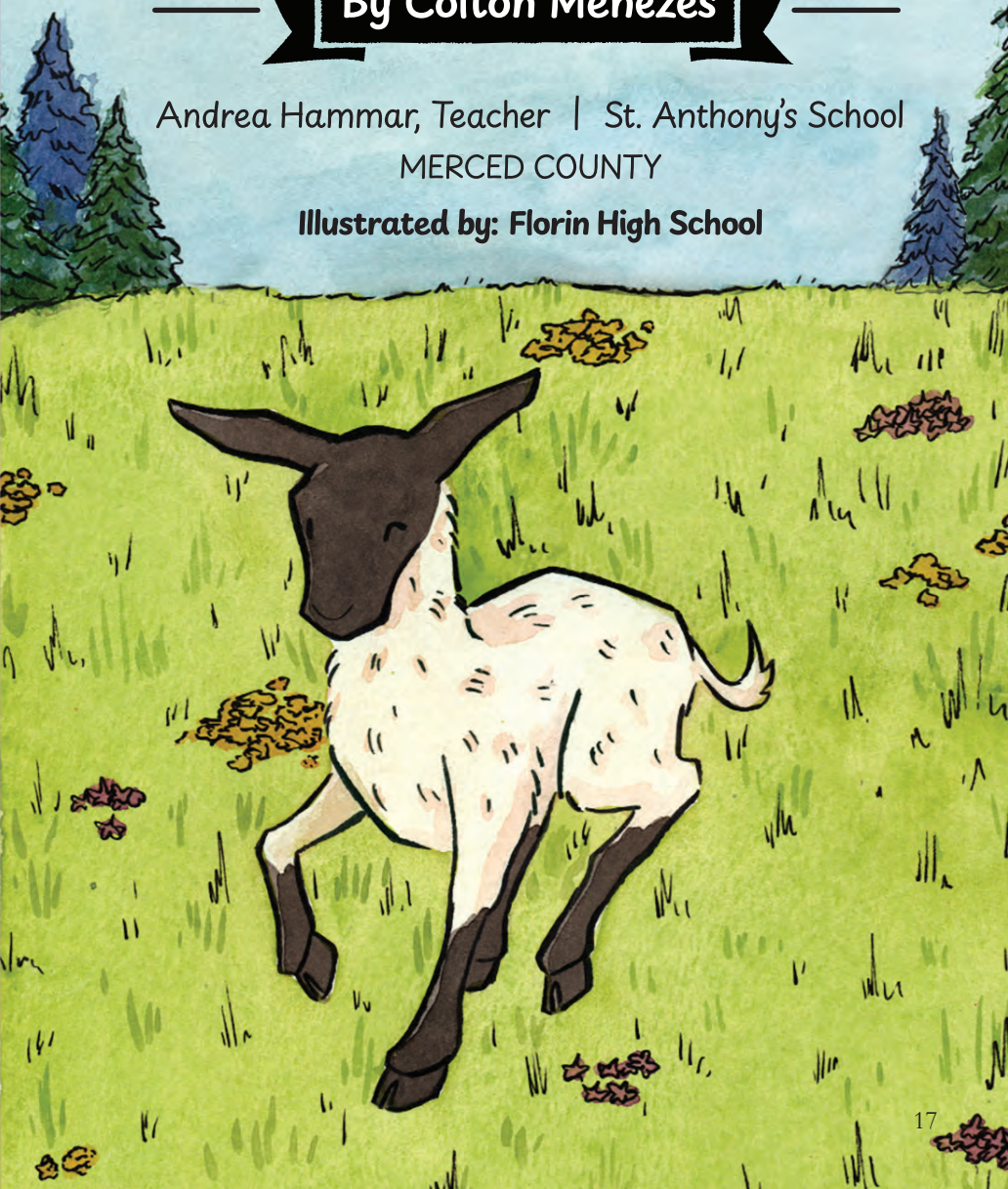

Sebastian the Sheep

By Colton Menezes

Andrea Hammar, Teacher | St. Anthony's School
MERCED COUNTY

Illustrated by: Florin High School

