



## The caterpillar who wanted to fly

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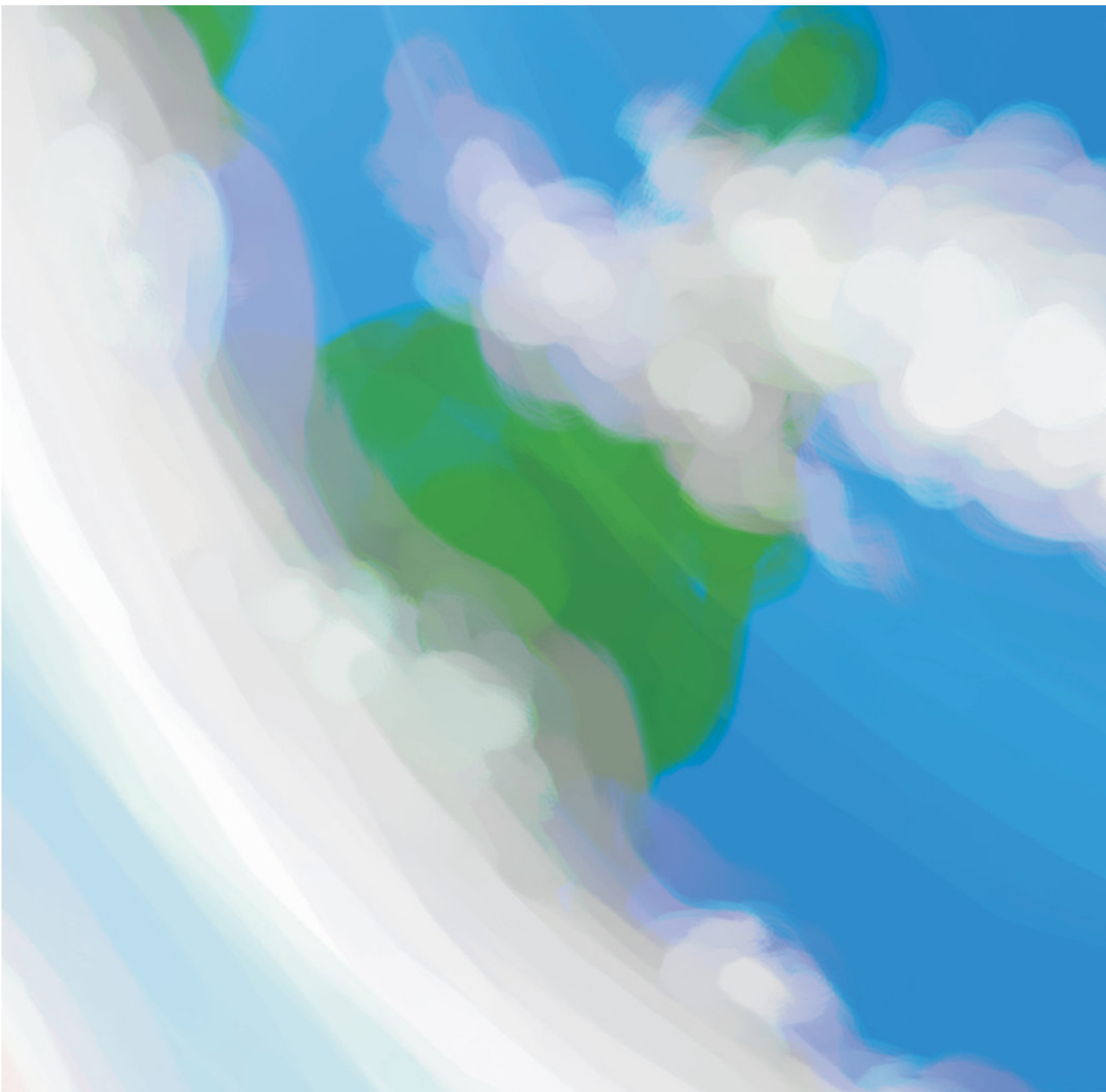
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Level 2



There was a leaf and on that leaf was a tiny egg.  
A caterpillar cracked out of the egg.

