

LEVELED BOOK • J

Broken Arm Blues



Written by Torran Anderson
Illustrated by Reginald Butler

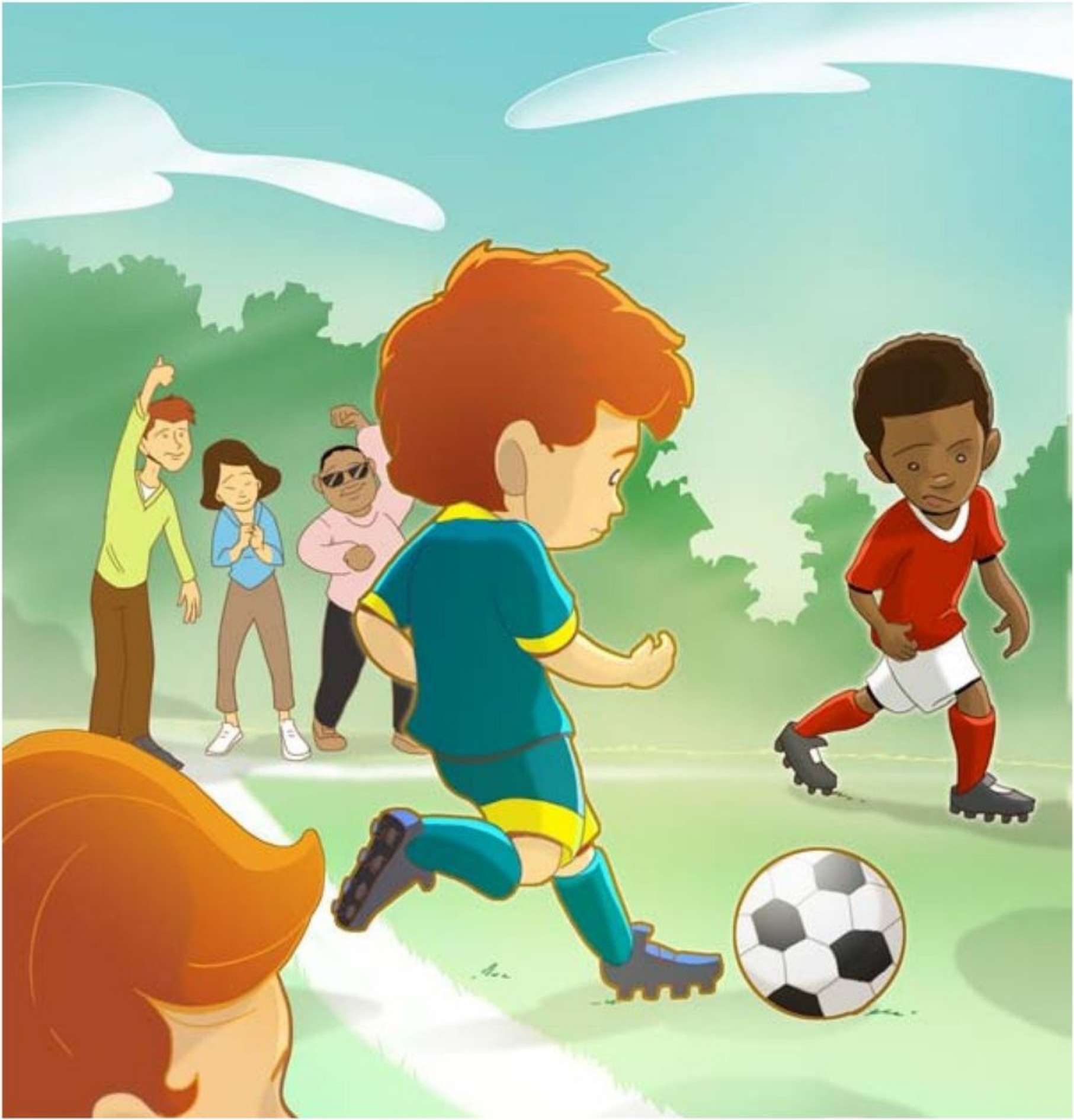
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Kyle and Carrie did everything together. They worked on their homework together, played soccer together, and went to **karate** class together.

“You’re like two peas in a **pod**,” their father liked to say.

One day, while playing soccer, Kyle broke his arm. A doctor at the hospital put Kyle's arm in an arm **cast**. Three days later, Carrie broke her arm in karate! The same doctor put Carrie's arm in a cast, too.





“Cool. We get to have broken arms together,” Kyle said.

“Let’s get everyone to sign our casts,” said Carrie.



The first week they had their casts was exciting. Kyle and Carrie didn't have to run laps in soccer practice. Their parents wrote their homework for them. Everyone signed their casts, even their teachers.

The second week they had their casts, Kyle and Carrie both had the broken arm **blues**. So many things were hard to do with one arm in a **bulky** cast.





Carrie couldn't put her hair in a ponytail using just one hand. Kyle couldn't play video games, and neither of them could jump rope.

“We can’t do anything fun!” yelled Carrie.

“I’m so **bored**,” Kyle said.

“I feel so blue,” Carrie agreed.



Kyle and Carrie had to watch their soccer team play without them. They couldn't even clap their hands when their team scored a goal.



The third week Kyle and Carrie had their casts, they were angry. One of their best friends had a birthday party with a jumping castle at the pool. They couldn't jump or swim. They had to watch everyone else having fun.





“I’m sick of having a broken arm!”
yelled Carrie.

“My arm is so itchy!” Kyle howled.

“Mine, too,” Carrie said. “And your cast is starting to smell.”

“Your cast stinks,” Kyle said, holding his nose.





The fourth week Kyle and Carrie had their casts, they decided to team up to beat their blues. Together, they could jump rope. They each used one of their hands to clap together when their team scored in soccer.

“You’re like two peas in a pod,” their father said.



After six weeks, their casts were off!
Now they could swim, play soccer,
and go to karate class. Now no one
had the broken arm blues!

Glossary

- blues** (*n.*) a feeling of sadness or low spirits (p. 7)
- bored** (*adj.*) feeling restless or unhappy as a result of having nothing to do or being uninterested in an activity (p. 9)
- bulky** (*adj.*) having a size or shape that makes something difficult to hold, carry, or store; large (p. 7)
- cast** (*n.*) a hard, protective covering placed around an arm, leg, or other body part to allow a broken bone to heal (p. 4)
- karate** (*n.*) a method of self-defense in which the hands and feet are used to strike an opponent (p. 3)
- pod** (*n.*) a long, thin part on some plants in which peas or other seeds grow (p. 3)

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