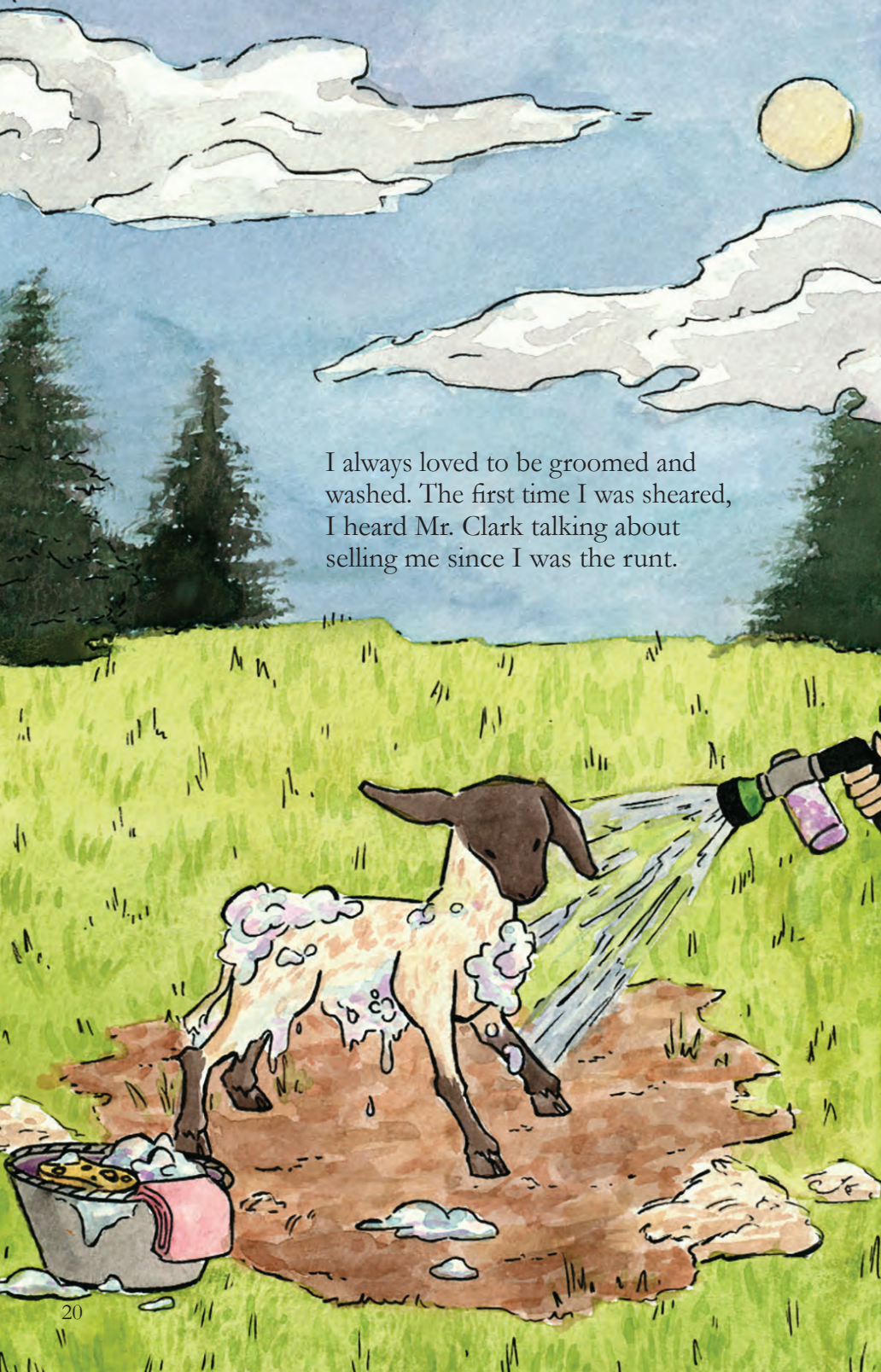


Hi, my name is Sebastian the Sheep.
I can remember when I was three
months old and I was the smallest
lamb on the farm. I was on the
Clark Farm, owned by the farmer
Mr. Clark.

