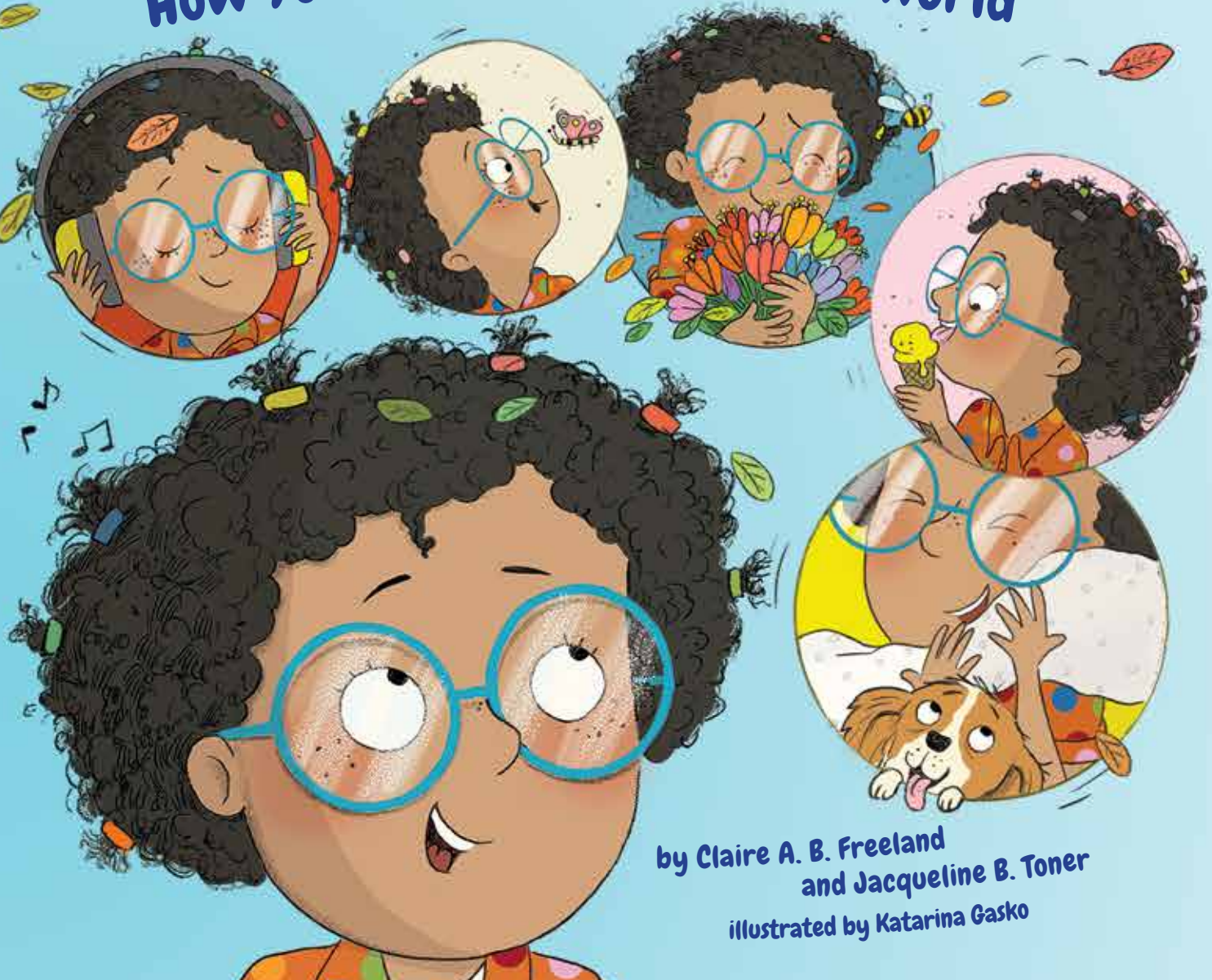


Making Sense of Your Senses

How Your Brain Perceives the World



by Claire A. B. Freeland
and Jacqueline B. Toner
illustrated by Katarina Gasko

Making Sense^{of} Your Senses

How Your Brain Perceives the World



by Claire A. B. Freeland, PhD, and Jacqueline B. Toner, PhD

illustrated by Katarina Gasko

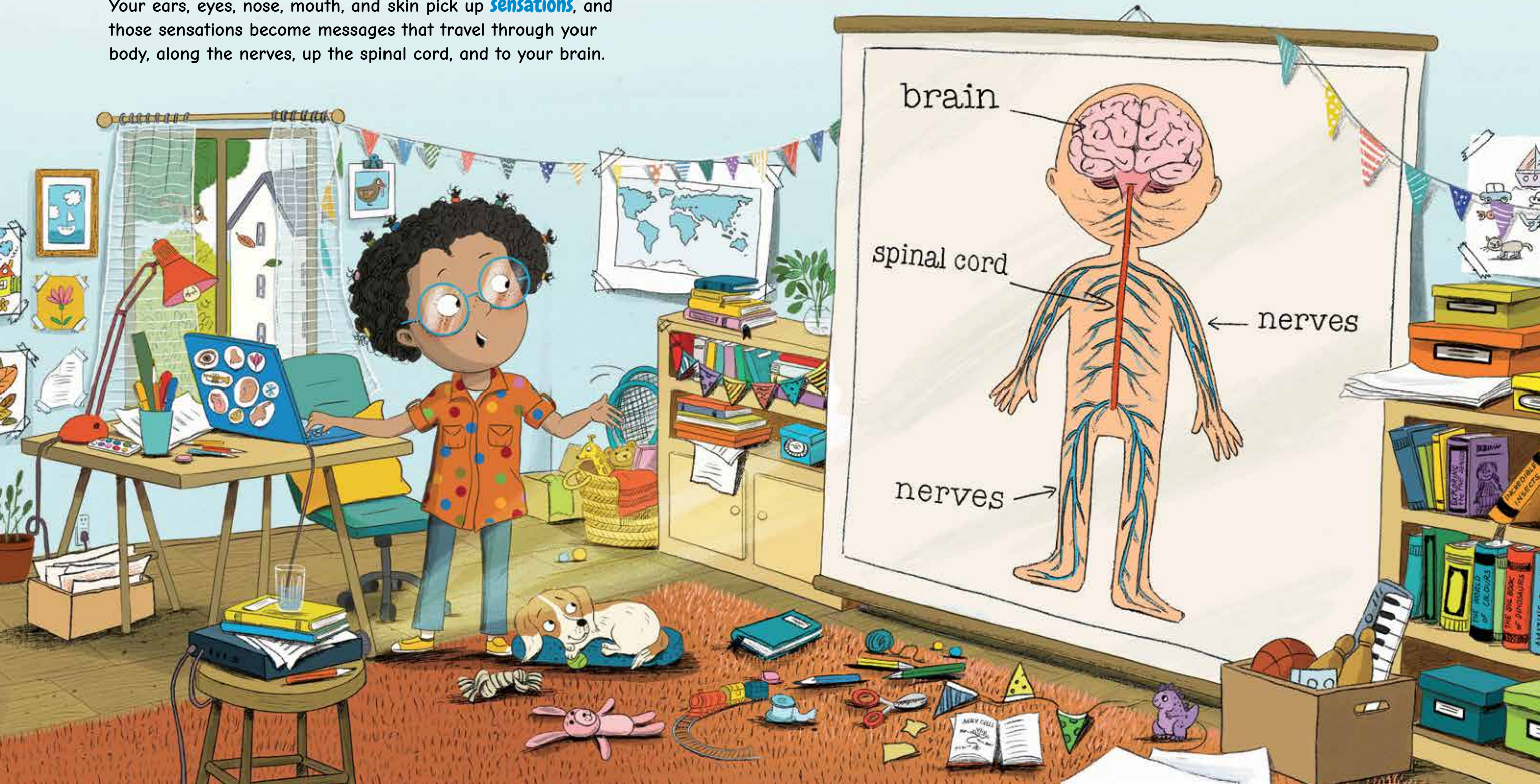
How in the world do you know what in the world is going on around you?

It all starts with your sensational...senses!

Your ears, eyes, nose, mouth, and skin pick up **sensations**, and those sensations become messages that travel through your body, along the nerves, up the spinal cord, and to your brain.

Then your smart brain puts it all together.

That's called **perception**.



Without you even noticing, your brain understands the messages it receives.

