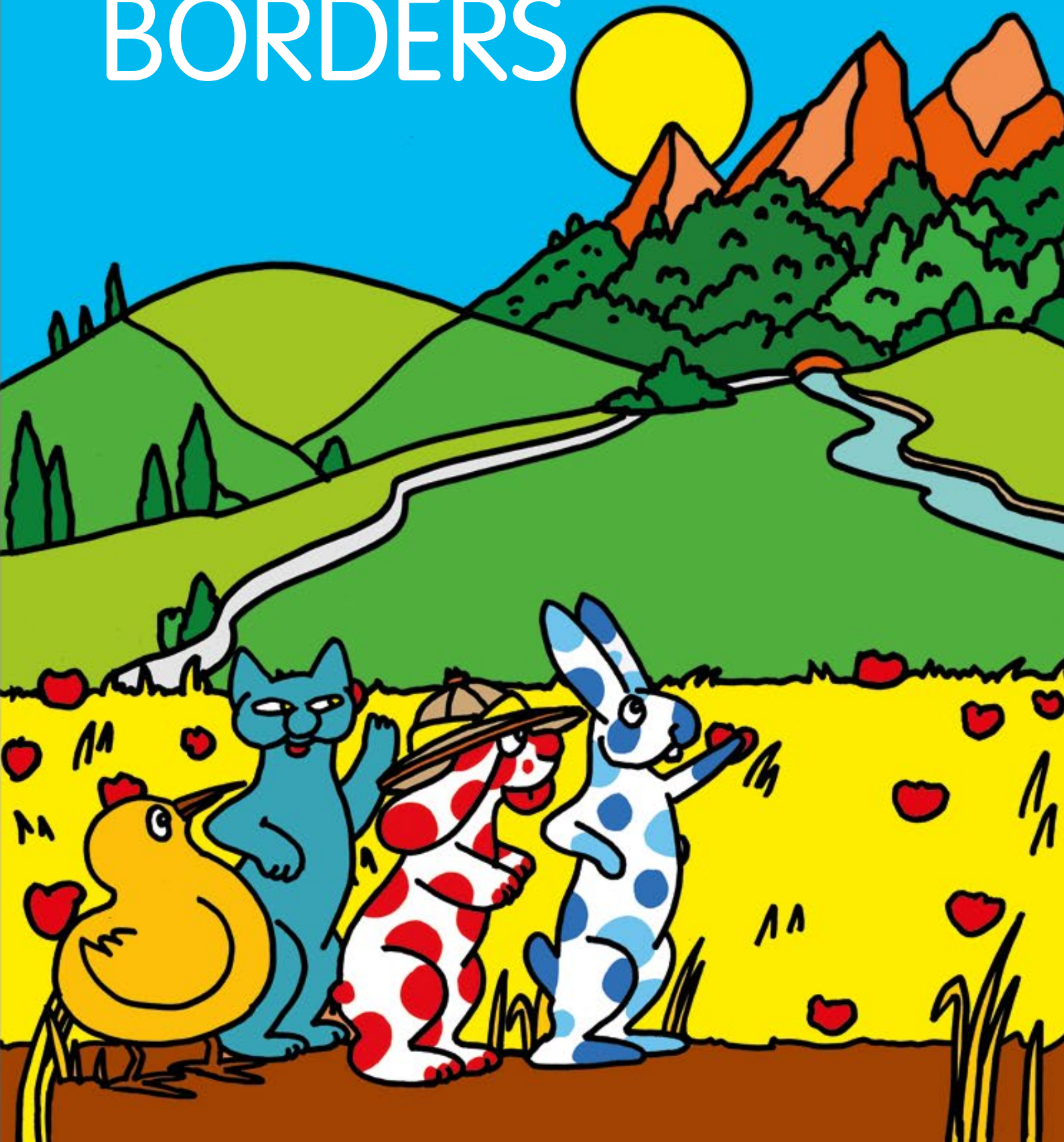


ALAN

# PIMPA<sup>®</sup>

## BORDERS





# BORDERS CONFINI MEJE

Altan

Published for



On the occasion of

GO! 2025  
NOVA GORIZIA  
GORIZIA

Uradni program  
Programma ufficiale  
Official programme

by



*Pimpa. Borders*

An illustrated story by Altan  
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This is the children's volume  
of the Borders/Confini/Meje project.

