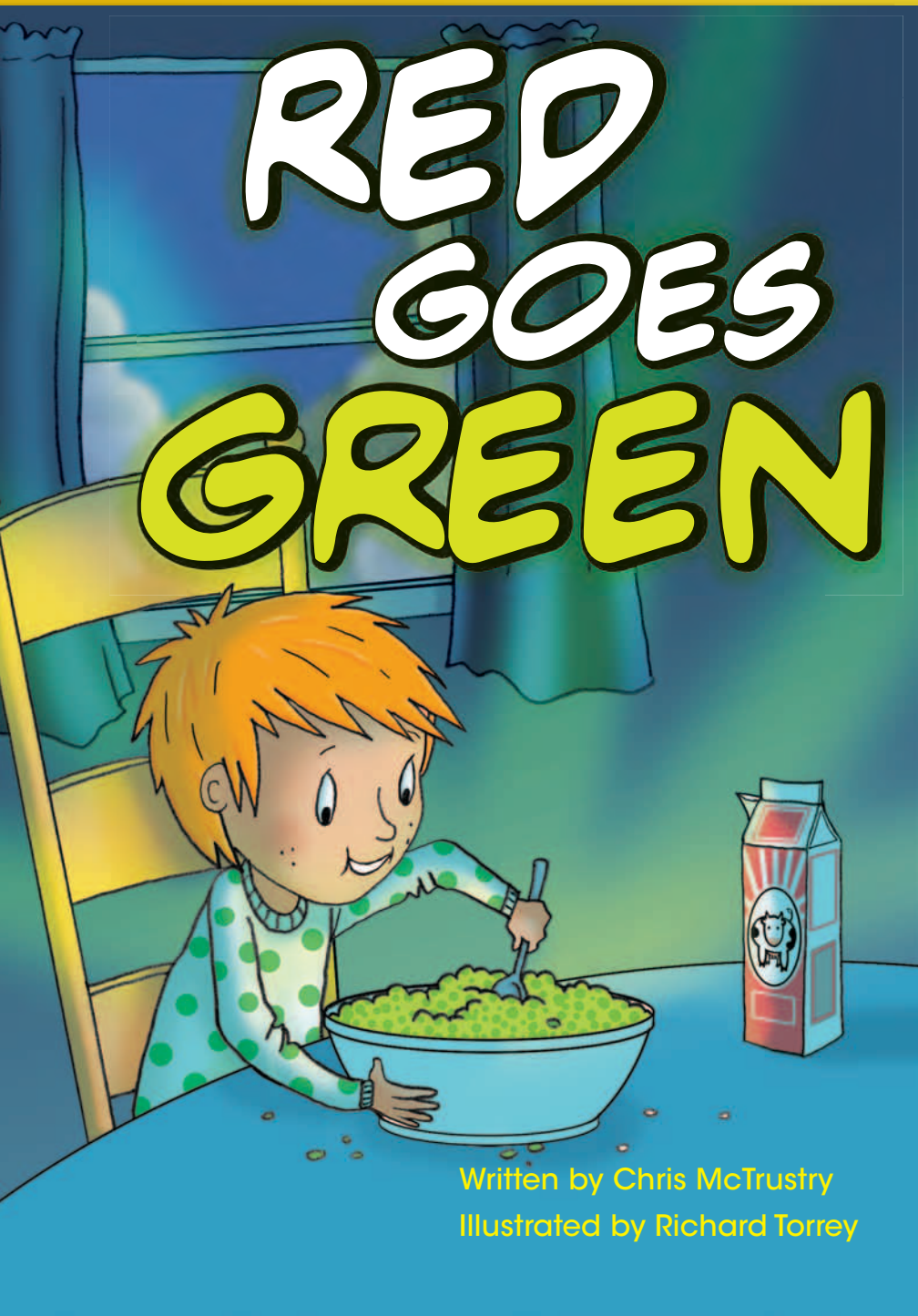

RED GOES GREEN
Written by Chris McTrustry
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For Review Only



Chapter One

LACK OF INVENTION

At lunchtime, Oliver, Ibrahim, Alessandro, and I always swap the food we bring from home. Today, we peered unhappily at our soggy sandwiches, yucky yogurt, furry fruit, and miserable muffins, but even when the food was boring, our conversations never were.

"Red," Alessandro suggested, "why don't you get your dad to invent something interesting to eat?"

I shrugged. "He's an inventor, not a chef."

"Well, what *does* he invent?"

