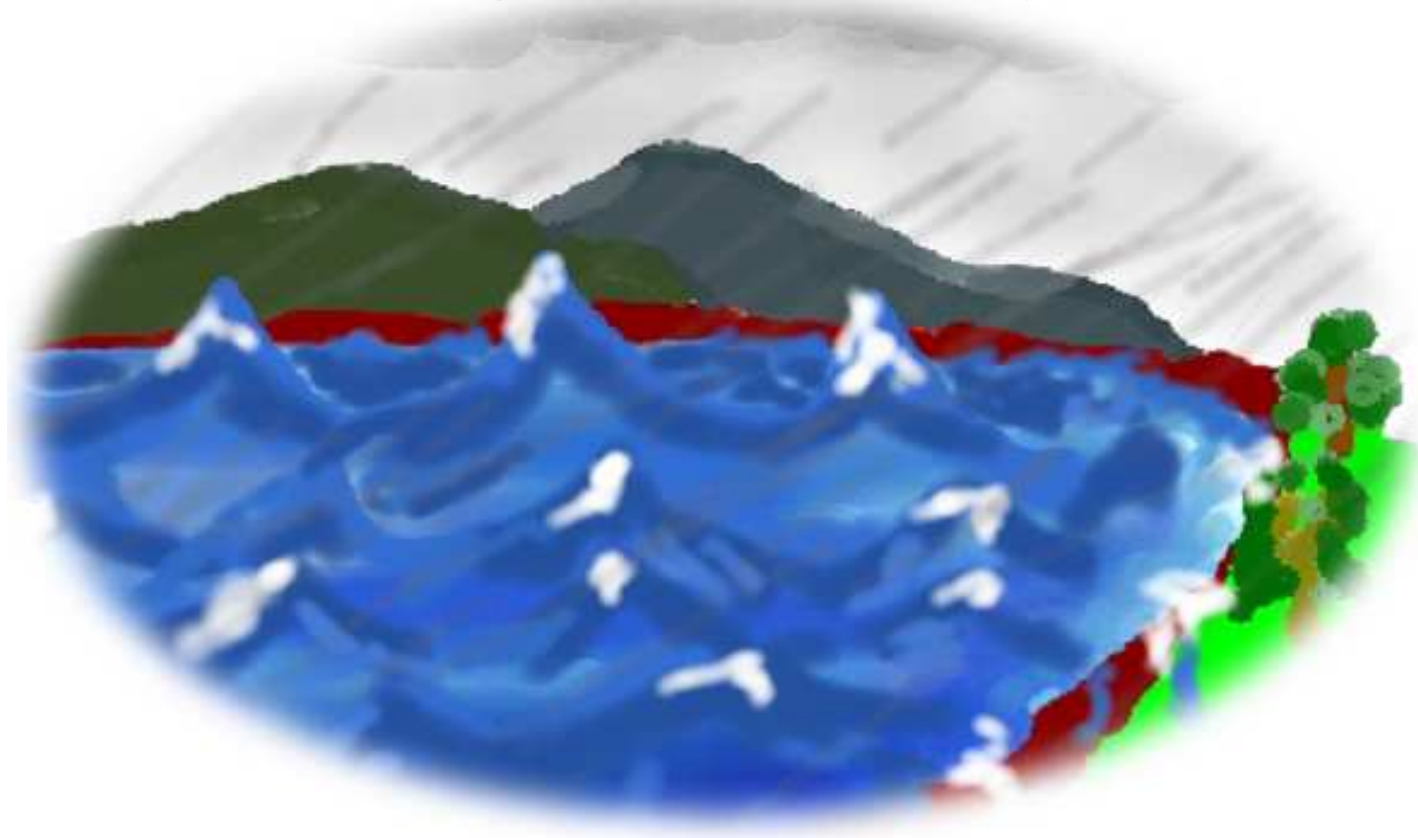
