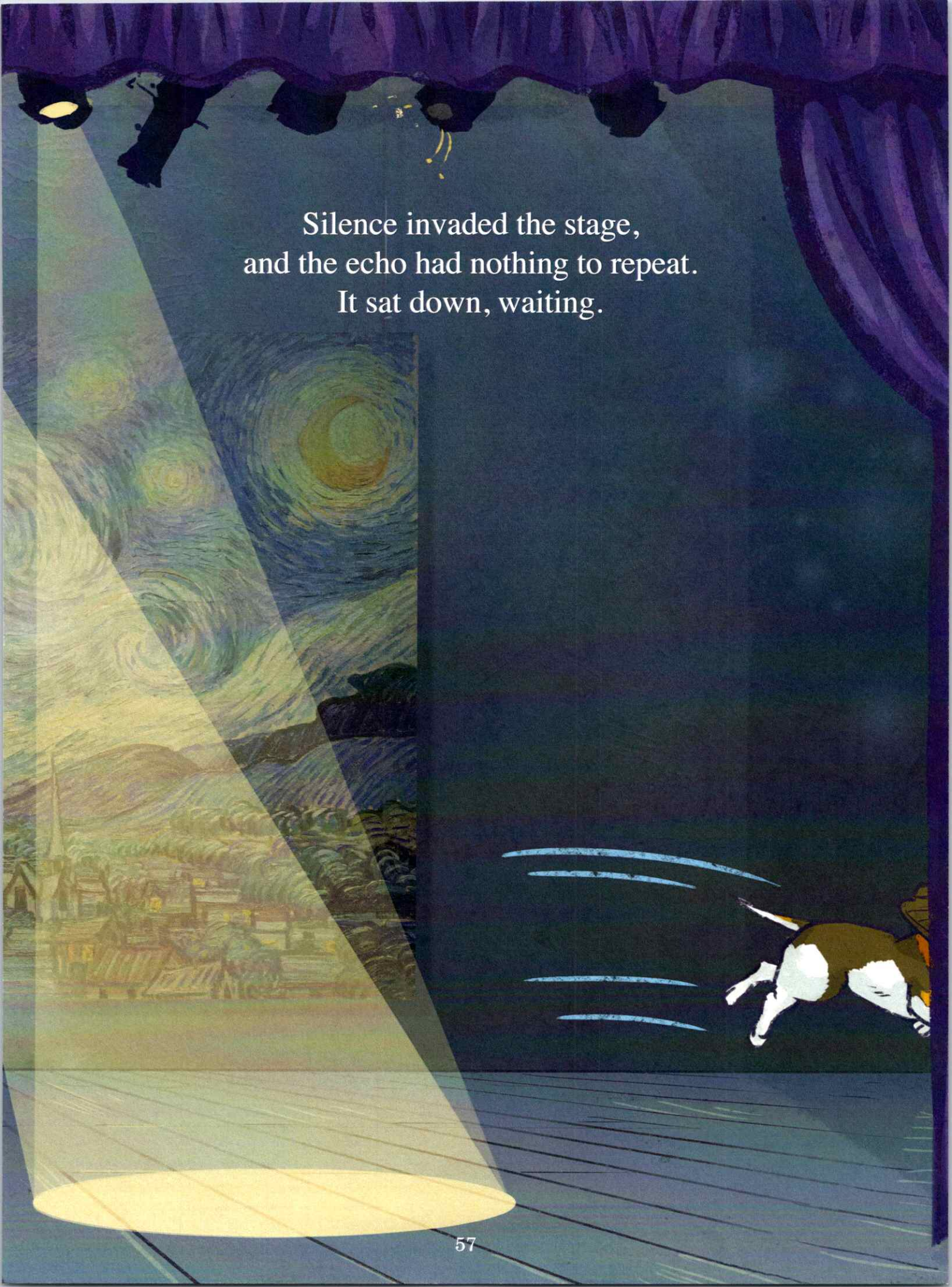


The illustration depicts a stage performance. At the top, a dark purple curtain hangs with several stage lights attached. A large, bright yellow spotlight beam originates from the top left and illuminates a portion of the stage floor. On the right side of the stage, a small dog with white and brown patches is running towards the left. The background of the stage is a dark blue-grey color. On the left side, there is a large, semi-transparent rectangular area that contains a reproduction of J.M.W. Turner's painting 'Rain, Steam, and Great Smokes' (1844). The painting shows a coastal town with a church spire, surrounded by hills and a body of water, under a sky with swirling clouds. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric, with the spotlight providing the main source of illumination.

Silence invaded the stage,
and the echo had nothing to repeat.
It sat down, waiting.

Act Three Review: The Oxford Comma

We have learned two comma rules already, and they both make sentences beautiful and clear. The first rule is to **keep the subject and its verb together** and not let a comma divide them. The second rule is to **keep compound words together** because they compound the idea. They make a unity.

Now we discover a new rule. Some writers do not follow this rule, but we will because it is beautiful and clear. This rule concerns the **Oxford comma**, which lets us put a comma before the conjunction in a list. It is a good idea.

Burgull was hungry, confused, and curious.

The comma before the *and* in the list is the Oxford comma, which is sometimes called a *serial comma*. Notice that a **compound** has two items, such as ***beets and carrots***, and does not use a comma. A **list** has three or more items, such as ***blue, green, and yellow***, and does use commas.

Act Three Practice Sentences

For each sentence, write *yes* if the sentence is correct and *no* if the sentence is not correct.

1. The new idea, was interesting.
2. The idea was different.
3. Burgull ate beets, tomatoes and carrots.
4. Burgull ate beets, tomatoes, and carrots.
5. Poodle ate beets, and corn.
6. Burgull ate beets and sandwiches.
7. Burgull, ate beets and sandwiches.
8. Gawk saw dogs, cats, and snails.
9. Gawk liked dogs, and cats.
10. Gawk, and he, ate leaves, roots and shoots.