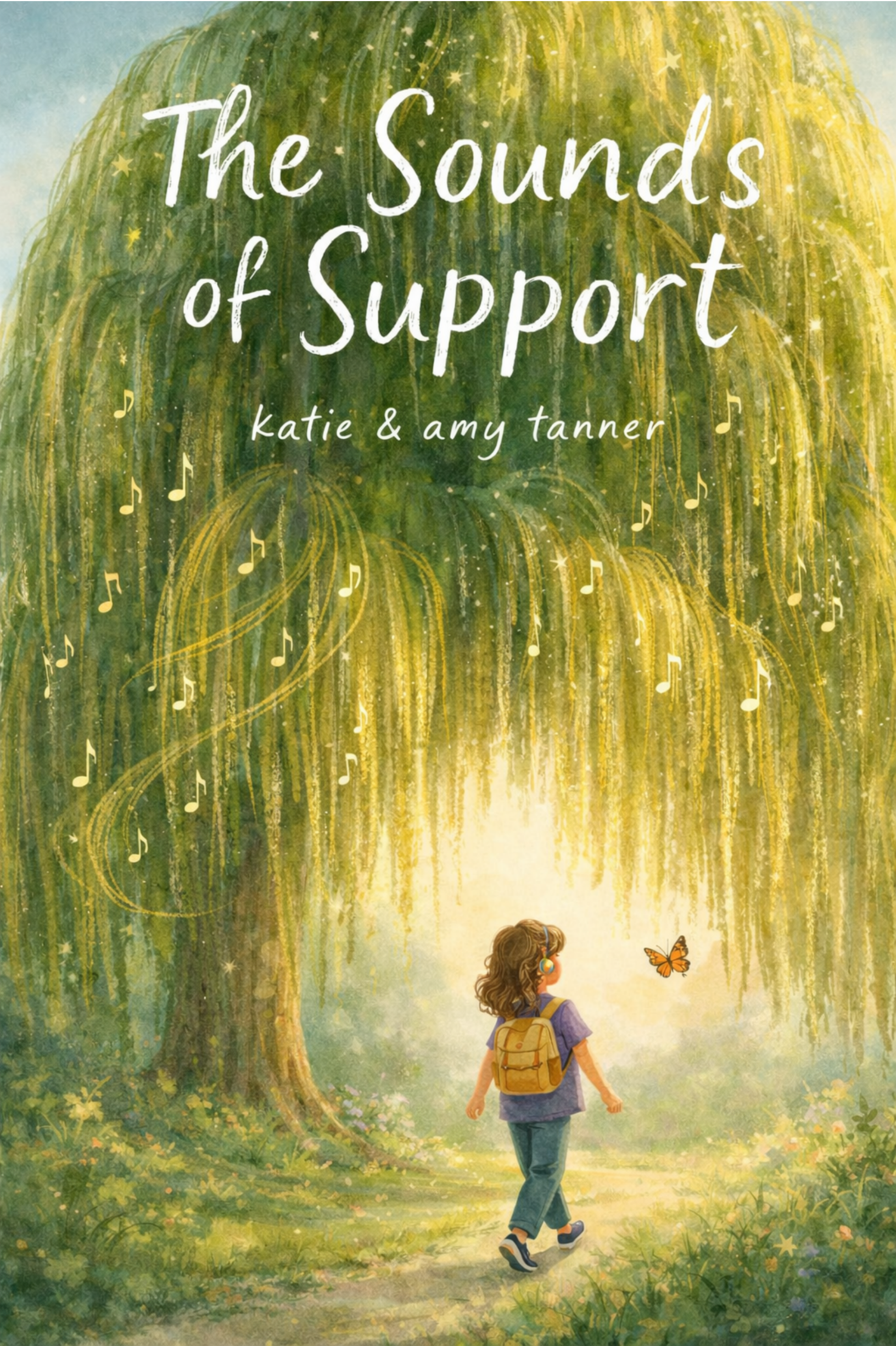
