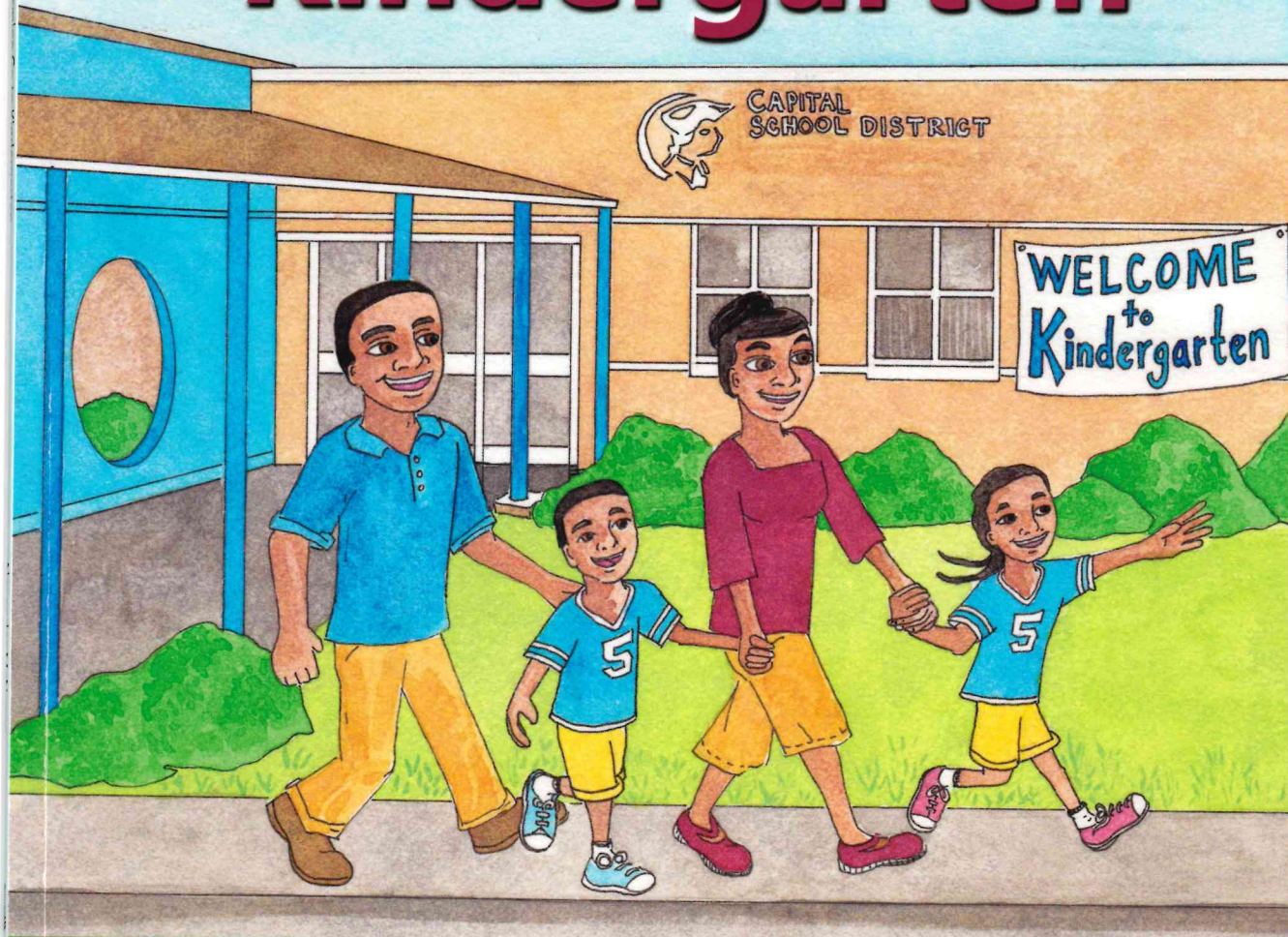
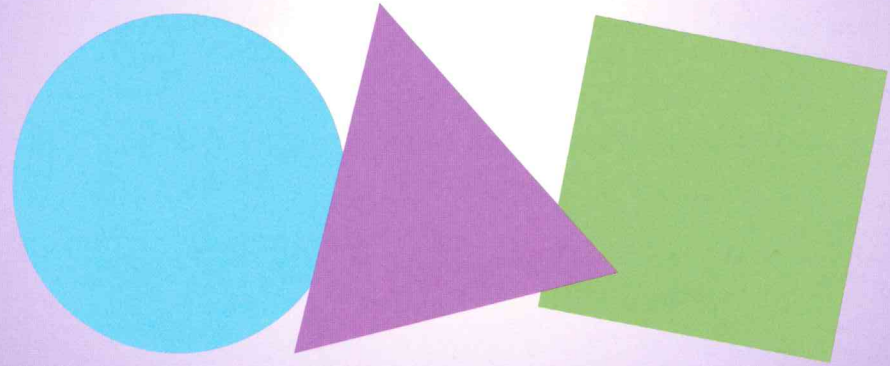


Joshua and Jasmine Go to Kindergarten



Written by Alexander McNeece & Illustrated by Molly McNeece

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Kindergarten




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Joshua and Jasmine Go to Kindergarten

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Summary: Twin five-year-olds Joshua and Jasmine practice letters, numbers, shapes, and colors in preparation for kindergarten.

