

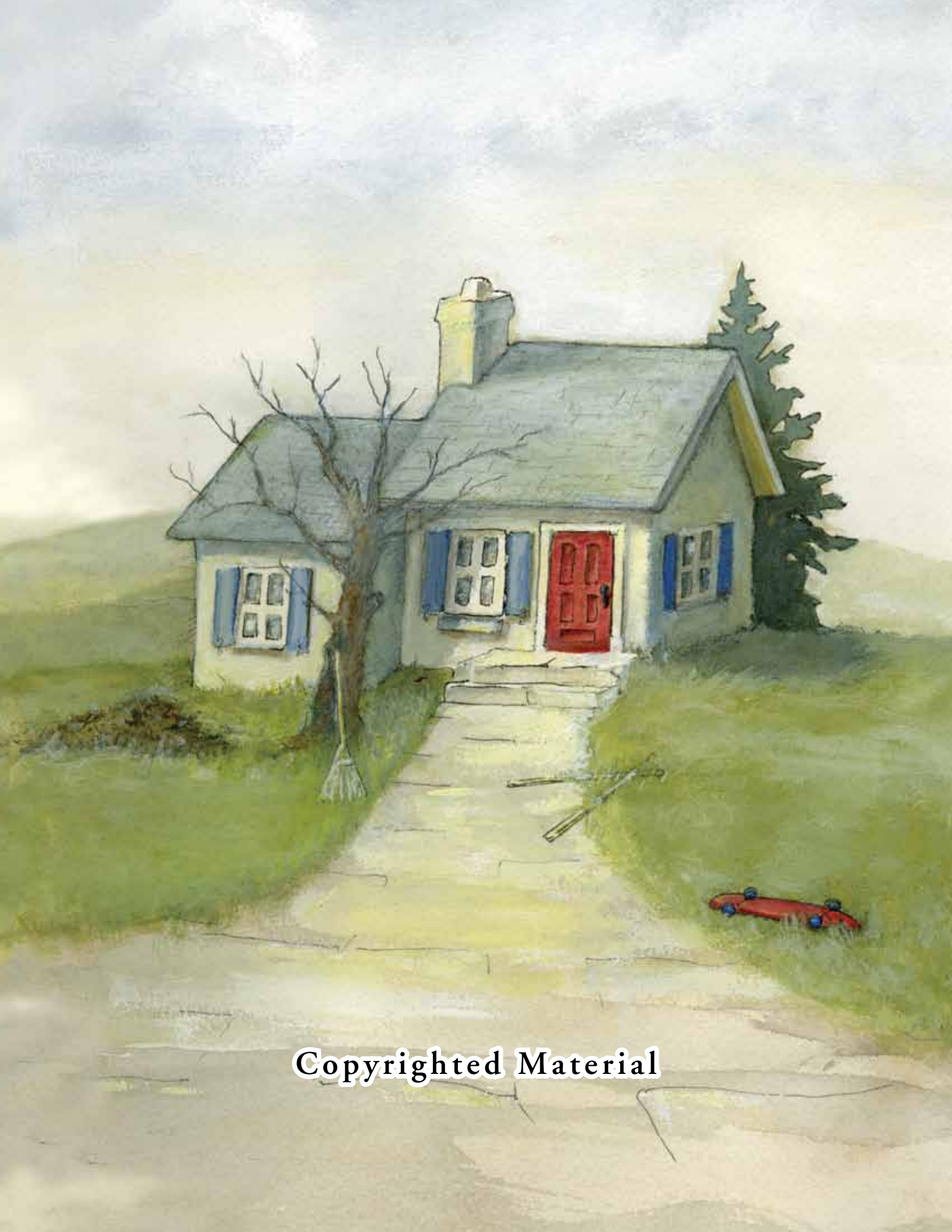
*WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY*

