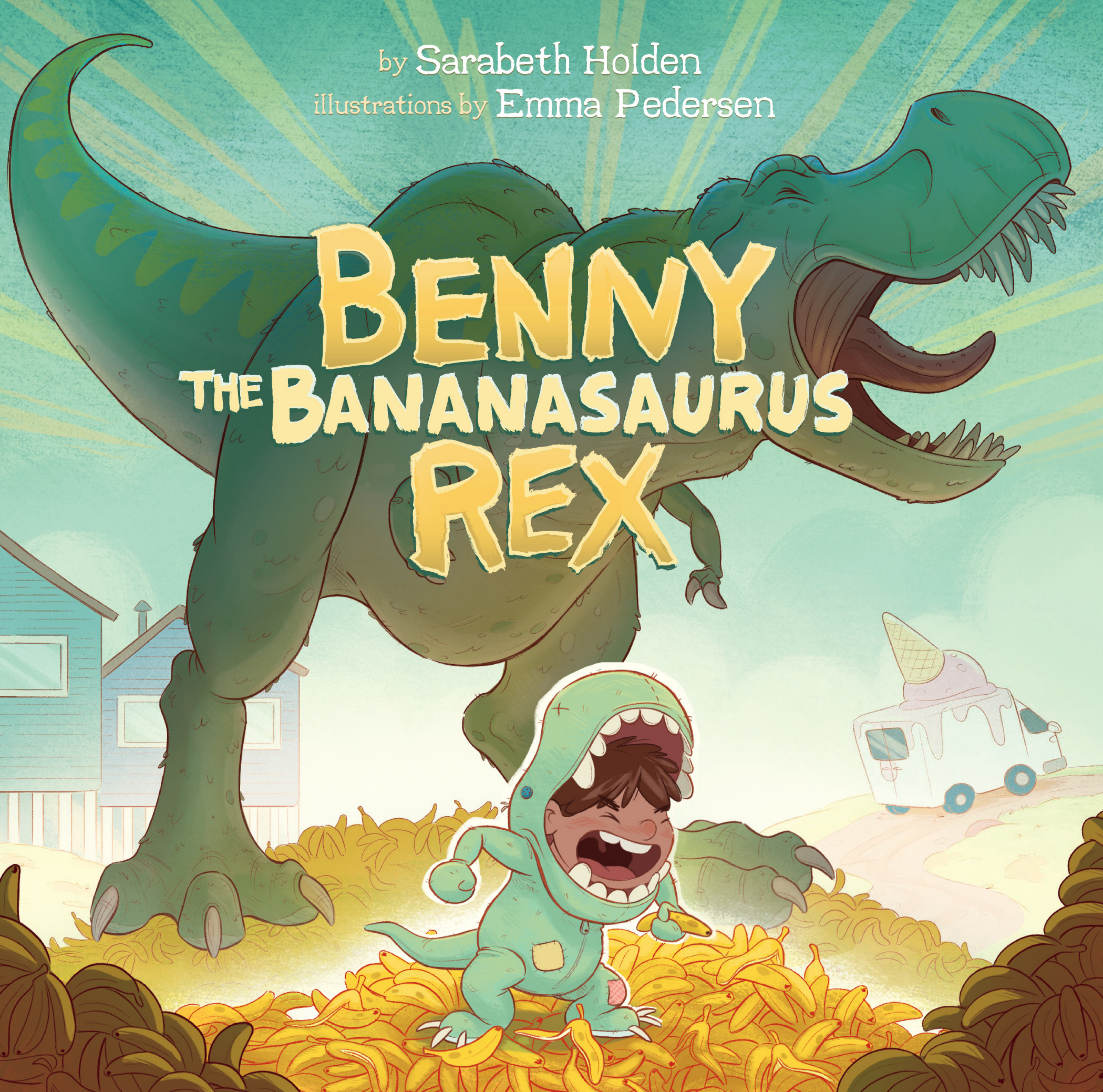


by Sarabeth Holden
illustrations by Emma Pedersen

BENNY THE BANANASAURUS REX



Dear Reader,

Thank you for picking up this book, which tells a story about some of our favourite things: bananas and dinosaurs! I hope you enjoy it as much as my family does.