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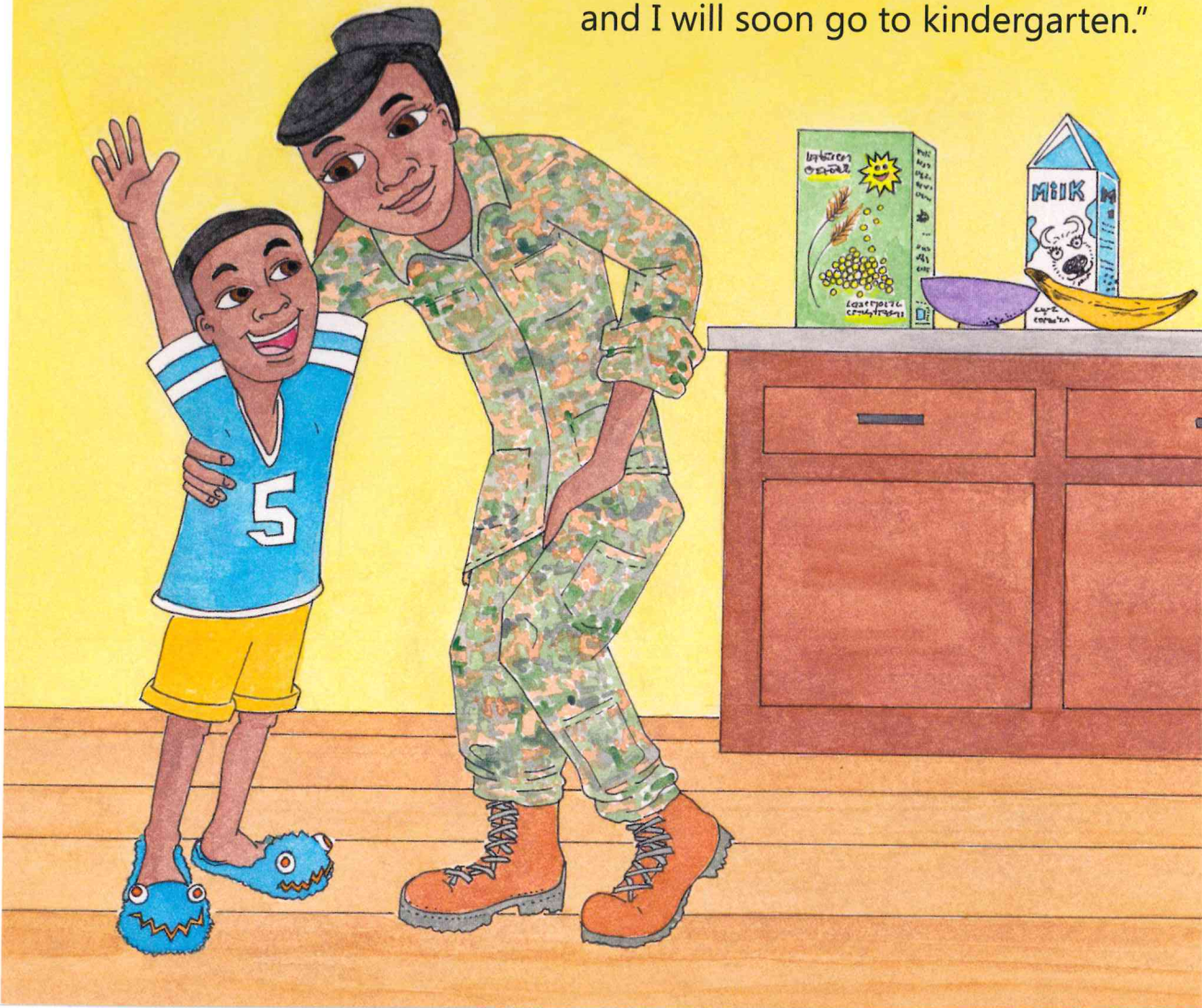
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Dedication

To all of the early childhood teachers: thank you for your dedication, care, and expertise. You set the foundation for all education, and your work impacts students for a lifetime.

"Momma! It's my birthday," Joshua said.

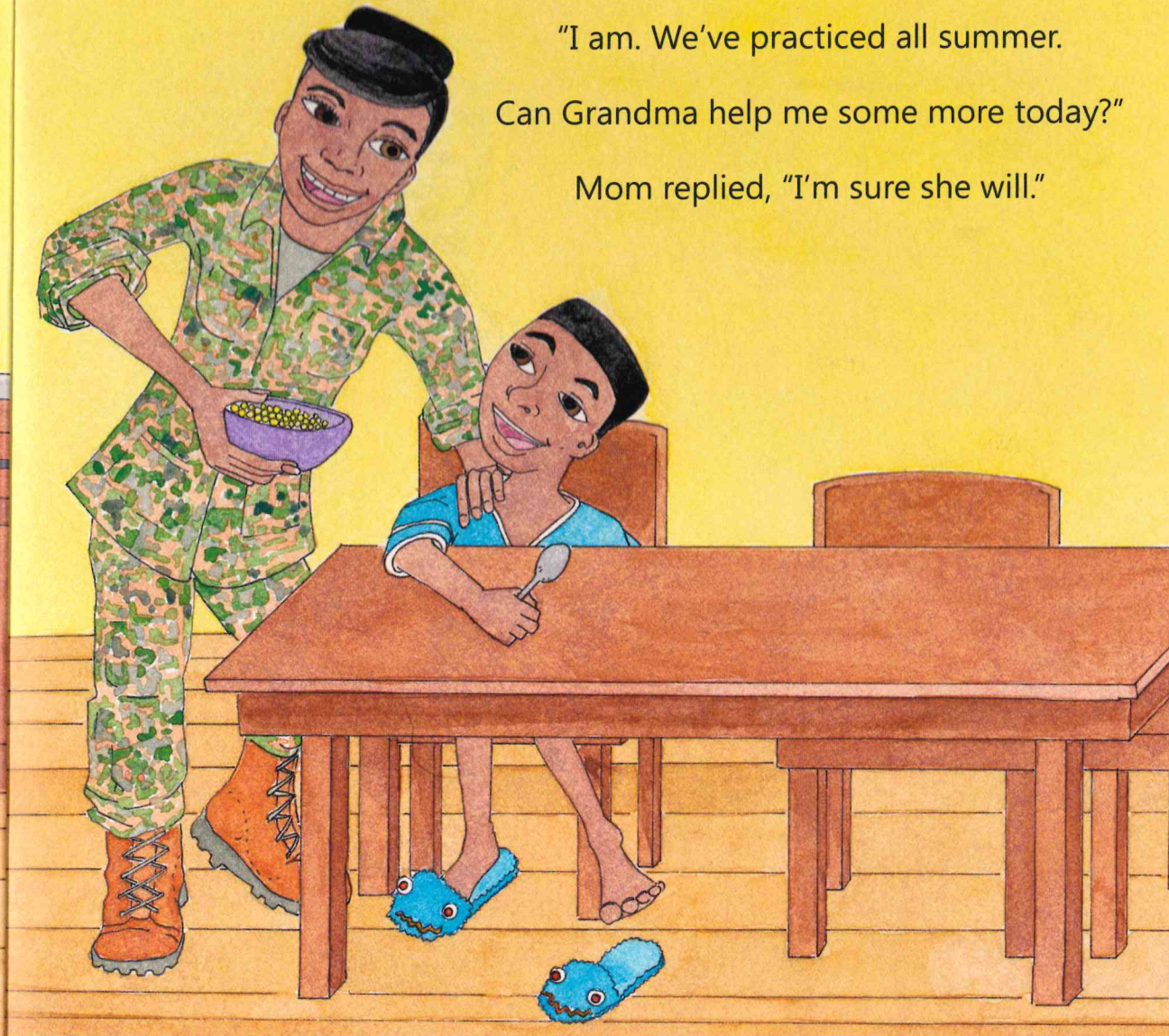
"I'm five,
and I will soon go to kindergarten."



