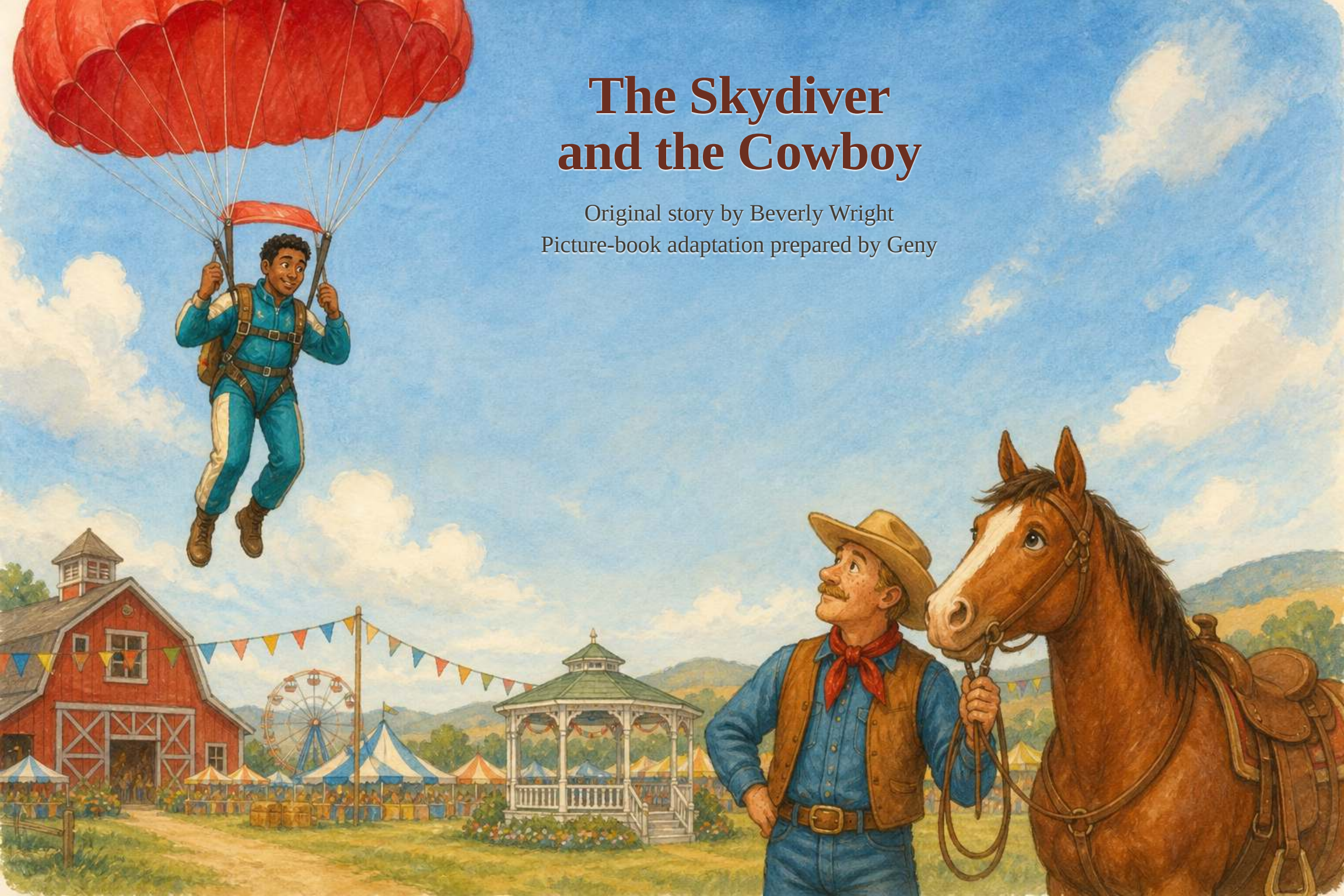