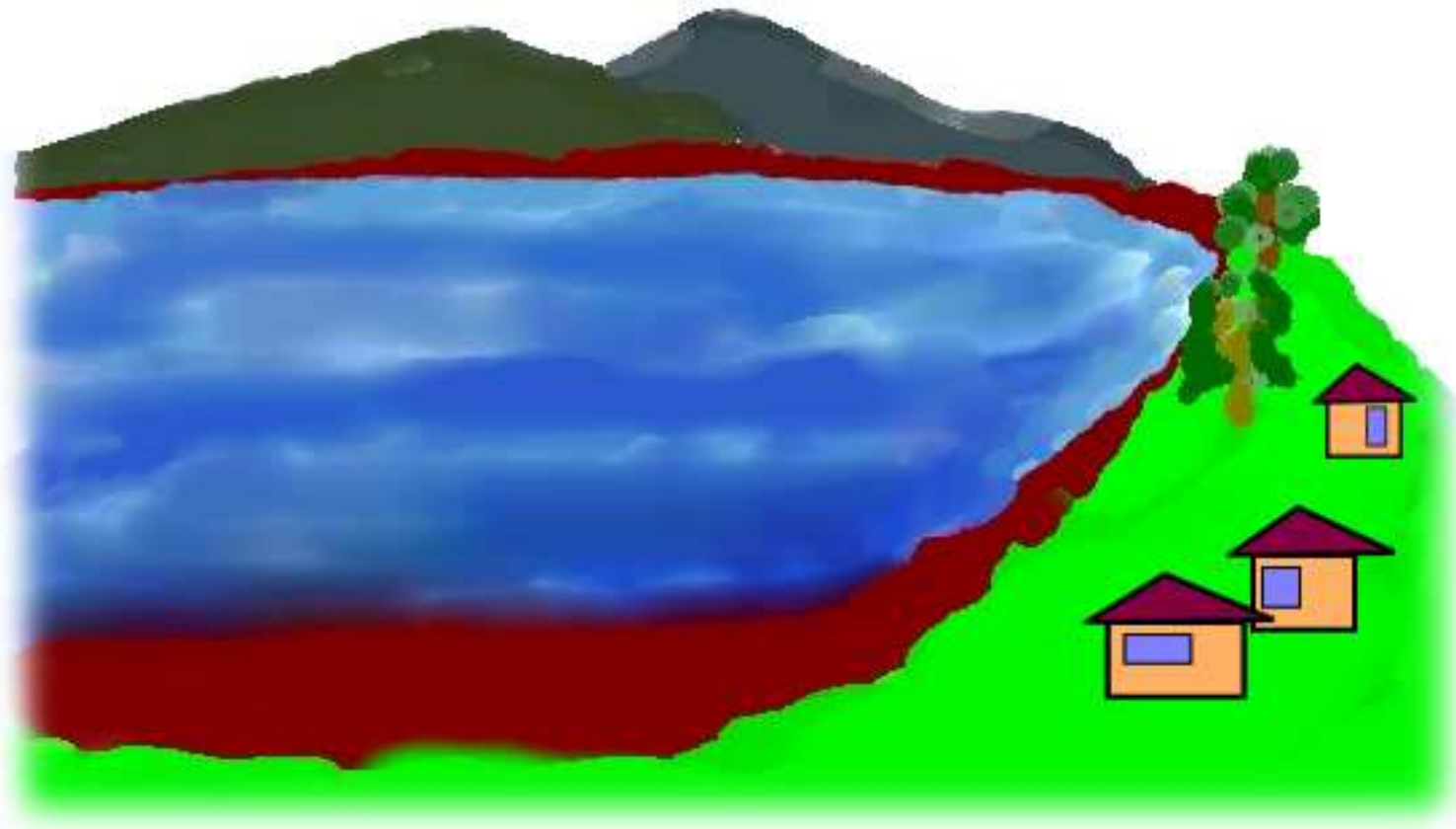


