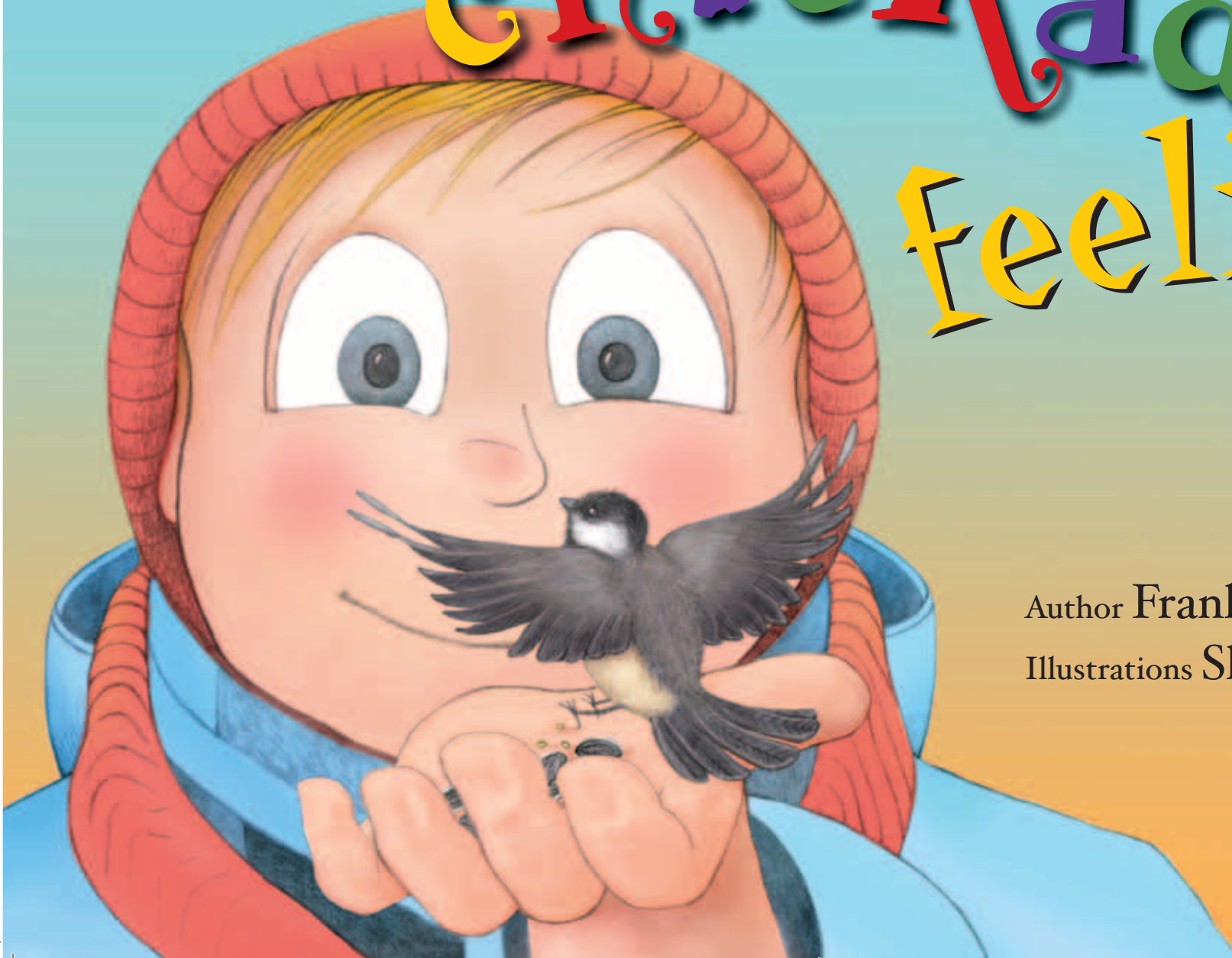


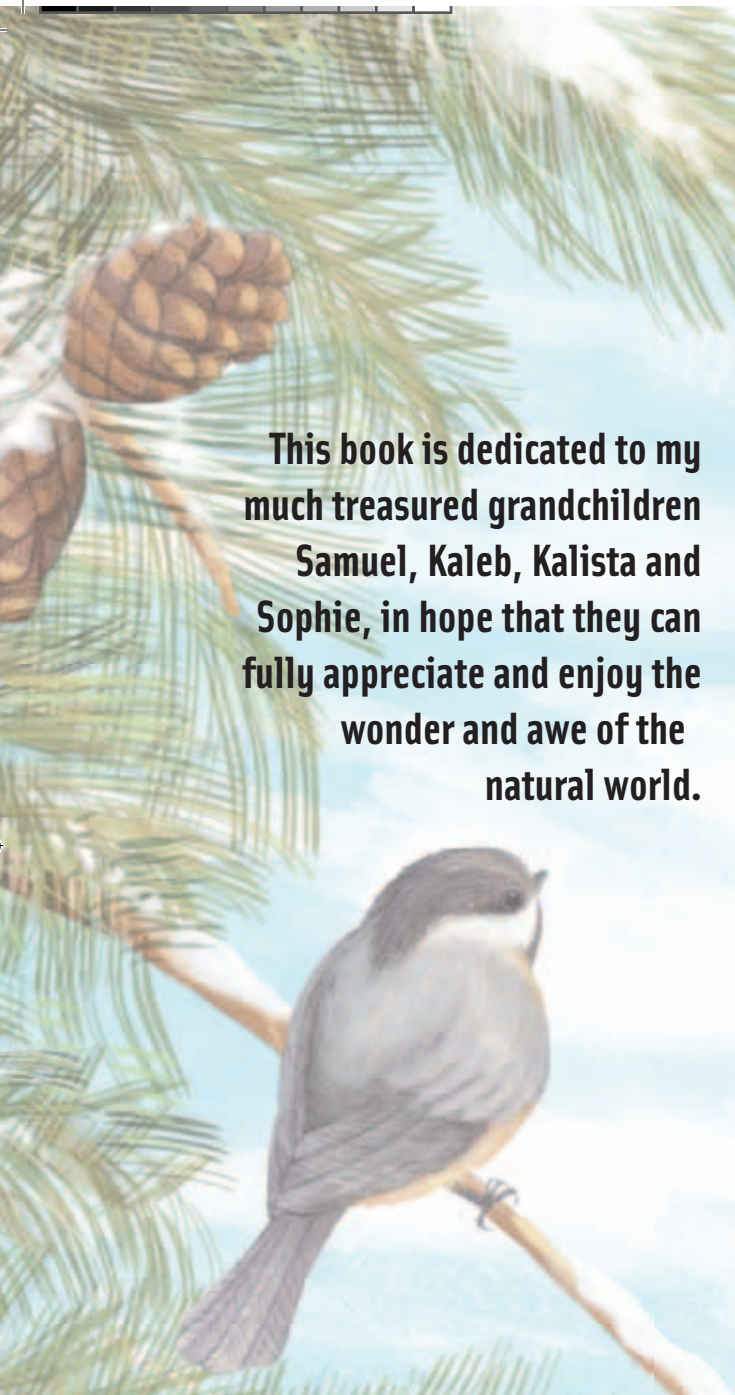


that chickadee feeling

Author Frank Glew

Illustrations Sheila King





**This book is dedicated to my
much treasured grandchildren
Samuel, Kaleb, Kalista and
Sophie, in hope that they can
fully appreciate and enjoy the
wonder and awe of the
natural world.**

That Chickadee Feeling

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It is an ancient belief that divine forces talk to us through the natural world. – Ted Andrews, (Animal-Speak)



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Let Nature be your teacher. – William Wordsworth



I was bored; really, really, really bored.
My toys were boring. Television was boring.
My video games were boring.
Everything was boring!

