

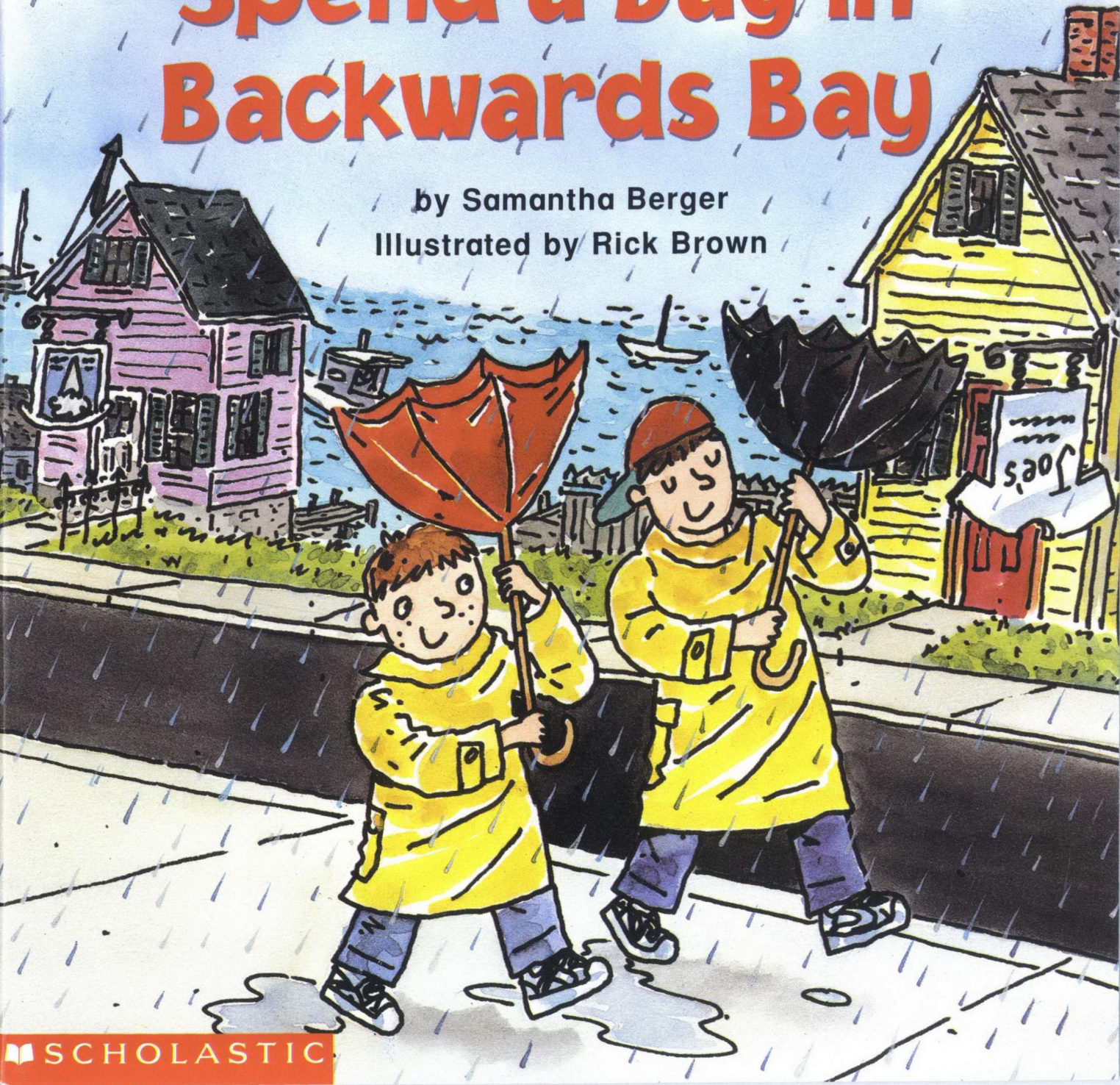
WORD FAMILY TALES™



-ay

Spend a Day in Backwards Bay

by Samantha Berger
Illustrated by Rick Brown



For my Grampa, Alfie Bay-Bay,
