

The Power of Pre-K



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THANK YOU!**

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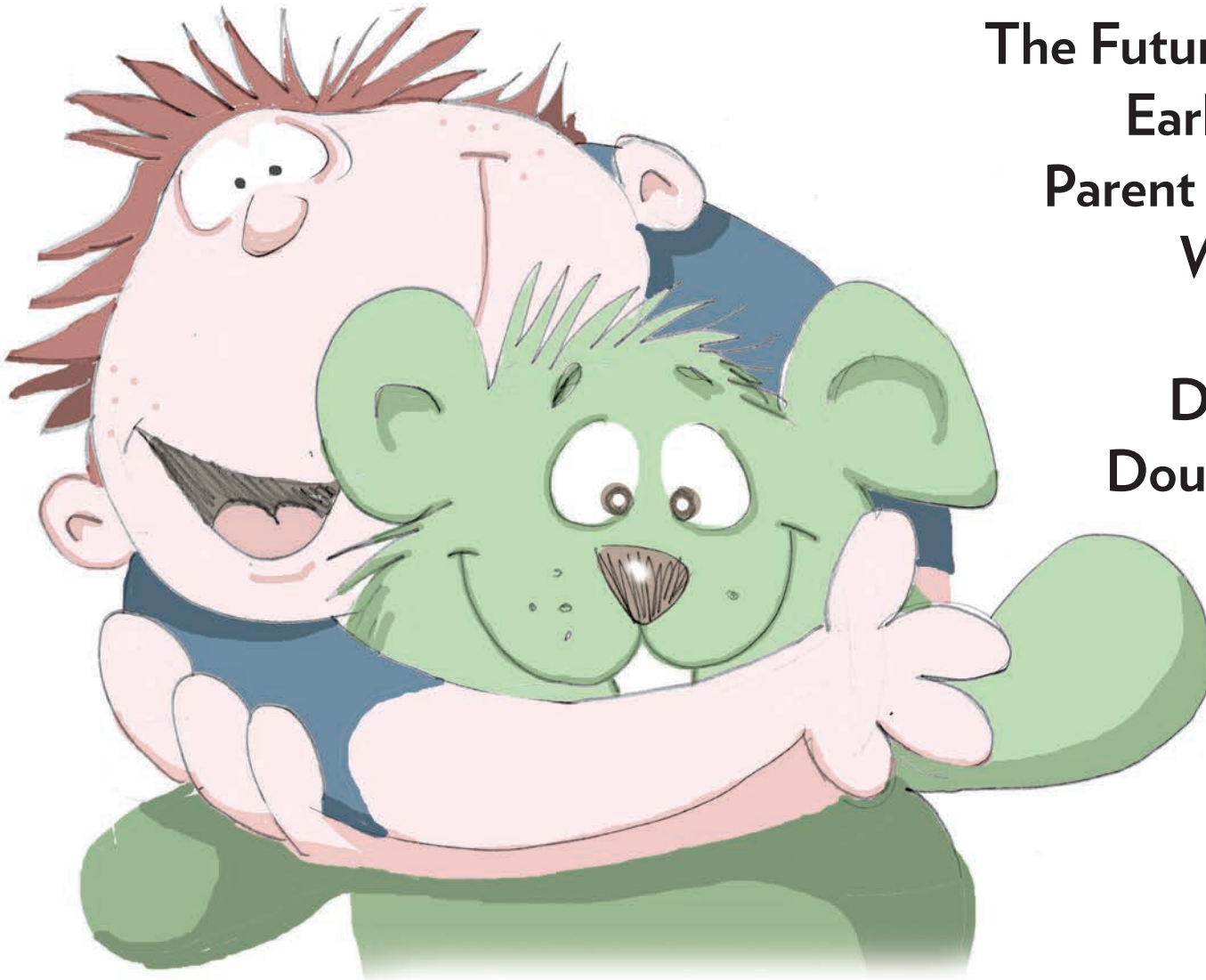
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And to all our FutureMakers partners!

