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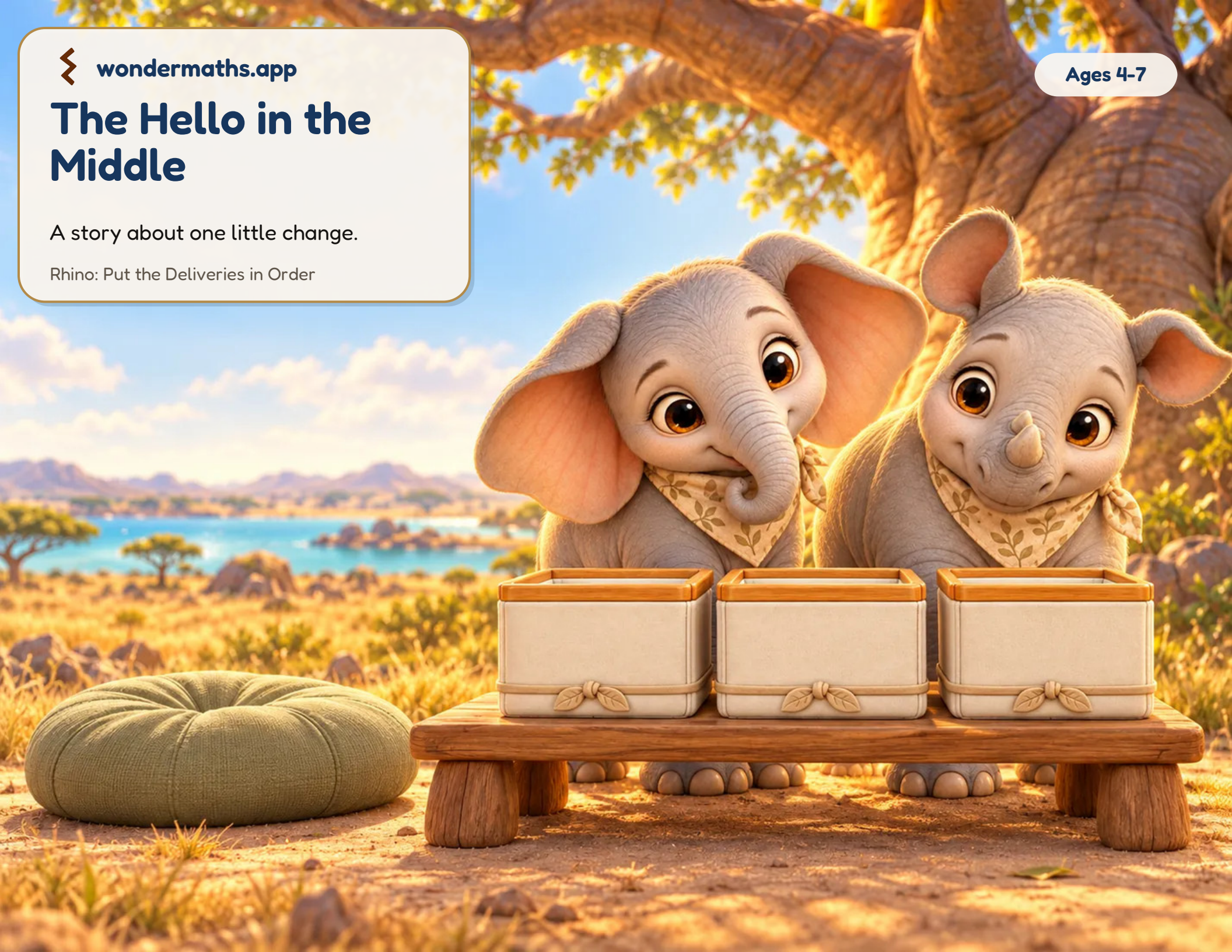
The Hello in the Middle

A story about one little change.

