

BREAKFAST MOON

Written by Meg Gower
Illustrated by David Barker





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Book layout and illustrations by David Barker
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For more information about My Sky Tonight and access to astronomy activities for young children, visit:
www.astrosociety.org/MySkyTonight





Day 1 TUESDAY

“Wake up, Mae!”
my little brother
shouted. “The
breakfast moon
is here!”



I jumped up to find
the moon. I wondered
what shape it would be.

The moon had been
full a few nights ago.
Now it would be in
the morning sky.

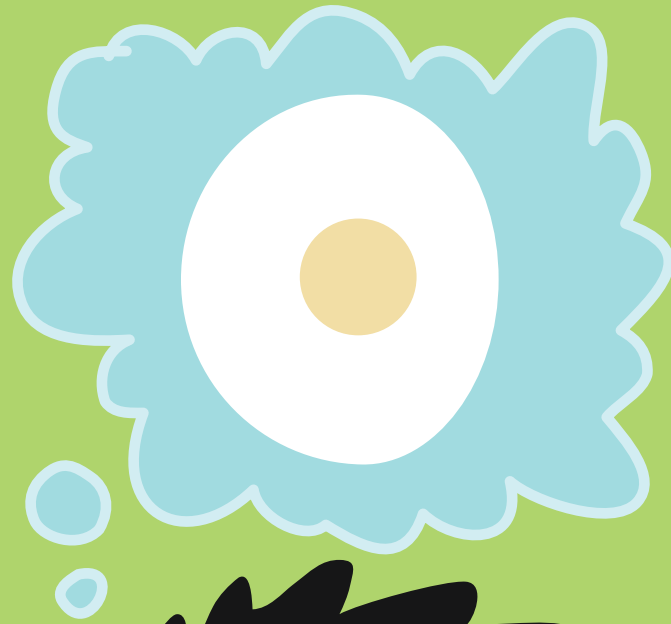


I saw it
right away.

“What breakfast
food does it look
like, Arthur?”

“It’s a hat!”
said Arthur.

“You can’t eat a hat,”
I said. “It looks more
like a fried egg to me.”



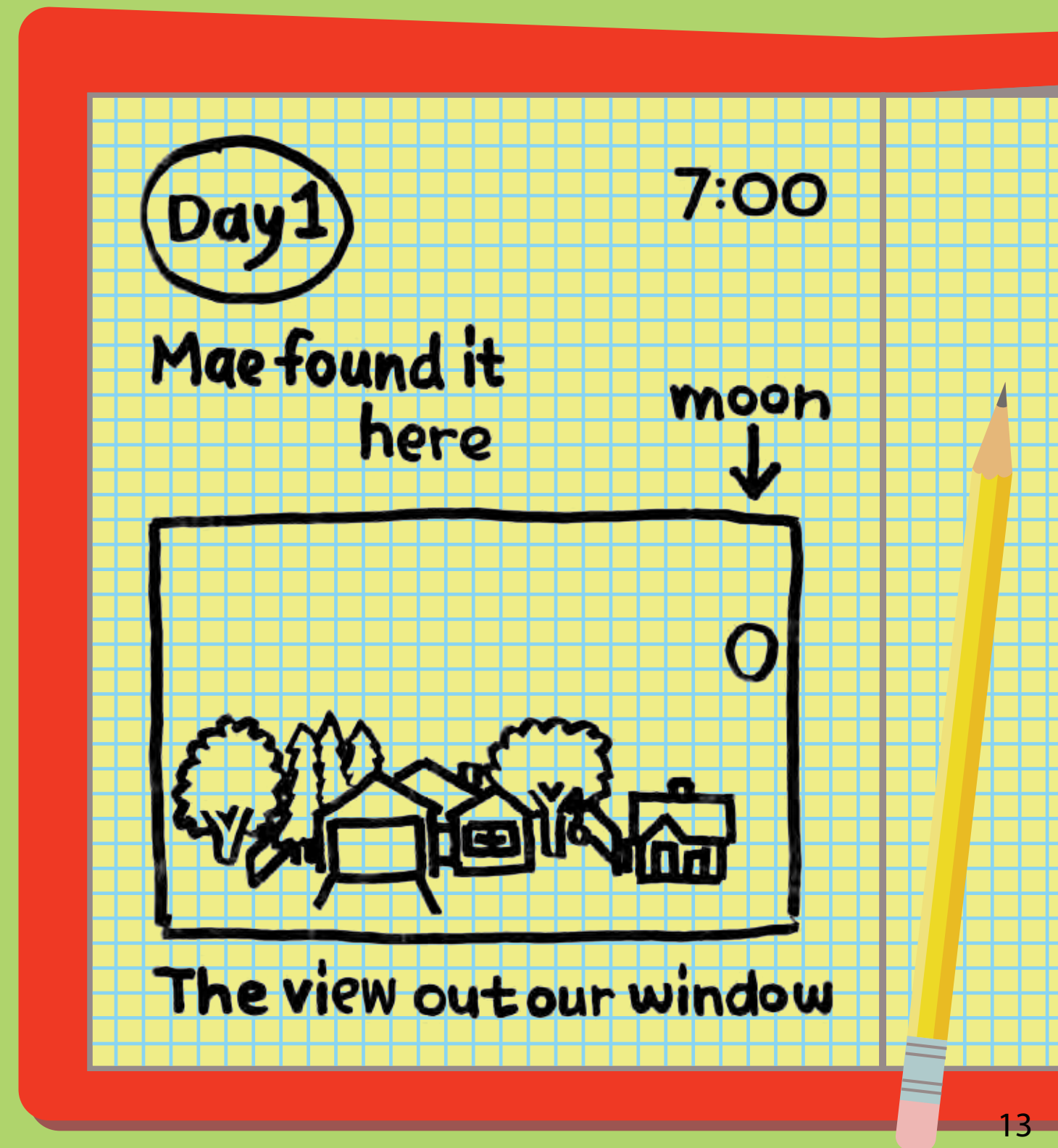
Mom and Dad agreed, so we all ate
fried eggs for breakfast.