"Happy birthday! Are you ready for school?"
Mom asked.

"I am. We've practiced all summer.
Can Grandma help me some more today?"

Mom replied, "I'm sure she will."

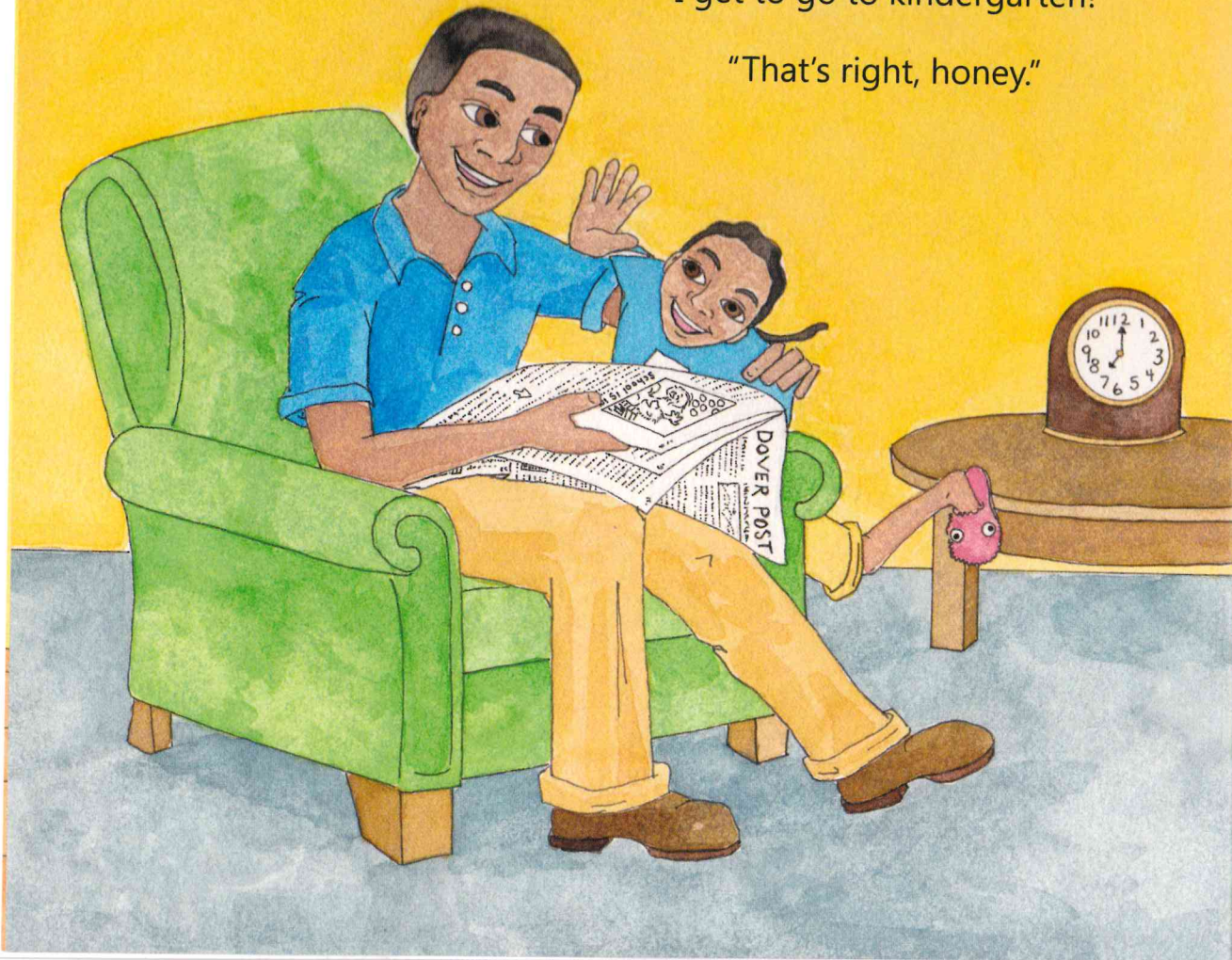


"Daddy, I'm finally five!" Jasmine said.

