



Generosity's Backpack

by Cristina Kim
Illustrated by Luke Fimio

a mybestfriendinni story

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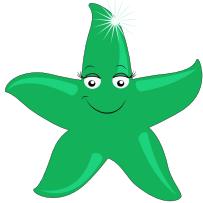
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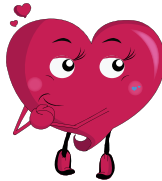
Introducing...

Inni



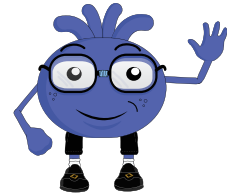
"I'm your intuition and your guide to being a real superstar! I'm always there for you!"

Love



"Hi my lovely friend! Do you love everything mushy gushy lovey dovey like me?"

Honesty



"I always tell the truth and nothing but! I am about being honest every single day."

Kindness



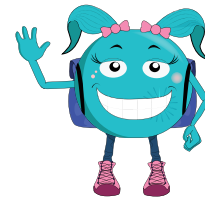
"Being kind is an everyday, all the time thing! I'm a super caring friend who puts other people first. Always."

Harmony



"I play really well with others. When people get along, it's music to my ears."

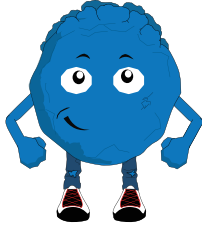
Generosity



"I love to share everything. You need a hug or a friend to hang with? I'm here!"

inni, friends & frenemies

Courage



"No matter what, I stand up for what's right. Just call me and I will be there."

Bully



"I make myself big by making you feel small. Being mean gets me what I want!"

Liar



"Who needs to tell the truth? Not me! I'll say anything to get what I want, and I'll even lie for it."

Selfish



"I'm all me, me, me and I don't care about other people's feelings."

Envy



"I'm NEVER happy. Everyone always has better things than me! SO unfair!"



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Hi, I'm Max.

I'm on my way to my Inniverse. It's a super special place where my best friend Inni lives. Inni is my intuition, and she helps me make good choices every day.

Want to come with me? Let's go! We'll be there in a wink!





It was a big day in the Inniverse. Everyone was excited to get to Camp Inniverse for Show and Share Day!

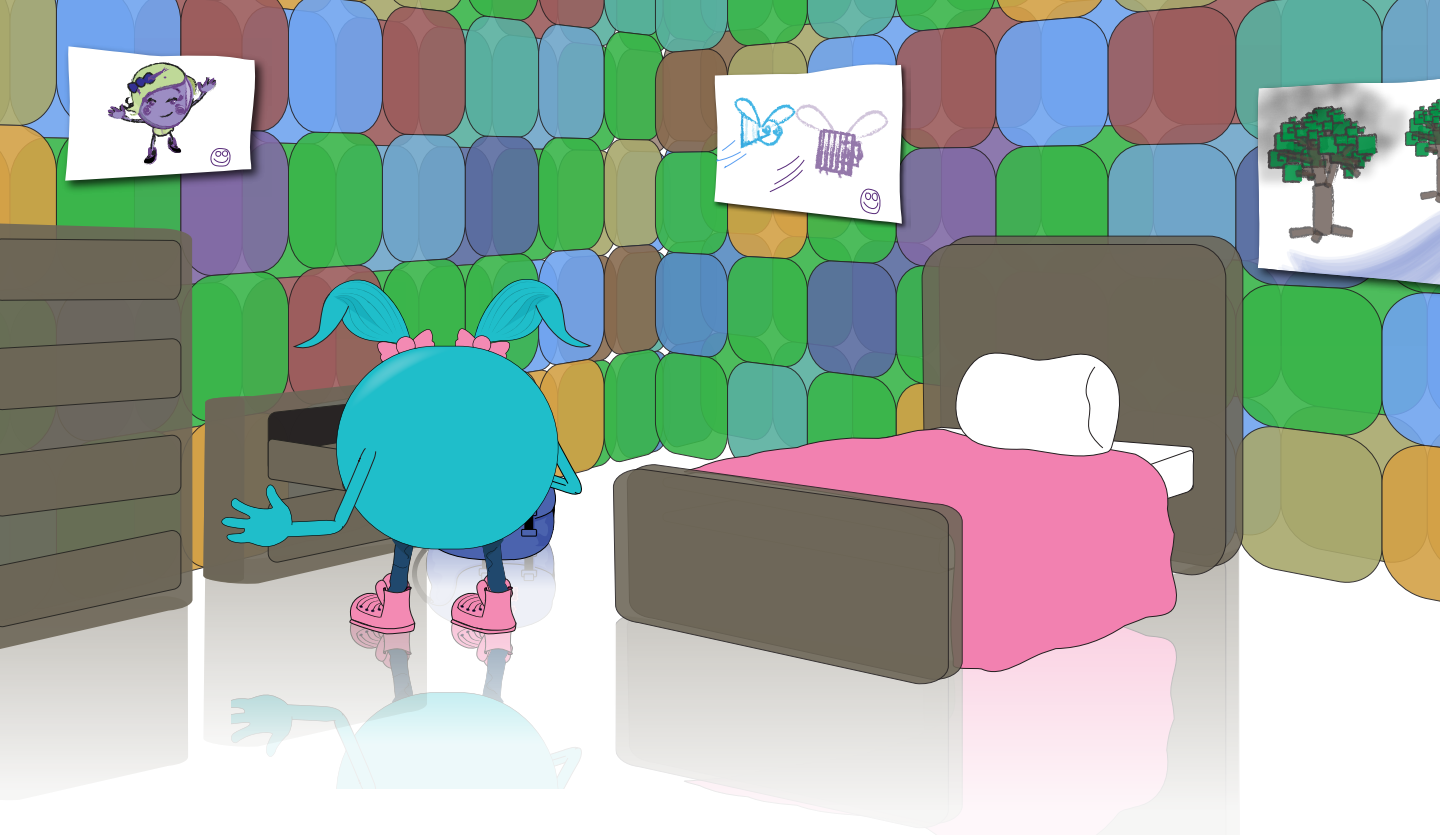
Everyone, that is, except Generosity.

Generosity was in her bedroom. She had stayed home during last year's Show and Share, but this year she'd promised Harmony she'd go.

Show and Share was an annual Inniverse event. Everyone got a chance to show something and share a story about it.

Then, if they wanted, they could donate it to Camp Inniverse. The camp passed these items along to families who needed extra help.





Generosity looked around for what seemed like the thousandth time. She had nothing to show and nothing to share. Nothing anyone else would want, anyways.

