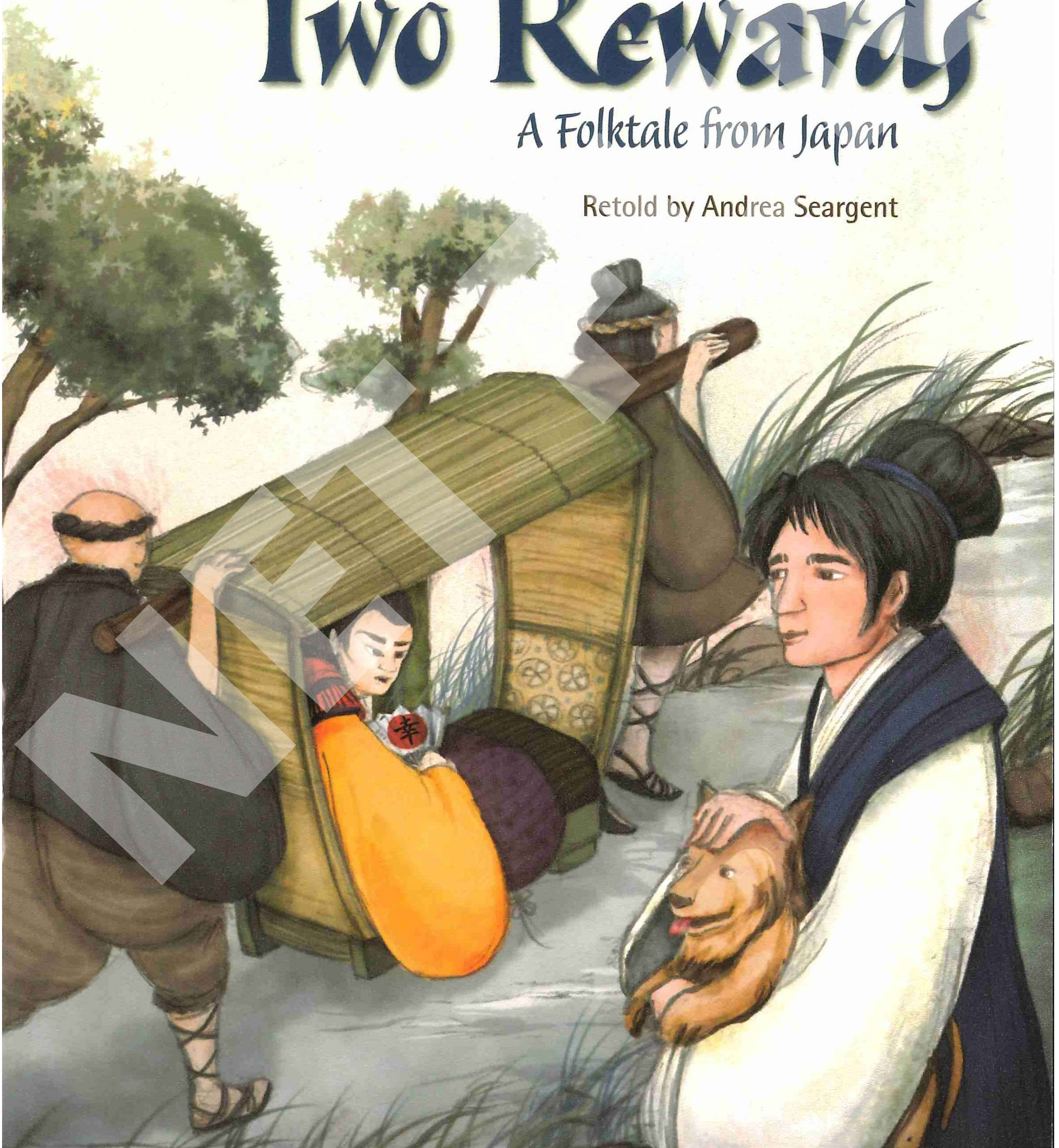


NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
**OUR
WORLD**

Two Brothers, Two Rewards

A Folktale from Japan

Retold by Andrea Seargent



The younger brother planted the seed and watered it each day.
Soon a thick vine grew on the ground. Then, yellow flowers began
to bloom. Soon after that, the vine had fat pumpkins on it.
The brother picked a pumpkin for his dinner. But when he cut it
open, the pumpkin was filled with gold and jewels!
He cut open more pumpkins. Every one had treasure in it.
The younger brother was now the richest man in the village!





