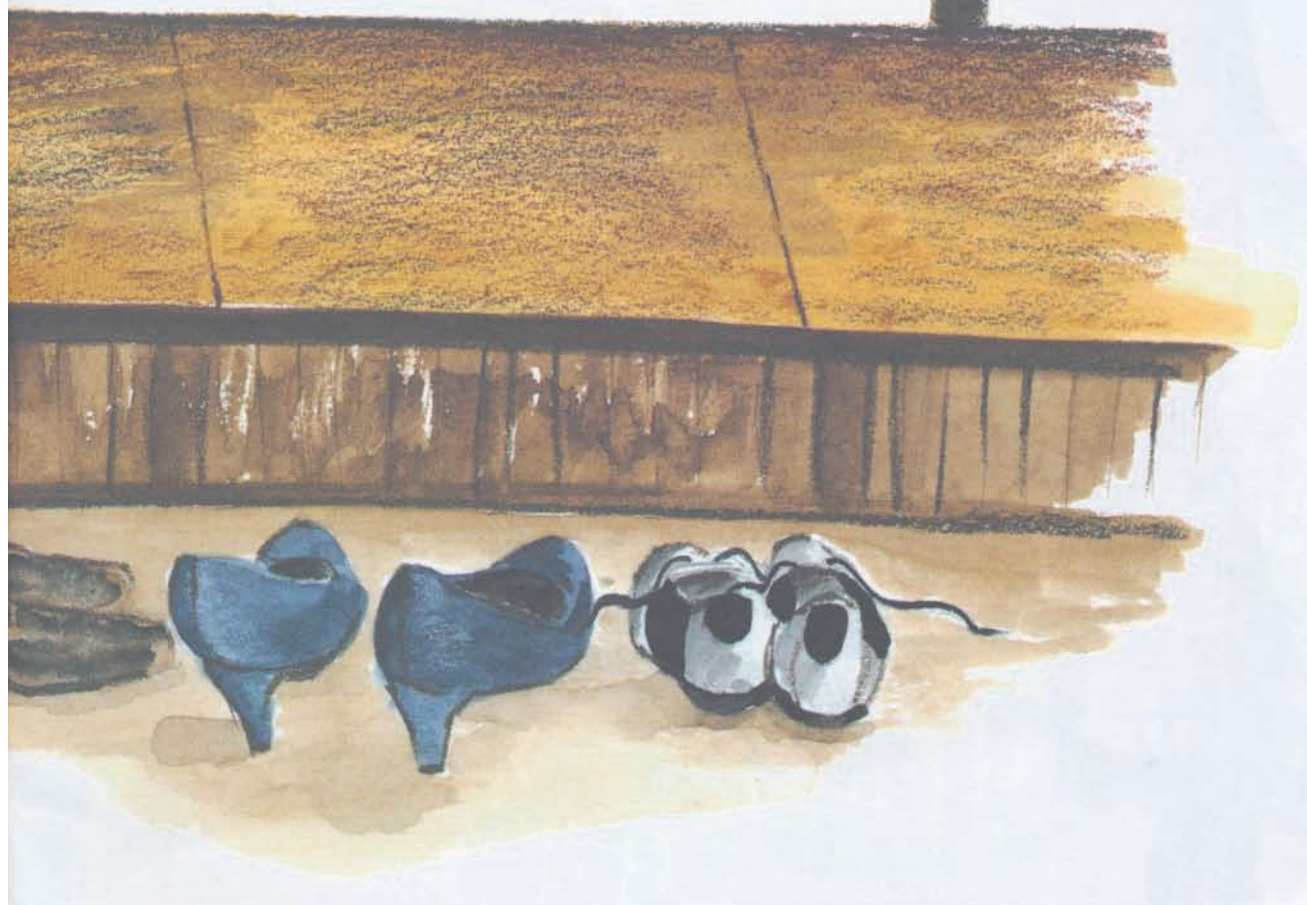


Shoes On Shoes Off

Written by Catherine Hardy Compher
Illustrated by Susan S. Meyer

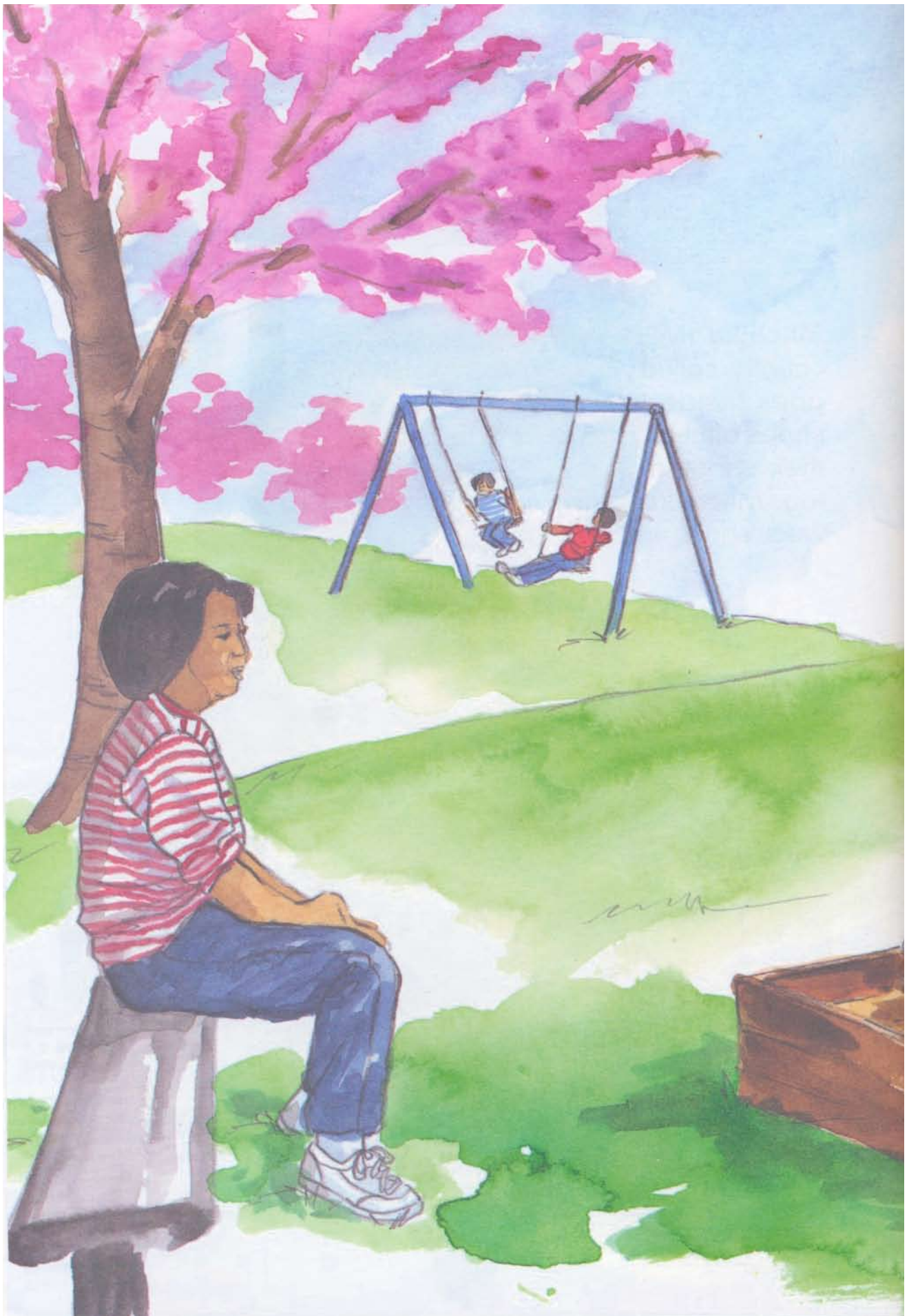



Mitchiko [MEE-chee-coh] lives in a country called Japan. When Mitchiko goes inside, she always takes her shoes off! Her mother and father take their shoes off when they go inside, too. Mitchiko's baby sister does not wear shoes yet.



Mitchiko puts her shoes on to walk to a neighborhood playground. She hears the sound of many shoes as she walks with her mother. Many, many people live in Japan. Mitchiko's mother says, "Look at all the pretty pink cherry blossoms. Spring is my favorite time to walk and see the flowers."