She finally set off, hoping that maybe, just maybe, she would find something on her way to the camp.

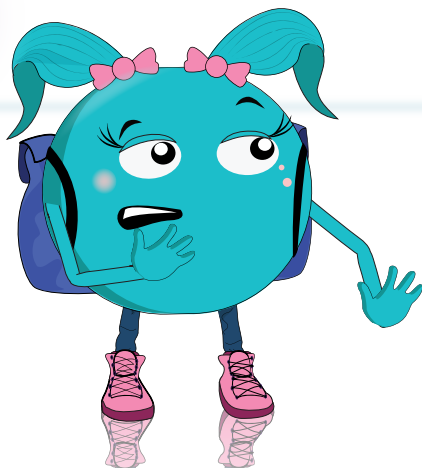
But by the time Generosity arrived at the camp's gates, she still had nothing. She took a deep breath, trying to settle the butterflies in her stomach.

So many people came to Show and Share just to watch and listen. Why couldn't she? Because everyone expected her to share—that's why! She was Generosity, after all.



Her friends arrived at the gates. They were all carrying huge boxes and bags. Even Inni was ready with things to share!

No one seemed to notice that Generosity wasn't carrying anything except for her backpack—the same one she always had with her.



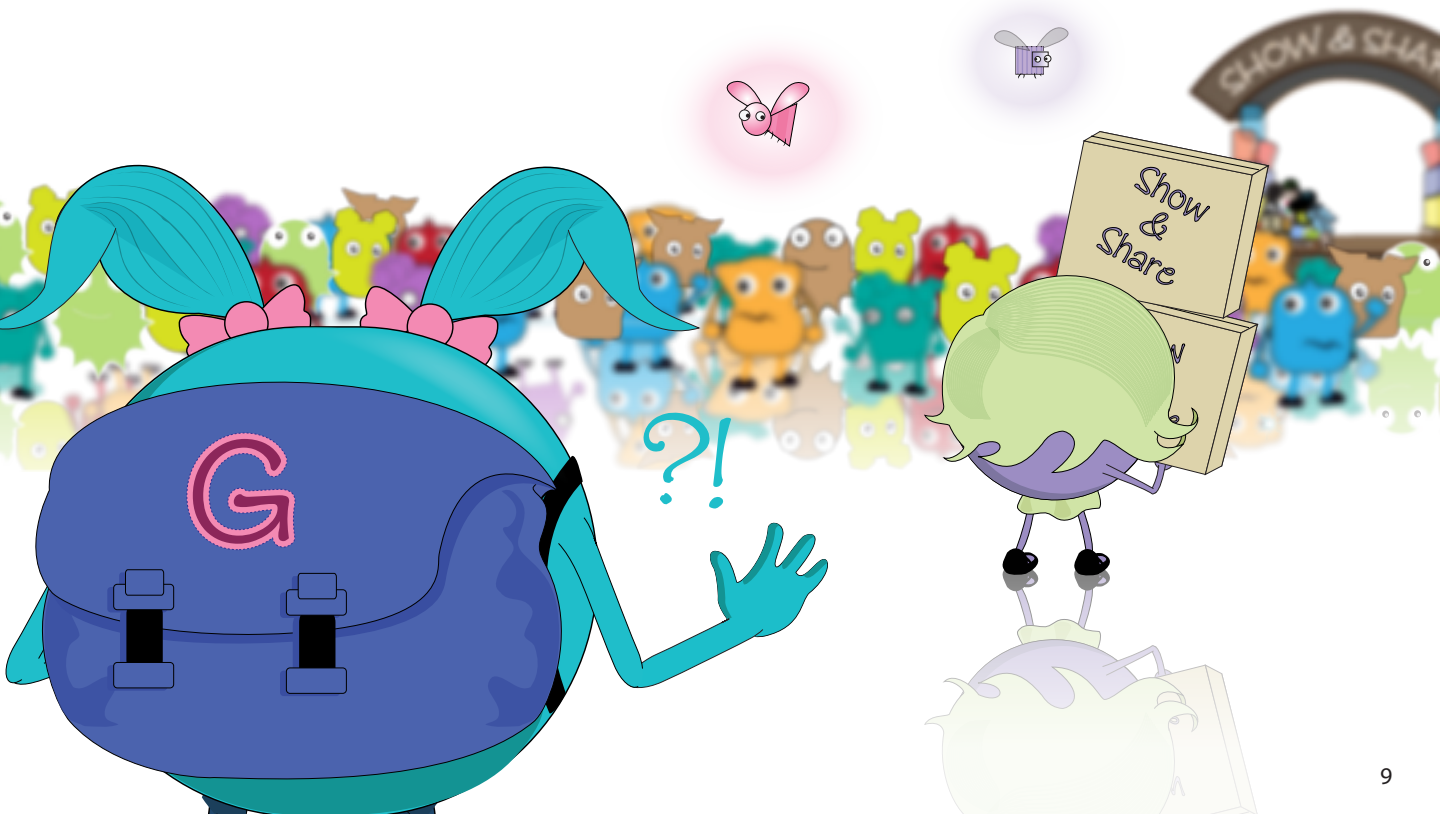
“Don’t you love Show and Share?” asked Harmony. “It’s my favourite day of the year!”

Generosity didn’t answer. Inni noticed the silence. Generosity was never silent!



As things got started, Generosity felt a bit better. It was a big group this year. Maybe she *could* just hang out and watch.

But as soon as she'd thought the thought, a slick voice asked, "What are you showing and sharing, Generosity?"



