

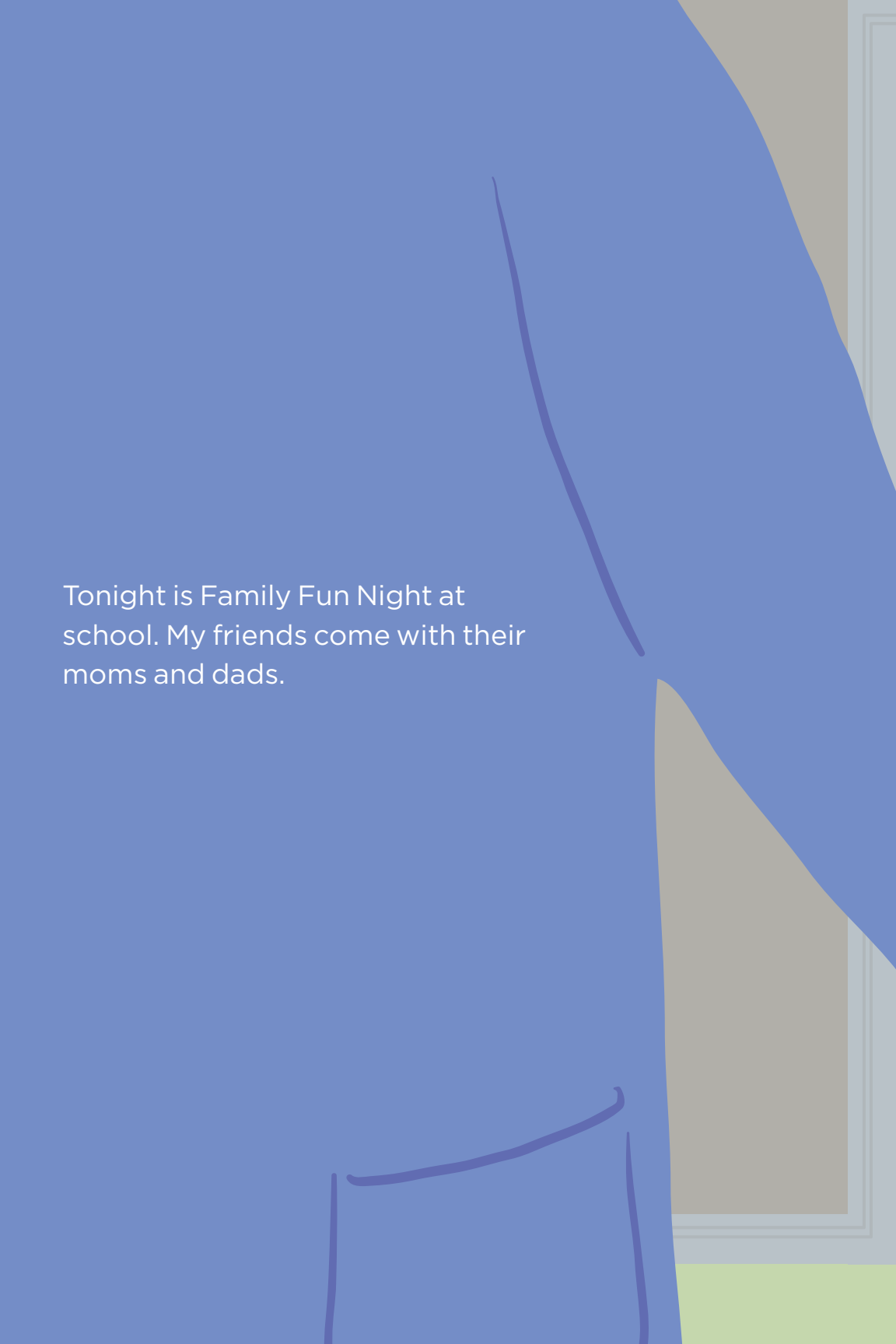


In My Family

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LITTLE children
BIG challenges: incarceration



Tonight is Family Fun Night at school. My friends come with their moms and dads.





I come with my Uncle George. “We’re going to have so much fun!” he says.

I want to have fun, but I miss my daddy. He’s in prison, so he can’t be here.





I take Uncle George around my classroom, and he meets all my friends. “Jada, your daddy is so tall,” says Rosita.

Suddenly I feel sad and angry. “This is not my daddy,” I whisper to her.



Then I run to the rug and make a hiding place with my arms. Family Fun Night is not so fun.



Uncle George sits next to me. “What’s wrong, Jada?” he asks.

Then my cheeks get hot, and I start to cry. “I miss my daddy,” I say. “I wish he were here.”

“It’s OK,” says Uncle George. “I cry sometimes, too, when I miss your daddy.”





Uncle George scoops me onto his lap. “It’s hard to be here without your daddy,” he says. “But you know what...?” Then he takes a picture out of his pocket.

“You have family with you.” In the picture, I see Uncle George, my Aunt Denise, and me.





Uncle George puts the picture in my hand. “Keep it in your pocket so you always remember we love you, and we’re here for you.”

I smile a little because that’s a happy thing to remember.

Then Rosita comes over. “Are you OK?” she asks.

“I’m feeling better now,” I say. I grab Uncle George’s hand.
“This is my Uncle George. He’s in my family.”

“¡Hola!” says Rosita to him. Then she asks me, “Do you and Uncle George want to come and play?”

“Yeah!” I say.





We play pilots
and build
with blocks.



Then we go to the table, and I draw a picture to send to Daddy.



I still miss my daddy,
but I know I'll always
have people who
love me.

