

Kinder.

Growing
Bigger Hearts™



Qamar & the Red Balloons





In a beautiful town,
there lived a little girl
with her loving parents
and her brother Rami.



One of her favorite pastimes was attending the storytelling at the local theatre.

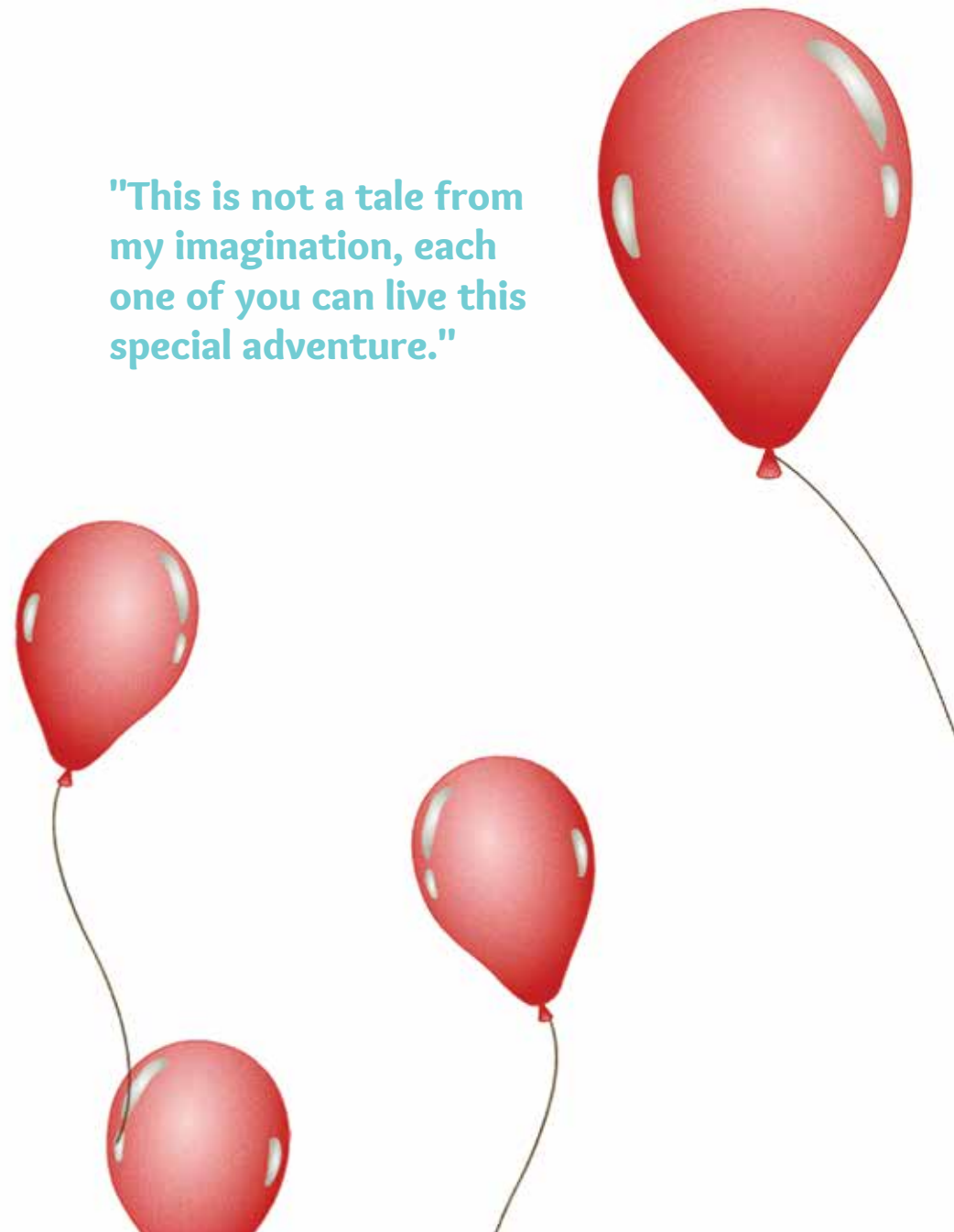
All the children gathered every day and listened carefully to the tales of Uncle Naser, the Hakawati.





**But one day, he
promised that his tale
was not a tale at all.
He said to the children,**

**"This is not a tale from
my imagination, each
one of you can live this
special adventure."**



He continued, "During this time of the year, a thousand lost red balloons gather together to form a huge hot air balloon with a little basket."



He then added, "The balloons will pass right over this theatre and carry the lucky child who sees it first."



