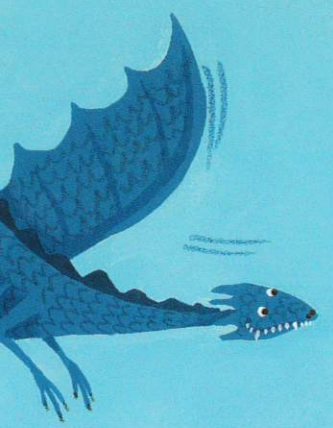


In a land filled with fire and smoke and endless fighting, where knights fight dragons, there

a little knight who wants to be big like the others, and fight like the others, and have a sword like the others.

His mother won't let him. Instead of a sword, she gives him a sunflower, which, as it turns out, is powerful enough to stop a war ...

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THE SUNFLOWER SWORD

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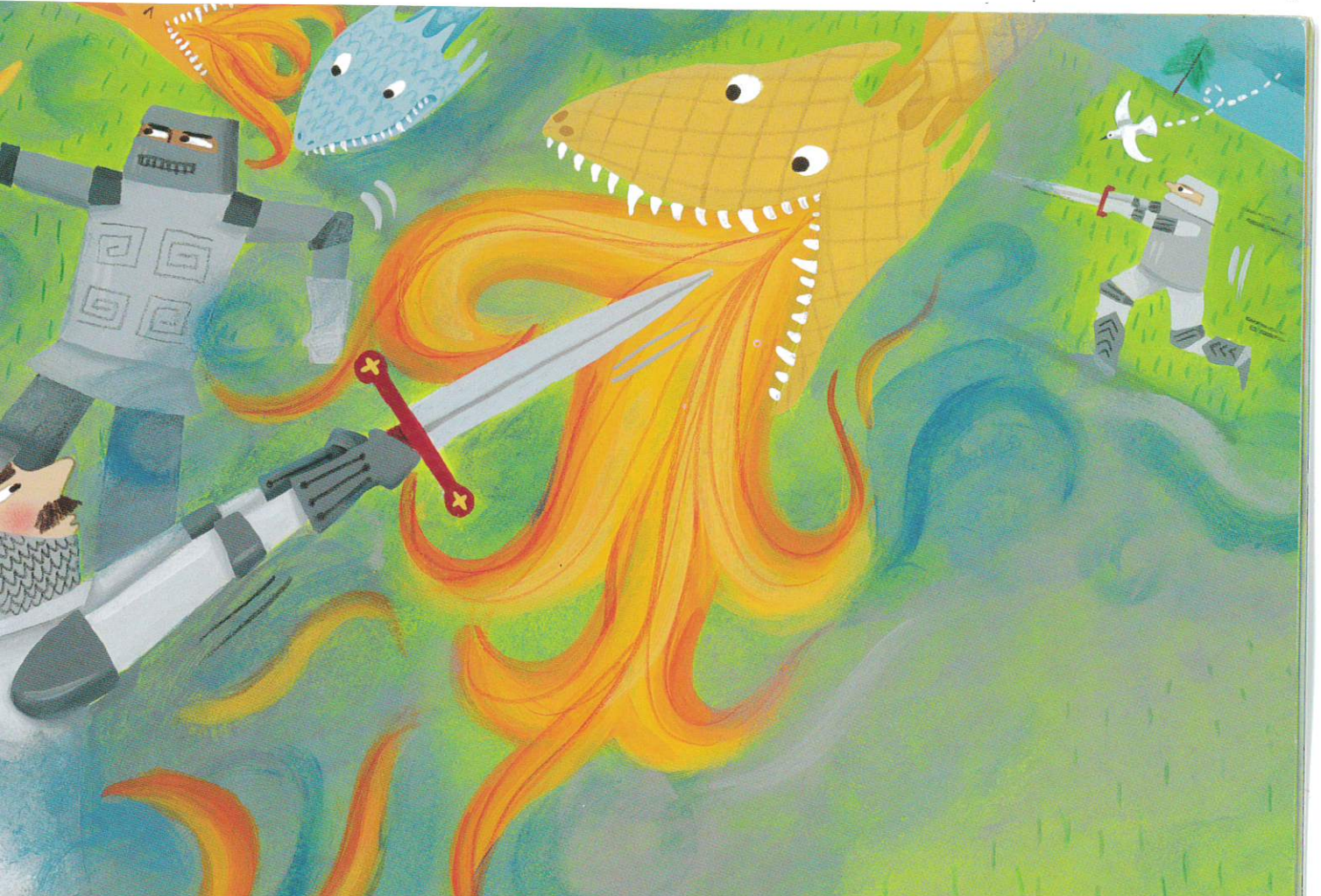
MARK SPERRING MIRIAM LATIMER