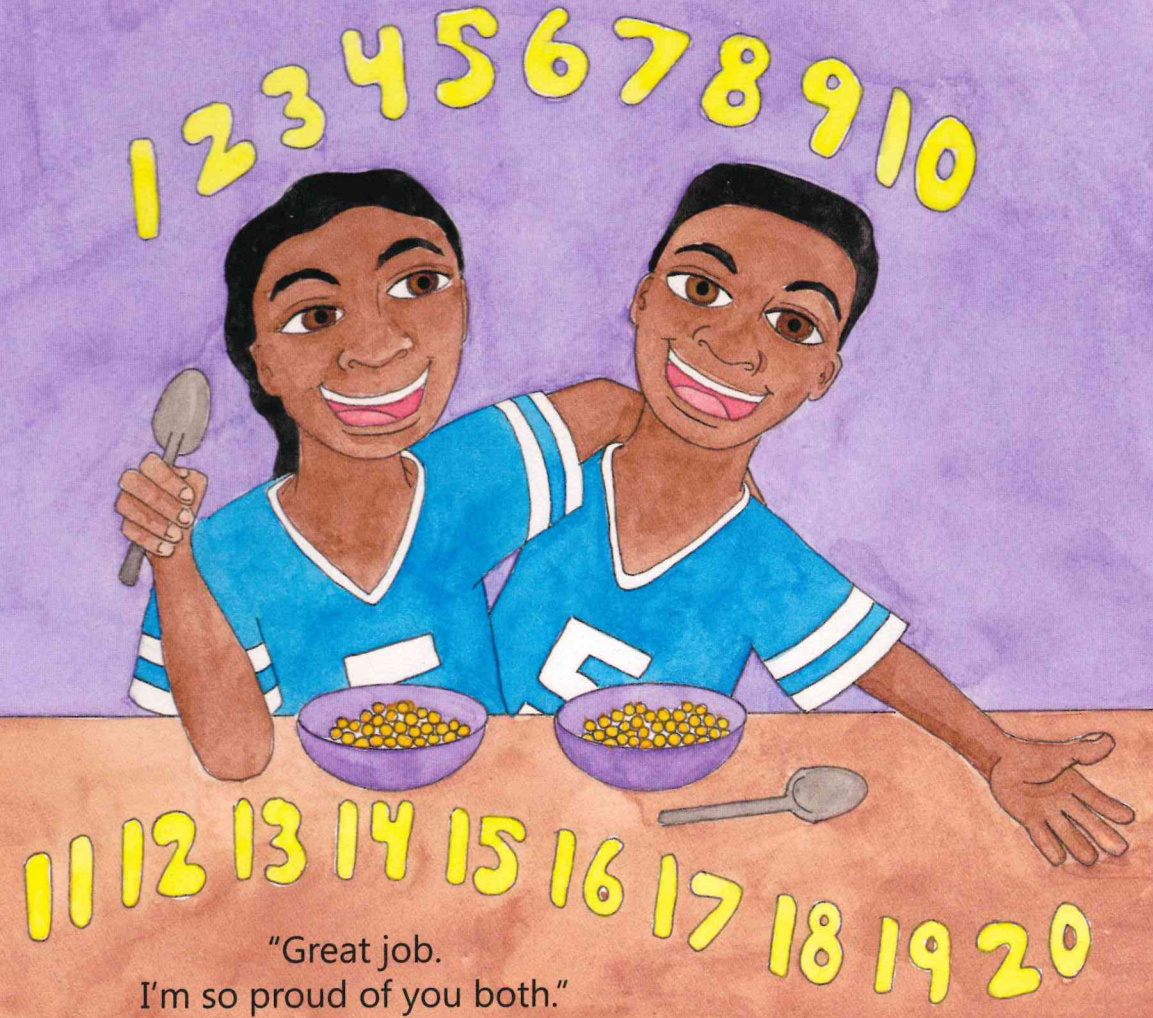
"What a big girl you are. You know what happens now, right?" Dad asked.

"I get to go to kindergarten!"

"That's right, honey."

