

# Blaze Goes to College

Written by Simon Thalmann  
Illustrated by Sara Parks



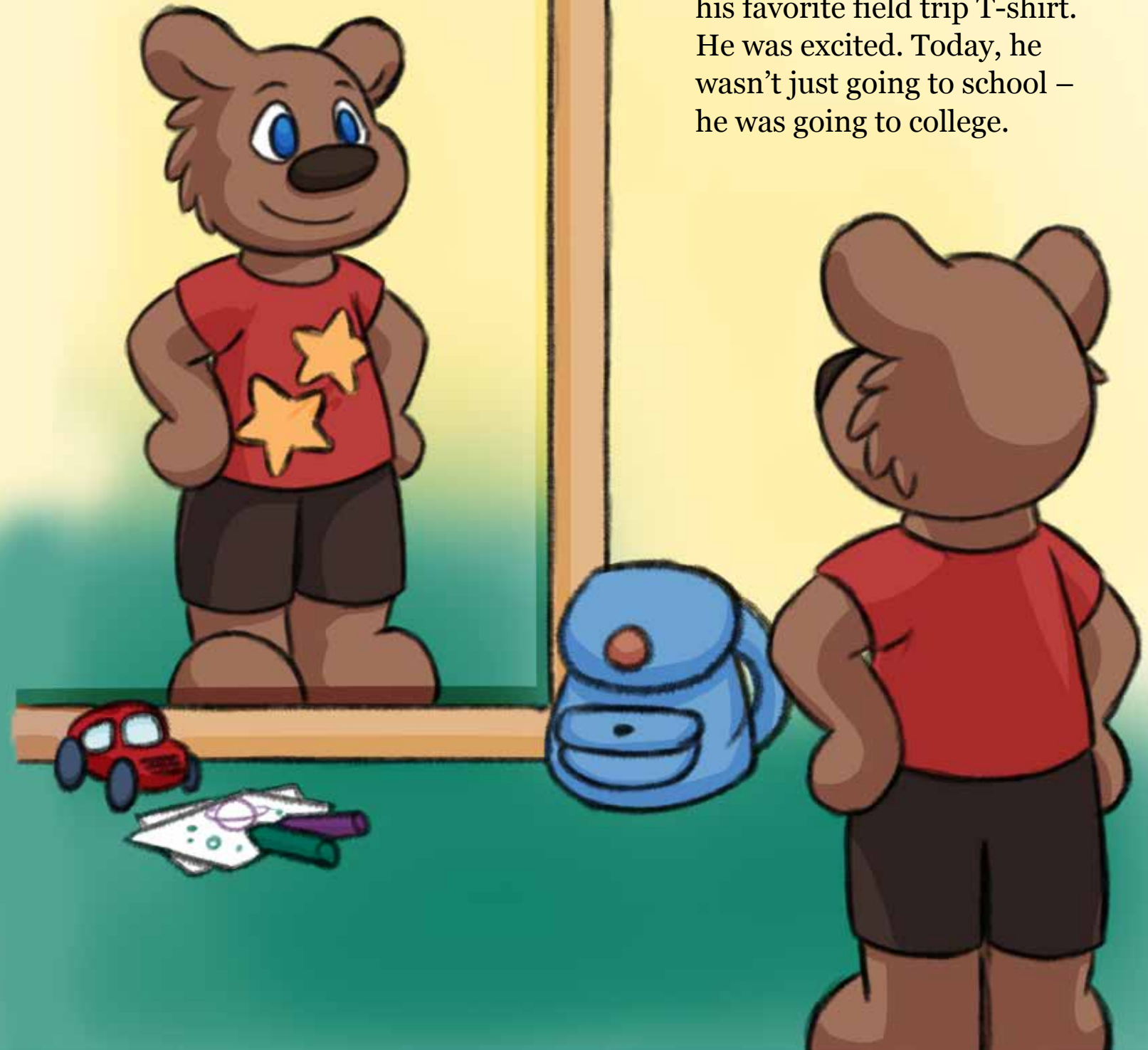
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Blaze woke up early and put on his favorite field trip T-shirt. He was excited. Today, he wasn't just going to school – he was going to college.



On the bus, a woman told Blaze and his class that she would be their tour guide.



She led them to a courtyard filled with sparkling blue pools surrounded by large brick buildings. It was beautiful.



“Welcome to Kellogg Community College,” the tour guide said.

The tour started in a real college classroom. It was big, Blaze thought, much bigger than his classroom back at school.

“In college,” the tour guide said, “you pick the classes you want to take to prepare for what you want to be when you grow up.”



Blaze raised his hand. “What if you don’t know what you want to be when you grow up?” he said.

The tour guide smiled. “That’s okay,” she said. “Maybe you’ll get some ideas today.”

