

From the Heart

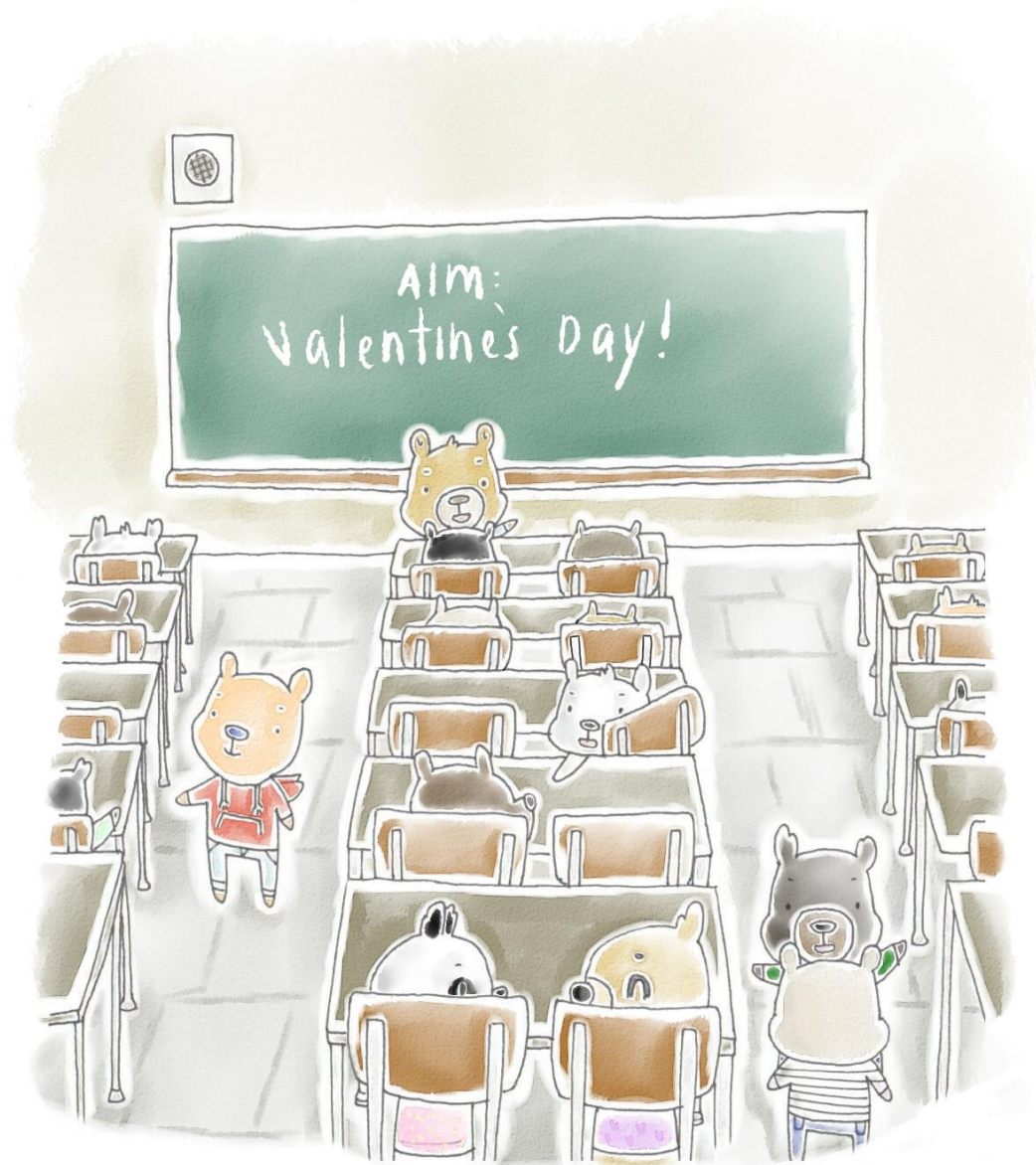
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY
SYLVIA YU





Snow falls one winter day, the middle of February drawing near.
At long last, this means that Valentine's Day is almost here!

The students in Ms. Frost's class buzz with excitement.
Who is going to give a card to whom?
Who will have the most beautiful card?
Who loves whom?
Every bear is very curious in this classroom!



