

Desafío de
Microcuentos
en Inglés

SPILL THE INK



Selección de ganadores 2023
"There is Power in Community"
Programa Inglés Abre Puertas



**SPILL
THE
INK**

Credits

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ISBN

978-956-413-074-3

División de Educación General

Ministerio de Educación Alameda 1371,

Santiago de Chile

2024

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Foreword

EN

The short story challenge in English, "Spill the Ink", from the English Open Doors Program of the División de Educación General in collaboration with the Fundación Instituto Chileno Norteamericano de Cultura de Santiago, aims to develop critical thinking skills through creative writing. In this challenge, students use the English language to apply what they have learned in their school career, expressing their ideas and connecting with their emotions.

In the 2023 edition, participants reflected on the motto: "There is power in community." Thus, the selection of short stories in this publication portrays experiences that make visible and transmit the importance of participating in communities, knowing how to live positively with others, and cultivating an environment focused on the well-being of its members. At the same time, highlights values such as: inclusion, collaboration, empathy, the value of communication and friendship, diversity, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts considering everyone's voice.

We congratulate the school communities that participated in the Spill the Ink 2023 challenge, and especially, the student authors of the short stories selected for this publication.

We invite you to explore the ideas, experiences and imagination of 16 student authors on this topic and we hope that this journey also inspires you to reflect as a reader.

ES

El desafío de microcuentos en inglés "Spill the Ink", del Programa Inglés Abre Puertas de la División de Educación General en colaboración con la Fundación Instituto Chileno Norteamericano de Cultura de Santiago, busca fomentar el pensamiento crítico a través de la escritura creativa. En este desafío, los estudiantes emplean el idioma inglés para aplicar lo aprendido en su trayectoria escolar, expresando sus ideas y conectando con sus emociones.

En la edición 2023, los participantes reflexionaron en torno al lema: "There is power in community." Así, la selección de microcuentos de esta publicación retrata experiencias que visibilizan y transmiten la importancia de participar en comunidades, que sepan convivir positivamente con otros y cultiven un ambiente centrado en el bienestar de sus integrantes. Al mismo tiempo, se relevan valores como la inclusión, la colaboración, la empatía, el valor de la comunicación y la amistad, la diversidad y la resolución pacífica de conflictos considerando la voz de todos.

Felicitamos a las comunidades escolares que participaron del desafío Spill the Ink 2023, y en especial, a los estudiantes autores de los microcuentos seleccionados para esta publicación.

Te invitamos a explorar las ideas, vivencias e imaginación de los 16 estudiantes autores sobre esta temática y esperamos que este recorrido también te inspire a reflexionar como lector(a).

Kidnapping

In the bustling metropolis, a sinister event unfolded. A child named Lily had been kidnapped. Panic gripped the city; but hope resided in a team of unlikely heroes.

Detective James and a ragtag group of streetwise neighbors joined forces. They combined their skills: a tech-savvy teen, a resourceful locksmith, and a kind-hearted nurse.