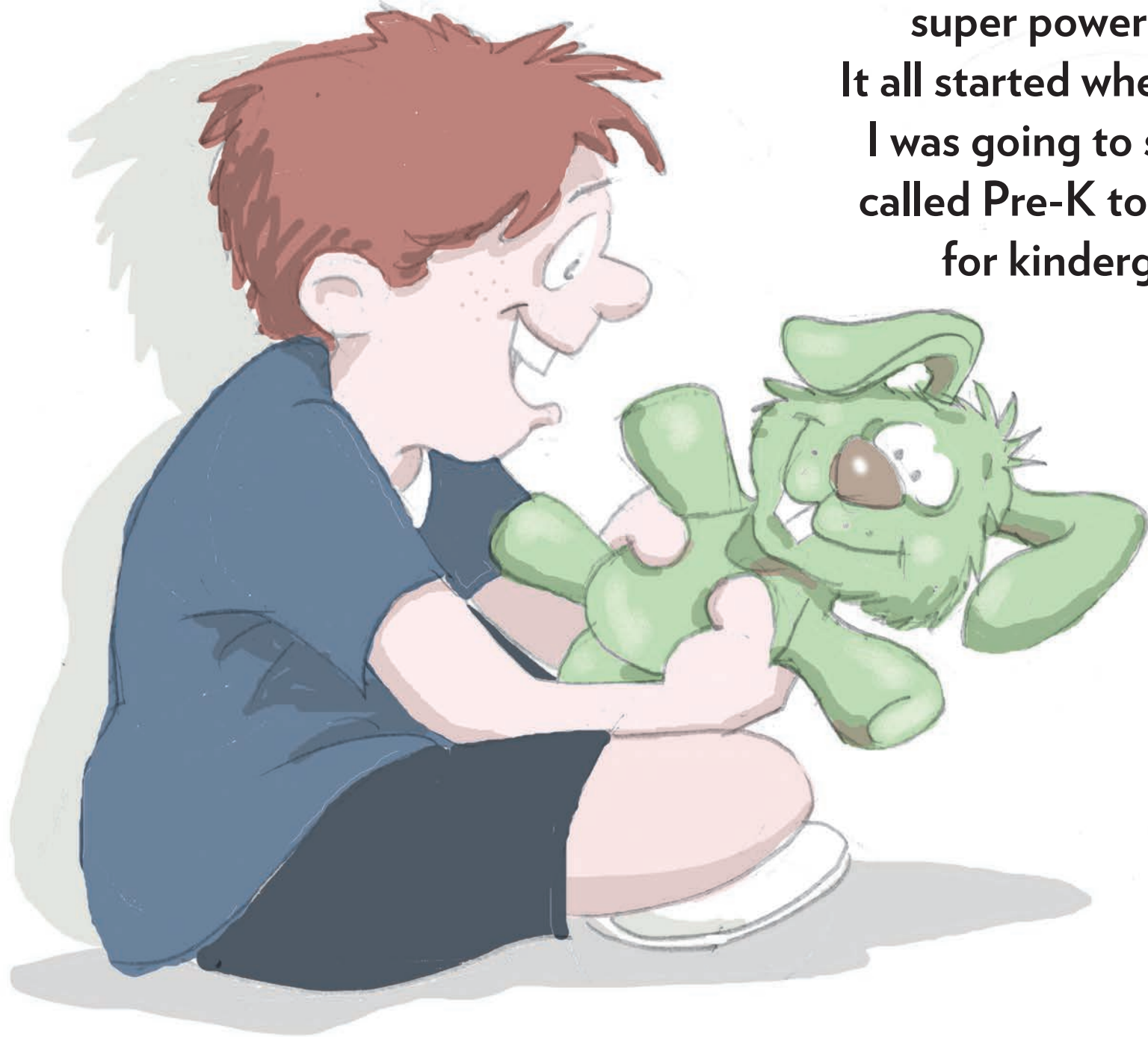
The Power of Pre-K

Written by
The FutureMakers Coalition
Early Childhood
Parent Communication
Workgroup

Drawings by
Doug MacGregor



I didn't always have
super powers, Stuffy.
It all started when Mom said
I was going to some place
called Pre-K to "Get ready
for kindergarten."



An illustration of a preschool building with a sign that reads "PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER". A child with red hair, wearing a blue shirt, is walking away from the viewer, holding the hand of an adult whose legs and feet are visible on the right side of the frame. The scene is set outdoors on a grassy area with a path leading to the building.

PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER

**It looked like a
normal school at first,
but it turned out
that Pre-K is
where all
the magic
happens!**



When I met my teacher,
Ms. Joy, I thought she was
just a regular grown-up.
I didn't know she had
super powers, too!

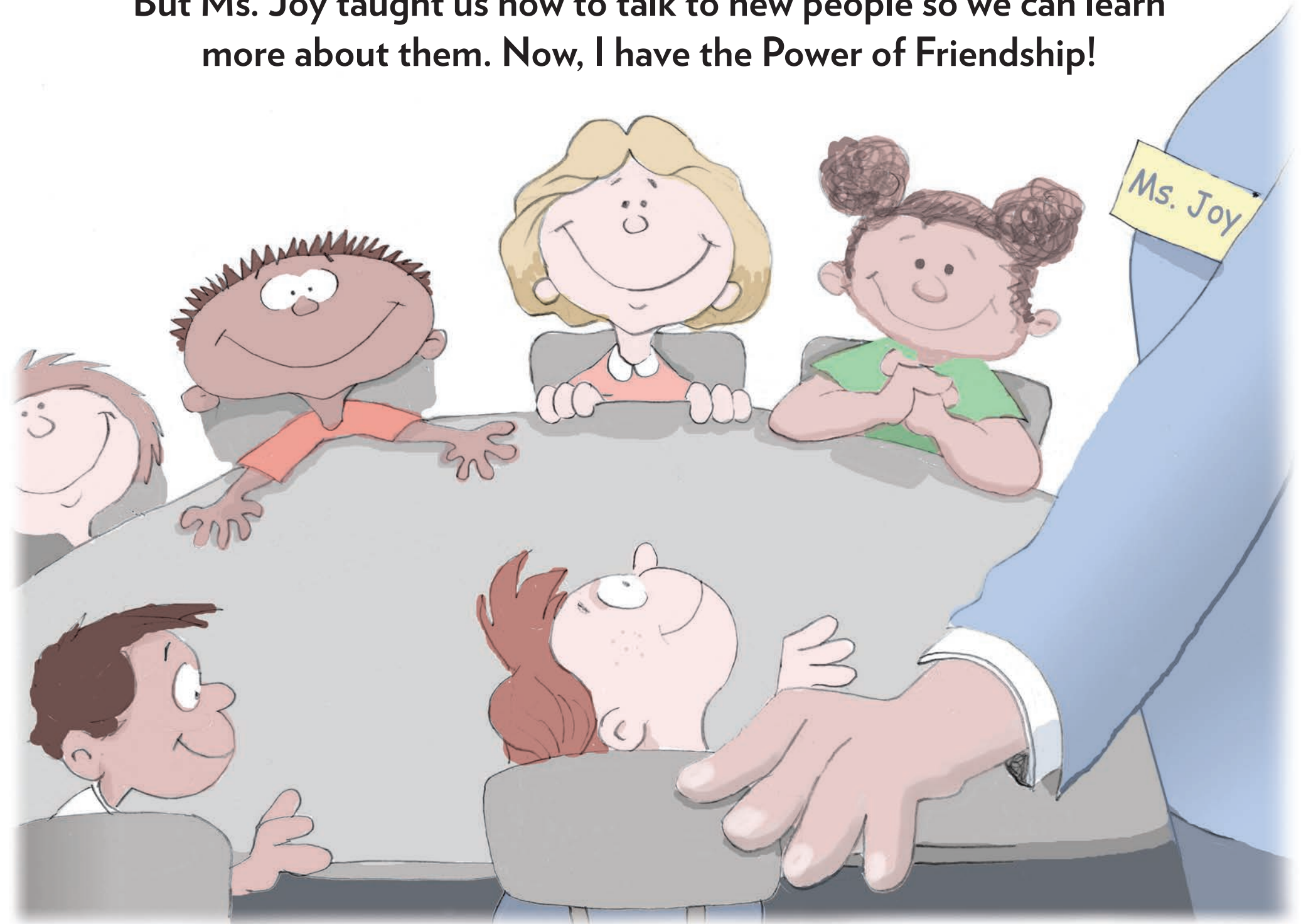
And I definitely
didn't know
that she'd be
teaching them
to me!

