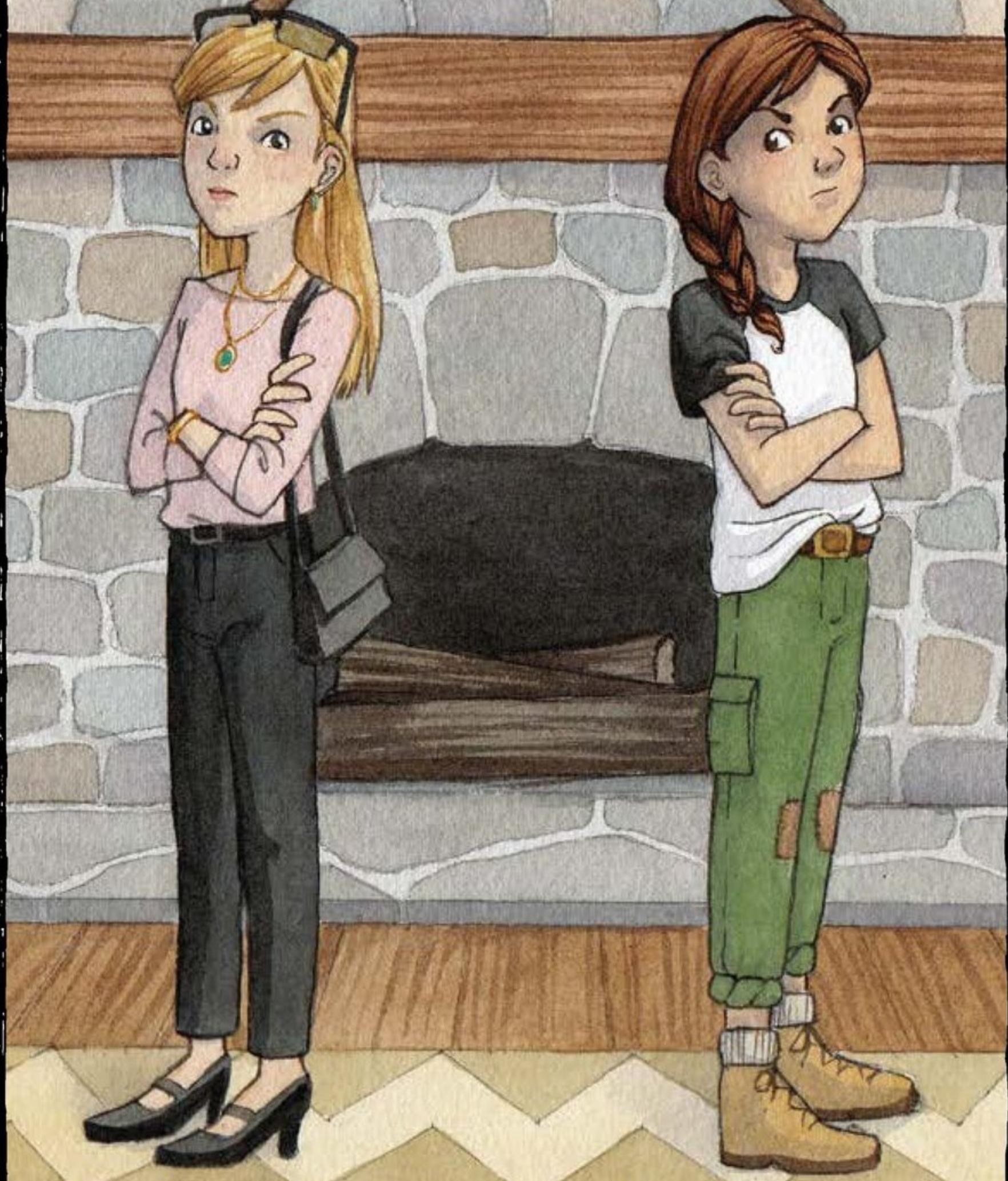


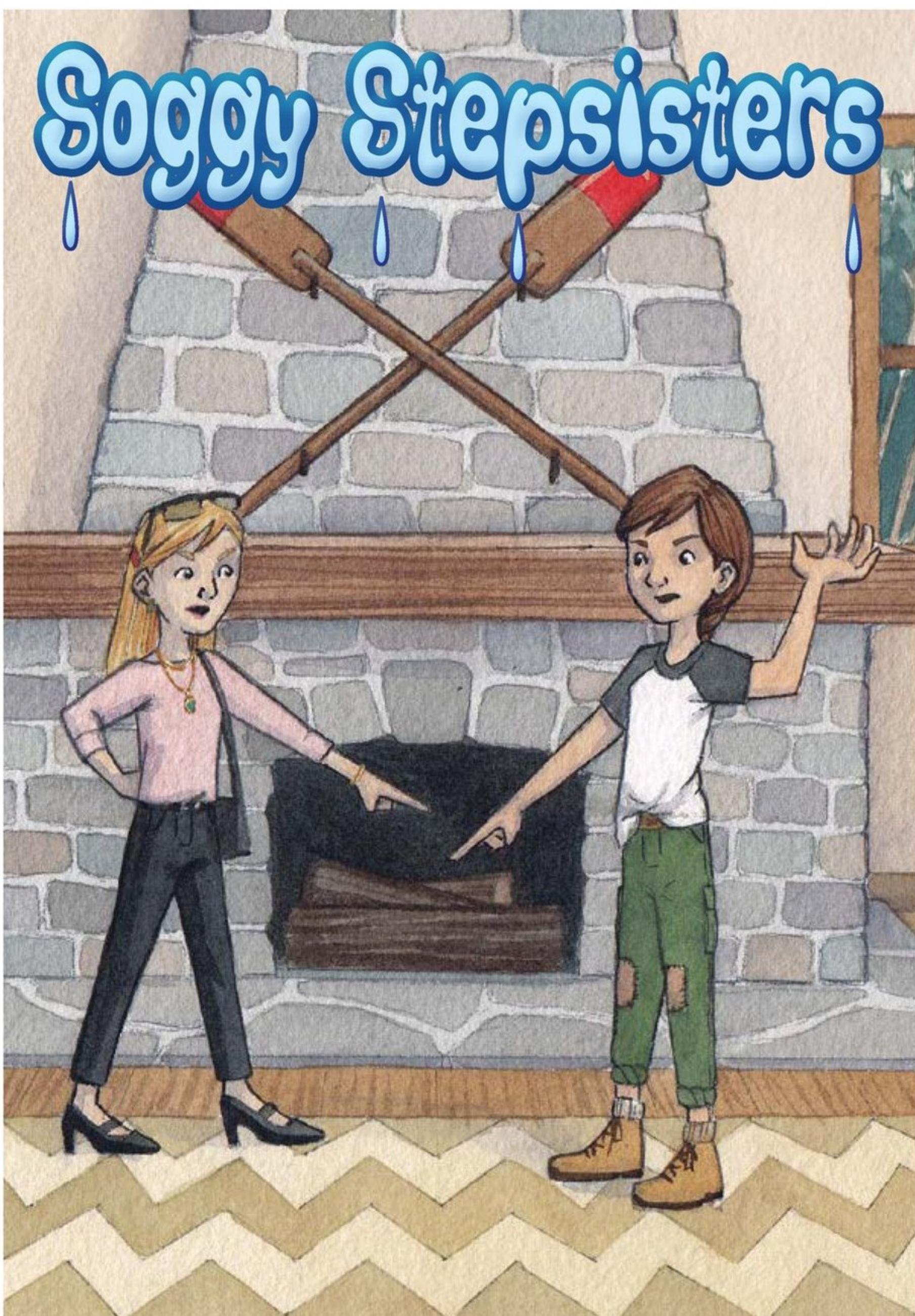
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Soggy Stepsisters

