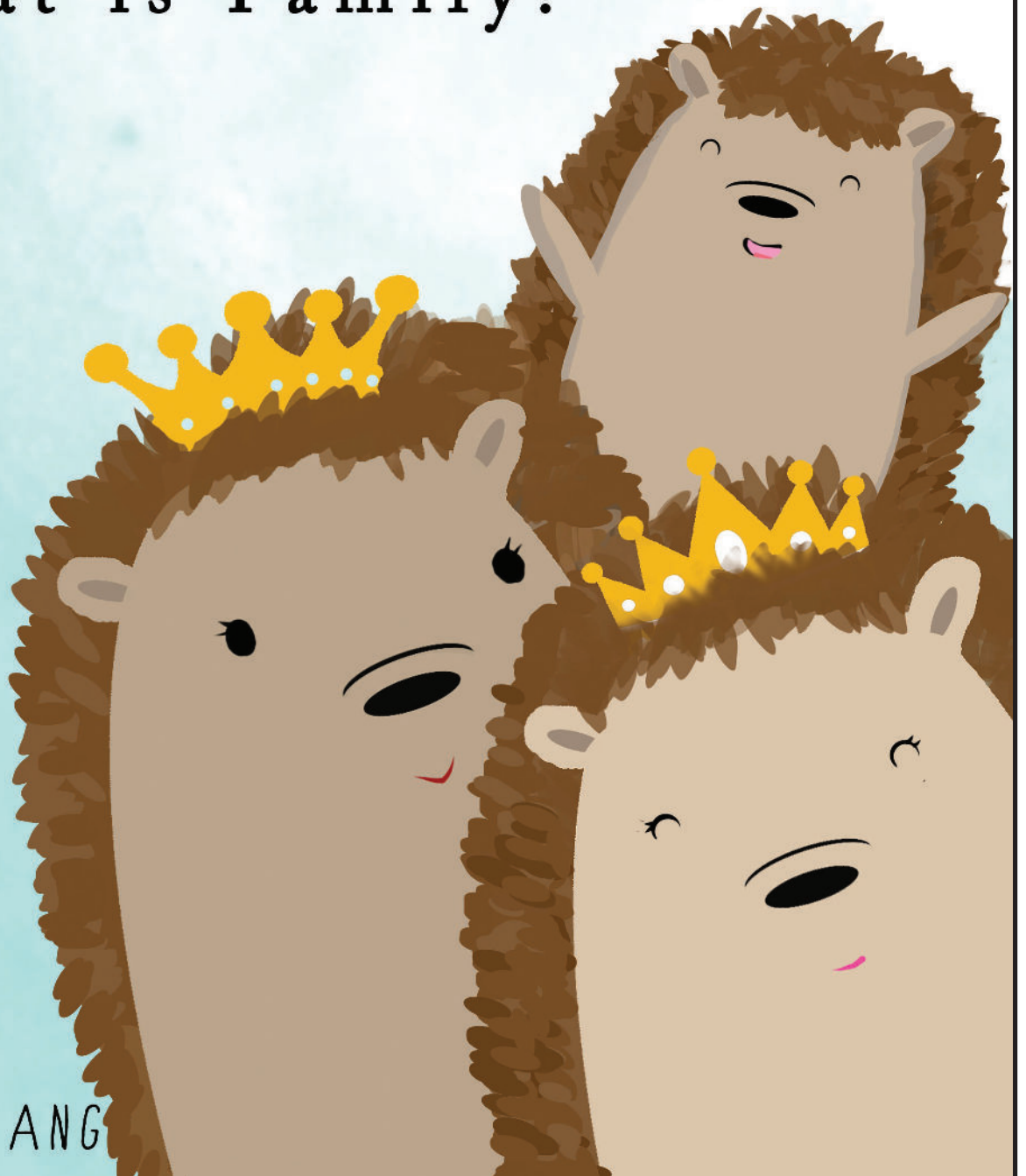


What is Family?



BY
ARIEL WANG

WHAT IS FAMILY?

Written and Illustrated by Ariel Wang

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Humphrey the hedgehog is the prince of
his kingdom, where he plays with other
hedgehogs in fun and freedom.



Humphrey's parents are the Queen and Queen,
their names are Queen Florence and Queen Celine.

Humphrey's Mommy and Momma love him tons,
they always have a lot of fun.



One sunny morning,
Princess Bunny from the Rabbit Kingdom came to play,
but Humphrey found her in a great dismay.

