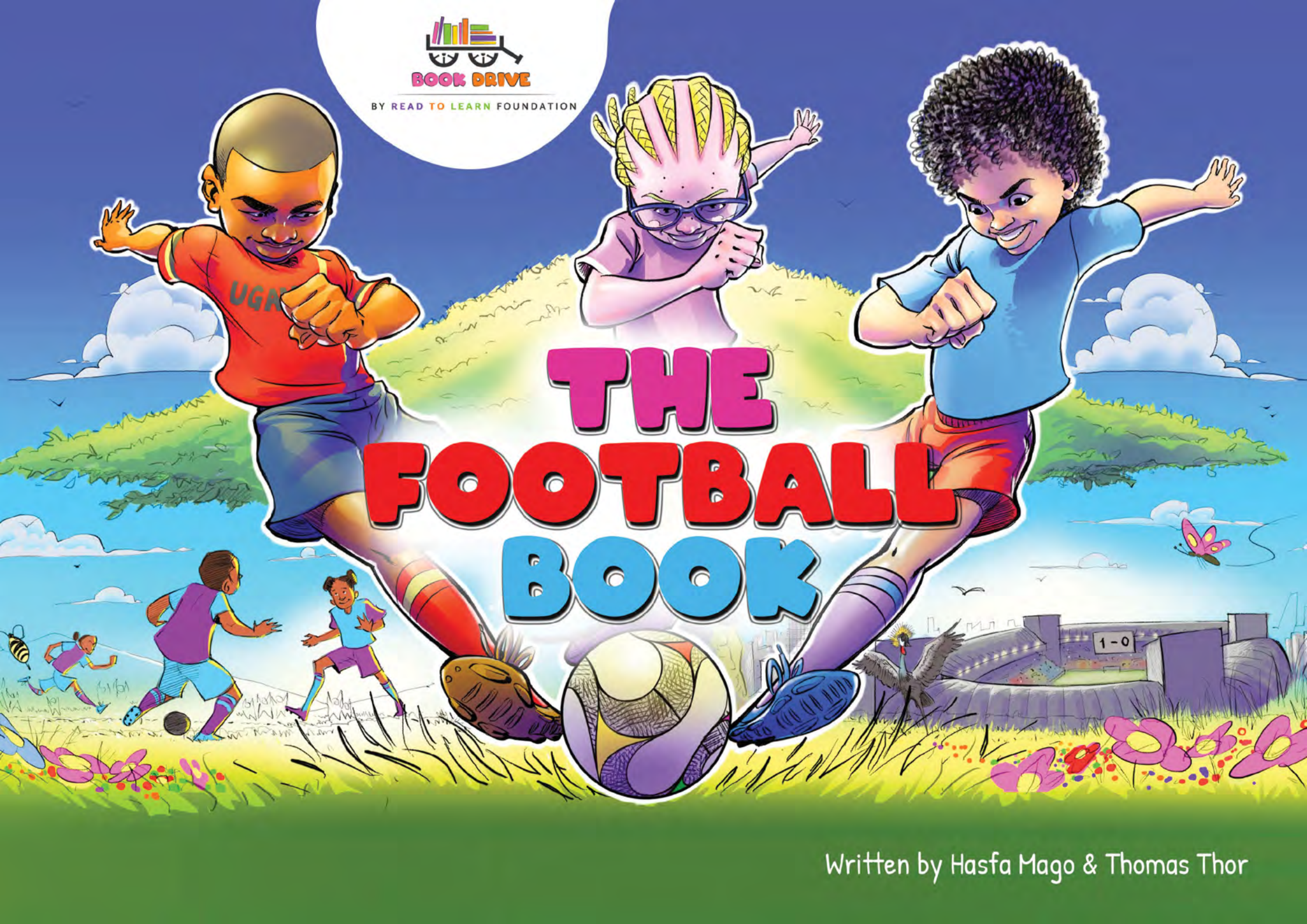
BOOK DRIVE
BY READ TO LEARN FOUNDATION
THE FOOTBALL BOOK
1-0
Written by Hasfa Mago & Thomas Thor

My name is Elvis
And I am a football player from el cambio
And this is my story …….
Growing up I was taught to know
That its better in life to believe in yourself
Talent is power and it can push you higher
Get up you got the power
Believe in your ability
Hard work will push opportunity
Run for a brighter future - duuka
Run for a brighter future - samba mpulira
Run run * 3

Friendship
Opportunity
Believe
Loyalty
FOOTBALL
Openness
Trust
Assertive
Love
1 - 0

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**www.bookdrivefdn.com**

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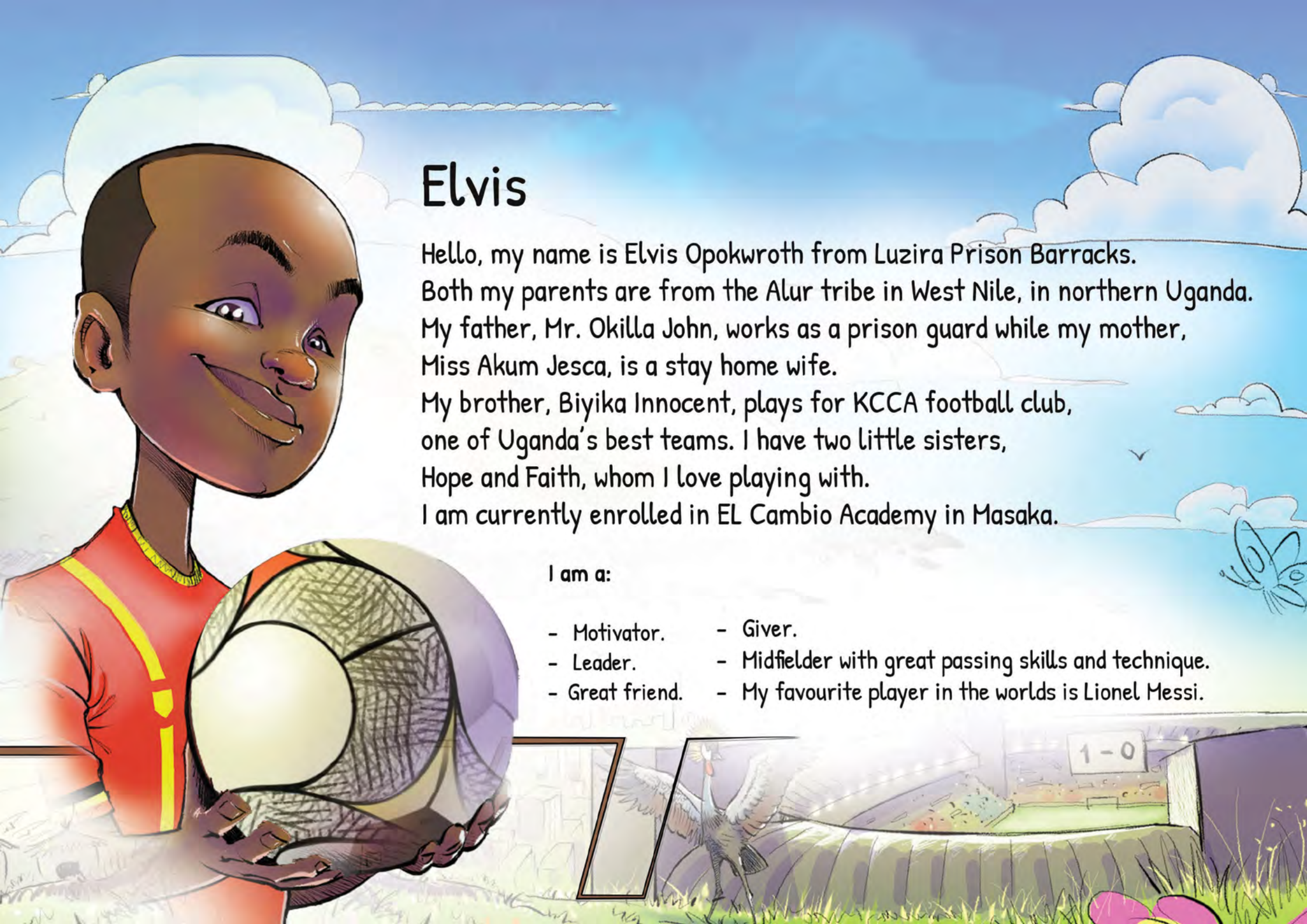
Originally published for all ages particularly for children, football coaches and those in love with positively impacting the world one child at a time.

The Football Book is a good source of knowledge about football, giving back, the importance of raising our children in creative safe environments, playful reading, and generating discussion.

ISBN

Story conceived and written by Hasfa Mago and Thomas Thor.
Design and illustration by Musaasizi Joel Arthur and Blaize George
**Proudly written, illustrated and printed in UGANDA.**




# Elvis

Hello, my name is Elvis Opokwroth from Luzira Prison Barracks.
Both my parents are from the Alur tribe in West Nile, in northern Uganda.
My father, Mr. Okilla John, works as a prison guard while my mother,
Miss Akum Jesca, is a stay home wife.
My brother, Biyika Innocent, plays for KCCA football club,
one of Uganda's best teams. I have two little sisters,
Hope and Faith, whom I love playing with.
I am currently enrolled in EL Cambio Academy in Masaka.

**I am a:**

- Motivator.
- Leader.
- Great friend.
- Giver.
- Midfielder with great passing skills and technique.
- My favourite player in the worlds is Lionel Messi.

# Liss

Bonjour! My name is Liss Aasir from the Democratic Republic of Congo, but currently staying in Nakivale refugee camp. I am the only person with albinism in our family. Both my parents are from Congo.
My father, Mr Yasir Aasir, runs a small shop near our home, while my mother, Miss Abana Joweria, teaches at one of the camp schools.
My twin brother, Bera, loves singing and dreams to impact the world through music.

**I am :**

- An Entrepreneur.
- Interested in finance.
- Passionate about my community.
- Hard working.
- On the pitch, I have good balance, close control and quick feet, I challenge anyone to try my super spin trick.
- My favourite player in the world is Pernille Harder ( A Danish player named as the best female footballer in the world).

