

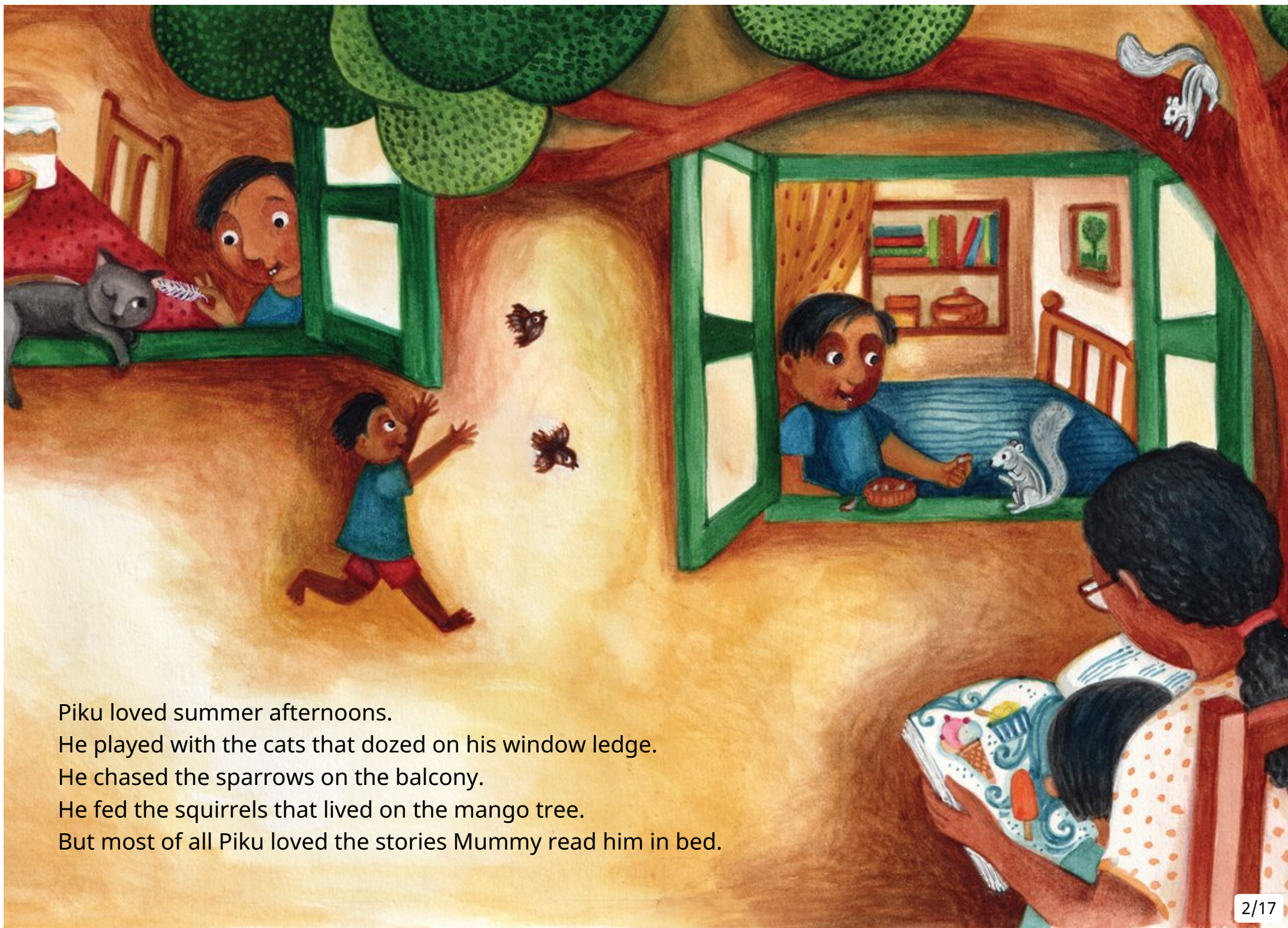


Piku's Little World

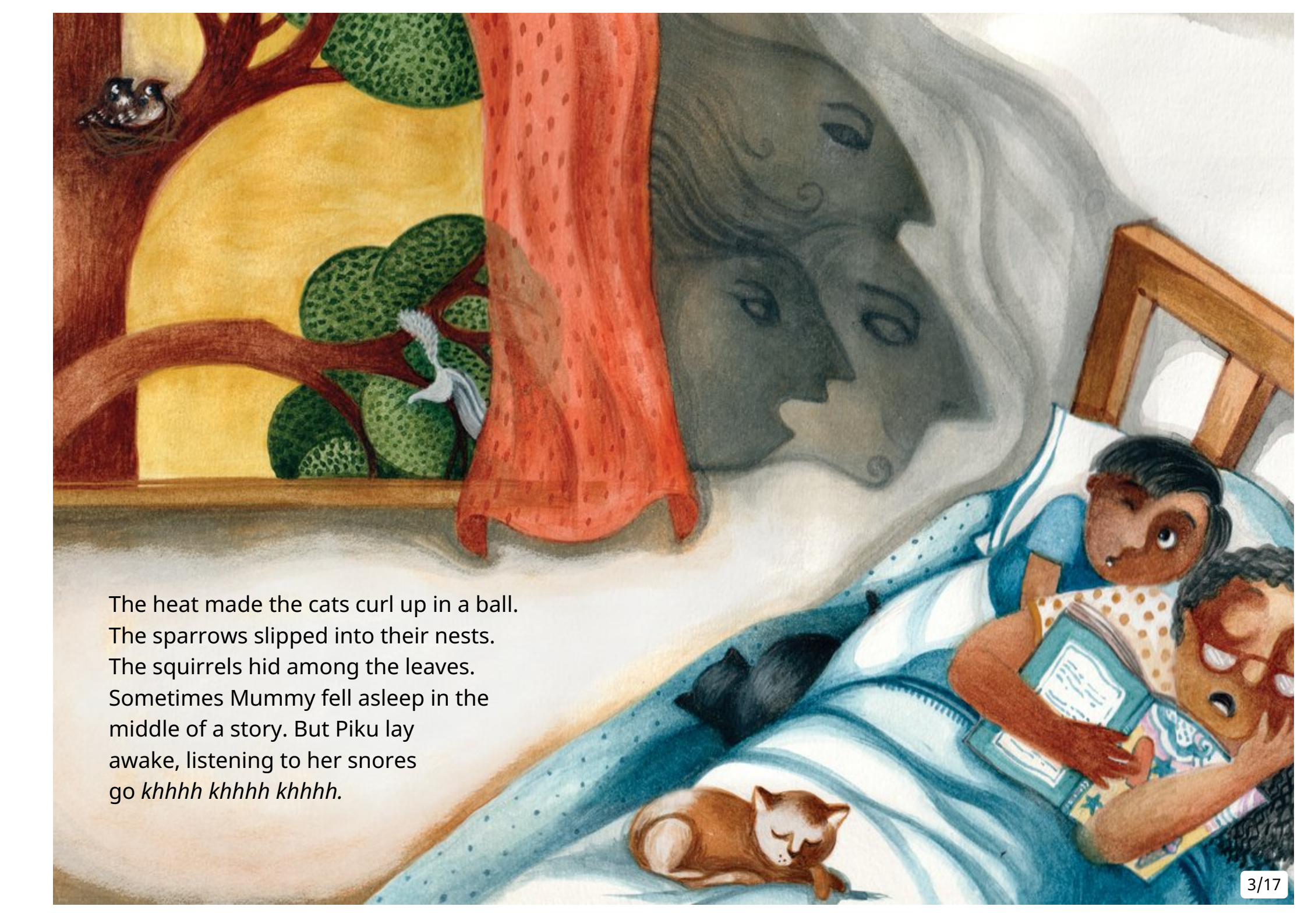
Author: Somak Ghoshal

Illustrator: Proiti Roy

Level 3



Piku loved summer afternoons.
He played with the cats that dozed on his window ledge.
He chased the sparrows on the balcony.
He fed the squirrels that lived on the mango tree.
But most of all Piku loved the stories Mummy read him in bed.

An illustration of a mother and a young girl in a bed. The mother, with dark skin and curly hair, is wearing a blue shirt and is reading a book to the girl. The girl, also with dark skin, is wearing a blue shirt and a patterned nightgown. They are both looking at the book. The bed has a blue blanket with white stars. A small black cat is curled up on the blanket near the mother. A larger orange cat is curled up on the floor next to the bed. In the background, there is a window with a red curtain. Outside the window, there is a large yellow sun, green trees, and a small birdhouse with two birds. A large, stylized grey face is visible on the wall behind the bed.

