

Ben goes to school



It is time to go back to school! The summer holidays are over. Jabu gets ready for school. He feels sad that he won't get to play ball with his dog Ben. He wonders what his dog will do home alone all day. Jabu takes his backpack and begins walking to school. He doesn't see that Ben is following him.

READ 1

Who is following Jabu to school?
Oh! **I learn** that his dog Ben is following him!

READ 2

Why does Jabu feel sad? Oh! **I learn** that he feels sad that he won't get to play with his dog, Ben.



When Jabu gets to school, he says 'hi' to all of his friends. He hasn't seen them in so many weeks! He is so excited to see his friends that he doesn't even see Ben!

Jabu goes into his new classroom. He meets his new teacher, Mrs Moleleki.



READ 1

I wonder if Jabu sees Ben? Oh! No, he doesn't see Ben. He is busy saying 'hi' to his friends.

READ 2

Why does Ben feel excited? Oh! I learn that he is so excited to see his friends. He hasn't seen them in a long time!

His teacher is so nice. Jabu is happy to be back at school. Mrs Moleleki teaches the class a new song. The class is so busy learning the new song that no one sees Ben hiding under the rug.

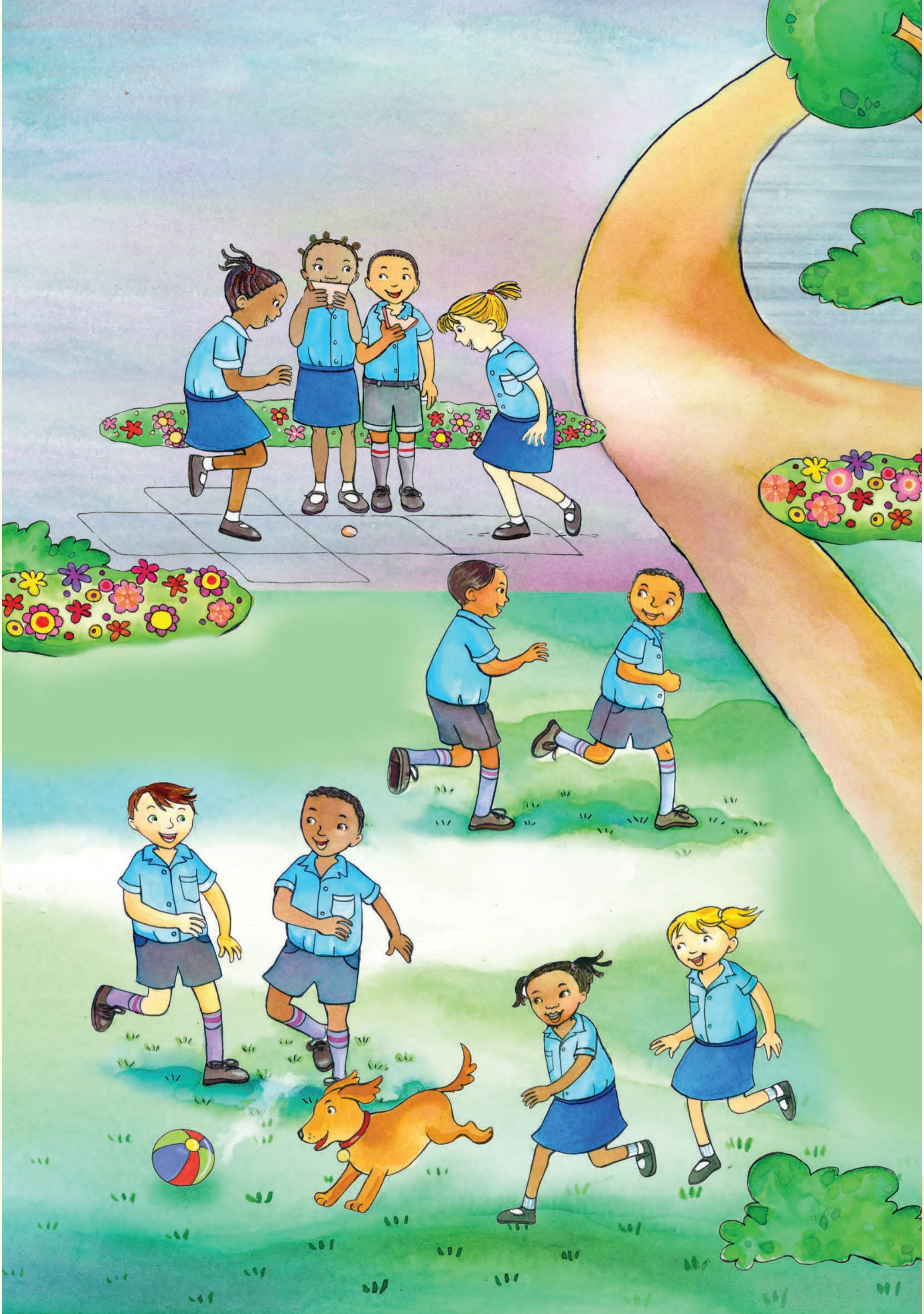


READ 1

I wonder if Jabu sees Ben? No! He doesn't see Ben. He is busy learning a new song.

READ 2

Why is Jabu happy? Oh! I learn that he is happy to be back at school.



At break Jabu kicks the ball with his friends. Jabu thinks about his dog, Ben. 'Ben would like this big ball,' Jabu thinks. Jabu feels sad that he can't play with Ben. Jabu misses Ben.

But then, suddenly, Ben runs onto the field and chases the ball. 'Where did you come from?' asks Jabu. Jabu laughs. Jabu kicks the ball to Ben.

READ 1

I wonder if Jabu sees Ben? Oh! Yes, he finally sees Ben. Ben plays ball with his friends.

READ 2

Why does Jabu feel sad? Oh! **I learn** that he feels sad that he can't play ball with his dog, Ben.



Jabu is so happy to be back at school. He is happy to play with his dog and his friends. It is a good day!

READ 1

Who does Jabu play with? I learn that he plays with his friends and Ben.

READ 2

Why is Jabu happy? Oh! Because he is with his friends and with Ben!

Ben goes to school: Activity Ideas

Problem Solving

- 1 Put learners into small discussion groups.
- 2 Tell learners to pretend that they are Jabu's neighbours. They see Ben follow Jabu to school. They are worried that Ben may get lost or run over.
- 3 Tell groups to think about and discuss how they could solve the problem.
- 4 After a few minutes, ask one person from each group to share their solution.
- 5 Acknowledge good ideas, and ask probing questions to help struggling groups to further develop their ideas.

School for Kids and Dogs

- 1 Tell learners to imagine that there is a school for kids and dogs.
- 2 Tell them to imagine that every day, kids get to take their dogs to school.
- 3 Ask learners to think about the activities that the kids and dogs could do together at school, just like Jabu and his friends played soccer with Ben!
- 4 Tell learners to turn and talk about their idea with a partner.
- 5 Next, tell learners to draw a picture of their activity.

Olwethu's first day



Soon, Olwethu would go to school for the first time ever. Olwethu was so anxious. She couldn't sleep. She couldn't eat.



READ 1

I can make a **connection**, because when I feel scared, I also don't sleep well!

READ 2

It can be so scary to do something for the first time! That reminds me of how I felt before my first day of being a teacher. I remember I was so scared, I stayed up all night thinking about the bad things that could happen!

Three days before school began, Olwethu's gogo took her to the shops to buy her uniform, school shoes, and stationery. Usually Olwethu loved to go to the shops. 'I don't want to go,' Olwethu cried in the taxi all the way to town.

'Why not? You usually love the shops!' Gogo said.

'I don't want to go to school. I don't want to be away from you all day!' she said.

'Don't be scared!' said her gogo, 'I will be there every day when you get home!'



READ 1

Oh! Olwethu doesn't want to go to school because she is afraid she will miss her gogo! I can make a **connection**! When I took my son to crèche for the first time, he cried because he missed being with me all day!

READ 2

I can make a **connection**! When I am in a bad mood, even things that I usually like can feel hard to do!

Two days before school, Olwethu's older sister Zinzi helped her pack her new stationery into her new backpack.

'I don't want to pack my school bag,' Olwethu cried.

'Why not? You have this beautiful new bag and all this nice new stationery!' Zinzi said.

'I don't want to go to school. I don't want to be at school all day!' she said.

'Don't be scared!' said Zinzi, 'I will be there with you every day!'



The day before school, Olwethu's mother showed her how to shine her new shoes.

'I don't want to wear those shoes!' Olwethu cried.

'Why not? You usually love new shoes!' Olwethu's mother said.

'I don't want to go to school. I want to stay home and play all day!' she said.

'Don't be scared!' said her mother, 'You can play during break and after school!'



READ 1

I think Olwethu is used to playing all day. That reminds me of how I feel about going back to work after the holidays. At first, it feels hard to have to go back to work and not have the whole day free!

READ 2

I see that everyone is trying to help Olwethu feel excited about school. That reminds me of how my husband tried to make me tea to help me calm down when I felt scared about my first day of being a teacher!

The morning finally arrived for Olwethu to go to school. Olwethu put on her new uniform. It was clean and pressed. Olwethu zipped up her new backpack and put it on. It felt heavy. Olwethu put on her new school shoes. They were perfectly shiny! She looked at her reflection in the mirror. She looked ready. But, she didn't feel ready! 'Let's go,' Zinzi said.



READ 2

I can make a **connection**. I bought a new dress for my first day of teaching! When I looked in the mirror, I looked ready, but inside I still felt very scared!

'I don't want to go!' Olwethu cried all the way to school.



READ 2

That reminds me of how I felt on my first day of teaching! I wanted to turn around and go home for the entire drive to school!

When the bell rang, she went inside her new classroom. Her teacher told her where to sit – next to a little girl with exactly the same hairstyle as hers! They smiled at each other.

Her teacher taught the class a new song. Then, they drew pictures of their families.



READ 1

Oh! I think Olwethu thought school would be very scary! But then she got to school and she easily made friends and did fun things, so school felt less scary!

Finally, it was time to go home!
'I don't want to go home!' Olwethu cried.



READ 1

I can make a **connection**. Sometimes doing something for the first time is very hard and scary. But then, it isn't as bad as we thought it would be!

READ 2

That reminds me of how I felt after my first day of teaching! Nothing bad happened! I was scared for nothing because I actually had so much fun!



