



COPE

.....

Be ready for disasters!

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WILDFIRES

By Martha Keswick +

Mariko Jesse +

Timothy Sim



What are natural hazards ... and disasters?

Forces of nature that happen with little warning and occur all over the world, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, landslides, tropical cyclones (and other storms), storm surges, heatwaves, wildfires, droughts and volcanoes. When these **natural hazards** pose a threat to humans or the environment they can lead to **disasters** and cause destruction in a community.

What is a wildfire?

An uncontrolled fire which takes place in open areas like forests, mountains, fields or parks. Wildfires can begin unnoticed, but they spread quickly – igniting plants, trees and even houses. They sometimes start by natural causes such as lightning or lava, but are usually caused by humans. Drought, heat and wind can make a wildfire worse, destroying homes and putting lives in danger.

The World Meteorological Organization helps countries to better forecast wildfires, to give communities timely warning.

COPE will teach you how to be ready for wildfires!





Be ready for disasters – Wildfires

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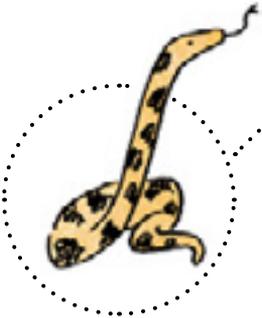
Who is Grand Mistress Fu?

A famous Chinese martial arts teacher and founder of the Mount Emei Wushu School. Grand Mistress Fu, also known as Shifu, is disciplined and tough yet has an enormous heart. She narrowly escaped death as her school collapsed during the Wenchuan Earthquake in May 2008 and has since dedicated her life to Disaster Risk Reduction.



What is The COPE Academy?

An international disaster hub, hidden in Sichuan Province, set up by Grand Mistress Fu. The COPE Squad – Candy, Ollie, Ping and Eddy are teenage orphans who were plucked out of their care homes to live at The COPE Academy and trained to be disaster risk reduction agents.



Sense
THE SNAKE
A beautiful 25-year-old python. Sense has a special gift for predicting disasters. Grand Mistress Fu feeds her mice every month.

Rescue
THE DOG
A huge 8-year-old Kunming Wolf Dog, Rescue tracks missing people. His favourite hobby is catching flies.



The COPE Squad



Candy

THE CARER

12 years old from Kranshoek, South Africa, Candy is kind, strong, lively and loves playing drums and hula-hooping. Her role is to care for vulnerable groups affected by disasters such as children, elderly or disabled.

Disaster Experience:
Wildfires



Ollie

THE SCIENTIST

13 years old from Christchurch, New Zealand, Ollie is clever, popular, sporty and loves astronomy and rugby. His role is to understand weather patterns, climates and ecology.

Disaster Experience:
Earthquakes

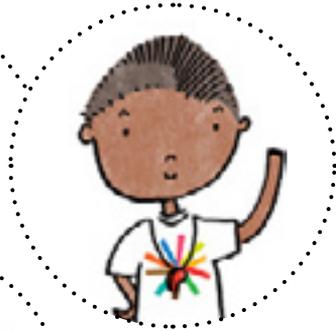


Ping

THE NETWORKER

12 years old from Hong Kong, Ping is practical, chatty, creative and loves cooking and Wushu. Ping is the networker and spokesperson within the COPE squad.

