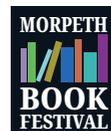


The Seed Who Wanted To Sprout

written by
Fiona Powell

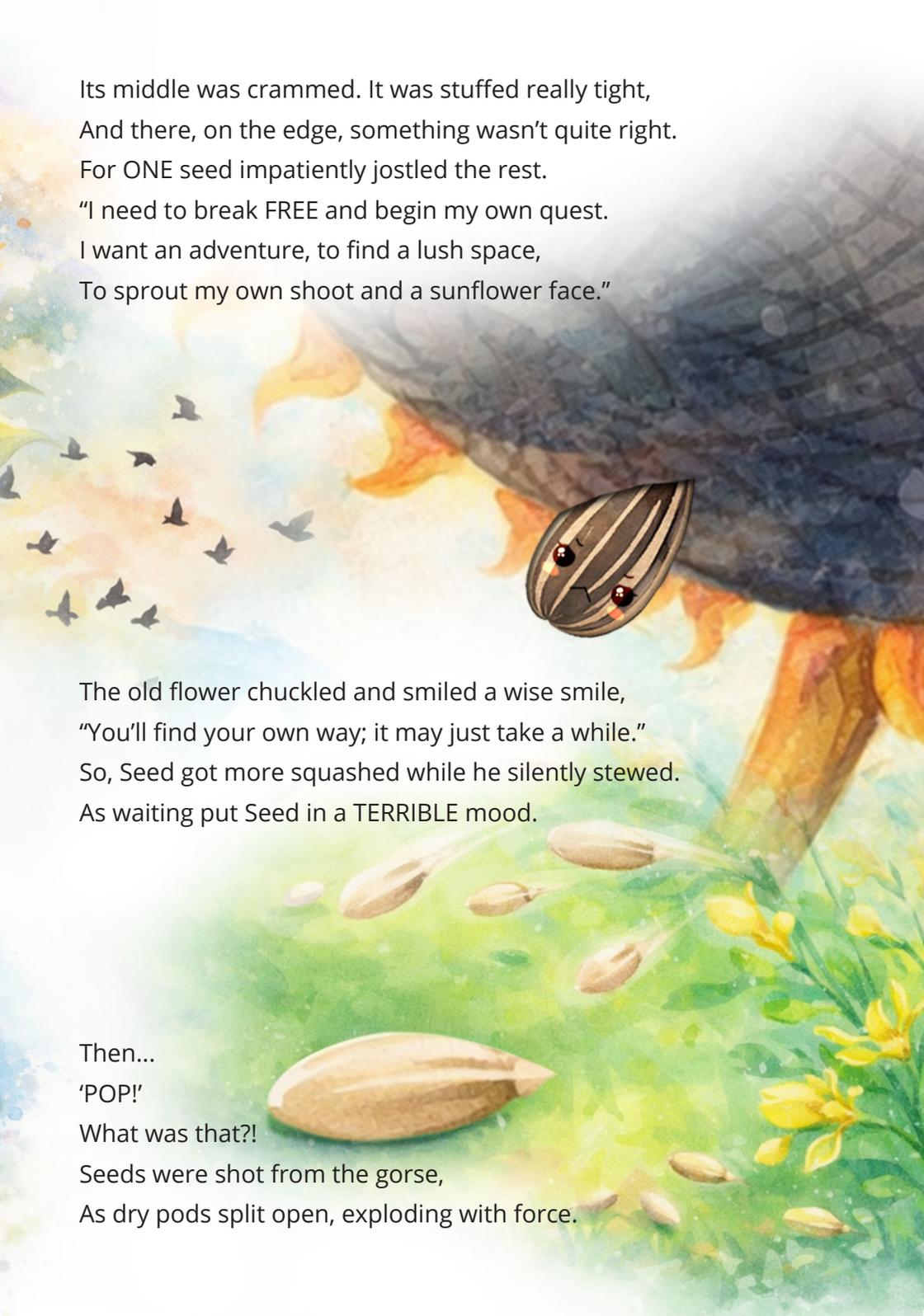




The garden was peaceful as dawn gently broke.
The chicks started cheeping. The plants slowly woke.
As bright beams of sun began warming the ground,
A sunflower opened its petals and...

...frowned.





Its middle was crammed. It was stuffed really tight,
And there, on the edge, something wasn't quite right.
For ONE seed impatiently jostled the rest.
"I need to break FREE and begin my own quest.
I want an adventure, to find a lush space,
To sprout my own shoot and a sunflower face."

The old flower chuckled and smiled a wise smile,
"You'll find your own way; it may just take a while."
So, Seed got more squashed while he silently stewed.
As waiting put Seed in a TERRIBLE mood.

Then...
'POP!'
What was that?!
Seeds were shot from the gorse,
As dry pods split open, exploding with force.

"To burst looks a BLAST," muttered Seed feeling miffed.
"But / don't have pods that can shoot me adrift."

He STRAINED to unstick and then...

OH!

Down he tumbled.

But, "This is no good, there's no SUN!" poor Seed grumbled.

Then...

"WHEEE!"

came a squeal, as some clock seeds flew by,
Their parachutes helping them sail through the sky.

"To fly looks such FUN," snivelled Seed in a huff.

"But / don't have wings or that feathery fluff."

Biff, BOFF!

Seed was kicked and he spiralled in shock.

