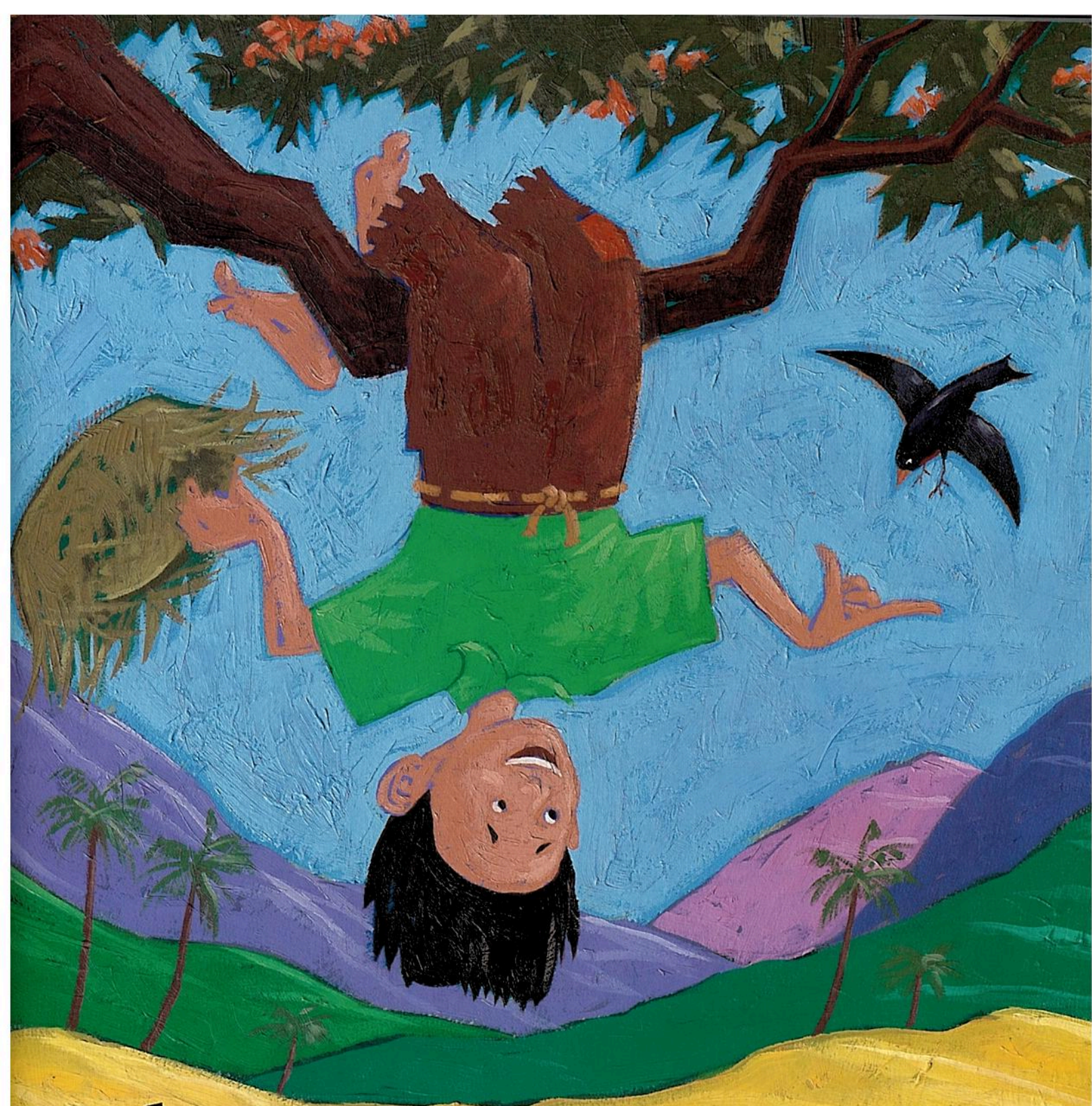


Juan Bobo GOES TO WORK



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In the highlands of Puerto Rico lived a silly peasant boy. He was so silly he often got confused. Sometimes he got things backwards. Other times he misunderstood things completely. So everyone called him Juan Bobo, which means "Simple John."

But Juan Bobo tried very, very hard to do things right.

One day his mother told him to go find work. Juan Bobo replied, "*Está bien*, Mamá. All right. Where should I look?"

"Ask the farmer for a job," said Doña Juana. "When he pays you, hold the money in your hand. Do not put it in your pocket."

Juan Bobo ran to the neighboring farm.





"Buenos días, Don Pepe. Good day," said Juan Bobo.
"¿Me puede dar trabajo?"

"You want a job?" Don Pepe looked Juan Bobo up and down. He grunted. "You're pretty scrawny. What can you do?"

