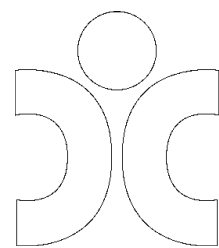


# Sam and the Search for Spots

How Your Lawyer Can Help You



This coloring book was prepared by the Legal Representation Committee of the Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission. Additional copies are available for print on the Children's Commission website at [texaschildrenscommission.gov](http://texaschildrenscommission.gov) or by request by email at [children@txcourts.gov](mailto:children@txcourts.gov).

Children's Commission  
201 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
[childrenscommission.gov](http://childrenscommission.gov)

A COLORING BOOK FROM  
The Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission



# Foster Children's Bill of Rights

## **You have the right to ask questions and receive answers.**

1. Why am I in foster care?
2. What will happen to me?
3. What is happening to my family (including brothers and sisters)?
4. What are rules at the place where I am living?

## **You have rights in the home you live in.**

1. I deserve to live in a safe, healthy, and comfortable place.
2. I deserve to be treated fairly.
3. I need to speak and be spoken to in my own language.
4. I need to live with my brothers or sisters who are also in foster care, if possible.
5. If I am not living with my brothers or sisters, I need to know why.

## **You have rights about your family.**

1. I need to visit with my family (including my brothers and sisters).
2. I need to visit people who are important to me like teachers, neighbors, and friends.

## **You have rights about things you do.**

1. I need to go to school.
2. I can go to my church/synagogue/mosque if I want to.
3. I need to do things I enjoy, like play sports, play in the band, go on field trips, and spend time with friends.

## **You have rights about things you need.**

1. I need comfortable clothing.
2. I need to have some things that are only mine.
3. I need space in my bedroom for my clothes, toys, and other things.
4. I need enough good food to eat.
5. I need to see the doctor if I'm hurt or don't feel well, and I need medicine that is right for me.

## **You have the right to know about your case.**

1. I need to see my caseworker at least once a month.
2. I need to speak to my caseworker, attorney, and my CASA if I want to.
3. I can speak to the judge if I want to.

## **While I am in foster care, nobody should ever:**

1. Shake, hit, spank, or threaten to hurt me.
2. Try to take away my food, sleep, bathroom, mail, or family visits.
3. Make fun of me or my family.
4. Be mean or scary to me.

The materials in this coloring book should not be construed as an advisory or ruling by or from the Supreme Court of Texas or any other court on specific cases or legal issues. This coloring book is solely intended to address the improvement of the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice.

**My Lawyer:**

**My Caseworker:**

**My CASA:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Things I am worried about:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Things I want or need:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**People I want to see or talk to:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**This Book Belongs To:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**My Lawyer's Name Is:**

