



Can the Squad Save the Game?

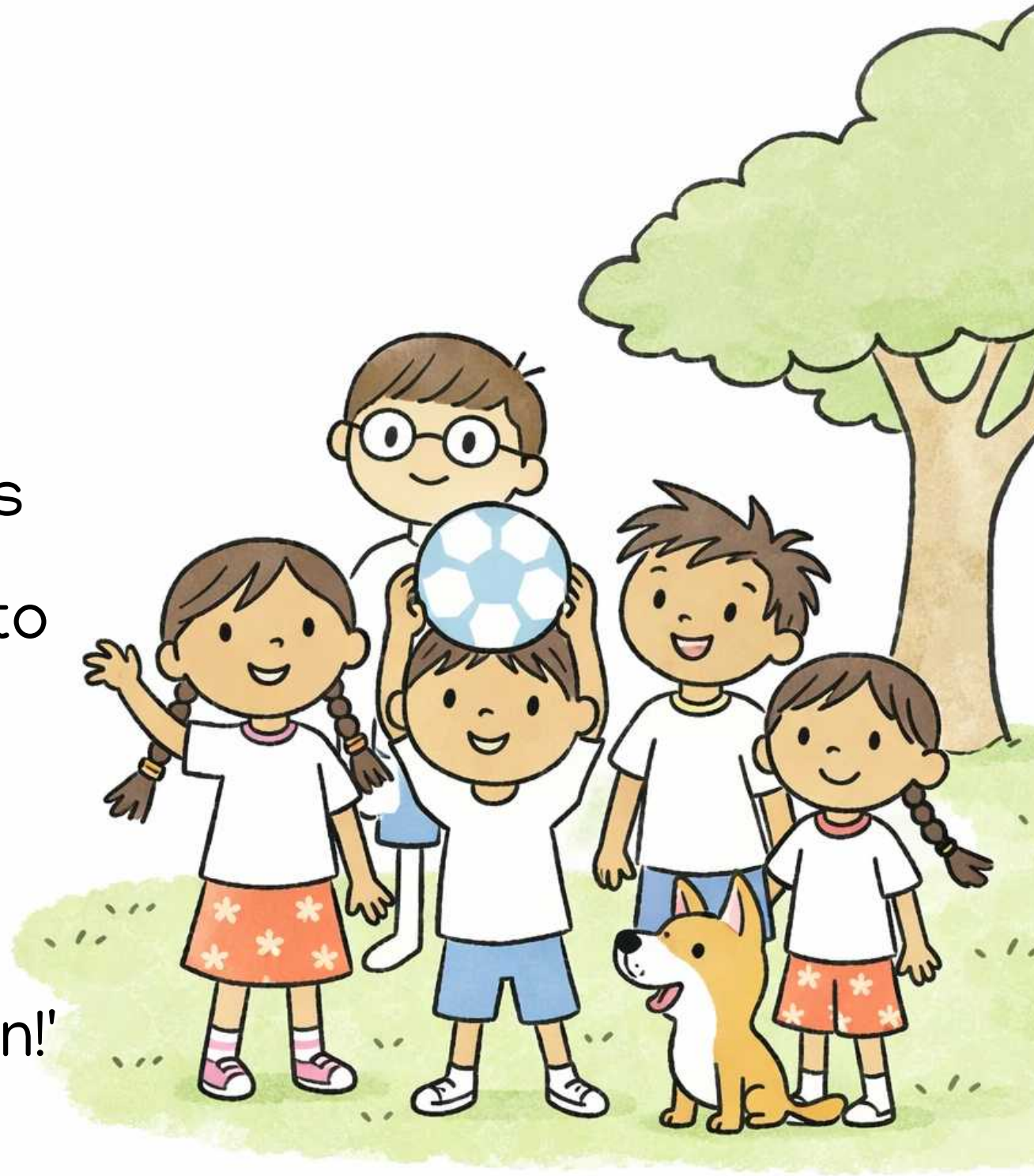


This is the squad.

Gus, Bee, Ace, Jet,
and Dog.

We are on the grass
in the sun. We aim to
win the big game.

'We can win it,' I tell
them all. 'Yes we can!'





Gus takes the ball to start. She zips past the bushes at top speed.

We all sprint after her. Dog runs at her side.

'Too slow!' Gus calls back.

Bee is not fast,
but Bee is **wise**.

He flicks the ball
this way and that.
He spins, and then
he is past us all.

