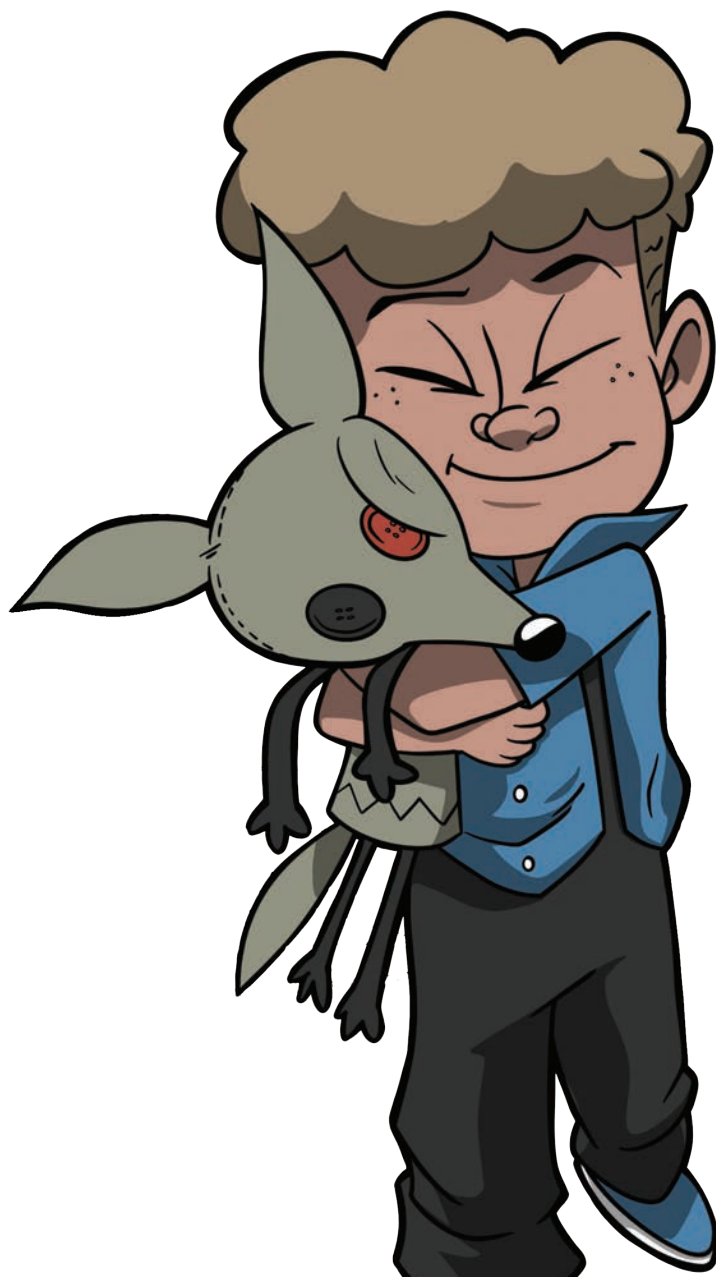


# MARVIS ROCKEE &



This book is about a boy named Marvis and his toy coyote, Rockee!



It has a story, activities, and information about different people you might meet.



This book is yours. You can draw, color, and write in it. And you can keep it.



This is Marvis' story.



Marvis is a witness in a criminal case. This means he saw or heard what happened when a grown-up broke some rules (which is called committing a crime).

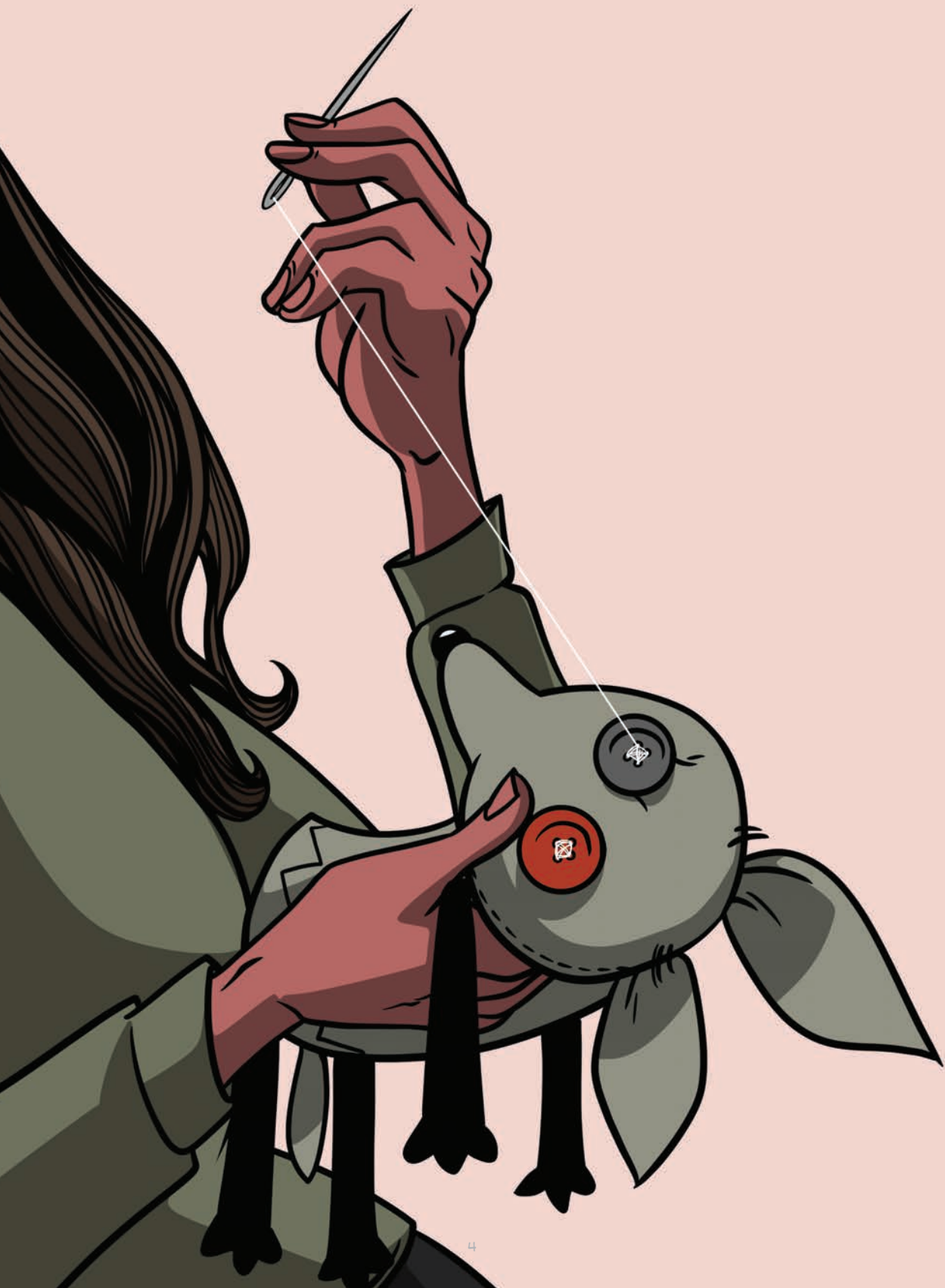


Marvis meets new grown-ups who ask him questions about what happened. Marvis learns about his feelings and things he can do to feel better.

