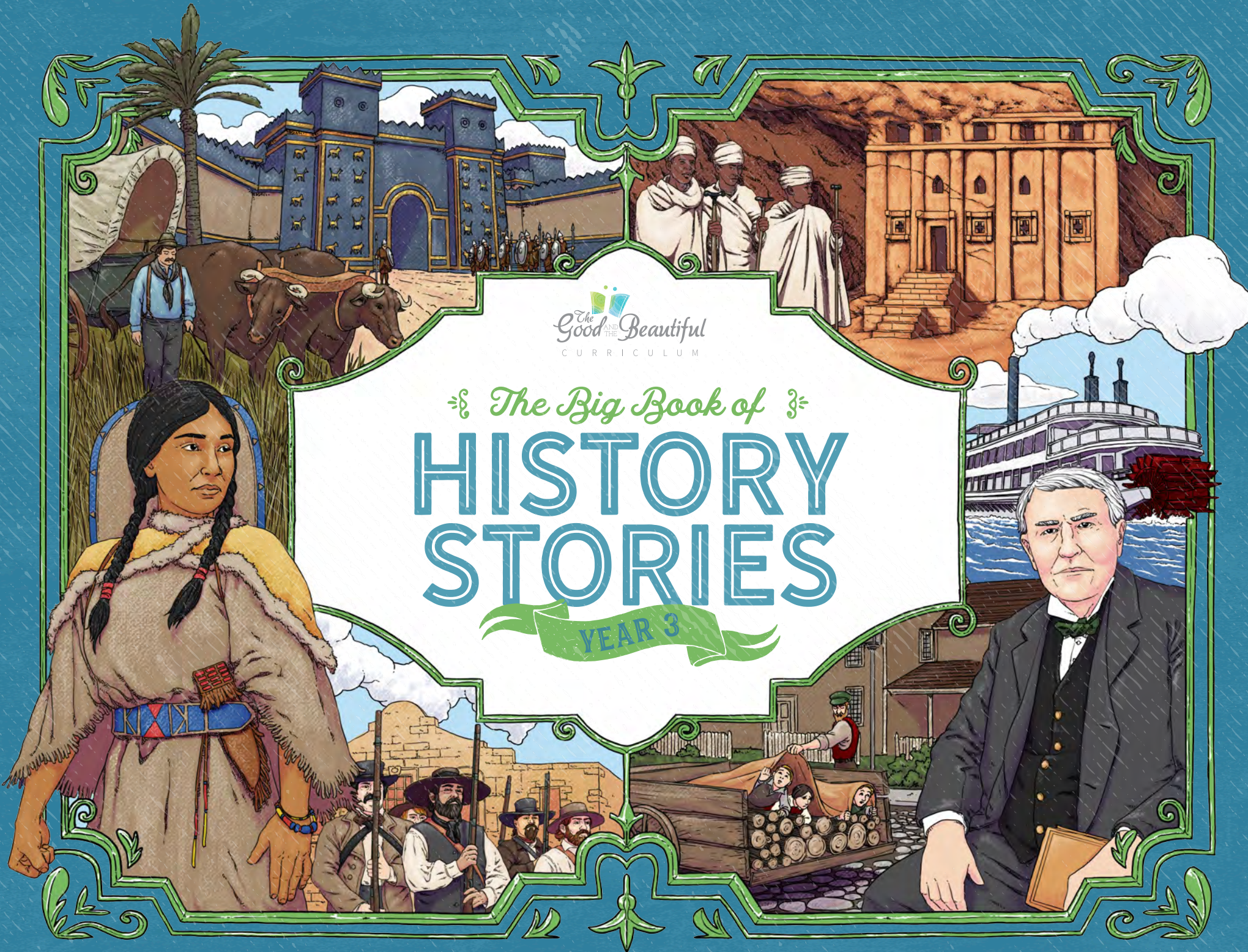






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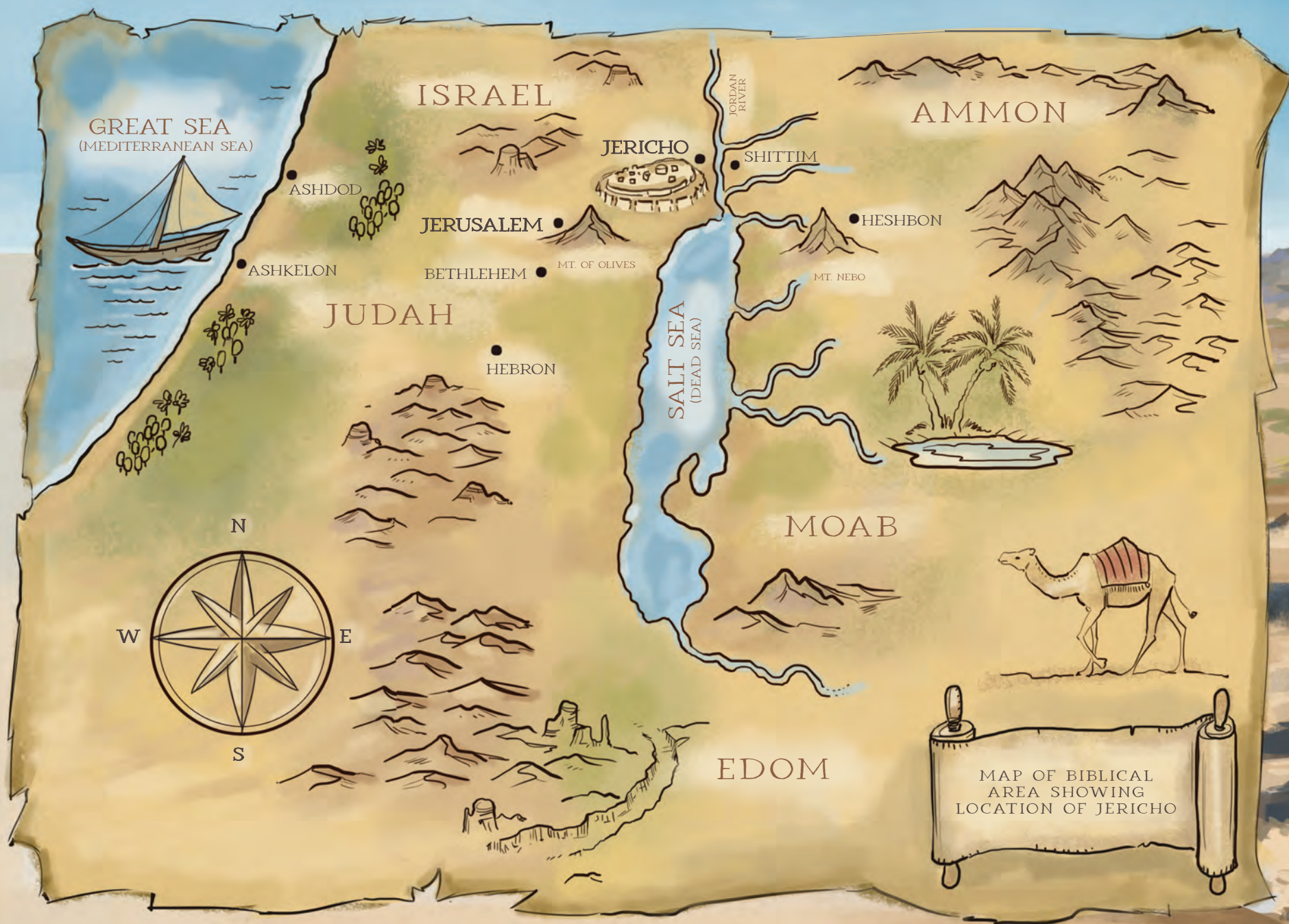
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# Uncovering JERICHO

Written by Ileana Board ♦ Illustrated by Ollie Cuthbertson











Fourteen-year-old Samuel woke with a start, then yawned and stretched. The bright Middle Eastern sun blinded him for a few moments as the car came to a stop. Samuel and his uncle, Dr. Lawrence, had traveled from England to the Tell es-Sultan Field School, where Samuel's cousin, Amelia, was working as an archaeology intern.

Samuel was thrilled to have the opportunity to visit another country. Back home in England, Dr. Lawrence was the curator of the Oriental Museum in Durham. Part of his job was to travel all over the world to find new artifacts to replicate for display in the museum, and this time, he had invited Samuel to come along!

Samuel was excited to see a new place, but he wasn't looking forward to spending a bunch of time in the dirt. He could usually be found indoors with his nose buried in a book about conquests, epic battles, world-building, or unsolved mysteries.



Samuel opened the car door to see the white tents of the excavation site billowing in front of him. Amelia was waiting to greet them, her curly red hair slick with sweat and her clothes smeared with dust.

"Dad! Sam! I'm so glad you came! Welcome to Tell es-Sultan!" She beamed as she gave them both giant bear hugs.

Amelia spent the next hour showing her

father and cousin around the excavation site. There were people everywhere—locals as well as archaeology students with bush hats and brushes—looking for artifacts to help present-day researchers learn about the people who had lived on this site in the past. Stone walls jutting out here and there from the dusty ground were the only indication that this had once been a thriving city.





"Isn't this amazing?" Amelia asked Samuel with an air of reverence.

"I guess so," stammered Samuel. "I mean, it looks dusty, hot, and a million different shades of tan. A bunch of stones piled up on each other isn't exactly exciting." Samuel looked worried; he didn't want to offend his cousin, but he didn't want to lie either.

