

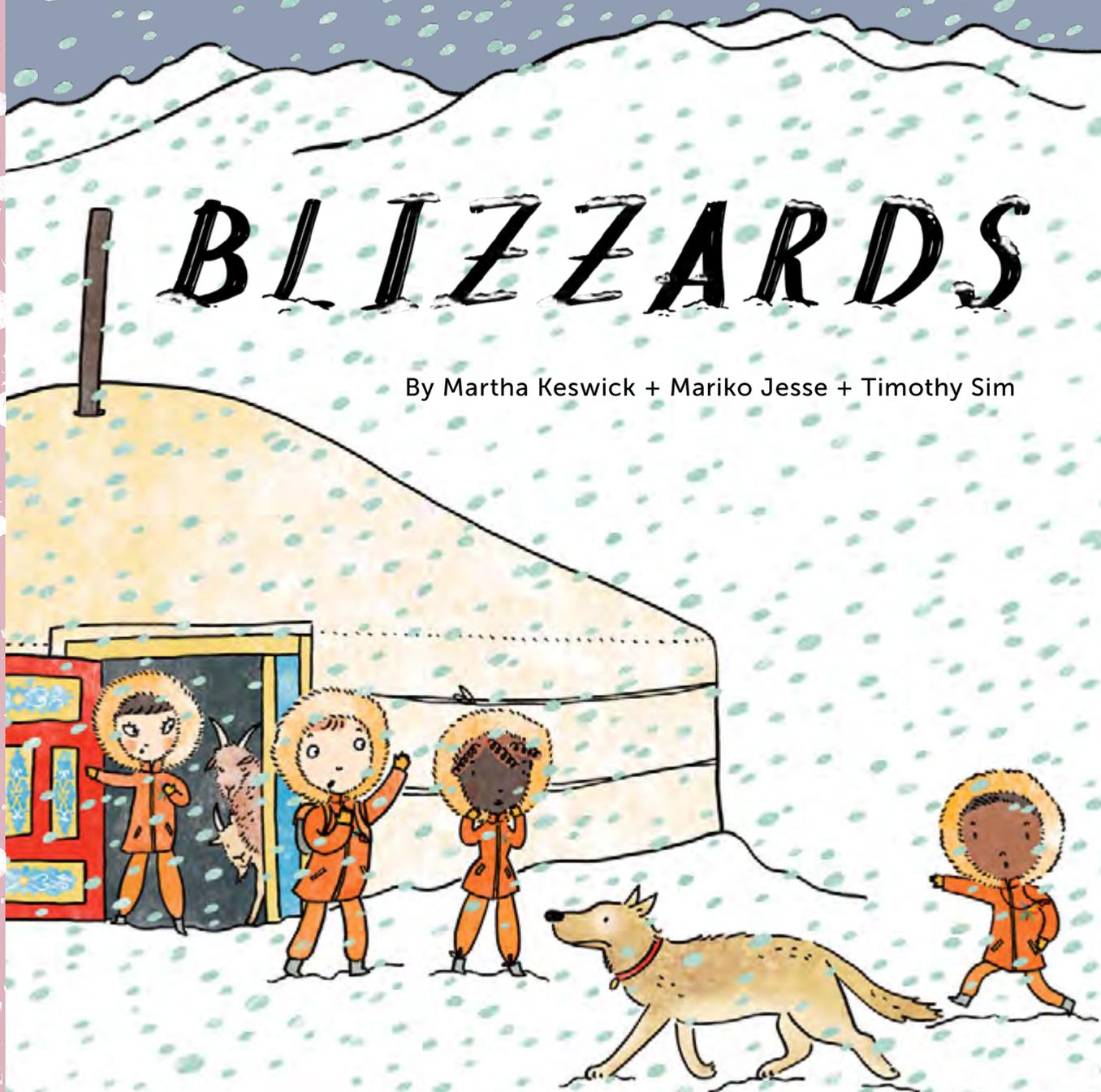


COPE

.....  
Be ready for disasters!  
.....

# BLIZZARDS

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 volcanic eruptions. When these **natural hazards** pose a threat to humans or the environment they can lead to **disasters**, and cause destruction in a community.

## What are blizzards?

A blizzard is a powerful and severe **snowstorm**. The combination of freezing temperatures, strong winds, and huge amounts of snow creates this dangerous weather condition. During a blizzard, the blowing snow makes it difficult to see far.

**The World Meteorological Organization helps countries to better forecast and manage blizzards.**

*COPE will teach you how to  
be ready for blizzards!*







## Be ready for disasters – Blizzards

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Mariko Jesse & Timothy Sim  
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for every child

East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

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WORLD  
METEOROLOGICAL  
ORGANIZATION



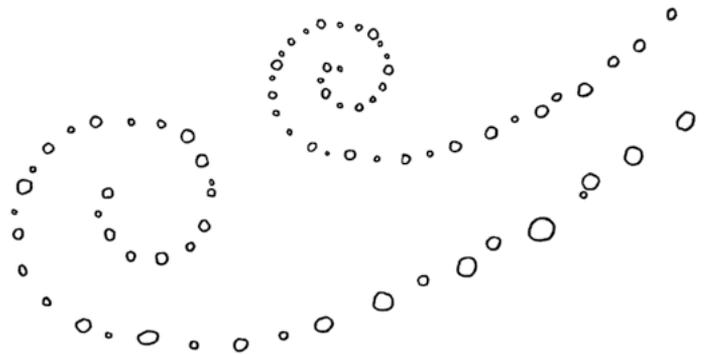
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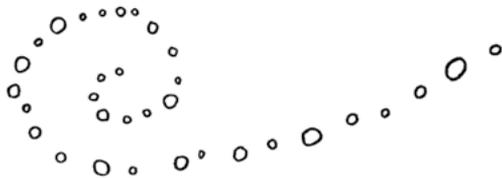
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# BLIZZARDS

