

TOWARD THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA

With the pines of Arizona behind them, the flowers traveled south and west into the desert. They talked about all the piñons they had seen: piñon pines, piñon nuts, and piñon jays.

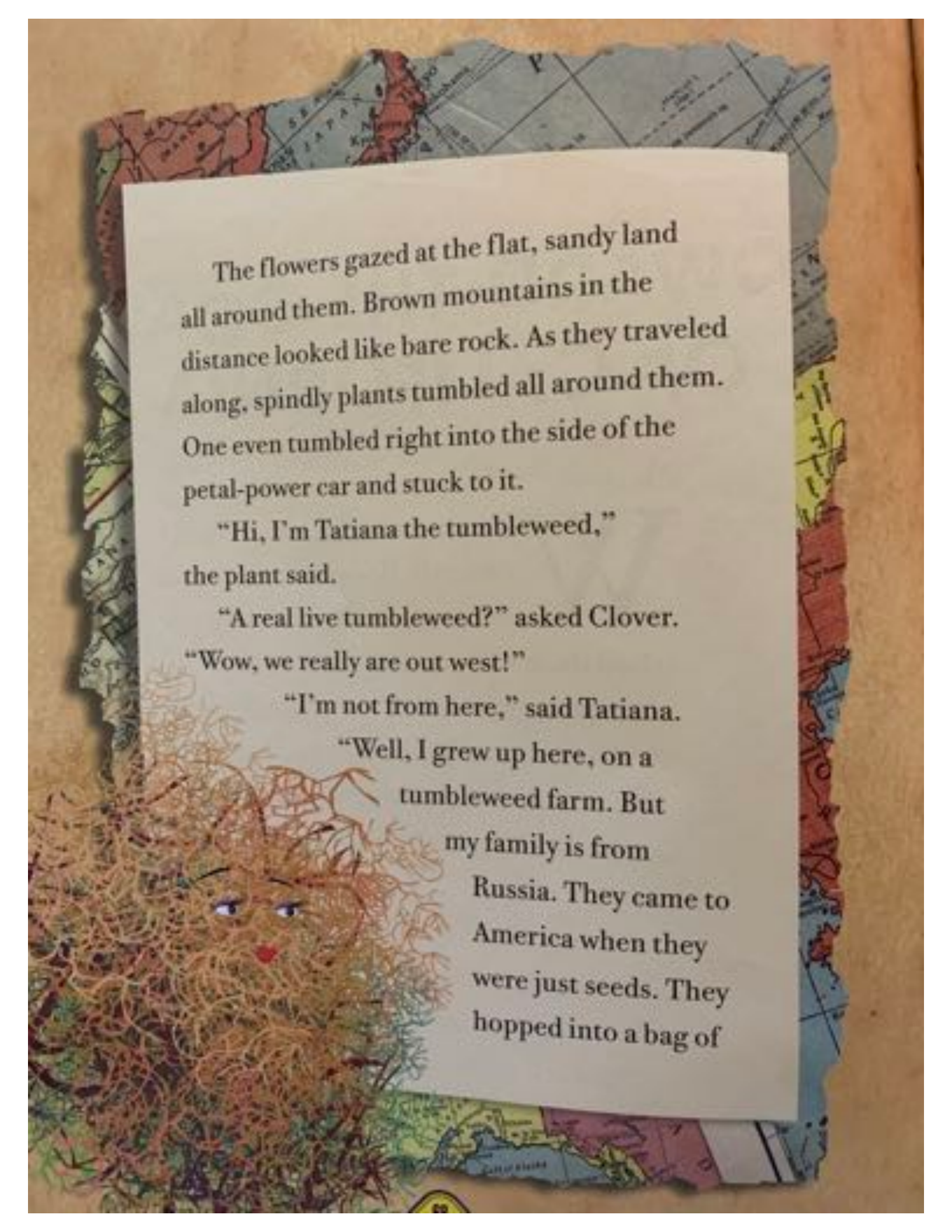
"I love the smell of pine trees," Lupe said.

