

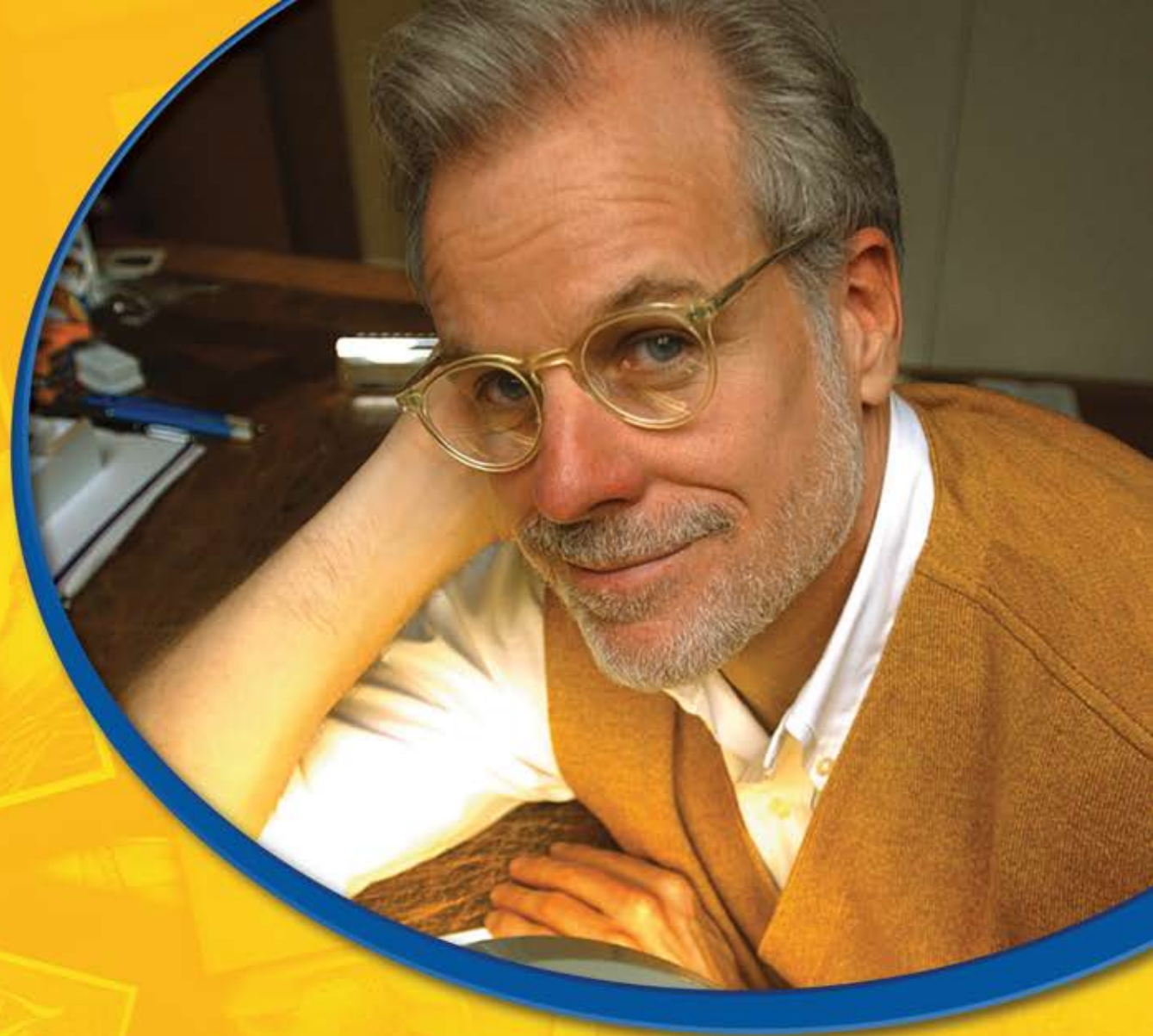
A Normal Beginning

Chris was born on June 18, 1949, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He grew up with his parents and older sister, Karen.



“When I tell myself a story, I see it in my imagination, like a short movie.”

Chris Van Allsburg



When he was young, Chris liked to draw. He also built model airplanes, boats, and cars. In school, Chris was mostly interested in math and science classes.

