

The Clouds in my Chest is a story about Tuberculosis and its effect on the life of a little boy and his family.

Published and distributed by AQUITY Innovations NPC, it aims at assuring children suffering from this disease that there is hope and that they can recover and lead a full life.

Refiloe Moahloli is the best-selling author of *How Many Ways Can You Say Hello*, *Tullula, Yes Yanga!* and *We are One*. She is passionate about writing stories that bring out the best in the human spirit, stories where children can identify and celebrate themselves.

Dianne McLean is an accomplished illustrator, graphic designer and mixed media artist. Inspired by the whimsical, excited by adventure. She helps bring stories to life.



The Clouds in my Chest

WRITTEN BY REFILOE MOAHLOLI
and illustrated by Dianne McLean



ISBN 978-1-928376-61-3



90000

The **Clouds** in my **Chest**

WRITTEN BY REFILOE MOAHLOLI
and illustrated by Dianne McLean



The bed was wet this morning.

It wasn't me,
it wasn't big brother,
it wasn't little sister,



it was Mama.

Her cough is getting worse,
she's been sweating all night.

Mama has to go to the clinic again
and this time she takes me with her.

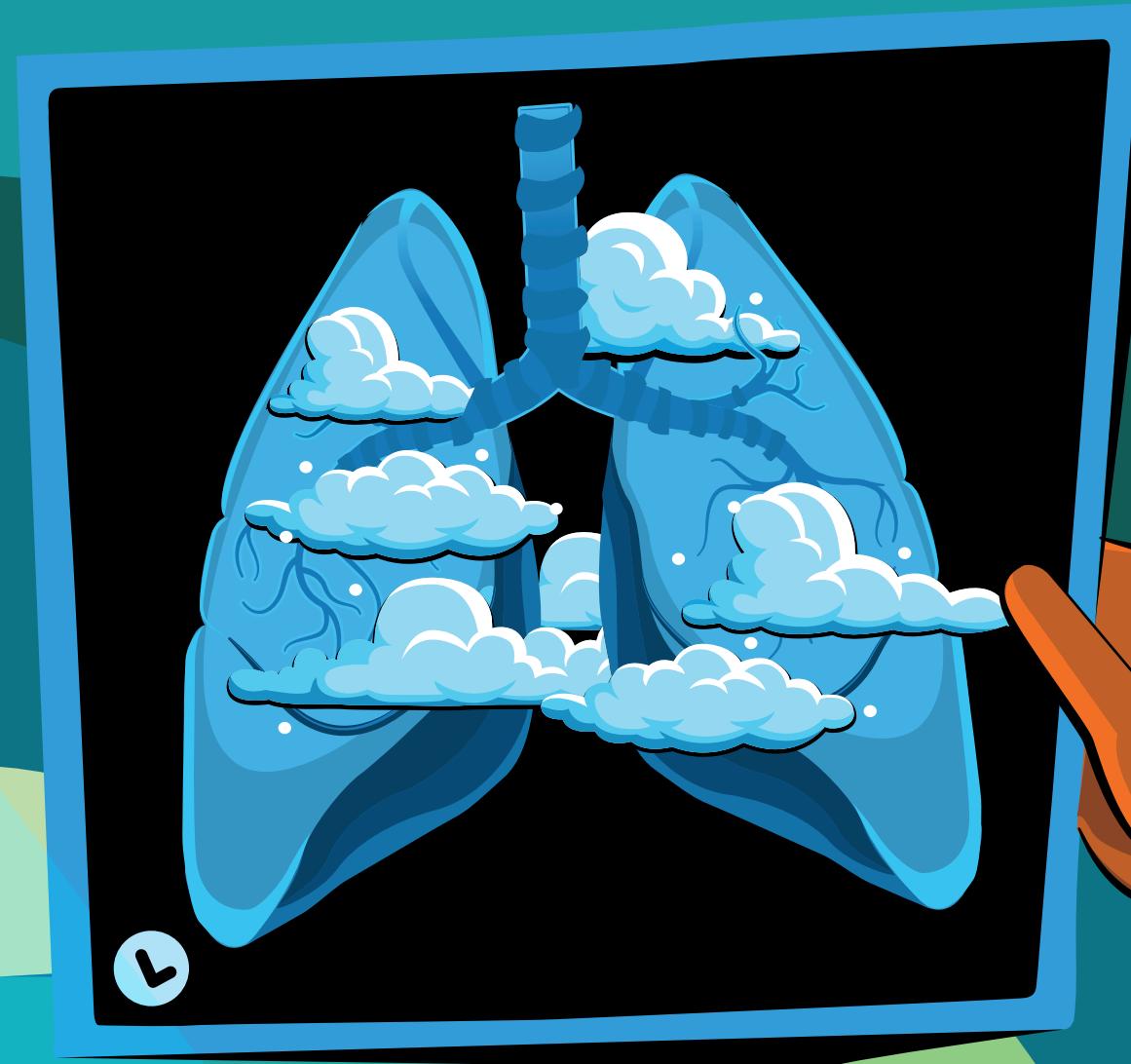
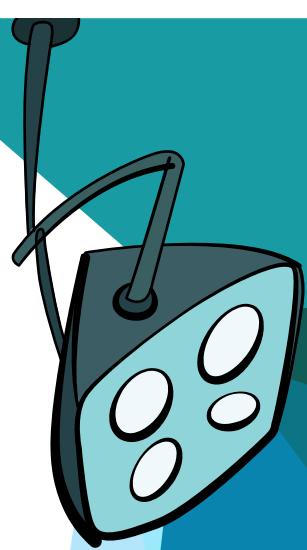