You'll notice that Benny calls his mom "Anaana," and you might think it's because it rhymes with banana. Anaana is the Inuktitut word for mom, and it's the name that we use in our house because it is part of our Inuit heritage. Grandmother is "Anaanatsiaq." Benny shortens the word to call his grandmother "Siaq" as his term of endearment for her. I decided to use this wee bit of Inuktitut in this English book because I know we're not the only home who uses different terms for family members, even though English may be the primary language spoken in our home.

So, no matter where you come from, love who you're with and love what you do because from love comes good things.

Sincerely,

Sarabeth Metu Alivaktuk Holden

Inuktitut Word	Pronunciation
Anaana	ah-NAH-nah
Anaanatsiaq	ah-NAH-naht-see-ahk

The pronunciation guides above are intended to help non-Inuktitut speakers pronounce these Inuktitut words. For more Inuktitut-language supports, visit inhabitmedia.com/inuitnipingit.

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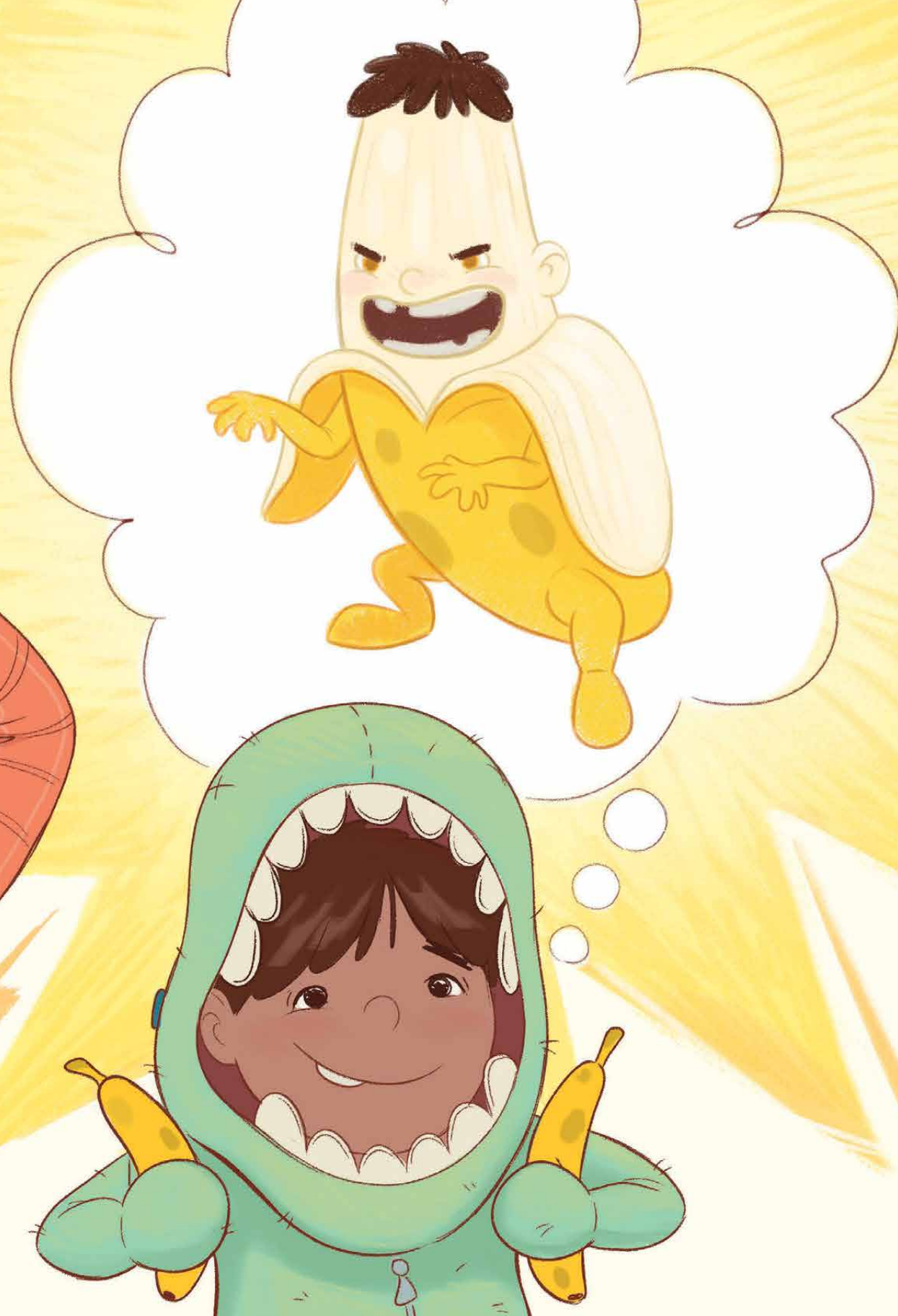
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INHABIT MEDIA INC.

