

Follow the Thread



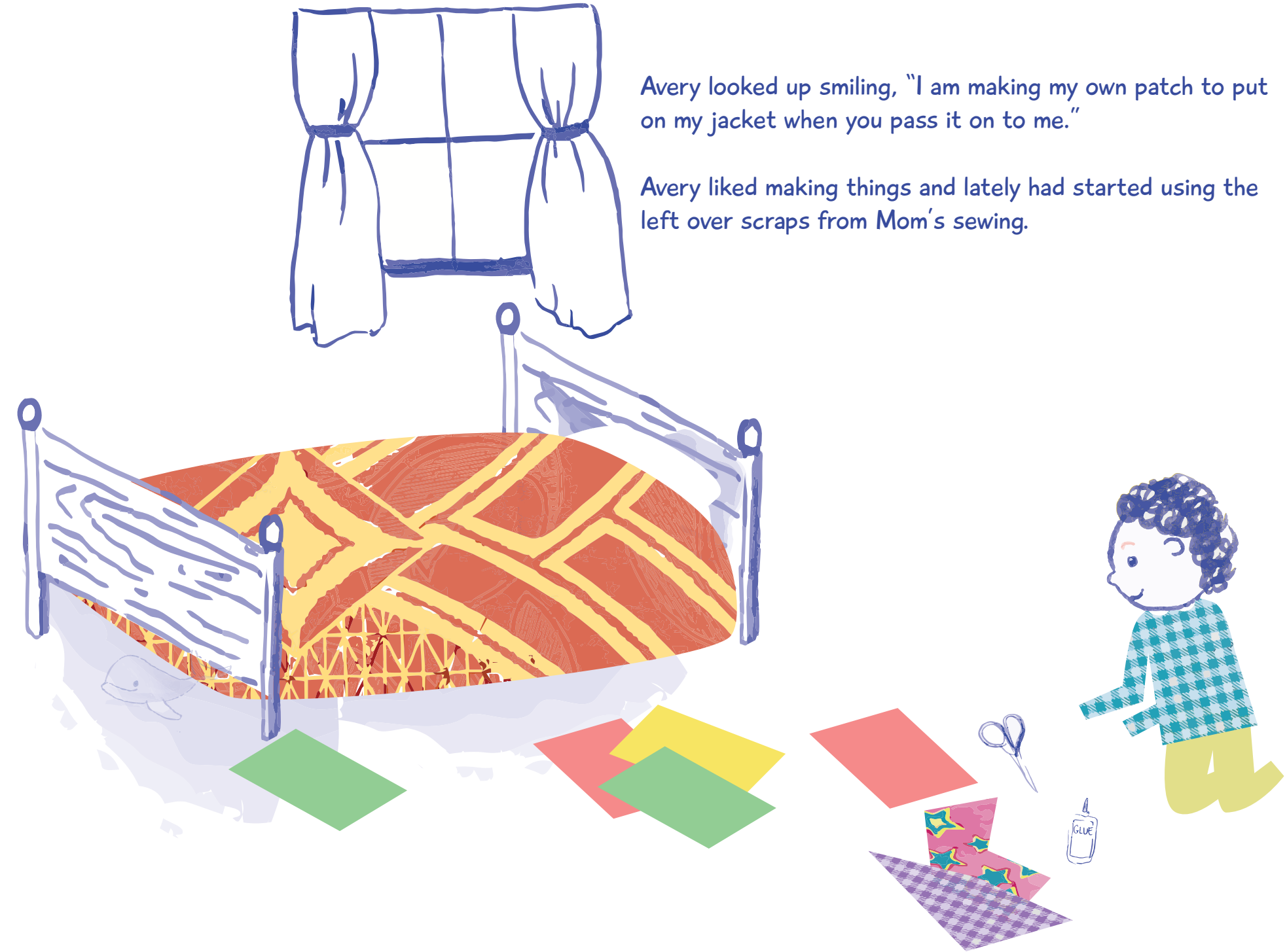
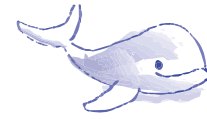
WRITTEN BY PEARL XUN
ILLUSTRATED BY WING YAN CHAN

Dedicated to my parents who remind
me value comes from the memories
we share with others.



"Avery it's seven, time to get ready for bed," Dad said as he peeked into Avery's room. Avery was sitting on the floor surrounded by different coloured papers, glue scissors and lots of scraps.

