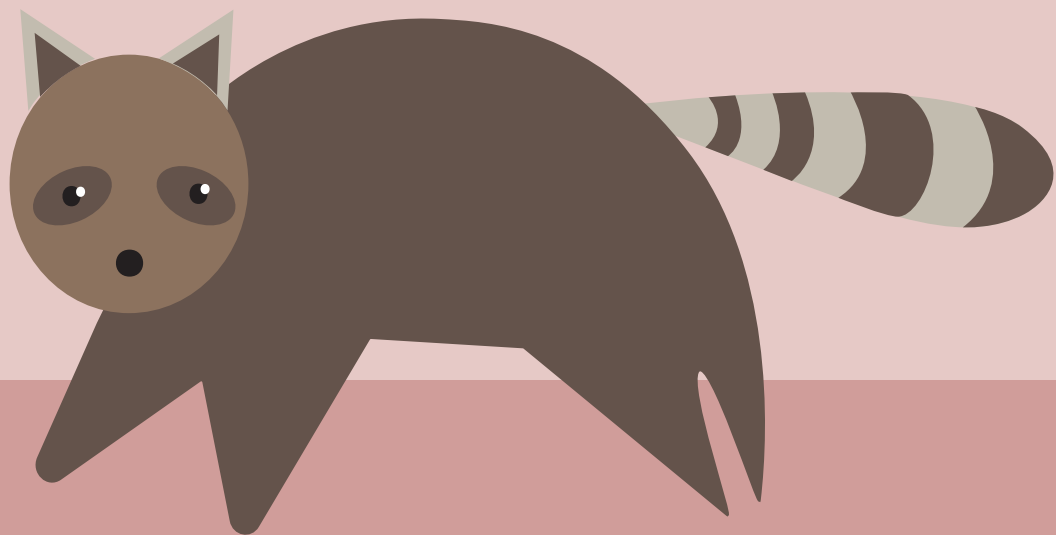


# The Explorers

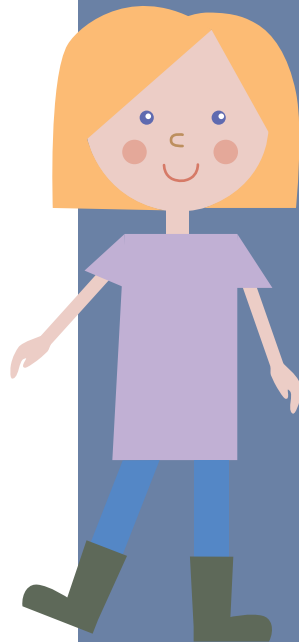
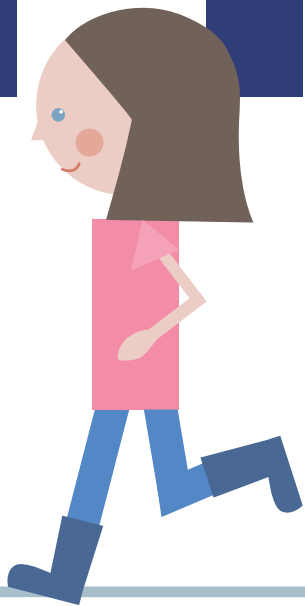
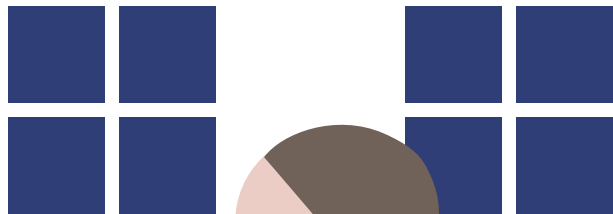
by Jane Spencer

To Monica, love Jane



Monica and Jane were explorers.

When they finished their  
homework and their chores,  
they set off into the wilderness.



In the summer,  
the field was hot and bright,  
and the distant forest was cool and dark.



In the heart of the forest  
was a great green pond.

The explorers played on the rocky shore,  
and looked out over the deep water.



A waterfall rushed over steep rocks.

Monica and Jane liked to climb it  
and feel the water on their hands.



In Autumn, the air was crisp and cool.

The sky was bright blue.