# **Storm & lake**

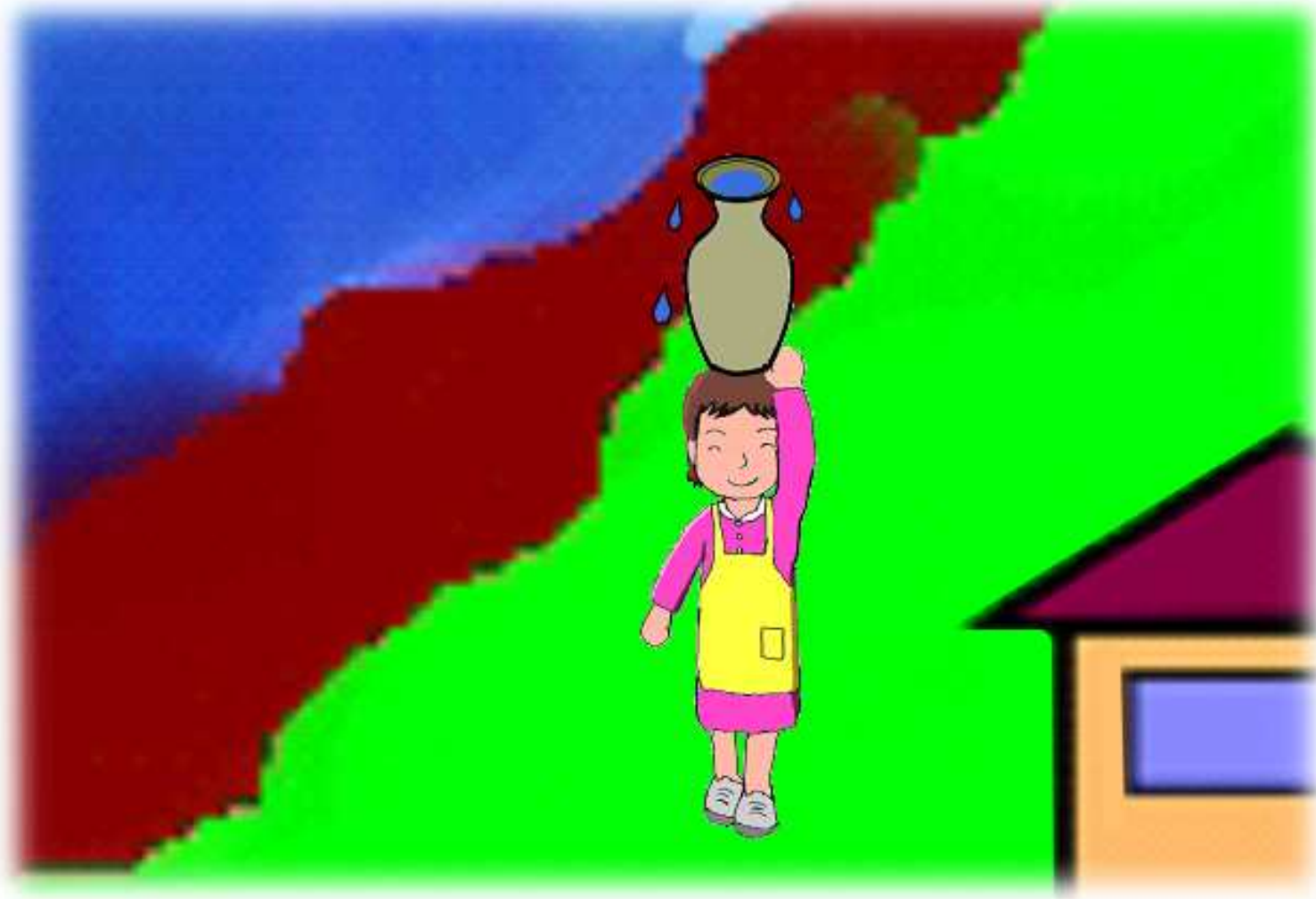


**Jun Togo** Edited by B.Blue

On a star amidst the vast universe, there was a big lake and a small village.



The lake sustains the lives of the village people. They cannot live without it.



However, lately the water of the lake is often poisonous.



Many children and the elderly have passed away because of the poison in the lake.

