



ed vere



HOW TO BE A  
LION



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# HOW TO BE A LION

The world is full of ideas.

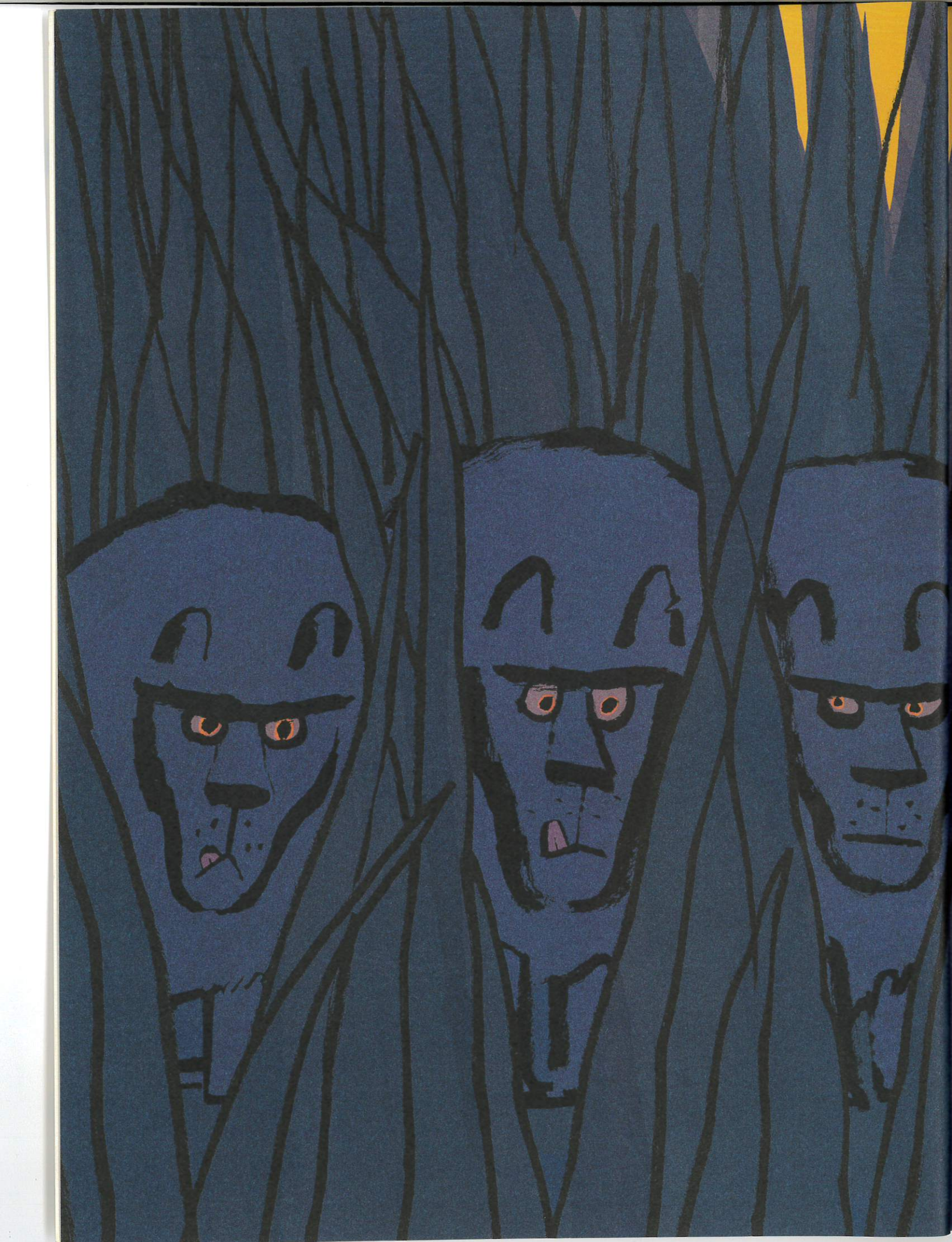
Big ones,  
small ones.  
Good ones,  
bad ones.

Some think this . . .  
others think that.



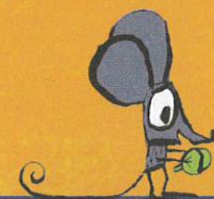
PUFFIN



An illustration of three lions' faces peering through dark, vertical lines representing trees or reeds. The lions have orange eyes and are looking towards the right. The background is a solid yellow color.

Some say,  
there's only **one** way to be a lion.

They say . . .







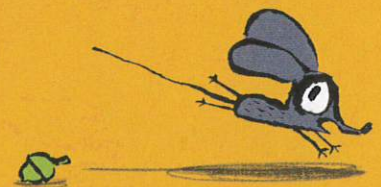
Lions are FIERCE!

If they catch you  
they will chomp you.

