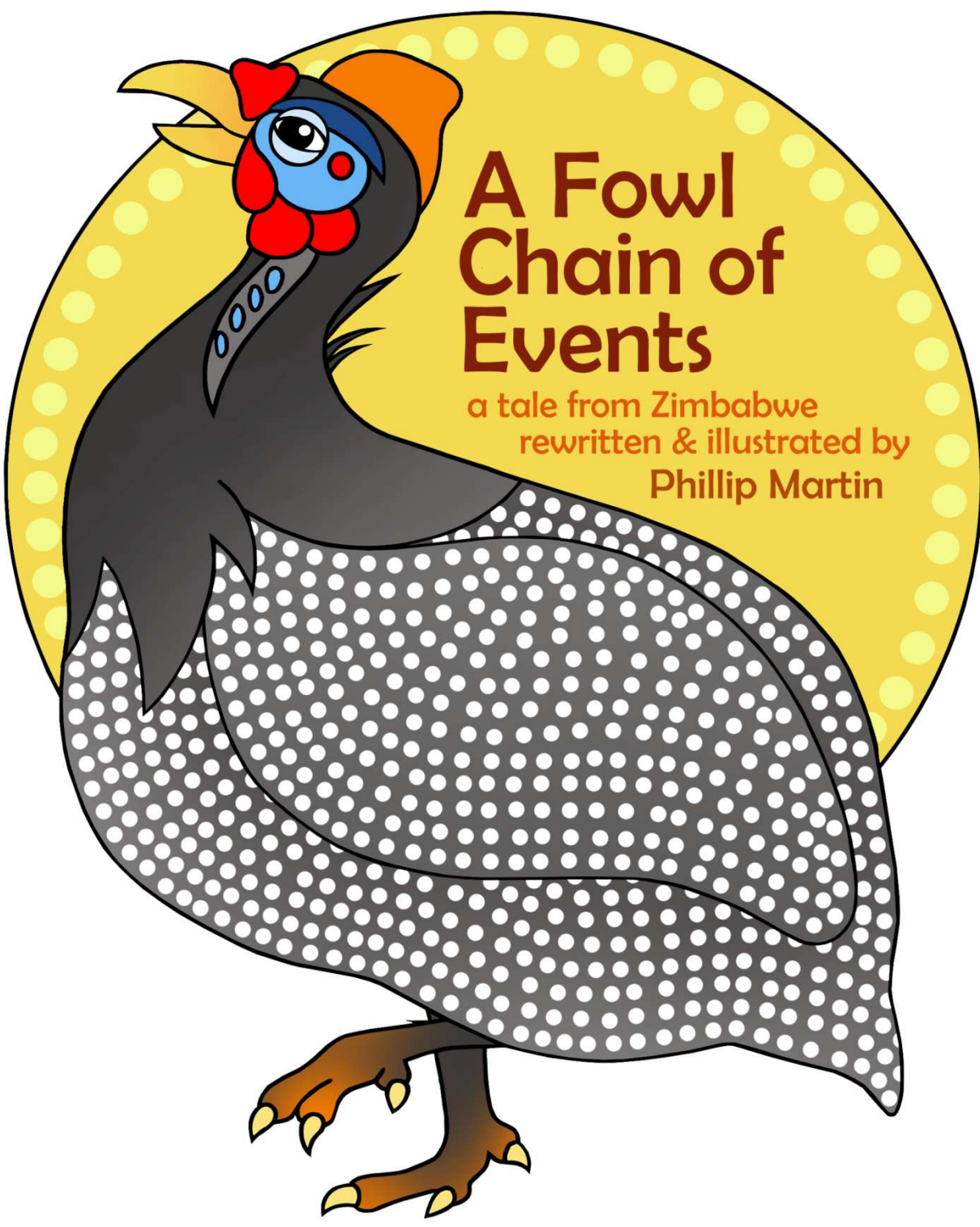
