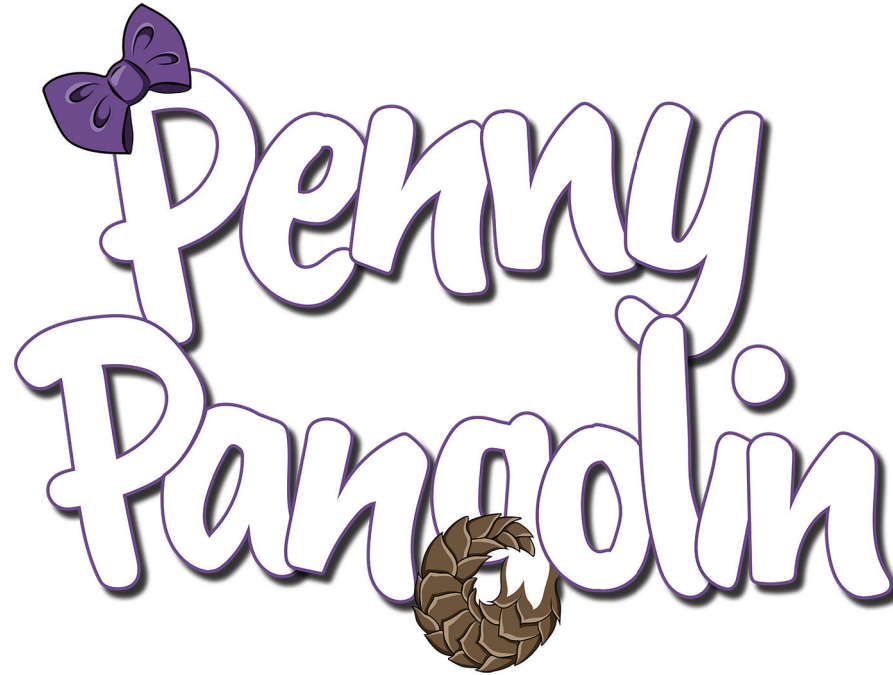




and the Tablet Turmoil

Written by Wayne D. Kramer

Illustrated by Jade Zivanovic



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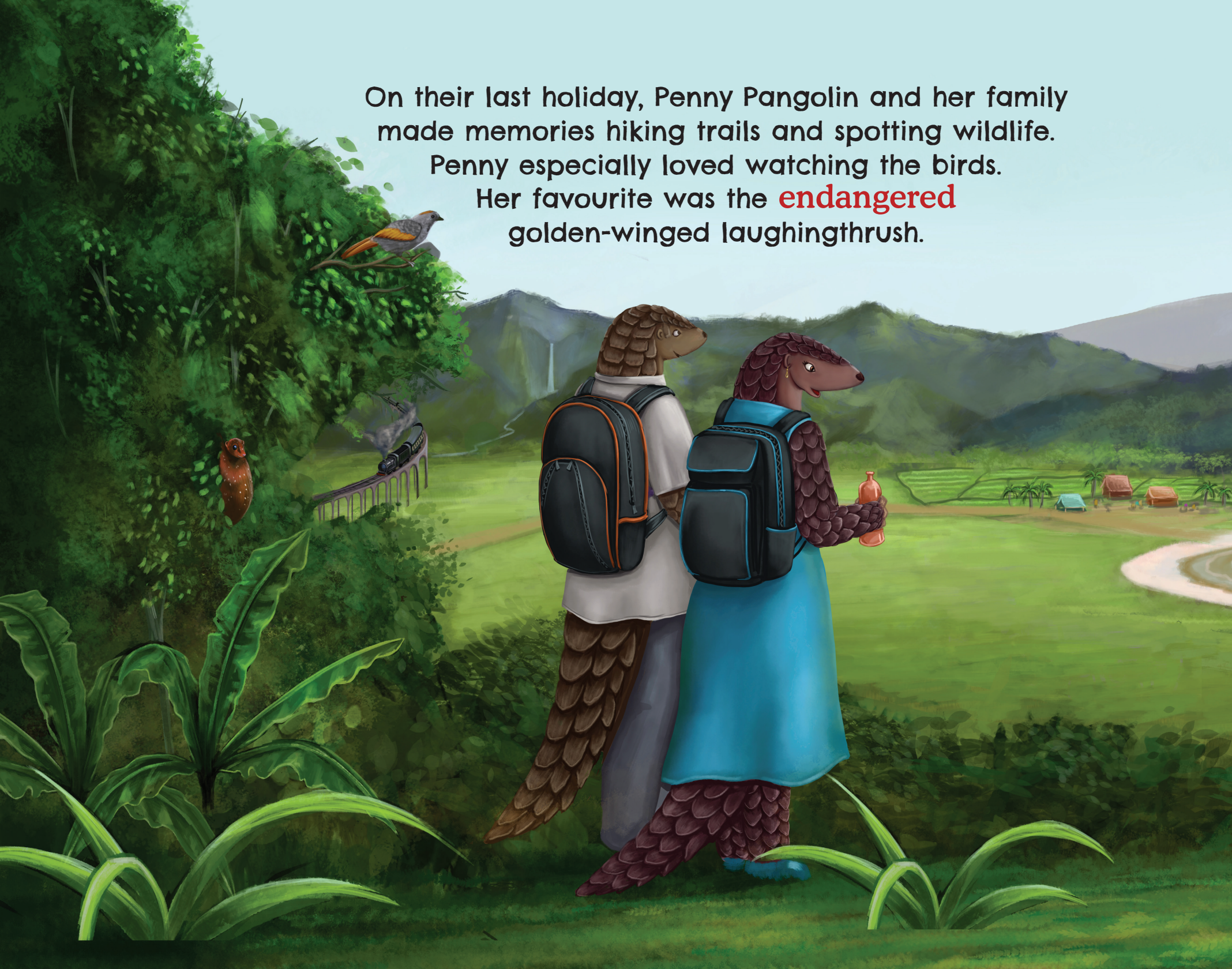
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For Dawn, Brooke, Holly, Ivy, and Jade

On their last holiday, Penny Pangolin and her family
made memories hiking trails and spotting wildlife.
Penny especially loved watching the birds.
Her favourite was the **endangered**
golden-winged laughingthrush.



