

Not Final - Uncopyedited

# Geraldine Pu

and Her Lunch Box, Too!

Written and illustrated by Maggie P. Chang



Ready-to-Read Graphics



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## Dedication TK



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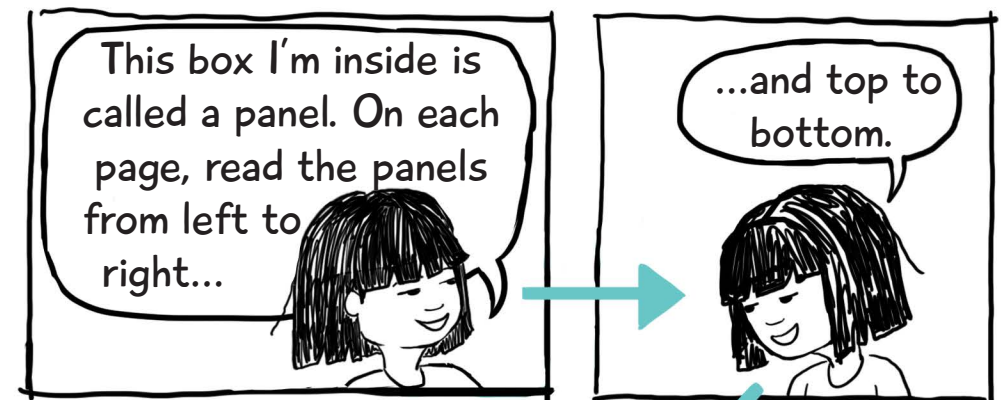
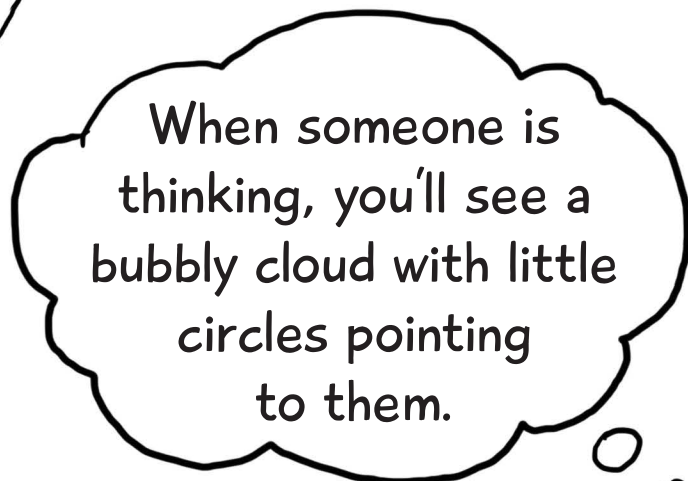
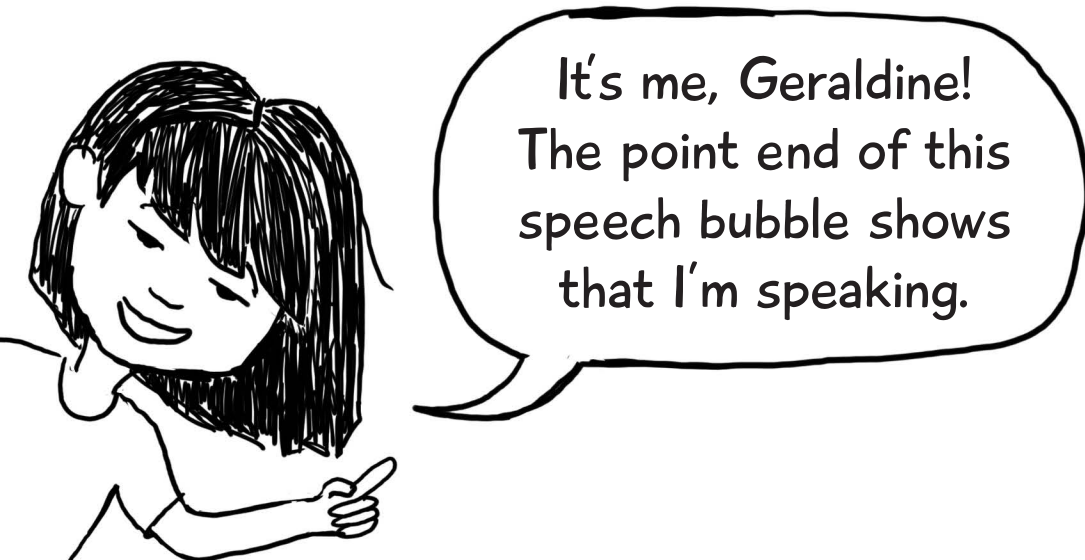


Sample page. Not final



# How to Read This Book

This is Geraldine. She's here to give you some tips on reading this book.



## Words from Geraldine's World

Geraldine and her family speak English, Mandarin Chinese and Taiwanese. Mandarin Chinese and Taiwanese are both languages spoken in Taiwan. Some of Geraldine's family members used to live there!



**Amah:** The word for "Grandma" in Taiwanese.

**Biandang** (said like this: BEE-en-DONG): Geraldine's nickname for her lunchbox. This is the Mandarin Chinese word for a "Taiwanese lunchbox," which is usually a yummy meal of rice, meat, veggies, and an egg all in one box.



**curry:** The yellow curry in this story is a common and comforting dish that many Taiwanese people make.

**bao:** A bun that's white, soft, and filled with meat or vegetables or both. Bao sounds like "wow," and that is often what people say when they eat one!



**tofu:** a food made of soybeans that can taste sweet, salty, spicy, or even stinky.

**A note on the spelling in this book:** There are different ways to write Mandarin Chinese and Taiwanese words in the English alphabet, but our book spells them the way Geraldine like to spell them.

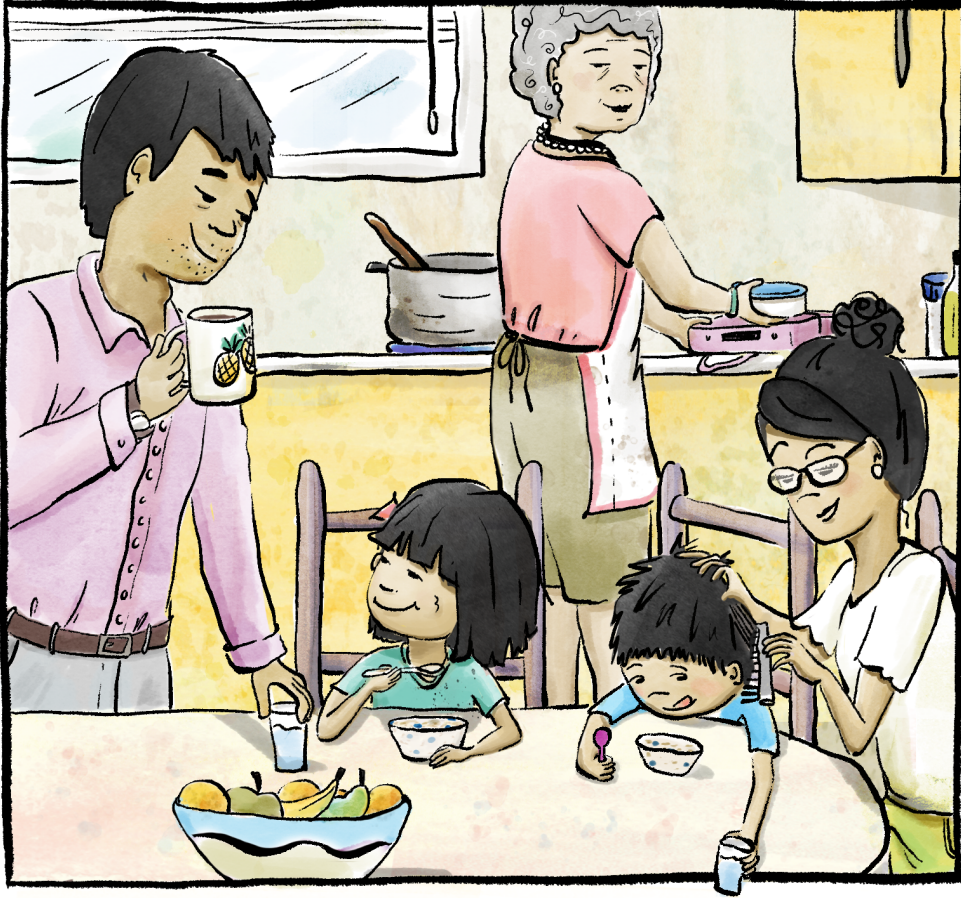
## Chapter One

Meet Geraldine Pu. Her last name rhymes with "blue" or "chew."





