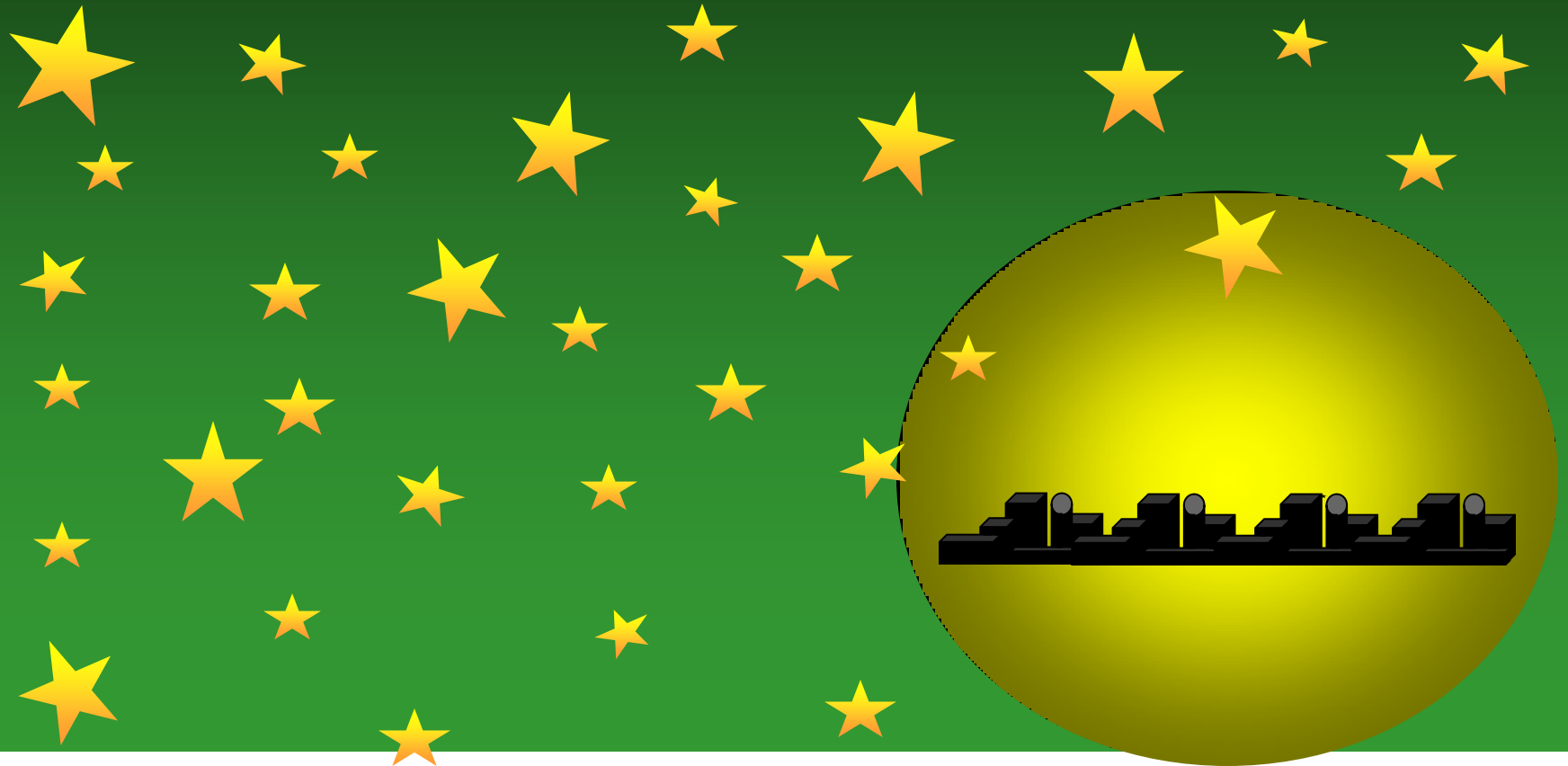


HanukKat and the MatZebra Maze



**By Bruce Resnick &
Linda Haitani**

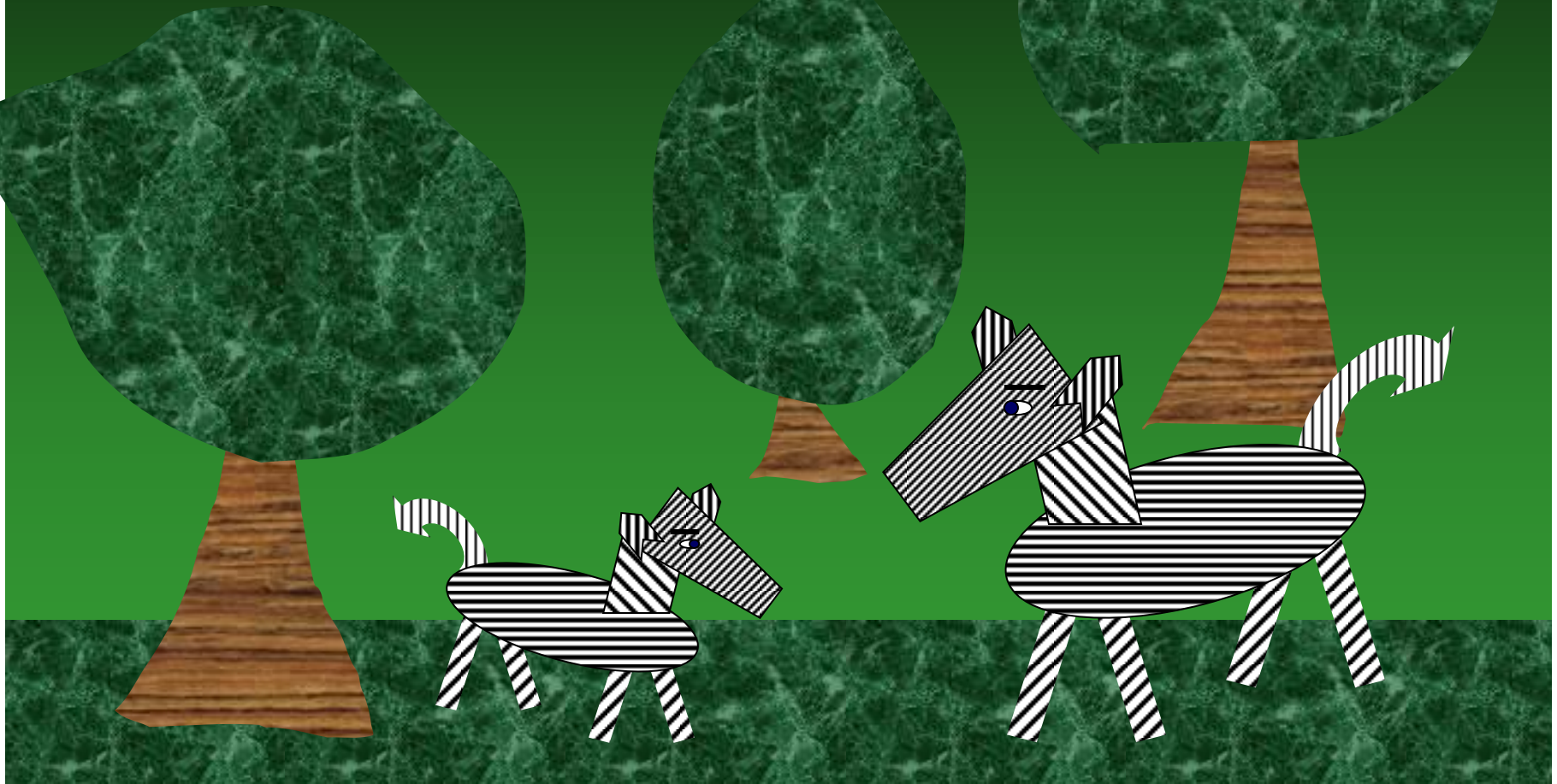
Late in the night, when darkness descends
Our world becomes sleep, our dreams become friends.
This magical dreamland is where we are told
That miracles happen for young and for old.