# The Sunflower SWORD



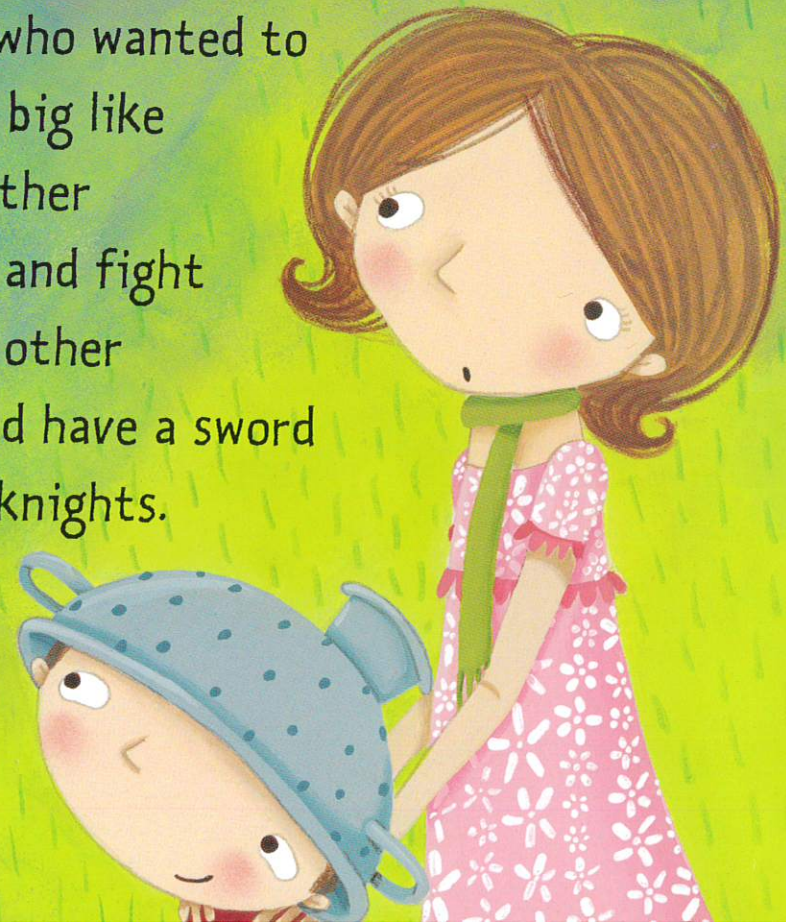
Once there  
was a land filled  
with fire and





In this land there lived a knight,  
who wanted to  
be big like  
the other  
knights and fight  
like the other  
knights and have a sword  
like the other knights.

But his mother  
said he couldn't.



ever would you want a sword?" she asked.  
"Ploosh and swoosh in the air," smiled the little knight.



"Hmmm," said his mother,  
and off she popped to find . . .



... a sunflower!



"Well," sighed the little knight,  
"I suppose I could pretend it's a sword."



Then he

whooshed and swooshed it,

to see how well



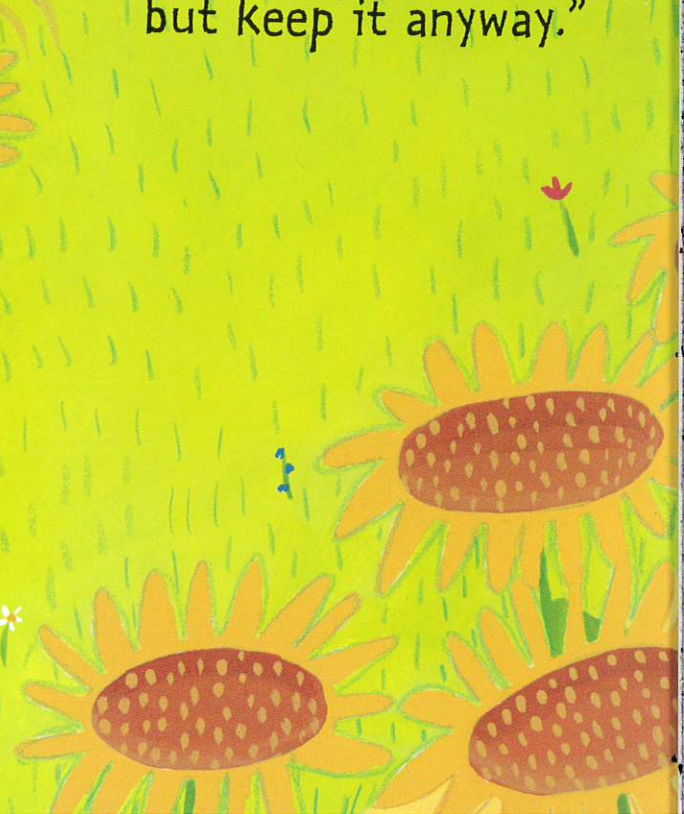
it whooshed and swooshed.



