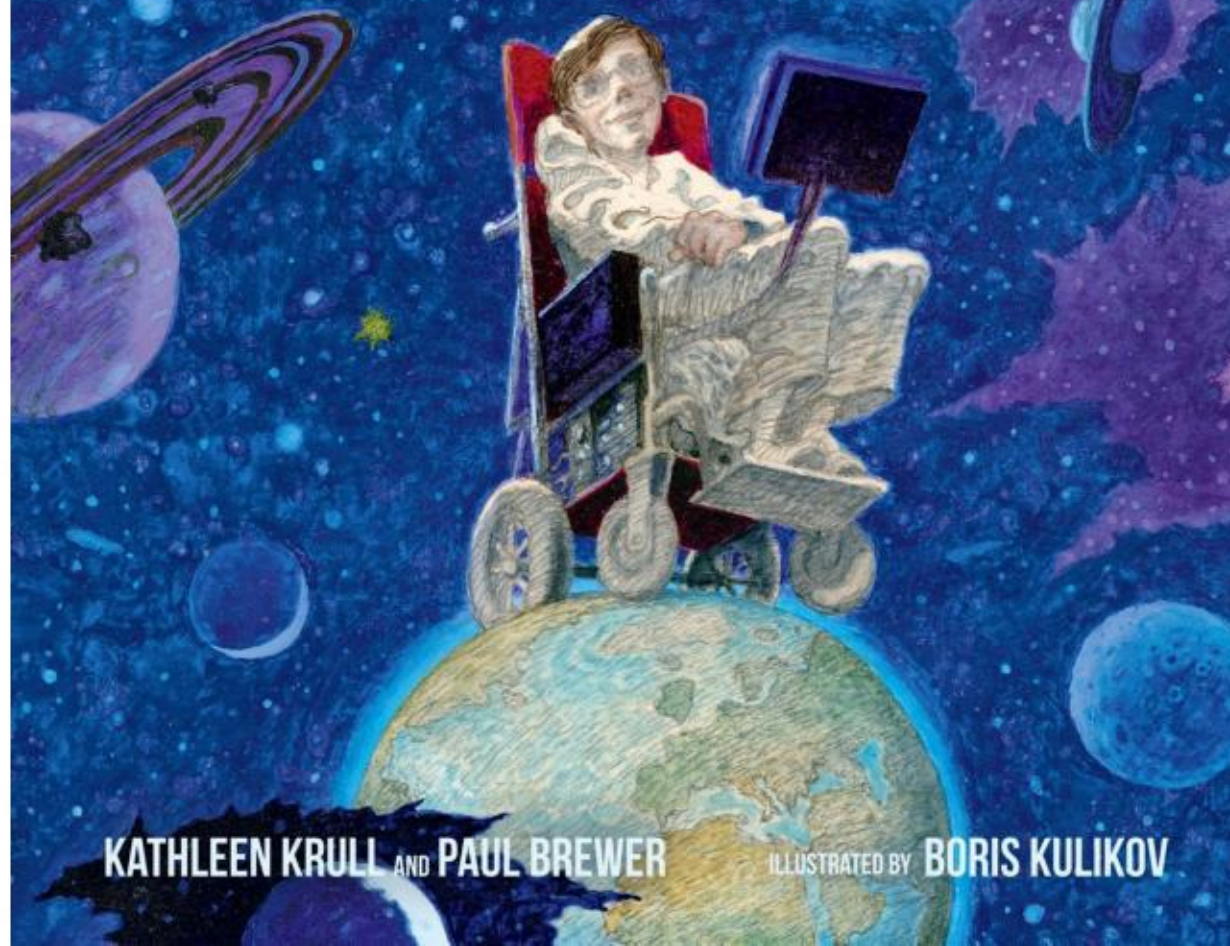


STAY CURIOUS!

A BRIEF HISTORY OF STEPHEN HAWKING



KATHLEEN KRULL AND PAUL BREWER

ILLUSTRATED BY **BORIS KULIKOV**

To Dr. Jeffrey Ninberg, D.C.,
who's always got our backs
—K.K. & P.B.

For you, who is still staring into the night sky
—B.K.



“I am just a child who has never grown up.
I keep asking these how and why questions.
Occasionally I find an answer.” —Stephen Hawking

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CROWN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS
NEW YORK

Stephen Hawking grew up in England asking questions among people who stretched their brains day and night. Sometimes his whole family ate dinner in silence, all of them reading their books.



