

HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS



### Credits

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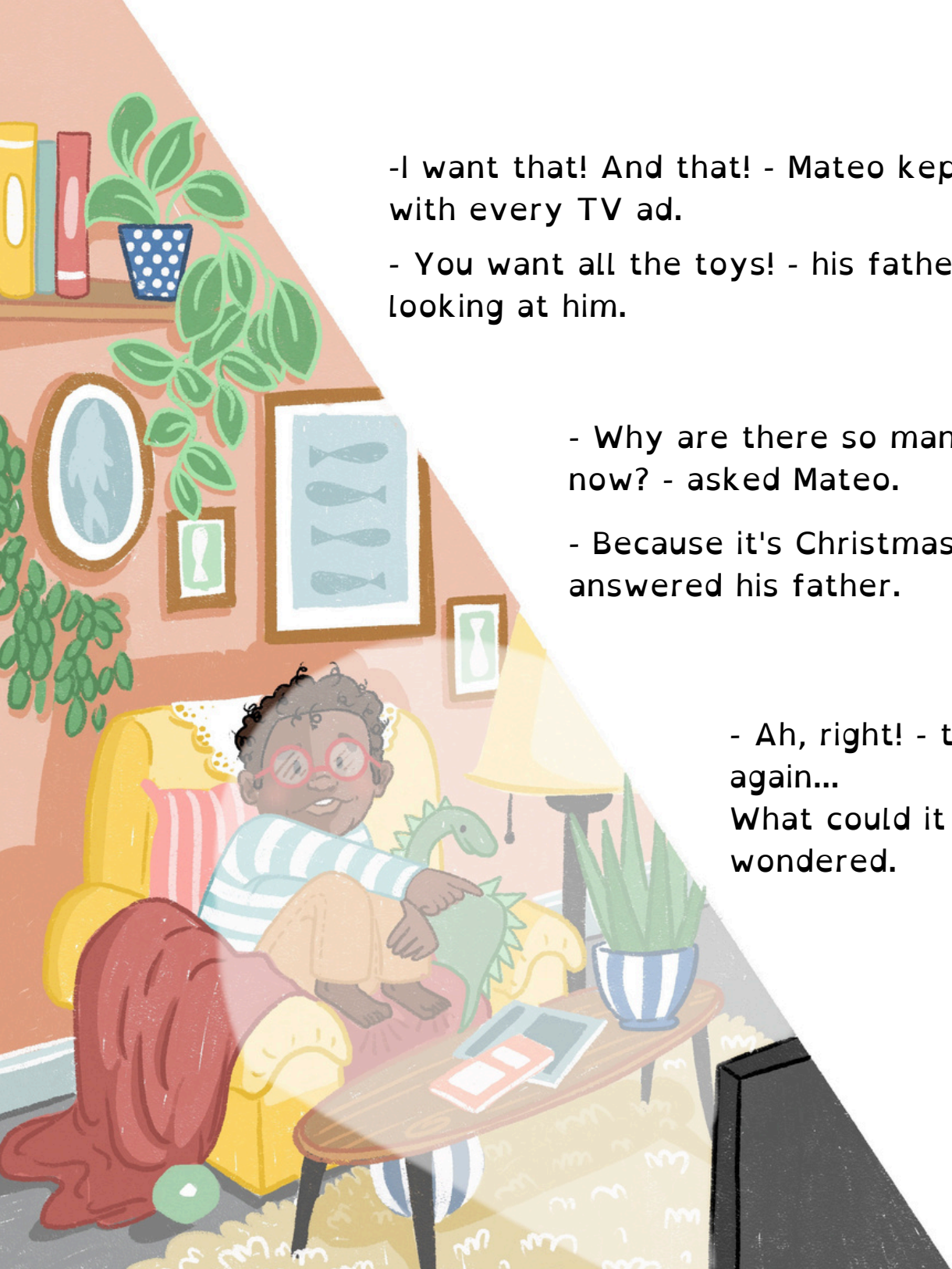
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- Let's go, team! From the beginning, "it was Rudolph the reindeer", repeated the teacher.  
- Why are we doing this?- asked Mateo.

