

The Dissertation Monkey



A Doctoral Story

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DEDICATION

To Diego, Xavier and Paloma.
For getting the monkey off my back.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book would not have been possible without the help and support of many others.

To Ian Stuart my illustrator. Your beautiful illustrations brought the “Dissertation Monkey” to life.

To my dissertation chair, Dr. Alicia Dowd, and cohort, Lorena Patton, Peggy Smith, Lee Ann Cornell, Chelvi

Subramaniam, Svetlana Levonisova, Rashitta Brown, Christiane Woerner, and Erin Vines.

To the other two members of the “Three Amigos,” Shannon Sakamoto and Keoki Nailili.

To my writing team Keeley F. White and my designer and friend Leonel Diaz Jr.

To my Mom and Dad. Thank you for sharing your love for reading.

To my siblings and siblings-in-law: Ti, Jaime, Francie, Andreas, Juan, Lynette, Anthony and Lizzie.

This was “para mi familia.”

To all my nephews and nieces: Timo, Robin, KK, Antonio, Alessio, Mia, Nico and Lucia. Long live picture books!

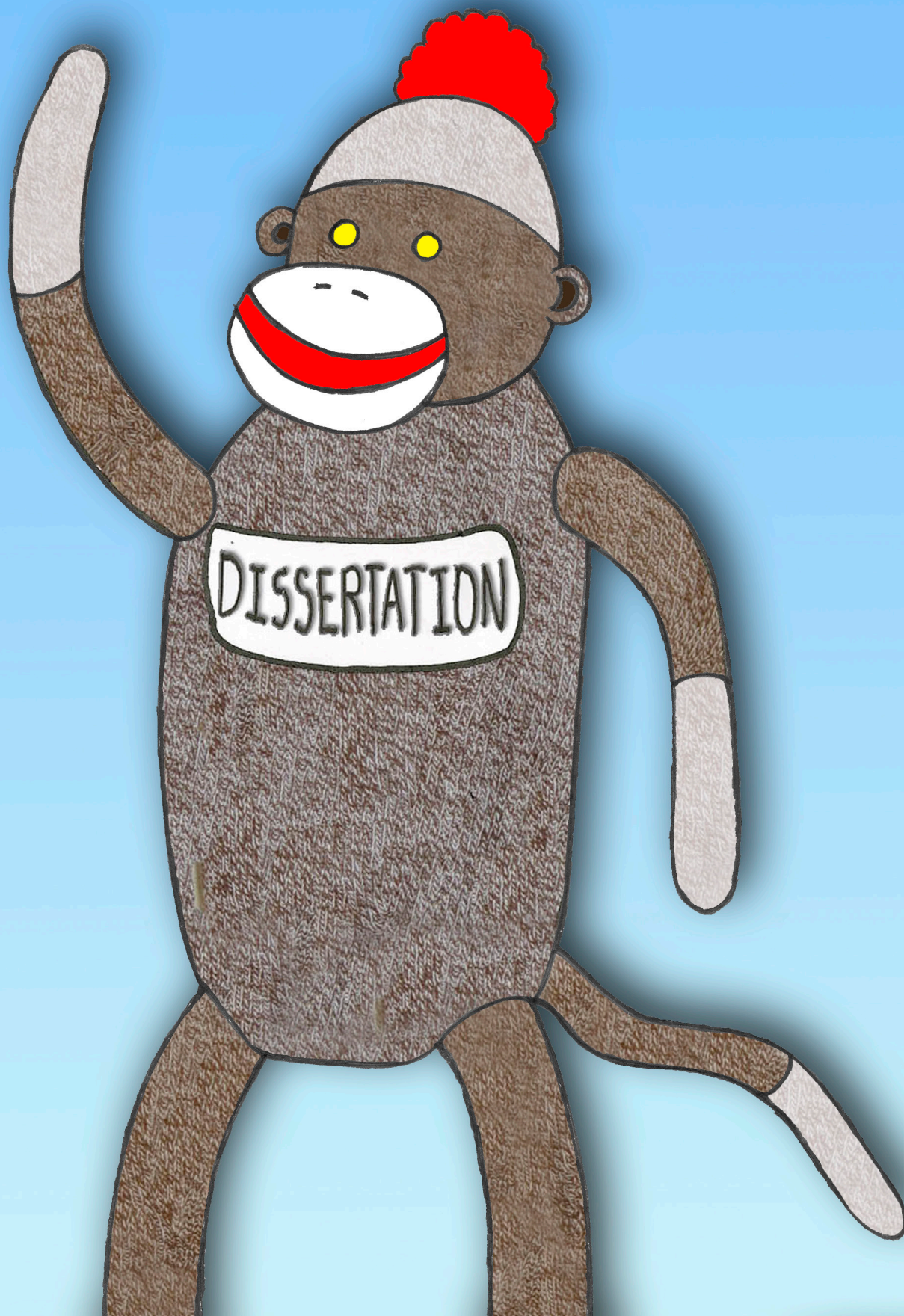
To all the students that have inspired me over the years. I will always have a little Longhorn, Banana Slug, Trojan, Toro, Lumberjack and Lobo in my heart and soul.

