

The Little Voice

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Edited by Virginia “Ginny” Nachreiner

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Mike was a 9 year old boy. He played with his friends, went to school and played baseball. He enjoyed spending time with his family too. One day walking home from school, his friend Alex, who lived next door, caught up with him. Alex was 10 and played football.



“Race ya home!” Said Alex

I can't beat him. Thought Mike. He's too fast!



Yes you can. A little voice said.

I'll try but I know I won't win. Thought Mike

"Ok let's go!" said Mike and he took off running.



Mike and Alex raced around the corner and down the street to their homes.

He's going to beat me, I'm behind. Thought Mike.

You can do this, he's not that far ahead. The little voice said.



Just then Mike ran as fast as he could and ended up beating Alex home by just a bit.

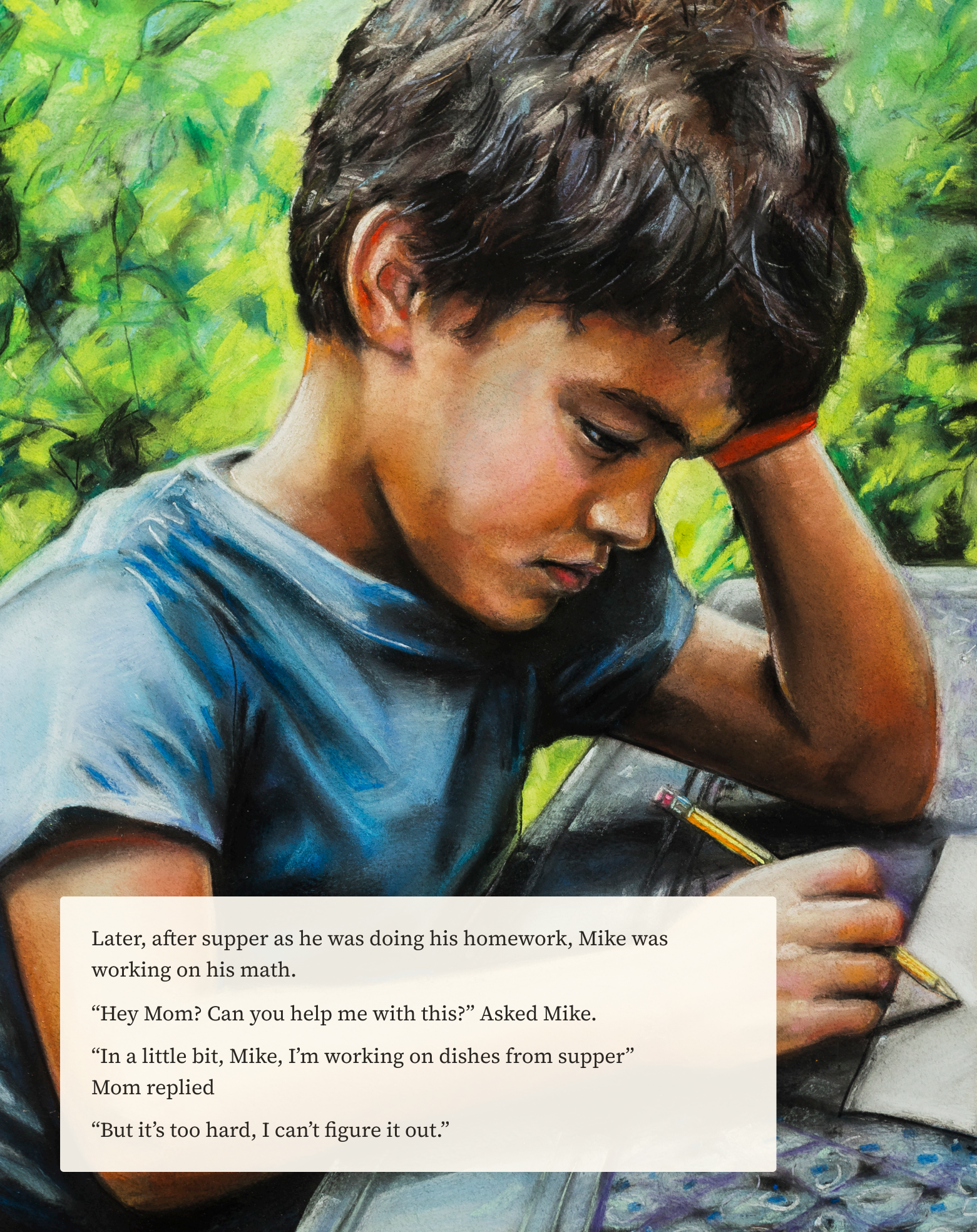
“Good race” Said Alex “Same time tomorrow?”

