

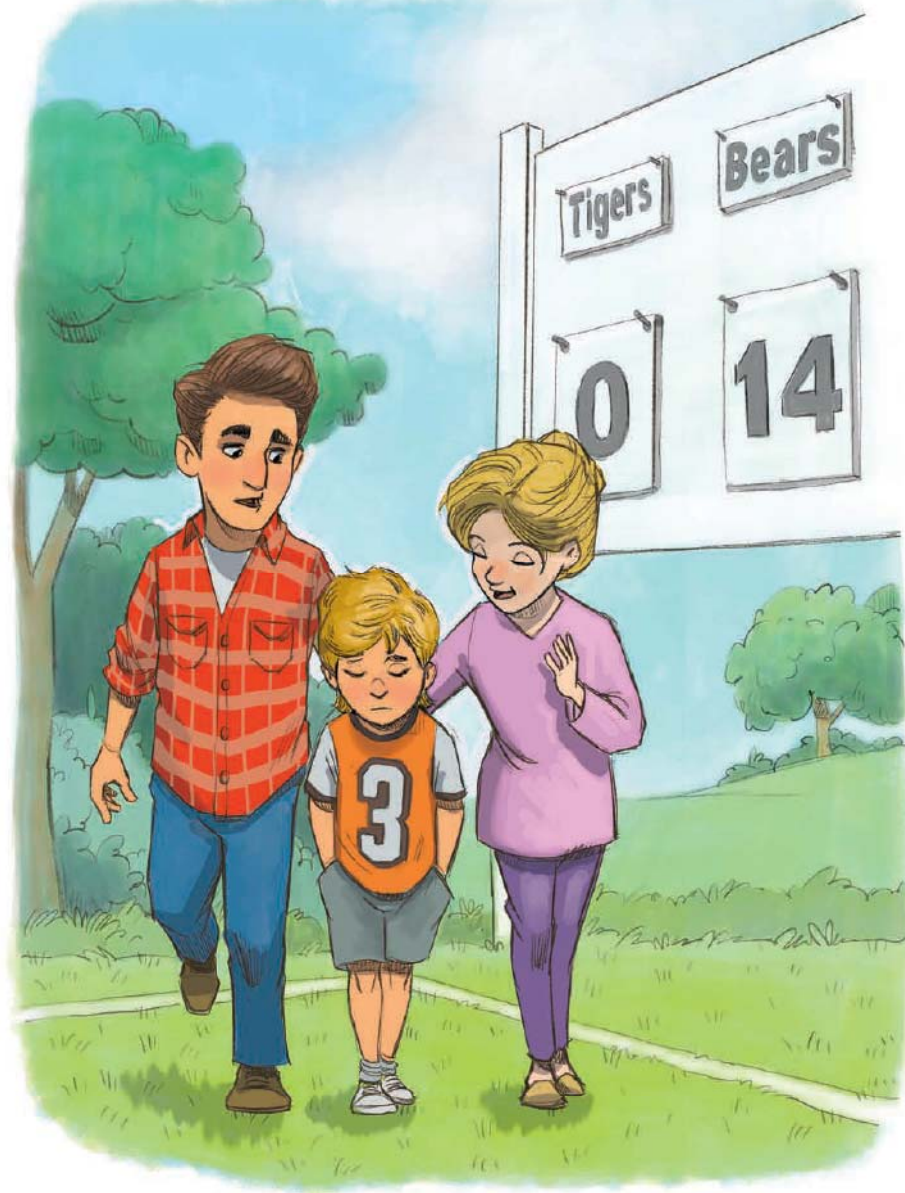
The Trentwood Tigers had lost six games in a row.

"Don't worry," said Austin's dad.