"What have you been doing? It sure looks like you've been busy."



Avery looked up smiling, "I am making my own patch to put on my jacket when you pass it on to me."

Avery liked making things and lately had started using the left over scraps from Mom's sewing.

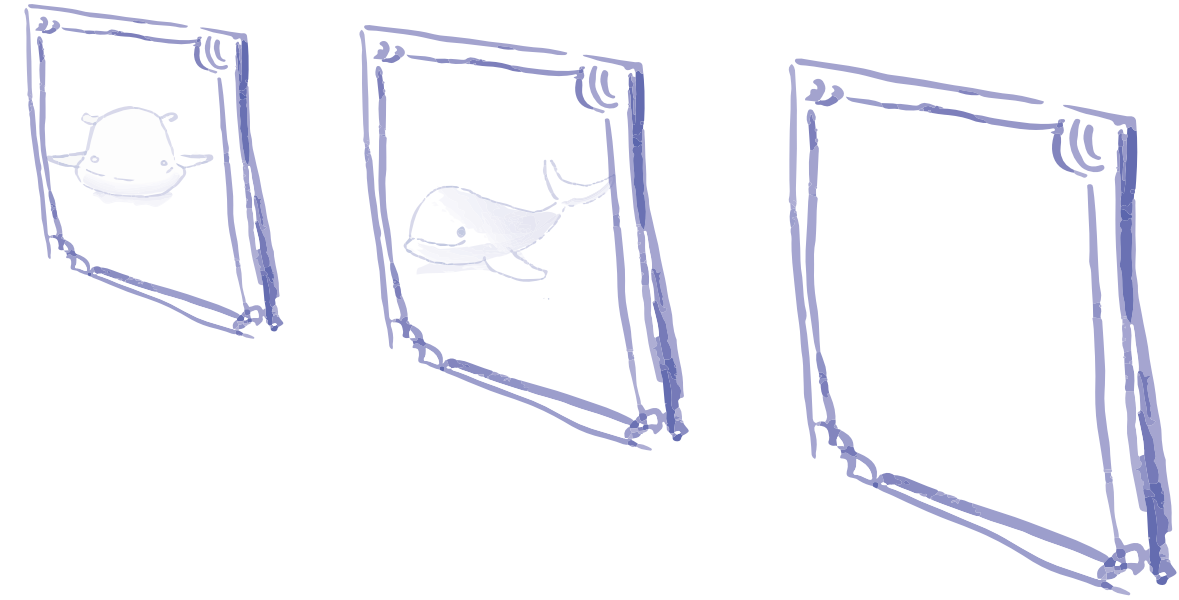
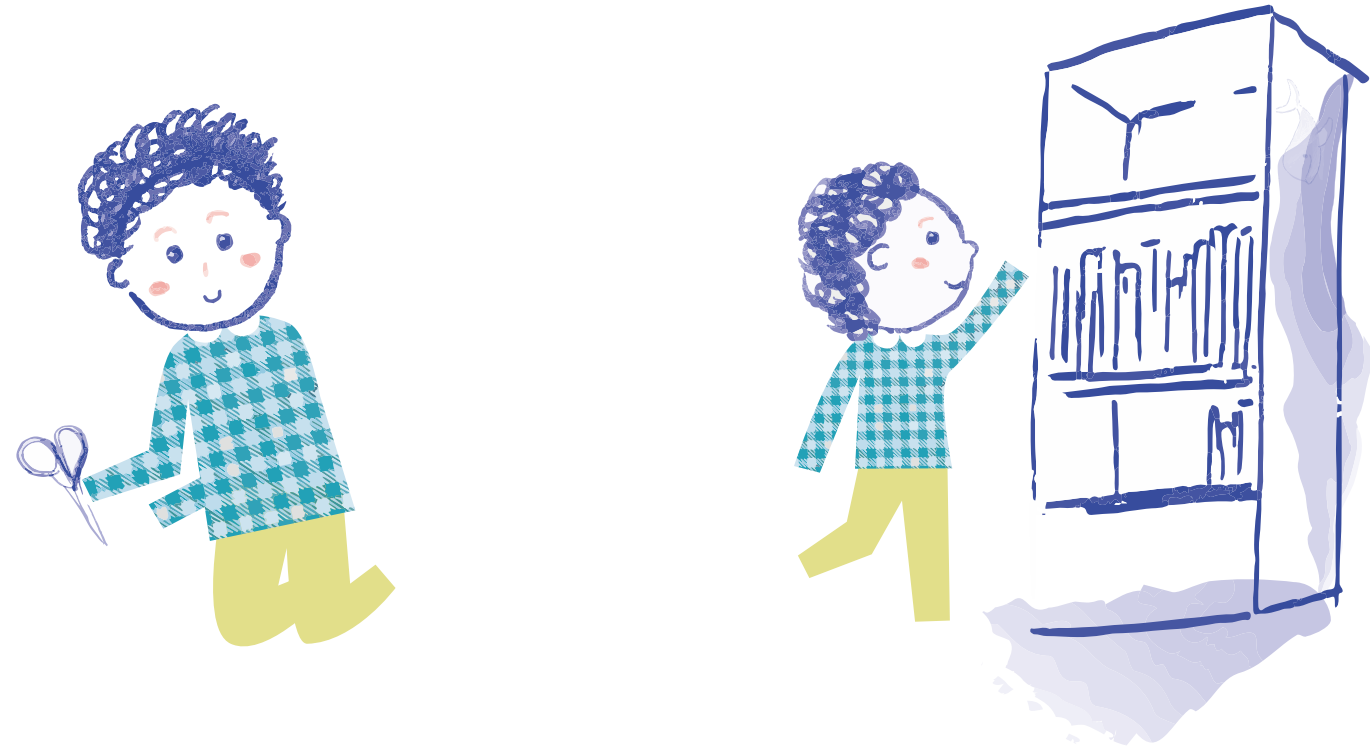
Dad laughed, "I'm not done with my jacket yet, it will be a while before it will fit you, but I am glad you are thinking about it. Now clean up, I will be back in a few minutes for storytime."

