



For Inverness and Tilden, and Juliet and Luka, with love – N.L.

For Skye, my inspiration, and for Joanna and Sara, my dear friends.

Joanna, I drew all these dogs for you ♥ – E.L.

ROCKY POND BOOKS
An imprint of Penguin Random House LLC
1745 Broadway, New York, New York 10019



First published in the United States of America by Rocky Pond Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2025

Story copyright © 2025 by Nina LaCour

Pictures copyright © 2025 by Elizabeth Lilly

Penguin Random House values and supports copyright. Copyright fuels creativity, encourages diverse voices, promotes free speech, and creates a vibrant culture. Thank you for buying an authorized edition of this book and for complying with copyright laws by not reproducing, scanning, or distributing any part of it in any form without permission. You are supporting writers and allowing Penguin Random House to continue to publish books for every reader. Please note that no part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner for the purpose of training artificial intelligence technologies or systems.

Rocky Pond Books and the Rocky Pond Books colophon are registered trademarks of Penguin Random House LLC. Visit us online at PenguinRandomHouse.com.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.

ISBN 9780593695753

Manufactured in China · TOPL · 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Design by Cerise Steel · Text set in Tomarik

The art in this book was drawn with pen and ink, and painted with watercolor.

The publisher does not have any control over and does not assume any responsibility for author or third-party websites or their content.

Sammy and Sunny's First Day of School

story by
Nina LaCour

pictures by
Elizabeth Lilly



Rocky Pond Books

It was the first day of school.



Sammy put on the outfit she'd picked out the day before.



Sunny got an extra brushing and a special new collar.



They ate their breakfasts and got into the car.



The first stop was kid school.
"Have a good first day, Sammy!" Mama said.



The next stop was puppy school.
"Have a good first day, Sunny!" Mama said.



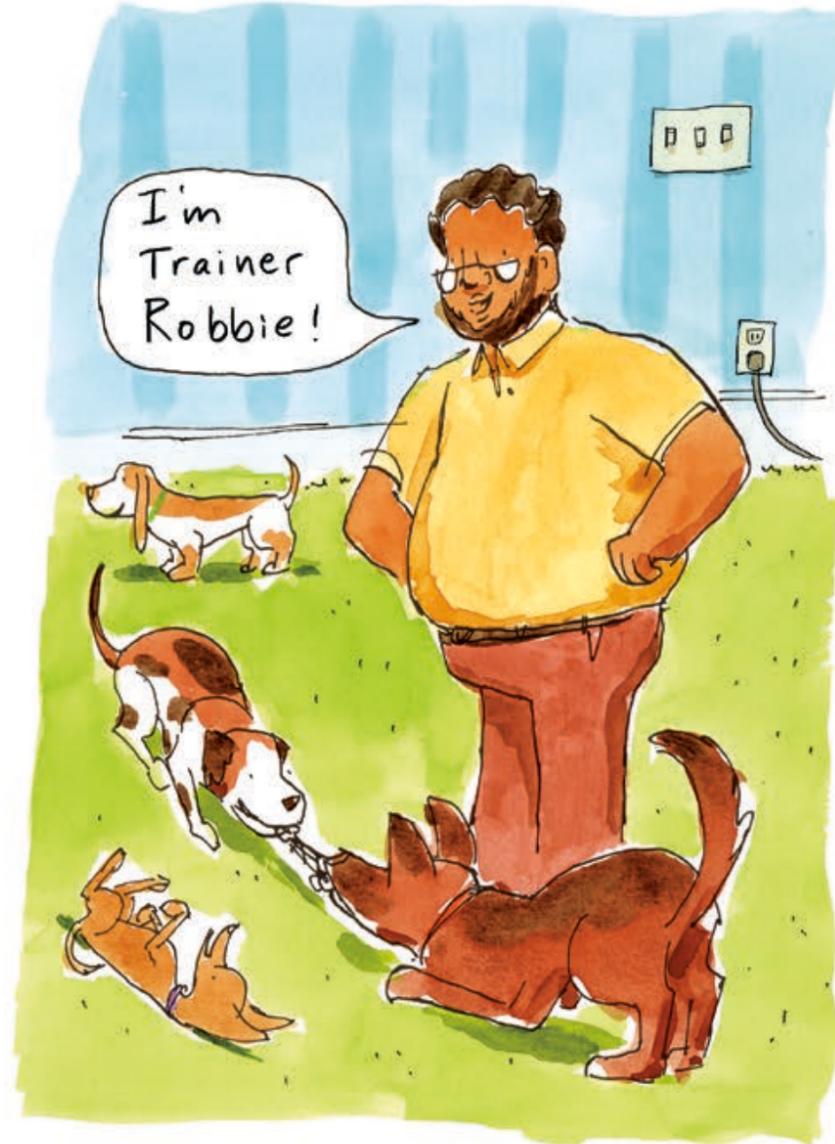
The bell rang, and Sammy felt nervous. She wondered if Sunny was feeling nervous, too.



