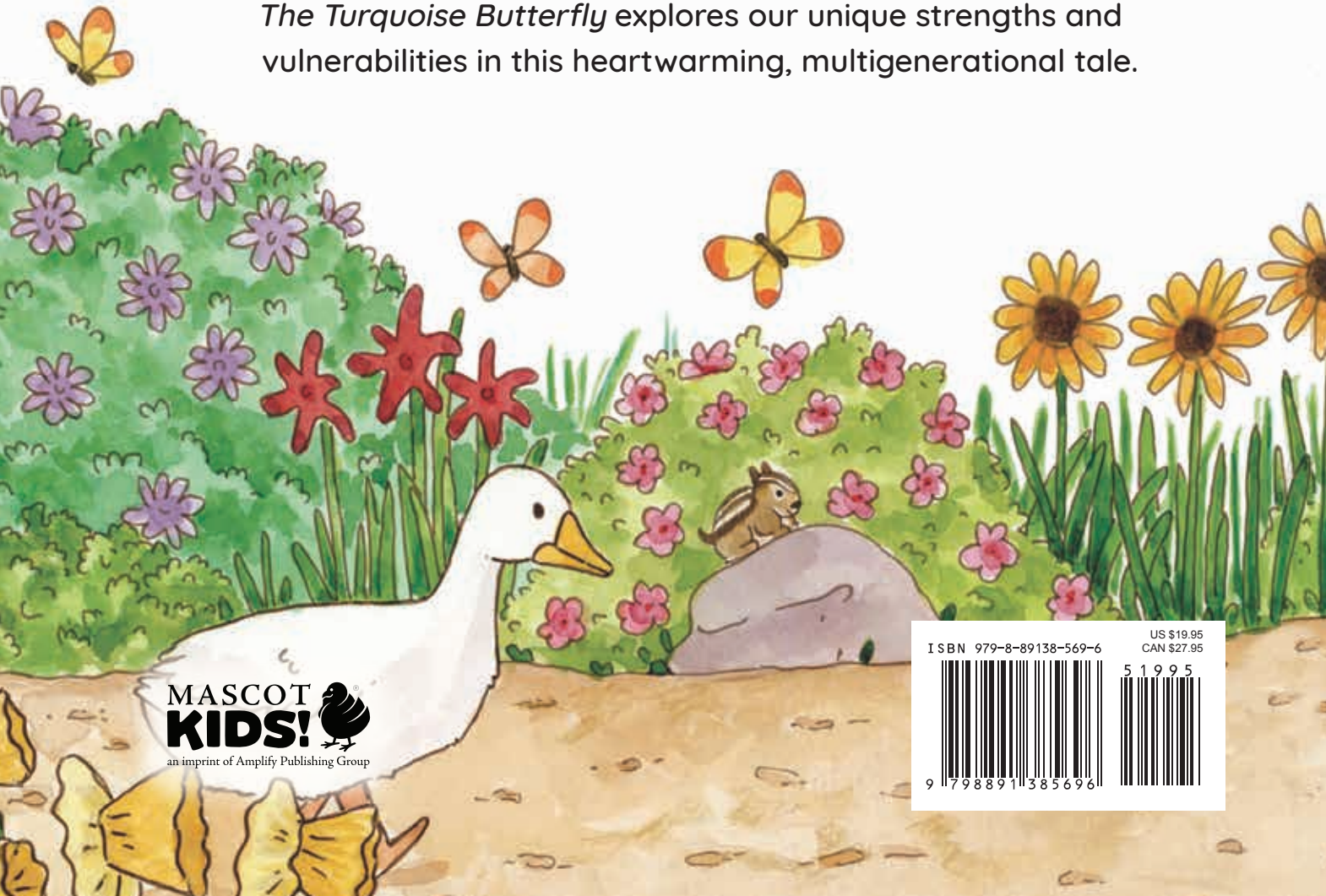
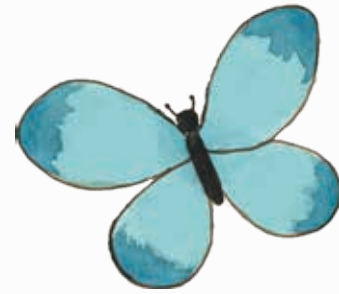


Every summer, little Victoria travels to Grandma Sylvia's house for a new adventure.

Grandma embodies the spirit of a fearless butterfly, but Victoria is often filled with bubbling nerves, which leaves her confused and scared. Throughout Victoria's many journeys over several summers, she navigates the winds of change with Grandma by her side with unwavering love and an unbreakable connection.

