

Bella and Tiger



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This book
is dedicated
to every child
who needs this story
at this historic time.



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It was almost time for Bella to leave for school.
She did not want to go.
She did not want the nose test.



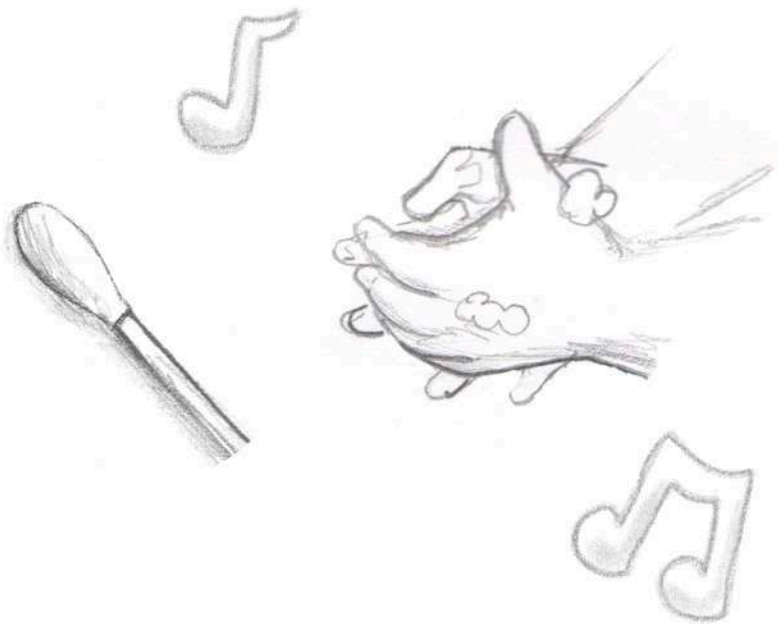


She decided to test Tiger first.
"You must be nervous," she said.
Tiger stared back at her.
"You are," she said. She could tell.

Still Bella knew she had to give
him the test.



She would be gentle.
She would be quick.
She would be back in a sec!



Bella found a swab in the bathroom.
She washed her hands, like her doctor.
She sang, "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," like
her friends at school.

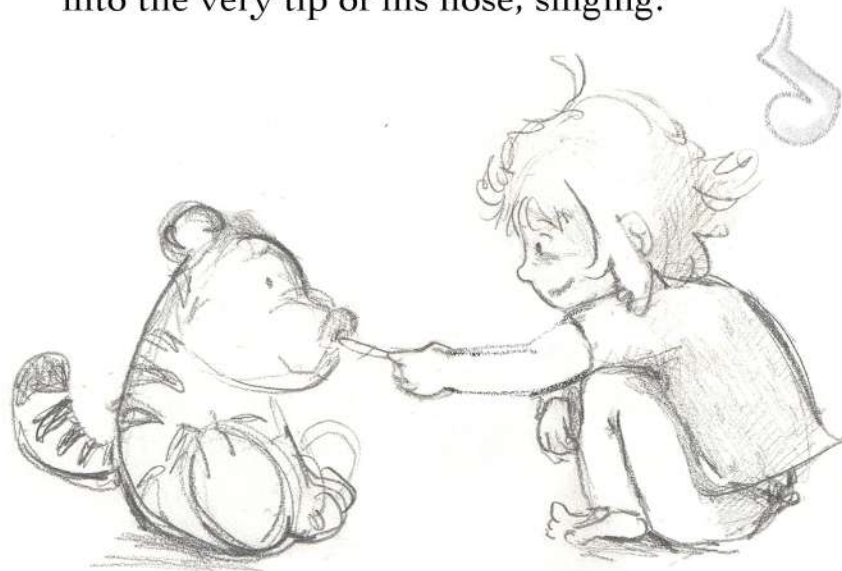
As the warm water and the melody mixed,
an idea came to her. "I know what might help," she
pronounced. She hummed all the way back
to her bedroom.



Sing to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.



Bella sat Tiger next to her other animals. She took off his mask and placed the swab into the very tip of his nose, singing:



Tickle, tickle in your nose.

Round and round the swab tip goes.

It won't take you very long.

Just until you end the song.



Tickle, tickle in your nose.

Round and round the swab tip goes.