Amelia and her father exchanged knowing smiles, and Amelia replied, "I can see it's time to reveal our surprise. This place is considered the oldest city in the world. It is the site of one of the most famous battles in the Bible. Sam, this is JERICHO!"

Samuel's eyes widened as he took in what his cousin was saying. "Jericho? As in 'the walls came tumbling down'? THAT Jericho?!"

"Yes," his uncle replied. "We are standing on the very city that Joshua and the Israelites surrounded and marched around for seven days, and whose walls crumbled down on themselves after the seven days—THAT Jericho."





AUDIO ACCESS CODE:



# Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego

Written by Heidi Jenkins | Illustrated by Jessica Clark



When King Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem, the Jewish people were removed from their homes and taken to a new land. Among those people were four young men who were firm in their beliefs, and the king soon saw that they would stick to those beliefs no matter what. These young men were named Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

Are these names unfamiliar to you? Perhaps you have heard of them by the names given to them under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel, who later became the great prophet, was called Belteshazzar. Hananiah's name was changed to Shadrach, Mishael was known as Meshach, and Azariah was called Abednego.

Let's learn about these young men of strong faith.





“Is it true that you will not serve my gods or worship the image I have made?” the king demanded of the men when they were brought before him. “If you will fall down and worship the idol when you hear the instruments play all kinds of music, that is good. If you will not, you will be thrown into a fiery furnace. And who can save you then?”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not hesitate to answer the king, nor did they waver. “O king, we won’t be careful in how we answer you,” they said. “God is able to save us from your furnace, if that is His will. But if He chooses not to, we still will not serve your gods nor worship the idol you have set up.”





