

THIS STORY WAS INSPIRED BY
THE EXPERIENCES OF FAMILIES
OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST
ENERGY POVERTY AND THE
TESTIMONY OF THE BRAVE
CHILDREN FROM THE CAÑADA
REAL NEIGHBORHOOD IN
MADRID, WHICH AS OF OCTOBER
2021 HAD BEEN LIVING
WITHOUT ELECTRICITY FOR AN
ENTIRE YEAR.

Con el apoyo de:



A STORY ABOUT ENERGY POVERTY AND CHILDHOOD

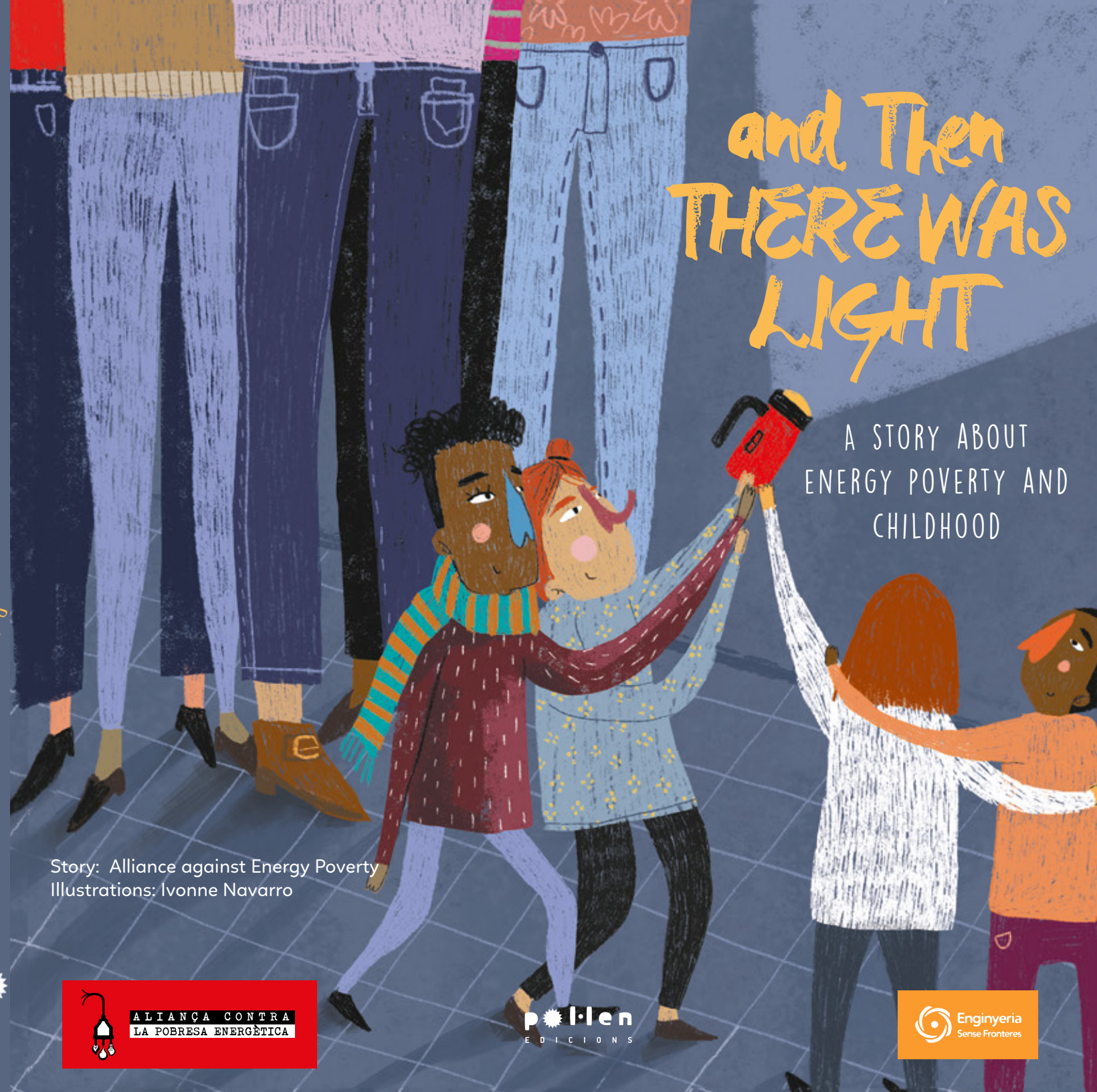
And then there was light

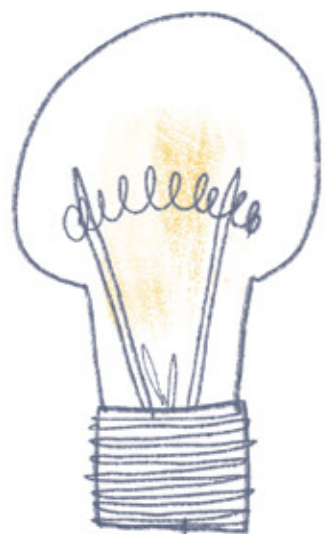
