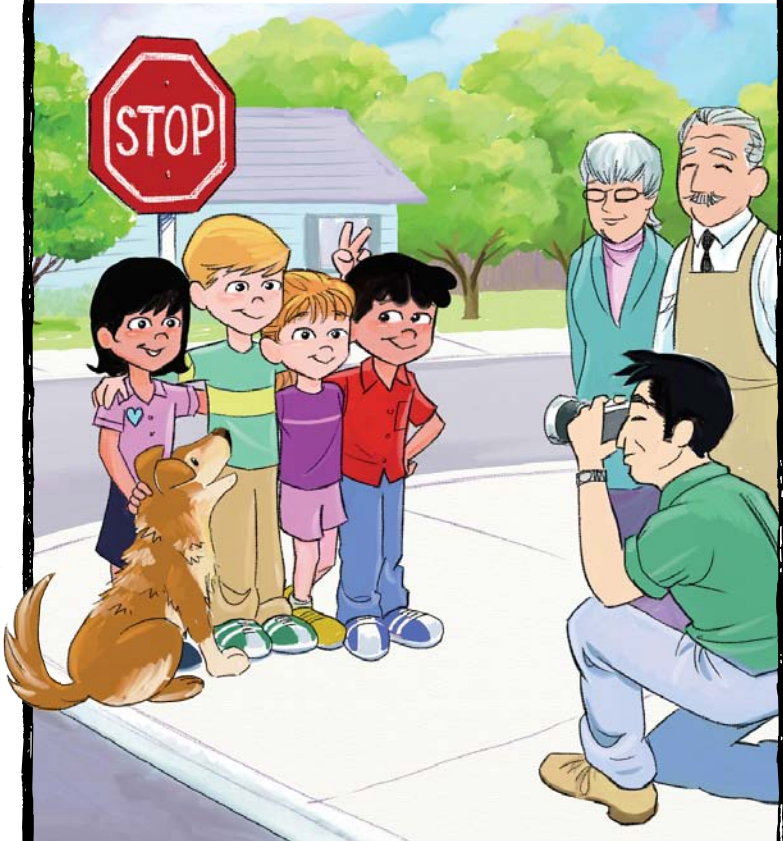


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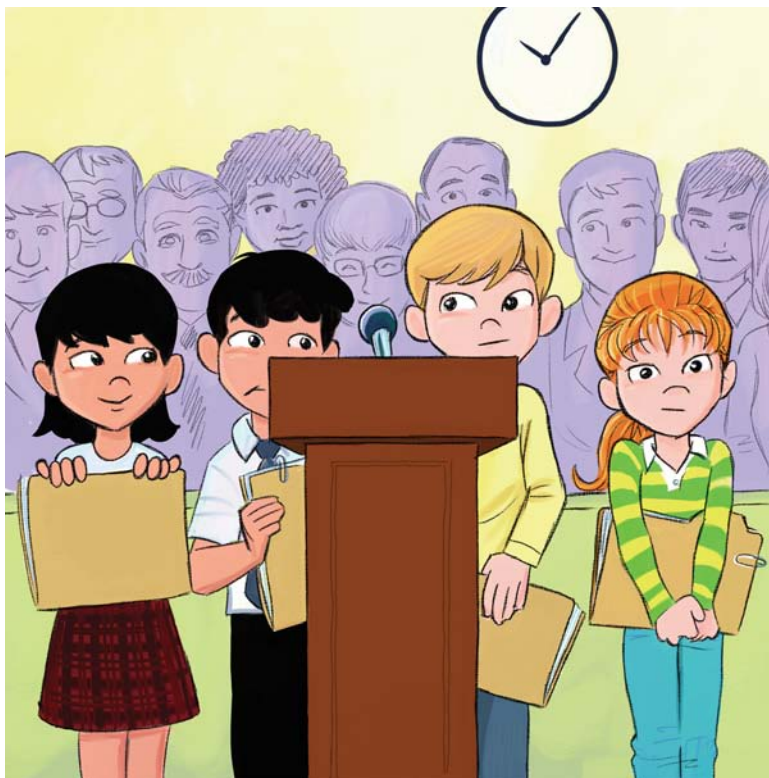
# JOEY'S STOP SIGN



Written by Maribeth Boelts  
Illustrated by Ted Dawson



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It was a hot August day. Joey and his sister Jenny played soccer in their front yard. Ruben and Rebecca joined them.