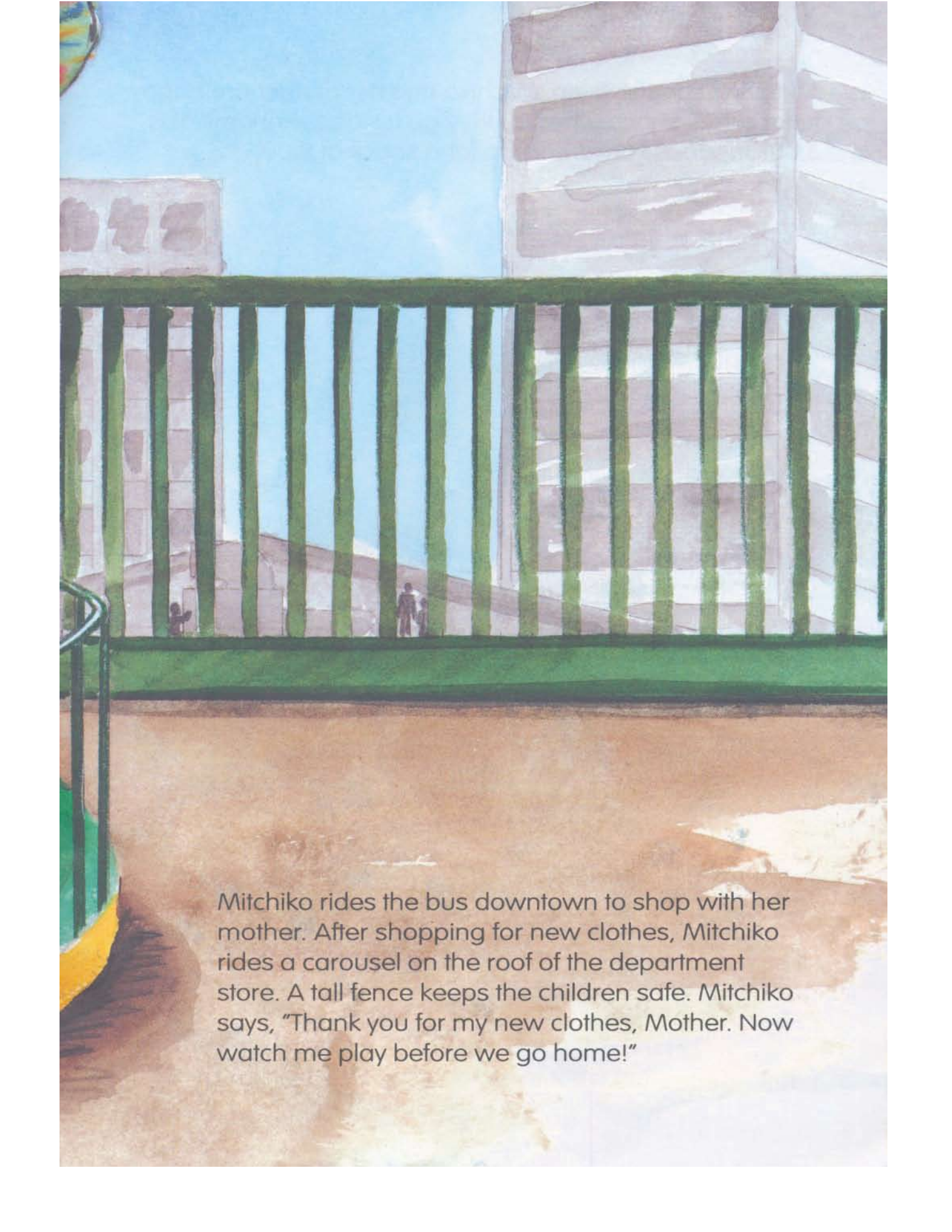




Mitchiko puts her shoes on to walk to a neighborhood playground. She hears the sound of many shoes as she walks with her mother. Many, many people live in Japan. Mitchiko's mother says, "Look at all the pretty pink cherry blossoms. Spring is my favorite time to walk and see the flowers."



