

Snowy Days and Sunny Days

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To the many dedicated and committed preschool teachers who pour their hearts into teaching preschoolers, thank you for caring. Thank you for sharing. Preschoolers are worth it!

Anna and Ivan are twins who live in Moscow. Moscow is a big city in Russia. Anna and Ivan live in an apartment on the fourth floor of a tall building. They live with Mama, Papa, and Babushka Iba-BOOSH-kahl Olga, their grandmother.

On snowy days and sunny days, Anna and Ivan walk down 47 steps to go outside to play. Almost always Ivan says, "Let's count the steps."



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Mornings start with breakfast. Anna eats **kasha** [KAH-shah], which looks like oatmeal. She puts honey on her **kasha** and drinks a cup of hot tea. Ivan has a boiled egg, bread, and cheese. He asks for jam in his tea instead of sugar.





Mama is a doctor who takes care of children. Papa works in a factory that builds tractors. On snowy days and sunny days, Babushka walks with Anna and Ivan to school.

Anna says, "I wish we lived faraway from school so we could ride the trolley."

Babushka says, "The trolley is very crowded with boys and girls on their way to school in the mornings. Anna."





At school Anna and Ivan learn to read and write. The Russian alphabet has 33 letters. The English alphabet has only 26 letters. Some Russian letters look different, too. The word Moscow looks like this in Russian:

МОСКВА (MOSS-ka-vah)

Anna and Ivan stretch and jump during exercise time. Russian boys and girls exercise outdoors on snowy days and sunny days!



In the fall, Anna and Ivan and Mama and Papa go mushrooming. Mushrooms look like tiny white and brown umbrellas growing in clumps or circles under leaves in the woods.

Ivan says, "Look, Anna. My basket is almost full."

"Mine is too," says Anna. "Oh, come see this big mushroom. I want Babushka to see this one!"





Ivan smiles and asks, "Mama, are you making our favorite soup?"

"Yes," answers Mama. "We will have **borsch** IBOAR-shi. I bought a cabbage this morning."

Anna asks, "How long did you have to wait in line, Mama?"

"Not too long," Mama says as she odds beets and a little pork to the soup pot. Before and after they eat, the family stands and prays.

New Year's Day is the holiday most Russian children like best. This is the day they receive presents. Anna and Ivan open large packages and find shiny ice skates! In the afternoon, good friends come to visit in their apartment.



