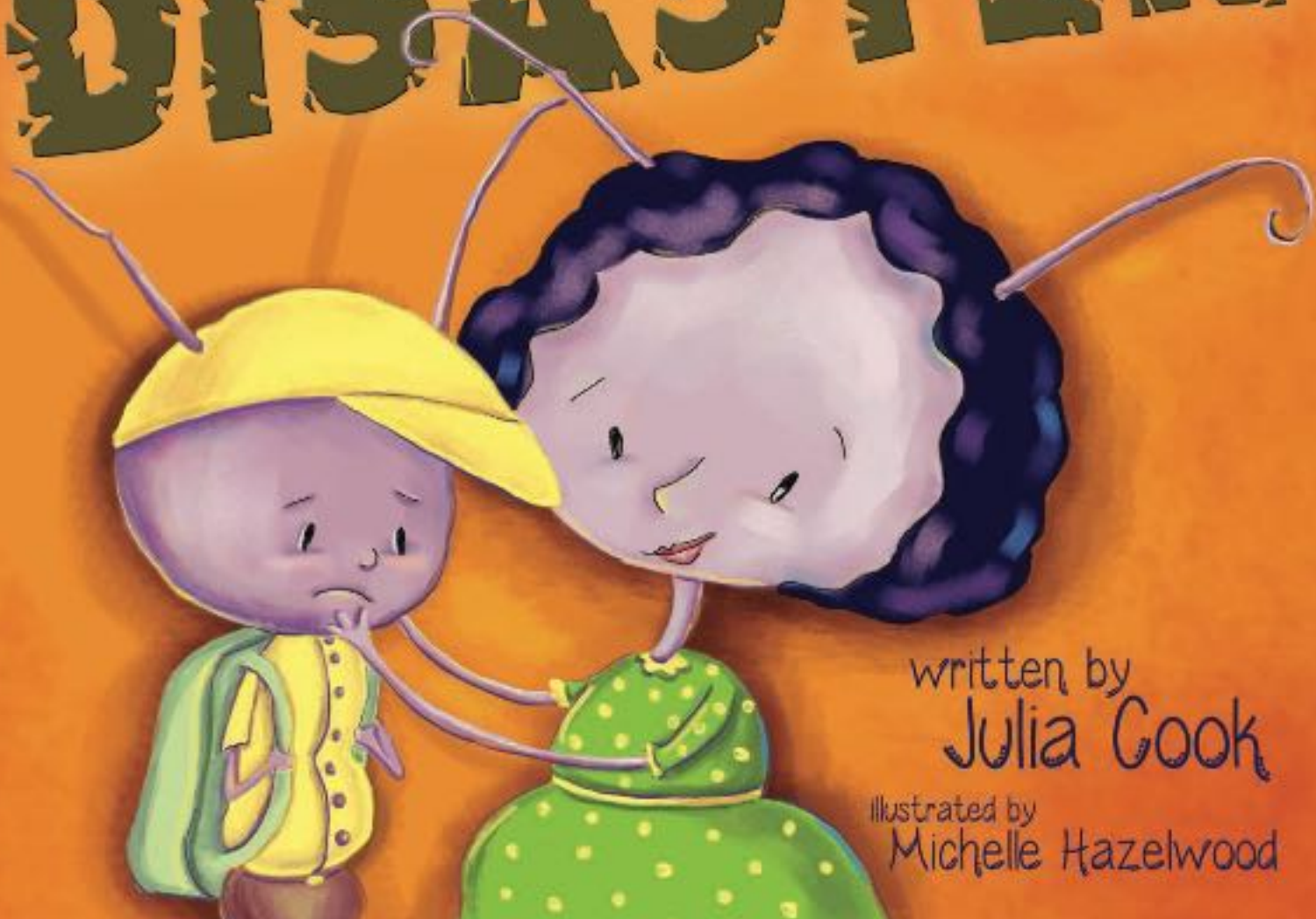


The Ant Hill DISASTER



written by
Julia Cook

illustrated by
Michelle Hazelwood

It's almost time for school,
but I don't want to go.

I'm afraid.

I go to the school
up on the hill.

