

The **GOOD** *for* **NOTHING** **TREE**



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Illustrated by Annie Bowler



Once a gardener planted a fig tree.
Everyone was excited about watching it grow.
Its leaves would give shade.
Its fruit would be sweet to eat.
The children could hardly wait to taste the figs.



Spring bloomed to summer.
Summer cooled into fall.
Fall blew into winter.
Winter warmed into spring.

“Why is it taking so long?” the children asked.

“Why are there no figs?”

Some people wondered, “Will that fig tree ever grow up?”

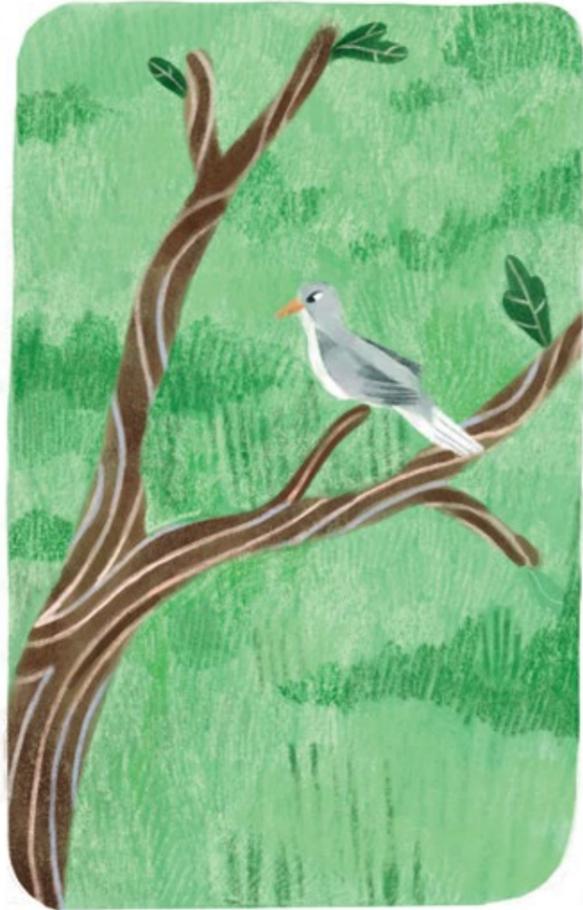
The gardener cautioned, “It takes time.”



Another summer came ...



another fall ...



another spring.



another winter ...

There were still no figs.



Some people shook their heads.

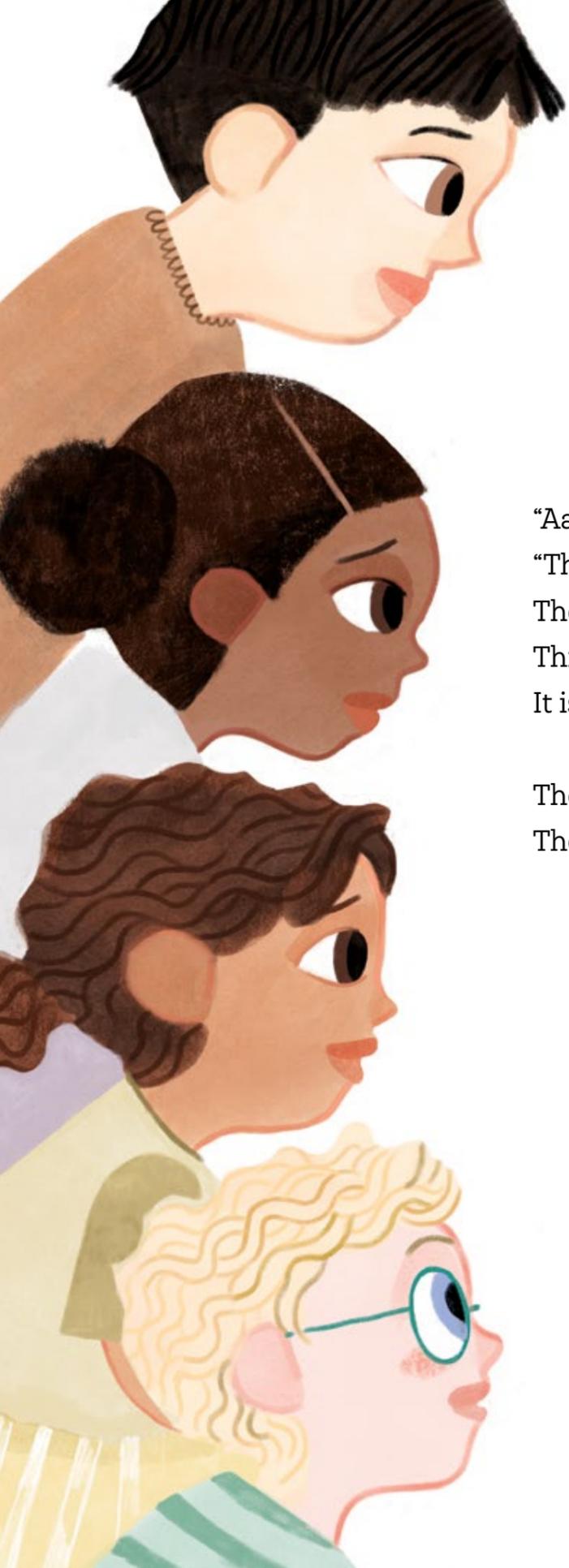
"This tree will never amount to anything."

The tree dropped a tiny leaf.

"It's good for nothing."



Two more leaves fell,
and the tree shivered in the wind.



“Aargh!” the gardener moaned.
“The leaves are still so small.
There’s no sign of figs!
This is not good, not good at all.
It is time to start over with a new tree.”

The children pleaded, “Not yet, please!
The fig tree just needs more love.”



“Ridiculous!” the gardener declared.
“Trees don’t need love.
This one just doesn’t grow.
We should get rid of it.
It is not worth waiting any longer.”