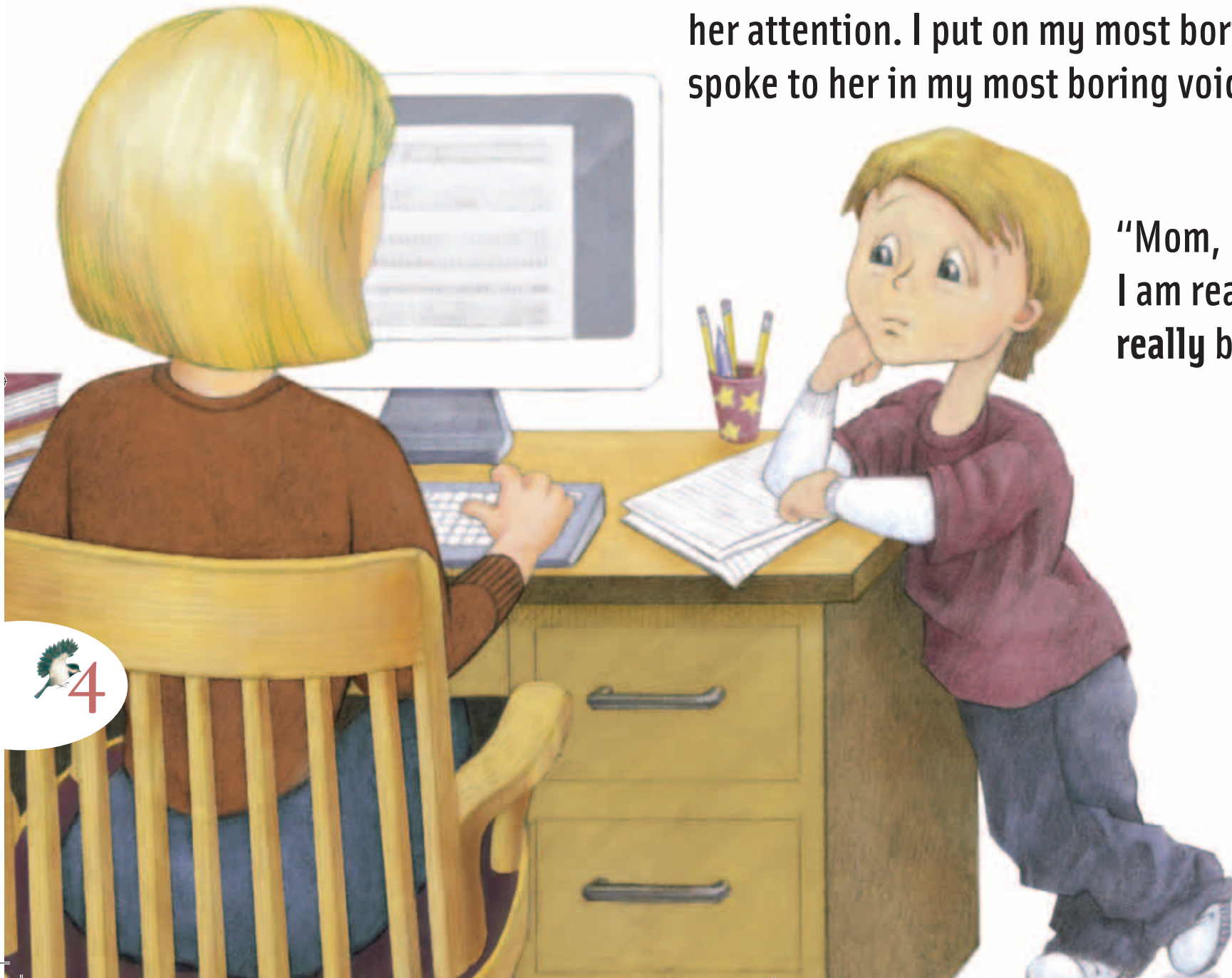


Even my sleeping dog, Max, was boring.
I needed something exciting to do!



My mother was busy writing a letter so I didn't want to disturb her. I had to think of a way to get her attention. I put on my most boring face and spoke to her in my most boring voice,

"Mom, I'm bored;
I am really, really,
really bored."