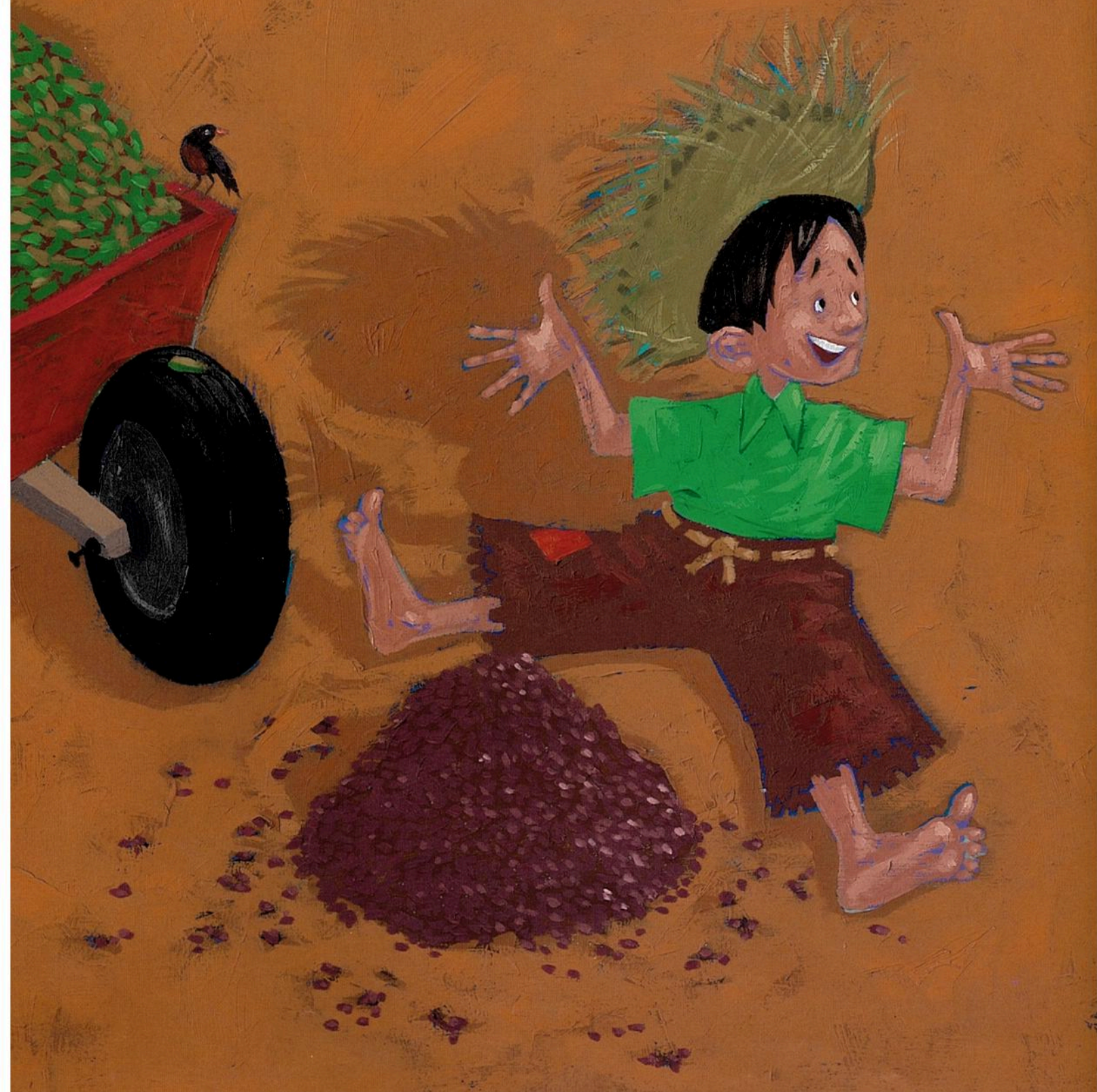
"Anything, señor. I am a very good worker."

Don Pepe handed Juan Bobo a basket full of beans.

"Shell these *habichuelas*. Put the beans in the wheelbarrow. Pile the shells on the ground."

Juan Bobo sang as he worked. He tossed the shells into the *carretilla*. And he piled the *habichuelas* on the ground.

When he was done, Juan Bobo said, "Don Pepe, I finished my work."





The farmer stared at the shells in the wheelbarrow.
“¡Qué bobo! What a foolish boy! What have you done
with the beans?”

Juan Bobo's smile faded. “I thought you wanted the
shells in the *carretilla* and the beans on the ground.”

Don Pepe sighed. “It's all right, Juan Bobo. You have
worked hard.” He handed the boy a few coins. “Take this
money to your mother.”

Juan Bobo beamed. “*Muchas gracias, señor.*”

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the research and the objectives of the study. It then presents a literature review of the existing research on the topic. The methodology section describes the research design and the data collection process. The results section presents the findings of the study, and the conclusion section summarizes the main findings and provides recommendations for future research.

The study was conducted in a laboratory setting. The participants were recruited from a local university and were assigned to two groups: the experimental group and the control group. The experimental group received the intervention, while the control group did not. The data were collected over a period of six weeks.

