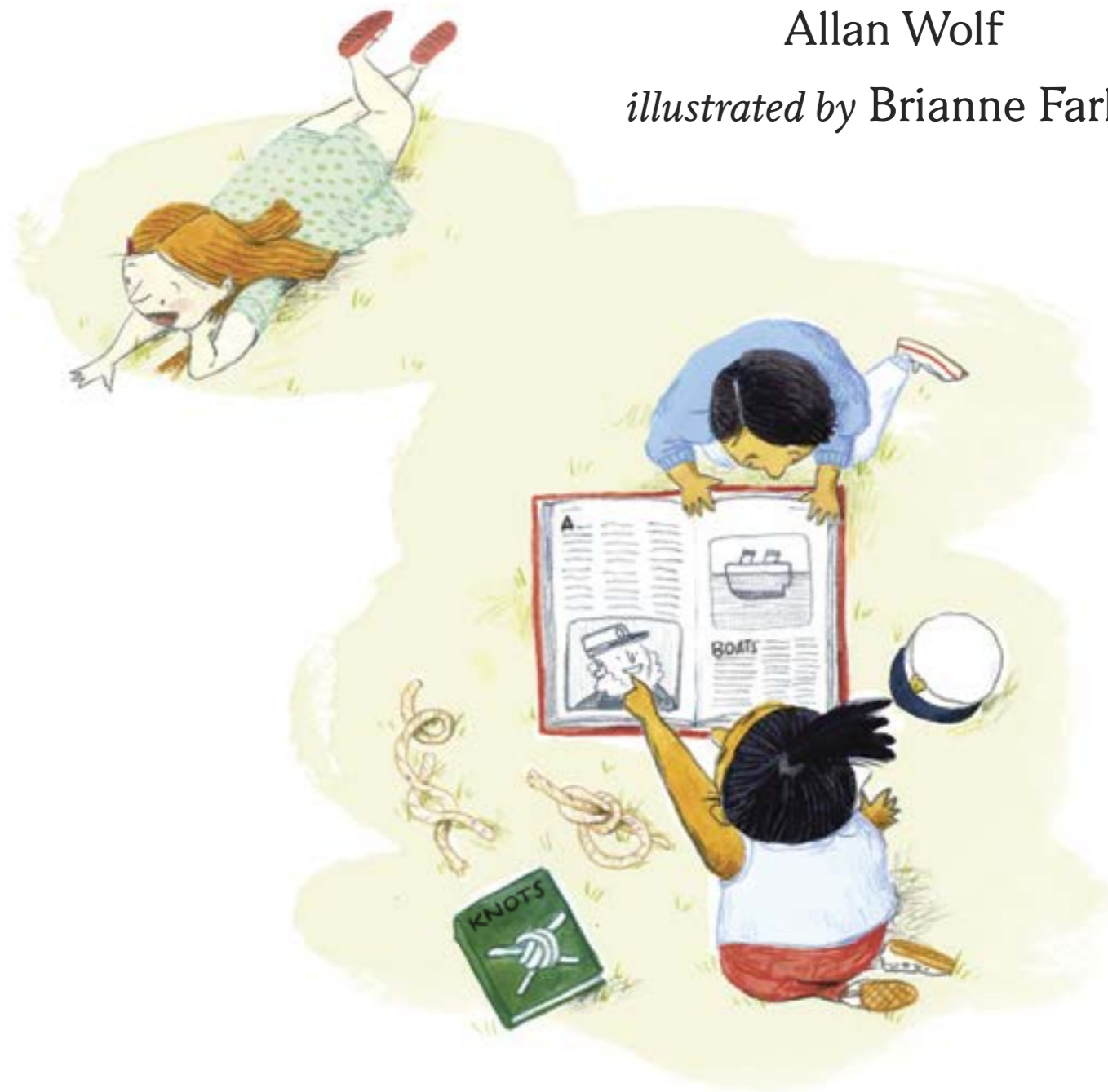




# No Buddy Like a Book

Allan Wolf

*illustrated by* Brianne Farley



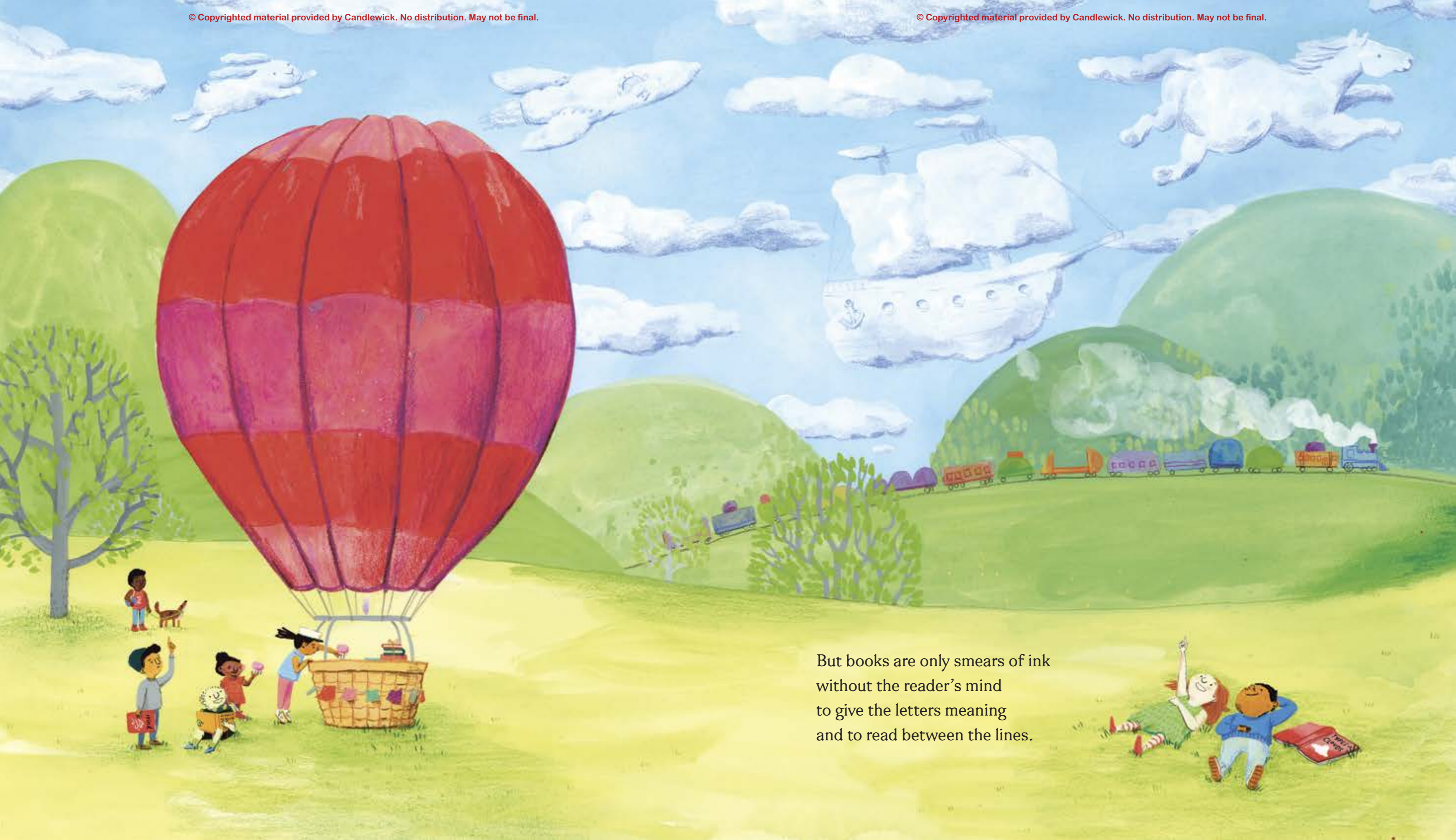
**WE** learn important stuff from books.  
We learn to speak and think.



We learn why icebergs stay afloat . . .  
and why *Titanics* sink.

We learn to play harmonica.  
We learn to bake and cook.  
We learn to read and write.  
There is no buddy like a book.





But books are only smears of ink  
without the reader's mind  
to give the letters meaning  
and to read between the lines.



So step aboard the Book Express.  
It's waiting at the station.  
But can you guess the address  
of your final destination?





The greatest nation in the world:

your own imagination!

