

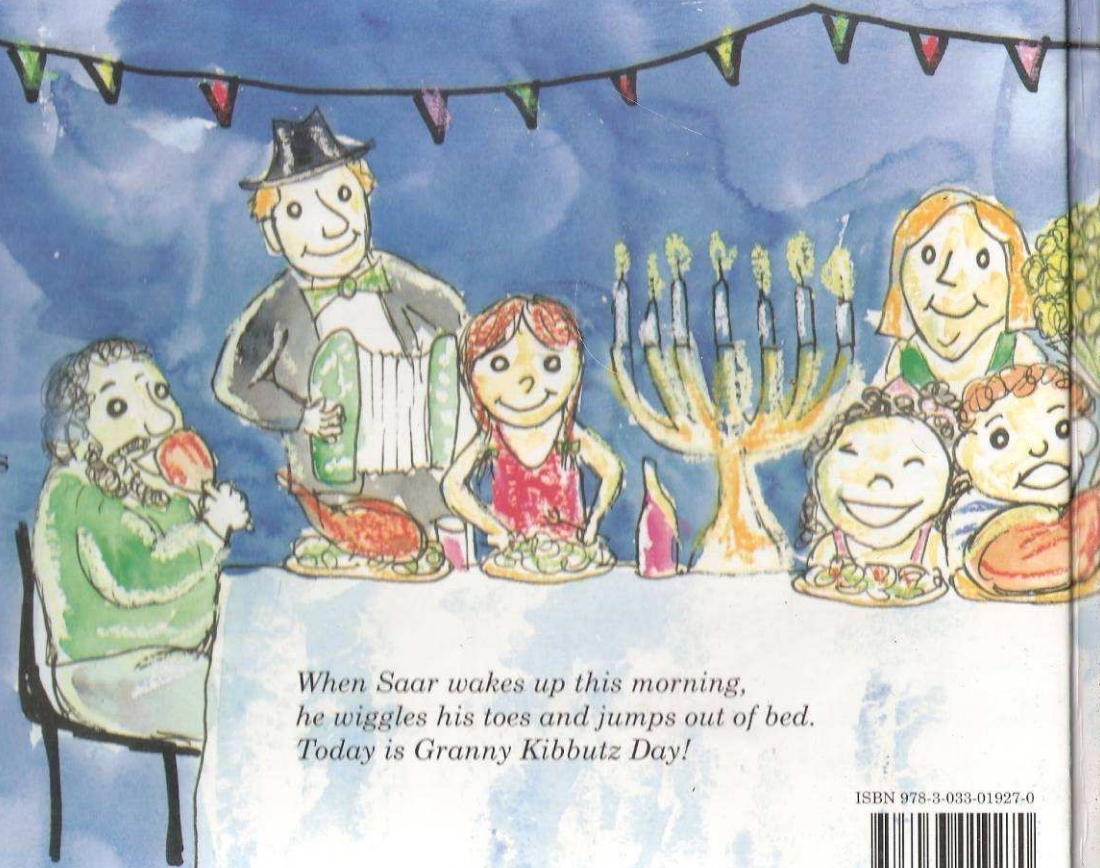
*Saar's Super Granny Kibbutz*

*Roses*



Saar is six years old  
and lives in Israel.  
Saar and Granny are  
good friends. Granny  
does lots of fun things  
with Saar and she lives  
in a kibbutz...

An ode to the  
pioneer spirit of the  
kibbutzim.



*When Saar wakes up this morning,  
he wiggles his toes and jumps out of bed.  
Today is Granny Kibbutz Day!*

*Roses*

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# *Saar's Super Granny Kibbutz*

*by H.C. Wassmer  
illustrated by Teddy Ottoni*

*Roses*



*In memory of Rachel Tavor, Israel.*

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This is a story about  
a boy called Saar.

Saar is six years old,  
has brown hair and a big smile.

Saar lives in Israel.  
On Aunty Zilpah's globe,  
Saar can see Israel.

Israel isn't very big, and it's only  
1 finger away from Switzerland,  
2 fingers away from China, and  
3 fingers away from America.



When Saar wakes up this morning,  
he wiggles his toes and jumps out of bed.

Today is Granny Kibbutz Day!







Granny Kibbutz tells stories  
and plays funny games.

