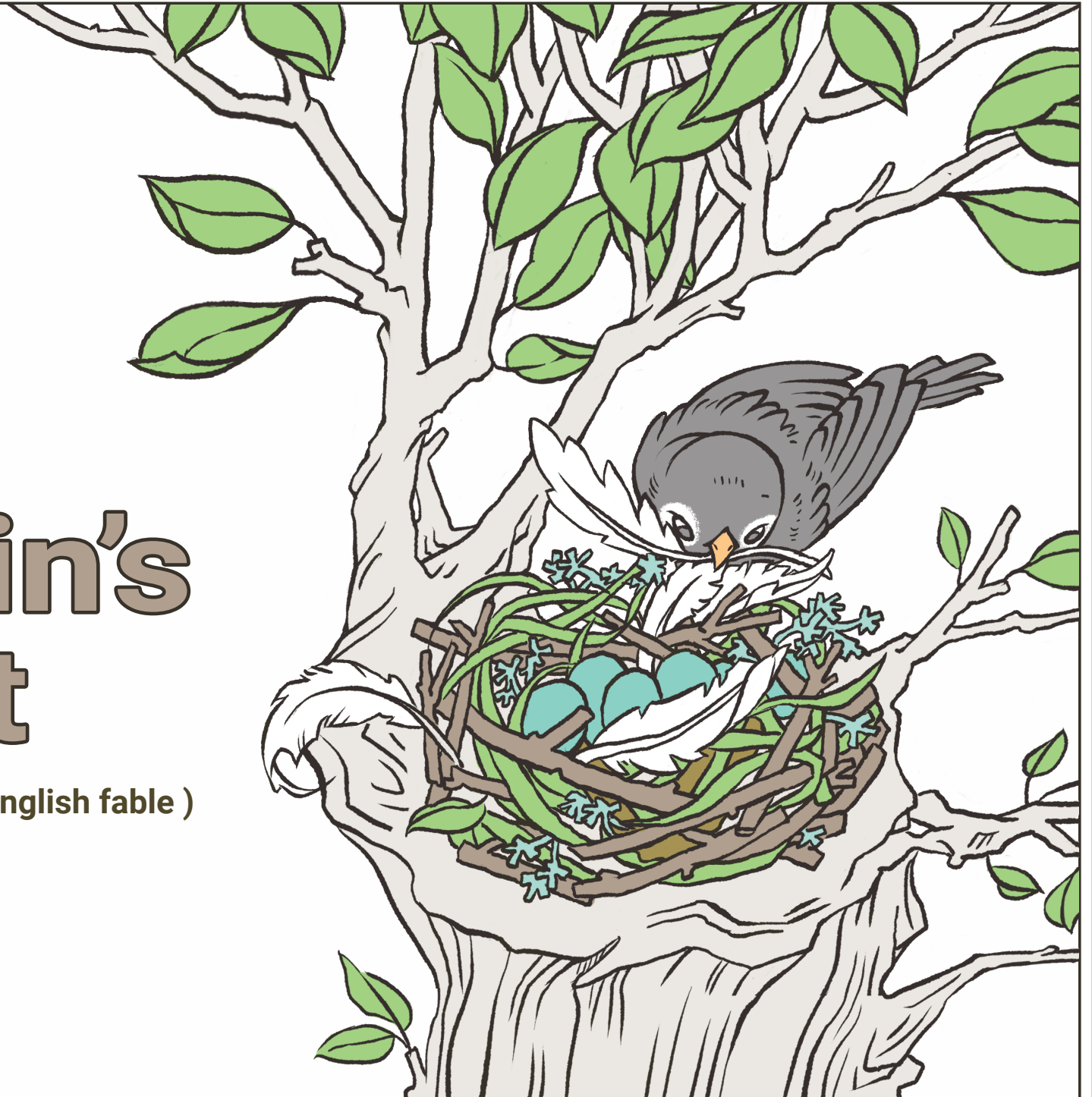


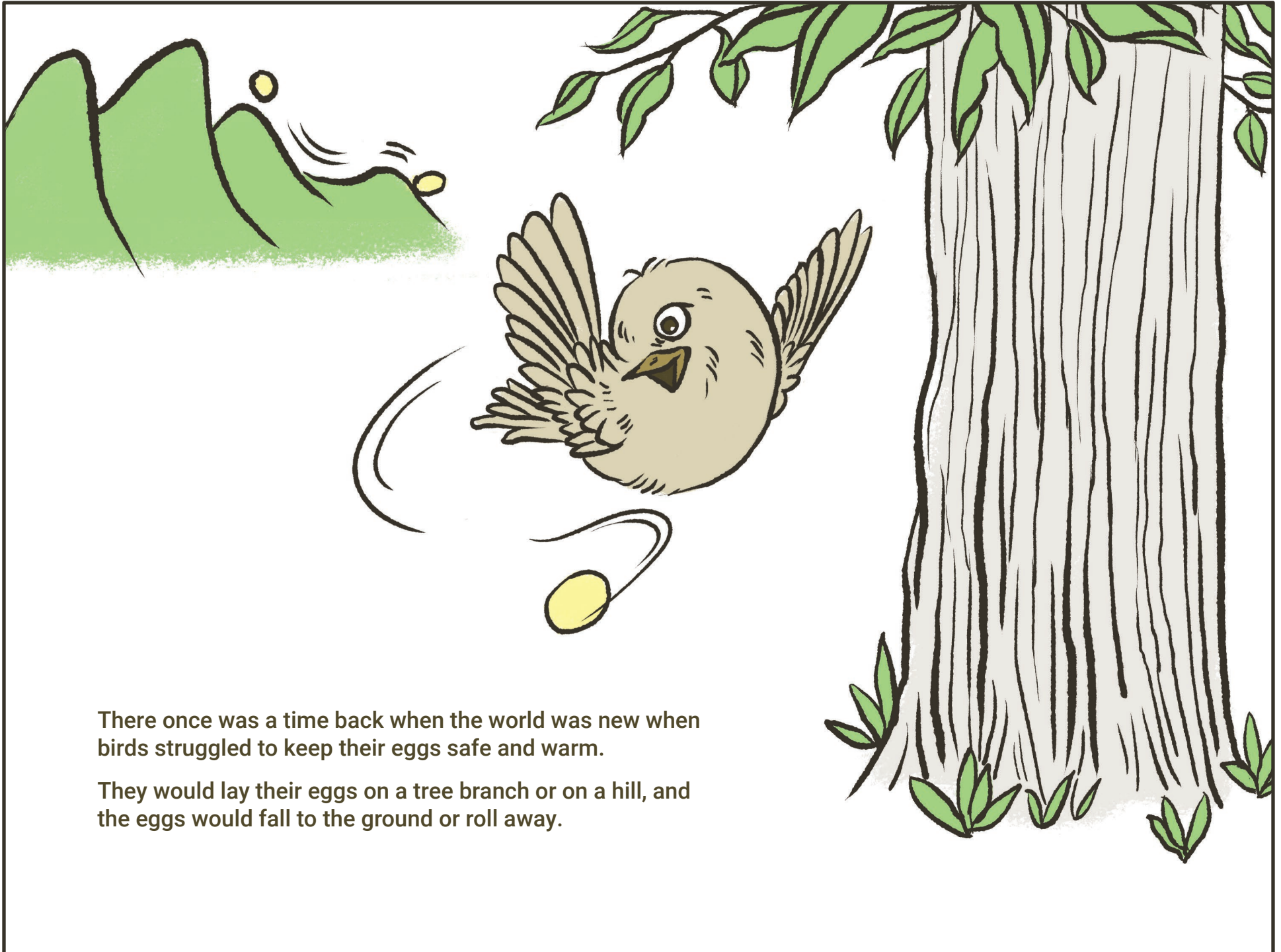


Washington  
Department of  
**FISH &  
WILDLIFE**

# The Robin's Nest

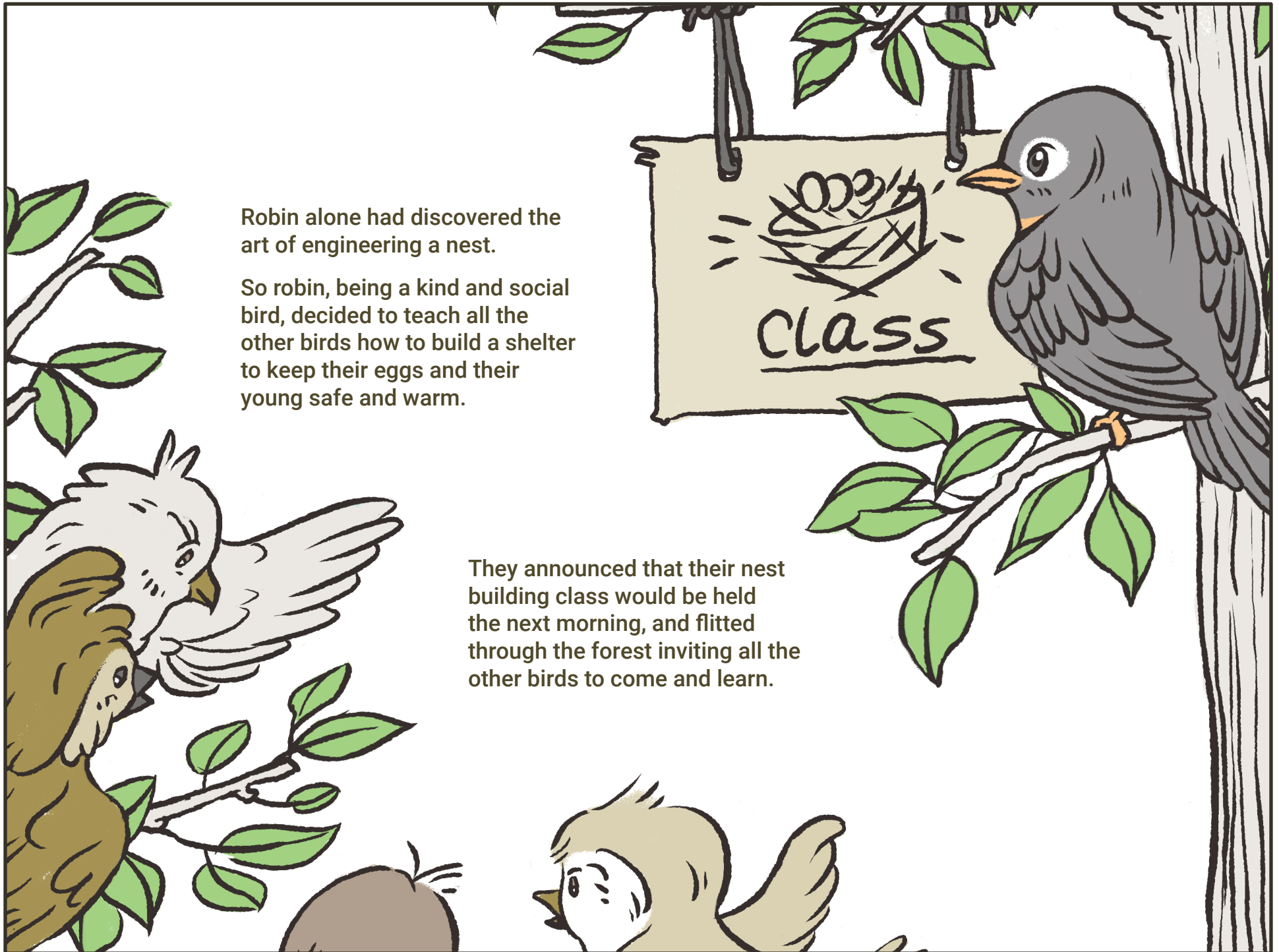
( A retelling of an English fable )





There once was a time back when the world was new when birds struggled to keep their eggs safe and warm.

They would lay their eggs on a tree branch or on a hill, and the eggs would fall to the ground or roll away.



Robin alone had discovered the art of engineering a nest.

So robin, being a kind and social bird, decided to teach all the other birds how to build a shelter to keep their eggs and their young safe and warm.

They announced that their nest building class would be held the next morning, and flitted through the forest inviting all the other birds to come and learn.

