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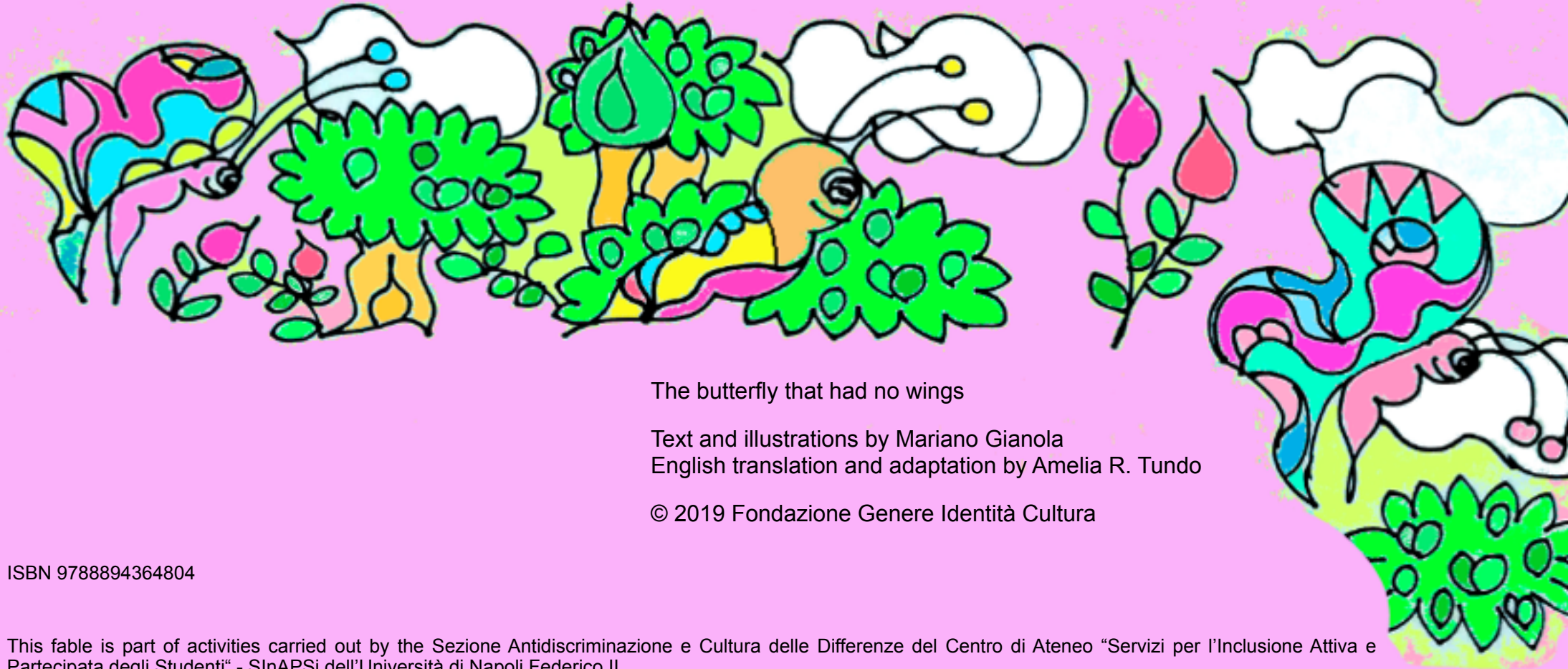
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# *The butterfly that had no wings*

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The butterfly that had no wings

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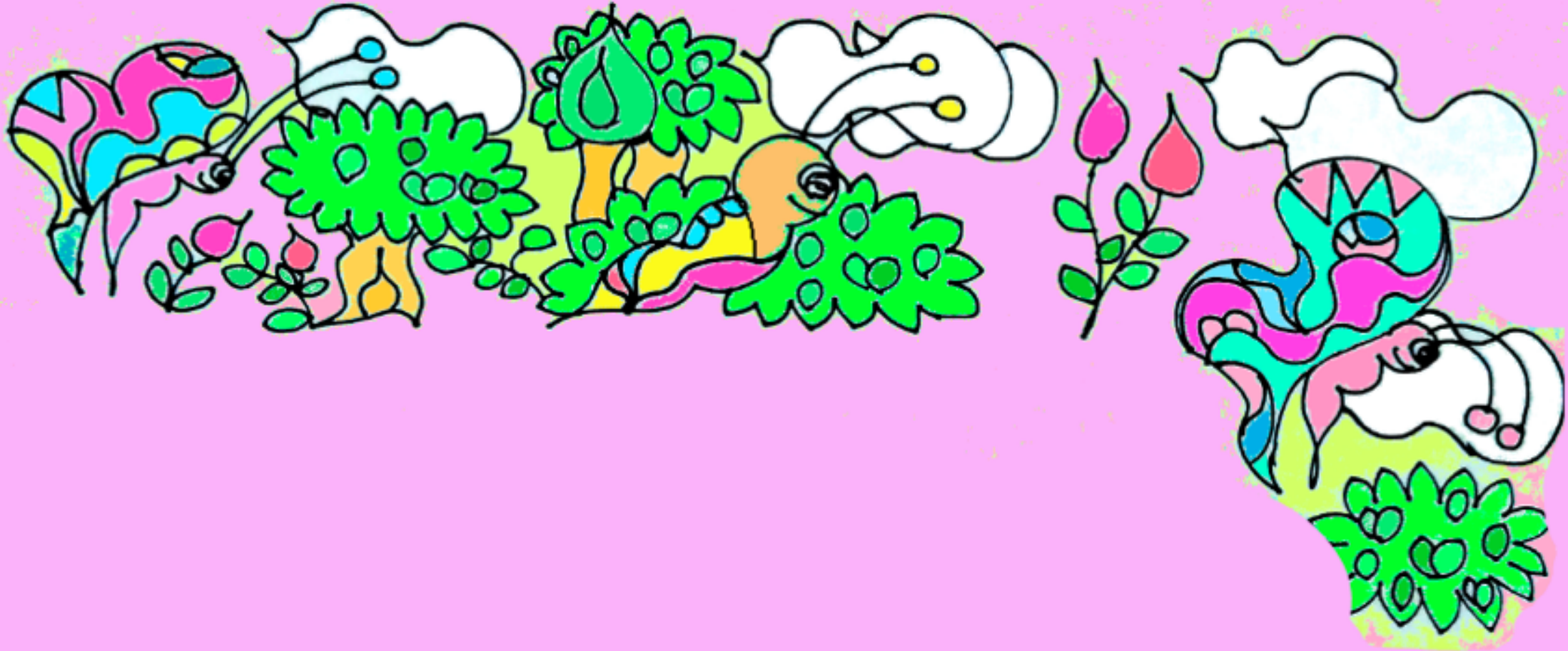
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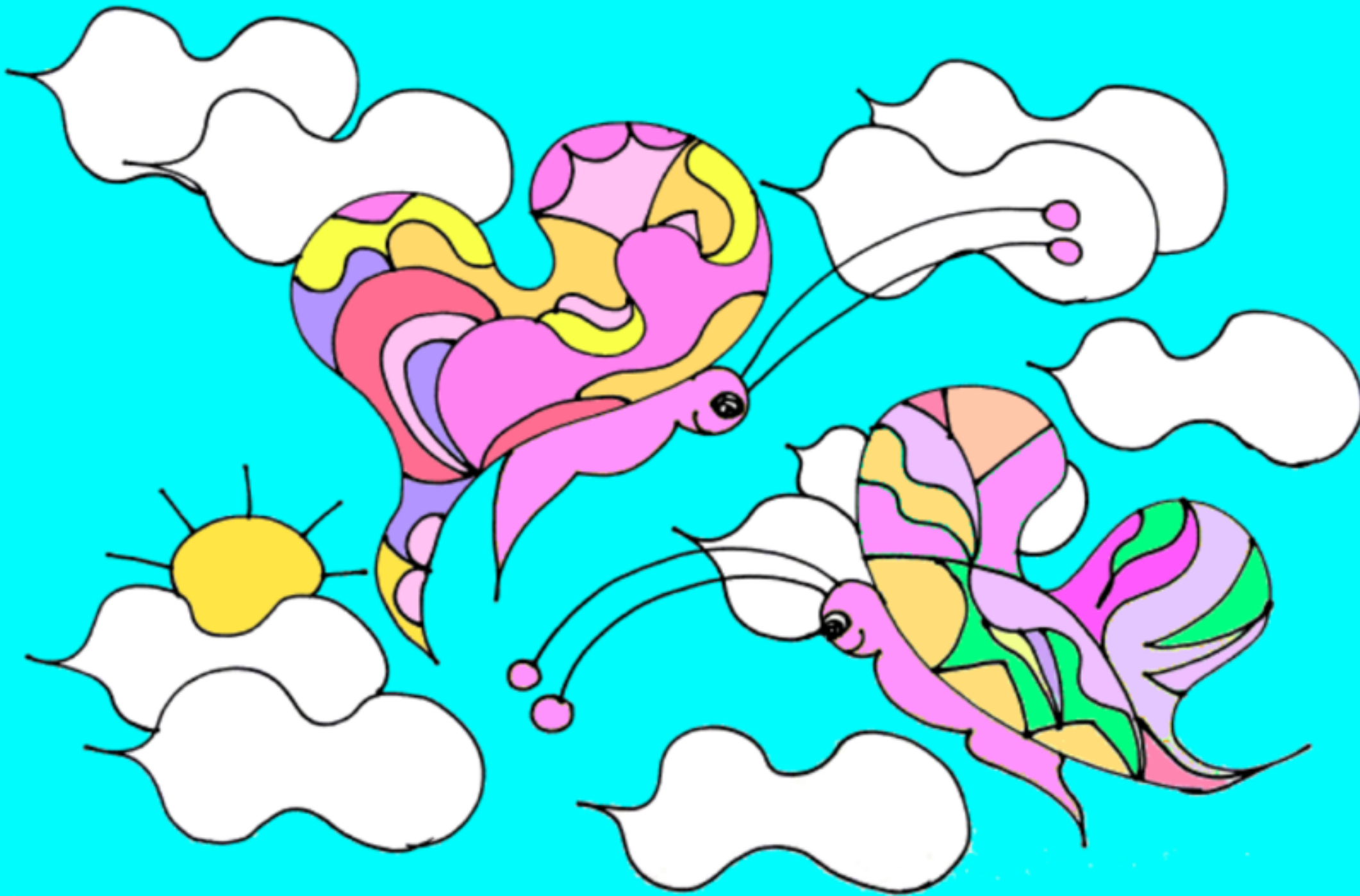