"It's good that they're growing again," said Clover. "But I'm still worried about my cousin in Alaska."

"Alaska, here we come!" cried Sunny.

"First we're going west to the coast of California," Lupe reminded her friend.

"And before that, we have to cross this hot desert," Zinni added.

The page features a white rectangular text area with a decorative border of torn map paper. The map shows various geographical features, including a red-shaded area labeled 'MEXICO' and a blue-shaded area labeled 'SEA OF JAPAN'. A small illustration of a tumbleweed character with a face and eyes is positioned at the bottom left, partially overlapping the text area.

The flowers gazed at the flat, sandy land all around them. Brown mountains in the distance looked like bare rock. As they traveled along, spindly plants tumbled all around them. One even tumbled right into the side of the petal-power car and stuck to it.

“Hi, I’m Tatiana the tumbleweed,” the plant said.

“A real live tumbleweed?” asked Clover.
“Wow, we really are out west!”

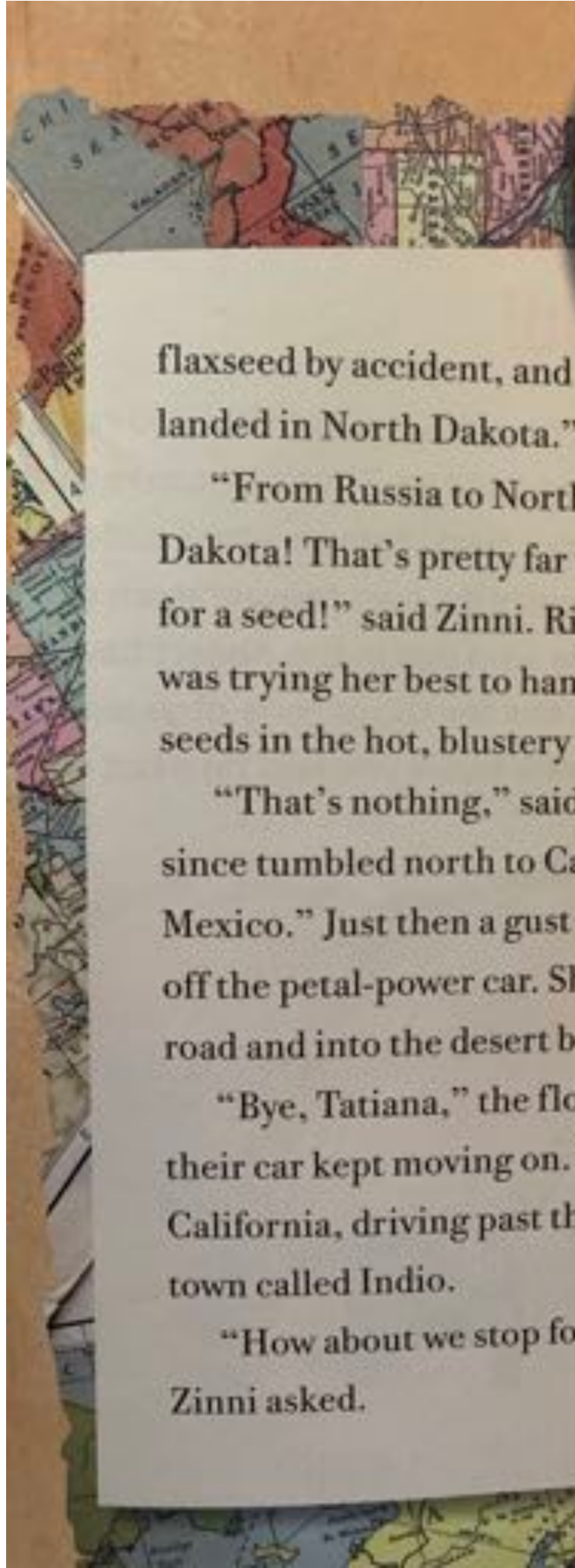
“I’m not from here,” said Tatiana.

