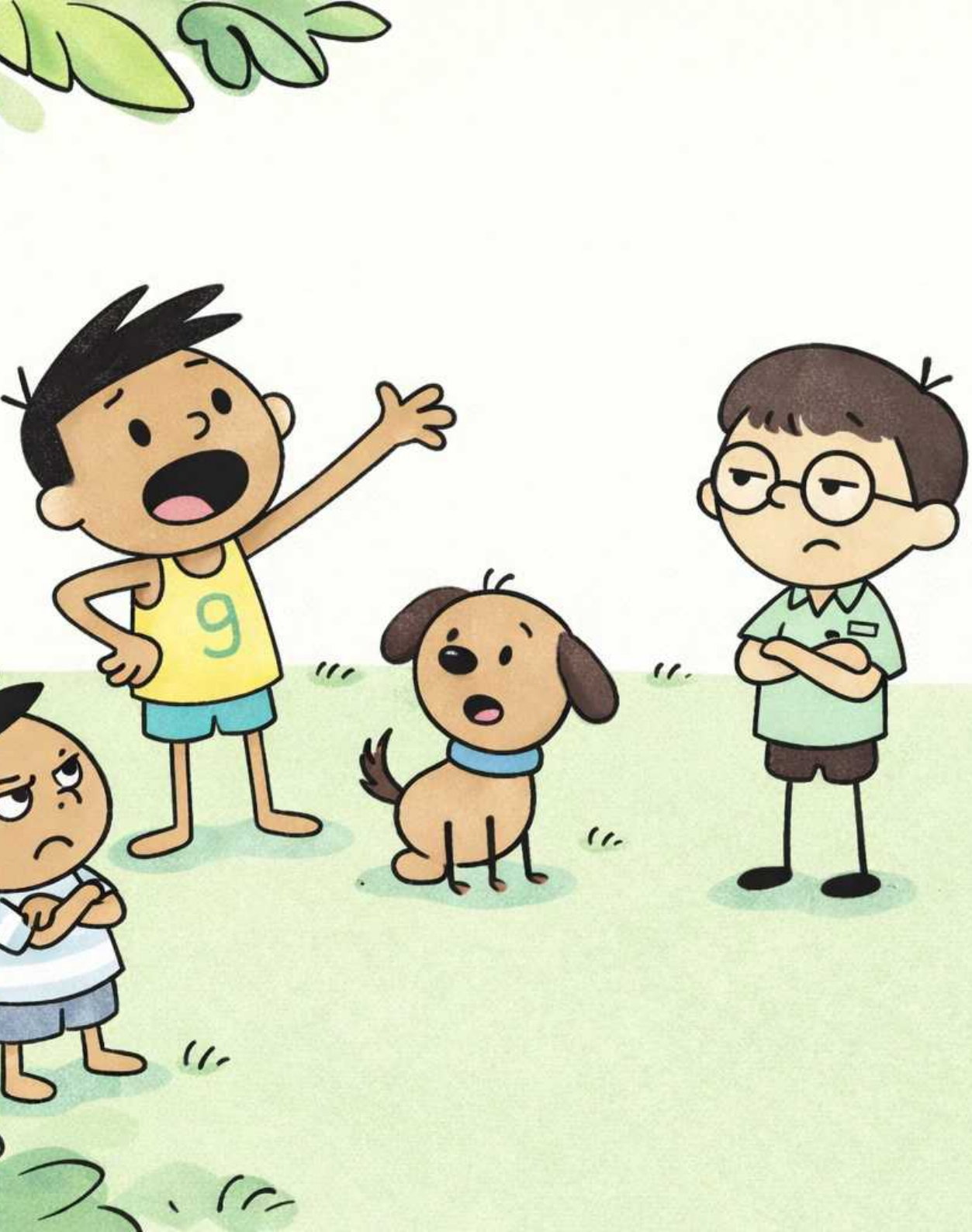
The Best Toy of All

Jim runs down the path as fast as he can. Roy runs in front, ears up like little flags. 'Come, Jim! Come and see what I got!' calls Len. He jumps up and down with **joy.** Jim's pal waves them in. Jim speeds up. When Len says 'come and see', it is always good.

