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Opening extract from

Where the Bugaboo Lives

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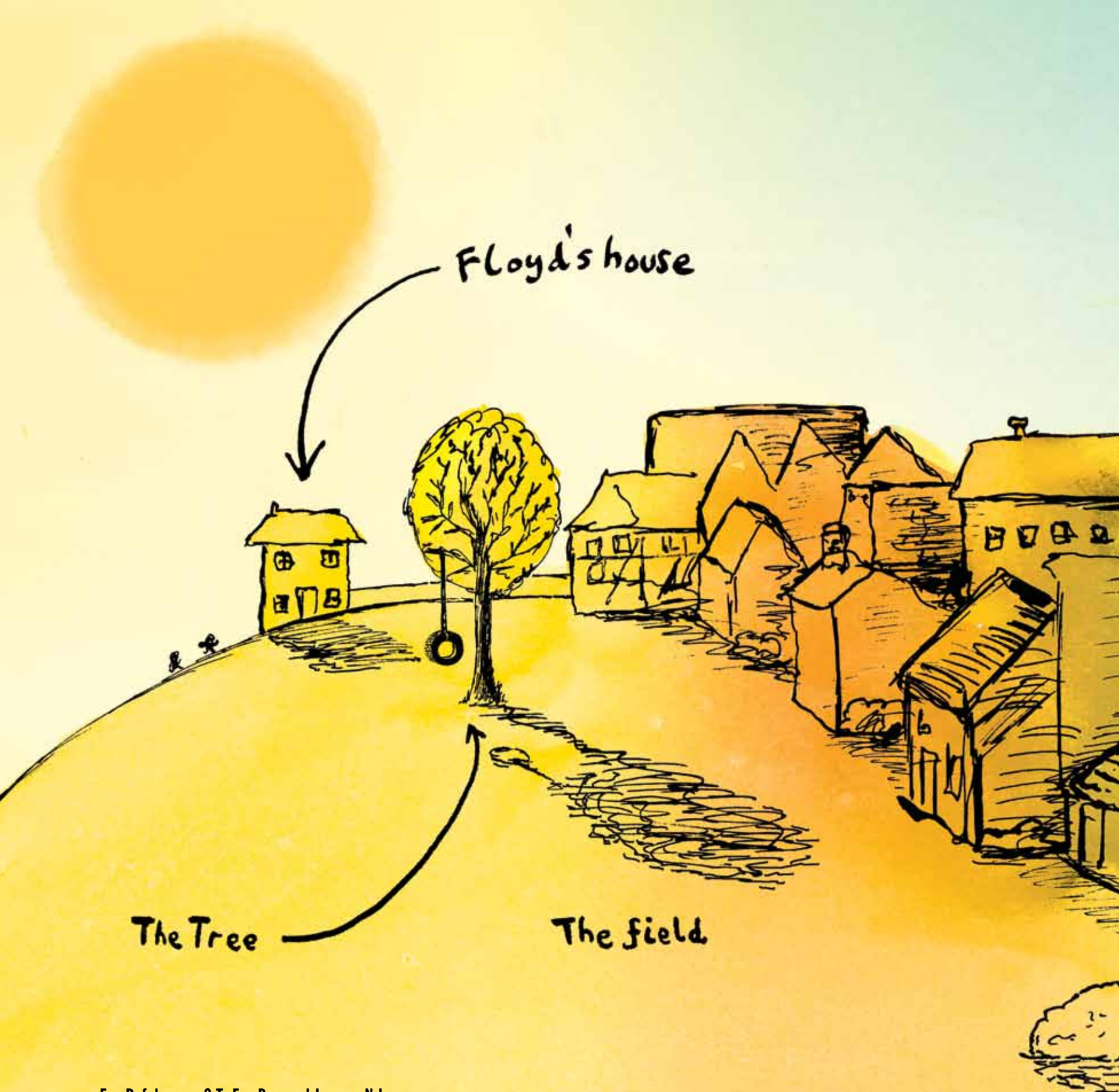
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You could go off and play all day where Floyd lived.



