

El Gigante de La Puebla

Agustín Luengo Capilla

Digital Edition
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English

Dolores Cerro Camacho

Ilustraciones de Víctor M. Nieto Bravo

Translated by Miguel Sánchez Martín and Andrea L. Wines.



The Giant of La Puebla

Agustín Luengo Capilla

Dolores Cerro Camacho

Ilustrado por Víctor Manuel Nieto Bravo

*Translated by Miguel Sánchez Martín and Andrea L. Wines.
Digital Edition - Pablo Ruiz*

I dedicate this to my kids David, Miriam, Rodrigo, and Fran because they have reawakened in me again the excitement and magic of story tales.

I would like to thank my parents for their love and desire of customs, traditions, and stories of our culture that they have always passed on to me.

To my school teachers because they provided me with the most important tools in life by teaching me how to read. Reading gives you the freedom to think and understand, and this is something that nobody can take from you.

Thank you, Floren, because this project would have never come true without your help.

And, of course, thank you, Victor, because you are the other half of this story tale, and you were willing to help me from the start when you did not even know me. It was a pleasure to work with you, artist!

Se lo dedico a mis niños David, Miriam, Rodrigo y Fran,
porque ellos han vuelto a despertar en mí la ilusión y la magia de los cuentos.
Siempre seréis mi gran tesoro.

A mis padres les quiero agradecer el amor y las ganas que siempre me han trasmitido por las costumbres, tradiciones e historias de nuestra tierra.

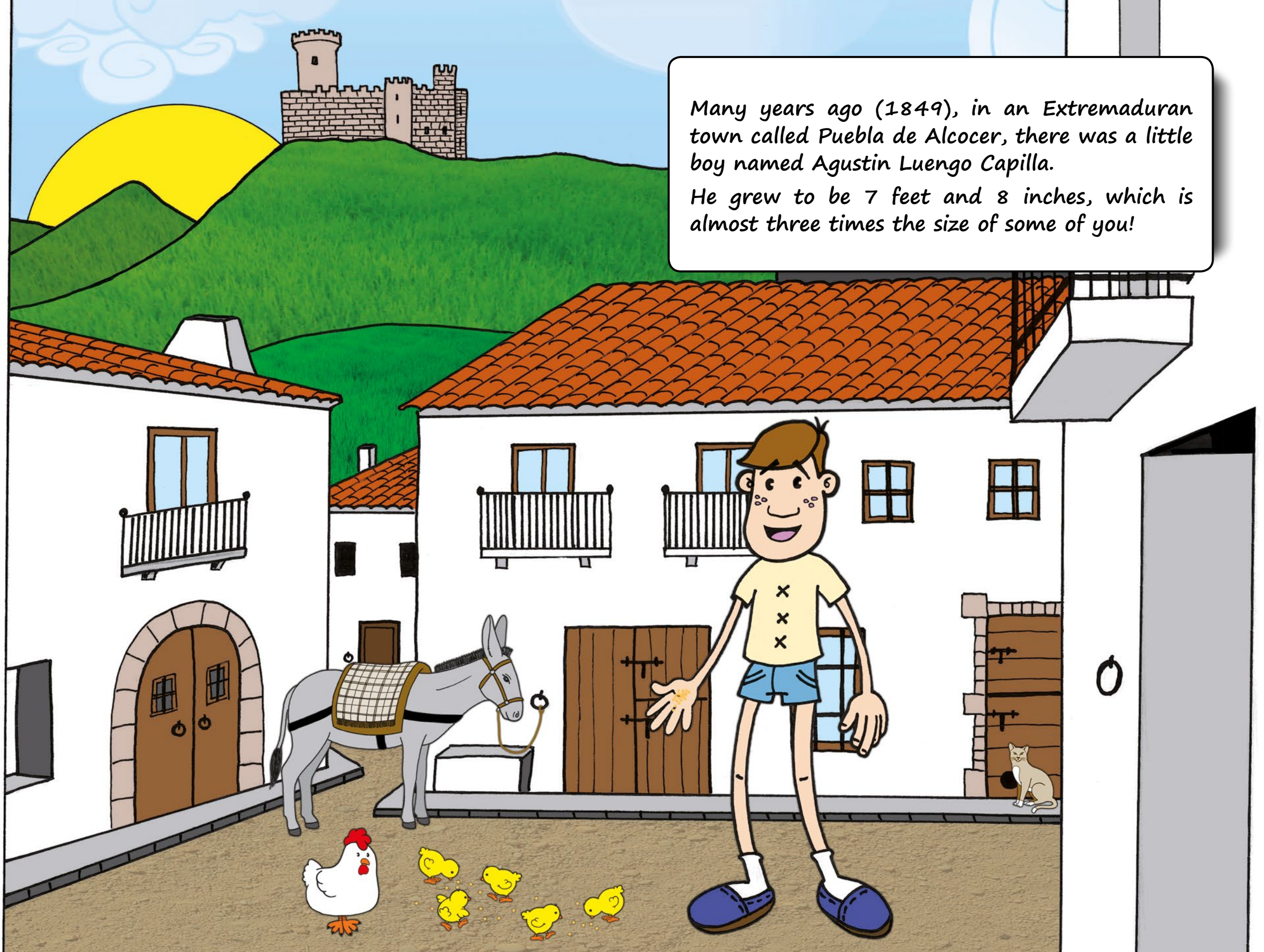
A mis maestros del colegio, porque ellos me dieron una de las herramientas más importante en la vida de una persona, enseñarme a leer y con ello una mayor libertad de entendimiento y pensamiento, algo que nunca te pueden arrebatar.

Gracias Floren, porque sin tu ayuda y entusiasmo este proyecto nunca hubiera visto la luz.

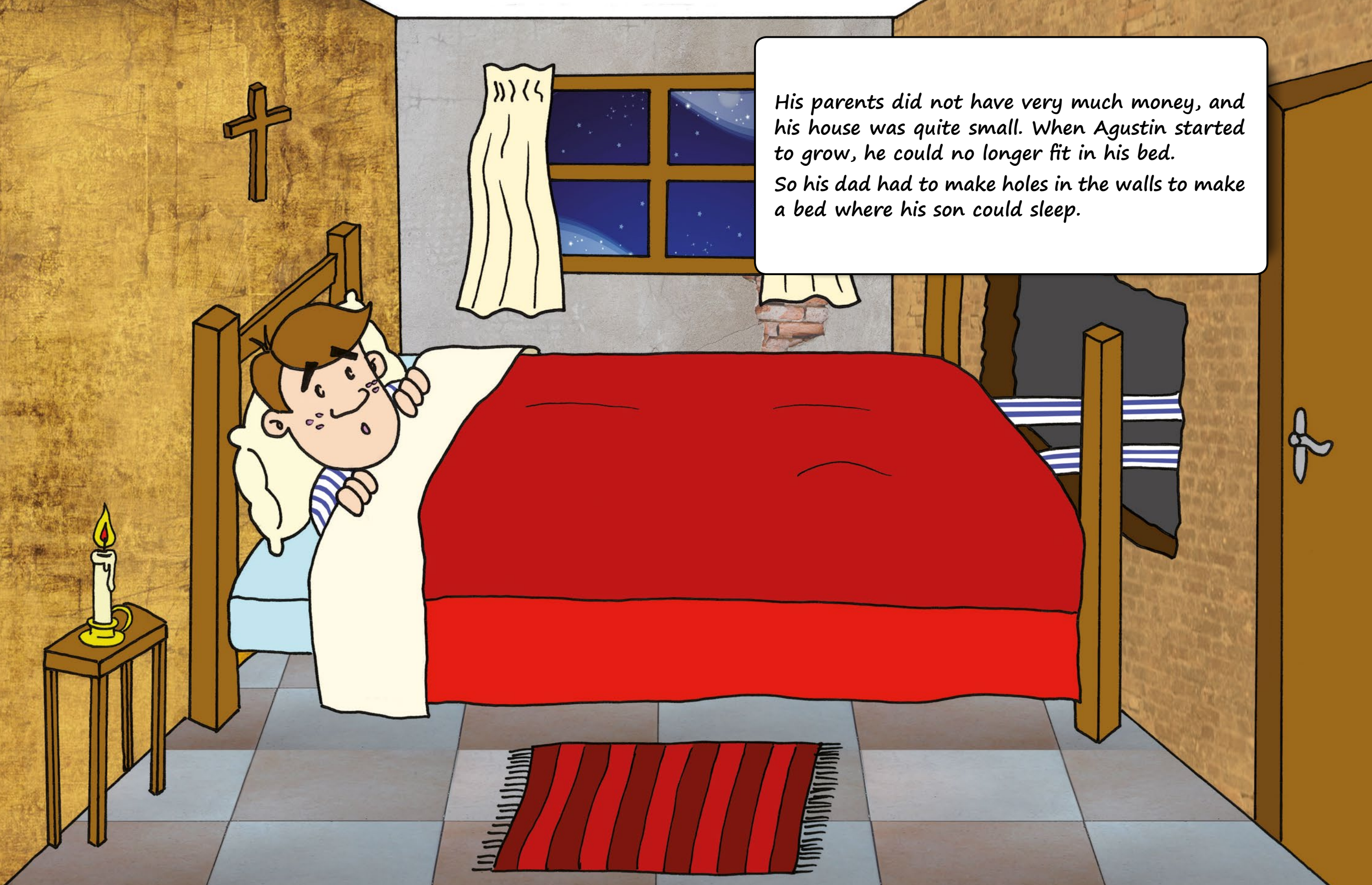
Y por supuesto gracias Víctor, porque tú eres la media naranja de este cuento y estuviste dispuesto desde el minuto uno sin conocerme de nada.
Ha sido un placer compartirlo contigo Artista.

