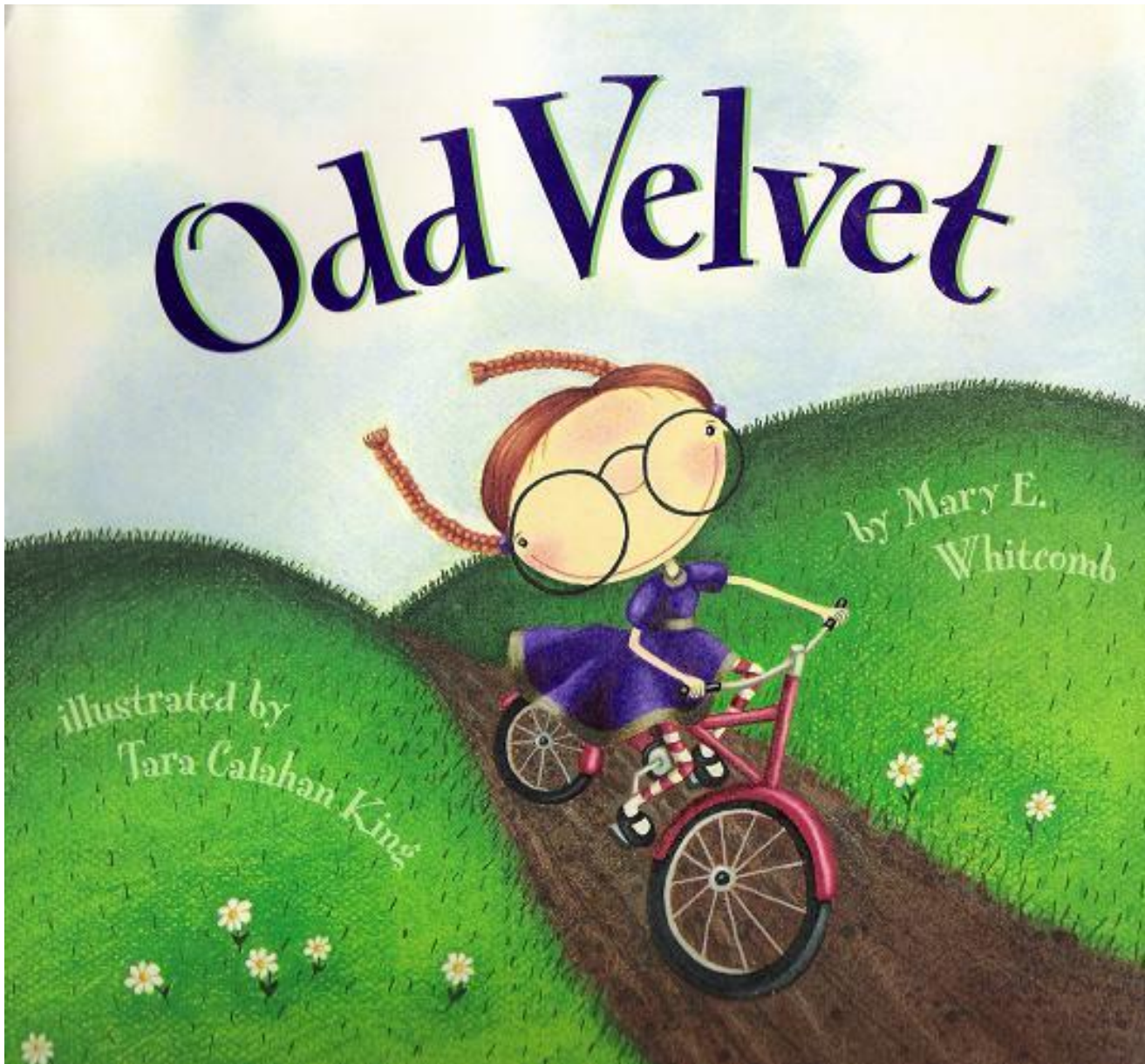















# *Odd Velvet*







*by Mary E.  
Whitcomb*



*illustrated by  
Tara Calahan King*









 On the first day of school, Velvet's classmates brought the








 teacher beautiful gifts. Velvet brought the teacher an egg







 carton with rocks, shoelaces and half a sparrow's egg.