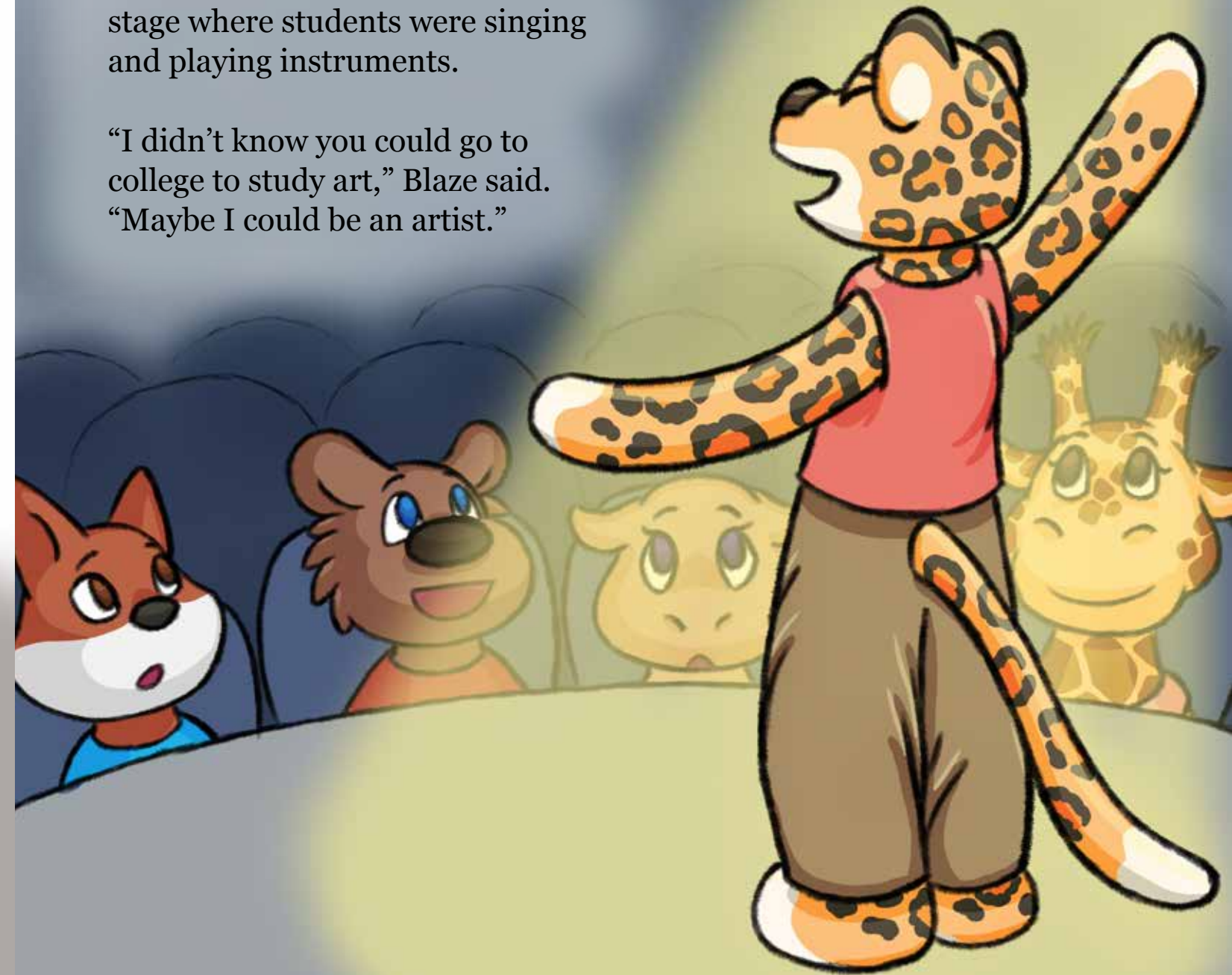


The tour guide led them to a building full of students studying art. In one room, students were painting colorful pictures, while others made clay pots on spinning wheels. Down the hall, photography students were framing photos to hang in the college's art gallery.



There was even a theater, with a stage where students were singing and playing instruments.

“I didn’t know you could go to college to study art,” Blaze said. “Maybe I could be an artist.”



Next the class visited one of the college's many computer labs, where students were working on projects for their computer programming class. One student let Blaze play a video game she made on her smartphone. It was fun! Another student even made a remote-controlled car.



In another computer lab, Blaze and his class got to watch engineering students make physical objects out of computer designs with the college's 3D printer. Blaze had never seen one of those before.