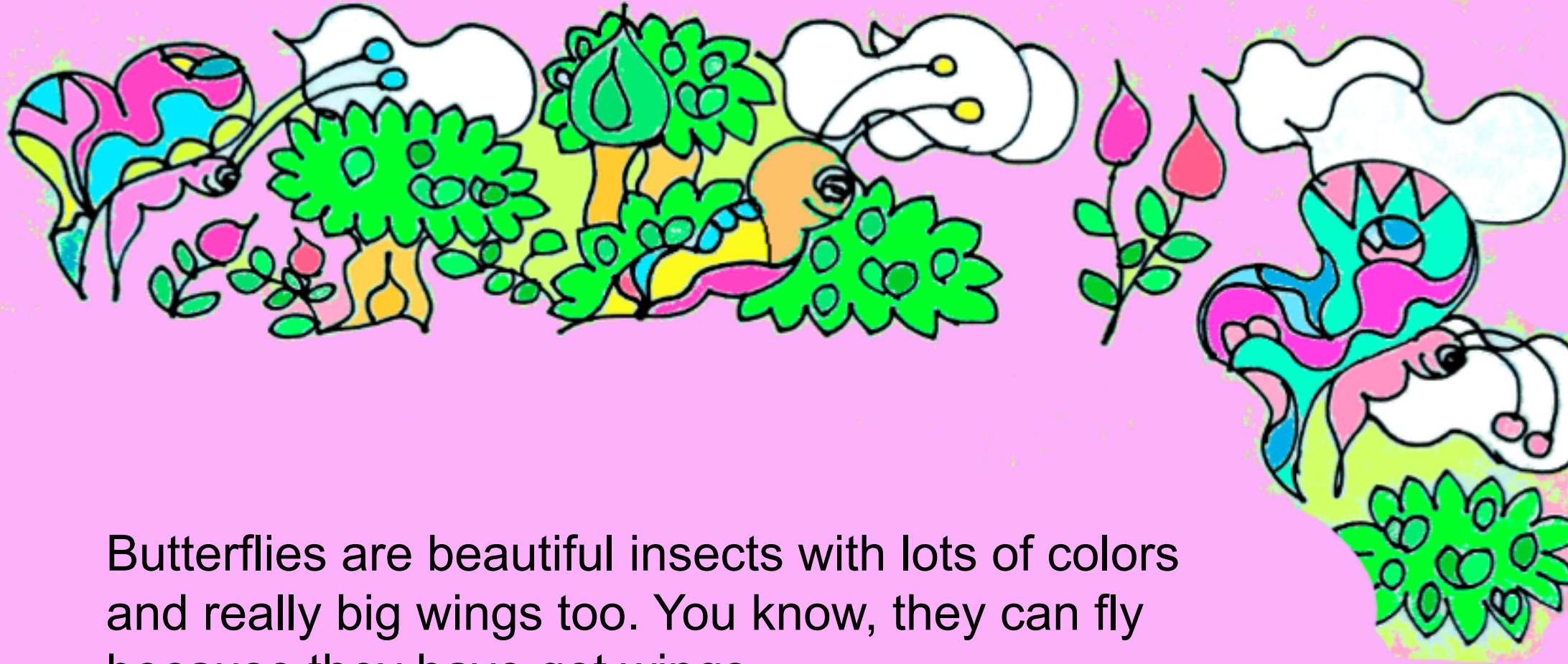


Zathy is a handsome little caterpillar that lives in Butterfly World.

Children, some of you may already know that caterpillars are tiny little animals that become butterflies when they grow up.