“You’re on!” Said Mike

I told you you could do it. The little voice said.

Mike smiled as he went inside to greet his mother and tell her about his day.



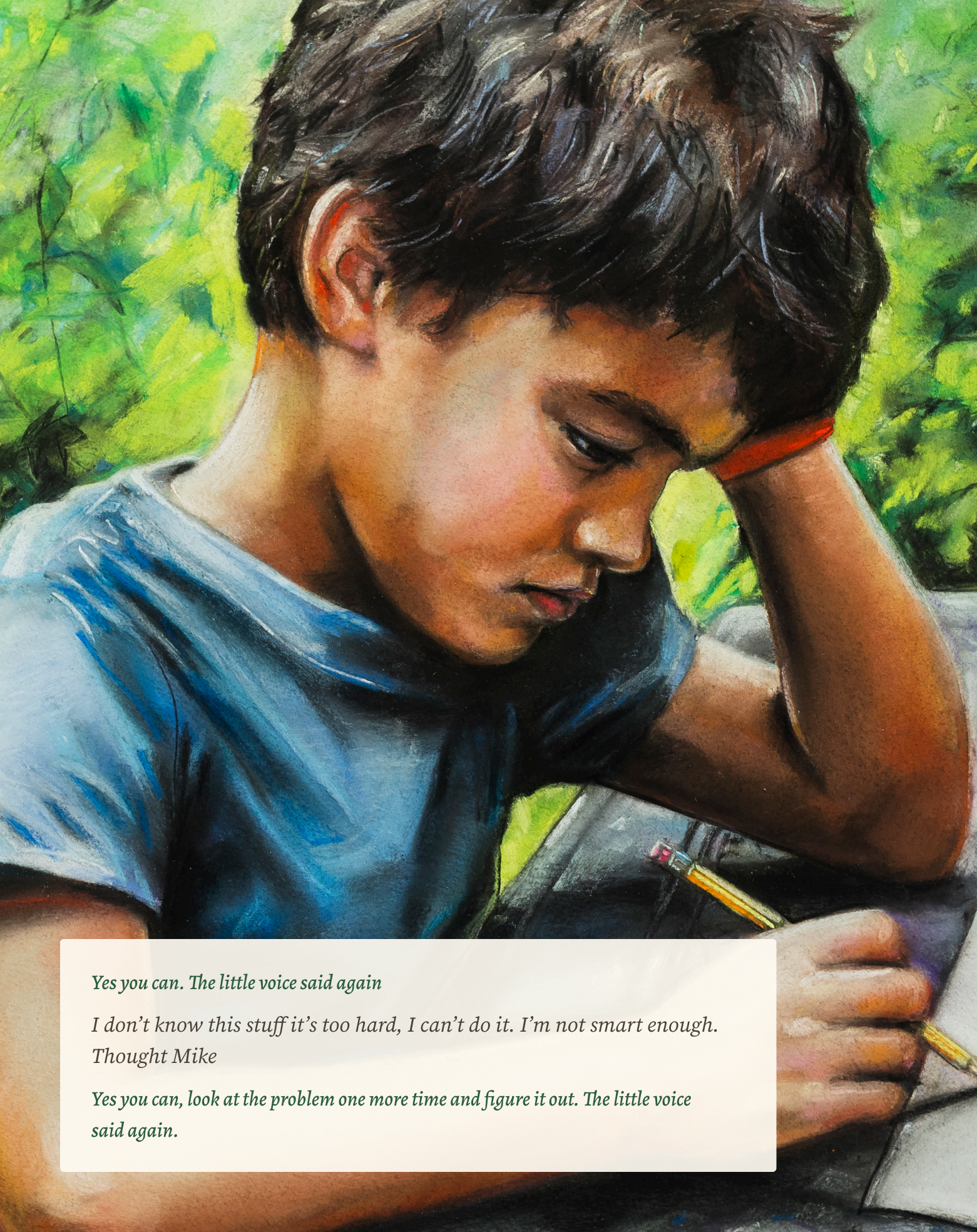


Later, after supper as he was doing his homework, Mike was working on his math.

“Hey Mom? Can you help me with this?” Asked Mike.

