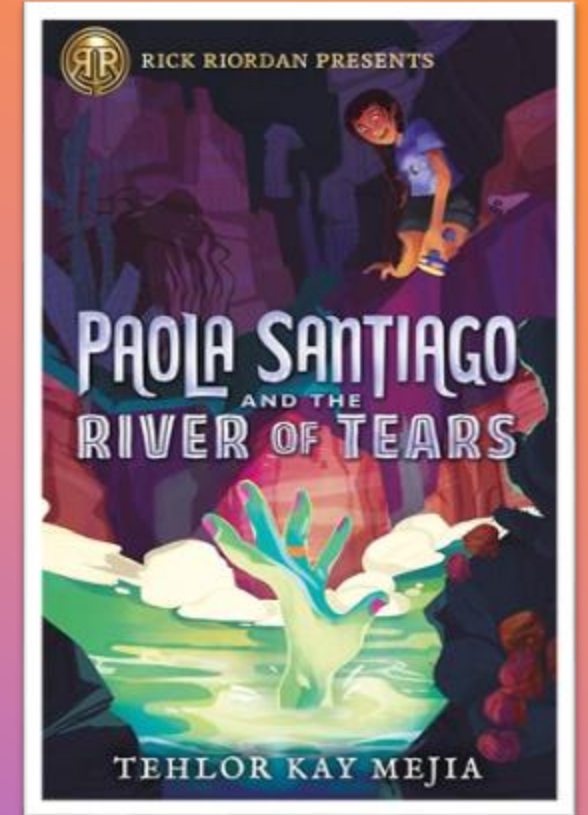
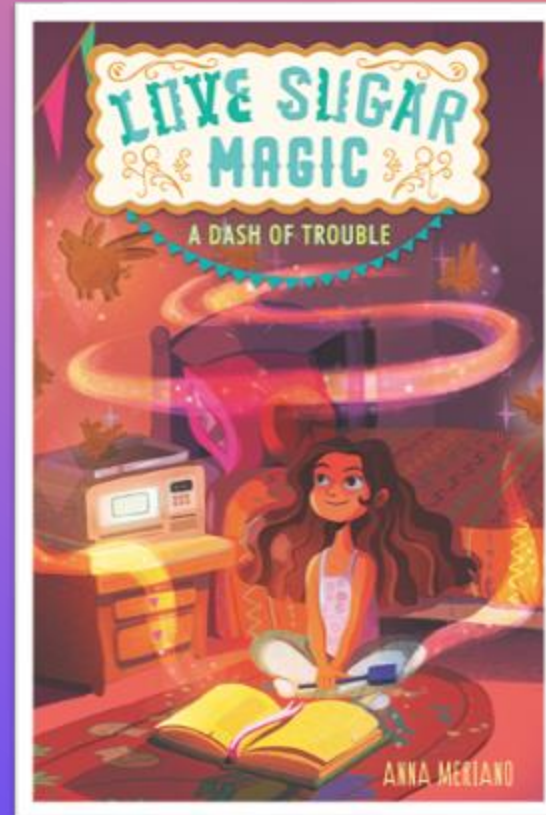


COMMUNITY MATTERS FAMILY BOOK CLUB

Johnson County Library: January 2021



EVEN IF I AM
UNCOMFORTABLE,
I AM STILL SAFE.

WE NEED TO BE BRAVE TO LEAN INTO TOUGH CONVERSATIONS.

Be Gentle with Others & Yourself

we may not always find the right words our first try; what matters is that we are trying.

Accept Feedback with Gratitude

we are here to learn and grow; even good intent can have harmful impact; be open to learning how to do better

Take Turns; Include All

Include All - listen first; be aware everyone is given the chance to participate, especially the slower to speak

Expect Discomfort

these are hard topics and considering them can feel bad; that is okay and prods growth