The older brother heard about his brother's treasure.

"No!" he shouted in anger. He didn't like anyone to be richer than he was.

He ran to his brother's house and cried, "How did you get this treasure?"

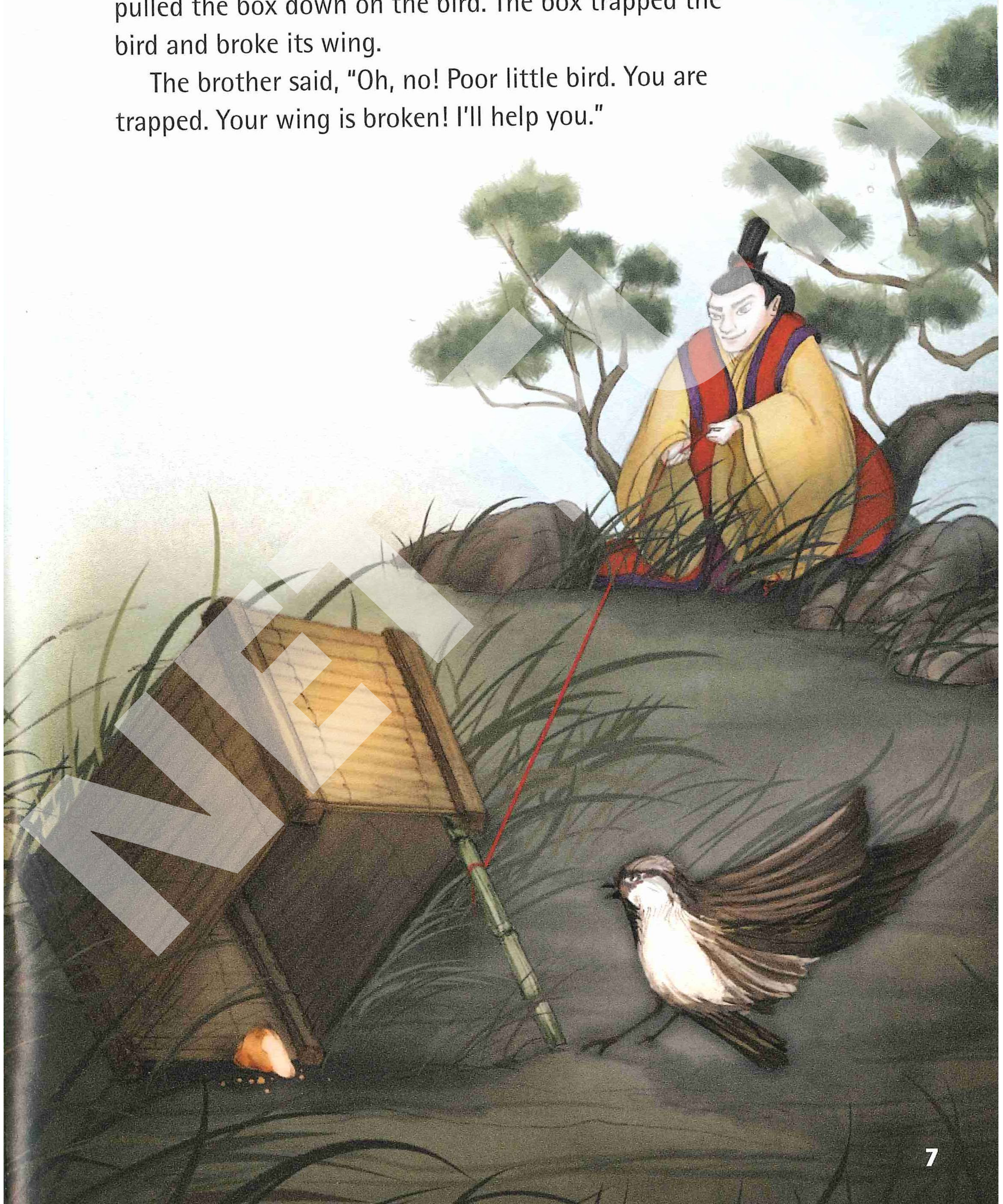
His brother explained that he helped a sparrow and that the sparrow gave him a magic seed as a reward.