The scenery was **amazing**. She had only ever seen landscapes like that on TV and in pictures, but no picture was like seeing it with her own eyes. It was breathtaking!



One day, as Penny was birdwatching, she noticed something **strange**.



Everyone else in the park was busy on a **tablet**. No one seemed to be enjoying the beautiful day.

That night, at dinner, she saw more of the same—
parents on phones and kids on tablets.

Why was no one **talking** to anyone else? What were
they seeing on those screens that was so much more
exciting than the real world?



It was **true** that Penny used a screen sometimes. Her friend, Vin lived in another village far away.

Using her parents' tablet, she could chat with Vin almost as if he were right there in the room.



But lately Penny noticed that some people used their phones and tablets a lot.



She saw it all the time—villagers chatting and sending messages to each other **anywhere** and **everywhere**.

A few weeks later, Penny got a **gift** from her Aunt Petunia.
“Wow!” shouted Penny. “A tablet!”

“I’m not so sure about this, Petunia,” said Penny’s mother.
“Penny is a little young to have her own tablet.”

Aunt Petunia waved her off. “I just got the latest model, so I thought I’d give my old one to my favourite niece!” She patted Penny’s head. “Besides, it’s what all the kids are using these days.”



Penny looked at her parents. “Oh, please, can I keep it?”

Penny’s mother was quiet for a moment. Finally, she said,
“Well, I guess it’s okay.”

“But don’t use it too often,” added her father. “And your mum and I will need to **monitor** what you’re doing, to keep you safe.”



Penny loved her new tablet. She made **funny** faces of herself for her friends to laugh at.

She could share pictures and videos within seconds.

She could look up the answer to whatever question came to her mind.

Of course, her parents had to **approve** of everything first.



Penny couldn't believe how easy it was to send messages to friends located in different towns and even **faraway** countries!

She even got to have a video call with Zippy Zebra, who once spent a term at Penny's school all the way from Africa!



One evening, Penny's family went out to dinner.

Penny held up her tablet.

"Can I watch while we wait for our table?"

"Only for a little while," said her mother.



After they were seated, Penny continued to watch so she wouldn't get **bored** waiting for their food. She had to remind herself to blink while watching, or her eyes would feel funny.



“Penny!” she **suddenly** heard her mother say. “Please put your tablet away and eat your food.”

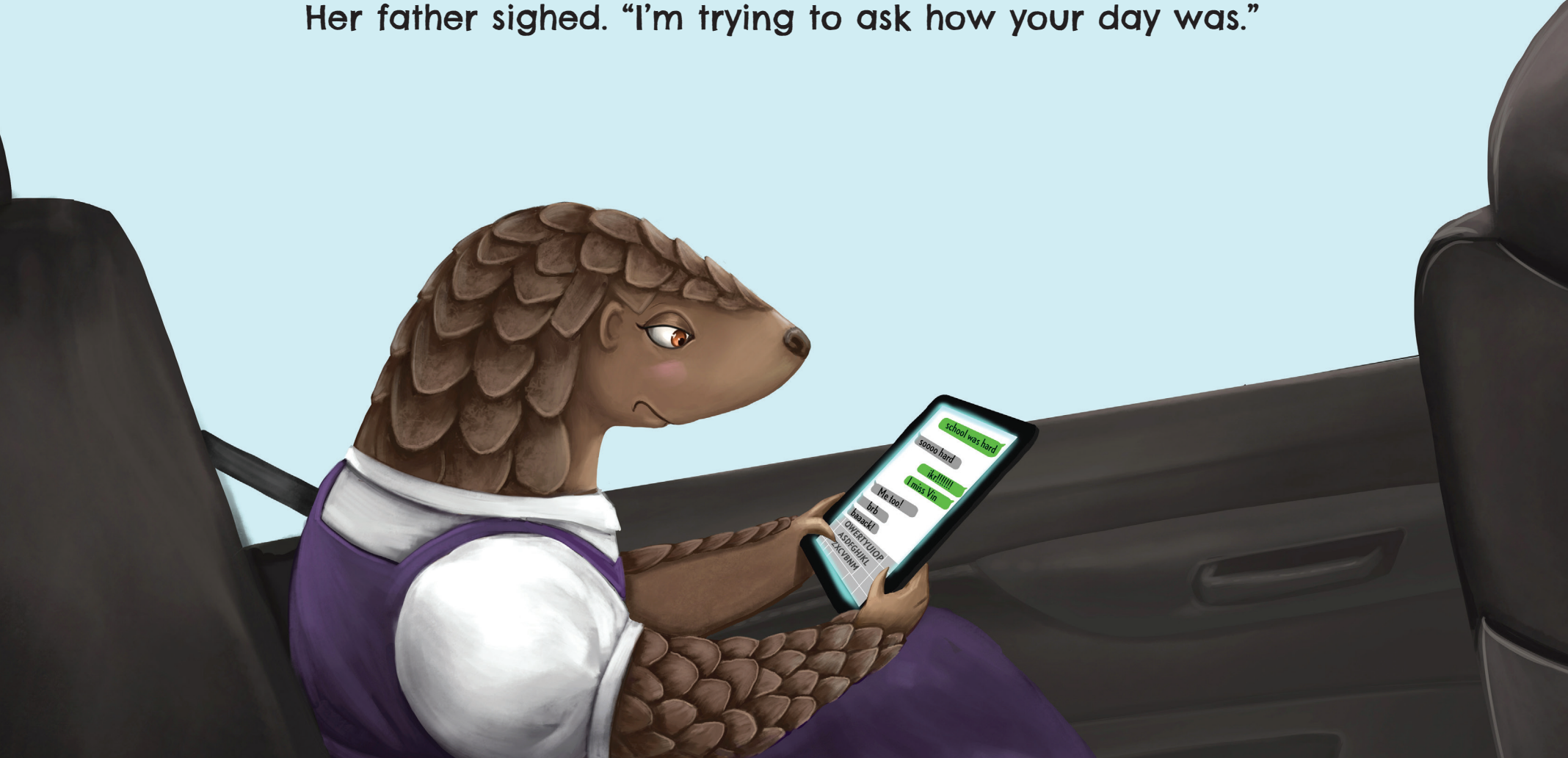
Penny was surprised to realize that her food had already appeared in front of her.