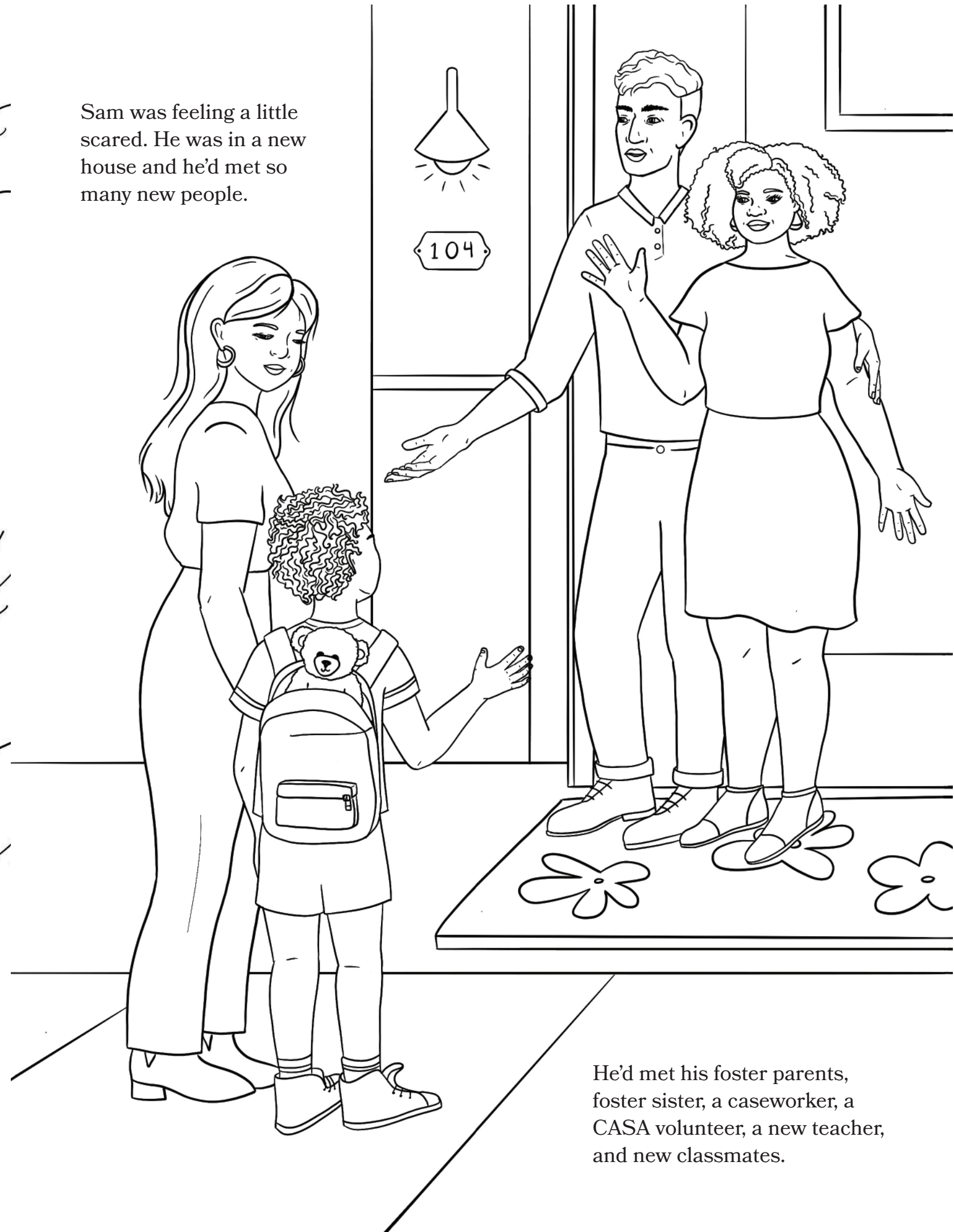
\_\_\_\_\_



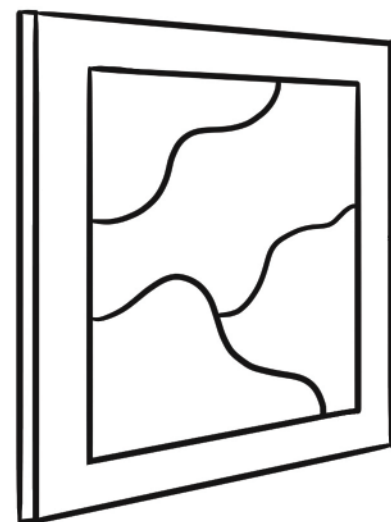
# “Spots!”



Sam was feeling a little scared. He was in a new house and he'd met so many new people.