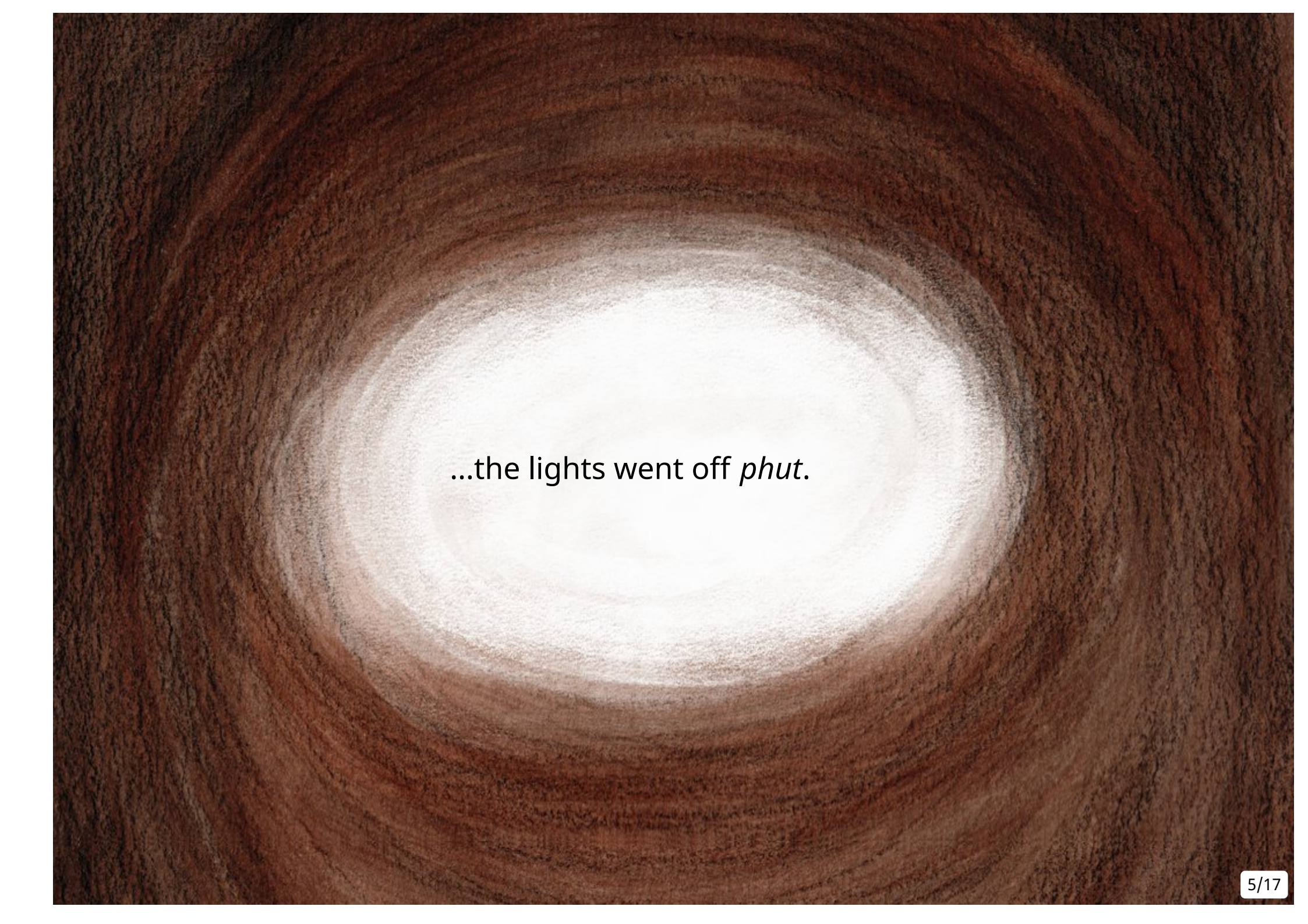
The heat made the cats curl up in a ball.
The sparrows slipped into their nests.
The squirrels hid among the leaves.
Sometimes Mummy fell asleep in the
middle of a story. But Piku lay
awake, listening to her snores
go *khhhh khhhh khhhh*.



He shut his eyes tight if the shadows
made scary faces on the wall.

Until evening came with a cool sigh.

But Piku did not like summer evenings
when...

A close-up photograph of a tree trunk, showing the concentric growth rings of the wood. The wood is a dark brown color with a rough, textured surface. In the center of the image, there is a bright, glowing white oval shape that appears to be a light source or a reflection. The text "...the lights went off *phut*." is overlaid on this central white area.

...the lights went off *phut*.

He *huffed* and *puffed* over
his sums by the lantern.
The mosquitoes sang
pnn pnn pnn.
The geckos ran
tut tut tut.
The crickets called
crr crr crr.