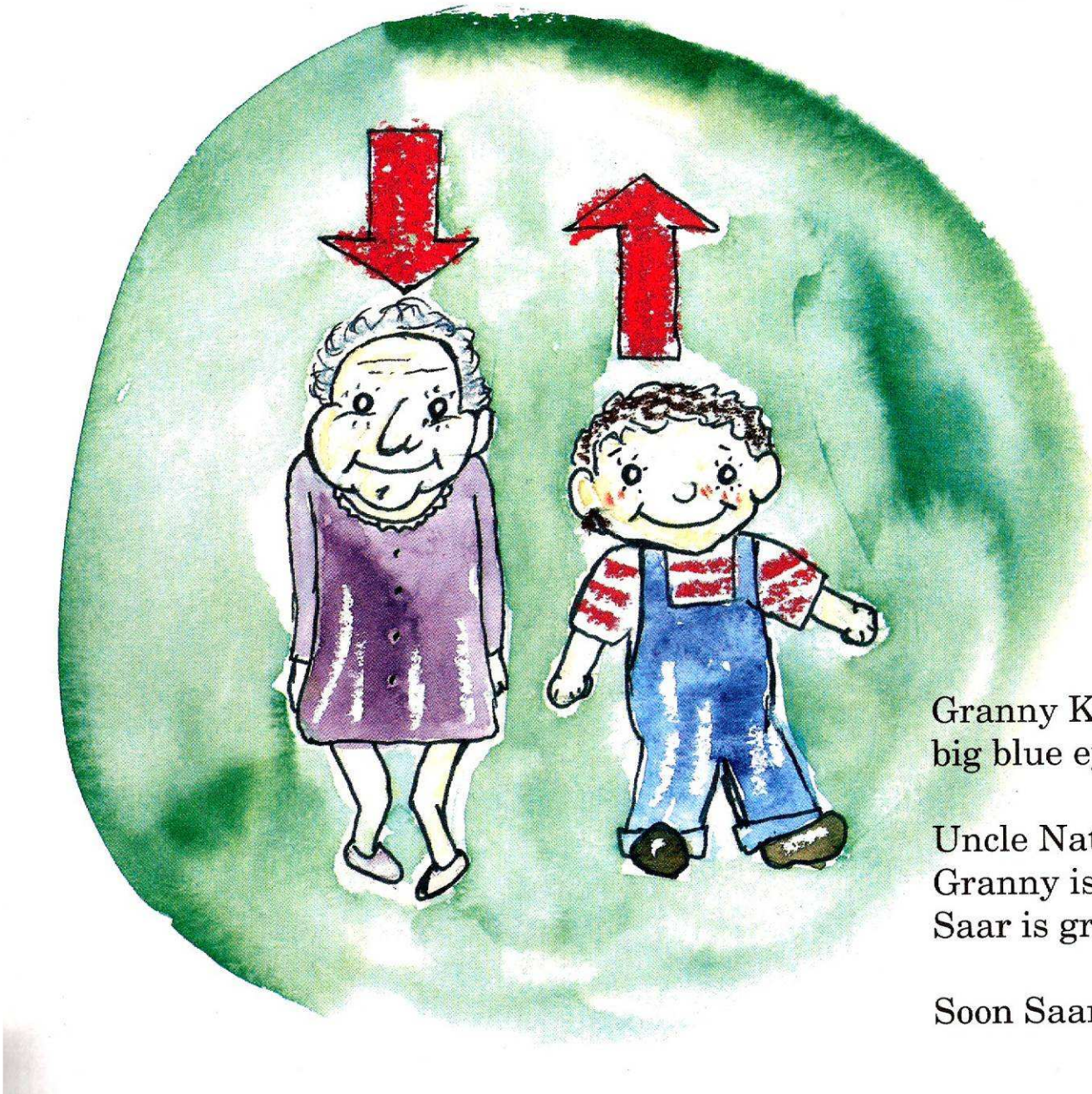
She makes pancakes and sings songs,  
and lets Saar plant trees in the garden.

Granny Kibbutz smiles a lot  
and is **never** tired.







