

After a War



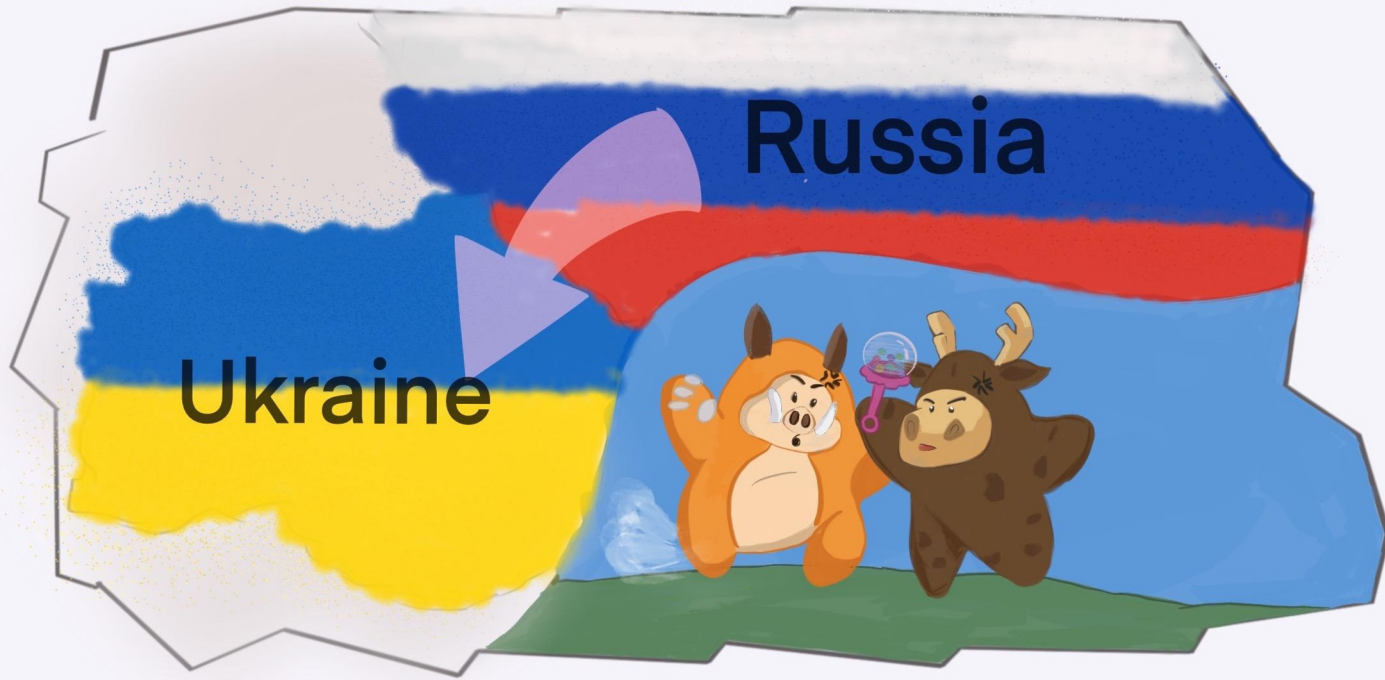
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Illustrated by Carina Wu

Characters Designed by GP.x (GLOPO.JCCREATION AND ART CENTER)

Hello Rice Ball, do you
know that there is a
war between two
countries?





What is a war?

A war is when two or more countries fight!

Remember last time YoYo and Maxxx were fighting for a toy?

