

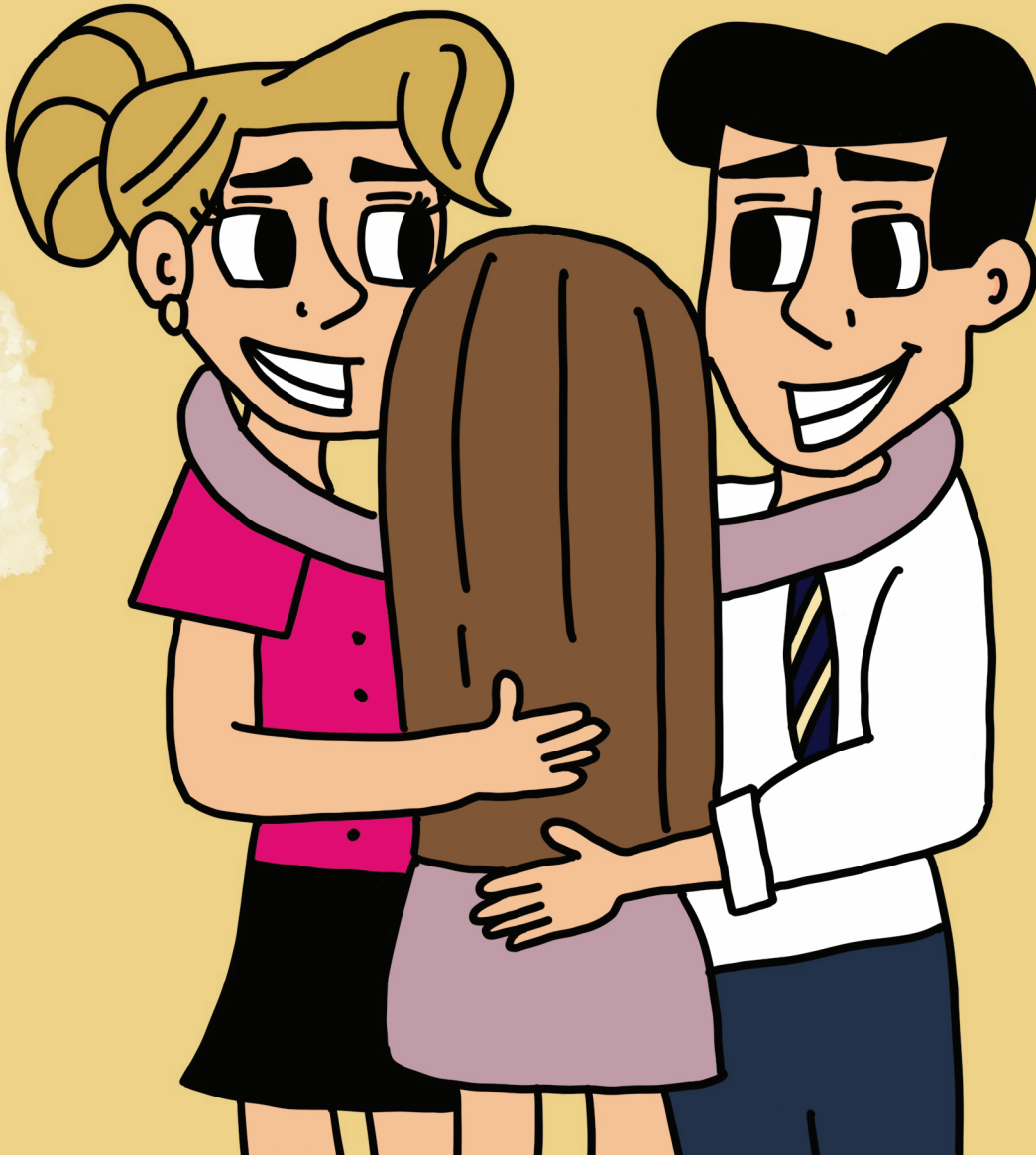
Illustrated by Daniela Morales

Written by Madelyn Wood

Serie Leamos

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Dear reader,

The book you are about to read was written by Spanish undergraduate students of the World Languages & Cultures department and illustrated by undergraduate students of the School of Art and Design, both from Georgia State University. This story is an English translation of the Spanish original.

This project has been made with my Spanish classes and the final product is a result of collaboration by the authors -students who wrote the original stories based on personal experiences-, and by the illustrators -Art students who gave life to the stories with a fresh and unique touch-. Neill Prewitt supervised the illustration process and I supervised the writing process.

I hope you will find the stories in Serie Leamos, appealing, interesting, and enjoyable. Above all, I hope that these stories will help you love reading and reading in Spanish.

¡Espero que lo disfruten!

