

"Popcorn Goes to School" follows the delicate and transformative journey of a little dinosaur on his very first day of school. Between the butterflies in his tummy, the wish to go back home, and a curiosity that insists on shining, Popcorn discovers that school can be much more than an unfamiliar place: it's where friendships, adventures, and learning are born... and even a few tears. In the midst of disputes and intense emotions, he realizes that the other can also be a mirror — reflecting fears, desires, comfort, and discoveries that belong to everyone. In this sensitive and playful story, every emotion Popcorn feels mirrors what so many children experience when taking their first steps away from the nest. By the end of the day, school is no longer something to fear — it becomes part of his heart.

POPCORN

GOES TO
SCHOOL

Leonardo Araújo

Popcorn Goes to School

Written by Leonardo Araújo

Illustrations created with the help of Sora and ChatGPT.

This book is licensed under the terms of Creative Commons – Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0). You can share this book, as long as you give proper credit, do not use it for commercial purposes and do not modify it.

For commercial uses (such as print publication or digital sale), contact the author for permission and specific conditions.

More information about the license at:

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>



To my parents, who gave me wings to fly.
To my wife, guardian of my castle.
And to my daughter, whose magic lights up our lives.

Dear readers,

This story was inspired by my daughter's adventure as she began school. It brings forth the fears, the anxieties, and the many joys of this very special moment. May Popcorn's journey serve as a bridge to help children face challenges and celebrate the joys of those first years at school.

Each story is unique, but the essence and magic within them is always the same.

With affection,
LEo





PIOCA WAS SLEEPING ALL WARM AND COZY,
WRAPPED IN HIS SPACE DREAMS...

BUT THE SUN WAS ALREADY SHINING THROUGH THE WINDOW,
CALLING HIM TO A NEW DAY.
TODAY WAS HIS FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL...

A yellow cartoon dinosaur with orange spots and spikes is sitting on a wooden chair at a wooden table. It is holding a banana in its right hand and looking at it with a curious expression. On the table, there is a white plate with two banana slices and a glass of milk. The background shows a kitchen with wooden cabinets, a window with yellow curtains, and a potted plant.

PIPOCA FELT A SHIVER IN HIS BELLY...
WAS IT THE COLD MILK?

OR RESTLESS BUTTERFLIES FLUTTERING INSIDE?
EVERYTHING WAS NEW...



ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL, PIPOCA STOPPED AND WHISPERED:
"I WANT TO GO BACK HOME..."

BUT THEN HE SAW OTHER LITTLE DINOS WALKING TOO.
A CHILL TOUCHED HIS CHEST...

AND A SPARK OF CURIOSITY
WARMED HIS HEART.



AT SCHOOL, PIPOCA PAINTED WITH A BRUSH...
AND ALSO WITH HIS PAWS!

RED AND YELLOW TURNED INTO ORANGE
— IT WAS PURE MAGIC!

WITH JUST A TOUCH, HE CREATED COLORS, SHAPES, AND JOY.
THE CLASS WAS A COLORFUL MESS...
AND HE WAS LOVING IT.

VROOOM!
THE RACETRACK WAS ALL FUN!



THEY ALL RACED TO SEE WHO WAS FASTEST.
PIPOCA FELT LIKE A CHAMPION.

A watercolor illustration of four dinosaurs in a classroom setting. A large yellow dinosaur with a blue eye and a spiky back is the central figure, smiling and playing two small wooden drums. To its left, a smaller orange dinosaur is playing a maraca. To the right, another orange dinosaur is playing a guitar, and a green dinosaur is holding a bell. The background is a soft, textured wash of light green and yellow.

TUM-TUM!

PIPOCA DRUMMED OUT HIS JOYFUL RHYTHM.

THE CLASSROOM TURNED INTO AN ORCHESTRA.

MUSIC FILLED THE ROOM...

AND THEIR HEARTS TOO.

SUDDENLY... THE MUSIC STOPPED.

PIPOCA AND A CLASSMATE WERE FIGHTING OVER A TOY TRUCK.

HIS HEART POUNDED...

BUT THIS TIME IT WASN'T JOY.

IT WAS ANGER.



"I WISH I WERE HOME..."