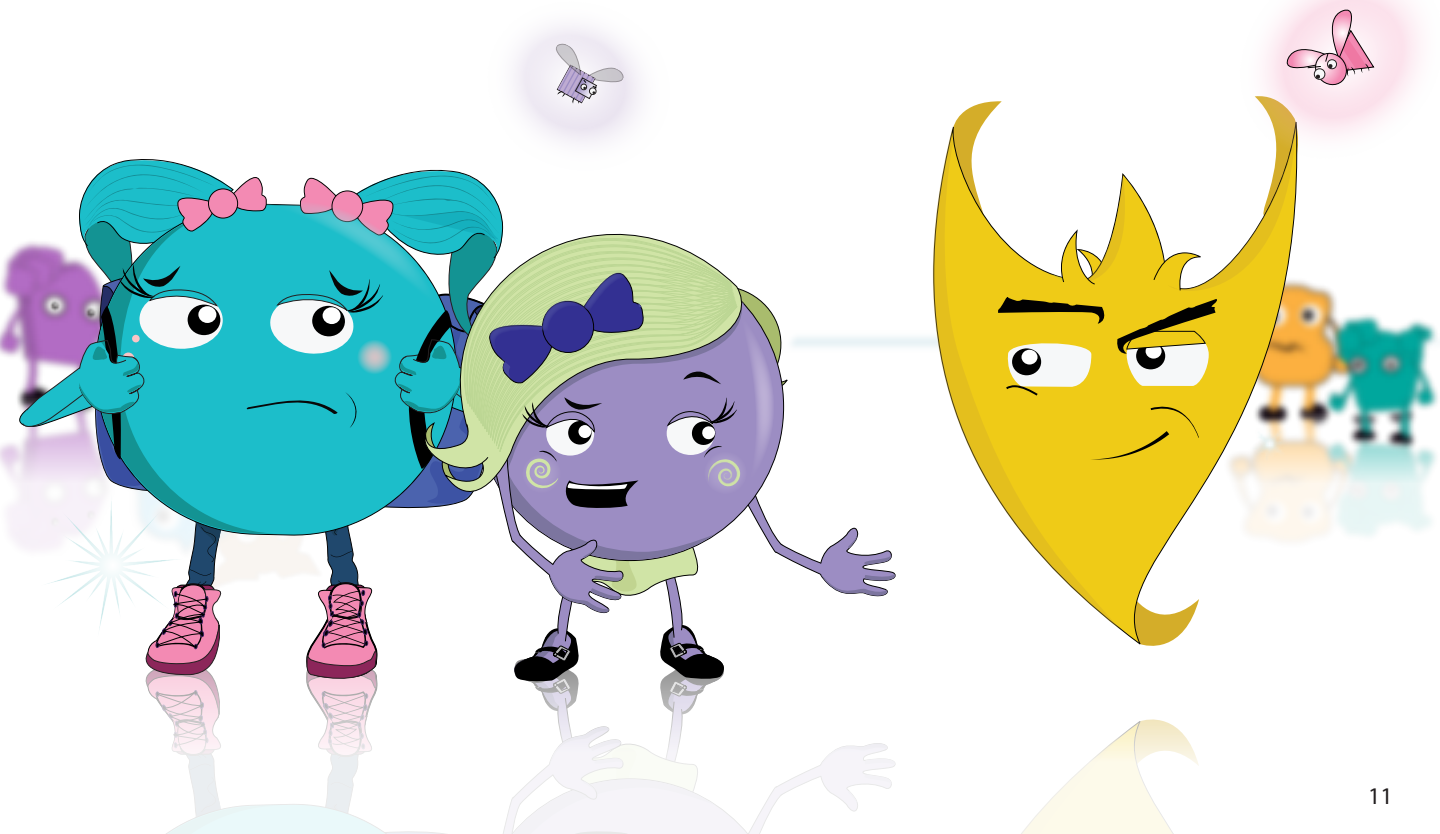
“I’m sure it’s amazing,” Liar continued. “I mean, you *must* have the most awesome stuff! How else could you be the most generous one in the whole Inniverse?”

How did he know, Generosity wondered, that she had nothing to share?



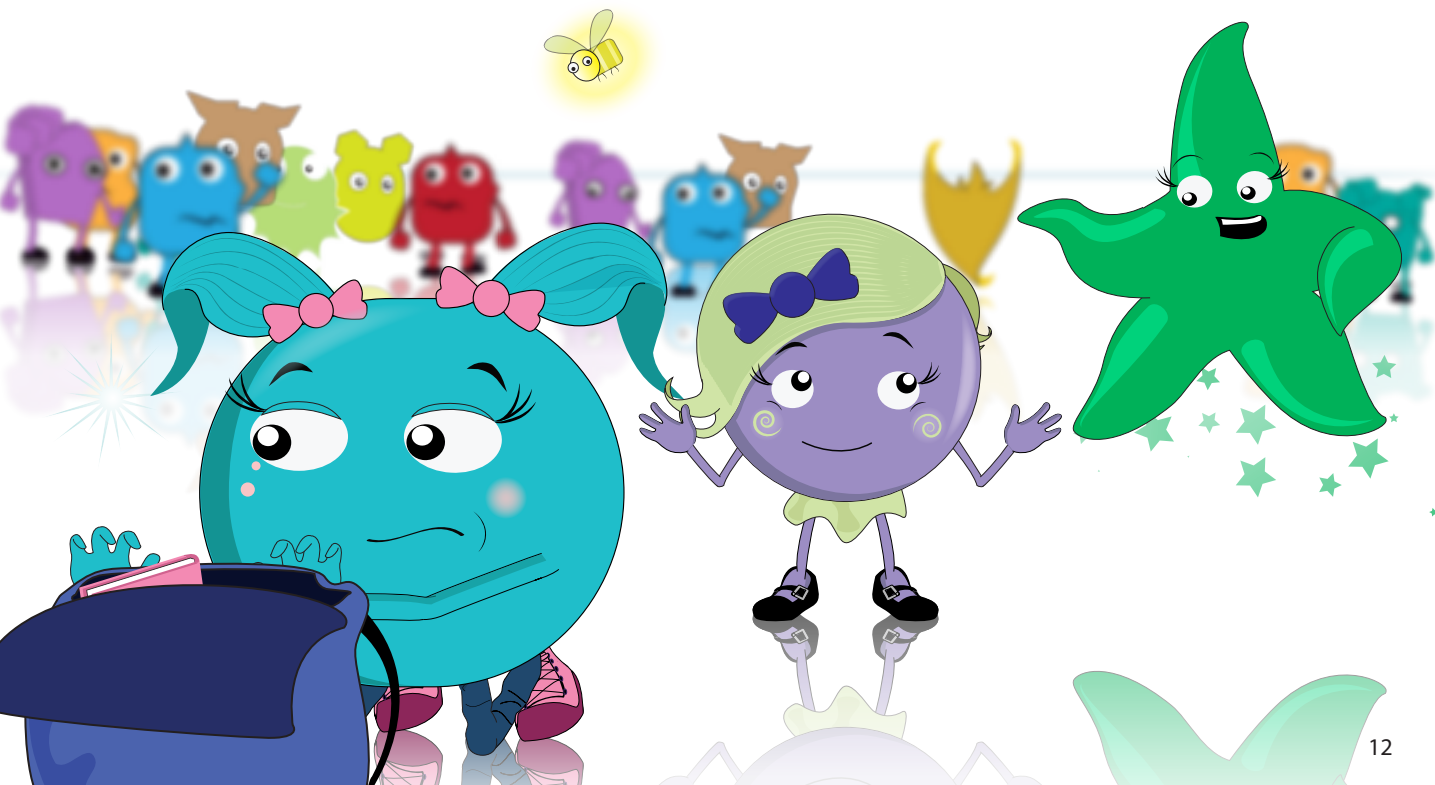
“Of course Generosity’s Show and Share is going to be amazing,” Harmony piped in.

