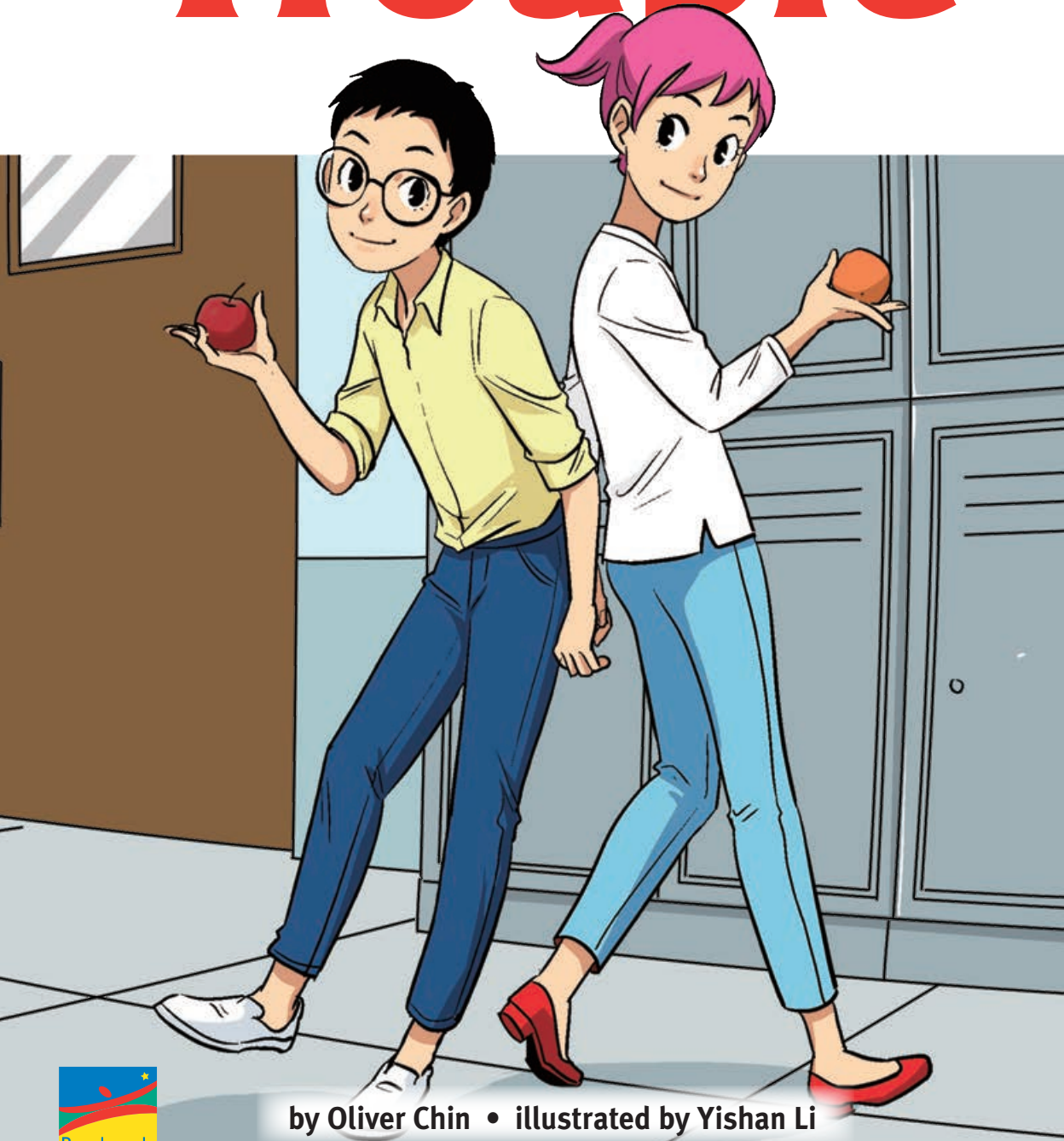


The Tao Twins' Trouble

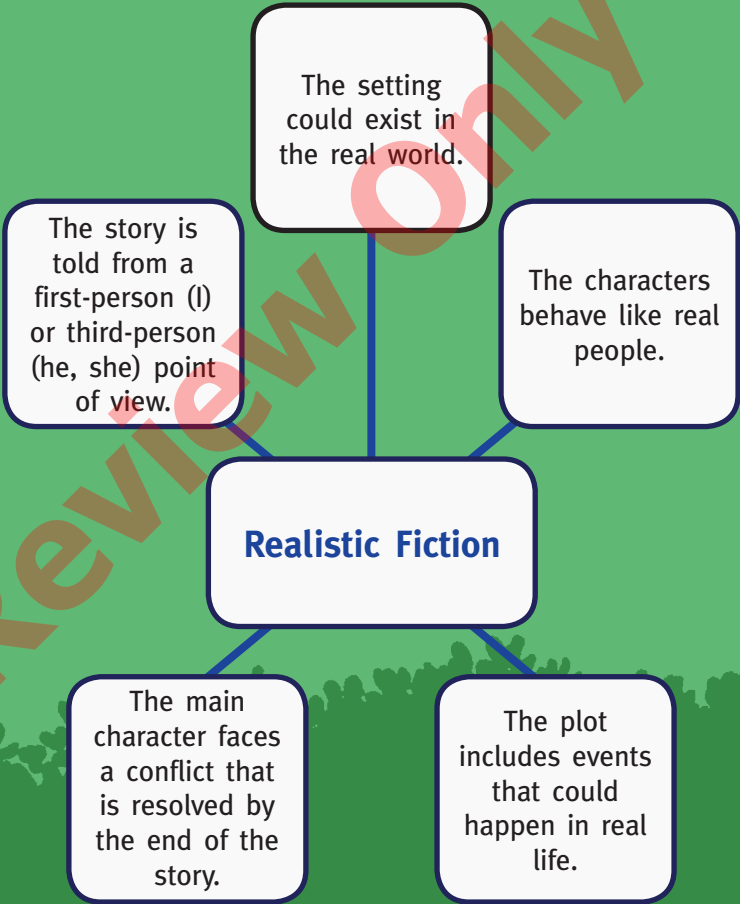


