

An Even Playing Field



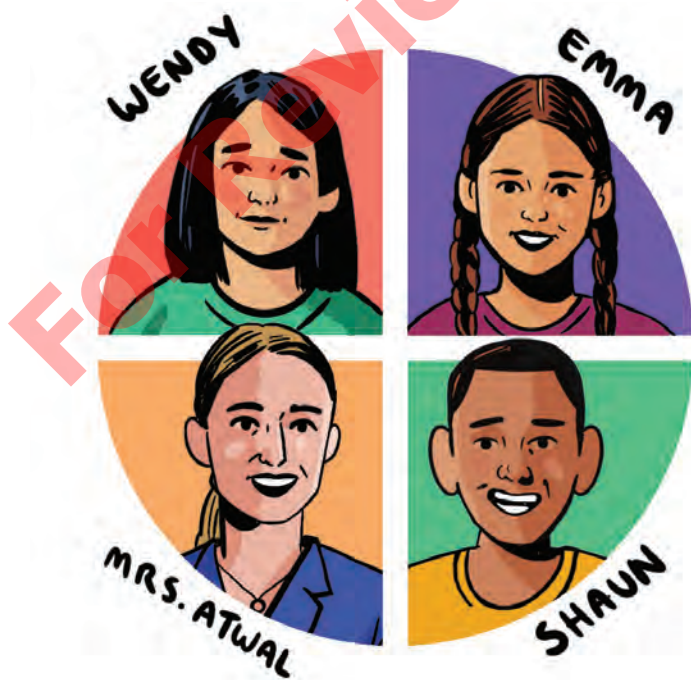
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Illustrated by Chris King

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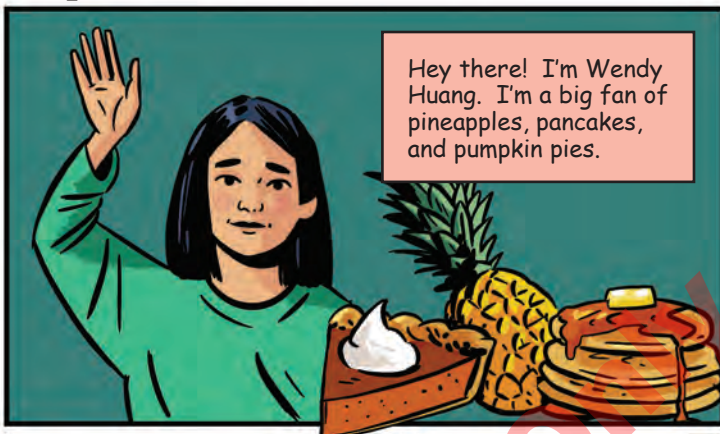
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Table of Contents

Chapter One	4
Chapter Two	12
Chapter Three	22
Chapter Four	28
About Us	32



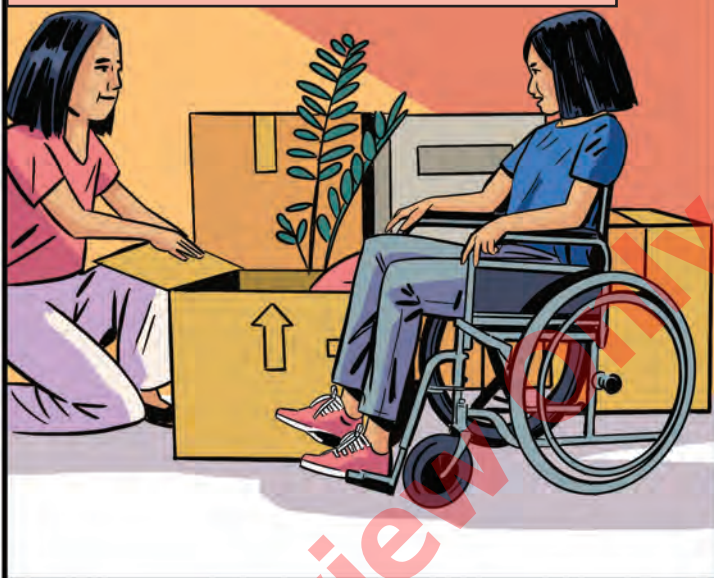
Chapter One



I just moved to Los Angeles from Ohio. I'm feeling a whole lot of emotions. It's scary moving to a new city where I don't know anyone.



We moved to LA right before the start of school.



Also—that's right, I use a wheelchair to get around. I was in a car accident when I was five. Since then, I've used a wheelchair to get where I need to go.

Sometimes, people treat me differently. My mom believes I can do anything. That makes me brave enough to try anything and everything!



Hi, I'm Emma Perez. I have two main passions: books and basketball!

BASKETBALL
STATS.



This is Lisa Leslie. She's my favorite basketball player. She's very quotable.



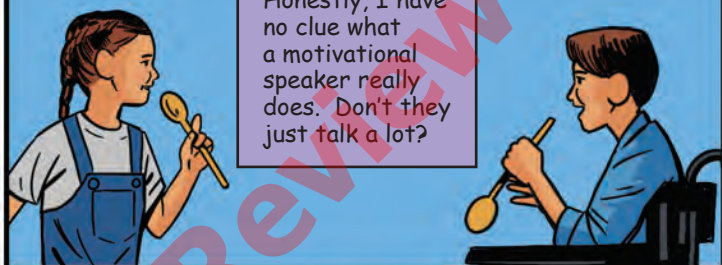
"Well, the first quality of being a good leader is you have to be able to follow. See, a good leader can't just be the leader all the time, I have to be able to follow."



