



KWANZAA

The illustration depicts a vibrant Kwanzaa celebration. In the background, a woman with braided hair, wearing a green top and a red and yellow beaded necklace, looks on. In the foreground, a young boy in a yellow sweater with a blue collar adjusts a colorful Kwanzaa hat. To his right, a man in a red shirt holds a white box containing a yellow gift. The scene is decorated with a tiered candle holder (Kwanzaa candles) and wrapped gifts. The background features a stylized sun and a green field.



Kumar Louis Warren

celebrates Kwanzaa at the African-American fair

Love always

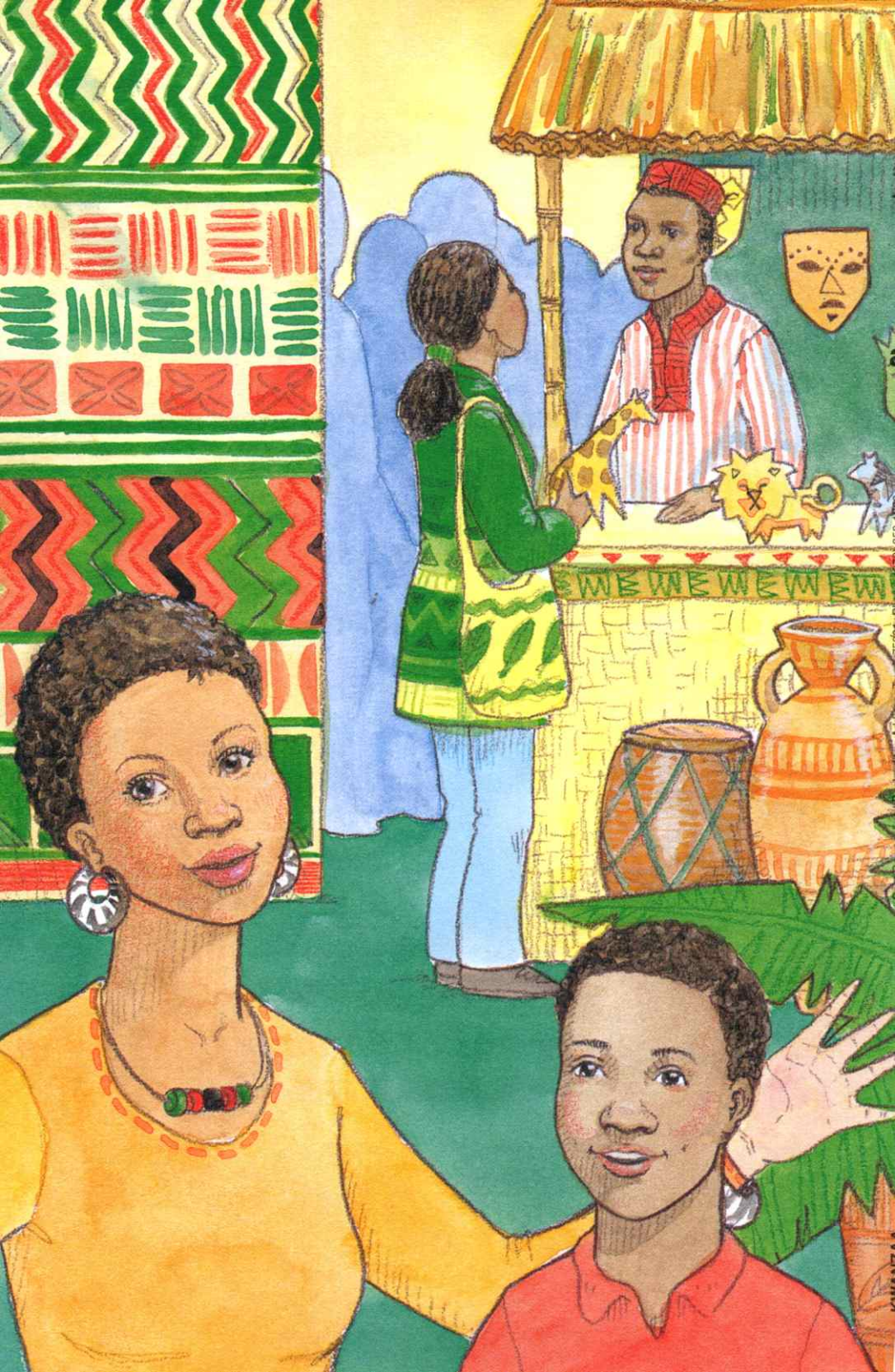
Rhonda's Store

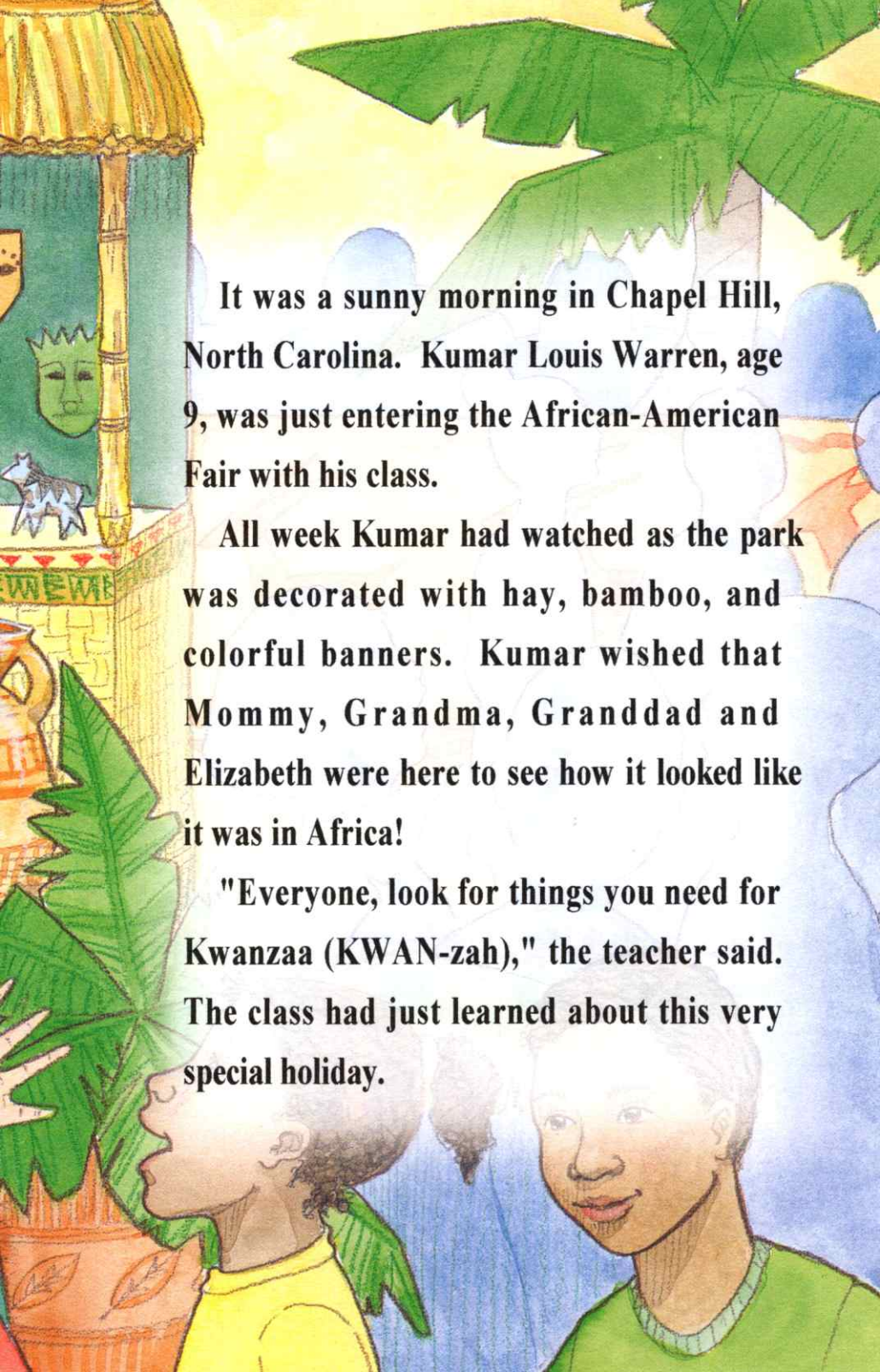
Story by
Lisa Ramée

Illustrations by
Anne M. Duax



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It was a sunny morning in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Kumar Louis Warren, age 9, was just entering the African-American Fair with his class.

All week Kumar had watched as the park was decorated with hay, bamboo, and colorful banners. Kumar wished that Mommy, Grandma, Granddad and Elizabeth were here to see how it looked like it was in Africa!

"Everyone, look for things you need for Kwanzaa (KWAN-zah)," the teacher said. The class had just learned about this very special holiday.



