

Level 4



# HIT!

A cartoon illustration of a young boy with dark skin and curly hair, wearing a white baseball jersey with a green stripe on the sleeve and grey pants. He is in a batting stance, swinging a wooden bat. A baseball is shown in mid-air to the left of the bat, with motion lines indicating its path. The background features a wooden fence, green trees, and a blue sky with white clouds.

**By Michelle Wanasundera**  
**Illustrated by Jovan-Carl Segura**

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Hit!

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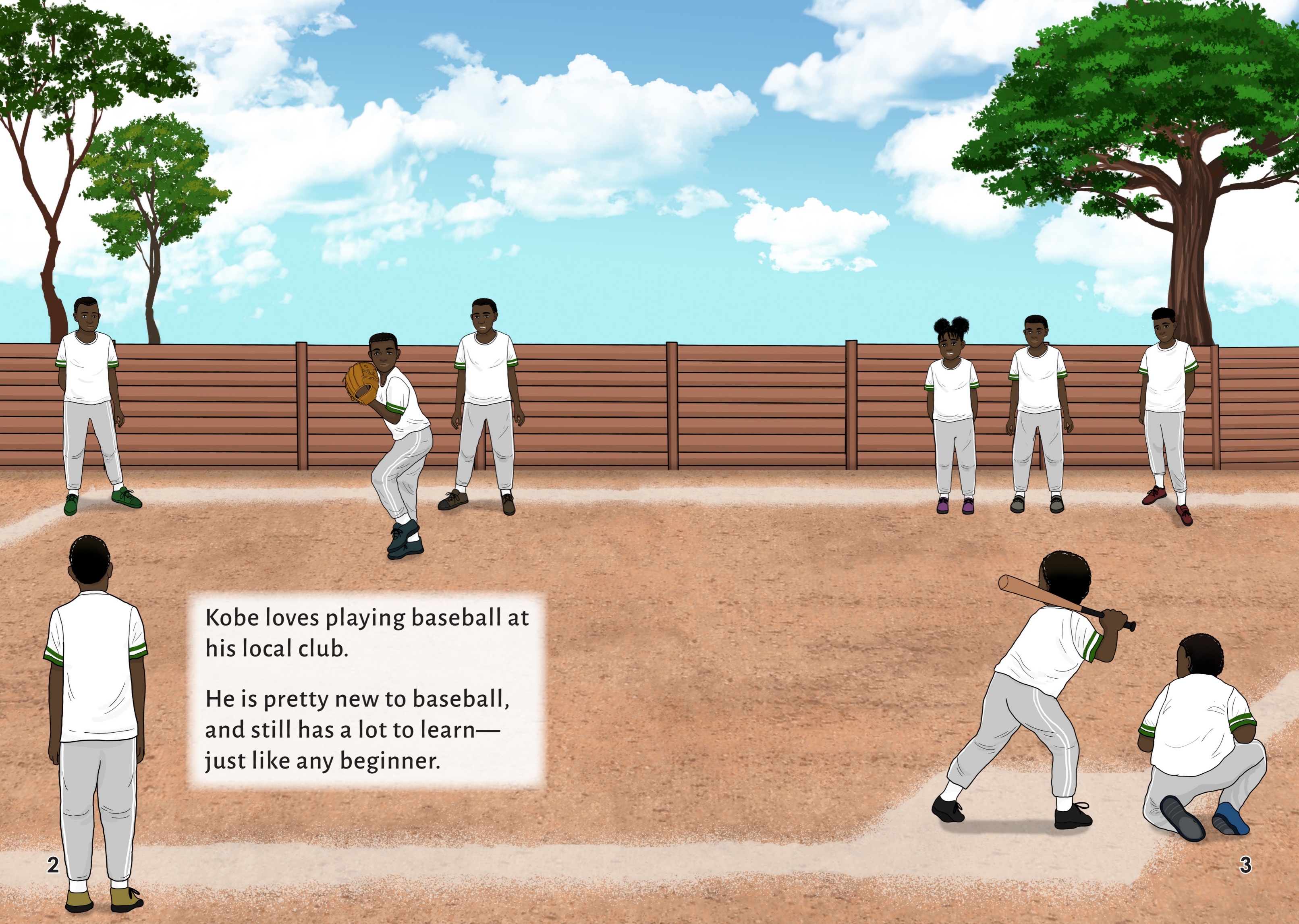
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Original illustrations by Jovan Carl Segura

Hit!