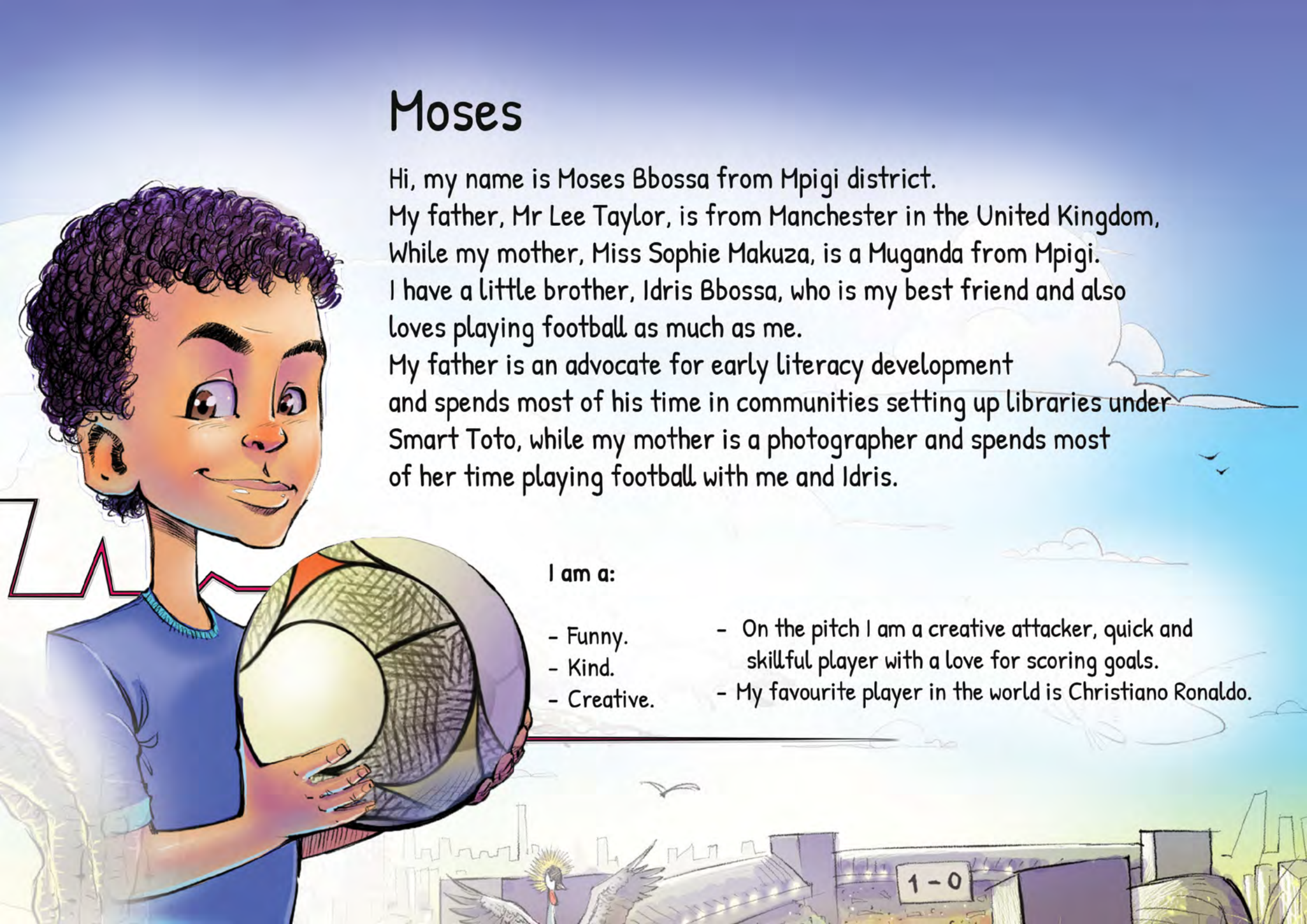
# Moses

Hi, my name is Moses Bbossa from Mpigi district.
My father, Mr Lee Taylor, is from Manchester in the United Kingdom,
While my mother, Miss Sophie Makuza, is a Muganda from Mpigi.
I have a little brother, Idris Bbossa, who is my best friend and also loves playing football as much as me.
My father is an advocate for early literacy development and spends most of his time in communities setting up libraries under Smart Toto, while my mother is a photographer and spends most of her time playing football with me and Idris.

**I am a:**

- Funny.
- Kind.
- Creative.

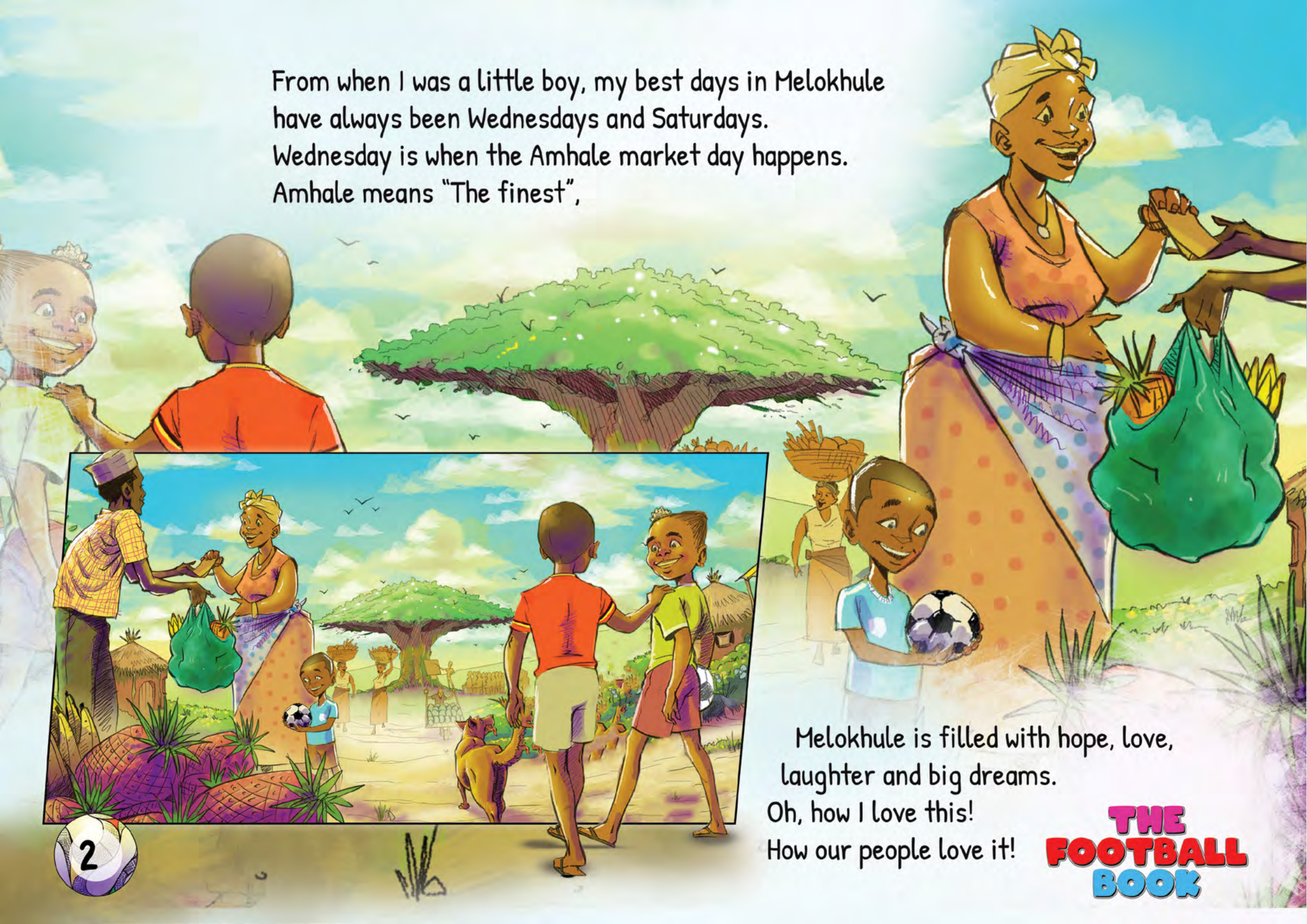
- On the pitch I am a creative attacker, quick and skillful player with a love for scoring goals.
- My favourite player in the world is Christiano Ronaldo.



# THE FOOTBALL BOOK

Dedicated to all those who believe in nurturing children in safe, loving and creative environments that enable them to be self driven, curious and have an explosive development in whatever field they choose.

Welcome to our beautiful village, Melokuhle.
Melokuhle means "standing for what is right".
Don't you just love such a place,
where only what is right is worth standing for !
Well, our village is about just that.



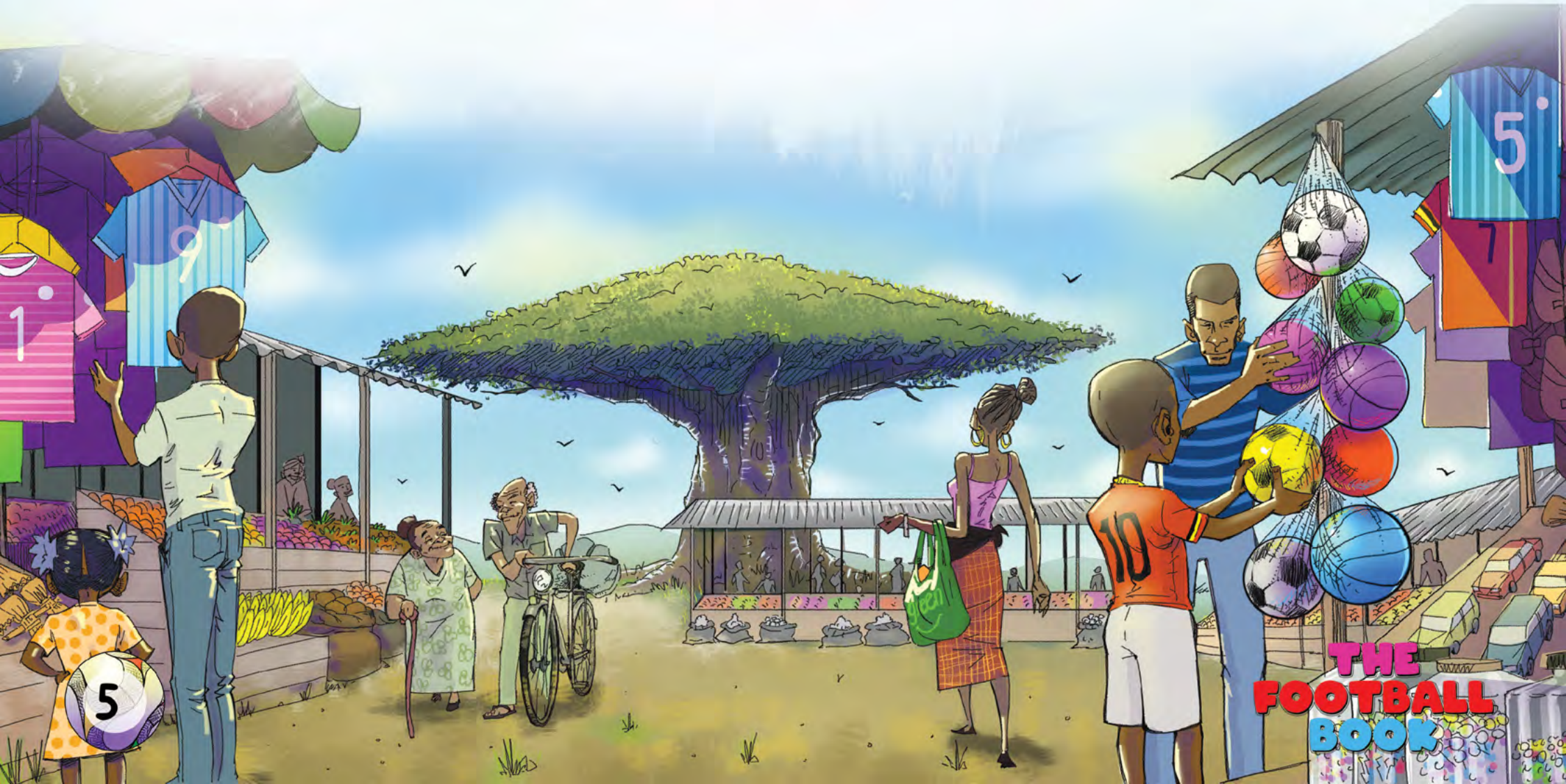
From when I was a little boy, my best days in Melokhule
have always been Wednesdays and Saturdays.
Wednesday is when the Amhale market day happens.
Amhale means "The finest",

Melokhule is filled with hope, love,
laughter and big dreams.
Oh, how I love this!
How our people love it!

History has it that back in the day,
there were three giants that came from the sky...

They found some women carrying fruits that they had never seen before and the women shared some with them. The spot where they landed is where the market takes place to date.

On Amhale day, everyone gathers in the trading centre, which is filled with toys, sweets, fruits, art and crafts and elders telling lots of great stories about the origin of Amhale market day. The story of the giants is always exciting to listen to.



Every Saturday the young people spend most of their time at the football field, famously known as Lethabo, which means a Beam of Light.

In the morning, we have a girls' football match, followed by one for boys, in the afternoon.