“Over here!” shouted Ruben.

Joey kicked the ball to Ruben. It rolled into the busy street, and Ruben started to chase it.



“Watch out, Ruben!” Joey shouted.

Just then, a car whizzed by. The car hit the soccer ball and popped it.

“There are more cars on our street all the time!” said Ruben.

“It’s harder to cross the street to get to school, too,” said Jenny.

“Or to Mr. Lupois’ market,” said Rebecca.

“Last week, Mrs. Murphy’s dog Lucy got hit by a car. Lucy has a broken leg,” said Joey.







A few nights later, Joey and Jenny talked to their parents.

“We’ve been doing our research,” said Jenny. “We think there should be stop signs at the corner. That will slow traffic and make it safer to cross our street.”





“Stop signs are a great idea,” said Mom. “You’ve been counting cars before and after school?”

“Yes,” said Joey. “Also, Ruben has a camera. He’s been taking pictures of people trying to cross.”

“Good work!” said Dad. “The next step is a **petition**.”



Dad and Mom showed Jenny and Joey how to write a petition.

The petition stated the reasons for adding stop signs. People could sign the petition if they agreed.

“You’ll need **signatures** from the **majority** of people in the neighborhood,” said Dad.

“What does *majority* mean?”  
asked Jenny.

“It means more than half of the  
people,” explained Dad.

Over the next week, Joey, Jenny,  
Ruben, and Rebecca talked to  
people in the neighborhood. Many  
people signed their petition, but  
some did not.

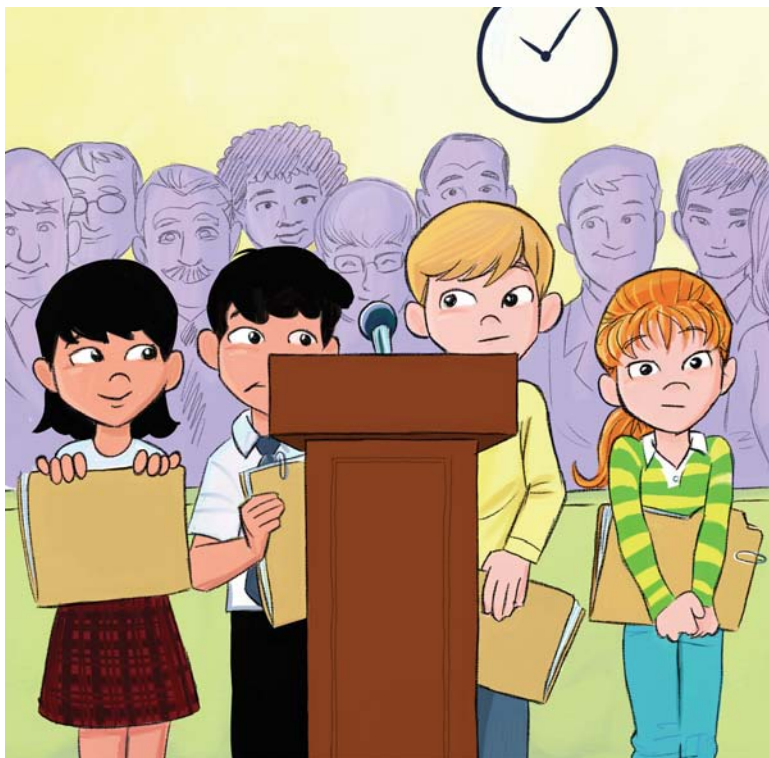




“The **city council** has a meeting next week,” Joey said to Mrs. Murphy.

“My dad asked if our stop sign request could be put on the **agenda**.”

