



# COPE

.....  
Be ready for disasters!  
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# STORM SURGES

By Martha Keswick + Mariko Jesse + Timothy Sim



## What are natural hazards ... and disasters?

Forces of nature that happen with little warning and occur all over the world, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, landslides, tropical cyclones (and other storms), storm surges, heatwaves, wildfires, droughts and volcanoes. When these **natural hazards** pose a threat to humans or the environment they can lead to **disasters** and cause destruction in a community.

## What are storm surges?

A sudden rise of water hitting areas close to the coast, usually created by a tropical cyclone, hurricane or other storms. The **surge** happens because the **storm** has fast winds. These winds push the water on to shore, causing the water level to rise. Sometimes a storm surge can be so high, it is as dangerous as a large tsunami, flooding coastal towns and destroying communities.

The **World Meteorological Organization** helps countries to better forecast storm surges and coastal flooding, to give communities timely warnings.

*COPE will teach you how to be  
ready for storm surges!*







**Be ready for disasters – Storm Surges**

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**SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS**



WORLD  
METEOROLOGICAL  
ORGANIZATION



香港天文台  
HONG KONG OBSERVATORY



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Who is Grand Mistress Fu?

A famous Chinese martial arts teacher and founder of the Mount Emei Wushu School. Grand Mistress Fu, also known as Shifu, is disciplined and tough yet has an enormous heart. She narrowly escaped death as her school collapsed during the Wenchuan Earthquake in May 2008 and has since dedicated her life to Disaster Risk Reduction.



What is The COPE Academy?

An international disaster hub, hidden in Sichuan Province, set up by Grand Mistress Fu. The COPE Squad – Candy, Ollie, Ping and Eddy are teenage orphans who were plucked out of their care homes to live at The COPE Academy and trained to be disaster risk reduction agents.



Sense THE SNAKE

A beautiful 25-year-old python. Sense has a special gift for predicting disasters. Grand Mistress Fu feeds her mice every month.

Rescue THE DOG

A huge 8-year-old Kunming Wolf Dog, Rescue tracks missing people. His favourite hobby is catching flies.



# The C O P E Squad



**Candy**

**THE CARER**

12 years old from Kranshoek, South Africa, Candy is kind, strong, lively and loves playing drums and hula-hooping. Her role is to care for vulnerable groups affected by disasters such as children, elderly or disabled.

*Disaster Experience:*  
*Wildfires*



**Ollie**

**THE SCIENTIST**

13 years old from Christchurch, New Zealand, Ollie is clever, popular, sporty and loves astronomy and rugby. His role is to understand weather patterns, climates and ecology.

*Disaster Experience:*  
*Earthquakes*



**Ping**

**THE NETWORKER**

12 years old from Hong Kong, Ping is practical, chatty, creative and loves cooking and Wushu. Ping is the networker and spokesperson within the COPE squad.

*Disaster Experience:*  
*Floods*



**Eddy**

**THE ENGINEER**

12 years old from Bahia, Brazil. Eddy is curious, witty, chilled out and loves Lego and skateboarding. Eddy is a talented engineer focusing on the safety of buildings.

*Disaster Experience:*  
*Landslides*



**COPE Signs**

Since Eddy is hearing impaired, COPE sometimes chat using the Brazilian sign language, Libras. Can you spot the signs for **storm surges**, **ready** and **safe**?

Mount Emei twinkled for the Mid-Autumn Festival.

Grand Mistress Fu smiled as she handed out the mooncakes.







Yippee!

Life at the COPE Academy was busy.

After meditation, COPE went on their daily run.



Keep up Eddy!

I'm trying!



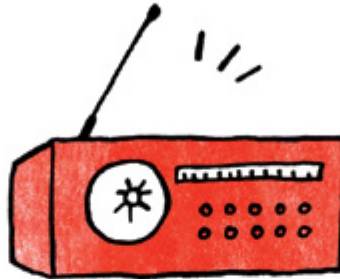
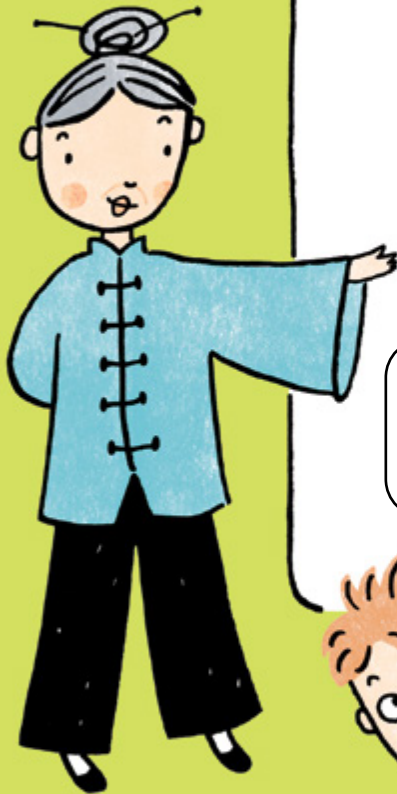
COPE were learning all about *storm surges*.