Furious, the king demanded that the three men be thrown into the furnace and that it should be heated to seven times its normal heat. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego remained undaunted and didn't go back on their word. Instead, they allowed themselves to be bound and thrown into the fiery furnace. The flames were so severe that the servants of the

king who had thrown the Jewish men into the furnace were killed by its heat. But to the king's astonishment, he saw people walking around inside the furnace!

Quickly, the king stood and asked, "Didn't we throw three bound men into the furnace?"





AUDIO ACCESS CODE:

# EFE and the EMERALD

✧ WRITTEN BY JENNY PHILLIPS • ILLUSTRATED BY MCKENZIE ROSE WEST ✧







Efe watched as items from a donkey caravan were unloaded. It was not a camel caravan, unfortunately—that was an event that didn’t happen every day. But donkey caravans arrived in the city daily, bringing things such as honey, metal, tools, leather goods, and cloth. This day, Efe’s mother had sent her to get some honey. Efe gave the man a very small chunk of salt—just the size of a blueberry—to pay for the large pot of honey she had picked out.

In the ancient kingdom of Ghana, salt was so important that it was used to buy things. It was actually worth its weight in gold. But there was no lack of salt or gold in the land. In one part of the kingdom lay great gold mines. The gold mines were so valuable that the exact location of the mines was a well-guarded secret. In another part of the kingdom lay huge salt mines. The salt and gold made the kingdom rich.



As Efe turned to go home, something shiny caught her eye. She saw a flash of green and gold fall from a basket on one of the donkeys. She froze and looked around. No one else had seen the item fall. Efe couldn't even see it now—it was covered by the powdery dirt. Her heart pounded, and she kept her eyes glued to the spot where she had seen the flash of color. She guessed that the golden item might hold an emerald.

"Perhaps," she thought, "an emerald would be enough to buy Father's freedom."

A few minutes later, the donkey caravan moved on. Efe casually walked into the street and pretended to stumble, dropping her pouch as if by accident. She bent to pick it up. Raking her fingers through the dirt, she also picked up the item that had fallen off the donkey. She couldn't see it, but she could feel the cool gold clutched in her hand—gold in the shape of a pendant.





For the next five weeks, Efe went about her work as she normally did, still lamenting the absence of her father but glad she had chosen to be honest. She helped her sister make pots, she cared for the goats, and she picked plums as she tried her best to work harder than ever to help her family.

Then, one evening, just as the sun was starting to set, Efe saw a man walking across the fields toward her. She shielded her eyes from the sun and squinted. “Father!” Efe yelled as she dropped the basket she was weaving and ran to meet him.

“It was the emerald, Efe!” he said. “King Tenkamenin listens to the concerns of his subjects. When his assistant told him how you returned his emerald and proclaimed my innocence, he had me brought to him to tell my story. Now I am free! Thank you for doing the right thing.”

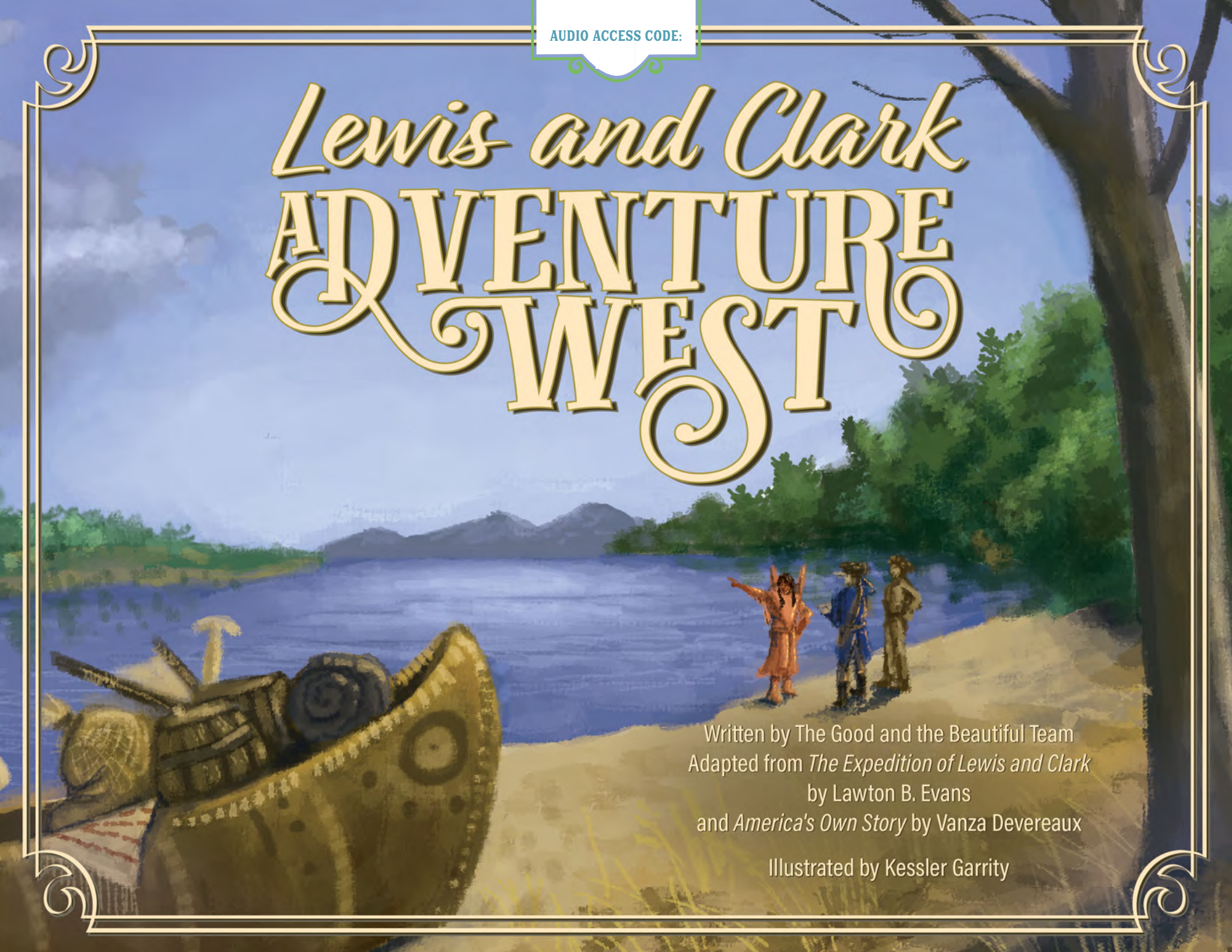
Efe hugged her father. For the rest of her life, she reflected often on his words, which filled her heart with peace and joy: “Thank you for doing the right thing.”