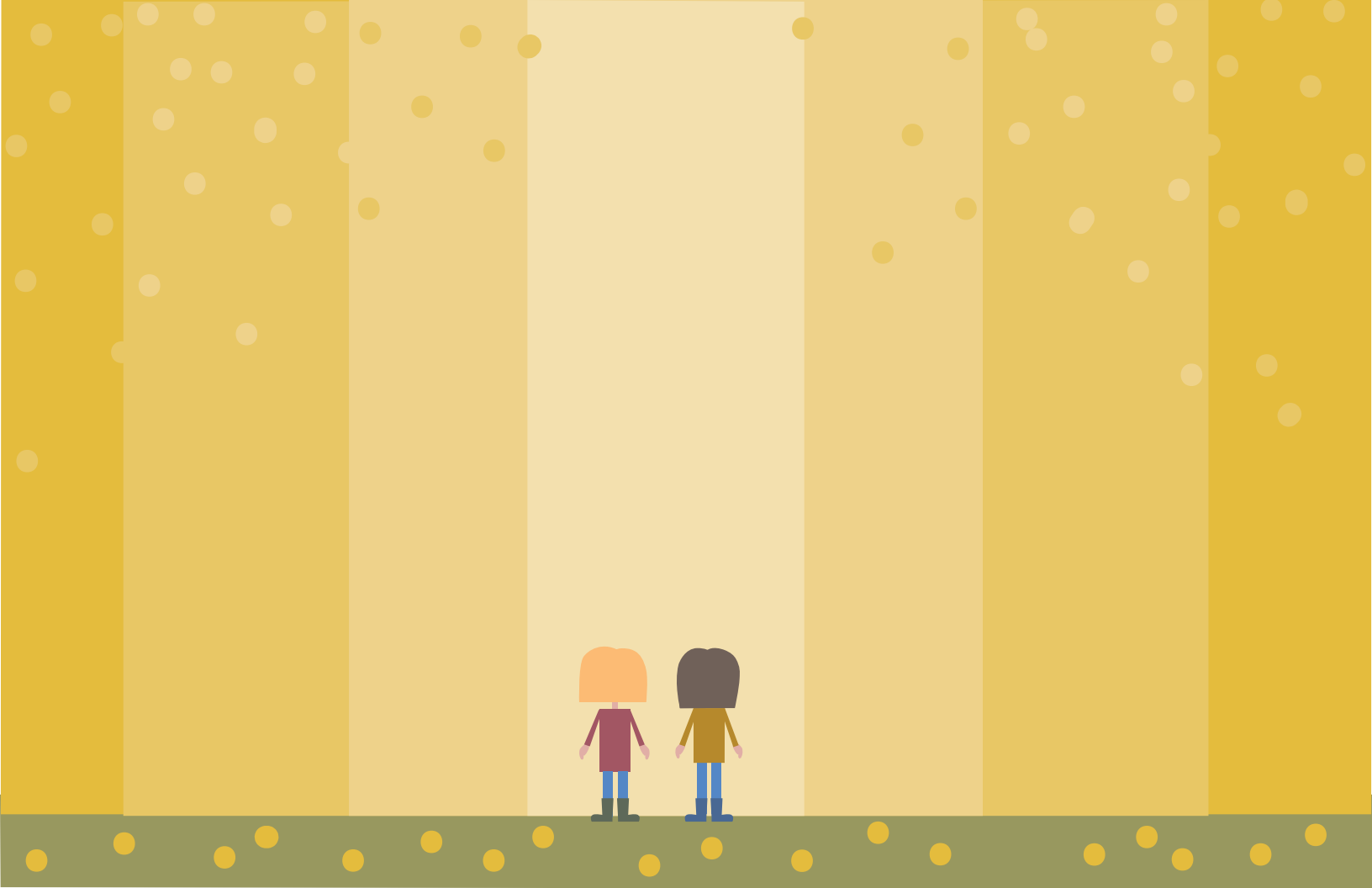


One day, Jane and Monica saw  
a great grey raccoon.

They were so surprised  
that they ran all the way home ...



