

# Mighty MILA

## Dream Job



Written by  
**KATIE PETRUZZIELLO**

Illustrated by  
**NADJA SARELL**





To my loving and supportive parents who have always  
encouraged me to chase my dreams – K.M.P.

To Luca, the encouraging and supportive big brother – N.S.

Editor: Bobbie Hinman

Book Design: Travis D. Peterson

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I can't believe it...

My teacher just said, "Monday will be dress-up day."

**I'M SO EXCITED!** I love dressing up!

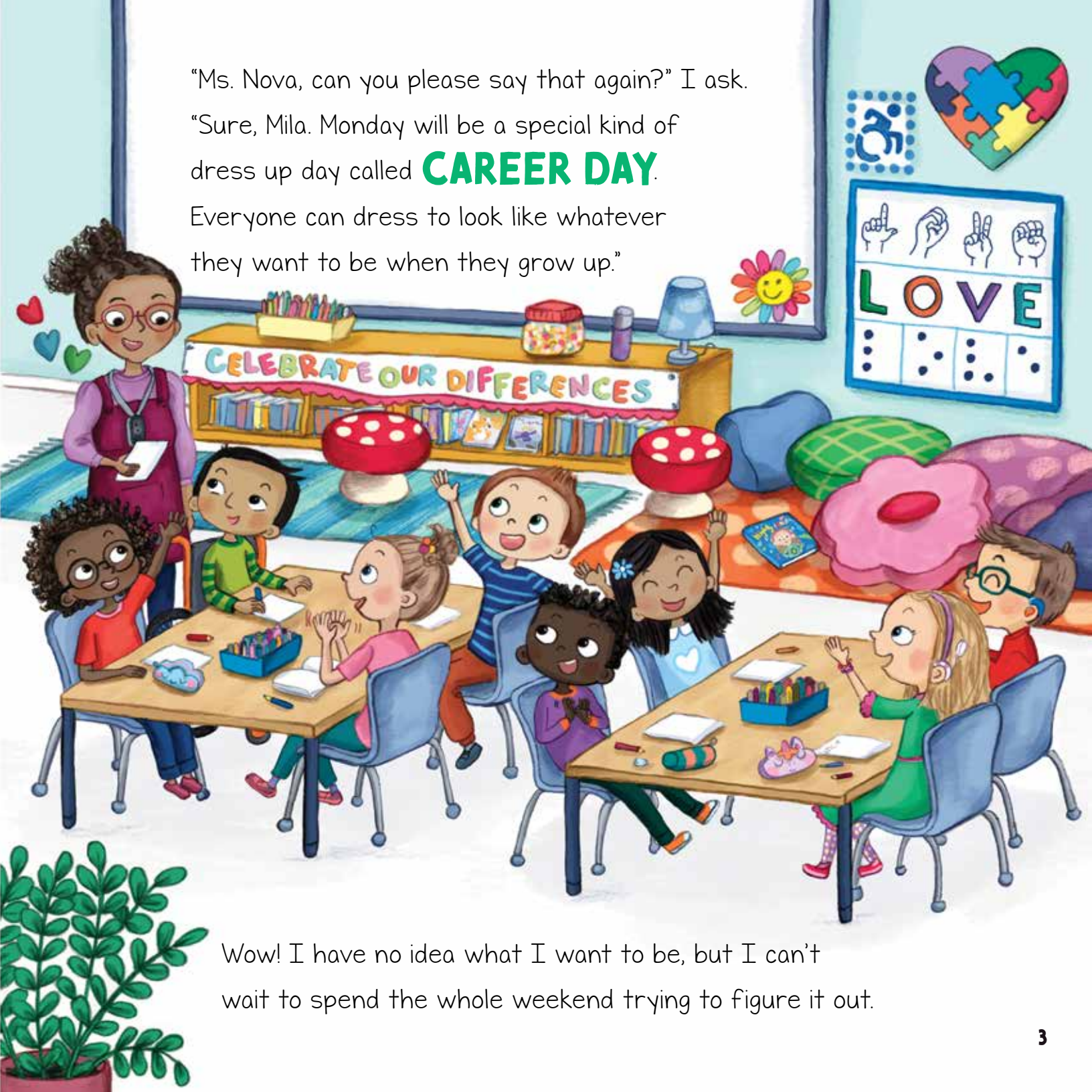


The class is cheering, so I can't hear everything Ms. Nova is saying. I use cochlear implants to help me hear and my teacher wears a special microphone that makes her voice go straight to my cochlear implants. This helps me hear her more clearly, but sometimes I still need to ask her to repeat her words.

