

Jumpstart

Read for the Record®

Nigel *and* *the* Moon

By Antwan Eady

Illustrations by Gracey Zhang





Jumpstart

Read for the Record® PLEDGE

Name

Date

Now in its 17th year, Jumpstart's annual *Read for the Record* campaign brings together millions of adults and children as they read the same book on the same day, building an intergenerational community through reading.

BRING NIGEL AND THE MOON TO LIFE

- Make reading fun and interactive. Read expressively (use voices, gestures, and actions) to draw readers into the story and boost their understanding of events, characters, and themes.
- As you follow Nigel through career week, explain new words, comment on illustrations, and ask questions.
- Mimic the facial expressions of the characters to show their emotions, such as frowning in worry, whispering with shyness, and smiling with pride.

DISCOVERING NEW WORDS IN NIGEL AND THE MOON

Pride – a feeling of happiness that you have done something good

Career – a job someone does for a long time

Distance – how far apart two things are

Quiver – to shake when you are nervous or scared

Shrink – to become smaller

Worry – to think about something you are afraid about

Fancy – very special

Swell – to become bigger

Describe the meaning of a word, point to an illustration, or use tone of voice to convey the word's meaning.

LET'S PLAY

Take the story from the pages of the book to children's imagination. Try these ideas for practicing vocabulary and exploring story themes through play:

- Choose a favorite scene and invite your child to act out a role from the story and chime in on dialogue.
- Play a guessing game with emotions from the story. For example, "*I'm twirling around the moon. How am I feeling?*"
- Talk about the different jobs described in the story. Pretend to be astronauts, truck drivers, veterinarians, architects, or chefs!

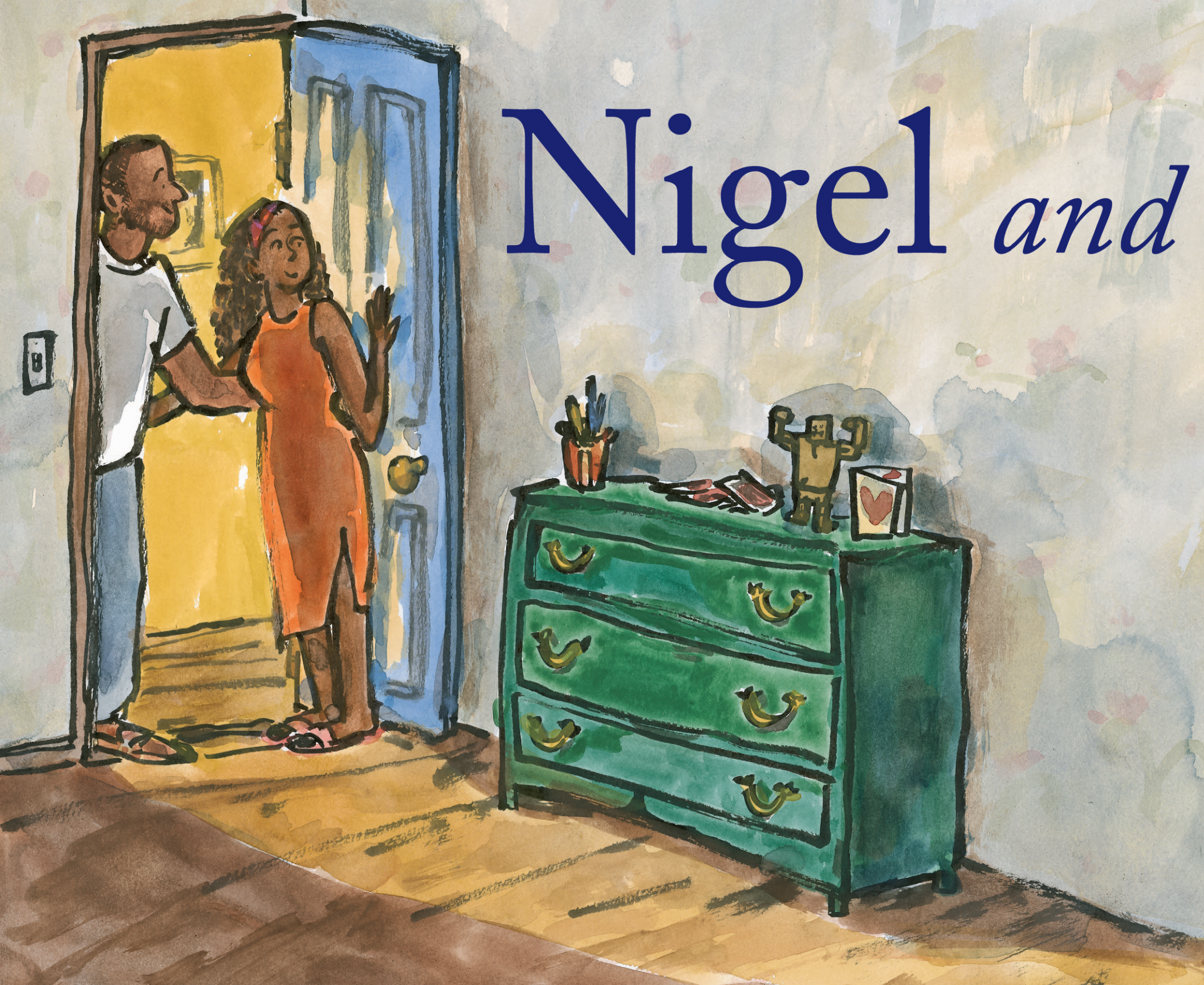
(Continued on Inside Back Cover)