**HanuKat rules in this wondrous place.
A land without time in an infinite space.
Creatures of Dreamland -- the strong and the meek,
All come to him for the answers they seek.**



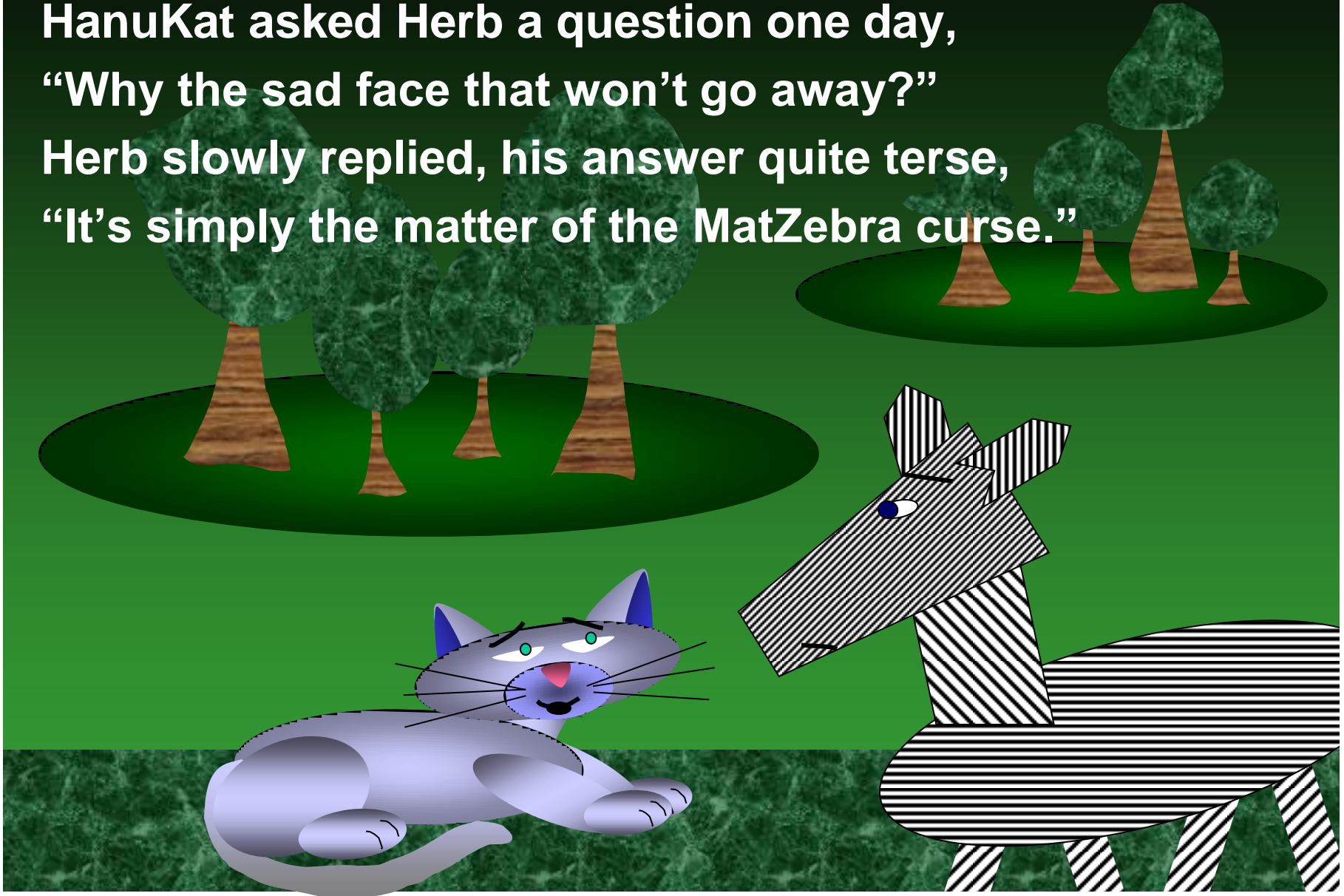
**Our tale is now told of the MatZebra creature,
Whose grumpy demeanor is not his best feature.
The MatZebra beasts are all striped and quite lean.
Crusty are most, some consider them mean.**



**Our MatZebra hero is a fellow named Herb.
This is one creature you do not want to disturb.
Known far and wide as a creature quite bitter.
“Bitter Herb,” he was called by most every critter.**



