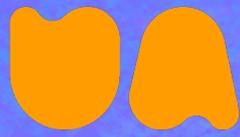




TOMMY
AND
FEDE



Projectkids[®]

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Monday through Friday, brothers Sammy and Tommy walk the same route to and from school. In the mornings, their dad drops them off on his way to the market.

Tommy, the youngest of the family, always stays a few steps behind during the walk, because his little legs do not allow him to keep up with his father and older sister.



During these walks, he notices a boy sitting on the sidewalk. Tommy has seen him on previous occasions. He usually notices him during the evenings on his way home and finds it strange to see him at that time of day.



Tommy's father and sister have walked way ahead of him and, taking advantage of this, he decides to approach the mysterious boy to say hello.

—Hi, my name is Tommy, —he said, sitting down next to him— Aren't you late for school? The boy, who barely looks at Tommy, shakes his head.

—Why are you so dirty? —Tommy asks, even though he knows it can sound a bit rude; his mother has told him so several times. However, he wonders how it is possible for another child to be alone in the street, at that time of day and in that state.

—Just because —the other boy whispers.

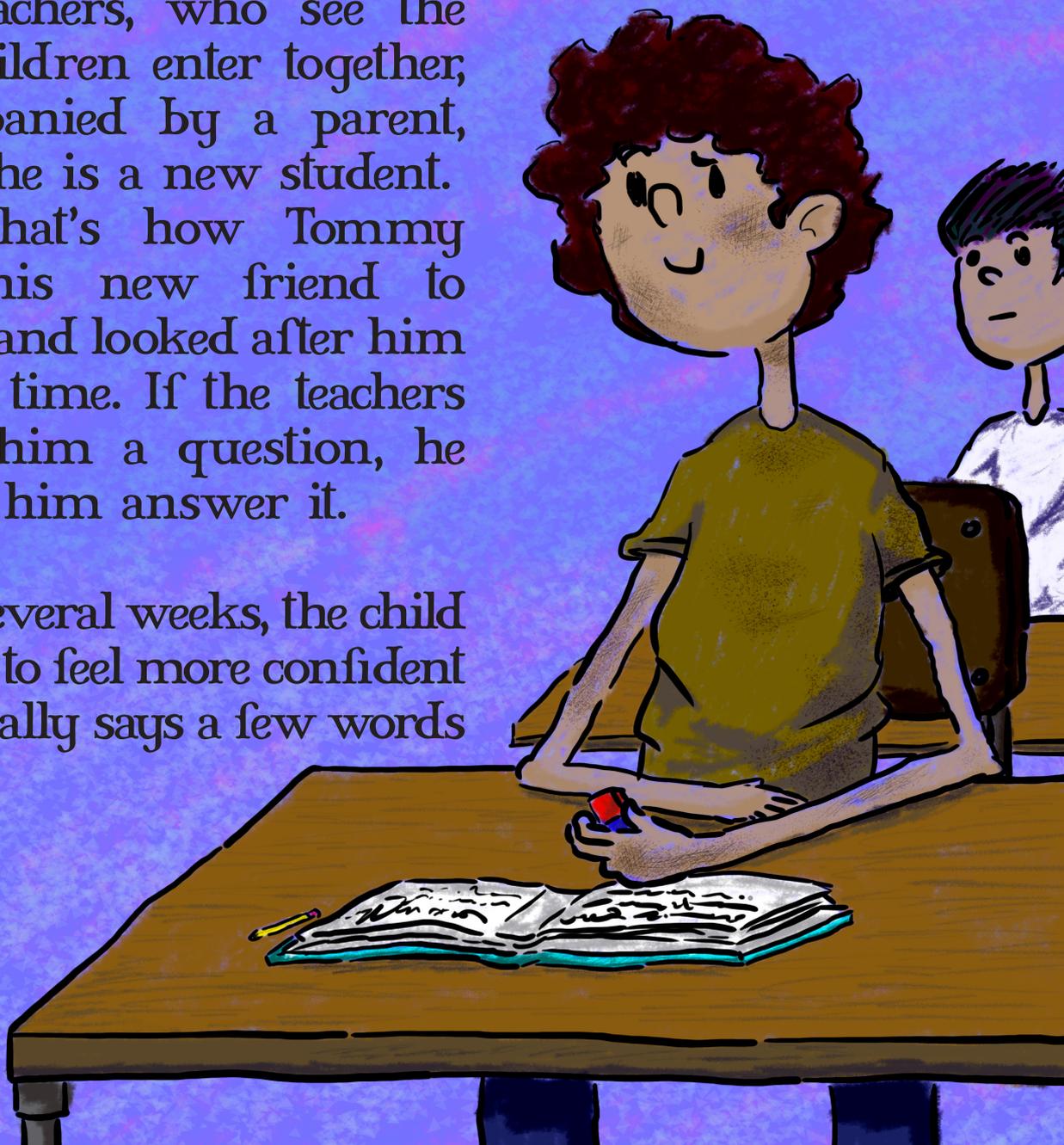
—Do you have a name? I told you mine. Well, it's actually Tomás, but everyone calls me Tommy. It was my sister's idea, she's called Samantha, but she asked everyone to call her Sammy. The boy shakes his head again.

