

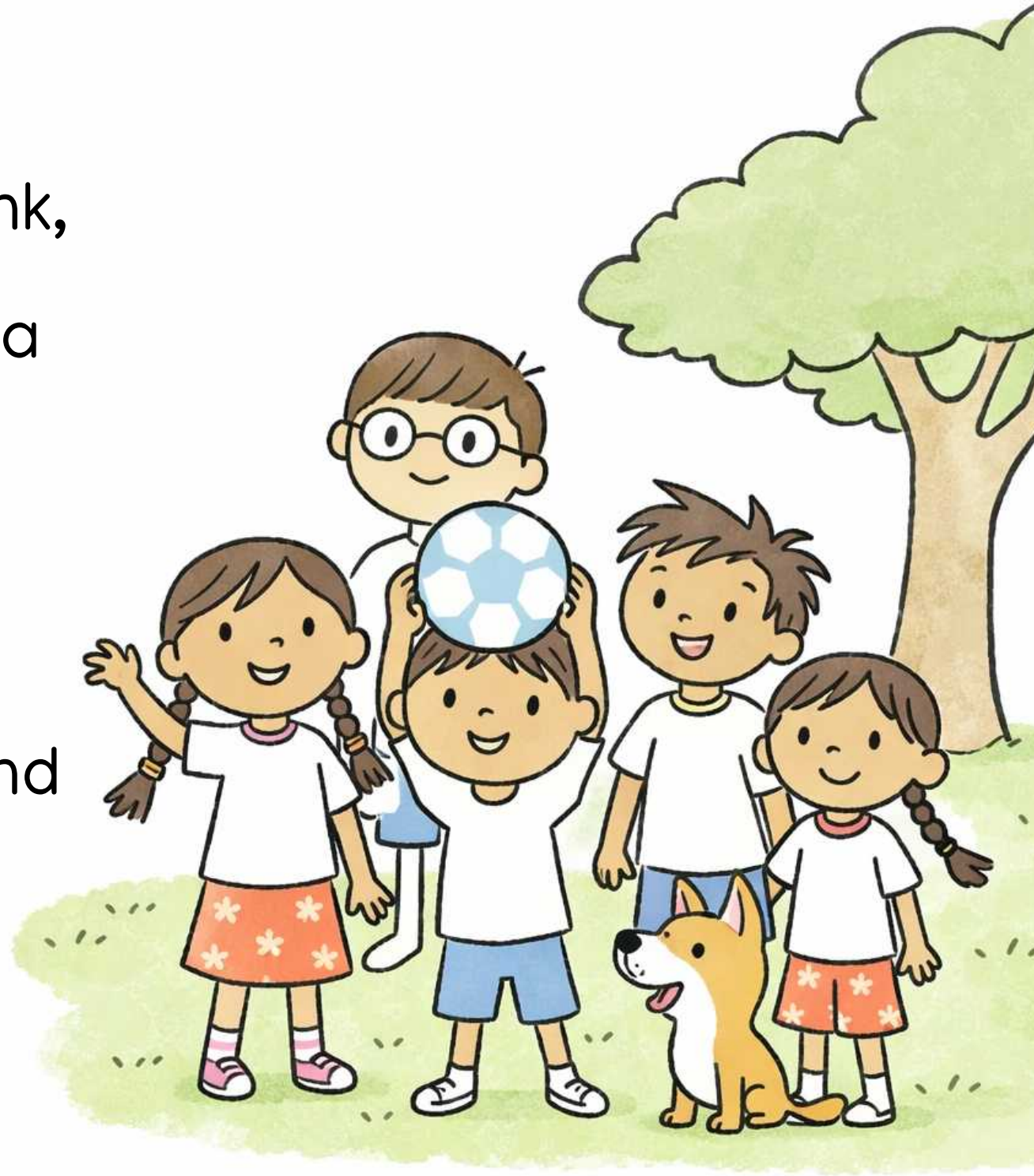
Big Talk, Back It Up!



This is my squad.

Dash, Spin, Kip, Bonk,
and Dog. We have a
big match, and we
plan to win it.

I hold the ball up and
grin. 'My squad is
the best!' I yell.





Dash gets the ball.

She zips **by** the shrub
so fast the shrub
shakes. We sprint and
sprint, but no one can
catch Dash.

Dog runs **by**, tail up.

'Try to catch me!'

Dash calls back.

Spin is sly. He
flicks the ball left,
then right, and
spins by me. I trip
and fall in the
grass. 'Why is Spin
so quick?' I ask.
No one can tell.