Benny was a Tyrannosaurus rex who
LOOOOVED bananas.

He loved the smell. He loved the colour. He
especially loved that sweet flavour.





Benny's *anaana* said, "Benny, if you eat too many bananas, you're going to turn into a banana!"

Benny said, "That's ok, Anaana, because I LOOOOVE bananas!"

Every morning for breakfast, Benny would eat a **GIANT** stack of banana pancakes.



Afterwards, he would go outside, ride his yellow bicycle with its yellow banana seat, play tennis with yellow tennis balls, and play make-believe with his friends.





Then he'd come inside for lunch and eat a peanut butter, banana, and bacon sandwich.

Sometimes Benny's little brother, Roary, would try to take a bite. Benny would gently snap his baby t-rex teeth at his brother to stop him.

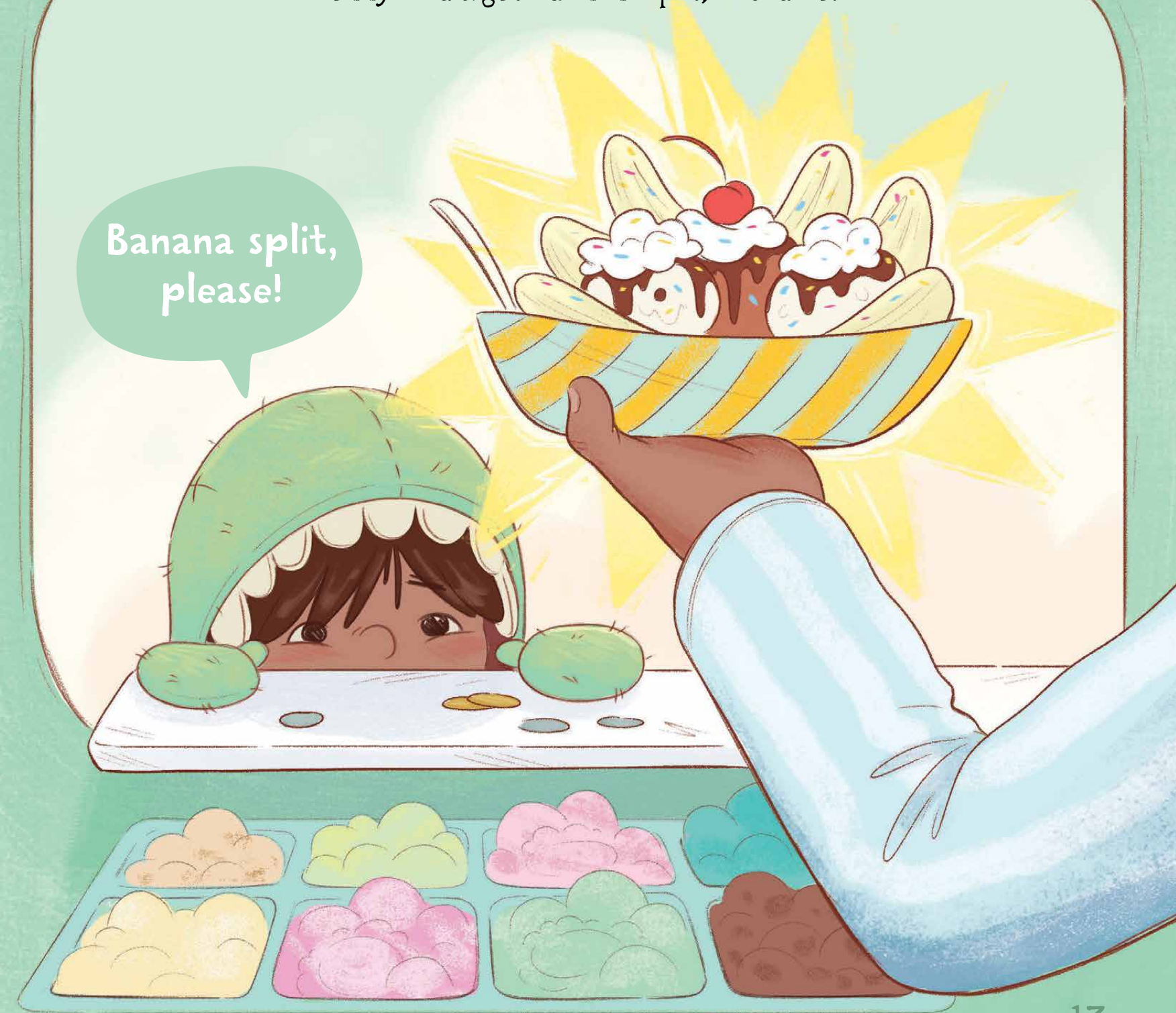
"Benny, you know your teeth are only for food, not your brother!" Benny's anaana reminded him.