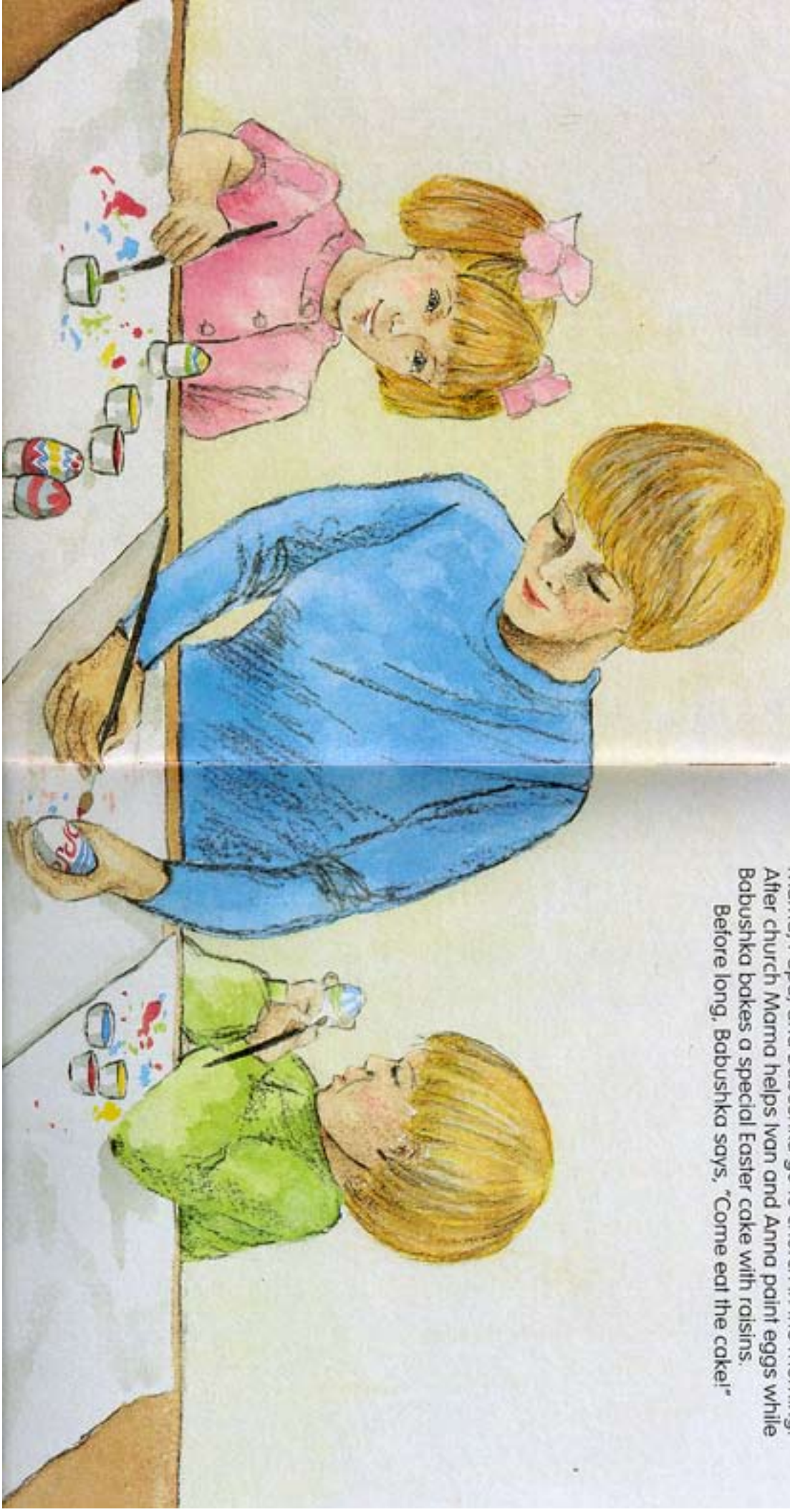


One Saturday Anna and Ivan go with their family to the circus. The circus is in a round wooden building. Jugglers toss balls and acrobats walk on high wires. Anna and Ivan laugh at the brown bears playing hockey! But best of all is the funny clown in his straw hat.

"I would like to come to the circus every Saturday!" Anna says as she watches.

"Not me," says Ivan. "If we came here every Saturday, we couldn't ice skate in the park."

Easter is usually a sunny day in Russia. Anna, Ivan, Mamo, Papa, and Babushka go to church in the morning. After church Mamo helps Ivan and Anna paint eggs while Babushka bakes a special Easter cake with raisins. Before long, Babushka says, "Come eat the cake!"



Babushka likes to take Anna and Ivan to the library. There are big city libraries, and there are reading rooms in the parks. Anna and Ivan choose books and Babushka reads to them.

