

Gad Peeks from the Trees





My name is Gad. Yes, I
am a ghost. But I am not
a **mean** ghost.

See this **creepy** forest?

See this post? I wait by
this post all day, but not
one kid stops to **greet**
me.

It may be a **creepy** forest
thing. Or it may be a
ghost thing.

Yes, it is a ghost thing.

See the **three beasts**?

The big one with fur,
the bone man, and the
pale one with the long
mane. They hide by the
trees and wait. A kid
comes by and then... a
big, loud growl! The kid
leaps up in fright. The
beasts think it is fun. I
think it is rude.





I float up to the **treetops**.

No more growls up here!

And then I **see** a **sweet, sweet** thing.

Kids! Kids at play in a park! They run, they romp, they have fun. This is my **dream!**

'The kids will like me,' I say. I put on my best grin and zoom down.

'Kids! I'm Gad! Will you
be my best mates?'

I bounce down the big
tree, bump by bump,
with my best grin. I **feel**
it is an ace way in.

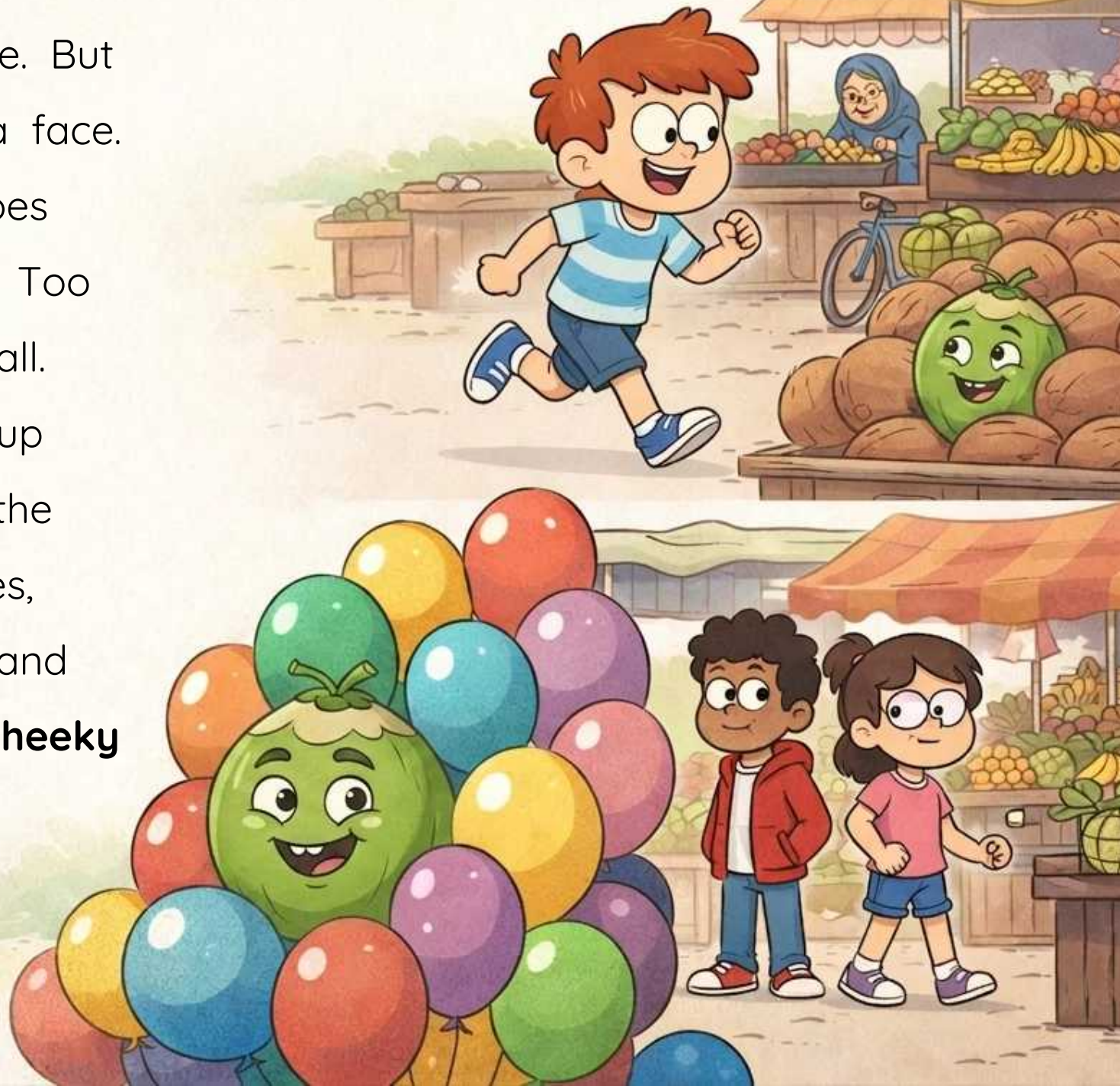
The kids do not **agree**.
They yell. They run. One
kid **peeks** back, and then
he runs at top **speed**!