Some of what happens in Marvis' story might not be the same as what's happening to you. Marvis might not look like you, or come from the same tribe as you, or live in the same place as you.

But some of these things might be the same, and you and Marvis might have some of the same feelings, too.

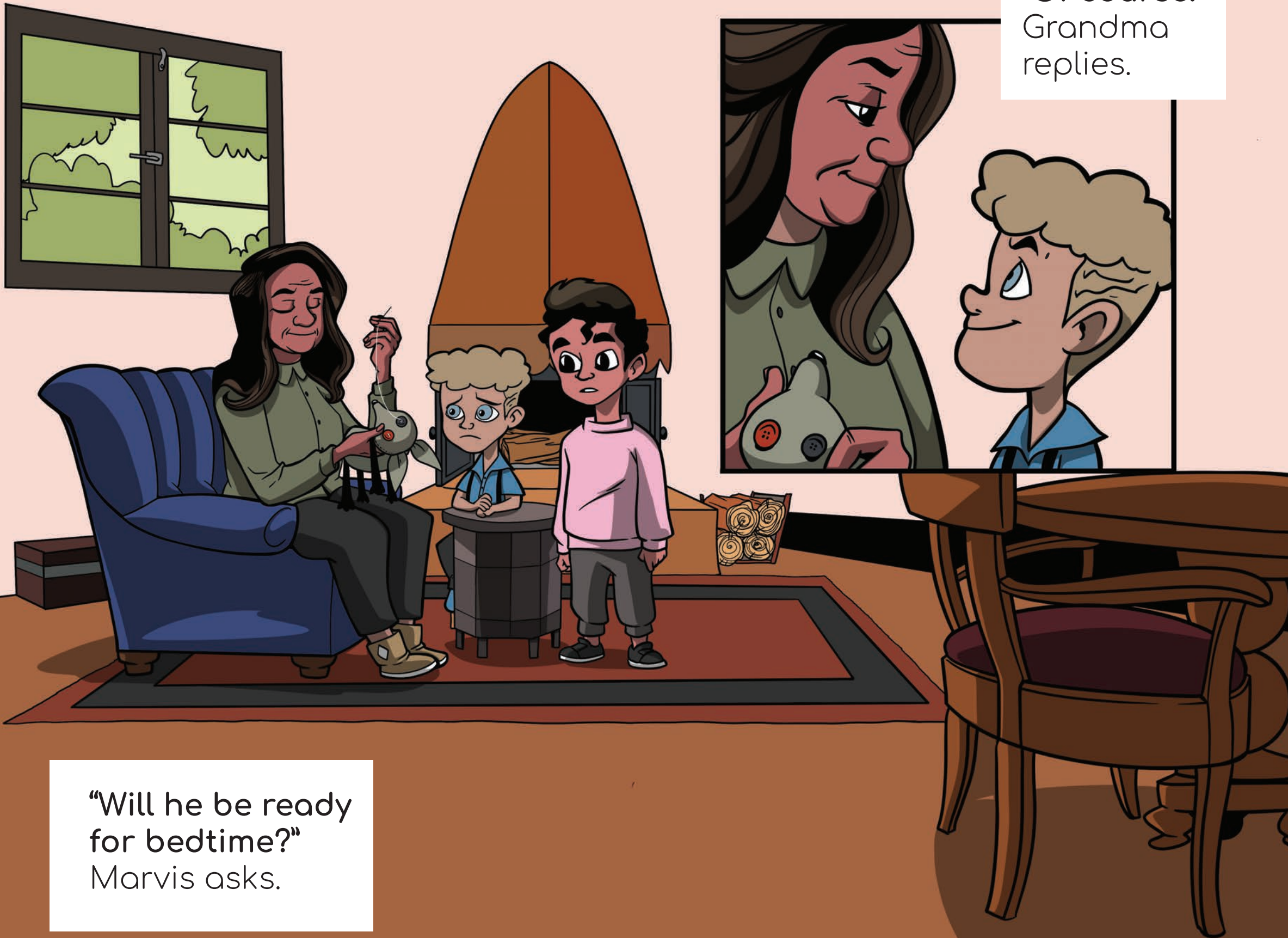
**We hope this book can help you and remind you that you are not alone.**



*One night at Marvis and Grandma's home, Marvis and his cousin, Noah, are having a sleepover...*

**"I hope you can fix Rockee!"**  
Marvis worries.





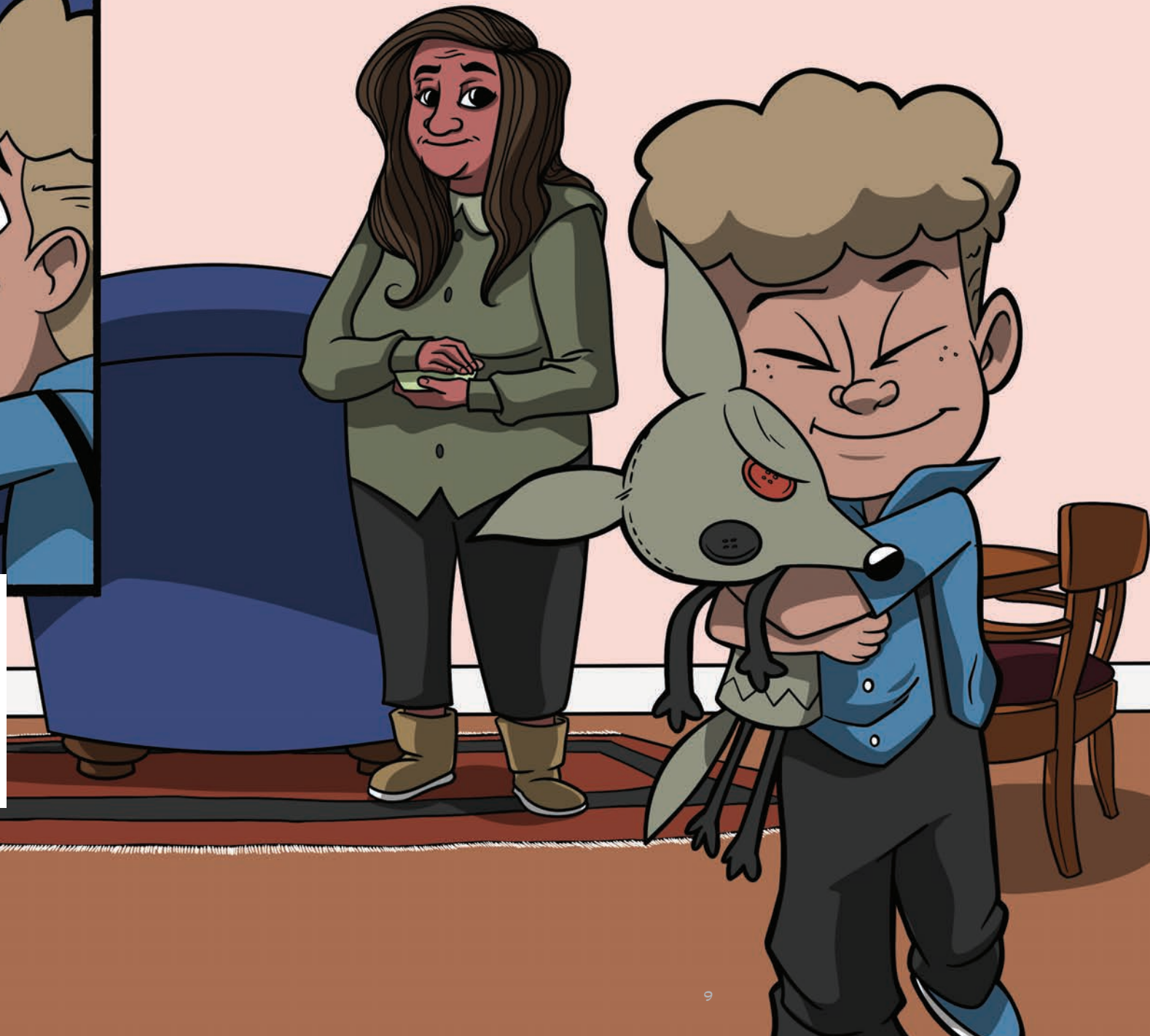
“Of course!”  
Grandma  
replies.