To my dearest friends Heath, Joe, Monique, Karl and Robin. Thank you for being there.

To my three amazing children: Diego, Zavi and Paloma. This is your story.

Finally to my partner and best friend. Cara you are the best thing that ever happened to me. You make me great!

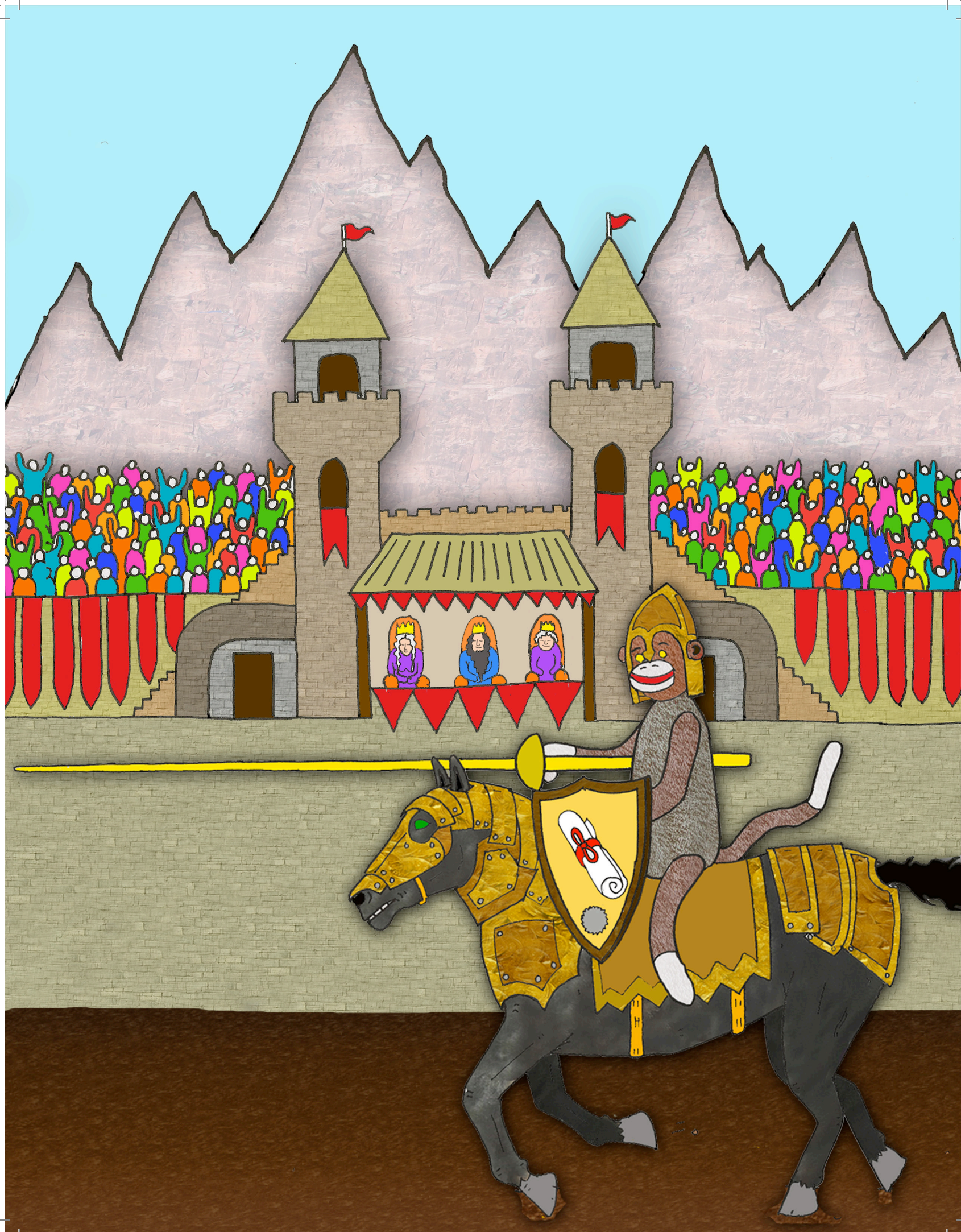
Hi, I'm the
dissertation
monkey.





