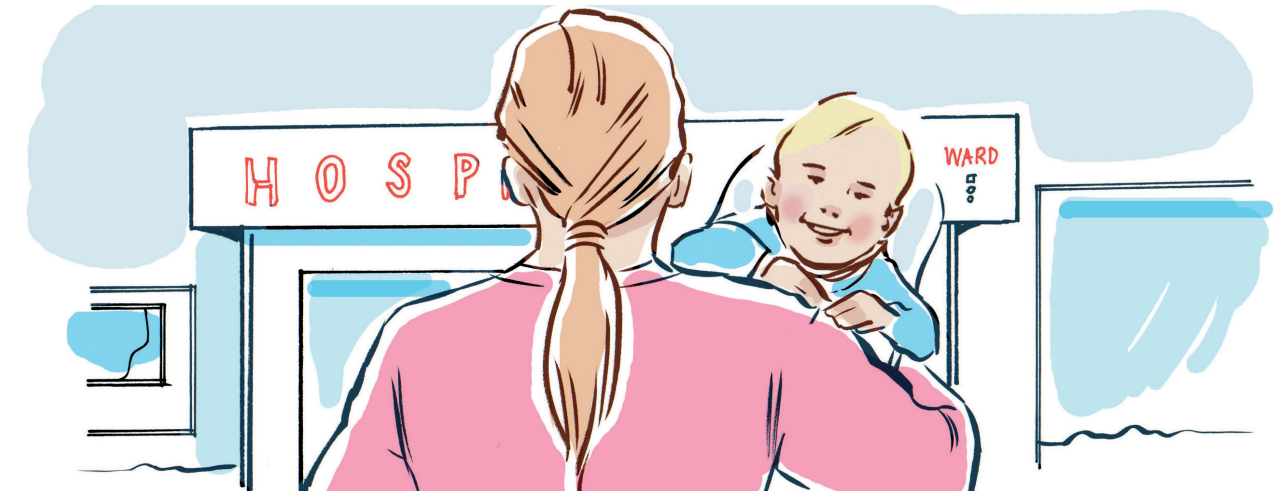


Joe moves to America

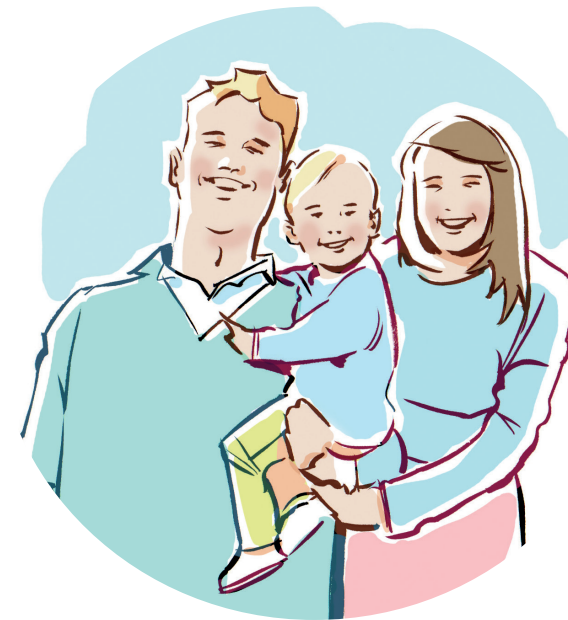




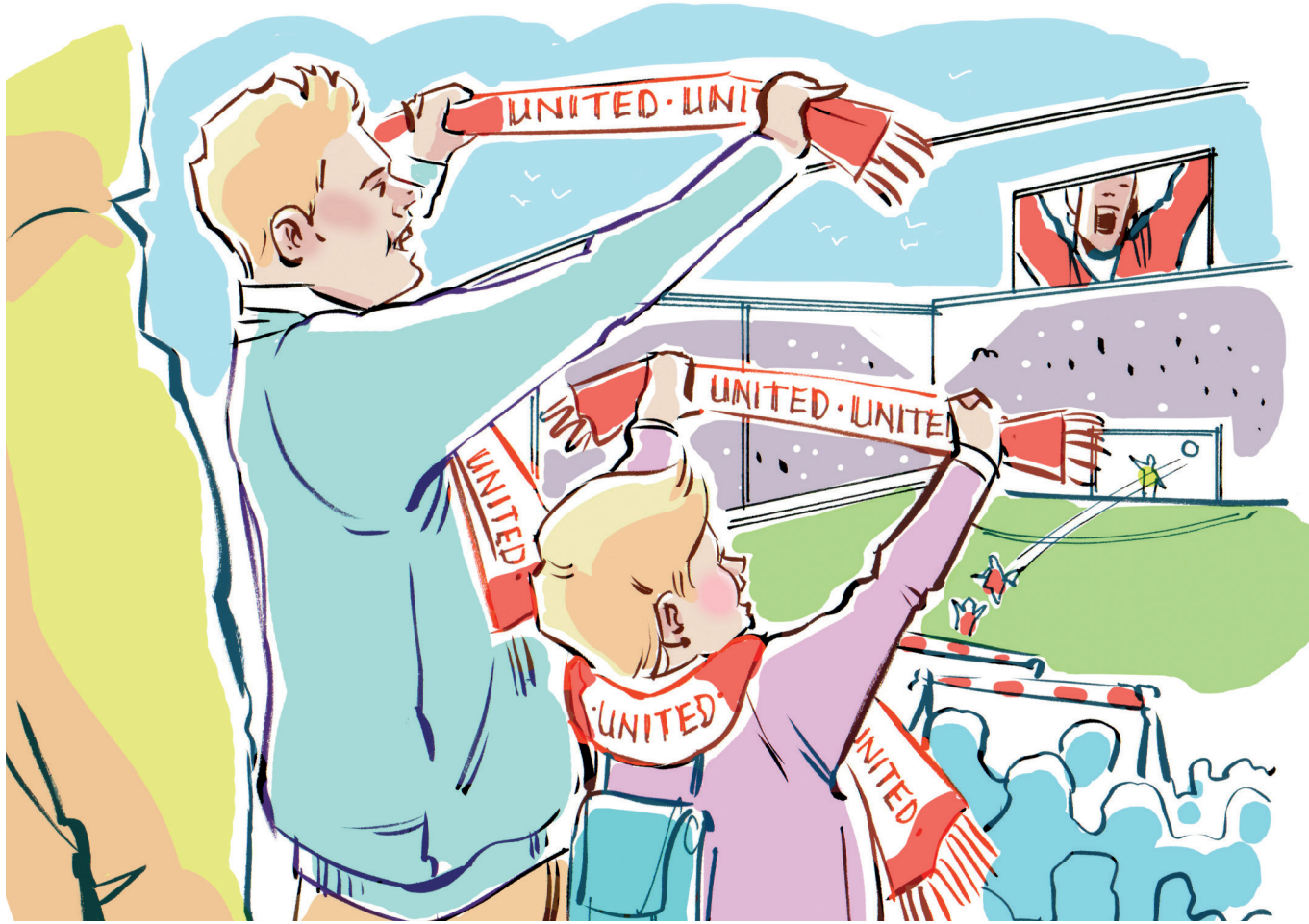
This is Joe. Joe is 5 years old and has just started at big school. Joe loves football and likes to play football with his friends at playtime. His teacher tells him that If he keeps practicing he might be a famous footballer one day.



When Joe was two years old his mummy became ill. She was very sad and worried and she had to go into hospital to be looked after.



Joe went to live with Tony and Joan. Tony and Joan are foster carers who look after children when their mummies or daddies cannot.



Tony loves football too and every Saturday Joe and Tony watch football games on the TV. Tony supports United and for Joe's fifth birthday he took Joe to see a football match at a very big stadium where the footballers play. It was very exciting as United won.