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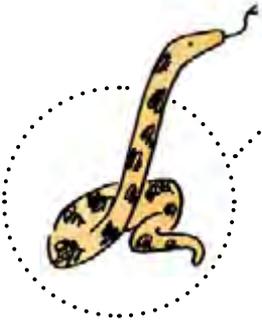
*Who is  
Grand Mistress Fu?*

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, China. 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*

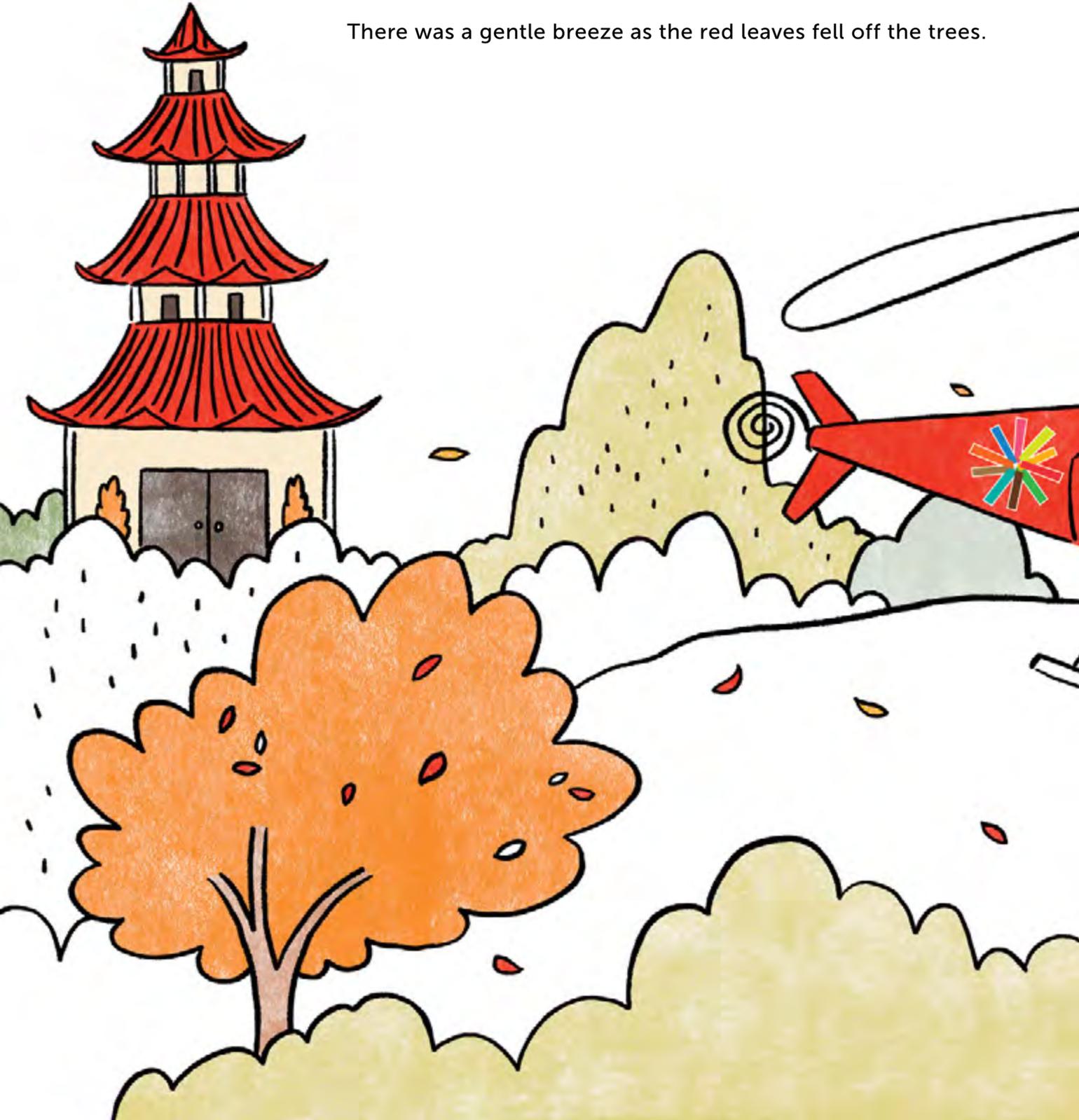


**COPE Signs**

Since Eddy has a hearing disability, COPE sometimes chat using the Brazilian sign language, LSB. Can you spot the signs for **blizzards**, **champions** and **inside**?

It was a beautiful October day on Mount Emei.

There was a gentle breeze as the red leaves fell off the trees.



Grand Mistress Fu was busy cleaning her helicopter.



Thank you, Sense!

Inside the COPE Academy, the squad were taking a break.

Candy played her drums. Ping helped Eddy with his Lego.

Ollie studied his Astronomy.

Shhhh Candy, I'm trying to focus.

Rescue, give that back!





Sorry Ollie! I'll be more mindful.