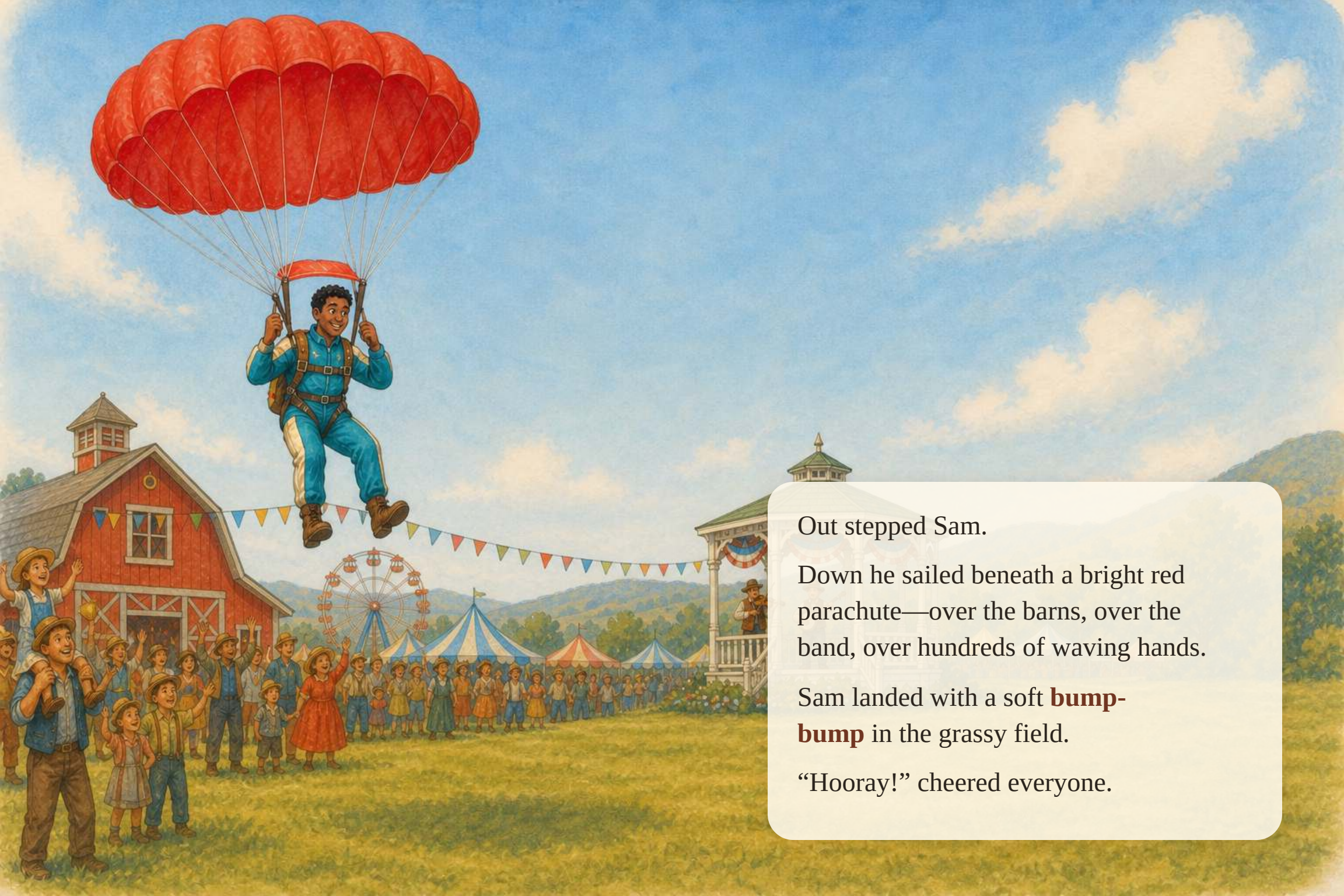