Story: Alliance against Energy Poverty
Illustrations: Ivonne Navarro



and Then THERE WAS LIGHT

A STORY ABOUT
ENERGY POVERTY AND
CHILDHOOD





And then there was light...

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© The story: Engineers without Borders (Catalonia) and the Alliance against Energy Poverty (Aliança contra la Pobresa Energètica)

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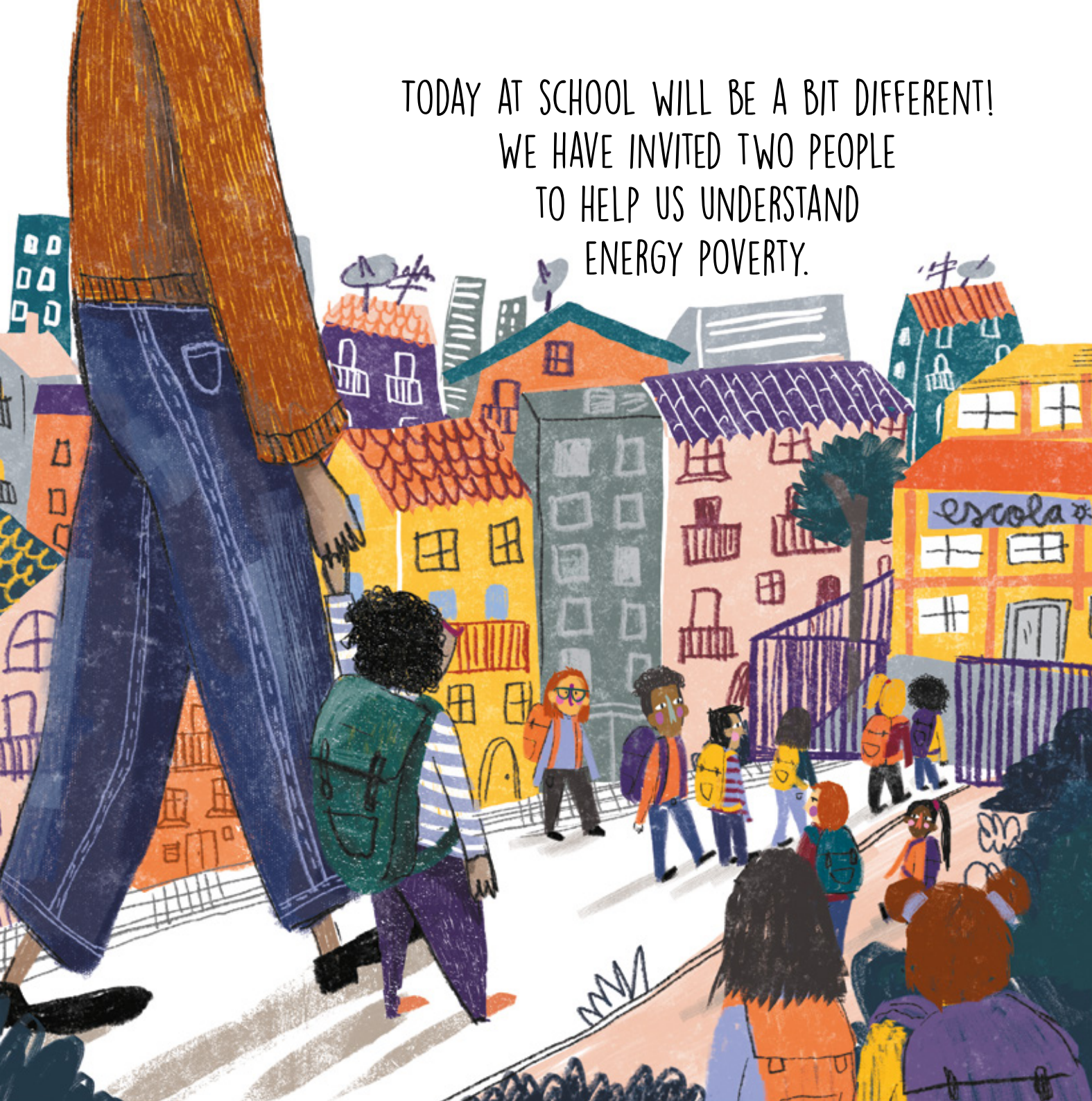