'Wait! Come back! I am not **mean!** No spooky tricks!' But the kids run and run. Even a **wee** dog sprints off with them, its legs in a spin. I float there, one lone ghost, and **see** the dust drift on the track. So a jump from a **tree** and a big yell is not a good plan. I must hide. I must look like a thing that is not a ghost at all.

I **sneak** into the market and squish into a big nut pile. But I am the one nut with a face. A boy runs past and does not **see** me. Too **green**. Too odd. Not a **real** nut at all. Time for plan B. I puff up round and drift in with the toys on strings. Red ones, yellow ones, blue ones, and one **green** one with a **cheeky** grin. Much better.





I drift down to the kids, bobbing on my string like a **real** toy.

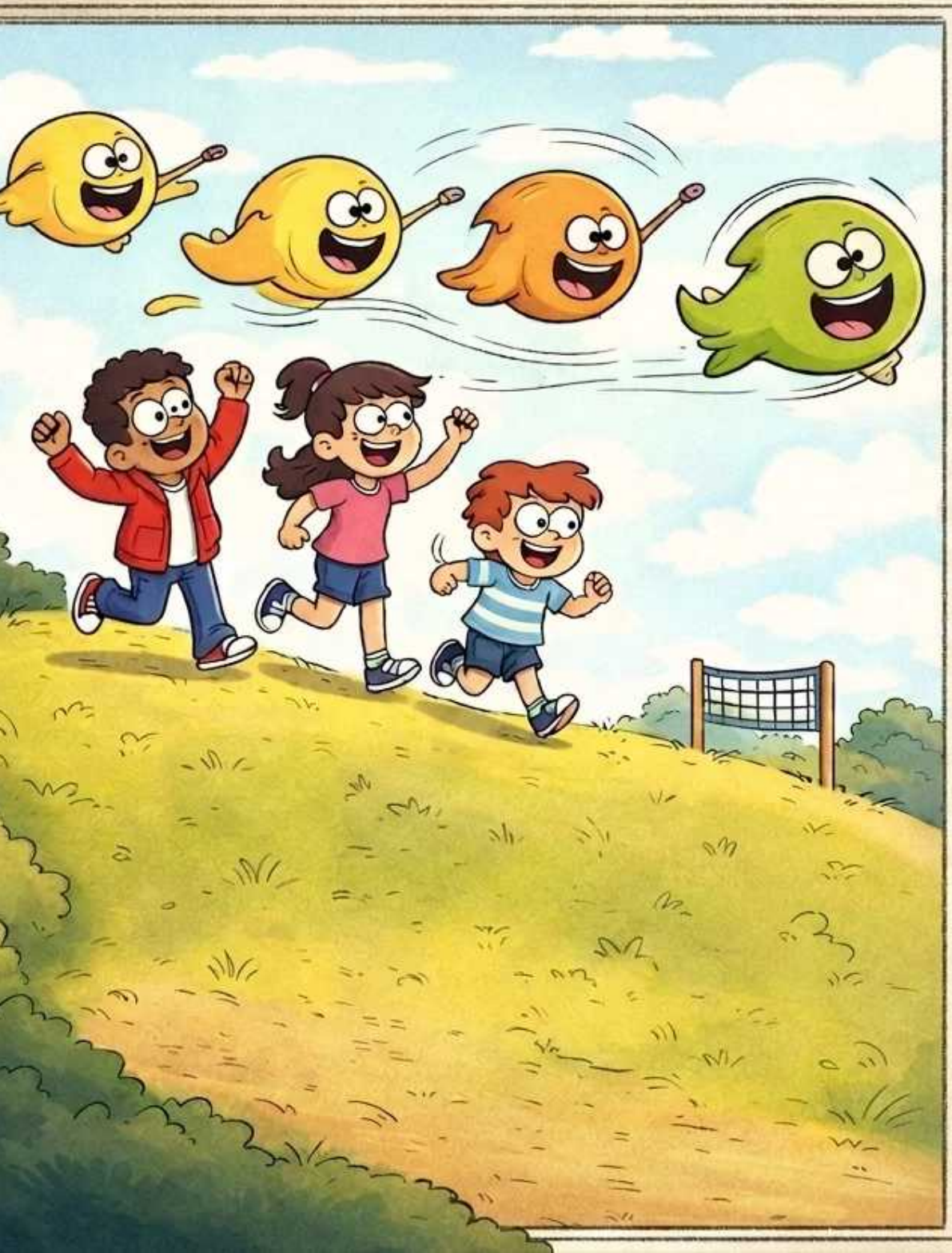
'Who wants to play? I'm just a toy on a string! Not a ghost at all!'

