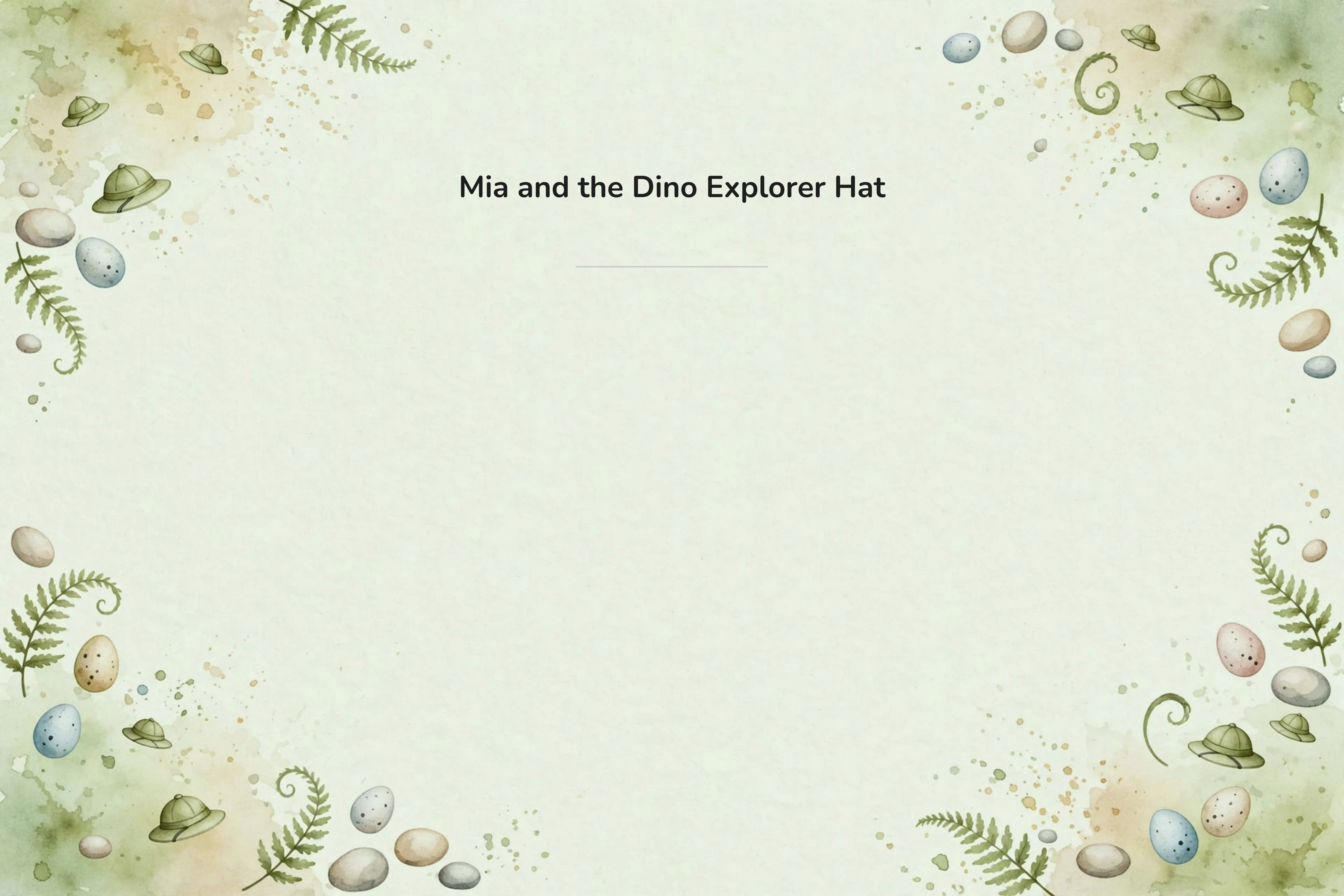
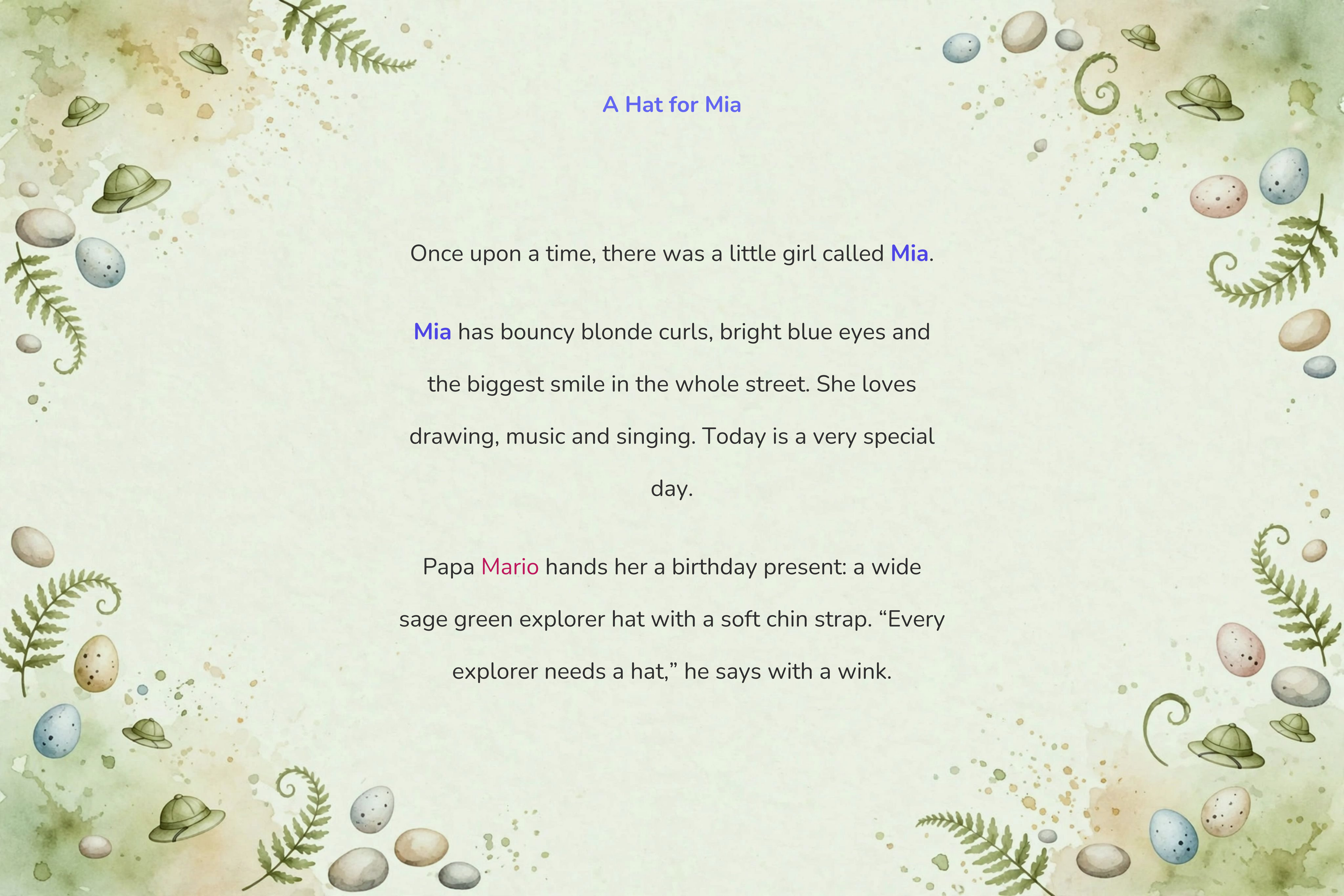