I shrugged again. "How do I know? I just know he makes a lot of noise and my mom hates all the mess."

"Maybe he could invent something that tastes like whatever you want," suggested Oliver.

"That'd be awesome!" said Ibrahim.





For Review Only

After skipping lunch, I was starving, so on the way home from school, I bought tons of candy and I scarfed it down, so by dinnertime, I felt pretty gross.

"You look a little green," Mom said as I wandered into the kitchen. "You need some healthy vegetables like broccoli and spinach."

Oh no! Green vegetables! Yuck! I thought.

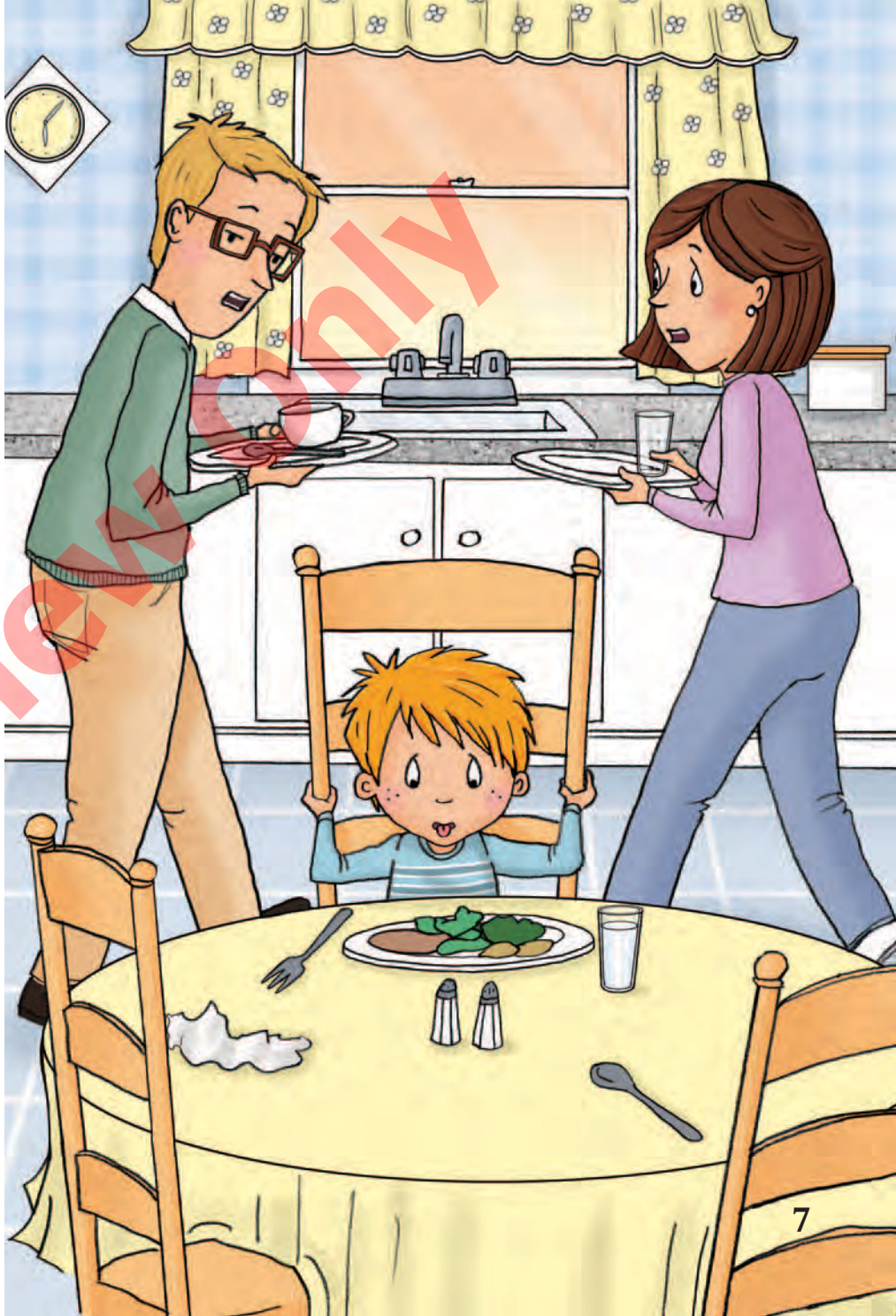
Dinners at our house usually end in an argument when Mom and Dad try to get me to eat my green vegetables, and I won't do it.

