

Lucy in the City

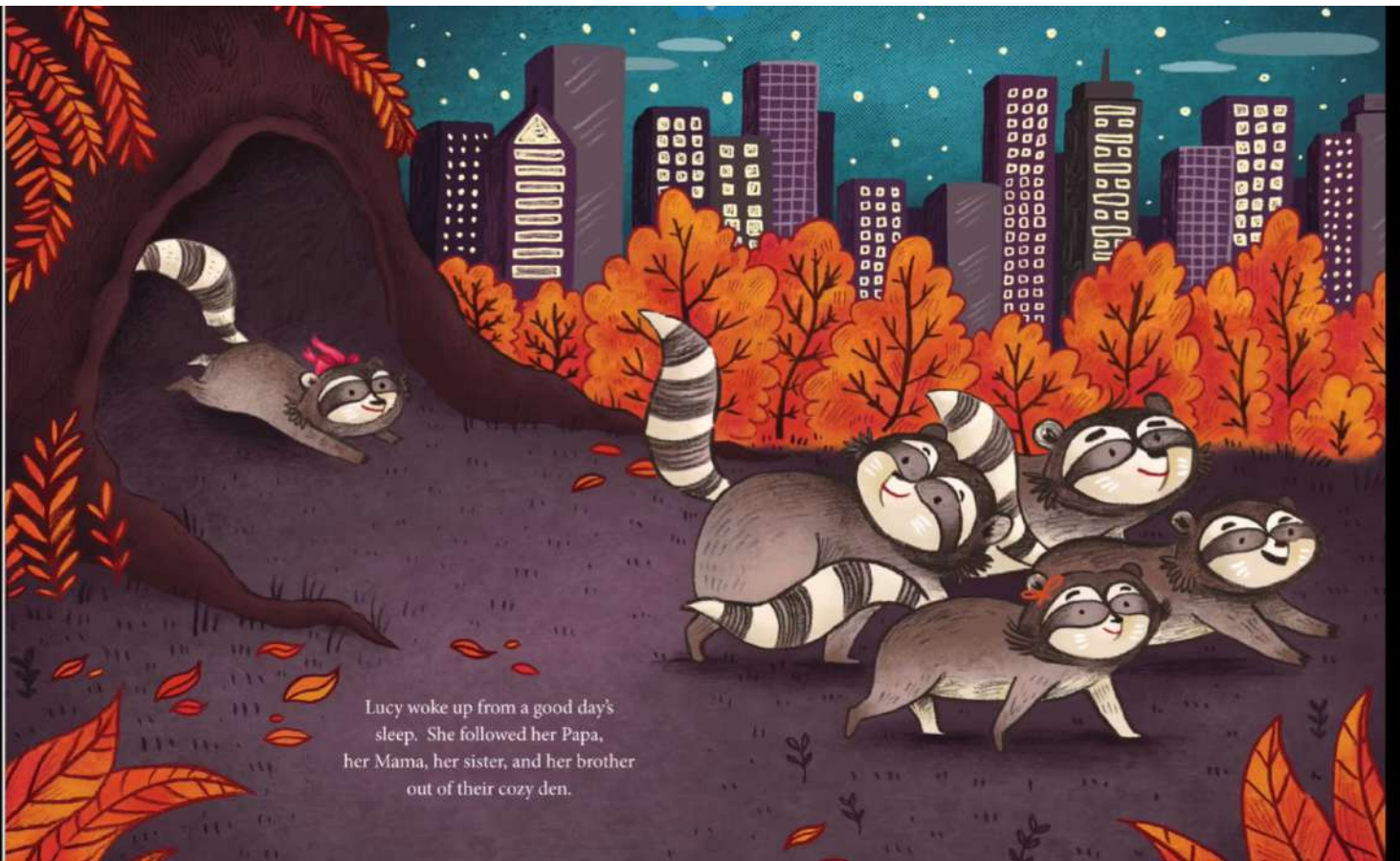
A Story About
Developing Spatial
Thinking Skills