A watercolor illustration of a large, bright yellow moon on the left side, set against a dark blue, textured night sky. The moon is rendered with soft, blended yellow and white washes. The sky is a deep, layered blue with darker, more saturated areas, suggesting a starry or cloudy night.

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the Moon

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KATHERINE TEGEN BOOKS
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For my mom and dad, Viola and Peter. For my siblings and their young dreamers.
And for you, dear reader. One day you will unlock the secret desires
of your heart and fervently pursue them. —A.E.

To all yet to be realized dreams: the moon is always listening. —G.Z.

Katherine Tegen Books is an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Nigel and the Moon

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The artist used ink, gouache, and watercolor paint to create the illustrations for this book.

Typography by Chelsea C. Donaldson

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First Edition





At night, he tells the moon his dreams.
And here his dreams are safe.



And I'm an astronaut.


"Hi. My name's Nigel.





A dancer.

A superhero too.”

A watercolor illustration of a night sky. The upper portion is a deep, textured blue, representing the night sky, with several small white stars scattered across it. A large, bright yellow and white crescent moon dominates the right side of the frame, with soft, painterly brushstrokes around its edges. The overall style is soft and artistic, with visible brushwork and a gentle gradient of colors.

Among the stars, he twirls, quietly soaring
in the still of the night.
With pride, his chest swells.
And his eyes, they glow. His smile, it shines.