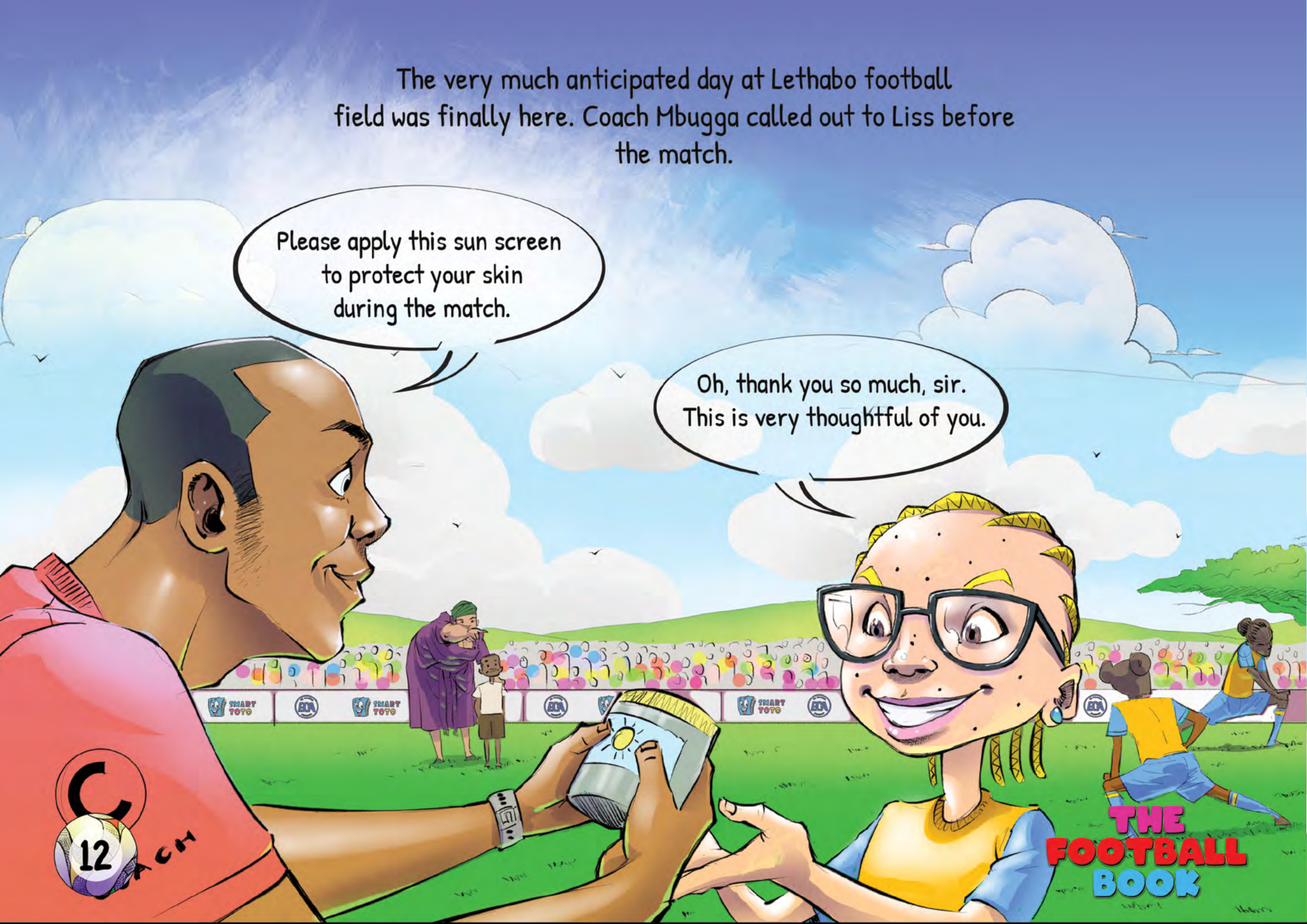
Before practice, Liss, Isma and I first sit down, read a bit as we fantasise about our dream of one day playing for a great Team like FC Barcelona . It's a dream we all share.

"And where have you been this long?" My mother asked when I appeared around the corner of the kitchen; Guilt written all over my face.

The day before the match, Jesca Akum, John Okilla's wife, called her daughters, Hope and Faith, together.
You two please clean the compound, as I do the laundry.
Your brother has a game tomorrow; let him rest his body.'

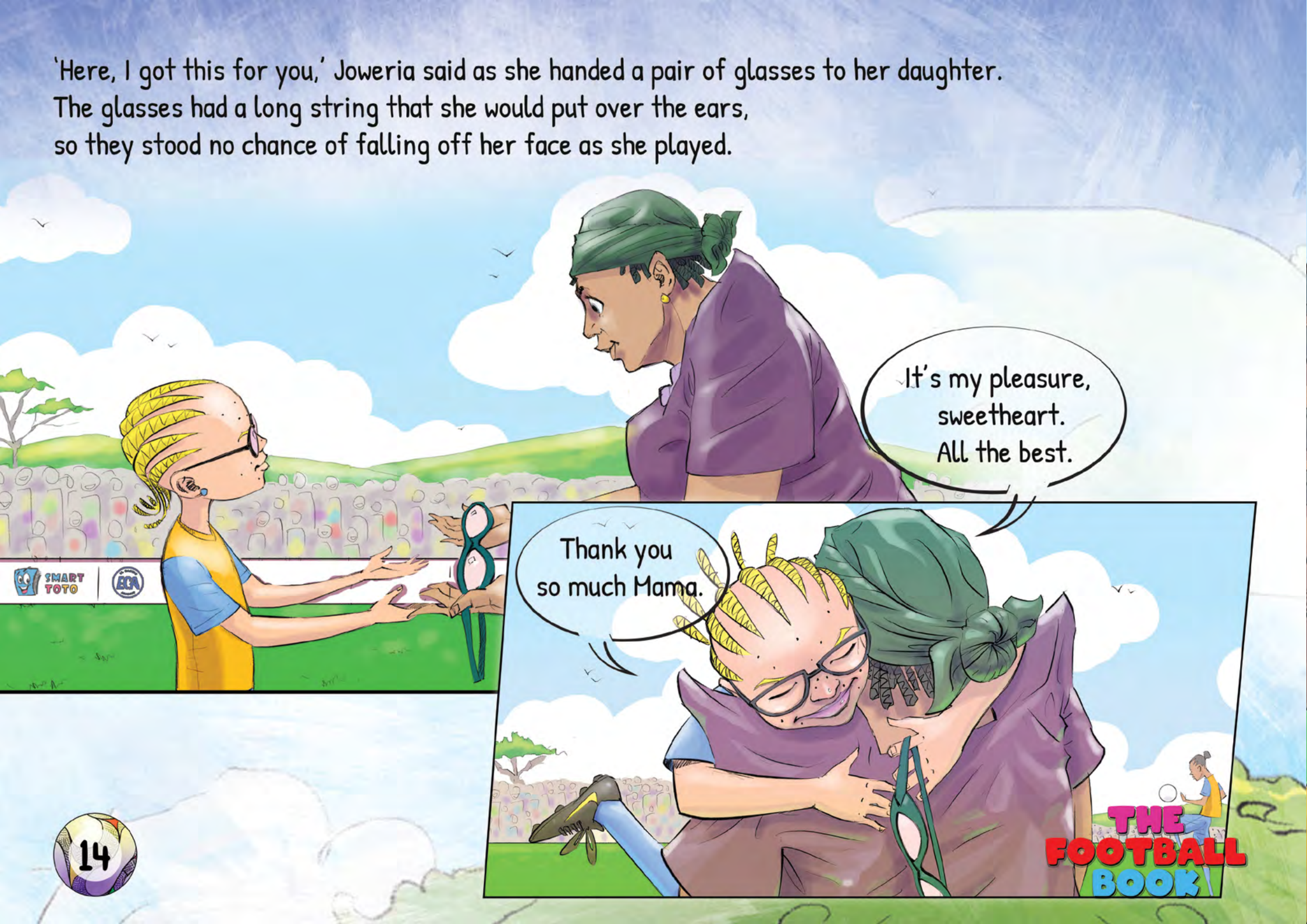
At the well, Liss found her parents and Bera, her twin brother, washing and cleaning the living room carpet. When her father, Mr Yasir Aasir, saw her, he dropped what he was doing and called her over.

I have been meaning to talk to you about your love for football,' Mr Aasir said. Both myself and your mum are very proud of your commitment. I am sure that if you continue this level of consistency, one day you will achieve your dreams.

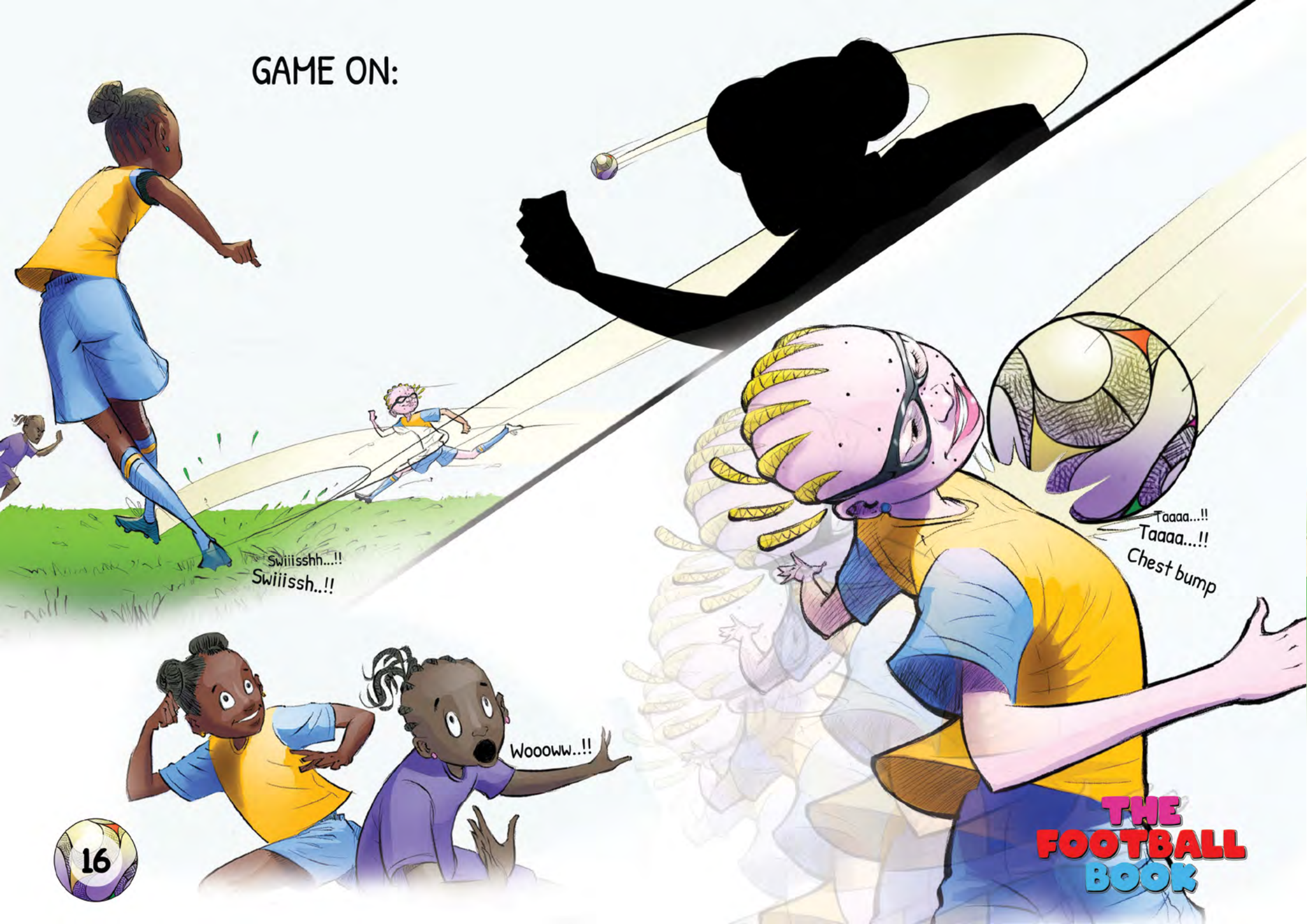

The very much anticipated day at Lethabo football field was finally here. Coach Mbugga called out to Liss before the match.
Please apply this sun screen to protect your skin during the match.
Oh, thank you so much, sir. This is very thoughtful of you.
THE FOOTBALL BOOK

Liz's brother Bera ran to them too and
He pointed her to where her mother was

'Here, I got this for you,' Joweria said as she handed a pair of glasses to her daughter. The glasses had a long string that she would put over the ears, so they stood no chance of falling off her face as she played.



Before the match, Liss challenged her team mates to try her super spin trick.
Insisting it will improve the teams first touch and close control during the match.
Little wonder, that they later went on to beat their opponents by three goals to nil.