READ 1

Who is this story all about?

It is all about Olwethu.

Where did Olwethu go for the first time?

She went to school.

Why didn't Olwethu want to go to school?

- Because she felt scared.
- Because she has never been to school before!
- Because she wanted to stay home with her granny.
- Because she wanted to play all day.

READ 2

Who helps Olwethu get ready for her first day of school?

Her gogo, her older sister Zinzi, and her mother.

How did Olwethu feel when it was time to go home from school?

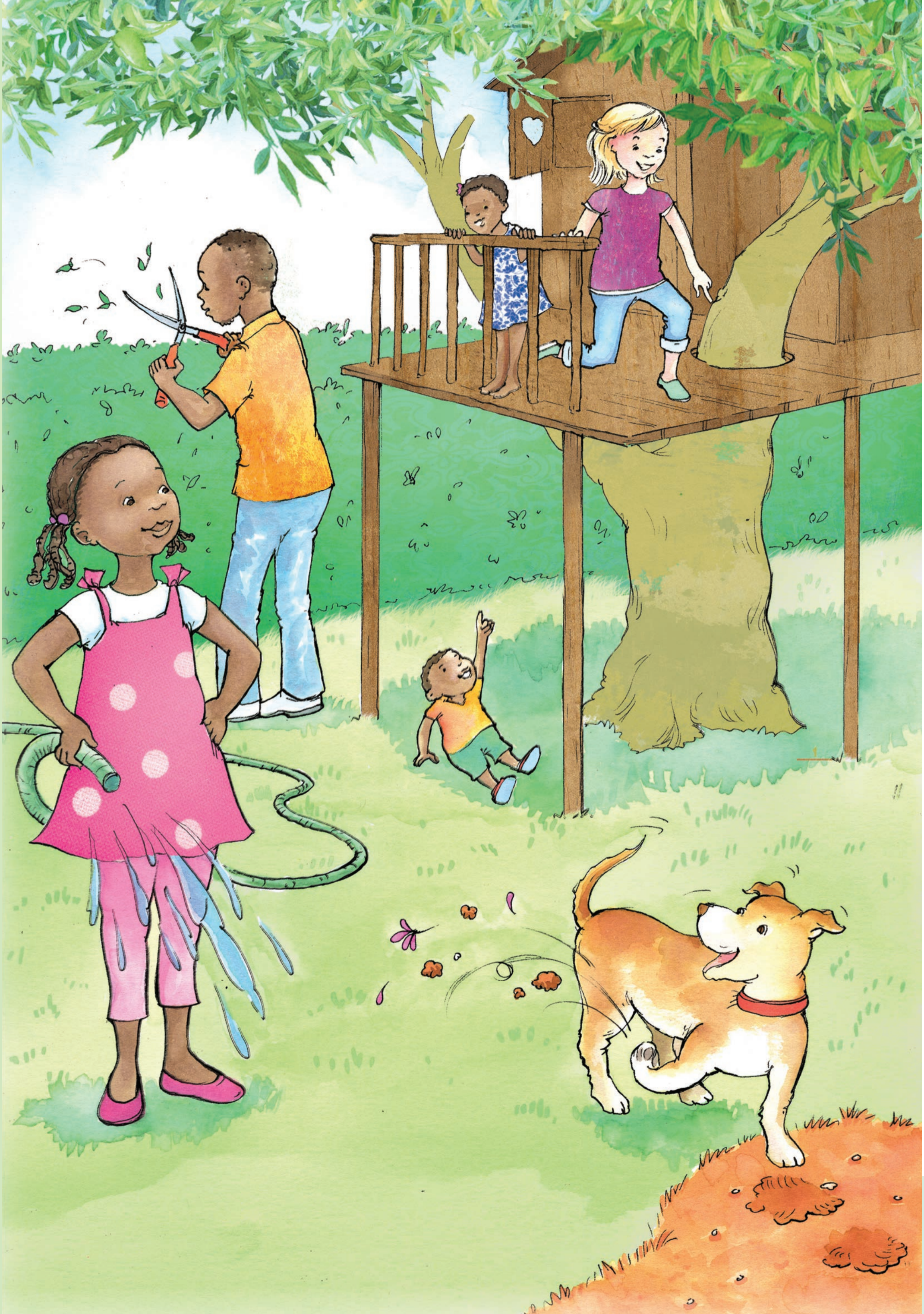
- She felt sad. / She didn't want to go home!

Why didn't Olwethu want to go home at the end of the story?

- Because she liked school!
- Because she made a friend.
- Because she had fun.
- Because she was having fun and she didn't want the day to end.

Bongi waits





Bongi's Granny and Grandpa were coming today, all the way from Malelane. Her parents had planned a big braai. Bongi was so excited.

In the morning, Bongi helped her dad get the backyard ready. She watered the grass. Dad trimmed the bushes.

Bongi's friend Anna arrived early to play. She climbed up to the treehouse.

'Come play!' she yelled.

'I must help my dad first!' Bongi yelled back.

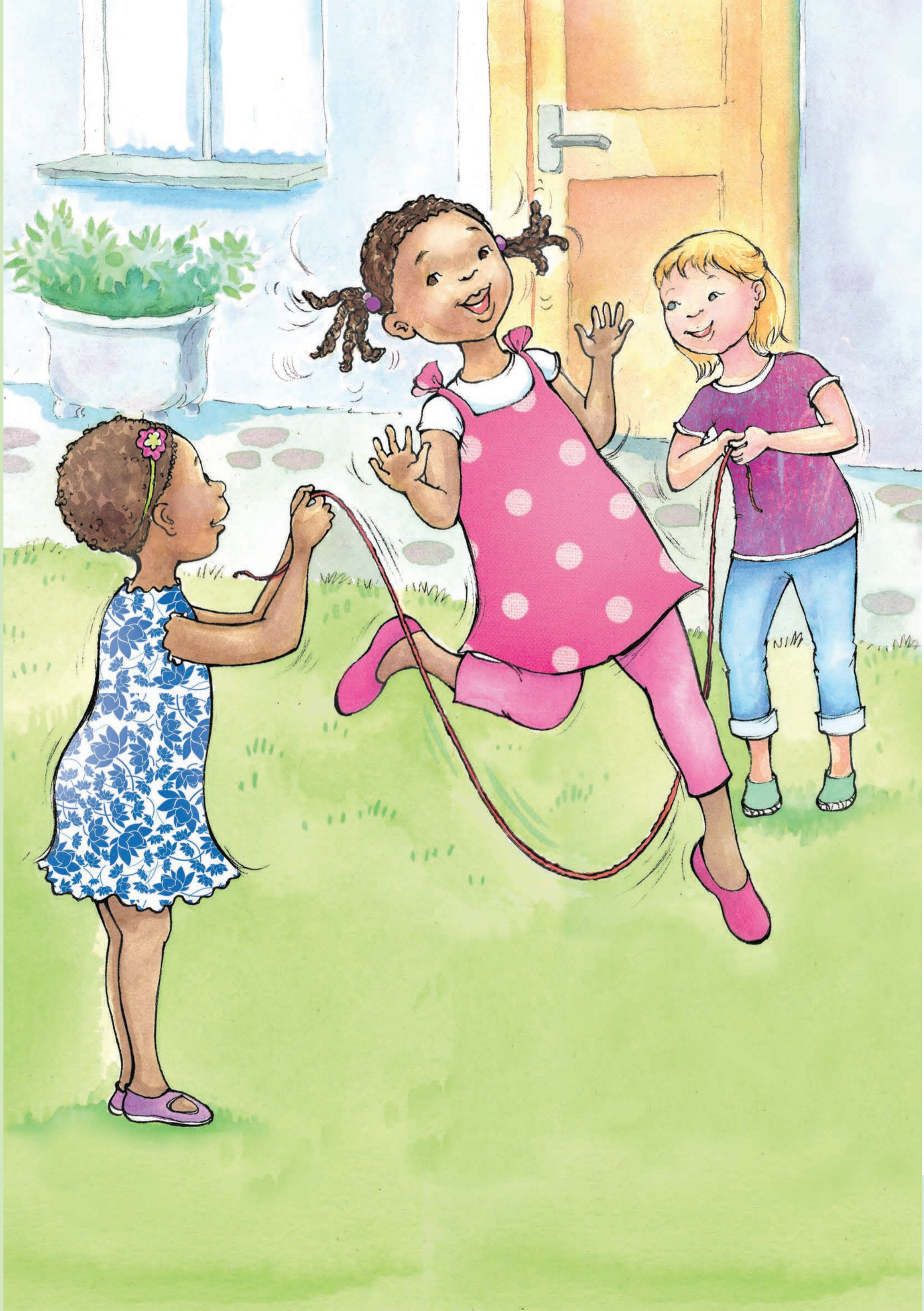
So Anna played with Bongi's little sister, Gugu. All Bongi could think about was the arrival of Granny and Grandpa!

READ 1

I can **visualise** Bongi helping her dad. She is working hard to make the backyard look nice and clean.

READ 2

I can **visualise** Bongi helping her dad. But she is really just thinking about Granny and Grandpa!



Finally, the backyard was ready. 'Thanks for the help!' said Dad. He went inside to change his clothes. Bonggi stayed outside. She skipped rope with Gugu and Anna. It was fun, but all she could think about was the arrival of Granny and Grandpa!