And then there was Light

A STORY ABOUT ENERGY POVERTY AND CHILDHOOD



TODAY AT SCHOOL WILL BE A BIT DIFFERENT!
WE HAVE INVITED TWO PEOPLE
TO HELP US UNDERSTAND
ENERGY POVERTY.



DO YOU KNOW
WHAT ENERGY
POVERTY IS?





IRINA DOESN'T KNOW WHAT ENERGY POVERTY MEANS, BUT SHE KNOWS THAT AT HOME, MOM IS WORRIED. WHEN HER MOM THINKS IRINA ISN'T WATCHING, SHE STRUGGLES TO PAY ALL THE BILLS.

HER MOTHER IS SCARED THAT THE ELECTRICITY OR THE WATER WILL GET CUT OFF,



BECAUSE THEY OFTEN CAN'T PAY ALL THE BILLS.



ALL DAY SHE CHECKS TO MAKE SURE THEY STILL HAVE WATER AND ELECTRICITY.

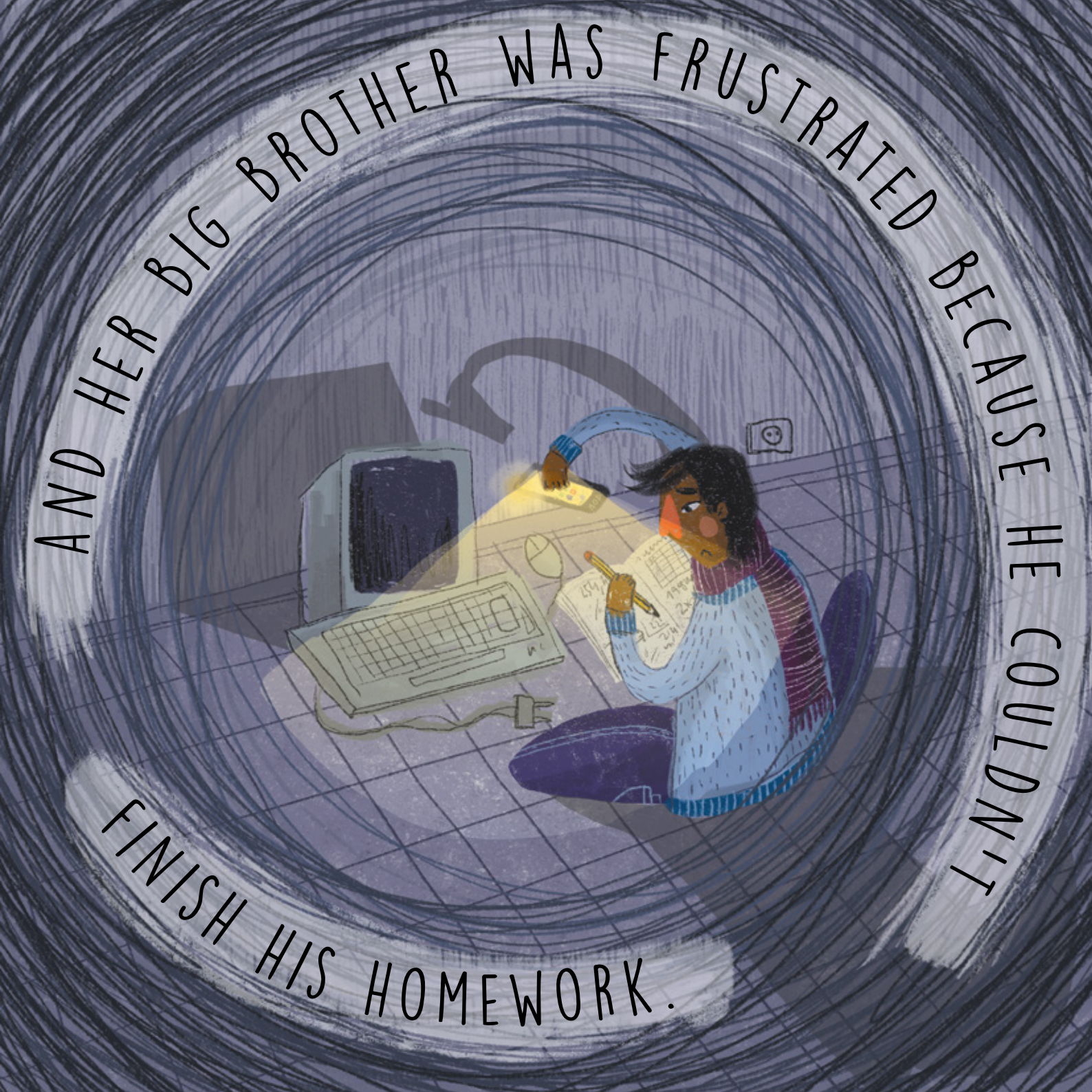


SHE
DIDN'T
SAY ANYTHING
TO ANYONE...

SOPHIA REMEMBERS
LAST WINTER,
WHEN THEIR
ELECTRICITY
GOT CUT OFF.



BUT AT NIGHT IN THE DARKNESS SHE WAS
VERY SCARED.



AND HER BIG BROTHER WAS FRUSTRATED
BECAUSE HE COULDN'T
FINISH HIS HOMEWORK.



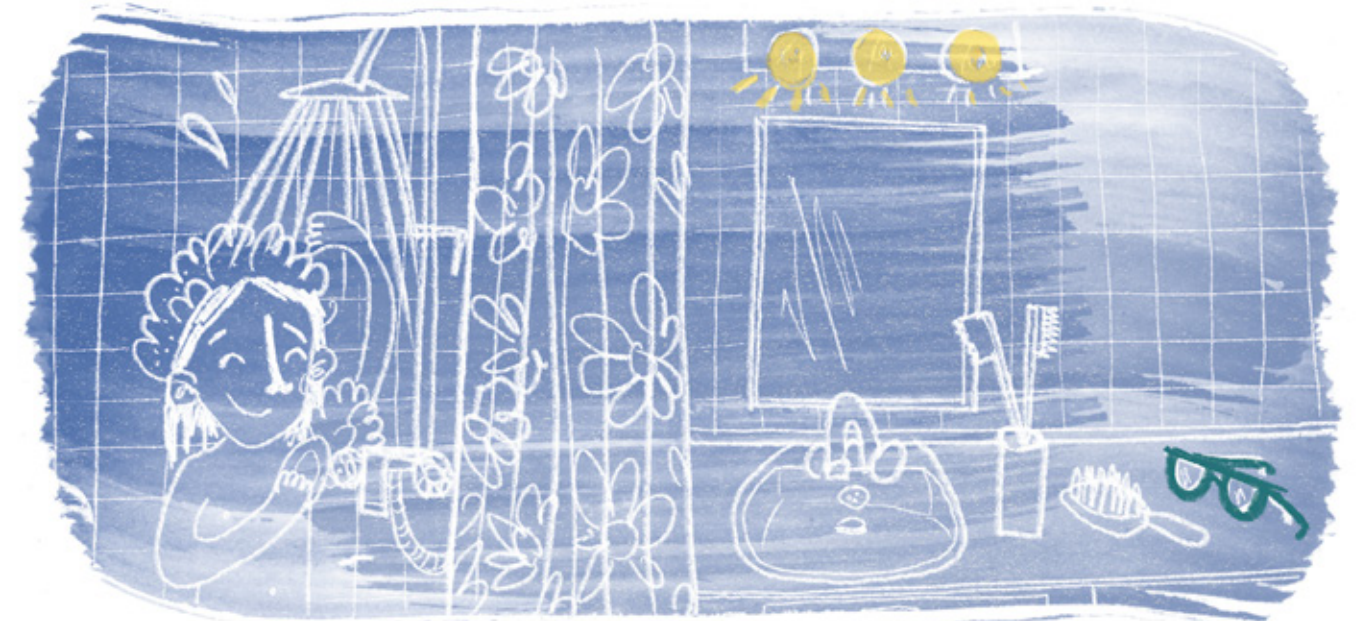
OMAN WENT EVERY DAY WITH HIS PARENTS
TO THE FOUNTAIN IN THE SQUARE.
THEY WOULD GO LATE
AT NIGHT OR EARLY IN THE MORNING
BECAUSE THEY WERE ASHAMED
THAT NEIGHBORS
WOULD SEE
THEM.