“I just want to be sure I don’t miss it,” Liar said. “I can’t wait.”



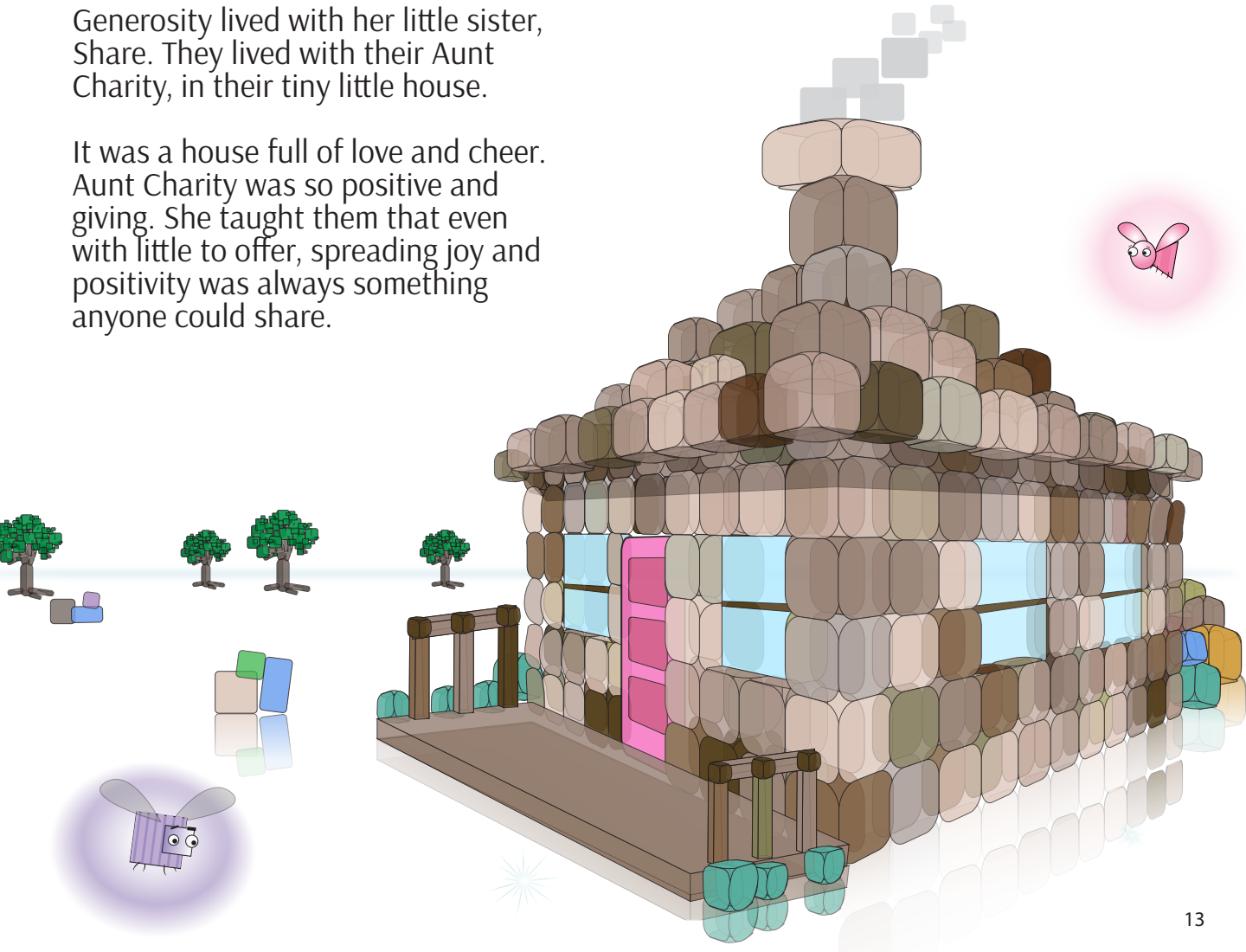
While her friends chattered away, Generosity dug through her backpack. She had to have something that she could share. She had to!

Almost everything Generosity owned fit in her backpack. The truth was, Generosity was from one of those families that needed extra help.



Generosity lived with her little sister,
Share. They lived with their Aunt
Charity, in their tiny little house.

It was a house full of love and cheer.
Aunt Charity was so positive and
giving. She taught them that even
with little to offer, spreading joy and
positivity was always something
anyone could share.



Right now, though, Generosity was having a hard time remembering Aunt Charity's words. Everyone was watching, excited to see what she had to share. What if they judged her? What if they thought she wasn't generous?

She rummaged and poked through the pack until, at last, she came to the most special thing she owned. Her notebook.



Generosity's notebook was the most perfect pink, and it was covered in her favourite sparkly stickers.

Inside, the pages were half filled with writing—her notes and ideas, drawings and stories.