Disaster Experience:
Floods



Eddy

THE ENGINEER

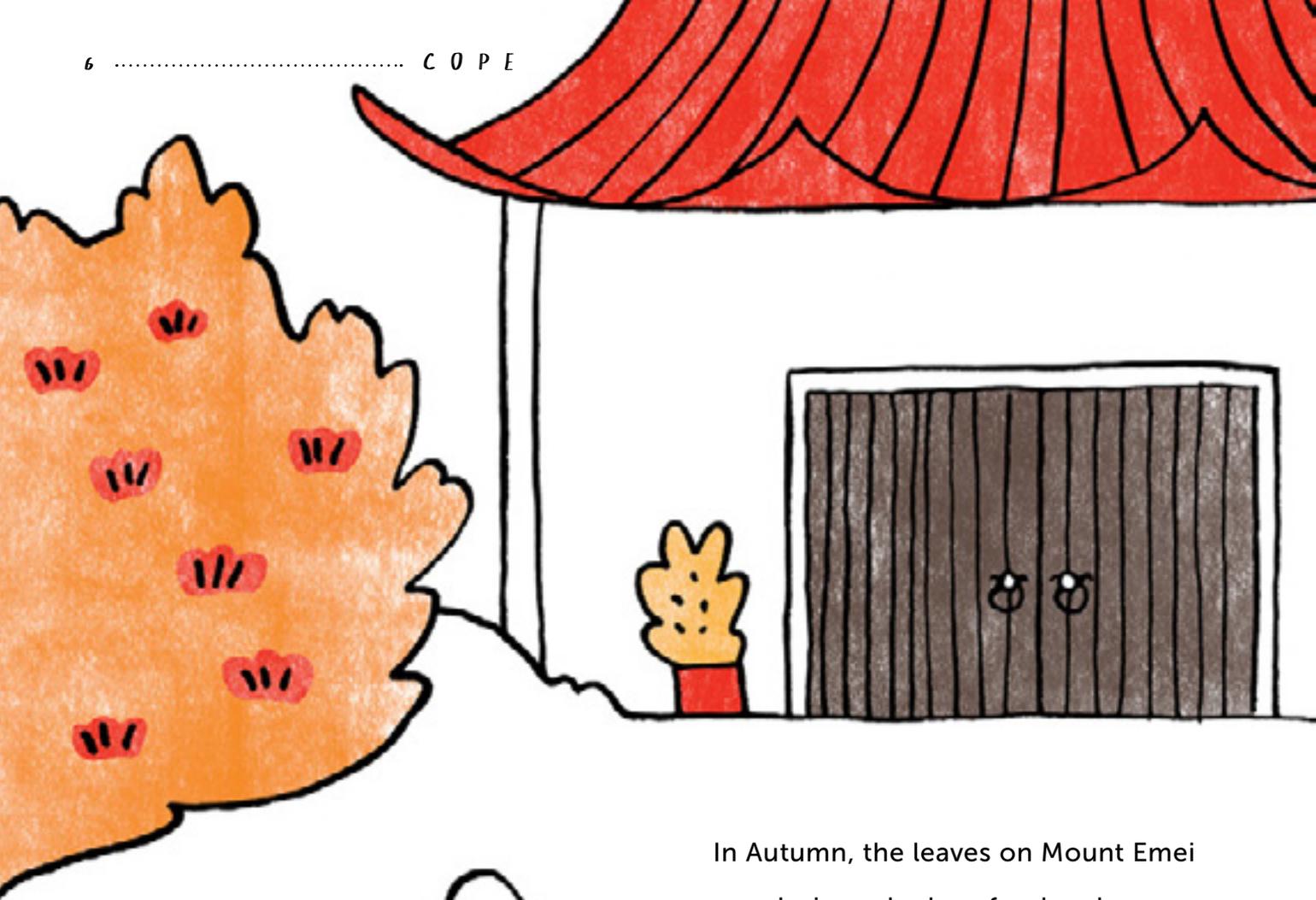
12 years old from Bahia, Brazil. Eddy is curious, witty, chilled out and loves Lego and skateboarding. Eddy is a talented engineer focusing on the safety of buildings.

Disaster Experience:
Landslides



COPE Signs

Since Eddy is hearing impaired, COPE sometimes chat using the Brazilian sign language, Libras. Can you spot the signs for **wildfires**, **ready** and **evacuate**?



In Autumn, the leaves on Mount Emei are glorious shades of red and orange.



Grand Mistress Fu and the COPE Squad
were playing 'Aeroplane Chess'!

My turn.

Good move, Eddy.

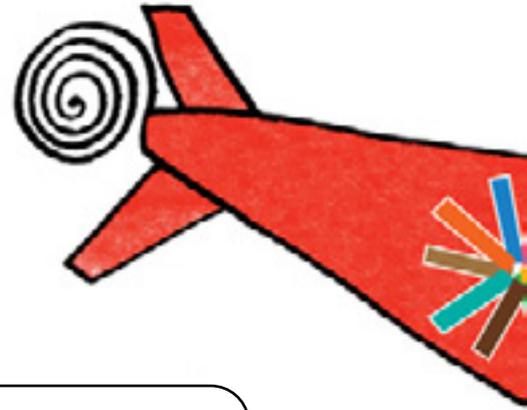
Thanks, Candy!

Hmmmmmm.

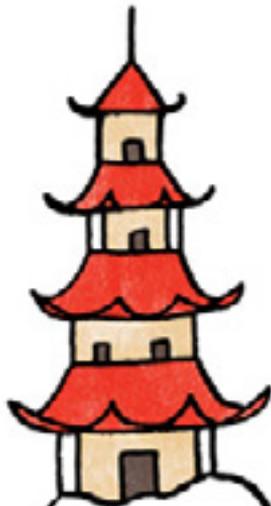




Early next morning, COPE set off on a special wildfires mission to South Africa.