"What's wrong Princess?" Humphrey questioned.

"What is the cause of your sad expression?"

"It's your parents," Bunny answered with a sigh.

"Why are two Queens ruling side by side?"



Humphrey didn't understand what she had meant,
while Princess Bunny continued to vent.

"Only a boy and a girl can get married you see,
a King and a Queen is what was meant to be."

Humphrey was shocked by this strange restriction,
could Bunny's words be fact or fiction?



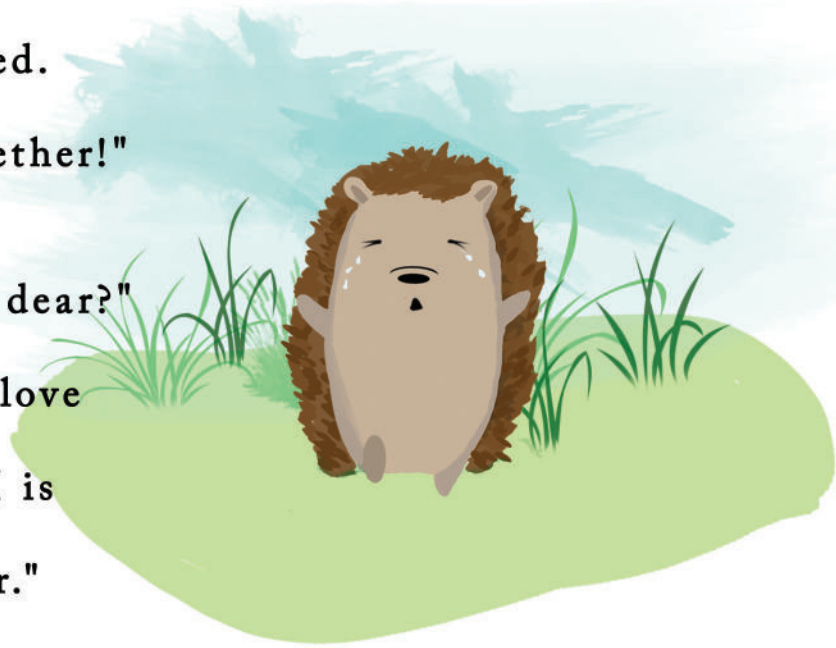
Later that day Humphrey ran
crying to his mothers.

"Mommy, Momma!" He cried.

"You aren't supposed to be together!"

"What do you mean Humphrey dear?"

Queen Florence asked. "The love
between your Momma and I is
something nothing can tear."



"Princess Bunny said that
marriage is between a girl and
boy! Two girls shouldn't be
married cause it just won't bring
them joy!" Humphrey said.

Queen Celine sighed. "Oh
Humphrey that is just plain
silliness, let's go on a trip to
learn the true meaning of family,
and happiness."



The hedgehogs ventured through the Land of Pretty Fields, to come across the Snake Kingdom that the green and lush grass concealed.

The Garter Snake Kings greeted the hedgehogs with an embrace, while Humphrey showed clear wonderment on his face.



Humphrey asked the king, "Why are you with another king?"

"The answer is simple young prince, it's cause we love one another.

Love is simply enjoying the time we have together.

Just like your mommies, we are gay."

Momma smiled, "You see Humphrey, having a different family is okay."



The Snake King suggested,
"Why don't you visit our friends in Kingdoms nearby?
They can tell you what family is in their eyes."



The hedgehogs then hiked down the grassy slopes,
seeking different families in high hopes.



At the Mouse Kingdom,
Humphrey realized there was only a Mouse King ruling the land.
There the king stood, holding a young mouse by the hand.



Humphrey asked the king if he had a queen by his side.