Many years ago (1849), in an Extremaduran town called Puebla de Alcocer, there was a little boy named Agustin Luengo Capilla.

He grew to be 7 feet and 8 inches, which is almost three times the size of some of you!



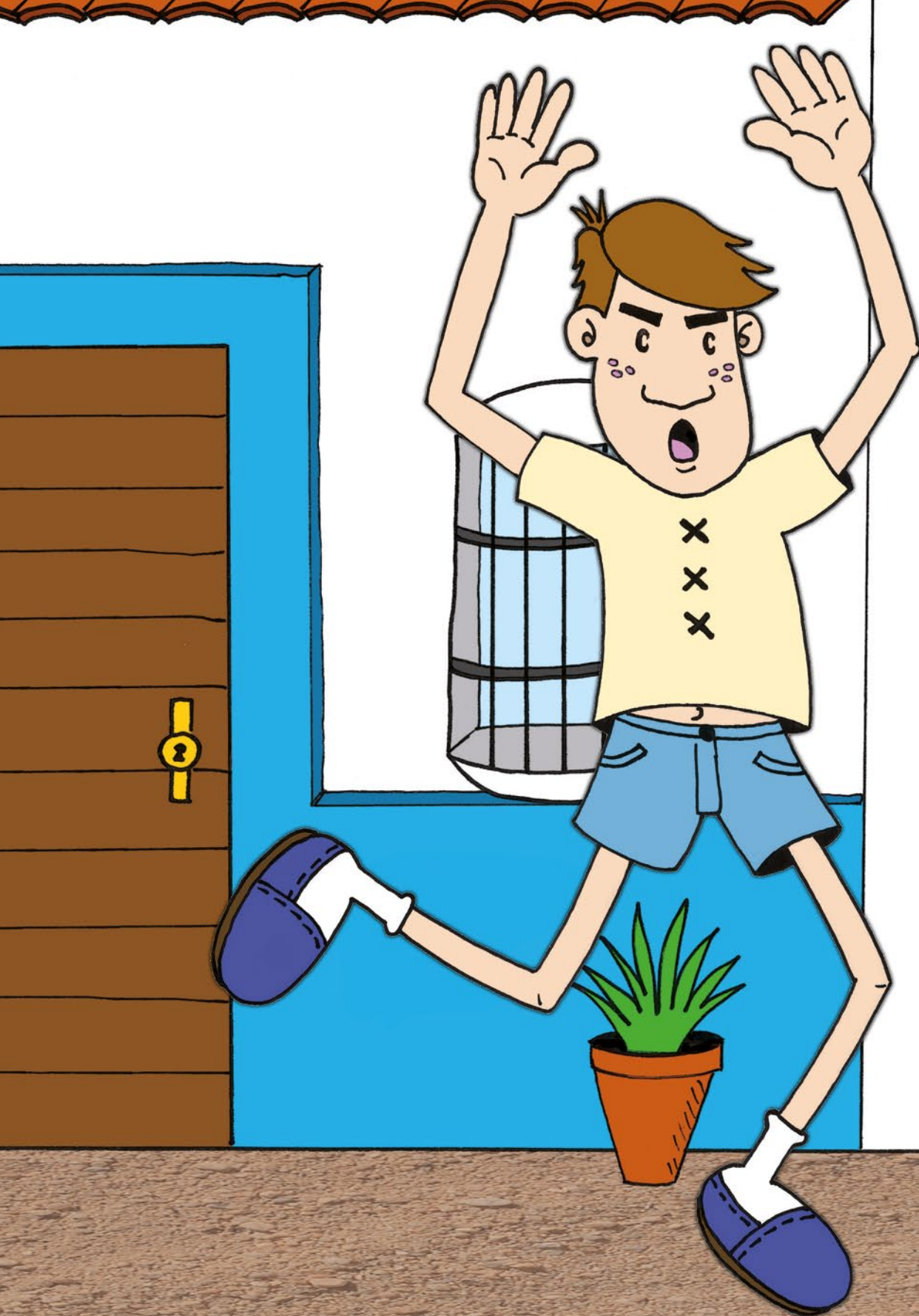
His parents did not have very much money, and his house was quite small. When Agustin started to grow, he could no longer fit in his bed. So his dad had to make holes in the walls to make a bed where his son could sleep.





As Agustin was getting older, he kept growing rapidly. The kids in the town used to play in the area around the castle, but he preferred not to go because they made fun of him and they would laugh at him.

Nobody understood why Agustin was growing so much, and for this reason they all started calling him the Giant of the town.



He did not like that they called him The Giant. Sometimes when the other kids made fun of him, he tried to scare the kids by running after them, as a way to make himself feel better.

For this reason, he was always alone. Sometimes he dreamed about leaving the town to know other places and other people who would respect him.



As he was getting older and taller, everyone spoke of the Giant.

He became so popular everywhere that, one day, the owner of a circus went to Puebla de Alcocer to meet him, and he ask him to join the circus and live with them.

