Fun At Bat

USA BASEBALL

About Fun At Bat

Fun At Bat, a cooperative effort between Major League Baseball and USA Baseball, is an enrichment program based in baseball for kids. The overarching goal of this program is to provide children with a fun and active experience that also reinforces positive characteristics like teamwork, honesty and responsibility. Activities incorporate basic athletic and baseball skills taught through games that utilize those skills. Each session includes a different "USA Baseball championship principle" to begin introducing the many great character builders developed through sports.

Artwork by Marc Evan

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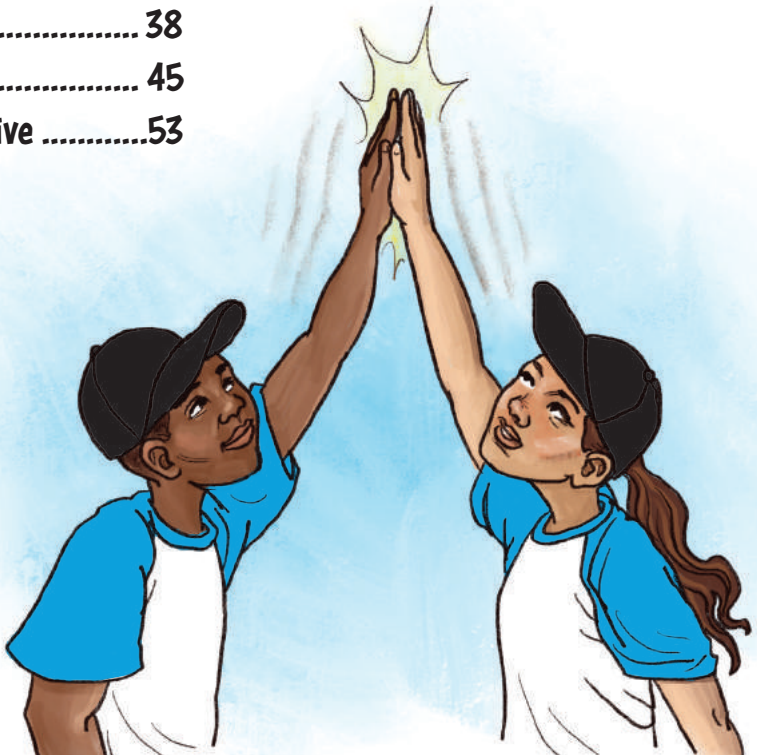
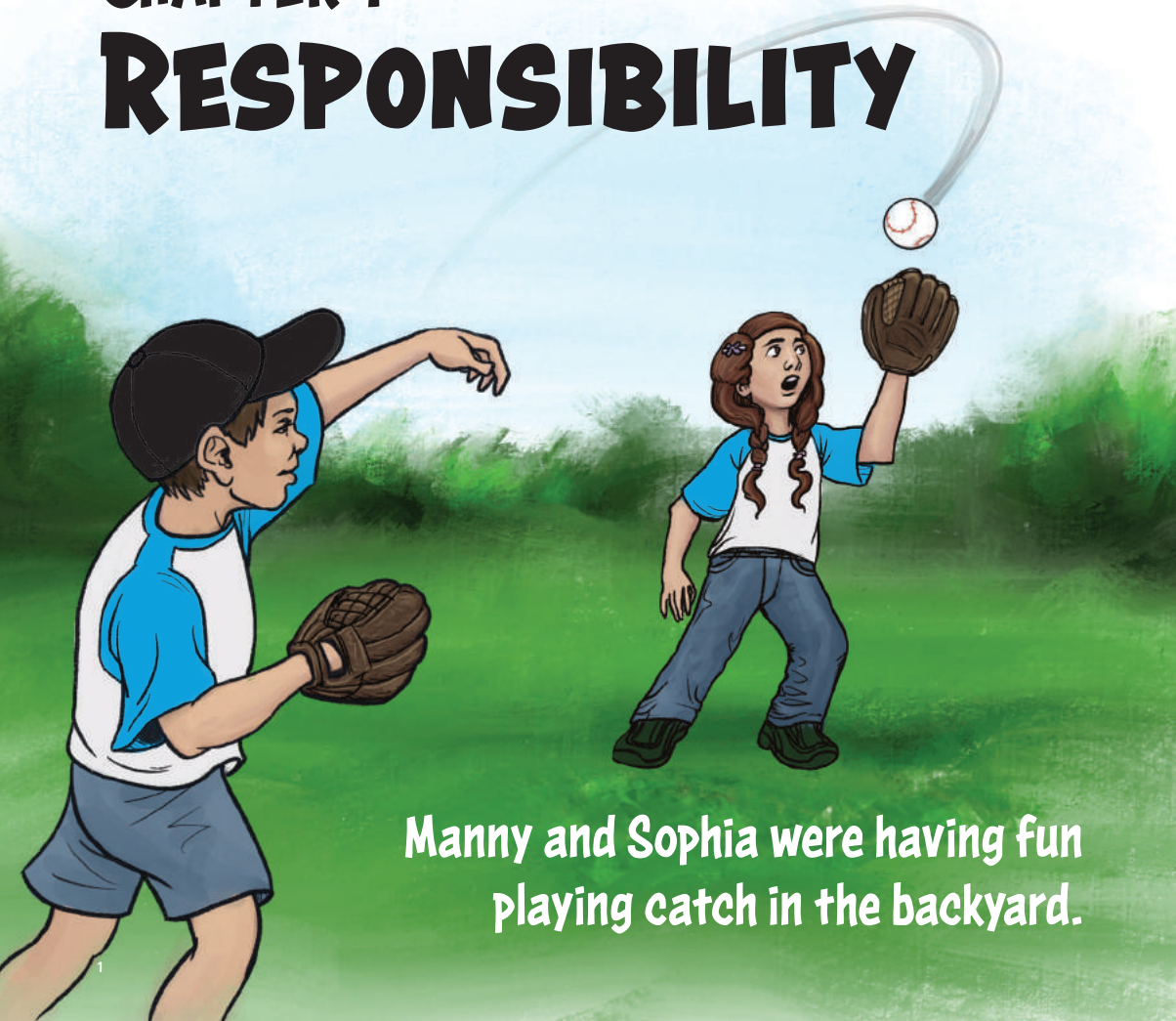