Mia and the Dino Explorer Hat



Mia and the Dino Explorer Hat



A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring several sage green explorer hats with chin straps, speckled eggs in shades of blue, brown, and pink, and green fern fronds. The background has a light, textured appearance with some watercolor-style splatters.

A Hat for Mia

Once upon a time, there was a little girl called Mia.

Mia has bouncy blonde curls, bright blue eyes and the biggest smile in the whole street. She loves drawing, music and singing. Today is a very special day.

Papa Mario hands her a birthday present: a wide sage green explorer hat with a soft chin strap. “Every explorer needs a hat,” he says with a wink.

The page is framed by a decorative border of watercolor illustrations. It includes several green explorer hats with brown straps, speckled eggs in shades of blue, brown, and pink, and green fern fronds. The background has a light, textured appearance with some brown and green splatters.

Music in the Garden

The afternoon sun is warm in the back garden. Mia sings a happy song, and Matthias bangs a beat on an upside-down bucket.

Boom, boom, la-la-la! ChapoNico wags his tail in time, and Papa Mario claps along from the garden bench.

Mia's new explorer hat hangs down her back on its soft strap.

She reaches behind her and strokes the brim.

"Where shall we explore?" asks Matthias.

Mia looks at the big green lawn. She thinks of giant footprints and long, long necks.

"Dinosaurs!" she shouts. ChapoNico barks once.

Papa Mario laughs. "Then off we go, explorers!"



The page is framed by a decorative border in the corners. Each corner features a cluster of green fern fronds, several speckled eggs in shades of blue, brown, and pink, and a few small green hats. The background has a light, textured appearance with some faint green and brown splatters.

Into the Valley

Mia taps the brim of her hat, once, twice.

Swish! The grass grows taller and taller. The garden fence turns into tall trees. The lawn opens into a warm green valley, full of giant ferns as big as umbrellas.

Far away, round hills puff little clouds of smoke, like sleepy teapots.

Matthias holds Papa Mario's hand very tightly. ChapoNico sniffs the warm air, his nose twitching.