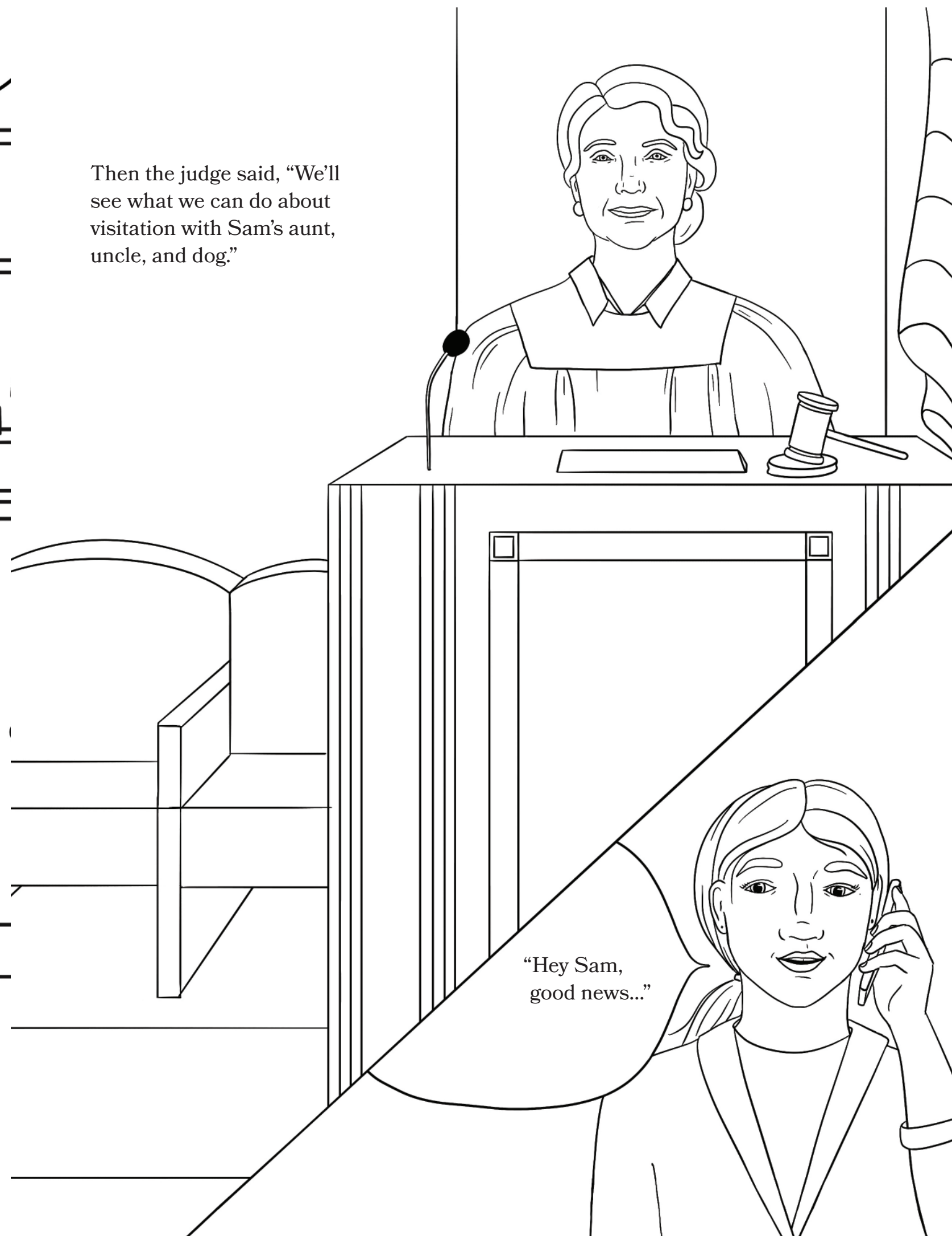


He'd met his foster parents, foster sister, a caseworker, a CASA volunteer, a new teacher, and new classmates.



His foster mom, Veronica, handed him his favorite snack and said, "Someone new is coming to meet you today, but they're different."

