

THE LIFE OF FRIENDS

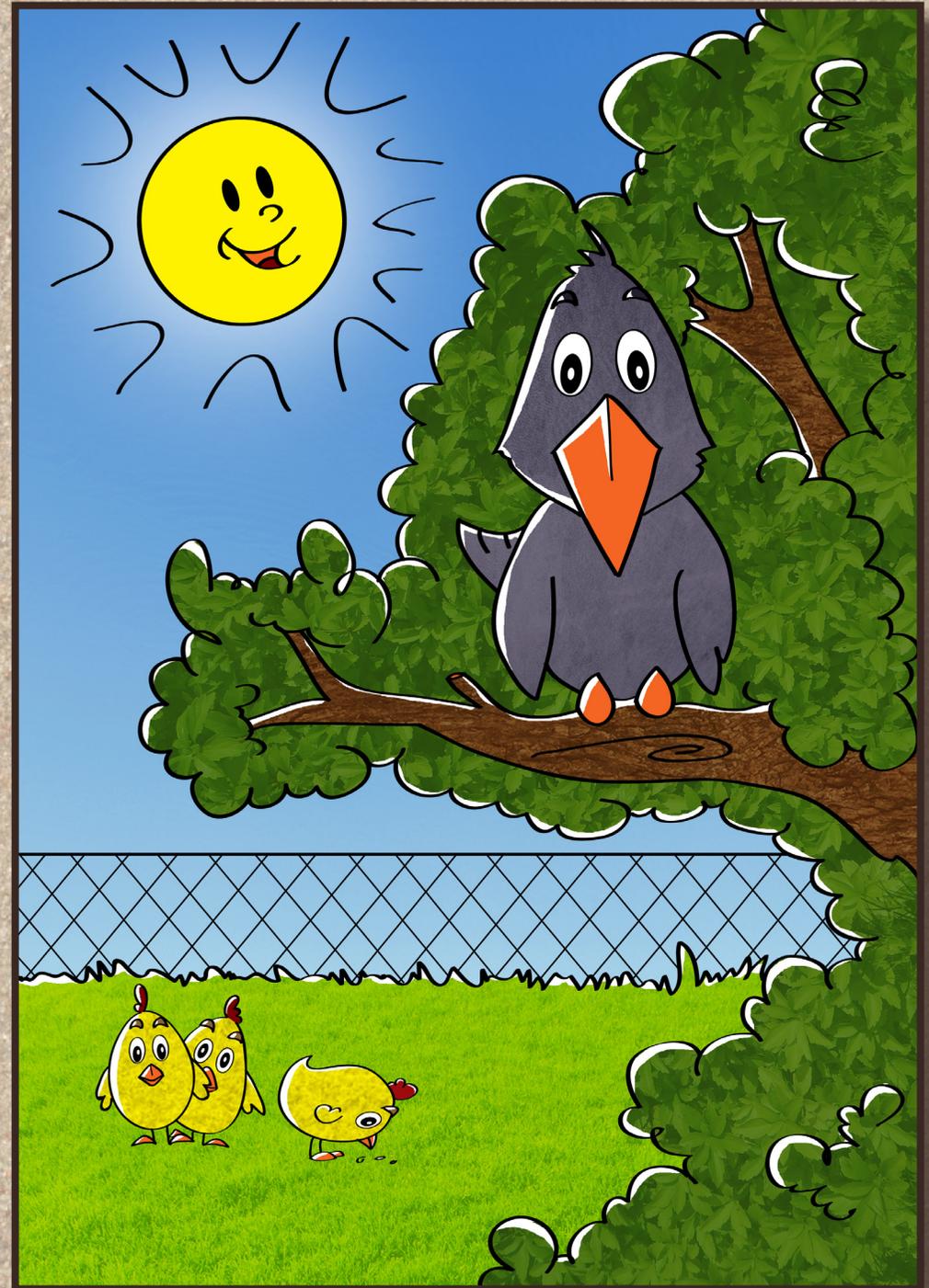
RESPECT WINS



NOW FOR THE STORY OF HOW I LEARNED
TO APPRECIATE THE MEEK,
TO STOP THINKING I WAS THE GREATEST,
WHILE PUTTING DOWN OTHERS MORE WEAK.

