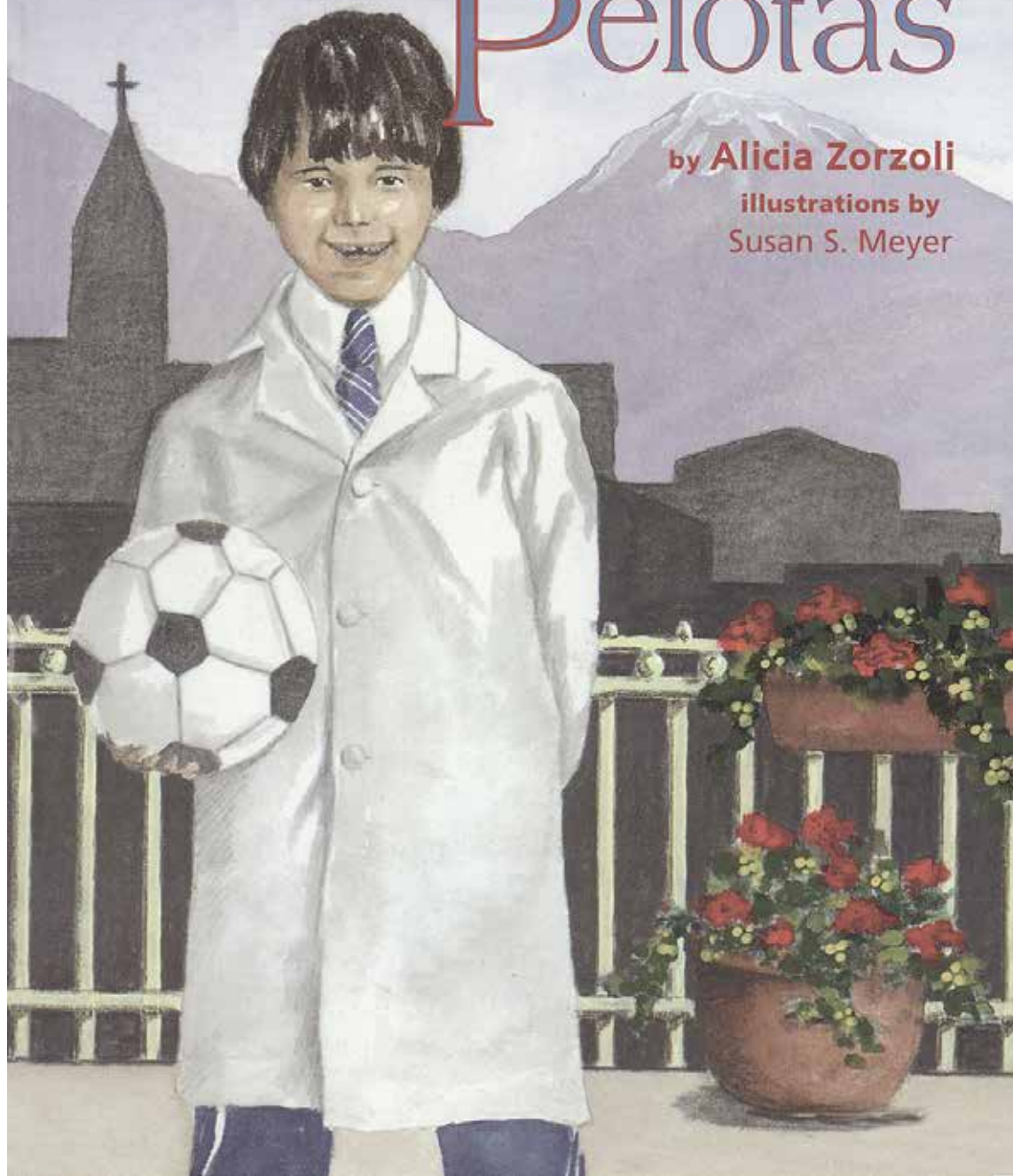


Pinafores and Pelotas

by Alicia Zorzoli

illustrations by
Susan S. Meyer



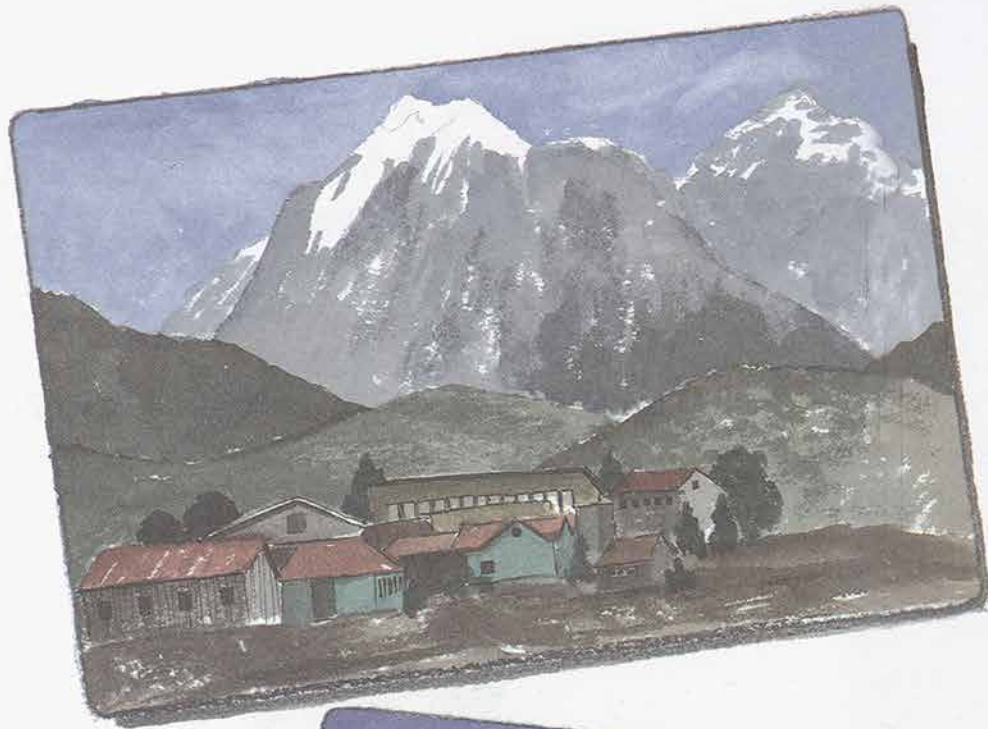
Pinafores and Pelotas

by **Alicia Zorzoli**

illustrations by
Susan S. Meyer



New Hope
Birmingham, Alabama



Esteban [es-TEH-bahn] lives in a faraway country called Argentina. Argentina has very high mountains. Some of them are covered with snow.

There are also forests with many different plants and birds. Some of the birds are red and yellow and green and blue all over.