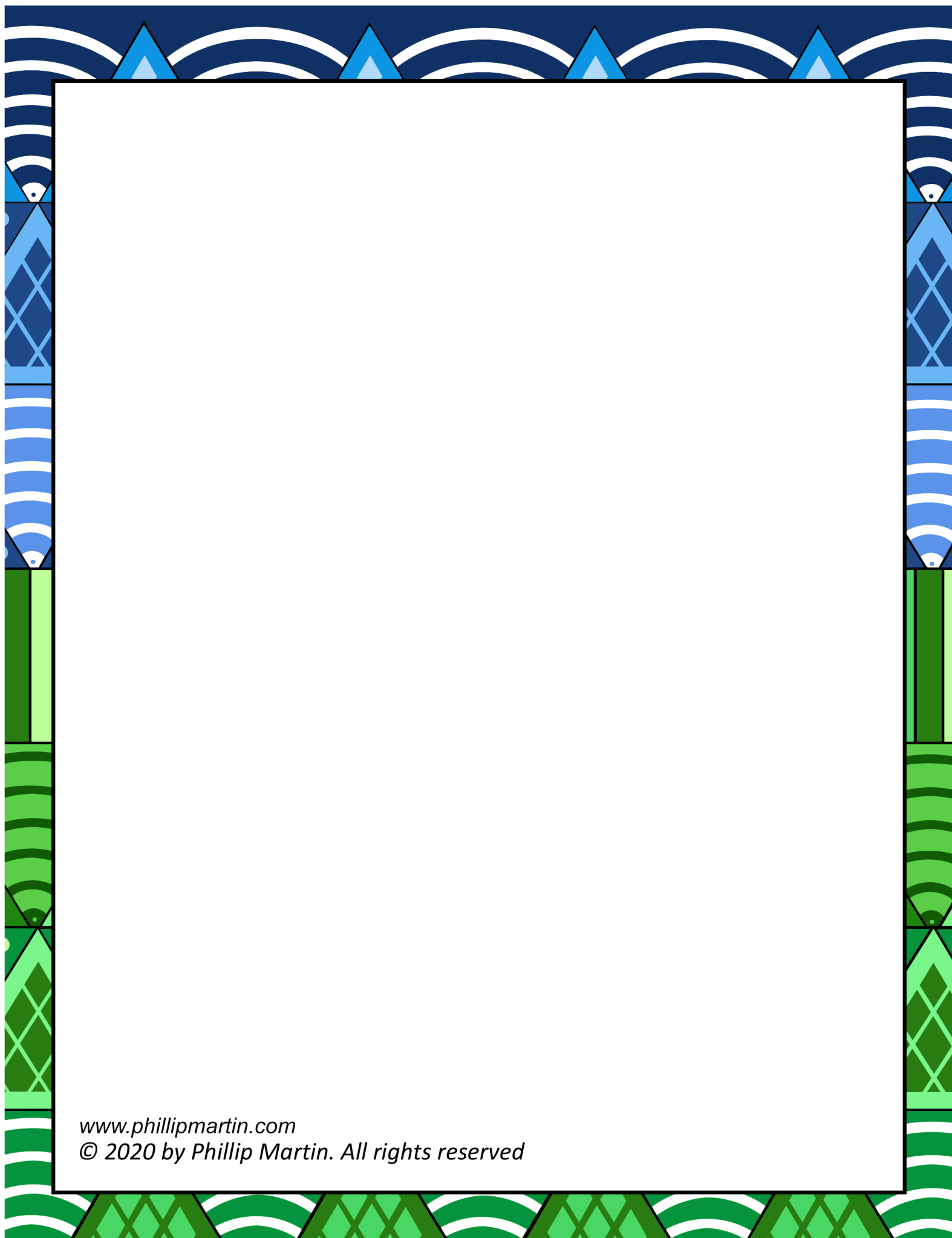


