

1001

Our storytelling program, 1001 Stories, brings meaningful learning to some of the hardest to reach populations around the world. We aim to facilitate the creation, development, and gathering of 1001 empowering stories from every participating local community.

Children love to tell stories. However, in many places in the world, their creative voices are rarely heard or cultivated. The 1001 Stories Program conducts storytelling workshops that build on children's natural potential to become original storytellers. Through the 1001 Stories Program, children are empowered while their literacy skills are developed.

When integrated with technologies, these stories become an effective tool for literacy by growing reading and writing skills grounded in local languages and local themes in underserved areas worldwide.



A map of Africa showing country boundaries. Tanzania is highlighted with a green fill and has its name written in green text to its right.

Tanzania

Our Author



SHABAN MNADUME MAJALI

My name is Shaban Mnadume Majali and I
want to become a doctor.
7th Grader at Nangwanda School.



1001 Stories Presents

THE STORY OF A THIEF

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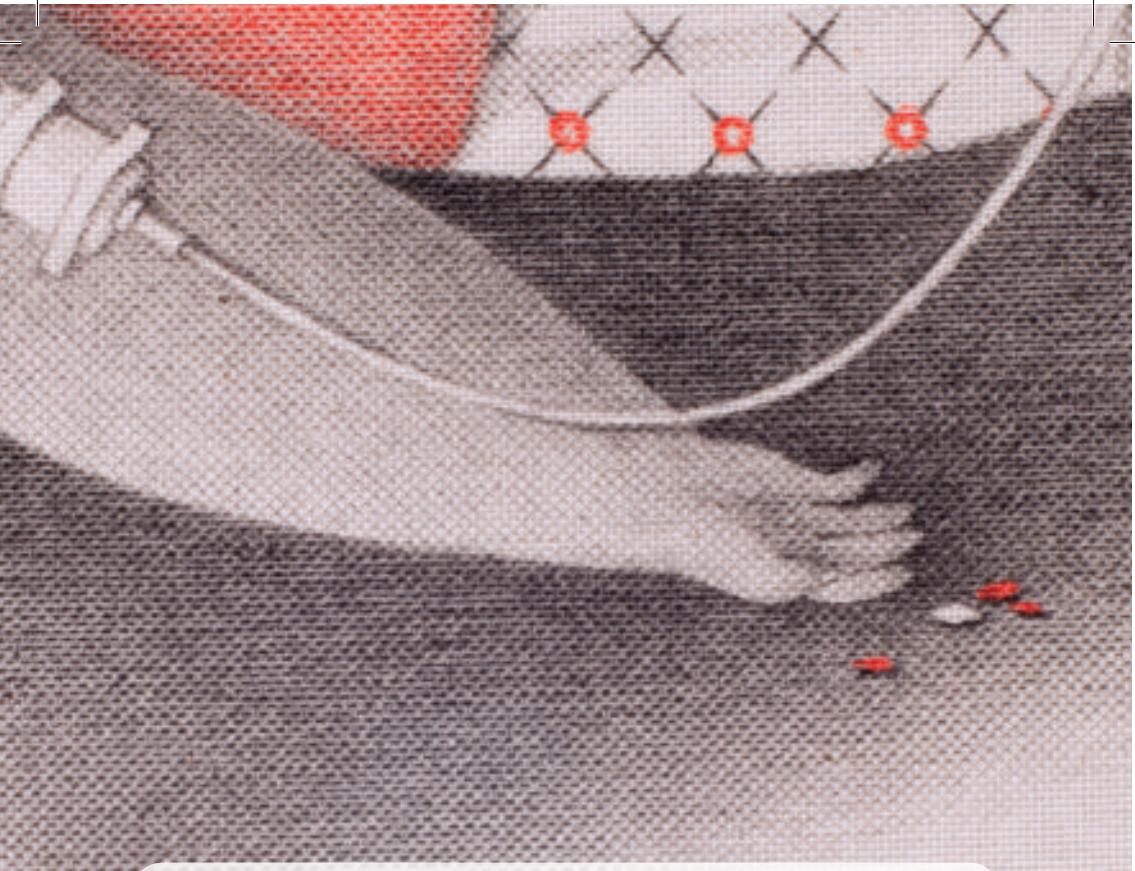
Seeds of
Empowerment



James, a 12-year old boy, lived with his mom. James's mother worked hard every day to raise James. She smiled and whispered to James, "My love, James. I am sorry for not being able to buy you a new pair of shoes or cook some delicious meals. However, I know you will still grow up strong and become a great person for this world. Let's live righteously as your dad in Heaven is happily watching over us." Being poor could not stop them from being happy. James knew it all and thanked his mom always. James wanted to become a great person and wanted to make his mom and his dad in Heaven proud.