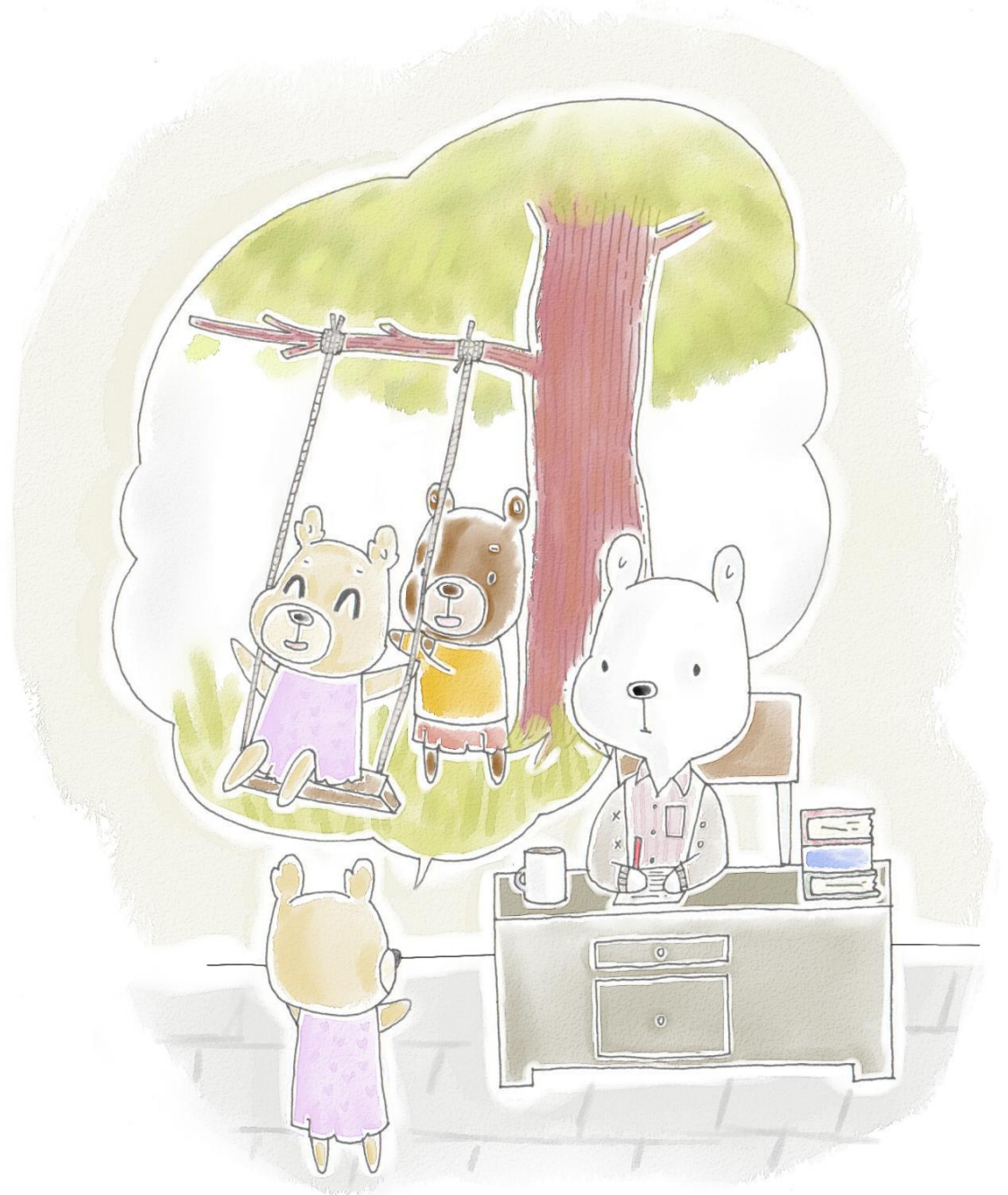
The day before Valentine's Day, Ms. Frost tells the class,

"Anyone can give a card to anyone!
Don't be shy! But do not be mean
and make your classmates cry!"

