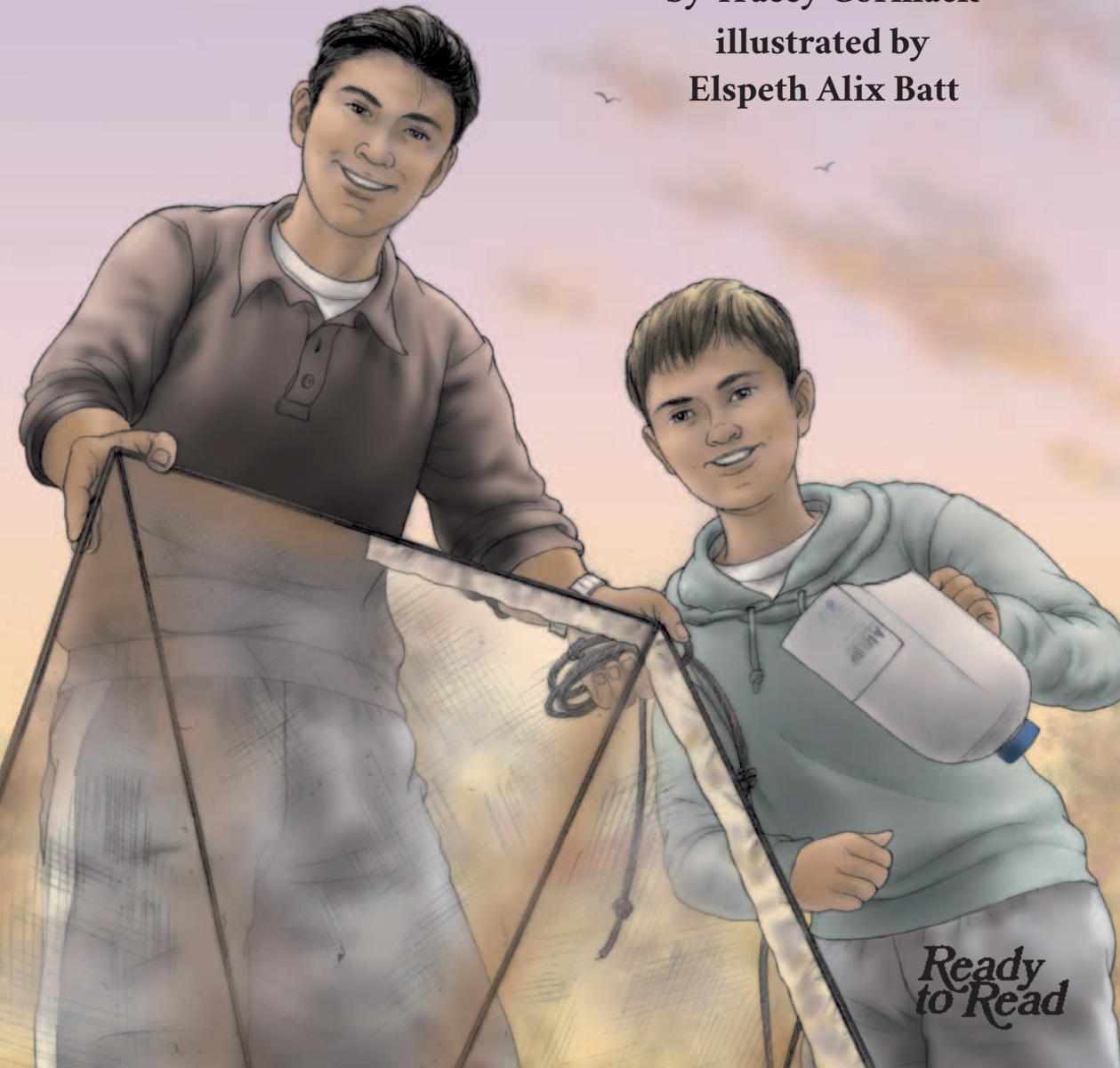


# Whitebait Season

by Tracey Cormack

illustrated by  
Elsbeth Alix Batt



*Ready  
to Read*

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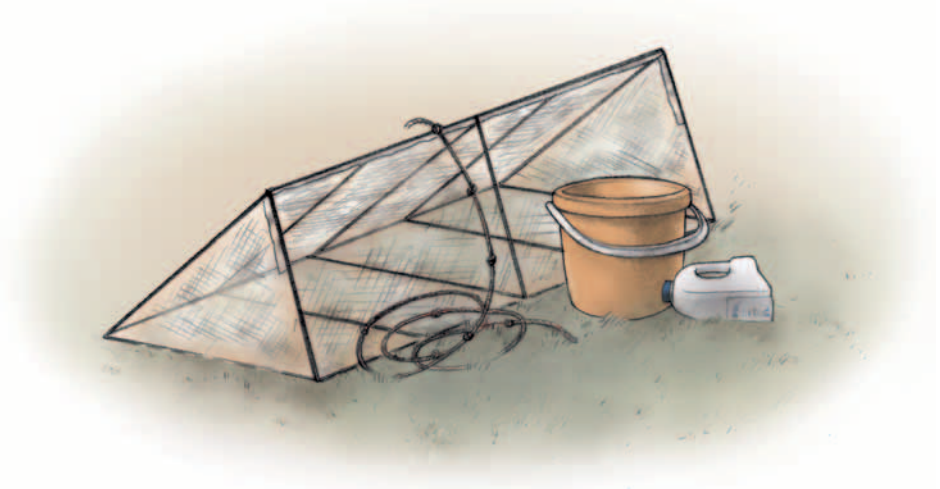
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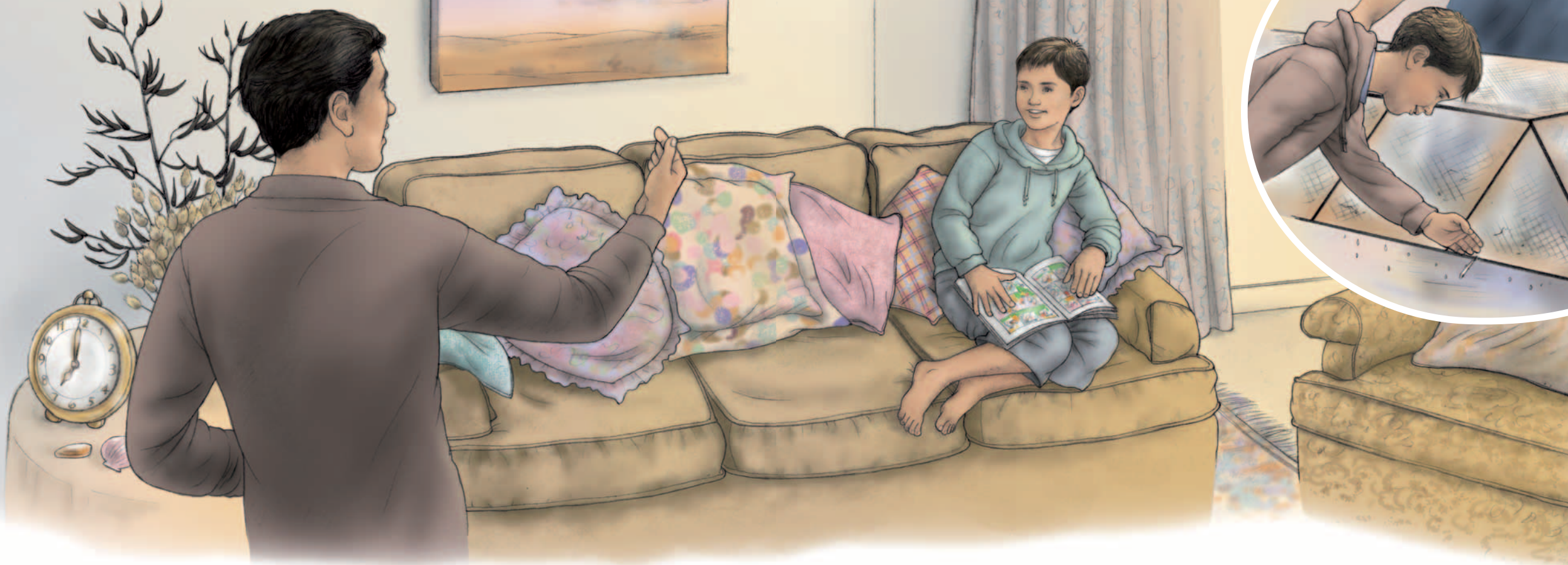
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# Whitebait Season



by Tracey Cormack  
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“Come on, Nathan,” said Dad. “The whitebait are running. We’ve only got two hours left tonight.”

It was seven o’clock. Nathan knew that during the whitebait season, everyone had to stop fishing by nine o’clock.

“OK,” he replied, “but I hope we catch a few more than last time. I’d like to have a whole fritter to myself!”

So far this season, Dad and Nathan had only caught enough to make one fritter at a time. One night, there had been only one, lonely whitebait in the net, and so they’d let it go.

They gathered up the whitebait net, the scoop, and the bucket.

“There should be plenty of whitebait after that storm last night,” said Dad.

Stormy weather often made the whitebait run the next day.