I've learned to name the planets  
and to track a distant star.  
I've learned to bottle moonlight  
and to calculate how far

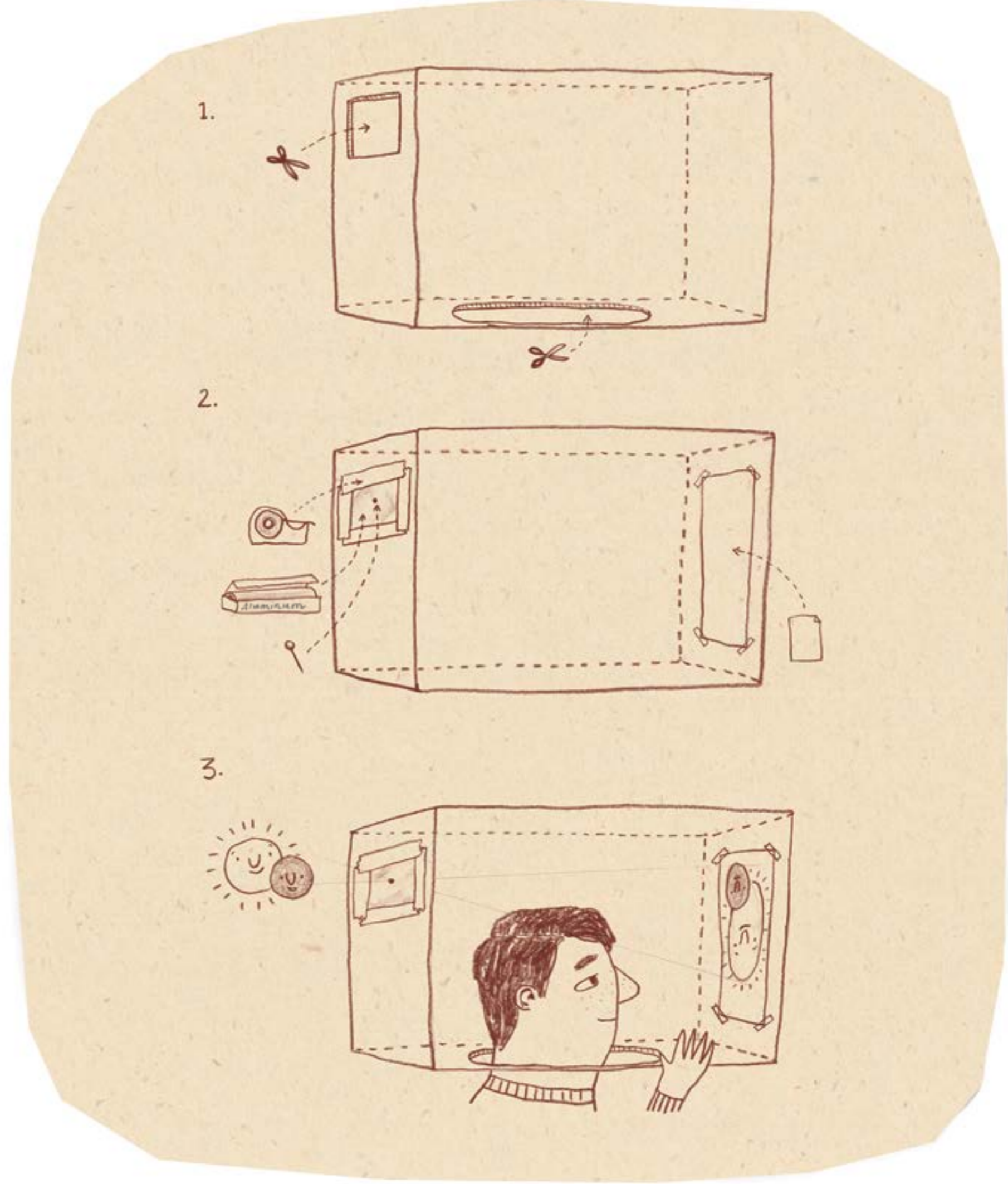
a solid rocket booster sends  
a shuttle into space.  
I learned to build a telescope  
to see space face-to-face.







This homemade pinhole viewer  
even lets me see the sun.  
There is no buddy like a book  
to show you how it's done.





My launchpad is a science book.  
My mind's a constellation.  
The only rocket fuel I need  
is my own imagination.

I've climbed the heights of Everest,  
one hand behind my back.  
I've seen the sights of India  
from high atop a yak.



I've anteloped in Africa  
and kissed a crocodile  
as I was sailing all alone  
along the river Nile.





I'm quite the global traveler.  
 I've been to every land:  
 China, England, Russia, Rome,  
 New Guinea, and Sudan.

New Zealand and Australia,  
 Yugoslavia and Perth.  
 Canada and Kathmandu.  
 Dallas and Fort Worth.



But although these wondrous places hold  
a certain fascination,  
the greatest nation in the world  
is my own imagination!

