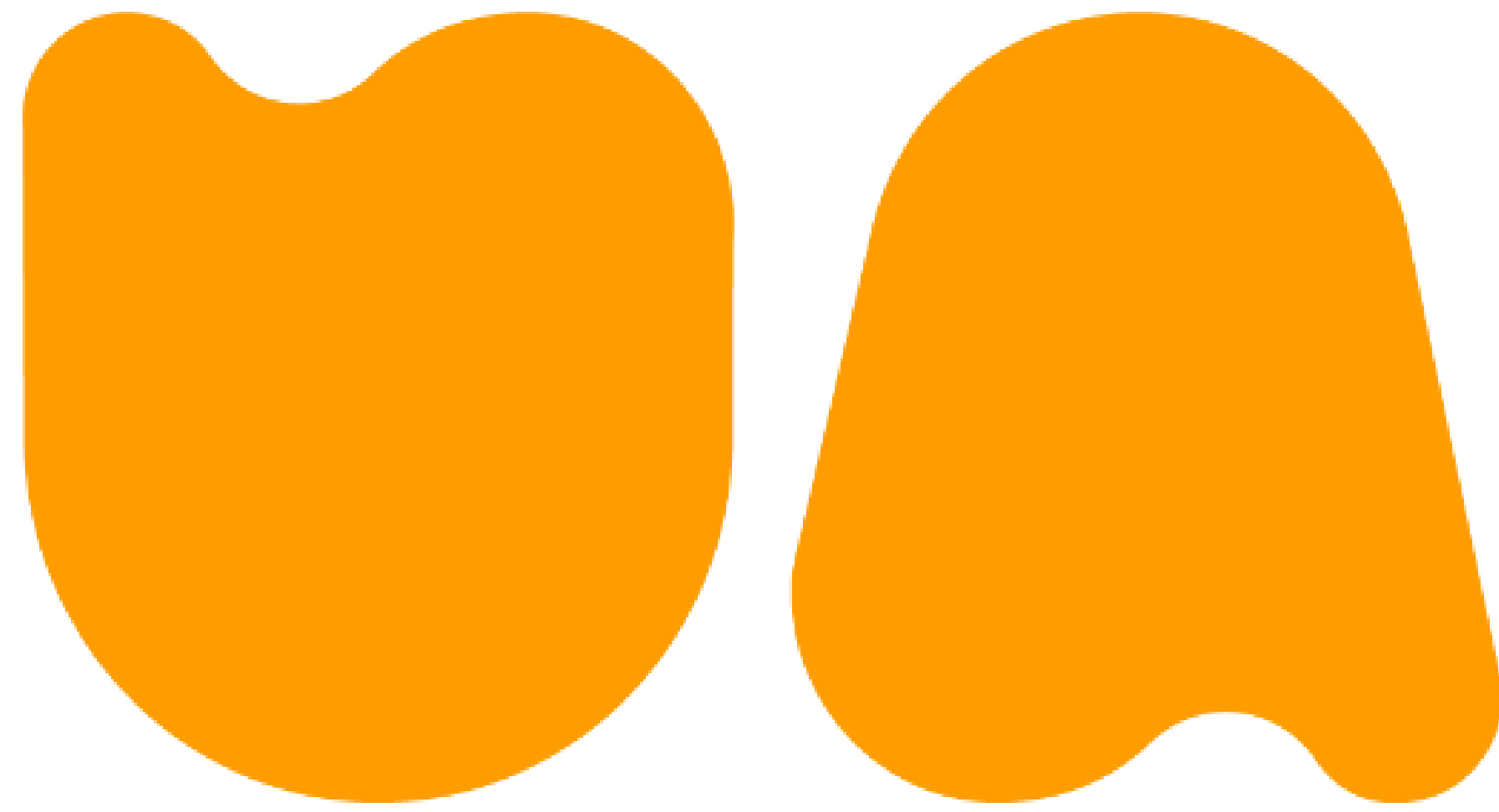


THE BEST PRIZE EVER!





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Art & story by:



P E O E R

Carlos and I are on our way to the park, where the Palo
Ensebado is going to be.



