

An engaging children's storybook, produced by

Seed

The Surprise Speech Party



ILLUSTRATED BY
PENINA SCHLEIDER

Miriam Martyn
together with her
family have



dedicated this
book to Herman
Martyn, Yeremeyahu
Ben Shmuel.

In memory of Mr Herman
Martyn, a man of integrity and
commitment to Jewish education.
His efforts and
achievements have
created a legacy for
years to come.



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**THE CLEAN
SPEECH PROJECT**

promoting constructive speech

GIFT Seed

Seed
at
School
Family Education

How to get the most out of this book, for the more advanced readers and thinkers:

1. Find the hidden Seed logo on each page
2. Spot each time a character in the book has to make a decision. Discuss this with your child: what were the available options to decide between? And what would you/your child have decided?
3. At the back of the book we have included a short how-to-guide.

For more Seed activities and programmes please contact Mirele via sharon@seedfamilies.co.uk or visit www.seed.uk.net.

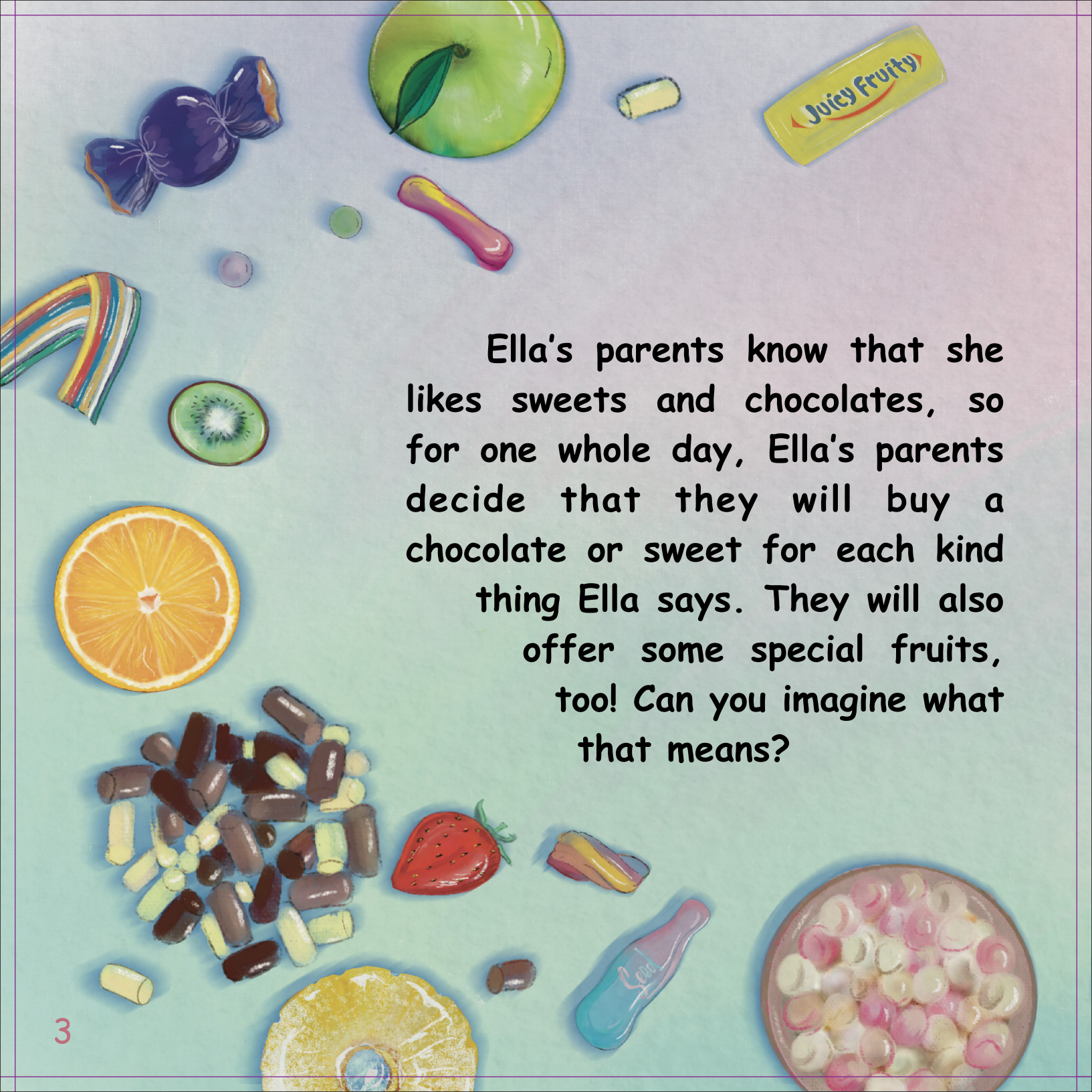
Ella is six years old. She has long curly brown hair and loves reading. Ella has an eight-year-old brother called Benny.



