

LEVELED BOOK • L

The Loser

MULTI
level
I-L-O

Written by Keith and Sarah Kortemartin
Illustrated by Alan Brown

The Loser



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Focus Question

How does Jae react when he loses things? What does this say about his character?

Words to Know

drills

encyclopedia

lost

responsibility

signed

umpire

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Level L Leveled Book

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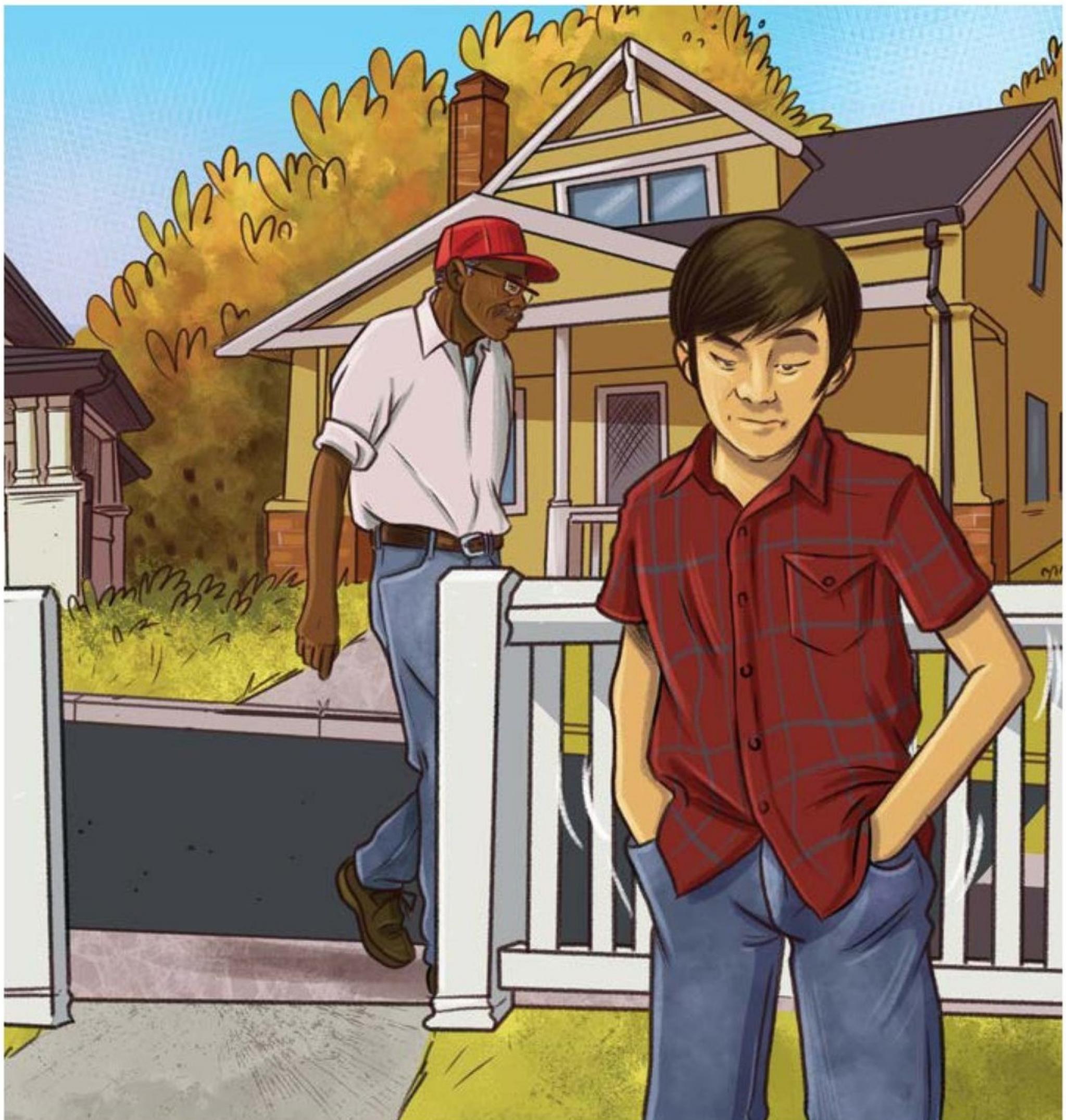
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Correlation

LEVEL L	
Fountas & Pinnell	K
Reading Recovery	18
DRA	20



When Jae came home from school,
he couldn't find his keys.