In return the king replied,

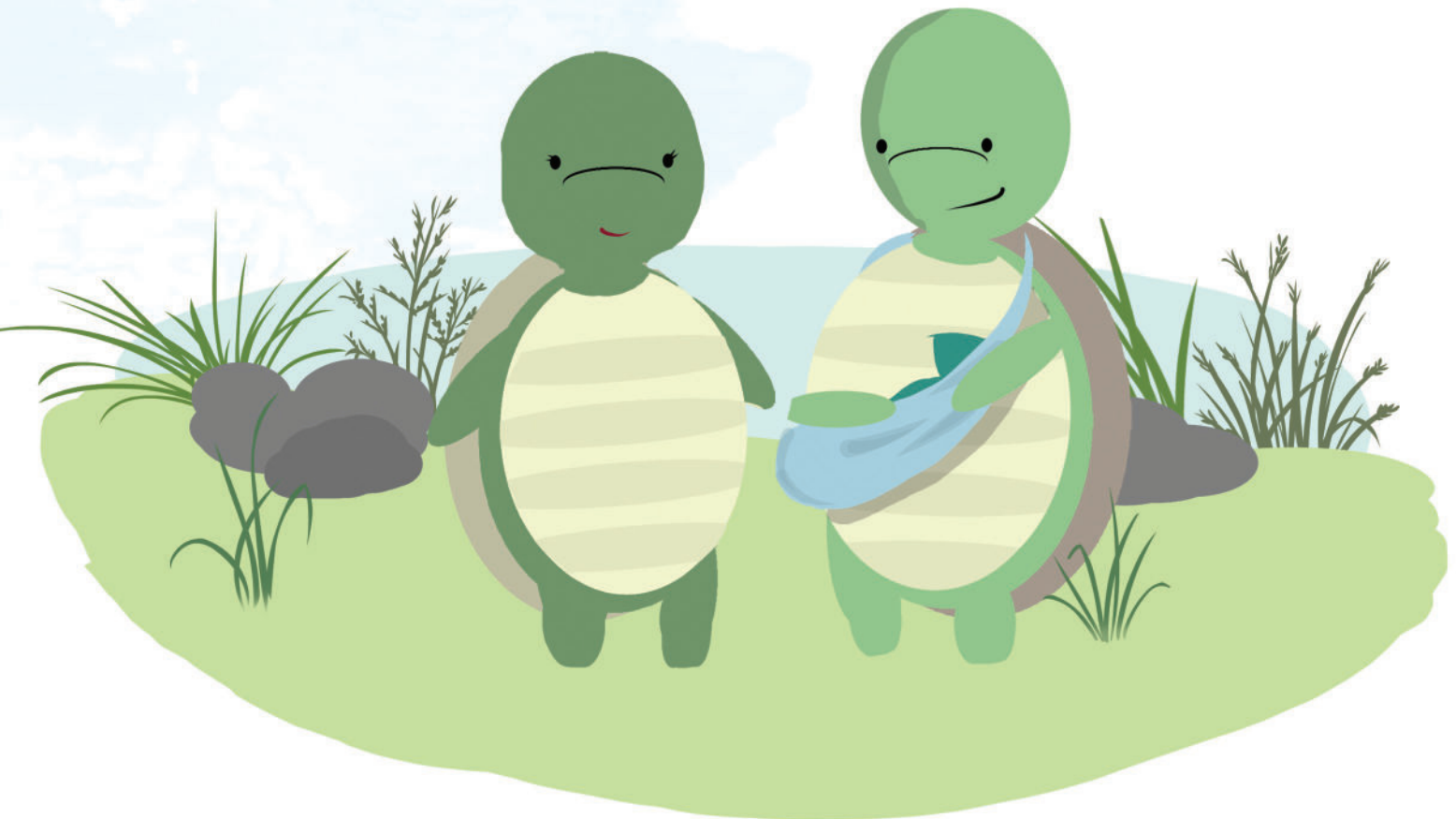
“No I don't, young lad, it's just my little son and I.

My son is my only family, but that's perfectly fine.

We have fun, we are happy, that's what we keep in mind.”