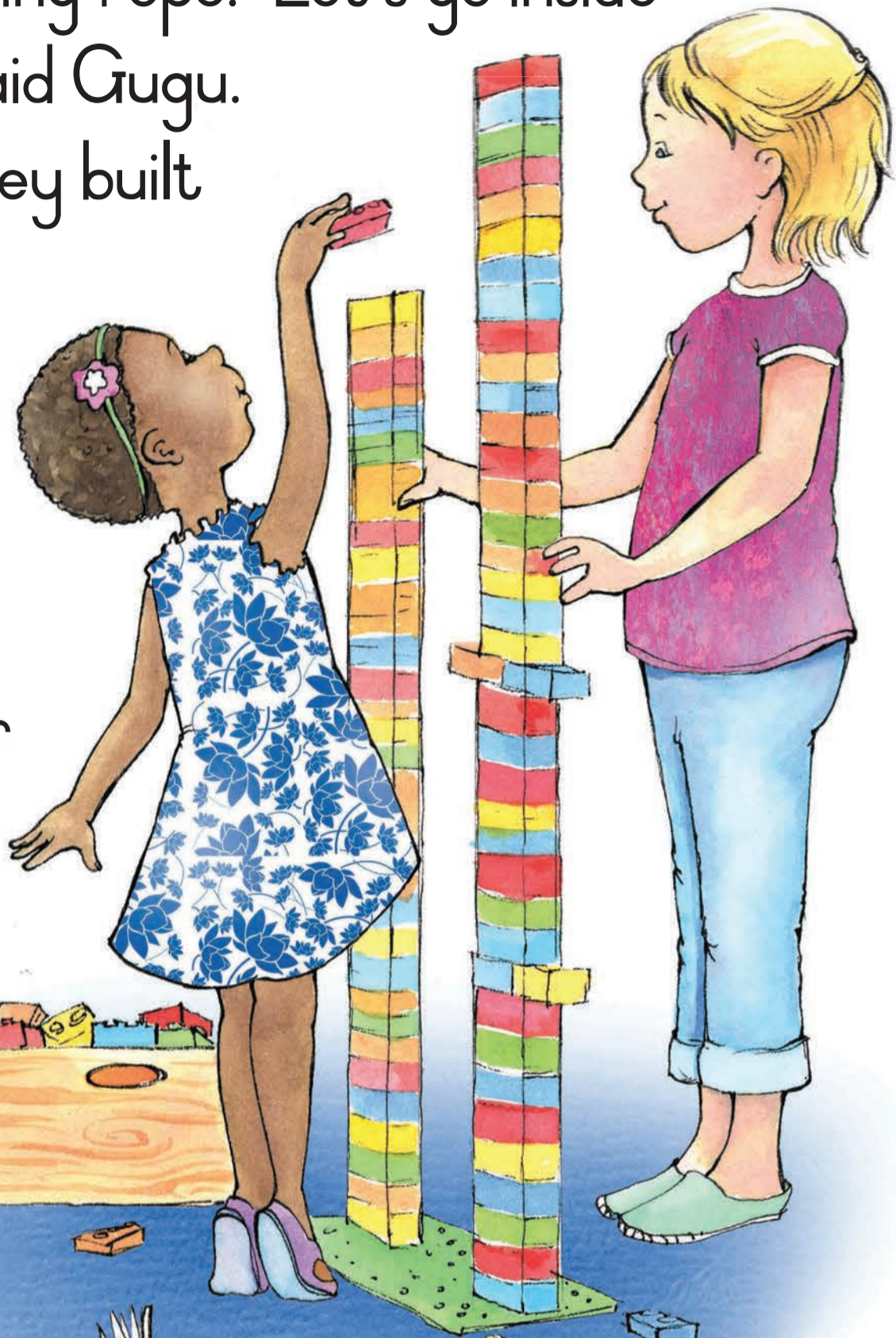
READ 1

I can **visualise** Bonggi skipping rope. She is jumping up and down, up and down.

READ 2

I can **visualise** Bonggi skipping. But she keeps making mistakes because she is thinking about her Granny and Grandpa.

Gugu got tired of skipping rope. 'Let's go inside and play with blocks!' said Gugu. 'Oh yes!' Anna said. They built a big tower. But Bonggi didn't feel like building a tower. She read to baby Siya instead. But all she could think about was the arrival of Granny and Grandpa!



READ 1

I can **visualise** Bonggi reading with baby Siya. Baby Siya laughs as Bonggi reads the words to him.

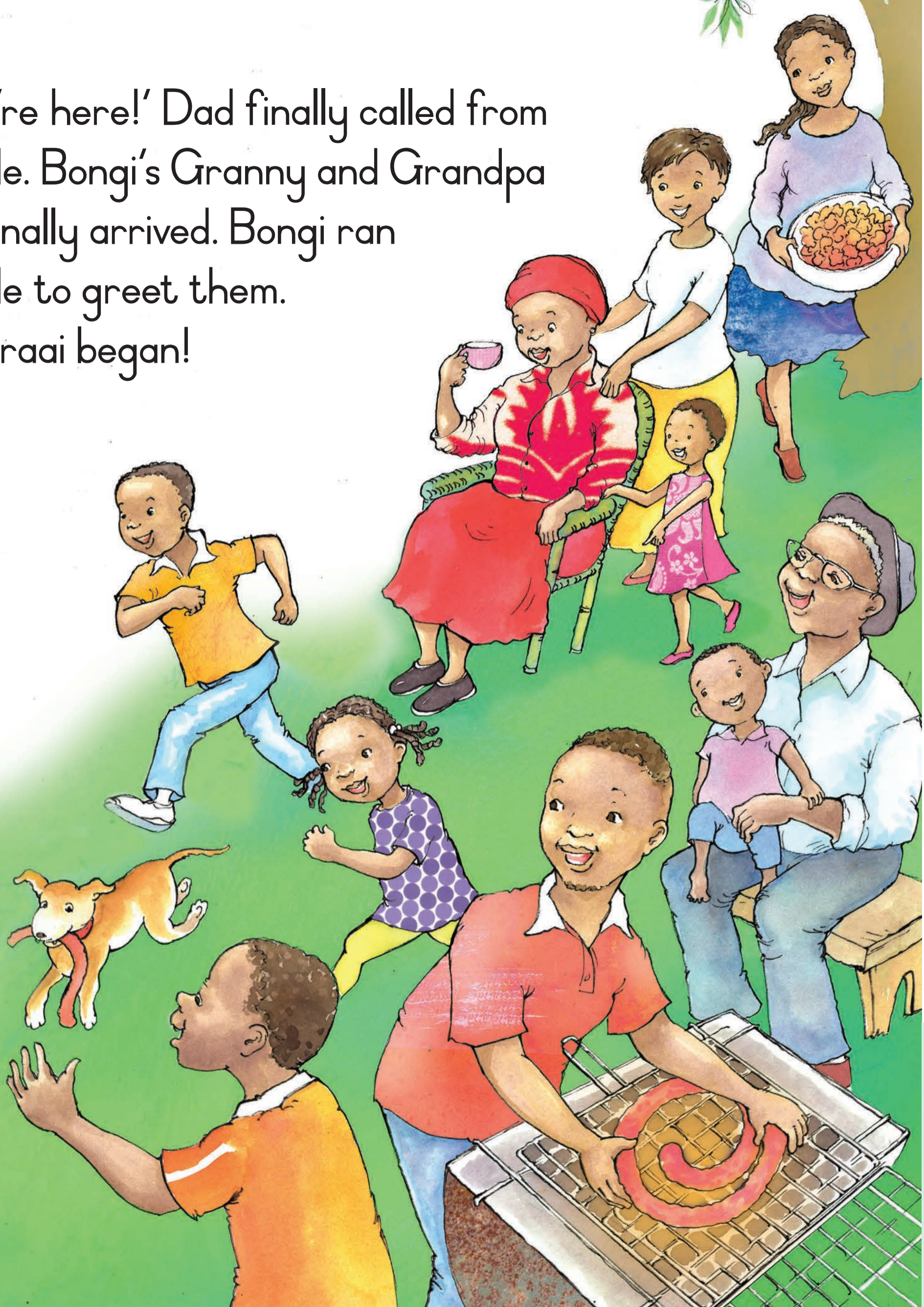
READ 2

I can **visualise** Bonggi sitting with baby Siya. But she keeps forgetting to read the words because she is thinking about Granny and Grandpa!

It was almost time for the braai to begin. Mom took baby Siya. 'Go change your clothes,' mom said. 'Granny just called. They are almost here!' Mom, dad, and baby Siya went outside and waited for Granny and Grandpa to arrive. As Bongki changed her clothes, all she could think about was the arrival of Granny and Grandpa!



'They're here!' Dad finally called from outside. Bongji's Granny and Grandpa had finally arrived. Bongji ran outside to greet them. The braai began!



READ 1

I can **visualise** Bongji running as fast as she can to hug her grandparents!

READ 2

I can **visualise** Bongji smiling and jumping up. I imagine she runs outside because she is so happy to see her grandparents!



READ 1

Who was Bongi waiting for?

She was waiting for her grandparents.

What did Bongi do while she waited?

She helped her dad, skipped rope, read to baby Siya, and played a game with her friends.

Why was Bongi waiting?

- Because her grandparents weren't there yet.
- Because they were coming from far away.

READ 2

What was Bongi thinking about all day?

She was thinking about her grandparents.

What did Bongi do when her grandparents finally arrived?

She ran outside to greet them.

Why did Bongi run outside when her grandparents arrived?

- Because she had been waiting for them.
- Because she was happy to see them.
- Because they came from far.

Bongi waits: Activity Ideas

Family Tree

- 1 Explain the concept of a simple family tree to learners.
- 2 The oldest people are the trunk of the tree. (Grandparents)
- 3 The next generation are the branches. (Father and siblings, or mother and siblings)
- 4 The next generation are the leaves. (Learner and siblings)
- 5 Show learners how to draw a simple family tree on the chalkboard.
- 6 Give learners time to draw their own family tree.
- 7 Learners should ask their families to help them write the names of family members for homework.

Things to do while you wait

- 1 Remind learners of all the things that Bongi did whilst she waited for her grandparents.
- 2 Then, ask them to think of different things to do whilst they wait for someone.
- 3 Allow learners to turn and talk about their ideas with a partner.
- 4 Next, tell learners to draw a picture of their activity.



There was just a week left until Tseko's new little sister was supposed to be born.



READ 2

A new baby is a big deal! I wonder how Tseko feels about having a new baby at home?

Sometimes, Tseko felt worried. He didn't have any brother or sisters – he was the only child. Tseko worried about what it would be like to have a new baby. He worried about what it would be like to have a sister.



READ 1

Tseko is the only child, so I can **infer** that he has never had a new baby at home.

READ 2

I can **infer** that Tseko might be worried about what it will be like to have to share his parents with another person!

But sometimes, Tseko felt excited. Tseko felt especially excited that his grandmother was coming to visit. Tseko's father told him that Koko would stay for three whole months, just like she did when Tseko was born! 'It's a special tradition for Koko to stay until the new baby's umbilical cord falls off!' Tseko's father explained. 'I remember the day your's fell off like it was yesterday.'



READ 2

Oh I can **infer** that Koko would come visit any time there is a new baby, because it is a special tradition.

