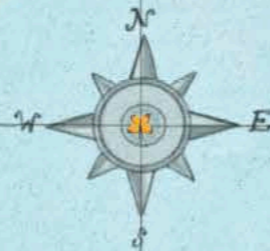


Butterfly Island

The sand.
A seed.
A storm.
And true friends.

Big Island



Dockray • Federico

BUTTERFLY ISLAND AND THE INVINCIBLE CREW

Butterfly Island and the Invincible Crew



By Tracy Dockray
and Ellen Federico







invincible - too powerful to be defeated or overcome

Butterfly Island and the Invincible Crew

Tracy Dockray

Ellen Federico





“Ready those lines. We’re almost home!” Ellen’s father shouted.



Captain Bob relied on Ellen;
as the oldest of eight, she was her
father's number one first mate.



But at home, Ellen was captain.



When her sister complained about their crowded bunkroom Ellen shut the mutiny down fast, “No one gets their own room on a boat. On land, we’re a crew too. So, let’s get dressed and go, go, go!”

The twins moaned, “What’s the rush? It’s summertime.” Ellen rallied, “The tide’s going out and we have things to do.”

Ellen always had things to do and was good at getting everyone to help do them.

“Steady our rowboat up there. Grab that driftwood and follow me. Today, we’re building a clubhouse.”

