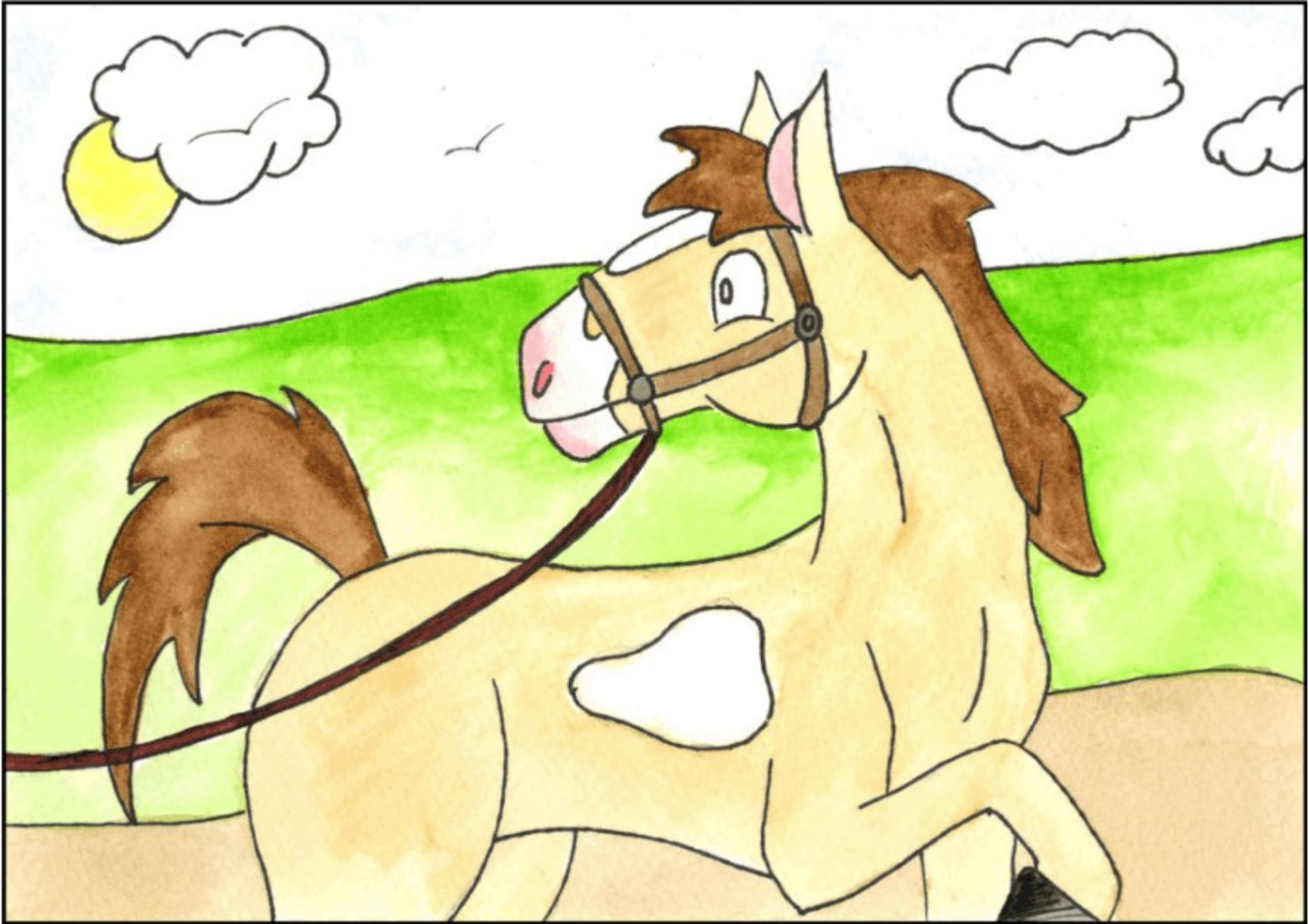
