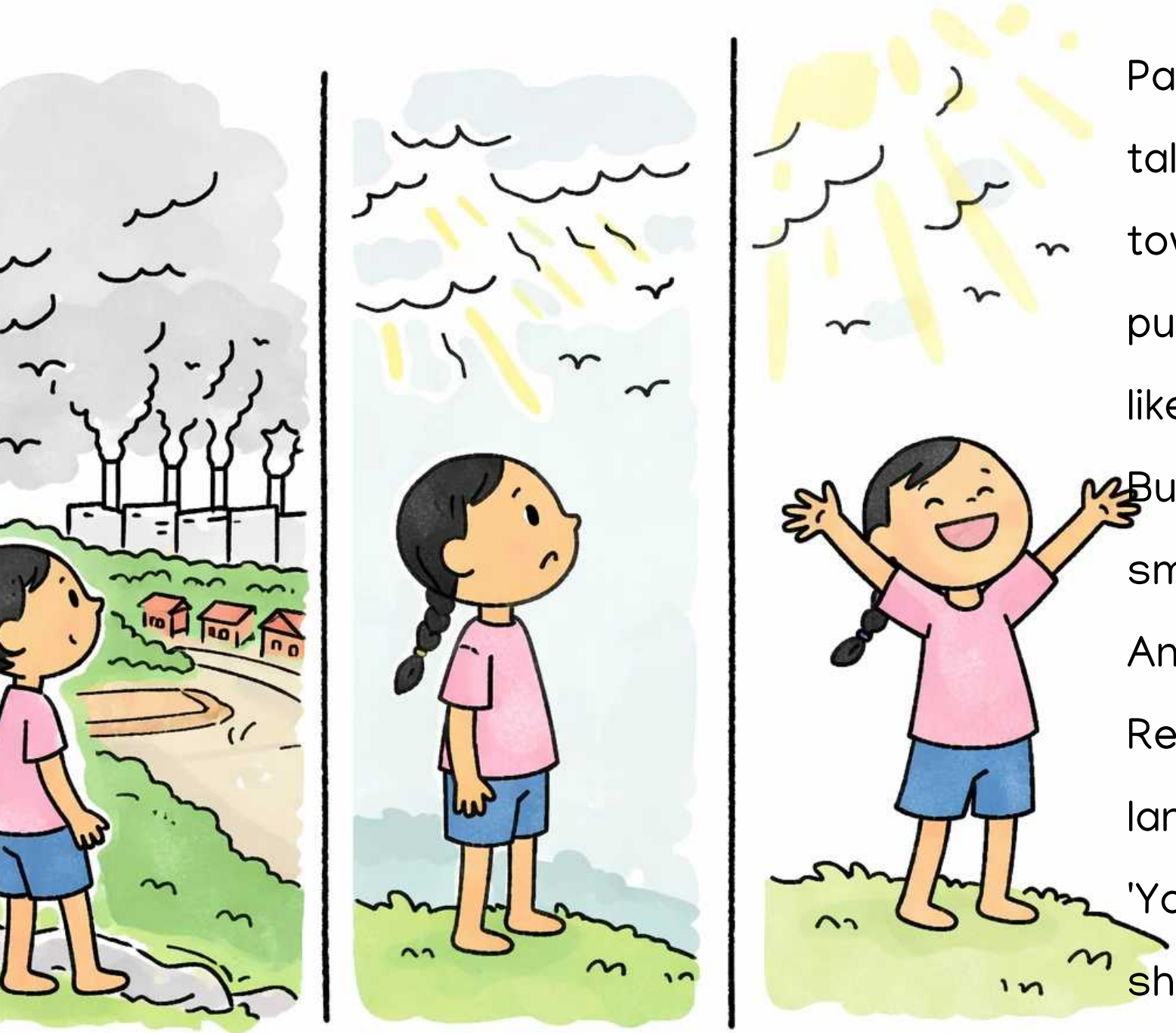
Panha Won't Come Down!

Panha hated the sky above her town. It was grey and **unclear.** Thick smog poured over the houses **nonstop.** Behind all that grey, something called 'blue' was hiding. Panha had seen it in pictures.

'Dad, was the sky always this ugly?' Dad looked up. 'When I was a boy, the sun would shine every single day. Warm as a blanket.' 'I want that,' Panha said. Dad sighed. But Panha did not sigh. Panha made a plan.