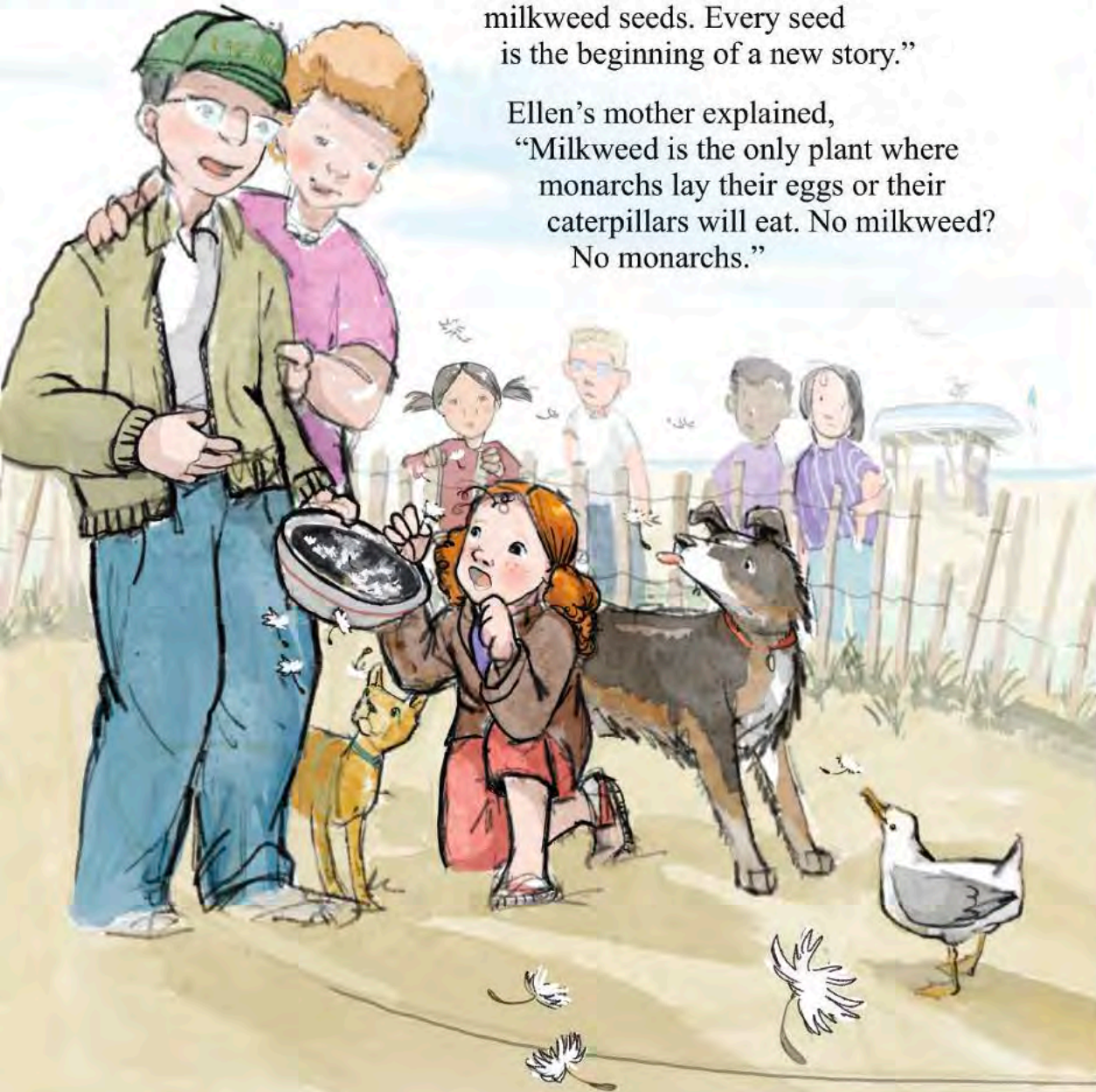


One day Ellen overheard her parents. Captain Bob said, "I'm worried. Thousands of monarch butterflies used to flutter over our island, but not anymore."

