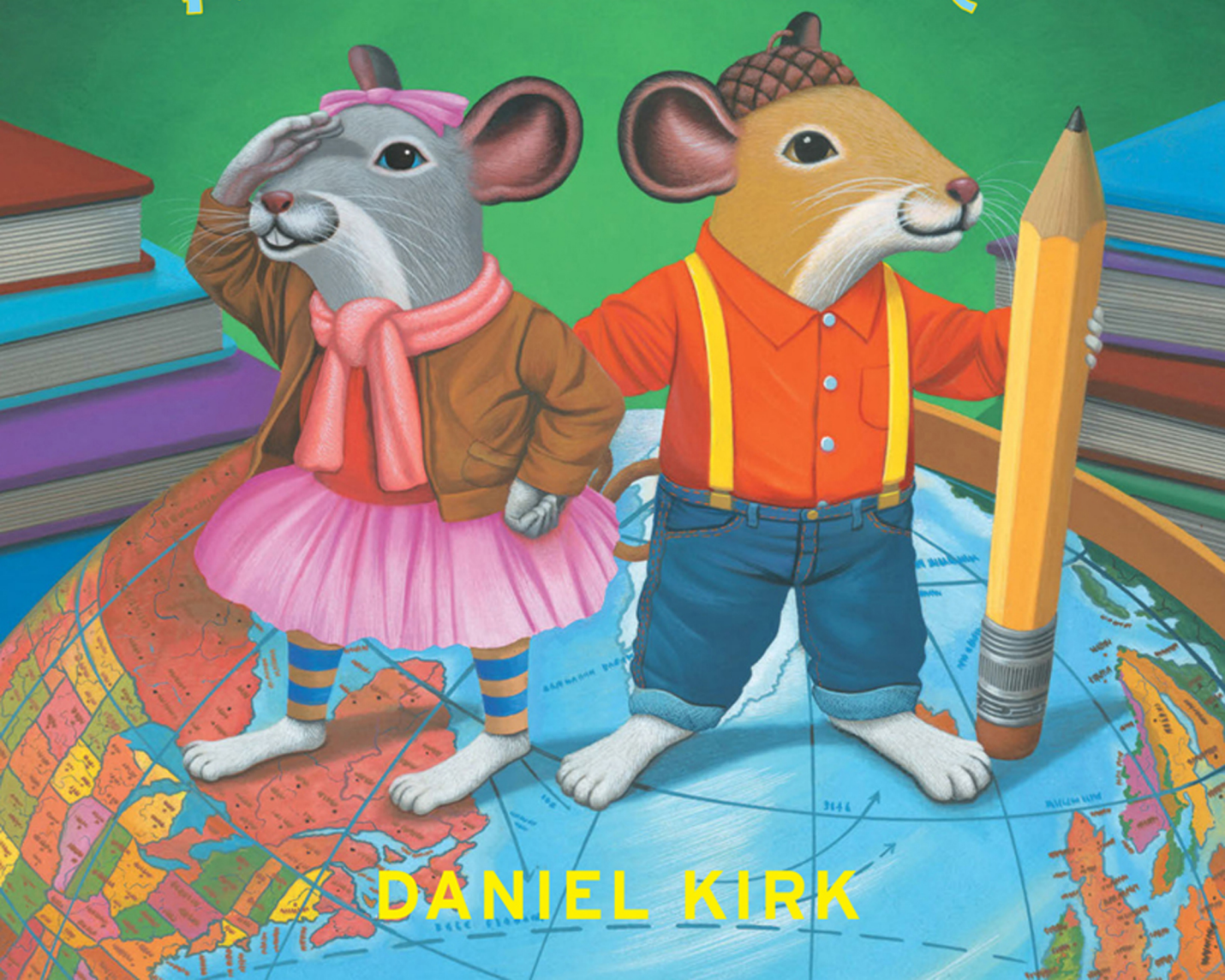


LIBRARY MOUSE

A World to Explore



DANIEL KIRK

For Ivy
—D. K.

The illustrations in this book were made with Winsor and Newton
gouache on Arches watercolor paper.