When Tseko and his father met Koko at the bus terminal, Tseko felt excited. He ran to hug his koko. 'My sweet Tseko! Aren't you excited to become a big brother?' Koko asked.

'I don't know,' Tseko said, 'I don't know what to do with a baby.'



READ 1

Oh I can **infer** that Tseko feels worried because he doesn't know what to do with a new baby.

When they got home, Koko called Tseko.

'I have a special gift for you!' she said. She took a new baby doll out of her suitcase and handed it to Tseko.

'I thought dolls were only for girls?' Tseko said.

'That is a very old-fashioned idea.' Koko laughed,

'Anyone can play with a doll! And how will you ever know what to do with a baby if you don't play with a doll?'



READ 1

I can **infer** that Tseko doesn't have a doll, because he thought that they were only for girls.

READ 2

I can **infer** that Koko thinks it is important for Tseko to know how to be helpful when the new baby comes.

First, Koko showed Tseko how to hold and rock a baby. 'You must make sure to hold up the baby's head, because their necks aren't strong!' Koko said.



READ 1

Oh I can **infer** that Koko brought the doll so she could show Tseko how to care for a baby before his sister comes!

READ 2

I can **infer** that Koko has helped care for lots of babies before.

Next, Koko showed Tseko how to change a nappy. She had brought special doll-sized nappies, so that Tseko could practice! 'You have to work quickly and carefully when you change a nappy, because babies move and cry!' she said.



READ 1

I can **infer** that Tseko has never changed a nappy before, because he doesn't have any siblings and because this is his first doll.

Then, Koko showed Tseko how to wrap a baby up in a blanket. 'Babies like to be wrapped up tight when they are very small,' Koko said.



READ 1

I can **infer** that Tseko has never wrapped a baby before, because he doesn't have any siblings and because this is his first doll.

READ 2

Tseko knows so many important things about caring for a baby now. He looks happy. I **infer** he must be feeling better about having a new baby sister.

Koko and Tseko practiced.

'You're going to be a great big brother,' Koko smiled. Tseko knew he should feel excited now, but he still felt a little bit worried.

'Koko, what if mom likes the baby more than me? What if you like the baby more than me?' Tseko asked. Koko put her arm around Tseko. 'We have enough love for you both. Don't ever worry about that!'



READ 2

Oh! I can see Tseko wasn't only worried about how to care for a baby. He is also worried about what it will be like to share his parents and his Koko with someone else!

From then on, Tseko only felt excited.



READ 1

I can **infer** that Tseko feels better now that his Koko showed him how to care for a new baby!

READ 2

I can **infer** that now, Tseko feels excited that his sister is coming! I think he no longer feels worried because his Koko helped him feel better.



READ 1

Who came to visit Tseko?

His Koko came to visit.

What gift did Koko bring for Tseko?

She brought him a doll.

Why did Koko bring Tseko a new doll?

- Because she wanted to bring Tseko a gift.
- Because dolls are for everyone – not just girls.
- Because she wanted to show Tseko how to take care of a new baby.
- Because playing with a doll is the only way to learn how to take care of a baby.
- Because she wanted Tseko to practice caring for a new baby.

READ 2

How long will Koko stay for?

She will stay for three months.

What did Tseko's Koko show him how to do?

She showed him how to:

- Hold and rock a baby.
- Change a nappy.
- Wrap a baby up in a blanket.

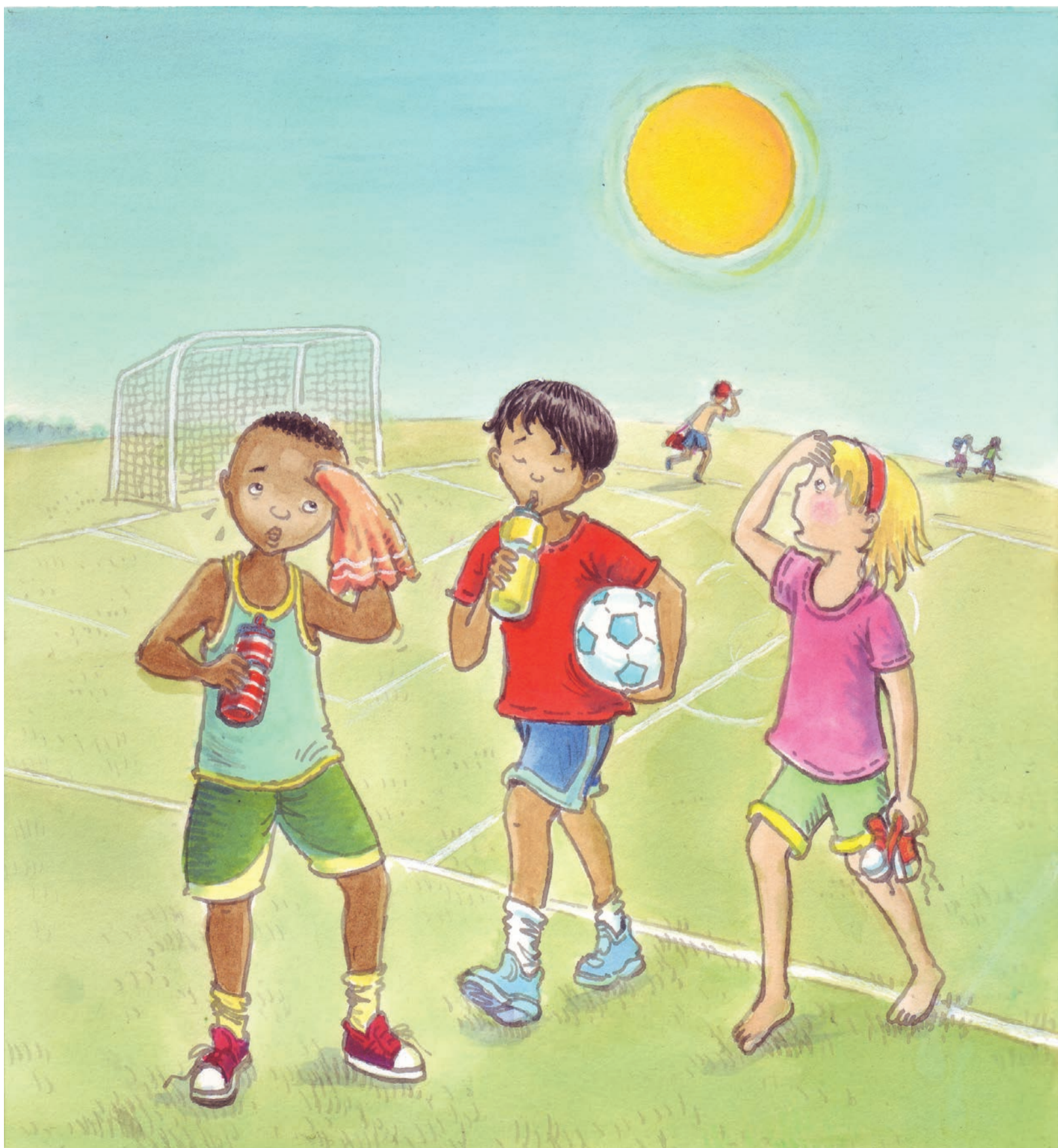
Why did Tseko only feel excited at the end of the story?

- Because he felt more comfortable about taking care of a new baby.
- Because he knew how to take care of a new baby now.
- Because he felt like he would be a good big brother now!
- Because he wasn't worried about his mom and Koko loving the new baby more than him.

A very hot day



Karabo, Tshepo and Cathy are friends. They love to play soccer. They come to school to play soccer even on Saturdays! But today, it is very hot. The friends play for a few minutes, but then they must stop. They are hot. They are sweating. 'It's too hot!' says Karabo. 'Let's go home!'



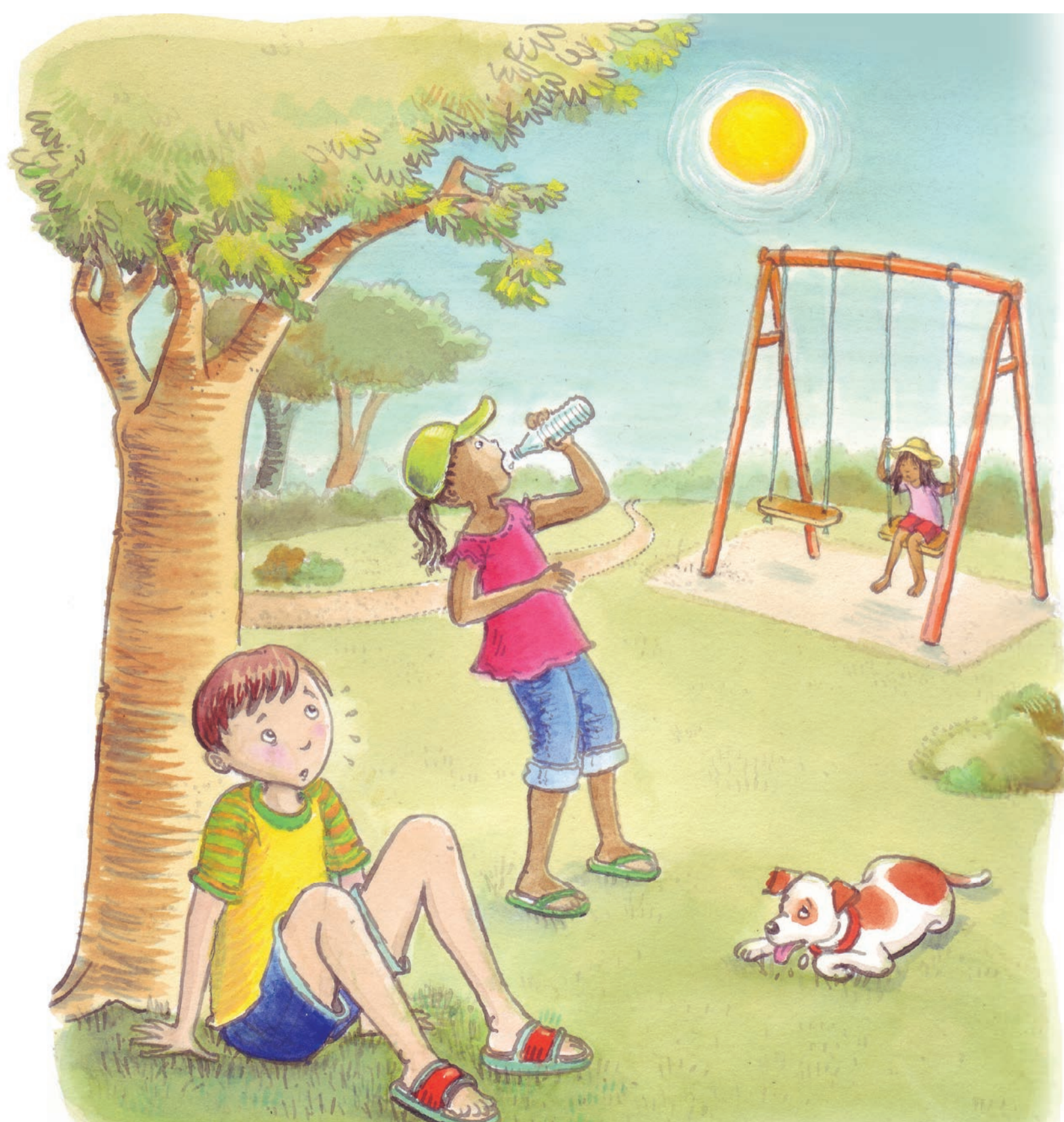
READ 1

Why must the children stop playing soccer? Oh! **I learn** that they must stop because they are too hot to play.