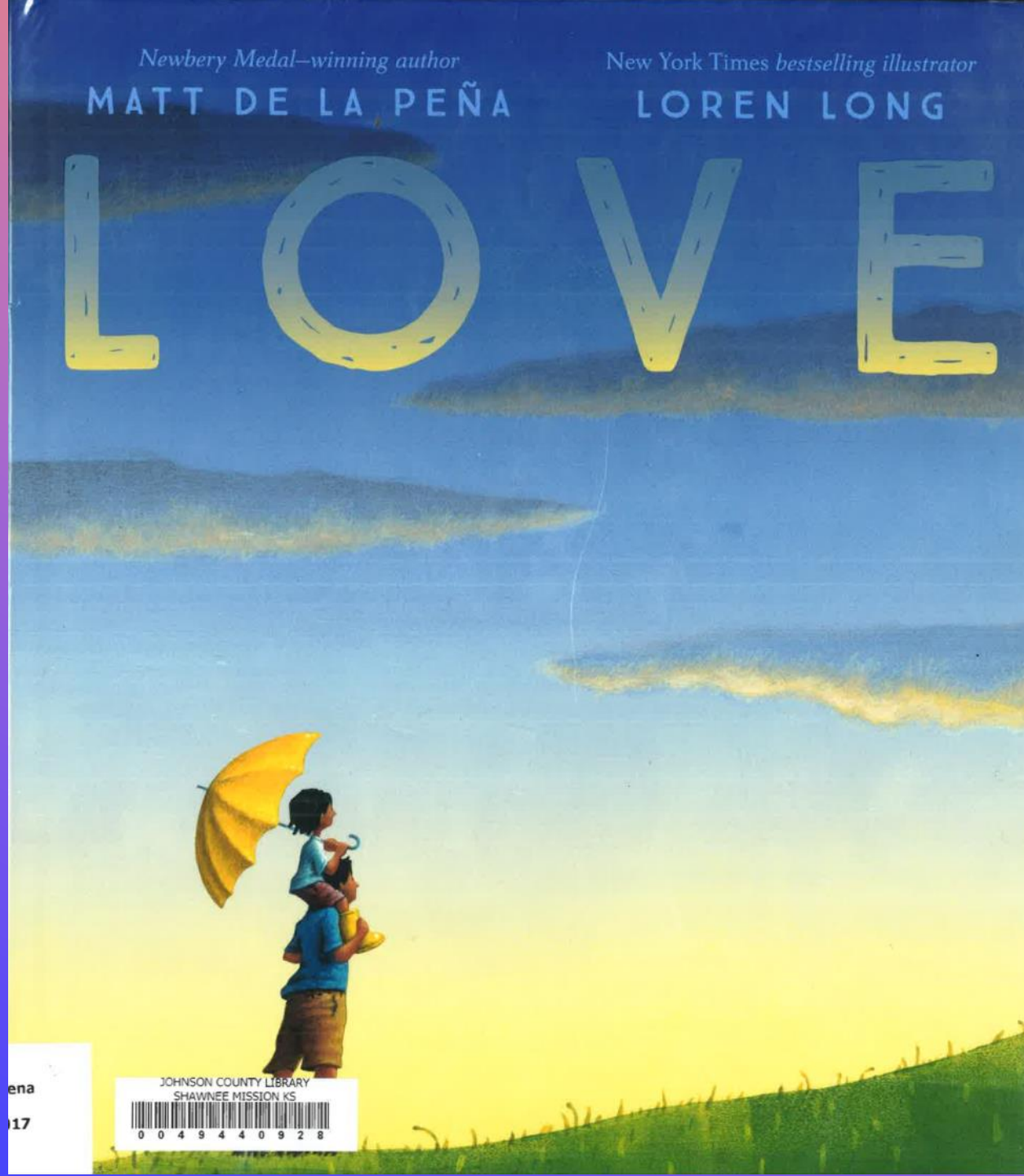
Assume Good Intent

seek to understand before reacting.

Respect Vulnerability

these are personal topics and people will be sharing difficult things; be sensitive to it

COMMUNITY MATTERS GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Newbery Medal-winning author

MATT DE LA PEÑA

New York Times bestselling illustrator

LOREN LONG

LOVE

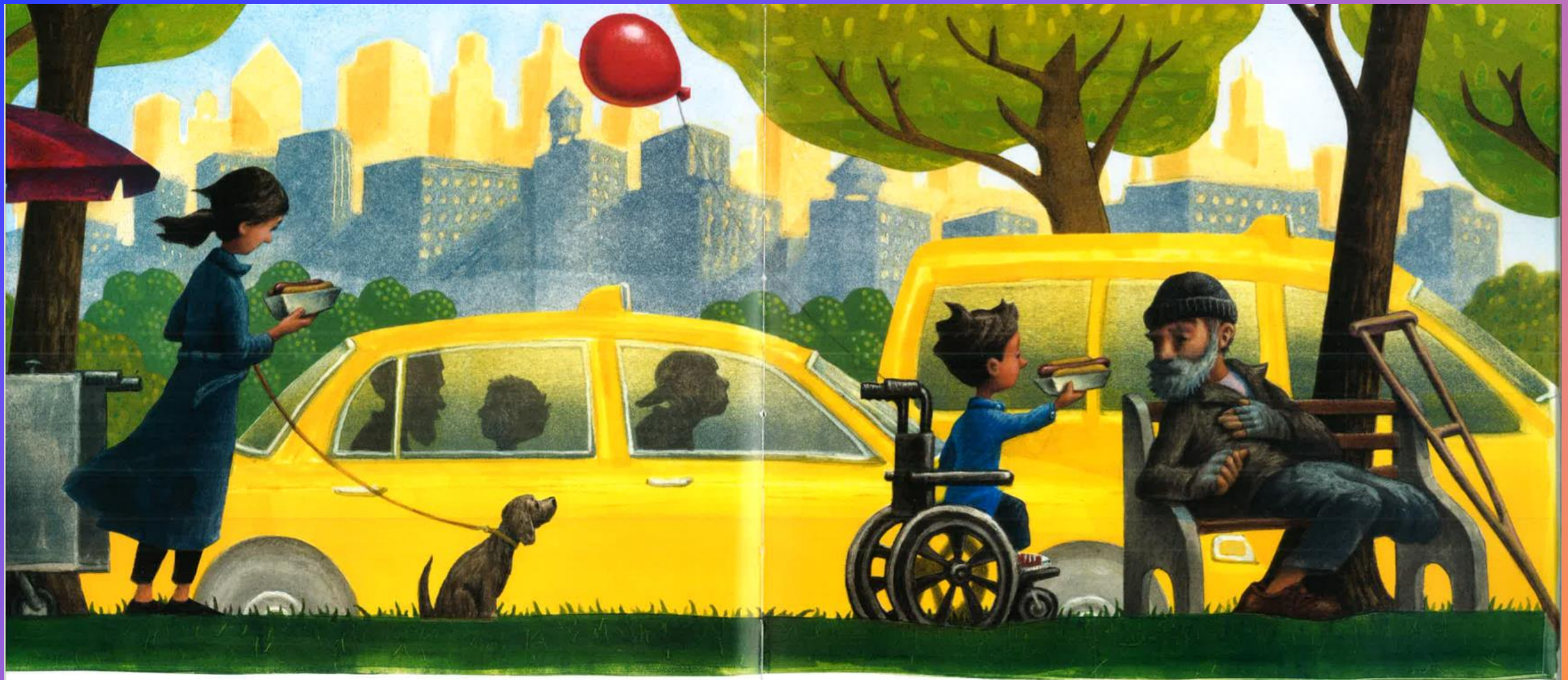
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In the beginning there is light
and two wide-eyed figures standing
near the foot of your bed,
and the sound of their voices is love.





