

Springboard^{into} Comprehension

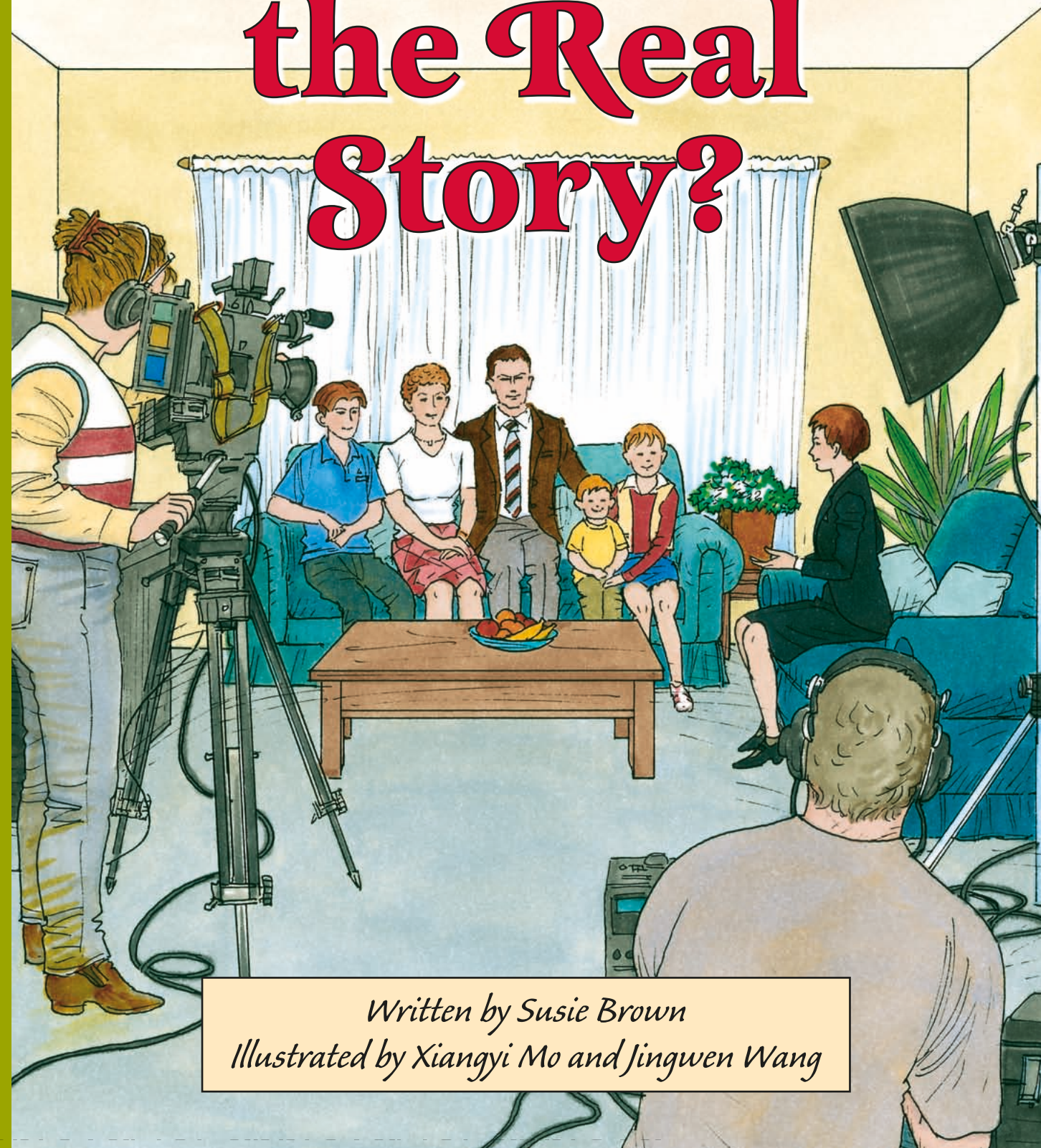
Main Idea	Number 15 Orchard Street Piracy in the Modern Age
Compare and Contrast	Back from the Brink Two Dying Seas
Fact and Opinion	What's the Real Story? On the Ball
Cause and Effect	Inventions by Women Use It, Wear It
Bias and Prejudice	My Way or the Highway? Whaling
Figurative Language	The Book of Banjo Paterson Gold in the Hills



RA 11.5–12.5

Literary Recount

What's the Real Story?