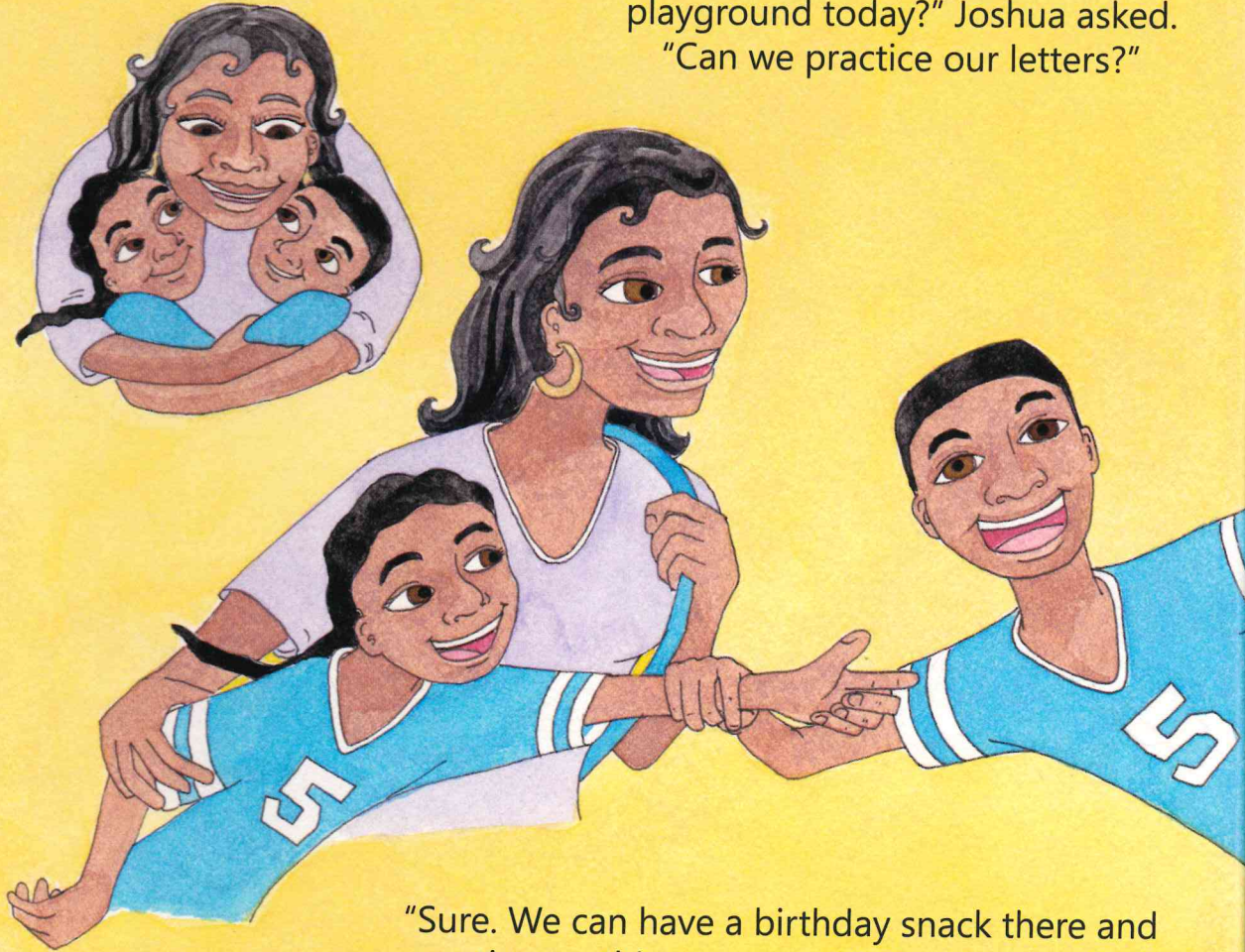


"Let's see, do you know all of your numbers?" asked Dad.
"We do. Listen," the kids said together and they counted to twenty.



"Happy birthday, kids."

"Grandma, can we go to the playground today?" Joshua asked.
"Can we practice our letters?"



"Sure. We can have a birthday snack there and practice anything you want," Grandma replied.

On their way to the playground, Grandma asked,
"Do you know all of your letters?"

"We sure do," Joshua and Jasmine said together.
They sang the ABC song.

"Very good. You are ready," Grandma said.



At the playground, Jasmine pulled out a book from Grandma's bag.
"I know a letter can be big or little," she said.
"Big or little?" Joshua asked.
"Sure. Like this. See? A big letter E. And a little letter E looks like this.
See?" Jasmine replied.