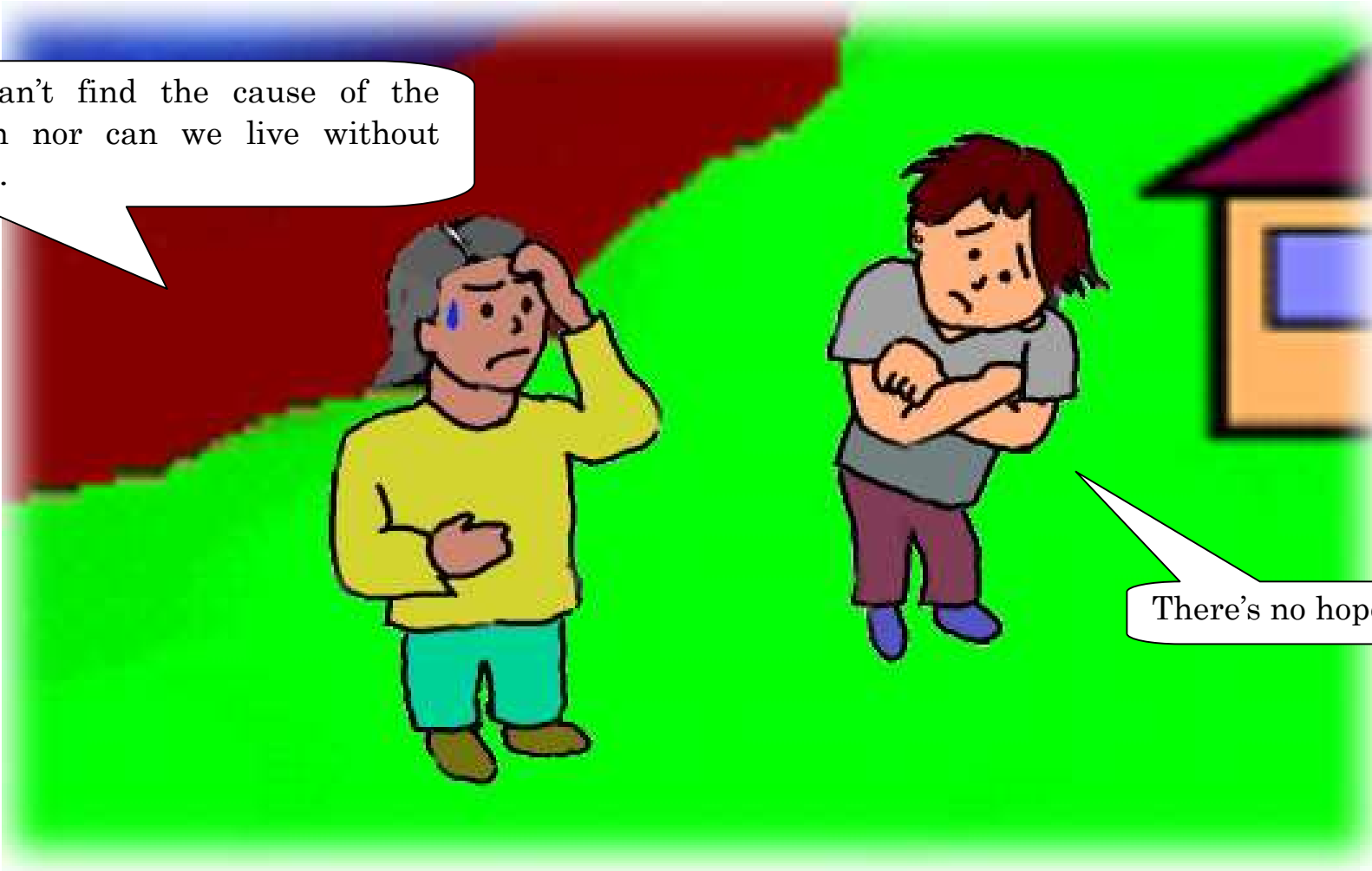
What is in the lake?



There are a few who dive and look for the cause of the poison.

But the water is cold and muddy, and the lake large, so nothing can be found. However, it is impossible to live elsewhere.

We can't find the cause of the poison nor can we live without lake...