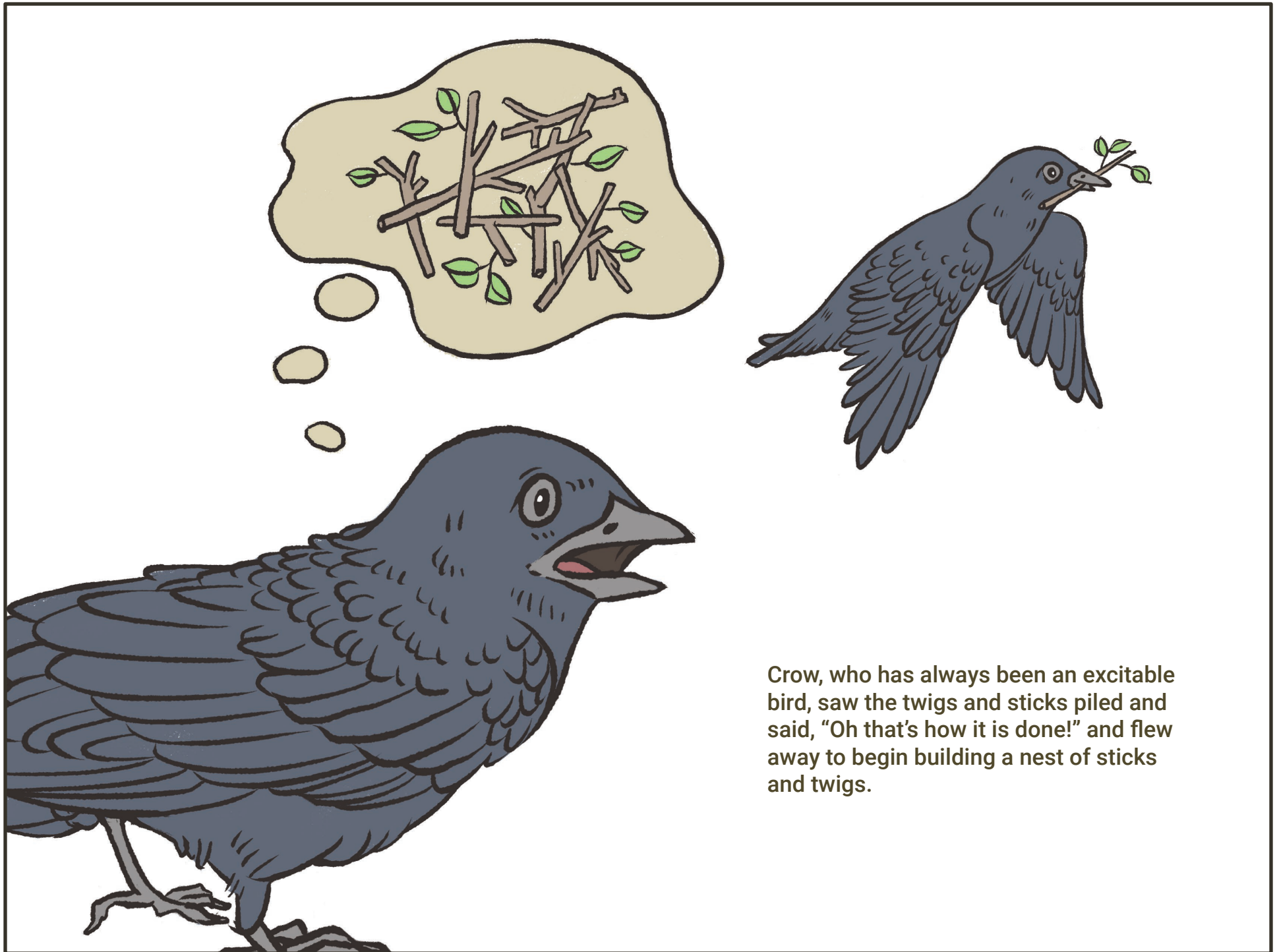




At the start of class, only Crow had made it on time.

Robin began to build the nest by gathering small twigs and sticks. As she gathered each stick, she placed them into a small pile.






Crow, who has always been an excitable bird, saw the twigs and sticks piled and said, "Oh that's how it is done!" and flew away to begin building a nest of sticks and twigs.

Robin continued working on her nest. With her small pile of twigs and small sticks, Robin used her feet and wings to stomp and push them into a circle that fit her small body perfectly. Then she began the next step.





Robin began gathering long pieces of grass and began weaving the grass around the small circle she had made, covering the twigs completely with grass, and helping to hold her nest together.





Just when the nest was covered in grass, Bushtit flew up to take a look at the nest.

All she could see was woven pieces of grass, and she thought that looked like a perfect way to build a nest. So off she flew to build her nest with woven grasses.



Robin continued building her nest alone. She gathered beakfuls of mud and brought it back to pack into the floor and insides of her nest to help make her nest sturdy and warm.

As she was flying back to her nest she ran into Cliff Swallow. Cliff Swallow saw the beakful of mud Robin was carrying and thought that would be a great strong material to use to build a nest. So Cliff Swallow gathered mud and flew off to try it out herself.

