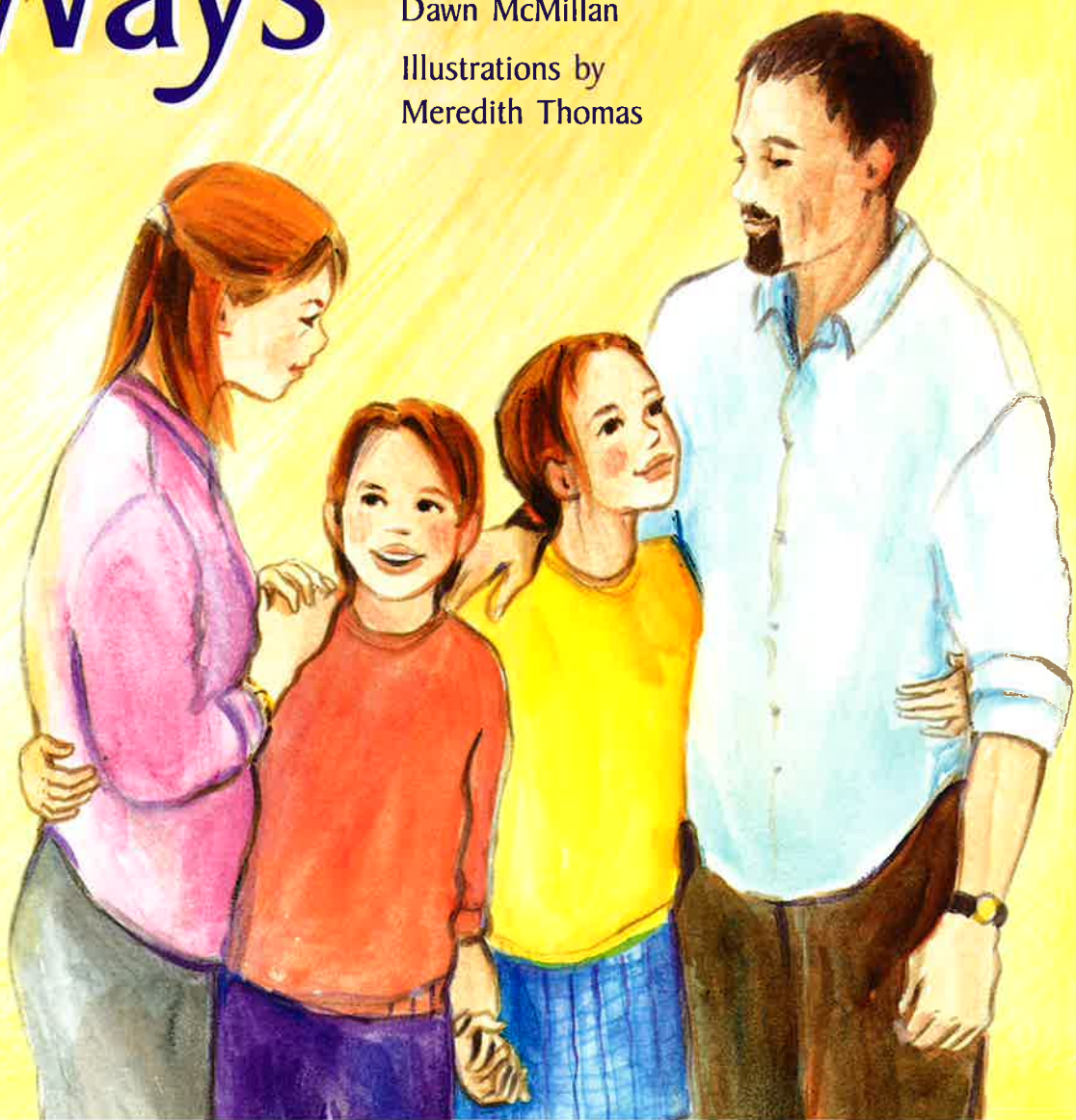
Separate Ways

PM+

Story by
Dawn McMillan

Illustrations by
Meredith Thomas



For teachers' Inspection Only

Tess and Nathan were worried. There was something happening in their family that they didn't understand. Mum and Dad were often very quiet, and sometimes Mum's eyes were red from crying.

One morning, Tess asked, "What's wrong, Mum?"

Nathan whispered anxiously, "Are you sick?"

"I'm all right . . . just a bit tired, that's all," Mum replied, with a tremble in her voice.

Dad was tired, too. He didn't laugh and joke the way he used to. After he got home from work, he was too exhausted to play football or basketball.





For teachers' Inspection Only

For teachers' Inspection Only

"Come on, Dad!" begged Nathan. "Come outside with us!"

"Just for a while, please," said Tess.

"Perhaps tomorrow," sighed Dad, and after dinner he sat down in front of the television and went to sleep.

Tess and Nathan went to their bedrooms and tried to read. Later, they heard Mum and Dad talking in hushed voices.

Nathan knocked on Tess's door and called softly, "Tess, there is something wrong!"

He went in and sat on the end of the bed. "Mum and Dad don't seem to like each other any more!" he said.

"I wonder what's going to happen," sighed Tess.



For teachers' Inspection Only

For teachers' Inspection Only

Next morning, when Tess and Nathan went to have breakfast, Mum and Dad were waiting for them at the table.

"Come and sit down," said Dad gently. "We've got something to tell you. Your mum and I have decided that it would be better if we didn't live together any more."

"You're going to separate!" cried Tess. "Just like Jon's parents!" She felt the tears slide down her face.

Mum was in tears too. She put her arms around the children to comfort them. "It has been a difficult decision for Dad and me," she whispered. "You must feel so confused."

