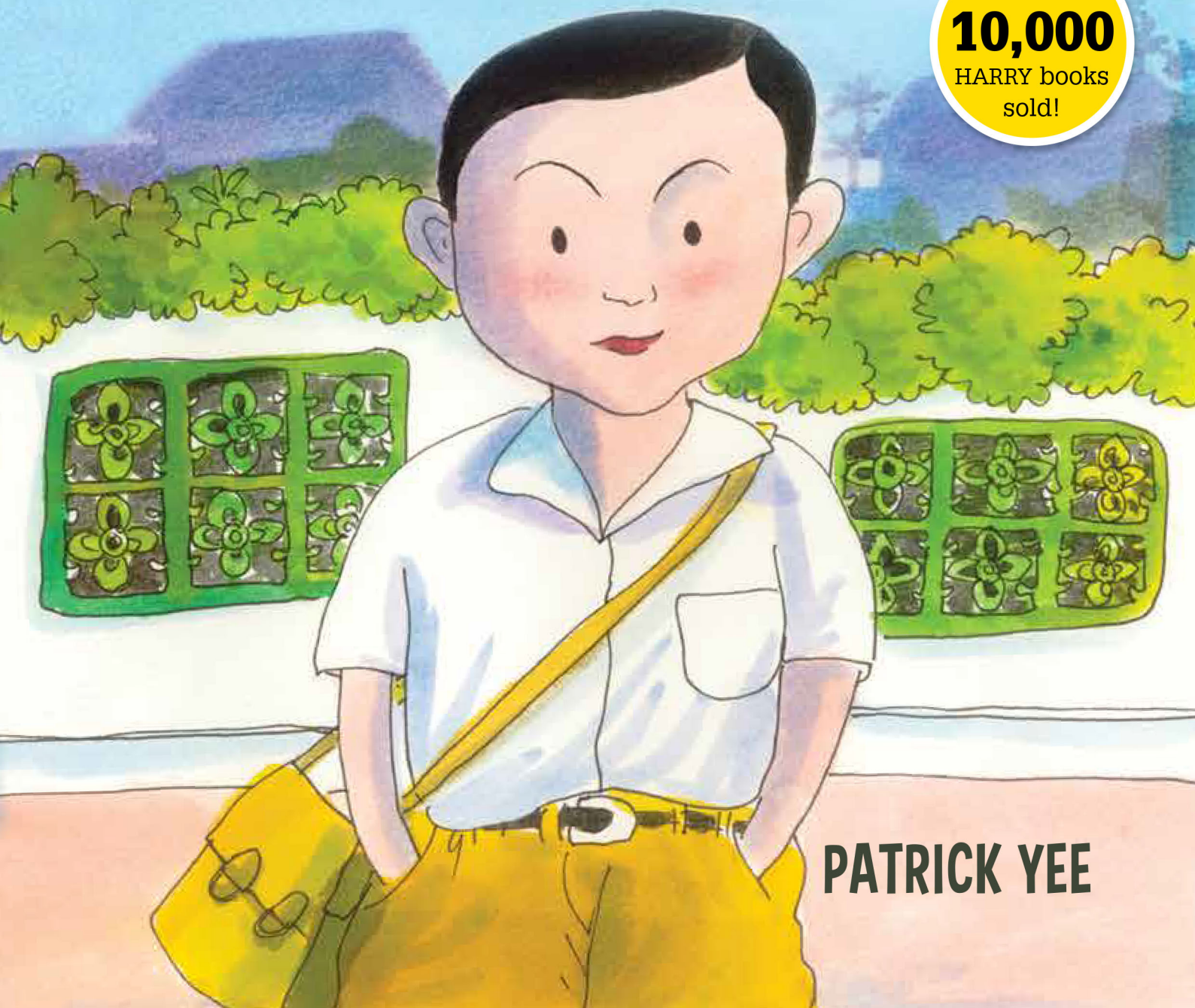


# A Boy Named Harry

The Childhood of Lee Kuan Yew

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# A Boy Named Harry

The Childhood of Lee Kuan Yew



Illustrated by  
**PATRICK YEE**

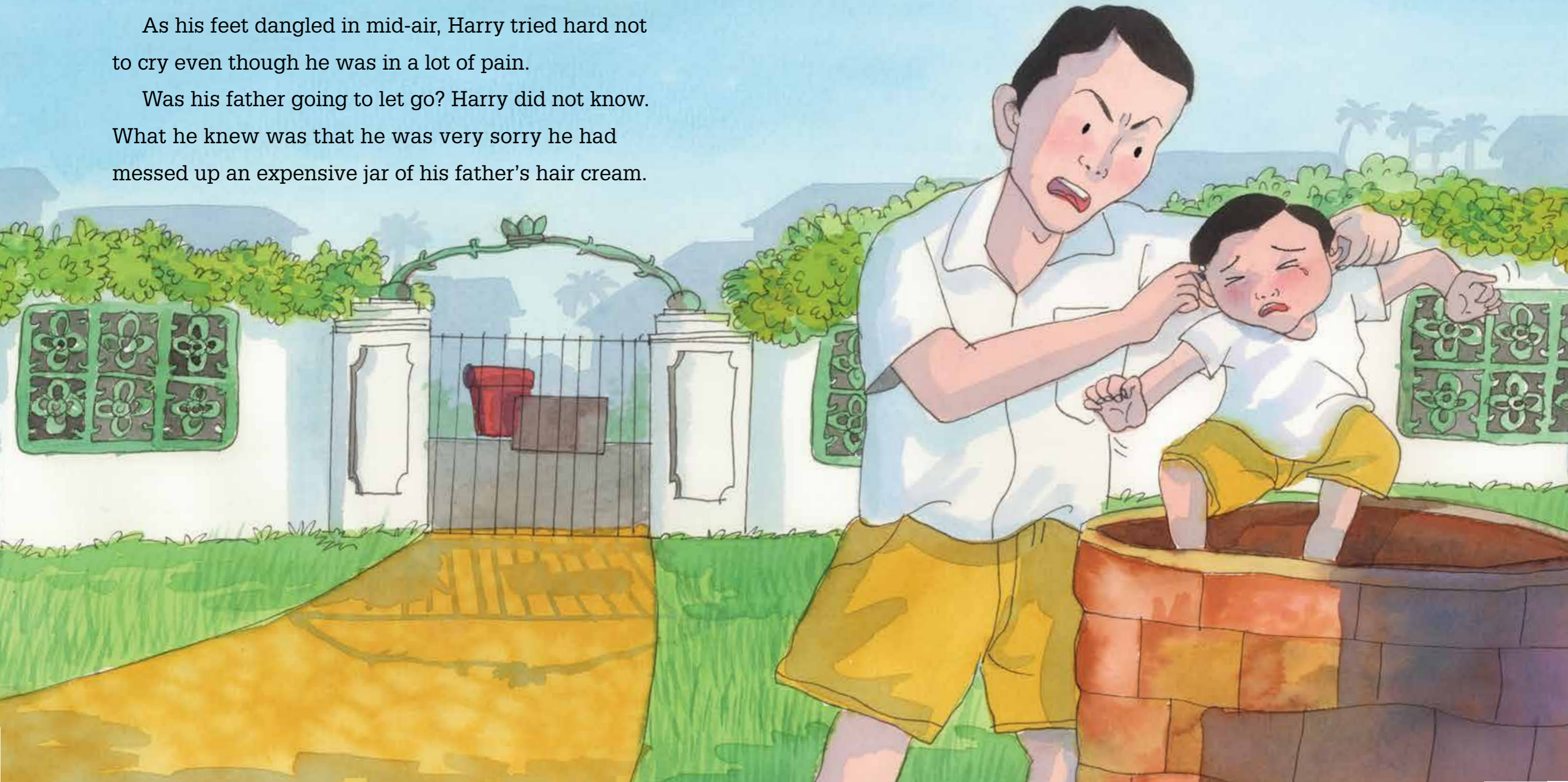


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Harry was a bright boy. And like many bright boys, he had a little mischief in him. This playful streak was the reason why his father was angrily holding him by his ears—over a well!

As his feet dangled in mid-air, Harry tried hard not to cry even though he was in a lot of pain.

