



Local Knowledge Book Series

Chang Noi

Explored Isan!



Story and Illustrations
Arthit Amornchorn

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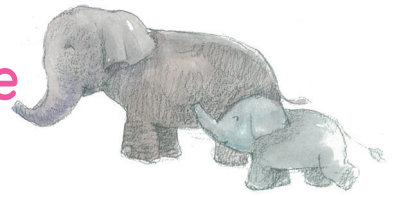
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Preface



Thailand Knowledge Park (TK park) mission in society is to develop a love of reading and give people equal opportunities to experience modern learning centers which speak to their interests. TK park has been cooperating with local administrators in many regions of Thailand to build living libraries as a way to achieve its mission.

Bringing local knowledge to children, in a modern and fun way, is an important tool to inspire them to read and explore. The idea is to create books which reflect local wisdom, together with morality and ethics, for children aged 4-12.

The books in the Lower Isan Set were developed by TK park, scholars, and local writers. Children and adults will get to know about the Lower Isan region and be proud of the unique traditions found there. Moreover, the books also foster better understandings of and tolerant attitudes toward others from different cultures and societies.

TK park hopes the books will be another learning tool to help encourage Thai people to read more and maximize their learning. TK park aims to make the books fun and easy to read. Readers can enjoy them and appreciate their own hometowns, regions, and country.

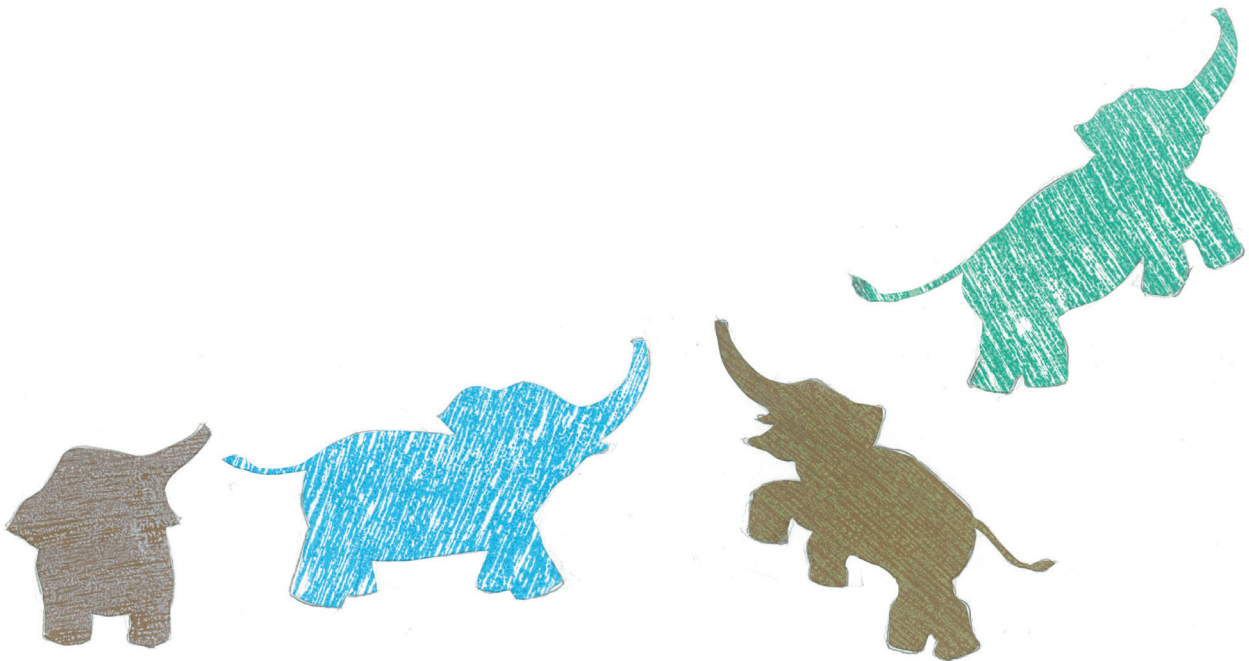
Thailand Knowledge Park





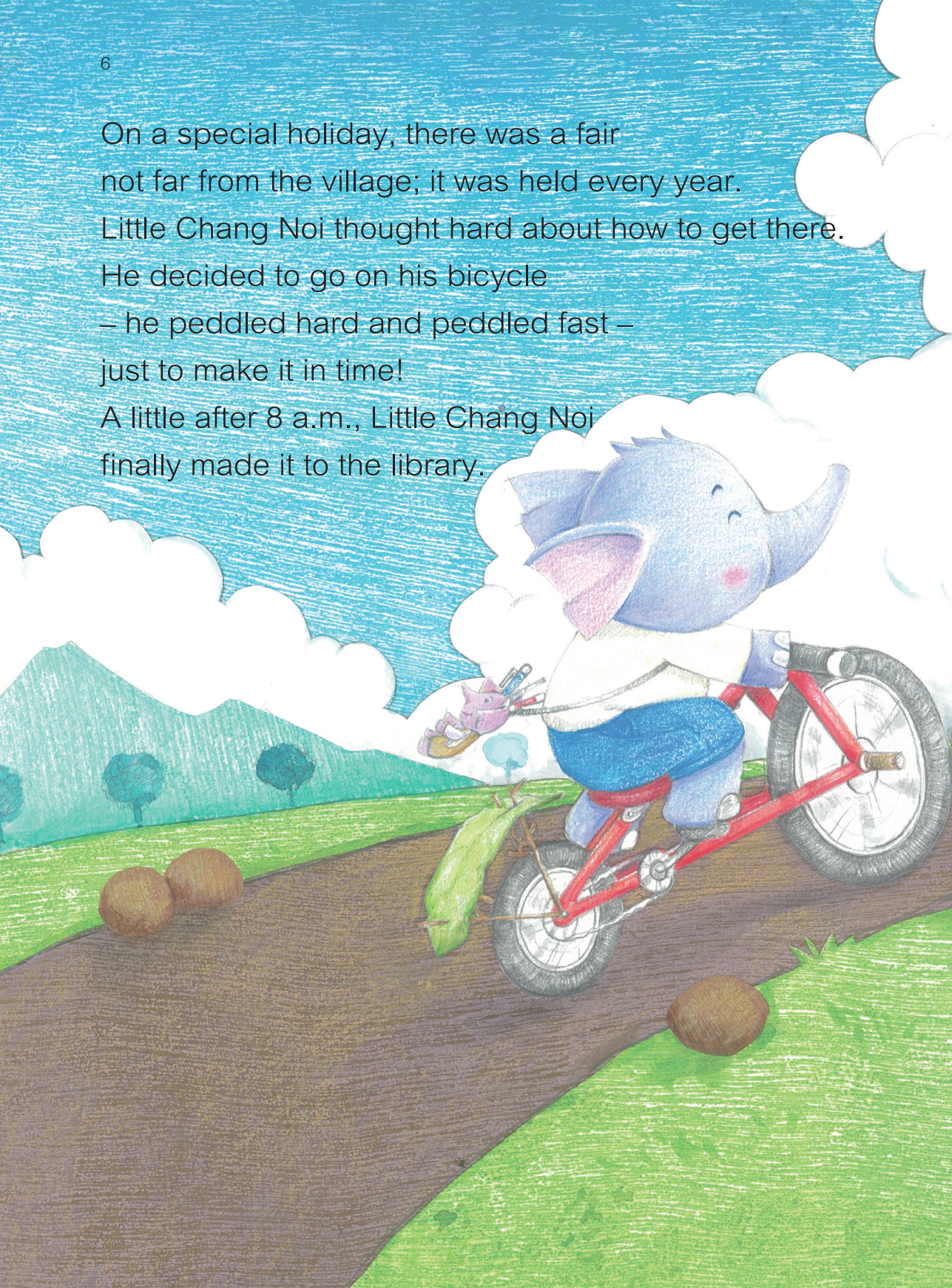
Chang Noi

Explored Isan!



