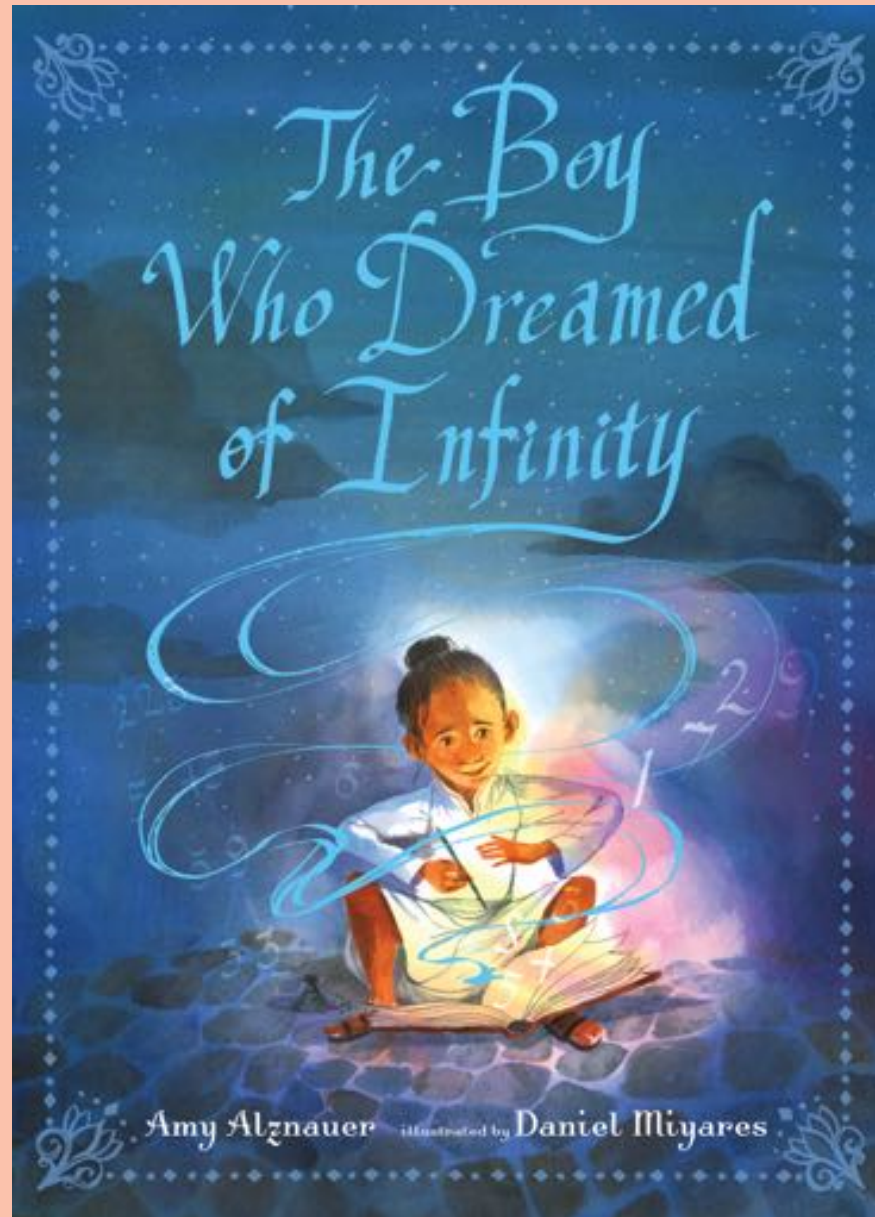


Ideas for Discussing...



I. Who is a genius?

Amma sang songs in the temple. Appa sold fabric in a shop. His friends played *goli gundu*, shooting marbles in the street. But Ramanujan was shy and liked to be alone.