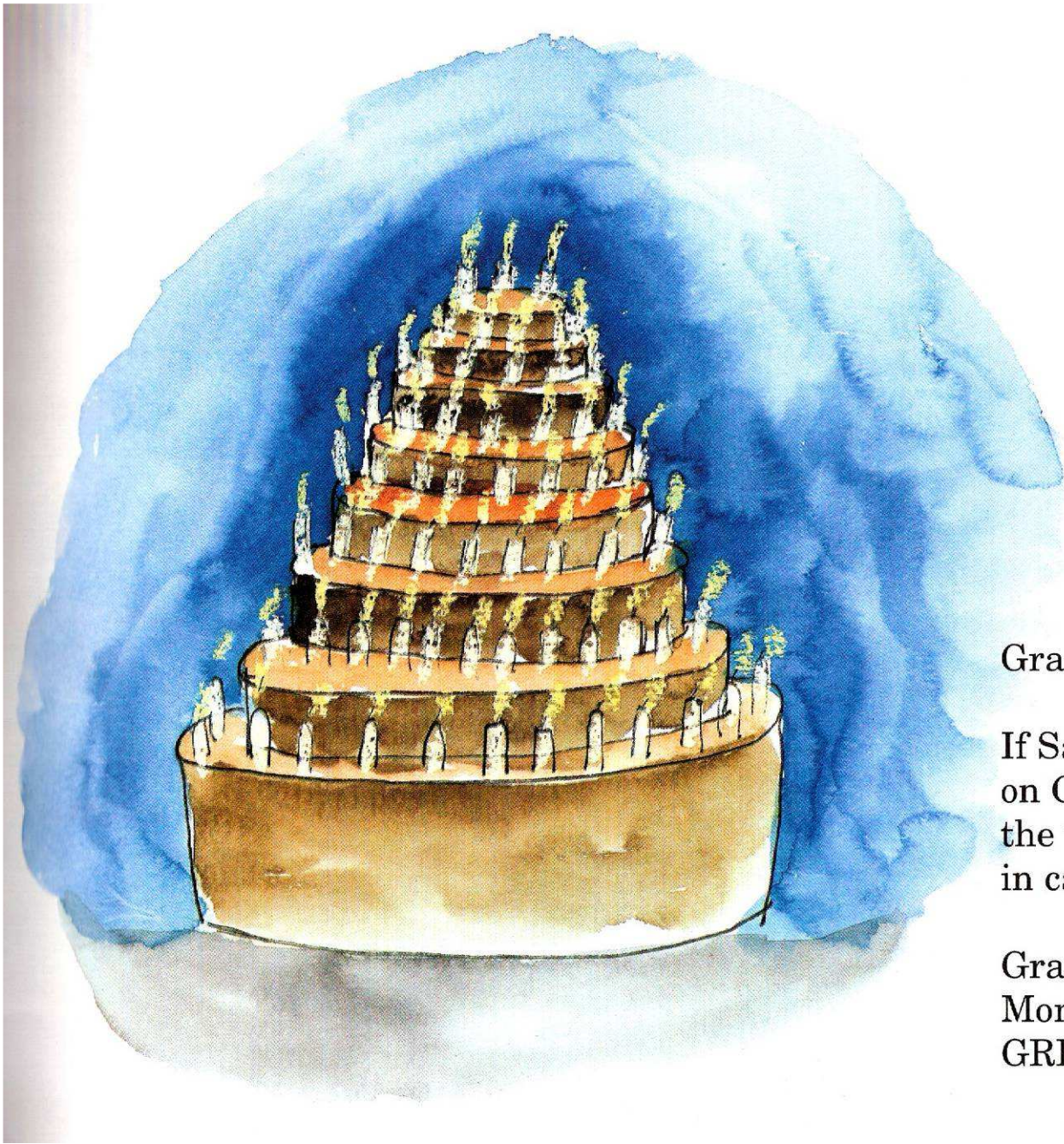


Granny Kibbutz has white hair and big blue eyes. She is quite small.

Uncle Nathan says that Granny is growing smaller and Saar is growing taller.

Soon Saar will be as tall as Granny.





Granny Kibbutz is really very old.