Story and Illustrations
Arthit Amornchorn

On a special holiday, there was a fair not far from the village; it was held every year. Little Chang Noi thought hard about how to get there. He decided to go on his bicycle – he peddled hard and peddled fast – just to make it in time! A little after 8 a.m., Little Chang Noi finally made it to the library.

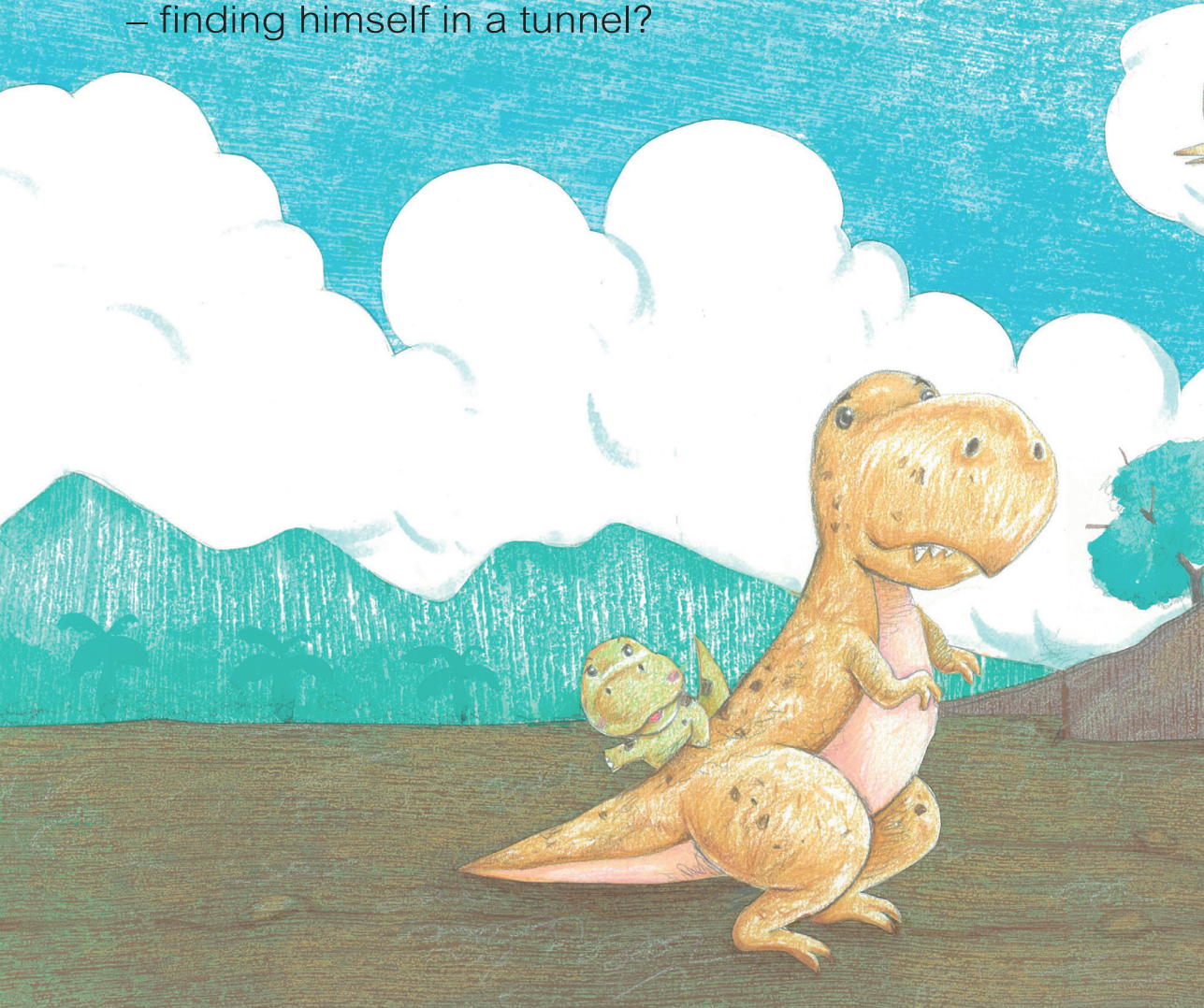




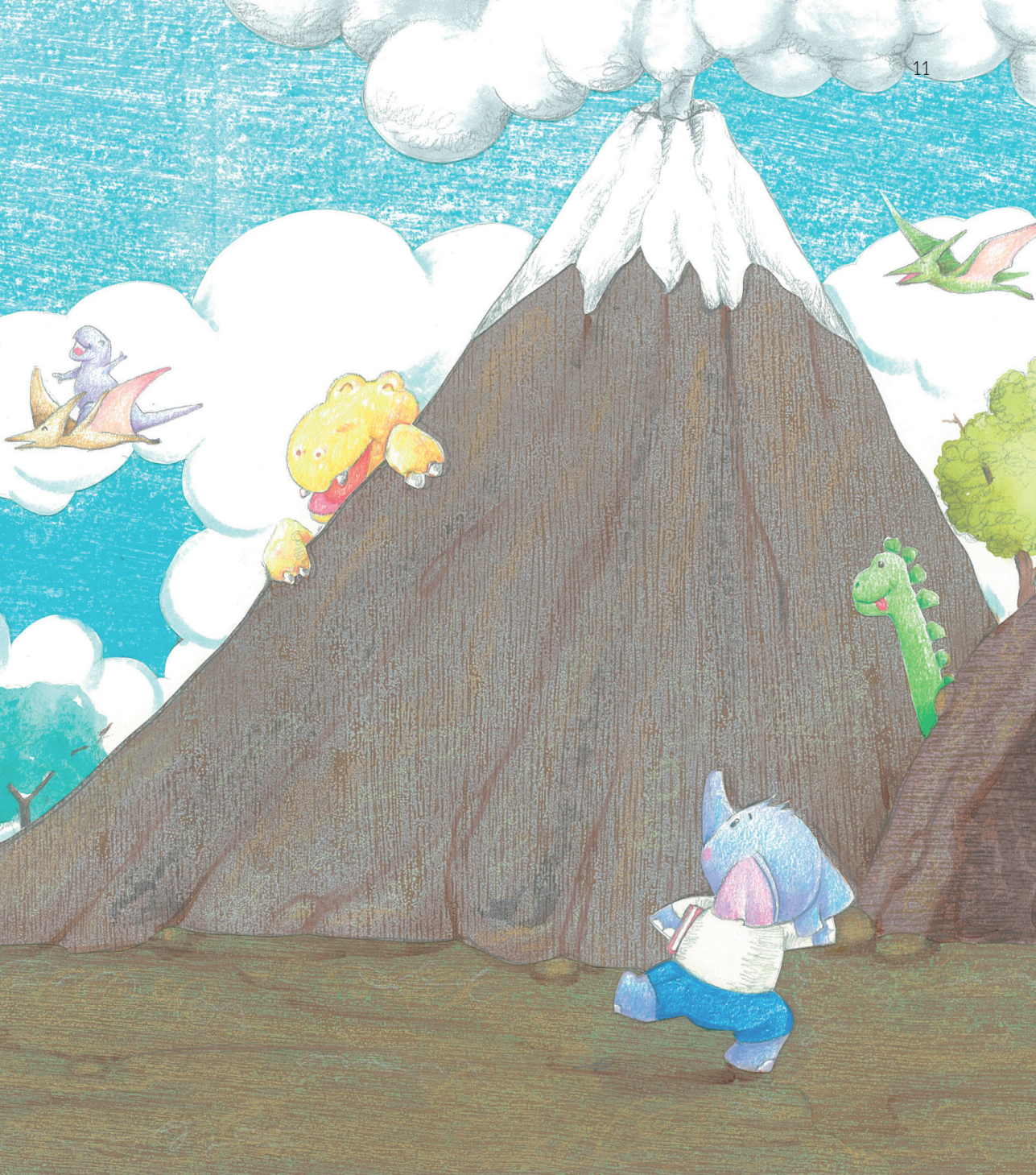
Little Chang Noi explored the piles of books
until he just HAD to stop and look!
He began to open the treasure in his hands...
and the journey began!
Laid before him was ancient Siam
– a model of the temples in Ayutthaya!
A light was gleaming with a puff of smoke –
Little Chang Noi's heart was about to explode!



