

The book cover is a vibrant illustration by Linda Weller. It depicts four scenes of children hugging their mothers. In the top left, a young boy with dark hair and a blue patterned shirt hugs a woman with grey hair. In the top right, a young girl with red hair and a blue plaid shirt hugs a woman with long red hair. In the bottom left, a young boy with dark skin and curly hair hugs a woman with dark skin and curly hair. In the bottom right, a young boy with dark hair and a green plaid shirt hugs a woman with dark hair. The background is filled with large, colorful roses in shades of yellow, pink, and orange, with green leaves. The central text is enclosed in a simple gold border.

*Scharlotte Rich*  
**I Love My  
Mommy!**

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LINDA WELLER



*For Judy, My Wonderful Mother*  
- S.R.

*With Love and Thanks to my Family  
and "Happy Birthday" to my understanding Mom*  
- L.W.

I LOVE MY MOMMY

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For information:  
Multnomah Publishers, Inc.  
Post Office Box 1720  
Sisters, Oregon 97759

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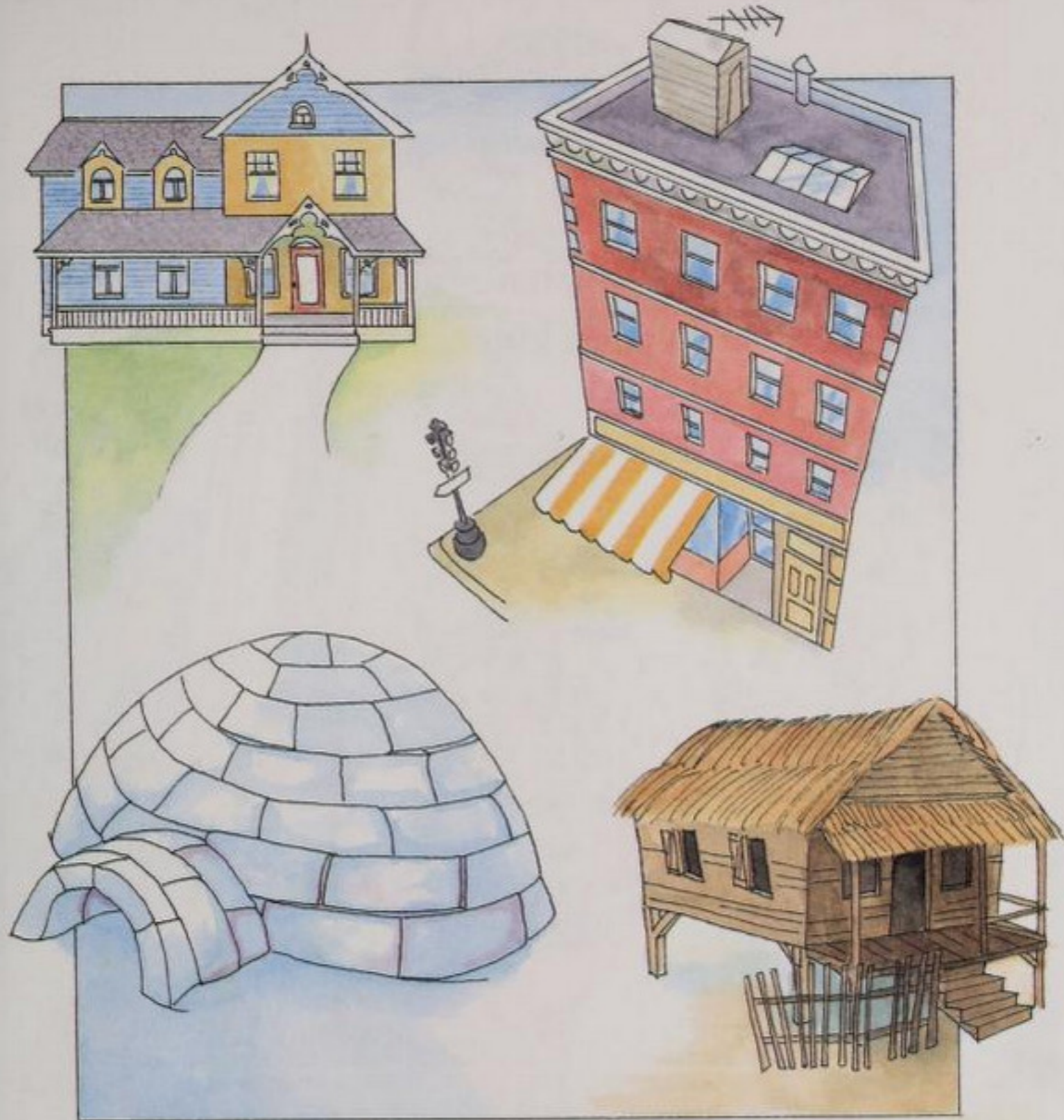


*Introduction*

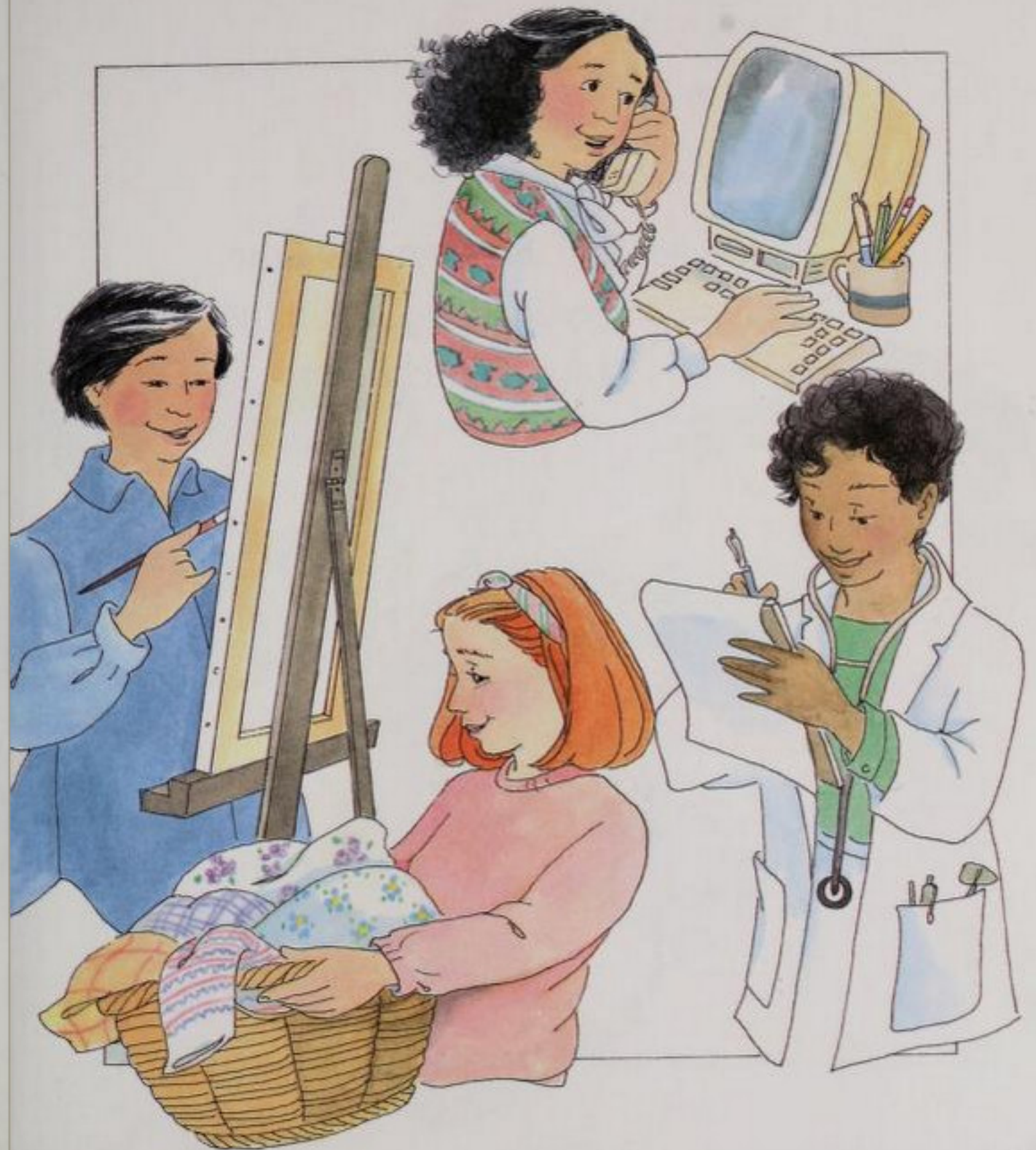
Mothers are like flowers.  
They come in lots of different shapes,  
sizes, and colors.



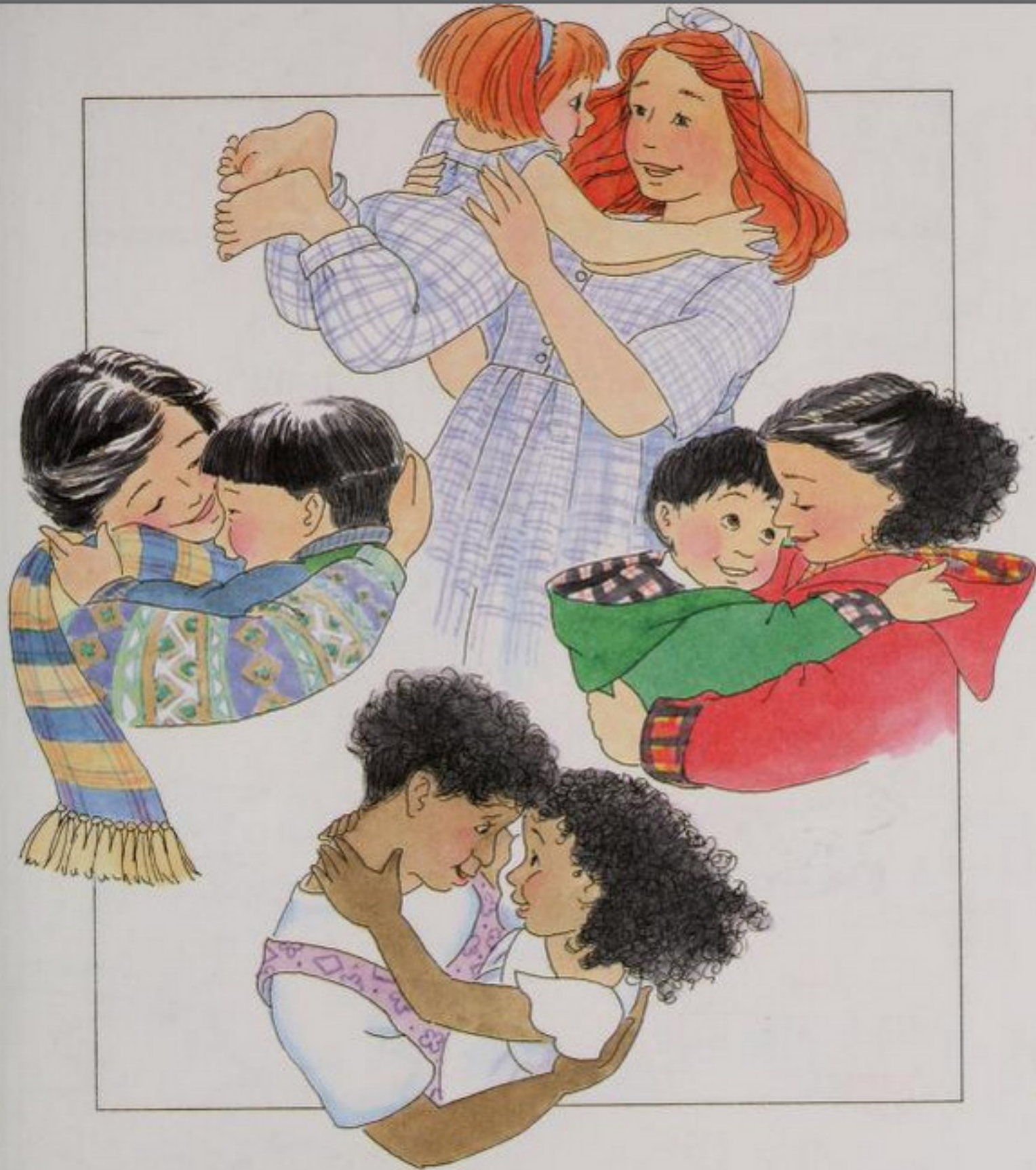
They live in many different  
kinds of places.