*Written by Susie Brown
Illustrated by Xiangyi Mo and Jingwen Wang*

A colorful illustration of a boy and a girl running through a field. The boy, in the background, has reddish-brown hair and is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt and dark pants. The girl, in the foreground, is wearing a bright yellow long-sleeved shirt, brown pants, and a large orange floppy hat. They are both smiling and running towards the right. The field is filled with green grass and large green leaves in the foreground. A large tree trunk is on the left, and a winding path leads into the background.

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Illustrated by Xiangyi Mo and Jingwen Wang

DRAMA AT QUEENSGATE PARK!

Karen Carnegie: This is Karen Carnegie coming to you live from Queensgate National Park. Disaster has been averted here, much to the relief of one incredibly lucky – and, in the opinion of some locals, incredibly careless – holidaying family. After an extensive search of the bushland near Sommerville, rescue workers have located siblings Davide (13), Isabella (10), and Marco Santoro (5), who had been missing since yesterday afternoon. The children's lucky escape has prompted local people to ask if the bushwalking track in Queensgate Park is safe for public use. Some say more signposts should be erected along the track to prevent people unfamiliar with the area from getting lost. Others believe that this is merely another example of holidaymakers not being adequately prepared for a bushwalk. The fact remains that this is not the first time that holidaymakers have become lost in Queensgate Park. Something obviously needs to be done!

The Santoro children disappeared yesterday from the picnic area of Queensgate Park. Their parents, Riccardo and Amanda Santoro, raised the alarm when the children failed to return from a short walk, and a full-scale search was begun shortly afterwards. By the time they were found, the children, who had taken no water, food, or communication equipment with them, were exhausted, dehydrated, and suffering from mild hypothermia, due to the low temperatures yesterday evening. They had walked over 20 km from their original starting point.

Rescue worker and outdoor expert Monti Windich confirmed that the children were not prepared for their time in the bush. "Everybody needs to make sure that they plan carefully for a bushwalk," he said. When asked if he believed the park should be better signposted, Mr Windich replied, "You're missing the point! Families need to educate their children about the proper way to behave in the bush!"

The three siblings will be taken to hospital for further medical assessment, after which I, Karen Carnegie, hope to interview them, along with their father, who was apparently asleep when they disappeared.



RICCARDO'S STORY



Karen Carnegie: Mr Santoro, when you set out on this holiday with your family, did you expect it to turn into such a terrible nightmare?

Riccardo Santoro: No, no, everybody always expects to have an enjoyable time on their holidays. No one ever thinks that anything will go wrong. We certainly didn't. After this weekend, I doubt that I'll ever feel totally relaxed about going on holiday again.

