

# I What is in my neighborhood?

## Key Words

1  Preview the Key Words.



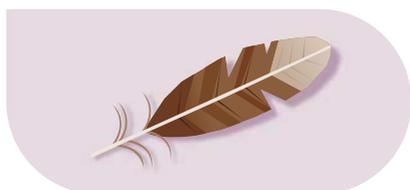
catch



grow



neighbor



feather



breathe



save

2 Circle the correct Key Word.

- a Nina is my **neighbor** / feather. She lives next to me!
- b This T-shirt is small for you. You **save** / **grow** quickly!
- c When I run, I **save** / **breathe** fast.
- d My favorite birds are parrots. I love their colorful **neighbors** / **feathers**.
- e I can **grow** / **catch** a ball. Can you?
- f A firefighter can **breathe** / **save** people from a fire.

## Pre-reading

3  Read the title and look at the pictures on pages 5–9. Circle your predictions.

- 1 How many children are looking for an animal? a two b three c four
- 2 Where does the animal live? a in the ground b in a tree c in water
- 3 What animal do the children catch? a a fish b a dog c something else

4  Listen and read.

# The Walking Fish

By Kim Milne • Illustrated by José de Santiago Torices

Mateo and Carmen are friends. They love playing in their neighborhood. It has lots of canals.

Today, they are looking for tadpoles, or baby frogs.

“I can’t see any tadpoles here!” says Carmen.

“Keep looking,” says Mateo.

Suddenly, Carmen says, “Look! There’s something moving over there!”

Mateo gets his net. He catches something and puts it into a bucket of water.

“What is it?” asks Carmen.

“I don’t know,” says Mateo. “But look! It’s amazing! Let’s take it home.”



When they get home, Mateo's dad is in the garden.

"Dad! Look!" says Mateo.

His dad looks in the bucket and smiles.

"It's an axolotl!"

"What's that?" Carmen asks.

"It's a type of salamander.

It's also called a 'walking fish.'"

They look at it again.

"It only has three legs!"

"But don't worry," Dad says, "the leg will **grow** back again."

"It can grow a new leg?" asks Carmen, surprised.

"Yes, it can! It takes about 40 days."

Mateo's grandmother walks into the garden.

