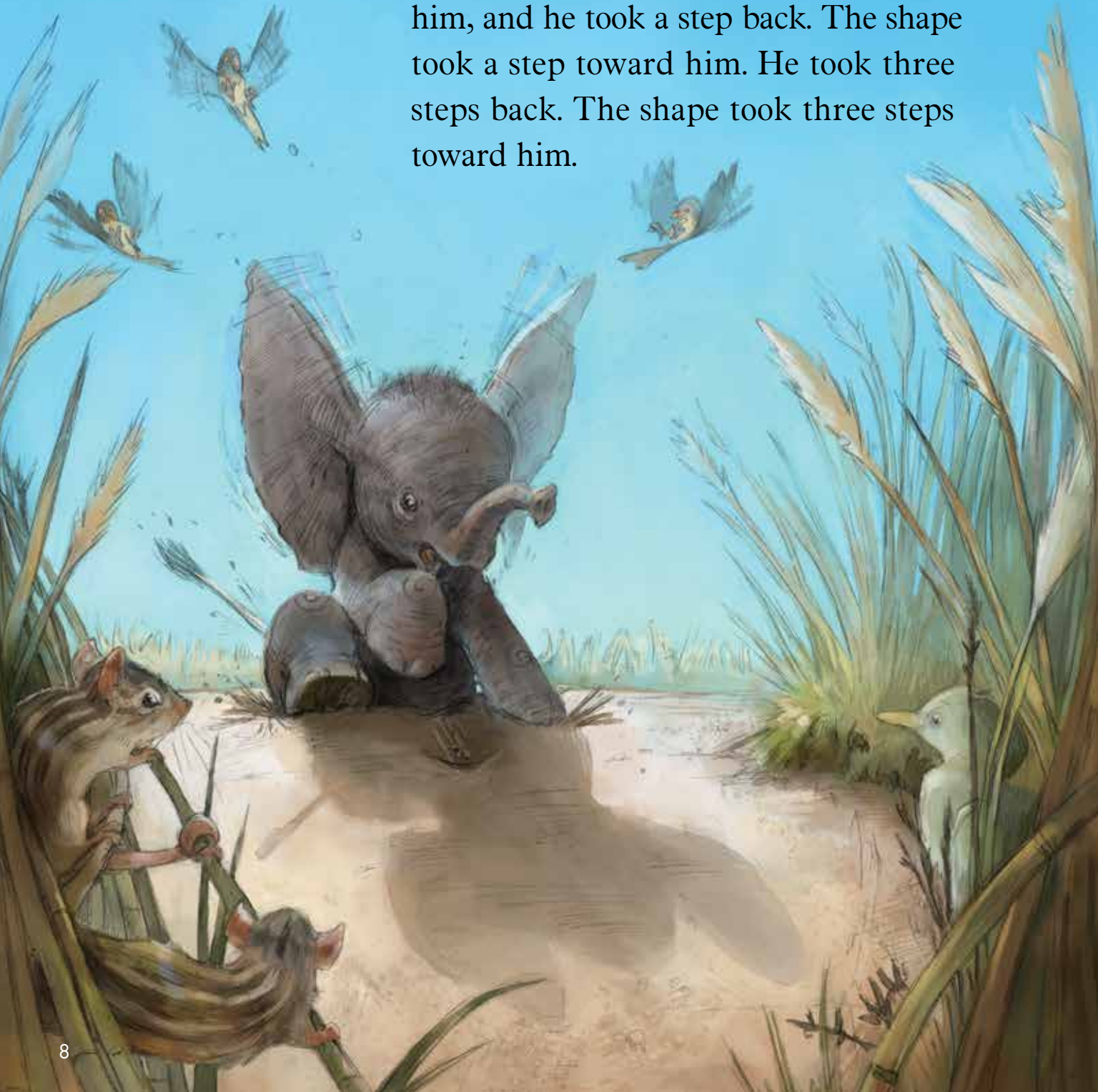


Kojo's Shadow

by Na'ima bint Robert
Art by Jennifer L. Meyer

Kojo was only knee-high when he first noticed his shadow. He had been walking along, minding his own business, when he saw a dark shape on the ground. It scared him, and he took a step back. The shape took a step toward him. He took three steps back. The shape took three steps toward him.