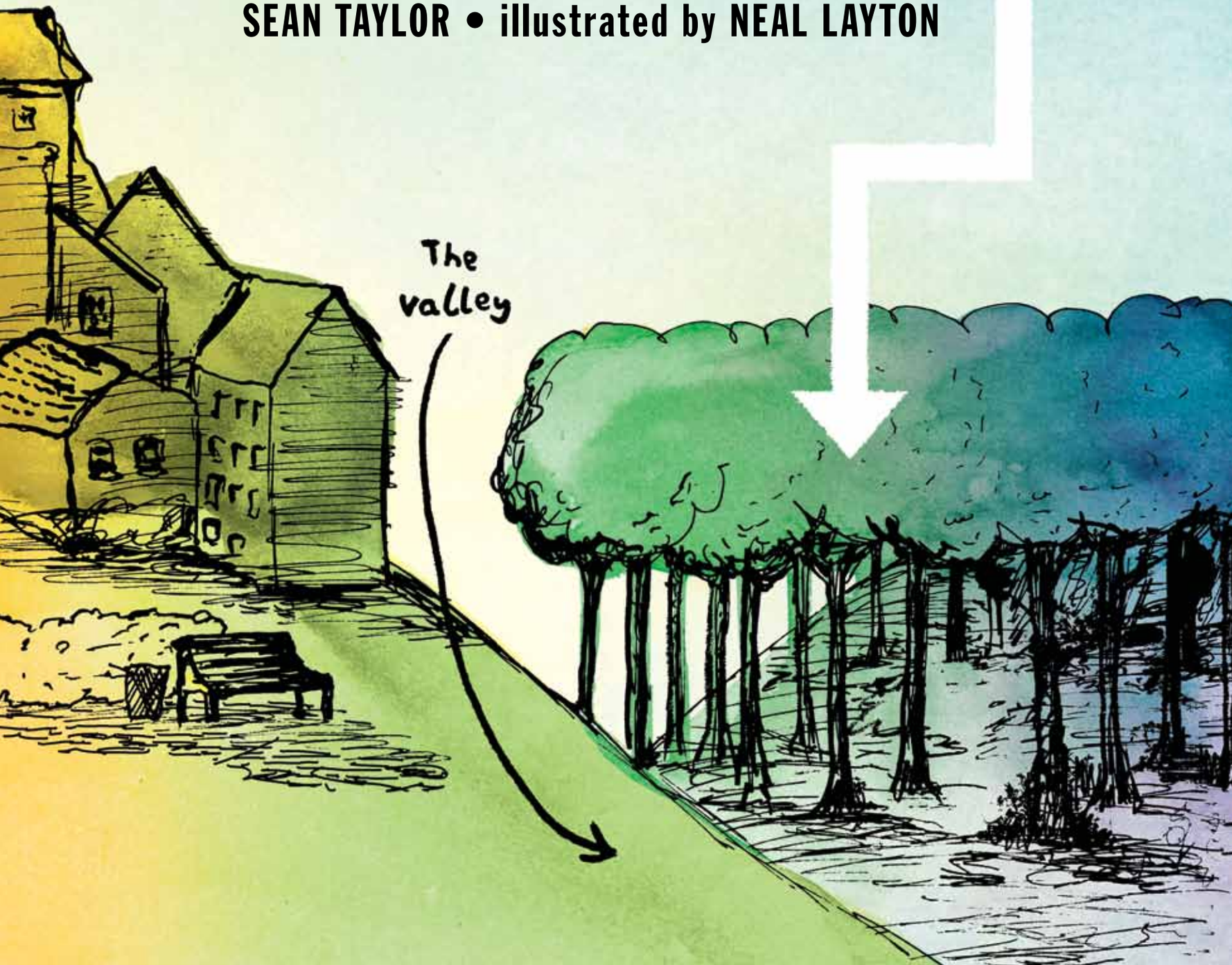
There was a field for racing and chasing games, which were his favourite. And up the hill was the tree with a tyre, which was his other favourite. The only place you weren't allowed to go was down in the valley behind the houses...



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WHERE THE BUGABOO LIVES

SEAN TAYLOR • illustrated by NEAL LAYTON





"Why can't we go down in the valley behind the houses?" Floyd asked.