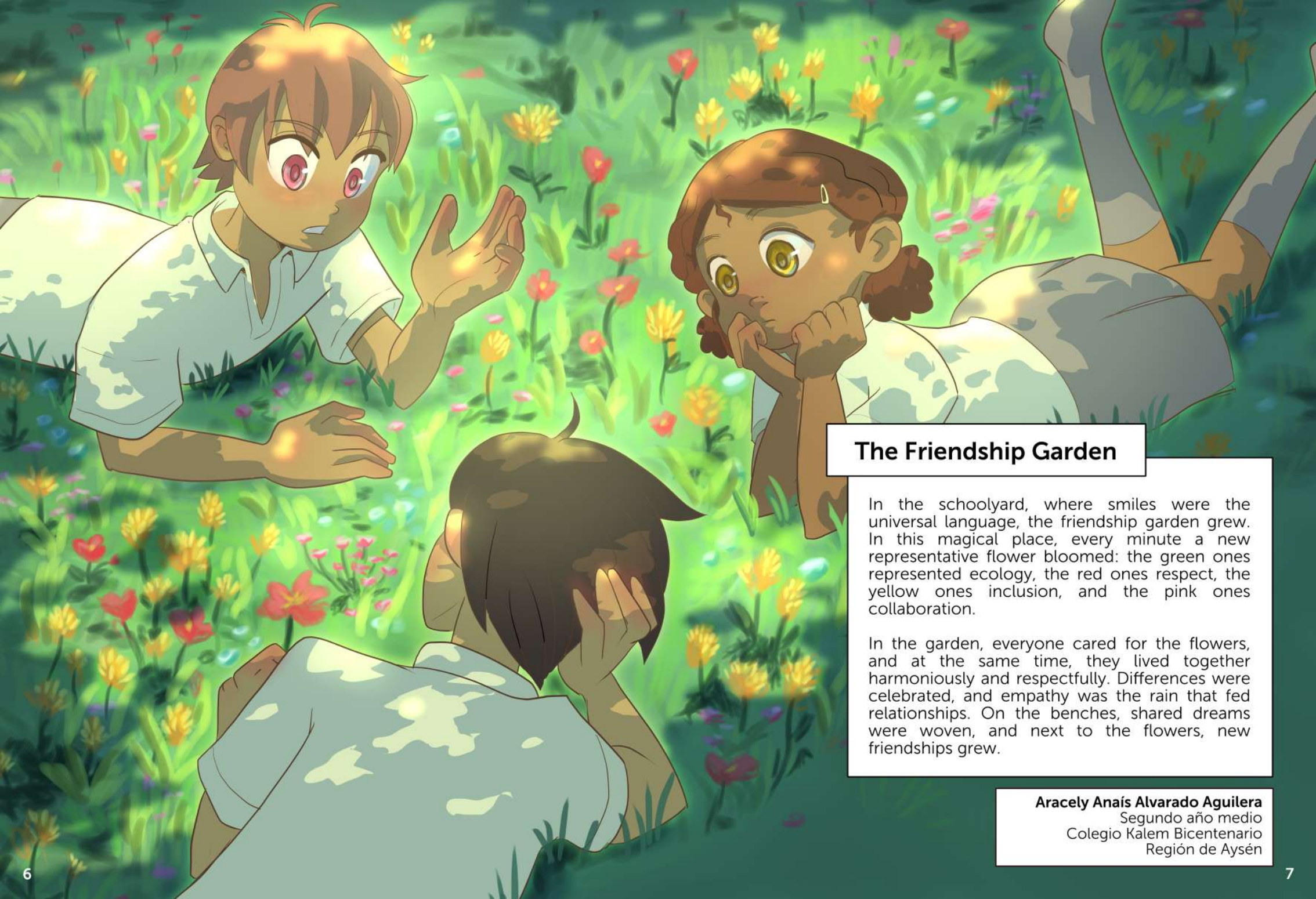
As they chased leads and followed cryptic clues, their collaboration grew stronger. Their determination united them, and with each passing hour, they neared the truth.

Together, they located Lily's captor and orchestrated a daring rescue, proving that teamwork could overcome even the darkest of trials.

Krishna Magdalena Carrasco Carrasco

Primer año medio
Colegio Padre Damián
Región de Los Ríos





The Friendship Garden

In the schoolyard, where smiles were the universal language, the friendship garden grew. In this magical place, every minute a new representative flower bloomed: the green ones represented ecology, the red ones respect, the yellow ones inclusion, and the pink ones collaboration.

In the garden, everyone cared for the flowers, and at the same time, they lived together harmoniously and respectfully. Differences were celebrated, and empathy was the rain that fed relationships. On the benches, shared dreams were woven, and next to the flowers, new friendships grew.

Aracely Anaís Alvarado Aguilera
Segundo año medio
Colegio Kalem Bicentenario
Región de Aysén

An illustration of four students sitting on bleachers at sunset. From left to right: a girl with long dark hair in a white jacket and blue pants, a boy with glasses in a red shirt, a girl with short white hair in a pink hoodie and white pants, and a boy with curly hair in a yellow jacket and dark pants. They are all smiling and looking towards the right. The background shows bleachers and a warm sunset sky.

Parallel Lines of Past and Present: A New Beginning

It was my first time at the "English Winter Camps." I felt a little touch on my shoulder. Two girls were inviting me to lunch. I felt strange; since I had been bullied, I had forgotten the feeling of being included or considered a friend. A few days later, I met three boys, and we became a bigger group. I was not going to deny it; I was afraid the same thing would happen to me, but now it was different. The past and the present are parallel lines that teach you to live in community.