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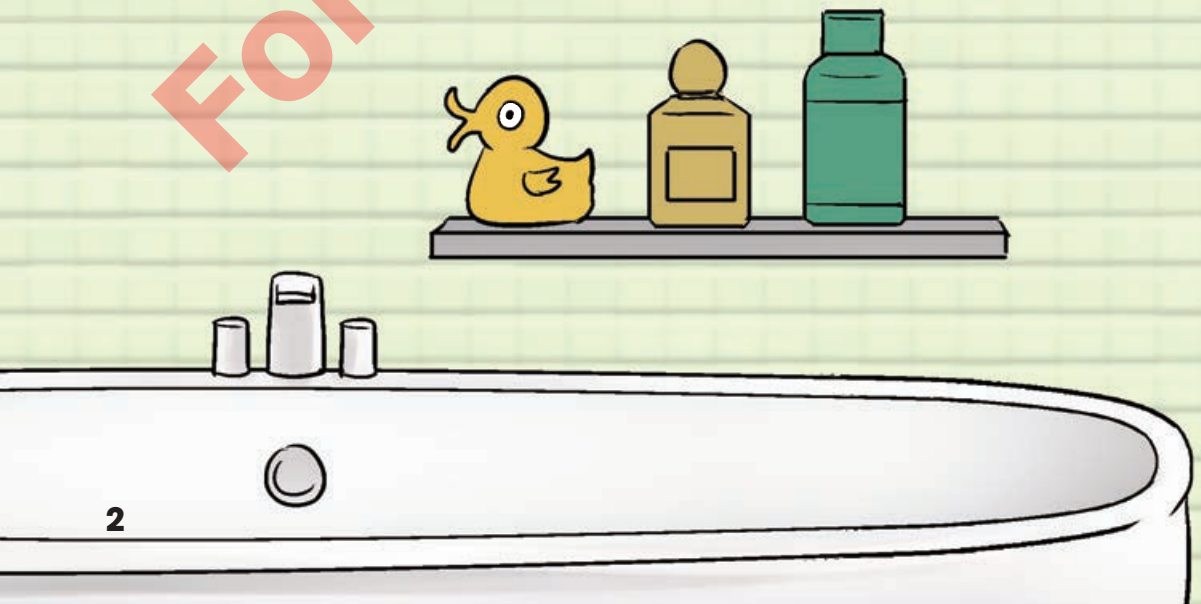
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DOUBLE TROUBLE

