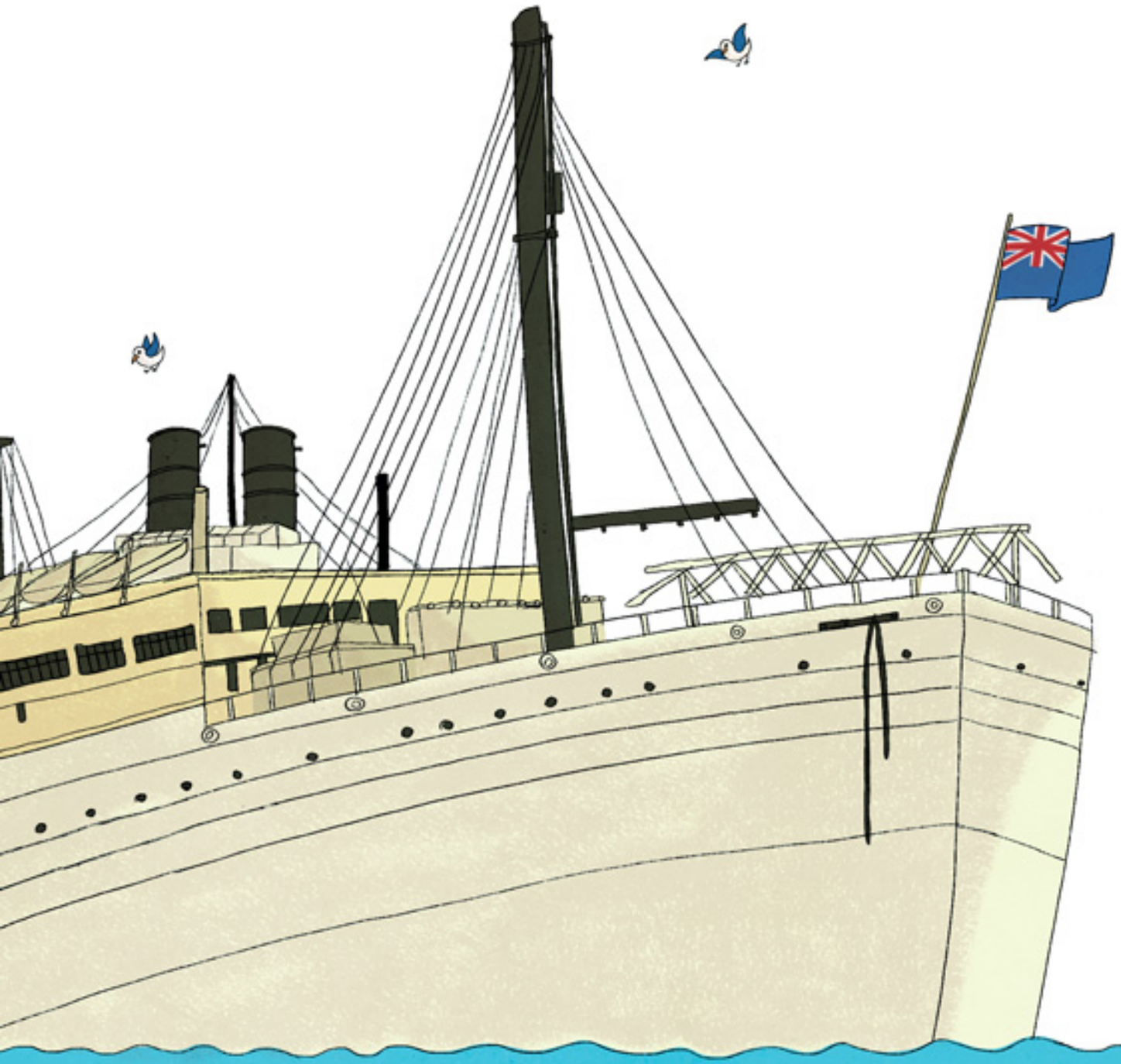
For all children who love to sing,
and children who love listening.
Regardless of your colour or race,
please make this world a better place.
B.Z.

To my mum.
Who sacrificed everything for me.
I love you.
O.I.