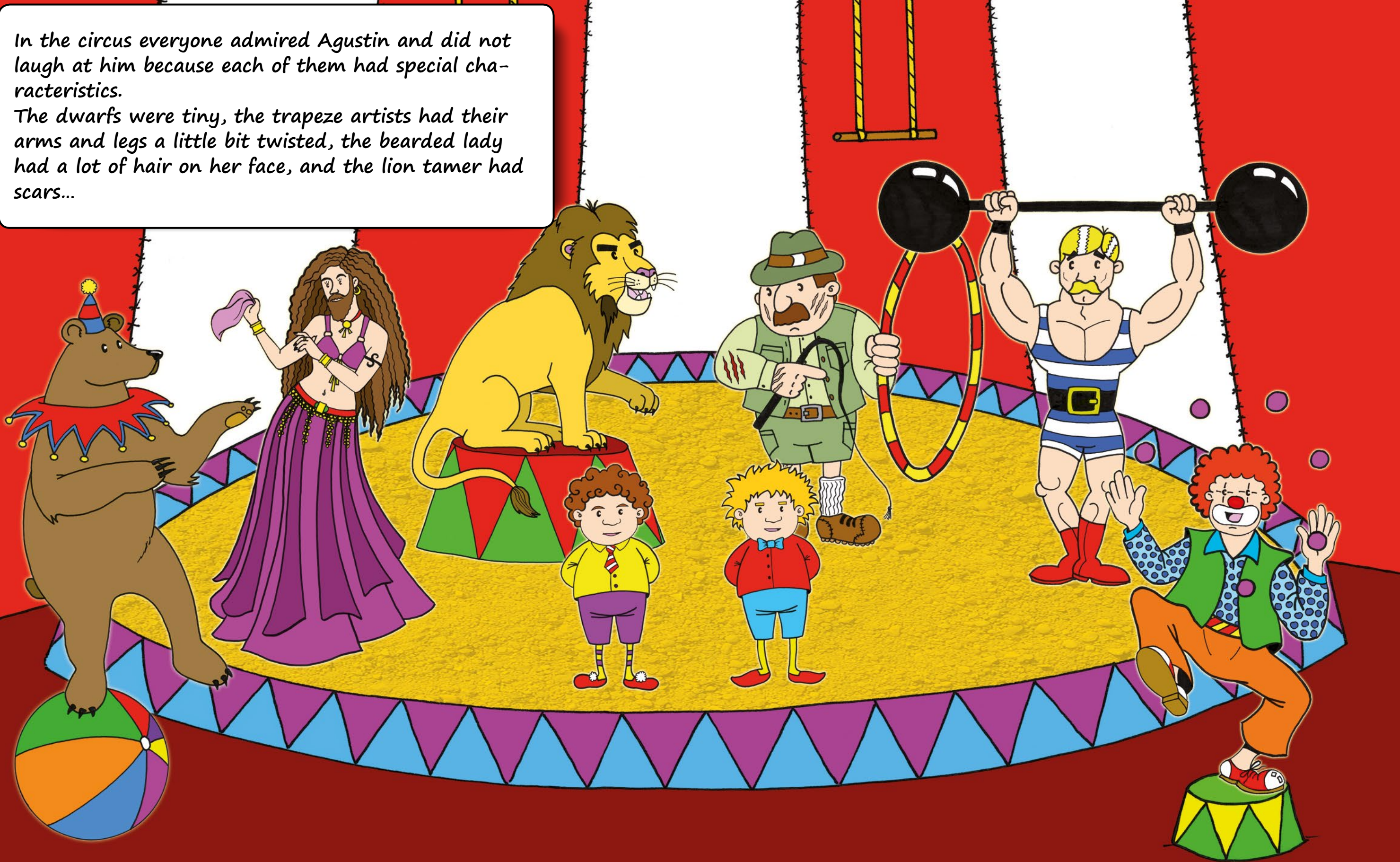


Agustin really liked the idea to go with the people of the circus and to travel to new places. When the time to leave had arrived, as he was getting further from the town on the wagon that he was riding on, despite been a little sad, Agustin was singing a song that said:
Wind, that takes the wind, wind that the wind takes me,
Wind, that takes the wind, the wind of my dark-haired lady. (Bis).



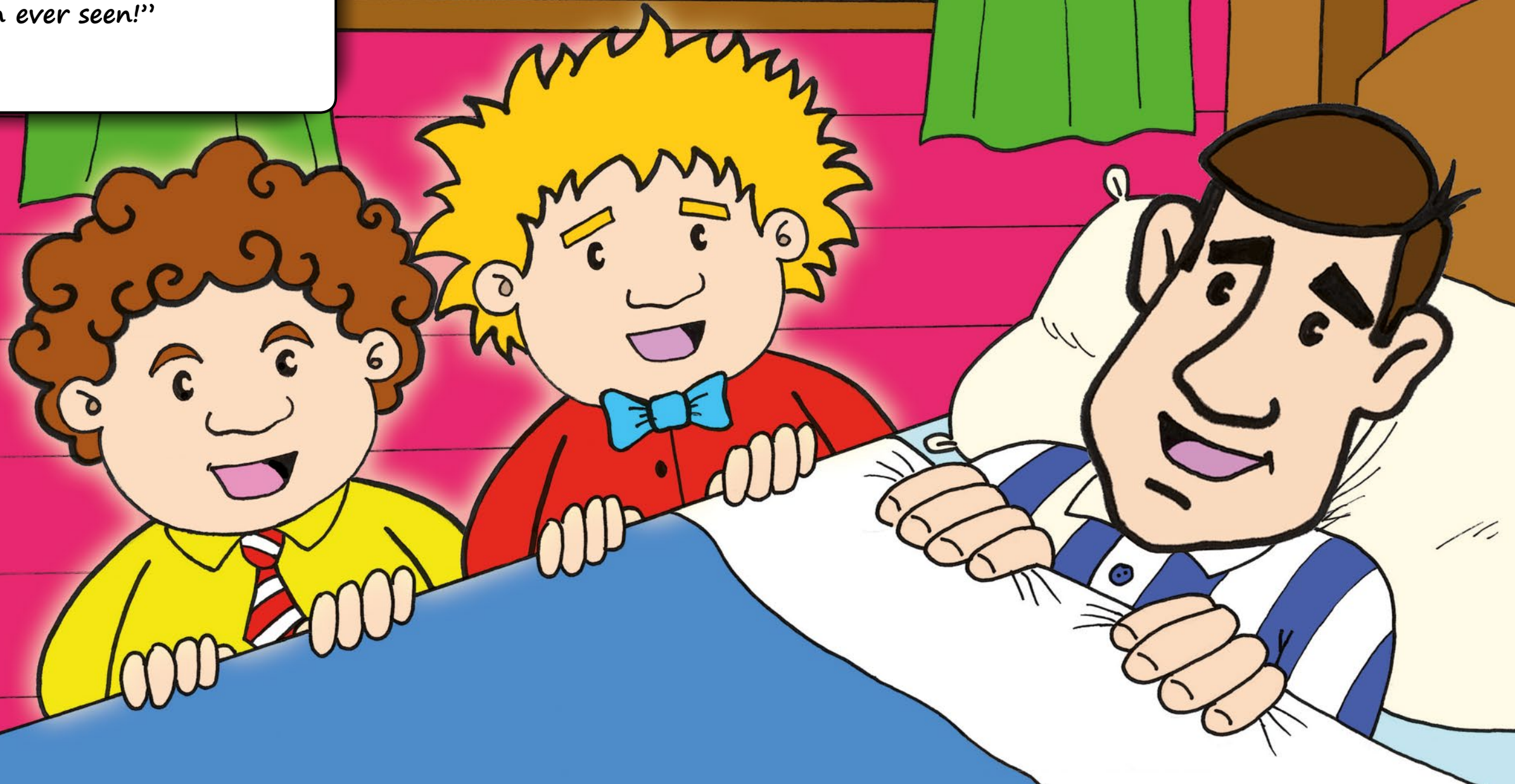
In the circus everyone admired Agustin and did not laugh at him because each of them had special characteristics.

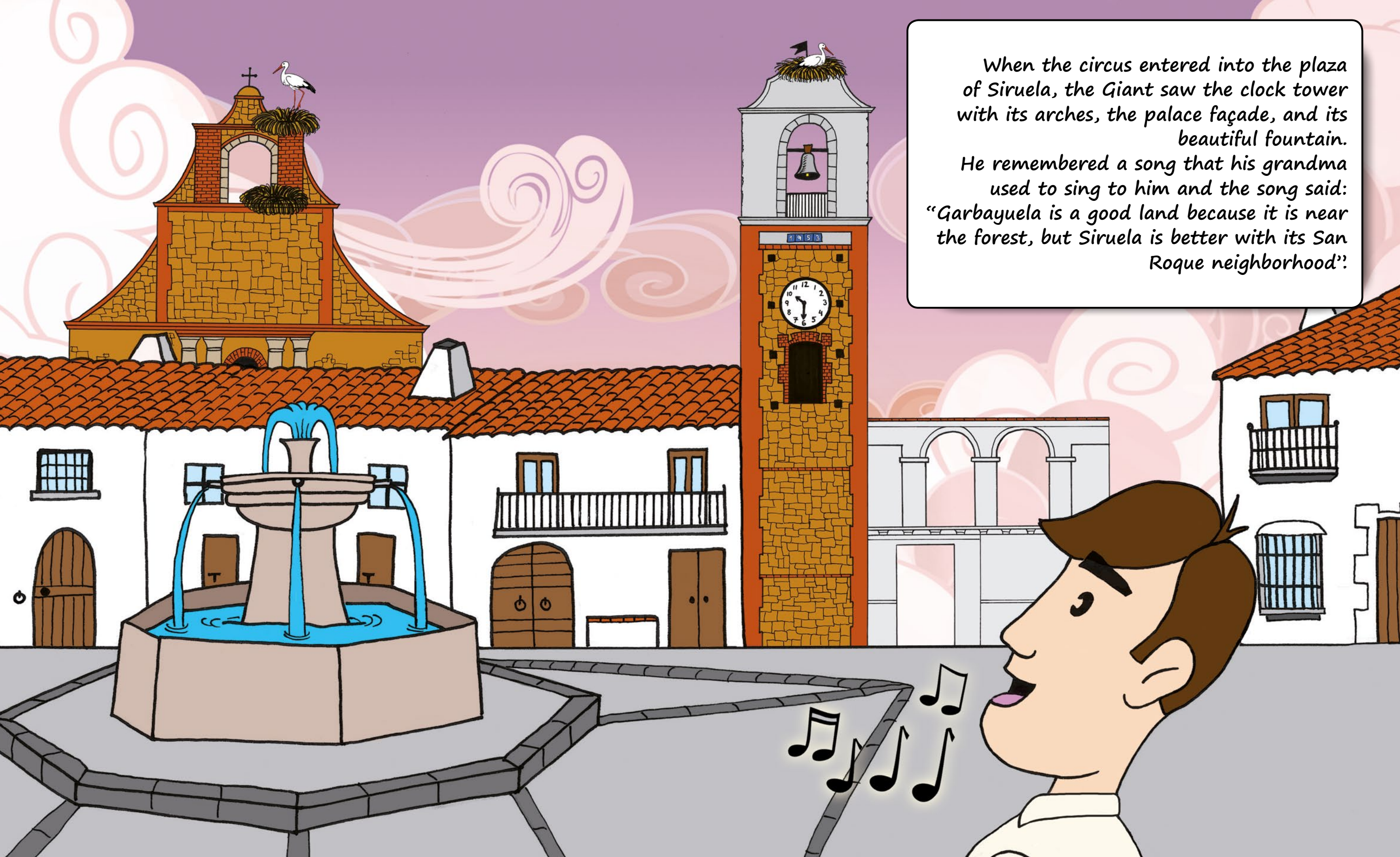
The dwarfs were tiny, the trapeze artists had their arms and legs a little bit twisted, the bearded lady had a lot of hair on her face, and the lion tamer had scars...



