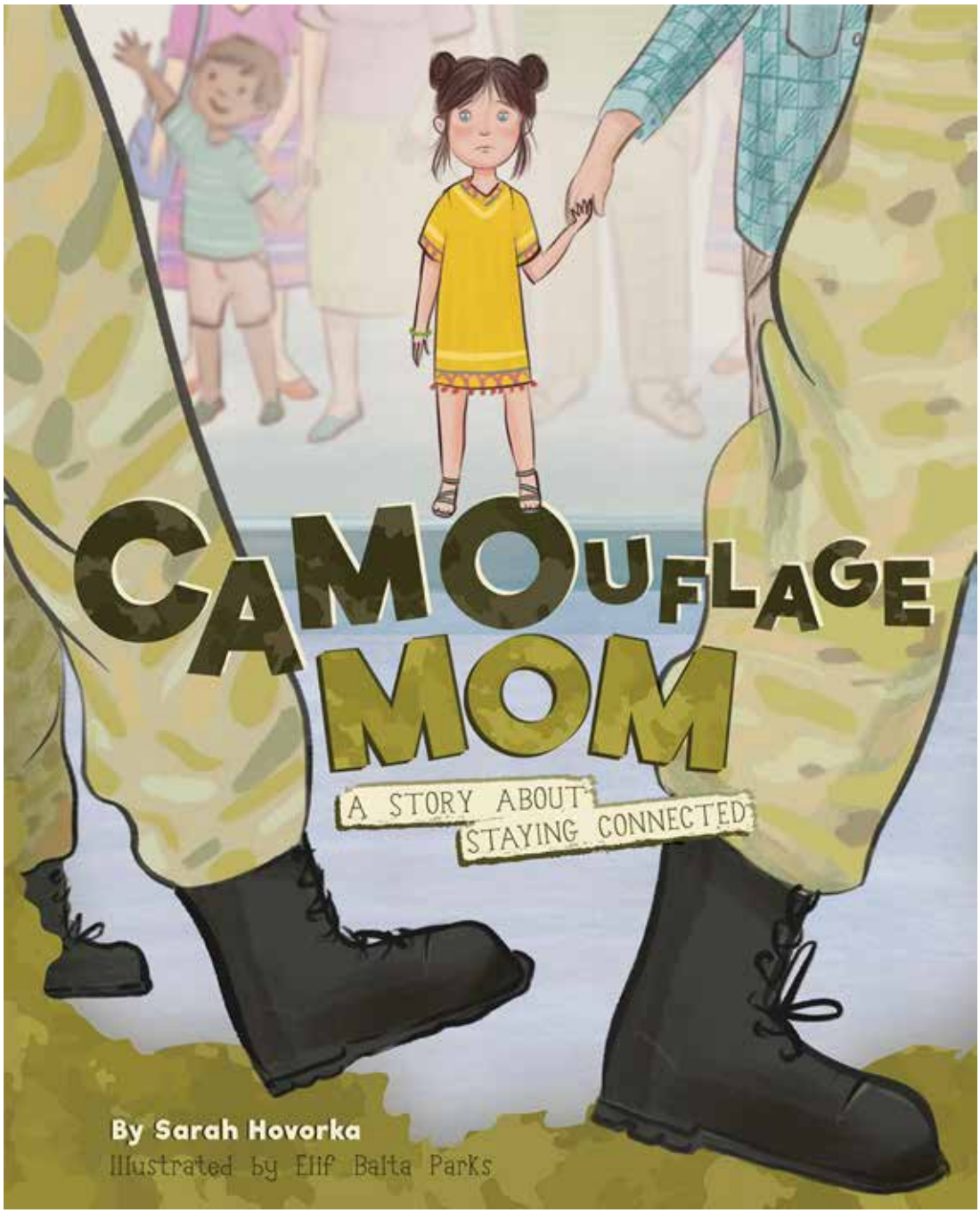
READERS' GUIDE

CAMOUFLAGE MOM



WRITTEN BY SARAH HOVORKA

CAMOUFLAGE MOM
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CAMOUFLAGE MOM
COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

BEFORE READING:

- Read the title of the book and the names of the author and illustrator.
- Ask your child if they know the meaning of the word camouflage.
- Discuss the facial and body expressions of the characters on the cover. What are they feeling?
- With your child, make a prediction as to what this book will be about.

