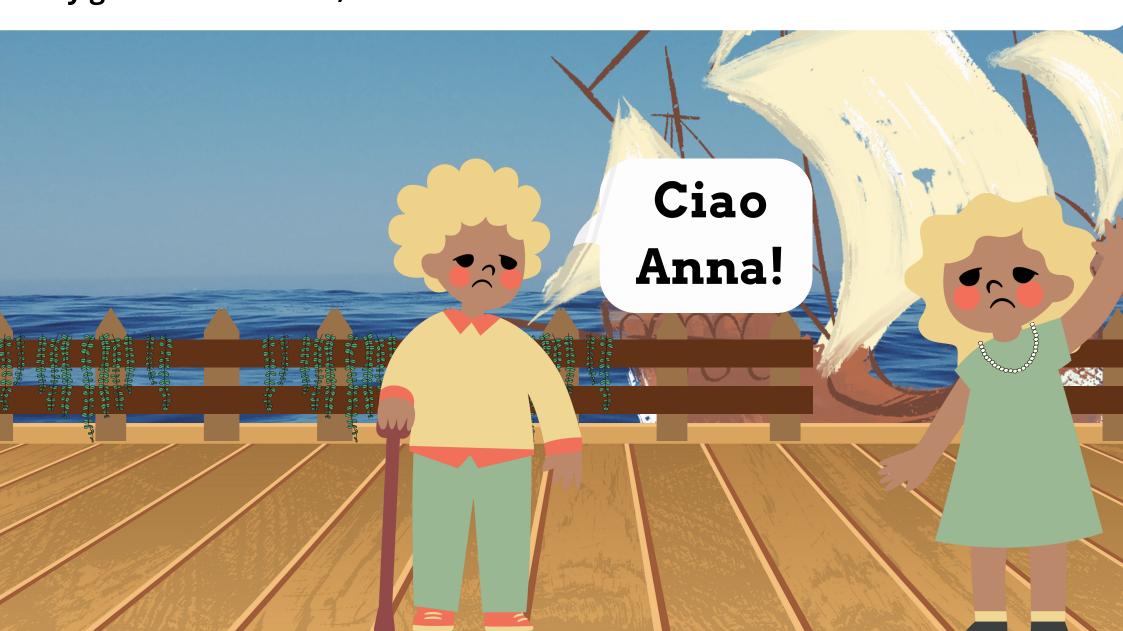
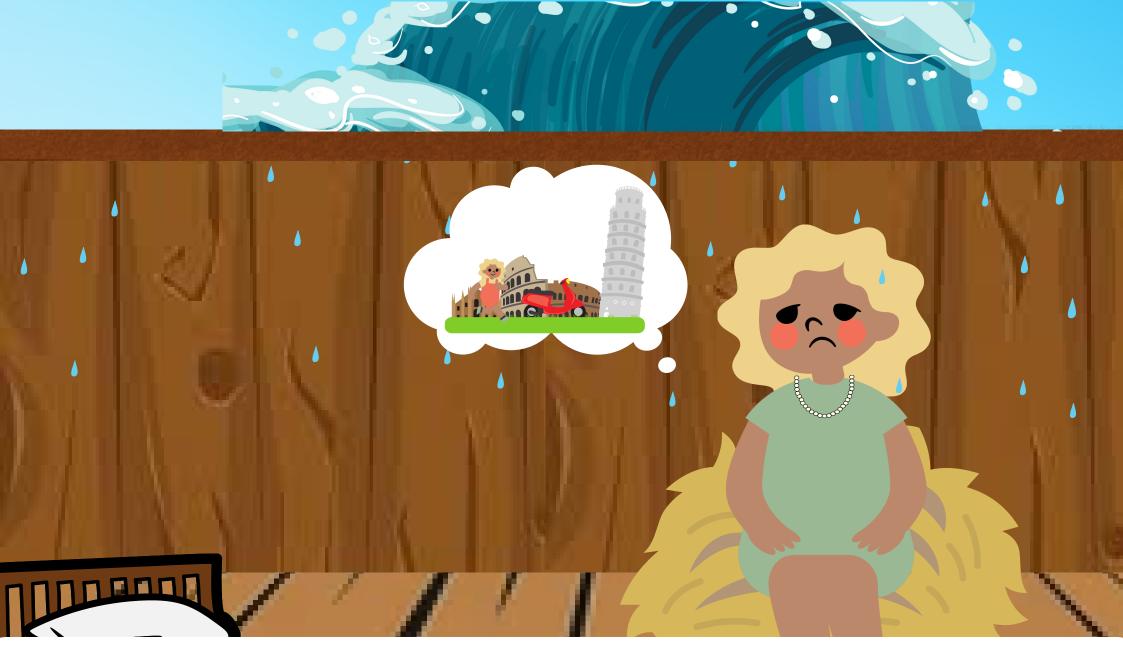