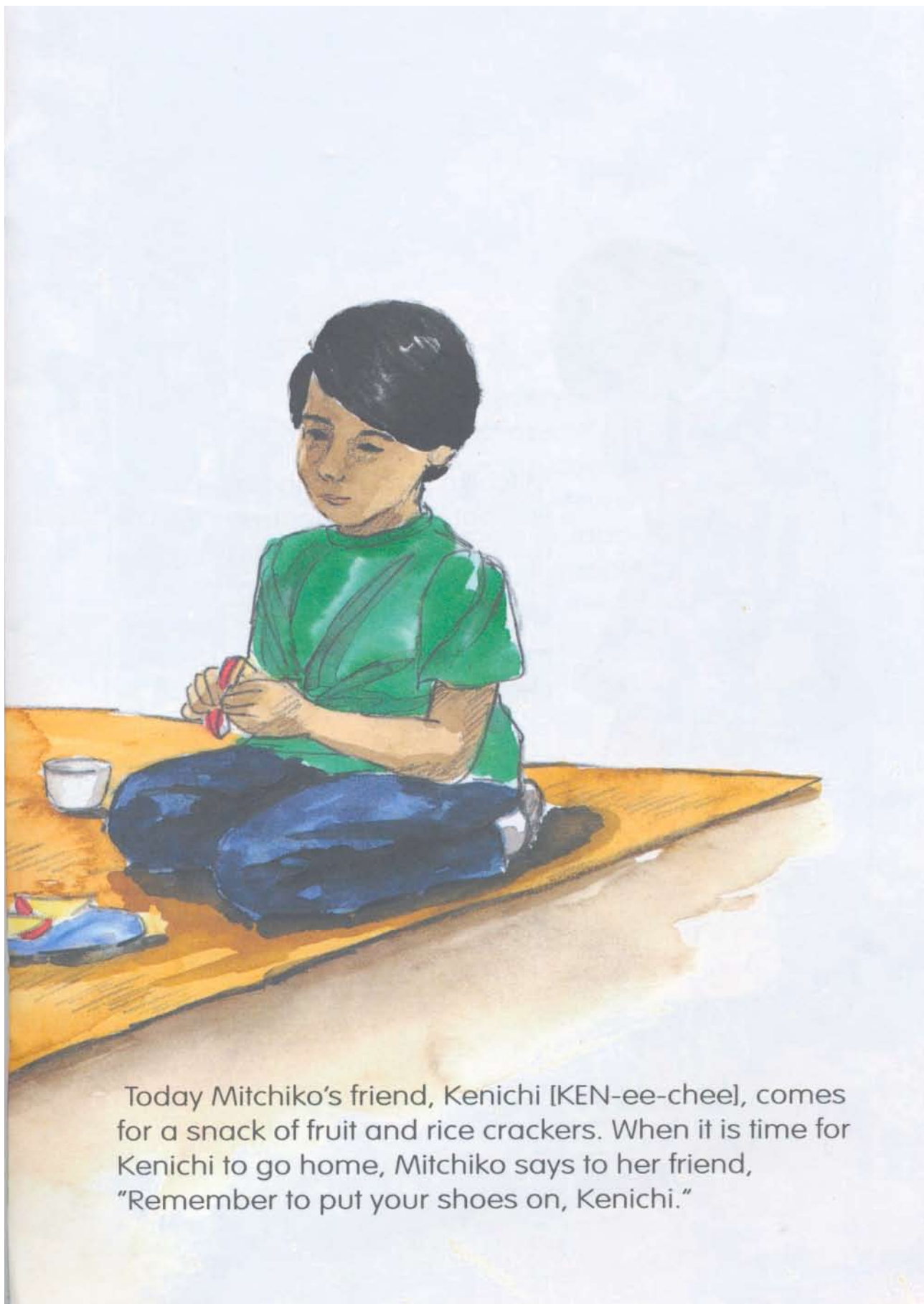




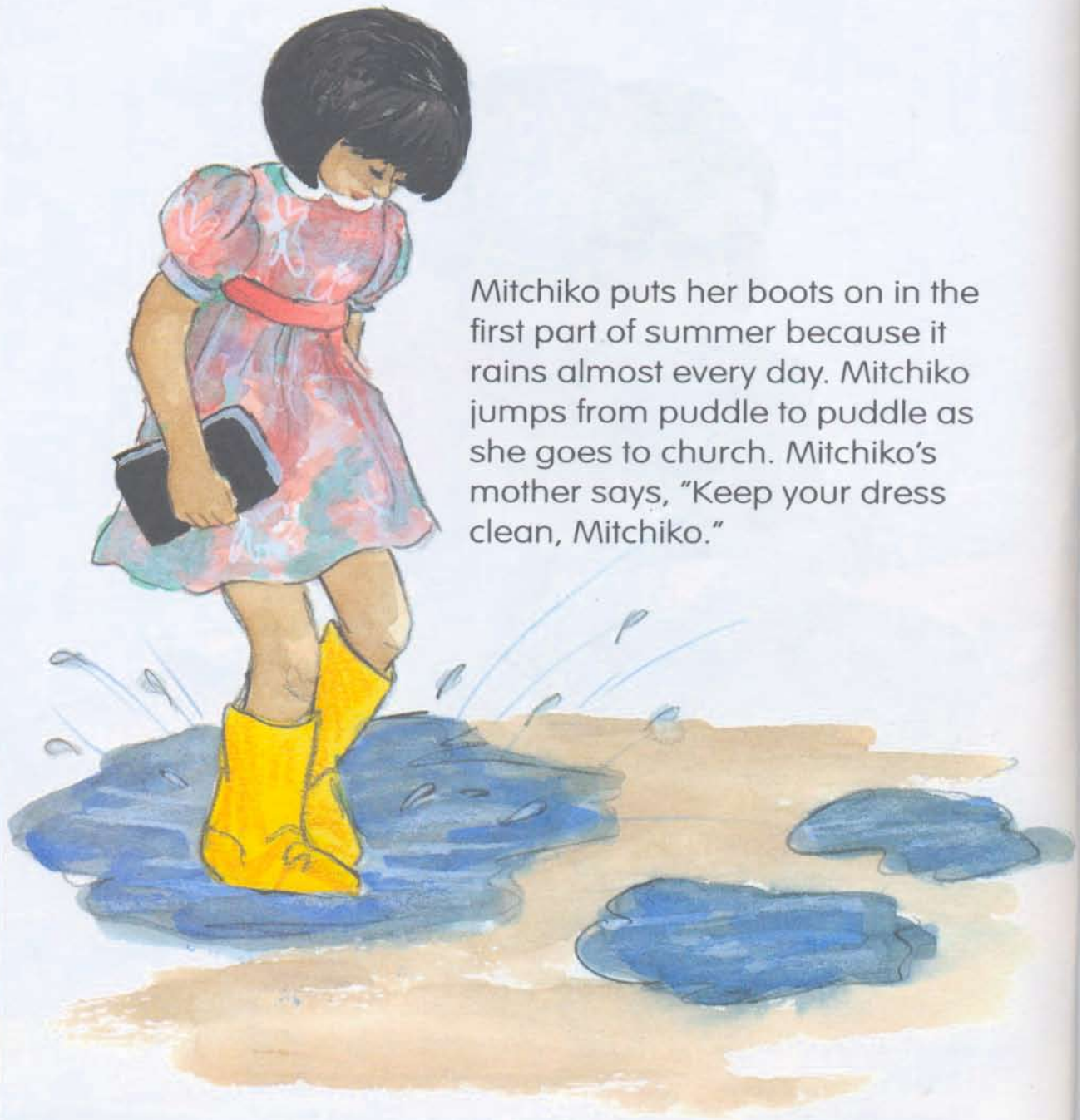
Mitchiko rides the bus downtown to shop with her mother. After shopping for new clothes, Mitchiko rides a carousel on the roof of the department store. A tall fence keeps the children safe. Mitchiko says, "Thank you for my new clothes, Mother. Now watch me play before we go home!"

After their shopping trip, Mitchiko and her mother are happy to take their shoes off when they go inside their home. It is 3:00! Japanese children stop for a snack at 3:00.






Today Mitchiko's friend, Kenichi [KEN-ee-chee], comes for a snack of fruit and rice crackers. When it is time for Kenichi to go home, Mitchiko says to her friend, "Remember to put your shoes on, Kenichi."