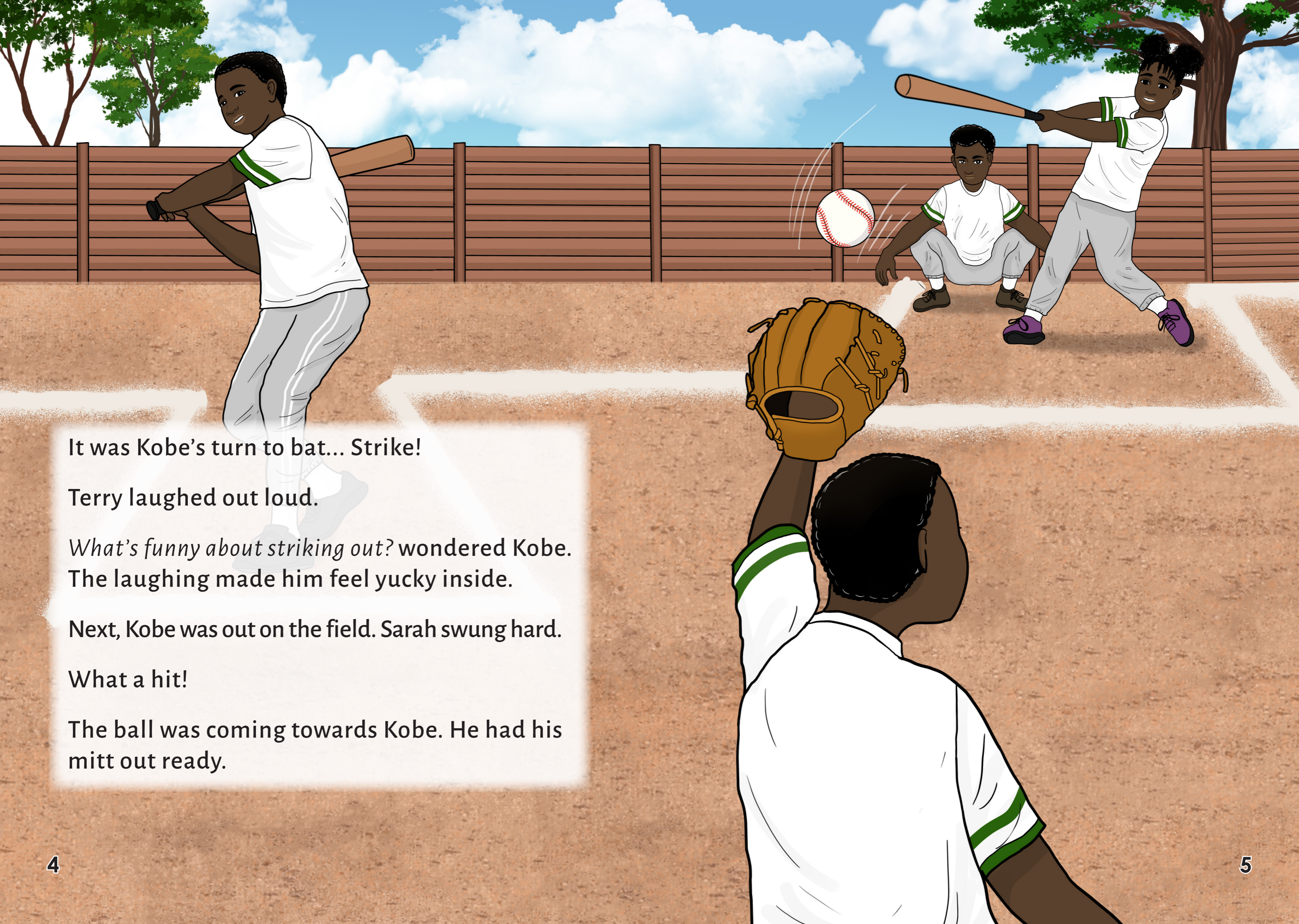
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# HIT!



Kobe loves playing baseball at his local club.

He is pretty new to baseball, and still has a lot to learn—just like any beginner.



It was Kobe's turn to bat... Strike!

Terry laughed out loud.

*What's funny about striking out?* wondered Kobe. The laughing made him feel yucky inside.

Next, Kobe was out on the field. Sarah swung hard.

What a hit!

The ball was coming towards Kobe. He had his mitt out ready.