Out of nowhere a great big volcano appeared in sight.
And Little Chang Noi's eyes went W-I-D-E!
He rushed and ran to get out of there
– finding himself in a tunnel?



Actually the tunnel is part of Highway 24, which connects Sikhio City in Nakhon Ratchasima Province with the City



of Ubon Ratchathani. In total, the Highway measures 424 kilometers!!!

After leaving the tunnel, something began to unfold – could it be a grassy knoll?

Little Chang Noi saw a beautifully green rice paddy and bent down to look more closely.

He wondered about where next this book would let him look.



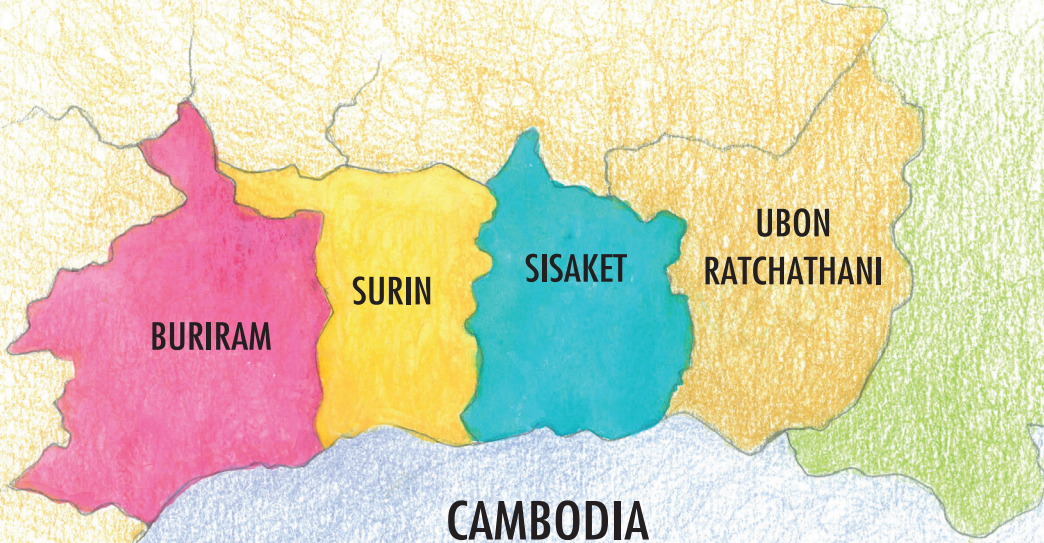
Here are some fun facts about rice fields - flat geography which lends itself to older farming methods; the largest area of rice paddies in Thailand is called "Tung Kula



Rong Hai.” It is important source of Jasmine Rice, an important staple food of the Thai people.

Little Chang Noi opened his magic book
to yet another page.

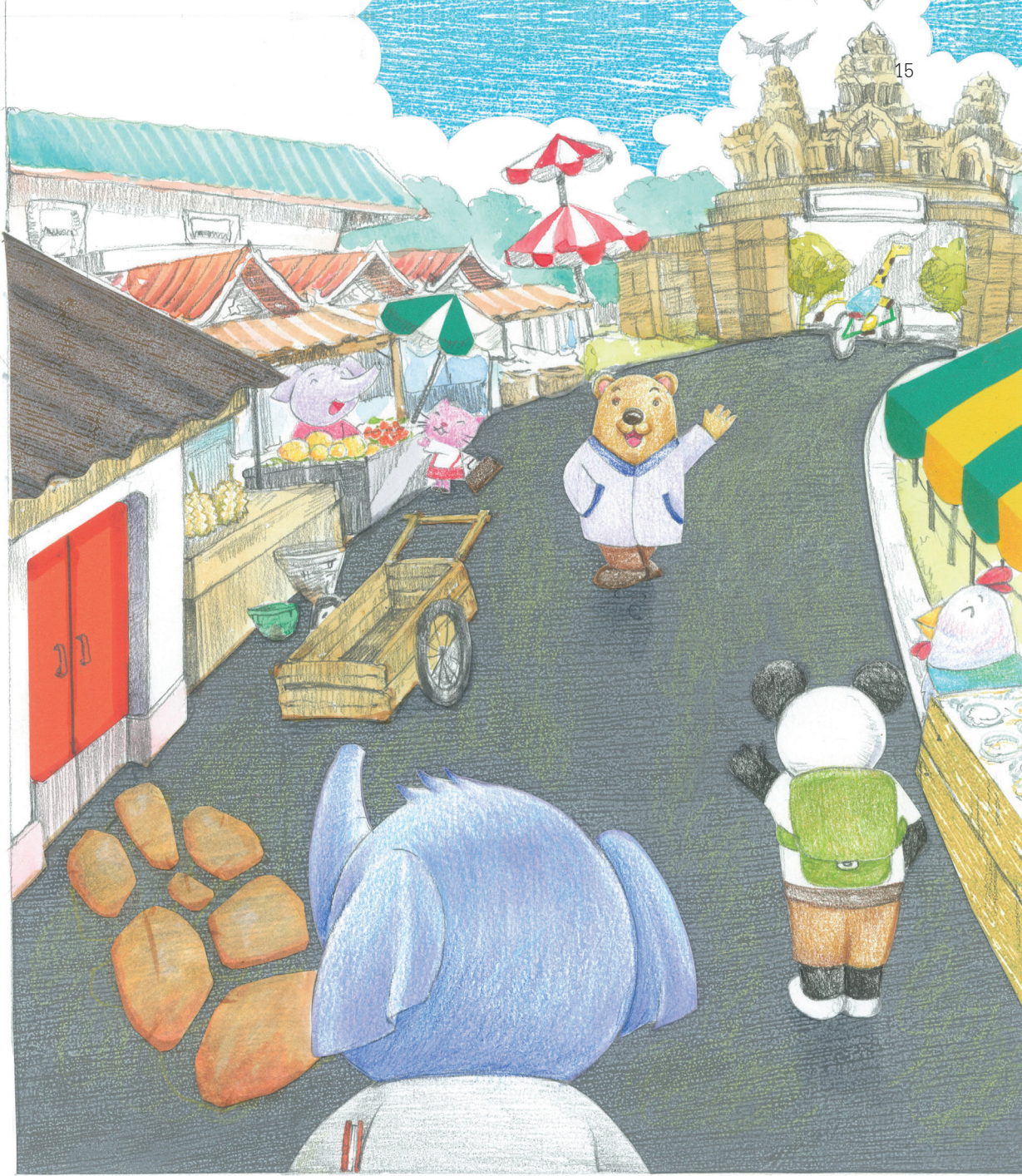
Appearing before him was a gate,
Little Chang Noi couldn't wait!