Avery's eyes lit up, "Ok Dad, but can you tell me the story of the patches? Like Grandma told you?"

"Ok," he said. "I'll be back in 10 minutes, but make sure your room is tidy."



Hurriedly, Avery scooped the items on the floor and under the bed. They stopped to check their work. All the toys were off the floor, the desk was neat-ish, the books were neatly stacked on the bookshelf. Above the bookshelf were family pictures. Some old in black and white.



There was Grandma and Grandpa, Mom, Dad, Auntie Rehka, Cousin Wing, and baby me. Grandma was wearing the patch jacket so was Dad. The Patch jacket was just that, it had been in the family for generations and according to Gran, each patch of cloth had a story and most of them from the Old Country Avery couldn't wait to here one more story today. Dad was so good at telling stories, but Gran was even better.



Avery jumped into bed as Dad walked into the room wearing the patch jacket.
"Ok Avery, which patch shall we hear about tonight?"


Avery touched the collar. It was soft and silky. It was made from the whale called Bluey.

"Tell me about this patch, It looks like I know it came from Ma."

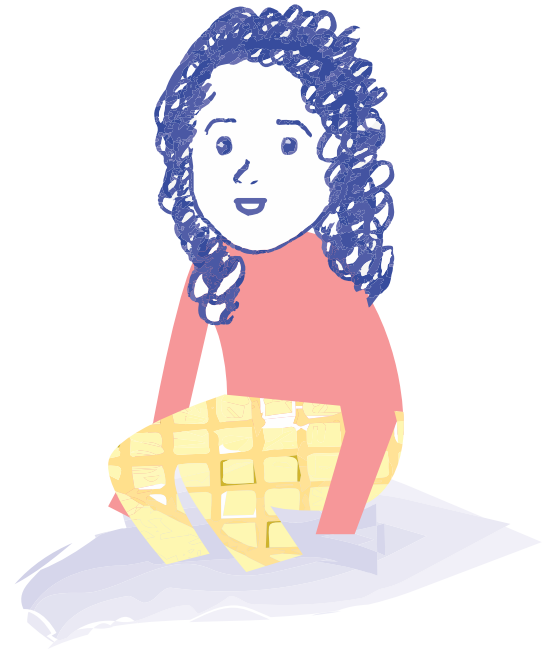
"Indeed your Mom brought it into this family."

"I want to hear about the this patch, the one on the collar."

"You want to hear the story of Bluey the whale. Well Bluey was your Mom's best friend and companion for a long time.

