



LIL KANYE, BIG FEELINGS



BY ELISHA SHANNON & JUSTIN KROEHLER



LIL KANYE, BIG FEELINGS

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DEDICATED TO OUR MOMS





This is World 808.

The 808 was divided into four regions.

There was the North region, ruled by the wild wolves:

the East region, ruled by the free birds:

the South region, ruled by the cunning camels:

and the West region, ruled by the burly bears.





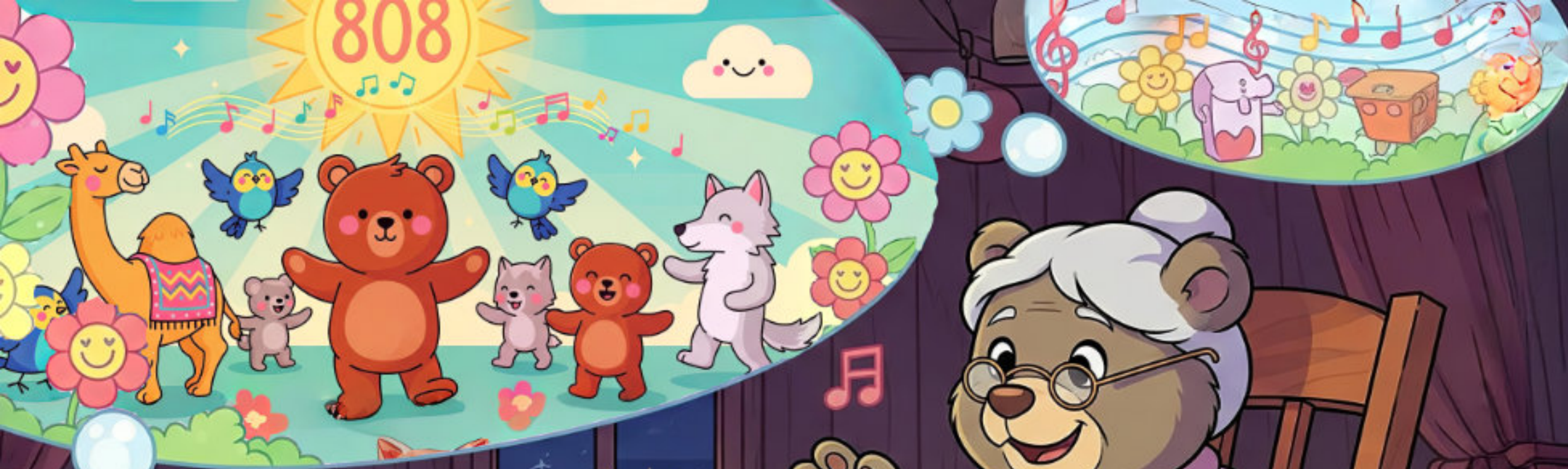
This is Lil Kanye.

He is the son of Big Ye, the
head builder of all the forest.

In the forest of the West region,
every bear cub knew that on his
eighteenth birthday,