“Let’s make a breakfast moon journal!” I said.

“What’s a journal?” Arthur asked.

“It’s a notebook where you write and draw what happens every day,” I explained.



Day 2
WEDNESDAY

“I found the breakfast moon!”
Arthur called out before I was
even out of bed.

I didn’t see it right away because
the sky was dotted with clouds. The
moon was playing hide-and-seek.





Arthur pointed at what I thought was a cloud.

“There,” he said. “It looks like my turtle.”

“We're not eating your pet for breakfast,” I said.

I tipped my head. The moon looked like a bowl to me.

“What’s for breakfast, Mae?” asked Dad.



Day 2

7:00

moon



turtle

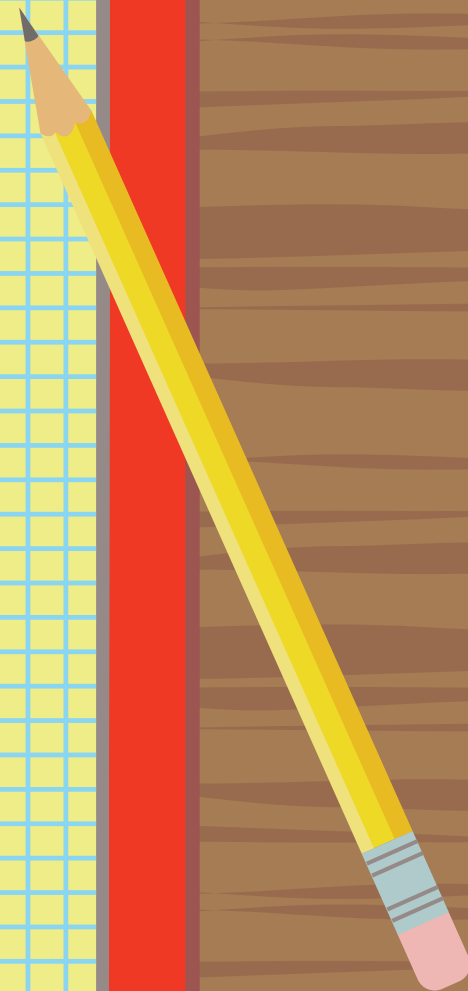


bowl