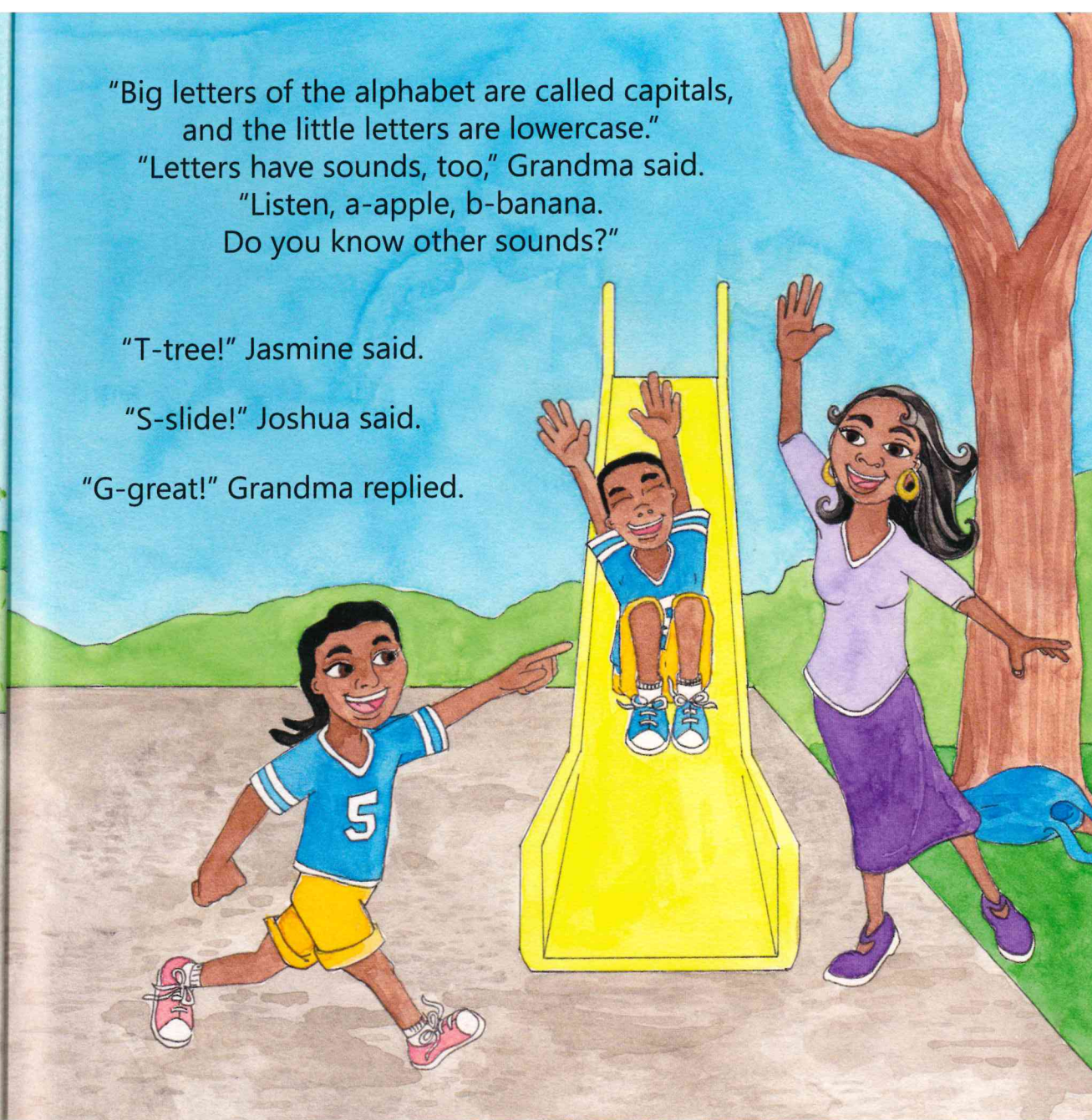


"Big letters of the alphabet are called capitals,
and the little letters are lowercase."
"Letters have sounds, too," Grandma said.
"Listen, a-apple, b-banana.
Do you know other sounds?"

"T-tree!" Jasmine said.

"S-slide!" Joshua said.

"G-great!" Grandma replied.



"Do you want to play 'color spy'? I spy yellow," Grandma said.
Jasmine asked, "Is it the big yellow slide?"
"Right. I spy silver," Grandma said.
"I see it!" Joshua shouted.



A C-17 airplane zoomed through the sky.
Joshua imagined soaring through the blue sky and puffy white clouds.

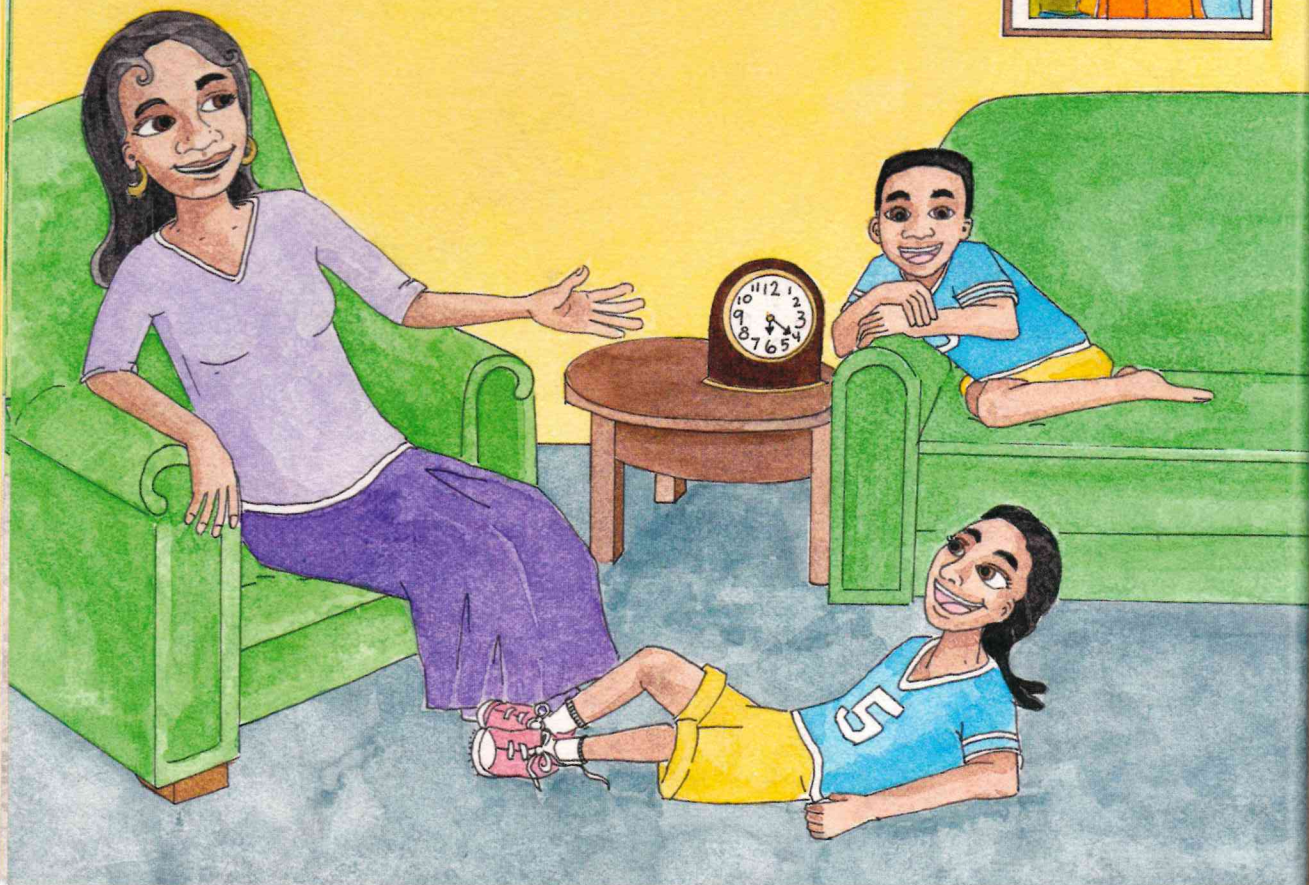


At home, Joshua said, "I spy a circle!"

"Our clock!" Grandma replied.

"How about a rectangle?" Jasmine asked.

"Our family picture."



Jasmine got paper and a box of crayons. She drew a shape.

"What's this?"

"A triangle," Joshua said. "Can I share, please?"

"Sure," Jasmine replied.

"Thank you."



"We practiced colors, shapes, and letters,"
Jasmine told their parents that evening.

"I love how hard you are working," Dad said.
"Now, let's celebrate your birthday."