who knows how backwards I am



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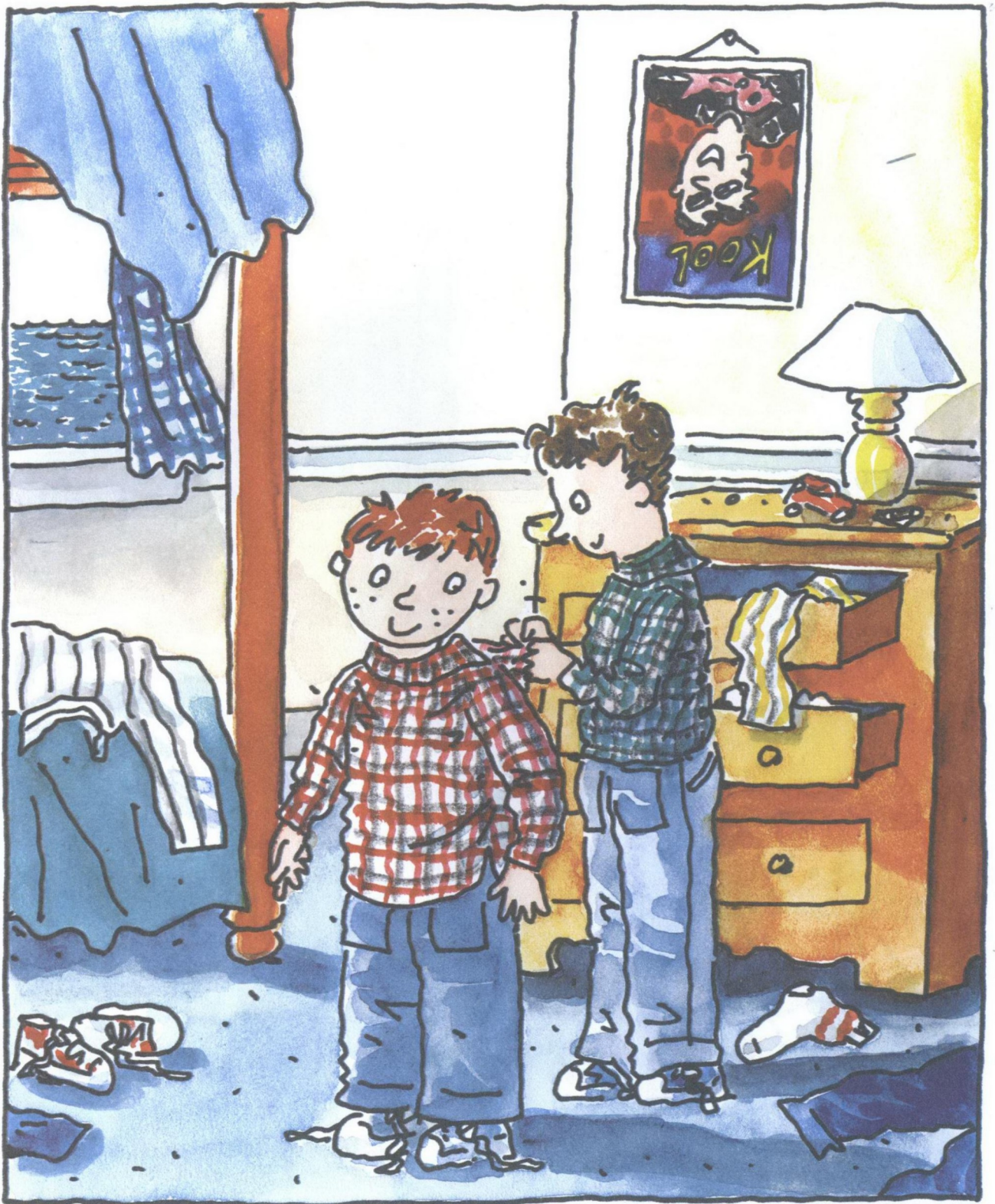




In a distant land, far, far away,
is a little town called Backwards Bay.



