

The illustration features a large, brown tree trunk on the left side of the page. The tree has a friendly, smiling face with small eyes and a mustache-like shape. A thick, brown branch curves from the tree towards the right, where a young girl with long brown hair is sitting. She is wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt with yellow stars and yellow pants. She has her hands clasped in front of her and a happy expression. The background is plain white.

Theo Rising

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Theo's
ROOM

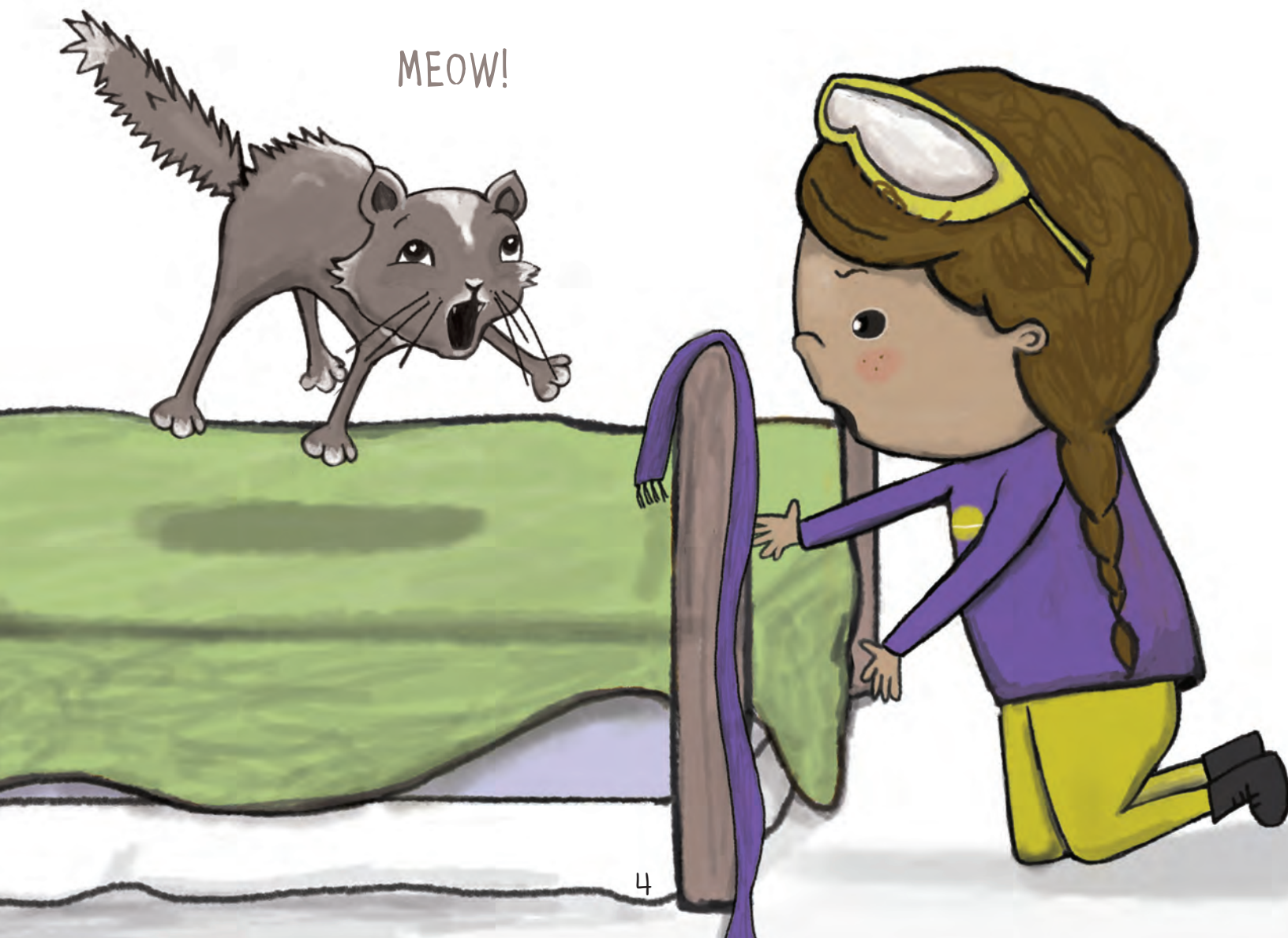
Athens!
Wake up!



