

*Christina*





# Christina

A FRIGHTFUL JOURNEY  
A Child's Timely Story of Discovery  
As Told By Christina The Austrian Clock



Christina  
The Austrian Clock

Written by  
Marty Roenigk

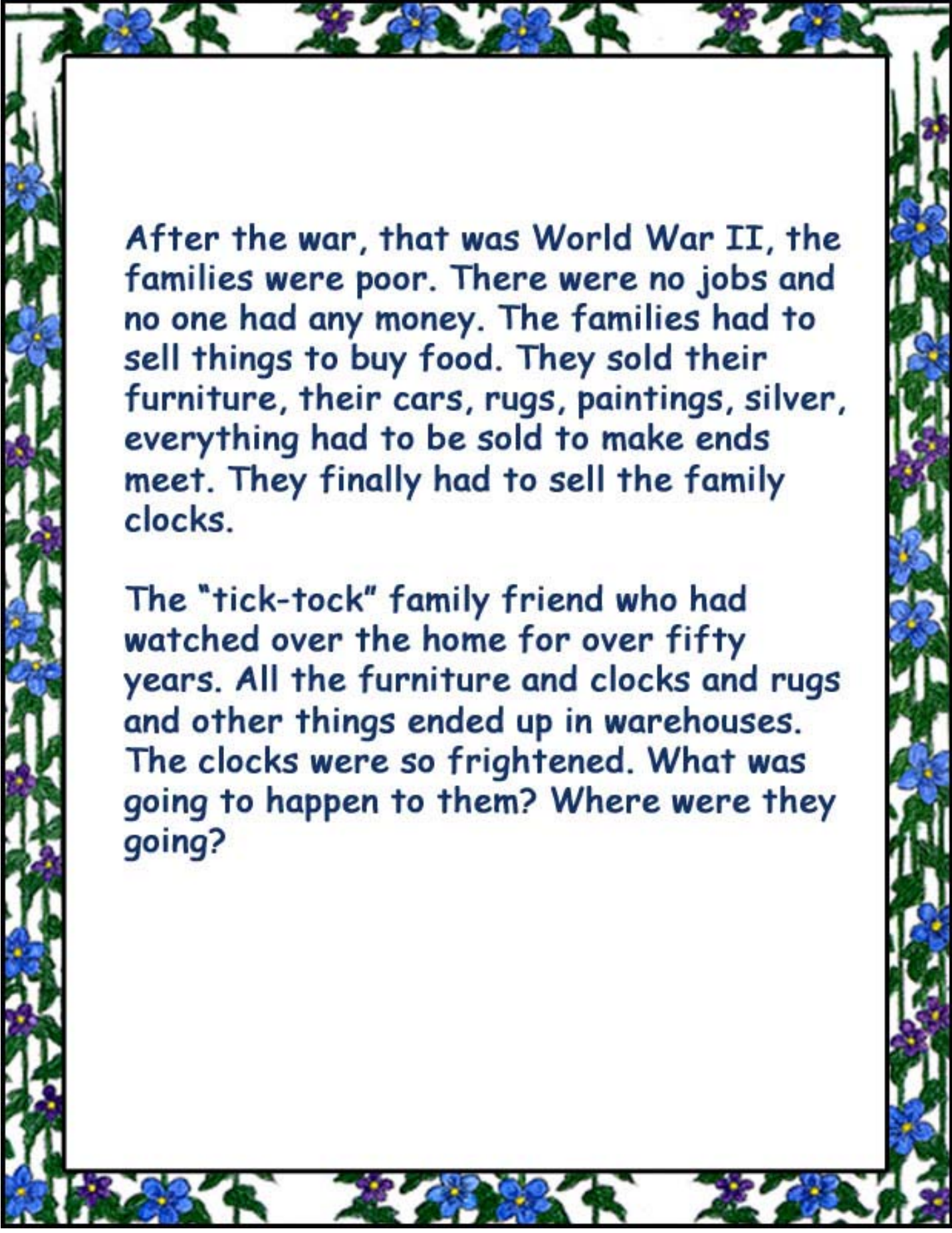
Illustrated by  
Ophelia Fenwick



Once upon a time in Austria, there were many happy clocks hanging on walls with families and friends - cheerfully ticking away, pendulums swinging, ringing out the hours.

The family even gave them names. There's Christina the Clock ringing out the hour again! Time to wake up! Time to go to school! Time to eat lunch! Time to go to bed!

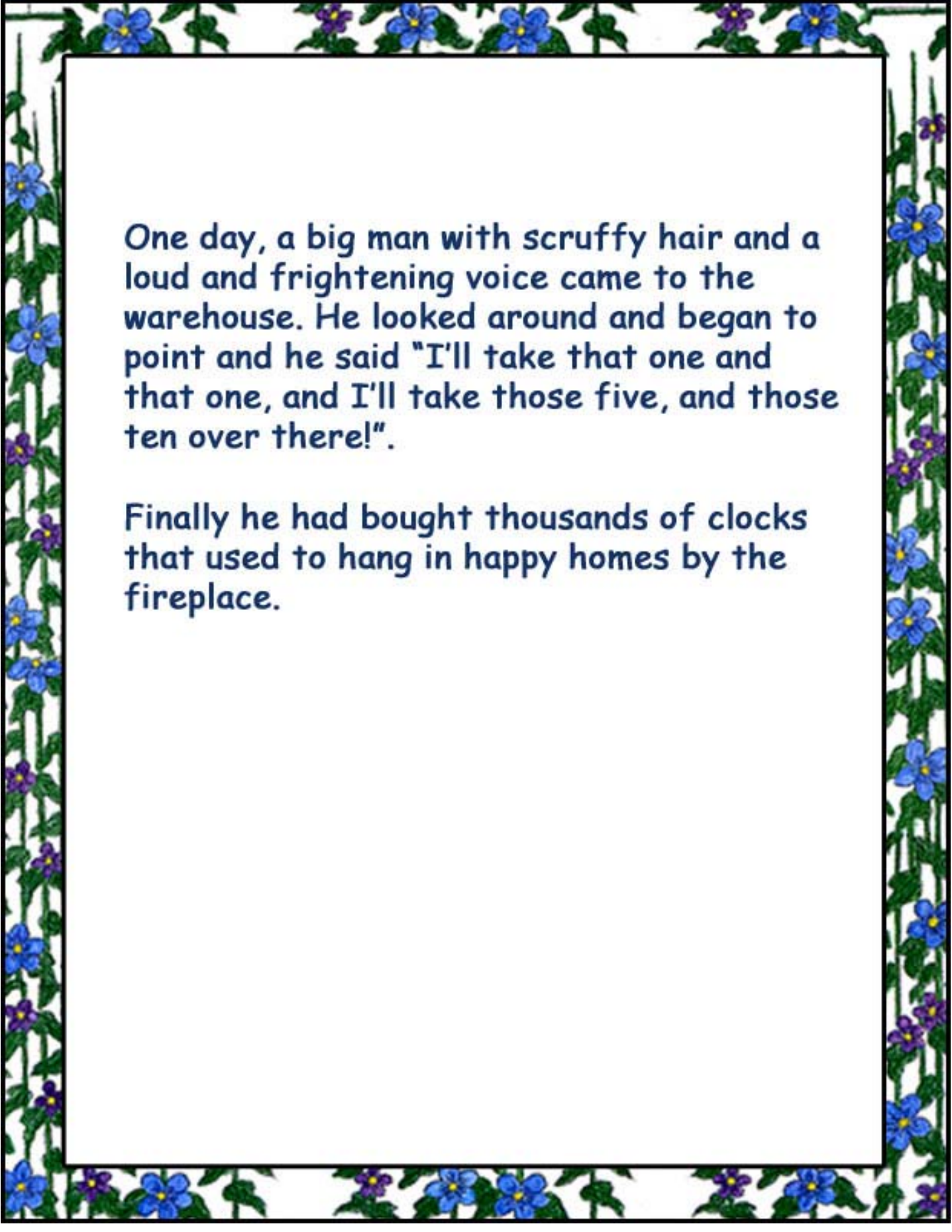




After the war, that was World War II, the families were poor. There were no jobs and no one had any money. The families had to sell things to buy food. They sold their furniture, their cars, rugs, paintings, silver, everything had to be sold to make ends meet. They finally had to sell the family clocks.

The "tick-tock" family friend who had watched over the home for over fifty years. All the furniture and clocks and rugs and other things ended up in warehouses. The clocks were so frightened. What was going to happen to them? Where were they going?