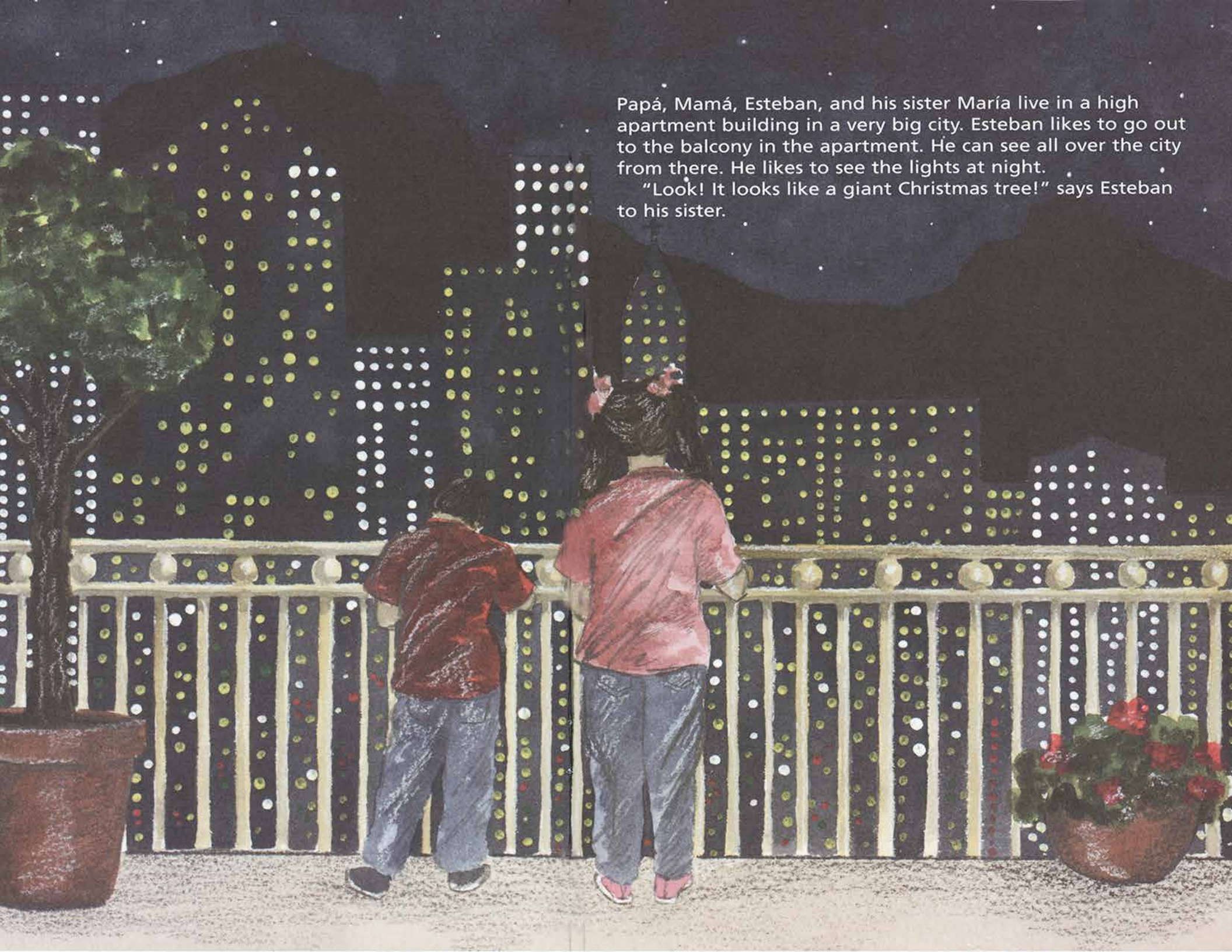
Argentina has beautiful beaches by the sea. During the summer many people like to swim and play by the sea. The water is cold!