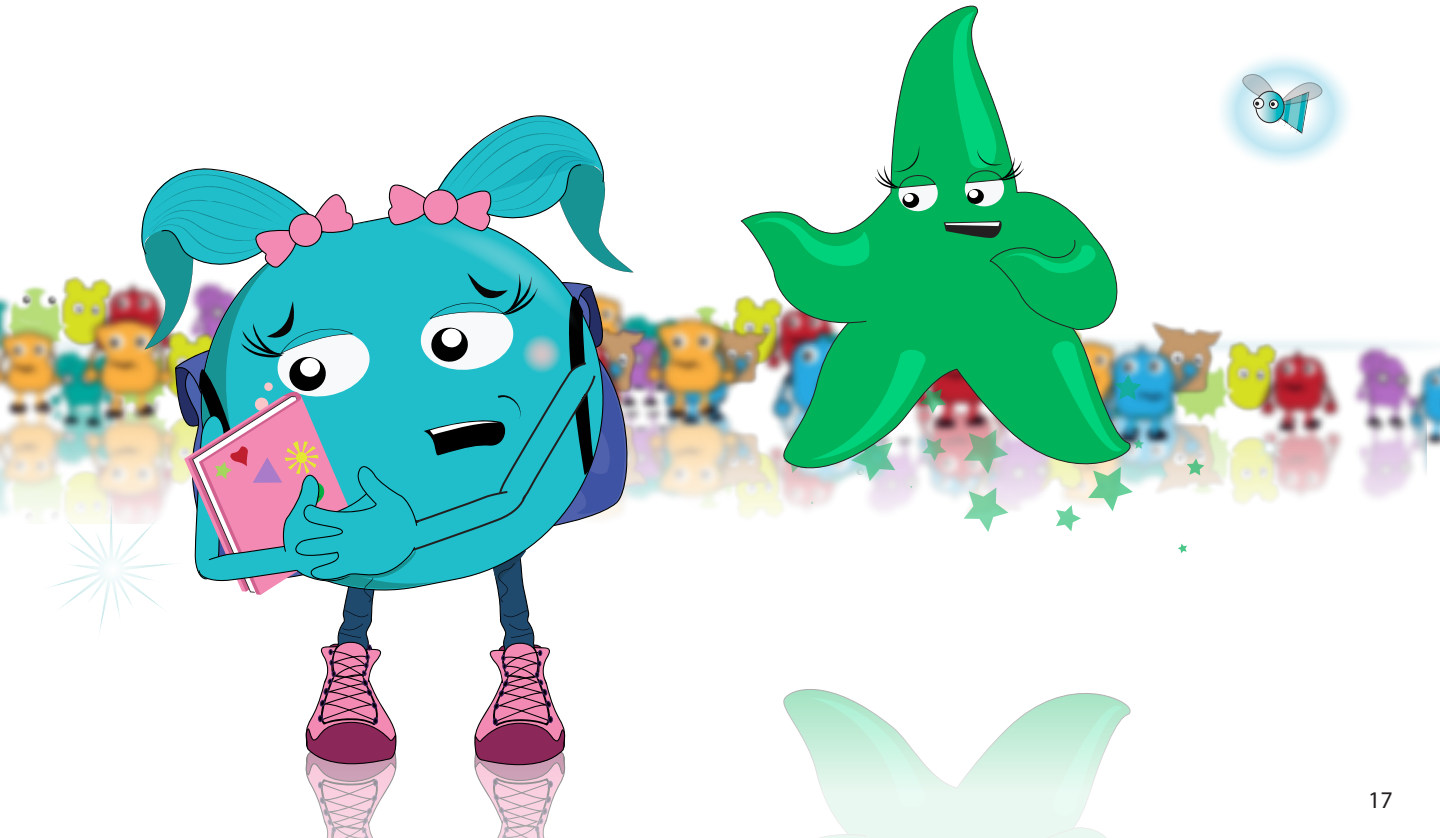
Liar was right. Of course the most generous one in the Inniverse should have something to share!

She looked at her notebook and tried not to cry. She knew someone else could use the notebook—she really did. She just didn't want to give it away. She loved it too much.



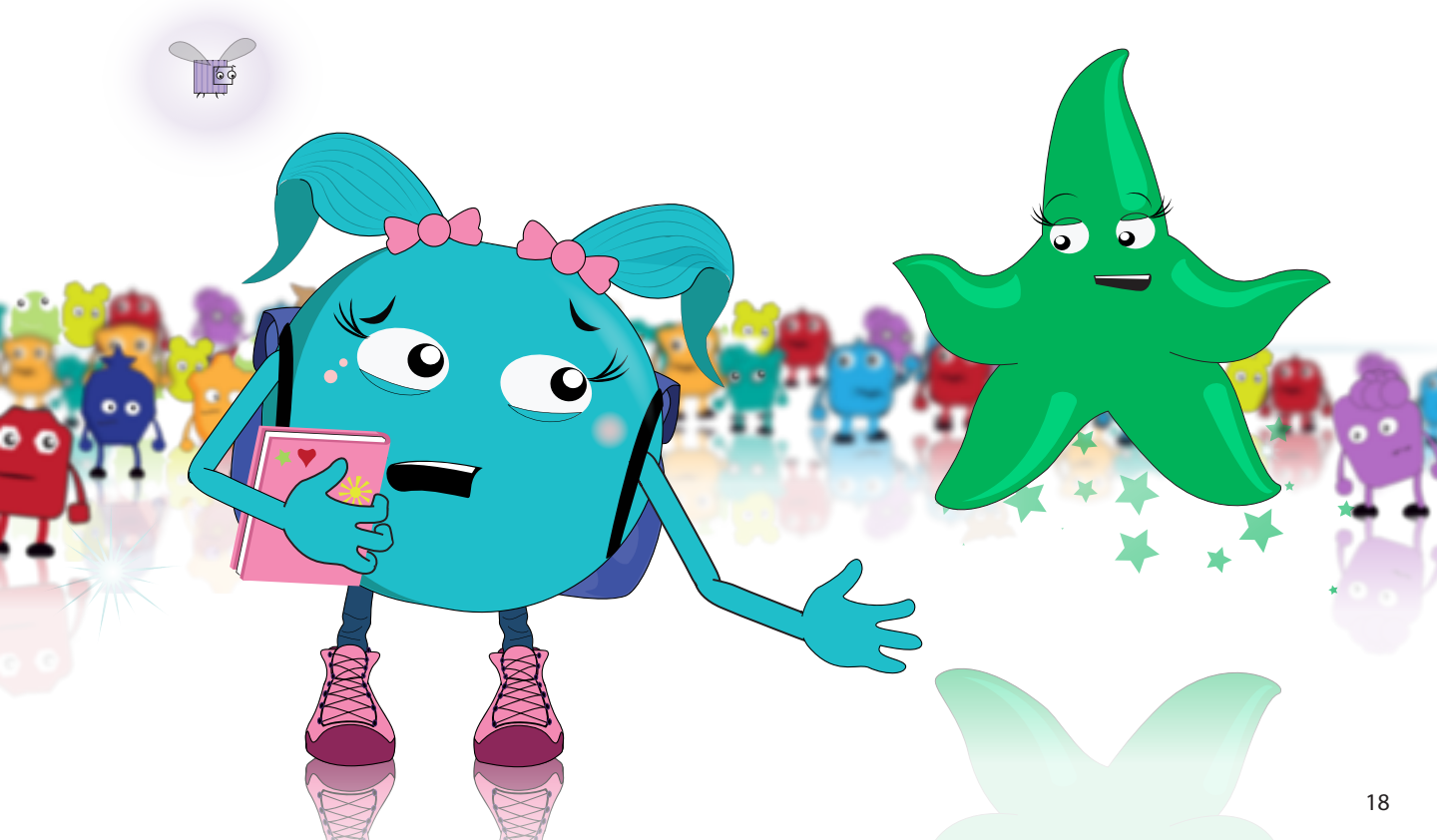
She felt a familiar fuzzy feeling deep in her tummy, and before she could even look up, she heard Inni ask, “What’s going on, Generosity?”