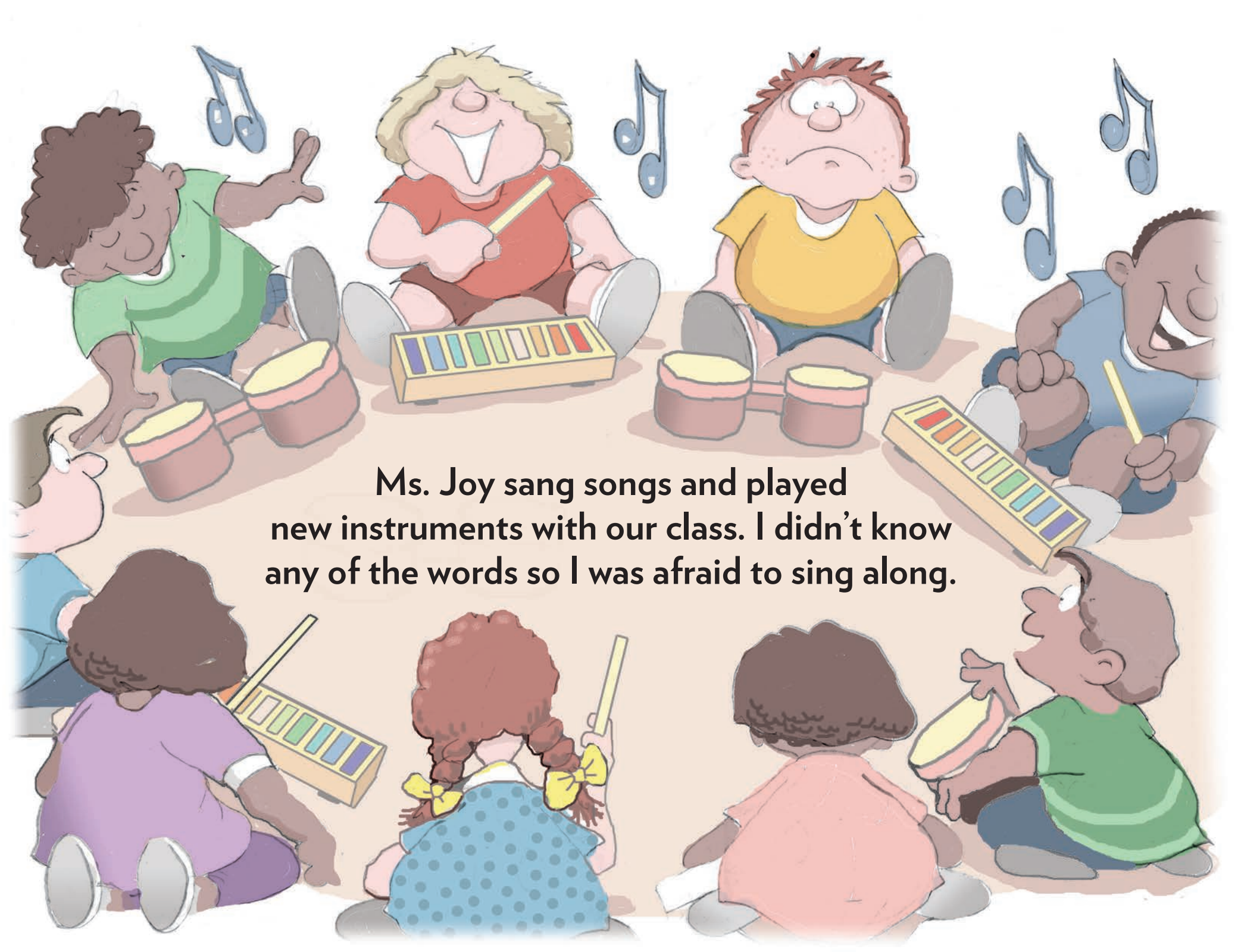


A collection of cartoon children with diverse features and expressions. Some have spiky hair, some have braids, and some have large, expressive eyes. They are drawn in a simple, sketchy style with soft colors. The children are arranged around the central text, some looking towards it and others looking away.

