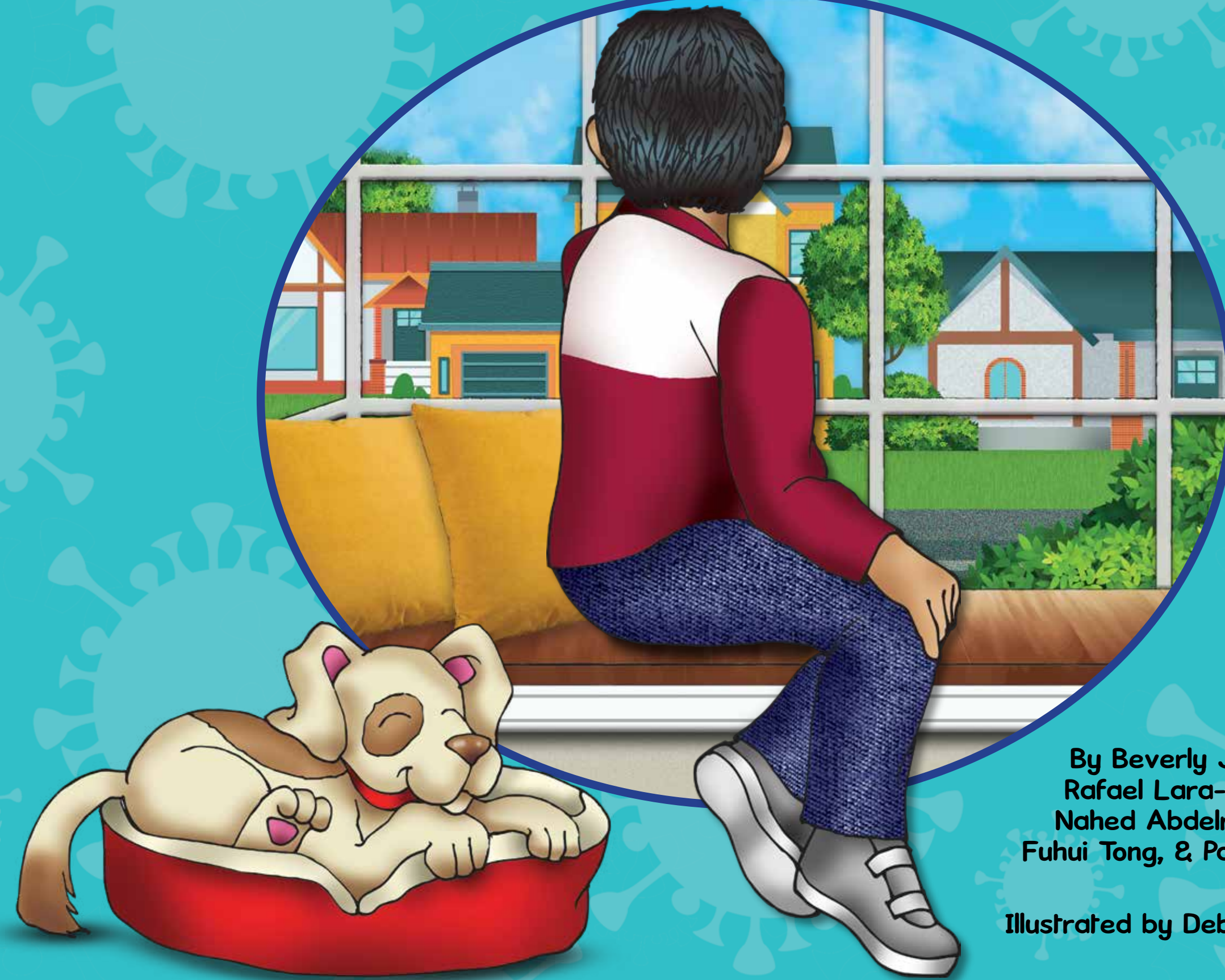


There's No Monster Outside: It's a Virus



By Beverly J. Irby,
Rafael Lara-Alecio,
Nahed Abdelrahman,
Fuhui Tong, & Pam Schiller

Illustrated by Debbie Weekly



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Center for Research and Development in Dual Language and Literacy Acquisition,
Department of Educational Psychology, College of Education and Human Development, Texas A&M University

I listen to the news and think right away.
There's a monster outside, and now I can't play.
I look out the window, but there's no monster in sight.



For just a minute, I'm filled with delight.
But then, I see no friends
outside playing
No friends running, riding,
jumping, or chasing.



On the news, we hear, "Wear a mask."

"What kind of monster
is afraid of a mask?" I ask.

My father says, "It's to
protect others."

"Oh," I say. "Like my friends,
my sister, my brothers?"