Chapter 1
Responsibility



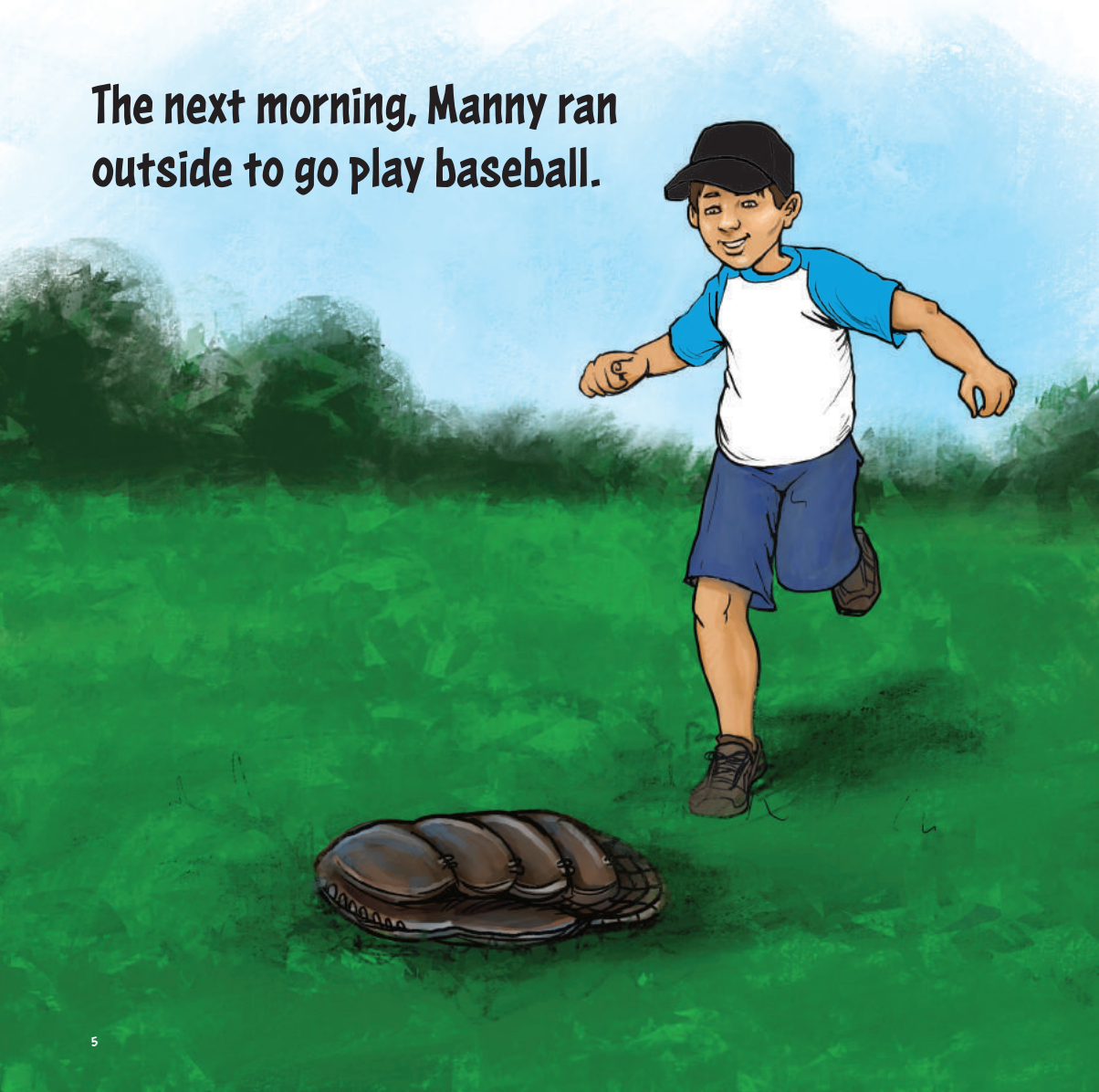
Manny and Sophia were having fun playing catch in the backyard.

"Come on in, Manny, it's time for dinner," said Manny's mother.

Manny dropped his glove and ran inside.

Later that night, it began to rain.
Manny's glove was now all wet!

The next morning, Manny ran outside to go play baseball.



"MOM!!!"

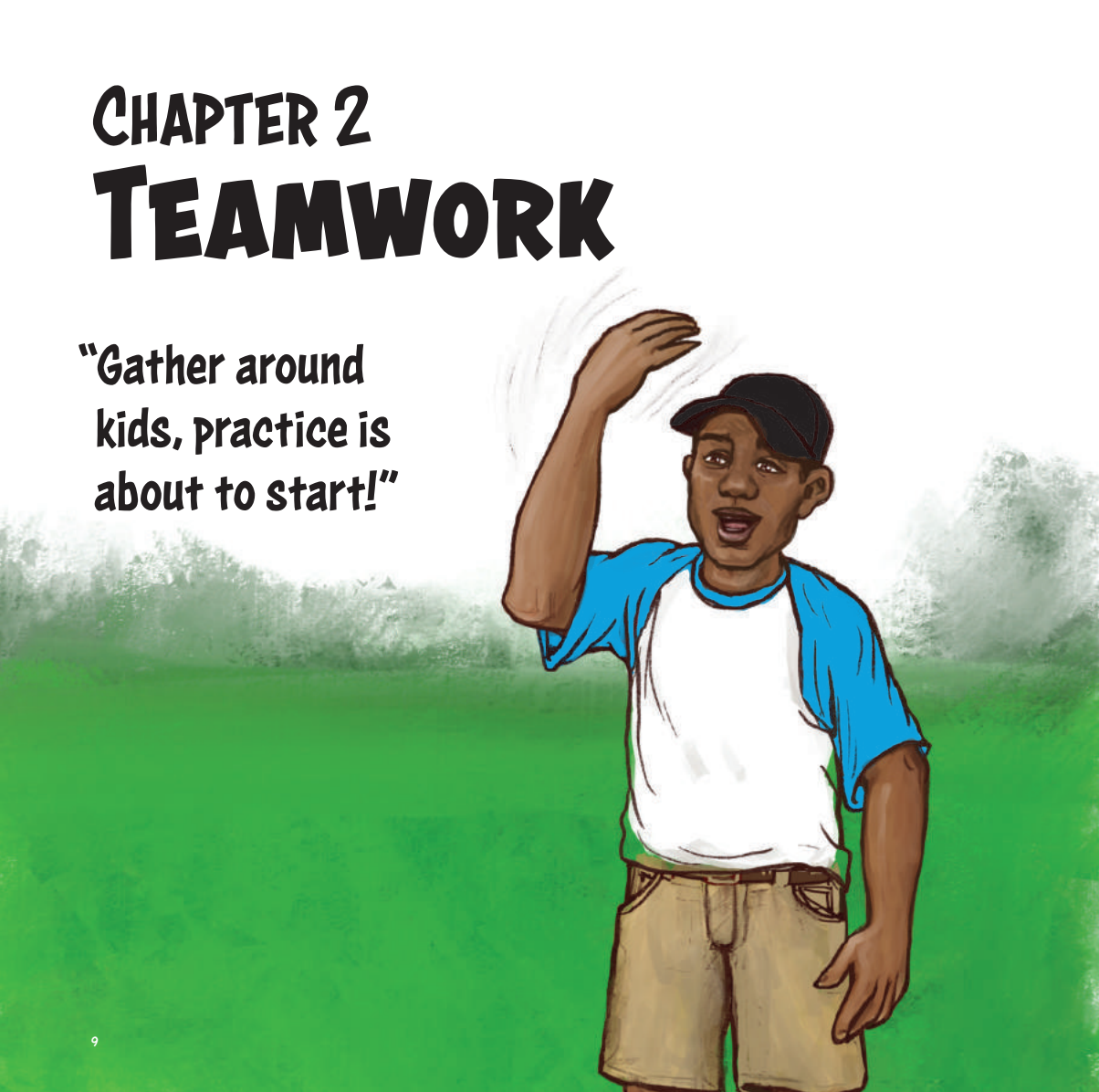
"My baseball glove is too wet, how am I going to play today?"