Victoria Rodrigo

The Reunion

English version of the Spanish original

Written by Madelyn Wood

Illustrated by Daniela Morales Madueno

Serie Leamos

Art Faculty: Neill Prewitt

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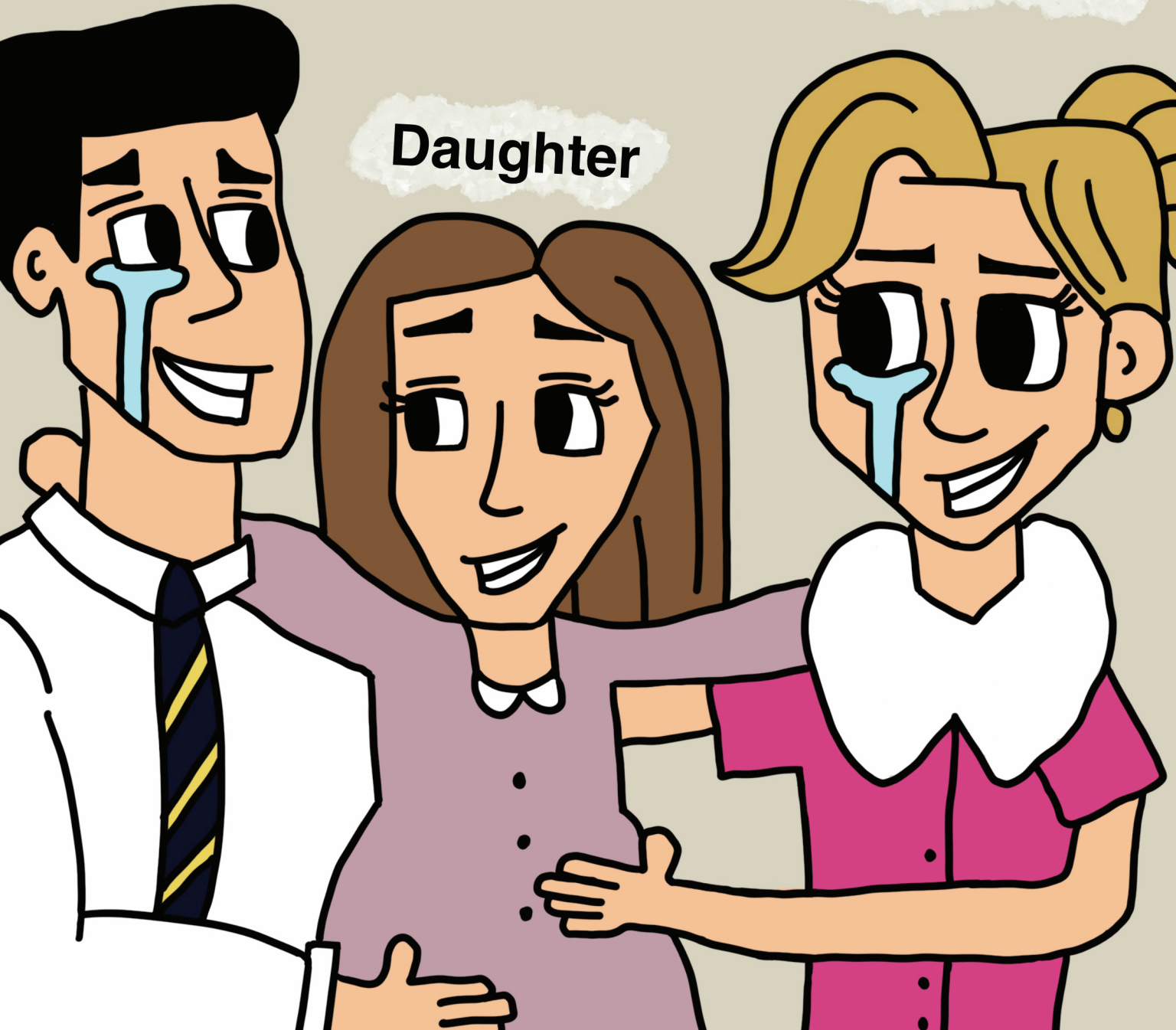
Serie's Editor: Victoria Rodrigo

