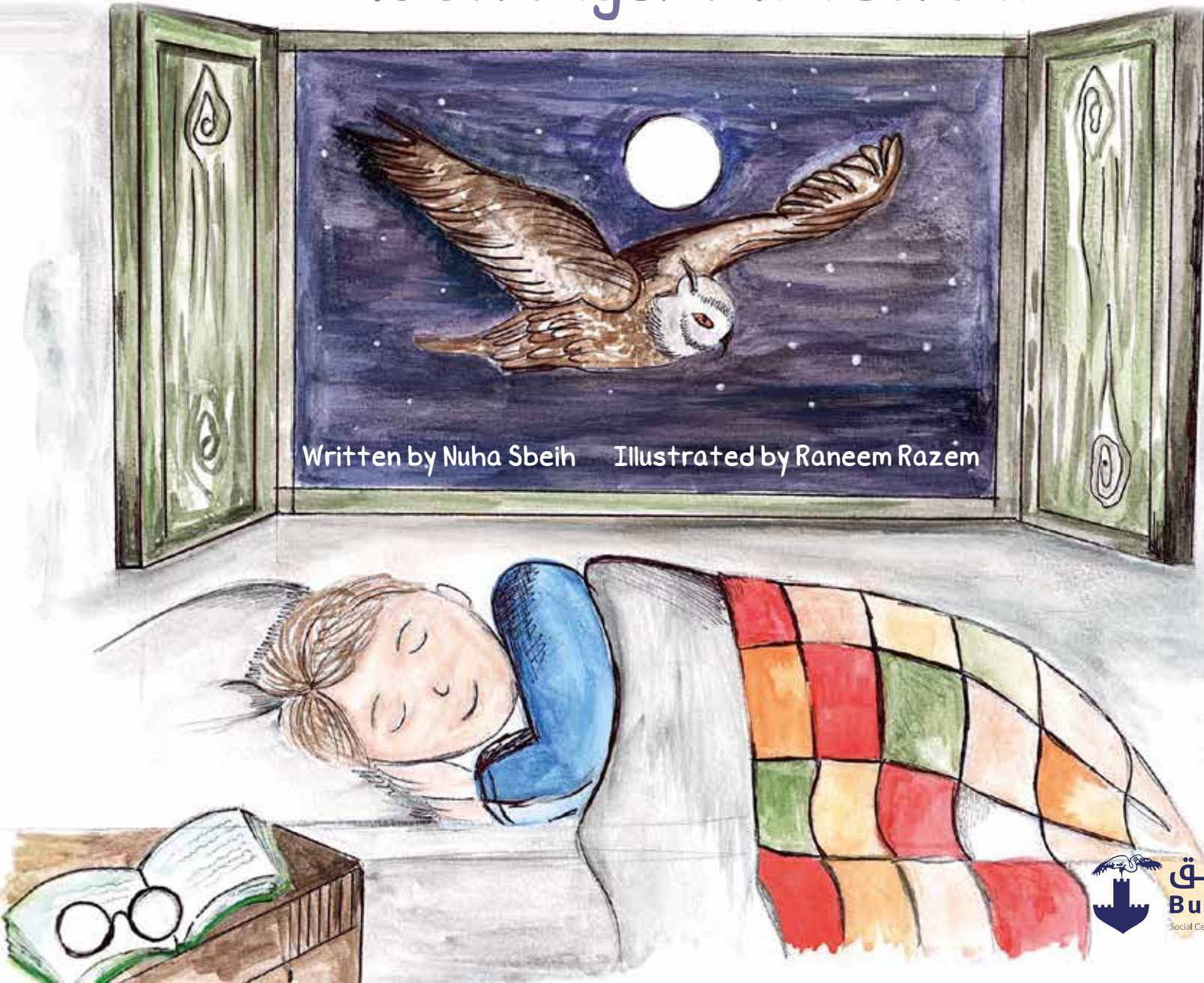


Sallum

is Stronger than Corona

Written by Nuha Sbeih Illustrated by Raneem Razem



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This story was published as part of the “Learn & Play” project
Coordinated by Alaa Ghrab and supervised by Muntaser Edkaidek.