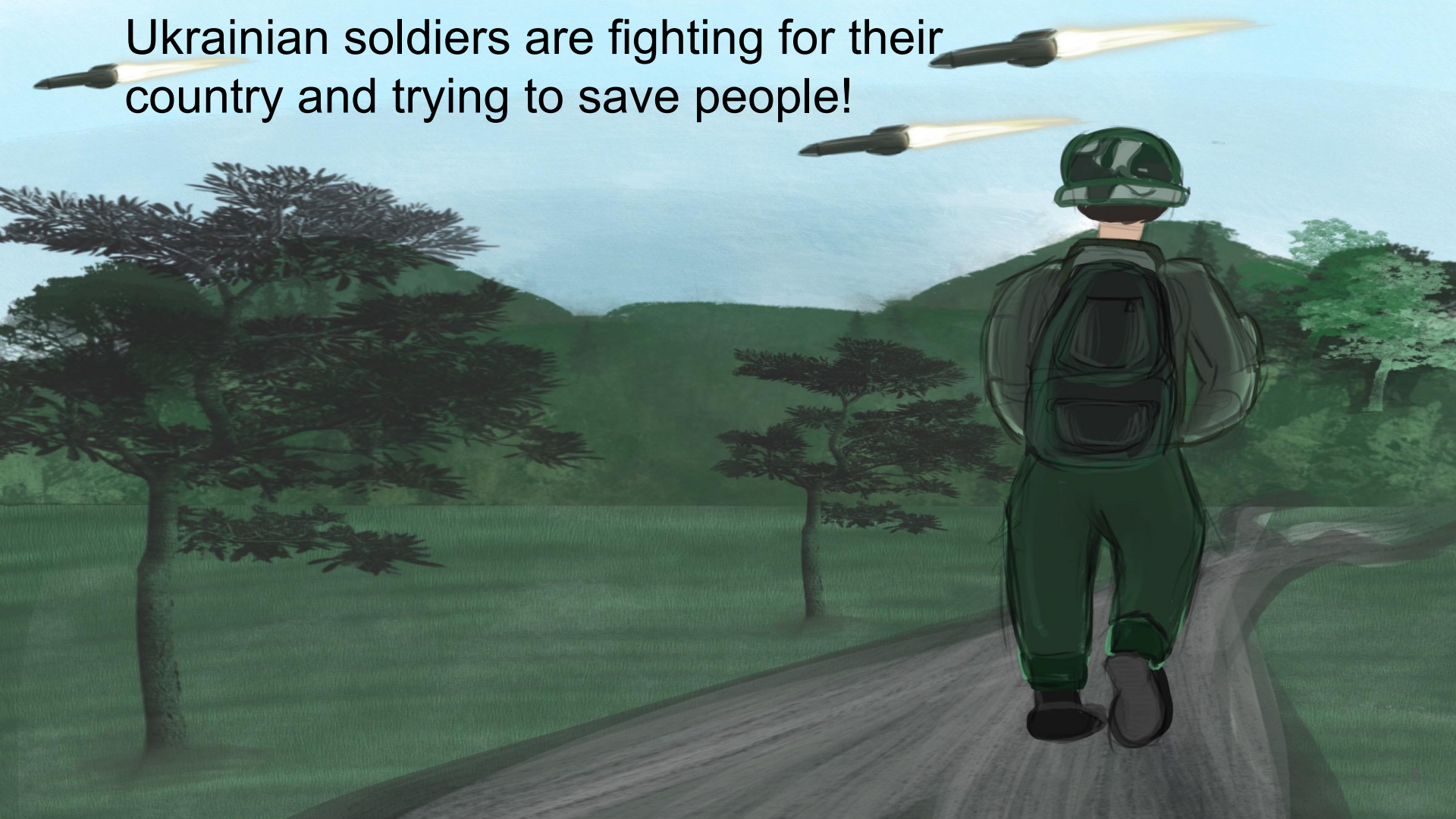
Russia started the war, and Ukraine is fighting back.
Tons of houses and buildings in Ukraine were burned
into ashes.





Missiles and tanks destroyed many cities and killed a lot of people.

Ukrainian soldiers are fighting for their
country and trying to save people!

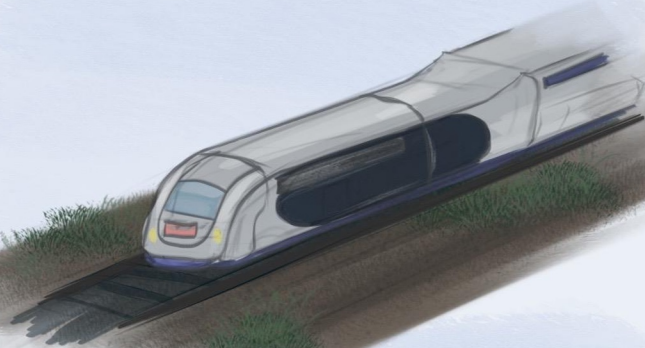


It is sad to see many houses,
schools, and playgrounds
were destroyed.