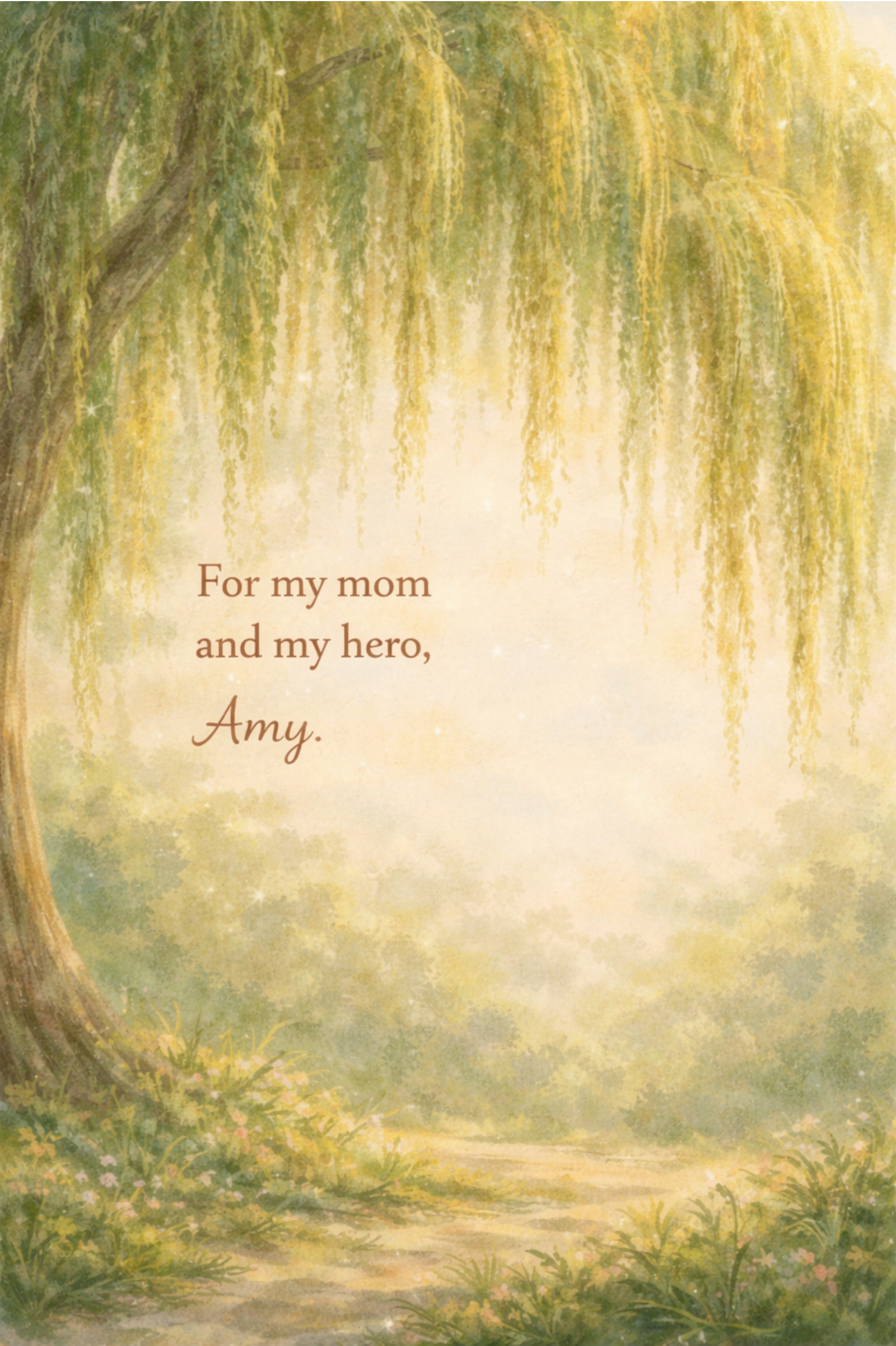