Shifu, what is the most important message?

Good question, Eddy. It is ...  
**KEEP CLEAR FROM  
THE COAST!**



COPE, what should we do  
**BEFORE A STORM SURGE?**



*Listen out*  
for local storm warnings.



Get your homes ready. Move your  
favourite things to a higher position.  
Stock up on water and food.



Make an evacuation plan with your family.  
Practice how to get to the temporary shelters quickly.



Pack a *survival bag*.

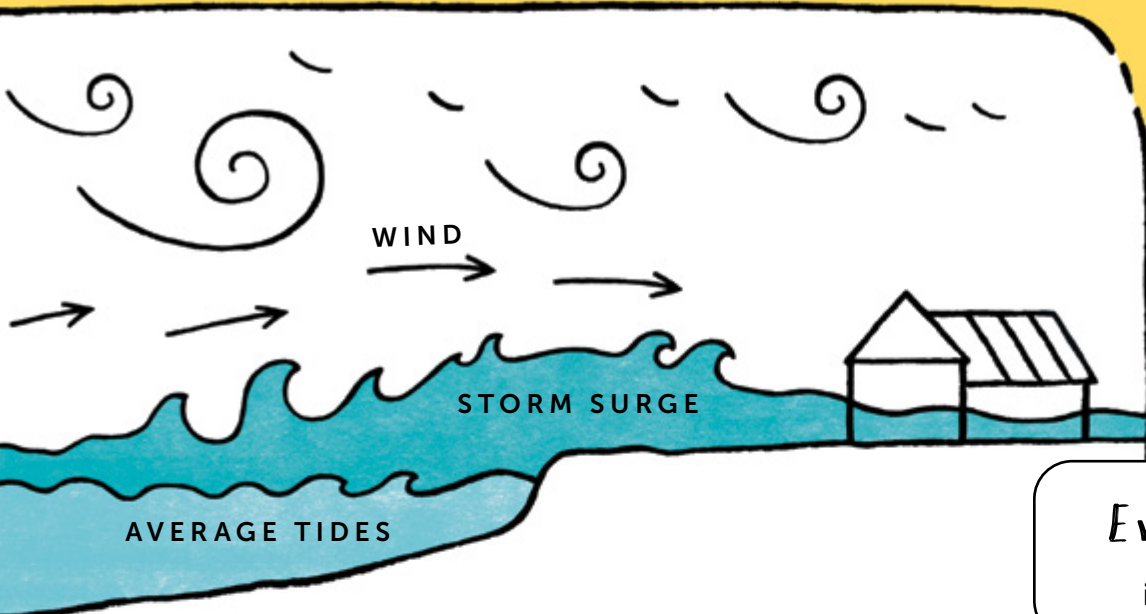


And  
**DURING A STORM SURGE?**

**KEEP CLEAR  
FROM THE COAST!**

*Stay inside,*  
away from the window,  
in the highest place possible.





*Evacuate*  
if needed.

*Listen out*  
for local storm updates.



And  
**AFTER A STORM SURGE?**



*Do not play near  
flood water.*



*Make sure  
it is safe to go outside.*





Stay away from damaged buildings, power lines, fallen trees, hill-slides, bridges and other debris.

Always  
**KEEP CLEAR  
FROM THE COAST!**



Now COPE, it's time for our storm surge mission.

Destination  
**HONG KONG!**



Wow, look at all those people, over!