The results of the study show that the intervention had a significant positive effect on the outcome variable. The experimental group showed a significant improvement in the outcome variable compared to the control group. The findings suggest that the intervention is effective in improving the outcome variable.

The conclusion of the study is that the intervention is effective in improving the outcome variable. The findings suggest that the intervention is a promising approach for improving the outcome variable. Further research is needed to confirm the findings and to explore the long-term effects of the intervention.



On the road home Juan Bobo thought about his mother's warning. "*¿Qué me dijo?* What did she say?"

Juan Bobo finally remembered. He put the coins in his pocket and skipped home.

"Mamá! Here is the money I earned." Juan Bobo reached inside his pockets. All he found were large holes.

"But Juan Bobo," said Doña Juana, "I told you to hold the money in your hand. Your pockets have holes."

Juan Bobo hung his head.

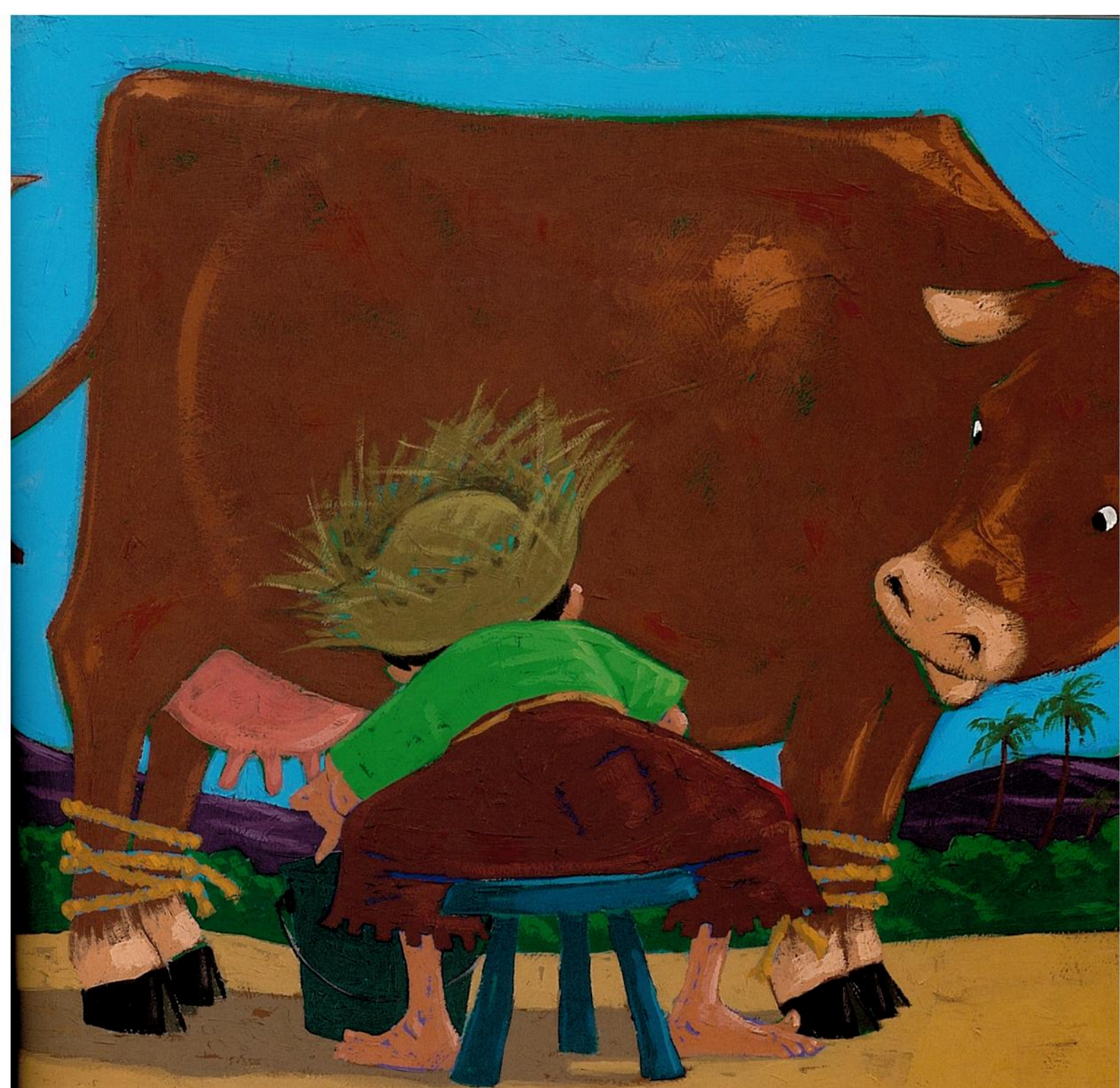
"It's all right," she said with a sigh. "Take this burlap bag. Tomorrow go back to the farm to look for more work. When Don Pepe pays you, put the payment in the bag."