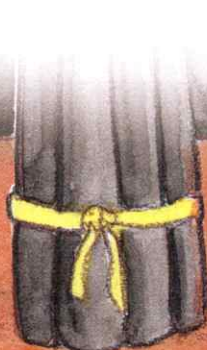


Kumar ran up to a stall. "Look," he cried. "Here's a Kinara (kee-NAH-ree), the candle holder!"

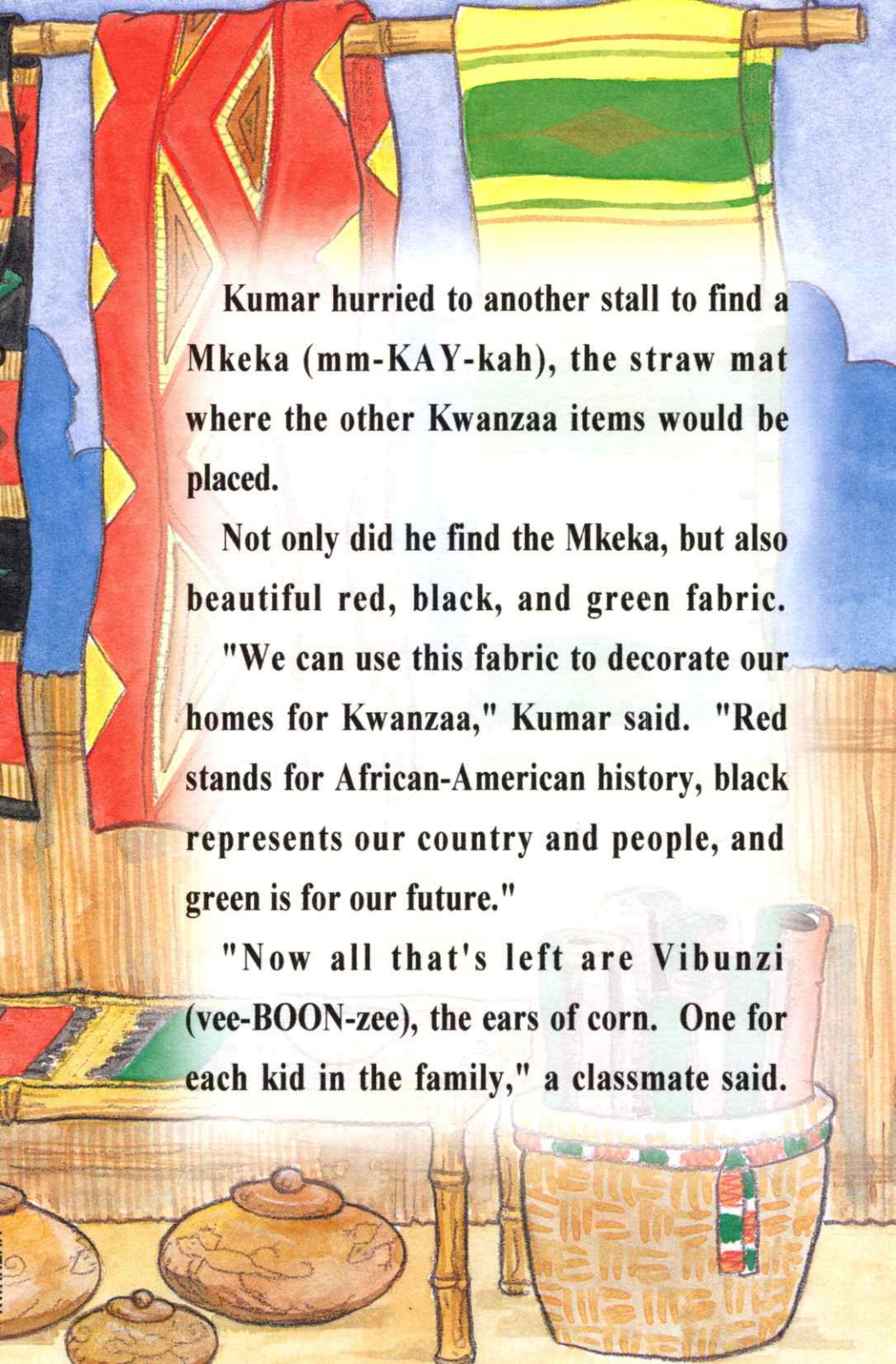
The merchant smiled at Kumar. "Yes, and I have the Mshumaa Saba (mee-SHOO-mah SAH-bah), too."

"The seven candles," Kumar said. "On December 26th, the first night of Kwanzaa, I'll get to light the first Mshumaa Saba. Then another candle will be lit each night until we have our big feast, the Karamu (kah-RAH-moo), on January 1st."

"You speak Swahili words well," the merchant smiled.





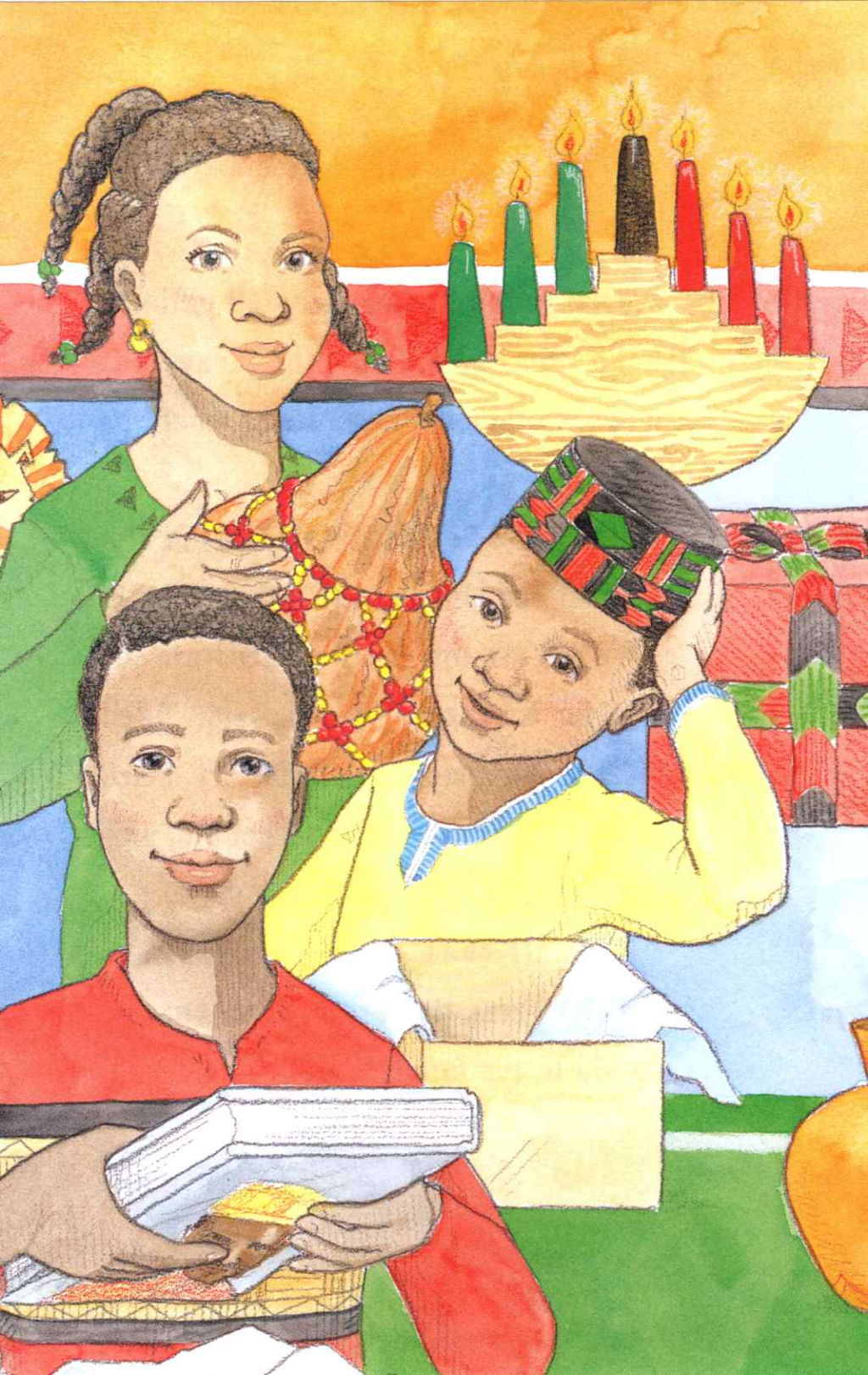


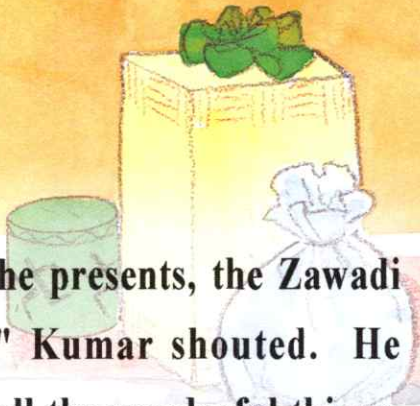
Kumar hurried to another stall to find a Mkeka (mm-KAY-kah), the straw mat where the other Kwanzaa items would be placed.

