



When the **Storm** came to **Plink**

An AJWS Passover Story for Children Ages 3-6



Pursuing Global Justice
Through Grassroots Change

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Guide for Parents

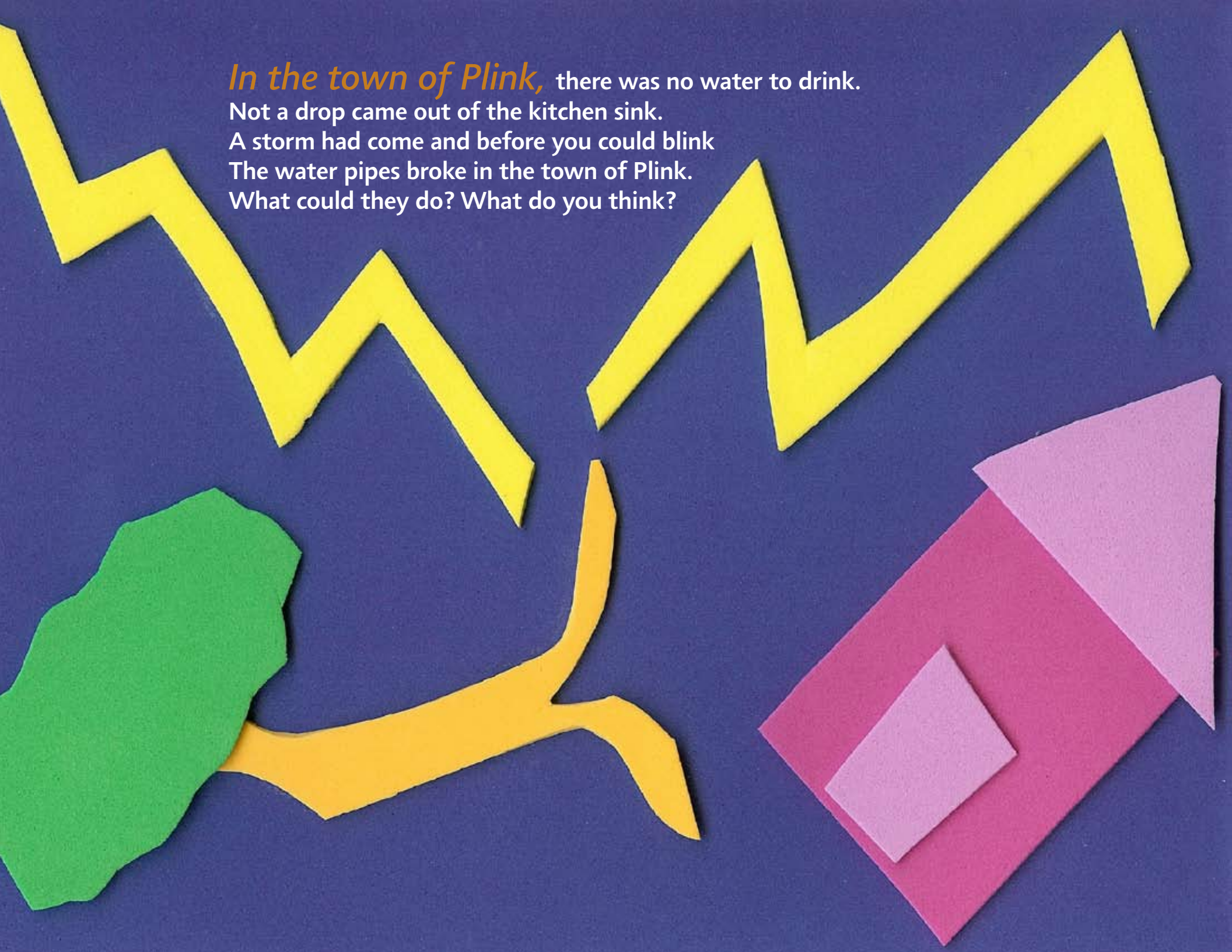
This Passover story, for children ages 3-6, is part of a series of three Passover readings for children and adults created by American Jewish World Service (AJWS) to connect the holiday of Passover to the theme “from disaster to development.” As the recent earthquake in Haiti reminds us, we cannot only respond to disasters immediately after they happen, but we must support communities in their long-term efforts to recover and rebuild. Indeed, the Passover story itself contains this message—liberation from the trauma of oppression was not achieved in the single moment of the Exodus but rather unfolded gradually over 40 years in the desert and continues to unfold for us personally throughout our lives. Truly supporting and standing in solidarity with people who have suffered disaster and oppression means working with them over the long term to build strong, independent communities.