They have many  
different kinds of jobs.



But one thing is always the same.  
They have a very special place in their  
hearts just for their children.



# Just Like Mommy

I have a very special mommy.

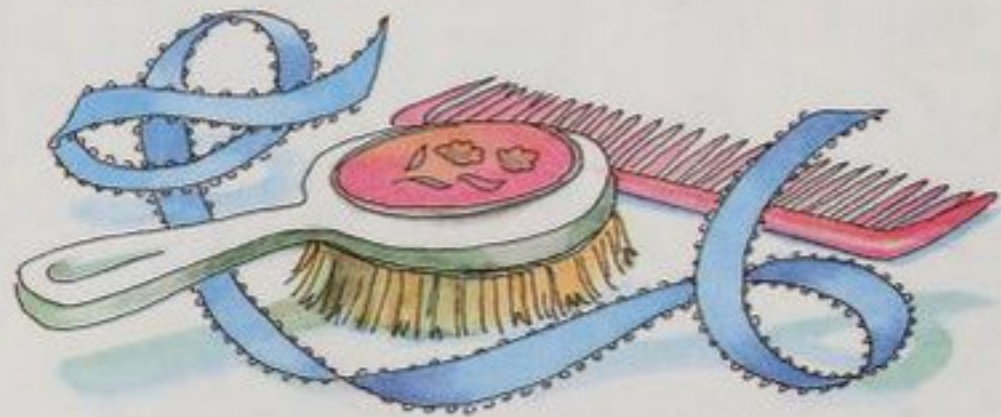




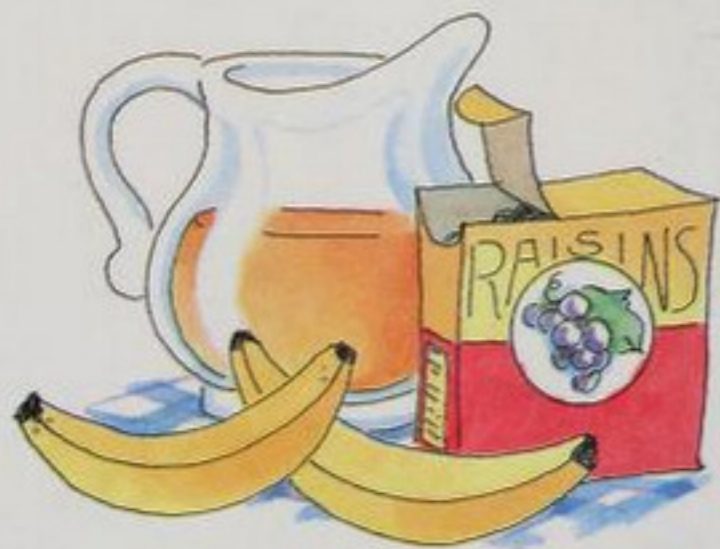
The first thing I hear in the morning  
is my mommy saying,  
“Good morning, Honey-bun.”  
That’s what she calls me, because she says I’m  
sweet enough to nibble on. Mommy says  
I am her special gift from God.



We are alike in many ways.  
She says my eyes are just like hers.  
My hands look just like  
Mommy's, too.



We both like to eat pancakes  
for breakfast. Mommy makes  
funny faces on mine.



Some mornings, when it's warm,  
we go out to work in the garden.



My garden is just like Mommy's garden.  
She showed me how to plant seeds  
and water them.



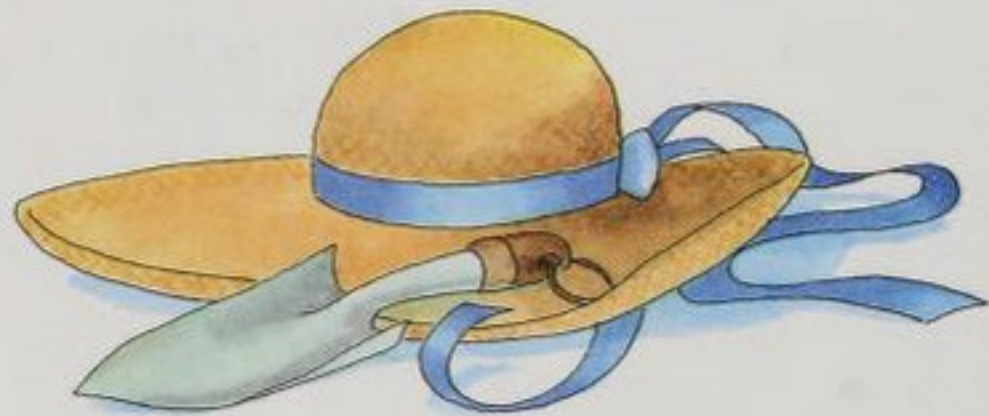
*I* waited for the seeds to grow.  
They grew into big  
sunflowers that are bigger than me!  
Mommy says God put the flower inside  
each little seed. I wonder how God does that!  
Mommy says it's easy for Him because  
God can do anything.



I asked Mommy if God made the bugs and the little green snake in the garden. She said, "Yes, and God made this fat woolly caterpillar, too."

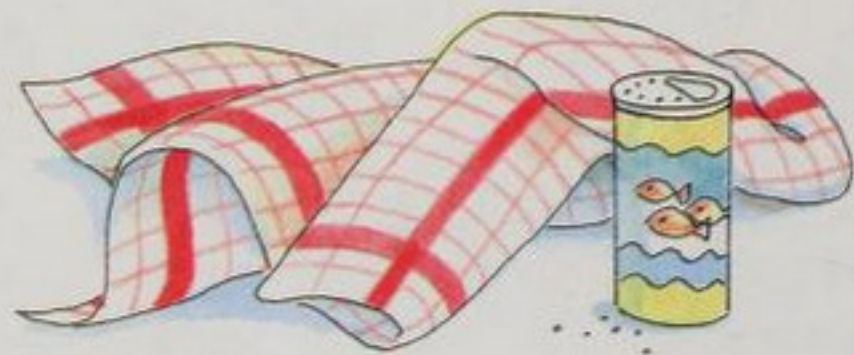


We get our hands  
all dirty pulling up weeds.  
Sometimes when I do something bad,  
Mommy says, "That's like a little weed  
growing in your garden.  
You and God need to pull it up."





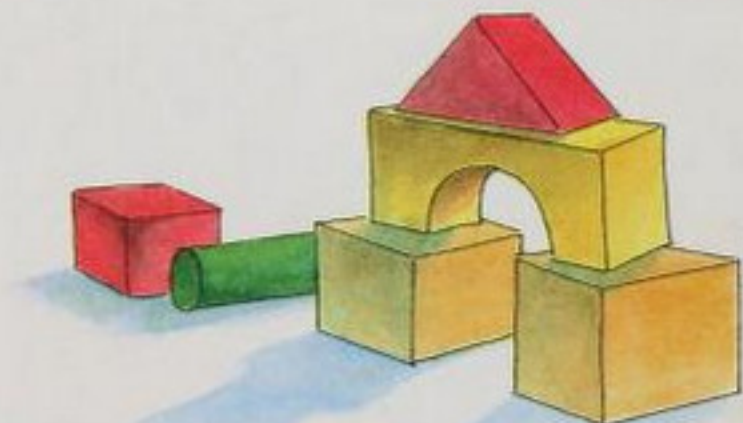
When we come inside  
I have jobs to do just like Mommy.  
One of my favorite jobs is taking care of  
my goldfish, Rosie.



After Mommy and I fix lunch,  
it's time for my nap. Mommy fixes me a special  
place by the window where it's cool.

I pretend it's my castle.

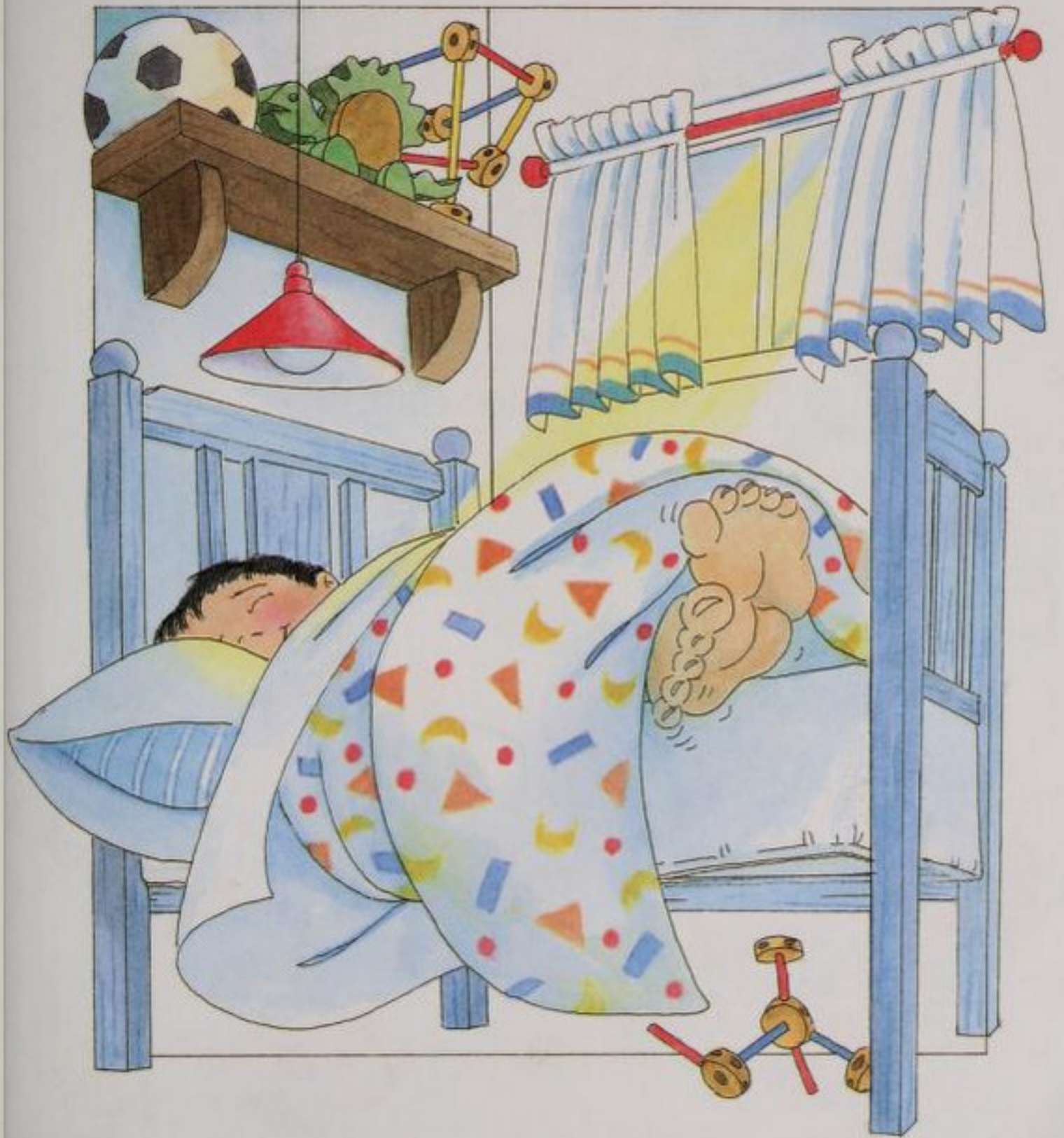
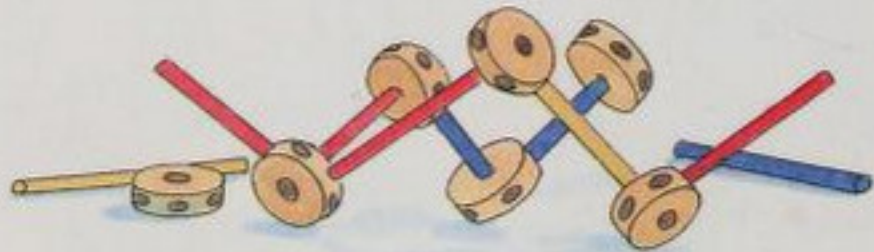
I love my mommy, and my mommy loves me.  
That's the way God planned it to be.