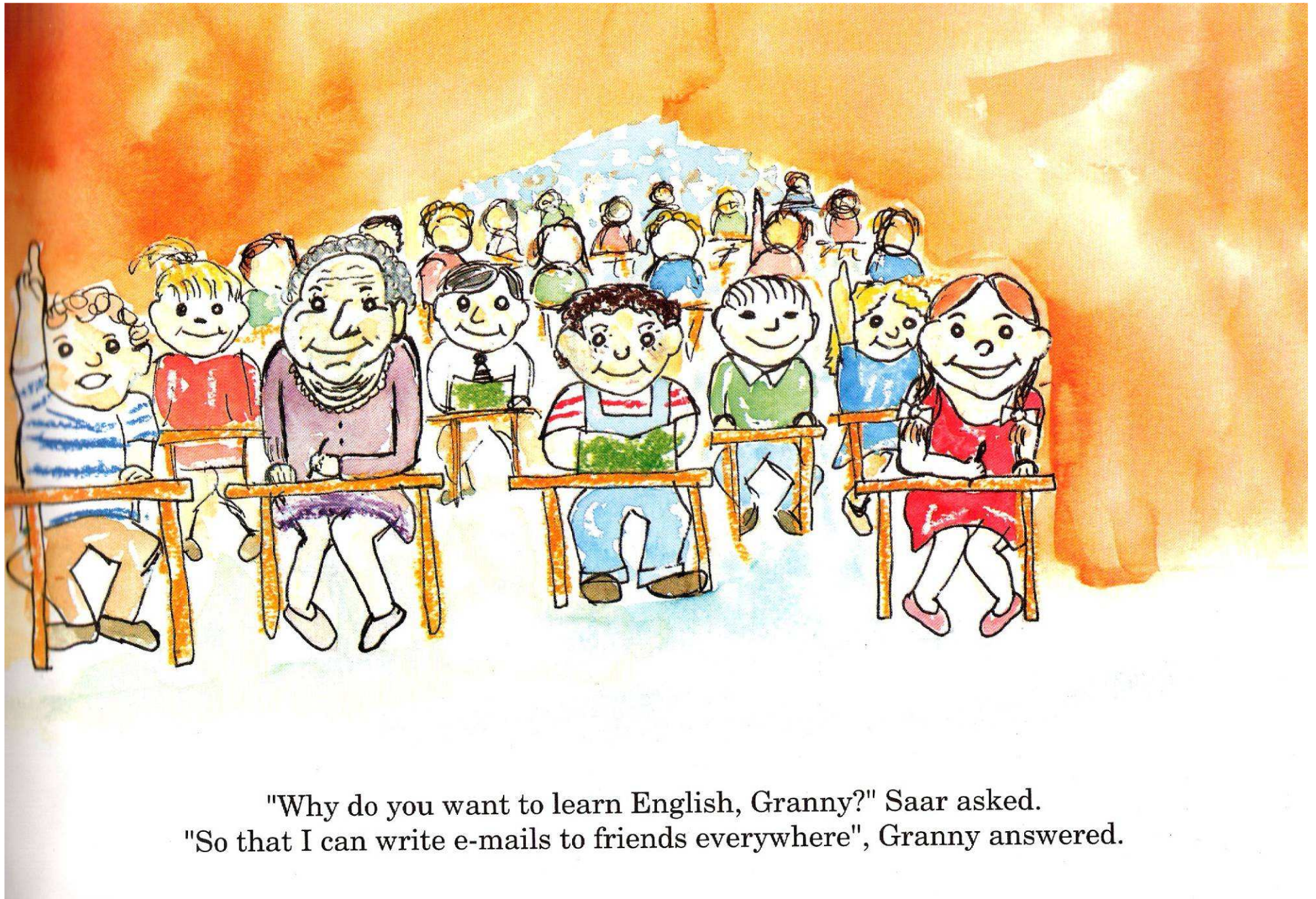
If Saar were to put candles on Granny's birthday cake, the **whole** cake would be covered in candles.

Granny Kibbutz is actually Mommy's granny and Saar's GREAT-GRANNY.

Granny Kibbutz can speak all the languages in the world.  
Well, not quite **all** the languages, but as many as seven!

When Granny turned 92 and Saar turned 5,  
Granny went back to school to learn English.





"Why do you want to learn English, Granny?" Saar asked.  
"So that I can write e-mails to friends everywhere", Granny answered.





Today, everyone has come to visit Granny Kibbutz.  
When Saar arrives, cousin Shiraz is telling Granny a story.

Shiraz loves telling stories...and dancing...and drawing. She never sits still.  
Black curls, like pretty petals, dance around her little face.





Saar's baby cousin Teddy is crawling all over the floor.  
Teddy looks just like Granny Kibbutz.

He is tiny and has big blue eyes.  
Teddy puts everything he finds into his tiny mouth.