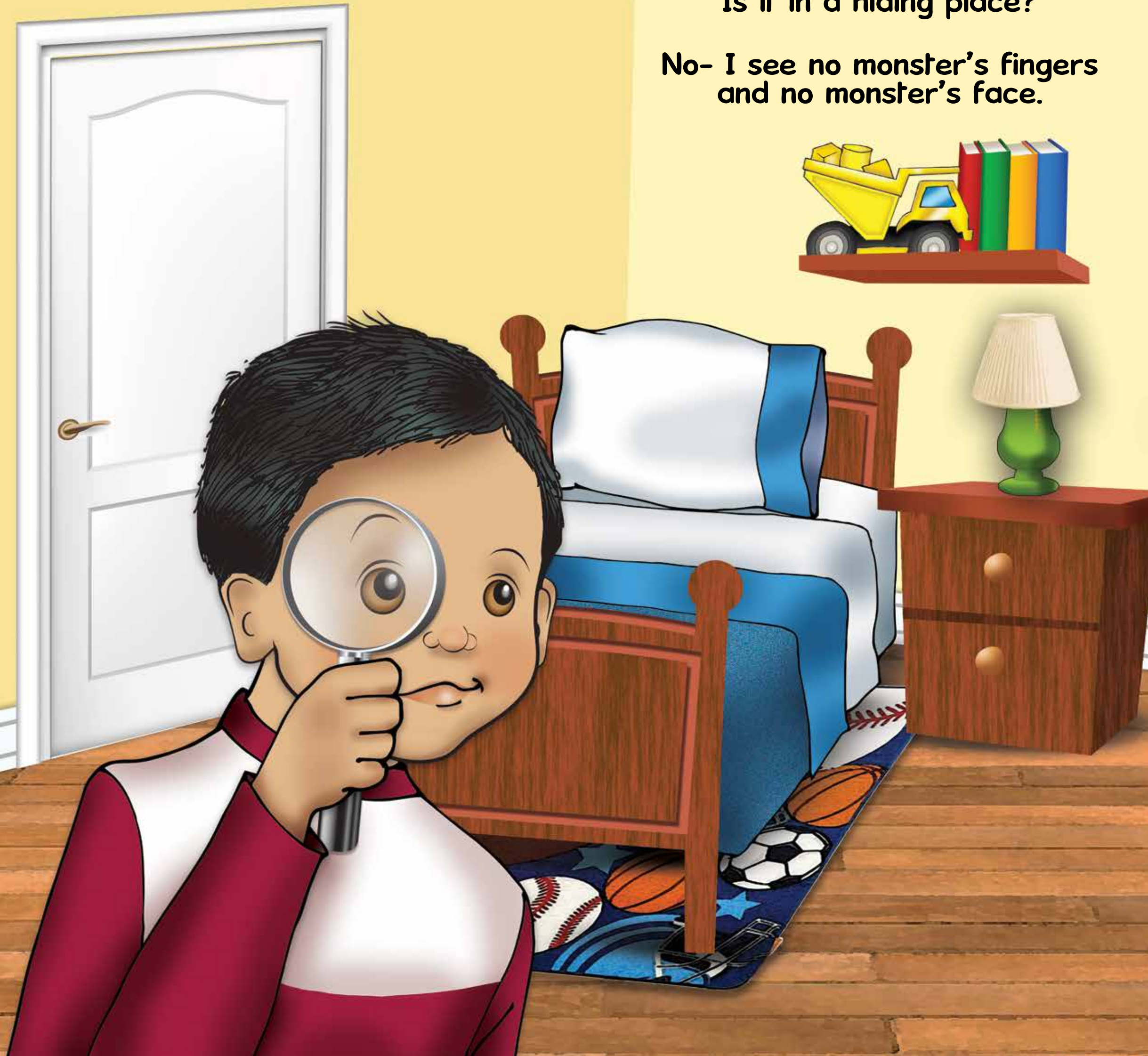


From my back door,
I look all around.

I see no monster in the air;
not even on the ground.

I slowly check my room—
Is it in a hiding place?

No- I see no monster's fingers
and no monster's face.



I peek slowly under
my white bed sheet.

I see no monster's eyelash
and no monster's feet.

It's not in my closet.
It's not behind the door.



It's not under my chair. It's not on the floor.





Mother says, "Wash your hands
to the Birthday song."

"In fact, sing it two times."
I wonder, "Why so long?"

Mother says, "Do not
touch your face."

Keep your face clean
with all germs erased."



It's time to go to bed,
so again, I look around.

But good for me—no
monster is found.



In my dreams—
no monster appears

But this does nothing to
ease my fears.



I tell my mother about my dream;
I know she'll understand.

She laughs and then gently
squeezes my hand.