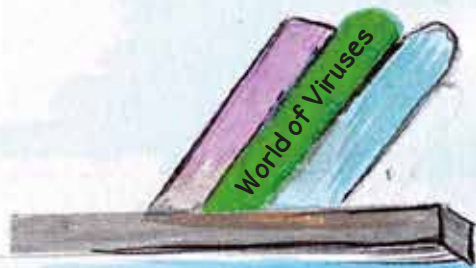
Translated from arabic by Aya Sbitan

Graphic design by Mohamad Dweik



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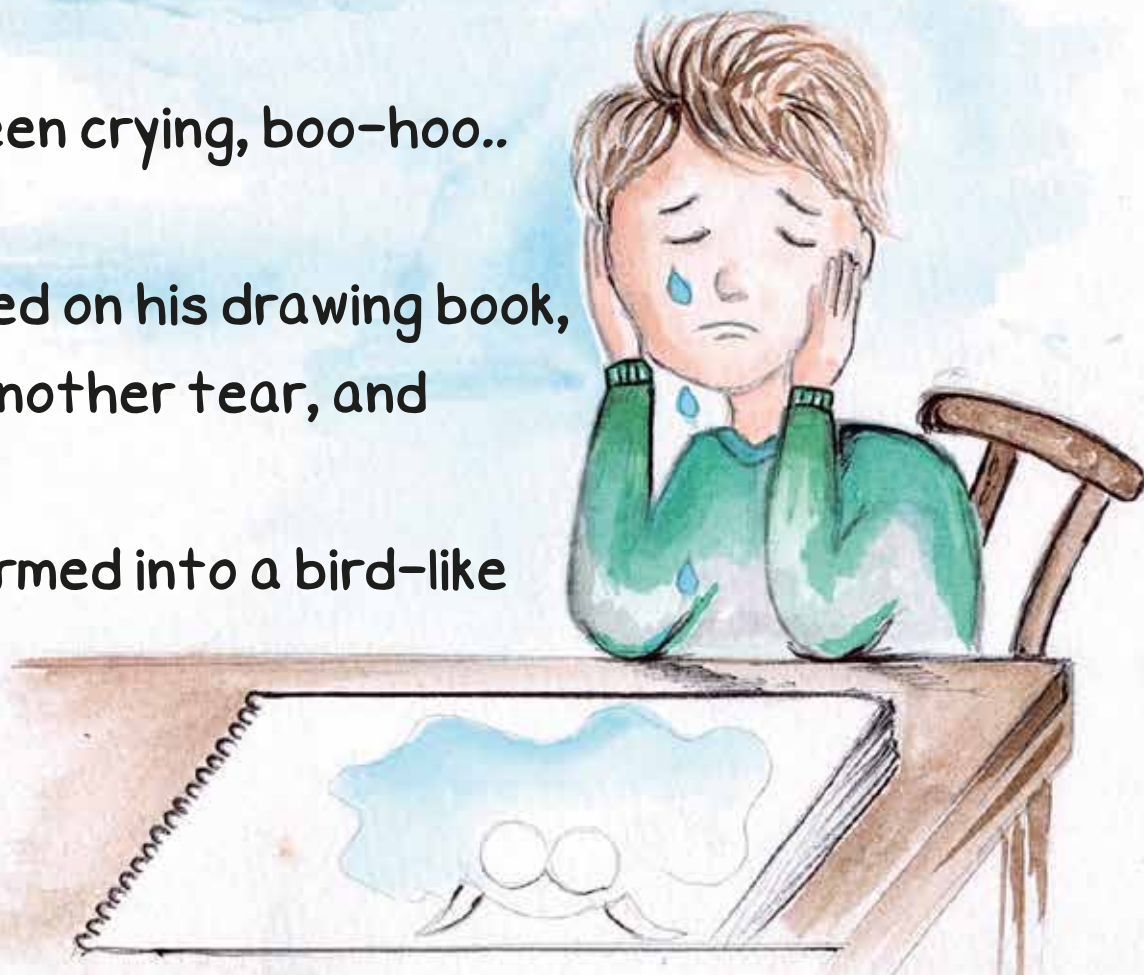


All day long,
Sallum had been crying, boo-hoo..
hoo..

A tear dropped on his drawing book,
followed by another tear, and
another..

The tears formed into a bird-like
shape..

Oh, it was..



An owl.



The owl moved, yawned and said,
“Who is disturbing my sleep? Who is
crying?”

She did not hear an answer.

The owl looked around, and saw Sallum.

She felt sorry for him and asked,

“Why are you crying little one?”