“In a little bit, Mike, I’m working on dishes from supper” Mom replied

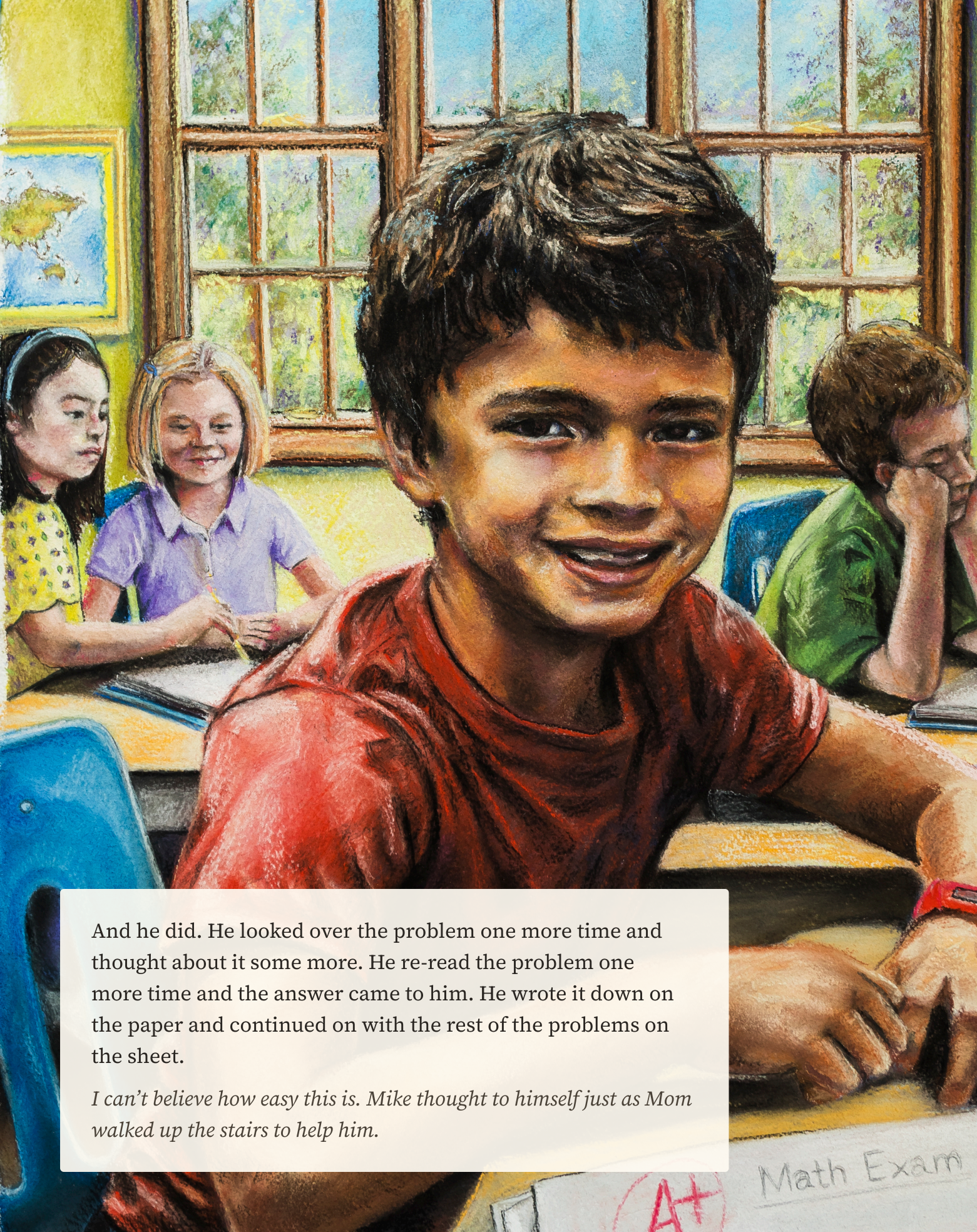
“But it’s too hard, I can’t figure it out.”



Yes you can. The little voice said again

*I don't know this stuff it's too hard, I can't do it. I'm not smart enough.
Thought Mike*

*Yes you can, look at the problem one more time and figure it out. The little voice
said again.*