“Will he be ready  
for bedtime?”  
Marvis asks.



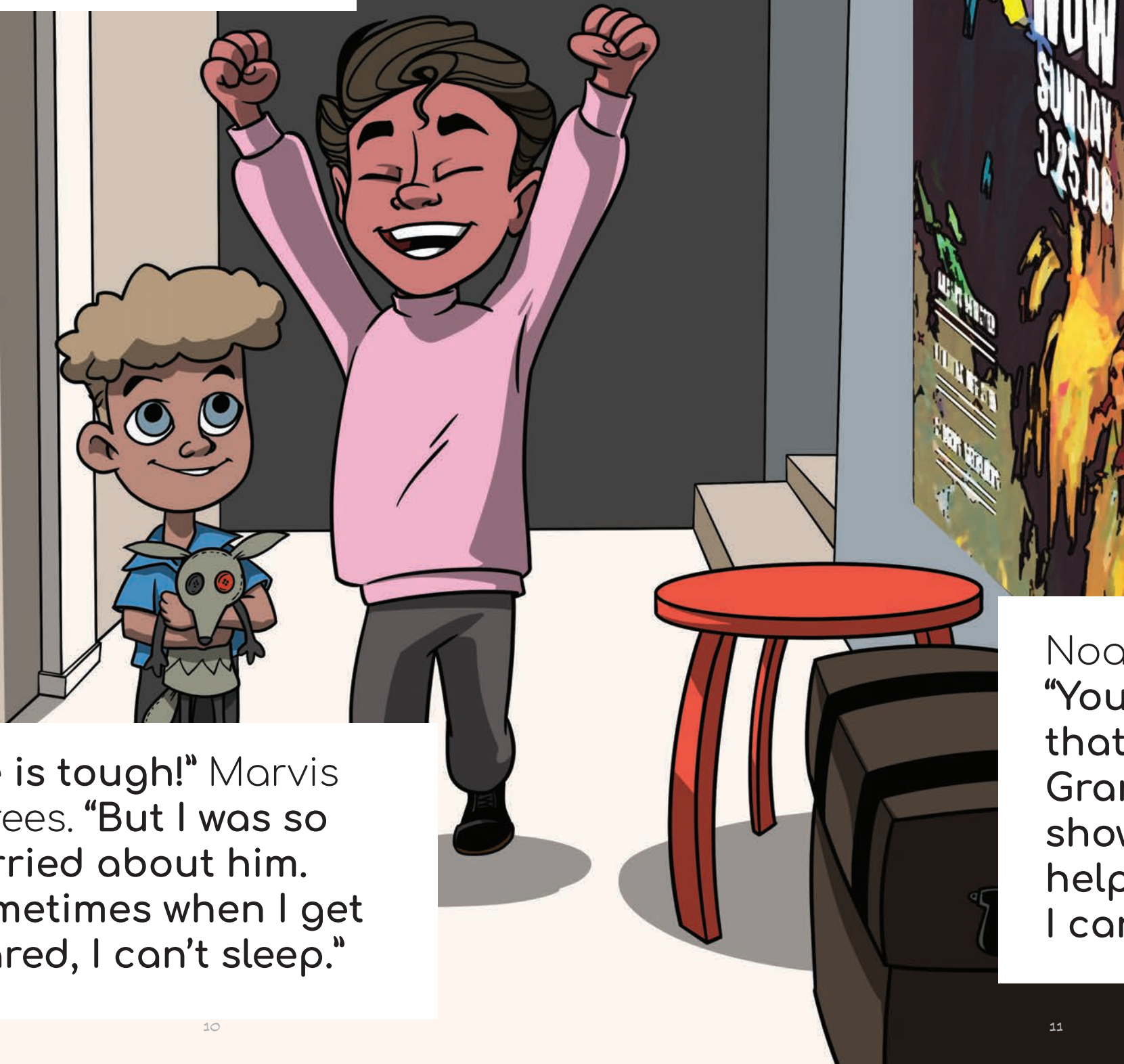
“Rockee’s eye looks good as new! He’s very tough,” says Grandma.

“Now, time for you and your cousin Noah to go to bed,” says Grandma.





“See? I knew Grandma could fix Rockee. He’s very tough, like a real coyote!” says Noah.



“He is tough!” Marvis agrees. “But I was so worried about him. Sometimes when I get scared, I can’t sleep.”

Noah says, “You should try that thing Grandpa showed us. It helps me when I can’t sleep!”

# Relax

## THE TREE & THE WIND

Trees have long, strong roots that grow deep into the ground. You may not be able to see their roots, but even the smallest, thinnest and most flexible trees have them.

- 1** Stand up straight like a tree with your hands at your sides.
- 2** Take a deep breath and hold it for 2 seconds.
- 3** Breathe out slowly and imagine a gentle wind is blowing your tree body.
- 4** Wiggle your body like a tree in the wind a few times.



