

Misaabe's Stories

A Story of Honesty



Katherena Vermette
Irene Kuziw

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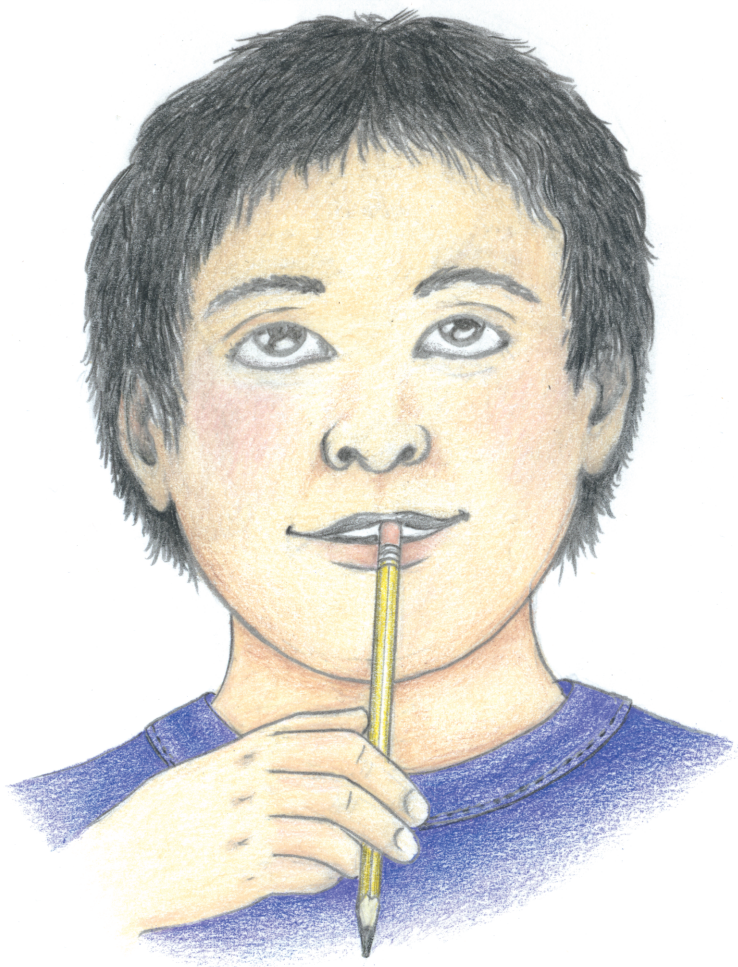
the Seven
Teachings Stories

Katherena Vermette

Illustrated by Irene Kuziwi


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Misaabe likes to tell stories.



He likes to imagine big things
like giant green trolls are taking over the city,
and Misaabe is the superhero.

He can fly.

He beats all the giant trolls and saves
the whole world!









He really likes that story.

He told it to his friend Ma'iingan,
and she liked it too.

"Wow," Ma'iingan says.