Agustin was a little bit shy, so he did not talk to anyone in the circus for the first few days. That was until one morning, just when the sun was rising, the dwarfs entered his room in the caravan, and they patted him and shouted, "Let's go big guy."

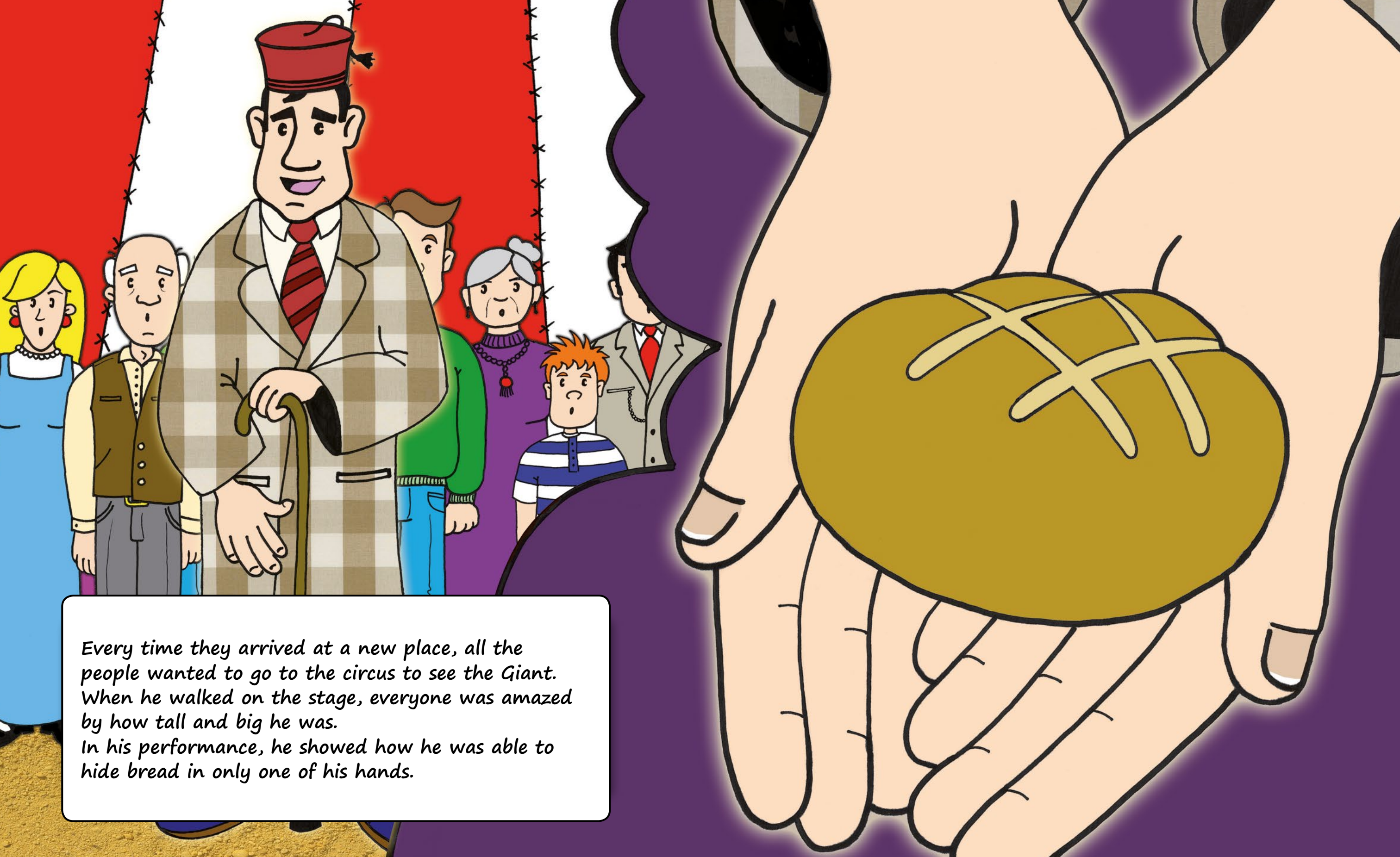
Wake up because we are arriving to Siruela. Here is where you will have your first performance as the tallest man ever seen!"





When the circus entered into the plaza of Siruela, the Giant saw the clock tower with its arches, the palace façade, and its beautiful fountain.

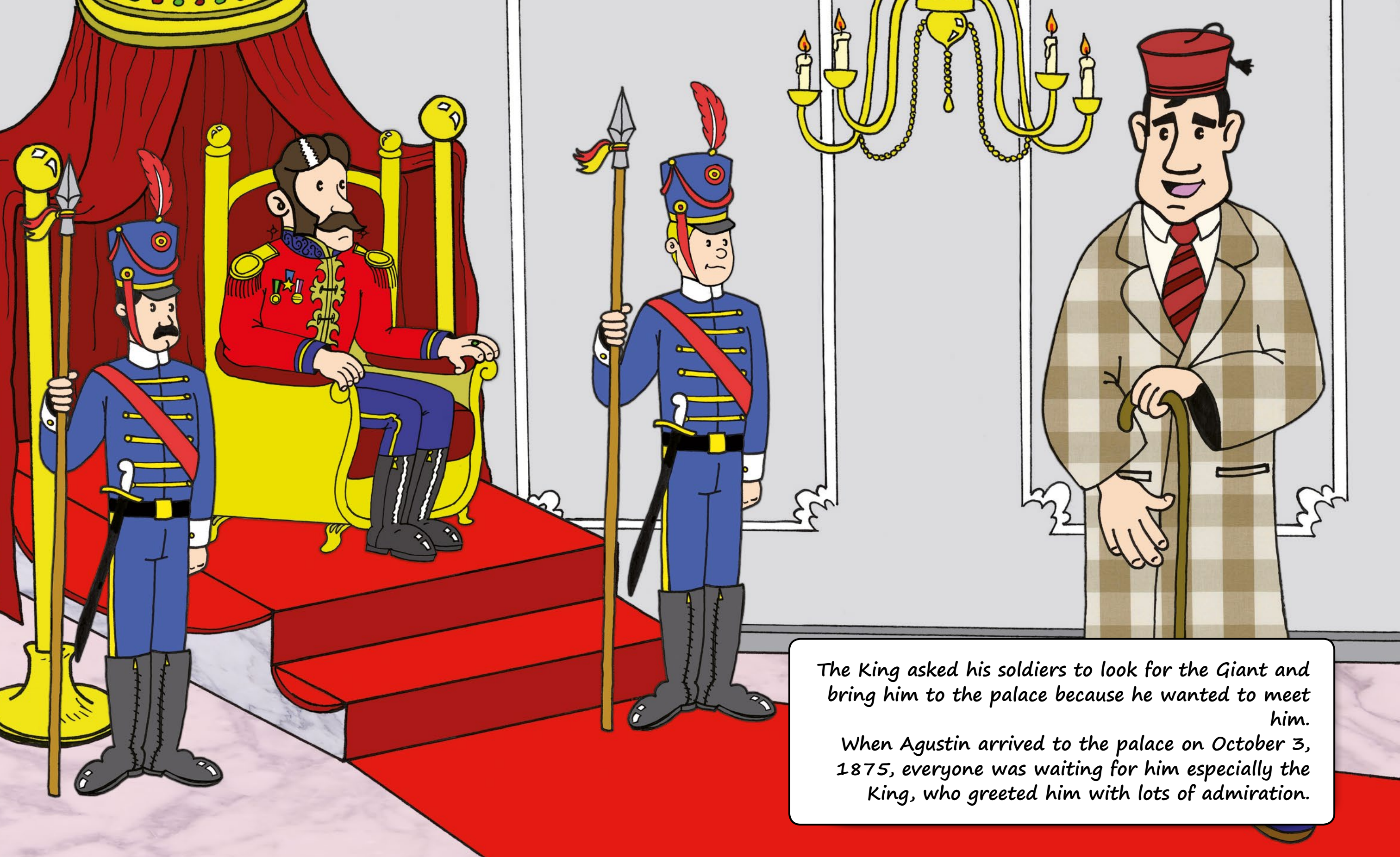
He remembered a song that his grandma used to sing to him and the song said: "Garbayuela is a good land because it is near the forest, but Siruela is better with its San Roque neighborhood".



