A watercolor illustration of a landscape. The foreground is dominated by a large, textured area of red and orange, representing a dusty road. The texture is created with overlapping, circular brushstrokes in various shades of red, orange, and pink. To the left and right of the road, there are green bushes and trees, rendered with soft watercolor washes and some darker green outlines. The background is a pale, light blue sky. The overall style is soft and painterly.

Kita walks home slowly today.
Her feet plop into the red dust of the road.
There is a cloud of red dust all around her feet.

Kita loves walking on the dusty red road.





Mama tells Kita not to make red dust clouds.
Mama says if the red dust cloud grows,
it will become a Dust Eater.

Dust Eaters swallow little girls in one big bite.
Kita doesn't think that story is true.
Mama just doesn't want her
to get her pretty dress all
dirty with the red dust.







DOOF!

Kita stomps her left foot on the ground to see if the dust cloud can get bigger.



DOOF!

She stomps down her right foot.

DOOF! POOF!
DOOF! POOF!

The red cloud doesn't get bigger.
Her feet just turn redder as
she kicks up more dust.





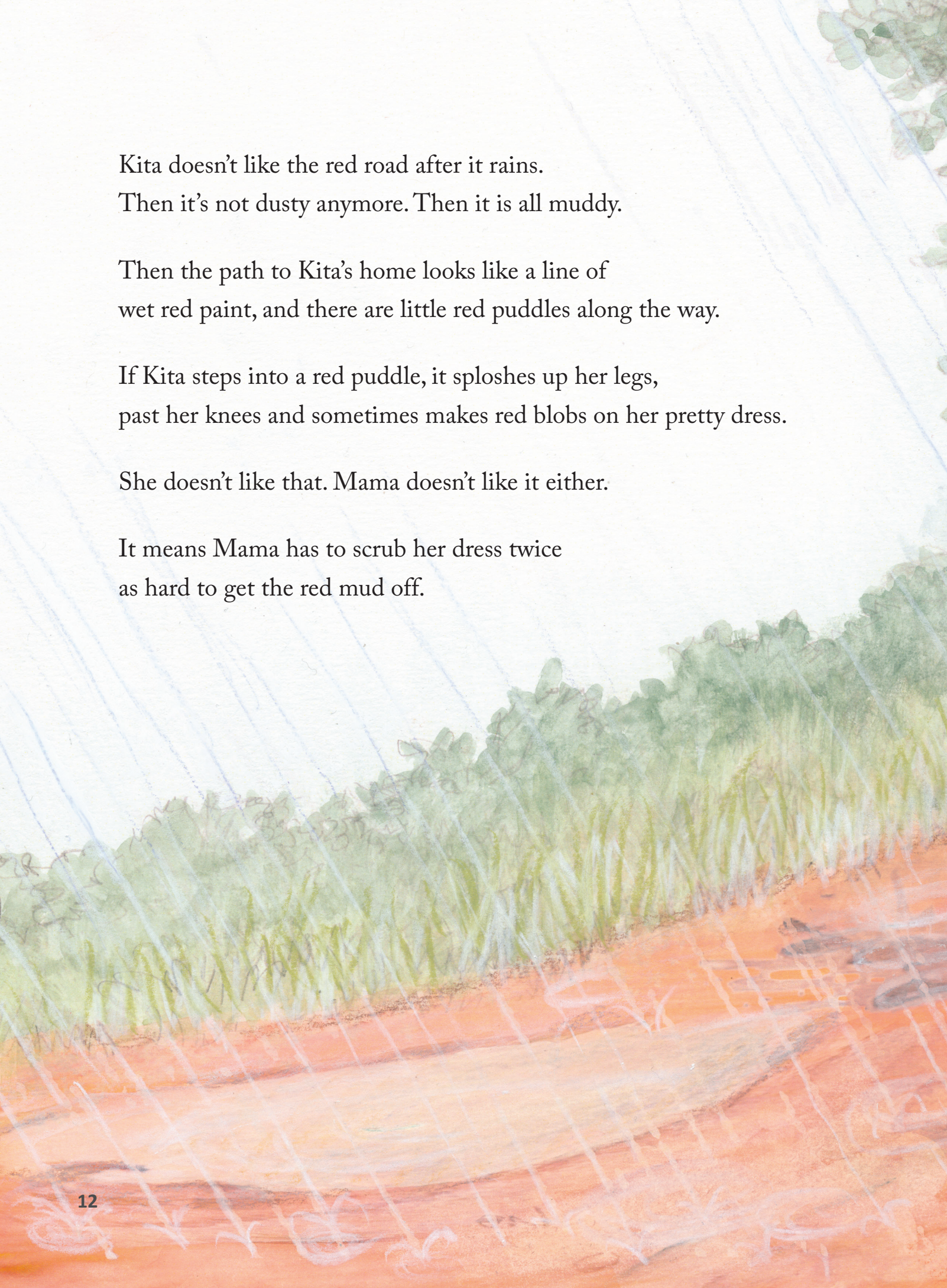
Kita doesn't have to walk on the dusty red road to her house.
The grass is soft and green on the sides of the road.
That's where Mama wants her to walk.

It's much safer than walking on the road, Mama says.
There are children on tricycles and grown-ups
on bicycles who use the road.
Kita can get hurt, Mama says.



But Kita loves walking on the dusty red road.
She doesn't mind that her little feet and toes
are covered in red dust.



A watercolor illustration of a scene during a rainstorm. The background is a pale, overcast sky. Numerous thin, light blue lines representing rain fall diagonally across the entire scene. In the foreground, a wide, reddish-brown dirt path is shown, with some darker, wet patches and puddles reflecting the light. To the left and right of the path, there are dense patches of green grass and bushes, rendered with soft, textured brushstrokes. The overall mood is quiet and somewhat somber due to the weather.

Kita doesn't like the red road after it rains.
Then it's not dusty anymore. Then it is all muddy.

Then the path to Kita's home looks like a line of
wet red paint, and there are little red puddles along the way.

If Kita steps into a red puddle, it splashes up her legs,
past her knees and sometimes makes red blobs on her pretty dress.

She doesn't like that. Mama doesn't like it either.

It means Mama has to scrub her dress twice
as hard to get the red mud off.