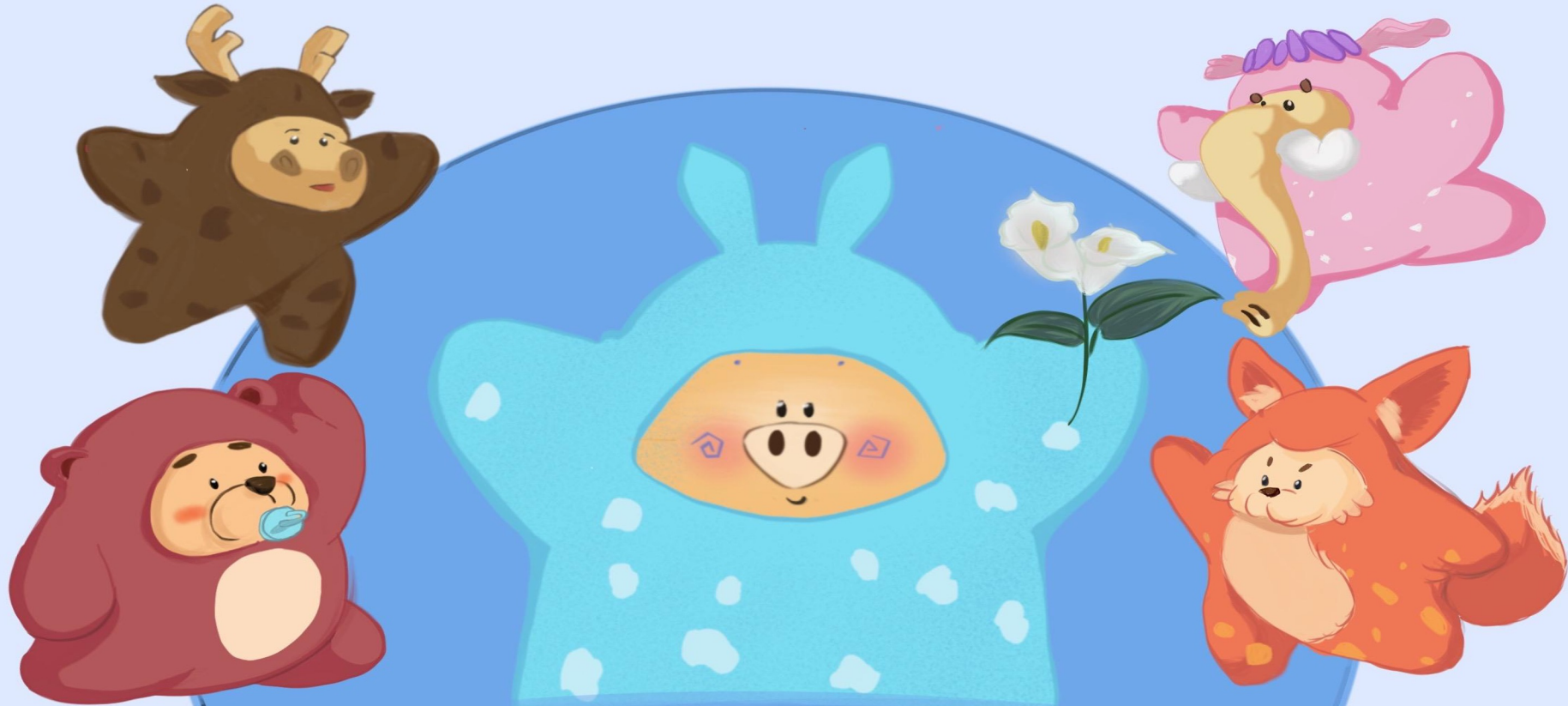
It is not safe in their homes anymore.
Some of them left early, and others stayed but were later forced to flee.





By foot, train, automobile, or airplane.





Until they reached a safe place like the Blue Dot Hubs, where they can play with toys, draw pictures, read books, and talk to someone. They have food to eat and a place to rest.

Bao, I have a lot of questions!!! Why would someone start a war?
Why can't they just be nice?
Why did they want to hurt people?
What happened to the Ukrainian children?

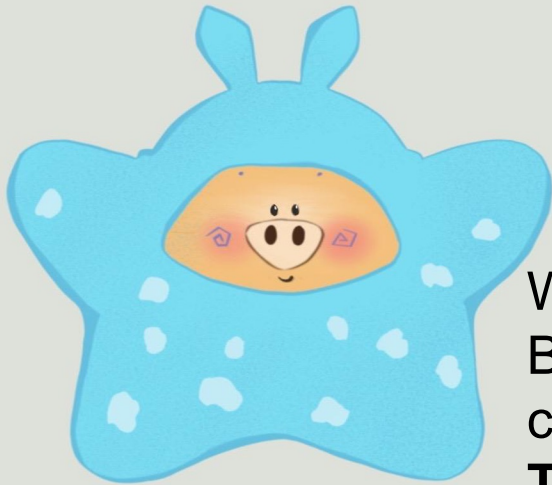


Rice Ball, I don't have answers to many of your questions, but I can answer the last one.