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Mr. Perez

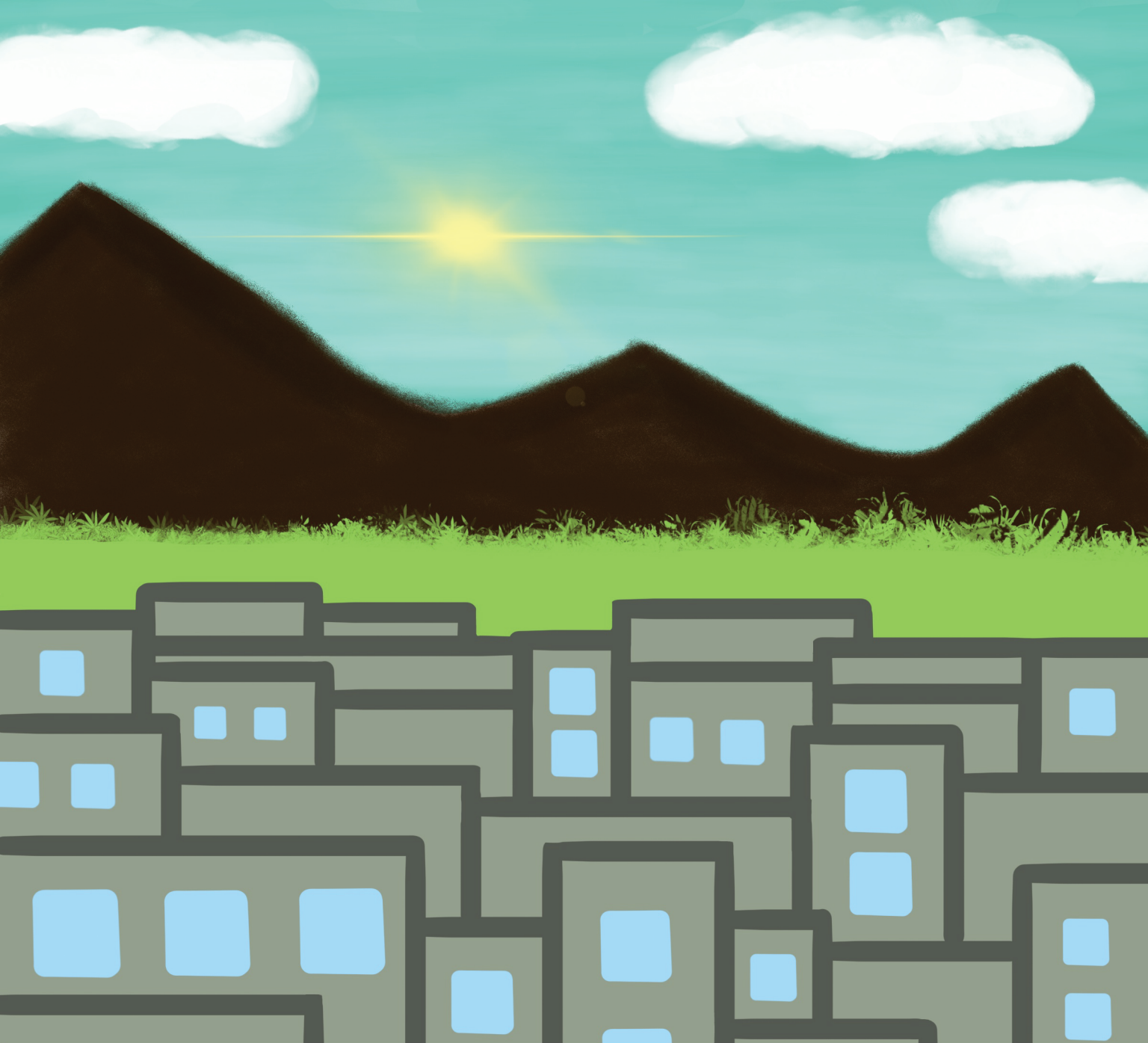
Ms. Perez

Daughter

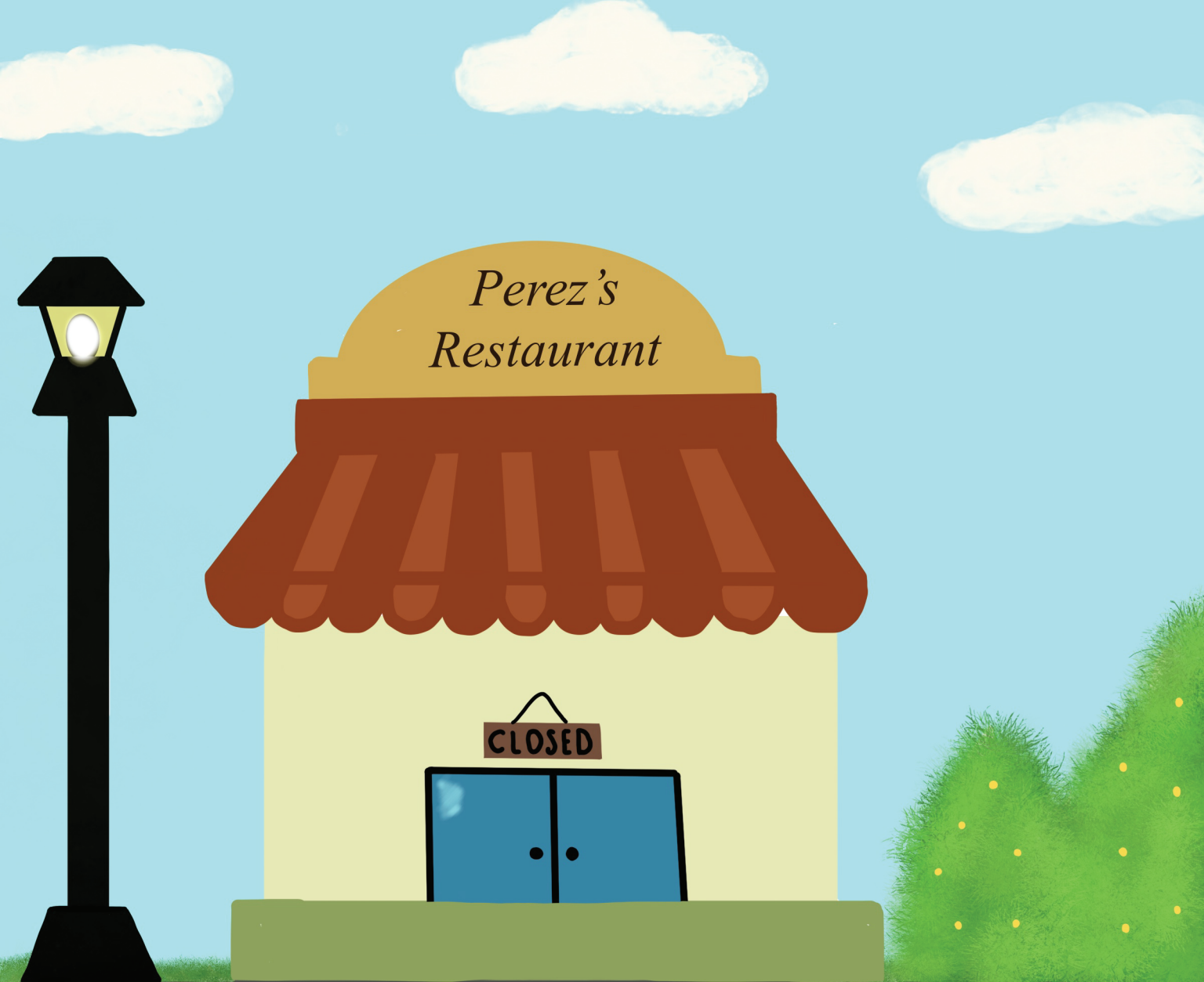


Vocabulary

- **Ahorrar:** to save money
- **Empeorar:** to worsen
- **El pasaje:** passage
- **En lugar de:** instead of
- **Exitoso:** succesful
- **La cárcel:** jail
- **La lágrima:** tear