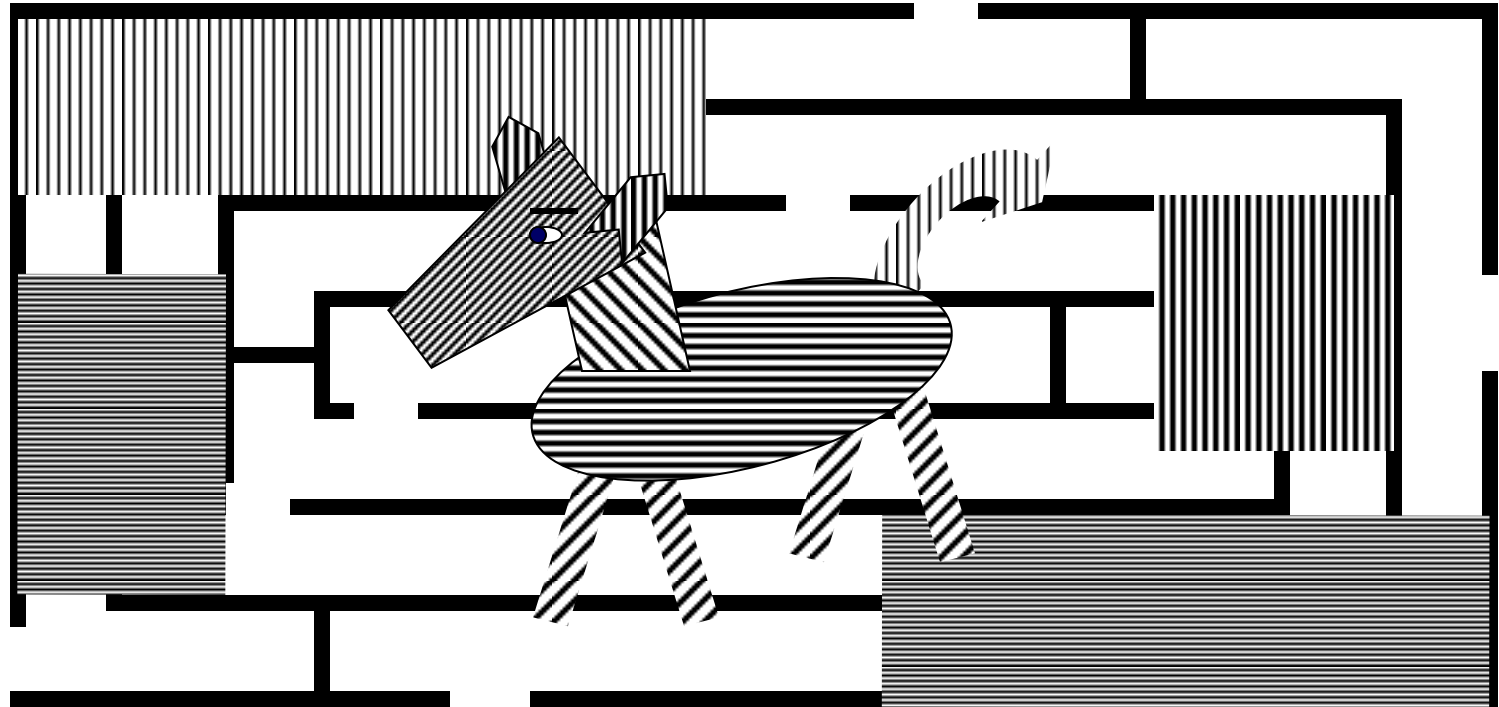
HanuKat asked Herb a question one day,
“Why the sad face that won’t go away?”
Herb slowly replied, his answer quite terse,
“It’s simply the matter of the MatZebra curse.”



**“Our ancestral curse,” Herb went on to say,
“Says a MatZebra’s born to be bitter, not gay.”
HanuKat said, “I can help you my friend.”
“I know what can bring this curse to an end.”**



**“Really?” asked Bitter Herb, “How can this be?”
HanuKat smiled and said, “Just follow me.”**



**Then he brought Herb to a magical place
With black and white lines covering every space.**

**When Bitter Herb entered he was lost in a maze!
So many paths offered so many ways!
First he walked left, then right, then around.
Poor Herb was confused, lost, and quite down.**

