Kuwomba the Anxious Cloud

Author: Kuzhali Manickavel
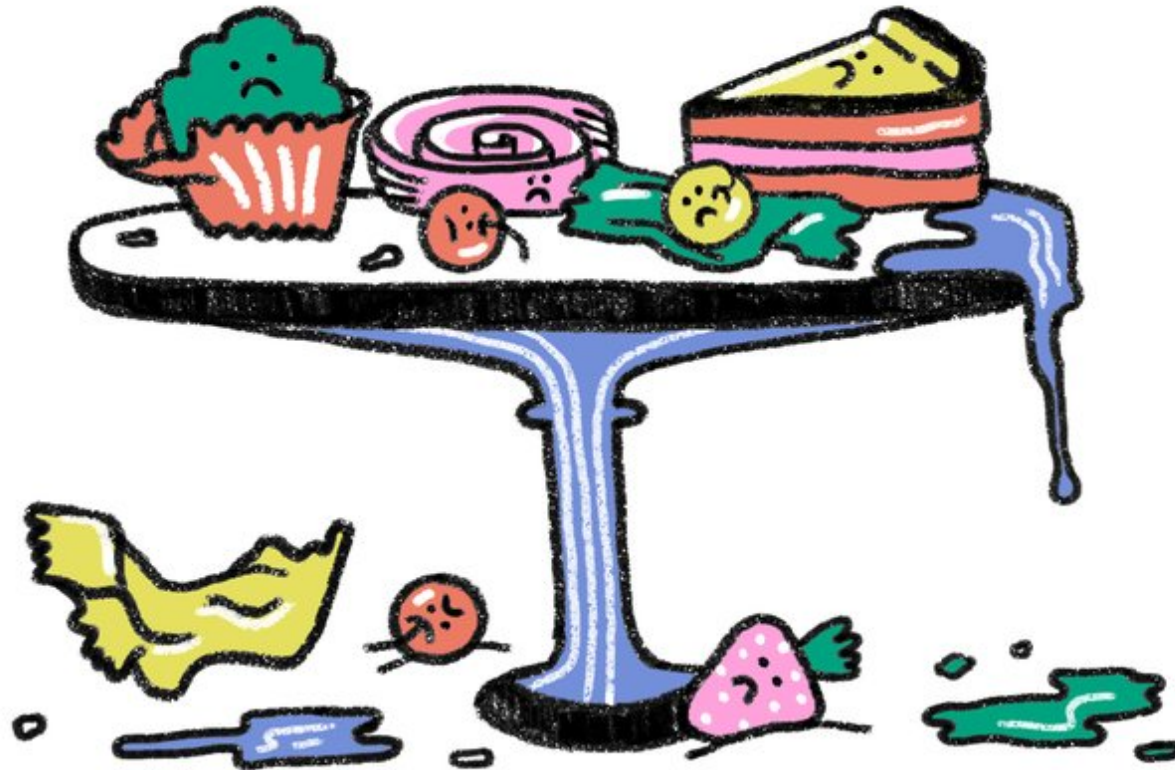**Illustrator:** Aditi Damle

Level 2

Kuwomba was the happiest cloud in Cloudpuram. She loved her sweet shop and she loved making sweets. One day, Kuwomba got a party order for 1,000 sweets! At first, she was excited. She imagined all the great clouds at the party enjoying her sweets.

Then she started to worry. What if she couldn't make 1,000 sweets? What if no one liked them? What if, what if, what if... Kuwomba couldn't sleep. She kept thinking about the 1,000 sweets and the what-ifs. She couldn't eat. Her hands were sweaty. Her tummy felt like it was flip-flopping inside her.

Kuwomba tried working harder but she couldn't stop worrying.

"What if everything goes wrong? What if I can't do it?
What if everyone hates my sweets?" she thought.