Uncle Ezra arrives a little late in his green car. Saar likes Uncle Ezra's car. It has books and hats and games, a tambourine, a guitar and Uncle Ezra's accordion, too.

Uncle Ezra has brought a large bouquet of yellow flowers for Granny.





Even Uncle Nathan is here today.  
Uncle Nathan is tall and thin, with a long grey beard and a deep slow voice.

He always asks Saar: "So Saar, what's new Saar?"  
Saar doesn't know what to say, so he just smiles.

Granny lives in a kibbutz.  
That's why she is called Granny Kibbutz.

A kibbutz is a wonderful place, Saar thinks.  
Everybody lives and works and goes to school together.

And everybody shares everything with everybody.  
If you need a bicycle or a toy or a house, you can just take one.









And in the evening everybody sits down and eats together...





...like one **HUGE** family.



Not everybody in Israel lives in a kibbutz,  
but Granny does.

Granny helped to build the kibbutz.  
Granny loves telling Saar how she and Grandpa  
came from Poland to Israel a long, long, time ago.

Where the kibbutz now stands, there was nothing.  
Just rocks and sand.

And how they carried away the rocks,  
and how they brought water from the river,  
and how they built the houses.





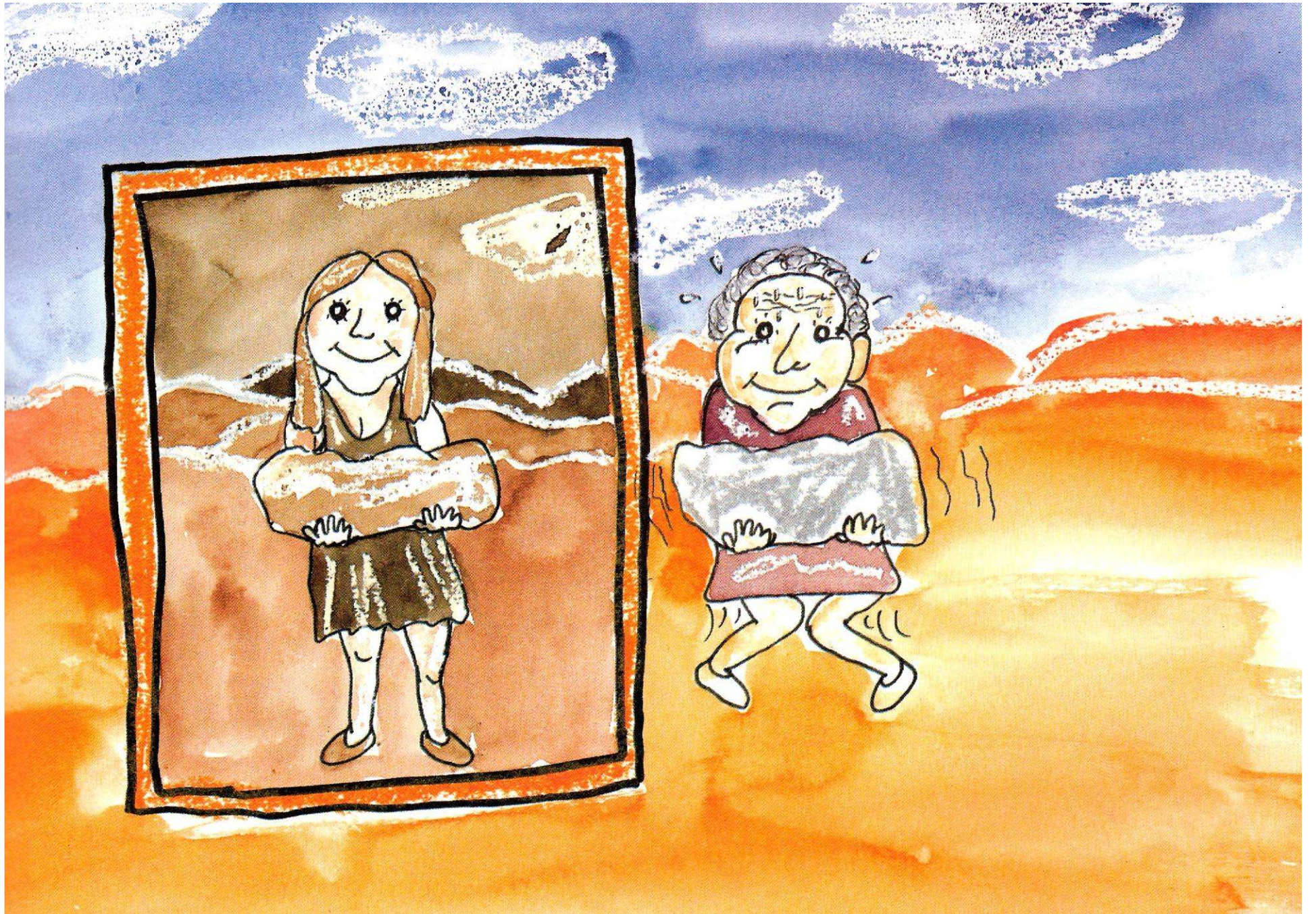


"Did you really carry rocks, Granny Kibbutz?"  
asks Saar laughing.

Imagine little Granny with her white hair carrying heavy rocks.

"Yes, I really did, dear. I was young and strong.  
Look..."







They wanted to make a film of Granny  
and how she built the kibbutz.

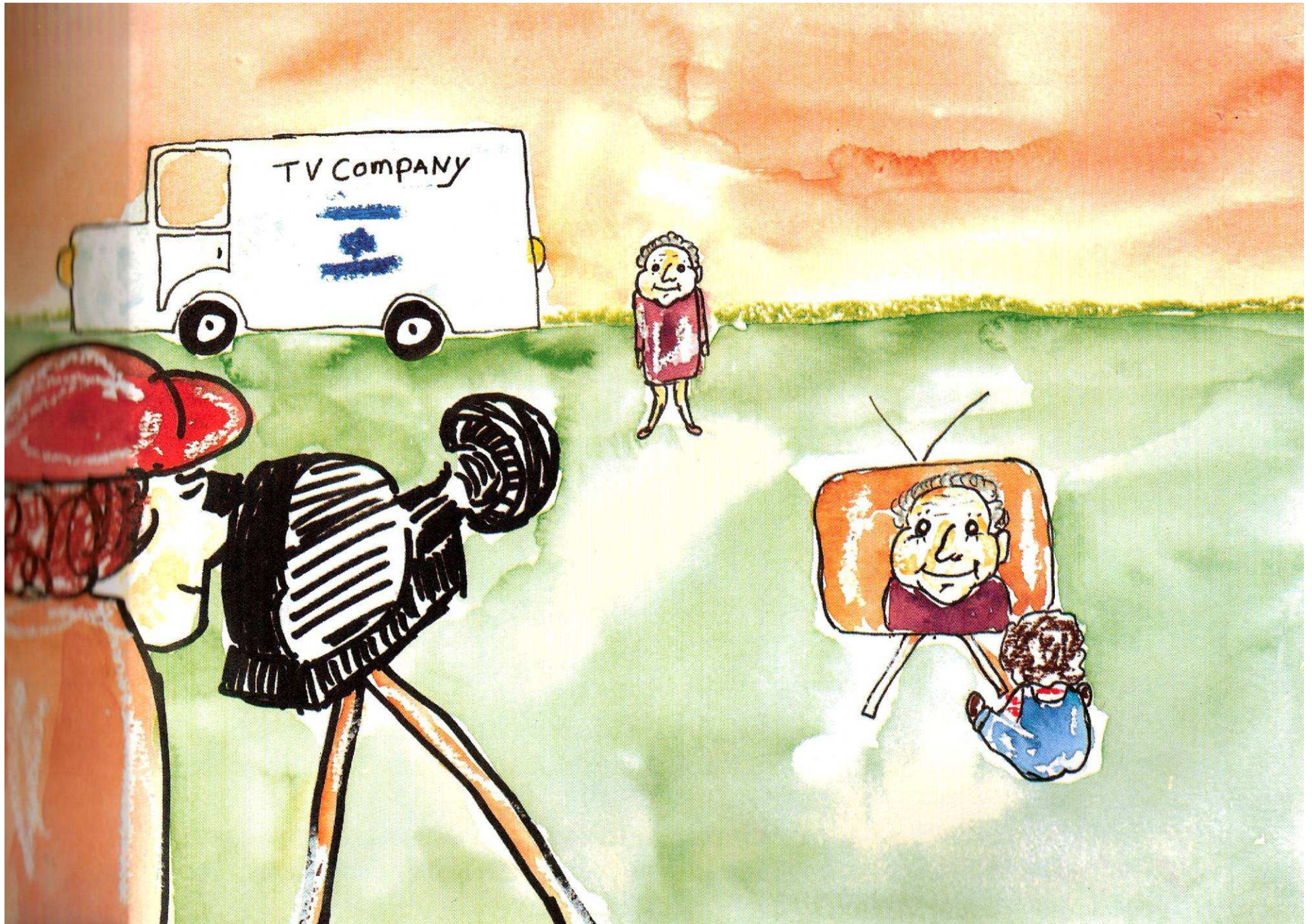
Saar likes watching TV.  
It would be fun to see Granny on TV.  
But Granny doesn't want to be in a film.