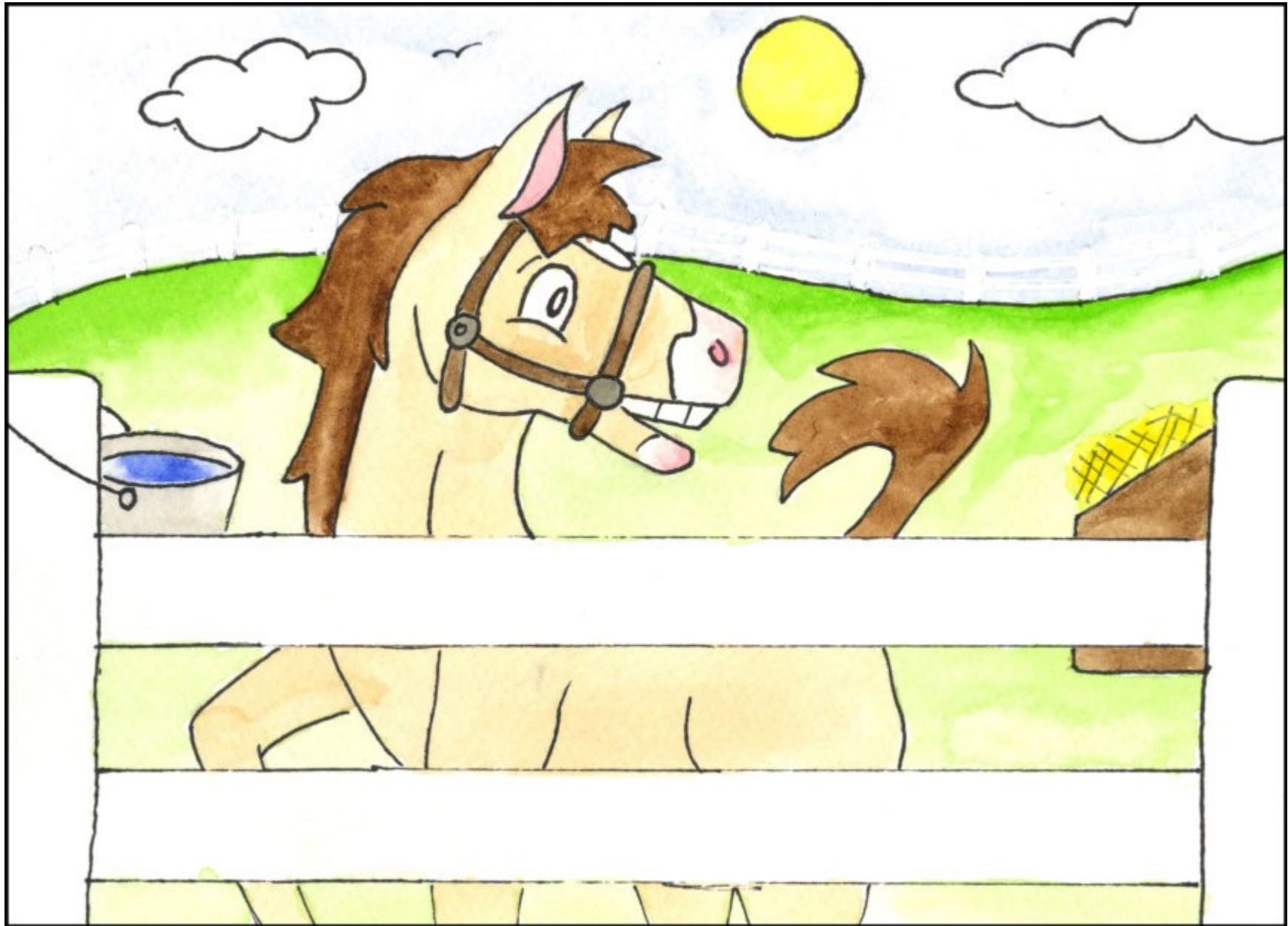