She became small and grey. Her hands began to shake. Her heart was racing all the time. She couldn't even breathe properly!
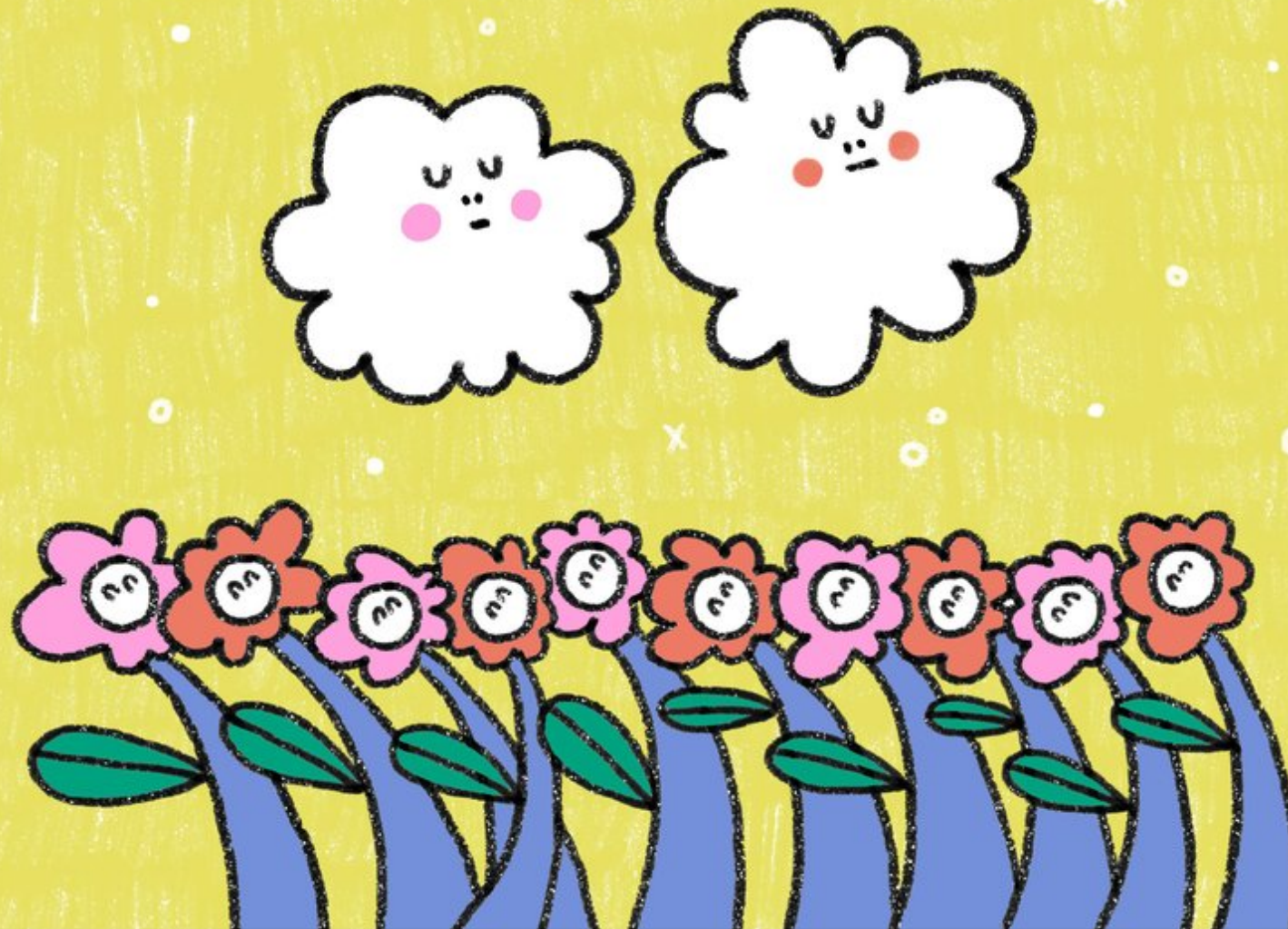
One morning, Kuwomba couldn't get out of bed. She was miserable. She still had so many sweets to make! What was she going to do?