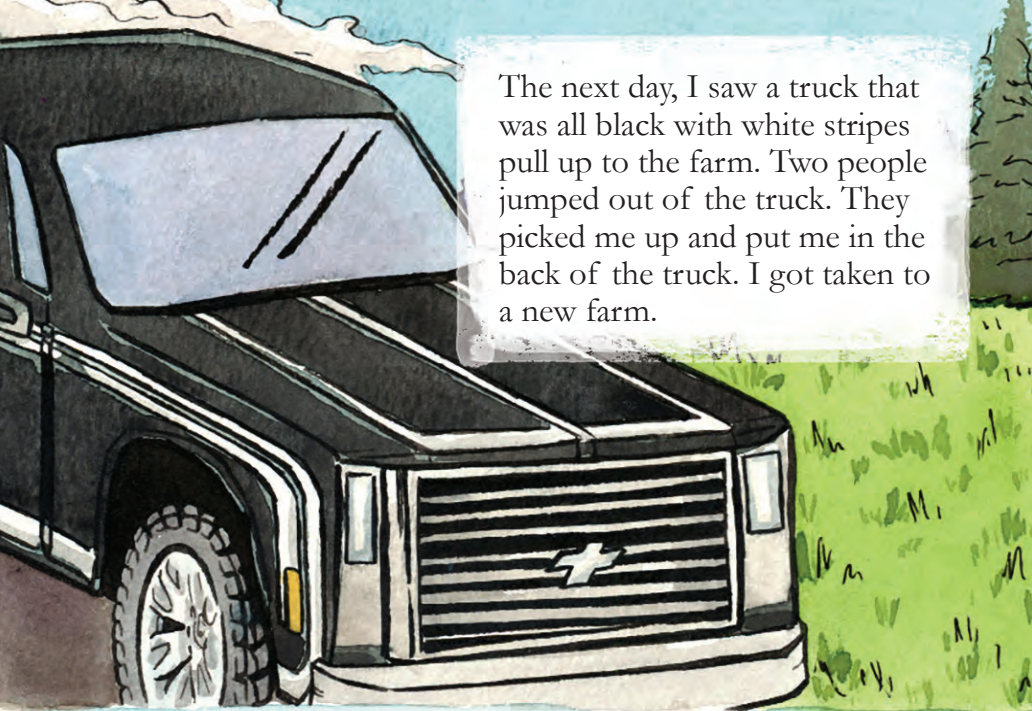


I lived next to Mr. Billy Goat.
He was the loudest goat on the
farm. Every week I got to go
out and see all of the animals.
They all liked me because I was
so small.



A water hose is spraying a sheep in a field. The sheep is covered in white foam and is standing in a muddy puddle. A bucket of soapy water is on the ground. The background shows a green field, trees, and a blue sky with clouds and a sun.

I always loved to be groomed and washed. The first time I was sheared, I heard Mr. Clark talking about selling me since I was the runt.

