



Written by Evie Horgan O'Brien & Illustrated by Abbie O'Flaherty

To Evie,
Happy 8th Birthday my love, I'm so proud of
the incredible stories you create. Your
imagination is truly special.
Keep using that amazing brain of yours to write
your stories, they bring so much joy to
everyone who reads them.
I can't wait to see what adventures you come
up with next.
I love you to the moon and back
Mammy
Xxxx xxxx



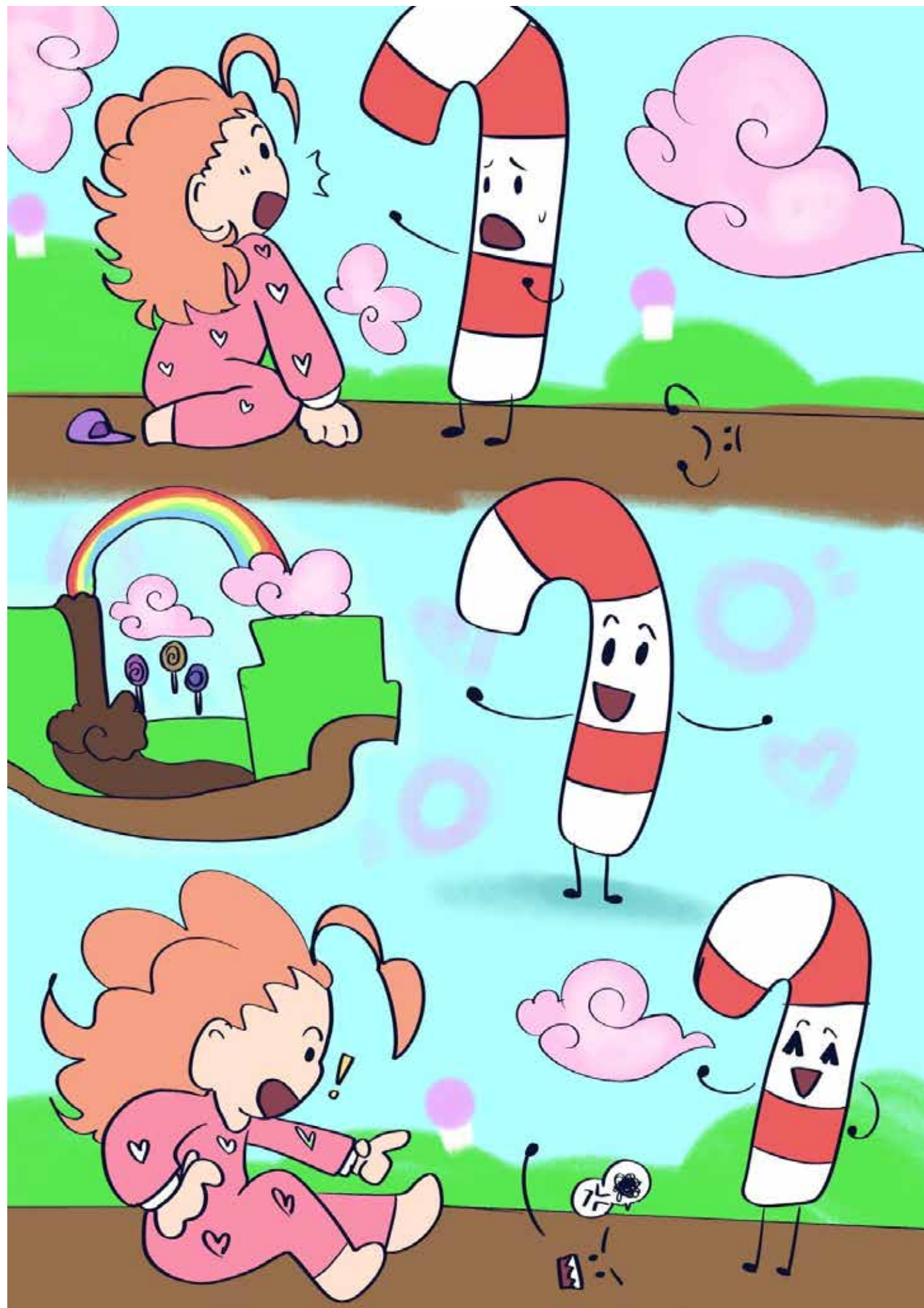
Once upon a time, there was a girl named Holly. She was 11 years old, and she loved sweets. Everyday, she would daydream about it and even dreamed about it at night.