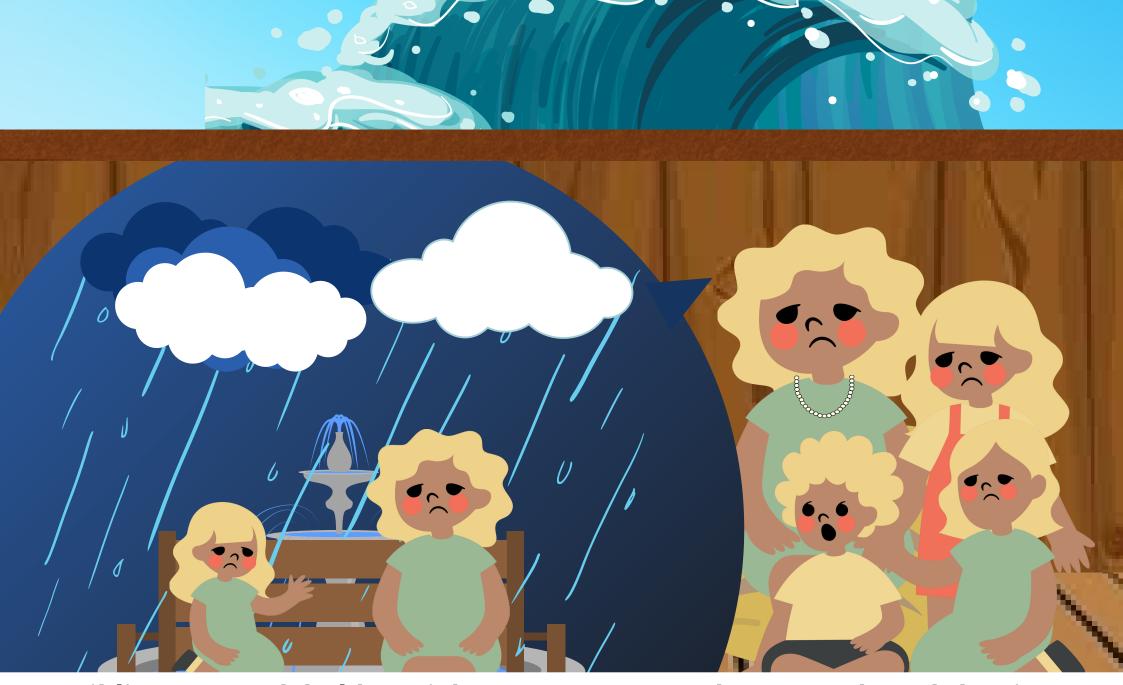


Anna waited at the dock, knowing very little English. Leaving her home country was hard but she knew it was for the best. Anna came on a crowded, old boat, going out to sea. The ride was steady but the deeper they got into the ocean, the scarier it was.

