



CHAPTER 1

SOCCER SLIP-UP

Ms. Frizzle’s class was just one point away from a win in their big soccer game. Keesha was in goal, and Jyoti was playing defense. The soccer ball soared toward the net.

“Keesha!” Jyoti shouted. “Keesha! Heads up!”

But Keesha wasn’t paying attention to the game. She was staring at the papers in her hand. Jyoti jumped in the air and knocked the ball away from the goal with a roundhouse kick.

The crowd cheered.

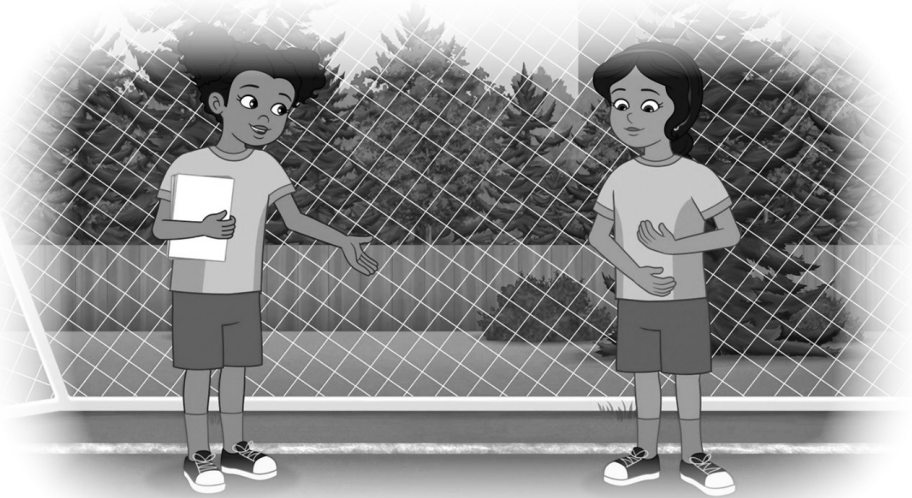
“What a save!” Wanda yelled into her announcer’s microphone. “But not by the Walkerville Wildcat goalie. It looks like she’s distracted by . . . paperwork?”



Keesha was staring at a piece of paper instead of staring at the ball.

“Thanks, Jyoti,” Keesha said. “I didn’t even see that one coming!”

“No problem,” Jyoti said.



Meanwhile, Carlos had the ball. He dribbled down the field and passed it to Dorothy Ann. Then Dorothy Ann kicked the ball to Ralphie, who launched it into the net. Goal!

The referee blew his whistle to end the game.

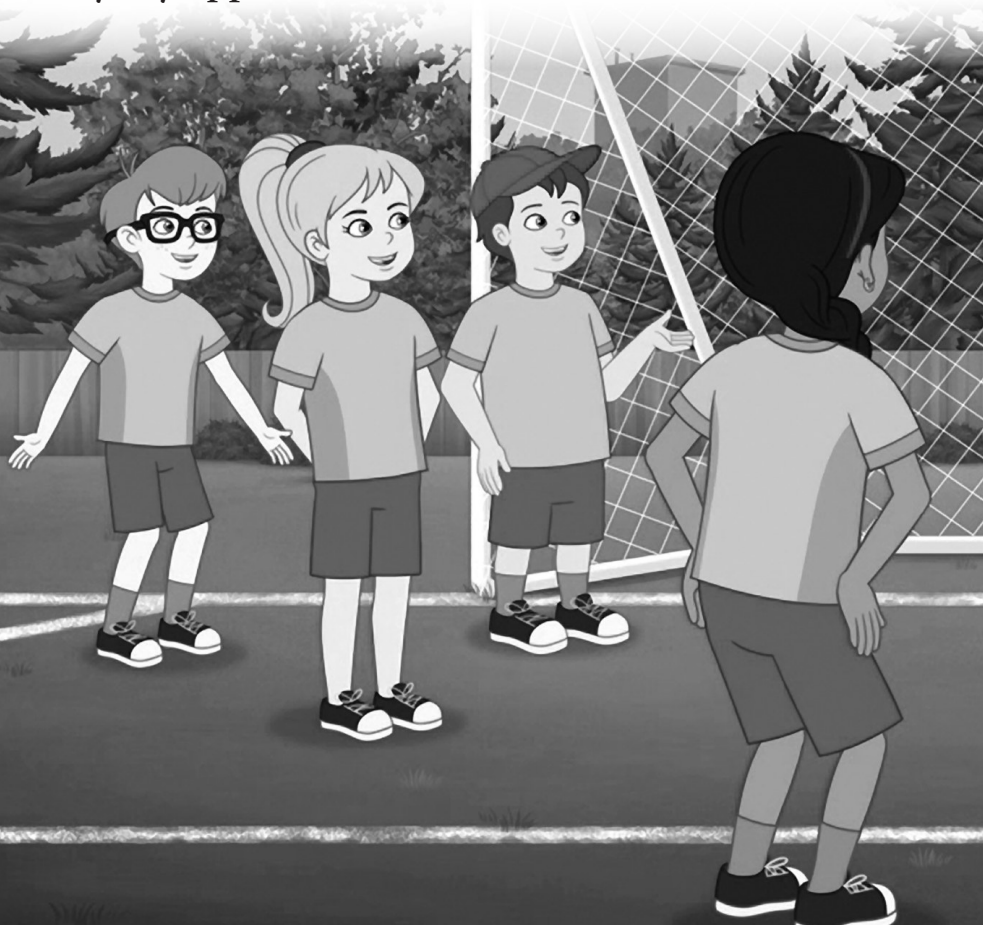
“The Walkerville Wildcats win!” Wanda shouted into the announcer’s microphone. “That was some really amazing teamwork. They’ll play again tomorrow for a shot at winning the Frizzle Cup, which will be broadcast around the world!”



The team gathered in the middle of the field. Ralphie high-fived Dorothy Ann.

“Great game!” Jyoti said.

Keesha turned to her teammates. “Sorry, guys,” she told them. “I should have been paying attention back there. But I’ve been so distracted by my application to—”



“Astronaut camp!” everyone shouted.

“Oh, have I mentioned it already?” Keesha asked.

“Maybe once or twice . . .” Tim began.

“ . . . a minute . . .” Carlos chimed in.

“ . . . for the last week!” Ralphie finished.



“I know, I know,” Keesha said. She shrugged. “But astronaut camp is my ticket to my dream—a career in space!”

“And a distracted goalie is *our* ticket to defeat!” Ralphie groaned. The team had to win the next game to move on to the finals.