The Ukrainian children are BRAVE.
They left their house with their mothers.
They are tired, hungry, scared, and sad, but they keep going
until they reach a safe place. **They are my HEROES!**



Why did they only have their mothers?
Because their fathers stay and fight for their
country.

They are my HEROES!

Their mothers packed their suitcases, grabbed their children tightly, and took them to a safe place.
They are my HEROES.



Bao, I am really worried about the Ukrainian children!



No worries! Many people are helping them!



Poland is a country next to Ukraine.

When Ukrainian children and their mothers arrived in Poland, people gave them a stuffed animal called Pola.

Lots of chefs came to cook for children
and their families.



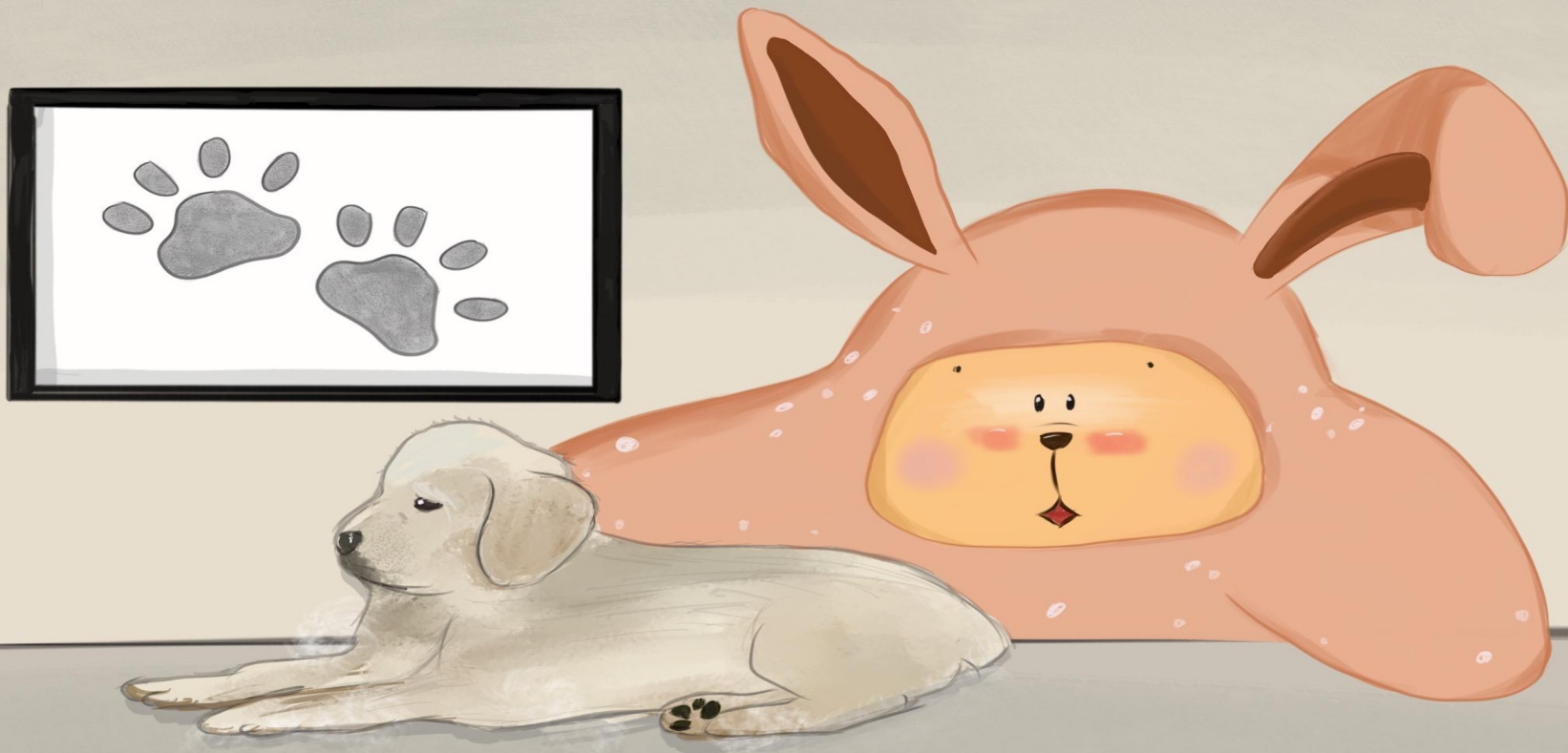


Moms in Poland leave strollers for Ukrainian moms crossing the border!