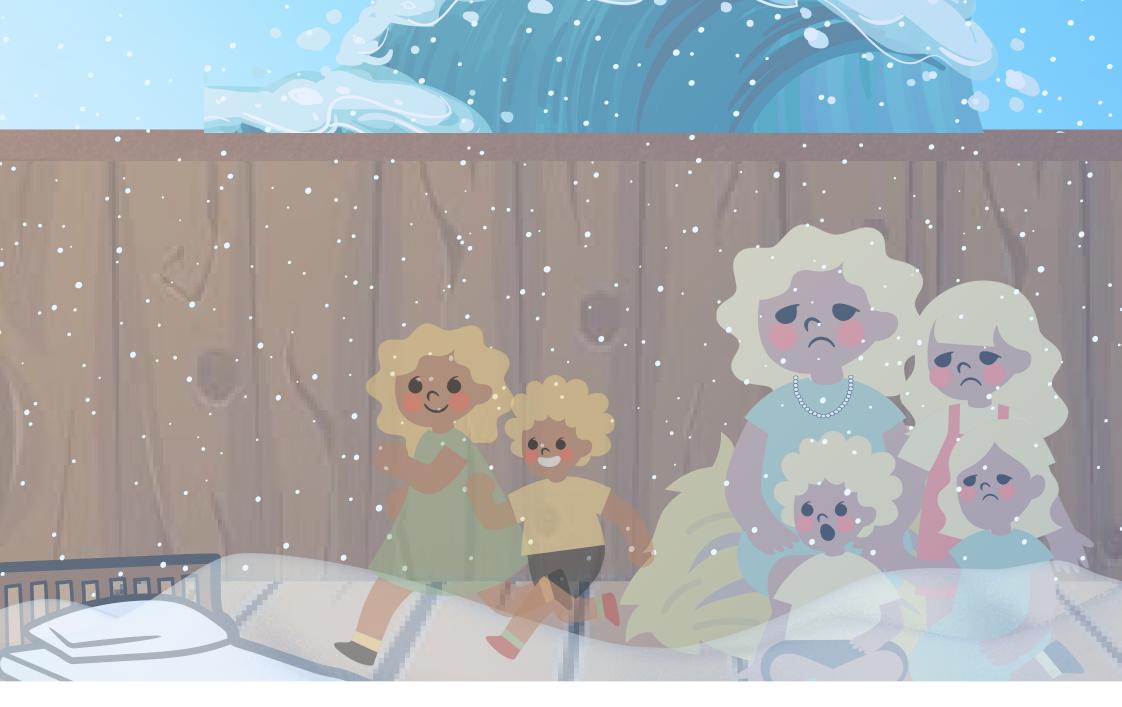




As the water crashed against the boat, the memories of her life in Italy came flooding back. The rain was strong and fierce. Although Anna was under cover, the small rain drops still got her.