“Ms. Nova, can you please say that again?” I ask.

“Sure, Mila. Monday will be a special kind of dress up day called **CAREER DAY**.

Everyone can dress to look like whatever they want to be when they grow up.”



Wow! I have no idea what I want to be, but I can't wait to spend the whole weekend trying to figure it out.

I can hardly sleep. I bounce out of bed and put on my cochlear implants.

I know exactly what to try first.

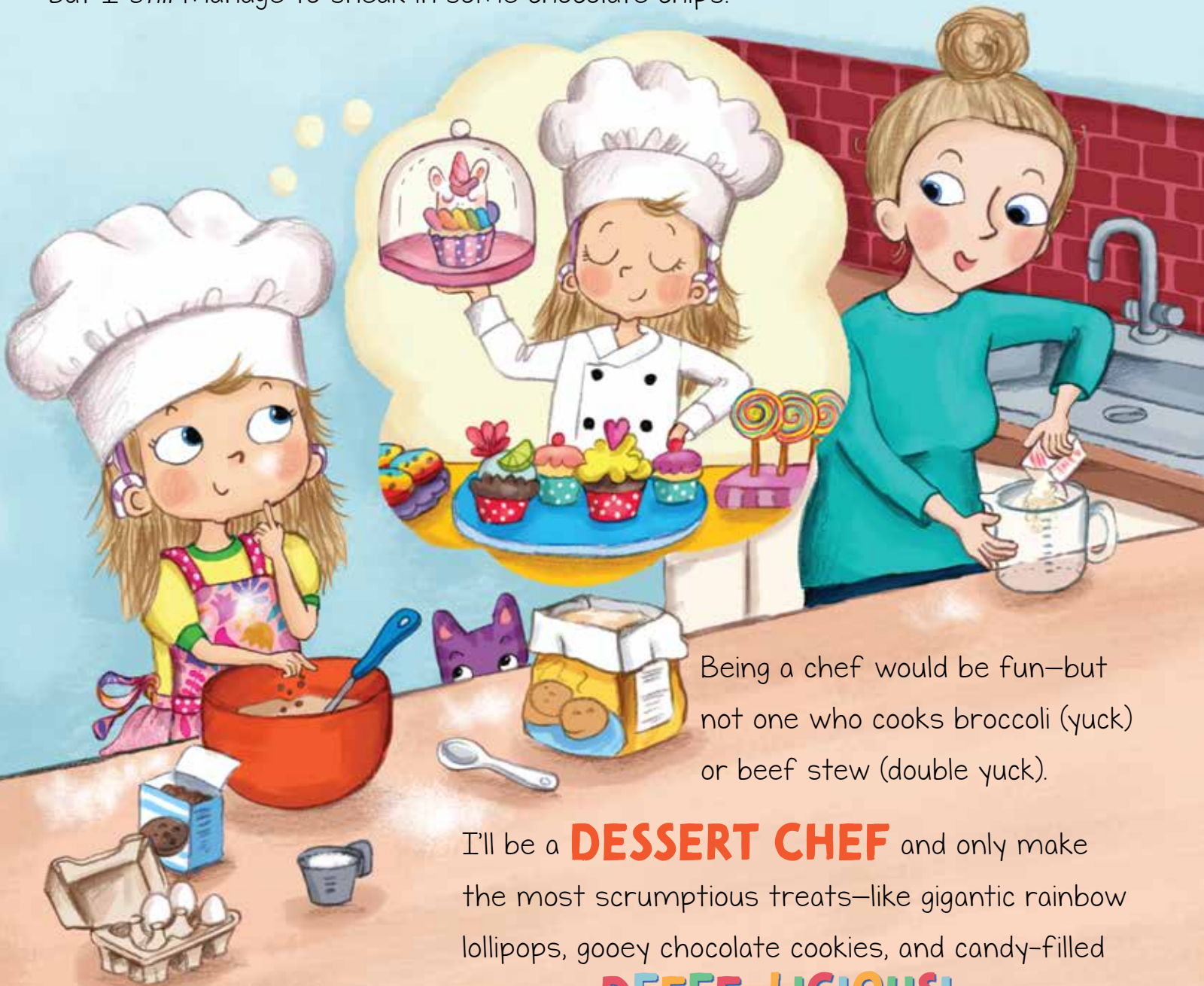


“Chef Mila is here!” I call out, bursting into the kitchen.