Generosity held her notebook tighter. “I have to find something to share.”



“You don't *have* to do anything. Not here, anyways,” Inni said.

“Yes, I do!” Generosity said impatiently. “They're all waiting for me to share something! But I have nothing! Nothing at all!”



“You always have a choice, Generosity—always,” Inni answered. “Being generous and truly sharing is about a lot more than giving *things*.”



Generosity made her way to the stage for her turn. She was so nervous that she barely heard Inni.



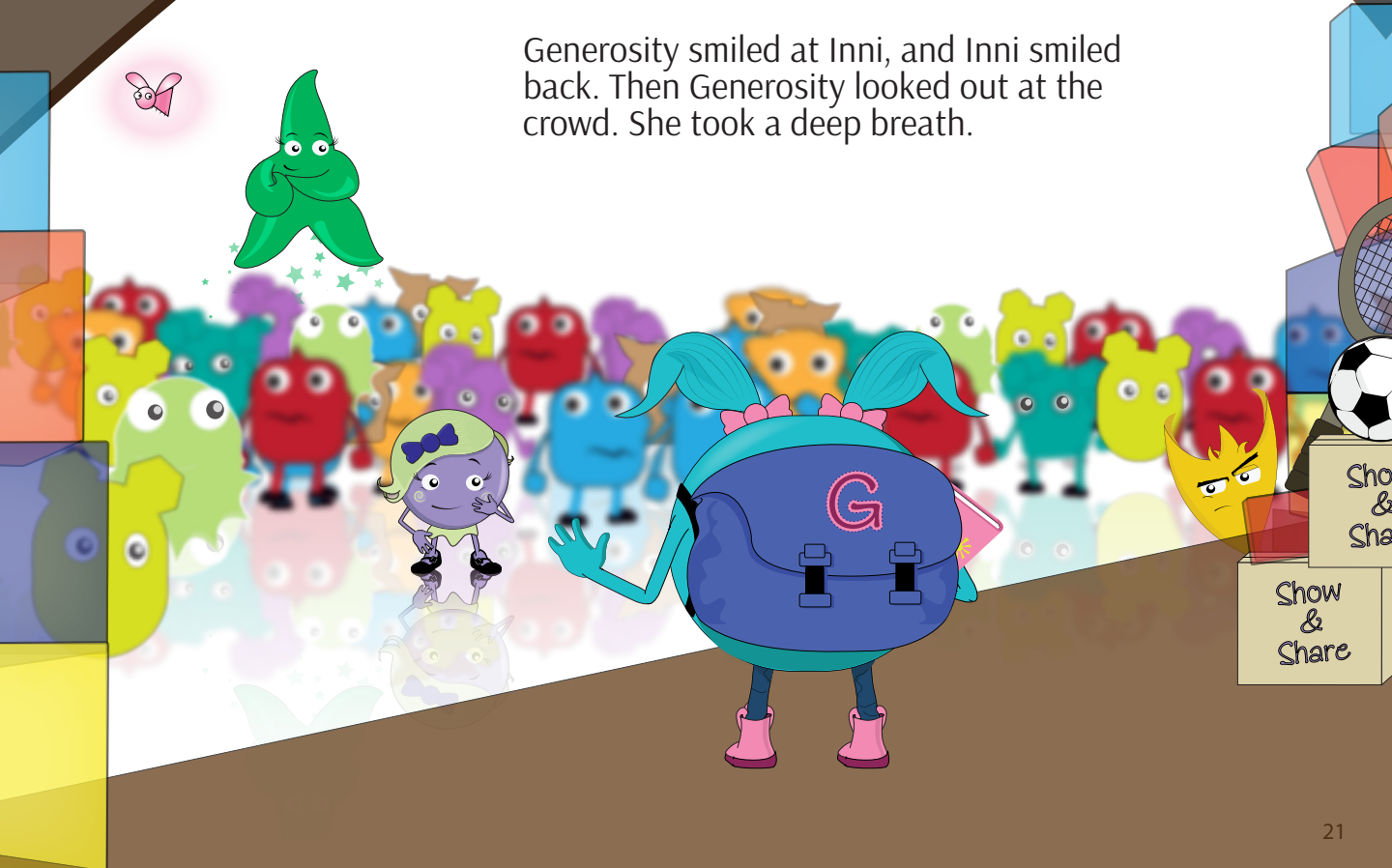
Everyone smiled at her as she stood in front of them—everyone but Liar. He smirked, eager to see Generosity embarrassed.

She couldn't do it; she couldn't give her notebook away. Then, from somewhere deep inside, she realized she had something else to share.



She had heard Inni—she just hadn't been ready to agree with her quite yet. Now she knew that Inni was right. Being generous was about more than just giving *things*.

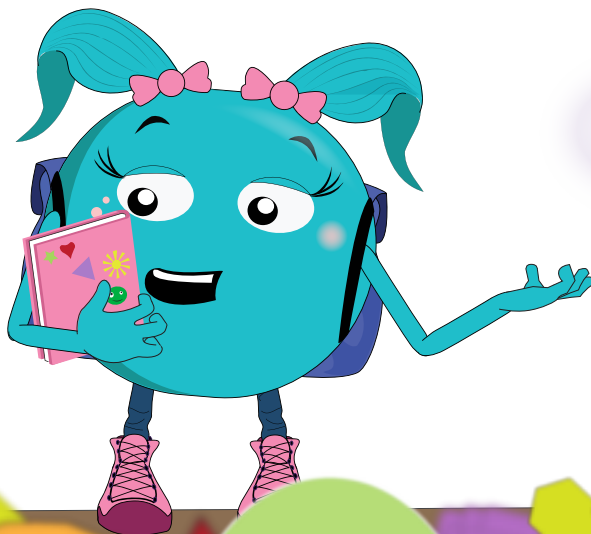
Generosity smiled at Inni, and Inni smiled back. Then Generosity looked out at the crowd. She took a deep breath.