Every time they arrived at a new place, all the people wanted to go to the circus to see the Giant. When he walked on the stage, everyone was amazed by how tall and big he was. In his performance, he showed how he was able to hide bread in only one of his hands.



Over time he became more and more popular so much so that he was known in Madrid, the capital of Spain. People talked so much about him that even Alfonso XII, the King of Spain, heard about him.



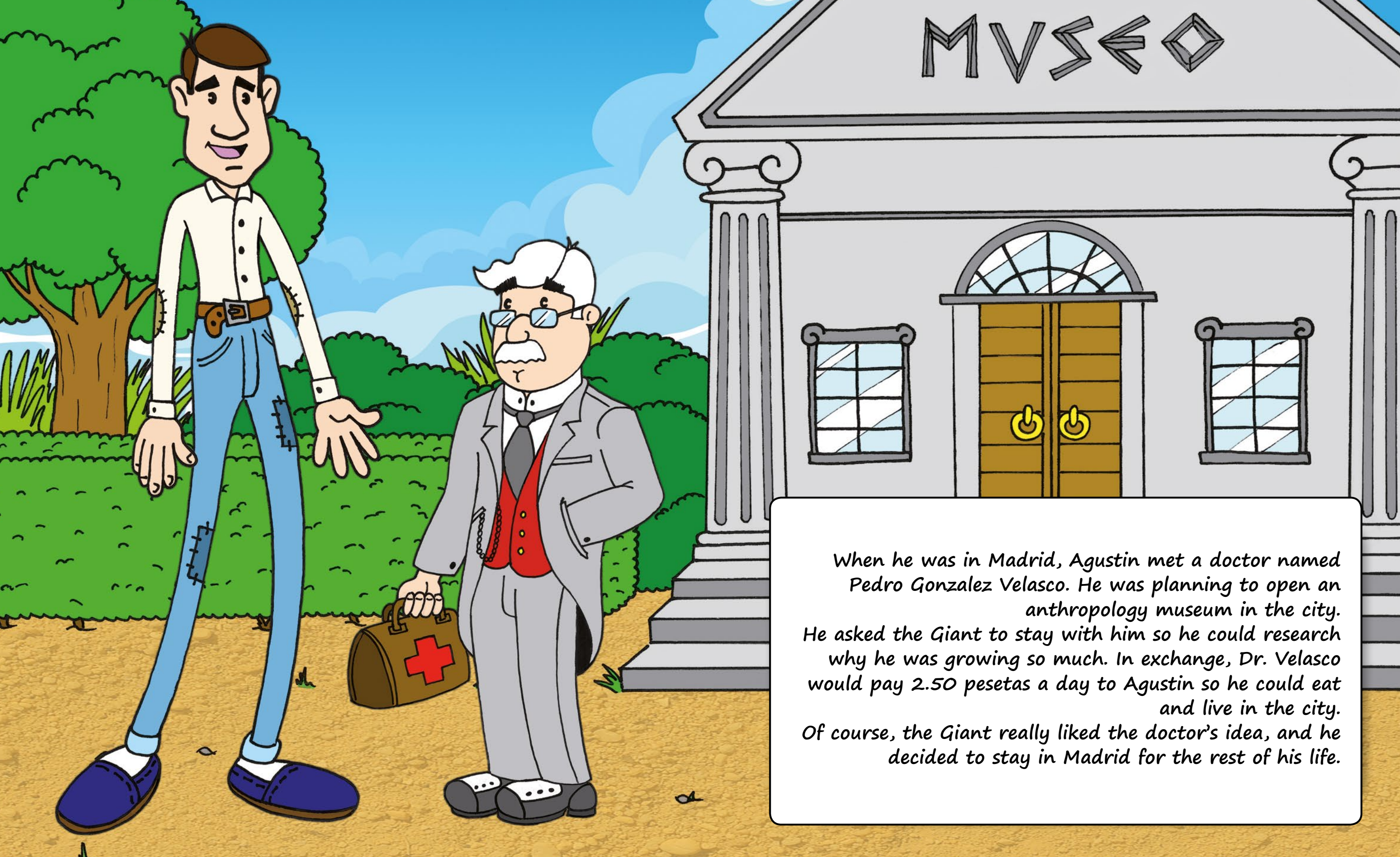
The King asked his soldiers to look for the Giant and bring him to the palace because he wanted to meet him.

When Agustin arrived to the palace on October 3, 1875, everyone was waiting for him especially the King, who greeted him with lots of admiration.

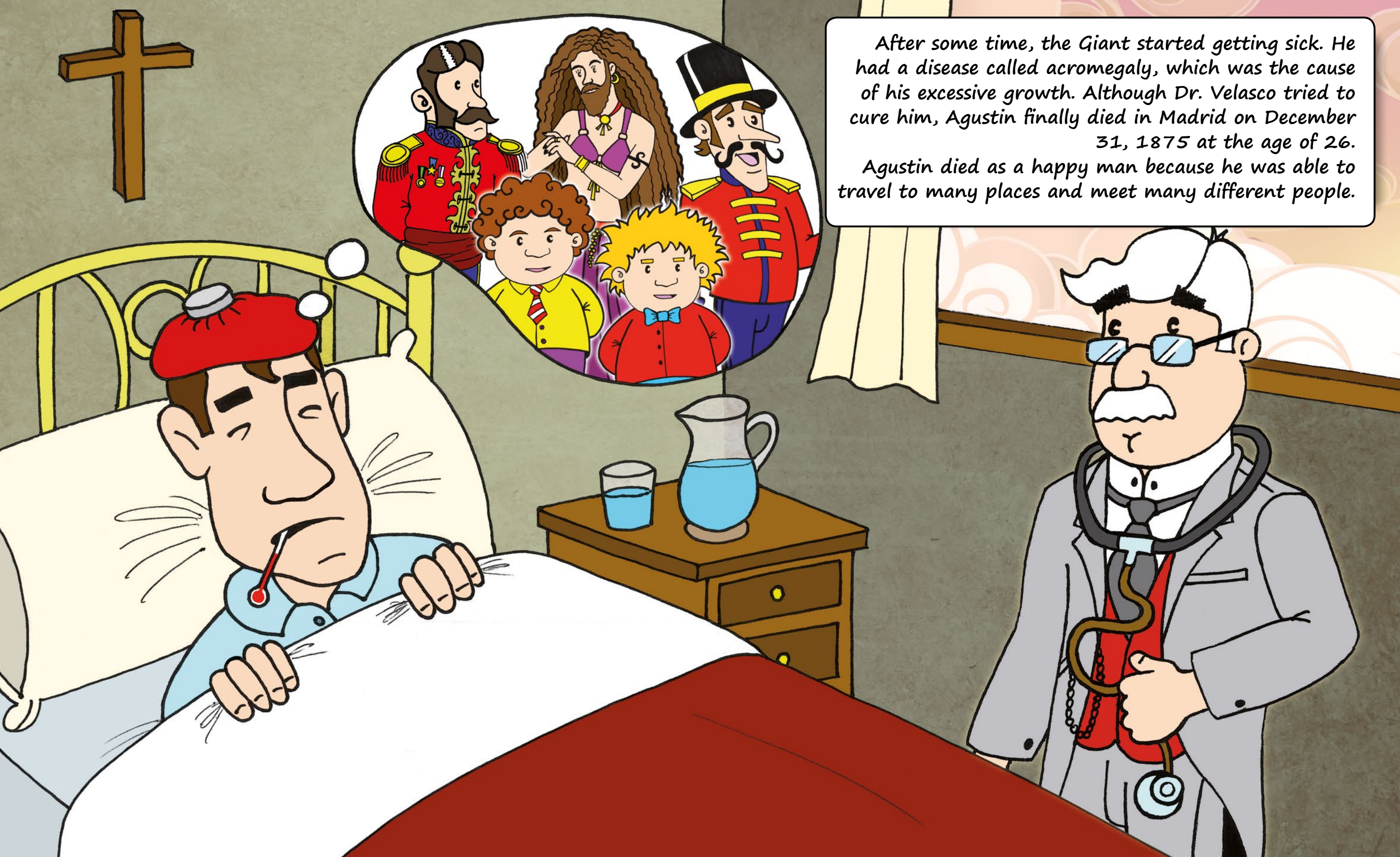


After spending some time together, Alfonso XII ordered his shoemaker to make a pair of boots for the Giant. He had never made such a large pair of boots because Agustin wore a size 20 shoe.