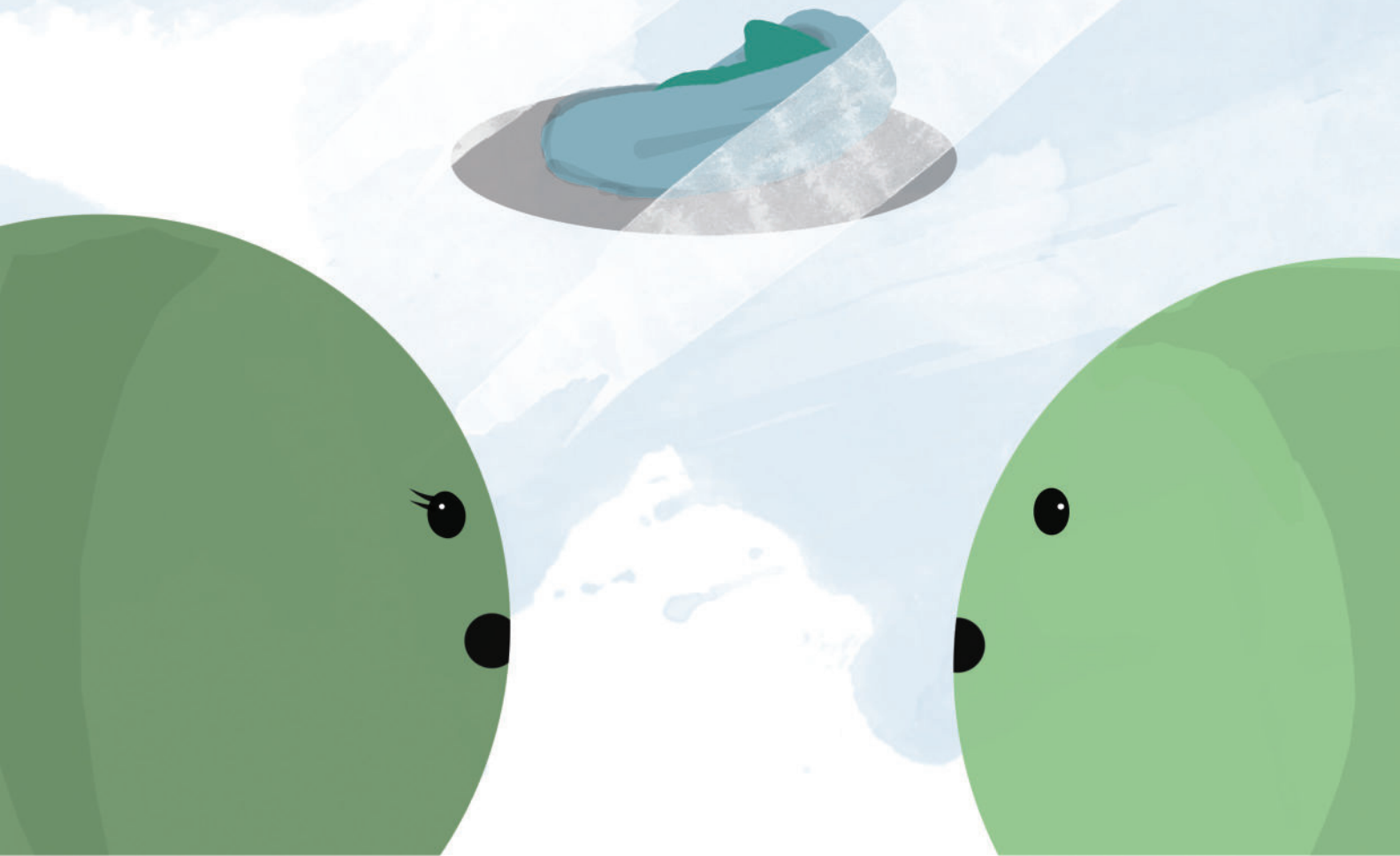
At the Turtle Kingdom,
there stood the Turtle Queen and King,
carrying a crying baby lizard in a sling.



Turns out that the turtles adopted this baby lizard
after they found him shivering in an icy blizzard.

“Family doesn’t mean we have to be the same kind.