The next day, Penny opened the tablet as soon as she got into the car after school. In no time, she was messaging with her friends.

“Penny!” her father shouted.

Startled, Penny looked at her father through the rearview mirror. “What?” she asked, feeling a little **agitated** by the interruption.

Her father sighed. “I’m trying to ask how your day was.”



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An illustration of a brown hedgehog named Penny sitting in the driver's seat of a car. She is wearing a purple vest over a white shirt. She is holding a tablet computer with both hands, looking at the screen. The screen shows a text conversation with green and grey bubbles. The text on the screen includes: "school was hard", "soooo hard", "sketttttt", "I miss Vin", "Me too!", "hrrb", "brrack!", and a keyboard with letters Z, X, C, V, B, N. The car's interior, including the seat and door, is visible. The background is a solid light blue.

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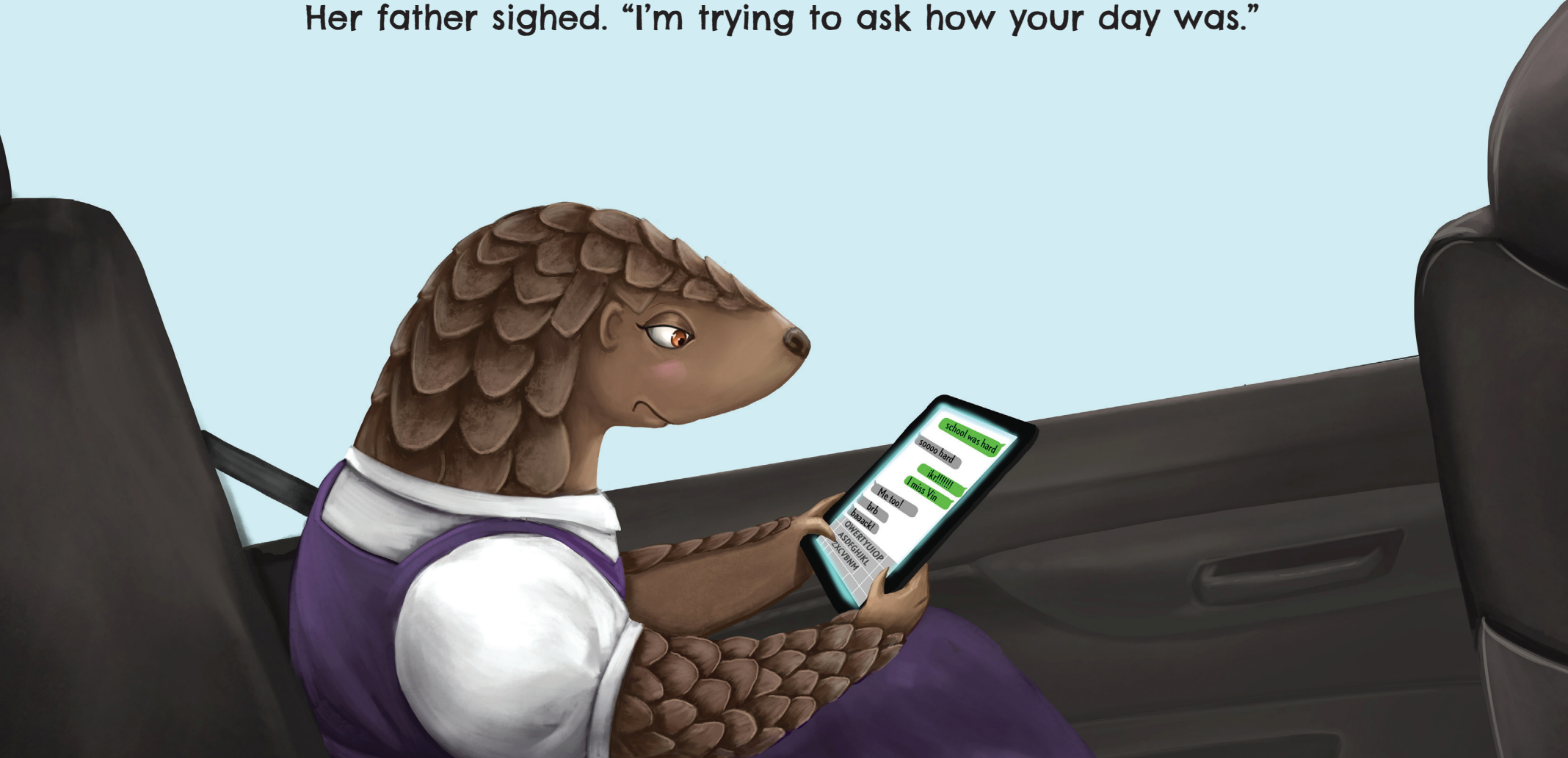