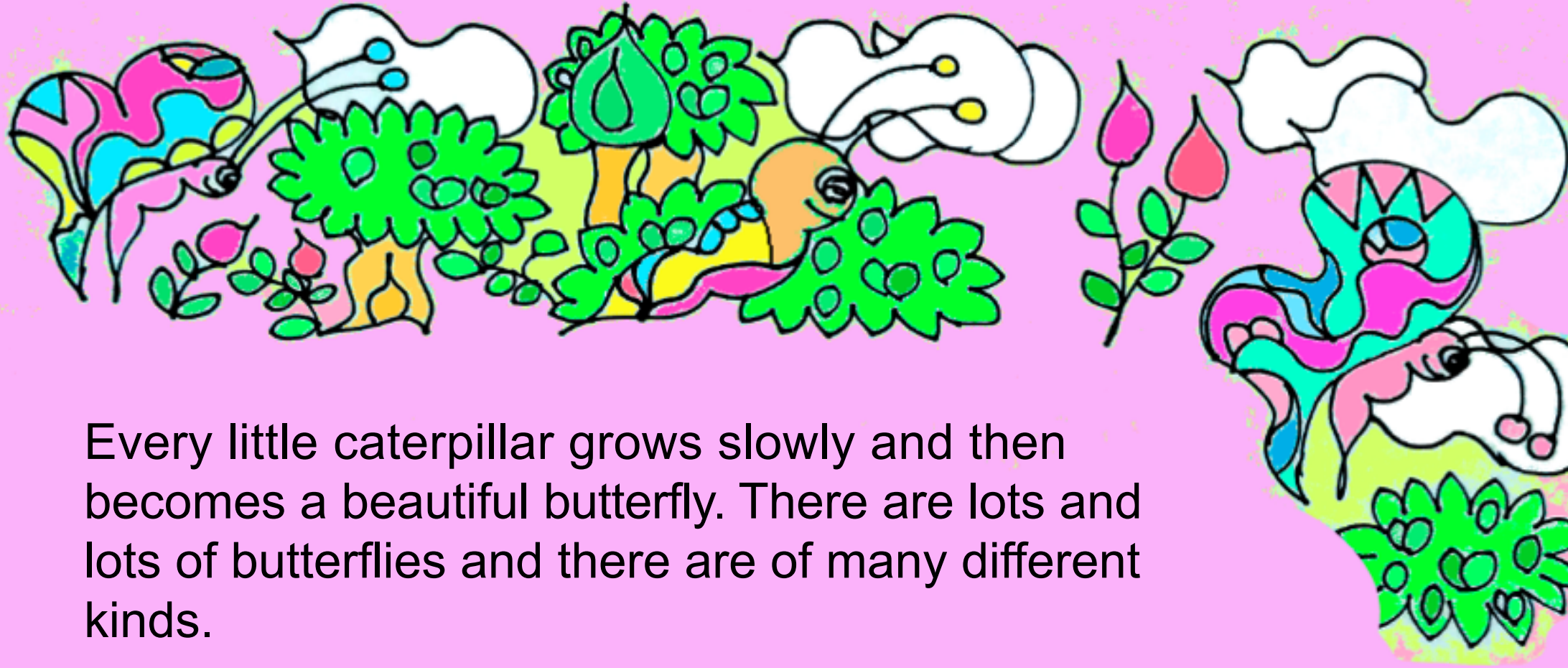






Butterflies are beautiful insects with lots of colors and really big wings too. You know, they can fly because they have got wings.

Flying is wonderful and the world is really really small from the sky. You can see trees, flowers, lots and lots of tiny little houses and the sea is like a small swimming pool.

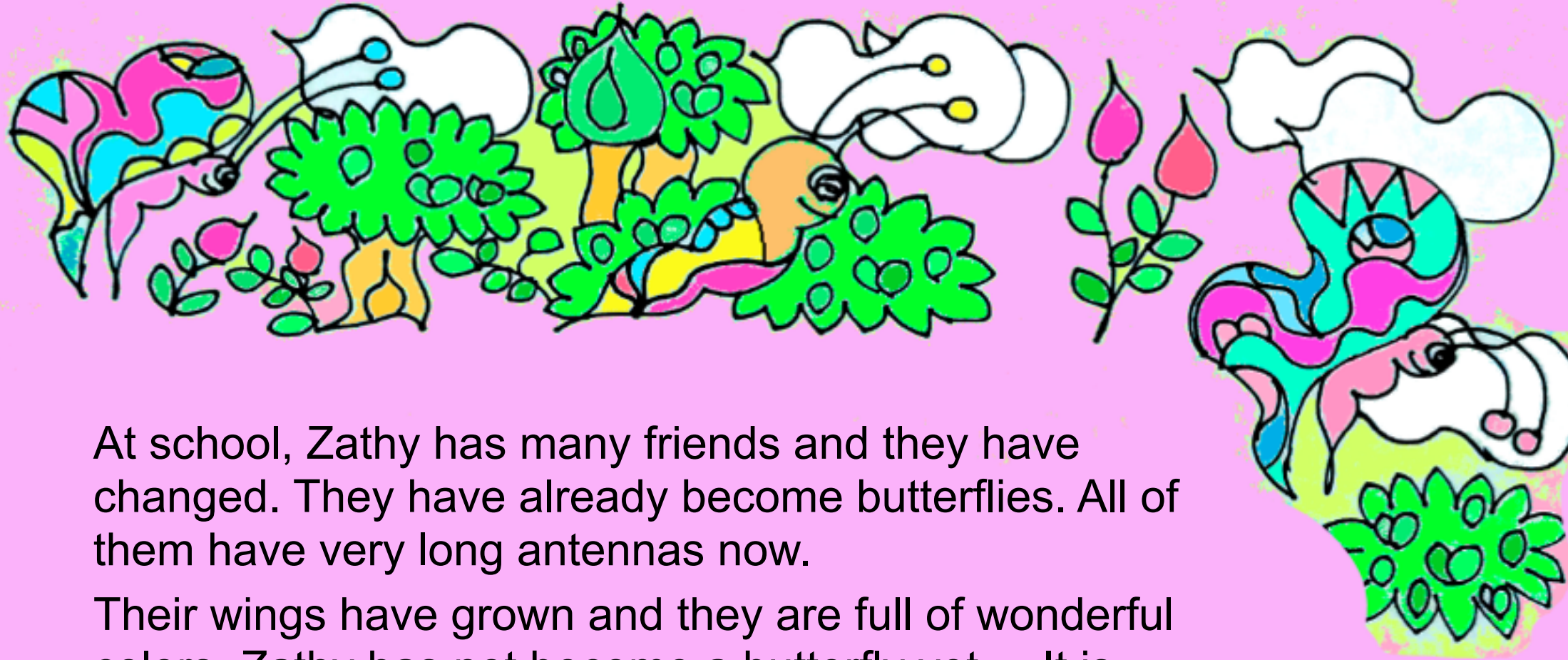


Every little caterpillar grows slowly and then becomes a beautiful butterfly. There are lots and lots of butterflies and there are of many different kinds.

Almost all butterflies have wings with all sorts of beautiful colors. But to become a butterfly, a caterpillar has to build itself a house.

Well, a caterpillar actually sleeps in its home with its head resting on a golden silk pillow. That's when its name changes and people call it a cocoon.





At school, Zathy has many friends and they have changed. They have already become butterflies. All of them have very long antennas now.

Their wings have grown and they are full of wonderful colors. Zathy has not become a butterfly yet.... It is quite impatient about it, actually. It wants to have its wings so that it can fly like all the other butterflies.

“Oh, I wish I had my wings already!! I can't wait!!!”, sighs the little caterpillar. All of Zathy's friends at school are asking themselves why Zathy still hasn't got really long antennas, like all other butterflies.







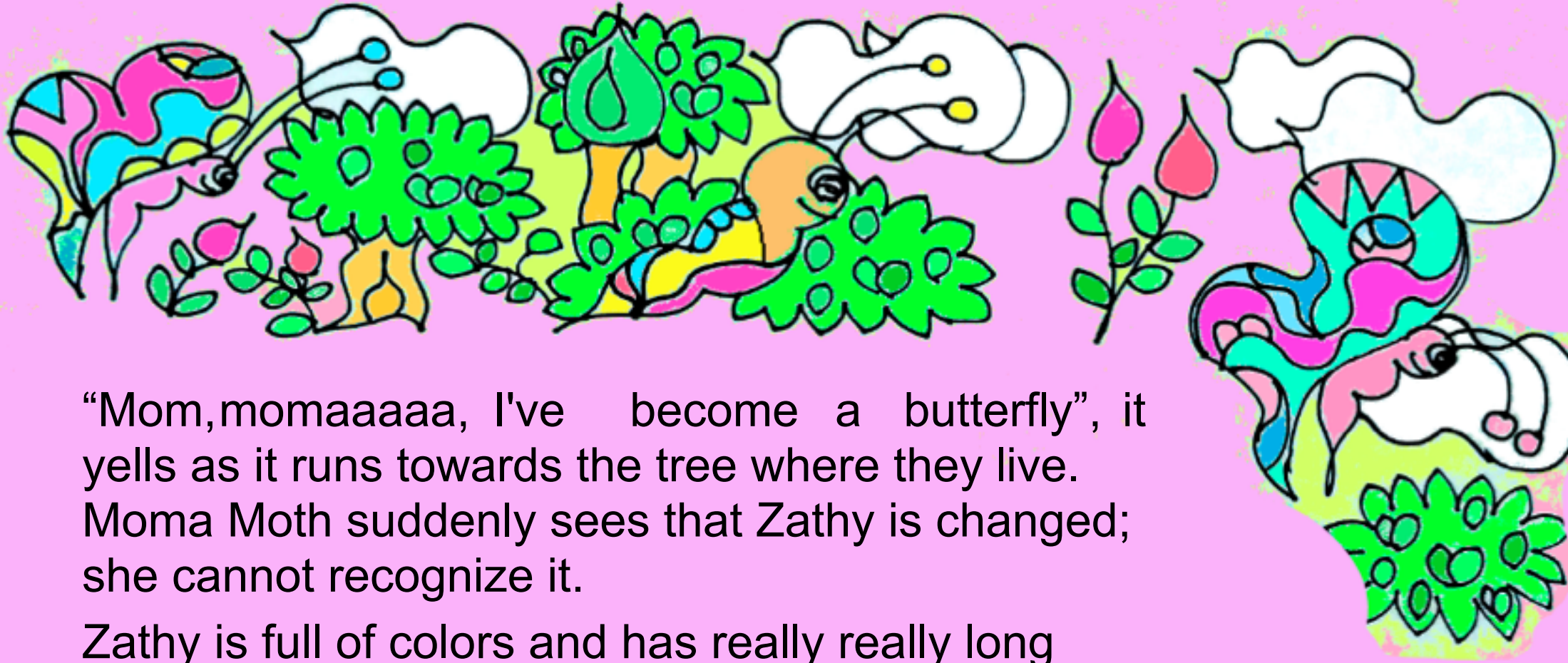
Time passes and caterpillars and butterflies grow... It's time for them to start school.

