

The Farm Field

Zuri and Friends

Made for Tlaloc

With love from the Faust book maker

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Zuri, Teo and Juno were friends. Pip, their owl, came too. A combine cut wheat in a field. It gathered seeds from the plants. "Where do the seeds go?" said Zuri. "Before the rain!"



Dry stalks lay behind. “The wheat is tall and dry,” Teo said. “Did it eat the seeds?” Juno asked. “No, it gathers them,” Zuri said. “But where are they?”

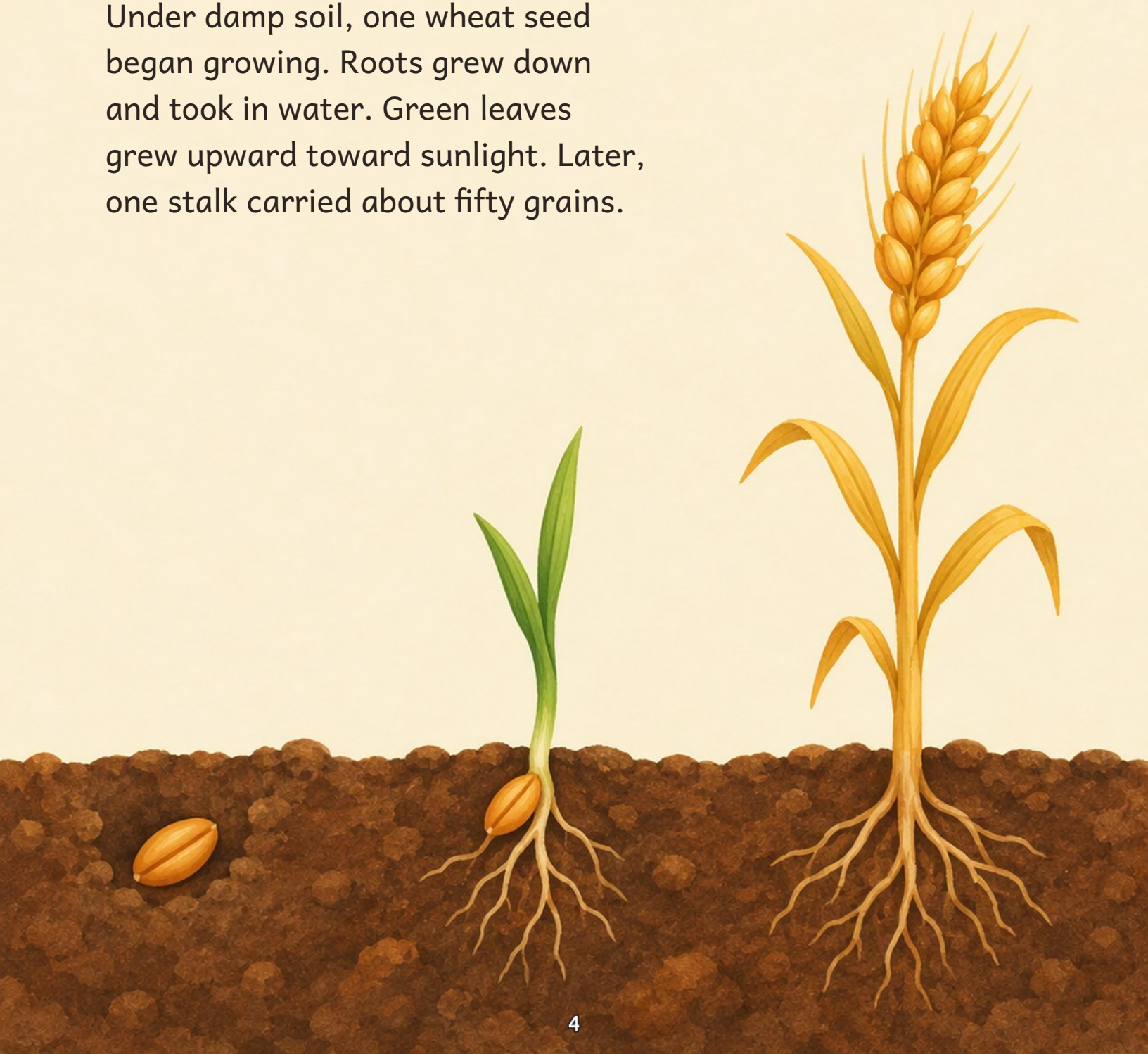


Teo picked wheat seeds. Two fell into his boot. “Wheat seeds are grains,” Zuri said. “Each can grow a wheat plant.” “Can one grow more?” Juno asked.

> **Did you know?** A wheat seed carries its own food. The tiny plant inside uses that food.



Under damp soil, one wheat seed began growing. Roots grew down and took in water. Green leaves grew upward toward sunlight. Later, one stalk carried about fifty grains.



Teo pocketed seeds and tried his spyglass. But he held it backward. "Where did the grains go?" He turned it around.



Only a little wheat stood tall. Teo looked through his spyglass. “Look, I found grains!” Juno cried. Pip pointed toward the tractor's cart. Rain clouds crept closer.