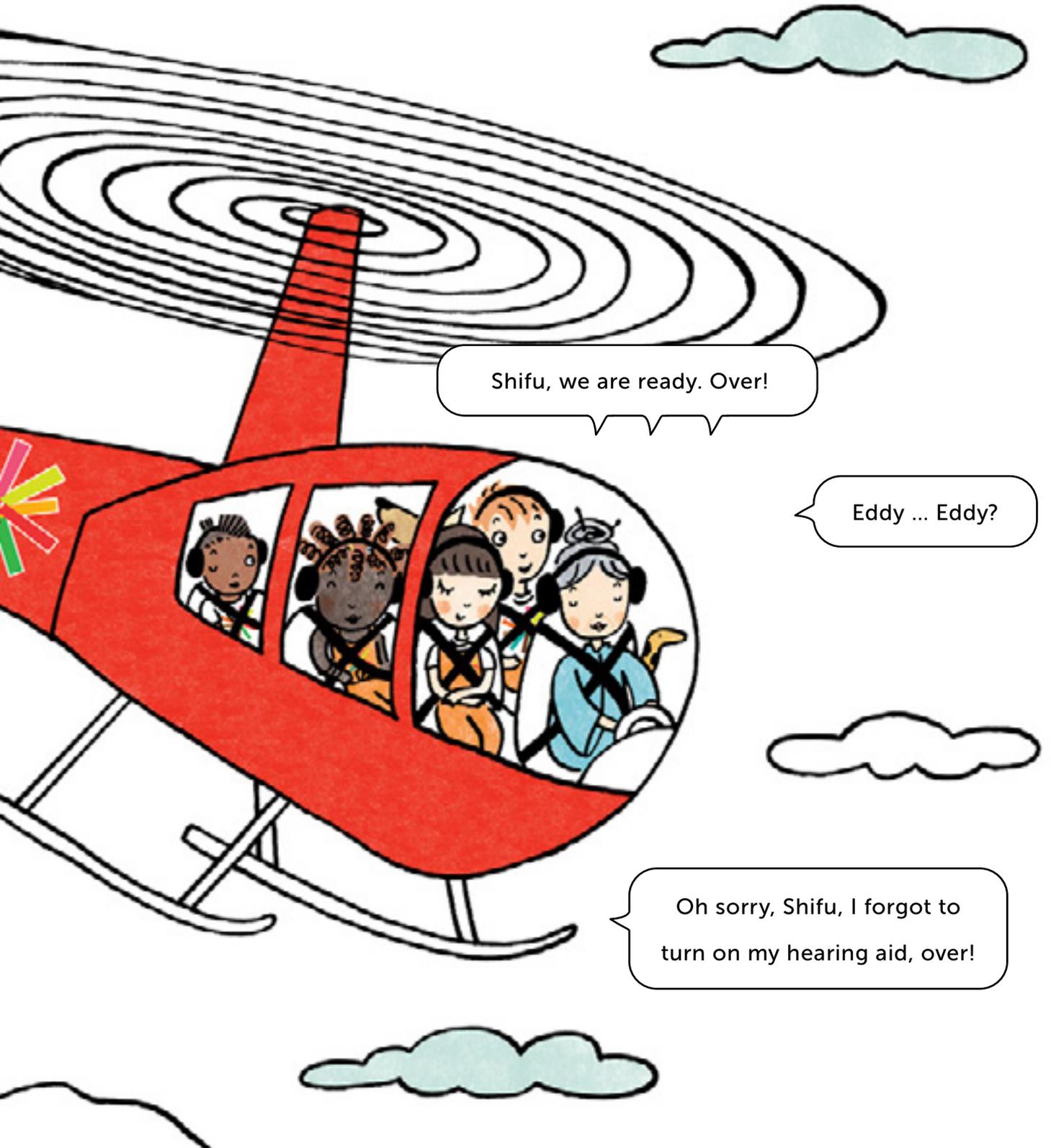


COPE, are you ready? Over!



Woof Woof!!