Kuwomba's older sister, Apik, came to see her. Kuwomba began to cry. She told Apik everything. To her surprise, she started feeling better.
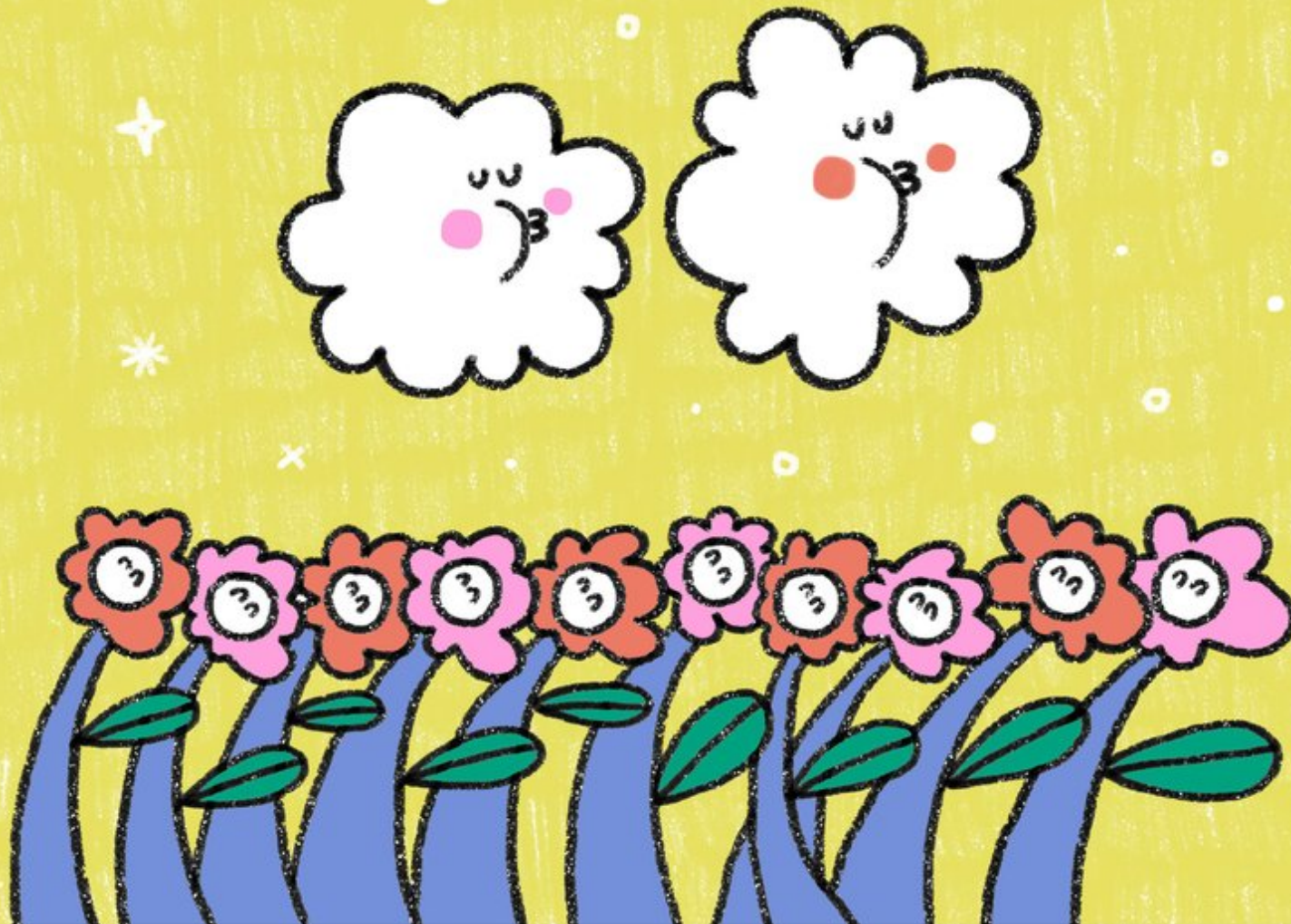
"Okay, let's take some deep breaths together," said Apik.

They breathed in slowly for ten counts and out for ten counts.
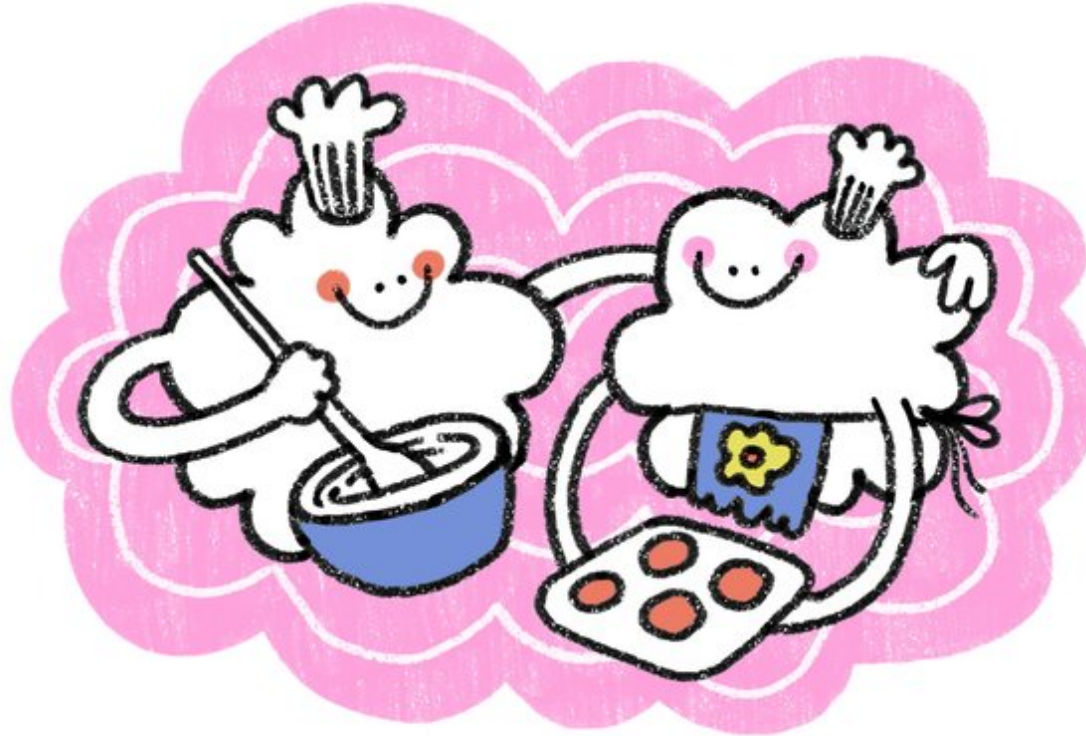Kuwomba began to feel fluffy again.