WHILE READING:

- Who is the main character of this story? How do we know that?
- Where does the story start? What is a boot camp?
- Sarah thinks Mom is different since going to boot camp. What are some of the things that surprise Sarah about her mom now?
- Why does Sarah kick off the boots Mom gave her? What is she feeling?

AFTER READING:

- Why does Sarah put on the boots at the end of the story? What does this tell you about her feelings?
- Discuss with your child whether a parent, relative, or friend has ever had to leave. How did they feel at that time?
- Ask your child if they feel an invisible link with their parents or caregivers.
- Discuss with your child the difficulties that military families face.
- Ask your child if they know anyone in the military.

Name: _____

CAMOUFLAGE MOM
RECALLING

Directions: Using the 5 W's (who, what, where, when, why), recall the details of the story.

WHO is the story about?

WHAT is the story about?

WHERE did the story take place?

WHEN did the story take place?

Name: _____

CAMOUFLAGE MOM
AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

Directions: Think about the purpose of this story and why the author wrote it. What did the author want the readers to take away from the story?

AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

MESSAGE OF THE STORY

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

THEME(S) OF THE STORY

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Name: _____

CAMOUFLAGE MOM
VOCABULARY

Directions: There are some new words in this book. Read the sentences and try to use clues to determine the meaning of the word.

Camouflage

"I have to wear **camouflage** now, Sarah ... for when I want to be hidden."

I think the word means...

_____

_____

_____

Platoon

"**Platoon** dismissed!"

I think the word means...

_____

_____

_____

Links

"The soldiers march by like **links** in a chain, a blur of green and black, green and black."

I think the word means...

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

CAMOUFLAGE MOM
CHARACTER GROWTH

Directions: Think about how Sarah changed throughout the story and what happened that caused these changes.

Sarah at the beginning of the story:

Events that caused the change:

What was the change?

Sarah at the end of the story:

Name: _____

CAMOUFLAGE MOM
SPECIAL OBJECT WORKSHEET

Directions: In Camouflage Mom, the boots Sarah's mom gives her become a special reminder of the link they have. Think about some of the special people in your life. Do you have any objects that remind you of them? Describe and draw them in the spaces below!

Describe your special object below. What does it look like? Who does it remind you of? Where did you get it?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