One night, while dreaming about her favourite sweet, a colourful swirling portal opened up in her bedroom.

As she slept, the portal swirled round and round, pulling her closer and closer and into the portal.

She zoomed through all the different realms—realms of light, shadow, crystal, and many more. The portal threw her out; she fell and landed on a chocolate road.

She sat up and looked around. The sky was light blue with pink candyfloss clouds. The road was made of chocolate, and the grass was green jelly.



She whispered, "Where am I? Am I in a dream?"

A candy cane walked straight over to her and shouted, "OMG! Who are you? Are you OK?"

She whispered again, "How are you talking and wa-?"

Before she finished her sentence, the candy cane replied, "Wait, wait, wait! This is Candyland.

Here, all the sweets can walk and talk. Now who are you?"

"I'm Holly. How did I get here? I was in my bedroom," she said nervously.

Holly jumped as the floor said, "Hey! That's a bit rude get off me."

The candy cane said to the floor, "She's new here. She doesn't know anything about Candyland. My name is Pepper Mint. But you can call me Pepper."

So Pepper pulled candyfloss out of his pocket and spread it out. "Here, we use candyfloss to get around, as the floor might get a bit grumpy."



In the background, they could hear a whoosh and rustle. Suddenly, a chocolate bar named Choc screamed, “Everyone, get to the gingerbread cottage!”

Just then, loads of candy canes, chocolate bars, gingerbread people and gummy bears started to panic and ran to the cottage.

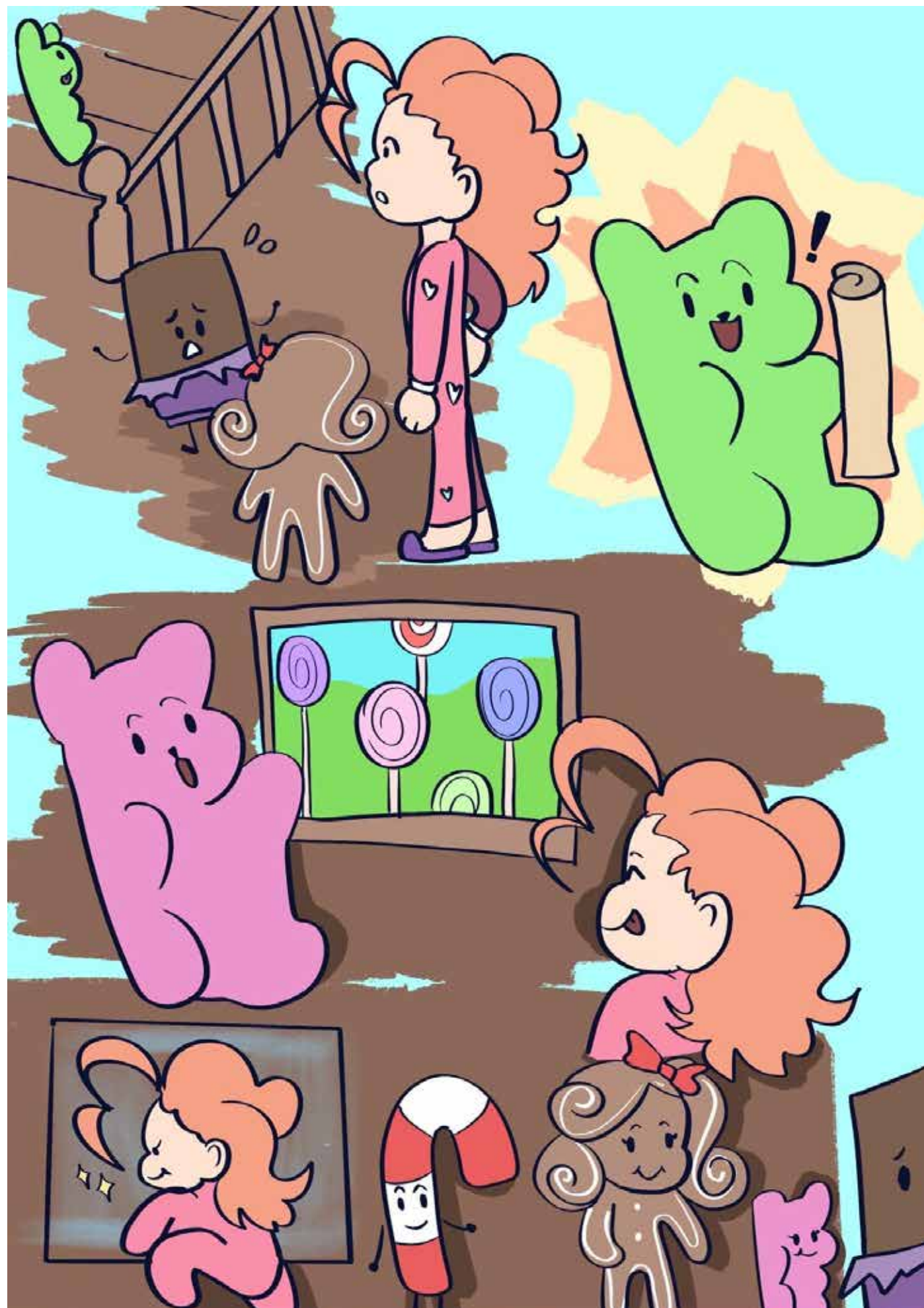
A dark, gloomy shadow man appeared from the portal that Holly had just come through.