- Because it's Christmas,- answered his teacher.  
- Ah, okay,- said Mateo, although he didn't quite know what that meant...






-I want that! And that! - Mateo kept saying with every TV ad.

- You want all the toys! - his father laughed looking at him.

- Why are there so many toys now? - asked Mateo.

- Because it's Christmas,- answered his father.

- Ah, right! - that word again...  
What could it be? he wondered.



-Wake up, sleepyhead,- said his father, tickling him.

- Are we late for school?

-There's no school today, it's Christmas! But we have to hurry, we have to go shopping, so let's have breakfast.

Mateo became very angry, started screaming and crying until he turned red.  
His father didn't know why he was so upset.  
When he finally calmed down, he went to breakfast, although in a bad mood.



While he was eating breakfast, Mateo finally dared to ask.

- Dad, what is Christmas?

His father remembered about past Christmas. Mateo spent the day in a bad mood, crying and throwing tantrums. He didn't want to be with his family and wouldn't talk to anyone; he even went without dinner because he didn't like anything!

First things first," his father began, "let's decide what we're having for dinner."

Mateo's father proceeded to show him pictures of various Christmas dinner dishes, some of which Mateo had never seen before.

While there were dishes that caught Mateo's interest, there were also some he wasn't too keen on.

Together, they discussed and settled on dishes that Mateo would enjoy.

-This year had to be different, his father thought. There was not much time left, so he had start right away.

Mateo and his dad created a calendar where they wrote down what they were going to do each day.



-Today it's grocery shopping and decorating the house. Tomorrow the grandparents, aunts and uncles are coming for dinner. And on the 25th, we're going to the grandparents' house for lunch, - his father told Mateo.



They repeated the process for Christmas dinner.

"Grandma, I want rice with tomato for Christmas," Mateo said happily in a video call.

"Of course, honey. I can't wait to see you!" his grandma replied warmly.



"Next step, we can figure out what you are going to play with your cousins," Mateo's father said cheerfully.

"Who are they?" asked Mateo.



His father, momentarily puzzled, quickly realized the reason for Mateo's question.

"Of course!" he exclaimed. His cousins lived in the city and they didn't get to see each other much.

He grabbed a photo album and began to tell Mateo who each person was.