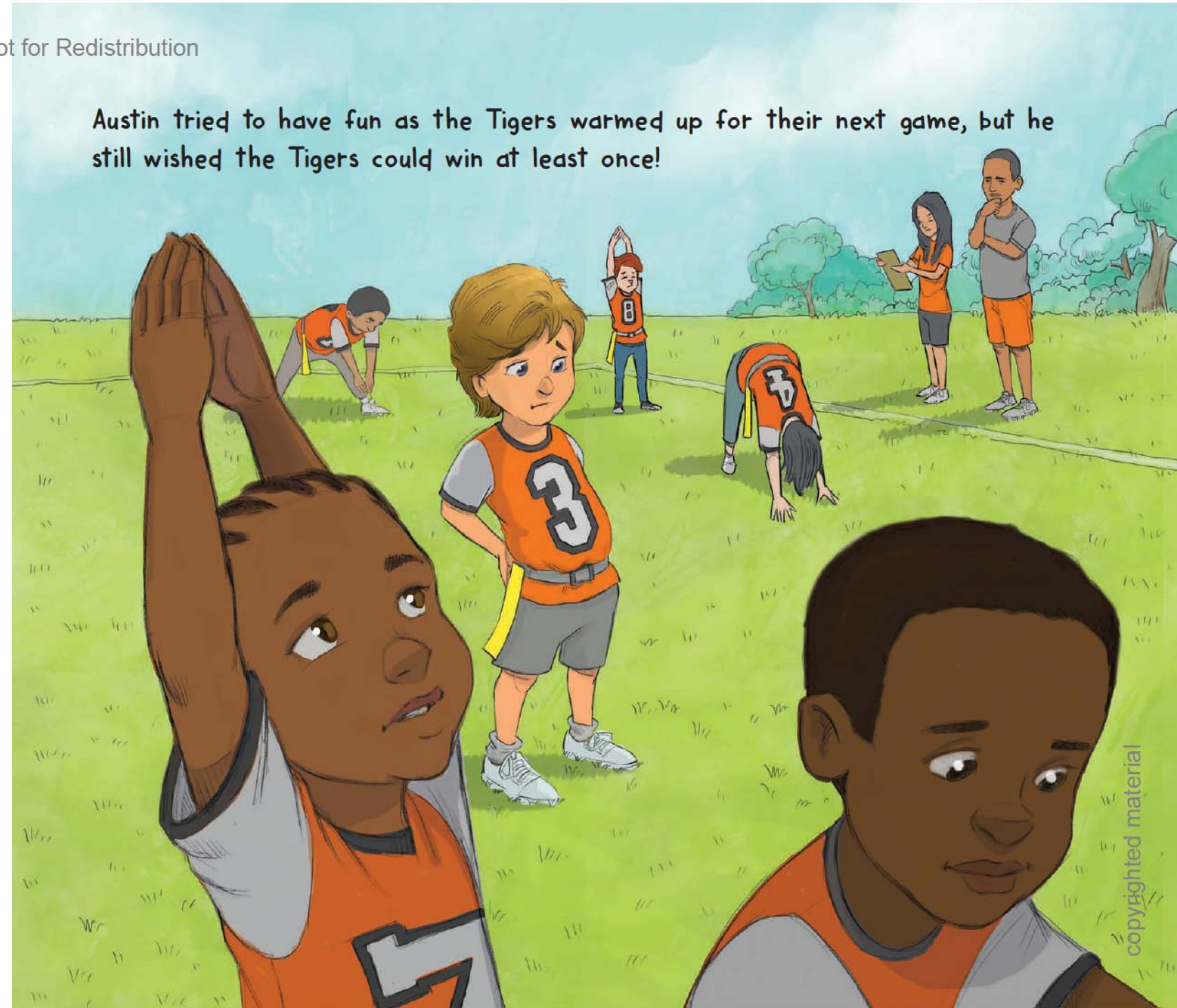
"You just need a little more practice."

"Have fun!" said Austin's mom.

"Having fun is more important than winning."

