

POW! BOOM!

.....
And Other Stories



UNIT

7

Week 1

POW! BOOM!

.....
And Other Stories



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Illustrated by Norm Bendell

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Reading Warm-Up List

Sound-Out Words

kn

know

knee

knelt

knocked

wr

wrong

wrecked

Story Words

score

half

halftime

won

friend

Brownie

dance

moves

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POW! BOOM!

Sal and Cass were kicking the soccer ball around one sunny afternoon.

POW! Sal kicked the ball to Cass. She dribbled it and then—BOOM! She knocked it into the goal.



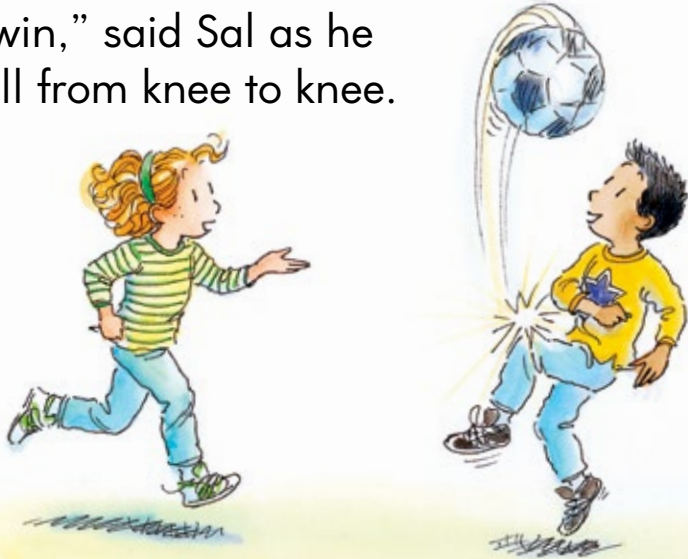
“Good shot!” said Sal. He scooped up the ball after it bounced off the net.

“You mean easy shot,” said Cass. “Alec would have blocked that if he were in the goal.”

“Alec is excellent in goal,” agreed Sal. “With him on our team, I just know we’ll be number one.”

“Maybe,” said Cass. “But we have to play the Dynamites next Saturday. They’re undefeated. Ana Marco is their star, and she’s fast, strong, and smart.”

“We’ll still win,” said Sal as he bounced the ball from knee to knee. “We’re good.”



WHOOSH! Quick as a flash, Cass snatched the ball from Sal. “We may be good,” she said, “but—” WHOMP! Cass kicked the ball and sent it flying. “Ana is dynamite.”



Tie Score

When the Superkids played the Dynamites, Sal saw how truly dynamite Ana was. She quickly scored two goals.




The Superkids did not score at all in the first half of the game, so the score was 2 to 0 at halftime.


“We’ve got to do better, Superkids!” Sal said as they sat on the bench.



Early in the second half, Ana just about scored again. But Alec dove for the ball and kept it out of the goal.

A boy with brown hair, wearing a blue soccer jersey with a yellow star on the chest and white shorts, is diving horizontally to the right. He is reaching out with both hands to catch a soccer ball. The ball is in mid-air, and there are motion lines around it. The background is a simple green field.

Then Alec kicked the ball to Lily, and she scored.

A girl with dark hair, wearing a blue soccer jersey with a yellow star on the chest and white shorts, is running to the right. She is kicking a soccer ball with her right foot. The ball is in mid-air, and there is a bright yellow starburst effect behind it, indicating a goal. The background is a simple green field.

After that, the score was stuck at 2 to 1 for a long time. Then late in the game, Icky stole the ball from the other team. He knocked it to Hot Rod, who scored at the last second.

The game ended in a tie, 2 to 2.

The Superkids rushed to Hot Rod and thumped him on the back. Only Sal slumped on the bench.

“We would have won,” Sal muttered, “if it weren’t for that Ana.”



Friend or Enemy?

“Good game!” said Ana Marco as she ran over to Cass.

Sal looked up, surprised.

“You were fantastic!” said Cass, hugging Ana. “Come meet my team.”

Sal sat on the bench frowning as Ana met the other Superkids.

His frown deepened when Ana said, “Cass, can you come with my dad and me for ice cream?”

“Yes!” said Cass. “I’ll get my stuff and meet you at your car.”



As Cass was packing up her things, Sal said, “How come you’re such good buddies with Ana?”

“I know her because we’re in the same Brownie troop,” said Cass. “She’s really nice.”

“We just about lost the game because of her!” said Sal.

“It’s okay, Sal,” said Cass as she turned to go. “I can be friends with Ana even if she’s on the other team.”



“How can you say that?” said Sal. “She’s the enemy. She wrecked our game.”