The next morning Juan Bobo set out early. Don Pepe had Juan Bobo milk one of his cows.

"First tie up *la vaca*," said Don Pepe. "Then milk her and set *la leche* aside. When you are done, put the cow back in the stable."





Juan Bobo listened carefully. He did just as he was told.

First he tied the cow's front legs together. Next he tied her hind legs together. Then he milked her and set aside the milk.



Now it was time to return the cow to the stable.
Juan Bobo pulled the cow. Then he tugged. Then he
yanked.

But the cow would not move.
Juan Bobo tried pushing the cow.
Still the cow would not budge.

“What is wrong, silly *vaca*? Have you turned to stone?”





Don Pepe saw what was happening. He cried, "Juan Bobo, the cow's legs are tied. She cannot walk like that!"

Juan Bobo laughed. "And I thought she had turned to stone."

Don Pepe removed the ropes and took the cow to the stable.

Then he handed Juan Bobo a pail of fresh milk. "Here, Juan Bobo. Take this milk to your mother in return for your work."



"Gracias, Don Pepe."

Juan Bobo poured
the milk into his burlap
bag and flung it over his
shoulder.



He set out for home. The
milk dripped from the bag
and down his back. By the
time he reached home, he
was drenched in milk.



“¡Llueve leche, Mamá! It’s raining milk!”

Juan Bobo’s mother shrieked. “Oh, Juan Bobo! You put the *leche* in the bag, and it leaked. Next time carry the pail of milk on your head.”

“I will do just that, Mamá,” said Juan Bobo.
“*Así lo haré.*”







The next day Juan Bobo's mother told him to ask the grocer for work.

"And Juan Bobo, try not to lose your payment."

At the grocery store Juan Bobo asked Señor Domingo for a job.



“Can you sweep?” asked the grocer. “*¿Puedes barrer?*”

“*Sí, señor.* I am a very good sweeper.”

Señor Domingo handed Juan Bobo *una escoba*, a broom. When Juan Bobo finished sweeping, the store gleamed.

The grocer was pleased. "Such a good job deserves a large reward. Take this cheese to your mamá as payment for a job well done."

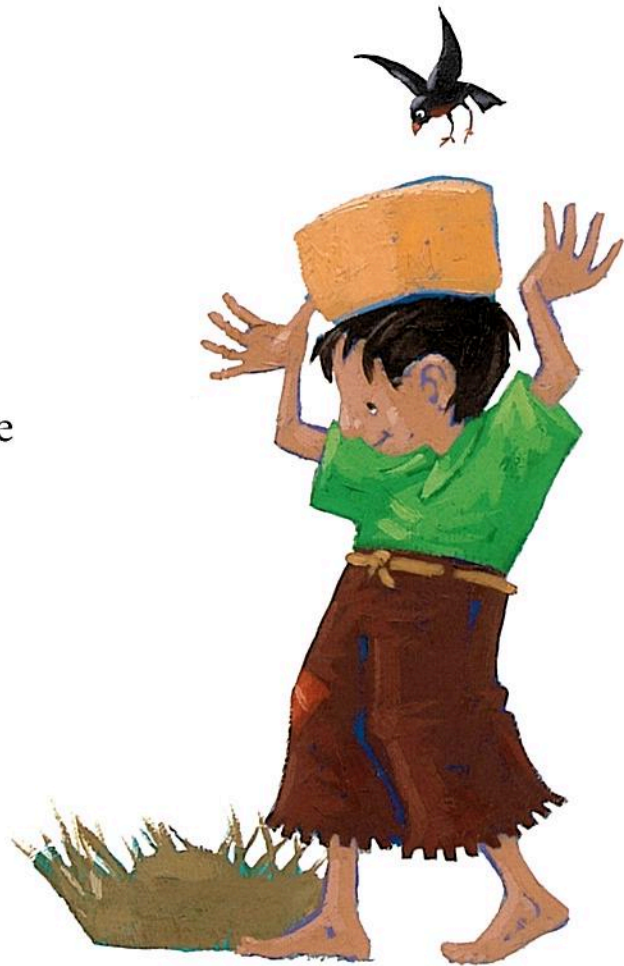
"*Muchas gracias, señor.*" Juan Bobo happily took the large hunk of queso.





On the way home he remembered what his mother had told him about the milk pail. Juan Bobo took off his straw *pava*.

He put the cheese on his head.



But the noonday sun was very hot. Before long the cheese began to melt. It dripped down his face.

“Mamá! Mamá!” he cried, running home. “¡Llueve queso! It’s raining cheese!”

Doña Juana placed her hands on her head. “Ay, Juan! What will I do with you?”

Juan Bobo hung his head. “*Lo siento*, Mamá. . . . I’m sorry.”





The next week Doña Juana told Juan Bobo to return to the grocer. "This time take some string. Tie up whatever the grocer gives you."

