

A Tales of Midlandia Storybook

THE PRIDE OF MIDLANDIA

by Michael Scotto
illustrated by The Ink Circle



WELCOME TO MIDLANDia

OUR STORY BEGINS

Starring

BADGE O. BOBO
THE POLICE
OFFICER




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No more ice, and no more snow. Spring had finally come!
The flowers bloomed, and the blueberries grew. All of
Midlandia was abuzz and aflutter. It was a lively and happy time.





Not every Midlandian was happy, though. Sheriff Badge was nervous. **“Why, oh why, did Chief pick me?”** she wondered.

Chief Tatupu was the leader of Midlandia. He had given Badge a very big and very special job.

Each spring, the Midlandians held a parade. The parade celebrated all of the good things about Midlandia.

"I would like for you to make a parade float," Chief told Badge. "A float is a special kind of stage. It has wheels so that it can be pulled along during the parade. Your float should show why you are proud to be a Midlandian."

Badge loved Midlandia. There were so many things about it that made her proud. But there was one problem.

"How can I fit it all onto one little float?" she thought.

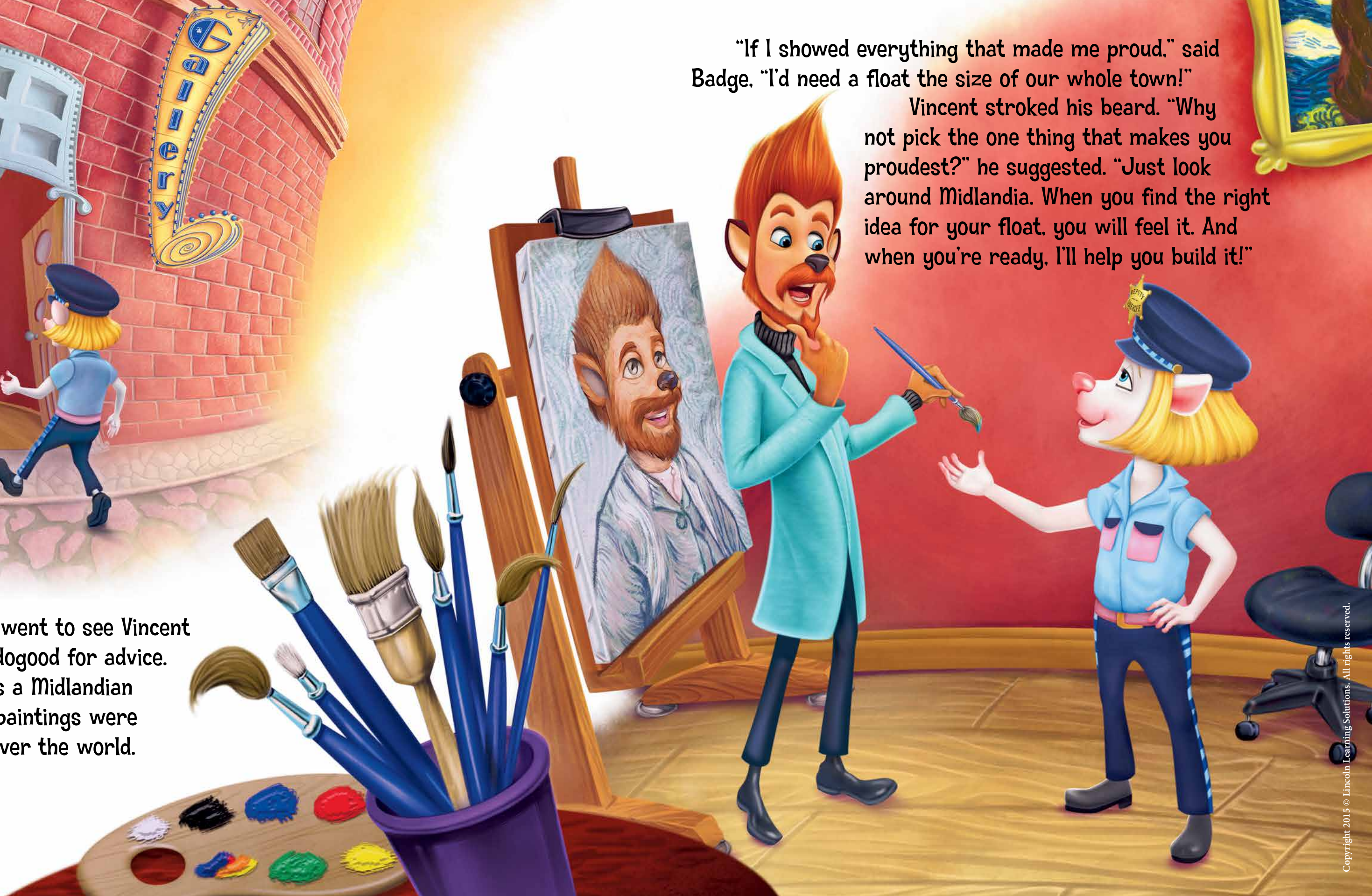




Badge went to see Vincent van Wannadogood for advice. Vincent was a Midlandian artist. His paintings were known all over the world.

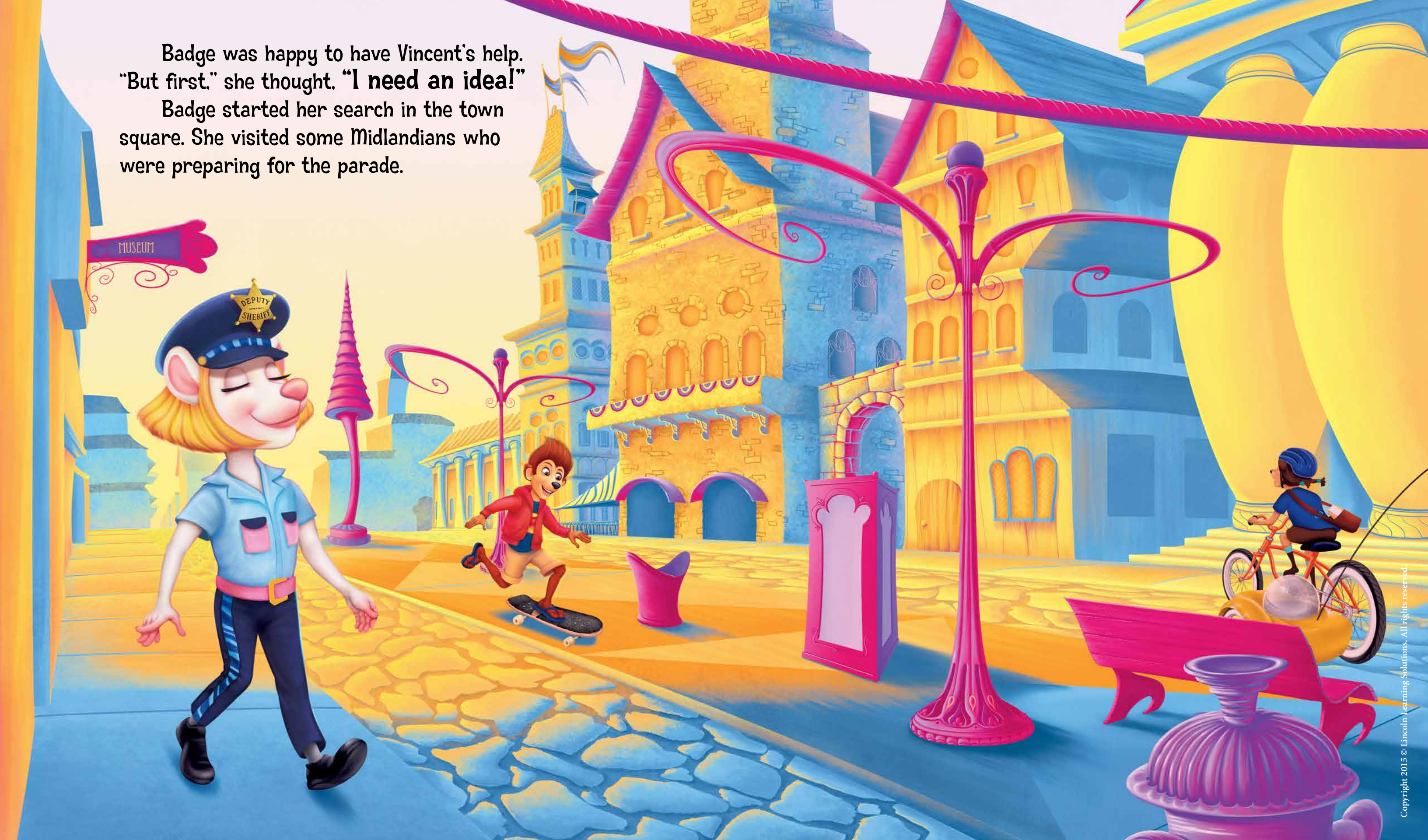
"If I showed everything that made me proud," said Badge, "I'd need a float the size of our whole town!"