“Let’s make chocolate cake for breakfast!”



Mommy convinces me that pancakes are a better breakfast choice, but I *still* manage to sneak in some chocolate chips.



Being a chef would be fun—but not one who cooks broccoli (yuck) or beef stew (double yuck).

I'll be a **DESSERT CHEF** and only make the most scrumptious treats—like gigantic rainbow lollipops, gooey chocolate cookies, and candy-filled cupcakes. **DEEEE-LICIOUS!**

I'm so excited that I do a little dance.



**I BOOGIE**

across the kitchen floor.

Before I know it, we're having a family dance party.



Now I have a new idea! Maybe I'll be a **ROCKSTAR BALLERINA!**  
Since I'm deaf, and use cochlear implants to hear, music sounds a bit different to me. But I still love music...and nothing can stop me from dancing!

Dancing reminds me of my new ballerina stickers,  
so I gracefully skip and twirl to my art corner.



Sticker art is my favorite. I put stickers on **EVERYTHING...**



my notebooks,



our water bottles,



my sister Sofia,



and even my  
cochlear implants!

Maybe I'll be a famous  
**STICKER ARTIST**

with masterpieces hanging in  
museums all around the world!

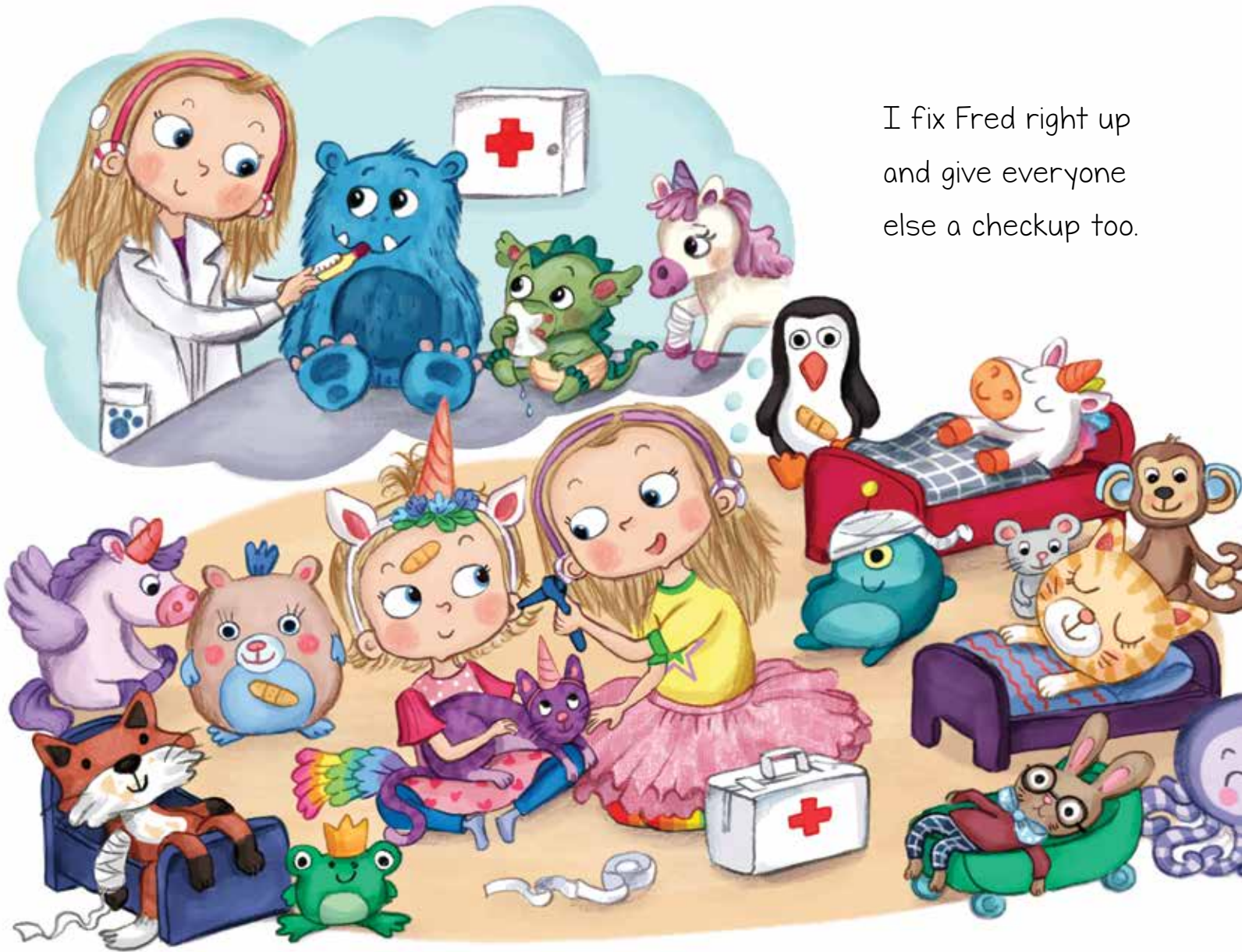


Oh boy, choosing only one career is turning  
out to be a lot trickier than I thought.