Zathy is about to reach its friends when it starts having a strange feeling. Its heart starts beating really hard. It is feeling very excited, it almost can't breathe. So, it thinks: "Am I finally becoming a butterfly???".

Just like its friends, Zathy starts building a little house where to go to sleep... It knows it will wake up in this house with long antennas and the wings it wants so very much.

"I have become a butterfly!!!", says Zathy when it wakes up. "What a wonderful surprise for mom", it thinks.





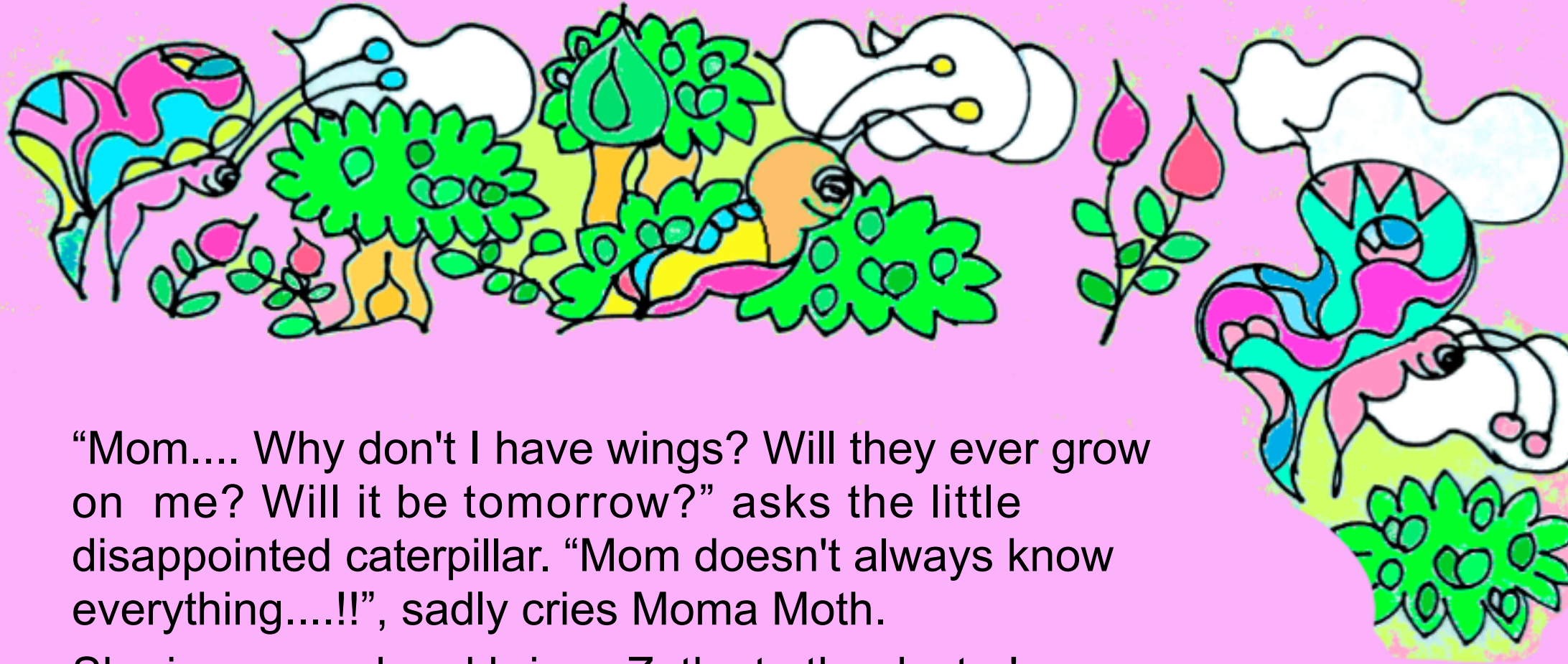
“Mom,momaaaaa, I've become a butterfly”, it yells as it runs towards the tree where they live. Moma Moth suddenly sees that Zathy is changed; she cannot recognize it.

Zathy is full of colors and has really really long antennas. Yet, she notices that there is something different from other butterflies: Zathy has no wings. Moma Moth grabs a mirror so that her little child can see for itself.

When Zathy looks in the mirror, it is very disappointed and sad. It cannot see the wings it wants so very much.







“Mom.... Why don't I have wings? Will they ever grow on me? Will it be tomorrow?” asks the little disappointed caterpillar. “Mom doesn't always know everything....!!”, sadly cries Moma Moth.

She is very sad and brings Zathy to the doctor's.

“You're a butterfly just like all the other ones”, says the doctor after he visits Zathy, “you just don't have wings”.

Zathy thinks it will never ever have wings. Oh, it is very sad, as it thinks about its dream of brushing against the clouds.... of touching the stars right along with the other butterflies.



The next day comes when Zathy goes back to school, it gets an unusual welcome back from its friends.

Because it is changed, they ask it all sorts of questions. “Why are your wings missing?”, “Who has eaten your wings?”, “Did you forget them at home?”

The other butterflies ask and ask. Well, they are confused that one of them has no wings. So it happens that they make fun of Zathy because its wings have not grown. Zathy begins to feel different.