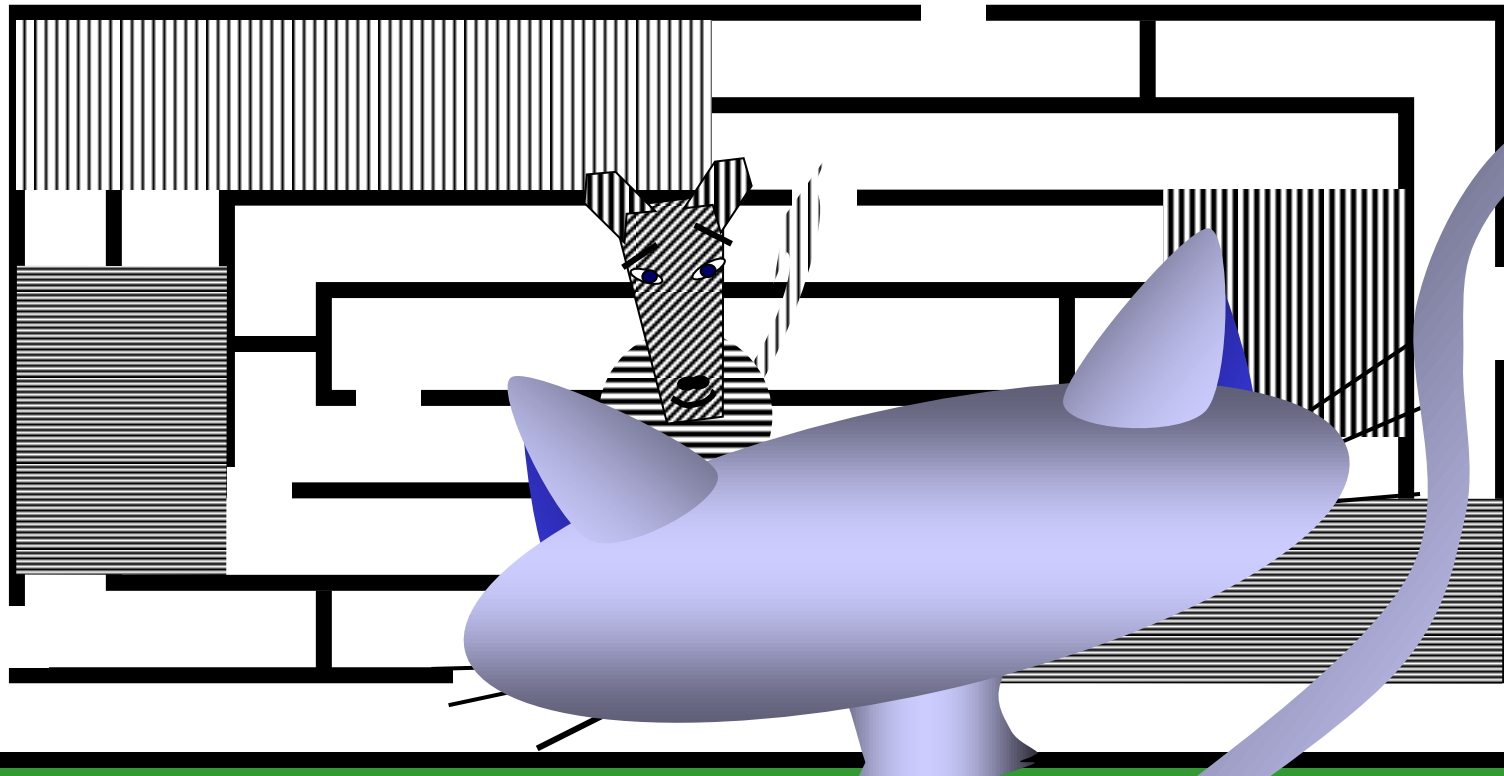


Finally, HanuKat offered some clues:

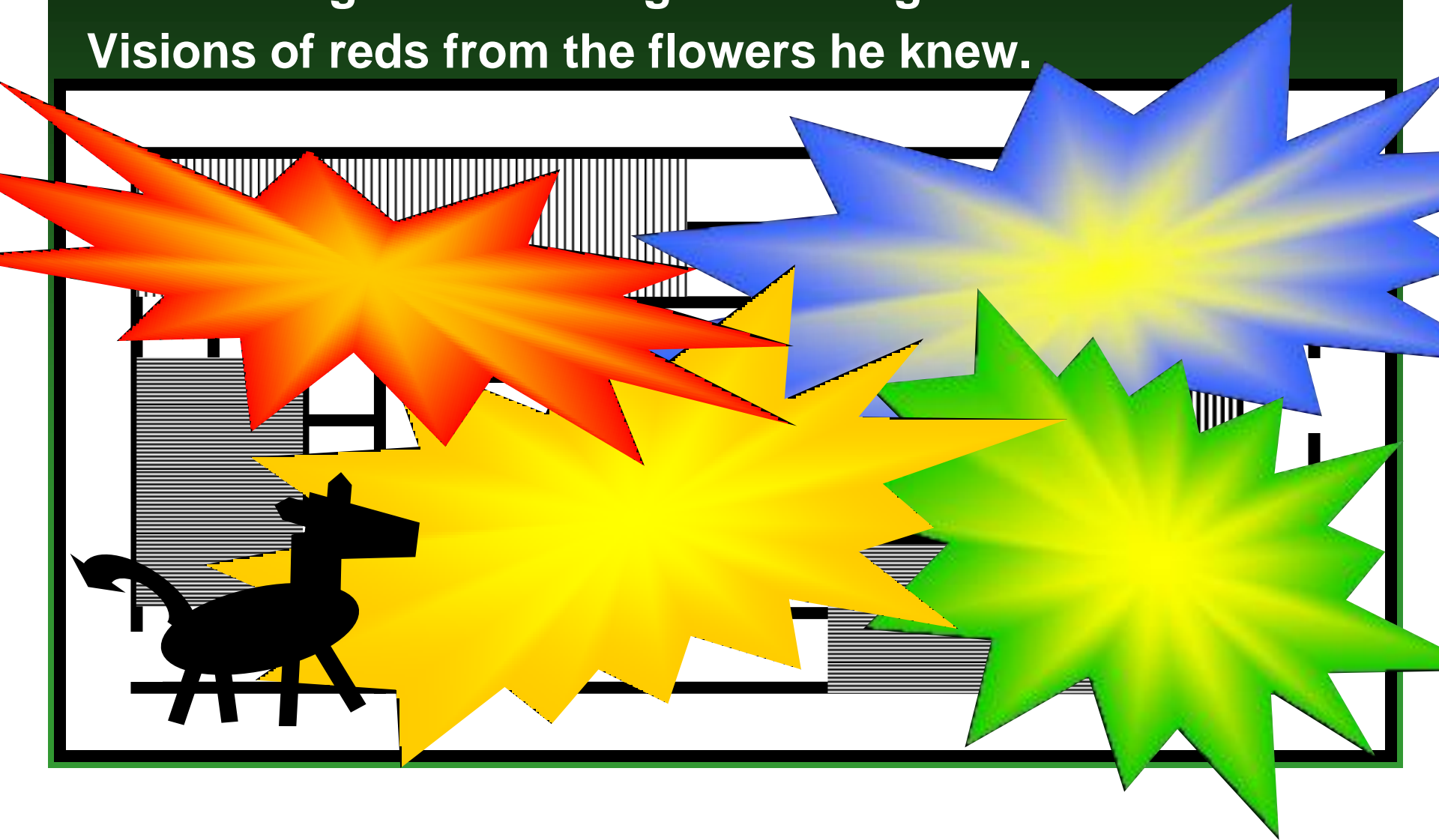
“The black and white stripes only serve to confuse.”

“Eliminate them with some thoughts that are new.”