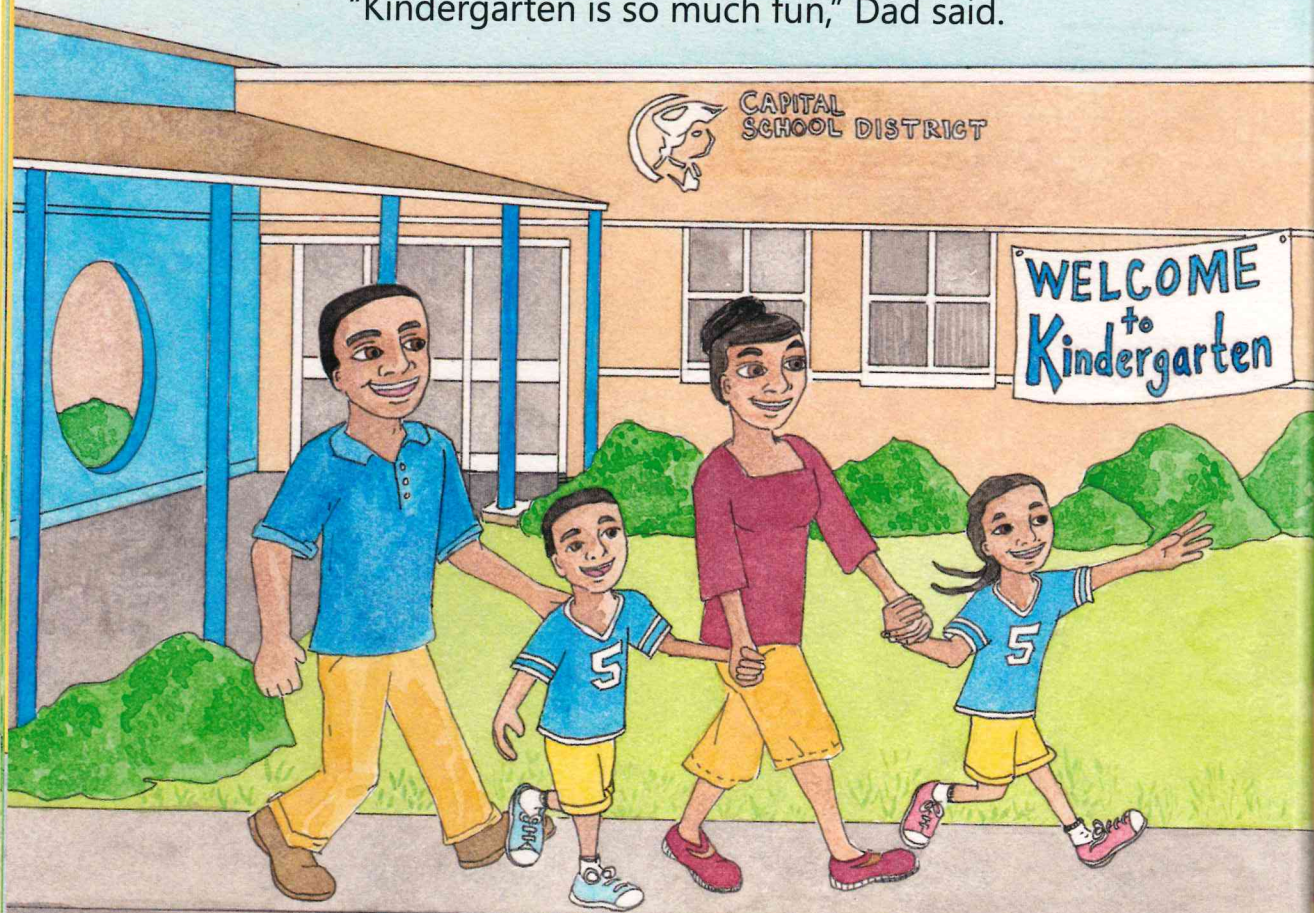


"Please clean up your supplies and put them away," Mom said.

"Then can we sing 'Happy Birthday'?" the children asked.



After cake, they walked to their new elementary school.
"Kindergarten is so much fun," Dad said.