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We Sang Across the Sea

The Empire Windrush and Me

Benjamin Zephaniah

ILLUSTRATED BY

Onyinye Iwu

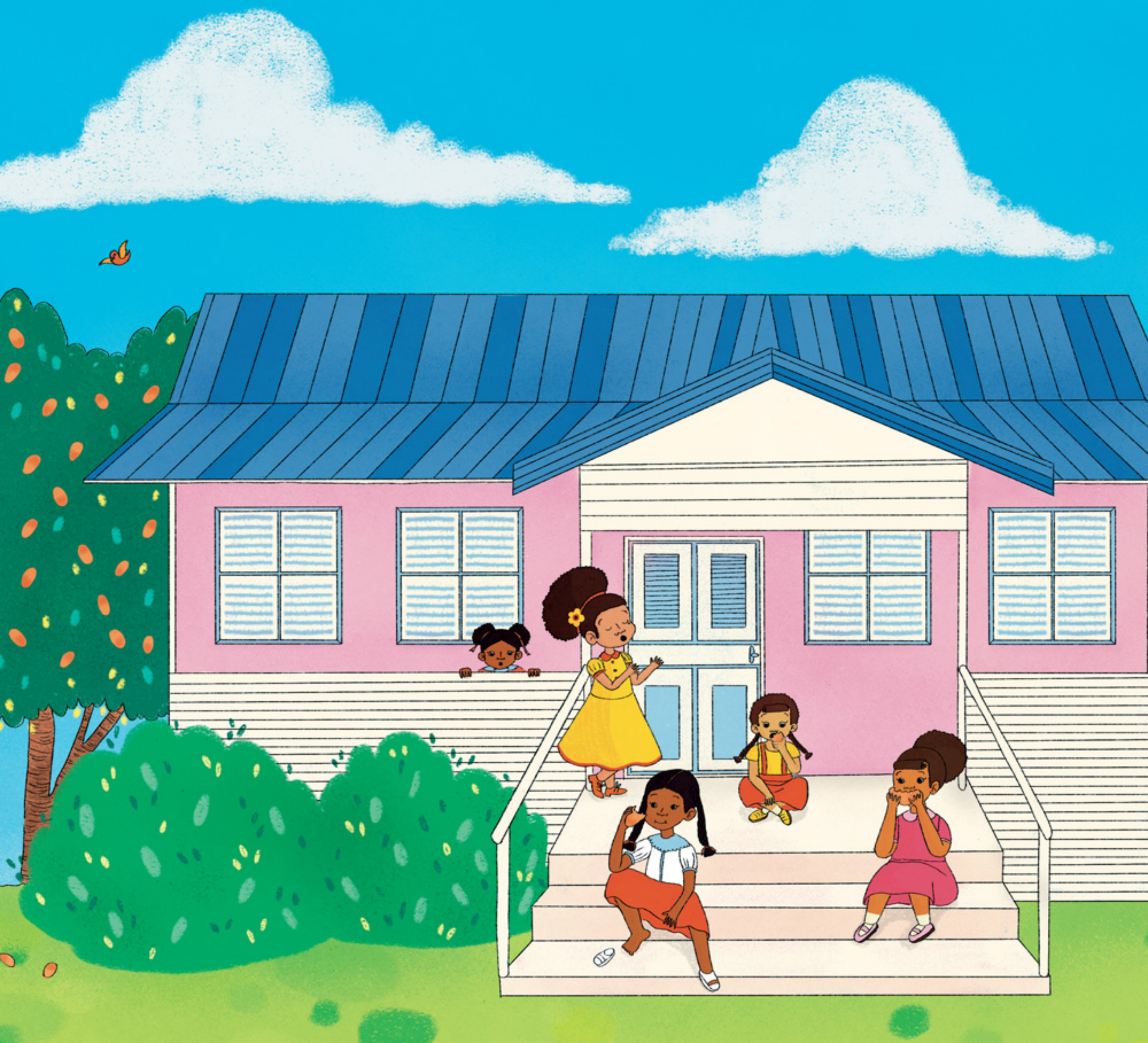
SCHOLASTIC

I was born on the island of Trinidad, in the Caribbean Sea,

There was mum and dad, I had four sisters,

And my four sisters had me.

We loved to play in the sunshine,
The sun shone all the time,
Even when the rains came, the sun was right behind.



One day after playing, as we ate fruits from our trees,
We sat on the veranda enjoying the cool breeze.
We were five girls dreaming of what to do,
When we got older and bigger,
But when it came to me I said,
I want to be a singer.

I just want to sing.
I just want to sing,
Singing songs will help me grow,
I just want the world to know,

Joy is what I bring,
So, I just want to sing.

I started singing on the islands
At shows and carnivals,
If there were no people I would sing to all the animals.

I used to sing in the mornings, I loved to sing at noon,
Singing at night was a great delight,
That's when I sang to the moon.