Crunch,

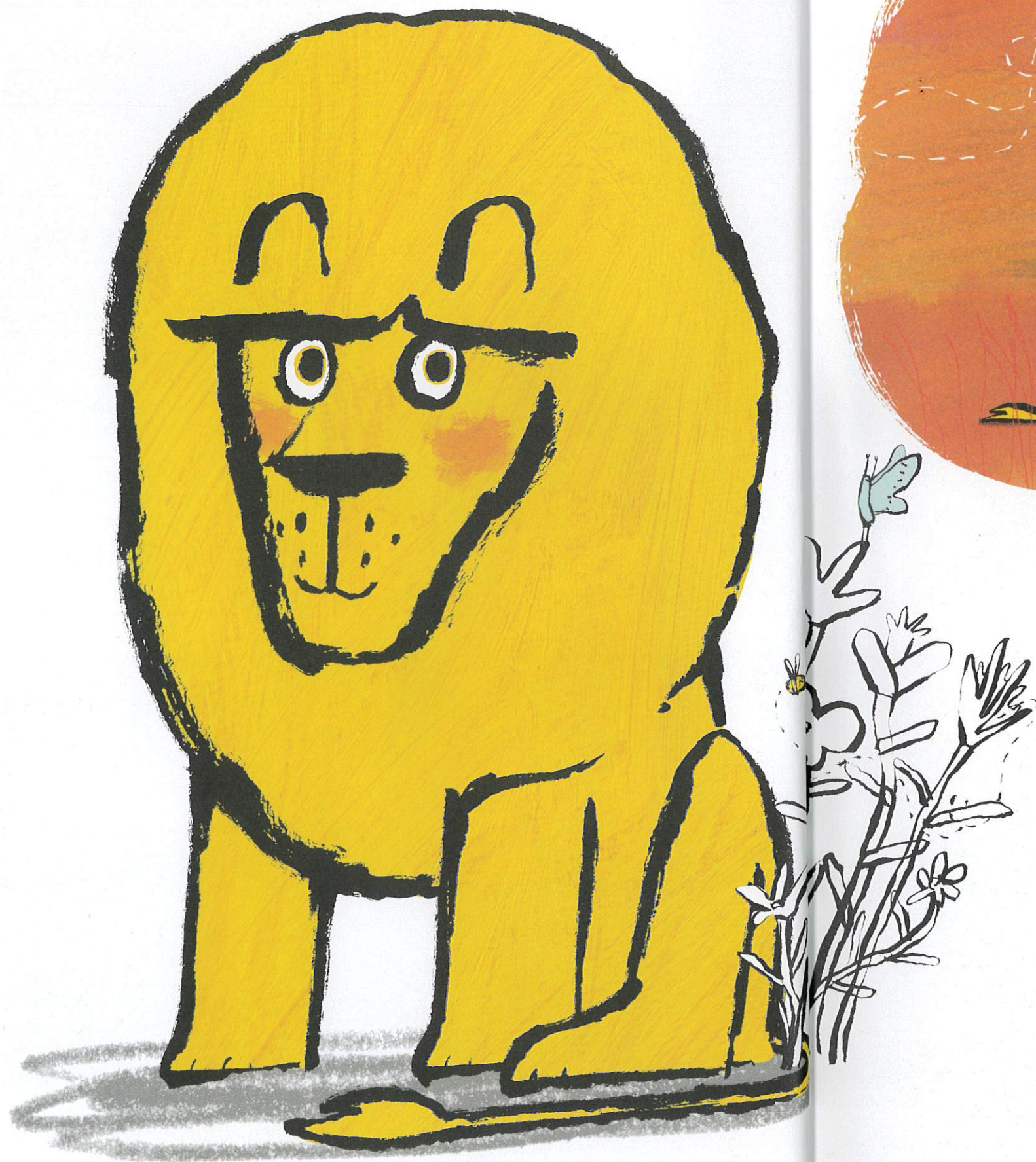
crunch,

CHOMP!





They say a lion can't be gentle.

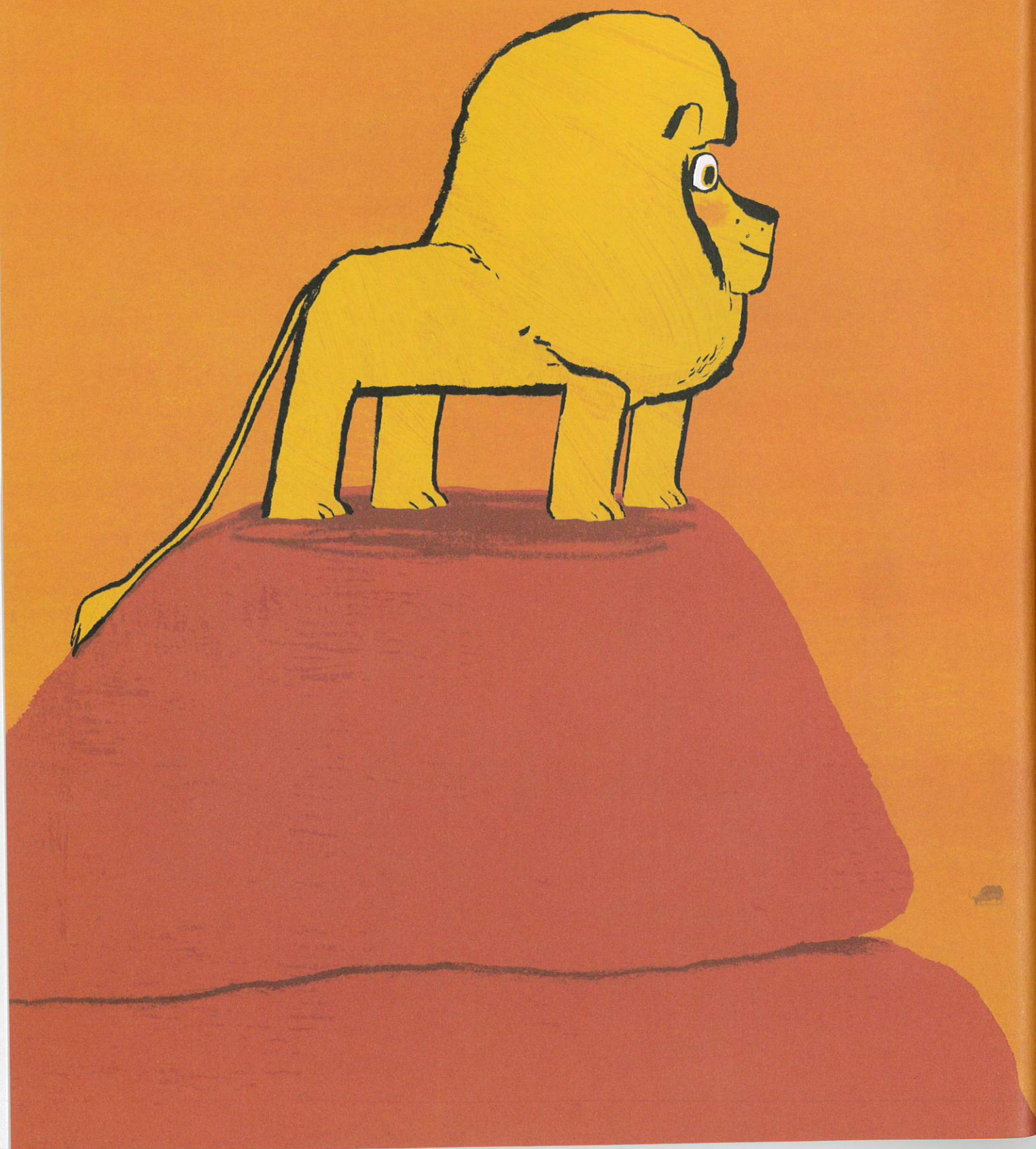


Well, *they* haven't met Leonard.

Leonard loves to walk by himself,  
feeling the sun warm his back  
and the grass under his paws.



Some days Leonard walks to his thinking hill.



Sometimes he thinks important thoughts . . .  
Sometimes he daydreams.

Somewhere in between,  
he hums quietly and plays with words.  
Putting them together  
this way, then that way —  
making them into poems.





Some say,

**WAIT!**

Lions are **not** gentle!

Lions do **not** write poems!

And if a lion met a duck . . .



Bad luck for that duck.

**Crunch,**

**crunch,**

**CHOMP!**



But if Leonard met a duck . . .

What do **you** think would happen?



"Hello," said Leonard. "I'm Leonard."

"Hello," said the duck. "I'm Marianne."

"I'm writing a poem," said Leonard,  
"but I'm stuck. Will you help me?"

"You're in luck," said Marianne.

"I'm a poetic duck."

Together,  
they played with Leonard's poem,  
until the words came unstuck.





Leonard and Marianne found they liked each other.