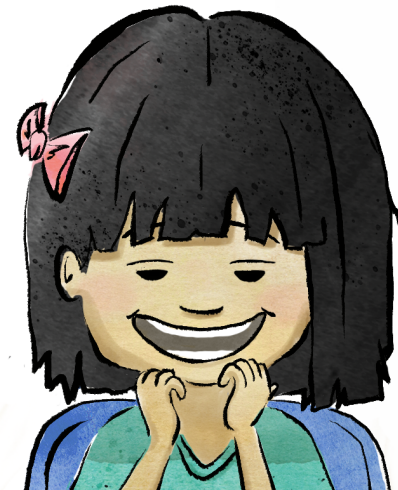
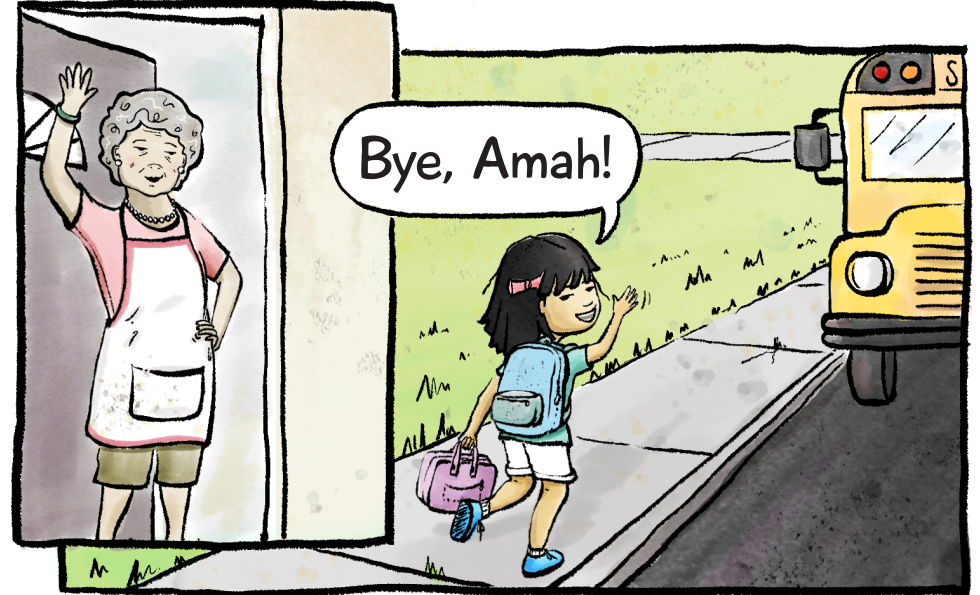
Geraldine loves her family,



her favorite things,



and going to school.



The best part  
of school for  
Geraldine is...



# LUNCH!

She LOVES the lunches her Amah makes.  
Amah even includes notes:



Do you know what else Geraldine loves?



ME!

Her lunch box.  
She calls him Biandang.  
(Said like this:  
BEE-en-DONG.)



She's decorated him  
with stickers.

There's even one that reads:



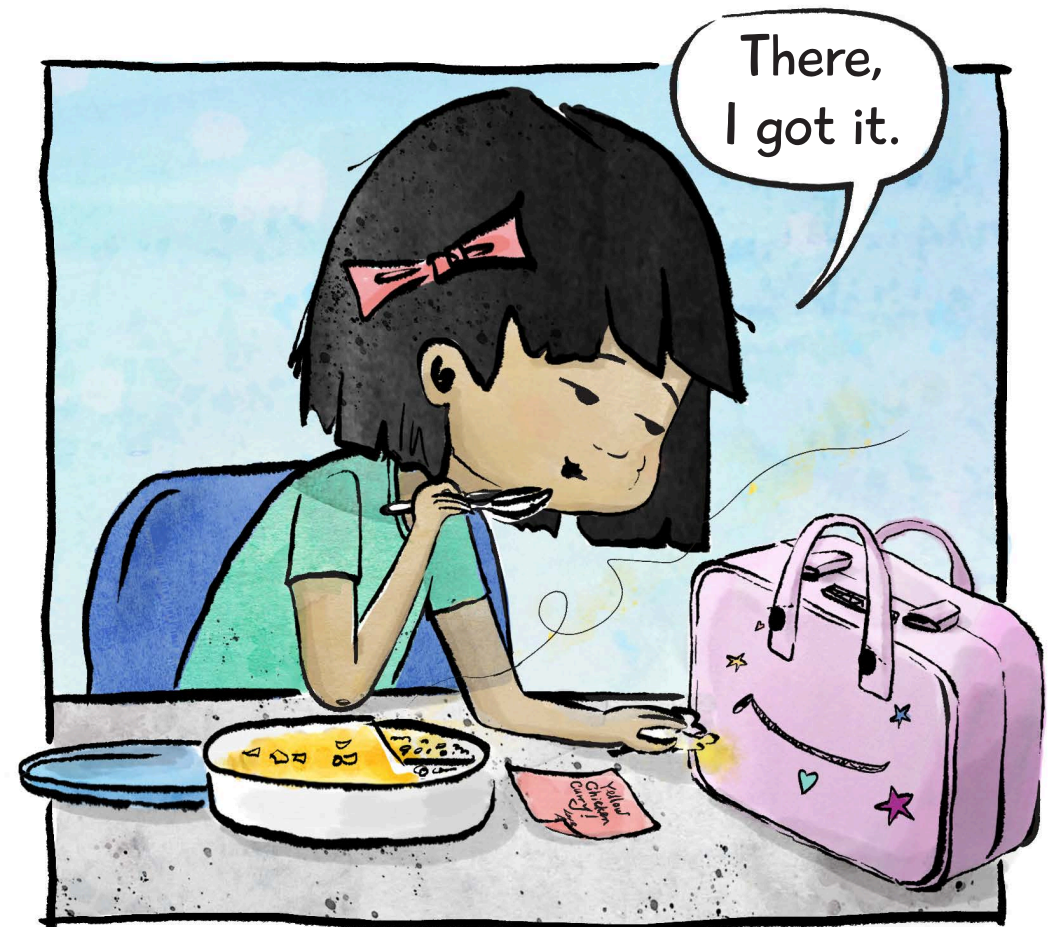
That's right, and  
I have an important  
job to do!

Biandang's job:

- ☒ Carry lunch
- ☒ Protect lunch
- ☒ Keep lunch from  
spilling everywhere



Every day Geraldine and Biandang take good care of each other.



Everything is great until...



Sniff!  
Sniff!



...Nico arrives.

Nico is afraid of anything new. Even  
curry.





Nico is new to Geraldine's lunch table.  
Now his new ideas are catching on.



Geraldine growls,



But that night she clutches Biandang tight as  
she asks Amah,

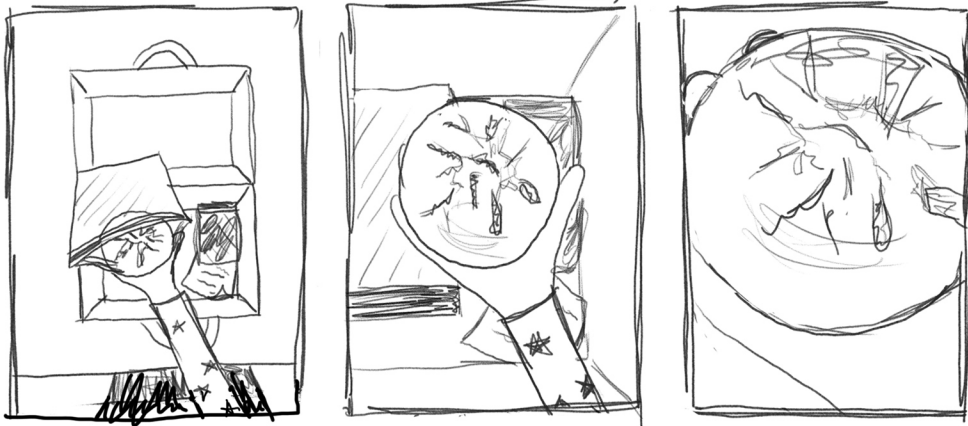




# Chapter Two



...something that does NOT look like a sandwich!



Amah's note explains.

A fresh bao!  
Enjoy your  
special sandwich.  
love,  
Amah

Nico sees the bao and asks,

What's THAT?

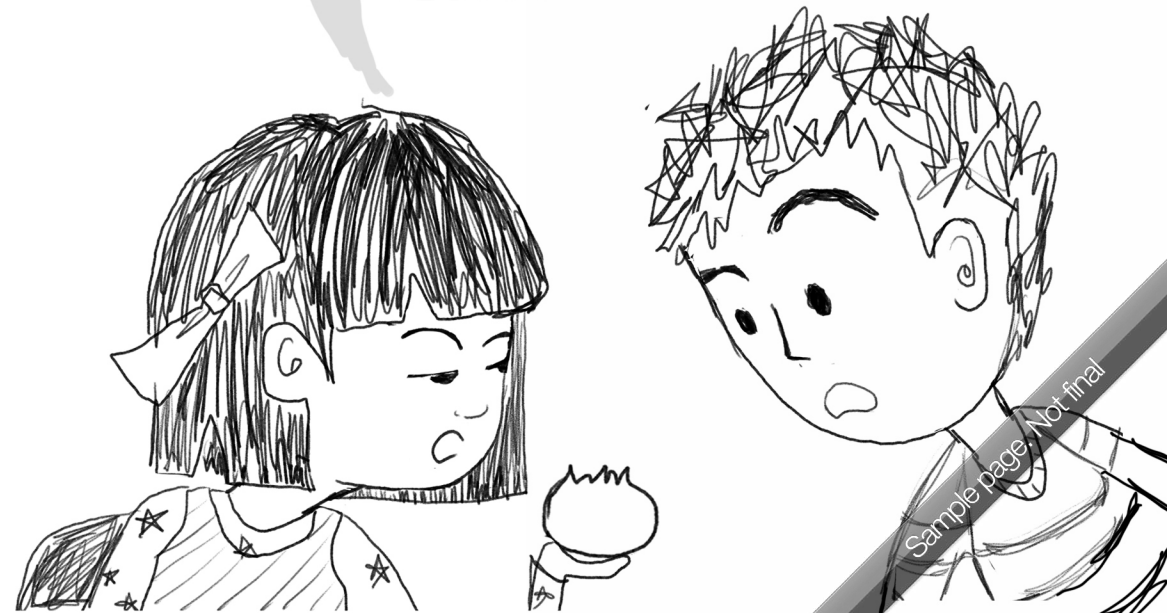
It's a sandwich.