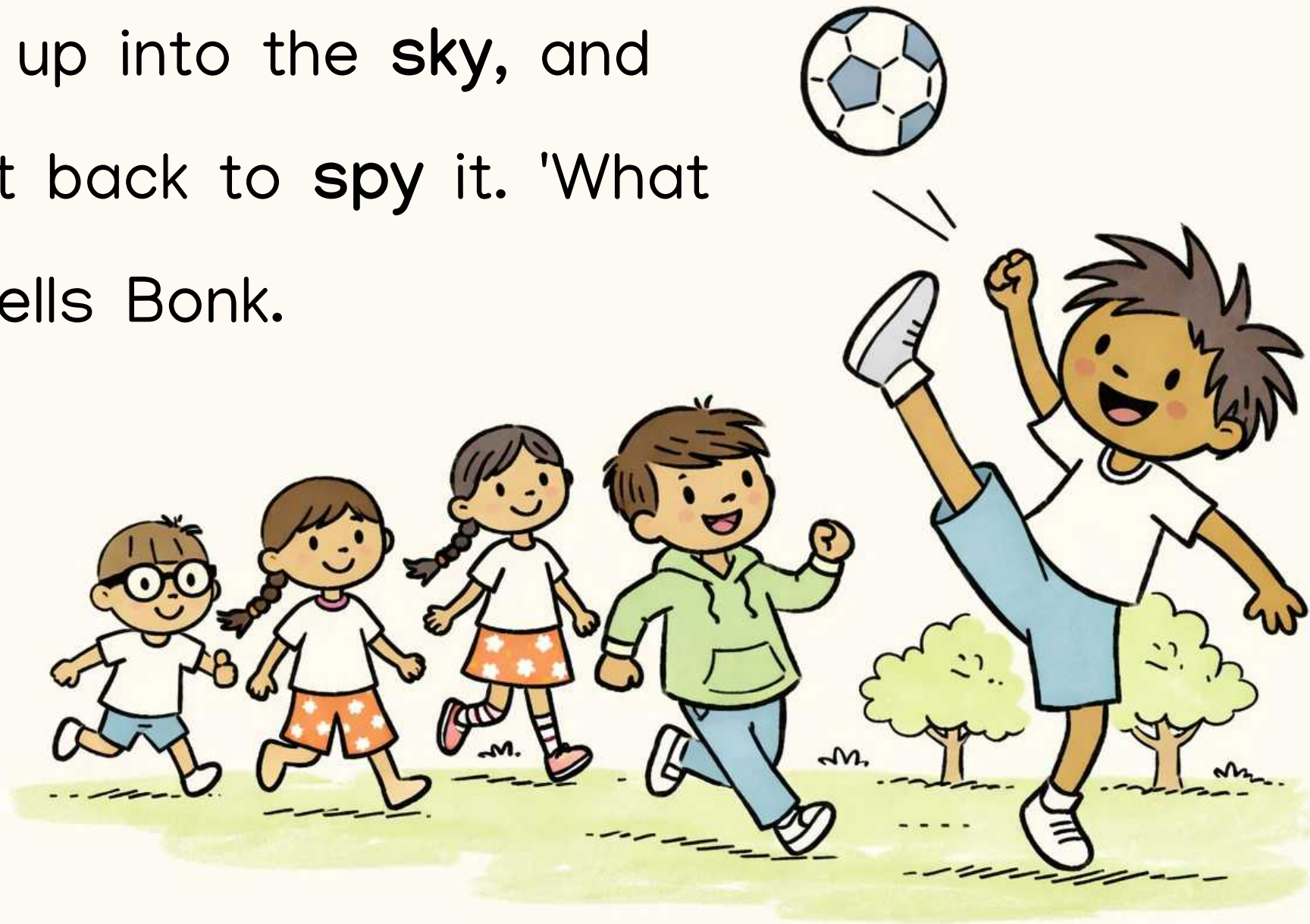




My turn. Whack! I
smash the ball, and
it flies into the net.

I try not to grin. I
can't deny it, I grin
a lot.

Kip swings his leg up high. The ball flies up into the sky, and we all tilt back to spy it. 'What a kick!' yells Bonk.