“Well, I grew up here, on a tumbleweed farm. But my family is from Russia. They came to America when they were just seeds. They hopped into a bag of



WORDS FOR THE WISE

The word **DATE** means more than one thing. Here, it means the fruit of the date palm, which grows in the California desert and the deserts of the Middle East and North Africa. What other dates are there?



flaxseed by accident, and landed in North Dakota.”

“From Russia to North Dakota! That’s pretty far traveling for a seed!” said Zinni. Right now, she was trying her best to hang on to her own seeds in the hot, blustery wind.

“That’s nothing,” said Tatiana. “We’ve since tumbled north to Canada and south to Mexico.” Just then a gust of wind blew Tatiana off the petal-power car. She tumbled onto the road and into the desert brush.

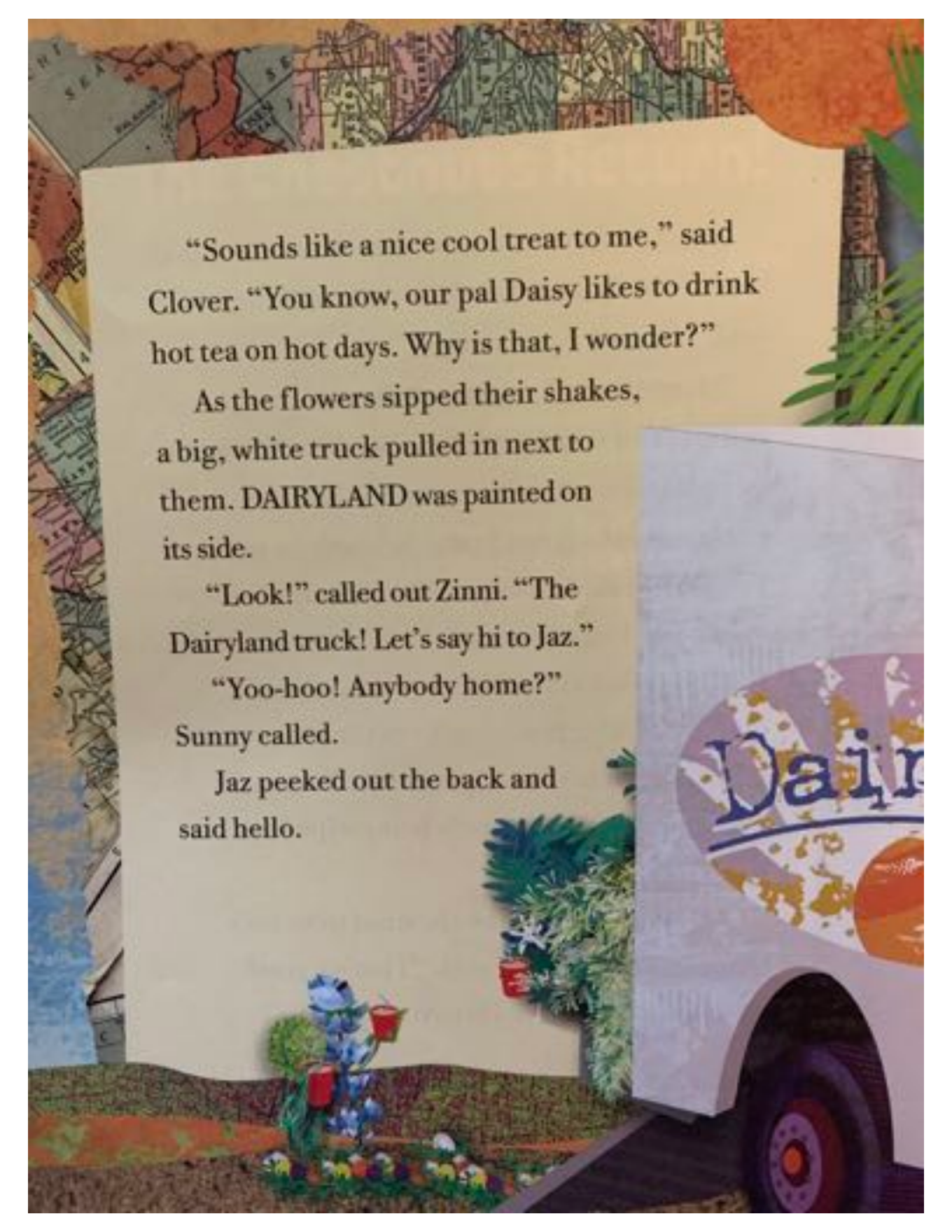
“Bye, Tatiana,” the flowers called out as their car kept moving on. Soon they were in California, driving past the tall **date** trees of a town called Indio.