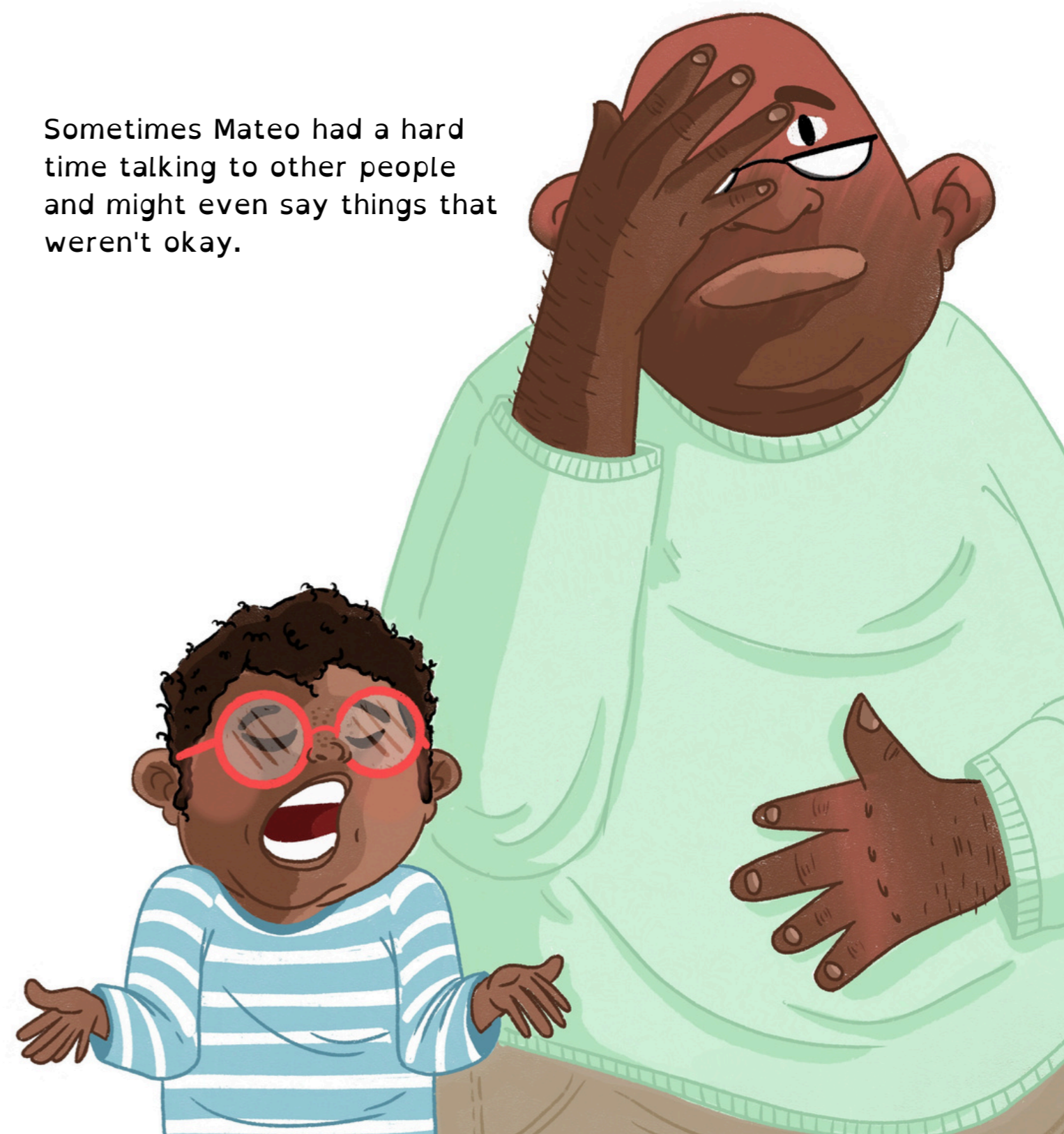


Mateo selected the games to share with his cousins.

He was super excited.



Sometimes Mateo had a hard time talking to other people and might even say things that weren't okay.





So, they created a poster outlining the rules of what to do and what not to do.