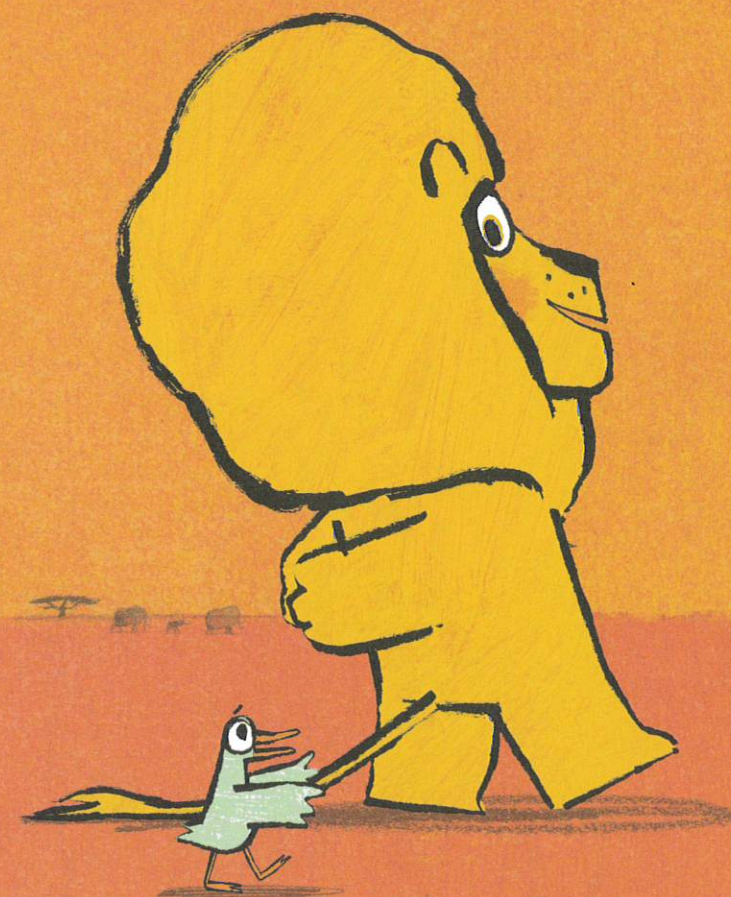


Under the sun, in the long grass, they lay together.

They played.



They went for walks,  
and had long meandering conversations,  
a mixture of quacks and quiet roars.





At night they watched for shooting stars,  
and made wishes if they saw them.



“Do you think the universe has edges?”  
quacked Marianne.

“If it doesn’t,” said Leonard,  
“will we fall out?”

Together they are happy.  
They wish for nothing more than this.

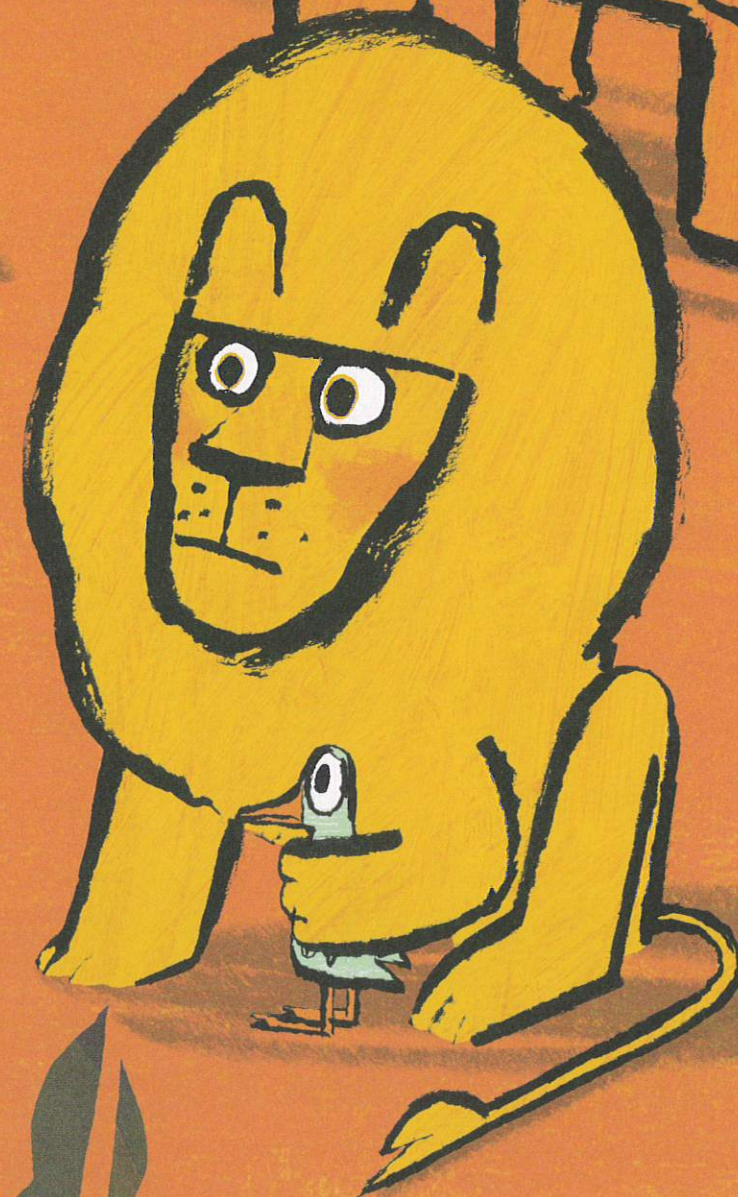
(Some say that a lion should have chomped a duck by now . . .)



One day a pack of fierce lions came  
prowling around.

“What’s going on here?” they growled.

“Why hasn’t this duck  
been chomped?”