Señor Domingo had been very pleased with Juan Bobo's last job. So he again had Juan Bobo sweep the store. When Juan Bobo finished, the floor shone brightly.

The grocer clapped Juan Bobo on the back. "Wonderful job, Juan Bobo. Today I will pay you with my largest *jamón*. You deserve a big ham."

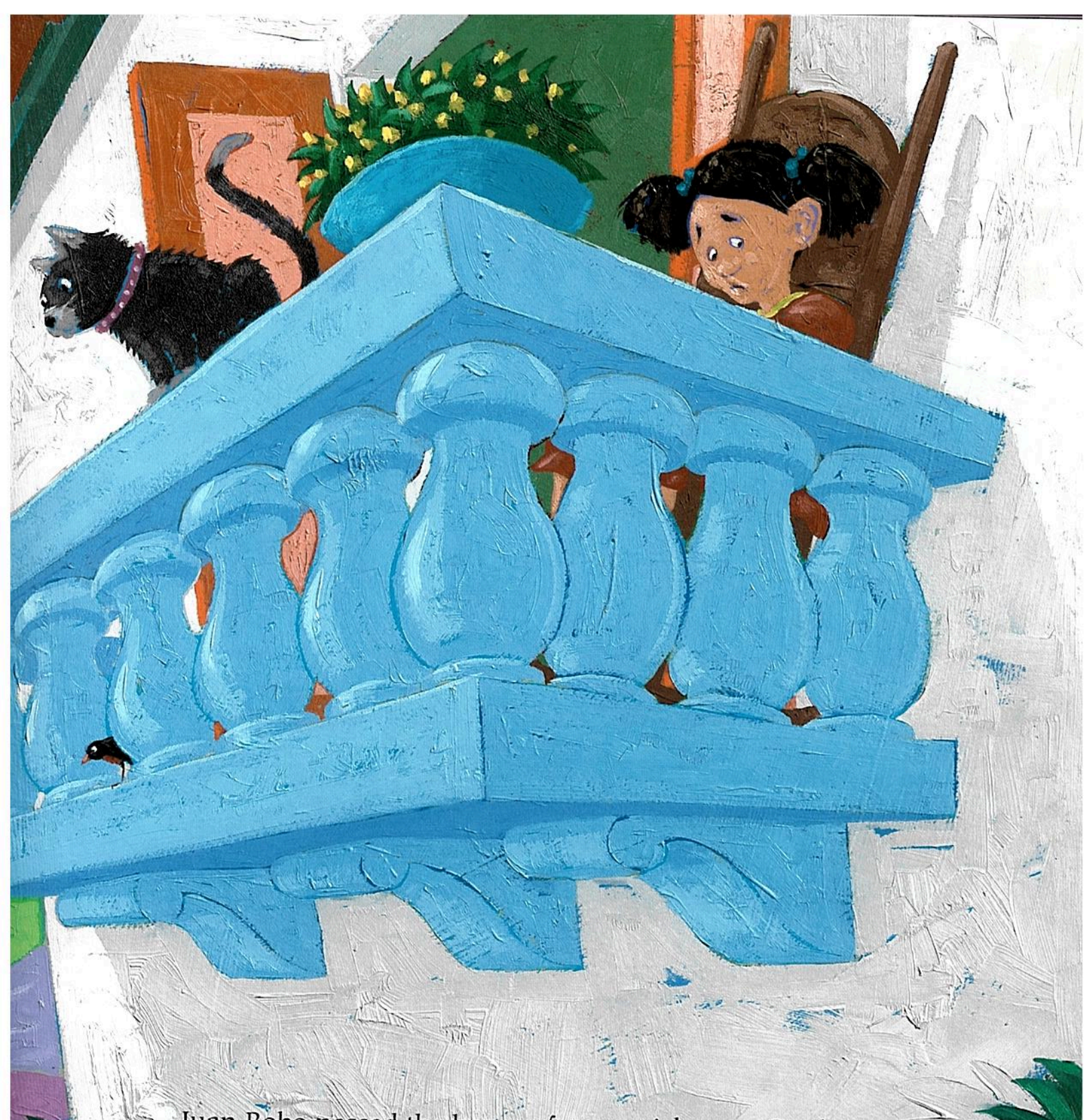
The boy took the heavy ham in his arms and set off for home. Soon his arms grew tired. He remembered what his mother had told him.



"I must tie it up with the string." Juan Bobo tied the string around the ham and dragged the ham behind him.



"Mamá is a very smart woman. It is much easier to pull a huge *jamón* than to carry it."



Juan Bobo passed the house of a very rich man. On the balcony a beautiful girl sat in a rocking chair.