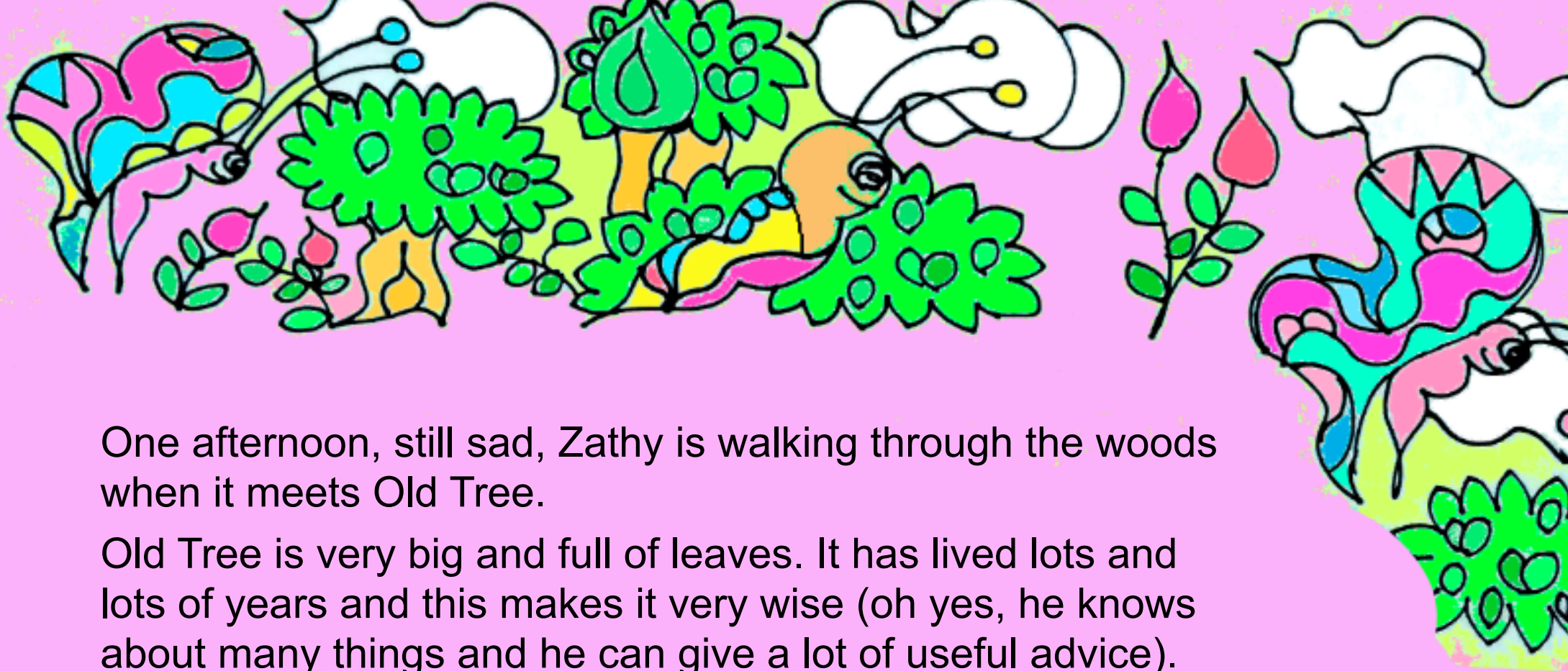
Time passes and Zathy is sadder and sadder and more disappointed. Yes, it tells its mom that it doesn't want to go to school anymore. It is hard for Zathy because the other butterflies make fun of it. It is hard for Zathy to hear them say “Zathy is a weird butterfly.”





“Zathy, you must go to school!!! You are a butterfly just like all of your friends at school...” Moma says and then she adds “Zathy, remember, school is very important!!!”.

In class, Zathy doesn't feel like playing anymore. Often, it spends time alone and hides in a corner, in the back of the room. One day, the teacher organizes a picnic in the woods. All of the butterflies fly around. All of them but not Zathy. Butterflies with no wings cannot fly, Zathy believes.



One afternoon, still sad, Zathy is walking through the woods when it meets Old Tree.

Old Tree is very big and full of leaves. It has lived lots and lots of years and this makes it very wise (oh yes, he knows about many things and he can give a lot of useful advice).

“Why are you crying?”, asks Old Tree who has never seen little Zathy around before. “Can't you see? I've got no wings. I feel different!!!”, answers the butterfly.

Old Tree understands Zathy's problem. He smiles and decides to help it “I want Zathy to be as happy as all of the other butterflies”







So Old Tree whistles for Leaf Kite “Wheeeeeeeew, Wheeeeeeeew!”. When Leaf comes, Old Tree asks it: “Leaf, please take Zathy on a ride and go visit the other trees in the woods.”

Zathy doesn't really understand but decides to go anyway. Leaf Kite takes Zathy in a hug and together they fly. Higher and higher, they go into the light blue sky and the warm sunshine.

From there, they can see all the trees down below in the woods. Oh, it is unbelievable how many trees there are in the woods. There are all so different from one another. Some trees are really big, other trees are really small and others still have no leaves. All of them together though. They talk to one another. They have so much fun and are happy being together.







Leaf Kite and Zathy watch this wonderful show for some time. Then, after a while, Leaf Kite and Zathy decide to go back to Old Tree. When they get to Old Tree, its branches become slides for Leaf Kite and Zathy to play on. The little butterfly has so much fun that it cannot stop laughing.





“What did you see??”, Old Tree asks Zathy.

“Oh nothing, just lots and lots of different trees; one is really big, another is very small and another one, still, has no leaves... ”, Zathy says.

“And that's nothing to you?”, Old Tree answers as he smiles.

The butterfly cannot really understand but Old Tree goes on: “So you saw many trees, all different from one another but all of them can still be called a tree”.

Zathy still can't understand.



“You see, they are all different from one another. But this doesn't mean that they are not trees. Alright, you have got no wings but you still are a butterfly. You will learn to fly in other ways, even with no wings!!!!”, Old Tree says to Zathy.

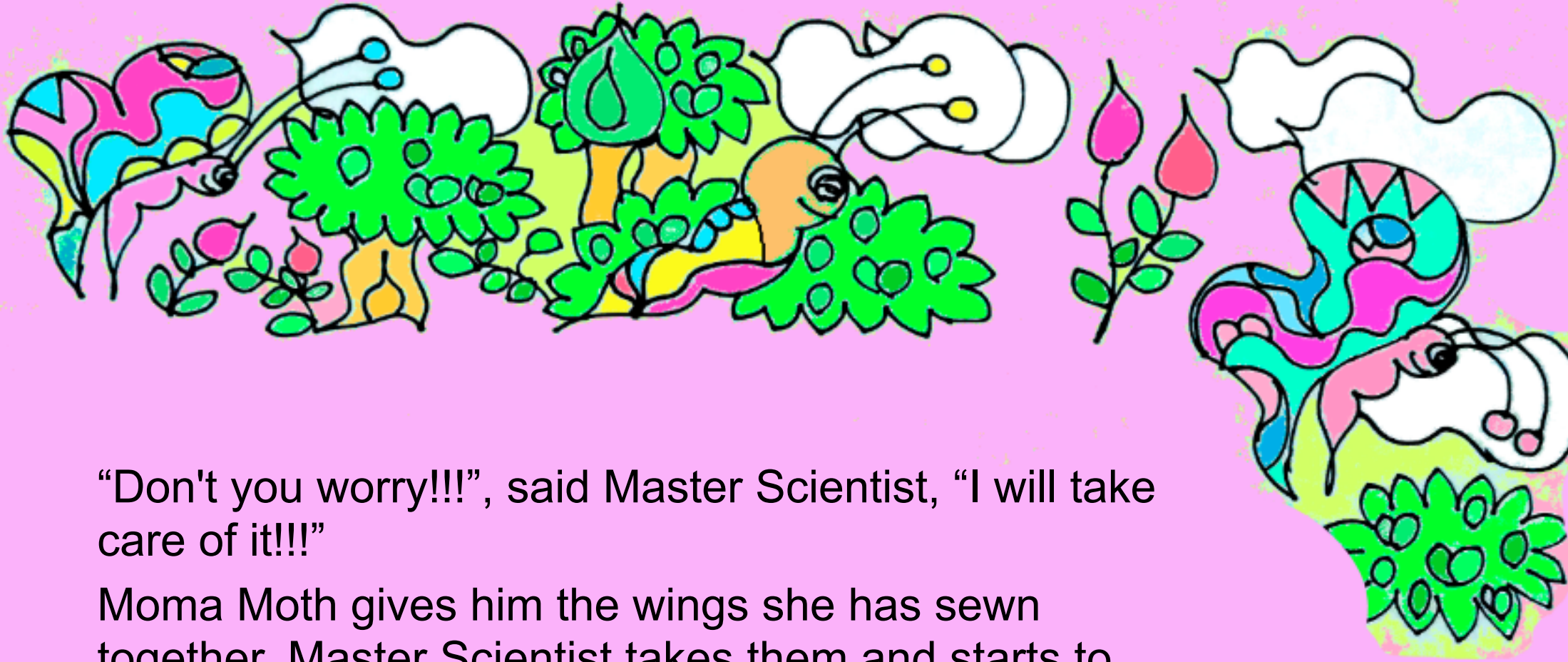
Zathy goes away. “What does Old Tree want to tell me?!” Zathy is confused and just doesn't understand. So it gets an idea “I will ask mom about it!” Moma Moth listens to her child's story and then she also gets an idea.