It whooshed and swooshed very well.

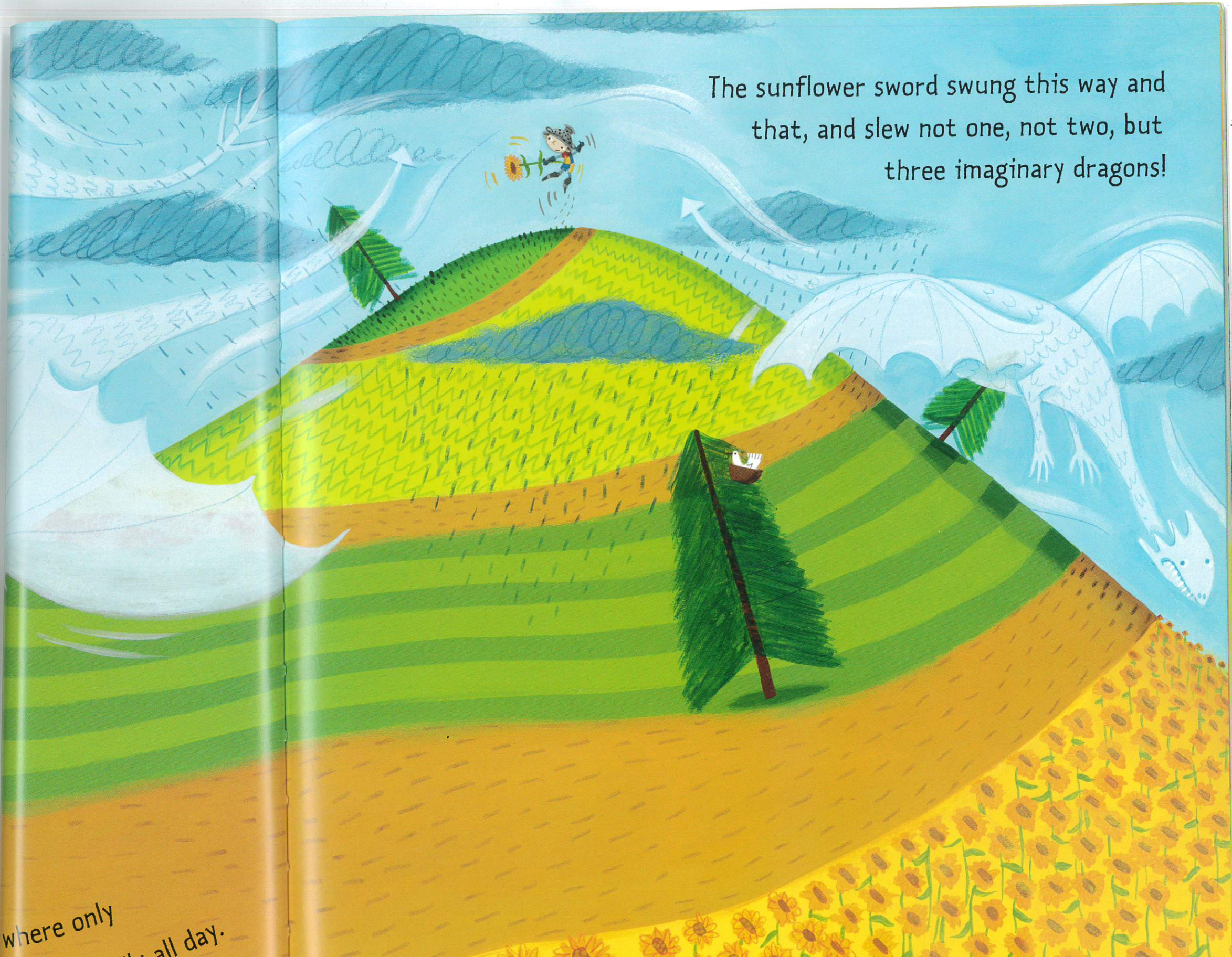


“But,” said the little knight, “it won’t be any good for fighting dragons.”  
“No,” sighed his mother, “I don’t suppose it will, but keep it anyway.”