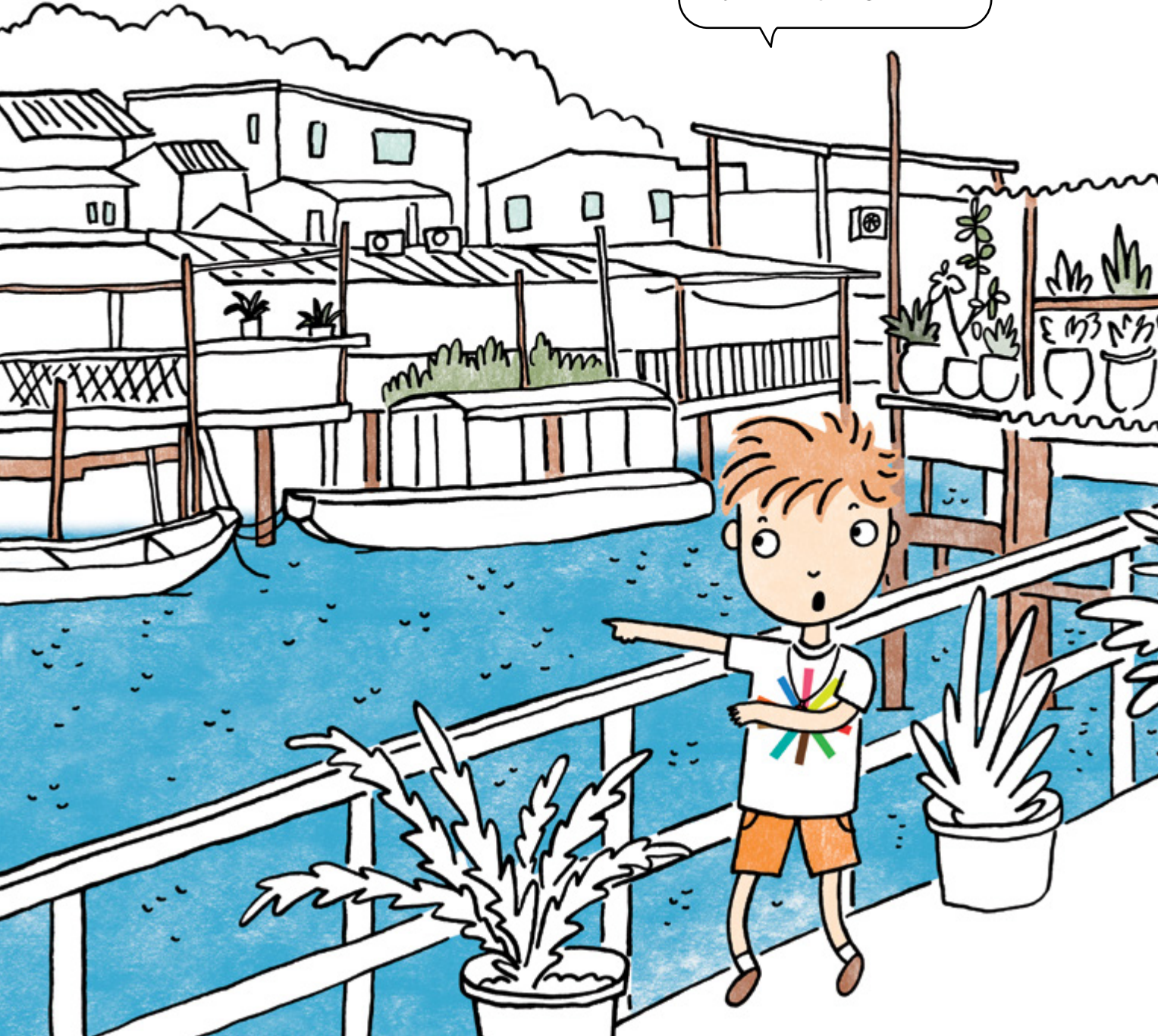
Awesome sky-scrapers, over!

Yeah! My home-town!



COPE stayed with Ping's Great Aunty Chen,  
in the fishing village of Tai O on Lantau Island.

The houses are all  
joined up together!



My house is built on stilts so is less likely to flood than those on ground level.



Woof woof!

COPE hiked up to the Big Buddha.



They explored Tai O and tried some shrimp paste.

