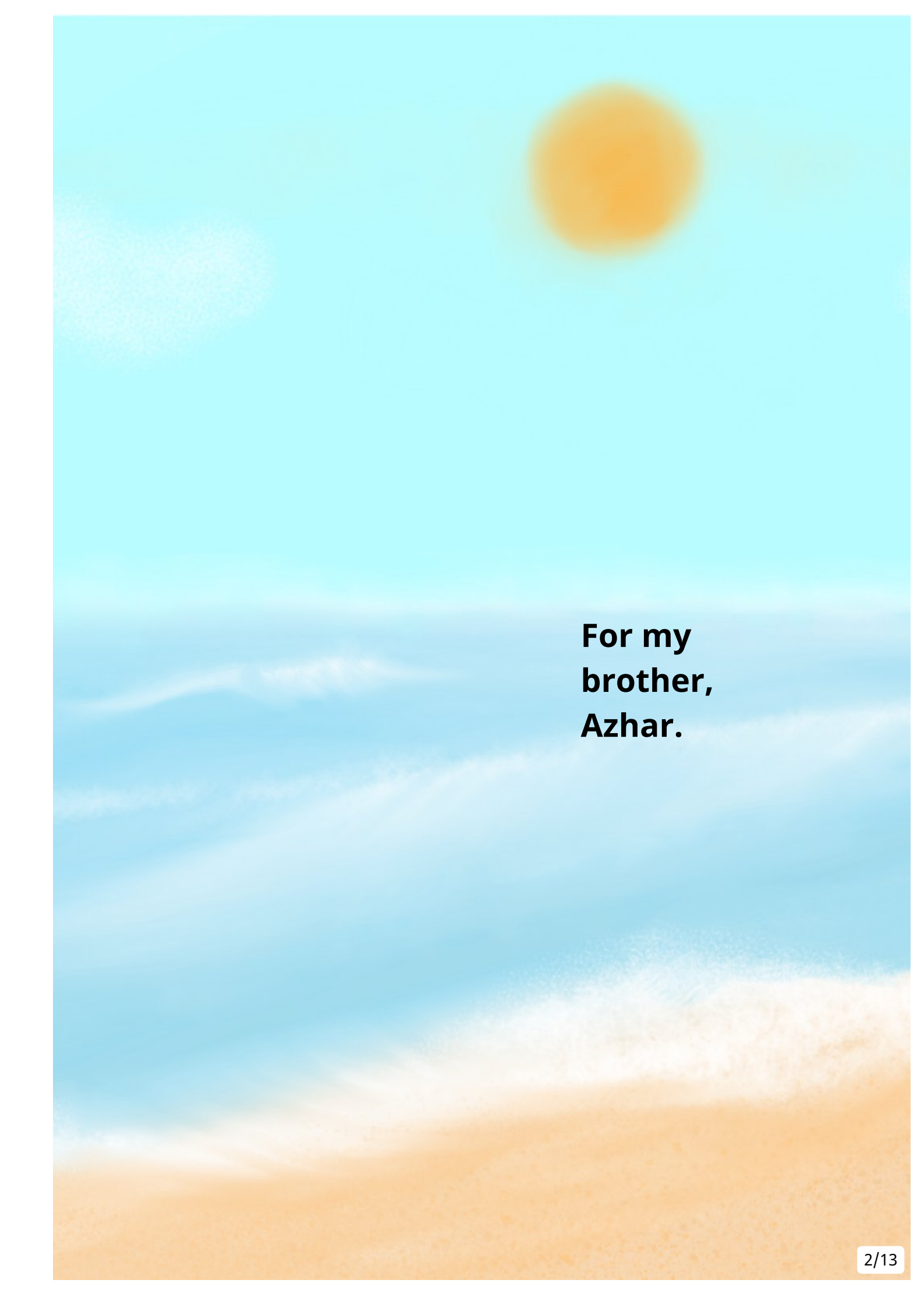


Ariz Pockets the Desert

Author: Aftab Yusuf Shaikh

Illustrator: Tooba Choudhary

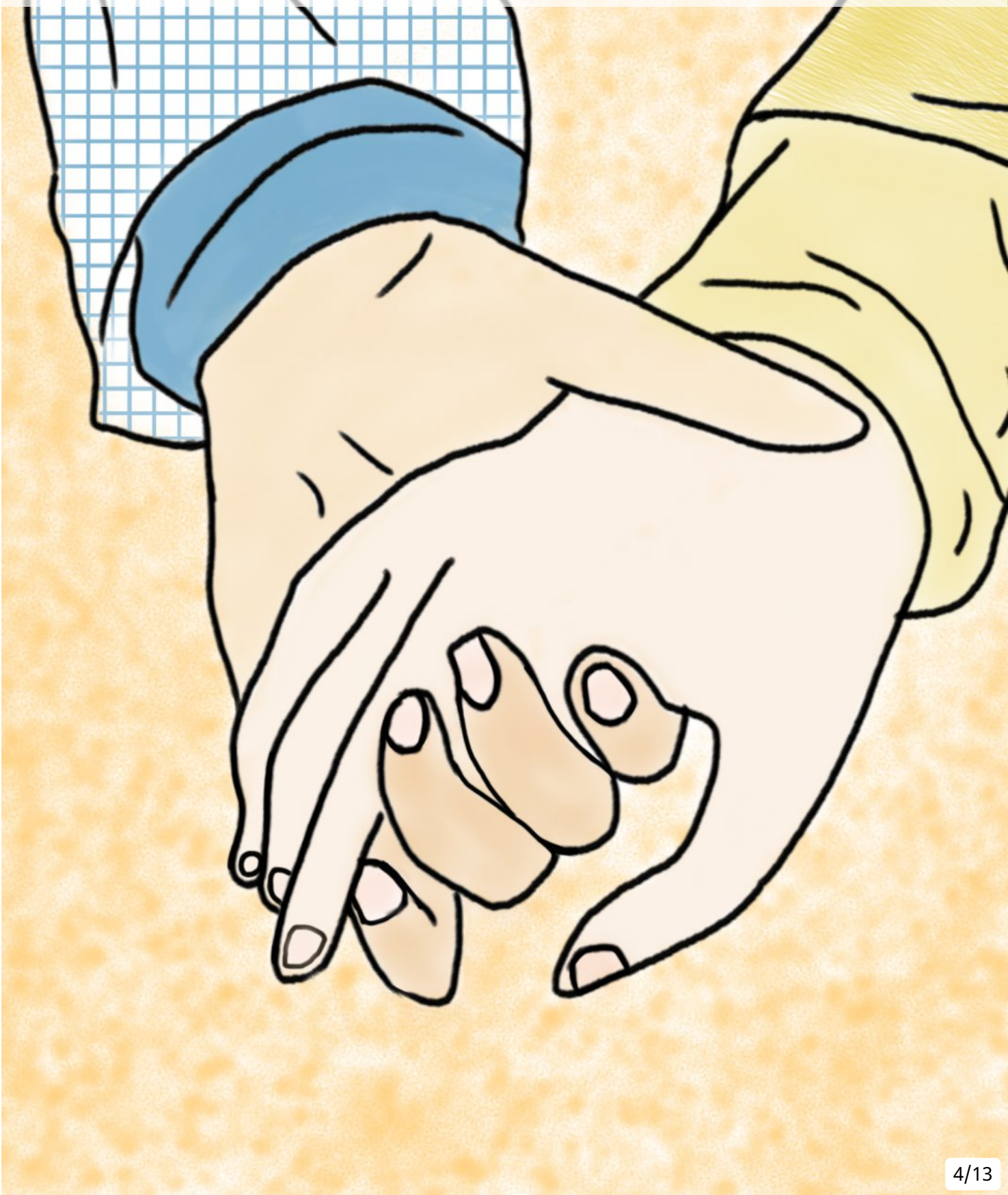
Level 2

A photograph of a beach scene. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a large, glowing yellow sun in the upper right. The ocean is a deep blue, with white waves crashing onto a sandy beach in the foreground. The text "For my brother, Azhar." is centered in the middle of the image.

**For my
brother,
Azhar.**

Ariz was always proud. At times, for his super grades at school. On some days, he would be proud of the toys that he had but his friend, Amir, did not have. On some other day, for his win in the races. And sometimes for being a favourite of Dadijaan.

Grandpa was seeing this for many days. And one day, he decided to teach him a lesson. So, he took Ariz to the beach.



Ariz frolicked in the water and ran with the waves. In the sand, he tried to build a castle but that he could never do.