Vincent stroked his beard. "Why not pick the one thing that makes you proudest?" he suggested. "Just look around Midlandia. When you find the right idea for your float, you will feel it. And when you're ready, I'll help you build it!"



Badge was happy to have Vincent's help.
"But first," she thought, **"I need an idea!"**

Badge started her search in the town square. She visited some Midlandians who were preparing for the parade.





Outside, Badge found Harmony. Harmony was a musician. She was practicing with her band. **“Play it loud, play it proud!”** said Harmony. The band marched and played the Midlandian national anthem. It was a song about the traditions of Midlandia.

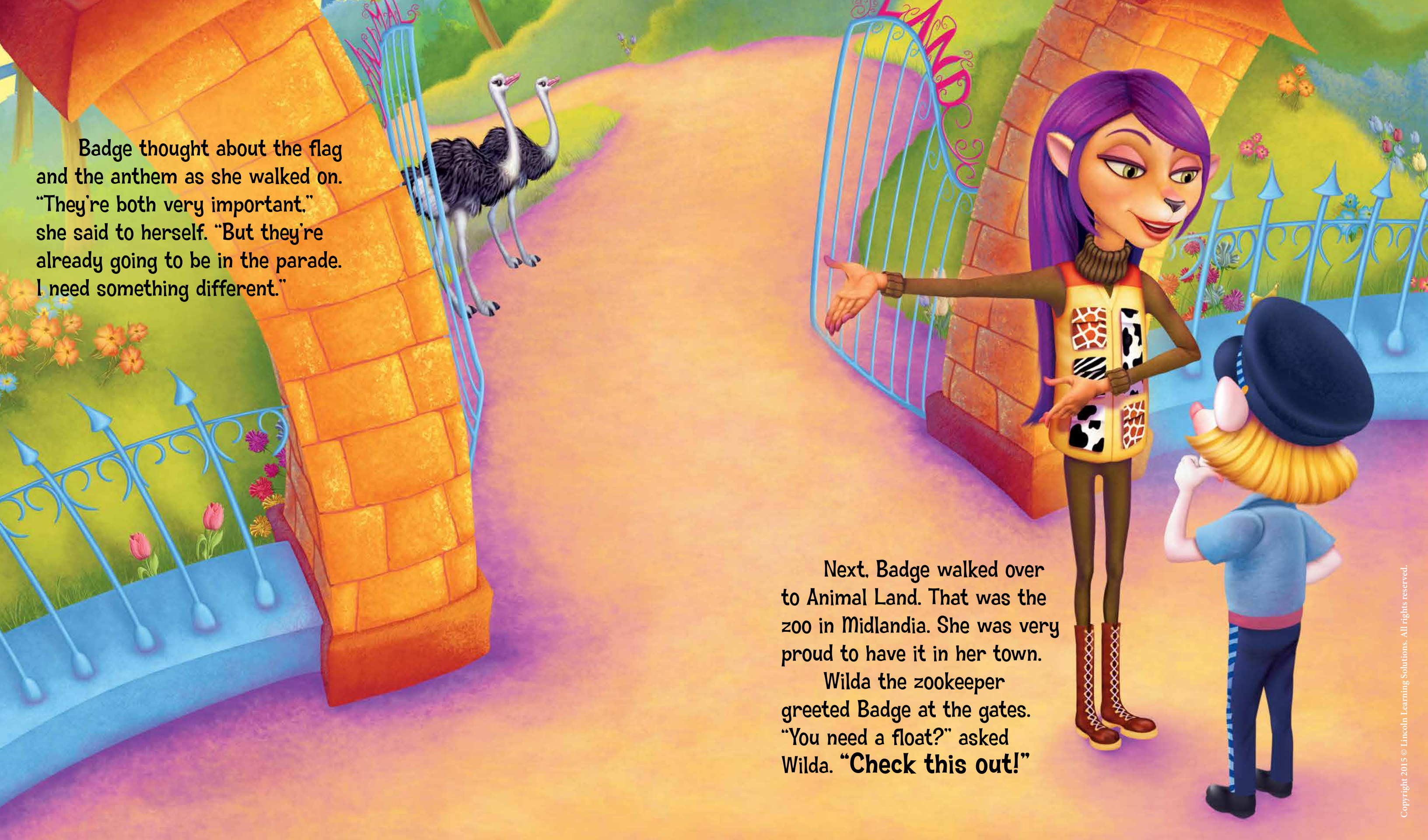
Sew the seamstress was working in her shop. She was stitching a new Midlandian flag. The flag was a symbol of Midlandia. “I’m going to carry it at the front of the parade!” Sew told Badge. **“It will be so beautiful.”**