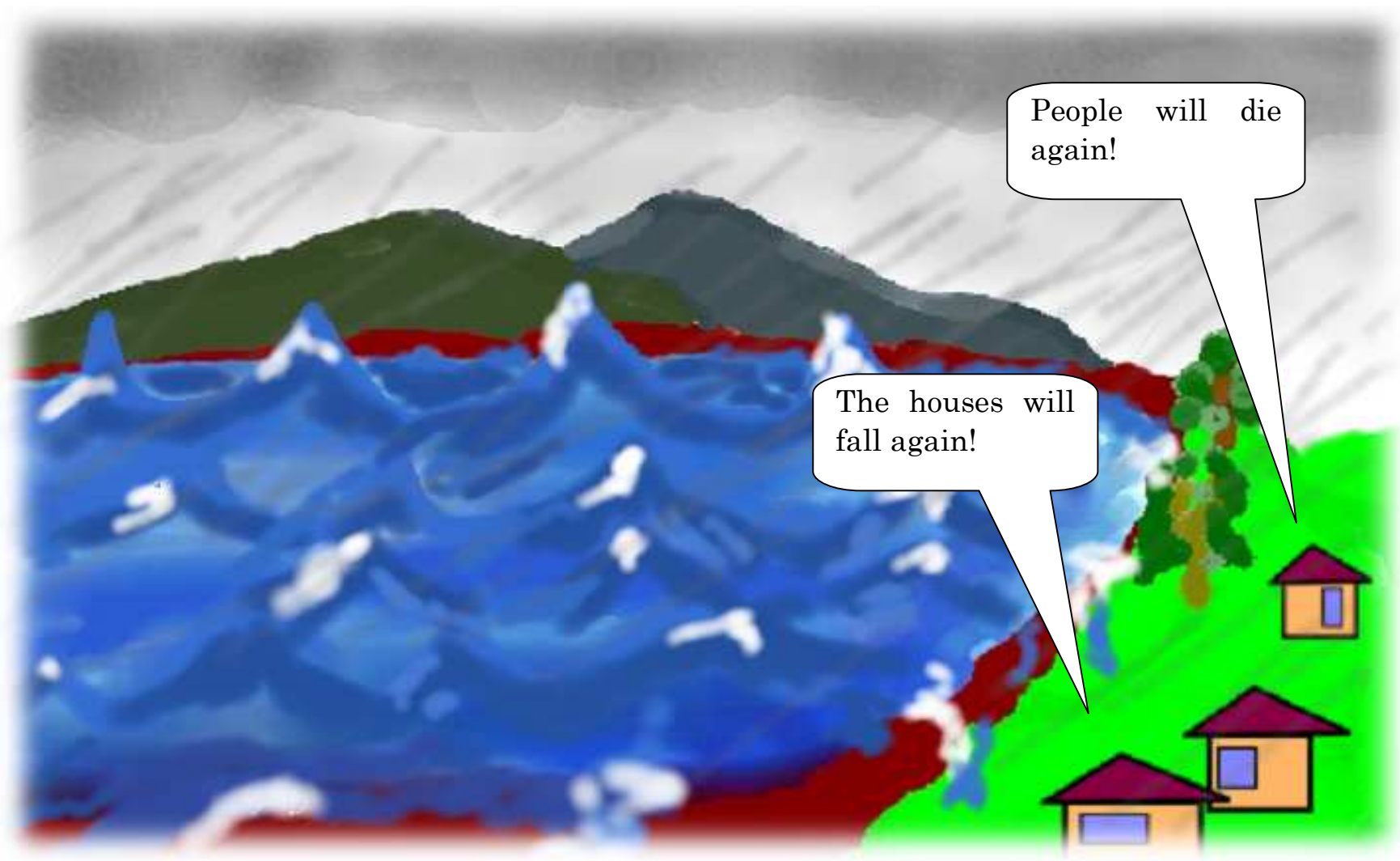
There's no hope.

On top of this, storms often attack the village.

Unhappiness continues, tragedies spread, lives are lost. It was as though the village was damned.