The kids were fascinated by the story and asked, "What time will the balloon pass, Uncle Naser?"



He replied, "There is no specific time, my children. But, it will pass any day now before sunset. So, you must sit and watch the sky patiently."





All the children got excited and went to sleep that night, each dreaming that they would be the one to go on this wonderful journey.



Rami told Qamar, "There is no doubt that I will be the one to ride the balloon. I will be patient and watch the sky. I mean, how hard can it be?"

On the first day,
30 children gathered
around the theatre,
all looking up at the sky,
waiting for the balloon
to pass.



Minutes and hours passed with no trace of the balloon, so they all went home disappointed.



The same thing happened
on the second day.
And as the days passed
less children showed up.



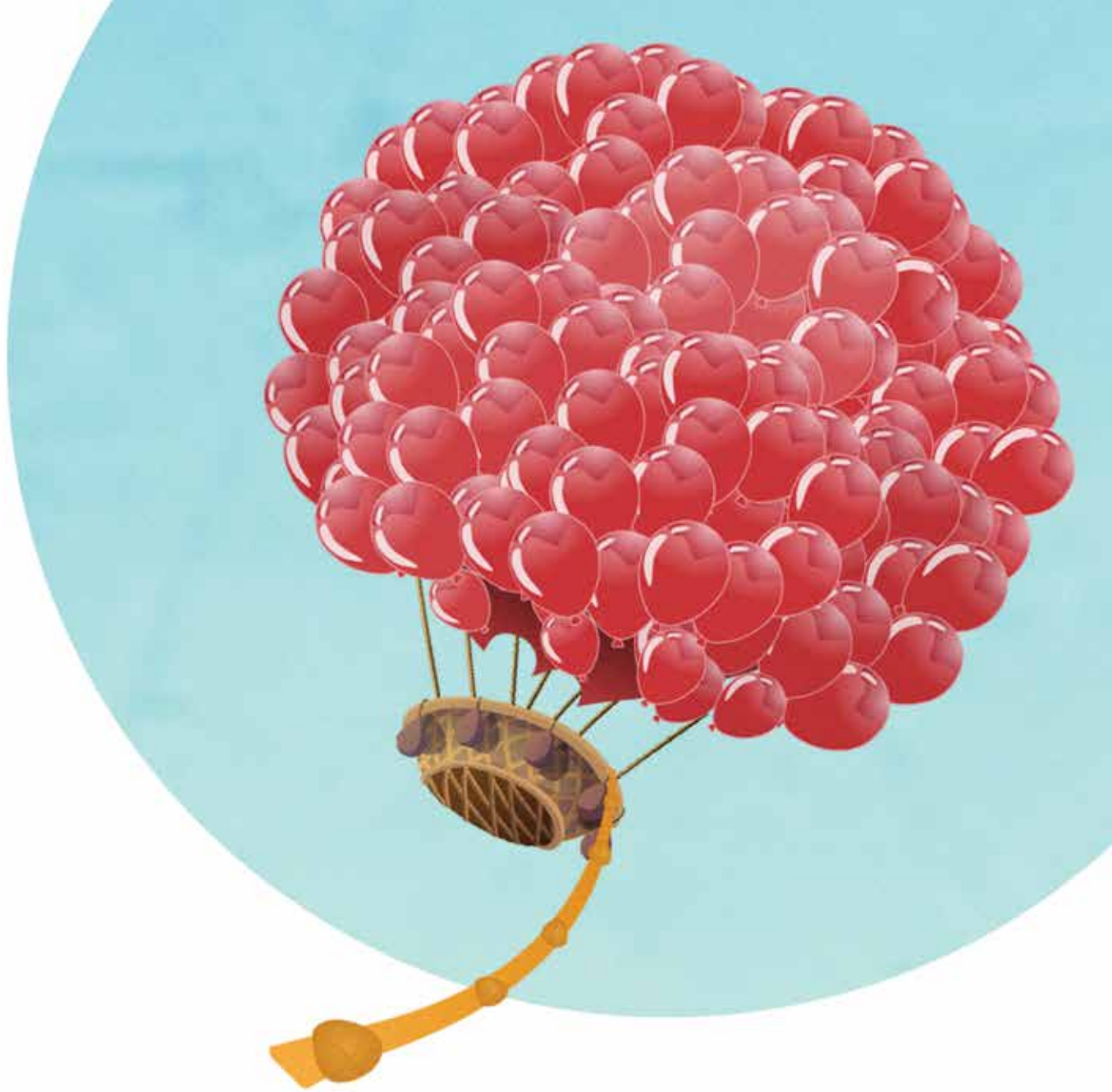
Soon enough, there were only three children left. Rami, Qamar, and their friend Sahar. "Let's go play! There's no point in waiting," said Rami.