He was a tiny little caterpillar.  
He wiggled its body this way and then that way.



He looked down. The ground was way, way down.  
Then he looked up. The sky was way, way up.

He fell in love with the bright blue sky.  
He gazed up at the sky.  
He wanted to fly in the sky.

.





He longingly looked at the clouds floating up in the sky.  
He wanted to be like the clouds.

He longingly looked at the birds flying up in the sky.  
He wanted to be like the birds.





One, Two, Three.

He leaped off from the leaf.

Zoom and then splat, he plummeted straight to the ground.

He was not hurt but he became sad that he couldn't fly.

And when he was sad, he ate a lot.



Munch and crunch.  
Munch and crunch.  
He kept eating.





A bright pink balloon with a long string attached at its end came floating by.

One, Two, Three.

The caterpillar leaped off and caught the balloon's string.  
Zoom, Zoom he floated like the clouds in the sky.  
The caterpillar was happy.





Suddenly the balloon got caught in a rose bush.  
POP, the balloon burst.

Zoom and then splat, the caterpillar plummeted straight to the  
ground.

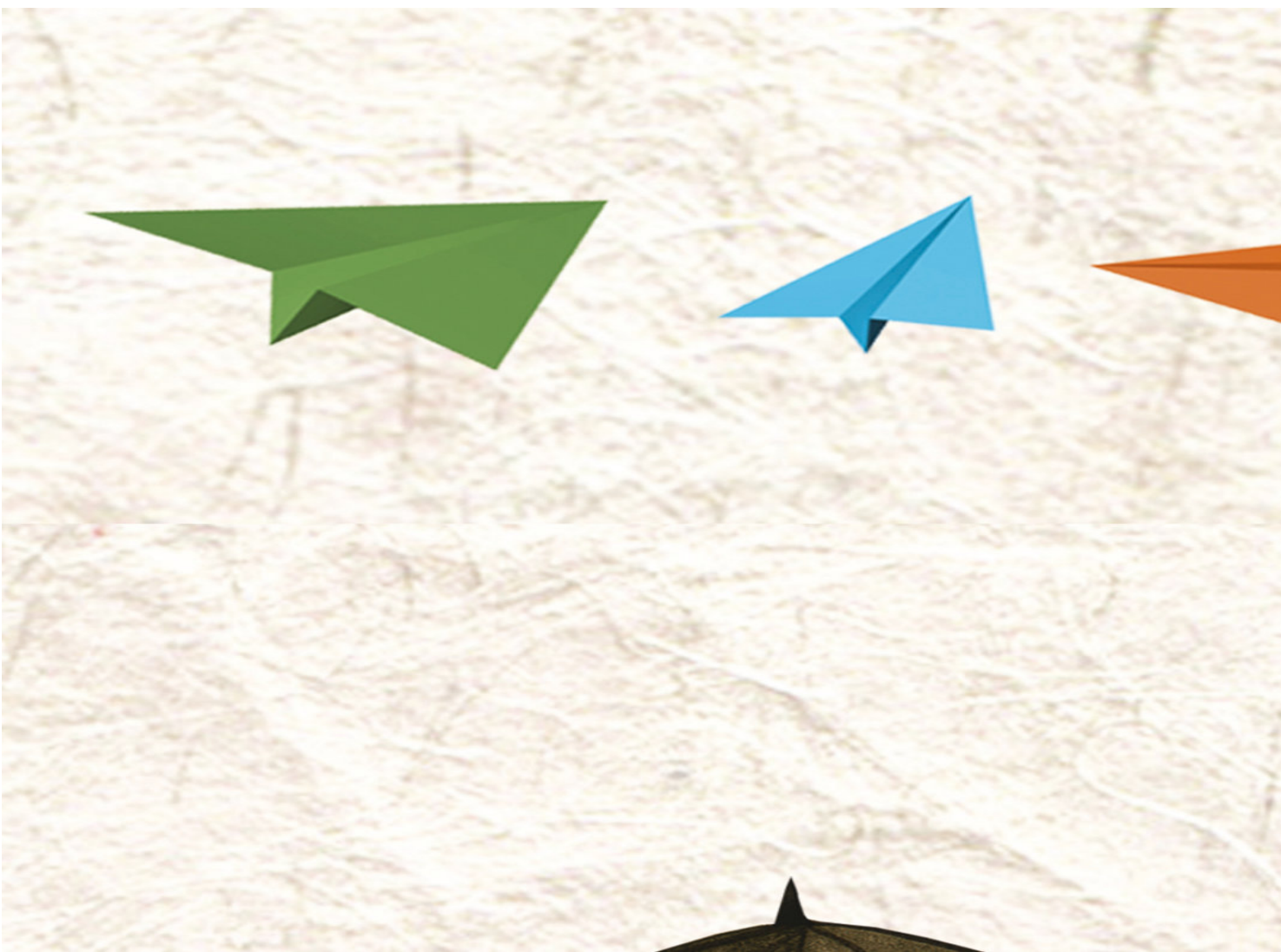
He was not hurt but he became sad that he couldn't fly.  
And when he was sad, he ate a lot.