 Velvet was odd.






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    in a  bag  with








    The    






     did not wear a new dress.

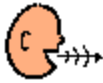






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  Velvet brought in other  strange  things. For show and tell Velvet brought   

 in a milkweed  plant. The other  girls brought in  dolls  that

 talk,  wet and  cry.



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Rectangular Snip

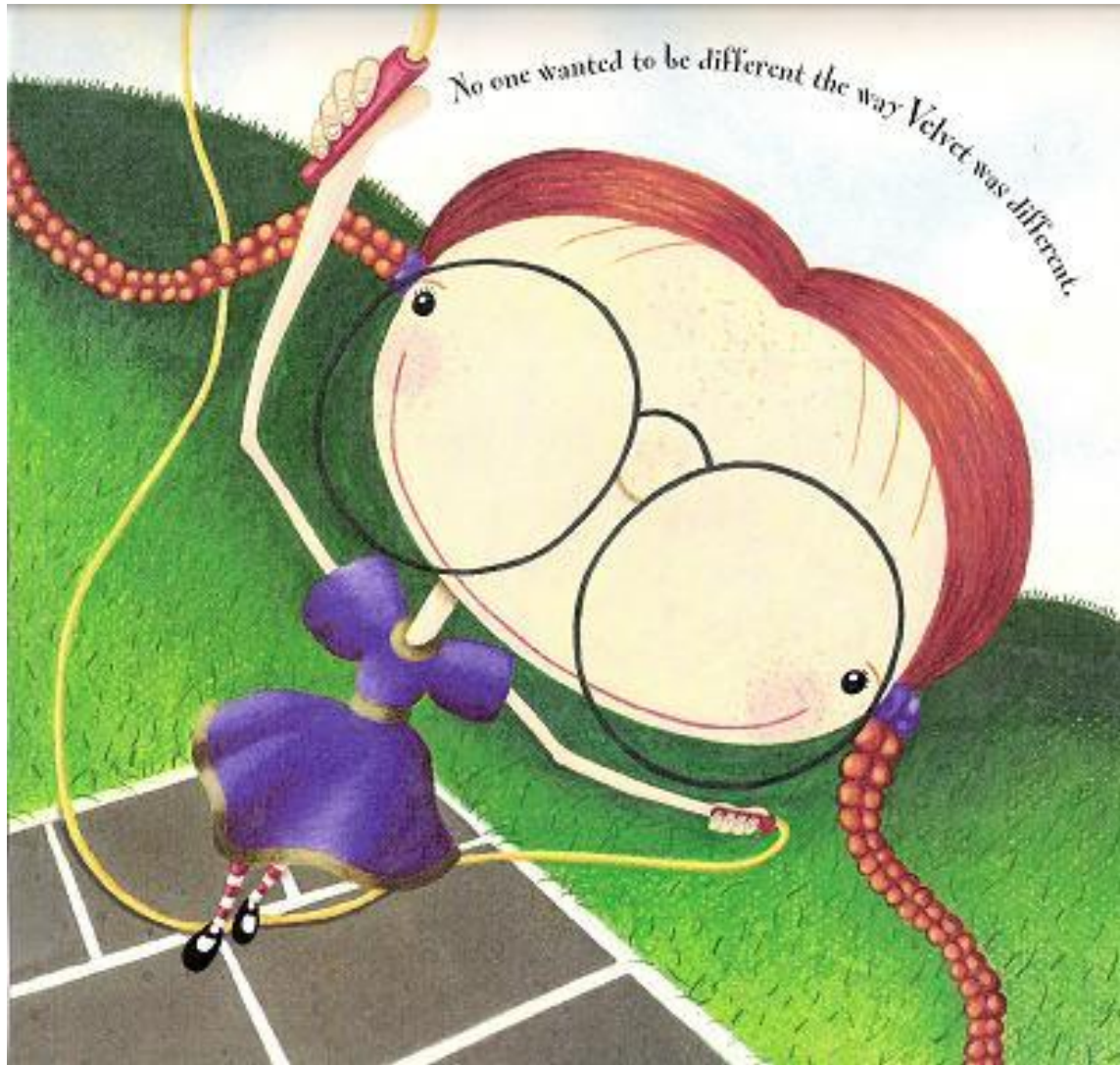
Velvet had a freckled nose. She had only 8 crayons.

