

Dear teacher,

here is my Shoe Tree picture book for you to read or adapt to your pupils, according to their level of English. The Shoe tree is inspired by a wishing tree I saw in Cyprus. I believe a few Shoe Trees exist on the side roads on highways in the US. The characters and elements that appear in these images are real puppets I manipulate in our show by the same name.

I hope you enjoy it,

Emilia Esteban Lengstaff

Pea Green Boat puppet company, Barcelona

www.peagreenboat.es

The Shoe Tree

emilia lang



Pea Green Boat puppet company

The Shoe Tree



emilia lang

Tim lived in a suitcase.
One morning, he realized his left shoe was missing.
He couldn't find it anywhere.



He thought it might have flown away.



Tim hobbled away to search for his missing shoe.
He asked a man, a lady and a road-sweeper.

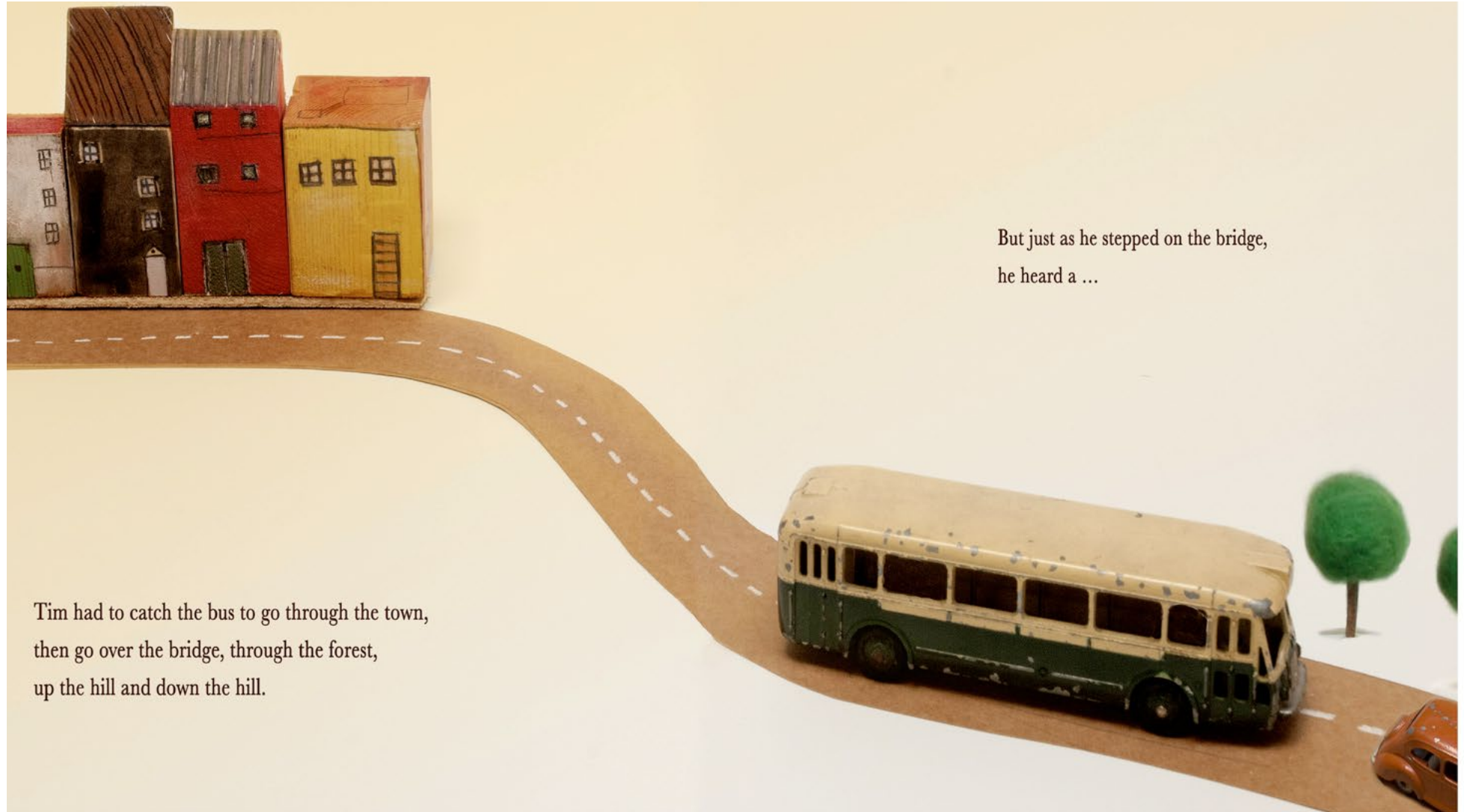
Nobody had seen it.



He then asked old Mrs Grey.