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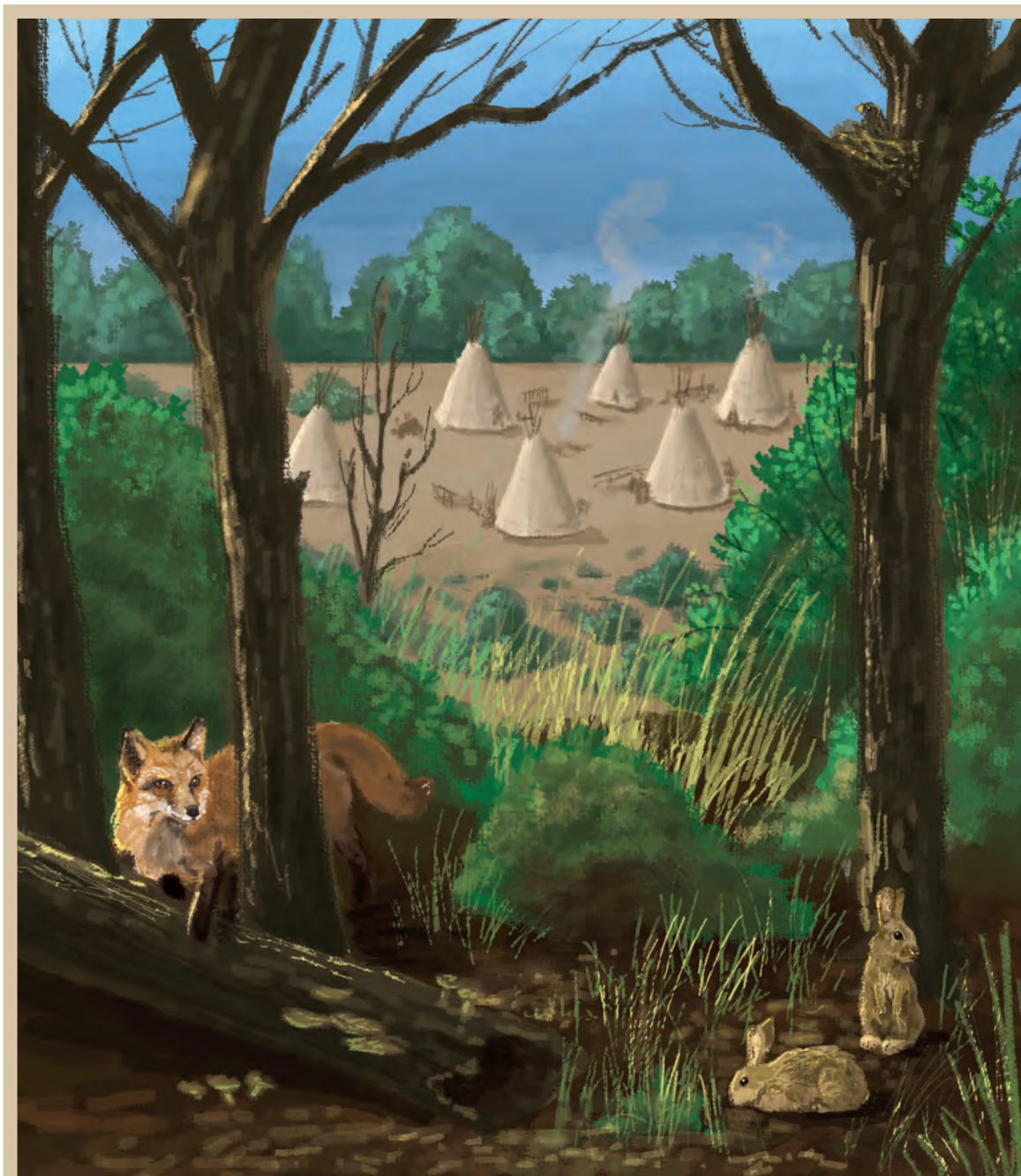
# Lewis and Clark ADVENTURE WEST



Written by The Good and the Beautiful Team  
Adapted from *The Expedition of Lewis and Clark*  
by Lawton B. Evans  
and *America's Own Story* by Vanza Devereaux

Illustrated by Kessler Garrity





When the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France, US citizens knew little about this rugged land. Beautiful plants and tall trees covered the area, a variety of animals roamed the valleys and hills, and Native people lived throughout. What would acquiring this vast land mean for the United States?

