

## A Story About Having the Courage to DREAM BIG

In *Songbird*, author Jenn Larson encourages kids to believe in their dreams—even when no one else does. With delightful illustrations and an inspiring message, this book shows kids what it looks like to set a goal and work hard to reach it.

While most birds dream of being seed gatherers or nest builders, Sydney Sparrow has a dream that is a little bit out of the ordinary. She wants to be a great conductor with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra! But when the other birds start questioning her dream, Sydney wonders if she has set her sights too high.

With a little courage and determination—and a whole lot of practice—Sydney Sparrow turns her dream into a reality. And when she does, it's truly music to everyone's ears!

**JENN LARSON** is the middle child and only daughter of two former school teachers. She has a Bachelor's in



Psychology and a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction, and over 20 years experience as an elementary school teacher. She shares teaching ideas and activities for busy teachers and resources for upper elementary students as The Teacher Next Door ([www.the-teacher-next-door.com](http://www.the-teacher-next-door.com)). Jenn is also a mom of two kids and three rescue cats.

As an author, Jenn hopes to inspire children to have a love of learning and a passion for reading. She is excited to share her work with you!

**POLONA LOVŠIN** grew up on her grandparents' farm in Slovenia. Her dad gave her colored pencils and paints as a child, and she went on to study at the Academy of Fine Arts in Ljubljana, Slovenia, before beginning her career as an illustrator.

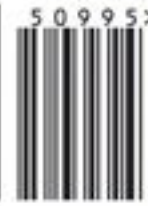


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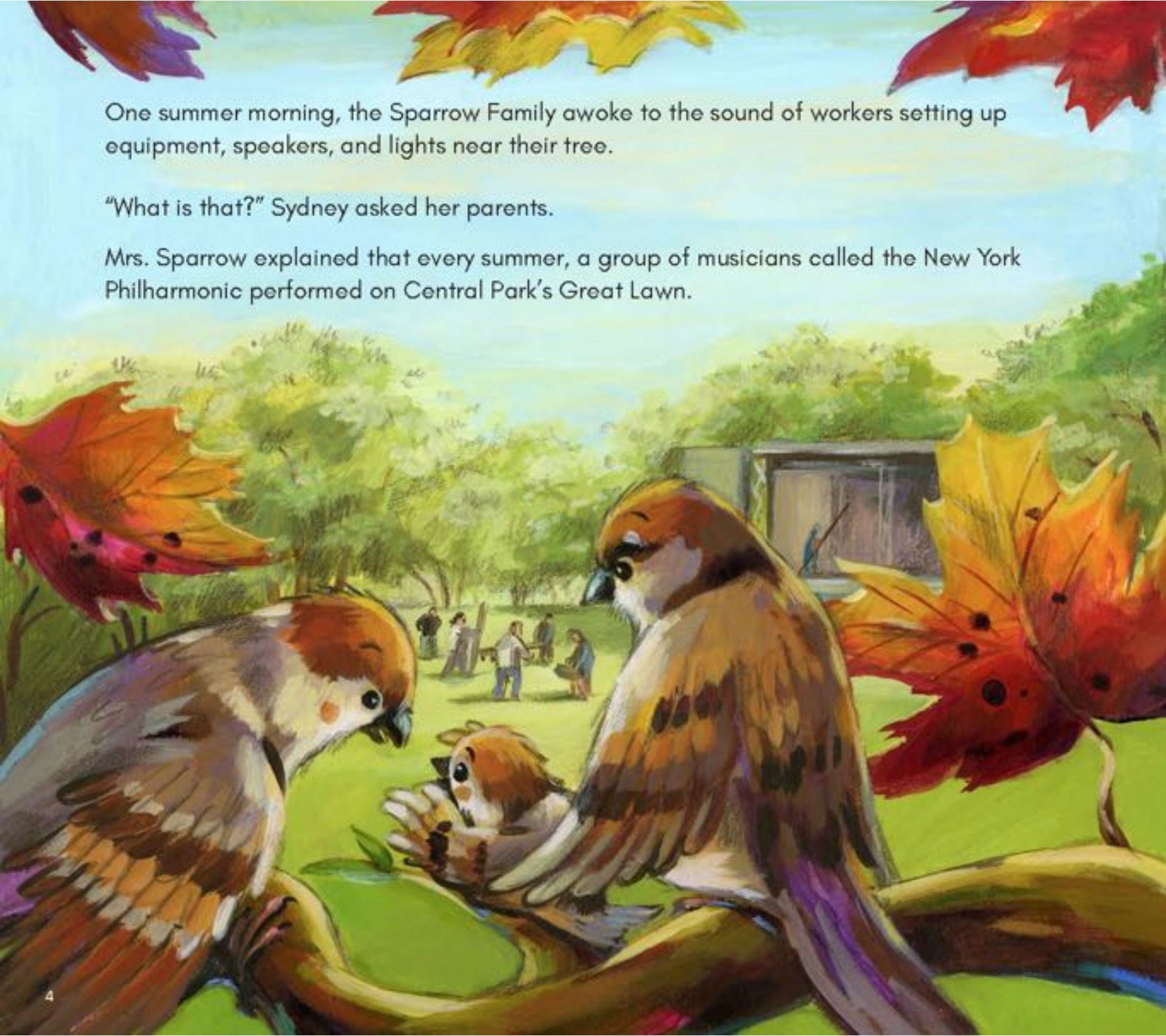
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An illustration of a Sparrow family in a park. In the foreground, two adult sparrows, a male and a female, are perched on a branch. The male has a reddish-brown head and a white breast with brown spots. The female has a more muted brown and white pattern. They are looking towards a small, fluffy chick perched on the branch between them. In the background, a grassy park area is visible with several people walking and a wooden structure. The sky is light blue, and large, vibrant autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow are scattered around the scene.