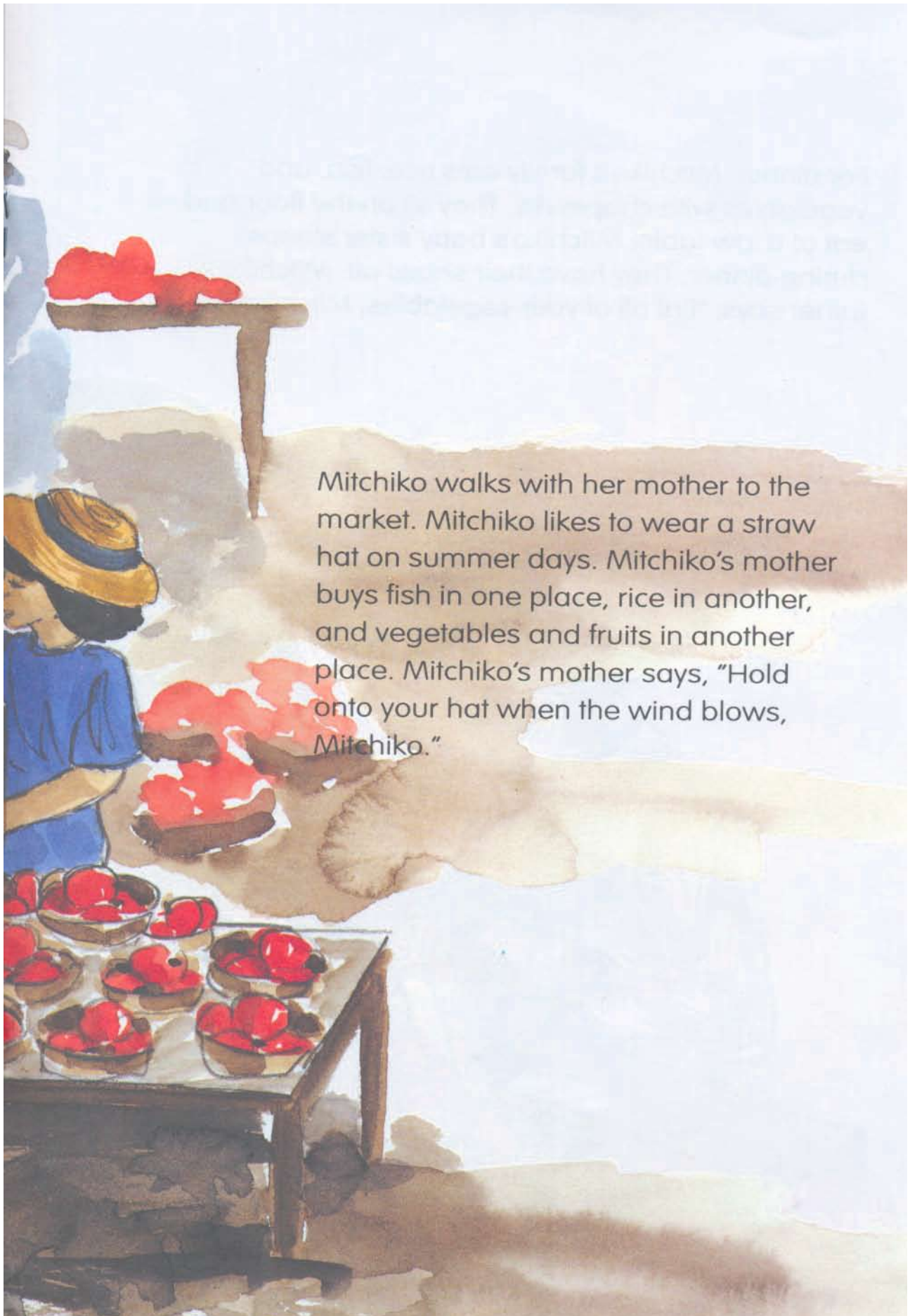


Mitchiko puts her boots on in the first part of summer because it rains almost every day. Mitchiko jumps from puddle to puddle as she goes to church. Mitchiko's mother says, "Keep your dress clean, Mitchiko."



At church everyone takes their boots or shoes off and leaves them just inside the door. Mitchiko goes to church and learns about Jesus. Most people in Japan do not go to church. Some people in Japan go to temples, but they don't learn about Jesus.





