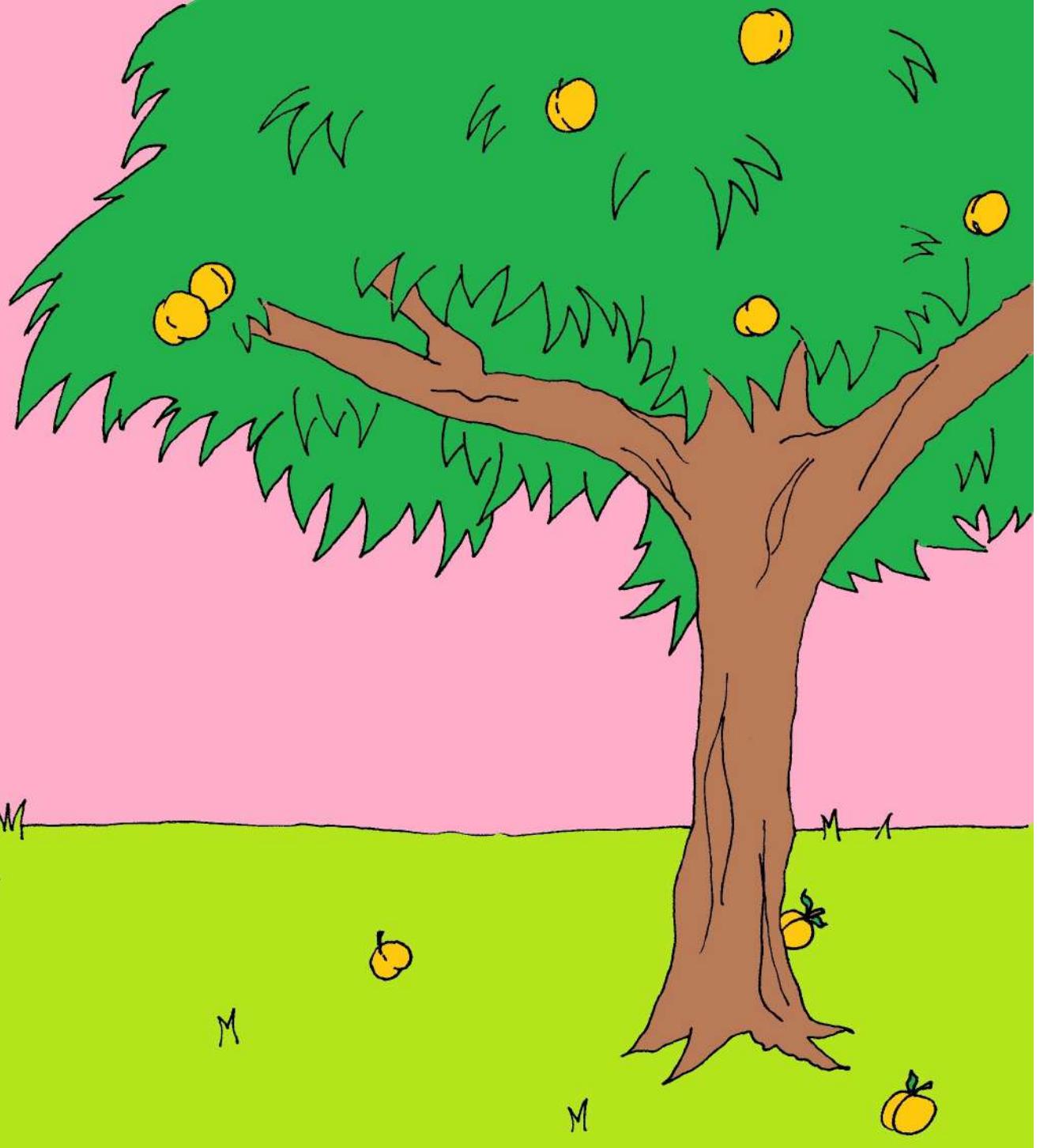


Peaches

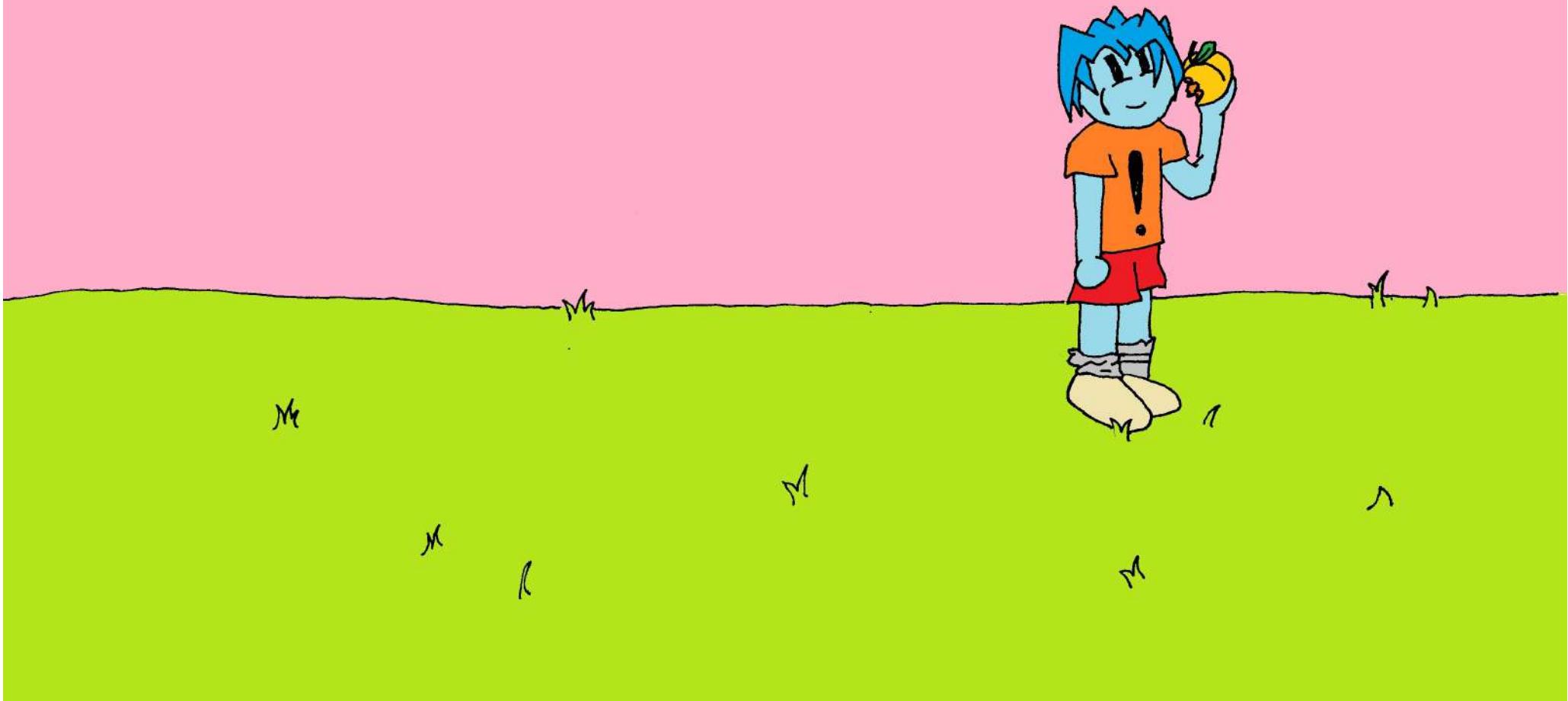
&

Trees

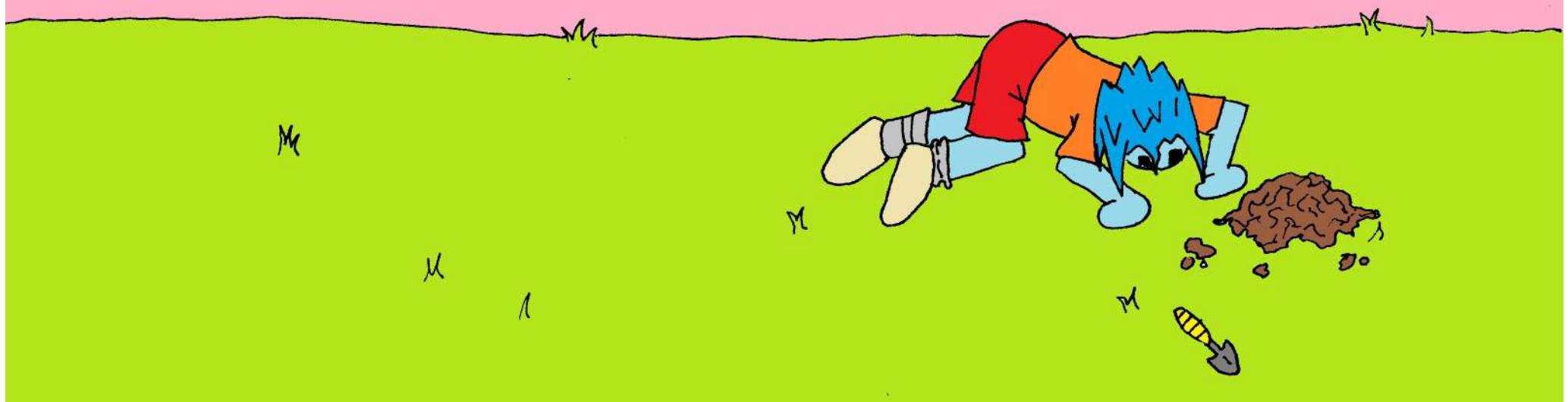