AINARA KNOWS THAT WHEN SHE GETS HOME,



SHE WILL HAVE A NICE HOT SHOWER



AND GO TO BED EARLY. SHE CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE



SHE WILL READ A LITTLE AND DO HER HOMEWORK.



IF SHE DIDN'T HAVE HER NIGHTLIGHT TO PROTECT HER IN THE DARK.



MOM,
OMAR DOESN'T
HAVE WATER
AT HOME!

WHEN THEY GET HOME,
IRINA, SOFIA, OMAR,
AND AINARA RUN
TO TELL
THEIR FAMILIES.

WE HAVEN'T
DONE ANYTHING
WRONG! WE HAVE
A RIGHT TO HAVE
WATER!

ELECTRICITY
AND WATER
ARE BASIC
RIGHTS!



THERE ARE
PEOPLE
WHO JOIN
TOGETHER.

OTHER FAMILIES
HAVE THE SAME
PROBLEMS
AS US!

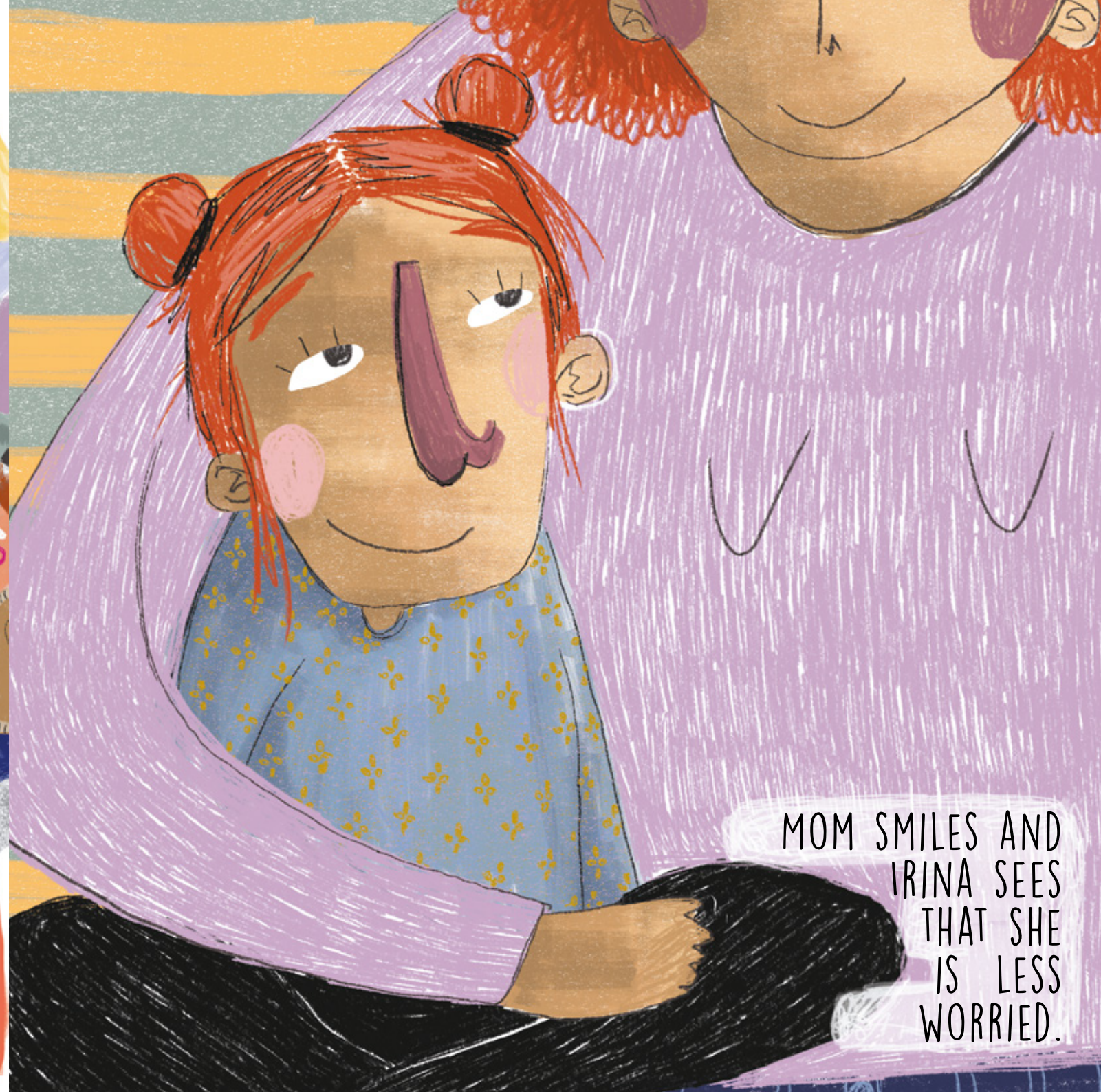
THERE ARE
CHILDREN WHO
DON'T HAVE
ELECTRICITY
OR WATER!!

...SO THAT EVERY
HOUSE CAN
HAVE ELECTRICITY
AND WATER.



IN THE
NEXT
DAYS

THEY GO WITH THEIR FAMILIES TO A MEETING OF THE ALLIANCE
AGAINST ENERGY POVERTY WHERE PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THEIR PROBLEMS
WITH ELECTRICITY OR WATER, AND WORK TOGETHER ON SOLUTIONS
FOR EACH HOUSEHOLD.



MOM SMILES AND
IRINA SEES
THAT SHE
IS LESS
WORRIED.



TOGETHER, WE
ARE POWERFUL

NO ONE
SHOULD BE
IN THE DARK

NO MORE THIRST,
NO MORE COLD,
NO MORE DARKNESS.

WATER AND
ELECTRICITY ARE
BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS

WHEN THE MEETING IS OVER, THEY GO OUT TO
THE STREET AND SING AND RAISE THEIR VOICES
TO DEMAND WATER AND ELECTRICITY FOR
EVERY FAMILY. BEING TOGETHER GIVES
THEM STRENGTH.

WATER
IS LIFE

ELECTRICITY FOR
EACH AND EVERY
FAMILY!!

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APE

“Pol·len is knowledge, our goal is to pollinate far and wide, from authors to readers, resulting in seeds that grow and multiply that knowledge even further.”



Edited, designed, and printed in Catalonia.

In the process of making this book we have followed ecological criteria to ensure that the printing uses environmentally friendly practices and reduces the impact upon the planet as much as possible. Some of our criteria include 100% recycled and FSC-certified paper, which prevents deforestation. We choose book formats that make the most efficient use of each sheet, in coordination with local printers which follow environmentally sustainable practices.

Pollen editions SCCL is a Catalanian work cooperative decicated to eco-editions: an understanding, a vision and a sense of books which considers the forests to be part of the books, books to be part of ourselves, ourselves to be part of an Earth shared by all.



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