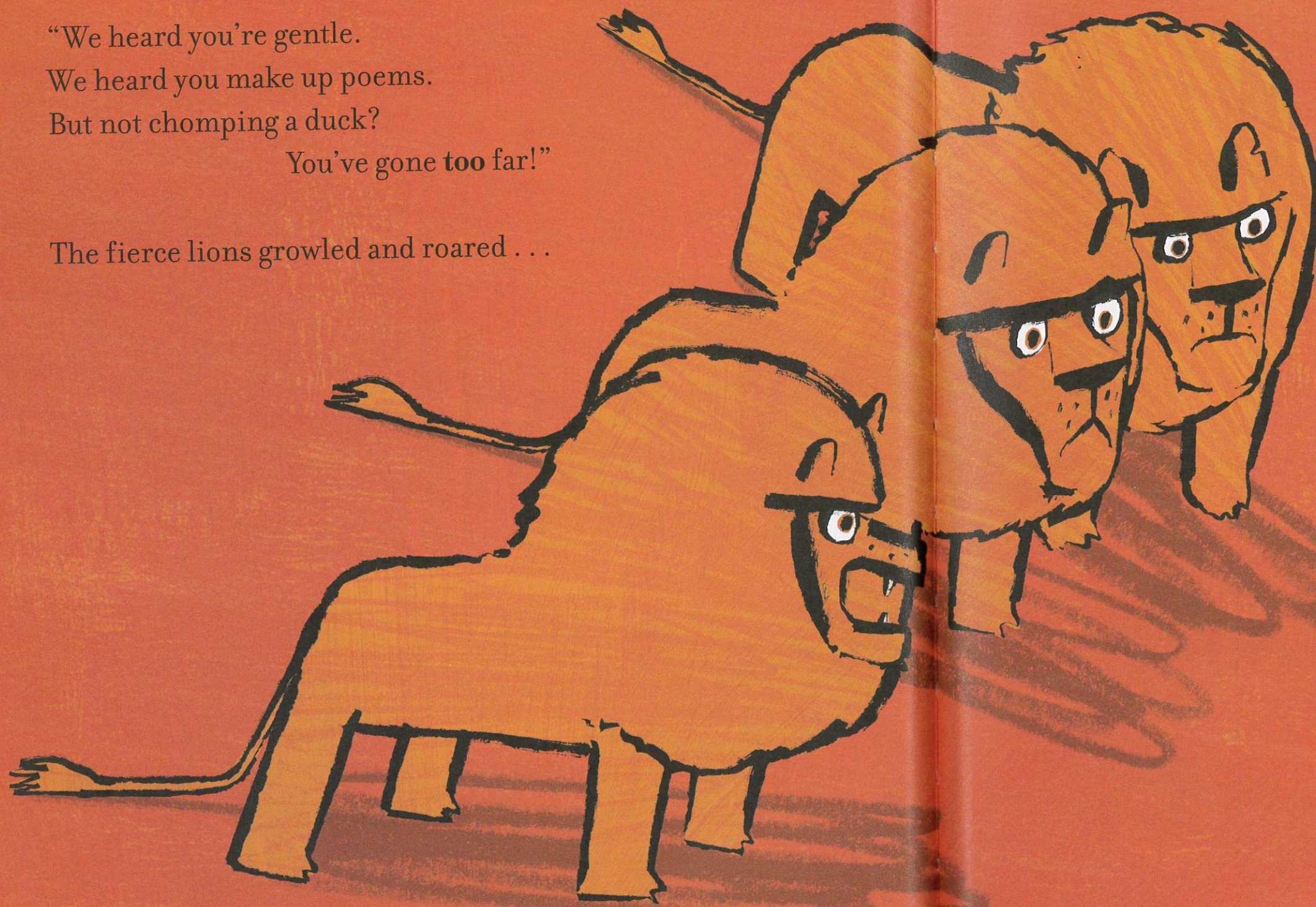
“This duck is Marianne,” said Leonard.  
“She’s my friend and nobody will chomp her!”



The fierce lions came closer.

“We heard you’re gentle.  
We heard you make up poems.  
But not chomping a duck?  
You’ve gone **too** far!”

The fierce lions growled and roared . . .

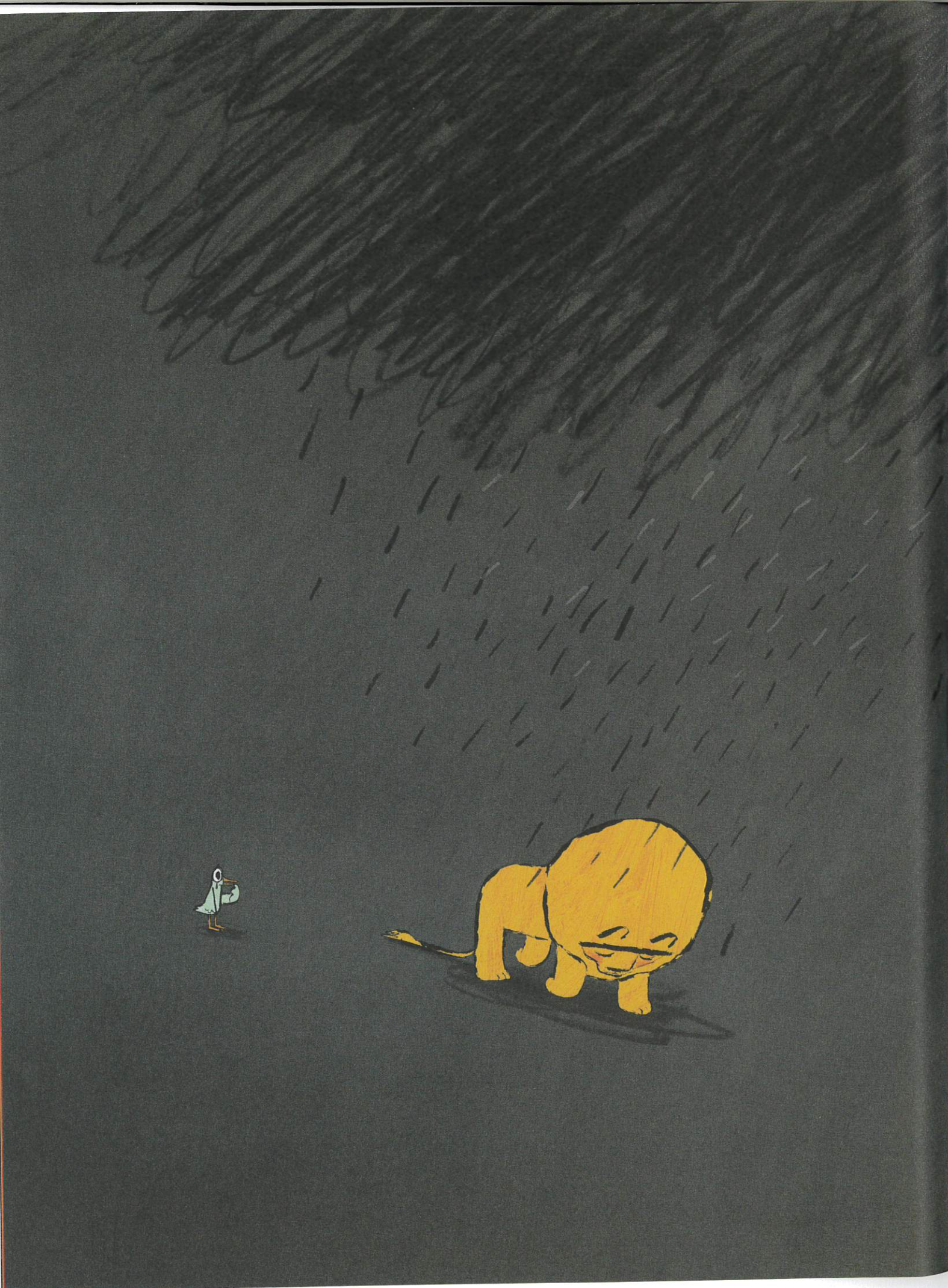


“There’s only **one** way to be a lion . . .

Leonard,  
you **must** be fierce!”