Sallum answered, “Boo-hoo.. I’m

scared of Corona. I don’t want to die.”

The owl chuckled and assured him, “No,
you are not going to die.

Do not be afraid.”

“But everyone is scared, even Daddy!”
said Sallum.



The owl said in a calm voice, "Fear goes away when you know, and when you know you become smarter and stronger."

Sallum said, "But I don't know anything

about Corona."

The owl replied, "I do, and I am going to tell you.

Corona is a virus..."

But before she could finish, Sallum interrupted her and excitedly said,



Virus



"I know what a virus is. My teacher said that a virus is a very, very tiny creature; that I can't even see with my eyes. It's even tinier than an ant. She also said, when a virus gets into my body, it makes me sick."



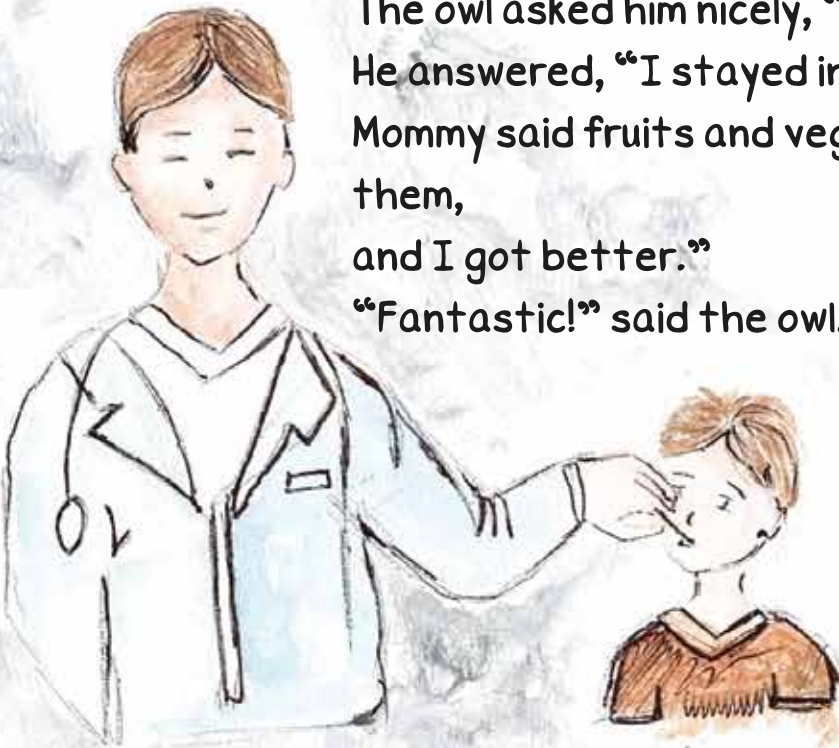
One time I had a cold and Mommy told me: You have a virus. And once I had a cough and fever, the doctor said: You have a virus.”

The owl asked him nicely, “ Then what happened when you were sick?”

He answered, “I stayed in bed and had plenty of liquids; soup, and juice. Mommy said fruits and vegetables make my body stronger, so I ate them,