A cabdriver plays love softly on his radio
while you bounce in back with the bumps of the city

and everything smells new,
and it smells like life.



Love, too, is the smell of
crashing waves, and a train
whistling blindly in the distance,
and each night the sky above your
trailer turns the color of love.

In a crowded concrete park,
you toddle toward summer sprinklers
while older kids skip rope
and run up the slide, and soon
you are running among them,
and the echo of your laughter is love.



On the night the fire alarm blares,
you're pulled from sleep and whisked
into the street, where a quiet old
lady is pointing to the sky.

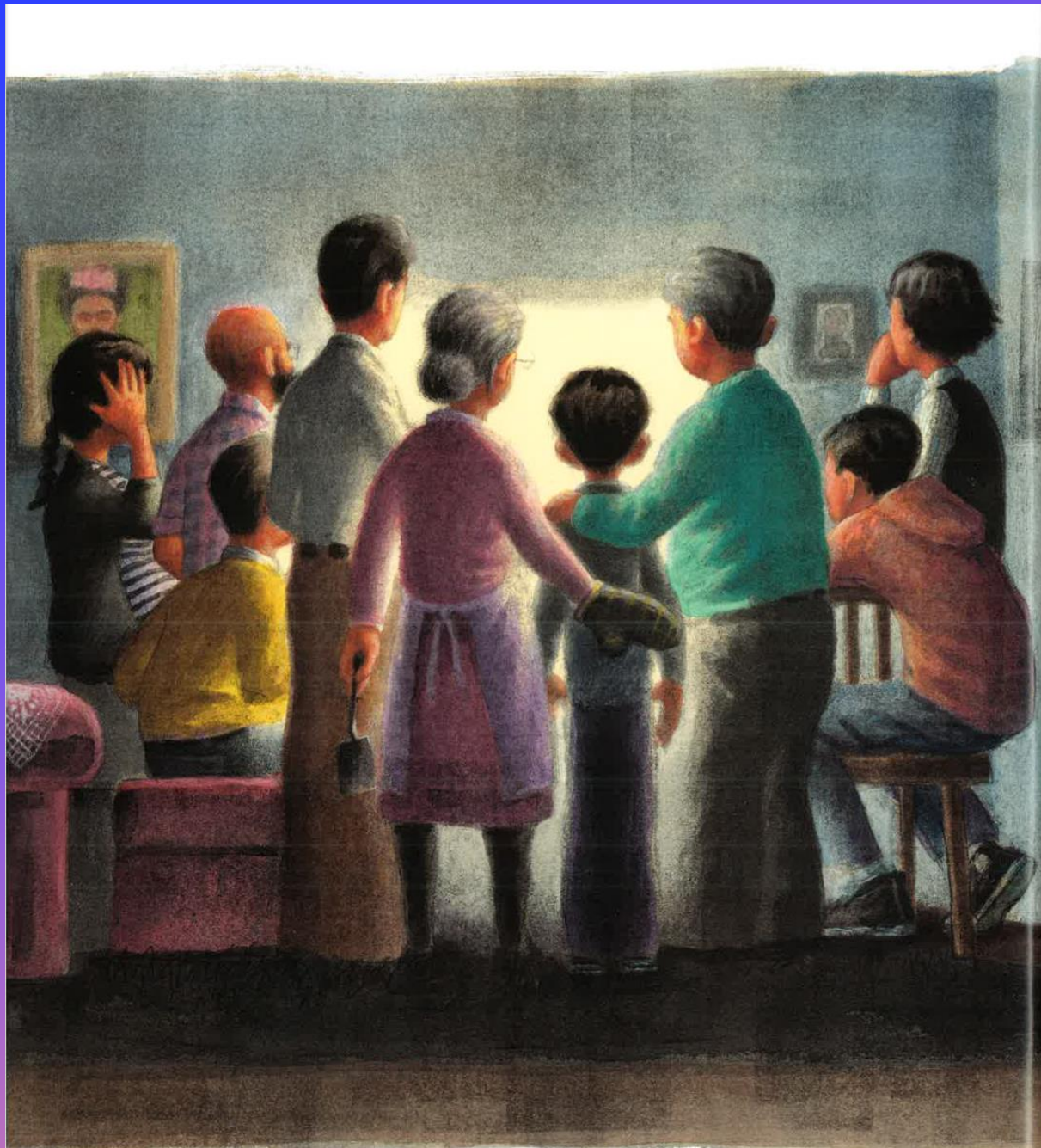
"Stars shine long after they've flamed
out," she tells you, "and the shine they
shine with is love."






But it's not only stars that flame out, you discover.
It's summers, too.

And friendships.
And people.