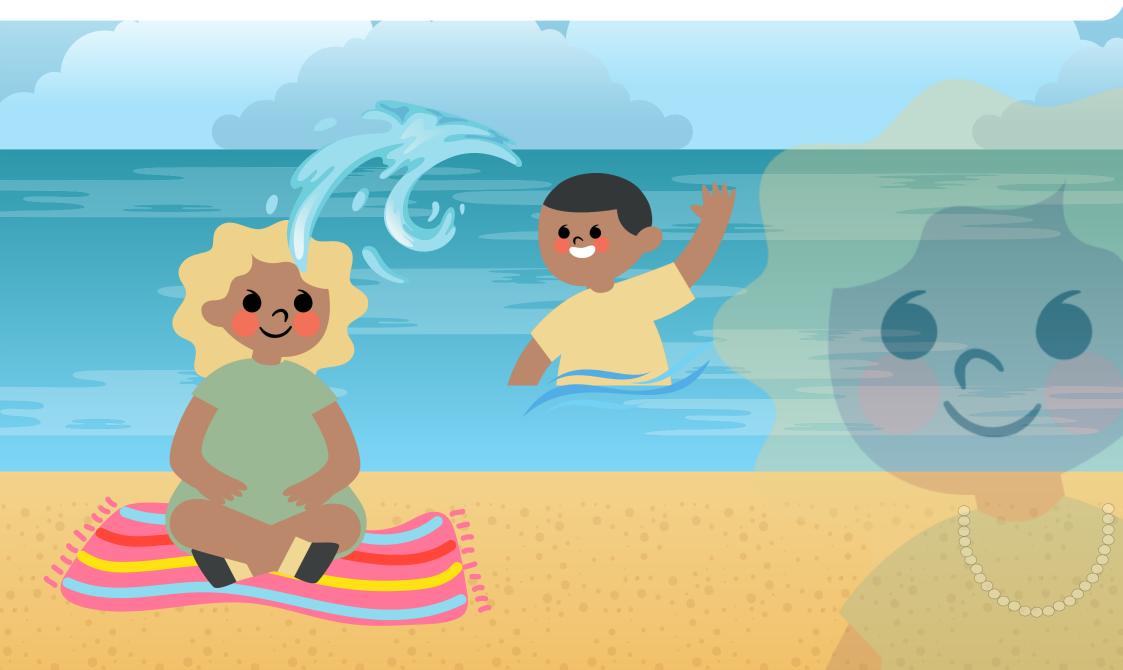


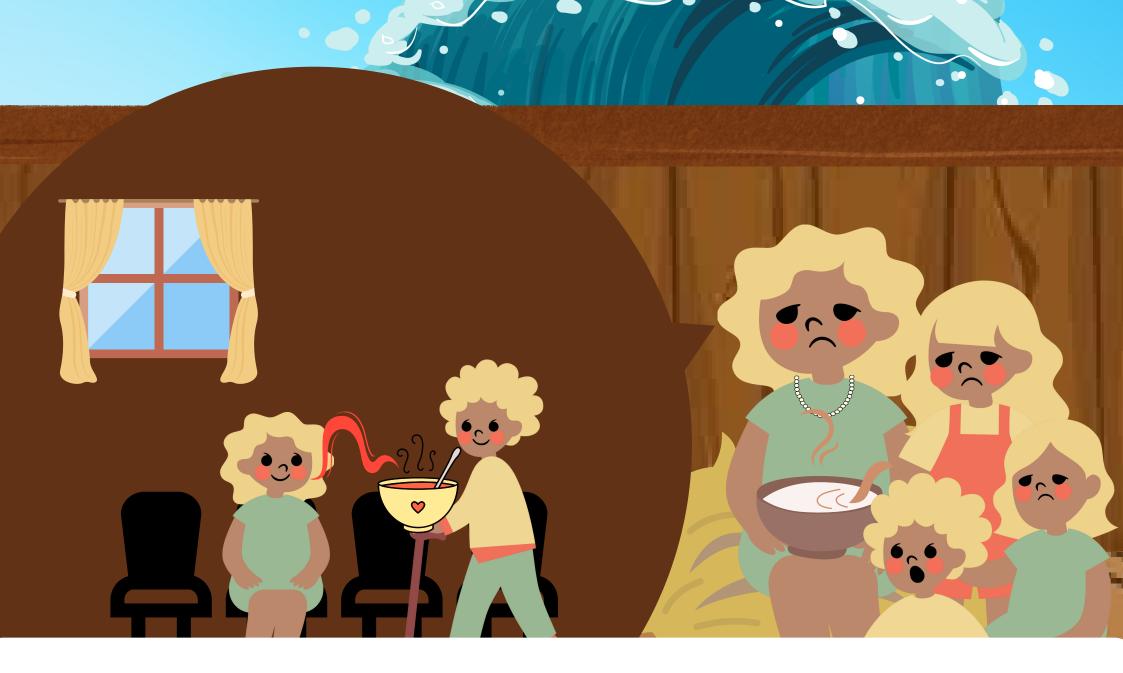
Her siblings, scared, held on tight to Anna's arm. She remembered the times when her siblings would clutch on her arms during the cold winter nights. She felt her eyes fill with tears.



