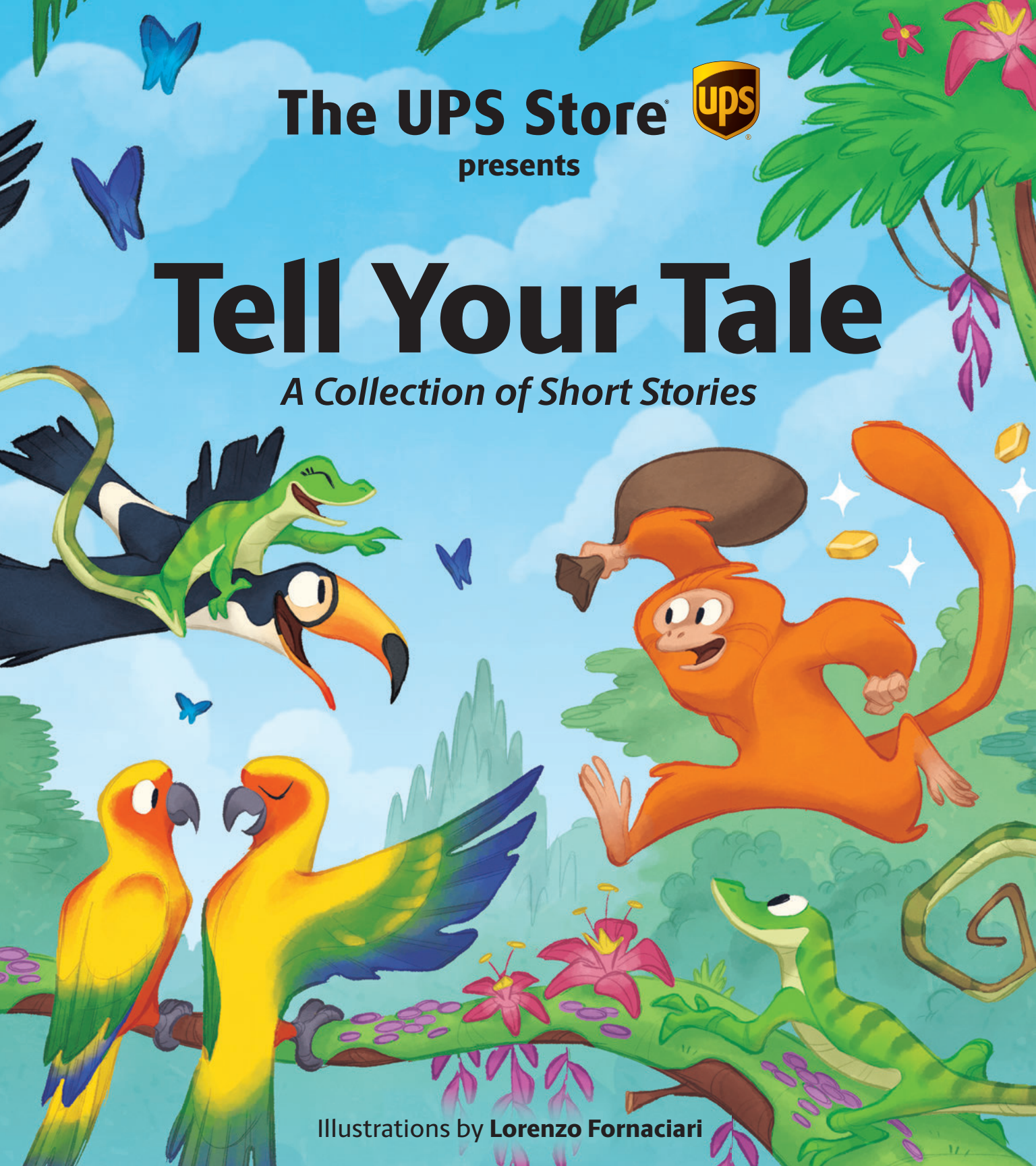


The UPS Store
presents



Tell Your Tale

A Collection of Short Stories



Illustrations by **Lorenzo Fornaciari**

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Tell Your Tale

A Collection of Short Stories



Published on behalf of The UPS Store, Inc. Not for resale.