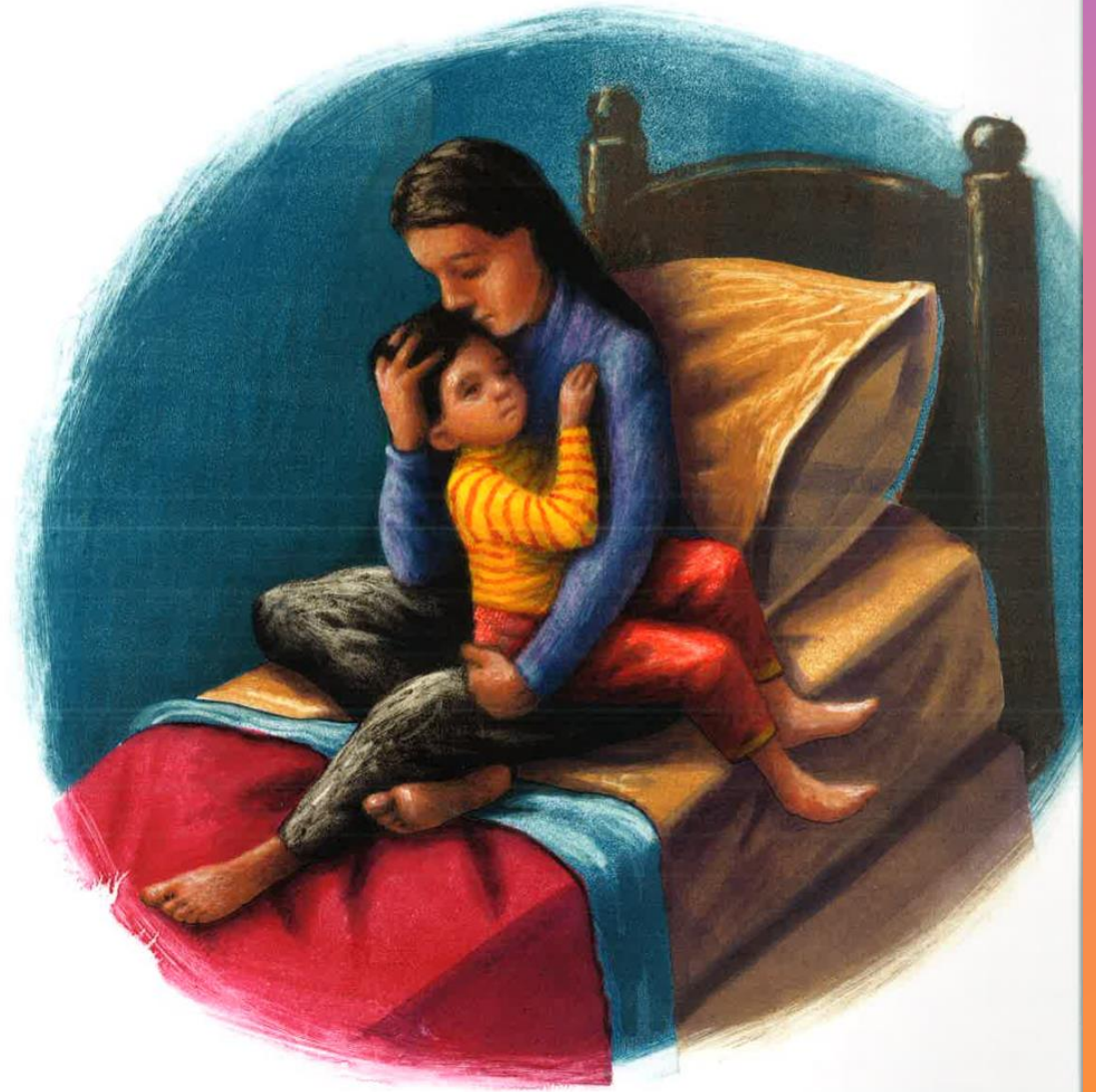
One day you find your family
nervously huddled around the TV,
but when you ask what happened,
they answer with silence
and shift between you and the screen.