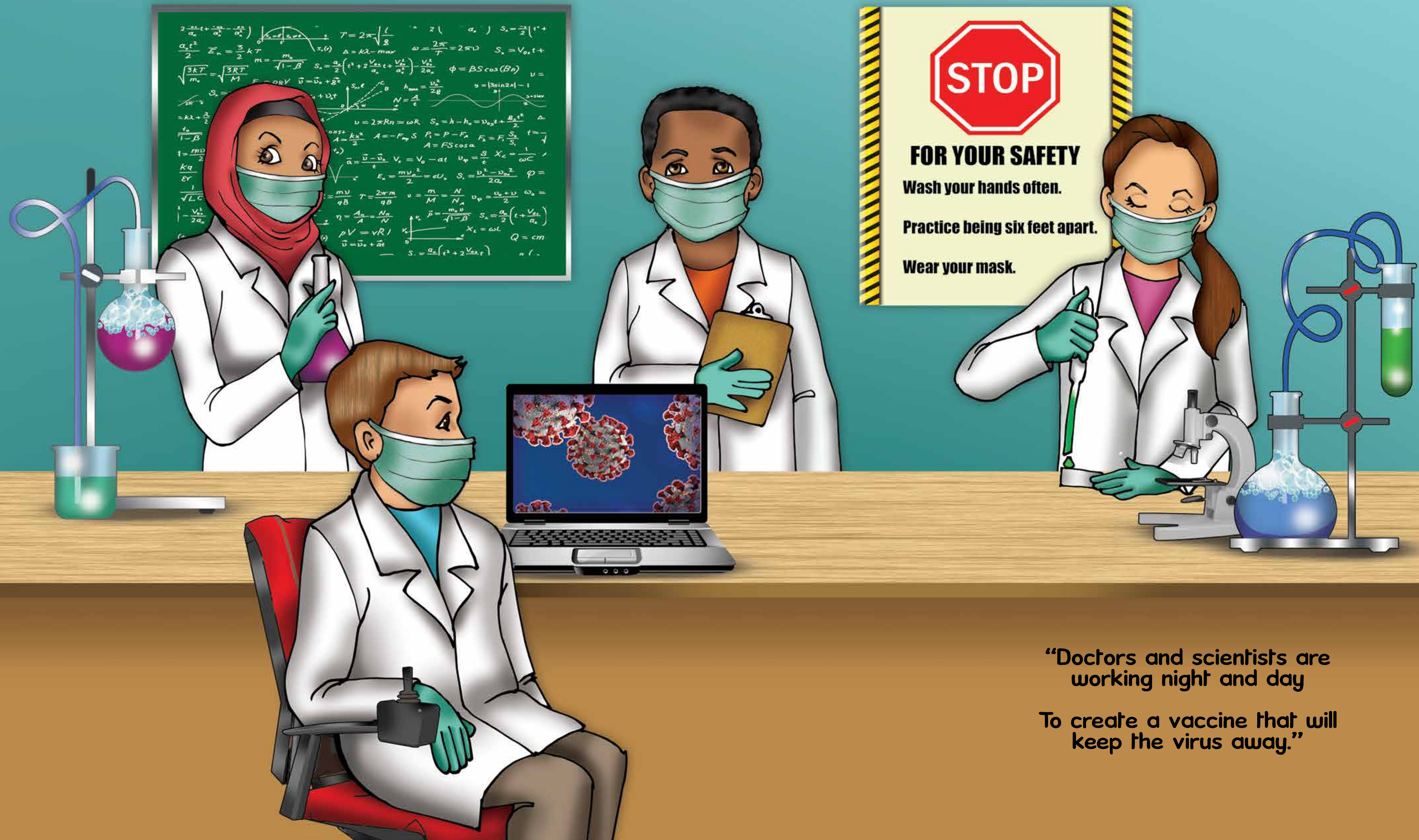


She says "It's a virus,
not a monster, we're keeping away.
When this virus is gone, you and your
friends can go out and play."

Mother says, "Just be careful
and please don't be afraid.

With our masks and gloves,
for now, let's just pretend
we're in a parade."





“Doctors and scientists are
working night and day

To create a vaccine that will
keep the virus away.”



Then I say with great relief
“There’s no monster outside—
no monster to fear.

I’m safe here, because
no monster is near.”

The virus can make
you sick but not if
you take care.

Just follow these
simple rules.

Be thoughtful in
all you do, and you
will be safe and well.

Wash your hands
many times each day.

Keep your hands
away from your face.

Wear a mask when
you are around others.

Practice being six
feet apart.

A Message About This Book

We wrote this book for children who are hearing the news about COVID-19 and who may be experiencing fears. Personally, we have heard children's dreams that include mean people who take them away from their families, strange things that have happened to their classrooms, friends who are going away, or monsters that are coming after them. All of these types of fears have been expressed in dreams or daydreams of children we know. This book is dedicated to our hope of tomorrow-- the children around the world-- and to their families and caregivers who are supporting them. Our desire is that this book will be a comfort for children and will give them a sense of security in these uncertain times. This book is published in several languages to serve a need during this coronavirus pandemic. The book, free of charge, is supported by the Center for Research and Development in Dual Language and Literacy Acquisition, Department of Educational Psychology, College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University.

May there be only good inside and outside
for our world's children!

Together and respectfully, we can make a difference!

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