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Stories Change Our World



The UPS Store 

2020 The UPS Store Rose Parade Float - Stories Change Our World

Since 2017, The UPS Store, Inc. has been a proud sponsor of the Rose Parade® in Pasadena, California, and in 2020 — with a parade theme of “The Power of Hope” — we entered our most majestic float yet, named “Stories Change Our World.” The float featured a group of golden lion tamarins, an endangered species of monkey known for their family-focused communities.

The appearance of The UPS Store at the Rose Parade® is the culmination of the annual Toys for Tots Literacy Program, created by The UPS Store, Inc. and the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Together, we are on a mission to spread the gift of literacy to children throughout the country. To celebrate the mission and the power of writing, The UPS Store sponsored a nationwide contest that invited young authors, ages 5-17, to create tales based on The UPS Store float with a theme of hope and community.

Three winning stories were selected and are published in this book, and following the 2020 Rose Parade®, 10,000 free copies were distributed. The three writers each won a \$1,000 prize and chose a school or organization to receive \$10,000 worth of books provided by the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation from Scholastic, Inc.

On behalf of The UPS Store and the Toys for Tots Literacy Program, we hope you enjoy reading these unique children’s stories and sharing them with friends and family!

Visit www.theupsstore.com/literacy for more information.



The Golden Lion Tamarin Monkey's Voyage Across the Forest

by Luca F., age 7, Granite Bay, CA

The golden lion tamarin monkey was living in the jungle and was all alone. He wanted friends. The monkey hoped if he was brave enough to go on a journey through the jungle, he might find a community to call his home. The golden lion tamarin monkey waited until sunrise and left on his journey.

On the way, he sees two salamanders. A wolf was trying to eat them! So the golden lion tamarin monkey scared the wolf away. Now the salamanders are safe.

The salamanders wanted to thank the monkey, so the salamanders gave him five coins and went along with him.

He goes on and on until he sees a castle and the bad King Pig living there, who has trapped the toucan brothers. The golden lion tamarin monkey is ready to stop King Pig. He sneaks past the guards and traps. He gets the toucan brothers.

The toucan brothers are happy. They give him three coins and went along with him.

Then he spots a hunter that is trying to catch the parrots! The golden lion tamarin monkey goes as fast as he can and saves the parrots.

The parrots were so happy, and they gave him six coins and said, "Could we go with you?"

And the golden lion tamarin monkey said, "Yes!"

They see a shop and they have 14 coins, so now they can buy a kingdom. They get one, and the golden lion tamarin monkey lets his friends live inside the kingdom.

Recycling for Our Community

by Allison S., age 13, Fort Pierre, SD

There was a pair of golden lion tamarin monkeys sitting under a tree as bored as can be.

The toucan came and said, "I'm bored. What are we going to do to entertain me?"

One of the monkeys shrugged and said, "We should go on an adventure! You know, like go explore the community."

They all looked at him. "What are we going to explore?" asked the salamanders and parrots.

"We are going on an adventure! We are going to see the world!"

No one spoke for a minute. "OK, but let's just stay where we live."

They agreed, and they were off. First, they passed the waterfall. They sat there and admired the beauty.

"I feel blessed," said the toucan.

They didn't look at him but still asked, "Why is that? What is so amazing about where we live?"

He looked at the waterfall and saw some garbage. "This is an amazing place," he said as he went and picked up the garbage and threw it away.

The toucan said, "This is our home, and it is beautiful. This place has been here longer than we have, and we need to save it."





They finally looked at him.

“Save what? What do you mean, toucan?”

The toucan looked at the golden lion tamarin monkeys, the salamanders and the parrots. He told them that the earth is their community and we are lucky to even see the beauty that this world holds, and every day it gets destroyed, hurting the environment.

The toucan asked his friends, “Did you know that there is an island of garbage floating in our ocean?”

The friends were stunned.

The toucan shared that the earth is being ruined and he just wants to have a place to play with his friends. The group felt doomed.

“We can still save our community,” the toucan said as a matter of fact.

“How? We need to know,” his friends asked.

The toucan laughed. “We just need to recycle and throw our trash in a garbage can and not on the ground. It’s really easy.”

They shook their heads. “We’re just a bunch of kids. What can we do?”

The salamander stood on a rock and said, “We might just be kids, but it only takes one rock to start an avalanche. Our effort can make a big difference if we just try. We can do it, guys. Let’s make a better future for our families.”