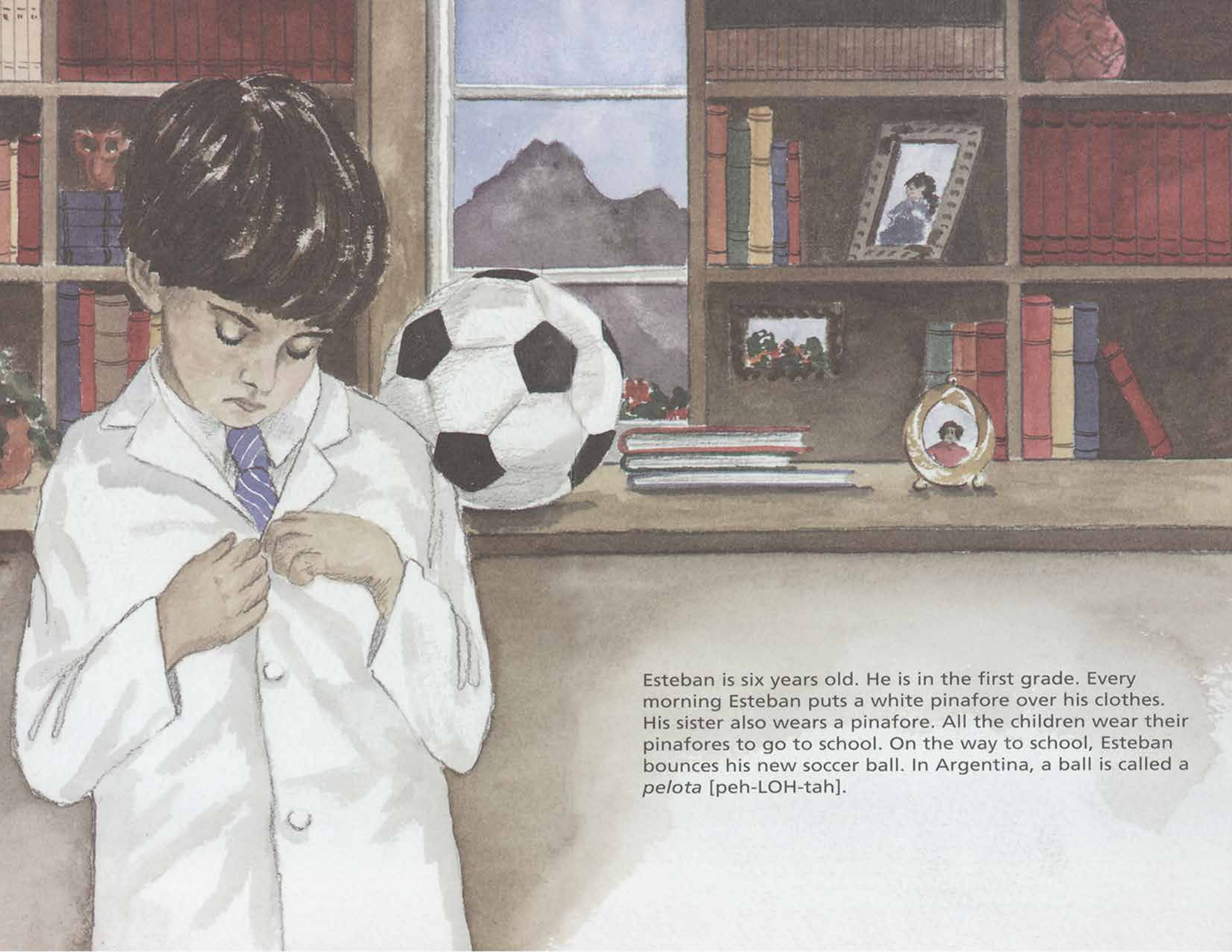
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Papá, Mamá, Esteban, and his sister María live in a high apartment building in a very big city. Esteban likes to go out to the balcony in the apartment. He can see all over the city from there. He likes to see the lights at night.

"Look! It looks like a giant Christmas tree!" says Esteban to his sister.





Esteban is six years old. He is in the first grade. Every morning Esteban puts a white pinafore over his clothes. His sister also wears a pinafore. All the children wear their pinafores to go to school. On the way to school, Esteban bounces his new soccer ball. In Argentina, a ball is called a *pelota* [peh-LOH-tah].



Every morning at school,
the children gather on the
playground.

"¡Buenos días, niños!"
the teacher says. She is
saying "Good morning,
children," in Spanish.

All the children stand
still. They sing a song
about the flag. Then they
go to their classrooms.

"See you at recess," says
Esteban to a friend. "We
can play with my pelota."