While I wait the doctor tells
me about a machine that
can see through skin.

It's so cool!

An X-ray, the doctor calls it.

The X-ray shows that
I have clouds in my lungs,
just like Mama.



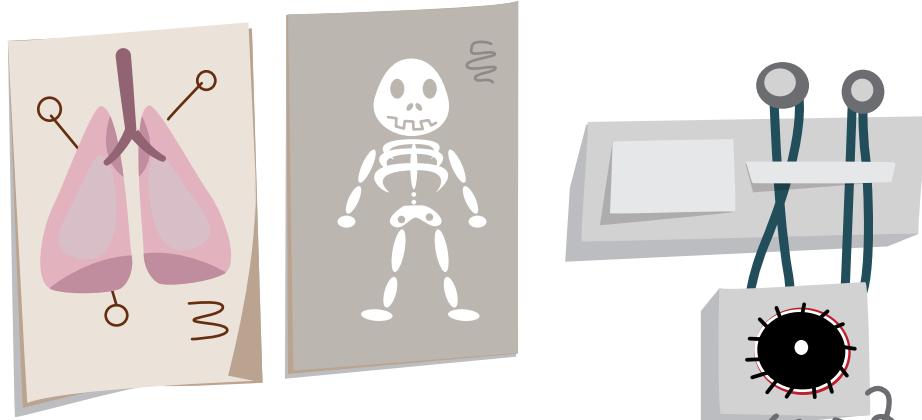


I have also been coughing a lot.

Sometimes so much I feel sick and don't want to eat,

other times so much I feel weak and all I want is to sleep.





"Will I always feel like this?"
I ask the doctor.

"Like my life is upside
down?"