After lunch, Benny would play ball with his friends. Sometimes they'd go for ice cream!



Benny would get a banana split, of course.

Banana split,
please!



When Benny got home, he would spend time with his *Anaanatsiaq*. One day he asked her, “Siaq, what is the Inuktitut word for banana?”

“Well Benny, we don’t have a word for banana because bananas don’t grow in the Arctic.”

“Oh,” Benny pondered, “like how in English we use the Spanish word salsa, since there wasn’t a word for it before?”

“Exactly,” *Anaanatsiaq* confirmed.



For supper, Benny always asked for tacos—hold the tomatoes! Benny liked his tacos with fried bananas and hot banana peppers for that sweet and spicy combo.




At nighttime, Benny would climb into bed, where he and Roary would read a story before falling asleep to dream sweet banana dreams until the sun came up.





Benny loved his daily bananas for days and weeks and months.

He would often think about what it would be like to live a *full* banana life.



Then one morning, Benny woke up and slipped on his tail as he got out of bed.

Confused, he looked down and noticed his tail had turned yellow. With wide eyes he looked into the mirror and looking back at him was a . . . **BANANASAURUS REX!**

“Finally, I turned into a banana, just like Anaana said I would!” Benny beamed.



Benny was so excited that he danced in circles, enjoying the fruits of his efforts all day long.



“Dance, dance the banana dance! Dance, dance the banana dance!” he cheered, as he danced out the door, swaying his big yellow banana peel of a tail behind him.



Sarabeth Holden lives in Toronto with her husband, Sean, and their sons, Raymond and Jackson. The whole family loves to spend time outside and go on adventures. When they're not outside, Sarabeth enjoys singing made-up songs to make things like diaper changes and face wiping a little more bearable so they can get back to the things they love: blowing raspberries, having kitchen dance parties, and reading stories. Sarabeth grew up in Nova Scotia, Nunavut, New Brunswick, and Ontario, and is co-founder of the Toronto Inuit Association, supporting the local Inuit community as it grows.

Emma Pedersen is an illustrator from Toronto working in the publishing and animation industries. She graduated from OCADU with a major in drawing and painting. She is also a graduate of Sheridan's Illustration program. When not working (which is rare!) she enjoys visiting used book stores, planning her next trip abroad, and snuggling her dog when he'll actually sit still.