Qamar thought about it,
but then remembered the
Hakawati's words and said,
"No, it's Ok. I'll wait.
Imagine all the beautiful
things that can happen
if I get on that balloon."

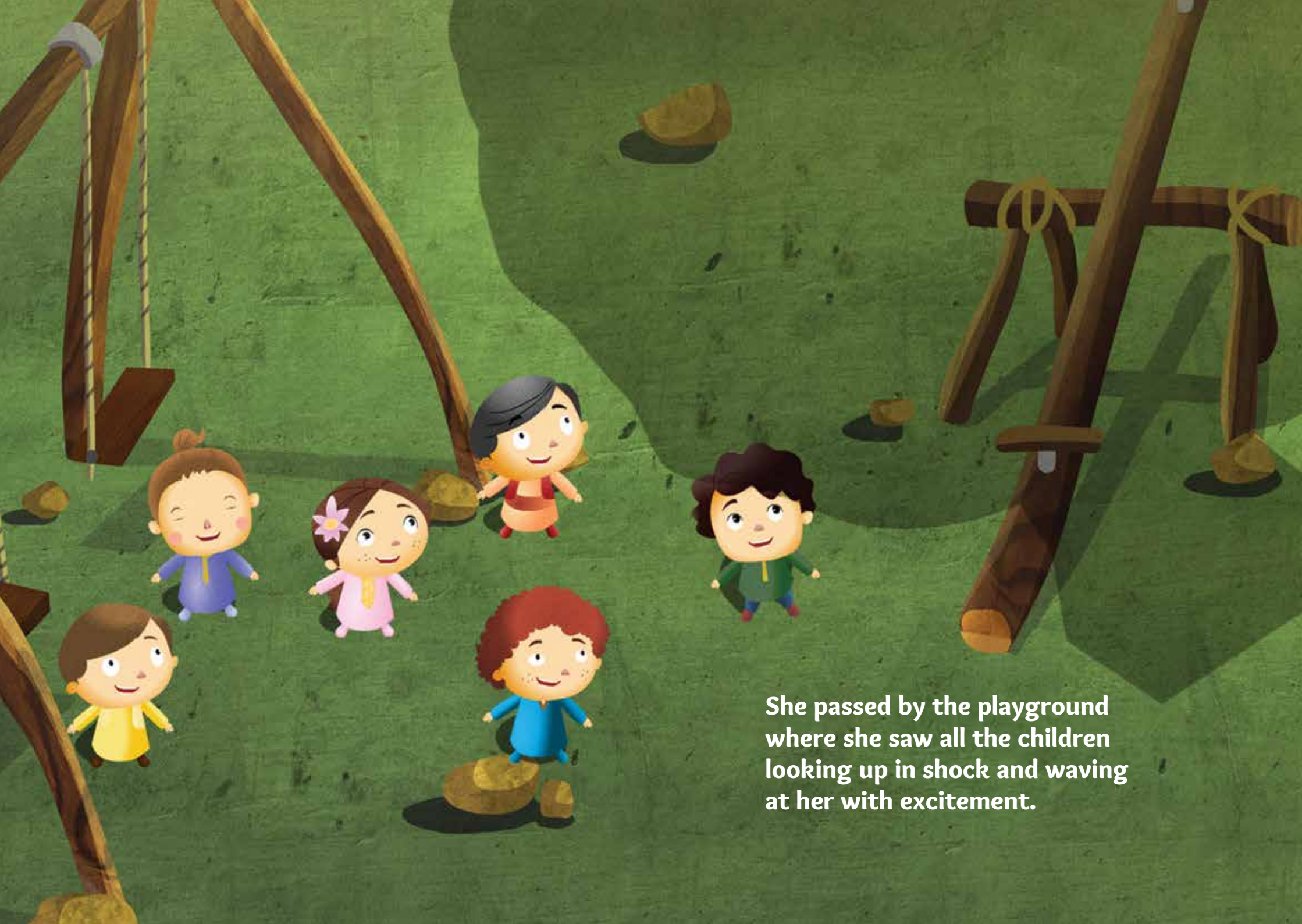


Qamar stayed and watched the sky, only to see huge hot air balloon made of a thousand red balloons fly by and land right beside her. It was a magical sight.



She climbed into the basket and the balloon carried her up slowly.