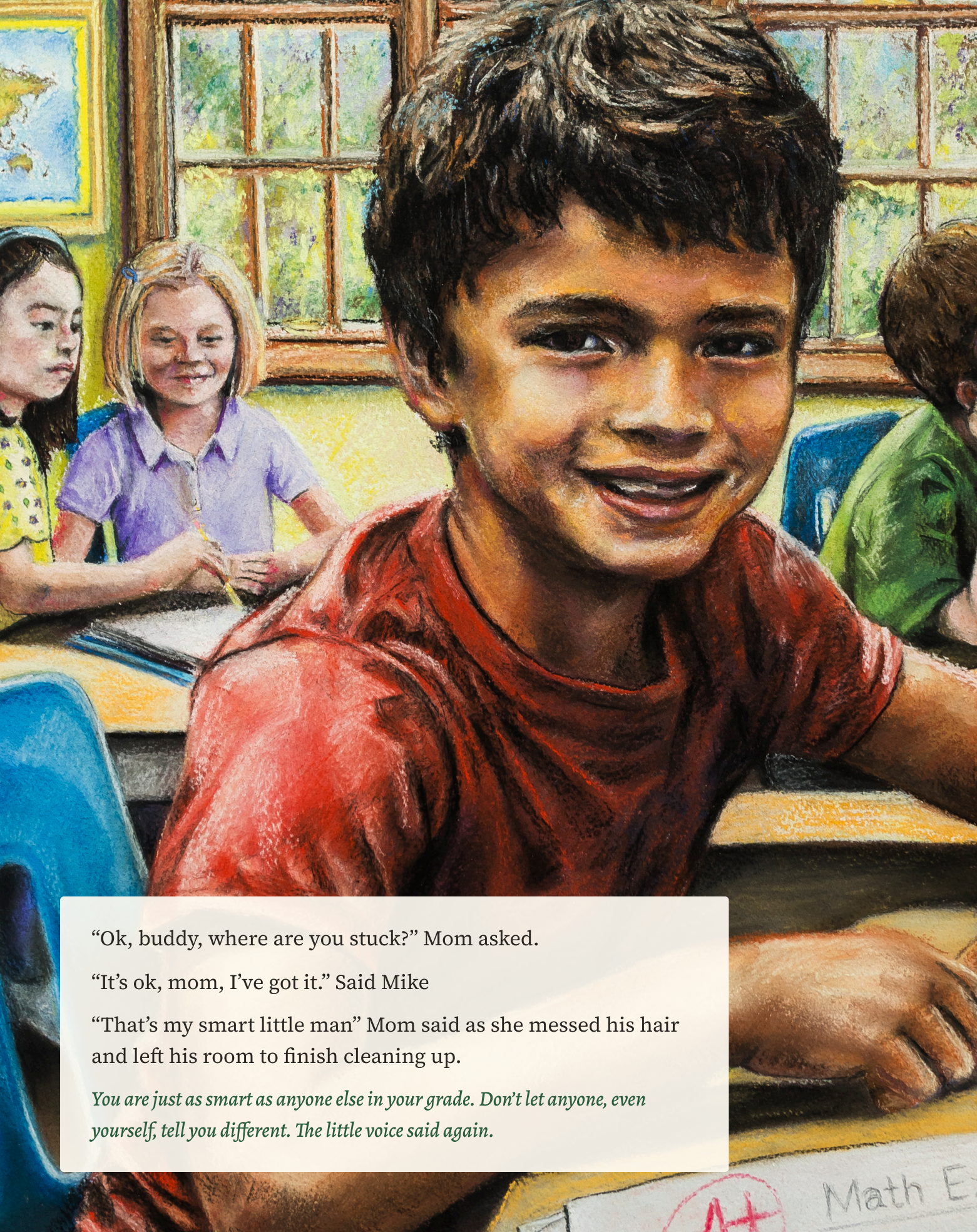


And he did. He looked over the problem one more time and thought about it some more. He re-read the problem one more time and the answer came to him. He wrote it down on the paper and continued on with the rest of the problems on the sheet.

I can't believe how easy this is. Mike thought to himself just as Mom walked up the stairs to help him.

Math Exam

A+



“Ok, buddy, where are you stuck?” Mom asked.