A gingerbread lady then started to explain, “That’s the king of the Shadow Realm. He came to take the colour from Candyland. The Heart of Candyland protects the colour in Candyland, we must stop him before he gets there or there will be no way to save Candyland.”

Holly asked, “How do we stop him?”

Just then, Mrs Gummy Bear said, “I don’t know how to stop him, but I definitely know someone who would know how to fix this. I can take you there, but I need someone to mind my children.”

The gingerbread lady said, “I’m coming with you. My husband will stay and mind all the children.”



Just then, one of the gummy bear kids ran upstairs. A few minutes later, he came back down with a map of Candyland in his hand and said, “This is my map of Candyland. You can use this on your adventure if you need it.” He hands the map to his mum, and his mum passes it to Holly.

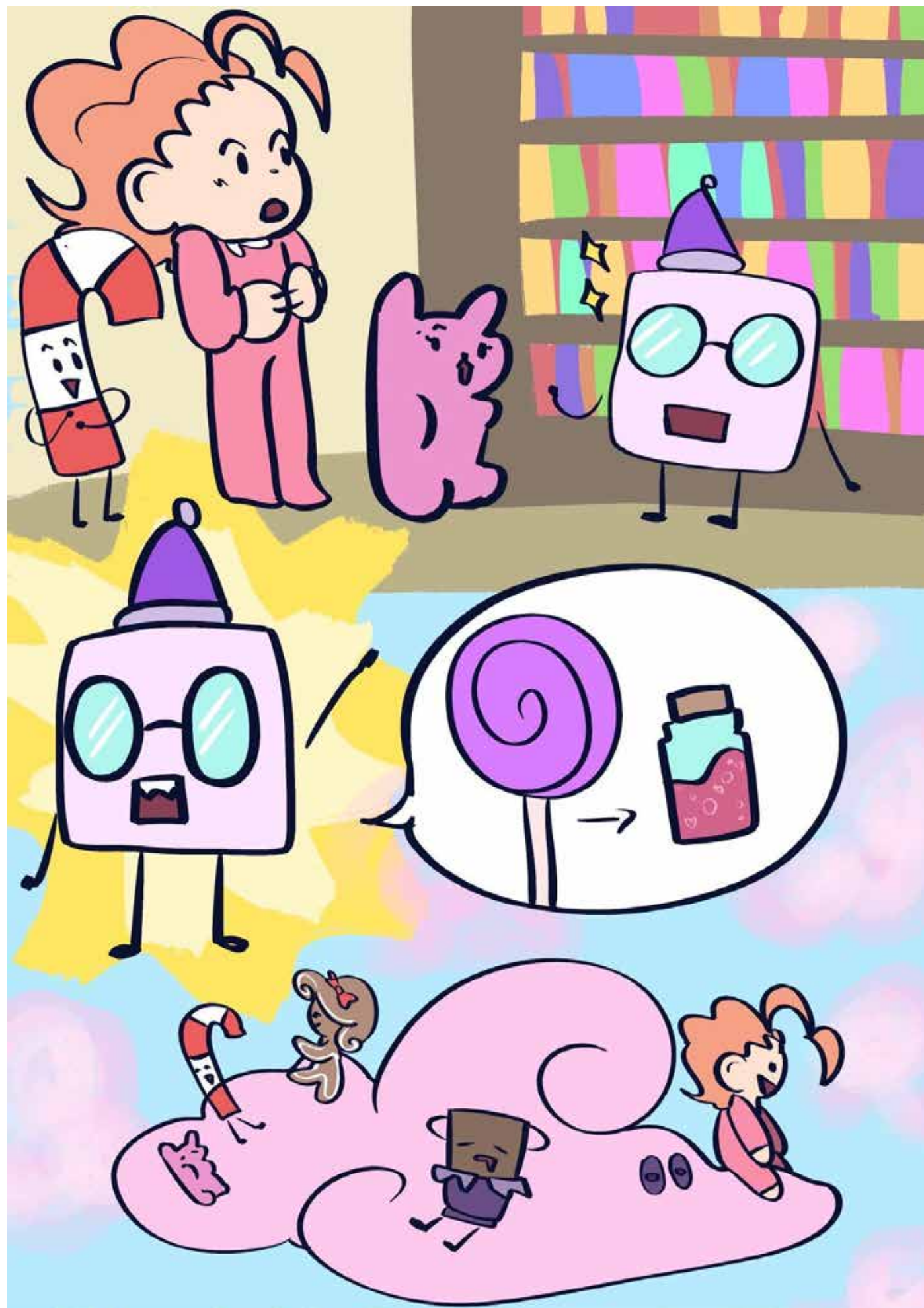
Holly, Mrs Gummy Bear, Mrs Gingerbread, Pepper and Choc were all ready to start out on their adventure.

