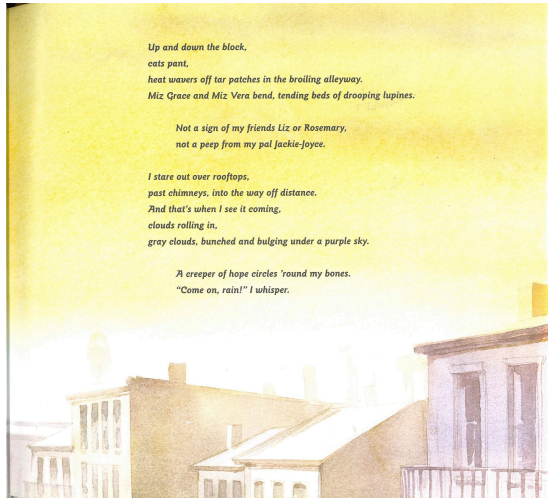


Come On, Rain! sequence of events



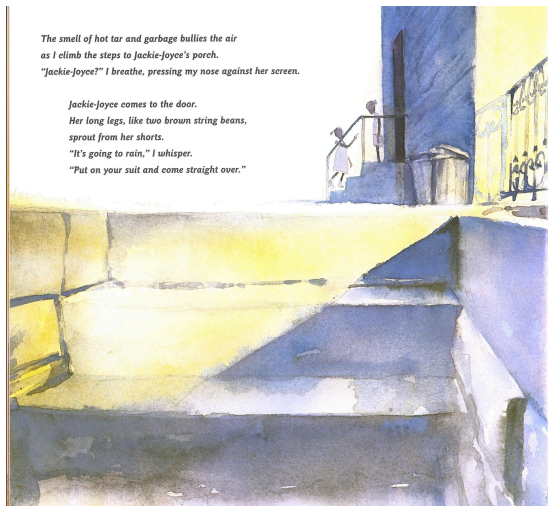
Up and down the block,
cats pant,
heat wavers off tar patches in the broiling alleyway.
Miz Grace and Miz Vera bend, tending beds of drooping lupines.

Not a sign of my friends Liz or Rosemary,
not a peep from my pal Jackie-Joyce.

I stare out over rooftops,
past chimneys, into the waxy off distance.
And that's when I see it coming,
clouds rolling in,
gray clouds, bunched and bulging under a purple sky.

A creeper of hope circles 'round my bones.
"Come on, rain!" I whisper.

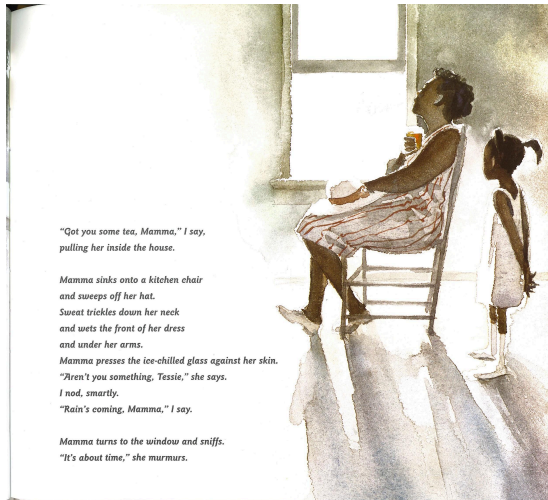
Tessie saw clouds
rolling in.



The smell of hot tar and garbage bullies the air
as I climb the steps to Jackie-Joyce's porch.
"Jackie-Joyce?" I breathe, pressing my nose against her screen.

Jackie-Joyce comes to the door.
Her long legs, like two brown string beans,
sprout from her shorts.
"It's going to rain," I whisper.
"Put on your suit and come straight over."

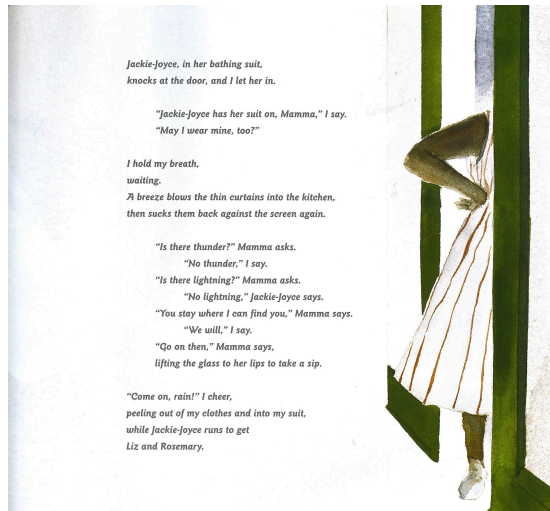
Tessie told
Jackie-Joyce to put
on her bathing suit.



Tessie made
Mamma iced tea.



Jackie-Joyce came
to the house.



Tessie put on her bathing suit, while Jackie-Joyce ran to get Liz and Rosemary.



Tessie, Jackie-Joyce, Liz, and Rosemary danced and played in the rain.



Miz Glick, Miz Grace,
Miz Vera, and
Mamma came
outside and danced
with their daughters.