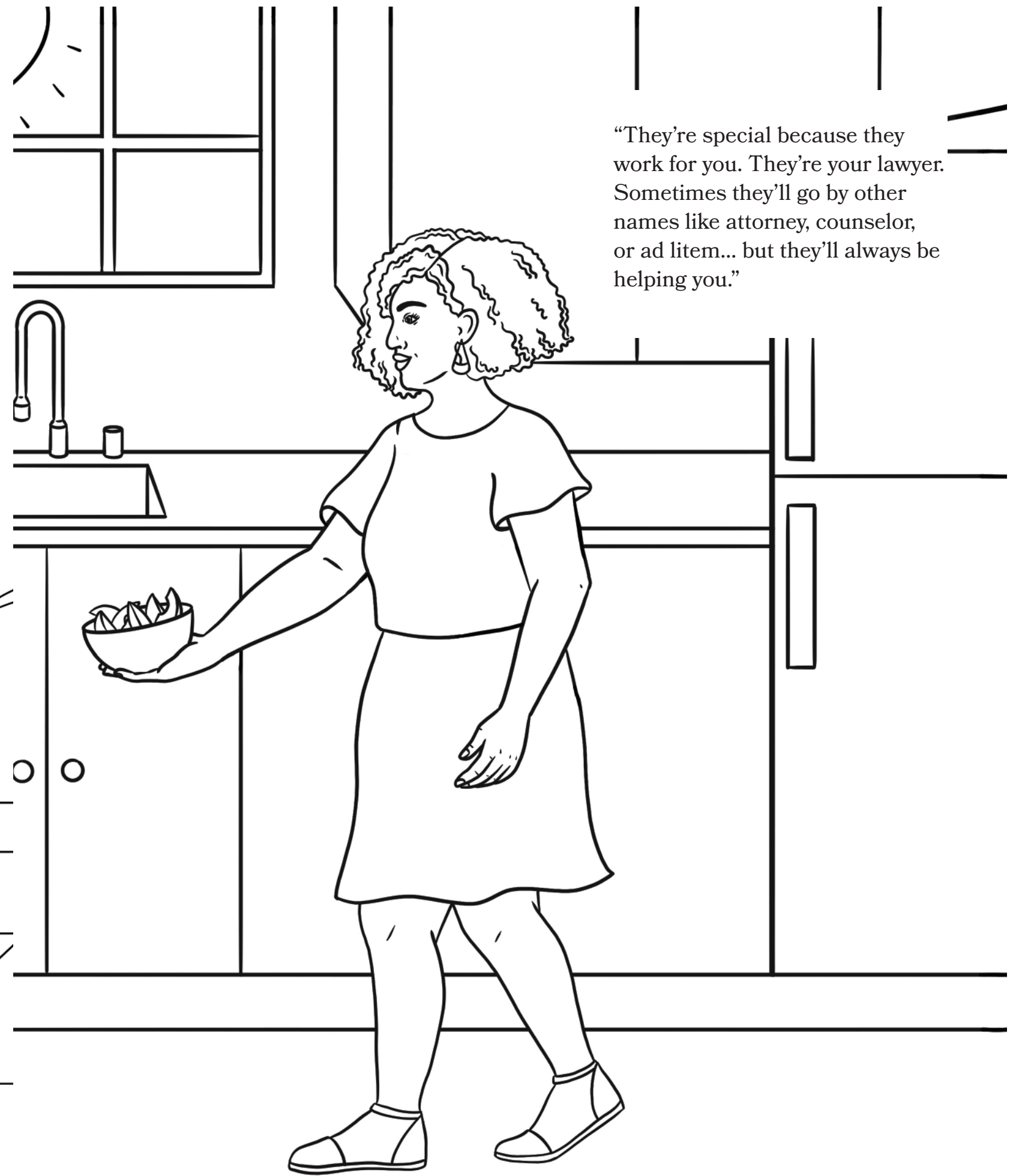
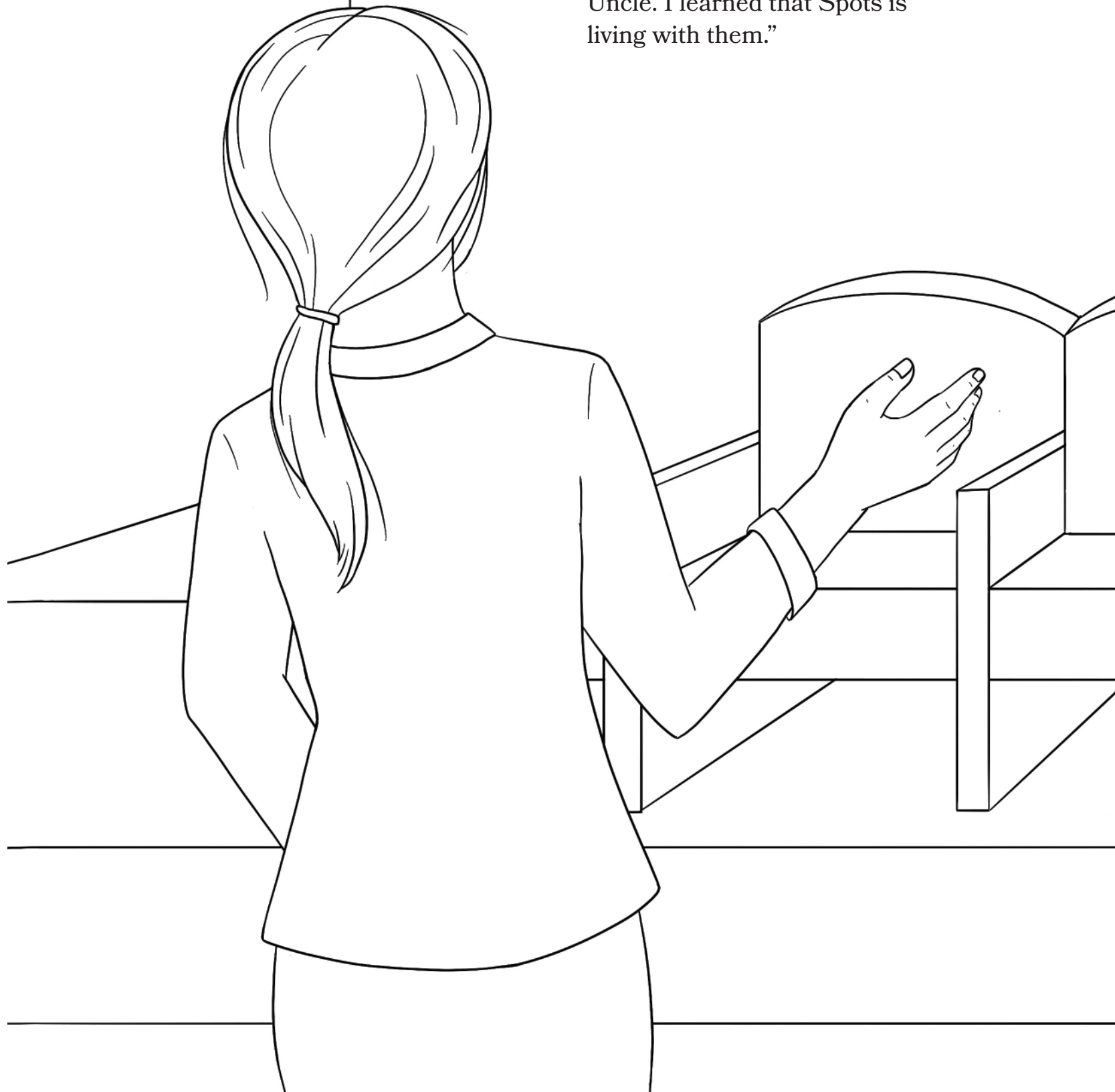
Then the judge said, "We'll see what we can do about visitation with Sam's aunt, uncle, and dog."



