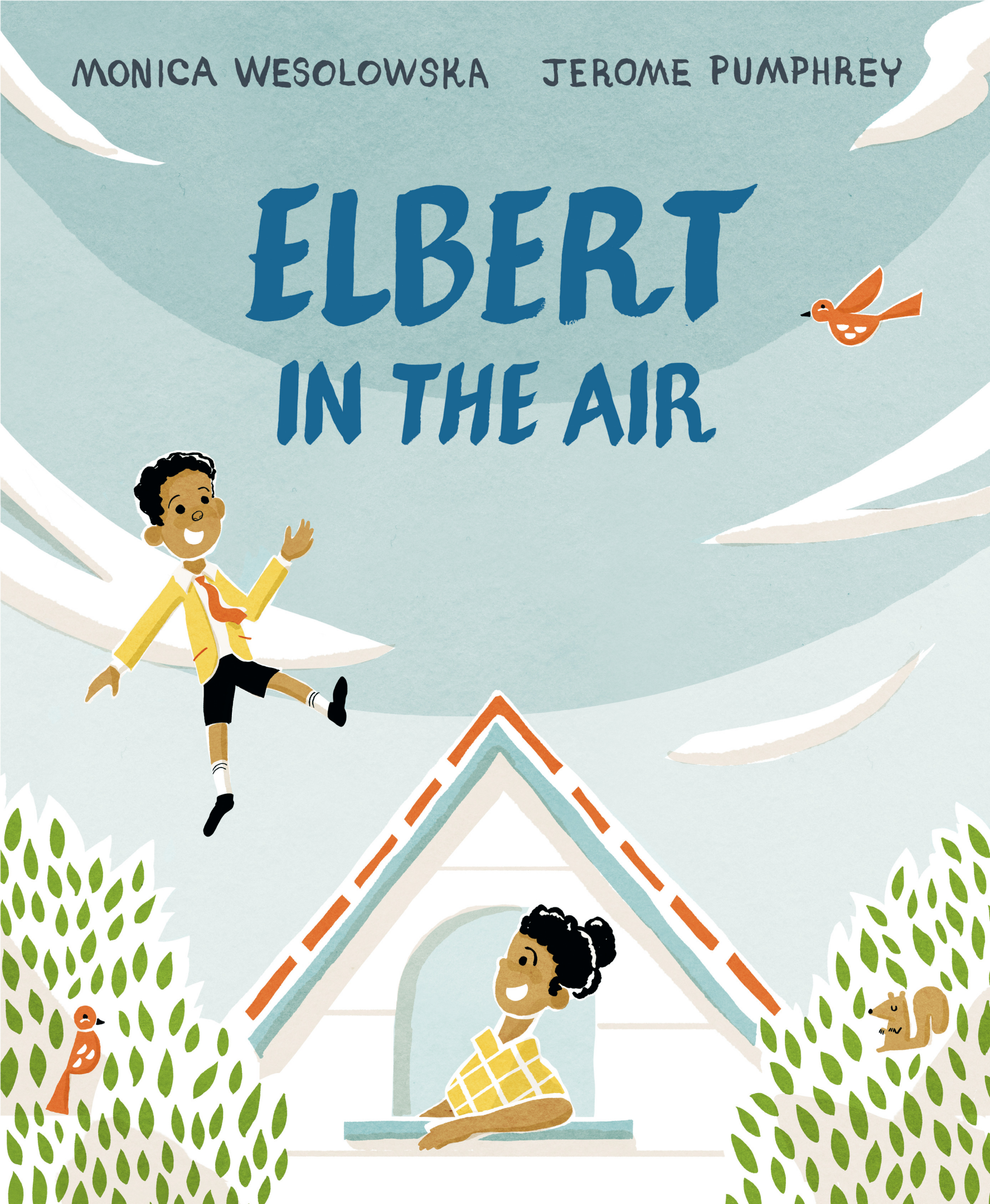


MONICA WESOLOWSKA JEROME PUMPHREY

ELBERT IN THE AIR





Shortly after he was born, Elbert floated into the air.

But Elbert grew.



And grew.



When he outgrew his toy world, he somersaulted out the window to spend his days playing by himself above the yard.

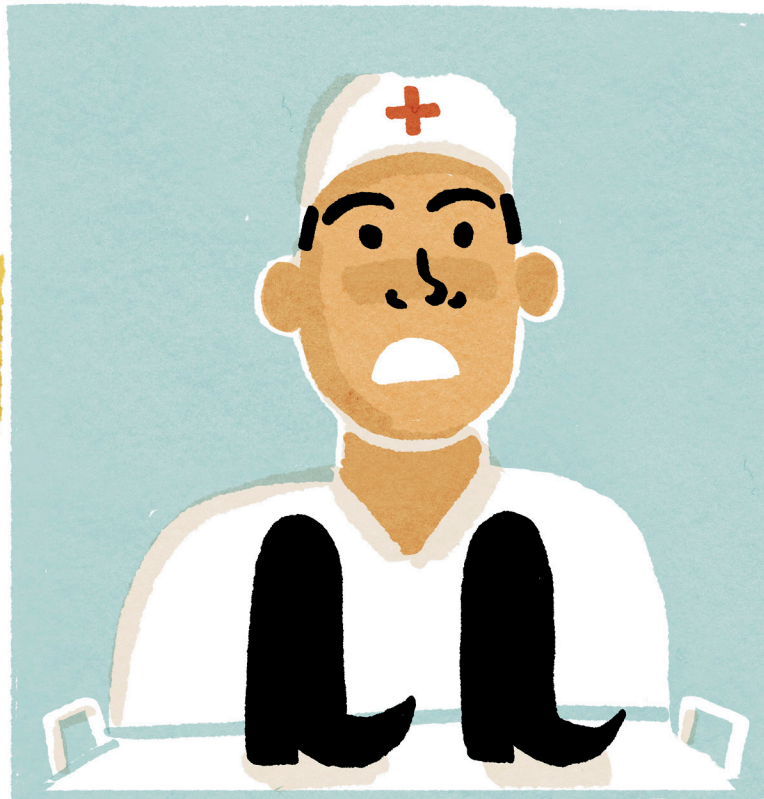
The next day, Elbert spotted a group of children starting school.
"Look, Ma!" he called. "I'm ready to join them!"
But when Elbert entered through the classroom window,
his teacher called for help.