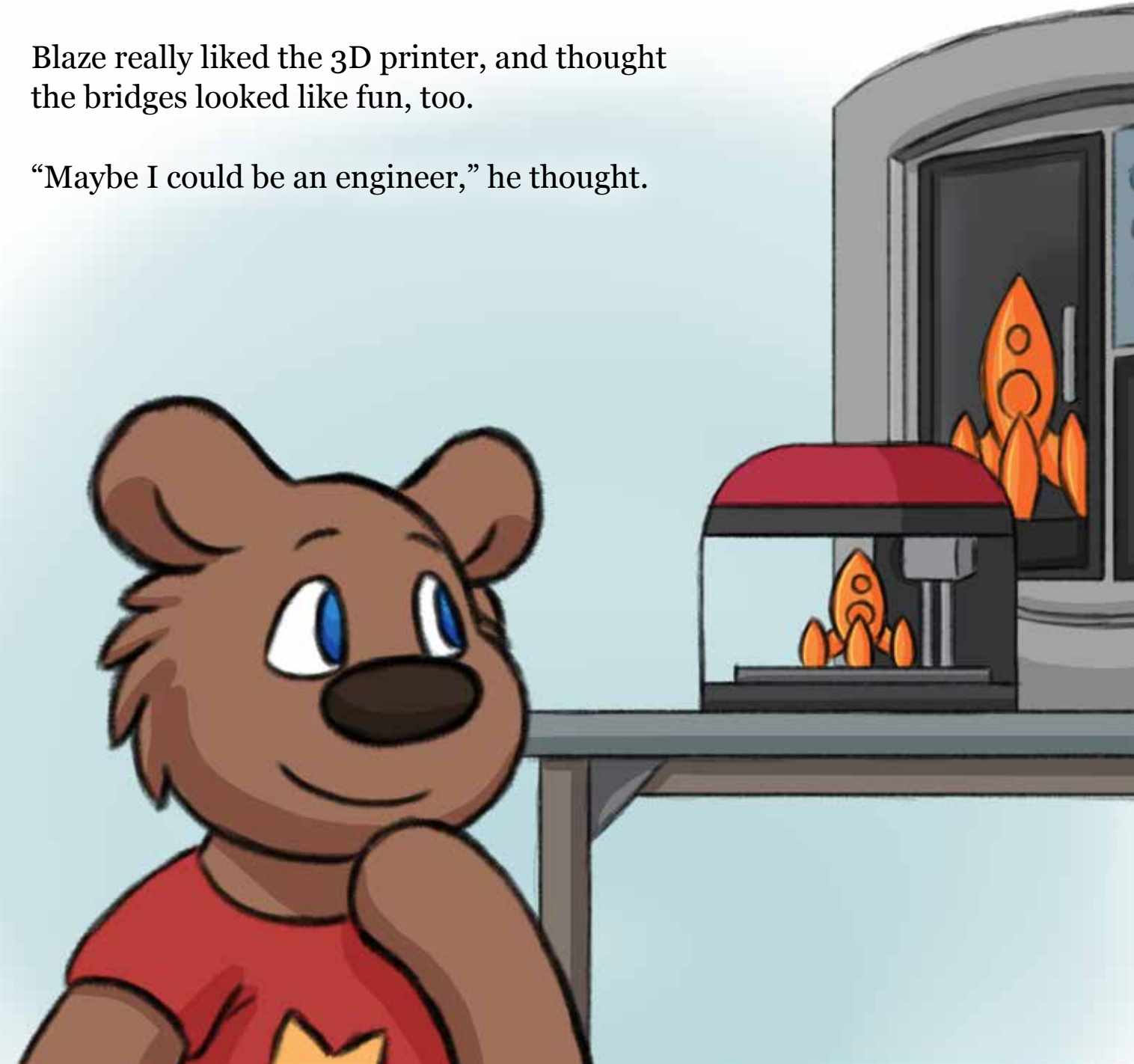
Some of the students showed the class bridges they made out of dry spaghetti noodles, hanging weights from the bridges to show how strong they were.

“These students are practicing to become real engineers,” the tour guide said. “Someday, they may build actual bridges.”