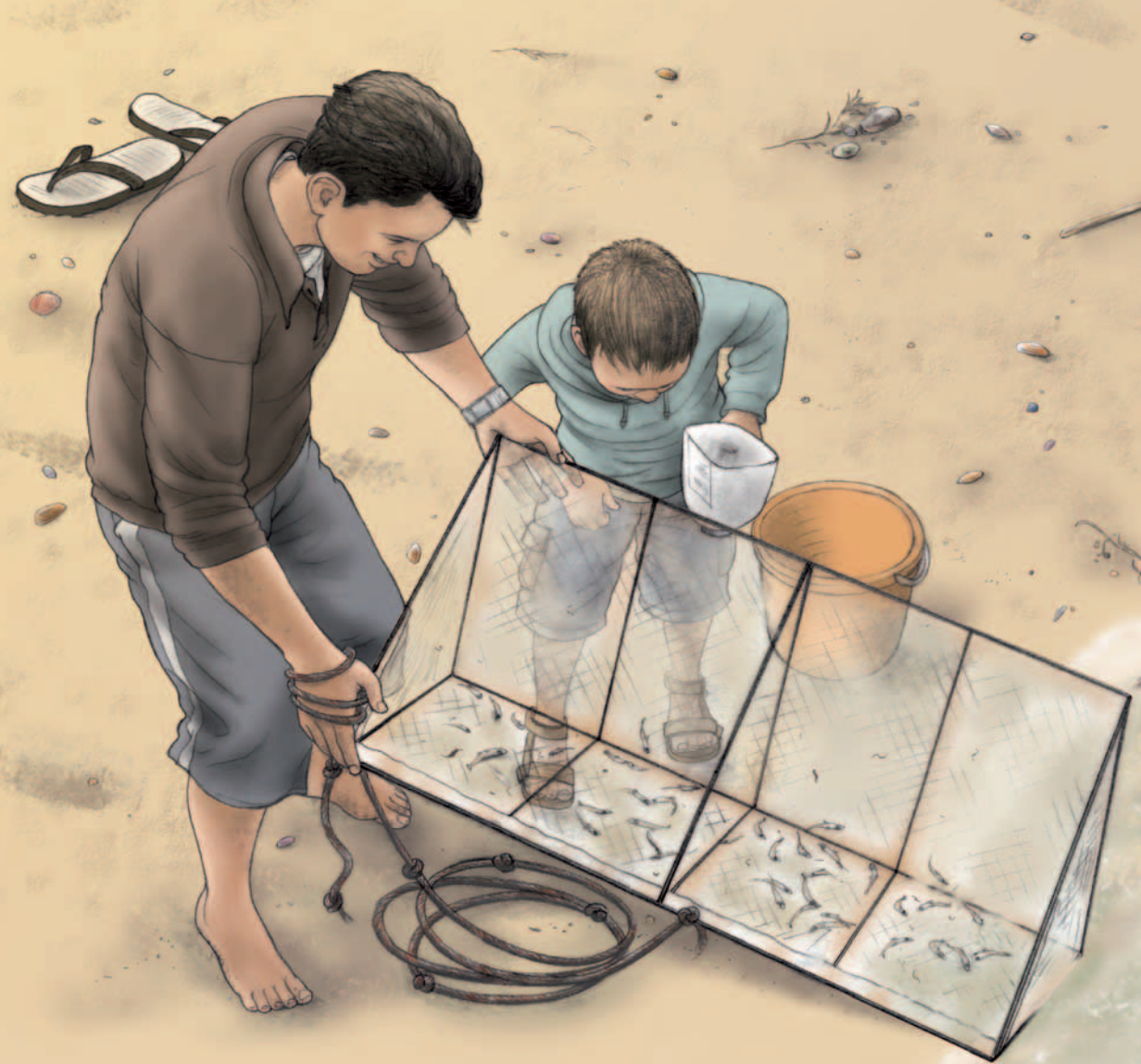


Dad set up the net in the water. Nathan knew it would be a long wait. He wandered along the beach to look for driftwood.

“Have we caught any yet, Dad?” he called.

