

A Hero Too



Written by Lara Villani & Cristina Rosato
Illustrated by Leanne Thiessen

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A Hero Too was written from the heart and is offered as a free eBook. In partnership with *Save the Children*, we welcome you to donate to their global COVID-19 appeal which will help children and families who have been hardest hit by the crisis **www.savethechildren.ca**



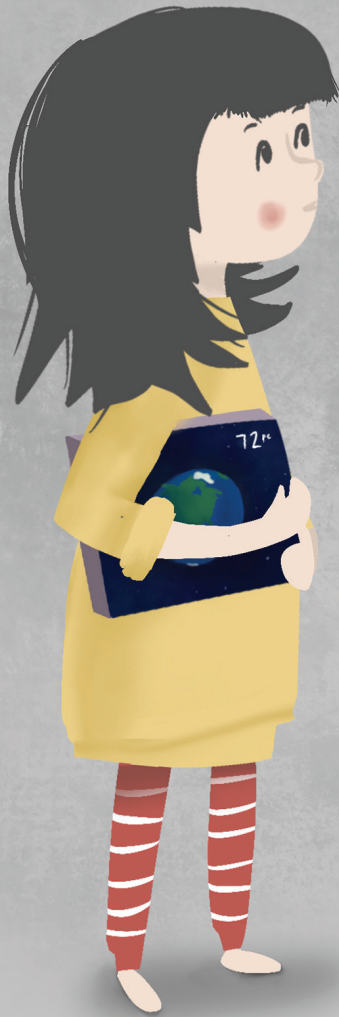
Save the Children

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all on a global scale. We have never been so distant from each other and yet united at the very core of humanity. We want to be safe and in order to protect ourselves we must protect each other. They may not know it now, but one day we will tell our children the story of how they stayed home and helped save the world. We hope, *A Hero Too*, offers some comfort to your ‘little heroes’ in this time of uncertainty.



Lara & Cristina

Pandema, pandemmy? What is that word?
The adults keep talking about it, I heard.



I'm home with my Mama, Papa and Nana,
I think it's been days, maybe weeks, it's bananas!



Things have changed in my neighbourhood,
Parks are quiet but I'd play if I could,
Will school be the same? Oh, I wish that it would.

Teacher says to, “ask questions when you’re not sure,”
So, I whispered to Mama while we played on the floor,
“When will things go back as they were?”



“My sweet Luna,” Mama said with a smile,
‘I know things are different, it may last for a while.’



“The world has a bug that your eyes cannot see,
We’re all trying to fight it, it’s our responsibility.”



“I wish I could play dress-up with Zoey and Freddy,
I miss Ben, our class Bunny, I miss auntie’s spaghetti.”



“I’m bored when you work, and sometimes I feel alone,
I don’t understand why we have to stay home.”



“Yes, sometimes ‘big feelings’ aren’t always easy,
I promise I’m here for you, even when I seem busy.”

“We stay home not to spread germs to one another,
That makes us all Superheroes - we’re protecting each other!”



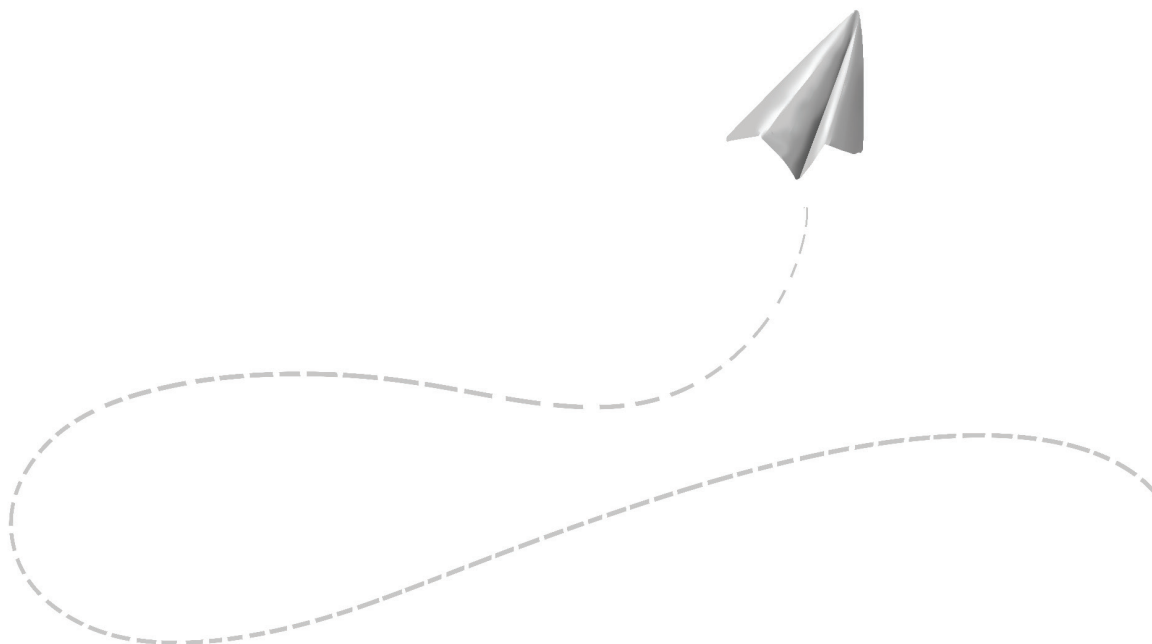


“I’m a hero too? I guess I’ll need a cape!
But what if I catch it, will I be okay?”