He was.



But soon, they were in their cozy classrooms,
and their teachers were saying hello.



Some parts of their days were the same . . .



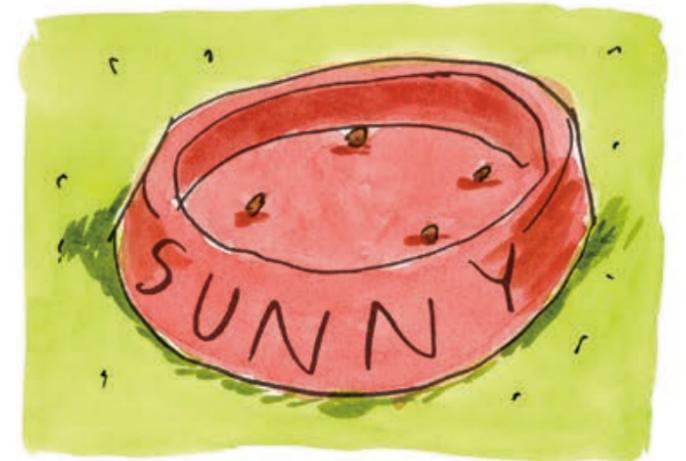
... and other parts were different.



Some schoolmates liked to share . . .



and others did not.



Some moments were surprising . . .



... and others were familiar.



At recess Sammy played unicorns and when she got bored of unicorns, she built sandcastles instead.



At nap time, Sunny collapsed at the top of the heap ...



but woke up at the bottom.



Sammy learned to write her name at the corner of every page,



and that her desk partner was named Milo,



She learned to raise her hand if she had a question.



She learned that sometimes you sit at your desk in rows and sometimes you sit on the carpet in a circle, and some kids have a lot to say, and others prefer to be quiet.

and that the bathroom was down the hall and around the corner.



She learned that the watercolors belonged in stacks on the shelf and the paintbrushes belonged in jars by the sink.



Sunny learned to sit.



And to stay ...



and stay ...



and stay.





At then, just like that, the first day of school was over.



Mama fixed Sammy a snack.
She fixed Sunny one, too.