“How about we stop for some date shakes?” Zinni asked.

HOT WEATHER, HOT TEA, AND YOU!

Believe it or not, on a hot day, you can cool off by drinking hot tea. That's because the tea's heat raises your body temperature and then your body lowers its own temperature to cool itself. People who live in the desert have been drinking hot tea for thousands of years. How does a hot drink make you feel on a hot day?





“Sounds like a nice cool treat to me,” said Clover. “You know, our pal Daisy likes to drink hot tea on hot days. Why is that, I wonder?”

As the flowers sipped their shakes, a big, white truck pulled in next to them. DAIRYLAND was painted on its side.

“Look!” called out Zinni. “The Dairyland truck! Let’s say hi to Jaz.”

“Yoo-hoo! Anybody home?” Sunny called.

Jaz peeked out the back and said hello.



A blast of cool air came out of the truck, too.
“Wow, that cool air feels so nice,” Lupe said. “Can we come inside?”

“Fine by me,” said Jaz. “This is a refrigerator truck full of cheese. That’s why it’s so cool inside. But cheese isn’t much fun to travel with—it can’t talk. So come on in. I could use some company besides my own sweet-smelling flowers.”

“Your flowers smell *really* good,” said Clover. “We’ve just come from the piñon pines of Arizona. They smell good, too. They’re growing again after nearly being wiped out by a fungus.”