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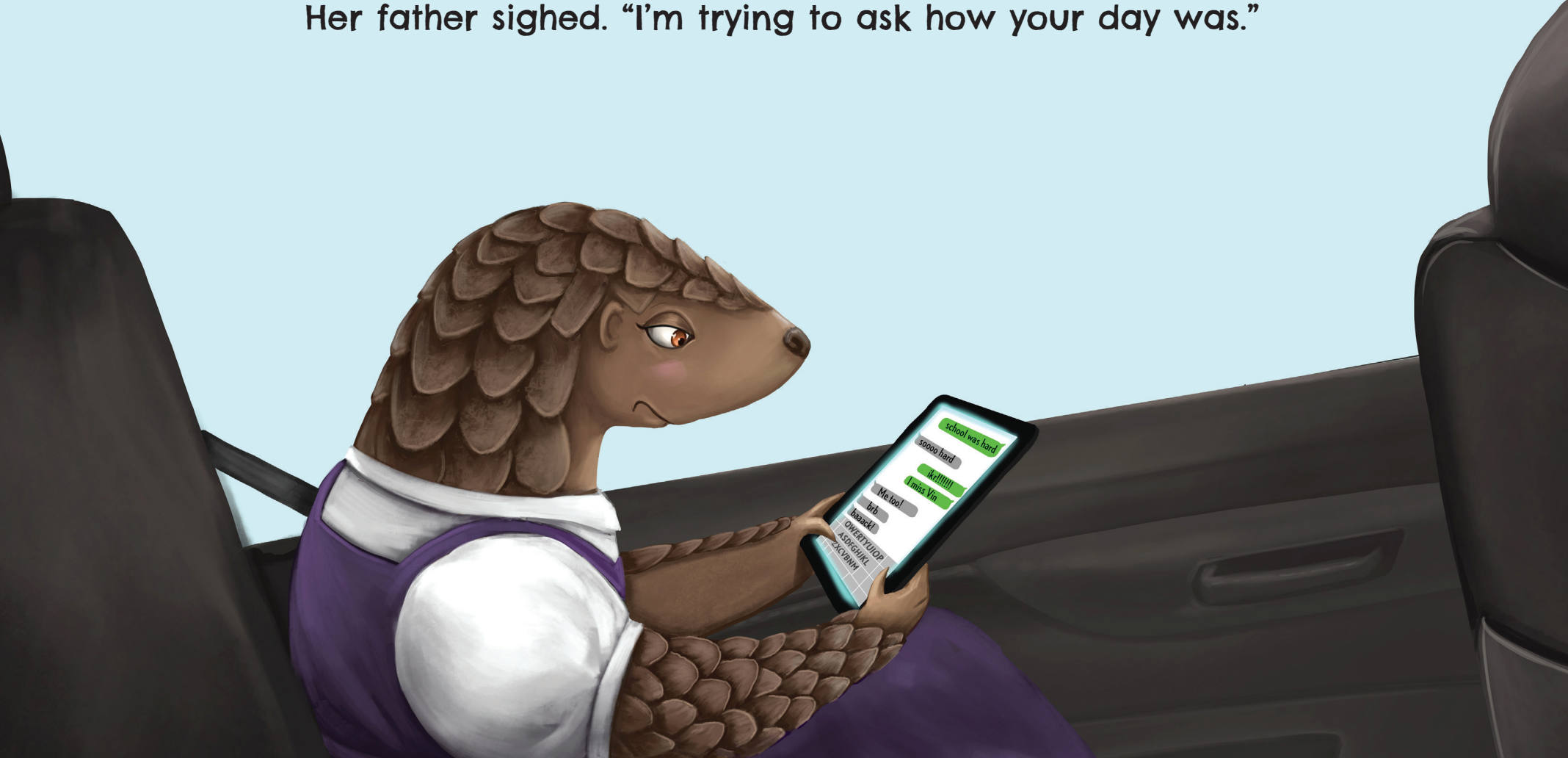
An illustration of a young hedgehog named Penny sitting in the back seat of a dark-colored car. She has brown, scaly skin and is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt under a purple vest. She is holding a black tablet computer with both hands, looking down at it intently. The tablet screen shows a text message conversation with green bubbles for incoming messages and grey bubbles for outgoing ones. The messages include "school was hard", "soooo hard", "Me!!!!!!", "I miss Vin", "Me too!", "lrb", "baaaaah!", and some nonsensical strings like "OWERYTUOP" and "ZSNGHKE". The background is a solid light blue color.

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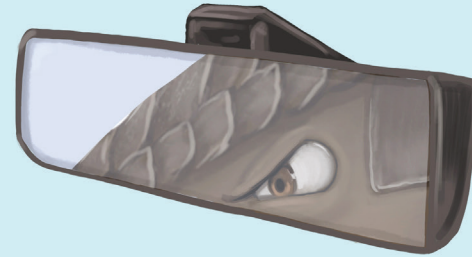
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Apparently, he had already said Penny's name
three times, but she hadn't heard him.