By Ben SD

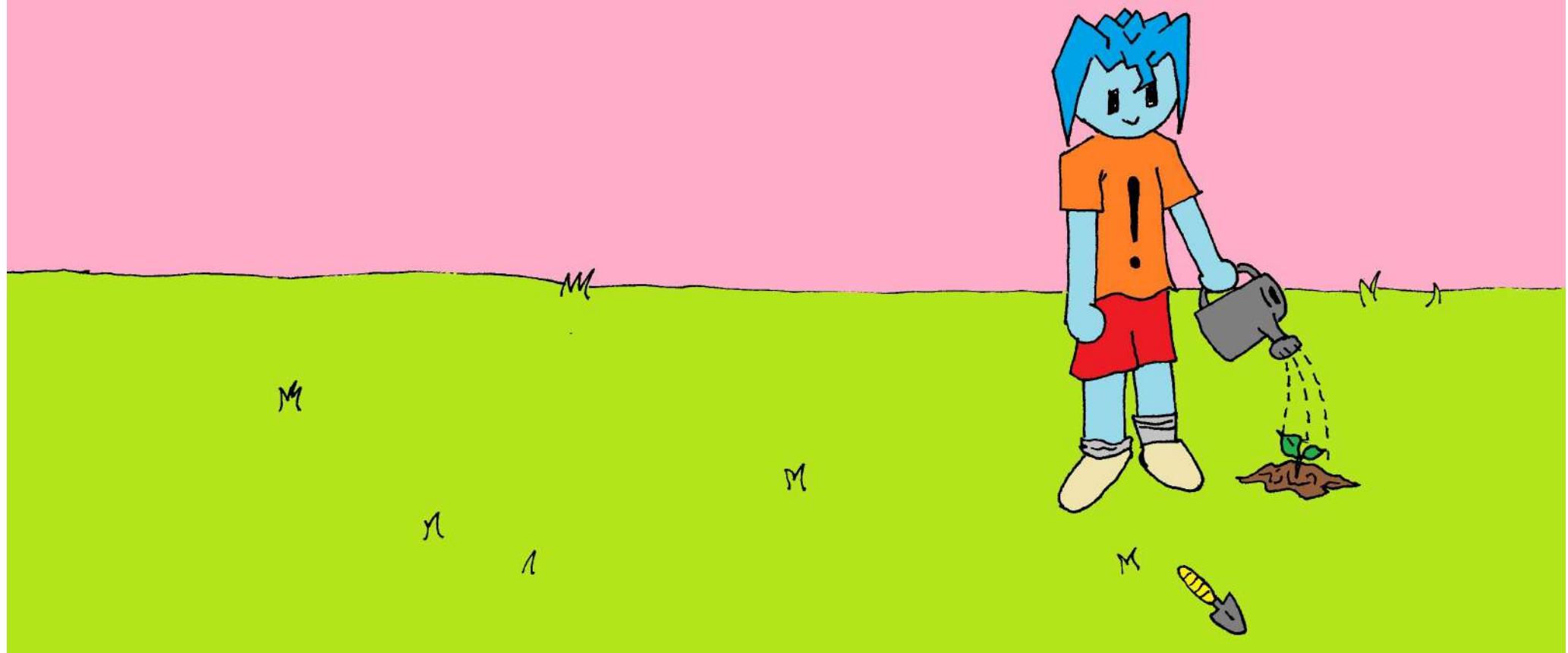
There once was a kid with a peach. There are many kids with peaches even now, but this kid loved their peach and they knew it was the best they had ever had and the best they would ever have.



