

Slam Dunk Dilemma!

Zac dreams of being a tall basketball player like his brother, Cam, who can easily perform slam dunks. Zac can't magically grow any taller, but he *can* buy the Ultra Bounce trainers he's seen at the charity shop. They fit perfectly and soon Zac finds himself jumping higher than ever and scoring so many points... Are the shoes really magical? And if so, does that mean he's cheating? Zac's in a total dilemma!



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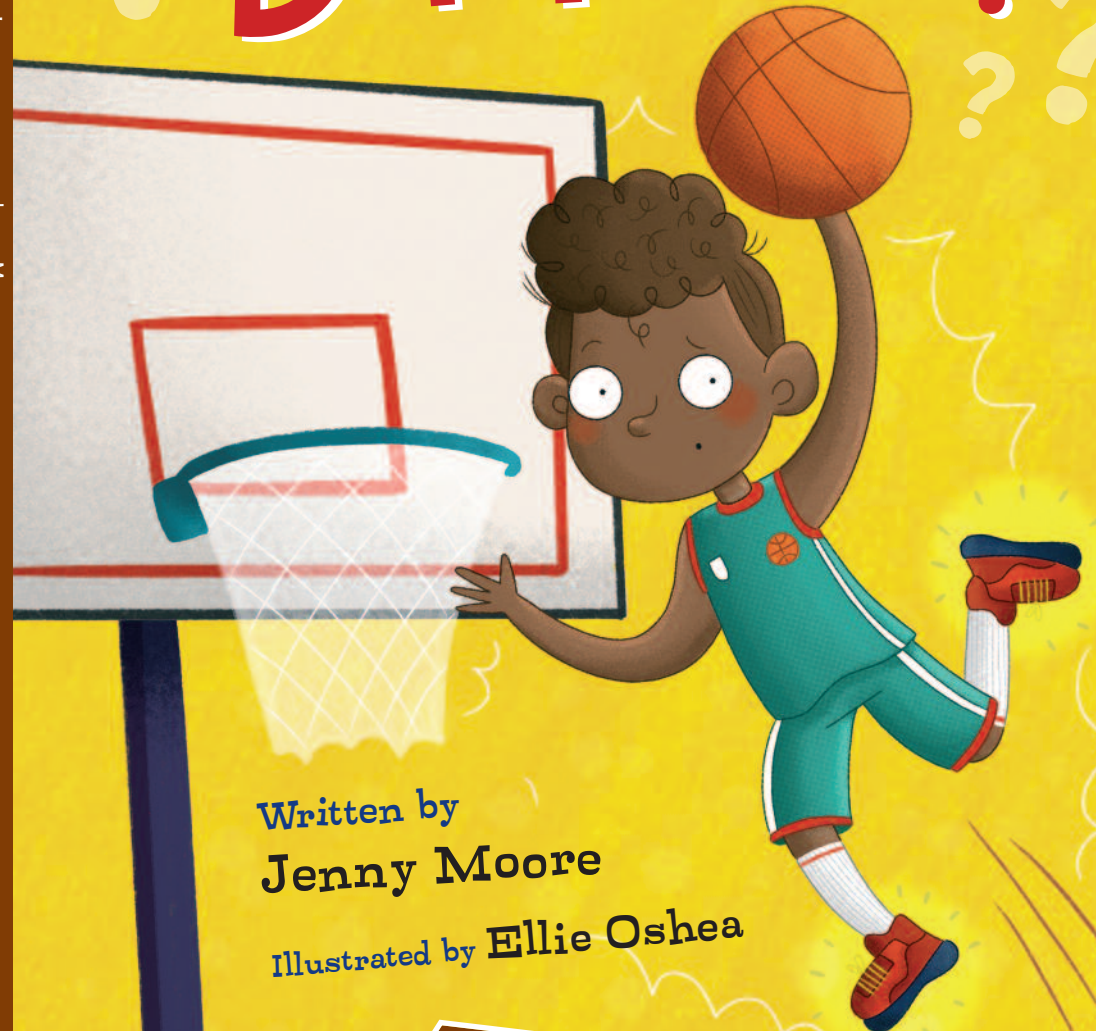
This book is Brown Band/Level 12

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Jenny Moore

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Written by
Jenny Moore

Illustrated by **Ellie Oshea**

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'Slam Dunk Dilemma!'

