



Jamie & Bubbie

A Book About People's Pronouns

free spirit
PUBLISHING®

Afsaneh Moradian

Illustrated by Maria Bogade

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For my grandmother

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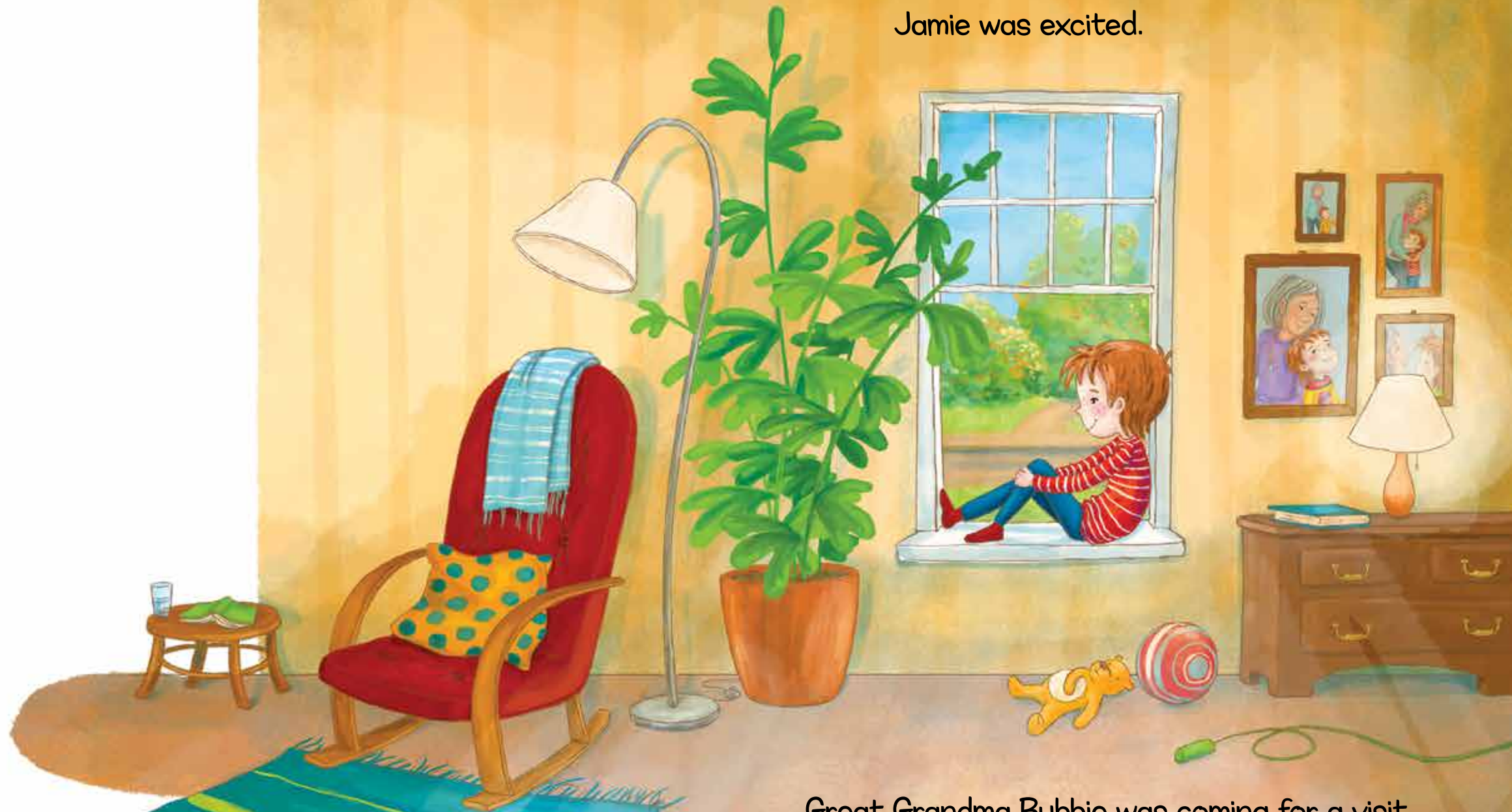
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Jamie was excited.



Great Grandma Bubbie was coming for a visit.



