

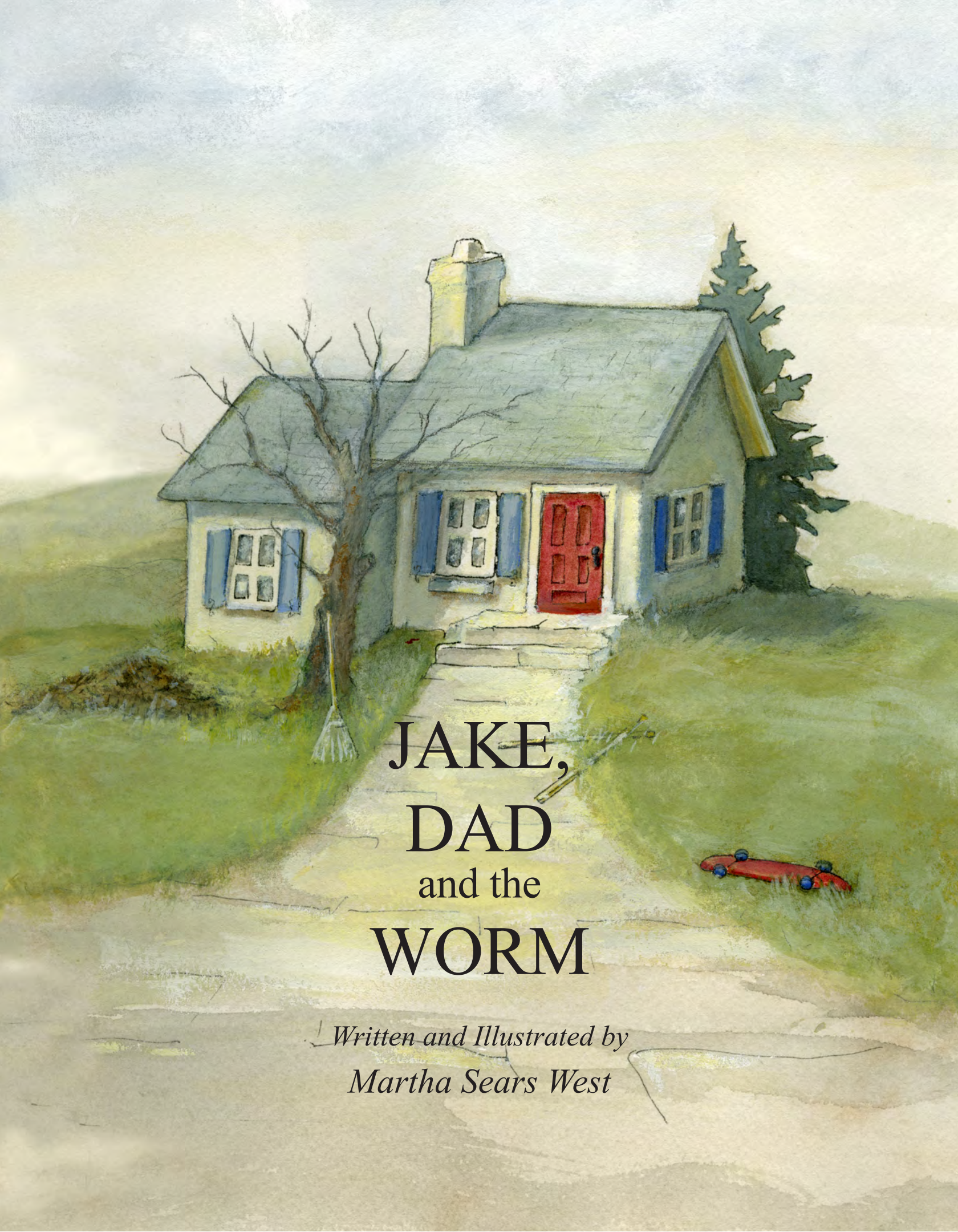
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY

Martha Sears West

PREVIEW








JAKE, DAD and the WORM

*Written and Illustrated by
Martha Sears West*



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One fall when Jake was small,
you see, the story goes like this:
His skateboard hit a little tree
he'd rather hoped to miss.