Woof



Now COPE, let's get back to work. Today, we will learn all about blizzards... and the main message:

**WRAP UP. STAY INSIDE!**

What should we do  
**BEFORE A BLIZZARD?**

*blizzard*

1



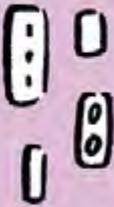
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3



Listen to the  
*weather forecast.*



Write an  
*emergency plan.*

Stock up with food  
and water. Make sure  
you have enough  
*warm clothes.*

Pack your  
*survival bag.*



AND DURING A BLIZZARD?



*Keep Calm.*  
Breathe in and out  
deeply for a while.



*Stay Warm Inside.*  
Close the windows.

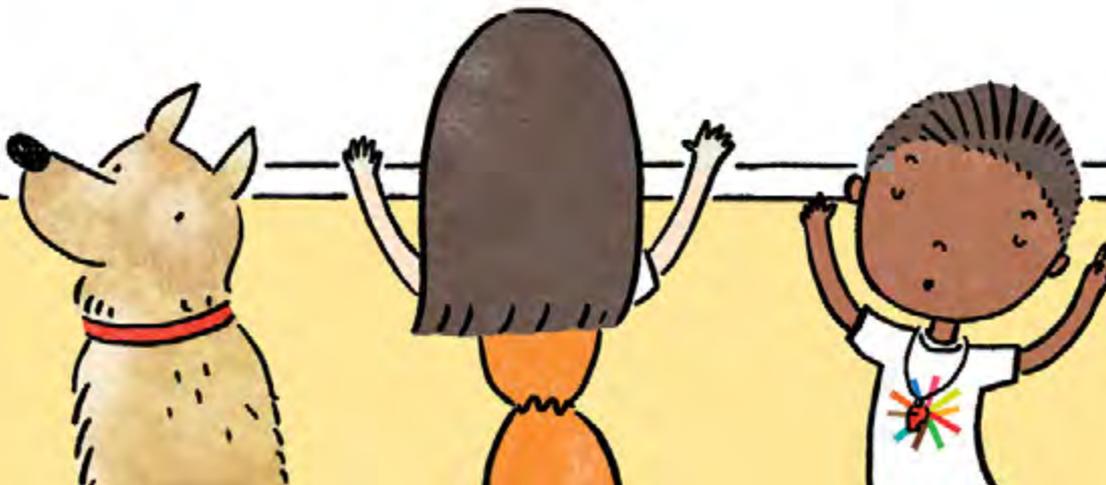


*Eat and drink lots!*

Food provides energy for the body to produce heat.



Keep in contact with your family. Remember *emergency numbers.*



# AND AFTER A BLIZZARD?

Listen to local government and weather updates.



Once it is safe to go outside, be careful when walking on icy roads.

Dress warmly. Wear thermals, a scarf, gloves, a winter hat and waterproofs.





Use your food stores wisely.



Check on your neighbours.





Soon, it was time for COPE to spread the word.

First stop,

**MONGOLIA!**

COPE, are you ready? Over!



Yes, Shifu. Over!



Hope you've packed your thermals! Ulaanbaatar is the coldest capital on earth.

As the land of eternal blue sky, Mongolia has 250 sunny days a year.  
It was already quite chilly though!



I can't find my glove!

Here it is!

Brrrrrrrrrrrr!

A teenage girl named Nomu was there to greet them.

Welcome! You arrived just before the 'dzud'.

What is a dzud?

A dzud is a hazard created by a summer drought followed by a long cold winter. This prevents animals from grazing, and sadly leads to many livestock deaths.

In Mongolia's nomadic society, livestock are precious and are known as The Five Jewels: horses, cows, goats, sheep and camels.