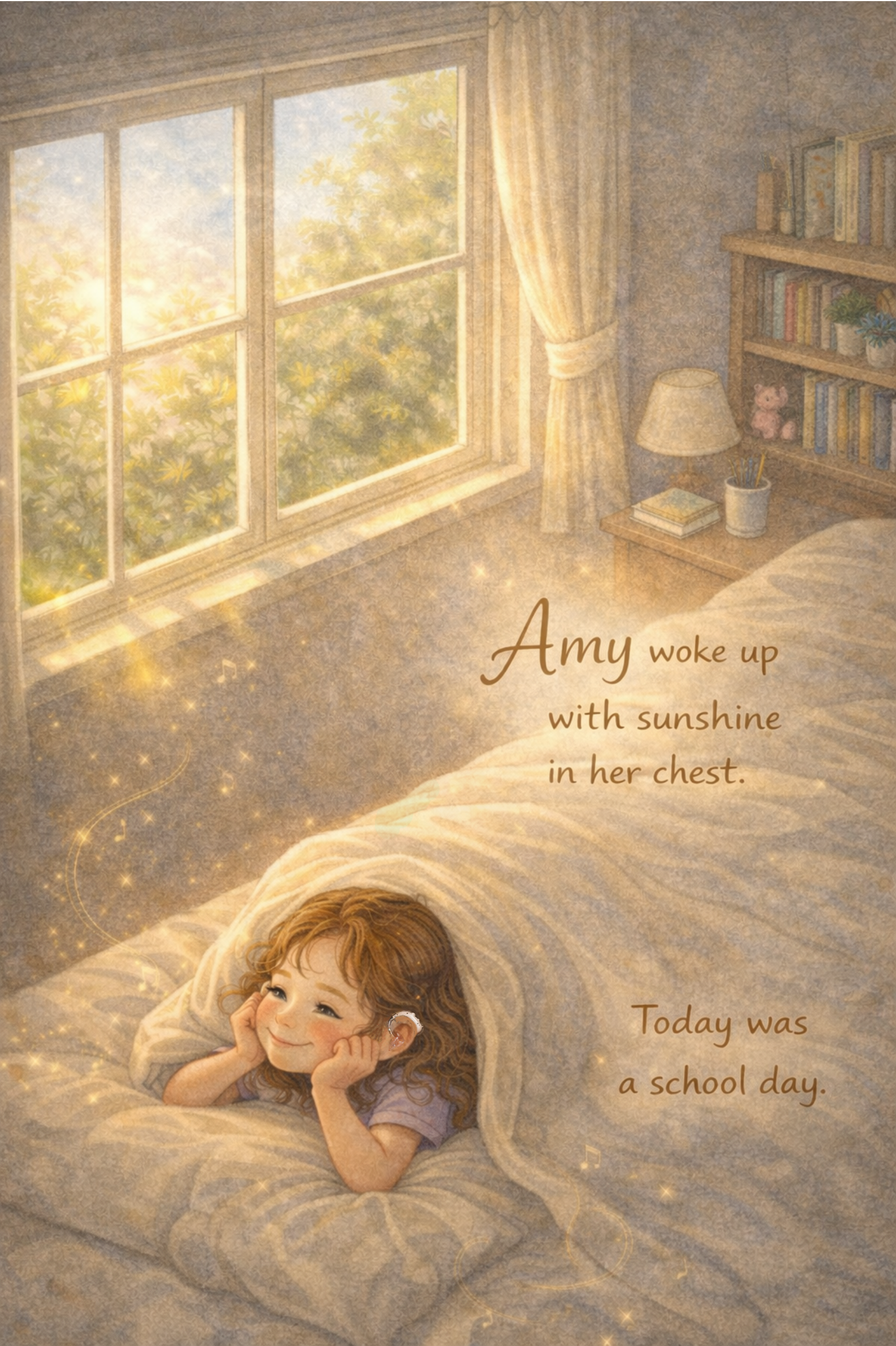
The Sounds of Support

katie & amy tanner





For my mom
and my hero,
Amy.



Amy woke up
with sunshine
in her chest.

Today was
a school day.

She grabbed her backpack and
headed for the door.

She's waited all summer
to see her friends again.



Outside the school, Amy
pauses for a tiny moment.

Just one breath.



Amy is hard of hearing.
She listens in her own way.



She loves talking with her friends
and her hearing aids help her listen, too.



In class, the teacher wrote on the board
and spoke clearly.

And Maya, Amy's interpreter, signed the lesson, too.



Some kids listened with their ears.

Some watched with their eyes.

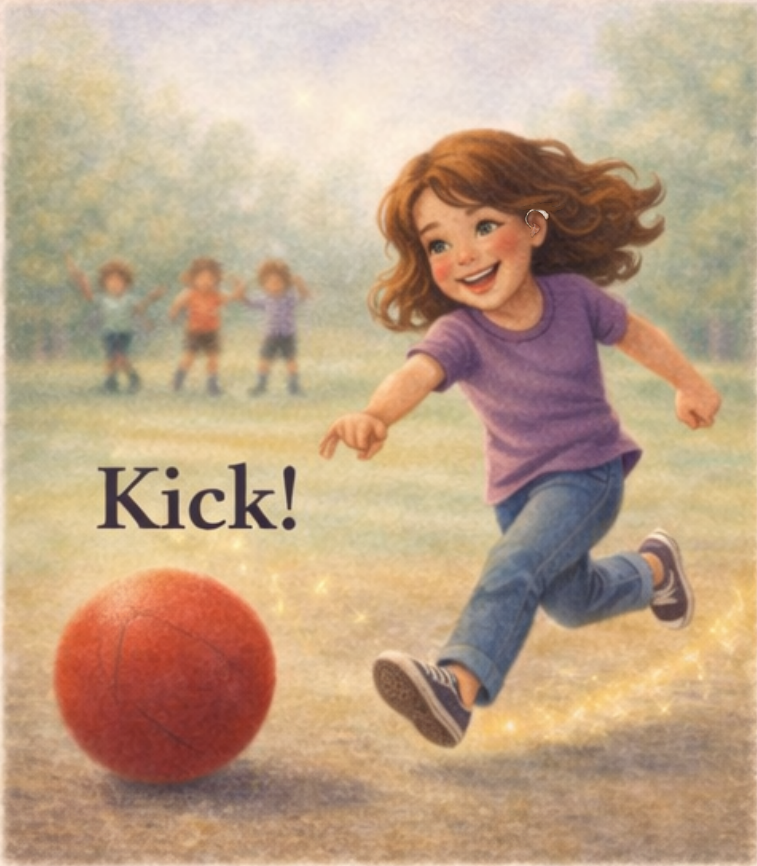
Some used both.