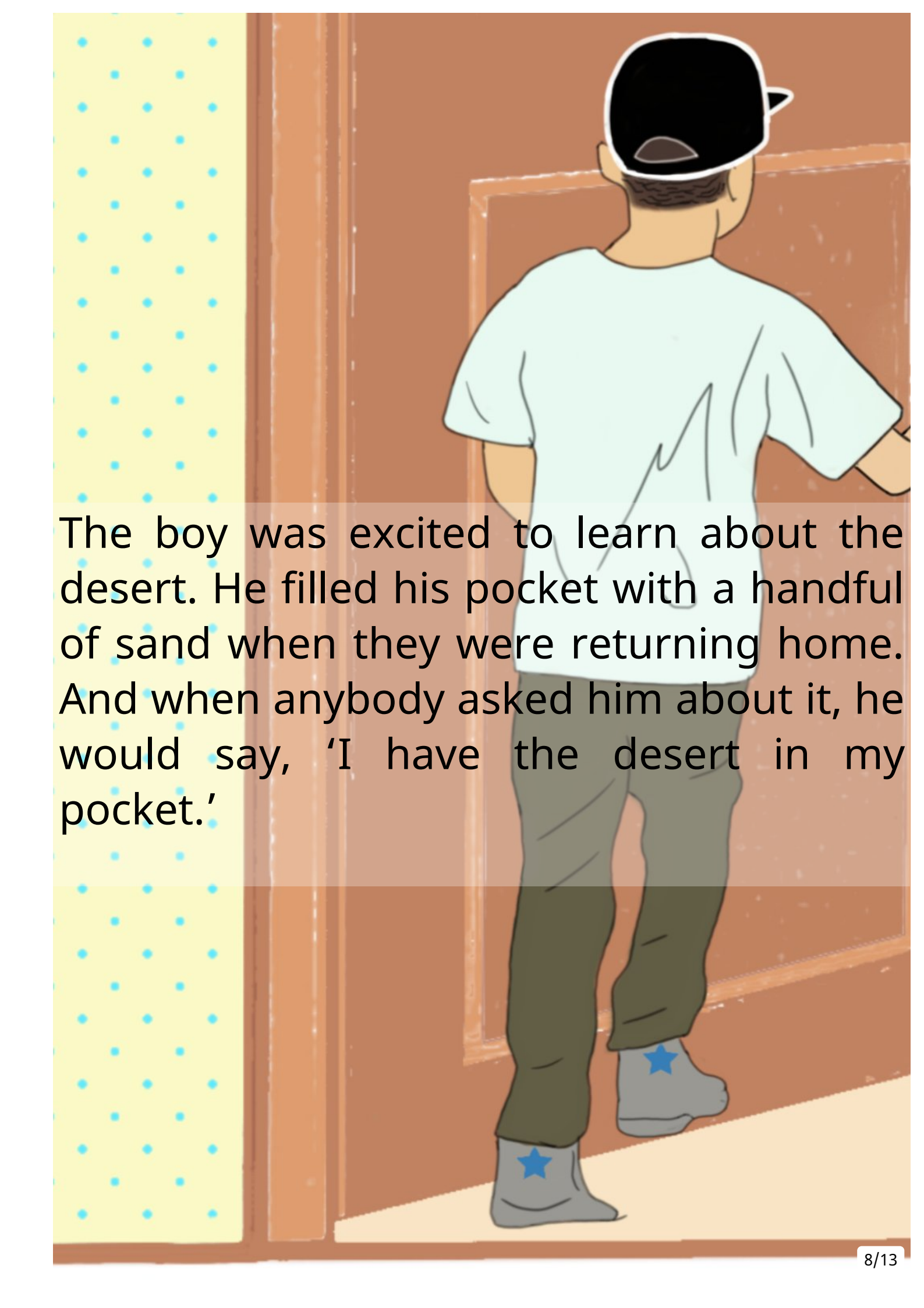
He asked his grandfather, 'Dadajaan!
Why is this soil so different from the soil
outside our house?'

Dadajaan answered, 'This is not
soil, my son. This is known as sand.'