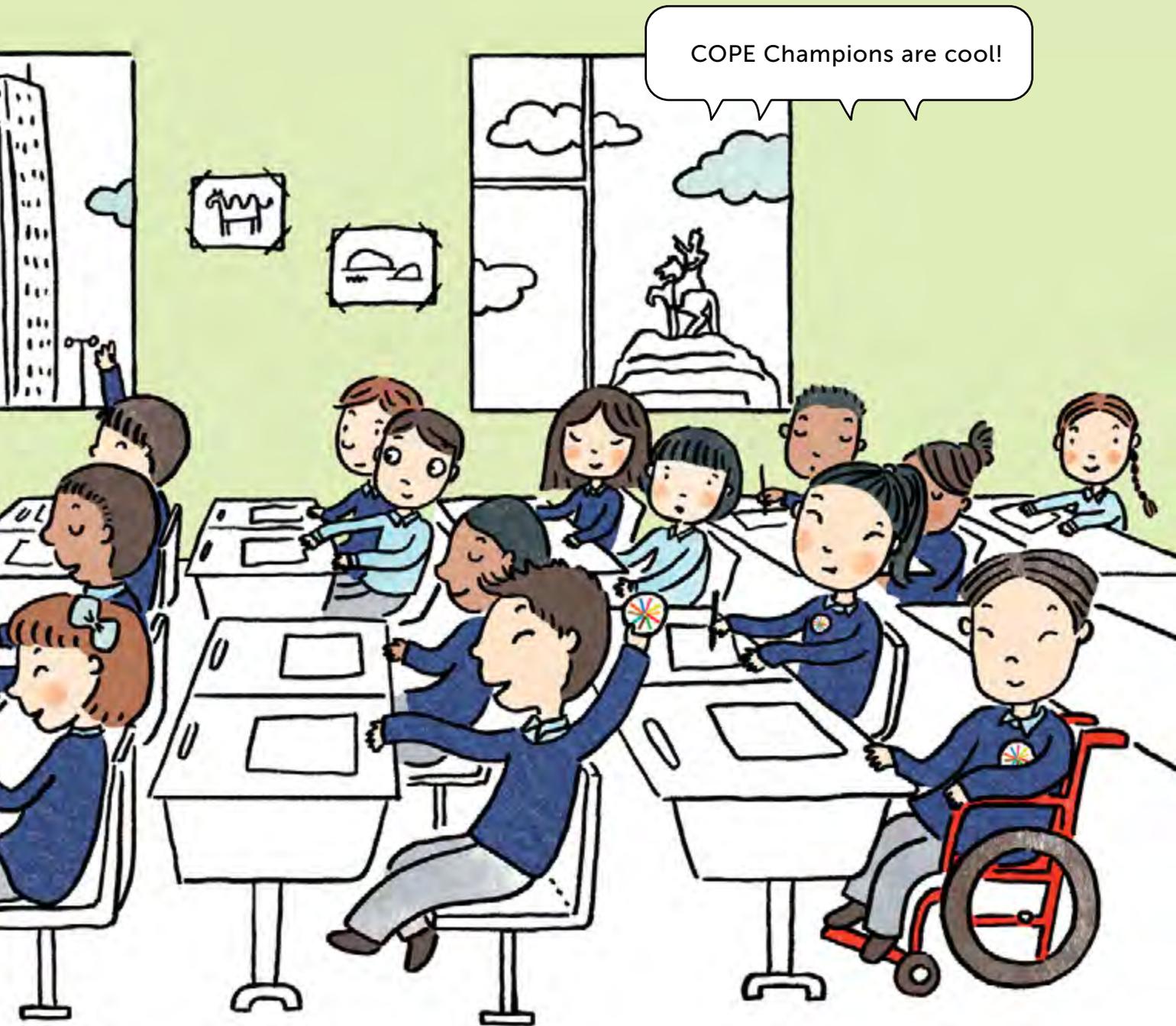
COPE spent the first few days visiting primary schools.

Hi! We are Candy, Ollie, Ping and Eddy.  
Blizzards can happen fast. We're here to get you ready!

**WRAP UP!  
STAY INSIDE.**



COPE recruited *COPE Champions*, to act as role-models in their communities. COPE badges and stickers were all the rage.



COPE showed families how to pack their 'blizzard survival bag'.



Whistle

Canned food

Torch

First aid kit

Radio

Gloves

Warm clothing

Waterproofs, thermals

Hat

Batteries

You may be stuck inside for a while,  
so bring some games or playing cards.

Good idea, Candy!



COPE visited NAMEM (National Meteorological Agency of Environmental Monitoring), where they learnt from the weather experts.

Mongolia has a wide range of natural hazards – dzuds, blizzards, floods, dust storms, droughts, wildfires and earthquakes.

Blizzards happen between October and May, 5–15 days per year. They can devastate communities.



Always remember to...

**WRAP UP. STAY INSIDE!**

NAMEM uses dzud and blizzards  
risk mapping to ensure  
**Early Warnings For All.**  
Emergency response and relief services  
will be ready to go!



Nomu invited them to stay with her family in Bornuur Soum,  
Tuv province, 100km out of the city.

Jump in!

How long will the journey take?

We'll get there when we get there!

Always!



They drove through the most stunning, sweeping countryside and grassy plains, known as the 'steppe'.

Wow! It's so flat.

Look at the camels!

Yes. Mongolian camels have 2 humps.