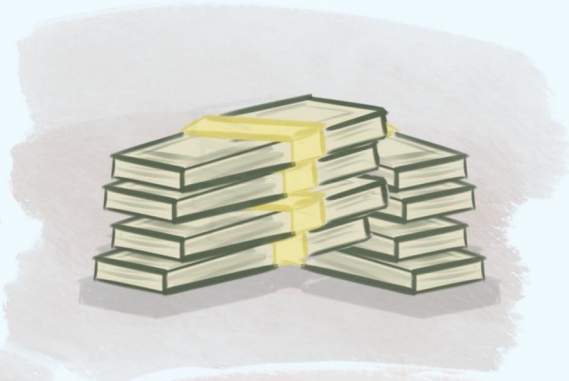
Some children join a new school.
The school is full of hugs, love, and sunflower paintings.

Some vets stay in Ukraine and take care of pets.



Bao, when will the war end?
Rice Ball, I wish I knew, but I don't have an answer.
I wish I could have a superpower to end this war soon.
I hope the world can be peaceful with no more wars.





When the war ends, let's continue helping the brave Ukrainian children by donating food, money, supplies, books, and toys.

Bao, I am ready to share my books and toys!

There is a lot to do after the war!

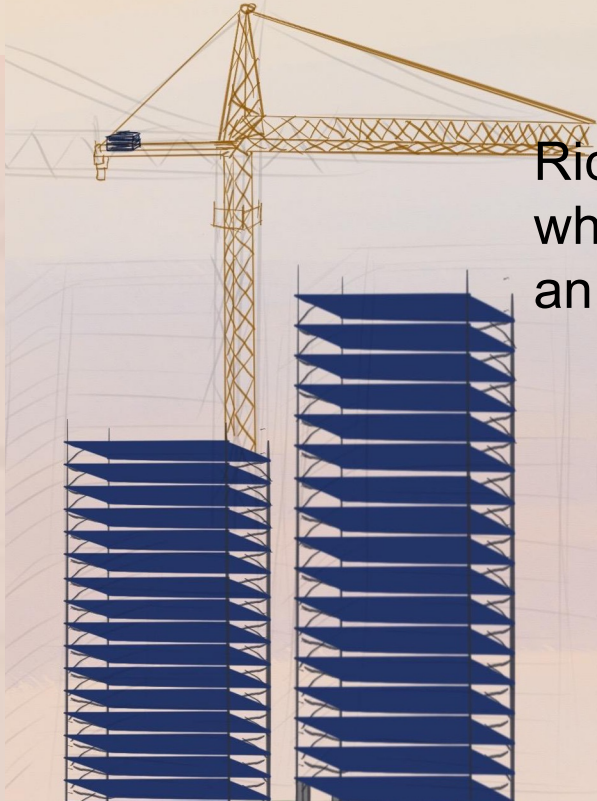
When the war ends, I hope the Ukrainian children can reunite with with their family, and build new houses, schools, and playgrounds.

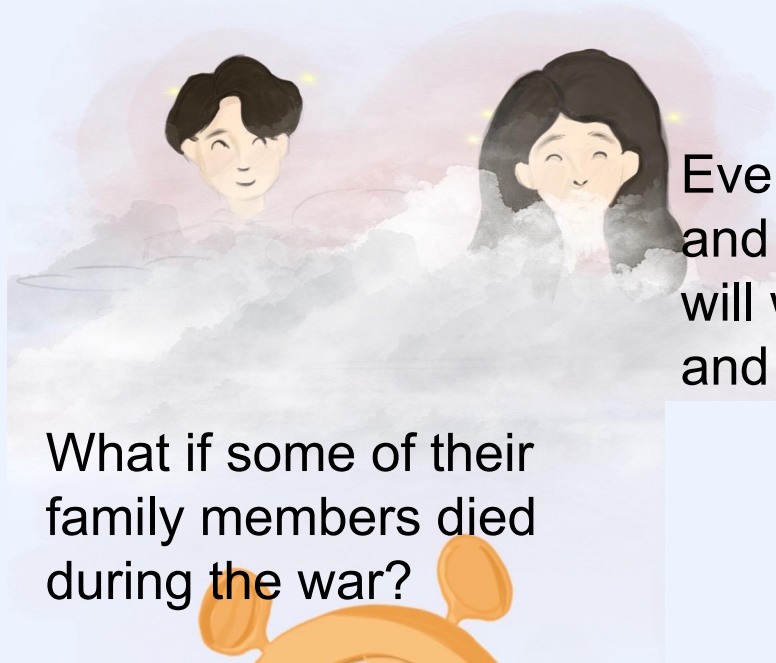


But Bao, it is very hard to rebuild something new. Is it possible?