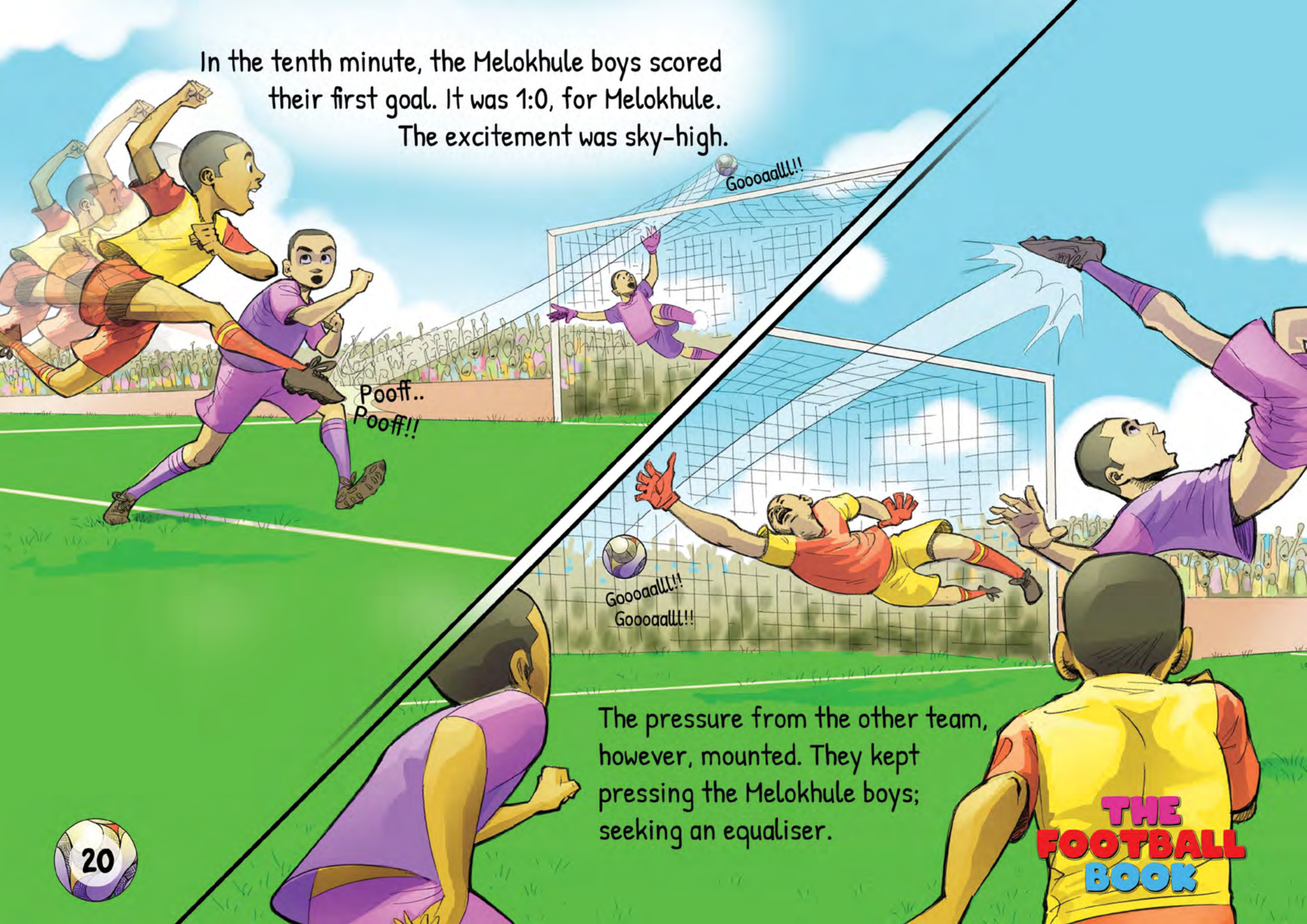

GAME ON:
Swiiisshh...!!
Swiiissh..!!
Taaaa...!!
Taaaa...!!
Chest bump
Wooowww..!!
THE FOOTBALL BOOK

Woow..
Nooo..!!
swiish..!!
Swiissh..

Elvis and the rest of the boys joined the cheering girls' team in celebration. They danced, ran around the pitch and sang songs of victory.
Coach Mbugga was on Cloud Nine with delight.

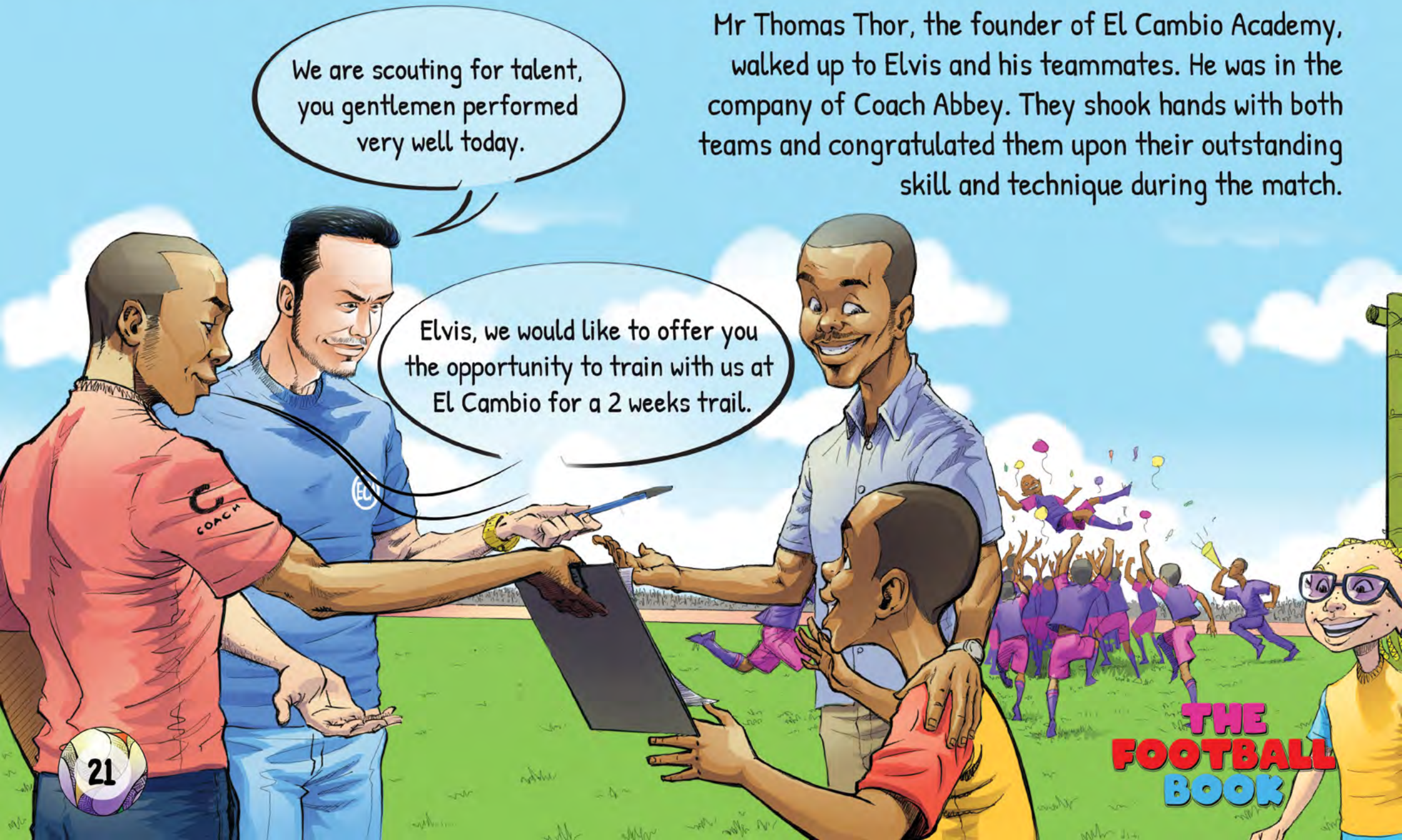
Oh oh oh oh
Ehh yeah ehh yeah ehh yeah
Feel the magic in the air
Hear the whistles in our ears
As we kick the ball the entire world
We are believers
As we love each other
Ohh what a feeling (kanyuma kanyuma kanyuma nnyo)
Oh what a feeling as we all come together singing
Kano akapiira Kano akapiira Kano akapiira kanyuma nnyo
We are the champions!

The afternoon started off on a high, with Lethabo filled to capacity. The Melokhule boys were energetic; stealing the ball from their opponents at every given opportunity. The crowd roared as they boosted the boys' morale.


In the tenth minute, the Melokhule boys scored their first goal. It was 1:0, for Melokhule. The excitement was sky-high.
Goooaall!!
Pooff..
Pooff!!
Goooaall!!
Goooaall!!
The pressure from the other team, however, mounted. They kept pressing the Melokhule boys; seeking an equaliser.
THE FOOTBALL BOOK

Unfortunately, though the Melokhule boys put in their best, the visiting team beat them 2:1. Elvis was very disappointed.

Mr Thomas Thor, the founder of El Cambio Academy, walked up to Elvis and his teammates. He was in the company of Coach Abbey. They shook hands with both teams and congratulated them upon their outstanding skill and technique during the match.

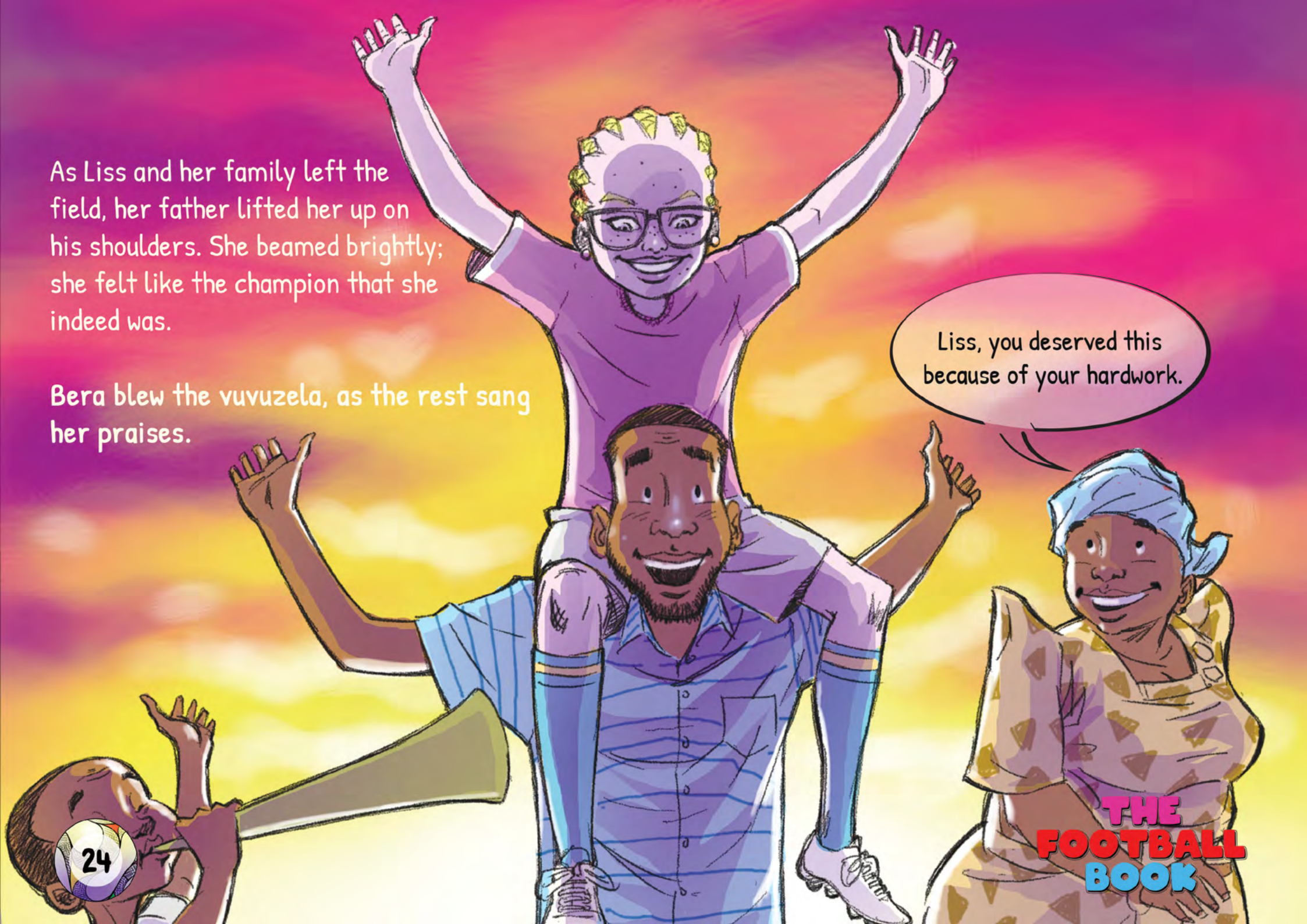


Elvis could not believe his luck.
He ran to the middle of the football field
and Liss followed him there.