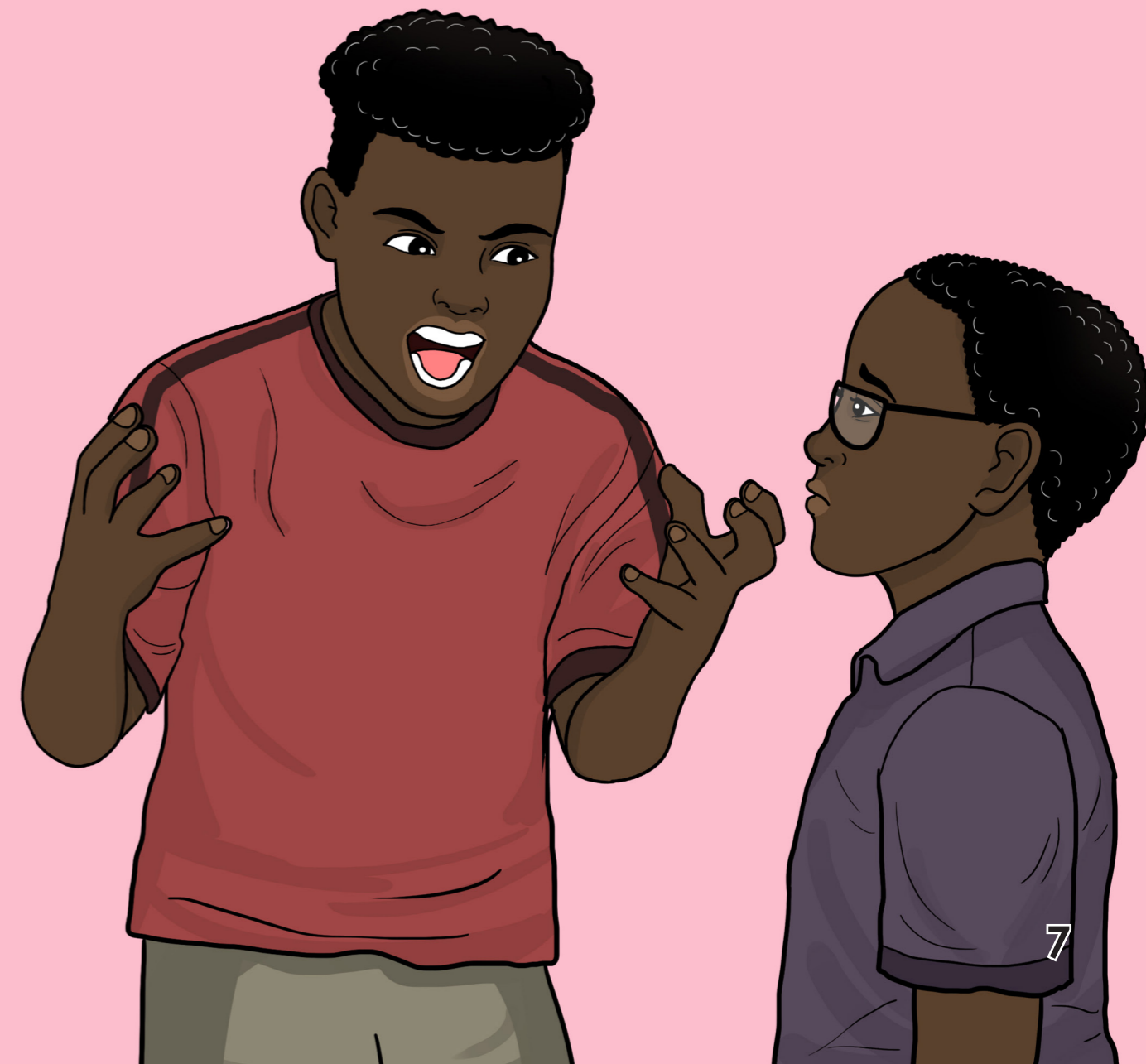
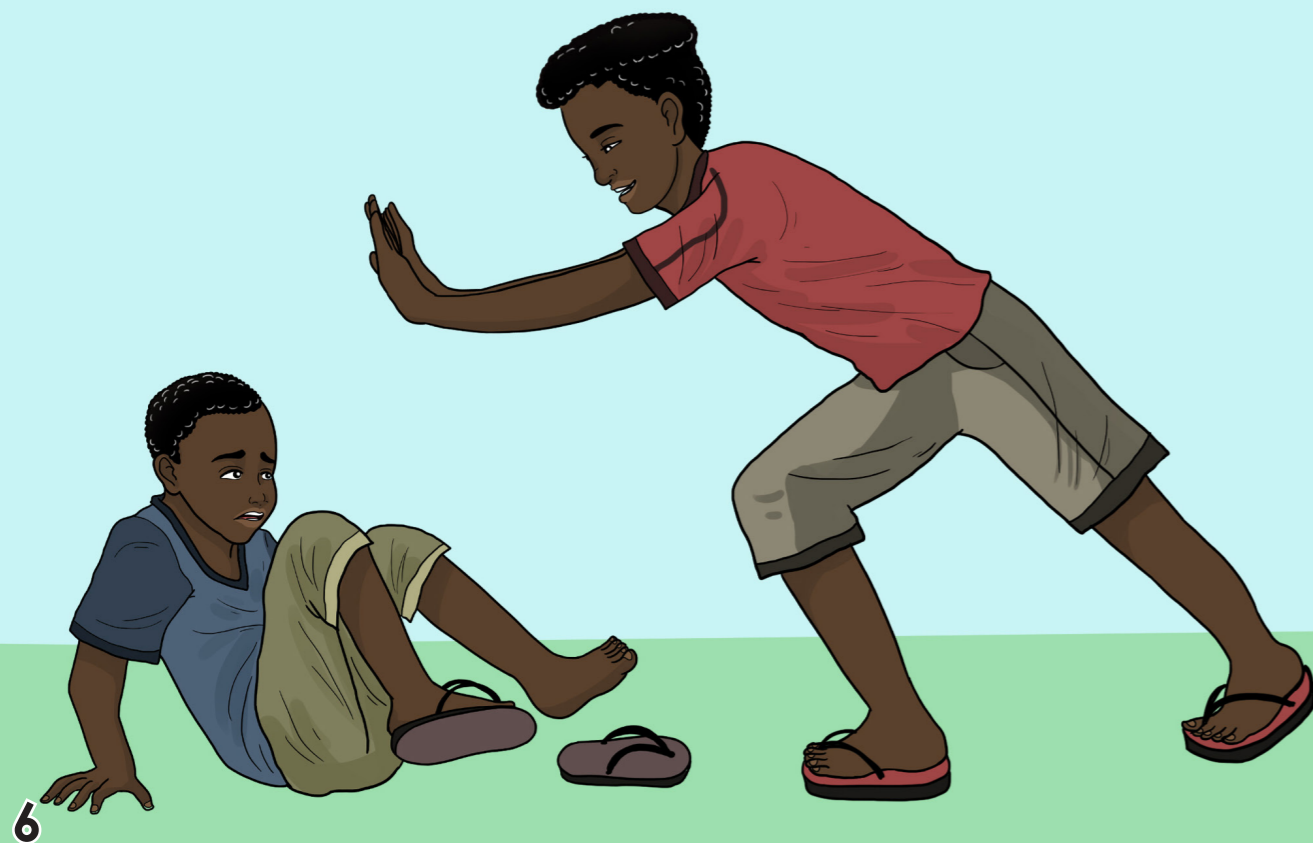
Closer and closer and...

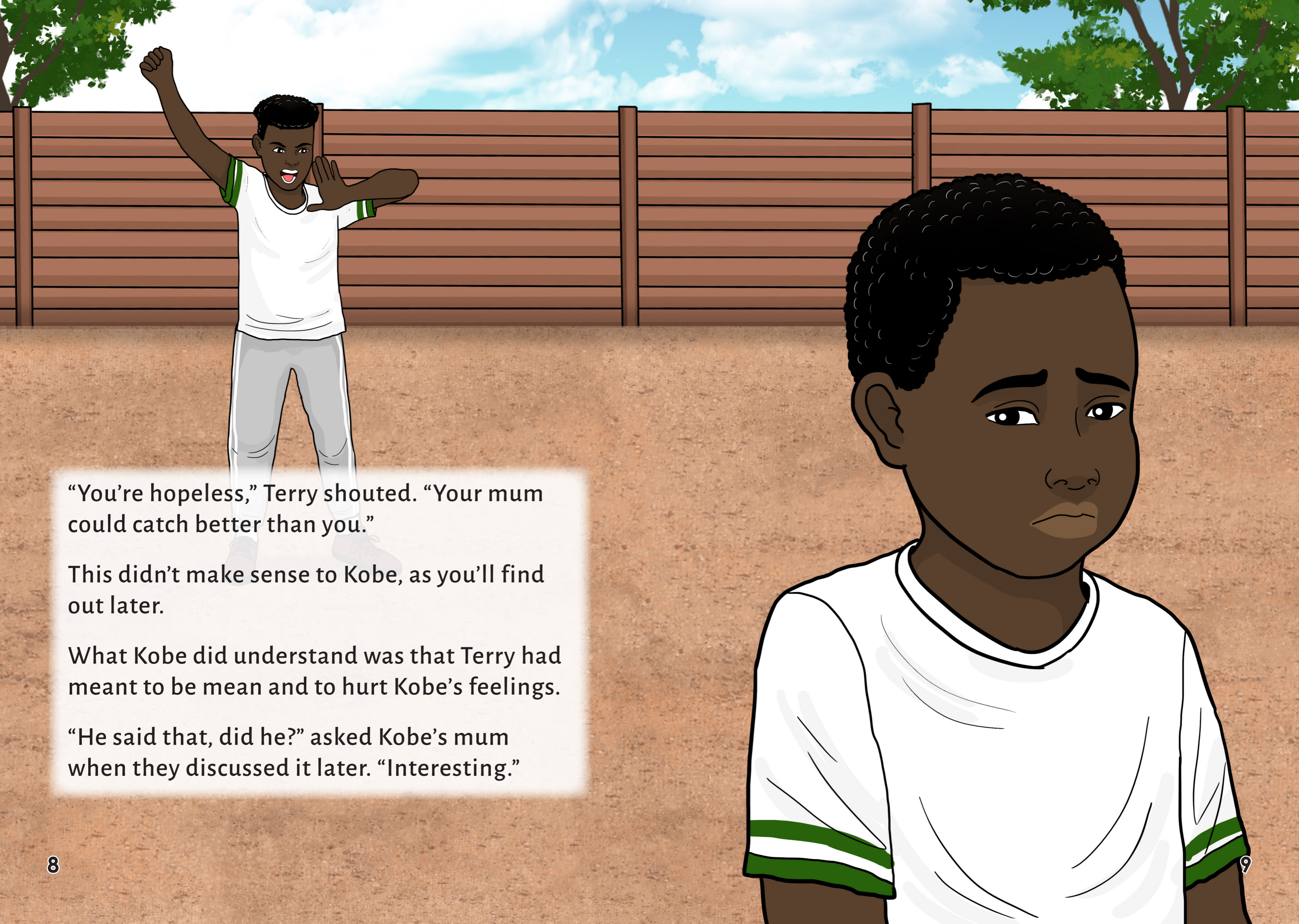
He missed it.