Rhino: Put the Deliveries in Order

Ages 4-7

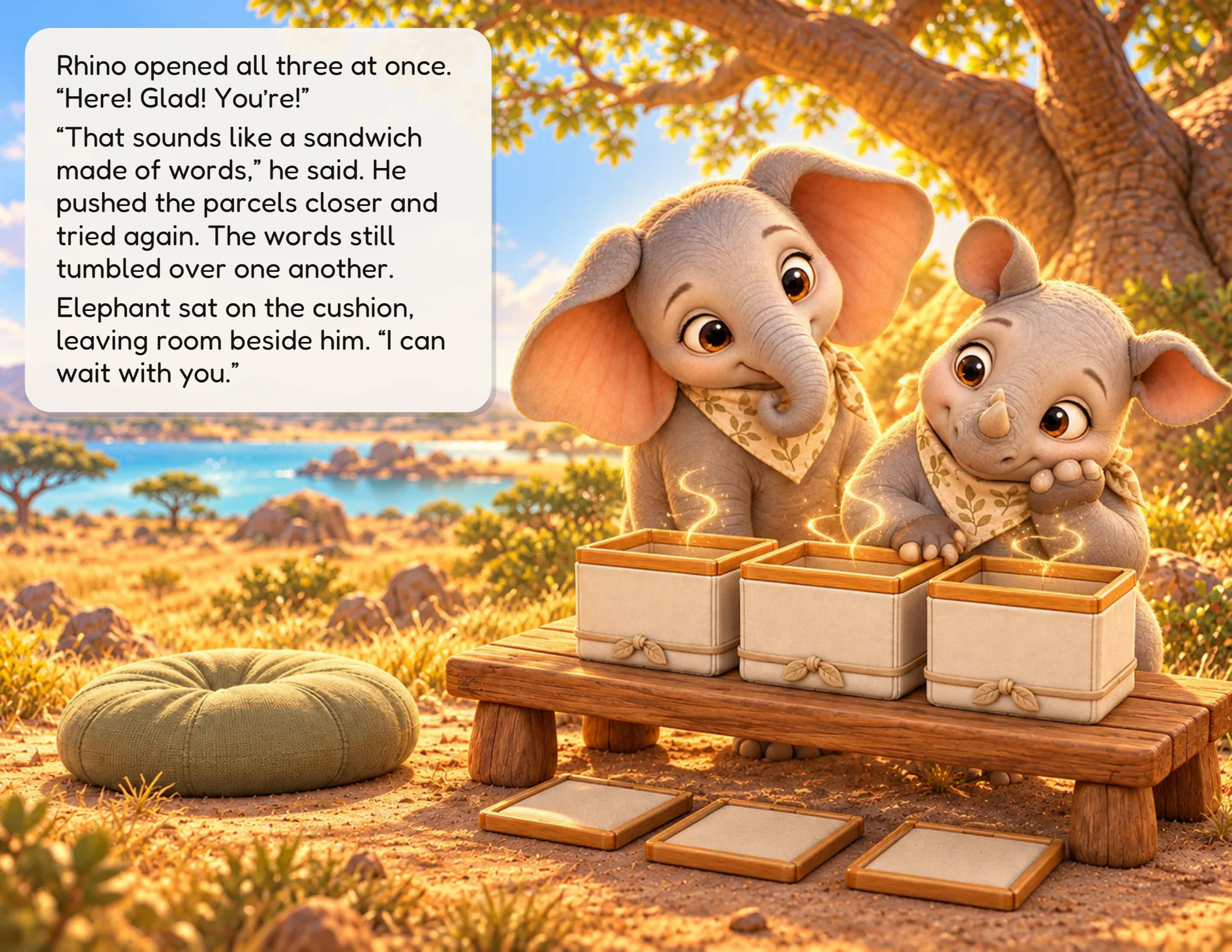




Frup! A tiny word popped out of a parcel. “Here.”

Rhino peered inside. No one was there! Each special parcel kept the sound of one word. Open the lid, and it spoke once. Close it, and the same word was ready again.

“Three parcels. One welcome,” said Elephant. “I made it for a friend.”


Rhino opened all three at once. “Here! Glad! You’re!”
“That sounds like a sandwich made of words,” he said. He pushed the parcels closer and tried again. The words still tumbled over one another.
Elephant sat on the cushion, leaving room beside him. “I can wait with you.”



This time, Rhino opened just one parcel. “Here.” He closed it and tried the next. “Glad.” Then the last. “You’re.”

“One box. One listen,” he whispered.

All three words were there. None had gone missing. But the welcome was still tangled.



“I don’t need new words,” said Rhino. “I need a new place for this one.”

He carried the whole parcel that said Here to the end of the line. He didn’t tip out its word or change what it held.

Glad came first. You’re was in the middle. Here waited at the end.



Rhino opened the parcels one by one. “Glad. You’re. Here.”