Forgetful Pedro

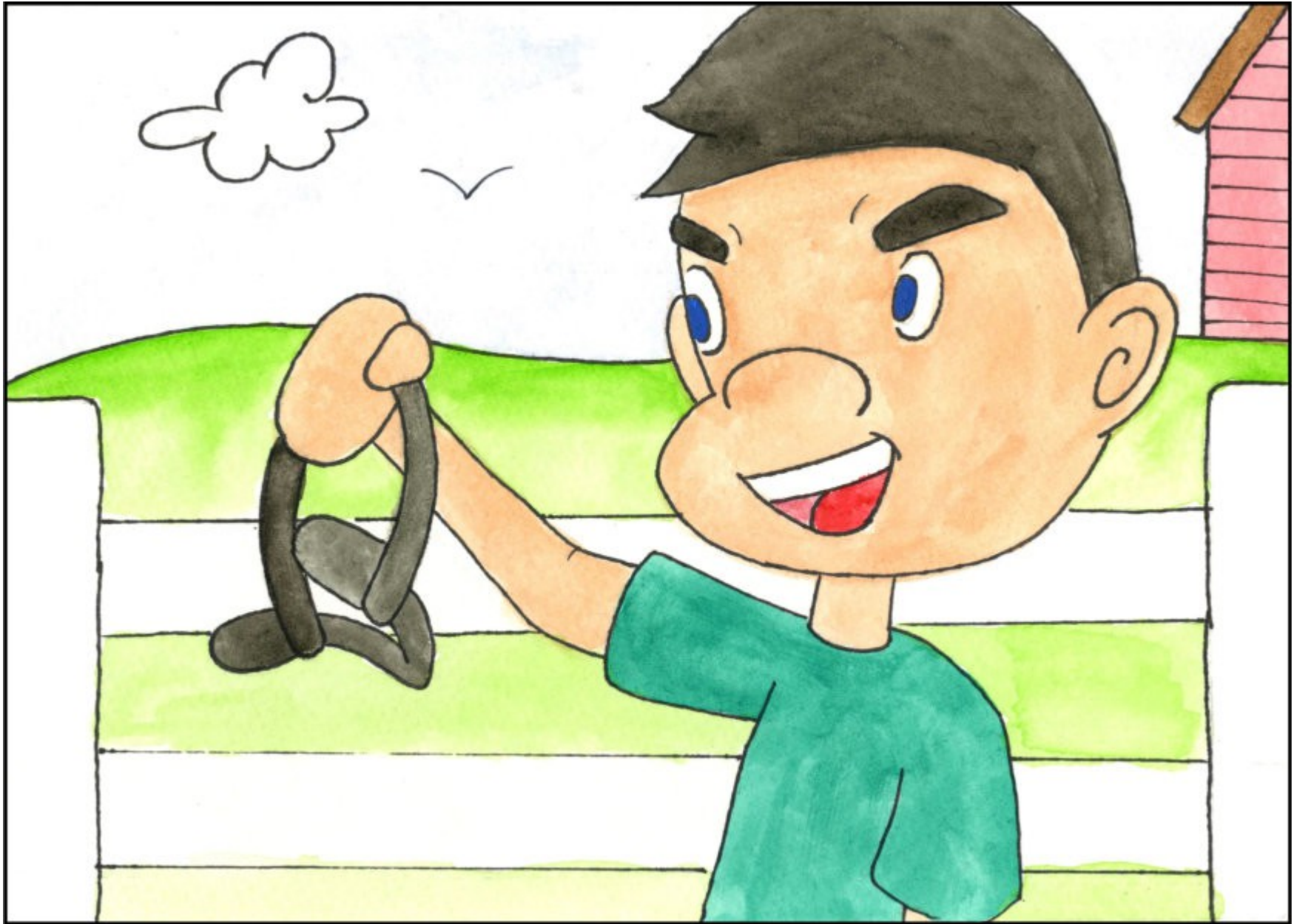
Written by Len Schuler
Illustrations by Jared Wehmeyer