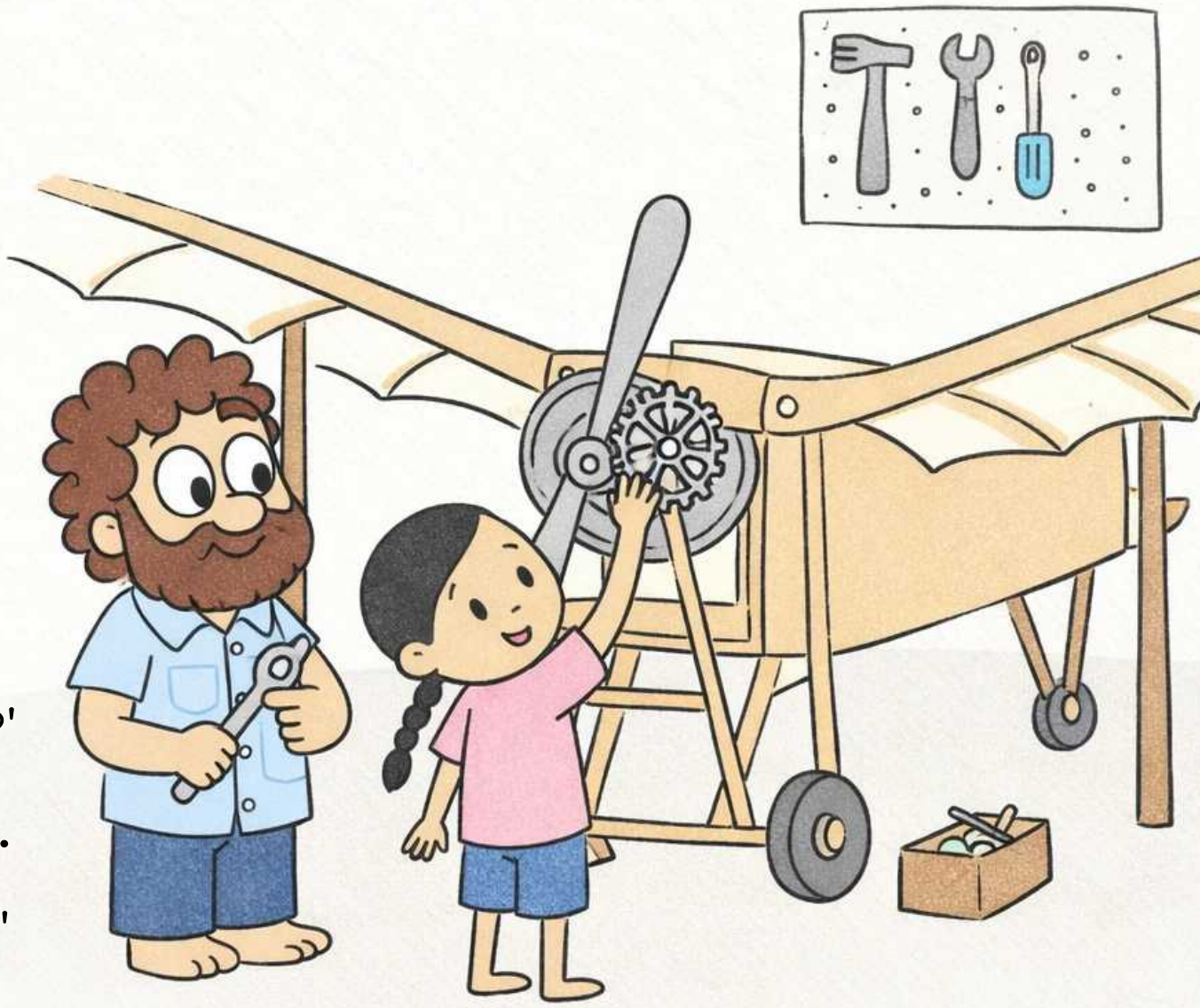
Panha marched to the tallest hill outside town. Below, the town puffed smoke **nonstop** like grumpy dragons. But up here, the smog began to clear. And then. Sunlight! Real, warm sunlight landed on Panha. 'You're up there!' she shouted. 'I was right!'

