

The Legacy of Old Mate

By Faith





1001

Our storytelling program, 1001 Stories, brings meaningful learning to some of the hardest to reach populations around the world. We aim to facilitate the creation, development, and gathering of 1001 empowering stories from every participating local community.

Children love to tell stories. However, in many places in the world, their creative voices are rarely heard or cultivated. The 1001 Stories Program conducts storytelling workshops that build on children's natural potential to become original storytellers. Through the 1001 Stories Program, children are empowered while their literacy skills are developed.

When integrated with technologies, these stories become an effective tool for literacy by growing reading and writing skills grounded in local languages and local themes in underserved areas worldwide.

Teacher idina English class

A Story MATE AND HIS SONS

once upon a time mate was an old man who lived at Nyasi Village in Cave forest. He was a very hardworking man. He was well-known and who lived in his a kind man. mate's sons were noted for their laziness. They did not of themselves or anybody exactly the opposite of their father in the rainy season mate tried to show them the advantage of hard work. Time and again he told them ~~to their father's advice~~ that hard work paid but they always turned a deaf ear to their father's advice. As mate grew older and older he worried more about his sons.



Faith

Once upon a time, there was an old man named Mate who lived in Night Village, near Cave Forest. He was a very hardworking man, well-known and loved by everyone in his village.

Kind and diligent, Mate had three sons who were notorious for their laziness. They cared neither for themselves nor for others—traits that were the exact opposite of their father's.

During the rainy season, Mate tried to teach them the value of hard work.

Time and again, he advised them, "Hard work pays," but they always turned a deaf ear to their father's words. As Mate grew older, he worried more about his sons.

Sadly, he thought to himself, "When I am gone, my name will be worthless with three sons such as these."





One evening, as the sun dipped behind Cave Forest, Mate gathered his sons. His voice was weak, but his eyes burned with determination.

"My sons," he said, "I have hidden my greatest treasure in our land. If you wish to inherit it, you must dig for it."



The sons, though lazy, were intrigued by the promise of wealth. The next morning, for the first time in their lives, they took up shovels and began digging.

Day after day, they turned the soil, searching for gold or jewels. But all they found was earth, roots, and the occasional rock.



Weeks passed, and the rainy season arrived. Exhausted and frustrated, the brothers sat in the muddy field.



"Father must have lied,
there is no treasure here."



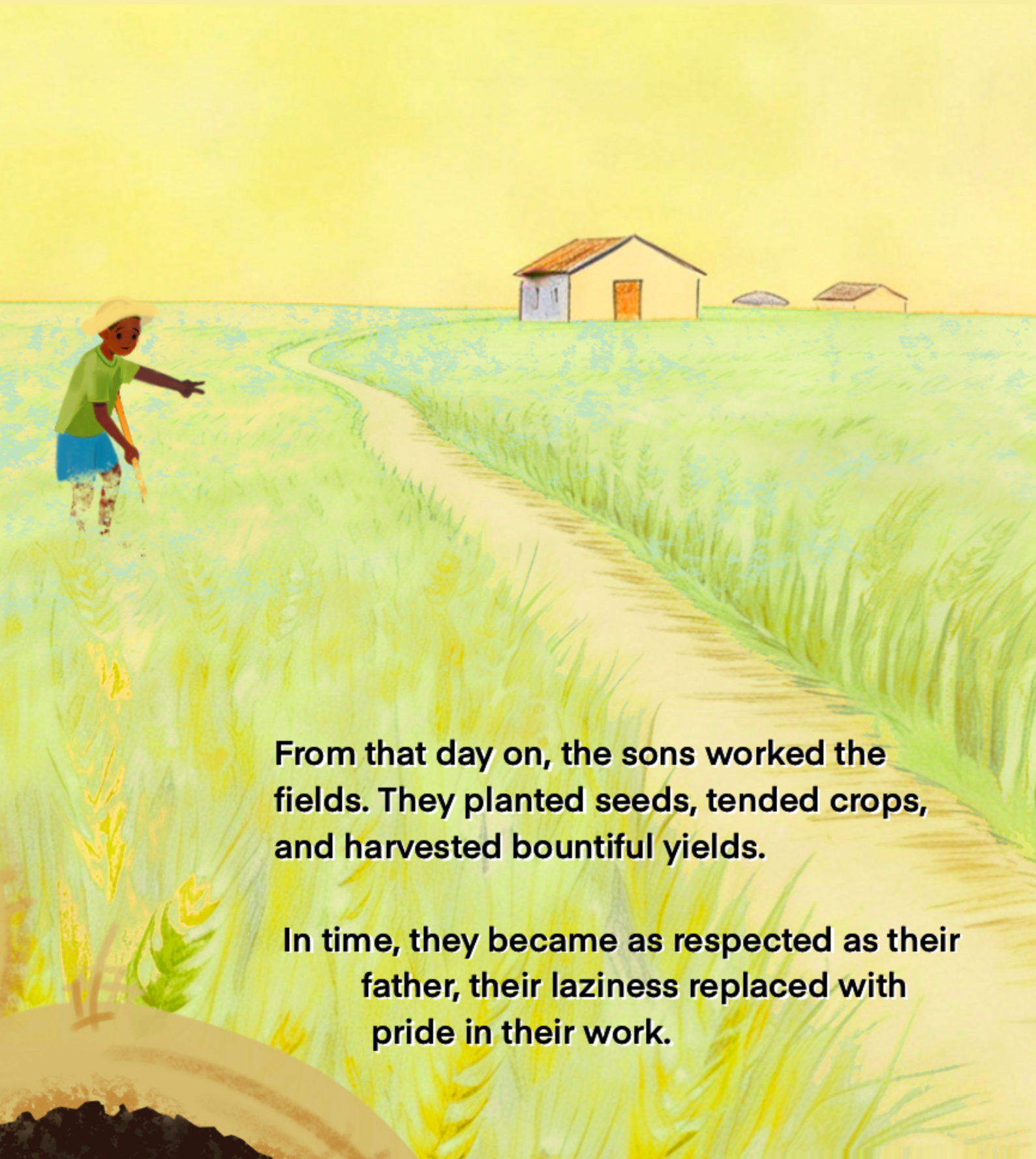
Just then, a passing farmer stopped and admired their work. "Such fine land you've prepared!" he exclaimed.

