

The New Tribe
A We Both Read® Book

*Welcome to the world, Ellington Tucker Kai Mitchell.
Wondrous things await you!*
—J. C.

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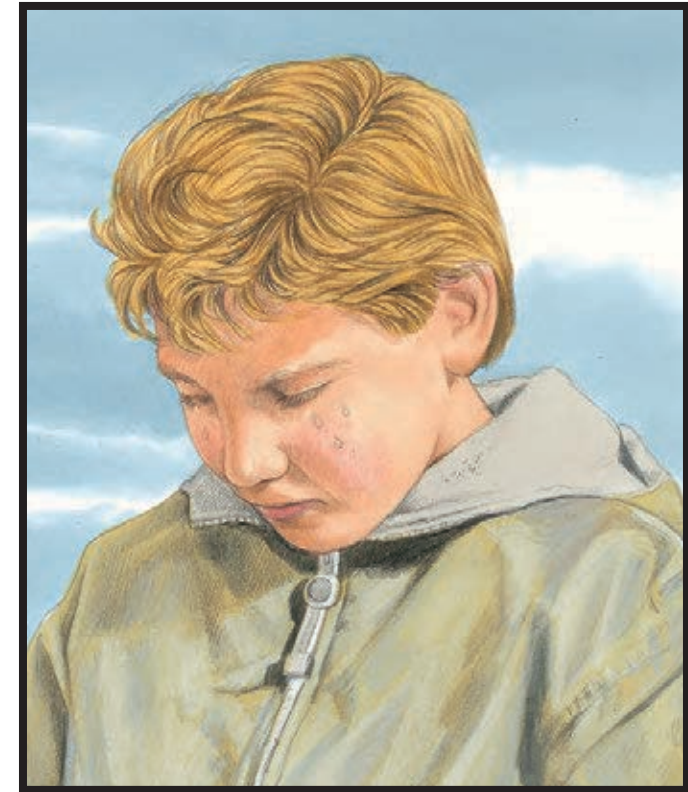
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By Jana Carson