President Thomas Jefferson resolved to answer that question. Purchased from the French for fifteen million dollars, the expanse of land doubled the size of the country and brought a wealth of opportunity for the United States and its people.

President Jefferson searched for the right man to send on a mission of exploration, and he chose his own secretary, Captain Meriwether Lewis. Lewis then invited another brave soul, Captain William Clark, to accompany him. President Jefferson gave them specific directions to take detailed notes of the land and to find out all they could about the different Native Americans they encountered. Both men began this endeavor with full hearts and determined minds.



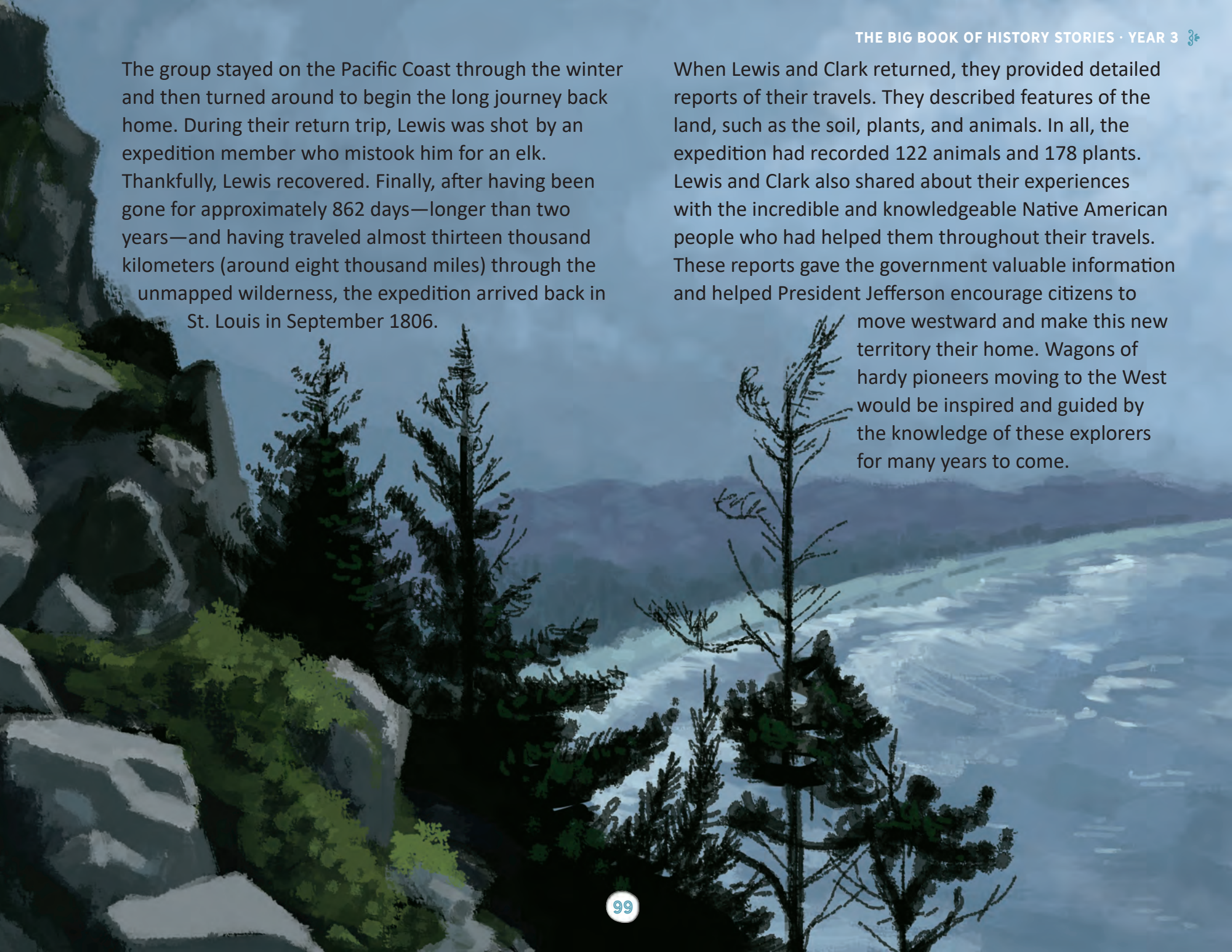
They gathered a group of soldiers and volunteers, and Lewis purchased a Newfoundland dog named Seaman, who would help with protection and hunting. The group met in St. Charles, Missouri, and officially launched their expedition on May 21, 1804. They were planning to travel the Missouri River in large wooden boats, but Lewis knew it would sometimes be too shallow for ships of that size. He designed a collapsible canoe to bring along on the journey, but unfortunately his design did not work, and he had to abandon his canoe along the way. Since the group intended to learn from and make friends with indigenous people

they met during their journey, they brought beads, knives, hatchets, mirrors, and brightly colored cloth with them to share and trade.

It was a beautiful time of year, and for days the men rowed their boats up the river, enjoying the scenic country as they traveled. Day after day the men passed by great trees with their branches hanging low to the water's edge, meadows filled with wildflowers, and thickets teeming with wildlife.