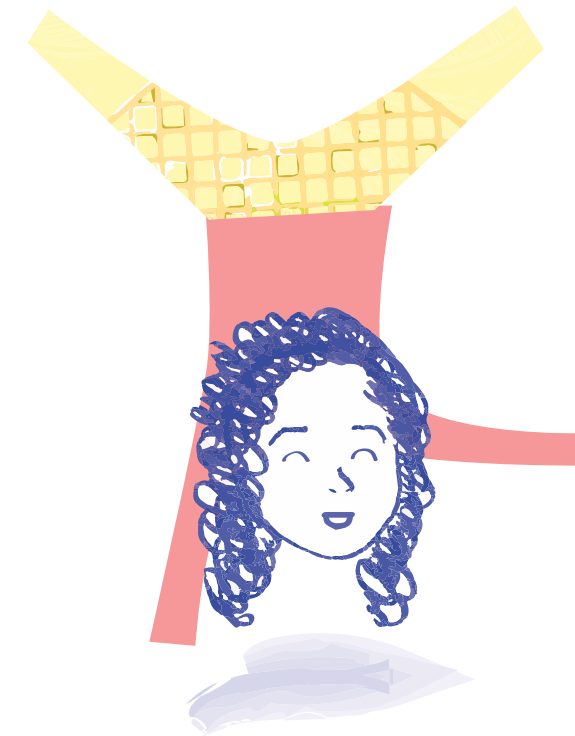
A child with curly hair is lying in bed, looking up at a ceiling decorated with starlights, a crescent moon, and a whale. The child is covered with a floral patterned blanket. The scene is set in a child's room with a white wall and a light blue ceiling.

It was her first night in her very own room.
She snuggled into the blanket it smelt like perfume.
She had a new Mom, a new Dad,
a new family, and Boy was she glad.
Jess looked up at the starlights on the ceiling above.
Smiling happily at last, she knew she was loved.



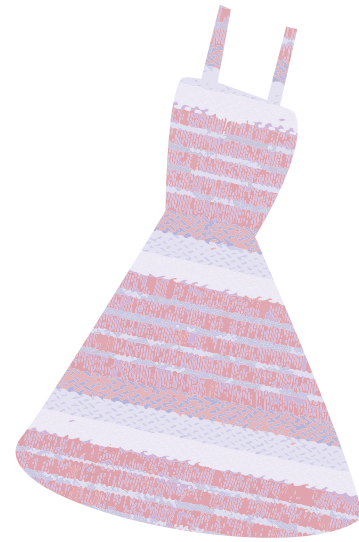
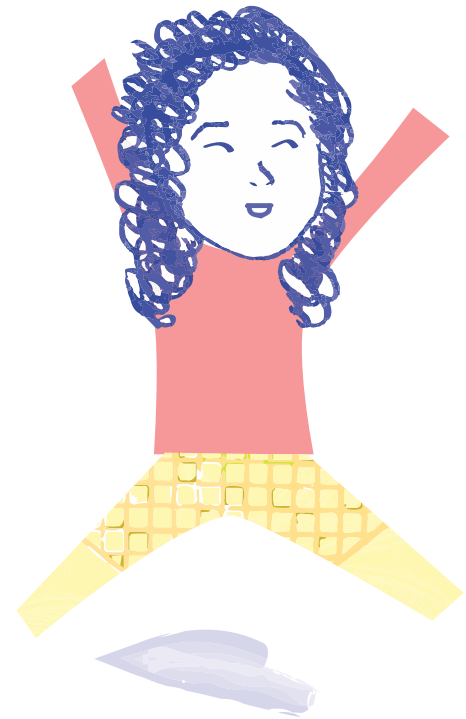
Jess was tired but excited, she could not sleep.
And it wouldn't hurt to take a peek.

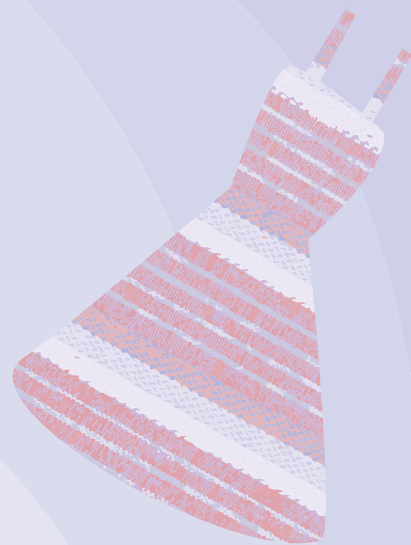
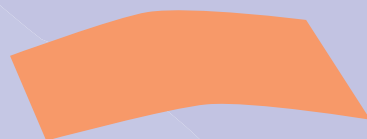
She jumped out of bed to look around. On tippy
toes, trying not to make a sound.