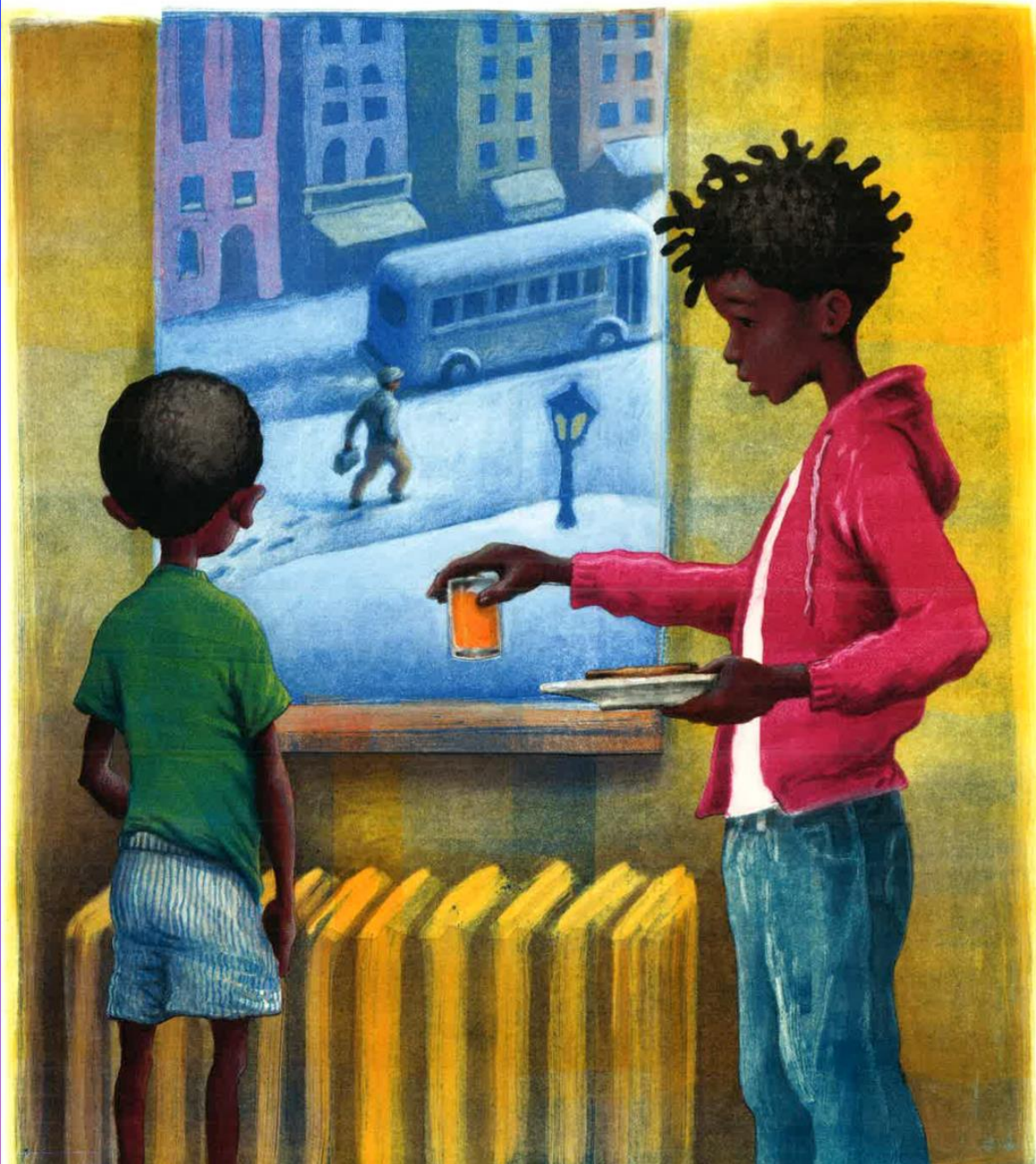


In your dream that night you are searching
for a love that seems lost.
You open and close drawers,
lift cushions,
empty old toy bins,

but there's nothing.

You wake with a start
in the arms of a loved one
who bends to your ear and whispers,
“It’s okay, it’s okay, it’s love.”