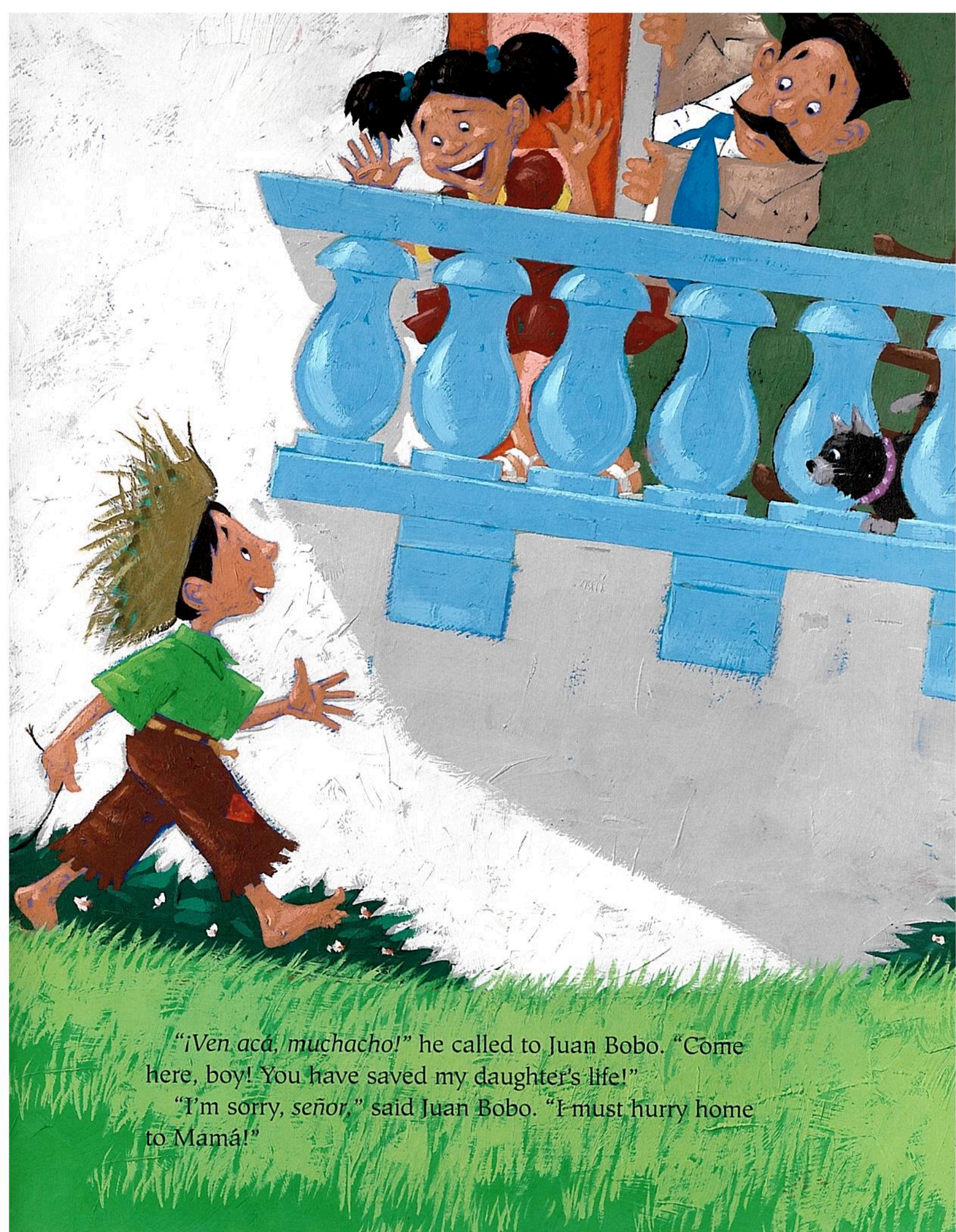
Everyone in the *barrio* knew her sad story. The girl was very ill, *muy enferma*. Many doctors had examined her. Each one agreed that if the girl did not laugh soon, she would die.



When Juan Bobo passed by, the girl looked up. He skipped toward her, dragging the huge ham behind him. Nibbling the ham was every cat and dog in the neighborhood.

The girl laughed and laughed and laughed—*se rió y se rió y se rió*.

The rich man heard his daughter's laughter and ran to the balcony. He saw what was making her laugh.