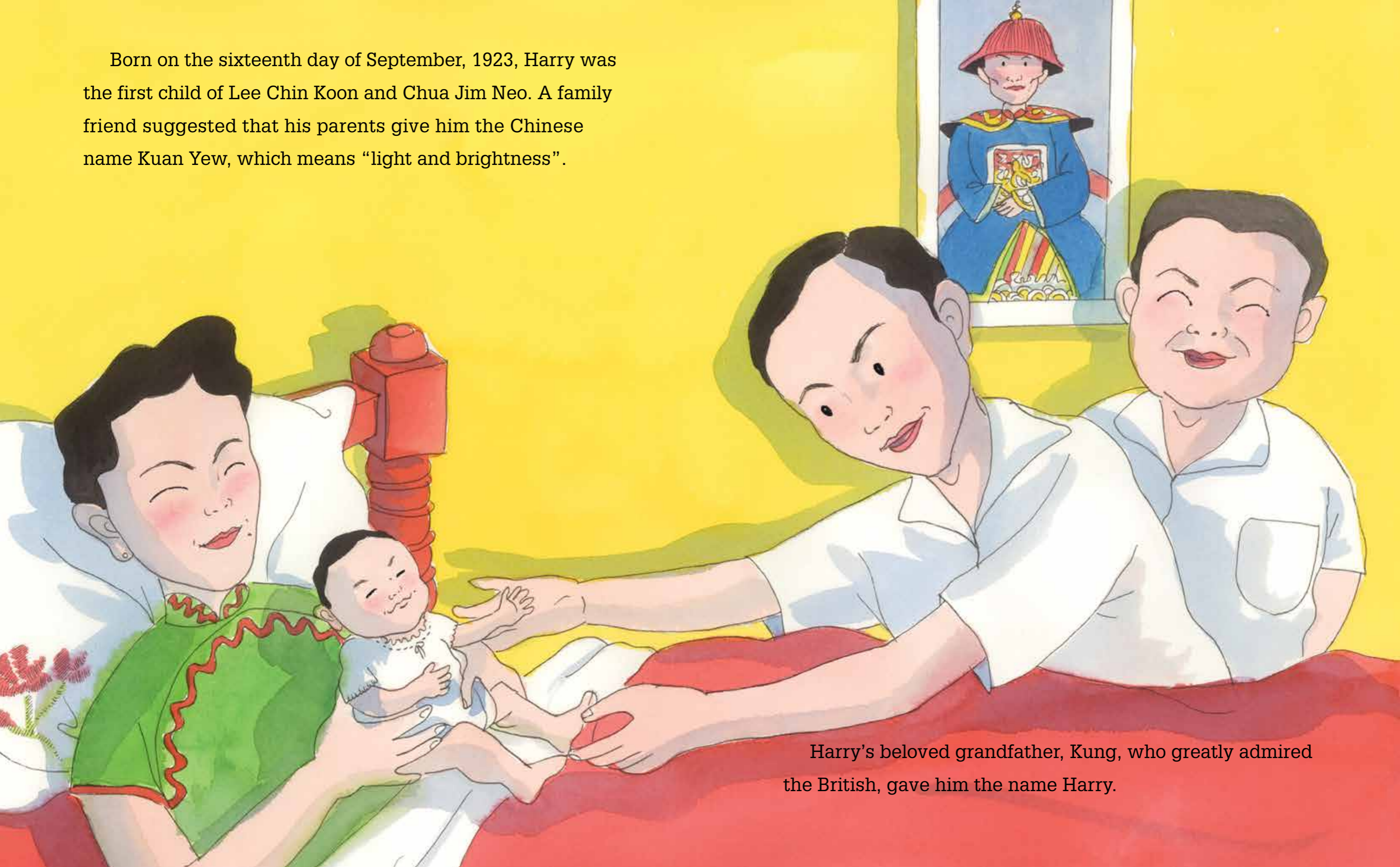
Was his father going to let go? Harry did not know. What he knew was that he was very sorry he had messed up an expensive jar of his father's hair cream.




Luckily for Harry, his father did not drop him into the well. After all, he was just four years old. And there was so much more he had to do, like play with his neighbours, the children of Chinese fishermen and Malays, living in the kampong by his house in Telok Kurau.



Born on the sixteenth day of September, 1923, Harry was the first child of Lee Chin Koon and Chua Jim Neo. A family friend suggested that his parents give him the Chinese name Kuan Yew, which means “light and brightness”.



Harry's beloved grandfather, Kung, who greatly admired the British, gave him the name Harry.

An illustration of a family of five standing in front of a large, two-story house with a red tiled roof and white walls. The house has several arched windows and doors. In the foreground, a man in a white sailor-style shirt with a blue collar stands with his arms crossed. To his left, a young boy in a similar sailor shirt smiles. To his right, a young girl in a yellow dress with a white collar and a yellow hair clip stands. In the center, a baby in a red outfit and red hat sits in a wicker chair, smiling. The background shows a blue sky and some greenery.

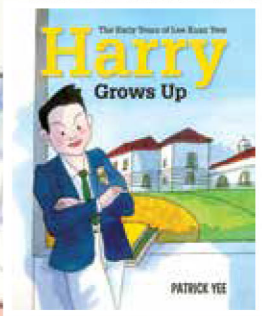
Harry first lived in a two-storey house at 92 Kampong Java Road. Not long after, his family moved to the large wood-and-brick house in Telok Kurau.

When Harry was three, he became a big brother to Kim Yew. Later, the family grew to include two more brothers—Thiam Yew and Suan Yew—and a sister, Kim Mon. All five of them slept with their parents in one room of the house. There was never a dull moment as seven of his cousins lived in the house too!

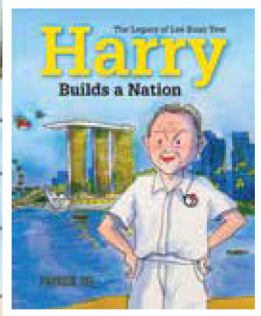
Singapore's first prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, was called Harry when he was young. In school, he was at times playful and mischievous, but he also had a fighting spirit and a determination to do well. *A Boy Named Harry* introduces children to Harry's boyhood from birth to college.



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