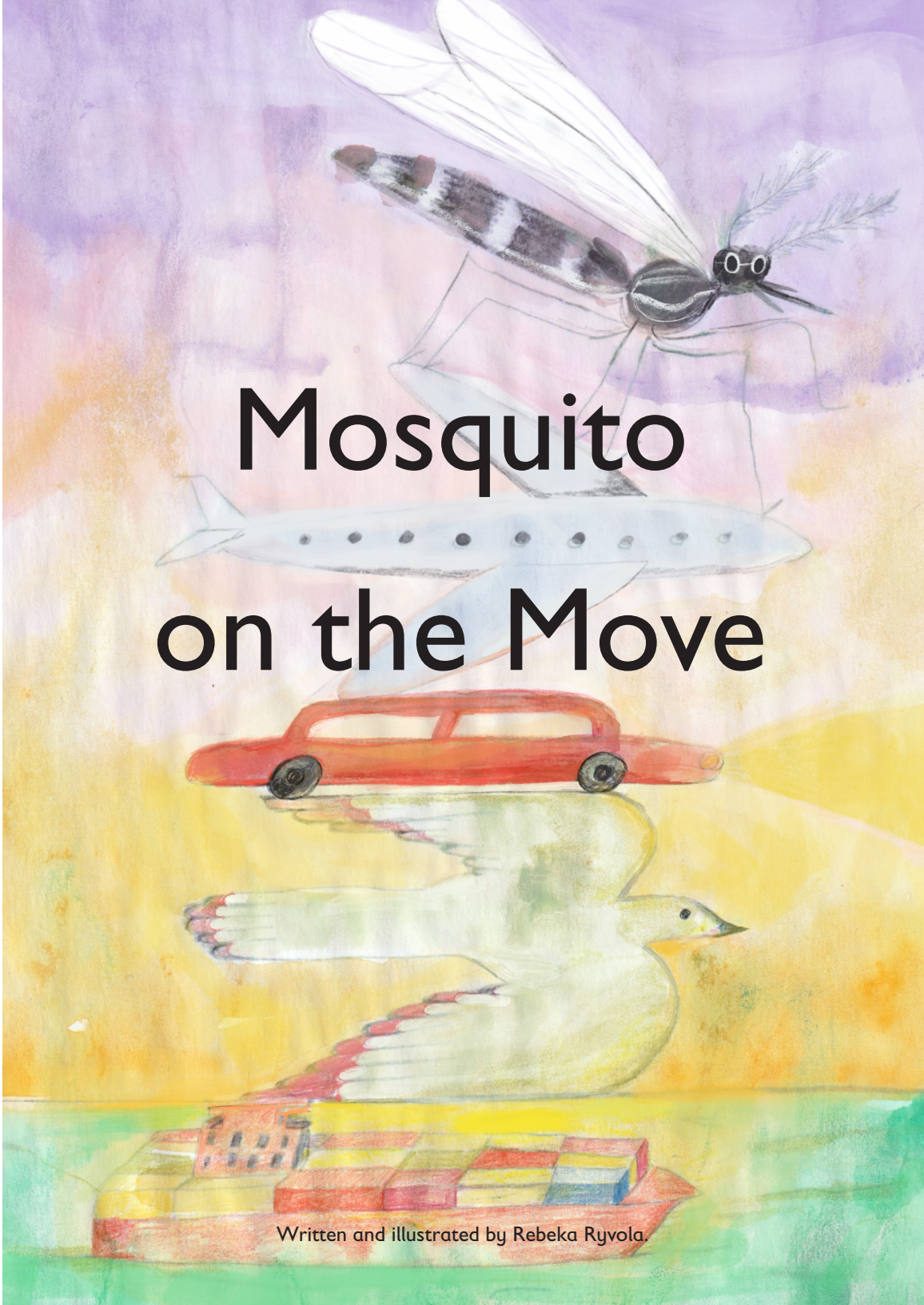


Mosquito on the Move

Written and illustrated by Rebeka Ryvola.





Mosquito



on the Move

Written and illustrated by Rebeka Ryvola.

Informed by:
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Layout: Eszter Saródy
A special thank you to Mosquito Alert.

Dedicated to all our children.

"In the end we will conserve only what we love,
we will love only what we understand,
and we will understand only what we are taught."