"With soil this rich, you could grow enough crops to feed the whole village!"

The brothers looked at each other, realization dawning. Their father's treasure was not gold—it was the value of labor itself.

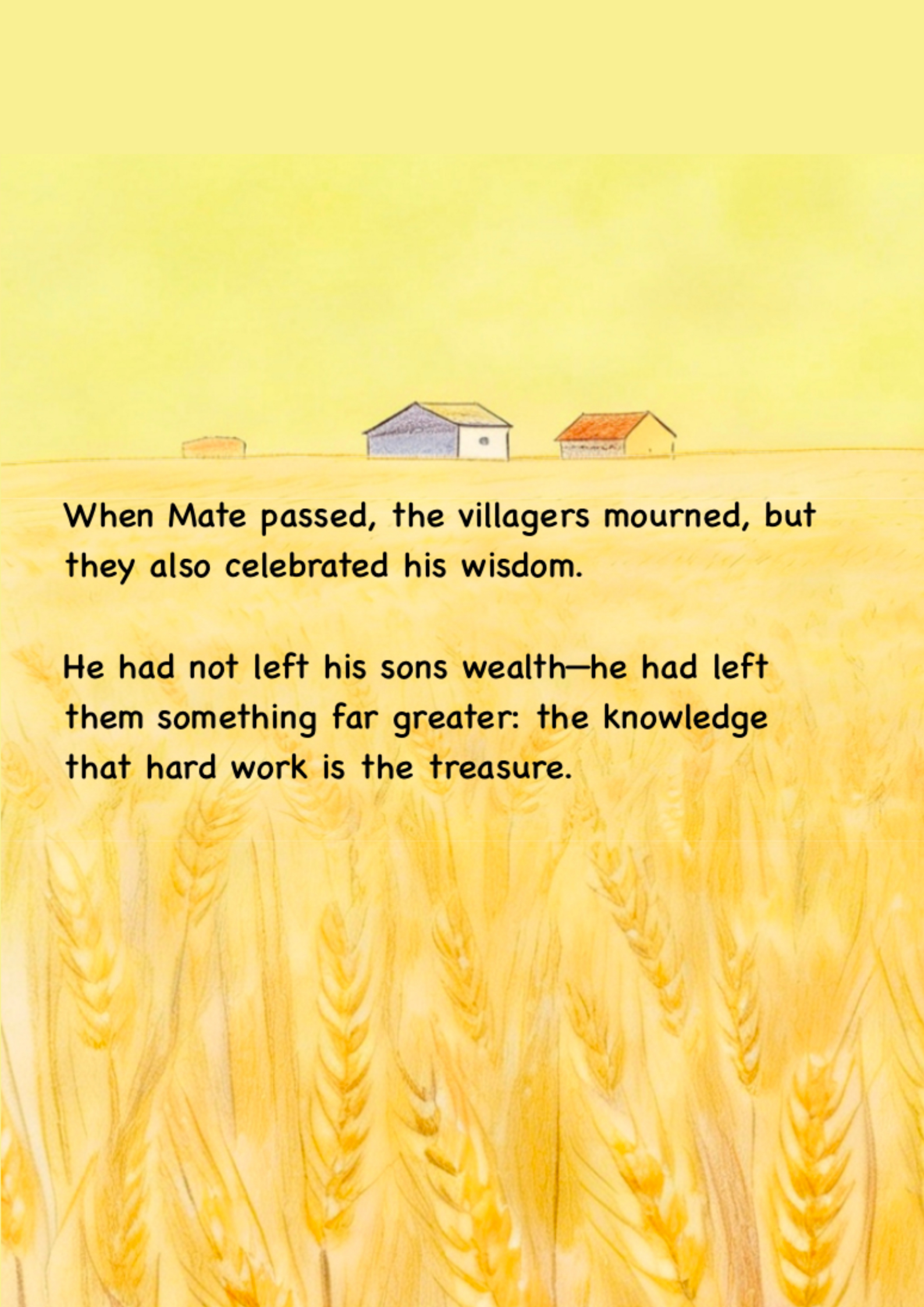
By forcing them to dig, he had taught them how to cultivate the land, how effort could bear fruit.





