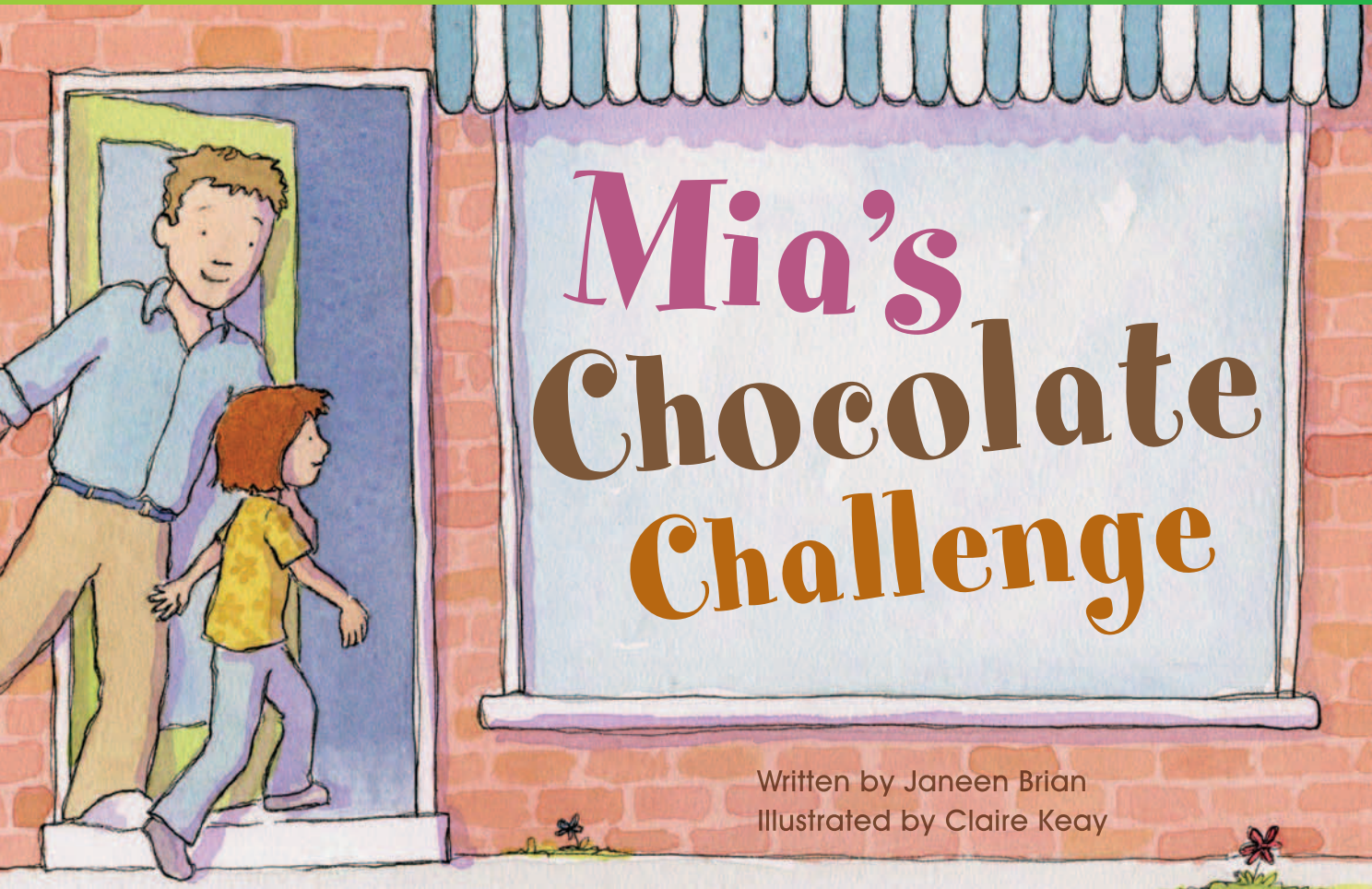
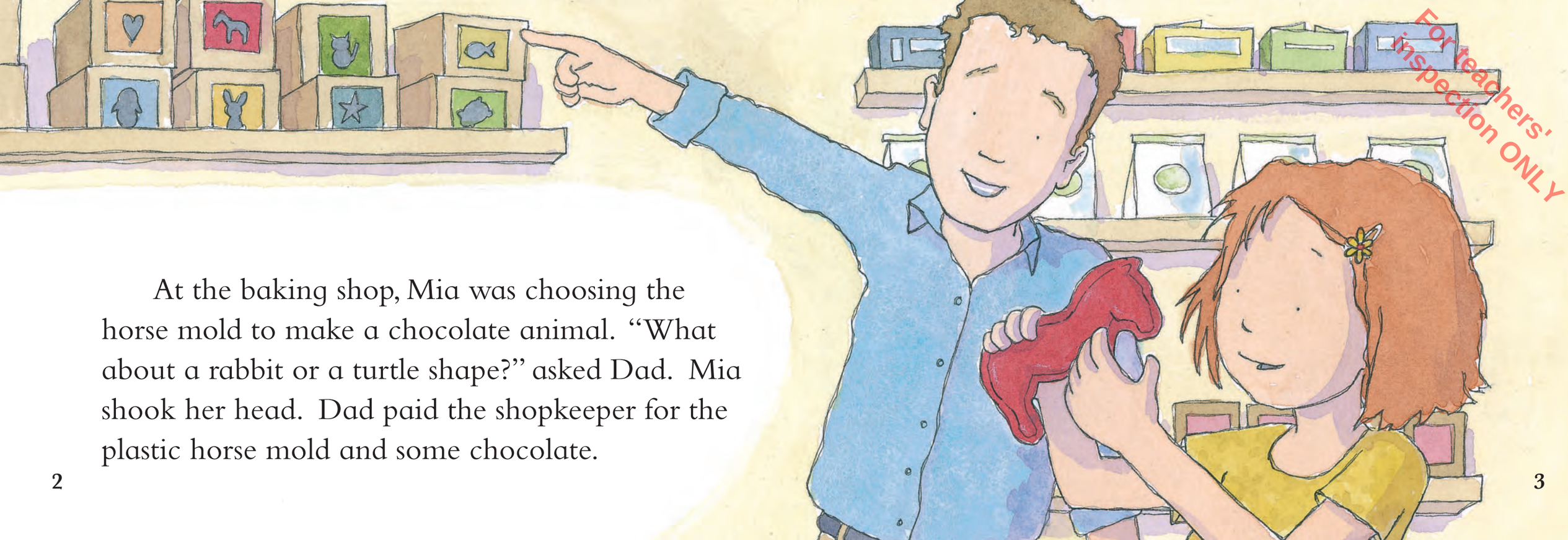