Zuri pointed. “There are the missing grains! The front cuts wheat. The top tank is a box. It holds grains. Dry stalks fall behind. How does it free the grains?”



Inside the combine, spinning metal knocked grains loose. Blowing air carried light, dry bits away. Heavier grains fell into a collecting path. Long stalks moved toward the back.



Zuri led them along the fence. “That tube pours grains from the tank. The cart takes them away.” “Where will the grains go?” Teo asked. They followed the cart.

Did you know? A turning screw pushes grain through tubes. Some screws are longer than a car.



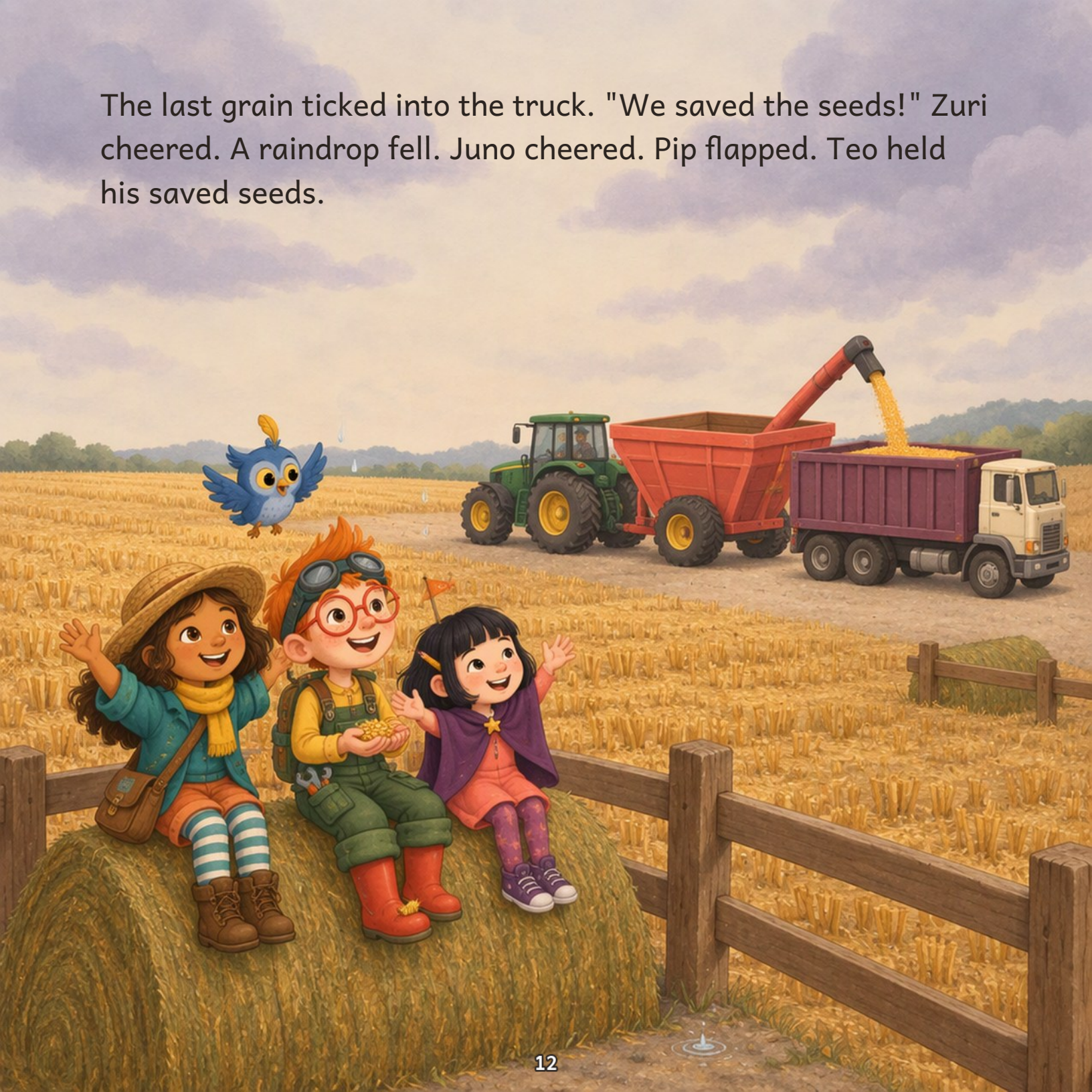
At a gravel corner, Juno spotted rolling stalks. Zuri pointed at a squeezing machine. "It squeezes dry stalks into tight bundles. Those stalks can make beds for animals."



The cart's tube rose over a truck. They sat on a straw bale. It was a bundle of dry stalks. Pip leaned forward. Would rain fall first?



The last grain ticked into the truck. "We saved the seeds!" Zuri cheered. A raindrop fell. Juno cheered. Pip flapped. Teo held his saved seeds.



For grown-ups

Wheat seeds need water, air, and suitable warmth. Wheat straw means leftover dry wheat stalks. Straw can make animal beds. Hay is dried grass or leafy plants. Hay feeds animals.