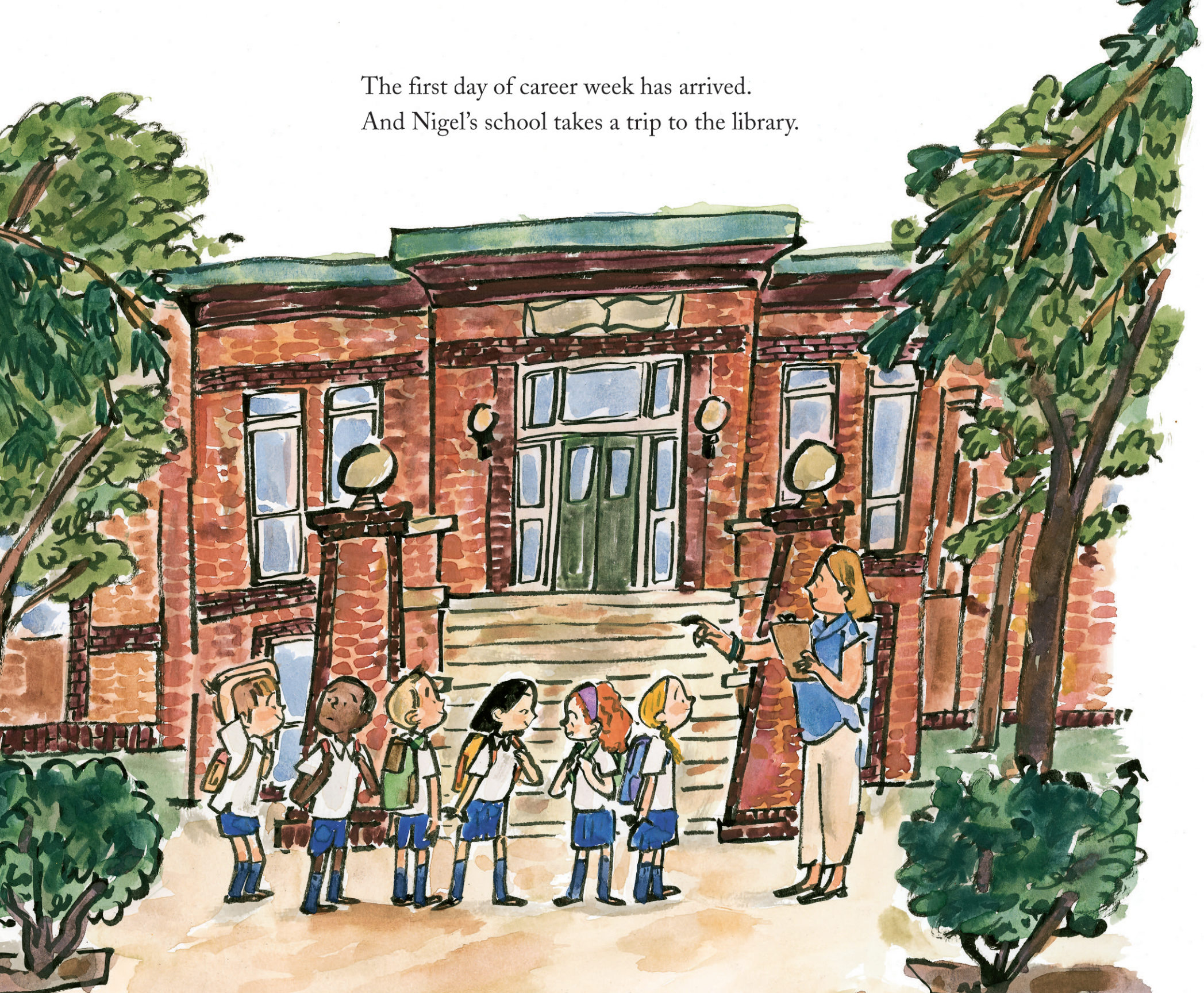


Now the moon isn't the brightest
body in the sky.

Nigel is. And so are his dreams.

But even with dreams so bright,
he isn't ready for the world to see.

The first day of career week has arrived.
And Nigel's school takes a trip to the library.



Book after book, page after page, his classmates choose their favorite jobs.