Mrs Gummy Bear opened up the curtains. Outside, there was a big forest of lollipops.

“We need to travel through the Lollipop Forest to talk to the Wise Old Marshmallow,” she said.

They climbed out the window and started their adventure through the Lollipop Forest.

They walked for hours and finally came to a soft, fluffy marshmallow tower. Inside, there were books covering the walls. The floors were creaky as they walked, and standing right in front of them was the Wise Old Marshmallow.



Mrs Gummy Bear started to introduce the gang, “Hi, Wise Old Marshmallow. This is Mrs Gingerbread, Holly, Pep—”

The Wise Old Marshmallow interrupted. He said, “No need to introduce yourselves. My name is Marsh. I was expecting you all.”

“We need your help. The Shadow King is on his way to the Heart of Candyland. We need a way to protect it,” said Pepper.

“Go further into the Lollipop Forest. There is a special tree called the Infinity Lollipop Tree, and in the middle of the tree there is a strong sugary jelly liquid that can protect the Heart of Candyland.

Once you have collected it, bring it back to me and I will cast a spell. This will strengthen the liquid to protect the heart from any danger from the Shadow King.”

They had to travel deeper into the forest, which would take days, so Pepper decided to use some candyfloss because it's so much faster. After travelling for 19 hours, they stopped at a river of cola to have a drink. After a short rest, they continued on their travels and soon arrived at the tree.



The Infinity Tree was taller than any other tree in the forest. The trunk was a large lollipop stick, and the top of the tree was a large, colourful swirly lollipop.

Mrs Gingerbread pulled out an axe from her pocket. She started to chop the tree down. When it fell, they all ran to the top of the tree. Mrs Gingerbread handed the axe to Holly, and Holly started to stab into the lollipop. As the sugary jelly liquid poured out, Pepper handed a glass jar to Mrs Gingerbread to collect the liquid in.

They hurried back to Marsh.

When they walked into the creepy-floored marshmallow tower, Marsh was waiting for them with his potion already mixed, waiting for the final ingredient.

He poured the final ingredient into the potion, pulled out his magic wand and started his spell

“Sugar Sparkles, Shine so Bright!

Protect the heart with all your might”

Marsh handed them the potion and told them, “Go to the heart and pour the potion all over and all around it.”



They made their way towards the Heart, which was in the middle of a buttery popcorn maze. They saw the Shadow King trying to enter the maze, so they had to hurry to save Candyland.

The popcorn guards at the start of the maze who stops anyone who isn't from Candyland or a friend of Candyland were trying their best to stop him from getting to the heart.