"Now let's go for a little float," said Apik.

They floated among giant, peaceful clouds.
Kuwomba looked at the big puffs and pretty colours.
Her heartbeat slowed down. Her hands weren't sweaty anymore.

"We will make the sweets together," said Apik.
"And it's okay if we don't finish all of them."

"What do you mean?" said Kuwomba.

"Let's just do our best," said Apik.
They started making sweets. It was easier with two people.
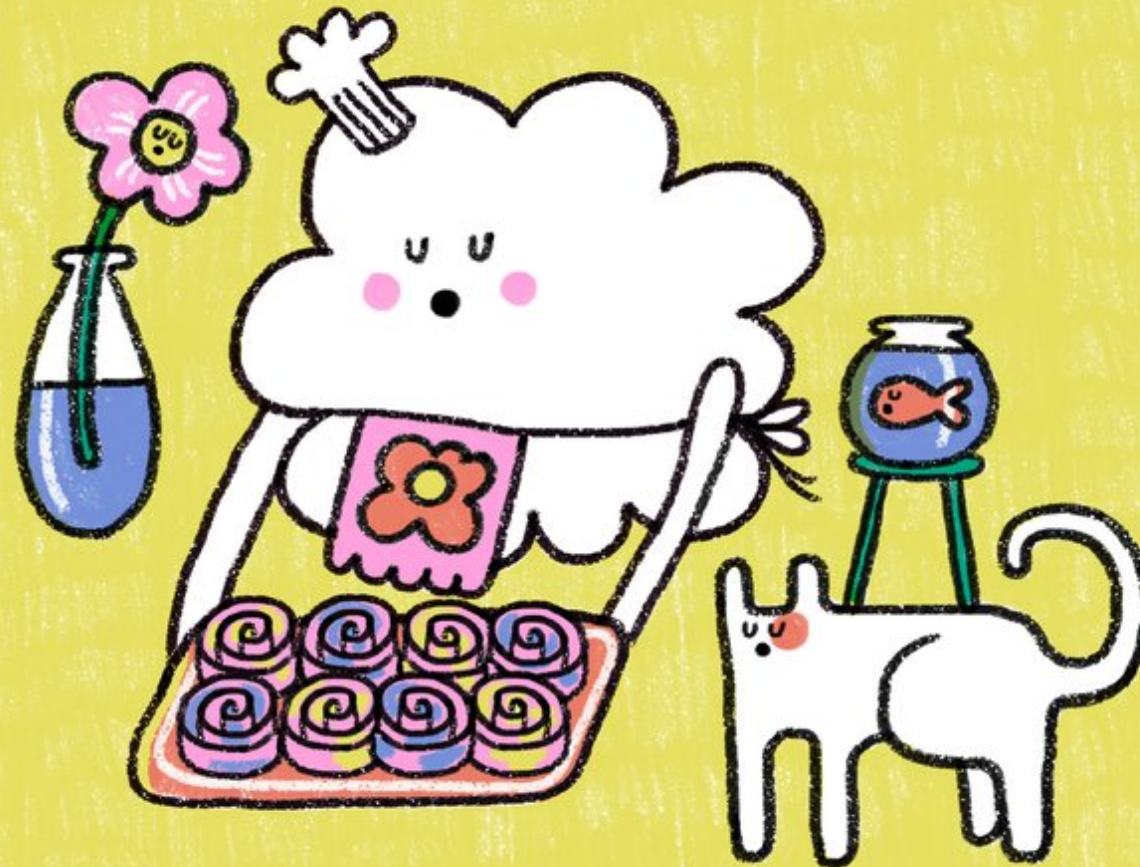
Kuwomba tried not to worry. Whenever she felt a 'what if' coming,
she thought about making the best sweets she could instead.

She took deep breaths and talked to Apik. This always made her feel better.

On the day of the party, Kuwomba had only 700 sweets.
She felt a little sad. She went out for a float.

She took slow, deep breaths and began to feel better.
In fact, she felt proud and happy. She knew she had done her best.

At the party, the sweets were a huge hit.
Kuwomba even got more orders!

"Next time I'll ask for help when I make the sweets," said Kuwomba, with a smile. It was her first big smile in a long time. Once again, Kuwomba was the happiest cloud in Cloudpuram.

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Kuwomba the Anxious Cloud
(English)

Kuwomba gets an order for a thousand sweets. She should be happy, but instead she cannot stop worrying. Will Kuwomba be able to make the sweets in time for the party?

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