“It’s ok, mom, I’ve got it.” Said Mike

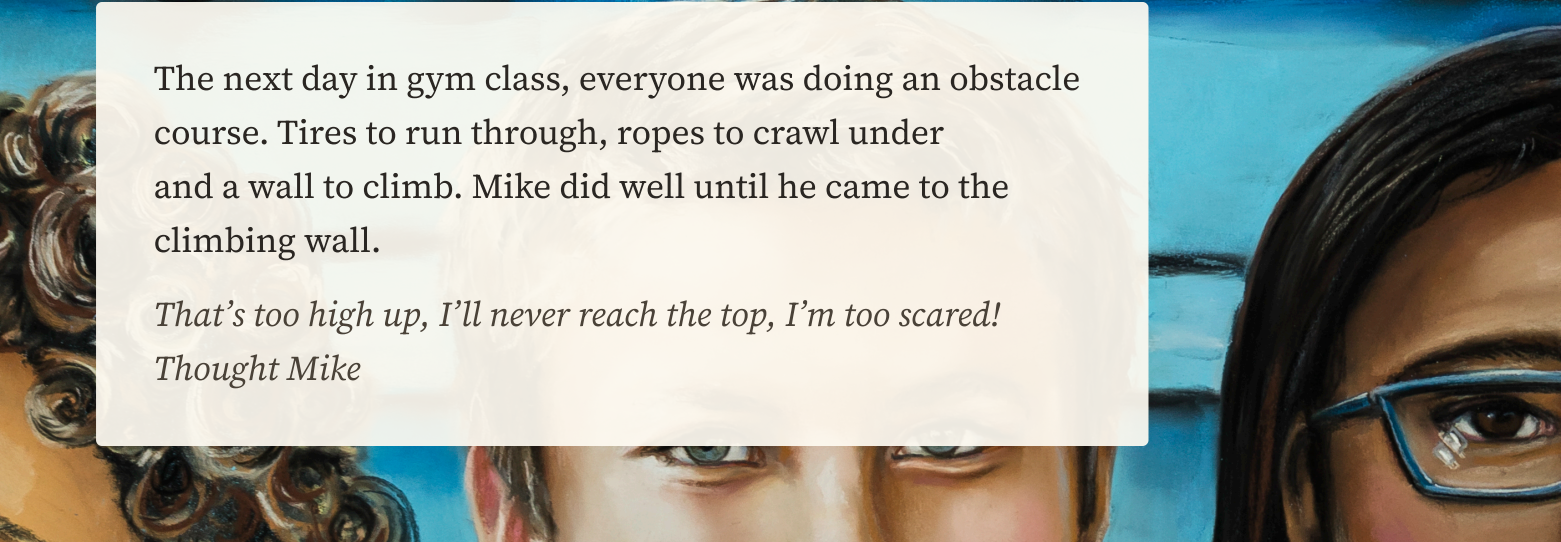
“That’s my smart little man” Mom said as she messed his hair and left his room to finish cleaning up.

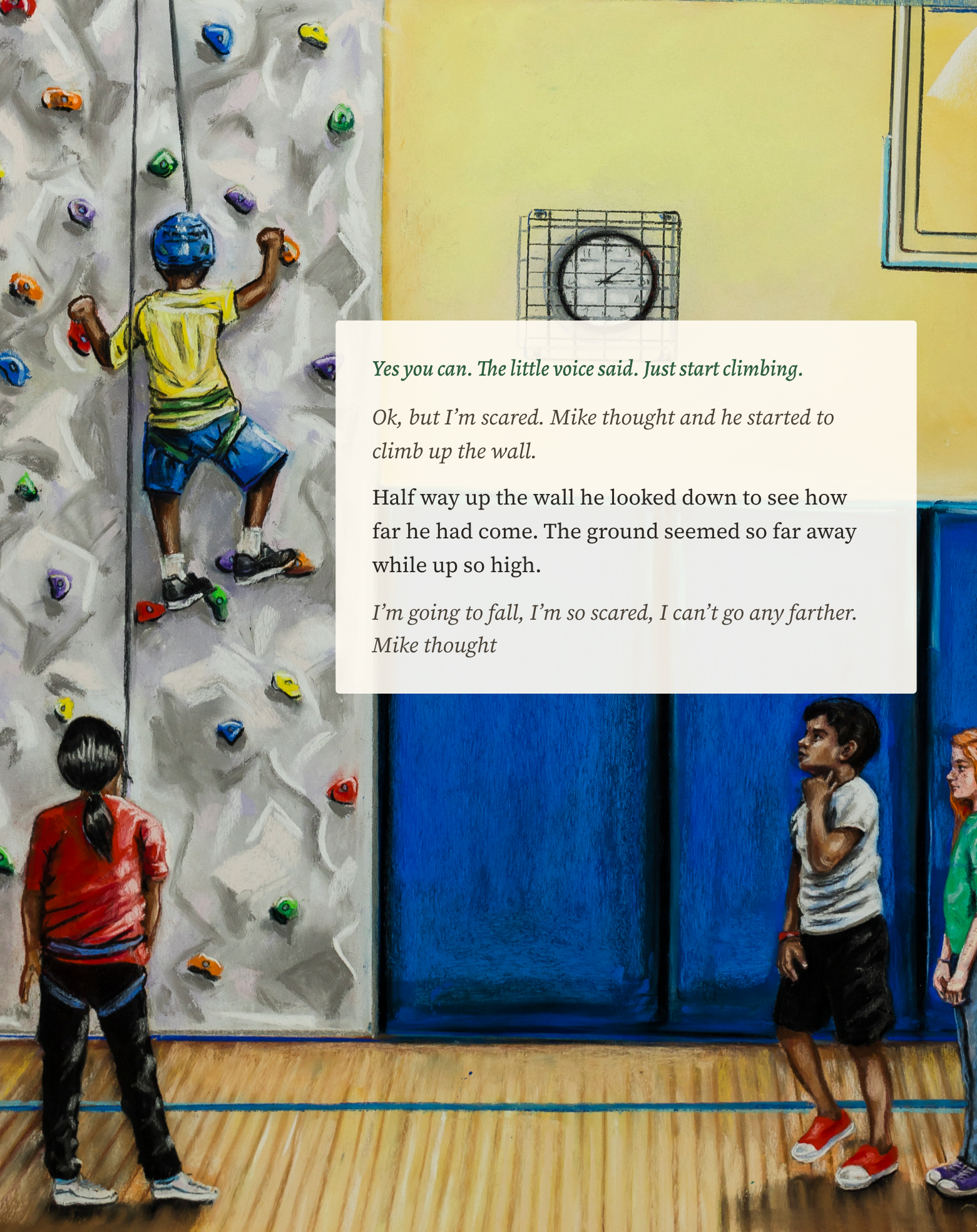
You are just as smart as anyone else in your grade. Don’t let anyone, even yourself, tell you different. The little voice said again.