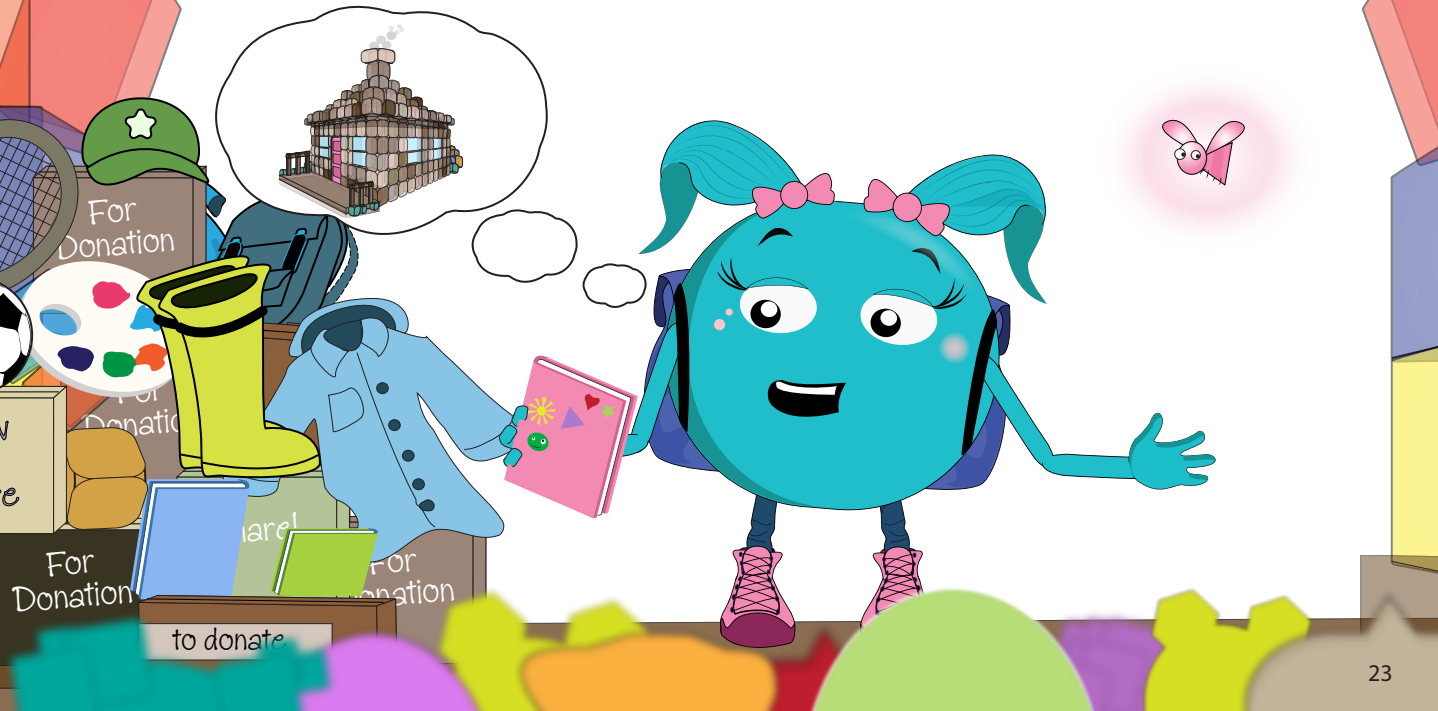
“When I got here today, I was sure I had nothing to share,” she said.

The crowd laughed, sure Generosity was joking.

“I mean it,” she said. “But I realized I actually have something super special and awesome to share. Today, I’m going to share *my* story—the story of me and my family.”

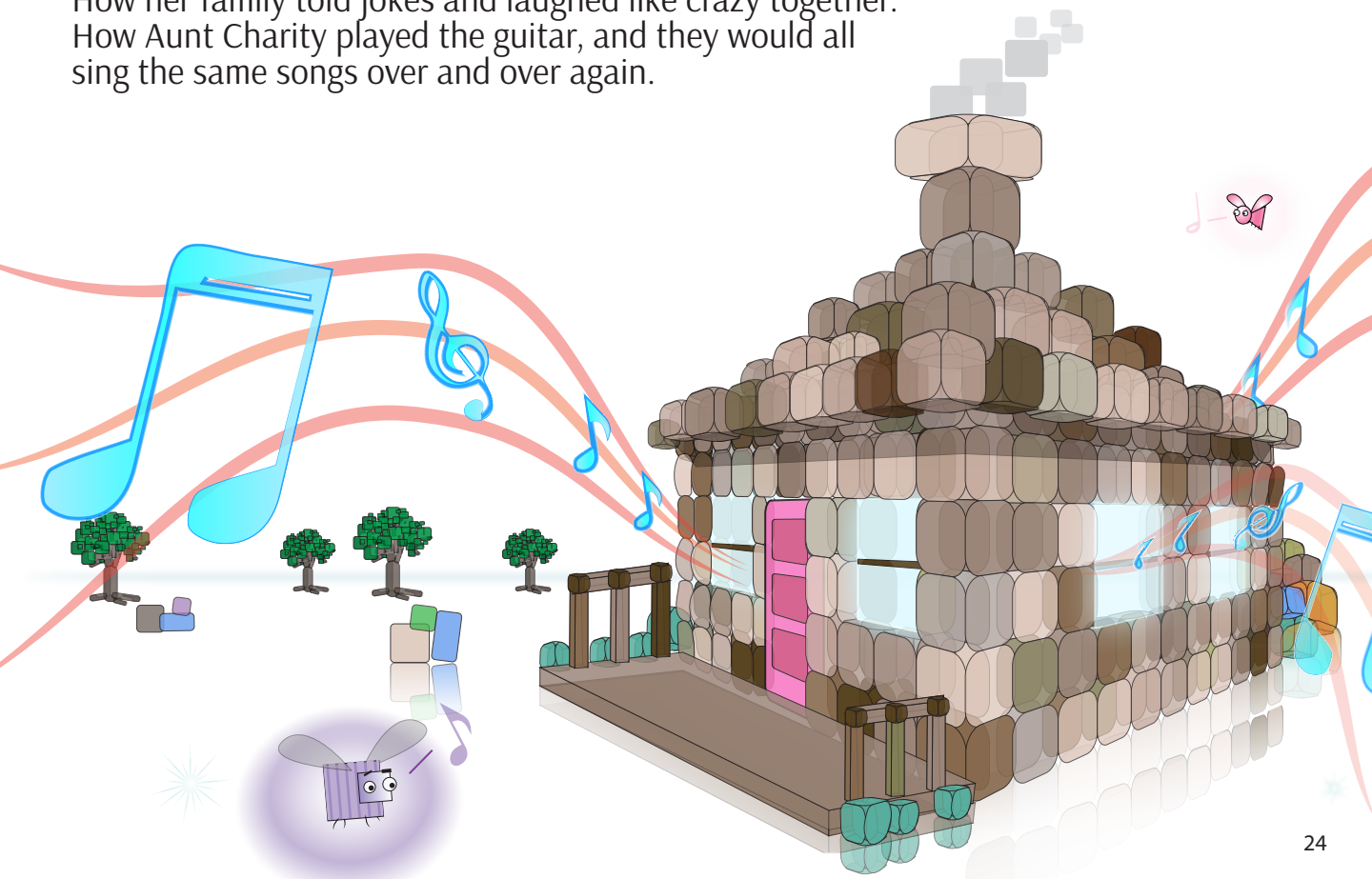


The crowd hushed as Generosity talked about her life with her aunt and her sister. They didn't have a lot of *things*, she told everyone, but they did have a lot of love, and a lot of joy.