"You're a big boy, Manny. You have to take responsibility for taking care of your own things," his mom explained.

From then on, Manny made sure to pick up his things when he was done playing with them. His glove was never rained on again!

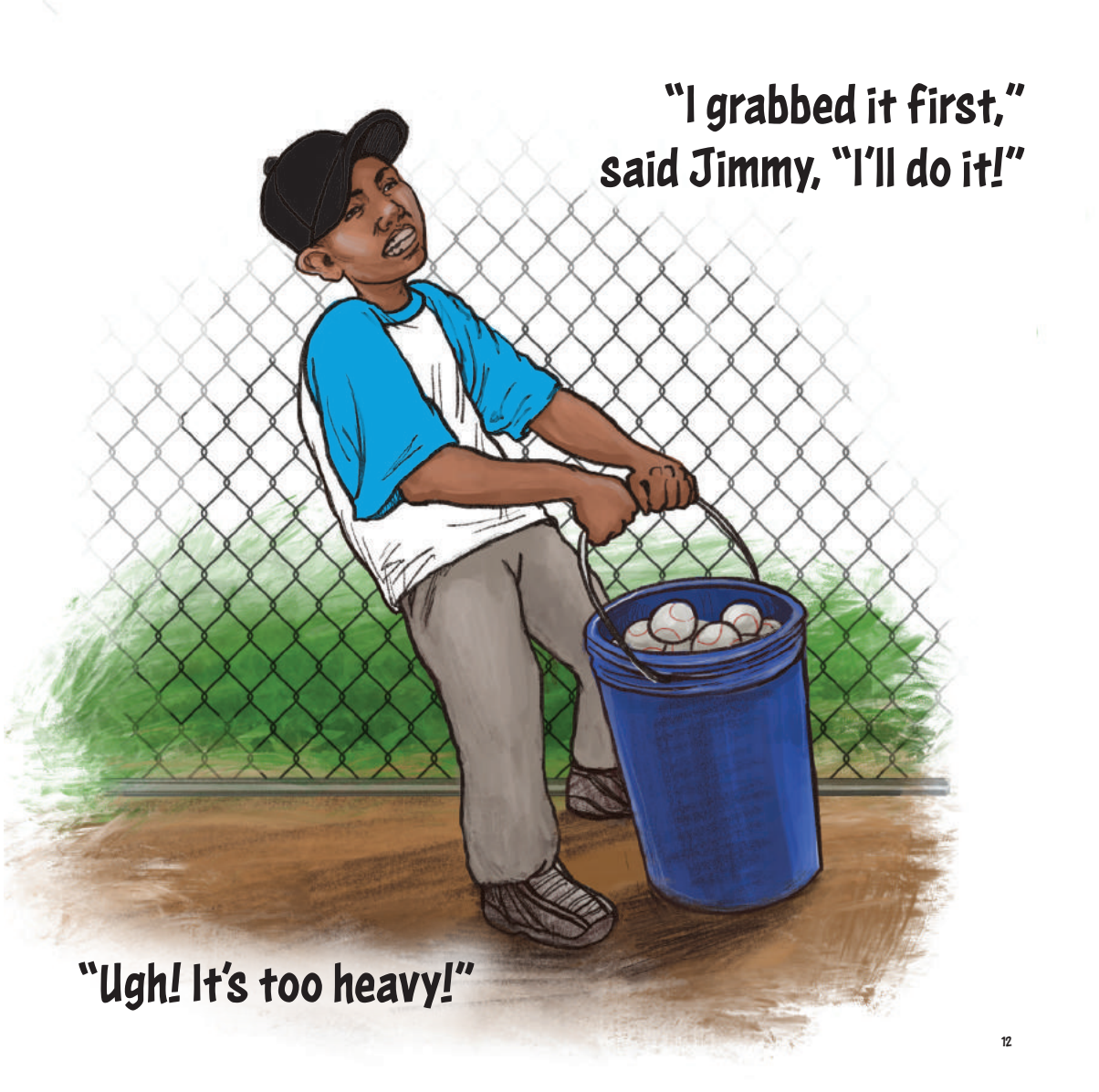
Chapter 2
Teamwork

"Gather around kids, practice is about to start!"



"Uh oh, it looks like we forgot the bucket of baseballs in the dugout," said Coach Willie.

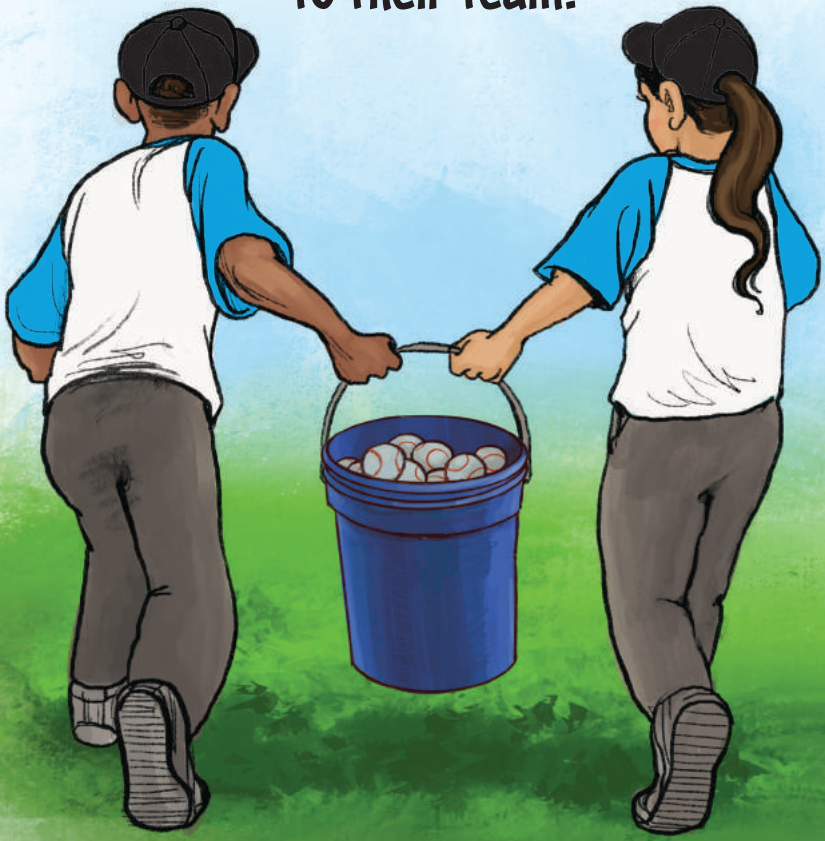
Jimmy and Emily jumped to their feet.
"We will go get the bucket, Coach Willie!"