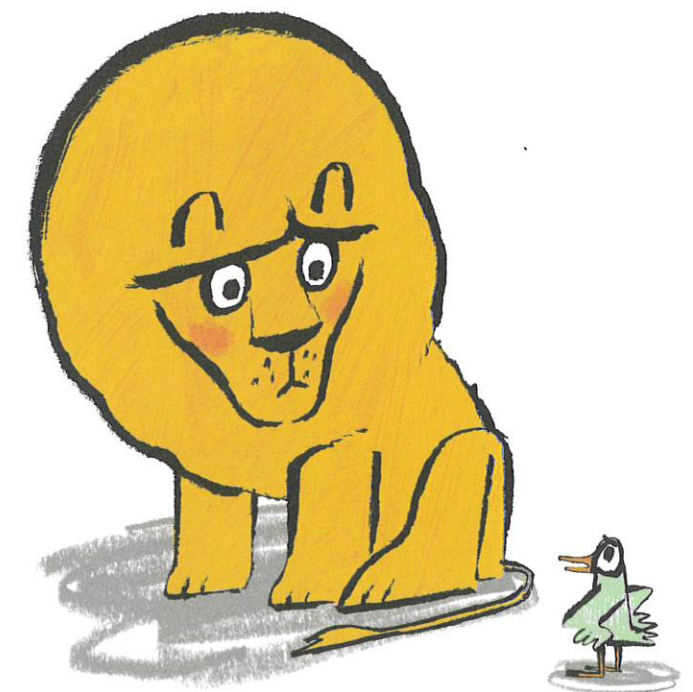






"Must I be fierce?"  
said Leonard.

"Must I change?"



"They're wrong!" quacked Marianne.  
"And we will show them why."



Leonard and Marianne went to their thinking hill.  
They thought hard.

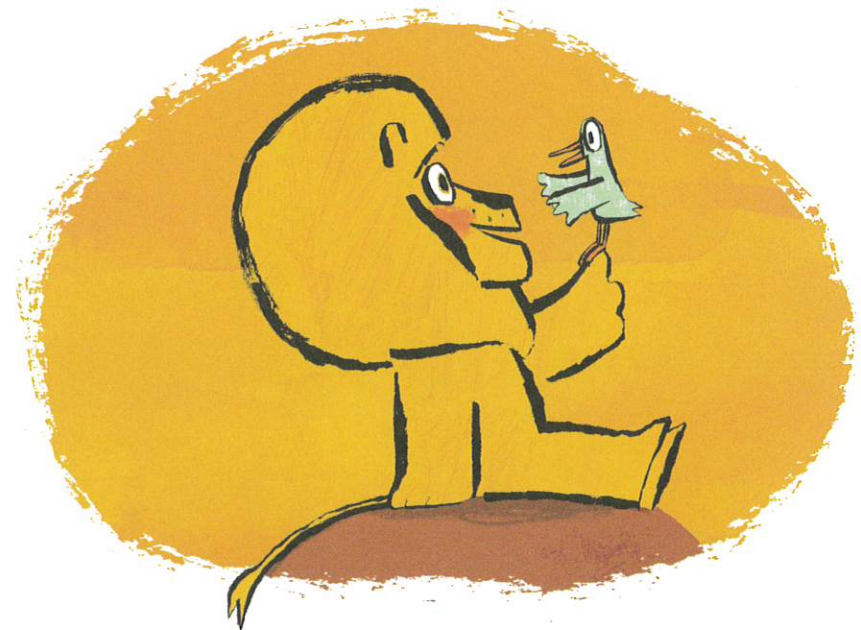


After a while Leonard hummed a serious hum.  
An idea started to form.

Marianne quacked a serious quack.  
The idea grew.



They put their words together,  
like this, like that, building them into a poem  
that made sense of what they thought.

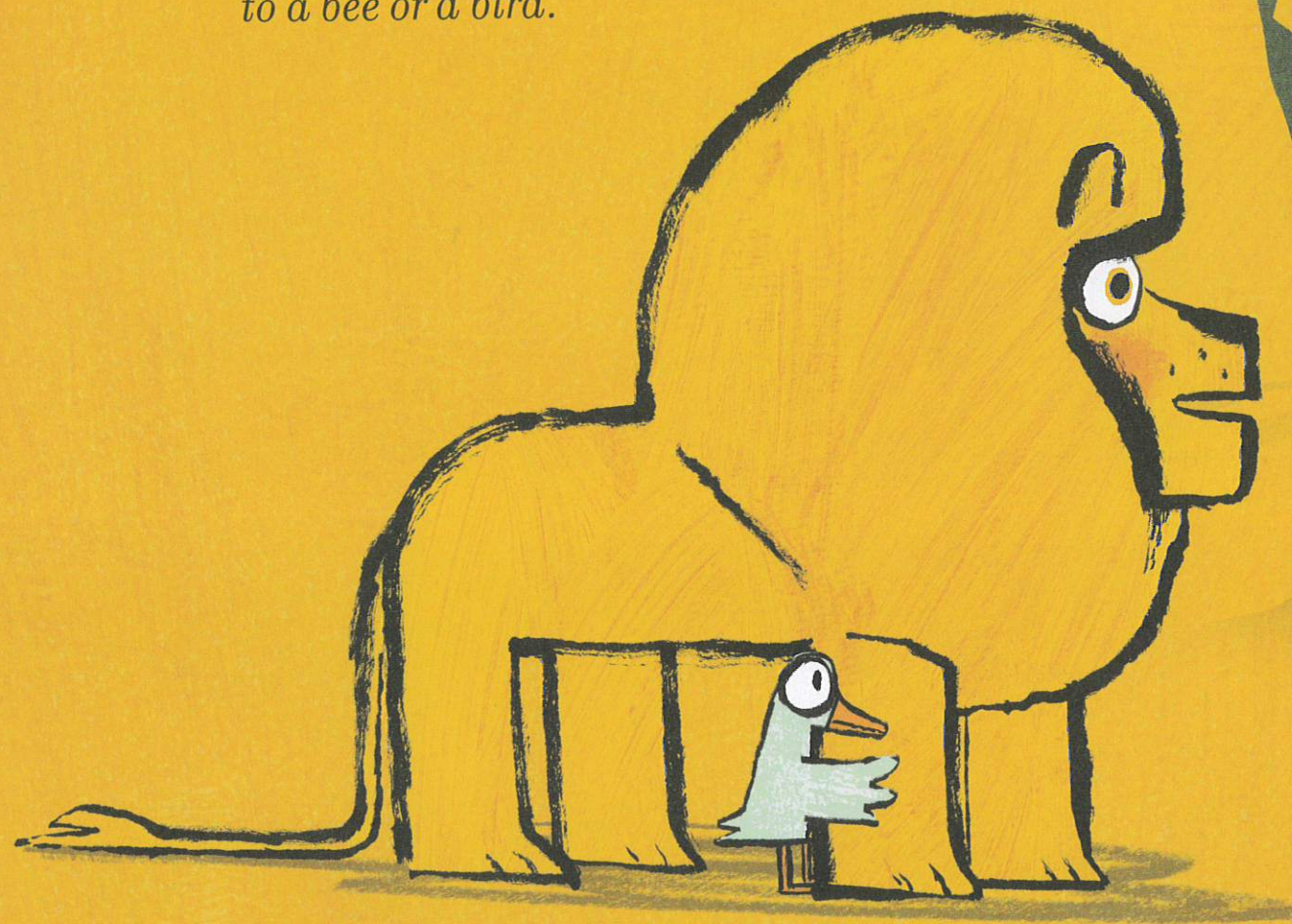


Finally they were ready.