Not only did he find the Mkeka, but also beautiful red, black, and green fabric.

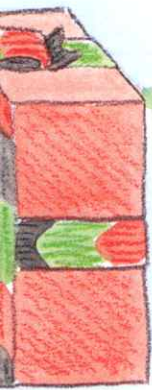
"We can use this fabric to decorate our homes for Kwanzaa," Kumar said. "Red stands for African-American history, black represents our country and people, and green is for our future."

"Now all that's left are Vibunzi (vee-BOON-zee), the ears of corn. One for each kid in the family," a classmate said.



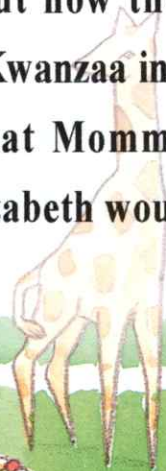


"Don't forget the presents, the Zawadi (zah-WAH-dee)!" Kumar shouted. He looked around at all the wonderful things. "Lots of stuff here would make great Zawadi."

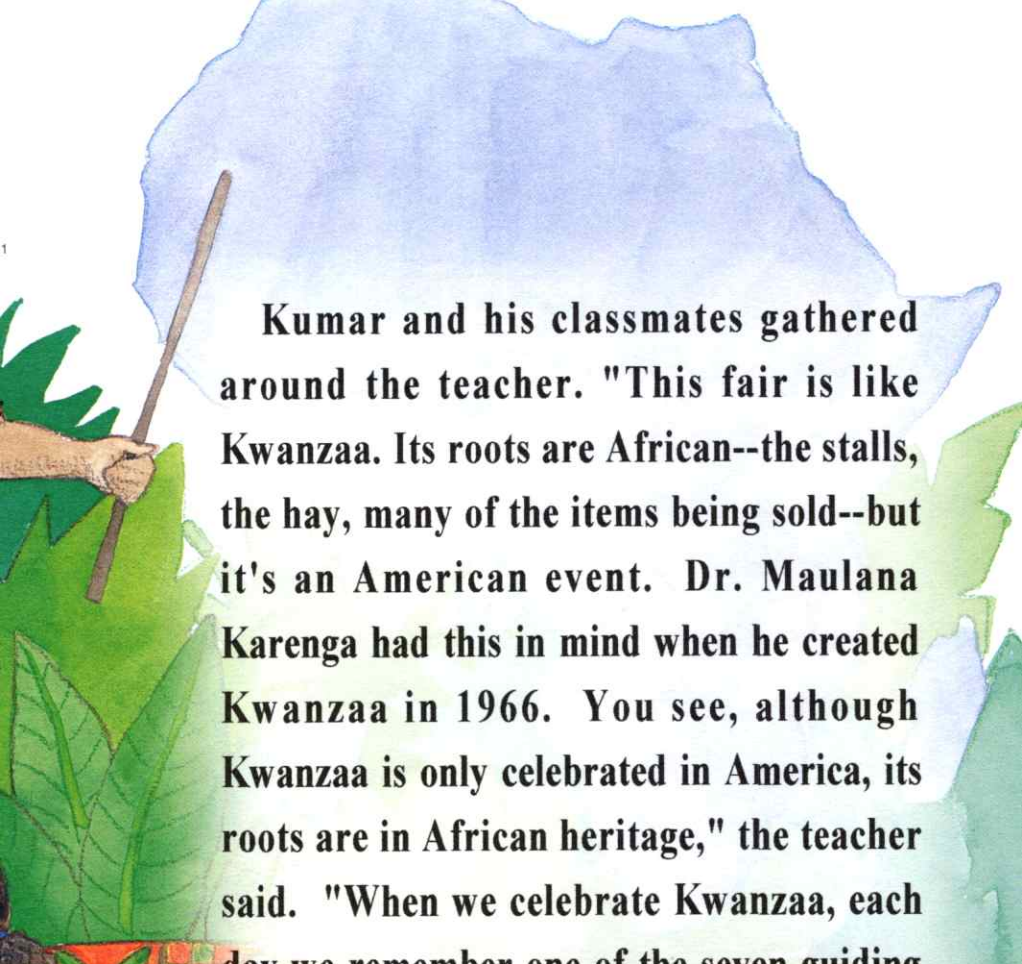


Remembering the Zawadi made Kumar think of the last night of Kwanzaa. There would be dancing, music, the great feast, and the Zawadi would be opened.

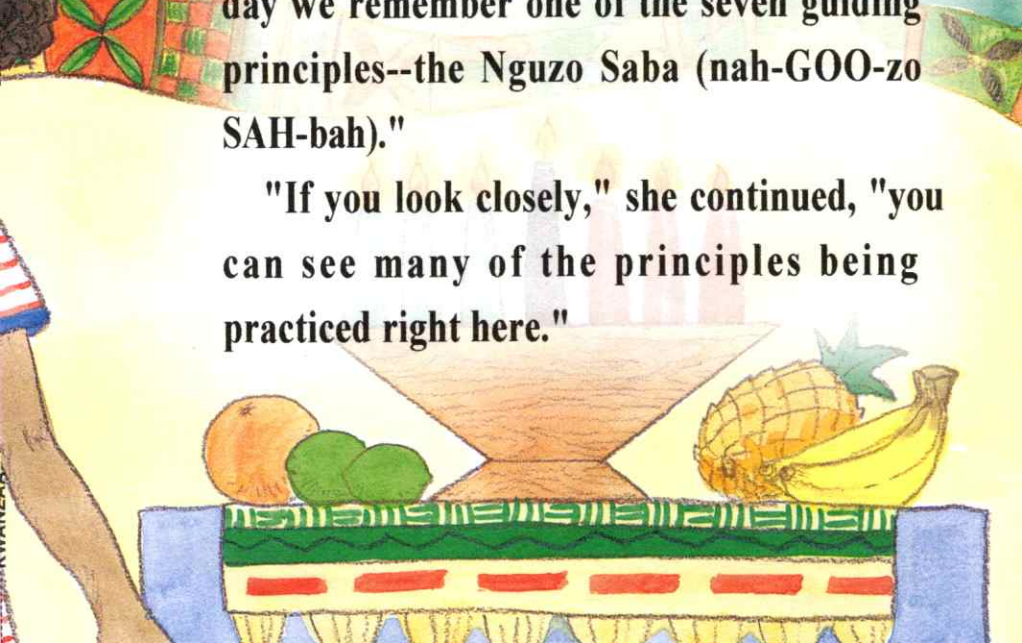
Everyone would talk about how they would celebrate the spirit of Kwanzaa in the new year. Kumar hoped that Mommy, Grandma, Granddad and Elizabeth would be there.