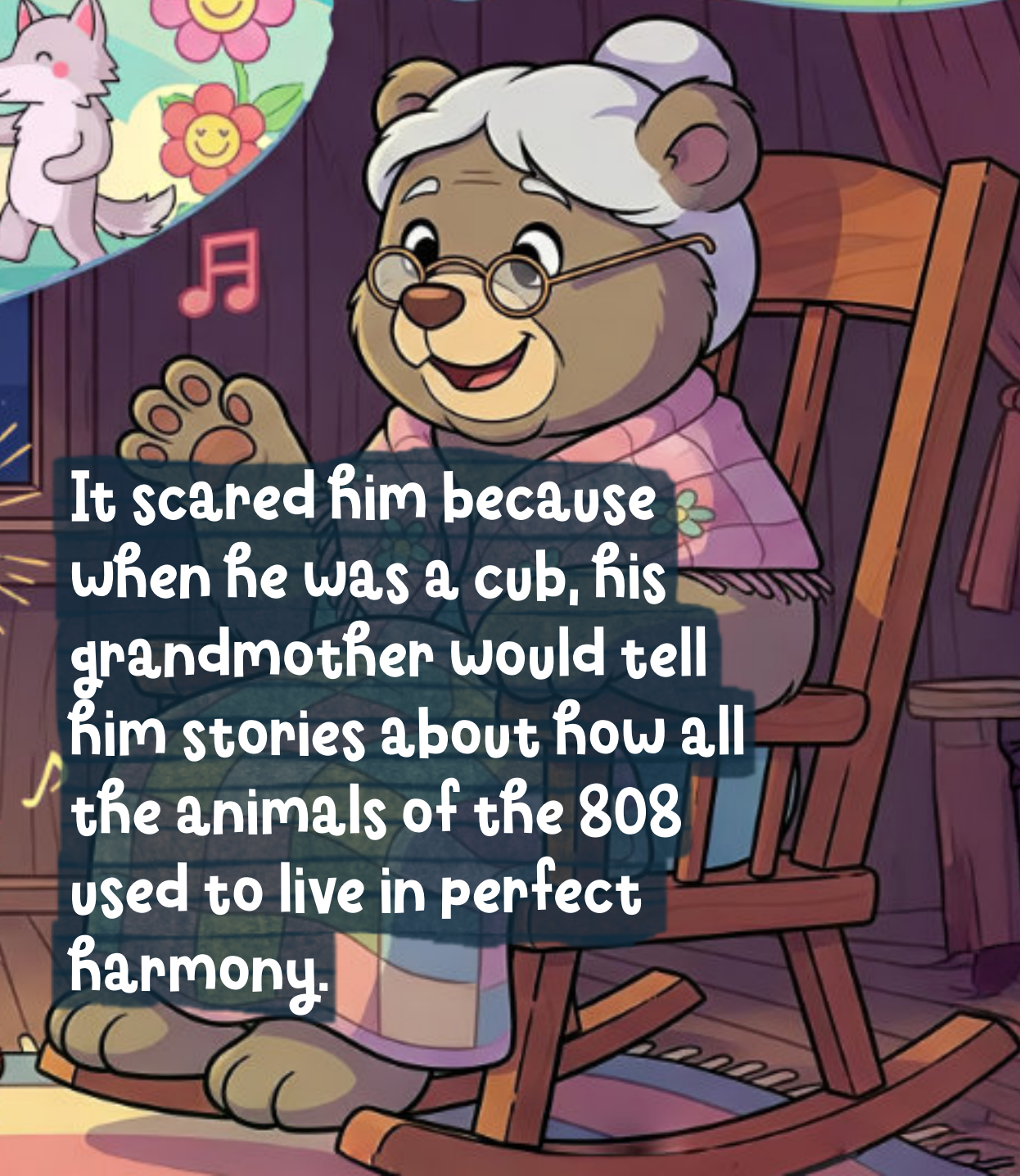
it was tradition to inherit
his father's business,

and that scared Lil Ye.



And ever since hearing these stories, Lil Ye had never been able to shake the feeling that he was meant for something much bigger than being a builder.

It scared him because when he was a cub, his grandmother would tell him stories about how all the animals of the 808 used to live in perfect harmony.



Seven days before Lil Kanye's eighteenth birthday, all of the bears planned a ceremony, where his father would appoint him as head builder.

But Lil Ye had something much different planned.






He planned to run away in the middle of the night in hopes to find a way to reunite all the regions of the 808 before the ceremony.


As he lay in his bed on the night of his escape, wrestling with the idea of disappointing all the bears, and especially his father, he remembered something his mother used to tell him: "The things that make us different are actually what unite us."






With his mother's words ringing in his ears, Lil Kanye grabbed his pack and began heading north.

The thing about the North region is that the sun never rises, so days and nights can begin to feel like weeks, especially for a bear who is a long way from home.



Hungry, tired, and cold, Lil Ye began to lose hope, that is, until he heard a sound unlike anything he had ever heard before.



Filled with fear but also hope, Lil Ye knew that when he reached the other end of the sound, he would find himself either dead or one step closer to reuniting the 808.

Lil Kanye followed the sound through the dead of the night, until it suddenly vanished. Knowing he was being watched and fearing he may face death, Lil Ye did the only thing he knew how to do.

