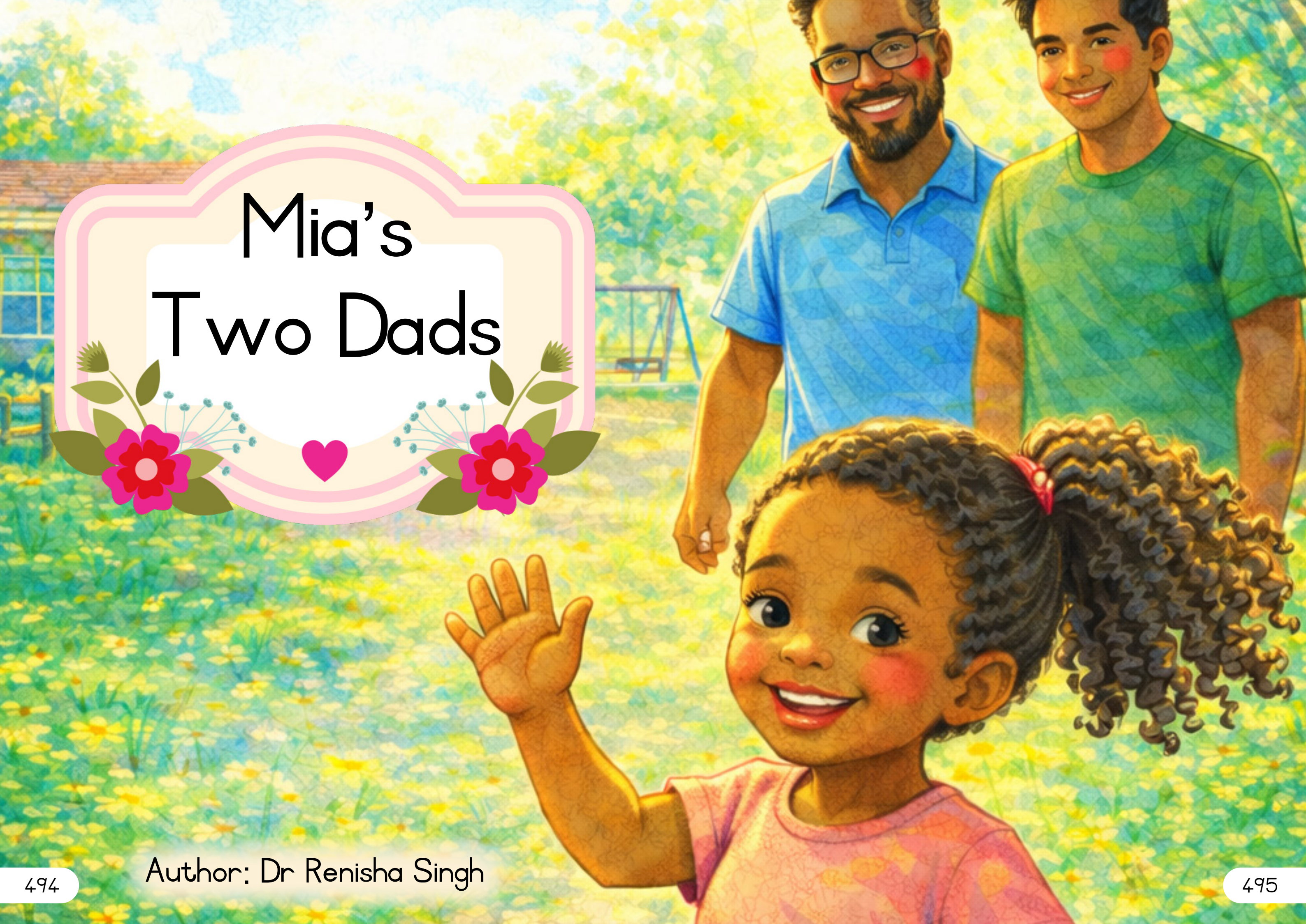




Mia's Two Dads

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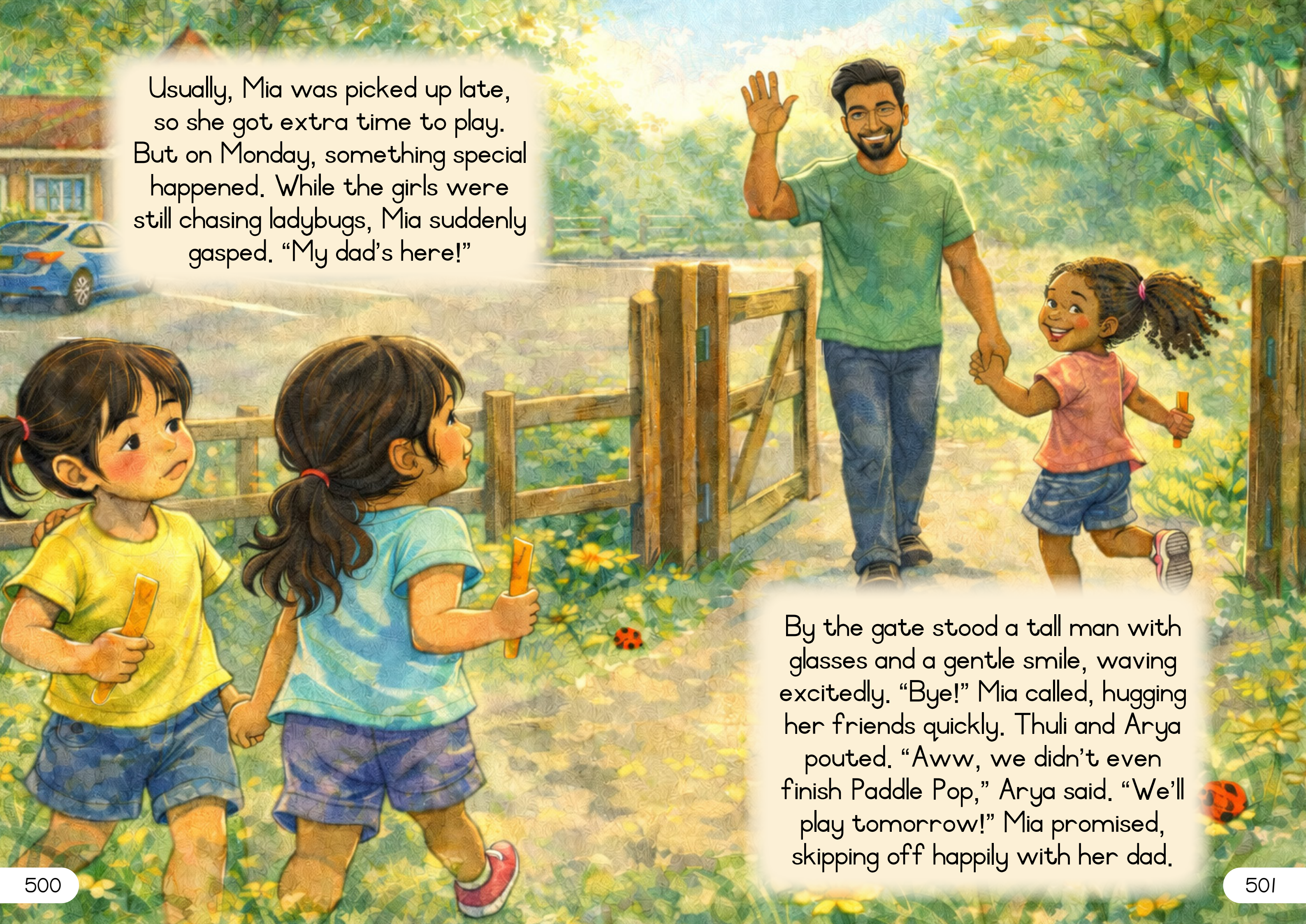
Little Oaks Primary

The bell rang loudly at Little Oaks Primary School.

Children burst out of their classrooms, with bags bouncing and shoes squeaking on the tiles. Outside, the sun was warm and golden. The swings creaked back and forth, the grass smelled fresh, and the aftercare field sparkled with tiny yellow flowers and busy little ladybugs. This was Mia's favourite place.



Every afternoon, the three girls rushed to aftercare together. “The last one in the field is a sleepy snail!” Mia would shout. They played their favourite game, Paddle Pop, while running through the grass, finding flowers, counting ladybugs, and pretending the field was a magical forest. Mia laughed the loudest. Mia’s family looked a little different, too. Mia was adopted, and she always said she was the luckiest girl in the world.