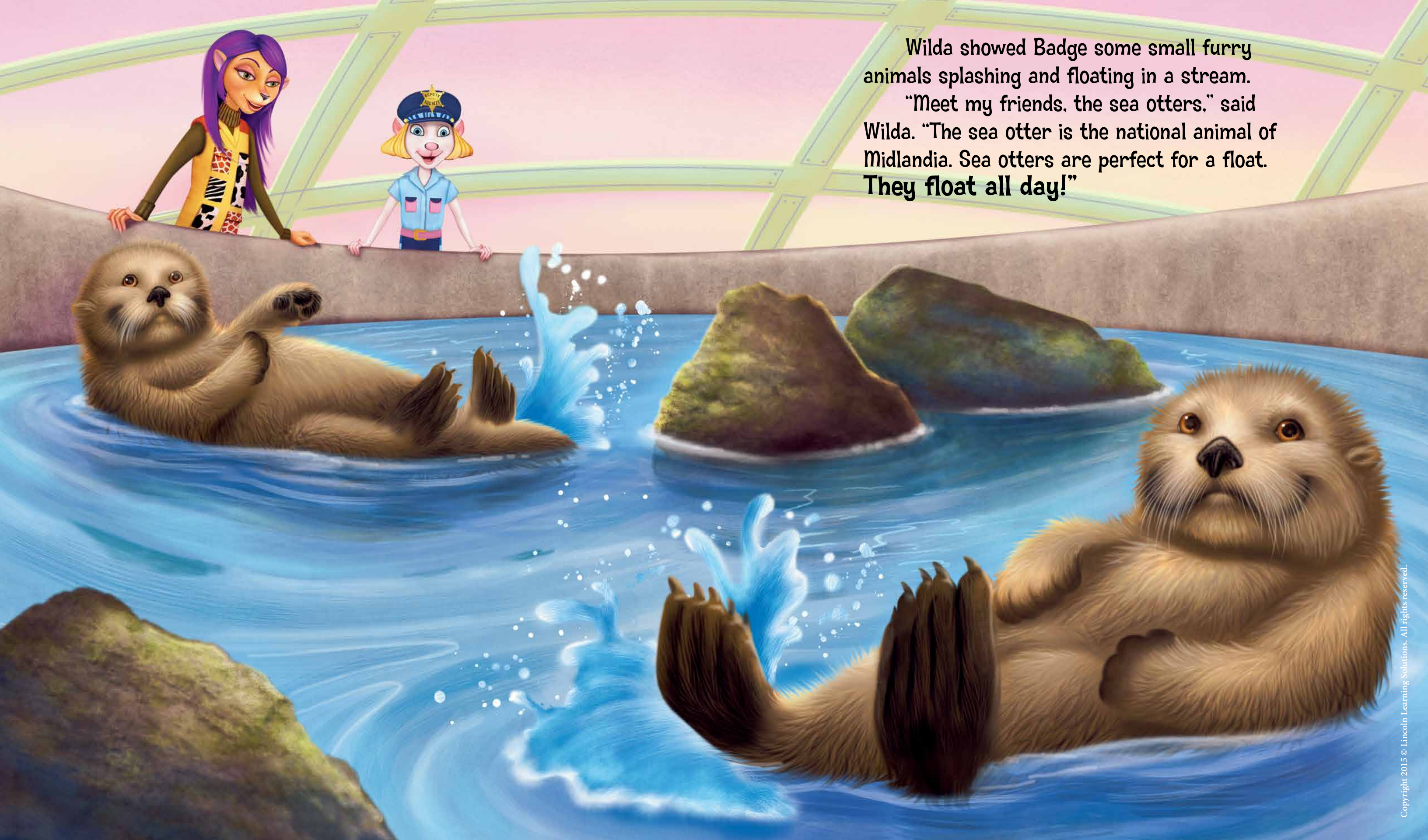
Badge thought about the flag and the anthem as she walked on. "They're both very important," she said to herself. "But they're already going to be in the parade. I need something different."