Other times, while tending to beehives in the basement or making fireworks in the greenhouse, they blasted opera music.

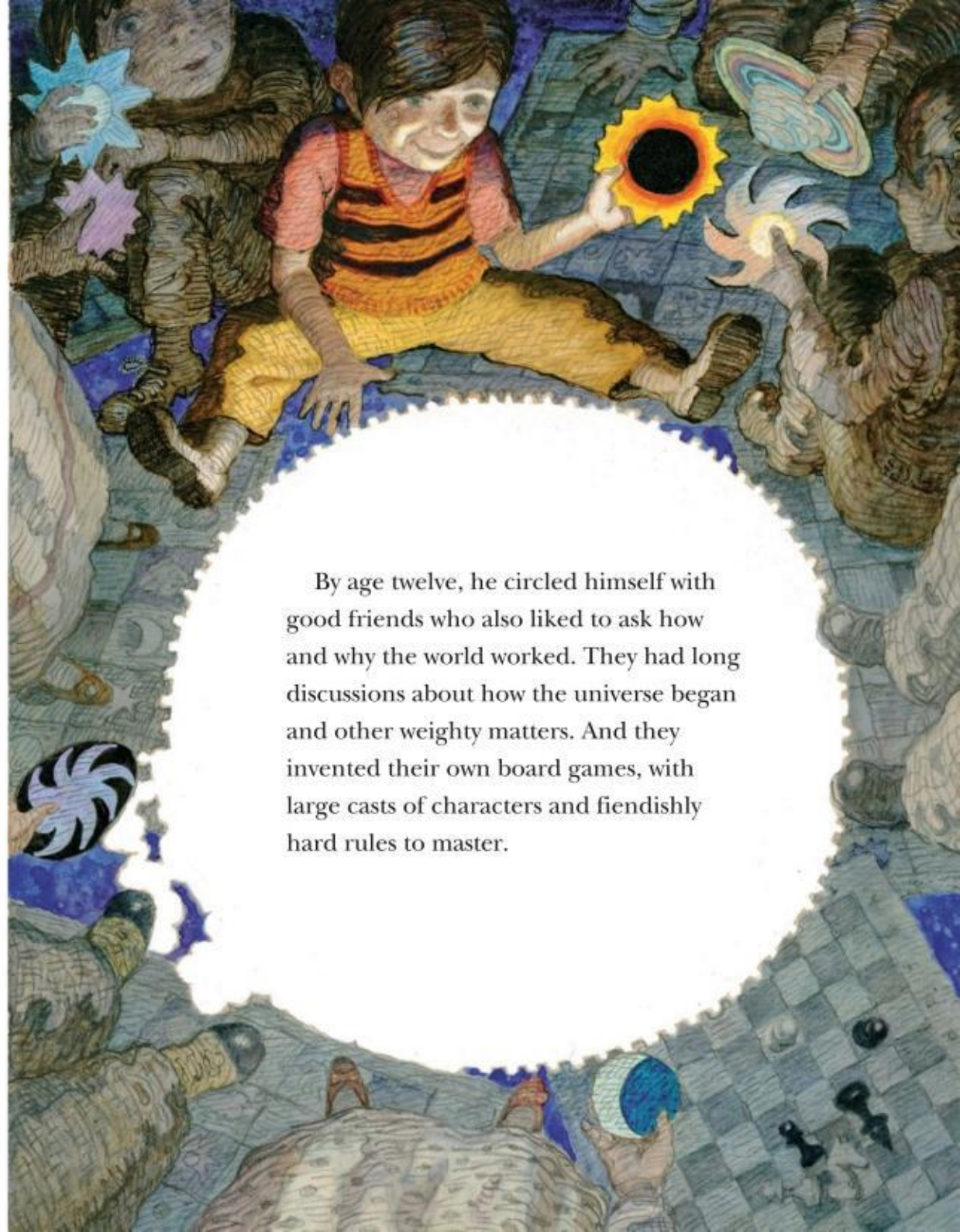
On summer evenings they sprawled out in the backyard to stare up at the stars.