"I grabbed it first," said Jimmy, "I'll do it!"
"Ugh! It's too heavy!"

"I can't lift it either," cried Emily.

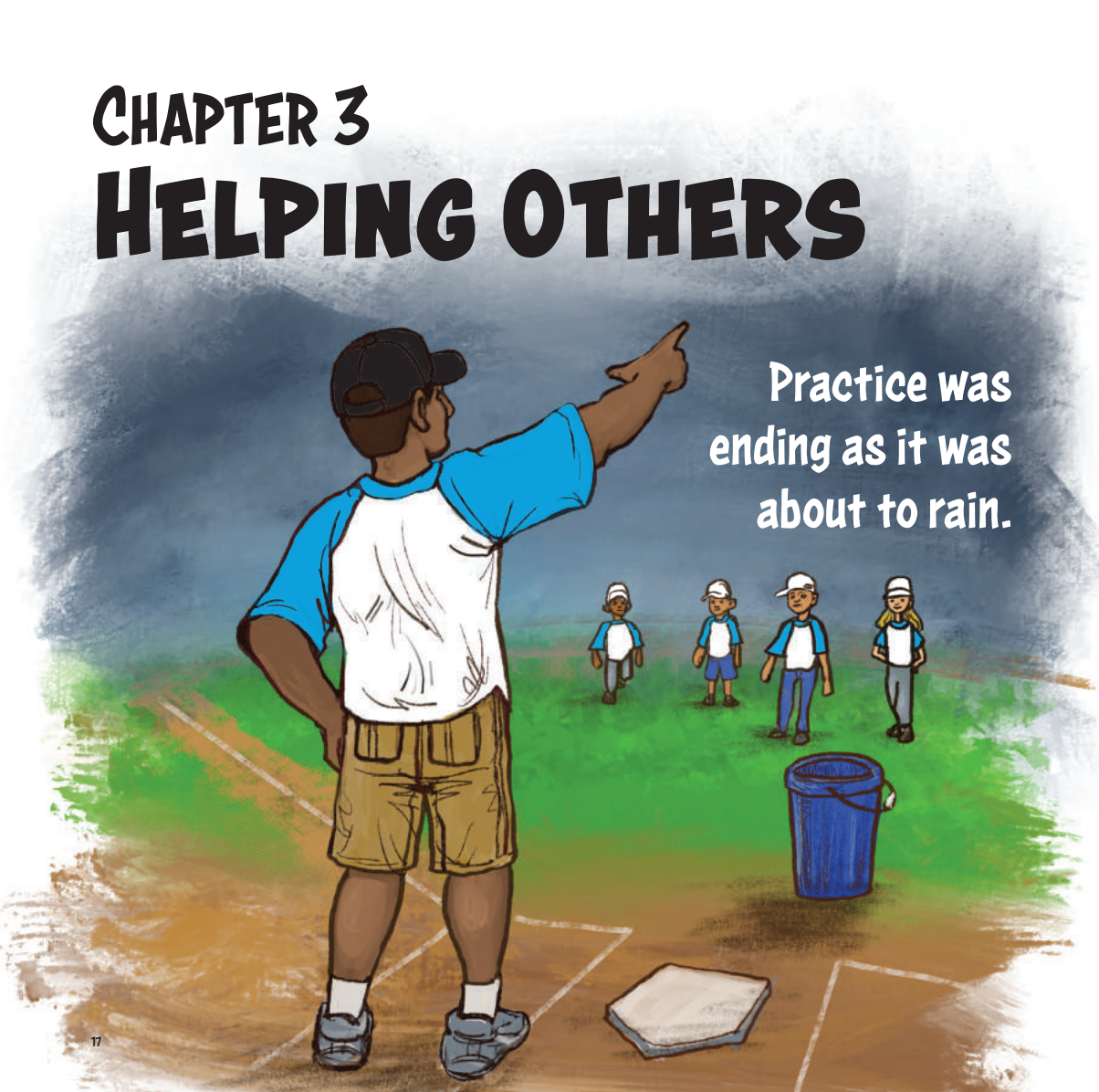
"You need to use teamwork and try to lift it together."

"Let's lift it on the count of three... 1... 2... 3!" They carried the bucket over to their team.