The Skydiver
and the Cowboy
Original story by Beverly Wright
Picture-book adaptation prepared by Geny

The whole town had come to the fair.

There were flags and fiddles, pies and ponies—
and one tiny airplane humming high in the blue.

“Here comes the skydiver!” cried the crowd.





Out stepped Sam.

Down he sailed beneath a bright red parachute—over the barns, over the band, over hundreds of waving hands.

Sam landed with a soft **bump-bump** in the grassy field.

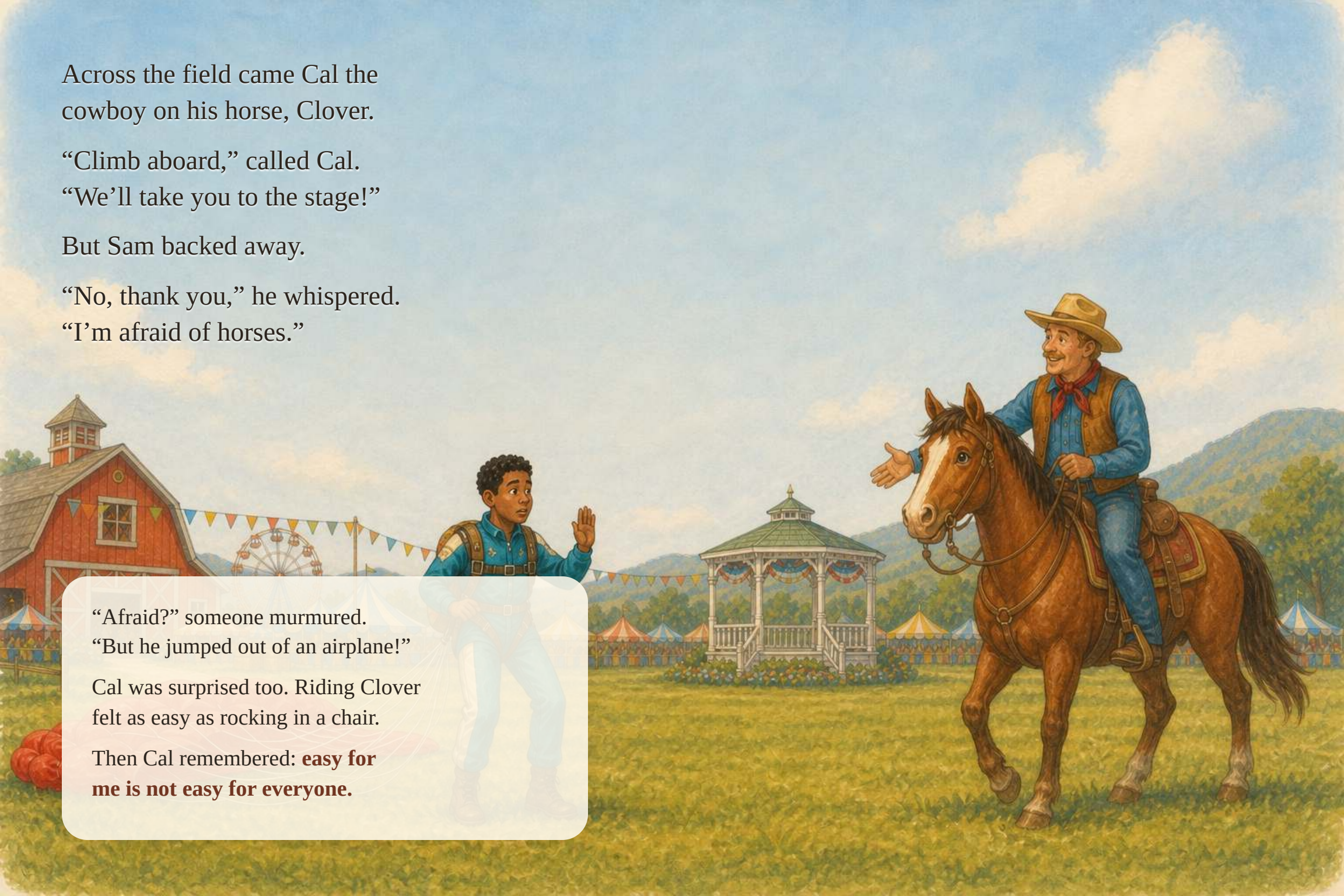
“Hooray!” cheered everyone.

Across the field came Cal the cowboy on his horse, Clover.

“Climb aboard,” called Cal. “We’ll take you to the stage!”

But Sam backed away.

“No, thank you,” he whispered. “I’m afraid of horses.”