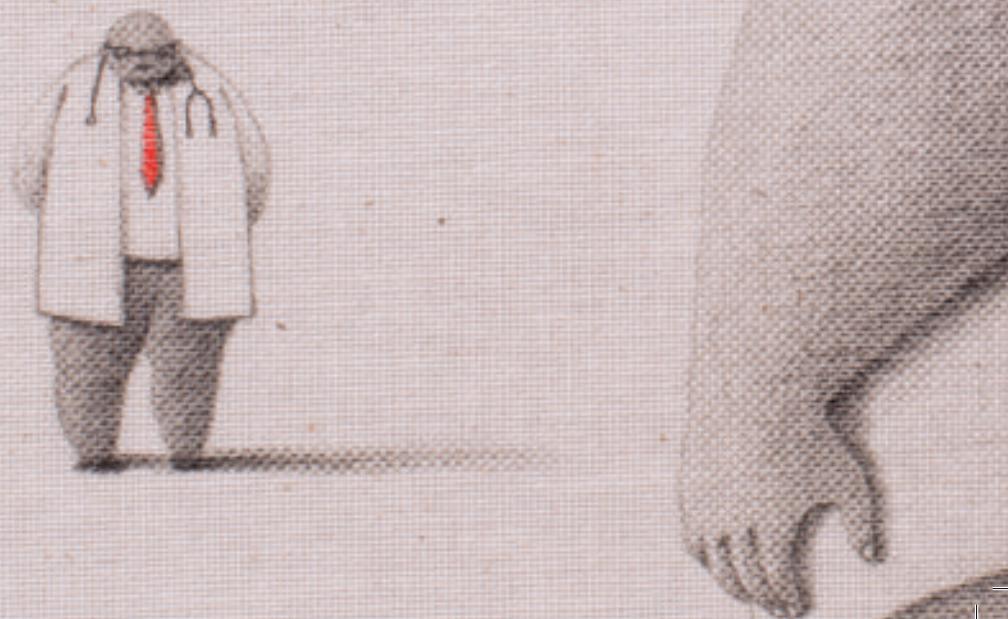


One day, after working hard for several days, James's mom became seriously ill. With the help of her neighbor, she was brought to a free clinic run by a foreign aid organization nearby town. James's mother looked pale. James prayed and asked his dad in Heaven to help.

"Dad, please save my mom. I will be a better boy. Please help her, dad," prayed James.

The doctor at the hospital said, "Your mom may go home now. However, do not forget to have her take this medication every day. This medicine is free, but it is very strong medicine. She must be well fed before taking the medicine."

"Thank you, doctor. I will be sure to have her eat plenty of food and take the medicine," said James with a great smile on his face. James was happy that his mom would be fine and could go home although she still looked ill.