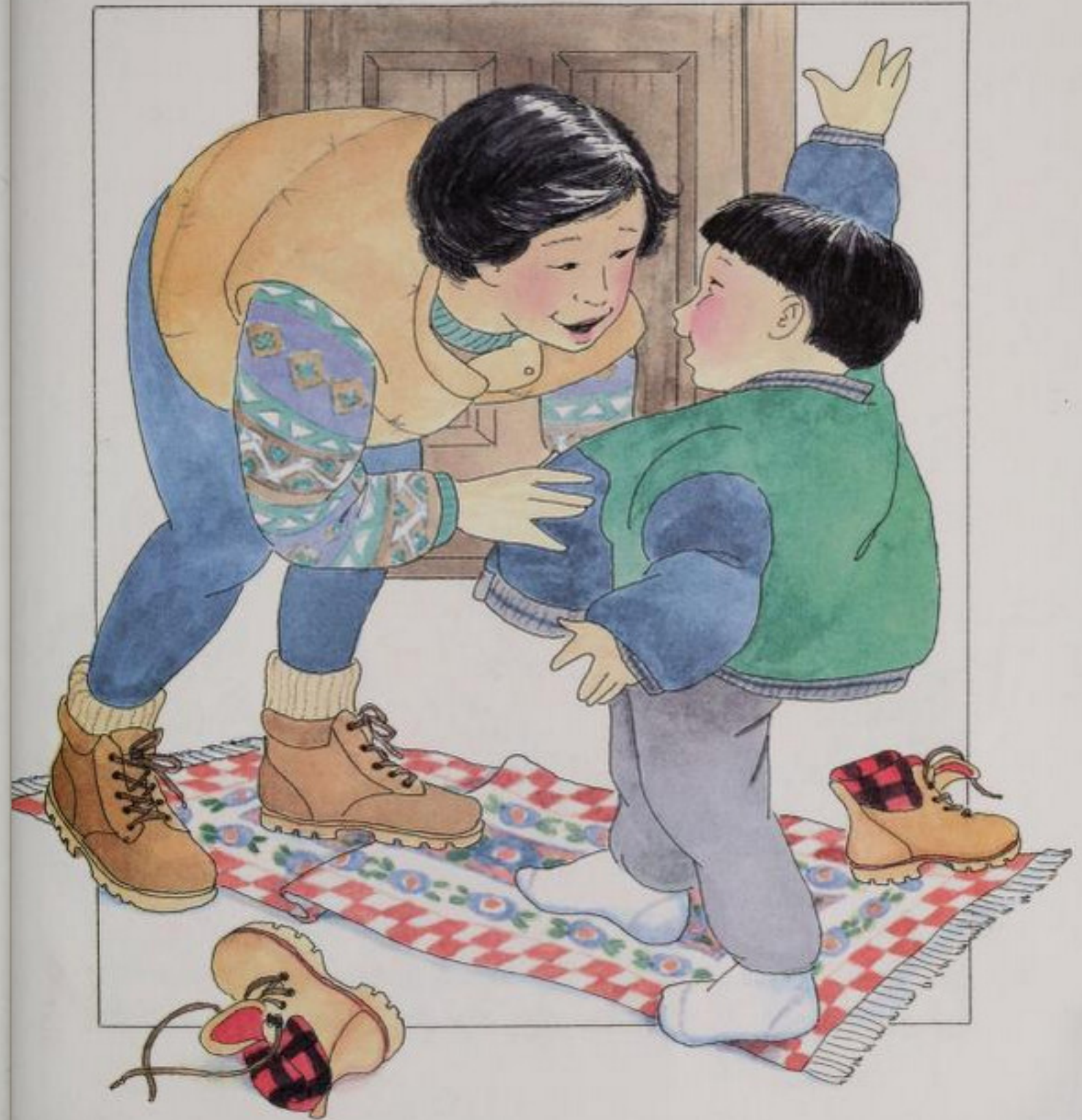
## A Walk with Mommy

I woke up this morning  
and something was different.  
When I stuck my toes out of my nice warm bed,  
the floor was as cold as ice.

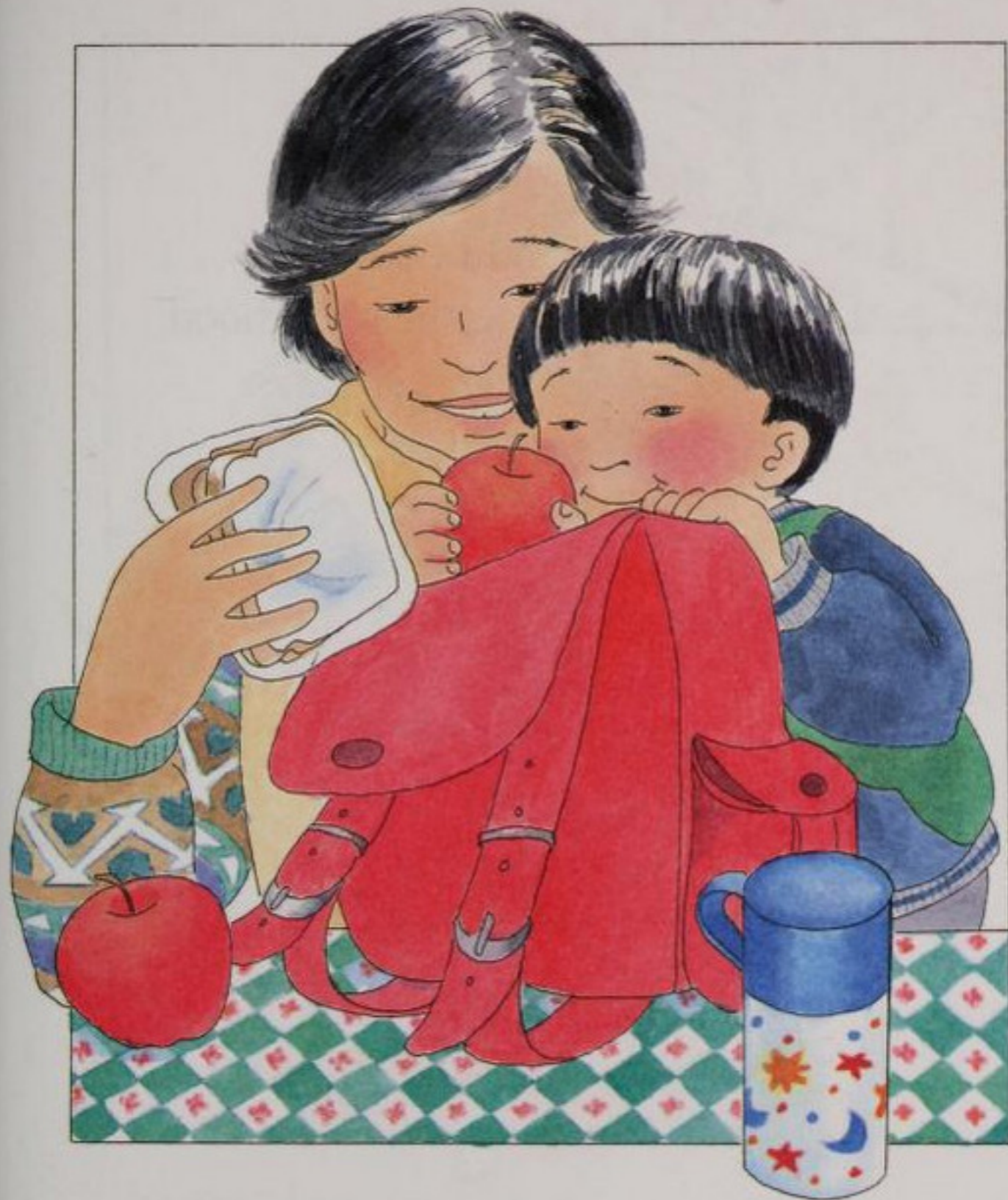
My mommy said, "Well, Little Pumpkin,  
summer is over. Let's take a long walk today  
and see what fall looks like."



After breakfast, we put on our jackets and warm shoes and socks. I wanted to go barefoot, but Mommy said my feet would get too cold.



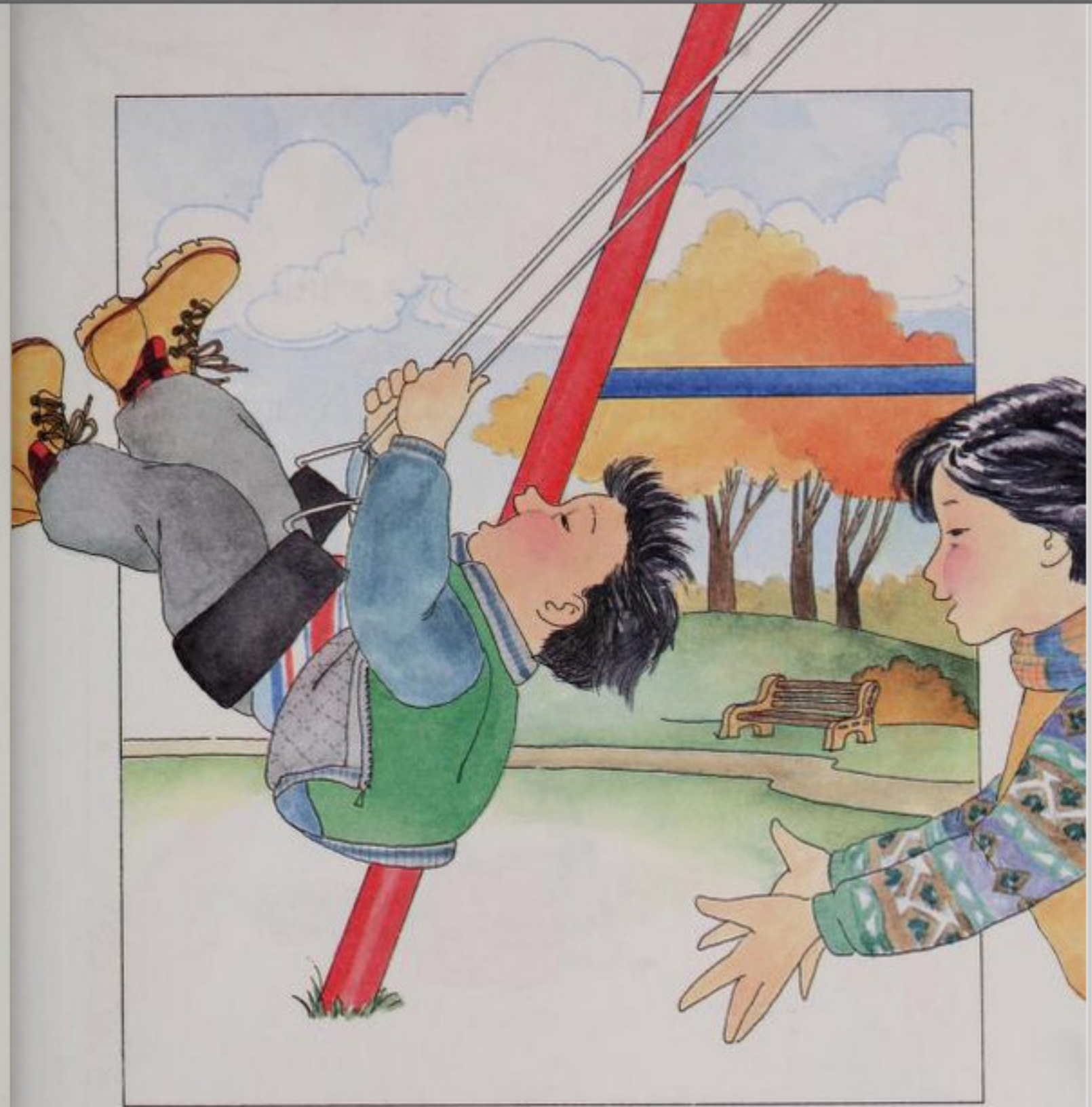
We packed peanut butter sandwiches and  
big red apples in my backpack.  
Then off we went.



