

RAIN BEFORE
Rainbows



SMRITI HALLS

DAVID LITCHFIELD



Walker Books has published this eBook to raise awareness for Save the Children's "Save with Stories" campaign, which is helping children most affected by the coronavirus pandemic. By donating to "Save with Stories", you can support the most vulnerable families in the UK and around the world by helping to provide early learning packs, supermarket vouchers, essential household items and virus protection. Your donation could make an incredible difference to children facing increasing hardship during the coronavirus crisis.

You can donate online at www.savethechildren.org.uk or you can text STORY to 70008 to give a one-off donation of £5*.

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A note to the reader

From the author –

Life is never pure sunshine, but when I wrote this book I really didn't envisage the clouds that would darken our skies the world over. We have all had to embark on a journey we didn't expect, facing difficulty and danger, often separated from friends and loved ones. We may feel alone. But we are not.

There may be rain.

But there are rainbows.

It has been wonderful to see rainbows everywhere, symbolizing hope in these troubled times. I hope that this book and the beauty of David's illustrations can, in some small way, help us to acknowledge loss and sadness, while giving voice to our strength and resilience. I hope it will remind us that there are friends to help us and new beginnings to be found. I hope it will shine light in dark places and bring hope out of heartbreak – and that the promise of rainbows will breathe through every page of this book, keeping us looking to the future with courage, light and hearts filled with hope.

Smriti Halls

From the illustrator –

Drawing this book was a complete joy. As soon as I read Smriti's emotional, powerful words, I was inspired to capture that emotion in the pictures through the eyes of a little girl and her fox friend. They find themselves on a really tough and really scary journey, but they keep going, holding on to hope. One of my favourite messages this story illustrates is "Hope over Fear".

And for the past few months a lot of you have been drawing your own rainbows and displaying them in your windows. I have loved seeing some of these drawings on my daily walks. They make me think about all of the brave people in the world. They also remind me of the girl and her magic fox and the journey they had together. Hope over fear. Rain before rainbows.

David Litchfield



*For my wonderful sister Swapna, who is courageous,
beautiful and brilliant – all my love.*

S.P-H.

To Katie, Benny and George.

D.L.

RAIN BEFORE *Rainbows*

Smriti Halls

illustrated by

David Litchfield

*“Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.” – Psalm 30:5*

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Rain before rainbows.

Clouds before sun.



Night before daybreak.

The old day is done.



There are mountains for climbing.

Journeys to take.



Dreams that are hopeful. Decisions to make.



Dark days may shake us. And worries creep in.

With dragons to duel. And battles to win.



Thunder will rumble, and lightning will flash.
The wind will start blowing, and tall waves will crash.



But ... there are footsteps to follow. And words that are wise.

A map that will guide us when troubles arise.



Friends who will help us, courageous and kind.

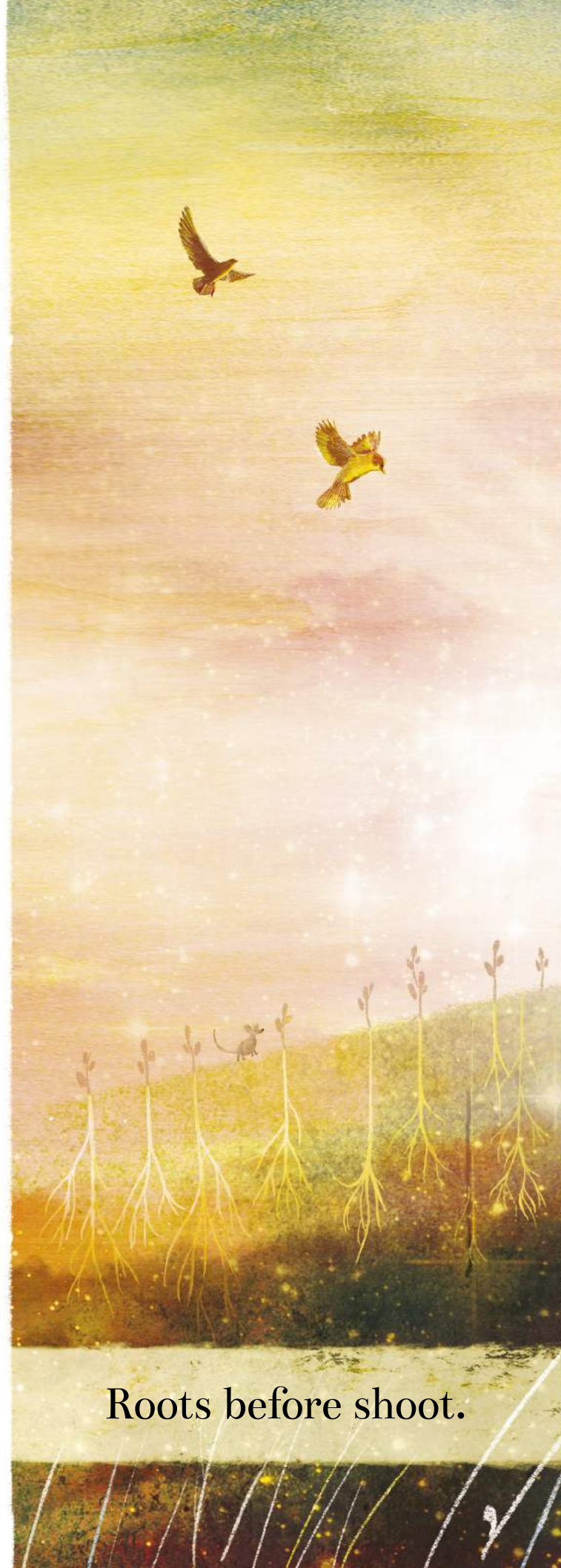
A rope to hold on to ...