5 senses



touch



taste

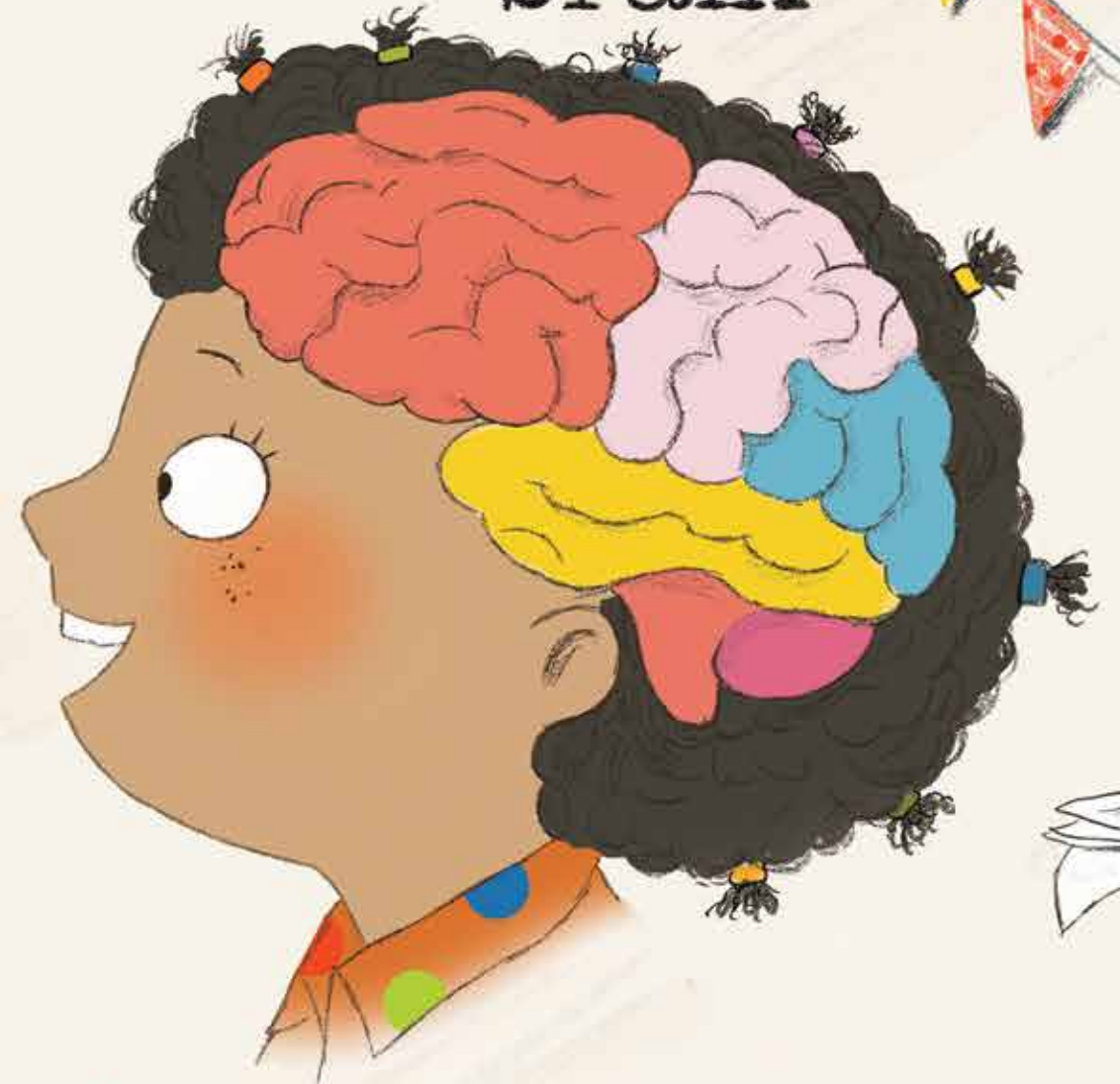


smell



hearing

brain



sight

As you grow, your brain's understanding grows, too. A baby doesn't know what that rumble is, but after a few storms, you learn that it's thunder.

Your brain receives so many messages all at once. How does it make sense of it all?



Making Sense of Hearing

Everyone, be quiet. Shh! Now, what do you hear?

Is that the squeak of your pet guinea pig
or is it the squeak of sneakers in the hall?



Perception depends on memories. Your brain remembers what you've heard in the past to understand what you are hearing now. Over time you learn to tell apart a puppy's woof from a cat's meow. So when you hear those sounds again, you know what they are in an instant. But if the sound is new to you, your brain learns what it is.