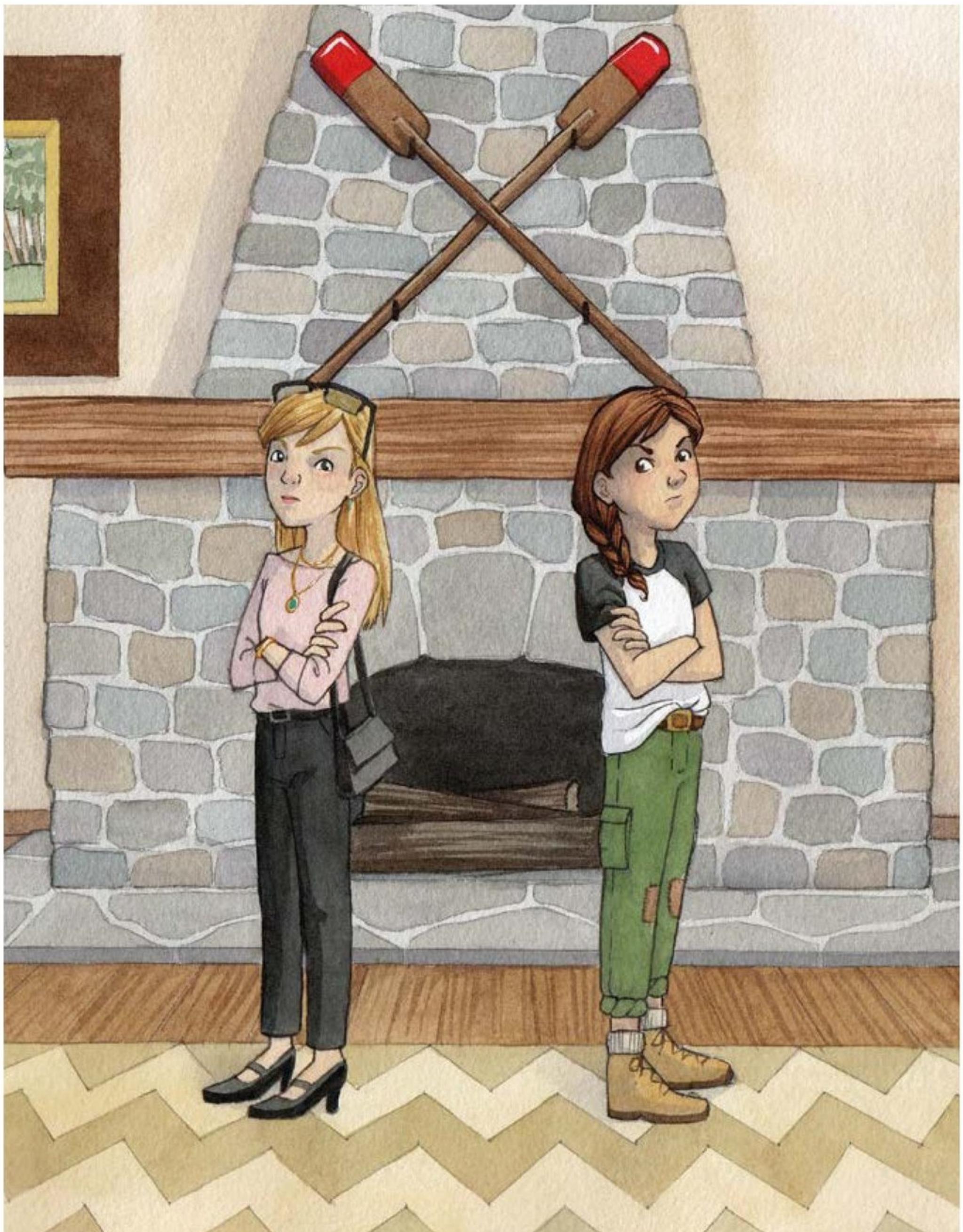


Written by Keith and Sarah Kortemartin
Illustrated by Sandra Salsbury

Soggy Stepsisters



Written by Keith and Sarah Kortemartin
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Ada and Rachel were fighting again.
Ever since Ada's mom married
Rachel's dad, it seemed as though
they couldn't stop.



“Are you going to wear that?” Ada asked, pointing to Rachel’s old pants. “I know we’re on **vacation**, but this is taking it too far.”

“Yes,” Rachel said. “We’re going outside. But if you want to break an ankle in those shoes, go ahead.”



Ada sighed. “I think I’ll be bored to death long before that.”

“Dad and I come to this **cabin** every year,” Rachel snapped. “We love it.”

Ada laughed. “I guess you have nothing better to do.”

“Great!” Rachel said. “Now we’re going to hear about New York again.”



“Girls!” said their dad. “Stop arguing. I’ll make a deal with you. Get through this morning without fighting, and you can do whatever you want this afternoon.”