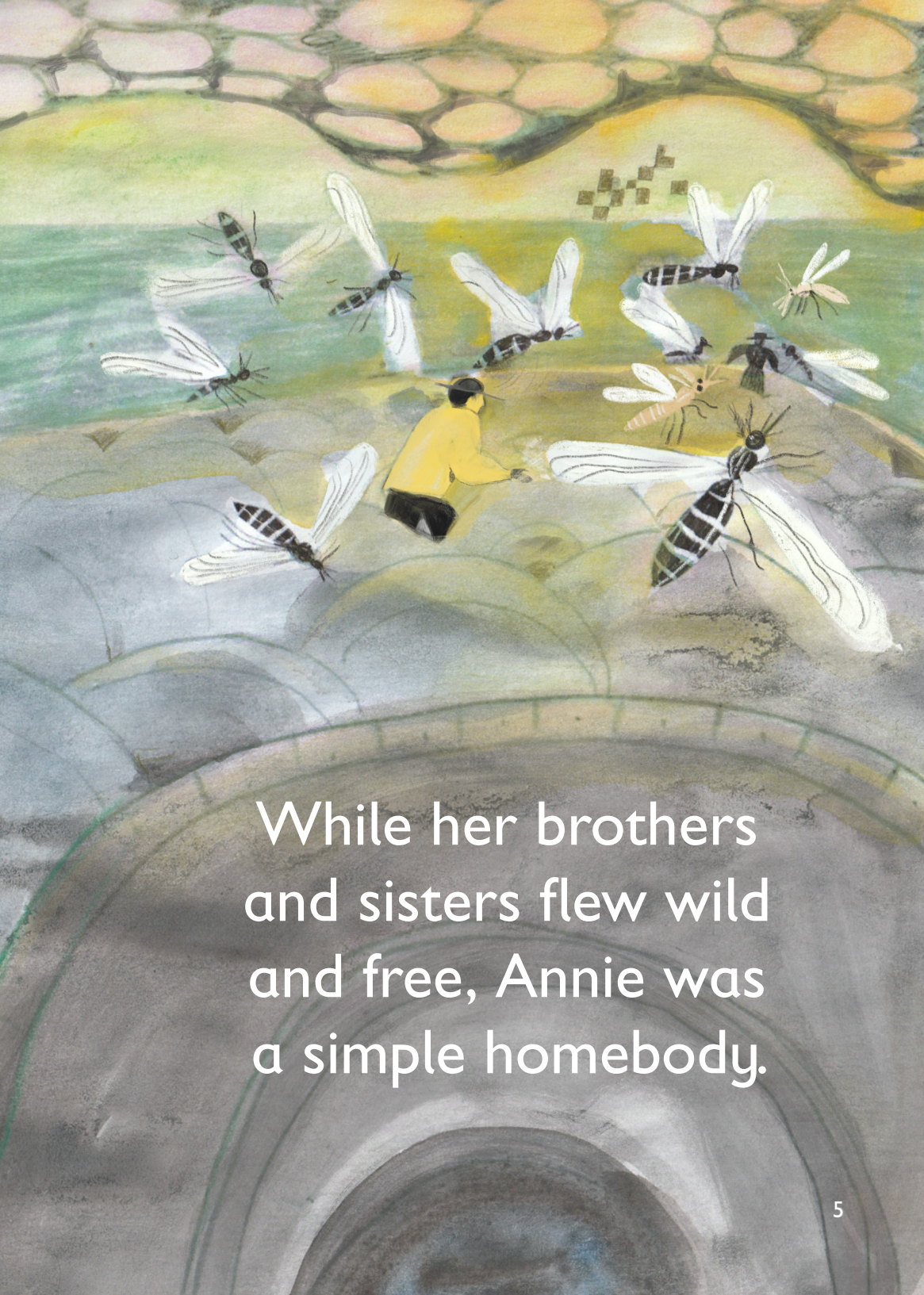
Baba Dioum, 1968.



Mosquitoes grow through four stages:
egg, larva, pupa and adult. Adult females are the only ones
that bite because they use the blood to help make their eggs.


On a boat full of tyres,
Annie the Aedes Mosquito
was born with two desires.
The first was to bite,
it was her instinctive right!


The second: she didn't
want to roam,
she just wanted to stay
in her puddle home.
Most mosquitoes don't travel very far on their own.
But people can accidentally carry mosquitoes (or
their eggs) much farther in cars, ships and planes.



While her brothers and sisters flew wild and free, Annie was a simple homebody.

But Annie's tyre dream was not to be…




It was tossed onto shore
and she?
Thrown into
a tree.
Old tyres can collect rainwater, making them a perfect place for mosquito eggs. When tyres are shipped somewhere new, the eggs can travel with them.



Annie, on a ship
once more…

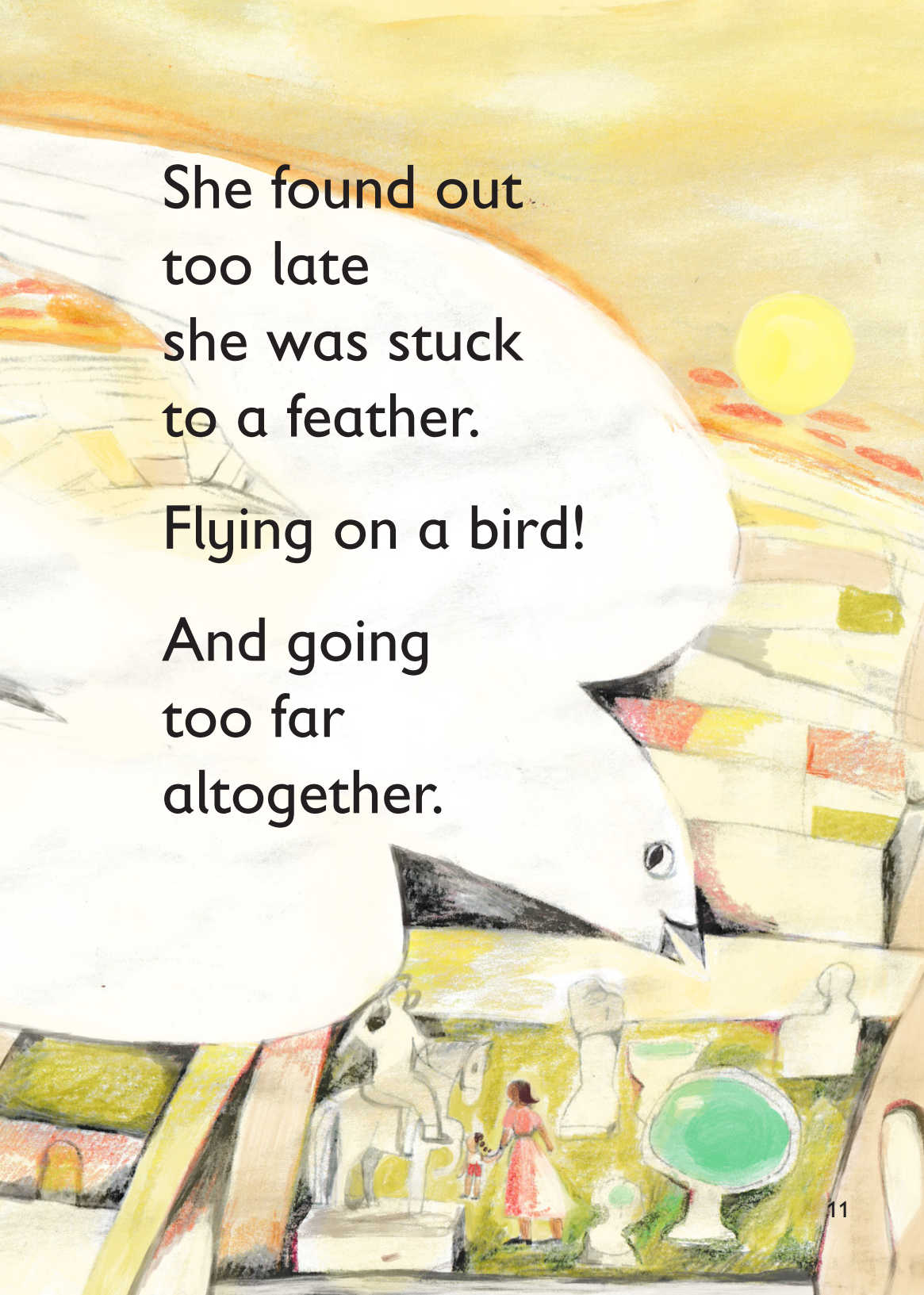
Along
with other
stowaways,
she waited
patiently
for shore.