moon shapes
so far

day 1 ○

day 2 ○

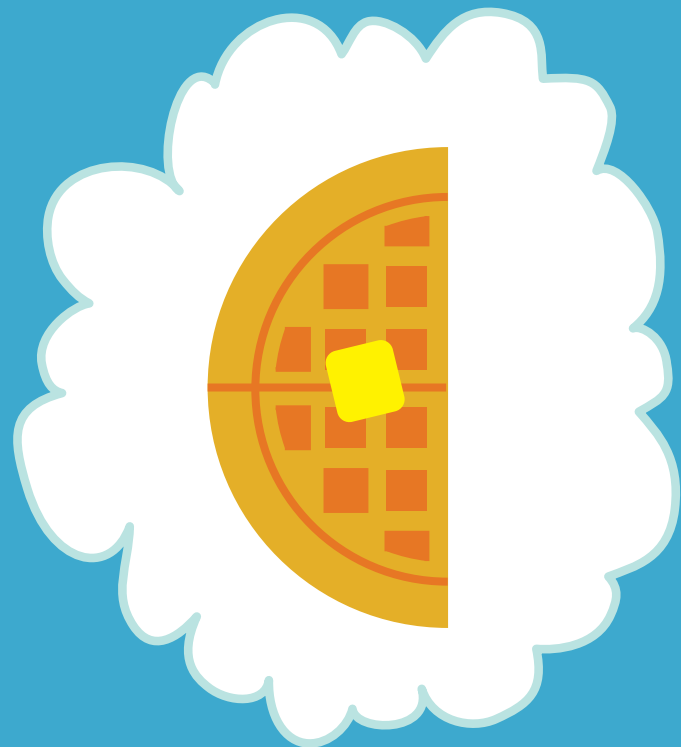


Day 3 THURSDAY

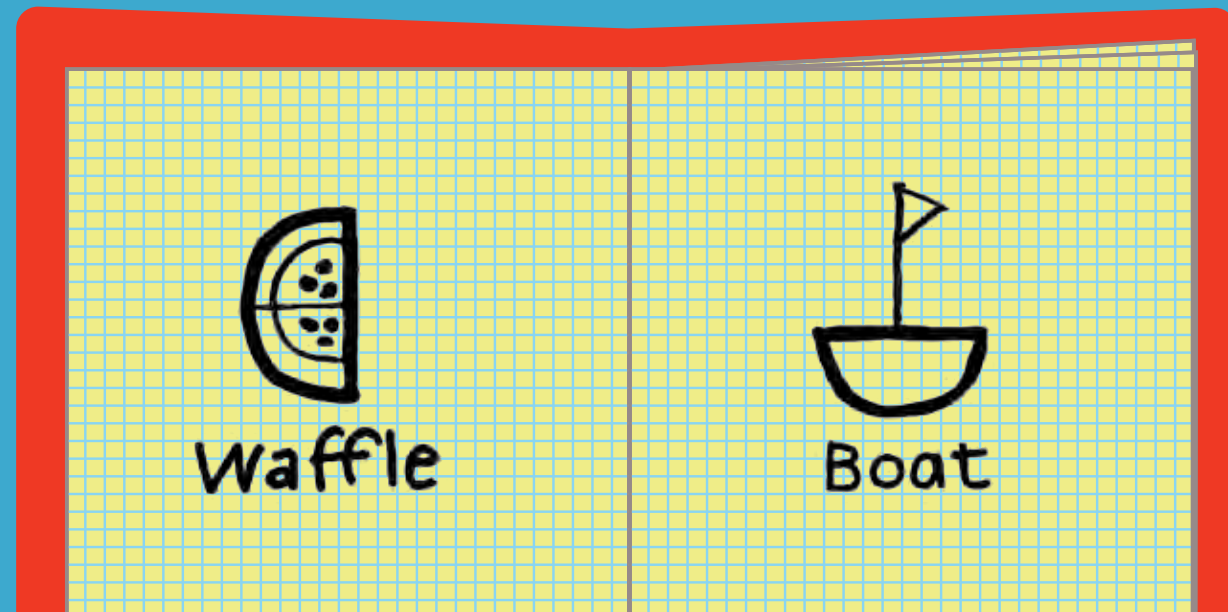


I was first to the window today!
No hide-and-seek. The breakfast
moon was right there.





It looked like half
of something.
“Waffles!” I shouted.



But Arthur had
a different idea.



I was starting to see a pattern. Can you tell what it is?

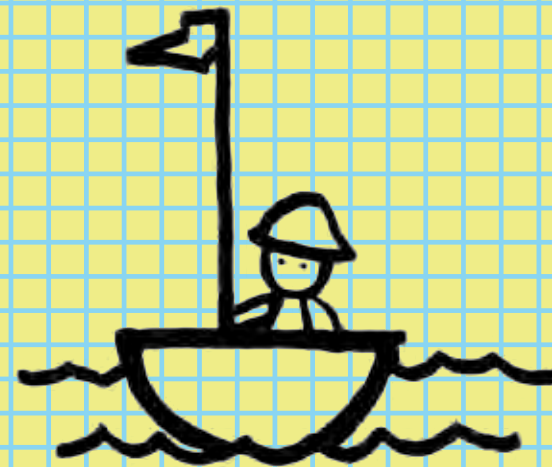
Day 3

7:00

moon



waffle



boat

moon shapes
so far

day 1 ○

day 2 ○

day 3 ◐

day 4 ?

Day 4 FRIDAY

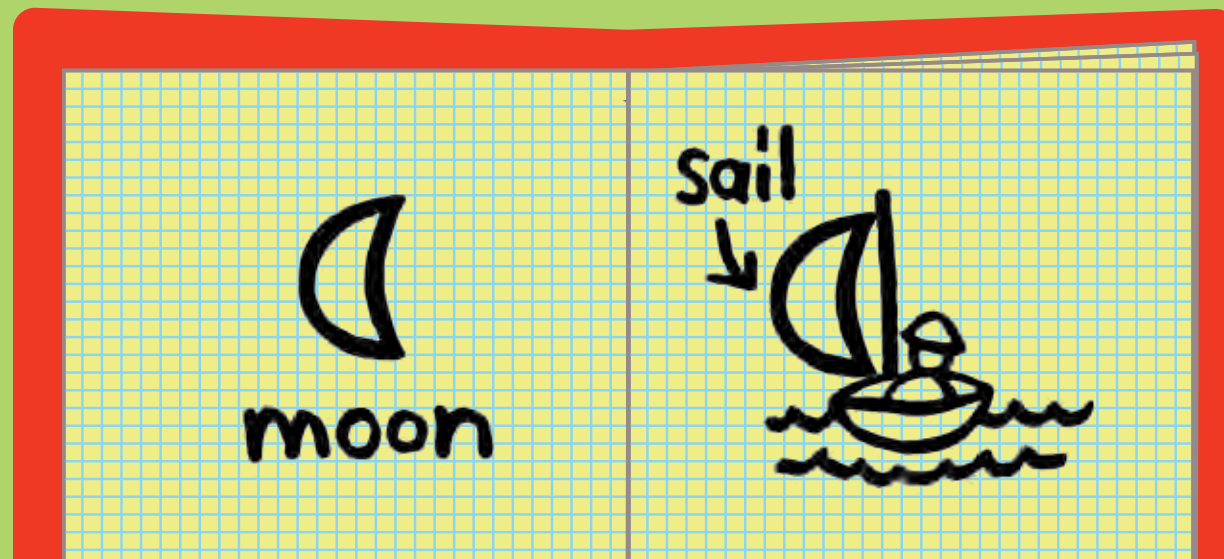
I couldn't find the moon.
The sky was filled with clouds
again. But Arthur just walked
by the window and pointed.