Francisca Alejandra Yáñez Zenteno

Tercer año medio
Liceo Bicentenario Diego Portales
Región del Maule

Whisker's Wish

In Whiskerville, a town of cats, Mr. Whiskers discovered the "Unity Whisker," a magical feline artifact. Each touch granted a community wish. Cats lined up, making earnest requests. When Mr. Whiskers touched it, he wished, "May everyone understand each other." Suddenly, cats began speaking different languages, fostering understanding. But here's the twist: Mr. Whiskers hadn't realized he'd made the wish in all languages. Cats giggled, appreciating the irony. The town embraced multilingual harmony, realizing unity wasn't about a shared language, but shared understanding. Whiskers' unintentional twist brought a connection, proving that unity transcends words, a lesson Whiskerville would never forget.

Luis Amador Hinojosa Arévalo

Segundo año medio

Liceo Polivalente Bicentenario Mariano Latorre
Región del Biobío





Urban legend

Elly was a lonely high school girl. She never smiled or showed any emotion in front of others. The children were afraid of her, and several middle schoolers gossiped about her, except for her own classmates, who didn't pay much attention to her until they heard her urban legend.

One day, two popular classmates approached her at recess; everyone stared expectantly at the strange event.

They made funny faces at her. She laughed lightly at their silly actions. "See? She has a beautiful smile. She's not a ghost!" one boy said, giving her a silly smile.

Solange Del Pilar Navarrete Angulo
Cuarto año medio
Cambridge College Primavera
Región de La Araucanía



From Sunflower to Dark Flower

Once upon a time, there was a garden where flowers of different colors coexisted. But the sunflower, with a very big ego, preferred to be alone.

One day, a bee told him about sharing. Intrigued, the sunflower joined the group. Soon, its stem was filled with colors. But over time, envy blinded him. He wanted to be the center of attention, spreading his enormous petals and obscuring the others.

The garden became sad. The sunflower didn't notice the change. In the end, he was left alone without friends or bees. Then, lonely, he understood the value of friendship.

Lisette Aixa Ampuero Naiman
Segundo año medio
Liceo Gabriela Mistral
Región de Magallanes



Unexpected Connections

Addy was new in the city; she was an exchange student. She really wanted to learn about our country, but her host family didn't have time for that. For the last two months, her routine had always been the same: from school to home.

One day after school, we accidentally ran into each other, bumping our heads. To make it up to her, I invited her to a party. She excitedly accepted.

Meeting her took me out of my comfort zone and helped me appreciate my culture. Together, I could say it was mutual help.

Antonia Waleska Obreque Barrientos

Tercer año medio
Colegio Andalué Osorno
Región de Los Lagos

Life in my Eyes

It's my 10th birthday. When I was two months old, my mom picked me. Out of all my brothers and sisters, she picked me. I don't remember much of that day. The only thing I remember is that she took me to get to know my sisters. I love my little sister Sofi. I don't really like my older sister Genesis; she is weird, but I still love her. I grew up with them.

Today, I have my dad, mom, and sisters, and every time they come home from school, I feel like the happiest dog in the whole world.

Sofía Antonia Retamales Santander
Tercer año medio
Colegio Kalem Bicentenario
Región de Aysén



Perseverance

Lucia was a little girl struggling to learn to read. The letters seemed to move before her eyes, but she never gave up. One day, her grandfather, a wise man with gray hairs of experience, sat beside her. He told her stories in a low voice, words that came to life. Each day, Lucia made a little more progress.