The group stayed on the Pacific Coast through the winter and then turned around to begin the long journey back home. During their return trip, Lewis was shot by an expedition member who mistook him for an elk. Thankfully, Lewis recovered. Finally, after having been gone for approximately 862 days—longer than two years—and having traveled almost thirteen thousand kilometers (around eight thousand miles) through the unmapped wilderness, the expedition arrived back in St. Louis in September 1806.

When Lewis and Clark returned, they provided detailed reports of their travels. They described features of the land, such as the soil, plants, and animals. In all, the expedition had recorded 122 animals and 178 plants. Lewis and Clark also shared about their experiences with the incredible and knowledgeable Native American people who had helped them throughout their travels. These reports gave the government valuable information and helped President Jefferson encourage citizens to move westward and make this new territory their home. Wagons of hardy pioneers moving to the West would be inspired and guided by the knowledge of these explorers for many years to come.



AUDIO ACCESS CODE:

# THE PLANT DOCTOR

## The Story of George Washington Carver

Written by Heidi Jenkins | Illustrated by Bojana Stojanovic







In 1880 George graduated from a high school in Kansas, and five years later, he was accepted to Highland College. George joyfully made his way to the college but was met with terrible disappointment, being turned away

because he was Black. For a time, George stopped trying to go to school and instead worked on creating a homestead for himself. There, he spent much of his time gathering, growing, and studying the plants he so loved.



Eventually, George settled in Iowa and met some new friends, a couple called the Milhollands. “Don’t give up!” they urged him. “Don’t stop learning!” Encouraged, George applied to Simpson College, and this time, the school was happy to have him. There, he studied art and piano, but an observant teacher named Etta Budd soon recommended a change that would alter his life and the history of agriculture forever.

“You ought to pursue a degree in botany,” she suggested. “You’re a talented painter, but you have such an impressive understanding of nature!” George heeded Miss Budd’s counsel and soon became the first Black student to attend Iowa State Agricultural College (now Iowa State University). It was there that he really began to make a name for himself.





In 1894 George became the first African American to ever earn a bachelor of science degree, but that wasn't enough—he wanted to learn even more! Just two years later, he completed his master's degree and became Iowa State's first Black faculty member. By this point, George had gained quite a bit of attention, and soon he had a big decision to make. Booker T. Washington, creator of the Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University), had invited George to leave Iowa and come work for him instead.

Washington wanted to create an agricultural school at Tuskegee while continuing to have an all-Black faculty, and George was uniquely qualified for the job. George gave the offer a great deal of thought; he had long wanted to help Black farmers, and the job at Tuskegee would give him the opportunity to do just that. He accepted the position and lived at Tuskegee for the rest of his life.





During his time at Tuskegee, George encouraged farmers to periodically grow peanuts instead of cotton—cotton depleted the soil, but peanuts did the opposite and added helpful nutrients. At first, locals were nervous about this idea. They had always grown cotton! But according to George, that was why the soil was so bad, so some people started to test his idea.

One day, George was faced with a predicament. “I did as you directed,” a woman said, “but now what do I do? I have so many peanuts that I don’t know what to do with them!”

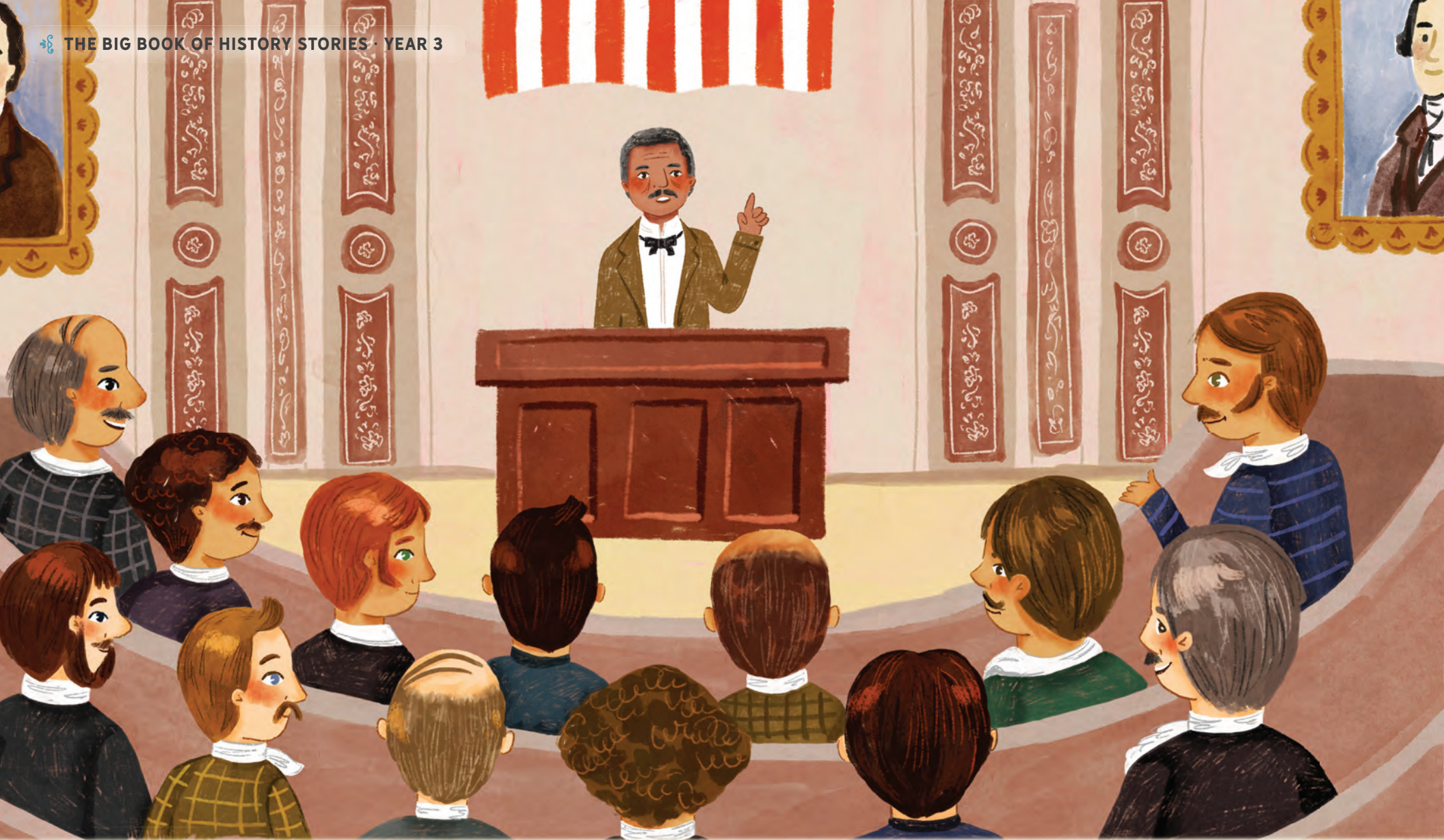
With faith and determination, George headed to his lab, and he didn’t emerge until God had inspired him with multiple ways farmers could use their high-yielding crops. That number climbed to more than three hundred peanut-based products during his lifetime! Because of this, George came to be known as the “peanut man.”