"Hey Sam, good news..."

When Alex went to court she said to the judge, "Your honor, Sam misses his dog, Spots, very much and he wants to see his Aunt and Uncle. I learned that Spots is living with them."

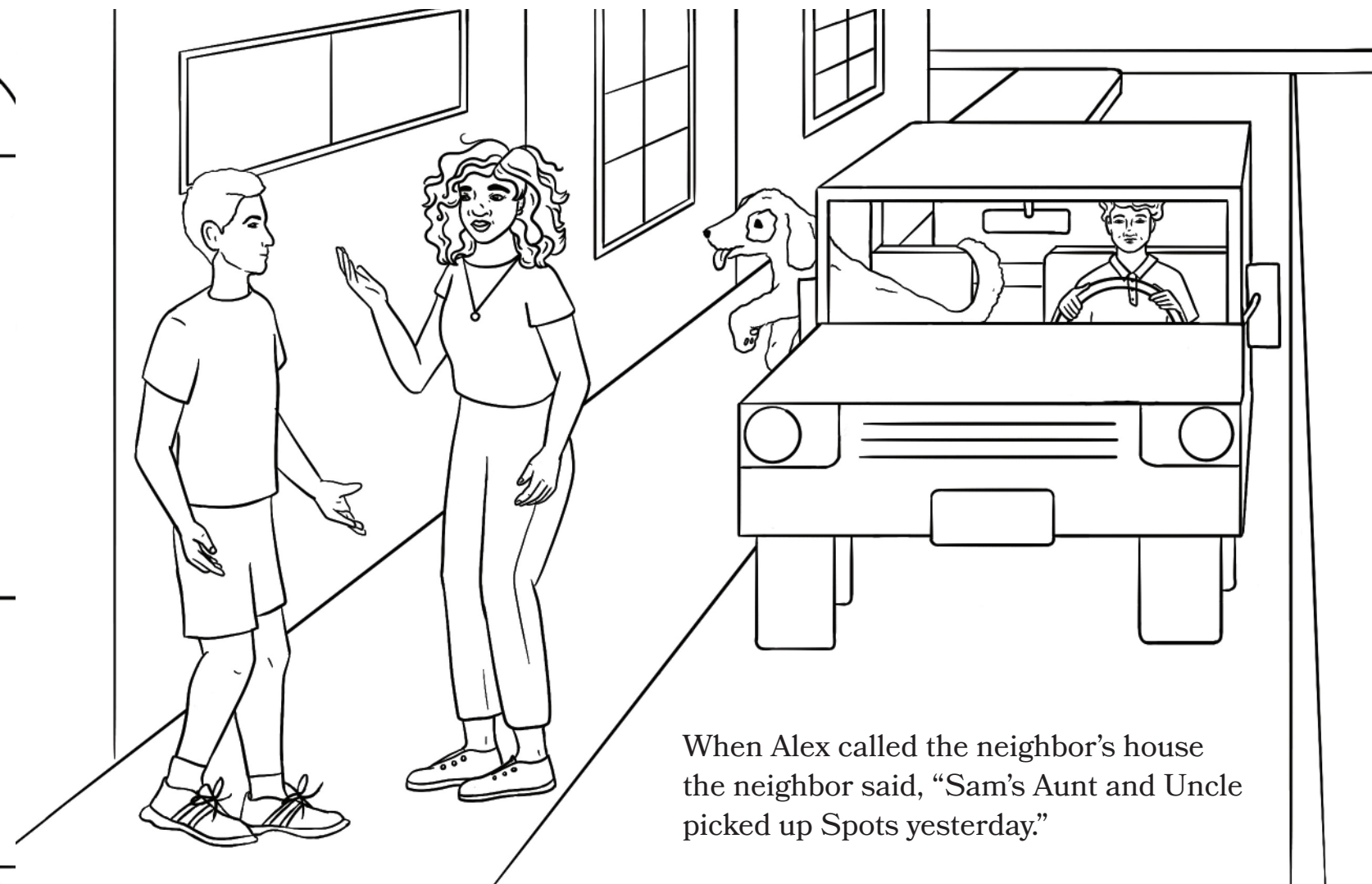