—I'm late for school, do you want to come with me?

Tommy doesn't wait for an answer, takes the boy's hand and they walk to school together. Sammy doesn't pay much attention to her brother's new friend; she is thinking about the trip to the beach she is going to make with her friends after school. And their dad, who thinks the boy is a regular student, walks them both to the classroom.

The teachers, who see the two children enter together, accompanied by a parent, think he is a new student. And that's how Tommy took his new friend to school and looked after him all the time. If the teachers asked him a question, he helped him answer it.

After several weeks, the child begins to feel more confident and finally says a few words



during class.

One day, during break, he tells Tommy his name.

—My name is Federico.

—Federico, —Tommy repeats strangely— you don't look like Federico. But I guess I don't have a Tomás face either. Nobody has a face that looks like a name, do they? —They both laugh.

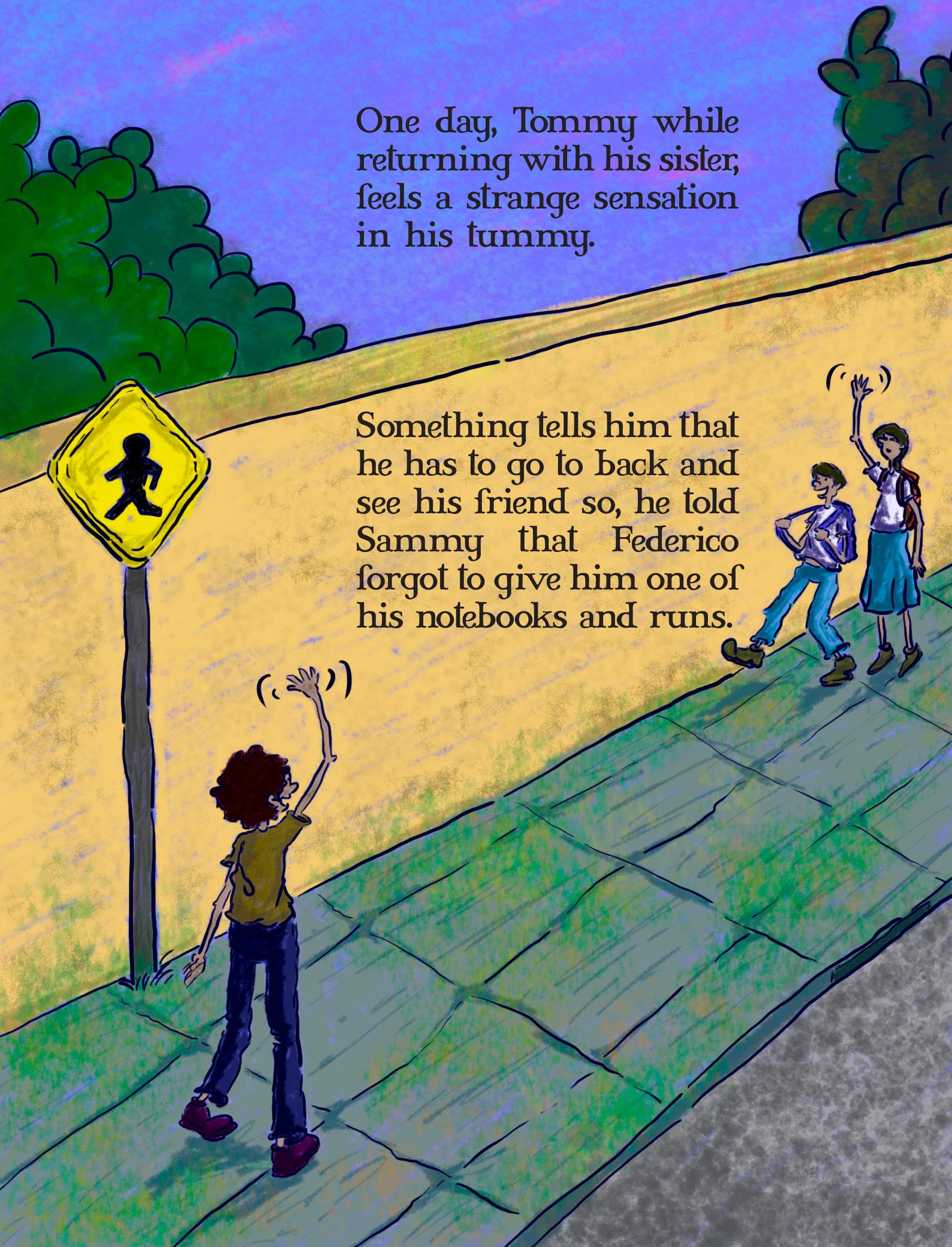
As the days went by, the two become close friends, and Federico is happy to learn new things. His time at school becomes the best part of his day.