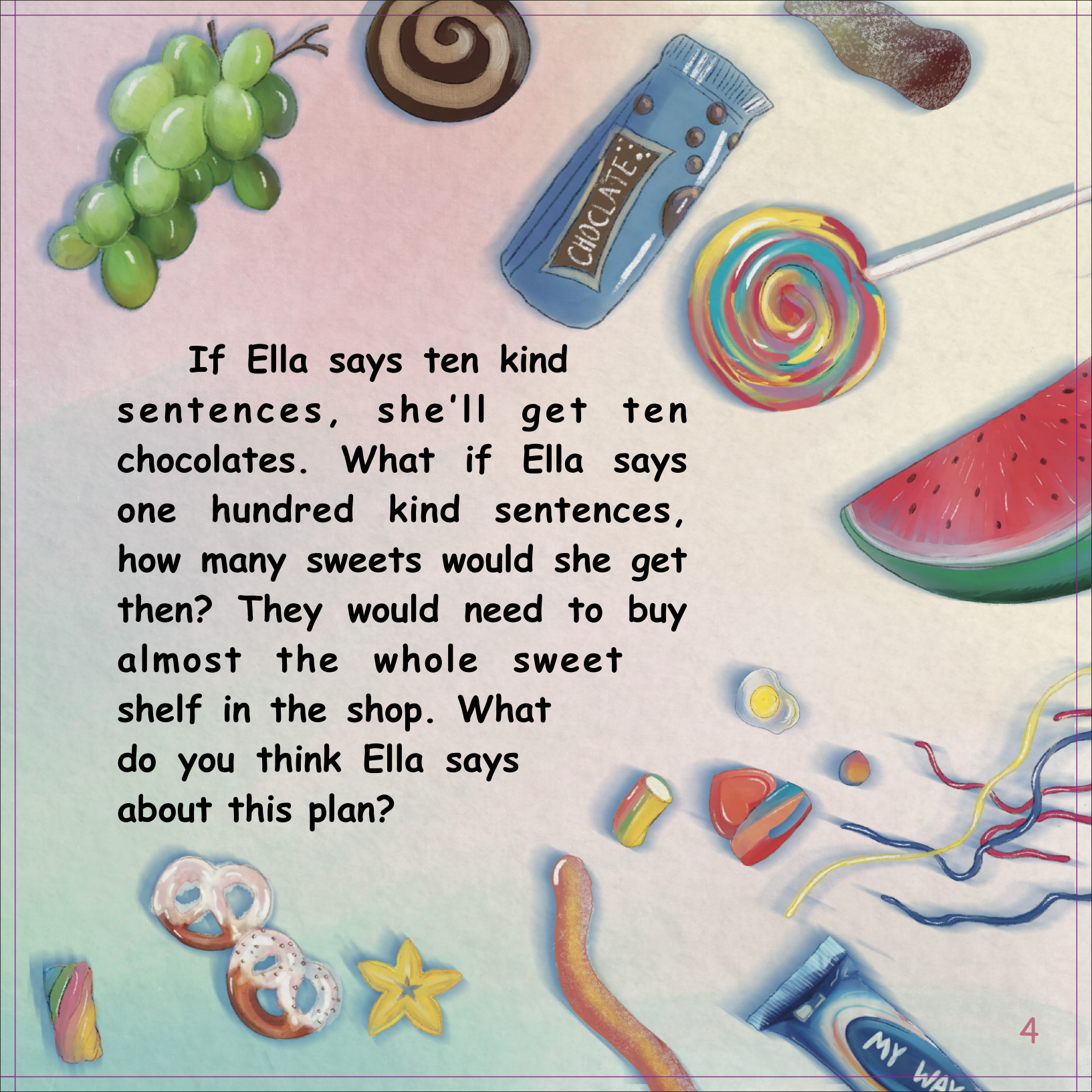
One night, just after Ella went to sleep, her parents had a discussion about an important topic; how can we encourage Ella to speak in a more positive way to other people? Ella's Mum and Dad thought and thought. Then almost out of nowhere an idea came to them. Can you guess what they decided to do?

Ella's parents decided to plan a surprise for her, even though it was not Ella's birthday. This was a very different sort of surprise - a 'good speech reward' surprise. They decided that each time Ella says something kind, they will buy her another item of food for a secret party.