Mosquitoes mostly don't live on blood from biting people. Both males and females drink sugary nectar from flowers, while female mosquitoes bite animals or people when they are making eggs.



Could this really happen?
Maybe, but it would be very unusual!
Mosquitoes normally spread in other ways,
like travelling with people and their things.



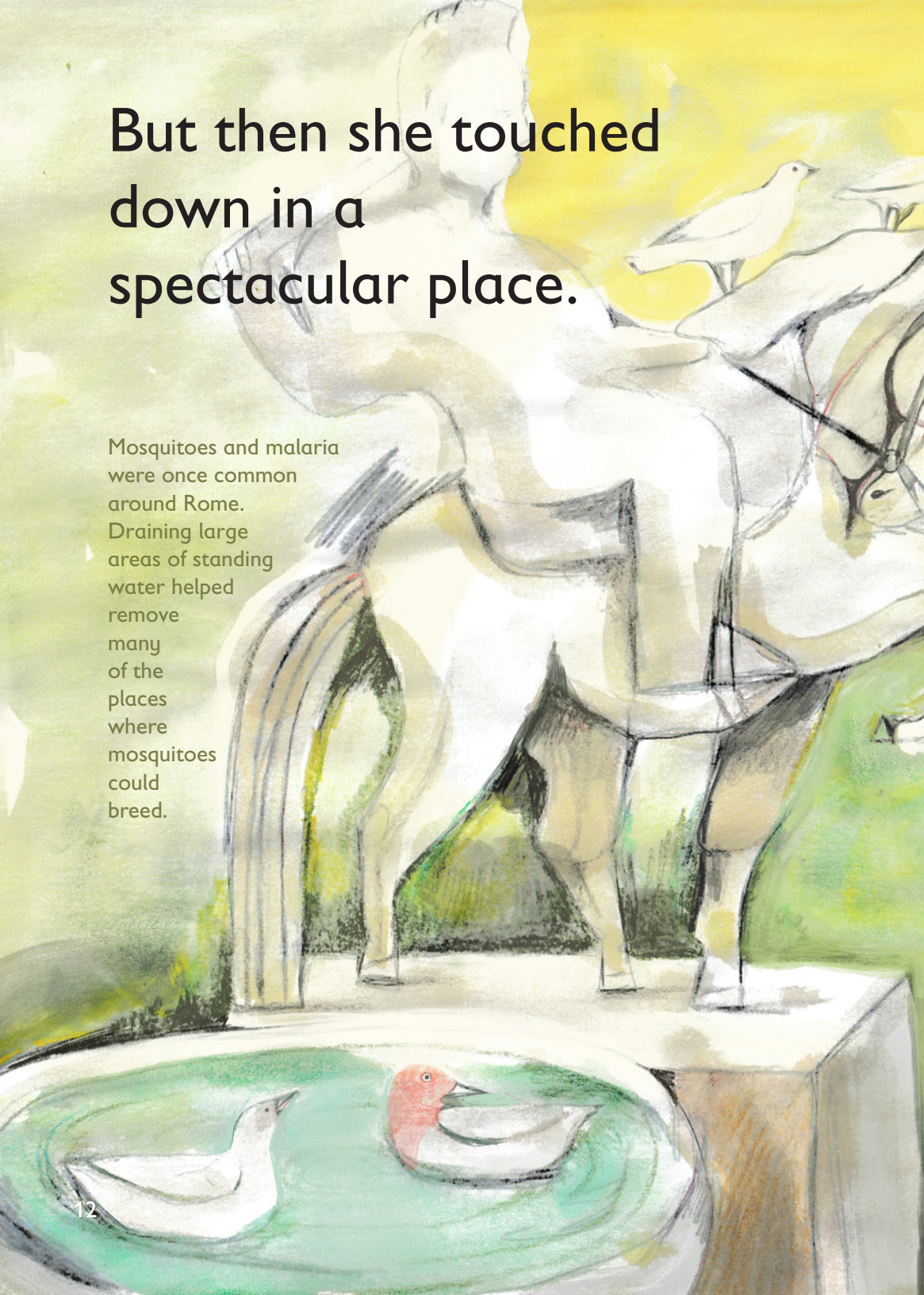
She found out
too late
she was stuck
to a feather.

Flying on a bird!

And going
too far
altogether.

But then she touched down in a spectacular place.

Mosquitoes and malaria were once common around Rome. Draining large areas of standing water helped remove many of the places where mosquitoes could breed.




Statues, fountains,
a sumptuous
home base!