Next, Badge walked over to Animal Land. That was the zoo in Midlandia. She was very proud to have it in her town.

Wilda the zookeeper greeted Badge at the gates. "You need a float?" asked Wilda. **"Check this out!"**

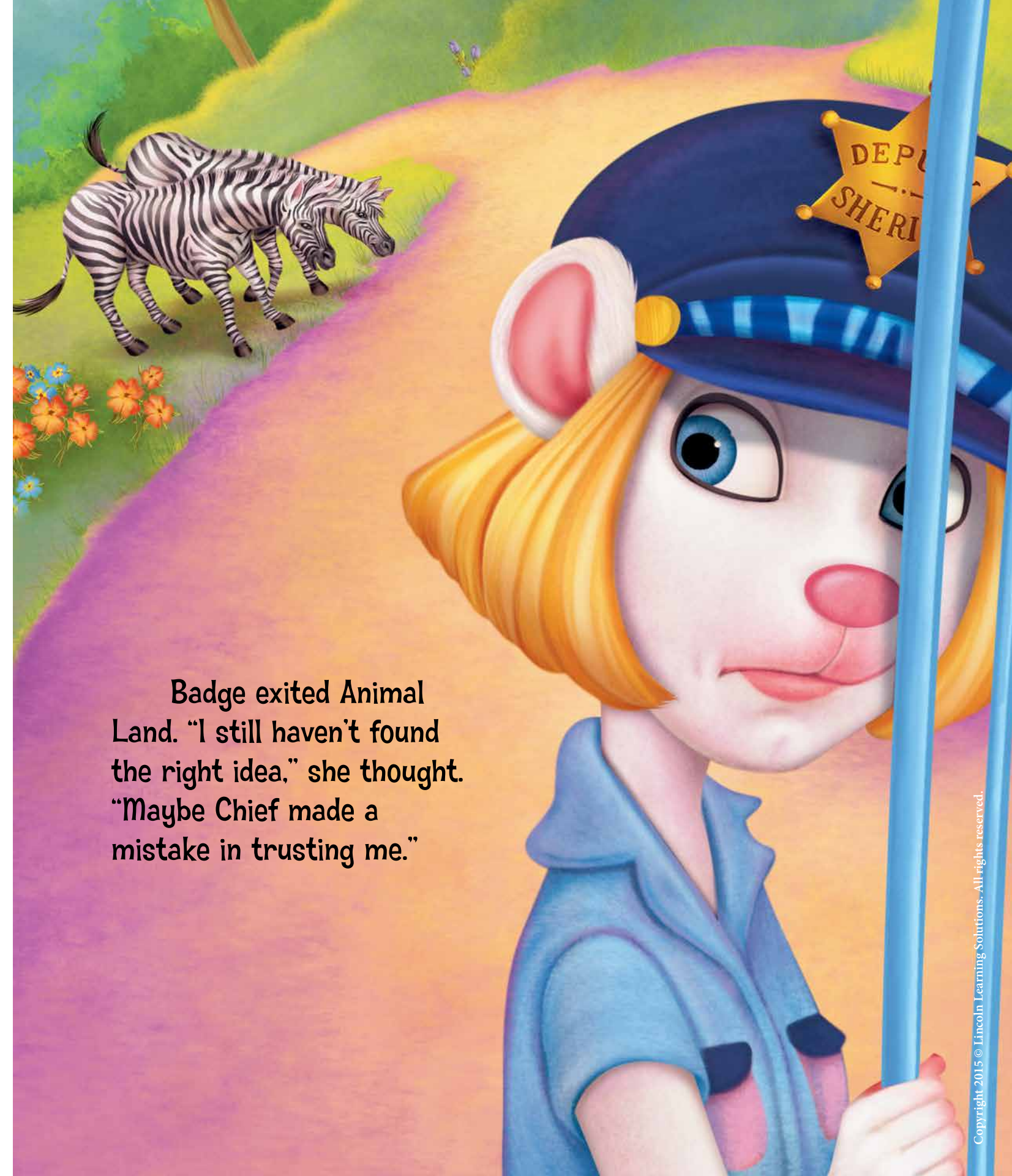


Wilda showed Badge some small furry animals splashing and floating in a stream.
“Meet my friends, the sea otters,” said Wilda. “The sea otter is the national animal of Midlandia. Sea otters are perfect for a float. **They float all day!**”





Badge helped Wilda feed the sea otters some fish. "They do like to float," Badge agreed. "But I don't know if they're right for my float."



Badge exited Animal Land. "I still haven't found the right idea," she thought. "Maybe Chief made a mistake in trusting me."

Badge wandered over the hills and ended up near Harvest Farms. Harvest the farmer was picking blueberries in his field. "Blueberries are our most popular food," thought Badge. "But how can I make a blueberry float?"

Badge saw that Harvest was not alone. Captain Koostoe was there, too. He took Harvest's blueberries to distant lands on his ship. But today, he was not shipping. **He was picking!**



“Thanks for helping me, Koostoe,” said Harvest. “You really did not have to offer. It’s not your job to pick blueberries.”

“Four hands are always better than two,” replied Koostoe. “Now we can finish early and share a glass of lemonade together.”

As she watched, Badge felt very proud of Koostoe. She loved how Midlandians always helped each other. **And then she realized...**



“I found my idea!” Badge told Vincent. She described the float she had in mind.