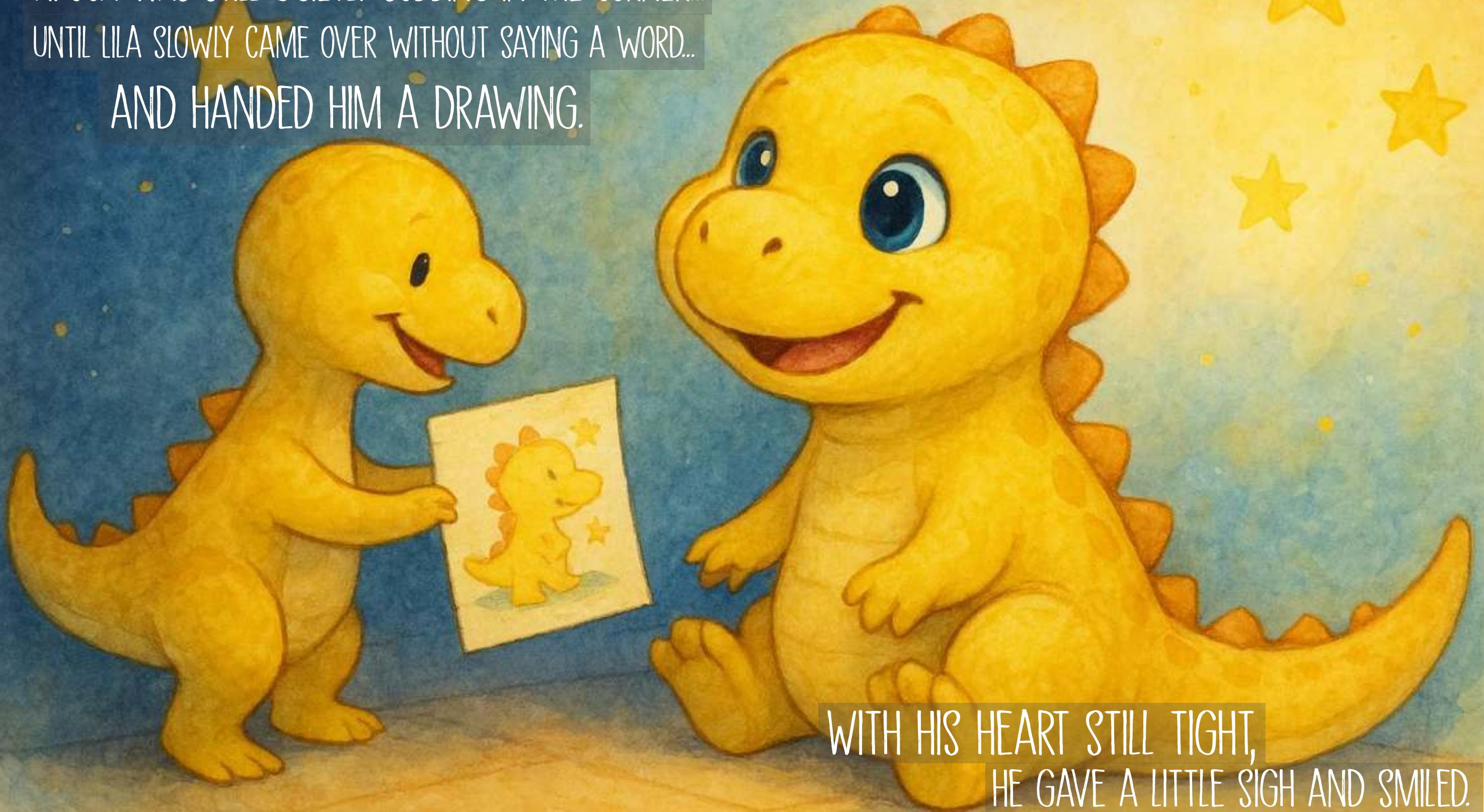
THOUGHT PIPOCA.

SCHOOL DIDN'T FEEL COLORFUL ANYMORE.



A WHIRLWIND OF TEARS
POURED DOWN NONSTOP.

PIPOCA WAS STILL QUIETLY SOBBING IN THE CORNER...
UNTIL LILA SLOWLY CAME OVER WITHOUT SAYING A WORD...
AND HANDED HIM A DRAWING.



WITH HIS HEART STILL TIGHT,
HE GAVE A LITTLE SIGH AND SMILED.

THE COLORS RETURNED. SADNESS SLOWLY SLIPPED AWAY.

ONE, TWO, THREE...

WITH EACH HOP, HIS HEART FELT LIGHTER.

AND FOR A MOMENT, HE FELT LIKE FLYING.





THE SILENCE WAS MAGICAL...