I ask my unicorn, Fred, what I should be,  
and I notice that he has a rip!



Oh no! This never would  
have happened if I was  
allowed to have a real pet  
unicorn...but Daddy says  
unicorns make him sneeze,  
so I'll have to settle for  
my stuffed one.



I fix Fred right up  
and give everyone  
else a checkup too.

I have a new thought. Maybe I'll be an animal doctor.

But instead of treating regular animals, I'll be a

**MAGICAL CREATURE VETERINARIAN**

specializing in baby dragons, fluffy monsters, and unicorns!

I take Fred outside and find my brother Luca building a gigantic structure. Luca already knows he wants to be an engineer for Career Day.





I like building things too. Maybe I'll be a **CASTLE ENGINEER** who builds fairytale castles, complete with drawbridges and alligator-filled moats!



I'm starting to get worried. It's only Saturday and I've already found so many different jobs that I'd enjoy. How will I ever decide?

The next day, I explore even more jobs...but the more jobs I try, the more confused I get. Tomorrow is Career Day, so I have to figure everything out today!







I'm completely exhausted and out of time. I still have no idea what to do! There are so many things I enjoy, so how can I choose just one?



Mommy rubs my back.  
That always helps  
me think better.

“Mila, I don’t know what job you’ll have, but I do know that you’ll be kind, courageous, and true to yourself..and that’s what really matters. You’re only a kid and you have your whole life to figure things out. Just believe in yourself and you can be **ANYTHING** you want to be!”



Mommy kisses me on the head.  
“Get some sleep,” she says. “You’ll know  
what to do in the morning.”



Mommy is right. I have a wonderful dream and I wake up knowing exactly what to do.



I hop out of bed and run to my closet. It's time to get ready for school.

# CAREER DAY

“Mila, what are you going to be when you grow up?” Ms. Nova asks.







“When I grow up,

**I'M GOING TO BE ME... MILA!**

I'm going to do **ALL** the things I love the most..”





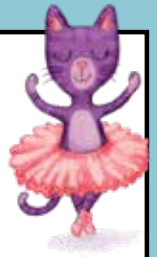
“and I’m **DEFINITELY**  
going to have a *real* pet unicorn!”







# LISTEN AND LOOK: NAME THE JOB



Find and name the jobs described below.

Pages 14-15:

1. An athlete who kicks a black and white ball into a goal
2. A person who conducts research and experiments
3. A special doctor who performs hearing tests and helps patients who may have trouble hearing
4. Someone who asks questions and studies clues to solve mysteries
5. A person who travels to outer space in a rocket ship
6. Someone who paints fingernails

Pages 20-21:

7. Someone who flies an airplane
8. An athlete who dribbles a ball and throws it into a net
9. Someone who helps children learn in a school
10. Someone who studies sea life
11. A doctor who helps people keep their teeth and gums healthy
12. A person who uses a camera to take photos
13. A person who helps doctors take care of those who are hurt or sick
14. A rescuer who protects people from fires

Answers: 1. Soccer player 2. Scientist 3. Audiologist 4. Detective 5. Astronaut 6. Manicurist 7. Pilot 8. Basketball player 9. Teacher 10. Marine biologist 11. Dentist 12. Photographer 13. Nurse 14. Firefighter

## STORY SEQUENCING AND RETELLING

Point to each of the illustrations below in the order that they happened, and in your own words retell the story.



## UNICORN COUNTING

Pages 2-25

- ★ How many unicorns in total can you count in the story?
- ★ Which page has the most unicorns?
- ★ How many times does Mila's stuffed unicorn Fred appear in the story?

Answers: 1. 27 total unicorns 2. It's a tie! Both pages 10 and 11 have 5 unicorns. 3. Fred appears 10 times

If you need some help, head over to [www.mightymila.com/resources](http://www.mightymila.com/resources) to download the answer key showing the location of all unicorns!