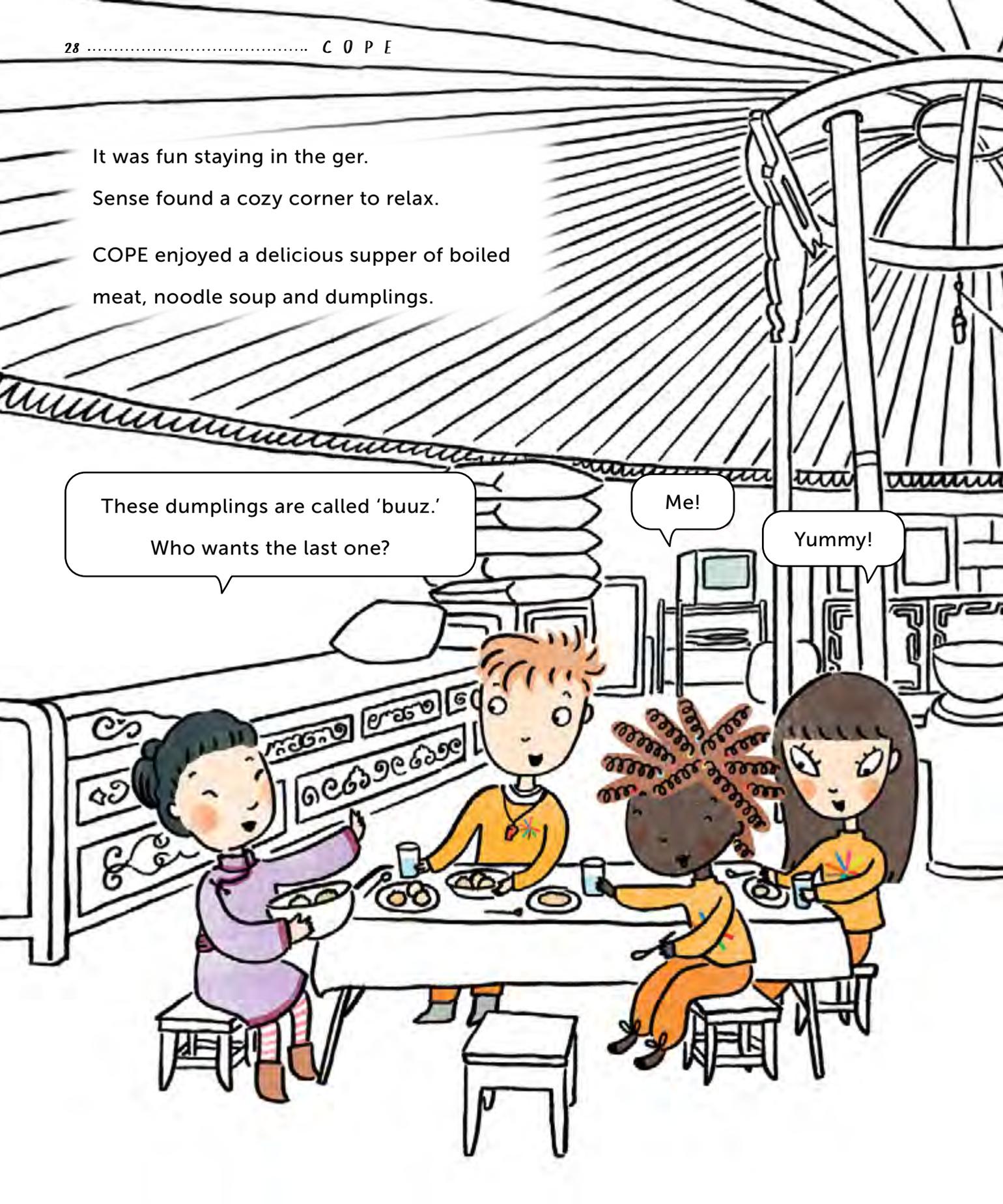


It was fun staying in the ger.  
Sense found a cozy corner to relax.  
COPE enjoyed a delicious supper of boiled  
meat, noodle soup and dumplings.

These dumplings are called 'buuz.'  
Who wants the last one?

Me!

Yummy!



COPE loved playing the ankle bone game.

One, Two, Three,  
Four, Five, Six...

My turn!  
One, Two, Three...

You win!

Woof!



The next morning they woke up to heavy snow. Nomu's family had been preparing for the dzud since September, when grass cutting began.



Blankets had been made for the cows. Animal shelters had been set up.

There were huge piles of hay, firewood, and extra fuel.

Meat and cheese were frozen outside, enough to last the winter.



COPE travelled to the next door herding families.

Every day the children milked the cows, and guided their horses to drink at the well.



We never venture out alone. We always tell our parents where we are going and what time we will be back.

We wear lots of layers and furry hats!  
That's how we stay warm.



In the local town, COPE paid special attention to *vulnerable people*, leaving no one behind.

It is easy for me to slip, so I use my cane for extra balance.



On snowy days I ask a friend to join me, to help with the opening and closing of doors. I always make sure to replace the rubber tips on my crutches.



COPE set up special clubs for the nomadic children who lived in dormitories.

COPE taught them how to stay safe and warm during the dzud season.

Pack your survival bag.

*Keep calm.*

*Wrap up!  
Stay inside.*

Listen to the  
weather reports.