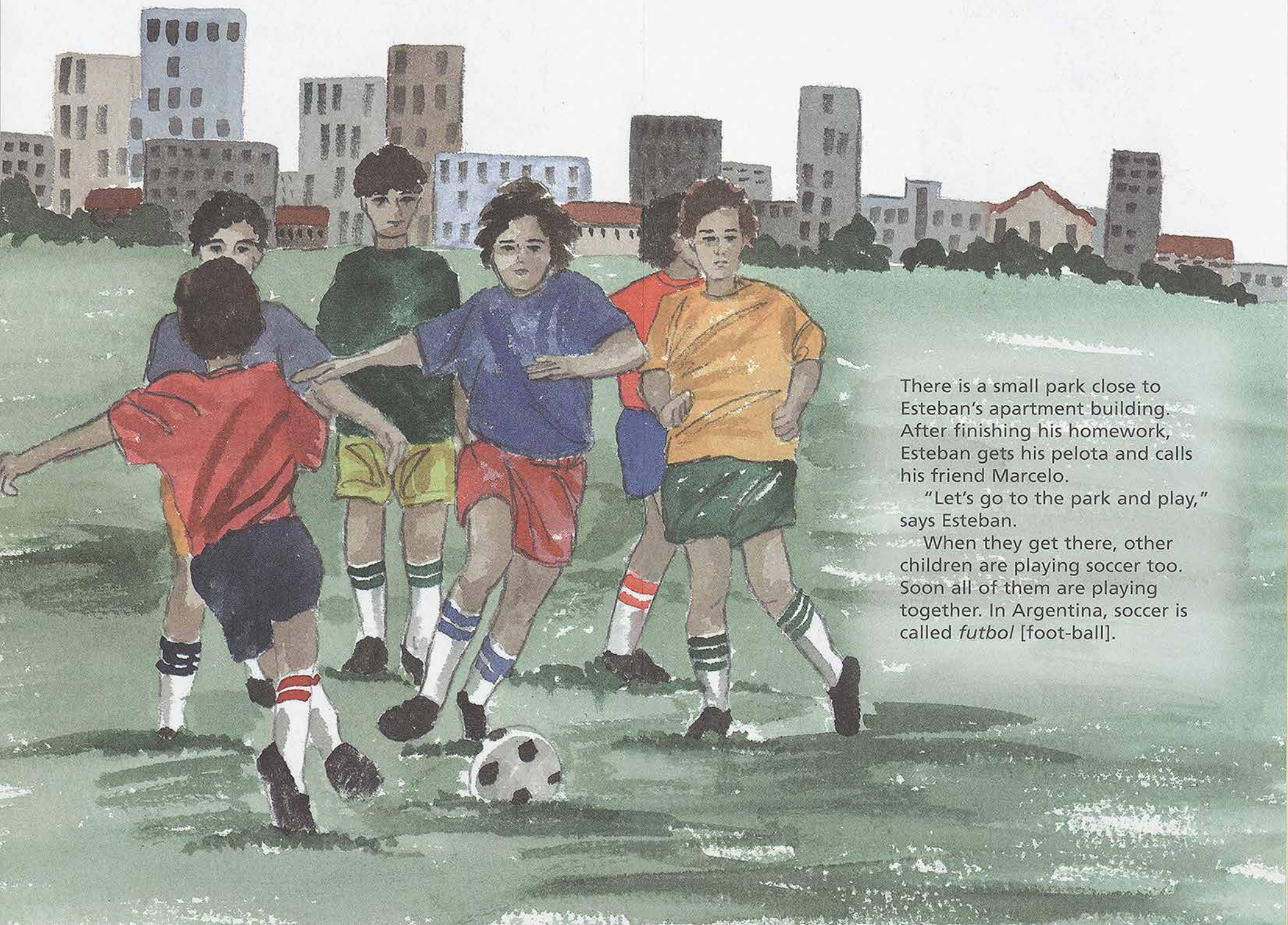


When Esteban and his sister come home from school, they are hungry. Their mother prepares chocolate milk and bread with jelly.

"Mamá, can I go out and play with my friends?" asks Esteban.

"Yes, but first you must do your homework," says his mother.





There is a small park close to Esteban's apartment building. After finishing his homework, Esteban gets his pelota and calls his friend Marcelo.

"Let's go to the park and play," says Esteban.

When they get there, other children are playing soccer too. Soon all of them are playing together. In Argentina, soccer is called *futbol* [foot-ball].