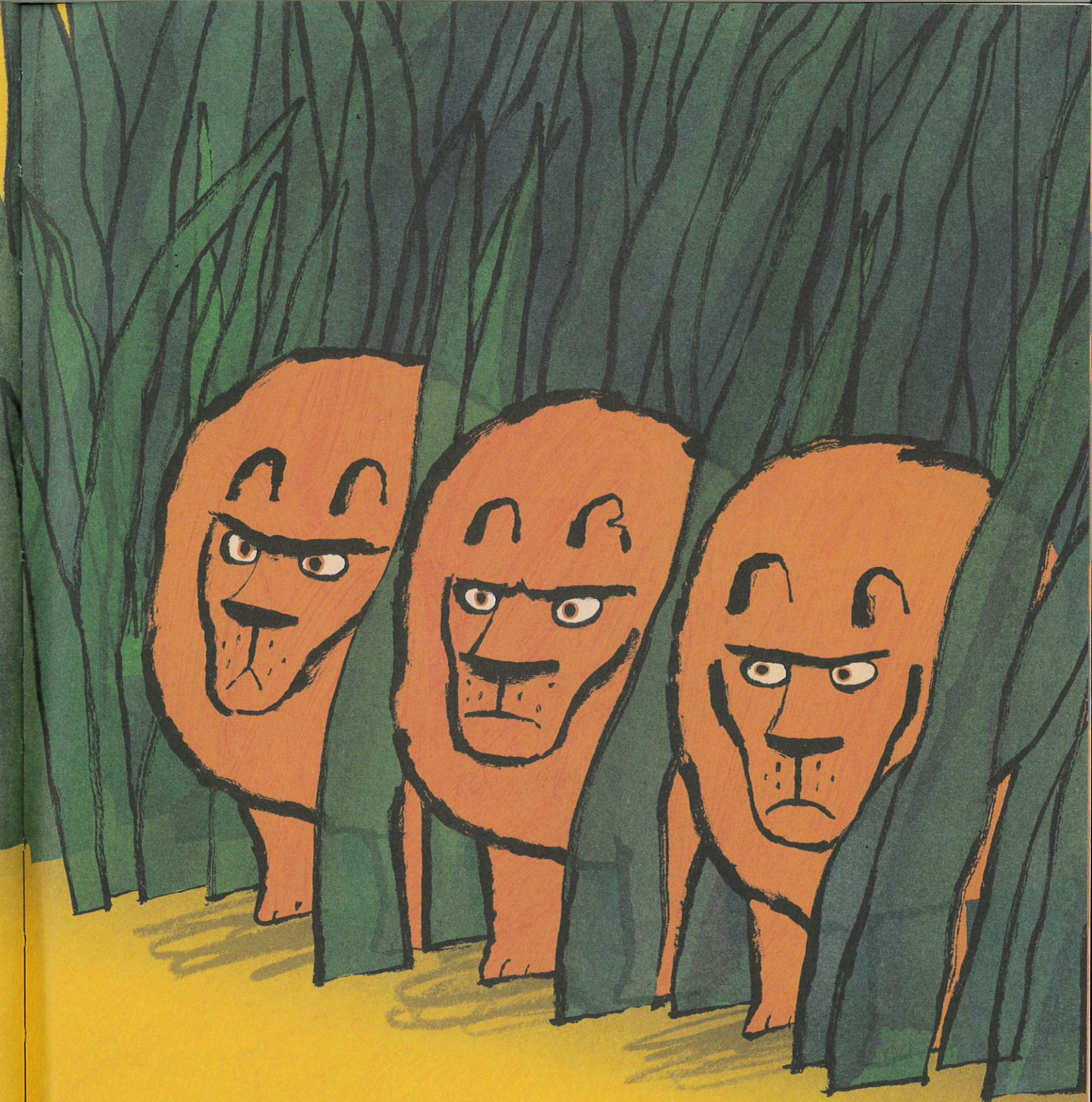


Leonard took a deep breath . . .

*"I'll say this quietly,  
I needn't roar to be heard,  
I can be a friend  
to a bee or a bird.*



*You said I must change, I must chomp Marianne,  
but chomping your friends is a terrible plan.*

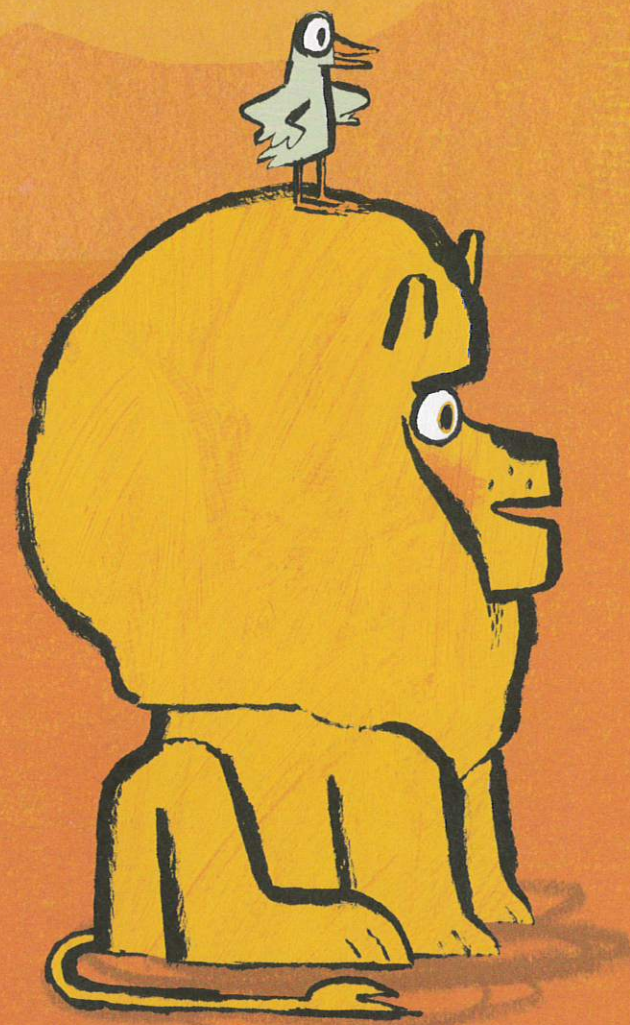


*Let nobody say  
just **one** way is true.  
There are so many ways  
that you can be you.*

