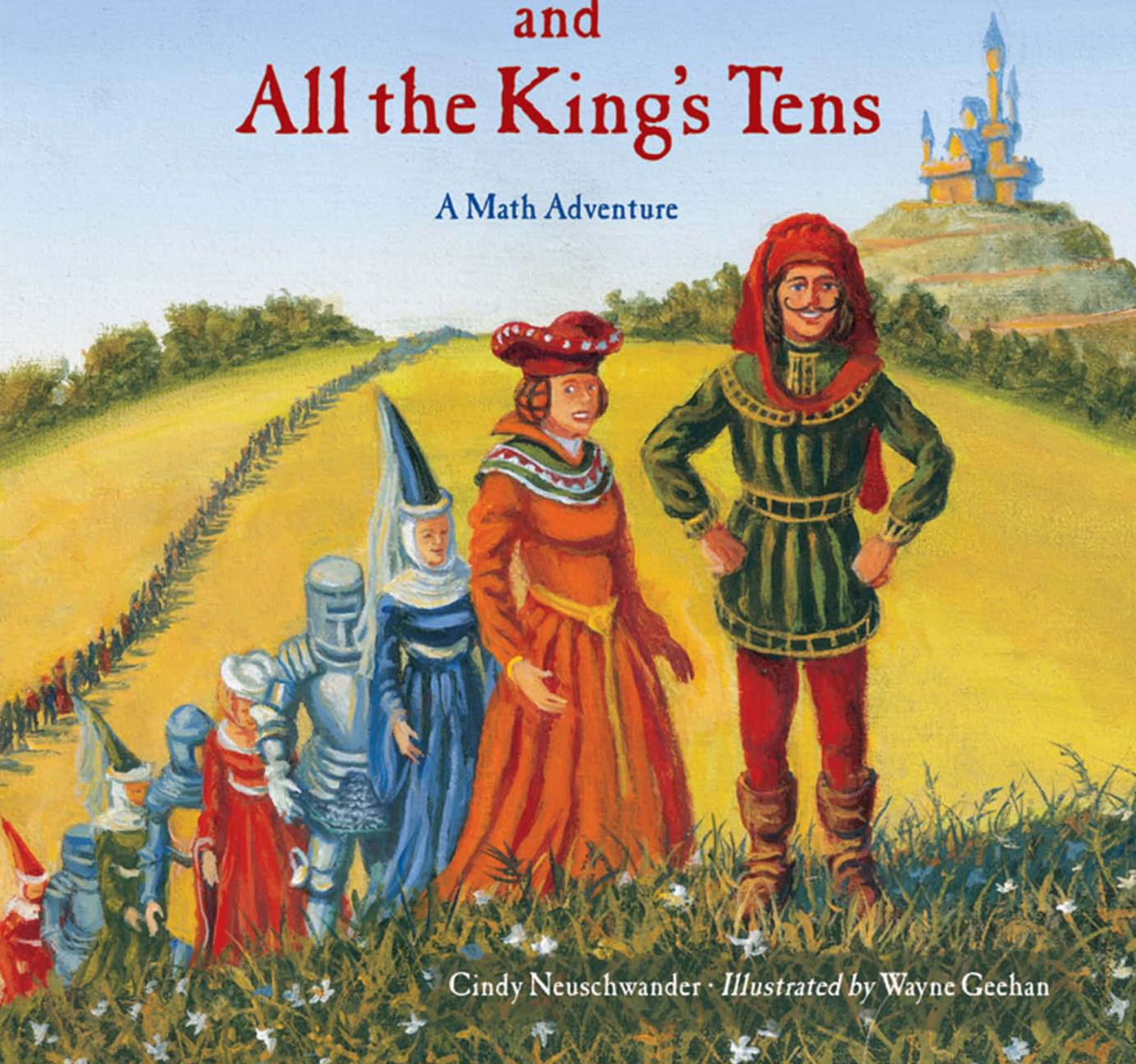


Sir Cumference and All the King's Tens

A Math Adventure



Cindy Neuschwander · *Illustrated by* Wayne Gechan

To Don and Maxine Neuschwander, with love—C. N.

To my wonderful grandson, Tomasz Modlinski Geehan,
who is at the beginning of his circle of life—W. G.

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host a massive surprise birthday party for the king, they must figure out
a way to quickly count all the guests who are in attendance.