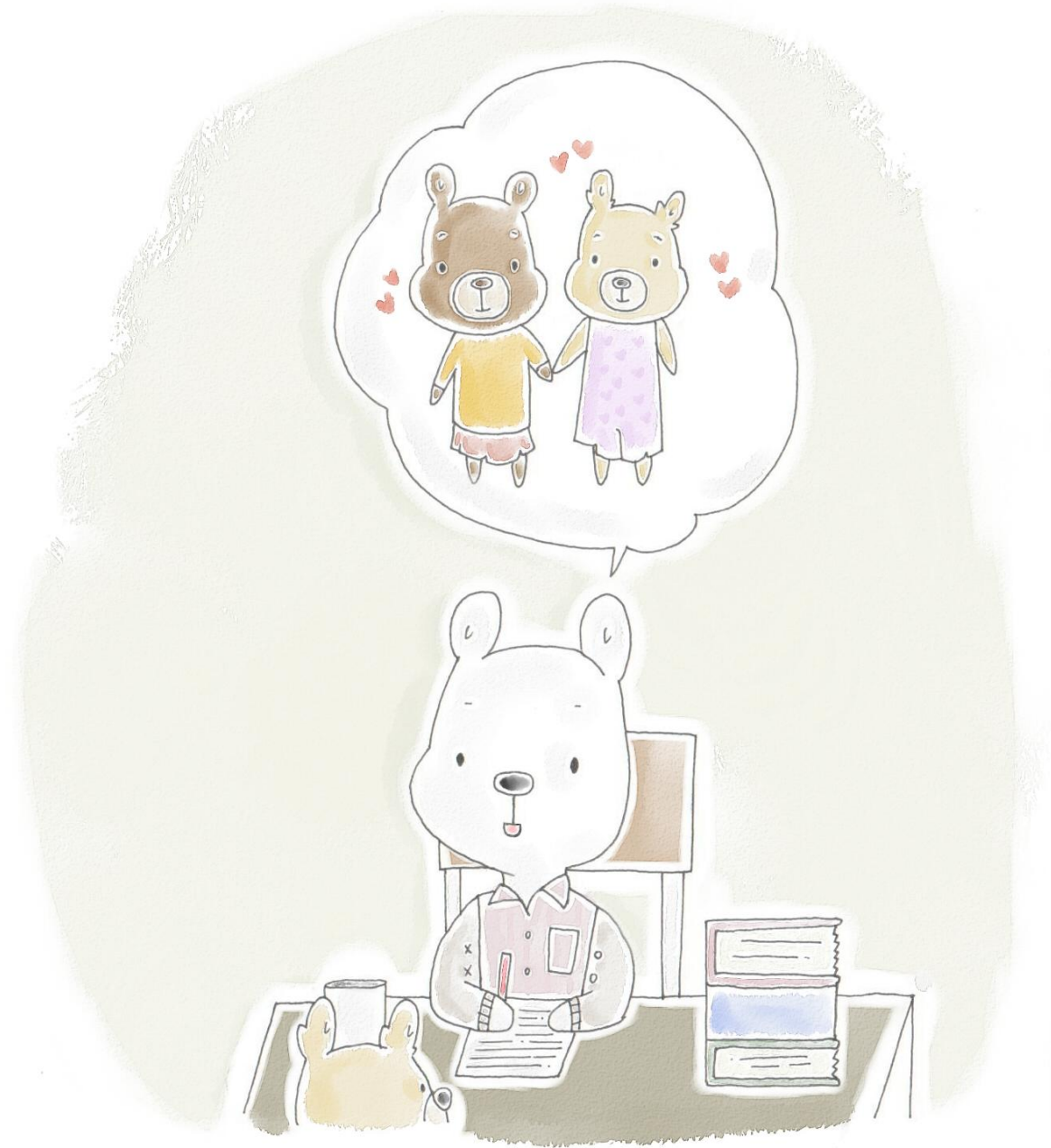


Yukino loves Phoebe, whose sweetness makes her heart swirl.

"But Ms. Frost," she asks, "can I send her a card if we are both girls?"