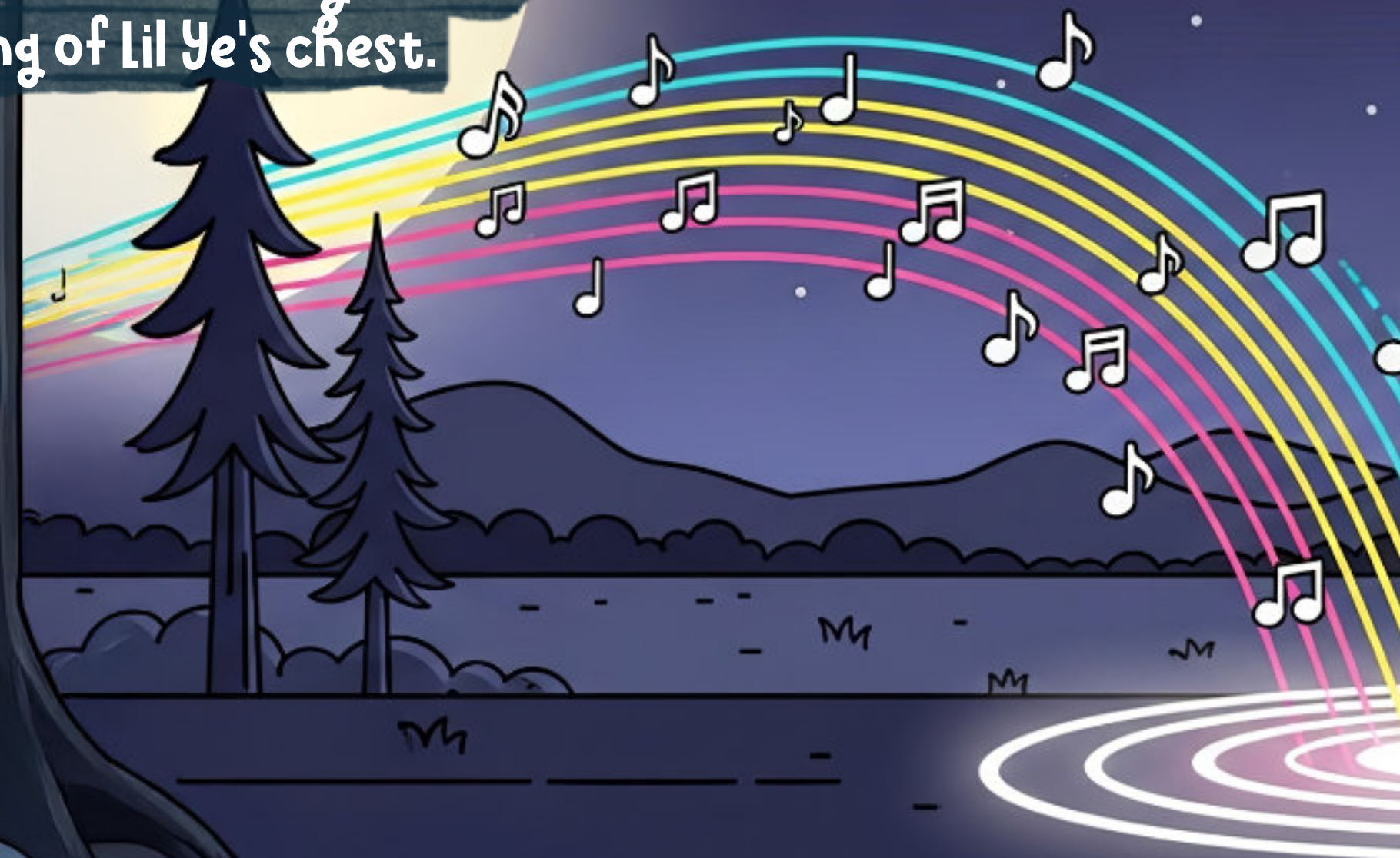
He clenched his fist, raised it to the air, and began to beat on his chest, slowly, while humming a song known by all bears.



Continuing his beat, he noticed a mystifying creature emerge from the shadows into the moonlight.



The creature began to recreate the unfamiliar sound Lil Ye had heard, in perfect harmony to the beating of Lil Ye's chest.



Unable to explain what had just happened, the creature introduced himself as a wolf named Kid and explained that the sound was a howl known by all wolves.