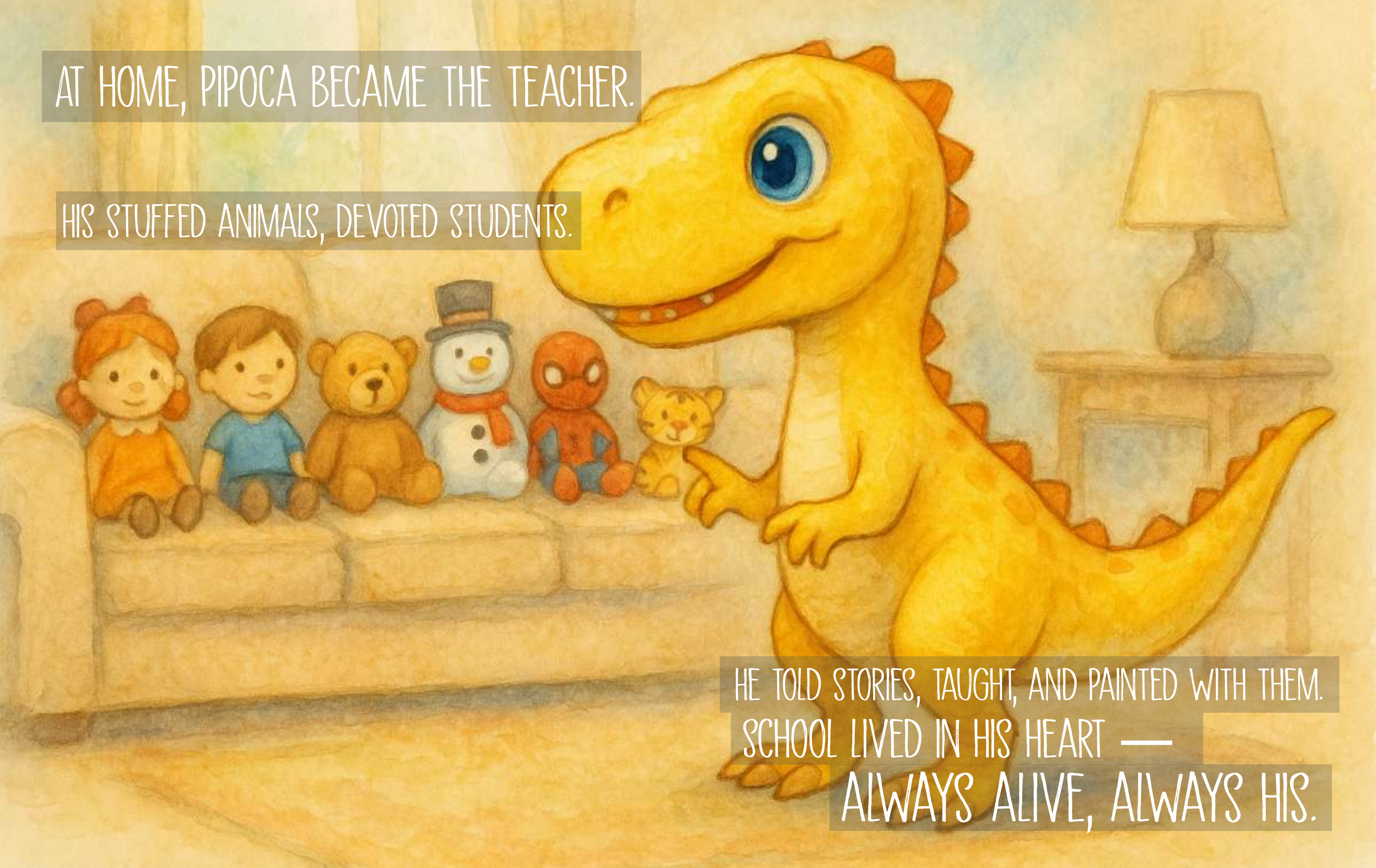
THE TEACHER READ IN A VOICE LIKE THE WIND,
THEN THUNDER.

PIPOCA SOARED HIGH IN HIS IMAGINATION.

EACH STORY WAS A WHOLE NEW WORLD TO EXPLORE.

AT HOME, PIPOCA BECAME THE TEACHER.

HIS STUFFED ANIMALS, DEVOTED STUDENTS.



HE TOLD STORIES, TAUGHT, AND PAINTED WITH THEM.
SCHOOL LIVED IN HIS HEART —
ALWAYS ALIVE, ALWAYS HIS.

Every change begins with butterflies in your tummy.
And it's in that fluttering that courage is born.
You have to step out to discover...
that we too have wings to soar into freedom.