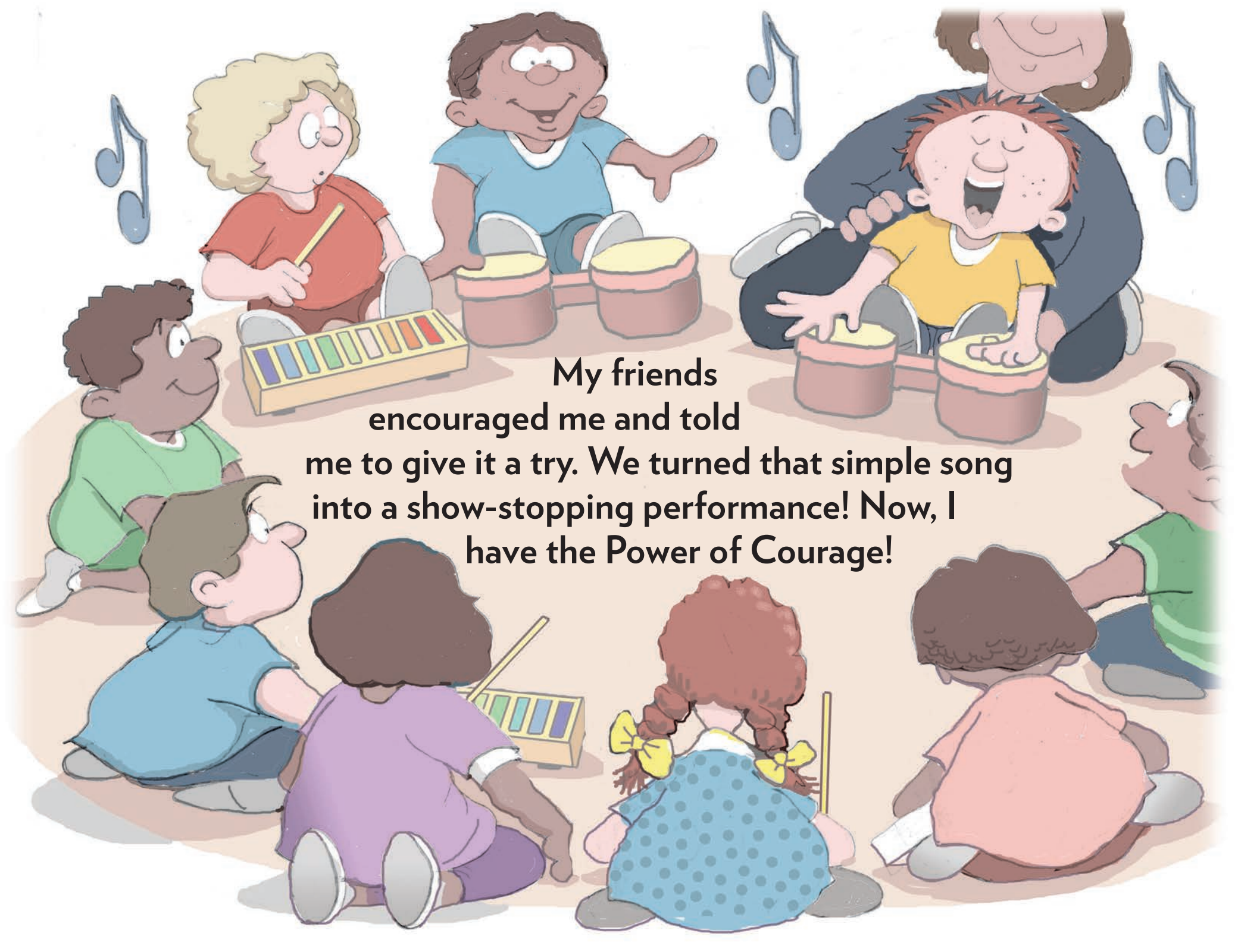
**Talking to the new kids in my class
made me feel a little nervous and
my stomach did flip flops...**

But Ms. Joy taught us how to talk to new people so we can learn more about them. Now, I have the **Power of Friendship!**