Which was okay—he was just a beginner.

Terry didn't see it that way. He was what some people call a 'bully'.

*A bully is a person who picks on others, usually those who are less strong, less able or appear to be different in some way.*



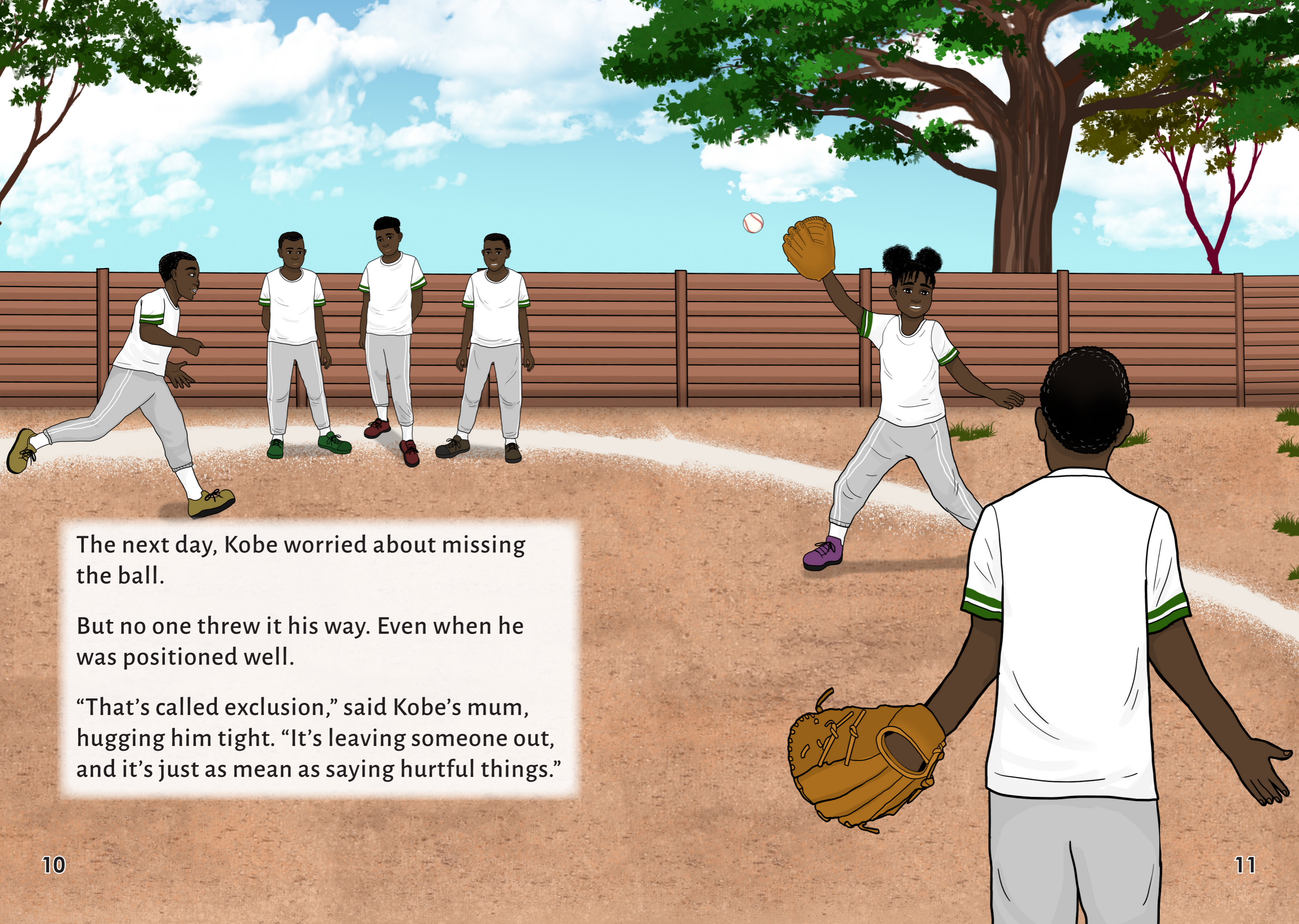


“You’re hopeless,” Terry shouted. “Your mum could catch better than you.”

This didn’t make sense to Kobe, as you’ll find out later.

What Kobe did understand was that Terry had meant to be mean and to hurt Kobe’s feelings.

“He said that, did he?” asked Kobe’s mum when they discussed it later. “Interesting.”



The next day, Kobe worried about missing the ball.

But no one threw it his way. Even when he was positioned well.

“That’s called exclusion,” said Kobe’s mum, hugging him tight. “It’s leaving someone out, and it’s just as mean as saying hurtful things.”