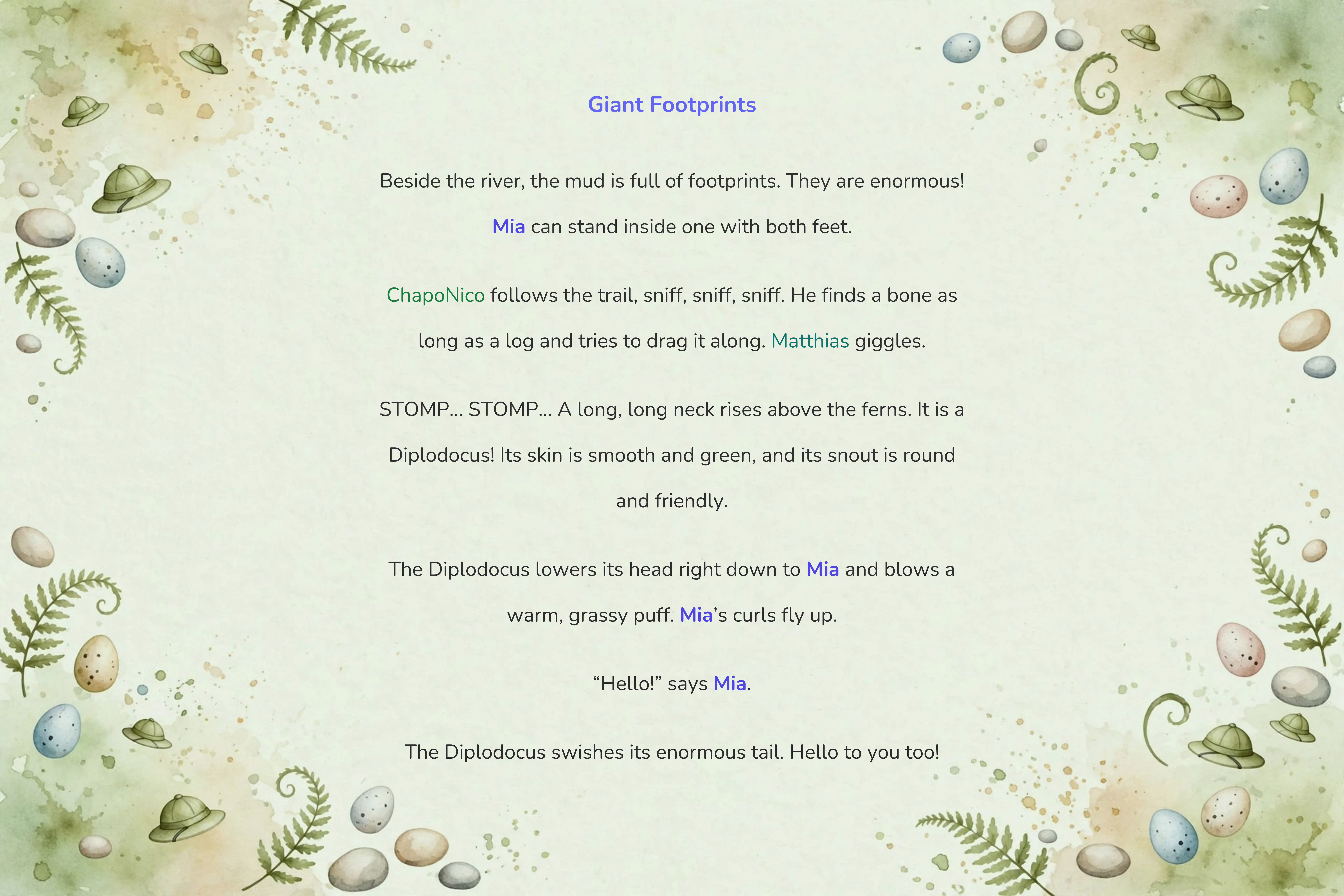
"Where are we?" whispers Matthias. Mia smiles her biggest smile. "In the dinosaur valley!" she says.

Somewhere among the ferns, something goes STOMP...

STOMP...

STOMP.



The page is framed by a decorative border of pith helmets, speckled eggs, and fern fronds. The background has a light, textured appearance with some green and brown watercolor-style splatters.

Giant Footprints

Beside the river, the mud is full of footprints. They are enormous!

Mia can stand inside one with both feet.

ChapoNico follows the trail, sniff, sniff, sniff. He finds a bone as long as a log and tries to drag it along. **Matthias** giggles.