This extraordinary story is a celebration of eternal love and transformation, beautifully illustrating the profound bond between a grandmother and her granddaughter. Change can be embraced with courage and resilience, and the transformative power of love can bridge any gap. *The Turquoise Butterfly* explores our unique strengths and vulnerabilities in this heartwarming, multigenerational tale.



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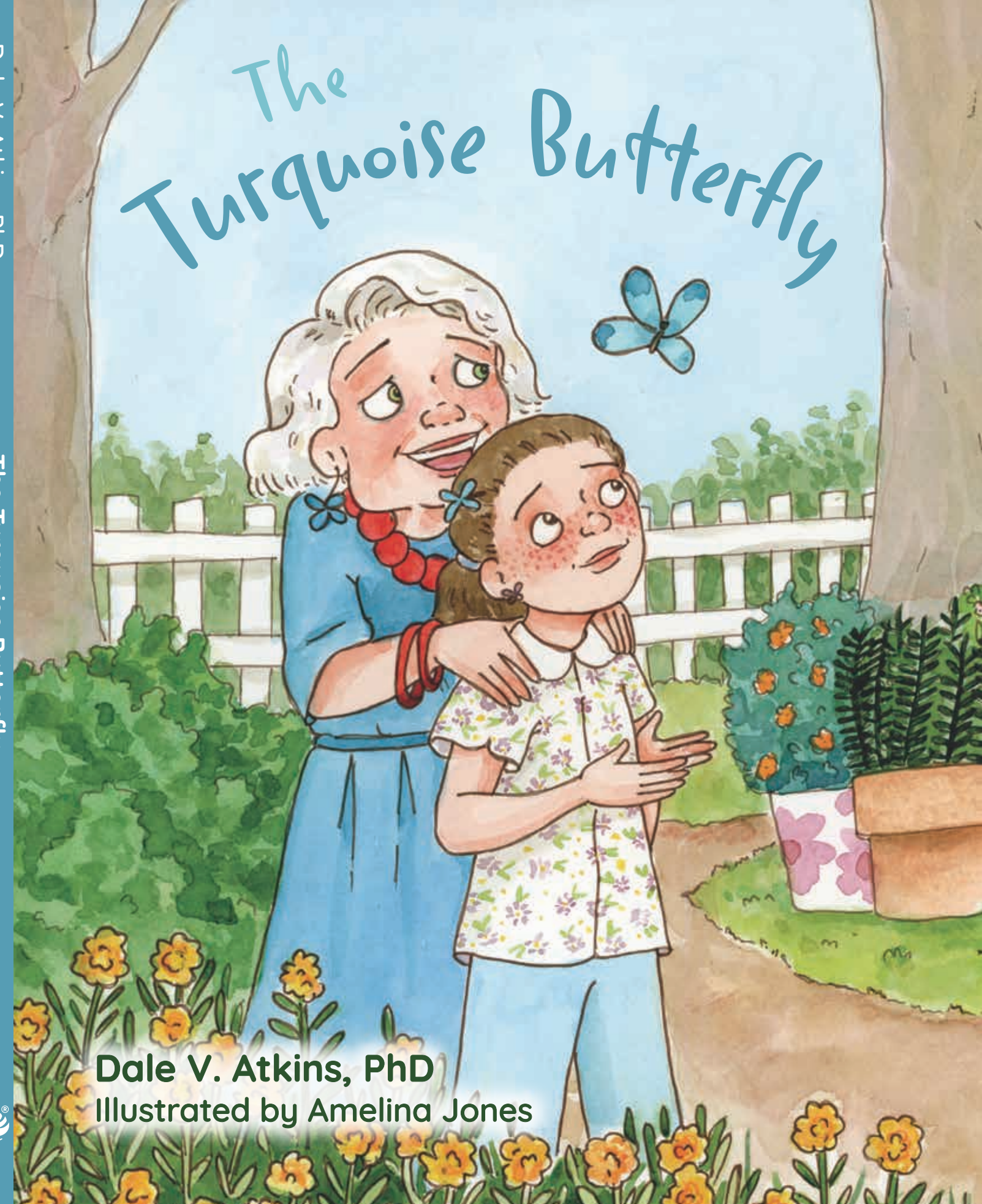


Dale V. Atkins, PhD

The Turquoise Butterfly



The Turquoise Butterfly



Dale V. Atkins, PhD
Illustrated by Amelina Jones

To Sylvia Atkins, my extraordinary
mother, whose love of life, family, and
butterflies inspired young and old. May
her memory be for a blessing.