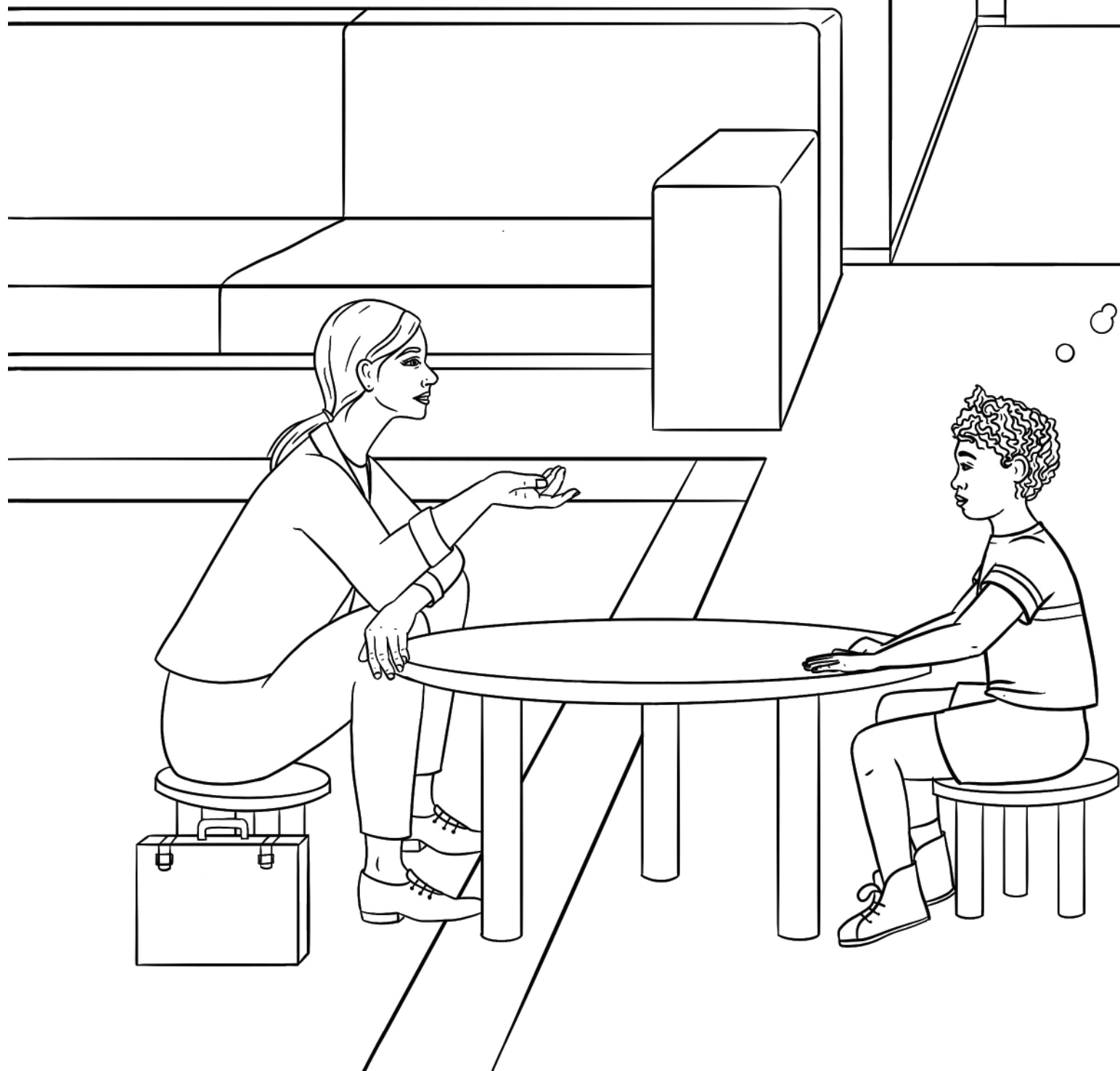
"They're special because they work for you. They're your lawyer. Sometimes they'll go by other names like attorney, counselor, or ad litem... but they'll always be helping you."