Just as she started to get a little bit cosy…



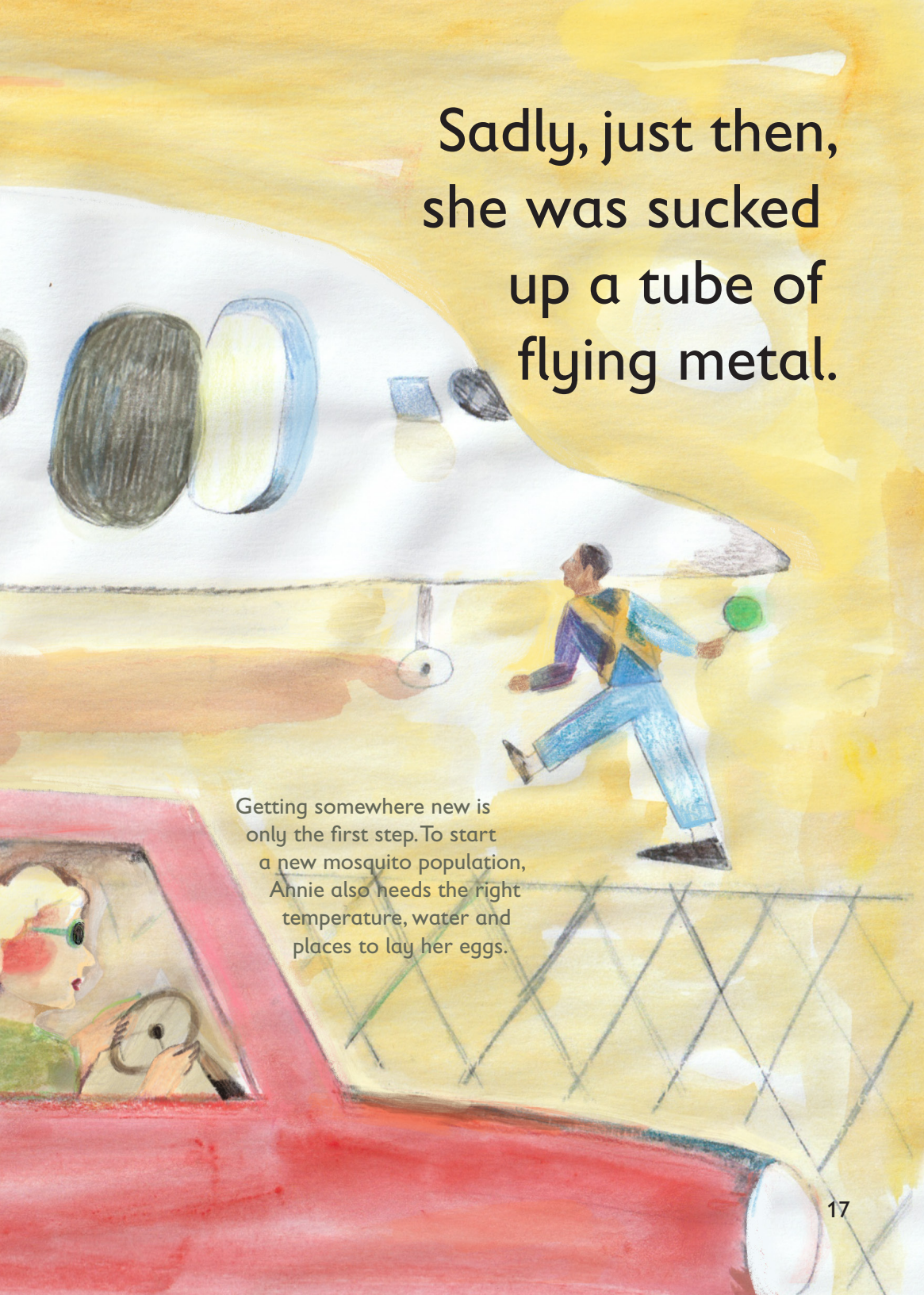
Mosquitoes can accidentally hitch rides inside cars. Scientists have found that this has likely helped Aedes mosquitoes reach new places.



Annie tripped and flipped
into a window ajar,

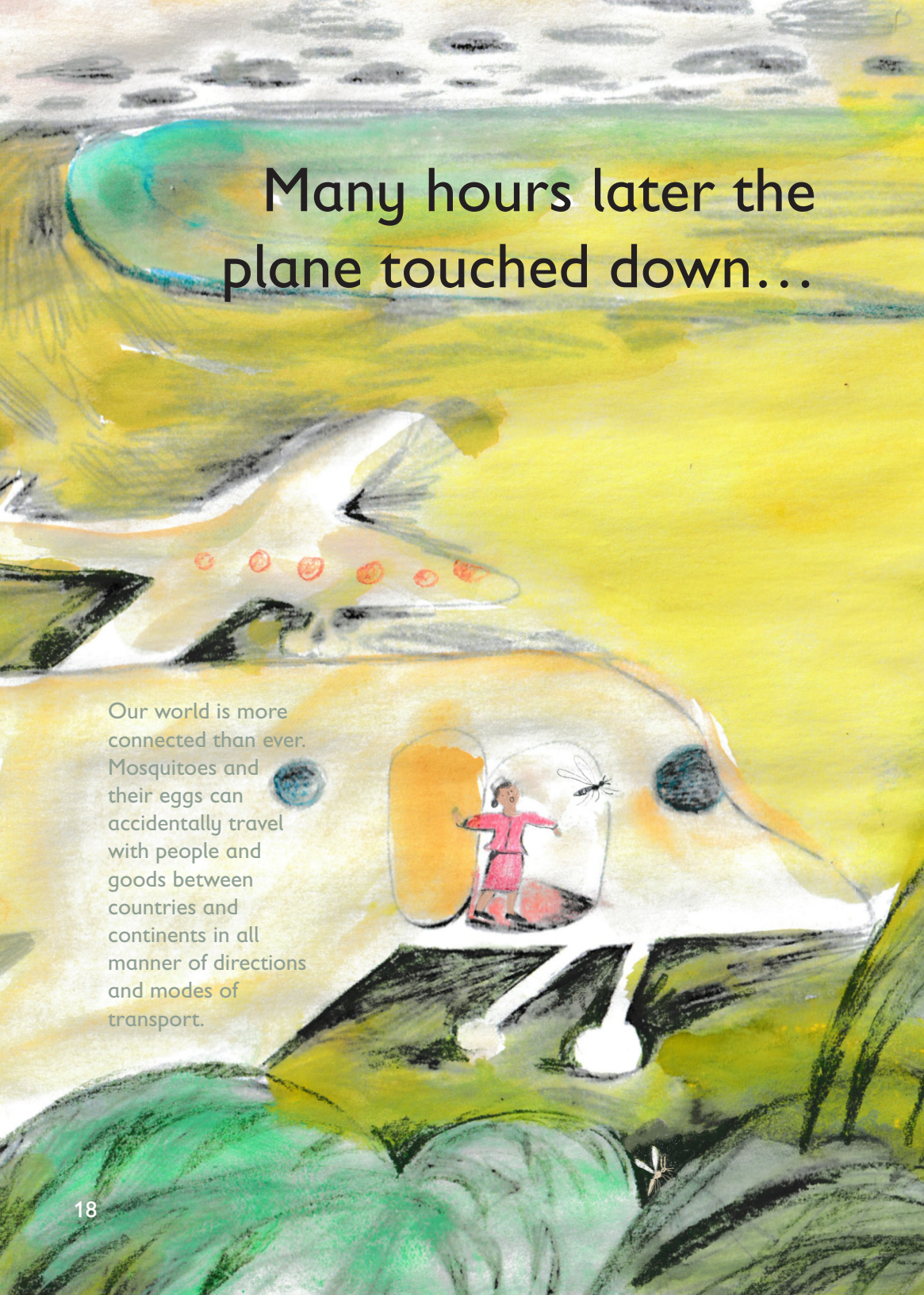
and off
she went
in a motorcar.

