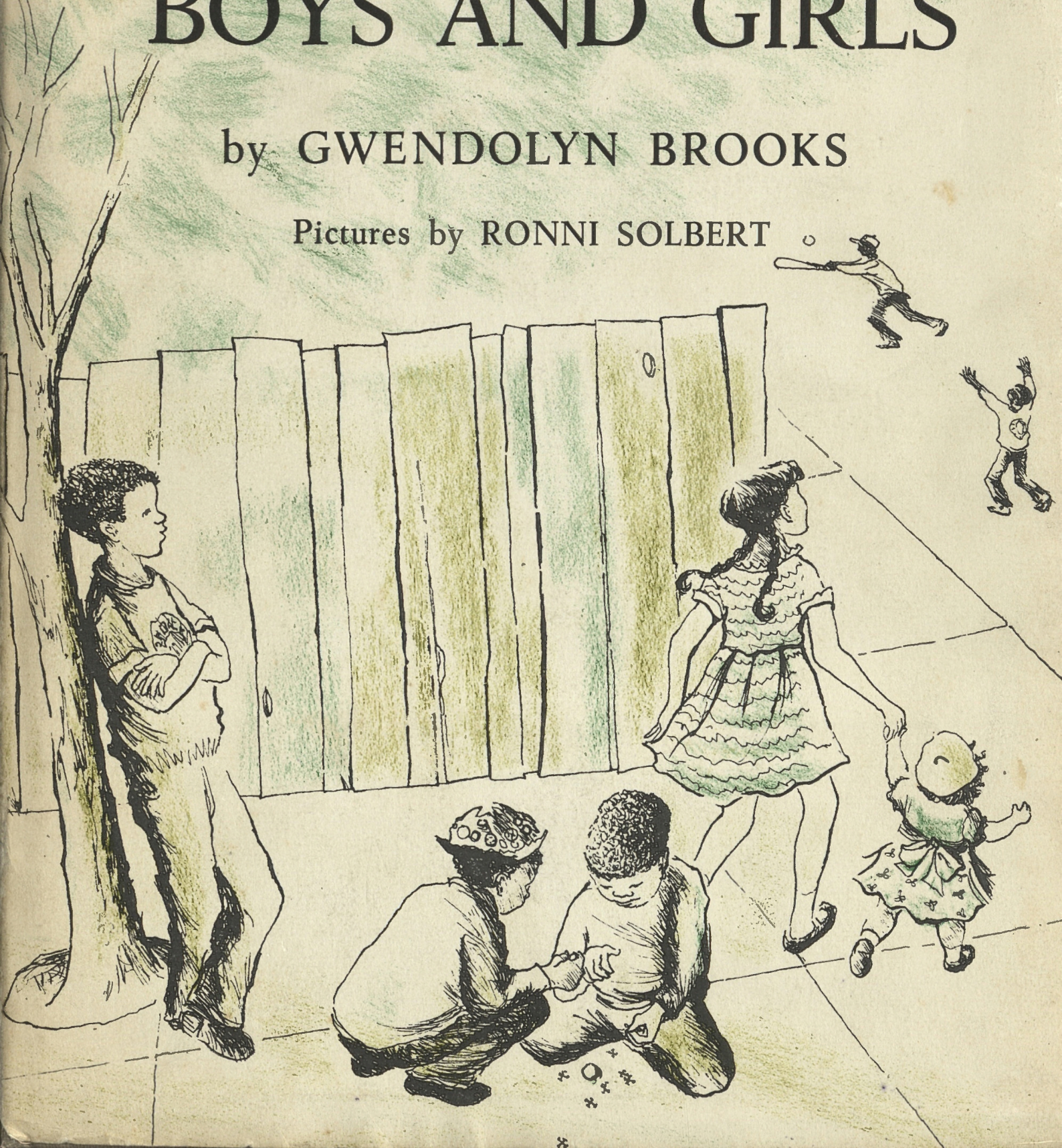


# BRONZEVILLE BOYS AND GIRLS

by GWENDOLYN BROOKS

Pictures by RONNI SOLBERT



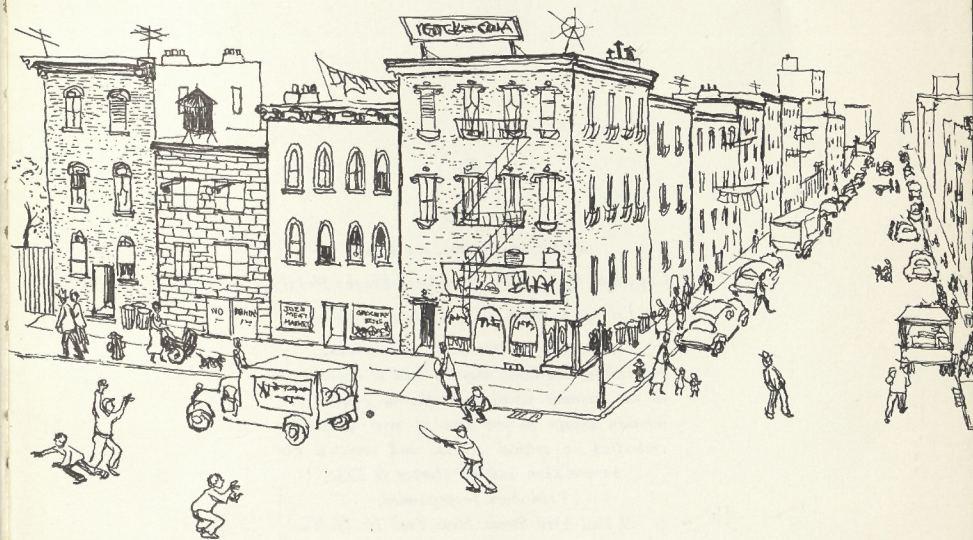


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HARPER & ROW, PUBLISHERS  
NEW YORK, EVANSTON, AND LONDON

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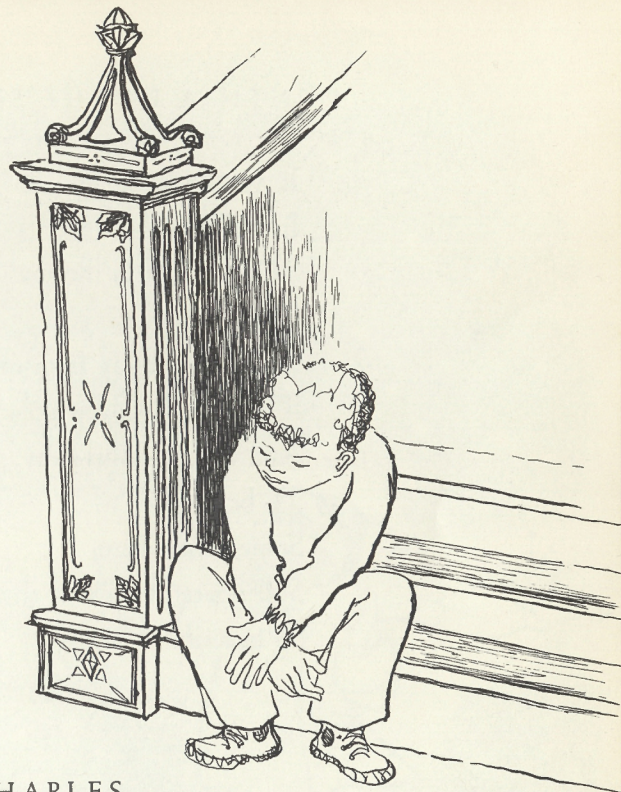