Everyone joined in and made a circle around
him, including Coach Abbey and Mr. Thomas.
Elvis taught them his and Liss's special
football song. Together they danced and
sang at the top of their voices.

It had been a very long day. Elvis was tired, but very happy. His dream was taking shape. On the way back home, his father held him by the shoulder as they walked.




As Liss and her family left the field, her father lifted her up on his shoulders. She beamed brightly; she felt like the champion that she indeed was.

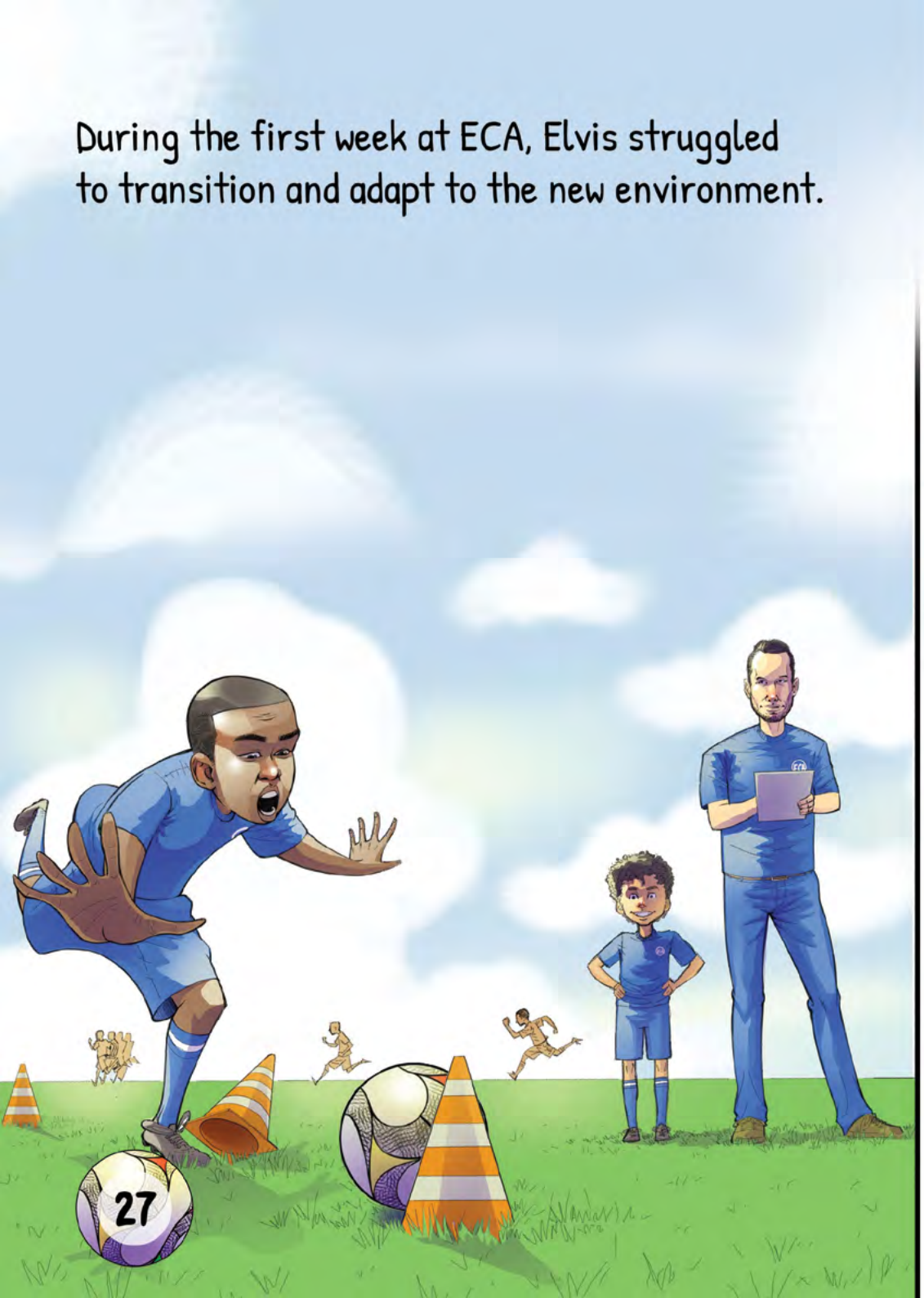
**Bera blew the vuvuzela, as the rest sang her praises.**

Two days later on Tuesday morning, the ECA bus arrived to pick Elvis up. People gathered to say their goodbyes and wish him well. Everyone was happy. The dancing and singing was endless.

Elvis arrived at ECA and was warmly welcomed by the rest of the boys.

They surrounded him, offering him hugs, high fives and generally making him feel welcome. Two boys in particular, Zidane and Patrick, made Elvis their personal project.

During the first week at ECA, Elvis struggled to transition and adapt to the new environment.



He made a friend called Moses. The days that followed, he, Moses and the rest of the boys went through constant training.

Moses was a nice person. He encouraged and guided him.

Two weeks later, Elvis was called into the coaches' office.
Elvis was handed a white envelope and asked to open it
He fumbled as he opened the envelope. Finally, he pulled out a white foolscap size paper and spread it open. What he saw threw him off-balance.
THE FOOTBALL BOOK

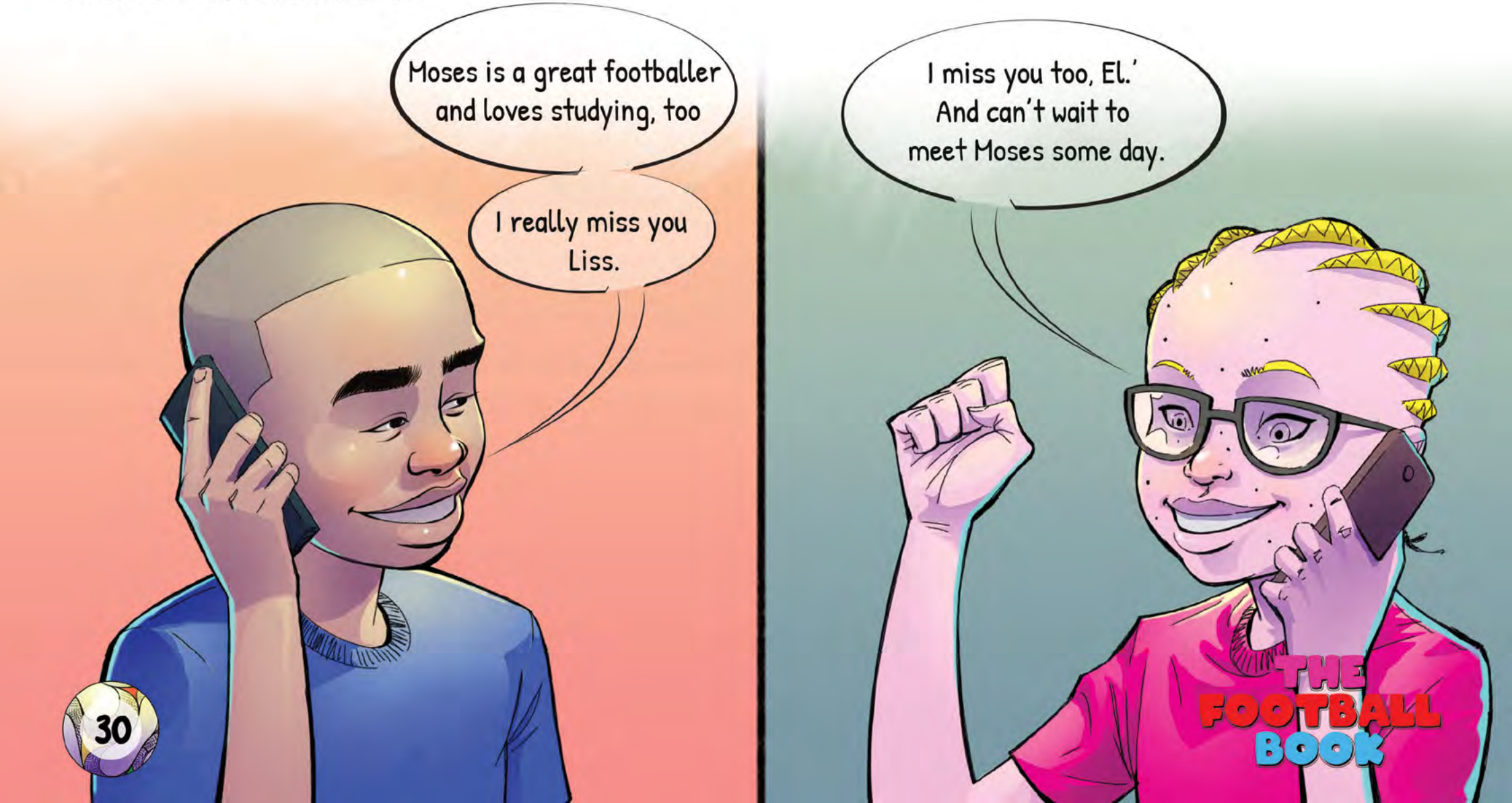
*Letter:*

" I am delighted to write to you, confirming you as our new player at El Cambio Academy..

You will be with us for the next eight years ...

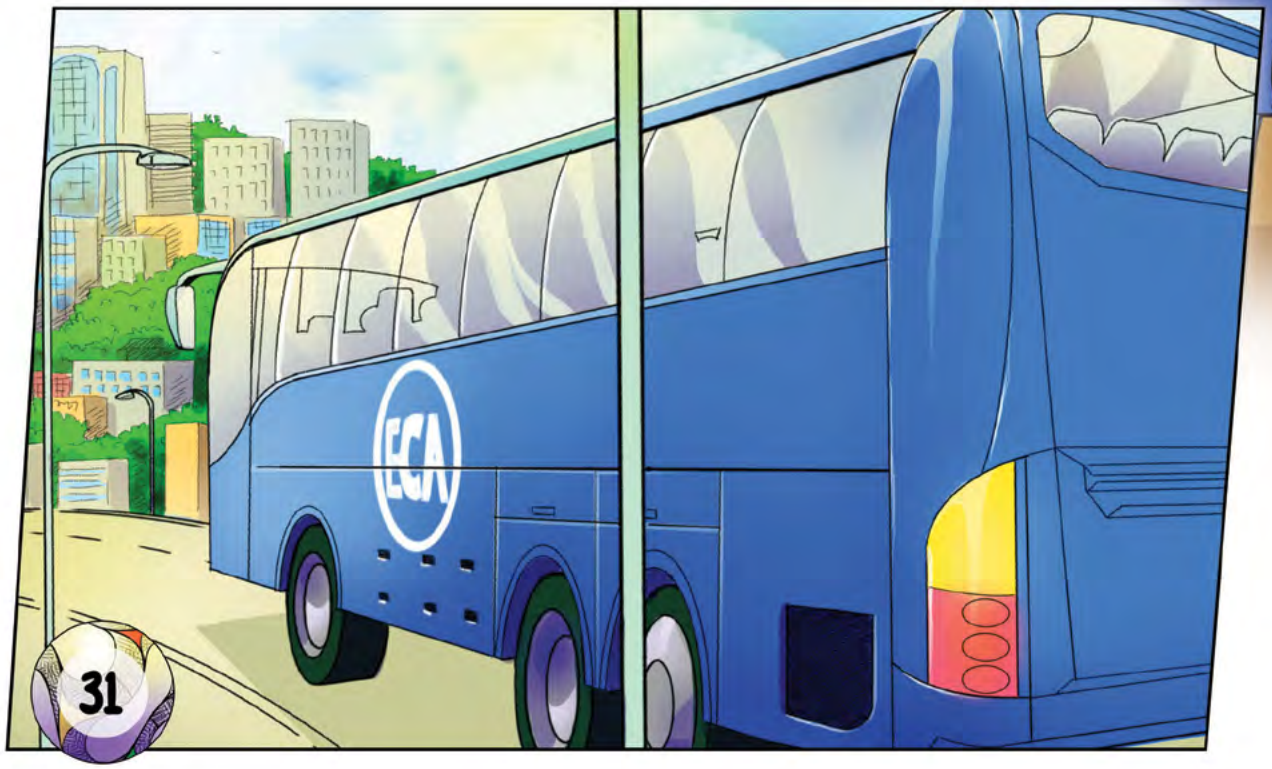
On getting the letter and package, he ran straight to the dormitory, where he shared the great news with everyone

Later that evening, Coach Abbey gave Elvis a phone to call and tell his family and friends about this exciting news. Elvis made a call to Liss and told her about his big celebration after qualifying to join the ECA team. He also told her about his new friend, Moses. Liss told him about the footballs they make out of local materials and distribute to schools and communities.