Everyone was nice to Velvet but no one picked Velvet for partner

play or walked home with her after school. No one

wanted to be different the way Velvet was different.





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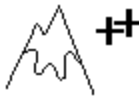
Velvet and her classmates went on a field trip. A classmate asked



Velvet, "What's your nickname?" Velvet answered, "I don't have one."



Velvet told them on the day she was born, the sun



was rising over the mountains and it looked like the world



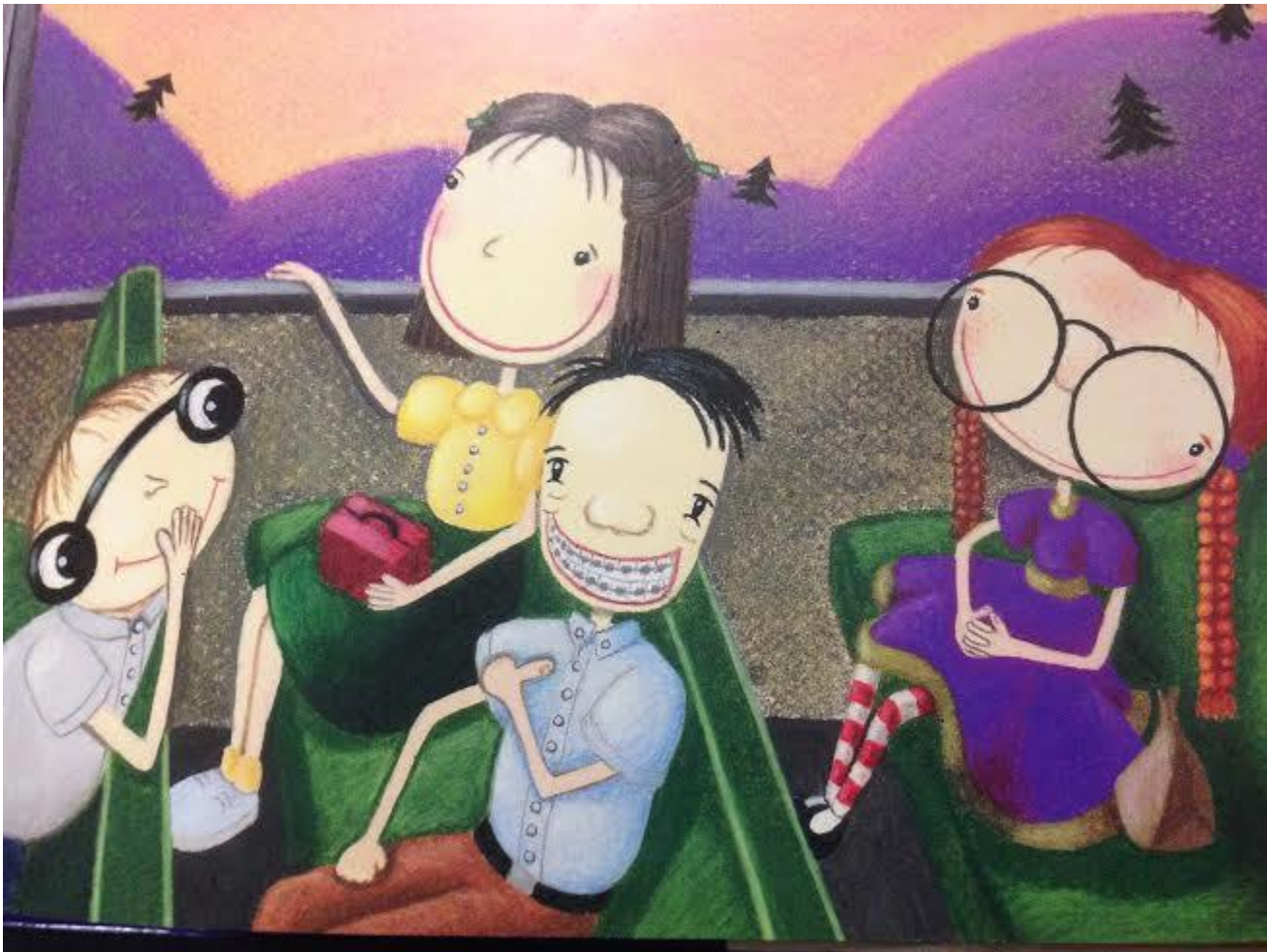
was covered with a blanket of smooth, soft, lavender velvet. Her