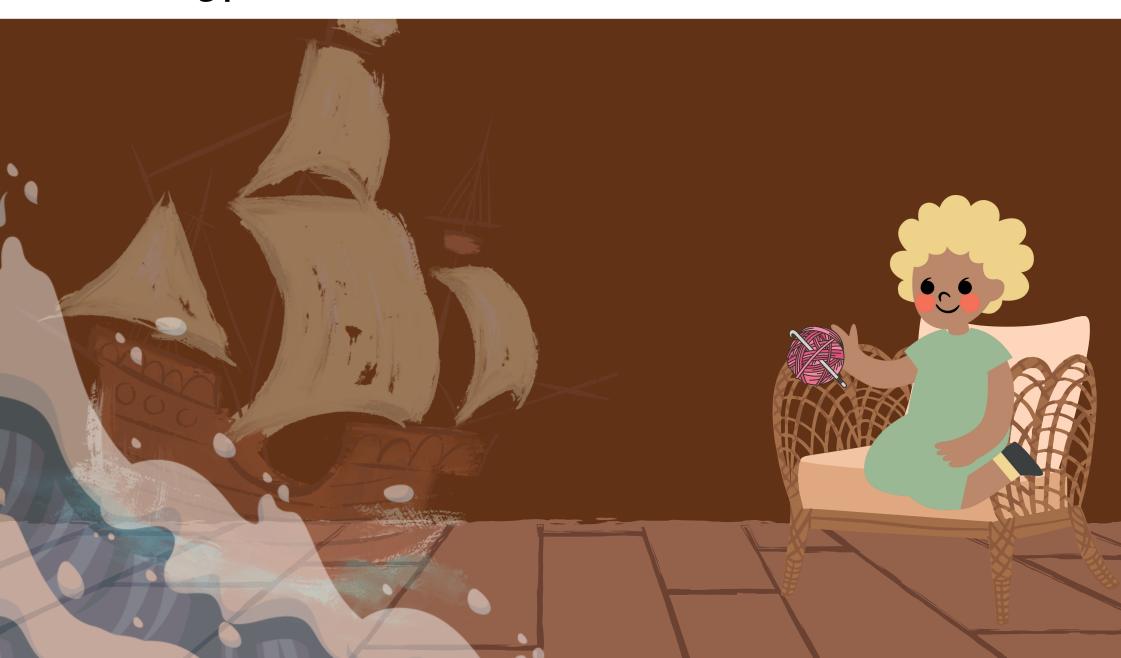
Anna felt the cold breeze against her cheeks as she ran with her brother on the cold snow.

She smiled as the raindrops hit her, bringing back visions of the days with Aldo on the beach. The children laughing and swimming in the cold, icy water. Aldo splashed Anna with water, encouraging her to come in.