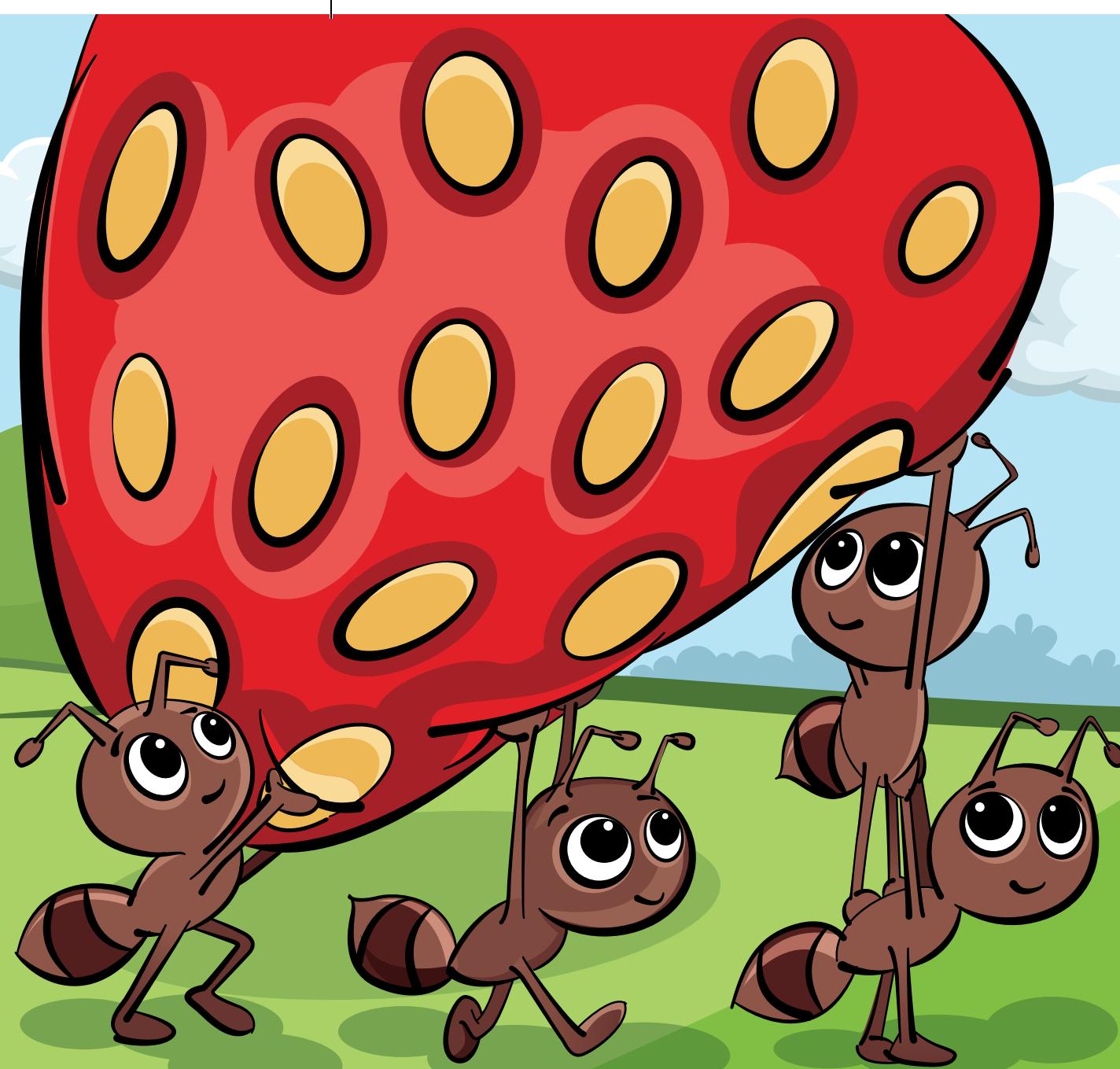
"Maybe", she responds.



"But, as in nature, there is hope."

There is hope for the ant,
who has to balance a berry
a long way home.

She is joined by her family
and it becomes their
berry to carry.