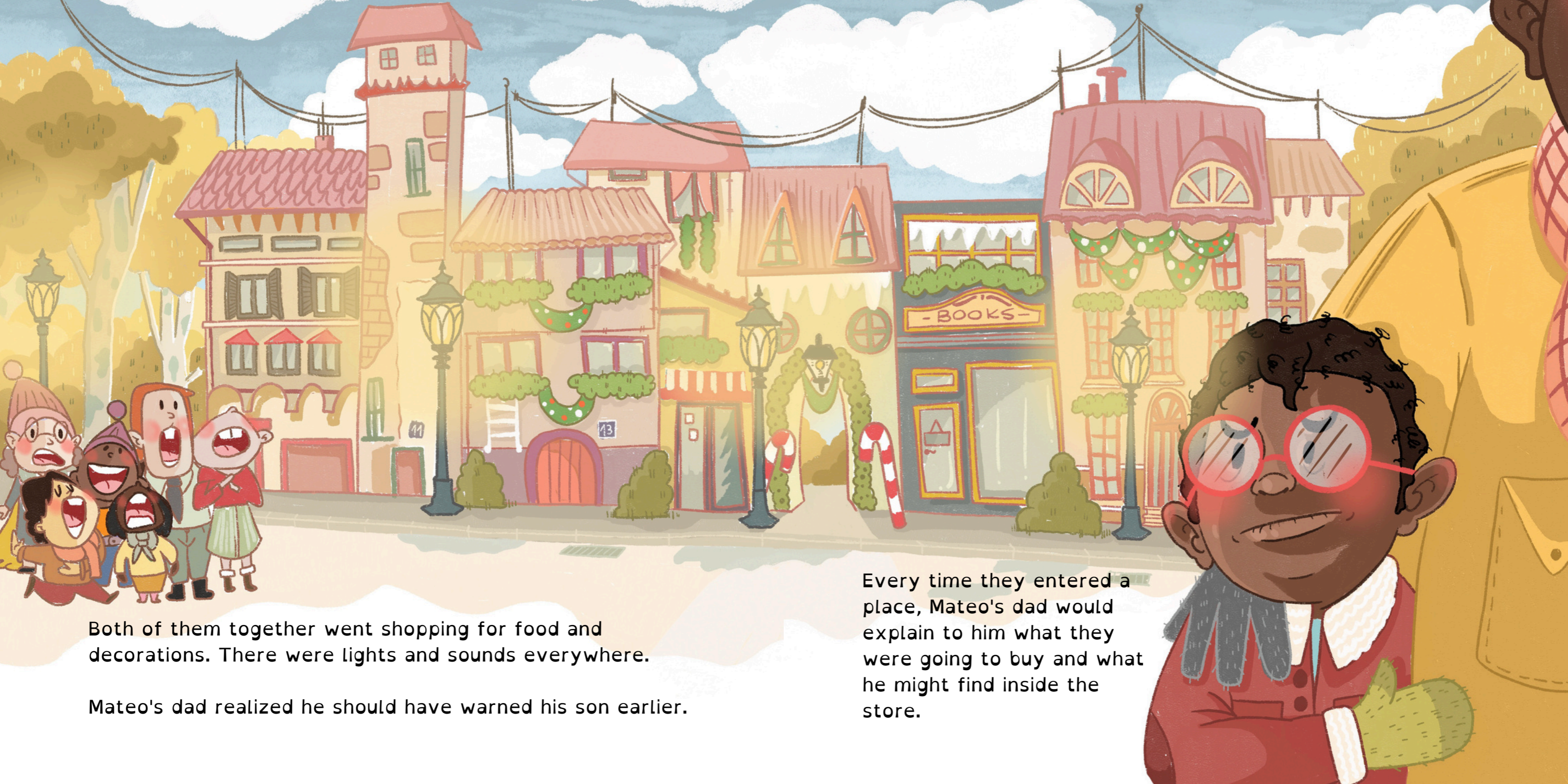
Knowing Mateo couldn't read very well, they used drawings and pictures to illustrate each point.



-And remember, if you have any doubts or questions, you tell me first, okay?" Mateo's father reminded him.

-"Okay, Dad," Mateo replied.





Both of them together went shopping for food and decorations. There were lights and sounds everywhere.

Mateo's dad realized he should have warned his son earlier.

Every time they entered a place, Mateo's dad would explain to him what they were going to buy and what he might find inside the store.

Although there were some stressful moments, and Mateo had a little trouble getting into some stores, they made it!



Little by little, they crossed off all the items on the list they had made.

Mateo particularly enjoyed crossing them off!





Once home they started decorating it. Mateo wanted to put his superhero toys on the tree.

-Okay. Ha ha ha ha.... It's going to be a fun tree. By the way, have you written the letter yet?

-"What letter?" wondered Mateo.

-"The one about the Christmas presents," his father replied, realizing they had discussed everything but that.





Since Mateo found it hard to write, they decided to use toy magazines instead. Together, they cut out and glued pictures of all the toys Mateo wanted onto the letter.

So, they were ready for Christmas!



The next day went smoothly.

Mateo ate dinner quietly, played with his cousins, and enjoyed conversations with his aunts, uncles, and grandparents.



Since their Christmas preparations had been so enjoyable and beneficial for Mateo, his dad decided to repeat the process for New Year's Day.



With all the photos they had taken during their family gatherings, Mateo's dad created a notebook detailing what they had done each day. This way, Mateo could easily recall and share his experiences at school. His dad planned to use it for the next Christmas too, ensuring they could cherish the memories for years to come.









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