## 3 YEARS LATER

It was impossible to tell how fast three years passed, after Elvis had been enrolled at El Cambio. One day, he and the other boys were told that they were going to travel to Kampala for a match.




Both boys were amazed by everything they saw when they arrived in the city.

## MATCH DAY:

The big Match day was finally here, Elvis's brother was there to support and encourage them to have fun.



The team didn't disappoint starting brightly by taking the lead in their first few minutes of the game through Elvis himself.

GOOAALLLL!!

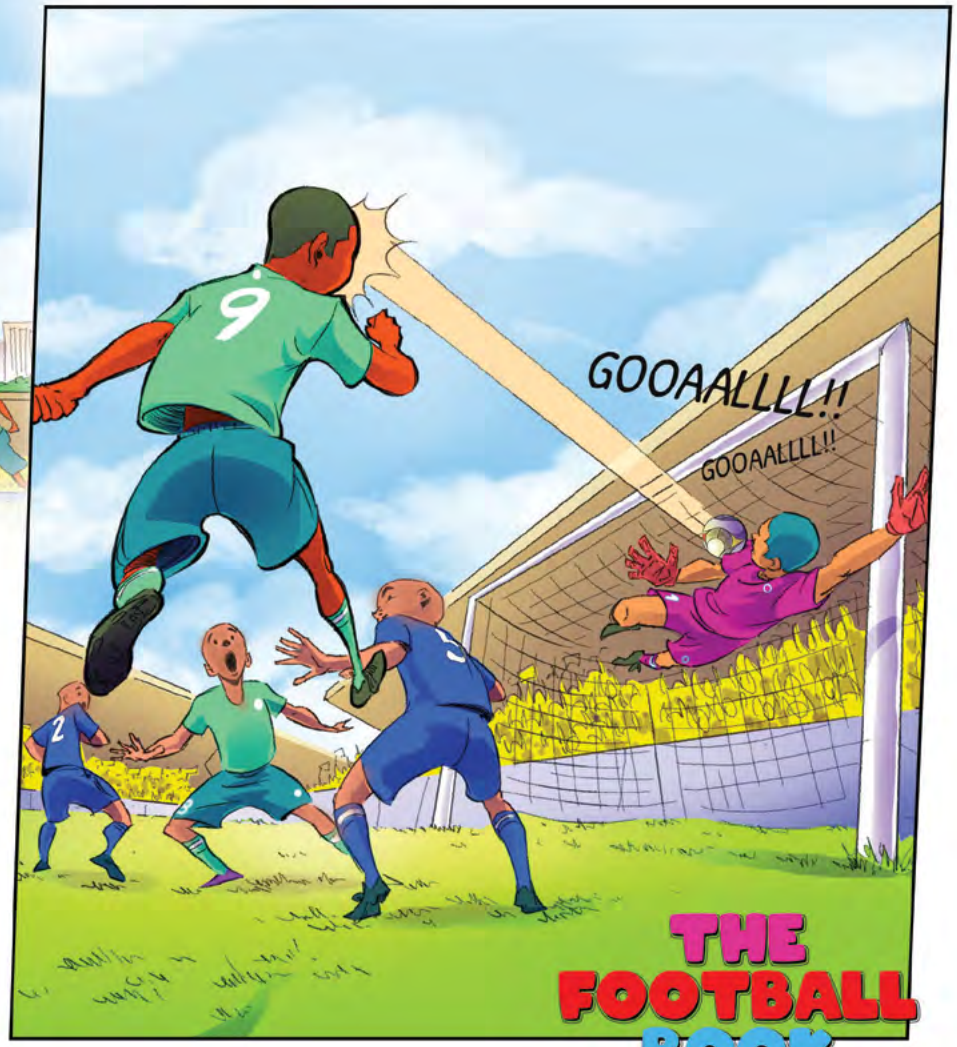
GOOAALLLL!!

GOOAALLLL!!

Wooshh
Wooosshh

It was a tense match; then just before half time, Kampala United equalised from a corner kick.

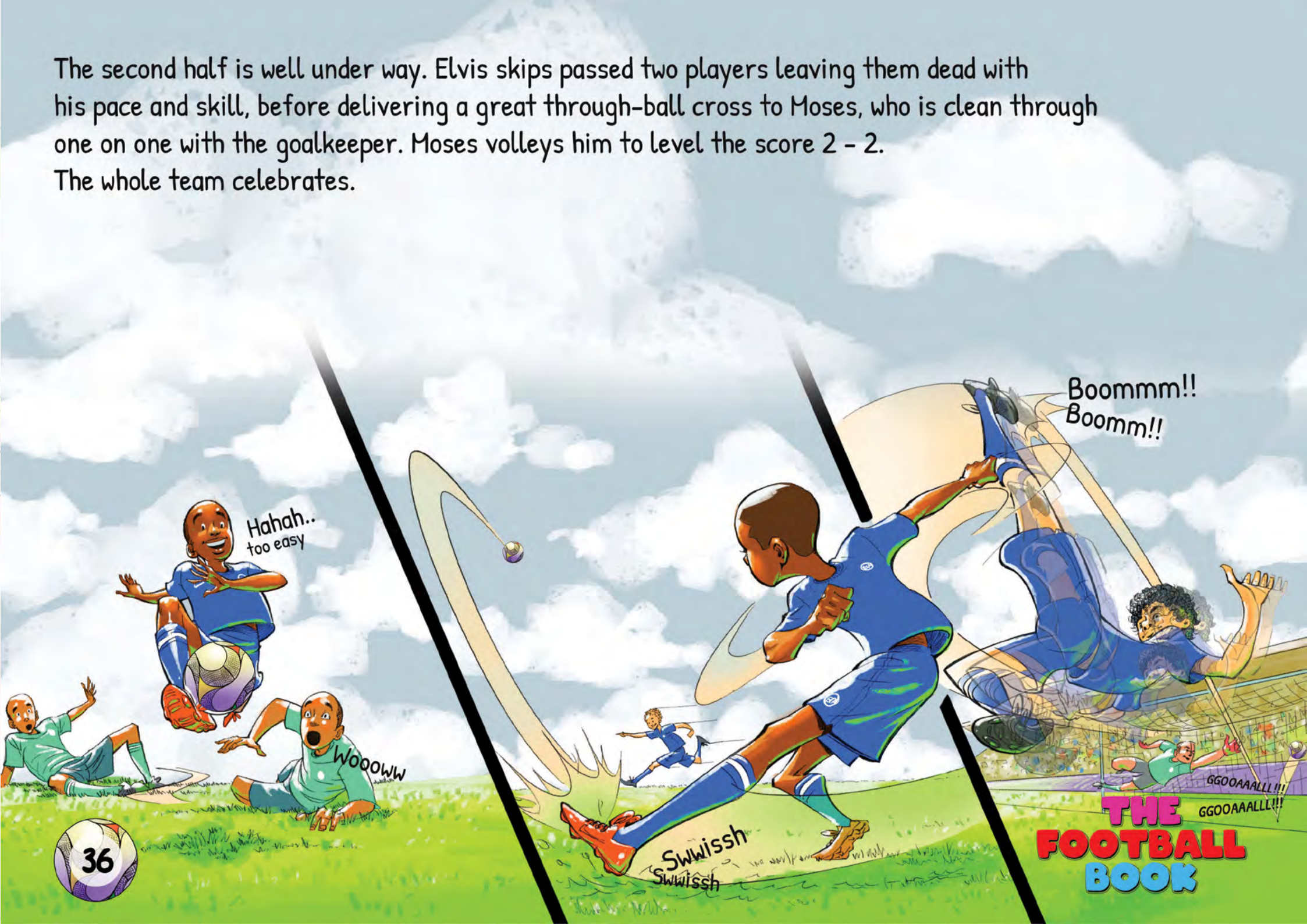
It was a great goal, unstoppable header from one of their star defenders.

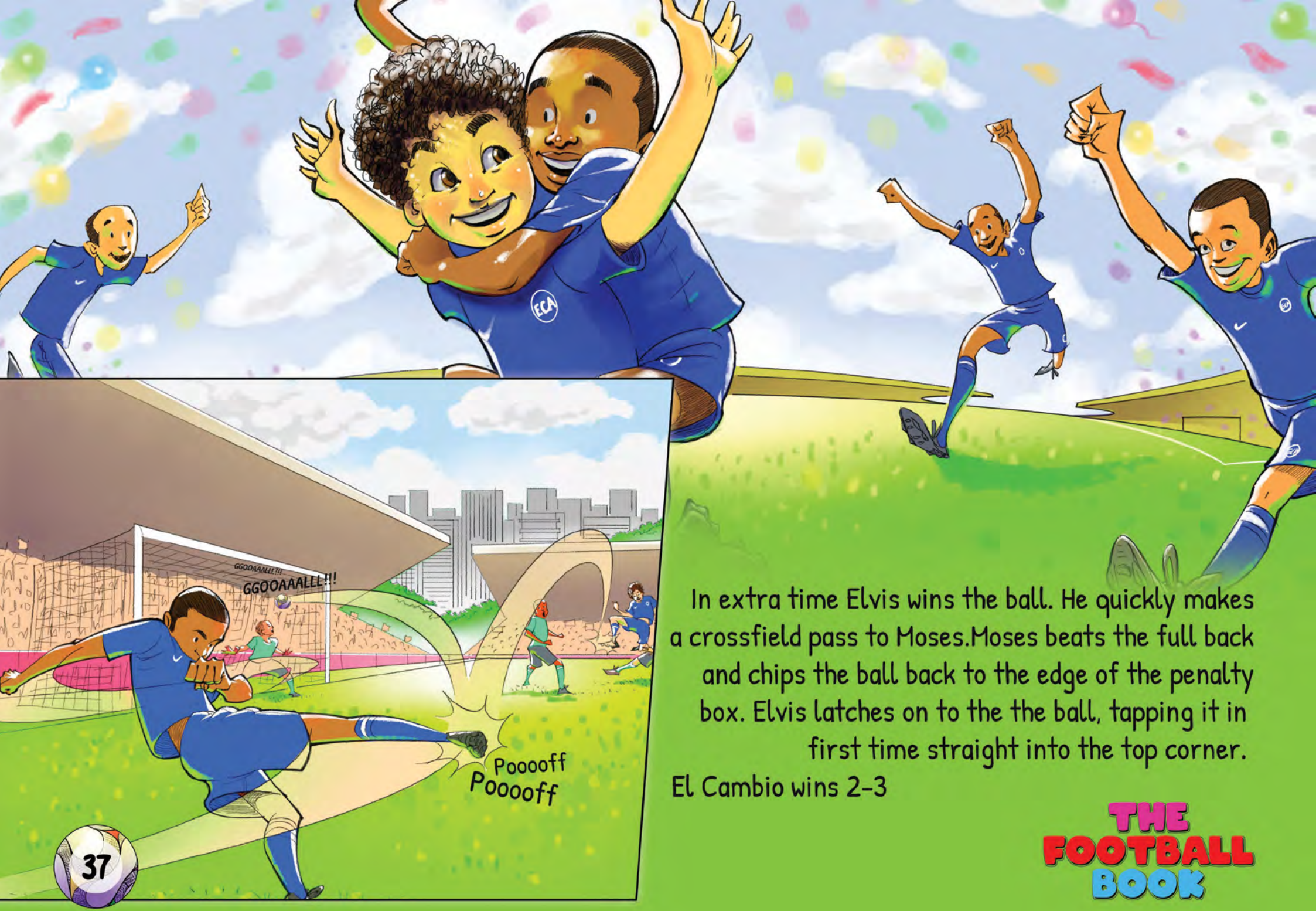


Only moments later after giving the ball away just after the centre, Kampala United scored again, this time a superb long range effort straight into the top corner of the EL Cambio Net. The Goal keeper had no chance.

