

Carlo the Superhero Spy

Solves Ms. Selma's Mystery



GAVA
GO! AUSTIN/VAMOS! AUSTIN

My name is Carlo, and I am a great superhero spy. I am always watching so I can help my friends.

Thank you to all the people who made this book possible.

To our editorial committee: Michelle, Jana, Nina, Gisela, Maria del Jesus, Loretta, Dioselin, Brenda, Yaneth, Nolvía, Bianca, Esther, Virginia, Maria, Aleida, and Blanca.

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I stay with Ms. Selma when Mom goes to work at the hospital. She loves me almost as much as my mom.

She likes having me in her home with her granddaughter Lucia, our neighbor Paco, and his baby sister Lupe. We are all friends.



Ms. Selma is special. She knows everybody.

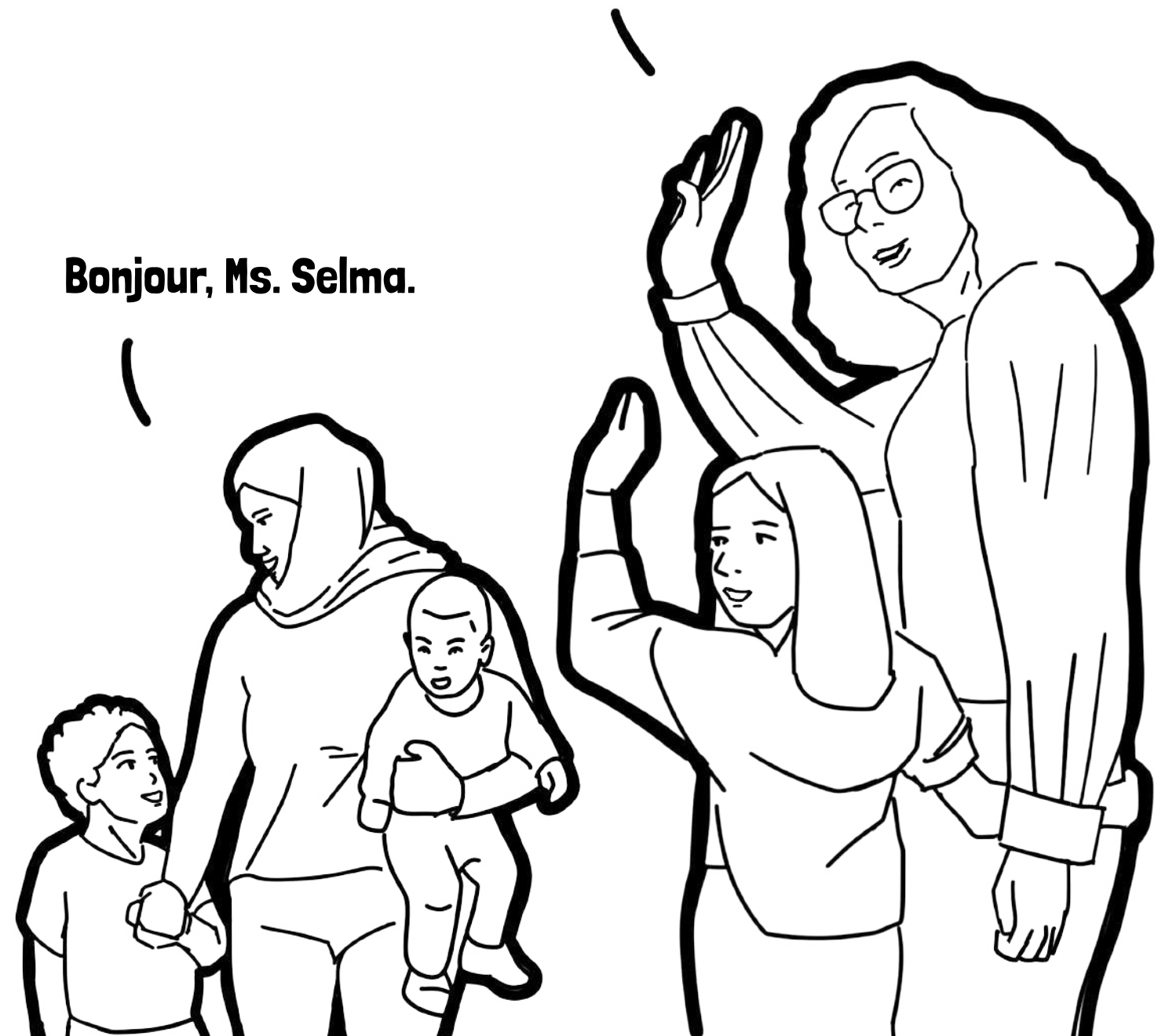
She can speak many languages, and she can speak with my mom.

¡Hola, Ms. Selma!

Hello, Ms. Selma!



Bonjour, Ms. Selma.