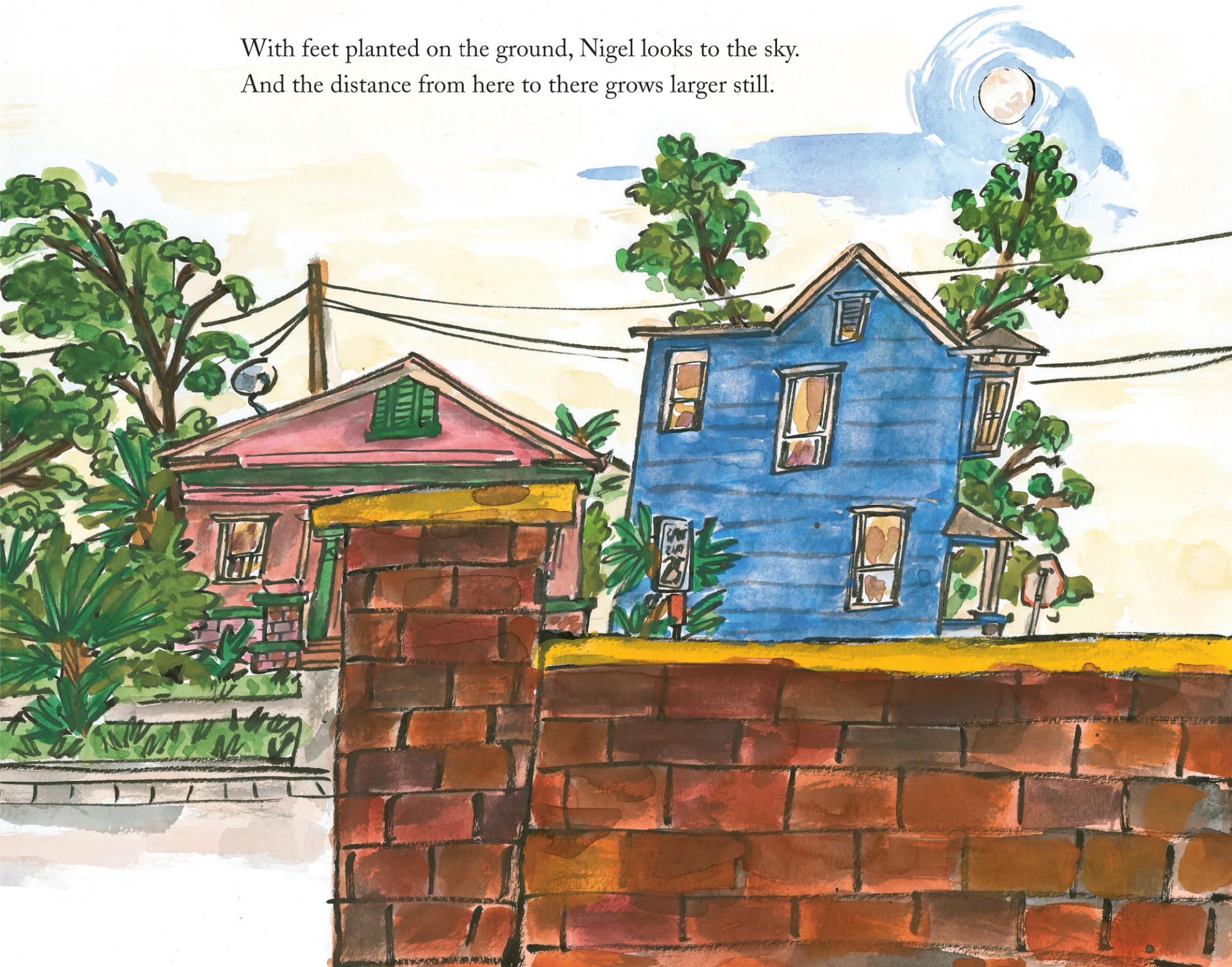
Nigel flips . . . and he flips . . . and he flips again, but a dancer like him cannot be found.




On the second day, his class shadows their parents at work.
House after house, block after block, Nigel follows his mom.



With feet planted on the ground, Nigel looks to the sky.
And the distance from here to there grows larger still.







Back in his bed, he searches for the moon.
In the dark hue of the night, he finds it
once more.

And there, between the moon and him,
his dreams are waiting.

“Tomorrow, I’ll tell the world,” he says.
Yet he quivers at the thought.

On the third day, the teacher asks, "What would you like to be when you grow up?"

"A doctor!"

"An engineer like my dad!"

"A veterinarian!"



Nigel shrinks in his chair. “I—I don’t know.”
He can’t bring himself to whisper the word: *superhero*.



But later that night, he tells the moon his hopes.
And out the window they glide, far, far away
where no one can pull them down.



“One day, I’ll land on the moon.”

“Dance ballet.”