Panha burst into Dad's workshop. Tools hung on every wall. Gears and wood covered the floor. 'I'm going to **invent** a plane!' she said. She fit gears into a wooden frame. If she made a **mistake,** she could always **redo** it. She had never made a plane, but how hard could it be?

Very hard, it turns out. Panha's plane took off like a rocket. For three seconds, she was flying! Then the wings shook. Then the whole plane fell apart in the air.

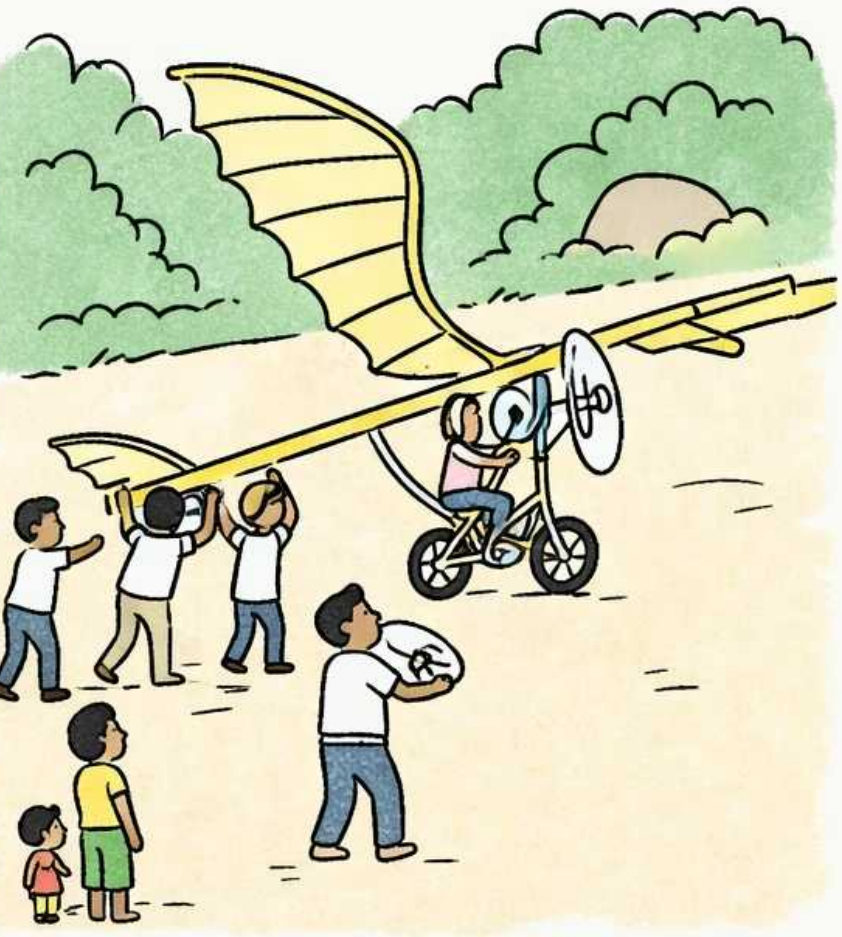
Panha crashed into a tree. 'Okay,' she said. 'That was a **mistake.** Time to **redo** it. The next plane won't **explode.**'

This time, Dad helped **redo** it from scratch. 'Bigger wings,' he said. 'Stronger gears,' said Panha, and they worked **nonstop** until each part spun smooth. The new plane was far bigger and far stronger. 'Think it'll fly?' Dad asked. Panha grinned. 'Only one way to find out.'