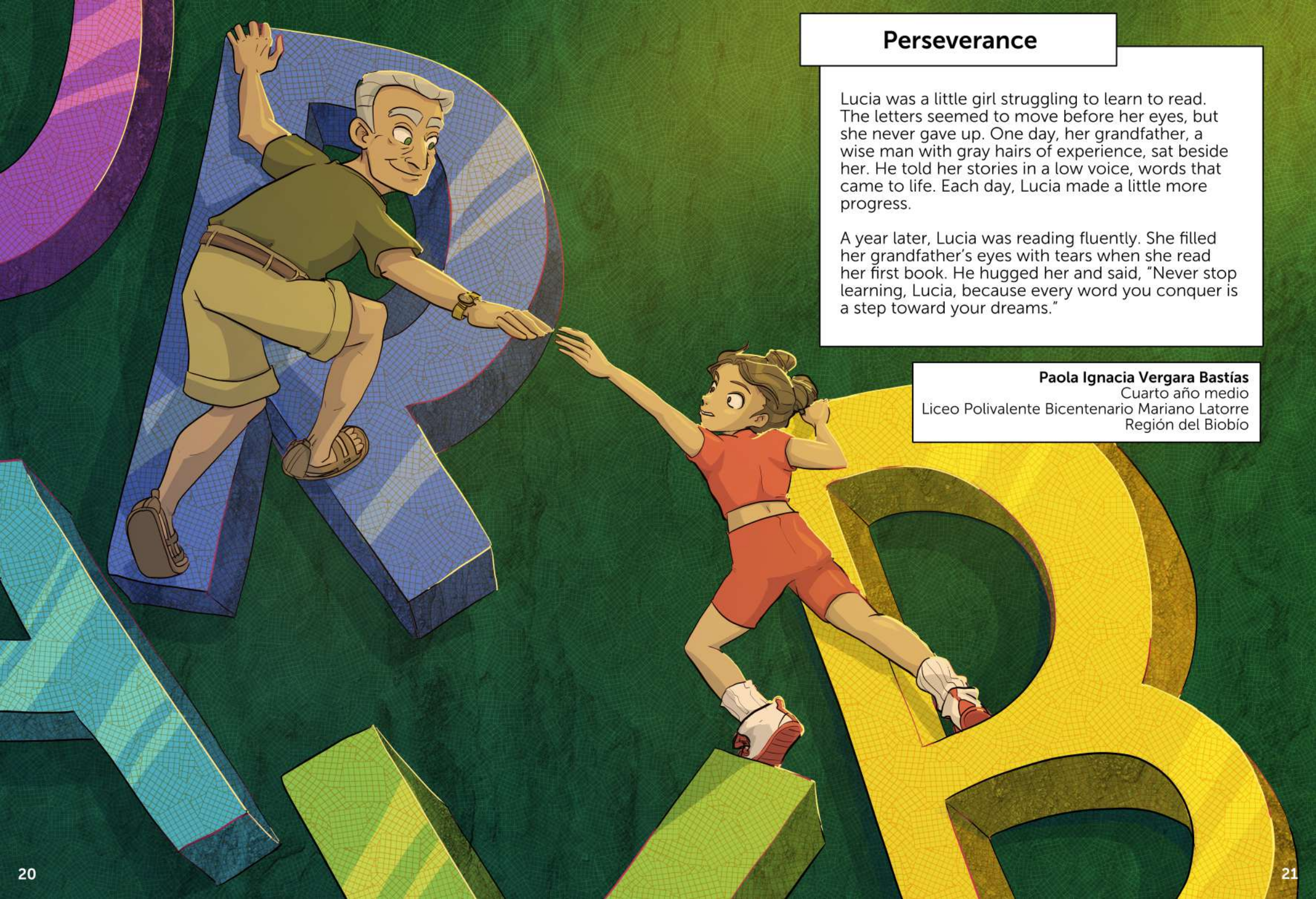
A year later, Lucia was reading fluently. She filled her grandfather's eyes with tears when she read her first book. He hugged her and said, "Never stop learning, Lucia, because every word you conquer is a step toward your dreams."

Paola Ignacia Vergara Bastías

Cuarto año medio

Liceo Polivalente Bicentenario Mariano Latorre

Región del Biobío



Back to...?

Going back to school after the pandemic was an emotional time. Students were anxious to return and reconnect with their friends. However, uncertainty remained because of the pandemic. Schools now had strict distancing and mask protocols.

When I arrived on the first day, I began to look for my group of friends. I managed to see them in the distance, all turning their backs to me as if they were watching something. I approached calmly and saw that what they were observing was me on a stretcher.

It turns out that all this time... I was dead?