READ 2

How do the children feel? **I learn** that the children feel hot. It is very hot outside today!

Karabo, Tshepo and Cathy begin to walk home. They walk past the children playing at the park. The children on the playground look very hot too. They are sweating, just like Karabo, Tshepo, and Cathy. Then, Karabo remembers that there is a pond at the park. Karabo has an idea. 'Come on!' Karabo says to his friends.



READ 1

Where is Karabo taking his friends? Oh! We don't know yet. We don't know what his idea is.

READ 2

What does Karabo remember? Oh! He remembers that there is a pond at the park!

'Look!' Karabo says, when they get to the pond. 'Let's jump in!'

'Good idea!' Tshepo says. 'That will cool us off!' Karabo takes off his shoes. He runs and jumps into the cool water.



READ 1

What is Karabo's idea? Oh! I **learn** that his idea is to jump in the pond and cool off.

READ 2

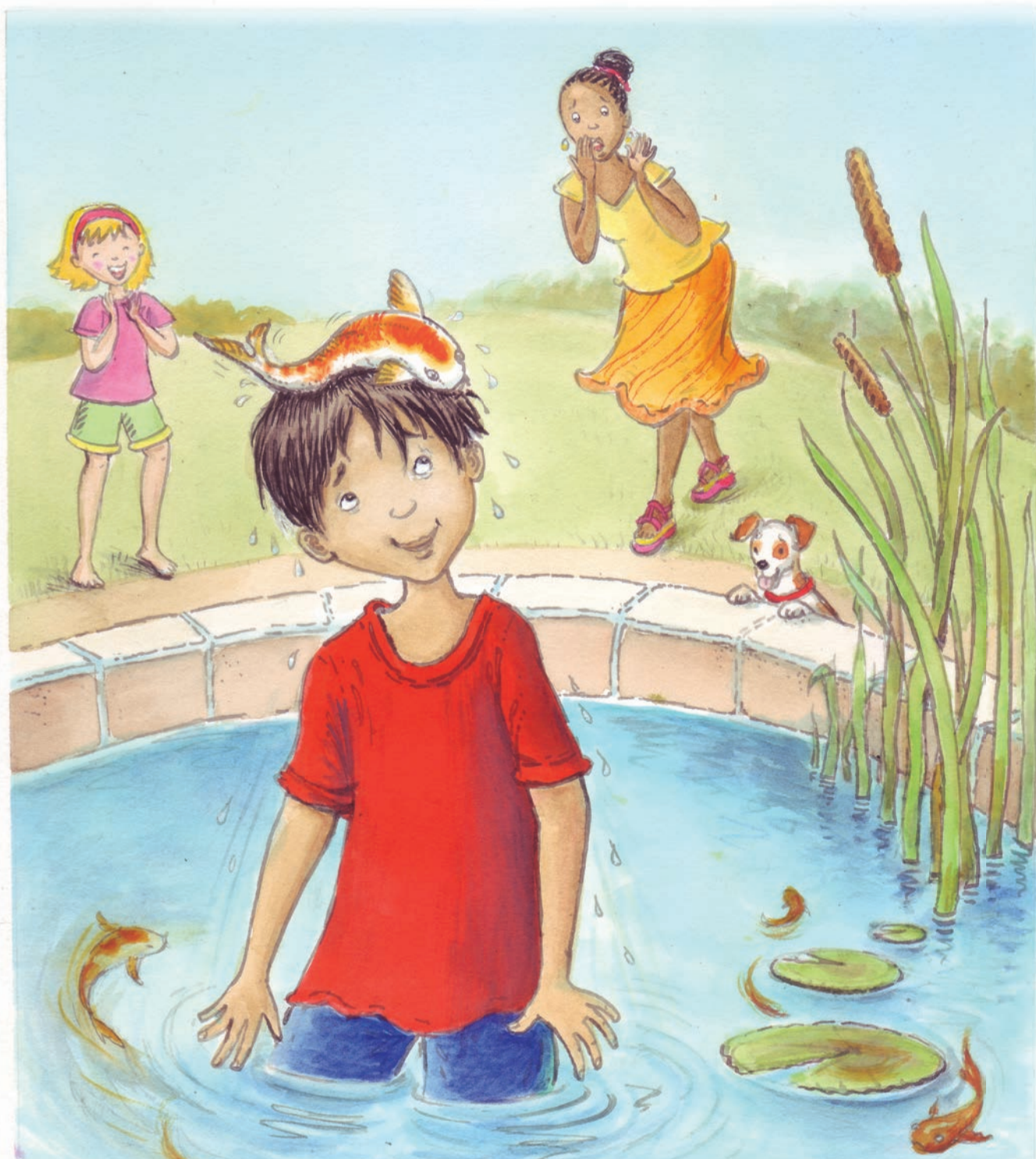
What does Tshepo say will cool them off? Oh! He says that jumping in the pond will cool them off.

'How does it feel?' Tshepo asks.

'It feels nice and cool!' Karabo says. 'Come in!' Karabo feels cool. But Karabo also feels something funny on his head.

Cathy begins to laugh. 'There's a fish on your head!' she says.

Karabo laughs too. 'I am going to swim all day, just like this fish!' Karabo says.



READ 1

How long will Karabo swim for? He says that he wants to swim all day!

READ 2

How does Karabo feel in the pond? Oh! **I learn** that he feels cool. He isn't hot anymore.



READ 1

Who are Karabo's friends?

Cathy and Tshepo are his friends.

What was on Karabo's head?

There was a fish on his head.

Why did Karabo want to jump into the pond?

- Because he felt hot.
- Because he wanted to cool down.
- Because he wanted his friends to see the pond.
- Because jumping in water when we are hot makes us cool down.

READ 2

Why did the children stop playing soccer?

Because it was too hot to play.

Who was sweating?

- Karabo, Cathy, and Tshepo were sweating.
- The children on the playground were sweating.

Why did Karabo feel nice and cool?

- Because he jumped in the pond.
- Because the pond is nice and cool.
- Because the pond cooled him down.

Spring Day splashes



The 1st of September is known as Spring Day in South Africa. One of the traditions that used to be practiced in many townships was to pour buckets of water onto people coming home from work and school, and to shout 'Summer time!'. This tradition marked the end of winter, and the beginning of a new season. This still happens in some places, but has become less common.

READ 2

I can **visualise** people sneaking around with buckets of water on Spring Day, just like I remember Kulani did!

One Friday morning, Olwethu and Katekani walked to school together. For months now, they had been wearing hats and thick winter jerseys. But today, the sun shone brightly. Katekani took off her jersey. 'It's almost summer!' Katekani said, smiling.



READ 1

I can **visualise** Katekani sweating as she walks in the warm sun.



Olwethu and Katekani usually walked quickly to keep warm. But today, they walked slowly. 'Look!' Olwethu said, stopping to watch two bright orange butterflies.

'Listen!' Katekani said, pointing to the weaver birds building their nest in a big tree above.



'Smell that?' Olwethu said, taking a big breath in, 'the flowers must be coming!'

READ 1

I visualise Katekani and Olwethu walking slowly as they notice all the signs of Spring!

When they got to school that morning, Ms Soko wrote the date on the chalkboard. 'Oh! Look at that! It's the 1st of September – it's Spring Day!' she said, smiling.

Katekani look at Olwethu. 'Oh no!' Katekani groaned, 'My brother loves to get me on Spring Day! We have to run home as soon as the bell rings – so he can't get us!'



READ 1

I **visualise** Ms Soko writing the date on the board. I visualise her big smile as she tells the learners it is finally Spring!

READ 2

Oh! It sounds like Katekani knows the Spring Day tradition well. I can **visualise** her loud groan when she thinks about her brother pouring water on her! She must be thinking about Spring Day last year!

But when the bell rang, Katekani and Olwethu's friends decided to stay and play.

'Come play with us!' Andiswa called as she ran to the swings with Thato.

'Come on, let's play!' Olwethu said.

Katekani forgot all about running home early as she ran to join her friends.



READ 1

I can **visualise** the girls running and smiling in the warm sun! It is finally Spring – it is nice and warm outside!

READ 2

I **visualise** Katekani running and playing with her friends. She is having so much fun that she forgot about running home after school!

After the girls had been playing for a while, they saw Ms Soko leave the classroom. 'Goodbye girls!' she called, 'and Happy Spring Day!'

'Oh no!' Katekani groaned, 'I forgot all about Spring Day! Let's go Olwethu – but we will have to be careful!'



READ 1

I **wonder** if Katekani's brother will be able to get them?

READ 2

I **visualise** Katekani's loud groan when she remembers it is Spring Day. She must be thinking about getting drenched!

They began to run home, but Olwethu got tired quickly. 'I can't run this far!' she said, breathing heavily. Katekani looked around nervously. 'We have to be careful,' she said. They walked quickly. They didn't speak at all. Finally, Katekani saw her front door, she took a deep breath. 'We made it!' she said.



READ 1

I **wonder** if they will make it inside the house without getting wet?

READ 2

I **visualise** Katekani taking a deep sigh when she finally sees her house, thinking that she is safe from getting drenched!