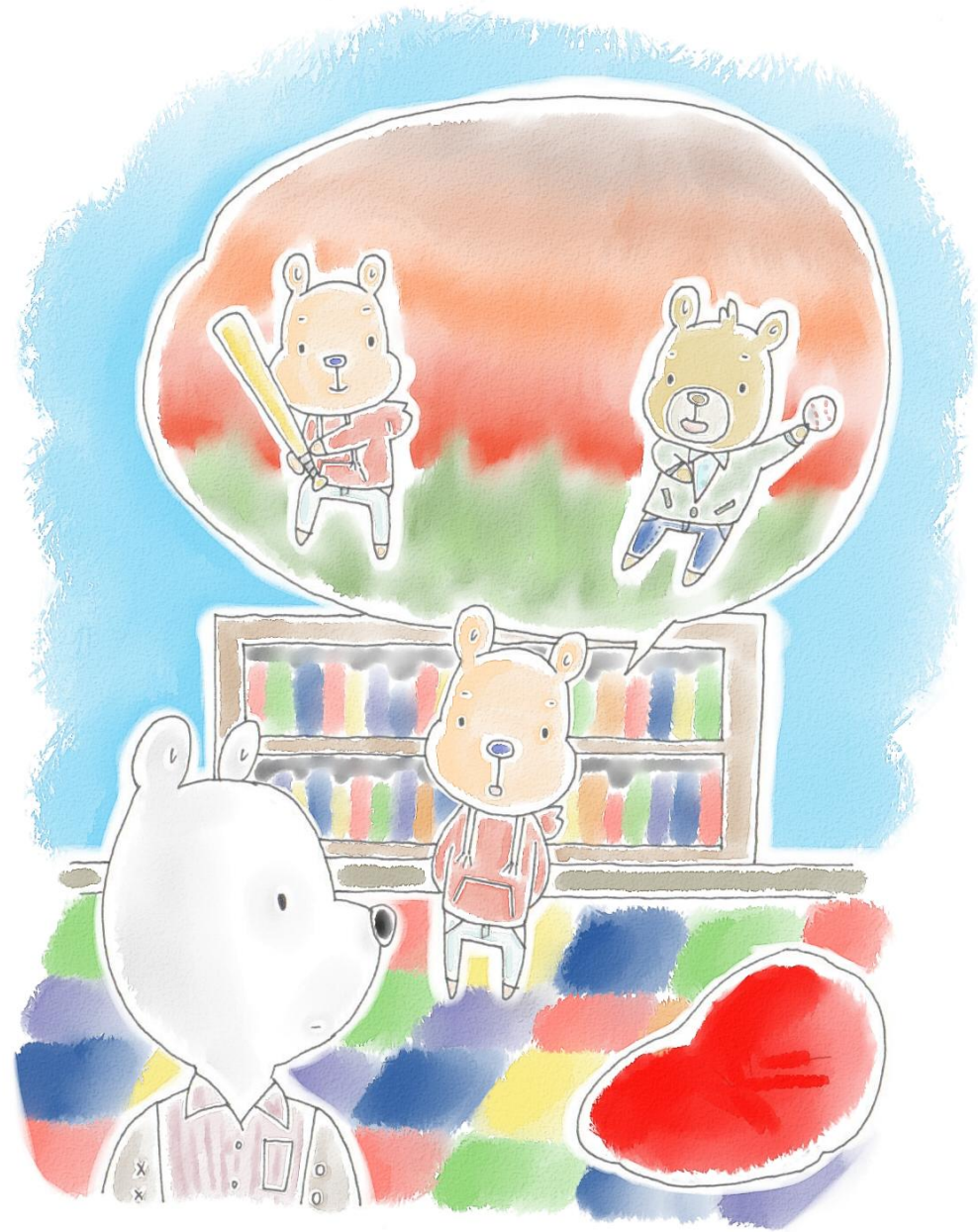


"Of course," Ms. Frost says, "as being girls is not the important part. If you love her for her good nature, and you are far from being strangers, what matters the most is that you love her for her heart."



Luca loves Jabari, for their friendship is full of laughter and joy.

"But Ms. Frost," he asks, "can I send him a card if we are both boys?"