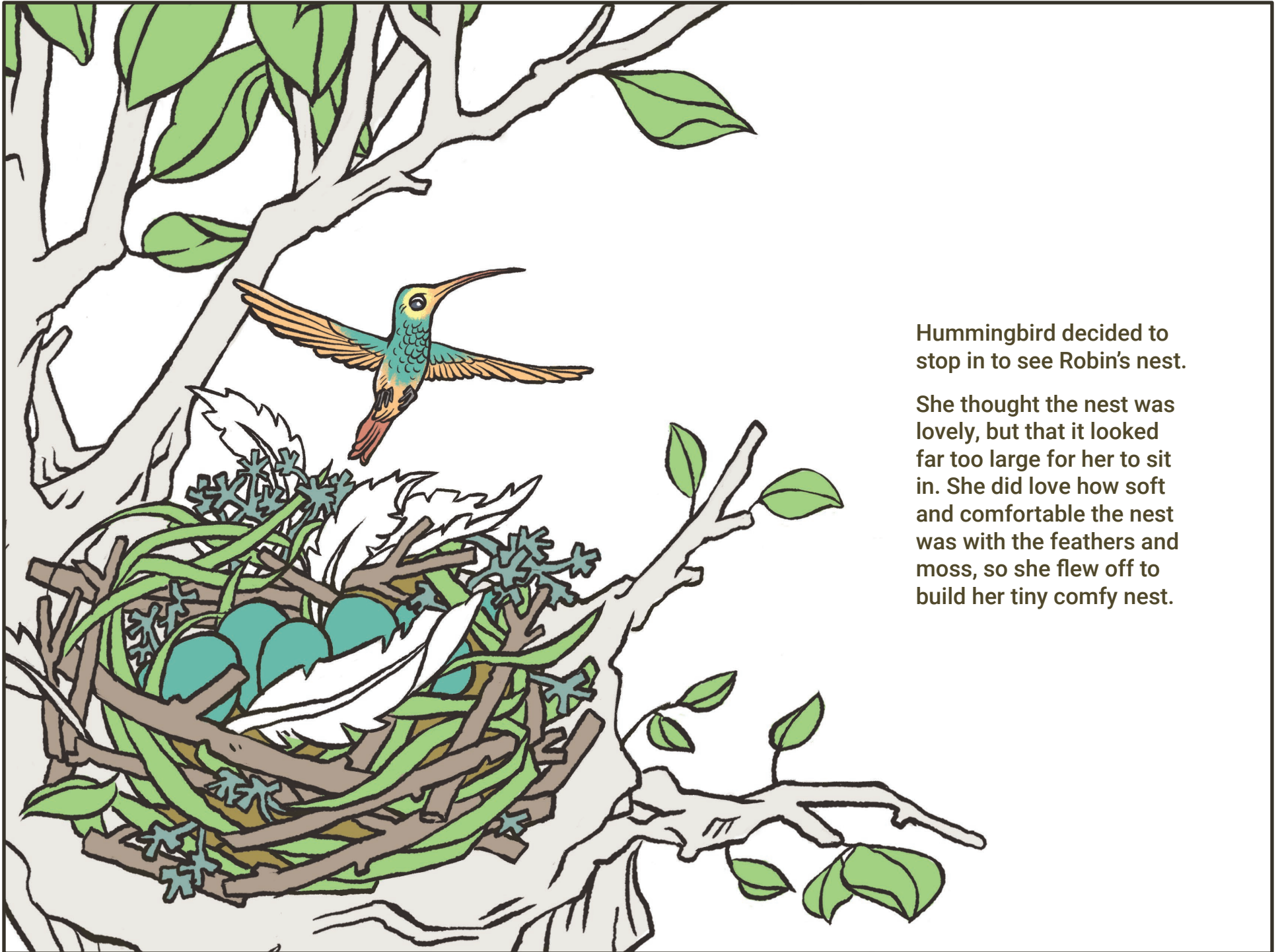


Robin's nest was now sturdy and warm from the mud, and strong from the woven grass and twigs.

It was now time to make the nest comfortable for herself and her eggs. She added some feathers she found, along with some dry grass and dry moss to make her nest nice and soft to sit in.







Hummingbird decided to stop in to see Robin's nest.

She thought the nest was lovely, but that it looked far too large for her to sit in. She did love how soft and comfortable the nest was with the feathers and moss, so she flew off to build her tiny comfy nest.