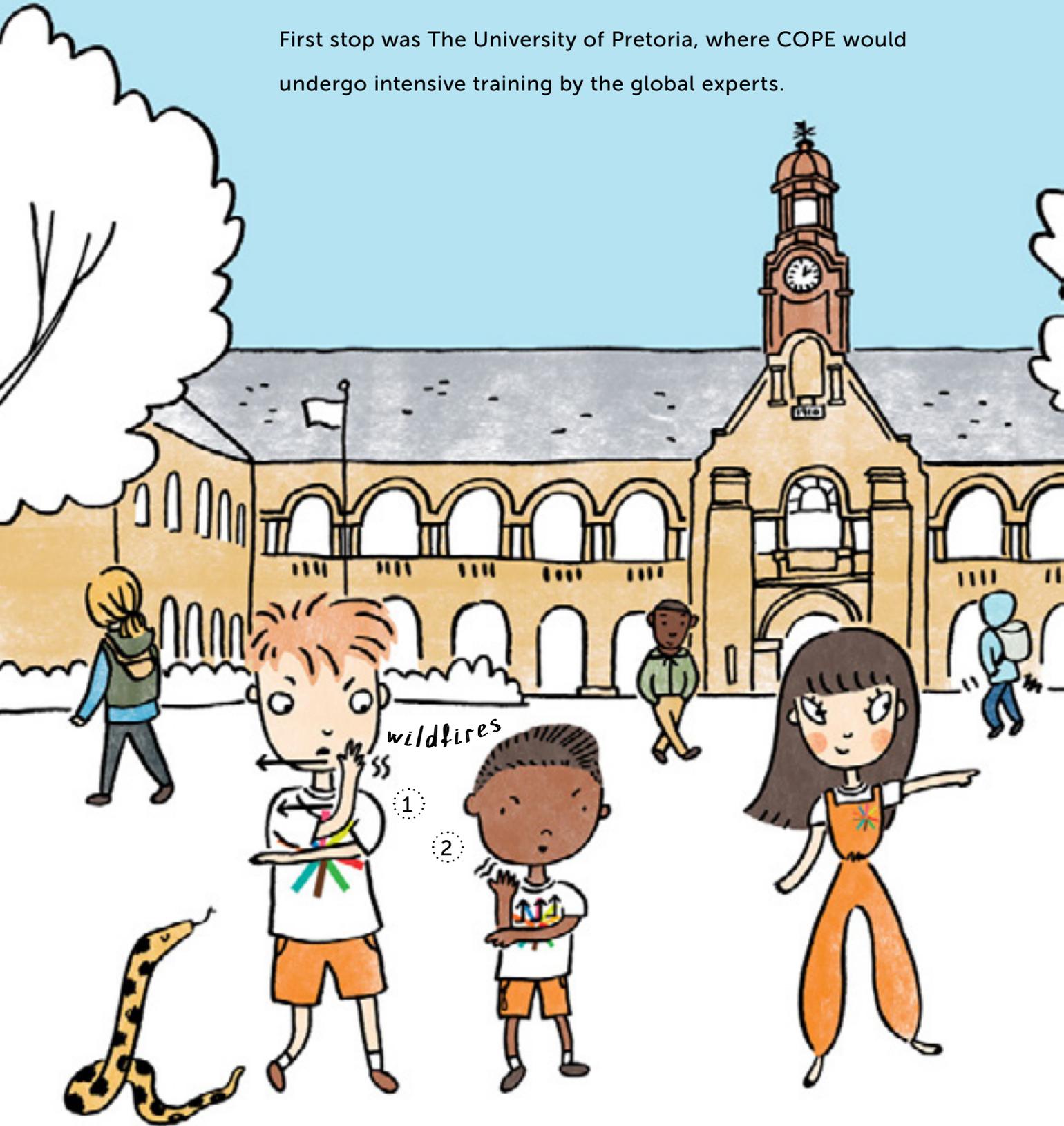


Shifu, we are ready. Over!

Eddy ... Eddy?

Oh sorry, Shifu, I forgot to turn on my hearing aid, over!

First stop was The University of Pretoria, where COPE would undergo intensive training by the global experts.



In case of a wildfire ...

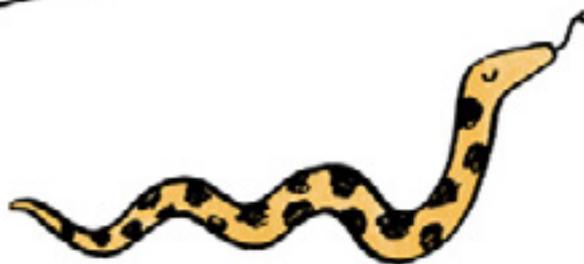
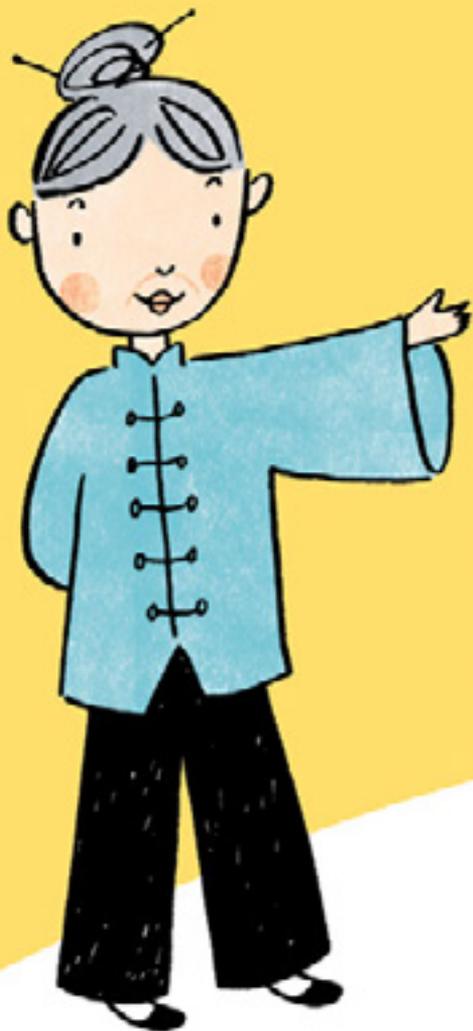
BE READY TO GO!!



COPE, how can we
BE READY TO GO!

Listen out
for wildfire warnings.

Pack a wildfire
survival bag.



Practise your family
evacuation plan.

Check your home for
fire hazards.