"Then I will help a sparrow, too!" said the older brother. "And I'll get a bigger treasure!"

The greedy brother looked for a sparrow with a broken wing, but he could not find one. So he decided to trap a sparrow.

He put a piece of bread under a box. Soon a sparrow hopped under the box to get the bread. The brother pulled the box down on the bird. The box trapped the bird and broke its wing.

The brother said, "Oh, no! Poor little bird. You are trapped. Your wing is broken! I'll help you."

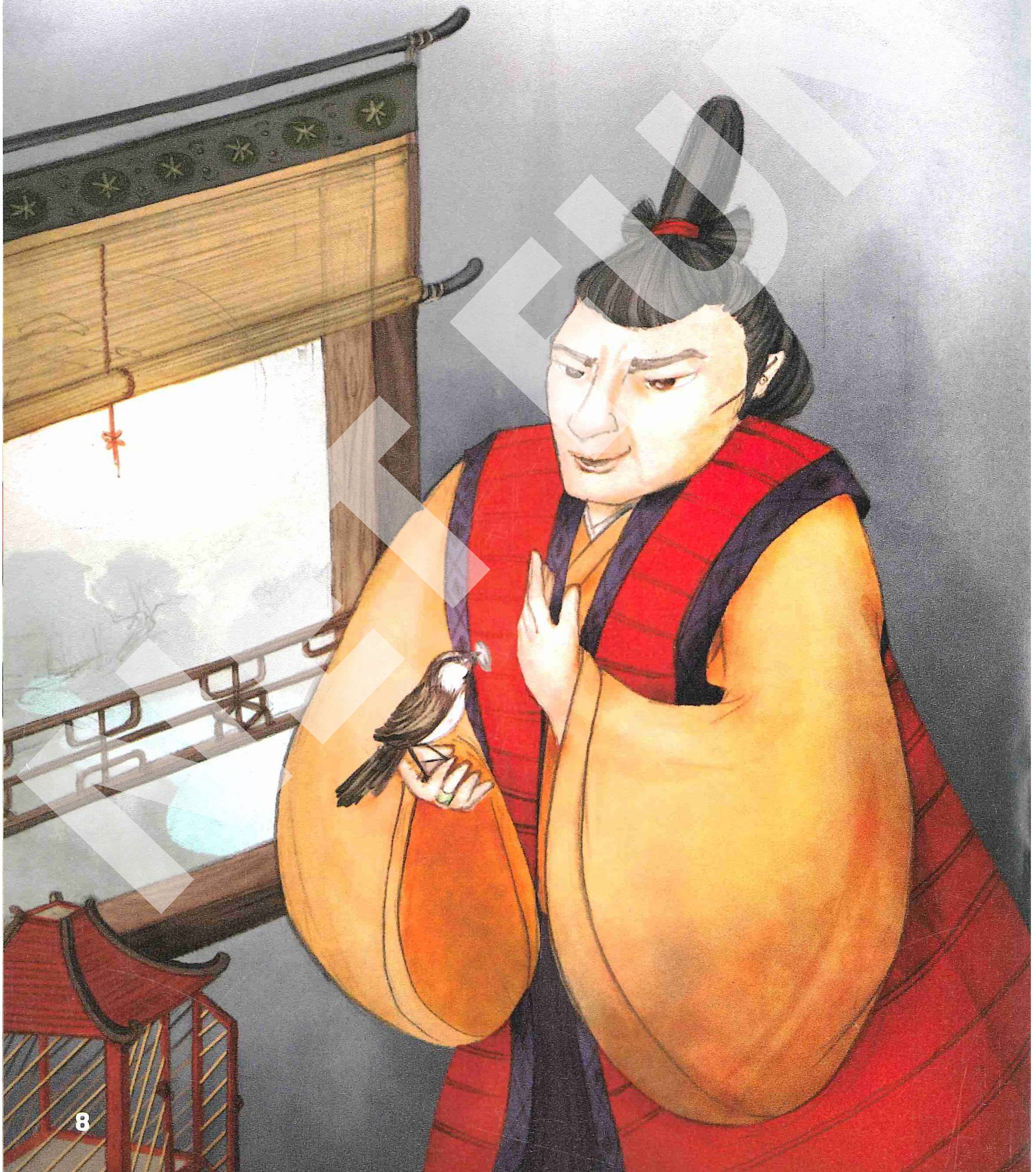


The greedy brother took the bird home and cared for it. When the bird's wing was better, the brother got ready to let it go.