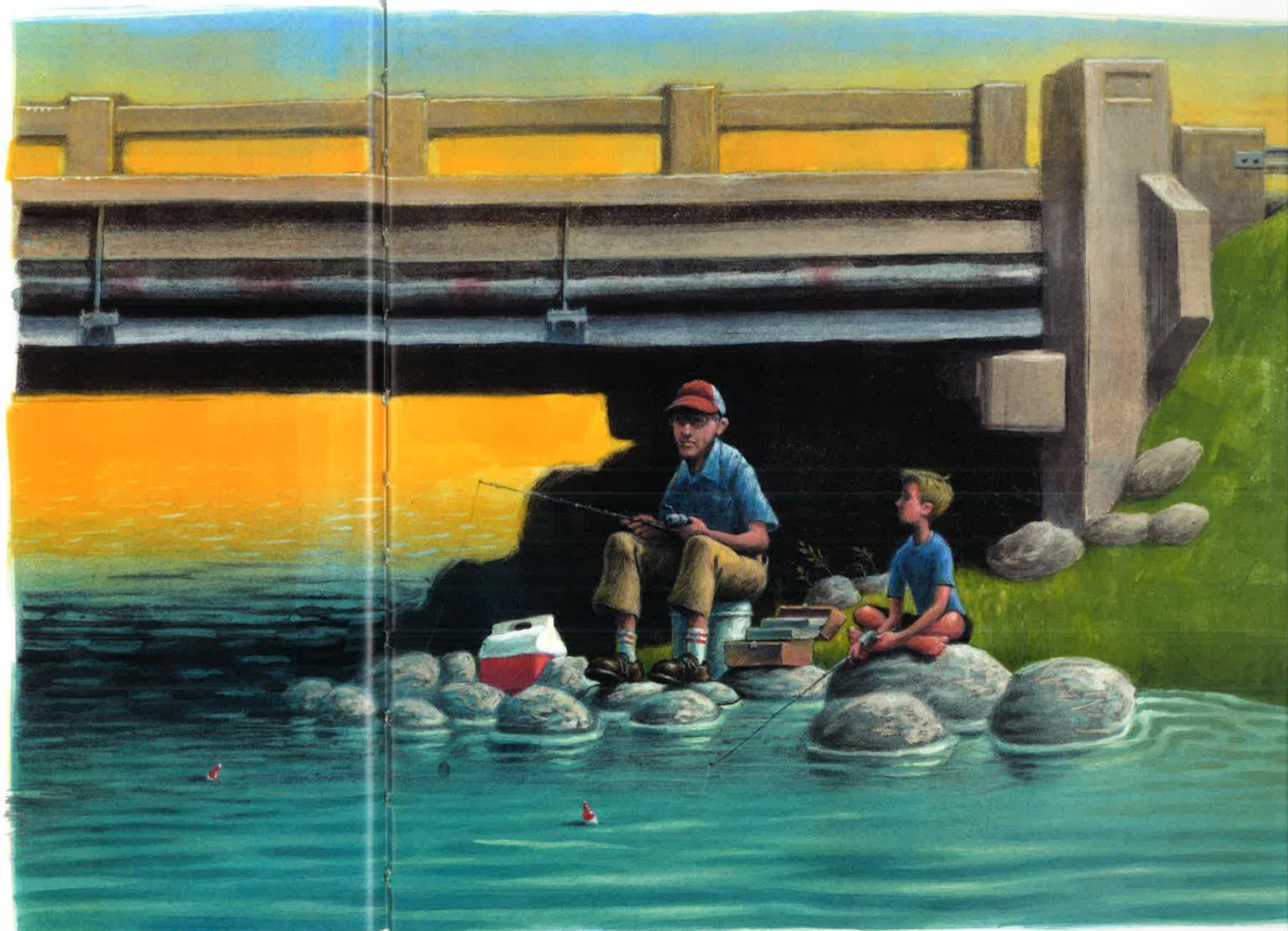


And in time you learn to recognize
a love overlooked.

A love that wakes at dawn and
rides to work on the bus.

A slice of burned toast that tastes like love.

And it's love in each deep
crease of your grandfather's face
as he lowers himself onto an
overturned bucket to fish.





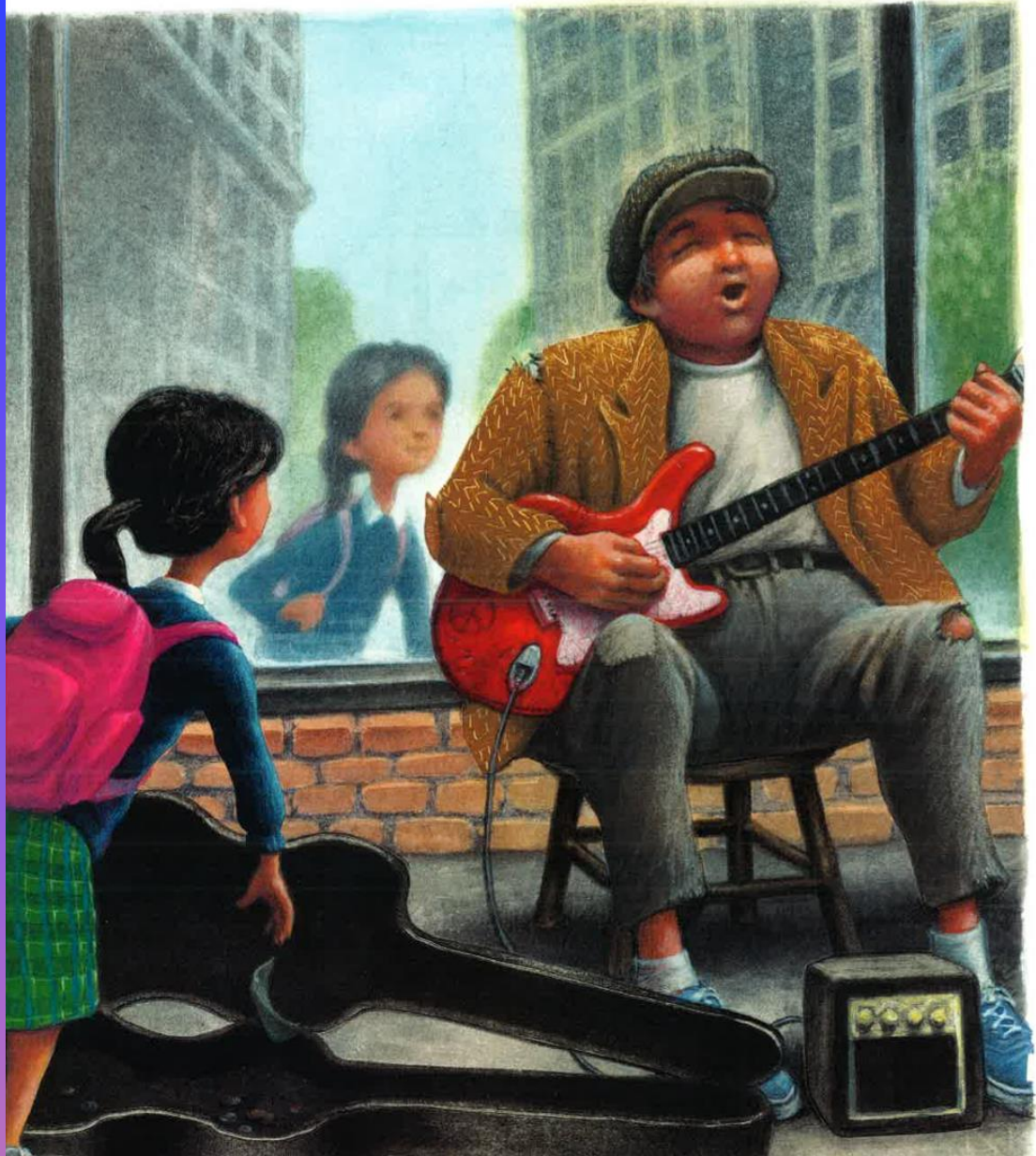
And it's love in the rustling
leaves of gnarled trees
lined behind the flower fields.



And it's love in the made-up stories your uncles tell



in the backyard between wild horseshoe throws.



And the man in rags outside the
subway station plays love notes
that lift into the sky like tiny beacons of light.