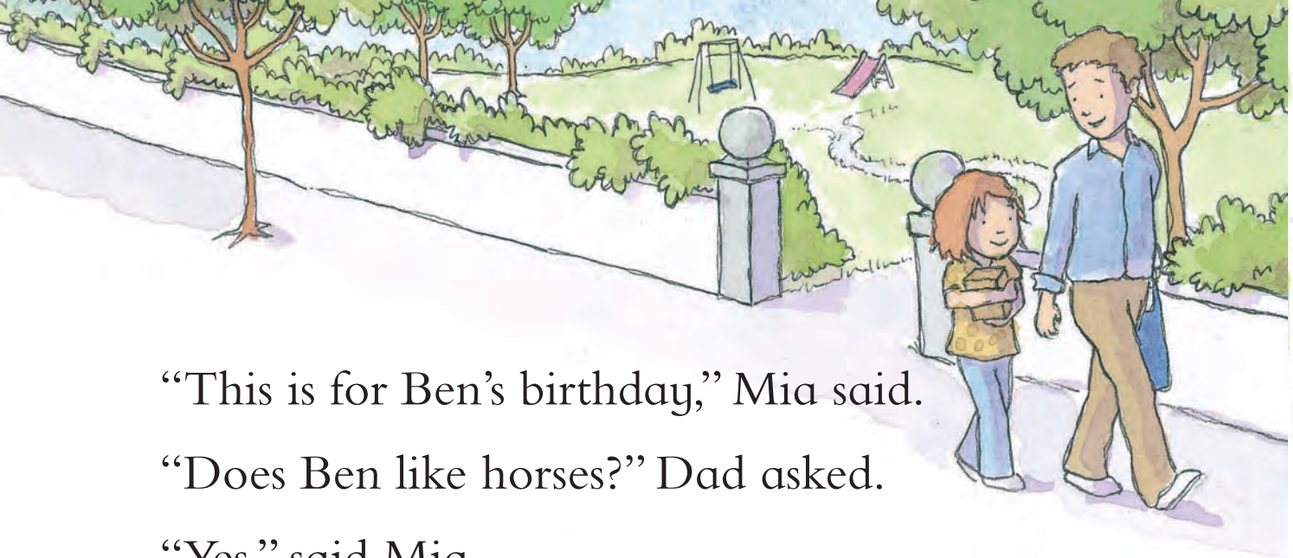