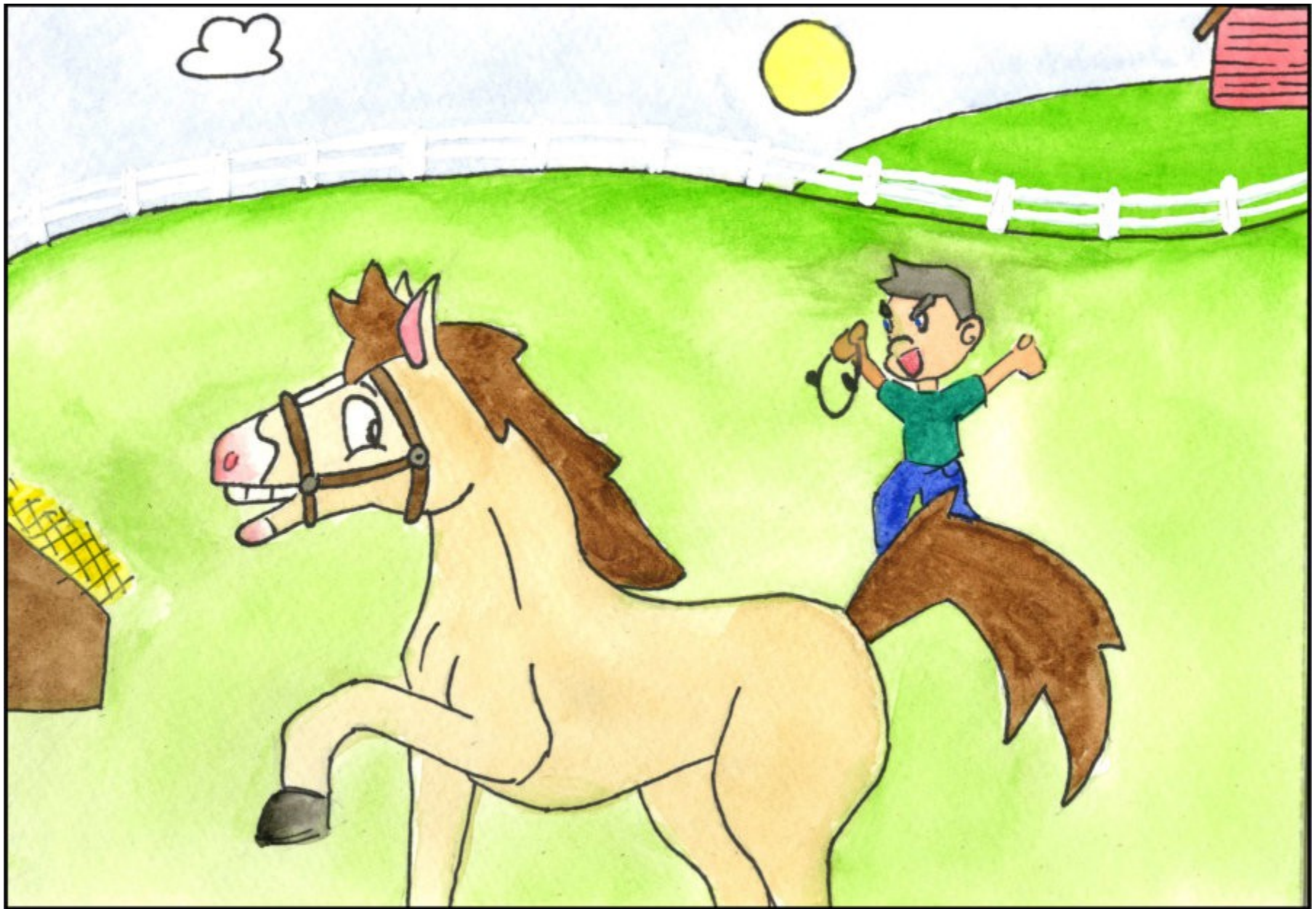


In the back country of the Carolinas, there lived a horse named Pedro, and his dear friend who he knew as Master Andrew. Pedro was a young horse, who had a very laid back life. He liked to nap, play, eat every chance he got. He talked to himself all the time. Most of all, he liked to sing a little tune to himself.

Today was just another lazy day for Pedro, when he heard Master Andrew. "Time to get up Pedro!" Master Andrew called. Pedro gave a big yawn, and got up and looked around. As he started to walk over to his favorite spot where he knew he would find a nice bale of hay, he sang his little tune. "Hay to the left, water to the right, just my favorite sight. Clippity-clop and here I go, hhheeeheee."

