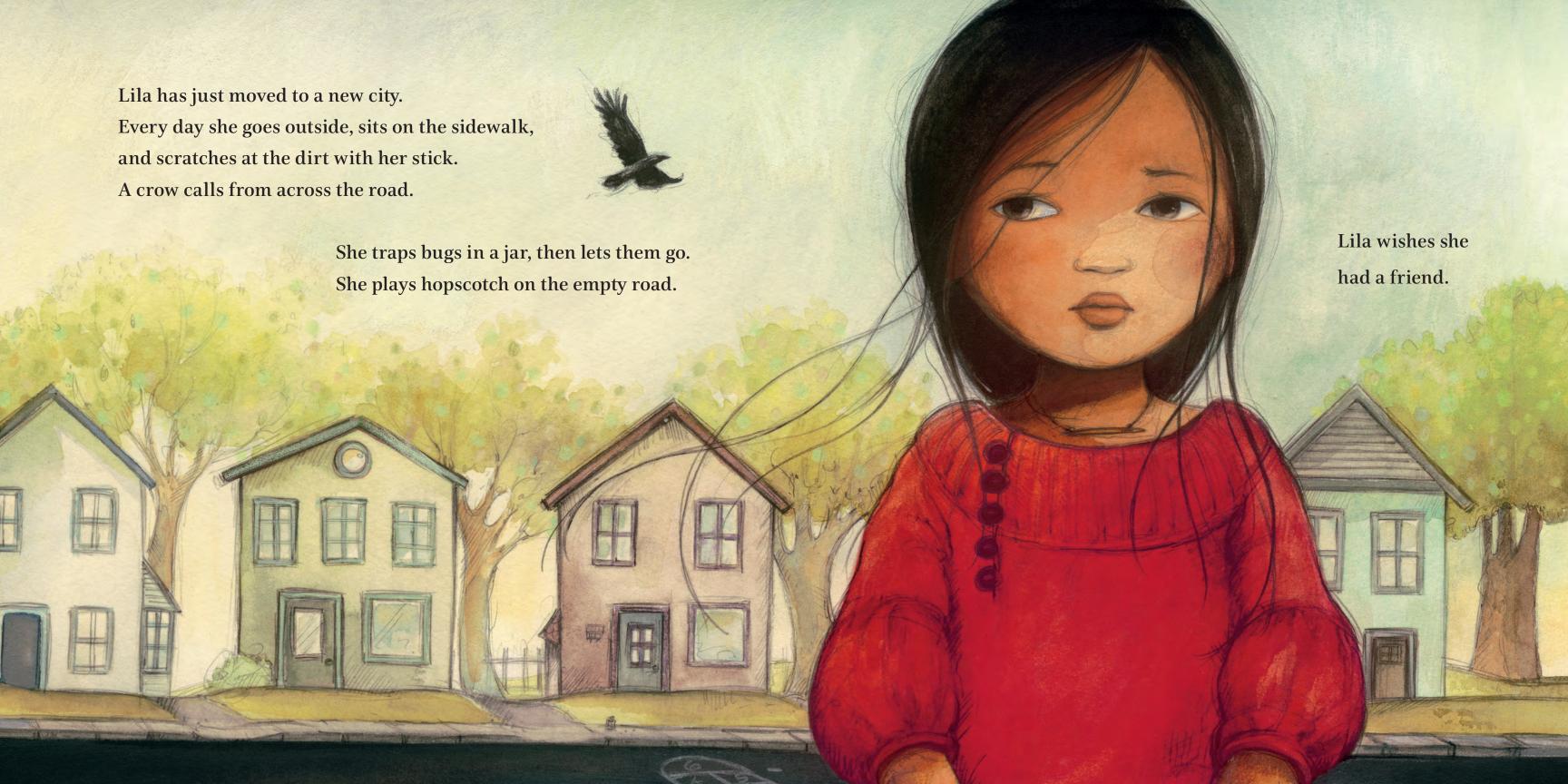
Lila and the Crow

GABRIELLE GRIMARD









The teacher, Mr. Nicholas, introduces Lila. She sees her classmates looking at her and can't wait to get to know them. Squirming at her desk, Lila taps her foot impatiently. Finally it's recess, and the children head out to play. Now is Lila's chance to make a friend!

But suddenly a voice rises above the others.

Nathan, the leader of the pack, shouts: "A crow!

A crow!

The new girl's hair

is dark like a crow!!"

The others stare at Lila. Some whisper to their friends, then turn away.



On the way home, Lila's heart is as heavy as a stone. A crow perches on the branch of an old oak tree, its feathers as black as Lila's hair. It caws and croaks as if it wants to tell her something, but Lila just walks by.