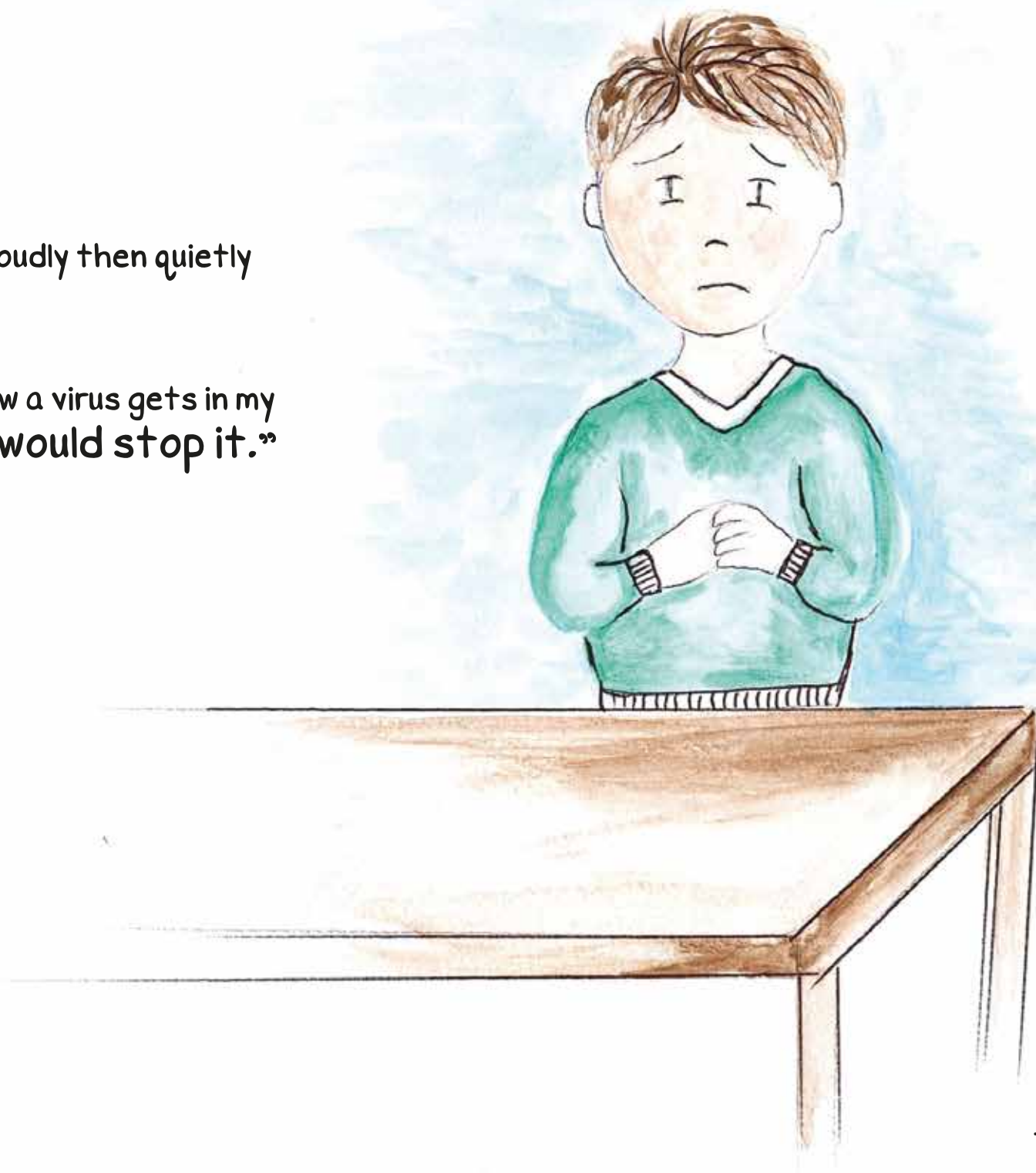
and I got better.”

“Fantastic!” said the owl.