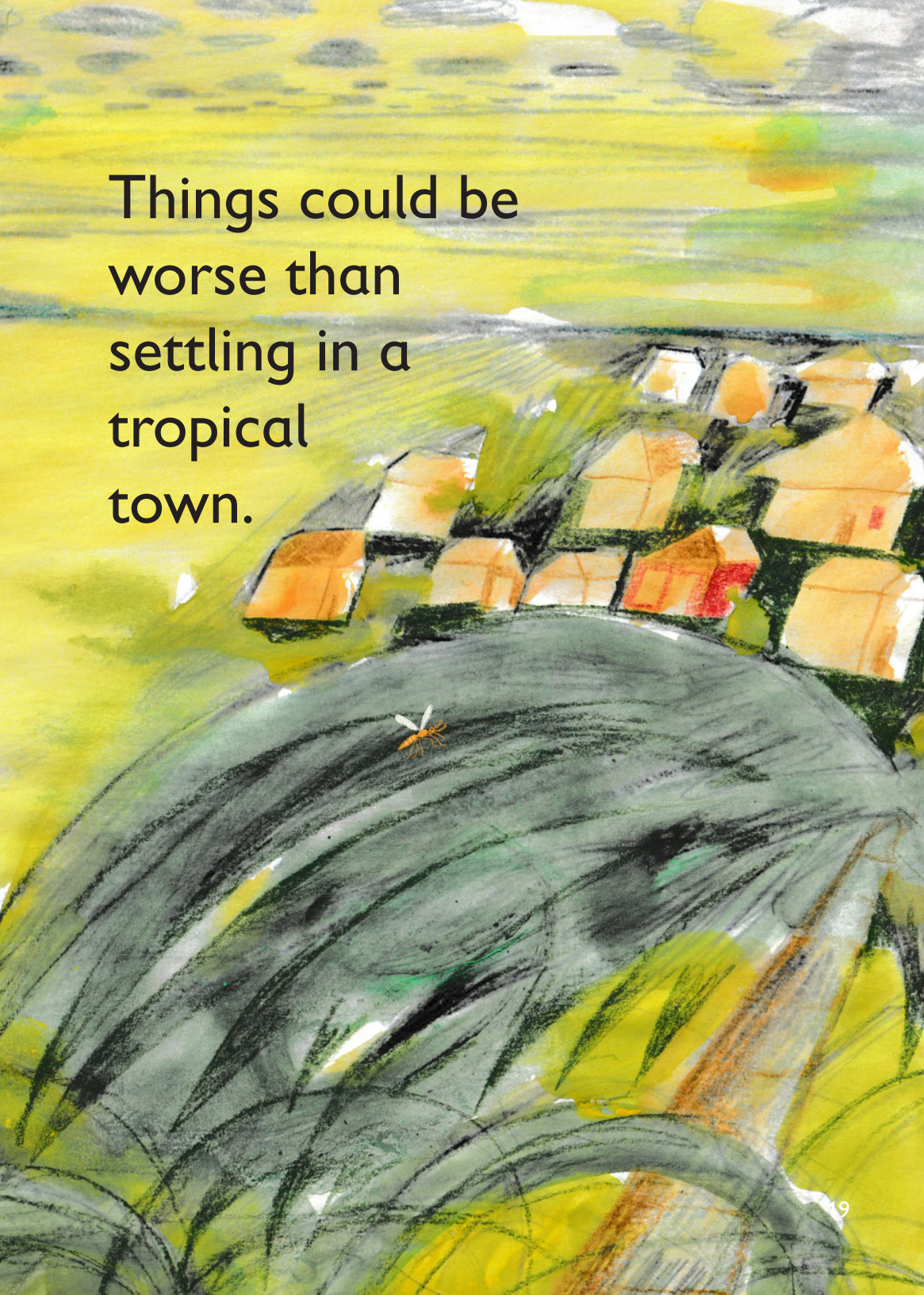

She was exasperated,
"Ok, fine, in this
vehicle I'll settle!"