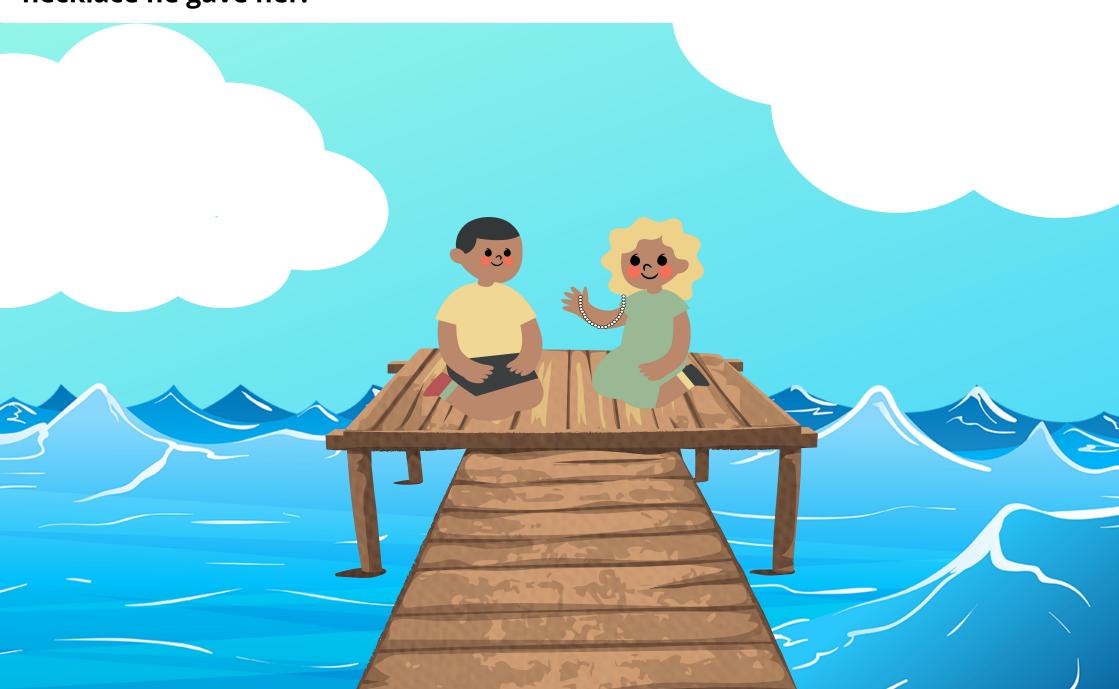




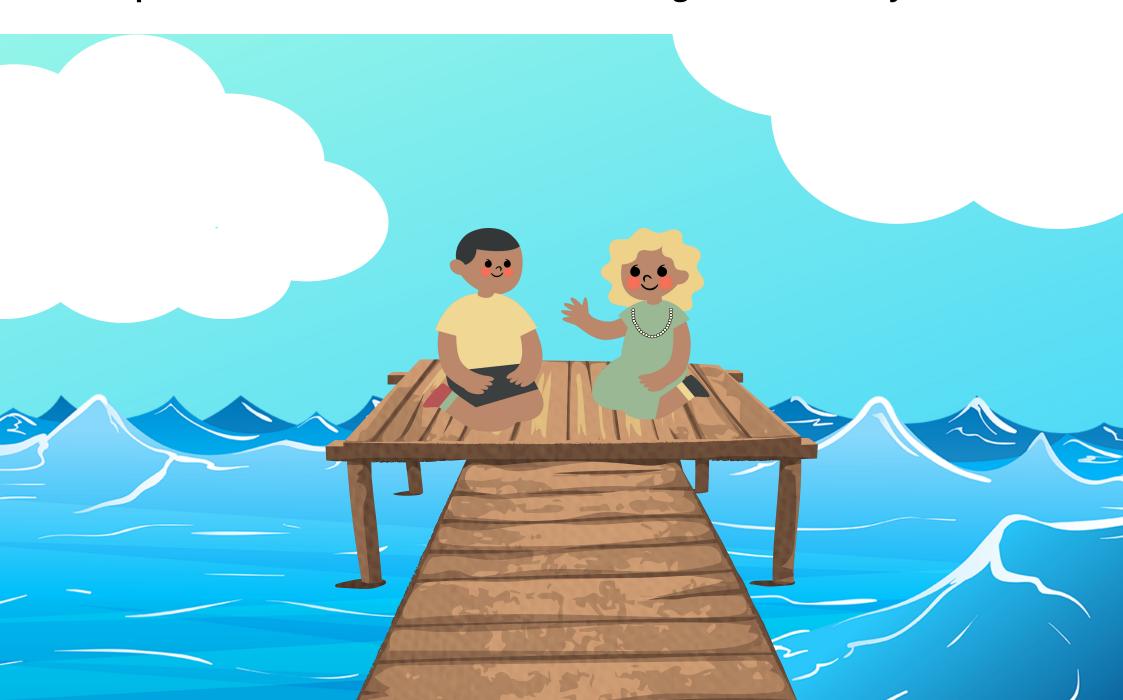
Anna smelt the food preparing. She felt the warmth in her body as she drank the small but hot cup of soup. The memories of her parents preparing hot soup for her eleven siblings on cold winter nights was clouding her mind. She saw her mother sitting on the mattress, knitting pink wool to make a blanket. Like the boat, the wool went up and down, in and out in a calming pattern.