Mommy and I walked  
past all the houses in our neighborhood.  
We scuffled through the leaves  
while we walked.



Then we came to the park.  
Mommy pushed me on the swings,  
and I went high up to the sky.



On top of the big slide I was a little afraid.

But Mommy said,  
“Don’t worry, Little Sweet Potato.  
I’ll catch you.”

So, down I went, faster and faster.





Mommy caught me,  
just in time!  
She scooped me up in the air.



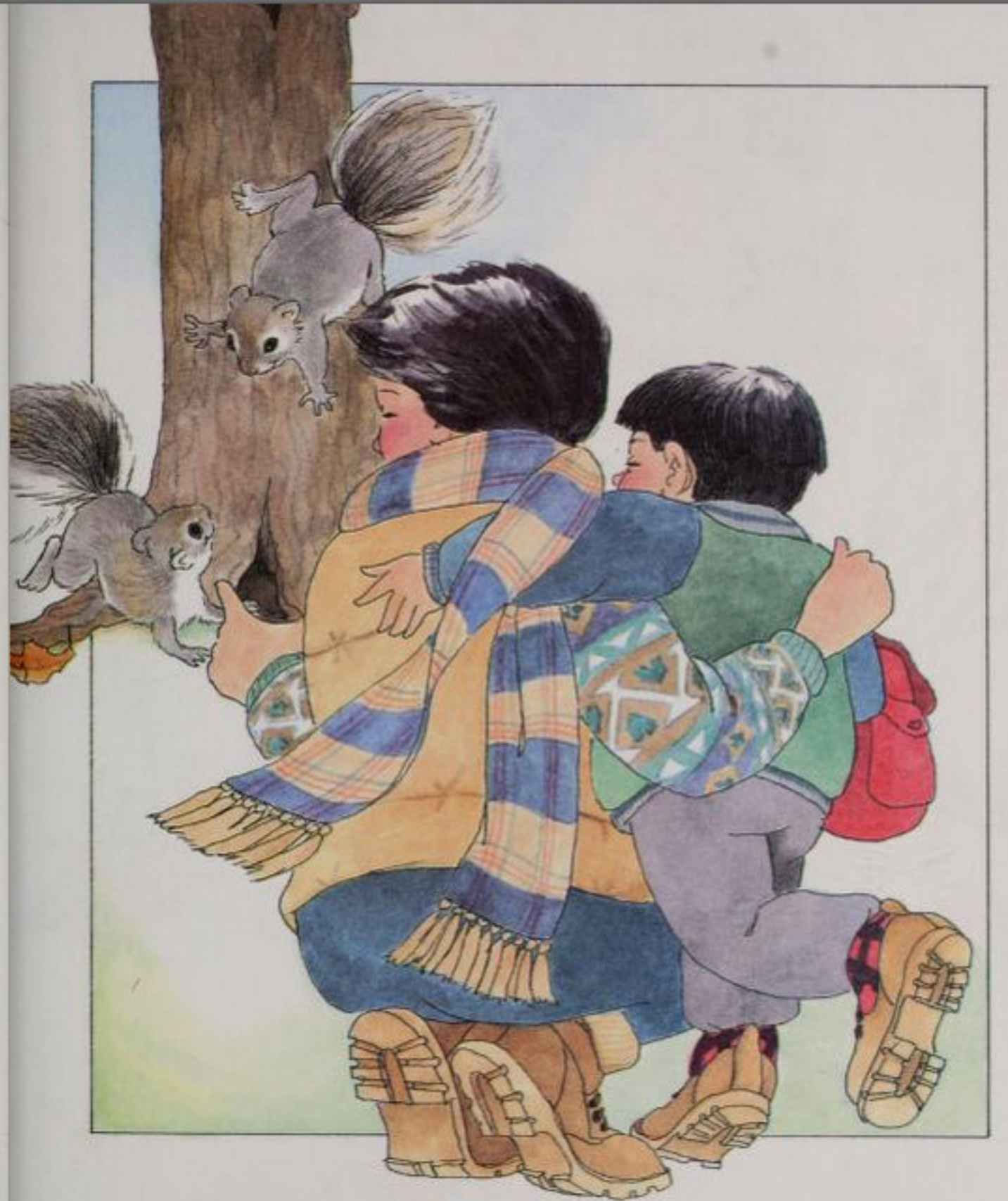
Then we walked down the path  
behind the park. The grass was taller than me,  
but not taller than my mommy.



I found a shiny black rock  
and a speckled bird's feather and put  
them in my pocket.  
Then I found a little lizard.  
But I let it go.



Suddenly, Mommy stopped.  
“Shhh,” she said. “Look over there!”  
She pointed at two gray squirrels  
with big fluffy tails.

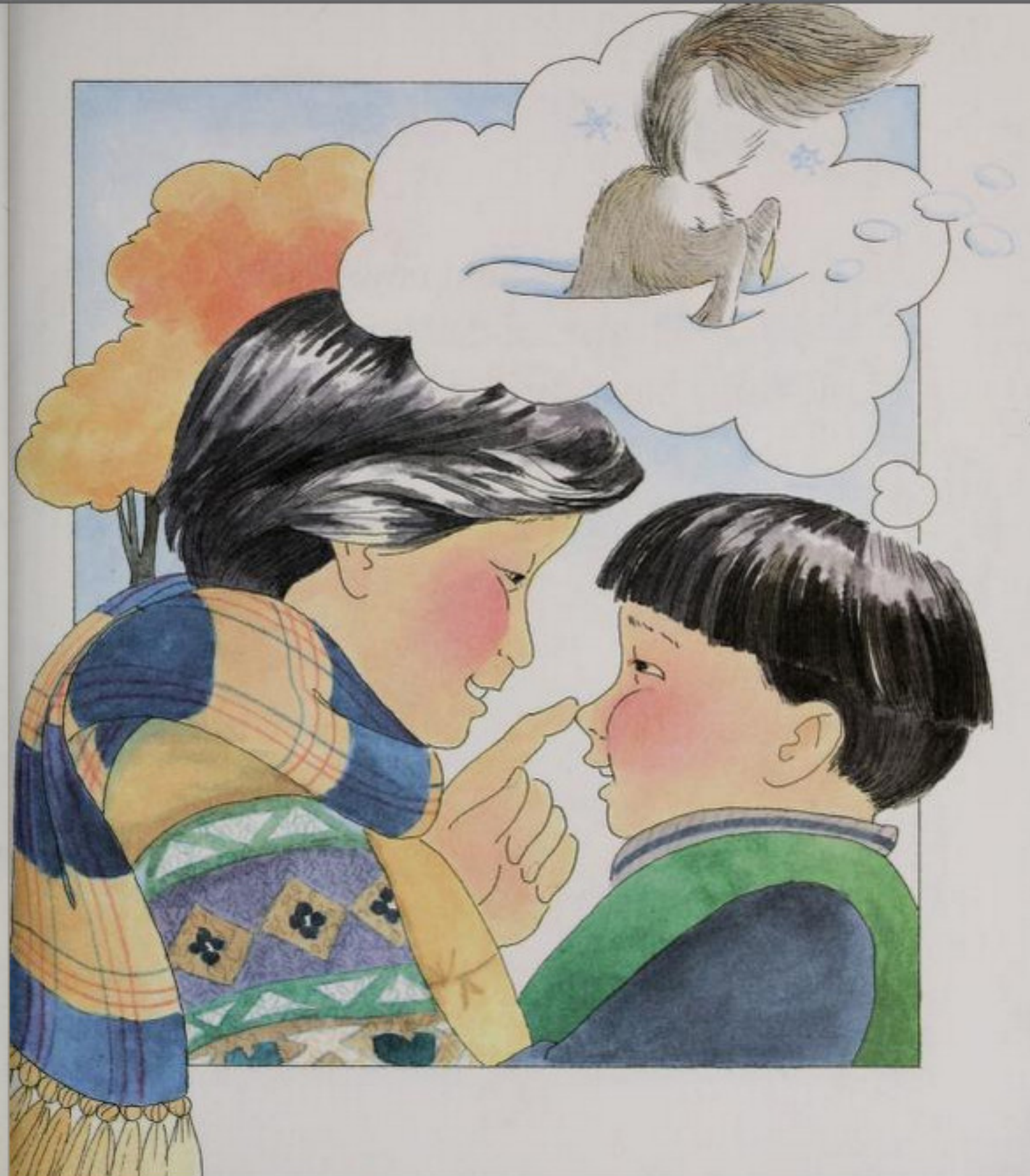


“The squirrels are gathering nuts so they will have food for the winter. Then they’ll dig holes and hide the nuts in the ground.”

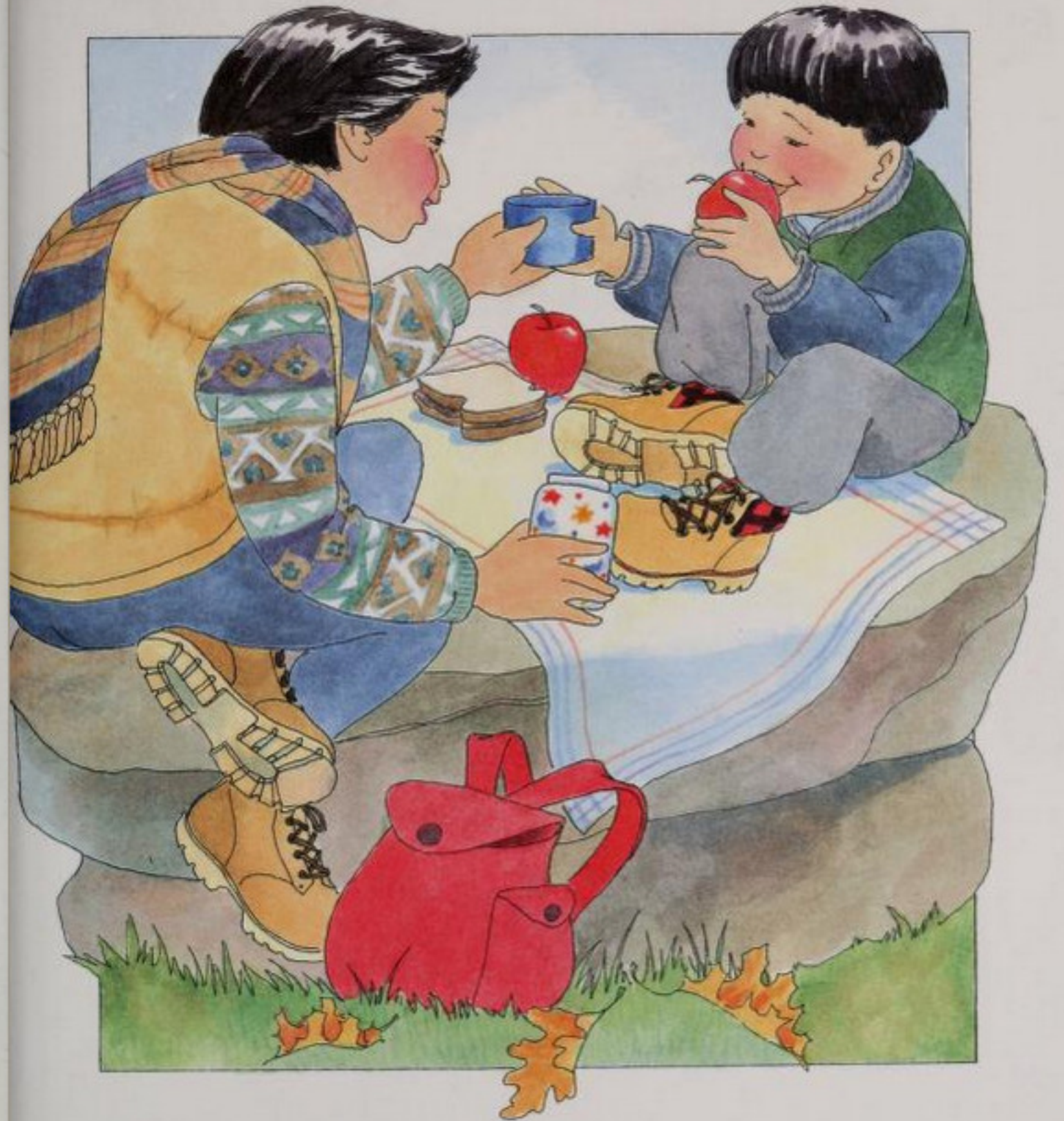
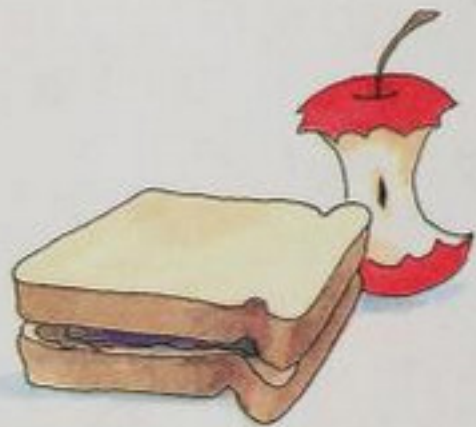


“How will they find them when it snows?”