The sunflower sword swung this way and  
that, and slew not one, not two, but  
three imaginary dragons!

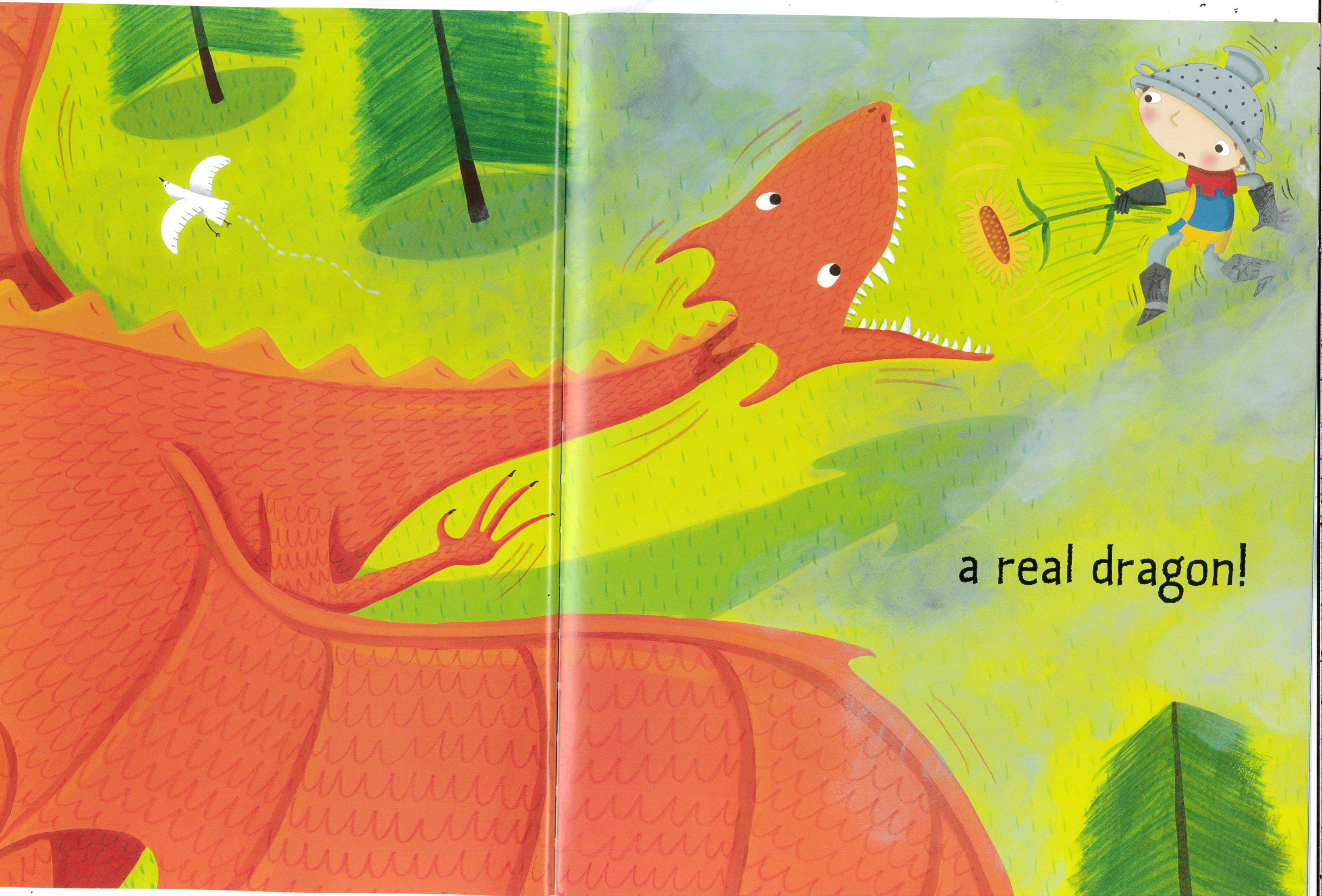


where only  
all day.

It suddenly the air crackled with heat,  
smoke billowed all about,



and there stood something full of fire  
and flame and a fight to be fought . . .



a real dragon!

The little knight had no  
choice - it was too late to run -

whooshed  
and swooshed the sunflower sword.



It cut through the air like a fine silver blade, but  
suddenly, as it swung near him, the dragon saw  
it for what it was and . . .