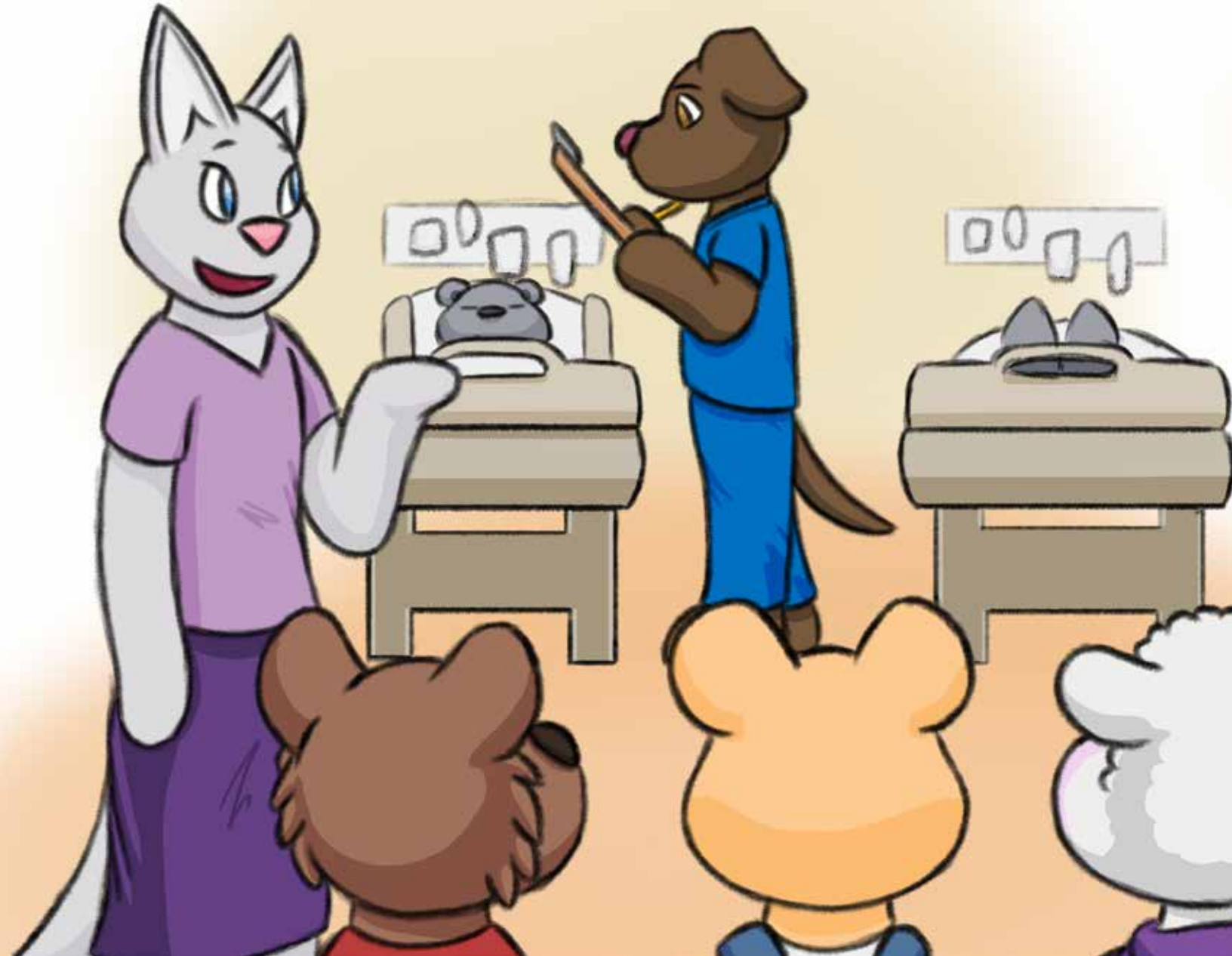


Blaze really liked the 3D printer, and thought the bridges looked like fun, too.

“Maybe I could be an engineer,” he thought.

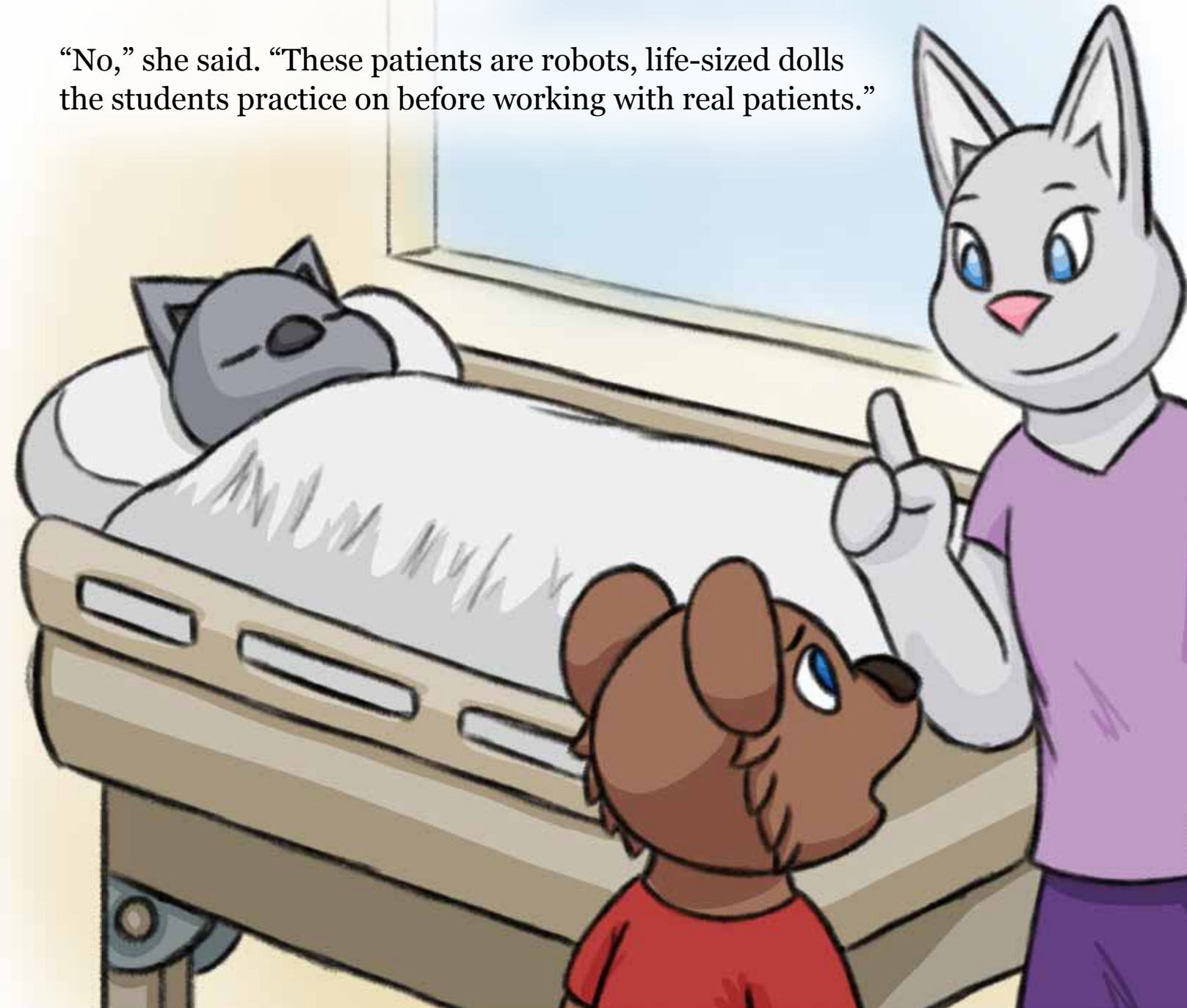


The next stop on the tour looked more like a hospital room than a classroom. It was full of beds, with students dressed in bright blue uniforms leaning over what looked like patients. “This is one of our nursing labs,” the tour guide said. “Students here learn how to take care of sick people.”



Blaze looked at one of the patients. “Are they really sick?” he asked. The tour guide smiled and led him to one of the patient beds to get a closer look.