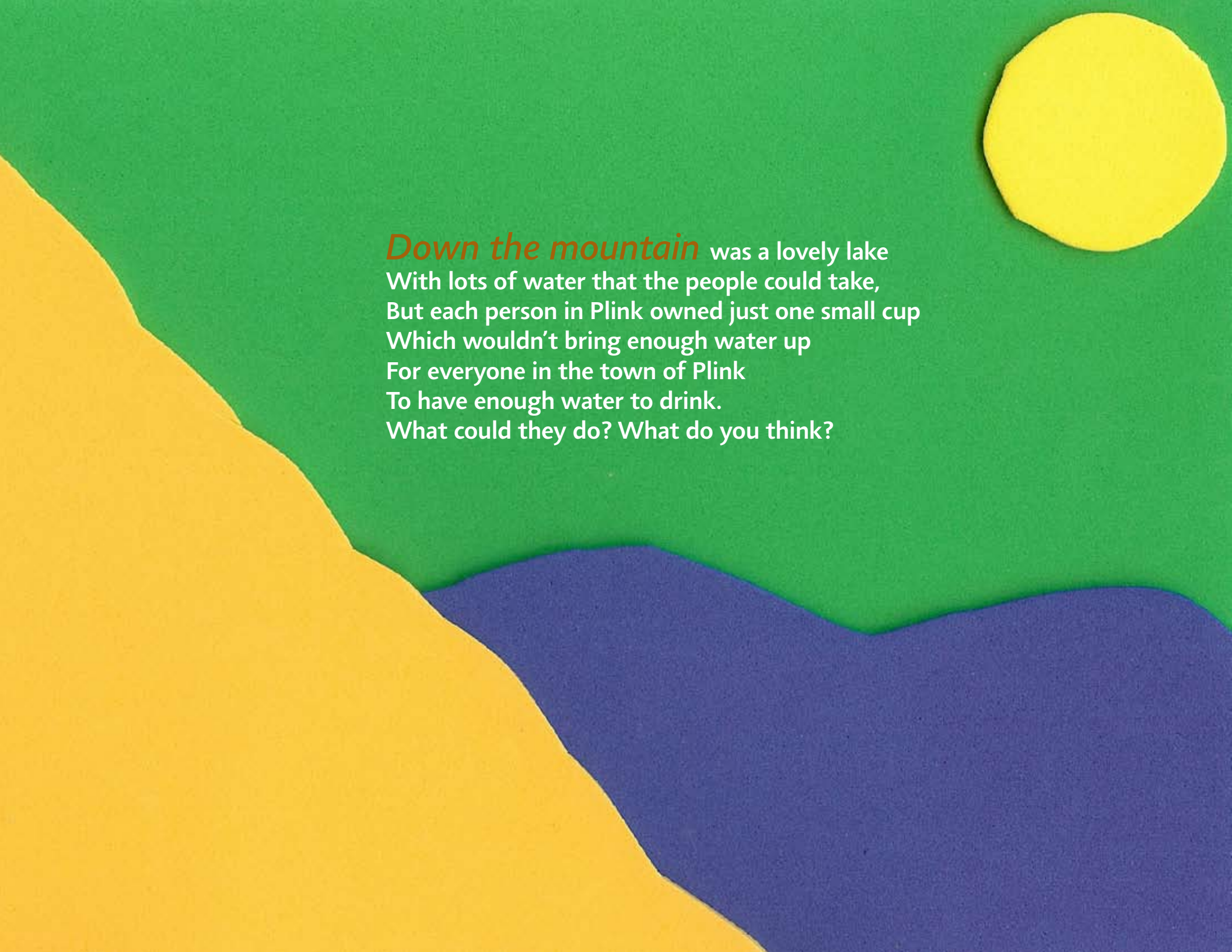
You can read this fanciful story of the people of Plink at the *seder* immediately before drinking any one of the four cups of wine or grape juice. The story introduces very young children to several concepts concerning disaster relief and development. The first is that we must all work together to achieve positive results. The second concept, which is represented by building a plumbing system rather than relying on fetching water by cup every day, is that the best solutions to disaster are ones that are sustainable and address long-term needs. Finally, the story helps children develop empathy for those less fortunate than themselves, one of the main themes of the Passover holiday.

When you read this story with the young children at your *seder*, consider following up with one or more of these questions:

- Why didn't the people of Plink have any water?
- Why did the girl suggest that they work together?
- How do you feel when you share something with your friends?
- Why didn't the people of Plink want to use cups to get water from the lake?

In the town of Plink, there was no water to drink.
Not a drop came out of the kitchen sink.
A storm had come and before you could blink
The water pipes broke in the town of Plink.
What could they do? What do you think?





Down the mountain was a lovely lake
With lots of water that the people could take,
But each person in Plink owned just one small cup
Which wouldn't bring enough water up
For everyone in the town of Plink
To have enough water to drink.
What could they do? What do you think?

