

Whilomeena Loves White



Ruth E. Clark
Illustrated by Sarah Caterisano



Whilomeena Loves White is dedicated as a thank you for lessons learned:

to children for

**—their bright eyes of discovery,
—their compelling smiles of acceptance,
—their contagious laughter of JOY expressed, and
—their inner spirits of infinite optimism;**

**and, to parents and teachers for giving selfless love and commitment
to ensure realizations of aspirations for the next generation of parents and teachers.**

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Dressed in her finest white dress and shoes, Whilomeena prepares for her first day of school. She is timid, unsure of what the day will hold, and reluctant to leave Mother, Grandpa, her dog and kitty, and her doll friend, Ms. Marabella. Whilomeena's teacher, Mrs. White, bends down to greet her with a welcoming, kind voice. Hand in hand Whilomeena is guided to find her place in new surroundings full of friendships and experiences. Whilomeena soon learns, colors, letters, numerals, routines, and gains in self-confidence. Whilomeena's many first experiences at school open for her a world of boundless possibilities and fun. To everyone's delight, Whilomeena becomes colorful Whilomeena—a self-assured, happy, sharing, and confident little girl.

Ruth E. Clark

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It was Whilomeena's first day.

Whilomeena was dressed and ready to go.

Whilomeena was afraid of new places and new faces.

Whilomeena was finding it hard to smile.

Whilomeena wished Muffin, Mitsy, and Ms. Marabella could go too.



Mrs. White waited at the door to Room One. She bent down.
“Welcome to our classroom, Whilomeena. You will have many friends and much fun here,” said Mrs. White with a smile.



“Wait,” said Whilomeena in a whisper. She wanted to go back home with Grandpa. She wanted to be with Muffin, her dog, and Mitsy, her kitten. Whilomeena wanted to hold tight to Ms. Marabella, her doll.



Mrs. White held Whilomeena’s hand in her hand.





“Do you have a favorite color?” Mrs. White asked.
Whilomeena did not know colors.

Mrs. White invited Whilomeena to, “Come, meet your new friends.”

Whilomeena's new friends told her the favorite color each had chosen.



"I'm Robert.
I chose red."



"My name is
Blake. I like
blue things."



"I like my school
bus," said Yarnell,
"so I chose yellow."

"My cousin Orville
likes orange," said
Gretchen, speaking
for Orville.



"Green is
my color,"
Gretchen added.



"It's purple
for me,"
said Patty.



“Just two friends and two colors left,” said Mrs. White.



“Brook chose brown.”

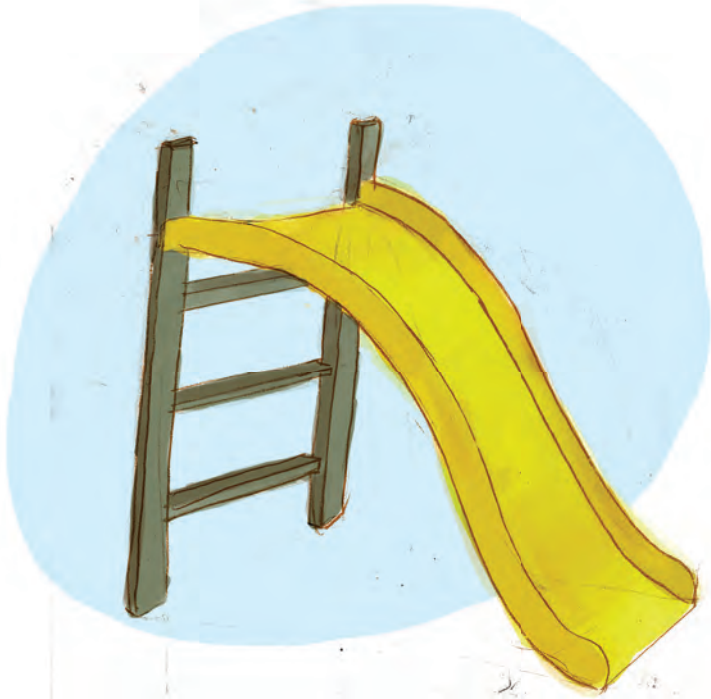


“Blair’s favorite color is black.”

Mrs. White guided Whilomeena to the empty chair at the end of the sharing table. Whilomeena sat in her chair. She smiled shyly. Whilomeena thought that Mrs. White had a kind voice.



Whilomeena had fun outside at Playtime. She liked to run and play. She took a turn on everything –



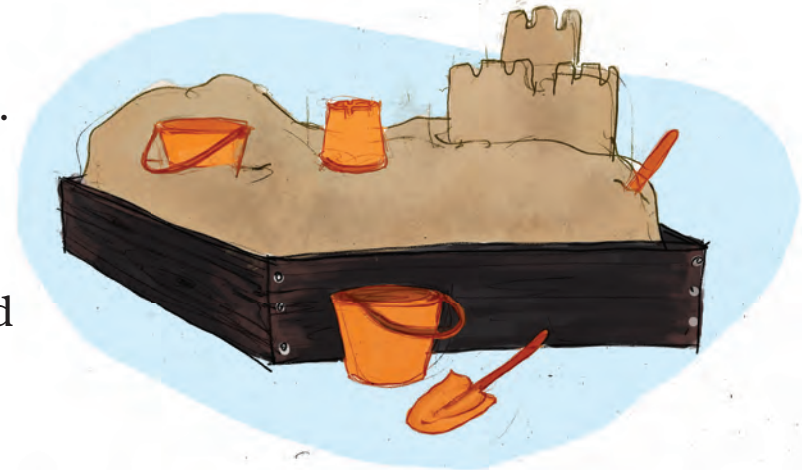
the yellow slide,

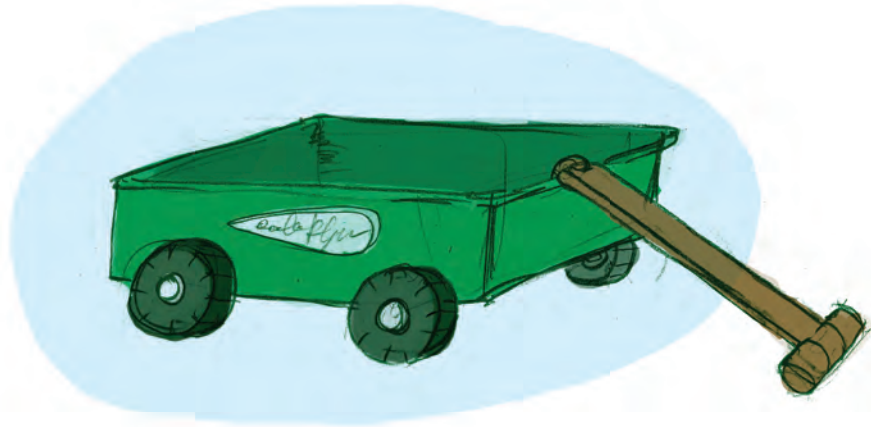


the red swings,

and the black sandbox.

There were piles of brown sand and lots of orange pails and shovels.





Gretchen pulled Whilomeena in the big green wagon. Whilomeena and Blair rode on the blue bikes.



“Wait,” said Whilomeena as she pointed up to the sky.

“What a beautiful, white cloud,” said Mrs. White. “Yes, I love white,” Whilomeena said with a smile.



Mrs. White brought magazines to the sharing table. The children began looking, cutting, and looking and cutting. They used glue sticks on the cut out pictures. They stuck them onto the big papers.



Mrs. White printed the word for each picture and the color name at the top. She printed each child's name at the bottom of the paper.