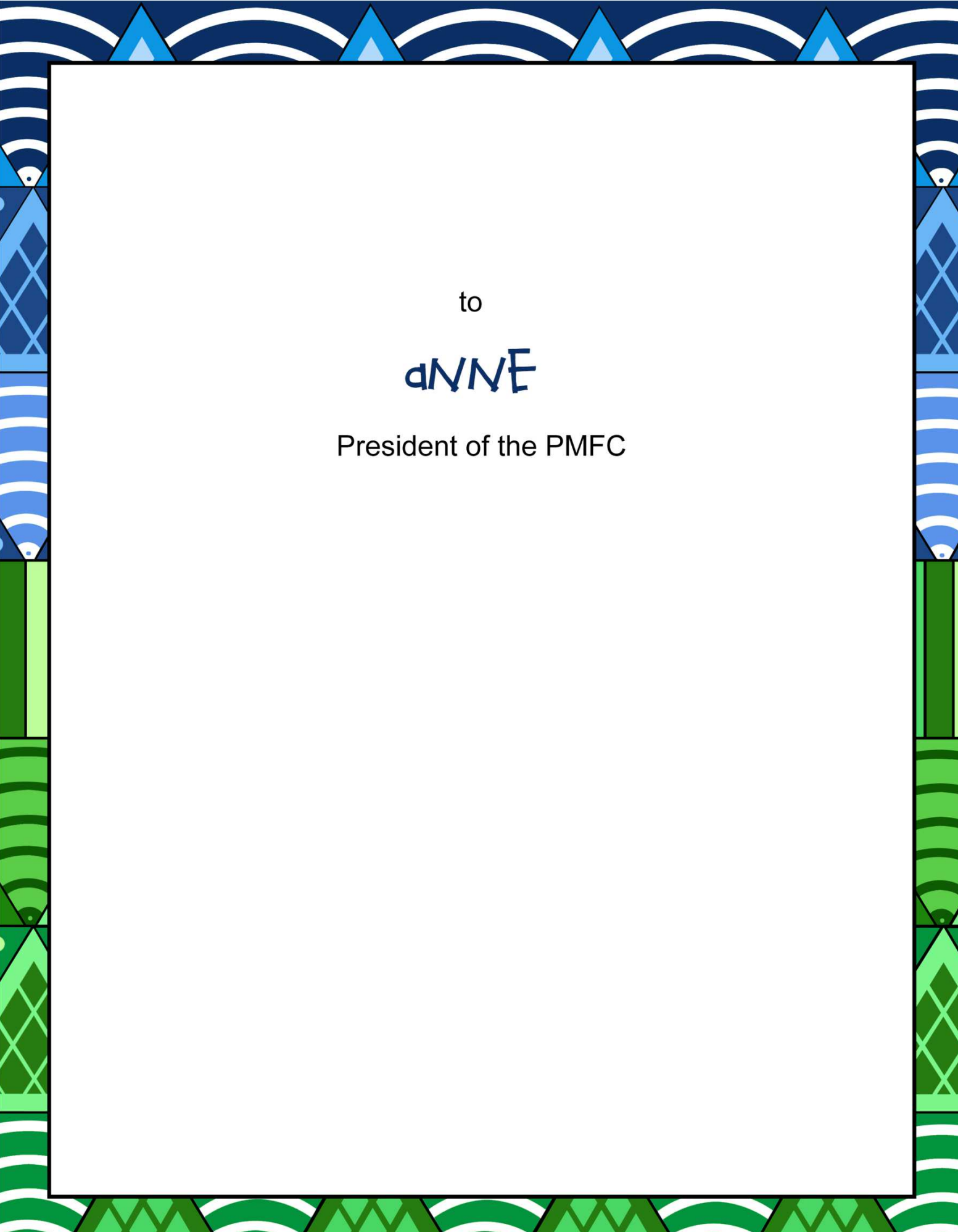


A Fowl Chain of Events

a tale from Zimbabwe
rewritten & illustrated by
Phillip Martin



www.phillipmartin.com
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to

aNNE

President of the PMFC

"Just look at those nuts growing up in the palm tree," the young man declared.

"My husband," his bride whispered, "if you can gather those nuts, I will prepare you a fine meal."

Immediately, the husband scurried up to the top of the palm tree. As he reached to cut the nuts, an annoying fly buzzed around his face. The man swatted at the fly, and in the process, he dropped the knife. "Watch out!" he cried to his wife below.