Overcome with curiosity,
Little Chang Noi rushed toward
the passage to a beautiful city.
He was in the land of Isan, it seemed.
He was watching himself as in a dream.

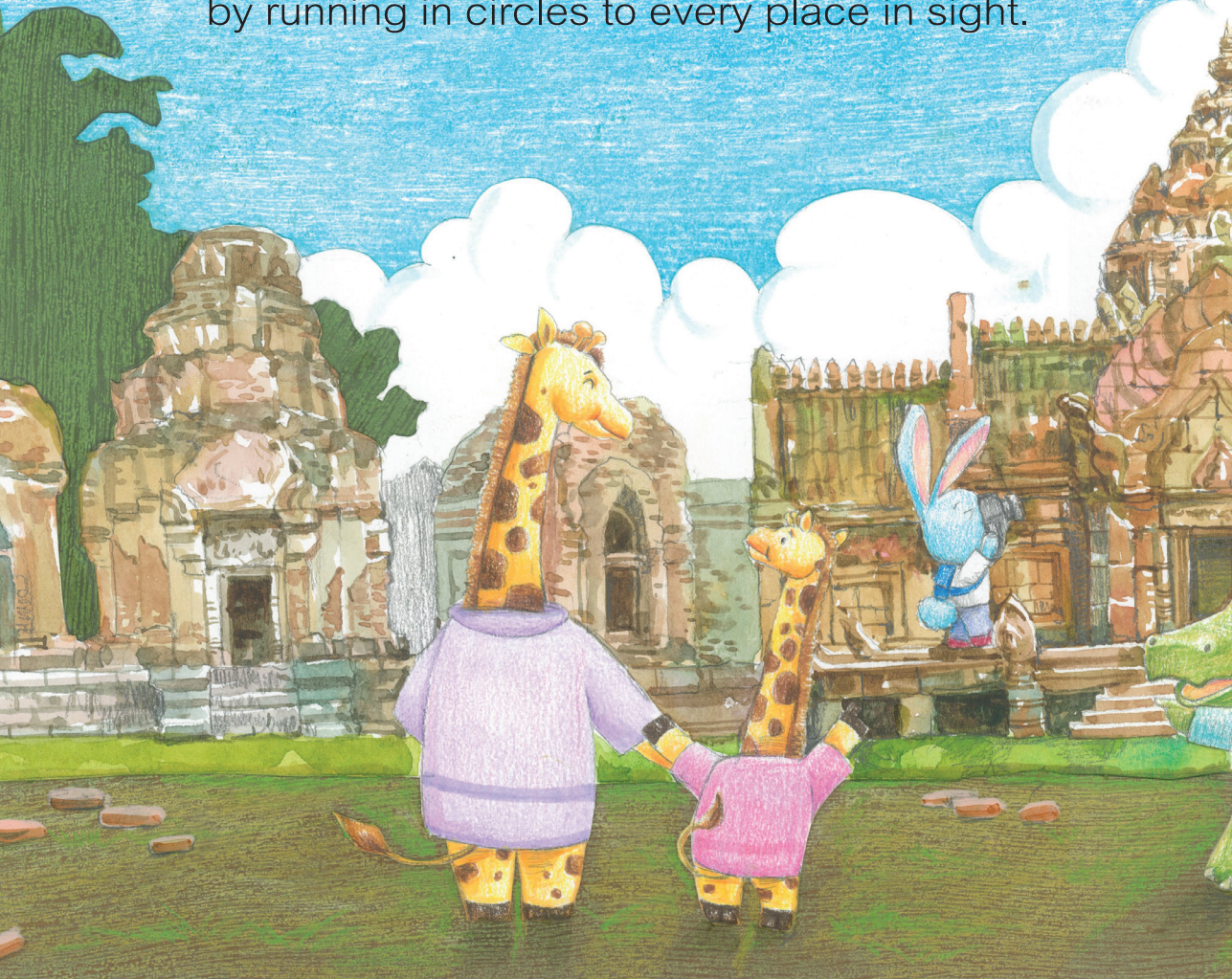


This permanent passage leads to Kap Choeng district
in Surin Province and is connected with O-Smach



Village in Oddar Meanchey Province, Cambodia.

Back in Isan in the land of stone temples,
Little Chang Noi was dazzled.
Little Chang Noi showed his delight
by running in circles to every place in sight.



The stone temples at Isan's borders are believed to have been constructed during the late Middle Ages. By comparison, European civilization was just beginning

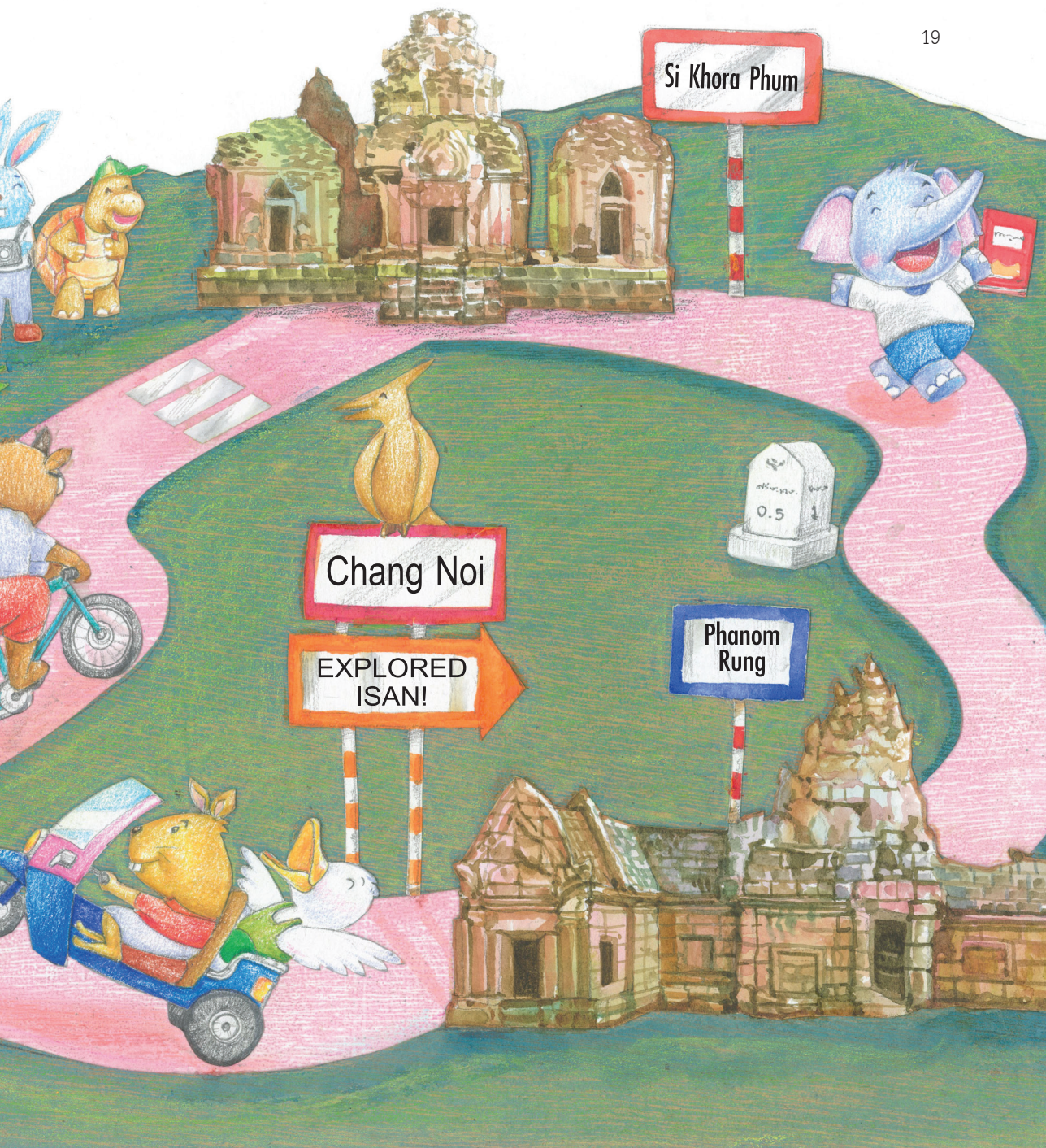


to construct universities and the Gothic style of architecture was just coming into use.