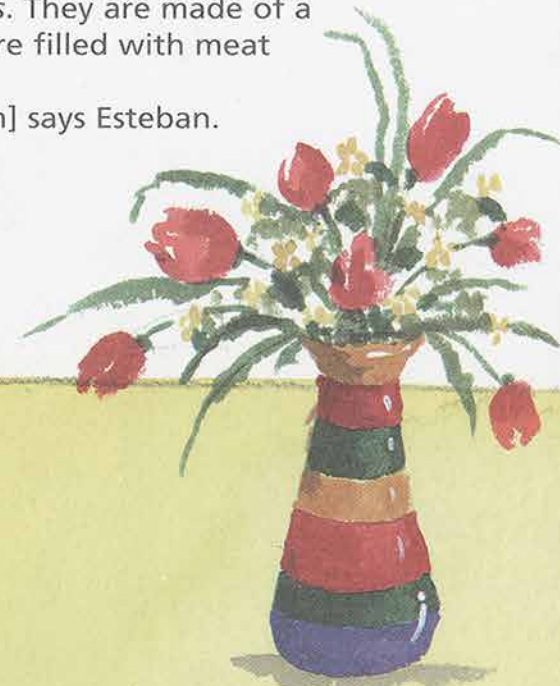
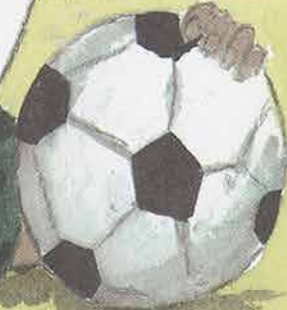
When Esteban comes home, his mother is busy working in the kitchen.

"I'm hungry. What do we have for dinner?" asks Esteban while greeting his mother with a kiss.

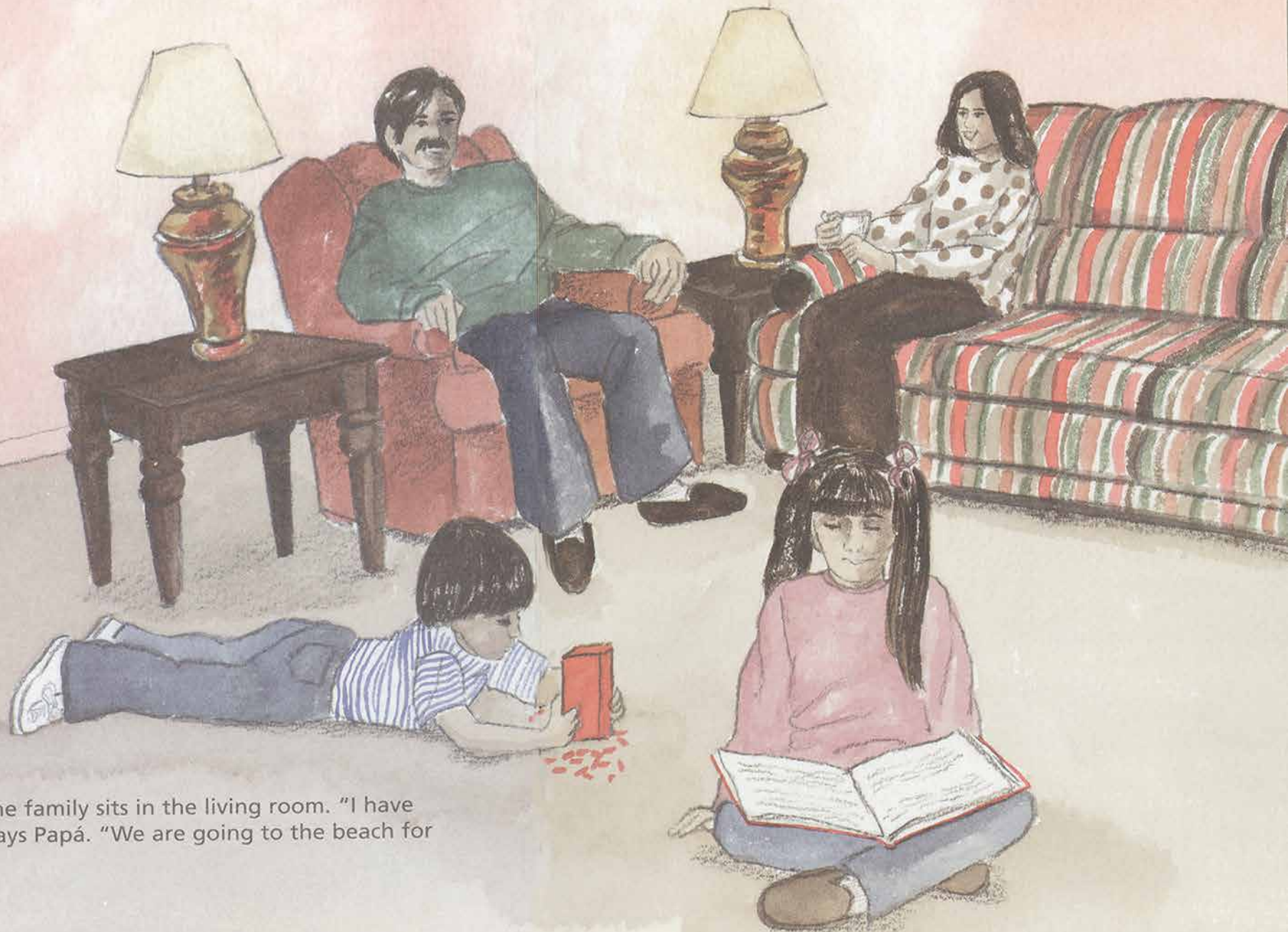
"I am making *empanadas* [em-pah-nah-daz]," says Mamá. "Go and take a bath. As soon as Papá comes home from work, we will have dinner."