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The Turquoise Butterfly

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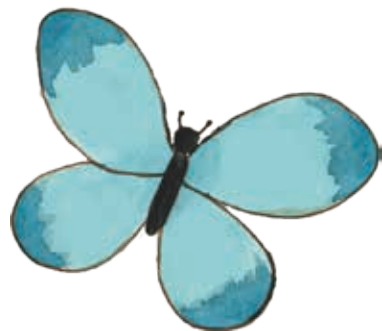
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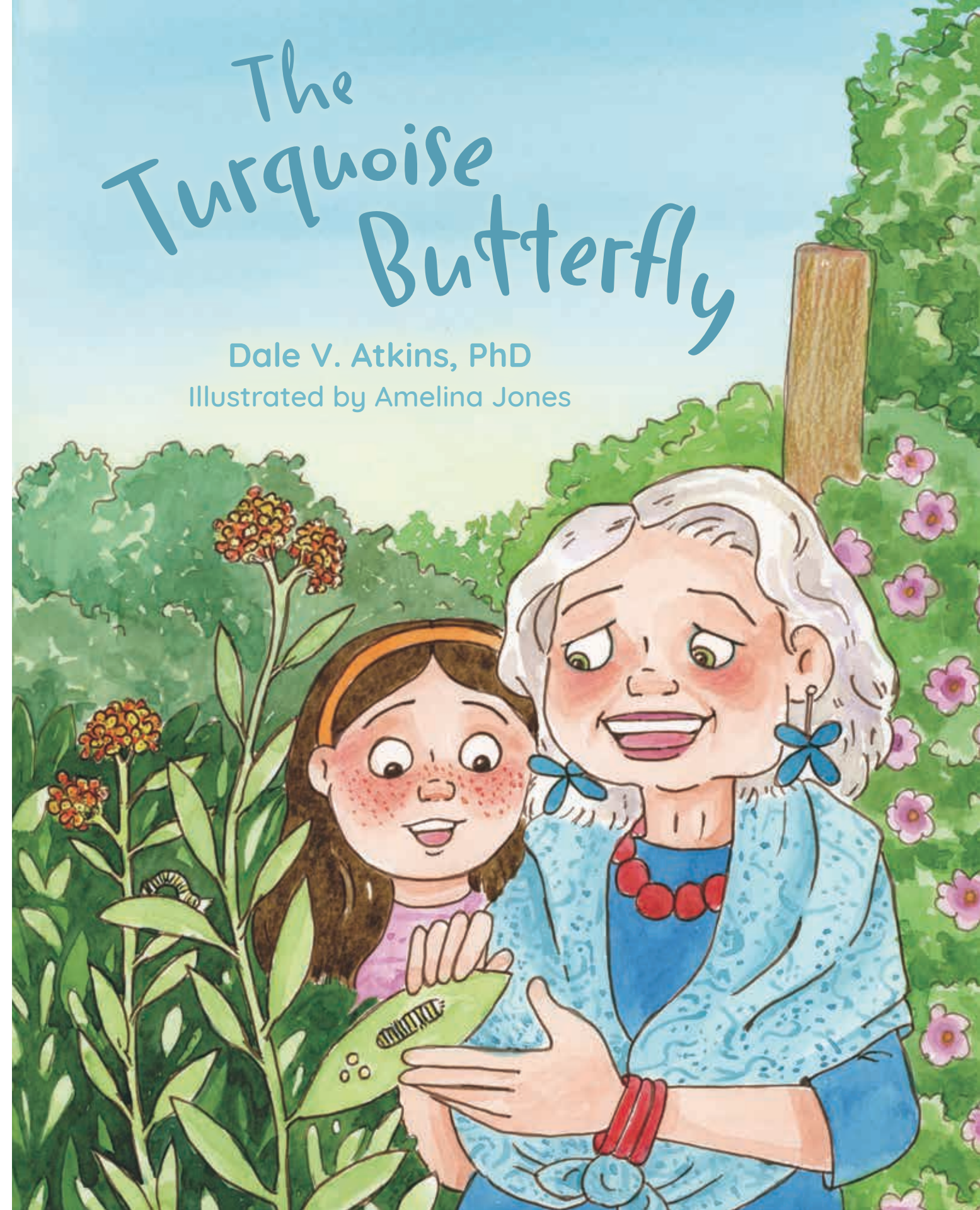
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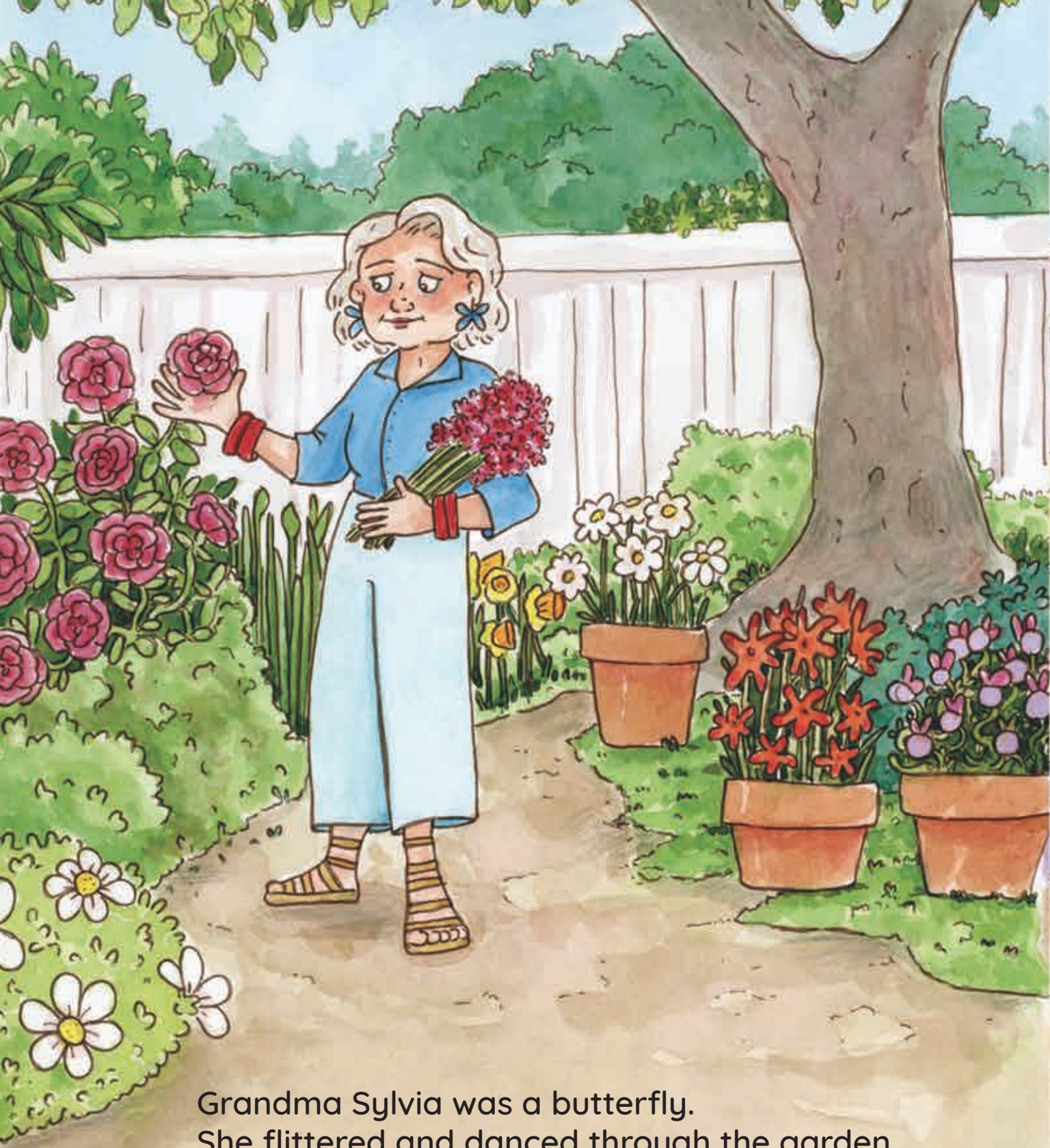