The next day in gym class, everyone was doing an obstacle course. Tires to run through, ropes to crawl under and a wall to climb. Mike did well until he came to the climbing wall.

That's too high up, I'll never reach the top, I'm too scared!
Thought Mike



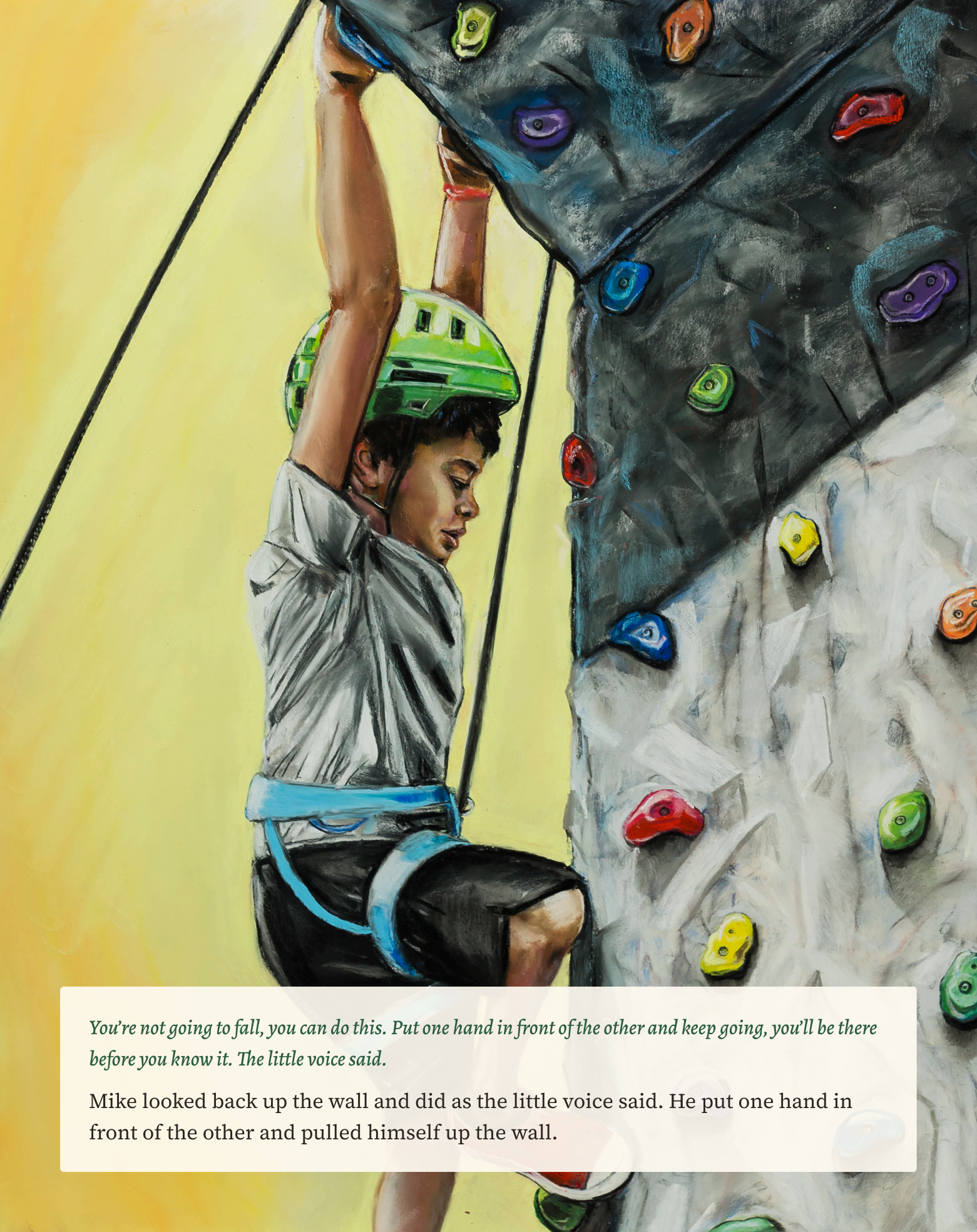


Yes you can. The little voice said. Just start climbing.