But at that moment, Katekani heard her brother giggling. They turned around to see Kulani and his friends, drenched! They were all holding buckets of water.



READ 1

I **visualise** Kulani, drenched. He is standing in the warm sun so he won't feel too cold!

READ 2

I **visualise** Katekani's surprised face when she hears her brother giggling.

Katekani lifted her arms, 'Okay, okay, you've got us!' she laughed. 'At least let us take our bags off.'



READ 2

I **visualise** Katekani putting her hands up in the air because she knows she has been caught, and there is nothing she can do!

Once Olwethu and Katekani's bags were off, Kulani and his friends ran towards them. Olwethu and Katekani laughed and screamed as the boys drenched them with water.



READ 1

I **visualise** the cold water pouring down onto Olwethu and Katekani. Good thing it a warm, spring day!

READ 2

I can **visualise** the water pouring out of the buckets, and Olwethu and Katekani's clothing becoming soaking wet!

'Happy Spring Day!' Kulani said. Everyone began to giggle.



READ 1

I **wonder** if they will find other people to drench too?

READ 2

I **visualise** all of the children standing in their drenched clothing, laughing and laughing.



READ 1

What did Katekani and Olwethu see on their way to school?

- They saw orange butterflies.
- They saw Weaver birds making a nest.

What date does this story take place?

It takes place on September 1st – Spring Day!

Why did Katekani and Olwethu walk to school slowly?

- Because they didn't need to try to keep warm.
- Because it was finally Spring.
- Because they noticed the signs of the changing season.
- Because they stopped to watch the orange butterflies.
- Because they stopped to watch the weaver bird making a nest.
- Because they stopped to smell the flowers.

READ 2

What did Olwethu and Katekani do after school?

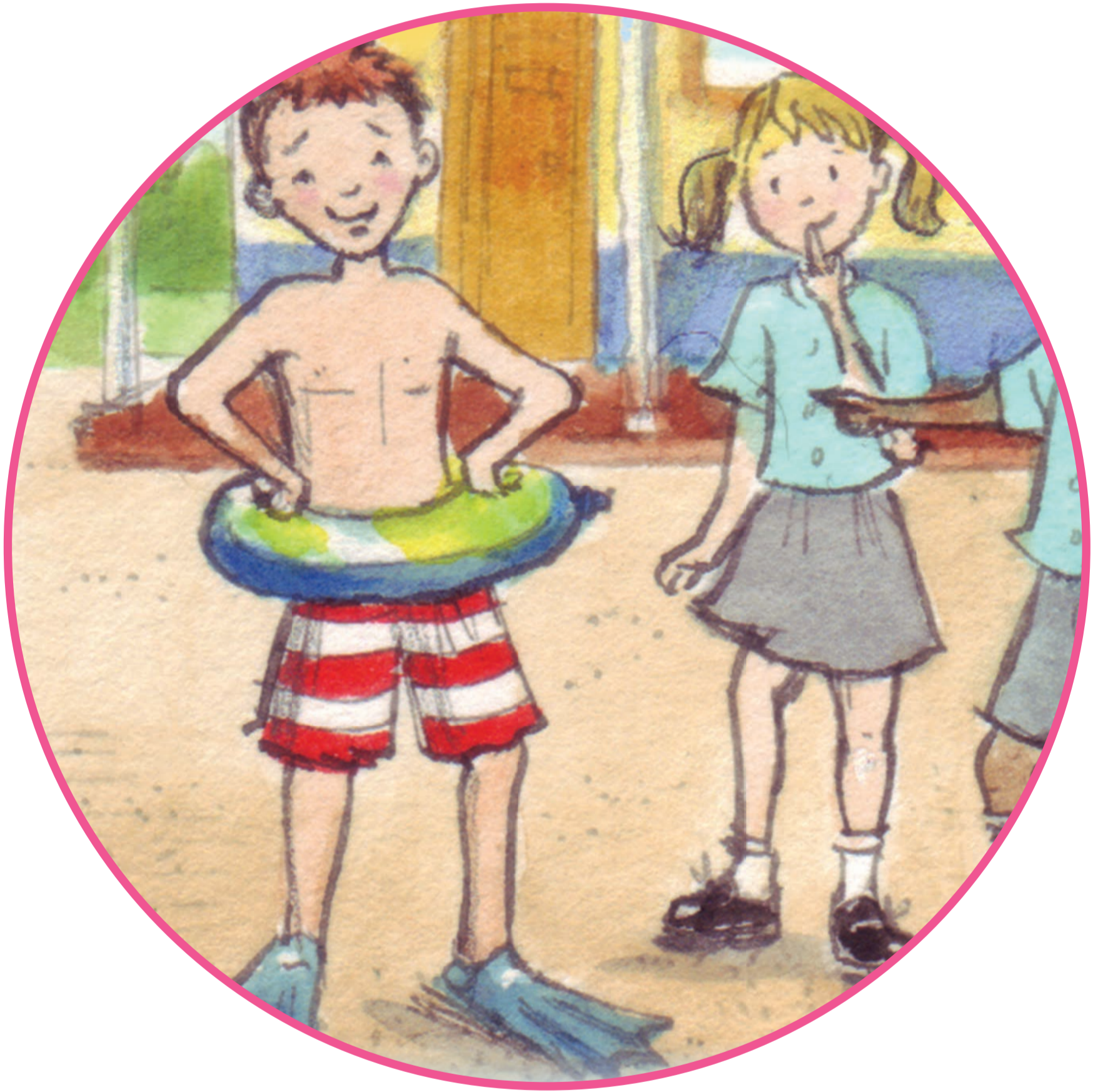
They played with their friends outside.

What reminded Katekani that it was Spring Day?

When her teacher left the classroom and said, 'Happy Spring Day,' that reminded her!

Why were Katekani and Olwethu drenched with water?

- Because it was Spring Day.
- Because it is a Spring Day tradition to pour buckets of water onto people in some places in South Africa.
- Because Katekani and Olwethu played with their friends after school instead of running straight home.
- Because Katekani's brother, Kulani, loves to get her on Spring Day.



Poor Dan had a bad week.
He woke up late on Monday.
He missed the bus and was late for school.



READ 1

Oh no! I **wonder** what will happen to Dan when he gets to school?

READ 2

I hate being late! I feel worried when I am late. **If I were Dan**, I would be worried the whole way to school!

'Why are you late, Dan?'
asked his teacher.



READ 1

I wonder how Dan feels? He didn't mean to be late!

READ 2

If I were Dan, I would feel so embarrassed when my teacher yelled at me in front of the whole class!

On Tuesday, Dan woke up very early so that he would not miss the bus again. But poor Dan left his school bag on the bus! When he came into class, he only had his soccer ball.



READ 1

Oh no! I wonder what was inside Dan's school bag?

READ 2

I can **make a connection!** That is like a few weeks ago, when I left my bag at home! I felt so silly for leaving everything I needed at home!

‘Where is your school bag, Dan?’ asked his teacher.



READ 1

Oh no! I wonder if Dan had important things inside his school bag?

READ 2

If I were Dan, this would make me feel so grumpy. He must already feel bad for leaving his bag, and now his teacher makes him feel worse!

On Wednesday, Dan woke up on time. 'I must not forget my bag today,' he thought, as he got onto the bus. He held onto his bag for the entire bus ride. He rode and rode. But Dan was on the wrong bus! The bus took him to the wrong school.



READ 1

I wonder how Dan feels when he gets to the wrong school? He is trying to do the right thing but he keeps making mistakes!

READ 2

I can **make a connection**! Once I was on a train and I fell asleep. When I woke up, I had missed my stop. I was in the wrong place! I felt so mad at myself for being in the wrong place!

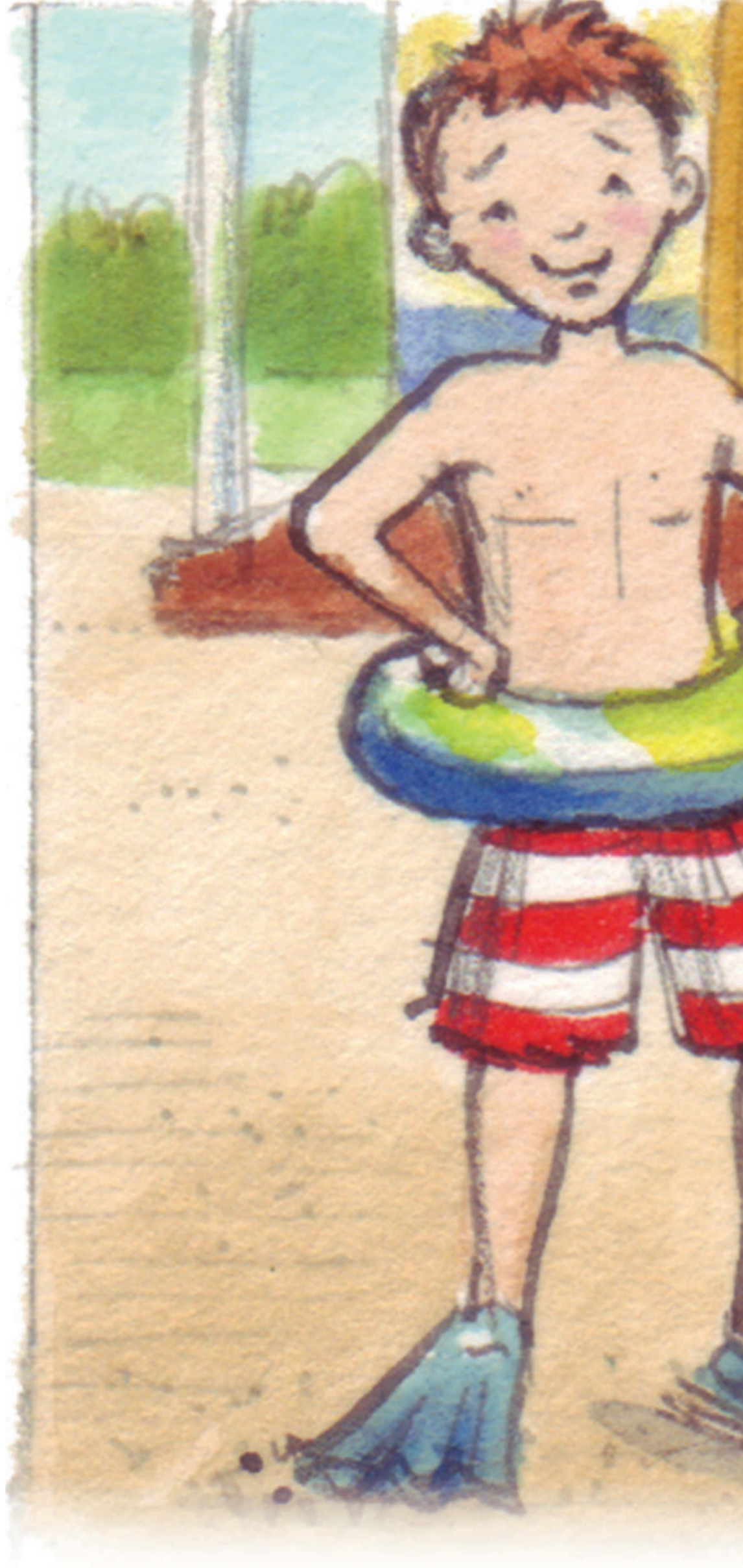
'Where is Dan today?'
asked his teacher.