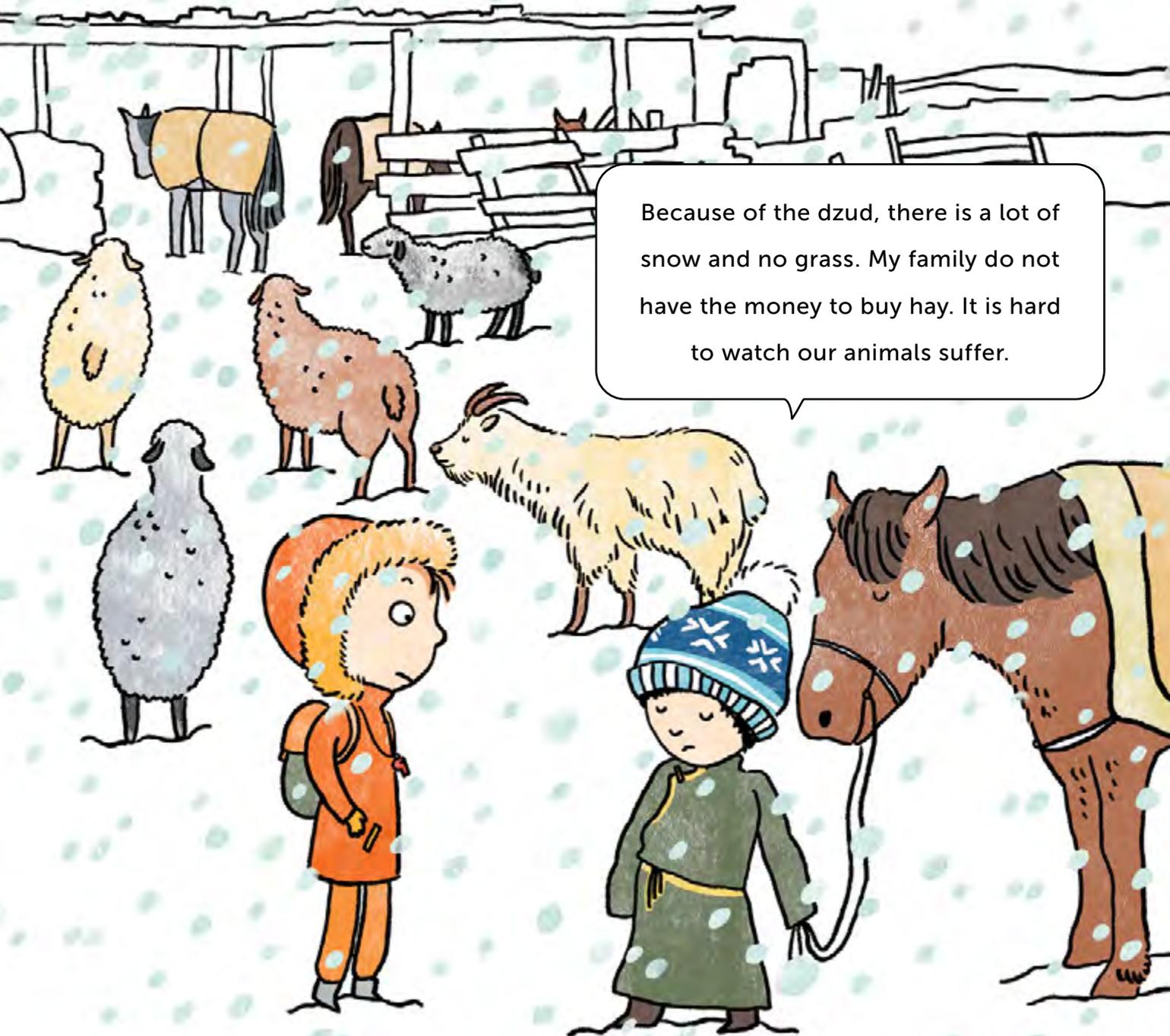




By mid-December, the dzud was in full force. The herders started melting and boiling the snow to make *drinking water*.



Animals struggling to reach the grass were now moved into pens.



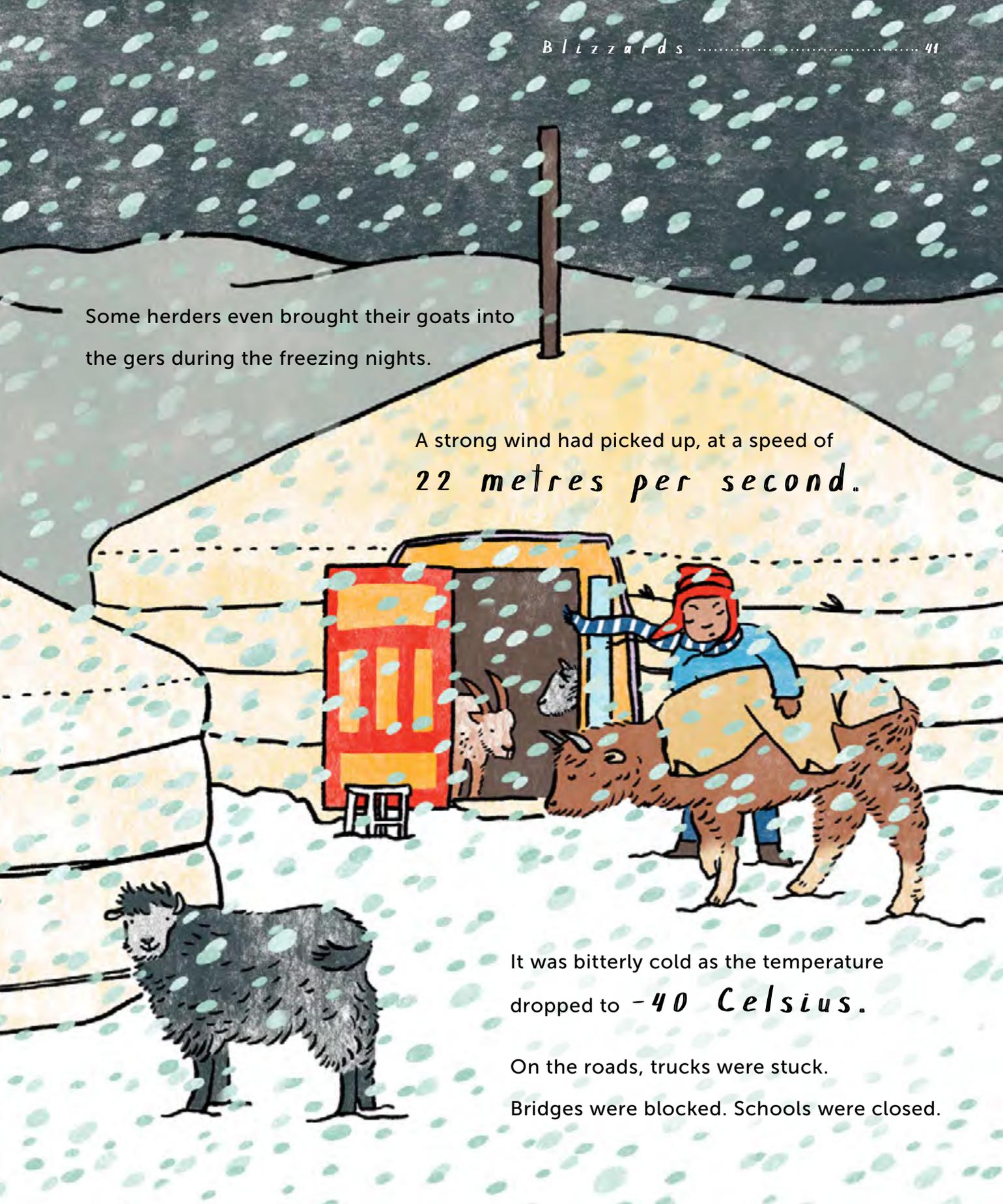
Because of the dzud, there is a lot of snow and no grass. My family do not have the money to buy hay. It is hard to watch our animals suffer.