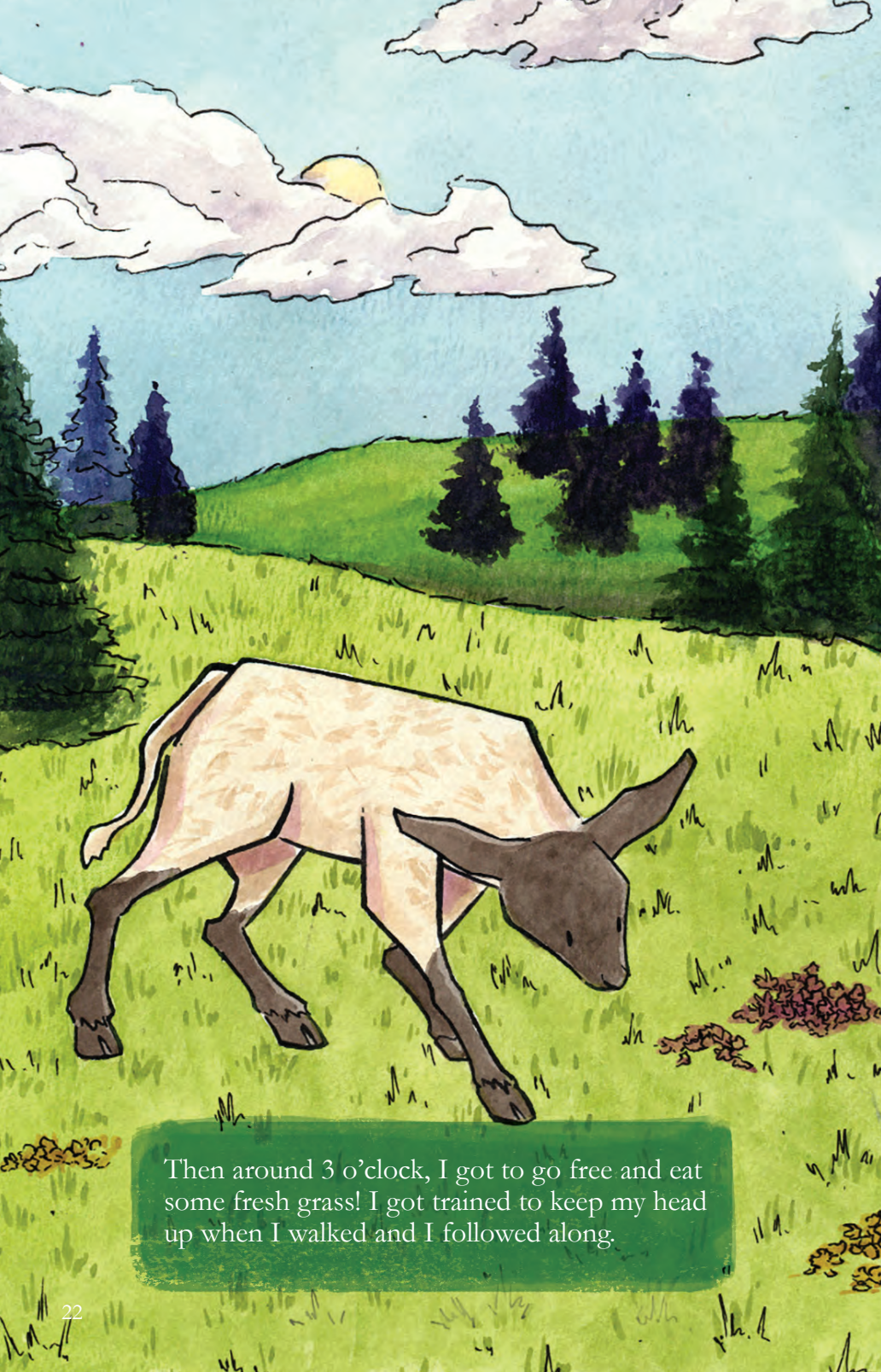


The next day, I saw a truck that was all black with white stripes pull up to the farm. Two people jumped out of the truck. They picked me up and put me in the back of the truck. I got taken to a new farm.

It was a scary drive and my bucket of water spilled once.

When I got there, I was put in a big cage all by myself. They gave me some fresh water and some alfalfa.





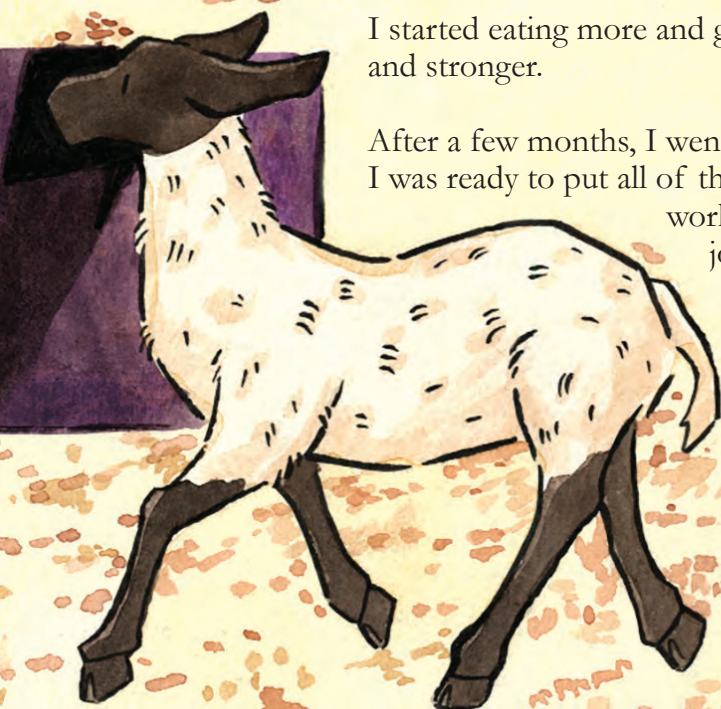
Then around 3 o'clock, I got to go free and eat some fresh grass! I got trained to keep my head up when I walked and I followed along.