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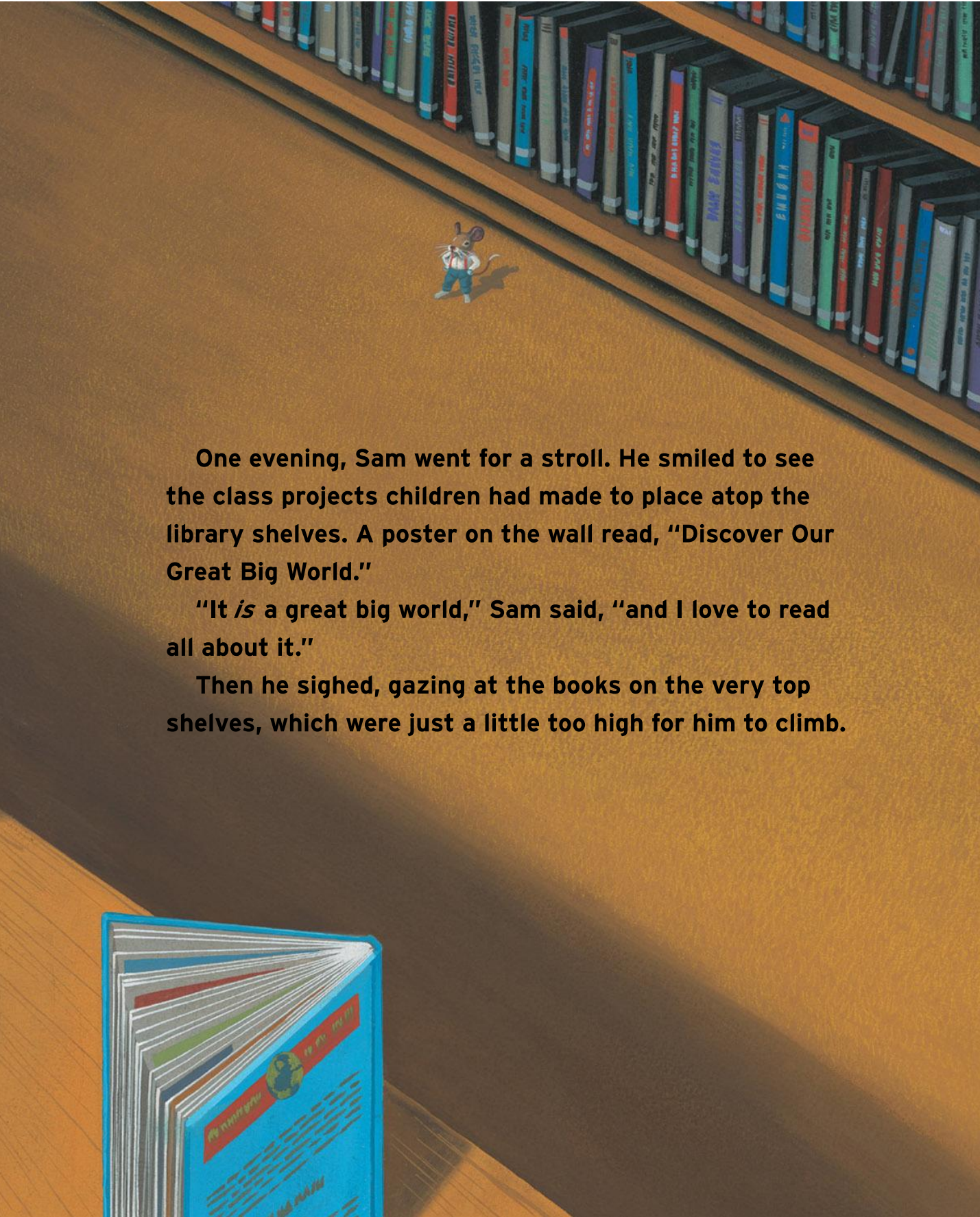
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SAM WAS A LIBRARY MOUSE. He lived in a little hole in the wall behind the children's reference books. Every night, he went looking for adventure between the covers of books.



A small, anthropomorphic mouse character with large ears, wearing a white shirt, a red tie, and blue overalls, stands on a wooden floor. Behind him is a long wooden bookshelf filled with numerous books of various colors. The scene is set in a library or classroom.

One evening, Sam went for a stroll. He smiled to see the class projects children had made to place atop the library shelves. A poster on the wall read, "Discover Our Great Big World."

"It *is* a great big world," Sam said, "and I love to read all about it."

Then he sighed, gazing at the books on the very top shelves, which were just a little too high for him to climb.



Suddenly, Sam saw something out of the corner of his eye. *Swoosh!* Another mouse landed gracefully on the floor right in front of him! "Whoa!" she said. "That was some ride. Good thing I had my parachute."



She stuck out her paw and smiled. "Hi, my name's Sarah. What's yours?"

"I-I'm Sam," he answered. "I live here!"

"I live here, too," Sarah said, "on the other side of the library. I was exploring, and that's when I discovered that playground!"

"Playground?" said Sam.







“Up high, on the shelves,” Sarah explained, “you can almost see the whole world! I just went on that giant slide! I didn’t know I was going to fall so far, though.”

“You climbed all the way up there?” Sam asked. He had never dared to go all the way to the top.



“Sure,” Sarah said. “I’m an explorer! All explorers climb.”

Sam shook his head. “Well, that’s not a slide. You just went down the side of a pyramid!”