His mum looked at him for a moment. Then she said, "It's all dark and shadowy down there and it wouldn't be any fun for playing."

But Floyd asked his sister, Ruby, the same question and she said something different.

"If I tell you," she said, "YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GO TO SLEEP EVER AGAIN!"

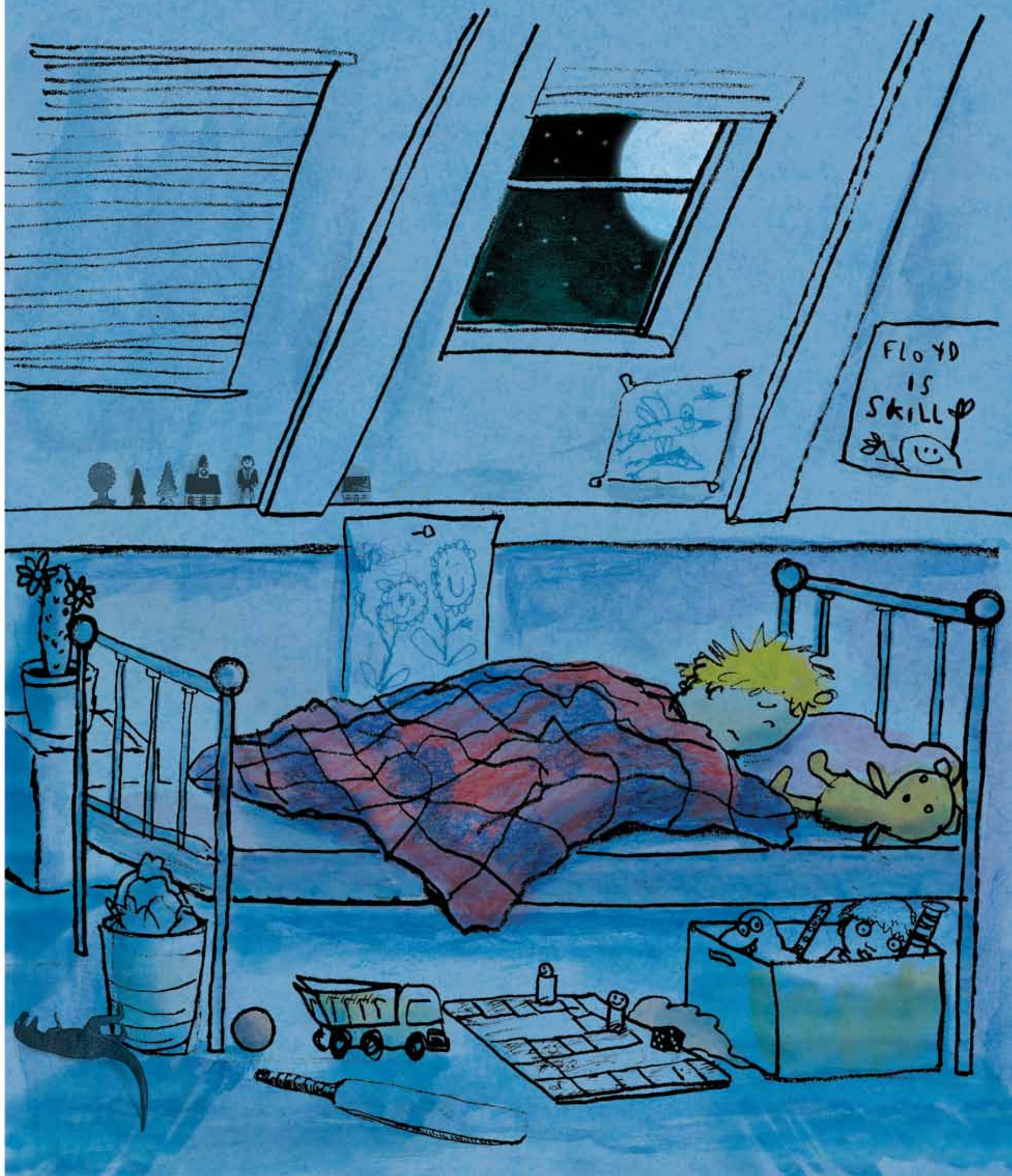
"I *will* be able," nodded Floyd. So Ruby *did* tell him.