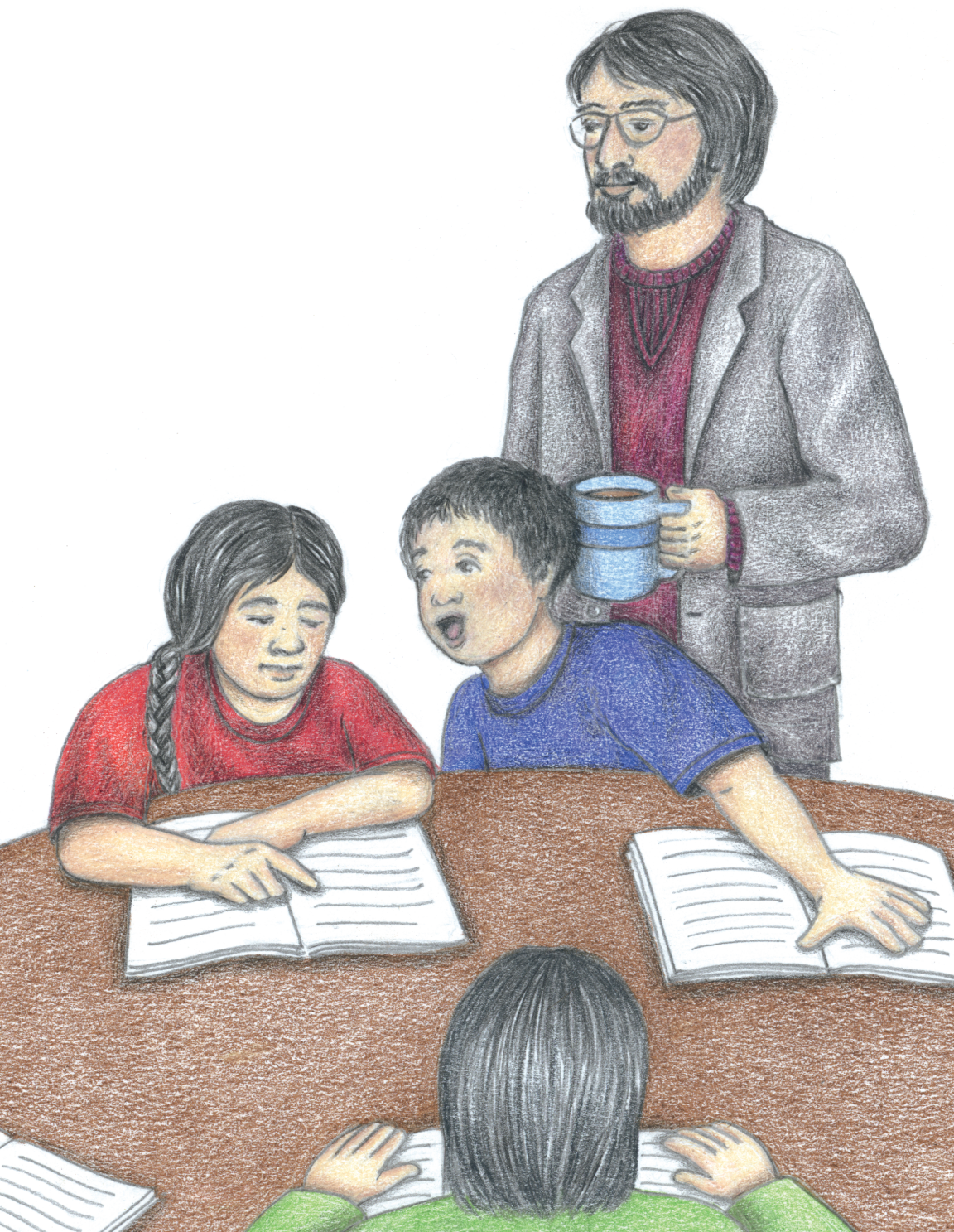
"Did that really happen?"

"Totally," Misaabe says.

"I did that when I lived in a different city."

Misaabe doesn't like reading.
All the words scatter around the page,
and he gets bored.
All he wants to do is draw.
"I just don't know these books,"
he tells his friend Migizi.
"At my old school, I used to be the best
reader in the whole class,
but those were supersonic books.
You need x-ray glasses to read those."
"No way," Migizi says.
"Totally," says Misaabe.









Misaabe doesn't live
with his dad.
He sees him sometimes,
but he misses him
all the time.

He likes to pretend his dad is a secret agent,
fighting bad guys somewhere in Europe,
or Asia, or Russia.

His dad really loves him but can't come
to visit 'cause he's on a mission.

"Wow, is that true?" Amik asks.