"But first," said the greedy brother, "you must give me a reward. Remember that I fixed your wing and saved you from that box."

The sparrow said, "Oh yes, I have a reward for you. Plant this pumpkin seed in your garden and take care of it."

Then the brother let the sparrow go.



Word Play Plants

Circle the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. The corn (stalk / vine) grew taller each day.
2. We picked the tomatoes right off the (stalk / vine).
3. I saw the most beautiful (bloom / stalk) in the garden.
4. The seeds were planted in the (vine / ground).
5. Most plants absorb (ground / nutrients) from soil.
6. The plant has a terrible (stinky / odor).
7. It smells (stinky / odor).

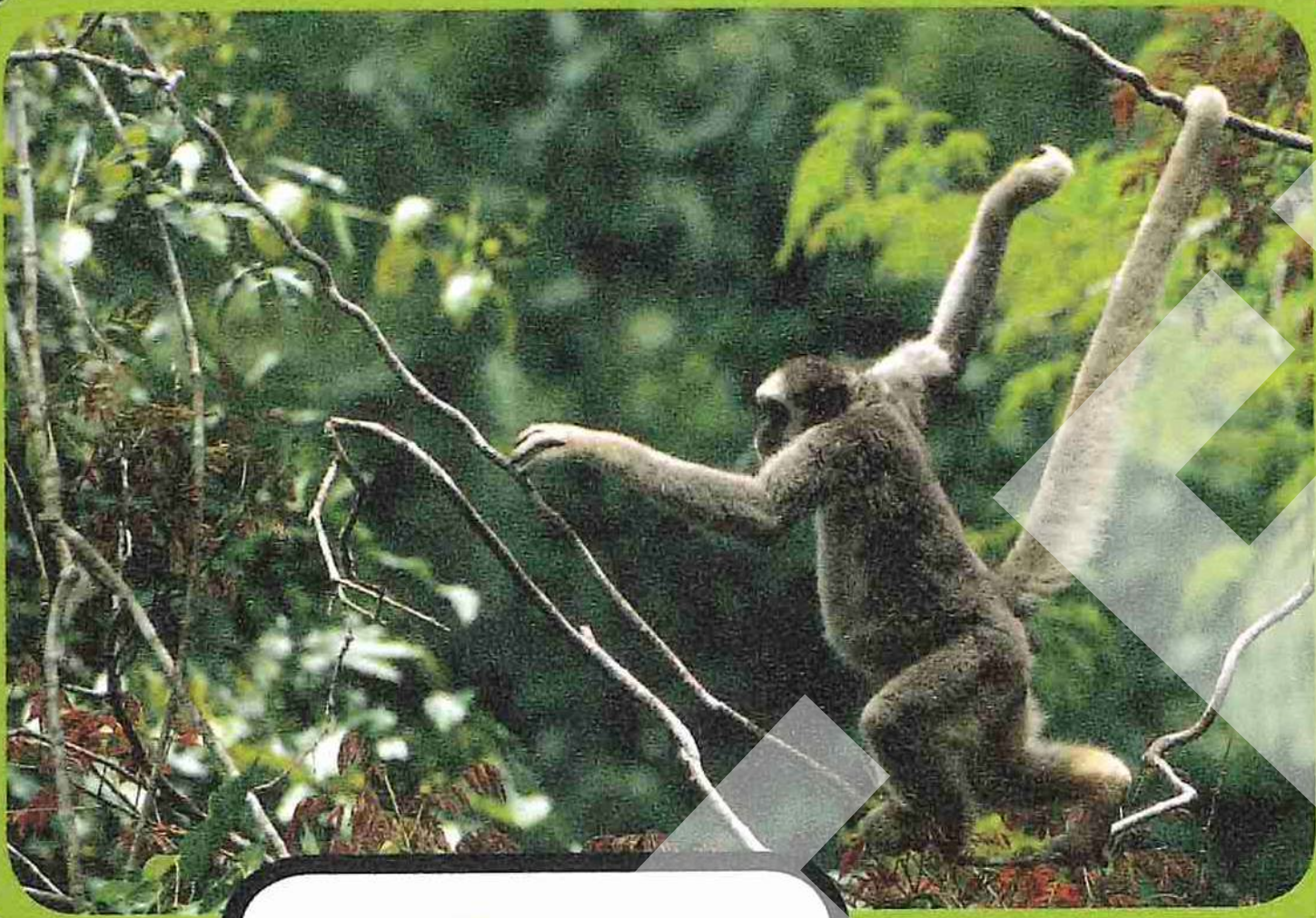


Write the word for each picture. Then, on a separate piece of paper, write sentences using each word.

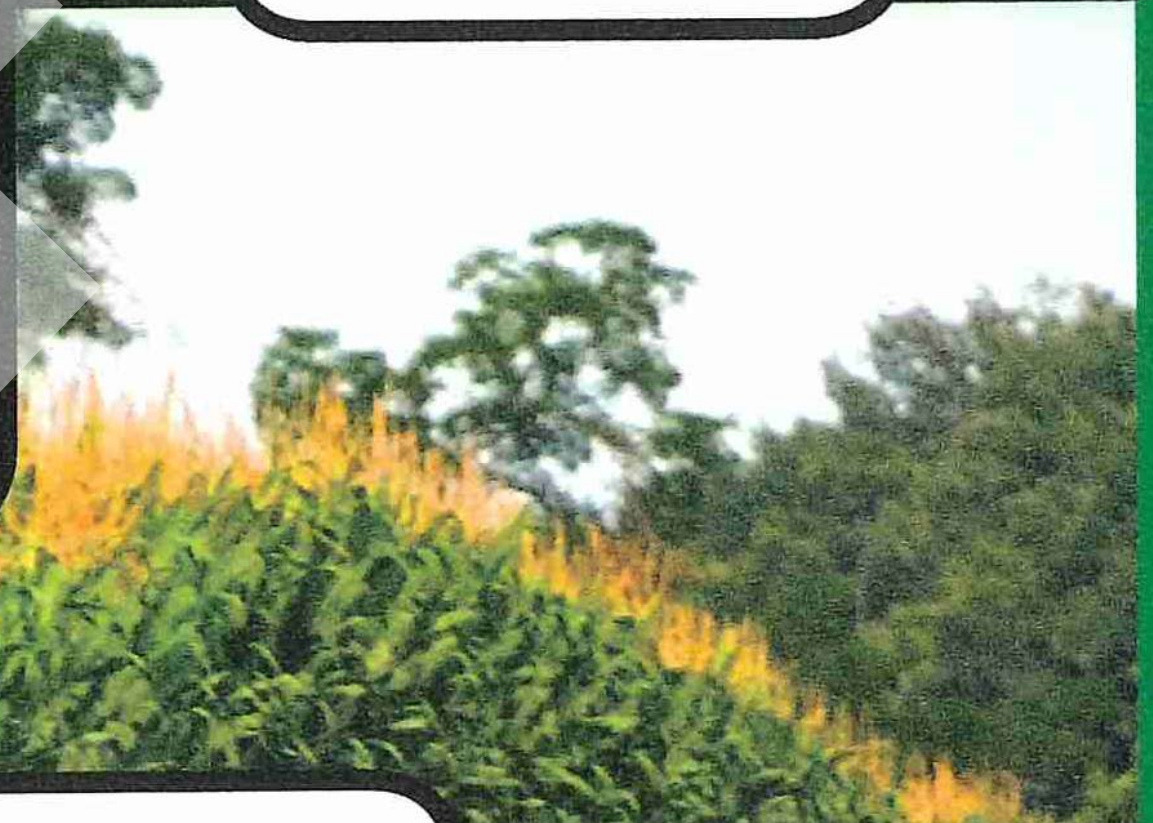
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ground vines bloom stalks