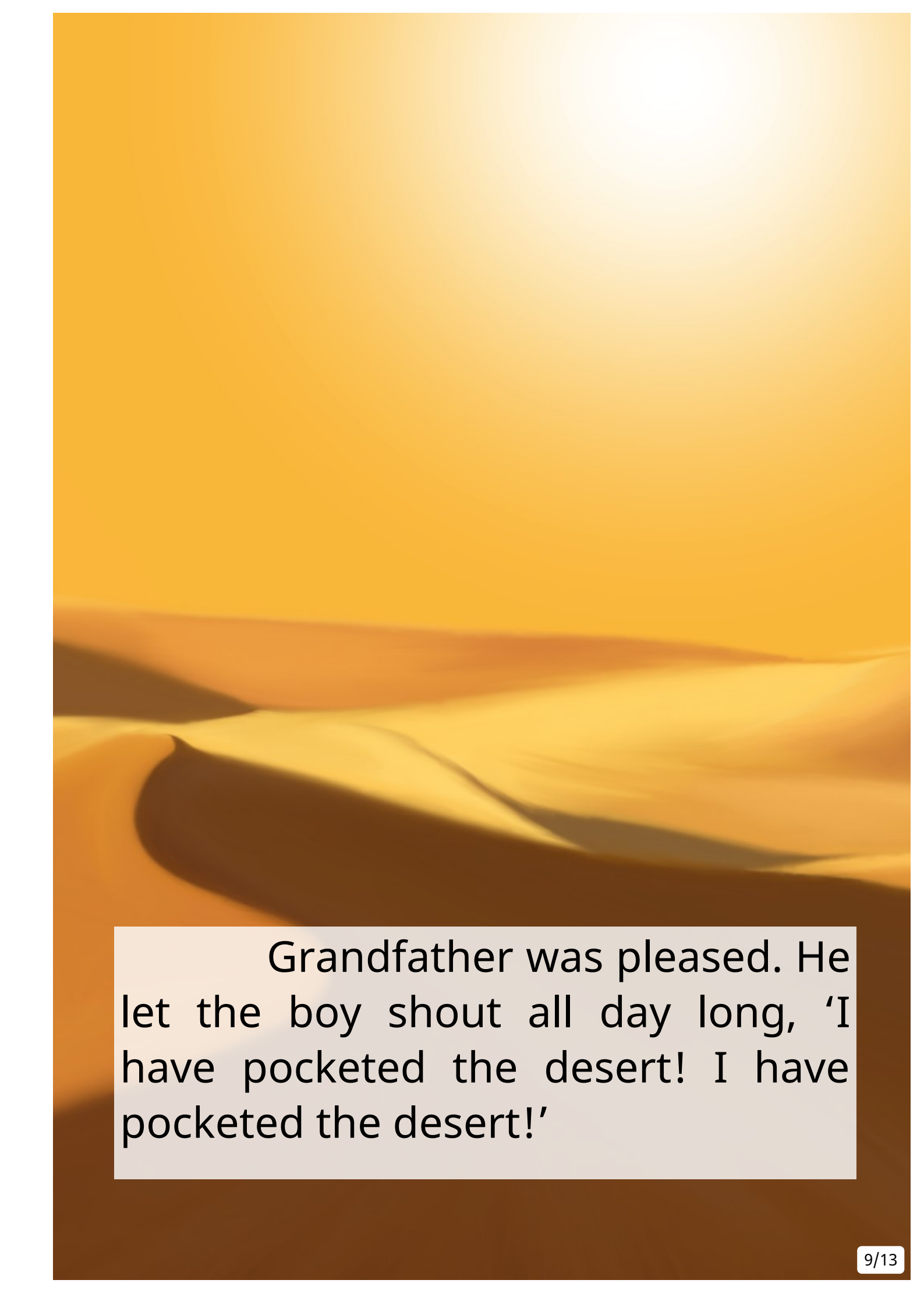


'Oh! Why is there no sand at our place?'


'Sand is found mostly on beaches. And the desert are full of sand.'



The boy was excited to learn about the desert. He filled his pocket with a handful of sand when they were returning home. And when anybody asked him about it, he would say, 'I have the desert in my pocket.'



Grandfather was pleased. He let the boy shout all day long, 'I have pocketed the desert! I have pocketed the desert!'