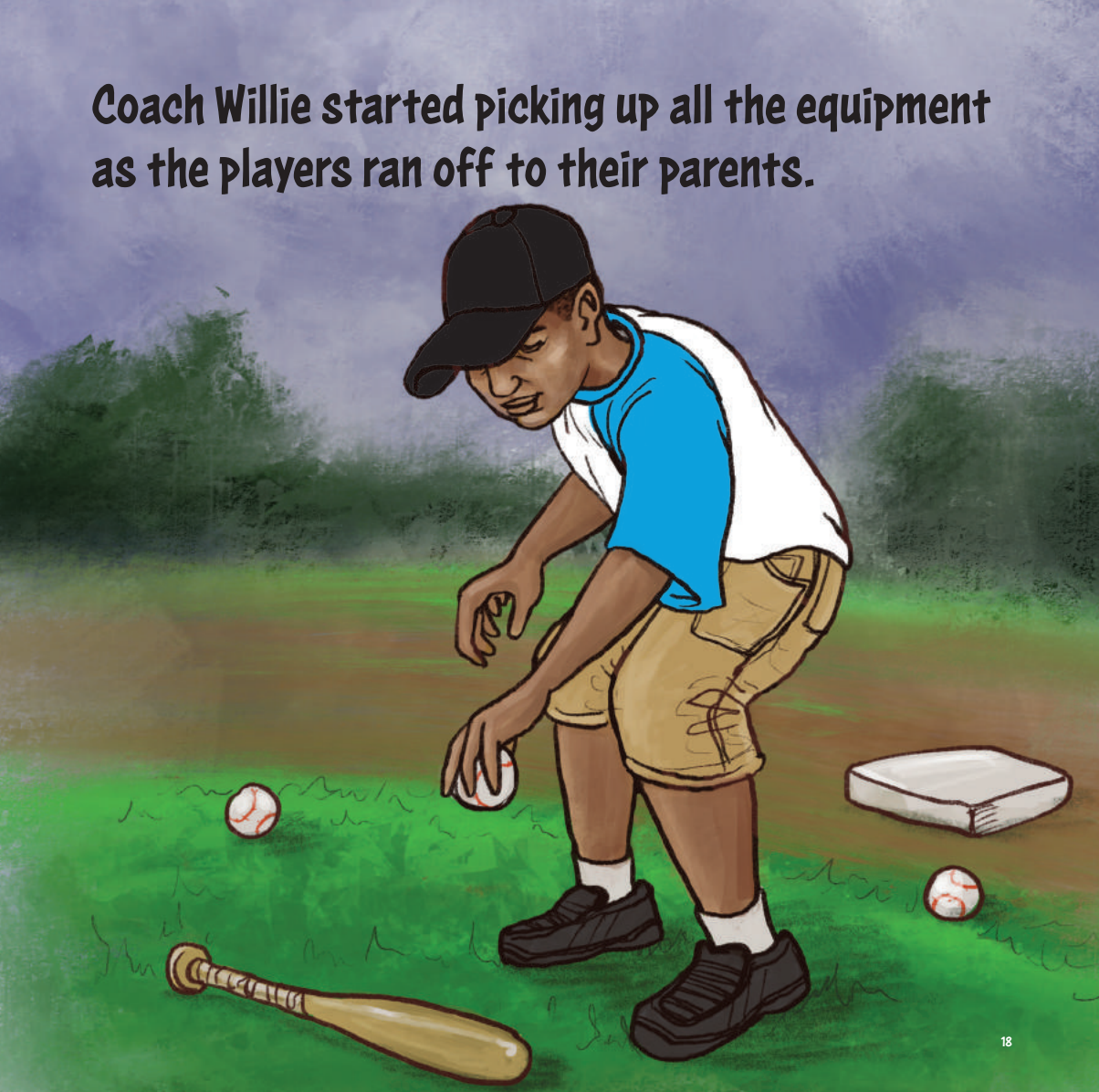


Thanks to Jimmy and Emily's teamwork, the whole team was able to have a fun practice!

Chapter 3
Helping Others



Coach Willie started picking up all the equipment as the players ran off to their parents.



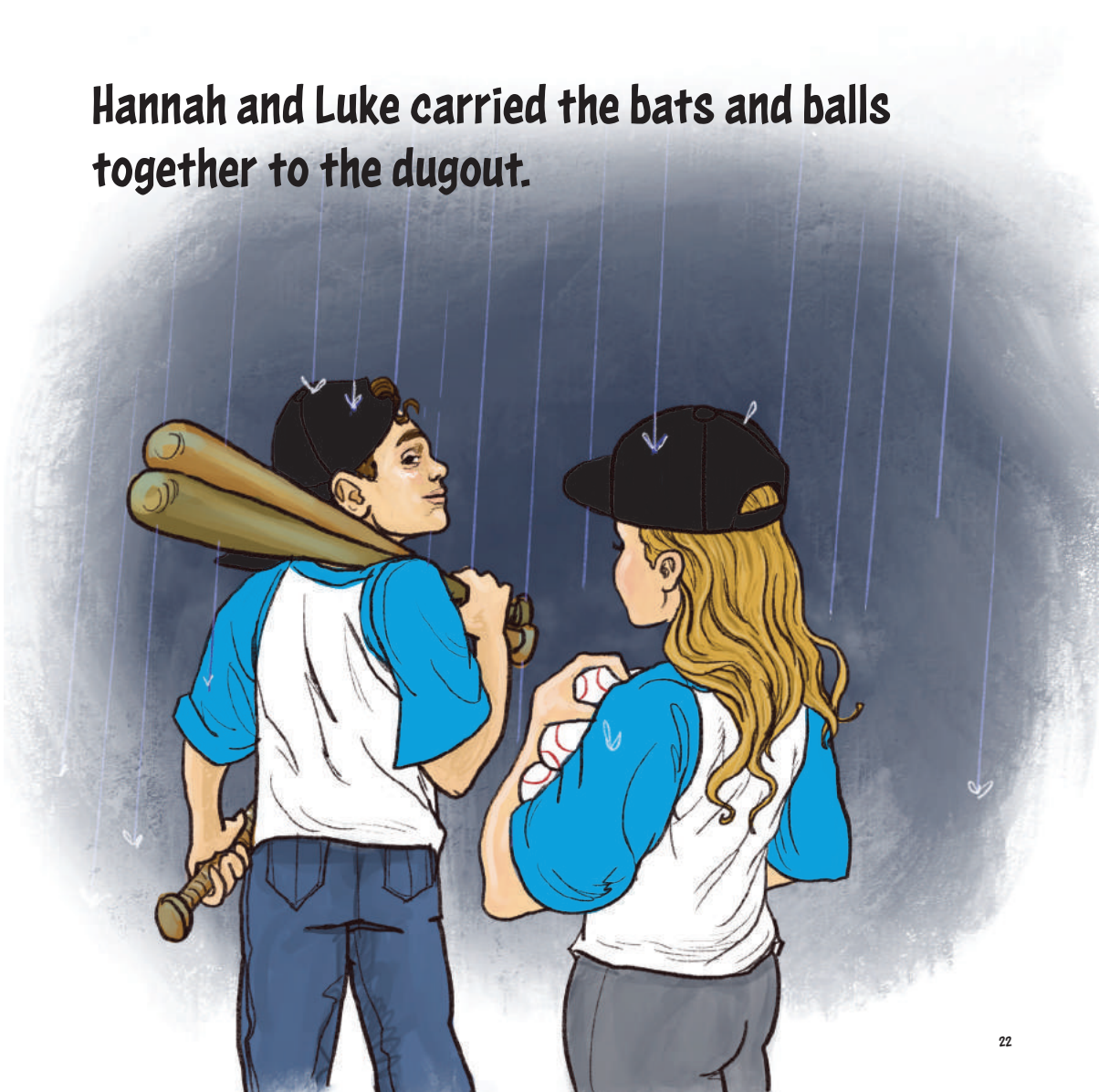
"Coach Willie!
Can I help you?"
yelled Luke.

"Of course you can, Luke. You pick up the bats while I get the balls."

"Coach Willie! I will help too!"

Hannah started helping Coach Willie pick up the balls.

Hannah and Luke carried the bats and balls together to the dugout.



"Thank you for helping me pick up and carry everything."