Moma Moth goes into the woods and picks the greenest of green leaves. Then she goes home and sews all of them together, just like real butterfly wings. She works all night long so she can have a wonderful surprise for Zathy.

The next morning she visits her dear friend Master Scientist. First, she shows him the wings she has build. Then, she asks him: “Zathy wants to touch the sky. I know that you and me together can make Zathy's dream come true. Please, help me.

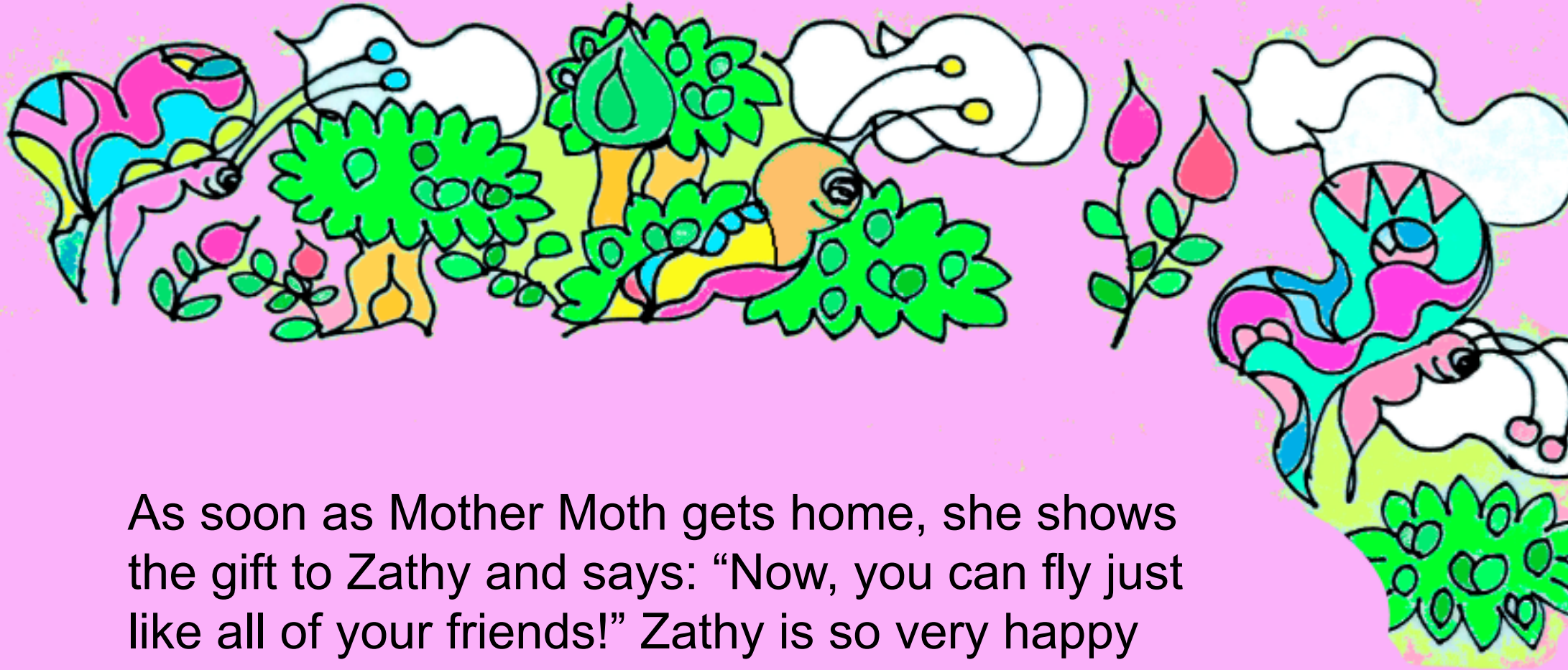


“Don't you worry!!!”, said Master Scientist, “I will take care of it!!!”

Moma Moth gives him the wings she has sewn together. Master Scientist takes them and starts to decorate them right away.

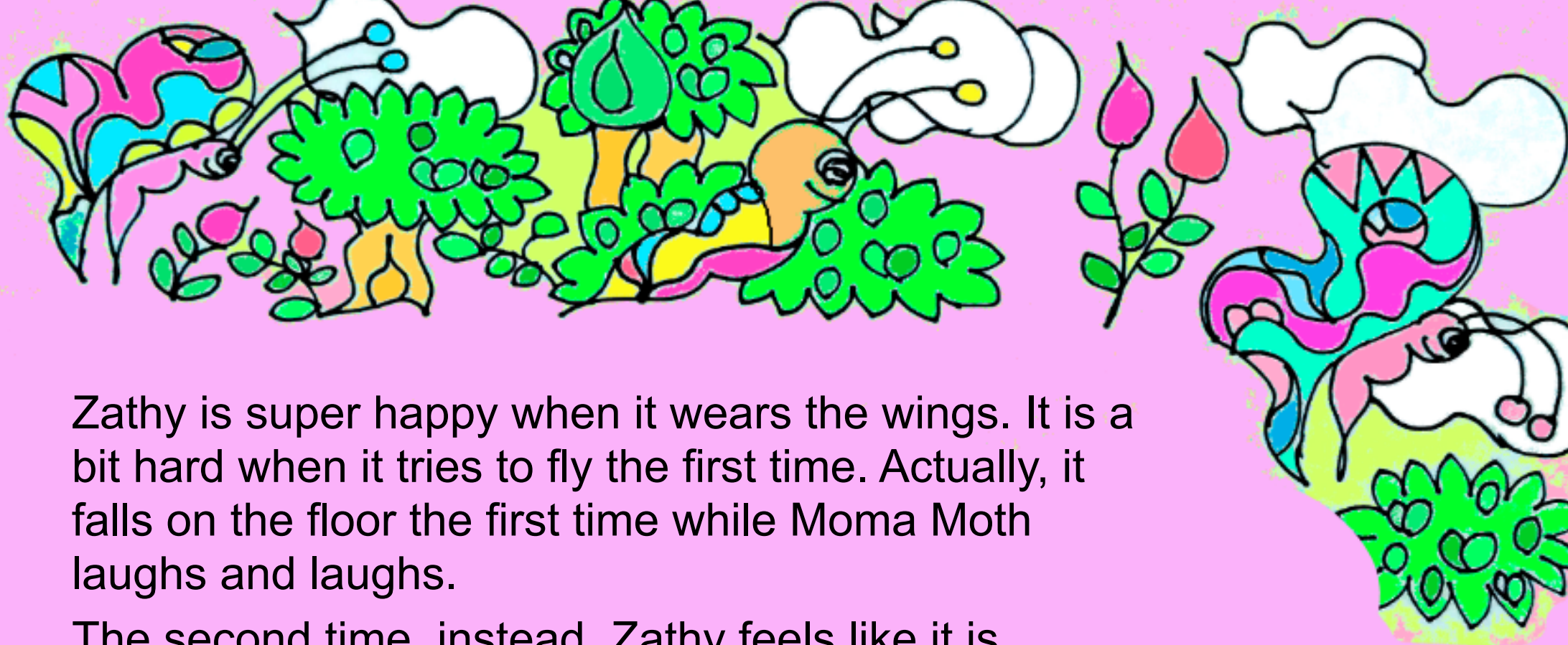
He puts together all sorts of colored strings that Zathy can use to push and pull. And when the wind helps with its mighty strength, Zathy can fly, just like kites do.





As soon as Mother Moth gets home, she shows the gift to Zathy and says: “Now, you can fly just like all of your friends!” Zathy is so very happy to see those big and beautiful wings that have so many colors.

Zathy is so impatient to try the wings that it trembles all over with excitement.



Zathy is super happy when it wears the wings. It is a bit hard when it tries to fly the first time. Actually, it falls on the floor the first time while Moma Moth laughs and laughs.