“Yay! My boat
has a sail,”
Arthur giggled.



Then I saw it.
Toasted warm.
Creamy and buttery.
I wonder what it will
look like tomorrow.



Day 4

7:00

moon



croissant

sail



moon shapes
so far

day 1 ○

day 2 ○

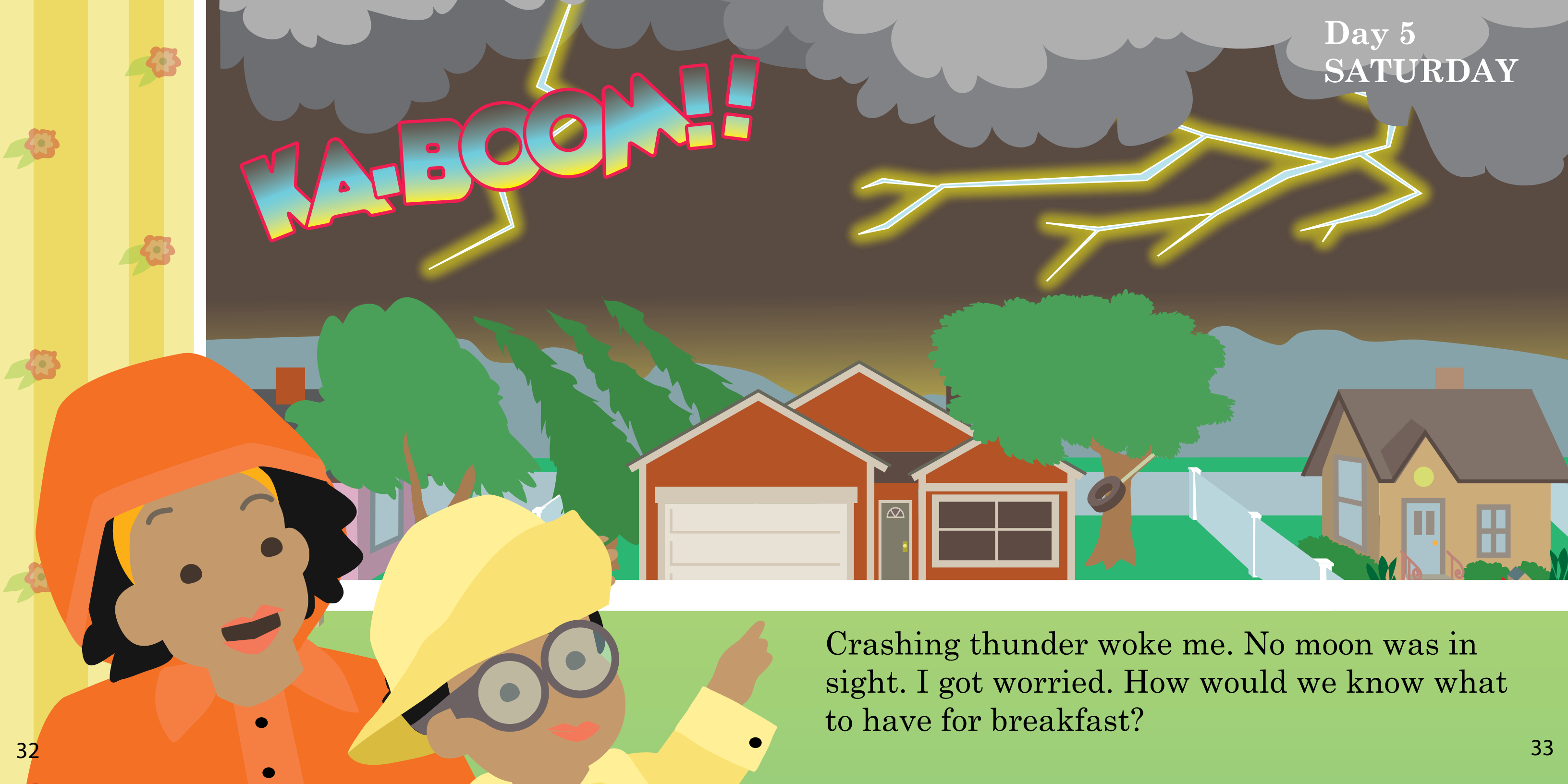
day 3 D

day 4 C

day 5 ?

Day 5
SATURDAY

KA-BOOM!!



Crashing thunder woke me. No moon was in sight. I got worried. How would we know what to have for breakfast?