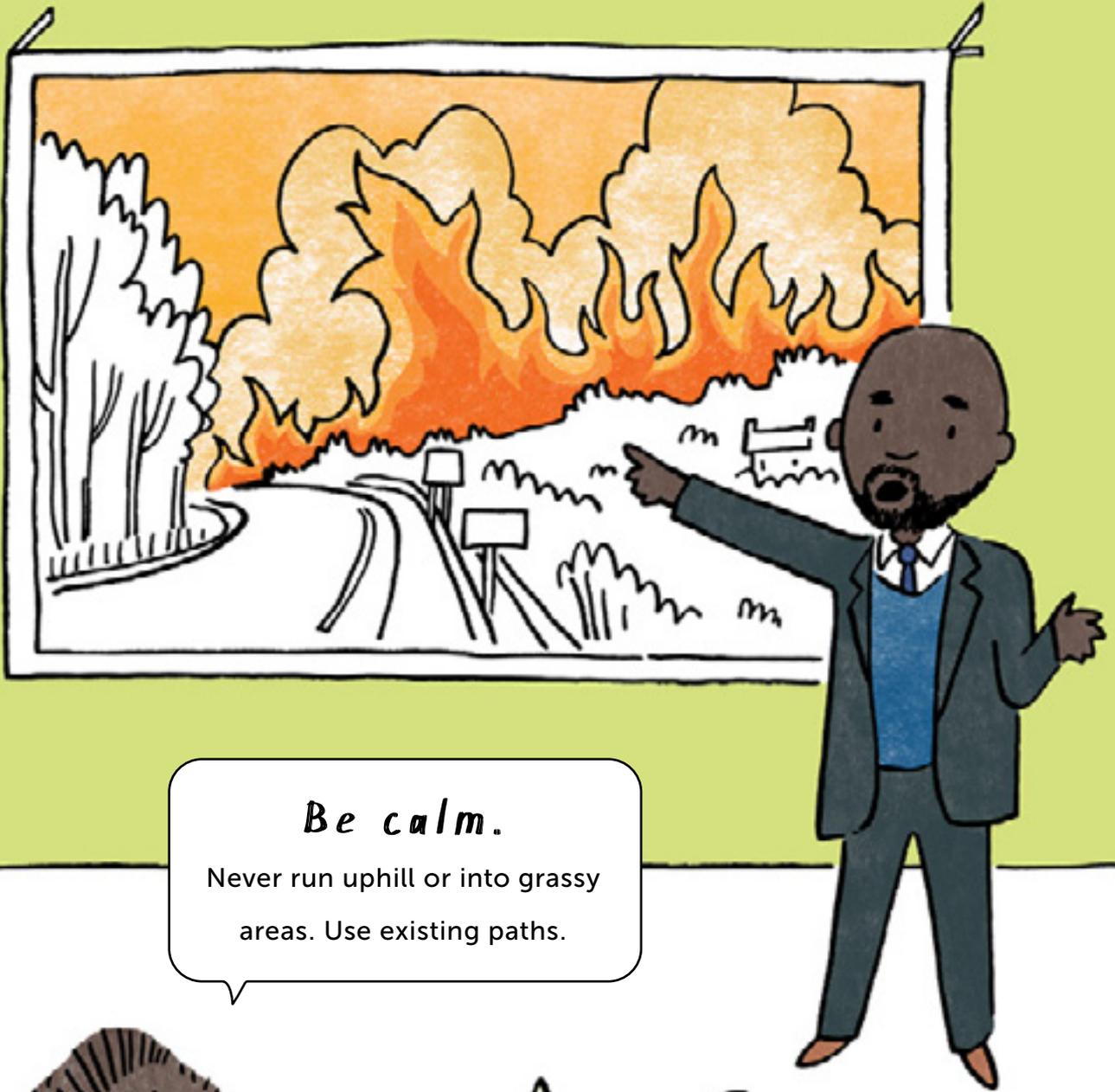


And
DURING A WILDFIRE?

Keep indoors away from the fire and smoke,
But be *ready to go* if it is time to evacuate.

Stay alert, with a close eye on the
direction which the fire spreads.

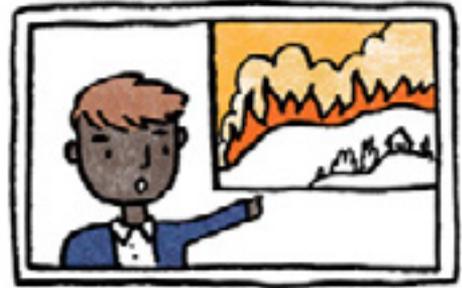




Be calm.
Never run uphill or into grassy areas. Use existing paths.



How about
AFTER A WILDFIRE?



Make sure it is not
dangerous to go outside.

Check the smoke
pollution levels.





Excellent work, COPE.

Help your parents
clean up safely.



Be careful if going home to a burned area. Sparks and embers may restart a fire.



It's time to spread the word.



COPE set off across the country ...
to schools, markets, shopping centres,
and into the townships.



Be ready to Go!

Stay alert.

ready

They made evacuation plans with families.



COPE Champions signed up
in the thousands.

COPE Champions are cool!

COPE taught kids how to pack their survival kits.

Be organized. You may not get back home for a while.

Bring your inhaler if asthmatic.

Don't forget your teddy bear!



COPE headed up to Knysna, on the coast.

Wow, it's beautiful here, over!

Stunning beaches, over!



COPE visited the sites of the 2017 wildfire disaster, the worst ever in South Africa.

The first fire was started by lightning. It spread quickly due to *high temperatures*, low humidity and strong winds. The fire went uphill, then downhill, destroying plants and trees, taking out trucks and even buildings along the way.