I asked. Mommy said God gave squirrels very special noses to find the nuts when their families are hungry.



"I'm hungry right now," I said.  
So we sat down on  
some big rocks and had a picnic,  
just Mommy and me.



On our way back home  
we jumped in a big pile of leaves.

I love my mommy, and my mommy loves me.  
That's the way God planned it to be.





## A Rainy Day with Mommy

This morning I heard noise on our roof.  
It sounded like lots of cats running  
and jumping all over.

I ran to the window. It was raining outside.



I got dressed and went downstairs.  
My mommy was washing clothes.  
“Good morning, Sunshine!” she said.  
“It’s so dark and gloomy outside.  
Your smile will have to brighten up  
our house today.”



When I smiled she said,  
“Wow!” and covered her eyes. “Your smile  
is really bright! I’ll need to get my sunglasses!”

My mommy likes to tease me.  
I like to tease her, too.



“Mommy,” I said,  
“what can I do today since it’s raining outside?”

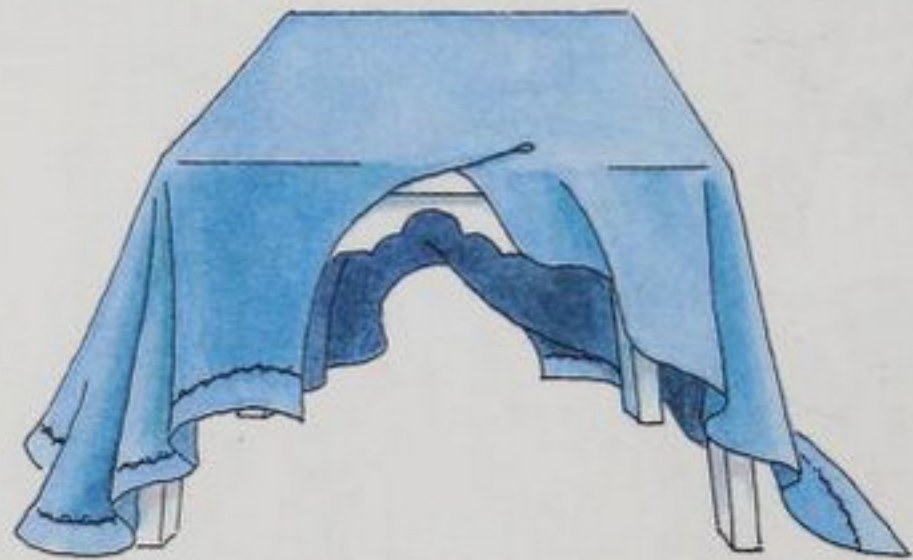
“I know,” she said. “You can go camping.”

“But Mommy, it’s raining!”

“You can camp inside,” said Mommy,  
“but first we need a tent.”



Mommy helped me set up my tent.



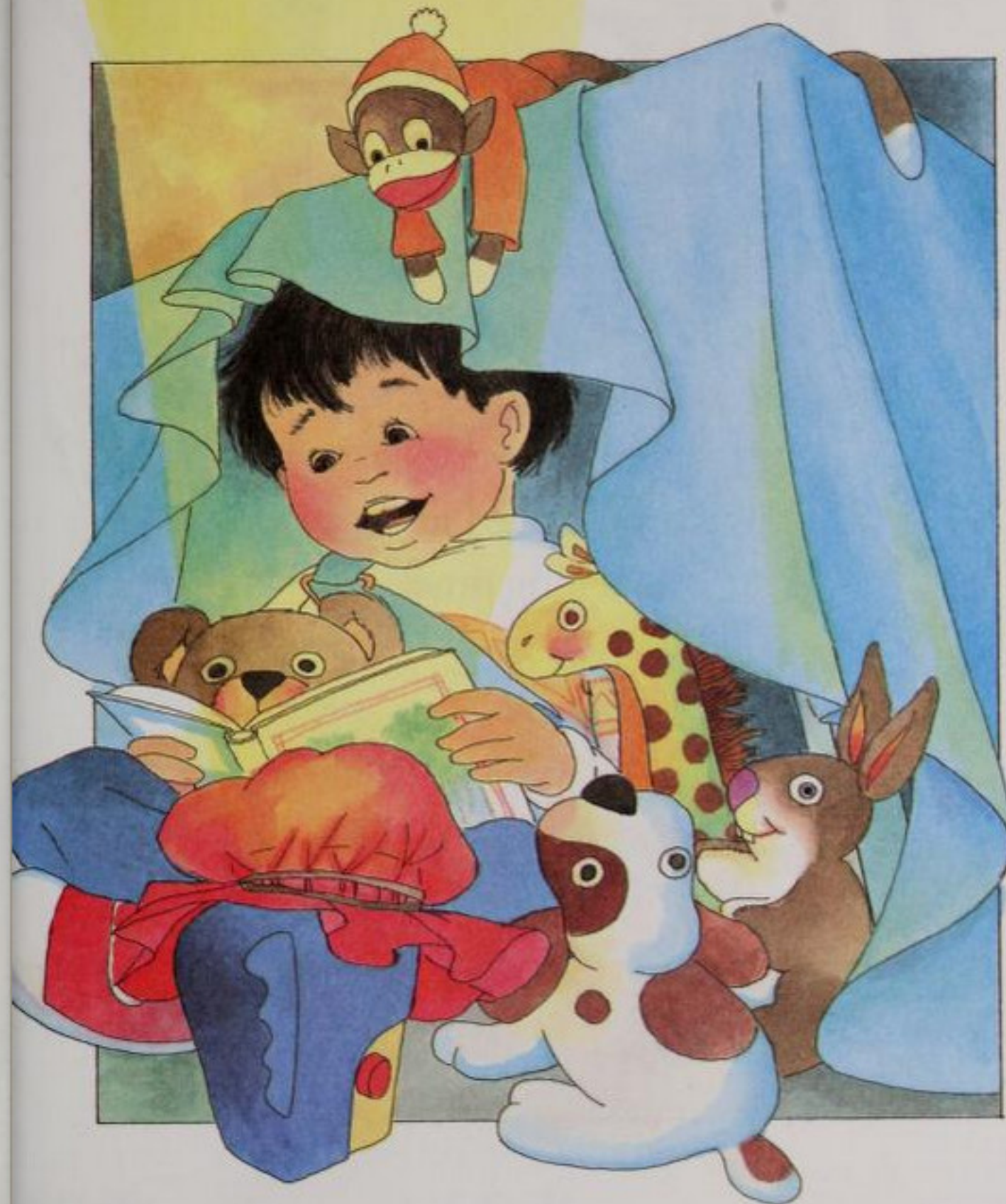
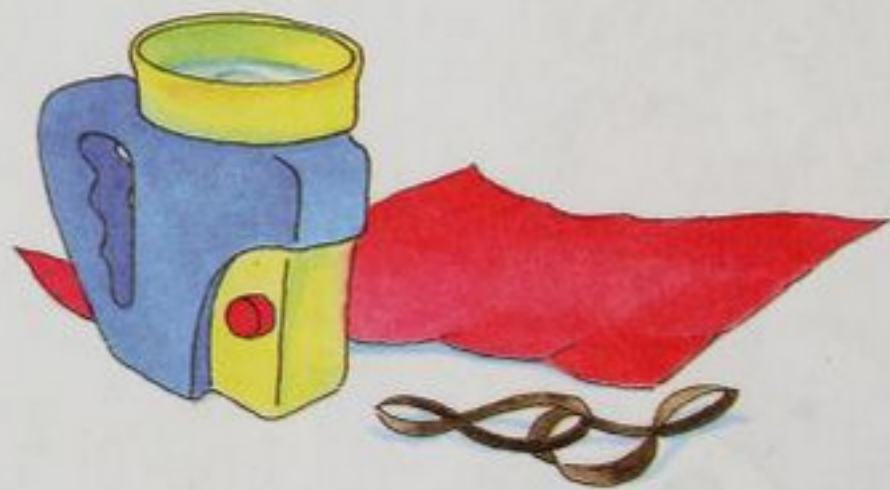
Then I went upstairs and  
brought down all of my favorite books.  
I packed the books and some toys  
in my suitcase.



There were animals in the woods, too.  
I made a small tent just for them.

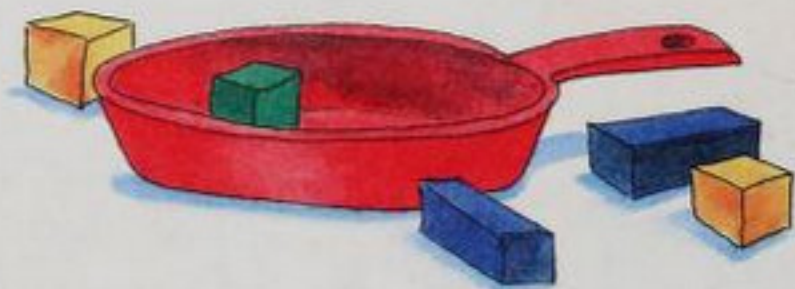


Mommy said,  
“I think you need a fire to keep you warm.”  
So we built a fire with the flashlight  
and some red tissue paper.  
I told stories to the animals from  
my picture books.





Then I cooked lunch  
for the animals over the fire. They ate it all up  
and growled and grumbled when I said  
they couldn't have any more.  
After lunch we played in the woods  
for a long time.



“You can have nap time in your tent,”  
said Mommy.

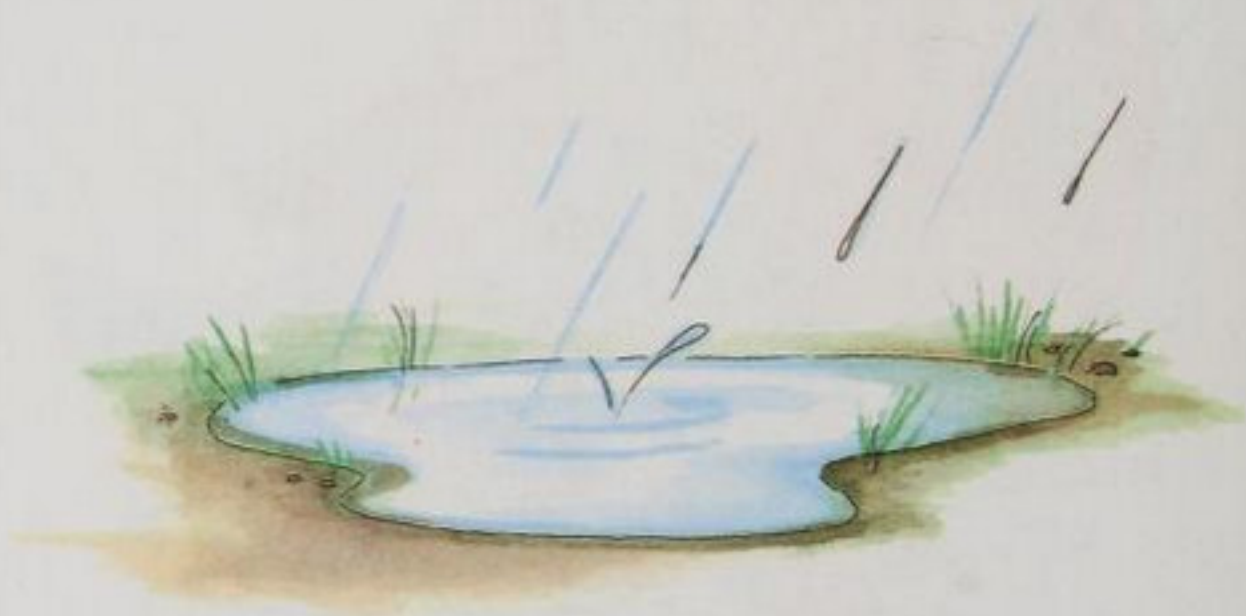
“Time for your nap,” I told the animals.  
I made them all lie down.  
They growled and grumbled some more.