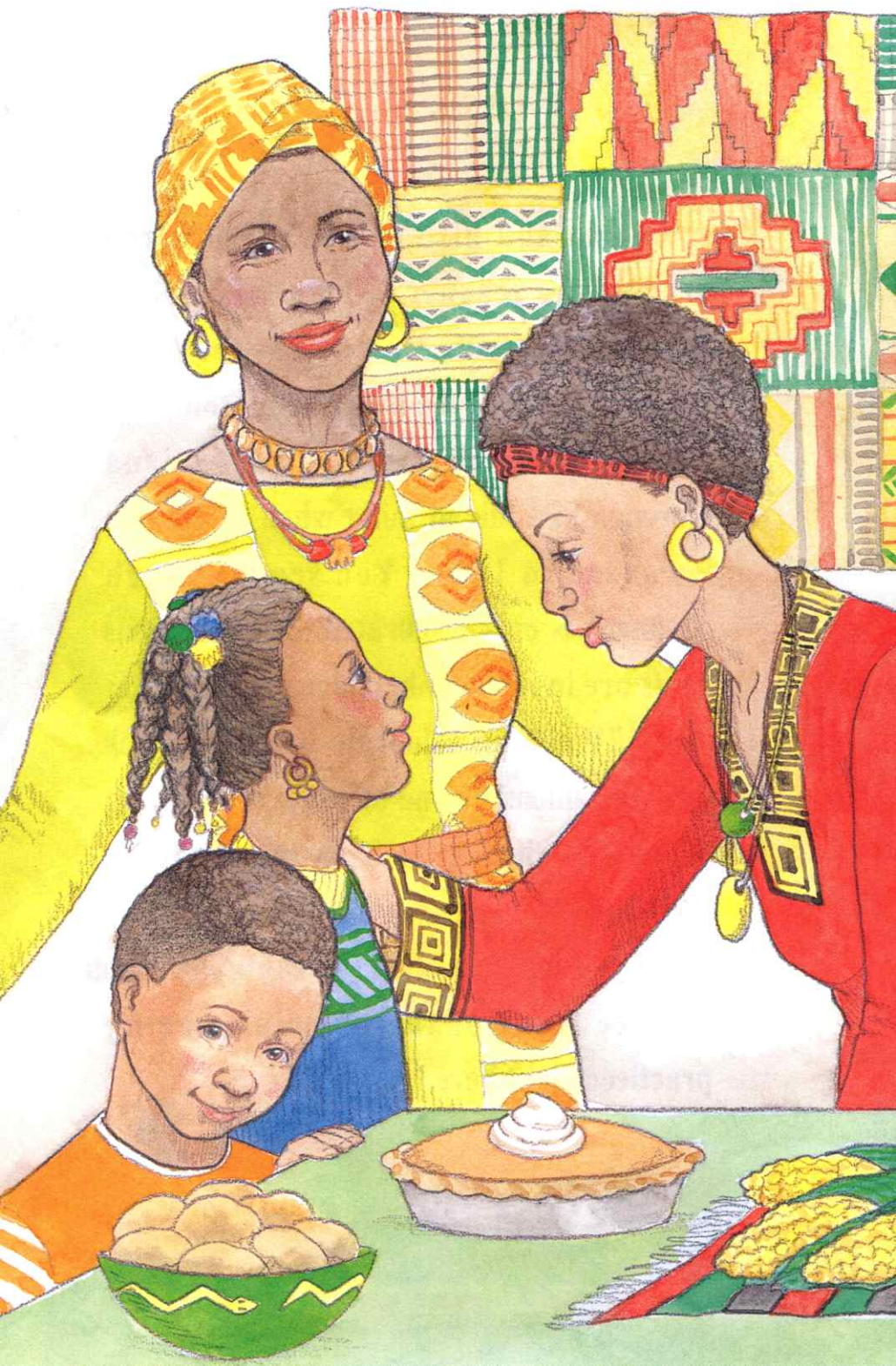


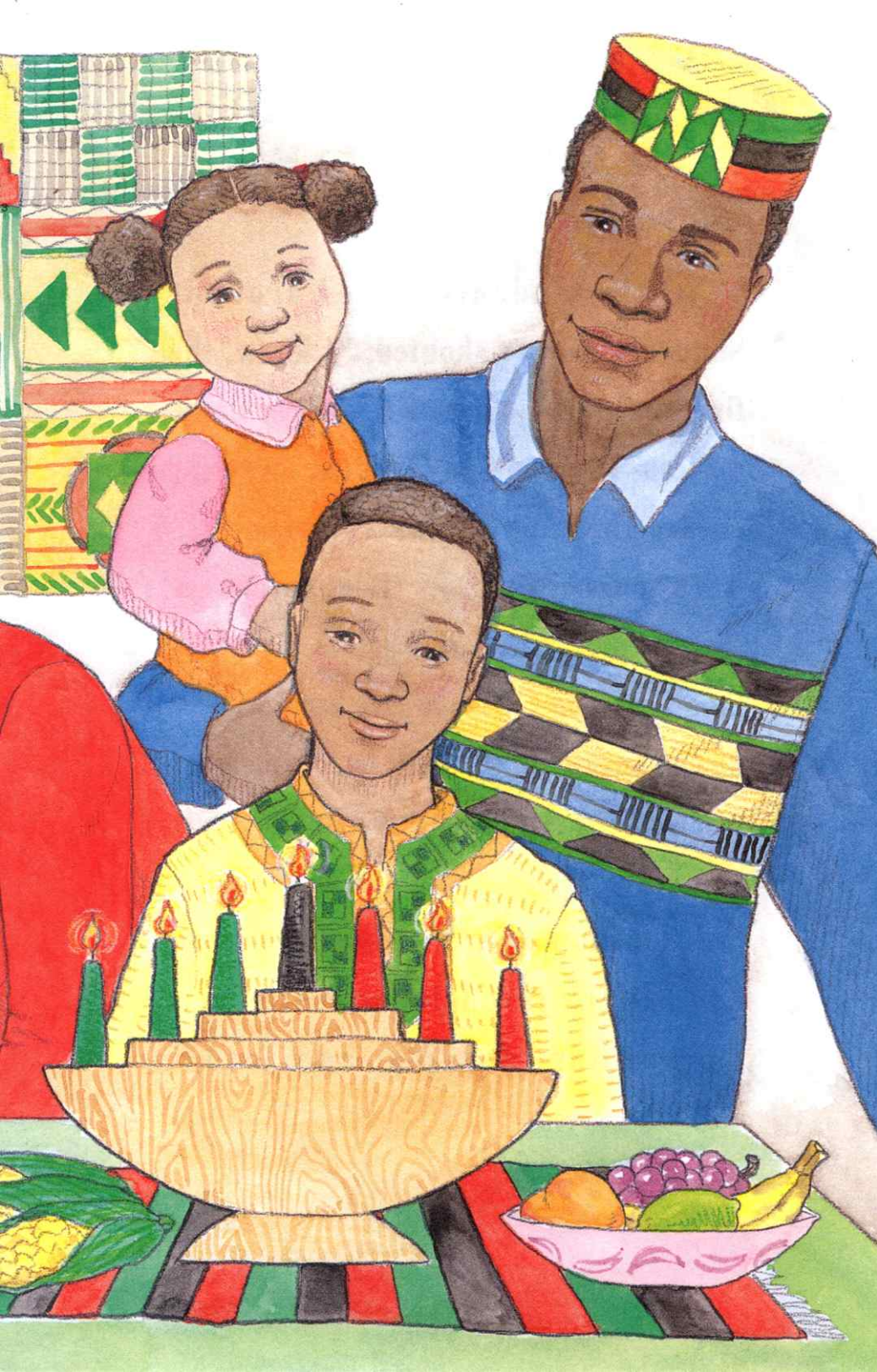
A hand holding a wooden staff is positioned on the left side of the page. The background features a light blue map of the African continent. The text is overlaid on the map and the hand.

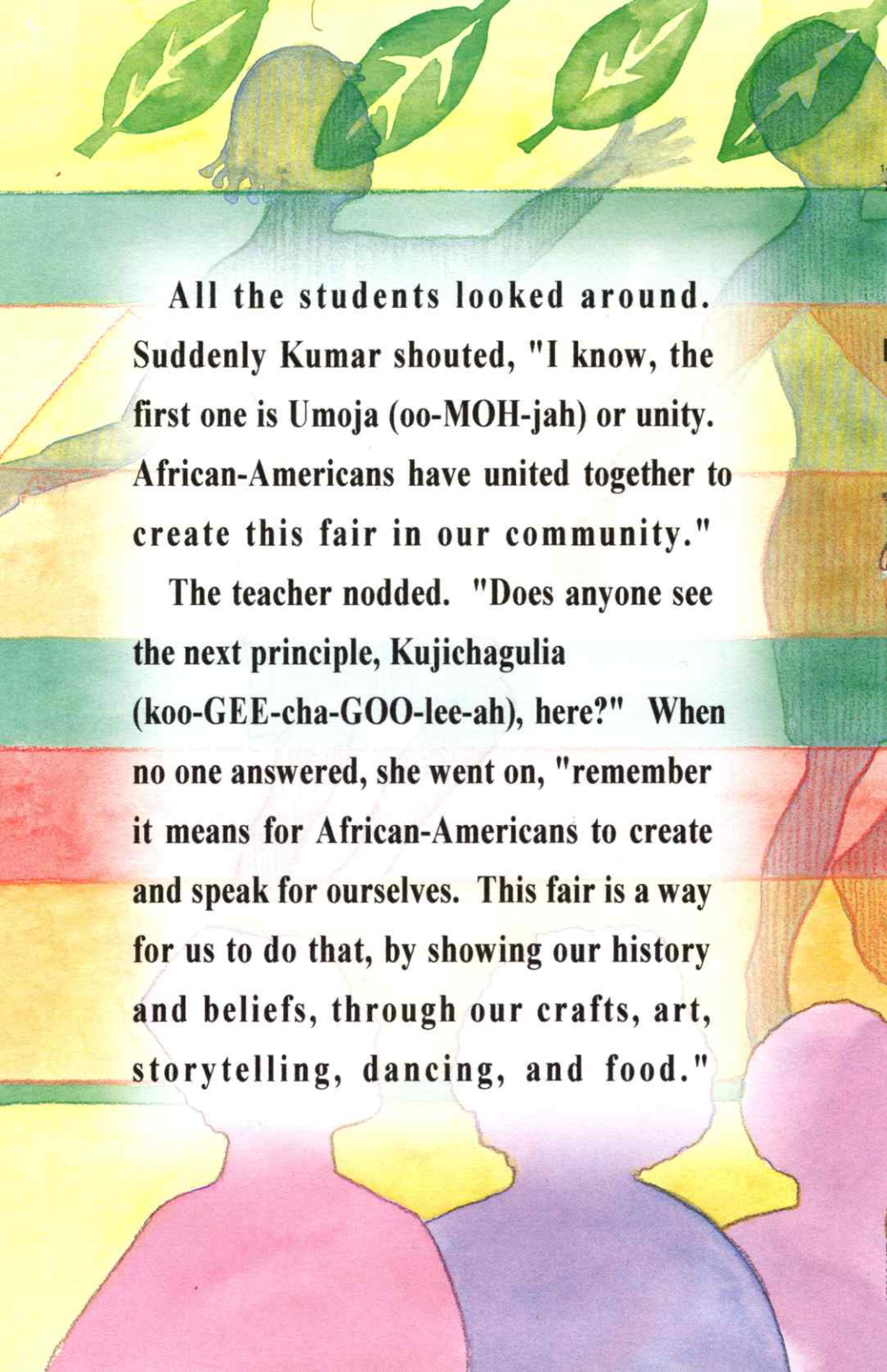
Kumar and his classmates gathered around the teacher. "This fair is like Kwanzaa. Its roots are African--the stalls, the hay, many of the items being sold--but it's an American event. Dr. Maulana Karenga had this in mind when he created Kwanzaa in 1966. You see, although Kwanzaa is only celebrated in America, its roots are in African heritage," the teacher said. "When we celebrate Kwanzaa, each day we remember one of the seven guiding principles--the Nguzo Saba (nah-GOO-zo SAH-bah)."