moon shapes
so far

day 1 ○

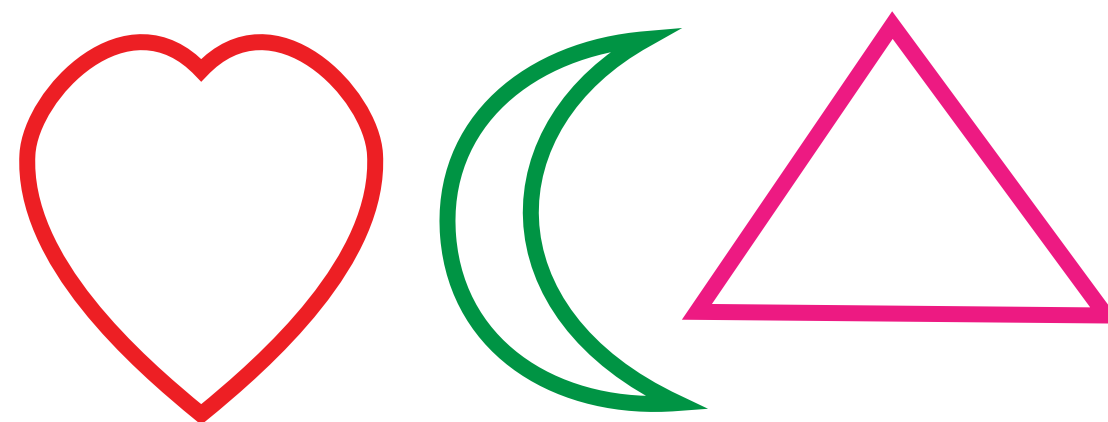
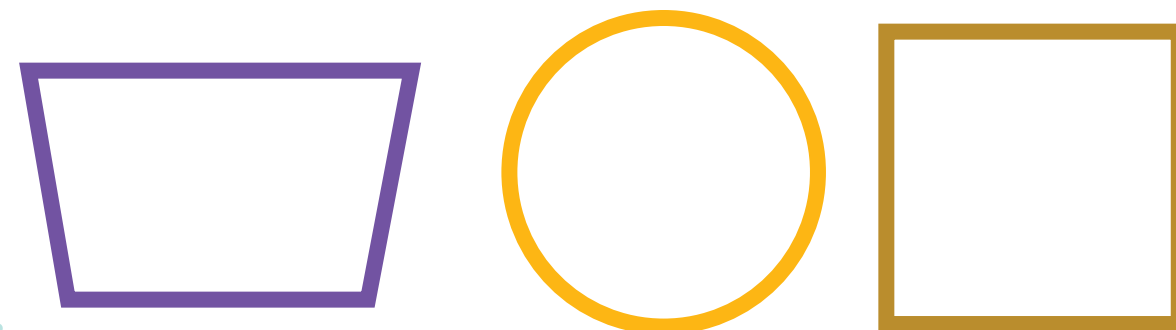
day 2 ○

day 3 ∩

day 4 ∩

day 5 ?

But then I
remembered
the pattern.



So I made a guess.
Do you know what shape I chose?



I chose the crescent shape. And yummy cantaloupe for breakfast!



Arthur must have been thinking about patterns too.



“Oh, look!” said Mom.
“The sky is clearing.”

“We were both right!”
I smiled.



Day 5

7:00

Rainy day.
Couldn't see
the Moon,
so we guessed.
Turns out we
were right!

our guess:

moon



fish



melon

moon shapes
so far

day 1 ○

day 2 ○

day 3 ◐

day 4 ◑

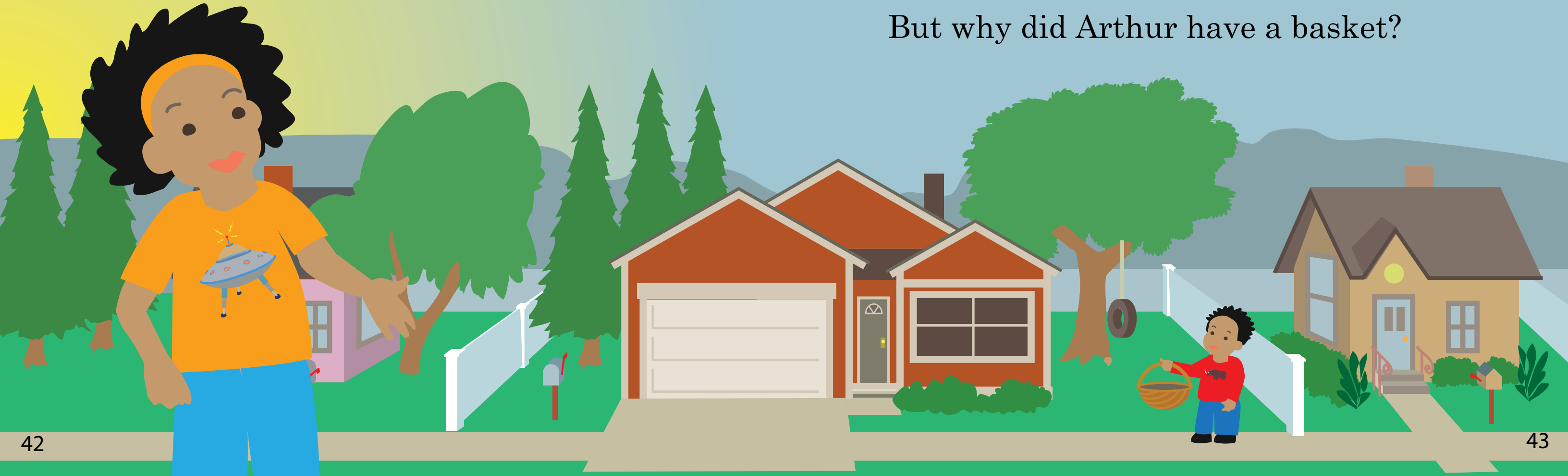
day 5 ◒

day 6 ?

Day 6 SUN-DAY

I was glad the sun was shining today.
I could see the crescent moon up high
in the sky. It was even skinnier than
yesterday.

