

Dear Friend,

Thank you for downloading this book. I wrote this story to help children (Pre-K thru 2nd grade) make sense of school closings during the 2020 pandemic. Little ones can have very big feelings, and I hope that this story helps your students or children process what has happened.

Please read the story carefully before deciding whether or not you will share it with your students or children. Every situation is different, and although the message is designed to be positive, only you can decide whether or not this story is appropriate to share.

This story is best shared as a read-aloud. You don't have to print out the pages if you don't want to, but you can pull up the PDF on your computer to read it. Use the "zoom out" feature so students can see the entire page, just like a regular storybook.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all you do for education,

Alison

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This School Year Was Different



by Alison Ryan

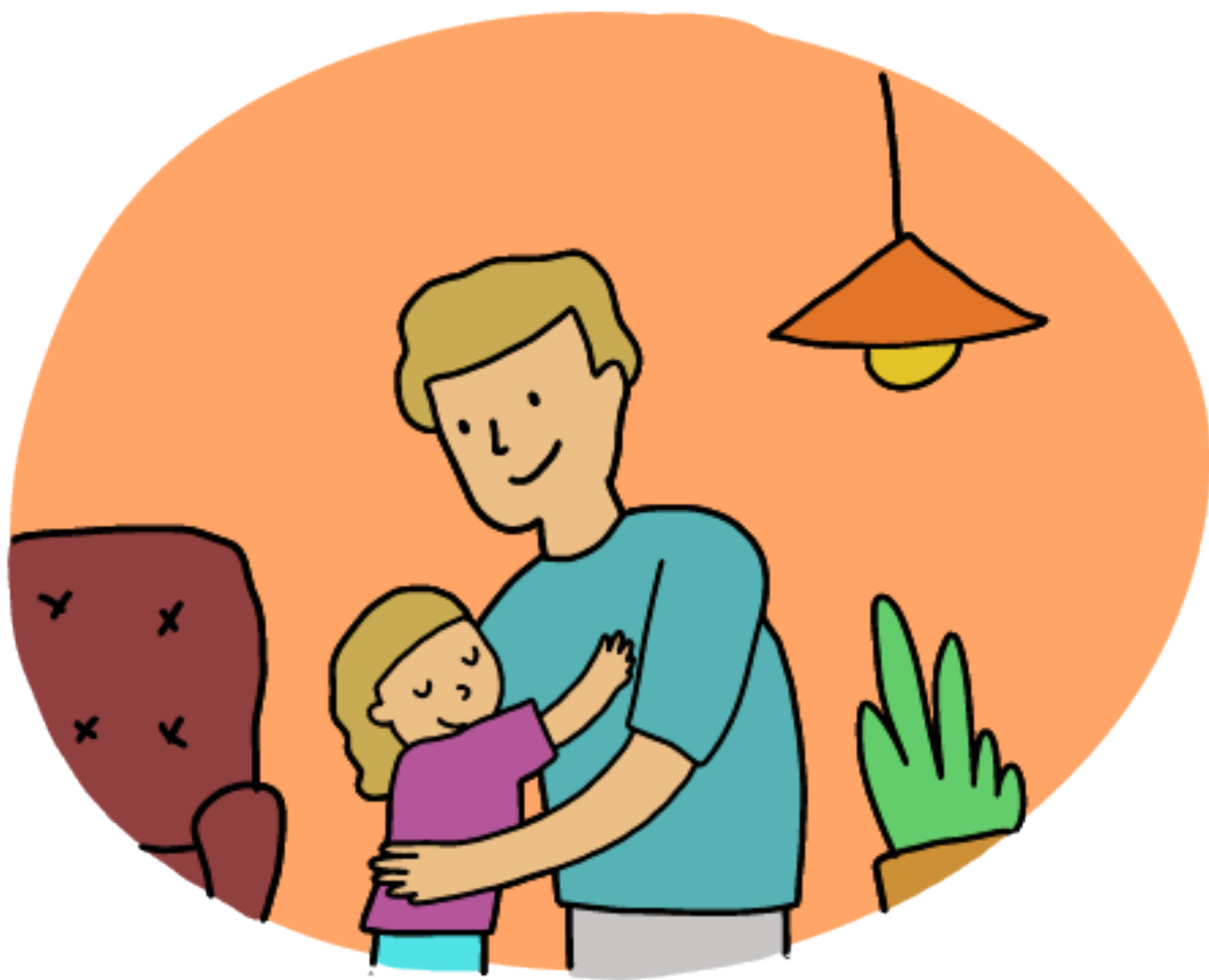


This school year has been different from other school years.

It started out just like any other school year. You met your teacher. You came to class. You played with your friends. You learned.



But then, all of a sudden, things changed. Schools around the world started to close. They closed to help keep people healthy.



And then you weren't going to school anymore. You were staying at home, or spending time somewhere else. It was a big, big change.



Maybe you felt sad about not going to school. Maybe you felt angry, or confused. Maybe you even felt a little bit happy. However you felt, and however you feel now, it's okay to feel that way.



School wasn't open, but you kept learning at home. Maybe you got to watch videos or do special learning activities. Maybe you got to have a lot of playtime. You weren't at school, but you were still learning.



Maybe you got to see some of the other kids in your class. Or maybe you didn't see them at all. You weren't at school, and you couldn't play together, but you were still a class.



Maybe you got to see your teacher in videos. Or maybe you didn't get to see your teacher at all. You weren't at school, and you couldn't give your teacher a hug or high-five, but they were still your teacher. And your teacher thinks about you every single day.



No matter where you are, your school is still your school. Your class is still your class. Your friends are still your friends. And your teacher is still your teacher. This school year has been very different, but you have done a fantastic job. And you should be very proud of that.

THE END