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Chapter 1

Zac stared at the pencil height marks on the kitchen doorframe. It had been weeks since Mum last measured him, marking the line with her pencil to show how much he'd grown. But Zac *wasn't* growing. That was the problem. The line had barely moved since Christmas. His big brother Cam seemed to shoot up another inch every month, yet Zac was still as short as ever.

Cam was lucky. He was *even* taller than Mum now. It made shooting hoops in basketball so much easier.



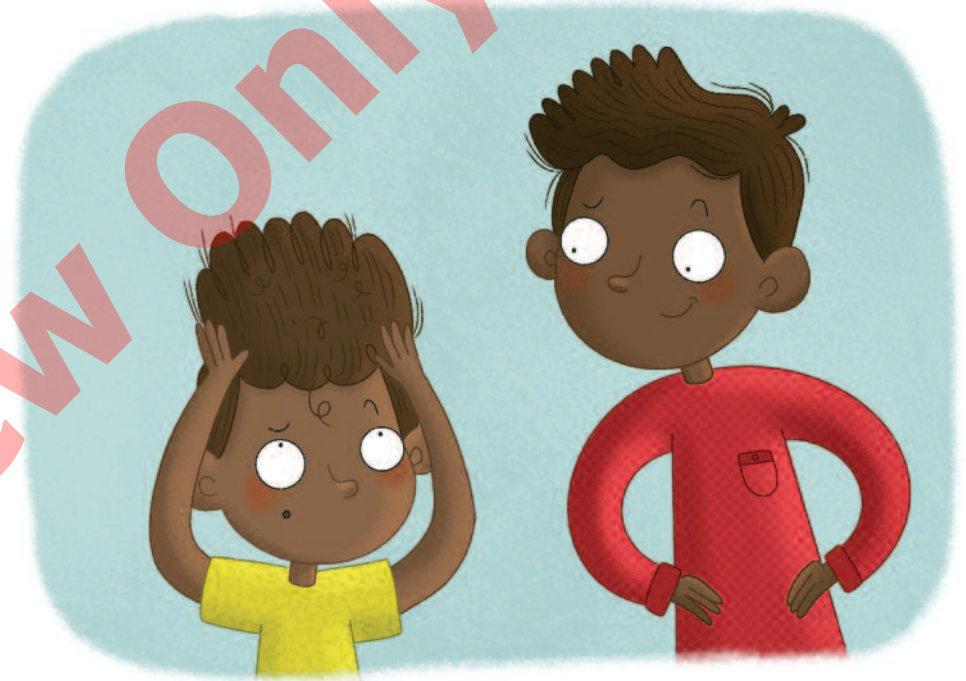
Cam could jump all the way up to the net and push the ball through, in the perfect slam dunk.

If only Zac could hurry up and grow before his school basketball match on Thursday. He'd been doing special stretching exercises every morning to try and speed things up. He'd been eating boiled eggs and wholegrain toast for breakfast, plus extra vegetables with each meal. He'd drunk a whole pint of milk every day. But had it worked? Had he got any taller? There was only one way to find out.

"Please can you do the pencil mark for me?" he asked Cam. Zac pressed himself against the doorframe and pulled back his shoulders, thinking tall thoughts. But it was no good.

"You're still the same height as last time," said Cam, as Zac twisted round to see.

Zac spiked up his hair and stood on tiptoe. "What about now?"



Cam laughed. "That's cheating! Cheer up," he added, "I wasn't very tall when I was your age. I'm sure you'll grow soon."

"I need to grow *now*," said Zac, glumly. "It's only two days until our big match."

"You don't have to be tall to be good at basketball," Cam told him, bouncing an imaginary ball and pretending to score. "You've been practising so hard, I'm sure you'll be brilliant. Just do your best and have fun."

Zac knew Cam was only trying to help, but his heart sank as he thought about all that extra practice going to waste. What chance did he have against the other team if he couldn't reach as high as them?



Chapter 2

Zac was still feeling gloomy as he walked home from school the next day. He stopped outside the charity shop at the end of his road, checking his reflection in the window. No. He still didn't look any taller.

But then something else caught his eye... a pair of trainers. They weren't just any old trainers though, Zac realised as he peered through the glass. They were special Ultra Bounce shoes, like the ones in Cam's basketball magazine.