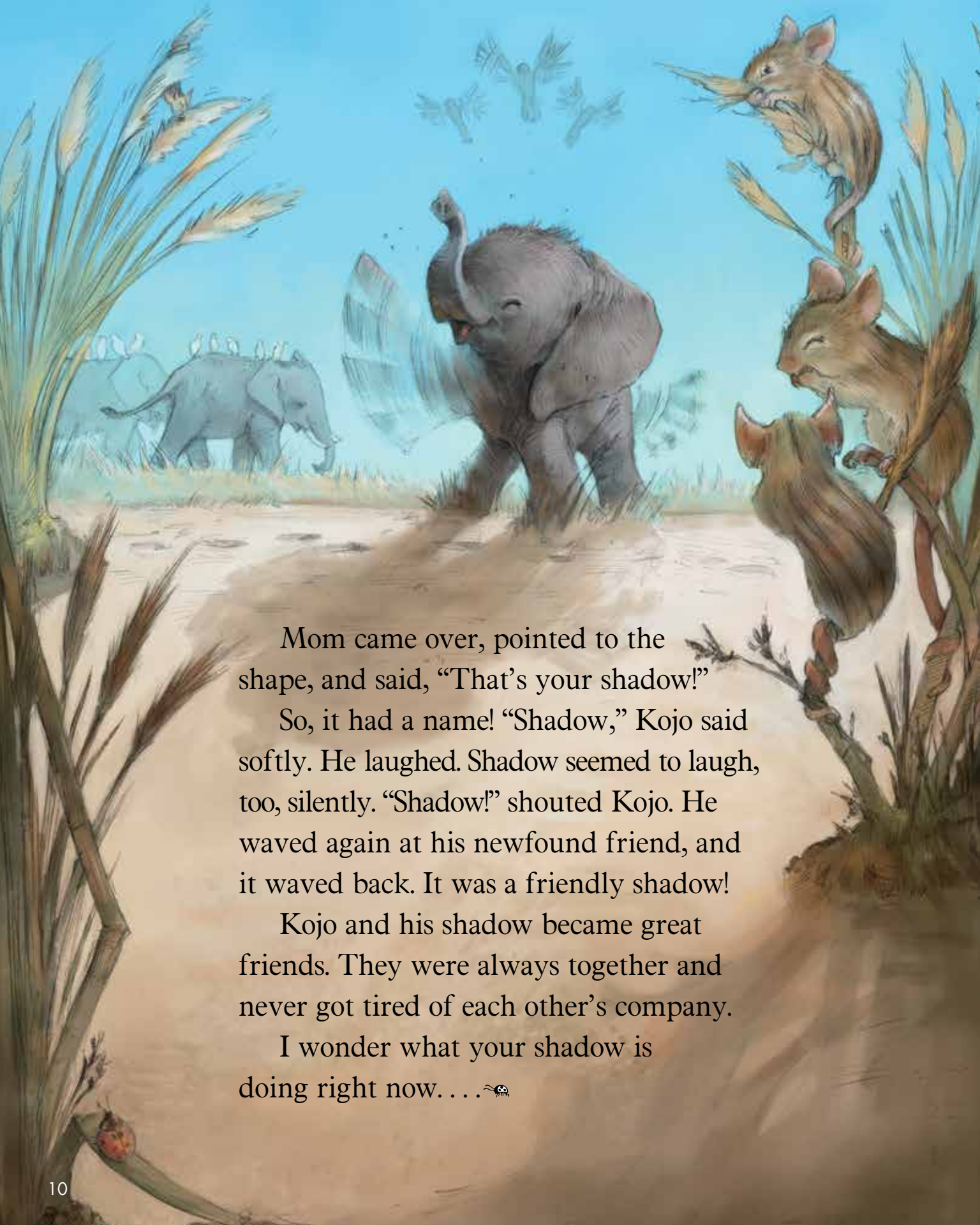


Kojo ran around the corner and hid. When he looked out again, there it was, right in front of him! He quickly ducked back. When he peered out, he saw that the shape was peering at him. Maybe it was shy, too.

Kojo gave a little wave. The shape waved, too. So, it was friendly after all! Kojo stepped out, and the shape did the same.



Kojo stepped forward, and the shape stepped back. It was teasing him! When Kojo ran, the shape ran. When he jumped, it jumped. When he crouched down low, it did the same.



Mom came over, pointed to the shadow, and said, “That’s your shadow!”

So, it had a name! “Shadow,” Kojo said softly. He laughed. Shadow seemed to laugh, too, silently. “Shadow!” shouted Kojo. He waved again at his newfound friend, and it waved back. It was a friendly shadow!

Kojo and his shadow became great friends. They were always together and never got tired of each other’s company.

I wonder what your shadow is doing right now. . . . 🐜