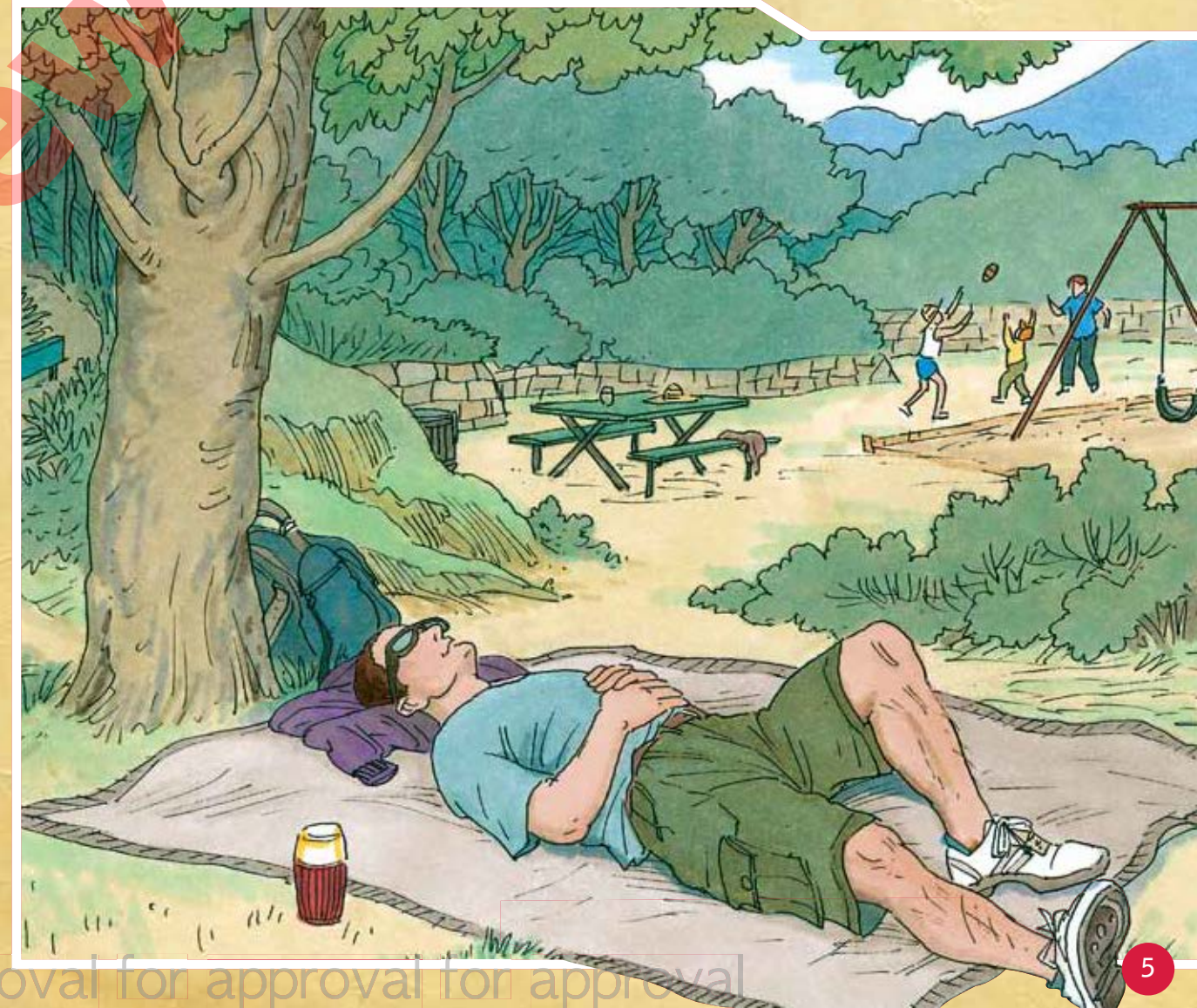
KC: What brought you to our beautiful, special town of Sommerville?

RS: Well, we had never visited Sommerville before. We were looking for a place to contrast with our crowded city lifestyle, so when my wife, Amanda, read about Sommerville's beaches, parks, and natural bushland in one of her travel magazines, it seemed absolutely perfect. Amanda had promised to teach our elder son, Davide, how to surf. Our daughter, Isabella, wanted to take pictures of butterflies for her science project, and our younger son, Marco, wanted to collect seashells at the beach.

KC: What happened after you arrived in Sommerville?

RS: After we unpacked the car at the Sommerville Motel, we headed straight for Queensgate National Park. We all thought it was wonderful! The view from the lookout at the top was one of the most spectacular I have ever seen. After our picnic lunch, Amanda went off to the park information centre to get some brochures about the local bushwalks, while I stayed with the children.