It doesn't LOOK like a sandwich.

That's because it's a bao!

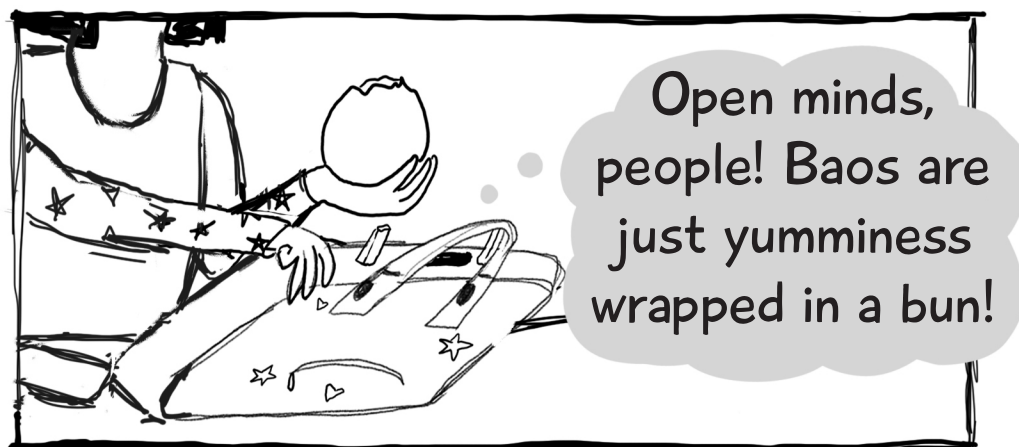
What's THAT?

It's a SPECIAL sandwich!

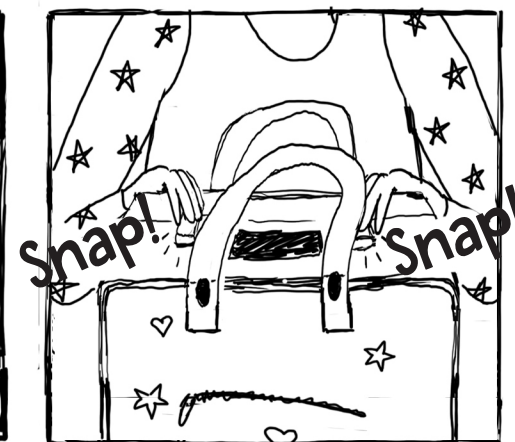




Geraldine decides to pack Biandang back up.

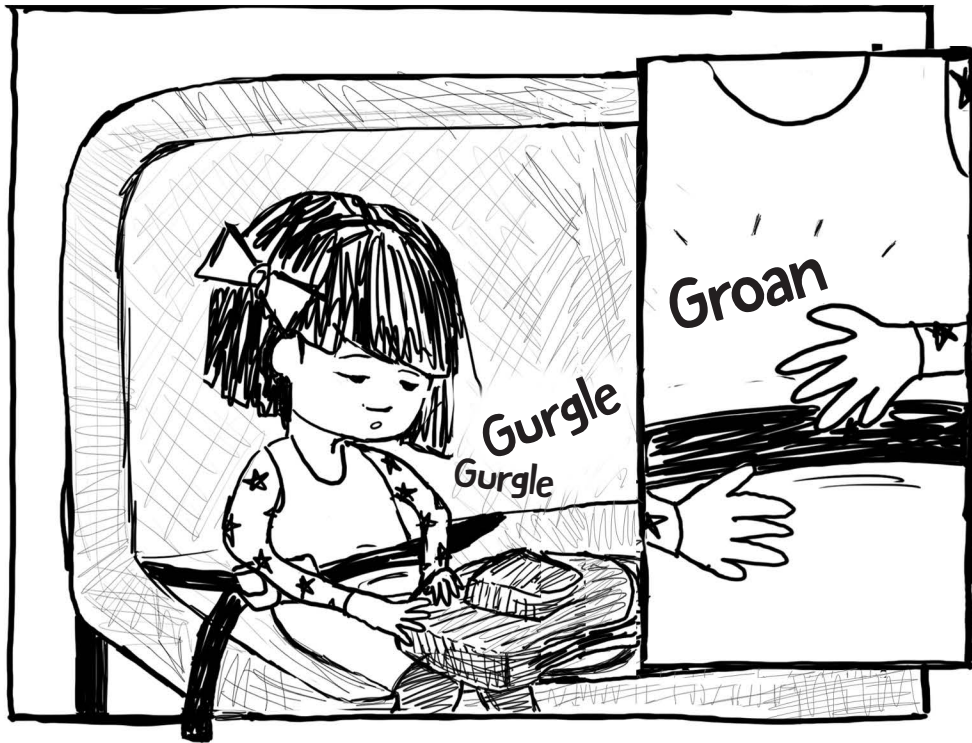


She doesn't even take a bite of the bao.

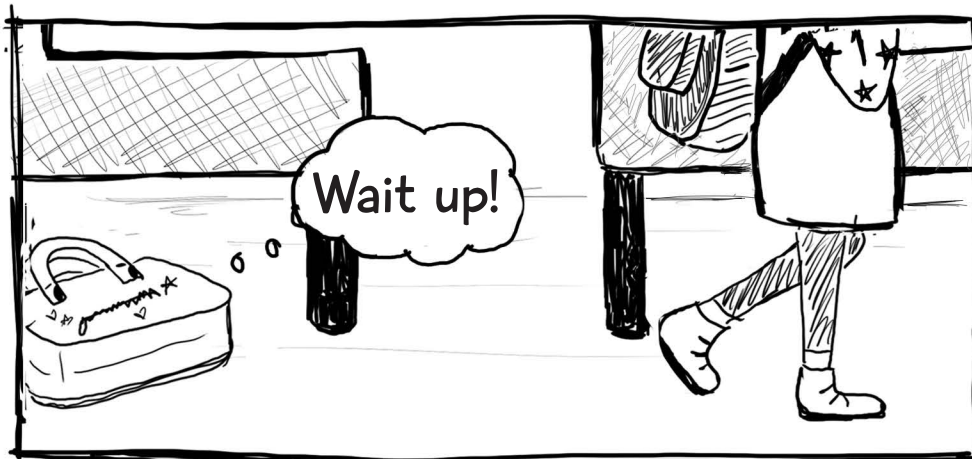




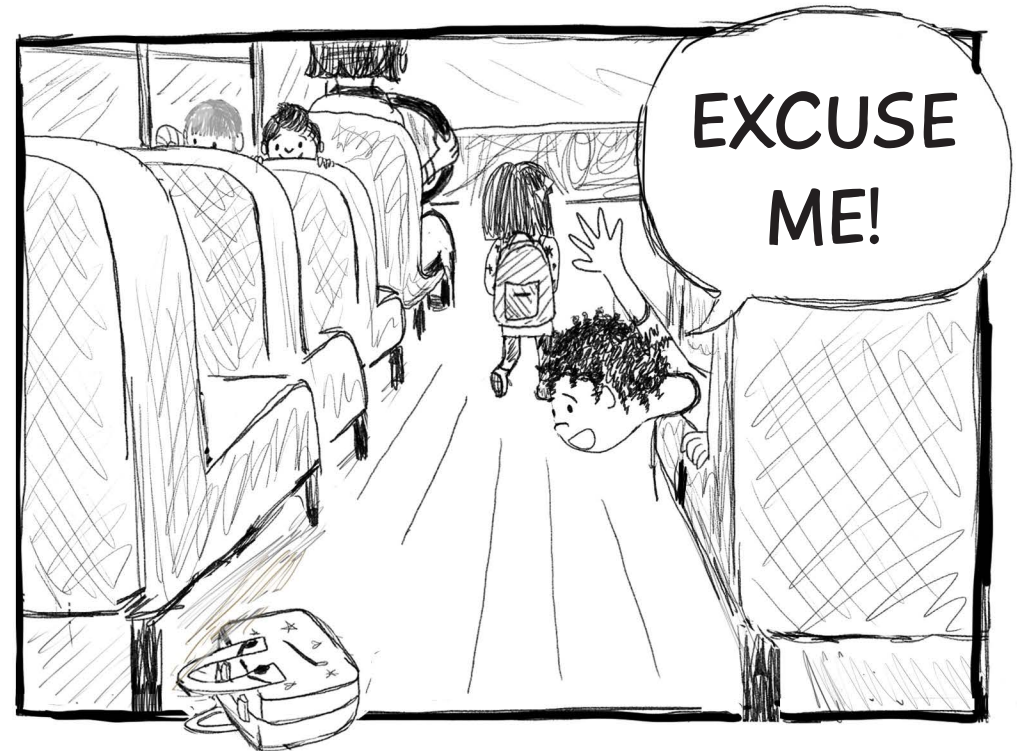
By late afternoon Geraldine's tummy begins to grumble.