But why did Arthur have a basket?



“Look, Mae!” Arthur laughed.
“It’s a banana moon!”

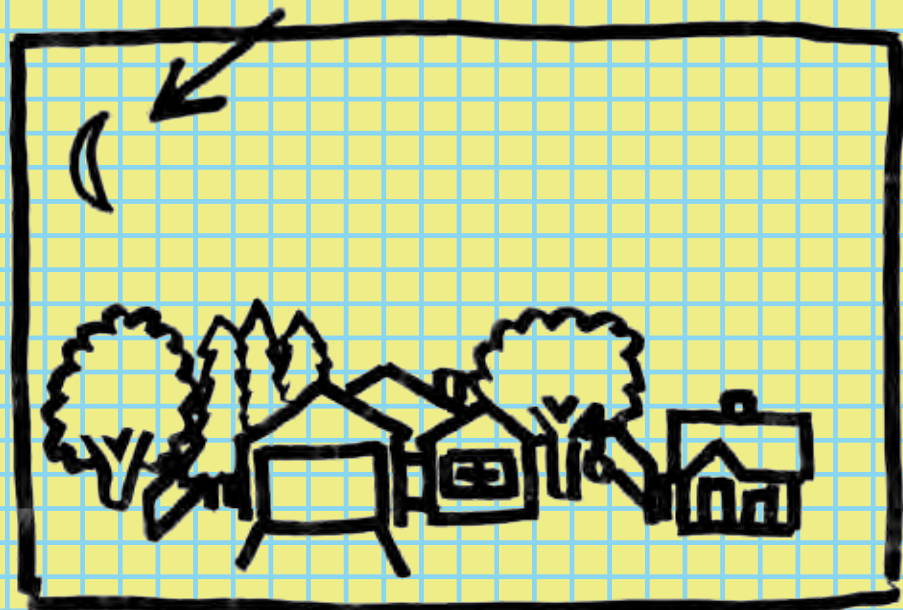
“Watch out for the
rhinoceros,” I said.



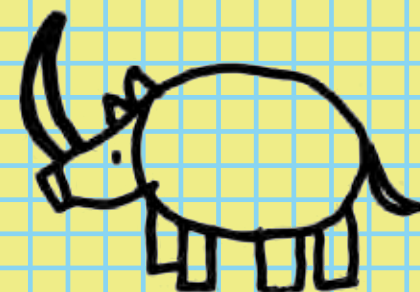
Day 6

7:00

moon



banana



rhino horn

moon shapes
so far

day 1 ○

day 2 ○

day 3 ◐

day 4 ◑

day 5 ◒

day 6 ◓

day 7 ?



Day 7 MOON-DAY

My brother and I both frowned.
No breakfast moon.

“Did it go away?” Arthur asked.

“No, honey,” said Dad. “It’s still there.
We just can’t see it anymore.”

“Why not?” I asked.

Mom said, “Let’s see your journal.
What did you notice?”

