



In the neighbourhood of Cament, a strange apple tree stands behind a fence, surrounded by warnings and mystery. No one is allowed to touch it—but when Travis and his best friend David pass by, they find themselves tempted.

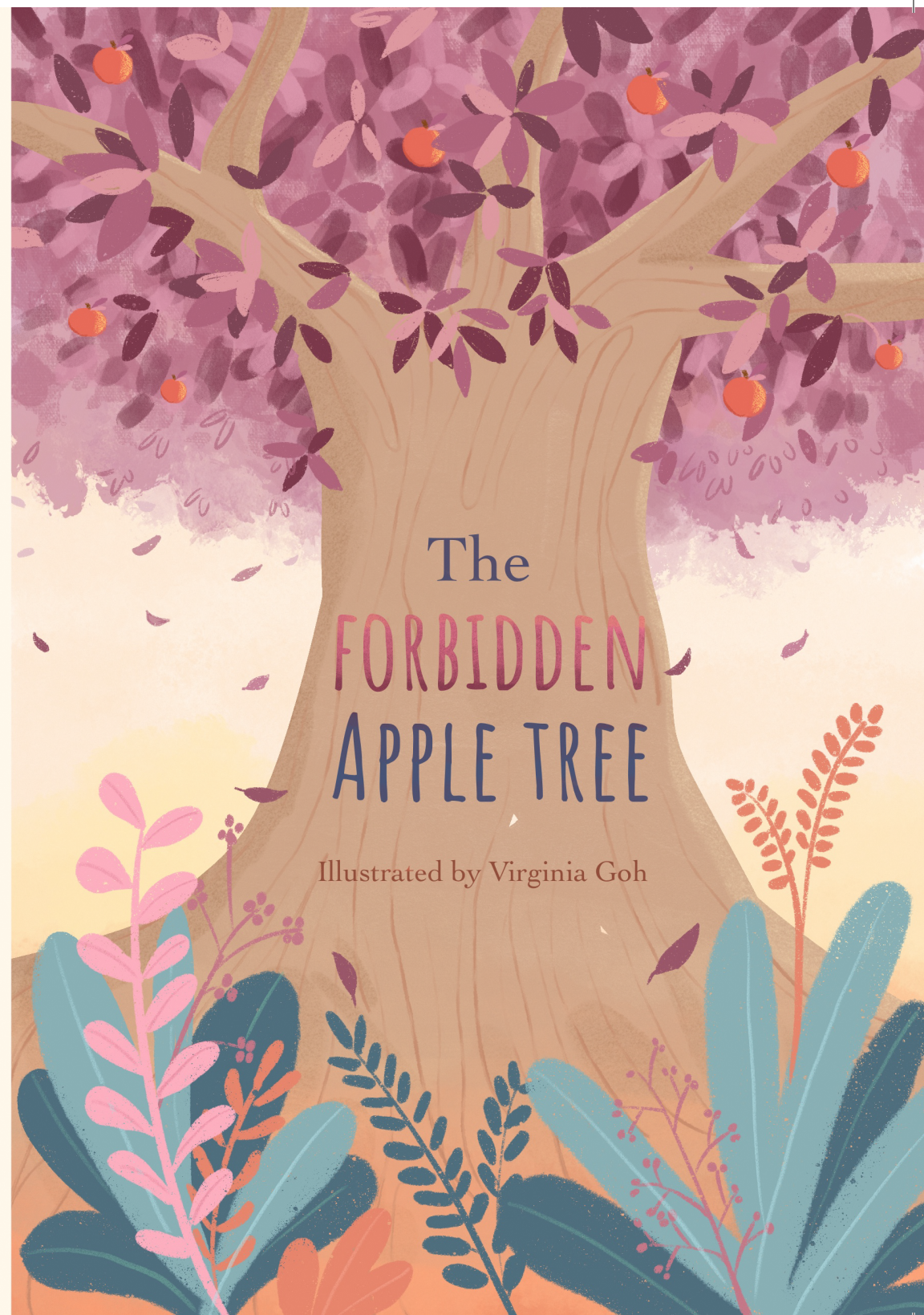
Egged on by older boys who dismiss the rules and brag about taking apples, Travis gives in to peer pressure. Wanting to prove he's not afraid, he climbs the fence and attempts to steal an apple. But he is caught by the Guardians of the Tree and taken to the Tower of Lessons.

There, a crystal ball reveals the serious consequences of his actions—harm to the environment and danger to others who might copy him. Travis realises the weight of his mistake. Upon returning, he apologises to David, takes responsibility, and begins helping others understand the importance of making better choices.

Through his experience, Travis learns that real courage means doing what's right—even when it's hard.



THIS STORY IS SHARED BY AN INMATE WITH HOPES
OF CONTRIBUTING BACK TO THE SOCIETY.



Cament was a small neighbourhood with a big shopping mall, a fun park, and hawker centres full of delicious food. In a quiet corner stood a little garden. In the middle of it grew a very strange apple tree. Its leaves were purple, and its apples were big and deep red.

But this was no ordinary tree. A tall fence surrounded it, and a large, worn-out sign warned: "DANGER! It is illegal to take any apples from this tree". It was said that some people who tried to take the apples had disappeared and no one knew where they went!





One sunny day, David and his best friend Travis, were cycling through Cament when they stopped near the forbidden garden. They had heard the stories before, but this time, the apples seemed especially tempting. "I bet they taste amazing," said Travis. David shook his head, "We're not allowed to take them - we'll get in trouble!"

Just then, a group of older boys passed by. They laughed at the warnings, bragging that they had taken apples before. "Nothing happened. Just scare tactics," they said.






“See, David? Don’t be such a scaredy cat!” Travis said. “I’m not doing it just because other kids are doing it,” David said firmly. Travis wanted to prove he wasn’t afraid. The older boys seemed fearless and cool—and Travis didn’t want to look weak in front of them. He slowly climbed the fence and stepped into the garden.

The moment his feet touched the ground, an alarm rang out - WEE-OOO! WEE-OOO! While Travis scrambled to climb back out, his hands slipped in panic.

Suddenly, two tall men appeared and took Travis by the hand, saying “We are Guardians of the Tree, you must come with us.”



A full-page illustration with a dark blue, starry night sky. In the background, a tall, yellow stone tower with a red conical roof and a single lit window stands on a hill. A large, bright yellow full moon hangs in the sky. In the foreground, a large, close-up illustration of a young boy with brown hair and a sad expression is shown. He is looking into a glowing crystal ball. Inside the crystal ball, a smaller version of the boy is sitting on the ground in a desolate, dry landscape with bare trees. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

There, the Guardians showed him a glowing crystal ball. Inside it, Travis saw what would have happened if he had succeeded. The tree began to wilt. The garden around it dried up. Wildlife disappeared. Then, a young child — copying what he did — was caught in a trap, crying and alone. Travis felt a deep shame. He hadn't just broken a rule—he had put others at risk. He realised that giving in to peer pressure had caused more harm than he imagined.

Travis was taken to a tall, mysterious tower hidden deep within a forest. "This is the Tower of Lessons," one of the Guardians said. "It is where those who try to steal from the tree must stay until they understand why stealing from the Tree is wrong."

When he returned home, Travis went to David to apologize for ignoring his warning. He began to tell others about his mistake and helped to repaint the sign and fence around the tree. From that day on, Travis made sure the apple tree remained untouched and taught other kids about why they should make better choices. And so, the strange apple tree remained safe, its dark red apples untouched — except by the Guardians, who knew its true magic.