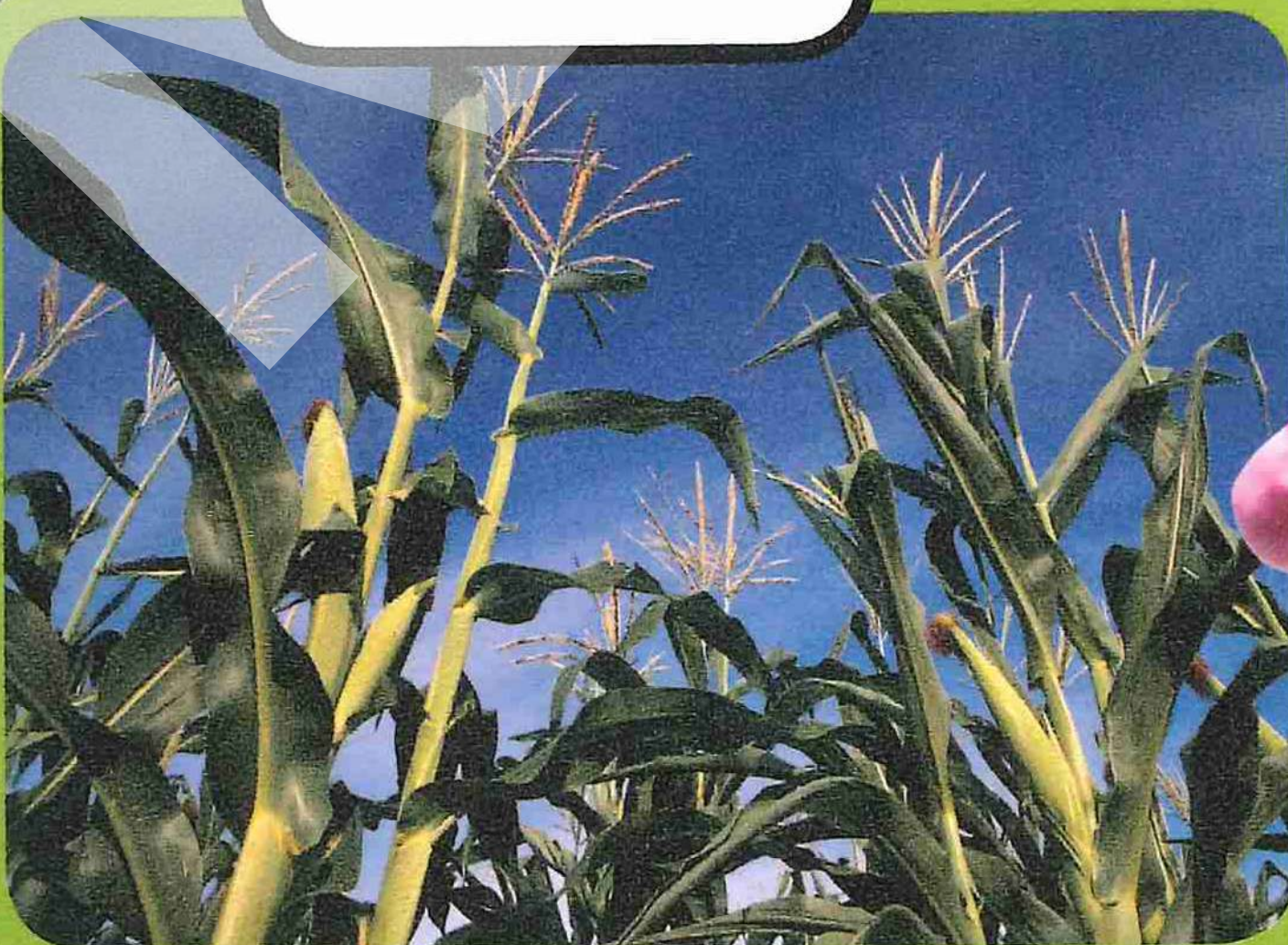
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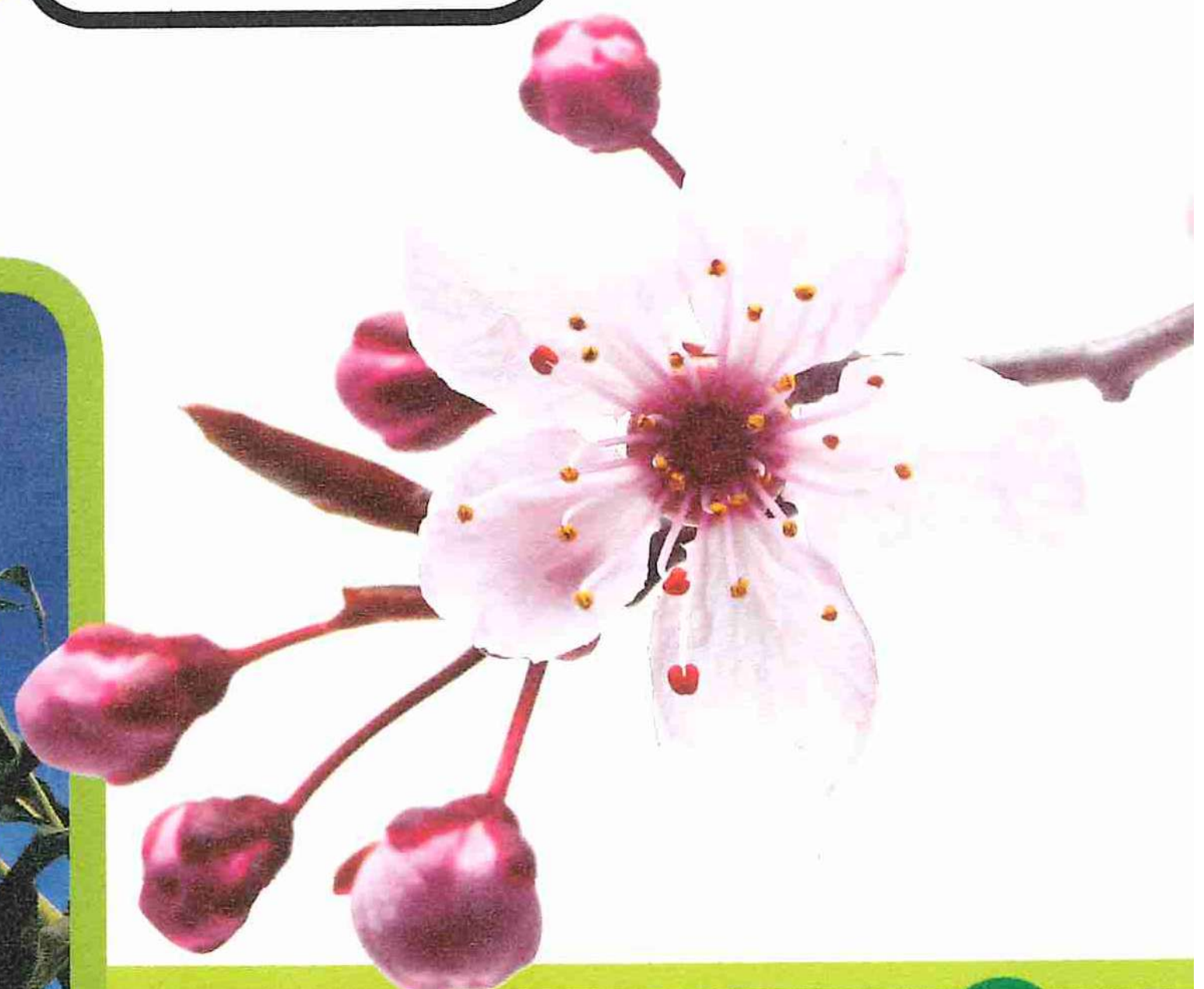
vines



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TWO BROTHERS, TWO REWARDS

Once there were two brothers. The younger brother was poor, but happy and kind. When he took care of a hurt sparrow, it rewarded him with a seed that grew pumpkins full of treasure. The greedy and jealous older brother came up with a plan to get his own reward. But what would the reward be?

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