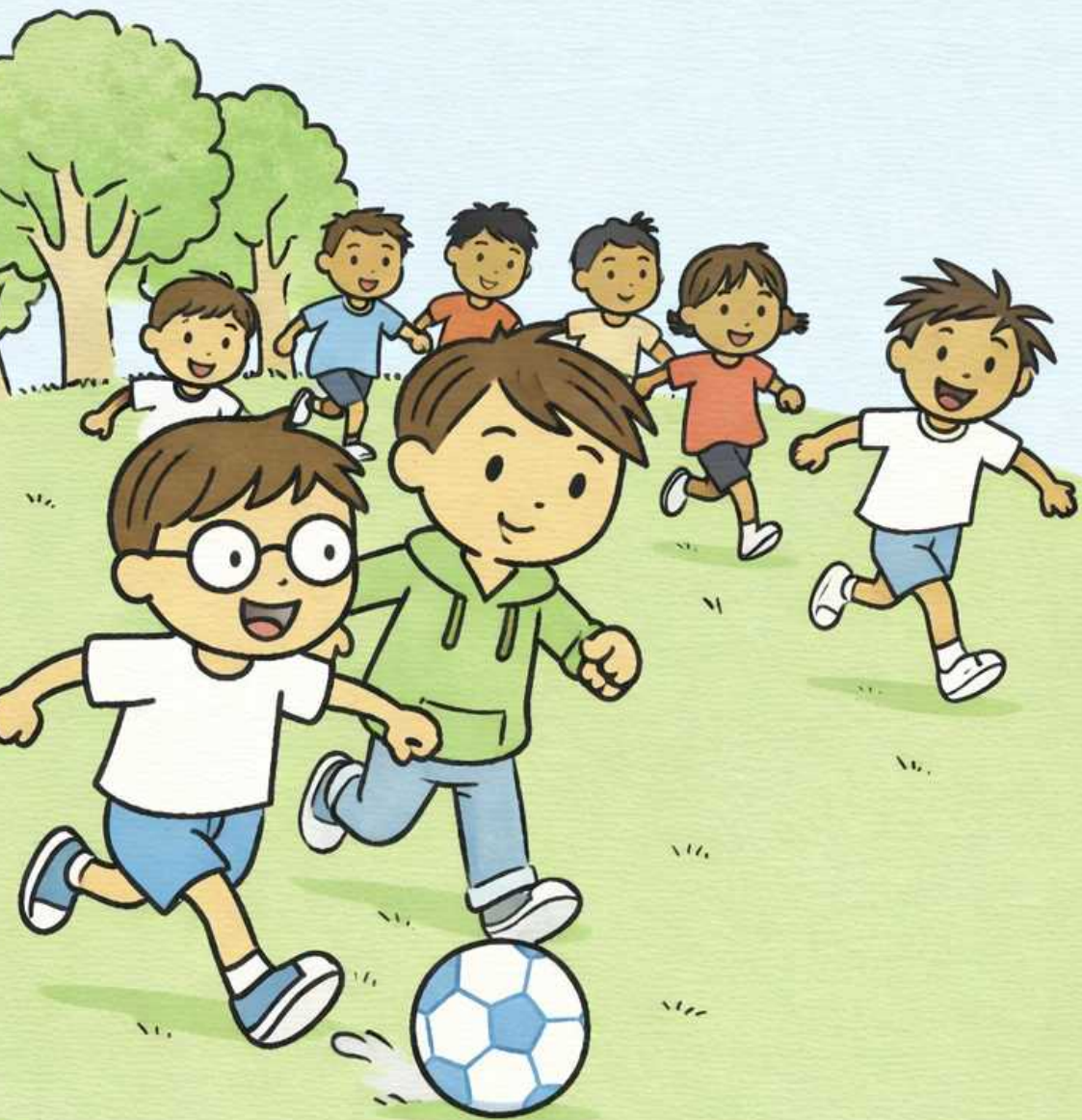


Bonk jumps up high.
Thump! She hits the
ball with a big head
bump, and it flies off
like a **skyrocket**.

Bonk drills this all
the time. That is why
she is so strong.

We rush onto the
grass, all set to win.
Then a bus stops by
the side. The next
squad steps off, and
they are big and tall.
No one on my squad
talks. Even Dog sits
still.





They are quick. Spin tries his trick, but they block it. I try a big shot, but they save it.

'What can we do?' asks Dash. 'We rely on the squad,' I reply.

We do not cry. We try
one big plan. Spin
stretches and flicks the
ball to Dash. Dash zips
by and sends it to
Bonk. Bonk bumps it to
me with one quick head
bump, and I smash it in.





We win! We jump and pump fists at the sky. Kip yells, and Dog tilts back and yaps and yaps. That squad is big and fast. But **my** squad can **rely** on each pal. Go, squad, go!



73

Big Talk, Back It Up!

Five kids and a dog make up the smallest, scrappiest squad in the league, and they're sure they can win the championship match. But when the other team's bus pulls up and out steps the biggest, fastest squad anyone has ever seen, can this little squad prove their big talk was true? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 73: y /ī/), this book practices words like 'try', 'fly', 'sky', 'why', 'rely'.

Phonics Focus: y /ī/

by, cry, deny, fly, my, rely, reply, sky, skyrocket, sly, spy, try, why

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