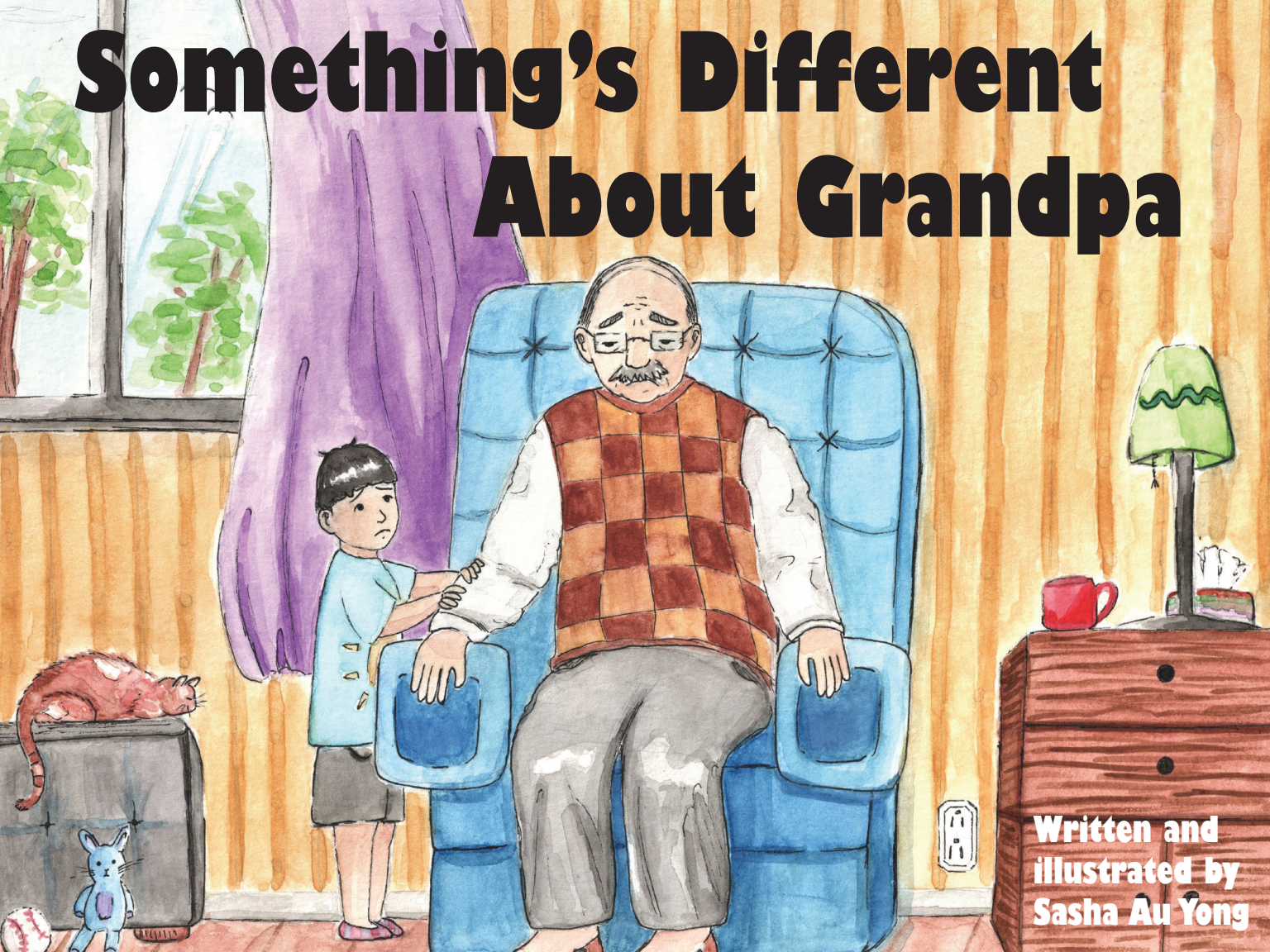


Something's Different About Grandpa



Written and
illustrated by
Sasha Au Yong

For Grandpa

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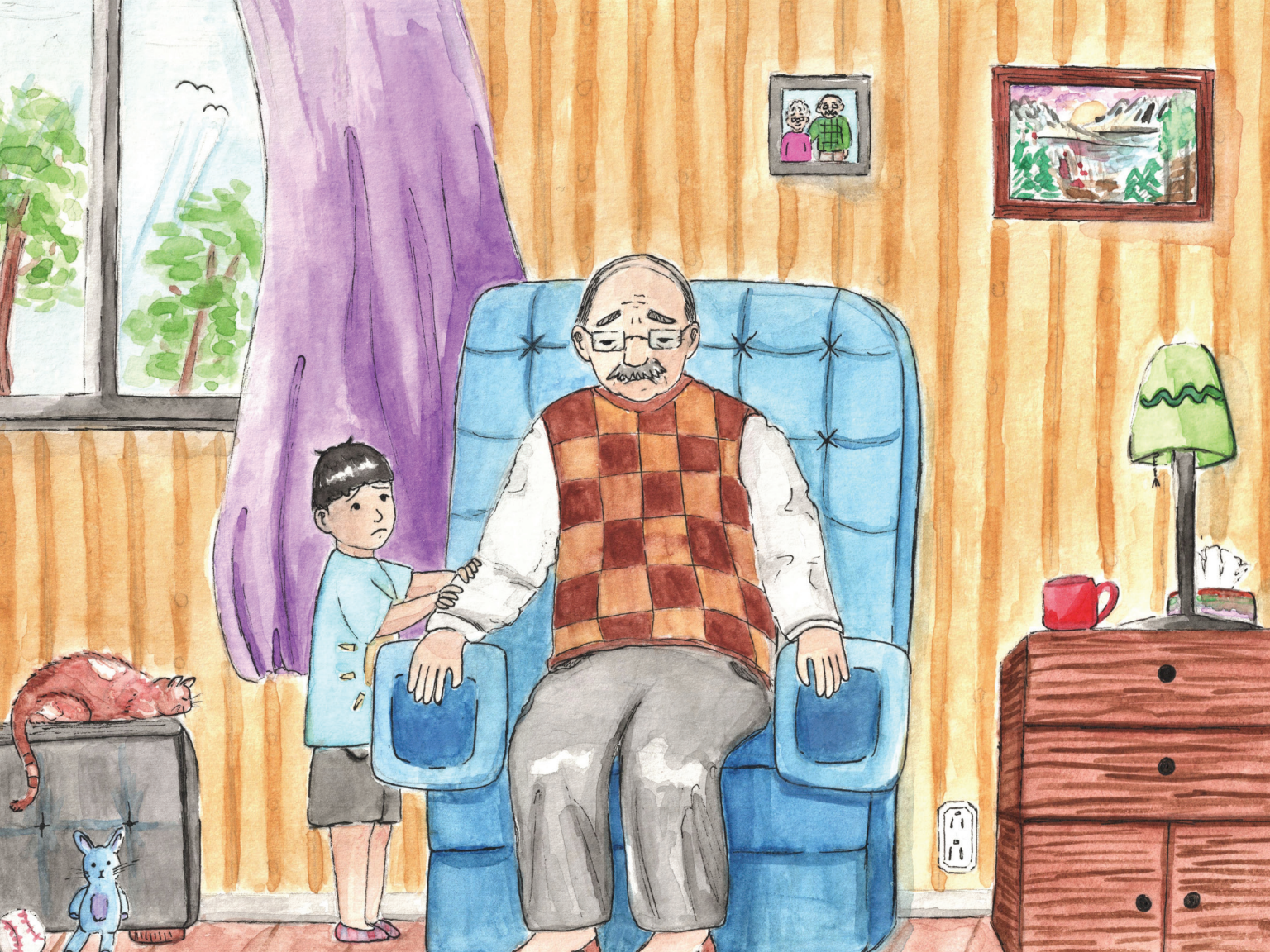
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Timmy loves his Grandpa, they always have fun together.
Going fishing, reading and playing board games, Grandpa loves
doing them all with Timmy.