The folks who live in Backwards Bay
say "Goodnight" to start the day!



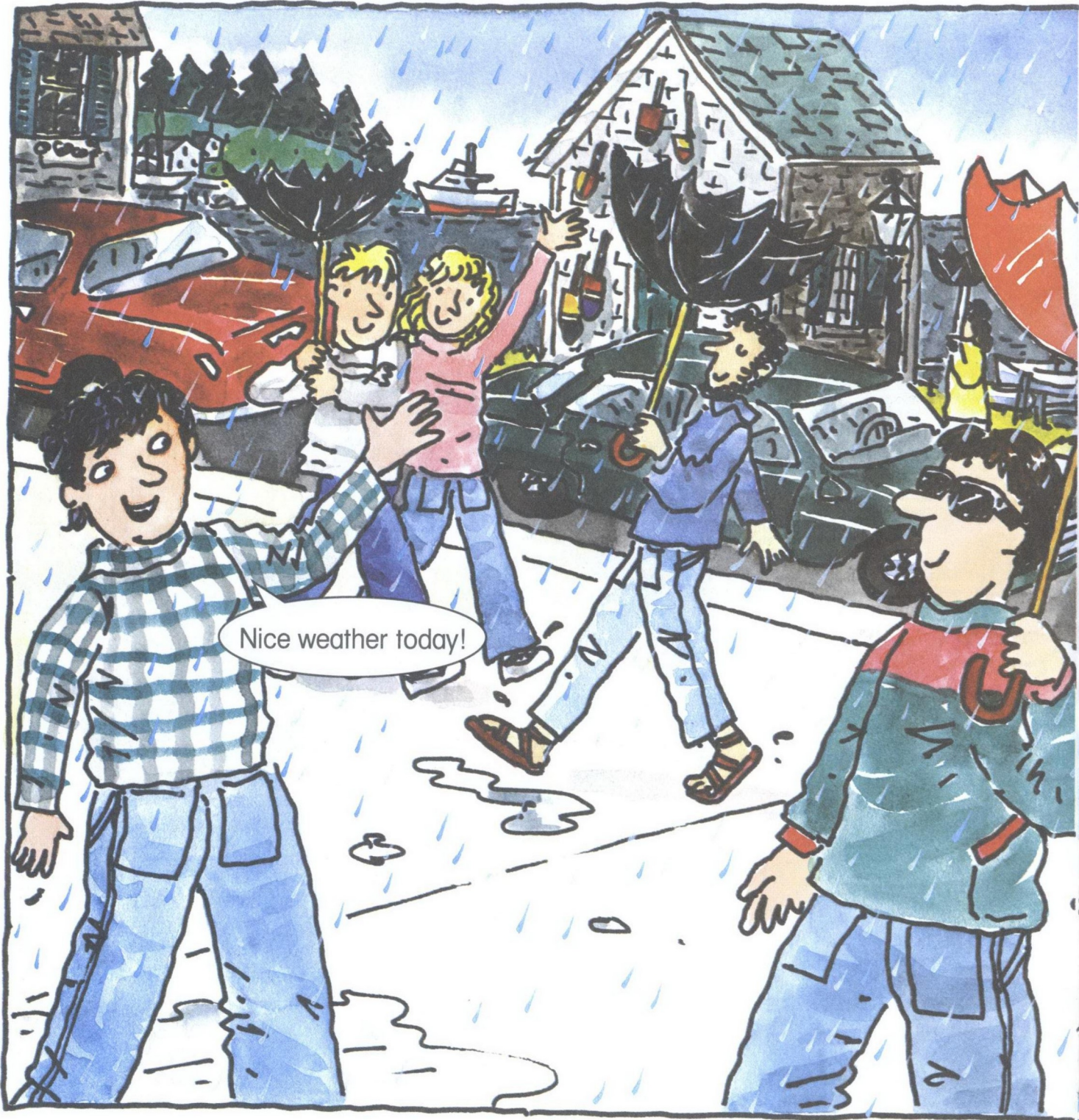
They put on their clothing the opposite way.