After my nap, Mommy said,  
“Let’s get our umbrellas and take some cookies  
to the Lopez family down the street.  
Mr. Lopez has been sick this week.  
We’ll go cheer them up.” So we did.



On the way home we splashed in the puddles.  
We stuck out our tongues to taste the rain.  
The rain made the air smell good.  
“Why does God make rainy days?” I asked.

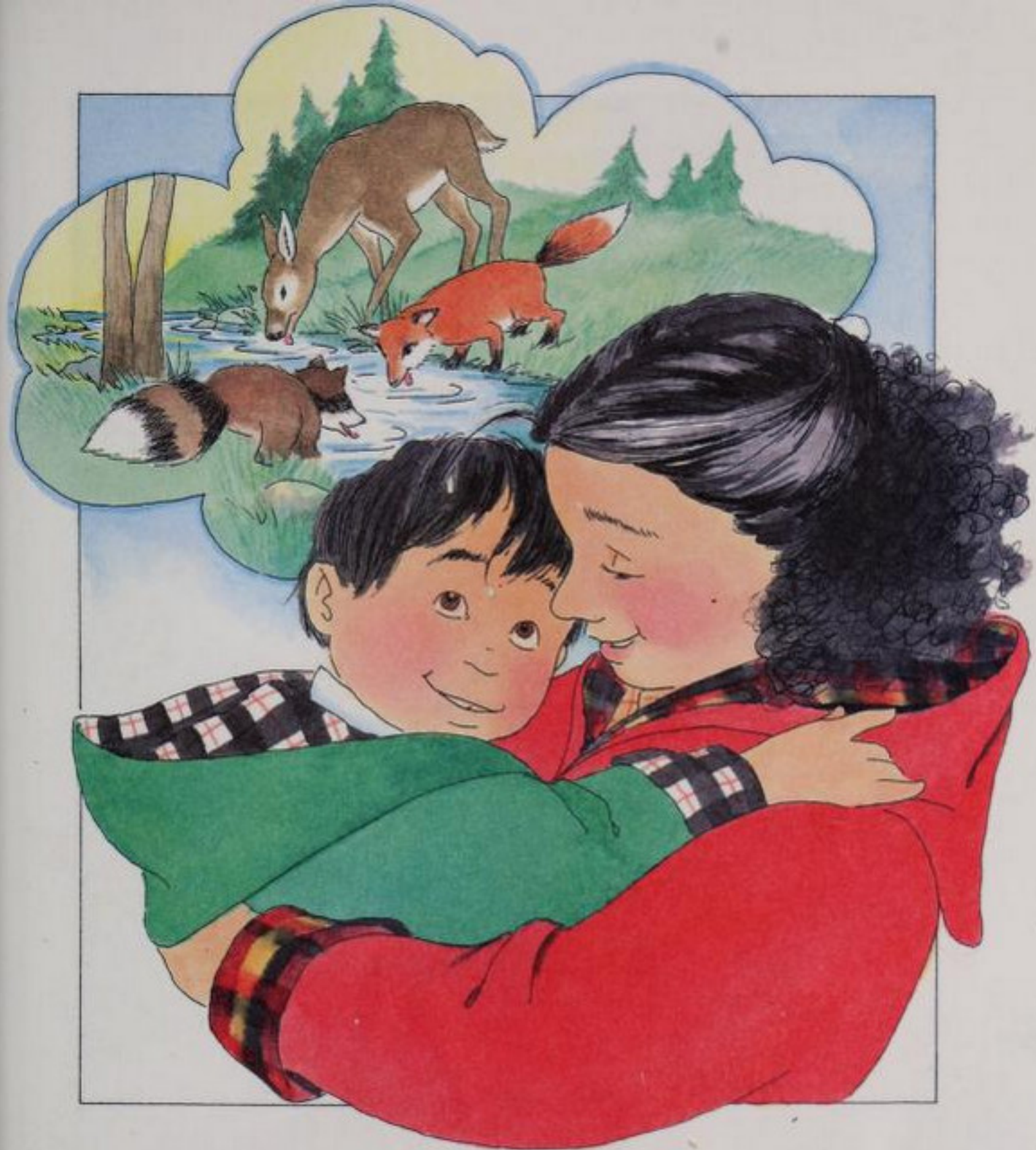


“God uses rain to give all the plants  
and animals a drink when they’re thirsty,”  
Mommy said.

“That’s how we get our water to drink, too.”

I can’t wait until I grow up  
and know lots of things like Mommy.

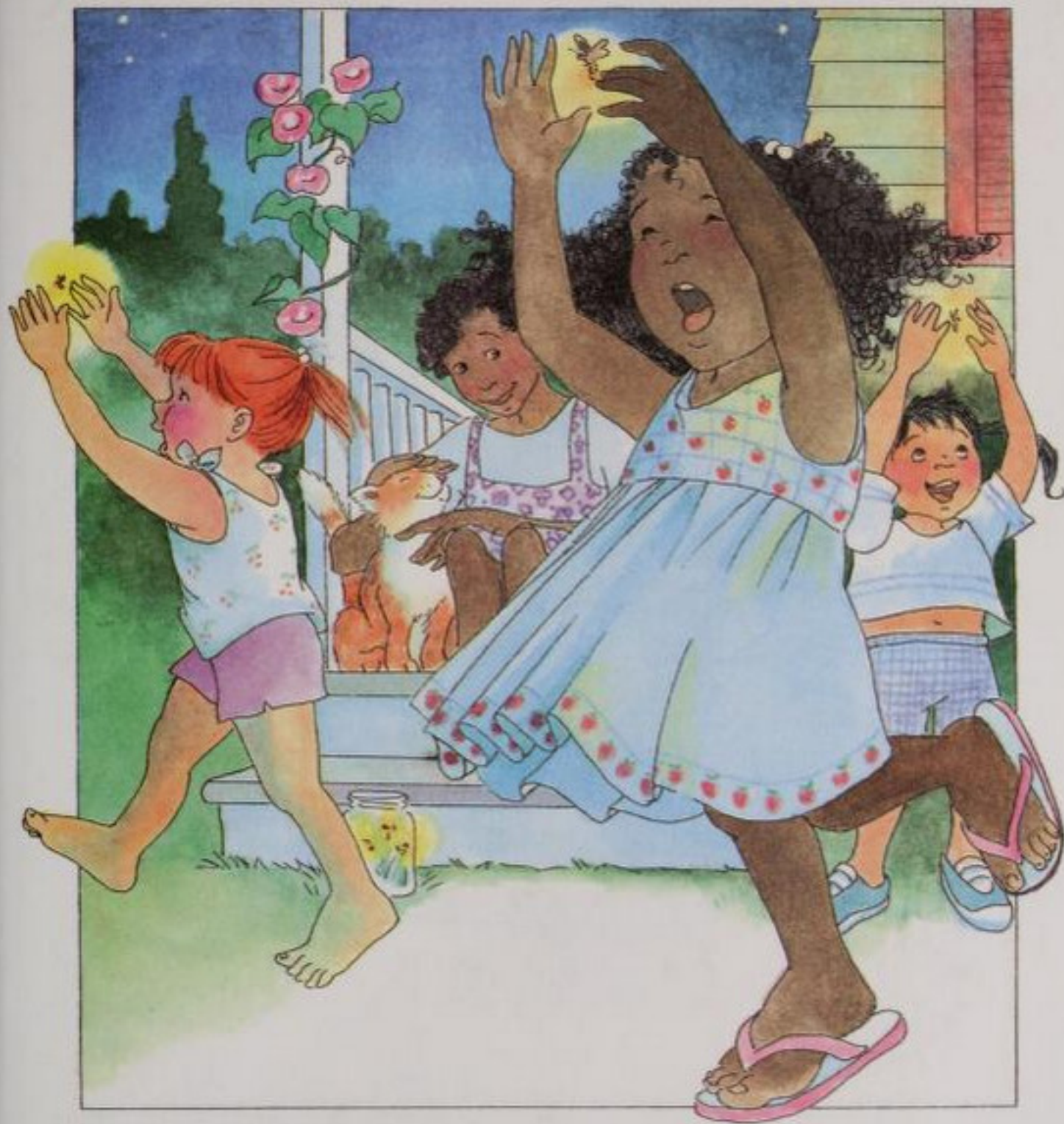
I love my mommy, and my mommy loves me.  
That’s the way God planned it to be.



## Bedtime with Mommy

We were playing outside  
catching fireflies. I started to yawn.

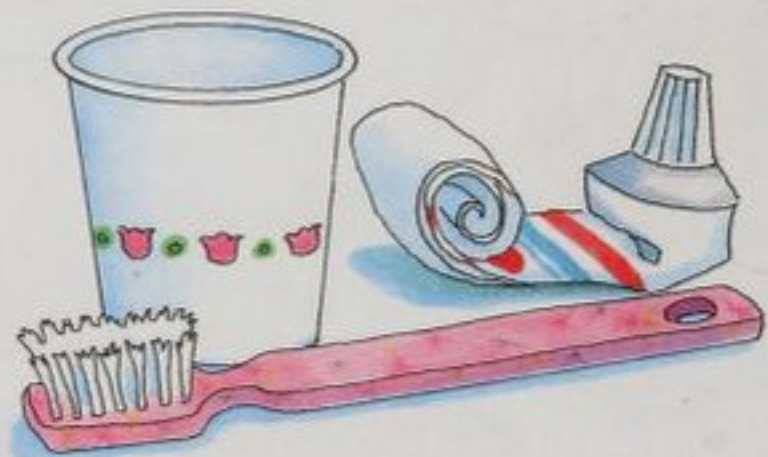
Mommy said,  
“It’s time for bed, Sleepyhead.”



So I began to get ready.  
First I fed Fuzzy, our cat, and put water  
in her bowl.