After Lil Ye explained his pursuit of happiness in uniting the 808, Kid agreed to lead him to the eastern border.





In their final moments together before reaching the East, Lil Ye told Kid, "I don't know when I will need you, but when I do, you will know."

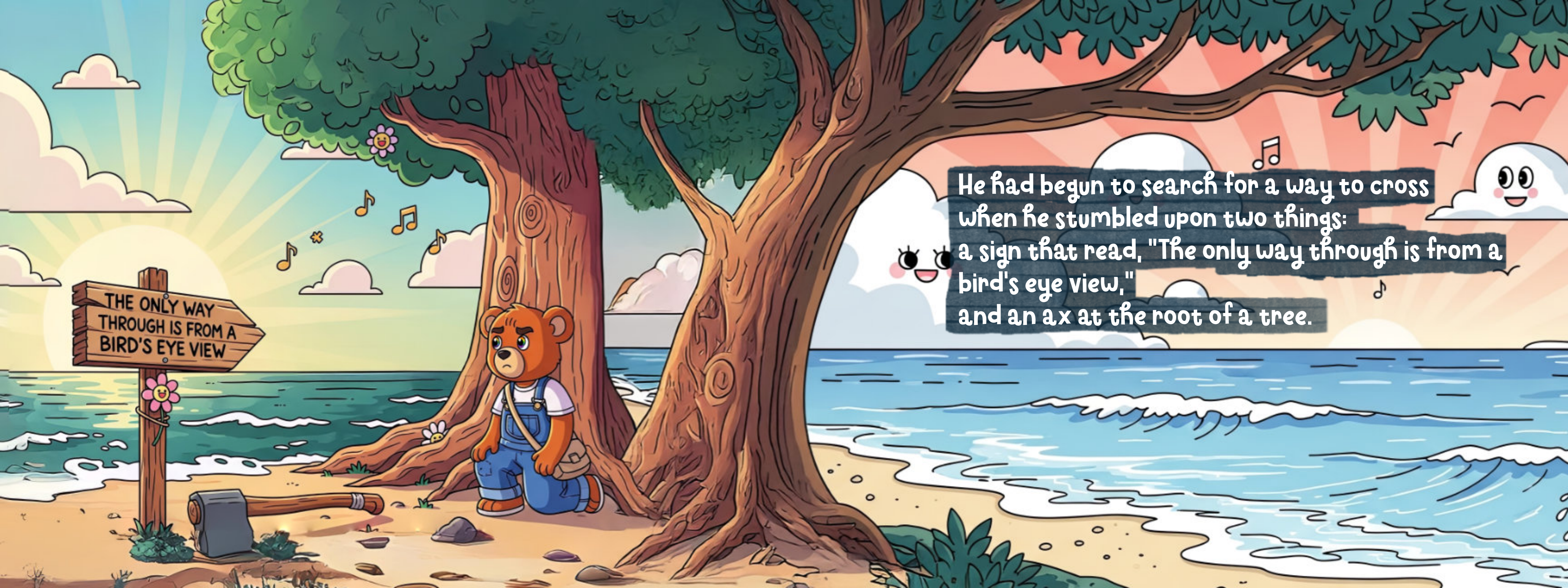
Reborn with newfound hope after meeting Kid, Lil Ye continued his trek to the East region.






The East is known for its vicious waters and towering trees, making it no place for a bear.

Unaware of how far it stretched, Lil Ye found himself standing at the water's edge with what seemed like no way to cross. Lil Ye knew that if he tried to swim, he would drown.