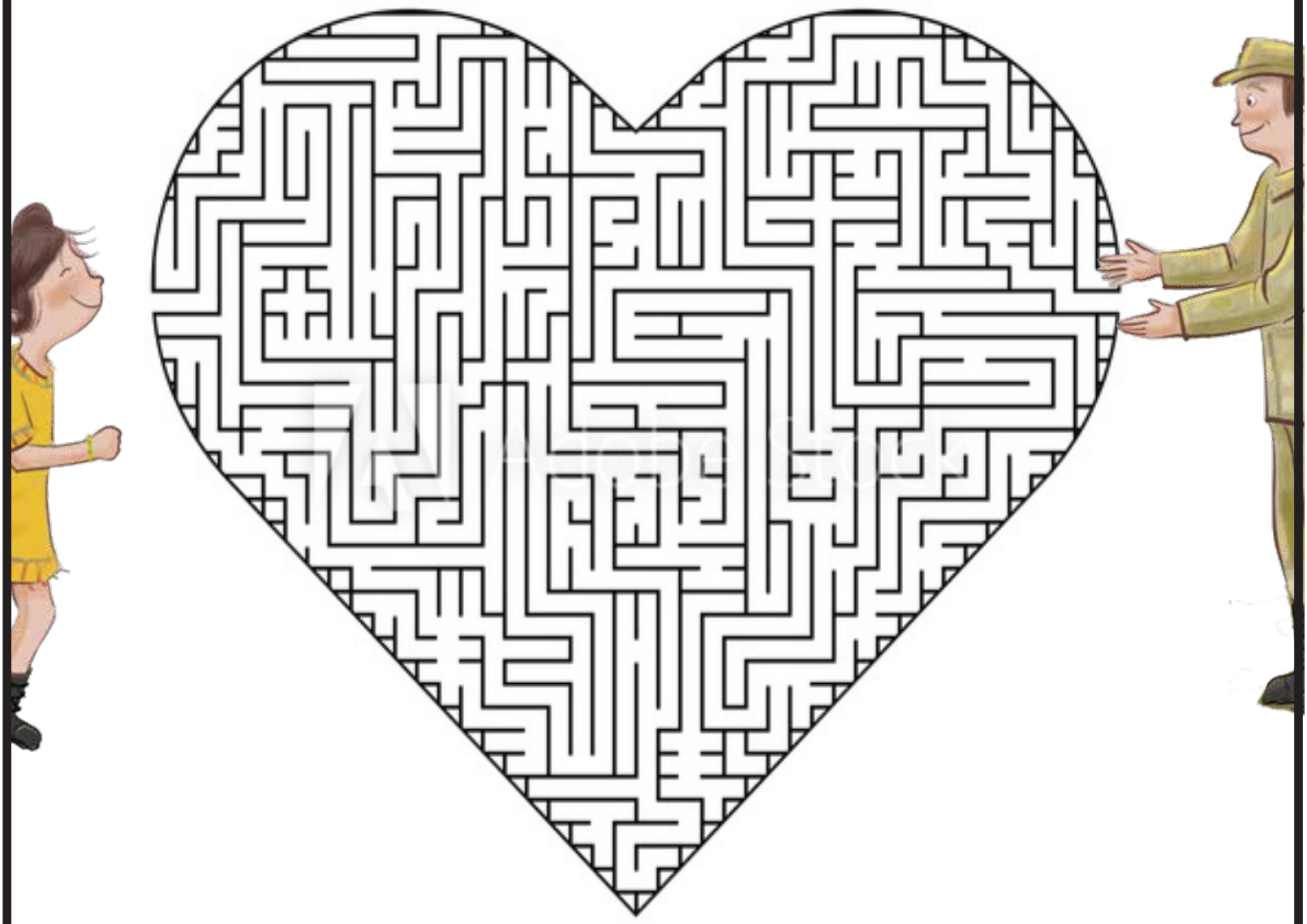
_____

Draw the object!

Name: _____

CAMOUFLAGE MOM
MAZE WORKSHEET

Directions: No matter how many twists and turns there are, the link between Sarah and her mom will always exist. Complete the maze below to help connect them!



Name: _____

CAMOUFLAGE MOM RESEARCH PROJECT

Directions: The author of Camouflage Mom Sarah Hovorka's own mom became a soldier in 1987. At that time, there were very few women in the military, and even fewer mothers. Do some research and find a woman from history who was the first to do something. For example, in 1983, astronaut Sally Ride became the first American woman in space!