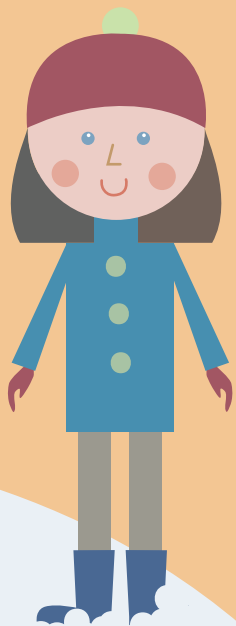
When they were brave enough  
to return to the forest,  
they wandered through the golden leaves  
and looked up into tall golden trees.



In winter, the world was white.



Jane and Monica stumbled through  
deep drifts of snow.



Once, they stayed out in the forest  
late into the night.

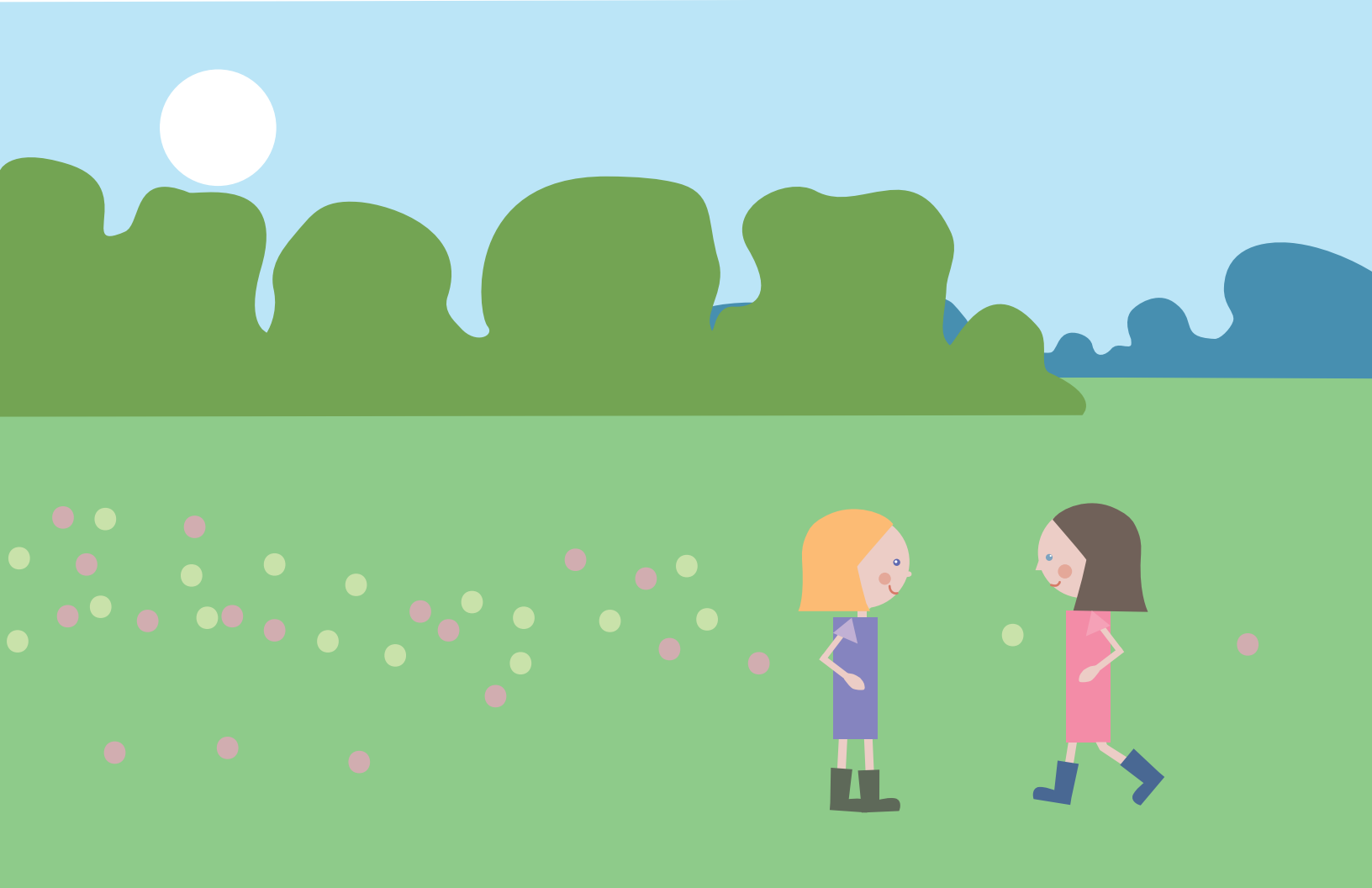
The stars glittered like jewels.