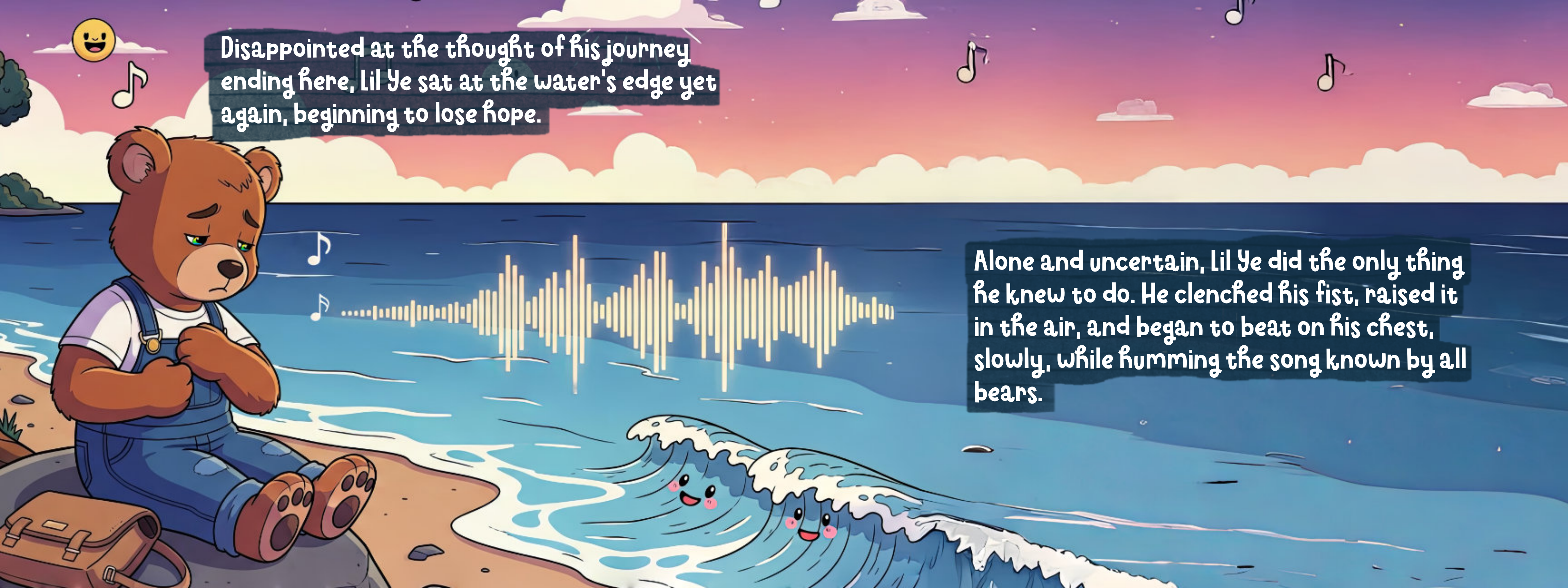
He had begun to search for a way to cross when he stumbled upon two things: a sign that read, "The only way through is from a bird's eye view," and an ax at the root of a tree.



Lil Ye was puzzled by what the sign meant, but he knew he could use the ax to build a raft if he chopped down the tree, because building is what bears do best.

Just before he swung his ax, Lil Ye noticed a nest on top of the tree.

Even though chopping down the tree to make a raft seemed to be his only way to cross the water, he knew he couldn't do it at the cost of destroying someone's home.



Disappointed at the thought of his journey ending here, Lil Ye sat at the water's edge yet again, beginning to lose hope.

Alone and uncertain, Lil Ye did the only thing he knew to do. He clenched his fist, raised it in the air, and began to beat on his chest, slowly, while humming the song known by all bears.

At that moment, he heard an unfamiliar sound coming from the tree, flowing in perfect harmony with the beating of his chest.

From the nest arose a majestic blue figure, which soared above the water. Drawn by the sound, Lil Ye followed the figure across the water, on a path that could only be seen from a bird's eye view.