George also taught people more than one hundred ways to use sweet potatoes and more than fifty uses for pecans, but his identity as the “peanut man” continued when, in 1921, he paid a visit to the US House of Representatives. He’d been asked to defend the country’s peanut industry, since many House members wanted the

peanuts brought in from other countries to be taxed. Though the representatives attempted to keep him from the meeting and were not respectful of him or his expertise when he first began, he soon held their full attention and spoke until he had convinced his audience of the importance and possibilities of peanuts.



AUDIO ACCESS CODE:

# TESSA and the TULIP FARM

Written by Jenny Phillips | Illustrated by Marta Koshulinska



Ten-year-old Tessa sat on the grassy bank of the canal that bordered her family's tulip farm in the northern part of the Netherlands. As the white clouds floated lazily above her, she watched the windmills moving in the distance and let her bare feet dangle in the cool water. After a while, she picked up her wooden shoes and started to head back home across the flower fields. She hummed as she walked, feeling tempted to chase the white butterflies that occasionally fluttered up from the flowers.

When she saw her older brother, Jasper, running across the field toward her, yelling her name, her heart dropped. What was wrong?





In a few seconds, Jasper stood before her, panting. “Tessa!” he cried as he pointed north. “Look! Look at the smoke!”

Faintly in the distance, Tessa did indeed see smoke. “What is it from?” she asked, trying to push down her feelings of alarm.

“The Nazis! They’ve invaded. Father just heard it on the radio.”

“But . . .” Tessa stammered, “but when the war started eight months ago, we proclaimed neutrality, just like we did in World War I.”

“Well, Hitler decided to invade anyway. Father says Hitler wants us to be part of Germany, but he also wants our air bases and ports and the use of our canals and rivers to help him fight other countries around us. Come on, Father said we should stay inside until we know what is happening.”

The two siblings ran across the field toward their home.

Tessa and her family did not go out much over the next few days as the battle continued. They sat around the radio, listening for news. The fighting seemed to be getting closer and closer to their farm. Then they received the news: After just five days, the Netherlands had surrendered. The Dutch government and the royal family had escaped and gone into exile in London.

Tessa’s father gathered the family. “Do you know what this means now?” he asked. “We are under German occupation. I don’t know exactly how this is going to change the way we live, but it will.”

He pulled the Bible off the shelf and read Psalm 115:11—“Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord: he is their help and their shield.” He sat Tessa on his knee and spoke quietly. “No matter what happens, we will trust in God.”





Life went on as normal at first, except for the Nazi soldiers occasionally driving up and down the streets in the distance. But then one day, when Tessa went to school, her teacher did not come. The students sat at their desks and waited for two hours. They had heard rumors from other villages of teachers who were Jewish being dismissed, some of them even being reassigned to labor-intensive work on farms taken over by the Nazis. Tessa's beloved teacher was Jewish.

The children sat in their chairs in silence, no one daring to speak, until, finally, a woman walked in and said with a German accent, "I'm your new teacher. Let's begin today with a new subject . . . the German language."

Tessa looked out the window and saw a Nazi jeep passing by. Her heart sank. *How long will we be under German control? Will we ever be free again?* she wondered.





AUDIO ACCESS CODE:



# MARGARET AND THE REFUGEE

Written by Heidi Jenkins | Illustrated by Jessica Clark





“What can one person do?  
That is the question that  
people so often ask. Never  
hesitate to do whatever you  
can, for you may save a life.”

— Margaret Thatcher



Margaret and Muriel whirled toward the sound of a creaky hinge. There in the doorway stood their father, who was holding the door open for Edith. As she entered the home, Edith smiled shyly at the family.

“Edith!” Muriel exclaimed, beaming and embracing the other girl. “It’s wonderful to see you.”