... reached out to take it!

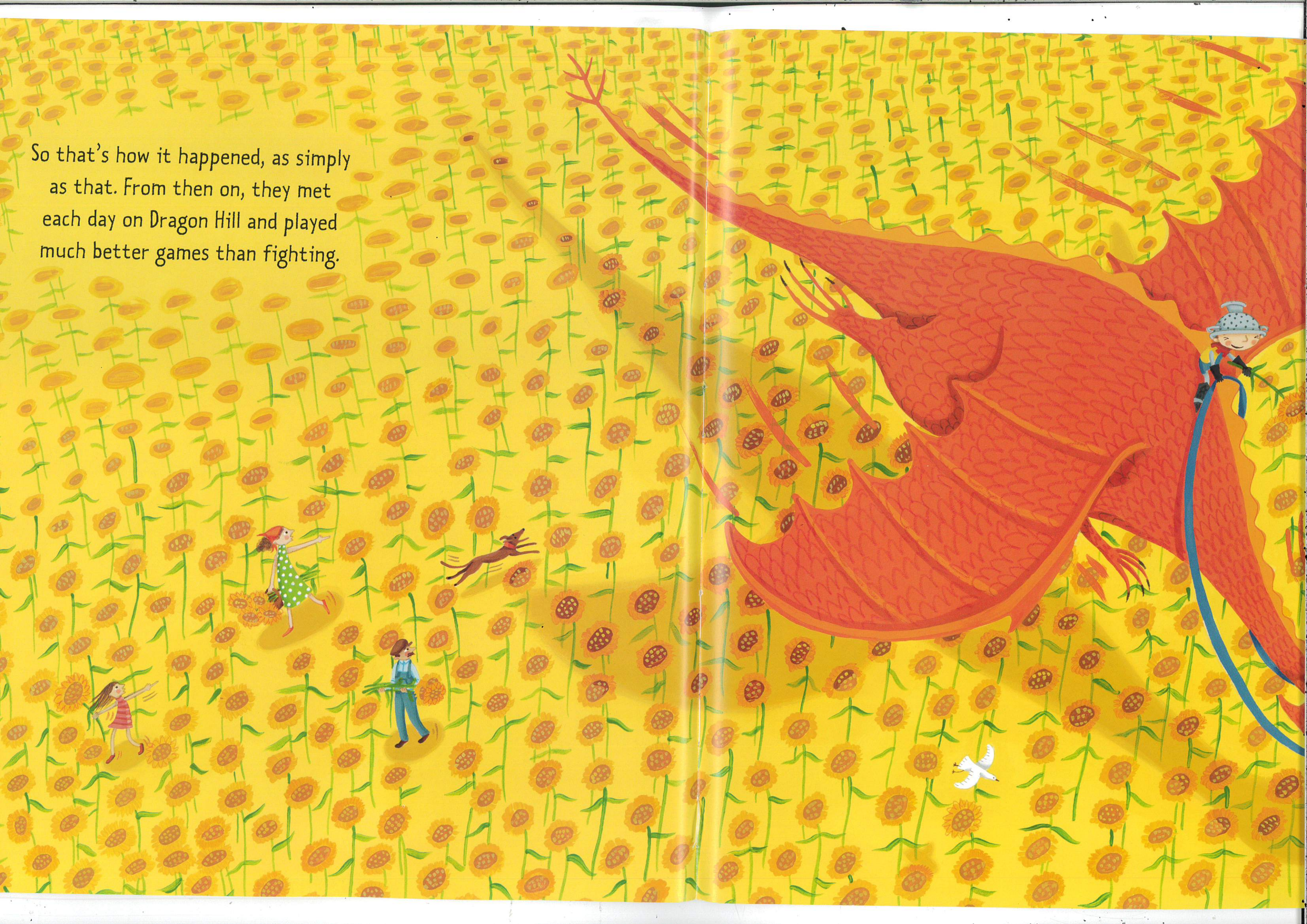
Could it be, thought the dragon, this little knight has climbed to the top of Dragon Hill to offer me a flower?

Could it be, thought the little knight, a dragon might not be so fearsome after all?

Then the little knight and the dragon looked at each other, and both began to smile.



So that's how it happened, as simply  
as that. From then on, they met  
each day on Dragon Hill and played  
much better games than fighting.



Soon the word spread far and wide of how an enemy could become a friend and how the land might become a peaceful place.

One by one the knights laid down their swords, climbed to the top of Dragon Hill . . .





... and waited,

whilst the little  
knight's mother  
looked on and smiled.