In this classroom, everyone learns together.

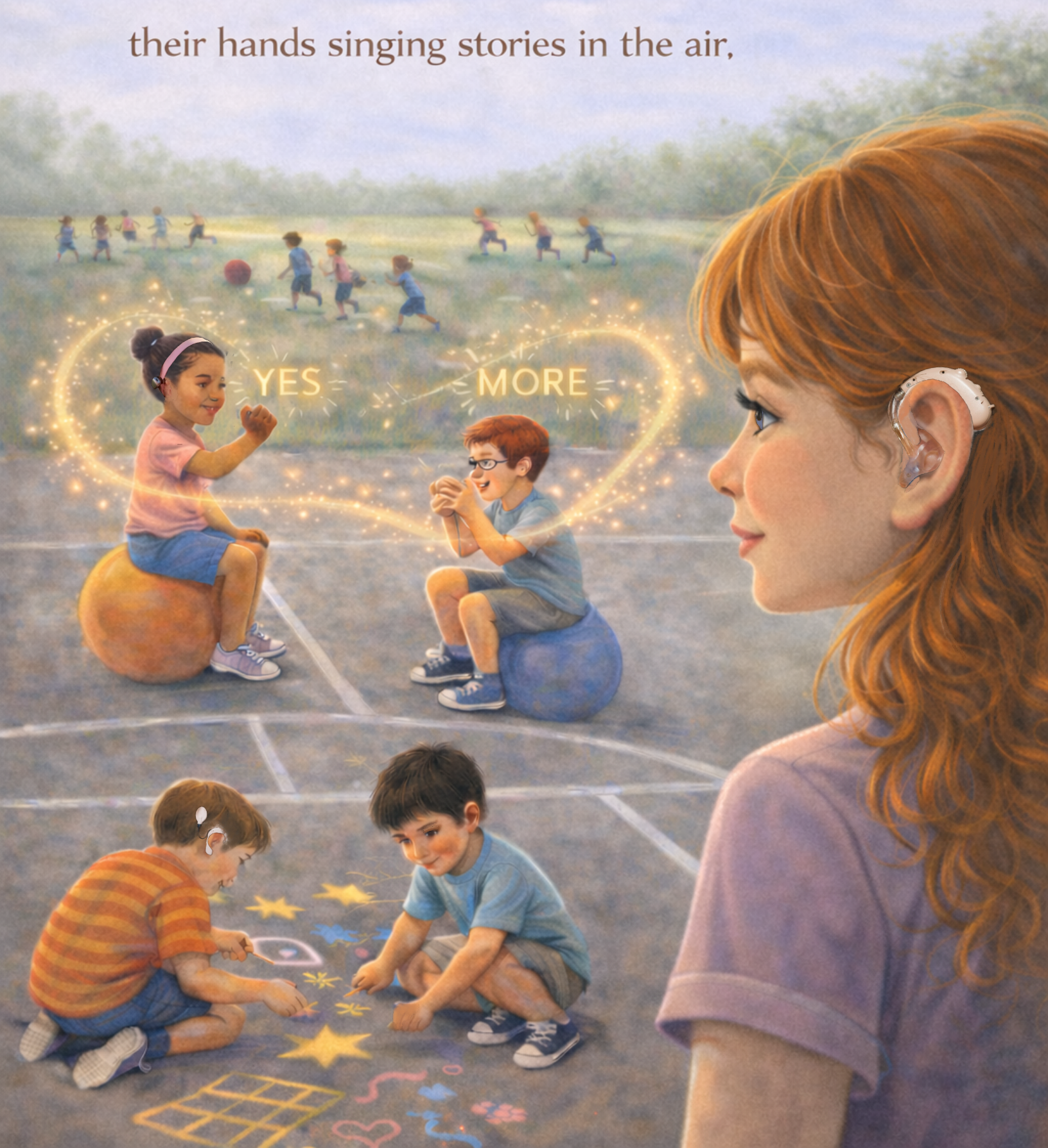


When it was time for recess,
Amy's smile led the way.
She ran toward the playground,
and the others followed behind.