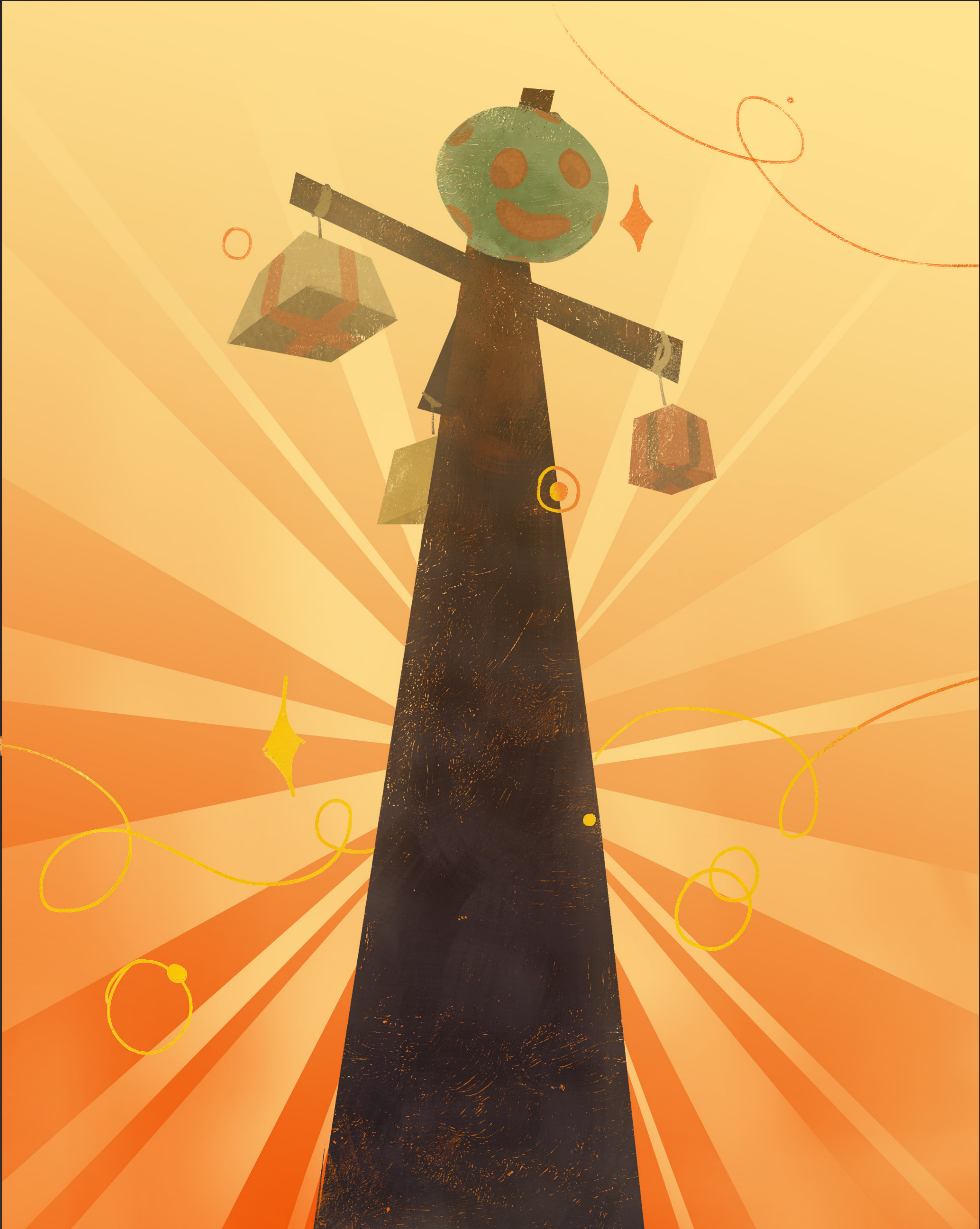
We've been expecting this day for an entire year, since we heard the rumor that adults wouldn't be competing this year, because they always win.



It is December, and as tradition here in Machalilla, we're going to celebrate our "Fin de Año" holidays.

We like the presents our parents give to us in Christmas, but what we're really excited for are those great prizes awaiting at the top of the Palo Ensebado.