On Thursday, Dan could not find his uniform.

'We have swimming on Thursday,' Dan thought.

So Dan went to school in his swimming costume.



READ 1

I wonder what I would do if I couldn't find my school uniform? If I were Dan, I might not go to school at all! Dan is really trying hard to do the right thing!

READ 2

I hate when I can't find something I need. If I were Dan, I would feel very grumpy when I couldn't find my uniform!



'Where is your uniform, Dan?' asked his teacher.

READ 1

If I were Dan, I would be wishing my teacher was happy that I tried so hard to come to school!

READ 2

If I were Dan, I would feel so embarrassed when my teacher asked me questions like this in front of the class!

On Friday, Dan woke up very early. He had his uniform on, he clutched his bag and he got onto the right bus. He arrived at school so early, it was still dark.

'I finally did everything right!' thought Dan. But poor Dan was so tired he fell asleep in class.



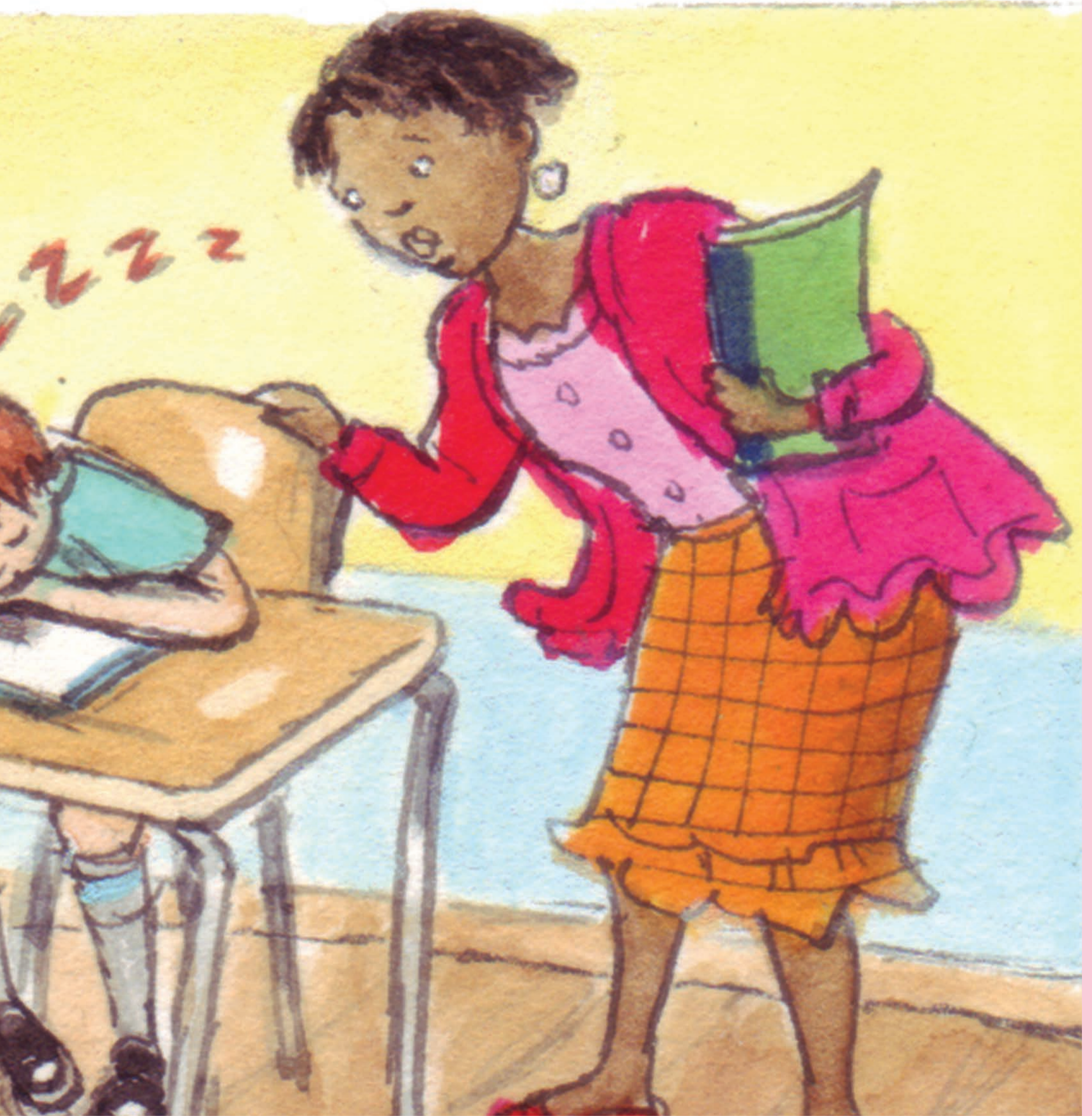
READ 1

I wonder if Dan will finally have a good day?

READ 2

I can **make a connection!** When I make a mistake, I try to do something to make it right. **If I were Dan,** I would want to have one good day at school after a week of so many silly mistakes!

'Why are you sleeping, Dan?' asked his teacher.



READ 1

If I were Dan, I would be wishing my teacher would see how hard I tried to do the right thing!

READ 2

Oh no! Dan worked so hard. If I were Dan, I would feel so angry at myself for falling asleep!

On Saturday,
Dan went
to school on
time, in his
uniform, with
his school bag.

'Today I will
get it right!'
he thought.
'I will stay
awake all
day!' But
when he
reached his
school, the
school gate
was locked.



READ 1

I wonder why Dan is going to school on Saturday? It must be because Dan is trying so hard to do the right thing! If I were Dan, I would want the teacher to see how hard I was trying!

'Silly me! There is no school on Saturday!' Dan said.

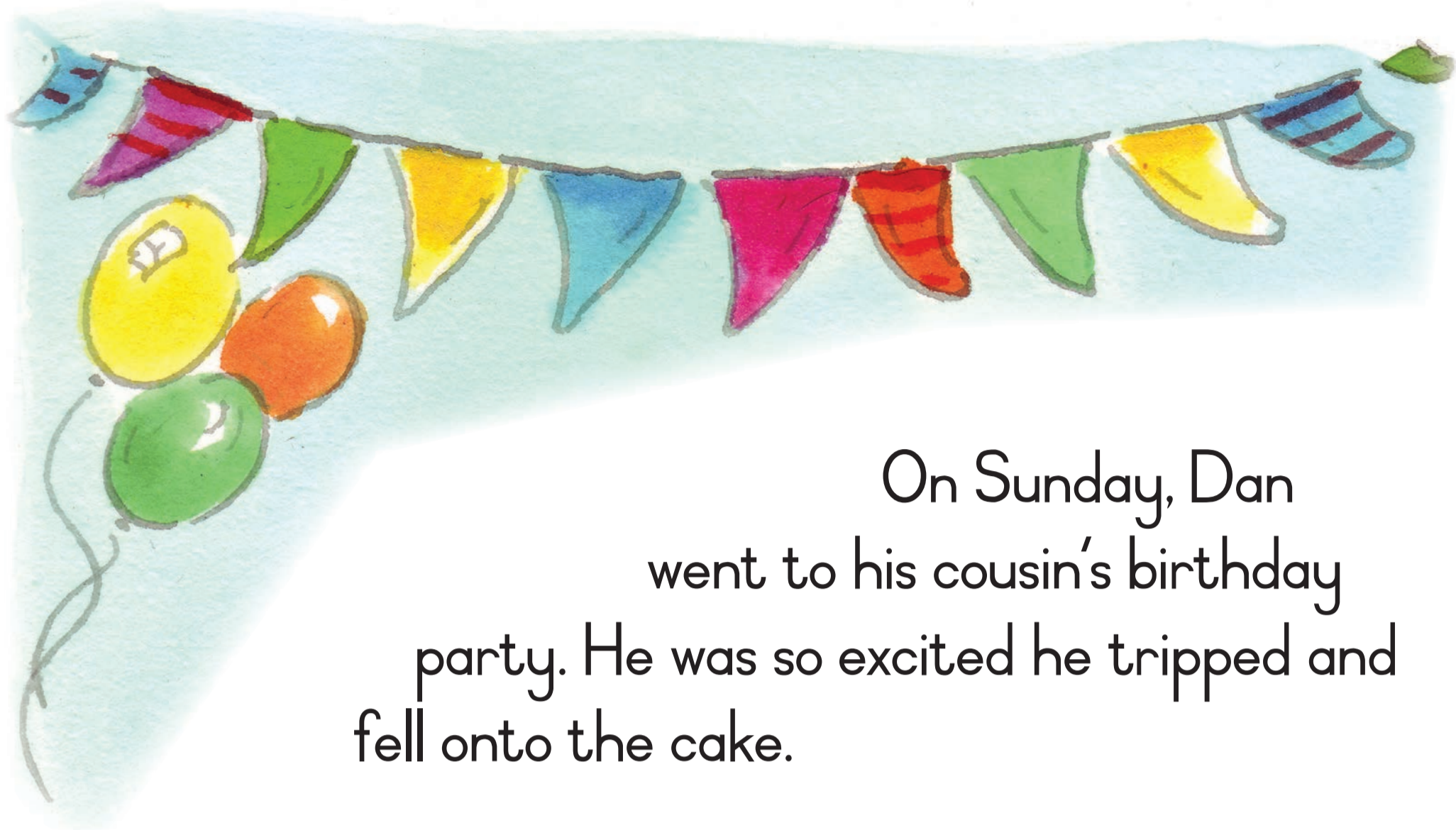


READ 1

If I were Dan, I would be wishing my teacher could see how hard I tried to do the right thing. Dan was trying so hard he even tried to come to school on Saturday!