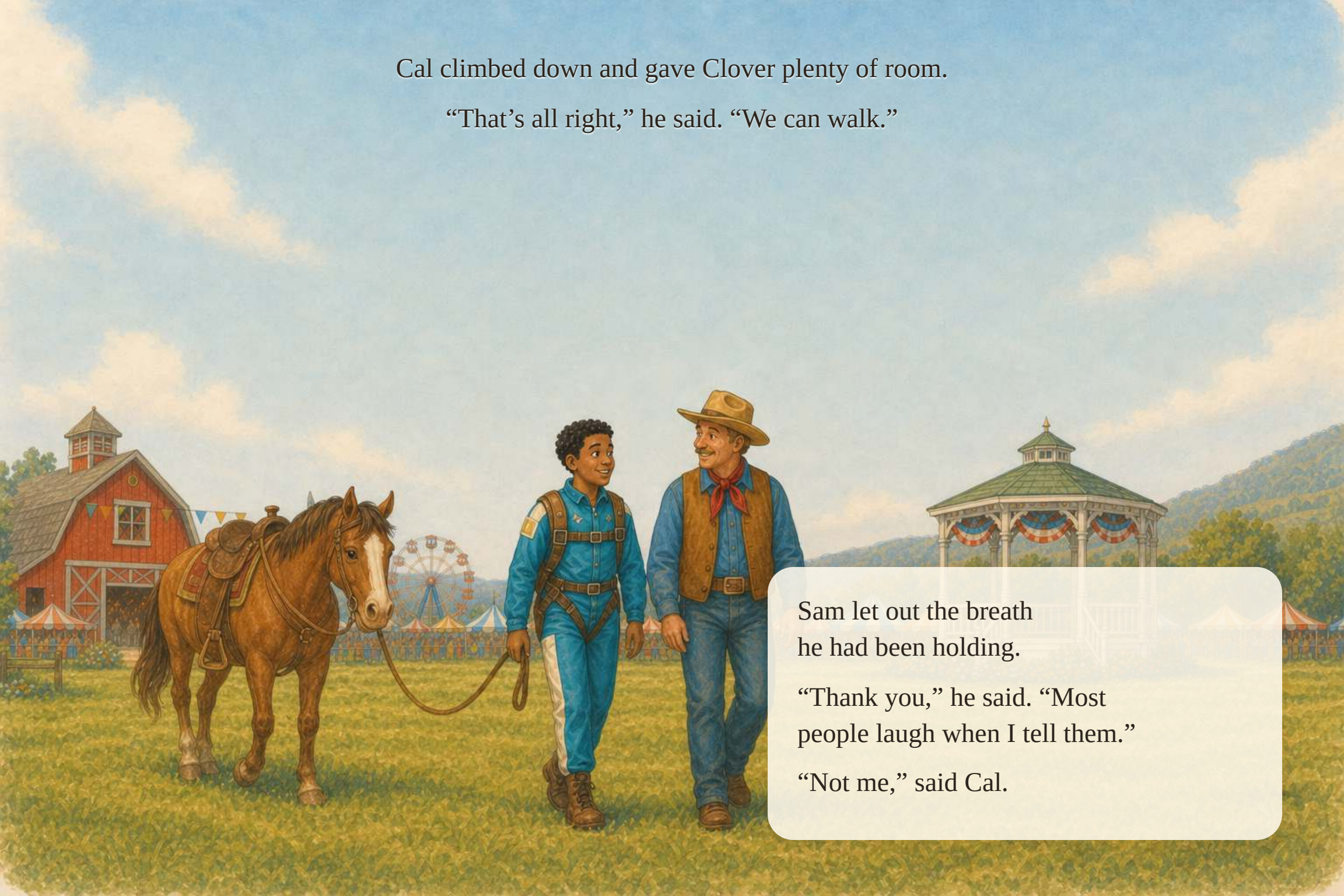
“Afraid?” someone murmured. “But he jumped out of an airplane!”

Cal was surprised too. Riding Clover felt as easy as rocking in a chair.

Then Cal remembered: **easy for me is not easy for everyone.**

Cal climbed down and gave Clover plenty of room.