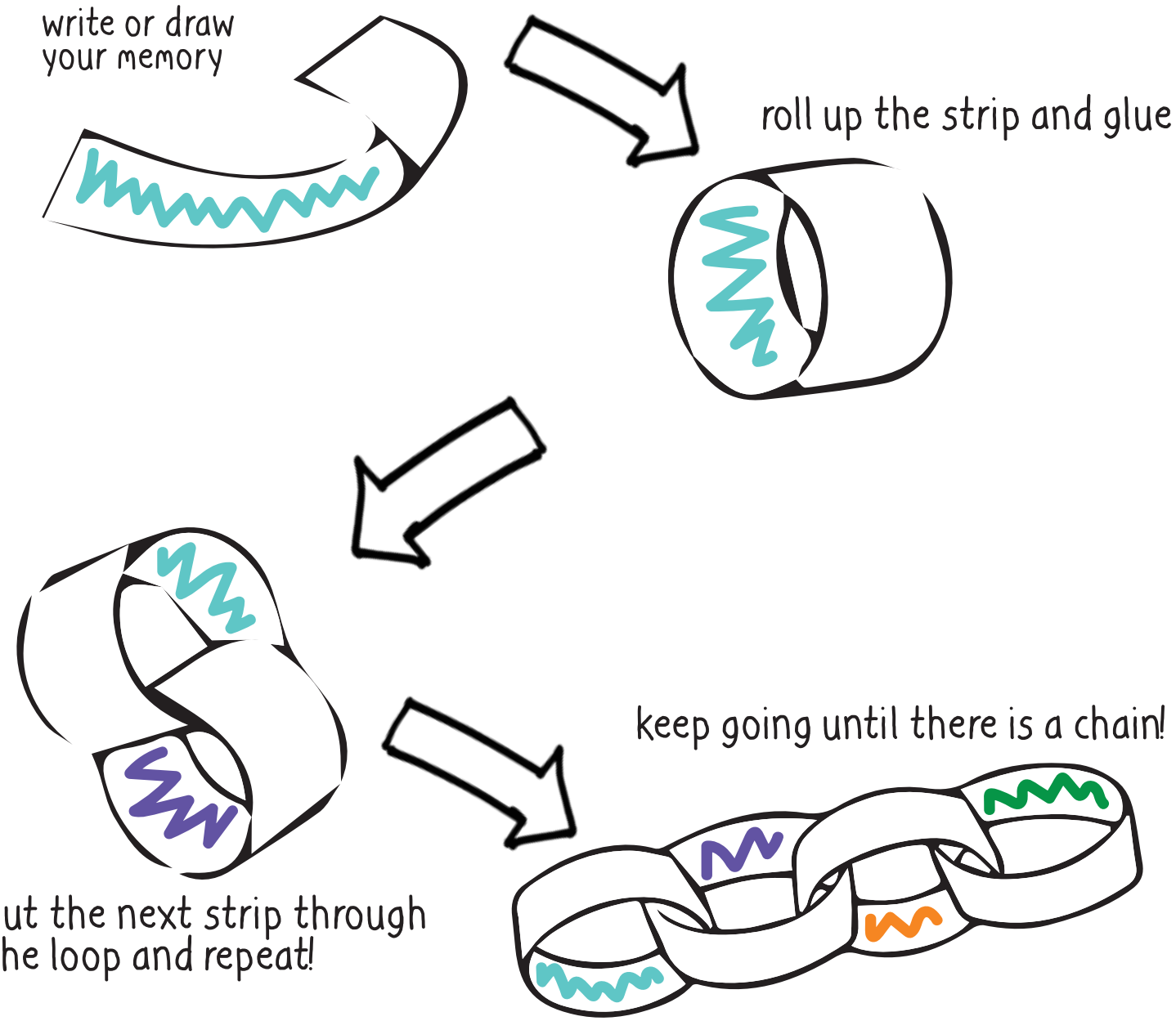
Once you've picked your person, write about them in the lines below. Who were they? Where did they come from? What did they accomplish? How do we remember them today?

Name: _____

CAMOUFLAGE MOM

COPING TIPS I:
BUILD A MEMORY CHAIN

Directions: Record special events or thoughts to share when the separated parent returns. Write down or draw a picture of each memory on a strip of construction paper, then link them together into a garland to hang on the wall.



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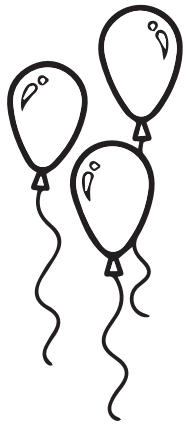


CAMOUFLAGE MOM

COPING TIPS II:
PLAN A HOMECOMING PARTY

Directions: To celebrate the big day of a loved one's return from deployment, it can be fun to throw a celebration. This can be as big or small as you want! Use the spaces below to help plan the details!

Who will be there?

Where will it be?

What will you do?

Will there be food/drinks?

Will there be decorations?

Any other details?

Name: _____

CAMOUFLAGE MOM
COUNTDOWN ACTIVITY

Directions: Print out a few copies of this page and designate one soldier for each day/week that your loved one will be gone. Color one of them in for each time increment that passes... when they're all colored in, they'll be home!

Name: _____

CAMOUFLAGE MOM
HERO DRAWING

Directions: Who is your personal hero? Maybe it's a loved one who is away on duty, or a fictional character that makes you feel brave. Whoever it is, draw them in the space below... be sure to include all the details that make them so heroic!

Name: _____

CAMOUFLAGE MOM
LETTER WRITING GUIDE

Directions: Use the guide below to help you write a letter to your loved one while they're away!