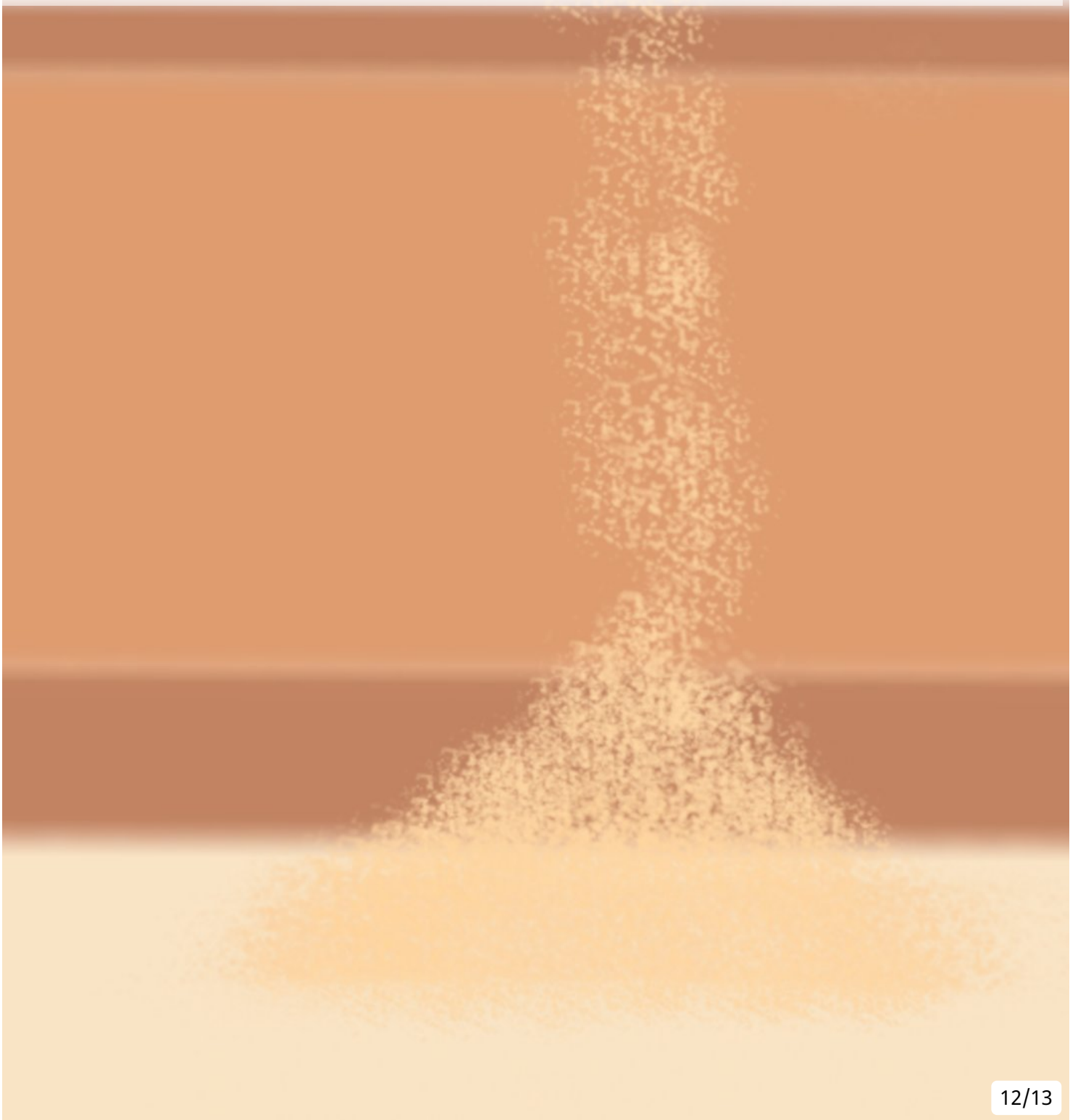
At night, before bedtime, Ariz was called to Dadajaan's room. 'Why do you go around shouting you have the desert with you?' he asked the boy.

'I have sand in my pocket and you said the desert is full of sand. So, I have a desert in my pocket.'

Grandfather laughed so hard that his glasses fell down from his nose.



Dadajaan said, 'You have only a handful of sand and yet it is your desert. The same way, we have only few qualities in us and we think we are the most perfect and better than others. Only fools are full of pride.'



Ariz became sad for a moment. His face fell. Then it brightened. He smiled as he understood what grandfather wanted him to learn.

TEST ~ ~ ~

And then, he was many things after that, but never proud again.



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Ariz Pockets the Desert (English)

Ariz learns a lesson from Dadajaan and is never proud again.

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.



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