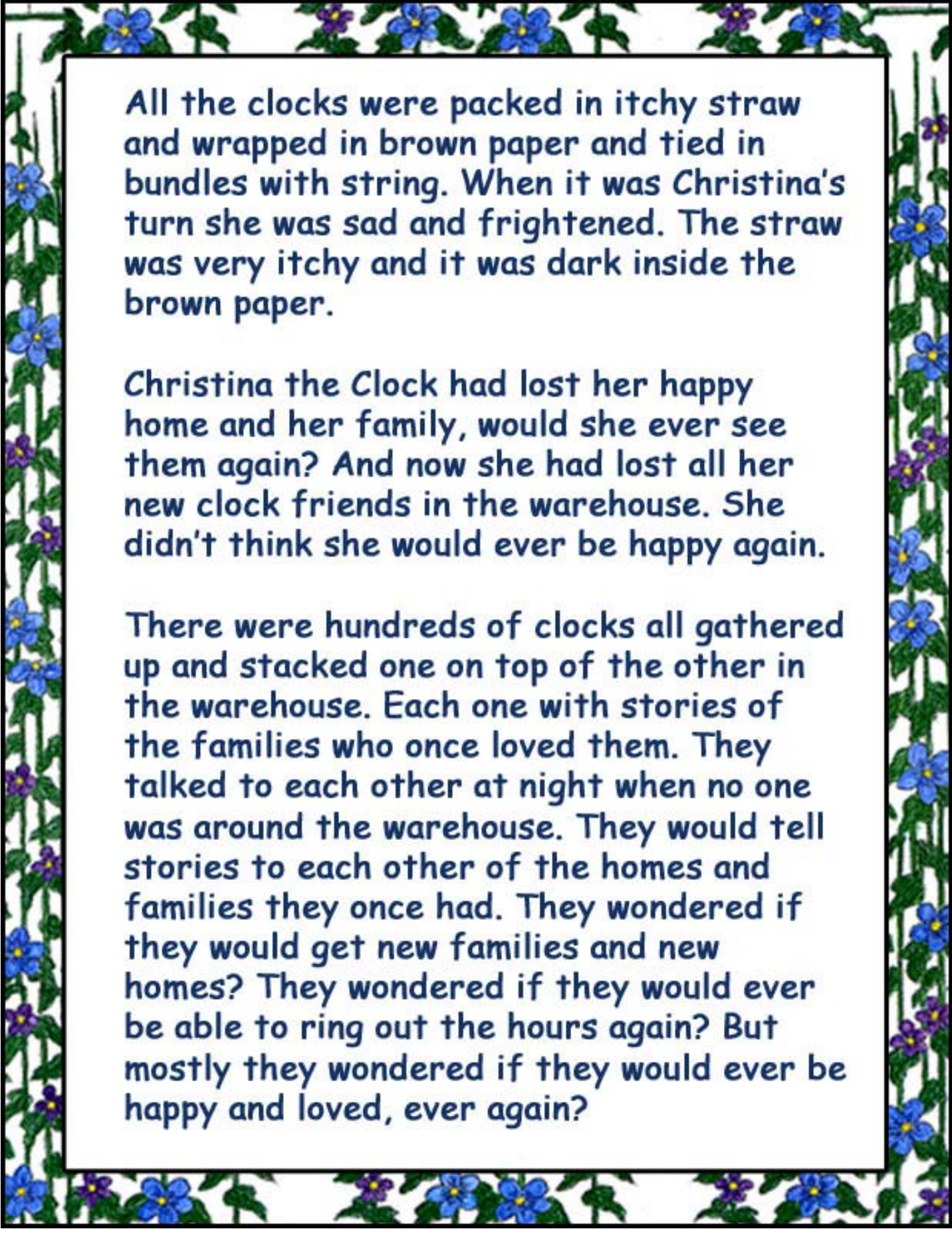


One day, a big man with scruffy hair and a loud and frightening voice came to the warehouse. He looked around and began to point and he said "I'll take that one and that one, and I'll take those five, and those ten over there!".

Finally he had bought thousands of clocks that used to hang in happy homes by the fireplace.







All the clocks were packed in itchy straw and wrapped in brown paper and tied in bundles with string. When it was Christina's turn she was sad and frightened. The straw was very itchy and it was dark inside the brown paper.

Christina the Clock had lost her happy home and her family, would she ever see them again? And now she had lost all her new clock friends in the warehouse. She didn't think she would ever be happy again.

There were hundreds of clocks all gathered up and stacked one on top of the other in the warehouse. Each one with stories of the families who once loved them. They talked to each other at night when no one was around the warehouse. They would tell stories to each other of the homes and families they once had. They wondered if they would get new families and new homes? They wondered if they would ever be able to ring out the hours again? But mostly they wondered if they would ever be happy and loved, ever again?

"I wish I could tick-tock"

"Ke too!"

"Hey! Oliver, are you over there?"

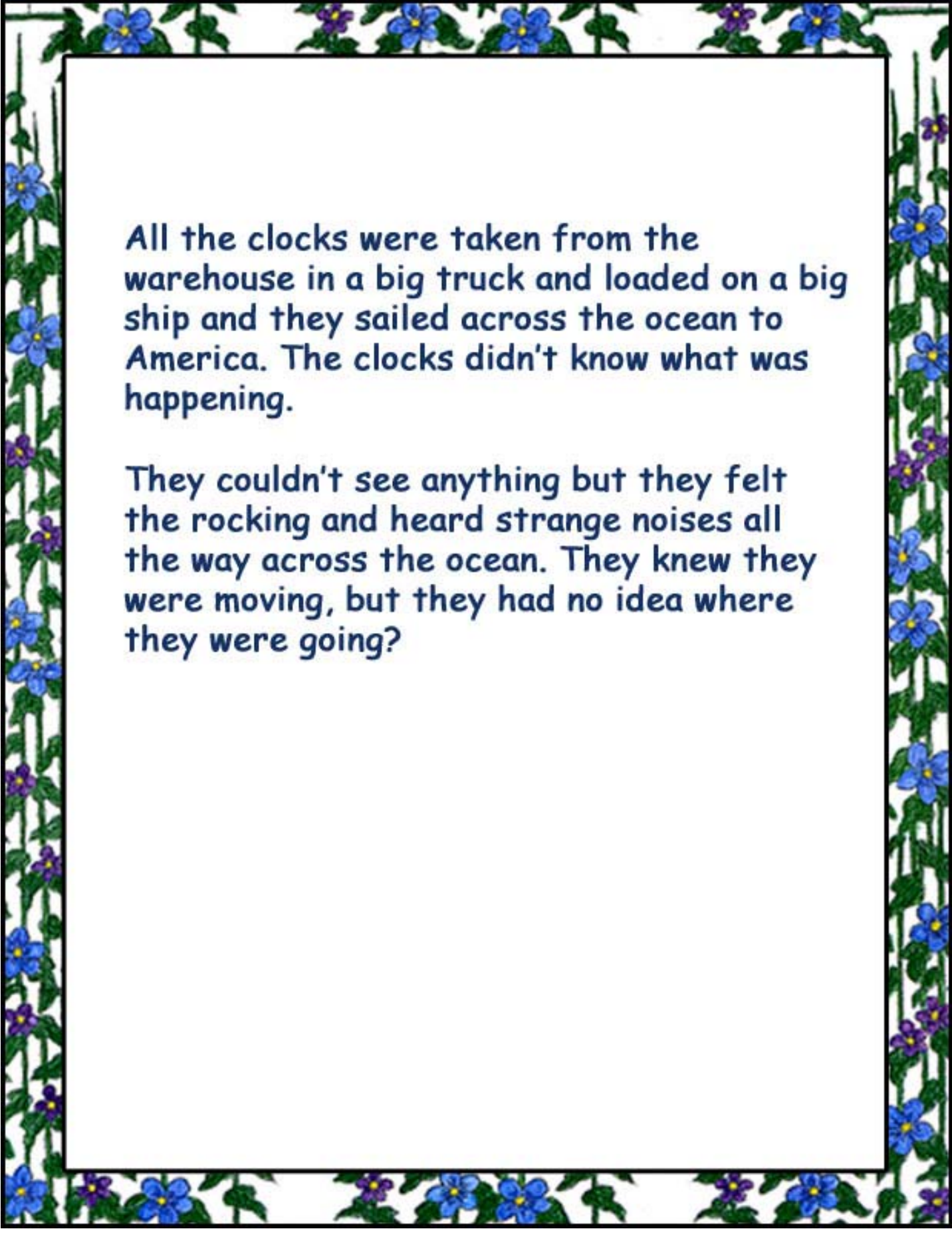
"Where's Heidi?"

"I'm itchy!"

"It's dark in here!"

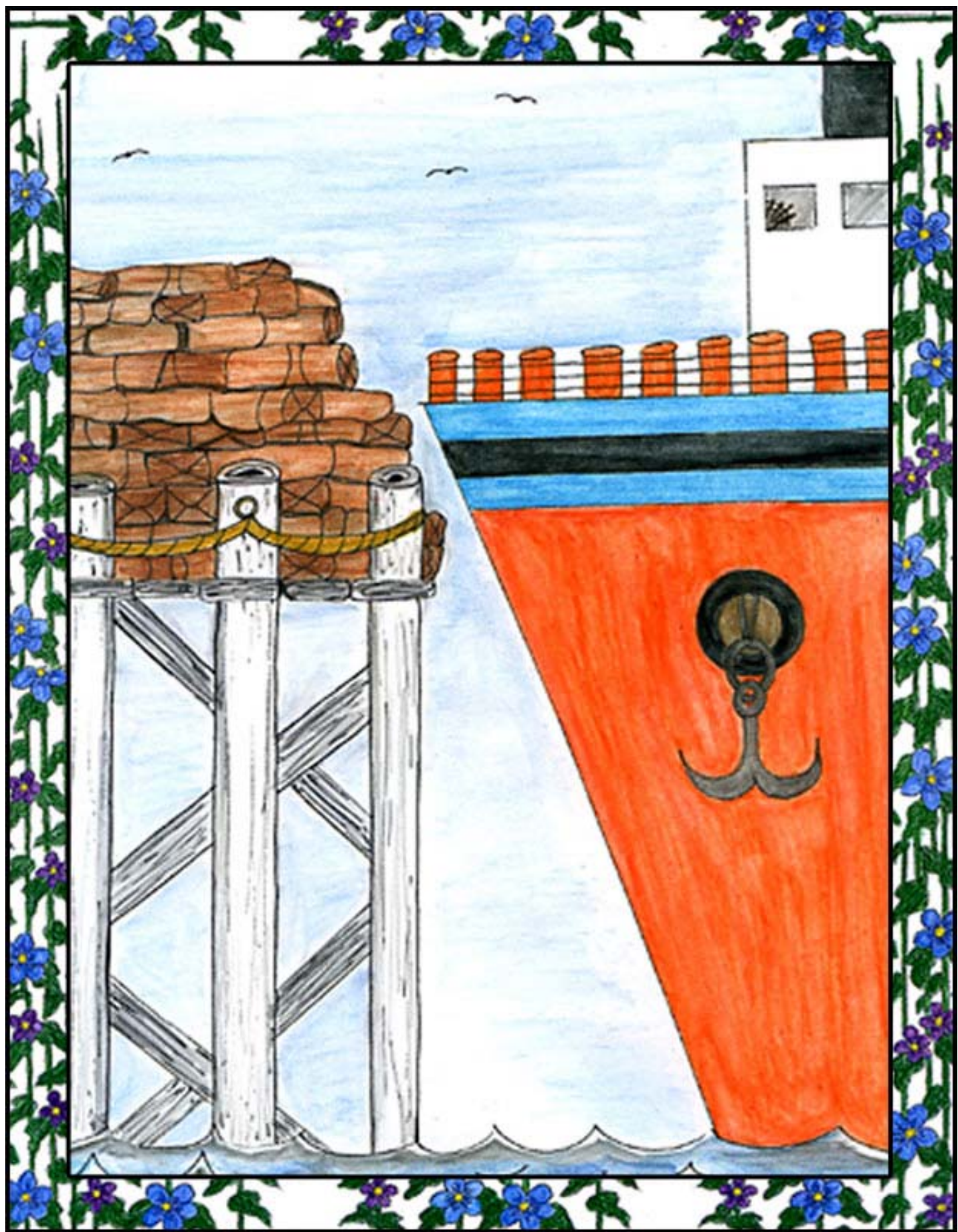
"Where are we?"