“No,” she said. “These patients are robots, life-sized dolls the students practice on before working with real patients.”



Sure enough, Blaze could see the robot breathing, its chest moving slowly up and down. Suddenly its eyes opened, and Blaze jumped. "Hello!" it said.

The whole class laughed, Blaze included.



Blaze never knew you could work with robots like this in college.

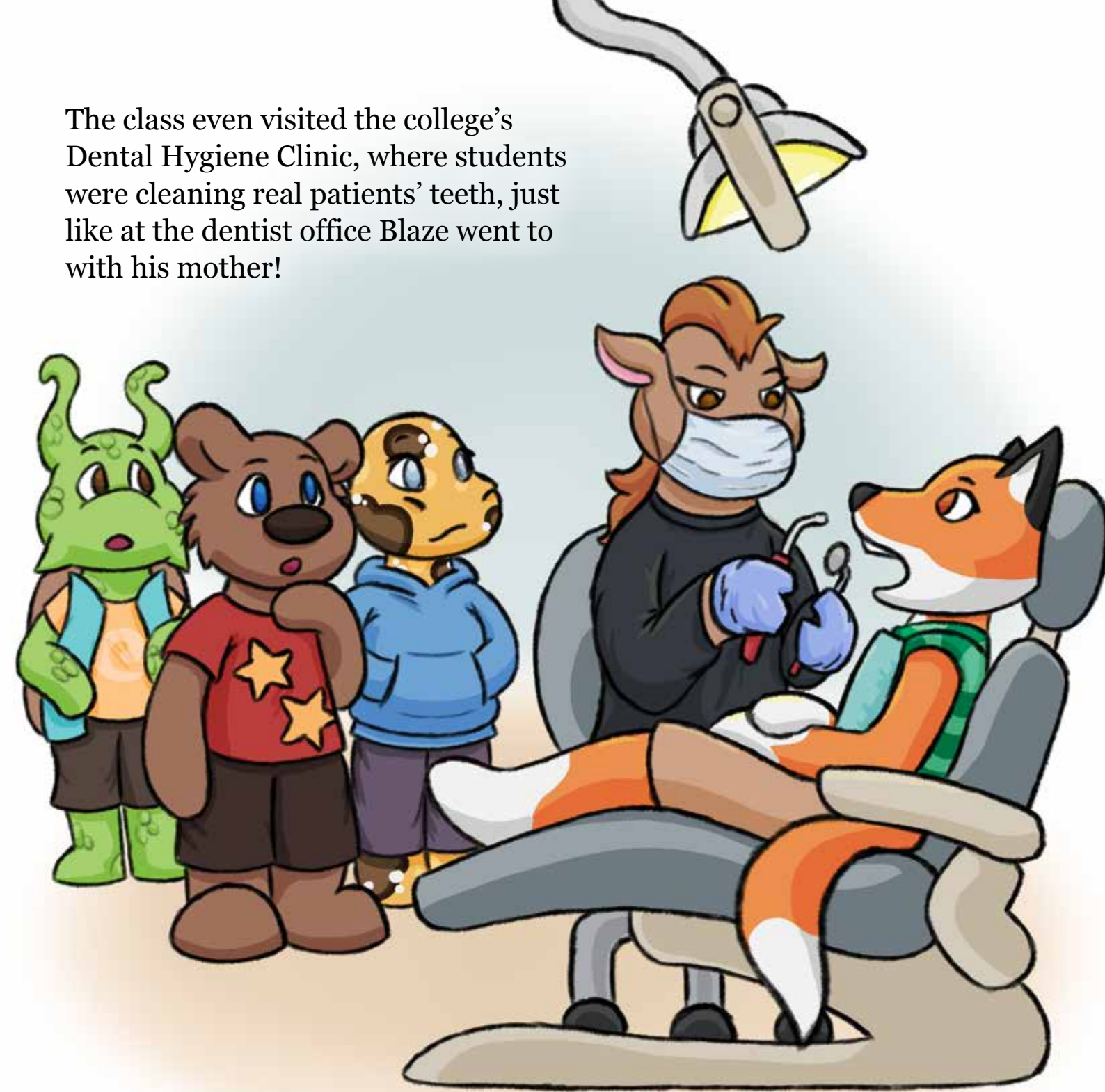
"Maybe I could be a nurse," he thought.