The Turquoise Butterfly

Dale V. Atkins, PhD

Illustrated by Amelina Jones





Grandma Sylvia was a butterfly. She flittered and danced through the garden, preparing for her granddaughter's visit and their surprise adventures. Grandma loved surprises.



Victoria's belly fluttered as she packed for Grandma's. Victoria loved their adventures, but she was more comfortable when she knew what to expect.



At the train station,
Victoria's belly
butterflies stirred.
Then Victoria saw
Grandma, dressed all
in turquoise, waving
and smiling.



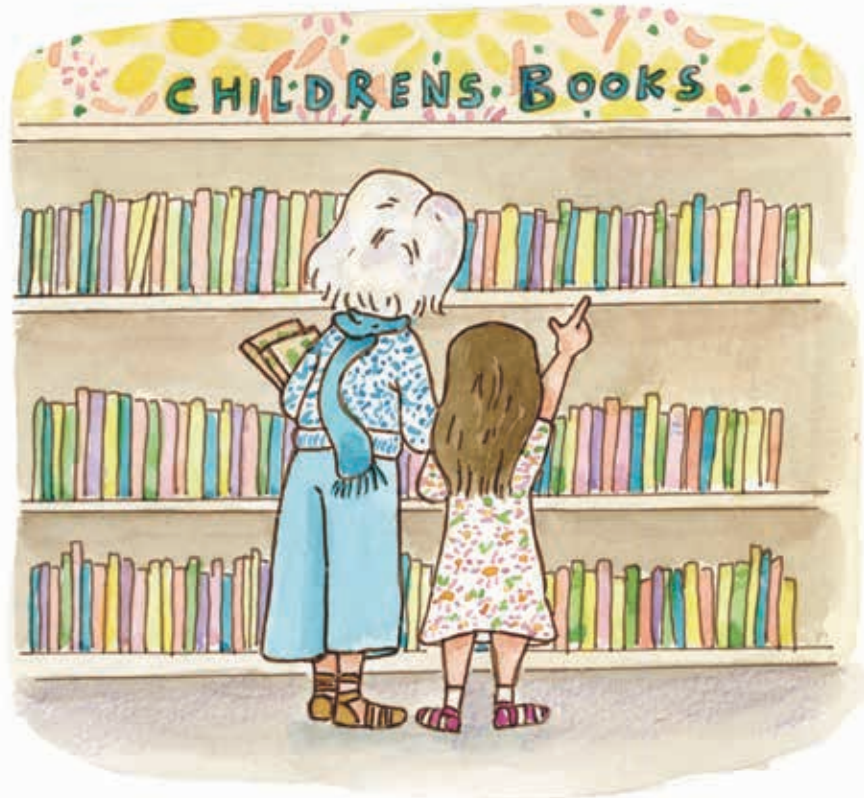
Grandma wrapped her arms around Victoria
in a *BUTTERFLY* hug! Victoria smelled the salty
ocean on Grandma's hair and exhaled.



On Monday, Grandma and Victoria visited the duck pond.



On Tuesday, they went to the playground.



On Wednesday, they dropped by the library.



On Thursday, they walked dogs from the shelter on the beach.

Every day was an adventure.

But on Friday, Grandma had a new adventure planned! Victoria's belly butterflies swished. Victoria and Grandma held hands as they swam in the shallows at the beach, spying on silvery fish that darted around them.



Just then, the current swirled, and the sea stirred. A wave pulled Grandma and Victoria apart. Victoria tried to swim, but the current was too strong.

Her belly thumped. "I can't touch the bottom!"





Grandma reached for Victoria's hand.
"Lean back, spread your wings like a butterfly, and the current will carry us to where it's safe," she said calmly.
Then Grandma sang.

*"Butterfly, butterfly in the sky,
Like a flower floating by . . .
When you see a butterfly blue,
Know that I am here with you."*

Victoria sang along as they floated down the shore. When they could touch, they walked to their blanket for a nap.





On Saturday morning, Grandma was exhausted. She wasn't zipping around the garden. She wasn't her usual self. Victoria's belly butterflies stirred.

Later, Grandma felt better, and they checked the garden for caterpillars.

"This is still an adventure," said Grandma. "Sometimes things happen, and you must adapt."

"Like yesterday?" asked Victoria.

"Exactly," replied Grandma.



On Sunday morning, the duo raced to the train.
Victoria was eager to see her mother but sad to
leave Grandma. Her belly butterflies were confused.

Grandma whispered in Victoria's ear,
"Remember, when you see
a butterfly blue, know that
I am here with you."



Victoria planned new adventures
for Grandma's as she waited for
the next summer. Victoria's belly
butterflies quivered with excitement.