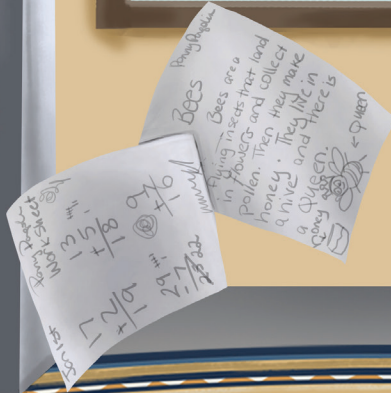


"It was fine," she said, and went back
to checking for messages.





The next morning, Penny couldn't find her tablet. She **rummaged** through her backpack. She looked all over the house. She even looked through the homework in her room. She found an assignment that she hadn't finished, but she didn't find her tablet.



By the time Penny came into the kitchen for breakfast, she was very upset. What would her friends think when she didn't respond to their messages? She had promised to share a new picture of Mooky chewing on his bamboo. Would her online friends be **disappointed**?



“You know, Penny,” said her mother, “maybe this is a good thing. You’ve been using your tablet far too much.”

“No, I haven’t!” Penny replied, feeling **defensive**.

“You forgot to finish your report on the Bornean jungle, didn’t you?”





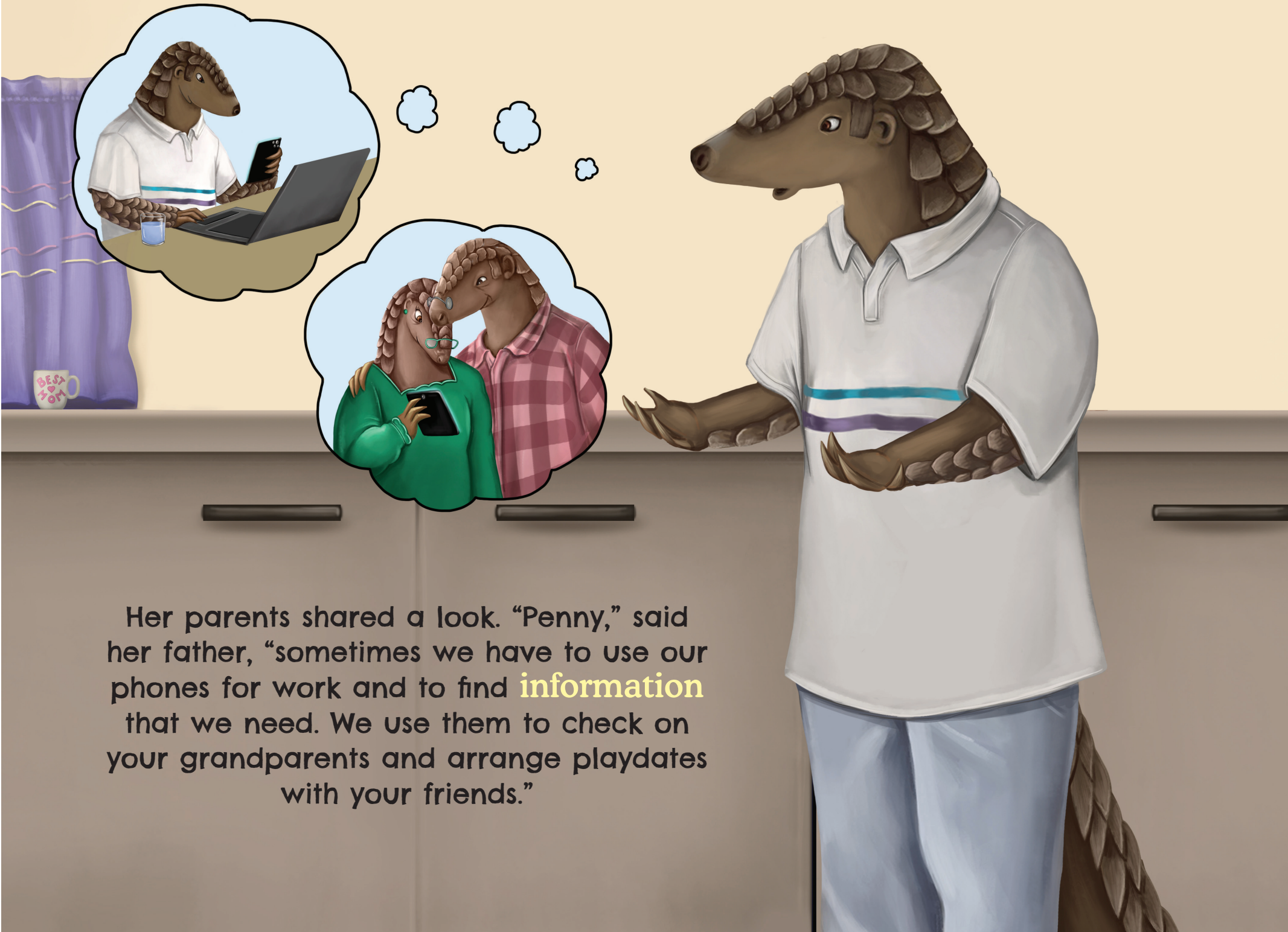
Penny was at a
loss for words.
Her mom was
right. She had
forgotten to
finish her report.

But she hadn't been spending too much time on the tablet,
had she? And even if she had, now her tablet was just gone.
Tears formed in her eyes.

Penny's mother hugged her daughter.
"Tablets are okay sometimes, but not if it
distracts you from other important things."