COPE met 'Working on Fire' a group of inspiring young firefighters.

Our team built up a firewall to battle the flames.

We worked 18 hours a day, for 2 long weeks.





You are heroes!



Your bravery saved the town.



It wasn't all work and no play. Working on Fire made sure COPE tried some local food – Bobotie and Mealie Pap.



COPE danced, played drums, sang and clapped along.

They enjoyed Hopscotch ... and drawing in the sand with sticks.



COPE learnt that not all wildfires are bad.



They have an important role
in our eco systems.

Some plants flourish after a fire.
*New seeds burst
into life.*





Hippopotamuses come out at night to munch on the burnt vegetation.



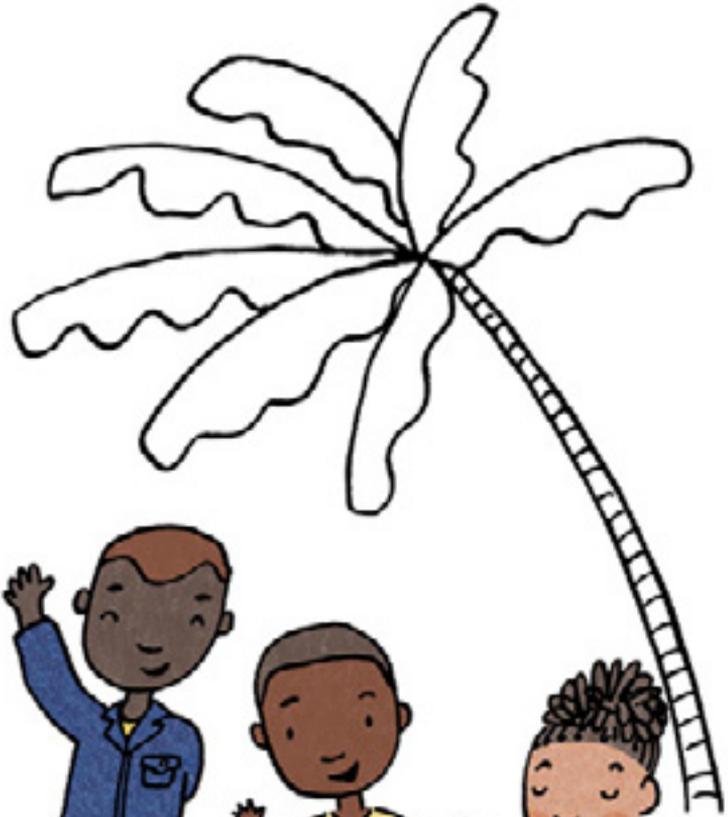
Birds can feed on insects fleeing a fire.



Suddenly Grand Mistress Fu called in her squad. There were reports of a huge wildfire in California. COPE were desperately needed.



COPE waved to their new friends and made the long trip to San Francisco.



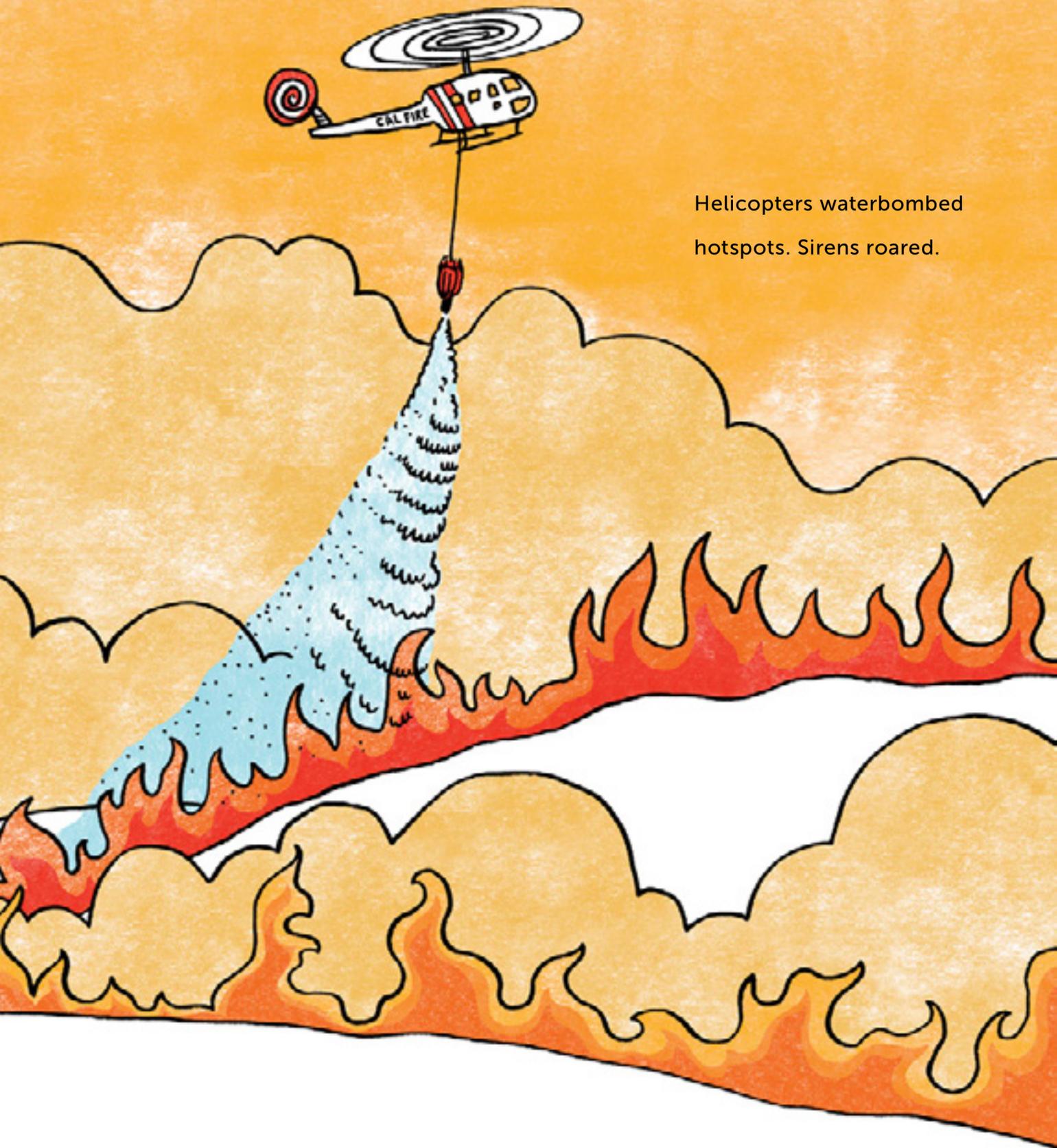
Goodbye!