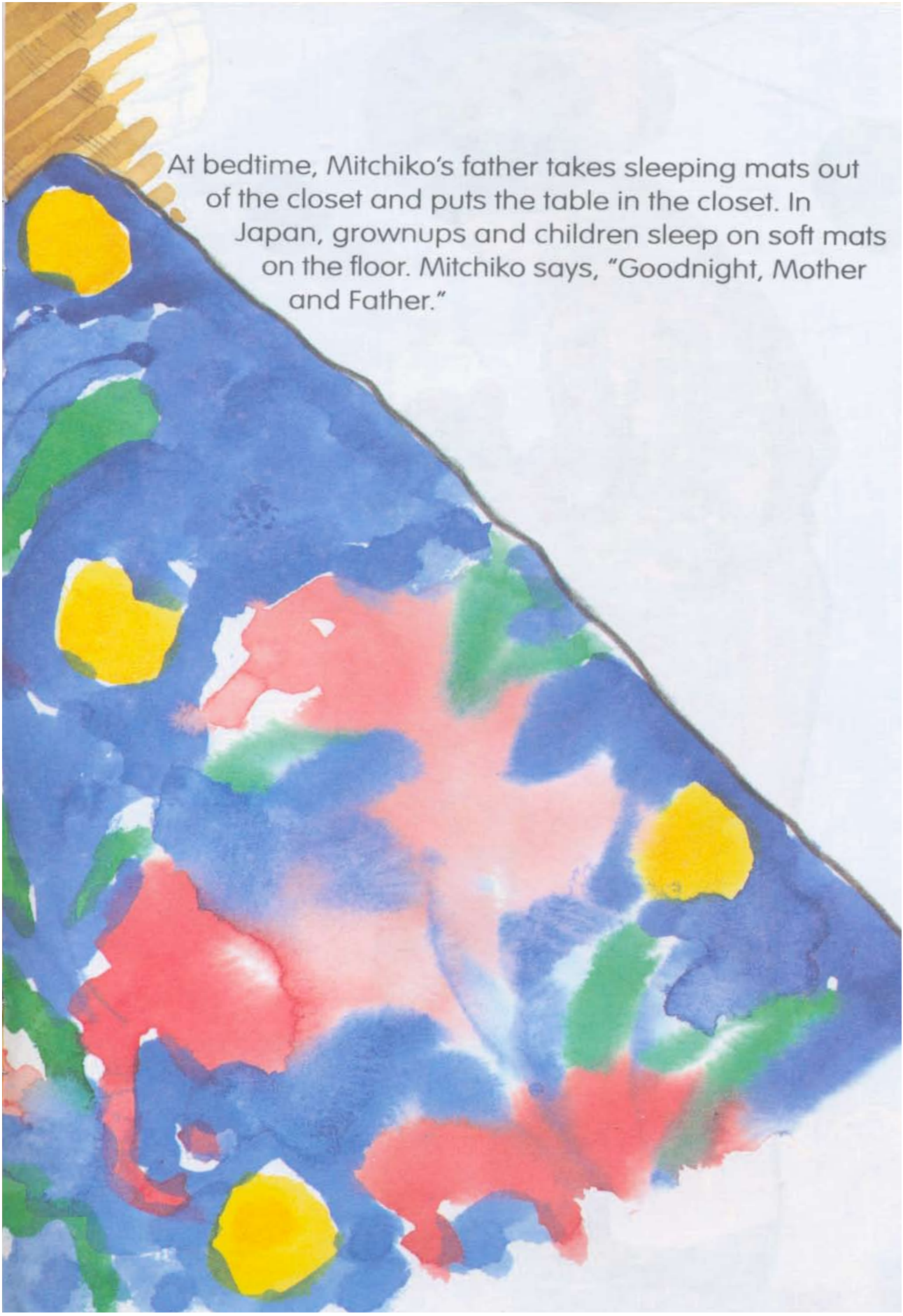
Mitchiko walks with her mother to the market. Mitchiko likes to wear a straw hat on summer days. Mitchiko's mother buys fish in one place, rice in another, and vegetables and fruits in another place. Mitchiko's mother says, "Hold onto your hat when the wind blows, Mitchiko."

For dinner, Mitchiko's family eats rice, fish, and vegetables with chopsticks. They sit on the floor and eat at a low table. Mitchiko's baby sister sleeps during dinner. They have their shoes off. Mitchiko's father says, "Eat all of your vegetables, Mitchiko."