From one temple to another,
Little Chang Noi didn't miss
exploring a single one!



During the 15th–17th Buddhist Centuries (957–1157 AD),
many Asian countries were led by divine leaders chosen



through the Brahman-Hindu religion. They built many great temples. However, Western nations were engaged in war, notably the Crusades.

Little Chang Noi walked back and forth
between all the stone temples,
each lap an artistic delight,
and began to sense a familiar scent and sight.
Suddenly, walking on tiptoes,
Little Chang Noi peered through the window...

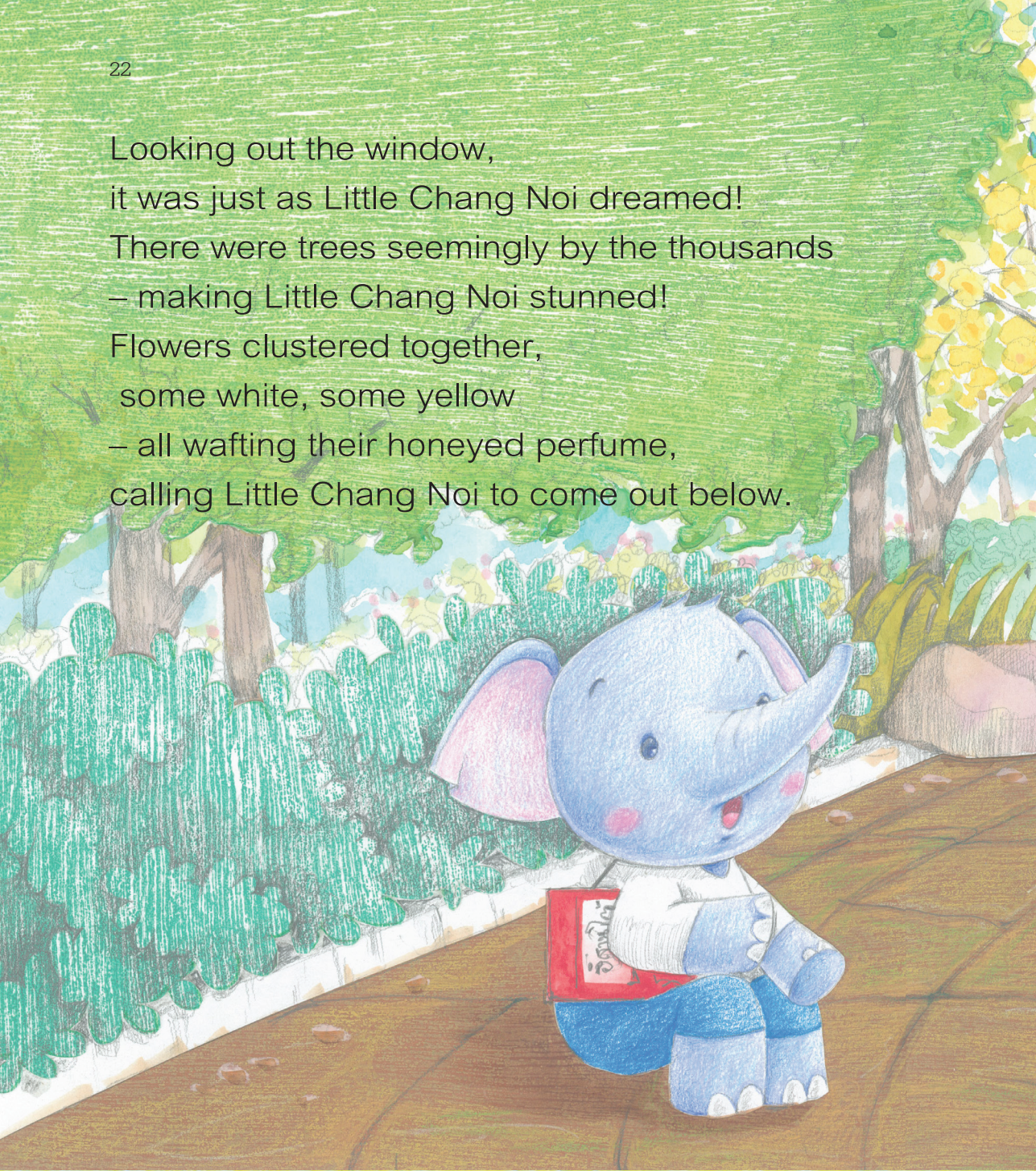


Over 50,000 Lamduan Trees have been planted in
Somdet Phra Si Nakarin Park. At the end of the year,



just before March, is when the Lamduan trees flower and their scent wafts through the air of the surrounding area.

Looking out the window,
it was just as Little Chang Noi dreamed!
There were trees seemingly by the thousands
– making Little Chang Noi stunned!
Flowers clustered together,
some white, some yellow
– all wafting their honeyed perfume,
calling Little Chang Noi to come out below.



Fai Kham or Supannikar trees (also called Yellow Cotton) are now native to Buriram, Nakhon Nayok, Suphan Buri, and Uthai Thani Provinces. Lamduan Flowers are native to Sisaket Province and are the national flower of Cambodia.