# Falling Asleep

## THE EAGLE

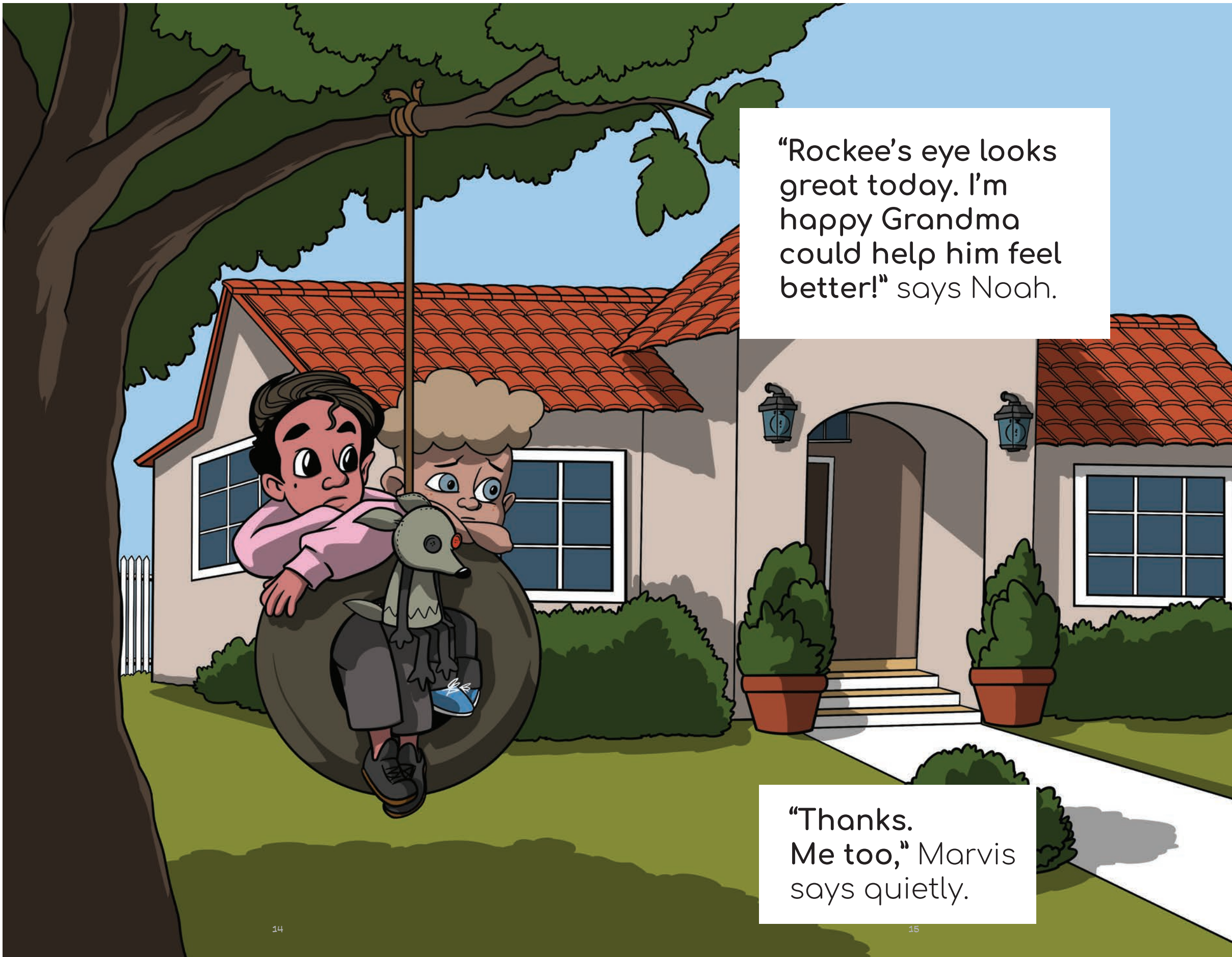
Marvis practiced The Tree and The Wind a few times that night to help him relax.

When he laid down to sleep, Marvis thought about the story his grandfather told him about a great eagle who would close its wings in the sky to create the night and reveal the stars. Remembering the story helped Marvis fall asleep.

Do you know any other stories that can help you fall asleep? Is there anyone from your family, tribe, or community, that you could ask?







“Rockee’s eye looks great today. I’m happy Grandma could help him feel better!” says Noah.

“Thanks. Me too,” Marvis says quietly.



“But why do you look sad? Didn’t you sleep after we did that tree and wind thing last night?” asks Noah.



“I’m scared because I have to go to court today,” replies Marvis.

“What’s ‘court?’” asks Noah.



“I think it’s where grown-ups talk about some bad things that happened,” Marvis guesses.

“Why do you have to go?” Noah asks.



“They want to talk to me about something that happened,” explains Marvis.

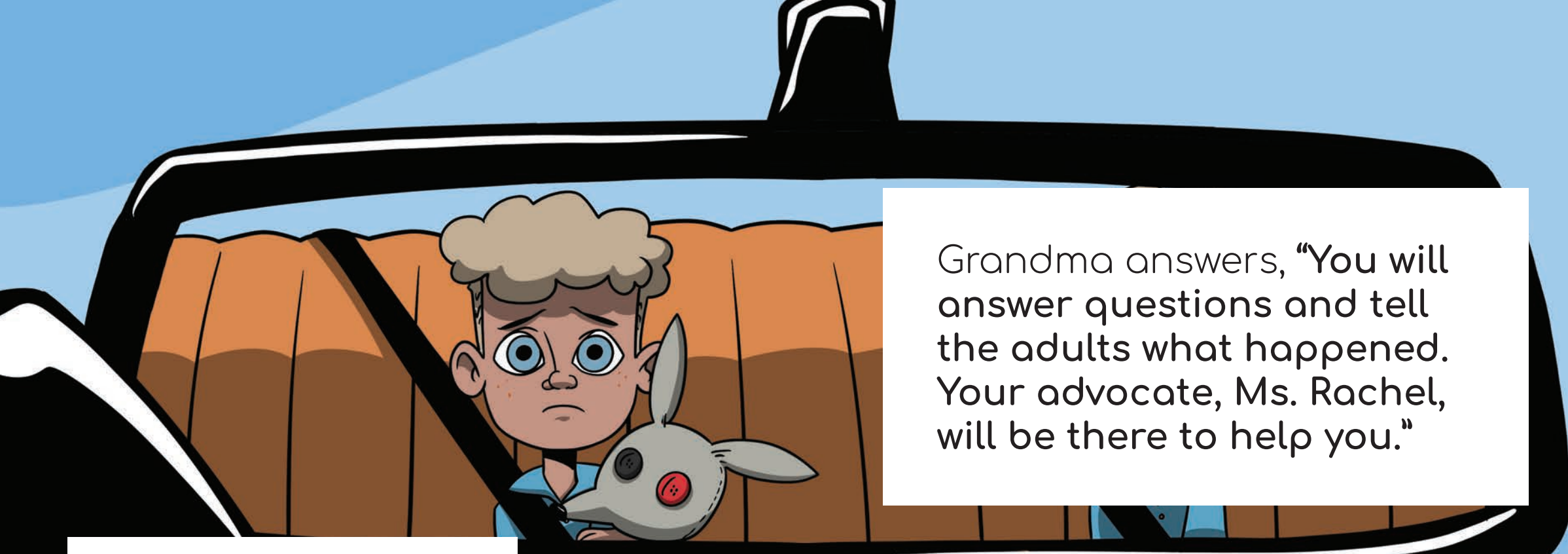
“Oh. Well it’s gonna be okay, cause you’re tough like me and Rockee!” says Noah playfully.







“Ready, Marvis? Time to go. You can bring Rockee with you,” says Grandma. “And Noah, we’ll drop you at your mom’s place on the way.”



Grandma answers, "You will answer questions and tell the adults what happened. Your advocate, Ms. Rachel, will be there to help you."

"Grandma, can you tell me again what I have to do?"  
Marvis asks.

"But what if I get him in trouble, and everyone gets mad at me?"  
Marvis asks.

"Those are some big worries, dear. Let's talk with Ms. Rachel about how this all works. But none of this is your fault Marvis, you haven't done anything wrong," says Grandma.







Marvis says,  
"I'm still scared."



"That's ok, Marvis. Remember how we talked about tummy breathing?" asks Grandma.