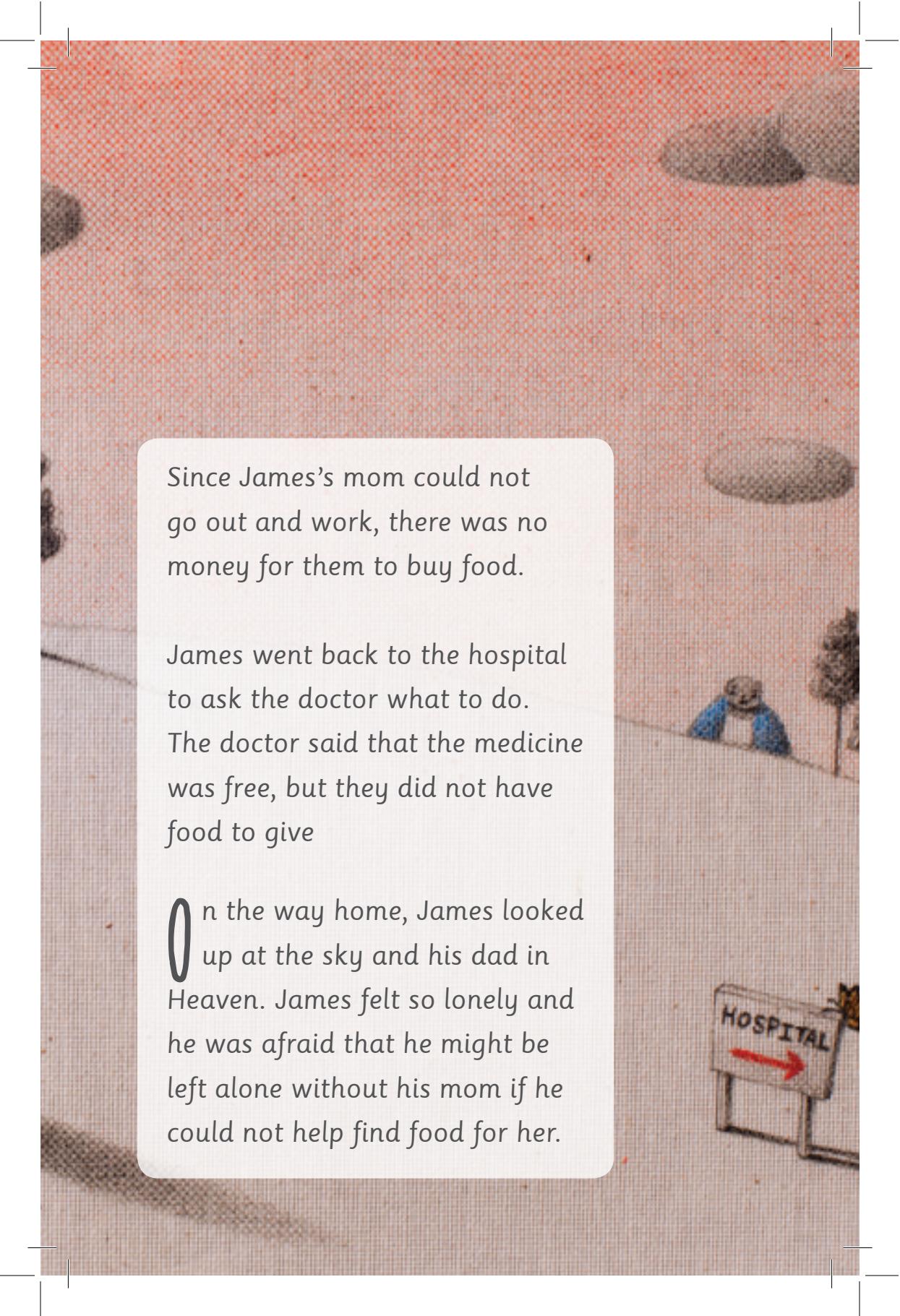




As soon as James came back home, he looked for food to give to his mom. He knew that she must be well fed before taking the medicine. He couldn't find anything to cook. Their kitchen was completely empty. James's mom took the medicine, however, because it was time to take the medicine.

James's mom vomited and suffered greatly since her stomach was empty. James became so sad.





Since James's mom could not go out and work, there was no money for them to buy food.

James went back to the hospital to ask the doctor what to do. The doctor said that the medicine was free, but they did not have food to give

On the way home, James looked up at the sky and his dad in Heaven. James felt so lonely and he was afraid that he might be left alone without his mom if he could not help find food for her.

“ My bag! Please help!” an old man shouted in the village. James looked back and saw an old man screaming and a boy running away with a bag.

James knew that boy. He was the most naughty boy in the village. He must have snatched the old man’s bag. Without much thinking, James ran to the boy so he could get the bag for the old man.