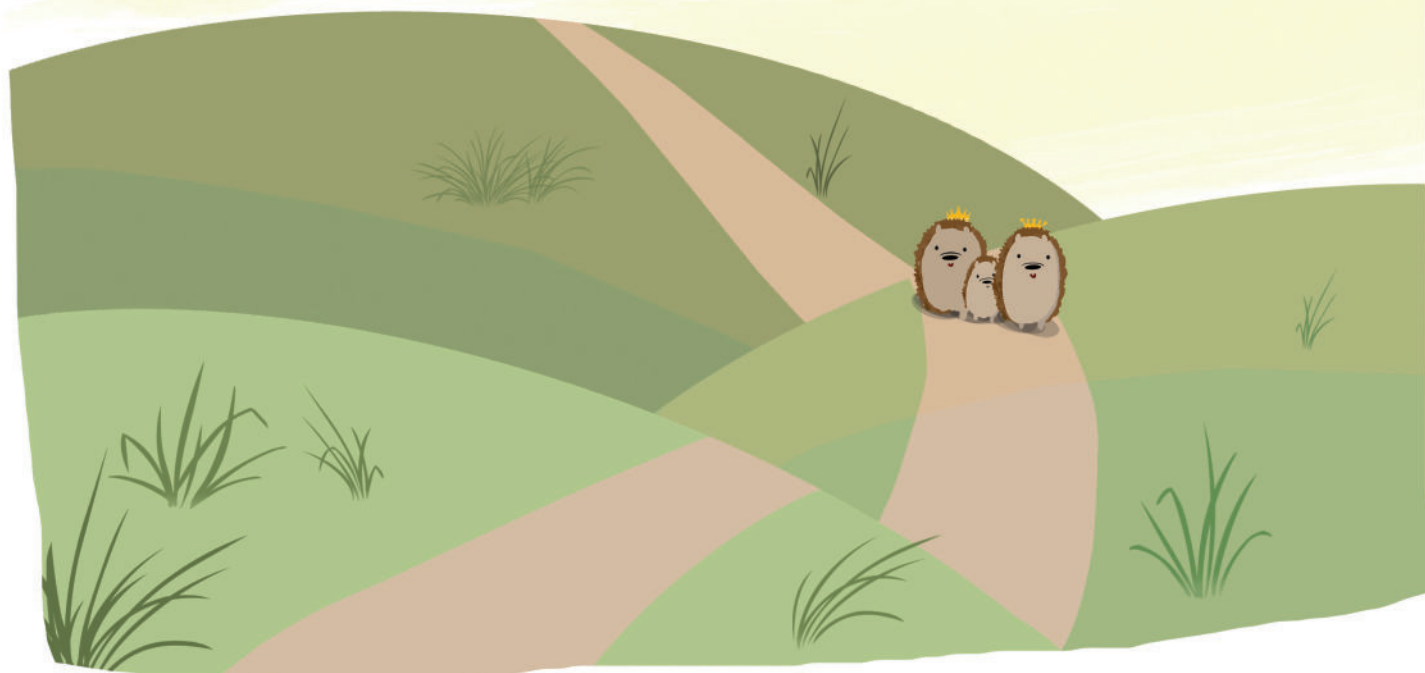
It means that we love each other and no one gets left behind.”



As the hedgehogs began to make the journey of return,

Queen Celine asked Humphrey what he had learned.

“All the animals we’ve seen have different families,
but what does love have to do with any of these?”

