

ANA BRAGA-HENEERY

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANITA BARGHIGIANI

JÉRÔME LEJEUNE

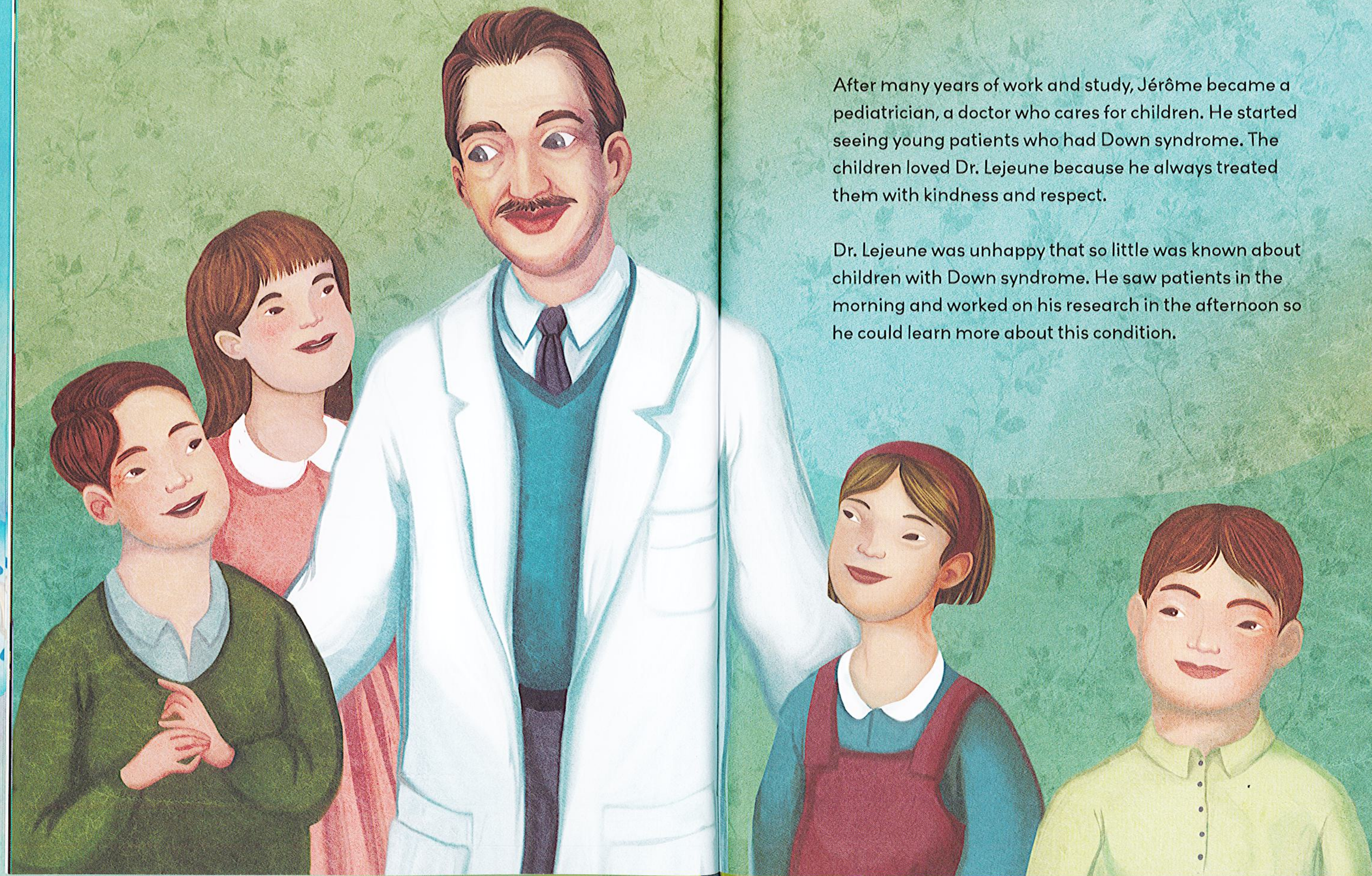
THE SAINTLY GENETICIST





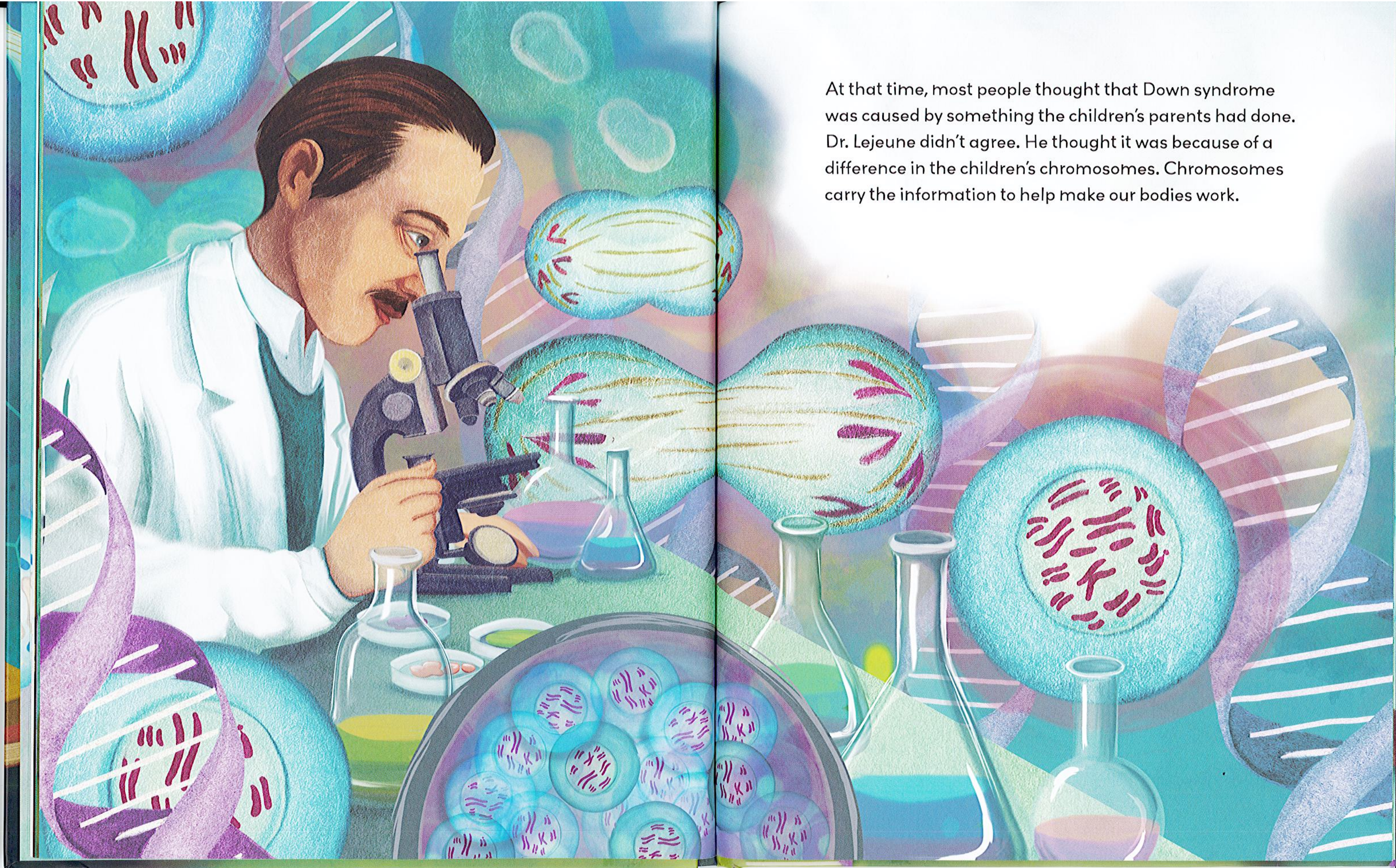
JÉRÔME LEJEUNE

THE SAINTLY GENETICIST



After many years of work and study, Jérôme became a pediatrician, a doctor who cares for children. He started seeing young patients who had Down syndrome. The children loved Dr. Lejeune because he always treated them with kindness and respect.

Dr. Lejeune was unhappy that so little was known about children with Down syndrome. He saw patients in the morning and worked on his research in the afternoon so he could learn more about this condition.



At that time, most people thought that Down syndrome was caused by something the children's parents had done. Dr. Lejeune didn't agree. He thought it was because of a difference in the children's chromosomes. Chromosomes carry the information to help make our bodies work.

Dr. Lejeune was invited to be a member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and met Pope John Paul II. They became close friends right away and shared a great love for God's creation and for the gift of human life. The pope trusted Dr. Lejeune's scientific opinion on many issues.