DURING THE SUMMER ON OUR FARM,
THERE WERE THREE CHICKS IN A GRASSY PEN
WHERE THE FARMER CARED FOR THEM VERY WELL,
AND I DECIDED TO BE THEIR FRIEND.

WHILE I WAS FLITTING FROM TREE TO TREE,
WITH FREEDOM TO GO WHERE I PLEASED.
I THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS ONE OF THE BEST,
AND SO THE CHICKS I DID TEASE.

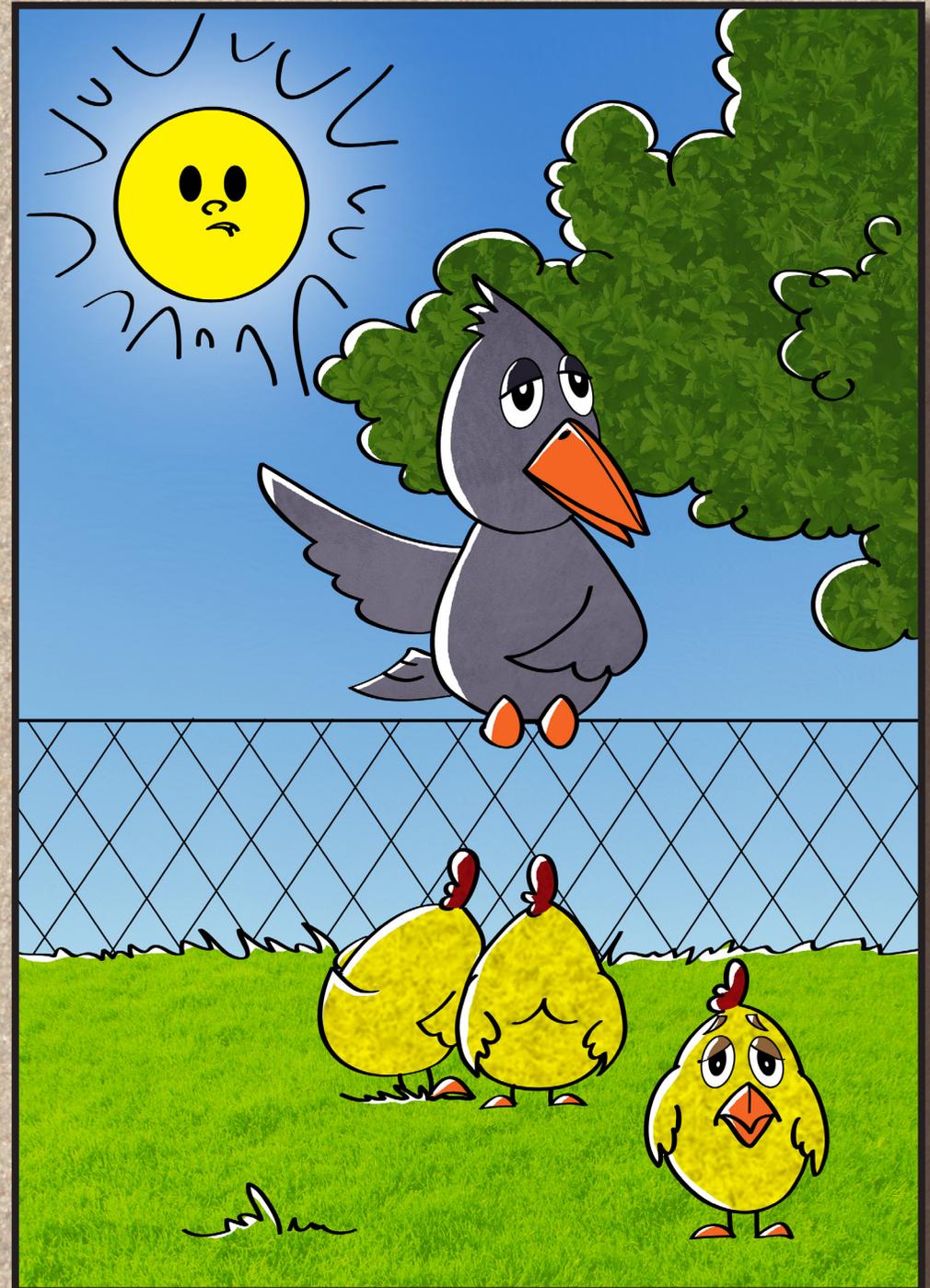




"AH, YOU POOR LITTLE BIRDS,
YOU'RE SO SMALL AND DUMB,
THE FARMER KEEPS YOU COOPED UP
UNDER HIS PROTECTIVE THUMB."