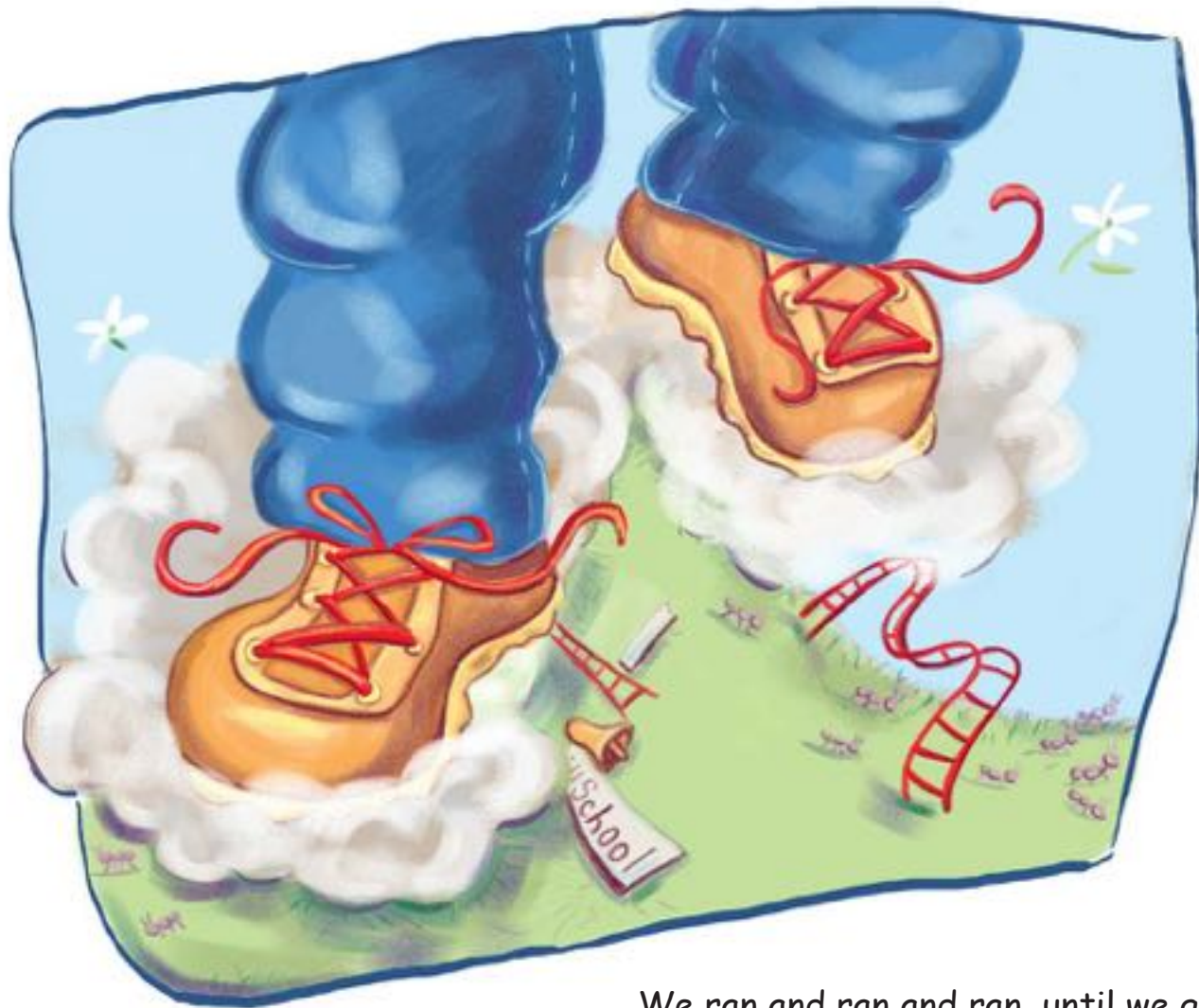
It's for ants.



That's why they call it,
"The Ant Hill School."

But now it's ruined.

A few weeks ago, a human wearing waffle stomper boots stomped all over the Ant Hill School until he made it flat. It was a disaster!



We ran and ran and ran, until we got to the great big tree that's two blocks away, and then we stopped.

