

## Proyectkids

A story by: Antonio Acosta Translated and Edited by: Diana Sánchez Illustrated by: Jesús Zúñiga Book design by: Mayra Soria Jesús was his name because he was born out of a miracle. That's the story his mom tells everyone. Jesús is a boy, small in size, but a big dreamer.

When Jesús was younger, he was the same size as everyone in school; everyone played football and they all liked to climb small trees. However, years passed, and the other kids grew, but Jesús stayed small. During recess, the other kids stopped playing with him



## because Jesús didn't play football anymore and he just stayed under one of the biggest trees in school.

Until one day, while he was sitting by the tree, he felt a branch touch his shoulder.

Jesús gasped in fear, and the tree hid its leaves, as it got scared as well.

"Oh, I'm sorry, tree."

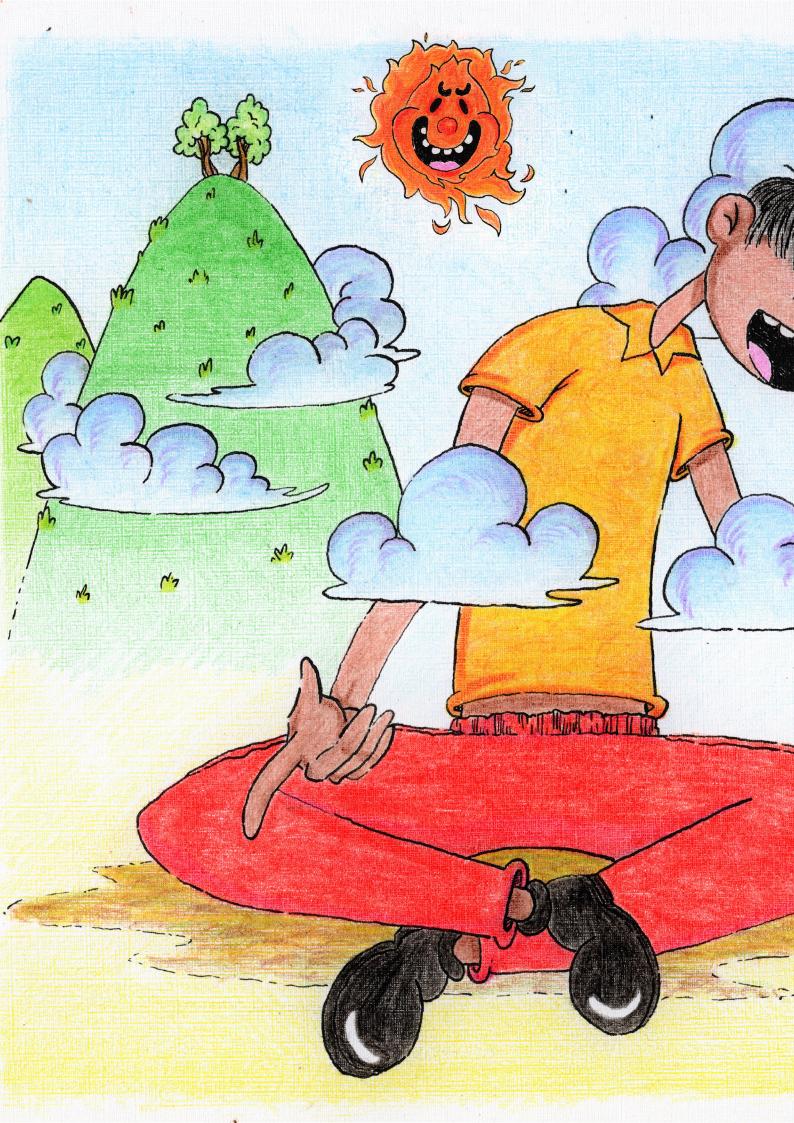
"Nothing to worry about. Why are you sad?"

## "Kids don't want to play with me."

Jesús turned around and saw a friendly face in one of the biggest roots of the tree. Seemed like a women's face, and it smiled to Jesús.

"My boy, how are you so sure the kids don't want to play with you?"

"It's because I'm small. And they don't want to play anymore." "You know? When I was a tiny branch, I was very small compared to other trees on this school." "You were?" "Yes, of course." "And how did you grow so much?" "I dreamt big." "What did you dream?" "I dreamt I could reach the sky, and my leaves could cover all my friends."



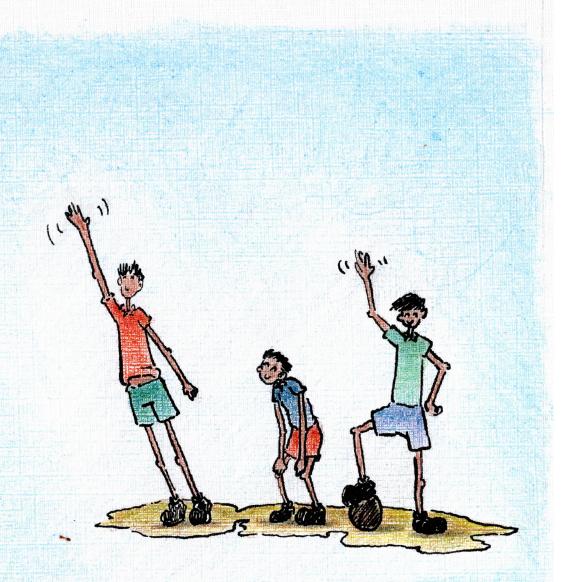
Jesús imagined himself being so tall, so tall he could reach the clouds, and eat them like they were white cotton candy. From up there, he saw his friends playing, and with his hand he covered them to protect them from the sun. Down in the earth, his friends waved, inviting him to play with them.

"Your friends are waiting for you, Jesús. How would you know they don't want to play with you if you don't go to them? You're a big boy, look at the nature around you. There are ants, snails, little crabs, dogs, small plants and grass, and these are smaller than you, but they're happy being who they are." **When all the plants and animals**  smiled to Jesús, he understood there was no problem with his size. He could be happy, being exactly as he was.

"I will dream big" said Jesús to the lady in the tree. "So big that my dreams will reach the sky."

Jesús got up and gave a strong hug to the tree, so strong that the lady in the roots could feel it.





He grabbed a piece of blue fabric and wrapped it around his head. "Now I'm like a karate kid" and ran towards the other kids to play.

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