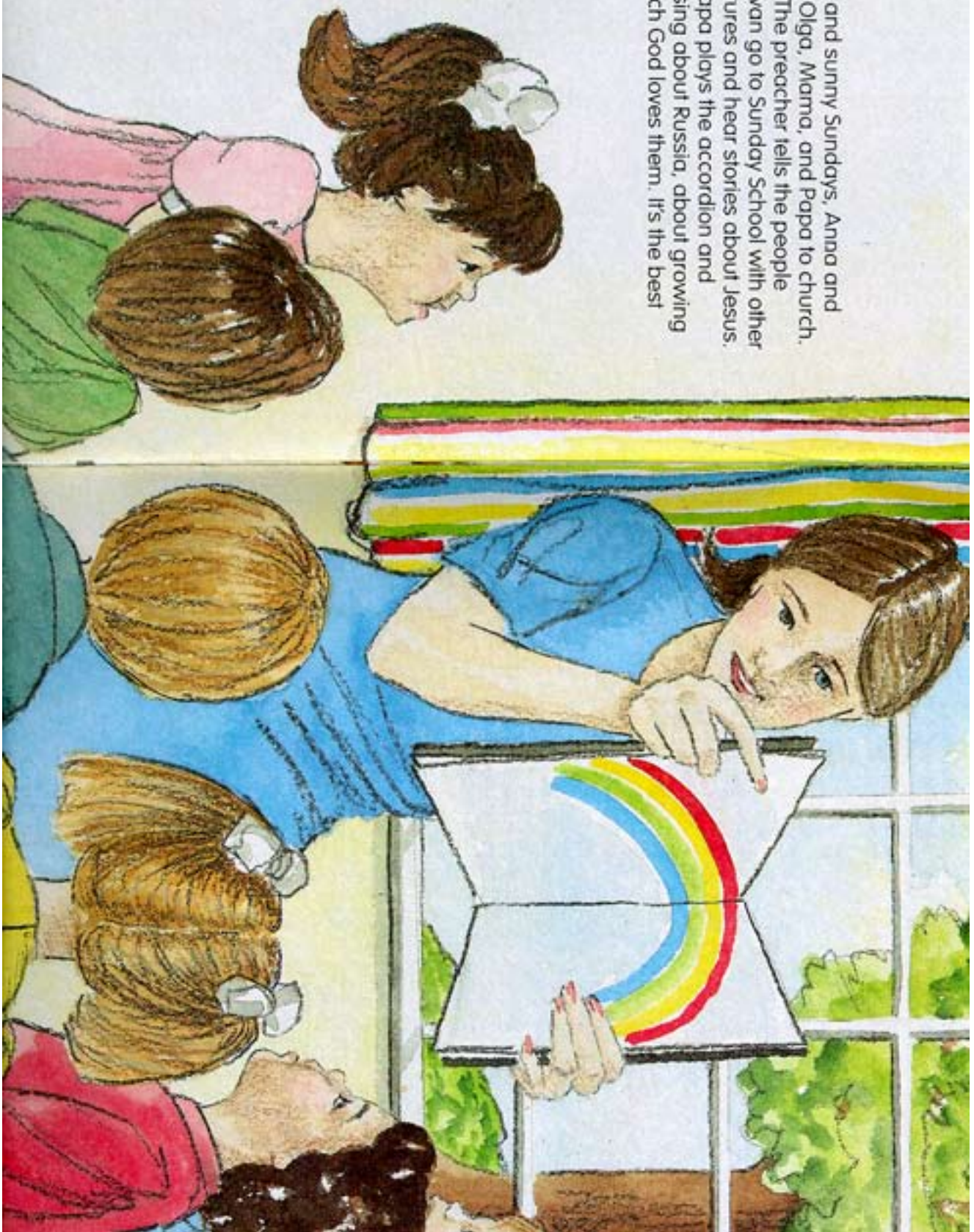
Some days Ivan says, "Please tell us a story, Babushka."

"Please do," says Anna. "Tell us about when you were a little girl."

She tells them stories about life in Russia long ago. Then she smiles, hugs them both, and says, "But this is the best time of all!"



On snowy Sundays and sunny Sundays, Anna and Ivan go with Babushka Olga, Mama, and Papa to church. They listen to the choir. The preacher tells the people about God. Anna and Ivan go to Sunday School with other children. They color pictures and hear stories about Jesus. Sunday evenings Papa plays the accordion and everybody sings. They sing about Russia, about growing up, and about how much God loves them. It's the best time of all!





Koulich [koo-leechi]

- white cake mix
- container of prepared icing (whited)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raisins
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped candied fruits
- 3 tablespoons chopped walnuts
- sprinkles- sugared confection, candied fruits

Prepare cake mix according to directions. Add the raisins, chopped fruits, and nuts. Pour batter into a well-greased two-pound coffee can. Bake in a 350°F oven for 1 hour. Let cool. Spread frosting over the top and sides. Add sprinkles. Russians sometimes add the initials **KV** to the top of the cake. **Khristos Voskress**, which means Christ is risen.

Borsch [BOAR-sh]

- 2 cups chopped fresh beets
- 1 cup chopped carrots
- 1 cup chopped onion
- $4\frac{1}{2}$ cups water
- $\frac{1}{2}$ pound pork, diced
- 1 cup chopped cabbage
- 1 tablespoon margarine

Boil beets, carrots, onion, and pork in water in a covered pot for 20 minutes. Add cabbage and margarine and cook uncovered for 15 minutes. May be served hot or chilled.