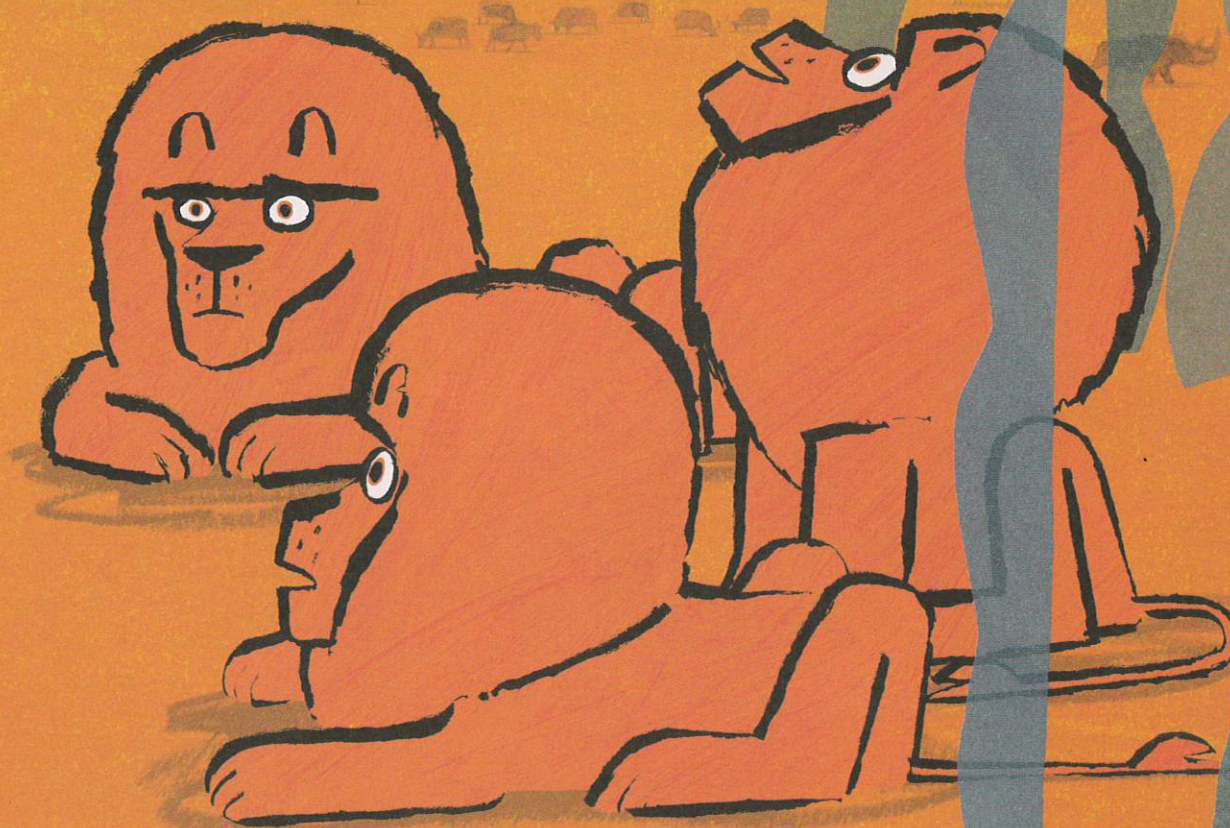
*If there **must** be a must,  
then this we must try . . .*



*Why don't you, be **you**...*



*And I, will be I."*



Some say words can't change the world.

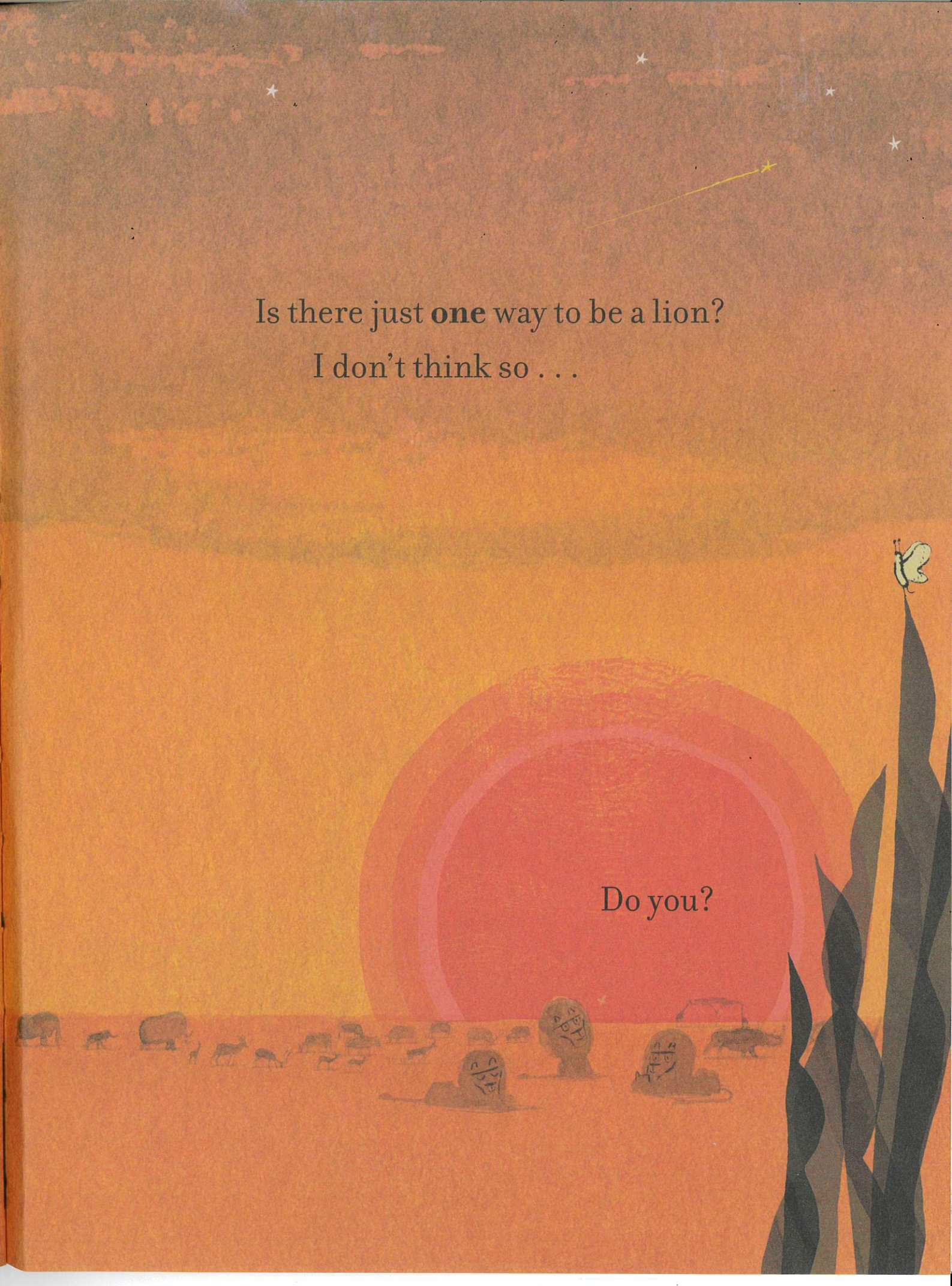
Leonard says, if they make you think,  
then maybe they can.