"Let's all breathe together."

# Relax

## TUMMY BREATHING

Do you ever get worried or scared? You can try this special kind of breathing activity!

- 1** You can be standing, sitting or lying down. You can close your eyes or keep them open.
- 2** Imagine you are smelling a flower and take a deep breath, slowly, counting 1-2-3 and feel your tummy get bigger.
- 3** Slowly breathe out, like you're trying to blow a dandelion, counting 1-2-3. Feel your tummy go down.



Try doing this a few times in a row, and then think about how you are feeling.

# DID YOU KNOW?

Many families, tribes, and communities have stories and traditions that have been shared for many years.

As Marvis was breathing, he noticed the strength of his wind. It reminded him of a special story in his tribe that he heard many times. The story is about a spirit bird that flaps its wings to create the wind. Thinking of the story and all the storytellers made Marvis feel happy and peaceful.

Do you know any stories or traditions that make you feel happy or peaceful? Do any of these come from your family, tribe, or community?





“Can I also see the toy coyote?” requests the security guard.



“It’s ok, Marvis. Rockee will be fine,” says Grandma.

Marvis asks,  
"What now  
Grandma?"



"We'll wait here for  
Ms. Rachel. She'll go  
with you to talk with  
the prosecutor,"  
Grandma answers.

PROSECUTOR





“Hi, Marvis!” says Marvis’ victim advocate, Rachel. “How are you?”



“I’m scared,” says Marvis. “There are so many grown-ups.”

“It’s ok if you’re scared. I’ll be with you. And I can see you brought Rockee, too!” says Rachel.



“Remember that animal activity you liked so much last time? We could do that again.”

# Activity

## ANIMAL DRAWING

Do you ever feel scared or sad when you have to do something new, or talk to new grown-ups about something?

In some cultures, like Marvis' and other Native American communities, there is a strong connection between people and animals.

Marvis sometimes thinks about an animal that he would like to be, and then draws this animal to show how strong he is. This helps him when he feels scared or sad.



Can you think of an animal you would like to see yourself being, to help with your situation? If you like, draw it here. You can also do this activity with someone else and talk about why you chose the animal and how it makes you feel.



DRAW ON THIS PAGE!



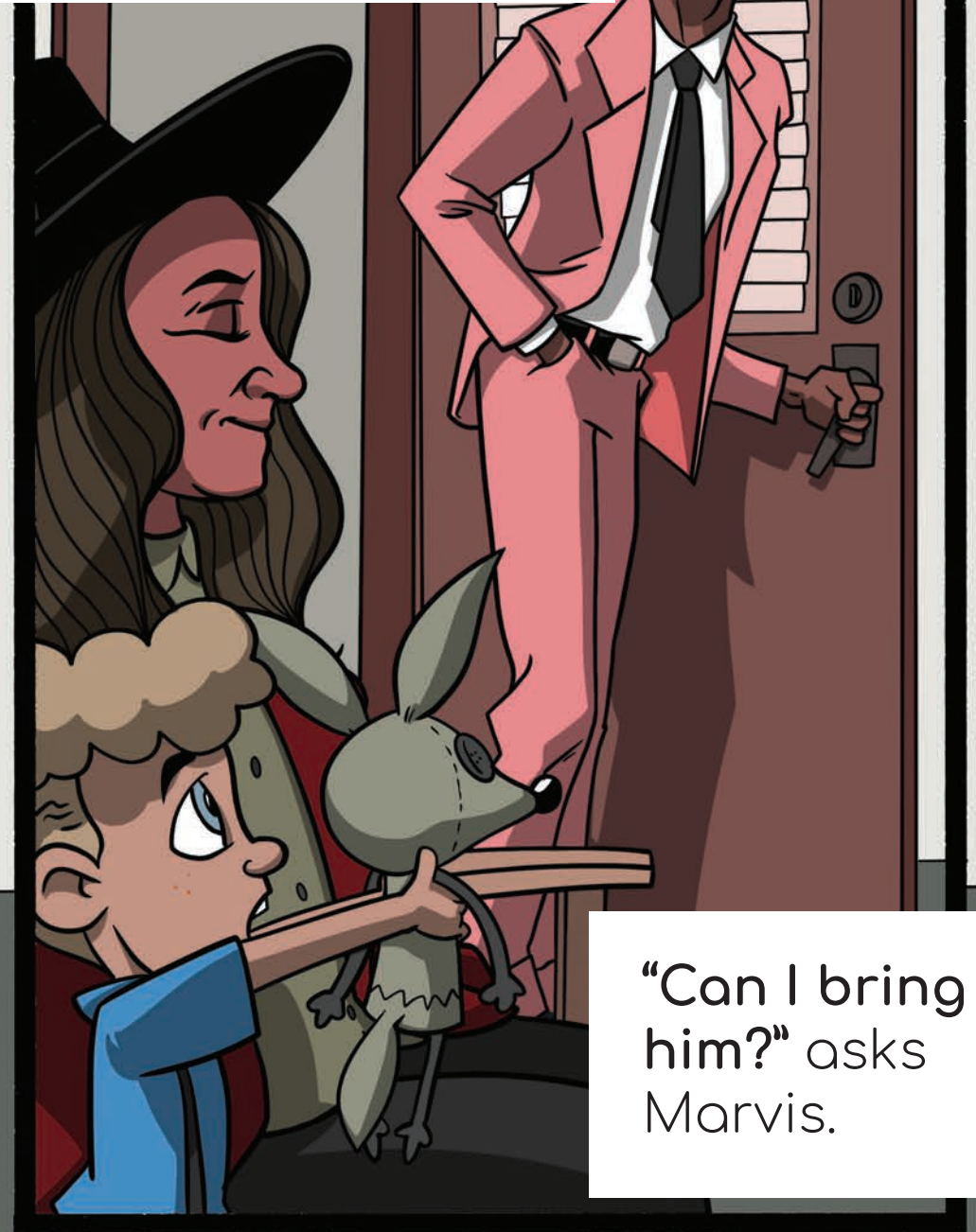
The prosecutor says "Hi, Marvis!"



"Hello," Marvis says softly.



"My name is Ben. Come on in," the prosecutor says, nicely.



"Can I bring him?" asks Marvis.