One day, when Timmy visits Grandpa, he notices something is wrong. Grandpa looks very grumpy and doesn't want to play with Timmy.



At lunchtime, Timmy sees that Grandpa's hands are shaking and he has difficulty using his chopsticks. He isn't his usual cheery self and doesn't say much to Timmy.



Later, Timmy asks his parents, “What happened to Grandpa, is he alright?”

“Grandpa has been sick for a while now, he has something called Parkinson’s disease,” Timmy’s dad says.



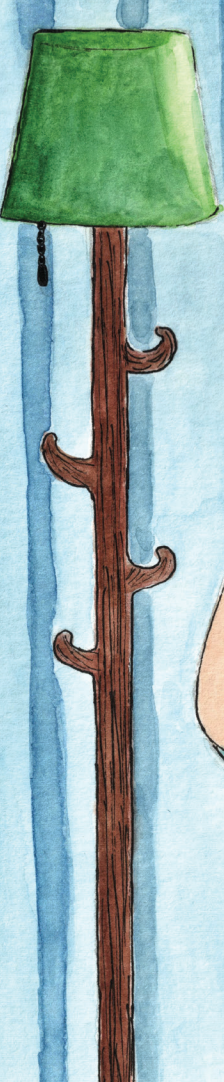
“What is Parkinson’s disease?” Timmy asks curiously.

“It’s a disease some older people get. It makes their hands shaky, their feet heavy, their balance uneven and their moods sometimes grumpy. That is why it is sometimes hard for Grandpa to properly control his body,” his parents explain.



“Is there any way he can stop his hands from shaking and control his body again?” Timmy asks hopefully.

“There is no cure for Parkinson’s disease right now,” his mom says, “but if Grandpa exercises everyday, takes his medicine, eats healthy foods and does something that makes him happy, he will feel better.”



Timmy really wants to help Grandpa.

“What could I do to make him feel better?” He thinks, “Perhaps there is a way to make Grandpa happier.”

Timmy is still scratching his head when he hears a commotion in the living room.