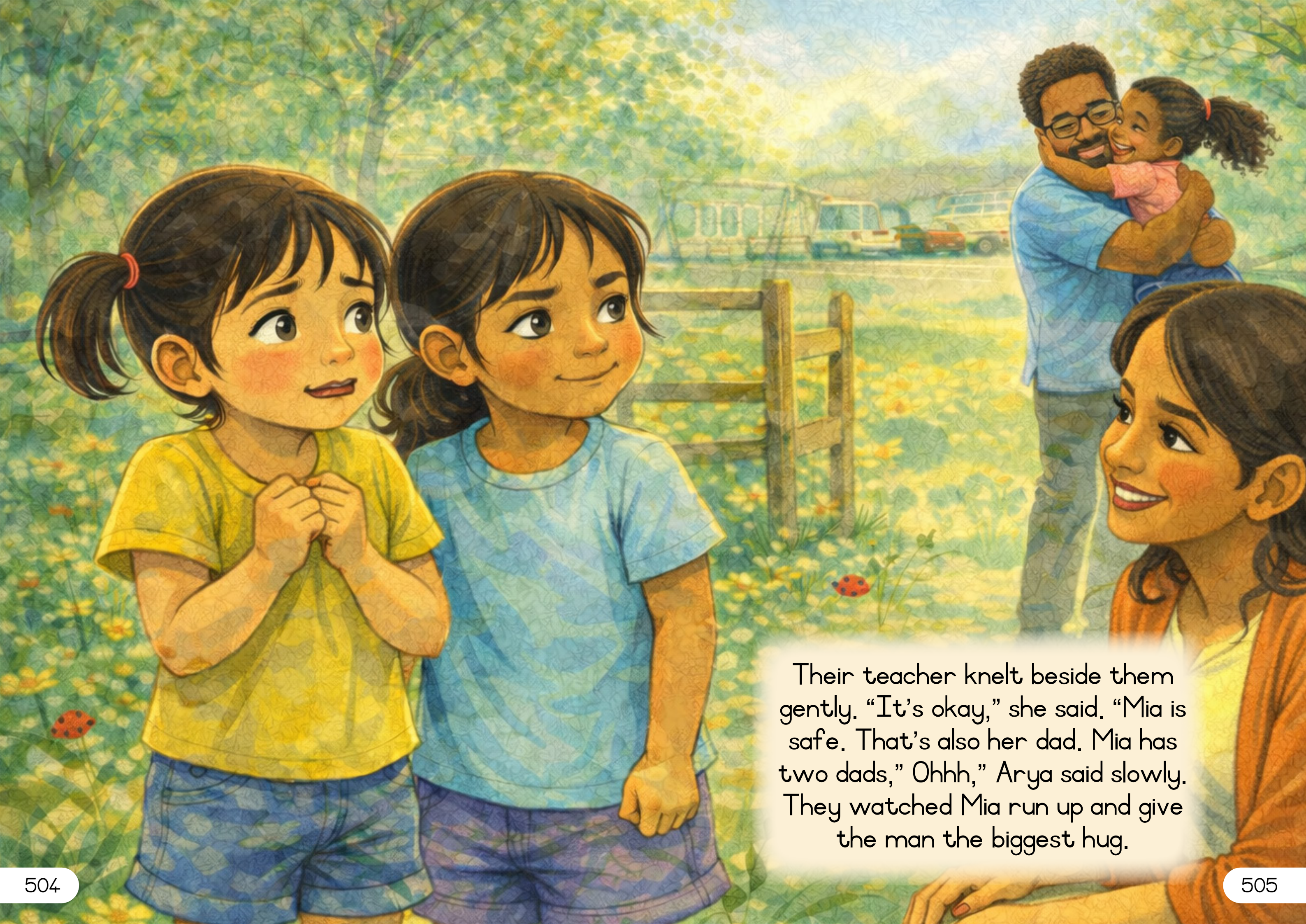
Usually, Mia was picked up late, so she got extra time to play. But on Monday, something special happened. While the girls were still chasing ladybugs, Mia suddenly gasped. "My dad's here!"

By the gate stood a tall man with glasses and a gentle smile, waving excitedly. "Bye!" Mia called, hugging her friends quickly. Thuli and Arya pouted. "Aww, we didn't even finish Paddle Pop," Arya said. "We'll play tomorrow!" Mia promised, skipping off happily with her dad.