She danced and twirled in her new space.
This was hers, her very own place.

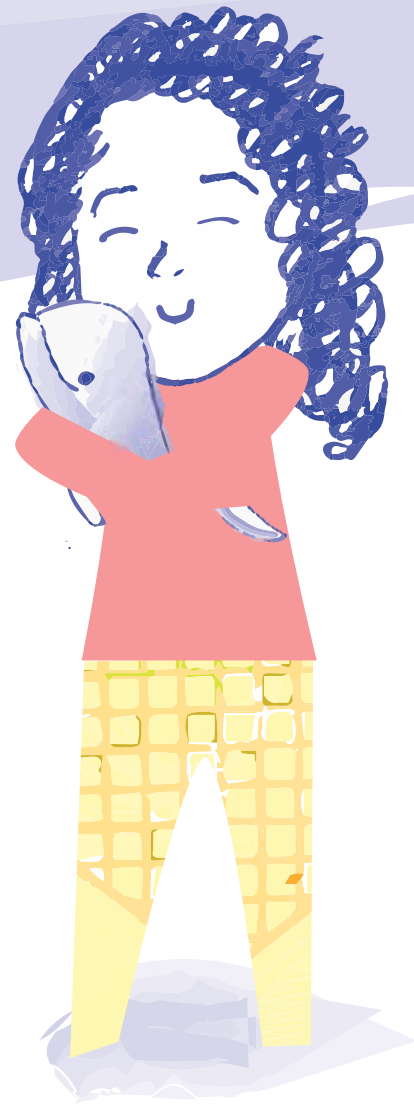
She ran to the closet and opened it wide.
It was filled with dresses, shoes and a good place to hide.
Uncles, cousins, Mom, Dad, hung in pictures on the wall.
There was even one of great Grandma in a shawl!





A large poster of a mermaid hung over the door.
She walked over to examine it some more.
In one corner stood a wooden crate.
It was filled with toys and games even skates!
She pulled out the toys one by one.
There were so many things, Jess didn't know what to
do with them all!
Mom found her there with toys all around.






Mom sat down and pulled a toy from the pile.
"This is Bluey the Whale," she said with a smile.

"My Maman gave me Bluey, when I was your age.
At bedtime we would snuggle and read page after page.
Will you take care of Bluey for me?
It's been all alone for years, maybe thirty."



An illustration of a child with curly hair and a blue nightgown lying in bed, hugging a small blue whale. The child's eyes are closed, and they have a peaceful expression. The whale is also closed-eyed and appears to be sleeping. The background is a dark blue night sky with a crescent moon and several five-pointed stars. The child is under a white blanket, and the bed has a floral patterned coverlet with pink and red flowers on a dark blue background.

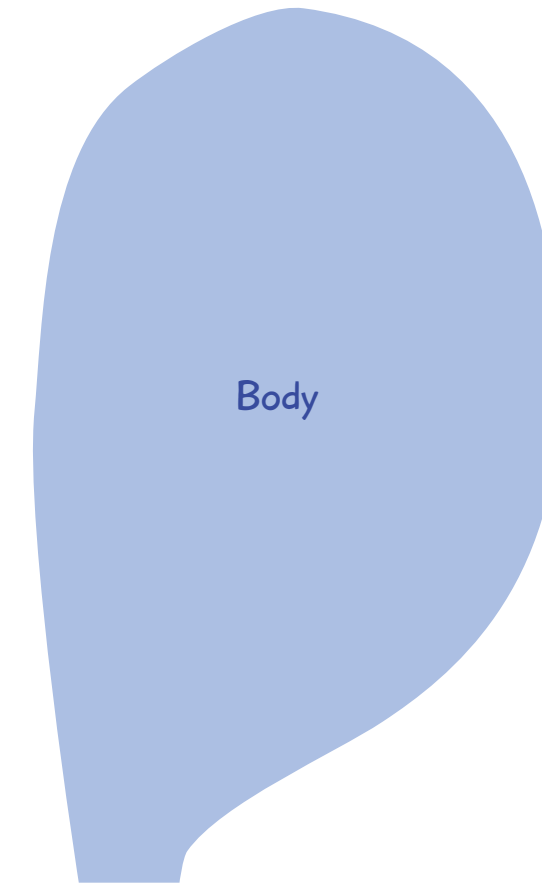
Mom, Bluey and I crawled into bed,
Under the twinkling stars, she said.
"Why are you crying, why are you sad?"