The kids **peer** up at me. They do not run, but they do not **seem keen**. And then, from down low, comes a **mean** little mew. A cat!



A cat! It **leaps** at me! I
dodge left. I squish flat. I
go long and thin, like an
eel. The cat swipes and
misses, swipes and misses,
then flops down flat. I pull
my best goofy face, and
the cat just sits there. The
kids yell with **glee**. 'Gad,
you are not **creepy** at all!'
says one kid. 'You are so
goofy! Come play with us!'





'Yes! Yes! Yes!'

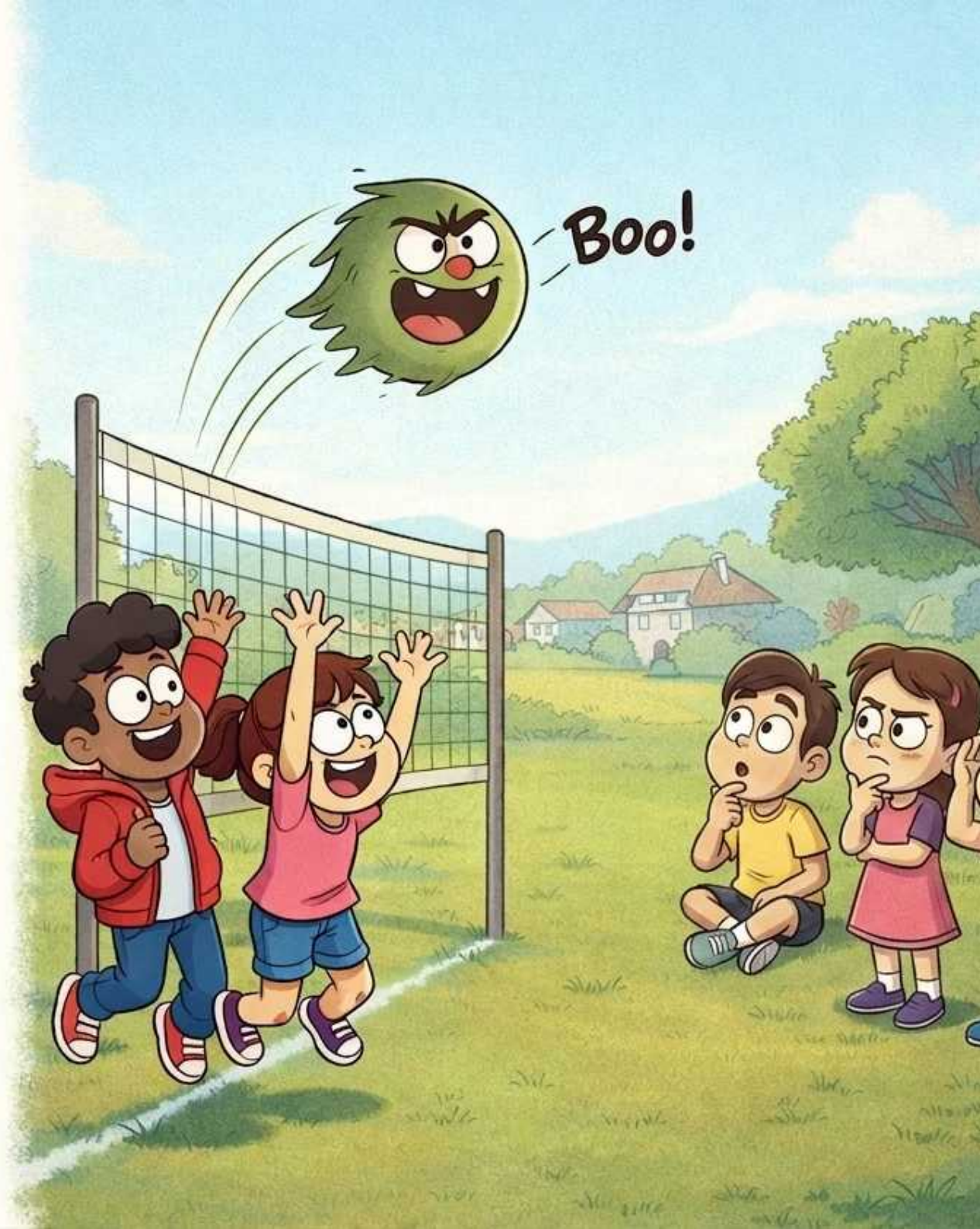
I zoom round **each** head in a loop. I puff up big, then shrink down **wee**. I go pink, then yellow, then back to **green**, because **green** is my best look. The kids chase me up a **steep green** hill.

Then I **see** where we are heading. A play spot with a net. And the kids have a sly grin on **each** face.