A Kwanzaa kinara is shown at the bottom of the page. It is a wooden bowl with seven slots for candles. In front of it are various fruits: an orange, two green apples, a cornucopia, and a banana. The kinara sits on a decorative cloth with green, yellow, and red patterns. The background is a light yellow color.

"If you look closely," she continued, "you can see many of the principles being practiced right here."

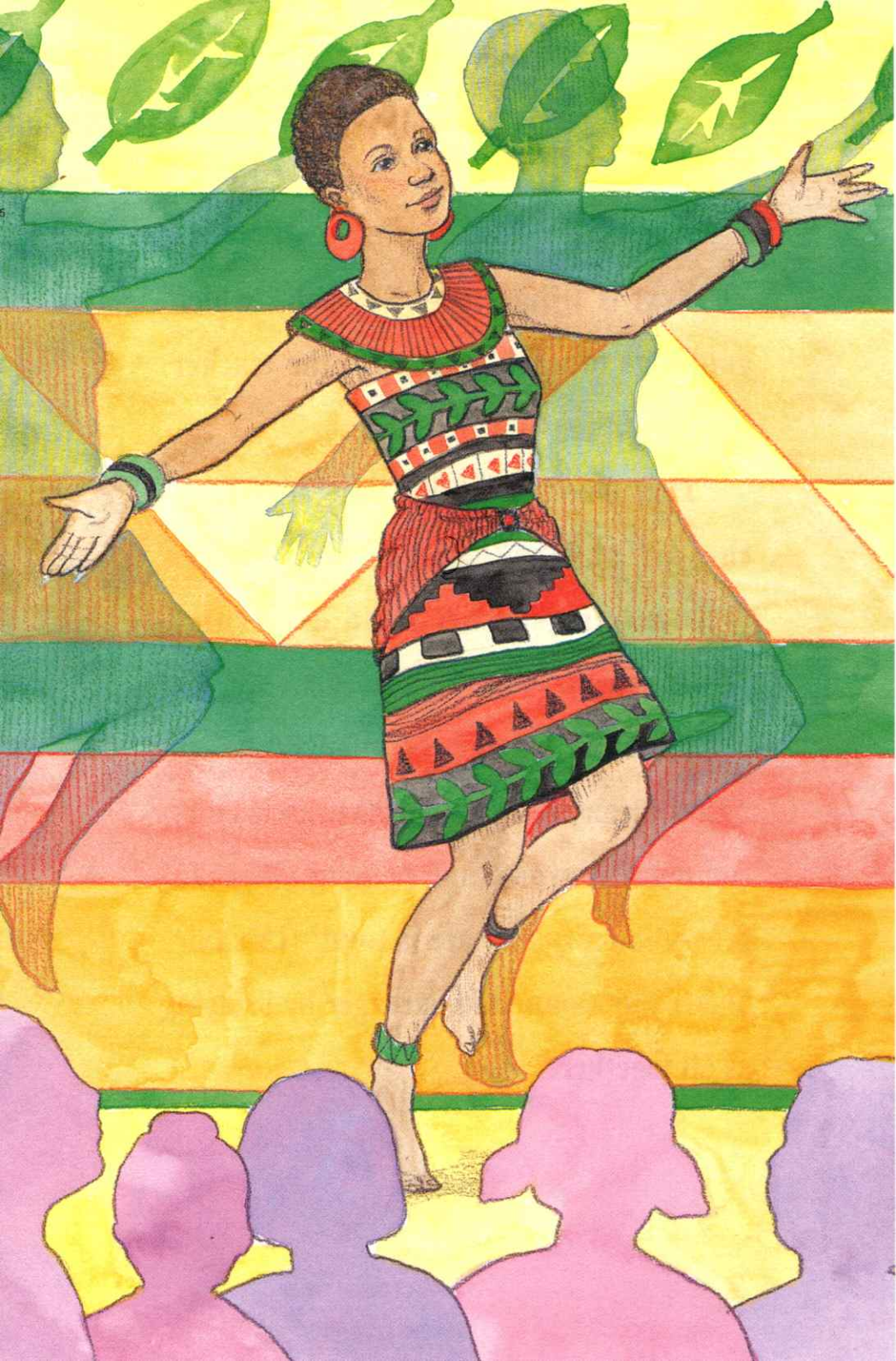


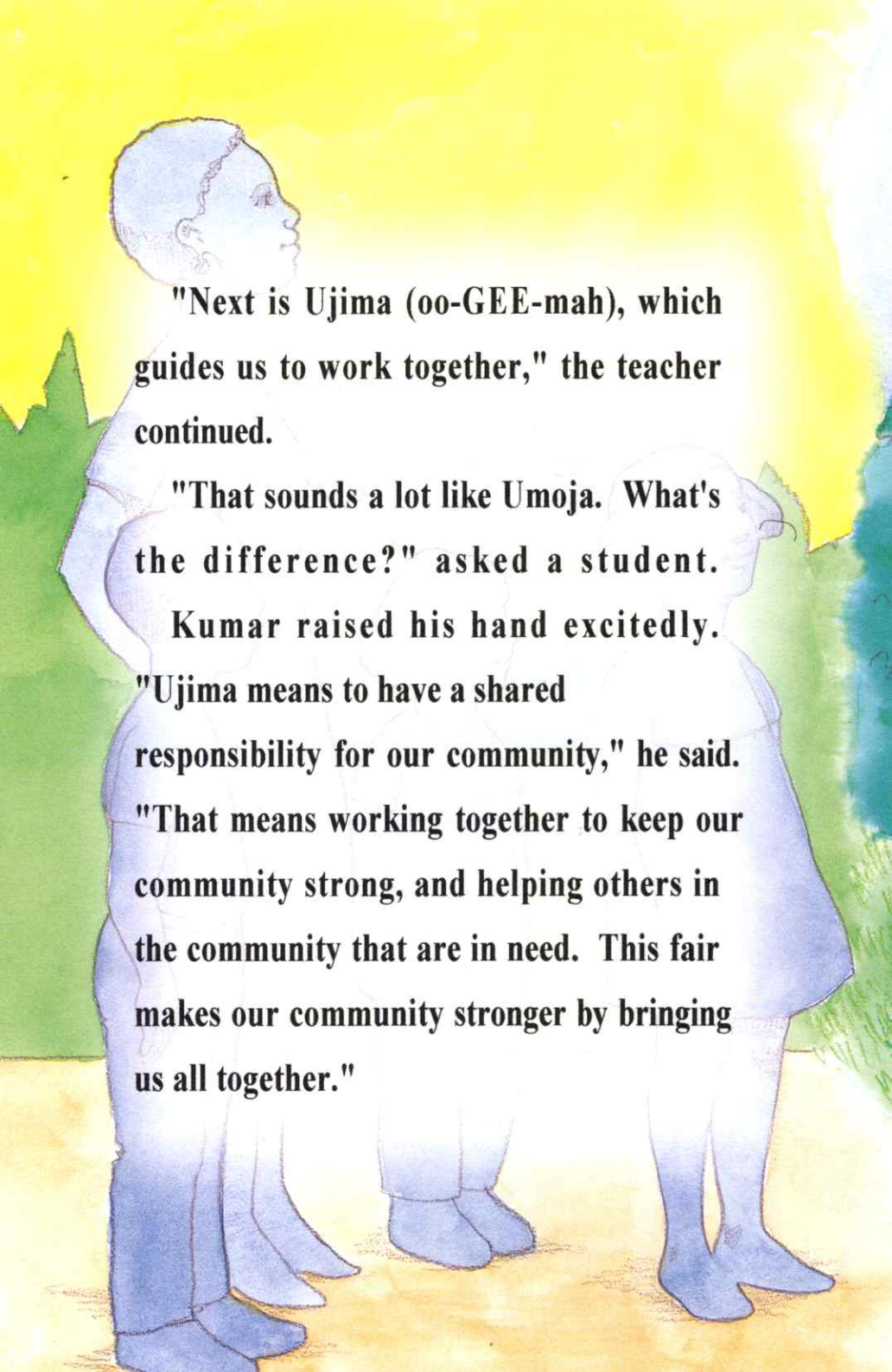




All the students looked around. Suddenly Kumar shouted, "I know, the first one is Umoja (oo-MOH-jah) or unity. African-Americans have united together to create this fair in our community."