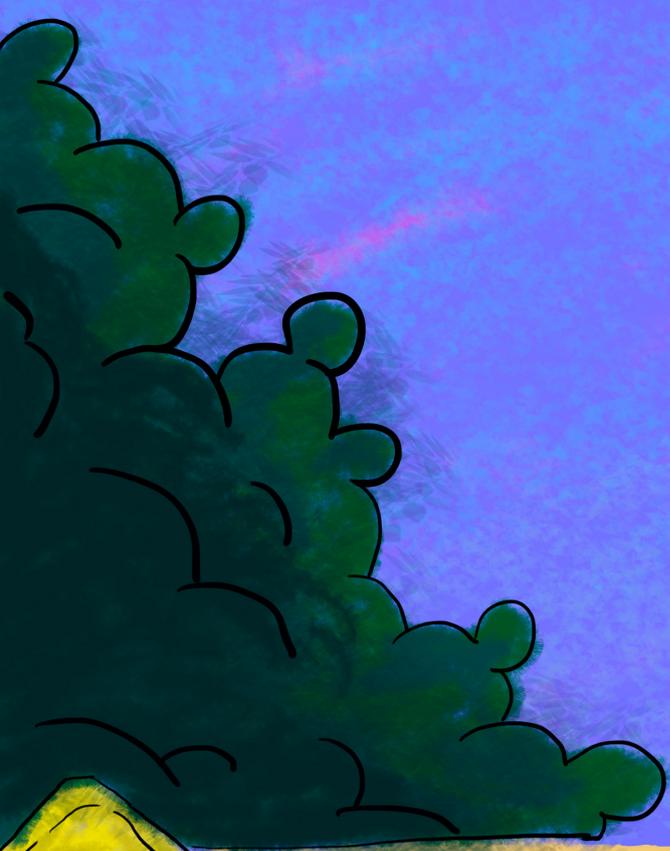
Despite getting along very well, Tommy doesn't know much about Federico. He thinks it is strange that he always came to school alone, was dirty and poorly dressed, never brought lunch and was never picked up when classes ended.

Sammy, Tommy and Federico walk home together after school, but Federico always stays in the same place, at the sidewalk, where Tommy first spoke to him. Federico told them that this was his way home, so they said their goodbyes and the siblings continued their way.

One day, Tommy while returning with his sister, feels a strange sensation in his tummy.

Something tells him that he has to go to back and see his friend so, he told Sammy that Federico forgot to give him one of his notebooks and runs.





Tommy is right, he finds his friend sitting in the same place and when he asks him why he wasn't at home and where his parents were, Federico remains silent.



—Friends trust each other, Fede. I promise you can trust me. —And sitting down next to him, he asks something he already suspected, “You don't have parents, do you?”

Federico shakes his head.



Tommy doesn't say anything, he just takes Fede by the hand and they walk together. One of the most important lessons Tommy learned from his parents is that all children have the right to a house and a family. That's why he decides to take Fede home.

His parents, when they learn what is happening, agree and decide that Fede can live with them.