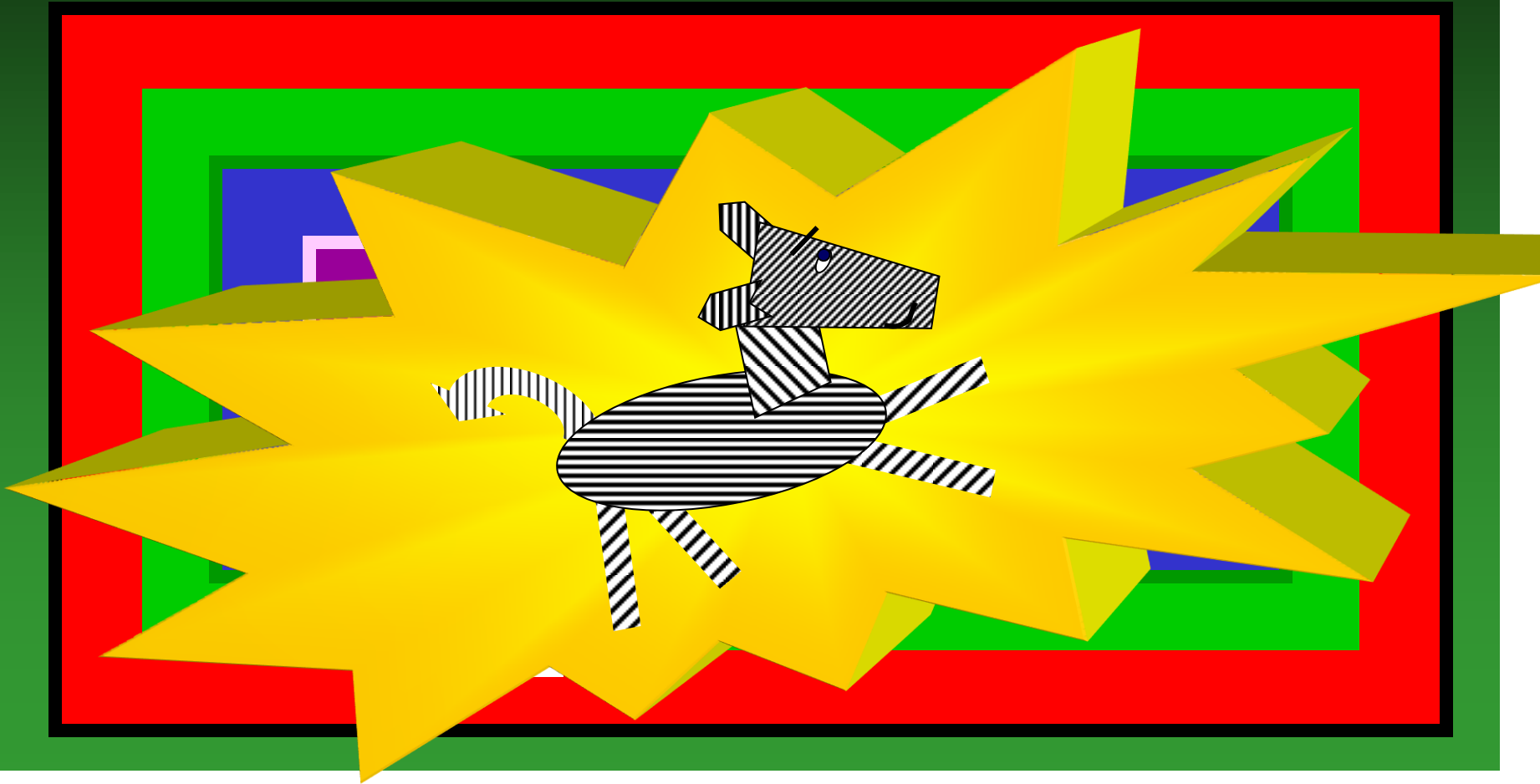
“Look at the world with a different view.”



Herb had to struggle but gave it a try.
Colorful thoughts he worked to apply.
Visions of greens of the grass as it grew.
Visions of reds from the flowers he knew.



He thought harder and harder and finally saw,
The maze bursting with colors that filled him with awe.
Then all of a sudden a clear path he could see.
He burst out of the maze. He was free! He was free!



HanuKat smiled as Herb kicked up a heel.

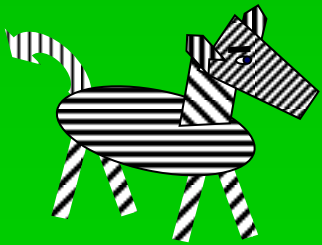
“Tell me,” he asked, “how do you feel?”

No-Longer-Bitter-Herb said with a roar,

“I’m happy! I’m thrilled! And, oh, so much more!”



HanuKat grinned, “The curse is a rumor.”
“No need to lead life in such a poor humor.”
Herb saw the truth in what HanuKat said.
Bold colorful thoughts filled his MatZebra head.



And from that day forward, Herb made a great vow.
To teach the young MatZebras, and show them all how
To set themselves free from their colorless gripes,
And live in a HanuKat world of bright stripes.



THE END