Ella's parents know that she likes sweets and chocolates, so for one whole day, Ella's parents decide that they will buy a chocolate or sweet for each kind thing Ella says. They will also offer some special fruits, too! Can you imagine what that means?

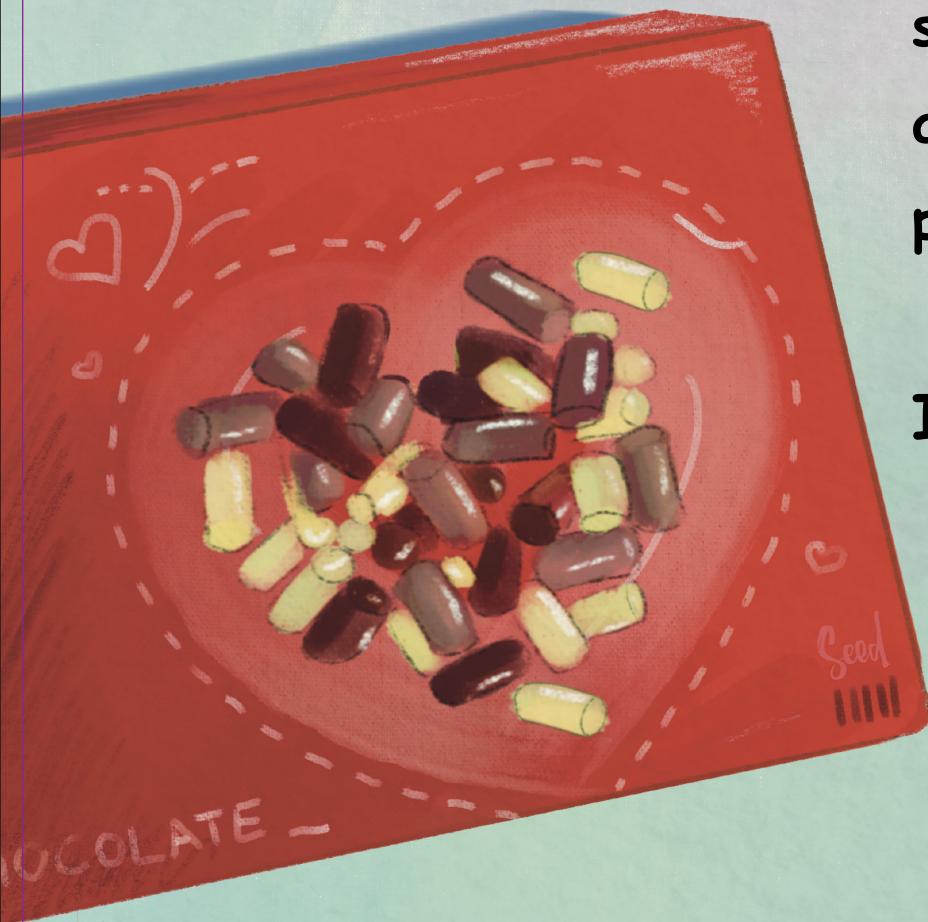
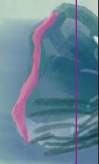



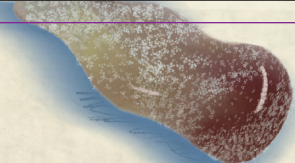
If Ella says ten kind sentences, she'll get ten chocolates. What if Ella says one hundred kind sentences, how many sweets would she get then? They would need to buy almost the whole sweet shelf in the shop. What do you think Ella says about this plan?



Ella does not say anything because she doesn't know anything about the plan.

It's a big surprise!