Esteban loves *empanadas*. They are made of a very thin pastry, and they are filled with meat and onions.

"¡Que rico!" [kay ree-koh] says Esteban. Empanadas are yummy!



Everybody is happy. Maria likes to swim and play in the waves. Esteban likes to build castles with the sand. "I just want to sit on the sand and rest," says Mamá.

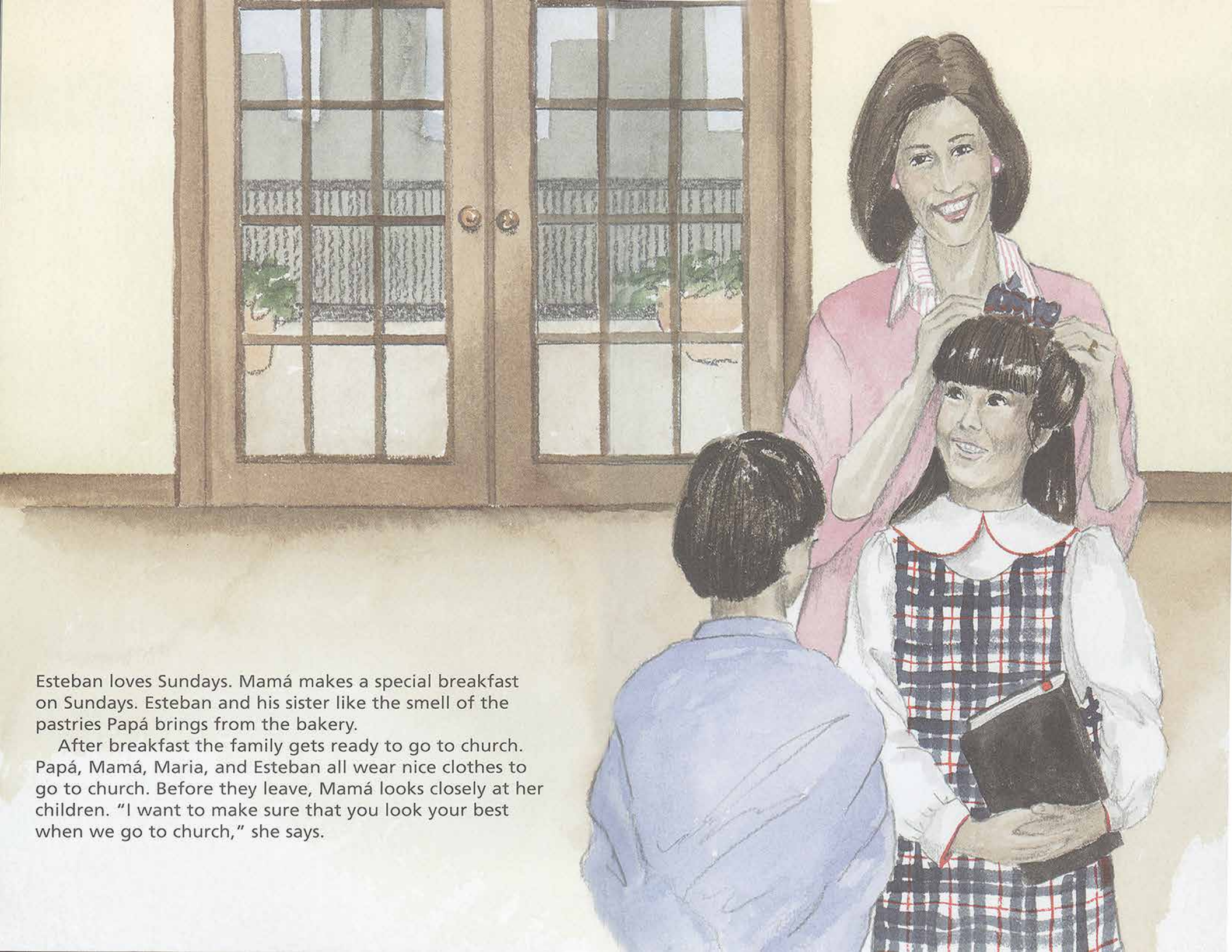


After dinner, the family sits in the living room. "I have great news!" says Papá. "We are going to the beach for our vacation!"



In the afternoons, Papá sometimes goes downtown.
"Would you like to come with me?" he asks Esteban.
After a big "¡Sí [see] Papá!" Esteban runs to get ready.

He likes to ride on the subway. He likes to see the many people coming and going at every station. He especially likes to see how fast the subway goes.
"It feels like we are flying!" says Esteban, looking through the windows.



Esteban loves Sundays. Mamá makes a special breakfast on Sundays. Esteban and his sister like the smell of the pastries Papá brings from the bakery.

After breakfast the family gets ready to go to church. Papá, Mamá, Maria, and Esteban all wear nice clothes to go to church. Before they leave, Mamá looks closely at her children. "I want to make sure that you look your best when we go to church," she says.

At church, Esteban sits with some friends in his Sunday School class. The teacher tells them about Jesus' love. "Jesus loves each one of us here," the teacher says. "And He also loves the children who live far away in other countries."