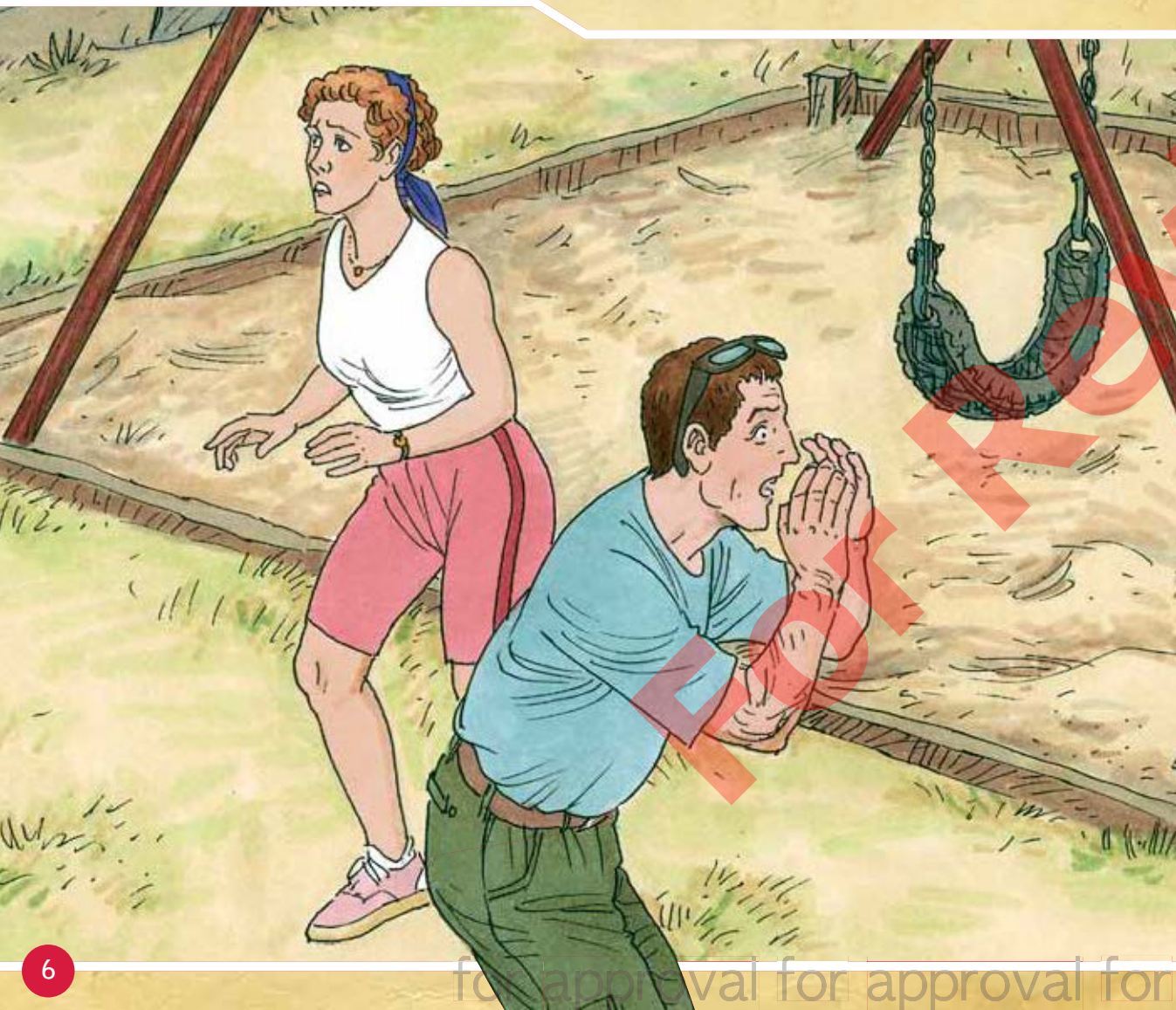
The children wanted to head off on a bushwalk, but I thought we should wait for their mother to come back with a map. While we waited, the children went off to throw a ball around in the playground and I stretched out on the rug to relax for a few minutes.



KC: What about these reports that you fell asleep? Are they true, and are you racked with unbearable guilt?

RS: Let me just say that I did fall asleep, but I also *clearly* told the children that no one was going for a bushwalk until their mother came back with the map. Is there anything tricky to understand about that? I don't think so! However, the next thing I knew, Amanda was shaking me by the shoulder and asking me where the children were.

Well, I looked at my watch and realized it was only approximately 20 minutes since I had sent them off to play. Surely, I thought, they couldn't have gone far. Amanda and I split up and checked the entire picnic area, but there was no sign of them. My stomach began churning.



KC: What did you do next?

RS: After another half-hour had passed, we called emergency services. I thought the Rescue Squad **was** very professional. It was obvious they knew what they were doing, but **as** night fell, I was starting to panic.

The next day, however, Mr Windich radioed back to the picnic site and said they had been found. I **was** so relieved! According to the children, they had woken **up** and **were** bravely trying to walk out of the bush **when** the Rescue Squad found them in a clearing.

Some **people** **are** saying the children are to blame for **leaving** without us. Others say it was all my fault for falling asleep. I can't say who's right. I can say, however, that I *clearly*...

KC: Thank you, Mr Santoro, we will now hear from your elder son, Davide.