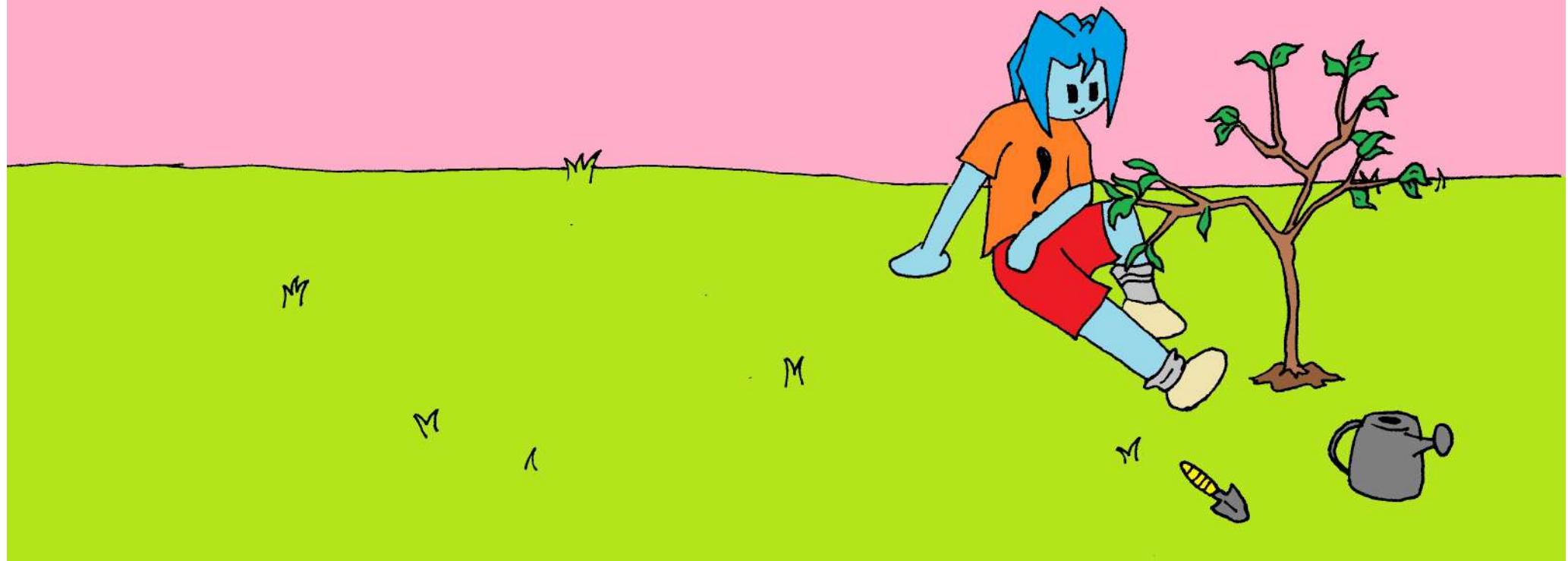
They planted the seed
from that peach in the
dirt near their home
because they couldn't
bear to go through
life without tasting
that particular fruit
again.