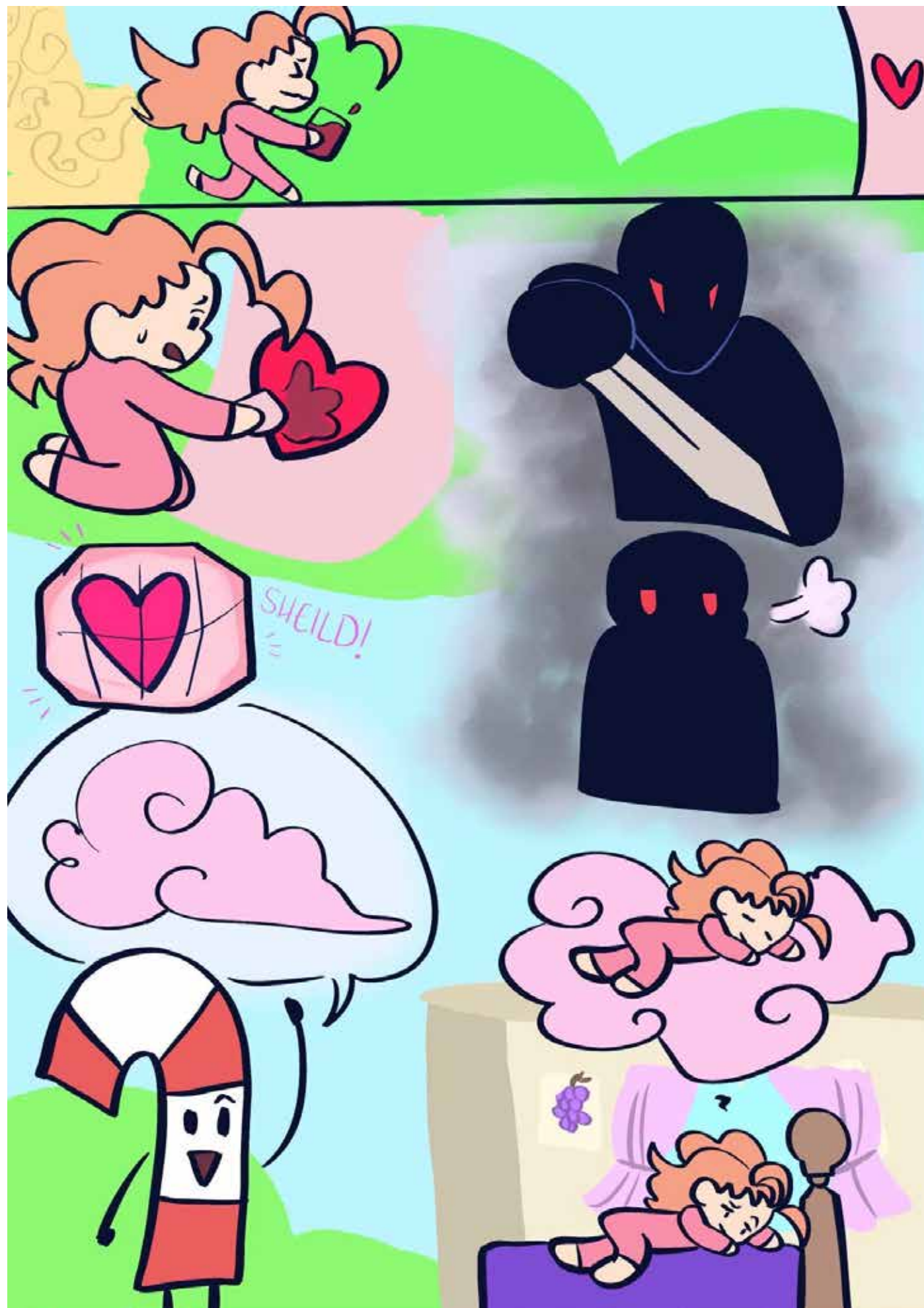
This gave the group enough time to try and get to the heart before him.

Pepper shouted to the guards, "If you can slow him down, we should be able to get to the Heart and protect it!"

A popcorn guard jumped in front of Holly to stop her from entering the maze. Pepper shouted, "It's OK, she's with us. She's going to help us save Candyland."

The guard let her through, and they ran as fast as they could to the middle of the maze.

As they reached the middle, they saw the Shadow King fighting with the guards, he was trying to get through.



Holly ran as fast as she could to the Heart. When she reached it, she realised it was a huge gummy heart, one of her favourites. She opened the jar and poured it all over the heart and all around it.

Just then, the Shadow King pulled out his sword and went to stab the heart but it was too late. The potion had worked. It had created a strong invisible shell around the heart that could not be broken.

The Shadow King let out a big huff and disappeared into the ground.

All of Candyland had a big party in celebration!

Holly loved Candyland, but she really missed home and wanted to go back. But the portal she came through was now closed.

Pepper said, "I know a way for you to get home. All you have to do is fall asleep on the candyfloss, and when you wake up, you will be home again."

So Holly found a quiet spot to lie down on the candyfloss, and she fell asleep.

When she woke up, she was at home in her own bed. Holly wasn't sure if she had really been to Candyland—or if it was all just a dream.

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The End
Is only the beginning.