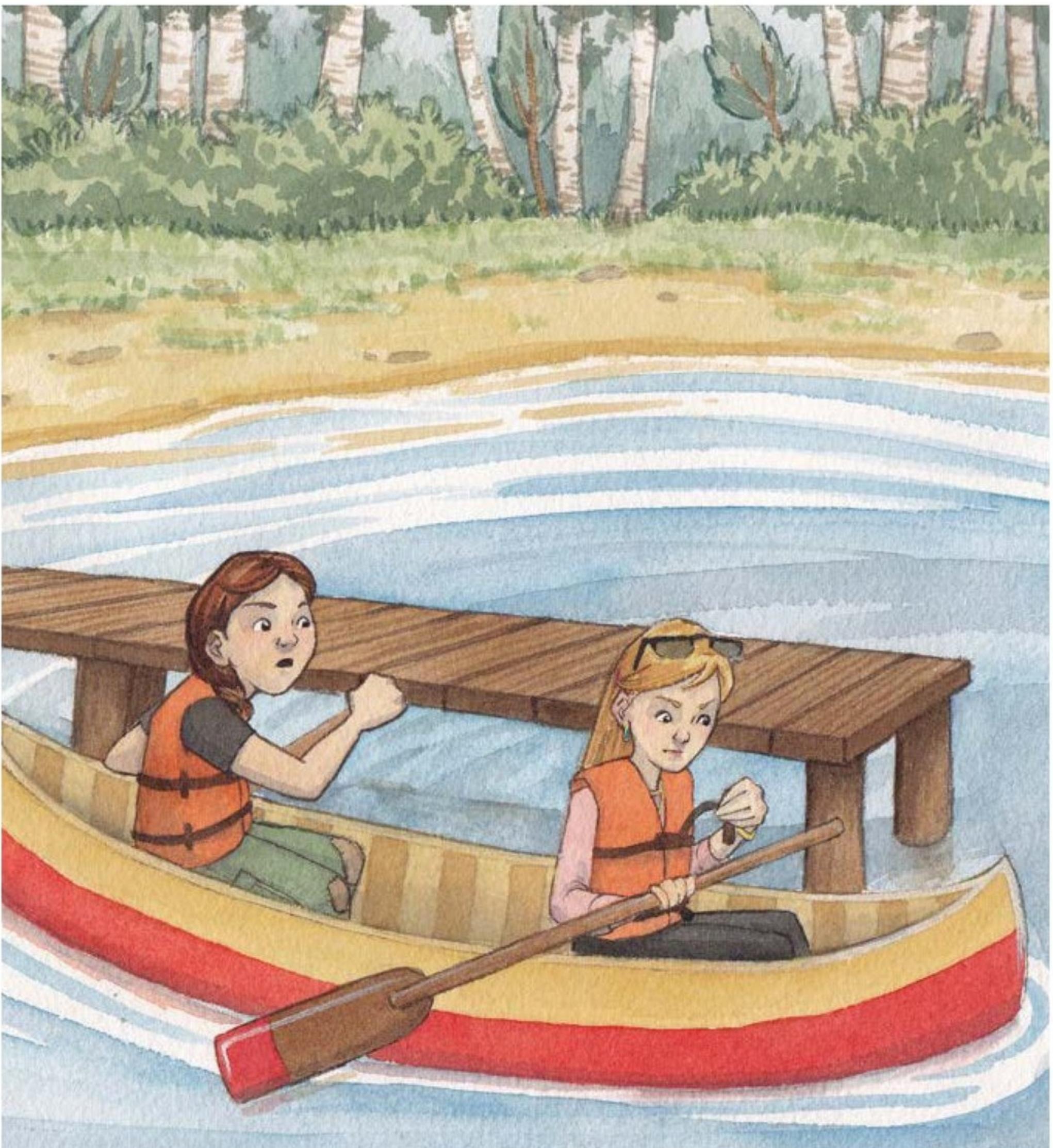
The girls looked at each other.

“All right,” they said.