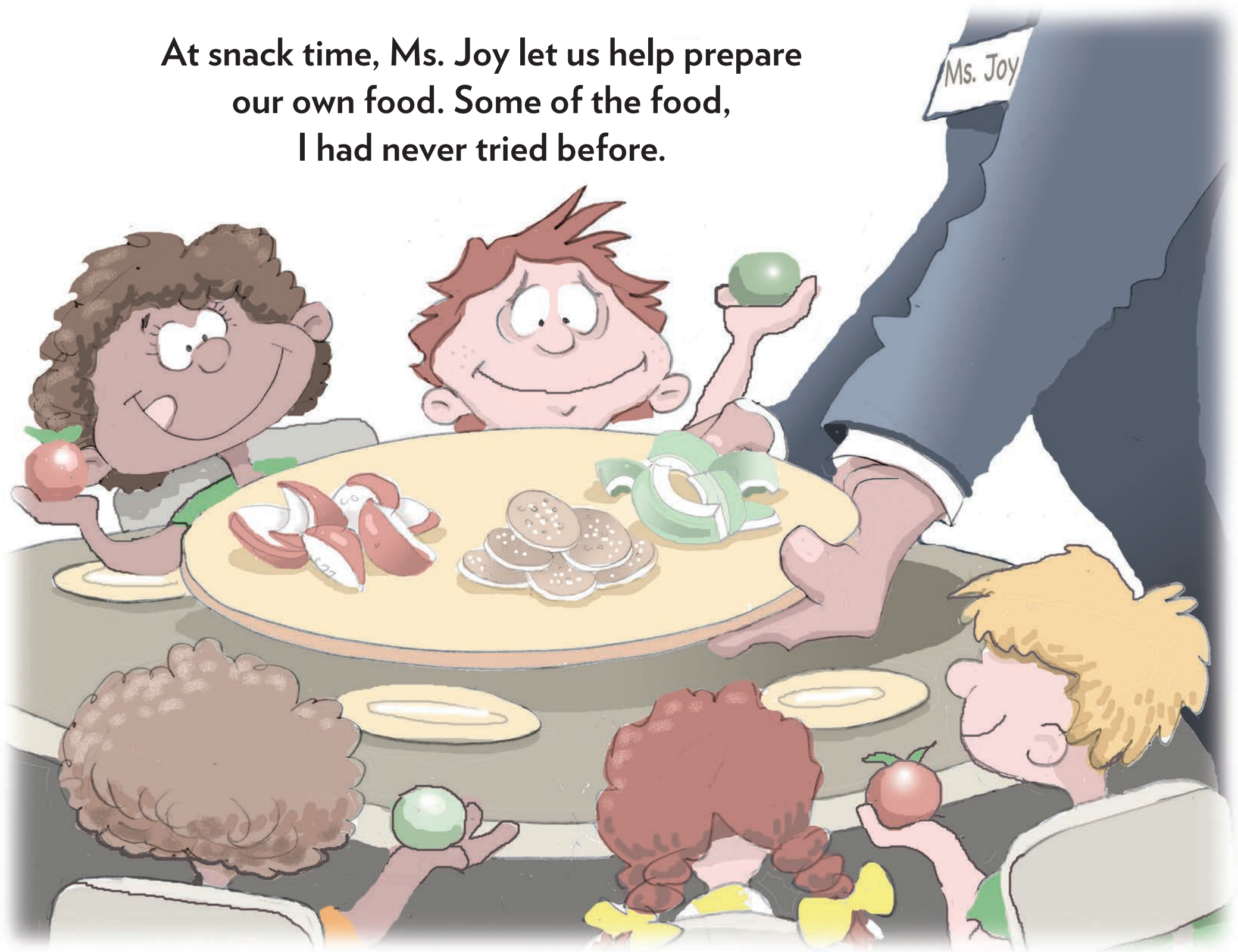


Ms. Joy sang songs and played new instruments with our class. I didn't know any of the words so I was afraid to sing along.



**My friends
encouraged me and told
me to give it a try. We turned that simple song
into a show-stopping performance! Now, I
have the Power of Courage!**

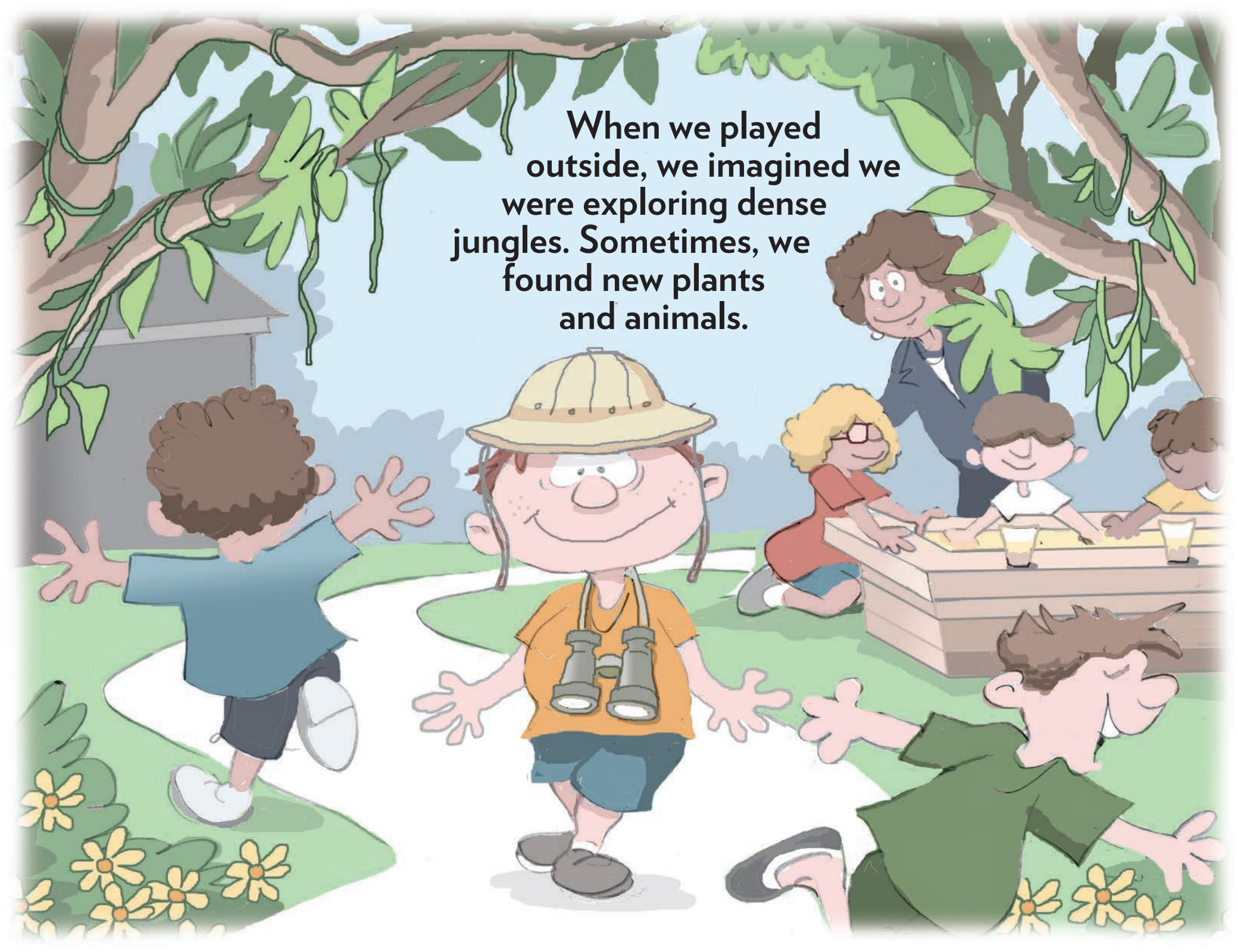
At snack time, Ms. Joy let us help prepare our own food. Some of the food, I had never tried before.