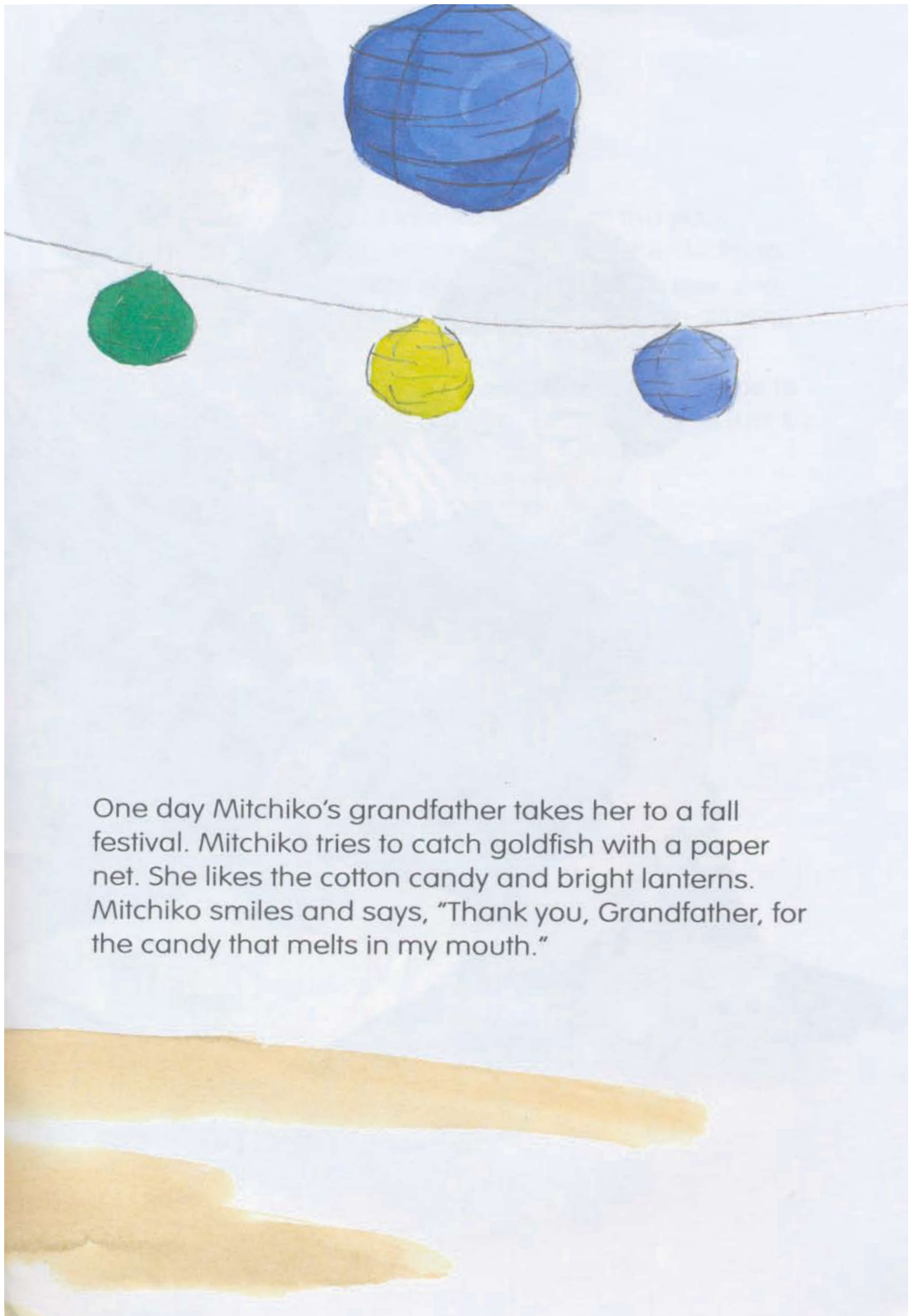




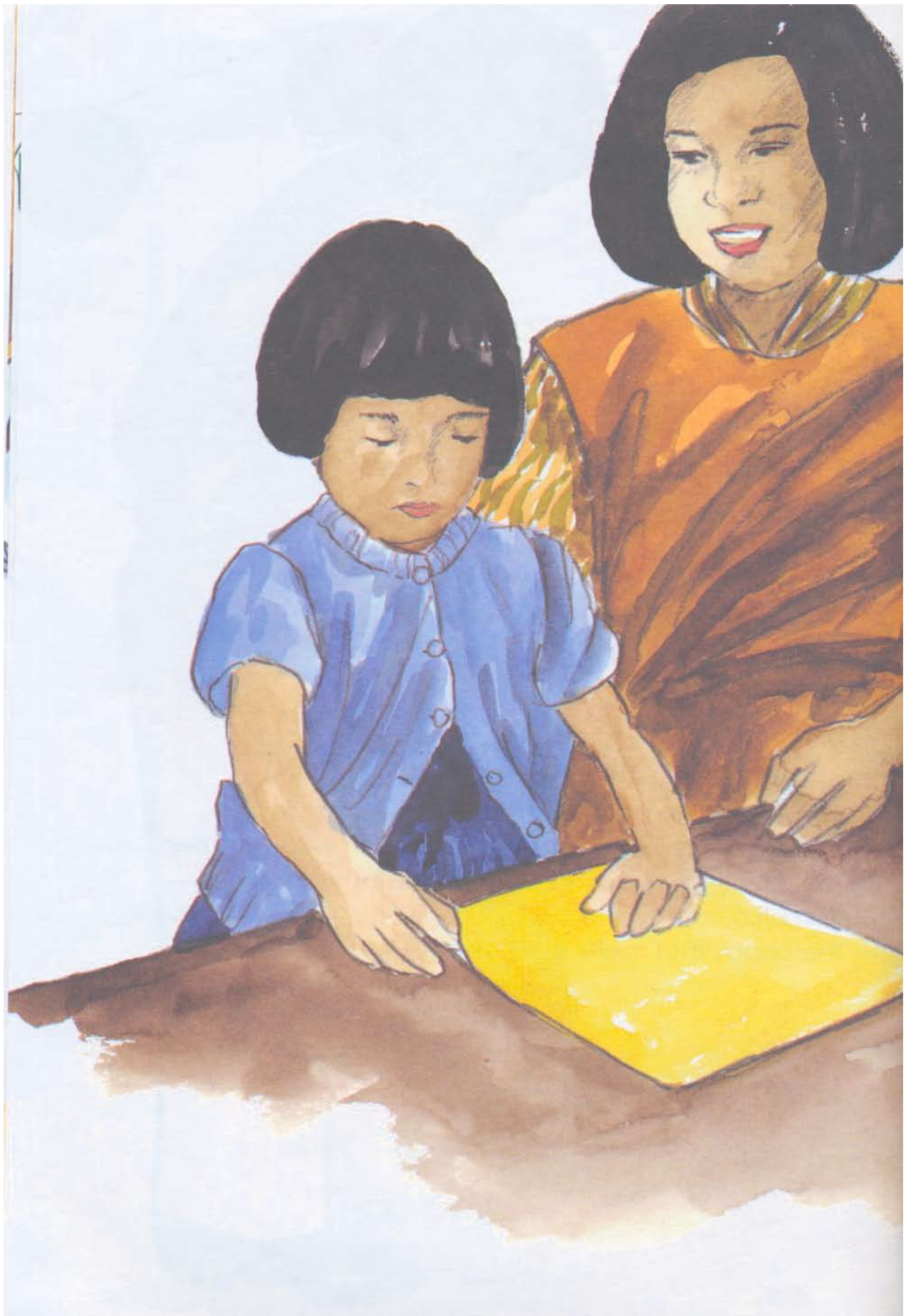


At bedtime, Mitchiko's father takes sleeping mats out of the closet and puts the table in the closet. In Japan, grownups and children sleep on soft mats on the floor. Mitchiko says, "Goodnight, Mother and Father."

