

“Won’t you play with us?” Hal asked.

“Do you want to climb the tree?” Rufus asked.

“That’s your favorite!”

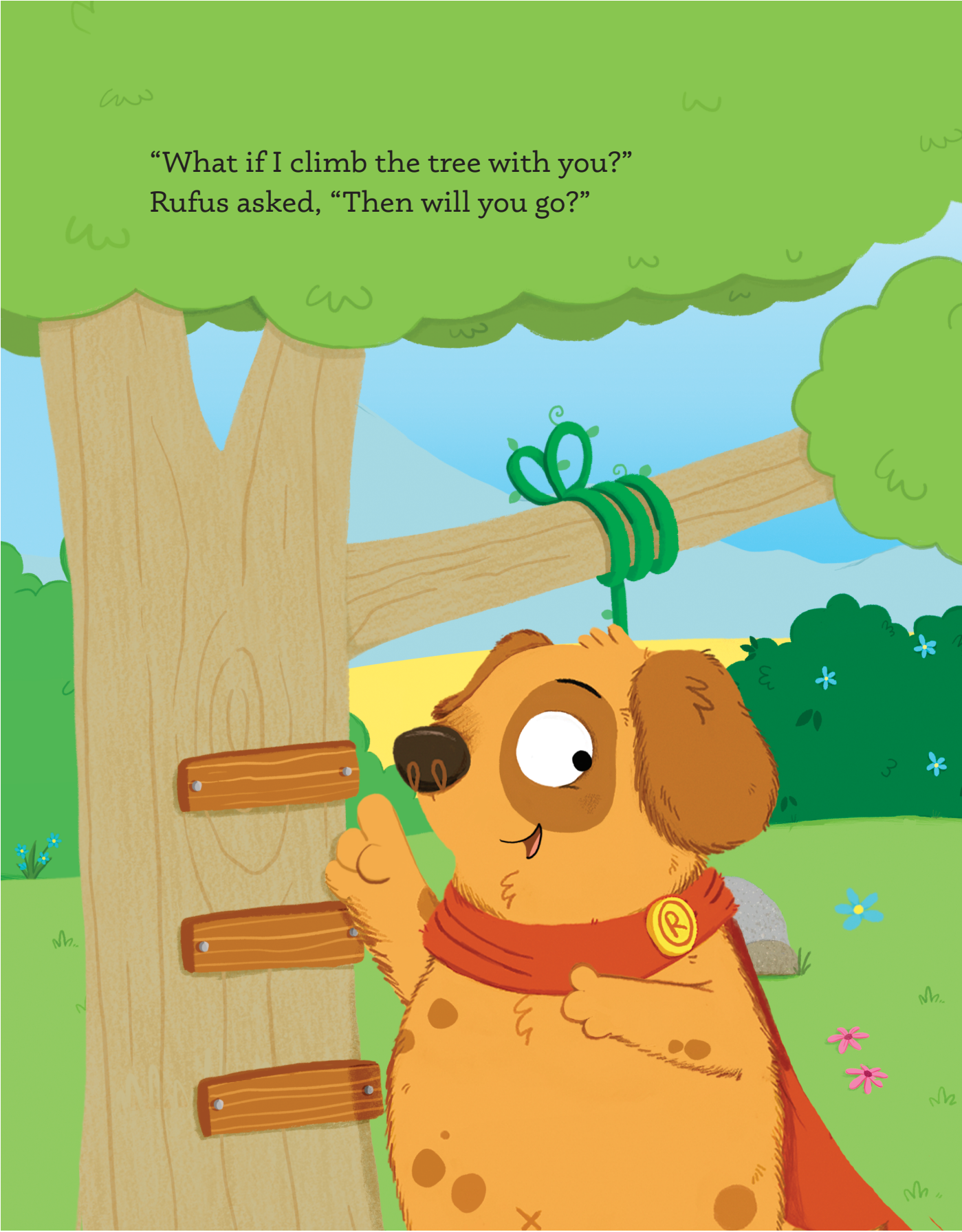


But Ava wouldn't go.