- **La plata:** money
- **La tarifa:** rate
- **Sobrellevar:** to endure



The Perez family lived happily and peacefully together in their home in Caracas, Venezuela.



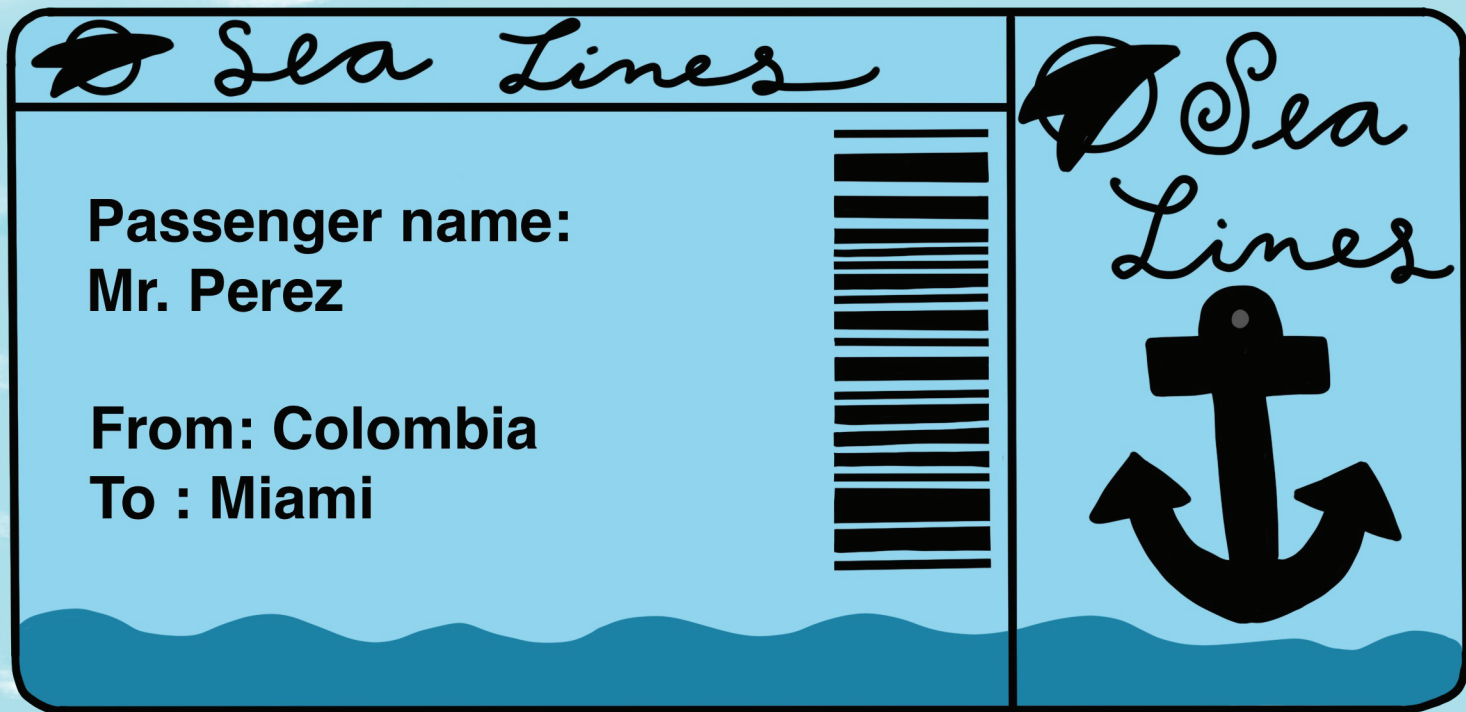
The owned a succesful, popular restaurant in town. Sadly, the economy collapsed, and they lost everything in the recession - their business, their money, and their home.