Penny was confused. "I see others on
their phones and tablets all the time,
even you and Dad!"





Her parents shared a look. “Penny,” said her father, “sometimes we have to use our phones for work and to find **information** that we need. We use them to check on your grandparents and arrange playdates with your friends.”

“However,” said her mother, “we probably could be on them less often. I think that’s true for almost everyone.” She **stooped** down and looked Penny in the eyes. “But, sweetie, as a child, you must be extra careful. Too much screentime is not good for you and can cause you to forget other things in life. You shouldn’t use your device as often as most adults, and only when we say it’s okay.”

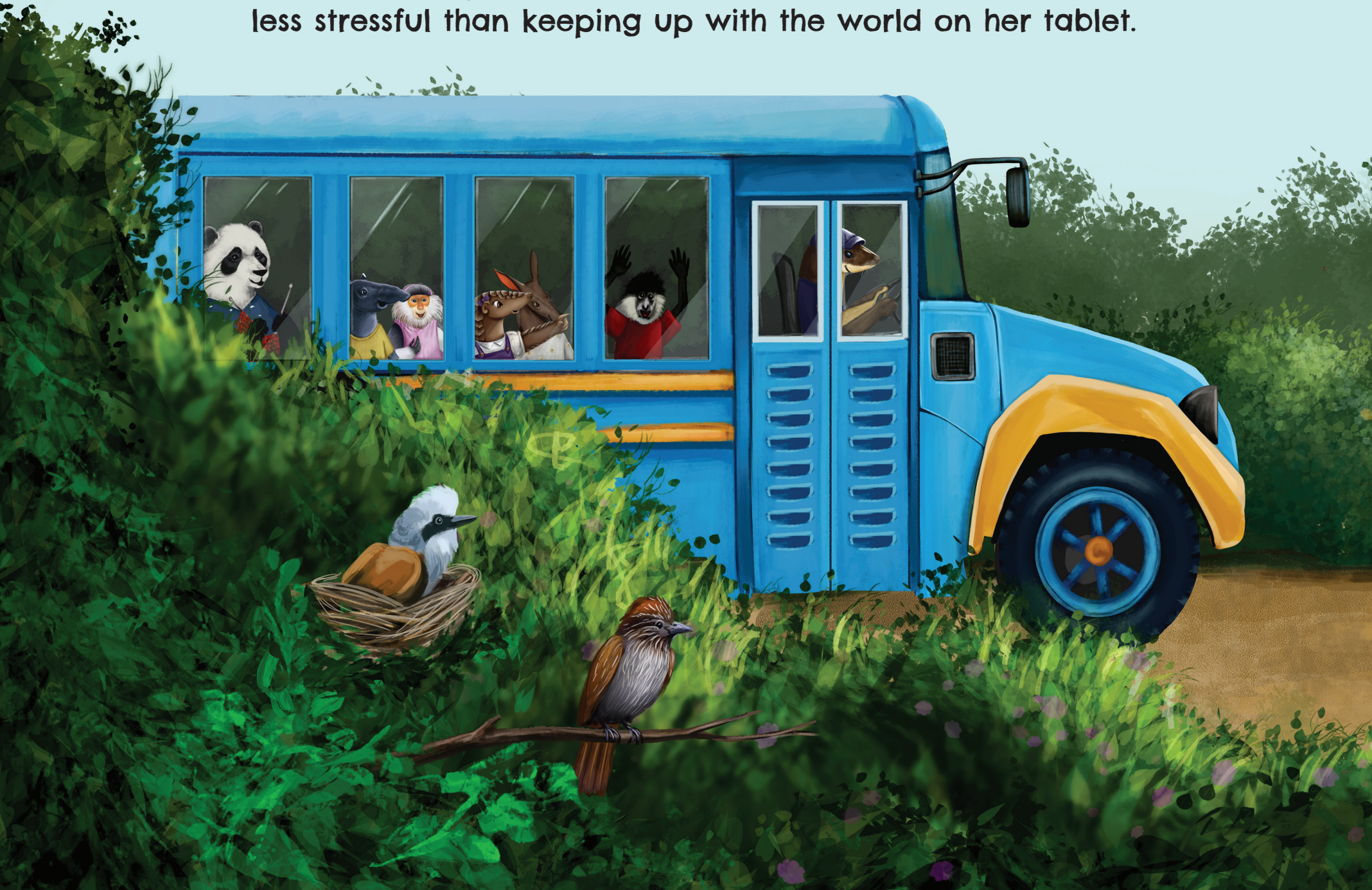


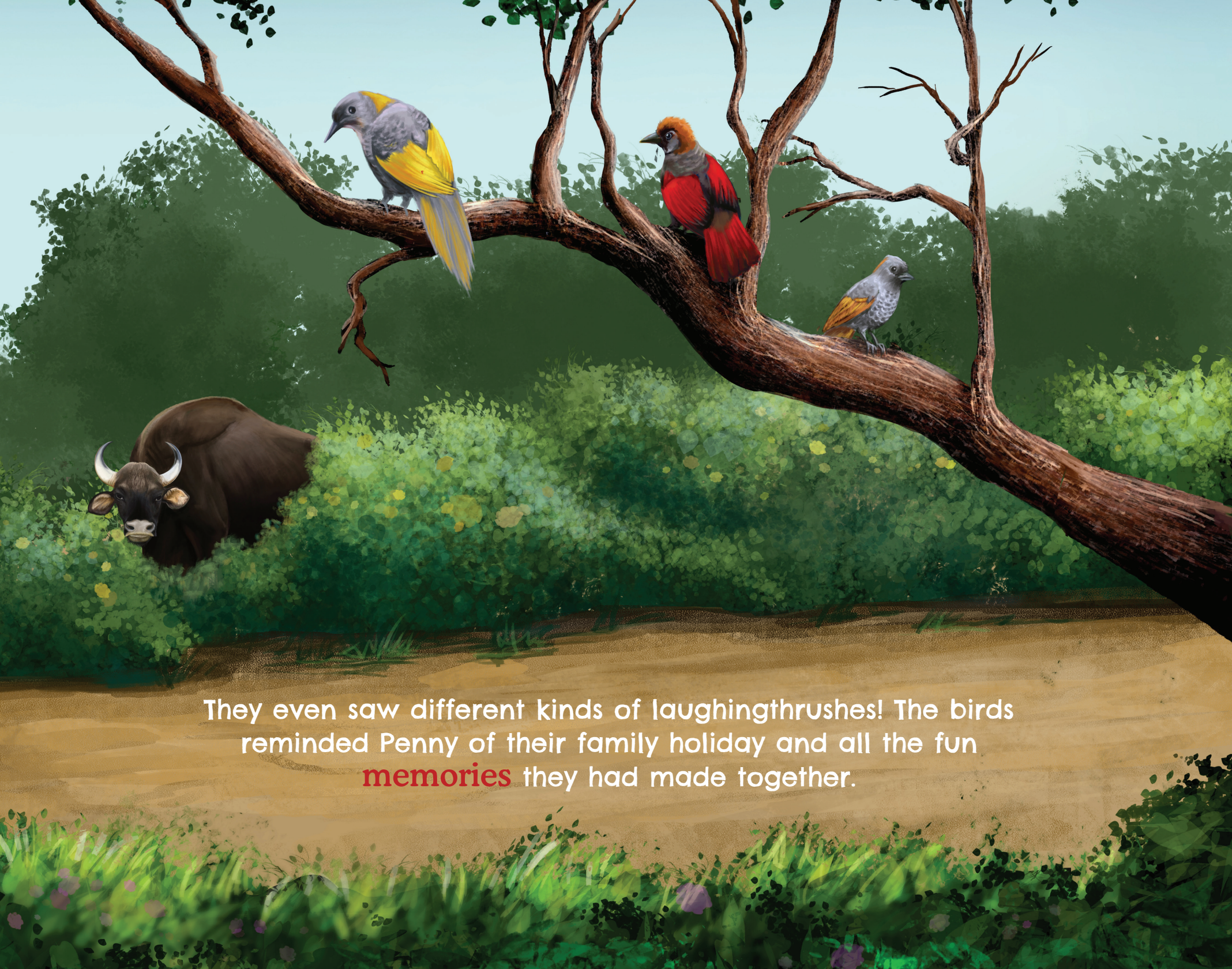
“Okay, Mummy,” Penny replied. “If I ever find my tablet, I’ll be more **careful**.”



“Good,” said her mother.
“Now finish getting ready,
and I’ll take you to school.”

That day was school trip day. On the bus, Penny focused more on talking with her friends. She enjoyed looking out the window at the green, hilly **countryside**. Nature's beauty quieted her mind and felt less stressful than keeping up with the world on her tablet.





They even saw different kinds of laughingthrushes! The birds reminded Penny of their family holiday and all the fun **memories** they had made together.



Later that day, Penny's father picked her up from school in his car.

"How was your day, Penny?"
he asked.

"Great!" Penny answered immediately, and she told him all about the beautiful countryside and fun **conversations** with her friends.





As Penny reached for
her seatbelt, she felt
something between the
seat and the door. It was
her tablet!

“It must have been in here the whole time,” her father said. “I bet you’re glad you found it.”

Penny looked down at the tablet for a moment. Then she placed it in her backpack and smiled at her dad. “The tablet is nice **sometimes**.