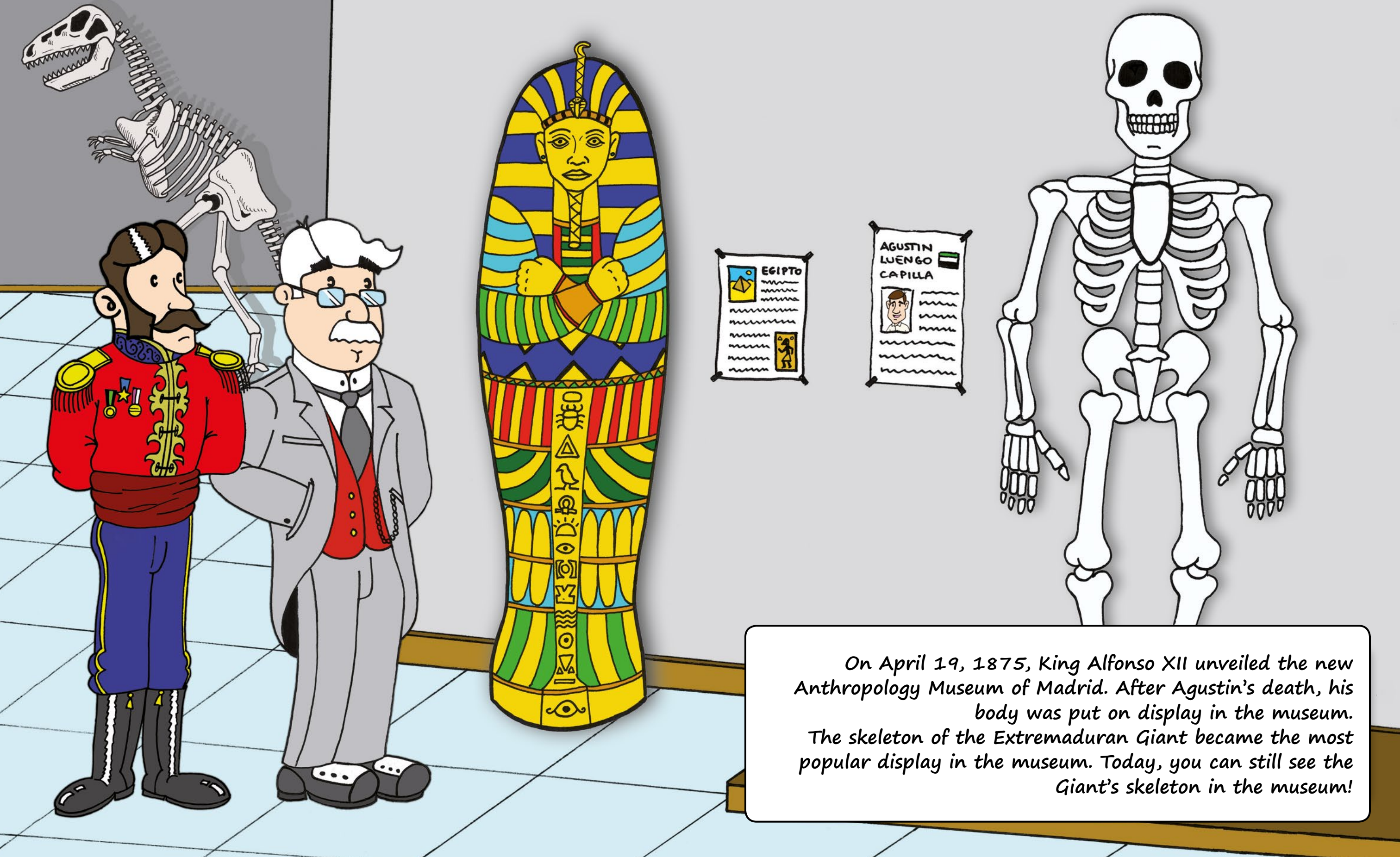


When he was in Madrid, Agustin met a doctor named Pedro Gonzalez Velasco. He was planning to open an anthropology museum in the city. He asked the Giant to stay with him so he could research why he was growing so much. In exchange, Dr. Velasco would pay 2.50 pesetas a day to Agustin so he could eat and live in the city. Of course, the Giant really liked the doctor's idea, and he decided to stay in Madrid for the rest of his life.



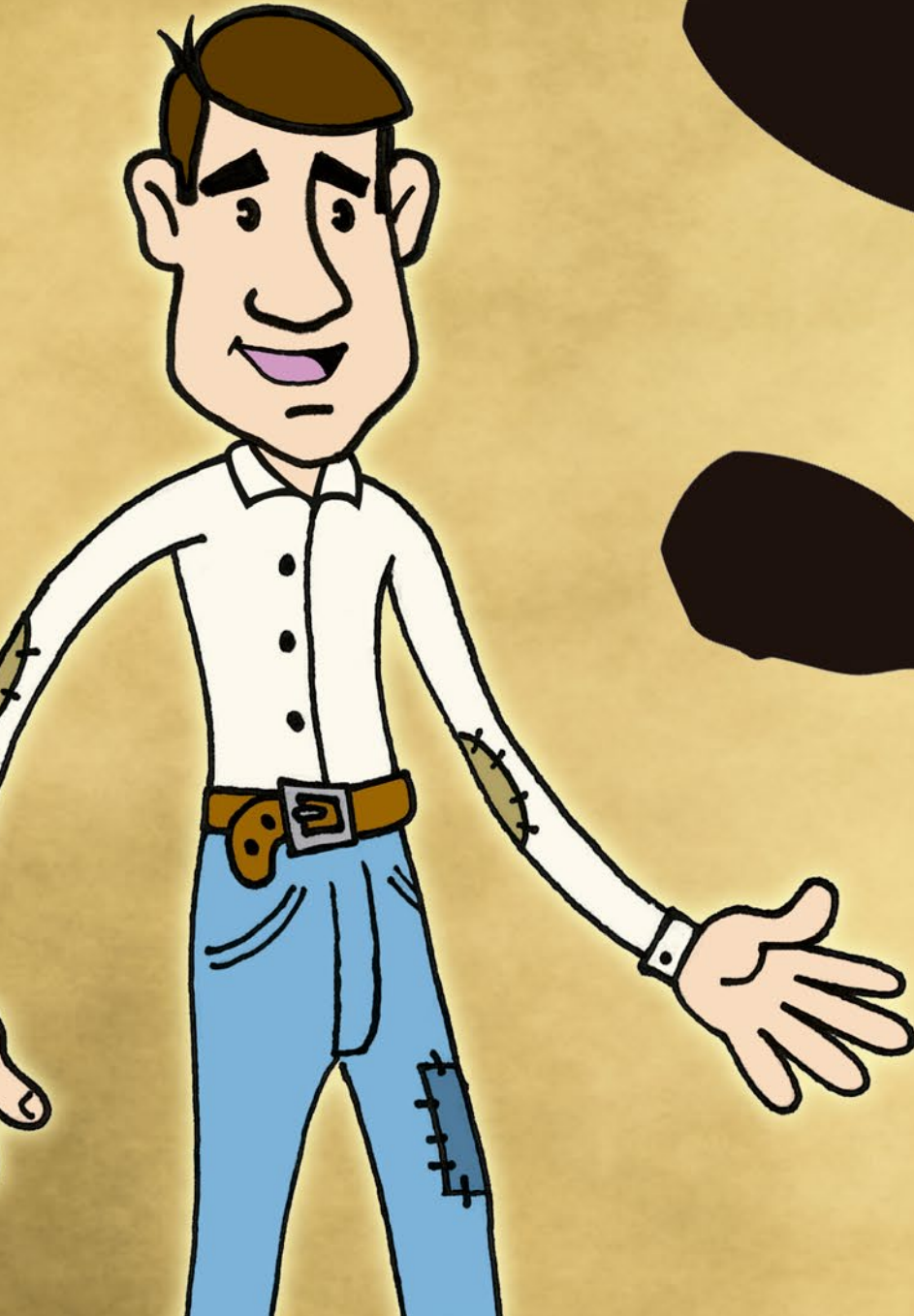
After some time, the Giant started getting sick. He had a disease called acromegaly, which was the cause of his excessive growth. Although Dr. Velasco tried to cure him, Agustín finally died in Madrid on December 31, 1875 at the age of 26.