“We have to get out of here,” the father announced solemnly to his wife and daughter, Lucy.



He dreamed of reopening his restaurant in the United States, but unfortunately, his attempts to get a travel visa were denied by the U.S. government.





As the situation in Venezuela worsened every day, the father decided to do something very risky, but necessary, to protect his family from the crime and poverty ravaging their country.

With the last of his savings, the father crossed the Colombian border and bought a ticket to Miami.

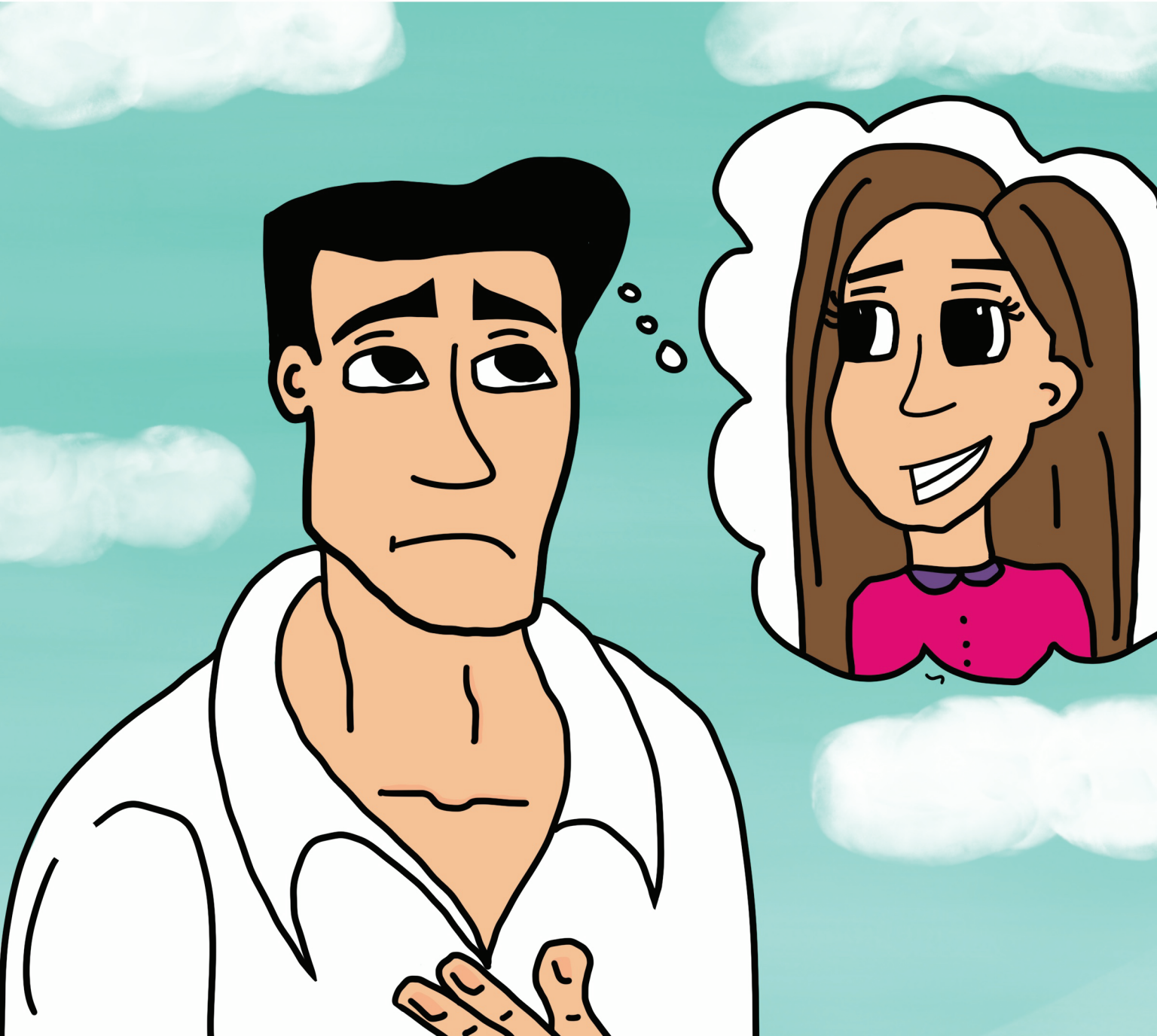


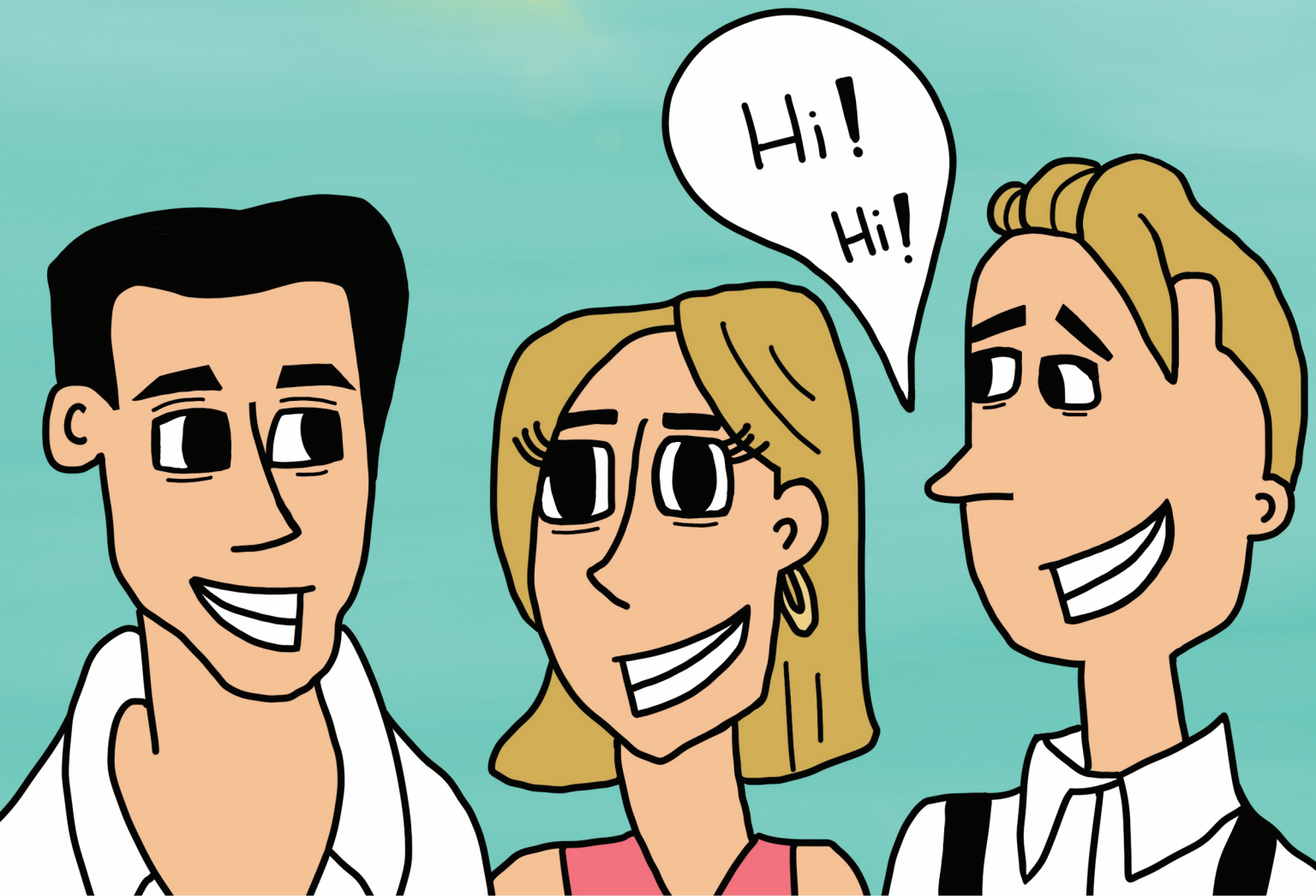
After the boat set sail, the captain told Mr. Perez that the rate had increased, and now he had to pay \$5000 more.

“That’s insane!” he yelled. “I’m not giving you another cent.”

The captain leaned over and whispered, “If you don’t pay, I’ll report you to the immigration authorities right now. They’ll detain you.”

Mr. Perez thought about his daughter's sweet face and promised, "even though I don't have any money left, I'll pay you everything I owe."