The teacher nodded. "Does anyone see the next principle, Kujichagulia (koo-GEE-cha-GOO-lee-ah), here?" When no one answered, she went on, "remember it means for African-Americans to create and speak for ourselves. This fair is a way for us to do that, by showing our history and beliefs, through our crafts, art, storytelling, dancing, and food."



A watercolor illustration of a classroom scene. On the left, a teacher with short hair, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, stands with hands on hips, looking towards the right. On the right, a student with long hair, wearing a light blue dress, stands with hands clasped in front of her, looking towards the teacher. The background features a bright yellow sun in the upper right, green foliage on the left, and a light blue body of water on the right. The floor is a light tan color.

"Next is Ujima (oo-GEE-mah), which guides us to work together," the teacher continued.

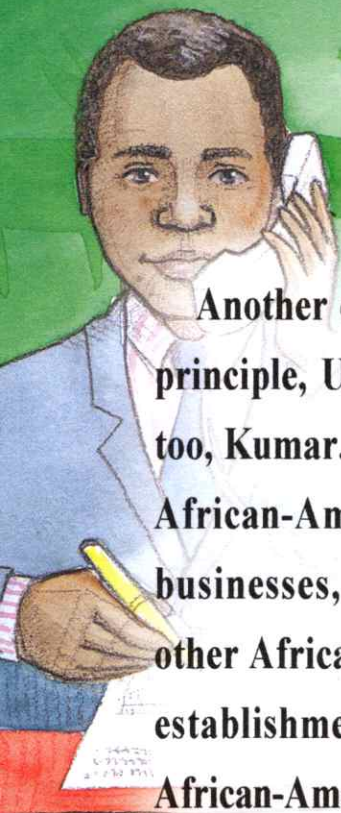
"That sounds a lot like Umoja. What's the difference?" asked a student.

Kumar raised his hand excitedly.

"Ujima means to have a shared responsibility for our community," he said.

"That means working together to keep our community strong, and helping others in the community that are in need. This fair makes our community stronger by bringing us all together."





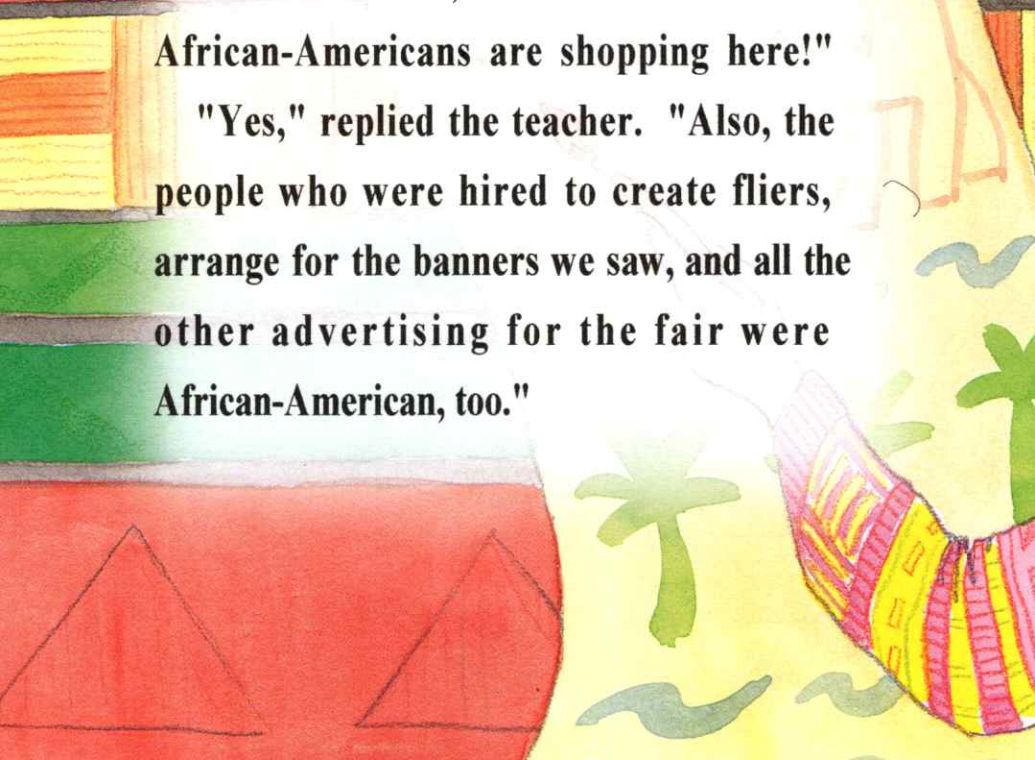
Another classmate called out, "the next principle, Ujamaa (oo-JAH-mah), is here, too, Kumar. It means that

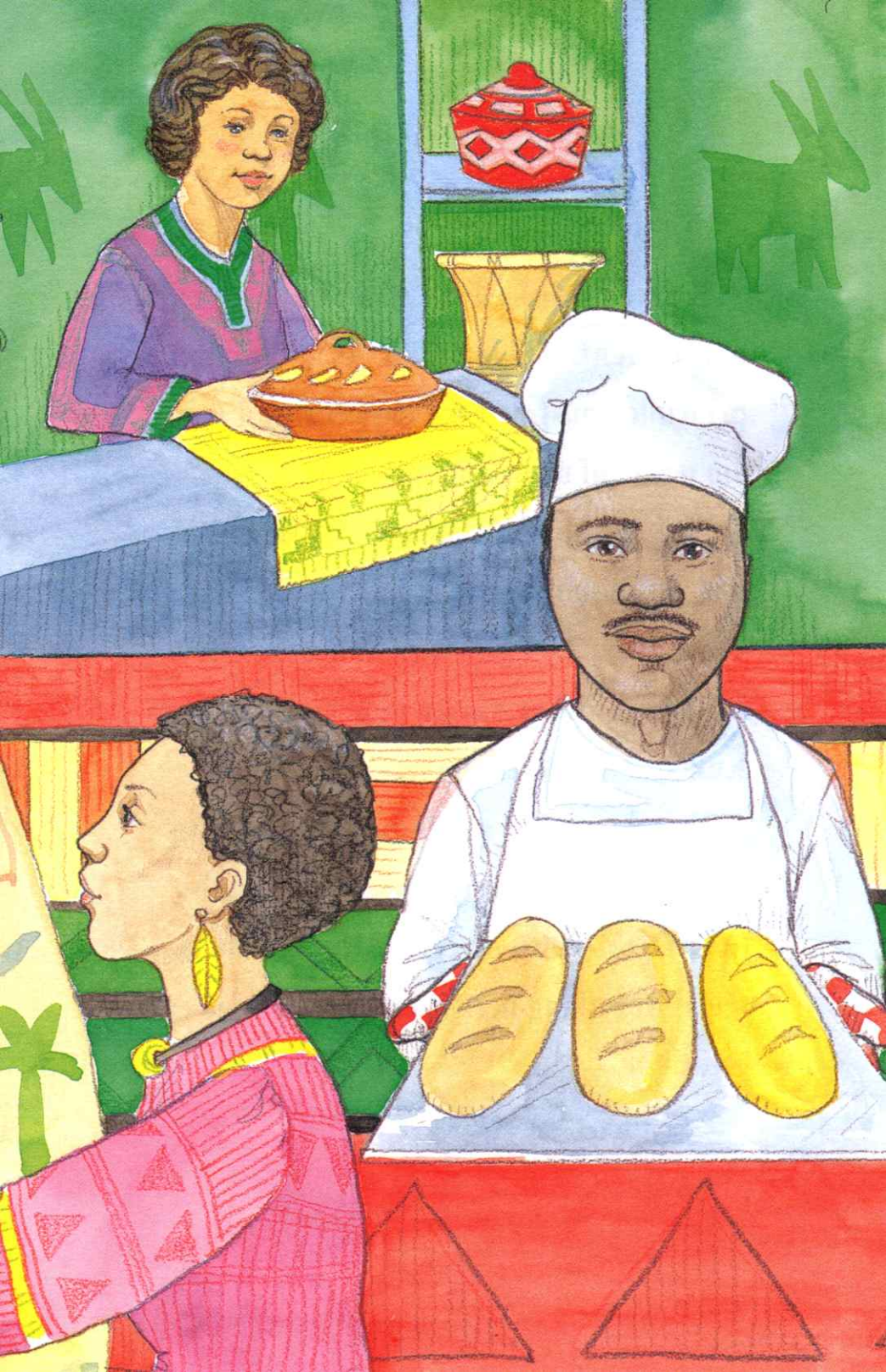
African-Americans should have our own businesses, and shop and do business at other African-American owned