Mia's
Chocolate
Challenge
Written by Janeen Brian
Illustrated by Claire Keay



At the baking shop, Mia was choosing the horse mold to make a chocolate animal. "What about a rabbit or a turtle shape?" asked Dad. Mia shook her head. Dad paid the shopkeeper for the plastic horse mold and some chocolate.

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"This is for Ben's birthday," Mia said.

"Does Ben like horses?" Dad asked.

"Yes," said Mia.

"As much as you?" Her father grinned.

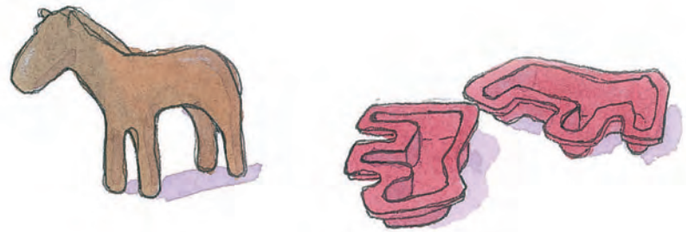
Mia smiled and hugged the horse mold.



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Back home, Mia helped Dad stir the chocolate. Soon, it was warm and creamy.

"Now, we pour it into the mold," said Dad. Mia put the mold in a cool place to set.

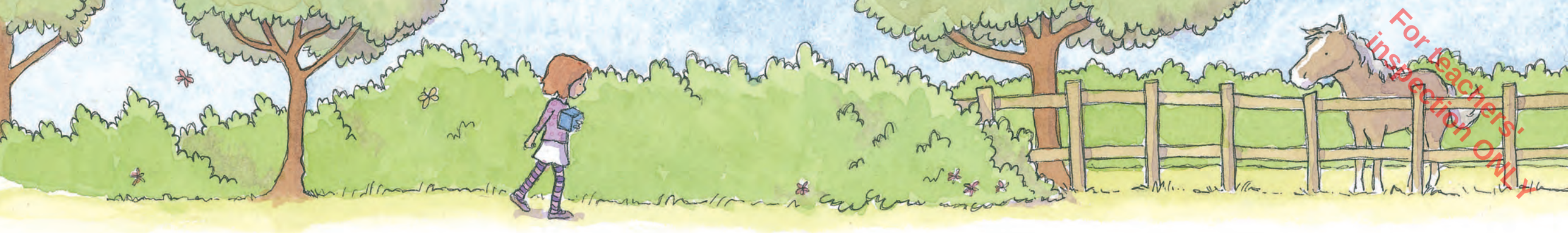


When the chocolate was cool and hard, they opened the mold. There was a brown horse. "Chocolatto," Mia whispered. It was her secret name—it was the biggest secret she had.

Mia and Dad wrapped the chocolate horse for Ben's birthday. "Remember! Meet up with Jay first, and then go straight to Ben's," said Dad. "Have fun, Mia."



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Jay's house was down the road. He lived by the green field where Chocolatto lived.

There was time before the party to see him. Chocolatto was by the fence, as if he were waiting for her.

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