Sometimes he went to the terrace with Papa to look at the big black sky. They counted the twinkling stars, spotting the bear and the dog that hid among them.

When the lights came back on, everyone went *aaaaah*.



Then one day Mummy was gone.





Piku came home from school and asked the cats if they knew where Mummy was. They purred and licked his hand.

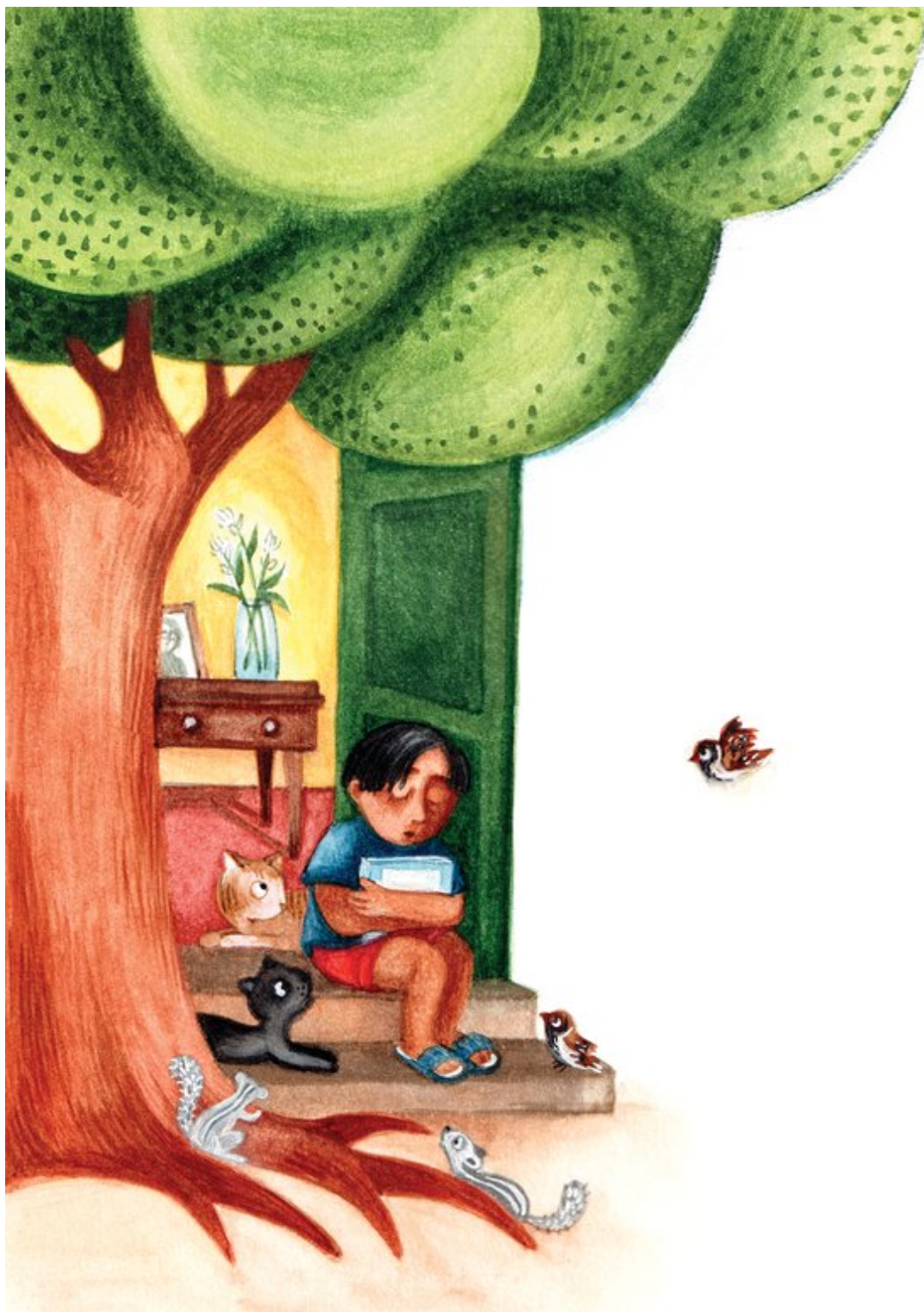
He asked the sparrows. But they twittered away.

He asked the squirrels, who squeaked and ran.



Piku asked Papa if he
knew where Mummy was.
Papa said she was gone
far away, for a very long time.





So Piku waited for Mummy every day.
He played with the cats and sparrows and
squirrels all afternoon. But no one read him a
story anymore. The shadows made scary faces
on the wall.