Matter
Matters


How can you sleep at
a time like this?

MEOW!





I've created
space in my closet
for us to make a
new universe!

A cartoon illustration of a room. In the background, there is a bed with a green blanket and a white pillow. A purple scarf is draped over a wooden post. To the right, a person's leg in an orange sock is visible. On the wall, there is a white piece of paper with a green mark and a brown piece with a blue smiley face. In the foreground, a grey cat with a white patch on its face and a red rug on the floor is looking towards the right.

It's simple to make a
universe, once you know
the secret ingredient.



Do you want to
know what it is?

MEOW!

Okay!
To make a
universe, all
you need is a
little of the
most real
thing there is.
Everything
else comes
from that.



The only question we have to answer is
"What is the most real thing there is?"

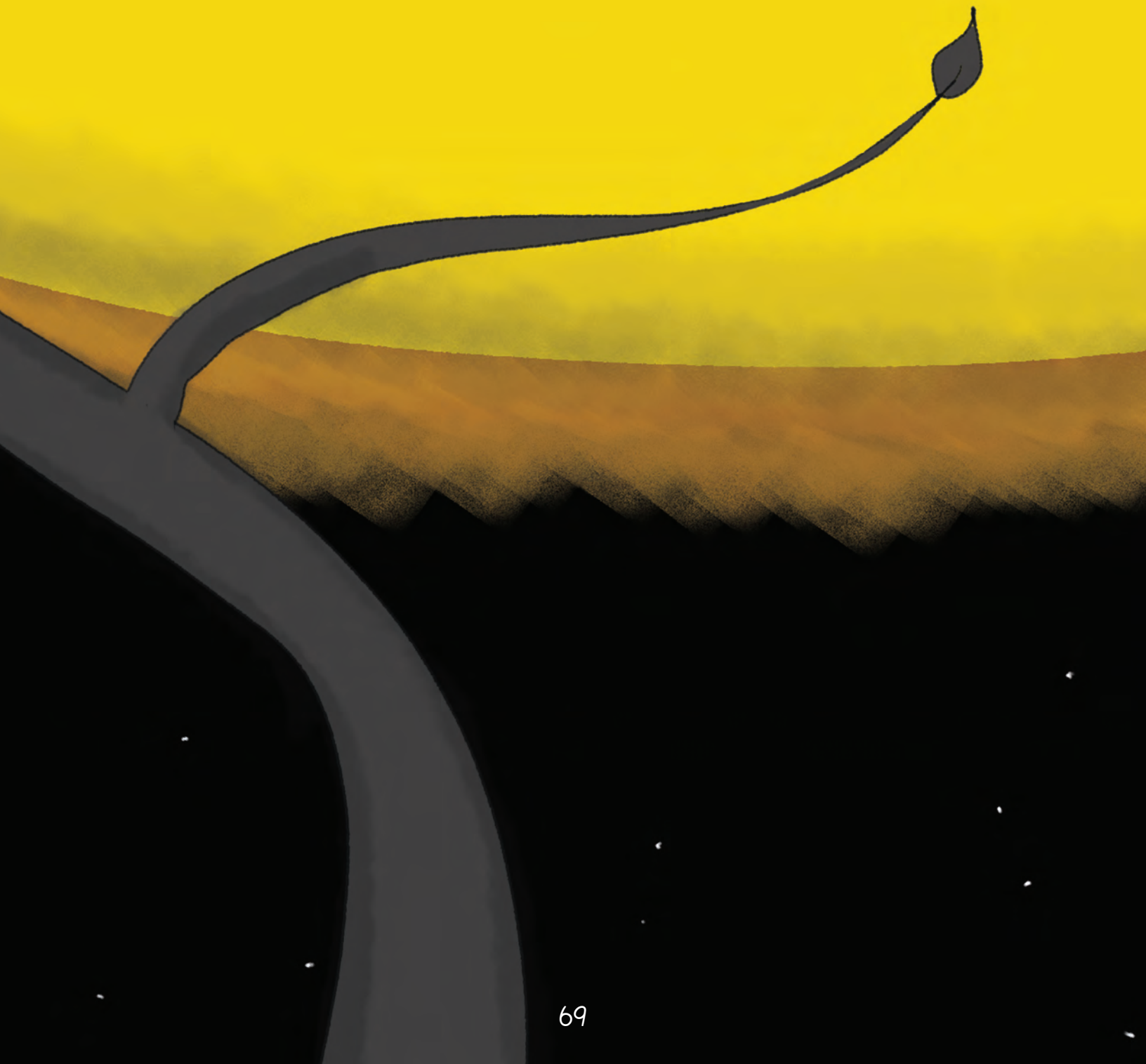


Chapter Nine

Aha! Have we at last
arrived at numbers?