## Borders/Confini/Meje

Three stories, three ages, one single  
question: what are “borders”?

In a region where borders have always been part of everyday life and culture, a special project has been created, made up of three volumes – each designed for a different age group: childhood, adolescence, and adulthood – entrusted to three leading figures of the Comic Art: Altan, Sara Colaone, and Vanna Vinci. A narrative and visual journey that embraces the spirit of Nova Gorica and Gorizia, European Capital of Culture 2025, to portray borders not as limits but as spaces for encounter, discovery, and reflection.

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The illustrated book you're holding was created as part of the GO! 2025 project, which features Friuli Venezia Giulia as its protagonist and the cities of Nova Gorica and Gorizia as the joint European Capital of Culture. It is an initiative that brings together diverse and innovative forms of expression to tell our story and, above all, to engage younger generations.

The choice of the comic, with the evocative power of its images and its fresh approach to storytelling, is no coincidence: it speaks to everyone, young and old, with immediacy and lightness, yet carries with it profound themes such as encounter, dialogue, and the new meaning that we wish to give to the concept of borders together.

For us, GO! 2025 is an opportunity for growth, exchange, and openness. Through initiatives such as this, we want to remind everyone that culture is not a privilege for the few, but a shared, living, and accessible space, capable of bringing people and communities together. In this spirit, I invite you to turn these pages, to let yourselves be guided by the stories, and to be surprised by the creative energy that Friuli Venezia Giulia brings to the fore in looking to the future with courage and curiosity.

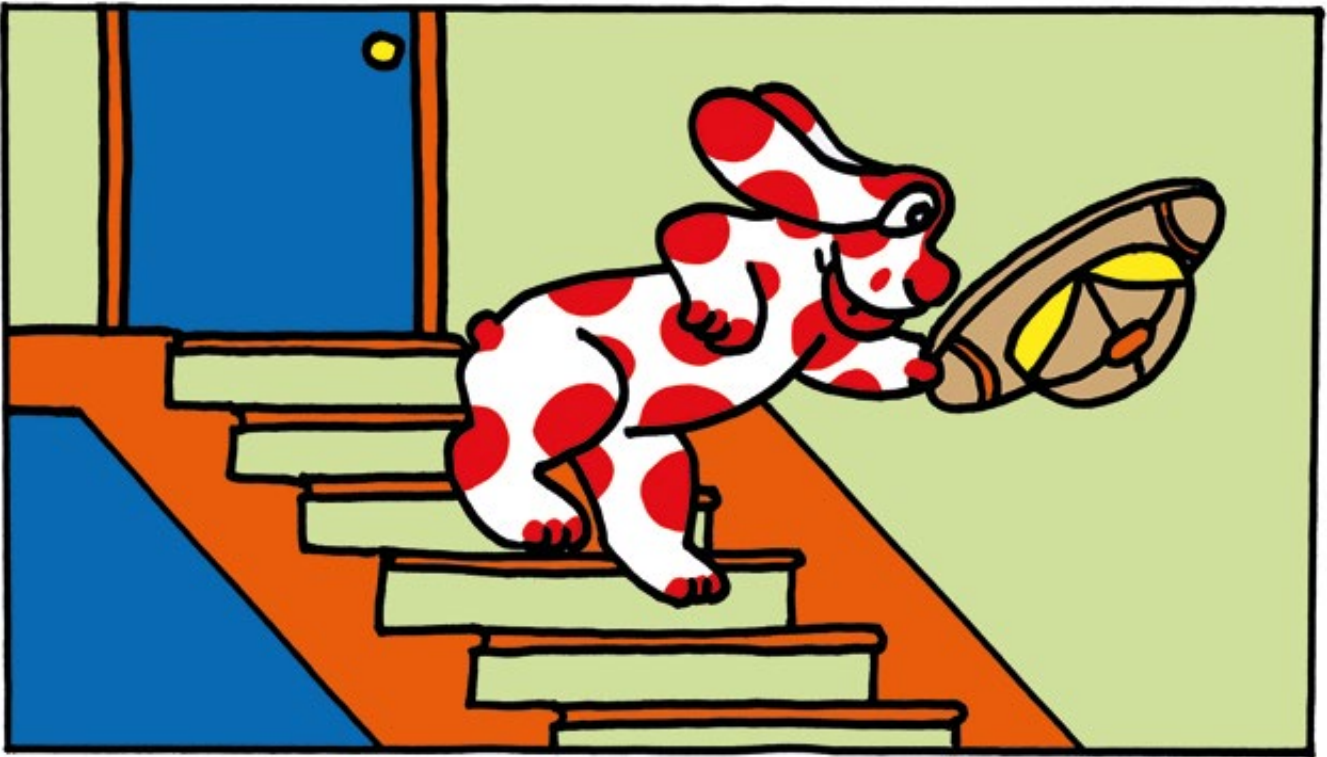
Happy reading!