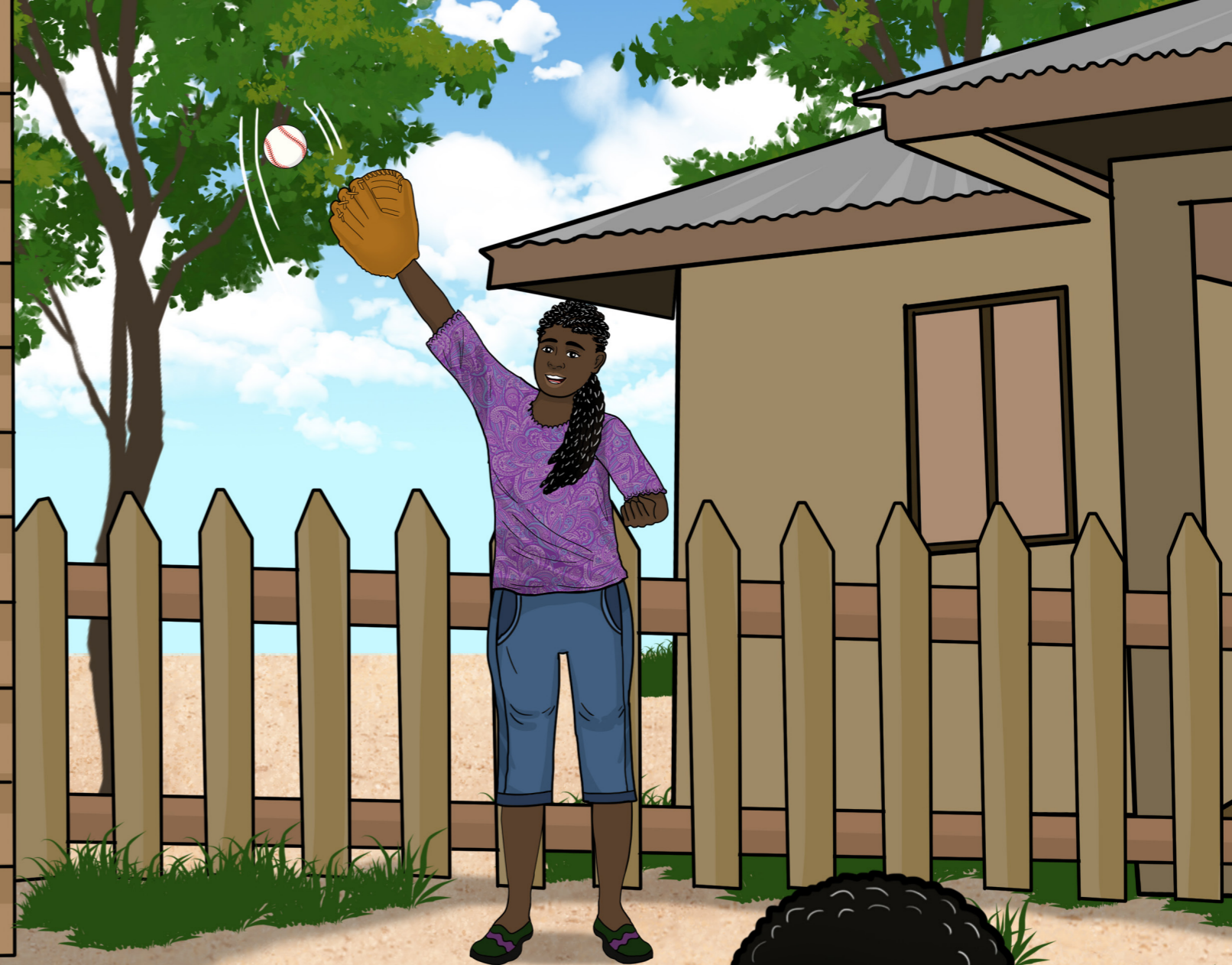
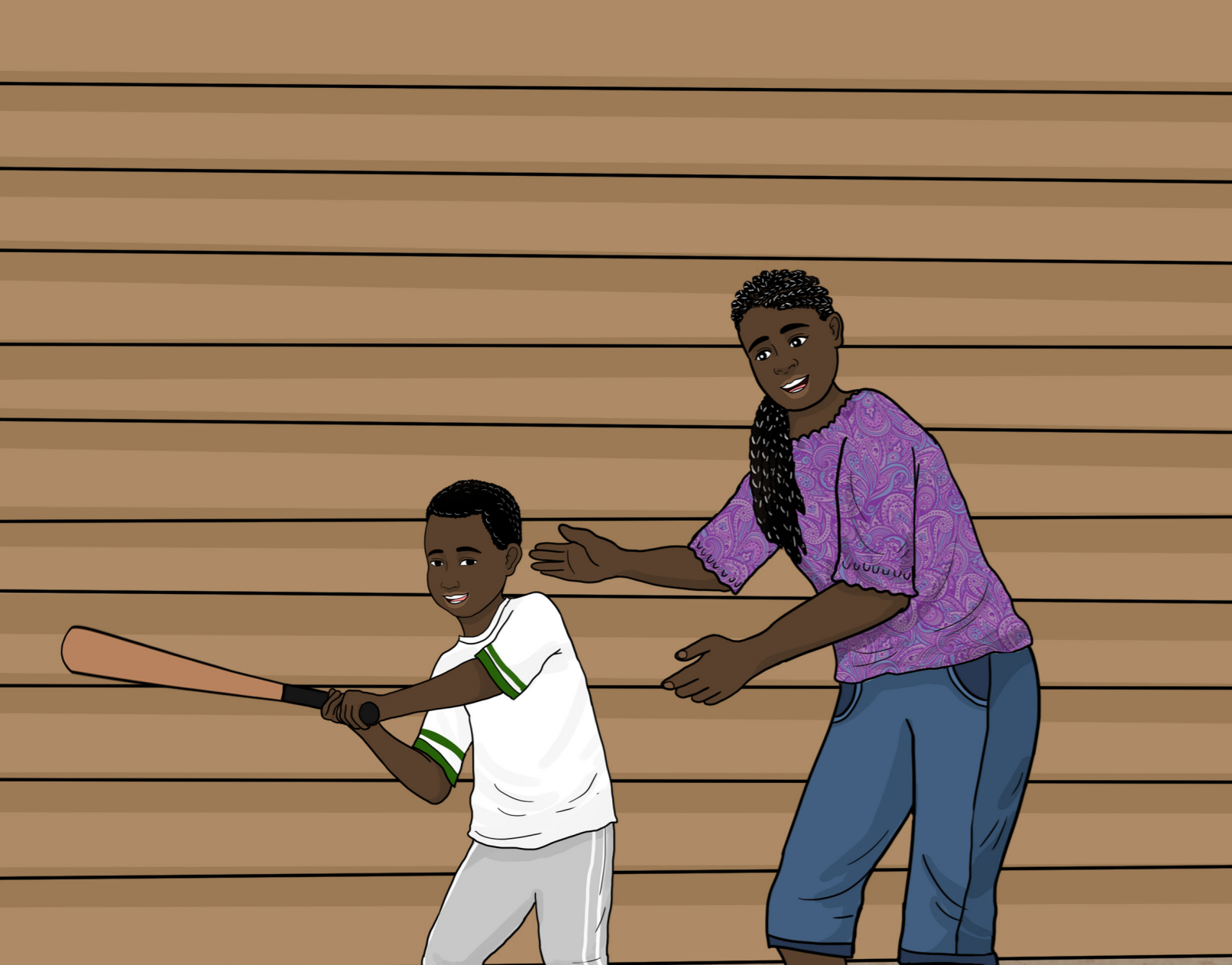