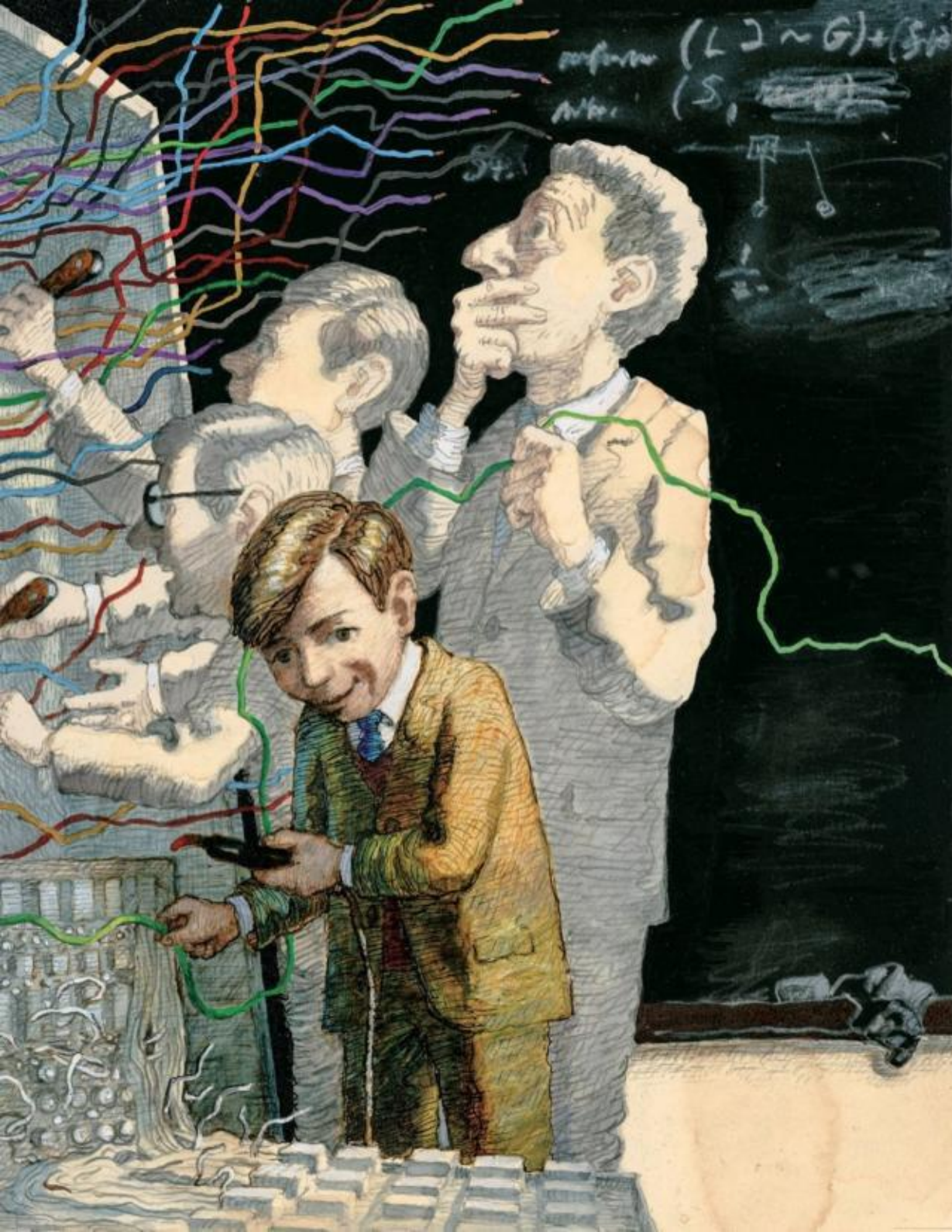


Stephen delighted in taking apart radios and clocks, to see how things worked. (Putting them back together—not as fun.) His favorite toys were ones he could control, like model trains, airplanes, and boats.



By age twelve, he circled himself with good friends who also liked to ask how and why the world worked. They had long discussions about how the universe began and other weighty matters. And they invented their own board games, with large casts of characters and fiendishly hard rules to master.





With the help of his math teacher Dikran Tahta, Stephen and his friends grew from creating board games into inventing a bare-bones computer. Using insides from a clock, an old telephone switchboard, and other recycled parts, they came up with a machine that could solve basic math problems. It was 1958—way before most people knew what a computer was.



Mr. Tahta guided Stephen toward physics, the science dealing with energy, motion, and time. Even though Stephen barely paid attention or studied, he still earned perfect scores on his college exams and won a scholarship.

Stephen always credited Mr. Tahta for his success. “When each of us thinks about what we can do in life, chances are we can do it because of a teacher.”