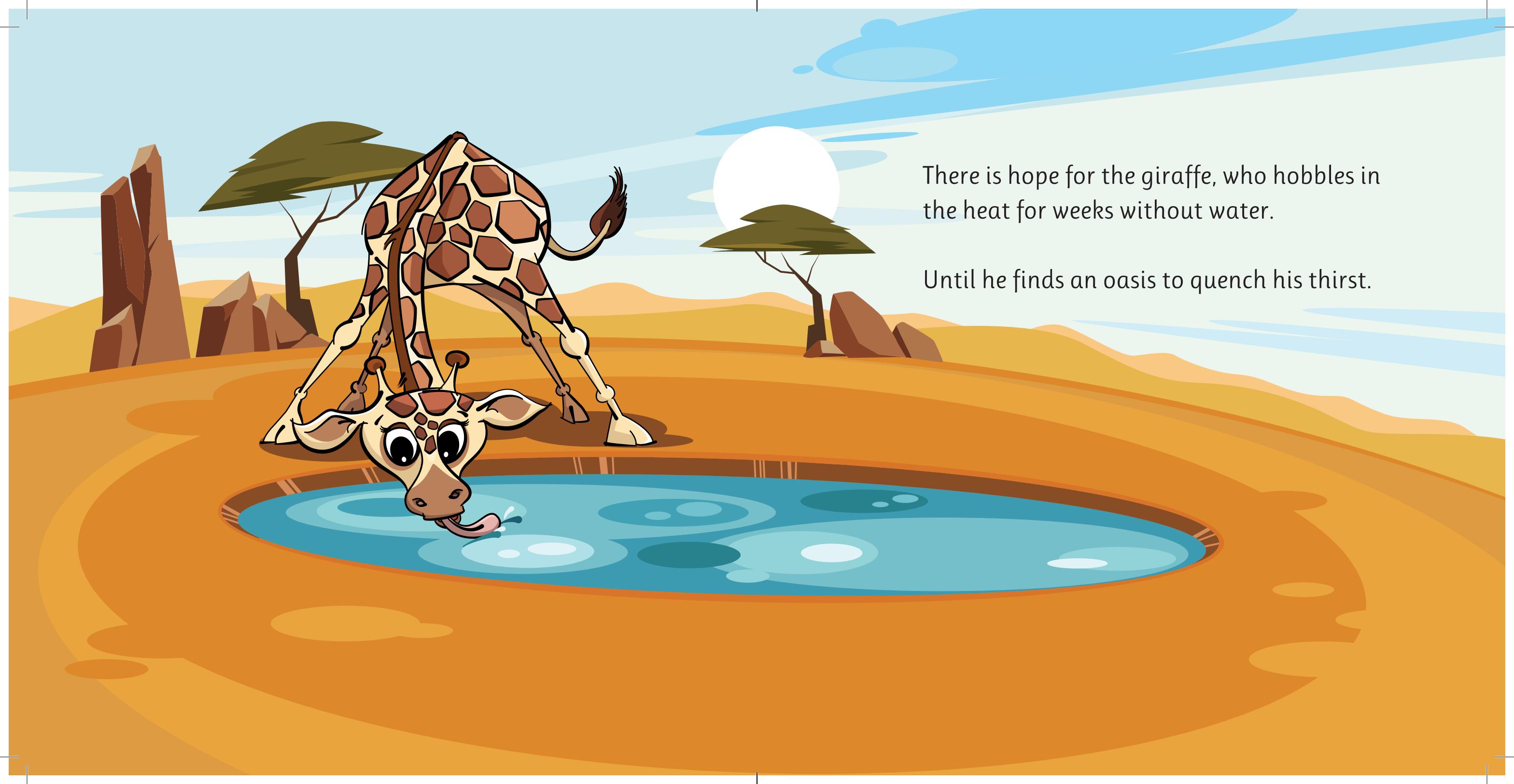




There is hope for the bee,
who moves from flower to flower
collecting pollen to make honey.

That bee is why all flowers
continue to grow.





There is hope for the giraffe, who hobbles in the heat for weeks without water.

Until he finds an oasis to quench his thirst.

And there is hope for the meerkat,
who hides from her predators
so she can live to see the sunrise.

She emerges from her burrow safe
and hungry for adventure.



There is hope all around us
and there is hope for you.

It takes time.