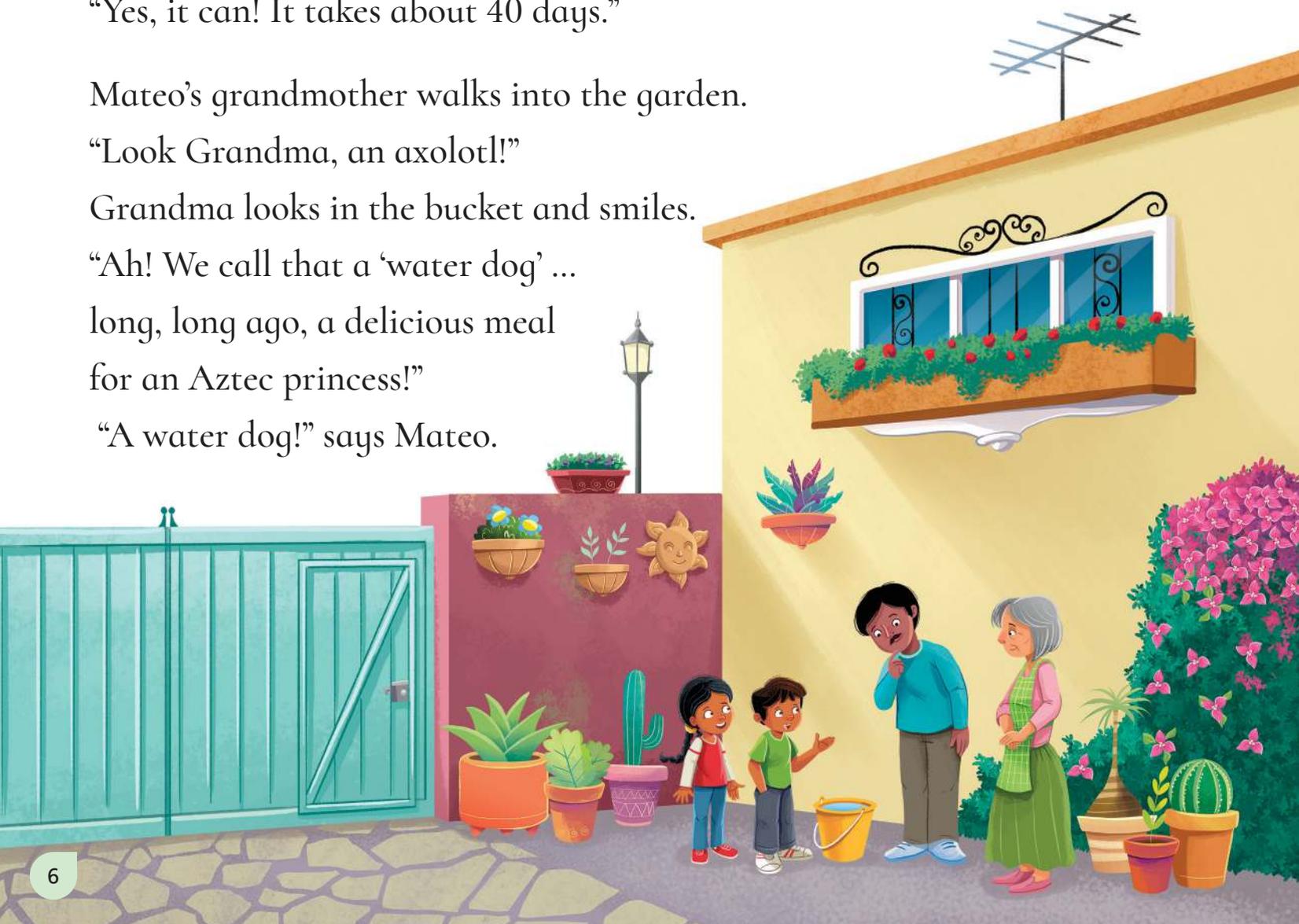
"Look Grandma, an axolotl!"

Grandma looks in the bucket and smiles.

"Ah! We call that a 'water dog' ...

long, long ago, a delicious meal for an Aztec princess!"

"A water dog!" says Mateo.



Mateo's **neighbors** hear about the axolotl. They want to see it.

“Look, it's smiling,” says a neighbor.

“What is on its head? They look like **feathers**,” says another neighbor.

“They're not feathers. They help it **breathe**,” Mateo's dad tells him.

“Can I touch it?” asks a young boy.

“No! It's not a toy,” says Mateo.

“I think it looks like Toothless in the movie *How to Train Your Dragon*,” says a girl.

“Can it really grow a new leg?” asks an old woman.

All the neighbors love Mateo's new pet.





Later that day, a man wearing a white lab coat arrives at Mateo's house. Mateo's father opens the door.

"Hi, I'm Pablo from the university. I study axolotls."

"Is there a problem?" Mateo's father asks. He is worried.

"No, of course not," Pablo answers.

Mateo shows Pablo the axolotl.

"It's a big one," Pablo says. "Do you know that axolotls are endangered? That means there are not many of them."

Mateo feels sad. "How can I help?" he asks.