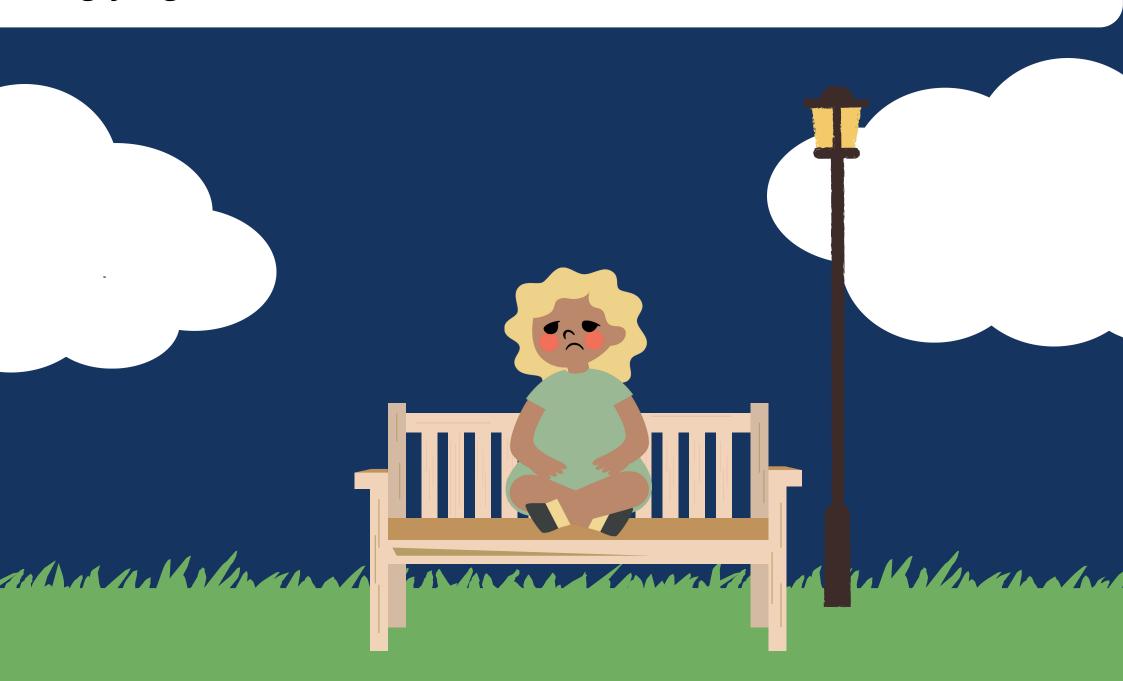
As the boat slowly drifted into the darkness, Anna's thoughts and memories drifted with it. In her mind, she was sitting at the pier with Aldo, holding the necklace he gave her.



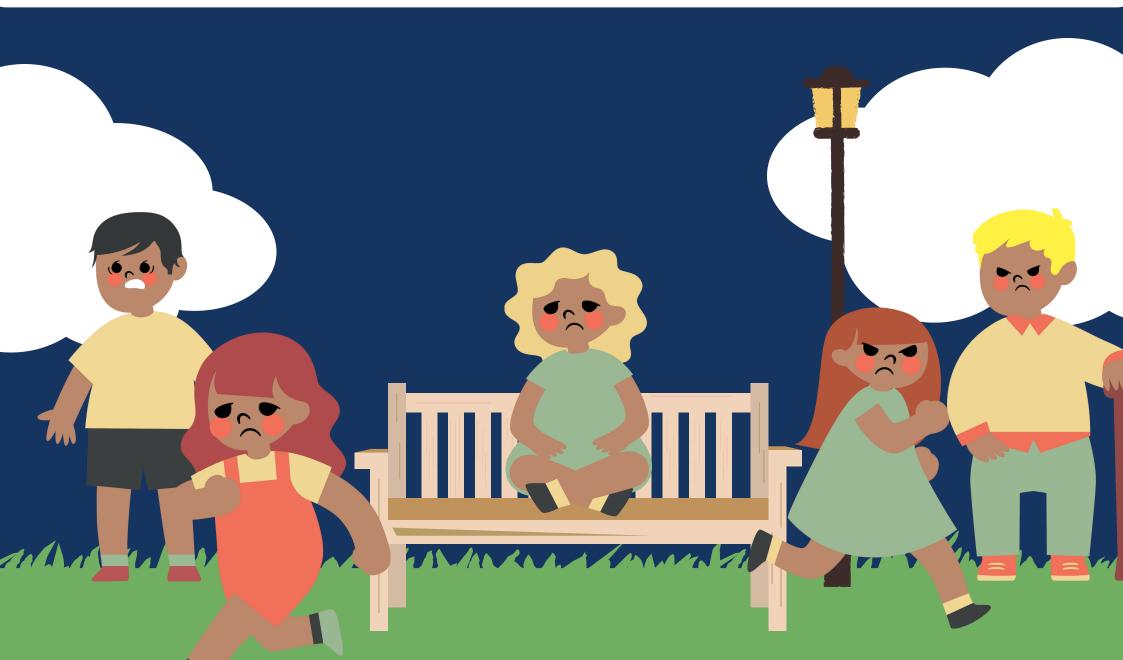
He sang songs and told her all the places they would go after they leave. She felt peace and comfort in his words as she gazed into his eyes.