During half time team talk Elvis being the great leader and motivator that he is, started on a positive note encouraging everyone to focus on playing their football in true El Cambio way. Moses being the comedian that he is decided to crack a joke out of Elvis's speech just to lift the mood.

The second half is well under way. Elvis skips passed two players leaving them dead with his pace and skill, before delivering a great through-ball cross to Moses, who is clean through one on one with the goalkeeper. Moses volleys him to level the score 2 - 2.
The whole team celebrates.






In extra time Elvis wins the ball. He quickly makes a crossfield pass to Moses.Moses beats the full back and chips the ball back to the edge of the penalty box. Elvis latches on to the the ball, tapping it in first time straight into the top corner.

El Cambio wins 2-3

THE FOOTBALL BOOK

Oh oh oh oh
Ehh yeah ehh yeah ehh yeah
Feel the magic in the air
Hear the whistles in our ears
As we kick the ball the entire world
We are believers
As we love each other
Ohh what a feeling (kanyuma kanyuma kanyuma nnyo)
Oh what a feeling as we all come together singing
Kano akapiira Kano akapiira Kano akapiira kanyuma nnyo
We are the champions!

They got to Melokule after midday. The village recognised him immediately and word went around that the hero of the footballing community in Melokule, Elvis, was back.It was like a party.



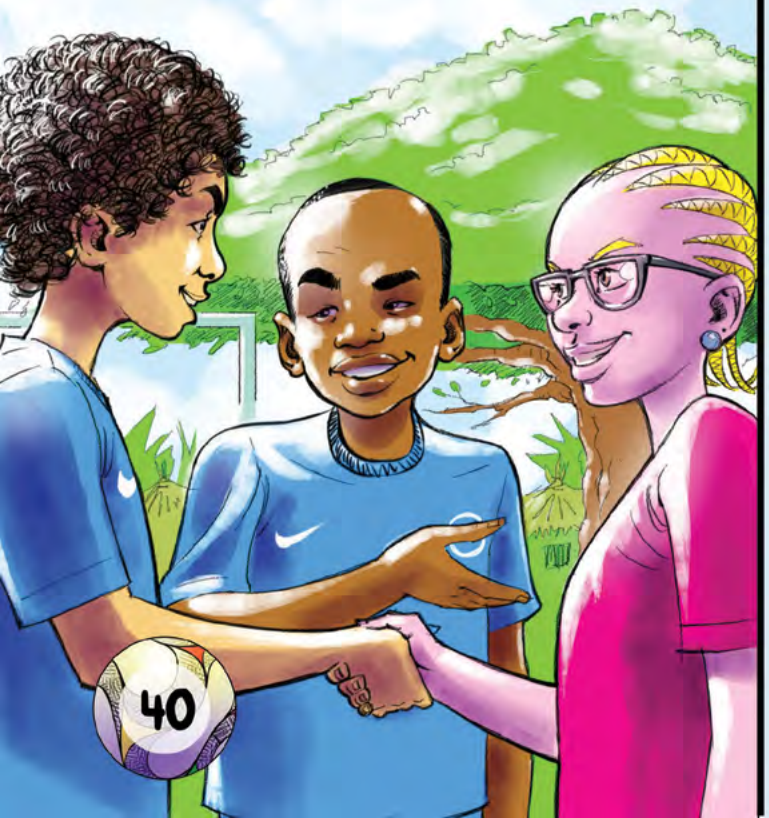
Two weeks after returning to ECA, Elvis, together with the coaches, organised the entire team for a visit to his village.

After the village's curiosity had died down and the feasting was done,
Elvis and his team cleaned the area surrounding the village football field.

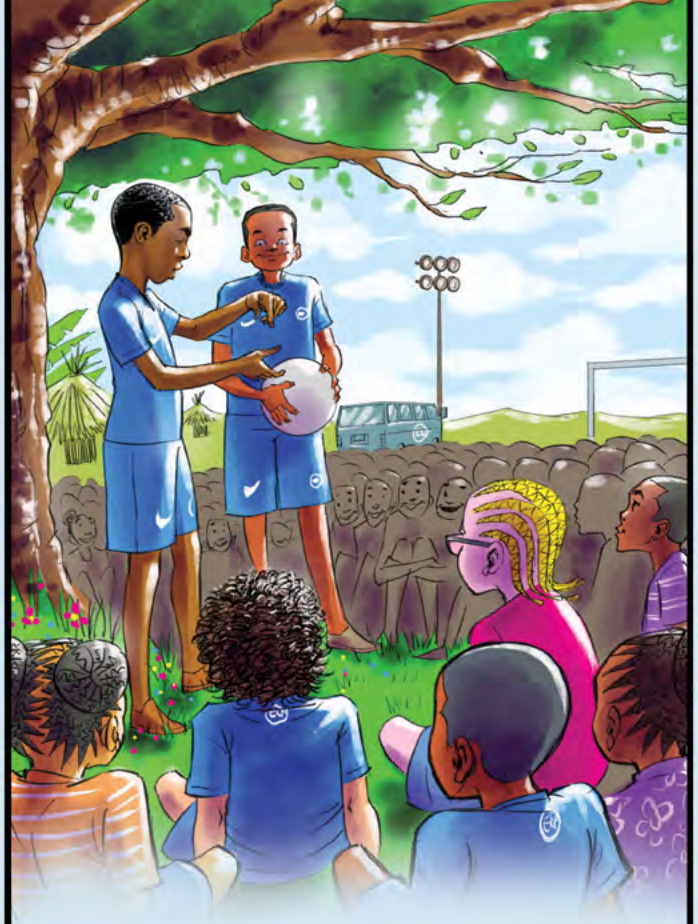
They renovated the field itself and also donated balls.
And jerseys, as well as sunscreen for albino children, to protect them from the effects of direct sunlight.

When the work was done Elvis insisted introduced Moses to Liss.

The two were excited to finally meet in the person.

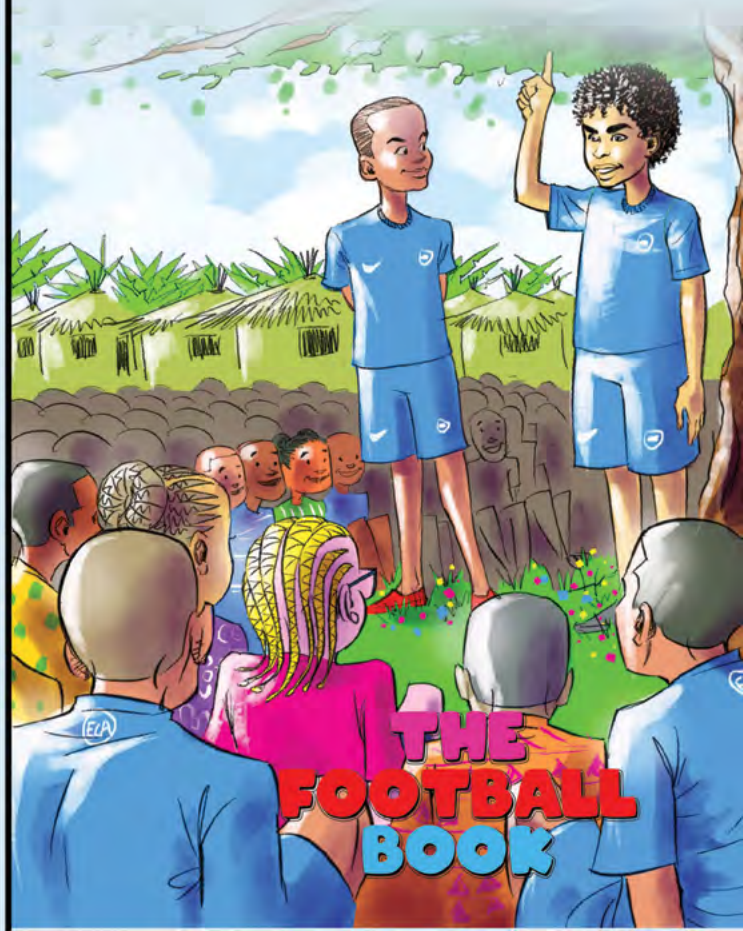




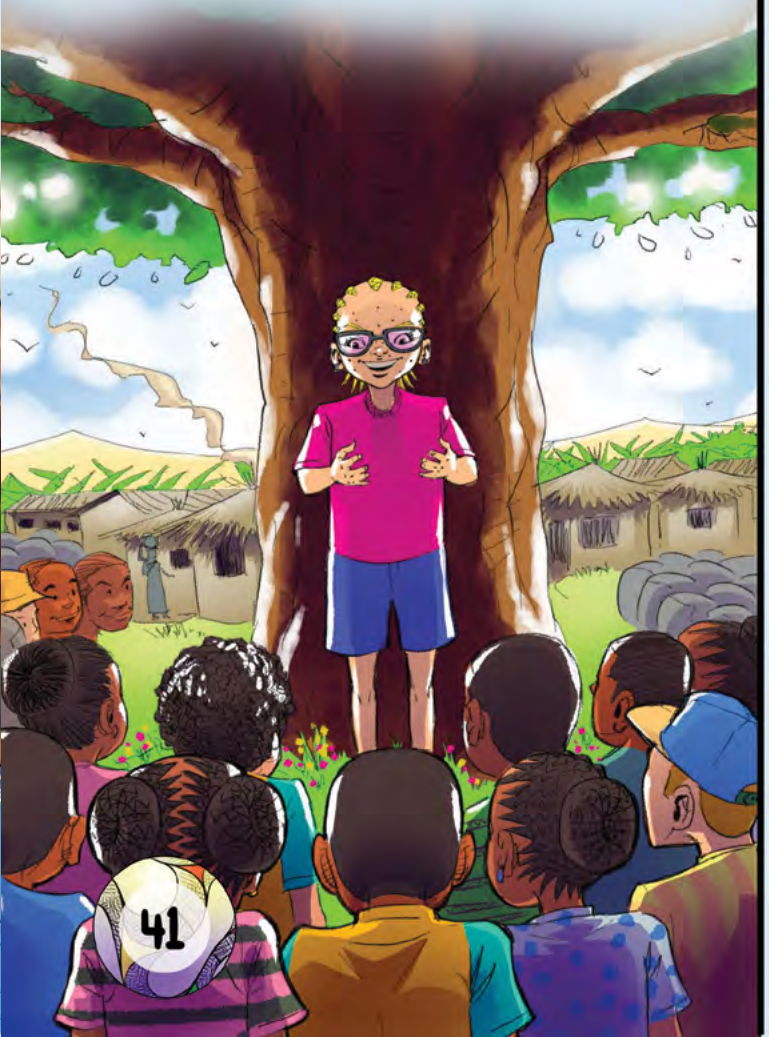


Elvis and his teammate Hamza got up and explained the entire process of preparing for a match.

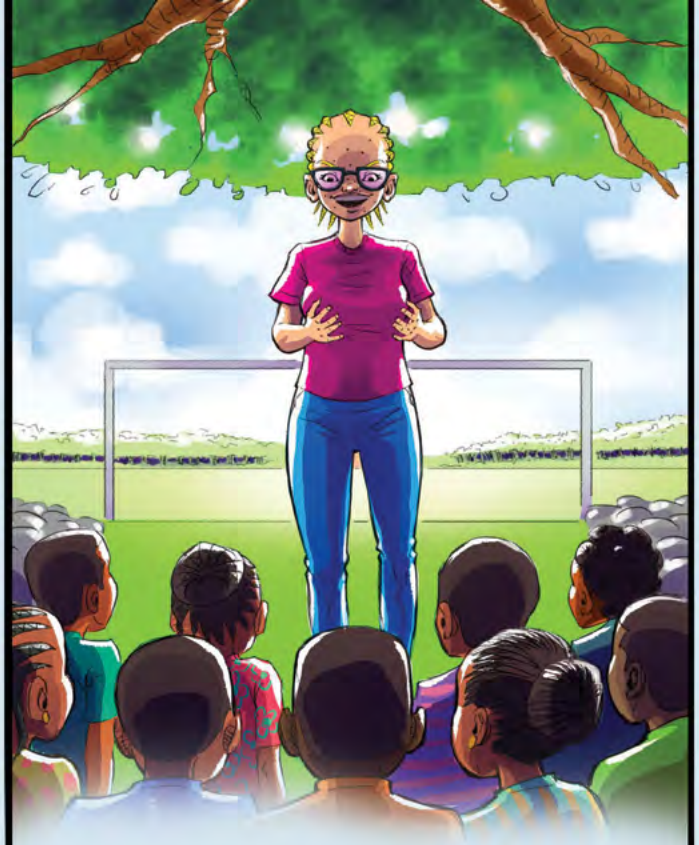
Moses and Gavin another ECA player also got up and emphasised to the children that it was important to always follow our dreams and work hard.