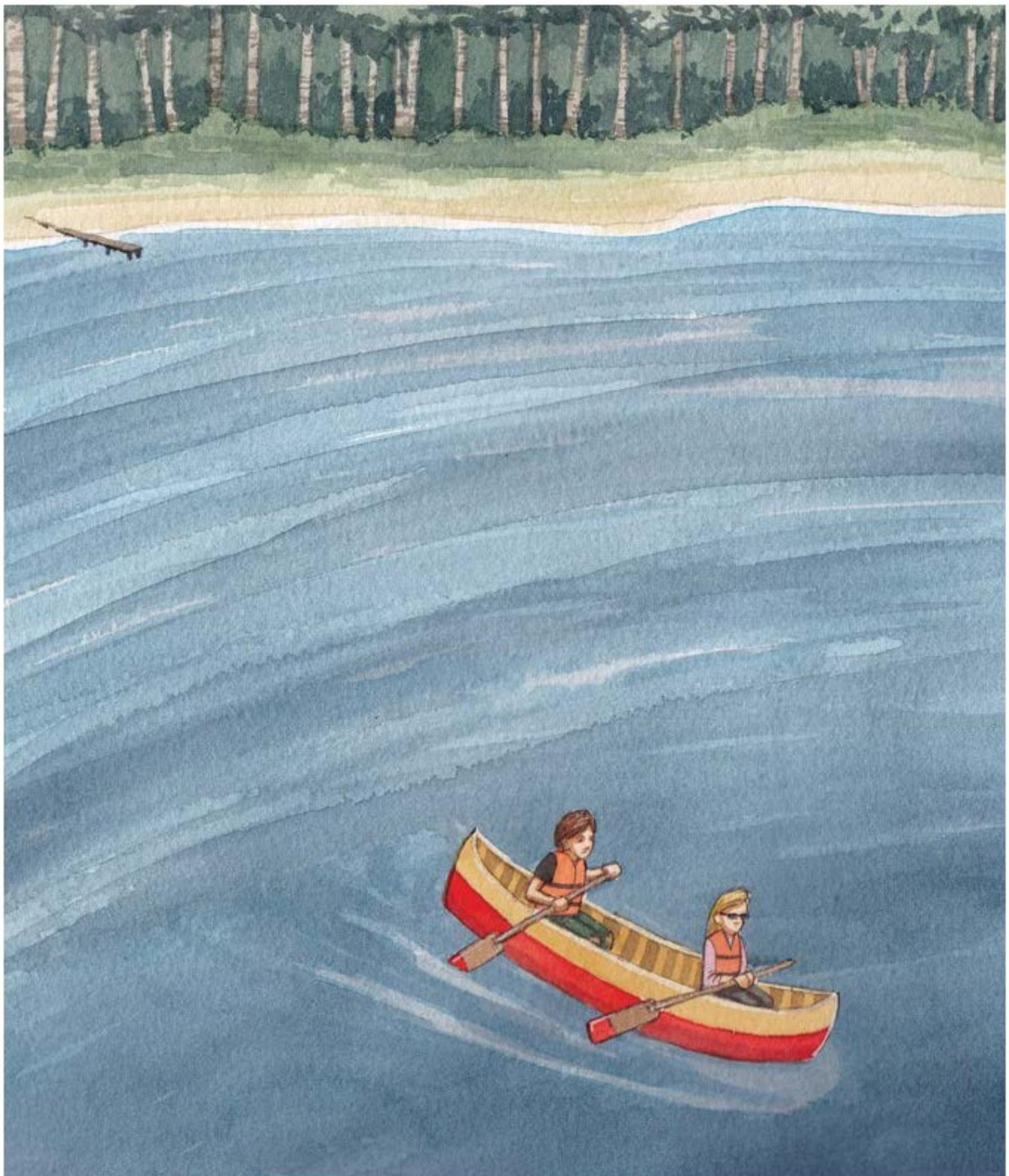
“Let’s go out in the **canoe**,” Rachel suggested.

“Ugh,” Ada said and then looked at her **stepdad**. “I guess.”



Rachel showed Ada how to paddle.
“We need to work together,” Rachel said.

“This is dumb,” Ada complained.
“These life jackets are hot, and they look silly.”



Rachel said nothing as the canoe moved slowly out into the lake.
“Paddle harder, Ada,” Rachel called.

Ada rolled her eyes and pretended not to hear.