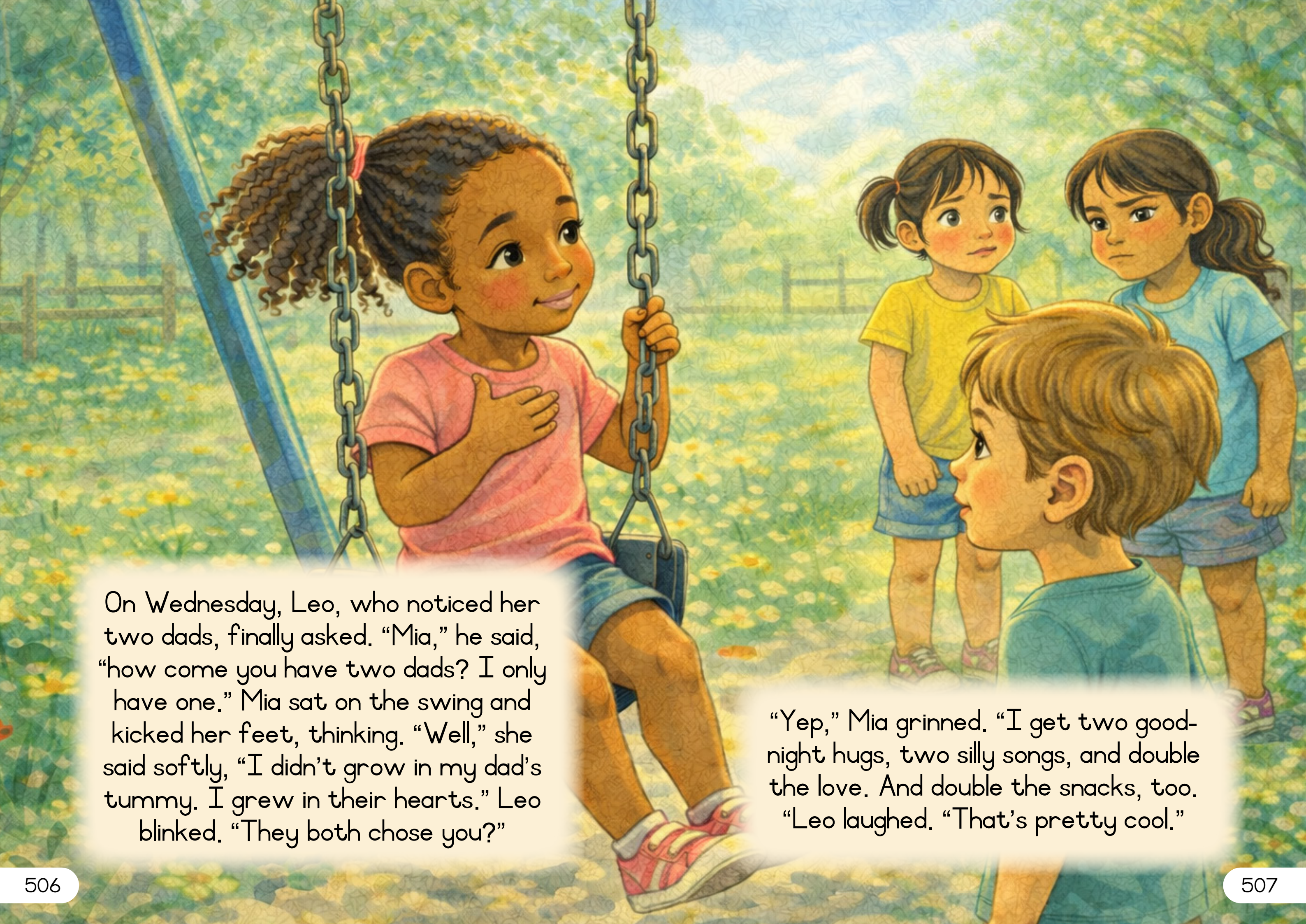


On Tuesday, the girls were ready for a long afternoon of playing and more new adventures in the garden. But before they even reached the swings, a different man came to the gate. He had a curly beard and a bright red scar. Mia's face lit up again. "My dad's here!"

Thuli froze with fear. Arya whispered, "Wait... that's not yesterday's dad. "They had just learned about stranger dangers in class. "What if that man was trying to steal Mia?" Thuli started.