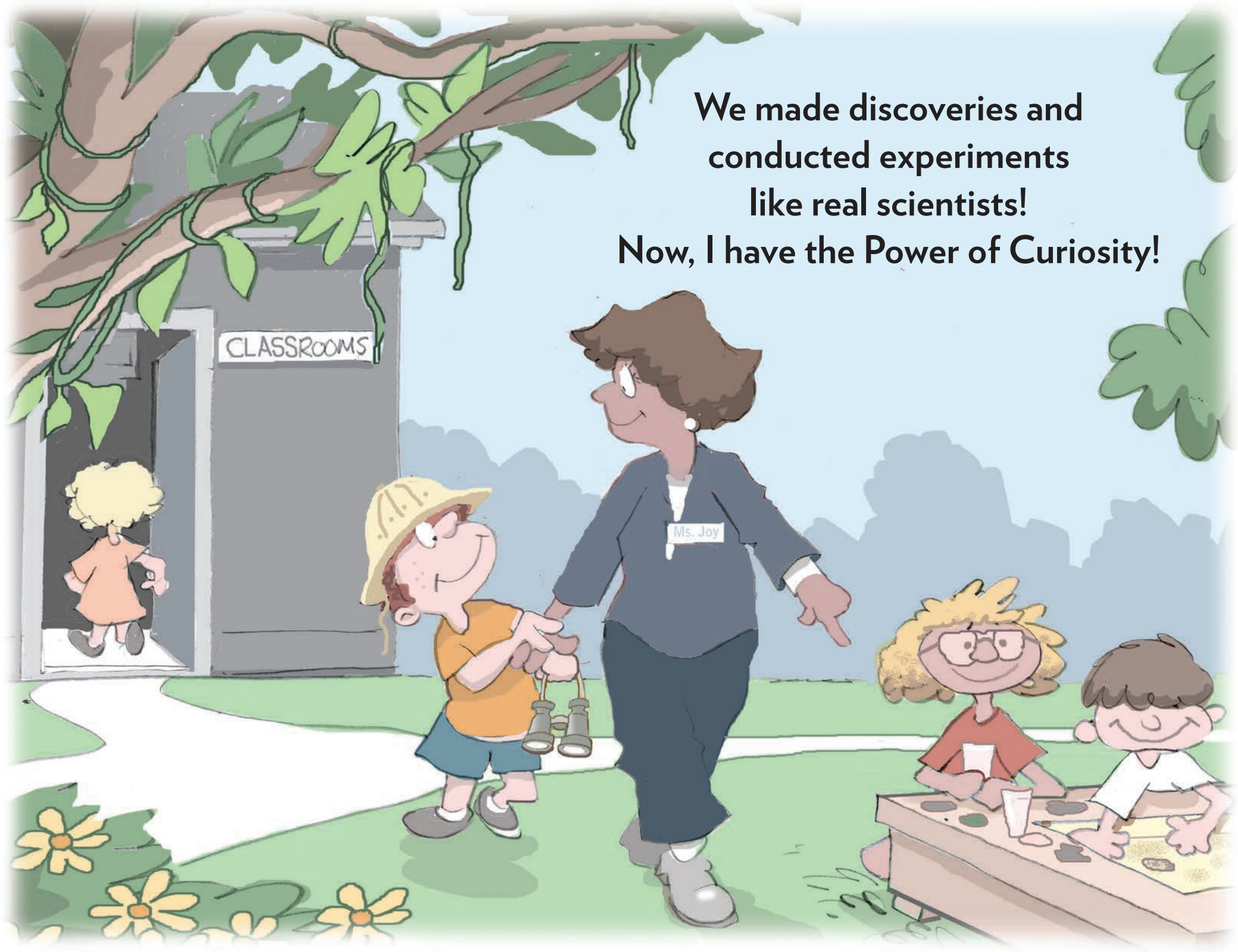
We learned to make some things
for ourselves and ended up
with a fantastic feast!
Now, I have the Power of Independence!



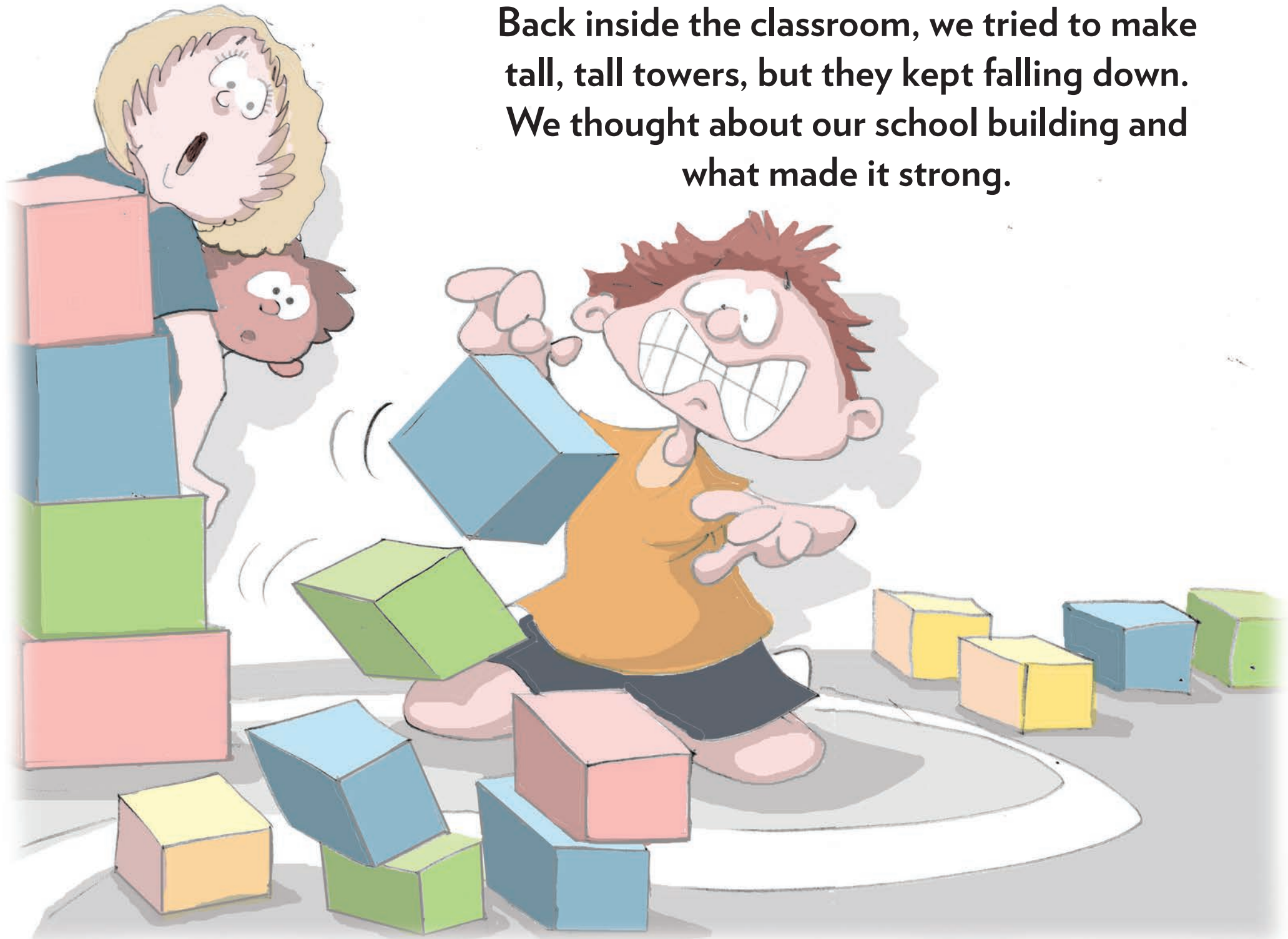
When we played outside, we imagined we were exploring dense jungles. Sometimes, we found new plants and animals.