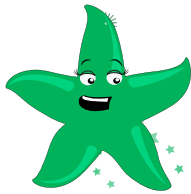
Generosity's eyes shone as she explained how her aunt believed that positivity and joy were things anyone could share—that they were the gifts that brought happiness.

How her family told jokes and laughed like crazy together.
How Aunt Charity played the guitar, and they would all sing the same songs over and over again.



When Generosity finished her story, she thanked the crowd for listening. For a moment, the crowd was quiet. Then everyone in the camp rose and cheered. Her friends—and especially Inni—cheered loudest of all.

Generosity was so surprised, and so happy.



Moosh!



Show
&
Share

She smiled at the crowd. *Almost* everyone smiled back. Only Liar scowled as everyone else cheered.

Show and Share ended up being a perfect day. In fact, it was Generosity's new favourite day of the year.



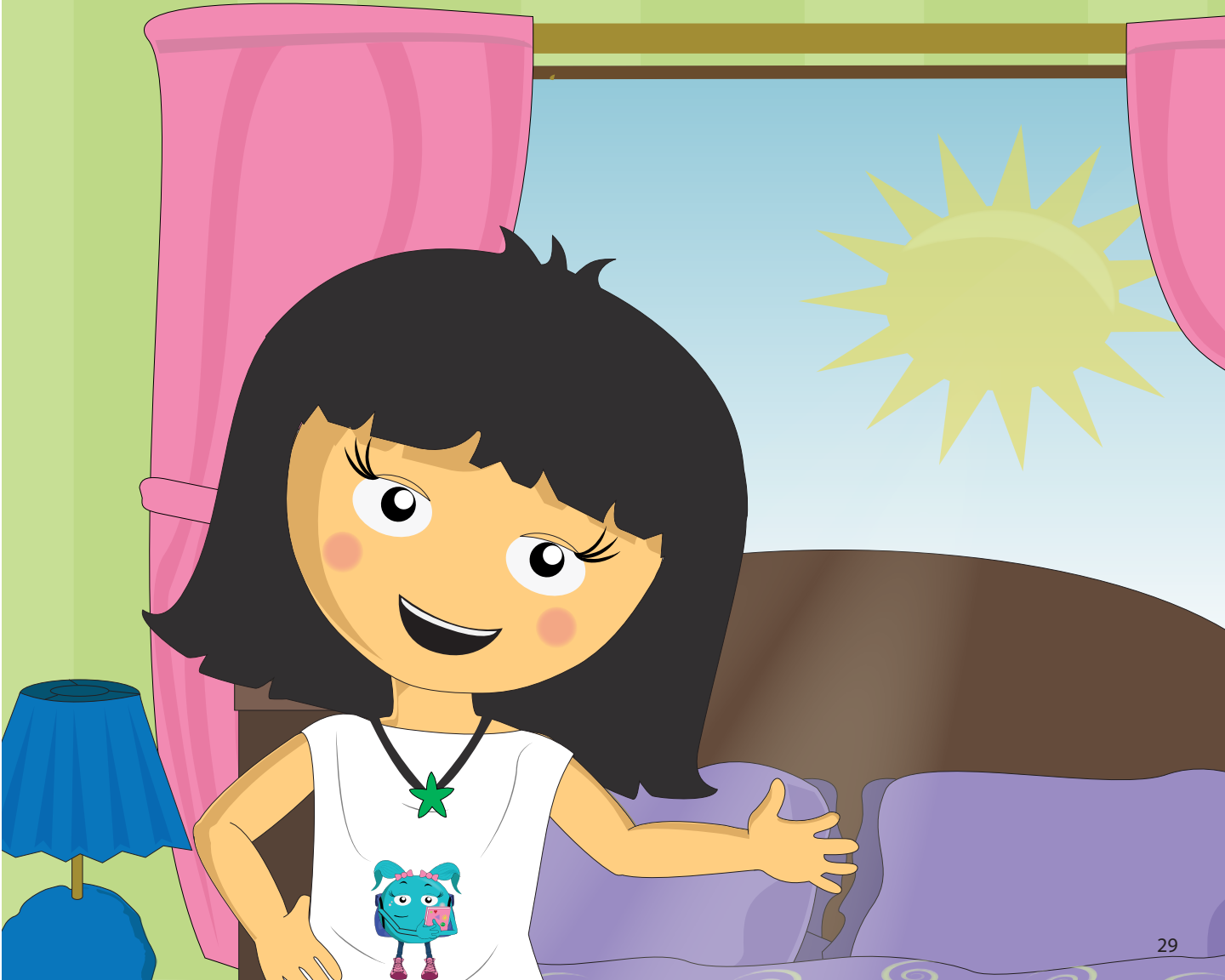





Hey! How awesome was that? I love that Generosity shared a personal story. You know, people love to learn about each other. Especially about those who bring lots of joy and happiness to others, just like Generosity does all the time.

I would have been so sad if she'd given up her most special notebook. Just like Inni said, being generous is not about giving things. In fact, just giving things to someone does not make you generous!







Don't get me wrong! I love to get new things—especially new toys and games. But I also know that there are many kids out there who don't have nearly as much as some of us do.

I love that Camp Inniverse collects and shares things with families who need help. Aunt Charity calls that being charitable. I think that's the true meaning of generosity—to give and not expect anything in return. That's how Generosity lives every day. That's why she's a great friend.

And, just like she did, I always listen to my Inni. As my intuition, she always helps me make the right choices. That's why she's my best friend Inni. Don't forget, we each have our very own Inni, and our very own Inniverse. Be sure to spend time getting to know yours!

See you next time!



Thank you for joining The Intuition Movement™.

We hope you enjoyed reading **Generosity's Backpack**.

This is the fifth book in the Everyone Longs to Belong series.

Available now!

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Courage in the Classroom
Generosity's Backpack

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