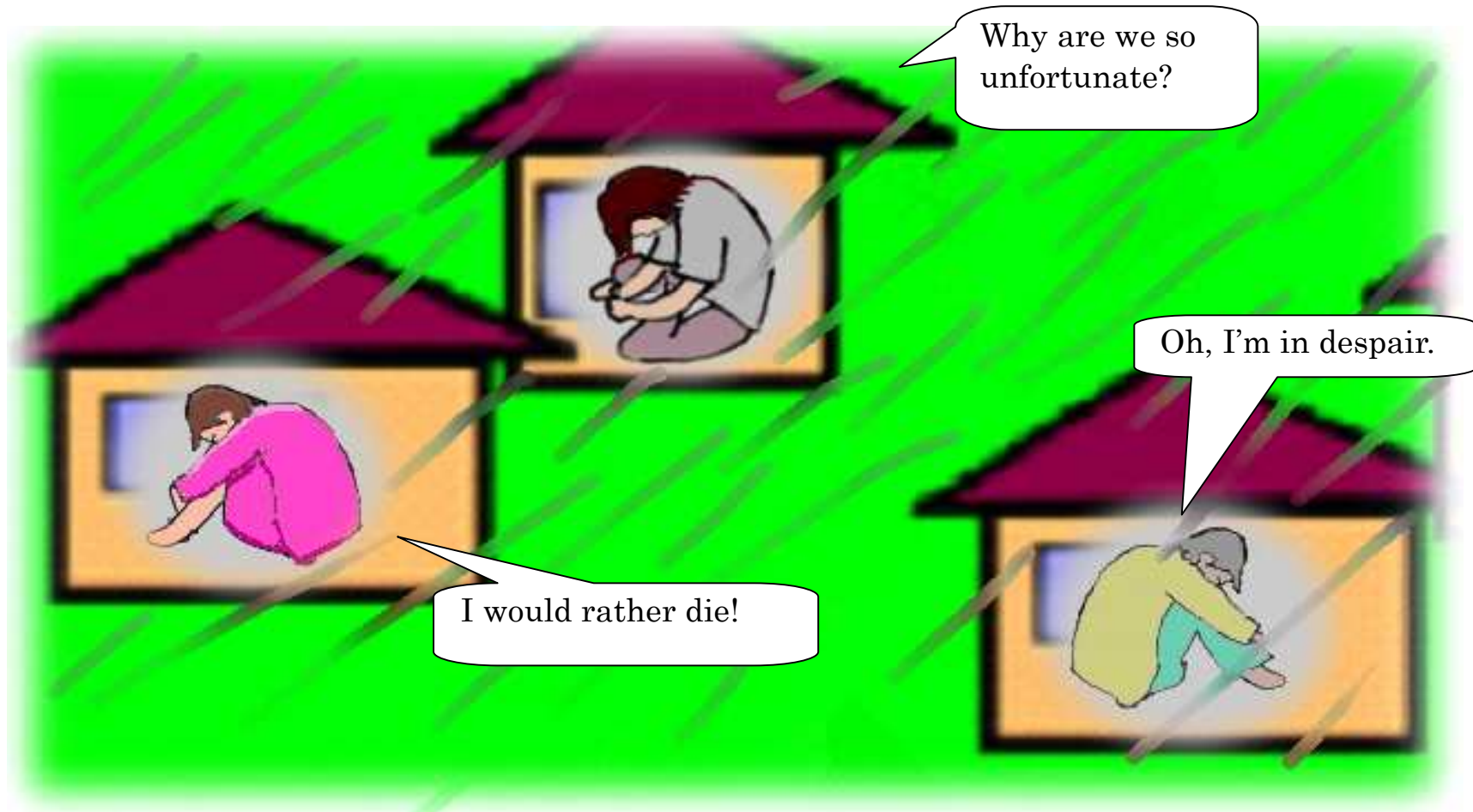
Oh no, the storm has come again! The lake has become very rough.



The houses will fall again!

People will die again!

Everyone is scared, shivering with closed eyes. Everyone is crying.



Why are we so unfortunate?