Martha Sears West

PREVIEW



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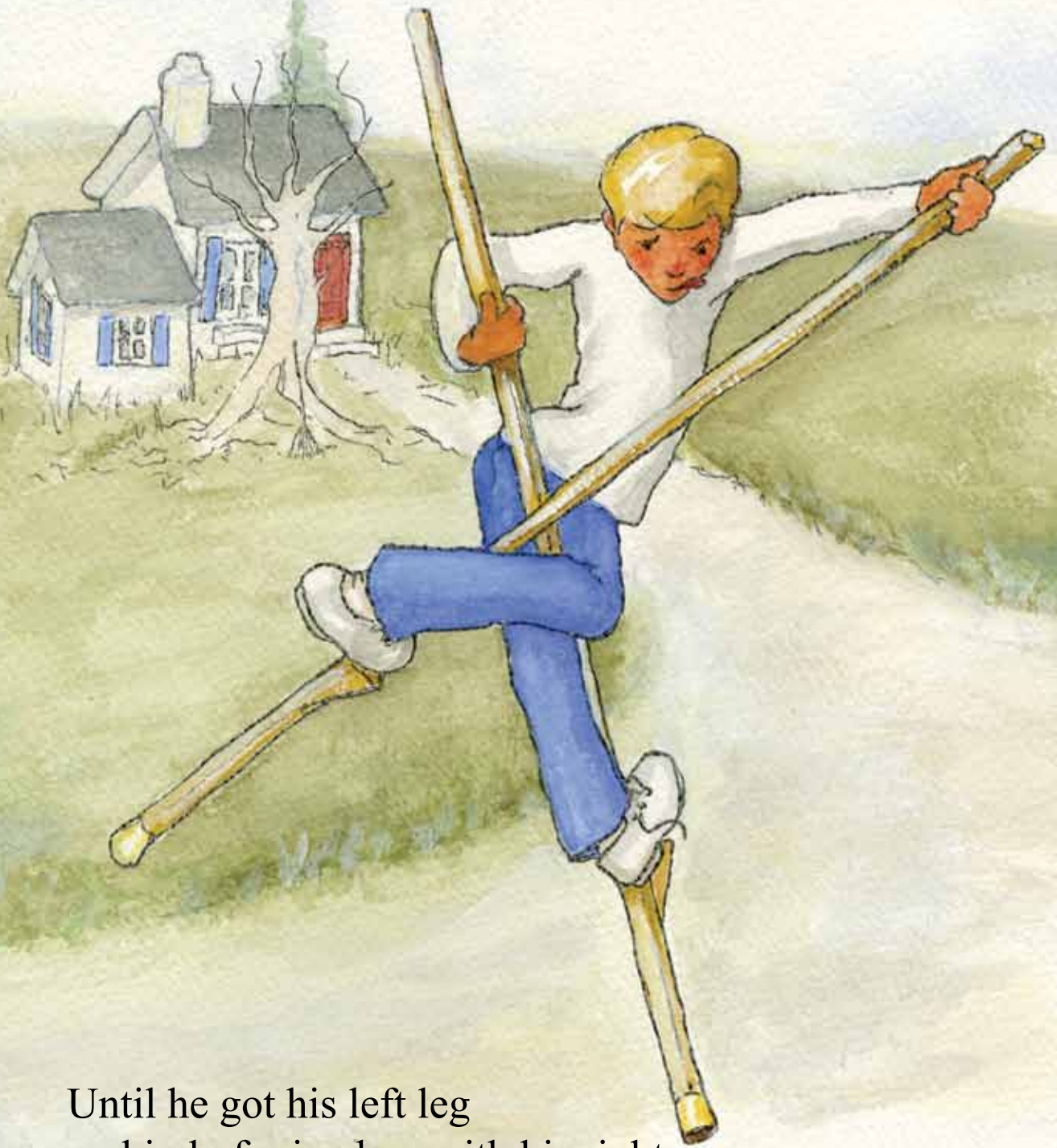
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**O**ne fall when Jake was small,  
you see, the story goes like this:  
His skateboard hit a little tree  
he'd rather hoped to miss.