If you are reading this picture
book, you probably know
someone that is either thinking
about or currently enrolled in a
doctoral program.

The doctorate degree
has been around since
medieval times.



DOCTORATE



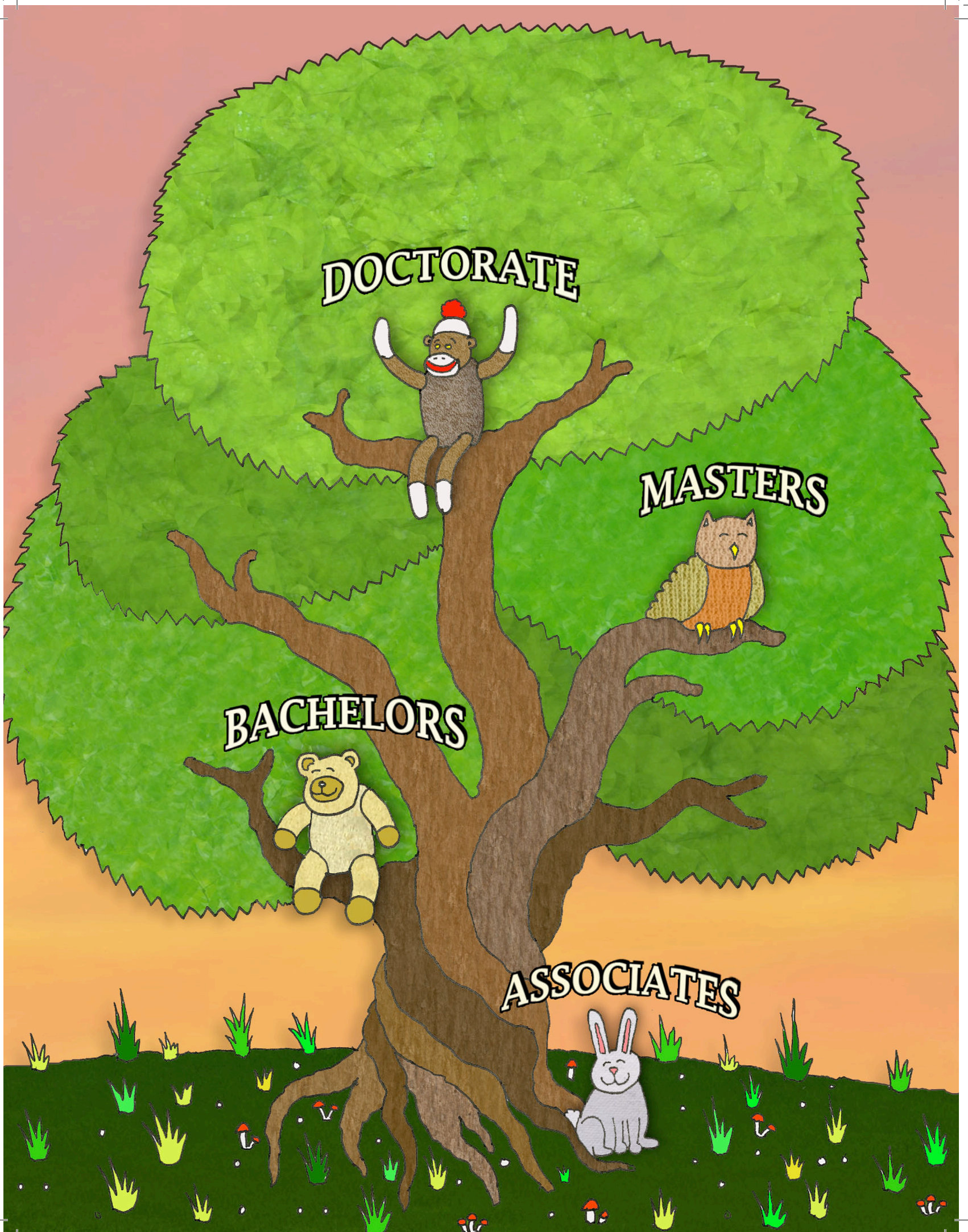
MASTERS



BACHELORS

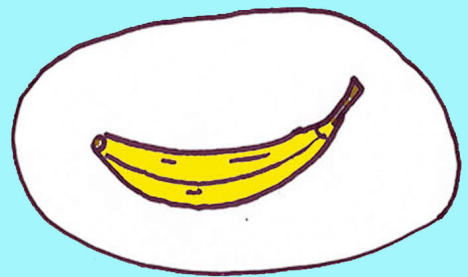
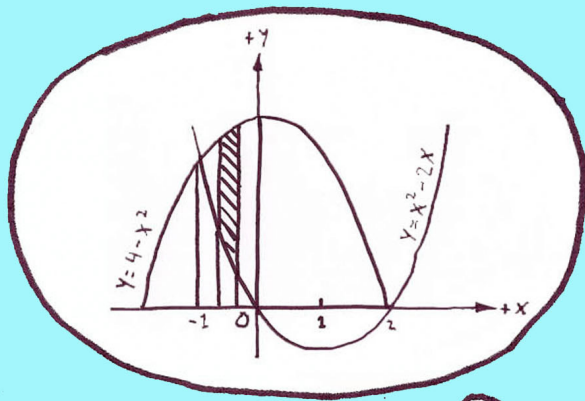


ASSOCIATES



Here in the United States a
doctorate is the highest
educational degree that one
can earn.

**A doctoral student must
take a lot of classes,**





and pass a qualifying exam.

They must also
write and defend
a dissertation.





**On average, a doctorate takes
about 7 years to complete.**

To successfully complete this long
journey a doctoral student must be
dedicated,





**and be willing to make a
lot of sacrifices.**

A doctoral student will
also require your love
and support,





The background of the image is a solid olive green color. It is decorated with a repeating pattern of small, dark green musical notes. These notes include single eighth notes, beamed eighth notes, and pairs of sixteenth notes, all scattered across the entire surface. In the center of the image, the text "as well as your patience and understanding." is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in two lines, with "as well as your patience" on the top line and "and understanding." on the bottom line.

as well as your patience
and understanding.