I like Ms. Selma. She teaches me colors and numbers and lets me build huge cities with blocks.



I am worried about Ms. Selma. The other day, I was close to the kitchen, and she thought no one could see her. But I saw she was sad. I saw her eyes. They were full of tears.



So there I was, spying like a secret super agent.

"Ms. Selma, why are you sad?"

"Oh, Carlo! I am just a bit tired today, that is all."

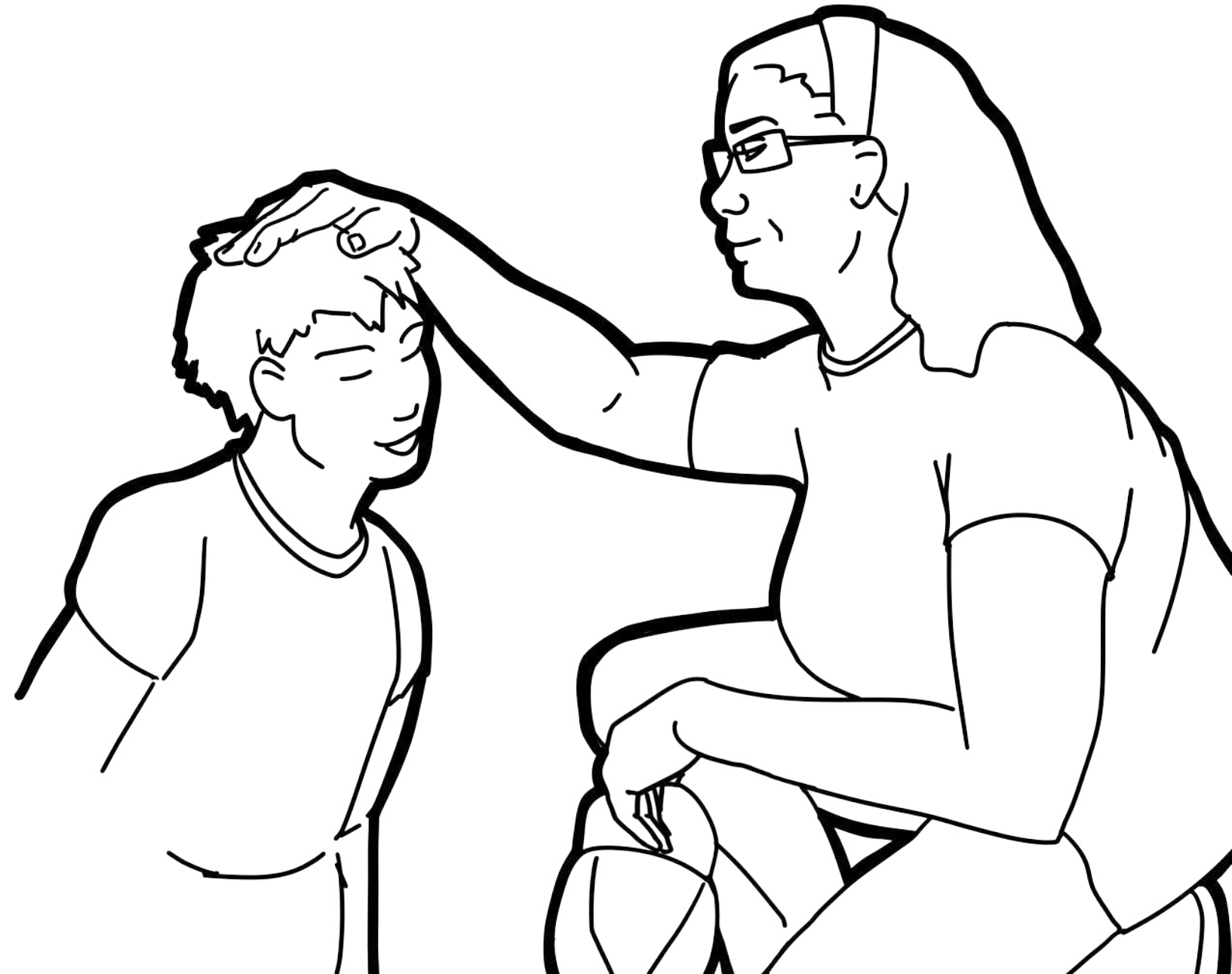
"No, Ms. Selma. I saw you. You are sad, sad, like when my sister is sad because she can't find her favorite toy."



"You are a clever superhero spy, aren't you?" she said, ruffling my hair.

"If you are sick, you may need to see a doctor"

"You are right. But I am not sick. Don't worry."



"Then why are you sad, is it because of your home? Are you going to have to move somewhere else?"

"Why do you say that, Carlo?"

"I am a very good spy and I pay attention, I heard my mom talk with Paco's family. She said: 'If they keep raising the rent, we might have to move again, it's getting expensive to live here, even for Ms. Selma.'"