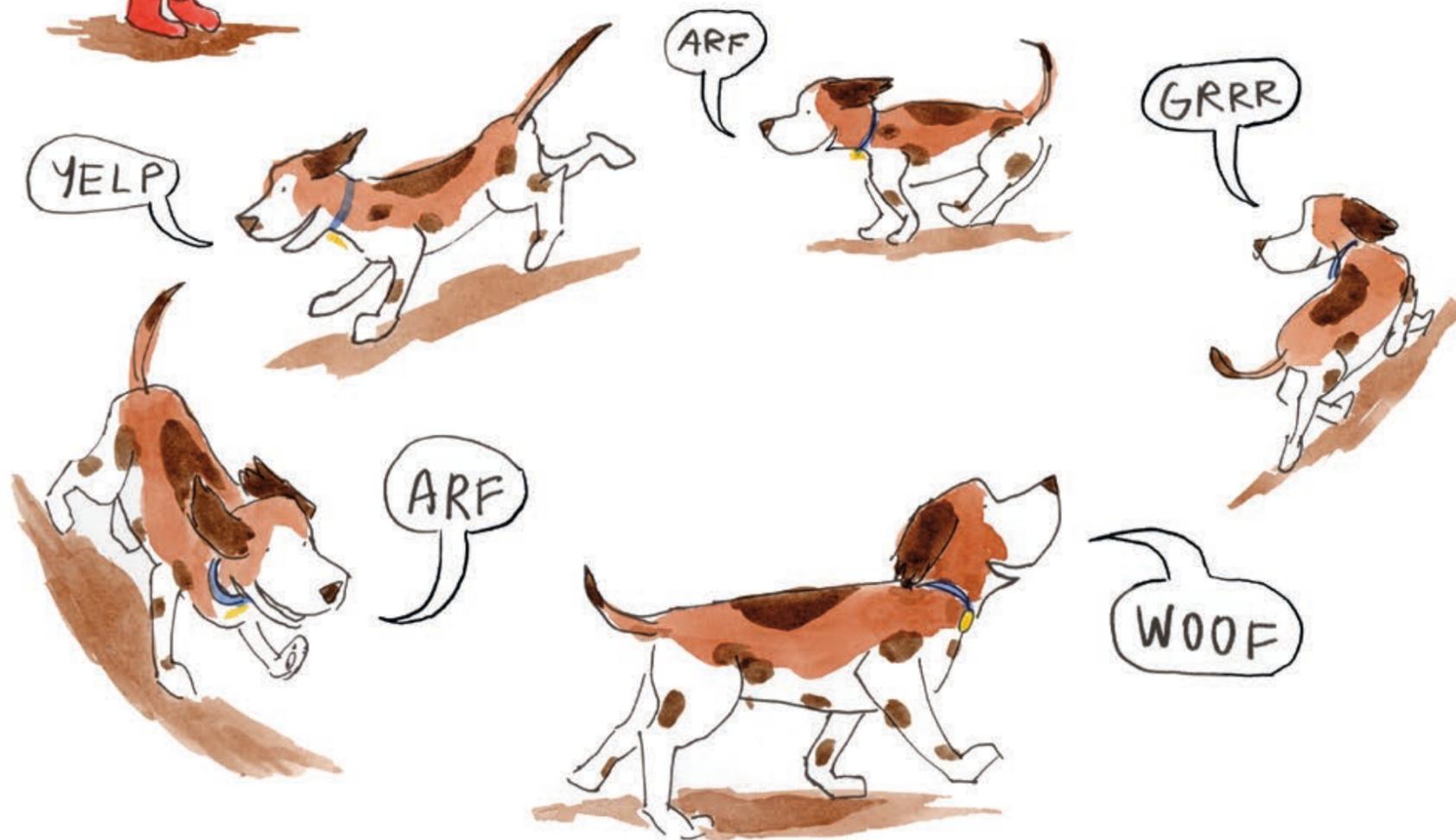


Sammy told Mama all about her day,
and Sunny listened with great interest.



"How was your day, Sunny?" Sammy asked when she was finished. "Did you learn some good puppy things?"

Sunny made a low noise in his throat, the kind he made when he saw a squirrel. He barked. He yelped. He ran in a circle around the kitchen.



He sat, and sat, and stayed. He collapsed, and rolled onto his back, and panted, and panted, and smiled.

"Wow," Sammy said.



Suddenly Sammy thought of something.
“Mama,” she asked. “What happens on
the second day of school?”

“Well, I suppose you go back and do it
all over again,” Mama said.



But Sammy and Sunny...



... had a different idea.