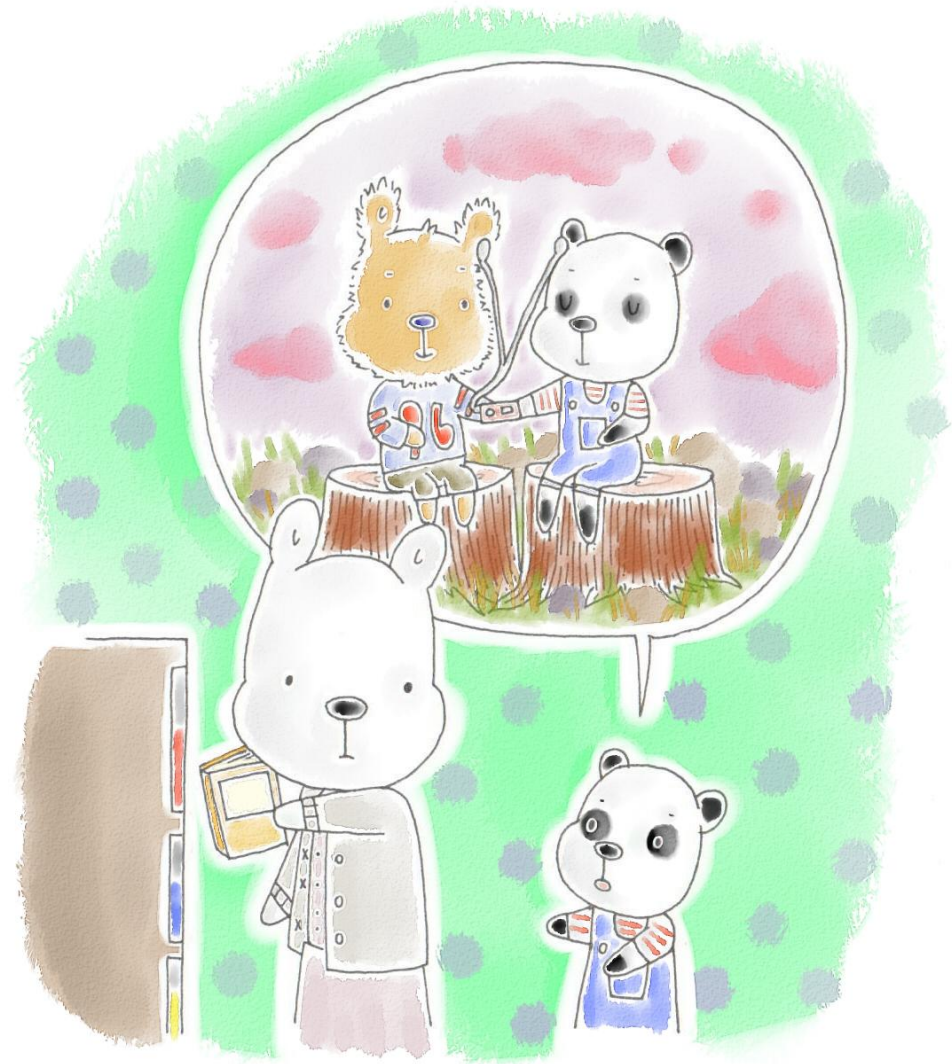


"Of course," Ms. Frost says, "as being boys is not the important part. If you love him for his spirit, and to him you wish to be nearest, what matters the most is that you love him for his heart."