“I’m not going back,” said Kobe.

“Sometimes it’s worth trying for a bit longer,” said his mum. “Let’s practise and get you feeling more confident.”





Kobe skipped his next practice at the club.

Instead, he and his mum threw the ball back and forth at home. They batted a little and ran along pretend bases.

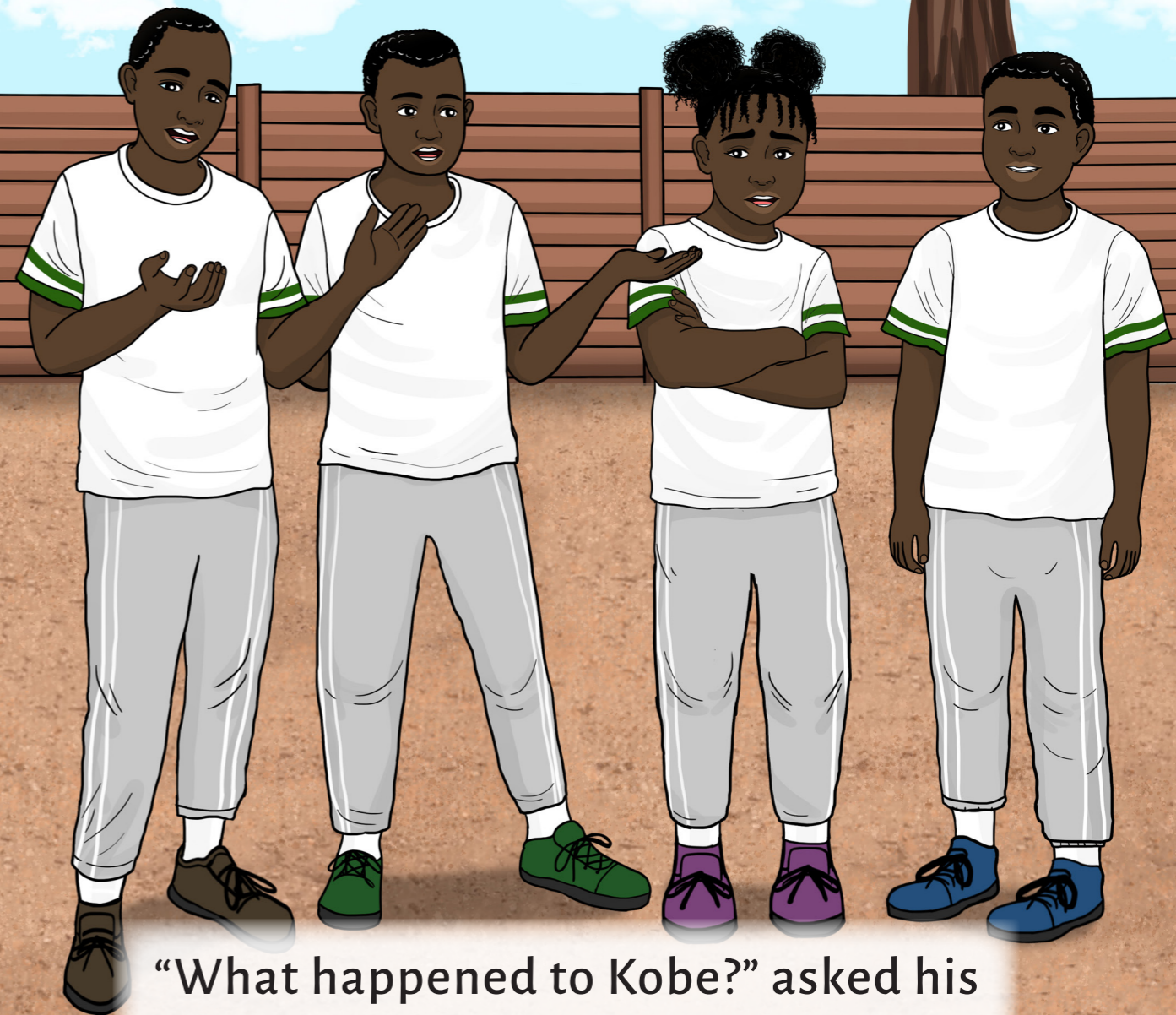
Kobe felt comfortable practising with his mum. But he still wasn't sure about facing the team.