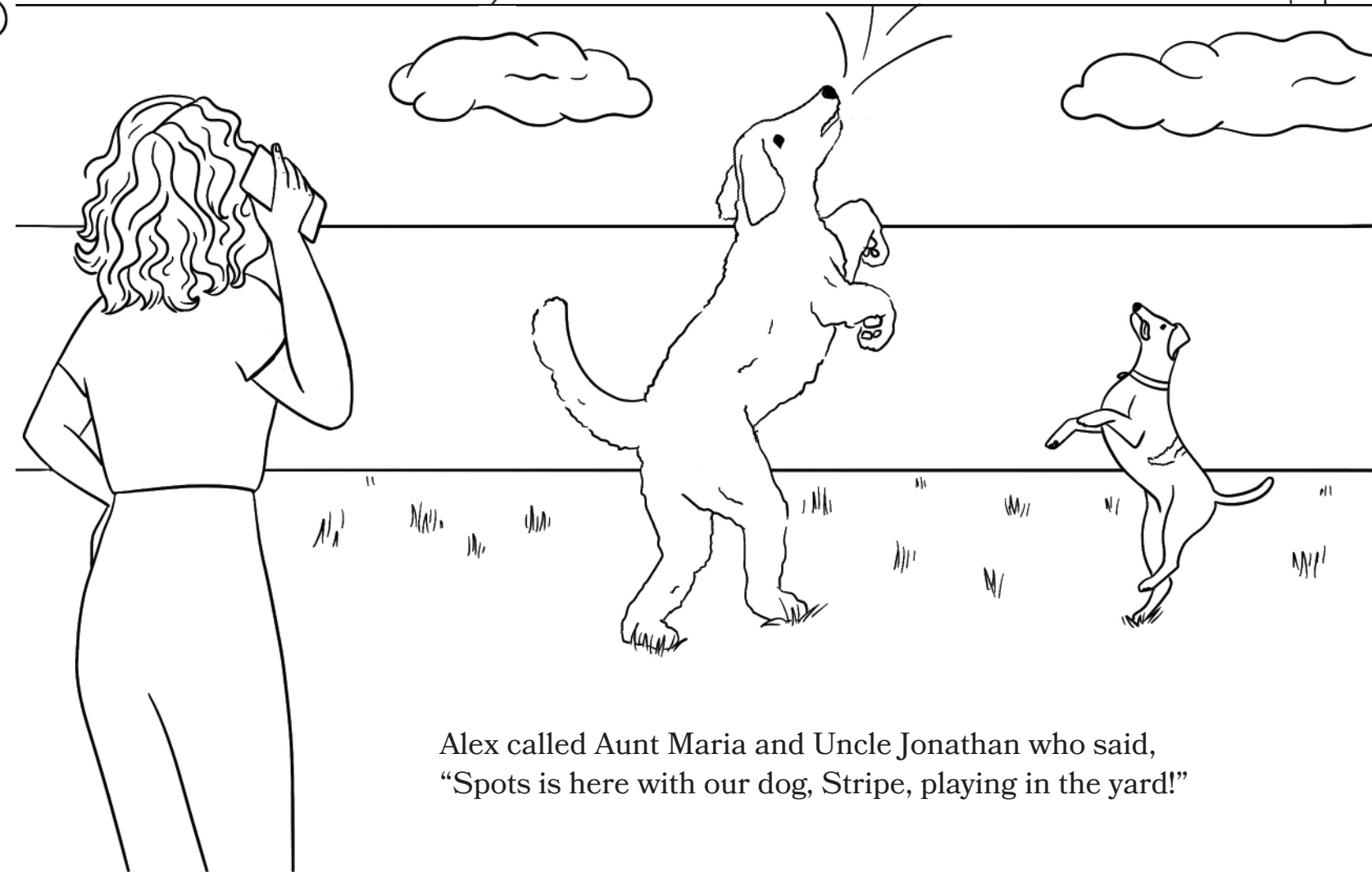
Sam heard a knock at the door. When Veronica opened it, he saw a smiling woman who looked important and kind.