Vice-President and Regional  
Councillor for Culture and Sport  
Mario Anzil





It's a beautiful summer morning. Armando has prepared breakfast, and Pimpa, Tito, and Olivia the little duck are drinking milk in the kitchen. "Once I've eaten, I'm going to the attic to look for something" says Pimpa. "What are you hoping to find?" Armando asks. "I don't know, that's why I'm going. I'm curious" she replies, and runs up the stairs.



After about an hour, Pimpa comes down from the attic with a hat in her hand. "Look what I found in the trunk!" "It's my explorer's helmet!" says Armando, putting it on his head. "That's so funny! What were you exploring?" Tito asks him. "The plains, the seas, the mountains and the forests. I went with my friends, and we travelled the world" says Armando. "Let's call my friends straight away!" exclaims Pimpa.



Little Bunny, Little Dove, and Rosita the cat arrive on the lawn in front of Pimpa's house, where she's waiting with the helmet on her head. "Let's go and explore the world, just like Armando!" says Pimpa. "We're ready" her friends say.





"We're ready too!" say Tito and Olivia. "You two are still too little. We'll take you with us next time" says Pimpa. "Aw, come on!" grumbles Olivia, as the others walk out through the gate.



Pimpa and her friends take a little path through the meadow, cross a small bridge, and walk through a golden wheat field full of red poppies. "We need to go that way" says Little Bunny, pointing toward the mountains covered in forests. "But they're so far away!" Little Dove protests. "But we have the explorer's helmet" says Pimpa.





They walk and walk, until they reach the forest.  
"Which way should we go? There are so many paths" says  
Little Dove. "Let's each take a different one, and we'll meet up at the  
end of the forest" Pimpa decides.





Little Dove walks for a while among the trees, then stops and sits on a log. "I'm tired, I've got short little legs!" he murmurs, and adds, "I'm going back, the road's downhill anyway!"



Little Bunny reaches a clearing, looks around, and thinks: "I'm hungry and I don't see a single carrot to eat here. We forgot to bring the backpack with supplies, like the real explorers do. I'm going home!"





Rosita the cat, on the other hand, found a lovely raspberry bush. She tastes one and says, "These are so tasty; I'll have a feast!" She eats them all, one after the other. When she's finished, she lies down among the roots of a big tree, closes her eyes, and says, "I'll have a nice nap. Pimpa will tell me everything when she gets back."