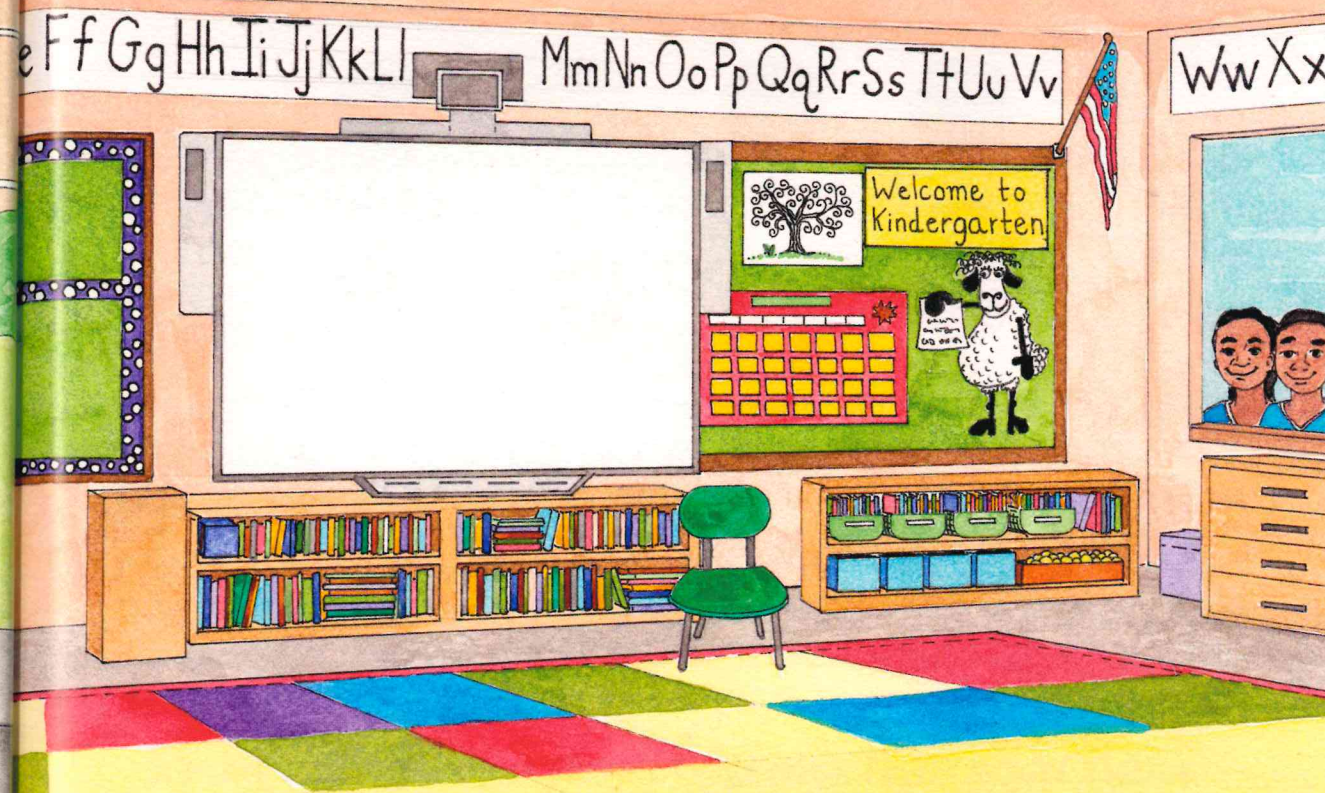


"What if I forget my numbers, or shapes,
or colors, or letters?" Joshua asked.

"The teacher will help you. You'll learn lots of new things, too,"
Mom replied.

The children started to run.
"Please walk in the parking lot," Dad said.

"Wow! Look at all the fun waiting for us," both kids said.



"I can't wait to go to kindergarten!" Joshua shouted.

"Me, too." Jasmine agreed.

Here are some fun activities for the family!

NAME THESE COLORS:

BROWN



BLACK



GREEN



BLUE



RED



YELLOW



ORANGE



PURPLE



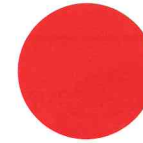
COUNT TO TWENTY:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,
12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

PRINT YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME ON A PIECE OF PAPER.

DRAW A PICTURE OF YOURSELF WITH CRAYONS AND PENCILS.

NAME THESE SHAPES:



PRACTICE USING KIND WORDS, HELPING HANDS, AND FOCUSED ATTENTION ON OTHERS. TALK ABOUT HOW YOUR CHILD FEELS. PRACTICE COMMUNICATING HIS OR HER PERSONAL FEELINGS AND THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS.

WHAT IS THE FIRST SOUND YOU HEAR IN SUN? MAN? BIRD? NOW PICK A WORD FROM THE STORY AND IDENTIFY THE FIRST SOUND YOU HEAR IN THE WORD.

LOOK FOR WORDS IN THE STORY THAT BEGIN WITH THE LETTERS S, R, L, AND T. PLAY A GAME BY FINDING ALL OF THE LETTERS IN THE ALPHABET.

Parents,

As an elementary school principal, I can't stress enough how important your role as a parent is to your child's education. You truly are your child's first teacher. Helping prepare your child for kindergarten is one of the most essential tasks you will do. This book was written to help demonstrate some of the simple yet effective things you can do that will have a dramatic impact on your child's kindergarten readiness. In this book, we tried to pack most of the essential skills needed for the first day of school.

Please accept our challenge to read this book to your child, a lot! Actively read and engage with him or her by singing the alphabet, practicing letter sounds, pointing out shapes or colors, or even reciting numbers. Also, do the quiz pages each time you read the book. Those pages are very close to one of the first tests your child will take in the fall.

Thank you for your time and dedication to making sure your child is ready for kindergarten, and also for letting this book serve as a resource for you and your child. Kindergarten is one of the first steps that your child will take on his or her educational journey. We can all agree on the importance of getting a great start. The results of you reading this book, and many more, to him or her will put your child on the path for success!

Alexander McNeece and The South Dover Readiness Team



About the Author:

Alexander McNeece received a bachelor's and master's degree in education from Michigan State University. After teaching English for eight years in Southfield, he now works as an administrator in Garden City, Michigan. He speaks both locally and nationally about his books, as well as English Language Arts, and educating at-risk readers. His first book, *Sam Iver: Imminent Threat*, was written for reluctant, video-game-addicted teenage audiences. Please visit his website, alexandermcneece.com, for more information. He lives with his wife and two children in southeastern Michigan.



About the Illustrator:

Molly McNeece is an award-winning art educator and artist living in southeastern Michigan. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Michigan State University. Molly enjoys teaching, gardening, traveling, and working in her studio. Her first book, *Surviving the Zombie Apocalypse*, is available in iBooks. To learn more about her artwork, visit mollymcneece.com.

If you enjoyed this book, you may enjoy the following books which can be found at your local library:

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Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Corduroy by Don Freeman

Bread and Jam for Frances by Russell Hoban

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss

Over in the Meadow by John Langstaff

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr and John Archambault

Have You Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff

Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

Oh No! Ah Yes! by Kalli K. Reid

Curious George by H. A. Rey

We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen

The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst

Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile by Bernard Waber



Now that twins Joshua and Jasmine are five years old, it's almost time to start kindergarten. But are they ready? Spend the day with them as they practice their ABCs, numbers, colors, and shapes with their family.

Capital School District Mission

Capital School District, in partnership with students, families, and the community, is committed to leadership and educational excellence. We will educate all students in state-of-the-art facilities to achieve their potential by providing a safe, nurturing environment where standards are high and learning is the priority.

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