And then there were the stilts
he thought would maximize his height,

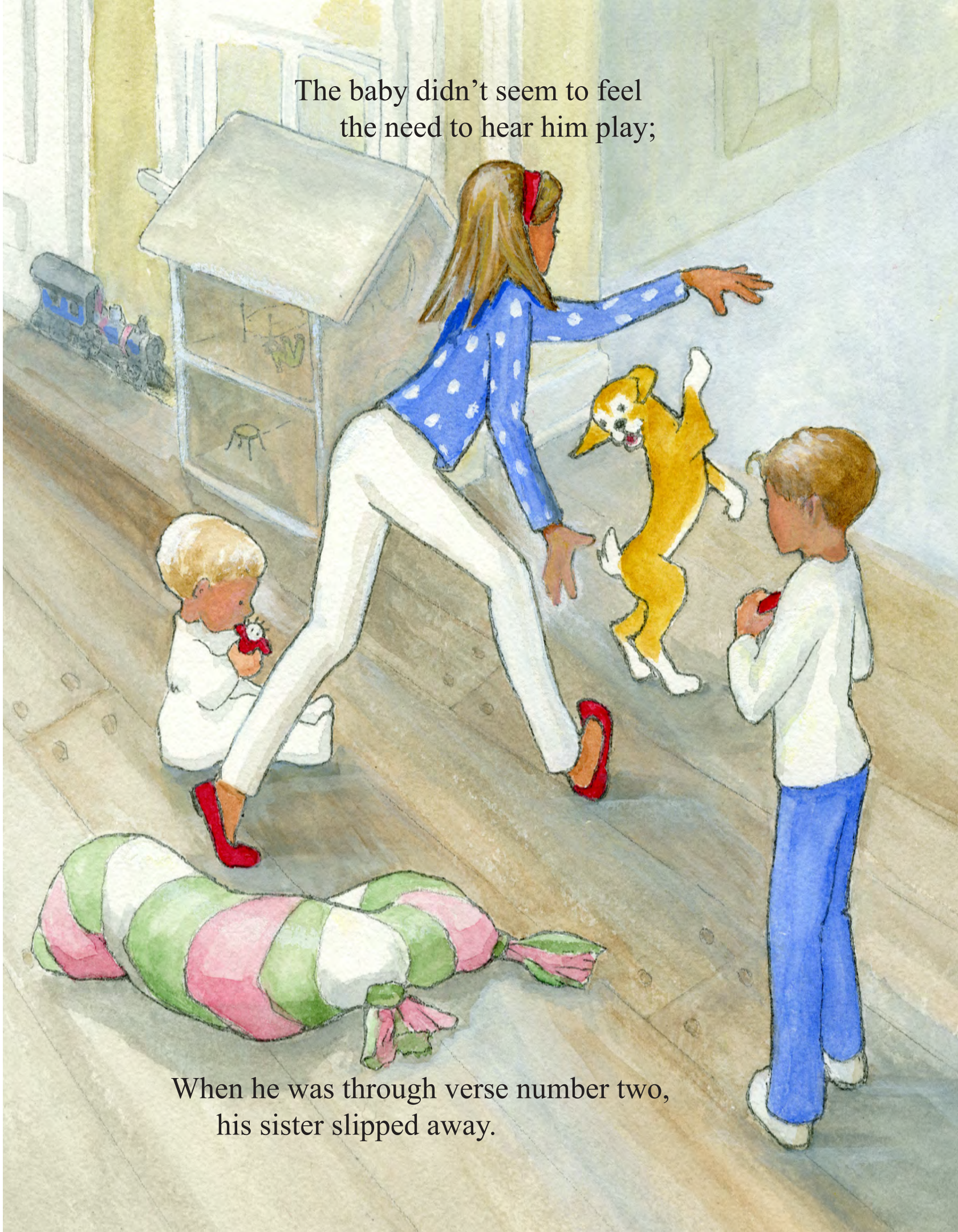


Until he got his left leg
kind of mixed up with his right.


So there was nothing left, he thought,
but playing his kazoo.
Performing for the family
was the only thing to do.



The baby didn't seem to feel
the need to hear him play;



When he was through verse number two,
his sister slipped away.



He felt a little smaller
than he even had before,
So Jake went out to look for Dad,
and slowly closed the door.