A Creative Twist

Chris did not take art in high school. But he decided to study it in college. At first, he had a tough time in his new classes.

Then he began to study **sculpture**. This art form combined Chris's love of building models with his creative mind. It was a perfect fit!

! fun fact

One of Chris's favorite books growing up was *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson.

HAROLD
and the
PURPLE
CRAYON

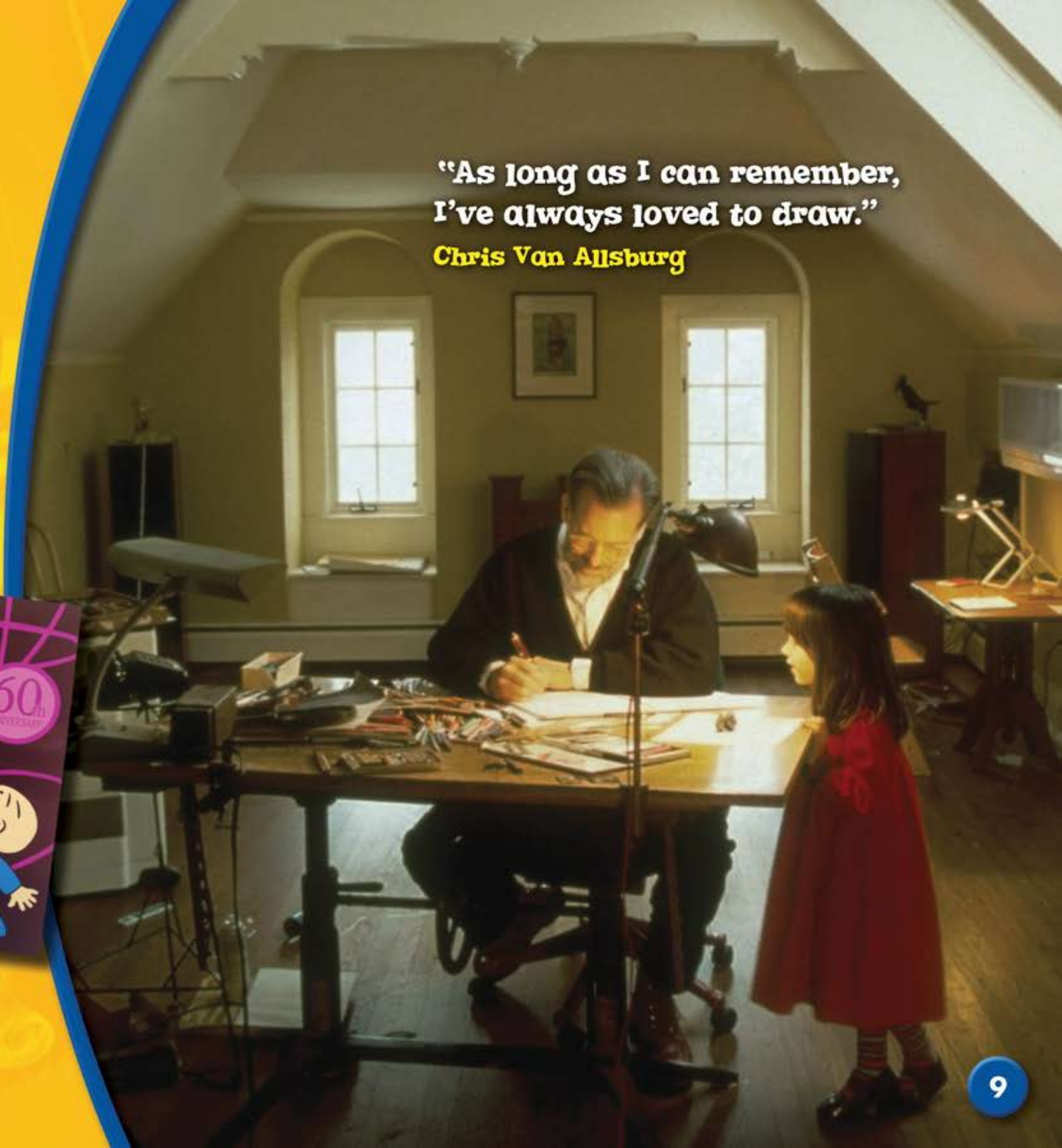
by
Crockett
Johnson

60th
ANNIVERSARY