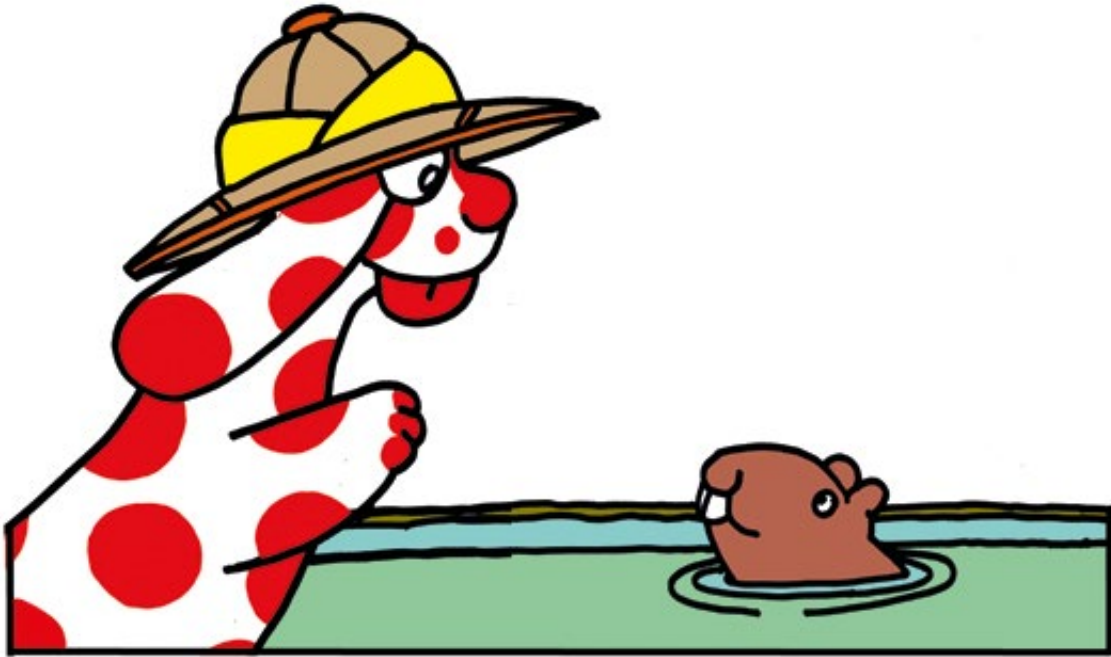


Pimpa keeps hiking through the forest, which is getting darker and denser. The trees are getting bigger, taller, and closer together. "There's almost no way through!" she exclaims, squeezing between two huge trunks. "And soon you really won't be able to get through!" says a voice. Pimpa looks up. A squirrel with a beautiful fluffy tail is sitting on a branch.

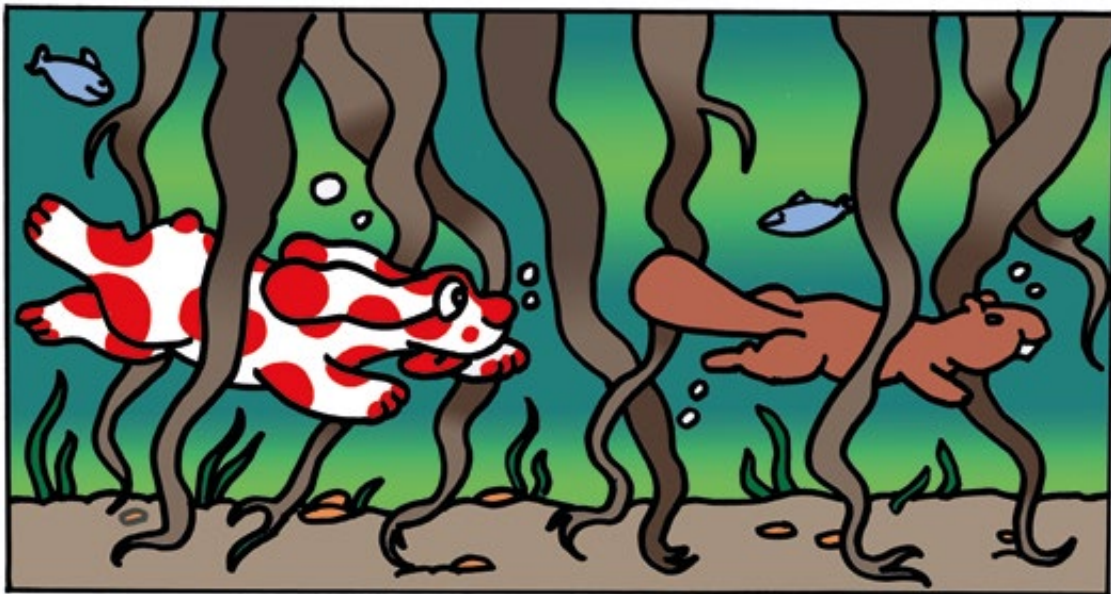


"Hi, who are you?" Pimpa asks. "My name's Pip" "And why won't I be able to get through?" "Look over there" says the squirrel. In front of her is a stream, and the trees on the other side are so close together they form a wall. "That's the edge of the forest" says Pip.