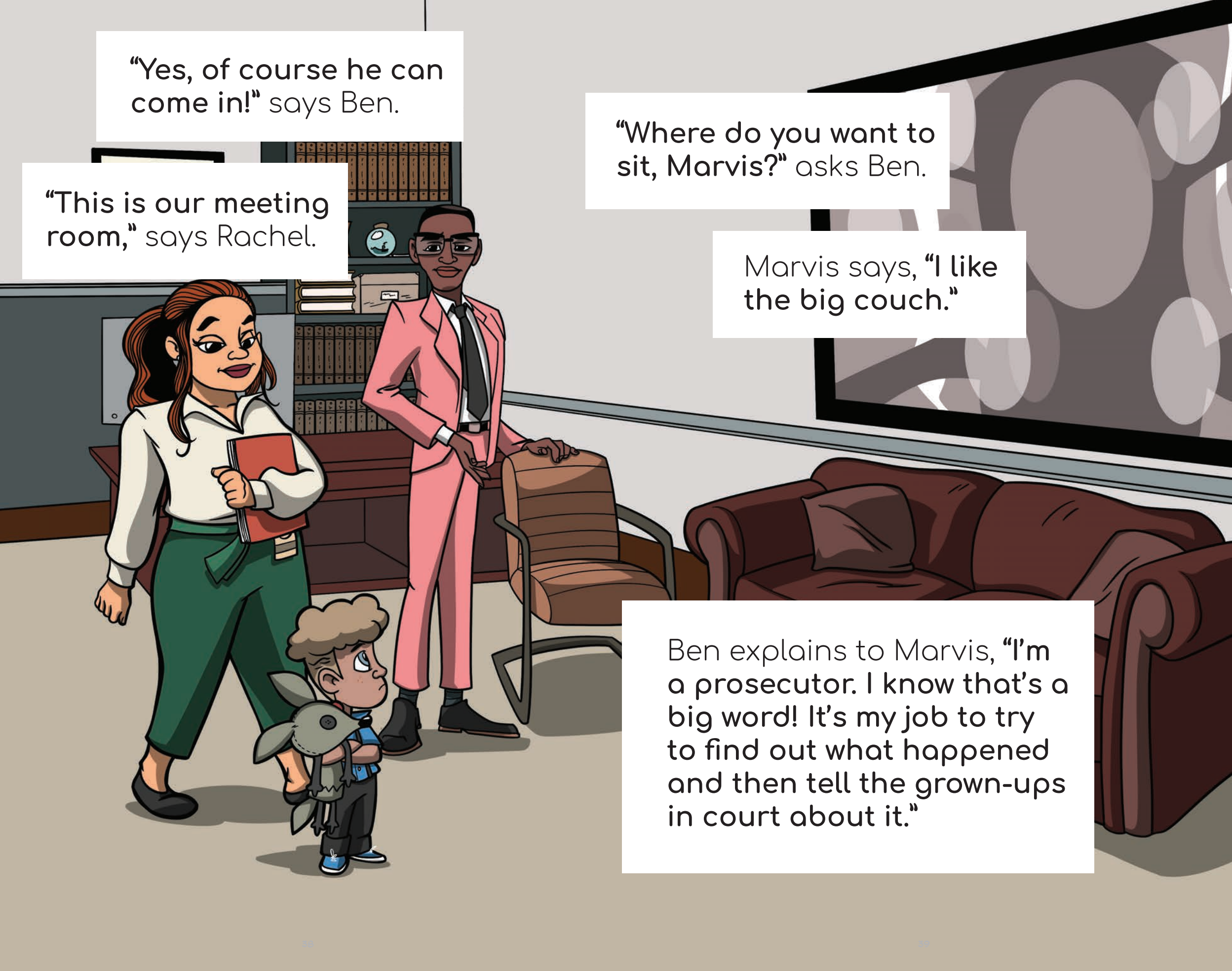
"Yes, of course he can come in!" says Ben.

"This is our meeting room," says Rachel.

"Where do you want to sit, Marvis?" asks Ben.

Marvis says, "I like the big couch."

Ben explains to Marvis, "I'm a prosecutor. I know that's a big word! It's my job to try to find out what happened and then tell the grown-ups in court about it."





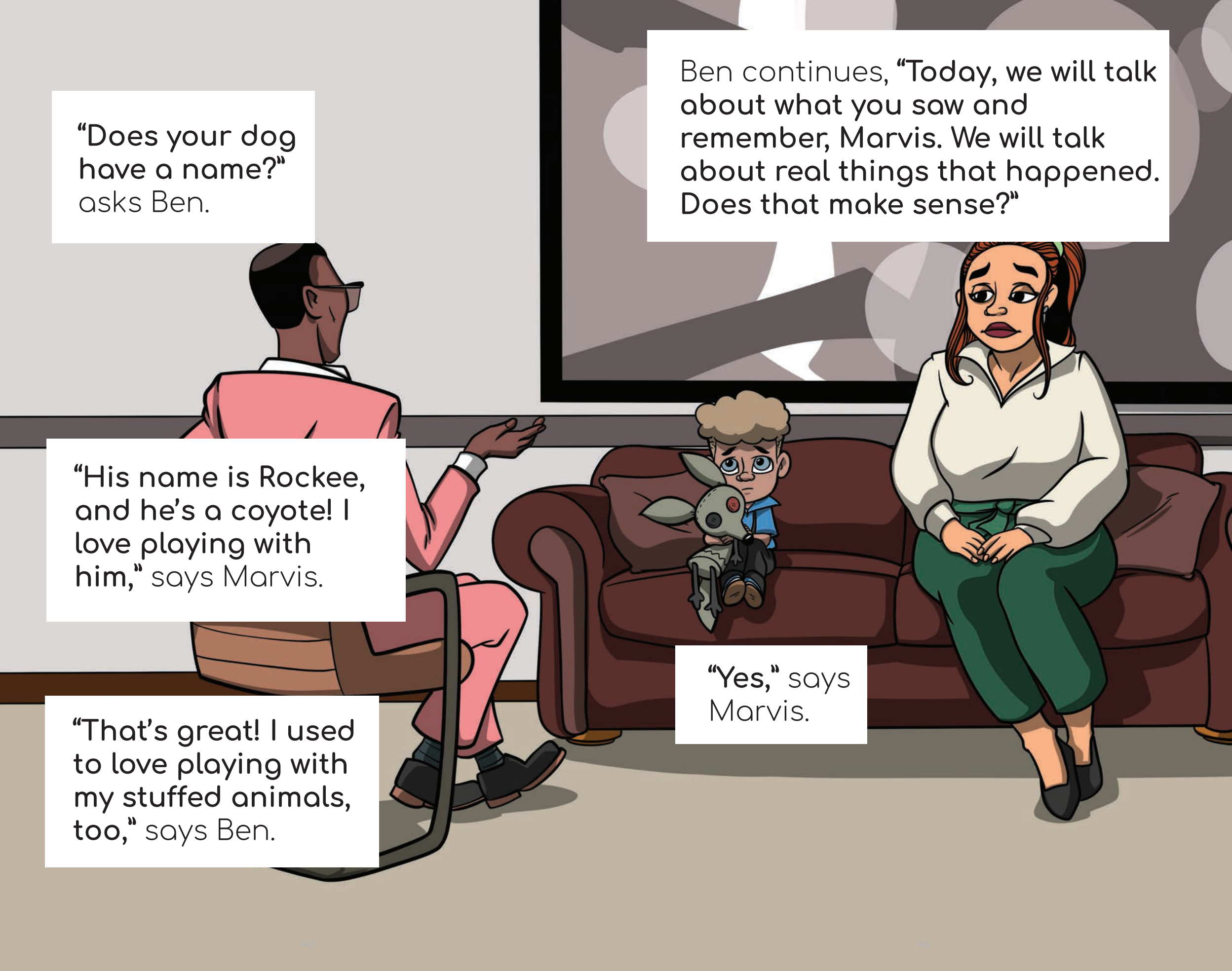
“Does your dog have a name?” asks Ben.