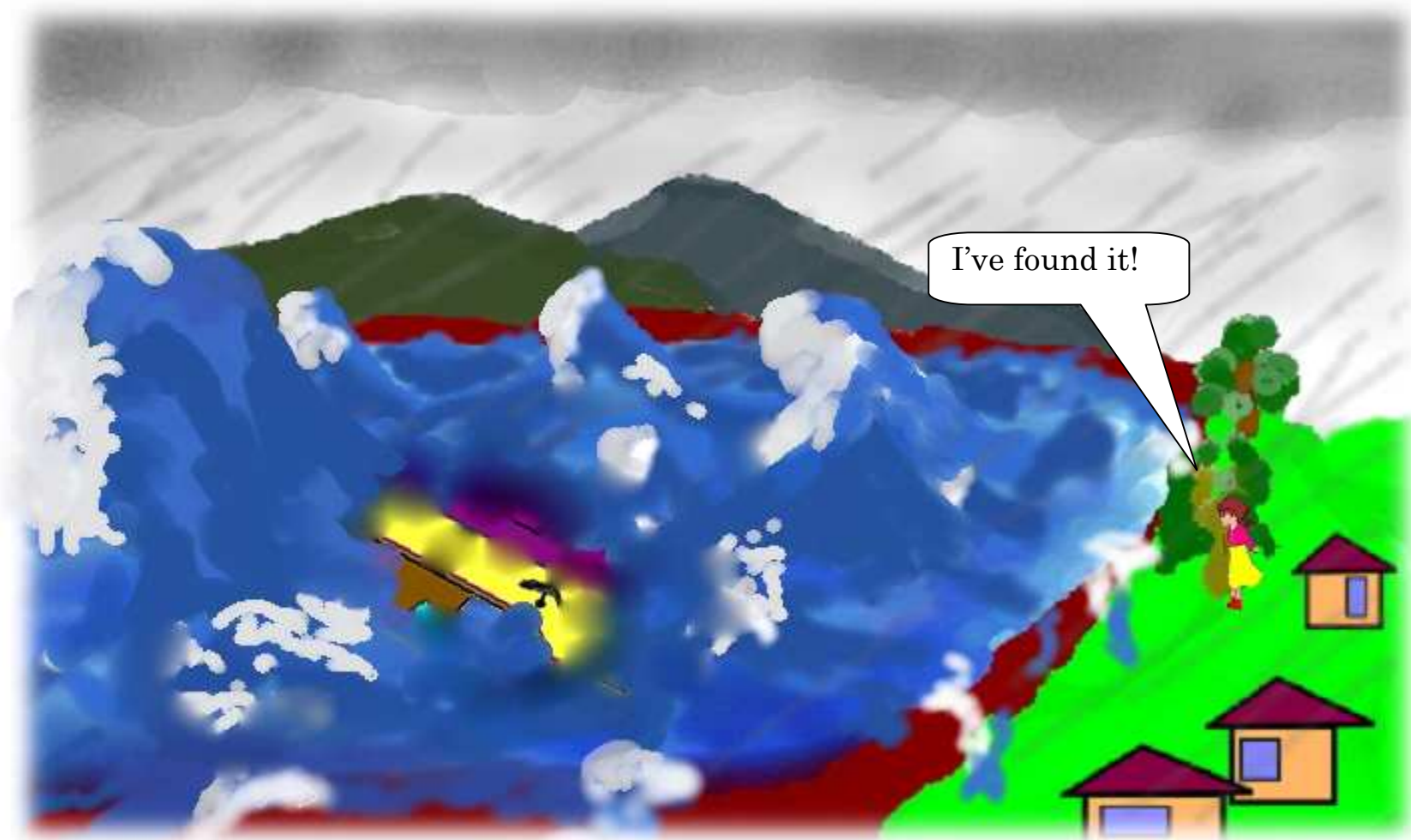
I would rather die!

Oh, I'm in despair.

At that moment, a girl was looking at the lake.



A strong wind has made a big wave. Ah, the bottom of the lake was visible for an instance.



The storm has gone.