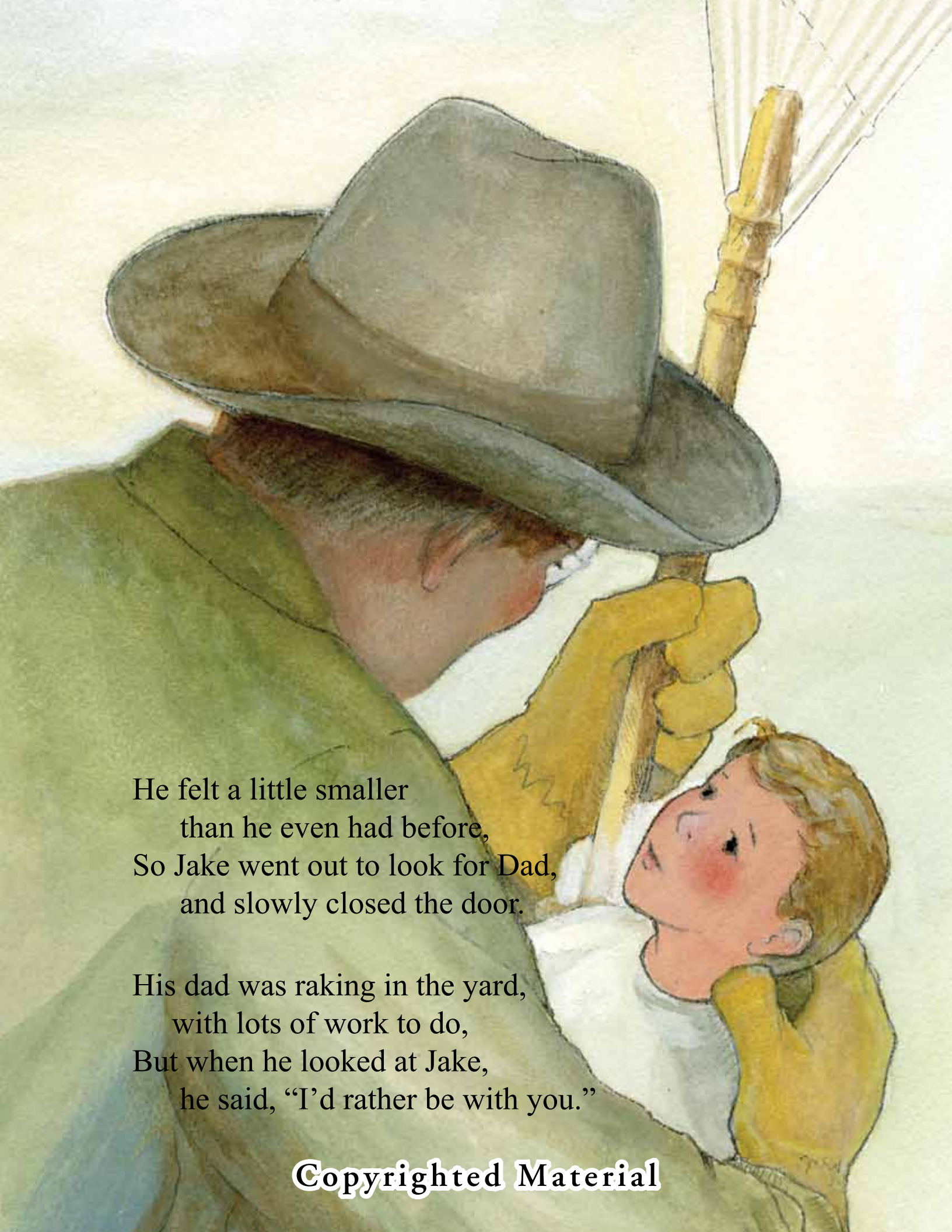
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And then there were the stilts  
he thought would maximize his height,