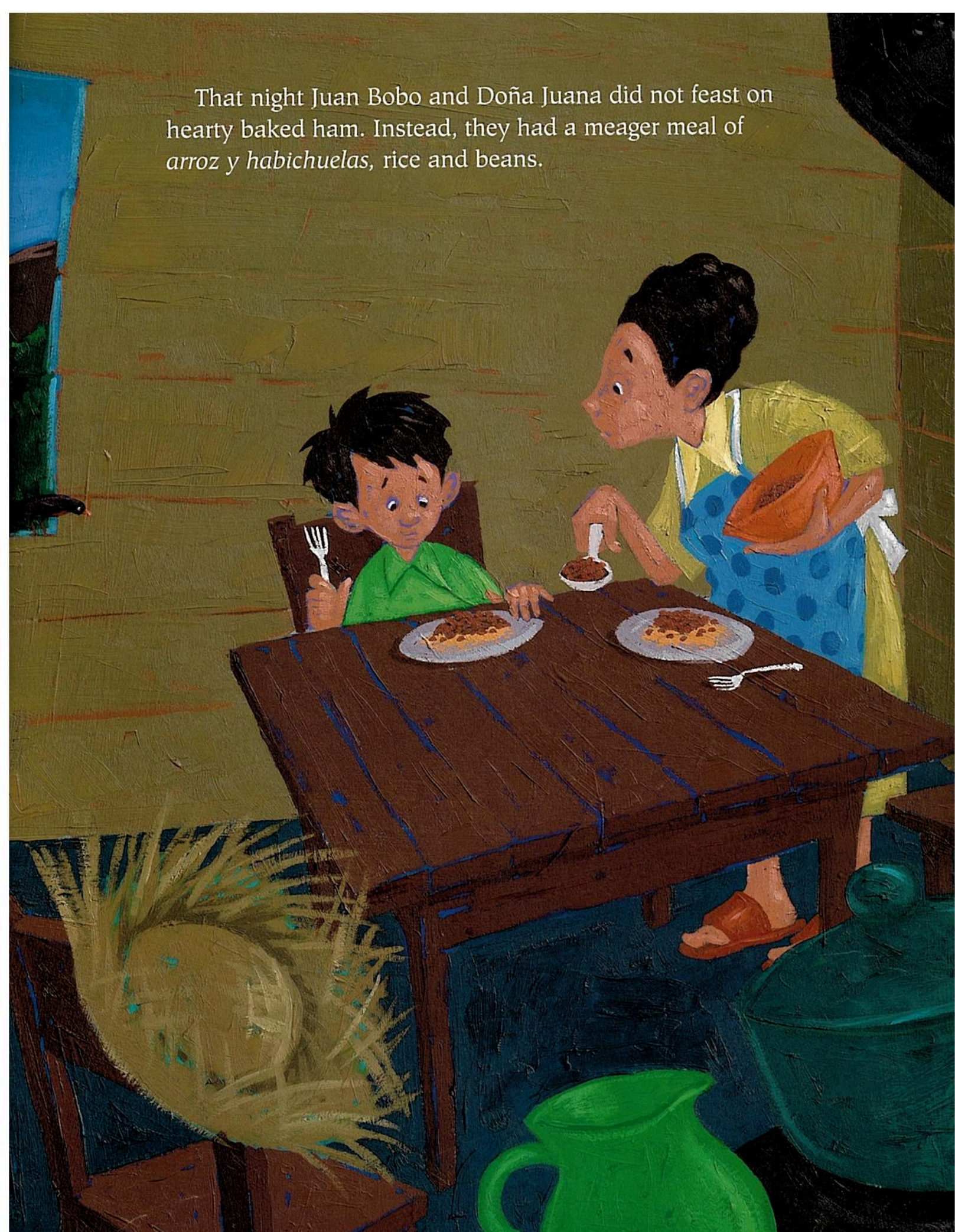
"¡Ven acá, muchacho!" he called to Juan Bobo. "Come here, boy! You have saved my daughter's life!"

"I'm sorry, señor," said Juan Bobo. "I must hurry home to Mamá!"