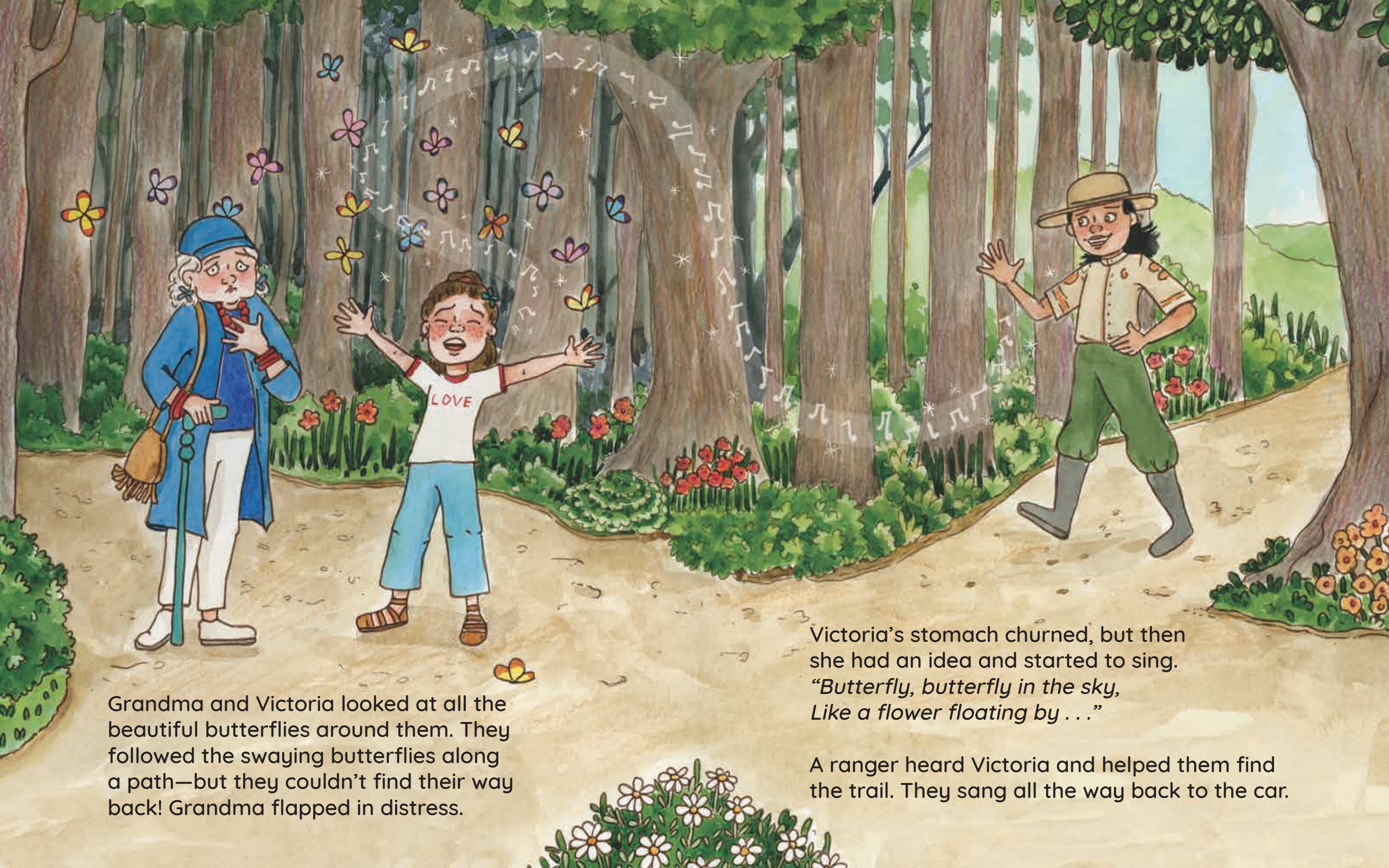
When next summer arrived, Victoria and Grandma did all their favorite things, but Grandma was slower. She had to use her walking stick and a chair to rest.

Victoria's belly butterflies swirled in her stomach. She was worried, but Grandma hugged her.

"Let's go on one of your adventures," said Grandma.

Victoria smiled. "To the butterfly grove!"