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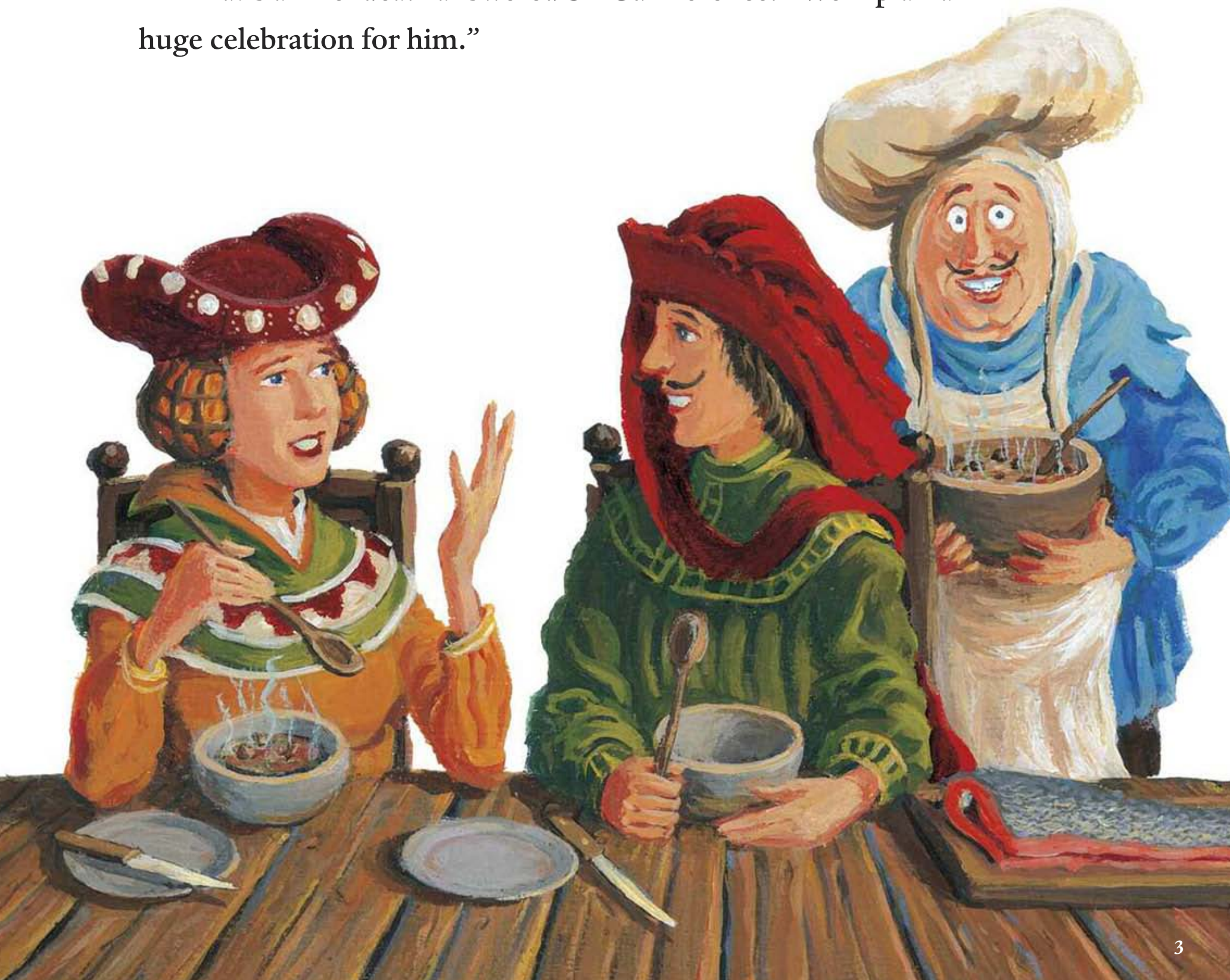
Production supervision by Brian G. Walker

Designed by Martha MacLeod Sikkema



“**T**he last time we saw the king, he seemed a bit gloomy,” said Lady Di of Ameter to her husband, Sir Cumference, one evening. “His birthday is soon. Let’s give him a surprise party here at our castle to cheer him up. We could invite people from the entire countryside.”

“That’s a fine idea!” answered Sir Cumference. “We’ll plan a huge celebration for him.”



A painting of a blue bird with a tag that says "YE ARE INVITED". The bird is shown in flight, with its wings spread wide. The tag is a light brown, rectangular piece of paper with a hole at the top, and it is attached to the bird's beak. The background is a warm, textured yellow. The text "ts", "cooking.", "while", "n", and "o stay." is visible on the left side of the image.

Rooms filled up quickly.



“The castle is already exploding with guests, and an even bigger group is arriving this afternoon,” she told Sir Cumference one morning. “King Arthur’s party is tonight, and I’m not ready! What a royal mess!”

Sir Cumference nodded. “I’ll gather everyone in the meadow to get them out of your way.”



Soon a large crowd stood in the grassy field outside the castle walls.

“The king will arrive in a few hours,” began Sir Cumference. “Let’s practice a Royal March of Greeting. Would everyone step smartly toward the center of the meadow?”