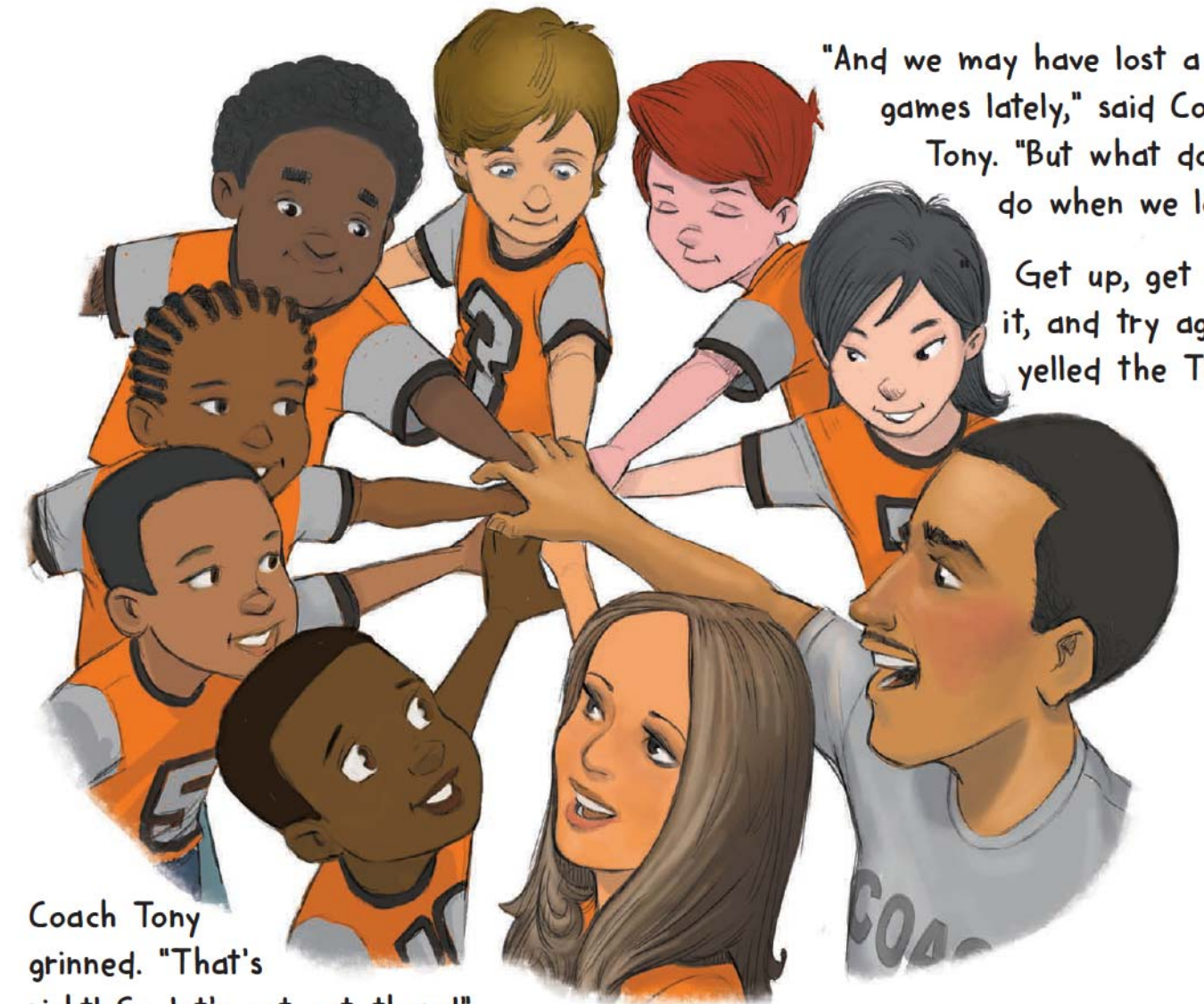