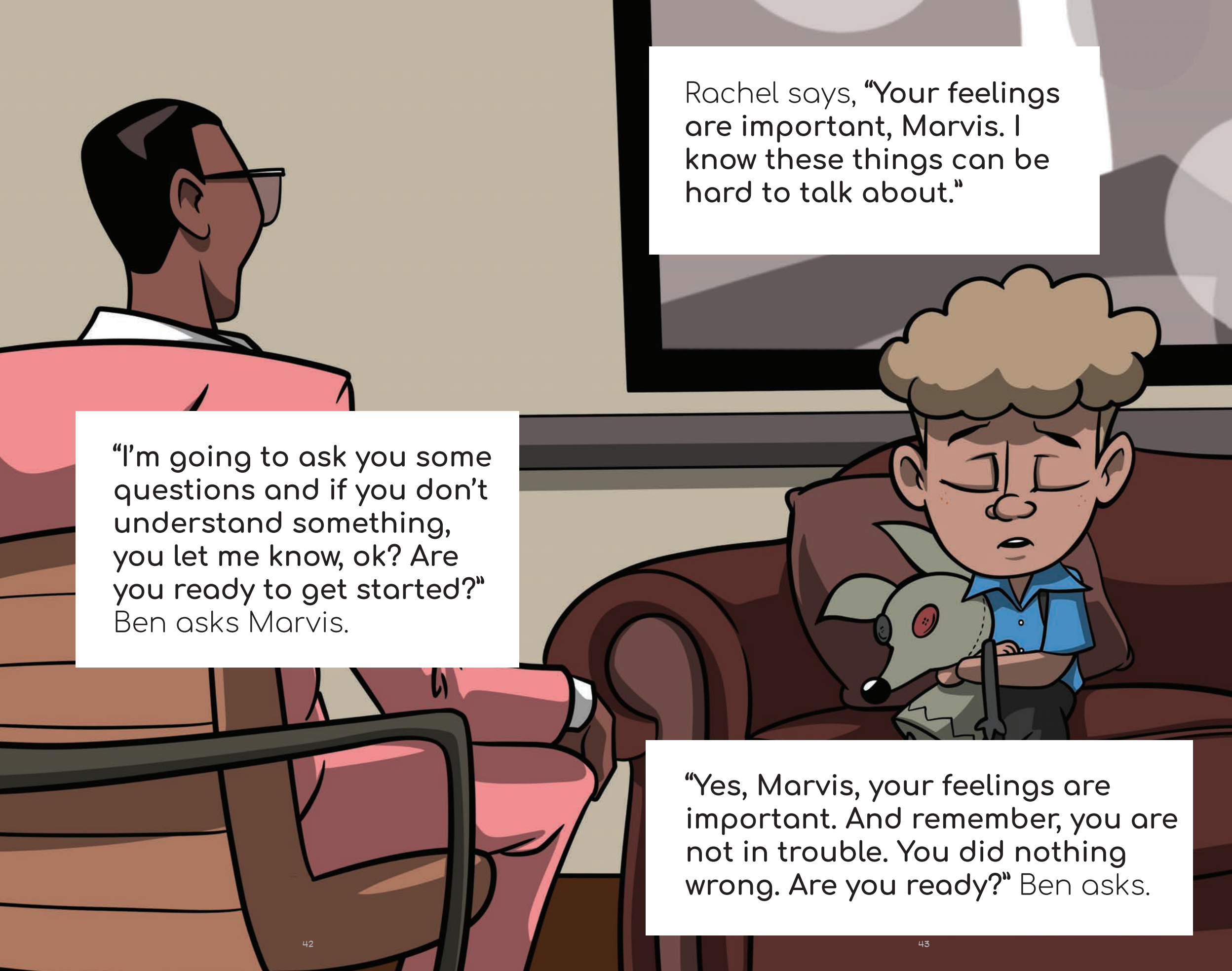
Ben continues, “Today, we will talk about what you saw and remember, Marvis. We will talk about real things that happened. Does that make sense?”

“His name is Rockee, and he’s a coyote! I love playing with him,” says Marvis.

“That’s great! I used to love playing with my stuffed animals, too,” says Ben.

“Yes,” says Marvis.





Rachel says, "Your feelings are important, Marvis. I know these things can be hard to talk about."

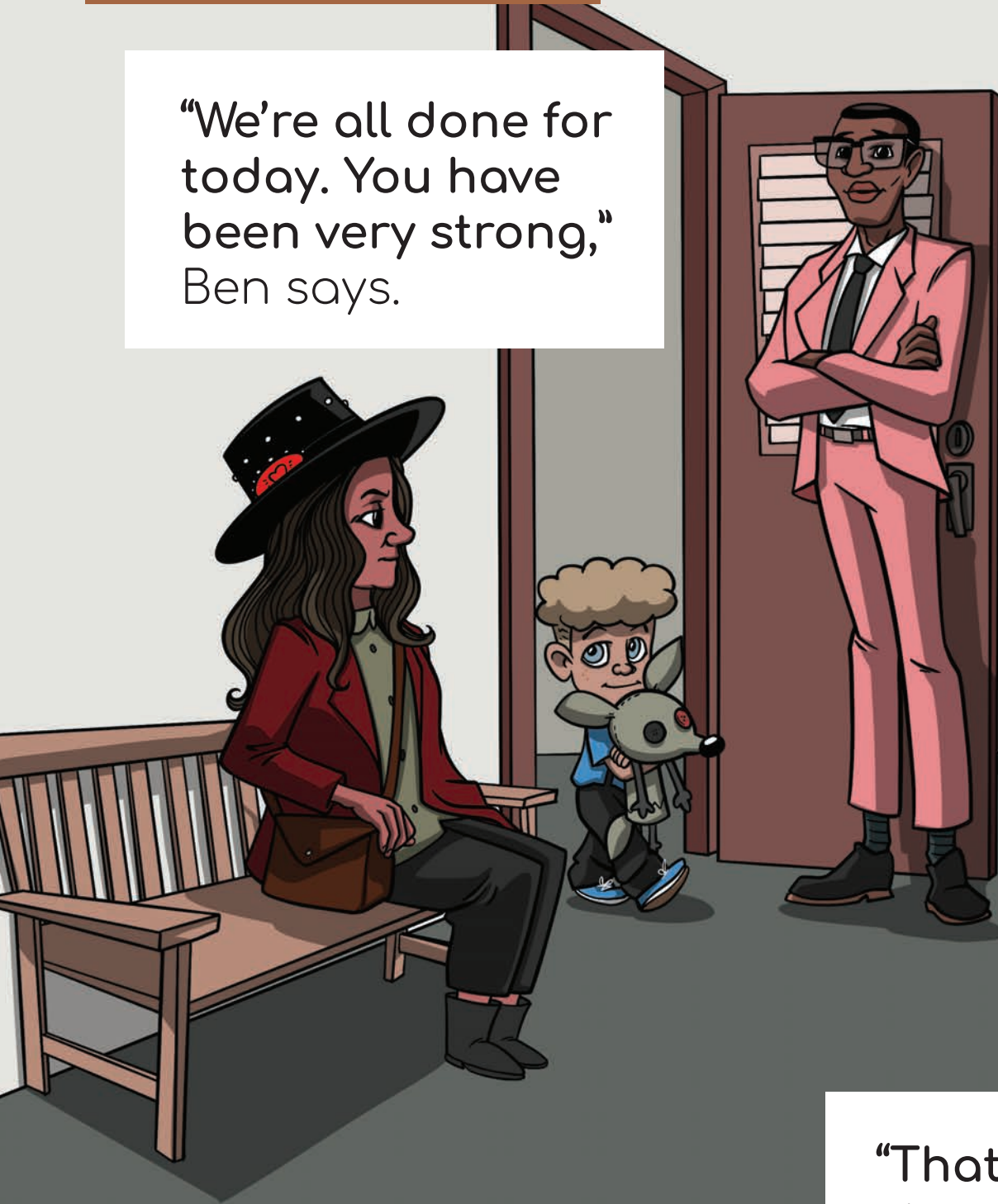
"I'm going to ask you some questions and if you don't understand something, you let me know, ok? Are you ready to get started?" Ben asks Marvis.