"Assign him bigger books,"
recommended the librarian.



"Issue him heavier shoes,"
prescribed the nurse.

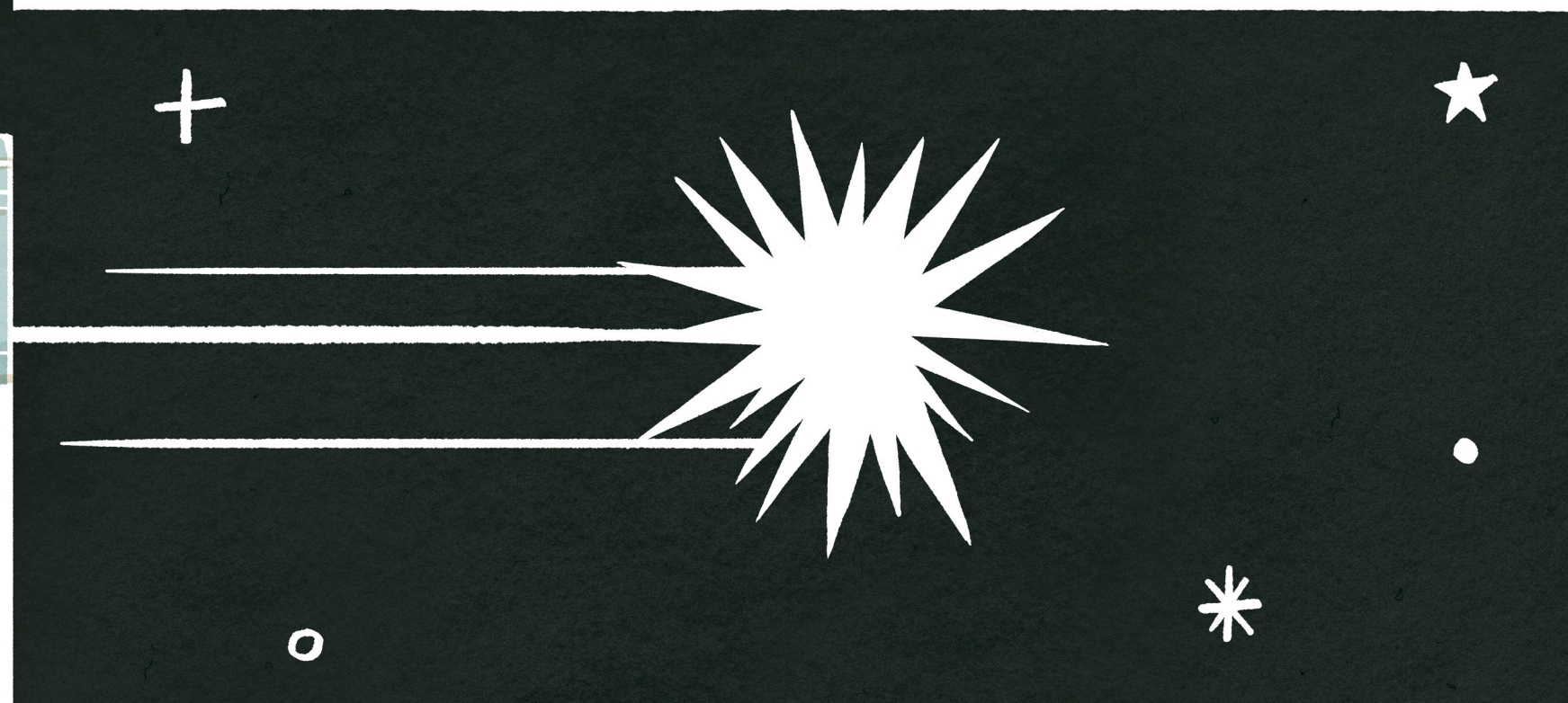


"Glue him,"
dictated the secretary,
"to his chair!"





"Look, Ma!" he cheered, spotting a shooting star.



"Fantastic, Elbert," she replied. "Make a wish."
So Elbert did . . .

To keep him company one night, his mother climbed a fire escape.
"Just be yourself," she soothed him, "and you'll find friends."
Then she handed him a bowl of popcorn big enough to share.





And it was fantastic.