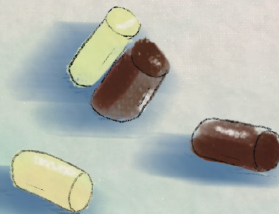




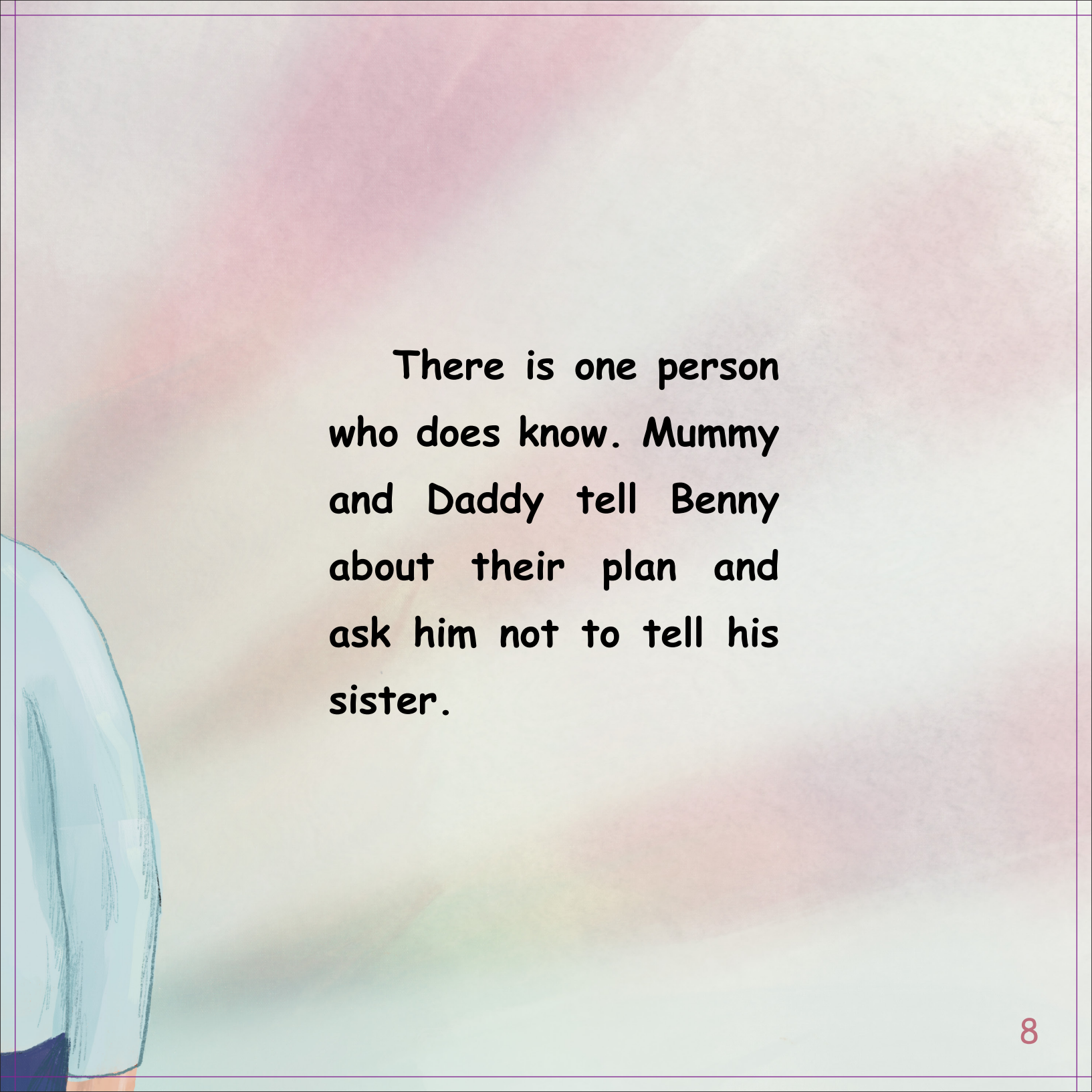
Ella doesn't know that this is what her parents are planning, they haven't told her anything about the chocolate rewards.

Why do you think that they have kept it a secret from Ella?

Ella's parents decided to keep it a secret because they don't want Ella to choose to say nice things just because she wants more chocolates.

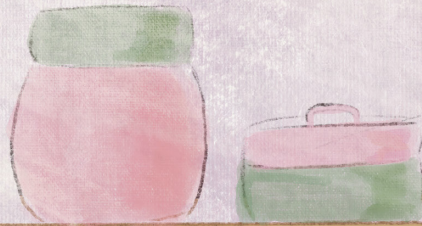






There is one person
who does know. Mummy
and Daddy tell Benny
about their plan and
ask him not to tell his
sister.

The next morning Ella comes down for breakfast. Her parents ask her, "Are you looking forward to school today?" Ella shrugs her shoulders and says, "I guess so." Then her parents ask her which teacher she is looking forward to teaching her today. Ella doesn't say anything.