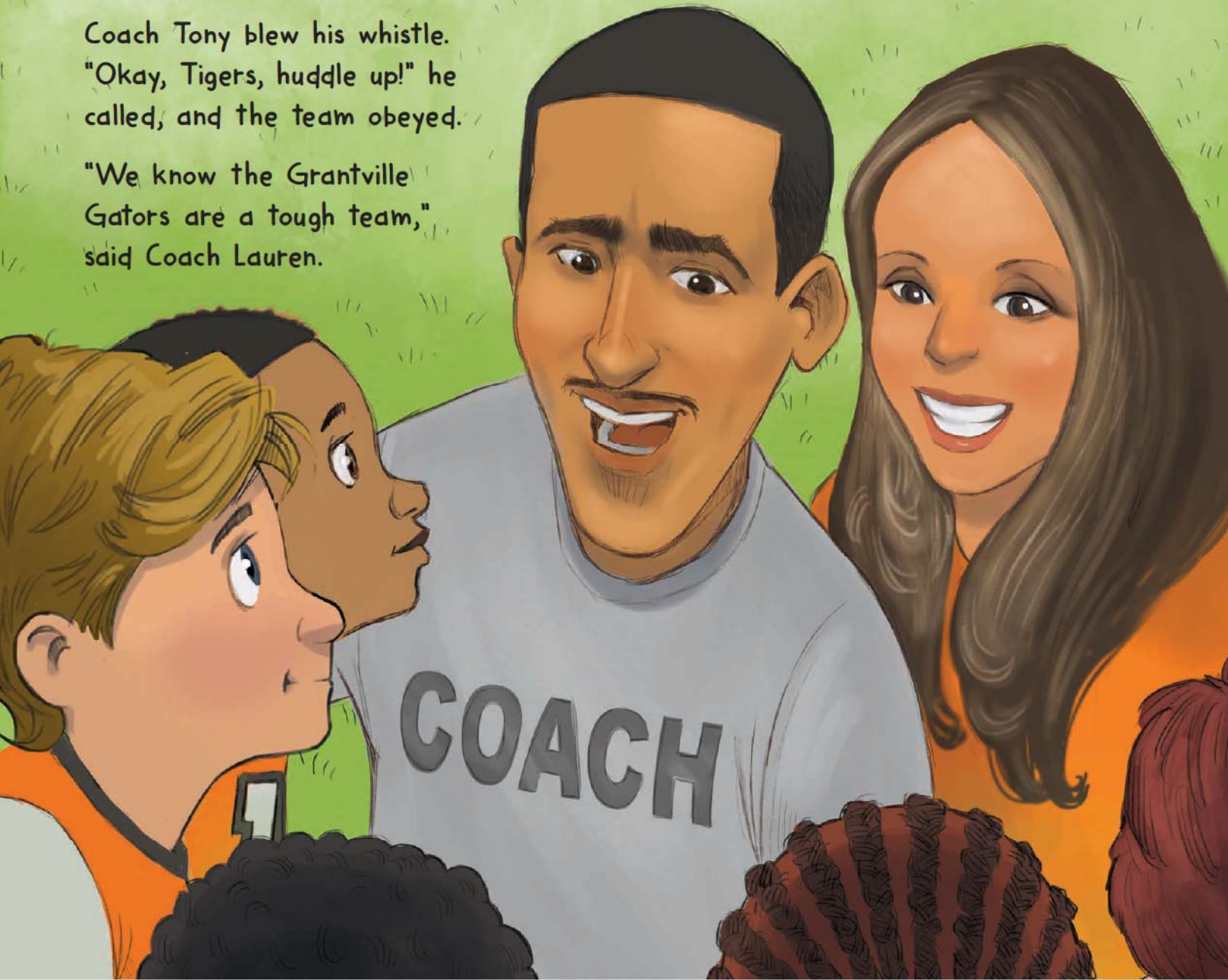