Len **hoists** up a red **toy** boat. His grin is huge. 'My dad got me this,' he says. 'It floats on a real pond!'

Jim's mouth drops open. Jim's pal **points** at the boat. Roy looks up at it and wags his tail.

Jim wants that **toy** boat. No, Jim wants the best **toy** of all.

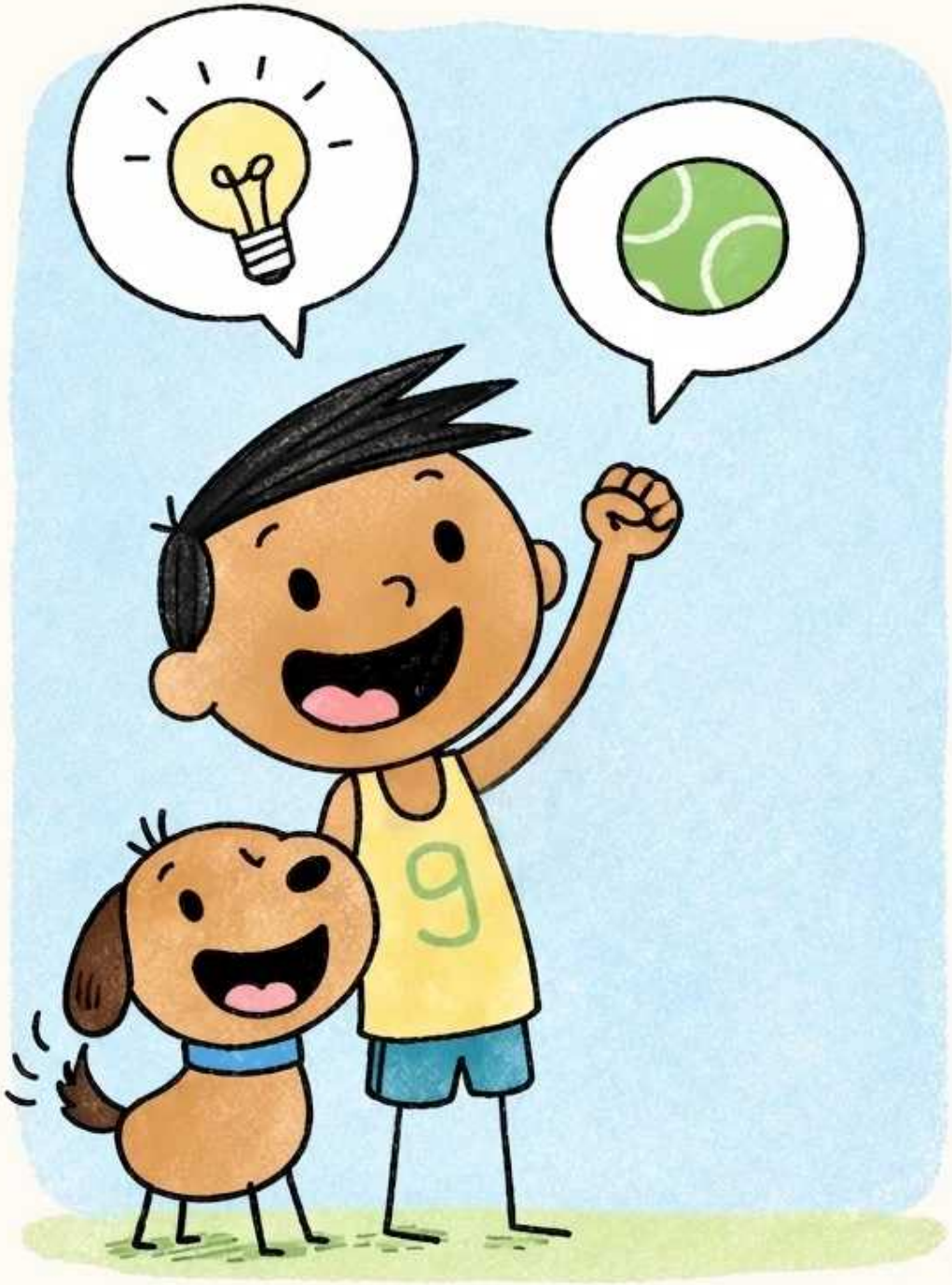


'That is not much!' says Jim. 'I have the best **toys** in all the land back in my room. Much more grand than a little boat.' The fib just slips out of him. The brag **annoys** Len. He crosses his arms. Jim's pal does not trust him. Not one bit. But Jim keeps on. 'I will bring it all in the morning. Just wait and see.'