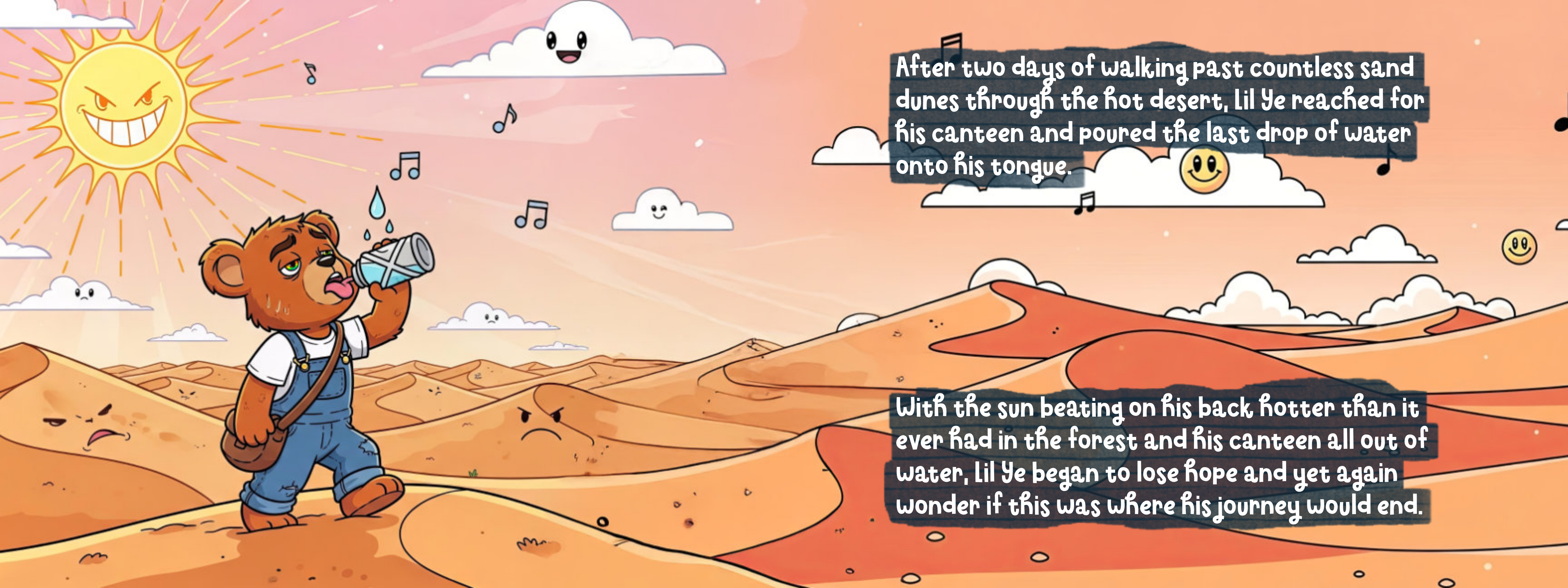
After crossing the water, unable to explain what had just happened, the blue figure landed on Lil Ye's shoulder and introduced himself as a blue jay named Z.

Grateful for Z's help, Lil Ye shared his story with him. Finally, before moving on to the next region, Lil Ye left Z by saying, "I don't know when I will need you, but when I do, you will know."



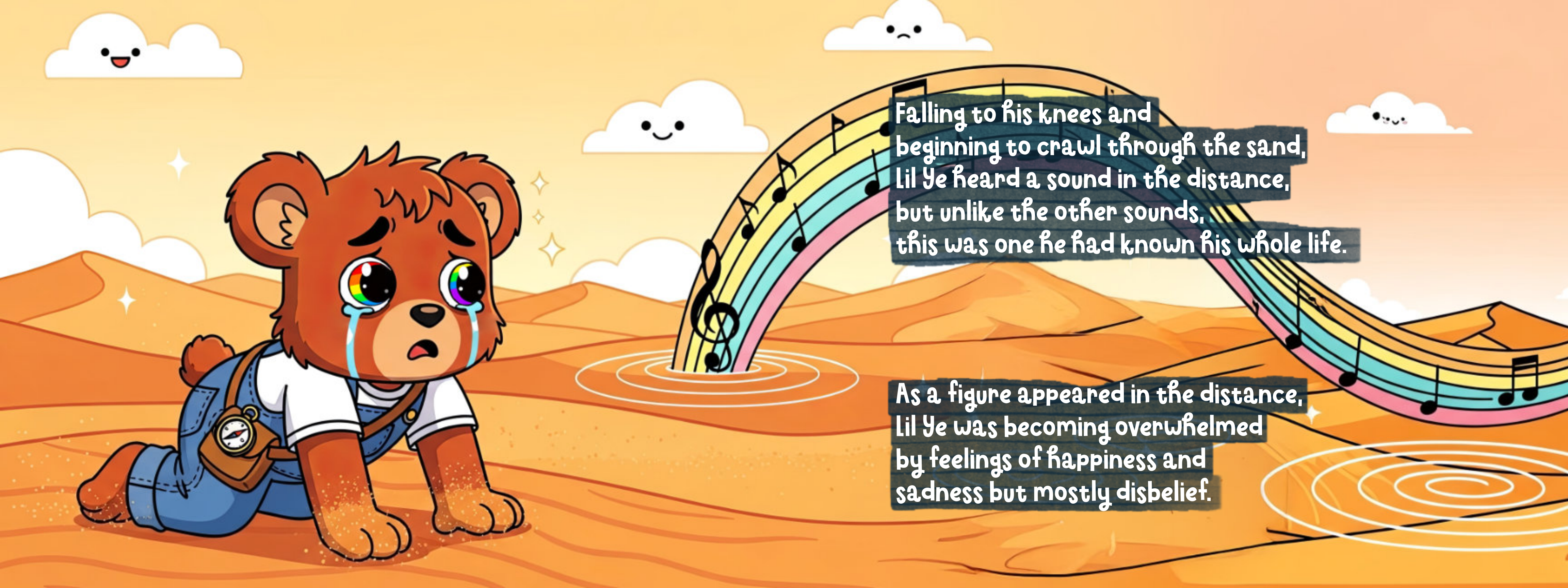
At the bottom of the 808 lies the South region, where the sun never sets.