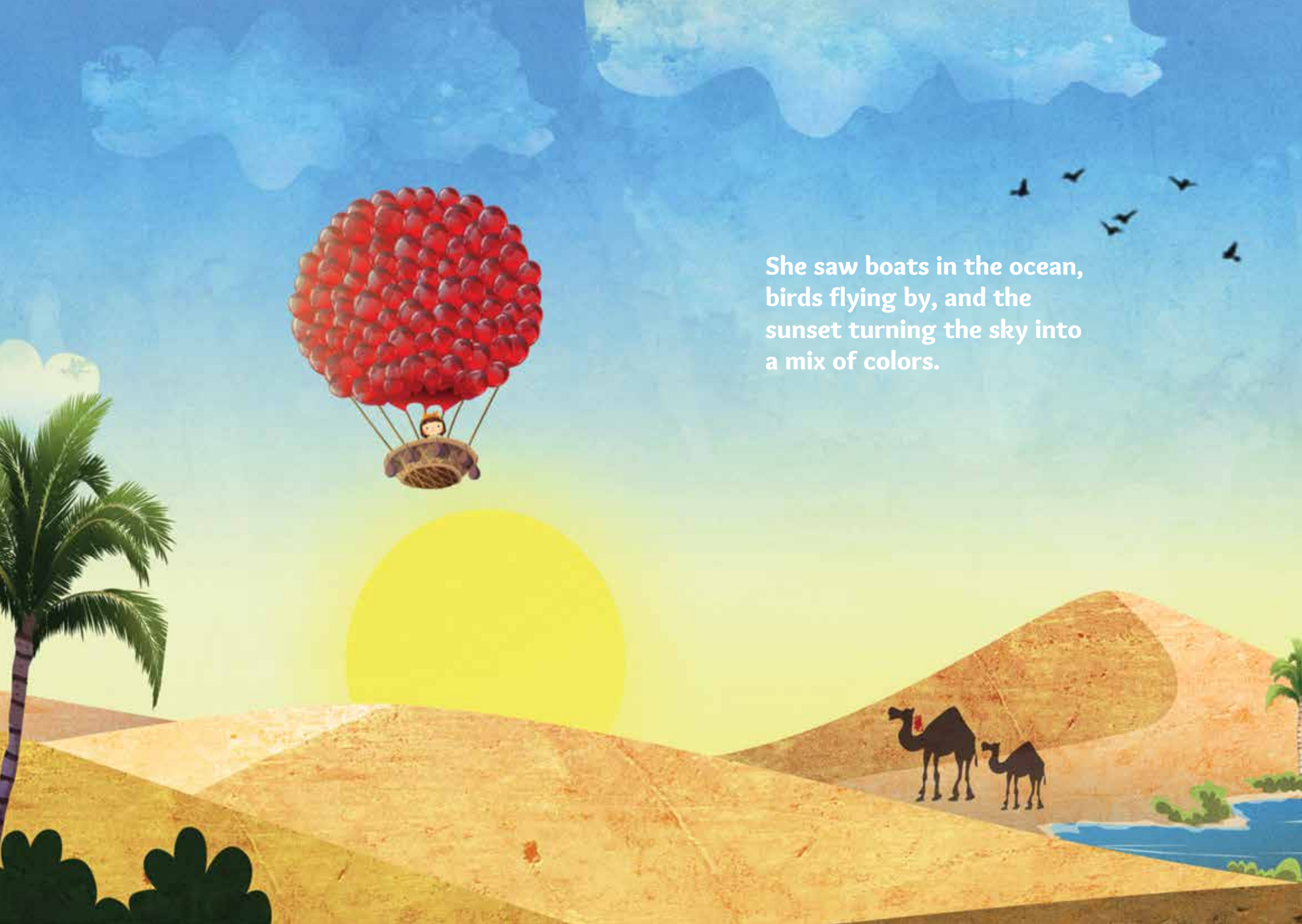




She passed by the playground where she saw all the children looking up in shock and waving at her with excitement.

She went on a wonderful journey. She saw the roofs of all the houses she knew. The trees as if they were sticks with unusual hair.





She saw boats in the ocean,
birds flying by, and the
sunset turning the sky into
a mix of colors.

She saw children's hands waving at her, admiring her for all the time she had spent waiting.



When her adventure was over, she came down and all the kids gathered around her asking about her journey.





Qamar became the new storyteller, telling everyone about what she saw.

The kids listened and each dreamt of living the same adventure as Qamar after learning that the wait was truly worth it.

The End



The background is a soft watercolor wash transitioning from a light blue at the top to a pale yellow at the bottom. In the upper left, there are faint, light blue watercolor clouds. In the upper right, there is a stylized watercolor fish in shades of light green and yellow.

kinder.