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

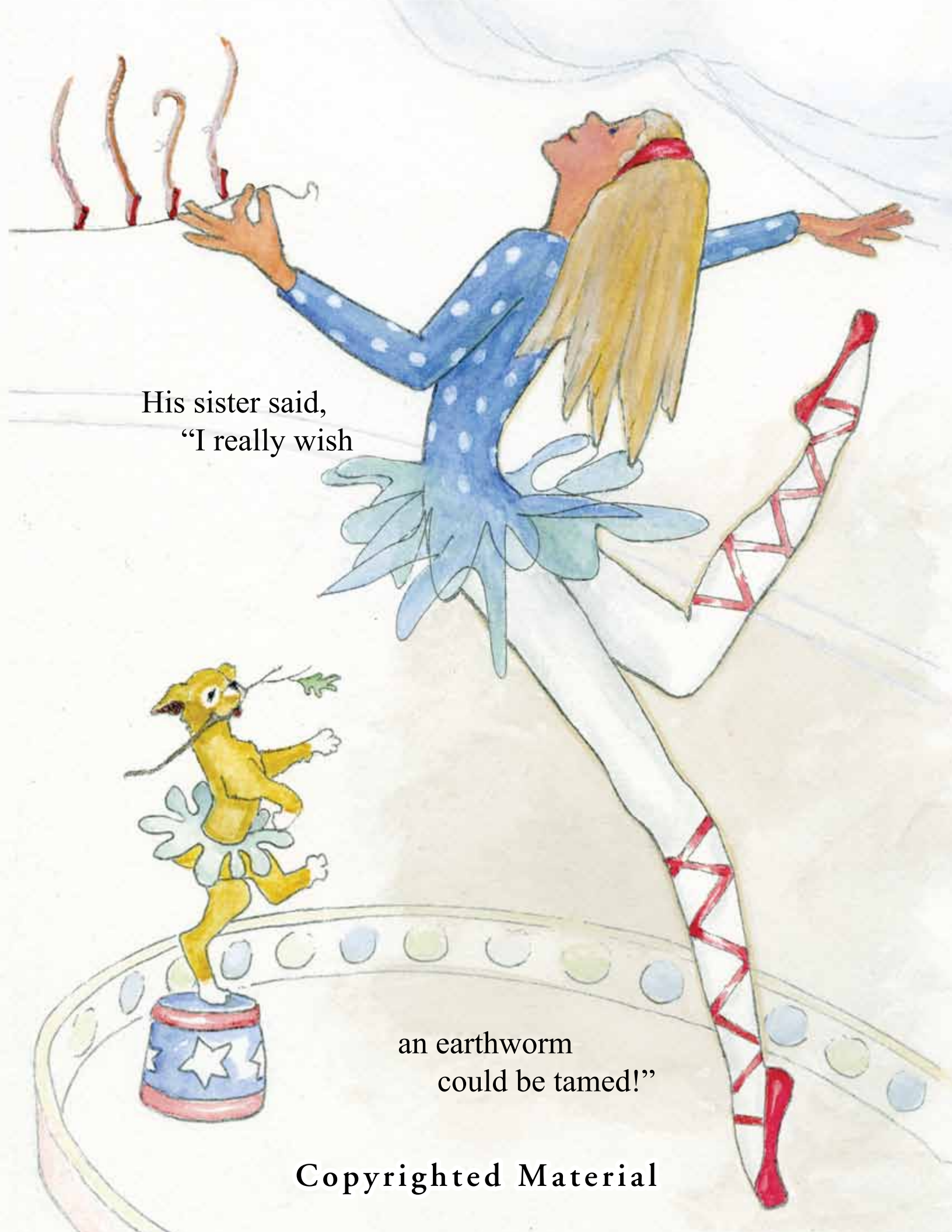
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He felt a little smaller  
than he even had before,  
So Jake went out to look for Dad,  
and slowly closed the door.

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."