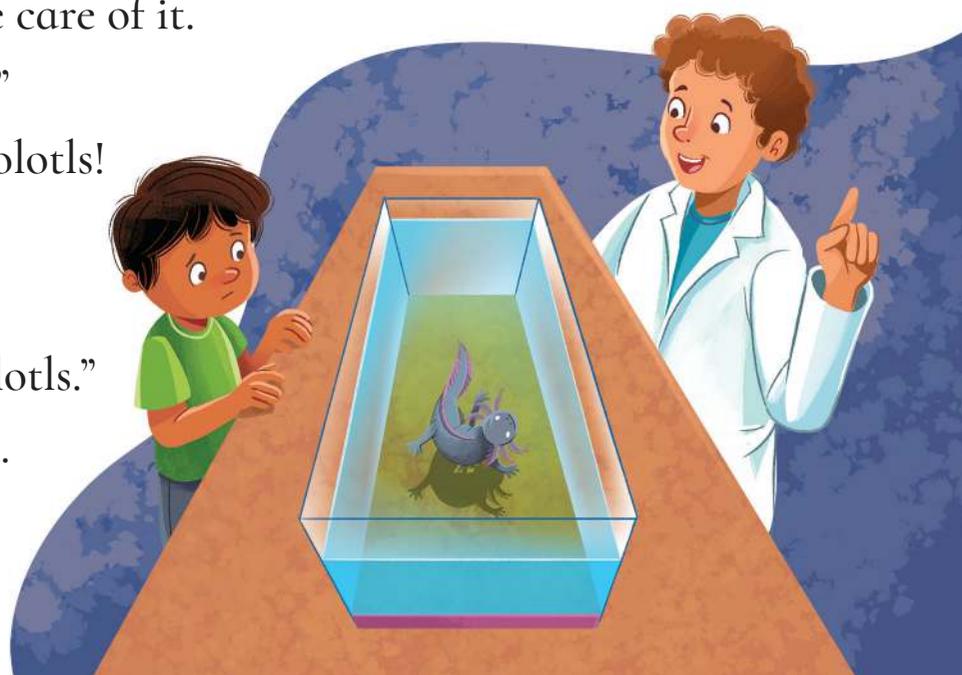
"Let me take the axolotl back to the university. We have a special program for axolotls there. We can take care of it.

We can help it to have babies!"

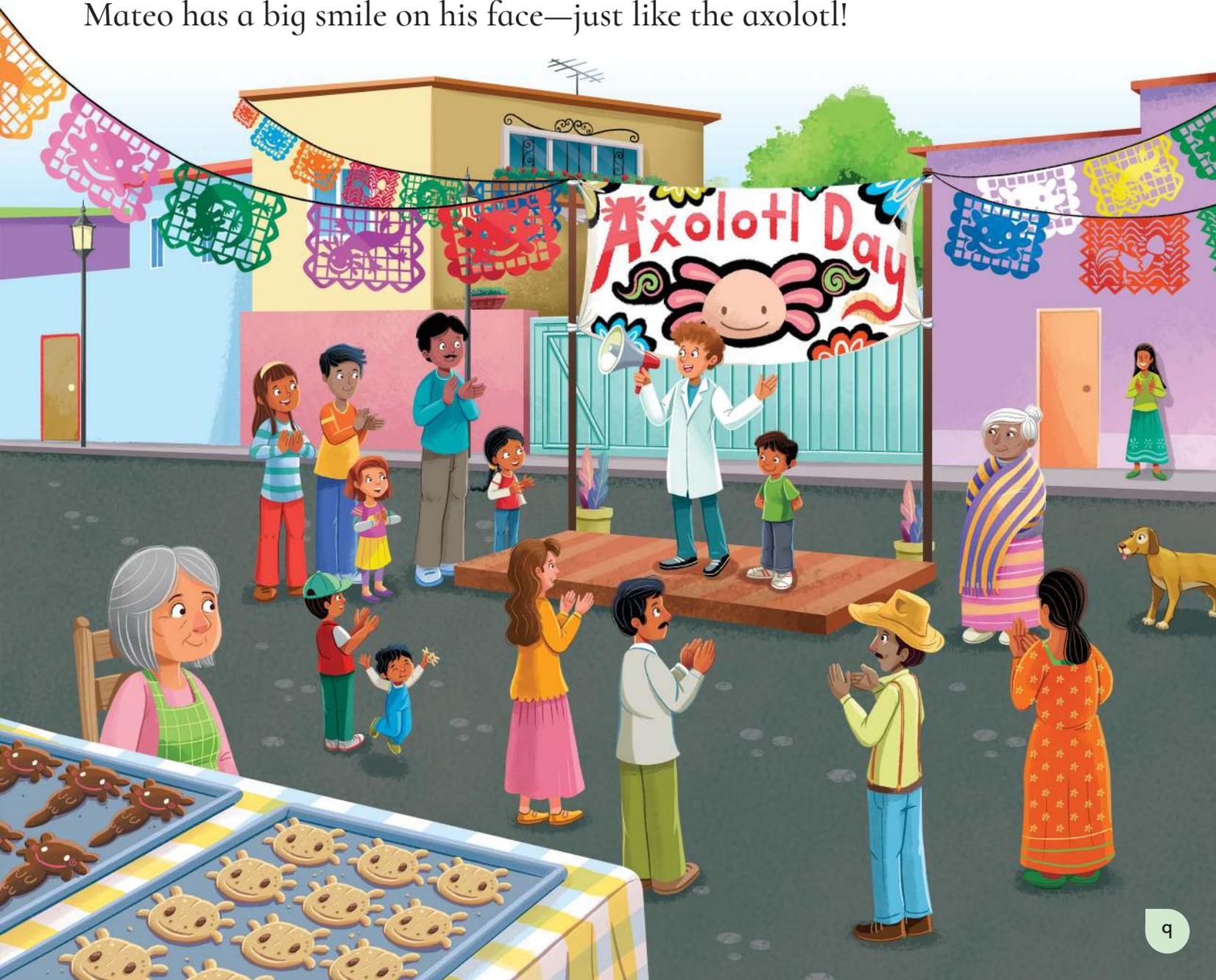
"OK," Mateo agrees. "Baby axolotls! How cute!"