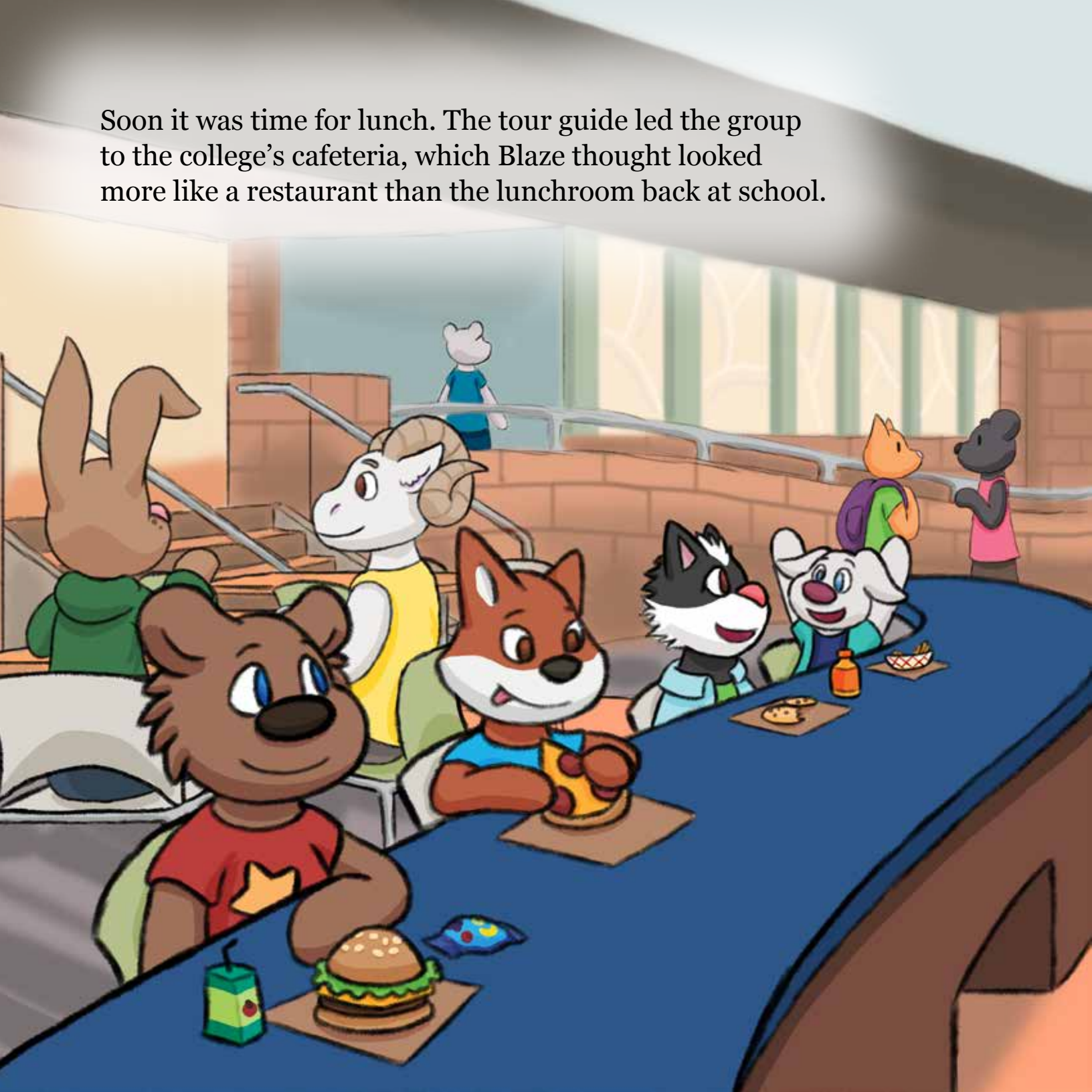
In another room, the class watched students practice other health care jobs. Some students were learning how to take X-rays. Others were learning how to help people in wheelchairs.



The class even visited the college's Dental Hygiene Clinic, where students were cleaning real patients' teeth, just like at the dentist office Blaze went to with his mother!



Soon it was time for lunch. The tour guide led the group to the college's cafeteria, which Blaze thought looked more like a restaurant than the lunchroom back at school.



There was a lot of food to choose from, but Blaze was too excited to eat. They'd seen so many cool things already.

What else would they see? Blaze couldn't wait to find out.



After lunch, Blaze and his class visited the college's Police Academy, where students were learning how to become police officers. The students even dressed like real police officers!



The students let Blaze sit in one of the college's real police cars, and even gave him his very own badge. Blaze put the badge on his shirt.

"Maybe I could be a police officer," he said.

