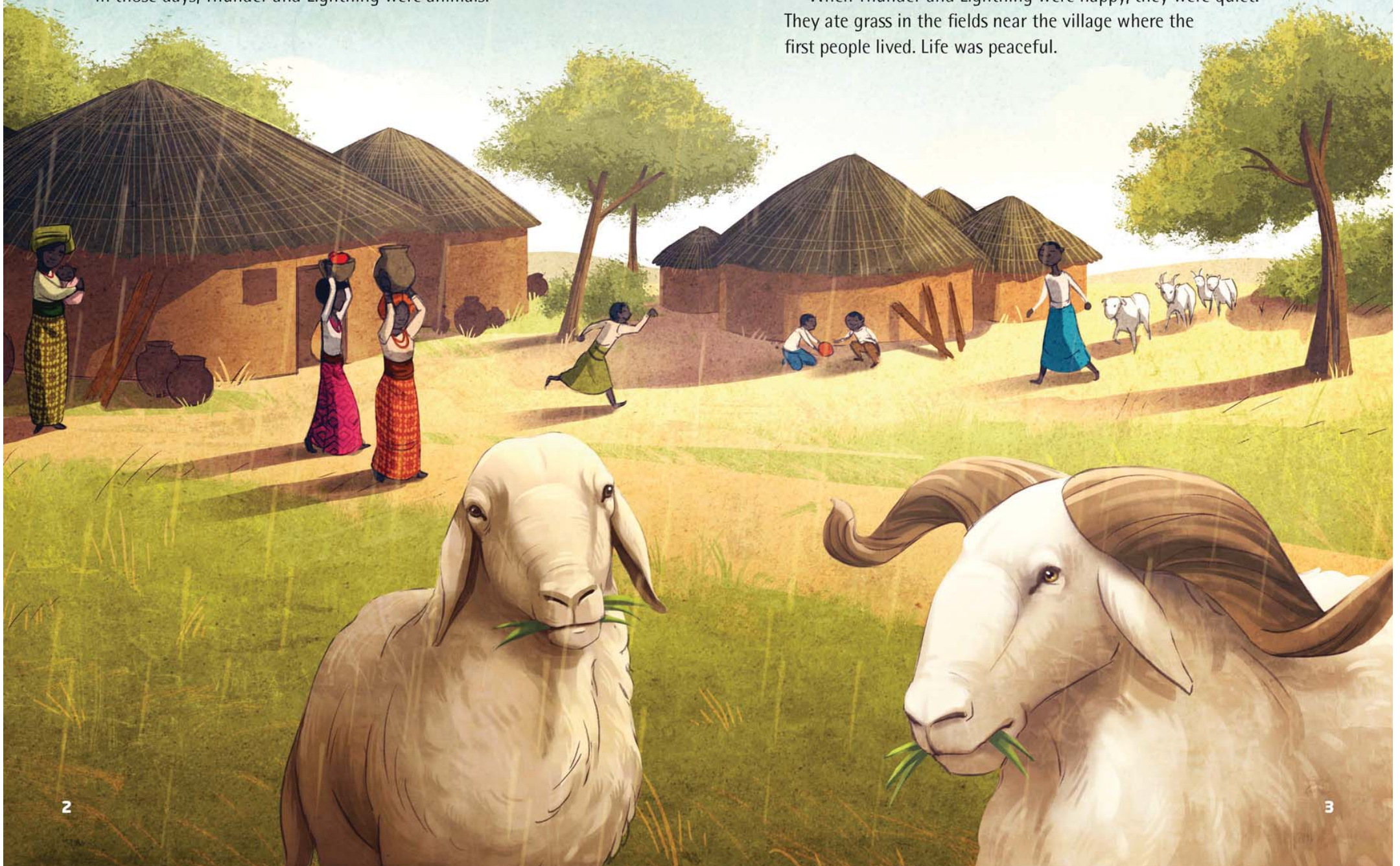


Long, long ago, there was no thunder and lightning when it rained. Instead, drops of rain fell gently on the ground. At that time, Thunder and Lightning did not live in the sky like they do today. In those days, Thunder and Lightning lived here on Earth with us.

In those days, Thunder and Lightning were animals.

Thunder was a mother sheep and Lightning was her son. Thunder and Lightning were not like other sheep. Lightning could make lightning bolts come out of his horns. His mother, Thunder, had a voice so loud it shook the trees and houses.

When Thunder and Lightning were happy, they were quiet. They ate grass in the fields near the village where the first people lived. Life was peaceful.



# Facts About Thunder and Lightning



## What Is Lightning?

Lightning is a huge spark of electricity. The spark forms when tiny bits of ice high up in a storm cloud move towards each other and finally meet. This meeting creates an electrical charge that results in lightning. This event can happen inside a storm cloud, between clouds or between a cloud and the ground.

Lightning shoots across the sky during thunderstorms and tropical storms. Lightning moves fast. It travels about 150,000 kilometres (about 93,000 miles) per second.

There are about 100 lightning strikes on Earth each second. That adds up to more than 8.5 million strikes each day!

## What Is Thunder?

Lightning causes thunder. But how?

Lightning is extremely hot. One stroke of lightning quickly heats the air all around it. The air can reach temperatures of up to 33,300 degrees Celsius (about 60,000 degrees Fahrenheit) in less than a second. This hot air expands and bumps into cool air, causing sound waves that we hear as thunder.

During a storm, we see lightning first. Then we hear thunder. This is because sound moves through air much more slowly than light. So the thunder takes longer to reach our ears. This is why you'll always see a flash of lightning before a crash of thunder!