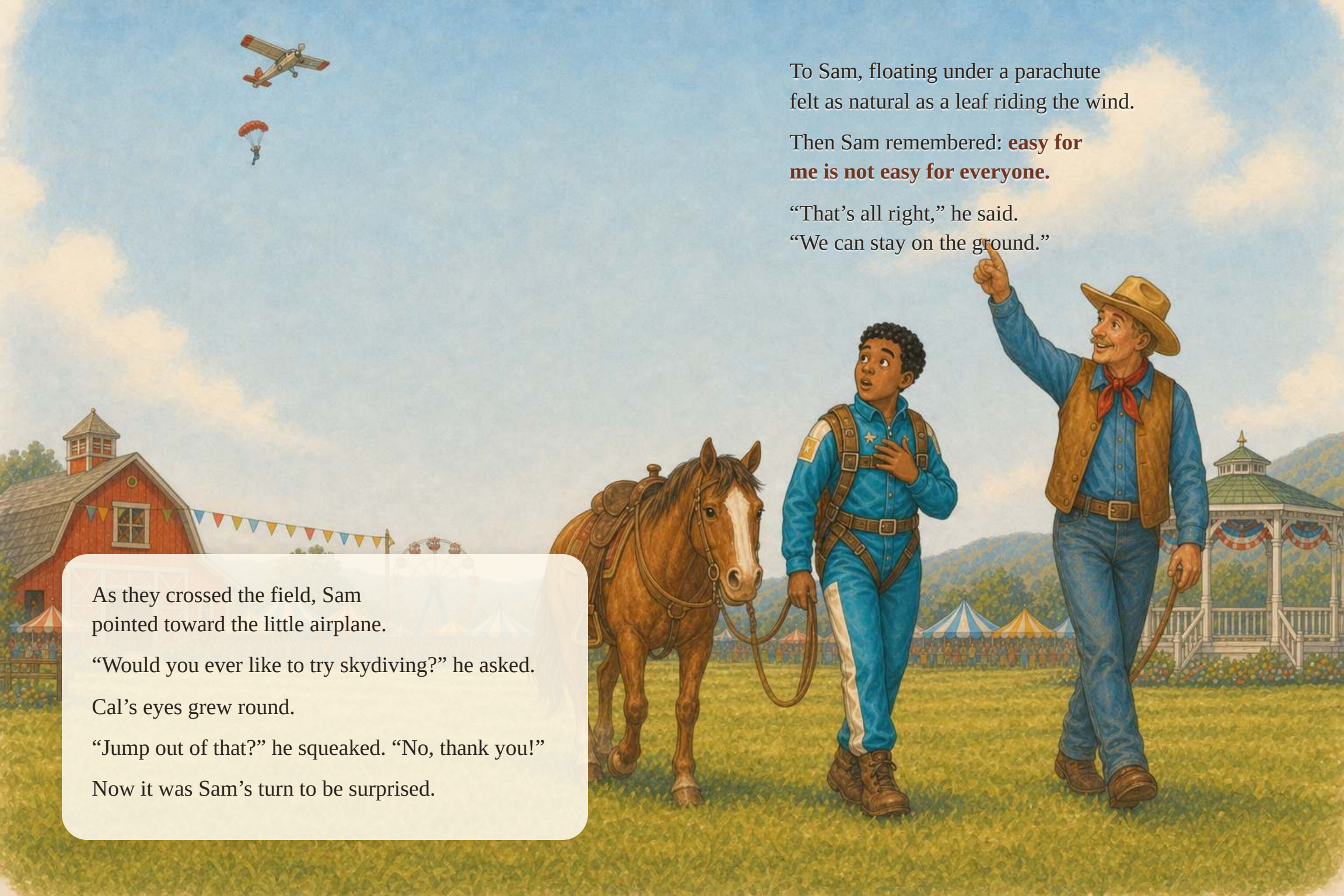
“That’s all right,” he said. “We can walk.”



Sam let out the breath
he had been holding.

“Thank you,” he said. “Most
people laugh when I tell them.”

“Not me,” said Cal.



As they crossed the field, Sam
pointed toward the little airplane.

“Would you ever like to try skydiving?” he asked.

Cal’s eyes grew round.