Bastián Jussef Bascur Peñaloza

Segundo año medio

Colegio Antamara

Región de Tarapacá



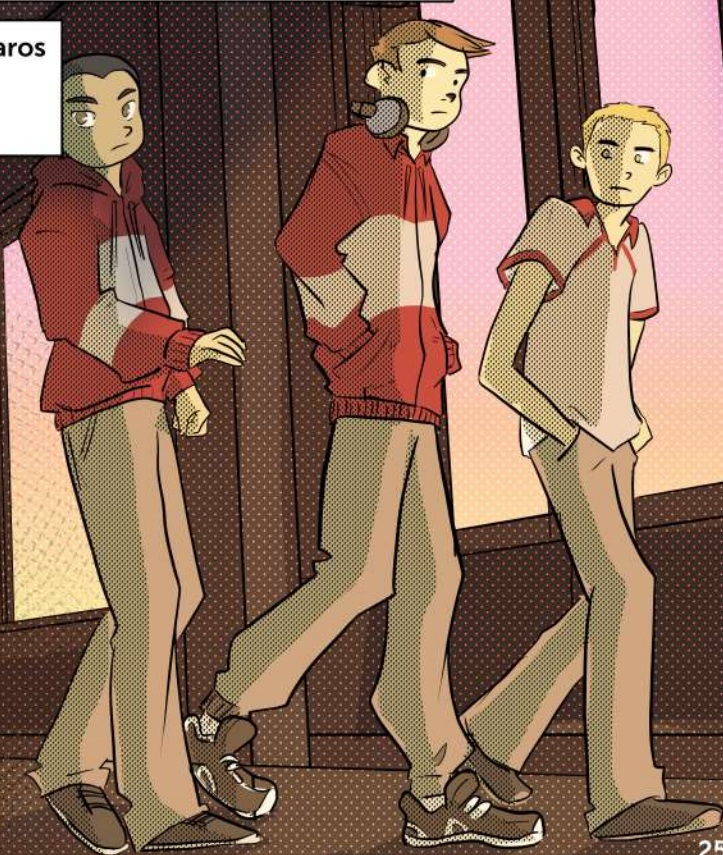
A Good Friend

Dylan was walking slowly down the hallway when he suddenly felt a strong push from behind. Ricardo watched from a distance and felt strong frustration and fury inside him. He approached and passively expressed his discomfort to those responsible, telling them, "Please, can you stop bothering him? He hasn't done anything to you." Since Ricardo was a final-year student, everyone felt influenced by him, so those young people who bothered Dylan never did it again.

Ricardo began to spend more time with Dylan, forming a very loyal, beautiful, and healthy friendship.

Ricardo Alejandro Pino Haros

Cuarto año medio
Liceo Gabriela Mistral
Región de Magallanes





A New Lesson

On the way to lunch, we began an incredible marathon to get a better place in line, as it became somewhat tedious when there were many people. That day, running was dangerous because there was water in the hallway, and as it was likely it would happen, Benjamin slipped and fell resoundingly.

Some boys laughed at him. Upon seeing such a situation, a group of friends approached, helped him up, and asked if he was okay. Those who laughed felt somewhat guilty, and then they tried to be nice.

A new day, a new lesson!

Darlen Denis Rubio Lagos

Segundo año medio

Liceo Bicentenario Politécnico José Manuel Pinto Arias
Región de Ñuble

Competition

I decided to enroll in a national recycling contest that consisted of collecting recycled garbage in a week.

At the same time, a classmate came to me because he wanted help with the English competition. Since he is dyslexic and I know how to help him because I have a brother who also has the same disability, I agreed.

While he helped me convince many in my class to help with the recycling contest, I helped him with his competition.

Finally, I came in first place, and he came in second place.

I will never forget it!

Annays Fernanda Carreño Guerrero
Tercer año medio
Colegio Cervantino de Copiapó
Región de Atacama



The Help

I sat there in the empty room, even surrounded by others, the room felt empty. One by one, they were entering and leaving the classroom, saying "Hi" and "Bye". They were talking; I was a talker too, a listener, but above all: a feeler.

And I felt like I knew you for the first time. Not even knowing each other's names, but through your eyes, I saw your soul. The vibrant aura was all I needed to understand who you were. You opened your world to me and made me feel loved again... I'm not alone anymore because of you.