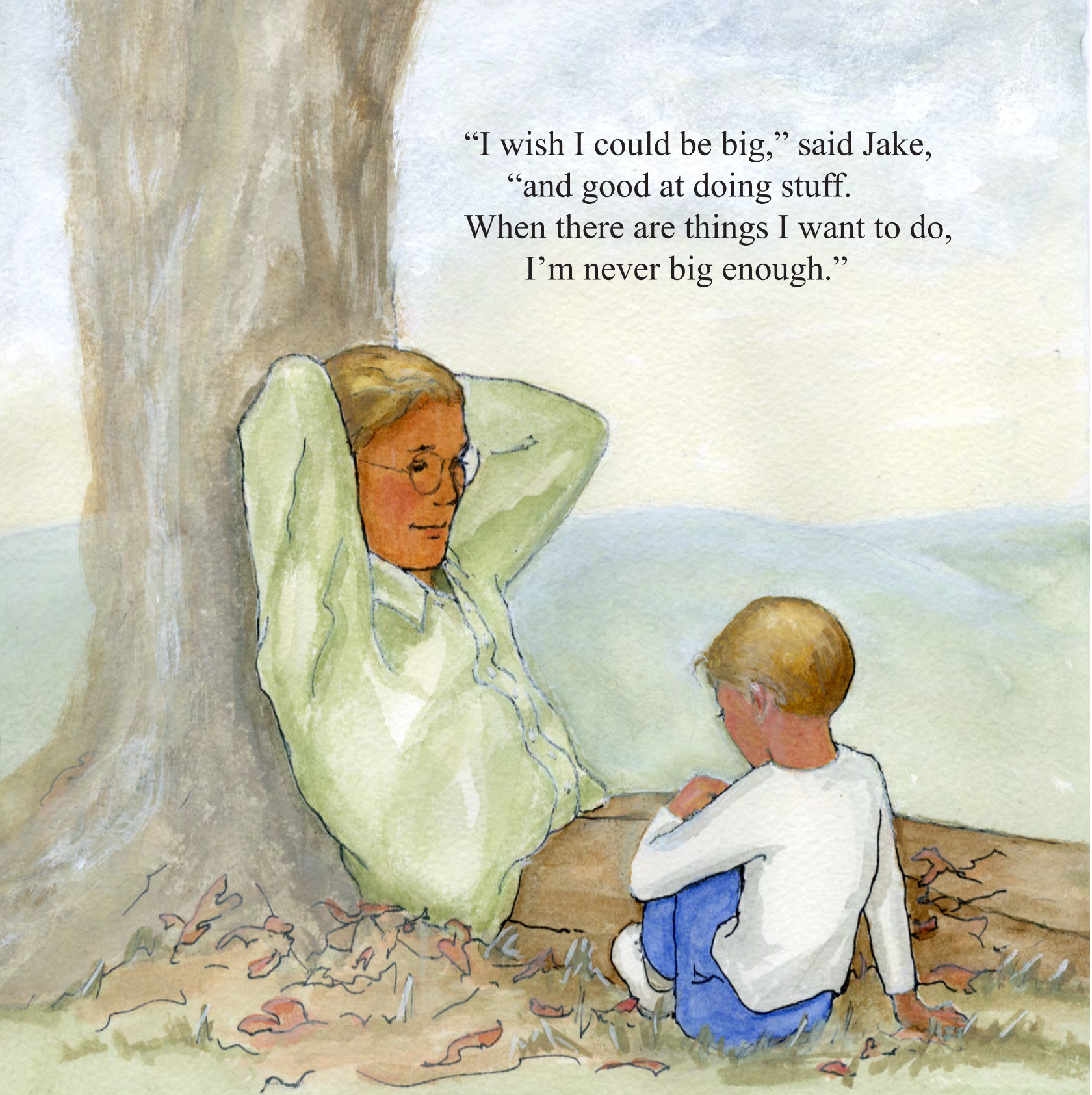
His dad was raking in the yard,
with lots of work to do,
But when he looked at Jake,
he said, "I'd rather be with you."

They nestled in a pile of leaves,
and tossed them in their hair.



They smelled the dark and woody earth
and sweetness of the air.

“I wish I could be big,” said Jake,
“and good at doing stuff.
When there are things I want to do,
I’m never big enough.”



His dad leaned back against a tree,
his hands behind his head
Nice and easy as could be,
and this is what he said:

Dedication

The earthworm's an invertebrate
Whose bones add up to zero;
In spite of being spineless,
He's something of a hero.
How fortunate it is for us
His Maker didn't bungle
By putting leeches in our lawns,
And worms just in the jungle.

-M.S.W.



Naturalist Charles Darwin wrote this of the worm:

“...it may be doubted if there are any other animals which have played such an important part in the history of the world as these lowly organized creatures.”