**We made discoveries and
conducted experiments
like real scientists!
Now, I have the Power of Curiosity!**

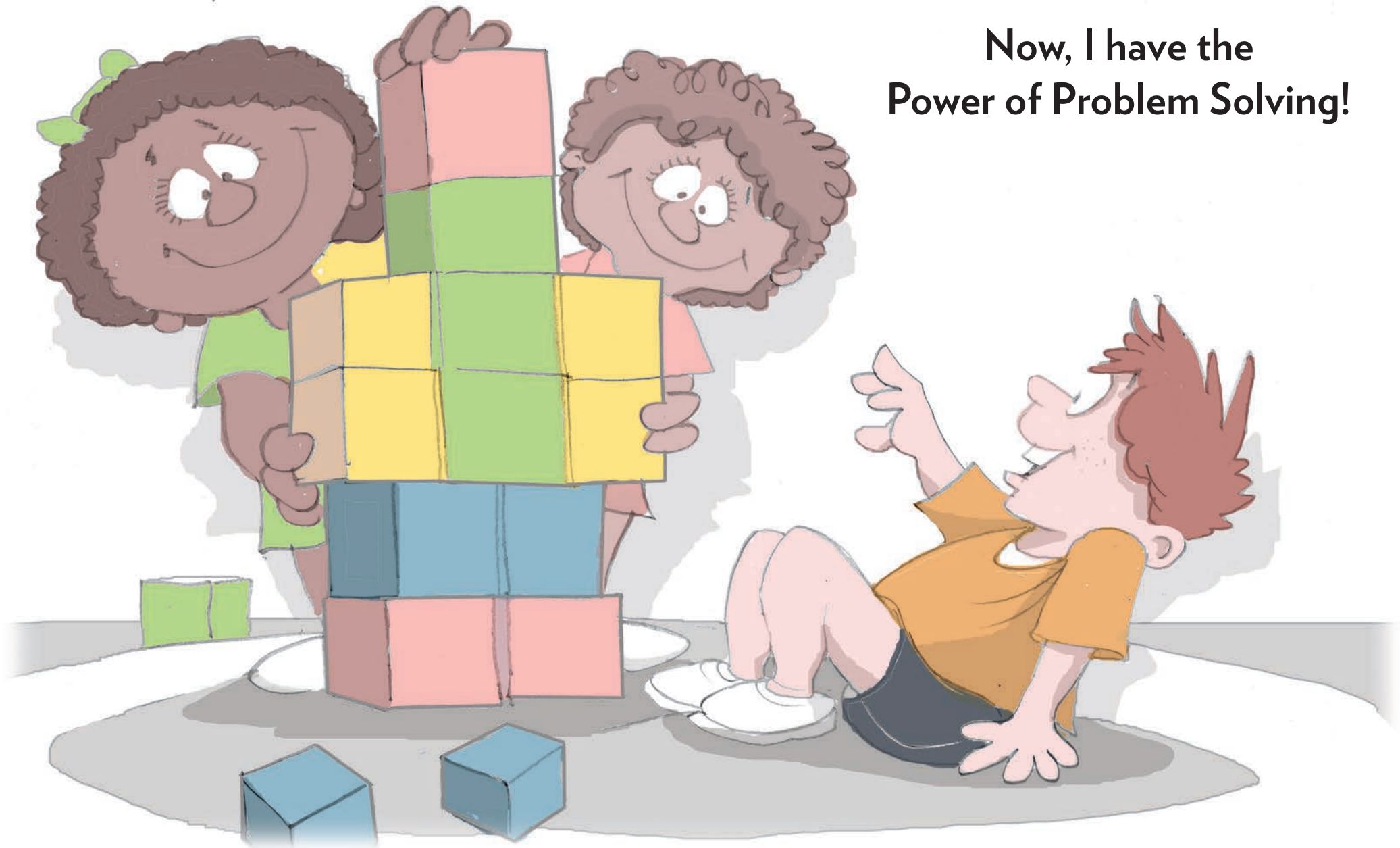


Back inside the classroom, we tried to make tall, tall towers, but they kept falling down. We thought about our school building and what made it strong.



When we used our brains like engineers and construction workers, we could turn wooden blocks into humongous skyscrapers!

Now, I have the Power of Problem Solving!