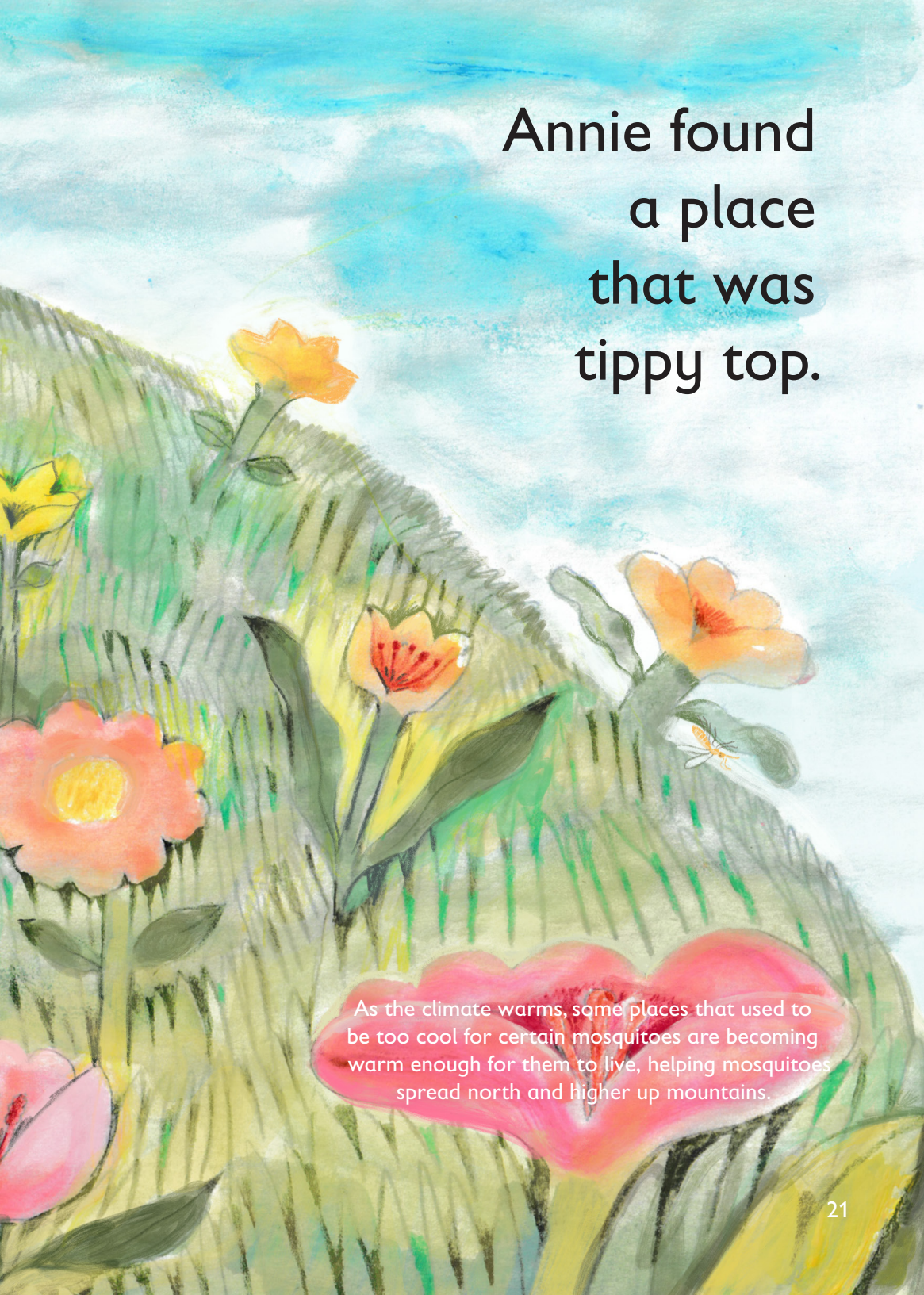
Sadly, just then, she was sucked up a tube of flying metal.

Getting somewhere new is only the first step. To start a new mosquito population, Annie also needs the right temperature, water and places to lay her eggs.


Many hours later the plane touched down…
Our world is more connected than ever. Mosquitoes and their eggs can accidentally travel with people and goods between countries and continents in all manner of directions and modes of transport.


Things could be worse than settling in a tropical town.


Searching
for the
perfect
spot…



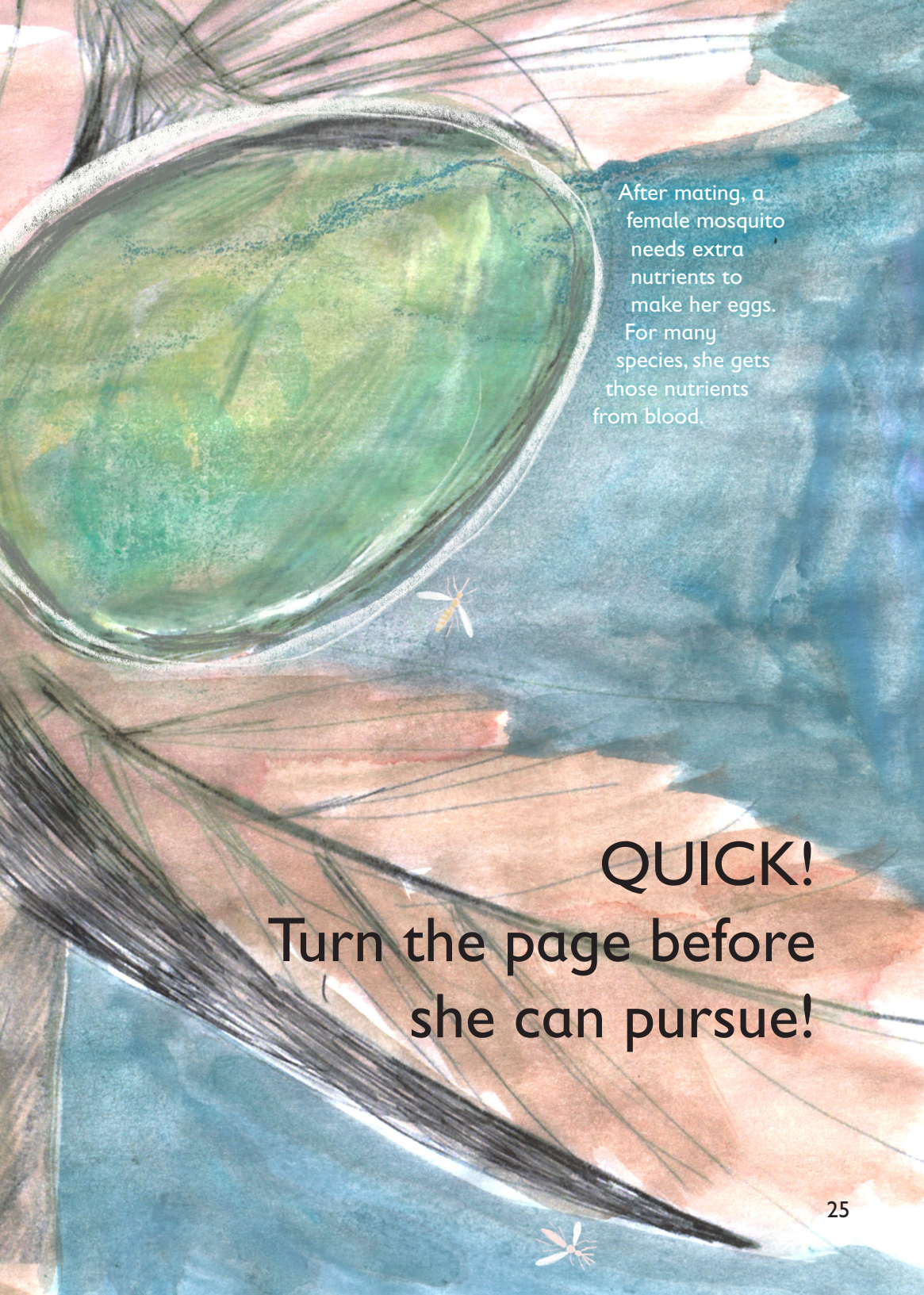
Annie found
a place
that was
tippy top.