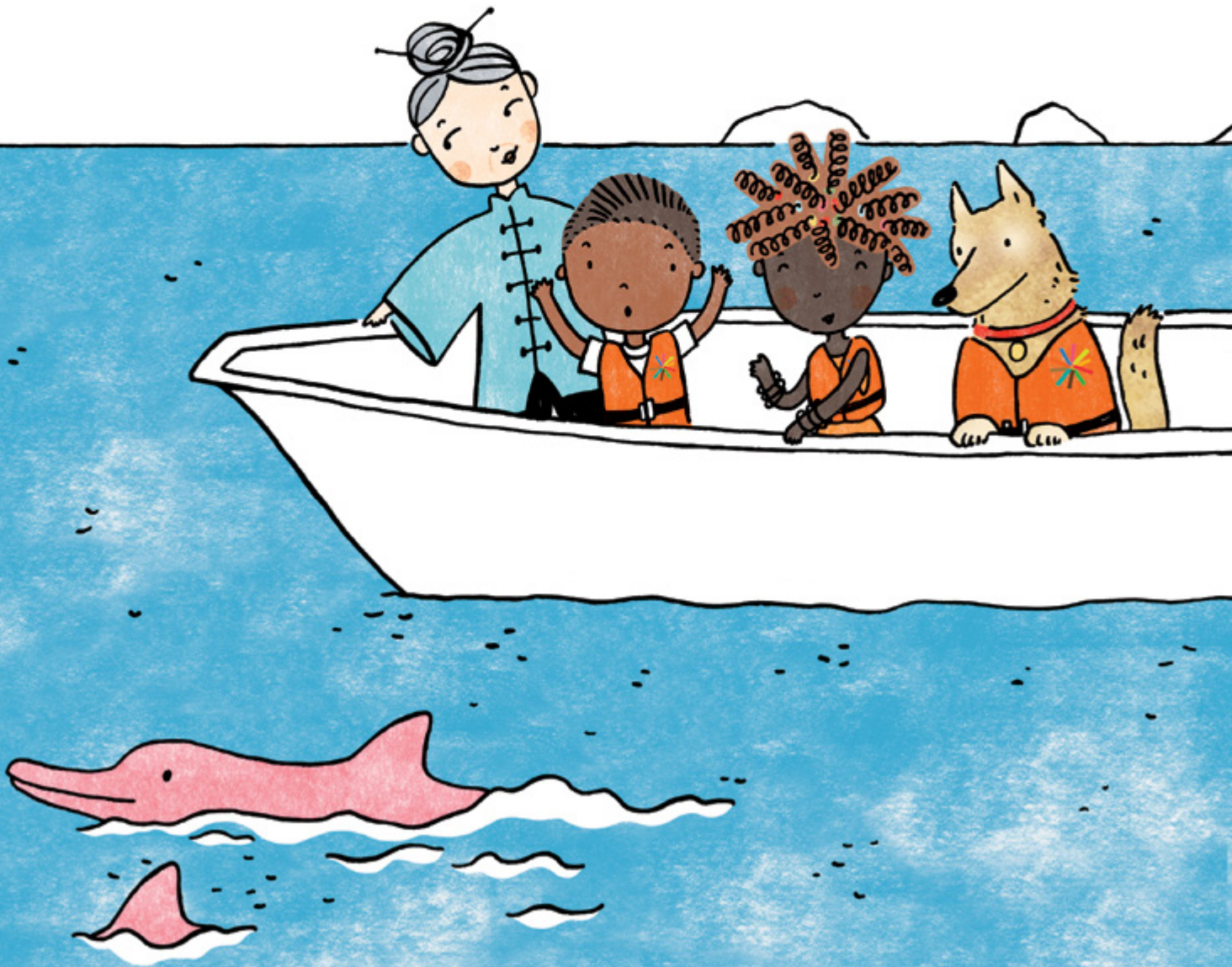


Rescue chased cats.

COPE went out with local fishermen.

Over there – pink dolphins ...

Wow!







I caught a fish!

Sense got one too!

Next morning, COPE was back to work. First stop was the Hong Kong Observatory where they learnt from the storm surge experts ... and even met the weather forecaster.



Remember to ...

# KEEP CLEAR FROM THE COAST!



COPE gave talks at schools, handing out free activity books and badges.

Spread the word!

KEEP CLEAR  
FROM THE COAST!



Soon everyone knew about storm surges.

COPE became famous – on the tv, the newspapers, the internet.



The COPE Squad are so cool!

COPE taught kids how to pack their survival bags.

Add some toys ... if you have space.



Suddenly Sense started trying to escape into the sand.  
There were reports of a Super Typhoon named Mangkhut,  
forecast to be the most powerful storm since 1983,  
which might even cause severe storm surges.



COPE put their disaster training into action, helping families on the coast prepare for a possible storm surge.



Stick your family evacuation plan there.

Move your favourite things up here.



Stock up on noodles and rice ...  
and even some candy! Fill water bottles.



Charge up your mobile phones.

Be ready!

Ready

Back in Tai O, flood barriers had been set up by the government.

The wind was raging. The sea level was rising.

Grand Mistress Fu knew what was about to happen.

Storm surge! We must  
*evacuate immediately.*



Villagers grabbed their bags, their pets and headed to the evacuation centre.