Suddenly there were reports on the TV and radio of a serious blizzard coming in. Families stocked up on food and water. They made sure they had enough warm clothes and rechecked their survival bags.



Some herders even brought their goats into the gers during the freezing nights.

A strong wind had picked up, at a speed of *22 metres per second.*



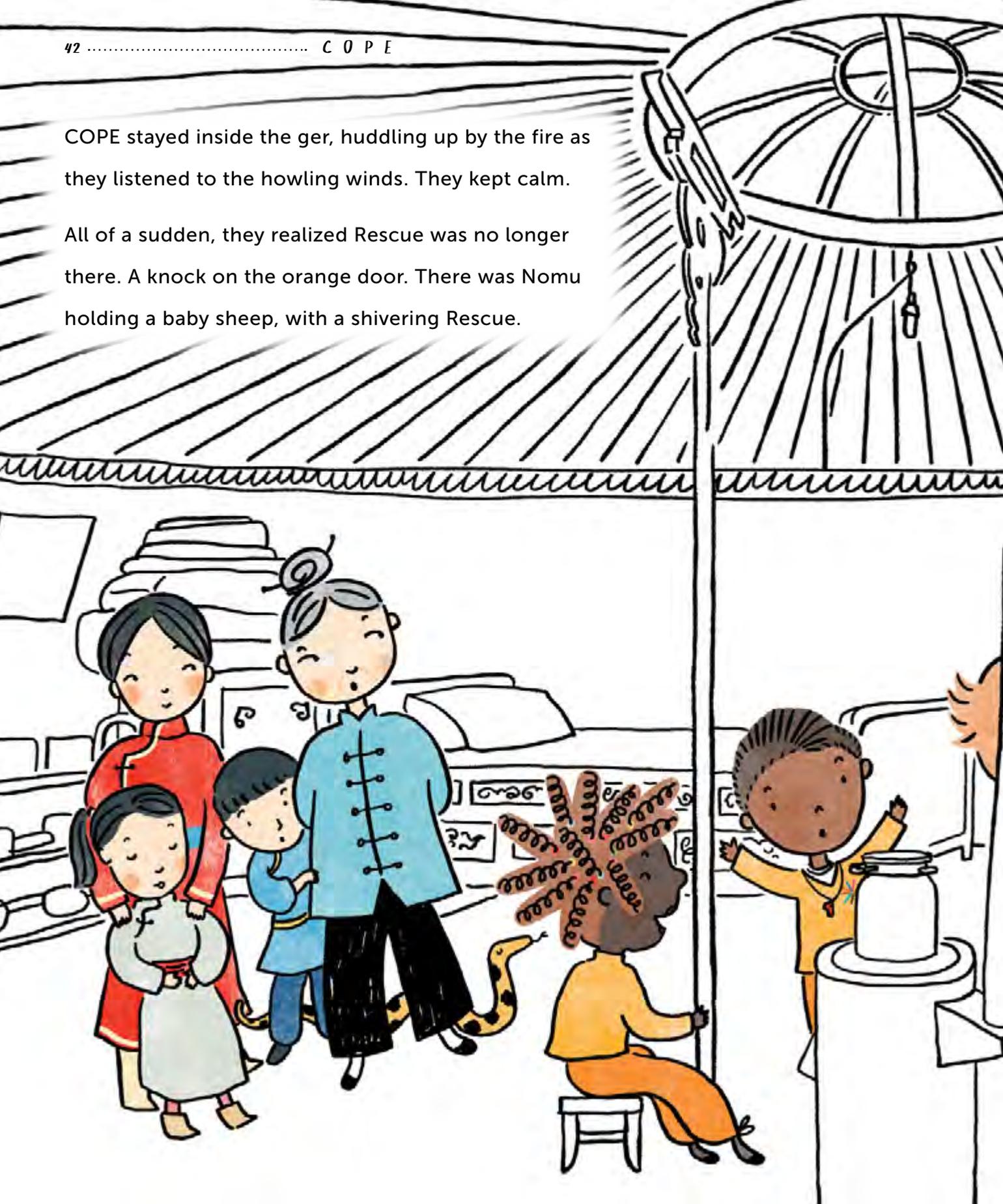
It was bitterly cold as the temperature dropped to *-40 Celsius.*

On the roads, trucks were stuck.

Bridges were blocked. Schools were closed.

COPE stayed inside the ger, huddling up by the fire as they listened to the howling winds. They kept calm.

All of a sudden, they realized Rescue was no longer there. A knock on the orange door. There was Nomu holding a baby sheep, with a shivering Rescue.



We went out to check on the animals. We worked quickly as we could only see one metre in front of us. Then I heard some *barking*. It was Rescue who had found the baby sheep, buried in the snow.

Poor thing. He's so cute.  
Let's give him some milk.