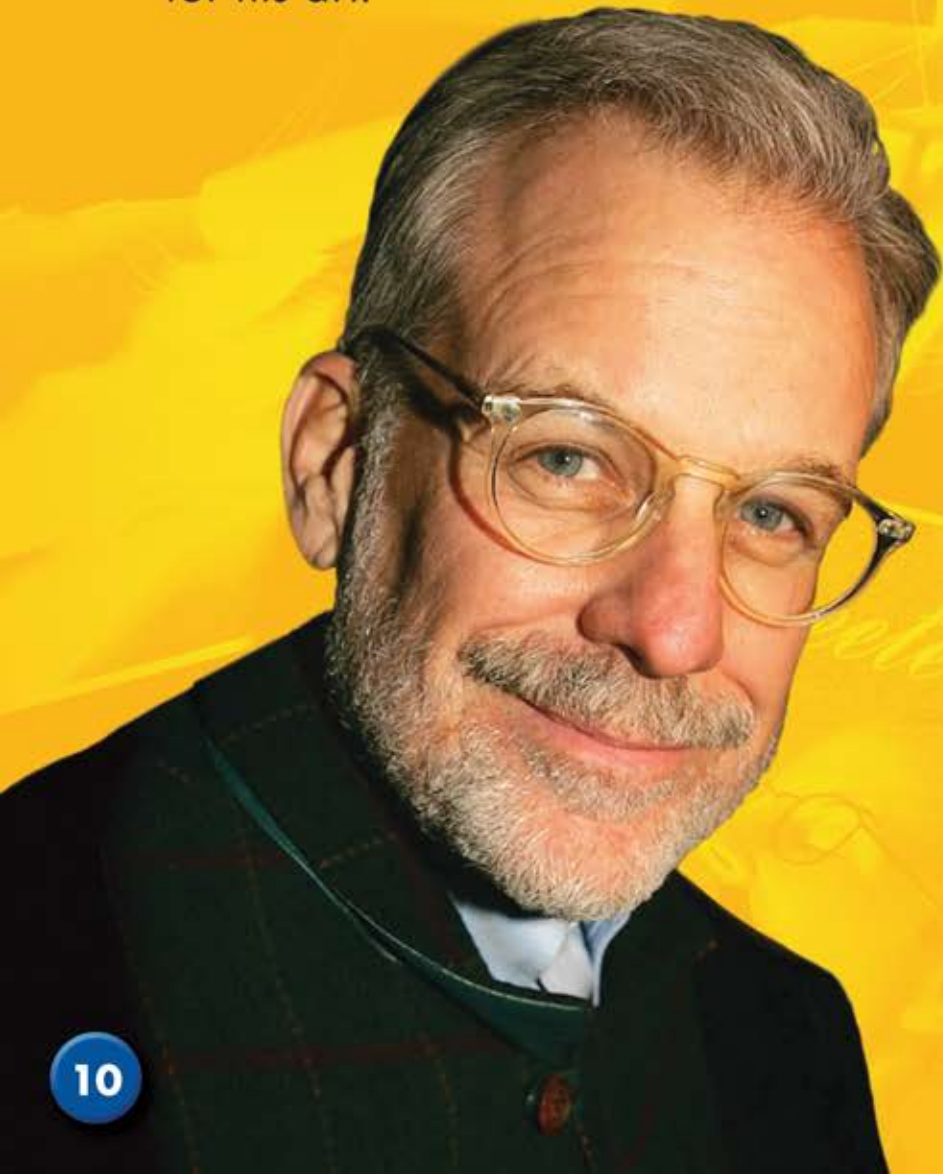


"As long as I can remember,
I've always loved to draw."

Chris Van Allsburg



After college, Chris continued to study sculpture. He moved to Rhode Island for **graduate school**. There, he set up a studio for his art.



**Whitney
Museum**

! fun fact

Chris began drawing at home in the evenings. It was too cold to sculpt in his studio at night.

Chris also began drawing seriously. Some of his drawings were shown at the famous Whitney Museum in New York City. This gave Chris confidence to draw more.