Ellen was alarmed, "What?! How can we help them?"

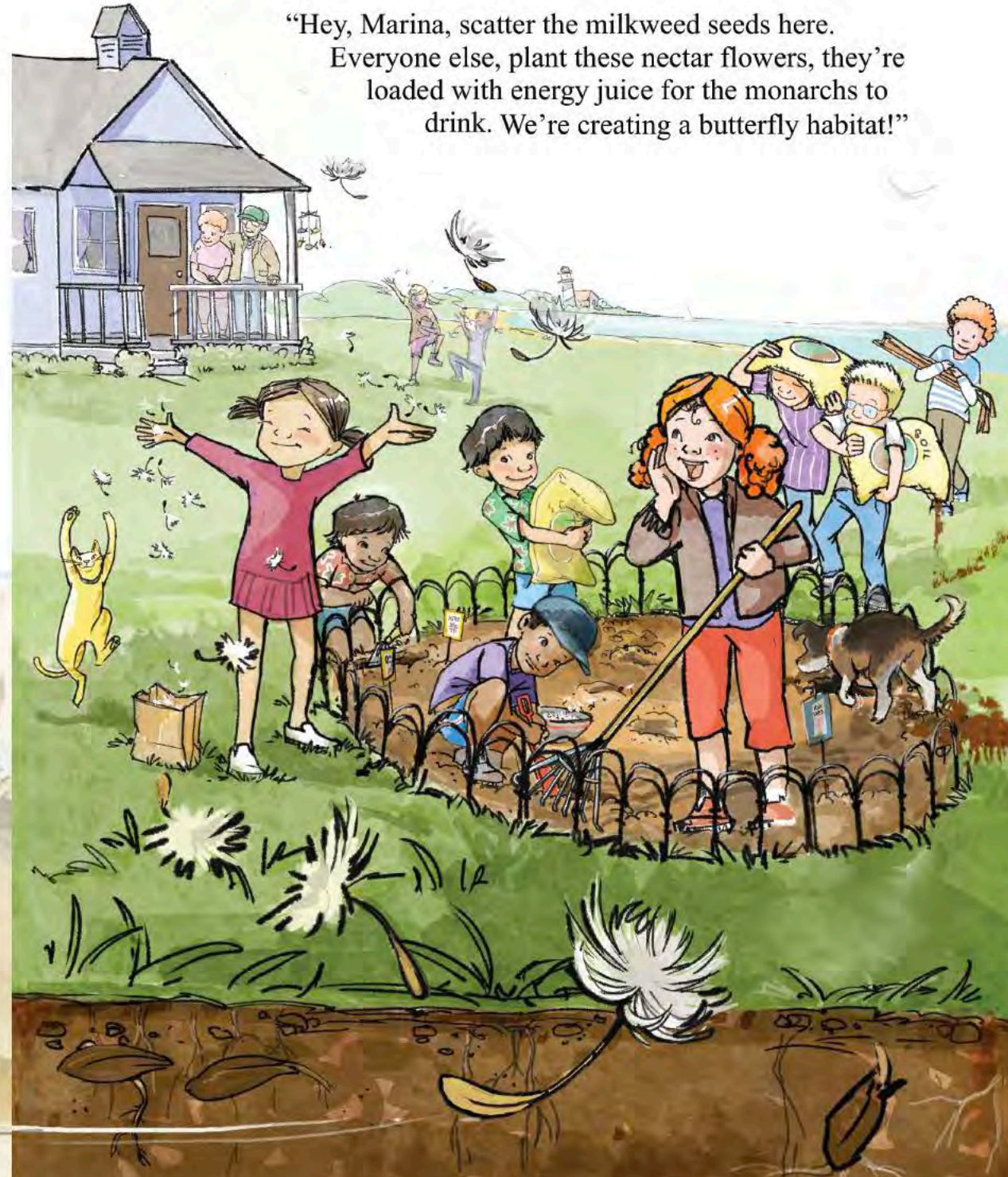
Her father advised, "Plant these milkweed seeds. Every seed is the beginning of a new story."