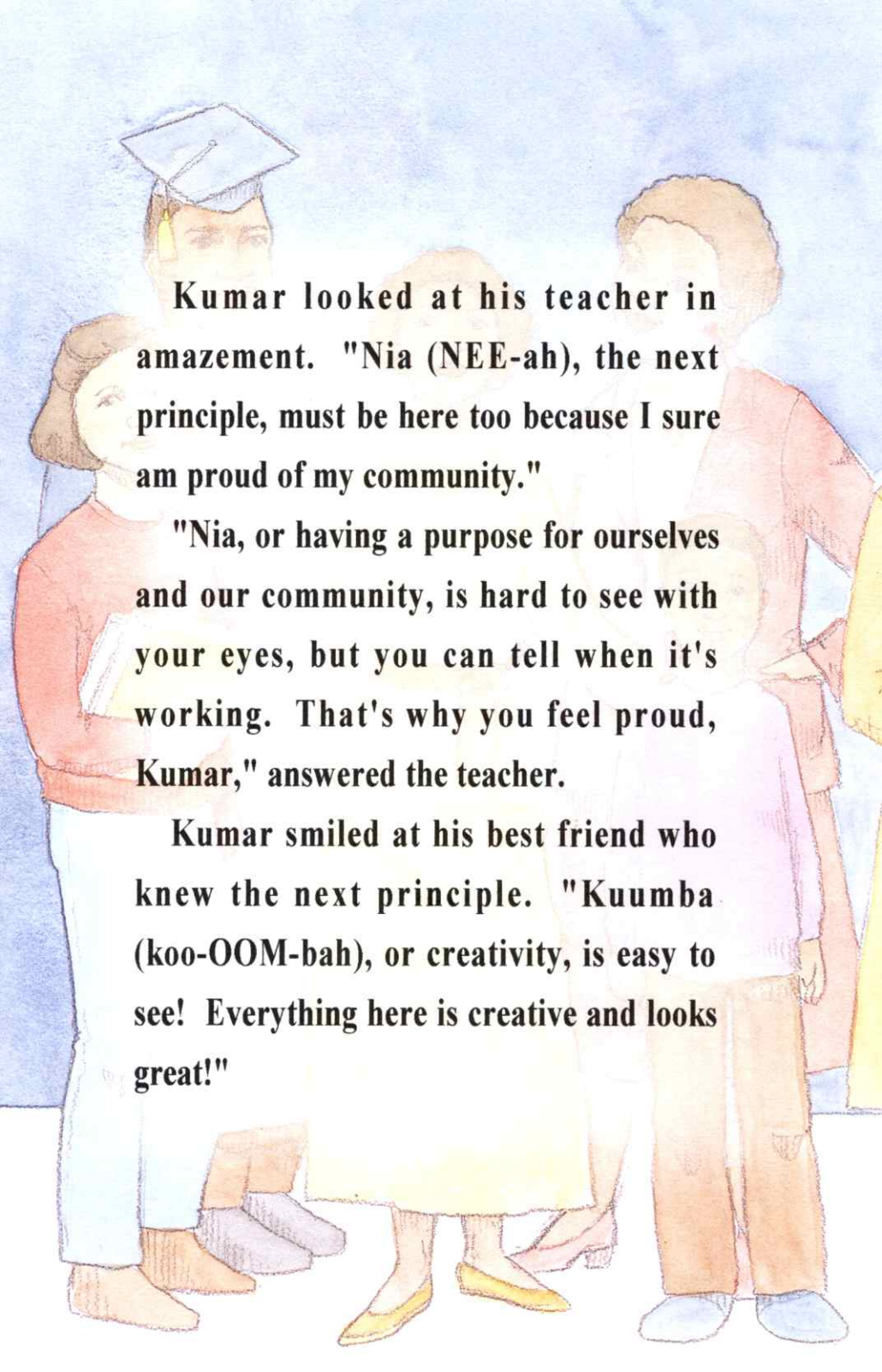
establishments. The merchants here are African-Americans, and

African-Americans are shopping here!"

"Yes," replied the teacher. "Also, the people who were hired to create fliers, arrange for the banners we saw, and all the other advertising for the fair were African-American, too."