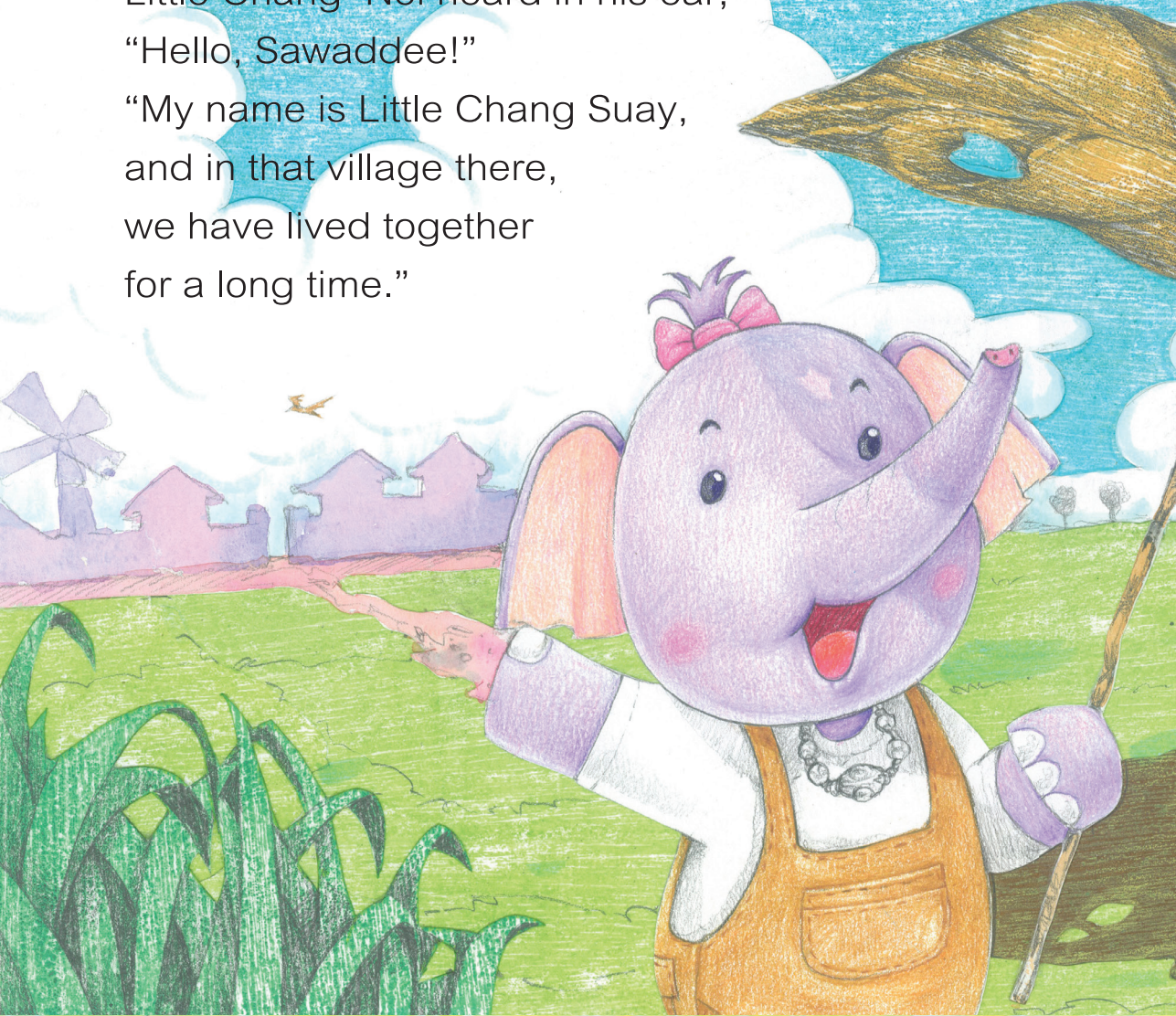


Gan Grao trees or Tembusu are native to Surin Province. In southern Thailand Gan Grao trees are called “Tam Saeng” or “Tam Sao” trees. Any way you call them, these trees are one of the 9 auspicious types of trees.



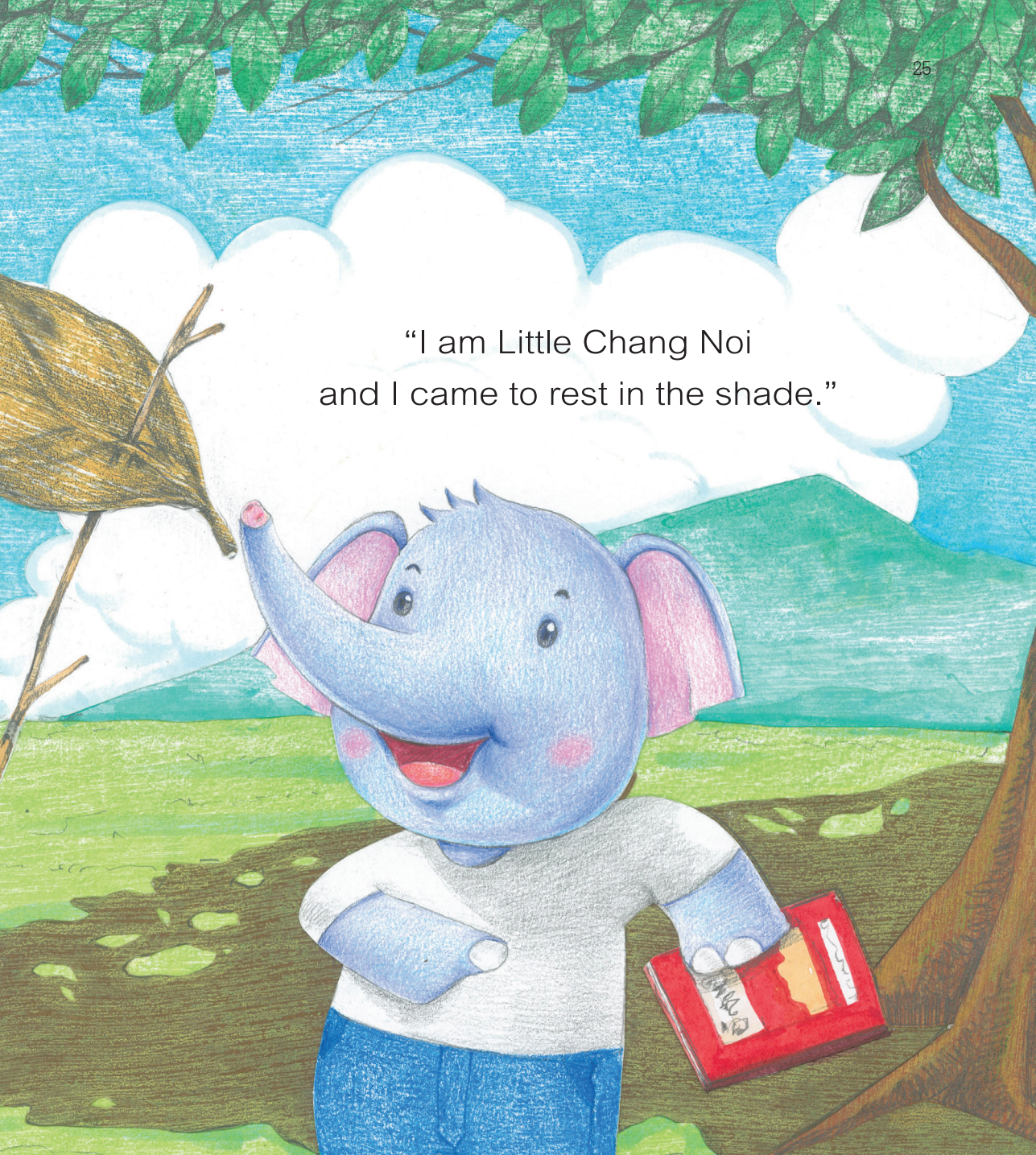
Little Chang Noi stopped to rest under the shade of a lonely tree. Little Chang Noi heard in his ear, “Hello, Sawaddee!”

“My name is Little Chang Suay, and in that village there, we have lived together for a long time.”



The Khmer phrase “Pra Geum” is, linguistically speaking, close to the Thai word for necklace “Pra Kam.”