Joe has a social worker called Jessica. She hoped that Joe's mummy would get better so that Joe could go back to live with her. As the doctors think mummy won't get better soon, Jessica has been trying to find new forever parents for Joe.

Joe has an uncle in the USA called Rick. Joe met him once when he visited England to see Joe's mummy. He lives in a city called Chicago, which is in a country called America.



Jessica tells Joe that Uncle Rick and his wife, Gayle, would like him to go to live in America with them. Joe is a little worried about this. These are the things he worries about:

Will he still be able to talk to mummy if he lives in Chicago?

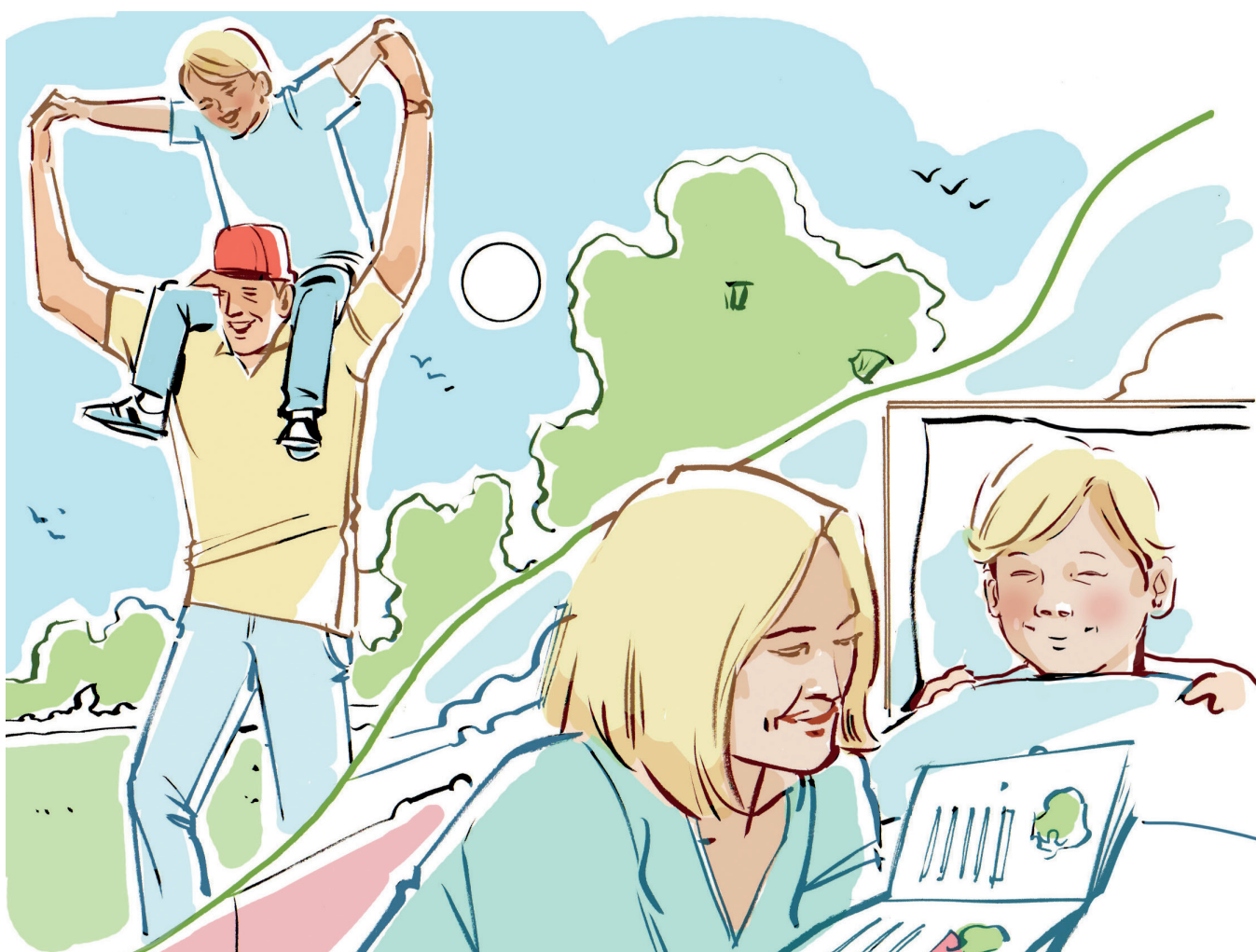
Joe does not know Gayle very well - will she put him to bed and read him a story like Joan does?