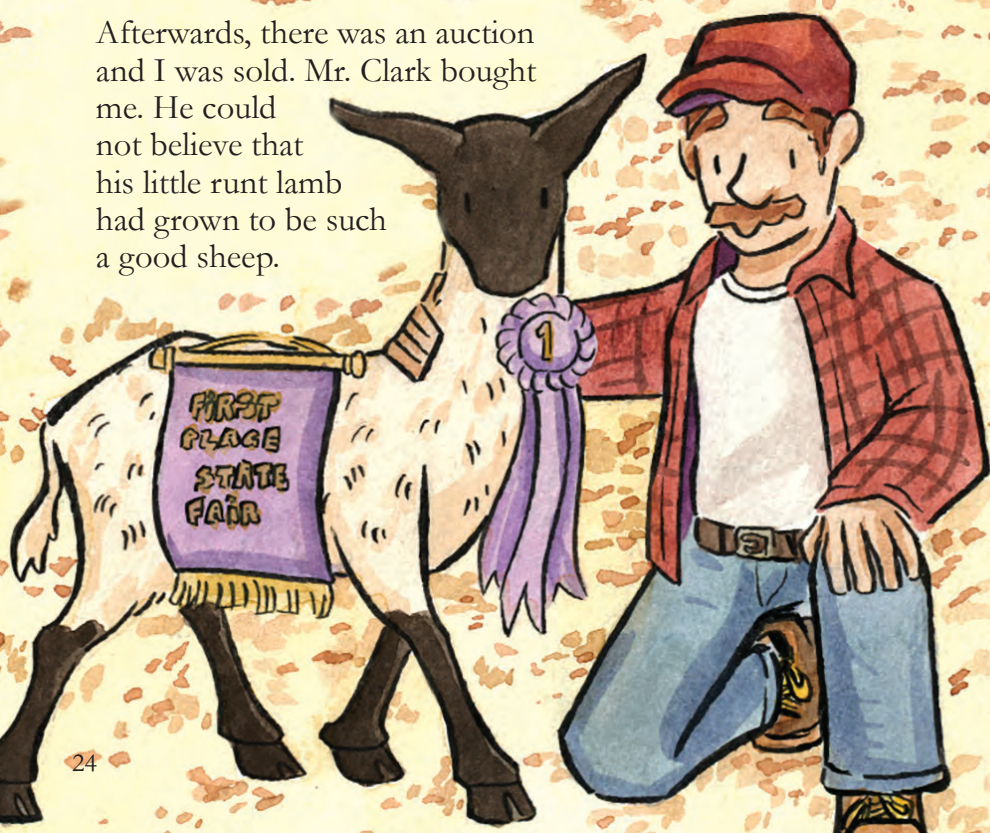
I heard the people say they were training me so they could take me to show me at the fair. It was stressful at first but it got easier as we went along. They put a blanket on me to keep me warm and that felt nice.

I started eating more and growing bigger and stronger.

After a few months, I went to the fair. I was ready to put all of the practice to work. I did a great job and I won!



Afterwards, there was an auction and I was sold. Mr. Clark bought me. He could not believe that his little runt lamb had grown to be such a good sheep.



I was so happy that I got to go back to my home farm and I got to see all of my animal friends.





I was most excited
to see Mr. Billy
Goat and roam
the farm.

I became Mr. Clark's favorite animal. He learned that sometimes the smallest lamb can turn out to be the best. After that, Mr. Clark always kept his smallest and weakest lambs. He gave them extra food and attention until they grew big and strong. Now I am a big, healthy sheep. I learned that being the runt of the bunch wasn't so bad after all.



ABOUT the AUTHOR



Colton Menezes

St. Anthony's School
Andrea Hammar, Teacher

Colton liked writing from a sheep's point of view! The Fresno County fourth grader shows sheep through 4-H at the fair, and the experience prompted his story idea. He loved the creative process, especially coming up with his characters' names. He hopes his tale inspires readers with the philosophy that no matter where you start, you can become anything you want.

ABOUT the ILLUSTRATOR



Andrea Fonseca

Florin High School
Alexandra Pease, Art Teacher

It took time to make Sebastian the Sheep come to life! High school senior Andrea Fonseca embraced the challenge. After dividing the story into 10 sections, Andrea started sketching to determine the artistic style that matched the story. She then transferred the sketches onto watercolor paper, using graphite, and inked the drawings. Lastly, watercolor was used to color the illustrations. Andrea enjoyed the process and enjoyed getting the details (those white stripes on the black truck that transports Sebastian) just right.