Hive Mind
Part Two



Written and Illustrated by Timothy J. Bradley

TCM Teacher Created Materials

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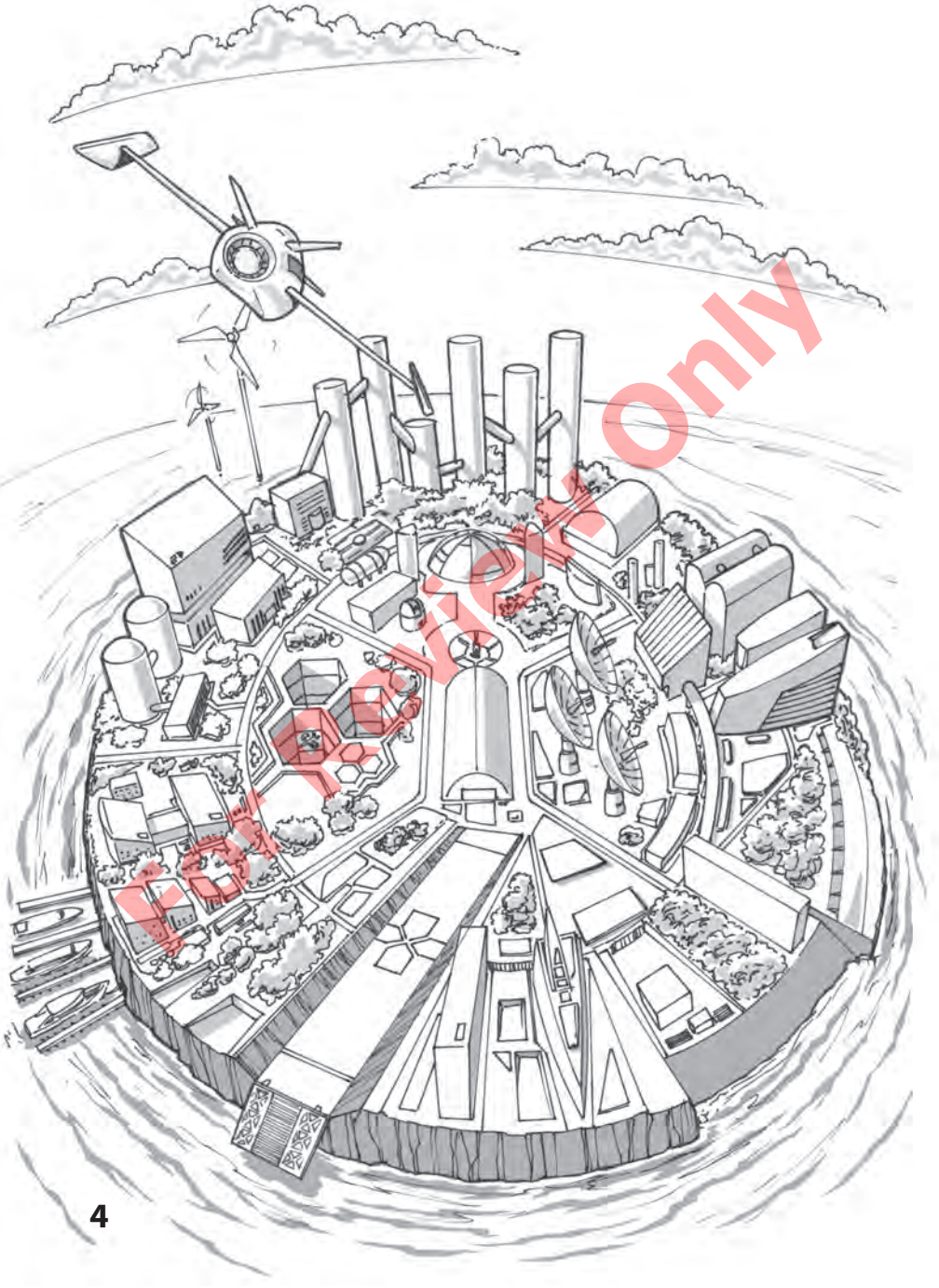
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CHAPTER ONE

Physics at Play

Now, for my favorite class, Penny Day thought to herself. She was excited to get to know her new friends Hari and Sidney, but most of all, she was excited to show off her athletic skills. The three students had recently been selected to attend Sci Hi, and the school was unlike any Penny had ever

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attended. Everything they did involved science or problem solving in some way. Physical education was no different.

This is why physical education with Ms. Newton was one of her favorite parts of the day. She was always ready for any challenge that was thrown at her. Plus, Penny loved to conquer new sports.

The students changed into white shorts and T-shirts with the Sci Hi emblem. They stood in a large gymnasium with cinder block walls and a rubber floor.

"All right, everyone, listen up!" Ms. Newton shouted from the center of the gym. Her dark, spiky hair stood out in all directions. She held what looked like a yellow soccer ball in a bulky glove on her right hand. The ball was covered with deep seams that emitted a bright-blue light. "We are about to put the *physics* into *physical education*. We're going to play a game called

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Zero-G Ball. It's just like dodgeball, except for one thing—the ball."

Sid and Hari looked a little confused, but Penny knew exactly what to do. She watched as Ms. Newton tossed the ball into the air. Instead of falling to the floor, the ball flew up until it bounced off the gym's ceiling, then off a wall, and finally to the floor. Ms. Newton reached out with her gloved hand. The ball changed direction and stuck to the glove.

"The balls we are using for this game have been fitted with gravity nullifiers. They will continue moving until they are stopped by friction from the air, impact with the walls, or you.

"The motion of the ball is a perfect example of the property of inertia. It states that an object in motion tends to stay in motion and an object at rest will stay at rest, unless an outside force acts on that object. You will be that outside force," Ms. Newton said.

Penny looked around excitedly.

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"The rules are the same as traditional dodgeball, except you can't take someone out of the game by hitting them directly with a ball. To knock a player out, the ball must first bounce off at least one surface: a wall, the floor, or the ceiling. So, keep that in mind.

"Each team will have either red or yellow balls. Let's separate into teams. Tesla is red and on that side of the gym, and Edison is yellow on the other." Edison was one of the other dormitory buildings, and just as the scientists themselves were, the students in the Tesla and Edison dorms were fierce competitors.

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CHAPTER TWO



Heated Competition

As they took their places, the students' shirts turned red or yellow. Ms. Newton tossed each side six balls, which seemed normal until the teams picked them up. Then, each ball began glowing with its team color.

A buzzer sounded, and suddenly a dozen glowing balls were bouncing

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around the room in every direction. The bombardment came from all sides. The shirts of those struck by an opponent's ball turned to white, and those players left the field to sit on the sidelines.

Within the first few minutes, Penny noticed Sid took a ball to the chest. Soon, her teammates began dropping like flies. Hari lasted maybe a minute longer.

She could hear them on the sidelines, cheering on the other players. It was hard to keep up with the crazy bouncing balls and the running, shrieking students.

Soon, Penny realized she was the only player left from her team. She focused her sights on the one player left in Edison yellow. She wasn't even phased; she knew exactly what she needed to do to clinch the win.

Her new friends cheering her on propelled her forward.

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