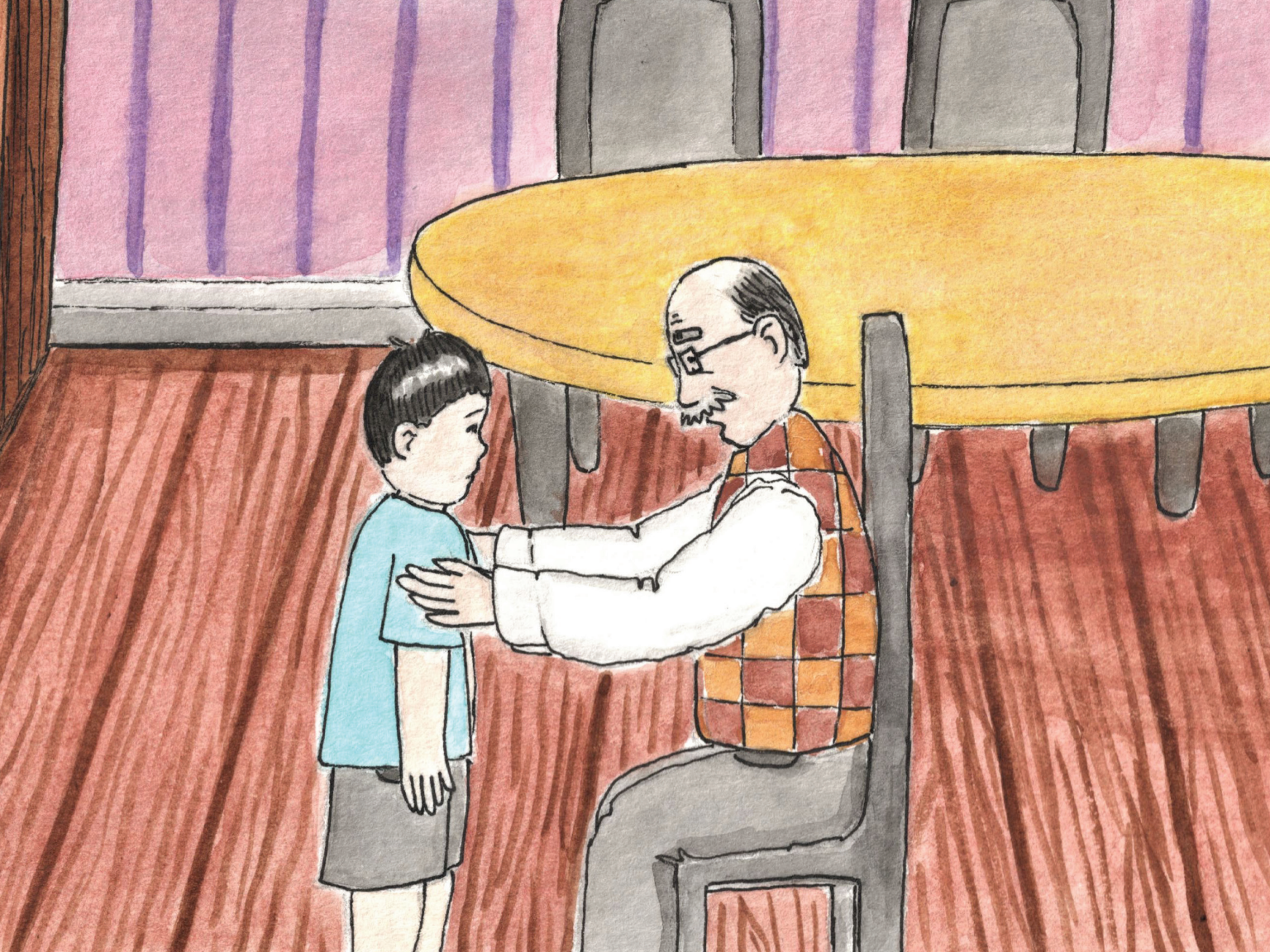


Grandpa is yelling at Timmy's dad, "I don't want to take the medicine! I am fine!!" he shouts, knocking the pills onto the ground.

Timmy is shocked. Grandpa has never acted like this before.