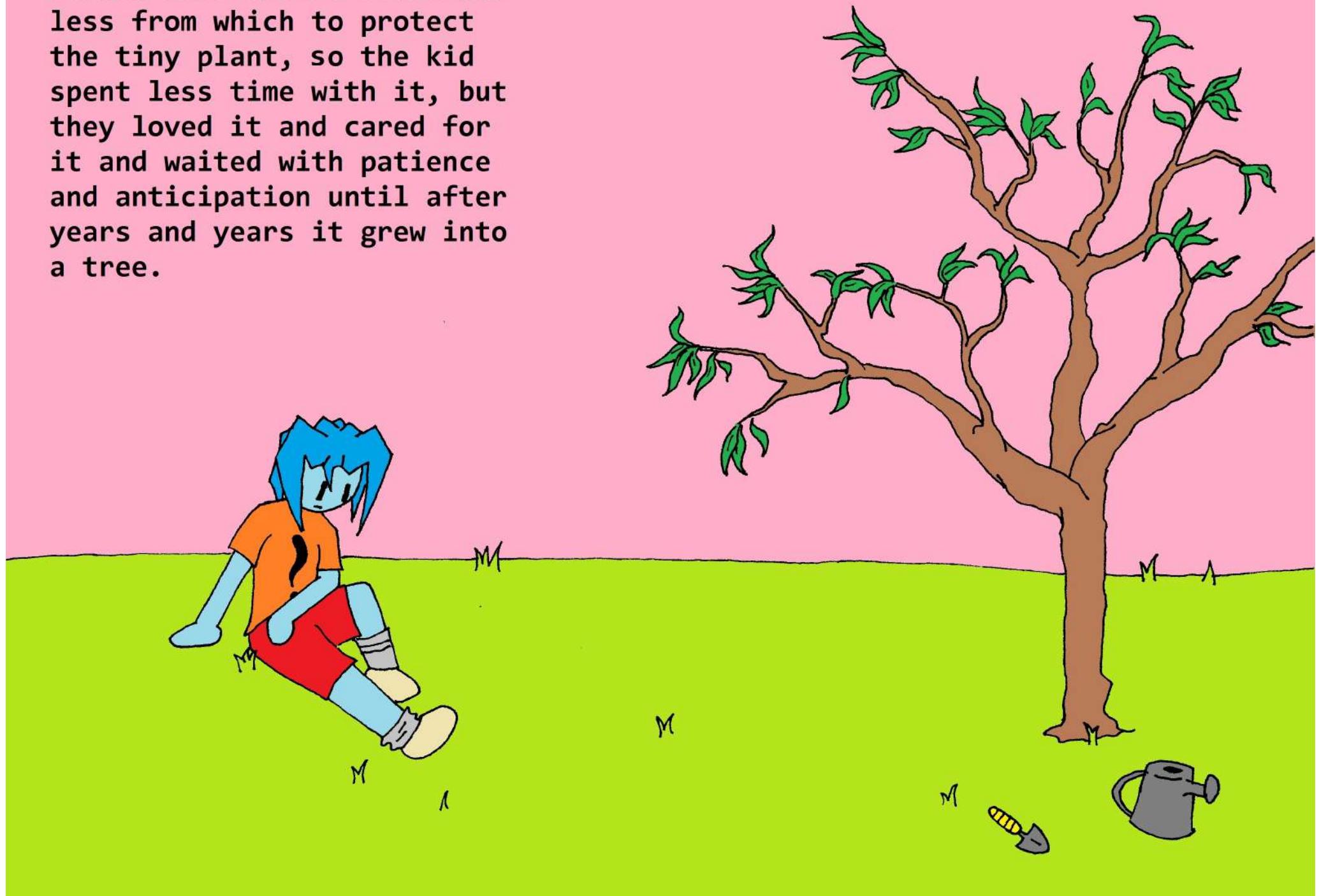
They planted it so that it could get lots of light. They gave it plenty of water. They waited with patience and excitement, and after days and days the seed sprouted.