What now? he thought. His parents
wouldn't be home for an hour.

Just then, Ron, the man who lived
next door, walked past.



Jae had never really talked to Ron, but he knew Ron was friends with his father. Jae had watched his dad and Ron play cards together many times. *I can't just sit out here*, Jae thought to himself.

Jae marched to Ron's door and knocked.



When it opened, Jae said, “Hi, Ron. I’ve **lost** my keys, and my parents aren’t home. Could I wait here with you?”

“Sure,” Ron said.

Inside, Jae saw a baseball on a shelf.



Ron smiled when he saw Jae looking at it. “That one was signed by the ‘87 Minnesota Twins, right after the World Series,” he said.

“Dad takes me to their games sometimes,” Jae said. “Where did you get this?”



“I was a professional **umpire** for thirty years,” Ron answered.

Jae’s eyes widened as he asked, “An ump? In the ‘80s? Did you meet . . .” He began to pepper Ron with questions. Grinning, Ron answered them. He told Jae about past players, the things they said, and their good-luck charms.



When it was time for Jae to go home, he asked Ron, “Can I come again sometime?”

“Sure,” Ron said.

Wow, losing my keys turned out okay, Jae thought as he walked home.



The next day at school, Jae searched his desk.

“Oh, no. Not again!” he groaned.

“Need help?” asked his classmate Martina. She was new in school.

“Yes, I’ve lost my dinosaur book,” Jae said.



“Do you want to borrow mine?” asked Martina. She showed him a dinosaur **encyclopedia**.

“That’s the same book that I use!” Jae exclaimed. “Are you into dinosaurs, too?”