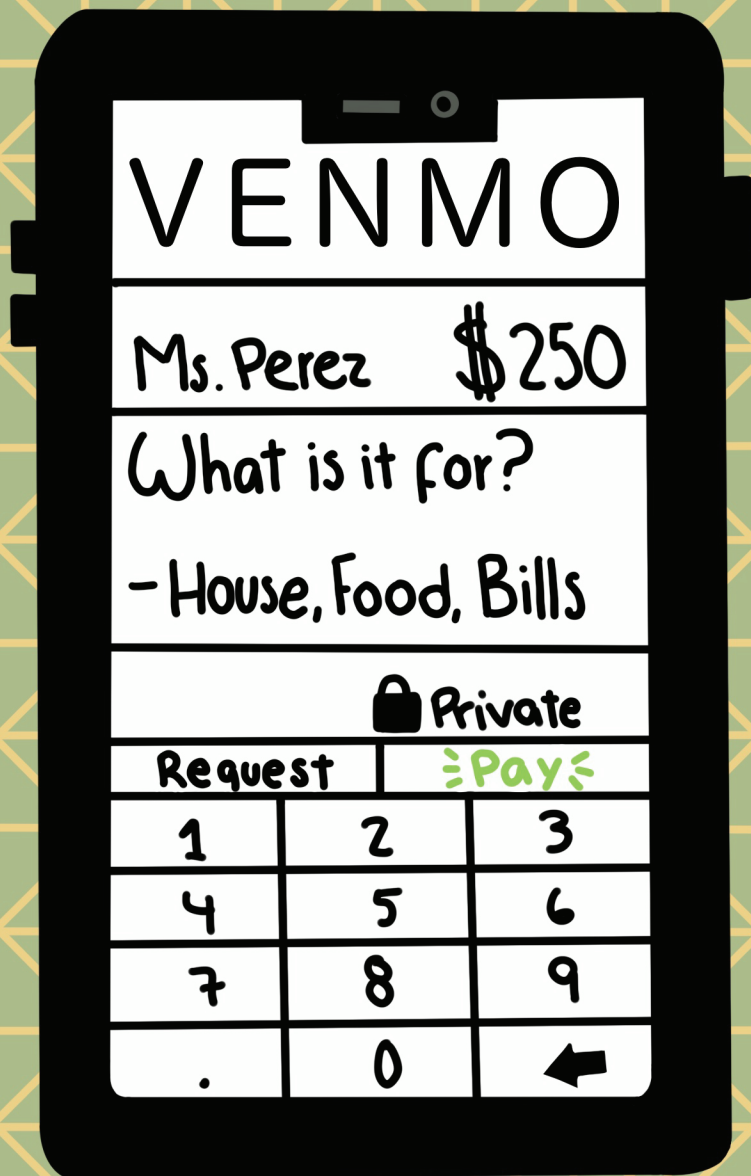


The trip wore him out, but the father's love for his family and hopes of starting over sustained him.

In Miami, he met other immigrants who connected him with an employer near Atlanta, Georgia.



Instead of being the owner of his own restaurant, the father spent his days washing dishes in the back of someone else's.