# LISTEN AND LOOK: TOOLS OF THE TRADE



Find and name the objects described below in the illustrations on pages 22-23.

1. A cup used by chefs for measuring cooking ingredients
2. An electric device used for mixing together cooking ingredients
3. A padded mitten that protects hands when holding hot objects in the kitchen
4. A piece of fabric worn when cooking to protect clothing from getting dirty
5. A white coat worn by doctors
6. A colorful coating put on fingernails or toenails
7. A piece of fabric used by an artist to protect clothing while painting
8. A long, thin object with bristles used for painting
9. A wooden frame used to hold up an artist's canvas
10. A wooden board used by an artist for mixing paint colors
11. A fluffy skirt of many layers worn by ballerinas

1. Measuring cup 2. Electric mixer 3. Oven mitt or Potholder 4. Apron 5. Lab coat 6. Nail polish 7. Art smock 8. Paintbrush 9. Easel 10. Palette 11. Tutu

## COMPREHENSION & EXTENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why was Mila upset and frustrated the night before Career Day?
2. What advice did Mommy give to Mila? Do you think it was good advice?
3. What is one thing you've learned about cochlear implants in this story?
4. Describe some ways you are similar to Mila? How are you different?
5. Which jobs shown in the story do you think you would enjoy the most, and why?
6. What are some other activities you enjoy, and what types of jobs include those interests?



## MEET THE AUTHOR

Katie Petruzziello is passionate about creating inclusive books to help provide further representation for deaf/hard of hearing children. Her goal is to promote awareness, kindness, and celebration of differences. Creating this series has been a true dream job for Katie. This is the second book in the multiple award-winning Mighty Mila series. Katie lives in New York with her husband Fabio and their three kids—the real-life Luca, Mila, and Sofia.

Katie invites you to come visit on Instagram ([@mightymilastories](#)) or Facebook ([@mightymila](#)) where you can follow along with her journey and see sneak peeks of future projects. She can be reached at [mightymilabook@gmail.com](mailto:mightymilabook@gmail.com).

## MEET THE ILLUSTRATOR

Nadja is a freelance illustrator from Helsinki, Finland. Growing up, Nadja danced ballet, played classical piano, and took art classes. She loved them all. When she was Mila's age, she dreamed of being a ballerina and eventually studied to become a professional dancer. However, she later discovered her love for children's book illustration and went off to study a degree in the UK. Nadja thinks it's the best job in the world for her! She still enjoys dance and music...especially listening to her son who is now the pianist of the family!



**Thank you!** We hope you enjoyed reading *Mighty Mila: Dream Job*! Please consider leaving an honest review on Amazon to help spread the word and support our mission of increasing deaf/hard of hearing representation in children's literature.



# MEET THE REAL LUCA, MILA, & SOFIA



**Luca** is the oldest child in the family. He loves playing soccer, solving puzzle cubes, going on scavenger hunts, climbing trees (along with anything else he can climb), and playing video games. He is the inspiration behind the purple cat in the story, which is a combination of his favorite color and favorite animal! When Luca grows up, he wants to be an engineer and a professional soccer player.

**Mila's** favorite activities are dancing, gymnastics, making crafts, and baking with mom. She's always ready for a dance party, loves all things sparkly, and enjoys decorating her cochlear implants with fun stickers.

Her favorite color is rainbow, and her favorite food is macaroni and cheese. When Mila grows up, she wants to do tons of different things, including being a chef, a "nail polish person", and an artist.



**Sofia** is the youngest and uses her cheeky smile to help her get away with everything! You can usually find her pushing the family cat, Zoey, around in her baby stroller, dressing up in costumes, painting, and dancing. When Sofia grows up, she wants to be a fairy princess and a mermaid.



**Come say hi & download free resources!**

Visit [www.mightymila.com](http://www.mightymila.com) to download the FREE activity pack that complements this book, and to learn more about the multiple award-winning book, *Mighty Mila*.





# DREAM BIG ★ BELIEVE IN YOURSELF ★ BE MIGHTY

Career Day is on Monday, which means that Mila only has the weekend to explore all of the things she wants to be when she grows up!



Will she be a dessert chef? A sticker artist?  
A veterinarian for magical creatures?  
Or maybe she'll be a famous deaf rockstar ballerina!



Despite any challenges she faces, Mila knows she can be anything she dreams of being.

But there's just one problem...



**WHAT IS HER PERFECT DREAM JOB?**