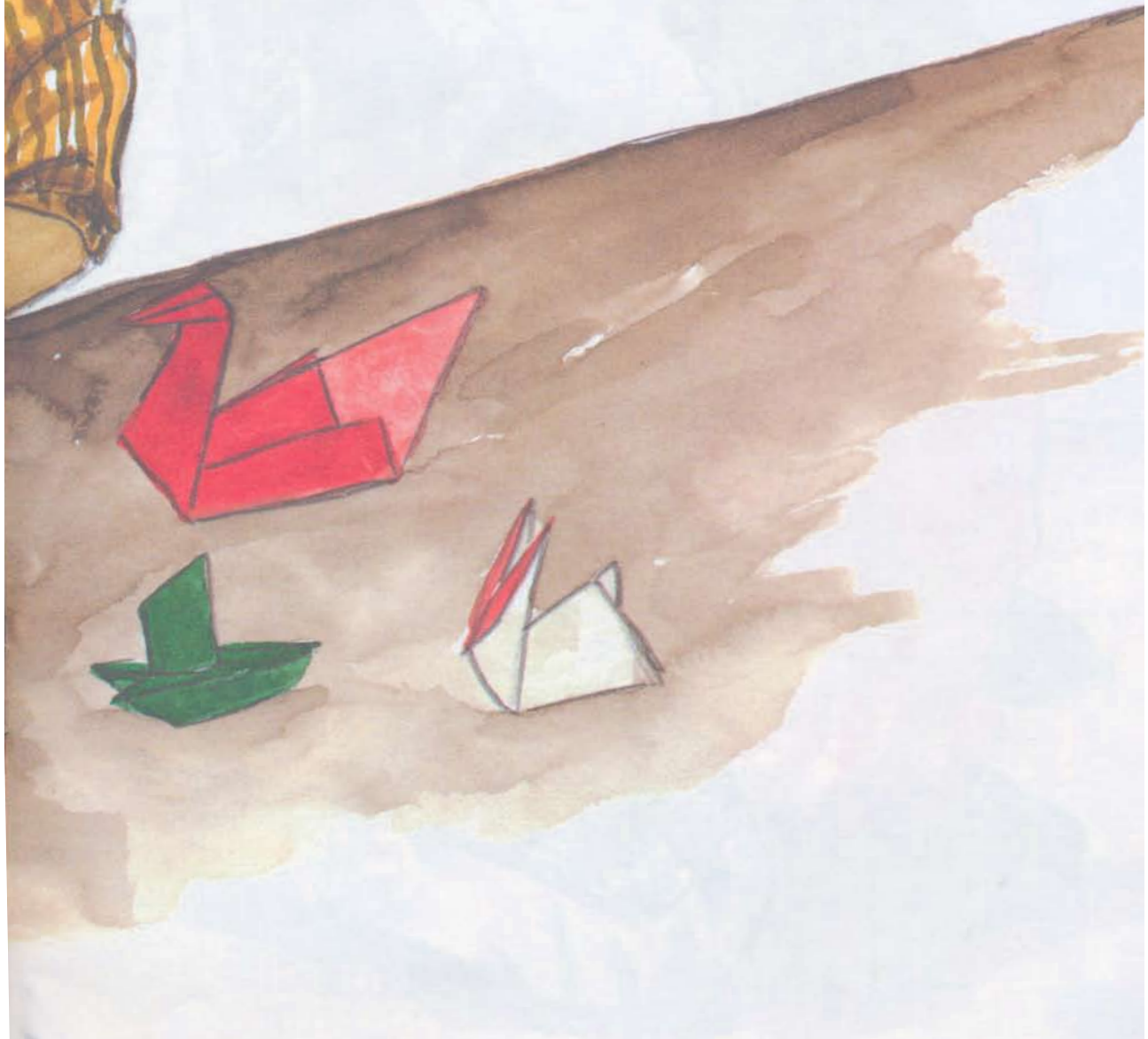




One day Mitchiko's grandfather takes her to a fall festival. Mitchiko tries to catch goldfish with a paper net. She likes the cotton candy and bright lanterns. Mitchiko smiles and says, "Thank you, Grandfather, for the candy that melts in my mouth."



When it's winter and too cold to play at the park, Mitchiko plays inside. Her mother helps her learn to fold paper into different shapes. Folding paper into shapes is called origami [OH-ree-GHAM-ee]. Mitchiko folds paper sitting on the floor with her shoes off. Mitchiko's mother says, "Someday you will be able to make animals, flowers, and lots of other things just by folding paper!"





Mitchiko's favorite day of the year is New Year's Day. On New Year's Day, parents in Japan give their children gifts. It is cold and Mitchiko's family sits around a special table that warms their feet because their shoes are off! Mitchiko says, "I'm so happy my toes are wiggling!"





God loves Mitchiko when her shoes are on or off. God always loves Mitchiko. God always loves you!