Austin tried to have fun as the Tigers warmed up for their next game, but he still wished the Tigers could win at least once!



Coach Tony blew his whistle. "Okay, Tigers, huddle up!" he called, and the team obeyed.

"We know the Grantville Gators are a tough team," said Coach Lauren.



"And we may have lost a few games lately," said Coach Tony. "But what do we do when we lose?"

Get up, get over it, and try again!" yelled the Tigers.

Coach Tony grinned. "That's right! So let's get out there!"

With a last thumbs-up, the coaches headed for the sidelines.

"Hey, guys," said Brice when the coaches were gone. "I know a trick that can help us win!"

The team exchanged excited looks. "What is it?" asked Carson.

"Tell us!" begged Jaden.

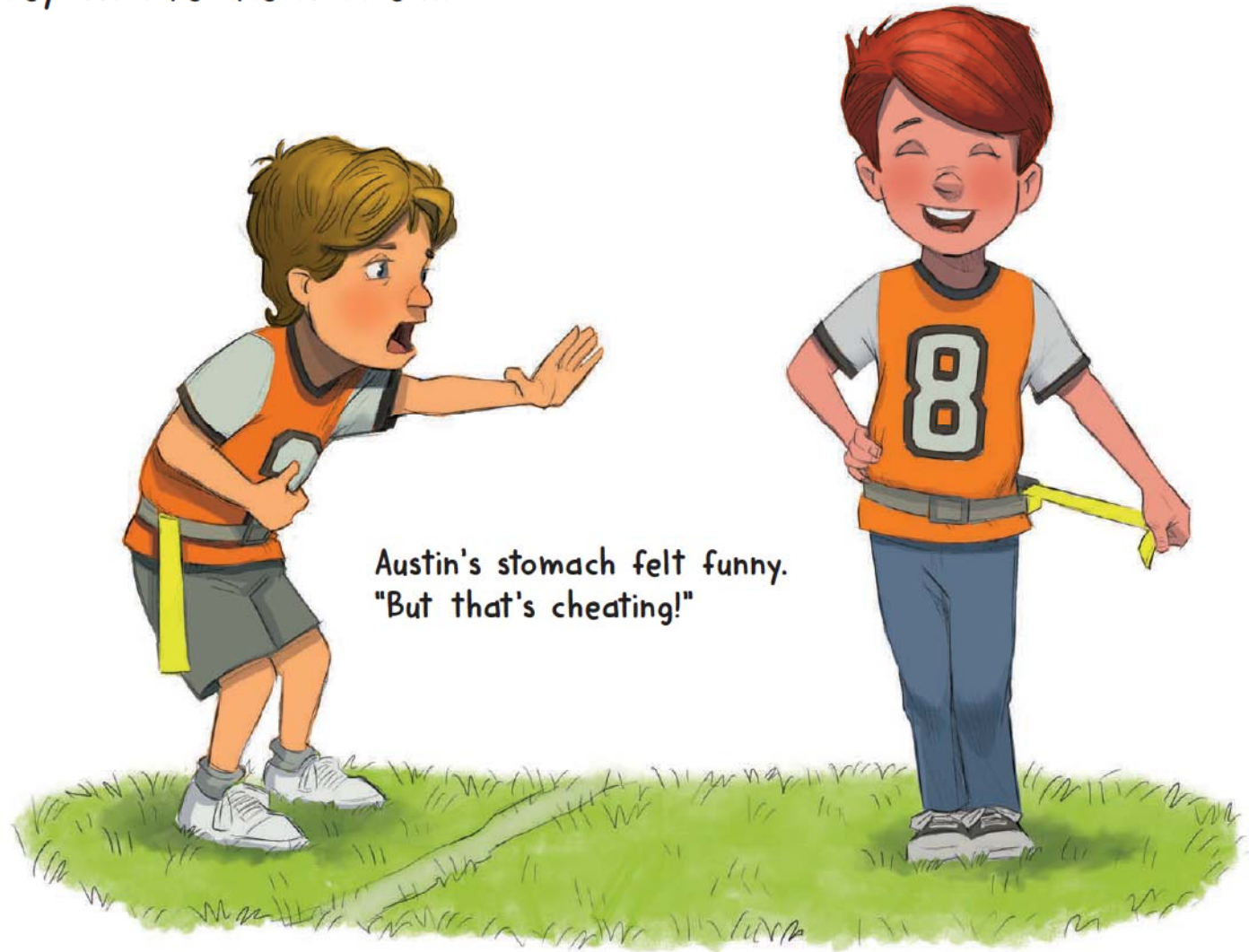


"Tuck your flag in, like this." Brice showed them his flag belt. "Now the other team can't get it!"

Keiko frowned. "That's not allowed."



Brice wasn't listening. He tugged on his flag. "See? Even if they catch up to you, they won't be able to take it!"



Brice shook his head. "My brother says everyone does stuff like that. Aren't you tired of losing?" he pleaded.



The Tigers looked at each other. "Well, if everybody does it..." said Jason, and the players began tucking their flags into their belts.

*I just want to win once!* thought Austin, and he tucked his flag in too.



The Gators started out strong, making two touchdowns in the first half.



"Remember what I told you!" whispered Brice in the huddle.



Carson snapped the ball to Keiko. She lobbed it to Austin, and he took off down the field. On his left, a Gator came streaking toward Austin.

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The Gator caught up with Austin at the five-yard line and grabbed for his flag, but it stayed tucked tightly in his belt. "Tigers score!" yelled the referee as Austin crossed the goal line.

That night at dinner, Austin's dad grinned as he slapped an extra-big hamburger onto Austin's plate. "You must be hungry after that win!"