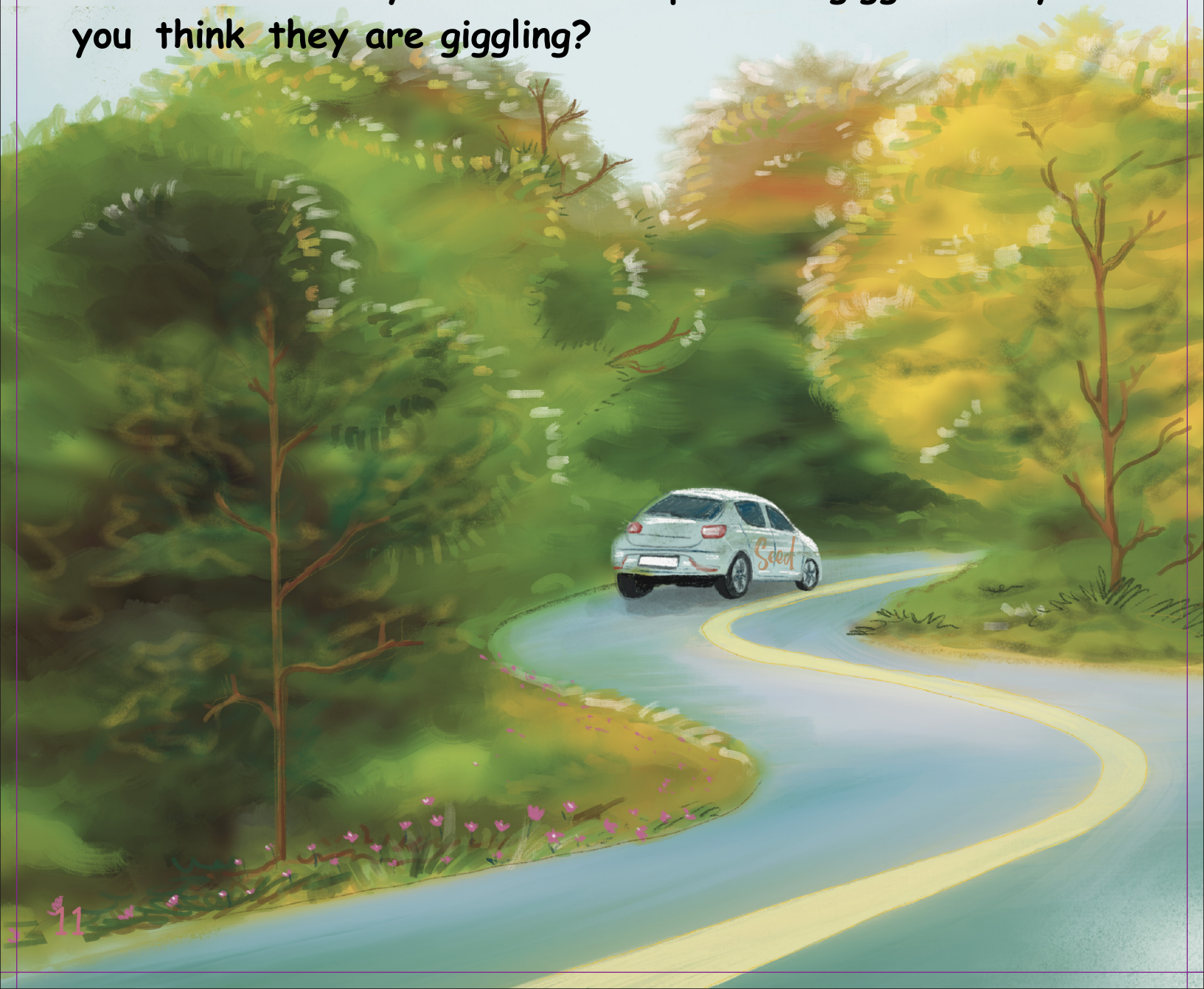


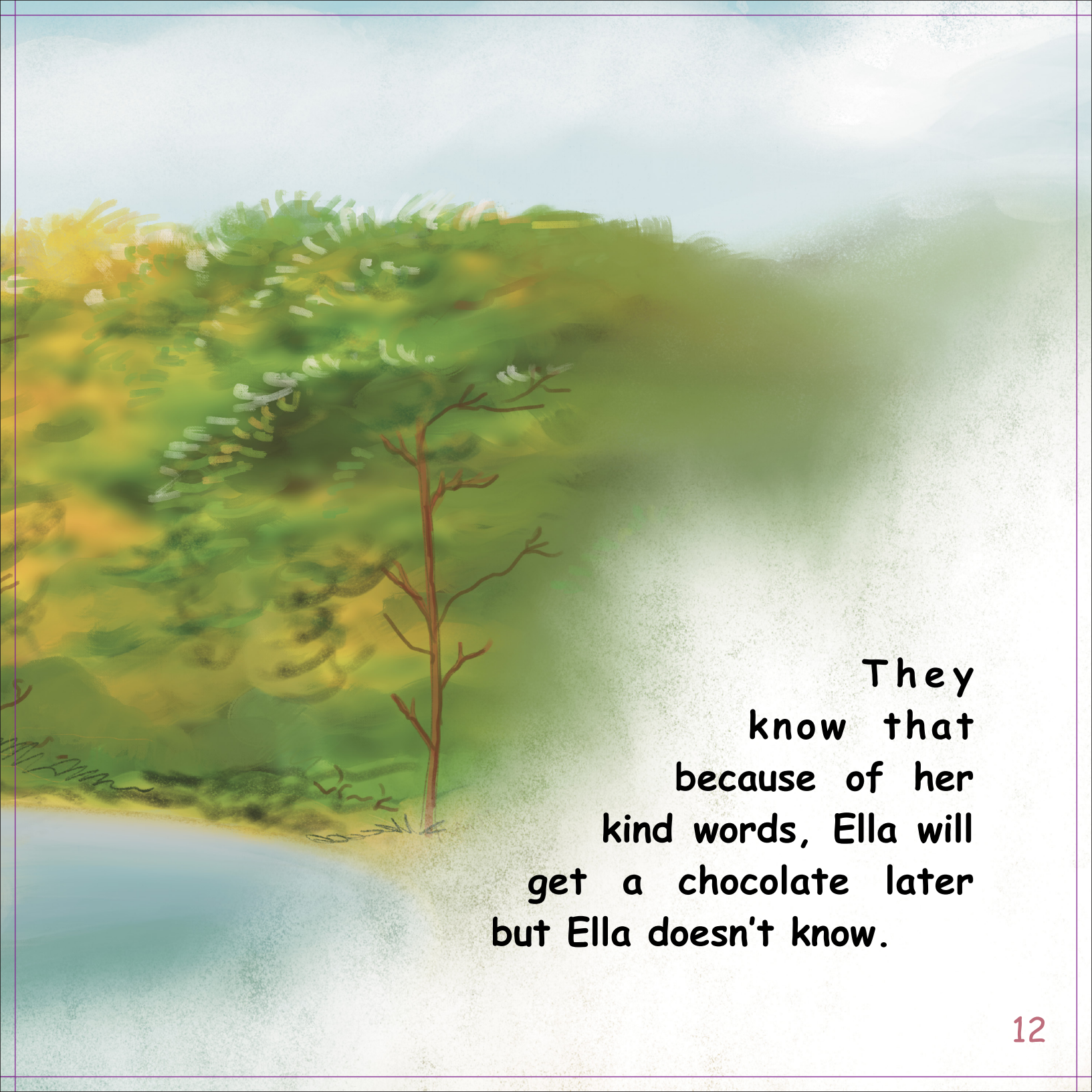
Her parents think
to themselves

'that's one
opportunity to
say something
nice about
someone
that Ella
missed.'



On the way to school, Ella says to her parents, "Thank you, I appreciate you taking me to school." Benny and their parents giggle. Why do you think they are giggling?





They
know that
because of her
kind words, Ella will
get a chocolate later
but Ella doesn't know.

When Ella comes home from school her parents ask who she played with at school. She tells them about her friend Lisa who was very kind to her when she fell over in the playground. Lisa didn't just ask if she was okay, she even helped her up.

Her parents think, 'well done Ella, that's another kind word and another chocolate.'





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But of course,
they don't tell Ella.

When the family finished eating supper together, Mummy says that Daddy needs to go out shopping. But Daddy isn't going on a regular shopping trip. What do you think he is going to buy?