Munch and crunch.  
Munch and crunch.  
He kept eating.

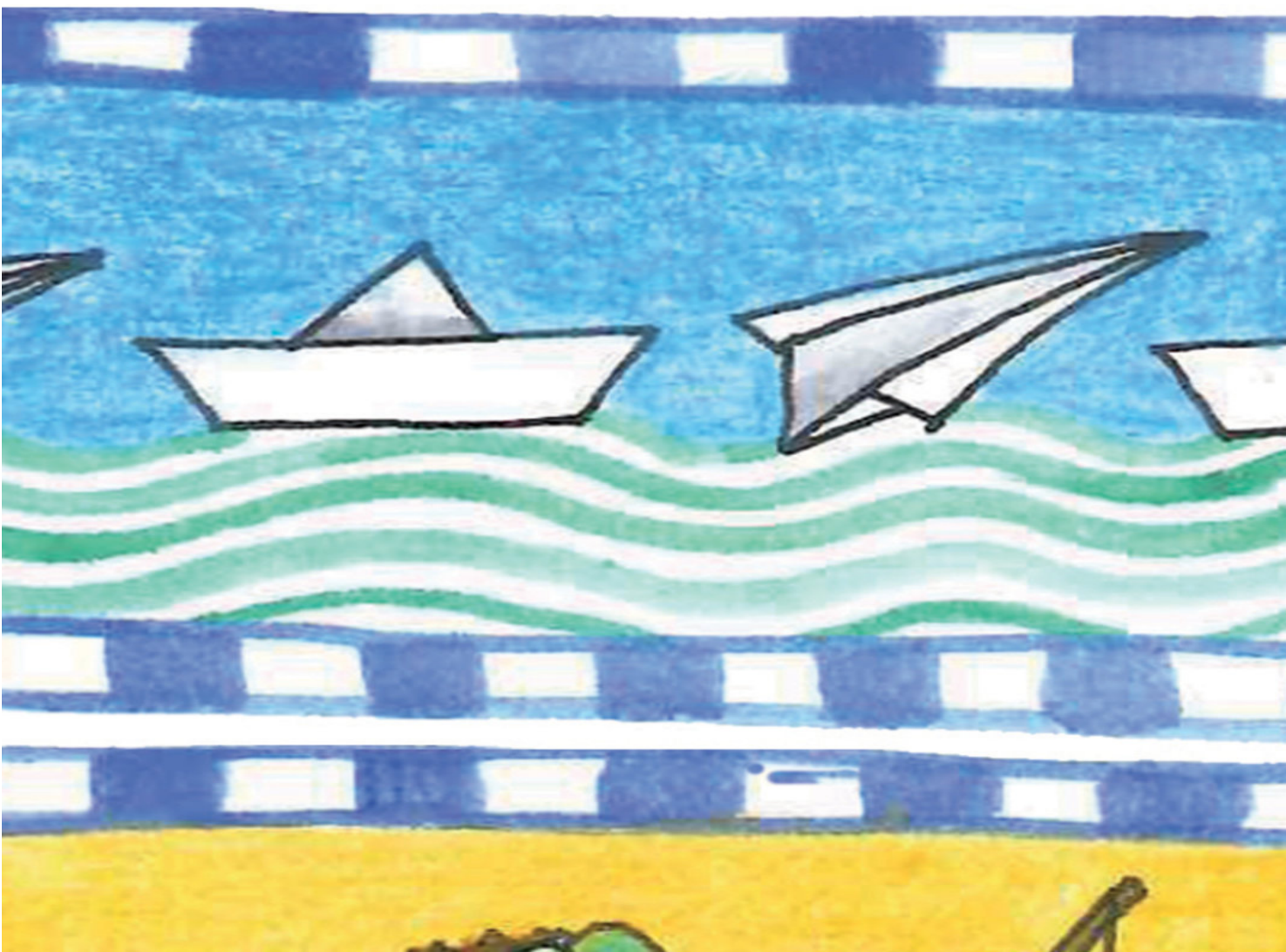




A little boy was playing with paper planes.  
Vroom, Vroom went the paper planes.

One, Two, Three

The caterpillar leaped off and landed on the paper plane.  
Vroom Vroom, he glided in the sky.  
The caterpillar was happy.



Suddenly the paper plane landed in a puddle.  
The paper plane got soaked.

Splashed and drenched, the caterpillar made it back to the dry  
ground.

He was not hurt  
but he became sad that he couldn't fly anymore.  
And when he was sad, he ate a lot.





Munch and crunch.  
Munch and crunch.  
He kept eating.





A little girl with her father was flying a bright red kite.  
Whoosh, Whoosh flew the kite.  
One, Two, Three.  
The caterpillar leaped off and landed on the red kite.  
Whoosh, Whoosh .. he glided in the sky.  
The caterpillar was happy.





Suddenly a strong wind blew and the kite got stuck in a tree. The kite was torn and was abandoned there.

The caterpillar got tangled in the kite's thread. A jingle here and a jangle there, he freed himself from the tangle.

He was not hurt,  
but he became sad that he couldn't fly anymore.  
And when he was sad, he ate a lot.



Munch and crunch.  
Munch and crunch.  
He kept eating.





The little caterpillar was not little anymore.  
He was a cute and fat caterpillar.  
But he was a sad caterpillar.

He longingly looked at the clouds floating up in the sky.  
He longingly looked at the birds flying up in the sky.



But now he wanted to hide from the clouds and the birds.  
So he built a thick cocoon around him and went to sleep.

He dreamed about floating like the clouds.  
He dreamed of flying like the birds.

He dreamed and dreamed and he lost track of time.  