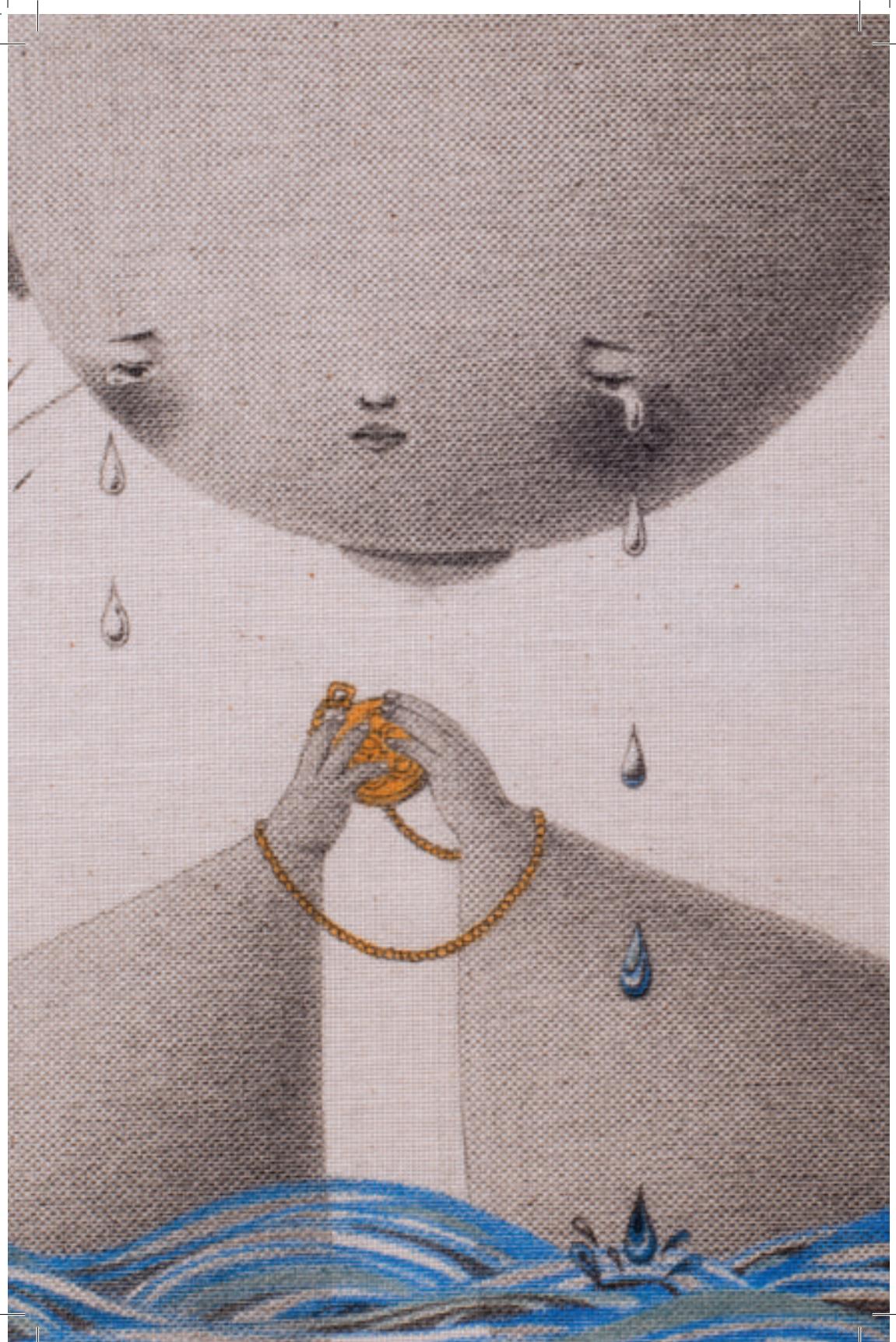


The naughty boy ran and ran and arrived at the village dumpsite. The boy shook the bag upside down and things fell out of the bag. The naughty boy quickly searched for valuable things, and he ran away with a flashlight. James finally caught up and got to the dumpsite as well.

When James saw the bag and the old man's belongings, he picked them up and put them all back in the bag. From one of the old man's jackets, a watch fell out. As soon as James saw the watch, his heart was shaken.

Suddenly, he imagined his mom eating deliciously made Ugali. If his mom could eat, she could take the medicine.





"What can I do, dad?" asked James while looking up at the sky.

There was nobody at the dumpsite, only garbage flies hovering over smelly compost piles and trash. James burst into tears while holding the old man's precious watch in his hands. He wasn't sure why he was crying.

After shedding tears after tears, he put the watch in his pocket. He put the rest of the belongings in the old man's bag and set the bag on top of the trash pile so the old man could find it easily if he came to the dumpsite.





James sold the watch and bought three big bags of corn flour.