Pimpa sits down on the bank of the stream. "But I need to explore everywhere, I even have the explorer's helmet!" she complains. A beaver's head pops out of the water. "Do you know how to swim?" he asks. "Like a fish!" she replies. "Then I have a solution" says the beaver, and adds, "The tree roots are in the stream, and I know a way between them to get to the other side!" "Let's go!" says Pimpa, and she dives in.



Swimming underwater behind the beaver, Pimpa passes through the tree roots and reaches the other side of the stream.



"You dropped this" says the beaver, showing her the helmet.  
"Oh, thank you! What's your name?" "I'm Zik the beaver. Now you  
can continue exploring" he says. In front of her are beautiful hills,  
and the sun is shining.



Suddenly Pimpa exclaims, "Oh no, I forgot about my friends! Who knows where they are?" A little bird with a green breast lands on a nearby branch and says, "They turned back, but Rosita the cat told me to tell you that they're waiting for you at home" "You know why they didn't make it this far? Because they didn't have an explorer's helmet like mine!" "If you're hungry, down there you'll find a tree with delicious apples" says the little bird. "Thanks, Greenbreast!" she says. "I have a green breast, but here in this country I'm a redbreast" he says.

"Ah, what a strange country"



Pimpa reaches the tree. "The apples are blue, they're not like the ones I'm used to!" "Try one" says the tree. Pimpa takes a bite of the apple and says, "They're blue, but they're delicious. Do you know where I can find some milk?" "In that little white house lives Matilda the cow, she makes delicious milk"





"Come in!" says Matilda the cow when Pimpa knocks on the door. "May I have a glass of milk? Oh, but you're all yellow!" Pimpa exclaims, perking up her ears in surprise. "Yes, here the cows are yellow just like the ducklings. Here's your milk" says Matilda, handing her a cup.

"And the milk is pink!" "Yes, but you'll like it, you'll see! Are you from far away?" "Yes, from a place where apples are red, and milk is white"

"How strange! And maybe the cats are blue?" "How did you know?" "My friend Violetta is a cat, and she said she has a blue cousin who lives a long way away. But she's white and lives nearby" "I'll go and visit her!" Pimpa exclaims.





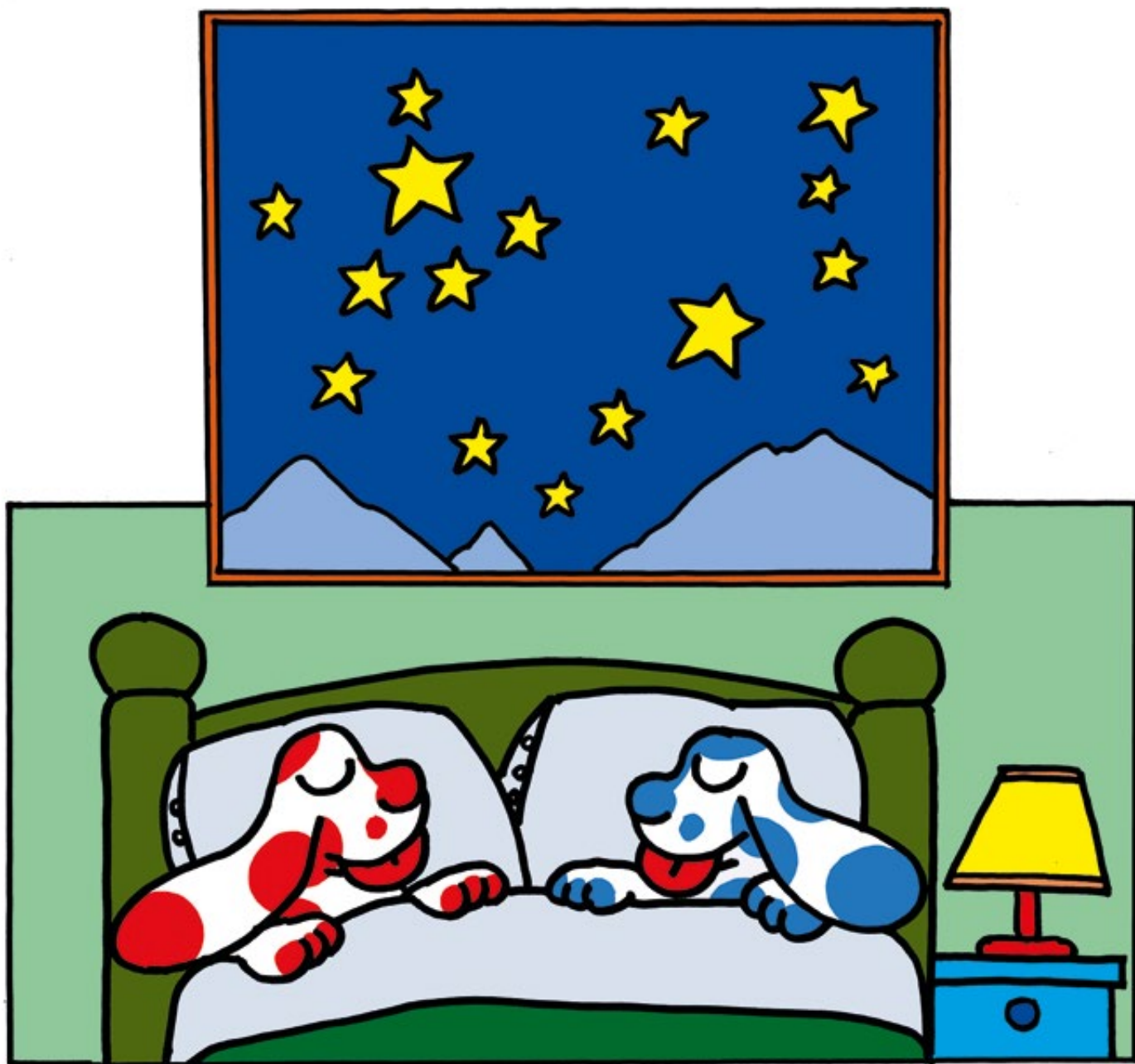
Pimpa arrives at the cat's house. "Hello Violetta, it's me Pimpa!" she says as Violetta opens the door. "Hi, let me introduce you to my friends: Little Dove and Little Bunny" says Violetta. "They're the same as my friends, only my Little Dove isn't green, and my Bunny isn't yellow!" "And you don't have blue dots like I do!" says a twin Pimpa, entering the room.