Jane's dad had to come and find them.

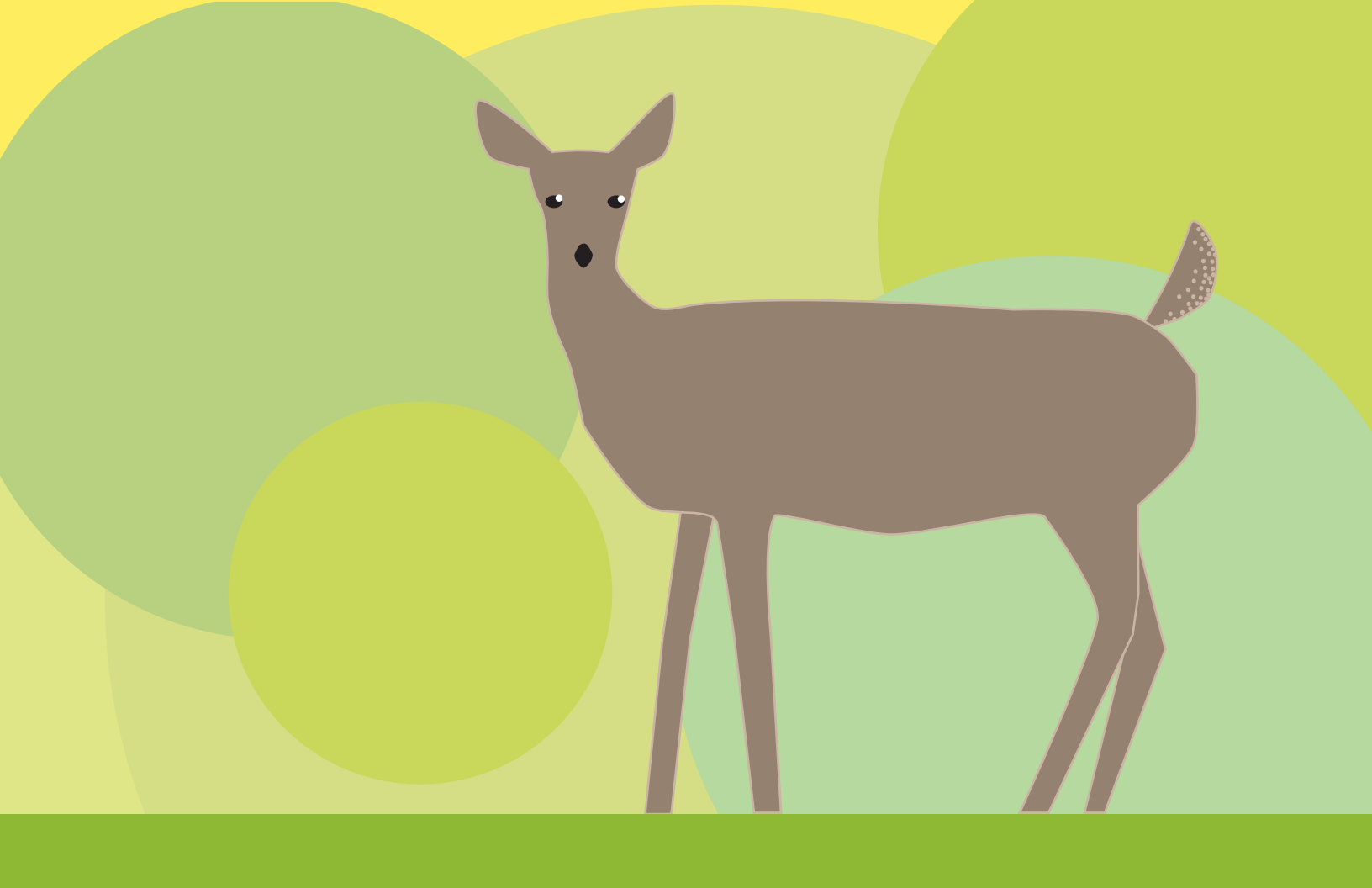
He told them that it was safer  
to stay at home during the night ...