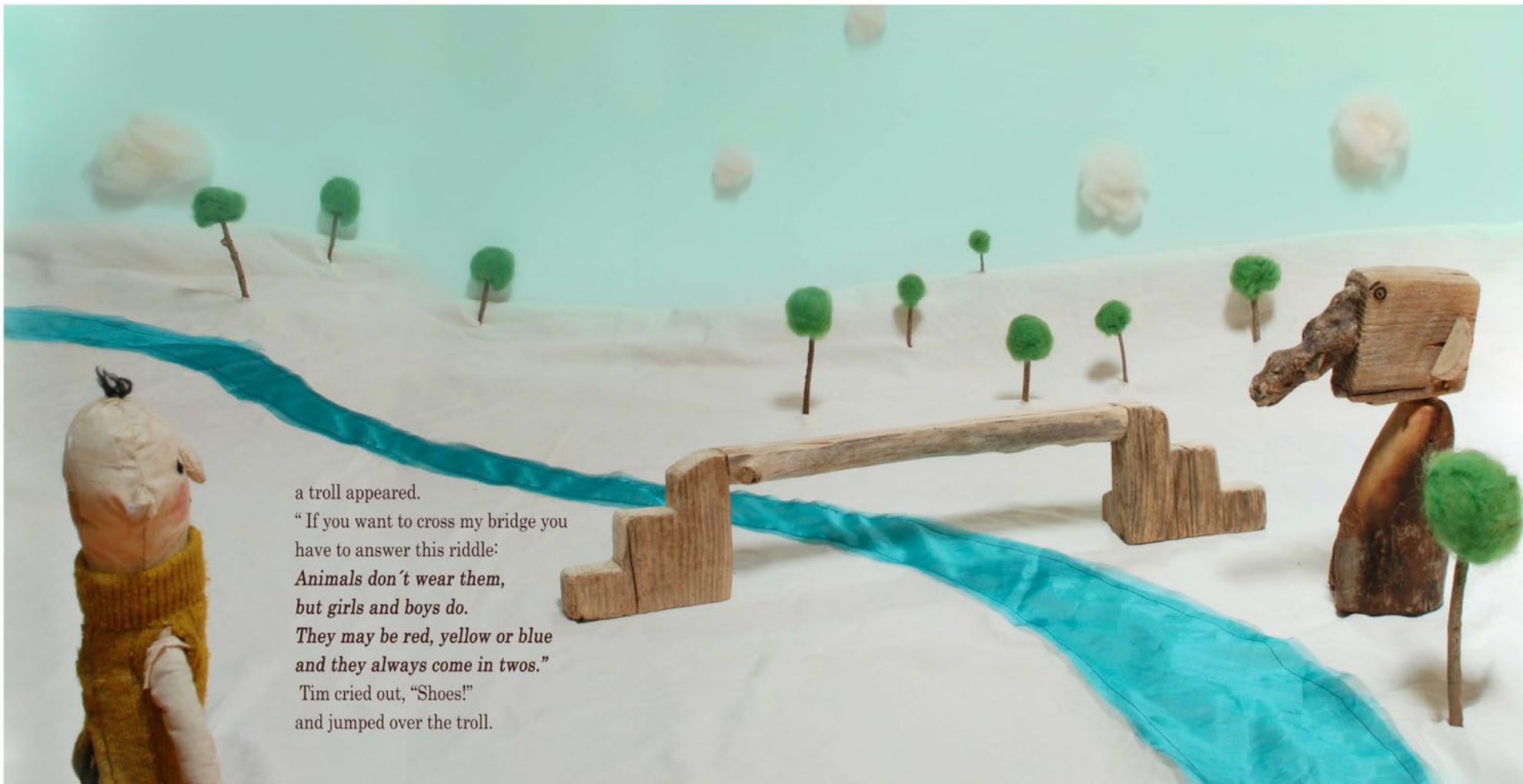
“I know where your shoe might be, in the Shoe Tree”.

Mrs. Grey told Tim how to get to the Shoe Tree,
and Tim set off.



Tim had to catch the bus to go through the town,
then go over the bridge, through the forest,
up the hill and down the hill.

But just as he stepped on the bridge,
he heard a ...



a troll appeared.
“If you want to cross my bridge you
have to answer this riddle:
*Animals don't wear them,
but girls and boys do.
They may be red, yellow or blue
and they always come in twos.*”
Tim cried out, “Shoes!”
and jumped over the troll.

Tim entered the wood.
He walked through the trees
and he realized he was lost.




He sat on a rock and
was thinking what to do next
when he saw a grasshopper.
Tim followed the grasshopper
and found the way out of the forest.
Then he went up the hill
and from the very top he saw a.....

tree with all kinds of shoes hanging from its branches.
Tim looked for his shoe but it wasn't there.
"Mrs Grey was wrong!" he cried.
Very near him, he heard a deep voice say,
"You have to make a wish."
"Who is saying that?", asked Tim.
"I'm the shoe tree."



“Oh...please, Mr Shoe Tree, I’d like my shoe back.
“You’ll have to sleep by me,” said the Shoe Tree.
That night, Tim slept by the tree



A puppet named Tim is climbing a tree made of bare branches. The tree is decorated with various shoes hanging from the branches. Tim is wearing a green sweater and brown pants. He is holding onto a branch with his right hand. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

The following morning, Tim found his shoe
hanging from a branch.
The tree said "You have another wish".