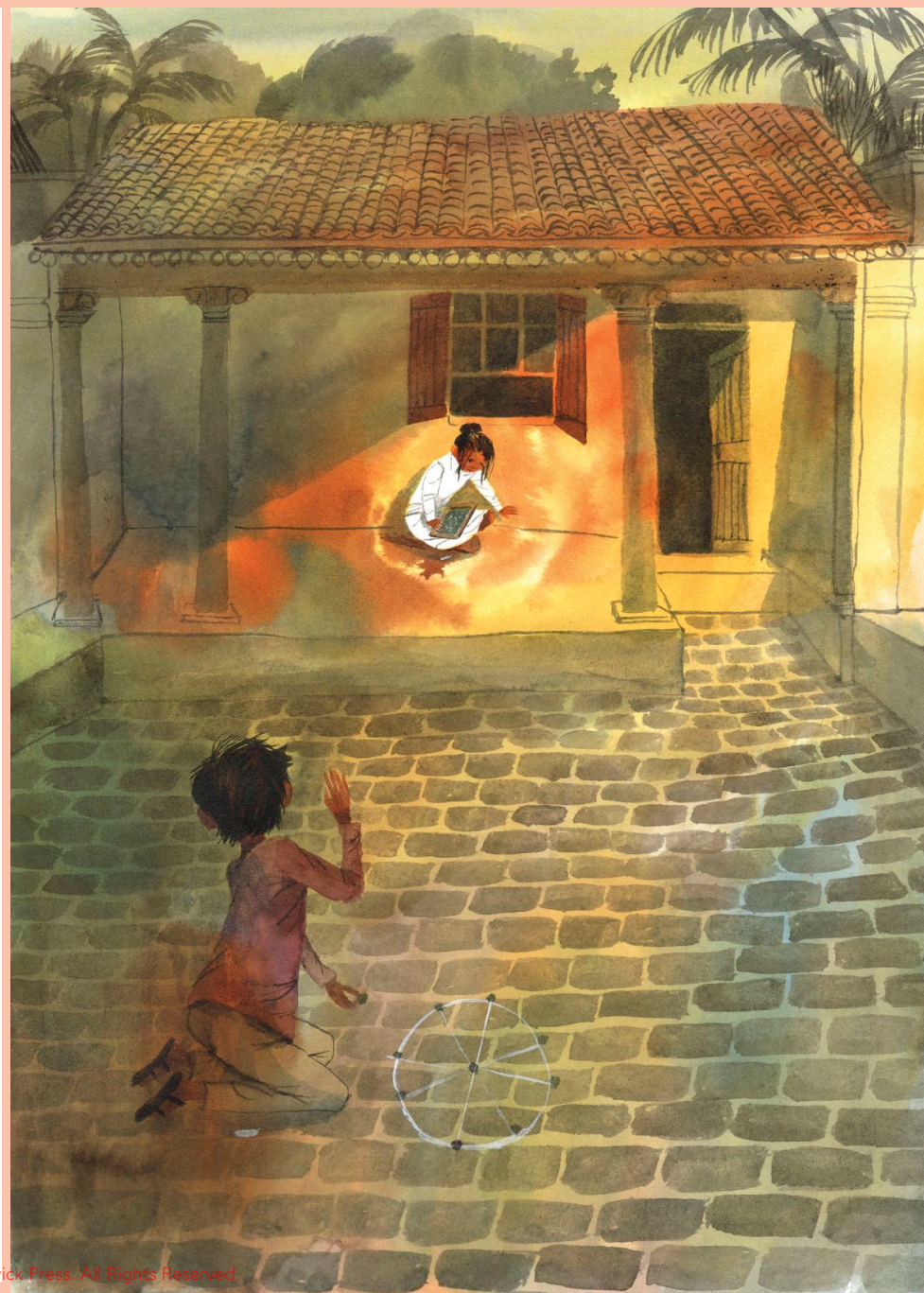
Every day, he rushed home from school to sit on the front *pial* of his house, long hair coming loose from its knot, slate across his knees. Often it looked like he was staring off into nowhere. But it was not nowhere. Out there, numbers leaped and roared. He could see them even when he closed his eyes.

“Are you a genius?” a friend called up to him one day.