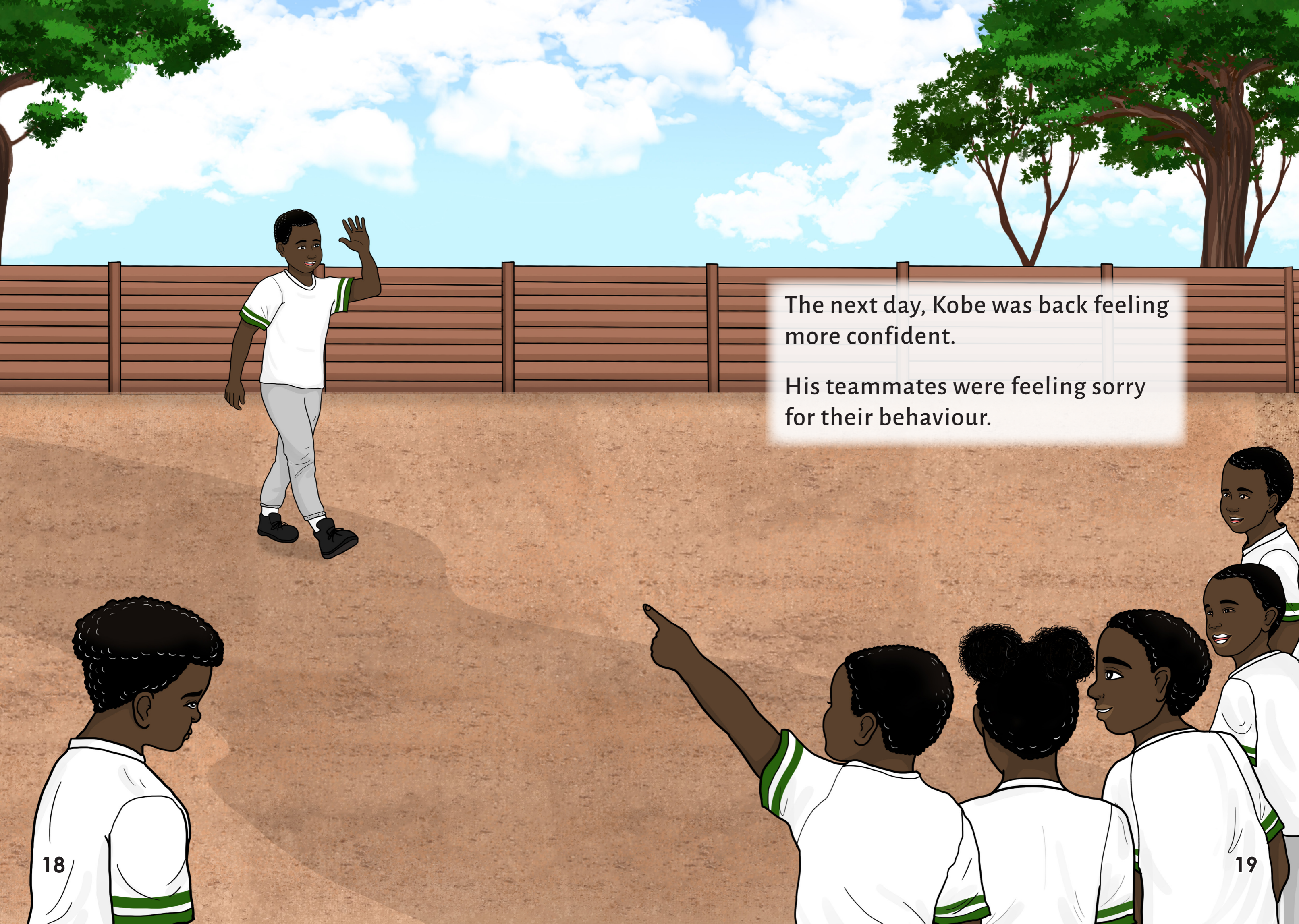
Meanwhile, at the team's regular practice, Kobe's teammates were confused.

"Where's Kobe?" asked the coach.



"What happened to Kobe?" asked his teammates.

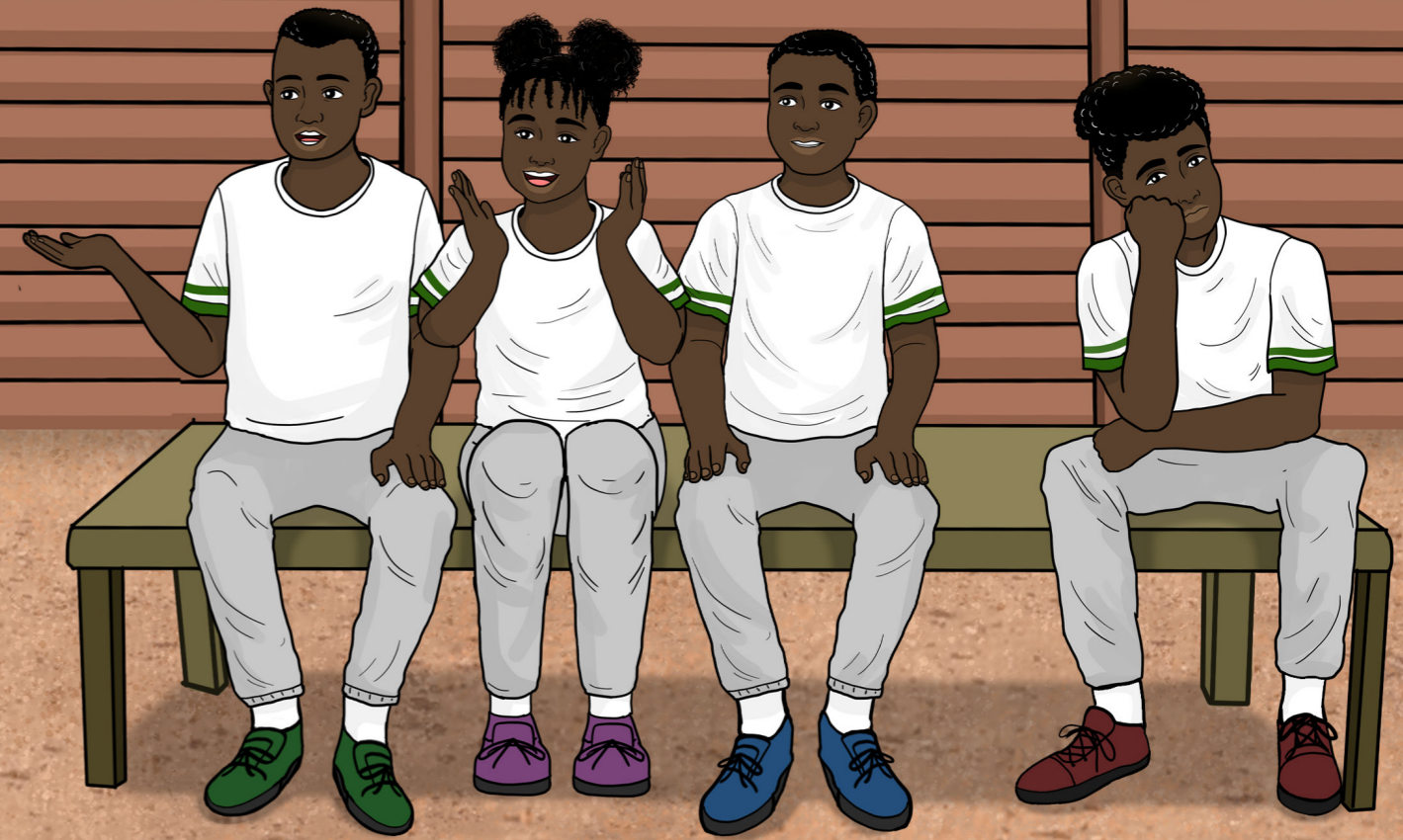
Everyone looked at Terry.