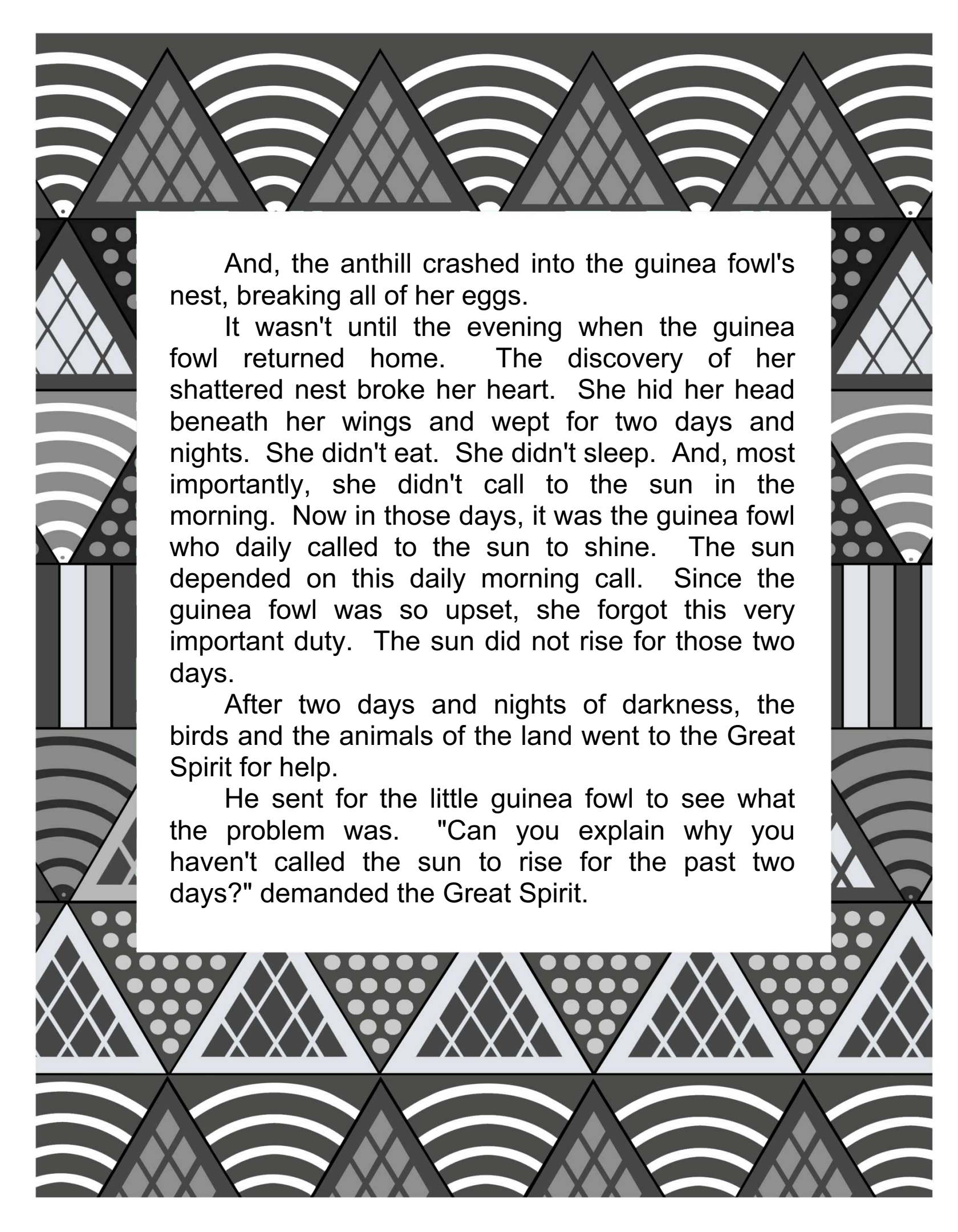
Fortunately, the young wife jumped clear of the knife, but she nearly stepped on a snake curled up in the grass fast asleep. The startled snake dived into the nearest hole for protection. And, the hole was the home of Rat. Needless to say, the rat was terrified to see a snake dashing into his home. He fled from his hole and climbed the nearest tree, screaming at the top of his lungs. Now, a rat might not have big lungs, but when one screams, it is truly scary.

Sitting in the treetops, Monkey enjoyed a few bites of a mango. That is, he enjoyed it until the screaming rat startled him. At that moment, he dropped his mango. The monkey didn't see where it landed, but Elephant was well aware of it. The mango crashed upon his head as he was out for a morning walk.

Elephant let out a trumpeting call and dashed into the forest. Well, he dashed as far as he could. It wasn't far since his foot tangled up in a creeping vine which looped around an anthill. The frightened elephant struggled to free himself. Eventually, he pulled so hard against the vine that he broke off the top of the anthill.