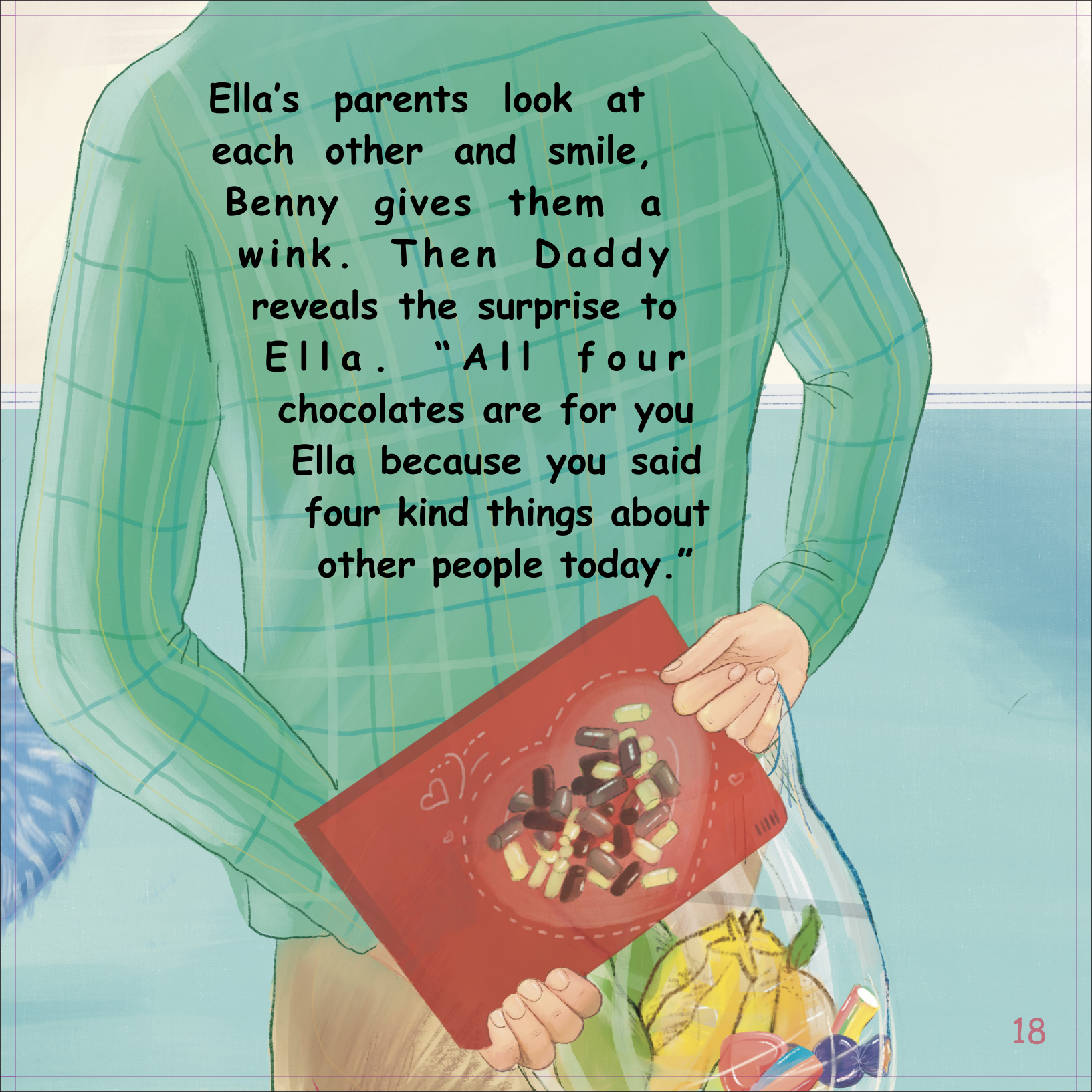
He's going to get something special for Ella. Lots of chocolate.

something special for Ella!!

THANK YOU!

Daddy returns with four chocolates, "Wow, chocolate!", exclaimed Ella, her mouth already watering. "But it's not a special day so why do we need chocolate today?"



An illustration of a person from the back, wearing a green plaid long-sleeved shirt and tan pants. They are holding a red envelope with a white dashed heart outline and a small smiley face. The envelope is filled with various chocolates. In their left hand, they hold a clear plastic bag containing yellow lemons and colorful candies. The background is a light blue sky with a white horizon line.

Ella's parents look at each other and smile, Benny gives them a wink. Then Daddy reveals the surprise to Ella. "All four chocolates are for you Ella because you said four kind things about other people today."

Ella smiles. "Thank you for the chocolates and the surprise," she says. Ella looks thoughtful, she pauses for a moment and says,



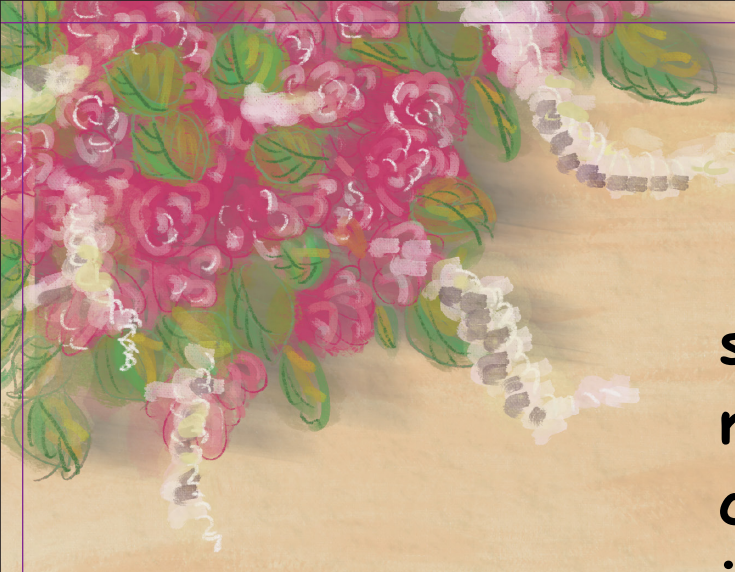


"If only I had known that each kind word I said today would mean I get a chocolate, I would have said many more kind things."