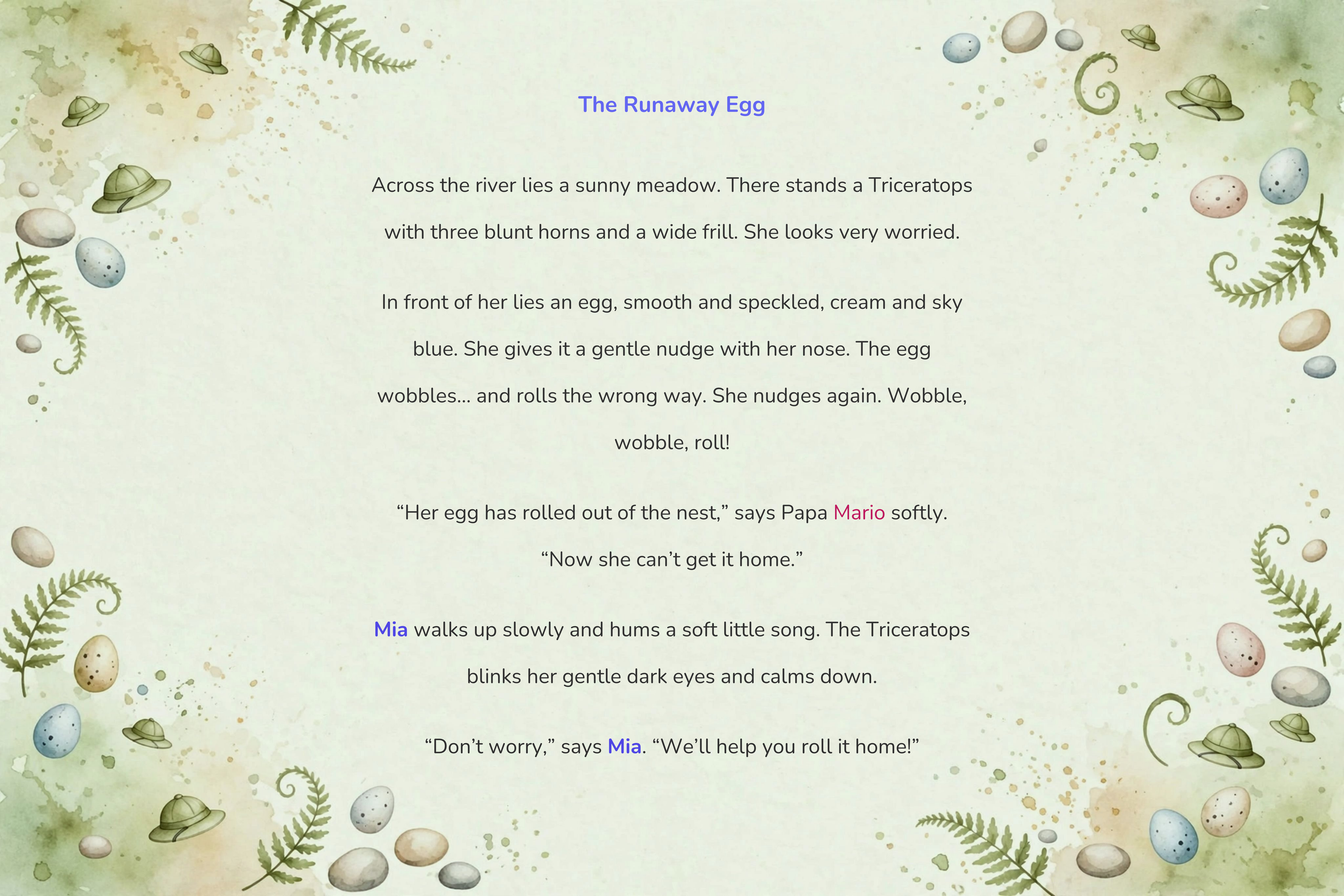
STOMP... STOMP... A long, long neck rises above the ferns. It is a Diplodocus! Its skin is smooth and green, and its snout is round and friendly.

The Diplodocus lowers its head right down to **Mia** and blows a warm, grassy puff. **Mia**'s curls fly up.

"Hello!" says **Mia**.

The Diplodocus swishes its enormous tail. Hello to you too!



The page is framed by a decorative border of watercolor-style illustrations. It includes several speckled eggs in shades of blue, brown, and pink, along with green fern leaves and small green hats. The background has a light, textured appearance with some brown and green splatters.

The Runaway Egg

Across the river lies a sunny meadow. There stands a Triceratops with three blunt horns and a wide frill. She looks very worried.

In front of her lies an egg, smooth and speckled, cream and sky blue. She gives it a gentle nudge with her nose. The egg wobbles... and rolls the wrong way. She nudges again. Wobble, wobble, roll!