"I know a song about Jesus' love," says Esteban. "Can we sing it?" All the children sing together:

Yo Tengo Un Amigo

Arr. ANNETTE de HERRINGTON

Compositor desconocido

1 Fa
Yo ten - go un a - mi - go que me

3 Do7
a - - - ma, me a - - - ma, me

5 Fa
a - ma. Yo ten - go un a - mi - go que me

7 Do7 Fa
a - ma. Su nom - bre es Je - sús.

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Do you know that Jesus loves you too?



Esteban's Empanadas

Older preschoolers and young children will love to help make and eat these tasty treats from Argentina.

1 lb. chicken breast fillets (skinned), OR
1 lb. lean ground beef
2 medium onions, chopped
1-2 tablespoons oil
frozen bread dough OR turnover pastry dough
(enough for 8 empanadas)

Chop meat into very small pieces. Heat oil in skillet, then add onions and cook until tender. Add meat and cook over medium-high heat until done.

Defrost dough (if frozen) and roll into small balls. On floured surface with rolling pin, roll each ball flat into a 7-inch round. Lightly moisten edges of dough with water. Place $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of meat and



onion filling on half of each round. Fold other half over to enclose filling. With a fork, press edges together to seal. Prick top in several places.

Place empanadas on an ungreased baking sheet 1 inch apart. Bake at 400°F for 20 to 25 minutes or until lightly browned. Serve warm.