Taylor and Tori Tao stared at each other in the bathroom mirror. They were identical twins. “Why are Mom and Dad the only ones who can tell us apart?” complained Tori.

“I don’t know,” shrugged Taylor. “It doesn’t help that we wear the same exact clothes.”

The twins shared the same room and clothes, and even went to the same school, but they knew they were different in so many ways. Why didn’t everyone else?



The Tao twins attended Sunrise Elementary School. Taylor was in Mrs. Johnson's class. Tori was in Mr. Martinez's class.

Even though they were in separate classes, people often mistook them for each other. This week was no different.



SCHOOL DAZE

On Monday, the lunch lady, Mrs. Farrah, asked, “Tori, do you want an apple or an orange?”

The girl replied, “I’m Taylor. I like apples.”

On Tuesday during gym class, Coach Ward said, “Taylor, you are a good soccer player. Give your teammates some pointers, will you?”

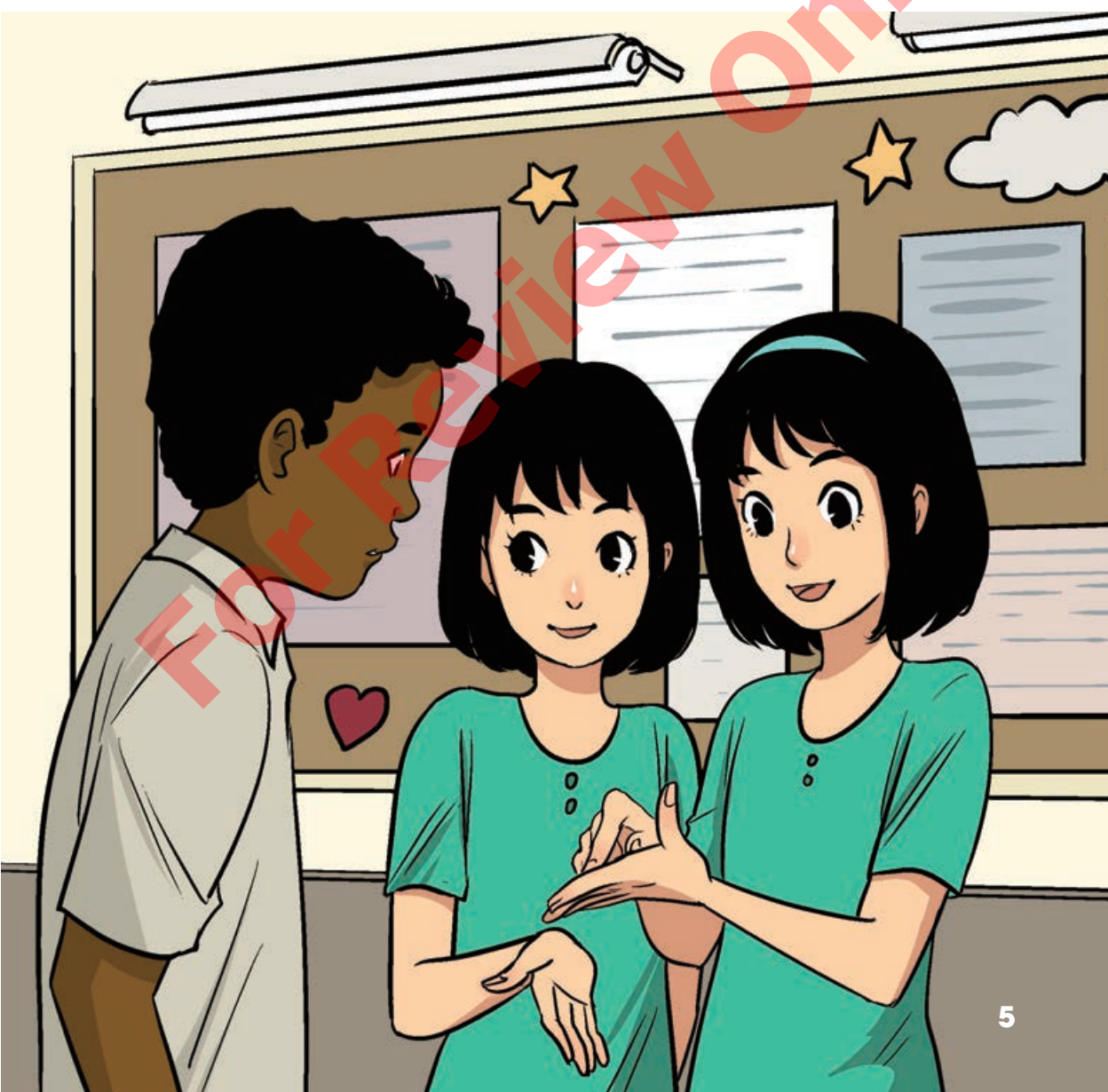
The girl replied, “I’m Tori.”