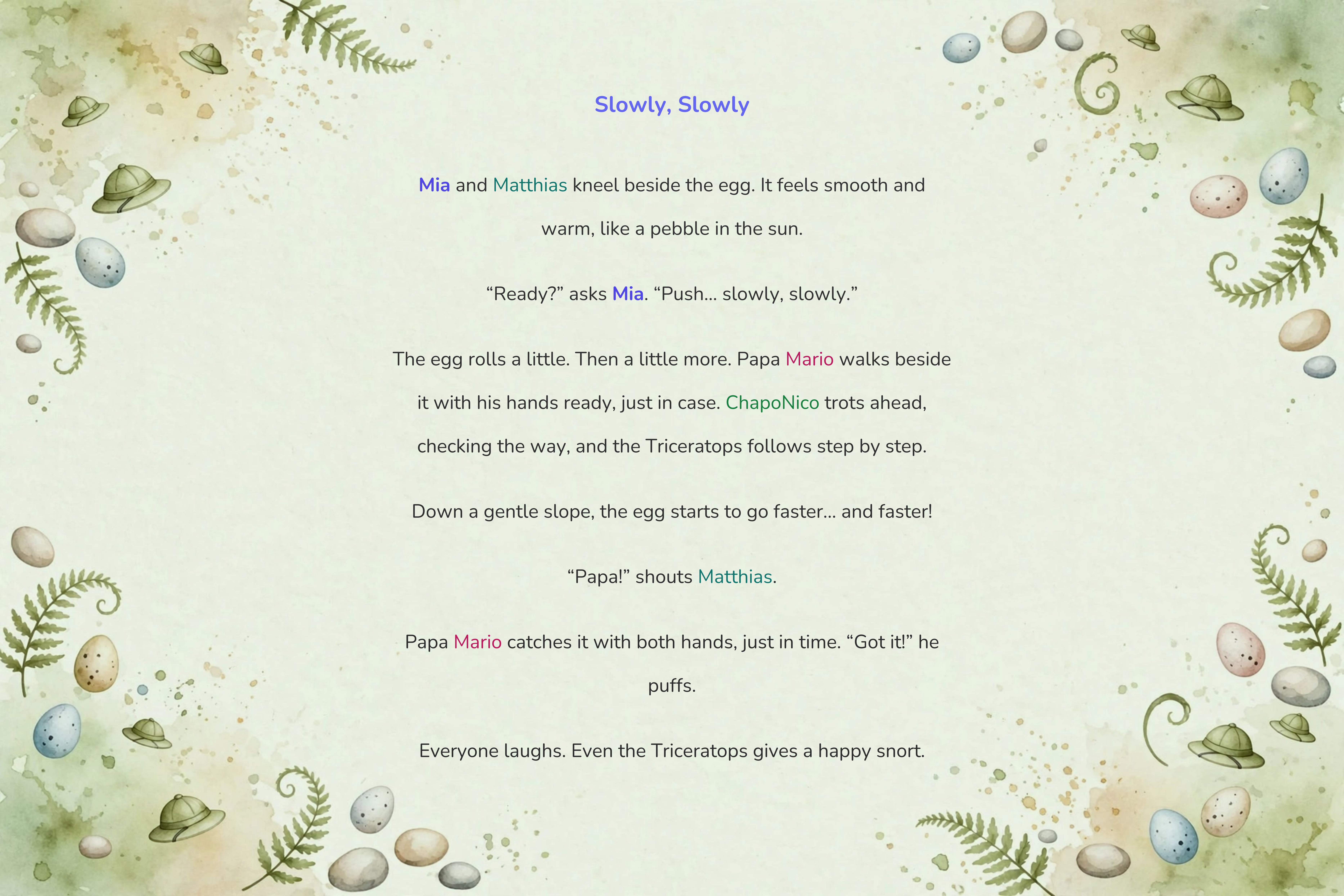
“Her egg has rolled out of the nest,” says Papa **Mario** softly.

“Now she can’t get it home.”

Mia walks up slowly and hums a soft little song. The Triceratops blinks her gentle dark eyes and calms down.

“Don’t worry,” says **Mia**. “We’ll help you roll it home!”



The page is framed by a decorative border of watercolor illustrations. It includes several speckled eggs in shades of blue, brown, and pink, along with green fern fronds and small green hats. The background has a light, textured appearance with some brown and green splatters.

Slowly, Slowly

Mia and Matthias kneel beside the egg. It feels smooth and warm, like a pebble in the sun.

“Ready?” asks Mia. “Push... slowly, slowly.”

The egg rolls a little. Then a little more. Papa Mario walks beside it with his hands ready, just in case. ChapoNico trots ahead, checking the way, and the Triceratops follows step by step.