"BUT ME, I'M ALWAYS OUT AND ABOUT.
THERE ARE NO OBSTACLES FOR ME!
ONE MOMENT SEARCHING THE BARN FOR BUGS,
AND AT A WHIM, I'M UP IN A TREE."

"AH THE FREEDOM THAT ONE CAN HAVE
WHEN ONE HAS THE GIFT OF FLIGHT.
I FILL MY DAY WITH ALL SORTS OF FUN
BECAUSE I AM SO BRIGHT."



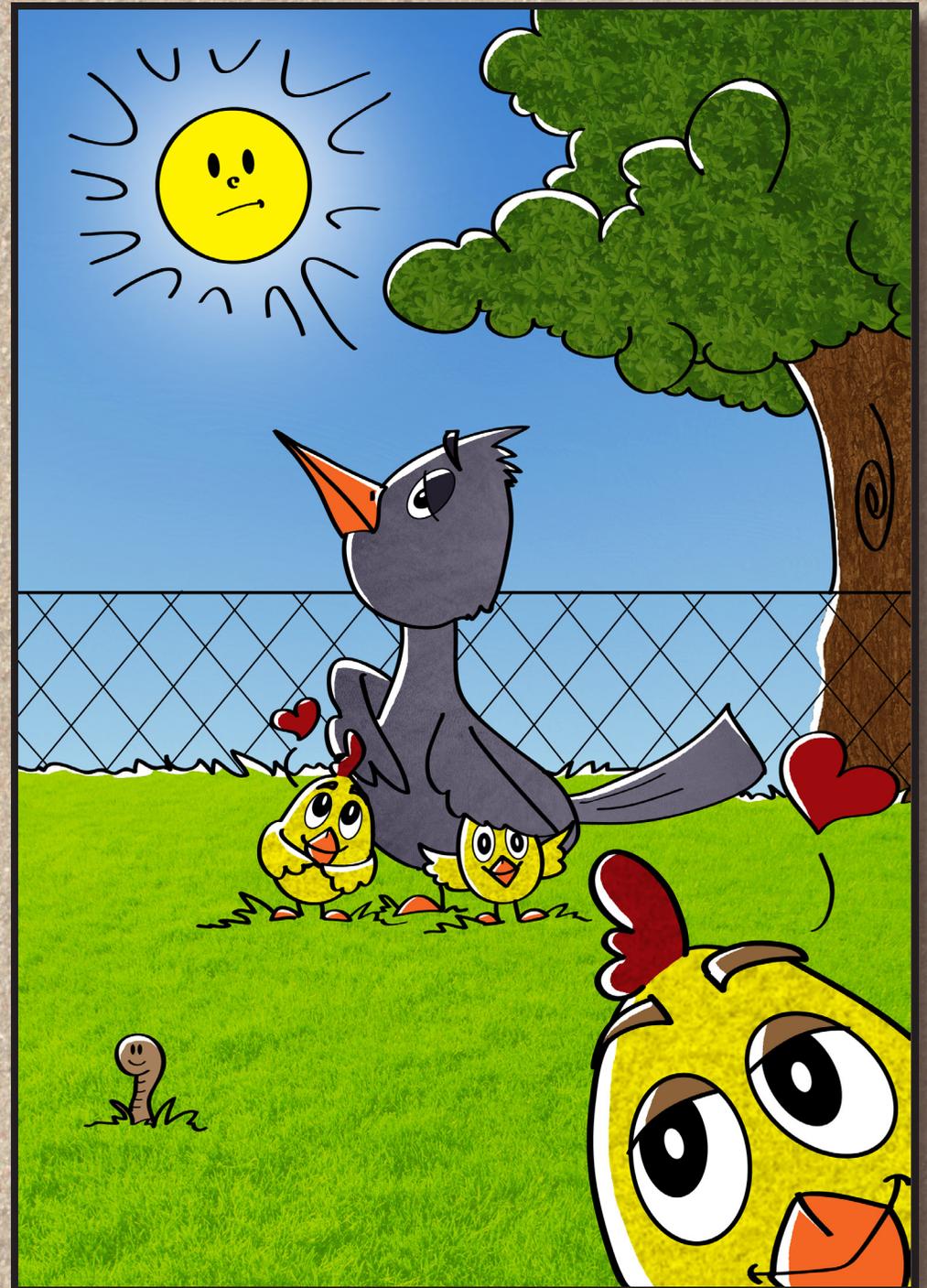


"WE'RE TRULY HAPPY, BEEP BEEP,
FOR A RAVEN FRIEND LIKE YOU.
WHO TRAVELS ALL OVER THE FARM,
WHILE VISITING US HERE TOO."