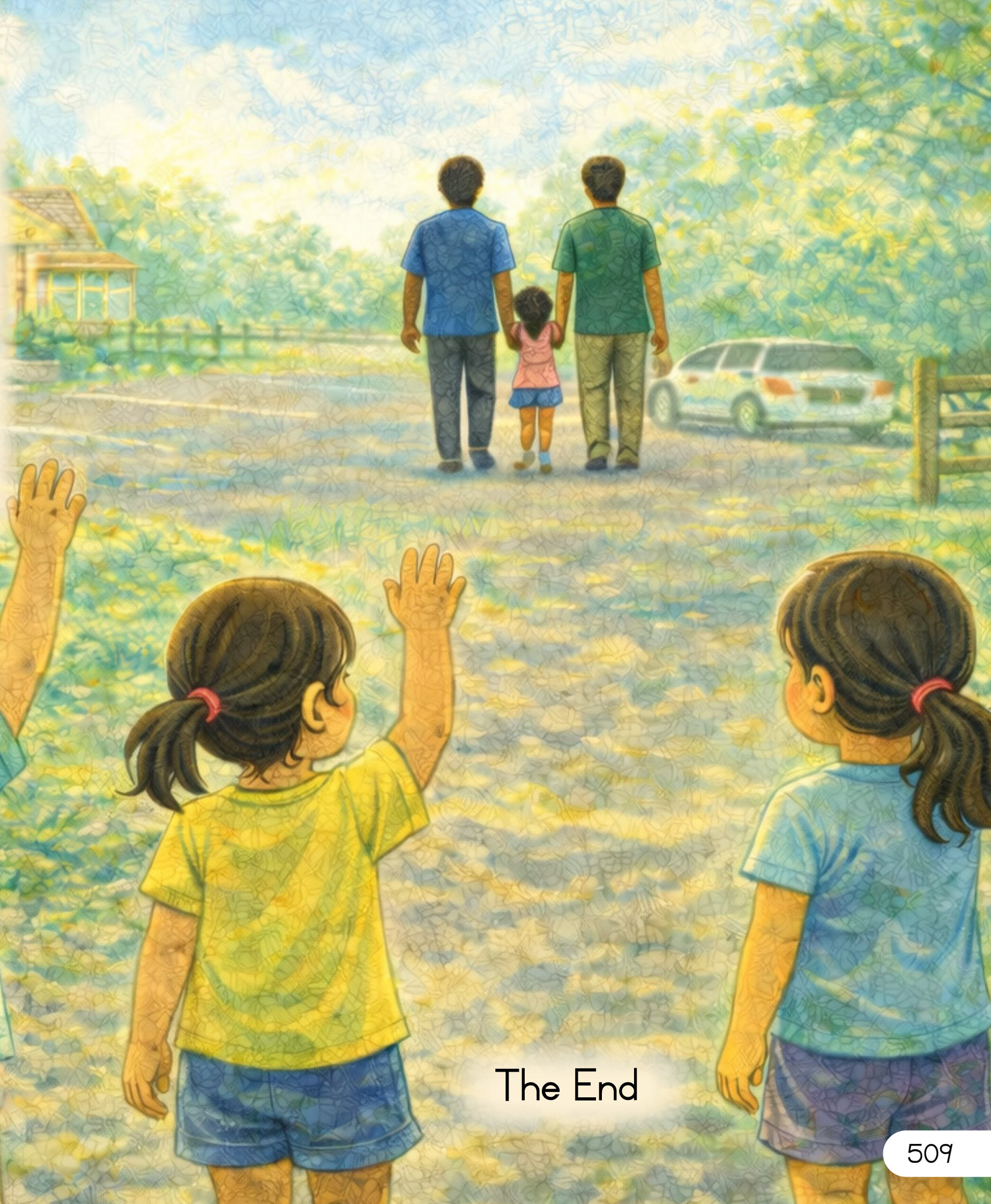
Their teacher knelt beside them gently. "It's okay," she said. "Mia is safe. That's also her dad. Mia has two dads," Ohhh," Arya said slowly. They watched Mia run up and give the man the biggest hug.



On Wednesday, Leo, who noticed her two dads, finally asked. "Mia," he said, "how come you have two dads? I only have one." Mia sat on the swing and kicked her feet, thinking. "Well," she said softly, "I didn't grow in my dad's tummy. I grew in their hearts." Leo blinked. "They both chose you?"

"Yep," Mia grinned. "I get two good-night hugs, two silly songs, and double the love. And double the snacks, too." Leo laughed. "That's pretty cool."

“Families can look different,” Mia said, “but love feels the same.” Just then, both her dads walked up together, waving. “Ready to go, superstar?” one called. “Race you to the gate!” the other joked. Mia turned to her friends. “See you tomorrow for Paddle pop!” And she ran to her dads, one hand in each of them, swinging between them, happy, safe, and very, very loved.



The End