

Shinkansen

Zuri and Friends

Made for Tlaloc

With love from the Faust book maker

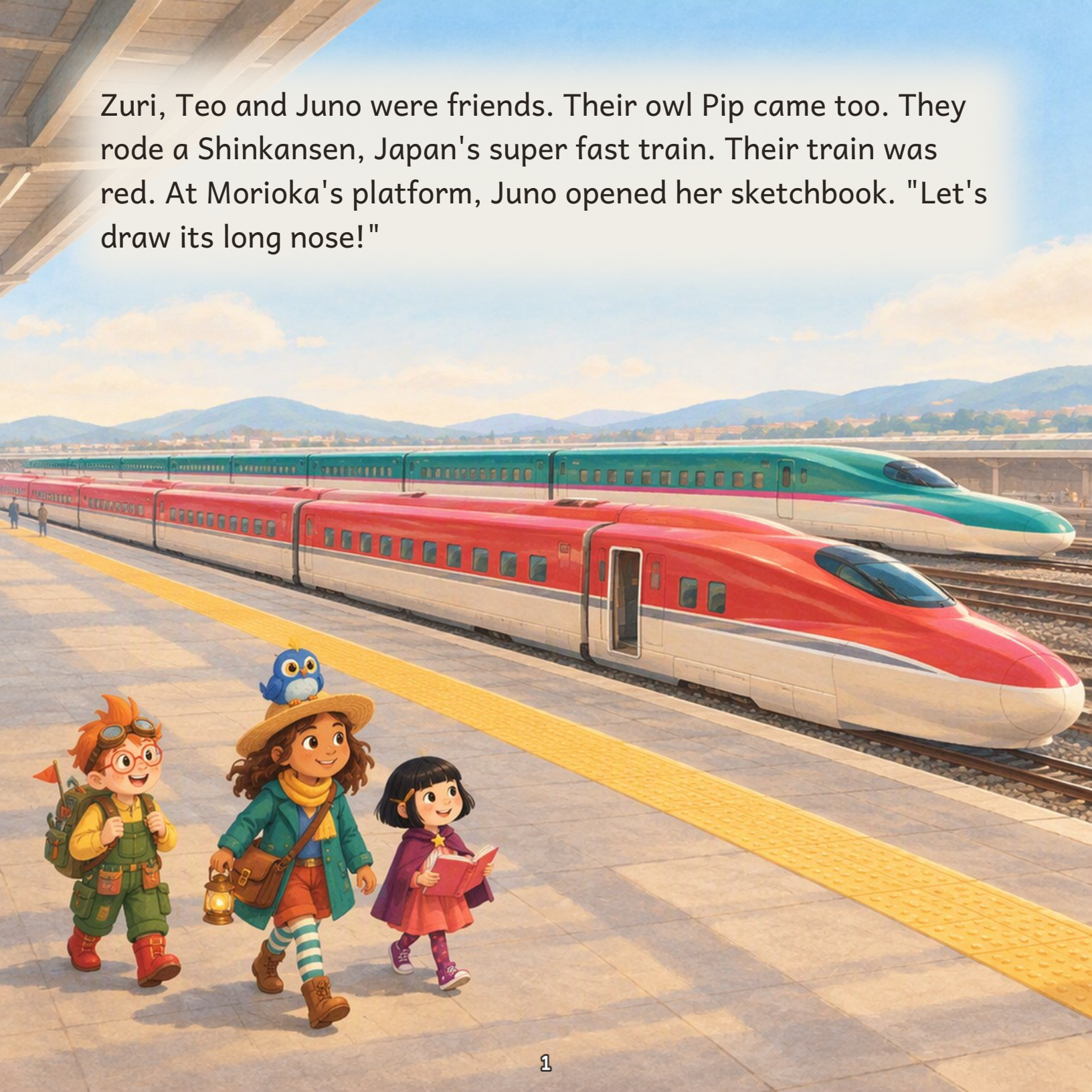
Shinkansen

Zuri and Friends

Made for Tlaloc

With love from the Faust book maker

Zuri, Teo and Juno were friends. Their owl Pip came too. They rode a Shinkansen, Japan's super fast train. Their train was red. At Morioka's platform, Juno opened her sketchbook. "Let's draw its long nose!"



Juno's drawing stopped. “The green train hides the tip!” Zuri kept everyone behind the yellow strip. Hoping to finish, Juno called, “Show us your nose before you leave!”



Teo rolled paper into a tube. He searched for the tip. “Show us your nose!” Teo squeezed too hard. The tube crumpled against his glasses. The tip stayed hidden.



Juno turned her sketchbook sideways for more room. "Show us your nose!" The tip stayed hidden. Pip hooted at the joined noses.



Above the bench, a clock's hands moved. The red train would leave soon. Juno gripped her pencil beside her unfinished picture. “Zuri, please help me finish!”



Zuri led everyone behind the yellow strip. Juno noticed grey metal between the trains. Pip pointed a wing at the same spot. "Why are the trains stuck together?" Teo asked.



“Okay... let's look closer.” Zuri pointed between the open noses. “These pieces join the trains. The green train hides the red tip. When they separate, we can see it!”