Constanza Belén Arriagada Parra

Cuarto año medio
Liceo Bicentenario de Excelencia
Carlos Montané Castro
Región de Ñuble



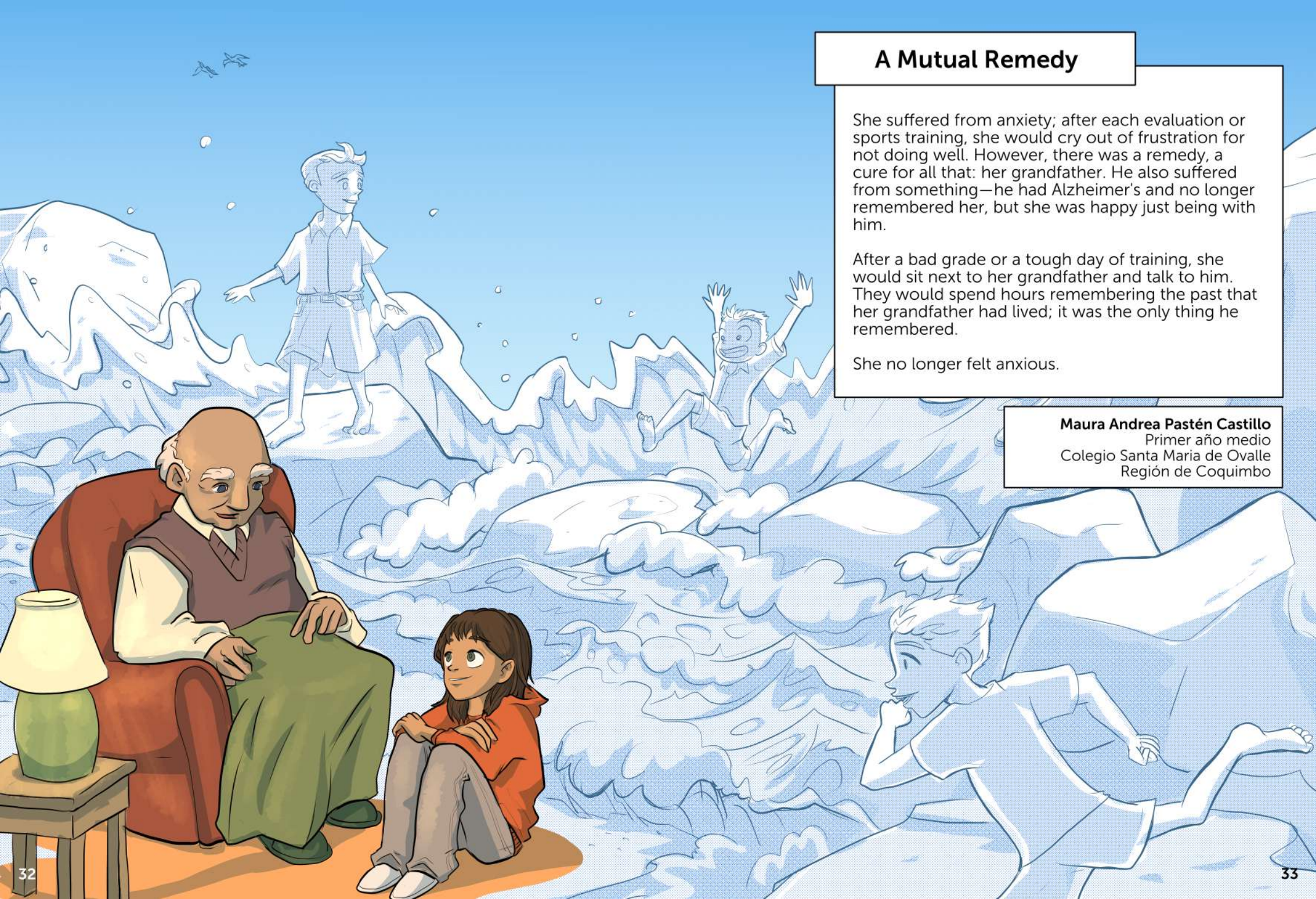
A Mutual Remedy

She suffered from anxiety; after each evaluation or sports training, she would cry out of frustration for not doing well. However, there was a remedy, a cure for all that: her grandfather. He also suffered from something—he had Alzheimer's and no longer remembered her, but she was happy just being with him.

After a bad grade or a tough day of training, she would sit next to her grandfather and talk to him. They would spend hours remembering the past that her grandfather had lived; it was the only thing he remembered.

She no longer felt anxious.