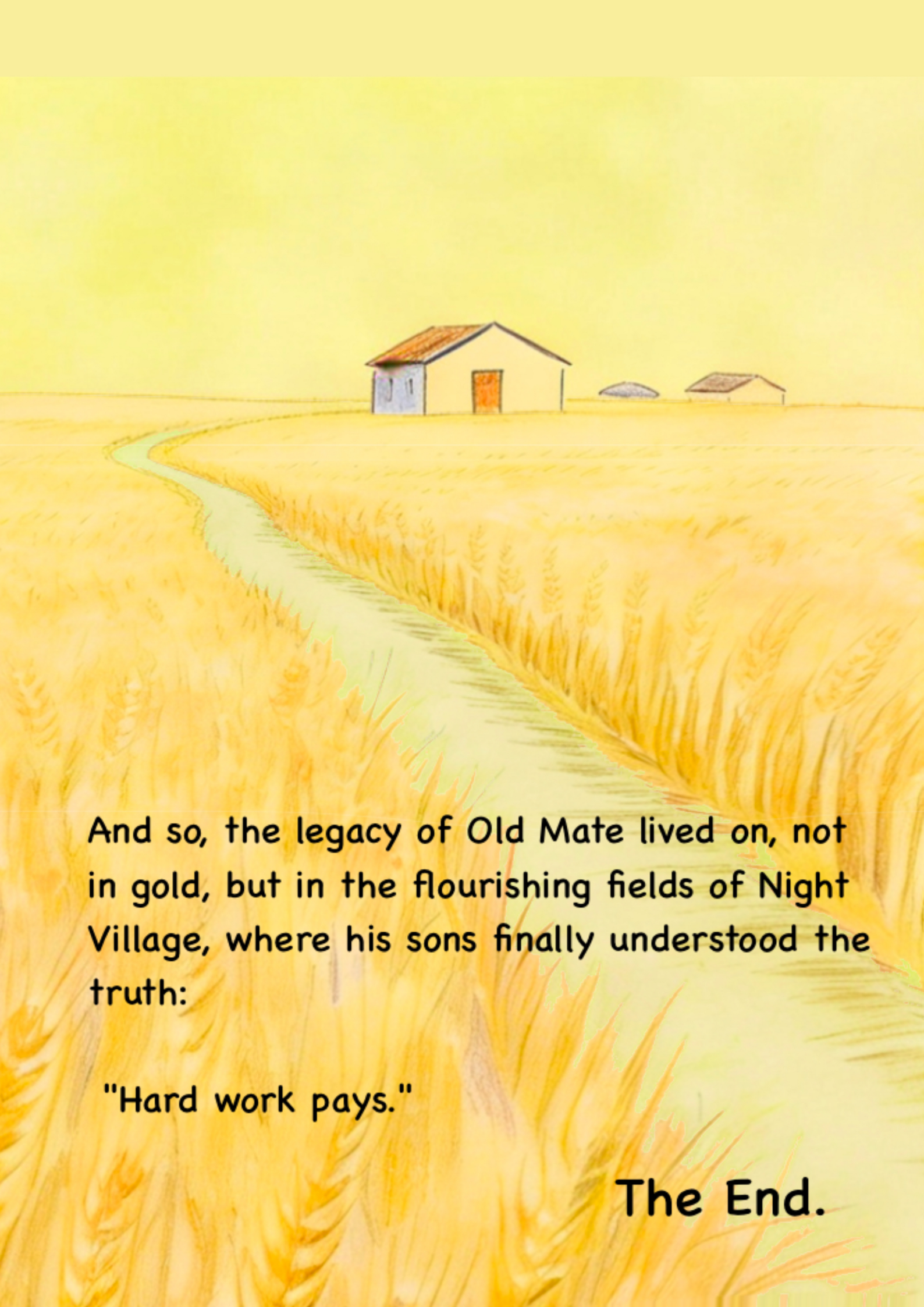
From that day on, the sons worked the fields. They planted seeds, tended crops, and harvested bountiful yields.

In time, they became as respected as their father, their laziness replaced with pride in their work.



When Mate passed, the villagers mourned, but they also celebrated his wisdom.

He had not left his sons wealth—he had left them something far greater: the knowledge that hard work is the treasure.



And so, the legacy of Old Mate lived on, not in gold, but in the flourishing fields of Night Village, where his sons finally understood the truth:

"Hard work pays."

The End.