Mom looked at me for a long time over the top of her glasses. Then, to my surprise, she said, "I know just what you need! You need that **chickadee** feeling!"

I didn't know what she meant by a **chickadee** feeling but I was ready to try anything.



Before I knew it, I was dressed in my coat, my scarf, my boots, my hat and was heading toward the park with a small bag in my hand.

As we arrived at the edge of the forest, we were greeted by the warning sound of a screaming Blue Jay. I heard other bird sounds in the background.



My mother explained to me how this land used to be home for many animals. Now, all that was left was this small park that a few good people had saved.




I wondered what all this had
to do with me being bored and
what a *chickadee* feeling
was all about.





All of a sudden my mother stopped and whispered, "We are here." I looked around but all I saw were bushes and small trees.

I heard strange fluttering noises that seemed to be getting closer and louder but I could see no signs of life.

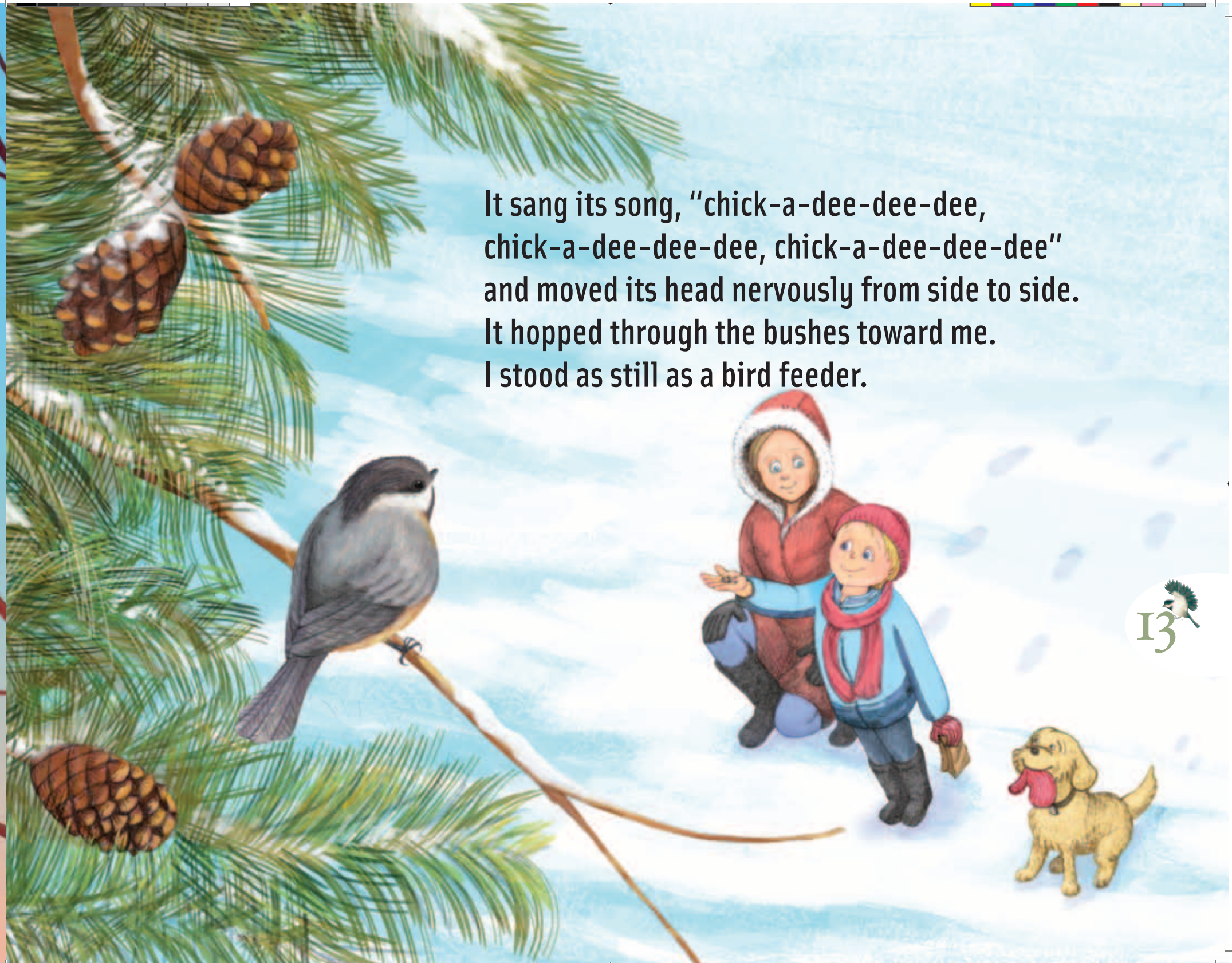
An illustration showing a close-up of two hands. A larger, darker-skinned hand is positioned at the top, with fingers slightly curled as if pouring. A smaller, lighter-skinned hand is held open below it, palm up, receiving several small, dark, oval-shaped seeds. A few more seeds are shown in mid-air between the two hands. The background is a soft gradient from light blue at the top to a warm orange at the bottom. The style is simple and illustrative, typical of a children's book.