and treasure to find.



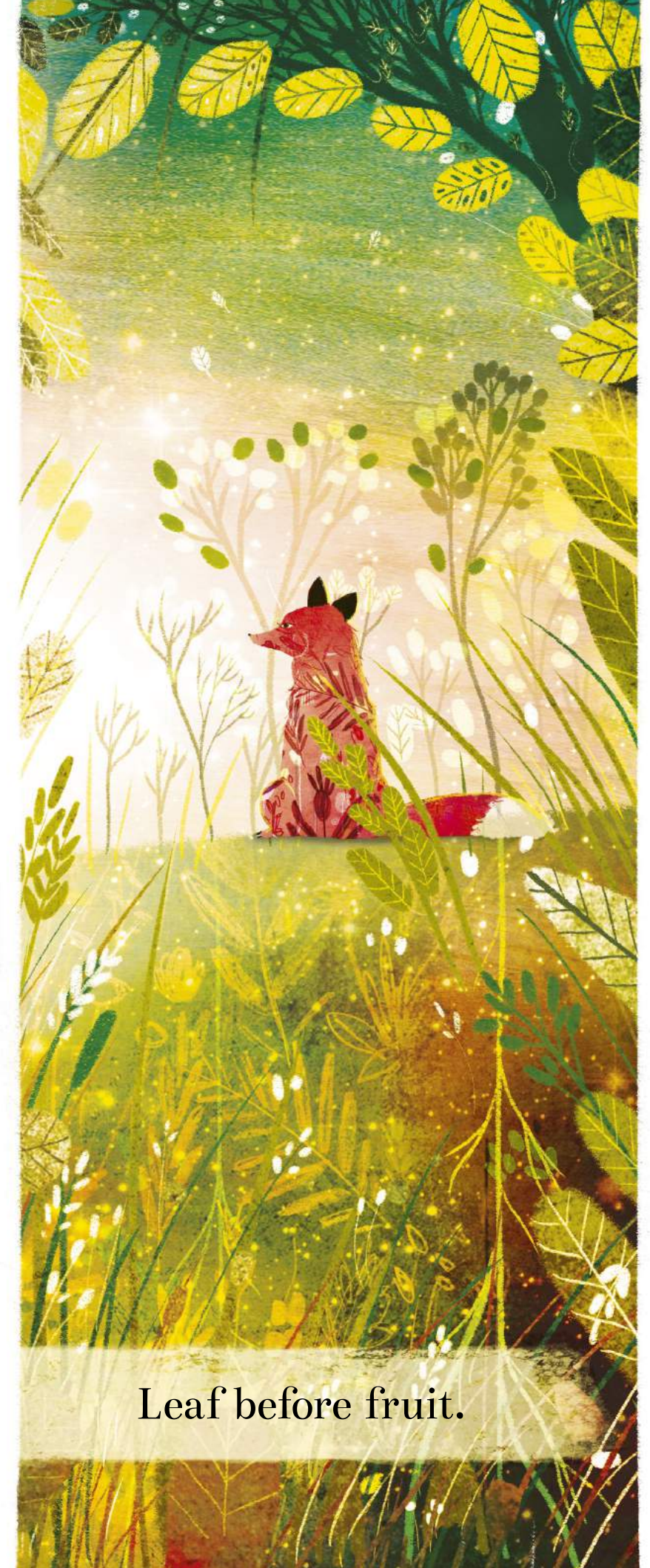
Sowing and planting.



Roots before shoot.



Stem before flower.



Leaf before fruit.



Rain before rainbows, clouds before sun,
Night before daybreak, a new day's begun.

A day full of promise, a day full of light,
The morning is breaking...



and the morning is bright.