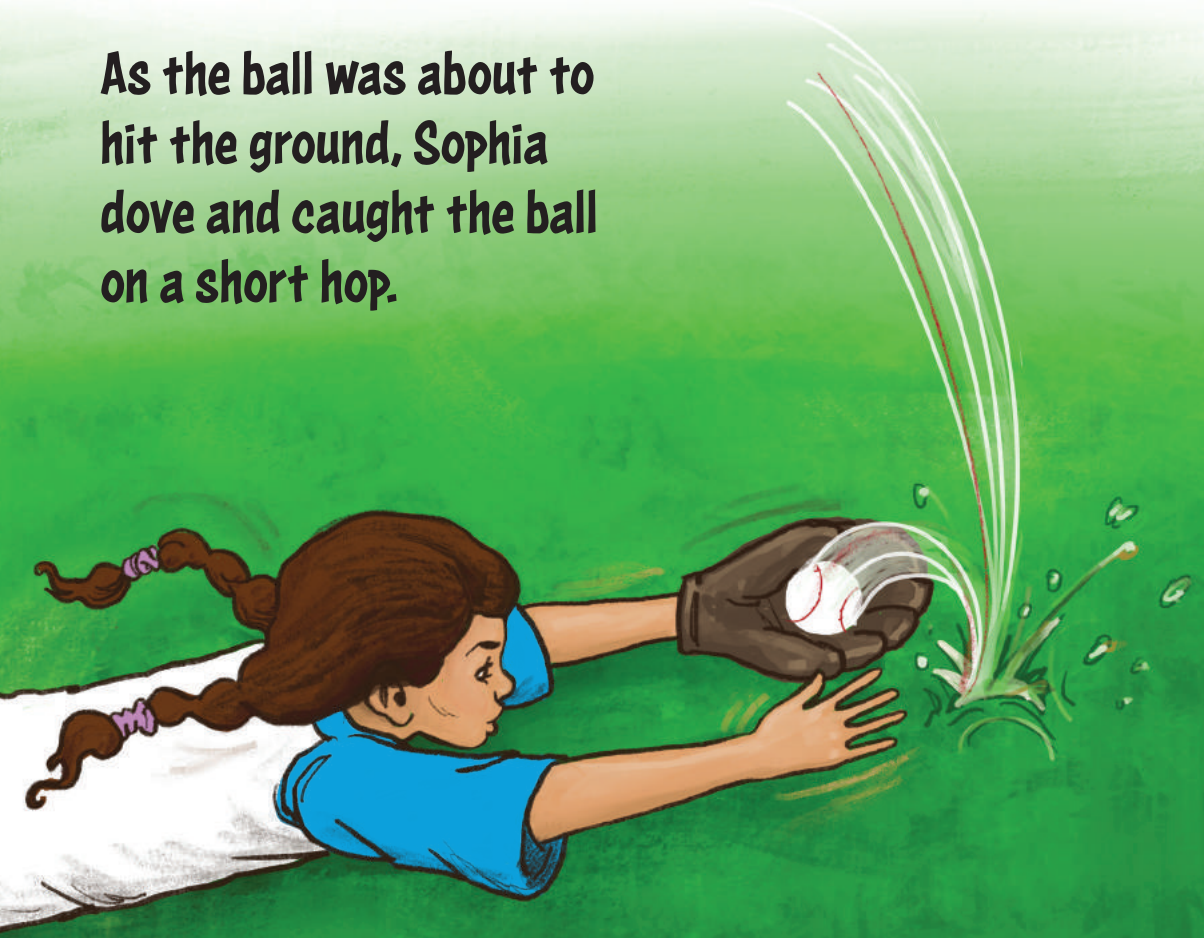
"Without your help I would have gotten stuck in the rain!"

Chapter 4
Honesty

It was the last inning of the game and Sophia's team was winning by one run.

Just then, a high fly ball was hit over her head.
She ran as fast as she could to catch it.

As the ball was about to hit the ground, Sophia dove and caught the ball on a short hop.



"Out!" yelled the umpire.

The umpire had made a mistake!

"Mr. Umpire," Sophia said.
"I'm sorry, but I did not
catch that ball."

"Are you sure, Sophia?" said Emily.
"If you didn't make that catch, it means that we will lose the game."

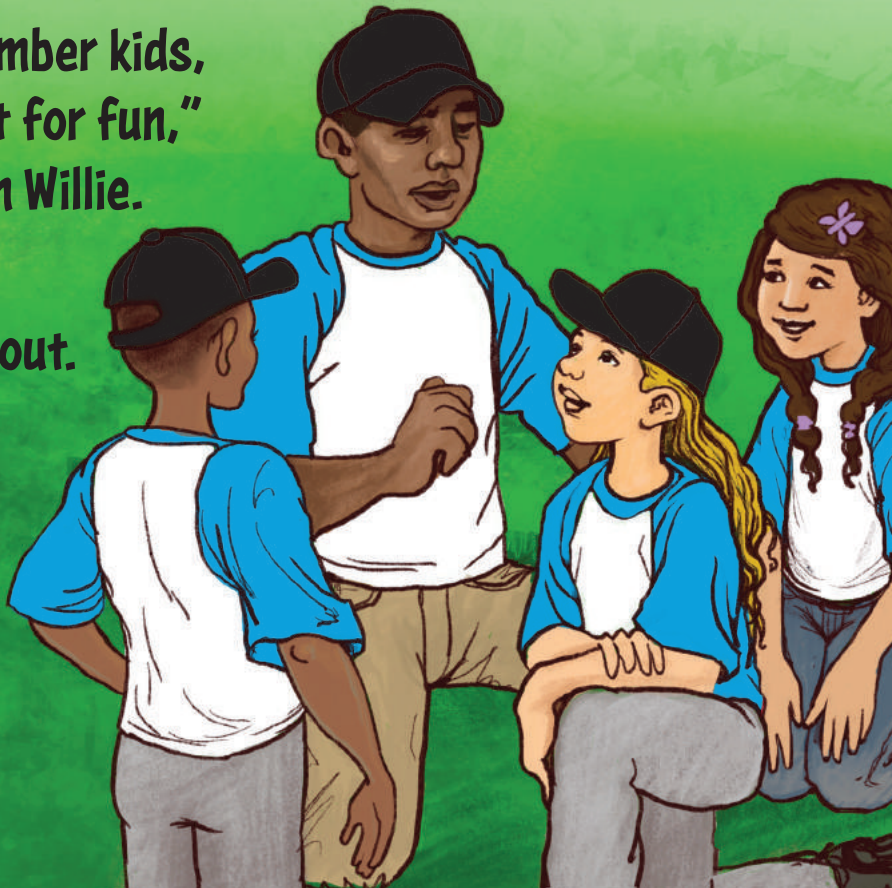
"I know, Emily, I really wanted to win too."

"But being honest with yourself and your team is more important than winning and losing."

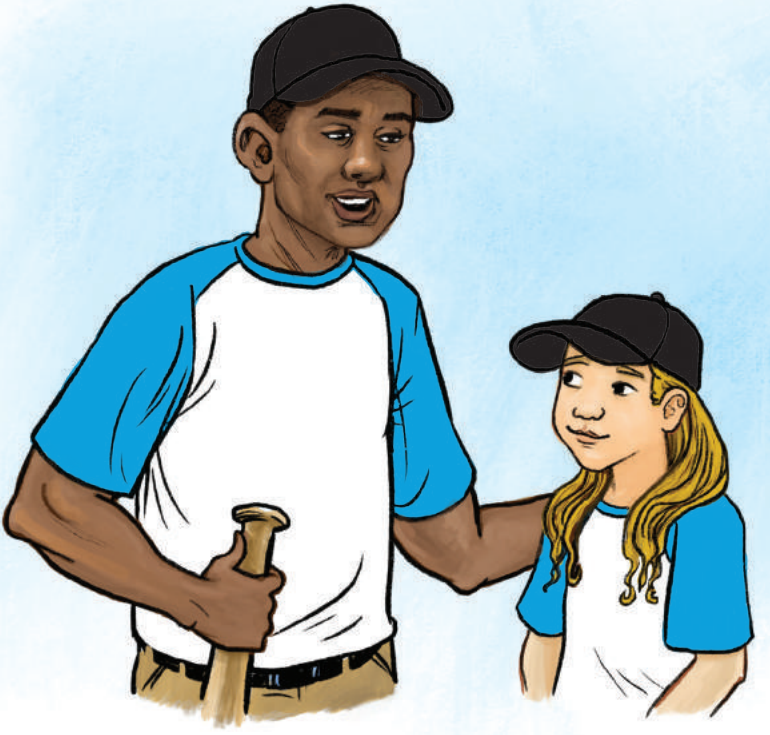
Chapter 5
Do Your Best

"Now remember kids, this is just for fun," said Coach Willie.