Clever Rescue!  
Good job.



The blizzard lasted for almost nine hours. When it was finally declared safe to go outside, COPE put on their warm clothes.



They helped clear up the mess, shoveling away snow from around the gers and fixing the broken cattle pens. Most importantly COPE kept everyone's spirits up.



As life slowly returned to normal, COPE waved goodbye and began their long journey home.

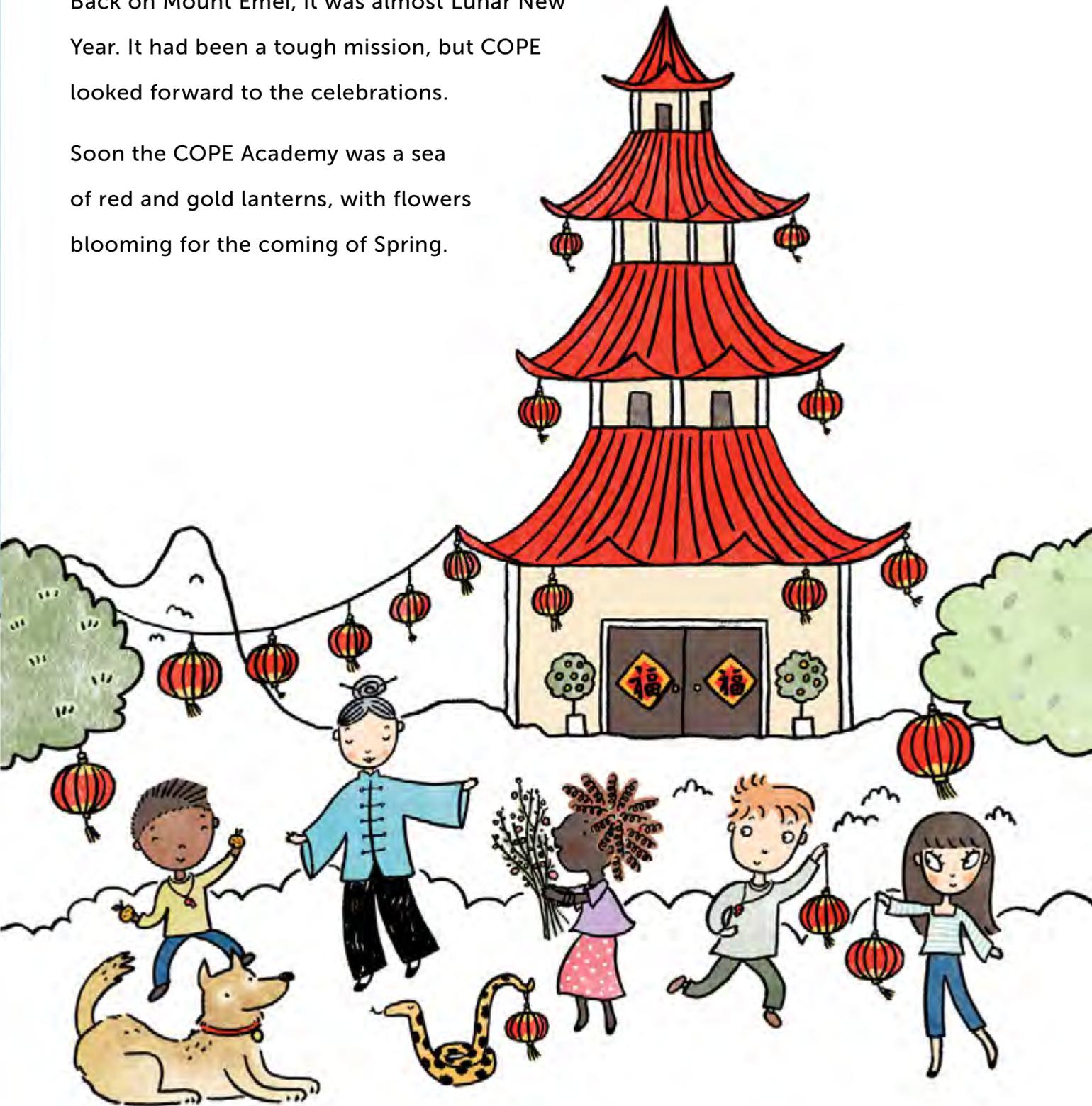
Thank you, COPE. You have  
*made a difference.*

Please come back  
to see us again!



Back on Mount Emei, it was almost Lunar New Year. It had been a tough mission, but COPE looked forward to the celebrations.

Soon the COPE Academy was a sea of red and gold lanterns, with flowers blooming for the coming of Spring.



## 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, and the action packed *Pangu* comic book series, all designed for children learning Chinese as a foreign language. Martha's work for the Keswick Foundation often supports disaster related projects in China.

Martha lives in Hong Kong, China 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 award-winning illustrator, working on a variety of projects around the world from picture books to ceramics.

Mariko lives in San Francisco, USA 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. In 2008 Tim focused on Disaster Risk Reduction after working with children, their families, schools and communities affected by the horrific Wenchuan earthquake in 2008. He has written many books in Chinese and English.

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



## COPE Academy, Sichuan Province.

Under Grand Mistress Fu, the COPE squad receive intensive training on disasters and how to be prepared. Join their epic Blizzards mission to Mongolia, where they have to put their disaster risk reduction skills into action.



[www.cope-disaster-champions.com](http://www.cope-disaster-champions.com)

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COPE TITLES

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



COPE

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