"I'm not sad, I'm really glad.
YOU are my Mom and I have a Dad," she said with a sniff.

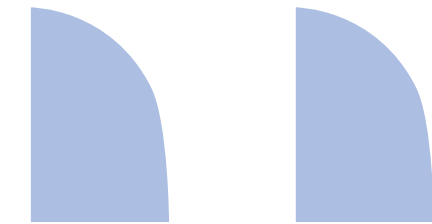
"And we love you. You are our greatest gift."

Make your own Whale!

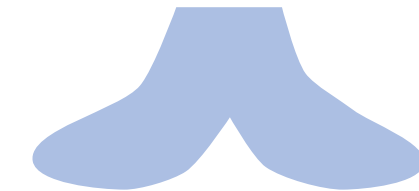
There are hidden Bluey the Whales hidden in the pages! Were you able to spot them all?



Body

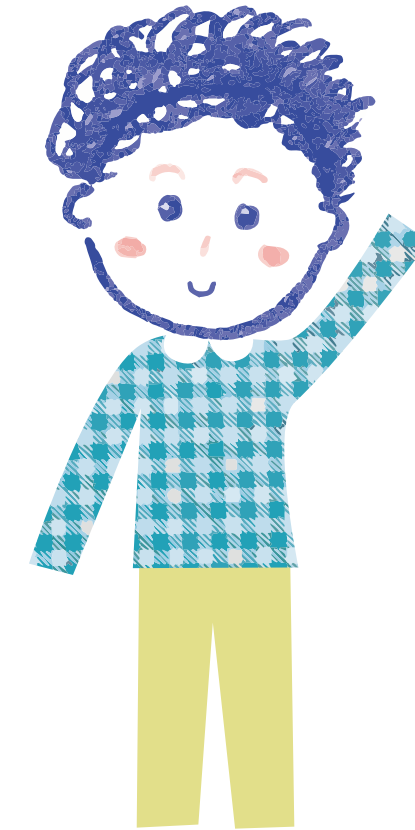


Flippers



Tail

This is Avery.
Avery is making a patch for the family jacket.



Can you find where the scraps are used on the backpack?



They have colourful paper, glue, scissors, and scraps.

The family jacket is special. It was Great grandpas, then it was grandmas, and now it's dad's.





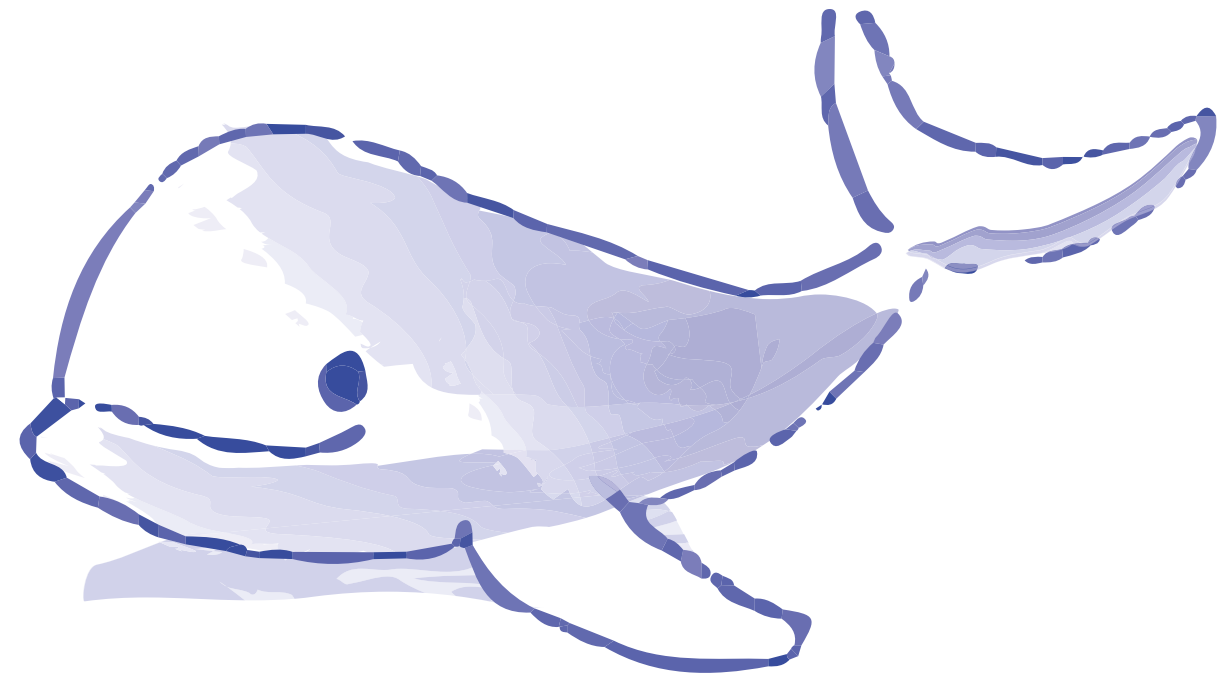
There are red patches and blue patches.