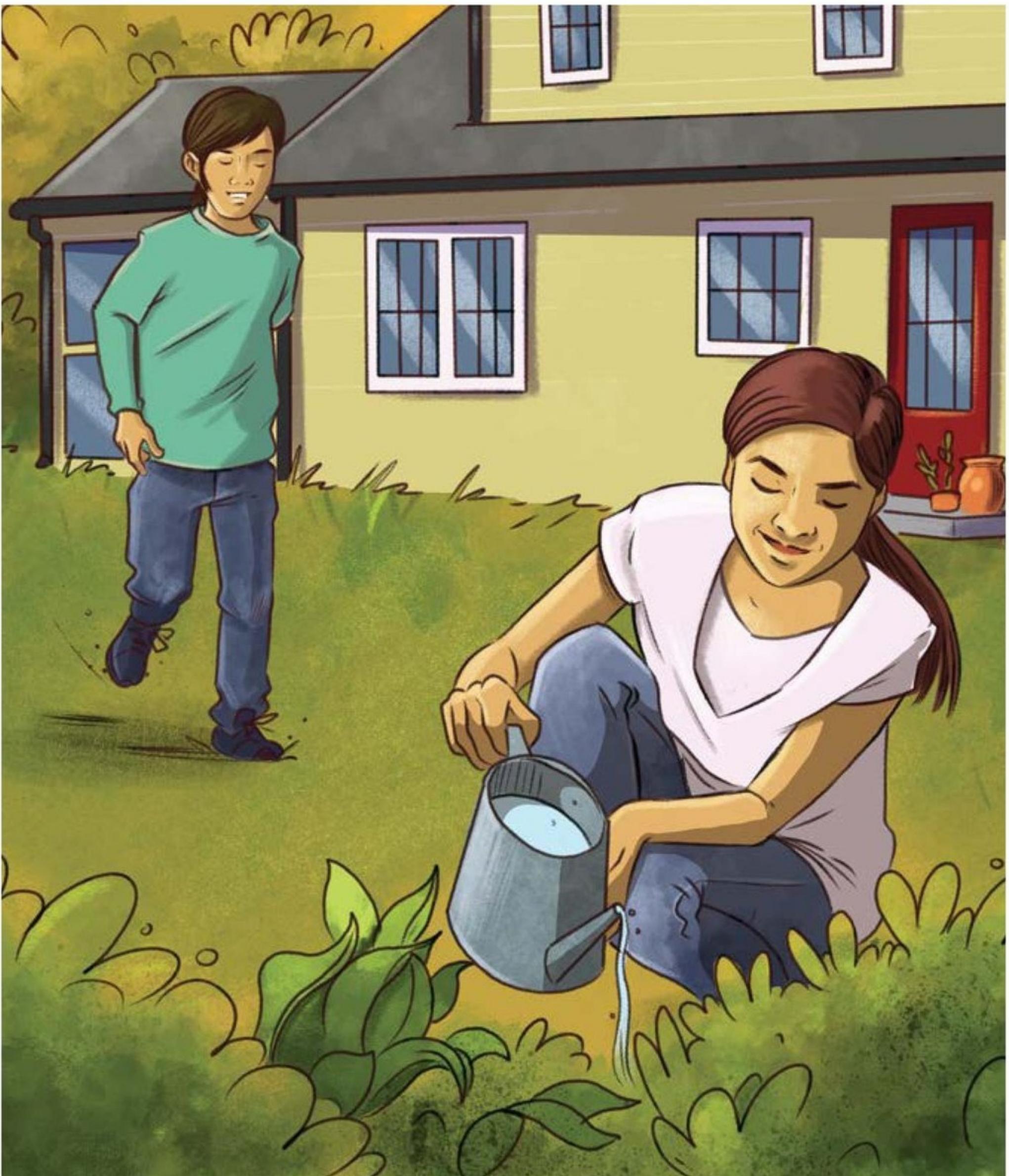
“Yeah,” said Martina. “What’s your favorite?”



“Have you heard of *Microraptor*?” asked Jae. “They’re tiny, but fast.”

They kept talking. After school, Jae and Martina went to the park to play catch with Jae’s favorite baseball.

Martina’s pretty cool, Jae thought as he went home.



The next morning was Saturday. Jae wanted to do some throwing drills, but he couldn't find his baseball.

"Can we go to the park to look for my baseball?" Jae asked his mom.



At the park, they saw a thin puppy without a collar or tags. The stray puppy was chewing on something. It was Jae's baseball!

"Mom, look!" Jae said. "Doesn't he look like he needs a home?"

His mother smiled. "Yes, he does," she said. "**He'll be your responsibility, though.**" Jae nodded excitedly and picked the puppy up.



What a week! Jae thought to himself, walking home with the puppy. I lost my keys, my book, and my baseball, he thought. But every time I lost something, I gained a friend.



He thought about Ron and Martina,
and he patted the puppy's head.

“Well, maybe I should lose stuff
more often,” he told the puppy.
“Why don’t we go see if Ron and
Martina want to play a game
of catch?”

Glossary

drills (<i>n.</i>)	exercises that are practiced over and over in order to learn or perfect a skill (p. 12)
encyclopedia (<i>n.</i>)	a book or set of books that gives information about many topics, usually in alphabetical order (p. 10)
lost (<i>v.</i>)	the past tense of <i>lose</i> ; to fail to keep or hold; to be unable to find (p. 5)
responsibility (<i>n.</i>)	something a person is supposed or expected to take care of (p. 13)
signed (<i>v.</i>)	marked one's name on something; autographed (p. 6)
umpire (<i>n.</i>)	an official who rules on plays at a sports game (p. 7)

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A Reading A-Z Level L Leveled Book
Word Count: 505

Connections

Writing

Continue the story. Write about something else Jae loses and what he finds when he goes looking for it.

Social Studies

Write about a time when you lost something. What did you lose? How did you react? Would you do anything different next time?

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