My mother told me to be patient as she took some sunflower seeds from the small bag. She told me to hold out my open hand and to be very, very still while she spread the seeds gently on my bare hand.

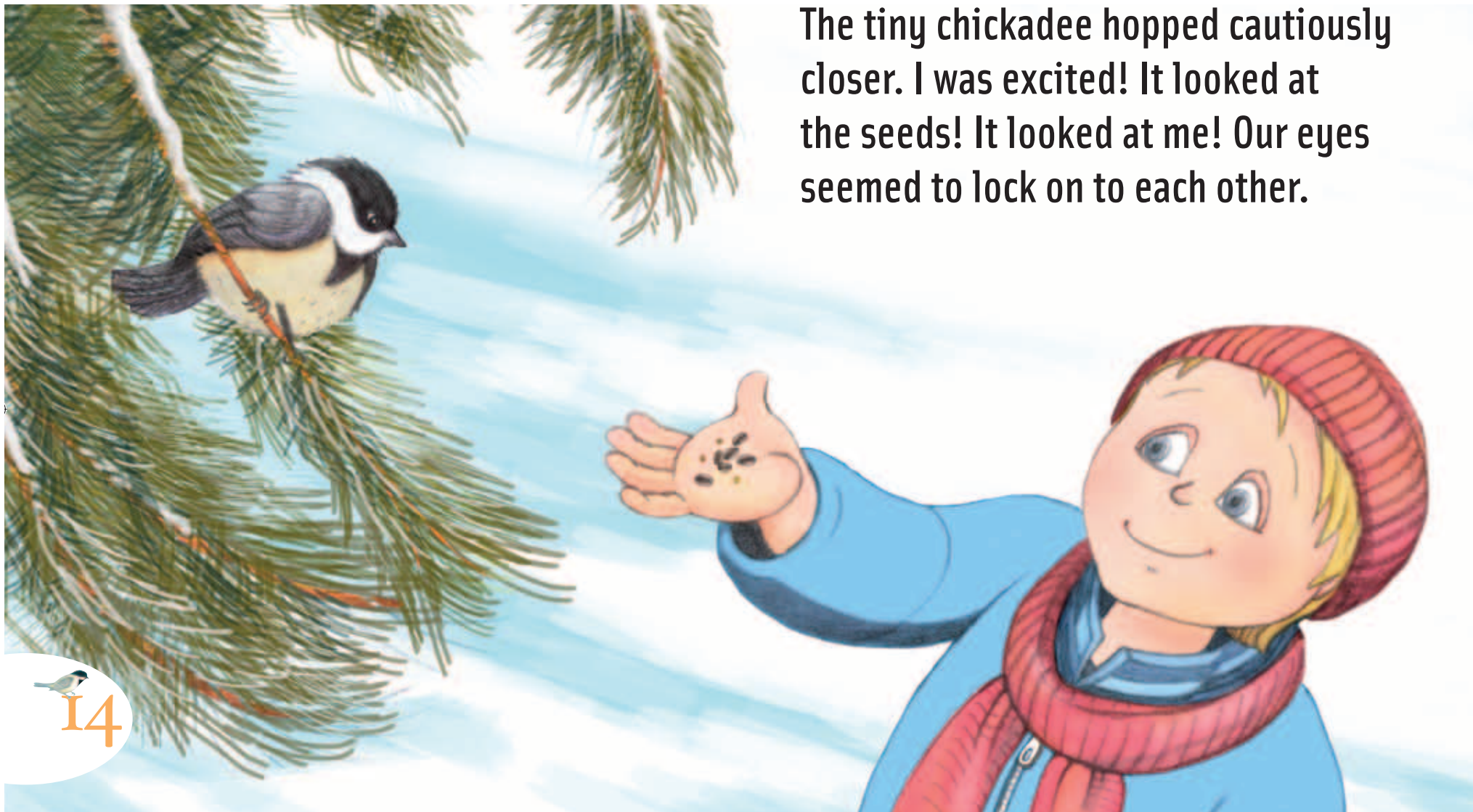
I stood there for a long time.
Then suddenly I heard the soft, gentle
sounds of small wings very close to us.
A curious little chickadee landed
beside me on a Dogwood shrub where
it watched me carefully.