"It is okay if you get out. Don't get upset."



The first three innings went by and nobody had scored.



"Alright Hannah, it is your turn to bat," said Coach Willie.

Hannah took her first swing and missed...

Then Hannah swung and missed again.

"You can do it, Hannah!" yelled Jimmy.

Hannah struck out and slammed her bat on the ground.

"I understand that you are frustrated, Hannah."

"But getting angry only makes it worse."

"It's okay if you get out as long as you do your best."

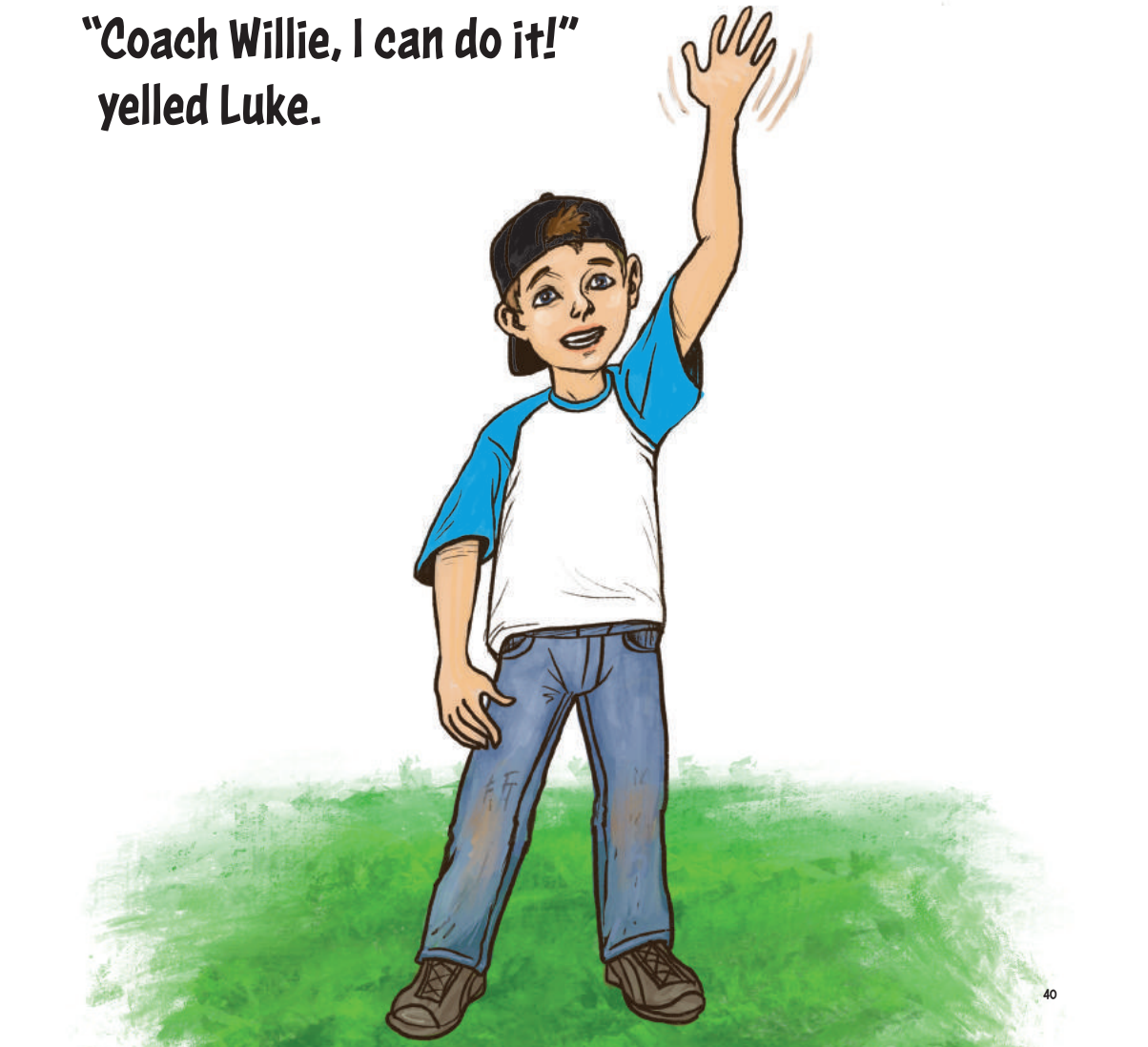
Chapter 6
Leadership

"Ouch!" Said Emily. "Coach Willie, I hurt my ankle."

"Hold on Emily, I will come look at it," said Coach Willie.

"While I look at Emily's ankle, I need somebody to lead the warm-up."

"Coach Willie, I can do it!"
yelled Luke.



"First, we do ten jumping jacks."

The team followed Luke doing jumping jacks as he counted out loud. "1...2....3..."

"Now, we do ten push-ups."

"1...2...3..."

Coach Willie smiled as he listened to Luke lead the warm-up.

"Thanks to Luke's leadership, we can all have some fun now," said Coach Willie.