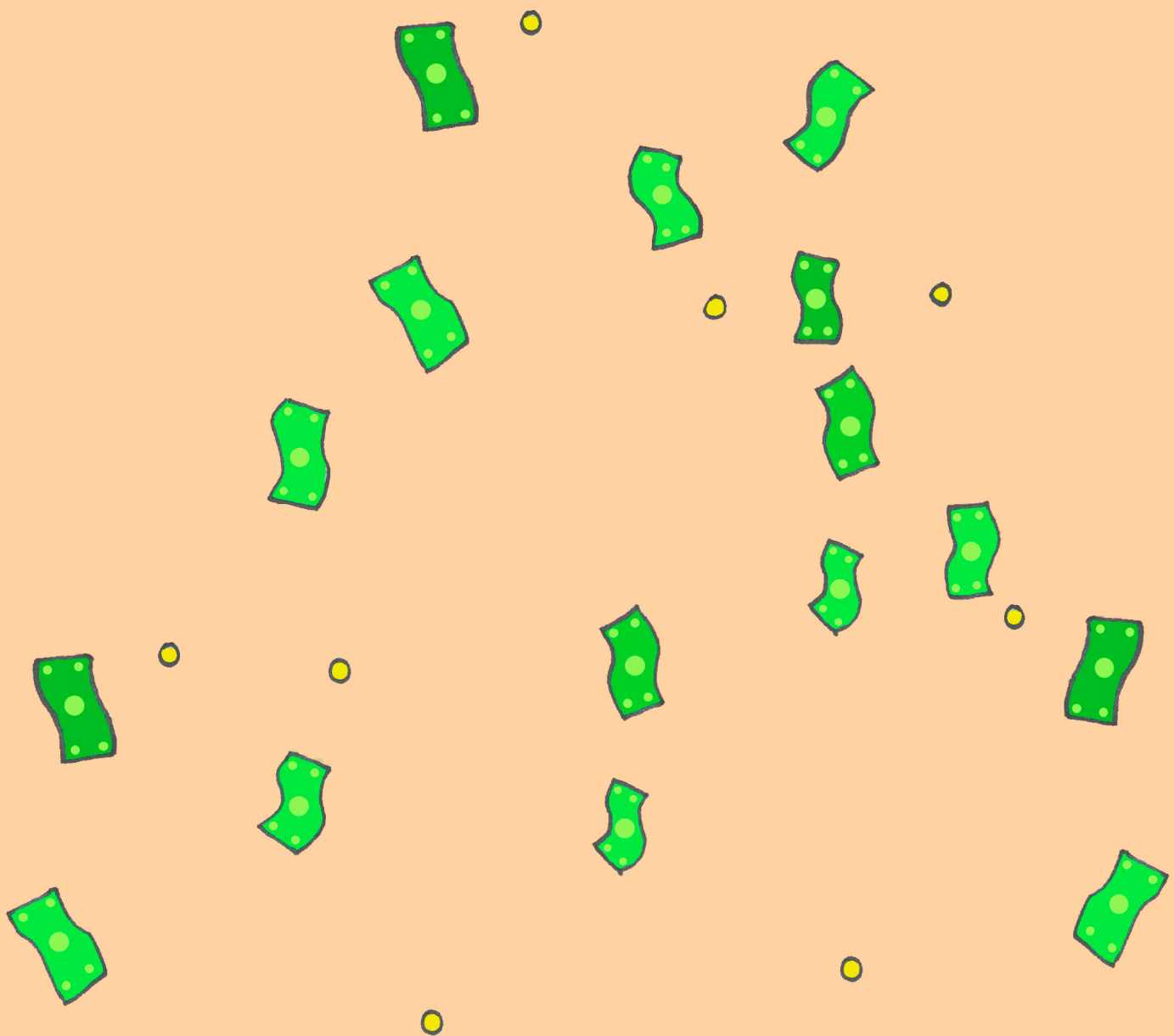
When they are
done there will be
a big graduation
ceremony,

Congratulations Graduates!