It sang its song, "chick-a-dee-dee-dee,
chick-a-dee-dee-dee, chick-a-dee-dee-dee"
and moved its head nervously from side to side.
It hopped through the bushes toward me.
I stood as still as a bird feeder.



The tiny chickadee hopped cautiously closer. I was excited! It looked at the seeds! It looked at me! Our eyes seemed to lock on to each other.



A child wearing a red beanie and a blue jacket is shown from the side, looking down at a small bird perched on their outstretched hand. The background is a light blue gradient.

THEN IT HAPPENED!

That trusting little bird landed on my hand! I got a strange tingling feeling which stretched from my fingers to the tips of my toes. I was surprised and excited at the very same time.

A big wave of happiness ran over me. It felt as if Mother Nature had touched me.
IT WAS MAGICAL!



This must have been what my
mother was talking about.

This must be that special
chickadee feeling!

I wondered how this
little bird could make
me feel so amazing
and cheerful.



The little chickadee chose one seed from my hand then flew to the nearest tree branch. It placed the seed between its feet and pecked hungrily at the shell to find the tender inside part, which it ate quickly.






I heard other chickadee-dee-dee-dee sounds,
but the same little chickadee flew right back to
my shaking hand for more food.

Again, I got that same warm,
wonderful *chickadee* feeling.

IT WAS AWESOME!



An illustration of a woman and a young child. The woman, on the left, has blonde hair and is wearing a red jacket with a large white fur collar. She is looking down at the child with a gentle smile. The child, on the right, is wearing a red knit hat and a blue jacket with a red scarf. The child is looking up at the woman with a happy expression. The background is a soft gradient of blue and purple.

To my surprise, I forgot my mother
was with me! When I looked at her
we both glowed with big, beaming smiles.
At that special moment I felt a different
chickadee feeling.

That day, I learned I could have the
chickadee feeling even without
a chickadee.



As we walked home, Mom and I talked about other exciting *chickadee* feelings we both have had in our lives. Mom told me about a little puppy she got for her birthday and the time she came first in a race. I told her about learning to ride my bike and the first time I saw a rainbow.



But the best part of all was when my mom told me her very, very, very best chickadee feeling was the first time she saw me on the day I was born.





I sure didn't feel bored anymore!

Chickadee-dee-dee,

Chickadee-dee--dee,

Chickadee-dee---dee...