moon shapes
so far

day 1 ○

day 2 ○

day 3 ◐

day 4 ◑

day 5 ◒

day 6 ◓

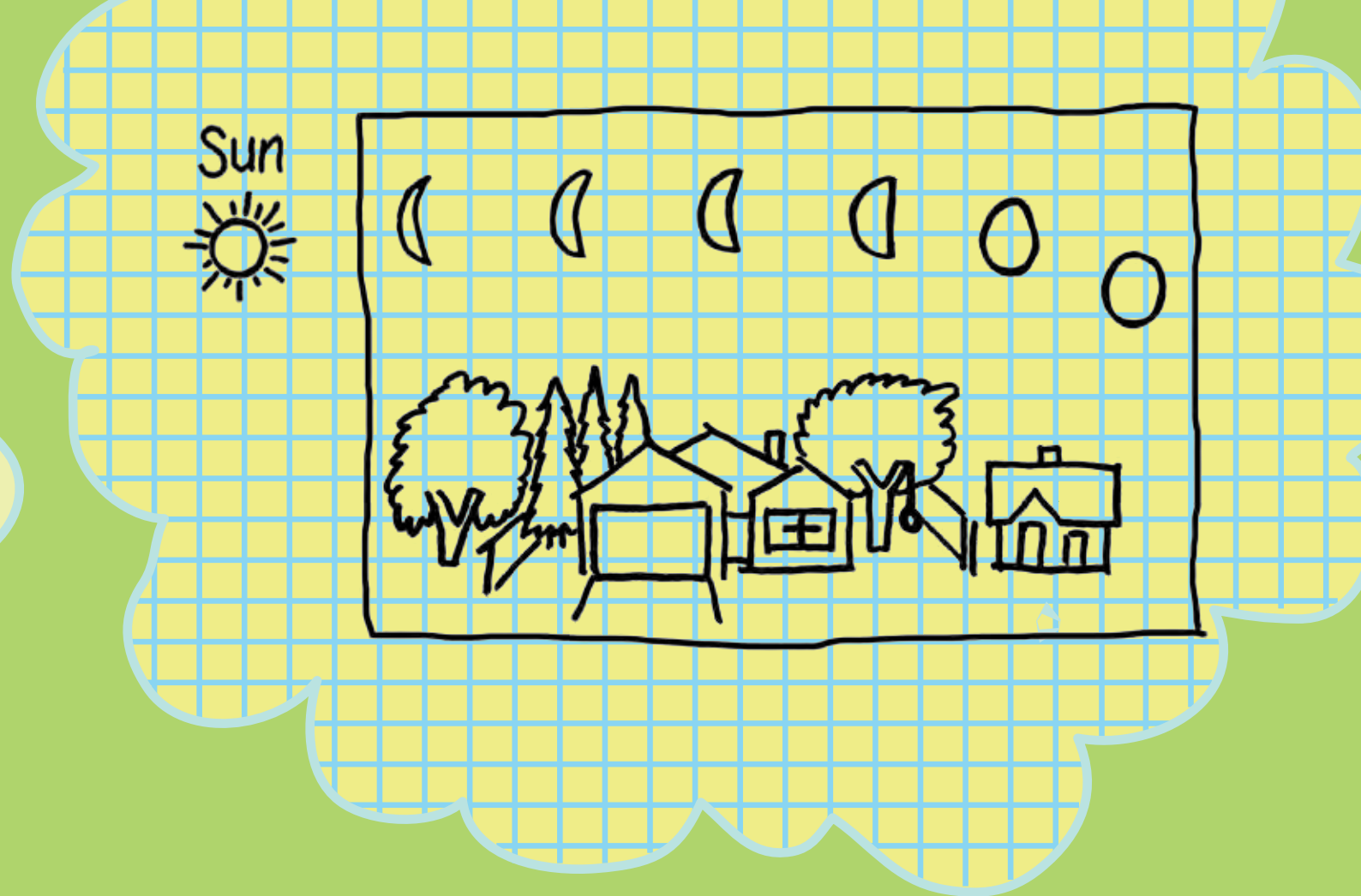
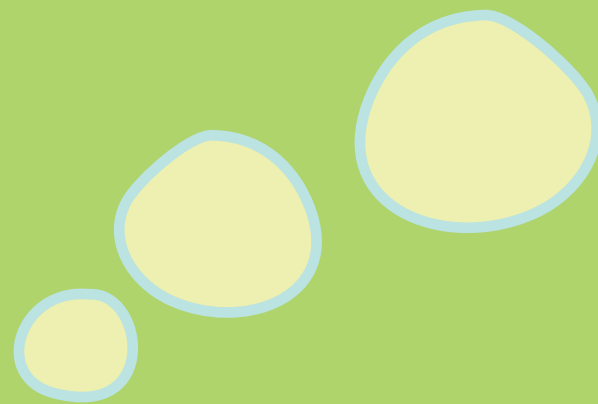
“The moon got skinnier,”
said Arthur.

“Do you think it was
really getting smaller?”
Dad asked.

“No,” we both said.

We knew the moon was
a big rock that didn’t
really change size.
We were just seeing
less of it.





“What else, Mae?” Mom asked. “Where was the moon each morning?”

“It looked like it was moving toward the sun in the sky,” I said. “And now we can’t see it at all.”



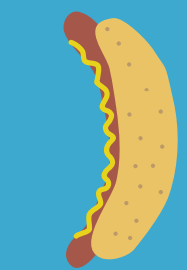
“But it *will* come back again.” This much I knew.
“Of course!” said Dad.
“In a few days we can look for the new crescent moon in the evening sky.”

“Yay!” said Arthur. “Then we’ll eat the supper moon.”

“Or go on another adventure,” I said with a wink.