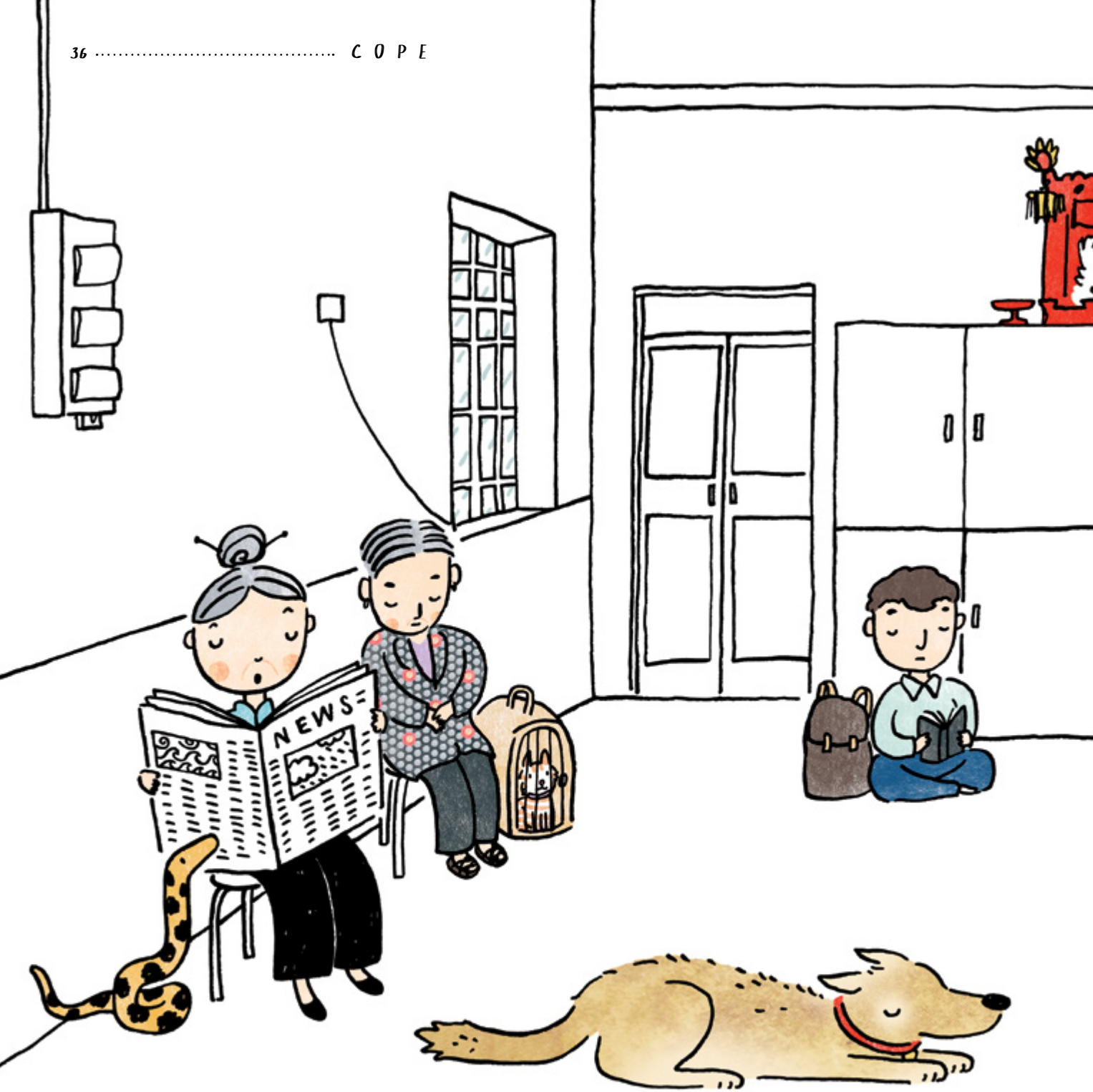
Waves were moving in, crashing against the houses.  
And the water level was rising, fast.



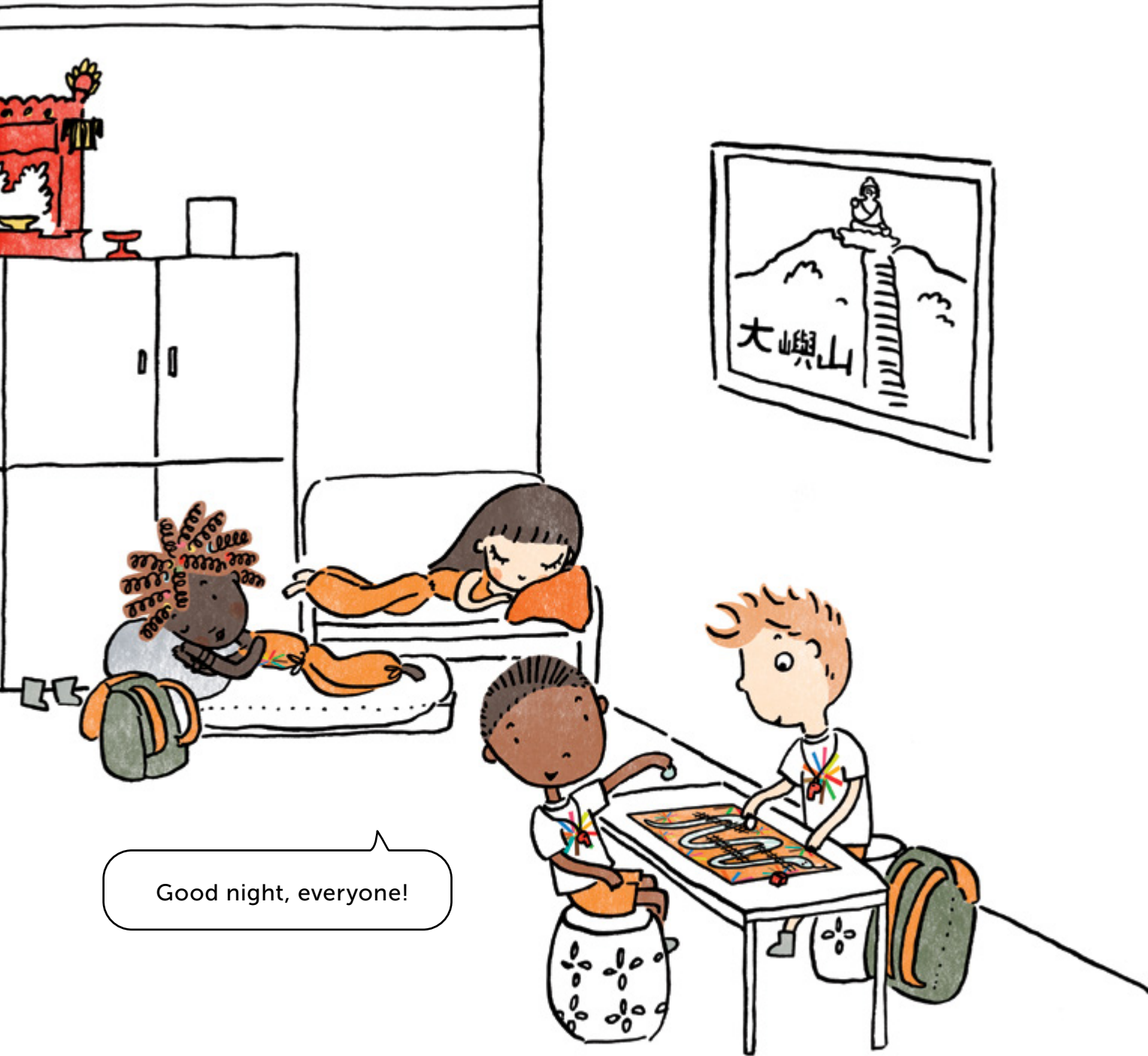
Trees fell onto roofs. Fishing boats were wrecked.