Hope to see you again soon.

The fires were in the town of Sonoma. Flames raged through the parks and vineyards, burning out of control. Sparks flew. Smoke was thick and dense.





Helicopters waterbombed
hotspots. Sirens roared.

San Francisco Fire Department's 'Chief Neen' announced it was time to evacuate.





COPE went from door to door telling families to go to the evacuation centres, and leave their homes *early*.



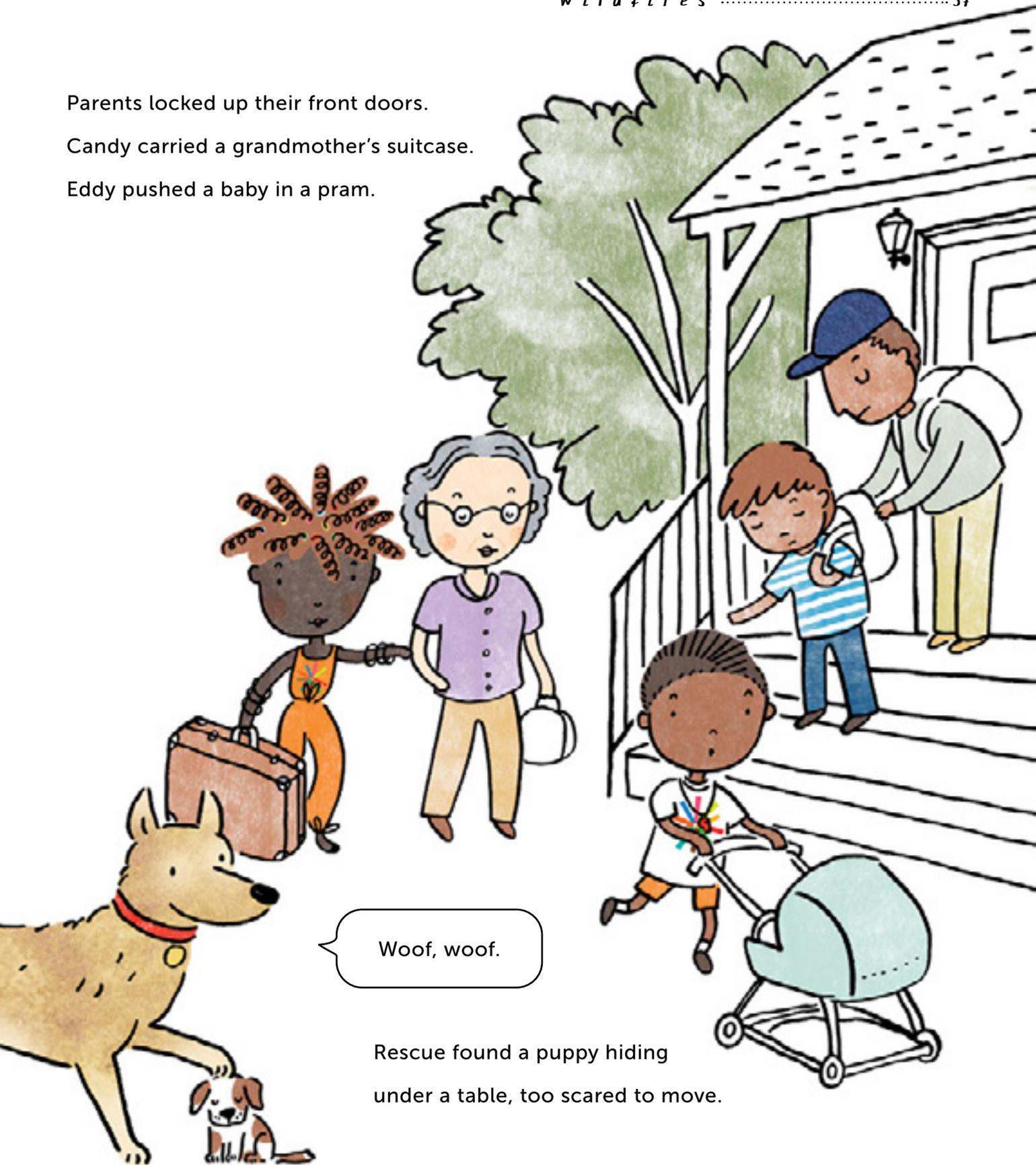
Help! I've lost my laptop.