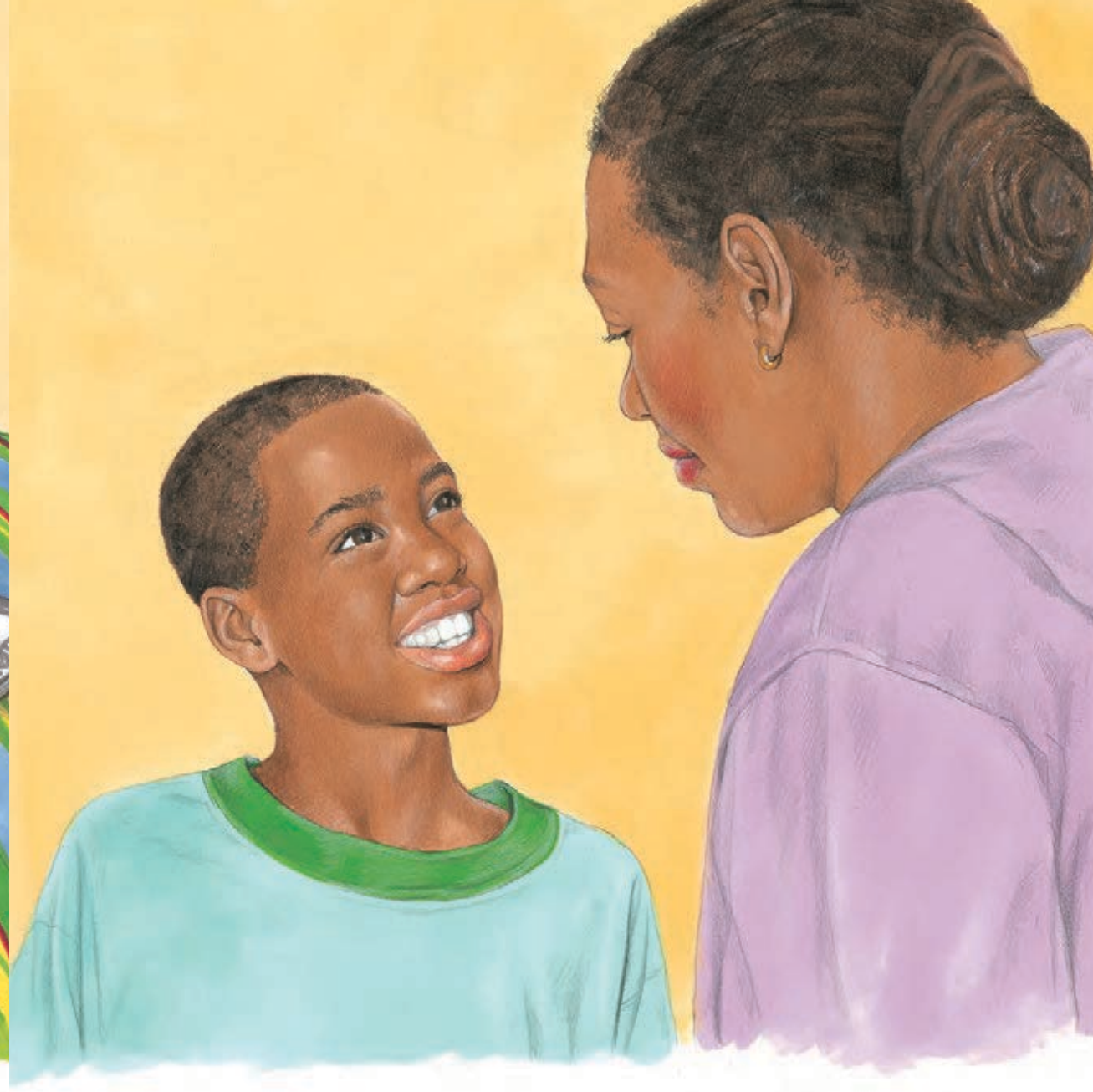
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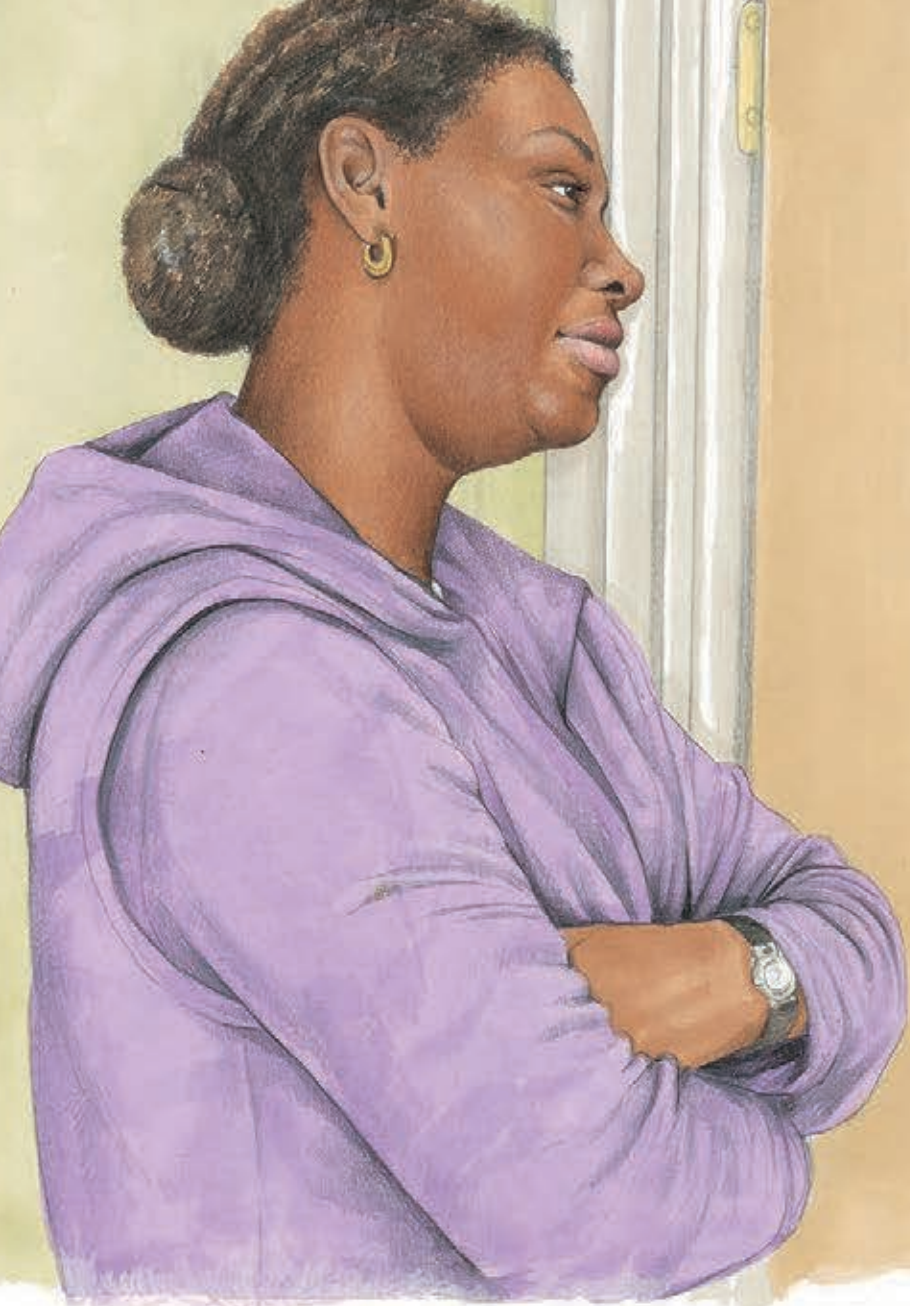