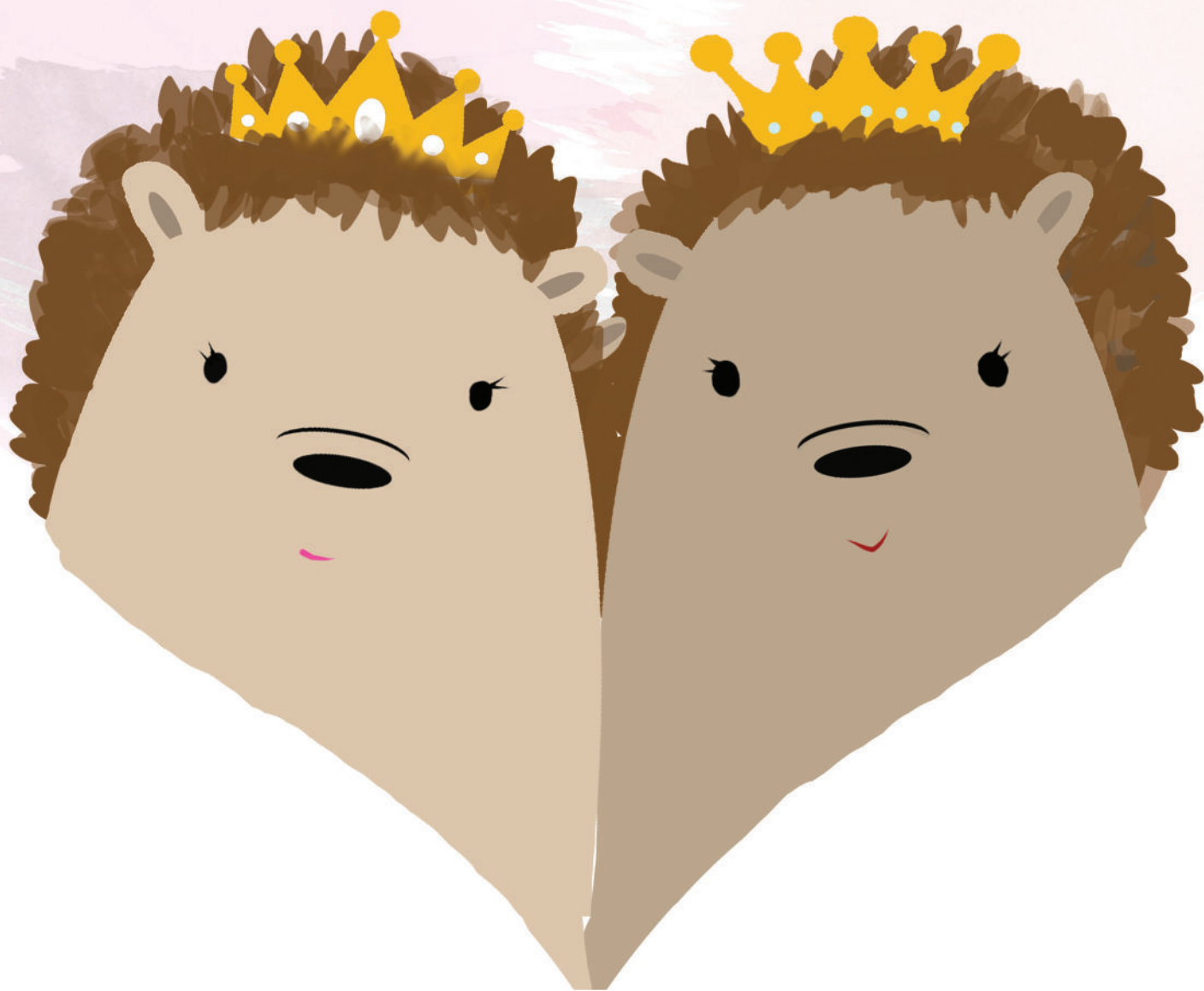


“Love is louder, brighter, and stronger than anything else in this world,” Humphrey's Momma said.

“This idea, indeed, is something we all need to spread.”

“That’s right,” Humphrey’s Mommy chimed.

“Gender, appearance, and age doesn’t matter because love is blind.”



"I understand now!" Humphrey happily exclaimed.

"No matter how different your family is, you shouldn't be ashamed.

Love is all that matters at the end of the day,
so I shouldn't worry about what others have to say!"



There are many different ways to be a family.

It doesn't matter who is in the family;
it only matters that you love and take care of each other.

That is family.



B'nai B'rith International



Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge

What is Family?, written & illustrated by Ariel Wang, was created as part of the B'nai B'rith International *Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge* in New York City.

The *Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge* is an education and awareness initiative created by B'nai B'rith International as part of its series of programs developed to combat bigotry through the promotion of tolerance and equality. The contest aims to present positive views about diversity to a broad range of youth in order to achieve tolerance within our communities.

Executed through public and private high schools within New York City, the contest asks high school students to write and illustrate a children's book that tells a story of diversity and tolerance. Participants are required to think about how these principles can improve our world, and then create innovative ways to teach these ideas to children through the creation of a book.

Book submissions were reviewed by a local judging panel comprised of business leaders, educators, non-profit community leaders and local officials. Scholarship prizes in the amounts of \$5,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 are awarded to the first, second and third place winners, and the first-place winning book is professionally published and donated to elementary schools, libraries and literacy organizations.

**For more information about the program and next year's contest,
please visit www.bnaibrith.org/diverseminds.**

FIRST PLACE WINNER



WHAT IS FAMILY?

Written & Illustrated by
Ariel Wang

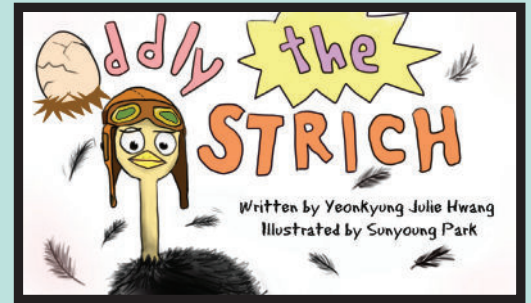
High School for Dual Language & Asian Studies
New York, New York

Teacher: Christian Schmidt

Ariel Wang, a student at the High School for Dual Language and Asian Studies, was selected as the first place winner of the 2014 *Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge* for the New York City contest.

What Is Family?, with its rhyming speech and bright illustrations, was written with young readers in mind. Ariel's intention was to "allow young readers to acknowledge that family structures can be different, because love is what holds a family together no matter who is in it."