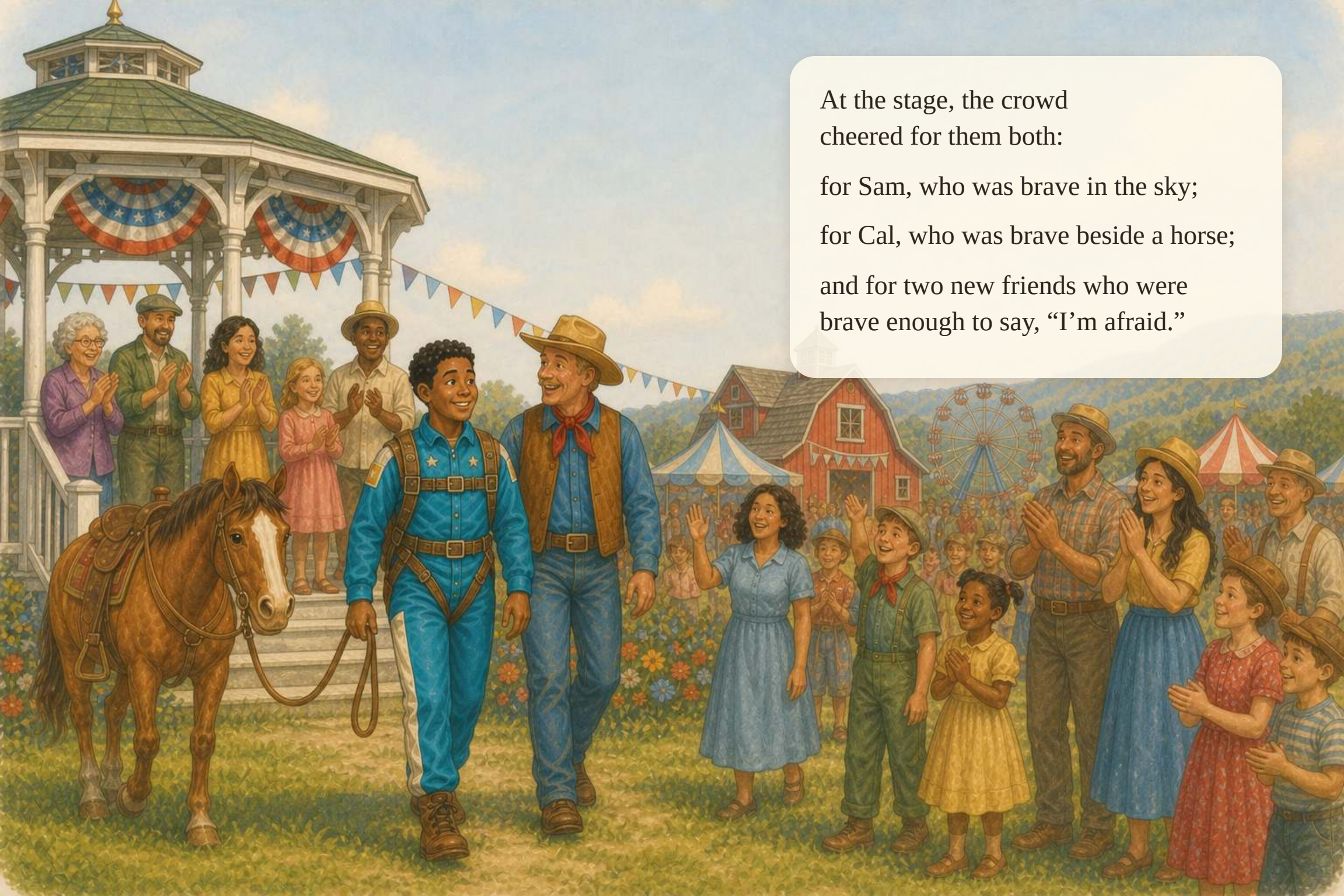
“Jump out of that?” he squeaked. “No, thank you!”

Now it was Sam’s turn to be surprised.

To Sam, floating under a parachute
felt as natural as a leaf riding the wind.

Then Sam remembered: **easy for
me is not easy for everyone.**

“That’s all right,” he said.
“We can stay on the ground.”