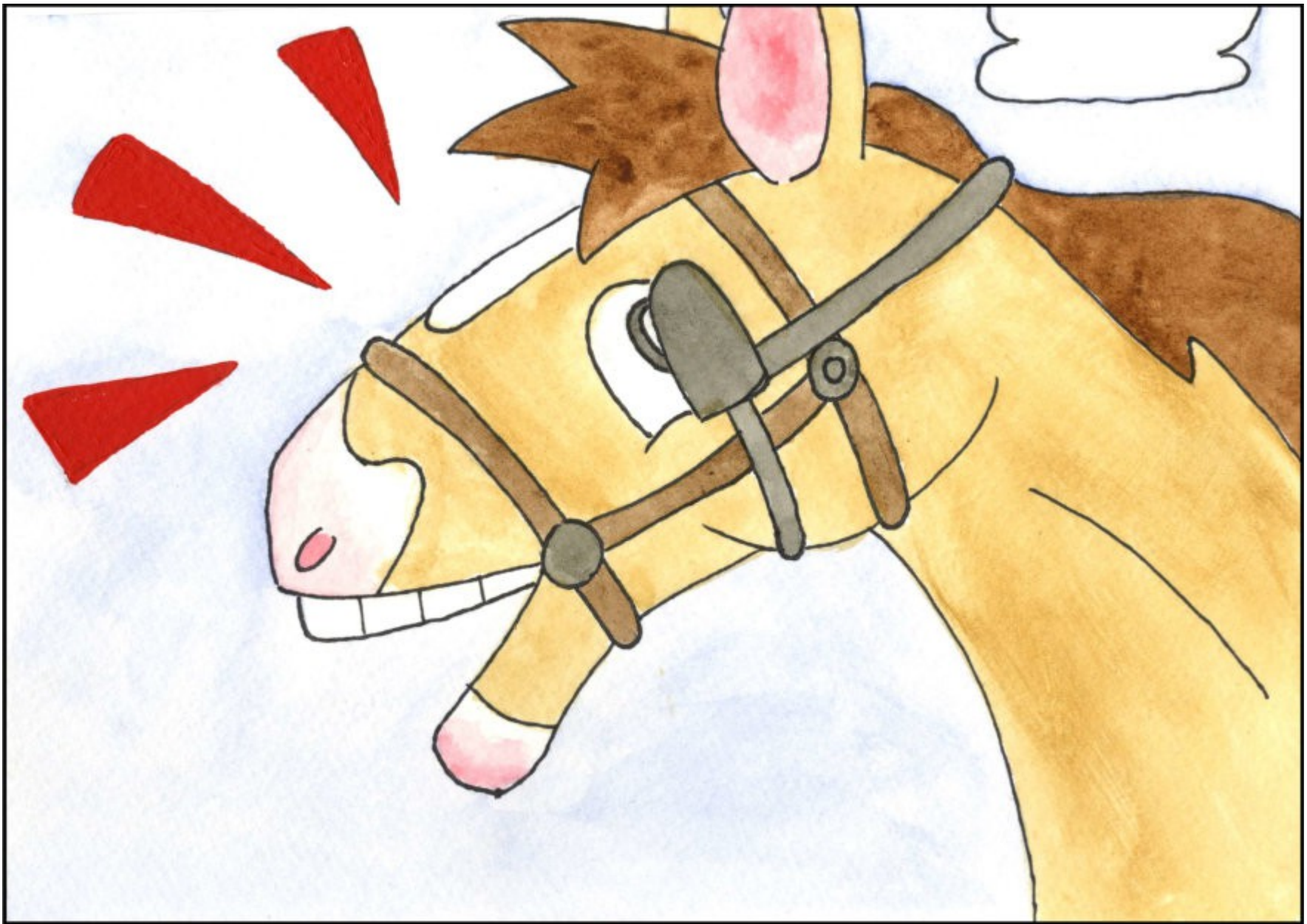


"Hold still Pedro," Andrew said. "After I brush you, I have a surprise for you. You'll get to wear your new blinders. We're going to the market on the other side of the mountain today. Your brother is getting too old to make the trip, so this time it will be just you and me buddy. You will need to be able to look straight ahead, no more being distracted by what goes on to your left or right. So you will wear these blinders whether you like it or not."