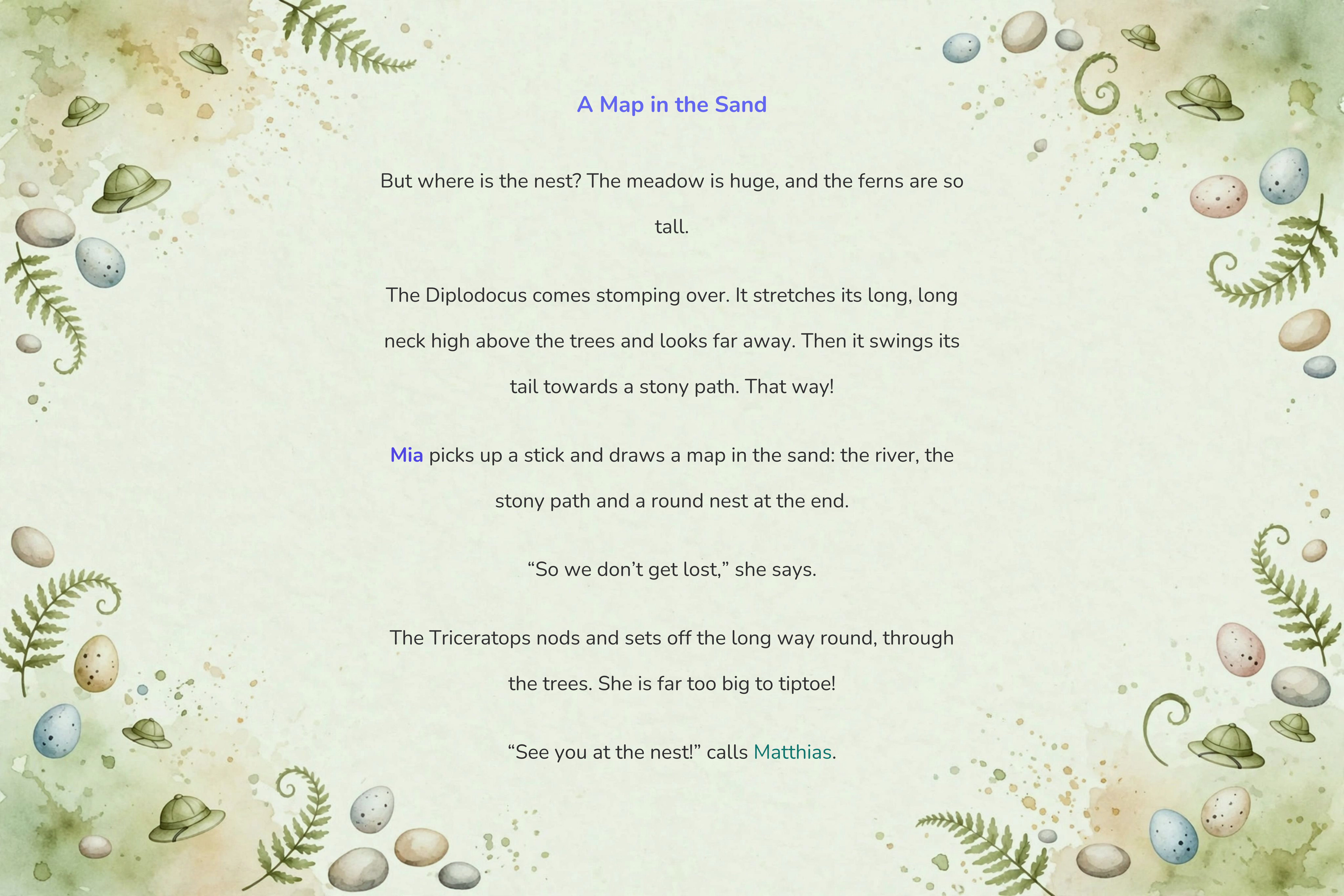
Down a gentle slope, the egg starts to go faster... and faster!

“Papa!” shouts Matthias.

Papa Mario catches it with both hands, just in time. “Got it!” he puffs.

Everyone laughs. Even the Triceratops gives a happy snort.



The page is framed by a decorative border of watercolor-style illustrations. It includes several green fern fronds, brown and blue speckled eggs, and small green pith helmets scattered around the edges. The background has a light, sandy texture with some brown and green splatters.

A Map in the Sand

But where is the nest? The meadow is huge, and the ferns are so tall.

The Diplodocus comes stomping over. It stretches its long, long neck high above the trees and looks far away. Then it swings its tail towards a stony path. That way!

Mia picks up a stick and draws a map in the sand: the river, the stony path and a round nest at the end.

“So we don’t get lost,” she says.

The Triceratops nods and sets off the long way round, through the trees. She is far too big to tiptoe!

“See you at the nest!” calls **Matthias**.



The page is framed by a decorative border of watercolor illustrations. It includes several speckled eggs in shades of blue, brown, and pink, along with green fern fronds and small green hats. The background has a light, textured appearance with some brown and green splatters.

The Snoring Giant

The stony path winds between big grey rocks. Mia leads the way,
rolling the egg gently in front of her.

Suddenly, she stops.

Right across the path lies a T-Rex, fast asleep. His scales are
slate grey, his little arms are curled on his chest, and he is
snoring a big, grumpy snore.

ZZZRRR... PFFF!

ZZZRRR... PFFF!

Every snore makes the ferns flutter. Everyone hides behind a
giant leaf, ChapoNico too.

Clack! The egg taps against a stone.

“Shhh!” whispers Papa Mario. “If the egg clatters, he’ll wake up.”

Mia peeks at the T-Rex, then at the big, soft leaves all around.

She has an idea.



The page is framed by a decorative border of watercolor illustrations. It includes several speckled eggs in shades of blue, brown, and pink, along with green fern fronds and small green hats. The background has a light, textured appearance with some brown and green splatters.

Quiet as Little Mice

Mia picks a giant leaf and lays it on the stones. Papa Mario and Matthias bring more. Soon, a soft green carpet leads all the way past the T-Rex.

“Now we tiptoe,” whispers Mia, “like quiet little mice.”

Tiptoe, tiptoe. The egg rolls over the leaves without a sound.

ChapoNico walks on his softest paws.

ZZZRRR... PFFF!

The T-Rex wriggles his nose. Matthias freezes. Mia puts a finger to her lips.