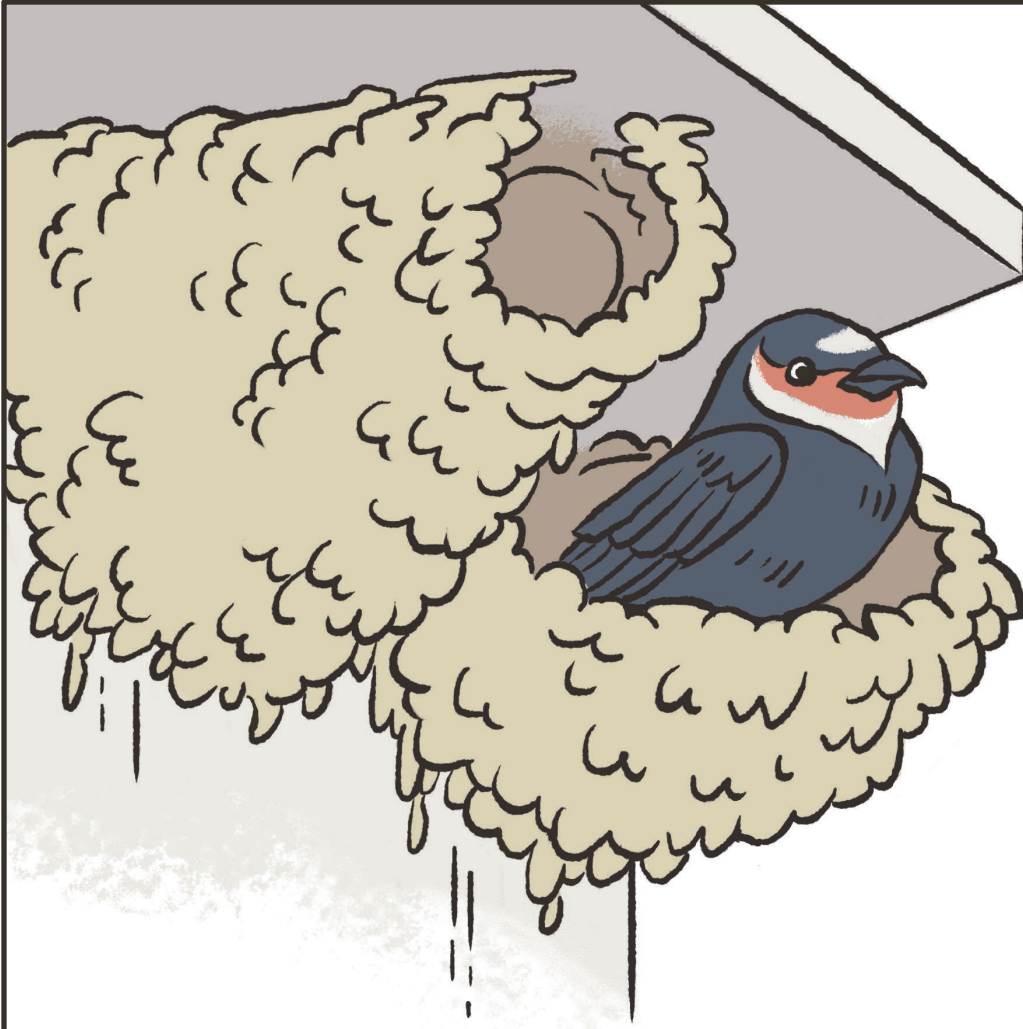


To this day birds build their nests differently.

← A bushtit's nest is made of woven grasses



A crow's nest is made of sticks and twigs. →



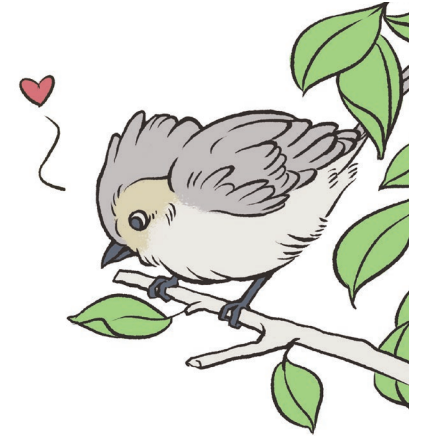
← A cliff swallow's nest is made of mud.

A hummingbird's nest looks like a tiny soft cup. →





This story is a retelling of the English Fable “The Magpie’s Nest”.  
The original story has been changed to include birds that live in  
Washington State.



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**Illustrated by Qing He / WDFW**

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