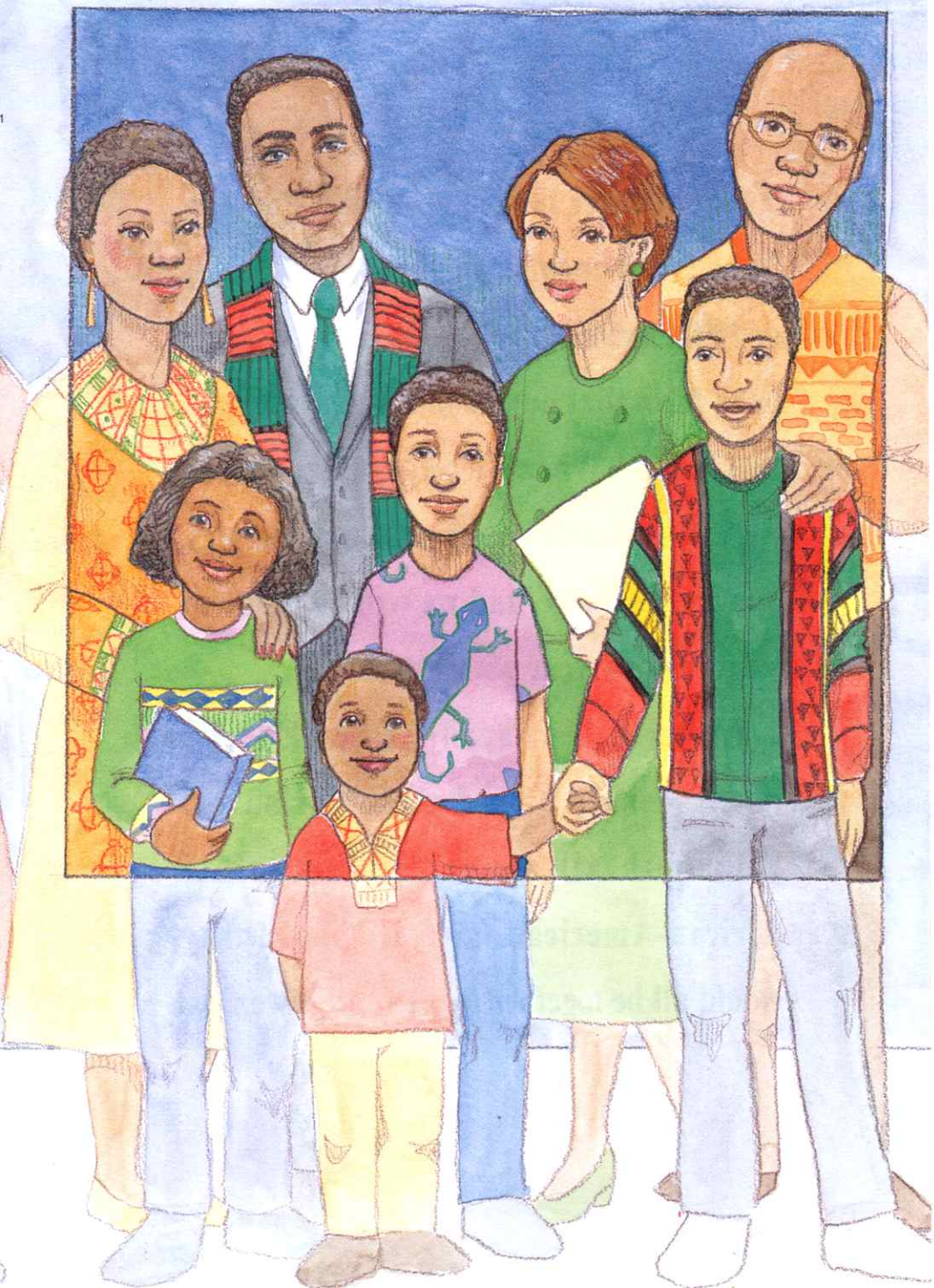


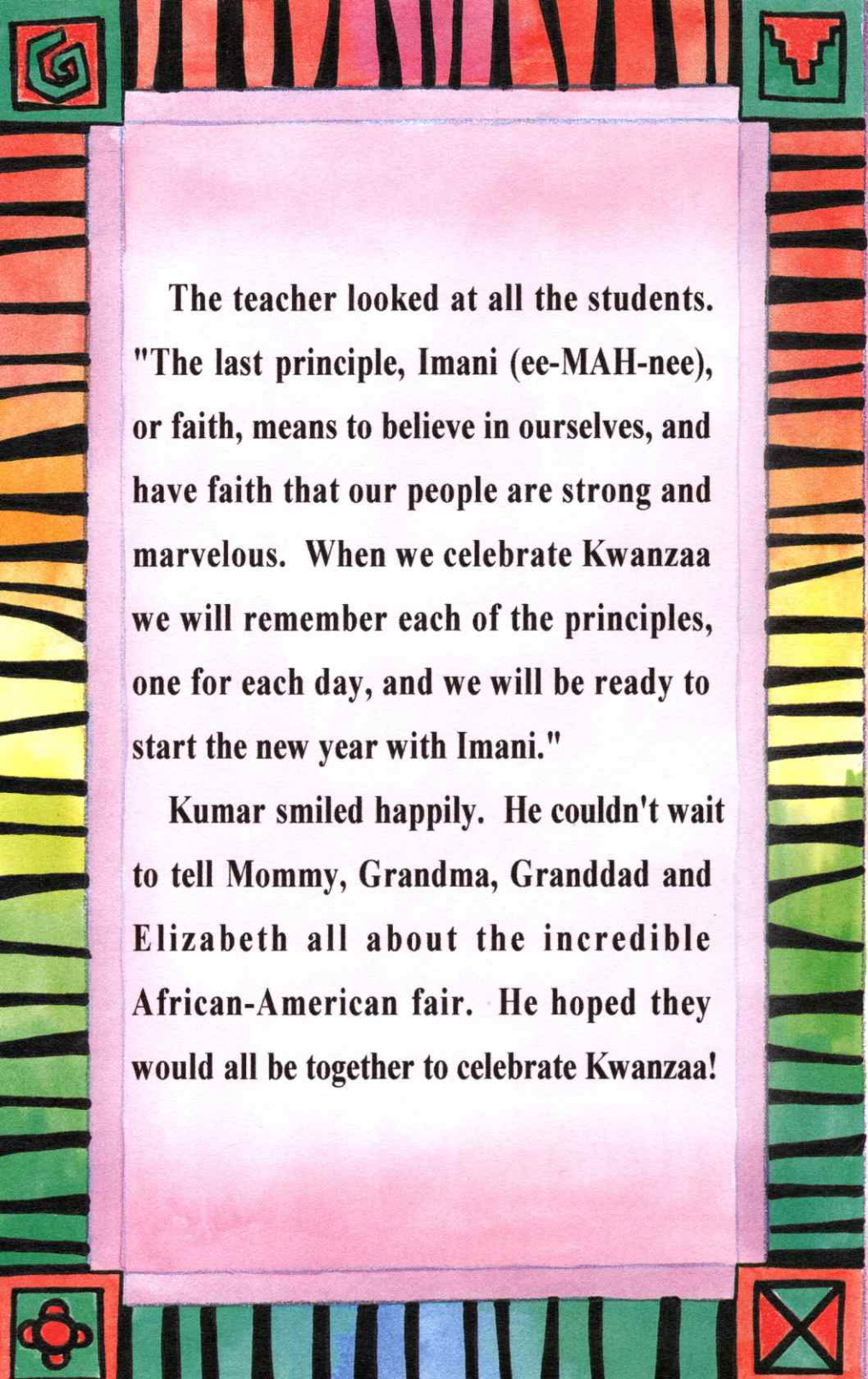
A watercolor-style illustration of a graduation ceremony. In the foreground, a young man in a white graduation cap and gown stands on the left. To his right, a woman in a red sweater and white pants holds a stack of books. Further right, a man in a red sweater and brown pants stands with his hands in his pockets. The background is a soft, light blue wash.

Kumar looked at his teacher in amazement. "Nia (NEE-ah), the next principle, must be here too because I sure am proud of my community."

"Nia, or having a purpose for ourselves and our community, is hard to see with your eyes, but you can tell when it's working. That's why you feel proud, Kumar," answered the teacher.

Kumar smiled at his best friend who knew the next principle. "Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah), or creativity, is easy to see! Everything here is creative and looks great!"



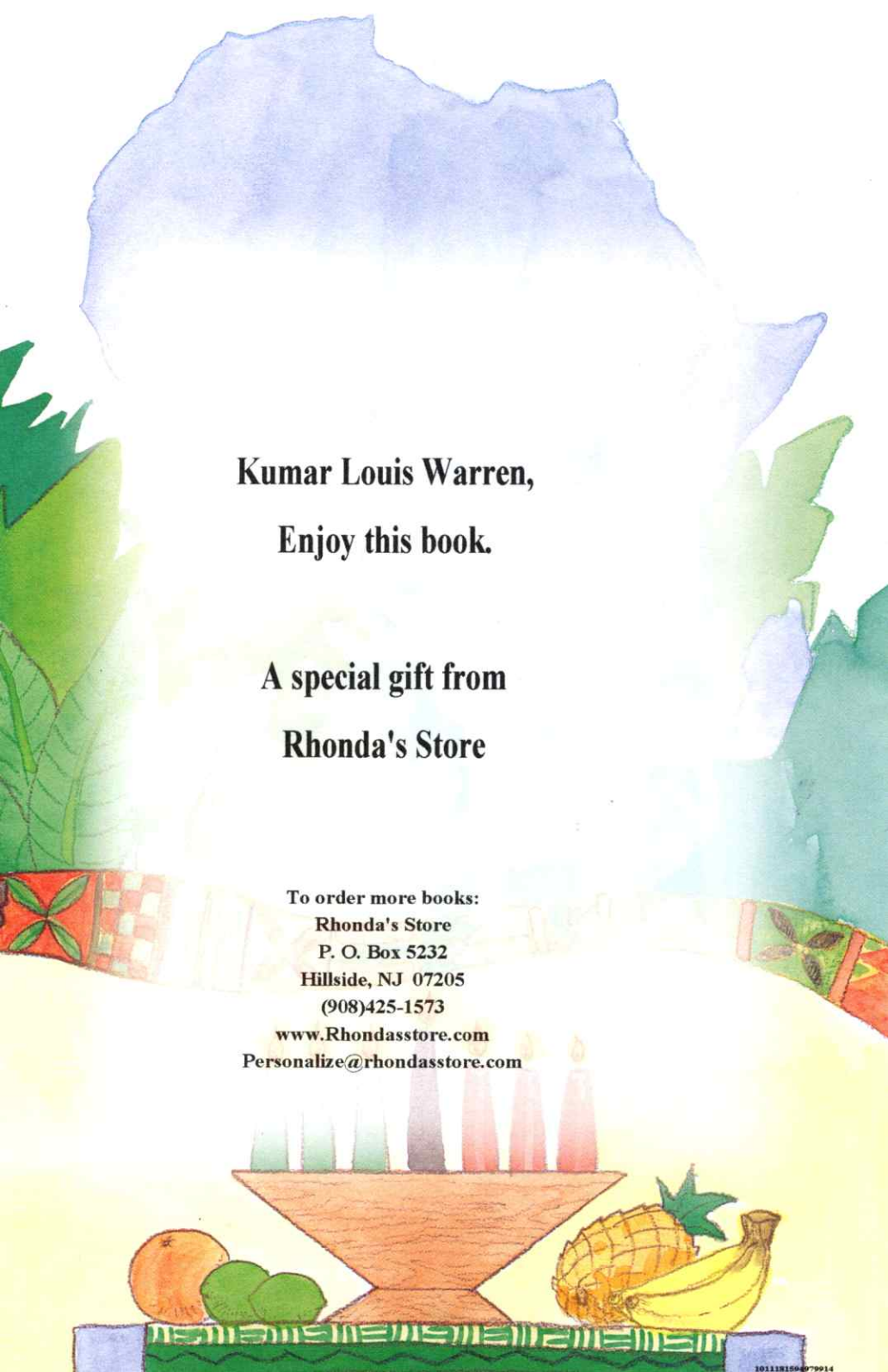


The teacher looked at all the students. "The last principle, Imani (ee-MAH-nee), or faith, means to believe in ourselves, and have faith that our people are strong and marvelous. When we celebrate Kwanzaa we will remember each of the principles, one for each day, and we will be ready to start the new year with Imani."

Kumar smiled happily. He couldn't wait to tell Mommy, Grandma, Granddad and Elizabeth all about the incredible African-American fair. He hoped they would all be together to celebrate Kwanzaa!

UMOJA
KUJICHAGULIA
UJIMA
UJAMAA
NIA
KUUMBA
IMANI





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