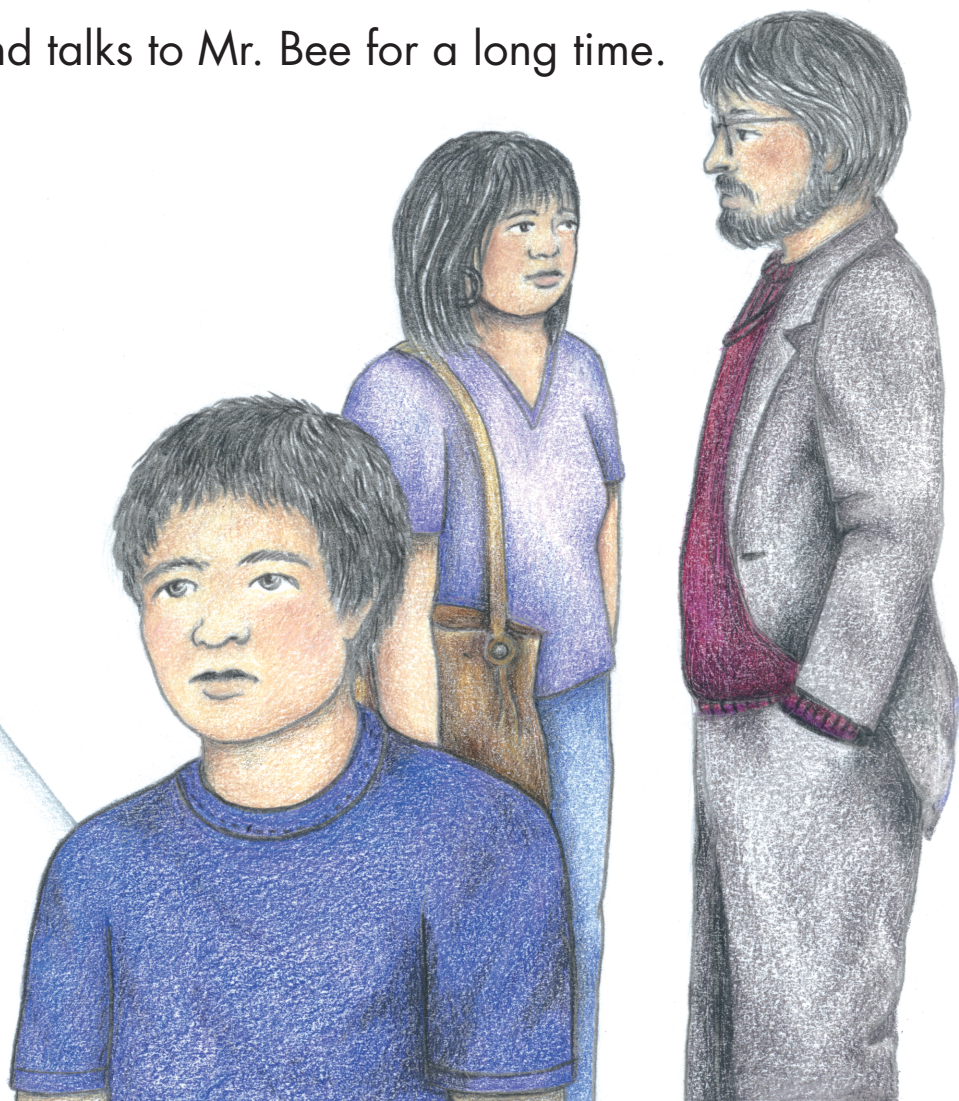
"Totally," Misaabe tells him.



Amik tells Migizi about Misaabe's spy dad.

Migizi tells Ma'iingan about
Misaabe's supersonic reading.

Ma'iingan tells Mr. Bee about
Misaabe saving the world.
Then Misaabe's Mom comes
to get him at school
and talks to Mr. Bee for a long time.



Pronunciation of Anishnaabemowin words

Short Vowels: *i* as in *pit*, *o* as in *book*, *a* as in *cup*, *e* as in *bed*

Long Vowels: *ii* as in *peek*, *oo* is between *soup* and *soap*,
aa as in “open up and say *ahhhh*”

g, *b*, *j*, *d*, *h* are softer than their English equivalents; *g* sounds very much like *k* and sometimes *k*, *p*, *t* are aspirated, as if an *h* was in front of them.

m, *n*, *y*, *h*, *w* are very similar in sound to their English equivalents.

Apostrophes are used to separate vowels (with distinct sound for each).

Acknowledgments

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I would also like to acknowledge Little Red Spirit Aboriginal Head Start program and all my fabulous former workmates, parents, and students. Inspired by my young friends and the work I was privileged to do, these books are dedicated to my former students, as well as all my beautiful nieces and nephews.

— K.V.

I would like to thank Katherena for entrusting me with her stories. This has truly been an adventure and an experience in getting to know all the kids and helping them come to life. I would also like to thank Annalee and Cathie from HighWater Press for giving me this opportunity. I dedicate these stories to little JayJay.

— I.K.

Misaabe tells great stories – about trolls, and x-ray glasses, and secret agents, and his super-exciting life. But is real life so bad?



The Seven Teachings of the Anishinaabe—love, wisdom, humility, courage, respect, honesty, and truth—are revealed in these seven stories for children. Set in an urban landscape with

Indigenous children as the central characters, these stories about home and family will look familiar to all young readers.

Katherena Vermette is a Métis writer of poetry, fiction, and children's literature. Her first book, *North End Love Songs*, won the 2013 Governor General Literary Award for Poetry. Her poetry and fiction have appeared in several literary magazines and anthologies. She holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of British Columbia, and lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Irene Kuzi has worked in galleries, museums, and schools. Her artwork has been featured in many shows. Irene now devotes her time to doing what she loves – drawing and exploring the abstraction of reality, whether it be the human face or the animal spirit. A graduate of the University of Manitoba School of Art, she lives in the Interlake region of Manitoba.