Did you know? Some train noses are longer than buses.



Zuri traced both trains. "They came together. Now they go different ways." Juno aimed her pencil between their noses. "Will the tip appear?" "You will see it," Zuri said.

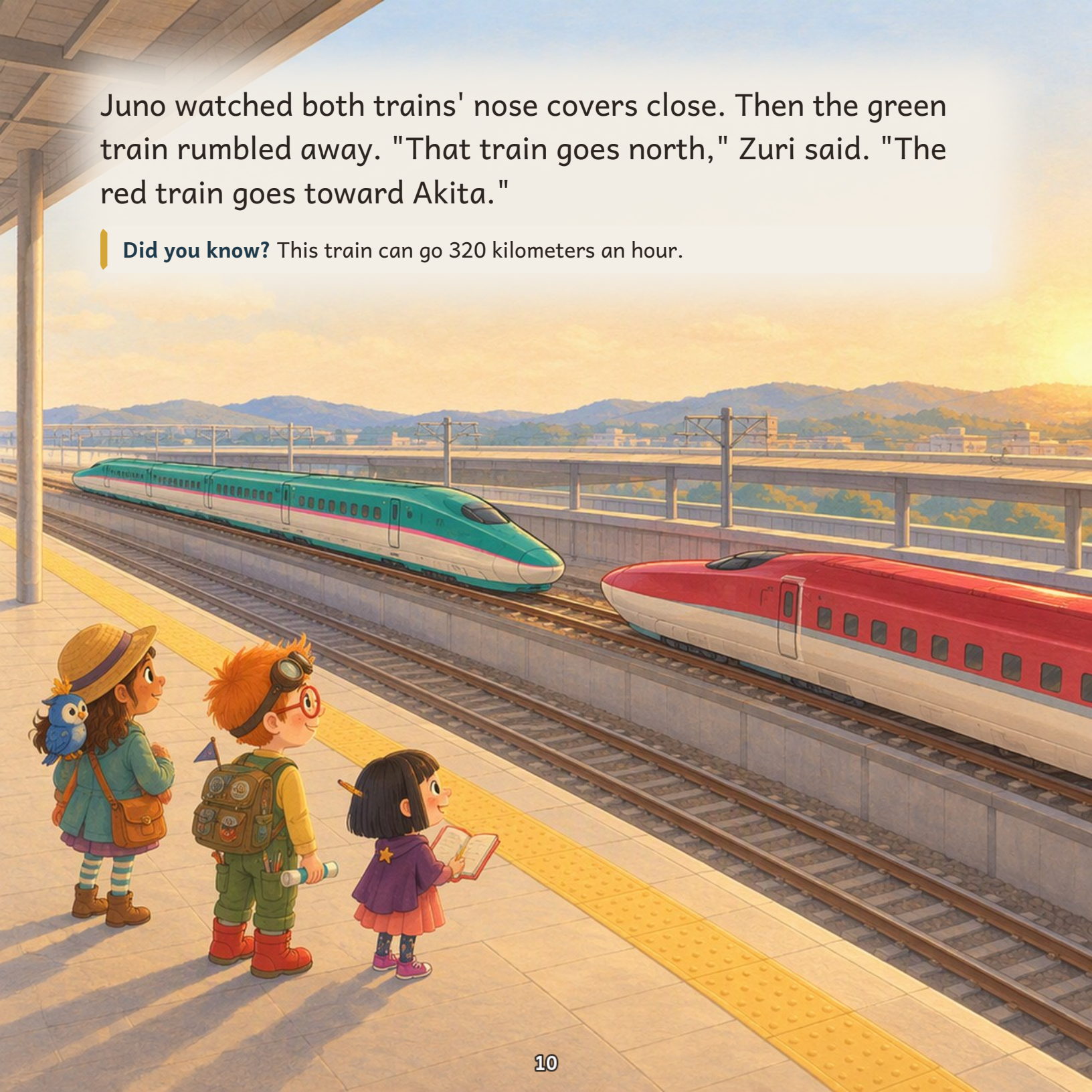




The metal connection unlocked. The red train moved back a little. A gap opened. Zuri led Juno back. On Zuri's shoulder, Pip flapped. Juno raised her pencil.

Juno watched both trains' nose covers close. Then the green train rumbled away. "That train goes north," Zuri said. "The red train goes toward Akita."

Did you know? This train can go 320 kilometers an hour.



Juno drew along the long red nose. Her line nearly reached the paper's edge. Only the tip remained. Everyone held still. Would it fit?



Juno finished her nose drawing! "That's a story!" Everyone cheered. Whoosh! The red train zoomed toward Akita. Pip landed on its tip. "There is your nose!" Juno laughed.



For grown-ups

Shinkansen means “new trunk line.” The name also refers to the fast trains that use these lines. The seven-car E6 Komachi and ten-car E5 Hayabusa can travel together as one 17-car train. Their nose covers open to reveal the equipment that joins them. Neither nose goes inside the other. Northbound pairs separate at Morioka. The connection unlocks, and the Komachi moves back a short distance. The nose covers close before the Hayabusa departs north. Komachi heads toward Akita.