Furniture washed away.





COPE stayed inside, away from the windows, as high up as possible, and waited ... and waited. They looked after each other, played games and tried to sleep.



Good night, everyone!

Your turn, Eddy!



Across Hong Kong there was serious flooding in coastal areas. A record-breaking storm surge was recorded.

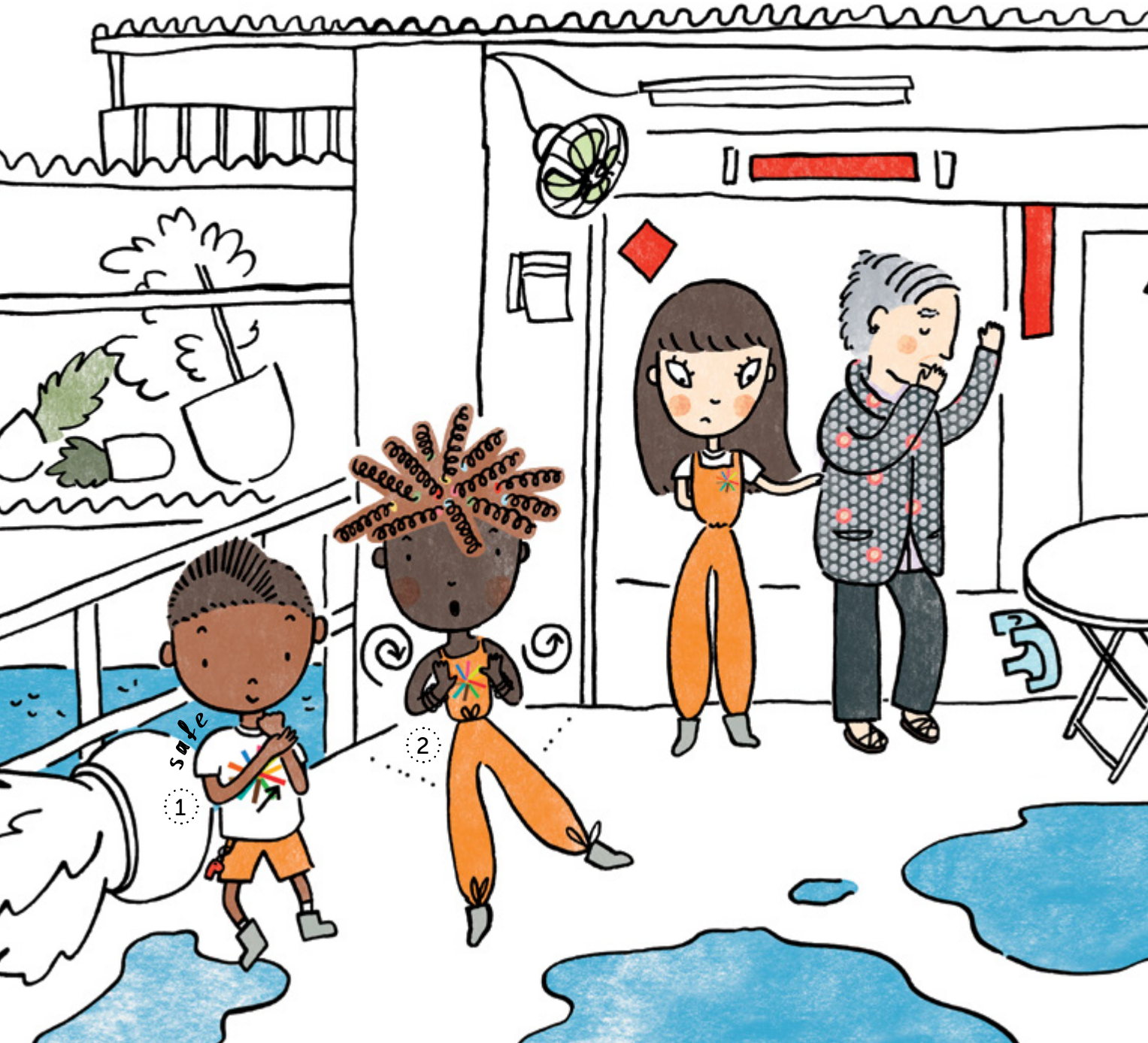


Trains and bus services were out of action. The windows of a car showroom had been smashed. Debris floated down the street.

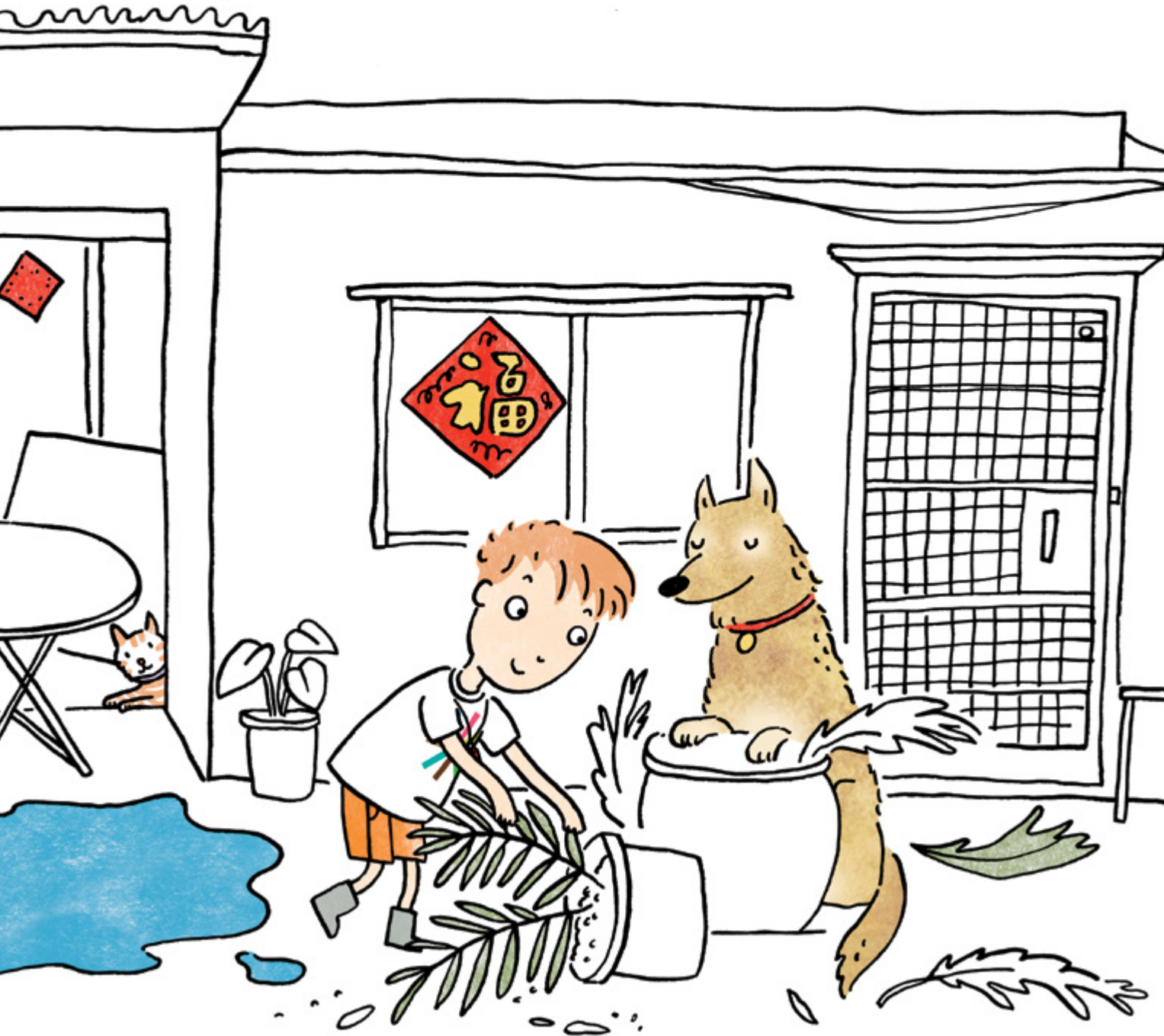


It was a long day. By sunrise the next morning, the storm had run its course. The radio reported it was safe to go out, but to be careful of flood waters.