Ellen's mother explained, "Milkweed is the only plant where monarchs lay their eggs or their caterpillars will eat. No milkweed? No monarchs."



Ellen rounded up her crew.

"Hey, Marina, scatter the milkweed seeds here. Everyone else, plant these nectar flowers, they're loaded with energy juice for the monarchs to drink. We're creating a butterfly habitat!"





After weeks of waiting, the butterfly garden grew. They checked the habitat daily, but no monarchs visited.

Then, another monarch flew in. And another. Until there were too many to count.

One warm day, while the crew were working, a single monarch butterfly fluttered into the garden and laid an egg on a milkweed leaf.

Ellen cheered, "Our habitat is working!" Her crew were excited the monarchs returned just as Captain Bob predicted.

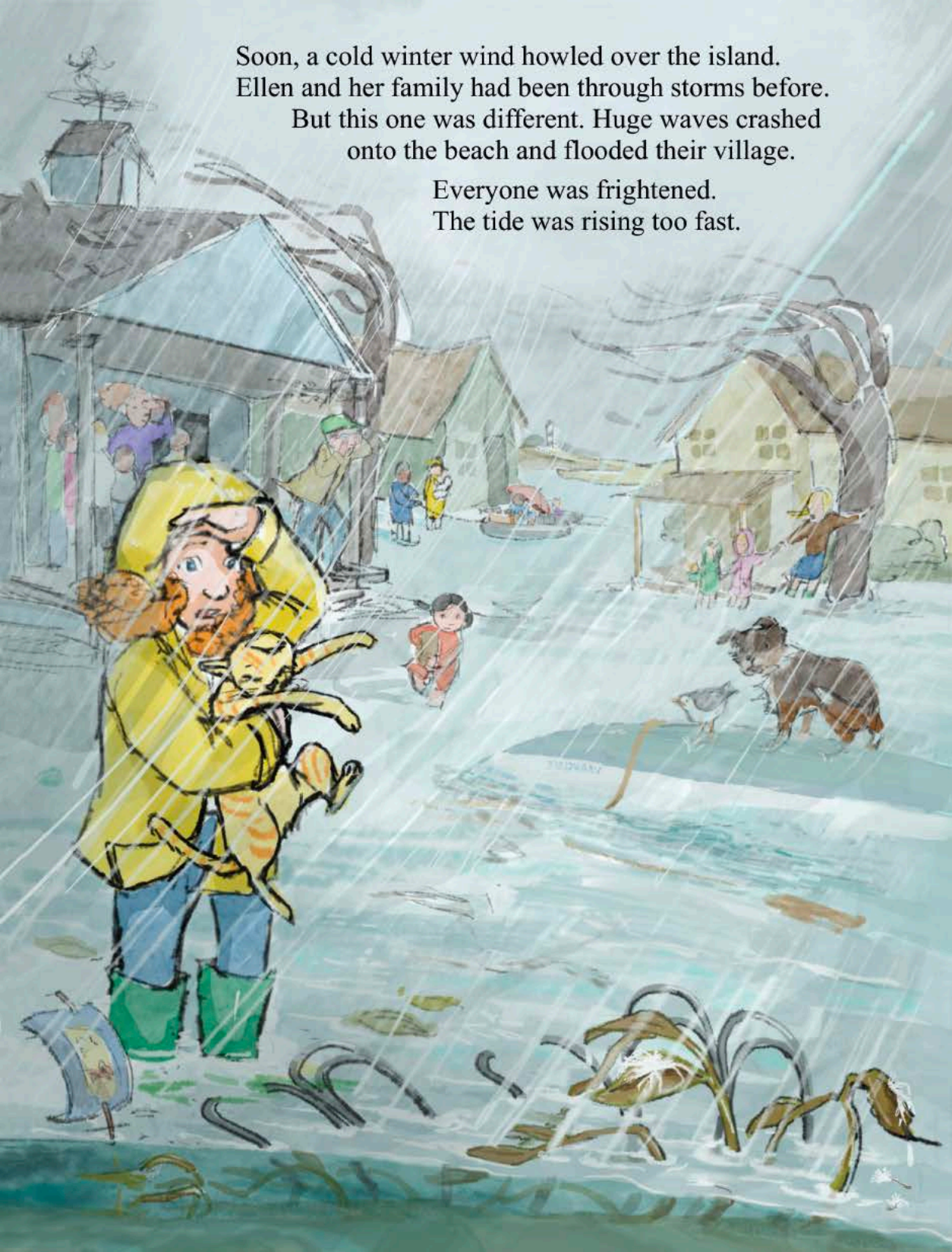