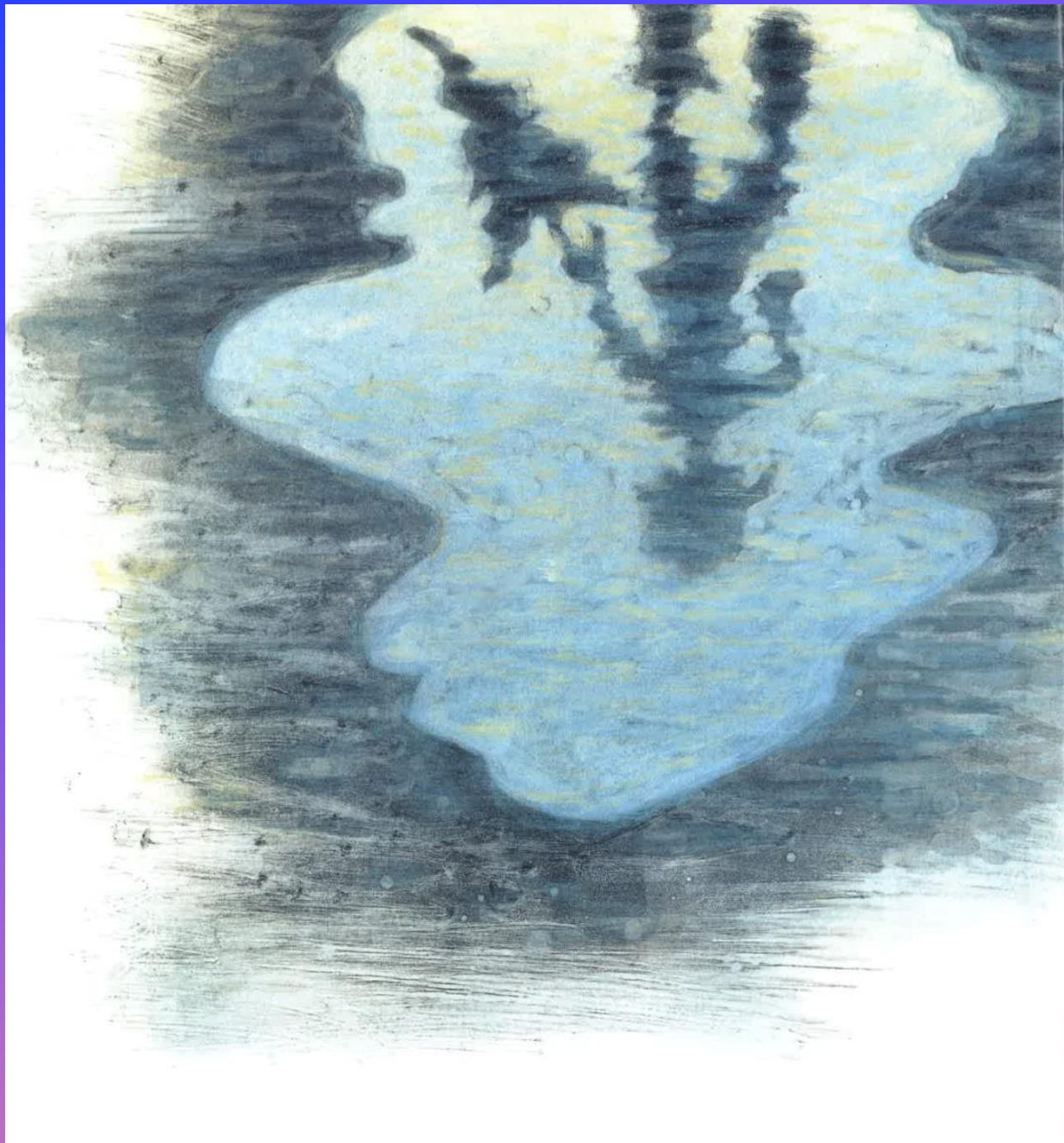


And the face staring back
in the bathroom mirror—
this, too, is love.

So when the time comes for you to set off
on your own, heavy winds will sweep past
your building, and great gray clouds will
congregate above.

Your loved ones will stand there like
puddles beneath their umbrellas,
holding you tight and kissing you
and wishing you luck.





But it won't be luck you'll leave with.
Because you'll have love.
You'll have love, love, love.

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HOW DID YOU SEE YOUR FAMILY REPRESENTED IN "LOVE" BY MATT DE LA PEÑA?





JANUARY BOOK PICKS



- **Paola Santiago and the River of Tears**
by Tehlor Kay Mejia
- **A Dash of Trouble**
by Anna Meriano



FEBRUARY BOOK PICKS

- **Amina's Voice**

by Hena Khan

- **When Stars Are Scattered**

by Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson



Community Matters Family Book Club: Latinx Authors		
JCL Introduction:	Welcome to Johnson County Library’s Community Matters family Book Club. This month’s book selections are all Latinx authors. We are so happy you are joining us for this time to connect, challenge, and create understanding together.	
Content Theme & Description:	Activity/Engagement:	
Brave Space	Even if I am uncomfortable I am still safe. We need to be brave enough to lean into tough conversations.	Define brave space: What does your groups brave space look like? What guidelines will you follow?
Book Club Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gentle with Others and Yourself - we may not always find the right words our first try; what matters is that we are trying; see above • Take Turns; Include All - listen first; be aware everyone is given the chance to participate, especially the slower to speak • Assume Good Intent - seek to understand before reacting Be • Accept Feedback with Gratitude - we are here to learn and grow; even good intent can have harmful impact; be open to learning how to do better • Expect Discomfort - these are hard topics and considering them can feel bad; that is okay and prods growth • Respect Vulnerability - these are personal topics and people will be sharing difficult things; be sensitive to it <p>Which one will you focus on?</p>	
Read Aloud	<p>Love by Matt De la Pena</p> <p>Theme: Family</p> <p>We read a picture book each session to share a common experience together.</p>	<p>How did you see your family represented in Love?</p> <p>Where there any pages that struck you as similar to your own life?</p>
Book Club Ice Breaker	If you had a magical power (like in Dash of Magic) or a magical object (like in River of Tears) what would it be?	
General Book Discussion Questions	Book 1: Paola Santiago and the River of Tears	What does it mean to be family?