"Yes, Marvis, your feelings are important. And remember, you are not in trouble. You did nothing wrong. Are you ready?" Ben asks.



A little while later...

“We’re all done for today. You have been very strong,” Ben says.



“That’s right! You were strong, just like you have been this whole time,” says Rachel.





“Very strong.  
Like our  
ancestors,”  
Grandma says.





“Do I have to come back?” Marvis asks.

“I’m not sure yet, but if you do we will be here to help and support you,” says Rachel.



“Thanks for coming today, Marvis!” says Rachel.



“I’m glad Rockee came with me. I felt much better having him there!” Marvis says.



Marvis jokes, "I wonder if there's a Coyote Court? I bet everyone would get together at the end and they would howl AROOOOOO!"



# Sharing Our Feelings

Marvis shared his story and how he felt along the way. Did he show or talk about any feelings that you have, too? Sometimes it's hard to know how we feel.

But our body can sometimes show us when we don't feel good, like if we have an ache in our head, tummy, or chest. It can help to talk to someone about how these might be part of our feelings.



Storytelling can help us in lots of ways. For generations, Indigenous communities have used storytelling to connect to the past, present, and future.

In Marvis' story, he had some big feelings and needed help. People around him helped him learn ways to feel better.

So if you feel ready, talking about how you feel with someone you trust might help you feel better.

There are other things you can do when you are not feeling good to help you feel better. Check out the list of activities on the next page! ▶

In Marvis' story, he spoke to Ben the prosecutor about what happened. Marvis' victim advocate Rachel helped him, and bringing his special toy Rockee made him feel better, too.



Things like this happen to other kids and families, but every situation is different. Some kids talk with the police or a doctor about what happened. And some kids go to tribal court, state court, or federal court to talk about what happened, which is called testifying.

No matter what, please remember that what happened is not your fault, and you are not alone. Like Marvis, you can ask for help from the grown-ups working with you and from your family, friends and community.





# ✓ My Checklist TO HELP ME FEEL BETTER!

When you feel angry, worried, sad or even confused, you can...

- Read a book (like this one!) or look at some happy pictures
- Think of a happy memory or a peaceful place
- Build something or do a puzzle
- Help someone or do a chore
- Get a drink of water or eat a healthy snack
- Draw or color
- Ask for a hug
- Ask for help
- Play with friends & family
- Go outside or be in nature
- Sing an honor or prayer song



What are some other things that you like to do to feel better?

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This book is just one in a series produced by the Center for Court Innovation.



## AIYANA'S JOURNEY

Aiyana is a little girl whose story is an example of a child welfare case. She meets some new grown-ups, goes to some new places and learns about things she can do to feel better.



## EDGAR'S JOURNEY

Edgar is a school-age kid whose story is an example of a child welfare case. He meets some new adults, goes to new places, learns about asking for help, and things he can do to feel better.



## MARVELOUS MITCH

Mitch is a school-age kid who is a witness in a criminal court case. She meets with new adults who ask her questions, teach her how the legal system works, and help her feel better.



## BRANDON'S PATH

Brandon is a teen whose story is an example of a child welfare case. His story follows a 'choose your own adventure' style where he meets new adults, learns to ask for help and things he can do to feel better.



## MAGGIE MERCURY: TEENAGE EXTRAORDINAIRE

Maggie is a teen who was a witness in a criminal court case. She hosts an online blog where she and her friends talk about what can happen when a young person is the victim or witness in a criminal case, which can be complicated for Native teens.

We recognize that Native children and families have diverse experiences with the child welfare and criminal legal systems, and some of these may not be positive.

While we unfortunately cannot guarantee that you will have the same experience as the characters in this story, it can be helpful to remember that you always have the right to request what you need, and that there are people working to make these systems better, who will listen and take the time to understand your situation.

# MARVIS & ROCKEE

WRITTEN BY

**Dr. Lee Francis IV**

Tribal Community | Pueblo of Laguna

## About

Dr. Francis is an accomplished writer with numerous publications in print, ranging from poetry to academic to fiction, focusing on Indigenous community stories and pop culture. When not writing, he works with incarcerated youth in New Mexico, teaching comic book workshops to Native youths at the local detention high school.

He has written for *Deer Woman: An Anthology*, *Native Realities Anthology*, *Tales of the Mighty Code Talkers*, *Captain Paiute*, *Kau*, *Tribal Force*, *MOONSHOT: The Indigenous Collection*; and his comic book, *Sixkiller*, has been optioned for television.

ILLUSTRATED BY

**Dale Ray Deforest**

Tribal Community | Navajo Nation

## About

Dale is an award-winning illustrator and designer. He was born on the Navajo Reservation in Tuba City, Arizona, and grew up in the Farmington and Shiprock area of New Mexico.

Titles include *The Hero Twins*; *MOONSHOT: The Indigenous Comics Collection Volume 3*; the children's book series, *Powwow Mysteries*; *Race to the Sun* written by Indigenous author and Nebula Award Winner Rebecca Roanhorse; and is a featured artist on the upcoming all-Indigenous comic book series *A Howl*.



The Center for Court Innovation's Child Witness Materials Project is a collaborative effort between the Center for Court Innovation and Alternate History Comics, Inc. and is supported by cooperative agreement #2018-V3-GX-K069, awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this document are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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The Center for Court Innovation works to create a more effective and humane justice system by performing original research and helping launch reforms around the world. [www.courtinnovation.org](http://www.courtinnovation.org)

Alternate History Comics is a multiple award-winning publishing company that creates original graphic novels and cultural comic collections. <http://ahcomics.com>

The Center for Court Innovation is grateful to the project partners and stakeholders; justice system practitioners; and young survivors from all over the country who contributed to the development of this product.

## NCJ 305305

The Office for Victims of Crime is committed to enhancing the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to providing leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.

[www.ovc.ojp.gov](http://www.ovc.ojp.gov)

The Office of Justice Programs is a federal agency that provides federal leadership, grants, training, technical assistance, and other resources to improve the Nation's capacity to prevent and reduce crime, assist victims, and enhance the rule of law by strengthening the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Its six program offices—the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking—support state and local crime-fighting efforts, fund thousands of victim service programs, help communities manage sex offenders, address the needs of youth in the system and children in danger, and provide vital research and data.



Office for Victims of Crime  
**OVC**