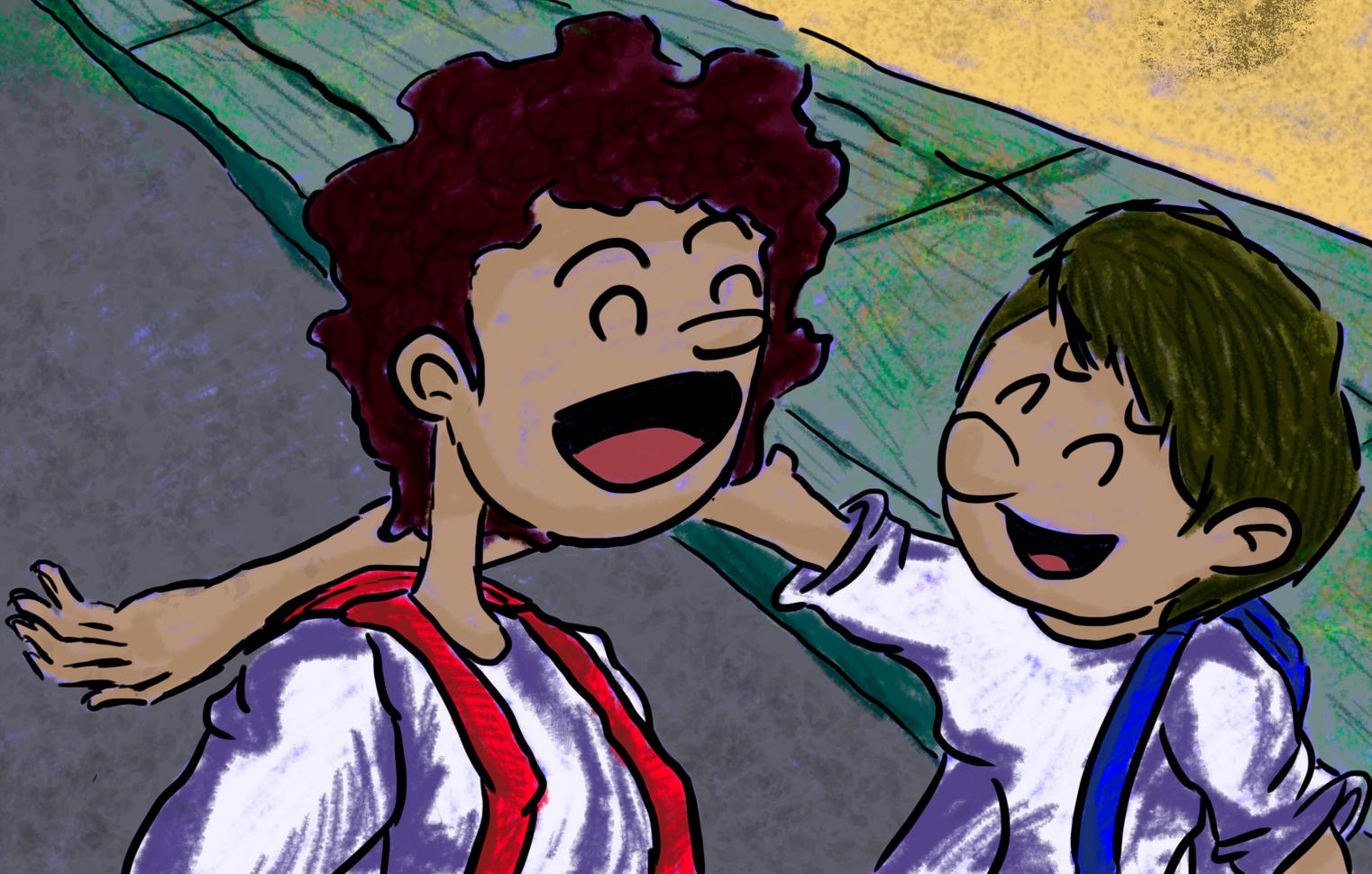
Federico cannot not contain his excitement and gives each member of his new family a big hug. That night, he takes a bath, puts on clean clothes, eats freshly cooked food for dinner, and sleeps in Tommy's room, which from now on belongs to both.

Since then, every morning, Sammy, Tommy and Fede leave with their dad on their way to school.

Sometimes the children walk slowly and look nostalgically at the sidewalk where they met.

Tommy found a friend on that sidewalk; one that he can now call brother.

THE END



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