Tim thought about all sorts of toys
until he came up with a great idea.
He whispered to the tree what he desired.




Tim closed his eyes and opened them to see a fine tin rocket. Tim was so delighted he stepped inside the rocket, followed the instructions, pulled the handle and.....

UP he went.

But the engine stopped
and..... DOWN went
the rocket with a crash.



Tim hurt his nose a little,
but only a little for he had worn his seat belt.



“You have one last wish,”
said the Shoe Tree.
“Oh no more wishes, please.
Oh well, I do miss my friend Tom.
I’d like to play with him.”
Tim laid down by the tree
and fell asleep as the stars lit the sky.

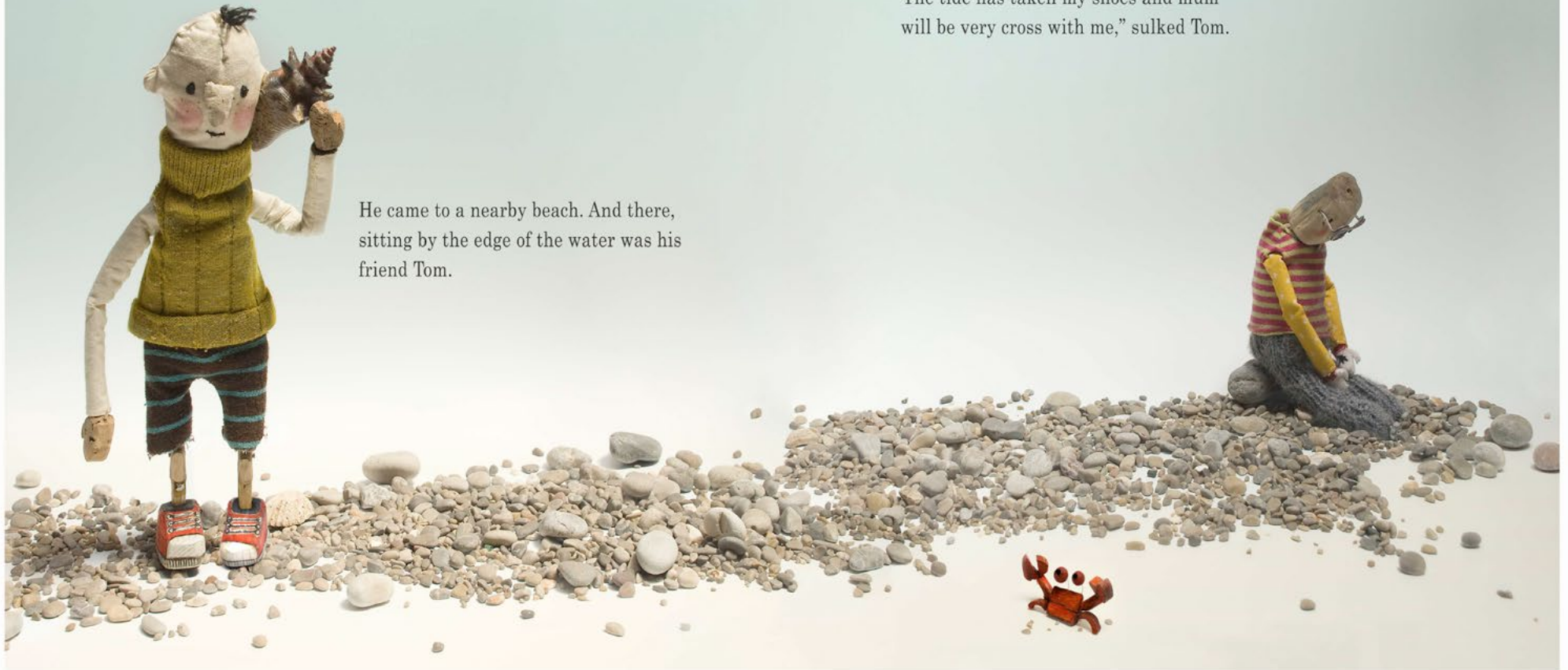


Tim was woken up by
a squeaky voice.
“I can take you to your friend.”
He saw a seashell near the tree.
“Oh, is that you speaking?
Little sea shell,
please take me to my friend.”

He put the sea shell to his ear
and heard the calming sound of waves.
Suddenly, Tim was floating in the air, and guided
by the sea shell, drifted away ...

“The tide has taken my shoes and mum
will be very cross with me,” sulked Tom.

He came to a nearby beach. And there,
sitting by the edge of the water was his
friend Tom.



"I know where your shoes might be Tom.
In the Shoe Tree. Let's go!"





“Are you sure we will find them there?” asked Tom.

“Yes, of course. All you have to do is ask
Mr. Shoe Tree for your shoes”.

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