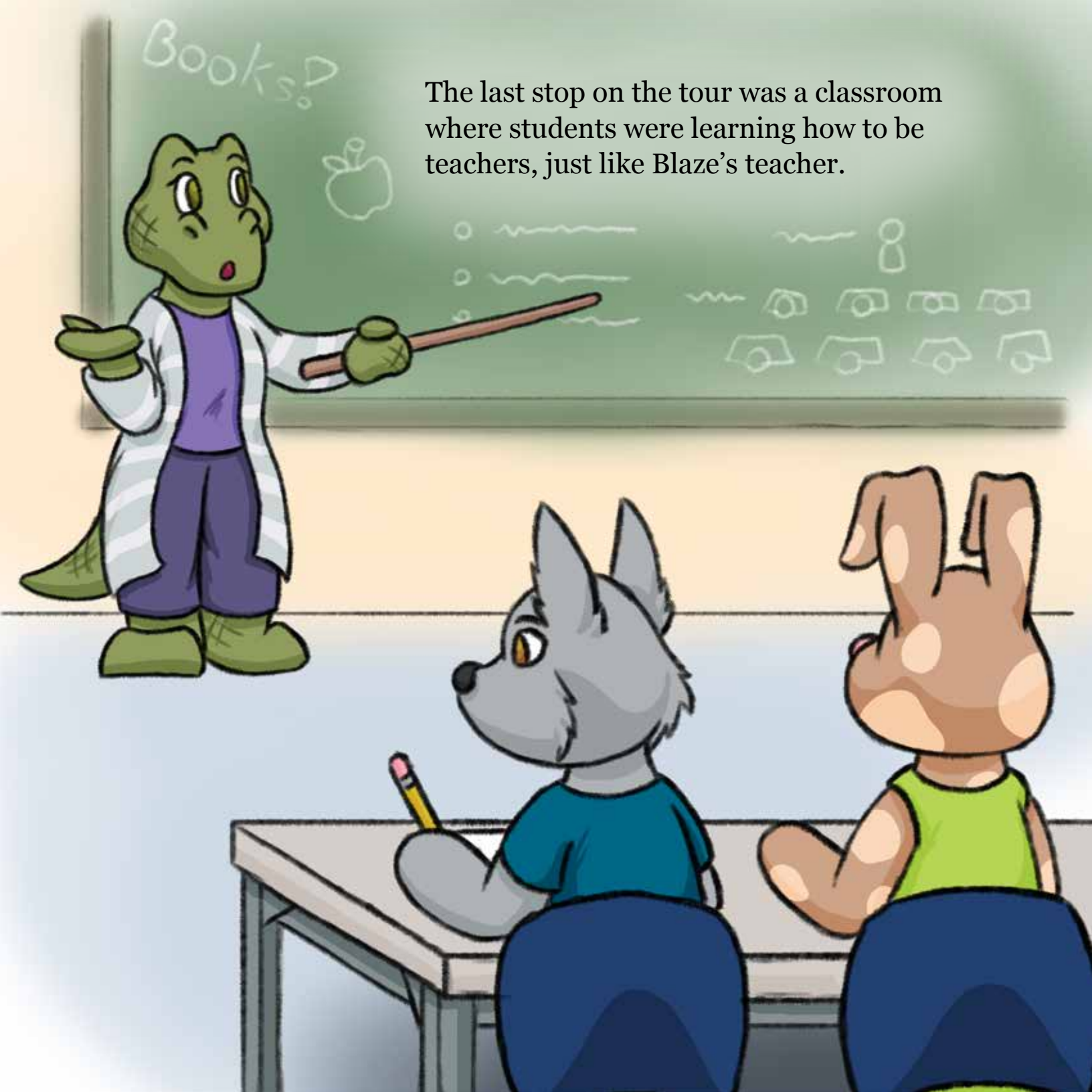


In another room, students were training to help rescue patients in a real ambulance, with working lights and everything. One of the students even let Blaze try the siren. It was so loud!

Everyone covered their ears and laughed.

Who knew college could be so fun?





The last stop on the tour was a classroom where students were learning how to be teachers, just like Blaze's teacher.

"When I was in college, I started right here at Kellogg Community College myself," Blaze's teacher said.

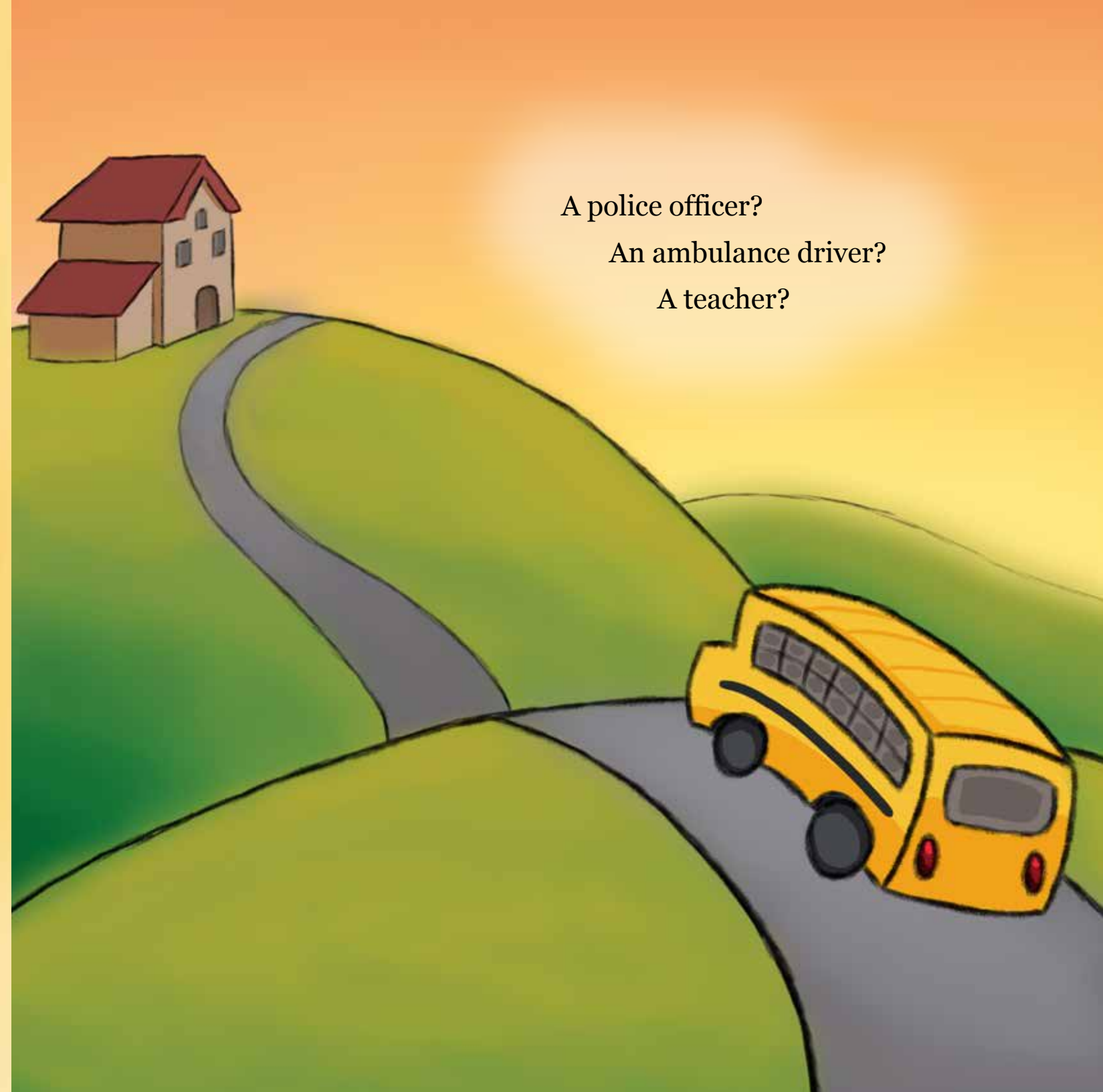
Blaze thought his teacher was the best in the whole school. She was so nice! "Maybe I could be a teacher, too," he thought.