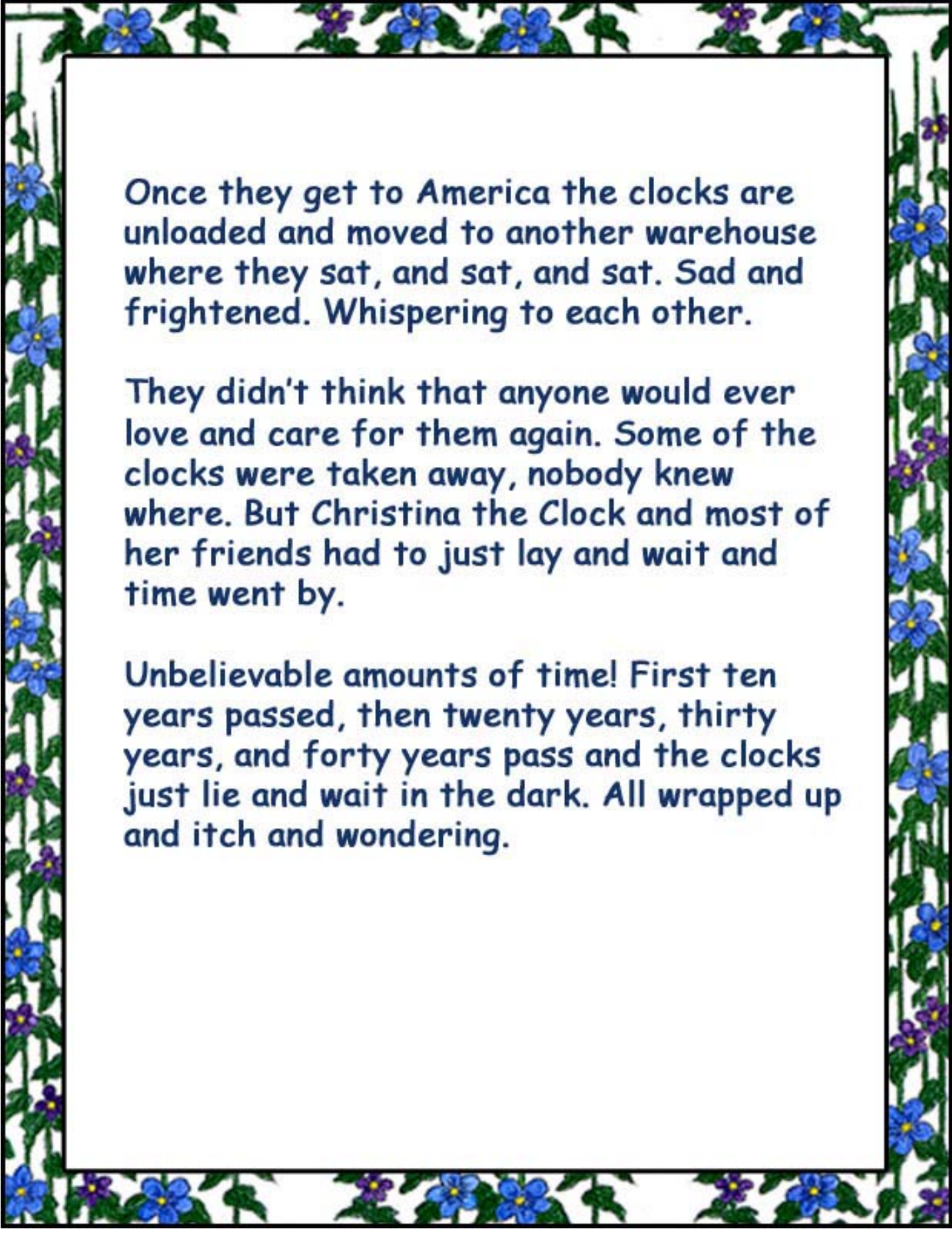




All the clocks were taken from the warehouse in a big truck and loaded on a big ship and they sailed across the ocean to America. The clocks didn't know what was happening.

They couldn't see anything but they felt the rocking and heard strange noises all the way across the ocean. They knew they were moving, but they had no idea where they were going?



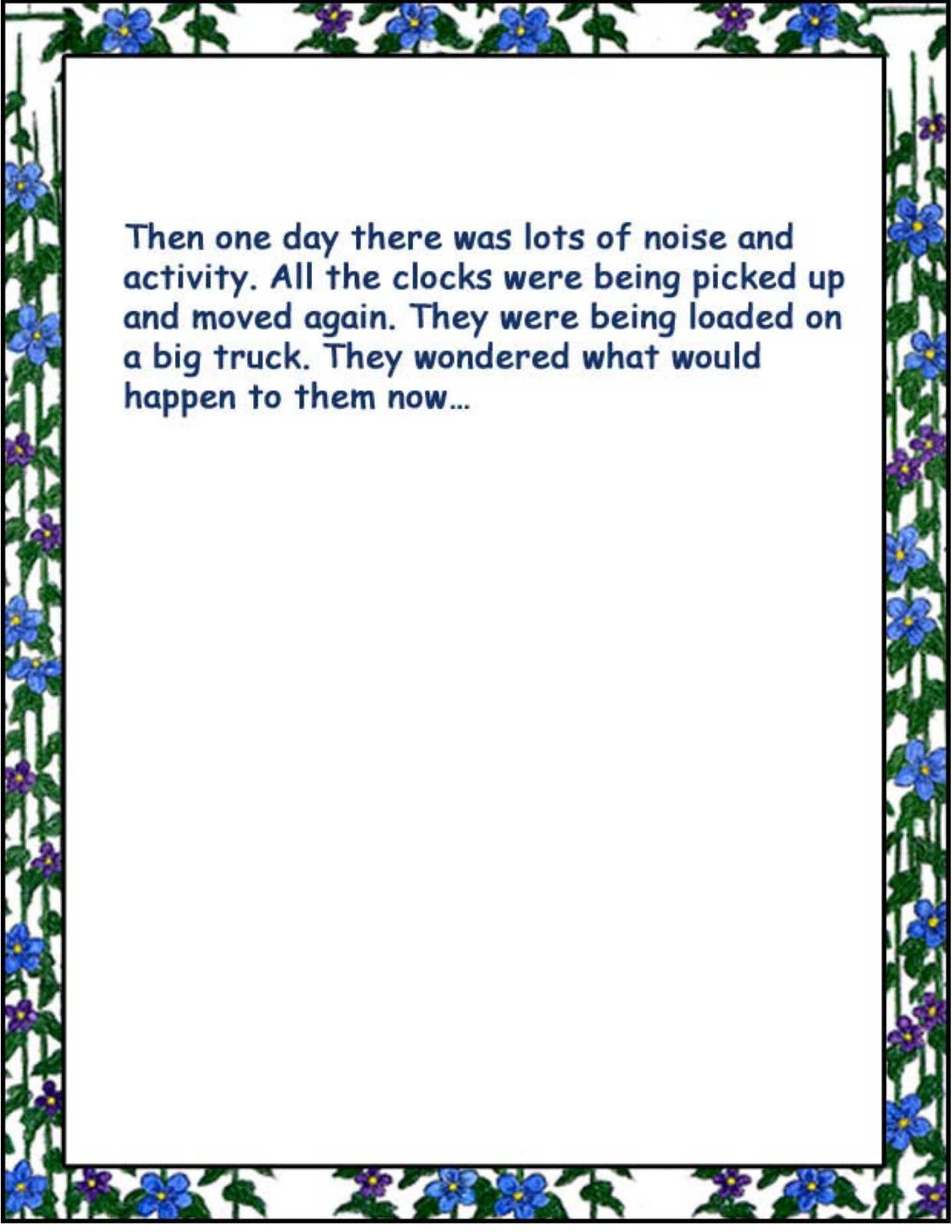


Once they get to America the clocks are unloaded and moved to another warehouse where they sat, and sat, and sat. Sad and frightened. Whispering to each other.

They didn't think that anyone would ever love and care for them again. Some of the clocks were taken away, nobody knew where. But Christina the Clock and most of her friends had to just lay and wait and time went by.

Unbelievable amounts of time! First ten years passed, then twenty years, thirty years, and forty years pass and the clocks just lie and wait in the dark. All wrapped up and itch and wondering.