Rice Ball, it is difficult, but you know what--if we work together, we can build an even better Ukraine!





Even though their loved ones died and are not with them anymore, they will watch over them from the sky and their love stays forever.

What if some of their family members died during the war?





What if they miss them so much?

Some say that when people die, they turn into bright stars in the sky.

When they miss their loved ones, they can look up to the sky, and look for their brightest star!

Wow, I want to find the stars for my mom and grandpa.



Rice Ball, do you know what I really want to tell the Ukrainian children?

Tell me! Tell me!

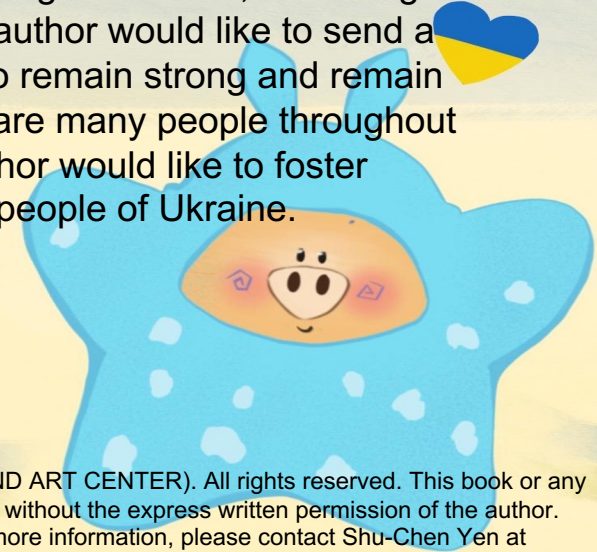
There is always hope as long as we are alive!

Yup! There is always hope as long as we are alive! **Fight on Ukraine!**

Notes to parents

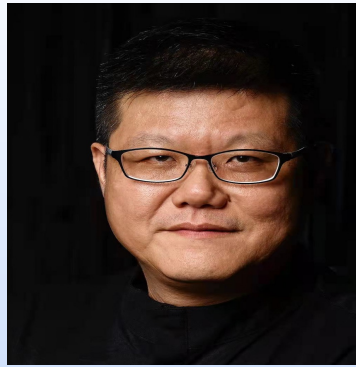
What is a war, and what does it mean? As the conflict in Ukraine continues, many children are probably wondering about this question. This is one of the most difficult conversations for parents and educators to address. It's normal not to know how to answer this question in a way that children can understand.

The purpose of this social story is to explain the war between Russia and Ukraine to children around the world including the Ukrainian refugee children, with the goal of instilling hope in the refugee children's minds. The author would like to send a message to the refugee children to encourage them to remain strong and remain hopeful. She wants these children to know that there are many people throughout the world who support them. In the meantime, the author would like to foster empathy among families throughout the world for the people of Ukraine.





Shu-Chen (Jenny) Yen, a professor in the Department of Child and Adolescent Studies, California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), has more than 25 years of professional experience in ECE. She has been an advocate for young children through her work as a children's book author. She has created several "social stories" in timely response to multiple international natural disasters and social crises, including typhoons, hurricanes, COVID-19, and anti-Asian racism.



Apén Lee is an artist who has been working in the fields of arts, culture, and entertainment for more than 28 years. He has assisted many projects such as international action movie superstar and cultural image projects. In 2016, he launched the "FOCUS Watch" forum focusing on ecology and civilization, and he continues to hold the "No Waste Planet - Carbon Neutral Green" art exhibitions to promote green living and the concept of "Zero Waste."



Carina Wu is 13 years old and is a rising 8th grader in Los Angeles, CA. She likes to draw, plays guitar, and listens to music. Through the experience of working on this project, she appreciates the opportunity to learn more about the war between Ukraine and Russia and the importance of peace. She hopes there are no more wars in the world and her drawings can comfort young children and people around the world.