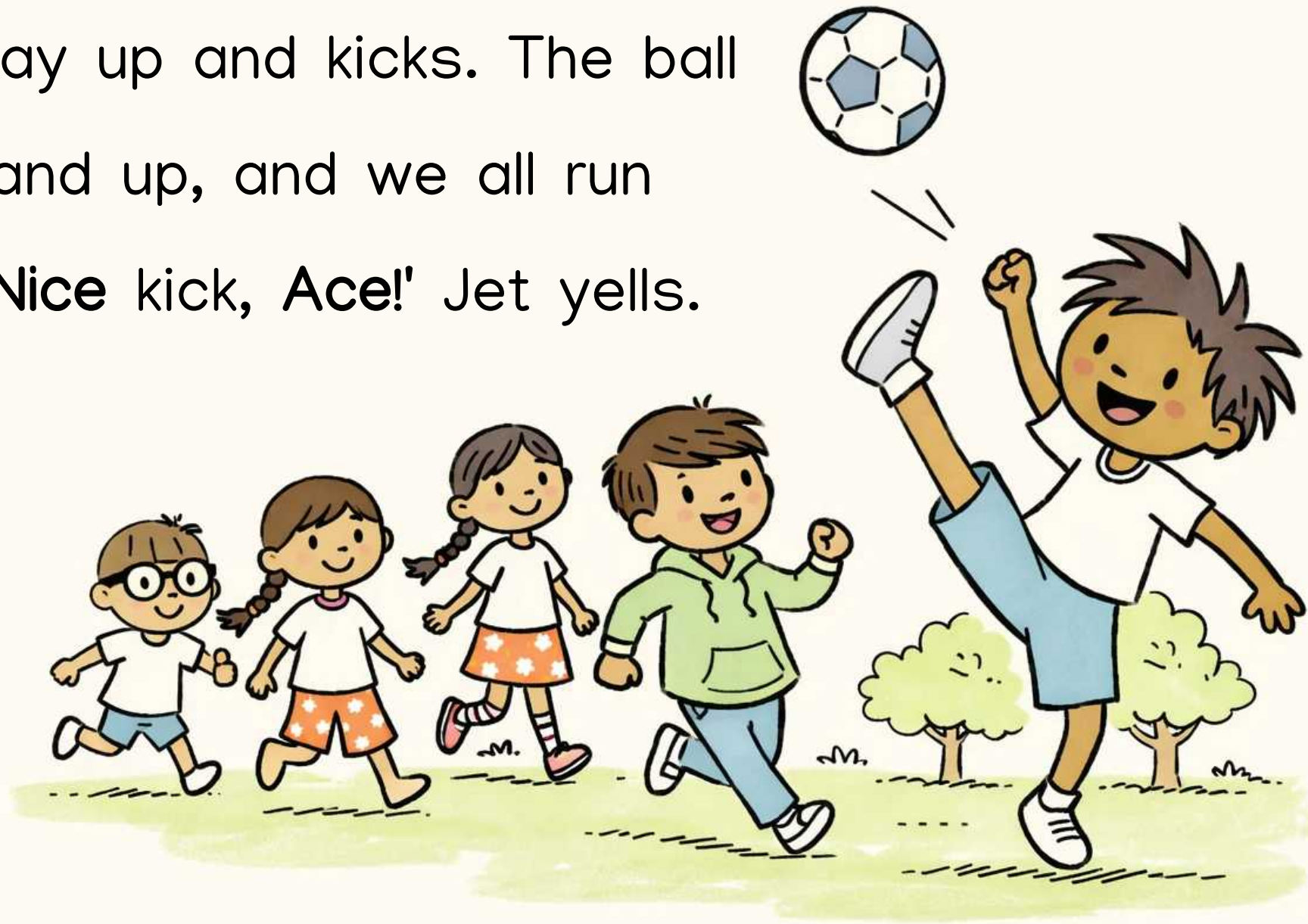
No kid can **take**
the ball from Bee.





Then I take a big shot. Bang! The ball smashes into the net. The net shakes. I grin a big grin.

Ace steps up next. He swings his leg way up and kicks. The ball sails up and up, and we all run after it. 'Nice kick, Ace!' Jet yells.





Jet jumps up in
time. Bonk! She
hits the ball with
her head, and off
it zips. Jet lands
with a grin. She
has skill, that kid.