The T-Rex rolls over... and smiles in his sleep. Tiptoe, tiptoe, tiptoe.

They are past! “Phew,” whispers Matthias, with a big happy grin.



The page is framed by a decorative border of watercolor-style illustrations. It includes several green pith helmets, various colored eggs (blue, brown, pink, grey), and green fern fronds with small brown speckles, all arranged in a circular pattern around the central text.

Home Again

At the end of the path is the nest: a big round hollow, lined with moss, twigs and broad green leaves. The Triceratops is already waiting.

Mia and Matthias give the egg one last gentle push. Papa Mario helps it over the edge. Bump! It settles softly into the moss.

The Triceratops leans down and nuzzles Mia, so gently that Mia giggles.

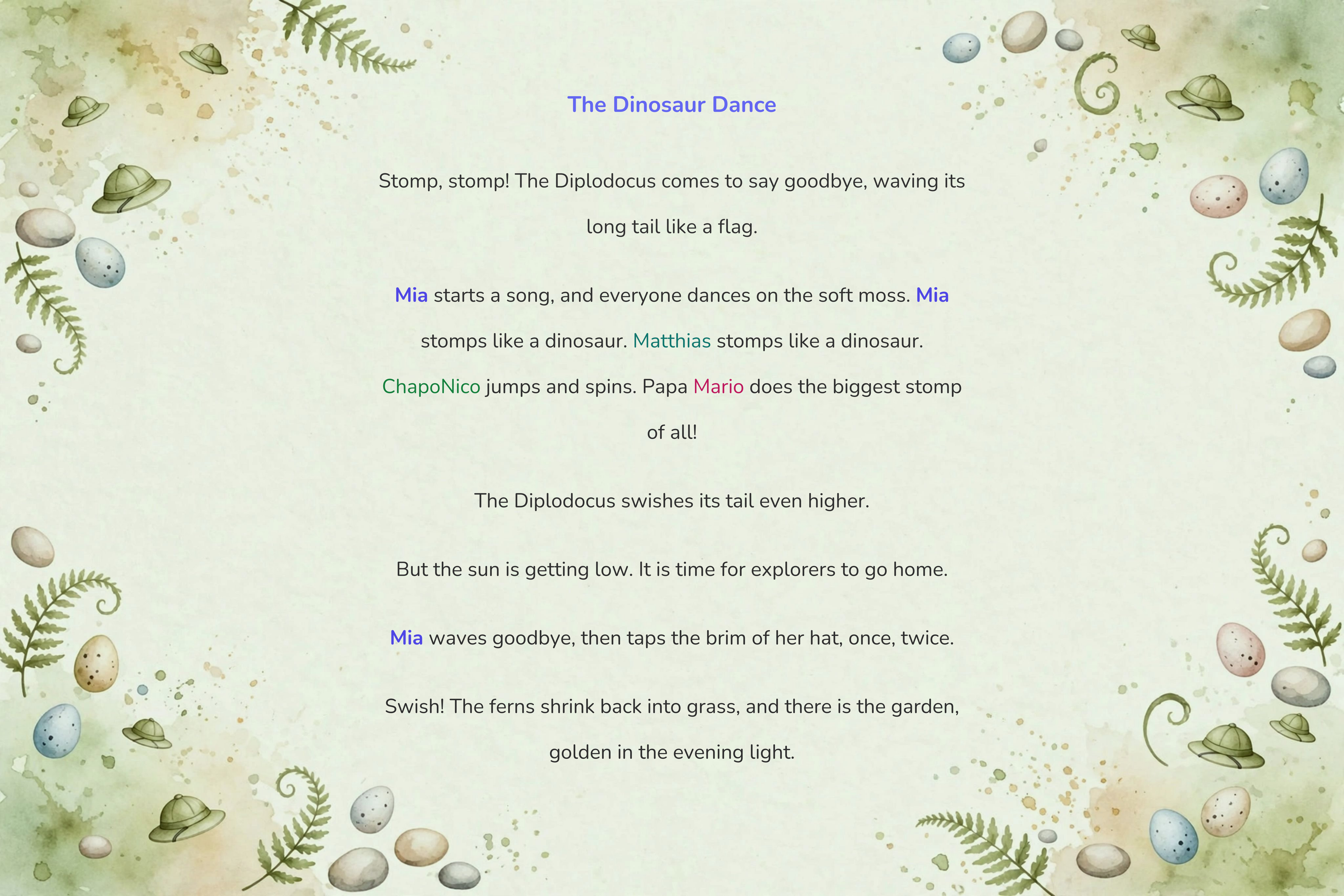
Then, from inside the egg, comes a tiny sound.

Tap... tap... tap.

Everyone holds their breath. Matthias's eyes go very wide, and ChapoNico tilts his head.

"The baby is saying thank you!" whispers Mia.



The page is framed by a decorative border of watercolor illustrations. In the corners and along the sides, there are green fern fronds, several speckled eggs in shades of blue, brown, and pink, and small green hats. The background has a soft, textured appearance with light green and yellowish washes.