What kind of food will he eat? Joe loves baked beans and wonders if he would be able to have beans on toast for tea.

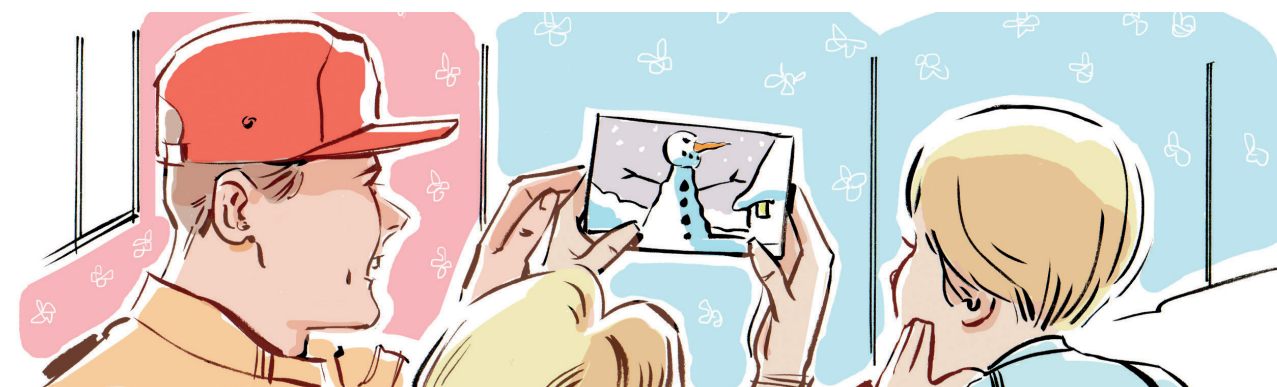
Uncle Rick says that Chicago is a very big city with lots of big buildings and lots of snow in the winter, sometimes as high as a person. Will his boots be big enough to walk through the snow?

Joe loves football - can he play football at Uncle Rick's and will he be able to watch his favourite team on the TV?

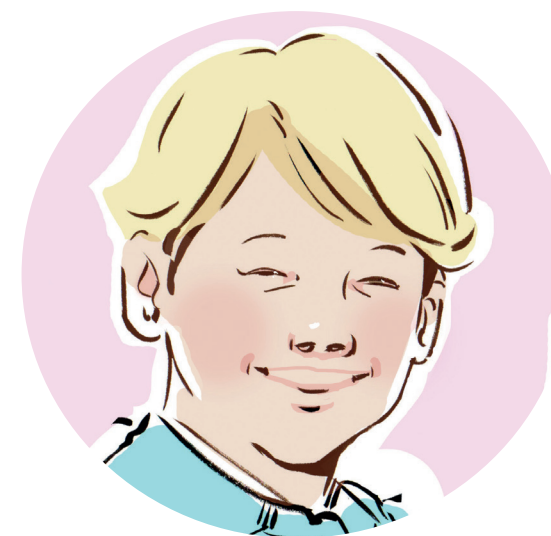




It takes a long time but eventually Rick and Gayle come to England. Rick is still very tall and carries Joe on his shoulders when they go to the park. Gayle reads him stories just like Joan.