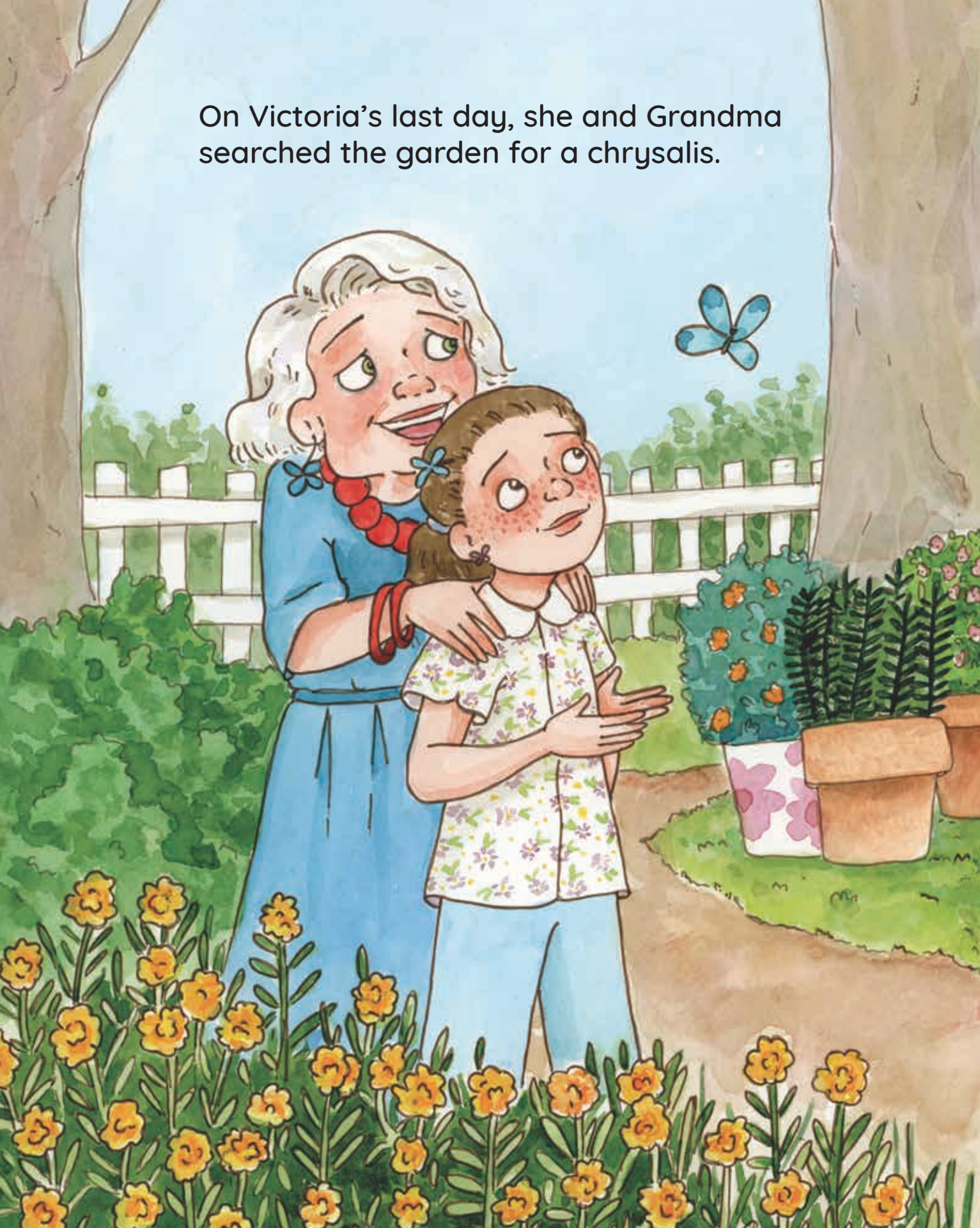


Grandma and Victoria looked at all the beautiful butterflies around them. They followed the swaying butterflies along a path—but they couldn't find their way back! Grandma flapped in distress.

Victoria's stomach churned, but then she had an idea and started to sing.
*"Butterfly, butterfly in the sky,
Like a flower floating by . . ."*

A ranger heard Victoria and helped them find the trail. They sang all the way back to the car.

On Victoria's last day, she and Grandma searched the garden for a chrysalis.



"This one's hatching!" said Victoria. They watched the butterfly spread its wings, gather its strength, and fly.

"It's waving goodbye," said Grandma.



At the train station, Grandma wrapped her arms around Victoria in the biggest butterfly hug ever.



Victoria went home, and the school year quickly began. But one day after school, Victoria's mother was waiting for her with tears in her eyes. Victoria's tummy flopped. "Grandma?"

Mom nodded and pulled Victoria in for a hug. "She loved you so much. She'll always be with us."



"How will I know?" asked Victoria.