SECOND PLACE WINNER



ODDLY THE OSTRICH

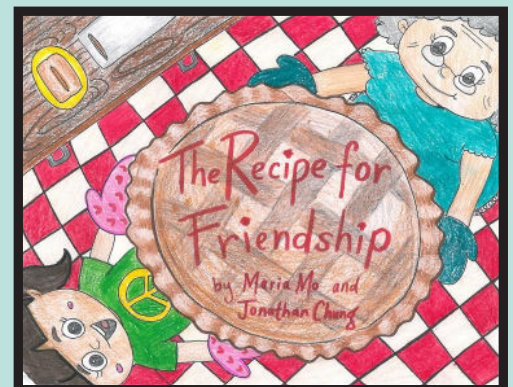
Written by
Yeonkyung Julie Hwang

Bayside High School
Bayside, New York

Illustrated by
Sunyoung Park

Thomas A. Edison Career
& Technical Education High School
Whitestone, New York

THIRD PLACE WINNER



RECIPE FOR FRIENDSHIP

Written & Illustrated by
Jonathan Chung and Maria Mo

Townsend Harris High School
Flushing, New York

PROGRAM SPONSOR



B'nai B'rith International would like to thank the NYSE Euronext Foundation for their continued support of the *Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge* in New York City. Their generous grant provided the funds necessary for B'nai B'rith to publish **What is Family?** and donate a copy of it to each library and elementary school in New York City.

The NYSE Euronext Foundation is a private philanthropic foundation established by the New York Stock Exchange in 1983. It directs its philanthropic resources to innovative and effective organizations, programs, and projects that meet community needs within its priority areas of funding: Financial Literacy Education, Developing Economic Opportunity, and Entrepreneurship. It seeks to address the needs of communities in all areas of the globe where NYSE Euronext maintains a business presence and funds both new and proven charitable endeavors that confer a broad public benefit.



Daniel S. Mariaschin, Executive Vice President of B'nai B'rith, joins the first, second and third place winners of the New York City Challenge. The New York Stock Exchange generously hosts the Award Presentation Event each year.



Students compete in The Stock Market Game, an on-line educational program sponsored by SIFMA Foundation. The NYSE Euronext Foundation has been a supporter of The Stock Market Game since 1984.

PROGRAM SPONSOR



B'nai B'rith International would like to thank Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ for their support of the *Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge* in New York City.

An organization is most dynamic when diverse individuals join together to collaborate and learn from one another. Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (BTMU) is one of the largest foreign banks operating in North America. BTMU's parent, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. (MUFG), is one of the world's leading financial groups. Our staff and customers represent a great number of ethnic, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds. We honor the different points of view that everyone brings to our common enterprise, knowing that our strength is based on our diversity. The Diversity & Inclusion Council at BTMU Americas, whose members represent nearly all of our business lines and support units, supports the promotion of diversity and inclusion as key components of our efforts to create a vibrant company.

We are proud to support the B'nai B'rith *Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge*.

Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge

NEW YORK CITY JUDGING PANEL

B'nai B'rith International would like to thank the following judging panel members for donating their time and talents to reviewing the finalists' submissions and selecting the winners for the 2014 *Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge*.

Diversity and Inclusion Council
Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ

Lawrence Krule
President
Jewish Book Council

InterContinentalExchange NYSE

Sunny Larson
Managing Director
The Fund for Public Schools

Robin Adelson
Executive Director
Children's Book Council

Andrea Louie
Executive Director
Asian American Arts Alliance

Hannie Chia
Coordinator of Youth Programs
Whitney Museum of American Art

Rhonda Love
Vice President, Programming
B'nai B'rith International

Philip Courtney
Chief Executive Officer
Urban Arts Partnership

Daniel S. Mariaschin
Executive Vice President
B'nai B'rith International

Ashley Deng
Winner of the 2013
Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge
Author of 'We Are All Atoms'

Diane Matyas
Vice President of Exhibitions and Programs
Staten Island Museum

Toby Graff
Senior Vice President, Public Affairs
USA Network

Stephen Mooser
President
Society of Children's Book
Writers and Illustrators

Aimee Horowitz
Superintendent of High Schools
New York City Department of Education

Dr. Natasha Poor
Manager of Education and Outreach Programs
Museum of Tolerance New York

Naomi Kleinberg
Editorial Director – Licensed Publishing
Random House Children's Books

Kristina Rodulfo
Winner of the 2008
Diverse Minds Youth Writing Challenge
Author of 'The Other Von Higgley'