The next day, Kobe was back feeling more confident.  
His teammates were feeling sorry for their behaviour.

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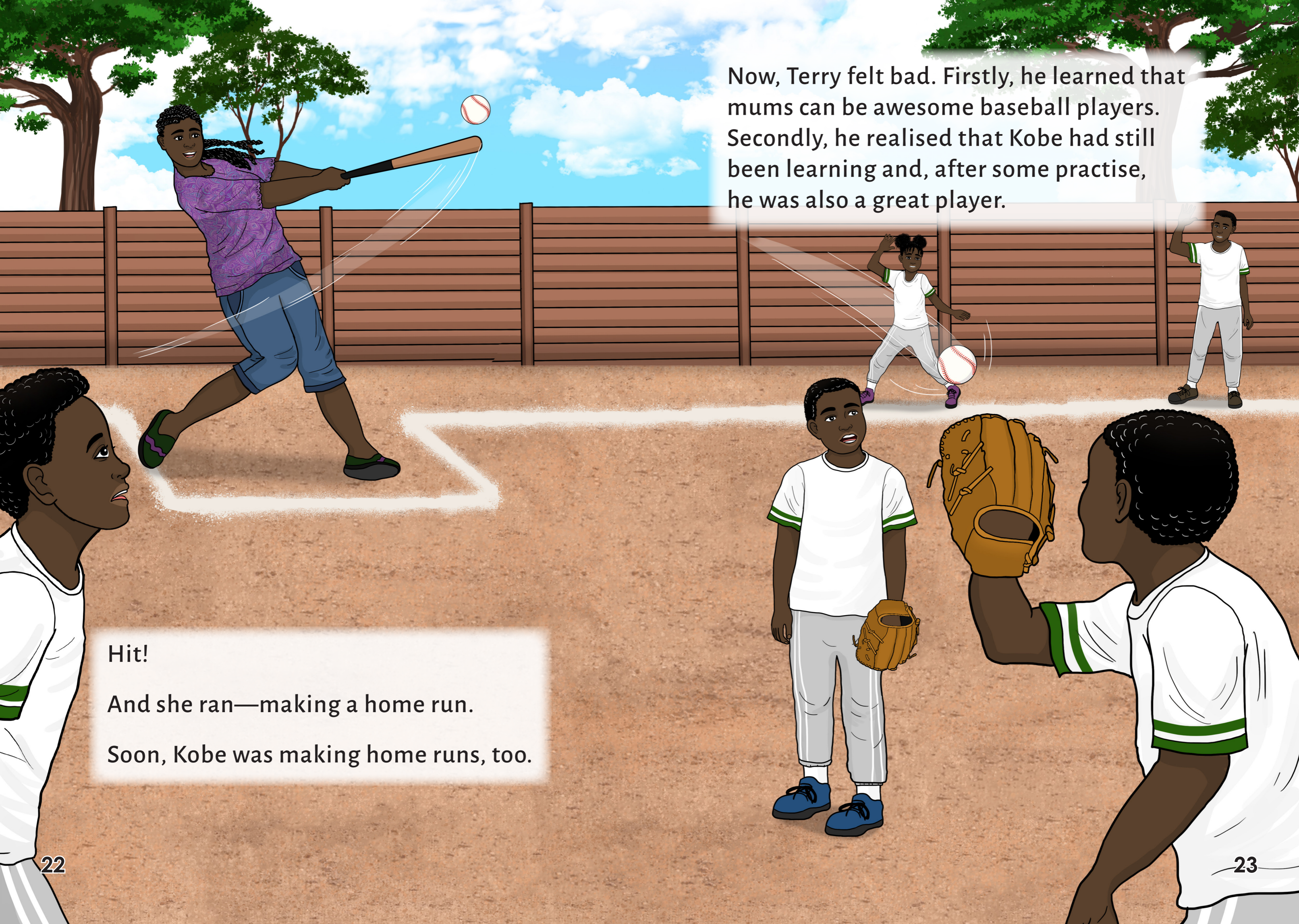
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Kobe's mum felt like having some fun.  
"Can I have a go?" she asked.

The kids spread out on the field.

Kobe's mum's eyes were on the pitcher.  
The ball sped fast towards her. She  
swung her bat...



Now, Terry felt bad. Firstly, he learned that mums can be awesome baseball players. Secondly, he realised that Kobe had still been learning and, after some practise, he was also a great player.

Hit!

And she ran—making a home run.

Soon, Kobe was making home runs, too.



*Kobe stayed calm and didn't let the bullies stop him from playing a game he loved. By talking to his mum and practising in a way that made him feel comfortable, he was more confident and excited to return to his favourite sport.*

*Sometimes it's best to leave a situation that makes you unhappy. Talking to a grown-up can really help, too.*

**You can use these questions to talk about this book with your family, friends and teachers.**



What did you learn from this book?



Describe this book in one word.  
Funny? Scary? Colourful? Interesting?



How did this book make you feel when you finished reading it?



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