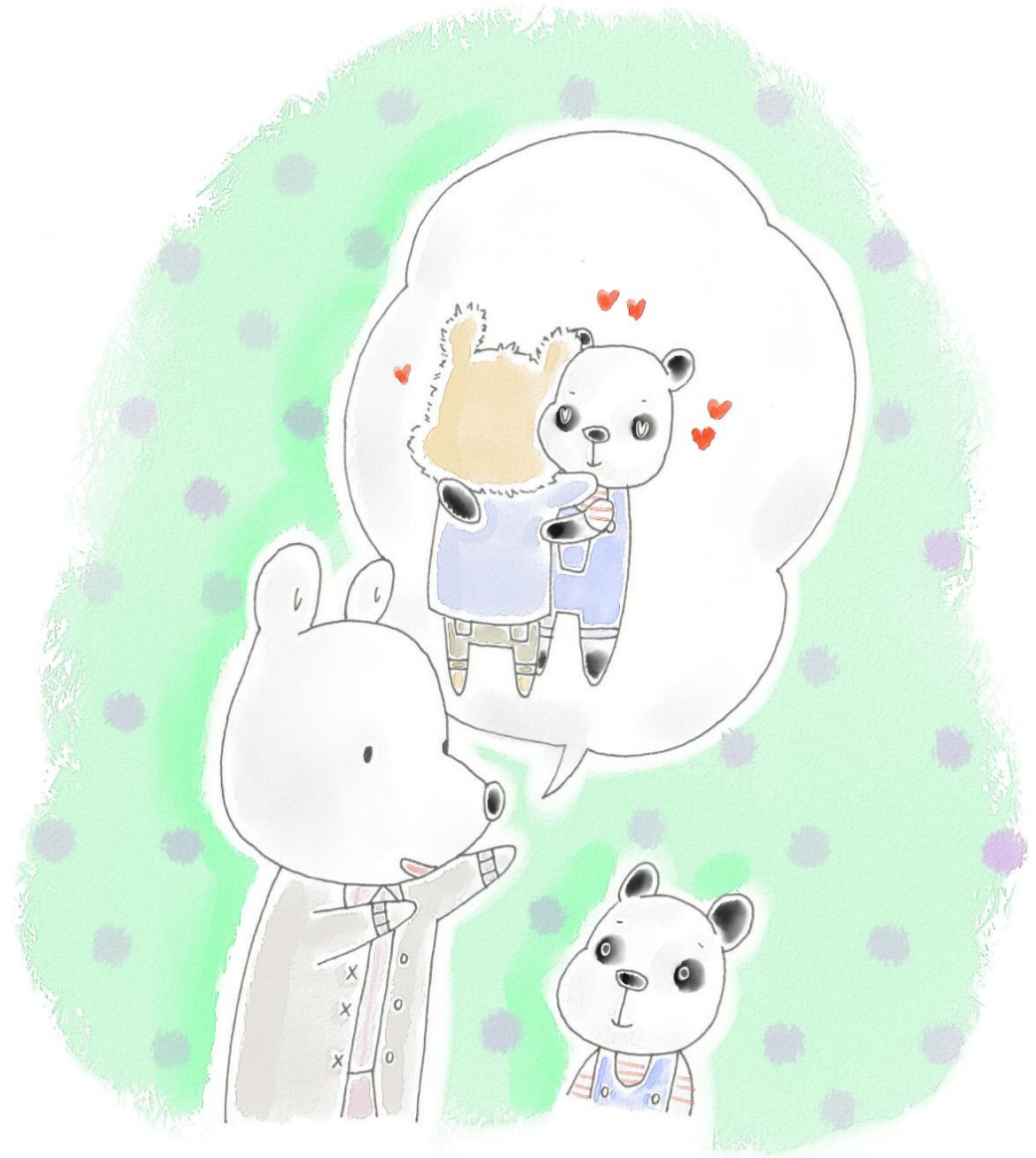


Claudia loves Tak, for he is understanding and puts her at ease.

"But Ms. Frost," she asks, "can I send him a card if he is Korean and I am Chinese?"



“Of course,” Ms. Frost says, “as your ethnicity is not the important part. If you love him for his compassion —his absence you cannot imagine— what matters the most is that you love him for his heart.”