This distracts her so much, she leaves Biandang on the bus by mistake.



Luckily, Deven notices.



He hollers,

**IS THIS YOUR LUNCH BOX?!**



But others notice too, like Nico.



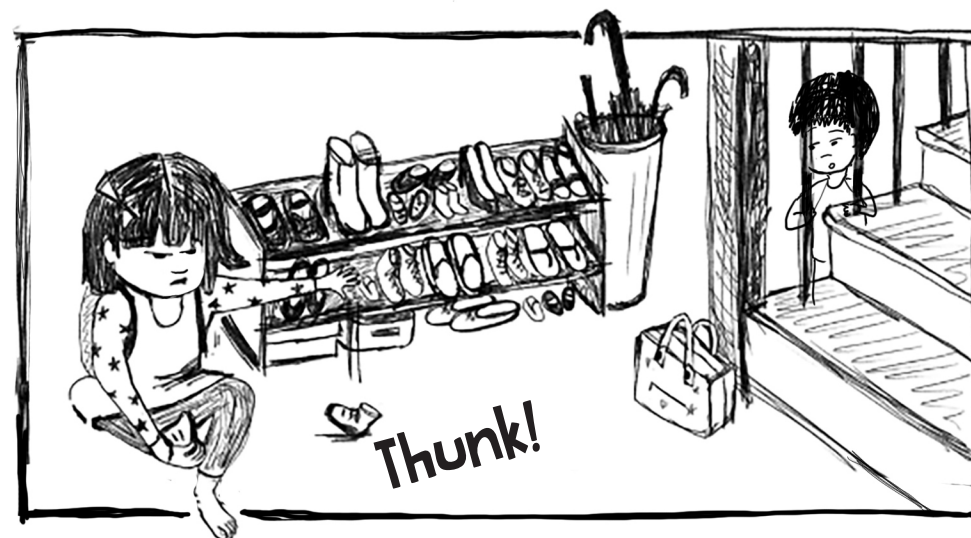
Even if they don't mean for Geraldine to hear, she hears.



So when she gets home,



she takes off her shoes,



stomps up the stairs,



slams her bedroom door,



and then





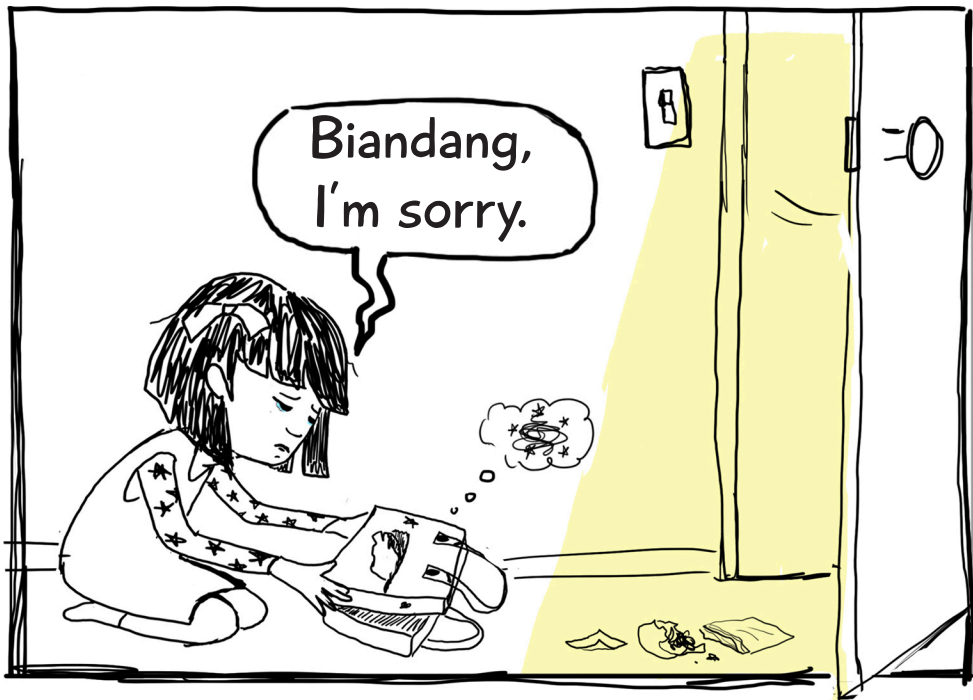
RAAAAA!

Bam!

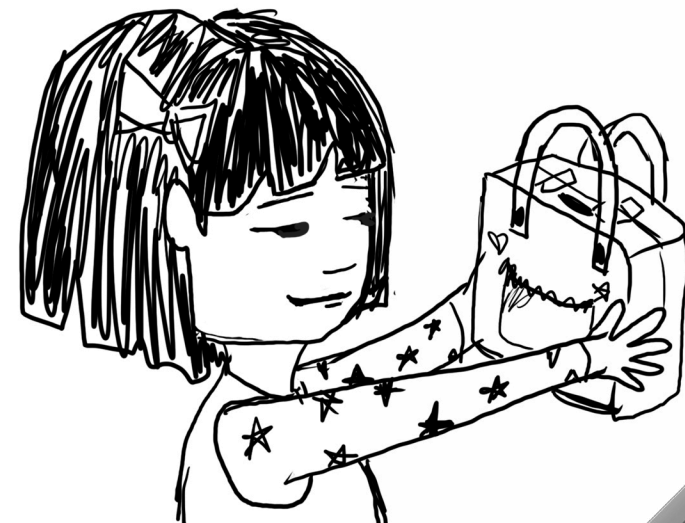
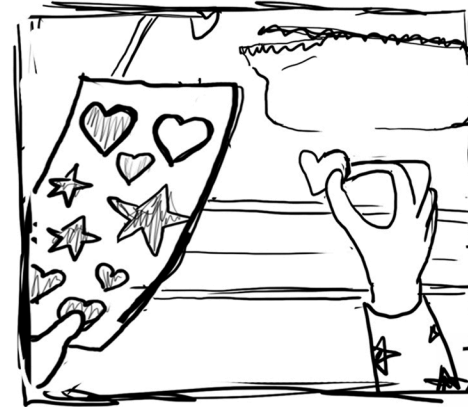
Ouch!  
My pocket!



Geraldine gasps and rushes to Biandang's side.



She fixes his stickers and glues his pocket.



This makes her feel better.

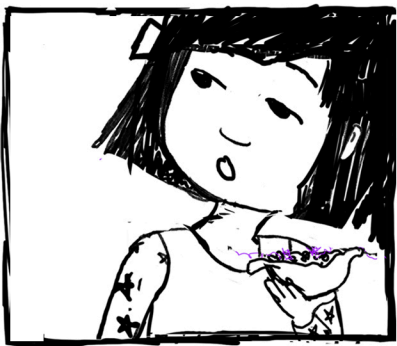
But Geraldine hates that she wasted her bao. Even with lint, it looks so yummy to her.

I should have just eaten it.



Just then, Amah calls from downstairs,

Geraldine, where's your Biandang?



I'll be down soon!



She tosses the bao in the garbage and sighs,

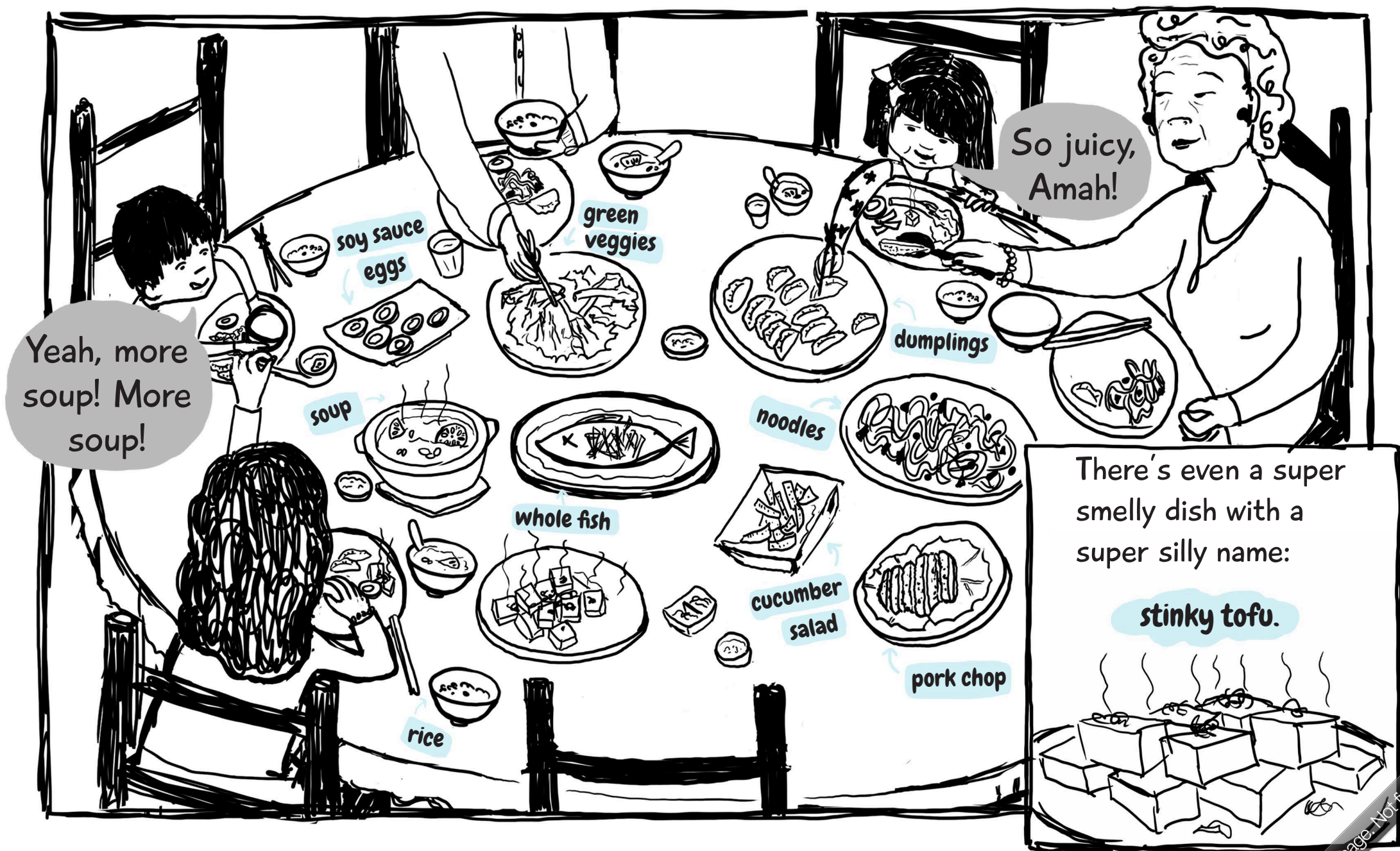
Sorry, Amah.