Afterward, in the library, their friend Chris joked, “You two should wear name tags.”

“That’s not funny,” Taylor said.

Tori asked, “Why do people mix us up? *BaBa* always says we’re unique. We are each different in our own way.”

“For example,” Tori asked, “did you know that identical twins have different fingerprints?” The twins showed Chris their hands. “We are also different heights.” They stood back to back. “And we are different weights, too!”



“It’s not just that,” said Tori. “We have different tastes, too. I like trying new kinds of food but Taylor doesn’t. She always eats boring macaroni and cheese or pasta with butter.”

“And Taylor is a troublemaker,” added Chris.

Taylor laughed. “Ha! Once I swapped our lunches. Tori got steamed when she found my vegetable dumplings in her lunch box.”

Tori interrupted, “Hey, remember when you asked me to switch classes with you? Ms. Fujita got so mad and Principal Olano said we gave her a headache.”

“Switching places is not so much fun anymore,” frowned Taylor.

Tori agreed. “That’s right. We’re getting older and I’m tired of people thinking I’m you.”

At home, Tori suggested to her sister, “People think we’re the same. But we’re not. We’re different ... and it’s time for us to prove it.”

“Really?” Taylor laughed.

But Tori wasn’t smiling. She was downright serious.



“Okay,” asked Taylor, “how do we do that?”

Tori enjoyed puzzles and games, so she said, “Every problem has a solution. Let’s try looking different. If that isn’t enough, then we’ll think of something else.”

The sisters shook hands.

That night, they begged their mama to take them shopping. For the first time, they picked out completely different clothes.

Mama said, “Wow, you two look different!” The twins couldn’t wait for school.



UNTWIST THE PAIR

On Wednesday, Taylor pulled on a red shirt and blue jeans. Tori picked a green shirt and black leggings. They smiled secretively when Chris remarked, “What are you girls up to?”

But when Principal Olano greeted Taylor with a “Good morning, Tori,” she frowned.

At recess, Taylor pulled her sister aside and whispered, “They’re still mixing us up! We will have to wear something even more different tomorrow.”

On Thursday morning, Tori posed in front of the mirror. “How does this hat look on me?” she asked.

“Cool!” replied Taylor. “What do you think of my eyeglasses?”