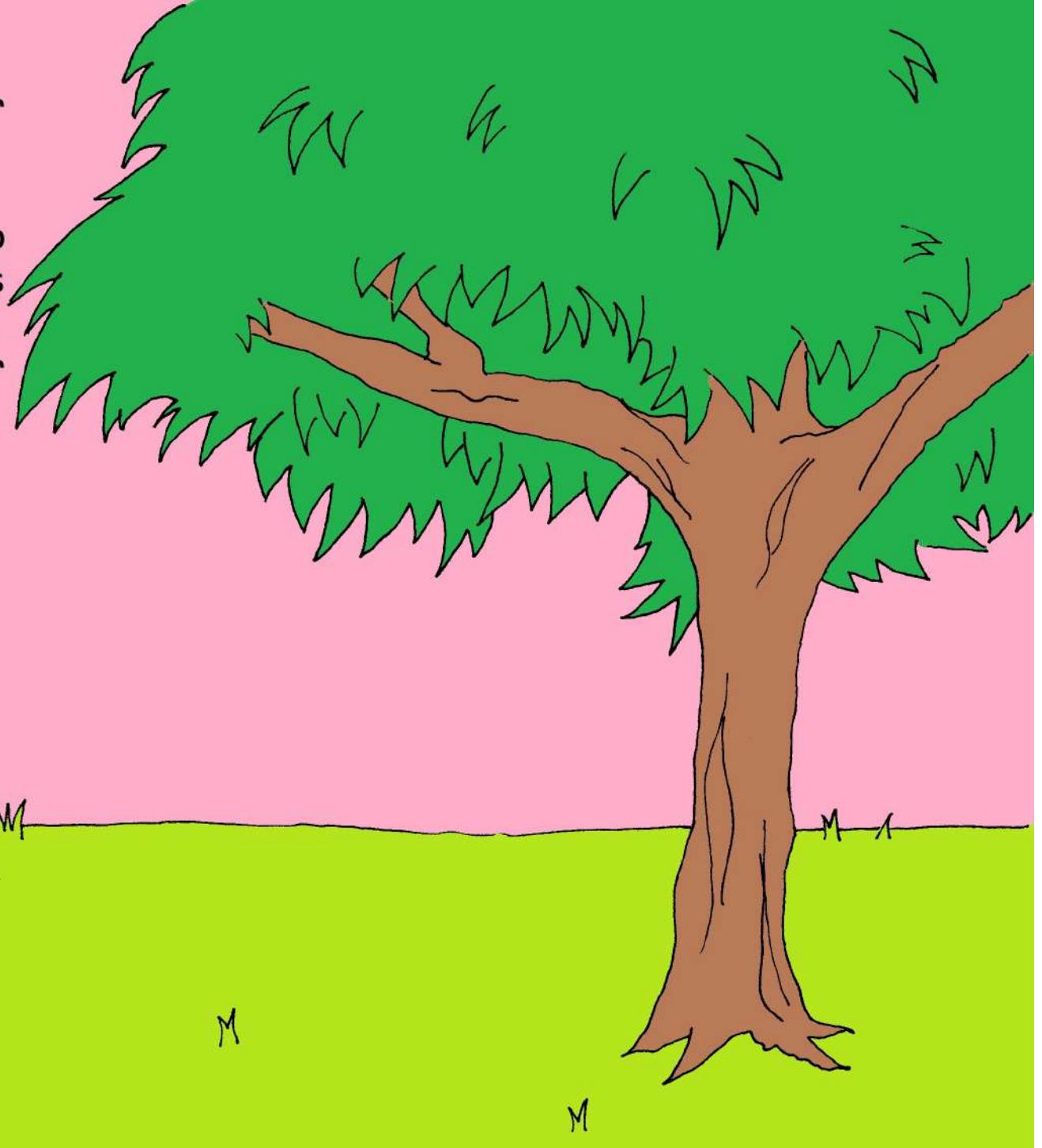
The child rejoiced; they could see their labors growing. They gave love and water and attention and they waited with patience and joy. After weeks and weeks the tiny sprout began to look a little bit like a tree.