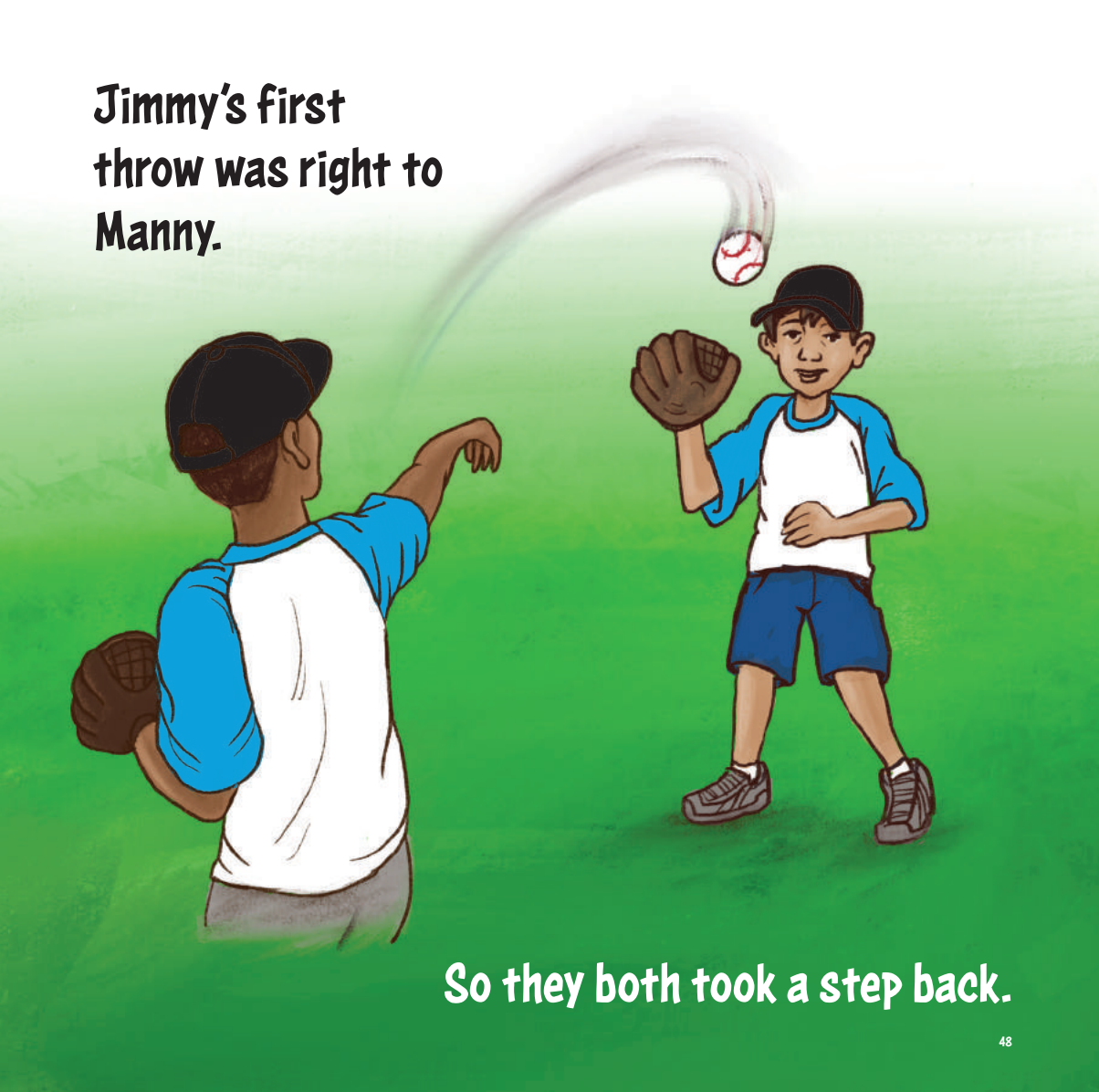
Chapter 7
Never Give Up

After practice, Jimmy was feeling sad.
"I didn't throw the ball well today," he said.

"Come over tomorrow, and we will practice together," said Manny.

"We will start close," Manny explained.
"After every good throw, take a step back."

Jimmy's first throw was right to Manny.



So they both took a step back.

Jimmy's next throw landed in front of Manny.

"Throw it again! Come on Jimmy, you can do it!"

Jimmy threw the ball again. This time it landed right in Manny's glove.

"Never give up," said Manny.
"I knew you could do it."

Chapter 8
Being Supportive

"It is the last game of the season and I still haven't hit a home run," said Luke.

"You will do it today, Luke!" said Jimmy.

"We believe in you!" Said Hannah.

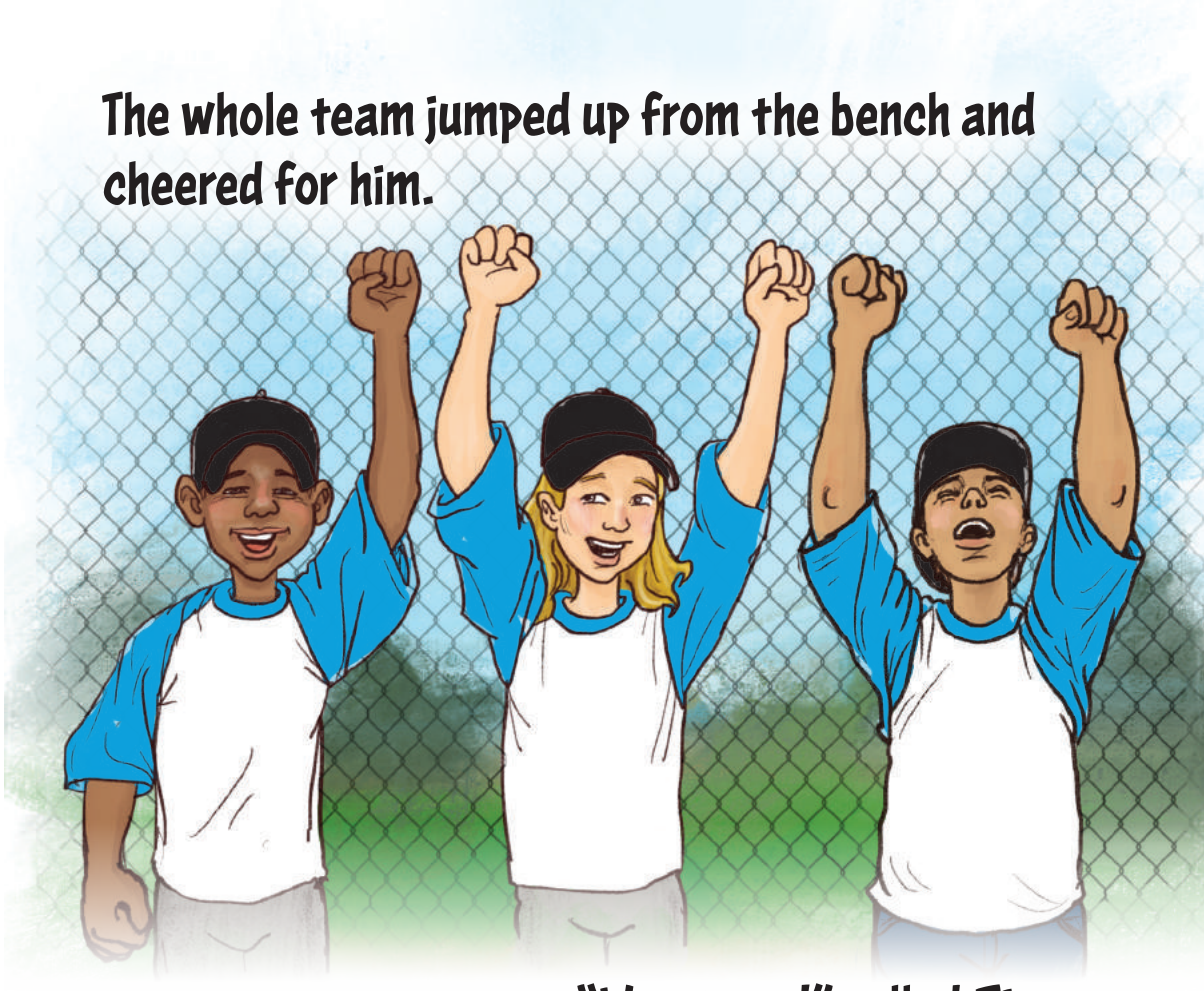
"Luke, just remember everything we have learned," Coach Willie said.

Luke's teammates cheered as he nervously walked up to the plate.

"Go Luke!" yelled the team.
"You can do it!"

Luke swung at the first pitch and hit the ball out of the park!

The whole team jumped up from the bench and cheered for him.



"Way to go!" yelled Jimmy.
"Great job!" yelled Hannah.

"Thanks guys, but I could not have done it without your support."

Florida Blue

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