"Redmond, eat your broccoli. Eat your spinach. They're *so* good for you," Mom pleads.

"Nope," I say. When she glares, I say, "No, thank you."

Dad frowns and says, "Redmond, you will *not* leave the table until you have finished every single one of your vegetables."

Suits me, I think.

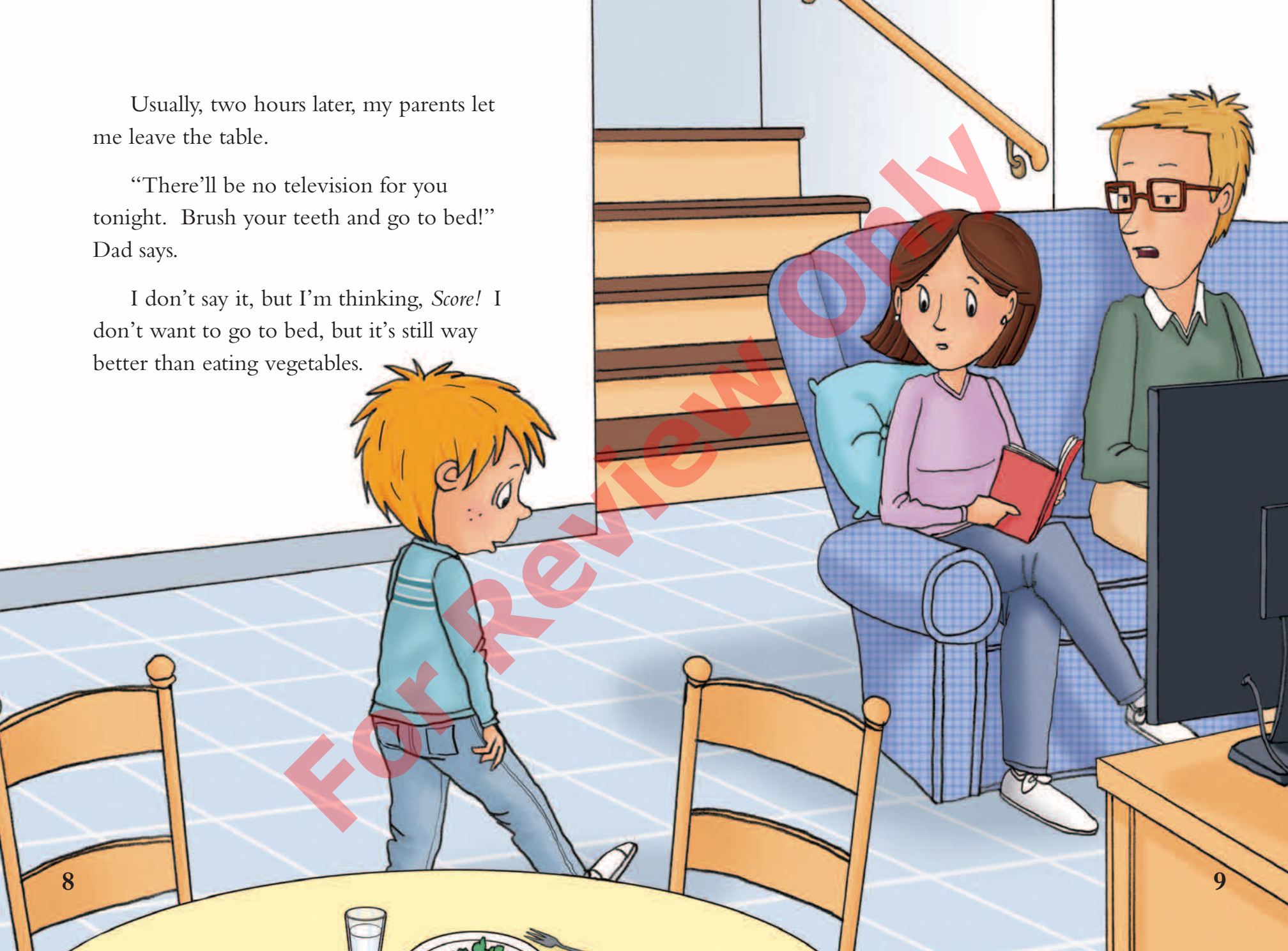


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Usually, two hours later, my parents let me leave the table.

"There'll be no television for you tonight. Brush your teeth and go to bed!" Dad says.

I don't say it, but I'm thinking, *Score!* I don't want to go to bed, but it's still way better than eating vegetables.



For Review Only