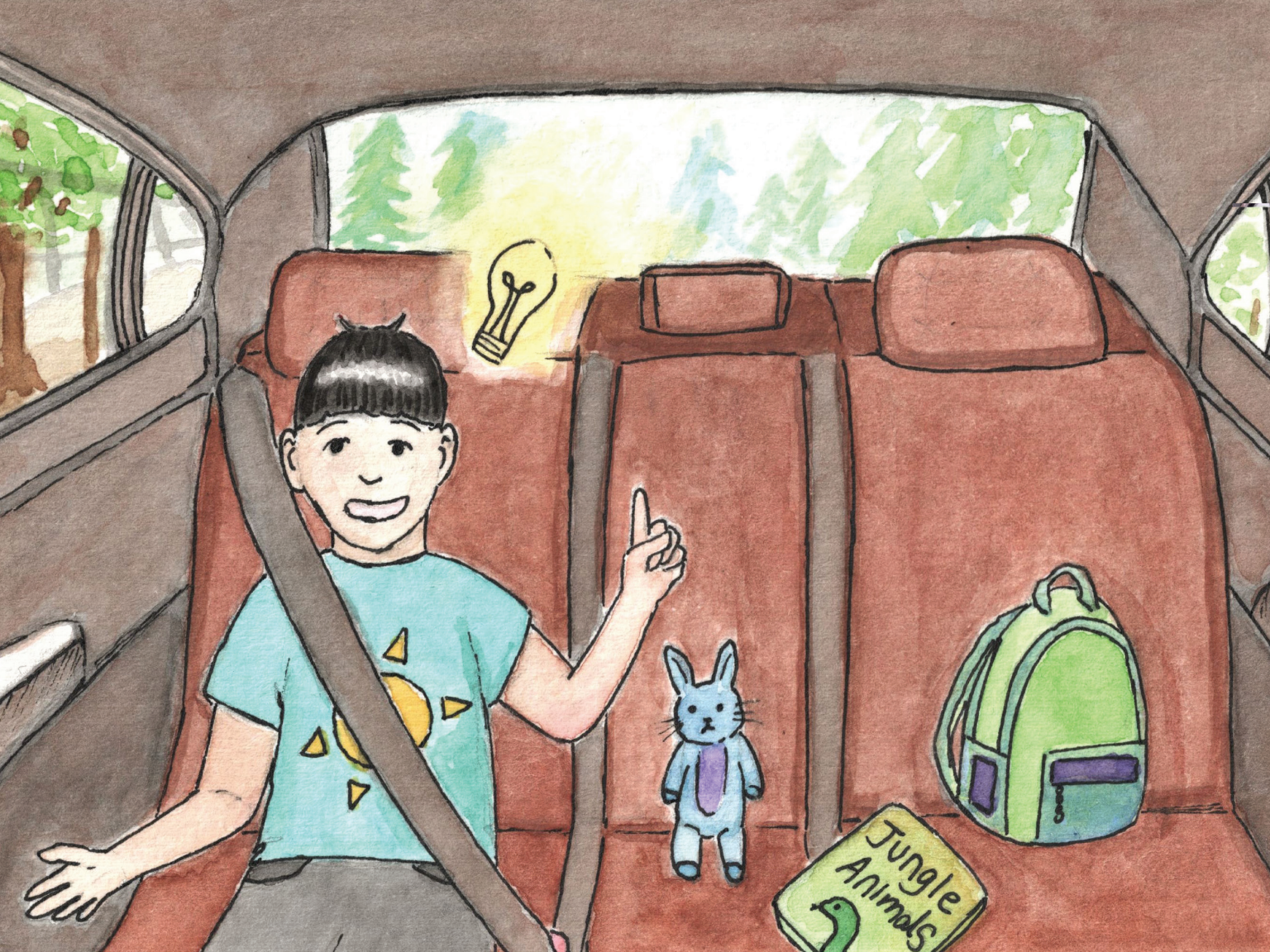
“What happened, Grandpa? I thought the medicine was to make you feel better,” Timmy says worriedly, hurrying to pick up the dropped medicine.



Grandpa kneels beside Timmy, looking very sad. "I'm sorry I lost my temper just now, there are times when even I feel angry and scared," he explains. "I hope you can forgive me for being grumpy."

"It's ok Grandpa," Timmy says.