Meanwhile, the sun is setting. "It will be dark soon. Come and sleep at my house, that way you can meet my friend Arturo" says the blue Pimpa. "Does he have a pink tie?" Pimpa asks. "No, he has a pink suit, but his tie is blue!"



Arturo has made dinner. "Who's your friend?" he asks the blue Pimpa as she walks into the kitchen. "She's called Pimpa, she's had a long journey. Can she sleep here with us?" she asks. "Of course, but first we need to have dinner" he says. "We're hungry: what are we eating?" ask the two Pimpas. "A lovely plate of red spinach!" The Pimpas look at each other, stick out their tongues, and go, "Ewww!" Then they burst out laughing. "Armando always makes me spinach too. He says it's good for me" says the red Pimpa. "That's what you always say, Arturo!" says the blue Pimpa. "And your friend Armando is right" says Arturo.



Night has fallen. Pimpa rests her head on the pillow and closes her eyes. Her new friend is already asleep.  
Through the window, the sky is full of stars.

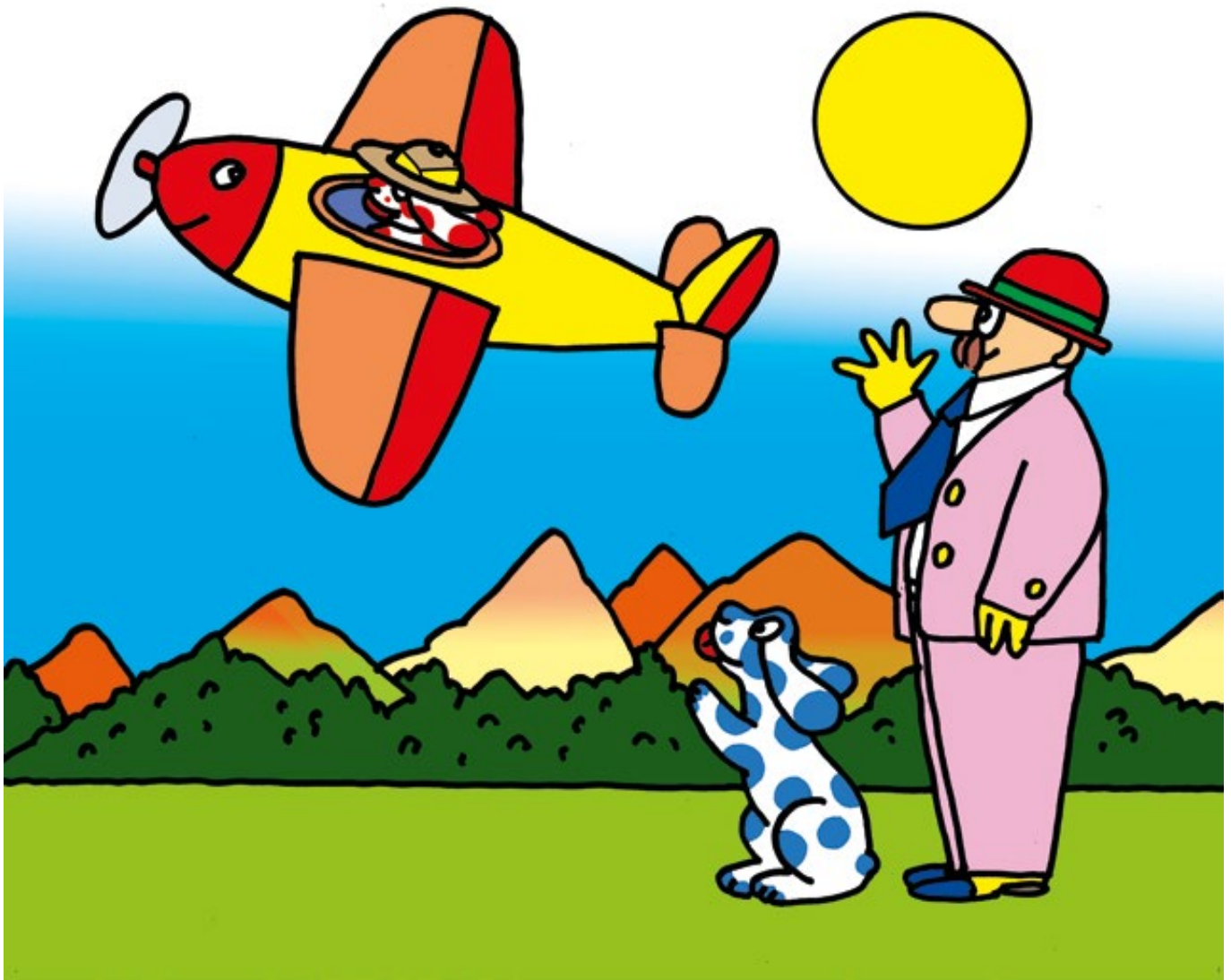


In the morning, when Pimpa wakes up, the sun is already high. She jumps out of bed: "It's late, I need to go home. Armando will be worried!" she says. "I asked my owl friend to tell him, and last night she went to see him!" says the greenbreast. "What did he say?" asks Pimpa. "He said not to be late" "How can I not be late?" says Pimpa. "Alberto can give you a ride" says the blue Pimpa. "Who is Alberto?" "He's my airplane friend"





"Are you ready?" asks Alberto. Pimpa jumps on board and says to the blue Pimpa, "Come and visit me! Zik the beaver will show you the way through the tree barrier"  
"Ok!" shouts the blue Pimpa as the airplane takes off.





"Now, tell us everything" says Armando. Pimpa, Tito, Olivia and her friends are all sitting beneath the big oak tree. "I explored a really strange place..." she begins. "Why was it strange?" asks Olivia. "Because the cows are yellow, the apples are blue, and the spinach is red!" she replies. "And did you like it?" asks Armando. "I prefer milk, Armando!" says Pimpa.





Altan, the pseudonym of Francesco Tullio-Altan (1942), is the renowned cartoonist who created iconic characters such as Pimpa the little dog and Cipputi the factory worker, as well as the unmistakable satirical cartoons published in major Italian magazines and newspapers. This year, Pimpa — the main character of this story created for the Borders/Confini/Meje project — celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of her first publication.











# BORDERS/CONFINI/MEJE

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Colaone  
Vinci



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