A big turkey dinner's the first meal of the day!



People heat up their water in an ice-cube tray!



They comment, "Nice weather!"
when it's raining and gray.



They hold their umbrellas
to catch all the spray!



School doesn't begin until after kids play!



The school bus backs up,
and they're on their way!



During class, the teacher asks,
"Who's teaching today?"



And every day but ONE is your birthday!



In the evening, folks have breakfast,
and after that they say—



“Rise and shine! Good morning!
See you yesterday!”

-ay

Word Family Riddles

Listen to the riddle sentences. Add the right letter or letters to the -ay sound to finish each one.

1

The opposite of night is ___ay.

2

When horses are hungry, you can feed them ___ay.

3

The month that comes before June is ___ay.

4

To make a dog sit still you tell it to ___ay.

5

In art class, I formed a bowl out of ___ay.





- 6 My aunt and uncle live far ____ay.
- 7 I am lost, can you show me the ____ay?
- 8 It is easier to carry food and drinks
on a ____ay.
- 9 Look! The boat is sailing into the ____ay.
- 10 When you mix black and white,
it makes ____ay.

Now make up some new riddle sentences using -ay



-ay

Cheer

Give a great holler, a cheer, a yell

For all of the words that we can spell

With an A and a Y that make the sound **-ay**,

You'll find it in **hay** and **way** and **May**.

Two little letters, that's all that we need








To make a whole family of words to read!



Make a list
of other **-ay**
words. Then
use them in
the cheer!

Reading Tips **-ay**

Here are some quick and fun ways to use this story to help children learn the word family -ay.

-  Explain to children that you are going to read a story that has many words with the -ay sound, made by the letters A and Y. All these words belong to a group called a word family.
-  Ask children to find the -ay word ending at the top of the front cover. Review aloud with children the sound these two letters make together. Can they find two words in the title with the -ay sound?
-  Flip over the book and read the story summary on the back cover. Ask children to point out the words they hear with the -ay sound. Explain that the story you are about to read includes many more words that end in -ay. Can they help you find them?
-  Read aloud the story once for pleasure and enjoy the whimsical illustrations. Then reread the book, emphasizing the -ay word ending in the appropriate words. Ask children to listen closely and identify all the words that end in -ay (they might raise their hand or clap when they hear one, or you might choose a volunteer to point to the word on the page). As they do so, make a list on chart paper of all the -ay words.
-  Write each of the words from your list on an unlined index card. Use a different color for -ay than the rest of the word. Read each word on the cards with children. On another reading of the story, distribute the cards to children and have them hold up their card as their word is read.
-  Pages 14–15 of the book feature 10 riddles with answers that require a word ending in -ay. Read each riddle aloud and have children volunteer answers.
-  Read aloud the cheer on page 16 several times, with lots of energy and enthusiasm. Invite children to join you in reciting the cheer when they feel ready (you might even choose a “cheerleader”).

Other words in the -ay family:

clay	okay
fray	ray
hay	stay
lay	stray
may	sway
nay	delay
pay	display
pray	halfway

-ay

Come on a visit to Backwards Bay,
where folks go about things the opposite way!
You'll never forget the tale of this marvelous,
mixed-up town!



WORD FAMILY TALES™

are humorous read-aloud stories created to build early phonics skills by teaching children to recognize “families” of words that share the same spelling pattern. This key reading strategy helps kids decode new words with ease—and become stronger readers, writers, and spellers. Set learners on the path to literacy success with these rib-tickling tales—one for each of the top 25 word families!

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