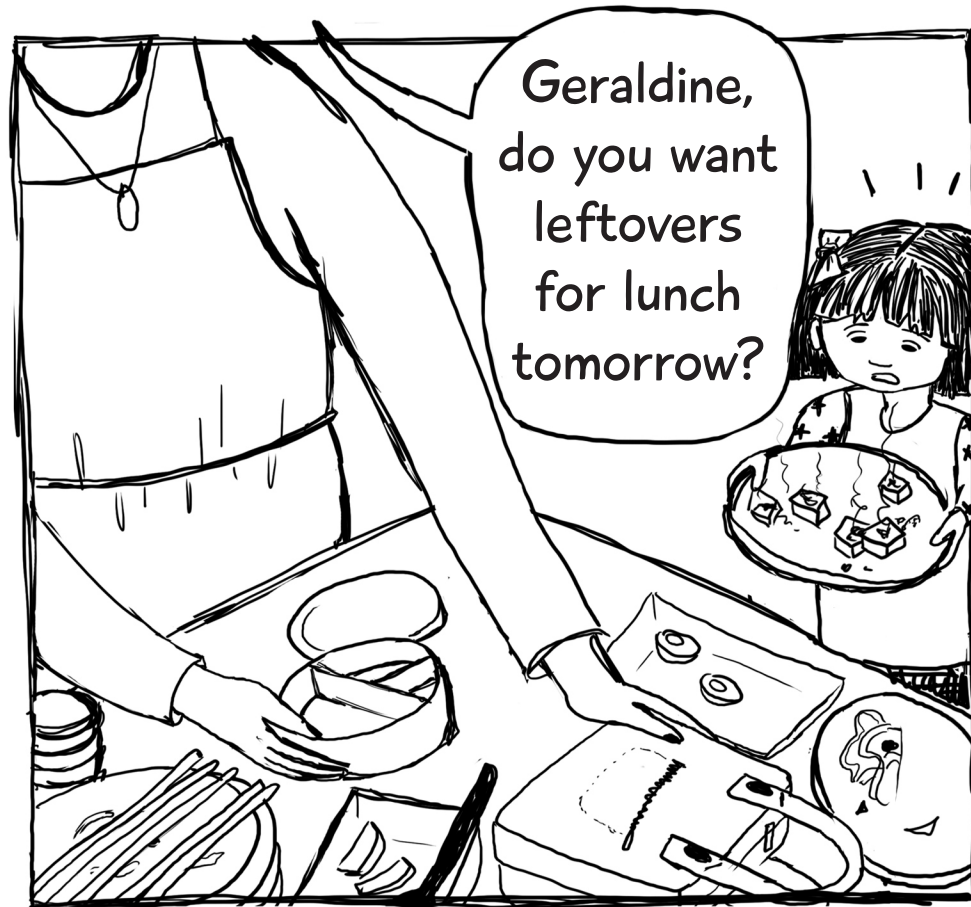


# Chapter Three

That night with her family, Geraldine eats from every dish at dinner.



Afterward Amah asks,



Geraldine finally replies.

But later she begins to worry about lunch.

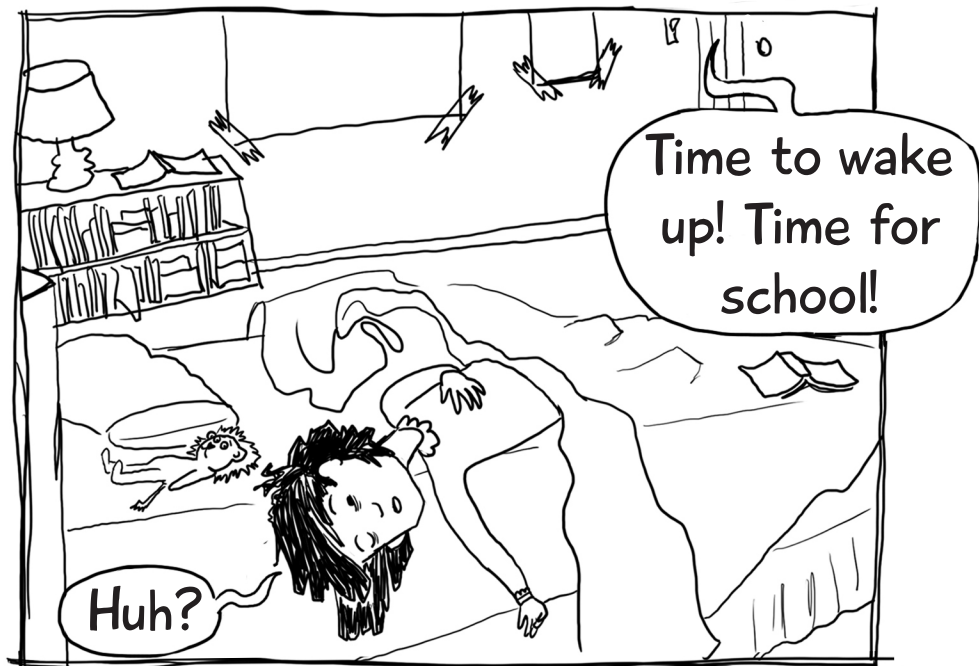


She thinks about it for a long time.





The next morning...