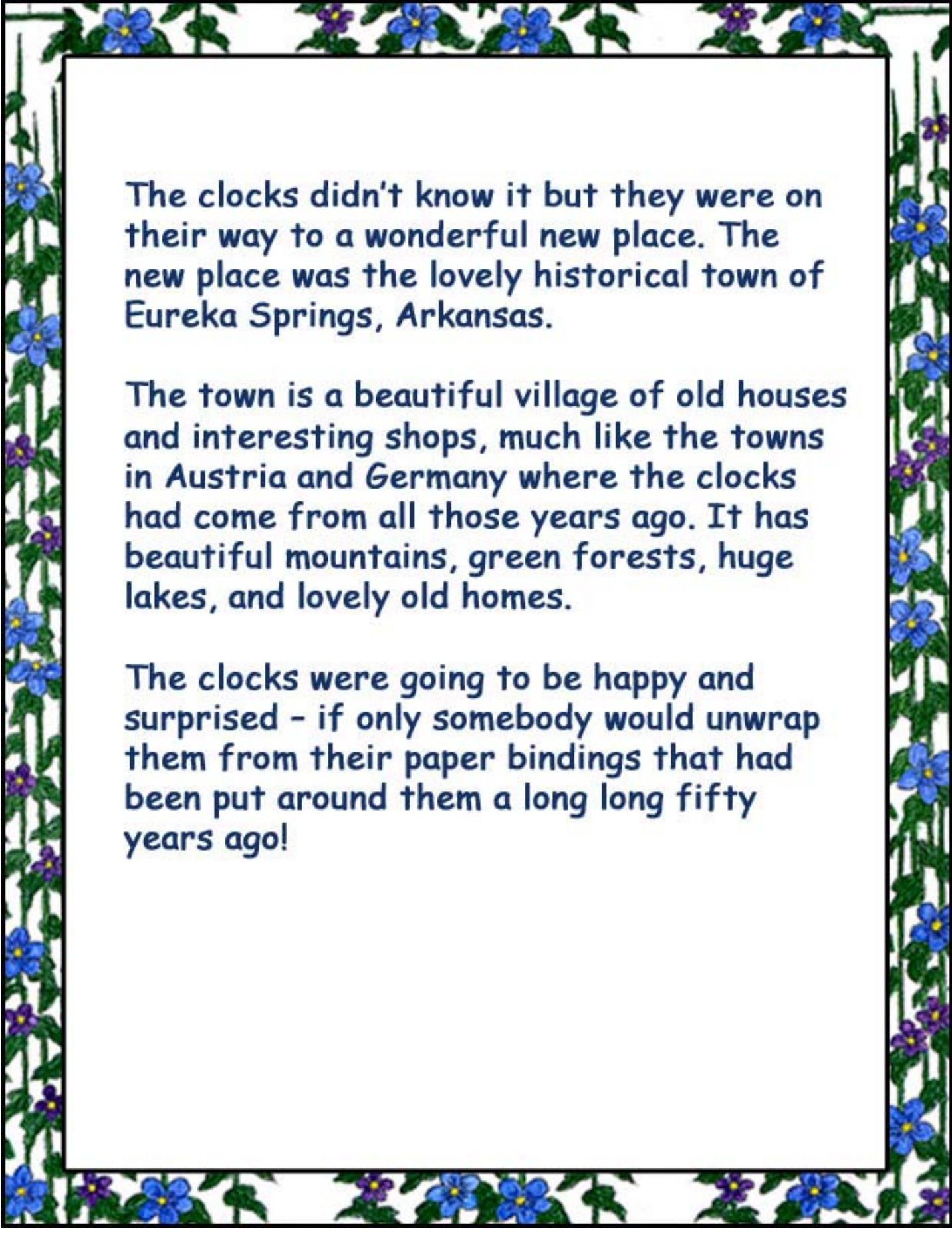


Then one day there was lots of noise and activity. All the clocks were being picked up and moved again. They were being loaded on a big truck. They wondered what would happen to them now...





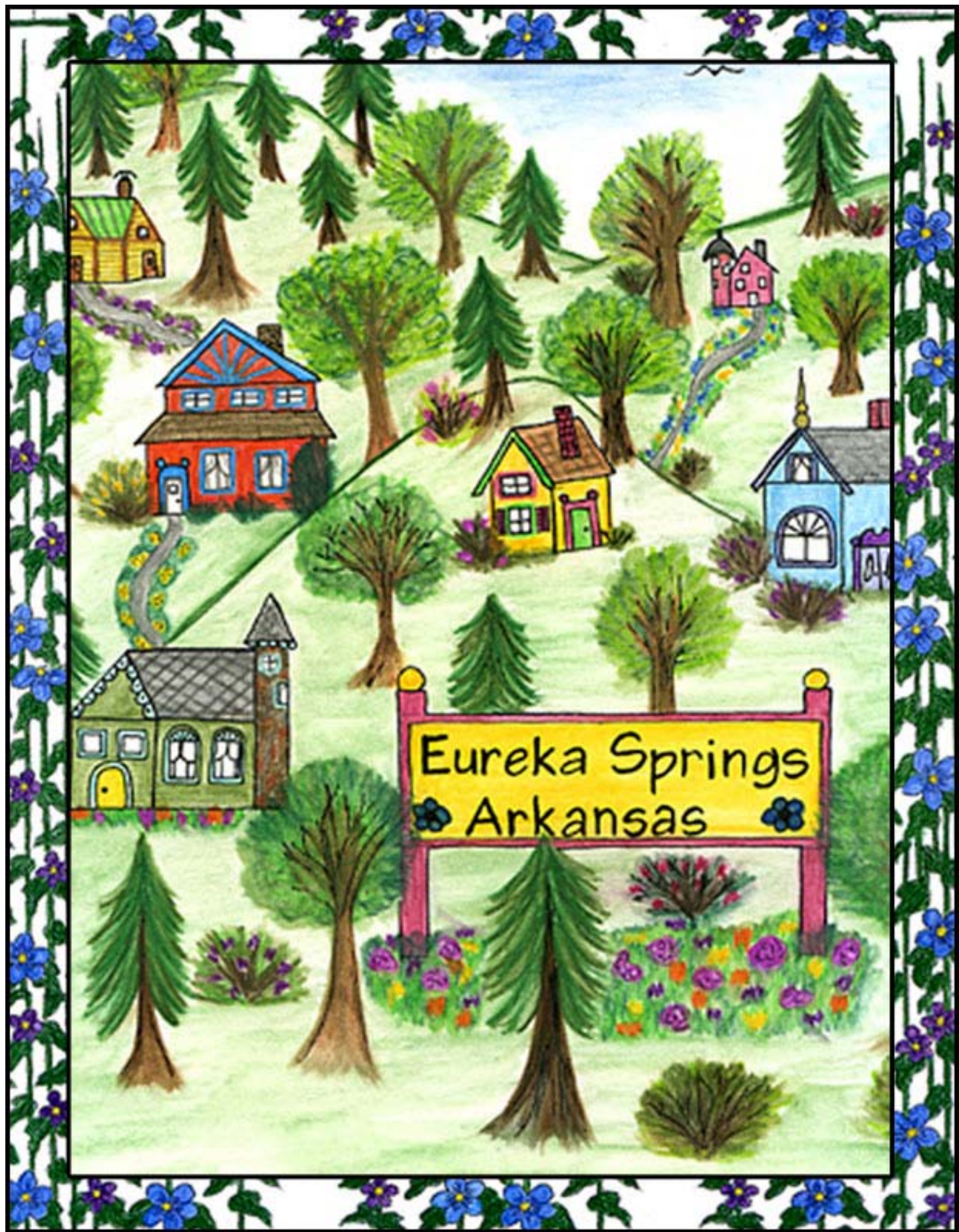
MOVING  
AND  
STORAGE



The clocks didn't know it but they were on their way to a wonderful new place. The new place was the lovely historical town of Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

The town is a beautiful village of old houses and interesting shops, much like the towns in Austria and Germany where the clocks had come from all those years ago. It has beautiful mountains, green forests, huge lakes, and lovely old homes.

The clocks were going to be happy and surprised - if only somebody would unwrap them from their paper bindings that had been put around them a long long fifty years ago!



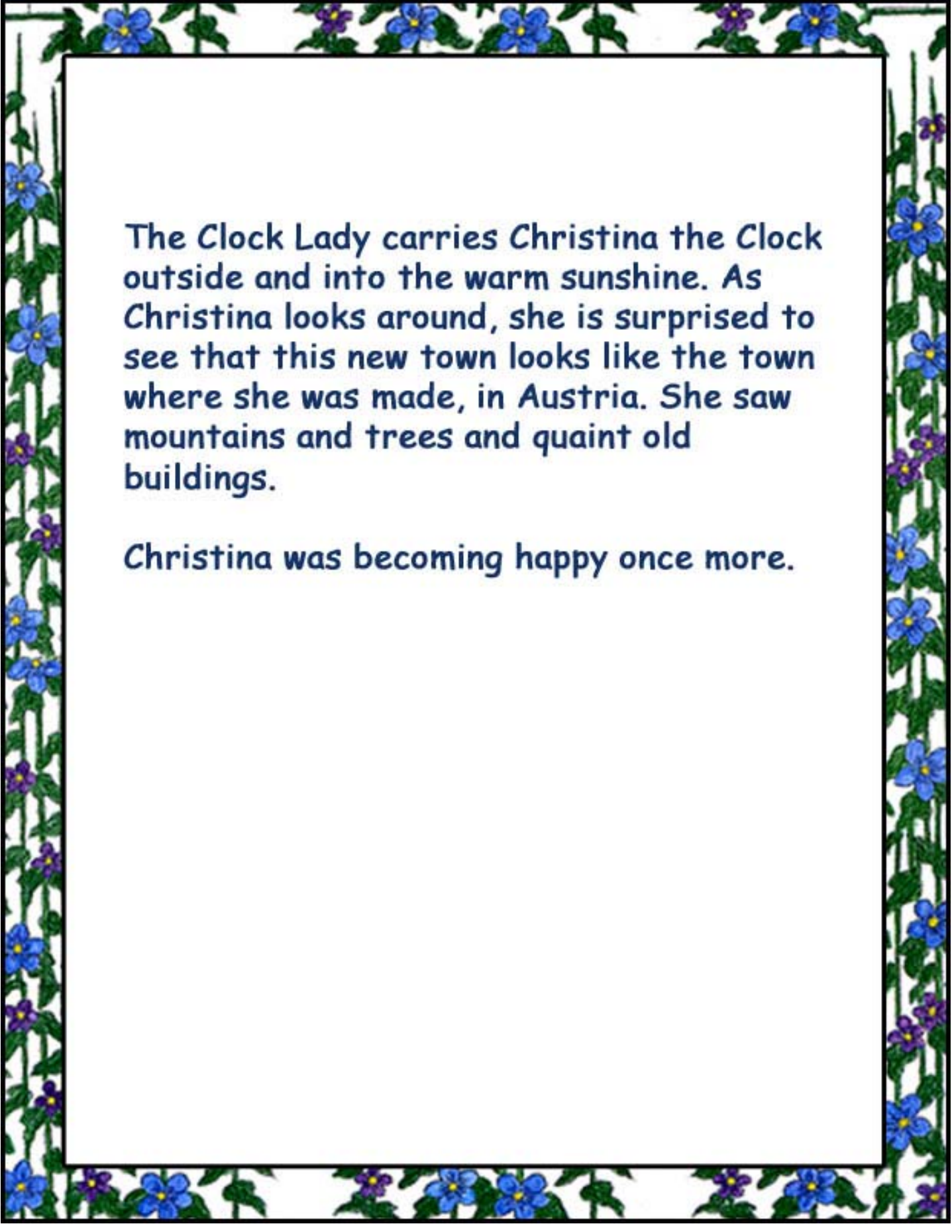


Then, after only a few weeks in the new place, Christina the Clock is picked up again. She can hear the paper being torn away and the awful, itchy straw wiped away from her case.