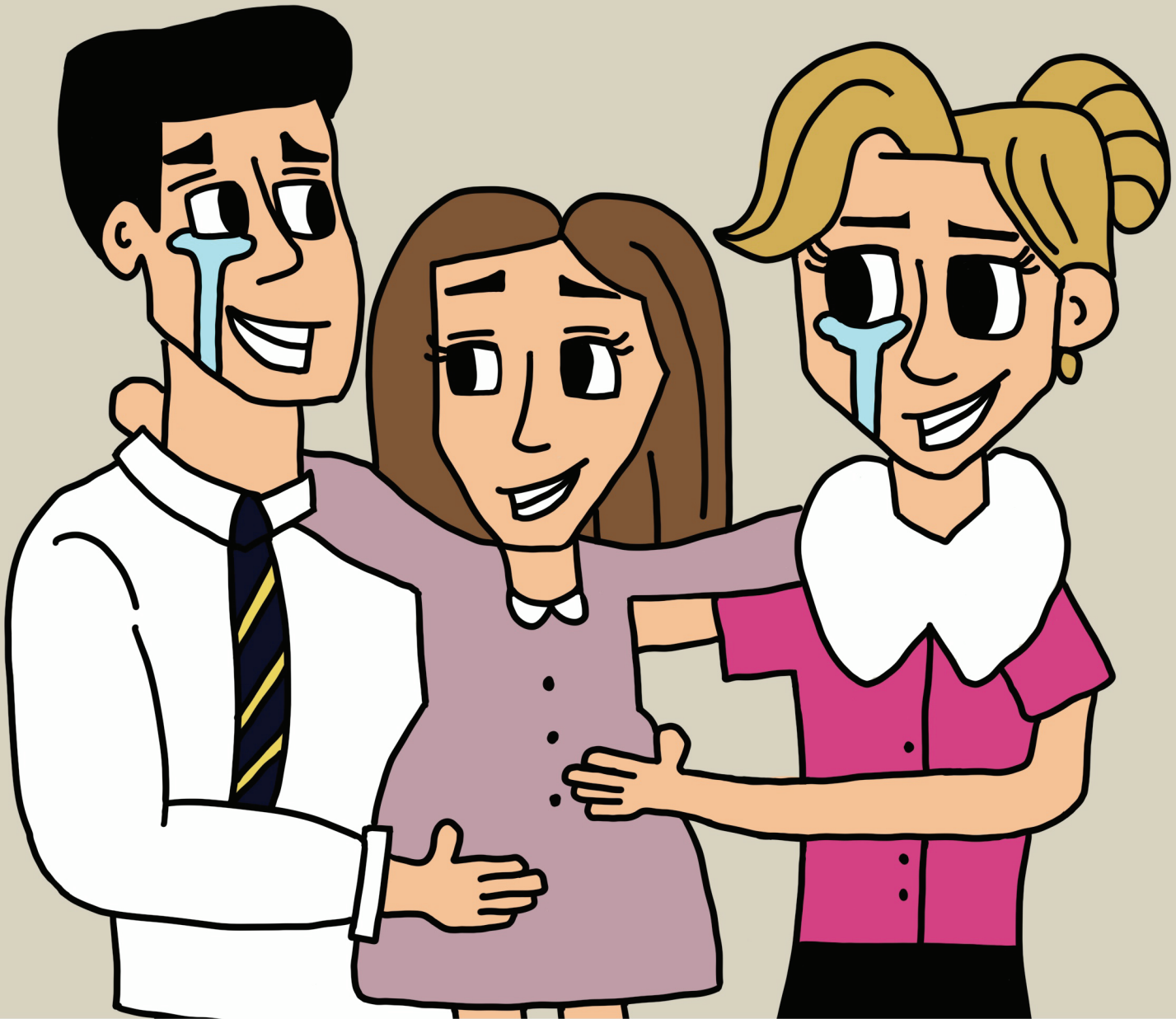


He thought often of being reunited with his family and sent money to help them survive in Venezuela.

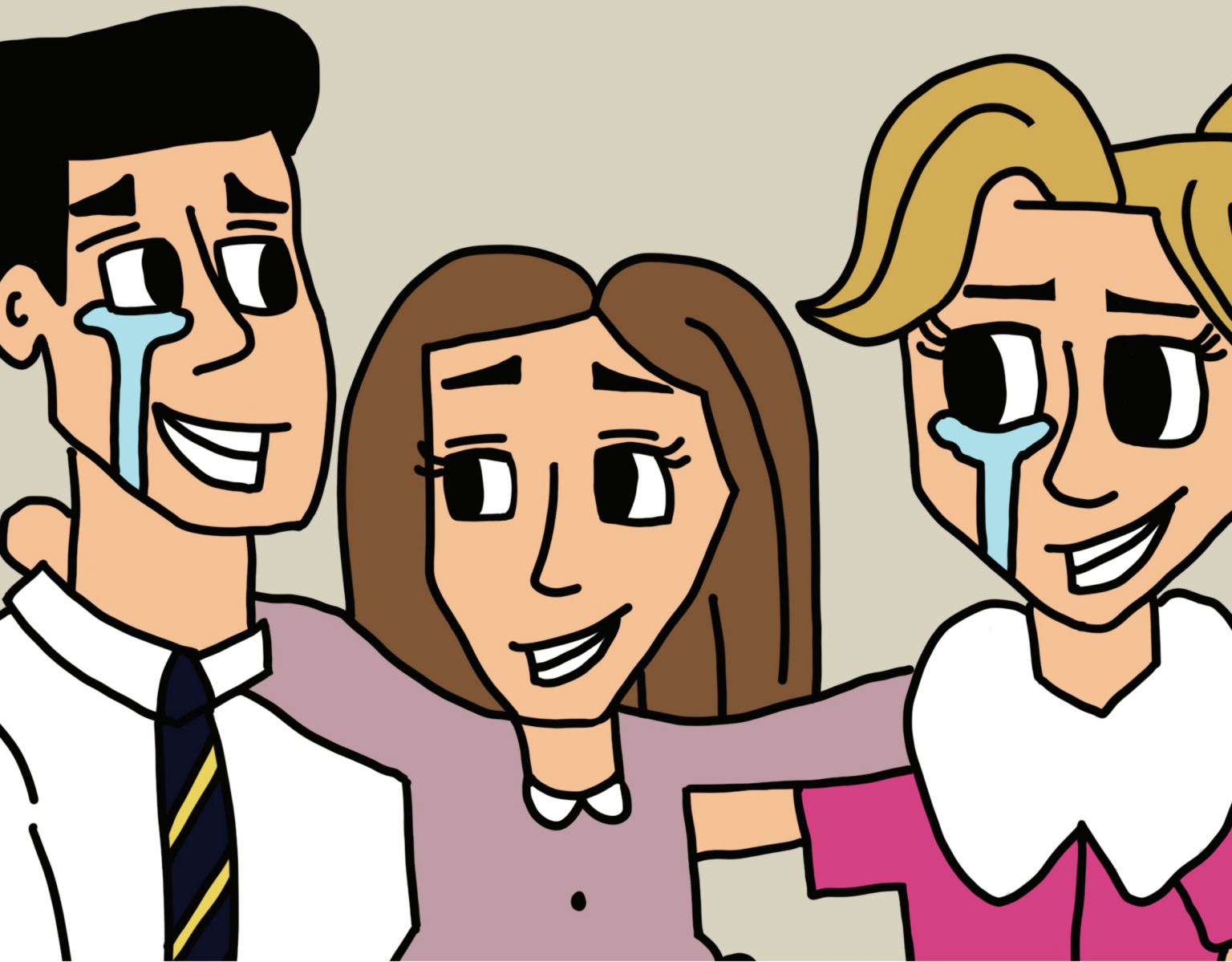


Six years passed.

Finally, the father had paid off his debts, gotten residency status, and saved enough money to get an apartment - everything he needed to do before bringing his wife and daughter to the United States.



When the time came, he sprinted across the airport and hugged them, crying and smiling at the same time.



He promised them, "I'll never let you go again."