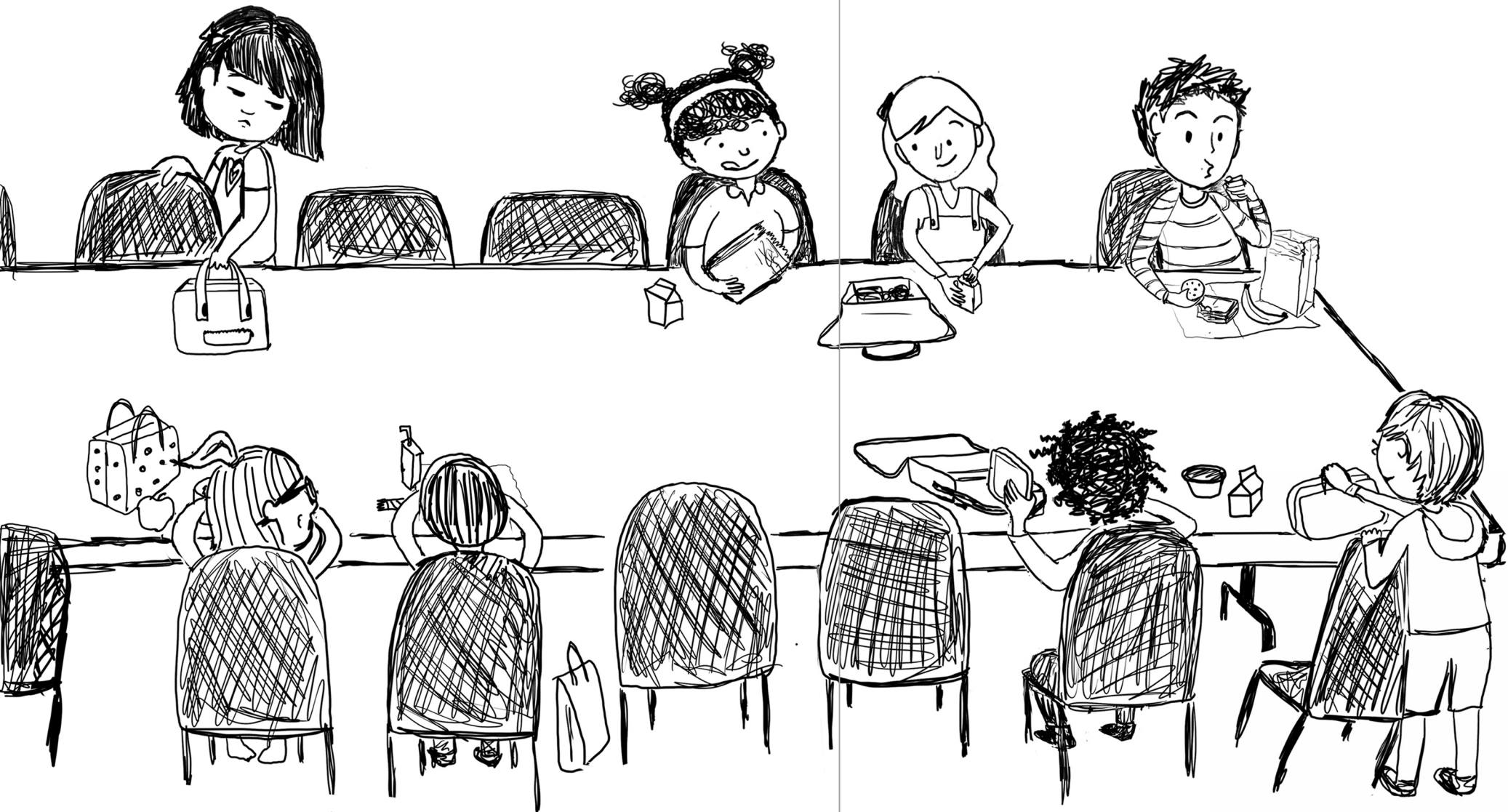


Geraldine tries her best, but she's a bit tired.

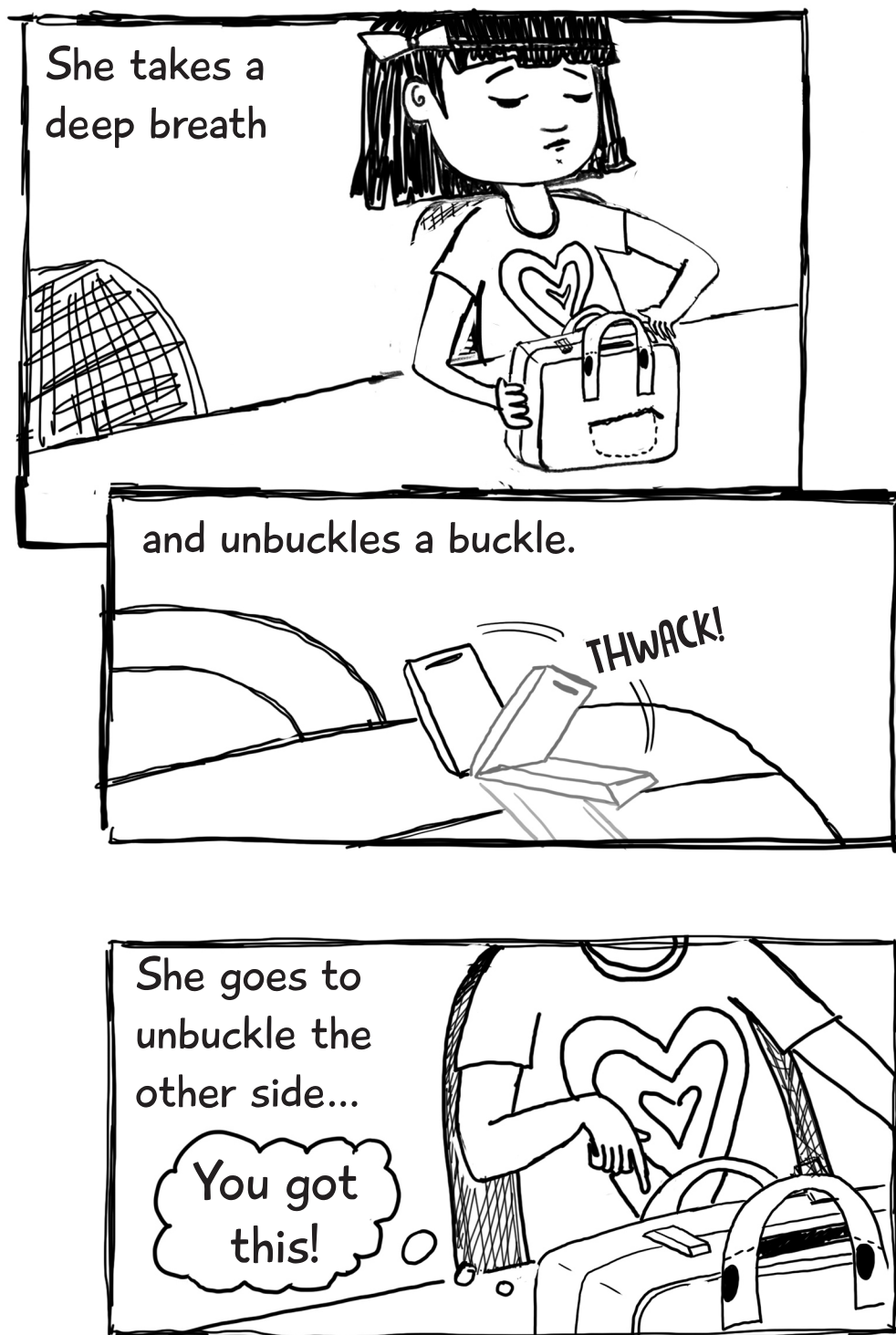


At lunch Geraldine knows her stinky tofu will be stinky. So she sets Biandang down...

...far away from Nico.







...when suddenly Nico exclaims,

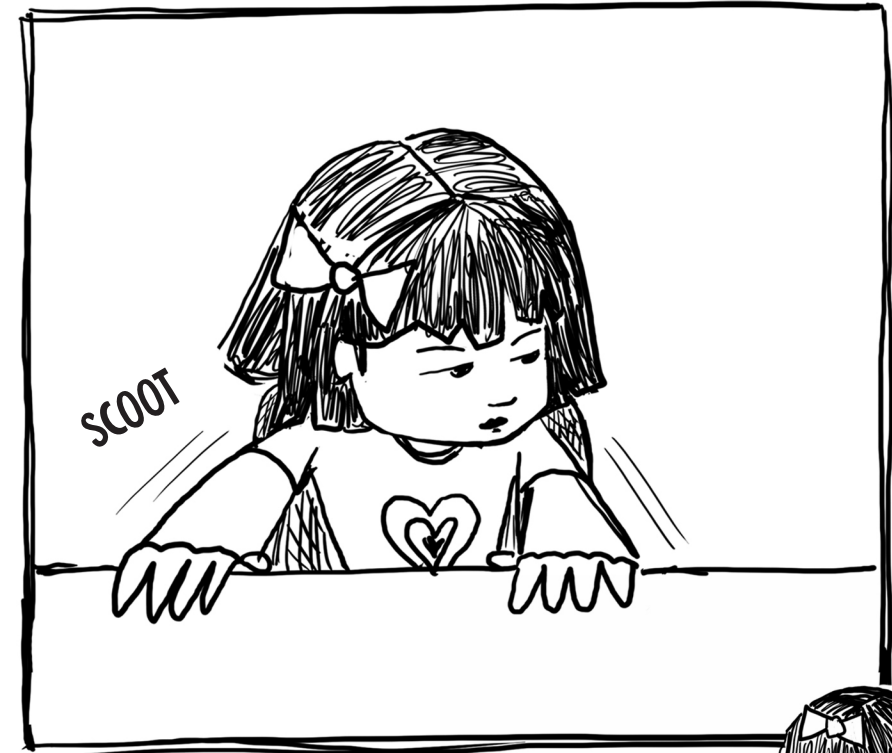


Except he isn't talking to Geraldine!

He's talking to Deven—the  
boy from the bus!



Geraldine knows exactly how  
Deven feels....



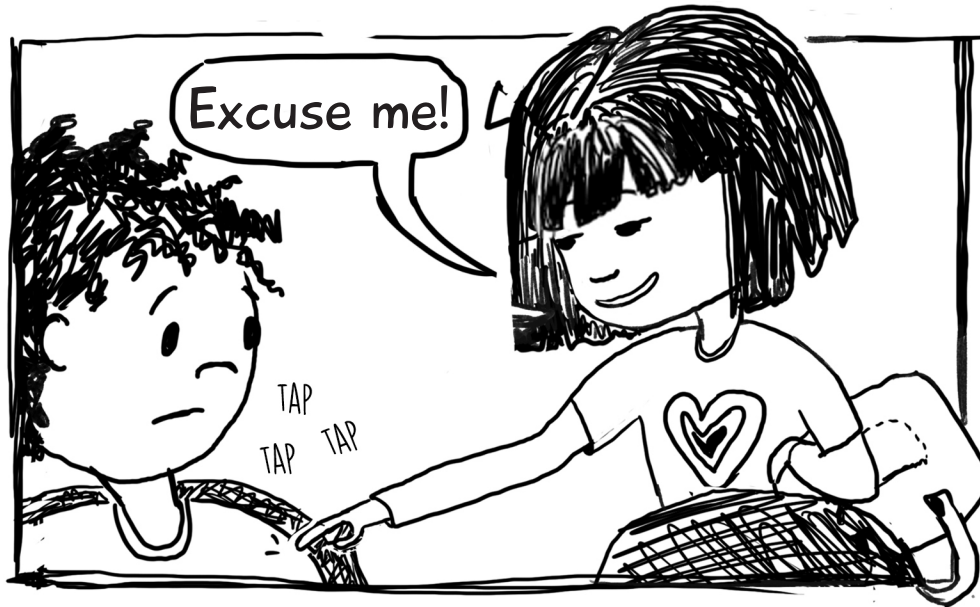
...and she knows  
just what to do.