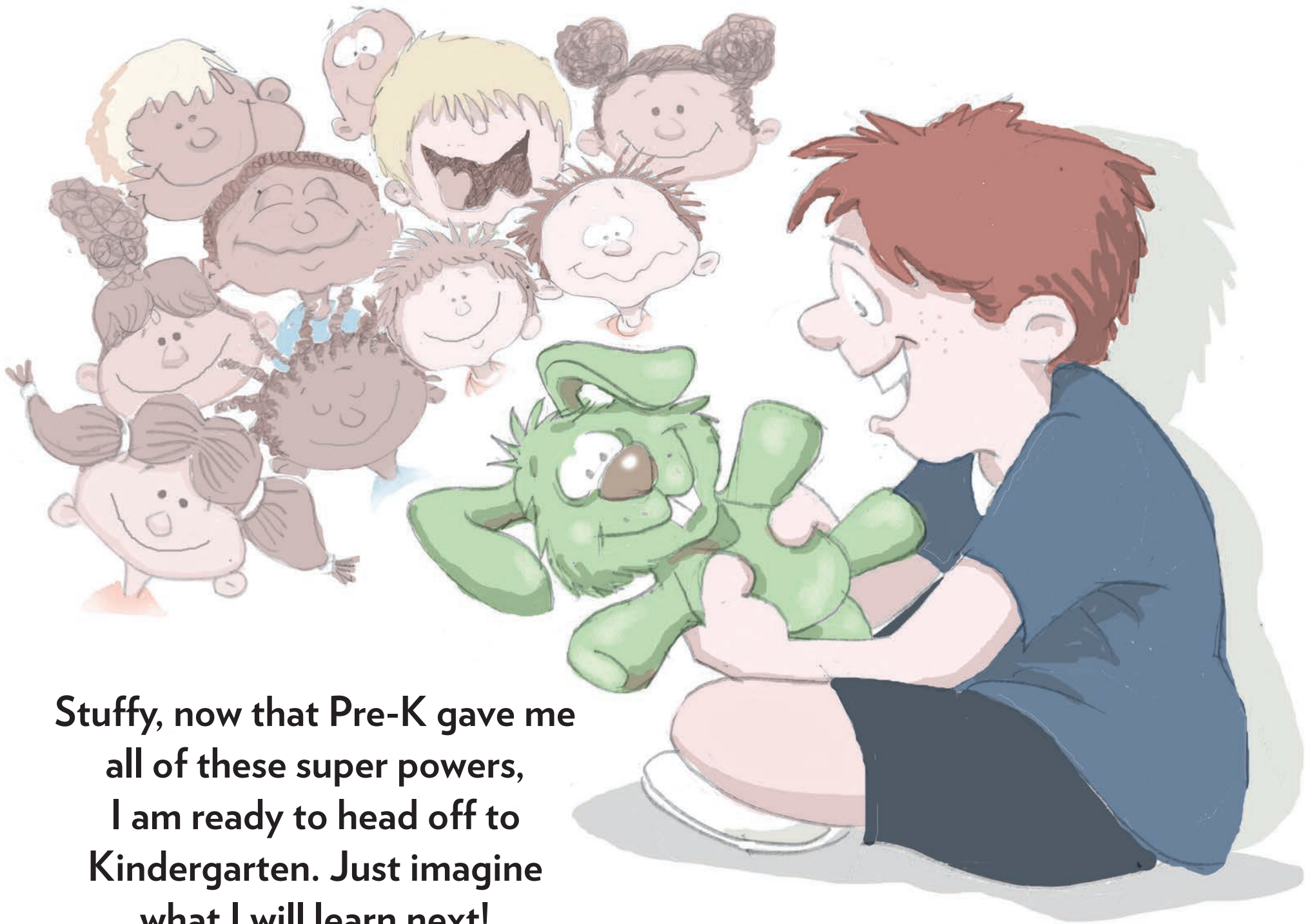
Sometimes, we used costumes to help us transform into different people. We became all kinds of things, like firefighters, doctors, and police officers!



We imagined what life might be like for other people and even practiced taking turns.

Now, I have the
Power of Compassion!





**Stuffy, now that Pre-K gave me
all of these super powers,
I am ready to head off to
Kindergarten. Just imagine
what I will learn next!**

The End



Dear Parents,

When children attend a high quality Pre-K program, paid for through the State of Florida's FREE VPK program, they really do develop their own super powers. They develop the powers of friendship, curiosity, problem solving, independence, courage, and compassion. Most people think of children going to Pre-K to learn academic skills, like letters and numbers. Those are very important skills, such as early literacy and beginning math skills. What many people don't realize is that children are also learning these other skills, sometimes called "soft skills."

- **The Power of Friendship** = getting along with classmates and future coworkers
- **The Power of Courage** = taking risks to answer a question in class, try out for a team, or apply for college
- **The Power of Independence** = feeling comfortable at school and at a future workplace
- **The Power of Curiosity** = asking questions and discovering new things, at school or at work
- **The Power of Problem Solving** = solving math or learning problems or negotiating conflict with peers or coworkers
- **The Power of Compassion** = seeing things from someone else's point of view and caring for others

These skills, combined with academic skills, help give children the best start in life. Studies show that when children attend a high quality Pre-K program, they enter school ahead of the students who did not. They also show higher reading and math scores, are more likely to graduate from high school, have better long-term health outcomes and are more likely to earn better pay as adults. Enroll your child in VPK and help them develop their own super powers through the Power of Pre-K!





To find out how to enroll your child in Pre-K,
please visit schoolreadySWFL.org

**FutureMakers
Coalition**

This book is made possible by the work of the FutureMakers Coalition, a regional collective impact initiative formed in 2015 around existing regional collaborations. The goal of the FutureMakers Coalition is to transform the workforce by increasing the number of Southwest Florida residents with degrees, certificates and other high-quality credentials by 2025. The Coalition is committed to creating a cradle-to-career pathway to ensure success for traditional students and adult learners.