by Julie Dillemath, PhD

illustrated by
Laura Wood

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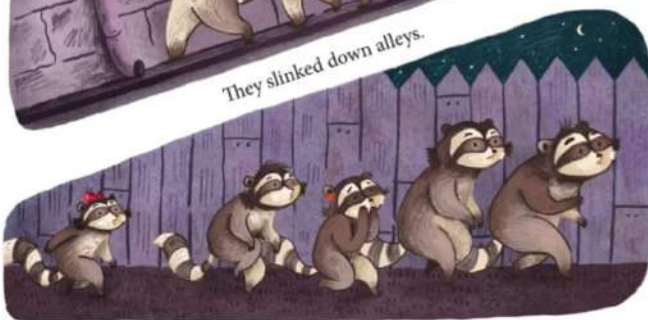
Lucy woke up from a good day's
sleep. She followed her Papa,
her Mama, her sister, and her brother
out of their cozy den.



They ran up streets.



They slinked down alleys.



They tiptoed through backyards.

They headed for the best garbage bins in town.
But all Lucy noticed was the *bob, bob, bob*
of her brother's tail in front of her nose.



Lucy rummaged in the rubbish.
PEANUT BUTTER!

She scurried behind a
garbage bin, before the others
could see her treasure.

And when Papa called out,
"Time to go!" Lucy didn't notice.



When she had licked the jar clean, Lucy looked around.
"Where is everyone?" she asked.



"Who, who?"
an owl called out.

"My family," Lucy said.
"Did they leave without me?"

Lucy looked up at the dark night sky.
She had never noticed how it glittered full of stars.
Her eyes welled full of tears. Her whiskers drooped.
"How will I get home?" she sniffed.

She sniffed again. Popcorn. Lucy knew that scent.
She had smelled it along the way.

If she could find it again, she would be one step closer to home.

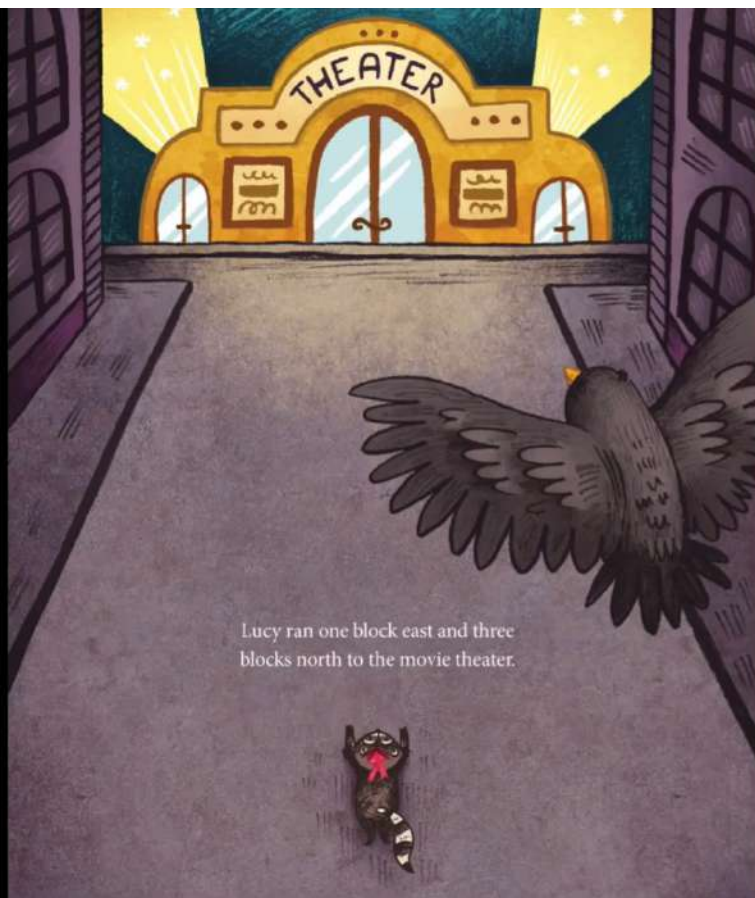


Lucy looked around, but she
wasn't sure where to go. Her
whiskers twitched.

"Owl, can you fly up high,
and see where there is
popcorn nearby?" she called.