“We’ll bring our petition, photos, and the traffic counting we did, too,” said Rebecca.



Friends, family, and neighbors  
were at the city council meeting.

“I’m nervous,” whispered Ruben.

“Me, too,” Joey agreed.

When their names were called,  
Joey, Jenny, Ruben, and Rebecca  
stood at the microphone.





Joey talked about the need for the stop signs. Jenny and Rebecca showed their petition.

“These are the photos we took of people trying to cross the street,” said Ruben. “This is Lucy, a dog that was hit by a car.”





When they finished, neighbors took turns speaking. Everyone said stop signs were needed.

“Thank you for your hard work,” said the city council president.  
“We’ll **discuss** this and vote in two weeks.”



Joey, Jenny, Ruben, and Rebecca waited the long two weeks.

One day, there was a phone call.

“The city council voted YES!”  
said Jenny.



A few months later, workers put up the stop signs. There was a story and a photo in the newspaper about what the kids had accomplished.

“Our street sure is safer now,” said Joey.

“Woof!” Lucy agreed.

## Glossary

<b>agenda</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a list of things to do or talk about (p 10)
<b>city council</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	the group that makes decisions or rules for a town or city (p 10)
<b>discuss</b> ( <i>v.</i> )	to talk about something (p 13)
<b>majority</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	more than half of something (p 8)
<b>petition</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a formal written request, usually accompanied by the signatures of a large number of citizens (p 7)
<b>signature</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a person's name signed by that person (p 8)

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Level L Leveled Book  
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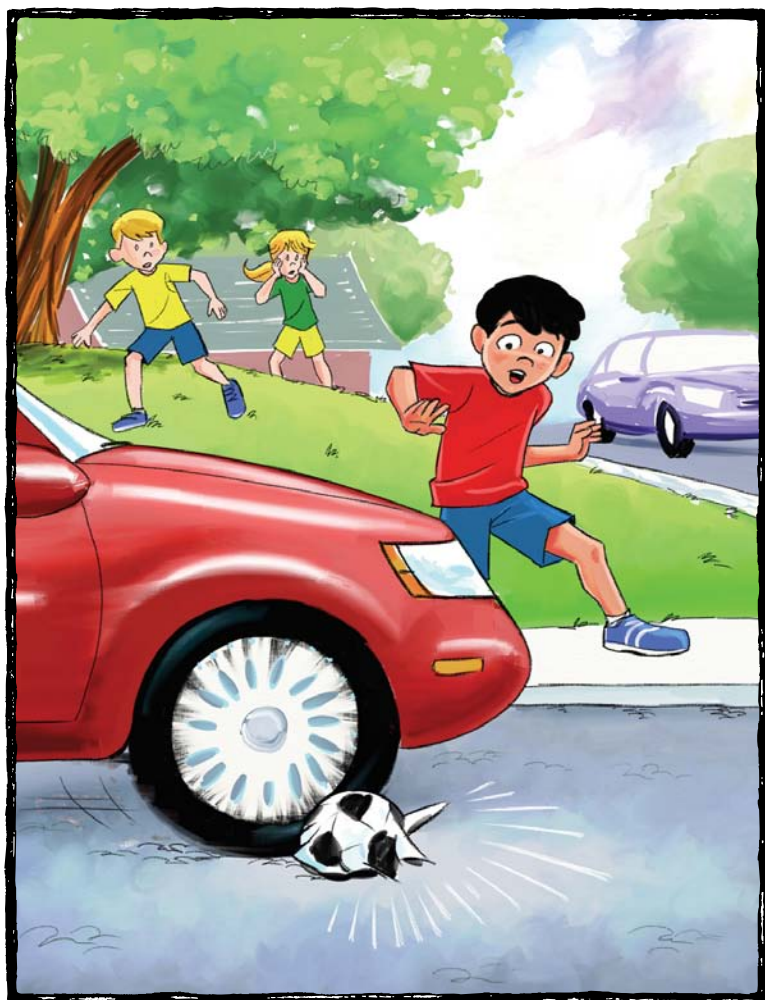
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