

LEVELED BOOK • J

Uzzle, the Football Star



Written by Maribeth Boelts
Illustrated by Nora Voutas

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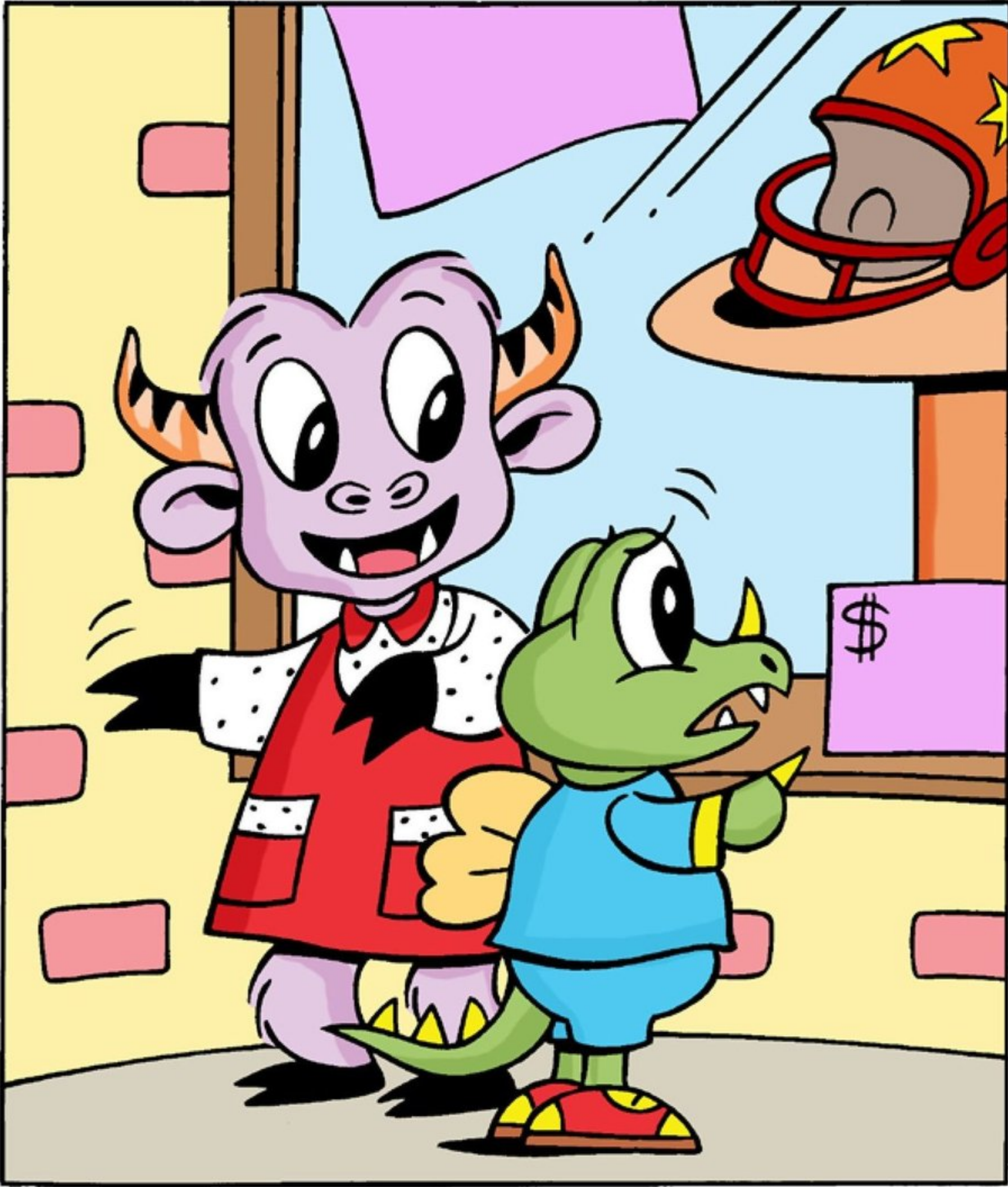
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Uzzle loves football.
He plays it at the playground.
He even dreams about it at night.



One day, he and Jupe see a football helmet in a store window. “If I had that helmet, I would be a star,” he says.



Uzzle looks at the price.

“It costs too much money,” he says.

“Maybe there is a helmet like that at a thrift store,” says Jupe.

“Great idea!” says Uzzle.



Uzzle and Jupe go to the thrift store.
There are cowboy hats.
There are baseball caps.
But there are no football helmets.



They go to another thrift store.
There are hard hats.
There are top hats.
But there are no football helmets.



They go to the last thrift store.
Uzzle sees a football helmet!



Uzzle tries it on.

The helmet slips over his eyes.

“Does it fit?” asks Jupe.

“It is too big, but monster heads grow fast,” says Uzzle.



Uzzle wears his too-big
football helmet.
He bumps into walls.
He trips on the curb.
He tips the helmet to look
in the mirror.
“I look like a star,” he says.



He goes to the playground.

Jupe is there.

“You can’t play football in a too-big helmet,” she says.

“Yes, I can,” says Uzzle.