Furry patches, and Fuzzy patches.

Each one is different and each one is special because they all tell a story.

And one day, it will be Avery's. And they'll have a patch of their own.

What does your's look like?



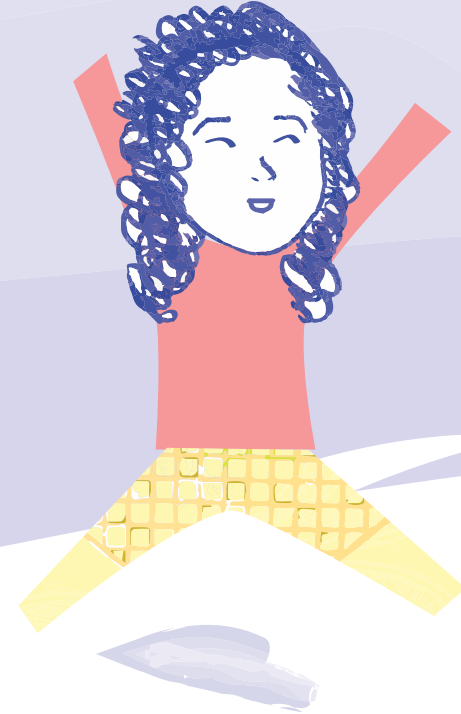
This, is a patch by Avery's mom.

When she was a little girl, she moved to a new home with a nice garden, and a new mom and dad.



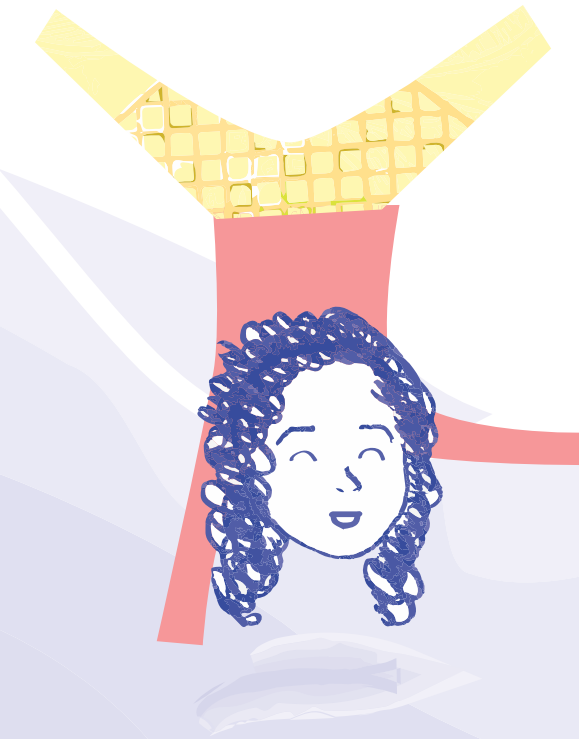
That night she was tired but excited, she could not sleep.

It would not hurt to take a peek.



She danced and twirled in her new space.