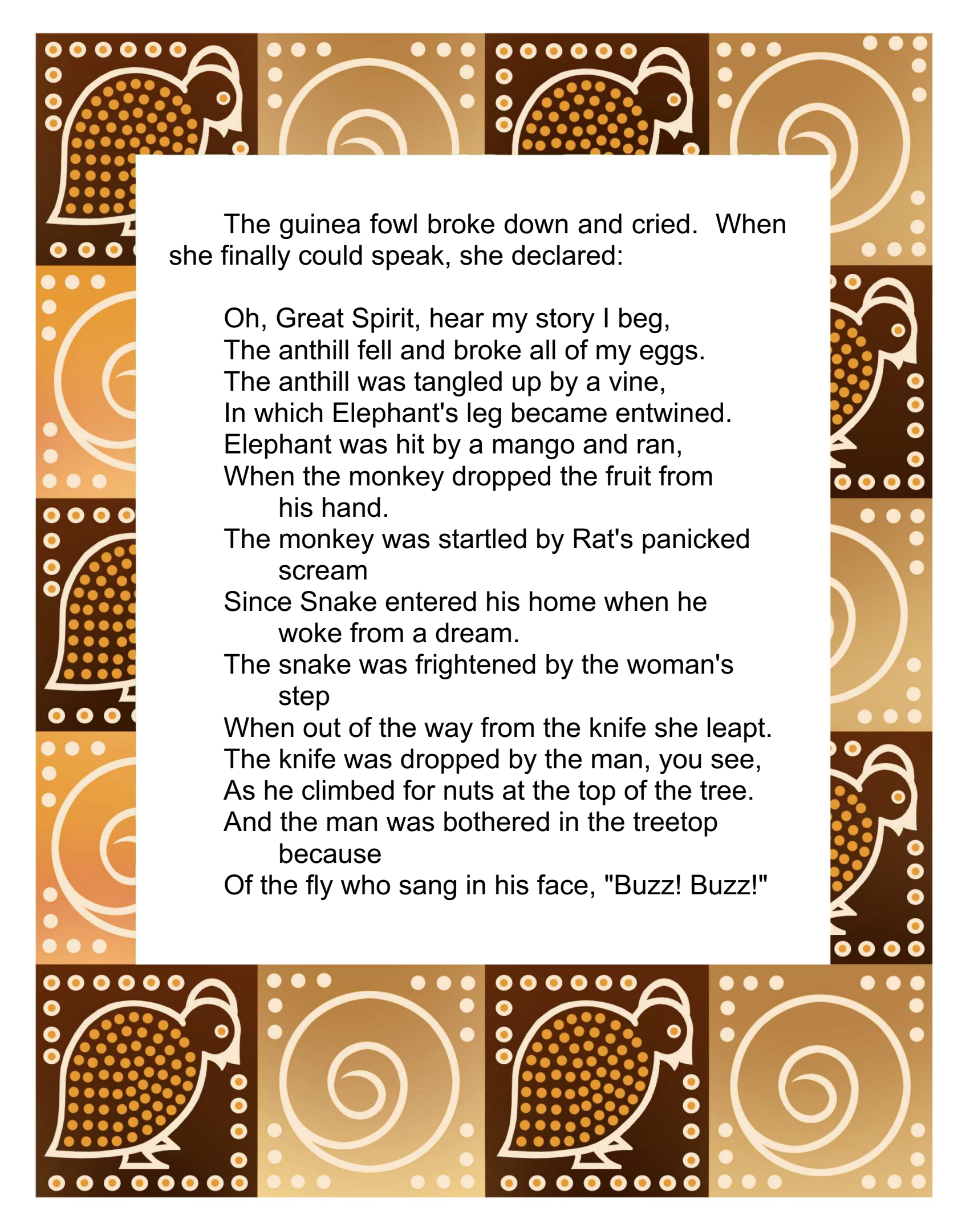


And, the anthill crashed into the guinea fowl's nest, breaking all of her eggs.

It wasn't until the evening when the guinea fowl returned home. The discovery of her shattered nest broke her heart. She hid her head beneath her wings and wept for two days and nights. She didn't eat. She didn't sleep. And, most importantly, she didn't call to the sun in the morning. Now in those days, it was the guinea fowl who daily called to the sun to shine. The sun depended on this daily morning call. Since the guinea fowl was so upset, she forgot this very important duty. The sun did not rise for those two days.

After two days and nights of darkness, the birds and the animals of the land went to the Great Spirit for help.

He sent for the little guinea fowl to see what the problem was. "Can you explain why you haven't called the sun to rise for the past two days?" demanded the Great Spirit.



The guinea fowl broke down and cried. When she finally could speak, she declared:

Oh, Great Spirit, hear my story I beg,
The anthill fell and broke all of my eggs.
The anthill was tangled up by a vine,
In which Elephant's leg became entwined.
Elephant was hit by a mango and ran,
When the monkey dropped the fruit from
his hand.

The monkey was startled by Rat's panicked
scream

Since Snake entered his home when he
woke from a dream.

The snake was frightened by the woman's
step

When out of the way from the knife she leapt.
The knife was dropped by the man, you see,
As he climbed for nuts at the top of the tree.
And the man was bothered in the treetop
because

Of the fly who sang in his face, "Buzz! Buzz!"



"Can you explain why you caused all of these problems?" the Great Spirit asked the anthill.

"I did not cause these troubles on purpose," answered the anthill. "It was not my plan. It was not my wish to fall upon the eggs. I was broken and then fell on them by accident."

Oh, Great Spirit, hear my story I beg.
I fell and then I broke all of the eggs.
Because I was tangled up by a vine,
In which Elephant's leg became entwined.
Elephant was hit by a mango and ran,
When the monkey dropped the fruit from his
hand

The monkey was startled by Rat's panicked
scream

Since Snake entered his home when he woke
from a dream.

The Snake was frightened by the woman's step
When out of the way from the knife she leapt.

The knife was dropped by the man, you see,
As he climbed for nuts at the top of the tree.

And the man was bothered in the treetop
because

Of the fly who sang in his face, "Buzz! Buzz!"