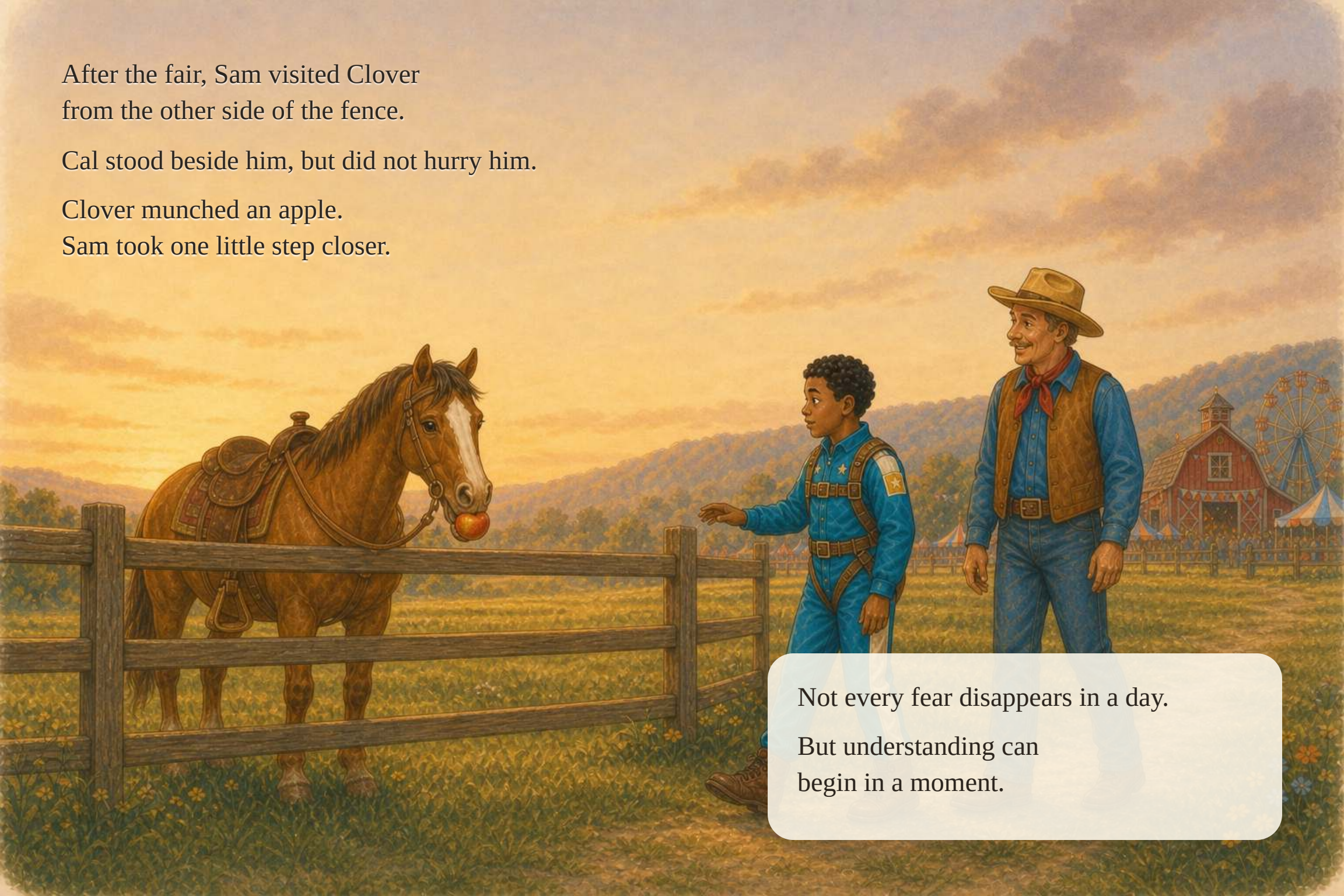


At the stage, the crowd
cheered for them both:

for Sam, who was brave in the sky;

for Cal, who was brave beside a horse;

and for two new friends who were
brave enough to say, “I’m afraid.”



After the fair, Sam visited Clover
from the other side of the fence.

Cal stood beside him, but did not hurry him.

Clover munched an apple.
Sam took one little step closer.

Not every fear disappears in a day.

But understanding can
begin in a moment.

Give Everyone Room

We never know the whole story behind someone else’s fear.

Before we laugh, judge, or guess, we can pause and give them room.

Easy for me is not easy for everyone—and that is all right.

Adapted from “The Skydiver and the Cowboy” by Beverly Wright.
This proof preserves the original piece’s central lesson while introducing named characters and dialogue for young readers.
Source: BeverlyWright.me · Prepared August 30, 2026