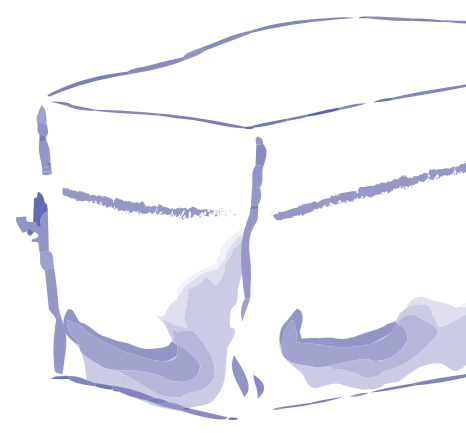
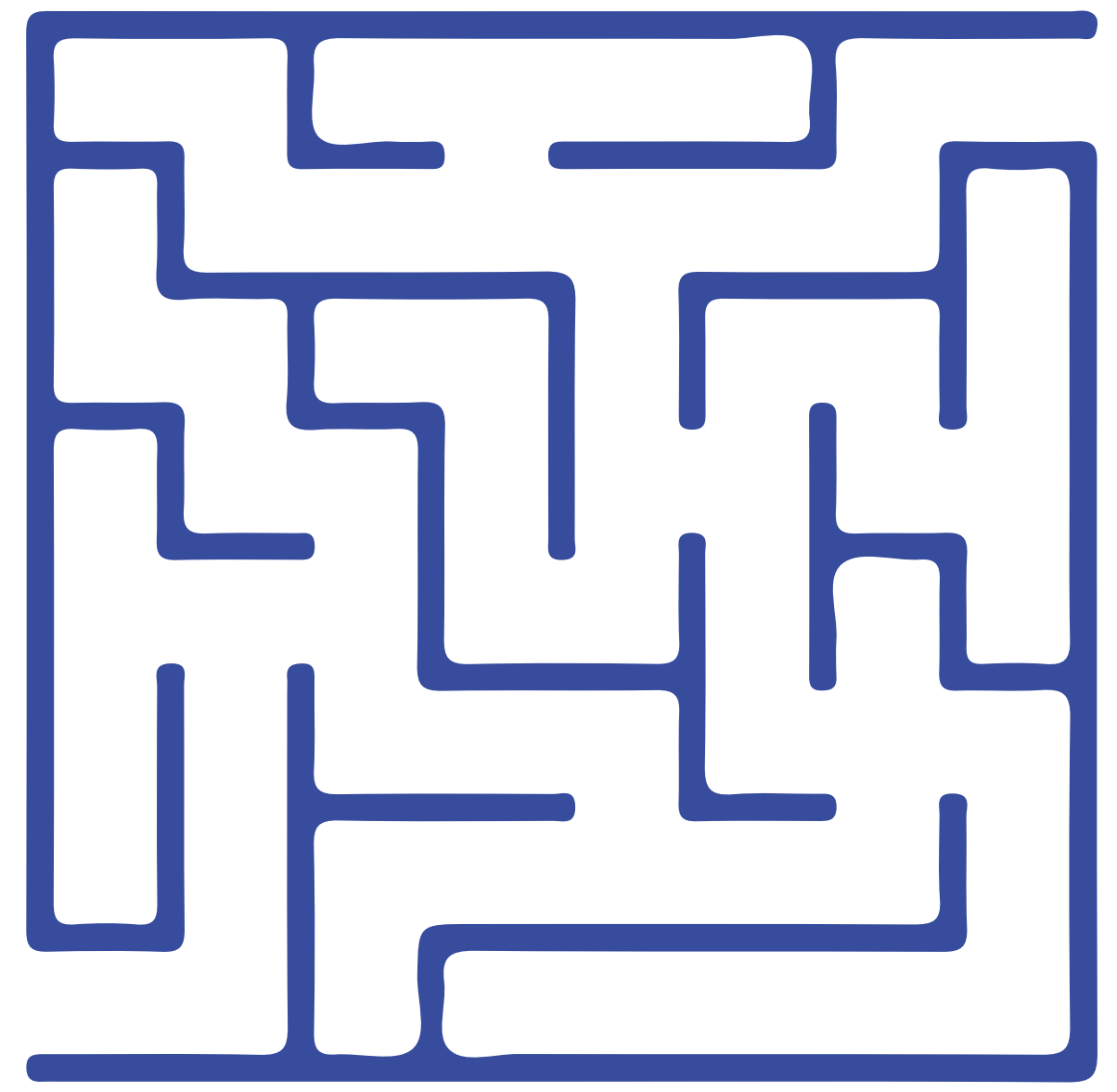
This was hers, her very own place.





She had new clothes, fancy toys,
and fun posters on the walls.

Help find the chest for the toys!



But of all the new toys, she knew the most special of all is Bluey the Whale.

"My Maman gave me Bluey, when I was your age,"
Her mom said.

"Now will you take care of Bluey for me?"