Amy wasn't the only one who listened differently.
Some kids wore hearing aids,
Some used other devices.
Some signed—
their hands singing stories in the air,



After school, Amy and her parents visited Ms. Olivia.

Ms. Olivia is a genetic counselor.

She helps families understand their bodies
and the special ways each one grows and works.



Genetic
Counselor

“Sometimes hearing loss runs in families,”

Ms. Olivia said.

“Amy’s mom and grandma have it too.”



Grandma



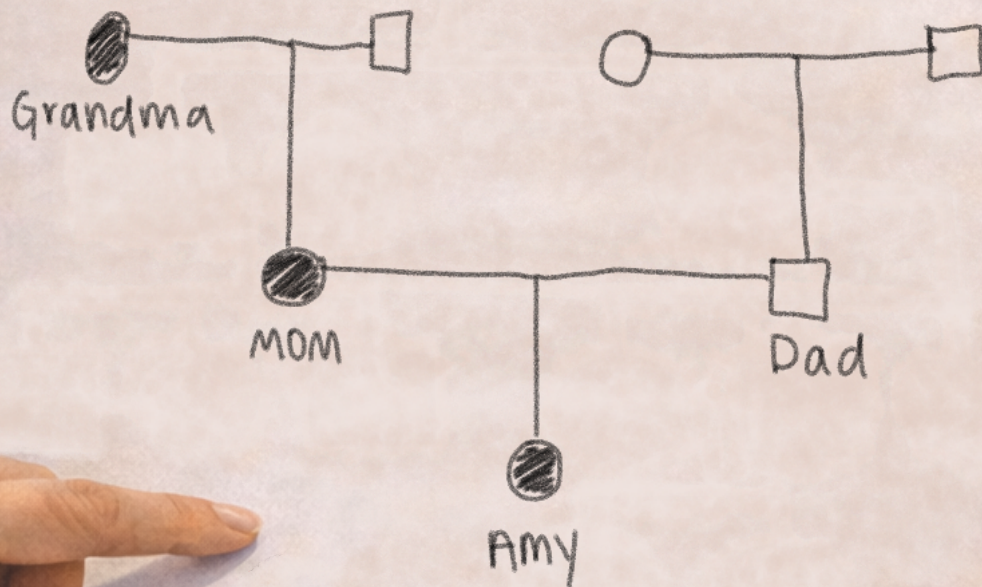
Mom



Amy



Ms. Olivia drew a family tree.



Lines and shapes....
like a little map of love.

“Amy’s hearing may change over time,”
Ms. Olivia said gently.

“And we’ll support you every step of the way.”



At home, the house felt soft and safe.

Amy curled close with Mom and Grandma.



They talked.

They signed.

They laughed the same laugh.



Grandma told stories with her hands—
and Amy understood: this was part of her.



Amy did not need to be fixed.

She was perfect—just as she was.





What is a Genetic Counselor?

Genetic counselors help families understand how traits and health conditions can run in families.

They listen, answer questions, and help families make choices that feel right for them.

Genetic counselors can help:

- * explain hearing differences
- * talk about family patterns
- * discuss genetic testing
- * connect families with support
- * answer questions over time

You can ask your doctor about meeting with a genetic counselor.



Learn more at:

www.AboutGeneticCounselors.com

Resources for Families

You are not alone. Support, information, and connection can help every child grow.



Hearing Loss Association of America

Support, education, and advocacy for people with hearing loss and their families. Find information, community, and helpful resources.

www.hearingloss.org



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Communication Resources: Links to Other Resources on Hearing Loss

Information and resources about hearing loss in children, early detection, communication options, and services that support families.

www.cdc.gov/hearing-loss-children/communication-resources/links-to-other-resources-on-hearing-loss.html



Hands & Voices

A parent-driven organization that supports families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing, no matter how they communicate. They believe families make the best choices when they have the right information and support.

www.handsandvoices.org



American Society for Deaf Children

A community of families, professionals, and advocates working together so that deaf and hard of hearing children can thrive. They provide resources, support, and connections.

www.deafchildren.org

Support and connection can help every child grow.



Learn more at:

www.AboutGeneticCounselors.com