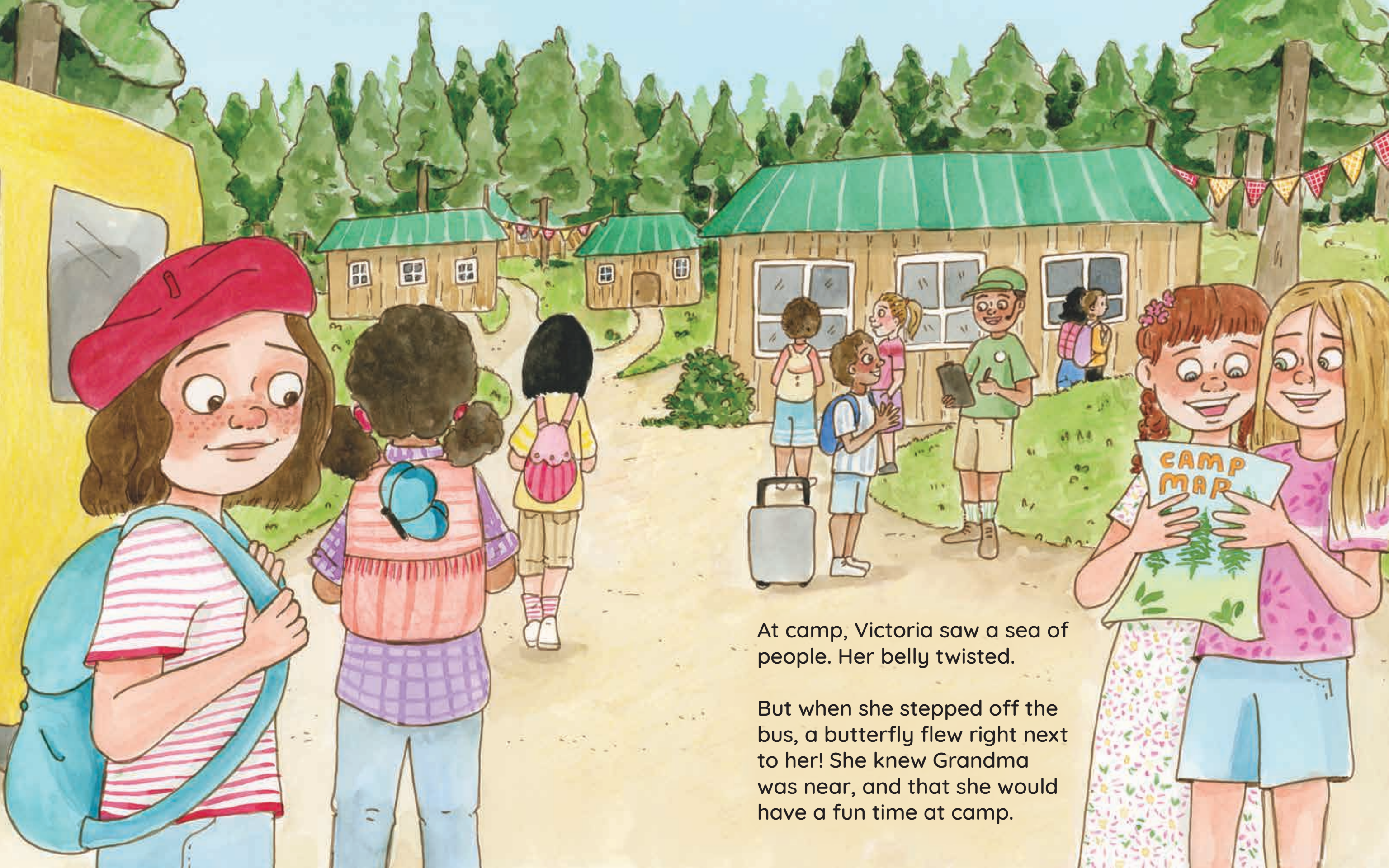
"Look for the butterflies," said Mom.

Victoria's belly twirled, but she remembered: "*Butterfly, butterfly in the sky . . .*"



The next summer, Victoria fluttered around her room as she prepared for her first time at camp. She packed her butterfly T-shirt, which had been a gift from Grandma, and sang.

*“Butterfly, butterfly in the sky,
Like a flower floating by . . .
When you see a butterfly blue,
Know that I am here with you.”*



At camp, Victoria saw a sea of people. Her belly twisted.

But when she stepped off the bus, a butterfly flew right next to her! She knew Grandma was near, and that she would have a fun time at camp.



A counselor showed Victoria her cabin. A little girl was already unpacking her things. "Hi, I'm Libby!"

Victoria smiled. "I like your shirt," she said, holding up the same one. Victoria's belly butterflies cheered. She knew she would be okay.



About the Author

DALE V. ATKINS, PhD, is a licensed practicing psychologist with over forty years of experience as a relationship expert focusing on families, wellness, managing stress, and living a balanced, meaningful life. She holds a master's degree in special education and a doctorate in early childhood and developmental studies. Dale is the author of seven books, is a constant expert source for journalists and business and educational leaders, and is a featured speaker worldwide.

For twenty-two years, Dale regularly appeared on NBC's *Today* Show and many other national programs to discuss family and relationship issues. She also has a YouTube channel where she features "Nature Walk Talks," using nature's wisdom as inspiration.

Dale is a member of, and advisor to, several nonprofit boards. An engaged citizen, she has received multiple recognitions for her community service and leadership.

She has two children, six grandchildren, and lives in Connecticut.