Finally after all those many years in the warehouse, in the dark, she can see again! She sees a nice lady looking down at her. Christina tries to "tick-tock" to the Clock Lady.

Christina the Clock is so happy to see the light again! The Clock Lady cleans and polishes Christina. She is not itchy anymore! She is shiny and beautiful again!





The Clock Lady carries Christina the Clock outside and into the warm sunshine. As Christina looks around, she is surprised to see that this new town looks like the town where she was made, in Austria. She saw mountains and trees and quaint old buildings.

Christina was becoming happy once more.



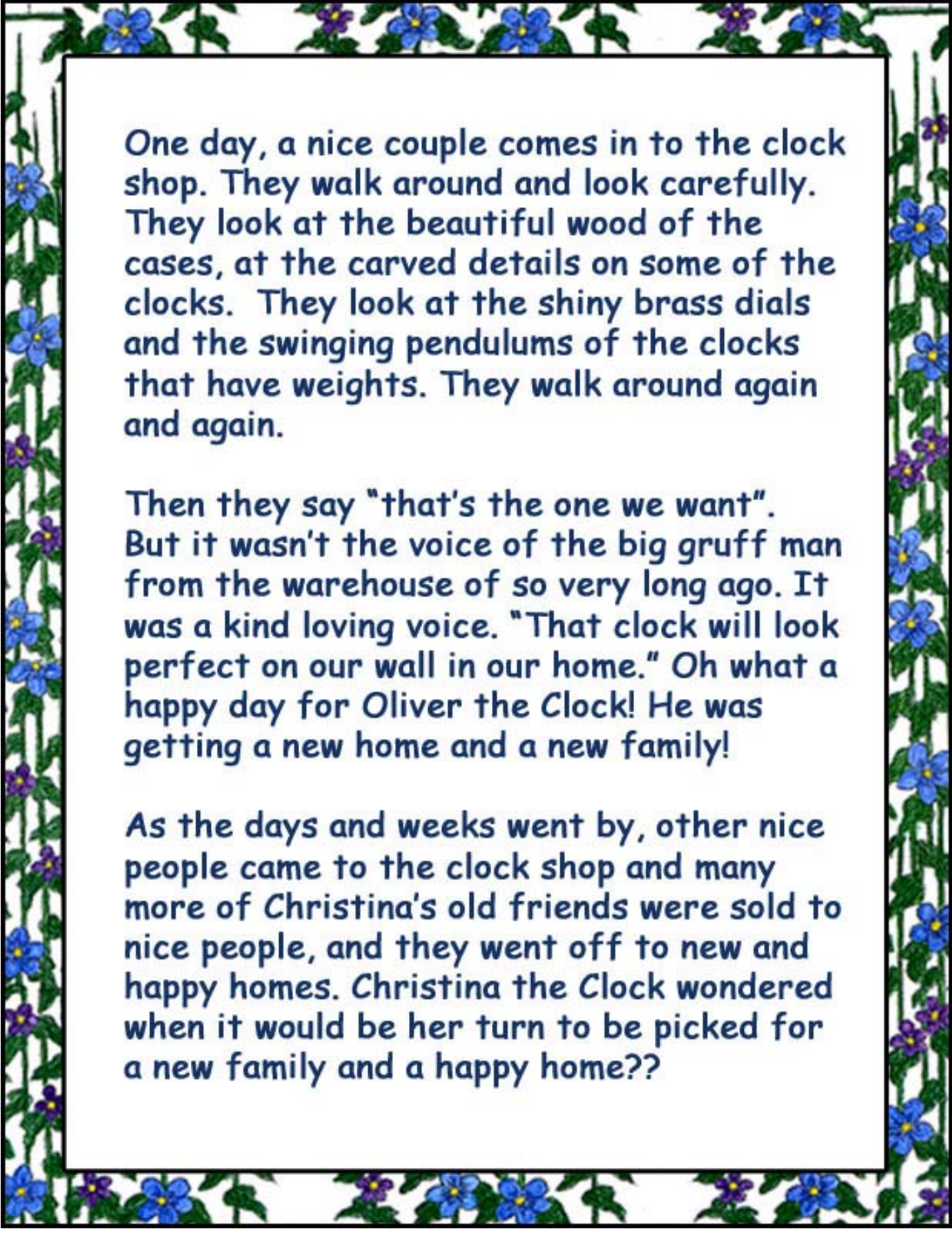


The Clock Lady takes Christina the Clock to a room where there are more than one hundred beautiful clocks. She sees many of her old friends from long ago in the warehouse.

All of the clocks have been cleaned and shined, and they are all happy. Christina is hung up in a special spot, between Oscar the Clock and Heidi the Clock.





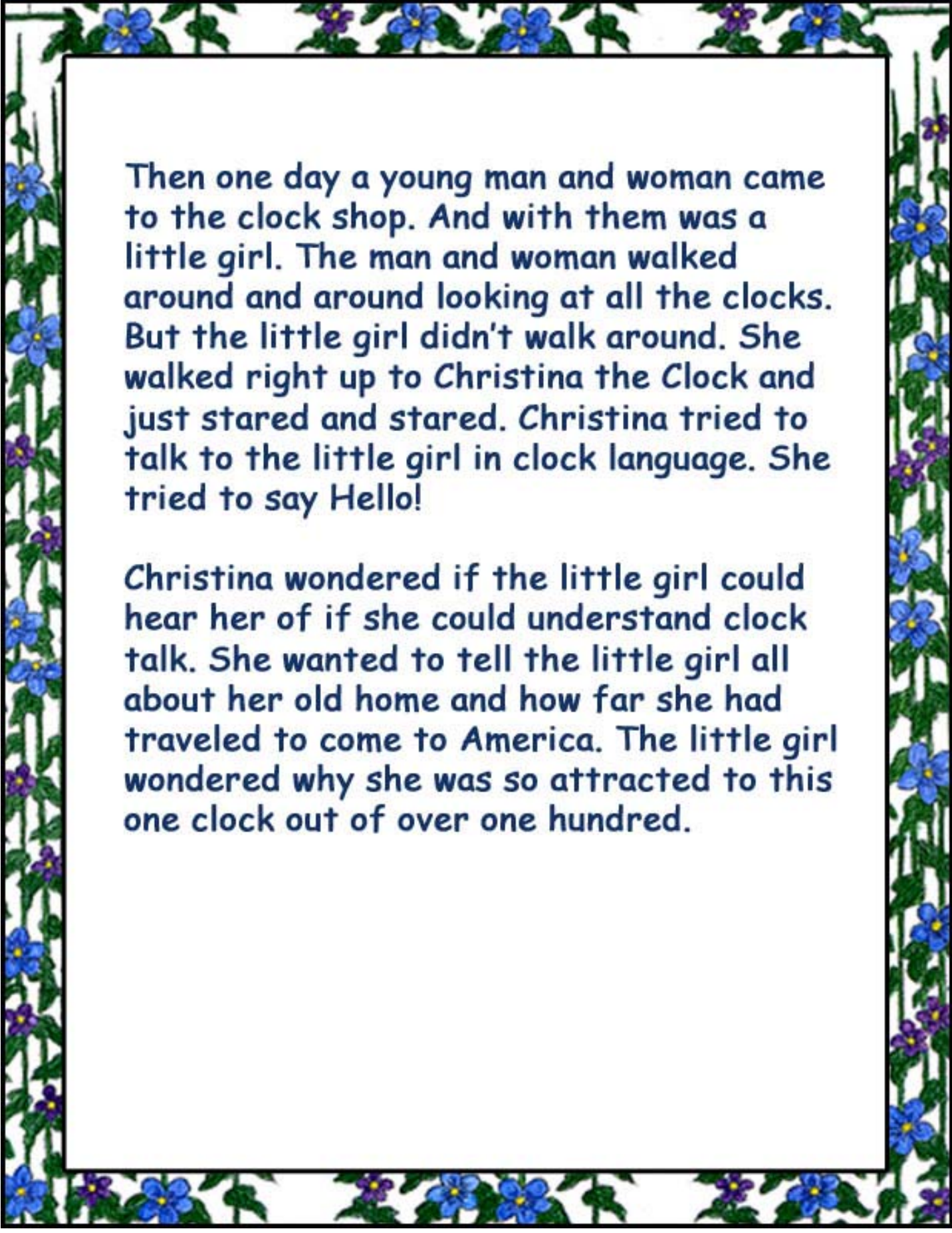


One day, a nice couple comes in to the clock shop. They walk around and look carefully. They look at the beautiful wood of the cases, at the carved details on some of the clocks. They look at the shiny brass dials and the swinging pendulums of the clocks that have weights. They walk around again and again.

Then they say "that's the one we want". But it wasn't the voice of the big gruff man from the warehouse of so very long ago. It was a kind loving voice. "That clock will look perfect on our wall in our home." Oh what a happy day for Oliver the Clock! He was getting a new home and a new family!

As the days and weeks went by, other nice people came to the clock shop and many more of Christina's old friends were sold to nice people, and they went off to new and happy homes. Christina the Clock wondered when it would be her turn to be picked for a new family and a happy home??





Then one day a young man and woman came to the clock shop. And with them was a little girl. The man and woman walked around and around looking at all the clocks. But the little girl didn't walk around. She walked right up to Christina the Clock and just stared and stared. Christina tried to talk to the little girl in clock language. She tried to say Hello!