Quickly after taking his first steps into the desert, Lil Ye was reminded of the stories his grandmother used to tell him about sweat pouring down your face in the desert like a hot shower of acid rain.



After two days of walking past countless sand dunes through the hot desert, Lil Ye reached for his canteen and poured the last drop of water onto his tongue.

With the sun beating on his back hotter than it ever had in the forest and his canteen all out of water, Lil Ye began to lose hope and yet again wonder if this was where his journey would end.



Falling to his knees and beginning to crawl through the sand, Lil Ye heard a sound in the distance, but unlike the other sounds, this was one he had known his whole life.

As a figure appeared in the distance, Lil Ye was becoming overwhelmed by feelings of happiness and sadness but mostly disbelief.

He wiped the tears now pouring from his eyes as he realized that the figure was actually his mother walking toward him, beating her chest and humming the song known by all bears.



As his mother stood over his withering body, she extended her arm to lift his chin, raised his fist into the air, and melodiously cried out the song of their people as he fell to his face in the hot sand.




Unsure of what day it was
or if he was even still alive,
Lil Ye was awakened by
a beautifully unfamiliar sound.



As he opened his eyes, he realized that the
creature creating this sound was
carrying him on its back to the western border.

When the two reached the border, the creature introduced himself as a camel named 3 and told him that when he heard Lil Ye's beautiful cries, he knew he had to take a chance and help him get back to the forest.





As Lil Ye walked through the familiar forest that he grew up in, he knew for the first time what he must do.



When he entered the village, all the bears gazed in awe and disbelief, amazed at the fact that Lil Ye had returned.



Unfazed by the reaction his return drew from the other bears, Lil Ye made his way to the center of the stage where the ceremony was to be held.



Standing by his father, with everyone's eyes on him, Lil Ye clenched his fist, raised it in the air, and began to beat on his chest, slowly, humming the song known by all bears.



Unable to ignore his energy, one by one, each bear began to join in perfect unison with the beating of Lil Ye's chest.

All, that is, except for Big Ye.



This sound, now familiar to all the animals, began to echo across each region.

Certain the sound was coming from Lil Ye, Kid, Z, and 3 began to lead all of the animals in the 808 toward the West region.



As they arrived in the village, they began to sing the songs of their people in perfect harmony with the beating of Lil Ye's and all the bears' chests.



Filled with pride at the sight of his son reuniting the 808, Big Ye clenched his fist, raised it in the air, and began to beat on his chest, slowly, while humming the song of all the animals.



Now, because of Lil Ye,
the 808 is a world
no longer divided by its differences
but united because of them.





WHERE DARKNESS HOWLS



WHERE WINGS TAKE DREAM



WHERE THE SUN NEVER SETS



WHERE ROOTS RUN DEEP

FOUR REGIONS.
ONE UNFORGETTABLE
JOURNEY.



CAN ONE BEAR'S
SONG UNITE A
DIVIDED WORLD?