“A what?”

"A pyramid," Sam said. "Like in ancient Egypt . . . Only, children made this one. There are pictures of real pyramids in these books you knocked off the shelf."

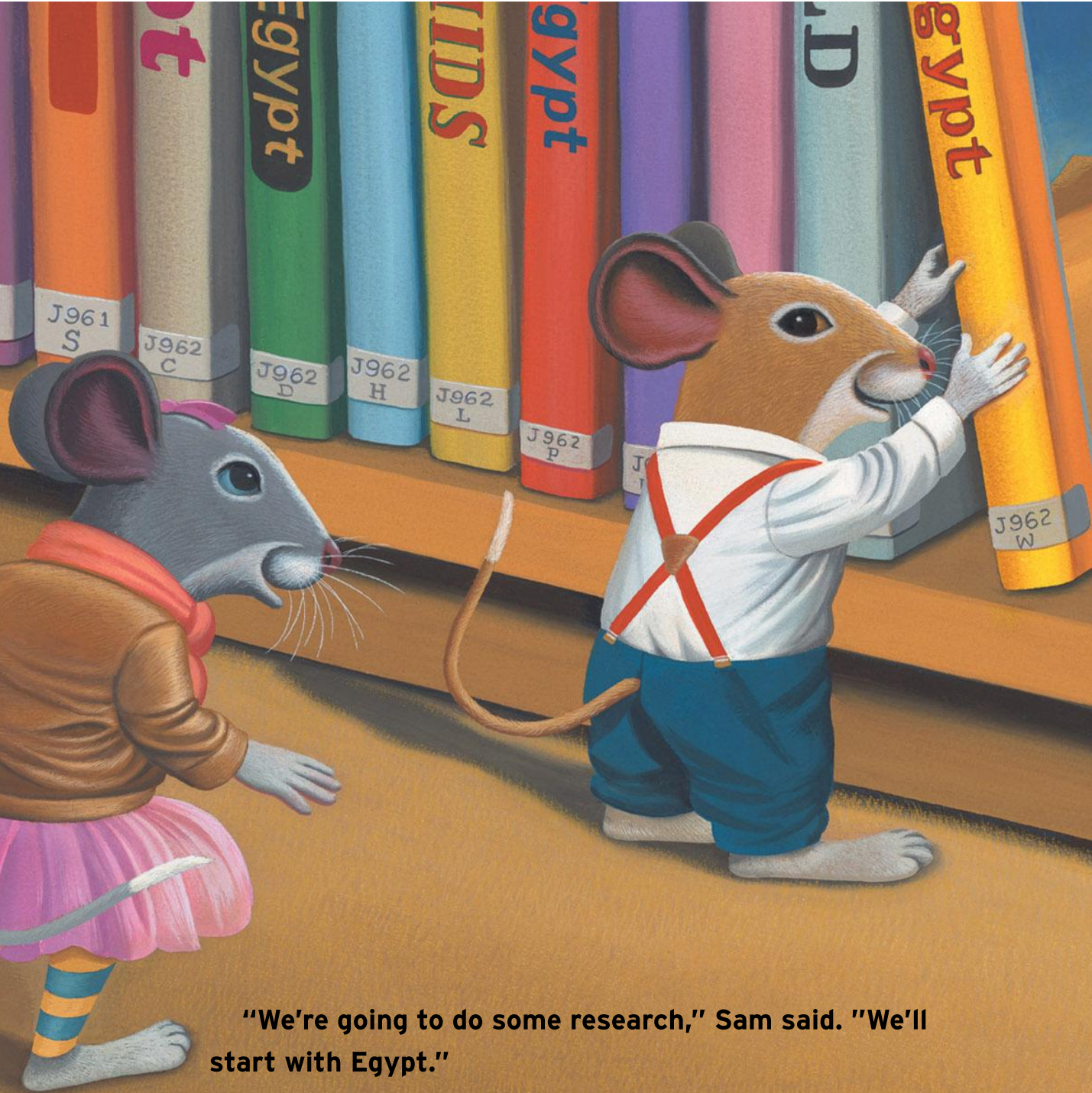
"Wow!" Sarah said. "I didn't know there were books about stuff like this!"



"Are there books about those other fun things I was climbing?" Sarah asked.

"You mean the Statue of Liberty and the Eiffel Tower?" Sam grinned. "Follow me!"





"We're going to do some research," Sam said. "We'll start with Egypt."

"What's research?" Sarah asked.

"It's how you find out about things," Sam said. "If you can't go to the real pyramids, you can read about them . . . right over here!"



Sam and Sarah pored over dozens of books, and Sarah oohed and aahed at the pictures. She gazed up at the tall shelves and said, "Research is fun. Let's climb up high and see what books are up there!"



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