One summer morning, the Sparrow Family awoke to the sound of workers setting up equipment, speakers, and lights near their tree.

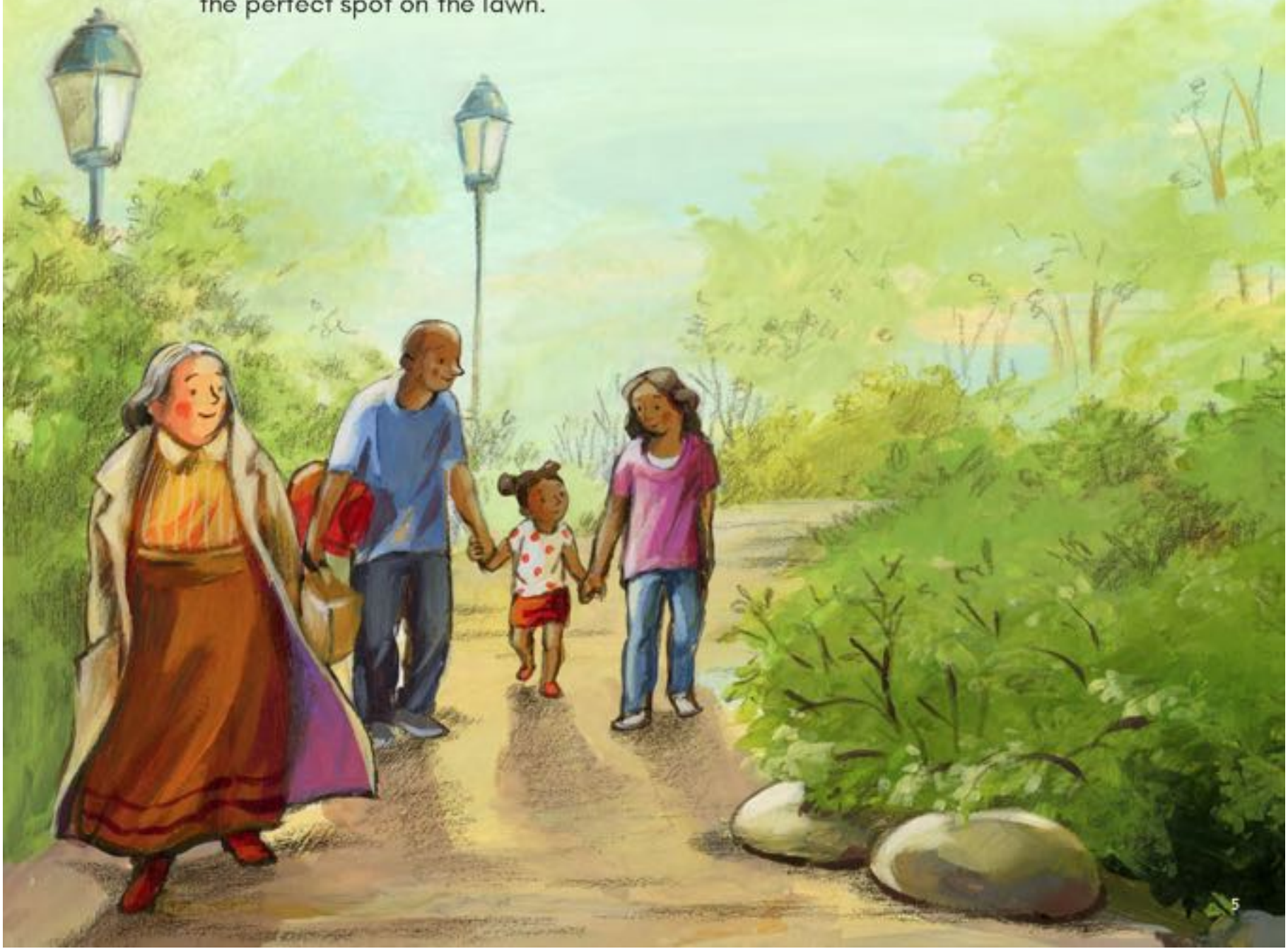
“What is that?” Sydney asked her parents.

Mrs. Sparrow explained that every summer, a group of musicians called the New York Philharmonic performed on Central Park’s Great Lawn.



By evening, thousands of people had made their way to Central Park to hear the symphony play.

Men, women, and children carried blankets and picnic baskets, looking for the perfect spot on the lawn.





Sydney watched from the edge of the nest in amazement.

She had never heard such beautiful sounds before.