Agustín died as a happy man because he was able to travel to many places and meet many different people.



On April 19, 1875, King Alfonso XII unveiled the new Anthropology Museum of Madrid. After Agustin's death, his body was put on display in the museum. The skeleton of the Extremaduran Giant became the most popular display in the museum. Today, you can still see the Giant's skeleton in the museum!

Put your hands on the
Giant's handprint and
compare. HIS HANDS
WERE ENORMOUS!!!





And this is the end
of the story of
Agustin Luengo Capilla,
the Giant of La Puebla.



THE
END

READING COMPREHENSION AND WORKSHEETS

What is the name of the town where the Giant was born?

- ☐ Siruela
- ☐ Puebla de Alcocer
- ☐ Garbayuela

How tall was the Giant?

- ☐ 2 meters
- ☐ 2.25 meters
- ☐ 2.35 meters

Where do the kids in the town like to play?

- ☐ In the Plaza
- ☐ In the country
- ☐ Around the castle

What was the name of the first town where the Giant performed?

- ☐ In Siruela
- ☐ In Garbayuela
- ☐ In Madrid

When the Giant left his town for the first time, who did he go with?

- ☐ The doctor
- ☐ The king
- ☐ The circus

What did the king give to the Giant?

- ☐ Boots
- ☐ A ball
- ☐ A hat

What was the name of the king?

- ☐ Amadeo
- ☐ Alfonso
- ☐ Felipe

Where can you see the skeleton of the Giant nowadays?

- ☐ You can not
- ☐ In the museum in Puebla de Alcocer,
- ☐ In the Anthropological Museum in Madrid.

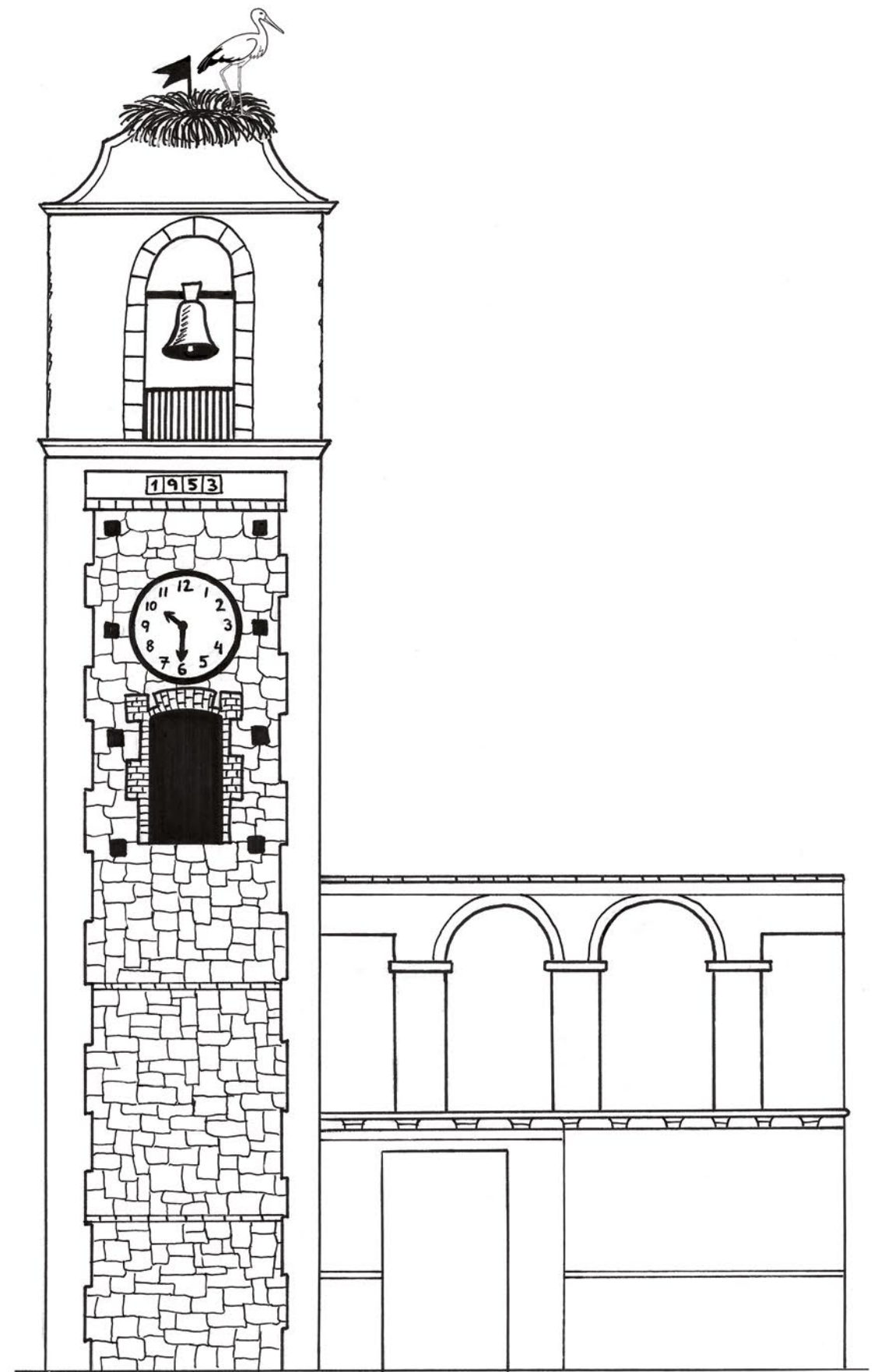
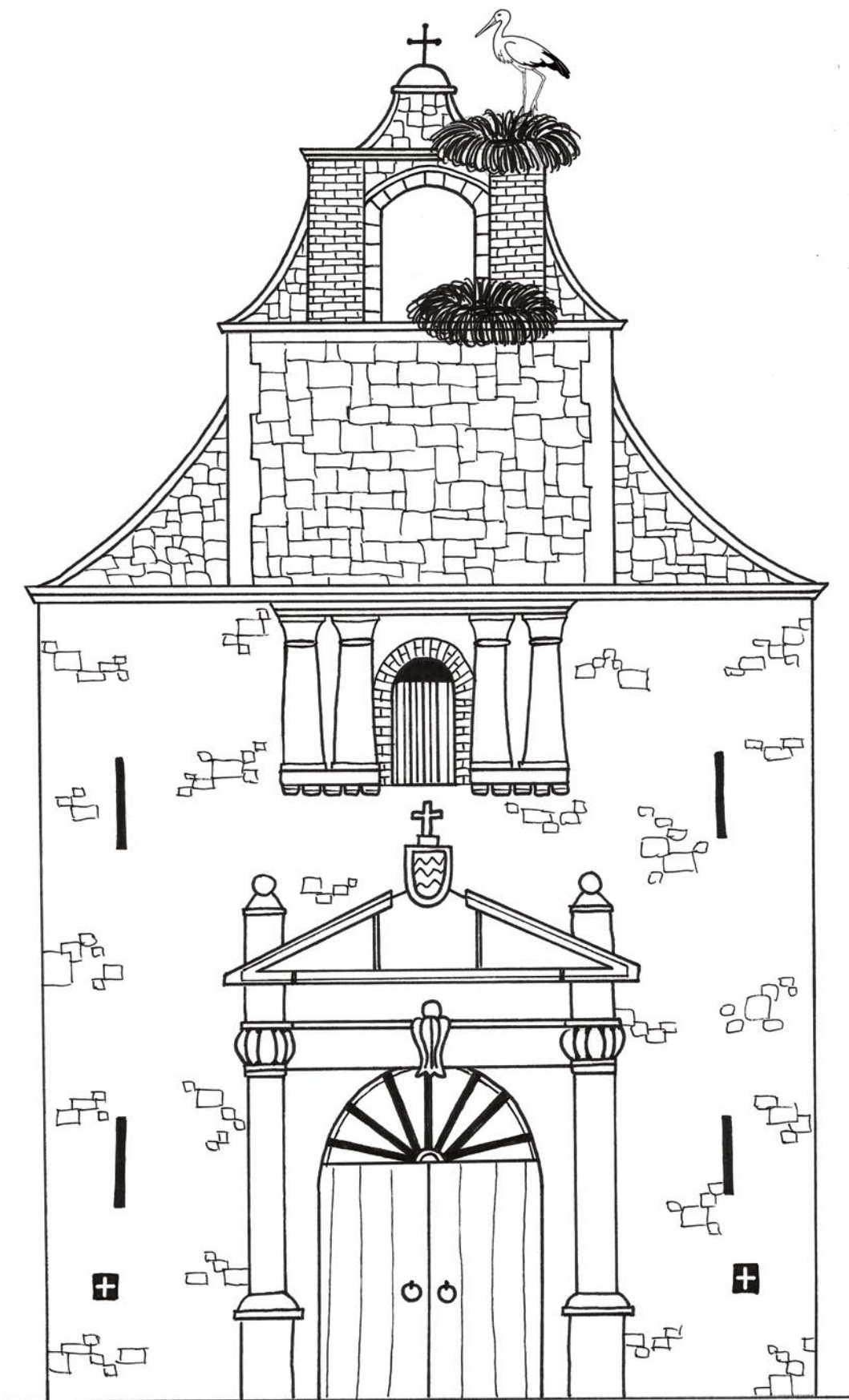
Do you think it is important to respect everyone even if they are different?