They went around the rest of the day and picked up trash and recycled.

At the end of the day, they picked up four jumbo garbage bags of trash.

“We need to find the correct receptacle.”

They sorted the trash and went to go get cleaned up.

“Hey, kids. What did you do today?” the toucan’s mom asked.

“We cleaned up the community. We picked up trash and recycled it so it will be cleaner here.”

She smiled, “I’m so proud of you. You kids are doing the right thing.”

It was getting late, so the kids headed home. They said their good nights, and then the toucan went to bed.

Now every weekend he and his mother pick up the trash around the community. Everything is looking so much nicer, and kids are playing at the park now.

The mother said, “I’m so proud of all of you kids. You are doing an amazing job, and I hope you’re happy with the work you’ve done.”

The kids nodded. “We never realized that picking up our trash would help our community so much. Thank you for helping us realize that.”

So after that, every day they picked up trash, and they made a difference. They are making the world a better place.



Reading Day!

by Rebecca L., age 16, Harrisburg, MO

The city's annual book fair and reading day were almost upon the community. The young animals could not wait to start. The schools held fairs where the animals could go buy as many books as they could carry, and for the kangaroos, that was a lot!

The animals in all grades would spend the day reading and drinking hot chocolate. The winter was coming, and everyone wanted to be inside reading. Samantha the salamander was starting the second grade with her friends, and this was the first year she would start reading real books.

Timmy and Tammy the toucan twins were in her class, along with Perry and Penny the parrot twins. Their teacher was Mrs. Megan the monkey, and she was going to make sure everyone was the best reader they could be.

Tomorrow was the day of the book fair, and Samantha the salamander was nervous. Samantha never learned how to read because she is the oldest of her siblings and her mother is very busy taking care of her family. Samantha is the only animal in her class that does not know how to read, and everyone was going to find out on reading day!

Samantha cried that night in her tiny bed. Her little siblings heard her sobs and came to hug her, but they could not teach her how to read.

BOOK FAIR

TOMORROW





Samantha woke up early the next morning to try and read a book, but it did not work. Mrs. Megan told the class that they could wear their favorite pajamas to school that day, so Samantha stayed in the pajamas she was still wearing.

She grabbed a donut off the kitchen table and was about ready to leave for the bus, but she felt like she was forgetting something.

She thought nothing about it since the bus was already here and she had to go.

She crawled onto the bus and rode to school watching the snowflakes whisk by the bus windows. She saw Amy the armadillo sitting in the seat across from her pulling out her money for the book fair.

Samantha realized what she had forgotten. She had forgotten her money for the book fair. She grabbed her backpack and searched every nook and cranny, just looking for some change. But she found nothing.

She laid down in her seat and watched the windows fog up from the heat on the bus and fell asleep. The bus stopped at the school and began to let the children off.

Samantha woke up with a start and scurried off the bus. She caught up with her class and crawled into the hallway. Hot chocolate mugs and snowmen made of marshmallows adorned the tables.

There was the buzzing noise of eager animals at the book fair taking place down the hallway. Samantha traveled down the hallway and into her classroom.

Her classmates were building forts out of pillows and blankets, and Mrs. Megan was carrying trays of hot chocolate.

Samantha raced to a corner to sit by herself and hide behind a book she could not understand.

Mrs. Megan saw Samantha sitting by herself. She made her way towards Samantha and picked up a book on the way. Samantha hid her tiny face behind a large book and hoped that Mrs. Megan could no longer see her. Mrs. Megan asked Samantha why she was all alone.

“Mrs. Megan, I cannot read!” exclaimed Samantha. Samantha let out a cry of sadness.

“Samantha, you should know that it takes time to learn how to read, and I will help you,” said Mrs. Megan.

Samantha smiled behind her book but then frowned again because she remembered she had forgotten her money.

“Mrs. Megan, I forgot my money for books. Now I will never learn how to read!” cried Samantha.

Mrs. Megan told her that when they get to the book fair, Samantha could pick out any book that she wants and she would buy it for her. Samantha smiled once again.



The time had come to go to the book fair, and when Samantha walked in, she rushed towards the books with pink sparkly covers. She picked up the first one she saw and handed it to the teacher. Samantha wandered around looking at all of the books and even tried to read one or two.