"Why not, Granny Kibbutz?" asks Saar.  
"It's not important to be on TV", Granny says.

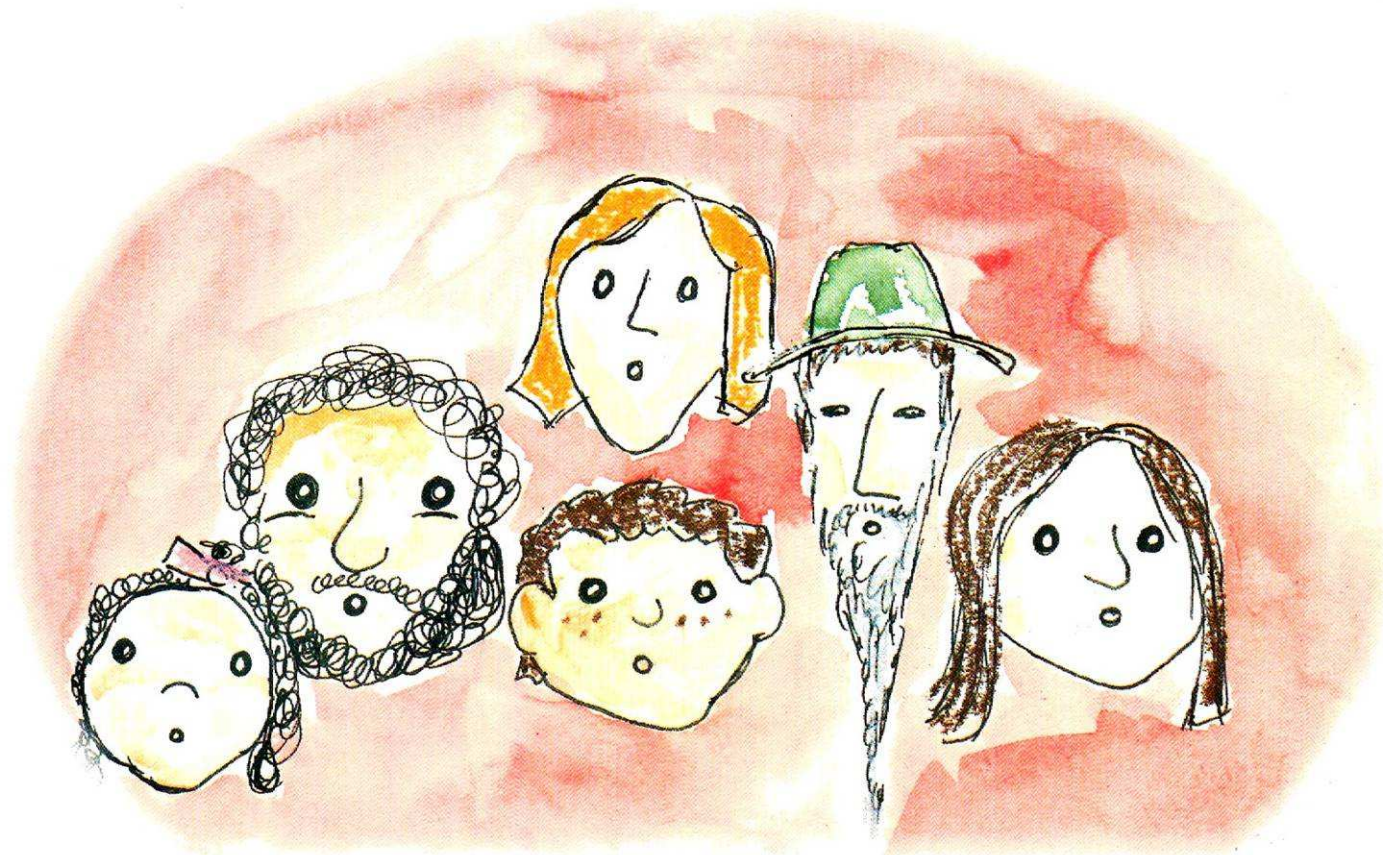
Saar thinks for a moment.  
"What **is** important Granny Kibbutz?"