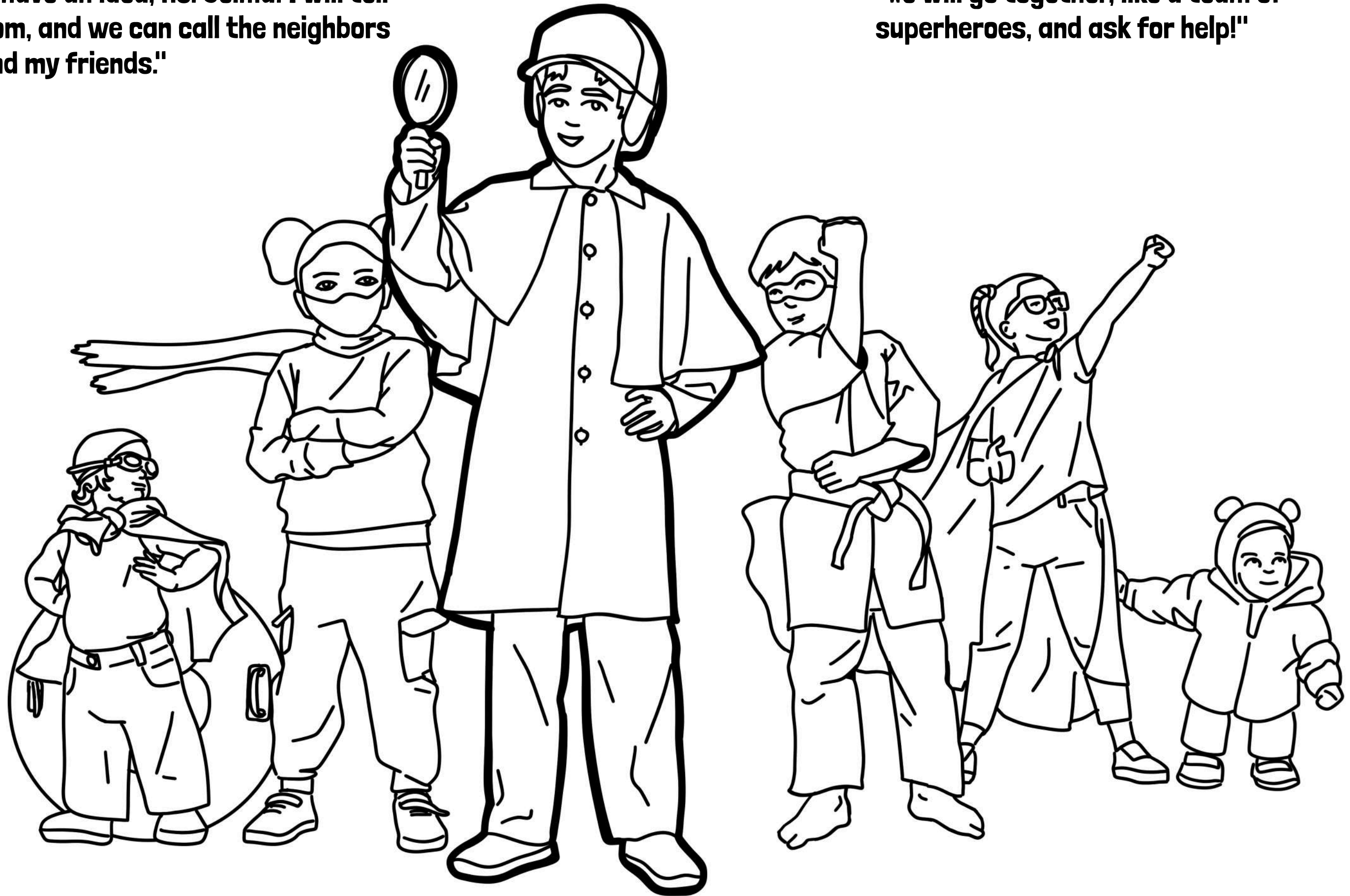


"Well, yes, I am a little sad. You are very clever. I love my work. I enjoy educating and taking care of children like you. But it is true that many of our neighbors are worried about paying rent. We need to work together to find a solution. Don't you think?"



"I have an idea, Ms. Selma! I will tell Mom, and we can call the neighbors and my friends!"

"We will go together, like a team of superheroes, and ask for help!"





And so one day, my mom and the neighbors and Ms. Selma and I, we all went to a place called the City Hall. We told the city leaders how people who love kids and care for them need their help. They need money from the city to keep them healthy and to be able to stay in their neighborhoods.



And you know what? They listened! The city leaders promised to work on finding solutions so that Ms. Selma and others like her could have a better quality of life.



It turns out even a little superhero like me can make a difference. And Ms. Selma wasn't sad anymore. She was proud, and I felt like the mightiest superhero in the whole world. Because when we all work together, we can make things better for everyone.



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