There's another choice?
How could it be better?

I want to take you on a journey—
not of the body, but of the mind.



I want to introduce you
to the eternal realm.

And I can see it
in my mind?



That's the only place you can
see it. Just close your eyes
and picture the number 1.



Now picture the number 2 just above it.



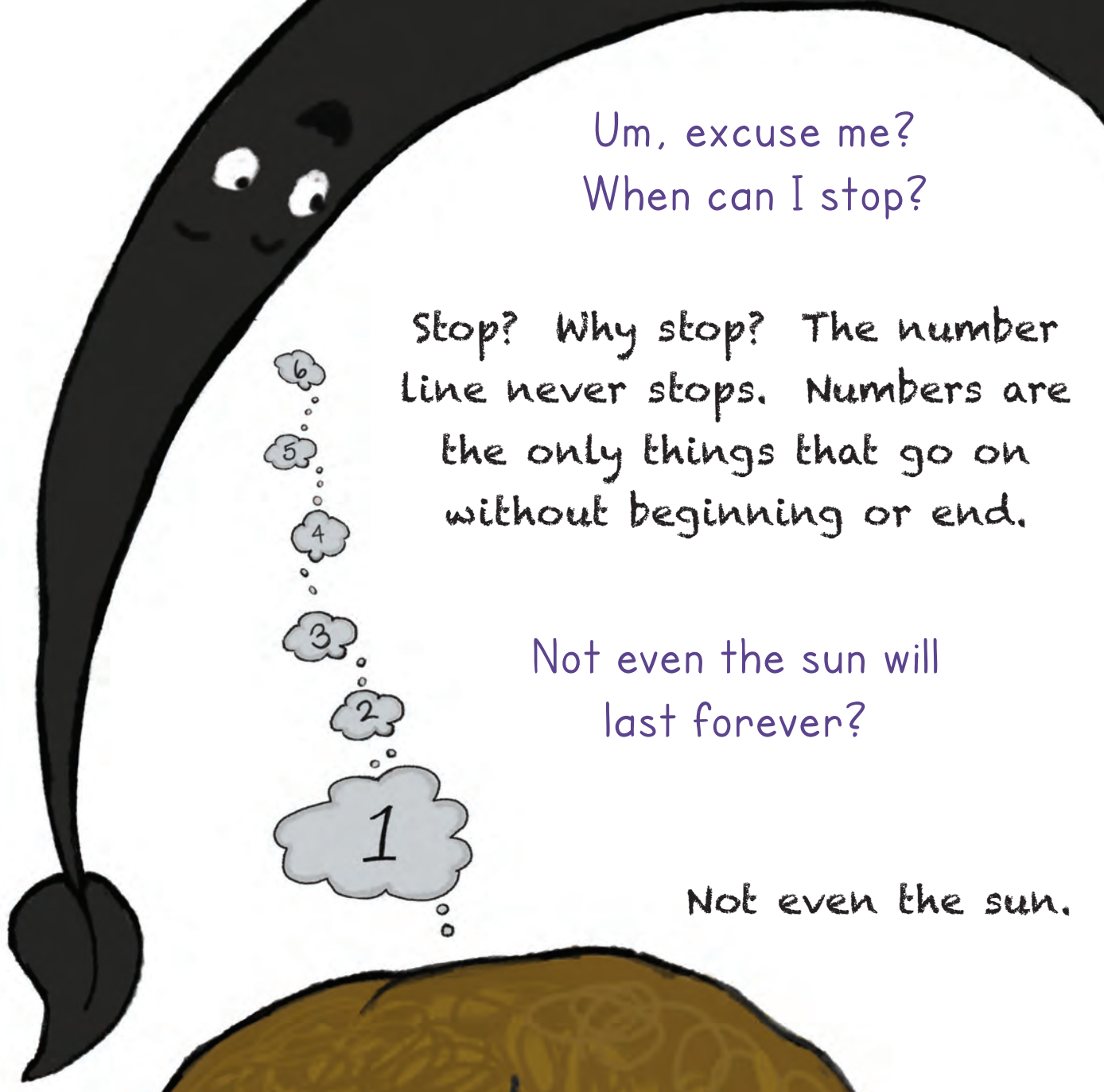
Okay.