On the ride home, Blaze thought about his day.  
What did he want to be when he grew up?

An artist? An engineer? A nurse?



A police officer?

An ambulance driver?

A teacher?

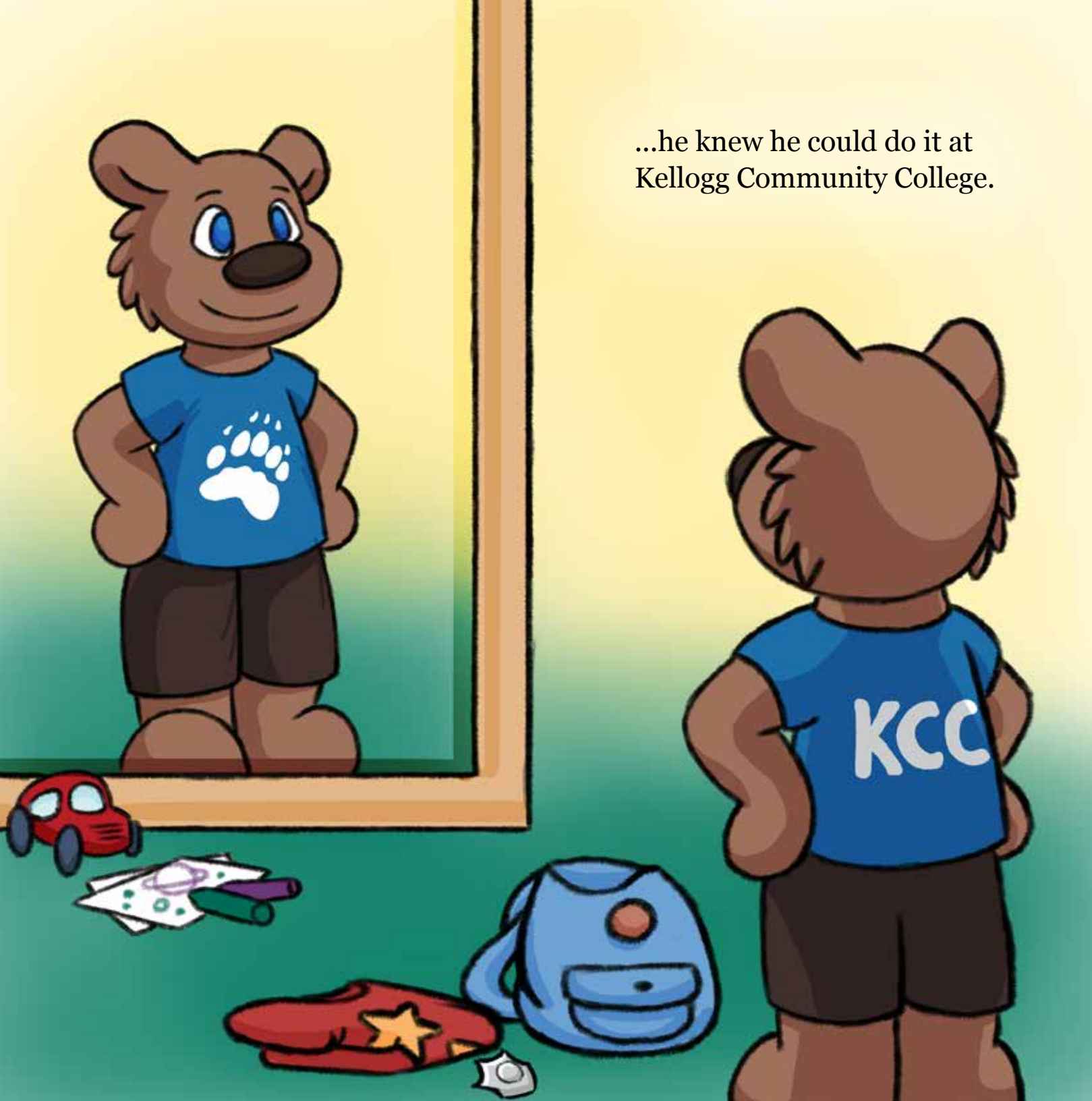
Blaze's mom met him at the door.  
"How was your field trip?" she asked.  
"What was your favorite part?"



Blaze couldn't decide. He liked it all! He knew he didn't have to pick a favorite or know what he wanted to be when he grew up right now, but when he did decide...



...he knew he could do it at  
Kellogg Community College.





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**Kellogg Community College**  
450 North Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49017

**kellogg.edu**