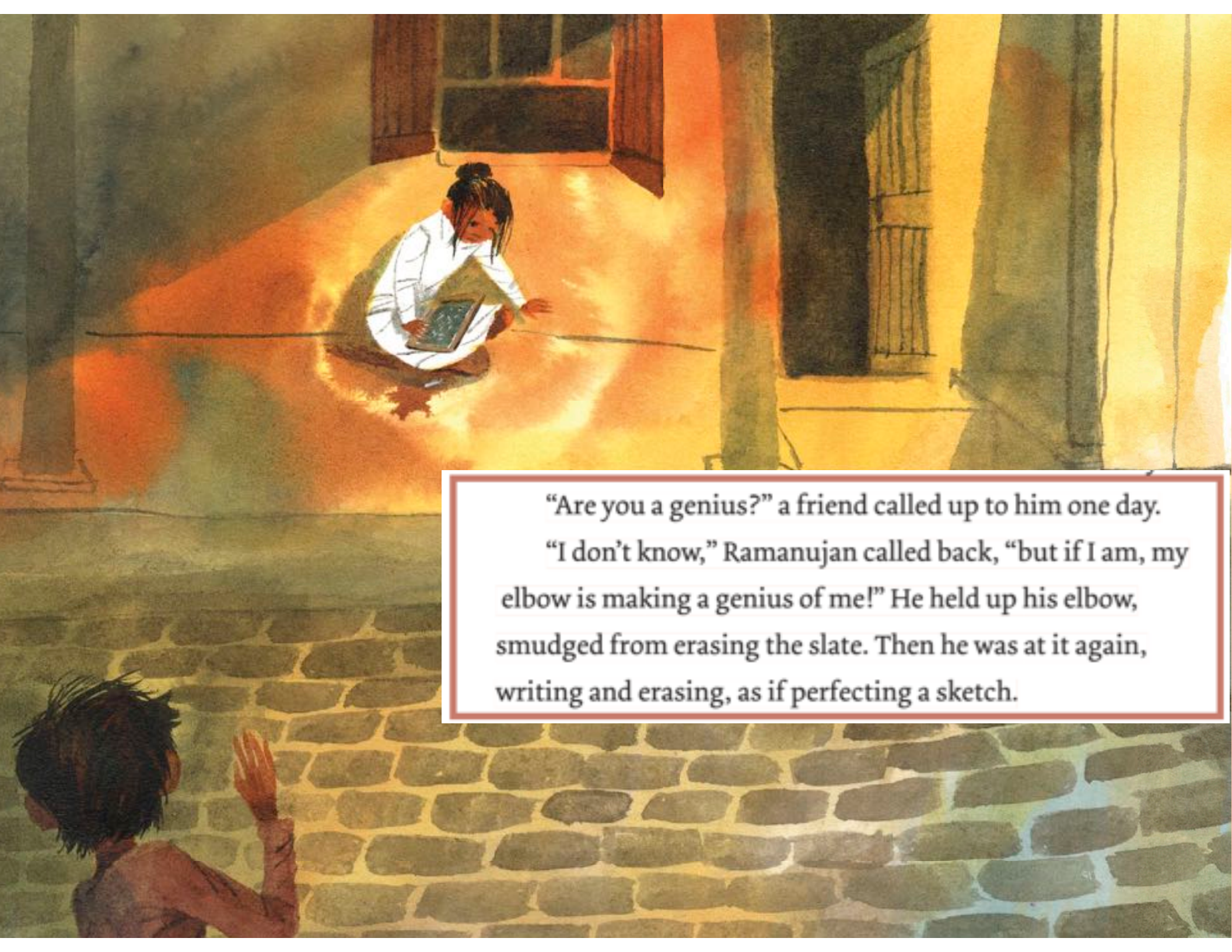
“I don’t know,” Ramanujan called back, “but if I am, my elbow is making a genius of me!” He held up his elbow, smudged from erasing the slate. Then he was at it again, writing and erasing, as if perfecting a sketch.

What else is big? he needed to know.

If I can break a number into so many sums, how many sums do I get if I take bigger and bigger numbers? When will it be too big to count? He wrote until his fingers ached.