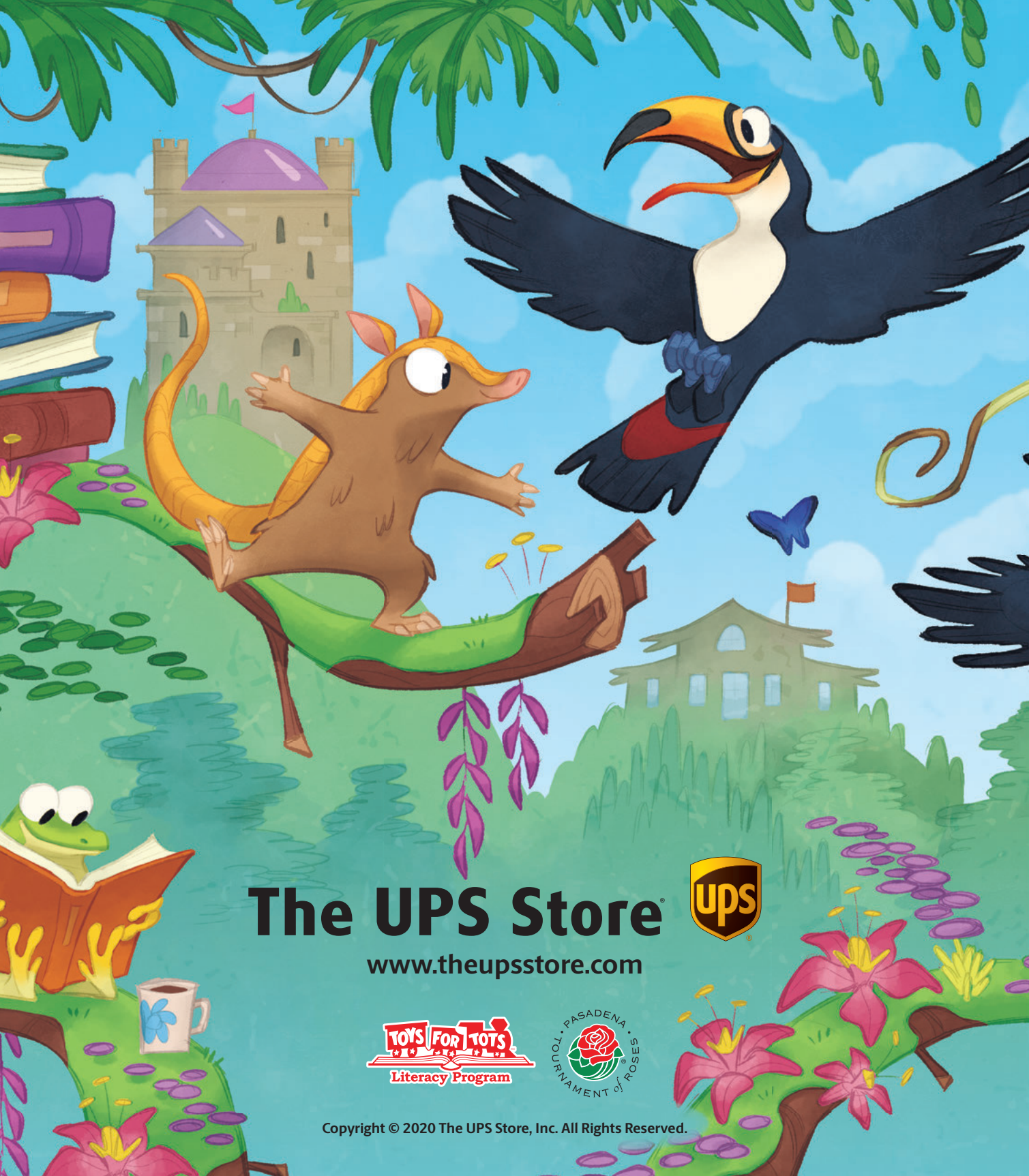
Then they traveled back to their classroom. Samantha carried her book to her corner, and Mrs. Megan followed with two cups of hot chocolate.

Samantha learned how to pronounce the letters of the alphabet that day and even read an entire sentence!

Mrs. Megan gave Samantha hope and the motivation to read, and Samantha could not be more excited.

All of Samantha's friends joined her, and they all read together.





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