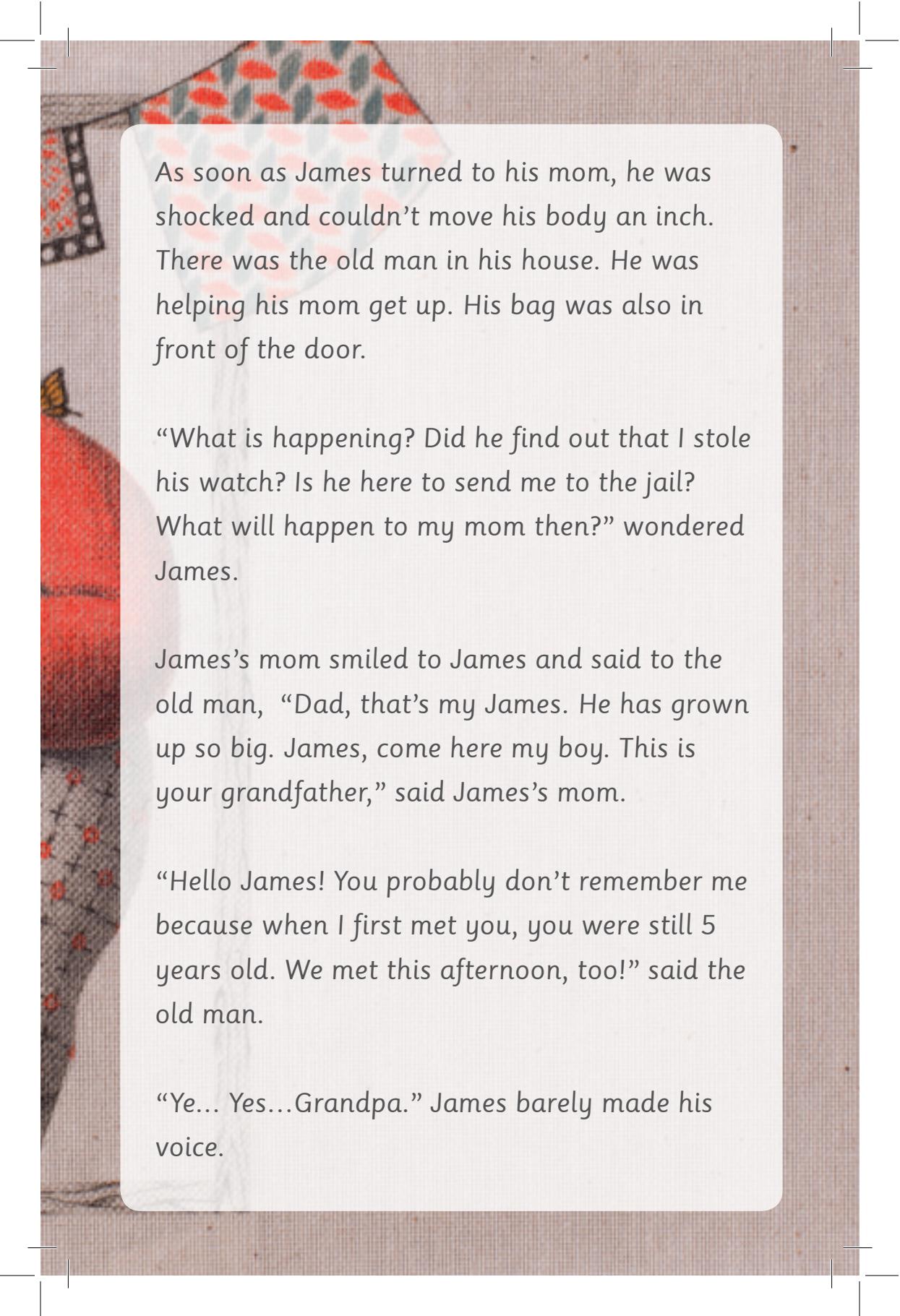
James told himself, "I am a thief. What would my dad think of me now?

Dad, please forgive me. I just want save my mom," said James.

James came back home and with a happy face told his mom,
"Mom! I will make Ugali now. So you can take the medicine."







As soon as James turned to his mom, he was shocked and couldn't move his body an inch. There was the old man in his house. He was helping his mom get up. His bag was also in front of the door.

“What is happening? Did he find out that I stole his watch? Is he here to send me to the jail? What will happen to my mom then?” wondered James.

James's mom smiled to James and said to the old man, “Dad, that's my James. He has grown up so big. James, come here my boy. This is your grandfather,” said James's mom.

“Hello James! You probably don't remember me because when I first met you, you were still 5 years old. We met this afternoon, too!” said the old man.

“Ye... Yes...Grandpa.” James barely made his voice.

James's grandfather looked at the corn flour bags James was holding in his chest and smiled at him.

In the night, James's grandfather called James to come outside and talked to him softly.

"James, there is one thing you shouldn't do. Do you know what that is?" said Grandfather.

James said with his trembling voice,
"Yes....."







“Then, it is fine. If you know it, that’s fine,” said Grandfather.

Suddenly, James broke into tears and said, “I am sorry, Grandpa.”

“Okay, James. Now I am here. Your mom will get better as long as she eats well and takes the medicine,” said Grandfather.

Looking at the big smiling moon, James prayed.

“Dad, I want to grow up to be a great man like you. Please look after us,” said James.

That night, James and his grandfather sat under a tree and smiled back to the moon.