"Movie theater up ahead!"
the owl said. "It's one block east
and three blocks north."





Lucy ran one block east and three blocks north to the movie theater.



She had never noticed how the popcorn crunched under her feet, and how the candy stuck to her paws. Yum, but yuck.

Lucy licked her paw, trying to remember other things she had passed. Finding those things again would take her back home, step by step.

She looked around for something to drink. "That's it!" she cried.



"Owl, can you fly up high, and see
where there is water nearby?"
"A pond in the park, right this way!"
the owl called down. "Two blocks
east and two blocks south."

Lucy ran two blocks east and two blocks south,
to the park. She had never noticed how the moonlight
shimmered on the quiet pond. She swished her tail.

Where had she been before
the pond in the park?

Her mouth watered.





"Owl, can you fly up high,
and see where there are
cookies nearby?" Lucy asked.

"A bakery, over here! Three blocks east,
and one block south," called the owl.

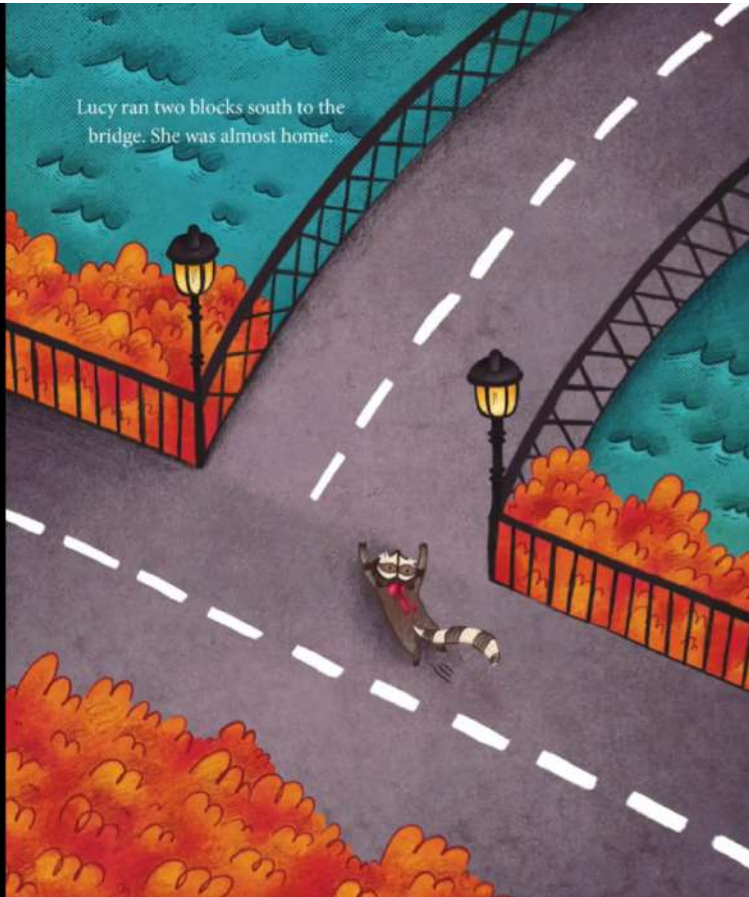


Lucy ran the three blocks east and one block south to the bakery. She had never noticed the bakers busy inside, late into the night. Her feet flew over the pavement as she ran past the bakery.

She did not stop. She heard the sound of rushing water and knew where to go.

There was a bridge across the river two more blocks south. "We did it! Thank you, Owl!" she called.

Lucy ran two blocks south to the bridge. She was almost home.



She ran up a street...