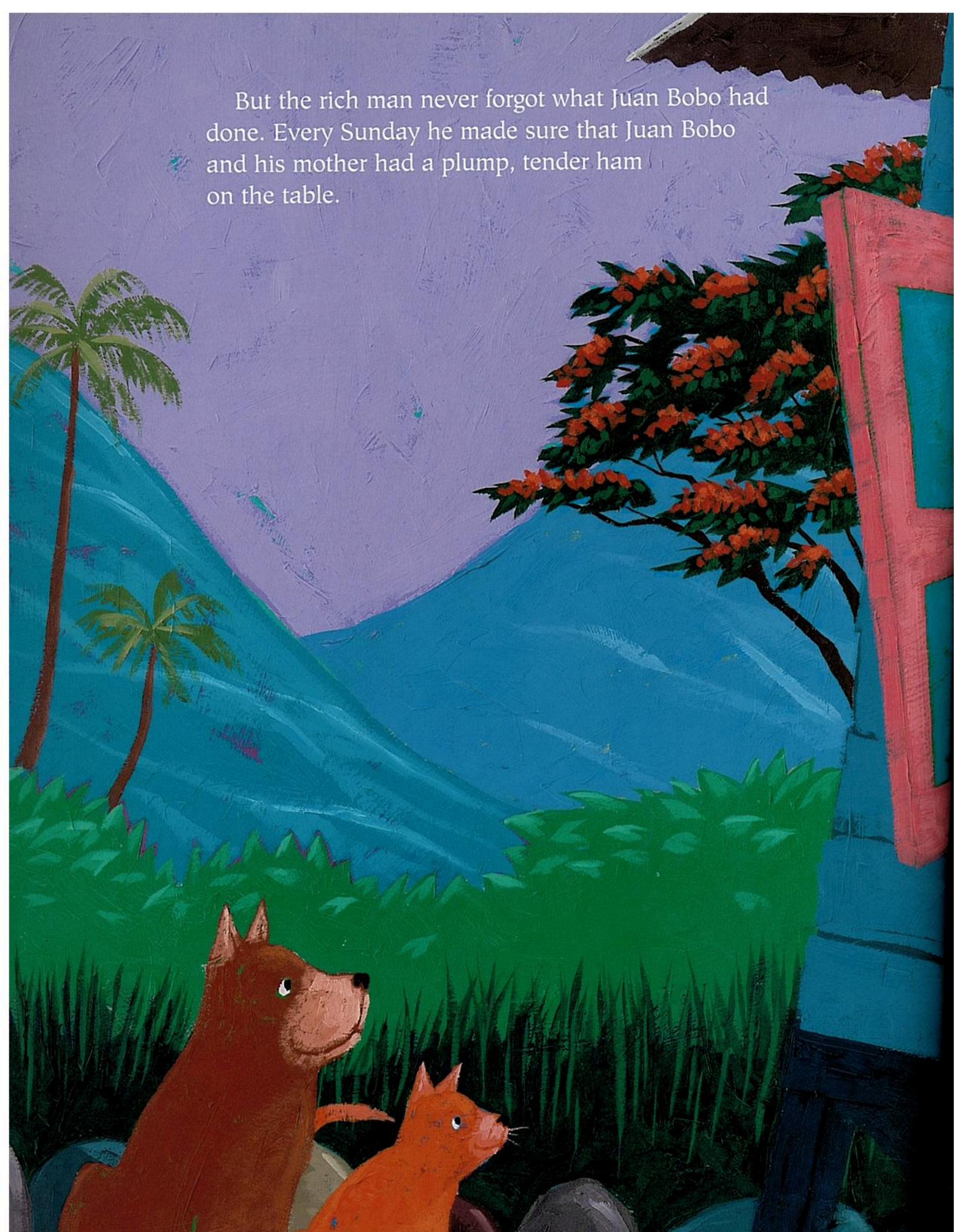


Juan Bobo reached home, leading a parade of cats and dogs. But the ham had disappeared.

That night Juan Bobo and Doña Juana did not feast on hearty baked ham. Instead, they had a meager meal of *arroz y habichuelas*, rice and beans.



But the rich man never forgot what Juan Bobo had done. Every Sunday he made sure that Juan Bobo and his mother had a plump, tender ham on the table.





GLOSSARY

- arroz** (ah-RROS) rice
- arroz y habichuelas** (ah-RROS ee ah-vee-CHOOEH-lahs) a Puerto Rican dish made of white rice topped with a thick bean sauce
- Así lo haré** (ah-SEE loh ah-REH) That is how I'll do it.
- barrer** (bah-RRER) to sweep
- barrio** (BAH-ree-oh) neighborhood
- bobo** (BOH-boh) fool; simpleton
- buenos días** (BOOEH-nos DEE-ahs) good day
- carretilla** (kah-rreh-TEE-yah) wheelbarrow
- enferma** (en-FER-mah) sick, ill
- escoba** (es-KOH-vah) broom
- está bien** (es-TAH beeyen) all right; it is all right; fine
- gracias** (GRA-seeyahs) thank you
- habichuelas** (ah-vee-CHOOEH-lahs) beans, such as kidney beans
- jamón** (hah-MON) ham
- jíbaros** (HEE-bah-rohs) Puerto Rican country folk
- leche** (LEH-cheh) milk
- Lo siento** (loh SEEYEN-toh) I'm sorry.
- Llueve** (YOOEH-veh) It's raining.
- ¡Llueve leche!** (YOOEH-veh LEH-cheh) It's raining milk!
- ¡Llueve queso!** (YOOEH-veh KEH-soh) It's raining cheese!
- ¿Me puede dar trabajo?** (meh POOEH-deh dar trah-BAH-hoh)
Can you give me a job?
- muchacho** (moo-CHA-choh) boy
- Muchas gracias** (MOO-chas GRA-seeyahs) Thank you very much.
- muy enferma** (mooee en-FER-mah) very sick
- pava** (PAH-bah) straw hat
- ¿Puedes barrer?** (POOEH-des bah-RRER) Can you sweep?
- ¡Qué bobo!** (KEH BOH-boh) What a fool!
- ¿Qué me dijo?** (KEH meh DEE-hoh) What did she/he (or you—
formal) tell me?
- queso** (KEH-soh) cheese
- rió/ se rió** (rree-OH; seh rree-OH) laughed; she/he (or you—formal)
laughed
- señor** (seh-NYOR) Mister, Mr.; owner or master
- sí** (SEE) yes
- trabajo** (trah-BAH-hoh) a job
- vaca** (BAH-kah) cow
- ¡Ven acá, muchacho!** (ben ah-KAH, moo-CHA-choh) Come here, boy!