Now the number 3 just above 2.

Should I keep
on going?



Yes.



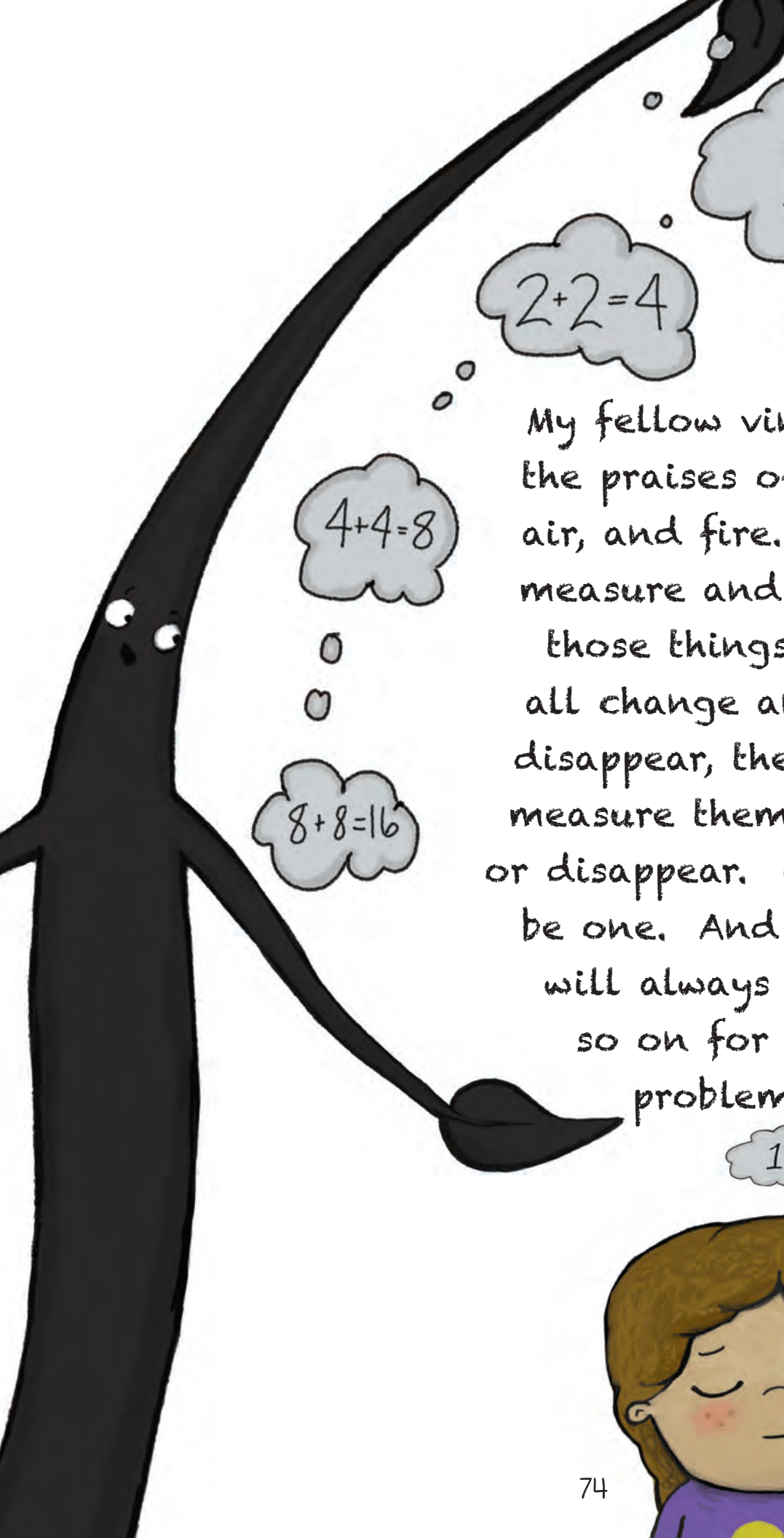
Um, excuse me?
When can I stop?