	<p>Book 2: Love Sugar Magic: A Dash of Trouble</p> <p>Use these books as a springboard to have conversations about family traditions, food, and folklores amongst your group. Feel free to use the questions drafted below or develop your own.</p>	<p>There are many family relationships in both titles, which relationships can you see in your life?</p> <p>How are friends also seen as family?</p> <p>Dash of Trouble describes the most delicious baked goods in honor of Day of the Dead. Does your family have any cooking traditions?</p> <p>In Paola Santiago and the River of Tears, Paola's grandma warns her of the La Llorona. Does your family have any folktales that remind you of that?"</p>
<p>Book 1: Paola Santiago and the River of Tears</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are lots of monsters in Paola Santiago and the River of Tears. Why do we sometimes have fun being scared? What do you do to feel better when things get too scary? 2. Paola and her mother eat tamales what type of food do you eat in your home? 3. Paola's mother speaks Spanish and Paola often wishes her Spanish was better. Do you or your parents know more than one language? How is it helpful to know multiple languages? 4. Paola is more interested in science than her mother's stories about La Llorona. Why do you think that is? How does Pao find truth in both things? 5. Dante's Abuela talks about Marisa's death being a tragedy because she was so beautiful and Paola got upset. Paola says Marisa's death was a tragedy because she was a person not because she was beautiful. Do you think people care more about people who are considered beautiful? What do you think a beautiful person looks like? Why do you think that? Do you think there are different types of beauty? 6. When Paola and Dante try to talk to adults sometimes the adults do not listen to them. Why do you think this is? When have you had trouble talking to adults? 7. Paola and her mother do not always think about things the same way. When have you and your grown ups not understood each other? 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Did you recognize yourself in Paola or Dante? How are you similar to them? How are you different? 9. Why is it important to read books, watch movies, or play games with characters that are different from ourselves? How do you feel when you see people like you in stories you read or watch? What do you learn from characters who aren't like you? 10. Paola is afraid Dante is changing. Have any of your friends changed over time? How did that make you feel? 11. ICE stands for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, why did they take Sal and his parents away? How did that make you feel? How would you feel if you were separated from your parents like Sal? How do los Ninos de la Luz deal with being separated from their families? Does Sal's situation seem different? 12. For a moment when Paola has the pearl she sees her whole future, everything she wants laid out in front of her. Why do you think she chose not to use the power of the pearl? How have you been tempted to take the easy way out? 13. Paola loves knowing how things work and how to fix them. Throughout her journey Pao realizes that she doesn't know everything and that her mom knows more than she gave her credit for. Do you think Paola and her mother will learn to appreciate each other more even though they are very different? 14. There is a theme of forgiveness in this book, how have you forgiven people in your life for hurting you? 15. One thing Pao learns about forgiveness is it is also important to forgive herself. How can you relate to forgiving yourself?
<p>Book 2: Love Sugar Magic: A Dash of Trouble</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe Leo's relationship with each of her sisters. How does she feel about the fact that her sisters are all allowed to help in the bakery on the eve of Día de los Muertos, while she isn't? 2. Why is Dia de los Muertos Leo's favorite of all the year? What did you learn about Dia de los Muertos from this story? 3. Leo does not speak much Spanish. How do the few Spanish words she understands—especially the word magia, affect her? How would her efforts to uncover her family's secret be helped if she spoke a bit more Spanish?

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Isabel lets Leo in on the family secret: the females are brujas (good witches). Does this tame Leo’s curiosity? In what ways do Leo’s curiosity and impatience drive her to do things that might not be in her best interest? 5. Leo feels both proud and guilty at the same time. Proud, because she is learning to use her magic powers. Guilty because she is using her magic without her mother’s permission and because it is just possible that the spell could go wrong, and bring trouble on Caroline, or Brent, or all of them. What would you have done in Leo’s situation? Why? 6. Why was it important for the Brujas to be initiated before they started using magic? How did that affect everything Leo did? How could things have been different if Leo would have been honest with her mom? 7. When have you found yourselves in a situation where something has gone wrong, and trying to straighten it out makes things horribly worse? If you were in Leo’s situation, would you keep going on by yourself trying to fix the situation, or would you ask for help? 8. Discuss Leo’s mother’s reaction to Leo’s actions and her capabilities. Consider together the good and the bad of Leo’s choices. 9. The author of Dash of Magic, Anna Meriano said this: “I always felt the lack of Texan stories that didn’t include cowboys or tumbleweeds. I have Mexican, Italian, and Irish heritage, complicated by the fact that my Irish mother moved to Guadalajara with her family during elementary school, while my father grew up in Texas barely speaking Spanish. The main character of Love Sugar Magic, Leo Logroño, struggles with her Spanish, which is an issue I see in my own family, in myself, and in the students I teach. I loved writing a narrative that affirmed Leo’s culture and heritage—shaky Spanish and all—as something to be celebrated and enjoyed.” What is one takeaway that you learned about Mexican American culture from this book?
<p>Next Book Club: February</p>	<p>Amina’s Voice by Hena Khan When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson</p>