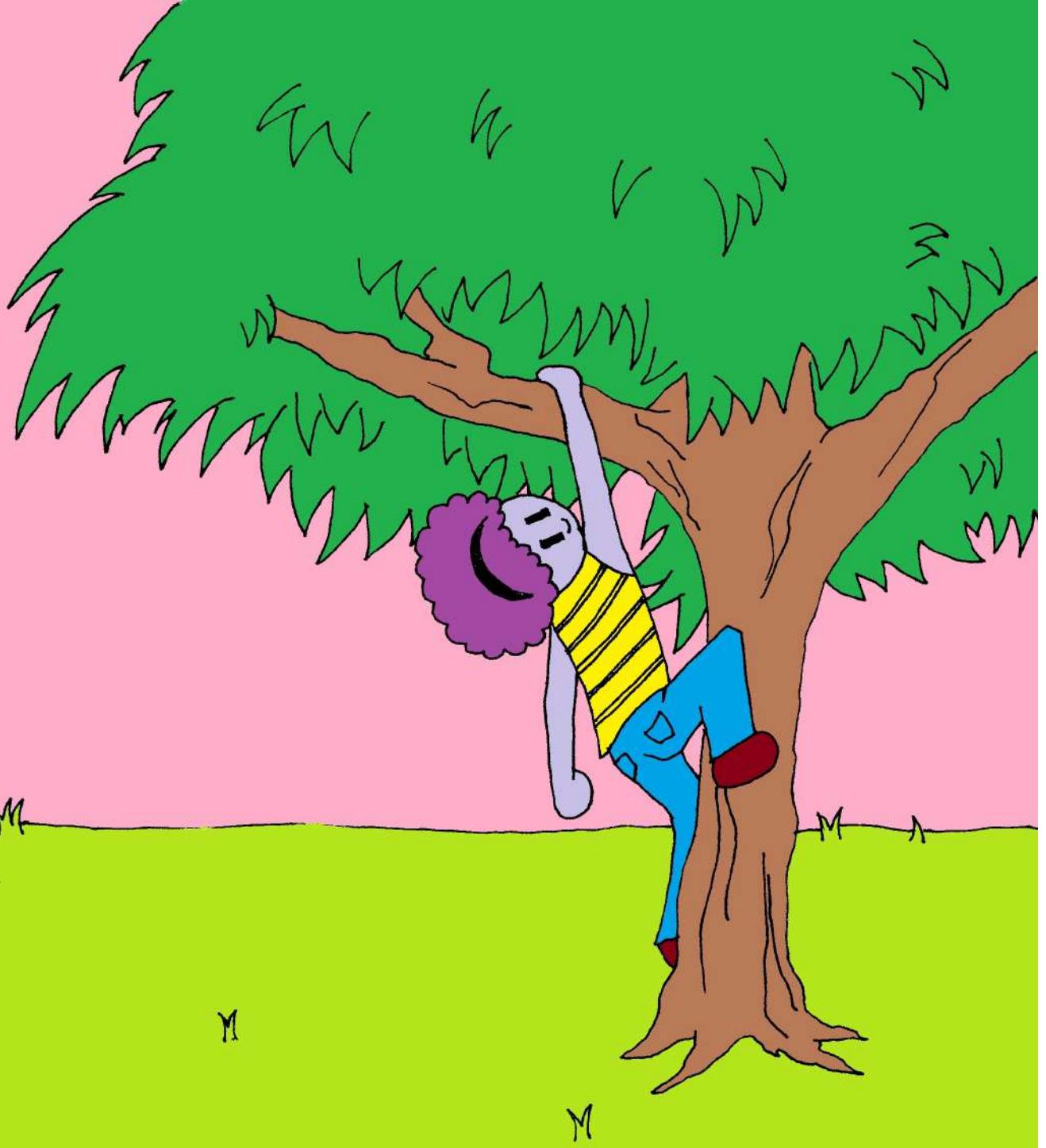
The stalk was strong and needed less water. There was less from which to protect the tiny plant, so the kid spent less time with it, but they loved it and cared for it and waited with patience and anticipation until after years and years it grew into a tree.



The tree still didn't bear fruit. It took care of itself these days and the kid hardly had anything to do with it. They sometimes used it for shade, and they checked each year for signs of peaches. They waited with patience but little hope. A decade or so passed. They stopped waiting and moved away.



Someone else moved into the home with the peach tree. "What a wonderful tree," the person said, as they basked in its shade and crawled through its branches, and they didn't wait at all, because the tree was the best part of the yard.



One day the kid came back and they weren't a kid and the person was eating peaches from the tree. The kid who was not a kid said, "I worked for years and never got a single peach from that tree. What did you do to get so many?" The kid waited while the person thought of an answer, and after long moments the new resident spoke.



"I didn't do anything," the person said, "I found this tree and fell in love; I didn't know there would be peaches. Maybe you loved the fruit and not the tree." The person bit into a peach and waited for a response. The kid felt like a kid again.



"Can I have one of the peaches?" the kid finally asked. "Take as many as you want," said the other, "but you can't take the tree." The person waited while the kid surveyed ground and branches. The tree waited, too, until the kid took a peach and left.