A snooze here and a yawn there, he slept for a long, long time.





One day the caterpillar cracked out of its thick cocoon.  
He wiggled his body this way and that way.  
POP and whirl  
Something had popped out of his body.  
He waited and waited to find out what it was.

While he was waiting,  
He gazed up at the sky.  
He still wanted to fly in the sky.



One Two Three

Four little yellow wings had stretched out.

He leaped off from his cage.

A flip and a flap, he fluttered in the sky.

The little boy said, "Ah, look at this magnificent butterfly".

The little girl said, "Ah, look at how high the butterfly flies".





The caterpillar realized he had turned into a butterfly.

He was happy for he could now fly in the sky.

And he mumbled to himself "The wait was not bad after-all".

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# The caterpillar who wanted to fly

(English)

A little caterpillar wants to fly. In this story, I invite you all to join with him in his journey to fly in the sky. As part of any journey, there are phases success, phases of failures, phases of trying and experimenting, and sometimes elongated periods of just waiting. Yes, waiting. Sometimes waiting can be fun too. Also, find out how does the caterpillar handle his emotions when he is sad. Don't forget to ask yourself and your little ones this subliminal question " And when you are sad, what do you do ?" My son Aditya (now 5 year) when he was 3 and half years old drew this picture of a happy caterpillar hanging and flying on a pink balloon. I decided to make a story out of his curious drawings.

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.



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