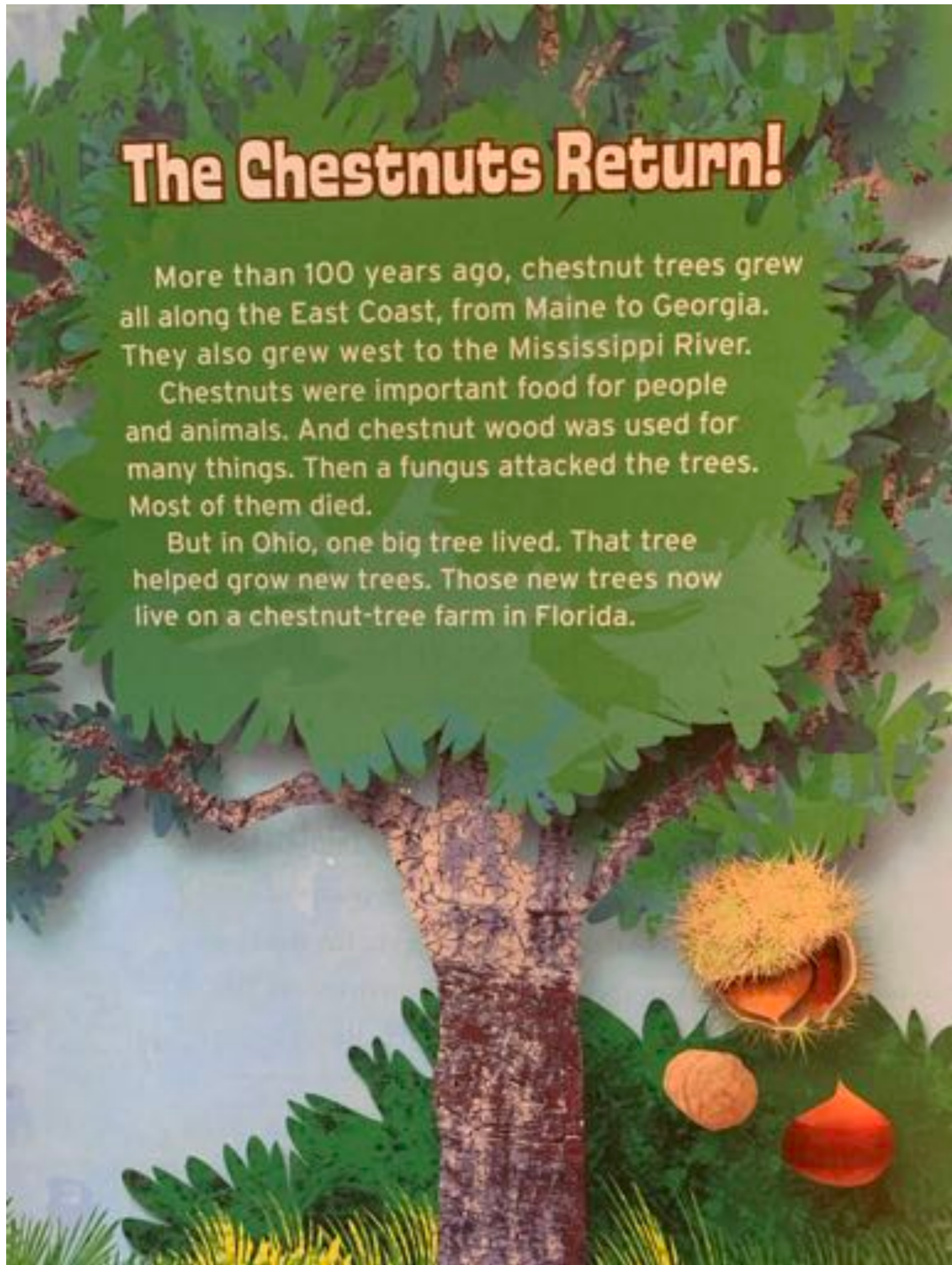
“Sounds just like the chestnut trees back home in Florida,” Jaz said. “That’s a good comeback story, too. Have you heard it?”

The Chestnuts Return!

More than 100 years ago, chestnut trees grew all along the East Coast, from Maine to Georgia. They also grew west to the Mississippi River.

Chestnuts were important food for people and animals. And chestnut wood was used for many things. Then a fungus attacked the trees. Most of them died.

But in Ohio, one big tree lived. That tree helped grow new trees. Those new trees now live on a chestnut-tree farm in Florida.





By the time Jaz finished telling the flower friends all about the chestnut trees, they had reached the coast of California. It was time to say good-bye.

Lupe drove her car out of the Dairyland truck. She and her friends were ready for a nice, long rest in the beach cottages of Crystal Cove. After that, they would head north to find Yellow Lupine in the sand dunes of Humboldt Bay.

The North and South of It!

*Southern California has lots of palm trees and sunshine.
Northern California has wetter, cooler weather.*


What is the northern part of your state or country like? What is the southern part like?



Protecting Beautiful Places!

Crystal Cove is a state park in California. It has a beach, woodlands, and cottages. State and national parks protect places so everyone can enjoy them.

What state or national parks are near you?



Dear Daisy, Mari, Gerri,
and Vi,

We're in California! This
is Crystal Cove. Isn't
it beautiful? Wish you
were here,

Lupe



.....postcard.....

The Flower Friends
Daisy Flower Garden
U.S.A.

**MAKE NEW FRIENDS,
BUT KEEP THE OLD
ONE IS SILVER
AND THE OTHER GOLD.**

When the flower friends meet Jaz,
the jasmine, they make a new friend.

But they also stay in touch with old friends.
They send them postcards of their road trip!

When have you made a new friend?

How do you stay in touch with old friends?