The second time, instead, Zathy feels like it is swimming. It is not easy to learn how to fly with those wings but...

Zathy tries and tries. After many times of trying and a few falls, Zathy learns.... and in the end, it can; yes, it can finally fly. Mother Moth is beyond happy every time she sees her little child flying with her among the trees.

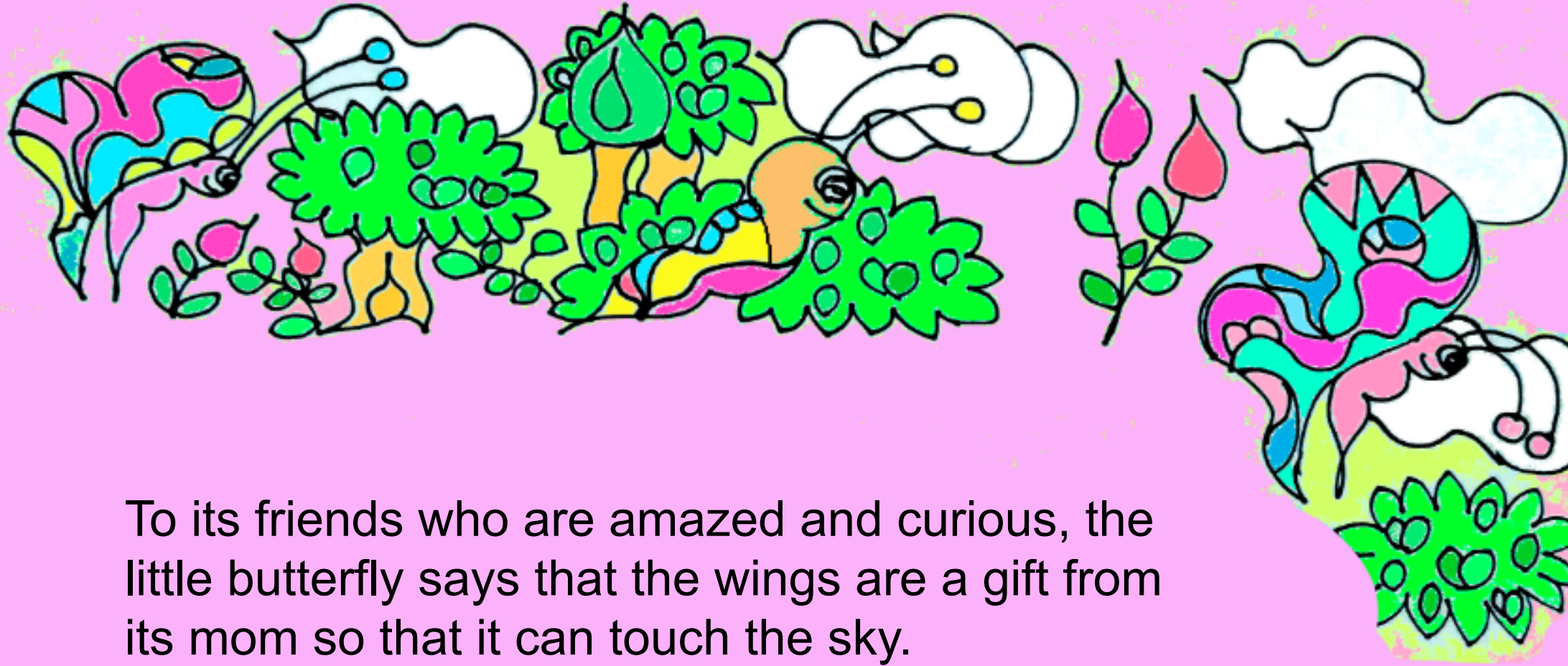




The next day comes and Zathy wears its beautiful wings to school; it is super excited. Its friends are so amazed; Zathy too has wings. Zathy can finally touch the sky and brush against the clouds!!!!

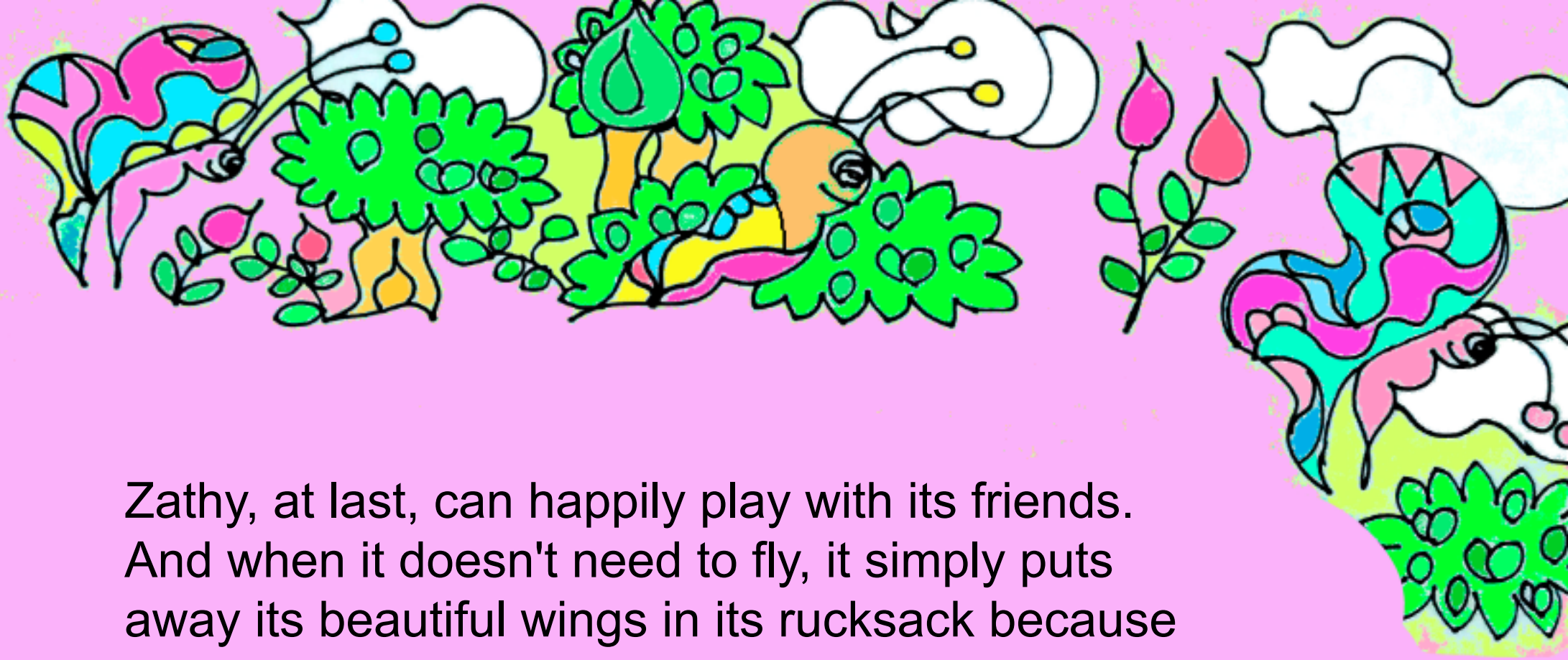






To its friends who are amazed and curious, the little butterfly says that the wings are a gift from its mom so that it can touch the sky.