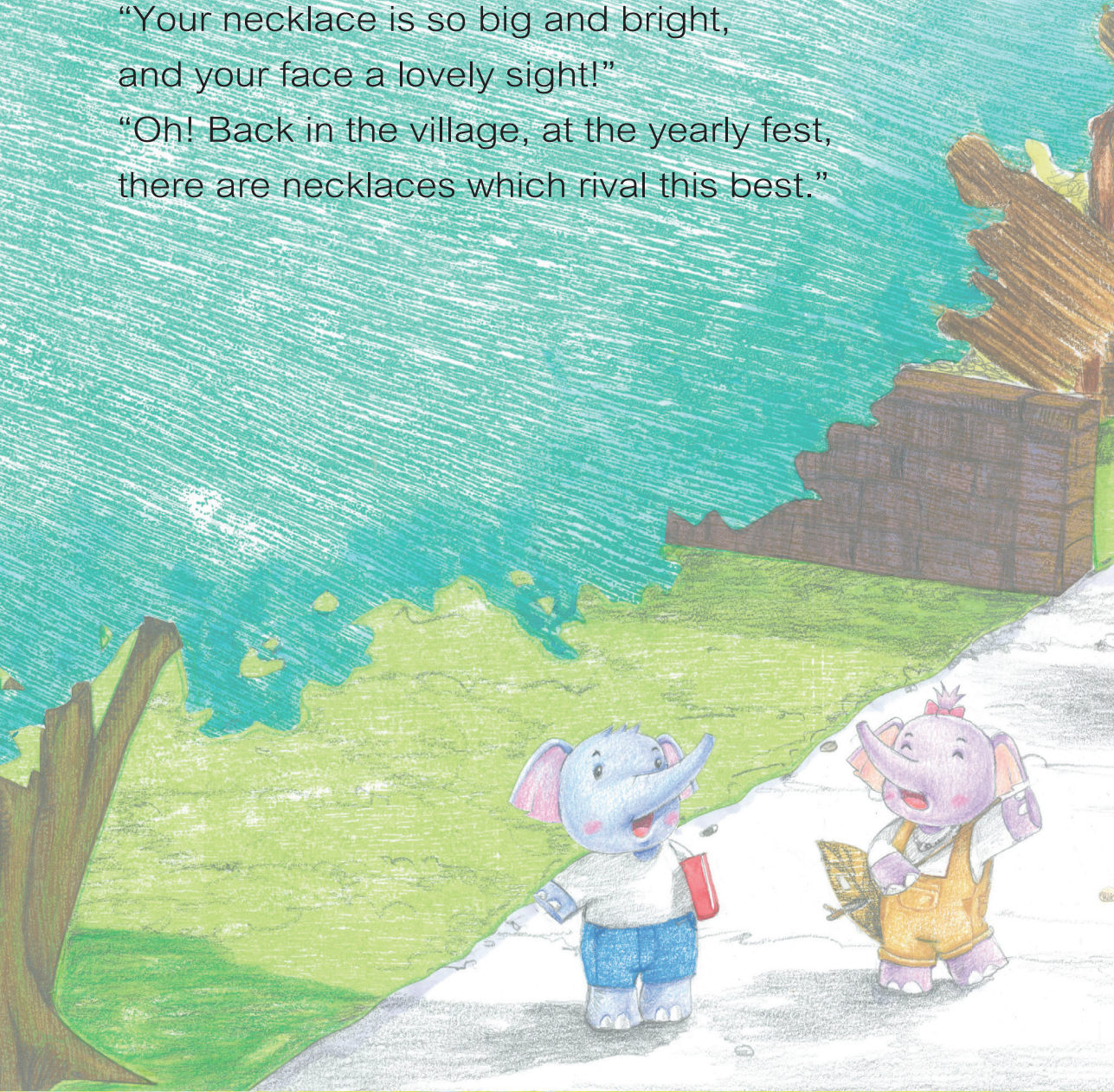
“I am Little Chang Noi
and I came to rest in the shade.”



Both refer to strings of gold or silver beads of substantial size and adornment.

“Your necklace is so big and bright,
and your face a lovely sight!”

“Oh! Back in the village, at the yearly fest,
there are necklaces which rival this best.”



The Kuay people migrated from Champasak Province, which was part of Thailand historically. They settled in the area of Jompra Town at the end of the

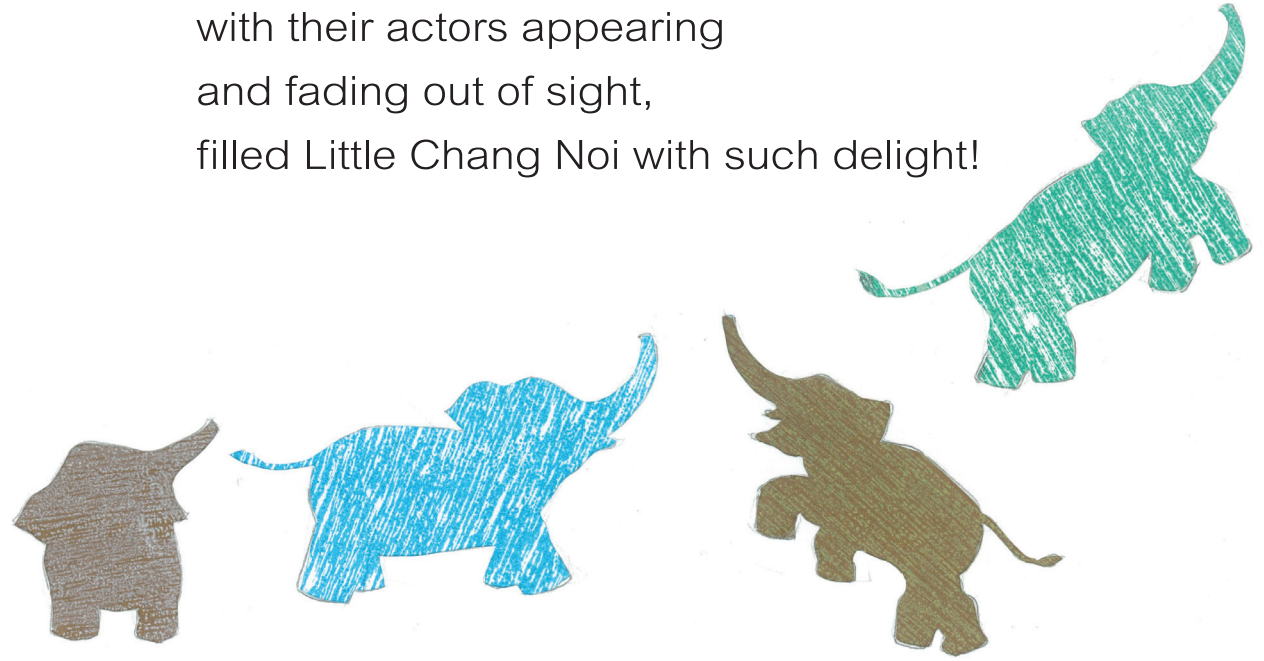


Ayutthaya Period. Historically, the Kuay people were known for their skill at Elephant husbandry.

Little Chang Suay invited Little Chang Noi
to come along.

“Let’s go my new buddy!
I’ll take you to the festival shortly.”

All the shows,
with their actors appearing
and fading out of sight,
filled Little Chang Noi with such delight!



Synonyms for Elephant include—Hatsadi (Sanskrit), Kunchon
(Poetic Thai), Kari, Khachin (Sanskrit), Khachathan (Pali-Sanskrit),



Hatthi, Khachen, Hatsadin, Karin (Sanskrit), Aiyara, San, Warana, Khacha, and Phlai (male elephant).



Little Chang Noi watched the festival shows with glee.
“This land here, is blessed with lots of fruit, flowers, and trees.”
Little Chang Noi had some fruit and was relaxing.
The weather was so nice that he couldn’t help but napping.



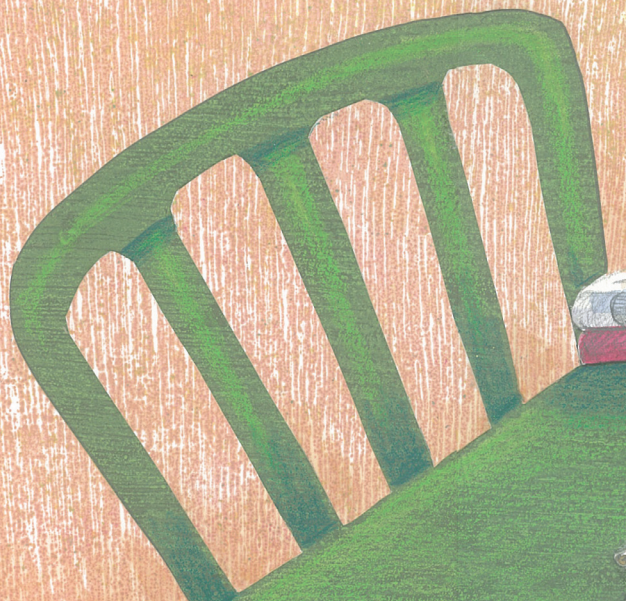
In the Buddhist year of 2531 (1988 AD), Khun Han District experimented with farming durian.