But, right now, I want to tell you about the laughingthrushes!”



What is a Pangolin?

Pangolins are the only mammals that have scales on their body. These scales are made of keratin, the same substance in your hair and nails, and they help to protect pangolins from predators.

Termites and ants are their favourite food. With their long sticky tongues, pangolins can eat up to 200,000 of these bugs in a single night!



Pangolins are nocturnal, which means they are most active at night.

A baby pangolin is known as a pangopup.

The name pangolin comes from the Malay word “pengguling,” which means “rolling up.”

How Can You Help?

Pangolins are unique, gentle mammals with stubby legs, sharp digging claws, and hard scales that protect them from predators. If threatened, a pangolin can curl up into a ball or lash out with its scaled tail.



There are eight species of pangolins, four each in Asia and Africa, all of them endangered. They are nocturnal, meaning they're most active at night, and they love eating lots and lots of termites and ants!



Pangolins are threatened with extinction. Many of them are illegally captured for their scales and meat. But there's good news! Some people, such as the Wildlife Conservation Network, are working to help pangolins and other endangered animals. Check out SavePangolins.org to learn more!

Don't Become a Screen Zombie!



Looking at a screen too much, especially as a child, can potentially harm cognitive (thinking), linguistic (speaking), social-emotional, and physical health. It's easy to become distracted and use them too much. Screens like tablets, computers, and other devices can be useful but should be used in moderation. Stop using them when you're told to by an adult, or if you start to feel symptoms such as eye strain or a headache.

Look for more wildlife in Penny's story...