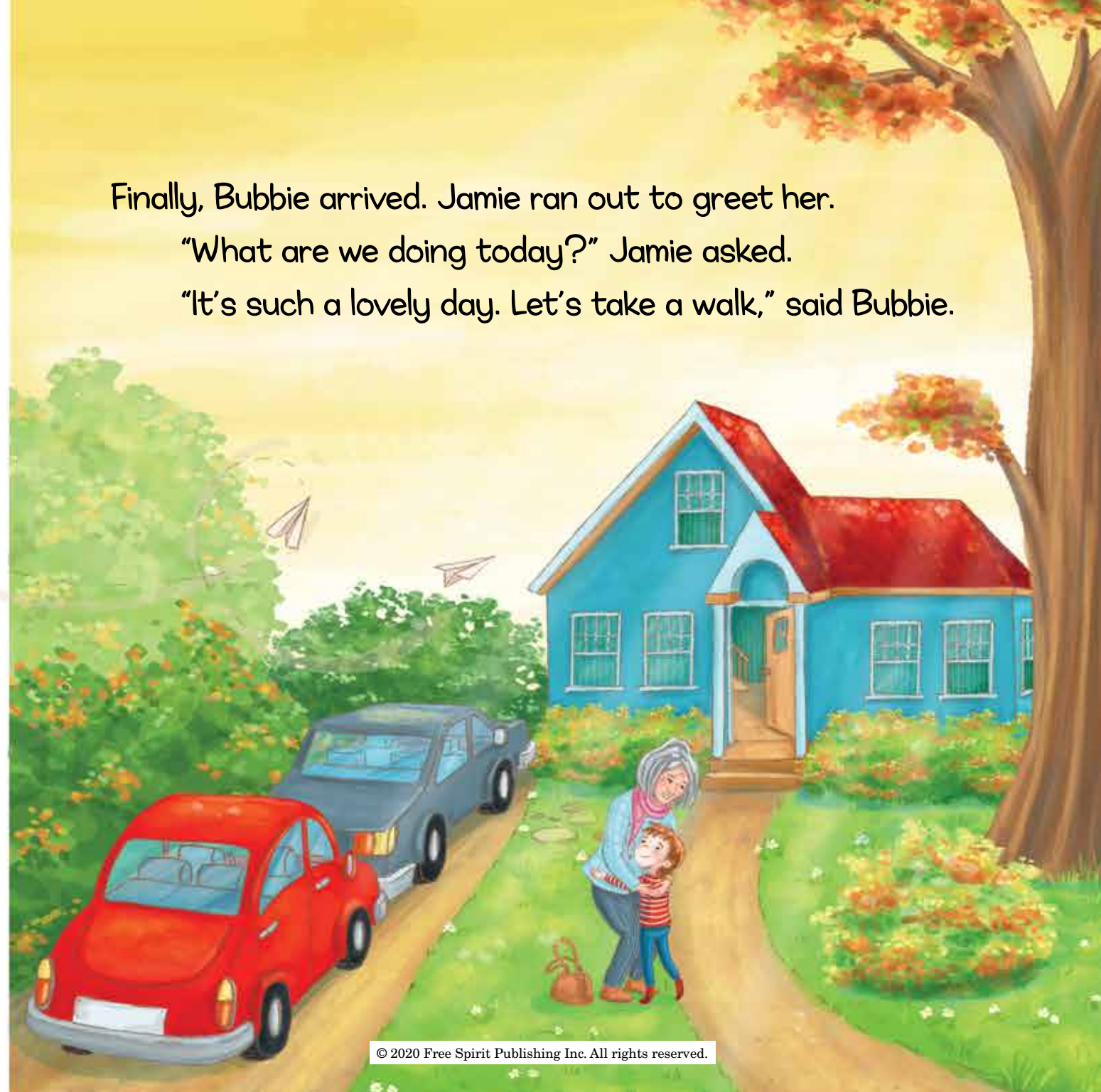
They always had fun adventures.
Jamie couldn't wait.



Finally, Bubbie arrived. Jamie ran out to greet her.

"What are we doing today?" Jamie asked.

"It's such a lovely day. Let's take a walk," said Bubbie.



Tips for Teachers, Parents, and Caregivers

Pronouns are personal—individual to each of us—and can change over time. We use pronouns when we talk about a person, and they are often tied to the person’s gender. But no one has to use a gender pronoun simply because it matches the gender they were assigned at birth. Our pronouns can be an extension of our gender identity (our internal feeling of being male, female, both, or neither), but they are also about more than gender. They are a reflection and an extension of who we are in the world at this moment. It is important to always use the pronouns each person goes by because doing so:

- shows respect for and validates people
- lets people know that who they are is not based on how they look, dress, play, talk, or act
- celebrates and gives space to everyone

Using the correct pronouns people go by is equal to using the names or nicknames they request. Refusing to use someone’s pronouns or assigning them different ones is harassing and offensive. It sends a message to the person, and those around them, that there is something wrong with the person. When we use the pronouns people would like us to use, we are expressing support of who they are.



A Note About the Pronouns in This Book

This book focuses on the pronouns *he*, *she*, and *they* (singular) since those are most commonly used, but there are many other pronouns in use. Some people choose to use *ze* and *hir* as gender-neutral pronouns, and other pronouns will be added to our language in the future.

Talking with Children About Pronouns

It’s important to help children express themselves and their ideas about gender. Guiding them in sharing their pronouns is not the same as assigning them a pronoun. The more open-minded you are, the more confident children will feel in sharing their pronouns.

Creating a gender-inclusive classroom culture is key to creating an open and safe environment for children to share their pronouns. Here are a few ways to do that:

- Ask children to share their name and pronouns with the group. Start this off yourself. Say, “My name is _____ and I go by _____ pronouns.” Once all children have shared, create a visual display of names and pronouns. This helps support children who are gender nonconforming.
- Use gender-neutral language for animals, insects, and inanimate objects, such as toys.
- When reading books, use a variety of pronouns to discuss the illustrations. Using the singular *they* for characters and explaining why helps children learn that they don’t have to assign a female or male pronoun to everyone—it’s better to use *they* than to assume someone’s gender.
- Read books to the class where students can see pronouns connected to characters or real people who are transgender, gender nonconforming, agender, and so on.