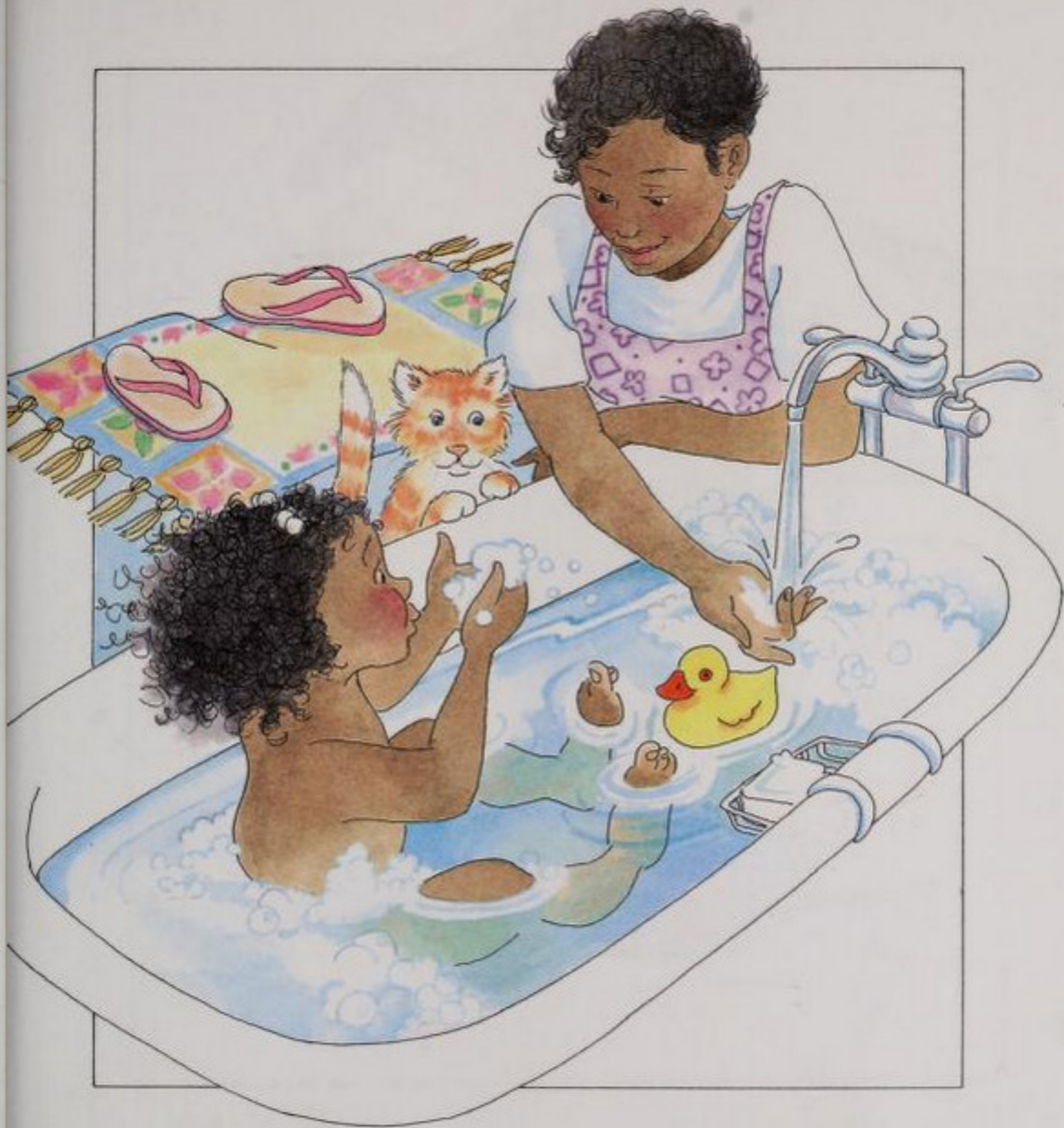
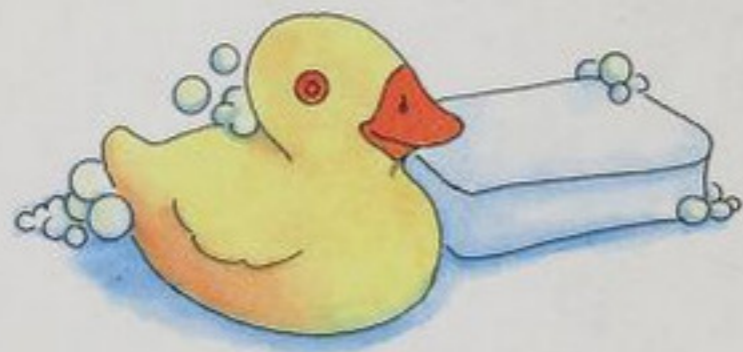


Next, I went upstairs to brush my teeth.  
I have a toothbrush that sparkles.  
Brush, brush, *kersplat!*





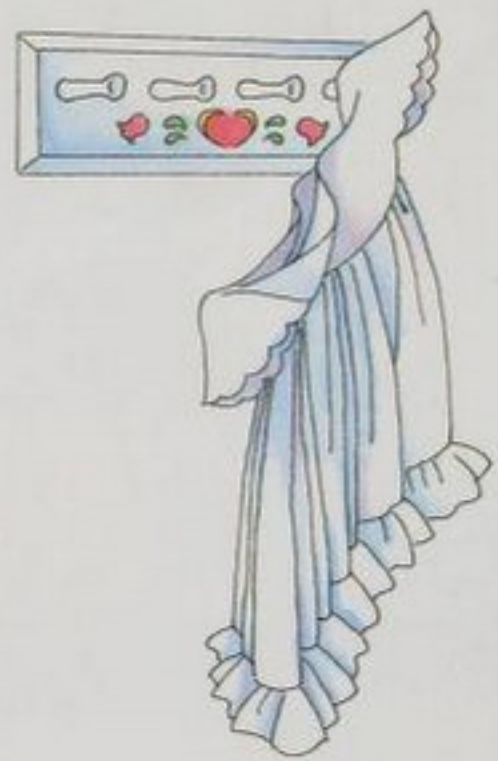
Then, I took a nice long bath.  
Mommy put my duck and my boat  
in the water with me.



Mommy washed my hair.  
She made lots of funny shapes with  
the shampoo.

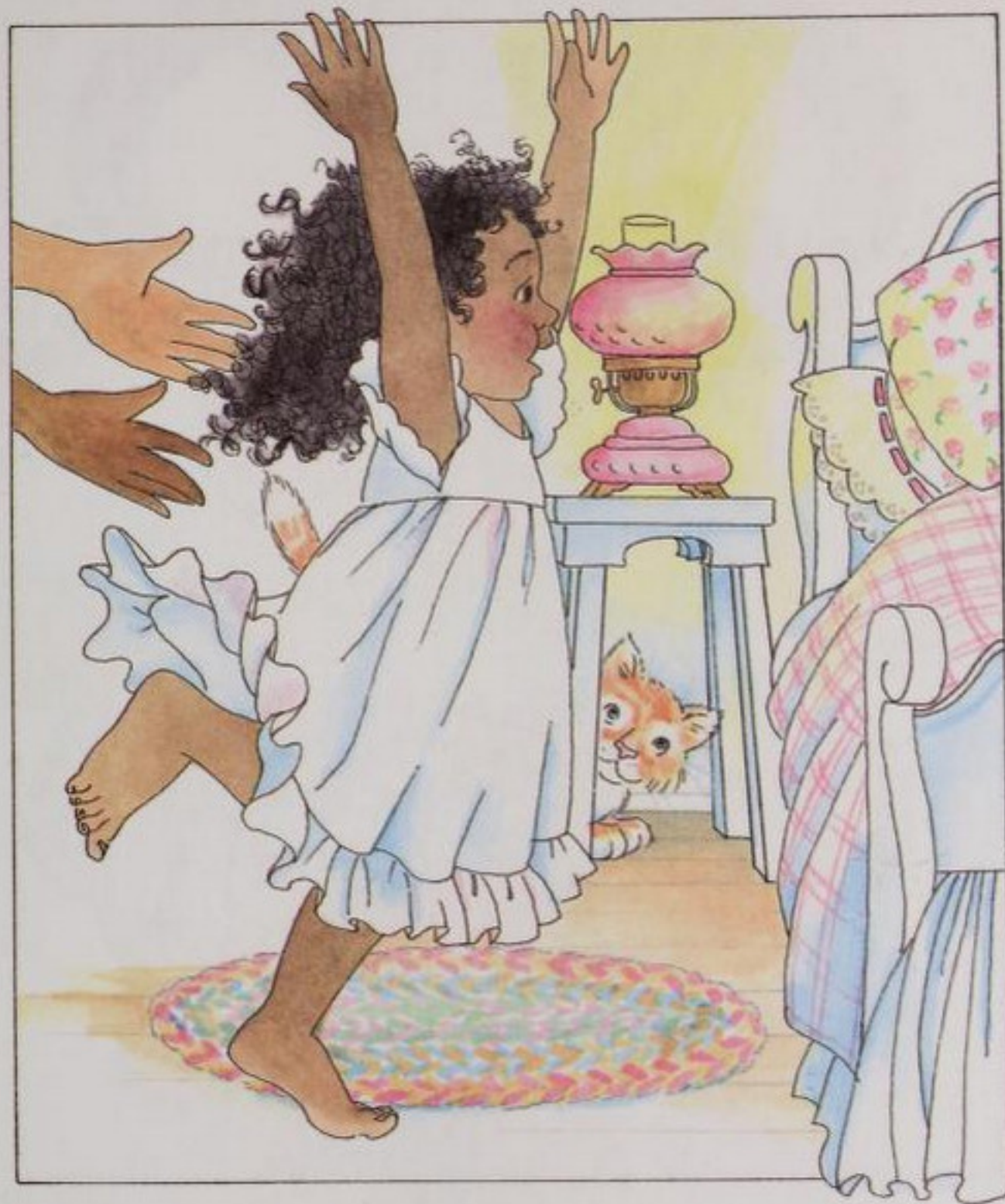


Then she dried me off  
with a big fluffy towel and I put on  
my favorite jammies.



“Hop into bed, Little Chickadee,”  
said Mommy.

“I need to say goodnight to all  
the animals,” I said.



*I* said goodnight to Bear and Elephant.  
Then Mommy read me a Bible story.

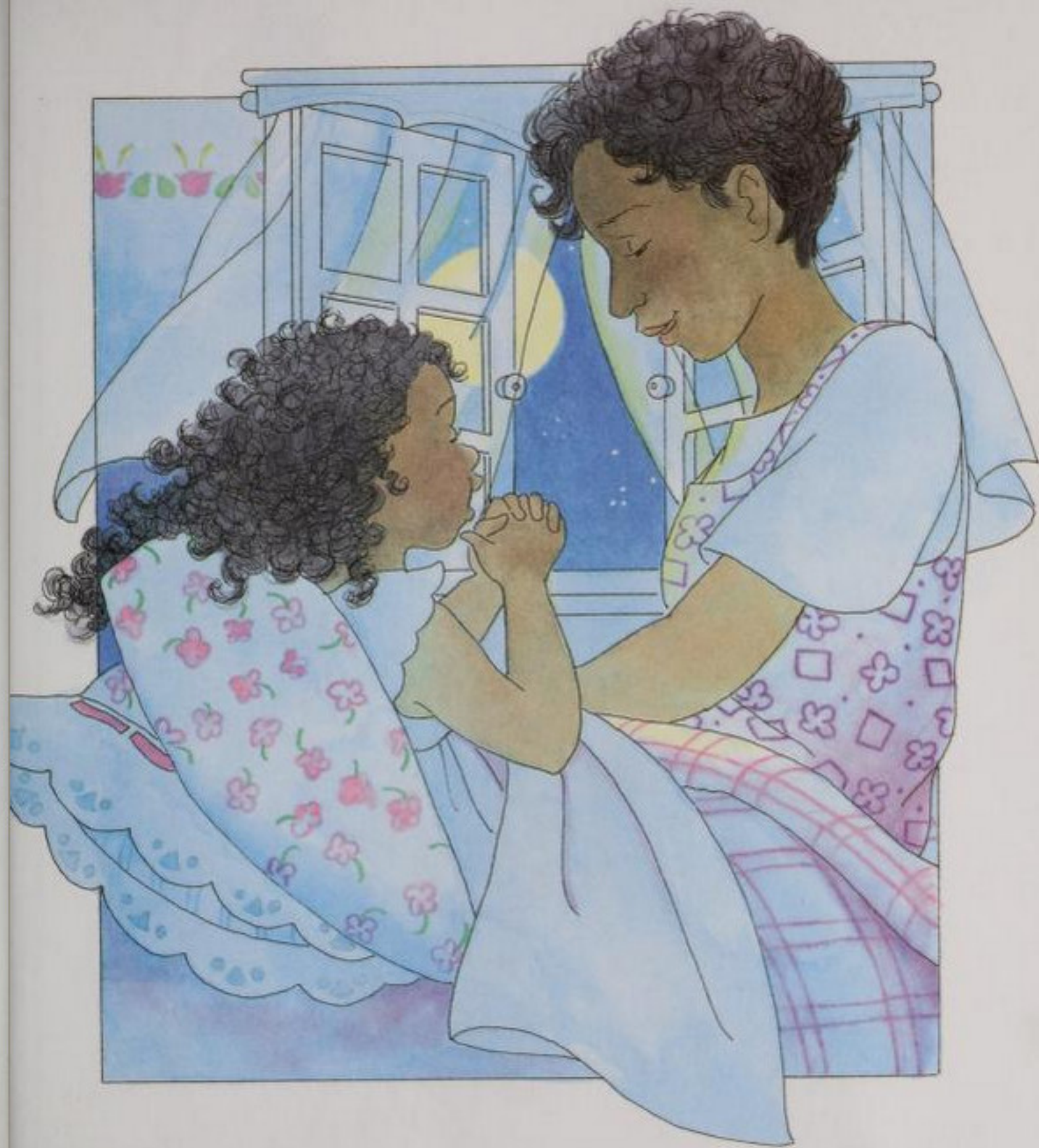


Mommy turned off the  
lights and we prayed and talked together  
in the dark for a while.