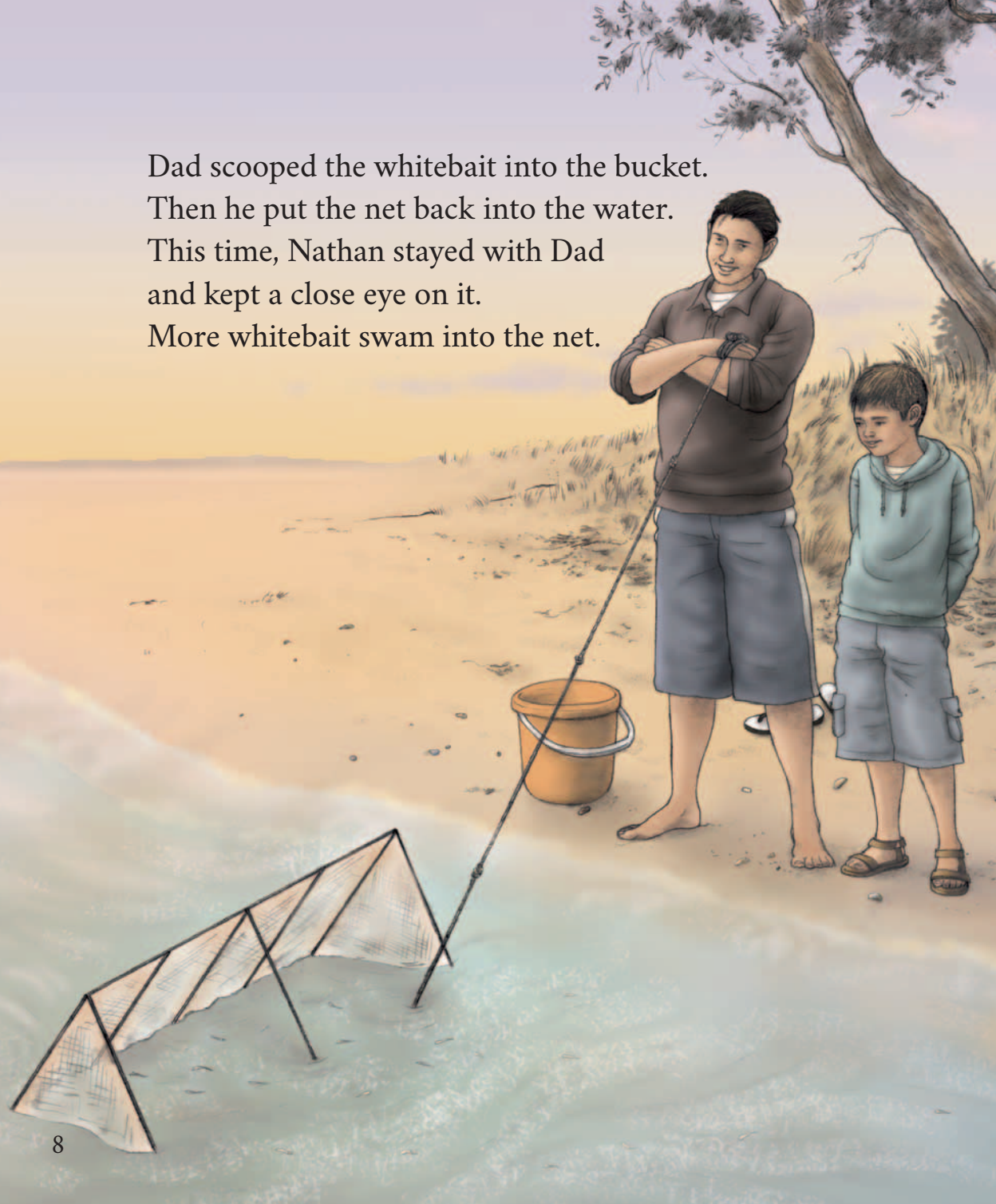
Dad was staring down at the net with a great big smile on his face.

“Come and have a look,” he said.



Nathan ran over to the net and peered inside.  
“Wow!” he exclaimed. There was a handful  
of wriggling whitebait in the bottom of the net.

Dad scooped the whitebait into the bucket.  
Then he put the net back into the water.  
This time, Nathan stayed with Dad  
and kept a close eye on it.  
More whitebait swam into the net.



It was getting dark. “Time to go home,” said Dad.  
Pickle, Nathan’s cat, was waiting at the gate.  
She knew what was in the bucket.

Dad grinned at Nathan.  
“Do you think we’ll have enough?” he asked.  
Nathan looked into the bucket again.



“Yes. This time, I think we’ve got enough for two fritters,” he laughed. “But I’m sorry, Pickle. There won’t be any whitebait for you.”

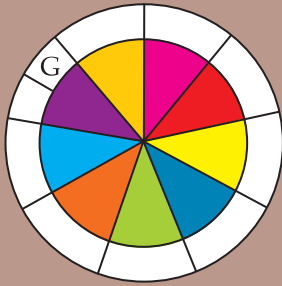
## Whitebait

Whitebait are the young of five types of New Zealand native fish. Two of these fish are endangered. There are rules about:

- the time when whitebait can be caught;
- where people can fish for whitebait;
- the fishing gear that can be used.







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