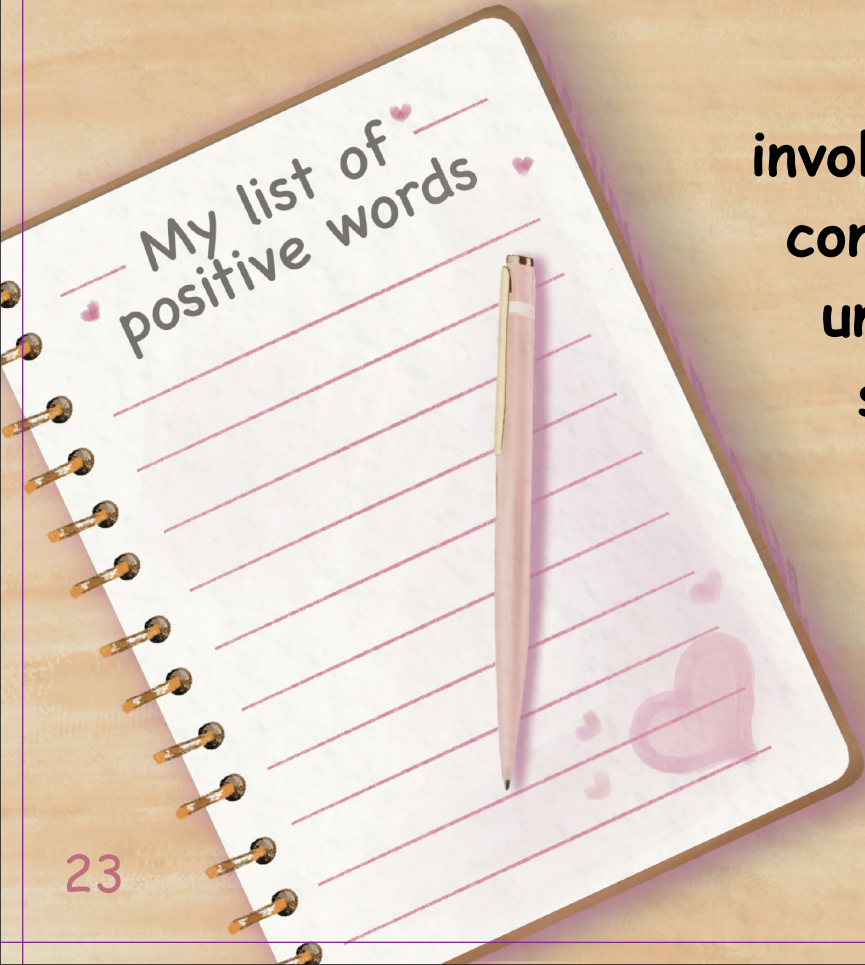


Mummy and Daddy smile. They tell Ella that she did very well and remind her that kind words are worth much more than chocolate. Chocolate tastes good for a few seconds, but kind words can have a big impact on others. Ella agrees and decides to share some of her new chocolate with Benny. What a kind sister!



In Jewish thought, speech is about much more than just basic conveying of ideas and information.

Major Torah stories involving speech do not conform to the Western understanding of what speech is. God 'speaks the world into existence,'



My list of
positive words

In Jewish thought speech is creative - just as God created the world from nothing, we create finite words from near-infinite thoughts.



When we speak we are emulating the Divine and expressing our Divine spark.

Therefore, we must be extra careful with our words and communication, which is why the Torah cautions against hurtful words and spreading negative gossip. Here is a checklist to think about:

- Do I use speech to construct and encourage others?
- How many positive words do I say each day?
- Do I listen to others properly?
- Do I avoid badmouthing others?

Can I work on achieving progress in the above four areas? The gift of speech presents a major opportunity to uplift others' lives and positively impact them.

For the Jewish Interactive Clean Speech game visit <https://jitap.net/activities/gf4j/play/seed-clean-speech-project>



**Write some 'clean speech' positive sentences
that you will say to others here:**

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WOHL LEGACY
Empowering Communities.
Transforming Lives.