4
8
16

5

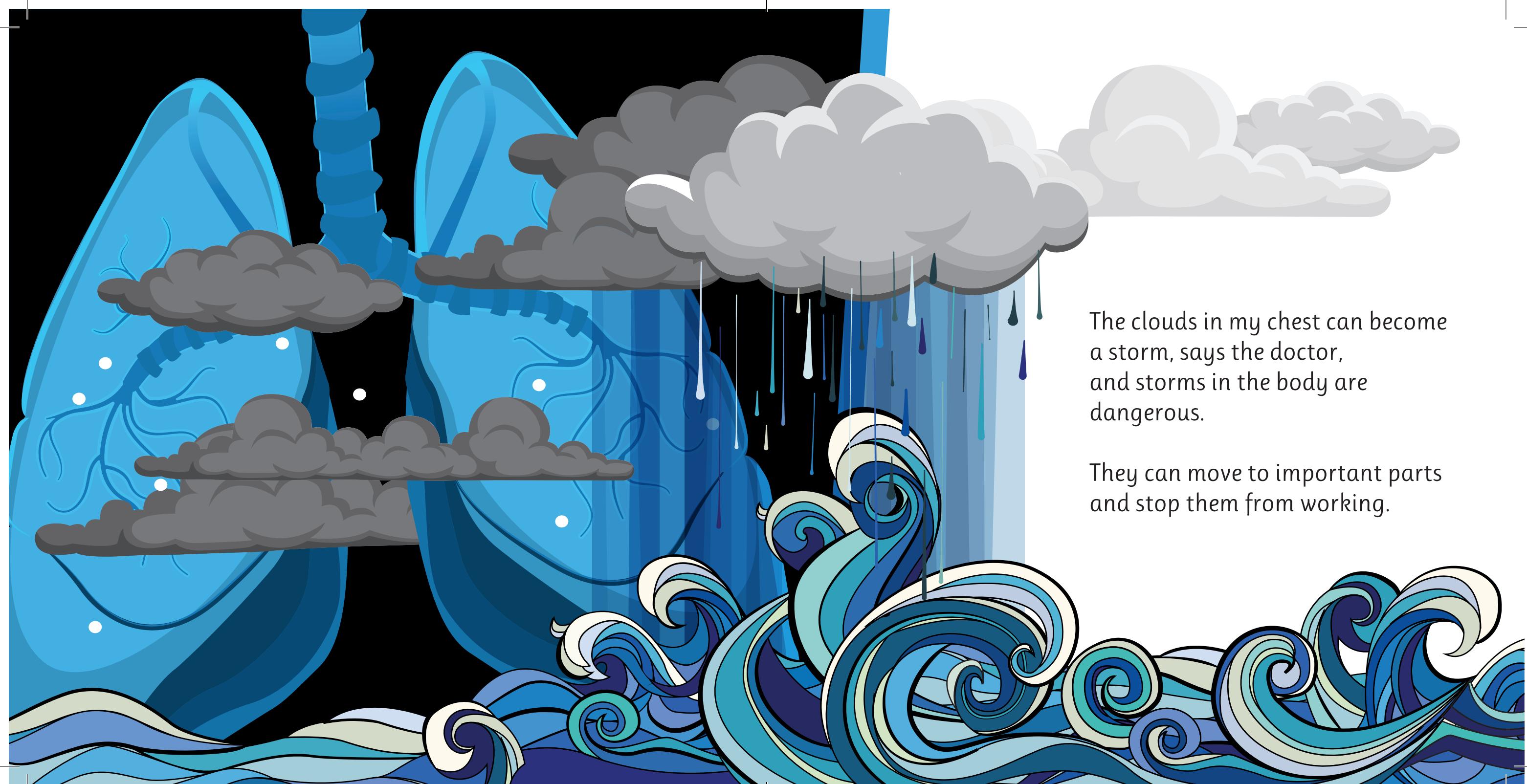
9

3

6

10

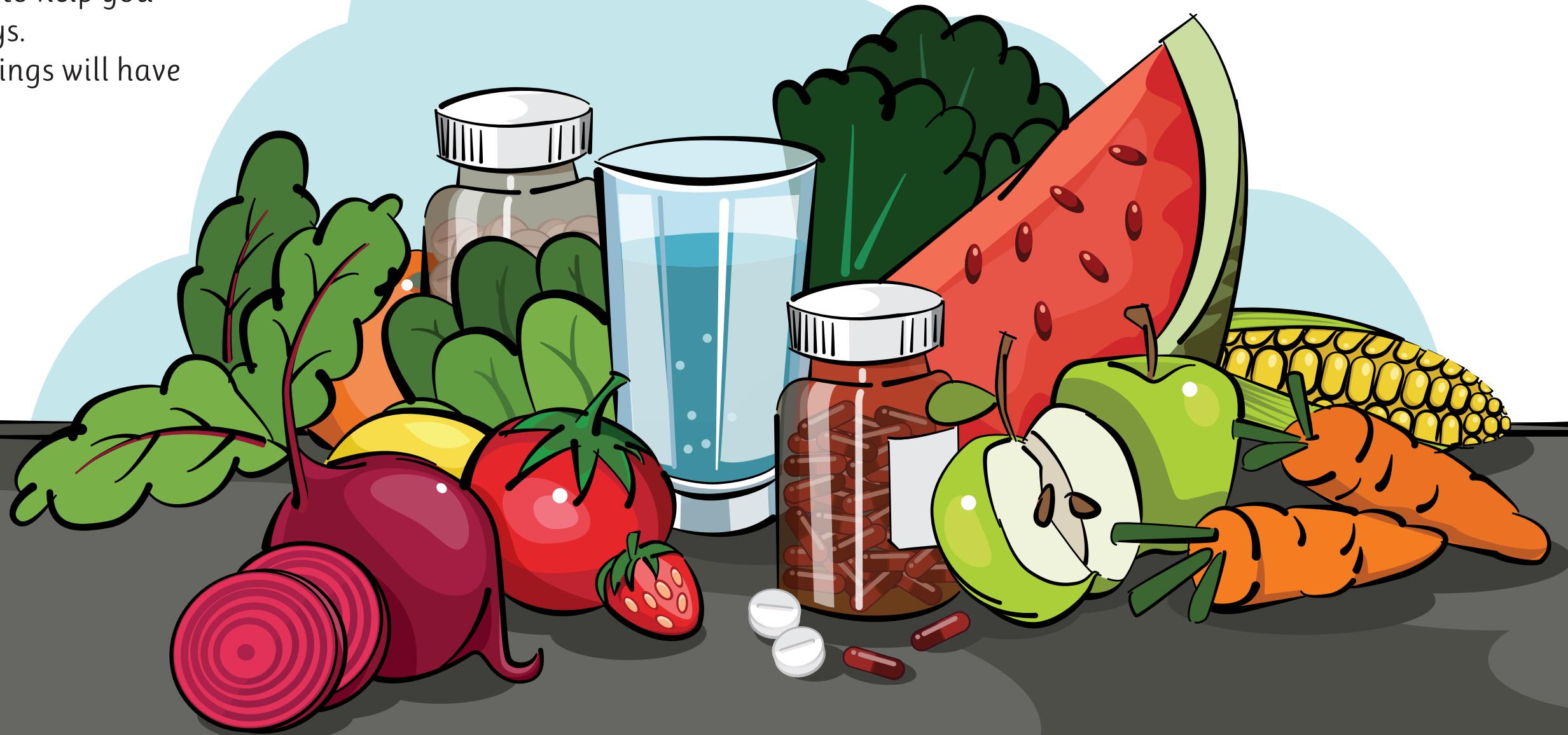
4



The clouds in my chest can become a storm, says the doctor, and storms in the body are dangerous.

They can move to important parts and stop them from working.

"We are here to help you
heal", she says.
"But some things will have
to change ..."



Since the visit to the clinic
the bed isn't wet anymore.
Mama and I are feeling better





so we continue with
our treatment
for us to fully heal.

One day may
look like the next
for a while ...

but with each new day,
the clouds in our lungs
are clearing.



This publication has been made possible by the support of Johnson & Johnson.



Johnson & Johnson has a long history of innovating to combat Tuberculosis. In 2018, the company announced a 10-year commitment to help end the TB pandemic by expanding access to treatment, improving patient diagnosis and accelerating research for new TB treatments, including developing paediatric formulations for its own medicine.



AQUITY Innovations is a specialist public health NPO established in 2010, with a focus on providing innovative solutions to address public health diseases. Our technical expertise include managing and consulting in Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (including paediatric management), TB/HIV as well as TB and Diabetes. In line with its vision of quality health services for all, AQUITY works with the South African National Department of Health.

Published in 2021 by AQUITY Innovations NPC,
114 Sovereign Drive, R21 Corporate Office Park, Irene, Centurion 0157

Copyright © AQUITY Innovations NPC
Text © Refiloe Moahloli
Illustrations © Dianne McLean

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owners.

ISBN 978-1-928376-61-3

Printed and bound by XMD Books, 34 Carlisle Street, Paarden Eiland 7405