Eventually, crisp fall breezes dried the milkweed pods bursting with new seeds. Ellen thought of next year's habitat and ordered, "Scatter seeds everywhere, more milkweed more monarchs!"



Soon, a cold winter wind howled over the island.
Ellen and her family had been through storms before.
But this one was different. Huge waves crashed
onto the beach and flooded their village.

Everyone was frightened.
The tide was rising too fast.



Captain Bob shouted, "We need to go!"
Ellen and the other islanders left their
houses, seeking safety on higher ground.



After the storm, people returned to the island.
Ellen saw many homes had been washed away.
Would hers be okay?



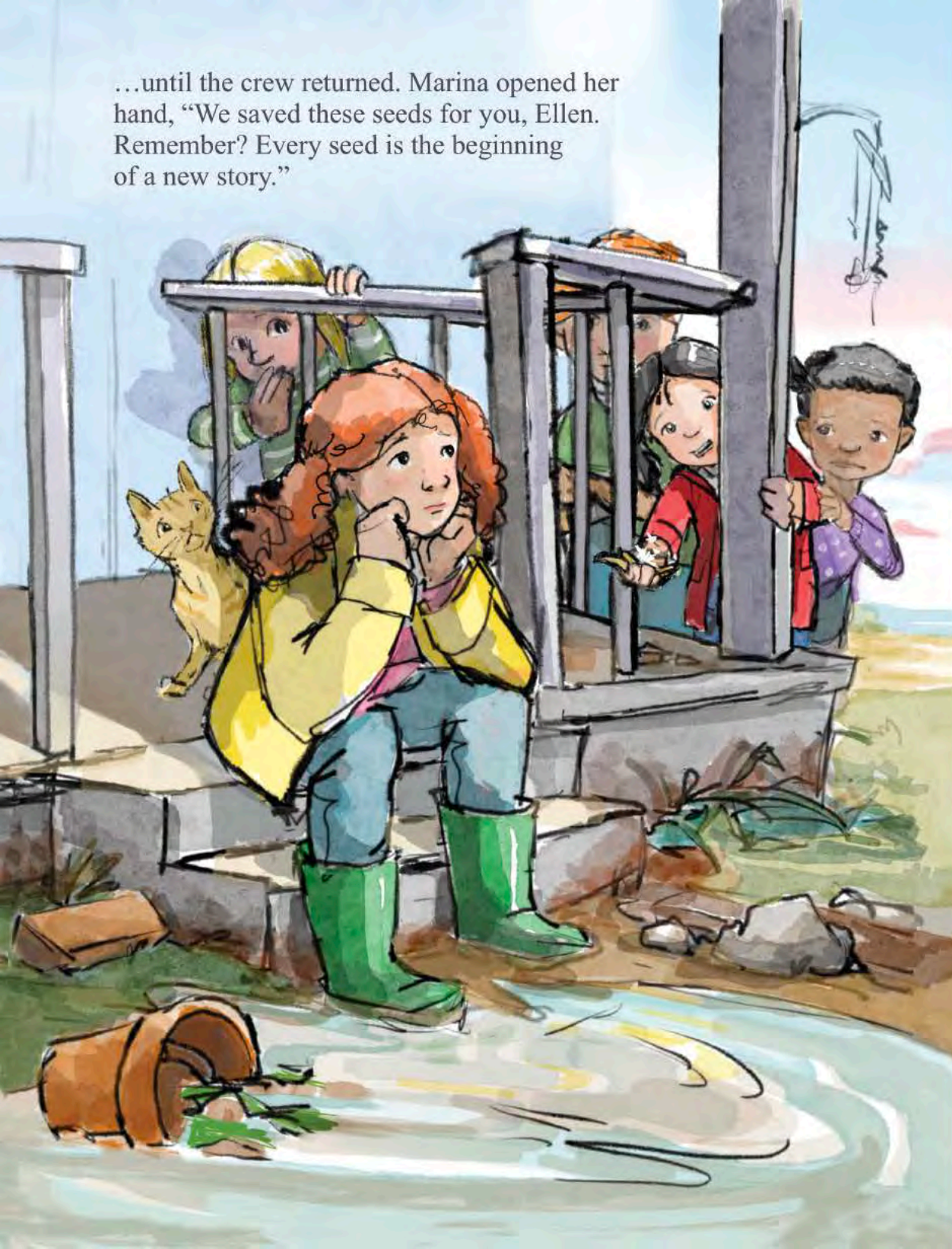
Ellen and her family were grateful their house was still there. But the habitat was wrecked by the sea.