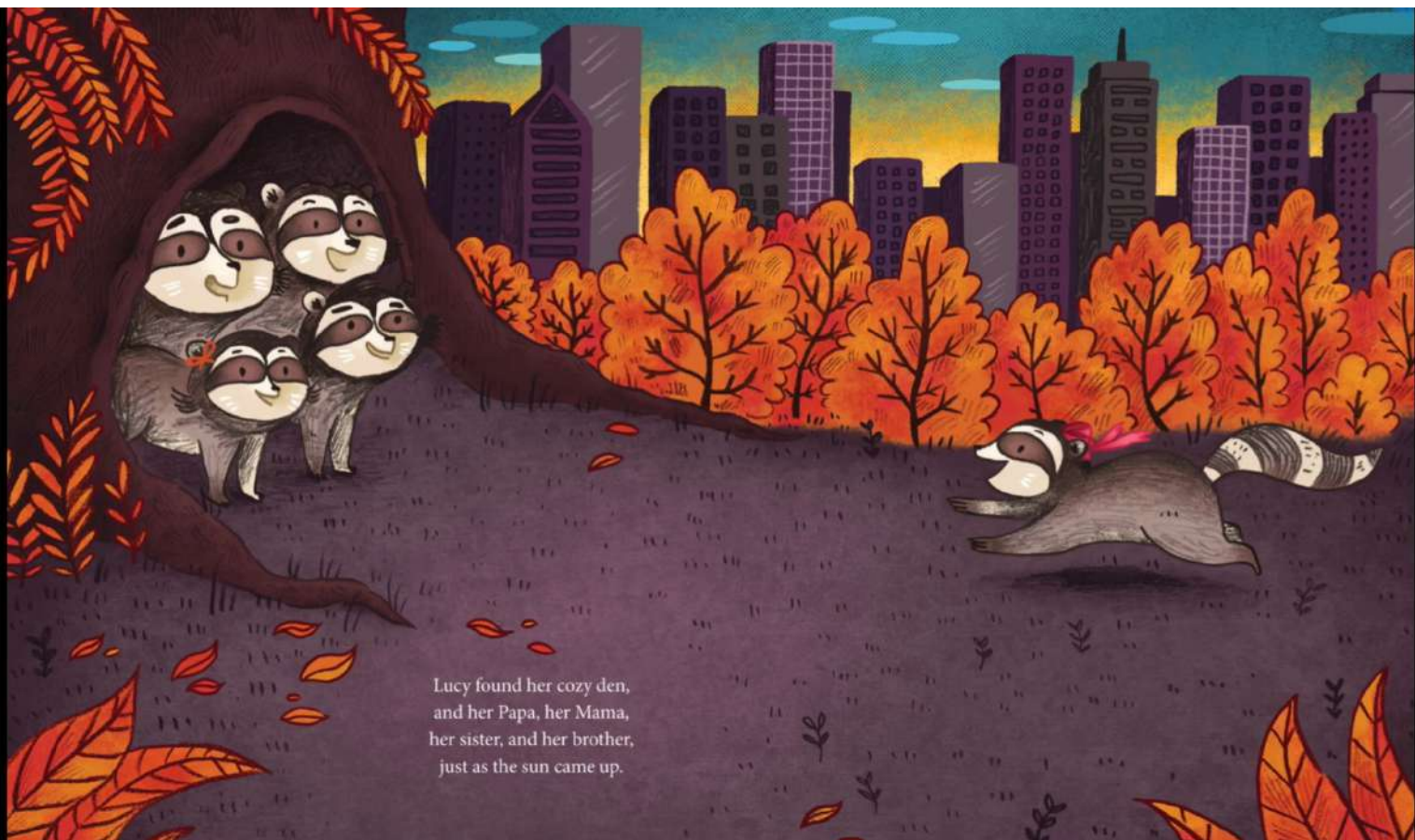


Slinked down an alley...



And tiptoed through a backyard.





Lucy found her cozy den,
and her Papa, her Mama,
her sister, and her brother,
just as the sun came up.

About the Author

*Julie Dilleworth, PhD, is a spatial cognition geographer and children's writer. She is passionate about writing picture books for children that help develop spatial thinking skills. Her stories have appeared in *Highlights for Children* and *Odyssey* magazines.*

About the Illustrator

Laura Wood's work can be found in picture books and magazines. By day, she likes to go to her studio to draw animals and little people. By night, she likes to put her dancing shoes on and lindy hop under the stars. There are three different places on this planet she calls home: Bristol, UK, Melbourne, Australia, and Treviso, Italy.

About Magination Press

Magination Press is an imprint of the American Psychological Association, the largest scientific and professional organization representing psychologists in the United States and the largest association of psychologists worldwide.

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