☺ It was the night before the first day of school and I was so **excited!** I laid out my new school clothes and packed all my new school supplies into my brand new backpack. I wanted everything to be perfect for tomorrow.

“Otis,” my mom called, “it’s time to get ready for bed!”



☺ But I was too **excited** to go to bed. I asked my mom if I could call my best friend. She said it was okay.



☎ I knew **Taylor's** phone number by heart because **Taylor** and I had been best friends since pre-school. But when I finished dialing, a woman came on the phone and told me, "This number is no longer in service."

I was confused. I asked my mom why **Taylor's** phone wasn't working right.



☎ Mom didn't know why it wasn't working. But she did know that it was time for bed now. I would just have to talk to **Taylor** in the morning.



☞ I went to bed and finally drifted off to sleep, thinking about the first day of school. I **wondered** if Taylor would be in my class. I really **hoped** my teacher would be nice. I was pretty sure that the first day of school was going to be great.



☞ I waited at the bus stop with my dad. I **wondered** why the bus was so late. I **hoped** Taylor was on the bus.



☺ When the bus finally arrived, I climbed aboard and quickly searched through all of the familiar faces until I found the one that I liked best.

“Hey, Taylor!” I shouted to my friend.

“Hey, Otis!” he shouted back with a great big smile.

☺ Miss King was waiting for us at school. She told me that I was in her class. She told Taylor he was in her class too. It was going to be a great first day of school!



☞ Then I noticed that Taylor was wearing his old clothes and was carrying the same backpack he had last year.

“Where’s your new stuff?” I asked.

Before Taylor could answer, two girls **pointed** at his feet and **laughed**. “Look!” they said. “Taylor has a hole in his shoe!”



☞ More kids came to look at Taylor’s shoe. They all **laughed** and **pointed**.

I wanted to help Taylor. But I didn’t know what to do.