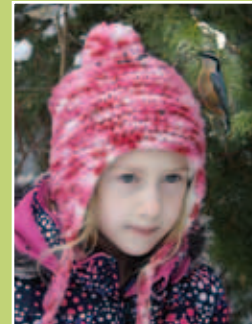
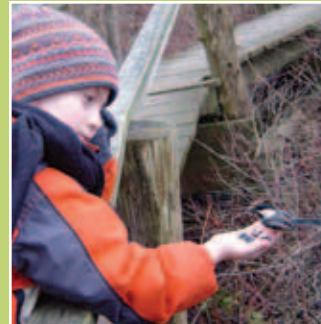
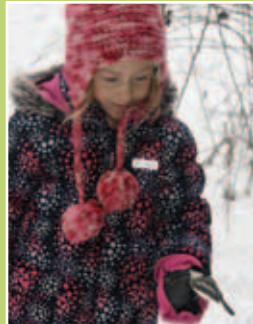


Chickadee Challenge

There is a bird visitor that is not a Chickadee in one of these photos .

Can you find it?

Name that bird.



One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.

— William Shakespeare

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Chickadee Comfort

I went to the woods to see what's to be, and found the answer from a Chickadee.

It sang its song, "SiSusu, SiSusu", as if to say, "My faithful friend, things will be OK!" — F. Glew, 2012



Blue Jay



Hairy Woodpecker



Screech Owl



Great Horned Owl



Crow



Red-breasted Nuthatch



Downy Woodpecker



Cardinal

Teaching children about the natural world should be treated as one of the most important events in their lives. — Thomas Berry



THE AUTHOR

Frank Glew is the recipient of 14 awards including the Prentice-Hall Canada Award, Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, and the Richards Education Award. "That Chickadee Feeling" was chosen by the Children's Services Division of the Region of Waterloo as their best children's book. Frank has taught all grades from grade one to university and has found that the amazing reaction to an intimate meeting with the Black-capped Chickadee is the very same for all ages. He is retired and living in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada where he is pursuing his life-long dream of writing children's books, travelling, playing hockey and, most of all, enjoying being an active part of his grandchildren's lives.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

This book is an invitation to engage children in an exciting and memorable encounter with nature. The story shows how the gregarious little chickadee can be a rewarding and spiritual vehicle for getting in touch with nature and sharing our happiest moments in life. In this busy highly technological world of television, iPads, cell phones, video games and computers, children get less quality time with others and less physical exercise. One of the most important gifts we can give children is our time and to make sure they are raised with a meaningful and engaging respect for Mother Earth. The benefits of connecting with nature are many and will last a lifetime. Oneness with nature is an ultimate goal. Children who understand the need for a healthy natural environment become our best natural resource.

Sharing nature with a child creates many rewarding, magical memories. It also shows how nature can be a valuable bonding agent for quality time between parent and child. The author strongly encourages a visit to your local forest for a realistic "Chickadee Feeling" experience of your own.



ILLUSTRATOR — Sheila King

Artist/illustrator Sheila King grew up in Vancouver, British Columbia. After graduating from the University of British Columbia she attended the Ontario College of Art and Design, and currently resides and works just outside of Toronto, Ontario. She can be contacted through her website at studiosking.com.

In the end,
We will conserve only what we love,
We will love only what we understand,
We will understand only what we are taught. — Baba Diauorm

Other books by the same author

When I Grow Up, I Want To Be Just Like My Dog

ISBN 0-9688494-2-3, 2003

Butterfly Wishes

ISBN 0-9688494-5-8, 2004

Samuel's Most Important Message

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ISBN 978-0-9688494-4-7-7, 2007