Here it is!

Parents locked up their front doors.

Candy carried a grandmother's suitcase.

Eddy pushed a baby in a pram.



Woof, woof.

Rescue found a puppy hiding under a table, too scared to move.

In the evacuation centre,
COPE read stories to the children.

Again ... pleeeeeease!!!



And even taught them some African dancing.

Good move, Sense!

Outside the sky was still
the colour of a tomato.
Ash floated by the windows.

Stay indoors.



When the fires were finally under control, Chief Neen gave the all clear to go back home, but to keep an eye on the smoke pollution levels.

Do not play in the ash.

Check the ground for sparks and embers.



COPE helped clean up safely.



We felt so bad as the fire had jumped houses.

Our home was still standing but our neighbour's had totally burnt down. They lost everything. We gave the kids clothes, games ... and a big hug.

Pets were picked up from the shelters. There were all sorts, large and small, from chickens to cats, donkeys, dogs, parrots, lizards, llamas and even an ostrich!



Just like Noah's Ark!



Sssssssssss

Many houses were still without power, however, there was love and hope as people worked together to rebuild their communities. The people stayed alert –

READY TO GO!



COPE wished they could stick around, but they had to get home to The COPE Academy.



There was a winter chill as they landed back on Mount Emei. COPE looked forward to a quiet evening playing games.



Well done, COPE, we are home.



T H E C O P E C O N T R I B U T O R S



Martha Keswick

**COPE
AUTHOR**

Martha Keswick is the author of the popular bilingual *Max and Mei* picture book series, the factual *Zhongguo Mingren Series* about famous people of China and the action-packed *Pangu* comic book series. Martha's work for the Keswick Foundation often supports disaster related projects in China.

Martha lives in Hong Kong with her husband, their four children and two dogs.



Mariko Jesse

**COPE
ILLUSTRATOR**

Mariko Jesse studied at Central St Martins, where she went on to be an Associate Lecturer. She is an acclaimed freelance illustrator, working on a variety of projects around the world from picture books to ceramics.

Mariko lives in Tokyo where she is always in a state of preparedness for earthquakes.



Timothy Sim

**COPE
EDITOR**

Dr Timothy Sim started out as a social worker, specializing in family therapy and started focusing on disaster risk reduction, writing many books in Chinese and English since working with children, their families, schools, and communities affected by the horrific Wenchuan earthquake in 2008.

Tim is currently a professor at the Singapore University of Social Sciences.



The full value chain of wildfires is excellently articulated in this schematic book as an educational tool for all users.

— **DR JOHAN STANDER**
Director of Services Department
World Meteorological Organization

The real life story illustrations shows children the meaning of hope and humanity in disaster readiness, response and rebuilding their communities by caring for themselves, others, animals and the environment.

— **PROF A LOMBARD**
Department of Social Work and Criminology,
University of Pretoria

The COPE booklets are great examples of the types of tools needed to generate awareness among children to become agents for enhancing disaster preparedness and resilience.

— **DR ANIMESH KUMAR**
Deputy Chief, UNDRR Regional Office for
Asia and the Pacific

This book both entertains and informs children about the dangers of wildfires and their relationship to climate change.

— **FIRE CHIEF JEANINE NICHOLSON**
San Francisco Fire Department

When wildfires occur, children can be stressed and families often need to prepare and react quickly. The COPE Wildfire book gives children important information and tools to help them understand how they can make a positive difference.

— **R. JAN GURLEY, M.D.**
Deputy Health Officer and Director
San Francisco Department of Public Health

COPE Academy, Sichuan Province.

Under Grand Mistress Fu, the COPE squad receive intensive training on disasters and how to be prepared. Join their epic Wildfires mission to Pretoria, South Africa and then onto San Francisco, USA where they have to put their disaster risk reduction skills into action.



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COPE TITLES

- Earthquakes
- Floods
- Cyclones
- Storm Surges
- Landslides
- Wildfires**
- Droughts
- Tsunamis
- Heatwaves
- Volcanoes



COPE

.....
*Make the Difference.
Be Ready!*