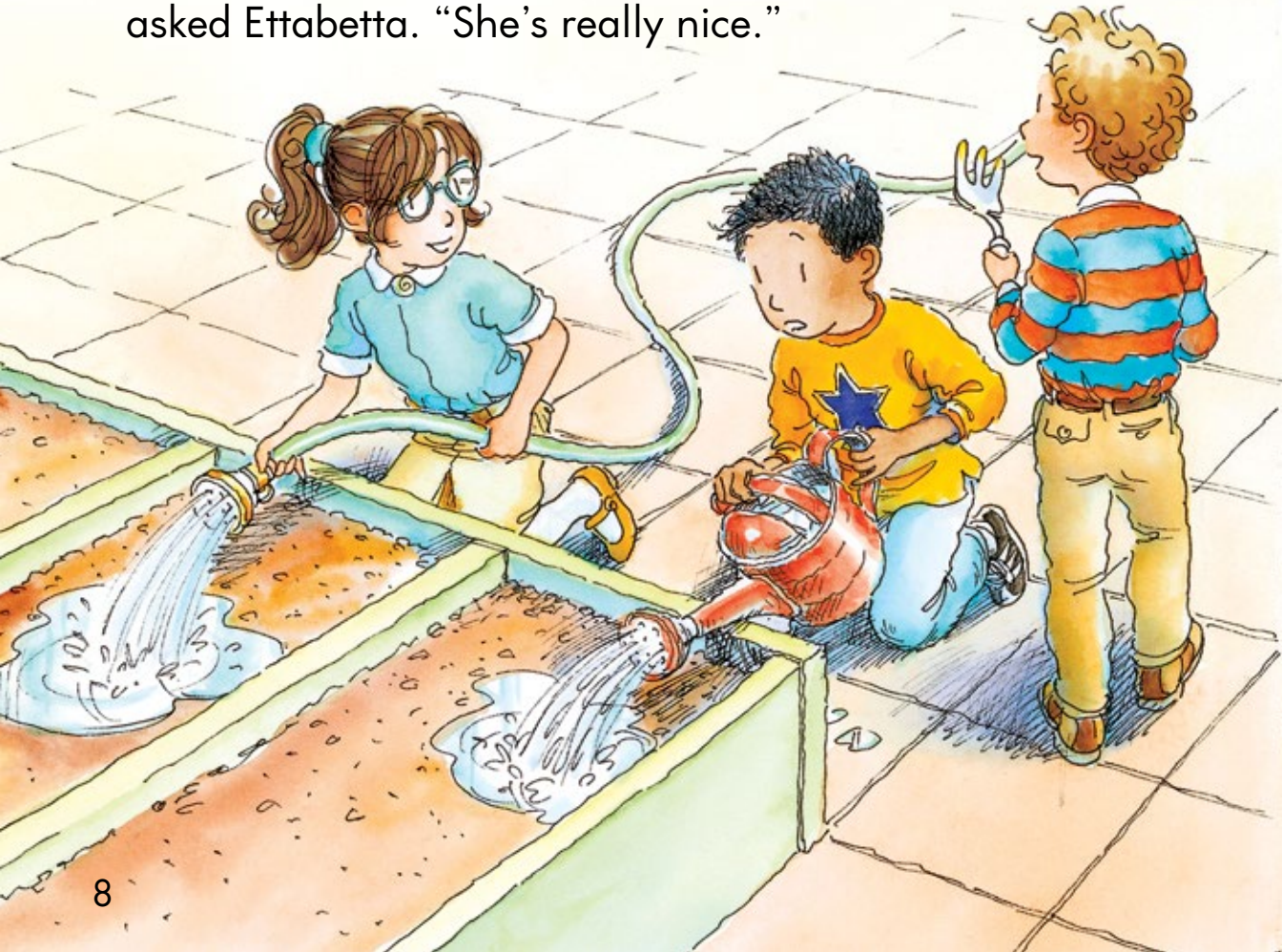
But Cass didn’t catch what he said as she ran to the car. “Wait up, Ana!” she called.

Team Secrets

On Monday, Ms. Blossom led the students to the roof to tend to their bulbs. Sal knelt next to Ettabetta. “Hot Rod’s goal was fantastic, wasn’t it?” said Ettabetta.

“Yes,” said Sal. “But I wish we’d won the game.” He paused, and then said, “Did you know that Cass is good friends with Ana Marco?”