Everything is so salty!?



Aunty Chen's house was still standing, but she had lost her washing machine and fridge.



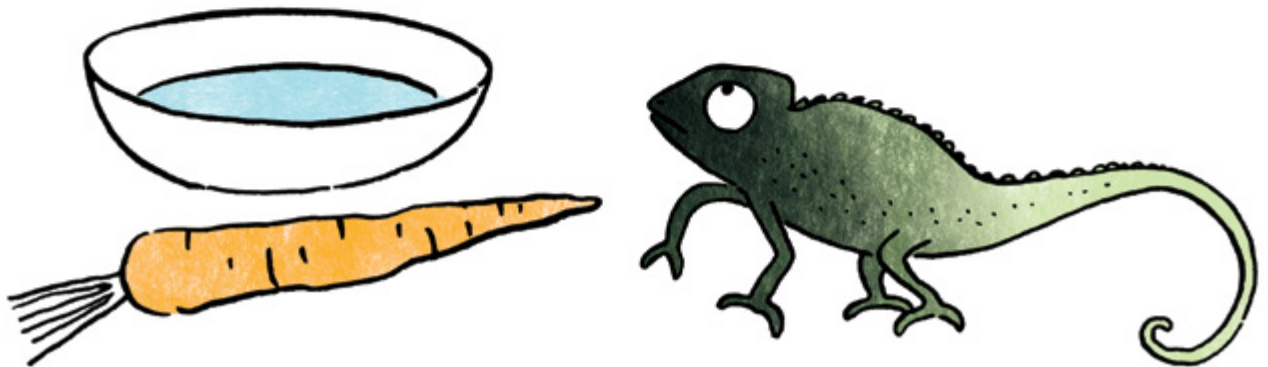
Rescue started barking crazily.

Something was hanging onto a branch in the water.



COPE fed the chameleon water and carrots.

His colour suddenly changed from black to green!



Next day, in the newspaper:



COPE took Happy home ... where he changed to an even brighter green!



Over the next few days, COPE helped volunteers with the post disaster reconstruction, mopping up flood water and rebuilding homes.





Soon, it was time to fly back to The COPE Academy for their next mission. An Autumn chill was in the air as they landed back on Mount Emei.



COPE, we are home, over.



## T H E C O P E C O N T R I B U T O R S



## Martha Keswick

**COPE  
AUTHOR**

Martha Keswick is the author of the popular bilingual *Max and Mei* picture book series, the factual *Zhongguo Mingren Series* about famous people of China and the action-packed *Pangu* comic book series. Martha's work for the Keswick Foundation often supports disaster related projects in China.

Martha lives in Hong Kong with her husband, their four children and two dogs.



## Mariko Jesse

**COPE  
ILLUSTRATOR**

Mariko Jesse studied at Central St Martins, where she went on to be an Associate Lecturer. She is an acclaimed freelance illustrator, working on a variety of projects around the world from picture books to ceramics.

Mariko lives in Tokyo where she is always in a state of preparedness for earthquakes.



## Timothy Sim

**COPE  
EDITOR**

Dr Timothy Sim is an Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Social Sciences at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Tim started out as a social worker, specialising in family therapy, and now focuses on disaster risk reduction, writing many books in both Chinese and English.

Tim lives in Hong Kong and works with people from all over the world researching disaster preparedness.



With striking illustrations, this book will assist our children in understanding the threats of storm surges.

— DR ELENA MANAENKOVA

Deputy Secretary General, World Meteorological Organisation

Accurate, reliable information should be something every child can easily access and use to make good judgement. It is never more important than at a time of emergency or crisis.

— MISHAL HUSAIN

Broadcaster

The unknown is our greatest fear. The COPE series is a fantastic stepping stone to engage our children in unexpected and challenging situations, allowing them to overcome adversities, build their self esteem and strength in character.

— SU HWEI LEE

Founder, Bring Me A Book, Hong Kong

With touching and amusing stories as well as exquisite and captivating illustrations, the COPE book series teaches children simple steps to prepare for and respond to disasters.

— JOHNSON LO

Director, Hong Kong Jockey Club Disaster Preparedness and Response Institute

## COPE Academy, Sichuan Province.

Under Grand Mistress Fu, the COPE squad undergoes intensive training on disasters and how to be prepared. Join their Storm Surge mission to Hong Kong, where they actually have to put their disaster risk reduction skills into action.



[www.cope-disaster-champions.com](http://www.cope-disaster-champions.com)

  COPEdisasterchampions

COPE TITLES

- Earthquakes
- Floods
- Cyclones
- Storm Surges**
- Landslides
- Droughts
- Tsunamis
- Wildfires
- Heatwaves
- Volcanoes



COPE

.....  
*Make the Difference.  
Be Ready!*