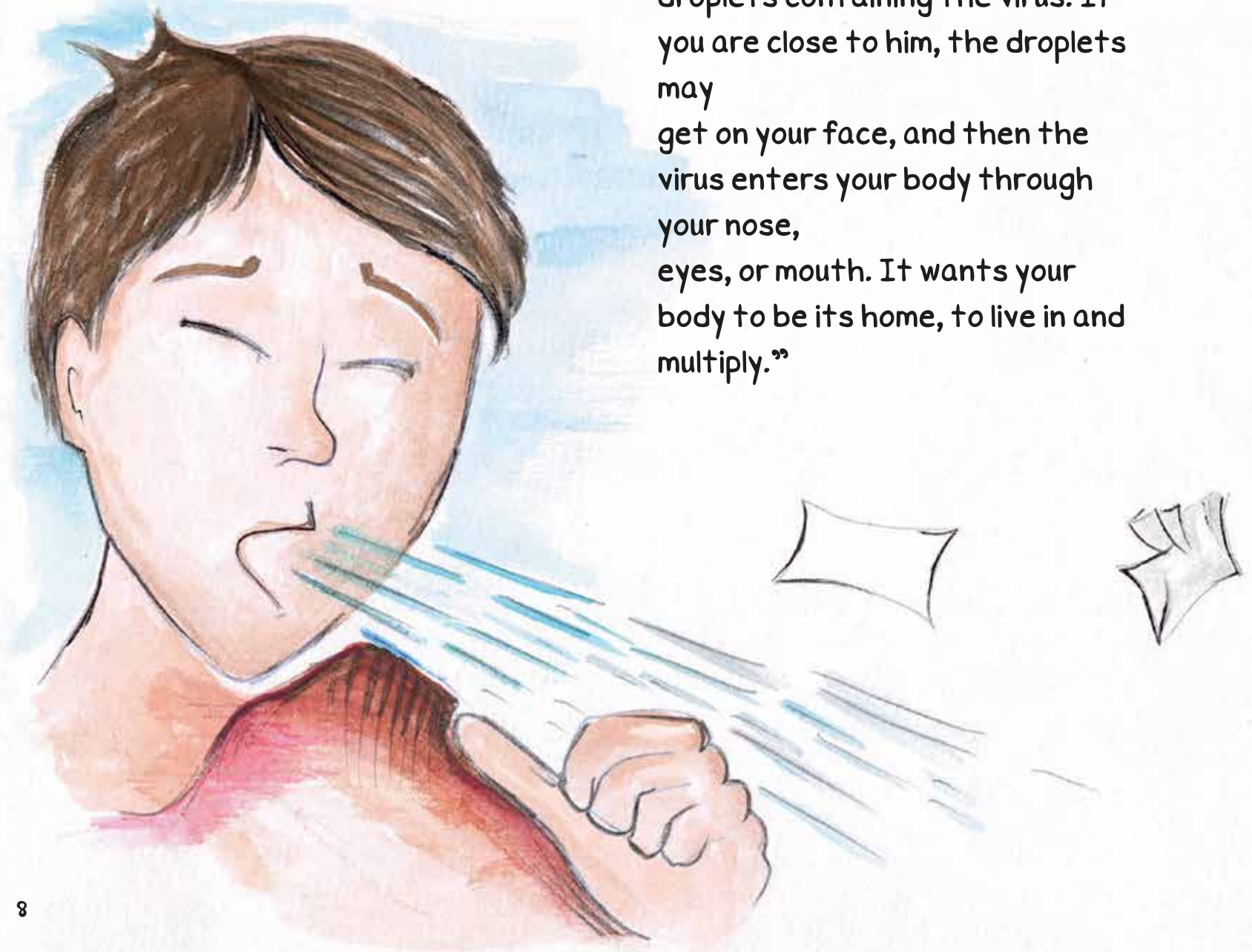


Sallum smiled proudly then quietly
said, "But..."

I don't know how a virus gets in my
body, or else I would stop it."



The owl said, “ I know . . . when a sick person sneezes or coughs, he spreads droplets from him onto surfaces and things; droplets containing the virus. If you are close to him, the droplets may get on your face, and then the virus enters your body through your nose, eyes, or mouth. It wants your body to be its home, to live in and multiply.”



“No! No!”

yelled Sallum.

“My body won’t be its home. I won’t let anyone sneeze or cough in my face. I’ll move away and ask them to cover their mouth and nose.”



The owl asked gently, “What about the droplets that fell on surfaces and things? What if you touch them and put your hand to your face? Some viruses may have got stuck to your hand.”
He answered, “ In that case I will wash my hands well with soap and water.
I’ll wash and wash and wash, once, twice..... to twenty!”



“How smart you are!” said the owl, “Now you know the virus hates cleanliness.”

“That’s because it’s dumb. I love being clean.” said Sallum.

The owl took her glasses off and placed them over Sallum’s eyes.



The world of viruses appeared to him; viruses of different shapes and sizes. They were everywhere; hundreds, thousands, millions of viruses. He was amazed, and worried.

The owl said, "Do not worry. Most of them are nice and harmless. Only a few cause disease."



“Like Corona,” said Sallum and he added proudly,

“I’m not afraid of harmful viruses, because now I know how to stop them from entering my body. And if they do, I know how to defeat them.”

The owl said, “ Sometimes, a new virus, that we do not know anything about, appears in the world. It spreads widely, and we need to stay home for a while, so we learn how to fight it, or find a cure, or until it goes away.”



Sallum felt that he knew so much, and he was now smarter, stronger, and no longer afraid.

He looked at the owl with love and said gratefully, "Thank you."

The owl smiled and said while yawning, "Now I can go back to sleep."

"Sleep! During the day?" asked Sallum.

"I sleep during the day,
and wake up at night,
I am a night bird."
answered the owl.

She bid him farewell
saying, "Sallum, do not
forget,
fear goes away
when you know, and
when you know, you
become smarter
and stronger."







ISBN 978-9950-8550-7-6



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