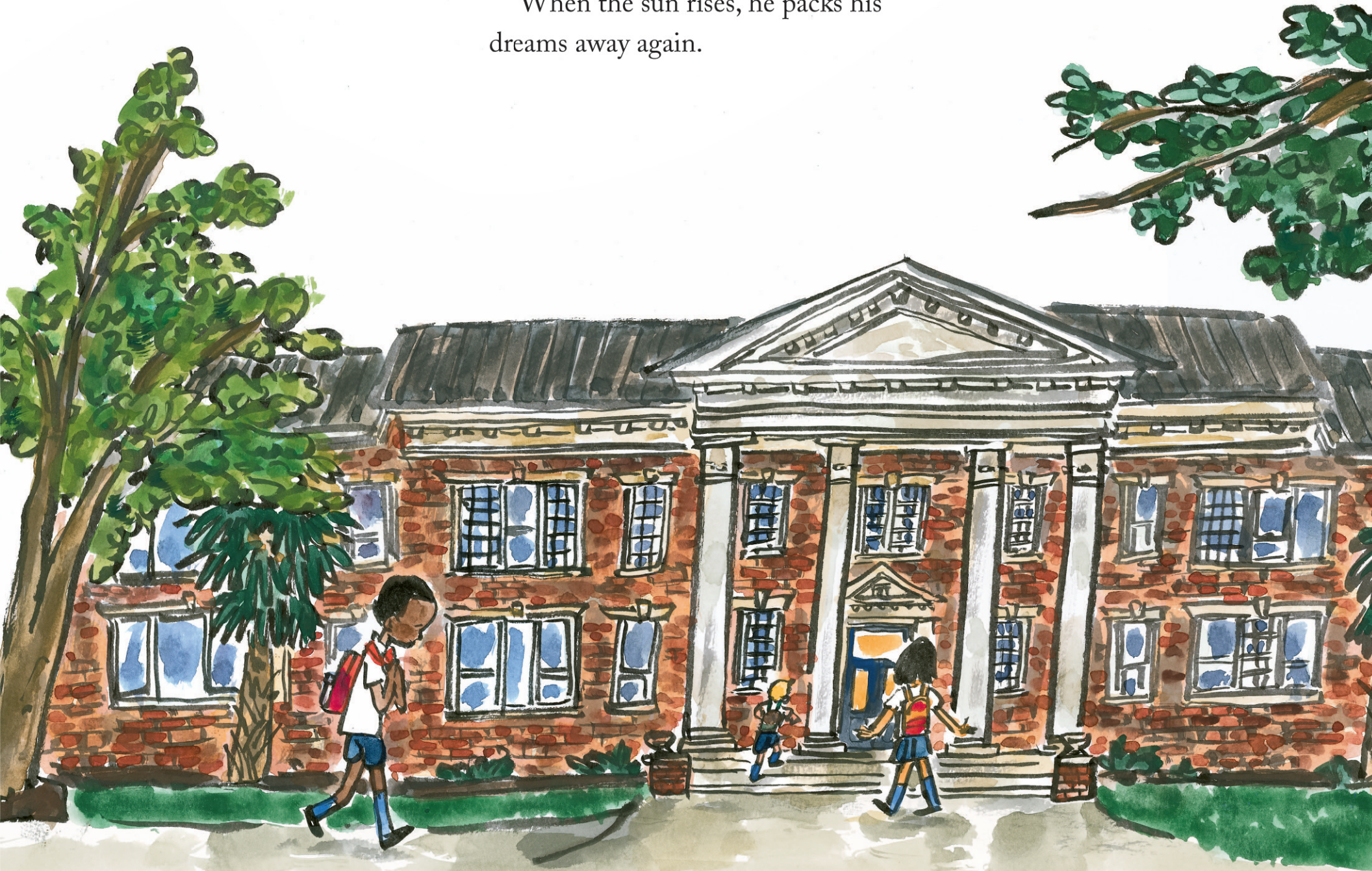
“And wear my cape with honor.”





But Nigel also worries, and he shares that with the moon.
“What if I wish to be too many things?” he wonders.

When the sun rises, he packs his
dreams away again.



On the fourth day, his teacher asks,
“What are your parents’ careers?”

“My mom’s a surgeon.”

“My dad’s a weatherman.”

“My mother’s the president
of a big candy company.”





Now all eyes are on Nigel.
“My parents—”
He pauses. Then asks to be excused.



That night, he tells the moon his truth.

“I’m scared.”

“My parents don’t have fancy jobs.”