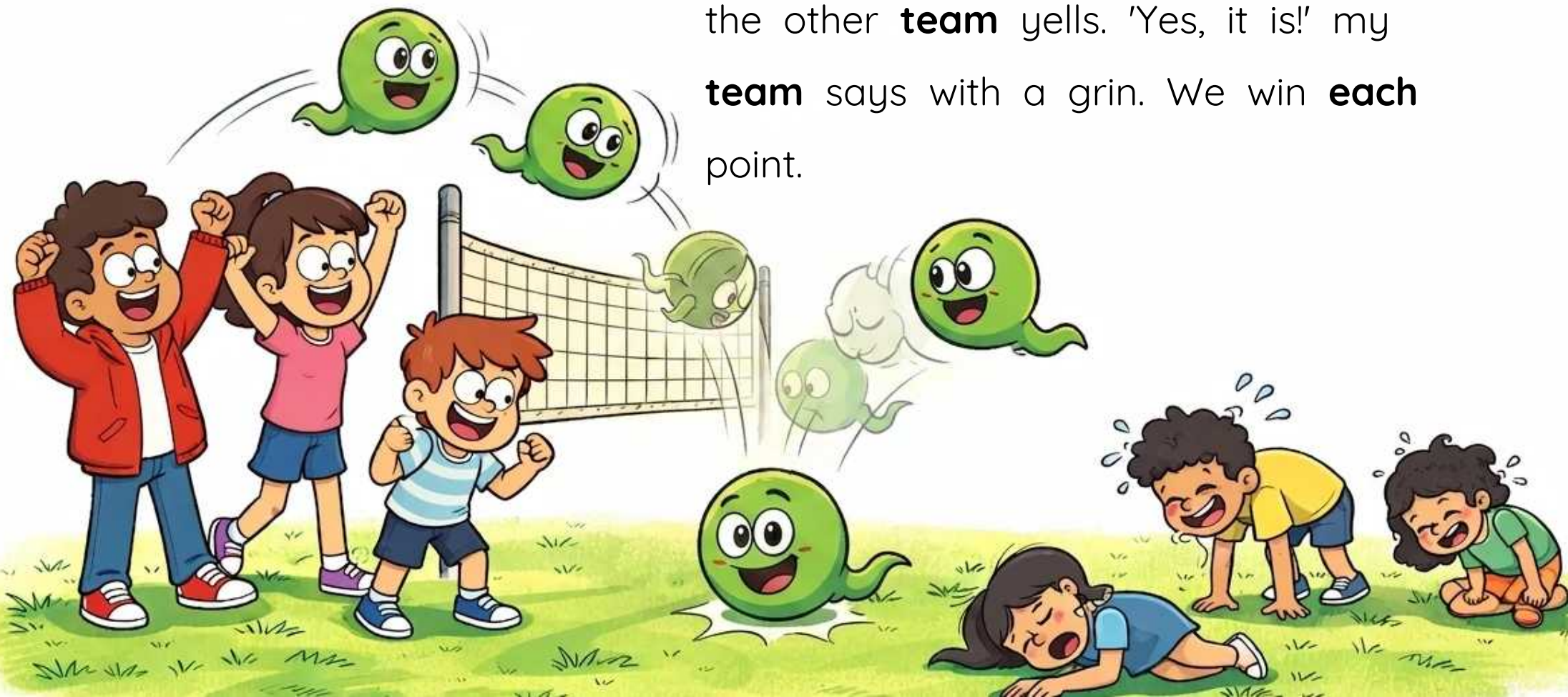
'Gad,' they ask, 'can you be the ball?'

I puff up into a round shape and grin. '**Easy!**'