"Then, let's teach your family and friends to protect the axolotls."

Mateo and Pablo make a plan.



The next week in Mateo's neighborhood, it's Axolotl Day!  
The neighbors decorate the street. Mateo's grandmother makes special cookies. They are the shape of axolotls! They taste delicious.  
Pablo is talking to Mateo's family and the neighbors. He's explaining how to protect the axolotl.  
Mateo hears his name.  
"Let's all thank Mateo. He **saved** an axolotl!"  
Everyone is clapping.  
Mateo speaks up, "Thanks to Carmen, too! She helped me."  
Mateo has a big smile on his face—just like the axolotl!





## Digging Deeper

5 Complete the sentences about the story.

babies      endangered      water dog

- a People call the axolotl “walking fish” and “\_\_\_\_\_.”  
 b There are not many axolotls. They are \_\_\_\_\_.  
 c There is a special program to help axolotls have \_\_\_\_\_.

6 Mark (✓) the correct option.

1 Mateo is sad when he talks with Pablo because ...

- a Pablo takes the axolotl to the university.   
 b there aren't many axolotls.   
 c he can't save the axolotls.

2 Mateo and Pablo organize Axolotl Day to ...

- a celebrate the axolotl.   
 b sell cookies.   
 c teach people how to protect axolotls.

## Personalization

7 What endangered animal do you want to save? Complete the fact file. Then, draw a picture of the animal.

What is the animal?		
Where does it live?		
What does it eat?		

## I What is in my neighborhood?

### Key Words

#### 1 Preview the Key Words.



town



young



close (v)



study (v)



excited



grandchildren

#### 2 Match the Key Words with their definitions.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 town          | a feeling very happy, with a lot of energy             |
| 2 young         | b a place where people live (it's smaller than a city) |
| 3 close         | c to move something so that it is not open             |
| 4 study         | d the children of your son or daughter                 |
| 5 excited       | e not old  |
| 6 grandchildren | f to learn   |

### Pre-reading

#### 3 Look at the pictures on pages 13–15. Circle the correct option.

- The text is about people in **South Korea** / **Japan** / **China**.
- The grandmas are at **home** / **school** / **work**.
- The grandmas are with their **fathers** / **children** / **grandchildren**.
- The grandmas are **studying** / **playing** / **working**.

#### 4 Listen and read.

# The Grandmas

Go to

# School

By Lily Pane

Gangjin is a small town in South Korea. It's in the countryside. There are 15,696 people in Gangjin.



In Gangjin, there is a school called Daegu Elementary School.

There are not many students in this school. In fact, there are only 22 students! But why?

In South Korea, there are a lot of old people in small towns in the countryside. But there are not many young people there. Most young people live in the big cities. In the cities, they can find work.

This is a big problem for Daegu Elementary School. There are very few students, so the school has to close. But nobody wants to close the school!