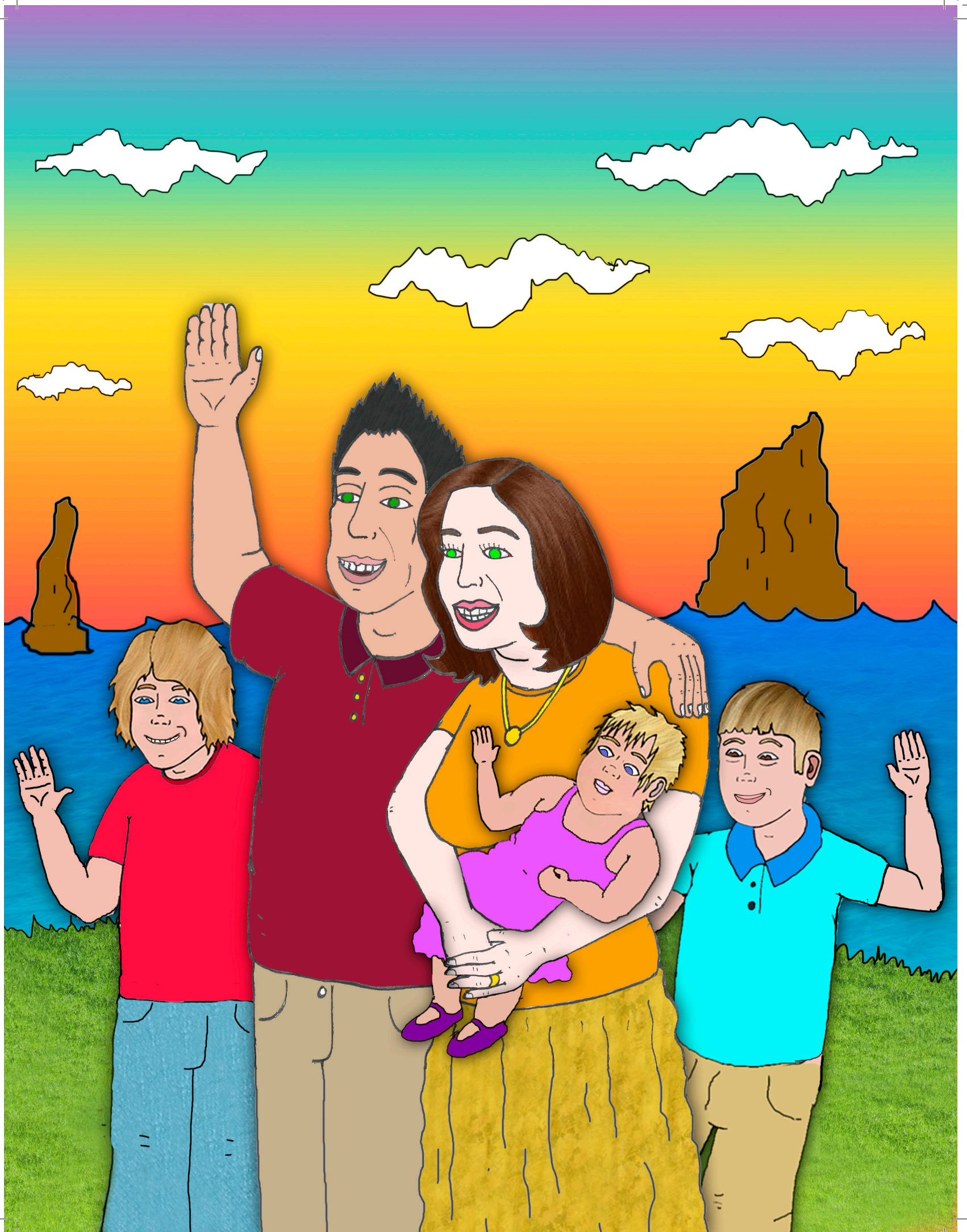


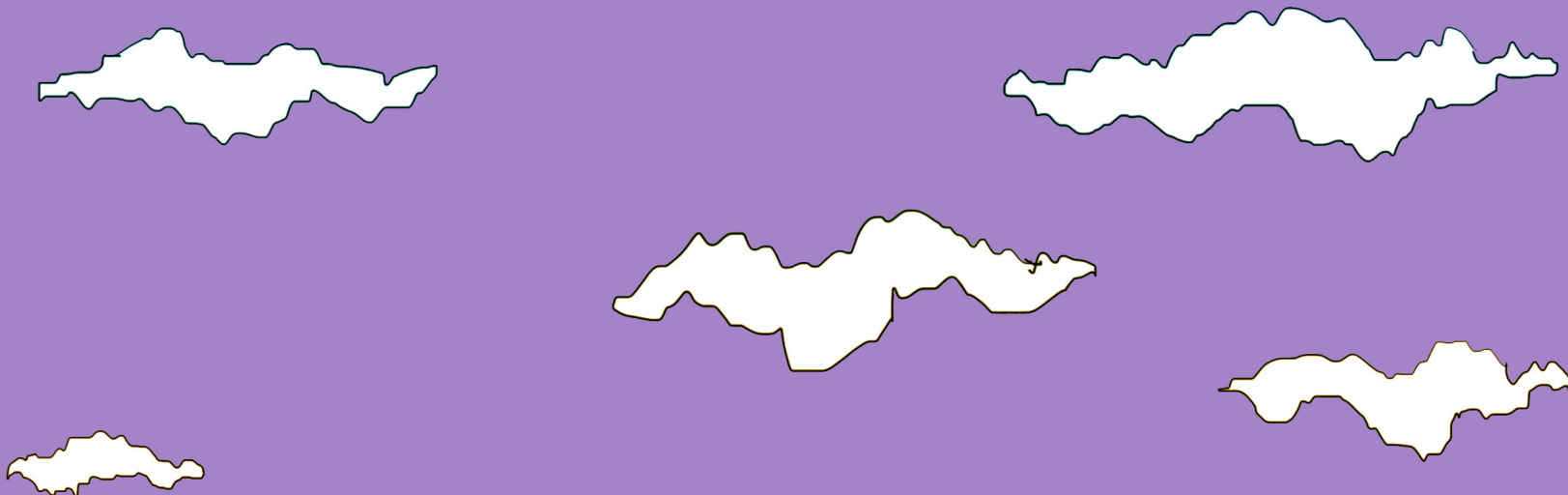
and lots of student
loans to pay.



But most importantly the
dissertation monkey will be
off their back,







and Dr. _____
will be yours again.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Some might find it amusing that after completing my doctorate my first publication would be a picture book. Too often in life, our dreams remain unfulfilled because we don't have the time or support to make them happen. My dream to earn a doctorate was only made possible by my family's love and support, and this book is their story. One night while working on my dissertation, in frustration I exclaimed, "I've got to get this monkey off my back!" Imagine my surprise the next day when I discovered my 6-year old's sock-monkey sitting next to my computer with the word "dissertation" taped on its chest. While he didn't really understand what a doctorate was or why daddy spent all of his time screaming at the computer, he wanted to help and was willing to give me something that was very dear to him (as long as I did not give him away when I graduated). For the remainder of my doctoral journey, the "Dissertation Monkey" became my muse. When I struggled with my journey, "the Dissertation Monkey laughed with glee," and when I reached a particular obstacle, "the Dissertation Monkey screamed in agony." When I finally graduated, the Dissertation Monkey walked across the stage with me. Afterwards, I received so many requests to document the story that this book was written. It is for anybody who has gone or is going through the dissertation process, or is considering it. Hopefully your Dissertation Monkey will help you get through. You can do it!