I love collecting quotes. I write them in my *Inspiration* notebook. My dad thinks I should be a motivational speaker.

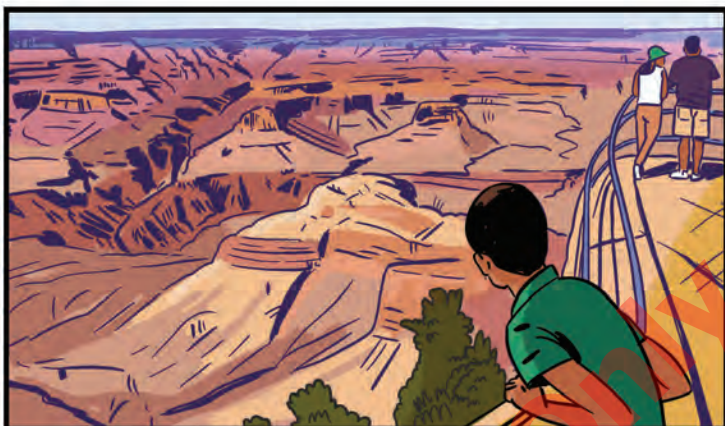


Honestly, I have no clue what a motivational speaker really does. Don't they just talk a lot?



I do like to talk. But I *love* to play basketball!





Oh hey—I didn't see you there. Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Shaun Jones.

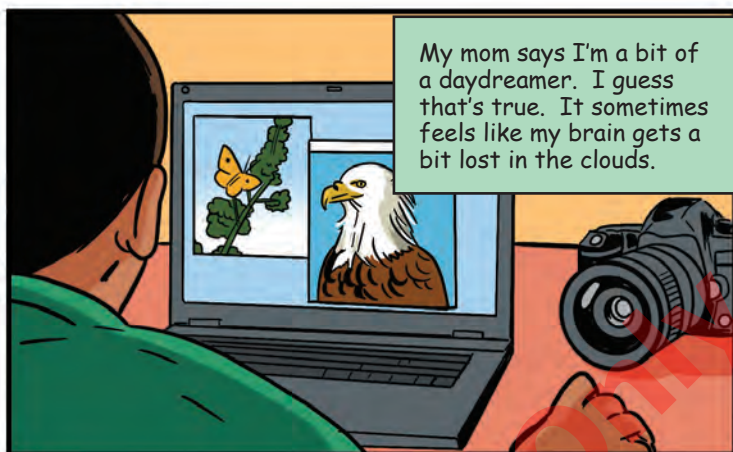


Can you tell I'm a nature kind of guy? I think our planet is pretty cool.

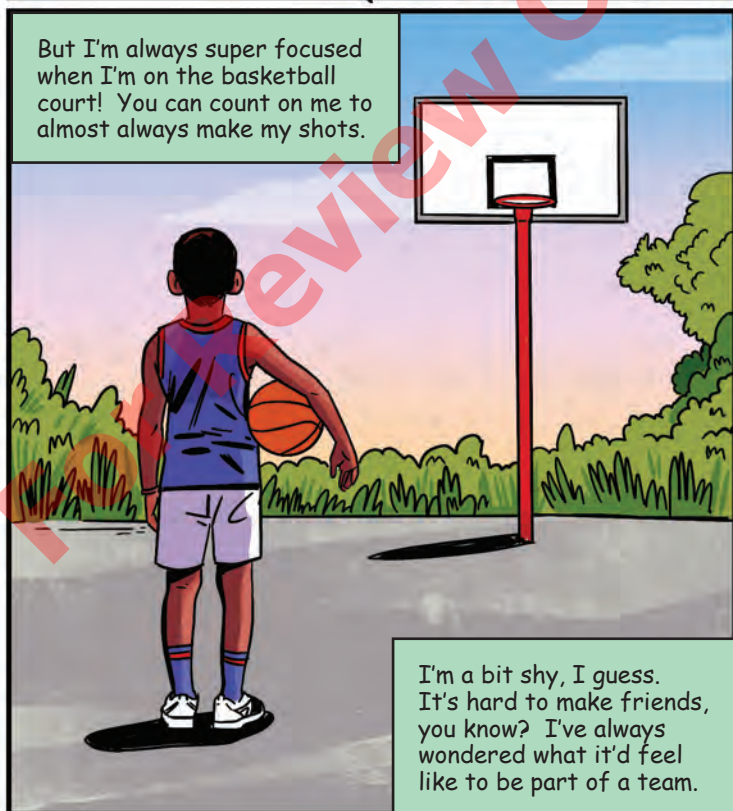


I spend a lot of time photographing things out here. Birds, bugs, bark—you name it, I've photographed it.





My mom says I'm a bit of a daydreamer. I guess that's true. It sometimes feels like my brain gets a bit lost in the clouds.



But I'm always super focused when I'm on the basketball court! You can count on me to almost always make my shots.

I'm a bit shy, I guess. It's hard to make friends, you know? I've always wondered what it'd feel like to be part of a team.

An Even Playing Field

It's a new school year!
Three students bond over
their love of basketball.
However, when they
decide to go off court
and play on their school
playground, they run into
some surprising issues.
How will they figure out a
way to play as a team?

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