As the climate warms, some places that used to be too cool for certain mosquitoes are becoming warm enough for them to live, helping mosquitoes spread north and higher up mountains.


But of course
a wind had
to come
snatch
her away!
Her settling
down dream
forever at bay!


While strong winds can
sometimes carry mosquitoes
surprisingly far,
most mosquitoes don't travel long distances this way.


That wind blew
Annie to you…



After mating, a female mosquito needs extra nutrients to make her eggs. For many species, she gets those nutrients from blood.

QUICK!
Turn the page before she can pursue!

Help reduce the spread of mosquitoes

MAP!
Upload photos of mosquito sightings in the Mosquito Alert app: mosquitoalert.com

Mosquito Alert

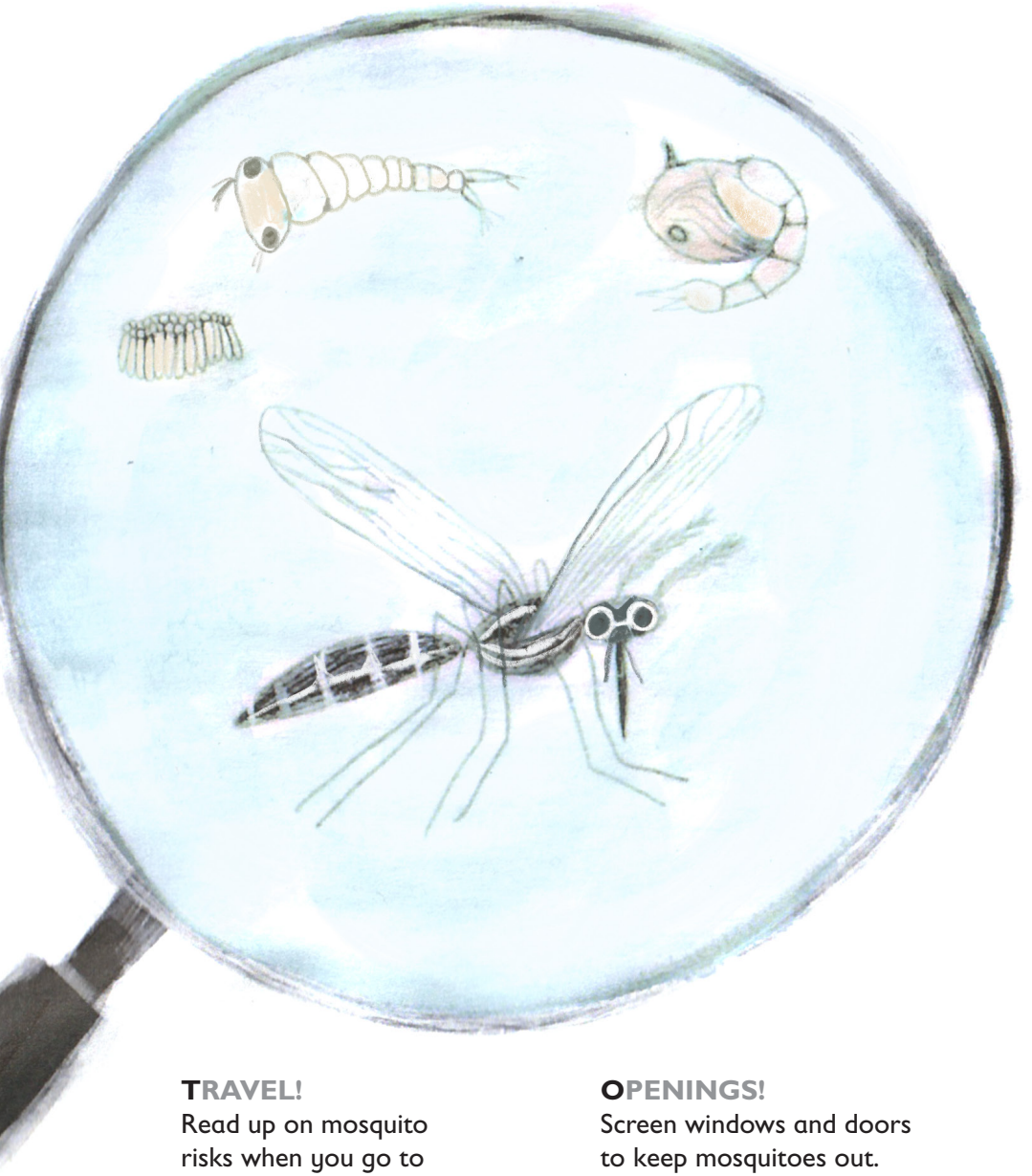
OUTREACH!
Share this story and help tell Annie's story!