Back home, Jim looks in his **toy** box. A green frog. A red ball with a dent. A game with lost bits.

Roy peeks over the top of the box.

'This is bad,' says Jim. Len will just grin at these old **toys.** Jim needs a grand thing, fast.



Then Jim has a plan. **Boing!** He jumps up. 'My kin have such good things! The old man's plants! Gran's crafts! Dad's game! We just need to take some.' Roy wags his tail so fast his back end shakes. 'Come, Roy. We have a house to raid!'

First stop: the old man's plants. He grows the best plants in town. Jim grabs a huge one in a big pot. Its **soil** is dark and **moist.**

'Len has no plant like this,' says Jim, hugging the pot to his chest. He dashes off with Roy right at his heels. One thing down. Four to go.

Next stop: Gran's craft basket. Jim scoops up a bowl of wool and twine, **coils** and **coils** of it, in pink and blue and green. Gran can mend it all. A dress, a kite string, a doll's arm.

'If Gran can fix things with this,' says Jim, 'then it must be grand.'

Roy grabs at a bit of wool. Jim lifts the bowl up high, just in time.

Next, Jim spots Dad's game up on the shelf. Each weekend, Dad plays it with his pals till late at night. They get very **noisy.**

'If dads **enjoy** it this much,' says Jim with a grin, 'it must be grand.' He tucks the box under his arm. His pile grows and grows.

Jim's sis has a shelf full of books. He grabs a big stack. The top book has a fox on it. His sis reads it to him a lot.

'Best tale in all the land!' Jim yells to no one.

Roy has got a box stuck on top of him. He stands very still, like an odd little **droid.** Jim looks right past him.

Last stop: Mom's room.

Jim tries a bit of it all. He paints his lips red. He puts on a big soft hat. Red heels sit by his feet, much too big. He peeks at the dresser and grins with **joy.** Roy sits in the corner with a scarf coiled round his neck. They look very odd. They look grand!

In the morning, Len and Jim's pal come to see it all. But Len does not clap. He puts the soft hat back in the trunk. 'This is Mom's hat, Jim.' Jim's pal packs up the plant. They pack up the wool, the game, and the books. None of it is Jim's own stuff. Jim just grins. But his cheeks burn. Len has a **point.**

Then comes a yell. A big, **noisy** yell. 'Where is my perfume?' Mom stands at her dresser. One spot is empty. She puts her hands on her hips. Jim, Len and Jim's pal stand very still. They put it all back. Or so they think. One thing is lost.

They hunt all over Jim's room. Jim's pal checks under the bed. Just dust and one old sock. Len checks each box. Not a thing.

Jim yells, 'It is not here!'

But in the corner, by the seat, Roy **joins** the hunt. His nose **points** at the floor. Sniff, sniff! His tail starts to wag.

Roy sniffs under the seat, and there it is. Mom's perfume! 'Yes!' Jim **hoists** Roy up and gives him the best scratch of all time. Len and Jim's pal clap and cheer. 'See?' Jim grins, his face in Roy's fluff. 'I do have the best thing in all the land.' And this time, no one calls it a brag.

MIXED

The Best Toy of All

Jim can't believe it when Len shows off a shiny red toy boat that floats on real water. Determined to top it, Jim boasts about the amazing toys waiting back home, but when he looks in his own toy box, all he sees is a rubber frog and a busted game. Can Jim find something grand enough to save face before his friends arrive? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 10: /oi/ mixed), this book practices words like 'toy', 'joy', 'noisy', 'point', 'enjoy'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

annoys, boing, coil, coils, droid, enjoy, hoists, joins, joy, moist, noisy, point, points, soil, toy, toys

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