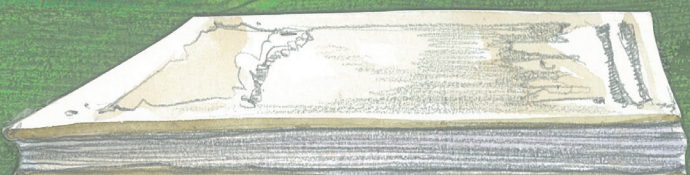
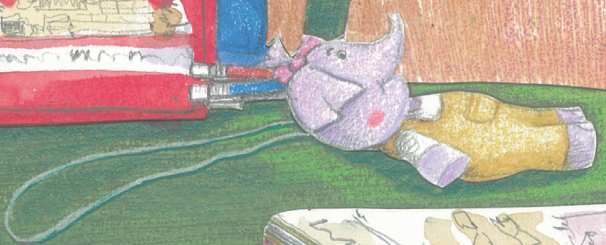


It was a success from the start and marked the beginning of fruit farming in Sisaket.

Little Chang Noi bolted right up on his feet
as a sound was calling out to greet
– it's four o'clock!

The library was closing,
but Little Chang Noi was wondering.
“Did I really go to all those places?”
He hurried to put his cherished book
back on the shelf,

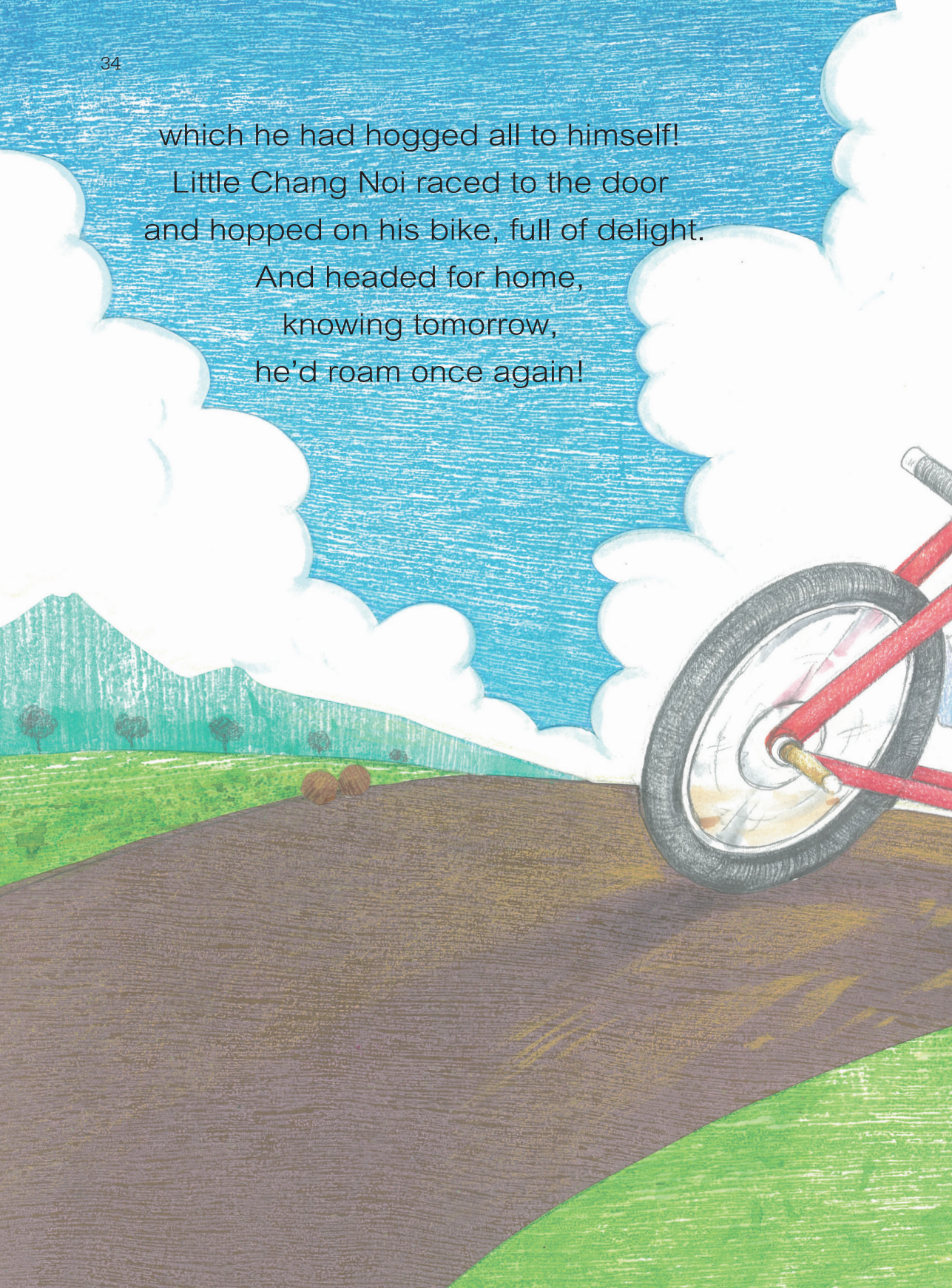




which he had hogged all to himself!

Little Chang Noi raced to the door
and hopped on his bike, full of delight.

And headed for home,
knowing tomorrow,
he'd roam once again!

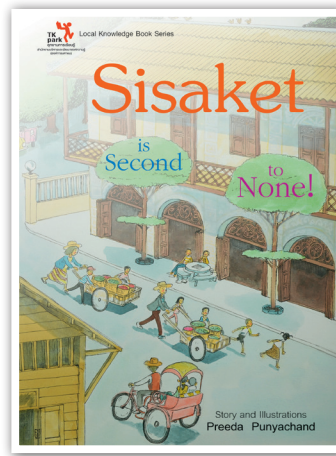
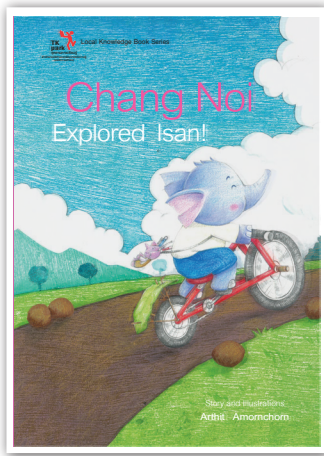






Let's have fun reading!

Little Chang Noi Explored Isan, one of the books in the Local Knowledge Book Series, is considered a book for pleasure. In contrast to textbooks, students, as well as teachers, can have fun reading it together. It is suggested that teachers introduce Little Chang Noi Explored Isan during Thai classes. Teachers might even go for the traditional method of reading it out loud with their students. Students would not be stressed if teachers asked them to read Little Chang Noi out loud in class because it is fun and easy to read.



Local Knowledge Book Series

Author's Profile

Artit Amornchorn graduated from the Faculty of Painting, Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University. He won the Phillip Morris “Best Arts of Thailand” award and won the bronze Illustration for Young Readers Award in 2006, organized by the Publishers and Booksellers Association of Thailand (PUBAT). He also won the “Purchase Prize” 2nd International Print and Drawing Exhibition, Thailand, and the Outstanding Award in the 24th PTT Art Exhibition by PTT Public company Limited. His book for children ‘Tao Tuam Tiam’ (The Tardy Turtle) won the consolation prize during the 42nd National Book Fair.