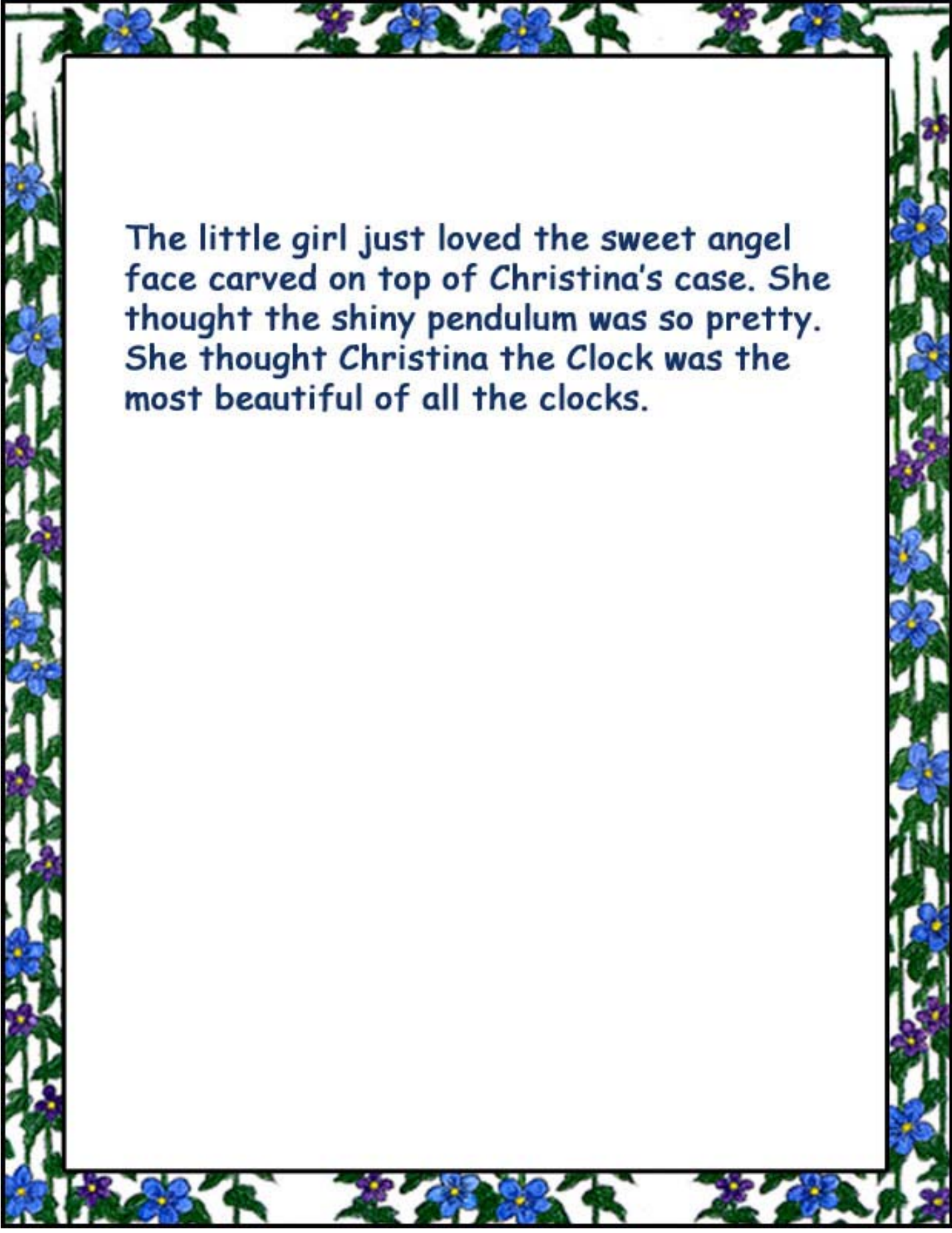
Christina wondered if the little girl could hear her or if she could understand clock talk. She wanted to tell the little girl all about her old home and how far she had traveled to come to America. The little girl wondered why she was so attracted to this one clock out of over one hundred.





Then the little girl shouted out "THIS is the clock I want!" "I LOVE this clock! This is what Christina the Clock had been dreaming of for all those years that she was wrapped up and itchy in the ware house - that she would go "home" to a family that would love her and rely on her to tell them the time.

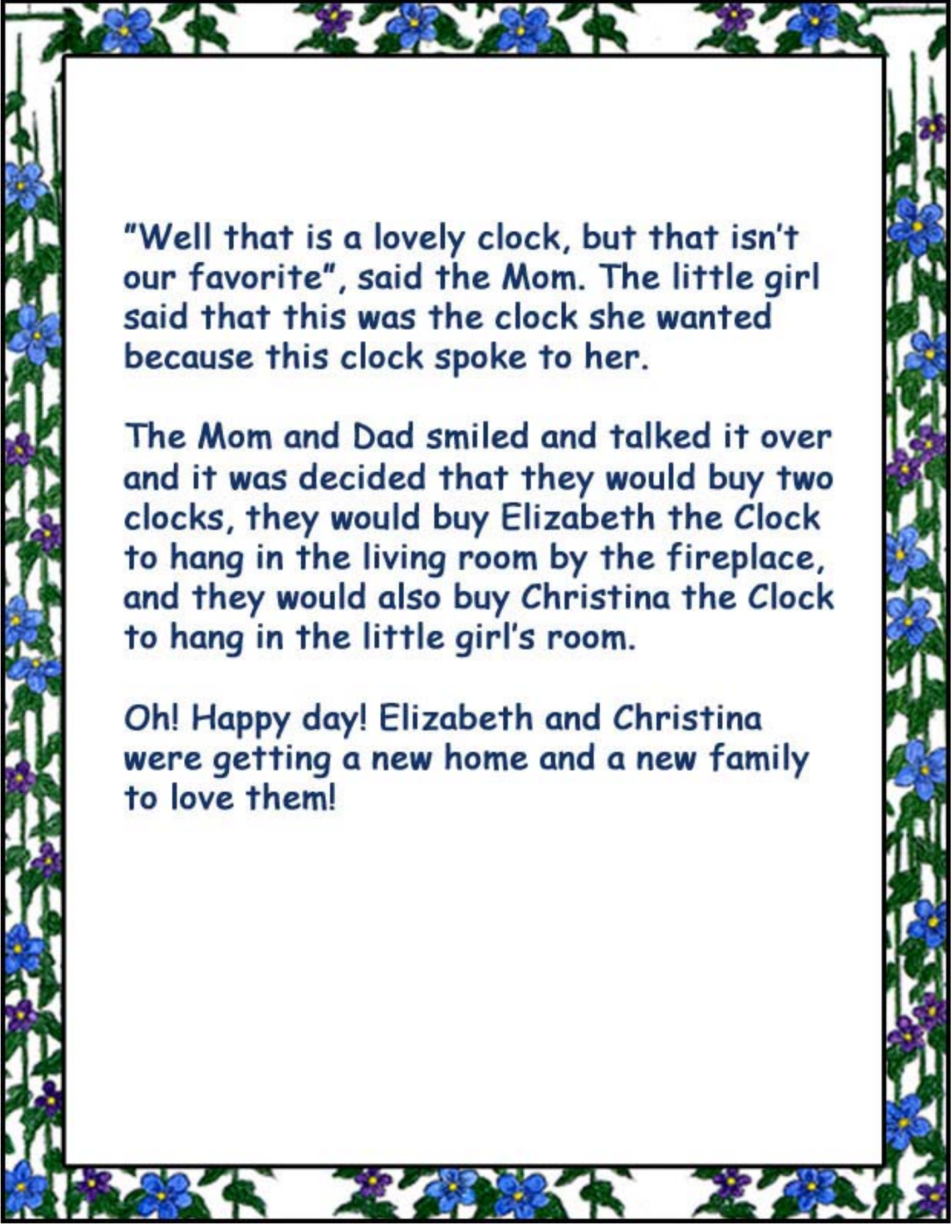




The little girl just loved the sweet angel face carved on top of Christina's case. She thought the shiny pendulum was so pretty. She thought Christina the Clock was the most beautiful of all the clocks.