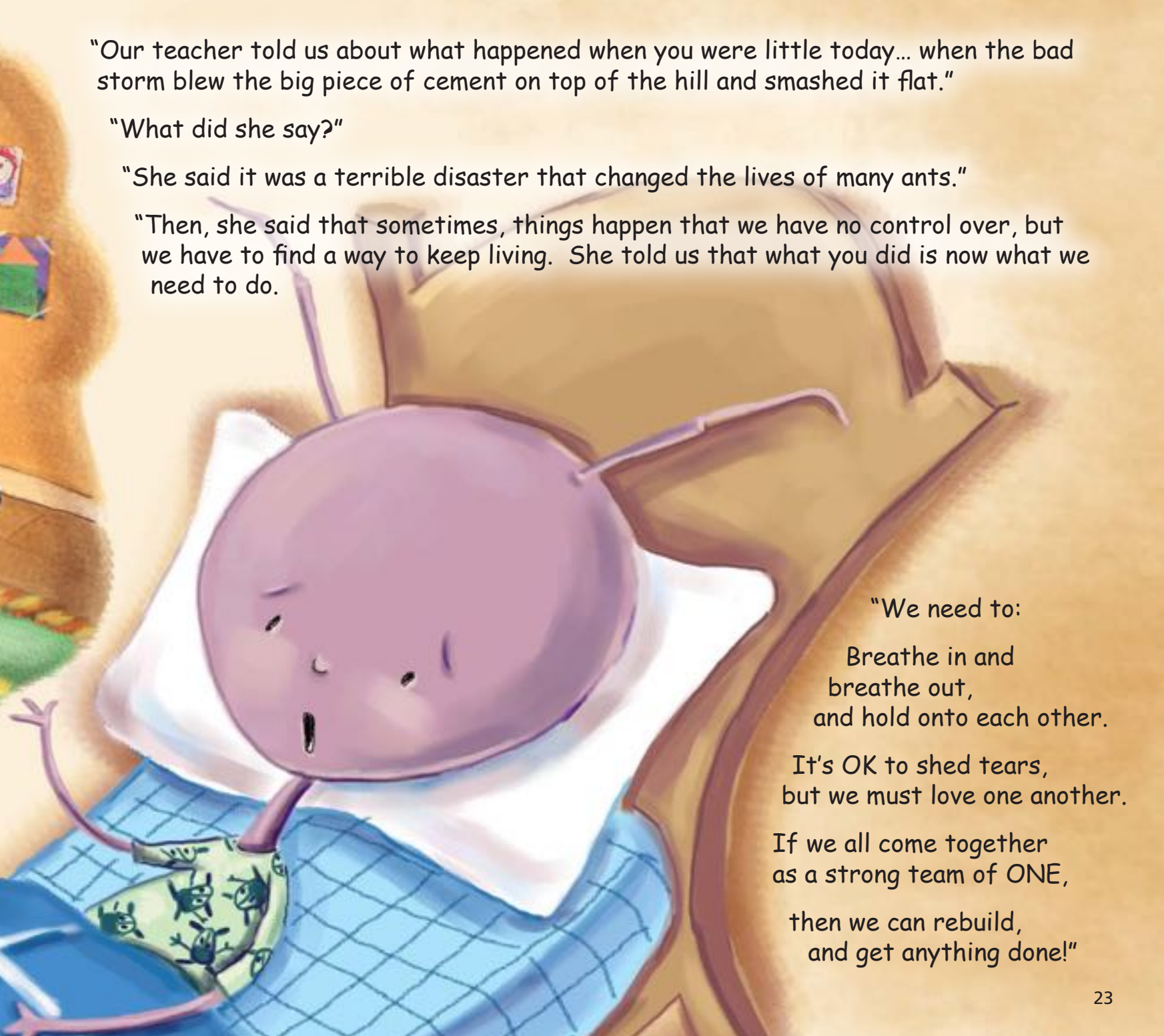
"You may feel scared or guilty or sad.

You may feel empty or anxious or mad.

There isn't a right or wrong way to feel.

What happened to us is painful and real."





"Our teacher told us about what happened when you were little today... when the bad storm blew the big piece of cement on top of the hill and smashed it flat."

"What did she say?"

"She said it was a terrible disaster that changed the lives of many ants."

"Then, she said that sometimes, things happen that we have no control over, but we have to find a way to keep living. She told us that what you did is now what we need to do."

"We need to:

Breathe in and
breathe out,
and hold onto each other.

It's OK to shed tears,
but we must love one another.