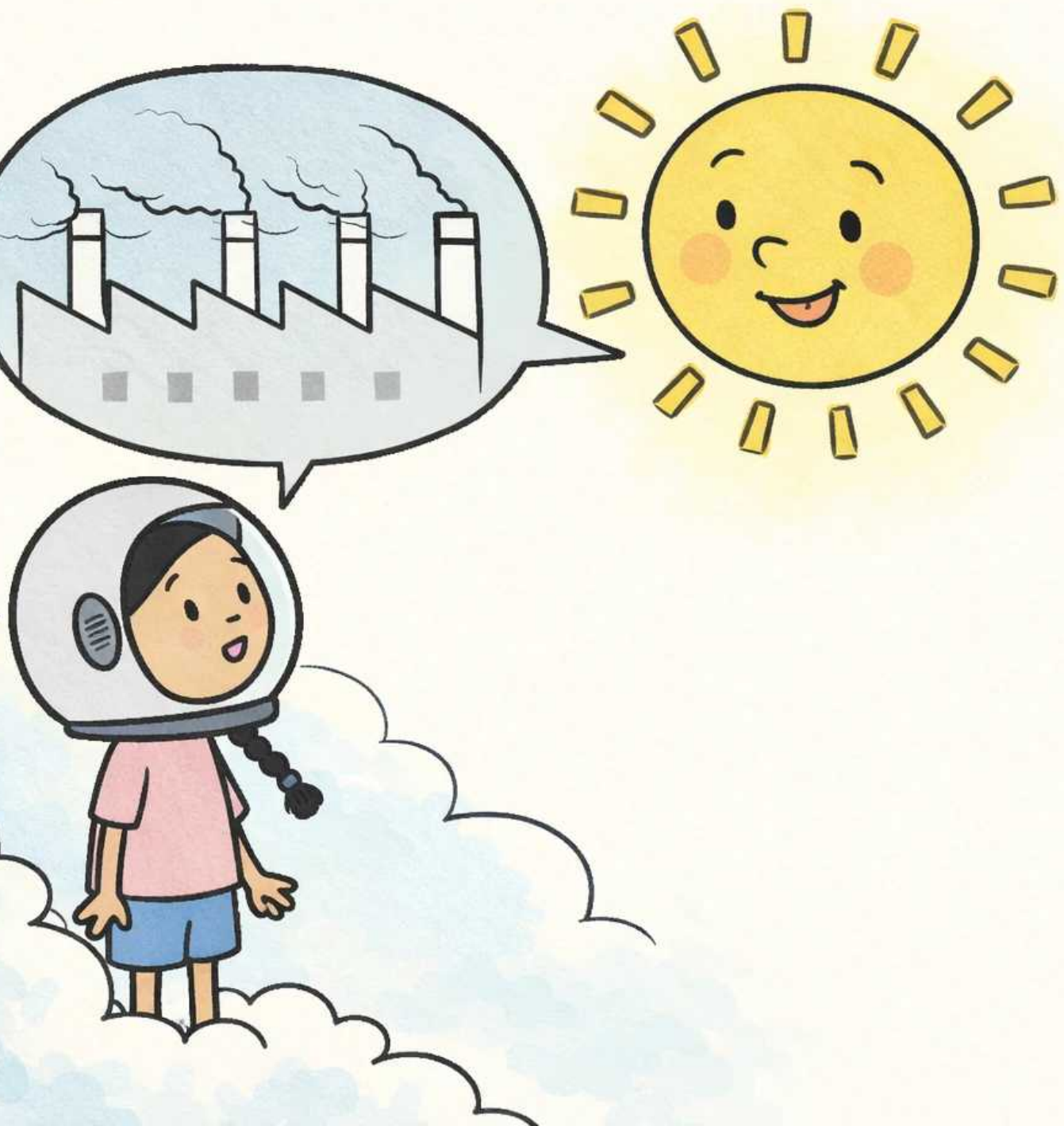


Panha wheeled her plane up the hill. Half the town came to watch. "She'll crash again!" someone whispered.

Panha did not care. Dad held out a flight helmet. "Don't **return** without the sun." Panha pulled it on. "I won't."