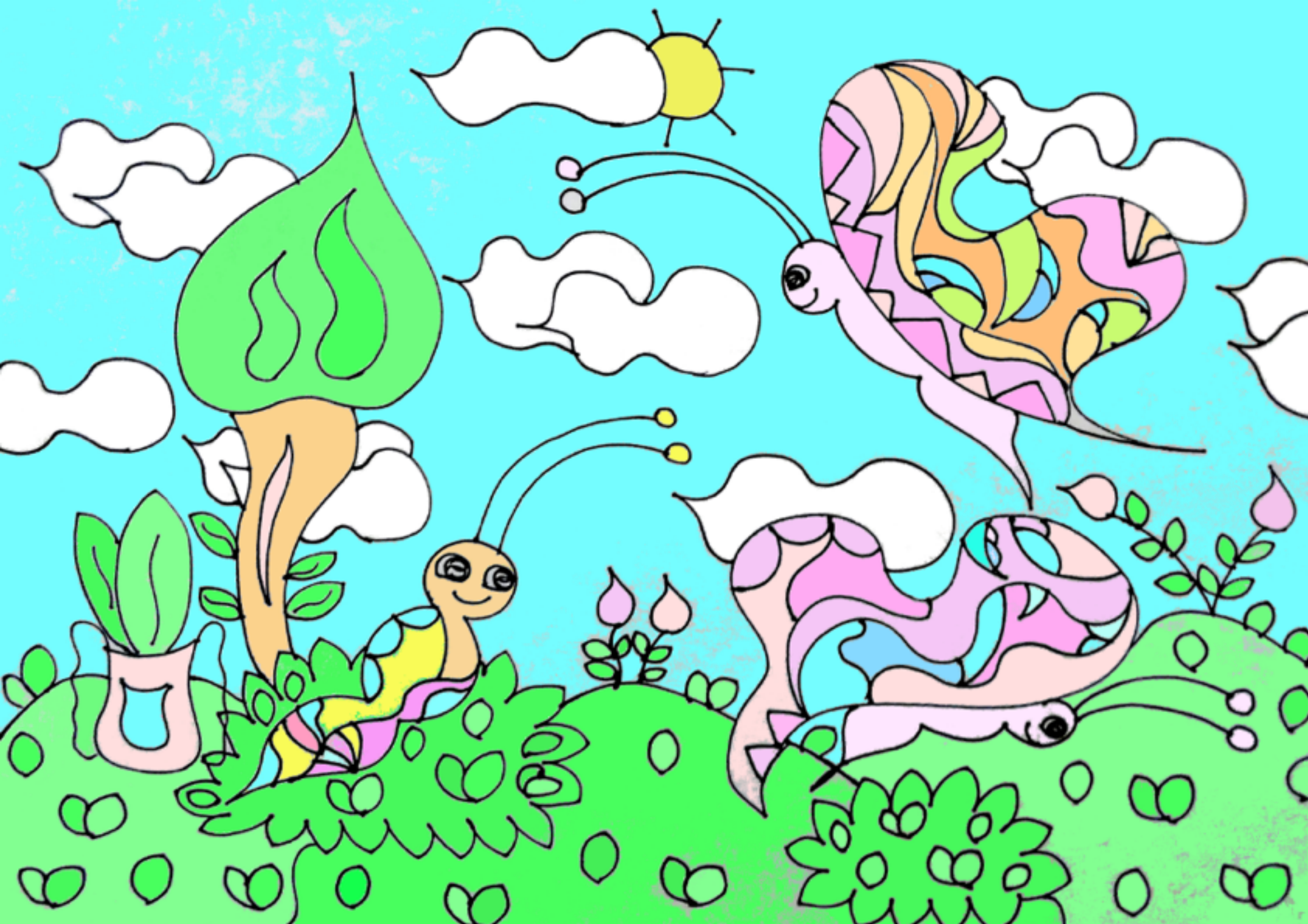
Zathy then tells all of the butterflies about everything that it has found out during the trip with Leaf Kite and everything that Old Tree has explained to it.

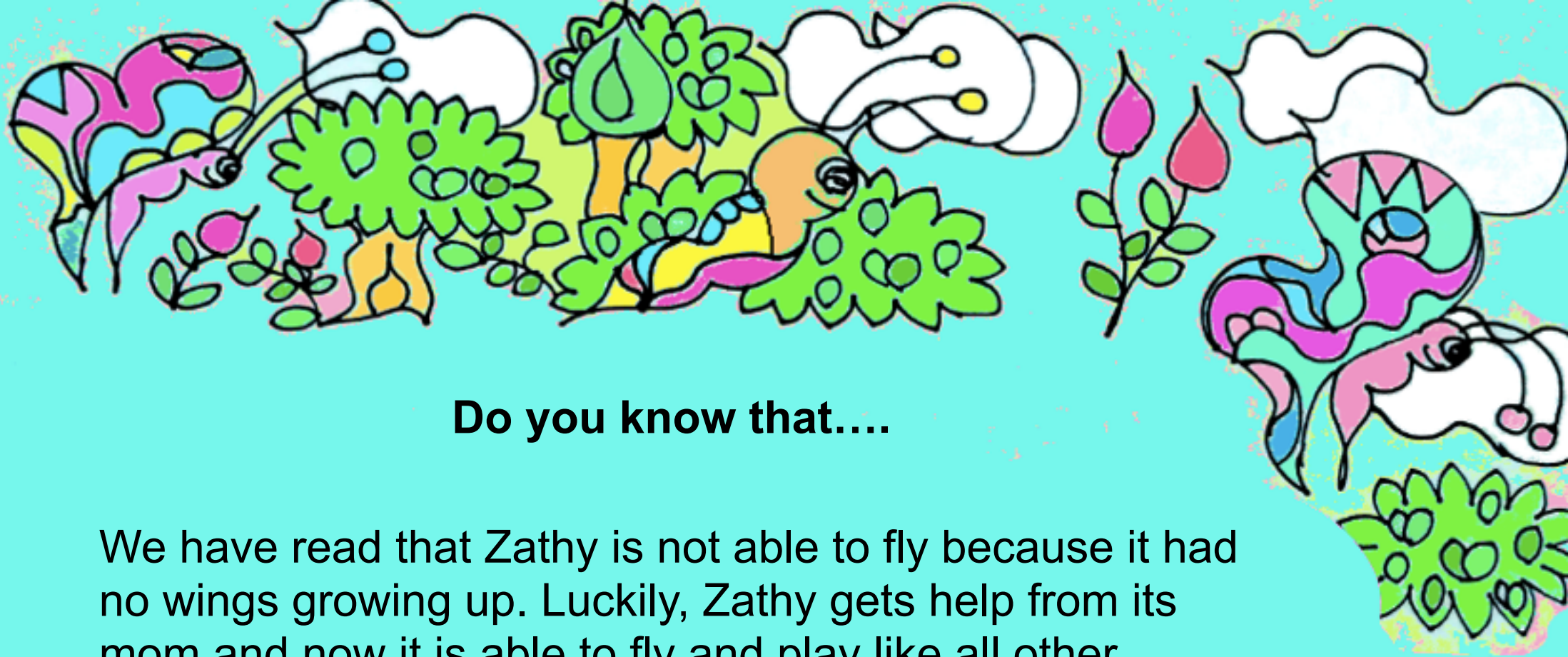


Zathy, at last, can happily play with its friends. And when it doesn't need to fly, it simply puts away its beautiful wings in its rucksack because it doesn't need to wear them.

After all, Zathy says: "I feel like a butterfly even if I have no wings. But, when I want to fly with all the other butterflies, I use the wings my mom made for me".







## Do you know that....

We have read that Zathy is not able to fly because it had no wings growing up. Luckily, Zathy gets help from its mom and now it is able to fly and play like all other butterflies.

Maybe you already know that this also happens to some children. They cannot do some of the things that other children can do. Some cannot walk, run, see, hear or speak like their friends can. For example: there are children who cannot run. They need a wheelchair to move from one place to the other.





Very often, this is why, some make fun of these children; they think of these children as different.

It's not nice at all to make fun of friends who cannot do the same things as all others. It is not nice at all to make fun of someone because of the way they are. It is very important to respect others who are different from us.

Those who cannot walk, see and speak like others, can still play with their friends for two reasons.



The first reason is friendship. Friends make friends feel loved. The second reason is that a person can get help from a tool. A wheelchair, for example, helps a person move from one place to another. It is similar to the wings that Zathy's mom made with leaves. Those wings helped Zathy fly.

It doesn't matter if someone is different, everybody must be treated the same way, with love and respect.