KEZIAH

I have a secret place to go.  
Not anyone may know.

And sometimes when the wind is rough  
I cannot get there fast enough.

And sometimes when my mother  
Is scolding my big brother,

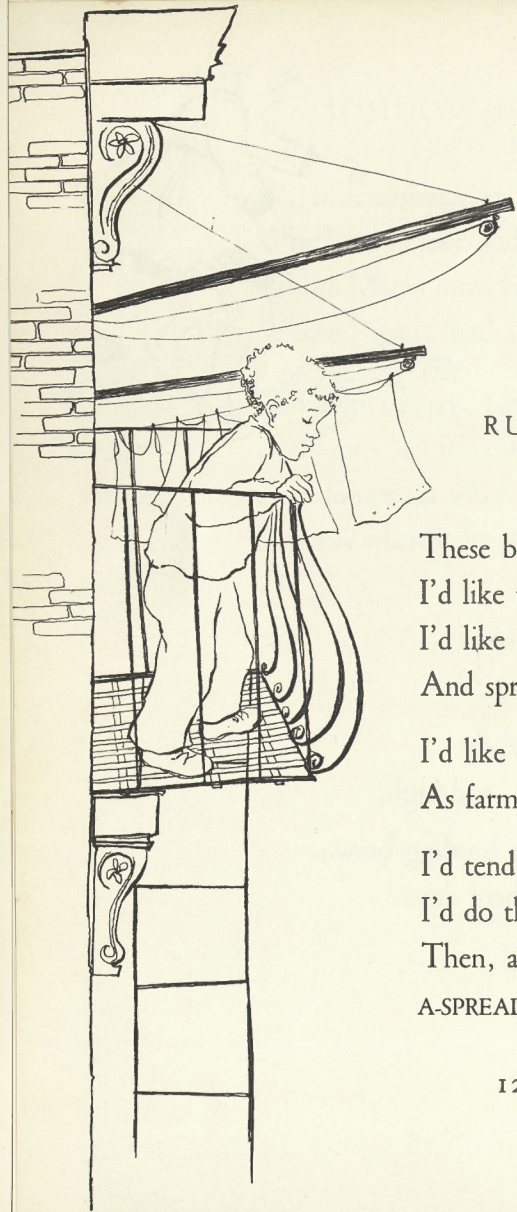
My secret place, it seems to me,  
Is quite the only place to be.