Suddenly the room is very quiet.









"You are, Saar. And Uncle Ezra and Mommy and Shiraz and Teddy.  
Being here together, talking and eating biscuits and cake. That's important."

Granny gives Saar another biscuit and everyone starts talking again.  
She takes Saar's hand and they walk to the back of the room.





"Look, Saar, this is Grandpa Kibbutz". Saar knows that the man in the picture is Grandpa Kibbutz, and Granny knows that Saar knows.

Saar squeezes Granny's hand gently. Granny misses Grandpa. They were best friends, and then Grandpa died. That's like saying goodbye for a long, long time.



Granny and Saar can hear Uncle Ezra  
playing the accordion in the garden.

"Come, Saar", Granny says, "it's time to dance".

Granny dances and Saar dances.  
Soon everyone is dancing.

Then the day comes to an end.









Shiraz is fast asleep on the sofa and tiny Teddy is almost asleep in his red pram. Even Granny is a little tired.

"Bye-bye, Granny Kibbutz, 'till next time", everyone says as they leave.

"It's only a short goodbye", Saar whispers, and gives Granny Kibbutz a big, big hug.





"Bye-bye, 'till next time"



**T**his story was written after an encounter with an original founder of one of the first kibbutzim in Israel. The writer was touched by her idealism, her willingness to sacrifice personal ideals for the greater good of the community, her clarity and strength of mind at the age of 96 and, most of all, by her clear priority of placing family and community above all material.

The first kibbutz was founded in 1910 in Galilee. At the beginning of the 20th century young enthusiastic Europeans started returning to their ancient home soil ready to start a new life in freedom. One group of settlers decided to farm and live together and help each other build the barren land. From this the concept of kibbutzim developed as a form of communal, agricultural living that combined socialism and Zionism and would enable its members to bring the desolate neglected land to bloom. The kibbutz was like a large household shared by an entire community which built its life patterns around shared social, cultural and economic activities. Meals were taken in the communal dining room and children were raised in children's houses. It was based on the practice of mutual responsibility and aid within the community: it provided its members with all the basic needs including employment, housing, food, clothing, transport, health care and education. In return, members were expected to transfer all their assets and talents to the kibbutz.

Overcoming many hardships, the members of the kibbutzim succeeded in developing thriving communities which have played a dominant role in the



**About the illustrator:** Teddy Ottoni is a film maker, illustrator and artist. His work is characterized by a unique variety of styles, techniques and topics. He works in Holland, Switzerland, India and the USA.

establishment and building of the state. Since the first kibbutz in Galilee, 273 kibbutzim have spread across the country, and to a certain extent, have defined its borders.

Kibbutzim have served as leaders in national undertakings, including areas such as youth instruction and guidance, assisting in the absorption of new homecomers and service in the armed forces. Many national leaders have been associated with the kibbutz. Golda Meier retreated to a kibbutz when she needed a break, as did Menachim Begin. Kibbutzim have also excelled in creative, cultural innovations.

Internationally, the kibbutz became a symbol for Israel; a place the world associates with idealism, creativity, hard work, community and fun. Thousands of volunteers from all over the world have taken part in the kibbutz experience.

Kibbutzim in Israel are changing and new models of communal life are being explored. Graded salaries and privatisation of production and housing have become a reality for many kibbutzim. New industries and exciting new ecological projects such as biofuel sources and solar energy are being initiated. Society in Israel and worldwide has changed and the kibbutzim are responding accordingly. This book is an acknowledgement of the contribution of the kibbutz pioneers to the modern miracle of the land Israel.

H.C.Wassmer, Bern, Switzerland, September 2010.



**About the author:** H.C. Wassmer grew up in South-Africa and Holland. Today she works in the field of education and communication in Switzerland. With a M.A. in English Language and Literature, she is specialized in Jewish American Literature.





*Lucas*



*Uncle Ezra*



*Mama*



*Shiraz*



*Granny Kibbutz*



*Feddy*