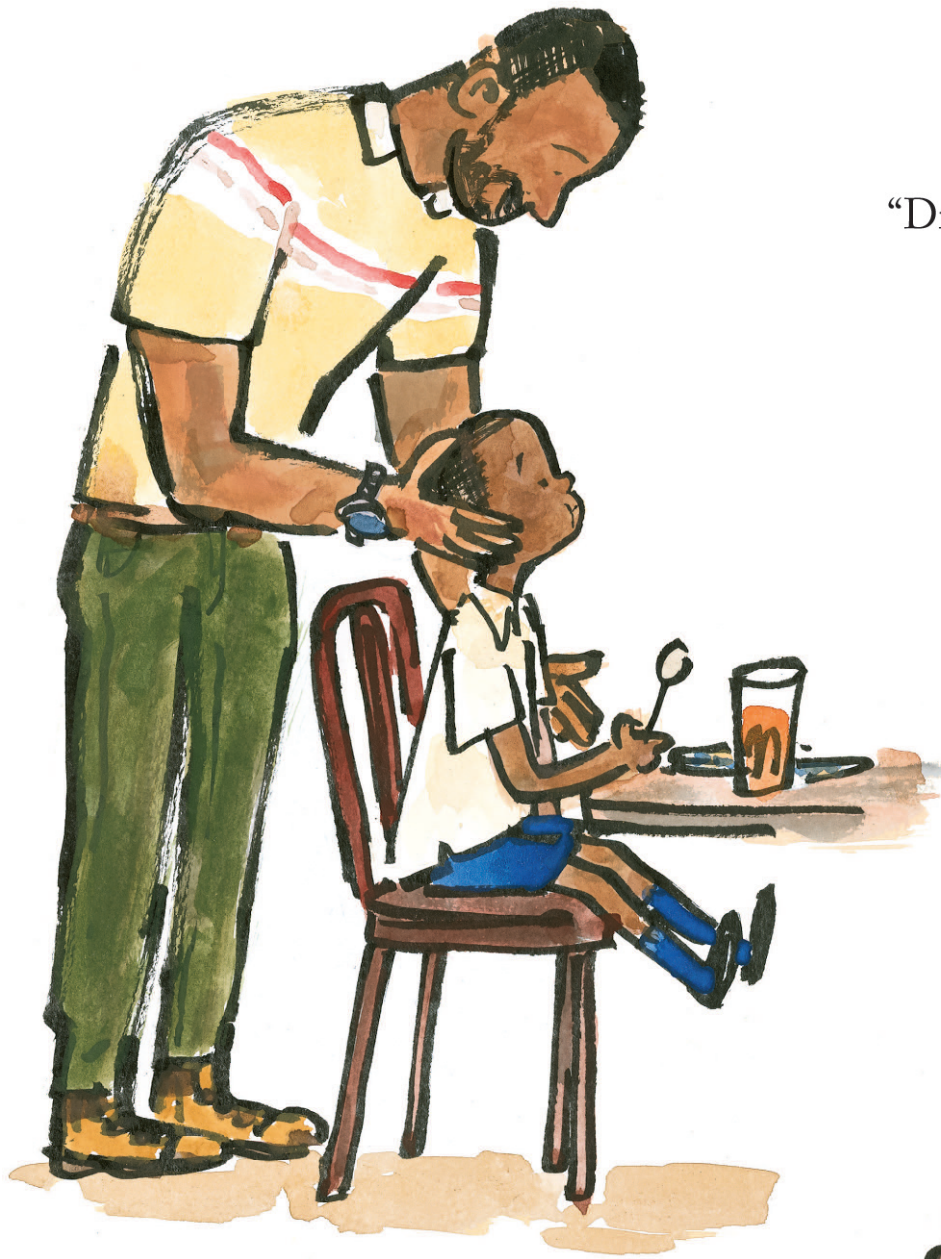
“Will my class laugh if I tell them?”



It's easy to tell the moon his truth.
It's easy to tell the moon his dreams.
But Nigel's not ready to tell the world.

The next morning, Nigel slowly makes his way down the stairs.





“Dream big, Son,” Dad says.



“And be proud of who you are,”
says Mom.