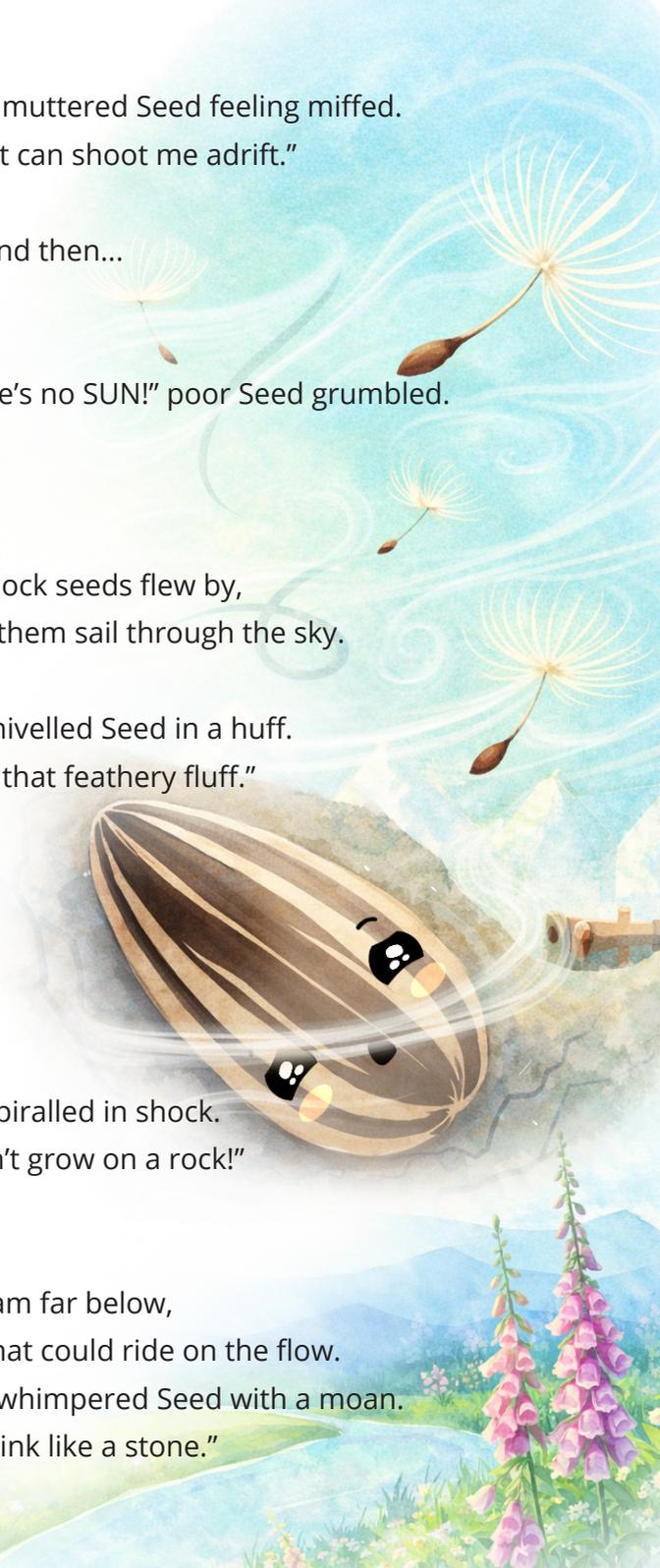
But, "This is no good, I can't grow on a rock!"

"AHOY!"

came a cry, from the stream far below,
As foxglove freed seeds that could ride on the flow.

"To drift looks a DREAM," whimpered Seed with a moan.

"But / cannot float, so I'd sink like a stone."



Impatience began slowly turning to doubt,
As sad Seed gave up on ambitions to sprout.

"It's really not fair.

I'm a SEED!

I should GROW!

Hey CROW. Go away.

Go AWAY, crow.

Oh no!"



The bird was delighted to find something scrummy,
And flew far and wide with the seed in her tummy.
She soared and she swooped before looping the loop,
Then, lifting her tail, she took aim for a...

...poop!

Poor Seed was REVOLTED:

"I'm NOT a bird's snack.

And now look what's happened!

My coat's got a crack!"



"But, wait! What is this? It's a small hairy root!

And sprouting above is a tiny green shoot.



I've done it!" laughed Seed, as he let out a cheer.
"No need to give up!
I can germinate HERE!"

A new stem grew up from the bird-splattered mud,
Adorned at the top with a circular bud.



The garden was peaceful as dawn gently broke.
The chicks started cheeping. The plants slowly woke.
A sunflower seed who had once dared to dream,
Unfurled his gold petals and smiled a great beam,
At dandelion clocks, purple foxgloves and gorse,
That bloomed far and wide having steered their own course.

The flowers shone bright. "We've completed our quest!"
But then they heard shouting:
"To RIDE looks the BEST!"

The sunflower chuckled and smiled a wise smile,
"You'll find your own way; it may just take a while.
And even when things feel beyond your control,
One way or another, you can reach your goal."

The End





About the Project

Based in Morpeth, Maximize Education provides individual private tuition and alternative education provision for disengaged students. We are delighted to support initiatives that open doors, spark imagination, and make reading a joyful part of everyday life.

As part of the National Year of Reading 2026, an invitation for everyone to go all in and rediscover the joy of books, Maximize Education has launched a region-wide initiative to help children across the North East build a lifelong love of reading.

Throughout Morpeth and the surrounding area, specially placed donation boxes have been collecting pre-loved children's books generously gifted by local families. These books are then passed on to community charities who ensure they reach children who need them most, giving every young person the chance to explore new stories, ideas, and worlds.

To celebrate creativity, we also invited writers to take part in a special writing competition. The winning entry is proudly featured in this leaflet.

About the Author



Fiona Powell works in infectious disease research and has always had a love of storytelling. She began writing children's stories in 2022, when she first penned *The Seed*, a tale that has since grown and evolved through several drafts. Fiona is delighted to see her work reach young readers and is thrilled that the story will now find its way into children's hands. Reflecting on the experience, she says, "It's lovely that the story will be in the hands of children and I'm grateful to Maximize Education for making that happen!"



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