Pandemonium broke out. Knees marching high knocked into arms swinging wide. The Knights of the Round Table crashed into each other, falling into metallic heaps.

Lady Di appeared in the middle of this confusion. “I need to know how many guests will be here for lunch, and then how many for dinner,” she called to her husband over the clatter.

Sir Cumference waved his arms. “Attention!” he bellowed. “We need to know how many of you are here.” But everyone kept milling around. Counting the crowd seemed like an impossible job.





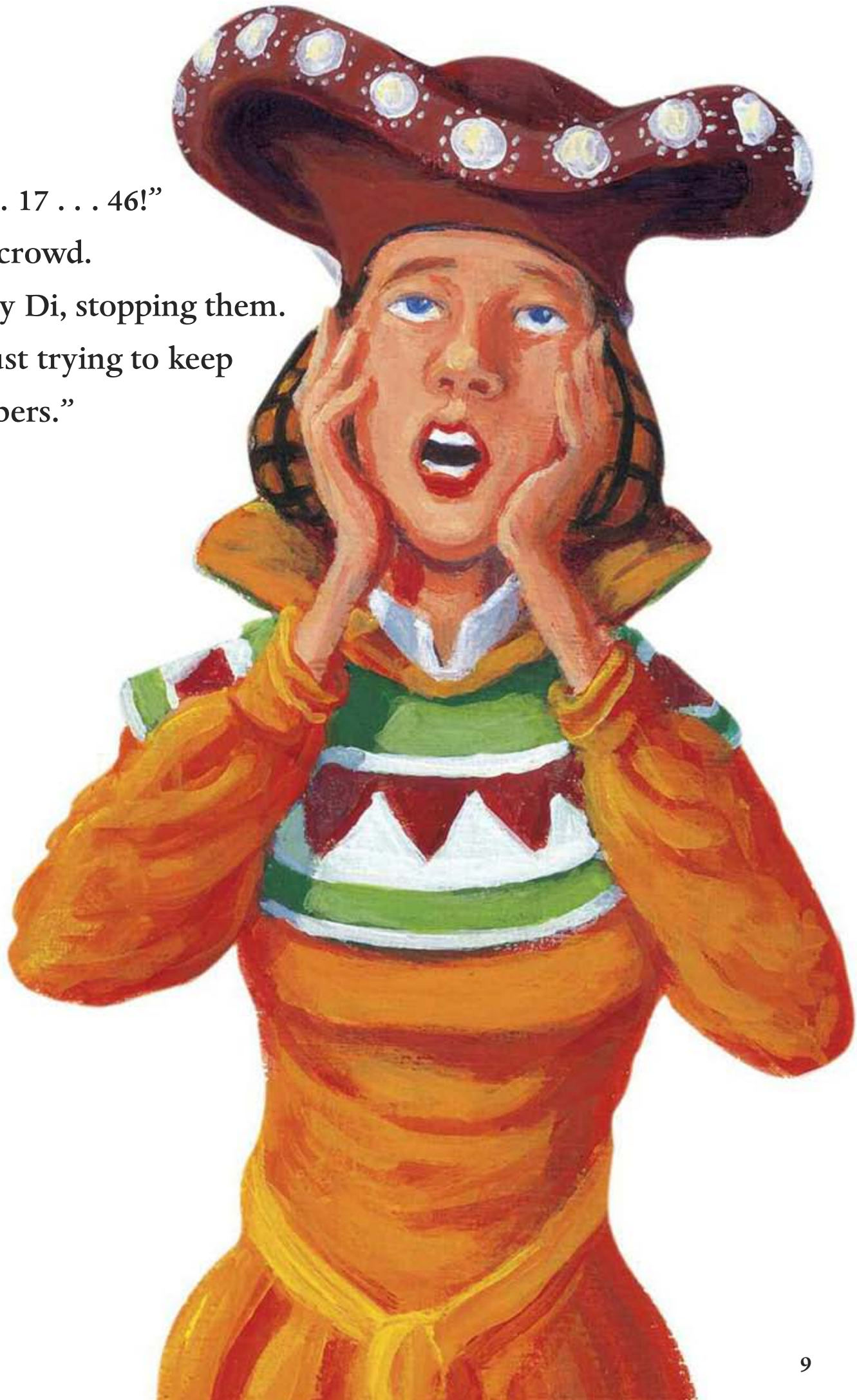
Sir Kell stepped forward with a suggestion.

“Forming small circles of people might work,” he said. “Each group could count its members and call out how many. Lady Di could then add up the numbers.”

“Let’s try it,” said Sir Cumference, shepherding guests into groups.

“61 . . . 111 . . . 58 . . . 17 . . . 46!”
cried out voices in the crowd.

“No good,” said Lady Di, stopping them.
“My head’s spinning just trying to keep
track of all those numbers.”



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