Rick and Gayle show Joe pictures of their home with all the snow around the house. There is also a snowman in the garden and Rick says the snowman comes to visit every year. Rick says he will need to have new boots to play in the garden and Joe is going to choose red ones so that everyone can see him.



Jessica tells Joe his mummy is very pleased that he is going to live with Rick. Joe visits his mummy who is still sad but tells him that he will enjoy being in America.

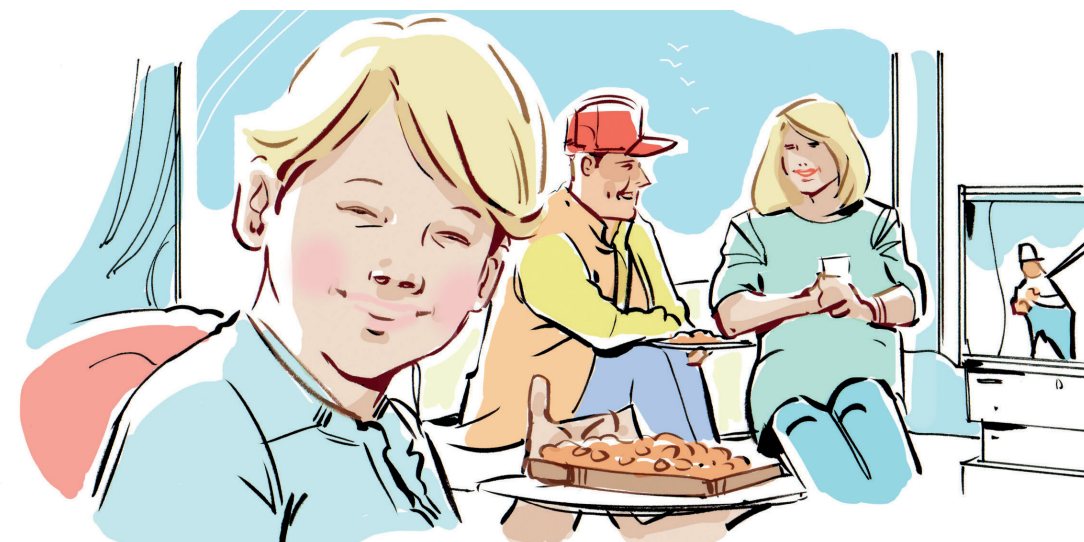


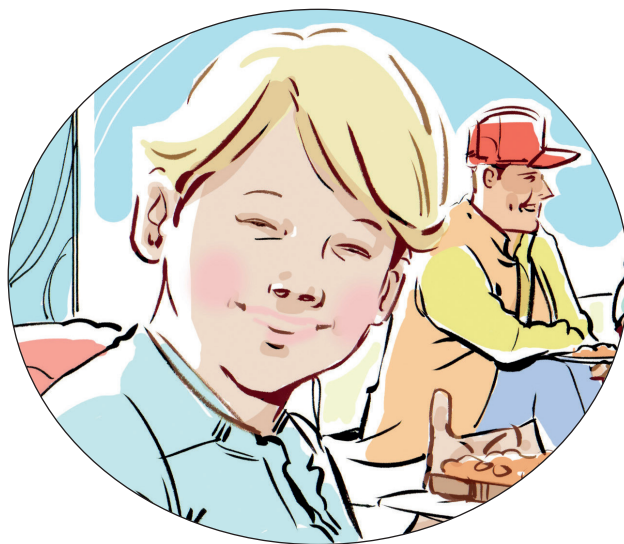
When Joe arrives in Chicago it is very cold. Gayle and Joe go out to the shops and Joe has new red boots and a blue coat. At the supermarket they buy lots of his favourite food and for tea he has baked beans on toast!



Rick shows him that on the TV he can watch football with him. He is also going to take him to see another game called baseball and Rick says that he can go to classes to learn how to play.

Joe thinks he will like Chicago and living with Rick and Gayle.





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