Supper Moon



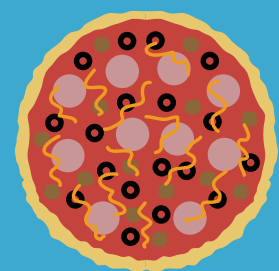
Waxing Crescent



First Quarter

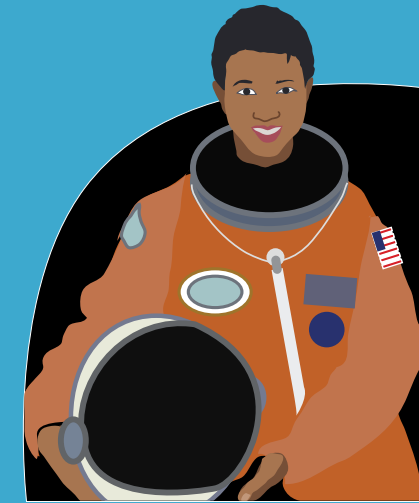
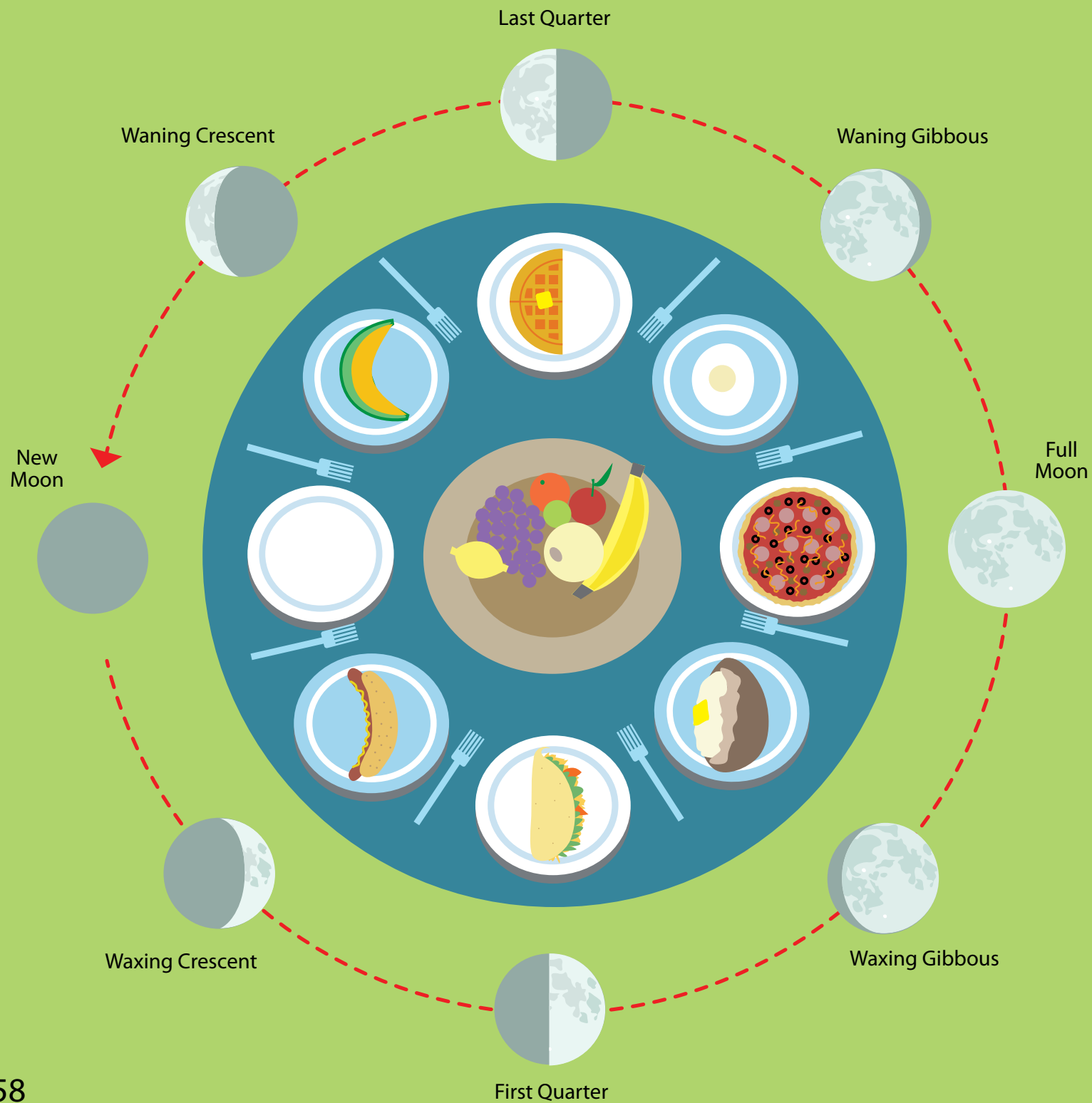


Waxing Gibbous



Full Moon



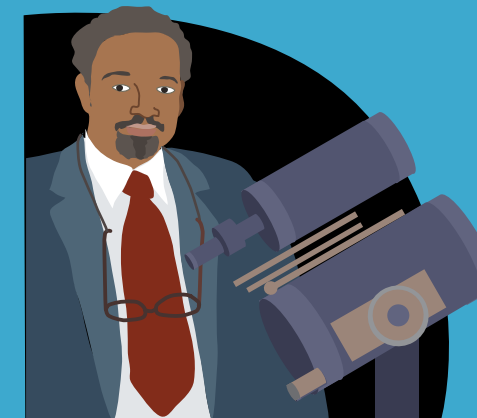


Dr. Mae Jemison

Our character, Mae, is named in honor of Dr. Mae Jemison: chemical engineer, medical doctor, Peace Corps officer, professor, dancer, innovator, and NASA astronaut on the space shuttle Endeavor. She was the first African-American woman in space.

She gives inspirational speeches promoting science, technology, and the value of education and wonder. She has written a book about her life to inspire young people called *Find Where The Wind Goes: Moments From My Life*.

Dr. Jemison says, "Growing up... I loved space, stars, and dinosaurs. I always knew I wanted to explore... My parents were the best scientists I knew, because they were always asking questions."



Dr. Arthur B.C. Walker

The little brother in our story is named in honor of solar physicist Dr. Arthur B.C. Walker of Stanford University. Professor Walker built instruments to study the Sun that were launched in spaceships. He especially enjoyed studying the high energy part of light: ultraviolet and x-rays!

He also loved to mentor other learners; he supported famous students such as America's first female astronaut, Sally Ride, and Dr. Hakeem Oluseyi, astrophysicist and popular TV science host.

Dr. Walker once told a close friend, "... (A)ll I ever wanted to be was a physicist. I've had a good life, and I wanted to help students see the marvel of physics. And I've done both."

Try This!

In our illustrations, while the position of the moon is accurate, it appears larger than it would actually appear in the sky. We intentionally made this choice because one of our main goals is for our readers to notice the shape of the moon together with Mae and Arthur. Sometimes when you see the full moon rising or setting, it may seem really huge in the sky. But, if you close one eye and stretch out your arm, you can actually cover the moon with the tip of your pinky finger! This works no matter what phase the moon has or where it appears in the sky. Try it next time you see the moon!