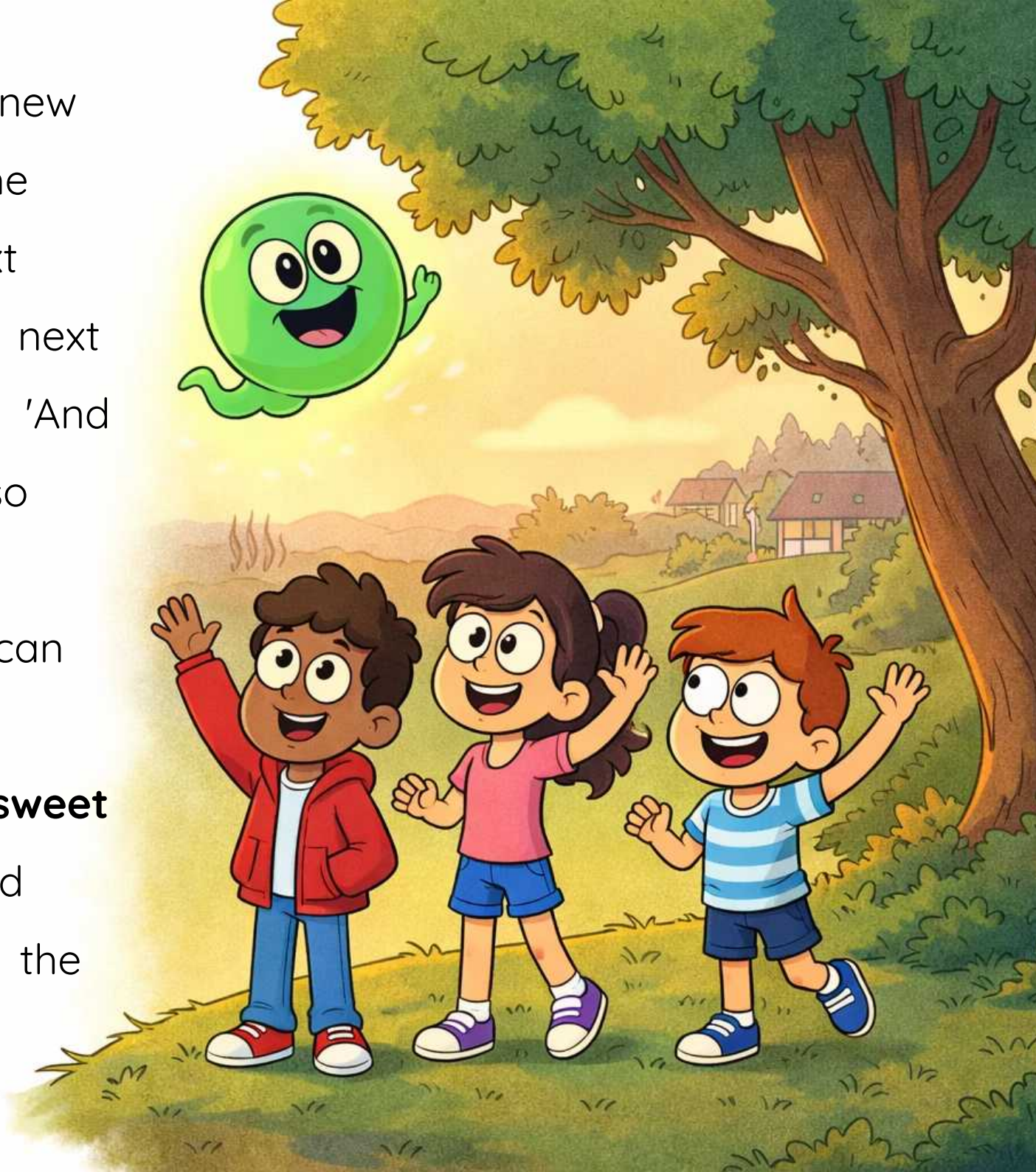
The kids on the other **team** do not **see** it coming. They stand at the net and wait. My **team** tosses me up high, and at the top, I **peek** down and yell, 'Boo!' **Each** face on that **team** turns as white as a **sheet**.



I am the best ball there is! They try to hit me, but I bounce an odd way. They try to grab me, and I slip out! They try to spike me, and I squish flat and **sneak** under the net. 'That is a trick!' the other **team** yells. 'Yes, it is!' my **team** says with a grin. We win **each** point.



At sunset I wave to my new mates and float up to the **treetops**. 'Same time next **week?**' I call. 'Same time next **week!**' the kids call back. 'And do the nut trick! It was so bad!' I **beam** all the way home. The other ghosts can **keep** the boos and the growls. I have a **sweet, sweet** thing. I have a **team!** And next time? Next time, I'm the football!





Gad Peeks from the Trees

Gad is the friendliest ghost in the forest, but every time he floats down to say hello, kids run away screaming. He tries hiding in a pile of coconuts and even sneaks in with a bunch of balloons, but nothing seems to work. Can Gad ever find a way to make new friends without scaring them off? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 5: /ee/ mixed), this book practices words like 'tree', 'sneak', 'peek', 'green', 'team'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

agree, beam, beasts, cheeky, creepy, dream, each, easy, eel, feel, glee, green, greet, keen, keep, leaps, mean, peek, peeks, peer, real, see, seem, sheet, sneak, speed, steep, sweet, team, three, tree, trees, treetops, wee, week

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