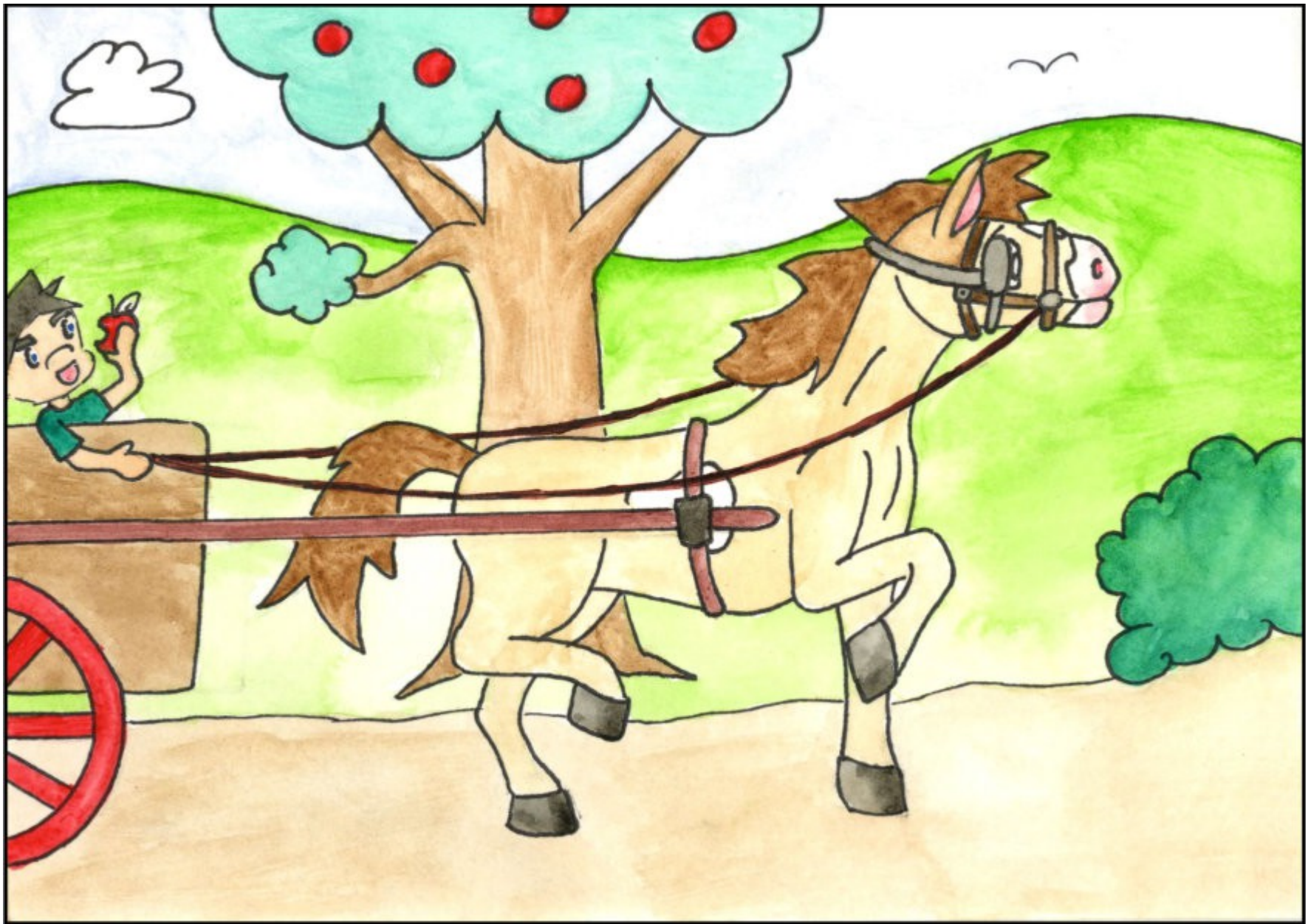
"But Master Andrew!" Pedro thought to himself. "What's wrong with enjoying your surroundings whenever we go for a ride? I like looking to the left, and looking to the right...hhmmmm, that's a nice rhythm." Again Pedro started to sing to himself, "I like looking to the left, and looking to the right, hey! is that my favorite sight?" Pedro saw the pile of hay and ran over to it, leaving Master Andrew talking to himself.

"Pedro! Food again!" shouted Andrew as he walked toward the horse. "You need to be brushed. Why can't you stay in one place for a while. I just told you we're going out."



Pedro just continued to chew as he sang his tune again to himself. "Hay to the left, water to the right, just my favorite sight. Clippity-clop and here I go. hhheeeeee." As Pedro was busy eating, Master Andrew slipped the blinders around the horse's eyes. "Hey, wait, I can't see!" Pedro shook his head, but the blinders were on tight.

"If you keep still, you'll be able to see. But now just straight ahead. Trust me, it will help you stay on the path. I know you have done it before, but you were slower than slow. And you were constantly distracted by squirrels and other things moving in the woods."



"Bummer," Pedro thought. "I like looking to my left and looking to my right. It's my favorite thing to do. In fact, it reminds me of a song." Pedro sang his little tune again to himself.