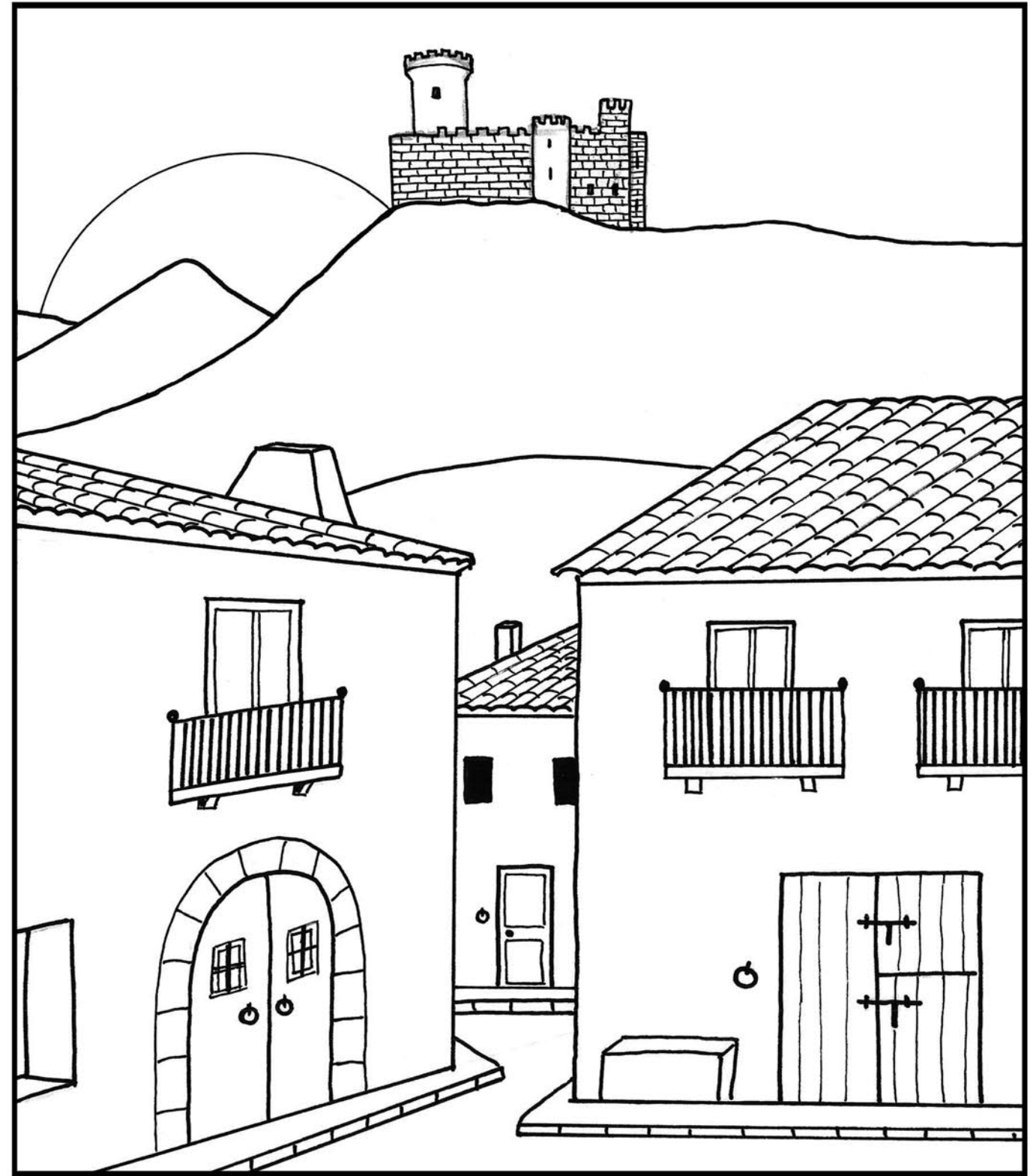
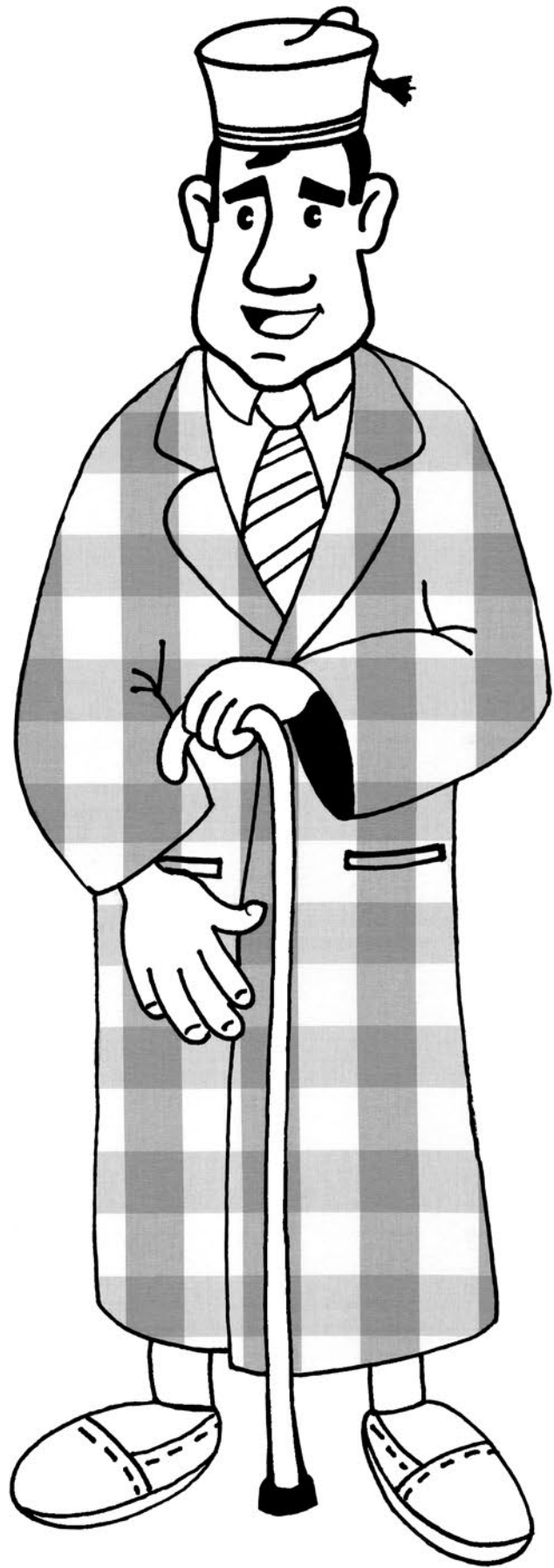
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Explain your answer.



Next, color the following pictures about the story.







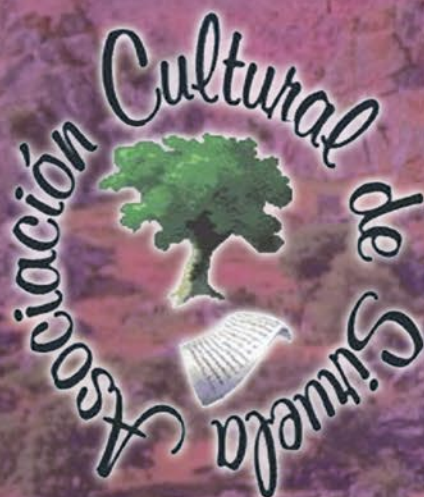
*And this is the end of the story
of Agustin Luengo Capilla,
the Giant of La Puebla.*

Bibliography

- Book: El hombre que compraba gigantes. Author: Luis C. Folgado de Torres. Editorial Altera 2005. ISBN 978-8489779525. According to data provided by Puebla de Alcocer town hall.



Ayuntamiento
de Puebla de Alcocer



Ayuntamiento
de Siruela