She said, "We can't go into the valley because scary things live there. And the scariest of all is **THE BUGABOO**."

Floyd did go to sleep that night. But he dreamt about

THE BUGABOO.


FLOYD
IS
SKILL



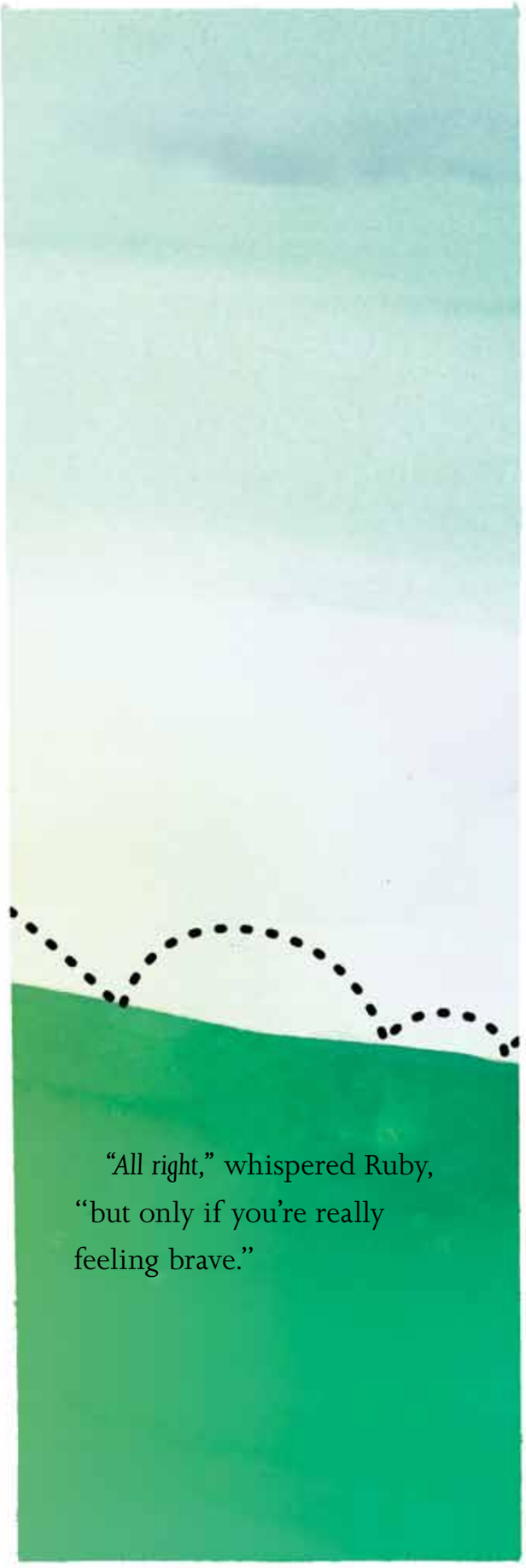
And he didn't *want* to go into the valley the next day. It was only because of the ball. It was the best ball he'd ever had He felt sadder and sadder as it rolled away.

"Can't we ever go and get it from the valley?" he asked.

"You're too young to go down there where the scary things live," said Ruby.

"But I'm the oldest I've ever been," said Floyd. "And if we creep quietly as mice, **THE BUGABOO** will never know."





"*All right,*" whispered Ruby, "but only if you're really feeling brave."



AND YOU CAN CHOOSE.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GO DOWN INTO THE VALLEY WITH FLOYD AND RUBY ... THEN SHUT THE BOOK NOW. IF YOU WANT TO GO WITH THEM ... TURN THE PAGE. (BUT REMEMBER, YOU MIGHT NOT GO TO SLEEP EVER AGAIN.)

With each step, the houses got further away and the trees got nearer. Floyd picked up his ball, put it in his pocket and smiled. But Ruby wasn't smiling. She could see six … eight … ten little crocodile ogres with teeth as sharp as scissors.



Floyd asked Ruby, "Is there a cupboard we could hide in?" But Ruby shook her head. She had another idea…