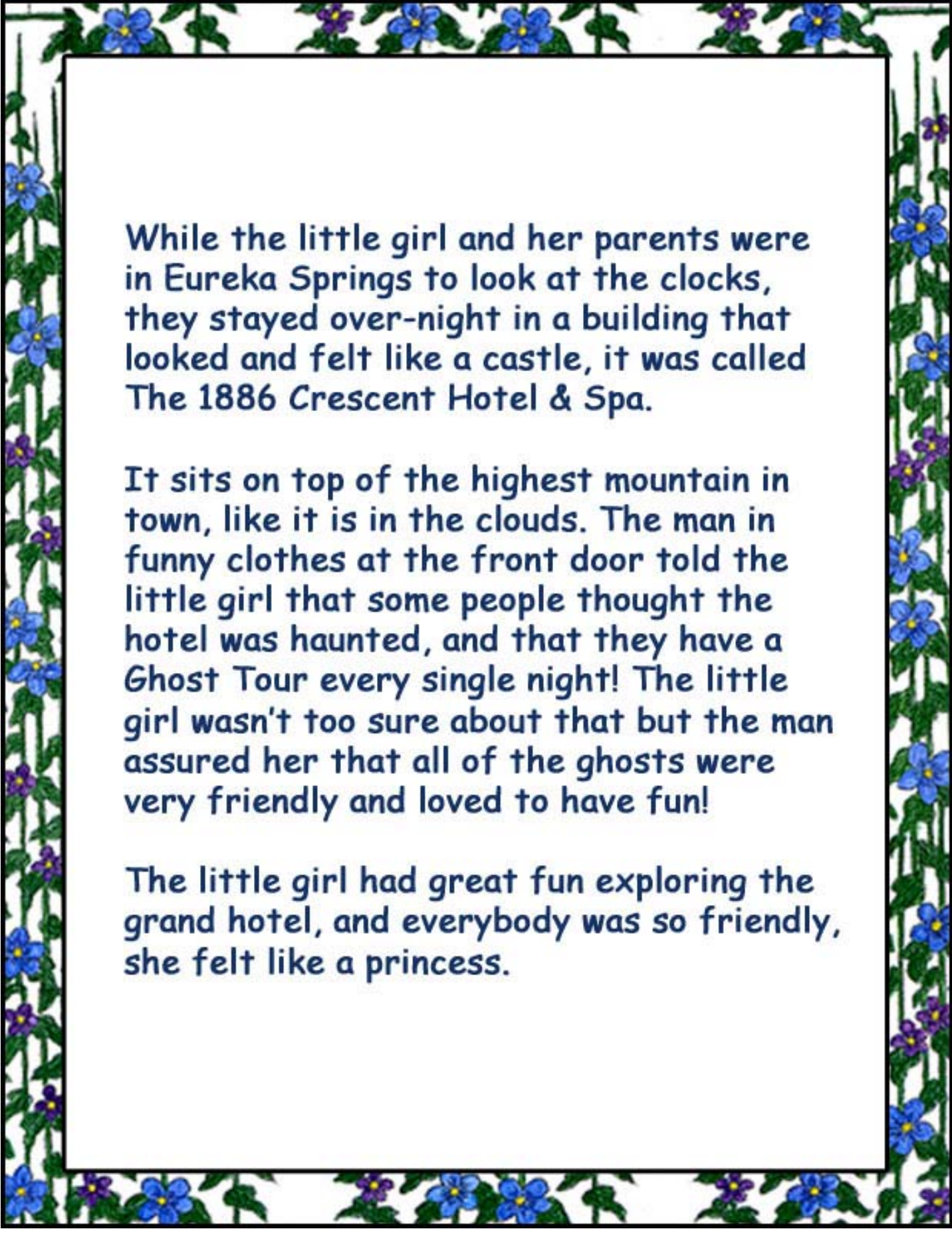


"Well that is a lovely clock, but that isn't our favorite", said the Mom. The little girl said that this was the clock she wanted because this clock spoke to her.

The Mom and Dad smiled and talked it over and it was decided that they would buy two clocks, they would buy Elizabeth the Clock to hang in the living room by the fireplace, and they would also buy Christina the Clock to hang in the little girl's room.

Oh! Happy day! Elizabeth and Christina were getting a new home and a new family to love them!



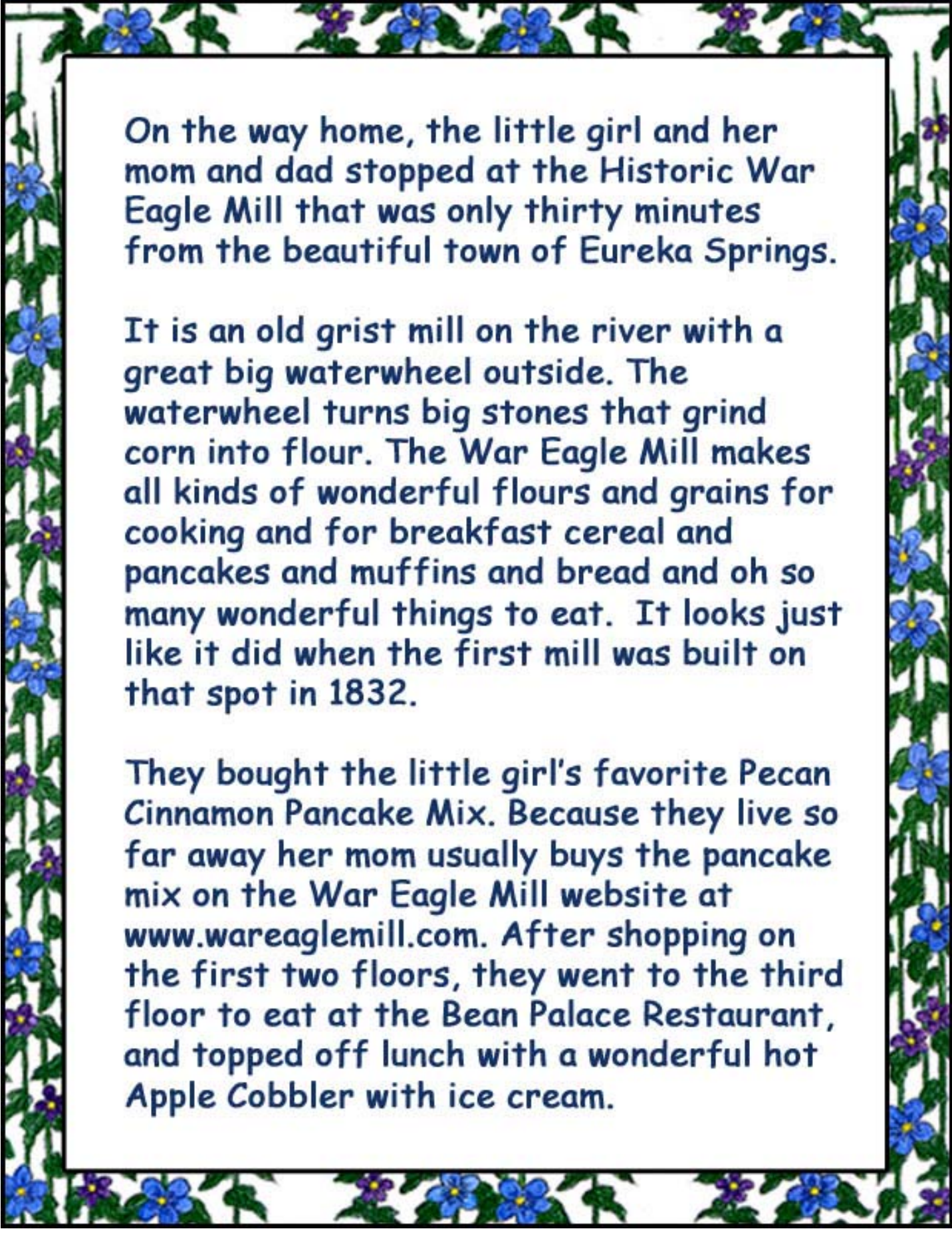


While the little girl and her parents were in Eureka Springs to look at the clocks, they stayed over-night in a building that looked and felt like a castle, it was called The 1886 Crescent Hotel & Spa.

It sits on top of the highest mountain in town, like it is in the clouds. The man in funny clothes at the front door told the little girl that some people thought the hotel was haunted, and that they have a Ghost Tour every single night! The little girl wasn't too sure about that but the man assured her that all of the ghosts were very friendly and loved to have fun!

The little girl had great fun exploring the grand hotel, and everybody was so friendly, she felt like a princess.





On the way home, the little girl and her mom and dad stopped at the Historic War Eagle Mill that was only thirty minutes from the beautiful town of Eureka Springs.

It is an old grist mill on the river with a great big waterwheel outside. The waterwheel turns big stones that grind corn into flour. The War Eagle Mill makes all kinds of wonderful flours and grains for cooking and for breakfast cereal and pancakes and muffins and bread and oh so many wonderful things to eat. It looks just like it did when the first mill was built on that spot in 1832.

They bought the little girl's favorite Pecan Cinnamon Pancake Mix. Because they live so far away her mom usually buys the pancake mix on the War Eagle Mill website at [www.wareaglemill.com](http://www.wareaglemill.com). After shopping on the first two floors, they went to the third floor to eat at the Bean Palace Restaurant, and topped off lunch with a wonderful hot Apple Cobbler with ice cream.