Liss was the last one to get up and emphasis that hard work never lets anyone down.



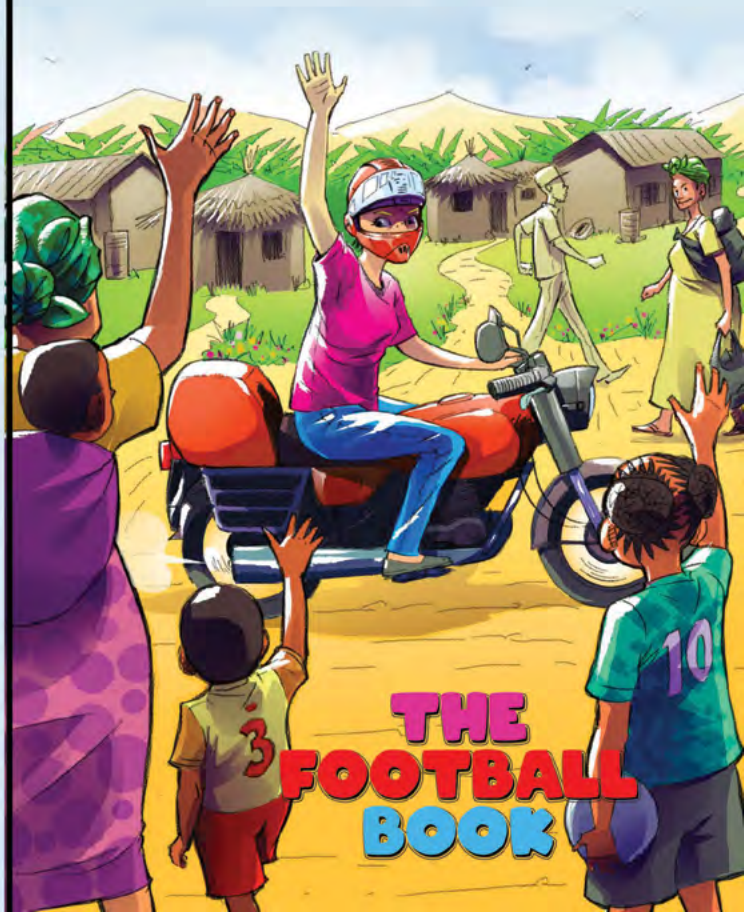




4 YEARS LATER

Four years later in her Senior Six vacation, and before going on to join university, Liss became the first female football coach for children in her community.

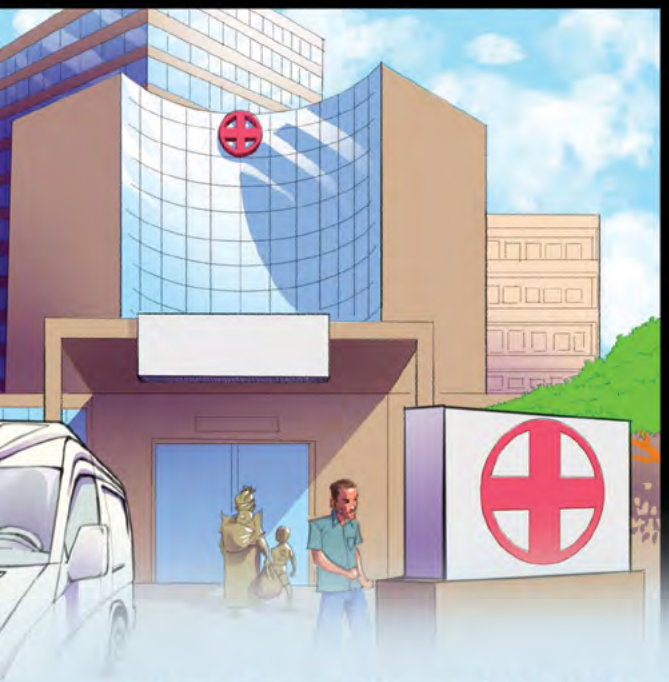
Every evening she would ride her special boda boda around the community and engage in motivational talks.

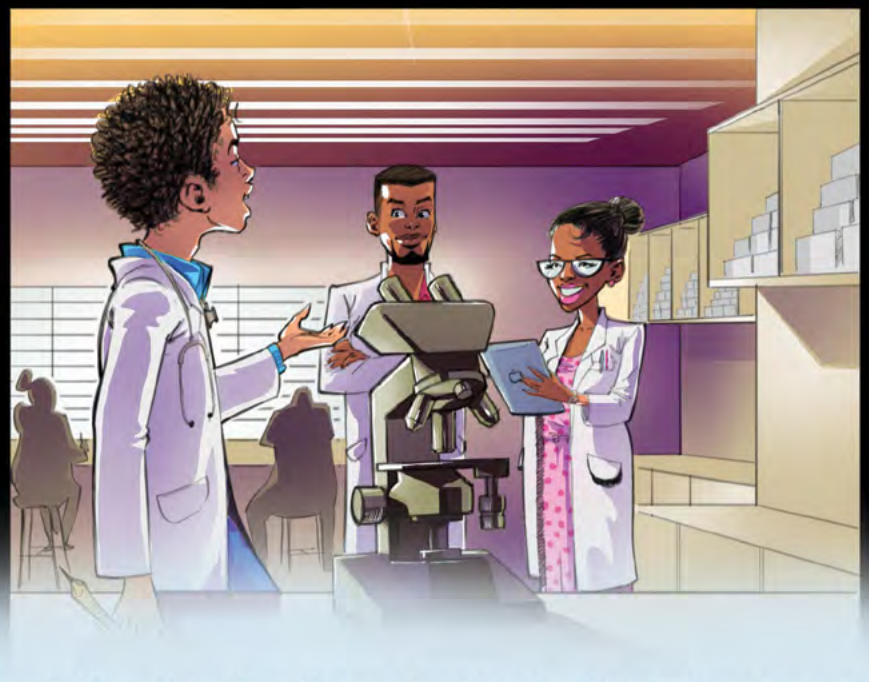


BELIEVE
YOU CAN
3

She wrote to her friend Elvis. 'Someday, Elvis,' she wrote, 'we will together do great things for Melokule regarding football. You know that my dream has always been to start up my own football academy, don't you, El? Well, that's exactly what I will do. If only you could join me and we fulfil this dream. But for now, let me finish my university studies.'

Every evening after training, Liss would sit down on the football pitch and close her eyes. Then, she would visualise her dream come true; seeing the stadium, all the structures, the children; including albinos, the trophies and the buses. She had big dreams. 'Nothing is impossible!' she would say to herself.





When Moses turned 16, ECA sent him for further studies in the US. He majored indermatology , so he could one day lead a team to find treatment for albinos, so they become more resistant to the sun. In the evenings, he would engage in football training at college.

One evening after his football match, Moses lay on the football pitch and pictured what his dream would look like, of one day opening up a community hospital in Mpigi, Uganda that would be professional; where doctors and other medical personnel would interact and engage with all their patients.
His dream was inspired by the ECA value of always giving back and using every opportunity to lift up others.

When he turned 18, Elvis got a birthday present he would never forget. He got an offer from Barcelona Football Club to join their youth team. But that was not all; the week after signing his contract, they offered him a fully paid trip back home, to break the good news and also to say goodbye to all his friends and family for a while.

One evening after training, he lay on the training pitch and was lost in his world; living in his future as a talented footballer; winning trophies at Barcelona; saving up and surprising Liss by joining her to develop her foundation; building more football pitches in Melokhule and raising more players in the region. He wanted to further the ECA vision of giving back to society.

Elvis arrived in Uganda after a long trip to Entebbe.To his surprise, Moses and Liss were among the people who came to pick him up.

The three friends arrived at Melokuhle village to thunderous applause, including drumming, ululations, singing and dancing.

Elvis was invited to address the community. I would like to appreciate ECA, who believed in me. Many thanks to my parents, my friends and all of you, Melokhule people, for making me what I am today

When they were done with the festivities, the three friends sat together under the tree.

To friendship
To believing
To achieving

## RESPECT

We carry in our hearts that we are here to help others through our abilities and compassion. Wherever we go we should leave a memorable and positive impact.

## CURIOSITY

We are honest and have strong moral principles. We have high artistic standards of pursuing our dreams and the determination not to lower these standards.

## INTEGRITY

We accept space for differences. We acknowledge everyone despite their sex, age, religion, race or skills.

## SELF DISCIPLINE

In a safe and familiar environment, we should encourage kids to learn from their mistakes.We should feel acknowledged as human beings with our strengths and weaknesses. We are each other's family.

## LOVE

What is the meaning of love to you?
Can you give way for more love?
How can you do this?

## GIVING BACK

We see curiosity as a condition for being able to be creative. Through a creative reflecting mindset,we are challenging patterns and finding new ways to develop and expand knowledge.

# The El Cambio Values

# QUIZ CORNER

## RESPECT

What does respect mean to you?

Why is it important to respect others?

Why do you want to be treated with respect?

## CURIOSITY

Why is it important to be curious?

Why is it important to learn new things?

## SELF DISCIPLINE

How do you control your temper when you're about to be angry?

## INTEGRITY

Why would you like others to be honest with you?

When is it most hard to be honest?

What can you do in such situations?

## LOVE

What is the meaning of love to you?

Can you give way for more love?

How can you do this?

## GIVING BACK

When was the last time you helped others?

How did it make you feel?

RESPECT

CURIOSITY

SELF DISCIPLINE

LOVE

GIVING BACK

INTEGRITY

How many new words can you find in this book?

Do you know the meaning of all these words?

Where do you think these words originate from?

In reading the story, On which pages did you find these values

My name is Elvis
And I am a football player from el cambio
And this is my story …….
Growing up I was taught to know
That its better in life to believe in yourself
Talent is power and it can push you higher
Get up you got the power
Believe in your ability
Hard work will push opportunity
Run for a brighter future - duuka
Run for a brighter future - samba mpulira
Run run * 3

By making the football book, we are creating a platform to tell and inspire with our passion and beliefs. We strongly believe that through this boo'k's lovely drawings and authentic story, we can highlight future African role models and how we can all make a positive change in our communities throughout the different stages of our life.

The football book is a way of reaching out to children, parents and coaches, hoping that readers will gain hope, motivation and work more on always growing and improving their character.
We strongly believe that character building is a key element to achieve in life. Through this book, you will appreciate the value of investing in our children during the early years of development and the impact that can be achieved when we inspire our young generation to have a heart of always giving back. You will get to see how children at an early age can change their mindset, which then positively transforms the community at large.
This book takes you through real life stories of our children in Uganda. It is an inspiring story being told so that most age groups can rely on it and go make a change in their lives.
We pray that our readers will take the opportunity to contribute to safe children environments where children are respected and listened to; environments where adults guide the children with passion and compassion – where love is present.
When children are given such a surrounding, we believe they will be self-driven, curious and have an explosive development in whatever field they choose in life.

This book also highlights the fact that we are all different colors, but one people and no matter where children come from, they are all capable of flourishing and becoming the best versions of themselves when given the right environments during their early years of development.

As adults, we are the keys to unlock the happy, passionate and loving child.

From El Cambio Academy, the people who have inspired this entire story based on the work they are currently doing with the boys in Masaka from Elvis to the rest of his teammates, we hope that our message will inspire each one of you to work on building better and better environments for all children around us so that they may grow to live a life of purpose and happiness.

From Smart Toto Publishing, the team behind putting this great story together, we believe that together we can each make a difference to the future of our continent. And, writing such authentic relatable stories with great messages to inspire and positively change mindsets from a very young age is one way we can bring about the growth we need as a continent.

Explore more of El Cambio Academy
and the lives of Elvis and his friends here
www.elcambioacademy.com

@elcambioacademy

# BUBU

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