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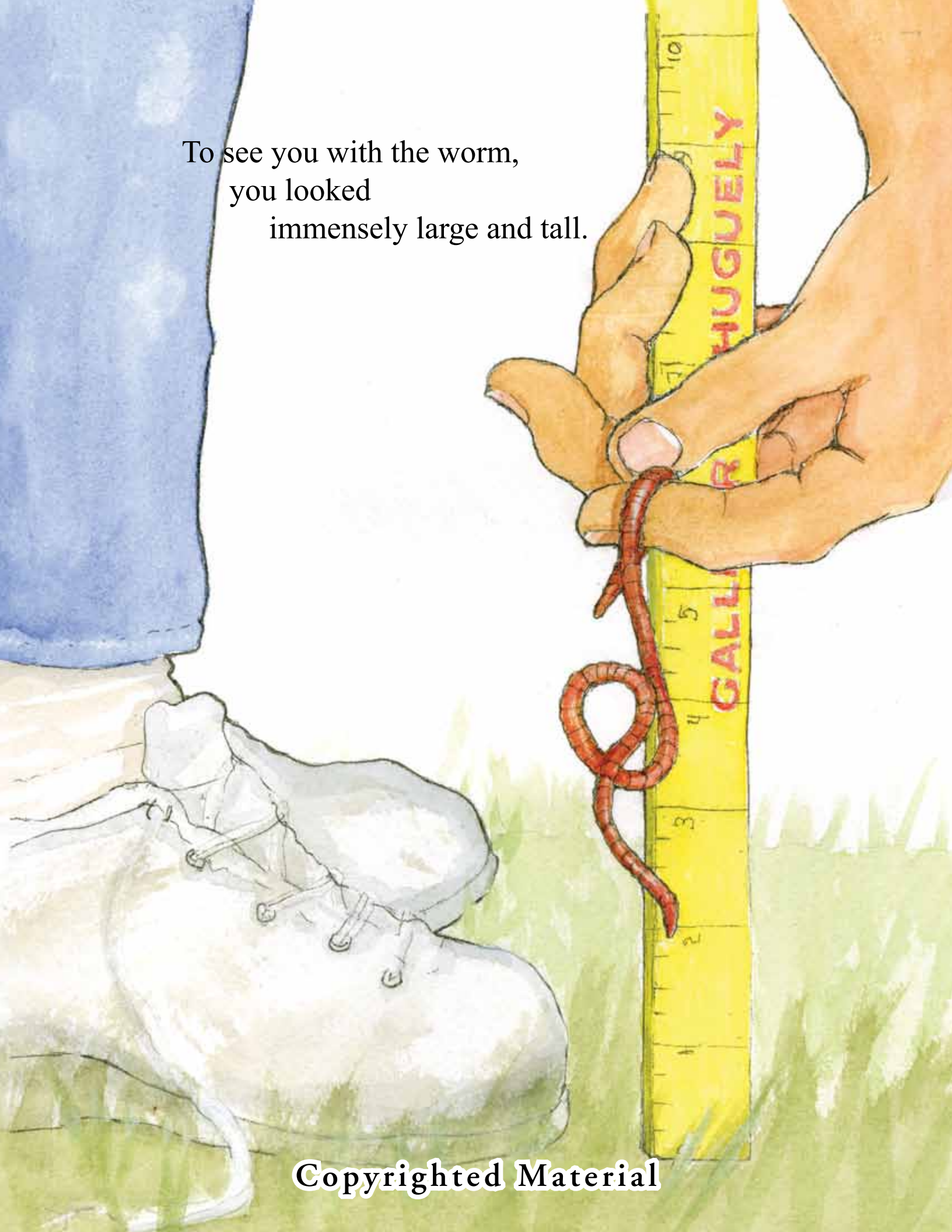


His sister said,  
“I really wish

an earthworm  
could be tamed!”

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To see you with the worm,  
you looked  
immensely large and tall.







“You can play a red kazoo,  
and whistle, hum and sing.  
You can run in racing shoes  
as fast as anything!”



“You can order hamburgers  
with pickles on the side.  
When someone needs  
some jumping done,  
you’re more than qualified.”



## 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.”*

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“**S**uperbly rendered visual images . . . stunning . . . Young elementary school students will identify with Jake’s situation, and the easy reading level and engaging illustrations make this an excellent offering for both shared and independent reading.”

— Carolyn Bailey, *ForeWord Clarion Reviews*

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“**T**his story demonstrates how each of us fits into the big picture of the universe in small and significant ways we can be proud of. The illustrations alone are meaningful, but coupled with the text, they make the experience one you won’t want to miss.”

— Deborah K. Ilardi, editor, *School Nurse News*

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“**A** delight to read—fun rhymes and playful use of language. The illustrations are AMAZING. The page with the worm in the superhero cape never fails to produce a hearty belly laugh from our 5 year old. And yes, a beautiful message too.”

— L.D., *Amazon.com*



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