Maura Andrea Pastén Castillo
Primer año medio
Colegio Santa María de Ovalle
Región de Coquimbo



The Look

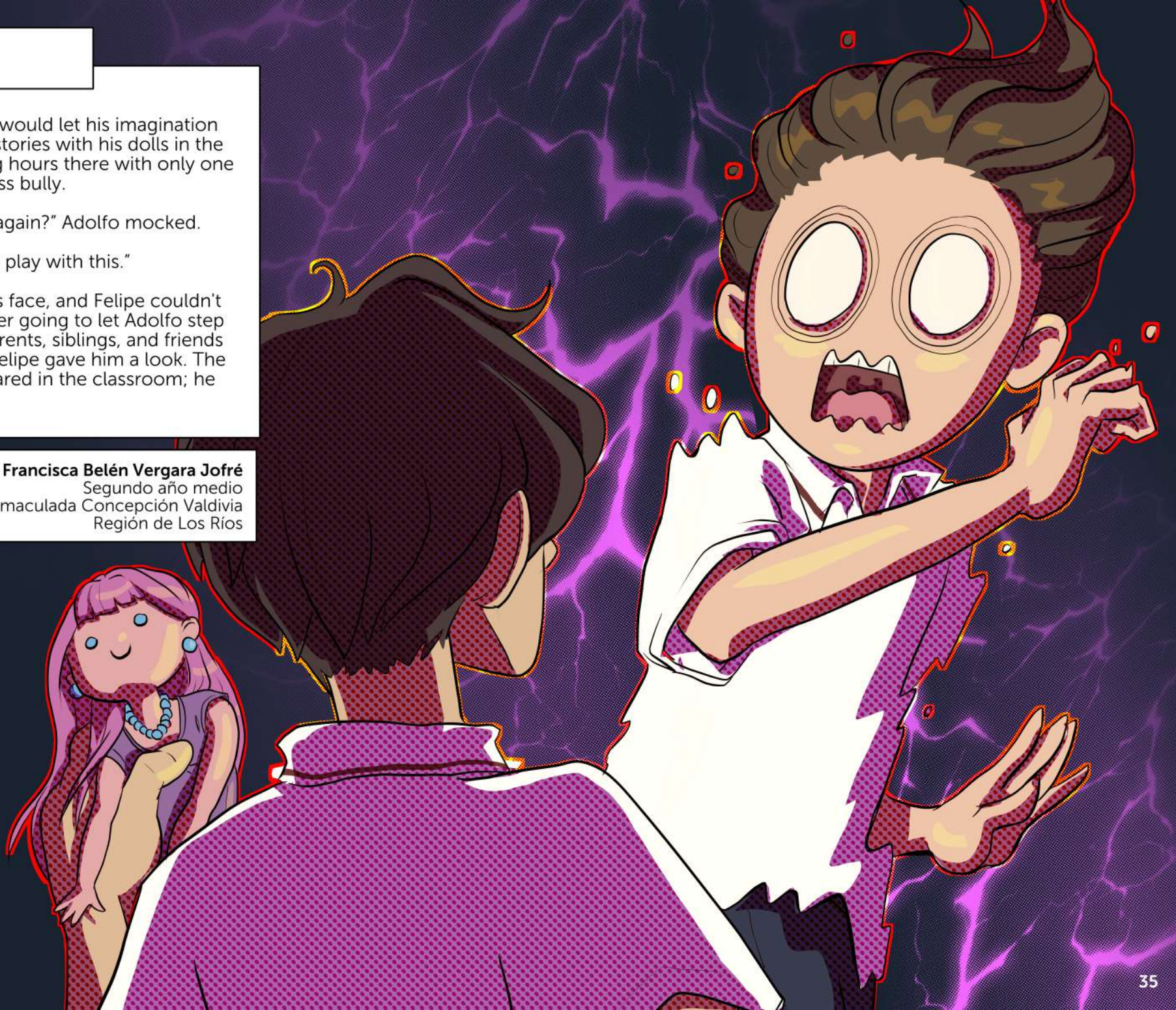
During the break, Felipe would let his imagination fly by creating fantastic stories with his dolls in the school's castle, spending hours there with only one problem: Adolfo, the class bully.

"Playing with your dolls again?" Adolfo mocked.

"Become a real man and play with this."

Adolfo threw a car at his face, and Felipe couldn't stand it. He was no longer going to let Adolfo step on him as always. His parents, siblings, and friends respected his essence. Felipe gave him a look. The next day, he never appeared in the classroom; he left the school.

Francisca Belén Vergara Jofré
Segundo año medio
Instituto Inmaculada Concepción Valdivia
Región de Los Ríos





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