READ 2

If I were Dan, I would laugh at myself! He must feel so silly.



On Sunday, Dan
went to his cousin's birthday
party. He was so excited he tripped and
fell onto the cake.

'Oh no!' Dan thought. 'What a bad week! I
hope that next week will be better.'

READ 1

I wonder if Dan's next week will be better?

READ 2

I can **make a connection!** Once when I was running to say hi to my friend, I tripped and fell. I was so excited I wasn't paying attention. I felt so silly. I bet Dan must feel so silly when he falls in the cake!





READ 1

What happened that made Dan have a bad week?

- He missed the bus and was late.
- He forgot his school bag.
- He went to the wrong school.
- His teacher was angry with him.
- Etc.

When did Dan fall into the cake?

He fell into the cake on Sunday, at his cousin's party.

Why did Dan try to go to school on Saturday?

- Every day, something bad happened to Dan.
- Dan wanted to have a good day at school.
- Dan wants to have a day at school without any mistakes.
- Dan is so determined to have a good day that he forgets there is no school on Saturday.

READ 2

Where did Dan go on Saturday?

He went to school!

Make a connection. When was a time you felt like Dan?

(Listen to learner responses)

Why did Dan have a bad week?

- No one saw how hard Dan was trying to do the right thing.
- He kept making mistakes, even though he was trying to fix them!
- He felt embarrassed.
- He felt silly.
- He felt grumpy.

My name is Buhlebendalo



Ever since she was born, everyone in Buhlebendalo's family called her by her whole, beautiful name: Buhlebendalo. She loved the sound of her name. She loved to say it slowly, syllable-by-syllable. And, she loved to say it quickly. She loved everything about her name!



READ 2

I remember that in the story, Buhlebendalo's teacher shortened her name. I can **infer** that her teacher was the first person to do that!

On her first day of school, Buhlebendalo's teacher told all of the learners to stand at the front of the room. Then, the teacher called each learner one-by-one and showed them where to sit. Taped to each learner's desk was a name tag. Buhlebendalo couldn't want to see her whole, beautiful name written on her very own desk.



READ 1

This is Buhlebendalo's first time in school. I **infer** that this is the first time she will ever have her own school desk with her name written on it!

READ 2

I can **infer** that as she waits, Buhlebendalo is thinking about how her name will look written on her very own desk!

Finally, the teacher called her name. She said it slowly, syllable-by-syllable. Buhlebendalo smiled a big smile and raised her hand.

'I'm just going to call you Buhle,' the teacher said, 'your name is very long!'

Buhlebendalo didn't want to sound rude, so she didn't say anything.



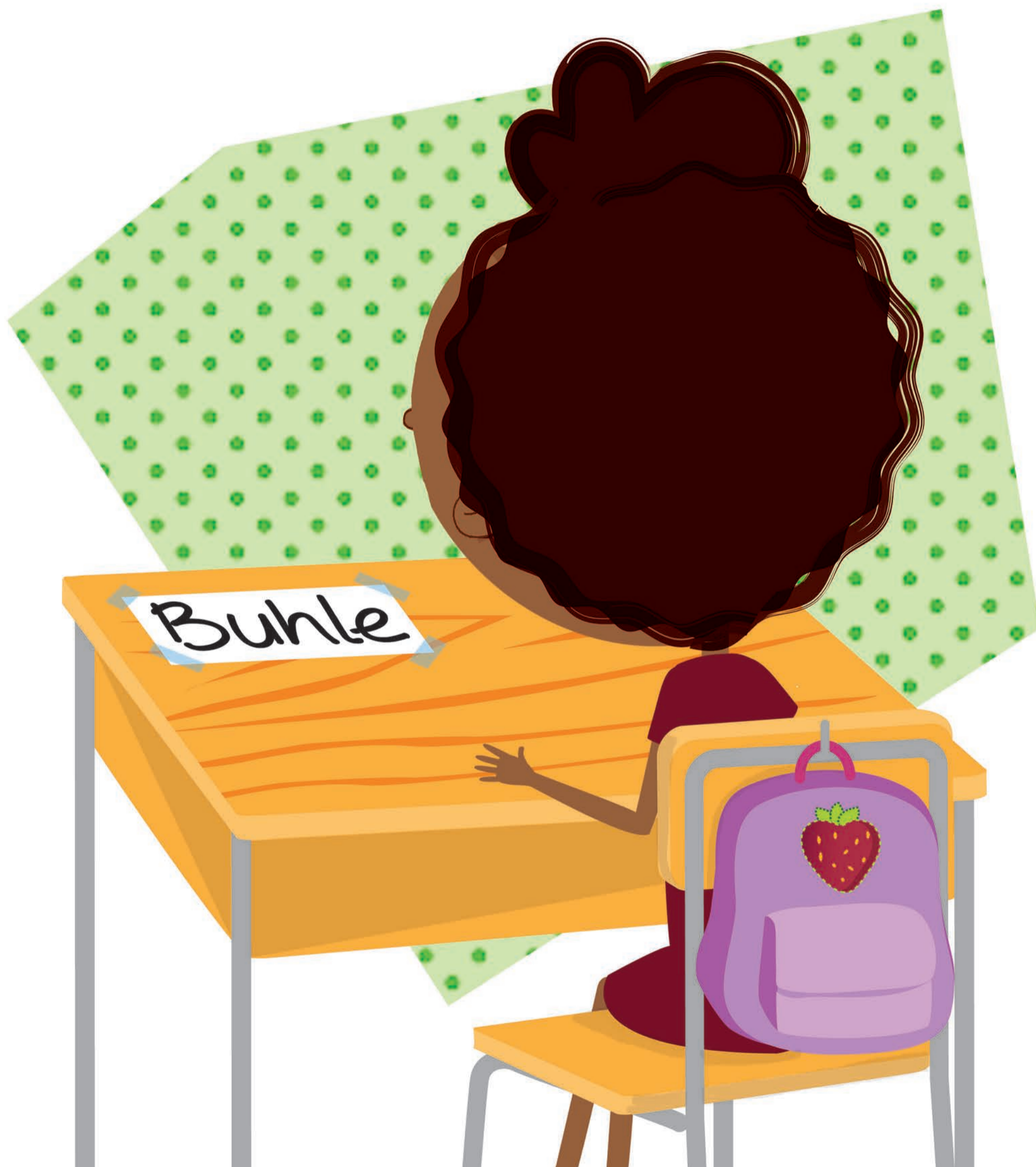
READ 1

I **wonder** why Buhlebendalo didn't correct her teacher? Oh, I **infer** that it is because she was scared that she might get into trouble for correcting her teacher.

READ 2

Buhlebendalo must be disappointed, because she loves her beautiful name and her teacher doesn't want to use it!

When she sat down at her desk, her name tag said Buhle. It didn't say her whole, beautiful name. Buhlebendalo's smile faded.



READ 2

Buhlebendalo must be so disappointed that her name is not written out like she thought it would be!

Later that day, Buhlebendalo's teacher called her to answer a question.

'Buhle!' the teacher called.

But Buhlebendalo missed her turn, because she didn't realise that the teacher was calling her!



READ 1

I can **infer** that the teacher thinks that Buhle and Buhlebendalo are the same name, but to Buhlebendalo, they are very different!

Every day at school, Buhlebendalo missed the sound of her full name. Buhlebendalo thought about correcting her teacher, but she didn't want to sound rude.



READ 1

I can **infer** that at school Buhlebendalo is always called Buhle.

READ 2

I can **infer** that she misses being at home, where everyone called her by her whole beautiful name.

A few weeks later, Buhlebendalo brought home her favourite drawing from school to show her mother. 'Oh! Why have you changed your name?' asked her mother.

'Well I didn't have a choice. My teacher said my name is too long. And I don't want to sound rude!' Buhlebendalo said.

'If you want to be called Buhle, that's okay. But if you don't like it, you must tell your teacher. It's not rude! You have the right to be called by your whole, beautiful name!' her mother said. 'I understand that you might be too scared to tell your teacher. I will come speak to her for you.'



READ 1

I can **infer** that Buhlebendalo didn't tell her mother about being called Buhle at school. Her mother didn't know!

READ 2

Buhlebendalo's mother **inferred** that she was scared to correct her teacher.

The next day, Buhlebendalo's mother came with her to school. They got there early. Buhlebendalo went to play with her new friends while her mother went to speak to her teacher.



READ 2

I can infer that Buhlebendalo feels scared to be there while her mother talks to her teacher.

When the bell rang, Buhlebendalo felt scared. 'What if the teacher hates me now?' she worried. But when she walked into the classroom, the teacher smiled at her. 'Good morning, Buhlebendalo,' she said.



READ 1

I **infer** that Buhlebendalo's mother spoke to the teacher about calling her by her whole beautiful name, rather than Buhle. Now, her teacher uses the right name!

READ 2

I **infer** that Buhlebendalo never said anything to her teacher, because she was worried it might make her teacher dislike her.

When Buhlebendalo sat at her desk, her name tag had been replaced. Her new name tag said her whole, beautiful name: Buhlebendalo.



READ 1

I can **infer** that from now on, Buhlebendalo will be called by her whole beautiful name at school!



READ 1

What did Buhlebendalo wait to see on her desk?

She waited to see her name tag, with her whole, beautiful name written.

What did Buhlebendalo's teacher call her?

She called her Buhle.

Why was Buhlebendalo disappointed?

- Because she thought her whole, beautiful name would be written on her desk.
- Because her teacher shortened her name.
- Because at school, she wasn't called by her whole, beautiful name.

READ 2

Why did Buhlebendalo's teacher call her Buhle?

Because she said that her name was too long.

How did Buhlebendalo's mother infer that she felt?

She inferred that she felt too scared to talk to her teacher.

Why did Buhlebendalo's teacher replace her name tag at the end of the story?

- Because Buhlebendalo's mother went to talk to her teacher.
- Because the teacher realized that she preferred to be called Buhlebendalo rather than Buhle.
- Because the teacher had written the wrong name, and she had to fix it!