The Dinosaur Dance

Stomp, stomp! The Diplodocus comes to say goodbye, waving its
long tail like a flag.

Mia starts a song, and everyone dances on the soft moss. Mia
stomps like a dinosaur. Matthias stomps like a dinosaur.

ChapoNico jumps and spins. Papa Mario does the biggest stomp
of all!

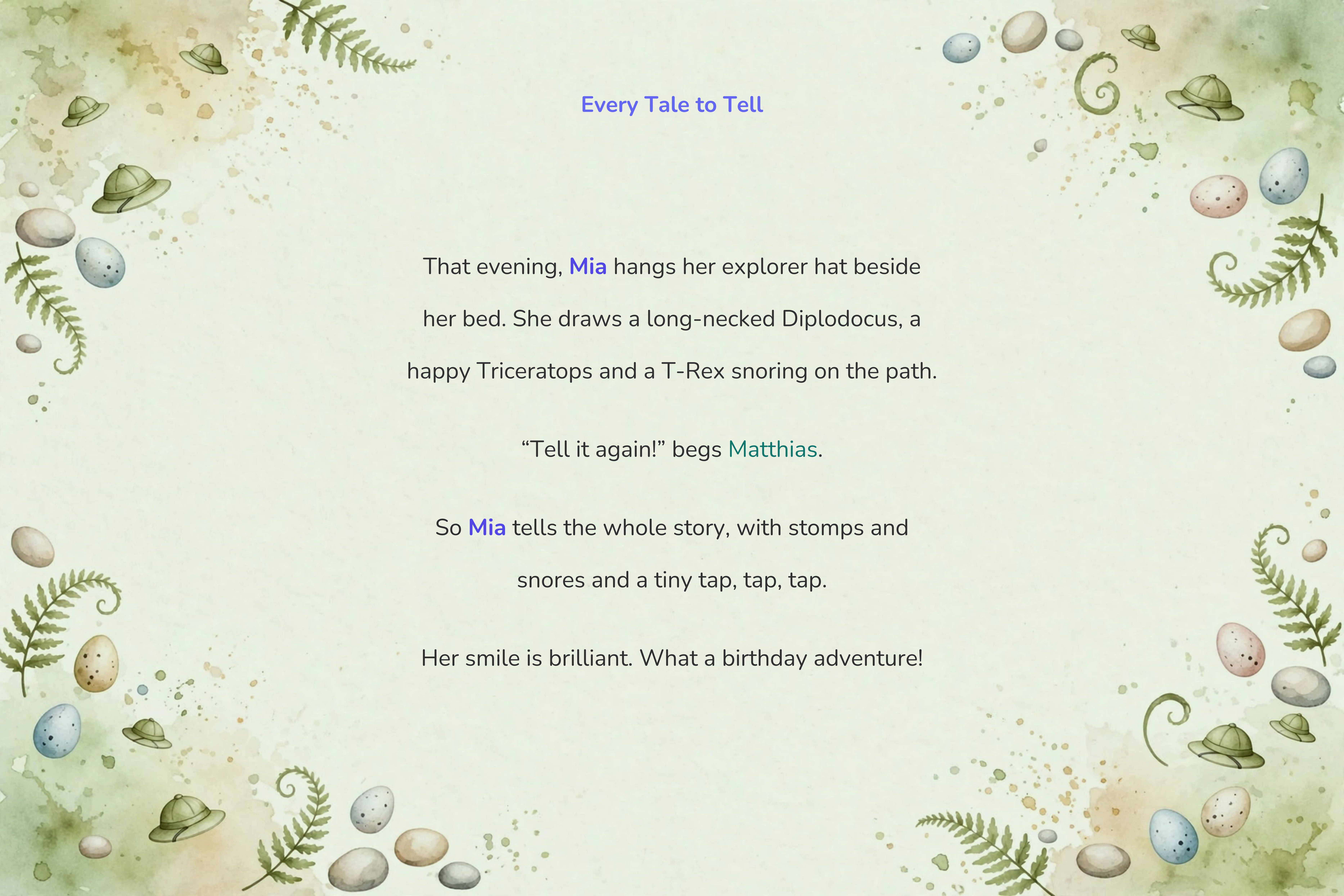
The Diplodocus swishes its tail even higher.

But the sun is getting low. It is time for explorers to go home.

Mia waves goodbye, then taps the brim of her hat, once, twice.

Swish! The ferns shrink back into grass, and there is the garden,
golden in the evening light.



The page is framed by a decorative border in the corners. It features several green explorer hats, various colored eggs (blue, brown, pink, grey), and green fern fronds. The background has a light, textured appearance with some brown and green watercolor-style splatters.

Every Tale to Tell

That evening, **Mia** hangs her explorer hat beside her bed. She draws a long-necked Diplodocus, a happy Triceratops and a T-Rex snoring on the path.

“Tell it again!” begs **Matthias**.

So **Mia** tells the whole story, with stomps and snores and a tiny tap, tap, tap.

Her smile is brilliant. What a birthday adventure!