“The adults have a plan to protect you, my dear,
We’ll be safe and together we can face your fears.”

“We wash our hands well and we keep our distance, that’s true,
But we can still have fun and adventures with you!
Let’s use our imaginations and think of what we can do . . .”



“Well, I can’t go to soccer practice anymore,
Maybe you be the goalie and dad can keep score!”



“I guess I won’t have a birthday party this year,
How can we make friends and family feel near?”

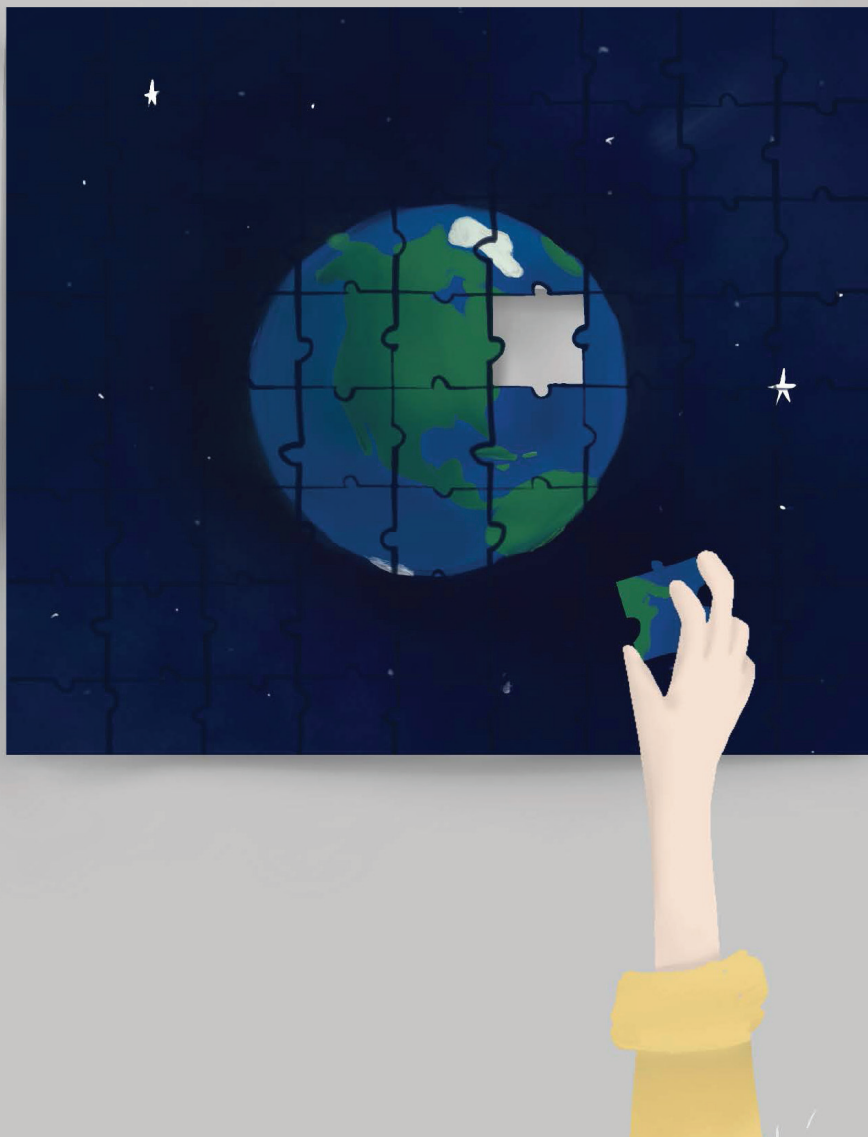


“We can bake a cake together and I’ll cook your favourite dish,
We’ll video call your friends as you make a birthday wish!”