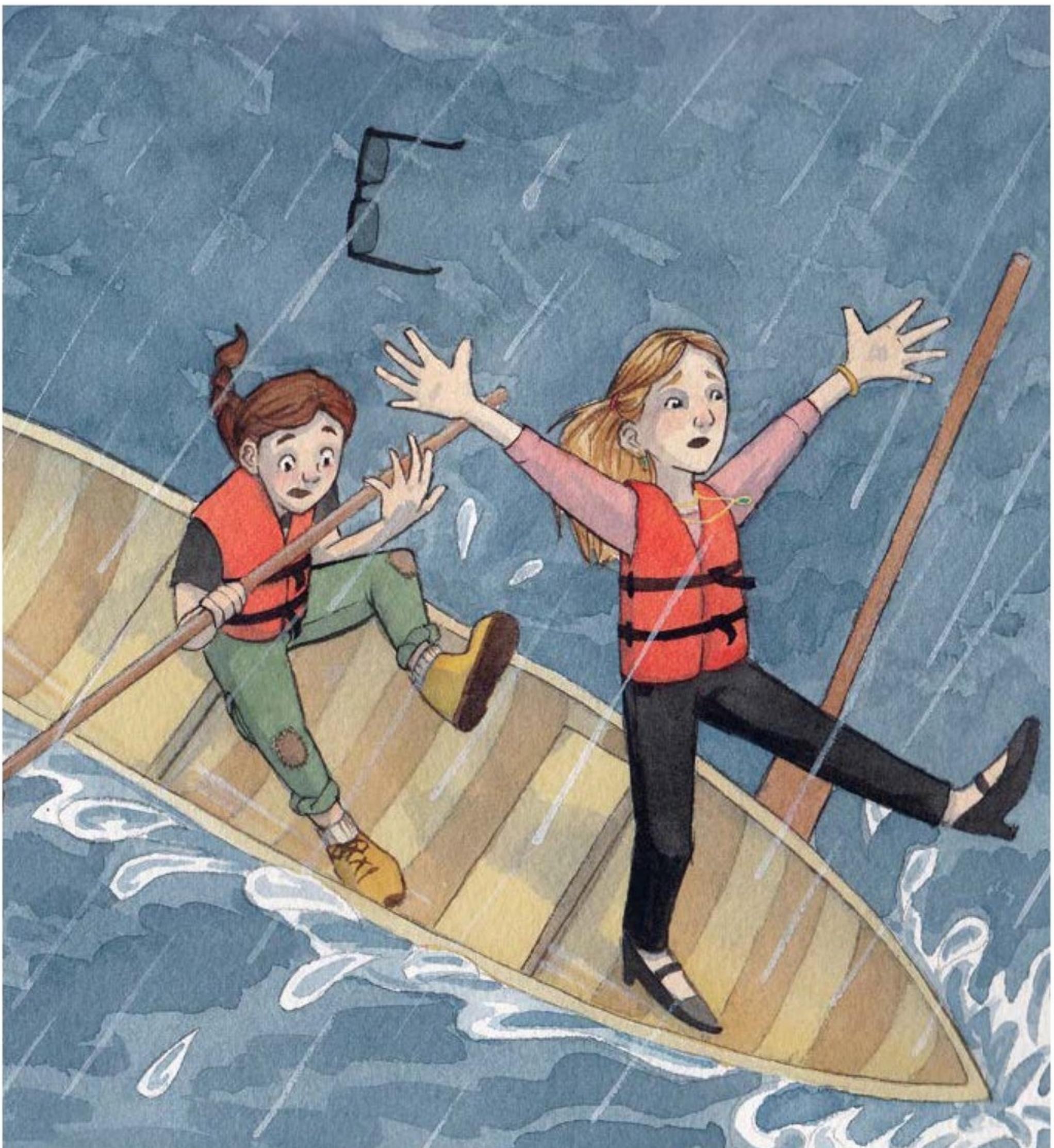


When they made it to the middle of the lake, Ada felt a **gust** of wind. She looked up. Dark clouds filled the sky.

Rachel said, “We’d better turn around.” The wind blew harder.

“Why aren’t we moving?” Ada yelled.

“Paddle with me,” Rachel yelled back. “One . . . two . . .”



Ada was wild with fear. “Help!” she screamed. She stood up and waved her arms.

“Ada, no!” Rachel yelled. “Sit down!” It was too late. The canoe rocked and flipped over.



“What do we do?” Ada yelled, spitting out water.