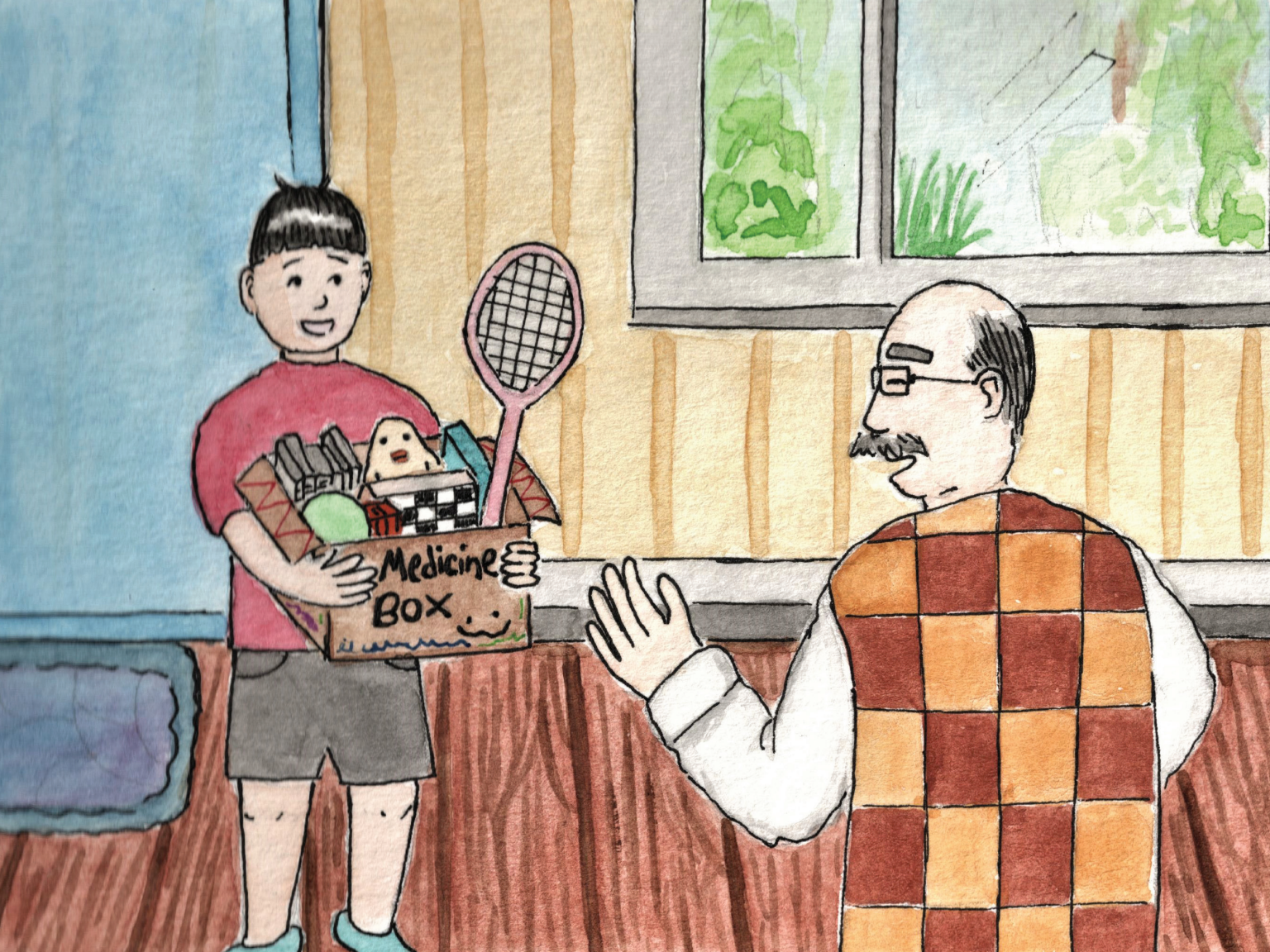
Timmy does not feel mad or scared, after all, Grandpa is still his favorite person in the whole world.



As Timmy goes home, he suddenly has a brilliant idea. “I know what I can do to make Grandpa feel better!” he shouts.



At home, Timmy immediately goes to work on his idea. He spends all night searching, drawing, cutting and mixing. At last he is ready to bring his new idea to Grandpa.



The next day, Timmy excitedly runs to show Grandpa what he has made. Timmy has put together a box of Grandpa's favorite things! There are board games, costumes, fishing gear, books, frisbee and balls.

"I call this Timmy's Medicine Box and I hope it turns your frown upside down," he says, grinning widely. "If you and I choose one thing from this box to do everyday, you will certainly get the exercise you need and feel a lot happier."



Grandpa's grumpy face changes into a smile. He picks Timmy up, twirling and laughing. "Thank you for caring and wanting me to feel better," he says. "You are the best grandson in the world."

Seeing Grandpa happy, Timmy also feels happy. He promises Grandpa that he will always be there when Grandpa is feeling sad, just like how Grandpa is always there for Timmy.



After that day, every time Timmy goes to visit Grandpa, he always has a fun surprise in his medicine box. Some days are for playing outside and others are for quiet time, but Grandpa always feels less grumpy when Timmy is by his side.



The End

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