Stop? Why stop? The number
line never stops. Numbers are
the only things that go on
without beginning or end.

Not even the sun will
last forever?

Not even the sun.





$$1+1=2$$

$$2+2=4$$

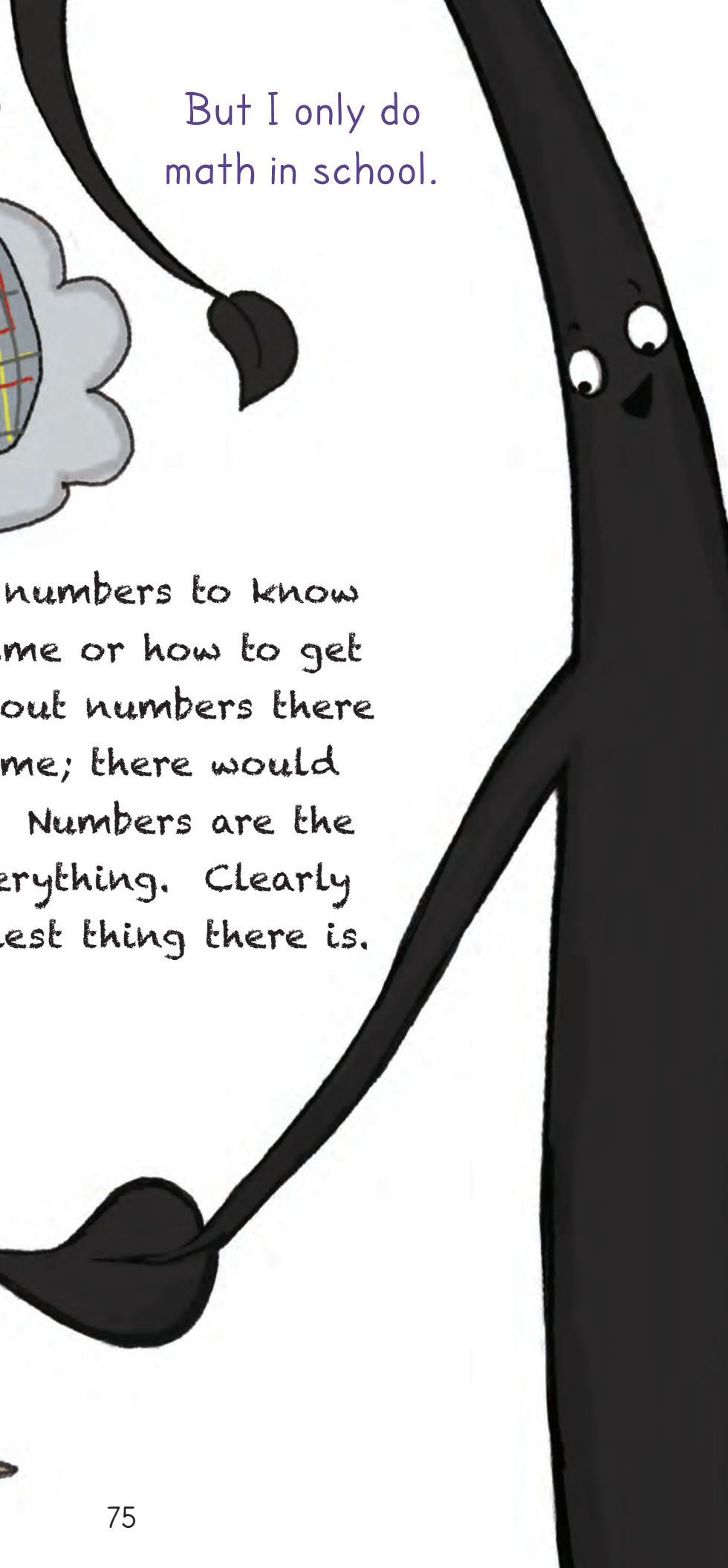
$$4+4=8$$

$$8+8=16$$

My fellow vines have sung the praises of earth, water, air, and fire. But numbers measure and define all of those things. While they all change and eventually disappear, the numbers that measure them never change or disappear. One will always be one. And one plus one will always be two. And so on for every math problem there is.

$$1$$





But I only do
math in school.



Not so! We use numbers to know when it's lunchtime or how to get to the zoo. Without numbers there would be no time; there would be no distance. Numbers are the structure of everything. Clearly they are the realest thing there is.