Oriental
Garden Lizard



Common
Kingfisher



Sunda Flying
Lemur



Golden-Winged
Laughing Thrush



Guar
(Indian Bison)



Maritime
Striped Squirrel



White-Crested
Laughing Thrush



Striated
Laughing Thrush



Red-Tailed
Laughing Thrush

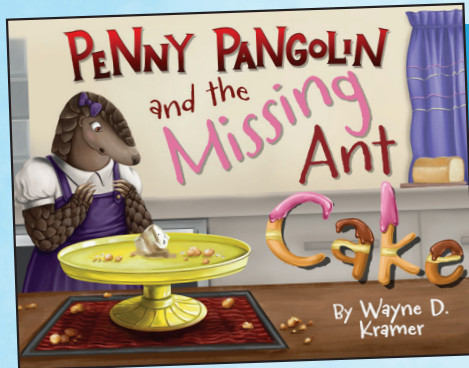


CRITTER COMPENDIUM

Scan the QR Code
below to learn
all about Penny's
favourite critters.

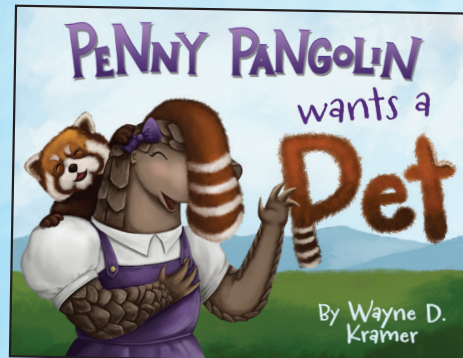


More Adventures with Penny Pangolin and Friends



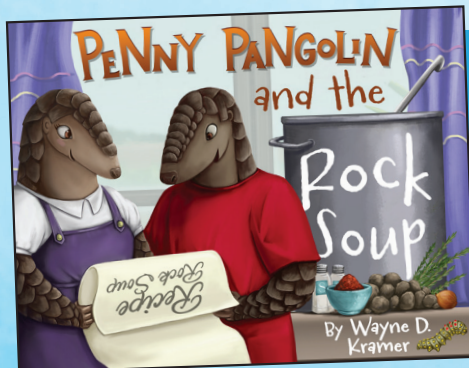
Penny Pangolin and the Missing Ant Cake

Penny's favourite lemon-ant cake dessert is in trouble! When Penny finds the culprit, she must choose between what she feels is deserved and what is right.



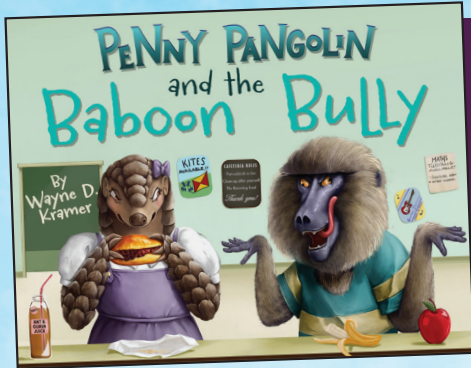
Penny Pangolin Wants a Pet

Penny must prove to her parents that she's responsible enough for more than just a pet plant. Out of an act of compassion blossoms an unexpected, unbreakable companionship.



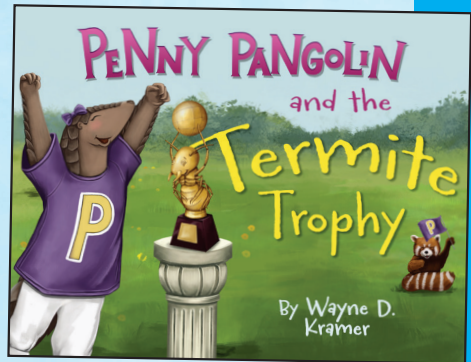
Penny Pangolin and the Rock Soup

The village festival is on! Penny is in for an unsettling surprise after touring the food stalls. At least her friend, Vin knows one of Penny's favourite foods—homemade rock soup!



Penny Pangolin and The Baboon Bully

When Penny steps in to defend her friend Edith against a school bully, she quickly finds herself his new target! Penny must navigate the rocky path of dealing with bullying without becoming a bully herself. Themes of friendship, forgiveness, anger management, and seeing other points of view.



Penny Pangolin and The Termite Trophy

Penny and friends enter the multi-sport Big Claw Tournament in her village! The tournament tests critters in all kinds of trials . . . including some that pangolins aren't suited for! To make it through—and win—Penny and her pals will need to work together to compensate for their own disadvantages, and not just outplay the other teams... but outsmart them too! Features themes of teamwork, friendship, and sportsmanship.

Printable and Digital
Resources Available
for Educators!

Get it all at
PennyPangolin.com!



About the Author



Wayne D. Kramer lives in the southern Indiana countryside with his wife and kids.

The idea for Penny Pangolin came to Wayne one day while discussing an interest in creating a series of children's picture books with his family. Pangolins, in particular, had always fascinated the kids. Wayne enjoys brainstorming new Penny ideas with his kids over smoothies at the coffee shop.

He graduated from the University of Louisville in 2005 with a Bachelor of Business Science. He has visited nearly 40 countries and 25 states in the US. He especially loved visiting Hobbiton in New Zealand.

Wayne is also author of the "Heroes of Time" adventure fantasy novel series. All of his works, including signed copies, are available from **shop.heroesoftime.com**.

About the Illustrator



Jade Zivanovic lives in rural Victoria, Australia with her husband and pets.

Jade has always enjoyed creating pictures that help to tell a story and has studied under prominent artists, also gaining a diploma in concept art and visual storytelling.

Her works hang in private collections across Australia, the US and Europe. She has also placed in art shows, her favourite distinction being a People's Choice Award, as she has always considered herself an artist for the people.