Vincent smiled. “That sounds wonderful!” he said. “I’ll round up a team and get to work. We’ll need Brick the builder, some bike wheels from Builda, flowers from Sensei’s garden...”

Badge, Vincent, and their friends
worked together on the float. By the
day before the parade, it was ready!



Badge showed the float to Chief Tatupu. "The blueberry bush stands for food, one of our basic needs," she explained. "The hands are working as a team to hold the bush up. They are like us Midlandians. We work together to provide basic needs for everyone."

Chief smiled. "This is perfect for our parade!" he said. "I knew you would come through."

"How did you know to pick me?" asked Badge.

"As a police officer, it is your job to protect Midlandia," answered Chief. "I thought that you would know best why Midlandia is worth protecting."

Badge blushed.

"I just have one more favor to ask of you," said Chief. "Would you ride on this float with me tomorrow?"

Badge turned an even deeper red.



The next day was parade day. Sew's flag flapped in the wind. Harmony's band marched and played.

Chief and Badge followed in the back. They waved to the crowd. And as she stood on the float that so many friends helped to make, Badge felt **proud to be a Midlandian.**



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Can you think of any symbols for your country?
What does your country's flag look like?

A tradition is something that a group of people does year after year.
The parade in Midlandia is a tradition.
Does your family celebrate any traditions?



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