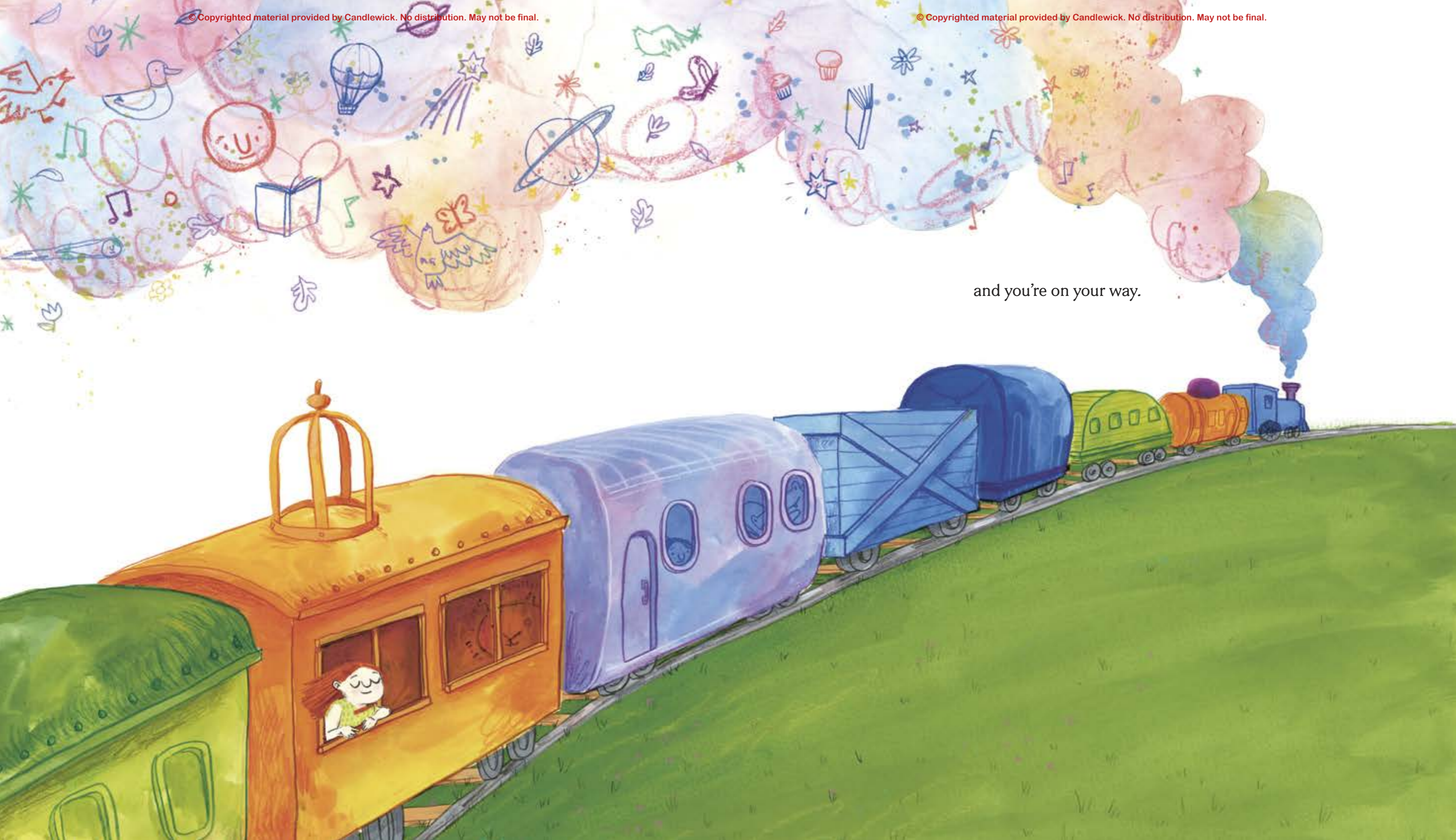


I visit any world I wish  
and never leave my chair.  
There is no buddy like a book  
to make me feel I'm there.

So step aboard the Book Express.  
It's leaving from the station.  
The only ticket needed is  
your own imagination.

Whatever are you waiting for?  
The adventure starts today.  
Just grab a book from off the shelf . . .





and you're on your way.





For Peter, Kaye, and Sarah Graham—  
the best book buddies ever!

AW

To R., to D., to P., to T., and, always, to Jon  
BF

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