If we all come together
as a strong team of ONE,

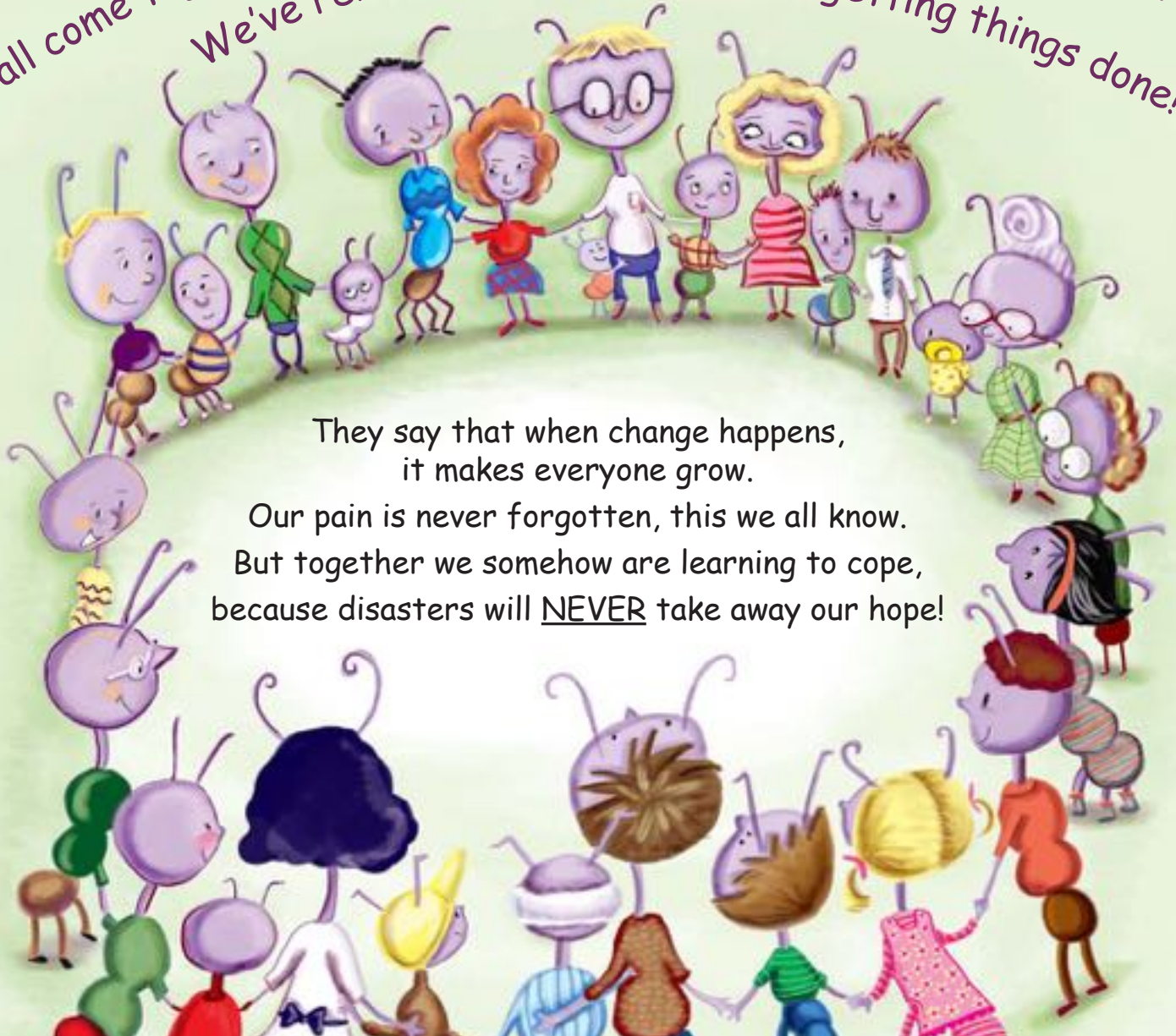
then we can rebuild,
and get anything done!"

"We breathe in and breathe out, we hold onto each other.

We shed a lot of tears, and we love one another.

We've all come together as a strong team of **ONE**.

We've rebuilt our lives, and we're getting things done!



They say that when change happens,
it makes everyone grow.

Our pain is never forgotten, this we all know.
But together we somehow are learning to cope,
because disasters will NEVER take away our hope!

Will it happen again, Mama?

After the Ant Hill School is destroyed, a little boy ant is afraid to go back to school. His mom caringly explains to him that sometimes things happen in life over which we have no control, but we have to find a way to keep living and growing. To do that,

"We breathe in and breathe out, and hold onto each other. We shed a lot of tears, and we love one another. We all come together as a strong team of ONE, and then we rebuild, and get things done!"

The Ant Hill Disaster thoughtfully addresses fears associated with both natural and man-caused disasters. It models effective parenting and teaching responses.

This book can help assure children that through love, empathetic understanding, preparation, and effective communication, they can stand strong, even in the midst of uncontrollable events.



"The Ant Hill Disaster" addresses the difficult task of talking to children about natural and man-caused disasters. With violent events happening in our world today, parents and educators are often at a loss of knowing what to say and how to say it. Julia has managed to effectively address this issue of moving forward when things happen that are out of our control. As much as we wish to shelter our children from knowing about these tragic events, they are a part of our reality and need to be addressed.

Greg Crane

Founder/President of ALICE Training Institute
(Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate)

This is a book that I would have read in my second grade classroom, a book that I have shared with my daughters in the wake of our tragedy. Though tragedy and loss leave us broken hearted, as "The Ant Hill Disaster" reveals, "together we are strong."

Michele Gay

Mother of Josephine Gay, Sandy Hook Angel
Co-Founder of Safe and Sound: A Sandy Hook Initiative



Julia Cook M.S. is a national award winning children's author, counselor and parenting expert. She has presented in over 800 schools across the country, regularly delivers keynote addresses at national education and counseling conferences, and has 41 published children's books. The goal behind all of Julia's books and efforts is to actively involve young people into her fun and creative stories and teach them to become life-long problem solvers. Inspirations for her books come from working with children and carefully listening to parents and teachers.



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