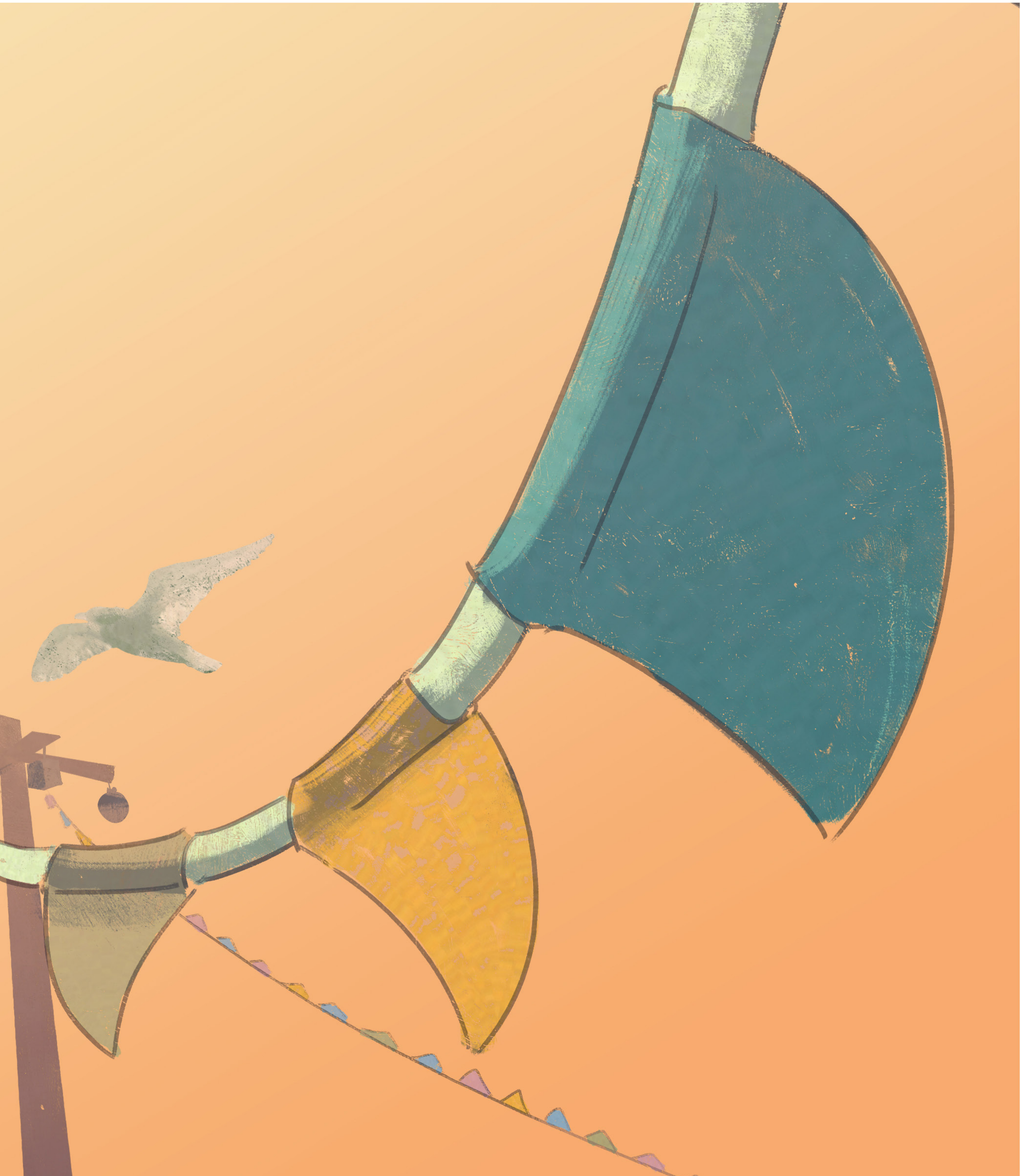
I've been practicing with my friends, climbing a lot of trees after school.

All the kids in town wonder what we could win this year, since last year we were so close to winning a radio that was at the lowest prize range of the Palo Ensebado. But this year, we believe we can make it to the top and win a TV!



But when we arrived, we were so surprised. There were five Palos Encebados in the plaza! Two of them were meant for children: one with prizes for boys and the other one had prizes for girls.








Time to climb! At the very moment we heard the whistle, we ran and started escalating the Palo Ensebado.

I swear it was the greasiest Palo Ensebado I had ever climbed! As we advanced, I saw a lot of boys and girls slipping down, and just when I thought I wouldn't make it...



The illustration is a warm-toned, painterly scene of a festival or fair. In the foreground, a dark blue awning or structure is partially visible on the left. The middle ground features several white tents with brown poles and roofs, set on a grassy field. A string of brown triangular bunting hangs across the scene. In the background, there are palm trees with green fronds and brown trunks. The sky is a soft, warm yellow-orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall style is soft and nostalgic, with visible brushstrokes and a rich, golden color palette.

I felt my friend's hands holding me so I wouldn't slip, too. We held each other so we could make it to the end together.





When I got to the top, I looked around and saw my friend Carlos, who had also won all the prizes in the boys Palo Ensebado. Good for him!



I took everything I could in my hands. That way, I could give Milena a ball so she starts playing football with the other girls; a Barbie doll for Mateo, who has fun styling them; a pair of shoes for Romina, so she could keep practicing sports, and bottles of coconut juice for everyone.



Carlos won a frying pan for his dad, so he could use it to cook in his small business. Also, toys for all the boys and girls, and some potato chips we got to exchange for our coconut juice.



We didn't win a TV or radio, but this was the best year of all, because we were there for each other, had a lot of fun and won all the prizes for all our friends, even if they didn't make it to the top.



Best friends x ever!

THE BEST PRIZE EVER!



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