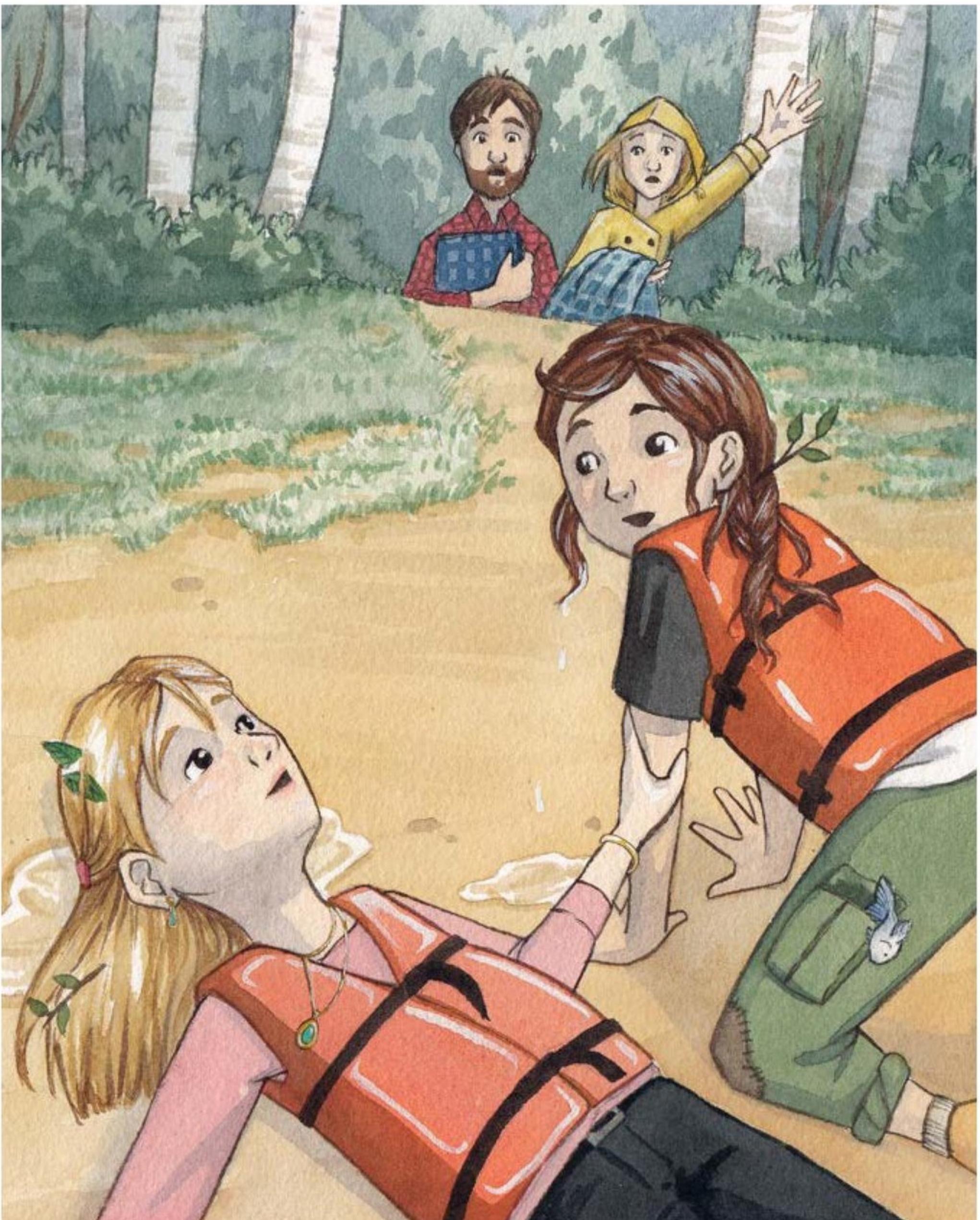
“Grab the canoe,” Rachel told her.
“We’re going to have to swim it back to shore.”

“Can’t we climb back in?” Ada gasped.

“This is safer and easier,” said Rachel.
“It’s not far, and we have life jackets on. Let’s go!”



They swam. Ada was scared, but Rachel helped her. “You’re doing great,” Rachel said over and over.



Their parents came running as they got to shore.

“What happened? Are you all right?” asked their mom.



“We’re fine—thanks to Rachel,” Ada said. “I guess it’s good that you come to the cabin every year.” She looked at her **stepsister**. “Thank you.”

Rachel smiled as she said, “Let’s go change. You can help me pick out what to wear.”

Glossary

arguing (<i>v.</i>)	disagreeing (p. 6)
cabin (<i>n.</i>)	a small house located in a remote or wild area (p. 5)
canoe (<i>n.</i>)	a narrow boat that is pointed at both ends (p. 7)
gust (<i>n.</i>)	a brief, strong increase in wind (p. 10)
life jackets (<i>n.</i>)	life preservers that help keep the wearers from drowning (p. 8)
paddle (<i>v.</i>)	to move through water using paddles or oars (p. 8)
stepdad (<i>n.</i>)	a man who has married a child's mother after the death or divorce of that child's father (p. 7)
stepsister (<i>n.</i>)	a daughter of one's stepparent (p. 15)
vacation (<i>n.</i>)	time off from school or work (p. 4)

Soggy Stepsisters
Level K Leveled Book
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