classmates thought how beautiful it must have been the day



Velvet was born.



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The next week there was a drawing contest at school. Everyone



thought Sarah Garvery would win because she had the best



markers, the biggest paint set, and the most colored pencils.



Everyone was surprised when the teacher announced the winner. The















winner was Velvet.
















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Velvet drew an apple. Sarah said, "It's just a piece of

       
fruit." All the children stared at Velvet's picture. They






       
thought it looked so real that you could pick it up and






        
eat it. Velvet drew the most beautiful apple with only

   
8 crayons.



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 After a while,  things Velvet  said and  did started to  make sense.

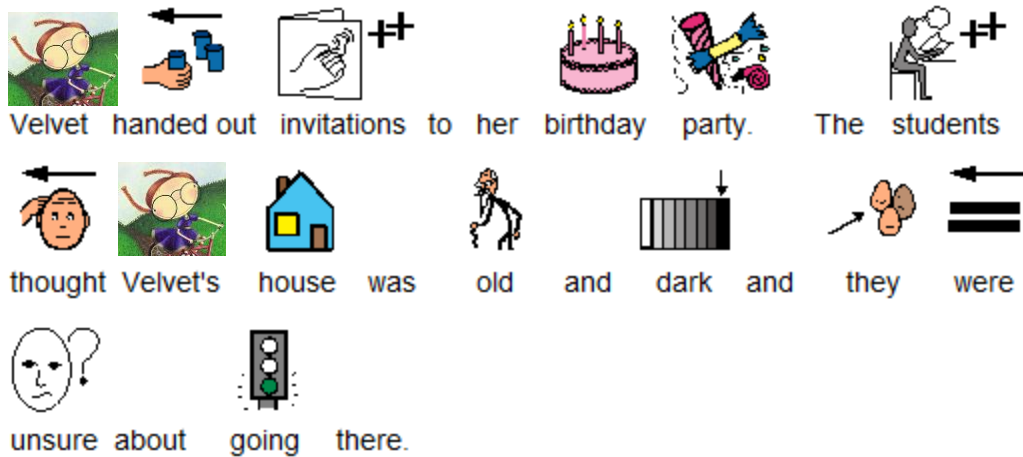
 The teacher let Velvet  tell  the students  about her  rock 

 collection and  show  them  ashes from a  volcano.





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Velvet handed out invitations to her birthday party. The students

thought Velvet's house was old and dark and they were

unsure about going there.



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There were no magicians, wizards, or clowns at the party.

      
But the children did turn Velvet's room into a castle. They














      
painted their faces, put glitter in their hair, and jumped off the

     
bed into a blue blanket moat.





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 Each child got a  gold  crown with  colored jewels, they wore a  royal  cloak,  played cards, and  shot marbles.  Velvet even showed the  children  how to draw  beautiful  apples.

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On the last day of school, Velvet's classmates brought the  
teacher flowers, handmade cards, and a rock collection. Velvet  
was different. But, maybe she wasn't so odd after all.





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