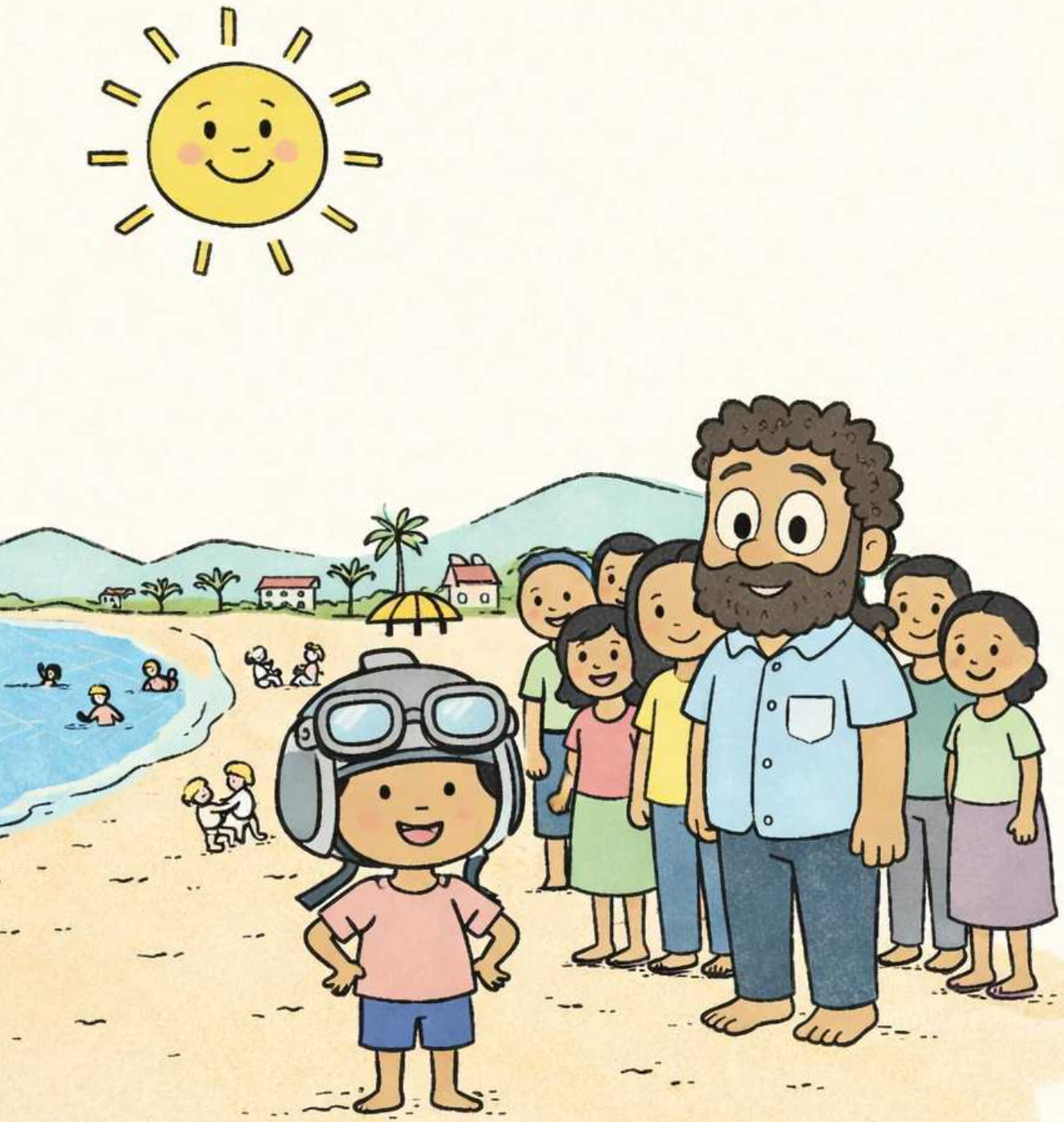
The hilltop path wound down to the cliffs above the sea. The engine roared, and Panha launched out over the waves. She was really, truly flying! She waved to the cheering crowd below, then aimed her plane at the grey smog, ready to **return** with the sun...



Panha burst past the clouds into golden light. And there was Sun! A big, round, glowing smile looked right at her.

'At last!' Sun **exclaimed.** 'That smoke blocks my rays **nonstop!** Shut it down, kid, or my light will never **return** to your town!'

Panha landed and yelled, 'I met Sun! The smoke blocks the light! We must **undo** this. It is **unfair** to all of us!' At first, no one moved. Then one person picked up a shovel. Then more came to help. They shut the smoke down. They planted trees and cleaned the water until the smog began to thin.