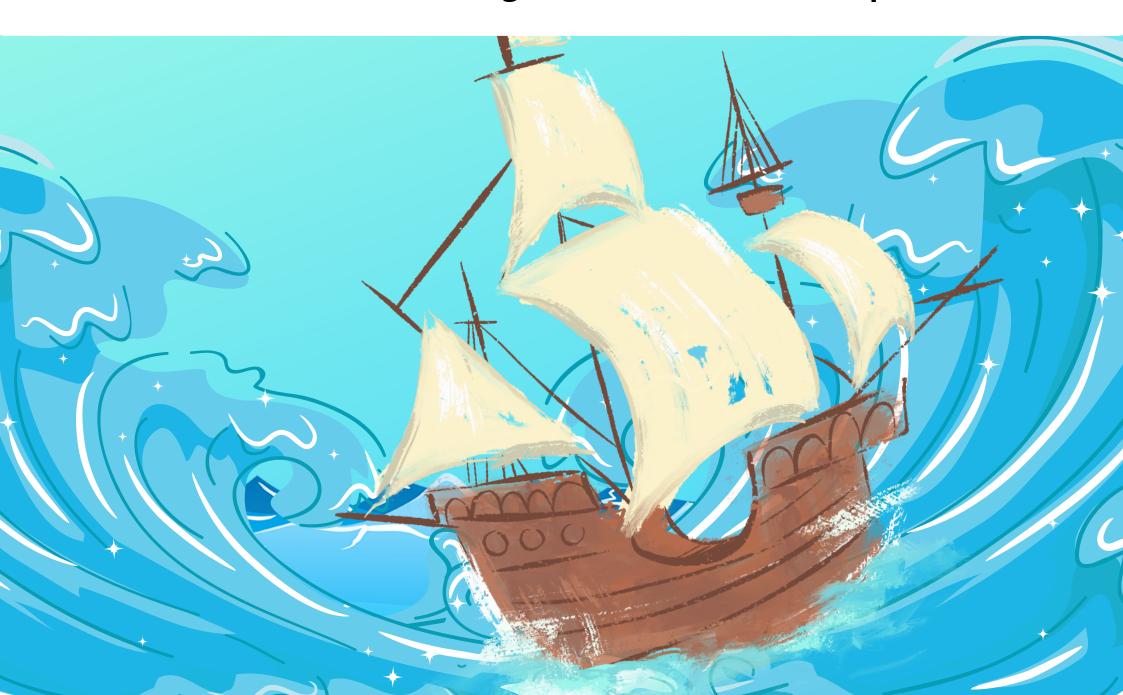
A cool breeze blew across the quiet sea. Anna remembered the cold, hungry nights at home.



Winter had become a lot more crowded that year. The jobs seemed to be harder to get, making families more desperate than ever. No longer able to look after herself, Anna hid in her sorrow.



The ocean crashed and roared at the boat like a hungry monster. The waves were fierce, and Anna began to feel scared and hopeless.





Frantic voices surrounded Anna. Trying to get undercover, the people yelled and pushed through. Clutching her sisters hand, Anna ran through the angry crowd, until they were finally safe from the madness.



Anna snuggled under the blanket with her sisters. Her youngest sister was staring into the waves, with hope for her family's future.



Anna drifted into a deep sleep. She had hopeful dreams, filling her mind with faith. Happy faces welcomed her into her new home. In this home, she could help her family and live in harmony. Here she would be free to work, learn and build a safe environment for herself.



Anna turned to her younger sister. 'Casa,' she whispers into her ear. 'Home.'

About me

My name is Sienna and I'm from Australia. I was inspired to write this book after listening to my grandmother's story about her immigration journey from Italy to Australia. In my spare time, I love to go out with my friends, read books and go to my cousins house. I dream in the future that the world will be more wholesome and there will be no more racial discrimination and disrespect. I hope to one day, achieve my goal and become a civil lawyer.