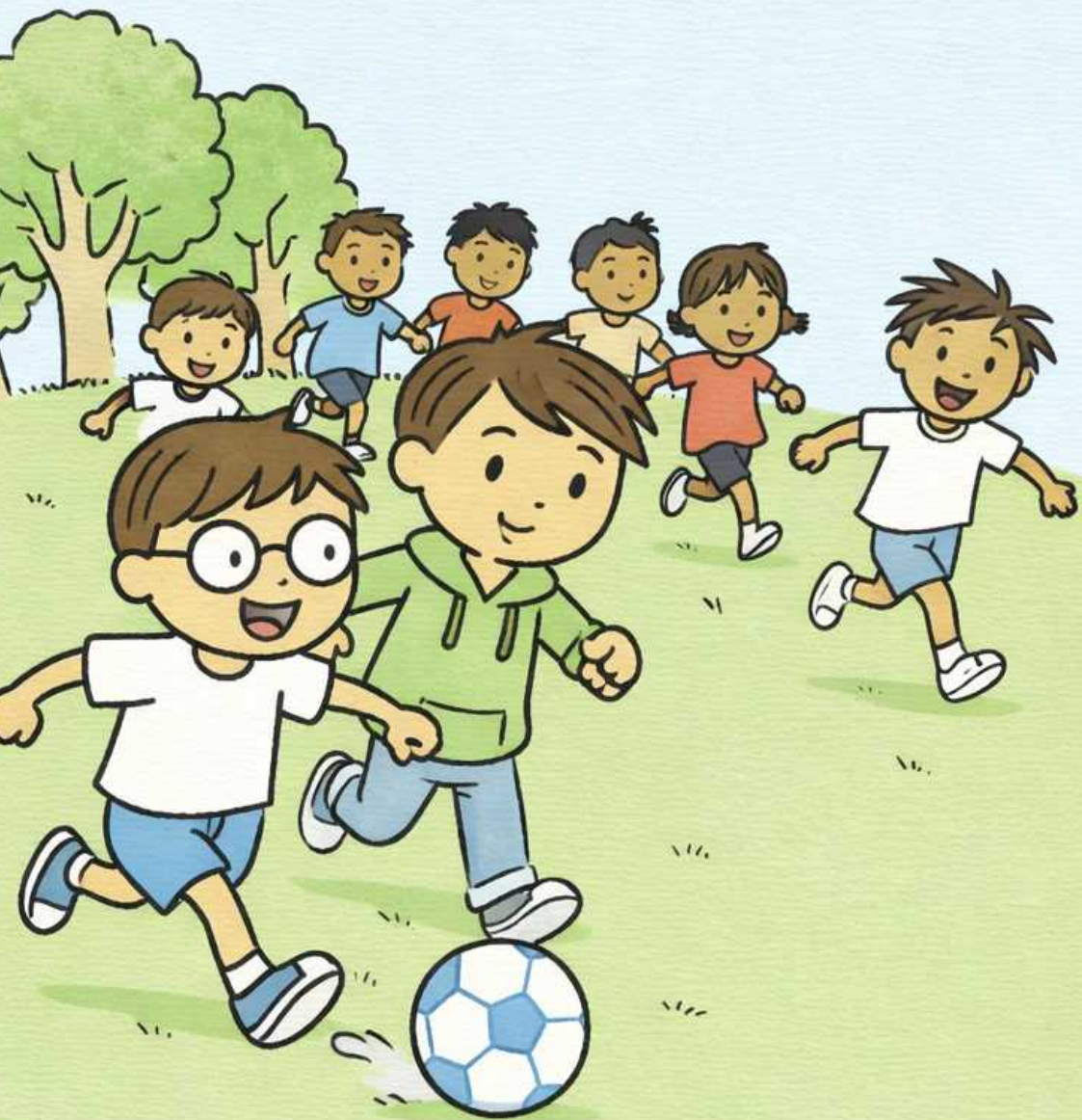
We run out on the grass. The coach smiles at us.

Then a bus comes.

The next squad gets off it. They are big, and they are tall.

We all stop and gaze at them.





The next squad is good.
They **take** the ball from
us. Bee can not get
past. I can not shoot.

'This is bad,' Gus
gasps.

'No,' I tell her. 'We can
win as a squad.'

Bee gets the ball just
in time. He flicks it to
Gus.

Gus zips up the grass
and sends it to Jet.

Bonk! Jet hits it to me,
and I **take** the shot.





Goal! We win the game! We all jump up and cheer. Dog barks and barks and barks. The next squad is big and fast. But we have trust. Go, squad, go!



Can the Squad Save the Game?

Five kids and a dog make up the squad, and they're sure nothing can stop them from winning the big game. But when a bus pulls up and a much bigger, tougher team steps off, the squad can only stop and gaze. Can this small squad really beat opponents twice their size? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 2, Unit 5: magic e (a_e i_e o_e)), this book practices words like 'game', 'nice', 'gaze', 'takes', 'wise'.

Phonics Focus: <magic> <e> <(a_e) <i_e> <o_e)>

ace, comes, game, gaze, nice, shakes, side, smiles, spine, take, takes, time, wise

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