Ok, but I'm scared. Mike thought and he started to climb up the wall.

Half way up the wall he looked down to see how far he had come. The ground seemed so far away while up so high.

I'm going to fall, I'm so scared, I can't go any farther. Mike thought



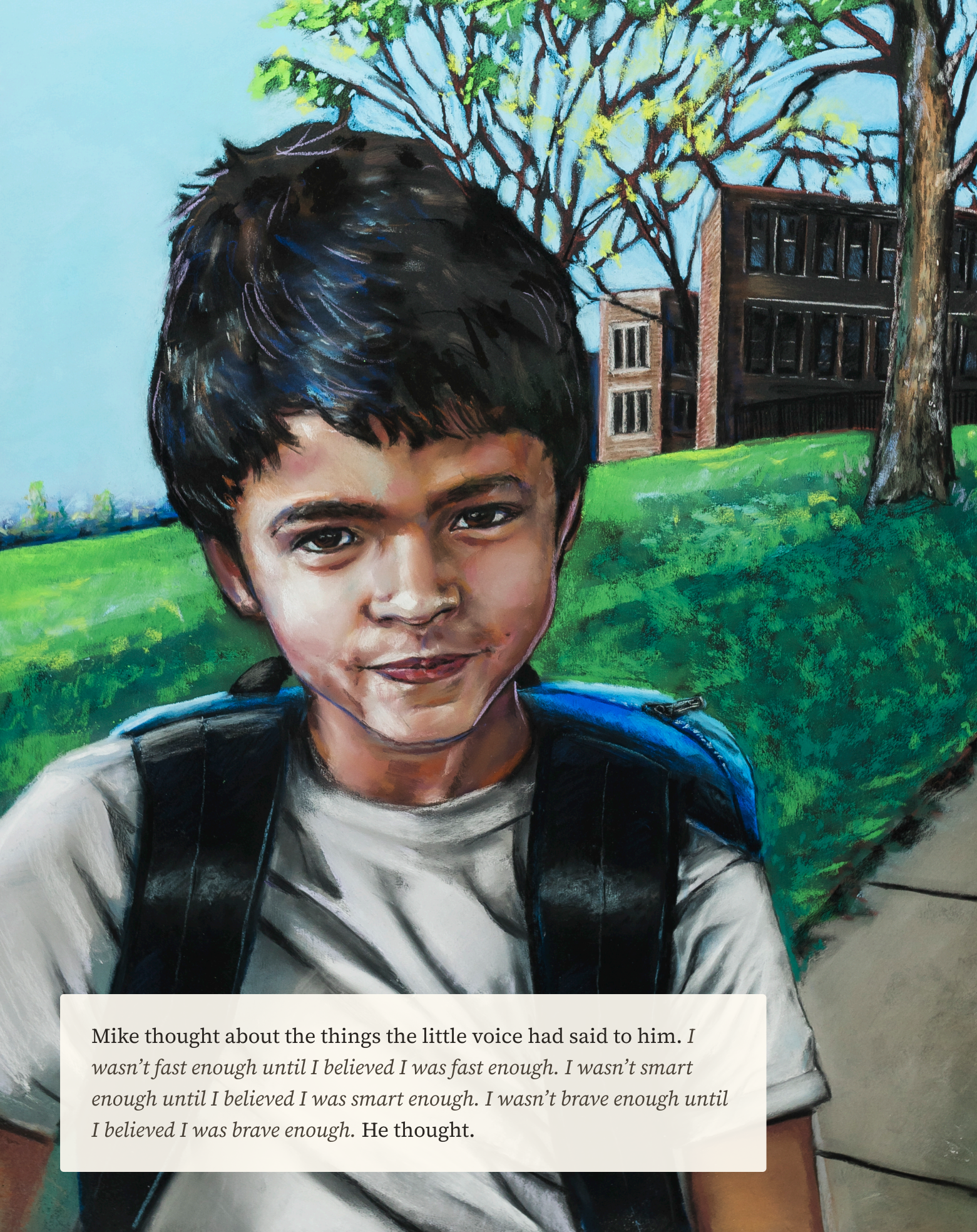
You're not going to fall, you can do this. Put one hand in front of the other and keep going, you'll be there before you know it. The little voice said.

Mike looked back up the wall and did as the little voice said. He put one hand in front of the other and pulled himself up the wall.