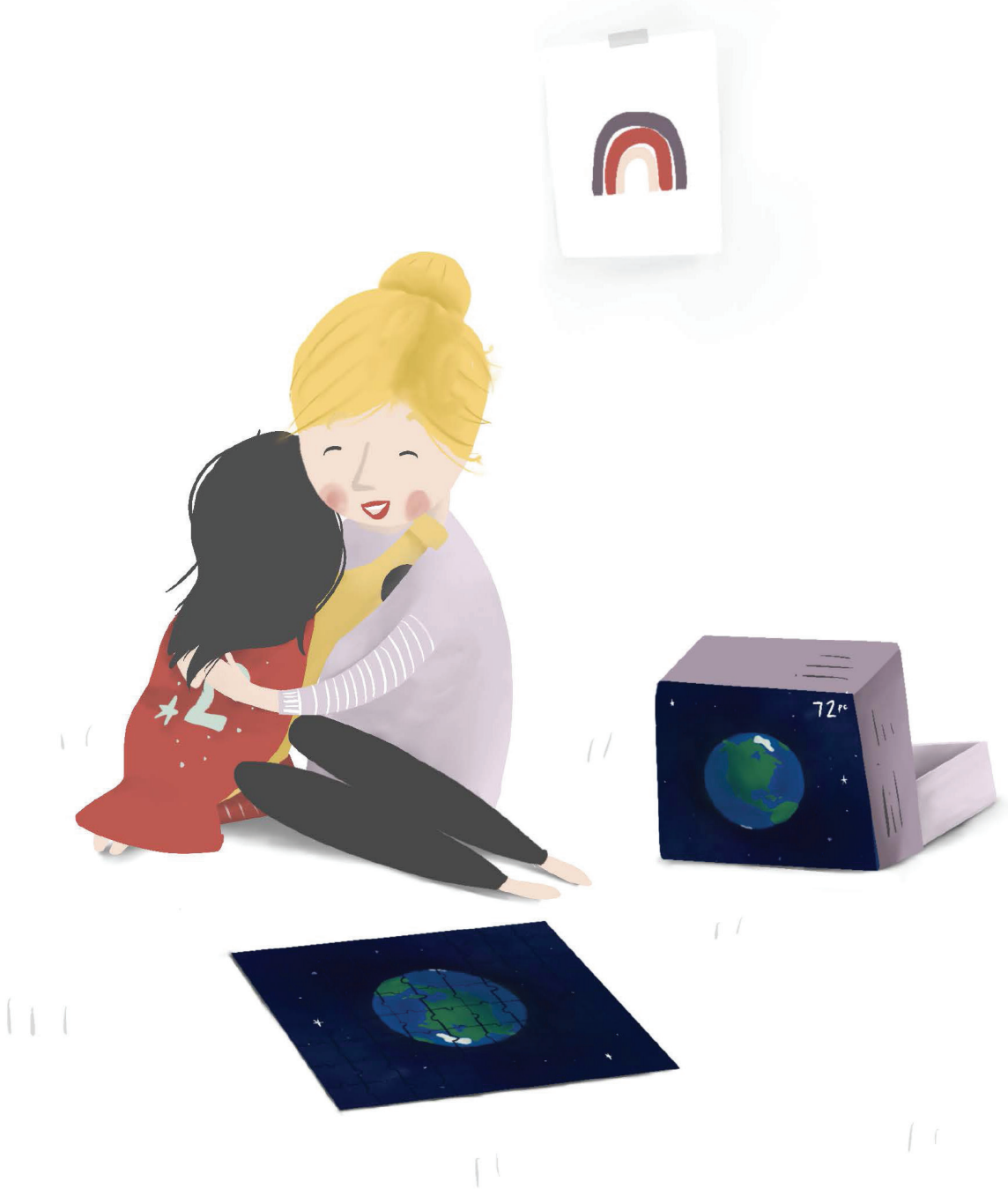


I think I know now, what I felt from the start,
These questions in my mind and feelings in my heart,
I turned to Mama with one last thing to say . . .

“I’m glad we talked, Mama, and I learned today,
Sometimes I feel sad, but I think we’ll be okay.”



“It’s okay to feel sad but I want you to remember,
This pandemic, this bug, it won’t last forever.”



“Yes, things have changed, and some things are new,
One thing is for certain—and that’s my love for YOU.”



The End

Lara Villani

Writer

Lara Villani is a writer, artist and co-creator of *A Hero Too*. She owns L&V Sweets, where she designs custom cookies made with love in Montreal. Writing has been a constant passion in her life; with a warm connection to children's books cherished from childhood and now read with her daughter. A creator at heart, Lara hopes to share her experiences, connect and bring joy to people through her writings.

Cristina Rosato

Writer

Cristina is an actress, writer and co-creator of *A Hero Too*. Her passion for telling stories roots back to when she was just a child, often performing songs and plays for her family and friends. Cristina has spent the last 20 years acting in film and television, using her imagination as well as pulling from real life experiences to bring characters to life. A true storyteller at heart, Cristina aims to help children understand the world around them while keeping their fantastical imaginations alive through reading.

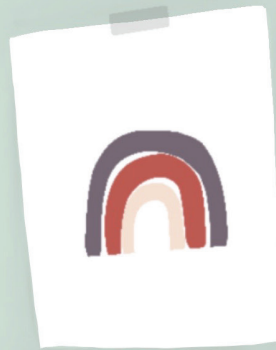
Leanne Thiessen

Illustrator

Leanne Thiessen is an illustrator and owner of Paper Canoe, an art and stationery company. Her artwork draws inspiration from living in rural Manitoba, and from a childhood filled with camping, canoeing, loving and respecting the outdoors. A mother of four children, her whimsical illustrations are often created with Littles running around or drawing right beside her.

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www.aherotoo.com



A story for all the little heroes around the world making a difference in the global pandemic by staying home.