“Glad you’re here!” His ears lifted. One small move had untangled the welcome.

“Now we just need your friend,” he said.

“He’s already here,” said Elephant. “I made it for you.”

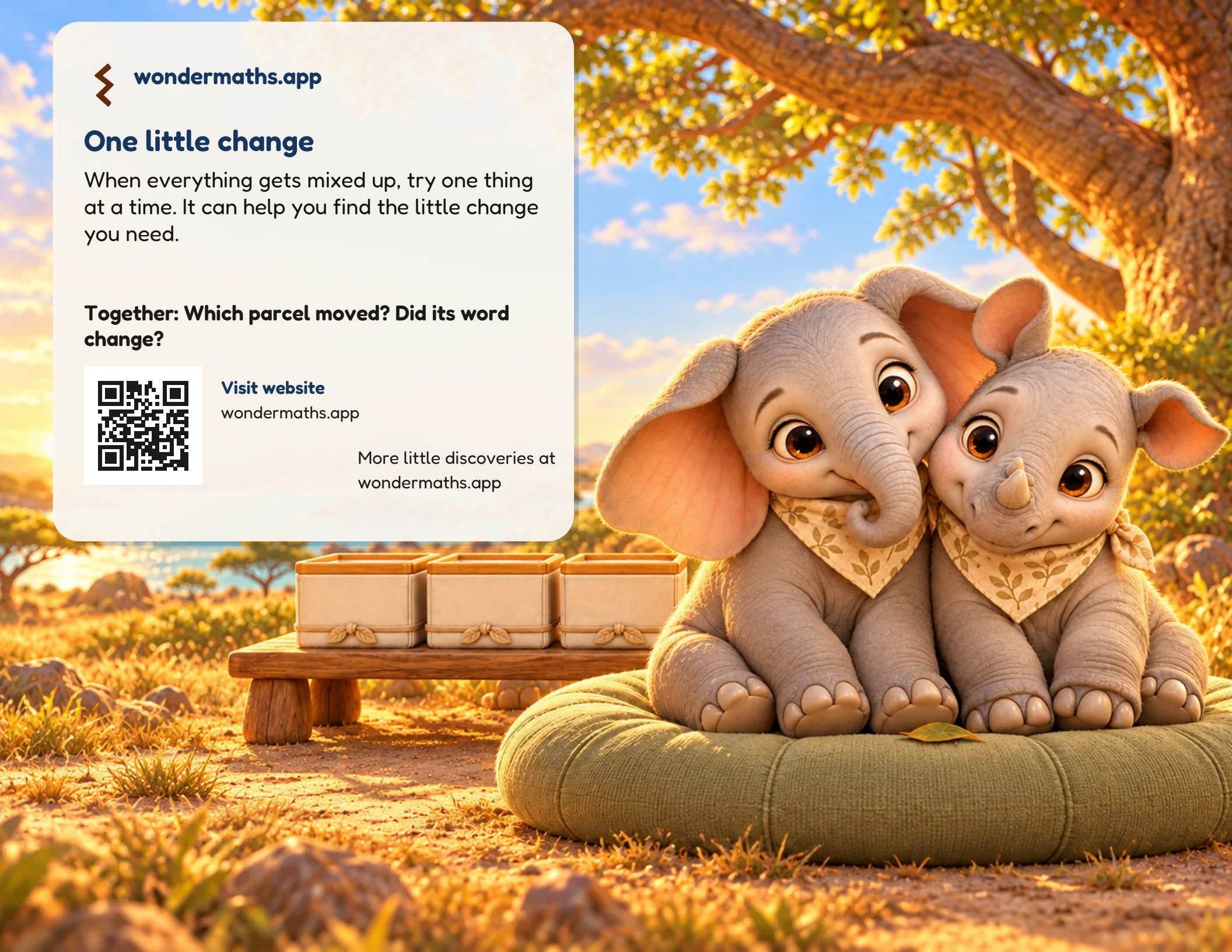


Rhino sat beside Elephant. They listened to the welcome again, slowly this time.

“I like my welcome without the sandwich,” said Rhino. They laughed softly.

When he wanted to hear it once more, he knew exactly what to do.

“One box. One listen.”



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One little change

When everything gets mixed up, try one thing at a time. It can help you find the little change you need.

Together: Which parcel moved? Did its word change?

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