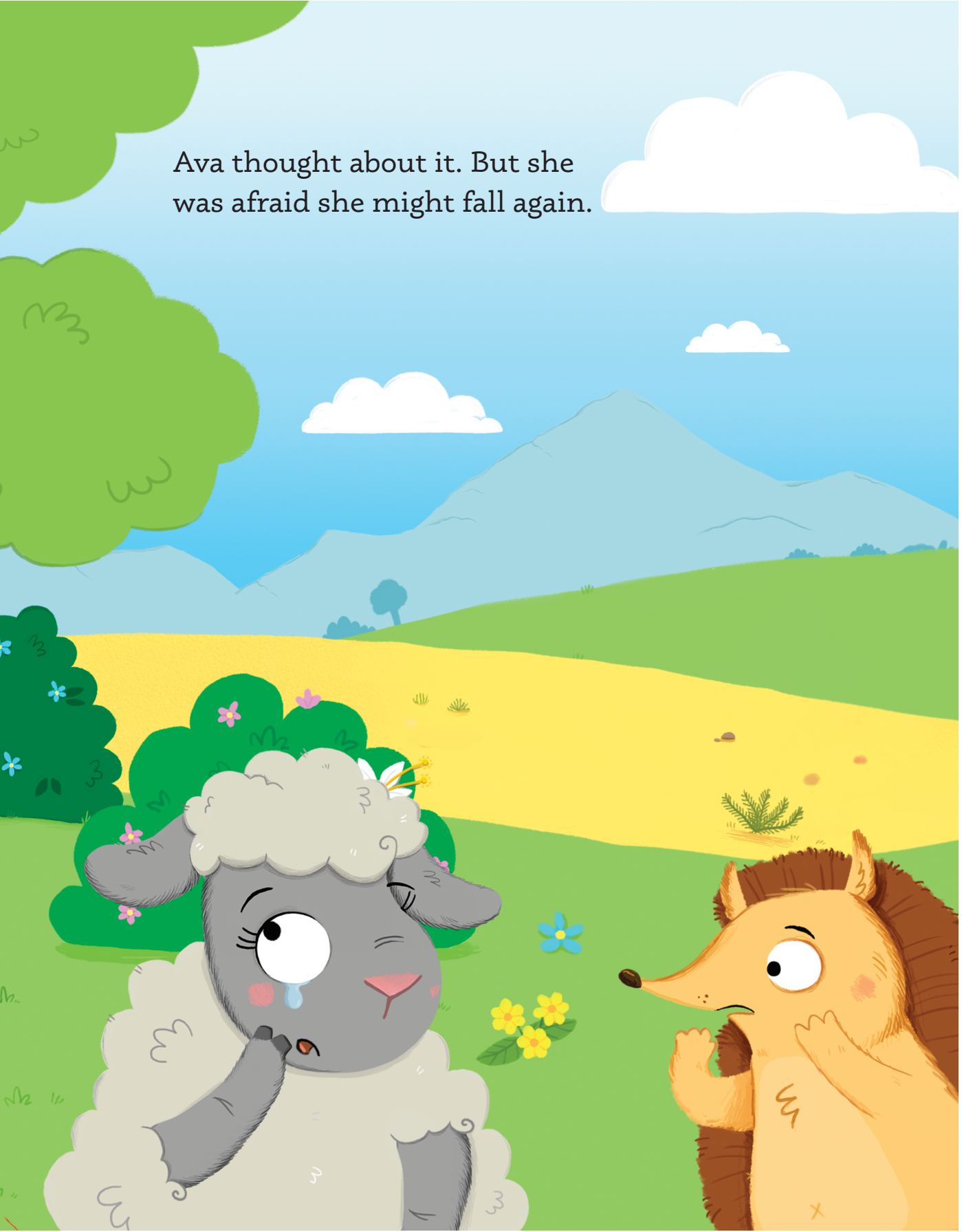
"I don't want to fall down again."



“What if I climb the tree with you?”
Rufus asked, “Then will you go?”



Ava thought about it. But she was afraid she might fall again.



“What if I stand at the bottom?” Hal asked,
“Then I could catch you if you fall.”



Ava thought about it some more.
But she was still afraid.



“I just don’t want to get hurt again.”
Ava told her friends. “The last time I climbed
the tree, I fell down and got a big ouch!”





“Don’t give up, Ava!” Hal cried.

“You should try the tree again,” Rufus said. “You still want to have fun, don’t you?”



Ava nodded. She *did* still want to have fun. And her big ouch was starting to feel a little better. But the big tree suddenly looked very, very high.



Ava closed her eyes.





Dear God,

*Getting hurt doesn't feel very
good. But I know you're with
me even when I'm hurt. Help
me to be brave.*

Amen.



ABOUT THE STORY

Ava loves to play, but after she gets hurt, she's suddenly afraid to return to one of her favorite activities. Can her friends, and a prayer, help her have fun again?

DELIGHT IN READING TOGETHER

As you read this story, ask your child if they've ever gotten hurt like Ava, and how they reacted. Were they scared? Just as Ava overcomes her fear of getting hurt, your child can learn that they don't have to be afraid of experiencing life, even after "big ouches" happen!

DEVELOPMENT CONNECTION

Different children respond to getting hurt differently. Some kids will bounce back right away, while others will want to cling to you for a while before they're ready to get back out there. Knowing your child, you'll know best whether they should take it easy or if they need a gentle nudge to start playtime again.

FAITH CONNECTION

We get hurt sometimes, and don't always know why. But we know that God is with us in our pain, and wants to heal us. God's love is with us when we hurt.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147:3

SAY A PRAYER

Say the prayer Ava said when she was sad about getting hurt.

Dear God, Getting hurt doesn't feel very good. But I know you're with me even when I'm hurt. Help me to be brave. Amen.