At night, he counted
the stars in the big black sky.
And the shadows filled his dreams
with spiders and roaches and ants.





Then, one afternoon, Piku picked
up a book and turned a page.

And oh!

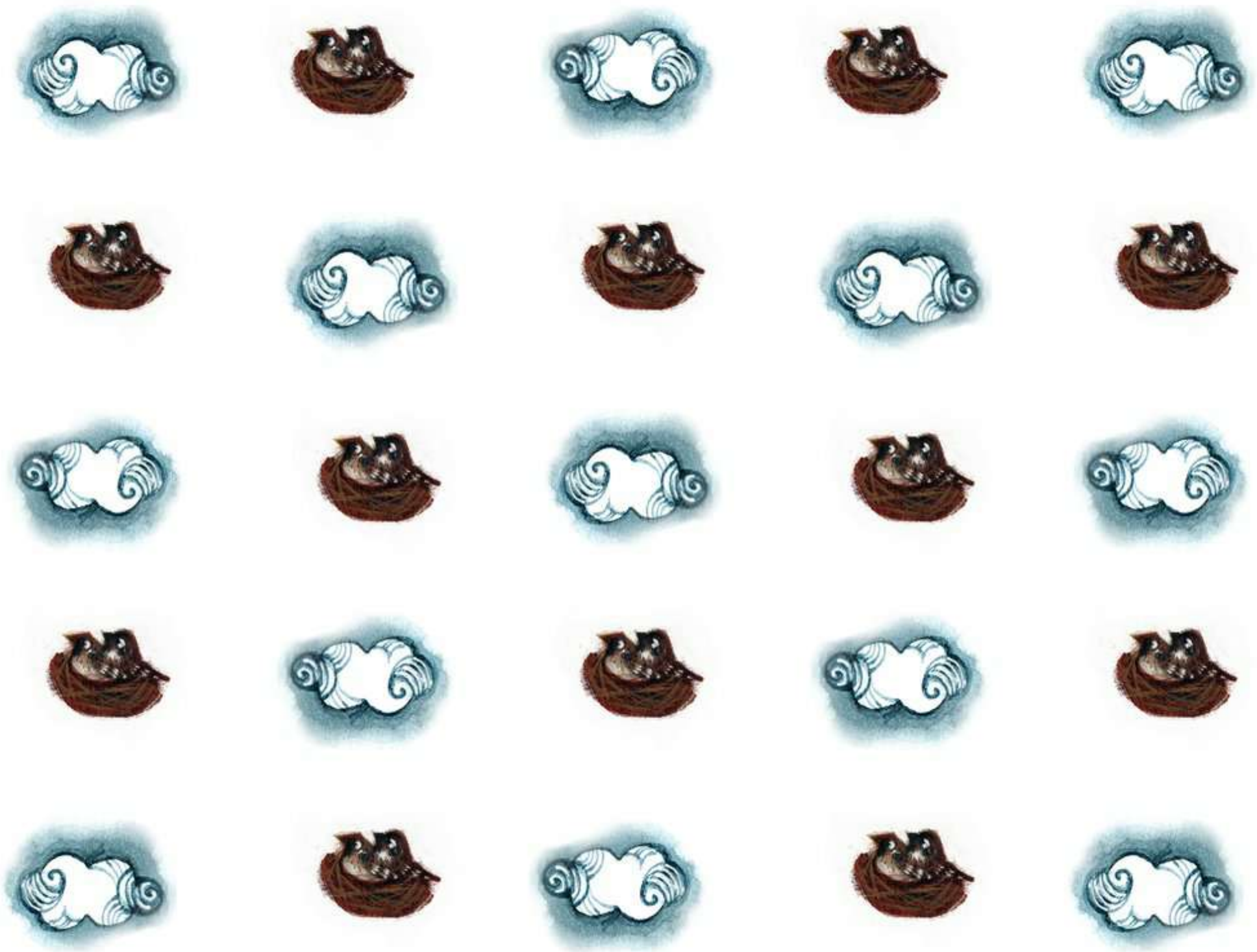


The kings and queens, fairies and witches were suddenly alive. The words made them laugh and cry, sing and dance.





Since that day, Piku read a new story in bed.
The cats stopped by to listen as they licked their paws.
And once again, his dreams felt soft like teddy bears
and bunnies—and sometimes they were lit
with his Mummy's brightest smile.



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Piku's Little World (English)

Piku loves long summer afternoons and does not like dark summer evenings. But his afternoons become darker, when, one day, there is no one to read Piku a story. Will Piku's books remain unread?

This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.



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