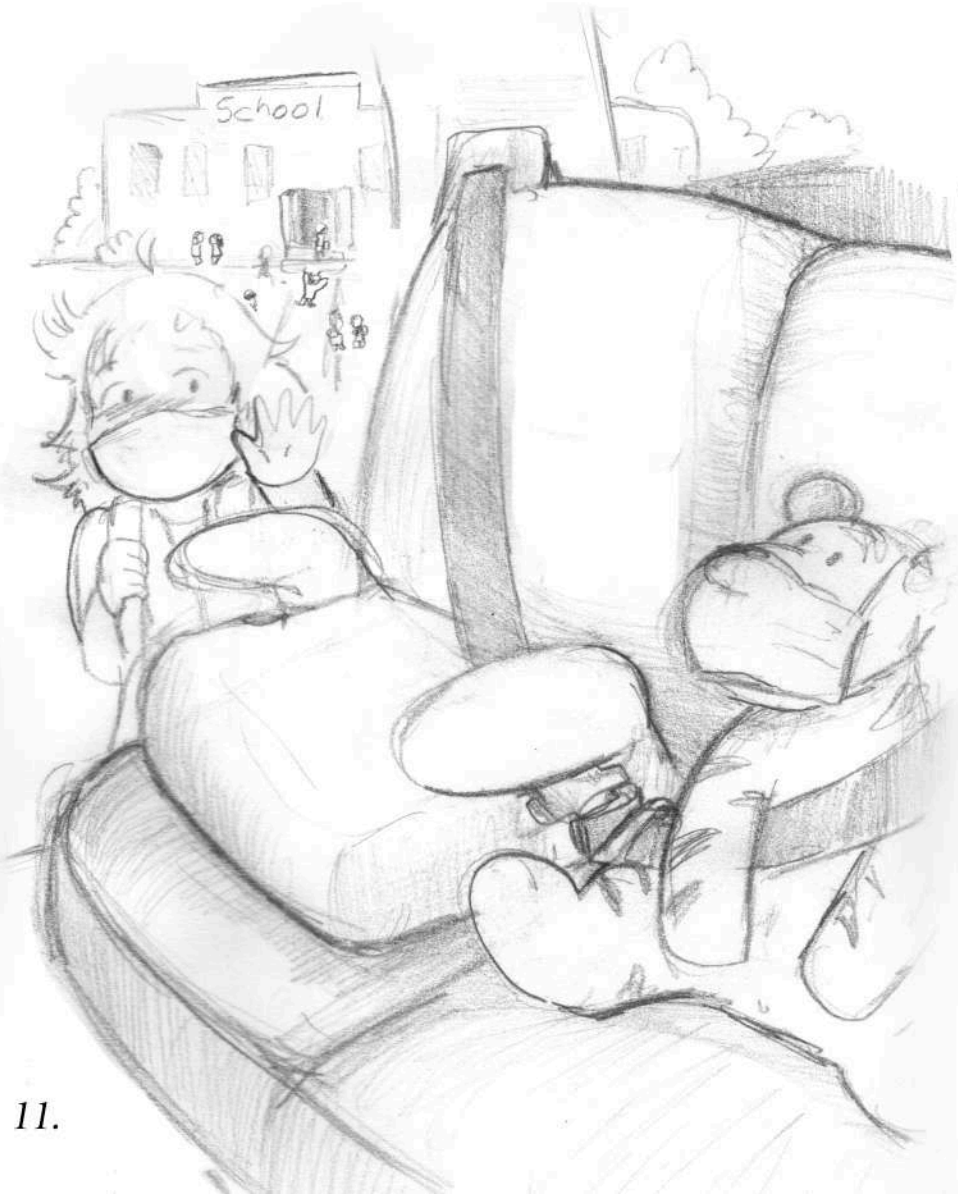


Tiger didn't complain. Neither did Raccoon or Bear. Bella exhaled with relief. She hugged Tiger all the way downstairs, through the front door, and into the car. Tiger rode by her side.



"Please wait for me here," Bella said as she bravely left the car for school.

Tiger did.



When Bella came back at the end of her day, she told him all about her sand cakes and her unicorn painting. She described her block bridge and the juicy clementines at outdoor snack.

"Oh, and my nose test wasn't even scary!" Bella said. "I sang our song." She had almost forgotten to tell him.

Tiger just listened.



He always understood.