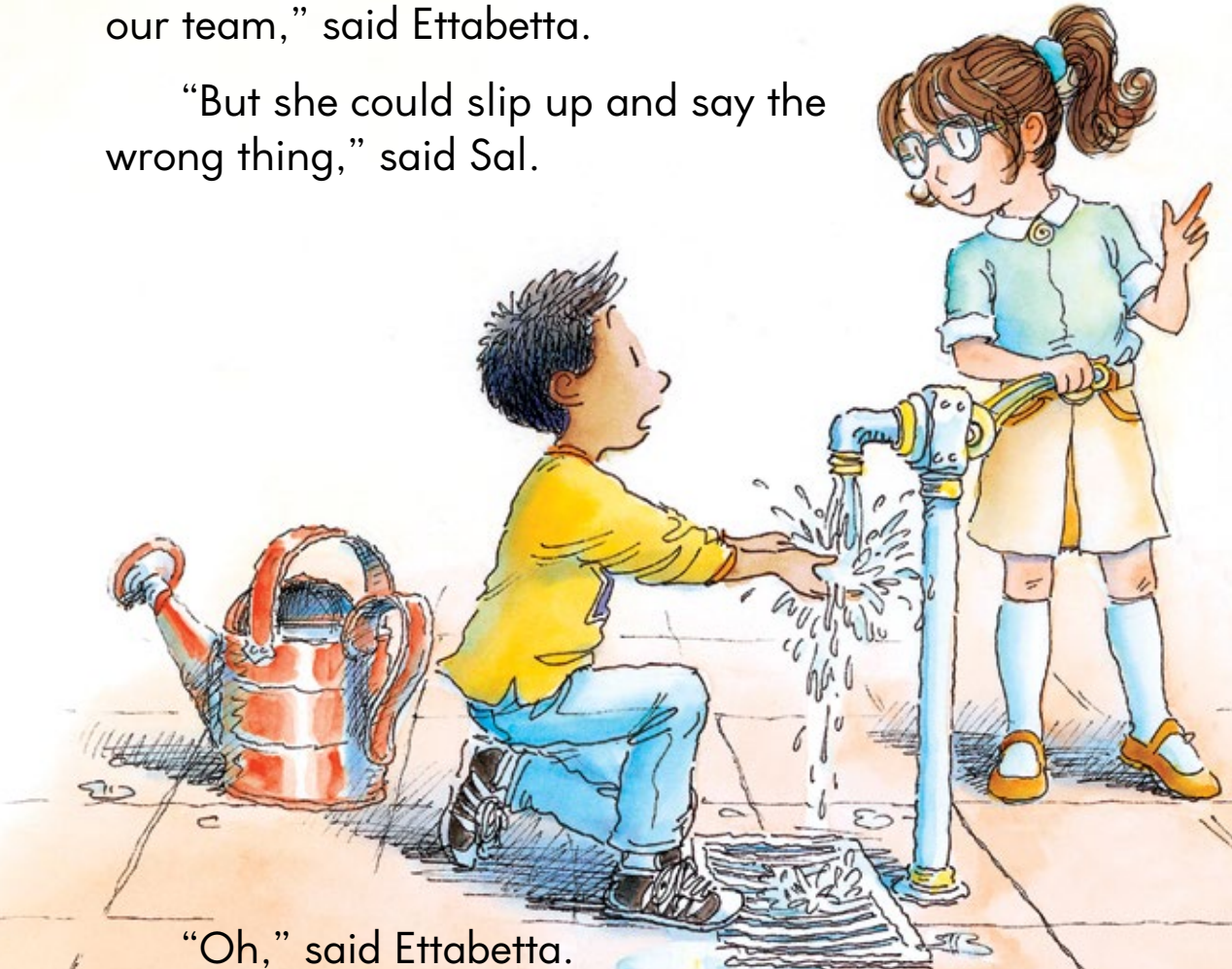
“You mean the star of the Dynamites?” asked Ettabetta. “She’s really nice.”



Sal looked worried. “Cass had better not blab any of our team secrets to her,” he said. “We play the Dynamites again soon. If Cass tells Ana any of our plays, I know they’ll beat us easily.”

“Cass would never do that. She would not hurt our team,” said Ettabetta.

“But she could slip up and say the wrong thing,” said Sal.



“Oh,” said Ettabetta.
“We better tell Cass to think about what she says.”

“And to stay away from Ana,” added Sal.

Fancy Footwork

On the way home from school, Sal and Ettabetta spotted Cass and Ana talking. The two girls were looking down and kicking their feet.

“Cass has a soccer ball!” said Sal. “I bet she’s showing Ana one of our secret soccer moves!” He shouted, “Cass, don’t do it!”



Cass and Ana looked up. “Don’t do what?” asked Cass.

“Don’t show Ana any of our team’s fancy footwork!” said Ettabetta.

Cass and Ana burst into giggles. “We’re learning a new dance in Brownies,” Cass explained. “I was showing Ana one of the dance steps.”

“Oh,” said Ettabetta and Sal. They felt silly.

“I’d never hurt our team by giving away secrets,” said Cass. “The team’s important to me.”

“Cass and I can be friends,” Ana added, “and still be loyal to our teams.”

“Come on, Sal,” said Cass as she tossed the ball to him. “Let’s all just kick it around for fun.”





The [★]Superkids

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