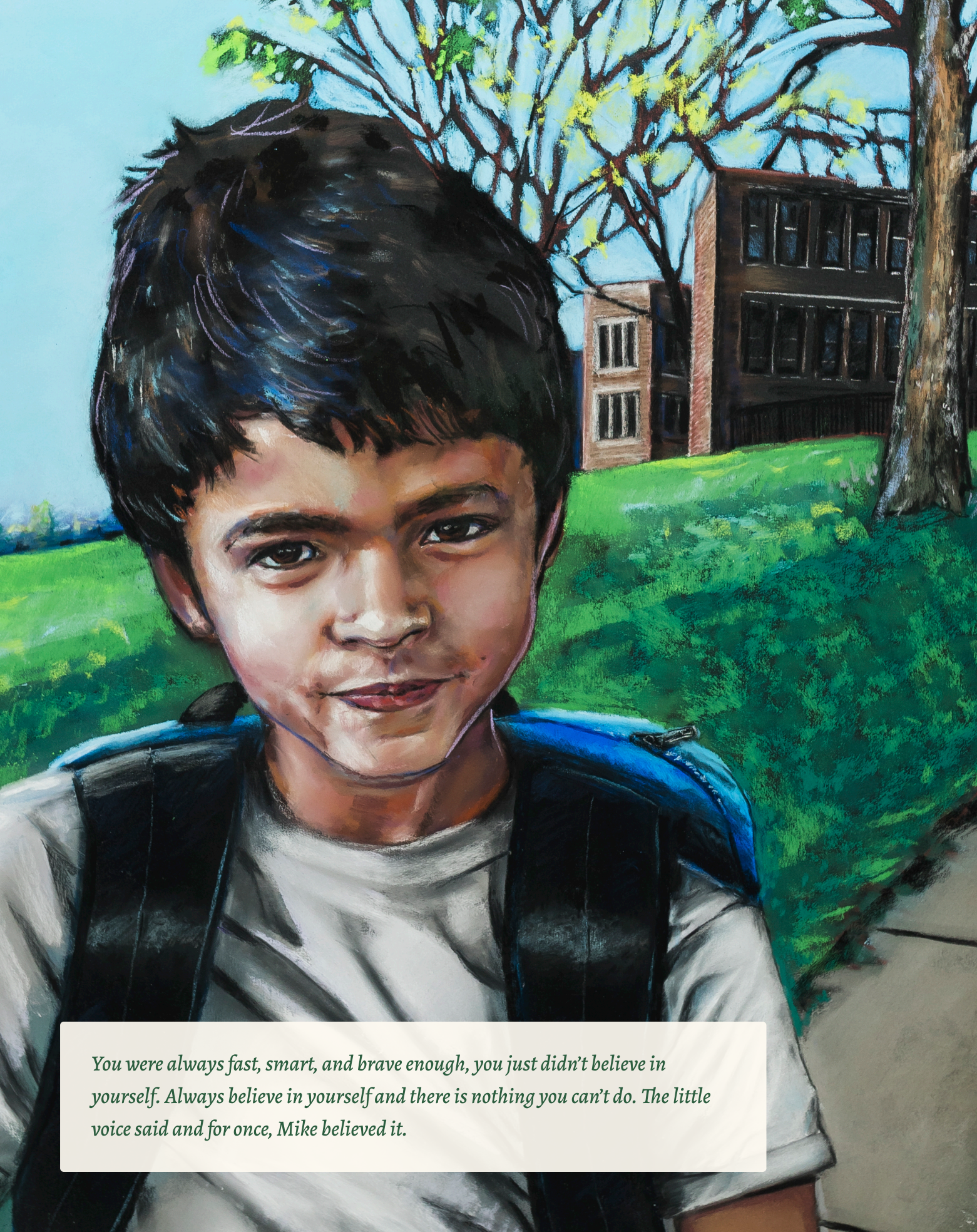


Three more pegs to go. Mike thought as he pulled himself up the wall. Two more. He pulled himself up again. One more and I'm done. He thought one last time as he reached up and touched the blocks at the top. I did it! He thought as he started down the wall.

I told you you could do it. The little voice said. You are just as brave as anyone else you know and don't let anyone tell you different, even yourself.



Mike thought about the things the little voice had said to him. *I wasn't fast enough until I believed I was fast enough. I wasn't smart enough until I believed I was smart enough. I wasn't brave enough until I believed I was brave enough.* He thought.



You were always fast, smart, and brave enough, you just didn't believe in yourself. Always believe in yourself and there is nothing you can't do. The little voice said and for once, Mike believed it.

The End



ILLUSTRATIONS BY

Emily Hahn

The illustrations in this book were drawn in soft pastel by Emily Hahn.