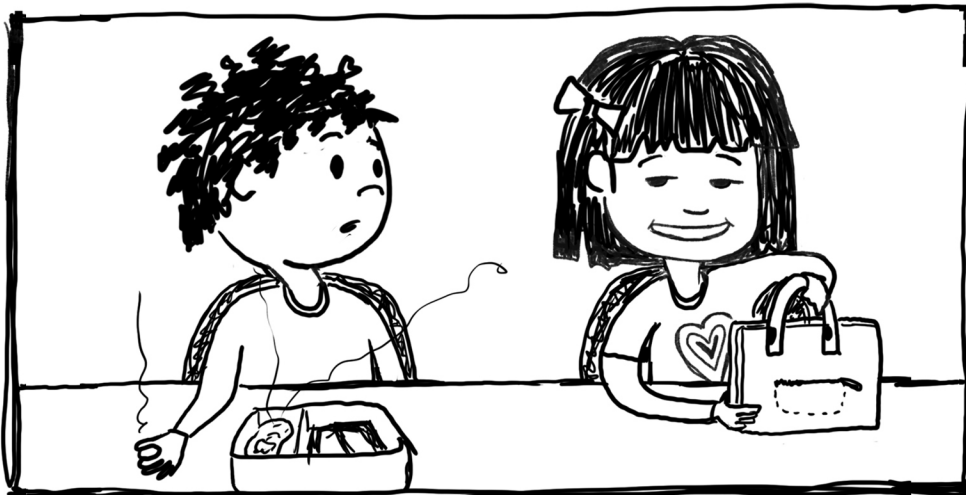


# Chapter Four

Geraldine marches up to Deven and taps him on the shoulder.



She sits down with Biandang...



...clears her throat...

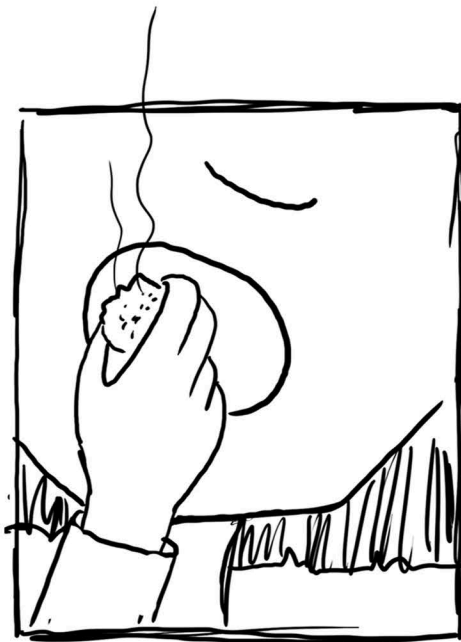


The lunch table gasps.

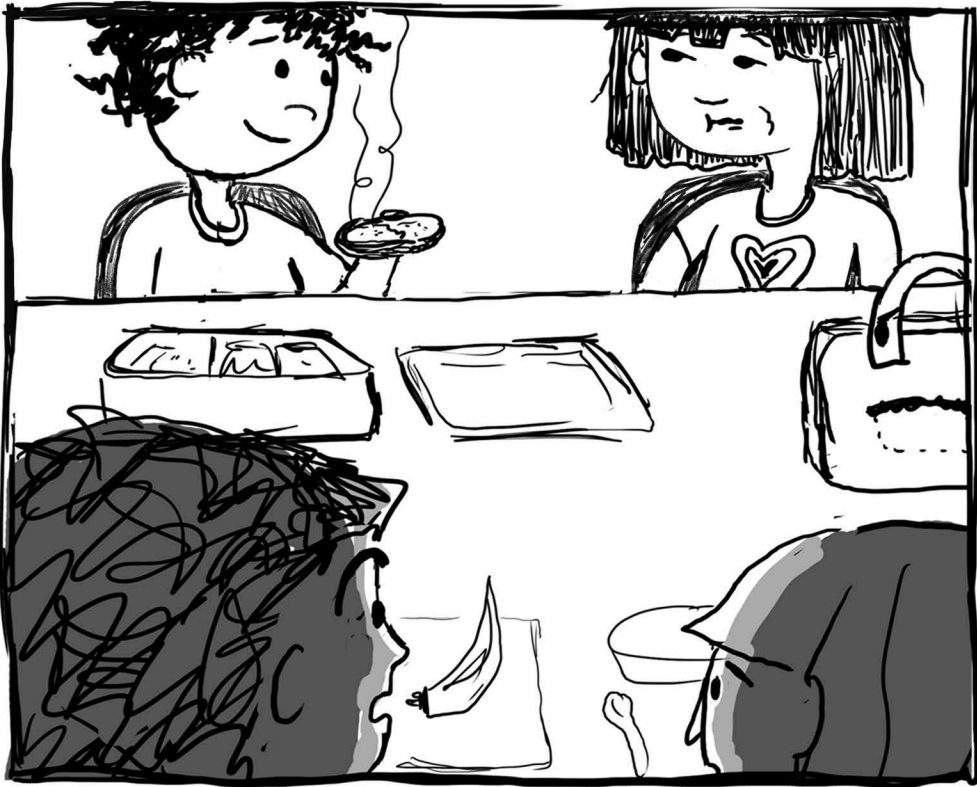




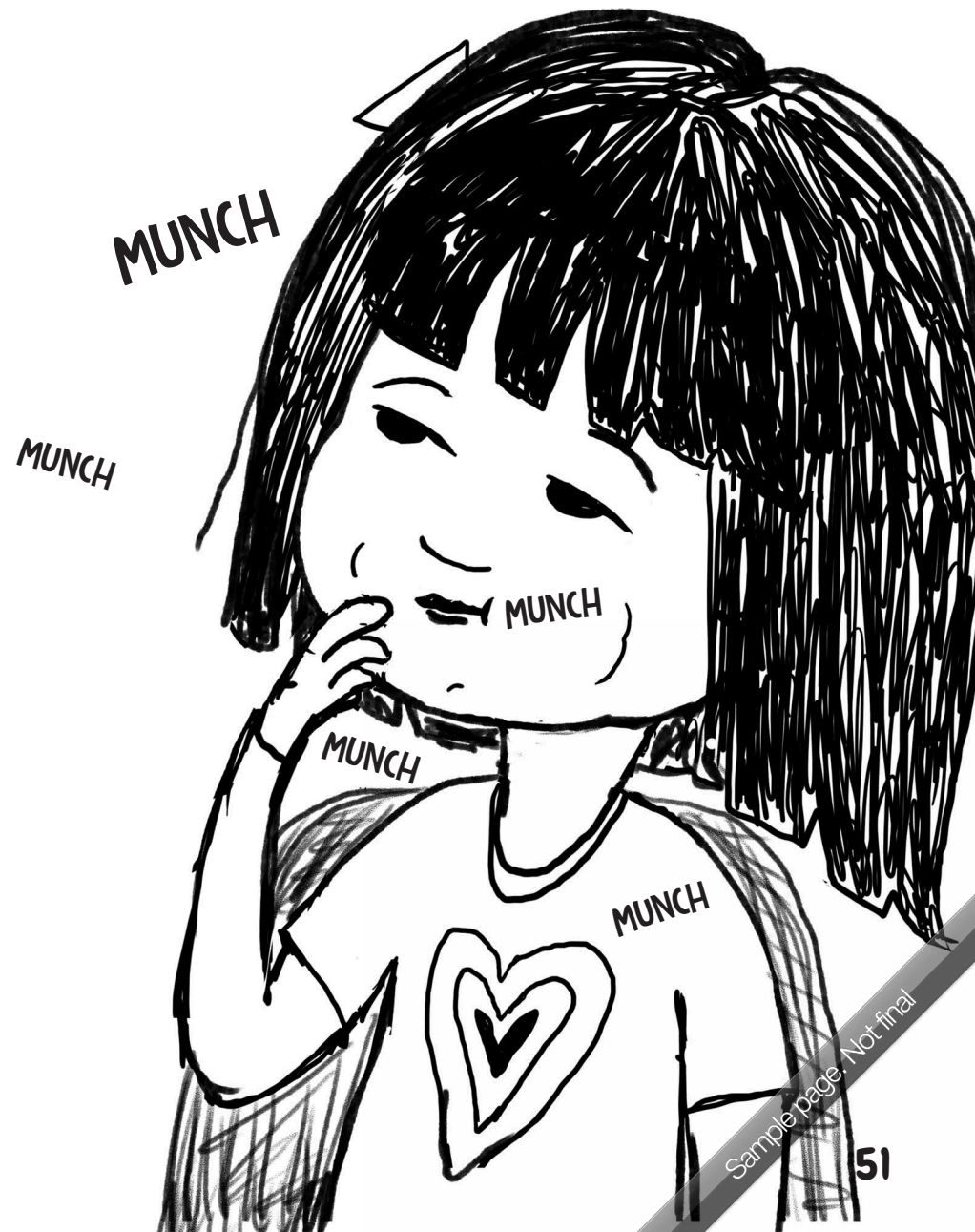
Geraldine takes a bite  
and chews.