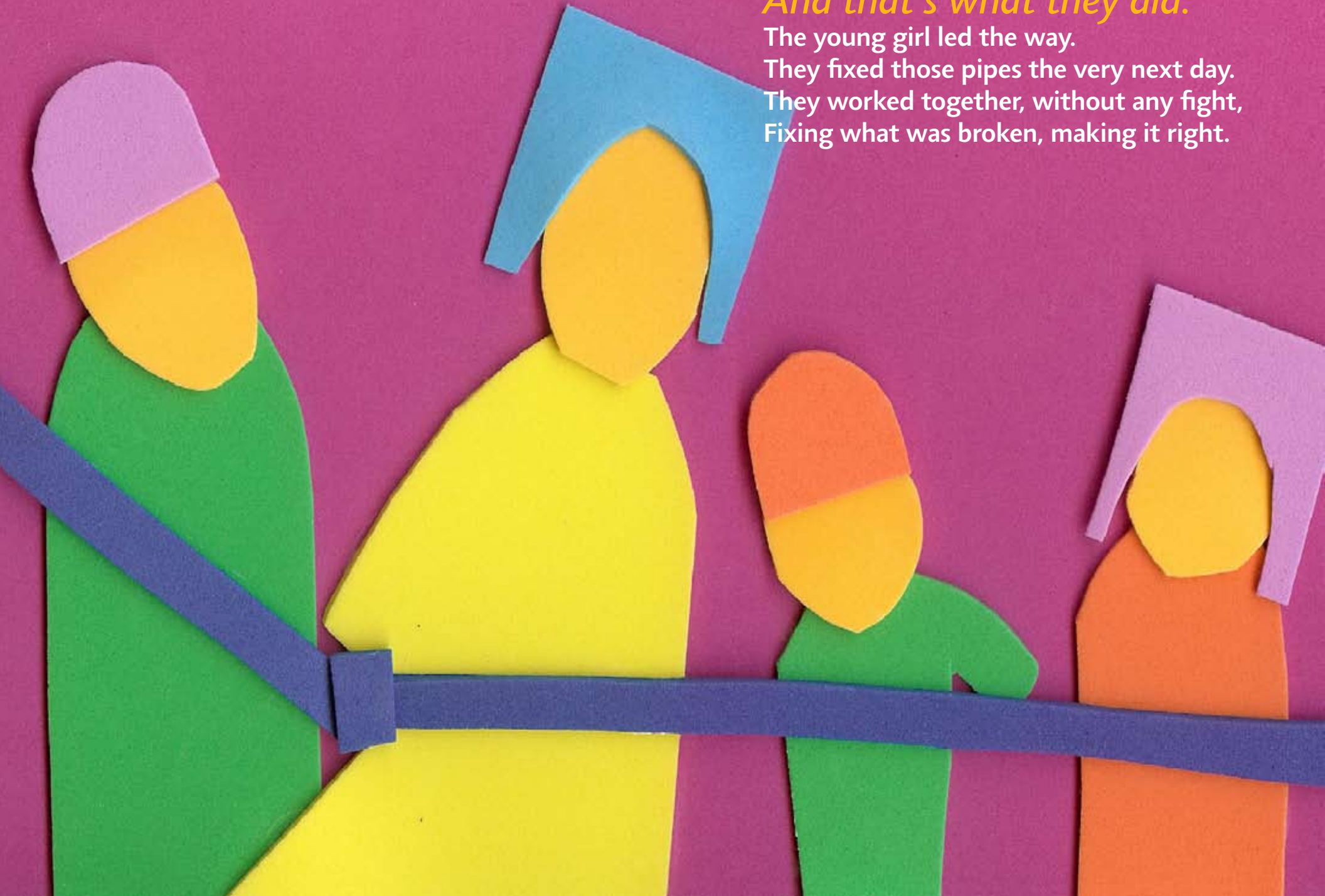
A cup full of water would last just one day,
So the people of Plink all shouted, "No way!
We'll need water tomorrow and next week too."
What do you think? What could they do?

One girl said, "We need to work together
To rebuild the pipes that broke in bad weather.
We all must learn to help one another
Not just our own parents or sisters and brothers.
If we cooperate, we can do something good.
We can bring back the water to our neighborhood."



And that's what they did.

The young girl led the way.
They fixed those pipes the very next day.
They worked together, without any fight,
Fixing what was broken, making it right.





At the Passover Seder we can all think
How lucky we are to have so much to drink.
Before each of the four cups of grape juice we pour
We can think about people who need so much more.
Like the people of Plink, we want to do what is right—
That's what we celebrate on Passover night.

Text and illustrations by Nechama Liss-Levinson