“Mommy, do you love me?” I said.

“Oh, yes,” Mommy said softly.

“I love you *very* much.”

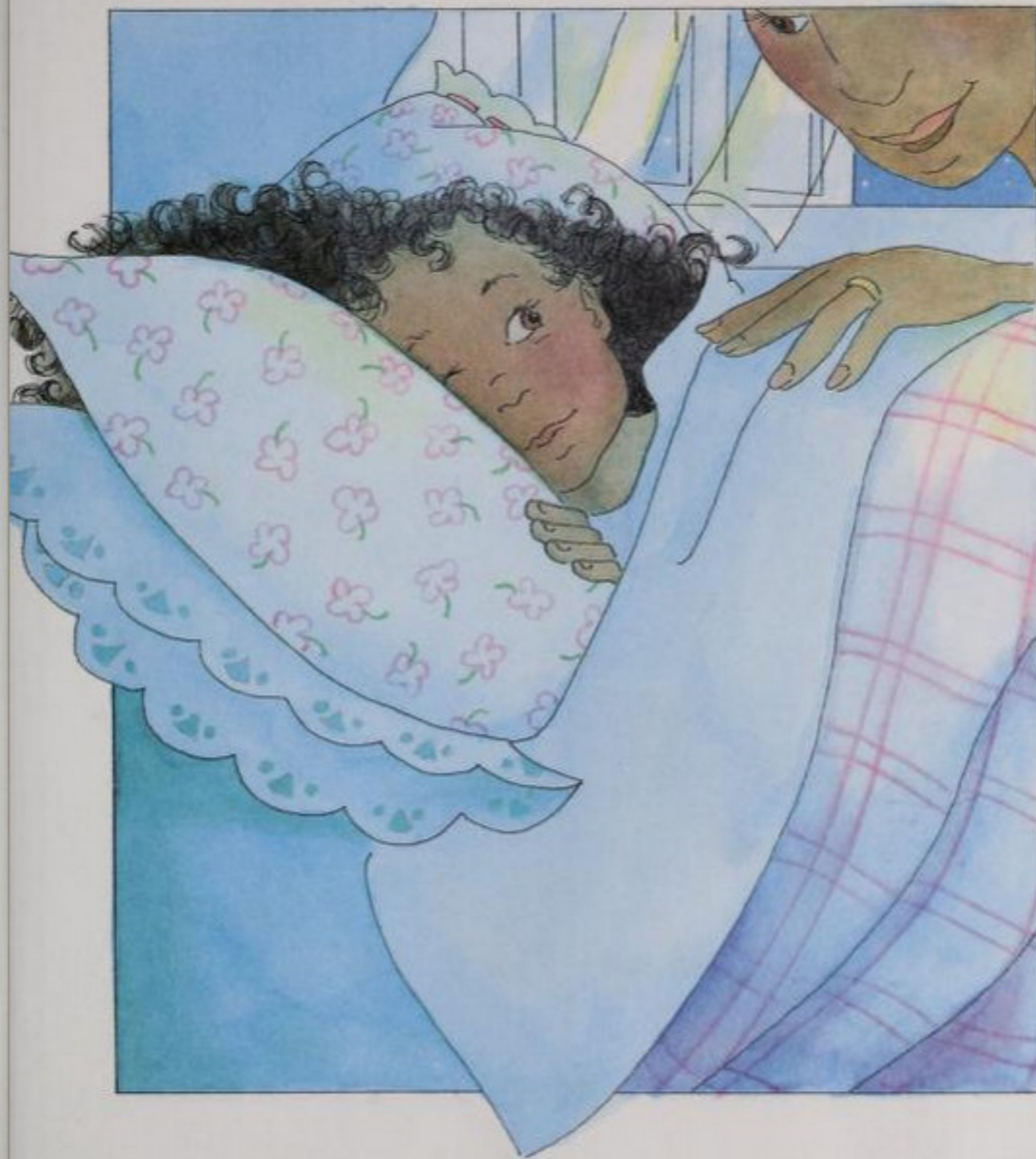


“But will you *always* love me?”  
I asked as I scrunched down into  
my nice soft pillow.

“Yes, I will *always* love you,” said Mommy.  
I love you more and more every day.”



“But Mommy,  
do you love me even when I do *bad* things?”  
I peeked out of one eye.  
“Yes,” she said, “Even when I’m angry with you,  
I still love you.”





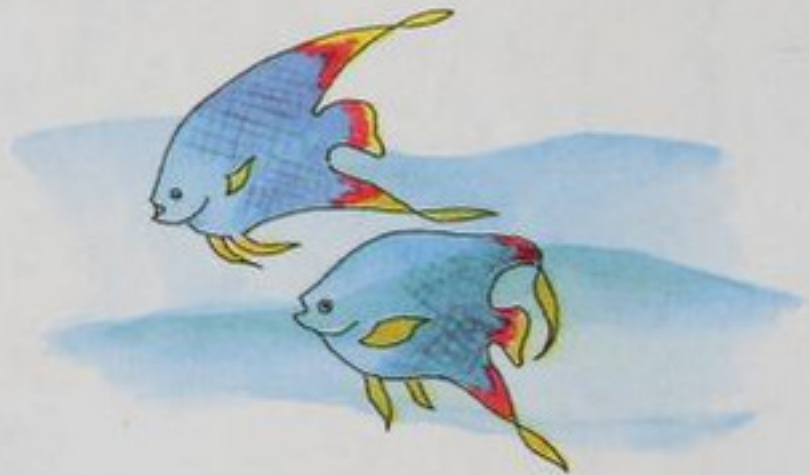
“Mommy... *why* do you love me?”

“I love you for so many reasons I can’t even count them all. I love you just because you’re you. I love your nose, I love your eyes, I love the you that you are inside.”

She gave me a great big hug.

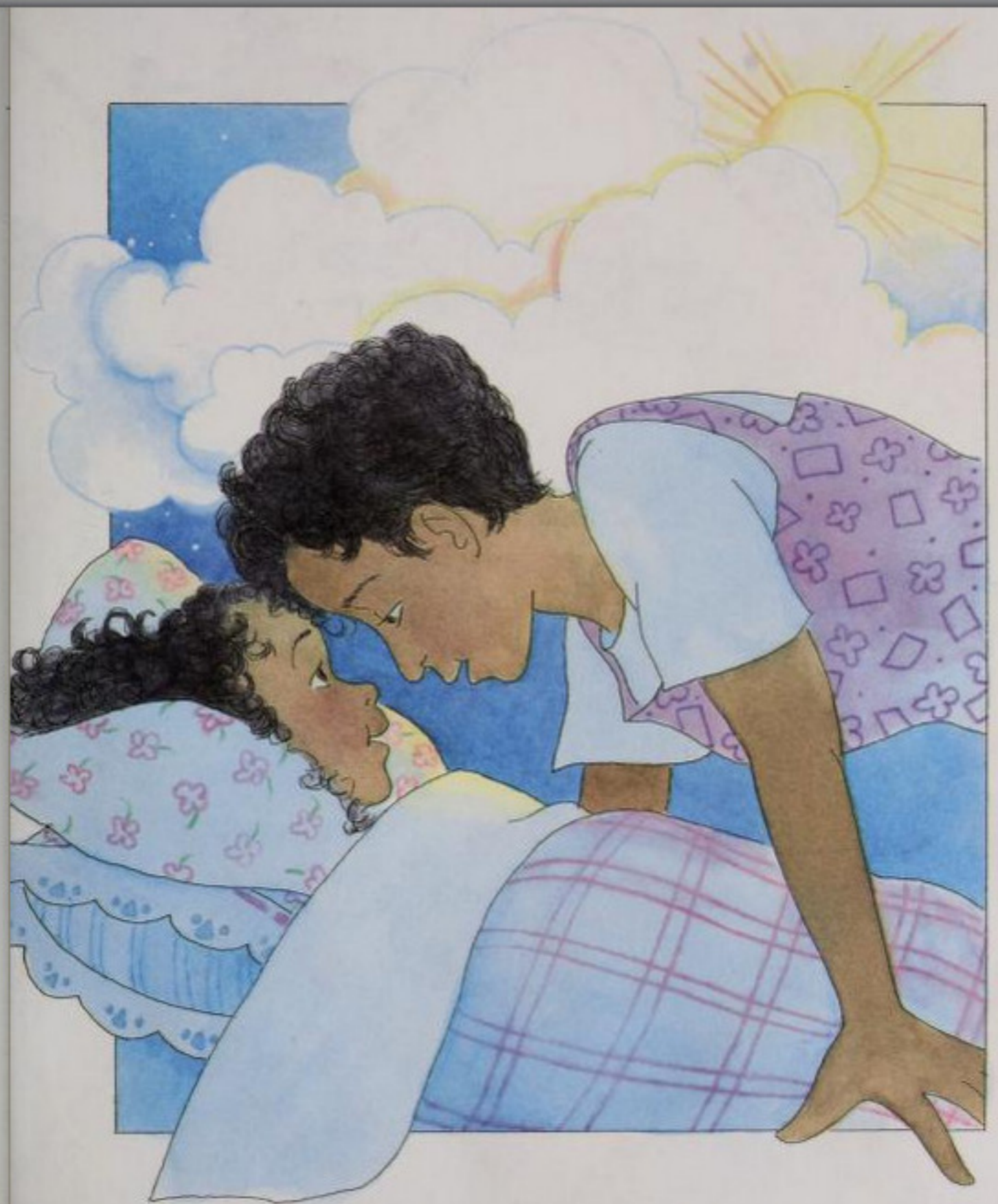


“Listen to this and always remember it:  
The ocean isn’t deep enough to hold all  
the love I have for you.”



“The sky isn’t high enough  
to hold all the love I have for you.  
You will always have your own special place  
right here in my heart. Now, close your eyes,  
Little Mouse, and go to sleep.”

I love my mommy, and my mommy loves me.  
That’s the way God planned it to be.





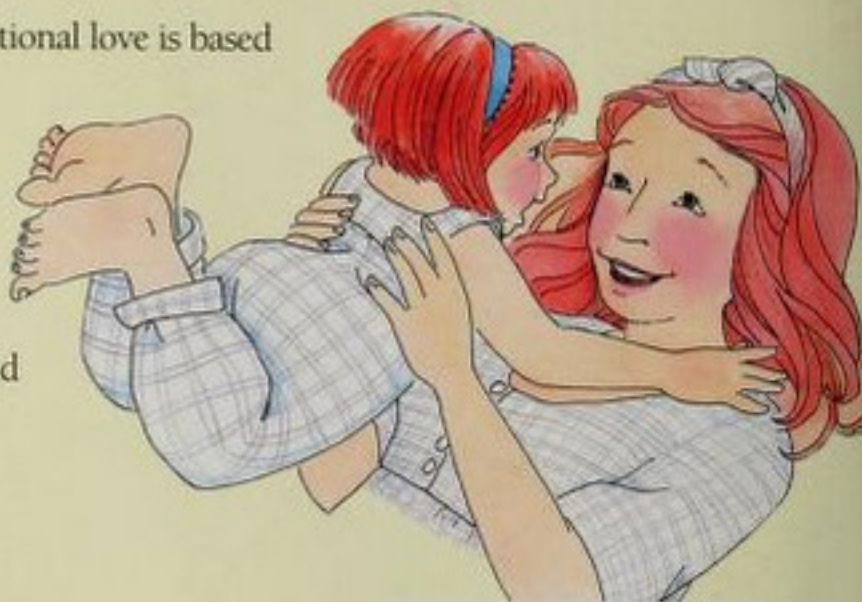
# “My Mommy Loves Me... No Matter What.”

CHILDREN LONG TO KNOW that they are loved deeply and unconditionally, and nothing instills this sense of security like a gentle tickle or warm hug from an adored parent, accompanied by tender words like:

- “I love you just because you’re you.”
- “I love you even when I’m angry with you.”
- “I will always love you, no matter what.”

Your child’s first picture of God’s unconditional love is based on the support that comes from you.

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CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 5