And chews.



And chews some more.

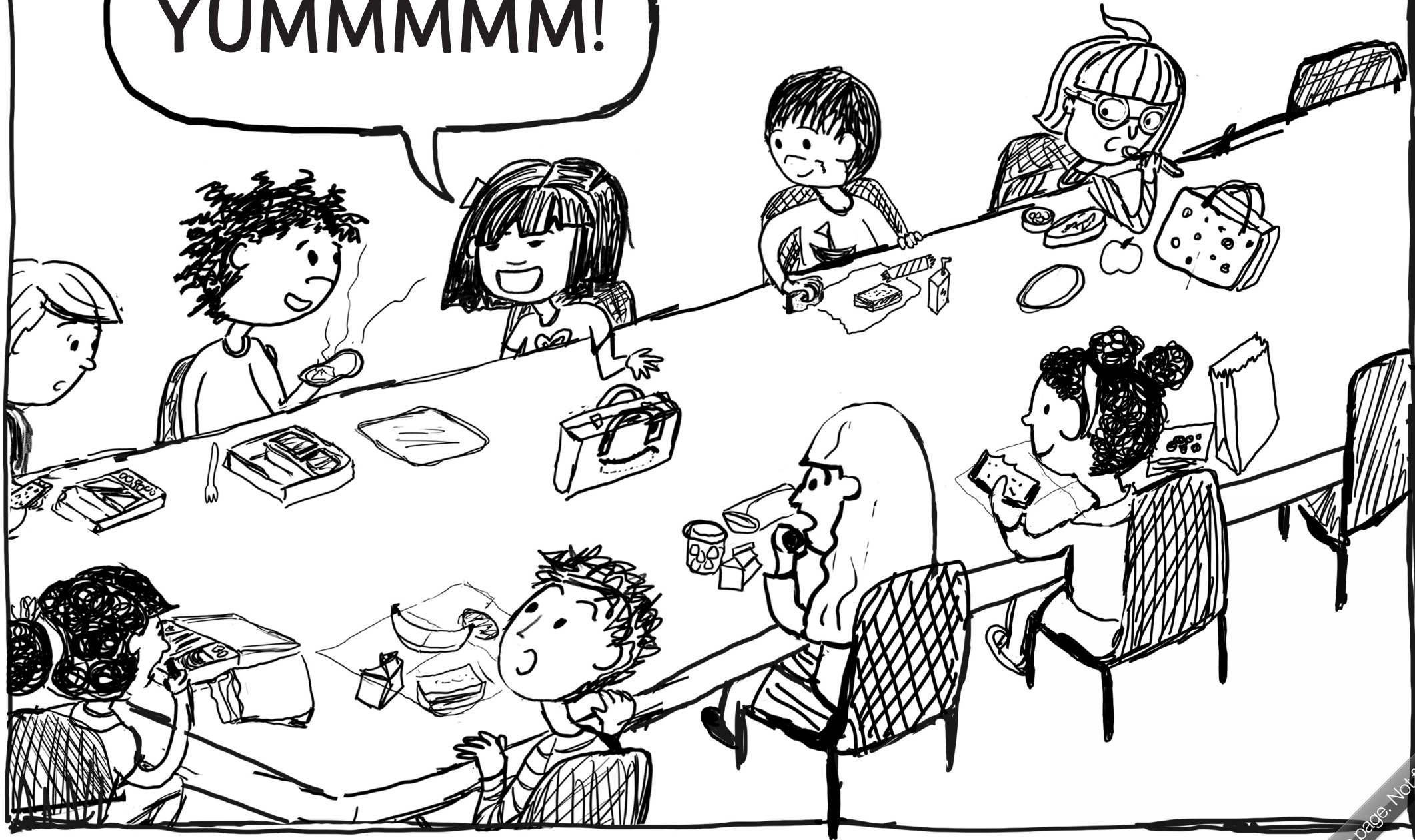


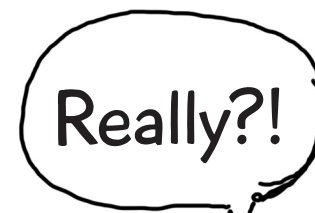
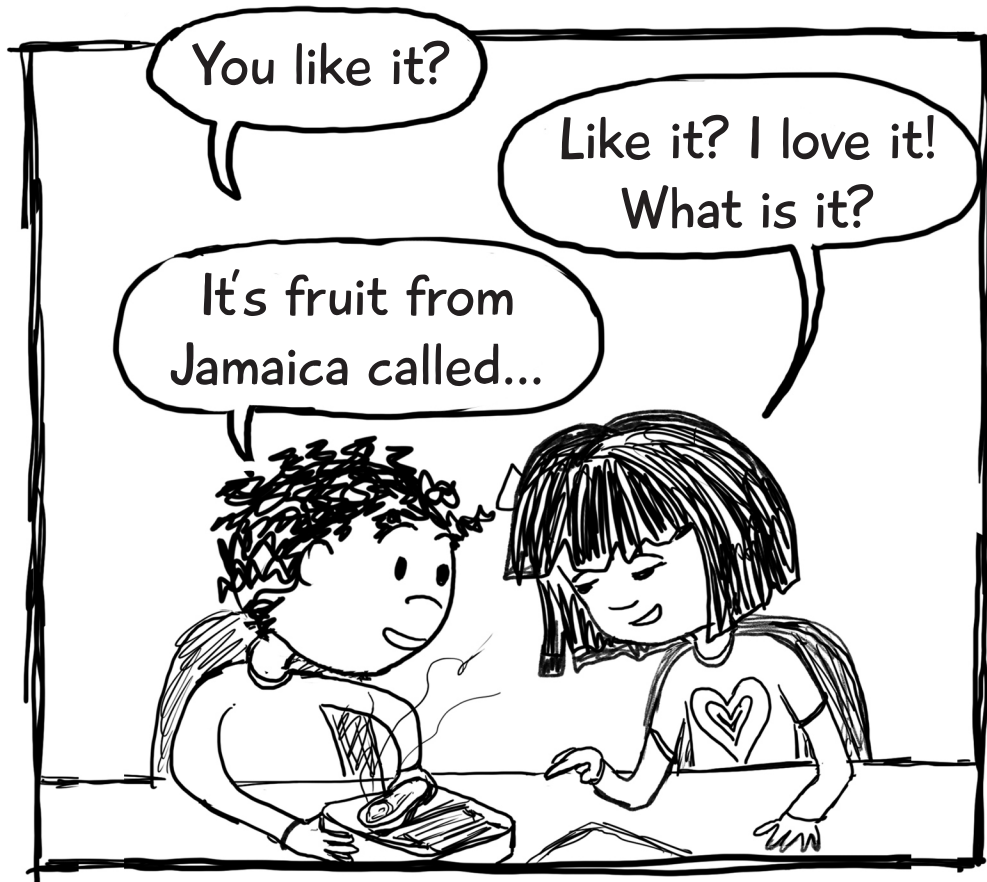


Then she gulps and says,

**YUMMMMM!**

It's sweet, powdery, and REALLY tasty!





Geraldine  
reaches for  
Biandang's  
buckles.

Thwack!







Deven takes a nibble  
and says,



And do you  
know how our  
girl Geraldine  
responds?



Yup! Pretty  
**STINKIN'** good!





Geraldine finishes every last bite and says,



★ **The End** ★ ♥

## A MESSAGE FROM BIANDANG

Pu is a real last name for people from Taiwan and China. Some names, or words, in one language, can have a totally different meaning and even sound silly when spoken in another language. Like did you know that if you say "Ma" with just the right tone, you could be calling someone a horse in Mandarin Chinese?!

Also, stinky tofu is a real dish that is widely known in China and especially popular in Taiwan, where Geraldine and her family are from. While not everyone there is a fan of stinky tofu, many Taiwanese people do say, "The stinkier, the tastier!" Stinking toe is also a real fruit. It is the chewy seedpod of one of the largest trees in the Caribbean. In fact, stinky foods are eaten all over the world! Like them or dislike them—either way is okay. Just be careful not to say "Yuck!" to someone else's "Yum!" and keep an open mind!

What new foods would you like to try?



## Bao Recipe (From Amah's Kitchen)

There are many delicious ways to make a bao. This is just one recipe you can try.

[Recipe text and Art TK]



**Maggie P. Chang** grew up in Kansas and began her career in museum and art education. After years of teaching talented teens at LaGuardia Arts High School, aka the *Fame* school, she was inspired to follow her own passion of writing and illustrating children's books—*Geraldine Pu and Her Lunch Box, Too!* being her first. Beyond championing the unique, minority voice, this Taiwanese-American author-illustrator hopes the *Geraldine Pu* series highlights universal themes in a fresh way for any young reader who might gain confidence and courage from knowing a character like Geraldine. Currently, Maggie serves as the cofounder of two education nonprofits, works on various creative projects, and lives in Los Angeles with her husband and their bernedoodle, Benihana.