GREETING

Dear _____,

BODY 1

[Here is where you can write about whatever you'd like! Tell your loved one all the things that you would want to tell them if they were here with you right now. What did you do today? Who are your friends right now? What's the most exciting part of your week? Answering these kinds of questions can be a good starting place, but remember, this is just a guide! Use your letter to express yourself and say whatever it is that you want to say!]

BODY 2

[Use this section to ask your loved one questions about how their life is going. What kinds of things have they been doing? What have they been eating? What have they been seeing? Anything that you want to know about their life while they're away... be creative! Even though it's hard to have your loved one so far away, seeing other parts of the world can also be exciting, and they're sure to have some great stories!]

CLOSING

[Use this section to say any last things and close out your letter]

[Use your fanciest signature!] SIGNATURE

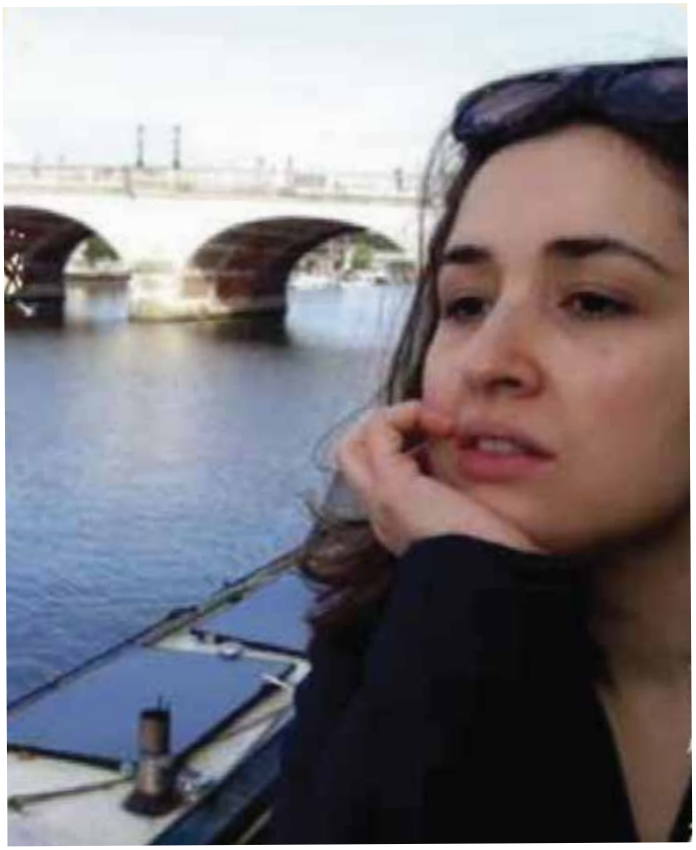
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

SARAH HOVORKA

Like many people, Sarah Hovorka wasn't sure what to do with her life. After obtaining a degree in anthropology, Sarah became a mom and homeschooler. When a major health crisis hit and left her disabled, Sarah resolved to pursue a closely guarded dream ... writing. Now Sarah is the published author of Hattie Hates Hugs (2022), Same Love, Different Hug (2023), Unicycle Dad (2024) as well as short stories. Sarah works in the public sector. She spends her free time reading and playing video and board games with her husband and three sons.
Find out more at **www.SarahHovorka.com**.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

ELIF BALTA PARKS



Elif Balta Parks is a cheese lover, hamster admirer, a chocolate connoisseur and prolific children's book illustrator. She grew up in Istanbul, Turkey. From a young age, she knew she wanted to be an artist. Elif strives for bright, cheerful illustrations that capture the joy of childhood. Since starting her professional career, she has illustrated more than 60 children's books. Elif lives in Shropshire, United Kingdom, with her husband, their cat, and Dean Martin (who is always singing from the stereo while she works).

TERMS OF USE

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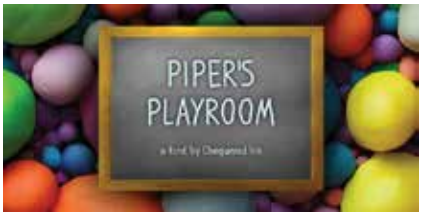

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