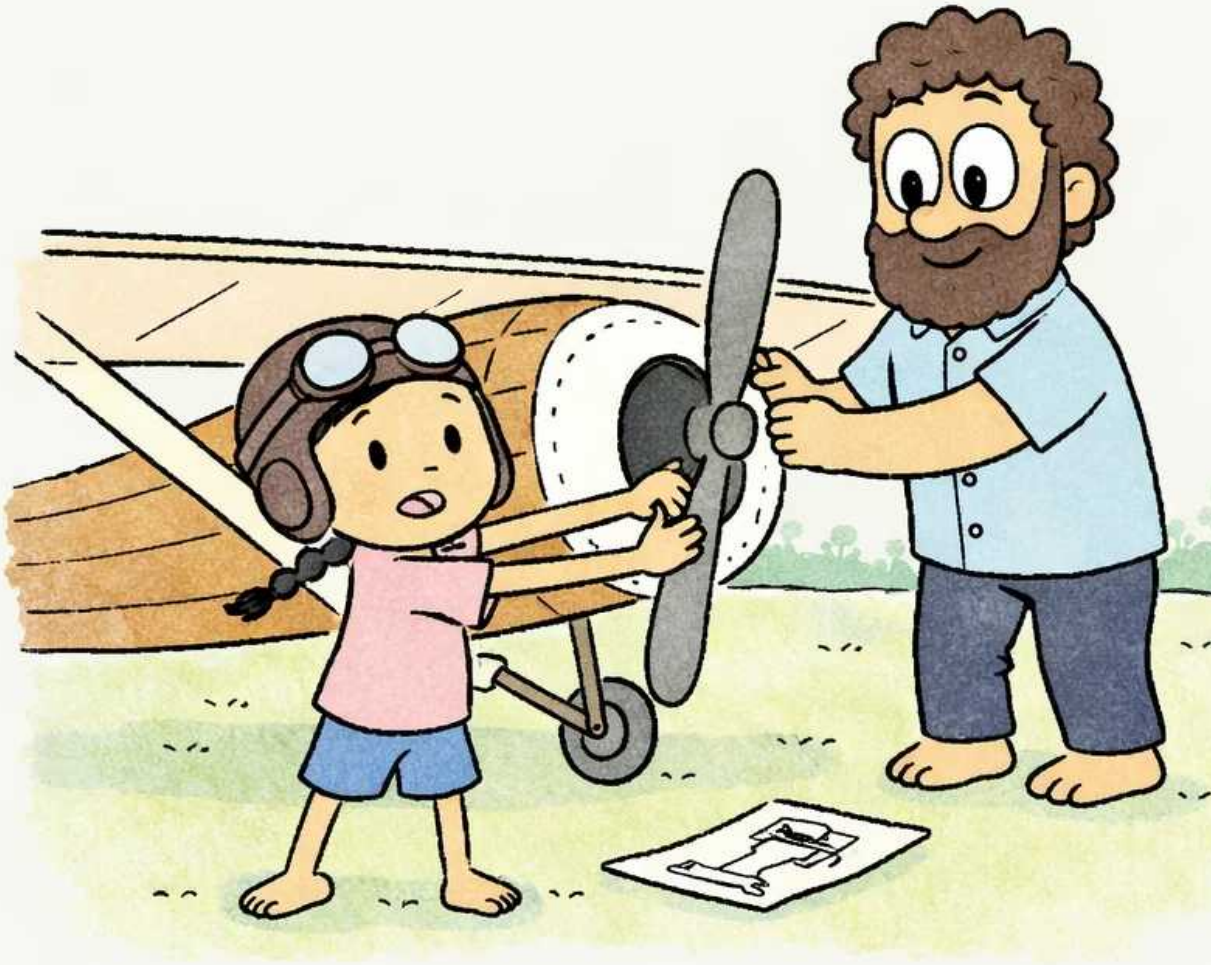
One morning, Sun came out. Not a peek. The whole sun, with the biggest grin ever. 'There you are!' Sun shouted. 'I missed you **nonstop**!'

Warm light **returned** to town. Dad put a hand on Panha's shoulder. 'You made Sun **return**.'

The next morning, Panha stood beside a new plane. Helmet on. A plan lay at her feet.

'Other towns have grey skies,' she **informed** Dad. Dad smiled. 'Then go **replace** them.'

Panha grinned. She had a sun to share.



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Panha Won't Come Down!

Panha's town is buried under thick, gloomy smog, and she's had enough! Has anyone ever really seen the sky behind all that grey? When Panha climbs the tallest hill and spots actual sunlight, she races home with a wild idea: invent a plane, fly above the clouds, and bring the sun back. But what will she find waiting up there? This decodable reader practises words with prefixes such as "declared," "exclaimed," "replace," and "unfair."

Reading Skills: Prefix

declared, dismissed, exclaimed, explode, informed, invent, mistake, nonstop, proclaimed, redo, replace, return, returned, unclean, unclear, undo, unfair

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