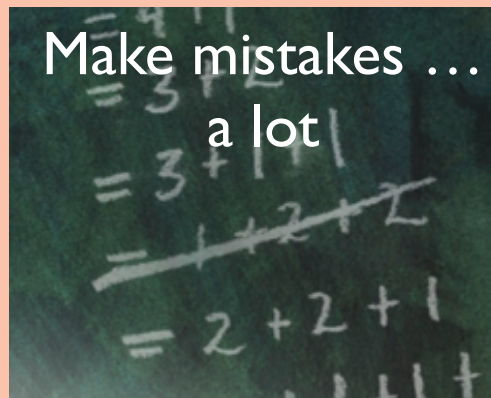
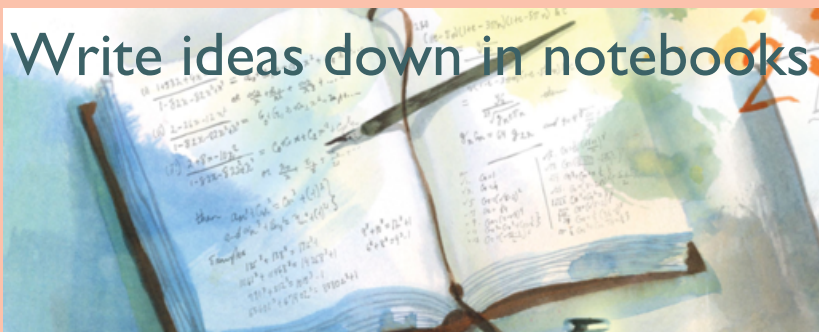


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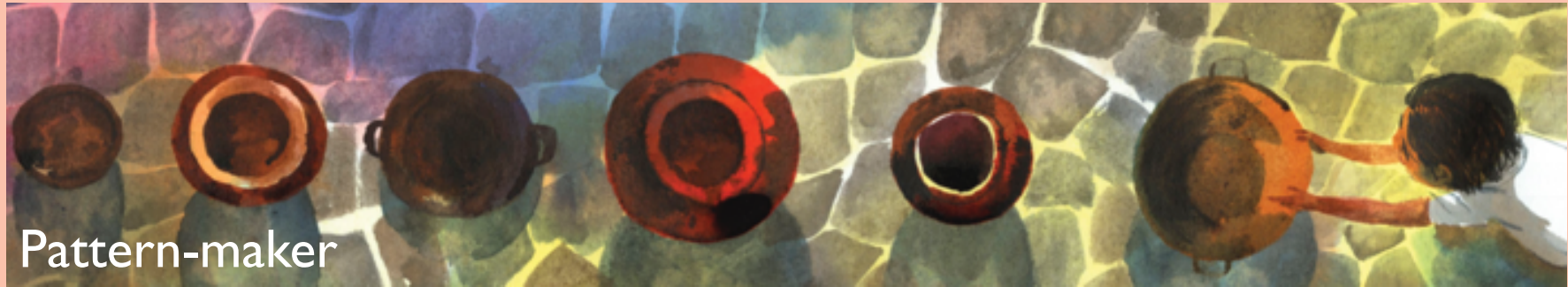
Geniuses are people who ...



2. Who is a mathematician?

a kenning: a new name used to replace the usual name of a person or thing, such as “a wave traveler” for “a boat.”

Think of kennings for mathematician ...



And again, who is a mathematician?



young/old



male/female

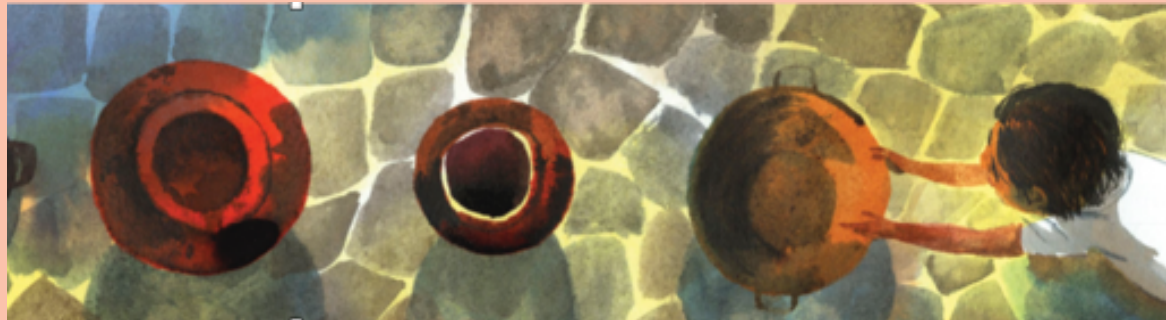


rich/poor

Black/brown/white

American/European/Asian/African...

3. What counts as doing math?





1. Who is a genius?

2. Who is a mathematician?

3. What counts as doing math?

4. What is inside a number?