"YOU ARE SUCH A BRILLIANT BIRD,
SO KNOWLEDGEABLE AND CLEVER.
WE ADMIRE YOUR INGENUITY
IT SEEMS NOTHING STOPS YOU, EVER!"



"WELL, THANK YOU, MY LITTLE FRIENDS,
I KNOW IT'S SO UNUSUAL
FOR ONE AS GREAT AND SMART AS ME
TO BEFRIEND THOSE WHO ARE SIMPLE."





"BECAUSE THE FARMER KNOWS I'M WISE,
I'M FREE TO EAT WHAT I PLEASE.
FROM EATING FROM THE DOG'S DISH
TO NIBBLING FRESH FRUIT ON TREES."

"FOR YOU THE FARMER DOLES OUT
THE WATER AND FOOD YOU NEED.
HE PROBABLY FEARS THAT IF YOU WERE OUT
YOU MIGHT EAT A POISONOUS WEED."

"YOU SEE, IF YOU WERE OUT ON YOUR OWN
YOU'RE JUST NOT CAPABLE TO FIND
A PLACE TO REST, OR FOOD TO EAT
AS I CAN WITH SUCH A SHARP MIND."

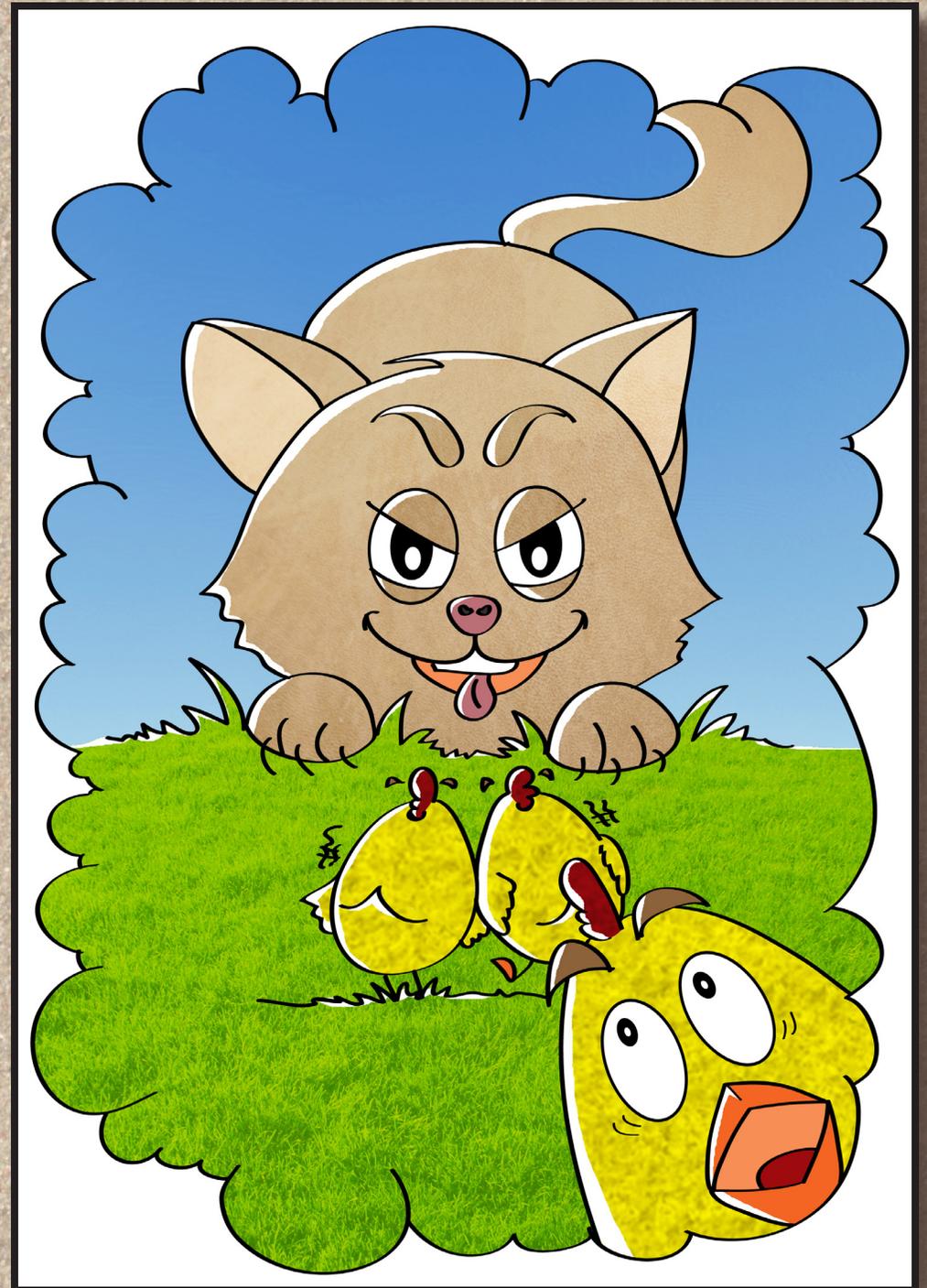




"THE FARMER FEARS THAT ONE OF THE CATS
WILL THINK YOU ARE GOOD FOR FOOD.
THEY WON'T THINK TWICE BEFORE THEY POUNCE
AND EAT YOU IN A HUNGRY MOOD."

NOW HOW DO YOU THINK THAT MADE THEM FEEL,
THESE FRIENDS STILL YOUNG AND SMALL?
DID I HELP BUILD THEIR CONFIDENCE?
YOU CAN TELL, NOT AT ALL!

AND YET WHAT ASTOUNDS ME
AND HUMBLER ME TO THE CORE
WAS HOW THEY NEVER WERE UPSET AT ME,
THOUGH I DESERVED THAT AND MORE.





THEN ONE DAY, MY DEAR FRIEND SID
TOOK ME ASIDE FOR A CHAT.
HE ASKED IF I HAD EVER
HEARD HIM TALK THAT WAY TO A CAT.