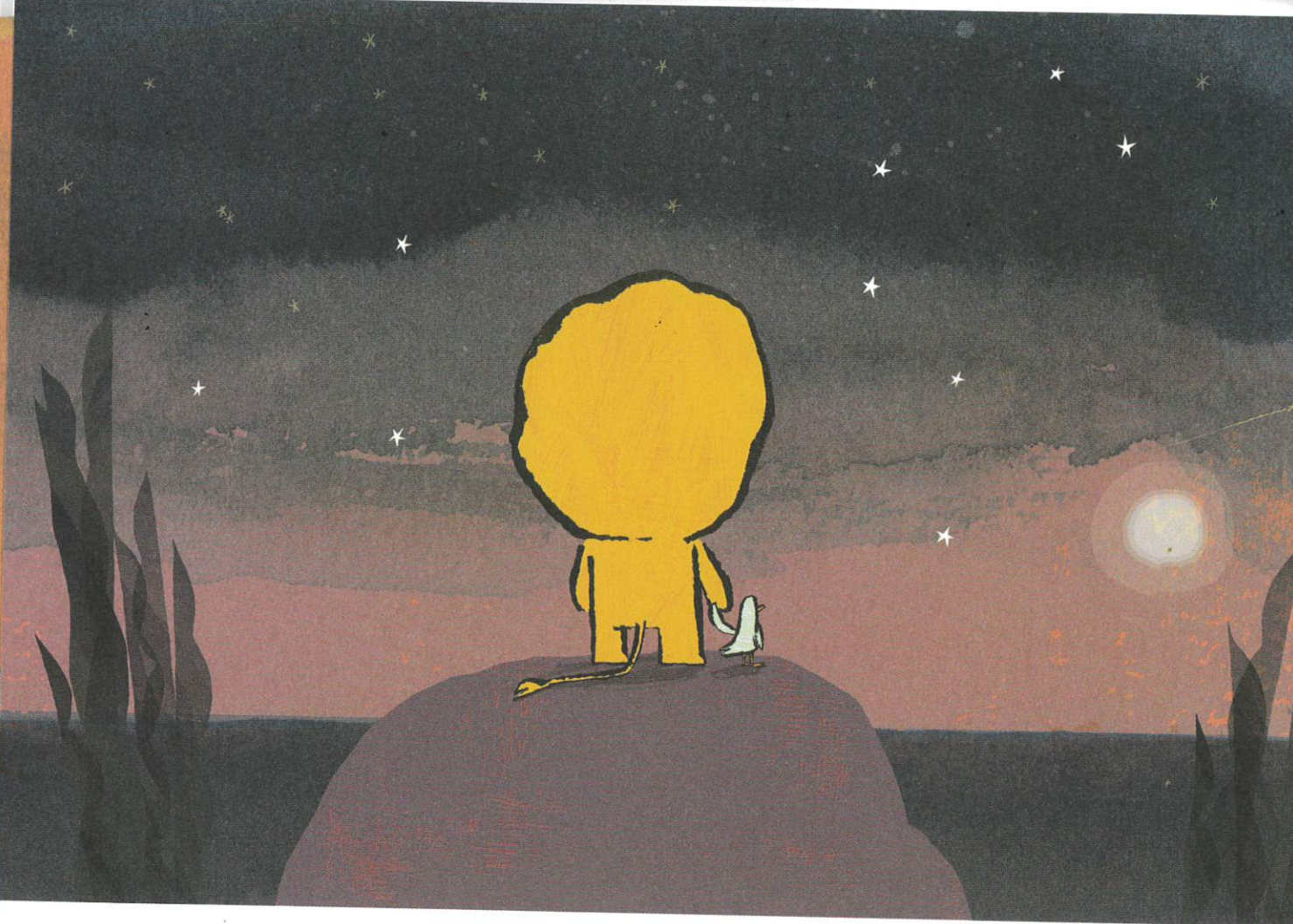


Is there just **one** way to be a lion?  
I don't think so . . .



Do you?





*This book is for those who daydream,  
and those who think for themselves.*

With thanks to Andrea MacDonald, Goldy Broad and Frances Gilbert.

And to Sophie Darlington for a place to stay full of inspiration.

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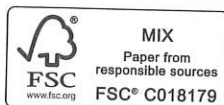
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[www.ruahacarnivoreproject.com](http://www.ruahacarnivoreproject.com) & [www.lionguardians.org](http://www.lionguardians.org)

Thank you!



You don't have to ROAR  
to be heard . . .



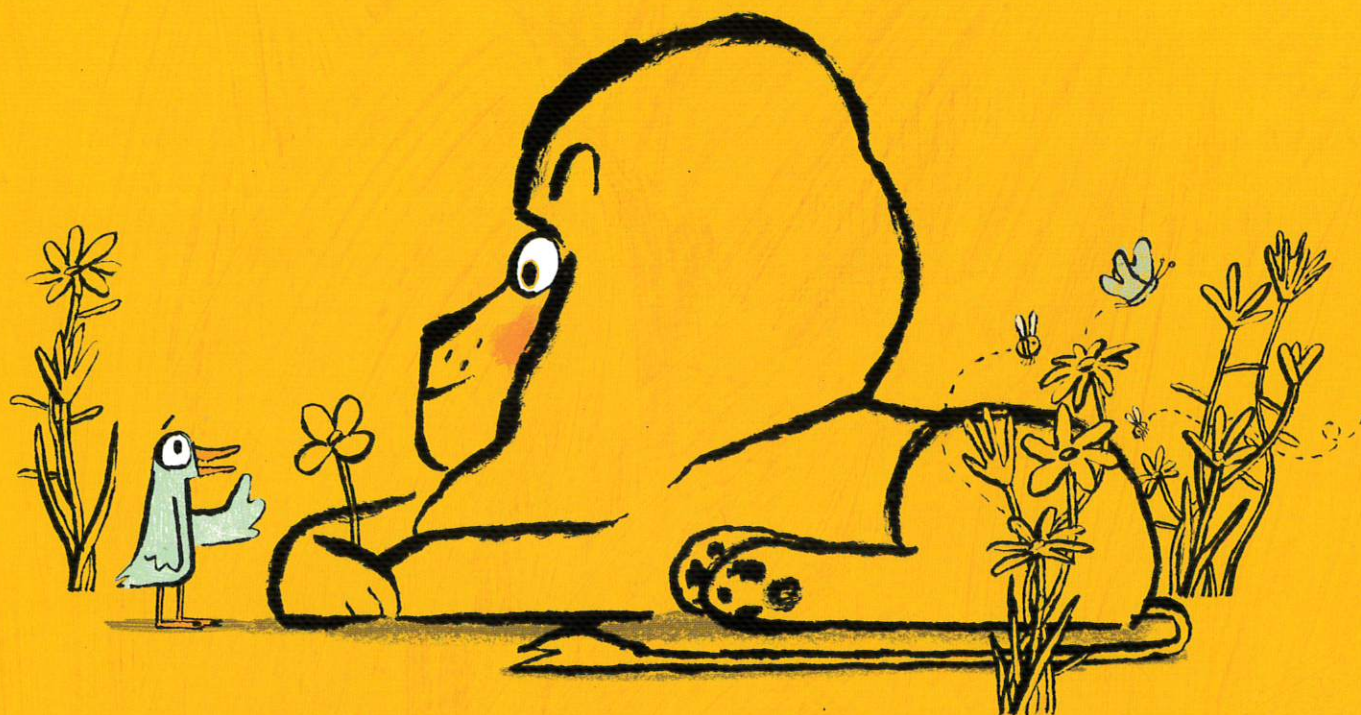
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