“Hi Sam, I’m your lawyer Alex. There are lots of things that I do!

I’m here to learn about you and people who are important to you. I’ll explain what’s happening and what to expect. I go to court and tell the judge what’s important to you. I’ll visit with you every time before I go to court, but you can also call me if you need me. What we talk about is just between us, unless someone is in danger.”



When Alex called the neighbor’s house the neighbor said, “Sam’s Aunt and Uncle picked up Spots yesterday.”



Alex called Aunt Maria and Uncle Jonathan who said, “Spots is here with our dog, Stripe, playing in the yard!”



Alex went to Sam's mom and asked, "Can you bring him his favorite book?"

She said, "Yes, I'll bring the book to our visit this week."



"Most importantly,  
I'm here to make sure your voice is heard."



Alex called Sam's caseworker to find Spots.

"Spots is with Sam's old neighbor!" They said.





"I have a few questions for you Sam. Is there anything you're worried about?"

Sam thought about it and pictured his dog.

*"I miss my dog, Spots!"*  
He said.



"Is there anyone you want to see in addition to your mom and dad?" Alex asked.

*"Yeah! I miss Aunt Maria and Uncle Jonathan."*

"Is there anything you need or want?"

*"I want my favorite book."*  
Sam said.



"Ok, I'm going to try to find your book and Spots! And I'm going to court Monday to ask the judge about visits with your aunt and uncle. Do you want to meet the judge?"

*"No, I have a field trip to the zoo!"*  
Sam exclaimed.

"That's fine, I'll call to tell you how it went. Have fun at the zoo!"