PANCAKE MIXES

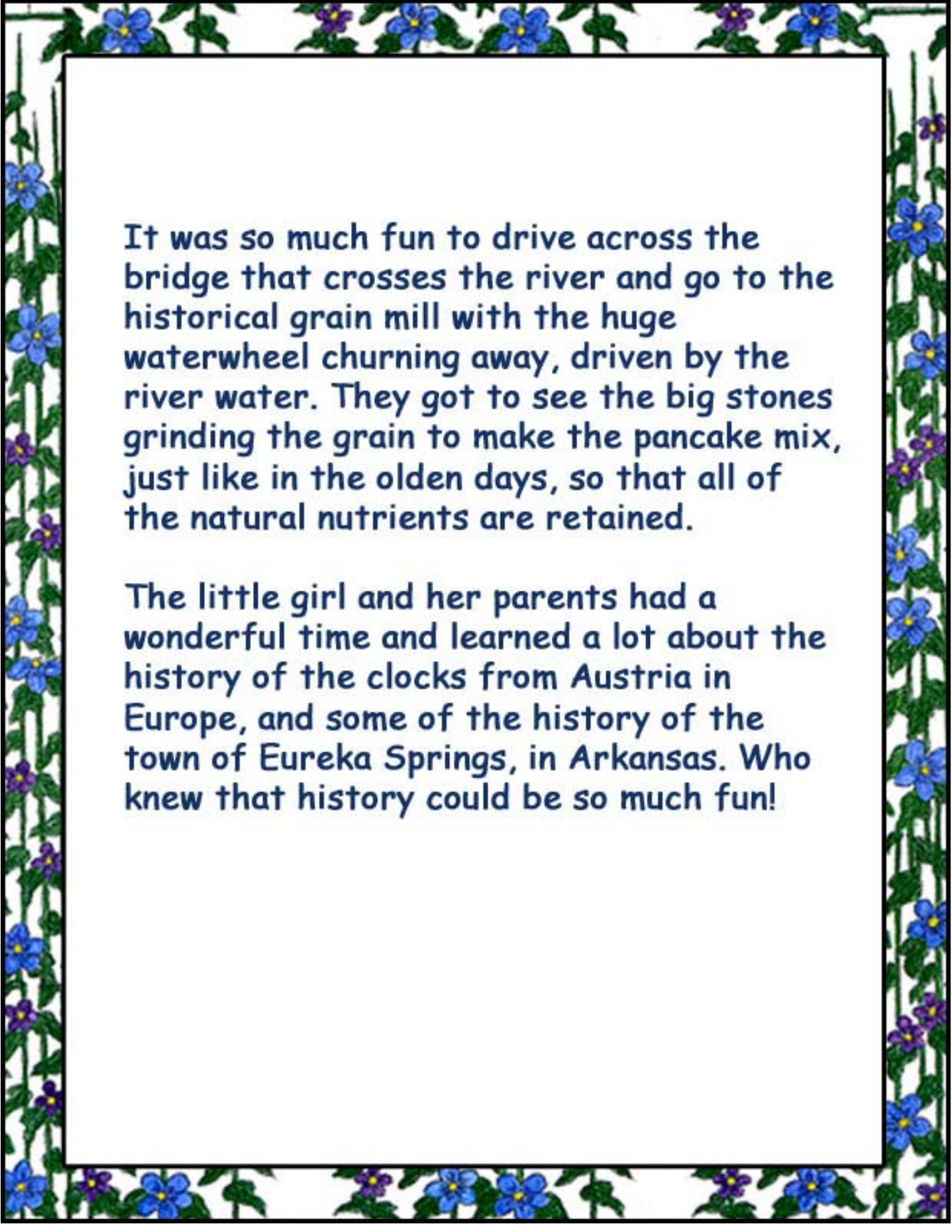
PECAN CINNAMON  
BUTTERMILK  
BUCKWHEAT

Cashier

STONE GROUND  
WHEAT

- BREAD FLOUR
- MUFFIN MIXES



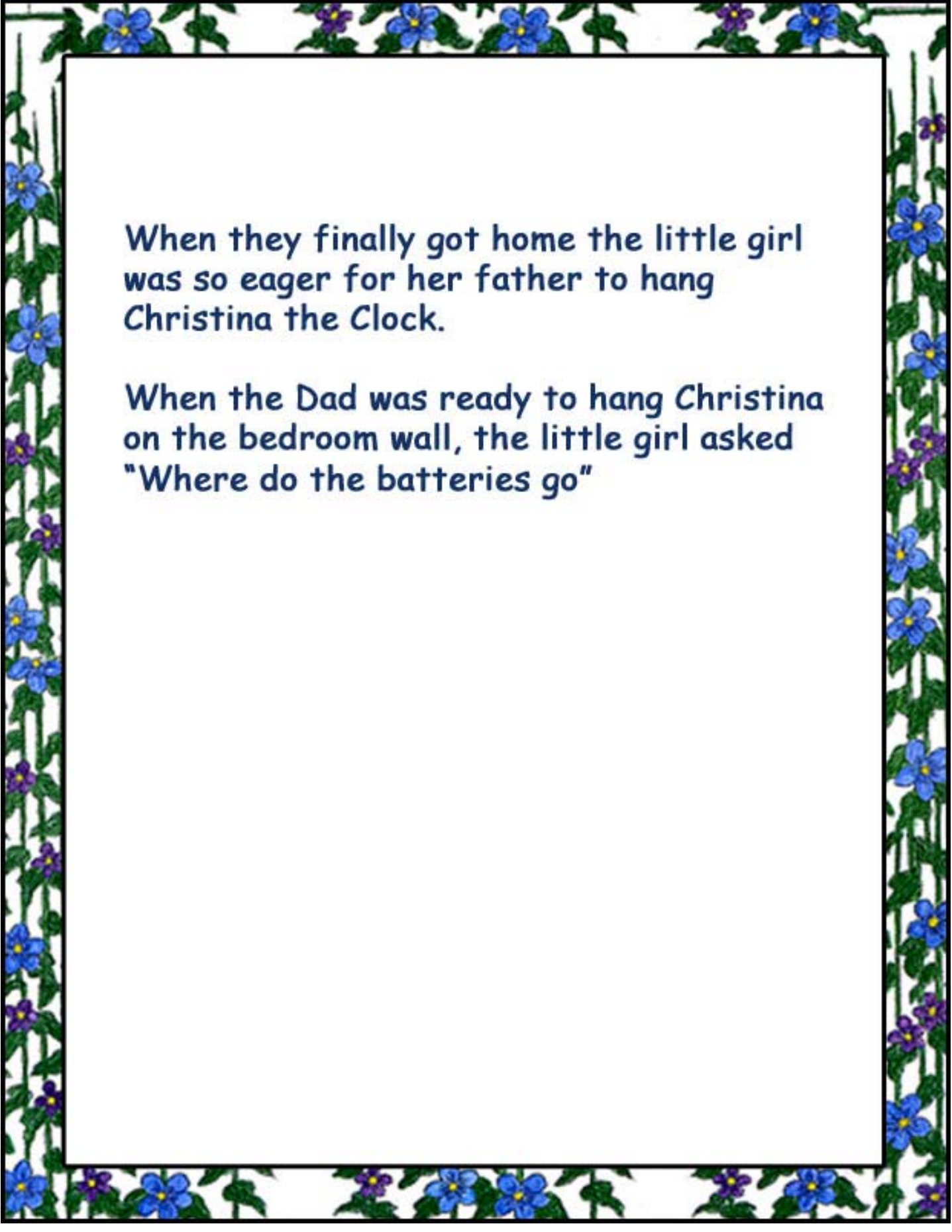


It was so much fun to drive across the bridge that crosses the river and go to the historical grain mill with the huge waterwheel churning away, driven by the river water. They got to see the big stones grinding the grain to make the pancake mix, just like in the olden days, so that all of the natural nutrients are retained.

The little girl and her parents had a wonderful time and learned a lot about the history of the clocks from Austria in Europe, and some of the history of the town of Eureka Springs, in Arkansas. Who knew that history could be so much fun!







When they finally got home the little girl was so eager for her father to hang Christina the Clock.

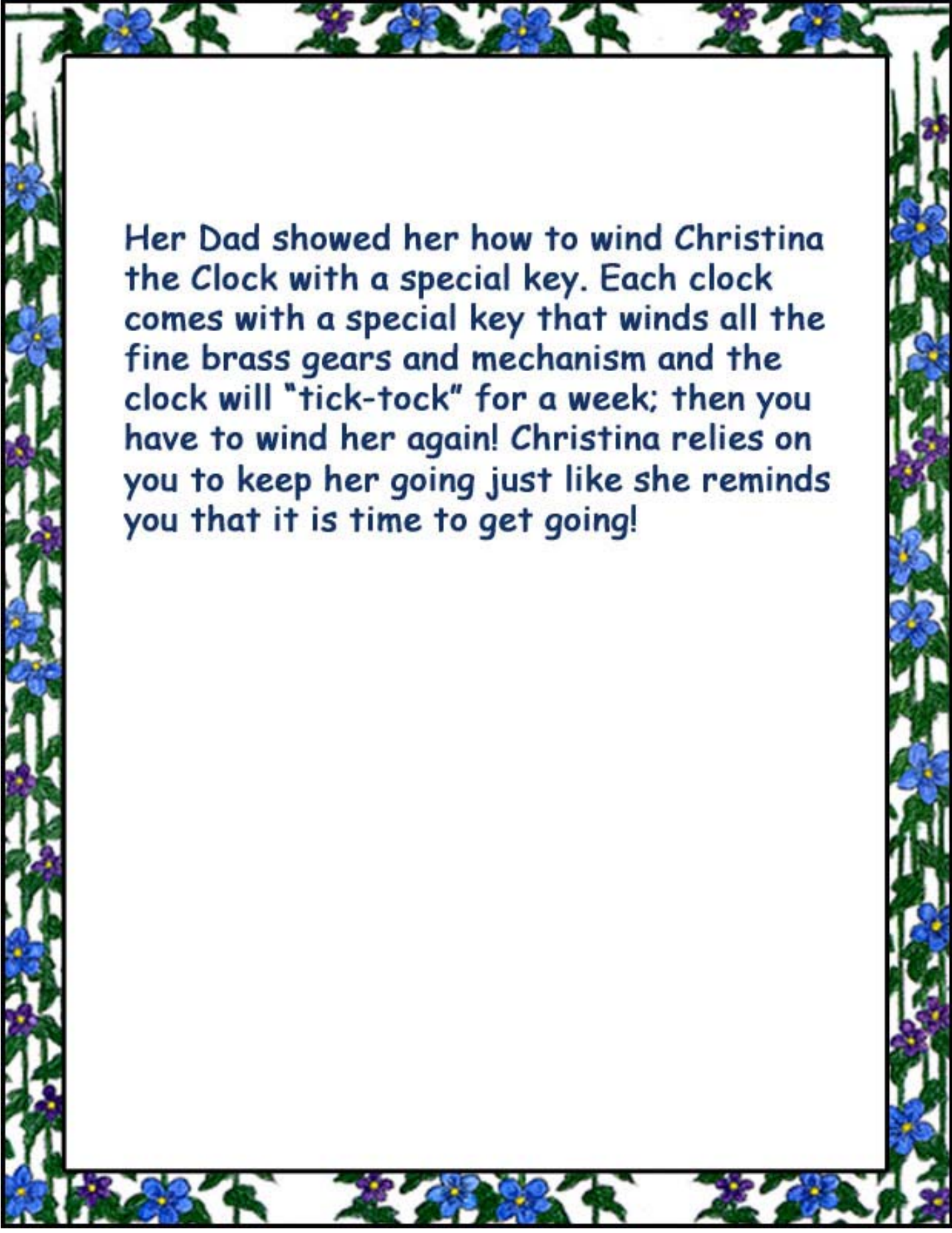
When the Dad was ready to hang Christina on the bedroom wall, the little girl asked "Where do the batteries go"






Her Dad laughed and showed her that  
these fine old clocks didn't have batteries  
or an electrical cord!





Her Dad showed her how to wind Christina the Clock with a special key. Each clock comes with a special key that winds all the fine brass gears and mechanism and the clock will "tick-tock" for a week; then you have to wind her again! Christina relies on you to keep her going just like she reminds you that it is time to get going!





Once they got to their new home, Elizabeth the Clock was hung in the living room, and she was very happy by the fireplace. Christina the Clock was hung in the little girl's bedroom. At night the little girl falls asleep to the tick-tock sound of Christina.

She dreams that Christina talks to her and tells her the stories of her other life in Austria all those years ago. And they both talk about the wonderful town of Eureka Springs, Arkansas where they found each other, and the castle on the hill, the Crescent Hotel, where the little girl stayed, and the War Eagle Mill. And its' not a dream, it is all true!

Christina is loved and cared for again and she is happier than ever. And the little girl dreams of going back to Eureka Springs while Christina goes tick-tock, tick-tock.







The End