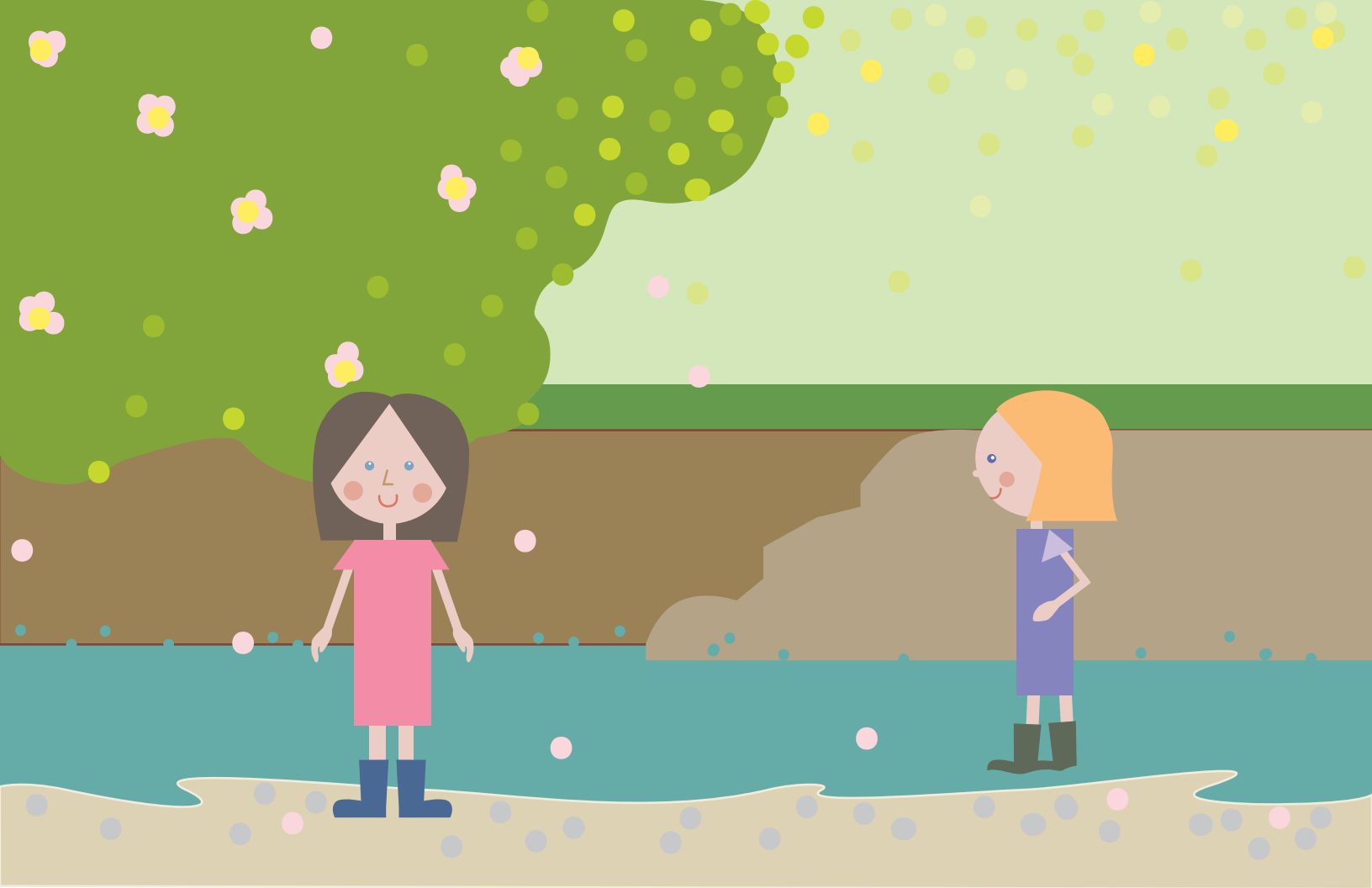
In the spring, the fields and the forest  
came alive again.



Jane and Monica saw a deer  
and tried not to startle her.



They splashed in the stream  
around the pond,  
while flowers began to blossom  
again in the forest.



In the evening, Jane and Monica  
drank hot chocolate.

They talked about the adventures  
they would have when they were  
all grown up.

it was only  
the beginning ...