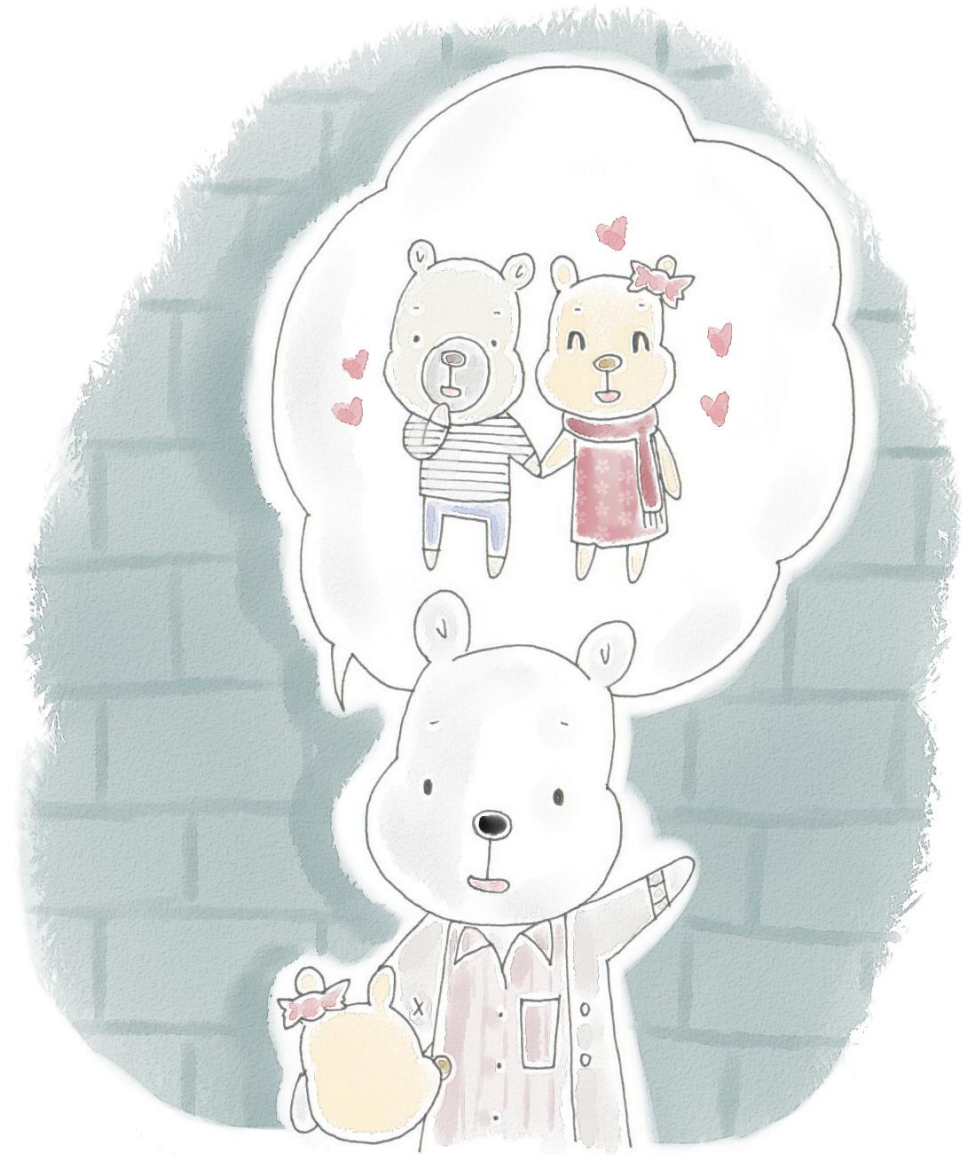


Scarlet loves Mishti, whose jokes never fail to make her smile and warm from within.

"But Ms. Frost," she asks, "can I send her a card if we have different colored skin?"



“Of course,” Ms. Frost says, “as your skin color is not the important part. If you love her for her humor, and you always hope to see her sooner, what matters the most is that you love her for her heart.”



Ashura loves Dolores, for she is playful, loyal,
and kind.

"But Ms. Frost," he asks, "can I send her a card
if she is blind?"



“Of course,” Ms. Frost says, “for her disability is not the important part. If you love her for her devotion, and with her you can be open, what matters the most is that you love her for her heart.”



Snow falls one winter day, the loveliest of the year.
At long last, this means that Valentine's Day is
finally here!

The students in Ms. Frost's class buzz with excitement.
Who is going to give a card to whom?
Who will have the most beautiful card?
Who loves whom?

Luckily they will find the answers to their questions
very soon!



Ms. Frost tells the class,



"Anyone can give a card to anyone. Don't be shy! But do not be mean and make your classmates cry.

Love is blind - gender, race, and imperfections are not important parts. What matters the most is that you love them for their heart."

The students in Ms. Frost's class exchange their cards, not one being the most beautiful, for all are brimming with love from the bottom of their hearts.