Marina waded over and asked, "Aren't we going to help the monarchs? Let's move this tree and replant here. Look, everybody else is helping. We can too! Don't you want to, Ellen?"

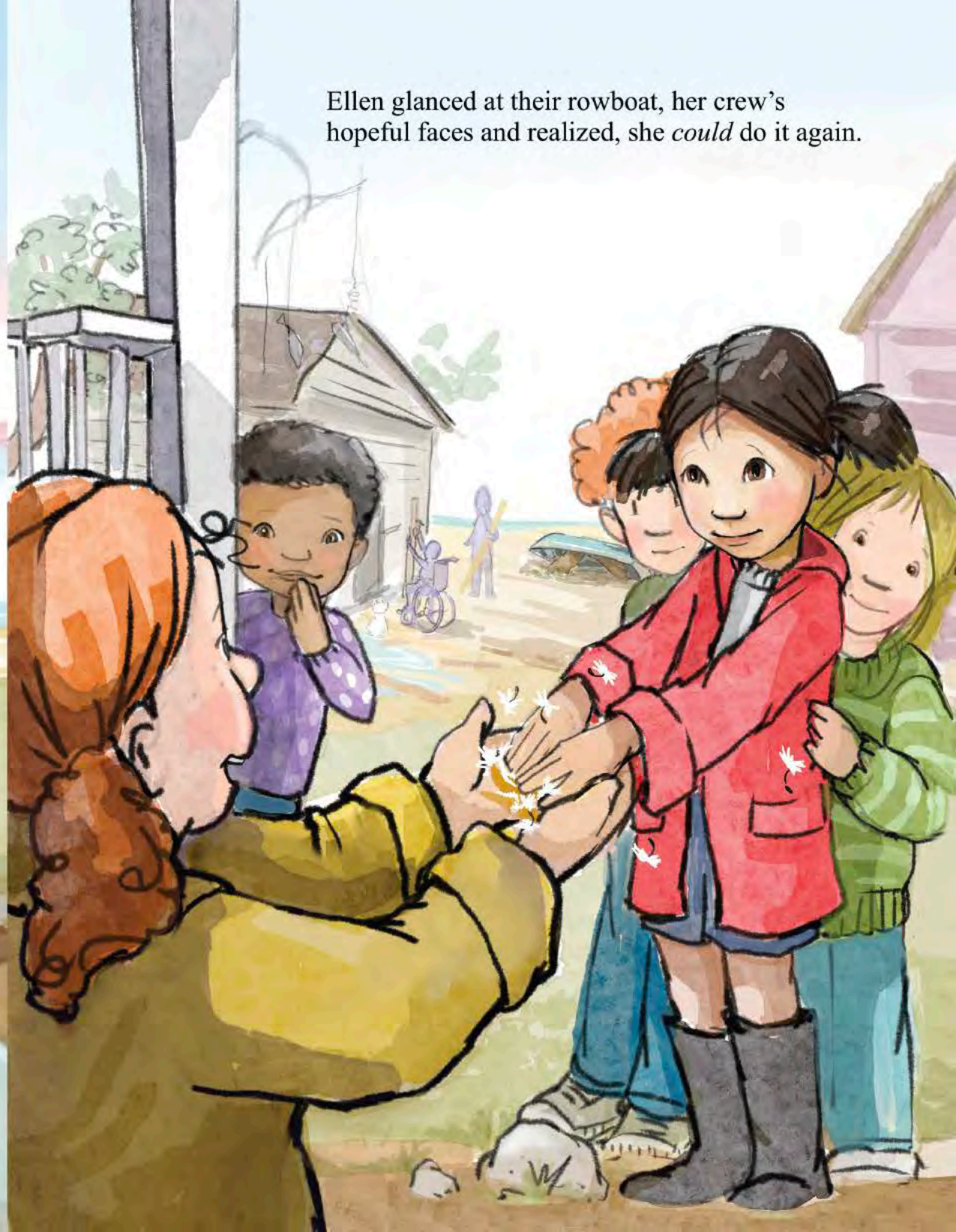


Sadly, Ellen's can-do spirit was gone...

...until the crew returned. Marina opened her hand, "We saved these seeds for you, Ellen. Remember? Every seed is the beginning of a new story."



Ellen glanced at their rowboat, her crew's hopeful faces and realized, she *could* do it again.



“Yes,” Ellen rallied, “Together, we can do anything!”



INVINCIBLE



Afterword

Ellen Federico has been gathering milkweed and nectar plants for her father's beloved monarchs since Super Storm Sandy destroyed her habitat garden and local children helped her to rebuild it. Since then, Ellen has met with schools, libraries, and nature groups encouraging them to plant milkweed to restore monarch populations. She began tagging her monarchs and followed their three-thousand-mile journey into the hills of Michoacán, Mexico, to their winter sanctuary. One tagged monarch named Captain Bob, was discovered to have made the journey successfully. Learn more at www.butterflyladyoffireisland.com.



Glossary

Butterfly - Flying insect that has a four-stage life cycle called metamorphosis.

Egg - First stage of a butterfly's life.

Caterpillar or larva - Second stage of a monarch butterfly's life. It only eats milkweed.

Chrysalis or pupa - Third stage when a hard outer casing protects a young butterfly before adulthood.

Metamorphosis - The dramatic change some animals or insects go through to become adults.

Adult Monarch - Fourth stage when an orange and black butterfly emerges from its chrysalis.

Migration - Moving from one place to another. Some monarchs migrate up to 3,000 miles.

Milkweed - The only plant monarchs lay their eggs on and their caterpillars will eat.

Nectar Plants - Their flowers contain sugar-rich liquid to attract butterflies and bees.

Habitat - Natural environment of a plant, animal or an organism.

Can you spot in the book these important plants for monarchs?



Milkweed



Aster



Joe Pye Weed

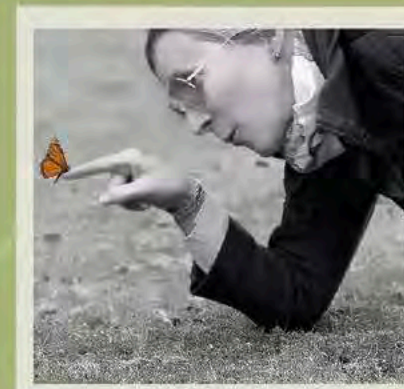


Coneflower



Tracy Dockray lives in New York and has illustrated more than 30 children's books. She began planting milkweed after learning of the monarchs' decline. She met Ellen through their mutual efforts. They've worked with groups helping them to do the same, and look forward to a time when clouds of monarchs again crowd the skies as they migrate to their winter sanctuaries in Mexico.

Ellen Federico is a writer, speaker and certified Monarch Butterfly conservationist who maintains sustainability habitats on Fire Island, New York. She has been featured as "The Butterfly Lady of Fire Island" on NBC Today Show and The New Yorker magazine. Ellen is passionate about the health and happiness of all children and teaches school groups and summer programs. She believes an educated flutter can change the world.





“To my invincible parents and crew, and everyone,
everywhere, who has helped others begin anew.”
- Ellen Federico

“To my happy place and the people that make it so.”
- Tracy Dockray

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For more information, visit eventgroup@earthlink.net.

Summary: Ellen plants a butterfly garden and
when a storm hits her friends rally to rebuild it.
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