The final day of career week is here.
And some special guests have arrived.
An author.
A chef.
And an architect too.



“But that’s not all,” the teacher says.
“Come in, Mr. and Mrs. Strong.”

Nigel slides down in his chair, but a
shy smile grows across his face.



His mom introduces herself first.

“I’m a postal carrier, and I help connect people around the world. Love letters, birthday cards, postcards, and more—I deliver them all.”







His dad follows.

“I’m a truck driver. Most days, it feels like I’m driving a monster truck. *Vroom!*”

The class erupts in laughter.

Looking around the room, Nigel can tell it’s the good kind.

“Above all,” his dad adds, pointing at his son.
“Raising Nigel’s been the best job we’ve ever had.”
With pride, Nigel’s chest swells.
His eyes, they glow. His smile, it shines.



At night, he tells the moon his dreams.
But today—

He takes a stand. "I'd like to say something."
Nigel joins his parents in front of the class.





“I want to be an astronaut on the moon or a dancer on the stage. And when the world needs a superhero, *I* can be that too.”

At night, he tells the moon his dreams.
But telling the world isn't so scary after all.







LET'S TALK ABOUT *NIGEL AND THE MOON*

We hope you enjoyed *Nigel and the Moon* as much as we did—but don't close the book just yet! Talking about the characters and what happened throughout the story helps children make meaning of the story events and build connections to the world around them. Use some of the following questions and prompts to get the conversation started:

- In the story, Nigel tells the moon about the many different jobs he dreams about: an astronaut, a dancer, and a superhero. What would you like to be when you grow up?
- Nigel thinks it's easy to tell the moon his truth and his dreams. Why does he feel different about sharing at school?
- Nigel is scared his class will laugh because he thinks his parents don't have fancy jobs. What happens when his parents come to school? How does his feelings change?
- Nigel's mom is a postal carrier who helps people connect by delivering all types of letters. Nigel's mom is an essential worker, someone who helps the community. She is a postal carrier who delivers all types of letters. Why is her job important? Can you think of other jobs that help people?
- At the end of the story, Nigel proudly stands in front of the classroom with his parents. What special things does your family do, that make you feel proud or very happy?



Find more activities at readfortherecord.org

Kareem McMichael



Antwan Eady is an author and a dreamer. Originally from Garnett, South Carolina, he spent many nights whispering his dreams; now he proudly shares them with the world. A graduate of Clemson University, Antwan now lives in Savannah, Georgia. Visit him at www.antwaneady.com.

Courtesy Gracey Zhang



Gracey Zhang is an illustrator, born and raised in Vancouver, Canada. She received her BA in illustration from Rhode Island School of Design and now resides in Brooklyn, New York. She is the writer and illustrator of *Lala's Words*. She spends most of her time among scattered papers and ink pots, and when she's not at her desk, you can find her looking out train windows, watching and listening.

Ages 4–8

When Nigel looks up at the moon, his future is bright.

He imagines himself as . . . an astronaut, a dancer, a superhero too!

Among the stars, he twirls. With pride, his chest swells. And his eyes, they glow. Nigel is the most brilliant body in the sky.

But it's career week at school, and Nigel can't find the courage to share his dreams. It's easy to whisper them to the moon but not to his classmates—especially when he already feels out of place.



Thank you for reading our special edition of *Nigel and the Moon*! Jumpstart's *Read for the Record* selection is a book that encourages every child to dream big. Antwan's story celebrates finding pride in who you are, examines complex issues of race and class, and honors essential workers and their families—all through the eyes of a young boy. Every day at Jumpstart for Young Children, a national early education organization, we work to ensure early educators have the support they need to help children realize their dreams. Thank you for participating in this wonderful campaign, reading with us, and making this work possible.

Let us know how you celebrated Jumpstart's *Read for the Record*

- ✓ Report your numbers at readfortherecord.org
- ✓ Tag us on social [@JumpstartKids](https://twitter.com/JumpstartKids) and don't forget [#ReadForTheRecord](https://twitter.com/ReadForTheRecord)
- ✓ Consider a donation to help give more children access to high-quality books at jstart.org/donate



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