Feed the Good Wolf

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Eggbert's Dragon Dream

ISBN 978-0-9688494-9-1, 2009

Little Ladybug Earns Her Spots

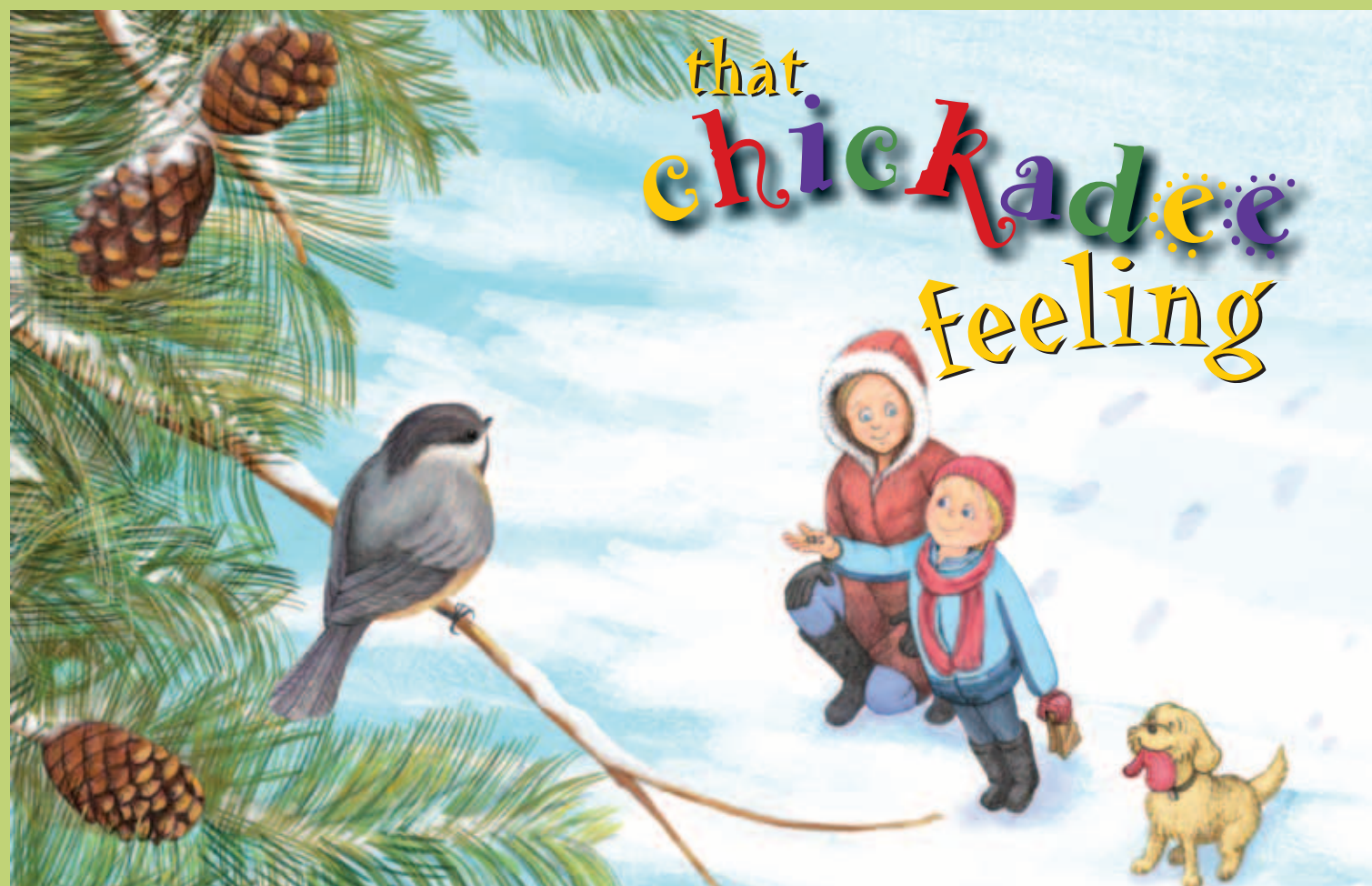
ISBN 978-0-9810393-0, 2010

Whoosh! There Goes My Heart!

ISBN 978-0-9810393-1-2, 2012

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www.kw.igs.net/~fsglew



That Chickadee Feeling

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The magical, happy, feeling of having a Black-capped Chickadee feed out of a child's hand (a Chickadee Feeling) is captured in print. It fosters a special connection and bonding of child, parent and nature. It is an invitation to discover and share all the happy moments in a child's life. The story begs the question, "What is your best **chickadee feeling**"?

May your life be filled with Chickadee Feelings! – F. Glew