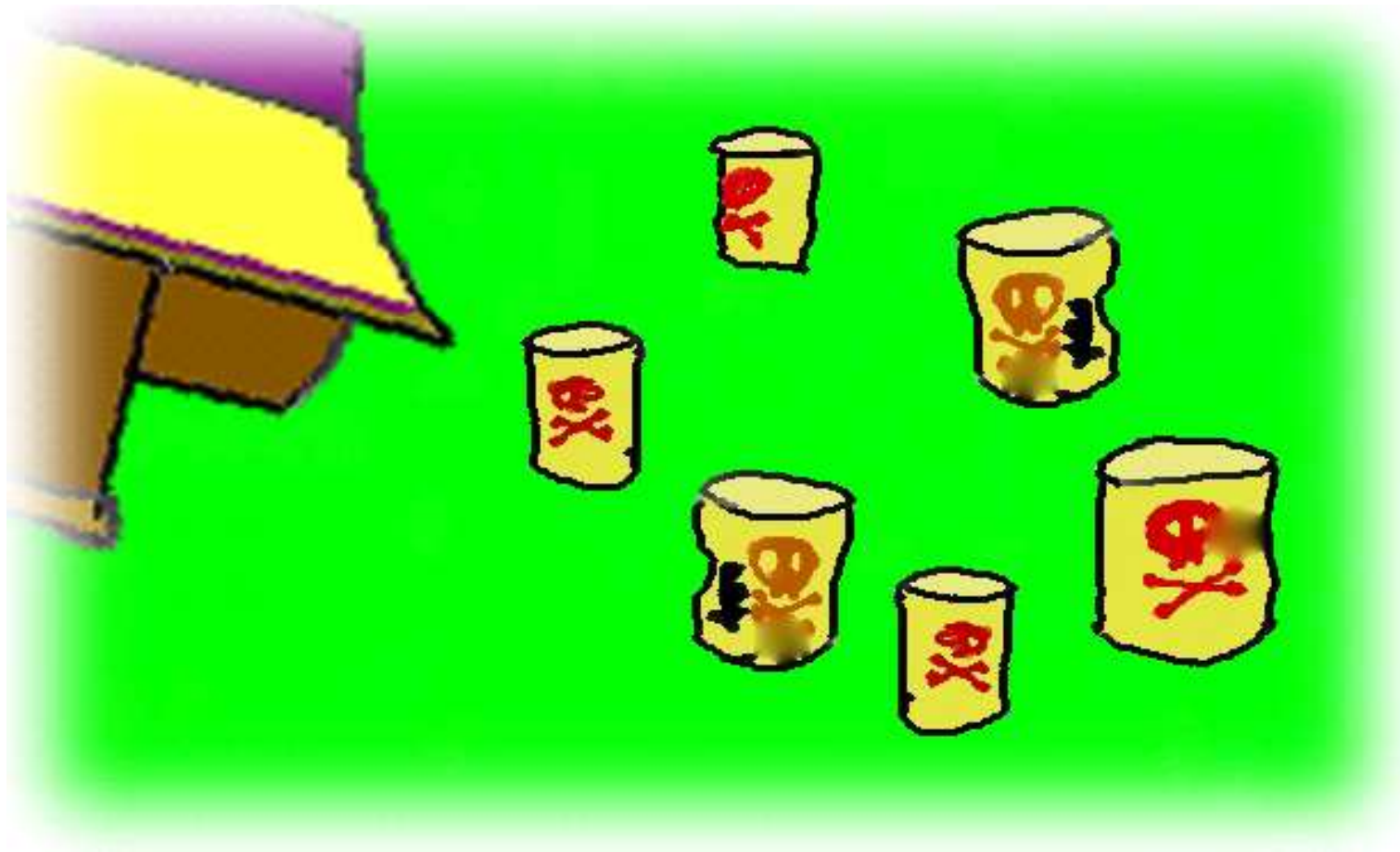


Hey everybody, listen to me! I saw a boat at the bottom of the lake. It must be the cause of the poison!

The village people helped pull up the boat which the girl saw.



They found many poisonous cans in the boat. Some of the small cans were empty with holes. This was the cause of the lake water sometimes being poisonous.



The biggest can was still full of poison and was so rusty that it was about to burst.



Had the storm not come;  
Had the wind not been strong enough and the bottom  
of the lake not appeared;  
Had everybody closed their eyes when the bottom was  
visible ...  
They would have missed their chance on finding the  
poison.

**The village would have been  
completely destroyed!**



So don't forget –  
when the storm comes, open your eyes.

## Afterword

In human life there are many different forms of suffering: heartbreak, harassments, sickness, unemployment, mental sickness, loss of a loved one in war or in acts of terrorism, court cases...

There is little I can do for those who are suffering now. However I have written this picture book as a prayer to all those who may have lost hope in times of despair.

Extending my prayers to you.

If you empathize with this picture book, we would appreciate it if you could show them to your family and friends.

You can freely make copies of (down load/print/distribute) this picture book, so long as you do not get any monetary gains. Obtaining profit/money from this book is strictly prohibited except under our written agreement.

You can also download other picture books and messages written by Jun Togo from the web below.

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