SPRAY!
repellent on clothes and skin

QUAGMIRE!
Drain puddles and prevent standing water.

UNCLUTTER!
Scrubbing flower pots, clearing old tyres, cleansing bird baths, putting away toys… All of these help remove breeding grounds!

INSULATE!
Cover yourself in long sleeves and trousers when mosquitoes are out!



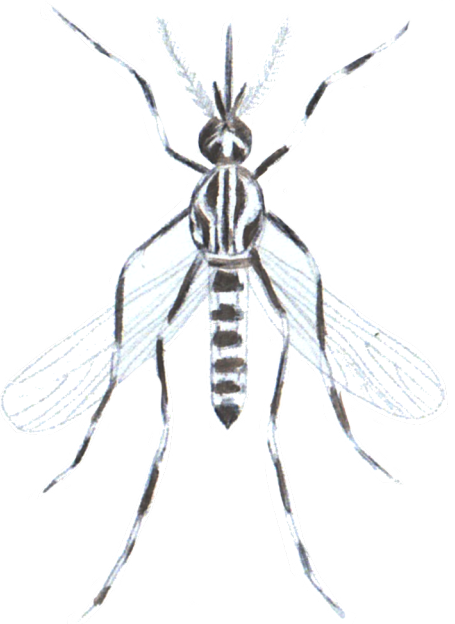
TRAVEL!
Read up on mosquito risks when you go to new places so you can know how to best protect yourself and what symptoms to look for.

OPENINGS!
Screen windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.

Meet some of Annie's mosquito friends!

There are thousands of different kinds of mosquitoes around the world! Annie is an *Aedes* mosquito, but *Culex* and *Anopheles* are two other important groups that scientists study. They look a little different, are active at different times of day, and have their own favourite places to live.

A secret: *Culex* and *Anopheles* have been hiding in the pictures throughout Annie's reluctant adventure. Can you spot them? Pay attention to the *Anopheles* palps (the two long appendages next to the feeding tube) and the *Culex* stripes when looking!



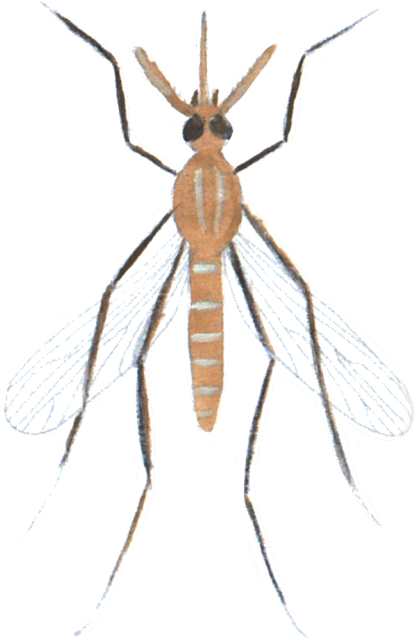
Aedes

Many *Aedes* mosquitoes, like the aegypti and the albopictus, are easily recognised by striking black-and-white patterns, prominently visible on their legs and body. *Aedes* are vectors for diseases like dengue, Zika, yellow fever, and chikungunya. *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* are two highly successful invasive species.

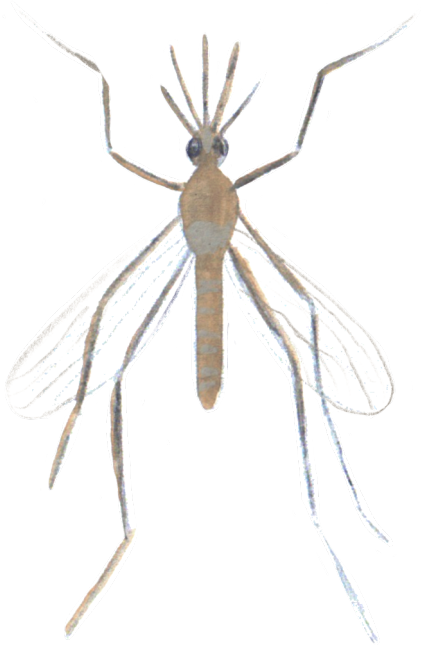
Aedes mosquitoes like to bite during the day.

Culex

Culex mosquitoes are brown with patterns across their body. *Culex* mosquitoes include the common house mosquito (so named because it's the one that we most often find in our homes!). *Culex* mosquitoes can transmit viruses such as West Nile virus, Japanese encephalitis virus, and others.



Culex mosquitoes are nighttime biters.



Anopheles

Female *Anopheles* mosquitoes can be identified by their longer palps, the sensory organs near their mouthparts. In Anopheles, the palps are almost as long as the proboscis, which is the elongated feeding tube. *Anopheles* mosquitoes can spread malaria, which is a disease caused by a parasite, unlike dengue or West Nile, which are caused by viruses.

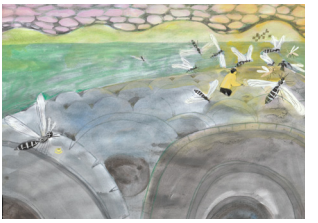
Anopheles bite in the evening and into the night.

Key mosquito facts

Mosquitoes grow through four stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. Adult females are the only ones that bite because they use the blood to help make their eggs.



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Could travel by bird really happen? Maybe, but it would be very unusual! Mosquitoes normally spread in other ways, like travelling with people and their things.



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Mosquitoes can accidentally hitch rides inside cars. Scientists have found that this has likely helped Aedes mosquitoes reach new places.



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As the climate warms, some places that used to be too cool for certain mosquitoes are becoming warm enough for them to live, helping mosquitoes spread north and higher up mountains.



While strong winds can sometimes carry mosquitoes surprisingly far, most mosquitoes don't travel long distances this way.



After mating, a female mosquito needs extra nutrients to make her eggs. For many species, she gets those nutrients from blood.

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Climate Centre

IDAlert
Infectious Disease decision-support tools and Alert systems

Funded by the European Union