I HAD ALWAYS BEEN PERPLEXED
AT HOW THEY WERE FRIENDS INDEED.
THOUGH ENEMIES THEY COULD EASILY BE,
BOTH STRIVING TO TAKE THE LEAD.

BUT TRUE AS SID HAD POINTED OUT
BEST FRIENDS THEY ALWAYS WERE.
AT NIGHT THE CATS EVEN OFFERED SID
THE WARMTH OF THEIR BODIES AND FUR.





THESE YOUNG CHICKENS HAD THEMSELVES
BEEN CHAMPIONS OF HUMILITY.
THEY NEVER RESPONDED TO MY PROUD WORDS
WITH CROSS REMARKS OR HOSTILITY.

"I'VE COME TO OFFER MY APOLOGIES
FOR MY RUDE UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR.
I WISH TO ASK YOUR FORGIVENESS.
THOUGH I'M UNDESERVING OF YOUR FAVOR."



"YOU'LL ALWAYS BE OUR FRIEND, BEEP BEEP.
THOUGH YOUR REMARKS AT TIMES DID HURT US,
WE HAD DECIDED AMONGST OURSELVES
TO FORGIVE EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T NOTICE."





"WE KNOW THE VALUE OF TRUE FRIENDS,
AS YOU SEE, WE HAVE EACH OTHER.
WE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO BE ALONE
WITHOUT A CLOSE FRIEND OR BROTHER."

"AND SO WE TURNED AWAY FROM HURT
TO TREAT YOU AS OUR GOOD FRIEND.
HOPING THAT ONE DAY SHOWING RESPECT FOR YOU
WOULD YOUR BOASTFUL HEART FULLY MEND."



AND THAT, MY DEAR READER FRIENDS,
IS HOW TO CROSS OVER A DIVIDE.
OFFERING TRUE FRIENDSHIP IS THE WAY
TO OVERCOME HURTFUL PRIDE.