But Uzzle can't pass, punt, or kick.
Instead, he misses, trips, and falls.
Just then, Lurk comes to play football.



Uzzle tips his helmet.

He sees that Lurk's head is much bigger than his head.

"That's a cool helmet," Lurk says.

Uzzle thinks.

"I wish I had a helmet like that,"
Lurk says.

Uzzle thinks some more.



Finally, Uzzle takes off the too-big helmet.

"It doesn't fit me, but maybe it will fit you," Uzzle says.

Lurk slips it on.

"It fits!" he says. "Thank you, Uzzle!"

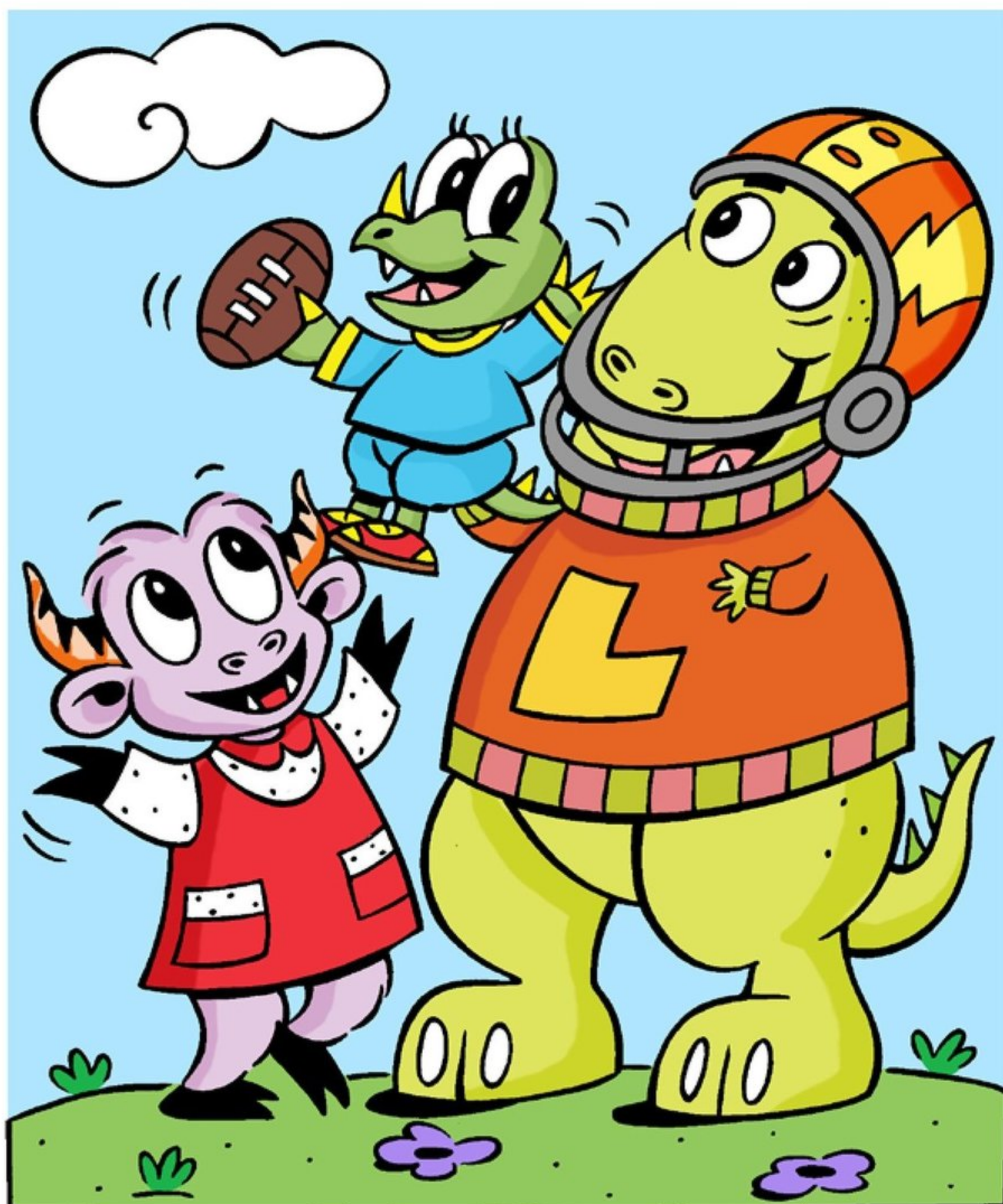


Then Uzzle, Juve, and Lurk play football.

Uzzle can pass again.

He can punt and kick again.

He can even score!



“You’re a star even without that too-big helmet,” says Jupe.

“I am?” says Uzzle.

“You are,” says Lurk in his helmet that is just right!

Author Note

Maribeth Boelts is the author of over twenty books for young readers, including the “Little Bunny” series (*Dry Days, Wet Nights; Little Bunny’s Pacifier Plan*); *Lullaby Lullabook*; *Big Daddy, Frog Wrestler*; and *The Firefighters’ Thanksgiving*.

Uzzle, the Football Star
A Monsters Story
Level J Leveled Book
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