CHARLES

Sick-times, you go inside yourself,  
And scarce can come away.  
You sit and look outside yourself  
At people passing by.





RUDOLPH IS TIRED  
OF THE CITY

These buildings are too close to me.  
I'd like to PUSH away.  
I'd like to live in the country,  
And spread my arms all day.  
I'd like to spread my breath out, too—  
As farmers' sons and daughters do.  
I'd tend the cows and chickens.  
I'd do the other chores.  
Then, all the hours left I'd go  
A-SPREADING out-of-doors.

EPPIE

A little girl wants something  
That's perfectly her own.

Something that she can talk about  
On the telephone.

Or in the classroom (softly,  
And knowing that she shouldn't!)—

Or at the movies, to her chum,  
(Although she mostly wouldn't  
Disturb a nervous neighbor!)—

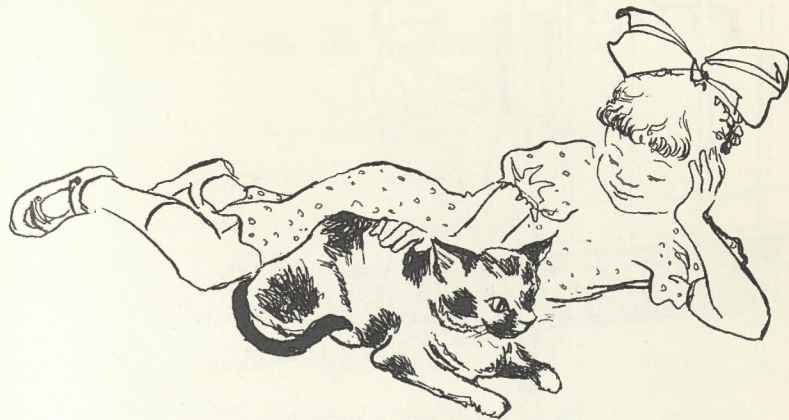
Or maybe to her mother.

Something to talk about, and put  
Into a box, or other  
"Own-place": perhaps a drawer,  
Beneath the hankies and  
Pink camisole, best anklets,  
Sash with the satin band.



MARIE LUCILLE

That clock is ticking  
Me away!  
The me that only  
Yesterday  
Ate peanuts, jam and  
Licorice  
Is gone already.  
And this is  
'Cause nothing's putting  
Back, each day,  
The me that clock is  
Ticking away.



CHERYL'S MOOTSIE

My Mootsie sits an HOUR, about!—  
And stiffly stares around,  
Living her lovely little life  
With scarcely any sound.

I want to wrap myself in fur,  
And be a hushed-up thing.  
(Except, I'd chase a mouse, or push,  
Sometimes, a ball of string.)





### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Gwendolyn Brooks was born in Topeka, Kansas, and now lives in Chicago, Illinois. She is the author of two volumes of poetry and one novel.

For ANNIE ALLEN, her second book of poems, she received the Pulitzer Prize. She also won two Guggenheim Fellowships, an award from the Academy of Arts and Letters, and several other awards. Her other books are A STREET IN BRONZEVILLE and the novel MAUD MARTHA.

Miss Brooks, who is Mrs. Henry L. Blakely in private life, is the mother of two children, Henry and Nora.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Ronni Solbert was born in Washington, D. C. She traveled extensively throughout Europe, Mexico, Central America and the Near and Far East. In 1952 she received a Fulbright Fellowship to India for research on folk and tribal art.

Among the children's books Miss Solbert has illustrated are THE TRAVELS OF MARCO and THE TREE HOUSE OF JIMMY DOMINO.

At the present time Miss Solbert lives in New York City.