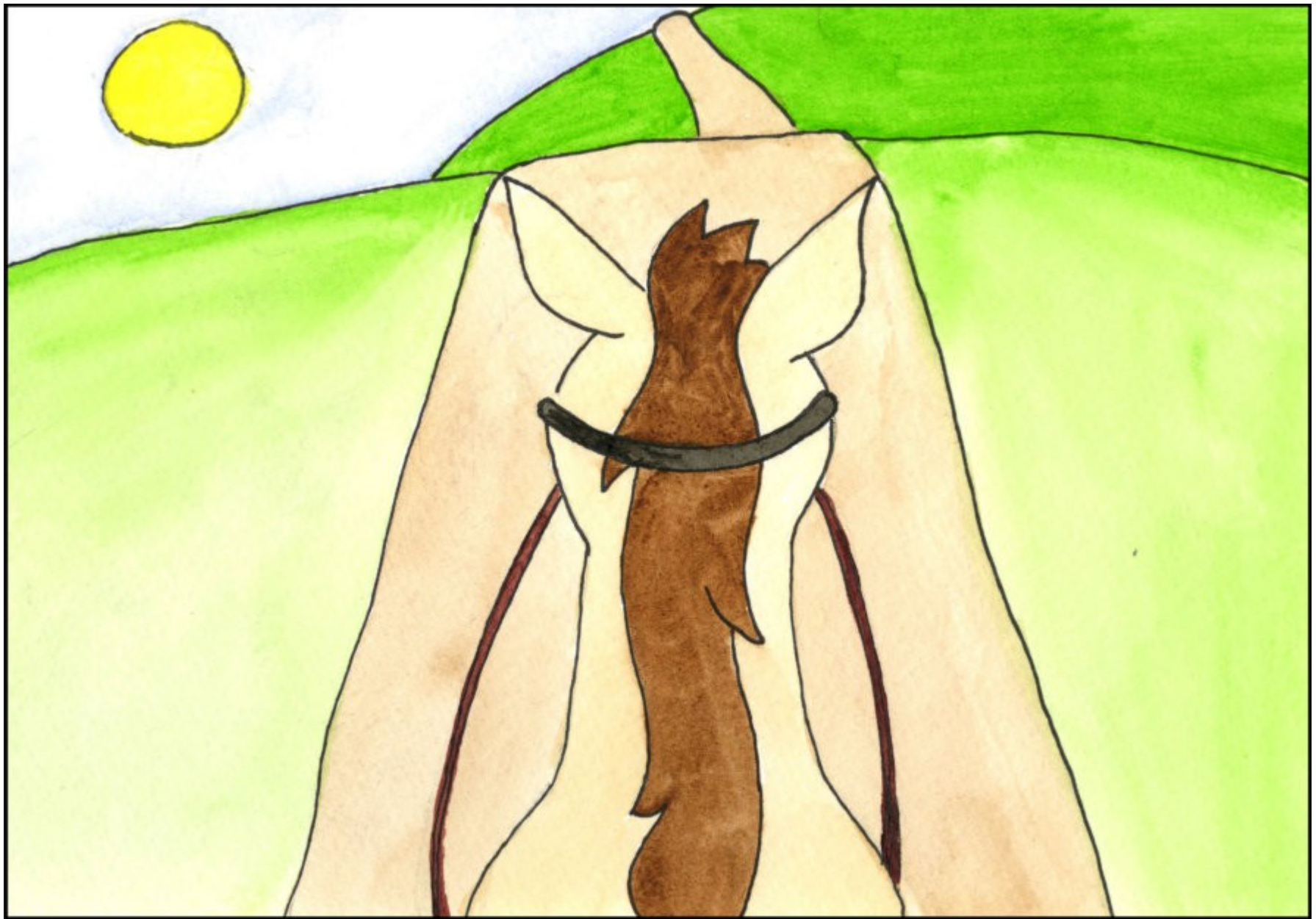
Finally, they were off on their journey. Andrew led Pedro down the path he had been on many times before with his older brother. But now, it was just him and Master Andrew. Pedro went straight ahead without being distracted, pulling the small wagon with Master Andrew inside. He sang his favorite tune as he trotted along. "What's on my left, what's on my right, these blinders are on much too tight. Clippity-clop and here we go. hhheeeheee."



Suddenly, in the middle of the path straight ahead was a huge rattlesnake. As Pedro got close, the snake coiled and began to shake his rattle.