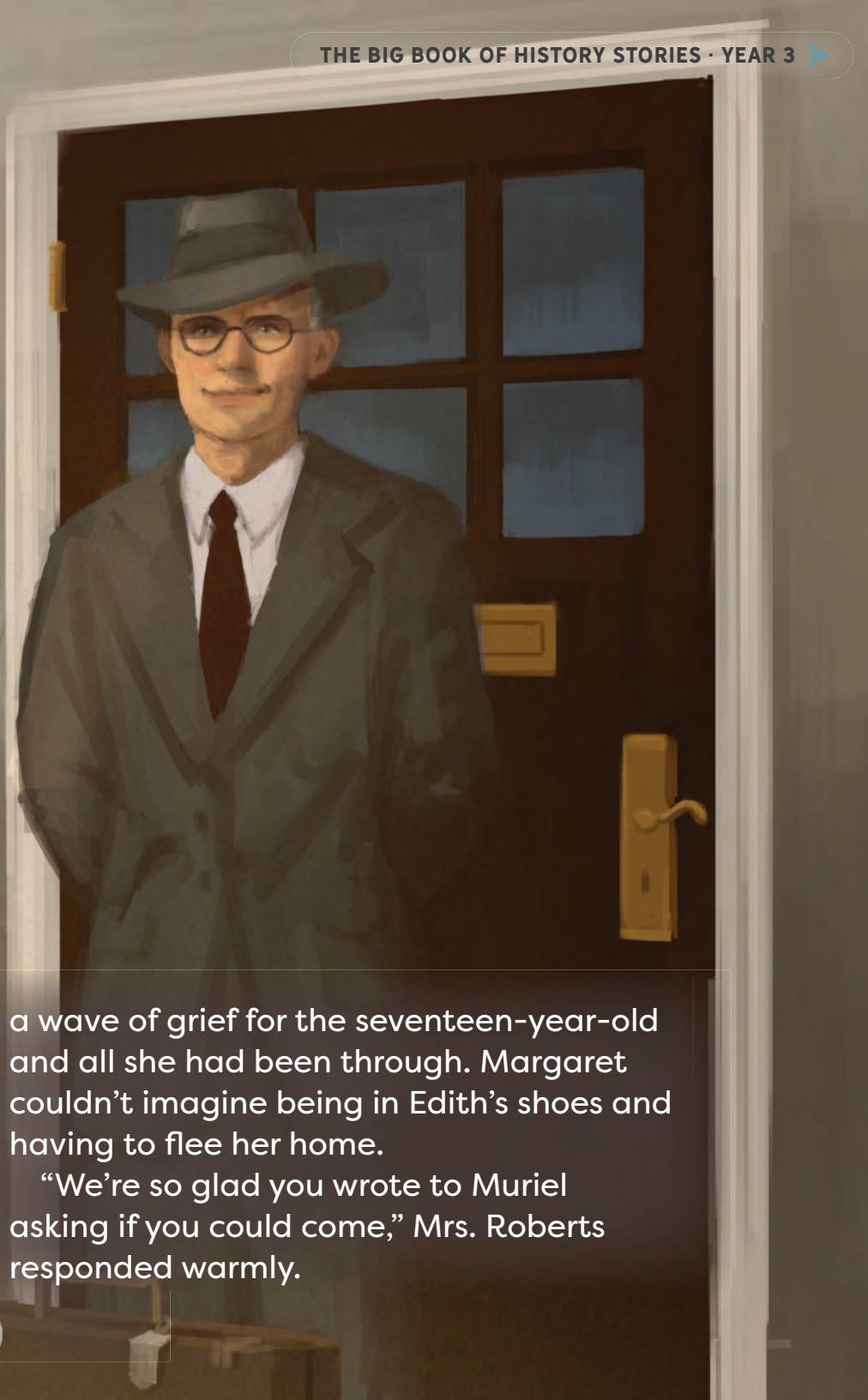
“Thank you!” Edith replied. “It’s so nice to meet you in person, Muriel.”

Father smiled as he closed the door behind himself. “Edith,” he said, nodding to the women in the room, “you know Muriel, of course. This is Margaret, and this is my wife, Beatrice.”





“Nice to meet you all,” Edith said. “Thank you so much for letting me come and stay with you. It means the world to me.” Edith’s eyes shone with something Margaret could not quite understand. She wasn’t sure if it was pain or appreciation. The look deeply affected Margaret, who was flooded with



a wave of grief for the seventeen-year-old and all she had been through. Margaret couldn’t imagine being in Edith’s shoes and having to flee her home.

“We’re so glad you wrote to Muriel asking if you could come,” Mrs. Roberts responded warmly.





In 1979, Margaret Thatcher made history when she became the United Kingdom's first female prime minister. This new role enabled Margaret to do even more good, and she served longer than any other prime minister during the 1900s. While in office she promoted freedom from governmental control by lowering income taxes and privatizing many types of businesses so



they were owned by individuals and not the government. When war broke out between Britain and Argentina, Margaret Thatcher led her country to victory. And throughout her time as prime minister, she worked closely with US President Ronald Reagan as they both fought against what they felt were the evils of their day.









Even before her appointment as prime minister, Margaret Thatcher made a lasting impression. In 1976, she spoke boldly against communism and the Soviet Union, earning herself the nickname the Iron Lady for her condemning words. The Soviet press meant to insult Thatcher with the name Iron Lady, but she wore the name with pride and continued to stand for freedom and human rights.

Margaret Thatcher served as Britain's prime minister for eleven years, and even after resigning, she continued to stand for her beliefs while she served as a member of parliament and pursued public speaking. Thatcher died in 2013 after a long and fruitful life. Though others didn't always agree with her policies and decisions, she served the people of her country and the world in many ways and left a powerful legacy.