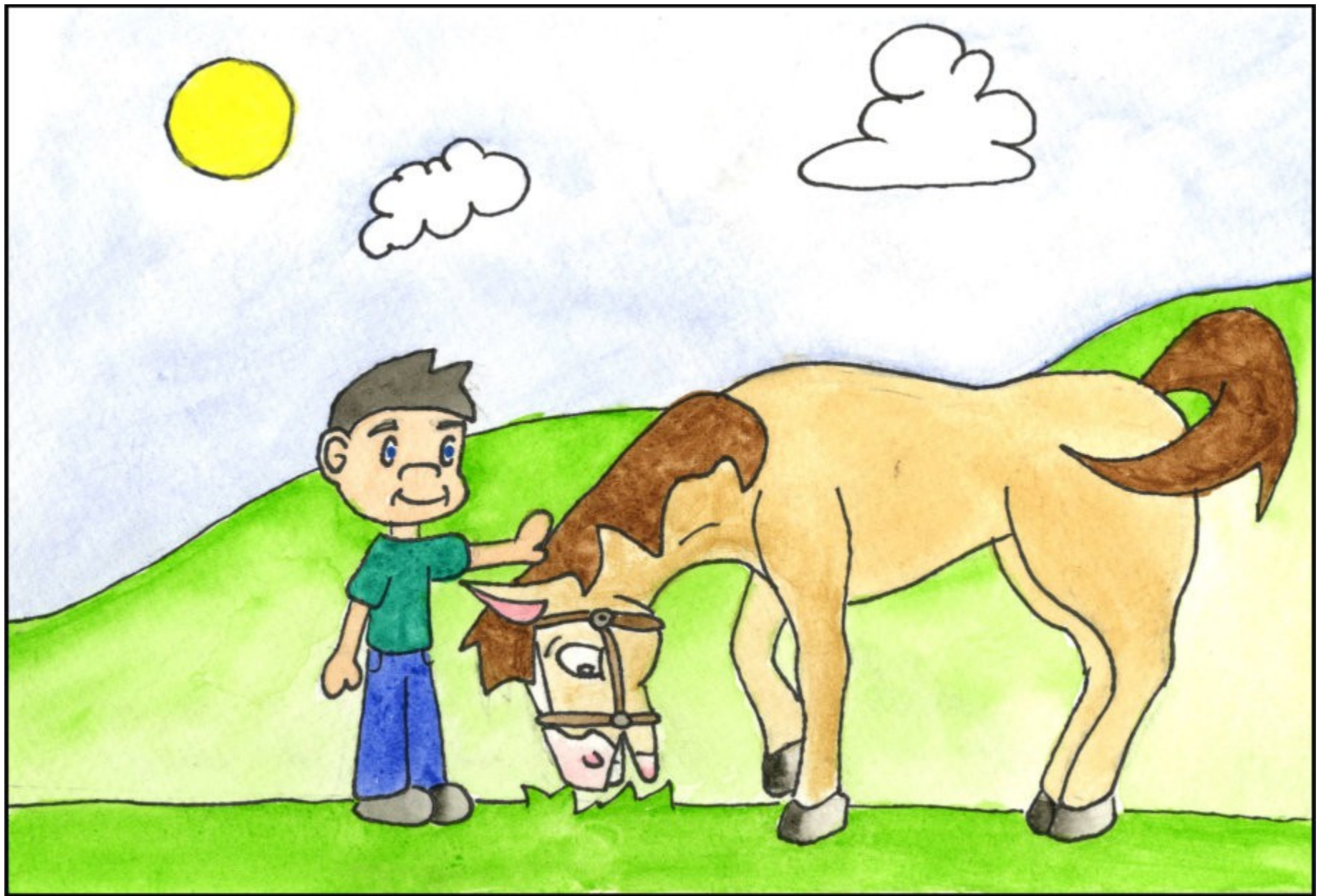
Master Andrew jumped up quickly to see what was happening, but he didn't see a big branch hanging down from a tree. Crack! It struck his head with a loud noise. Then Master Andrew fell down into the wagon, unconscious.

Pedro went to a full stop and stretched his neck as far as he could to look into the wagon. "Master Andrew!" He cried. "HHHHeeehhheeee!" And with the loud noise, the snake quickly slithered away.



"Oh no, he's hurt! What am I going to do?" Pedro asked himself. Then Pedro remembered his blinders. He knew he needed to look straight ahead. That's what they were for. Pedro thought to himself, "If I look straight ahead, I can get to the town where Master Andrew can get some help. No more distractions this time."

As Pedro trotted down the path, he started to sing a new tune. "Don't look to the left, Don't look to the right, always go straight and you will be alright." And so Pedro looked straight as he trotted to town, to save his best friend.



Like Pedro, it is important for us to keep our eyes straight ahead, on Jesus. It is not always easy. There are so many distractions all around.

The Apostle Peter once came to Jesus walking on the water, but when he took his eyes off of his Lord, and started to worry about the wind and the sea, he began to sink. But Jesus grabbed Peter and brought him to safety. When we stray, Jesus is also there to help us get back to where we need to be.