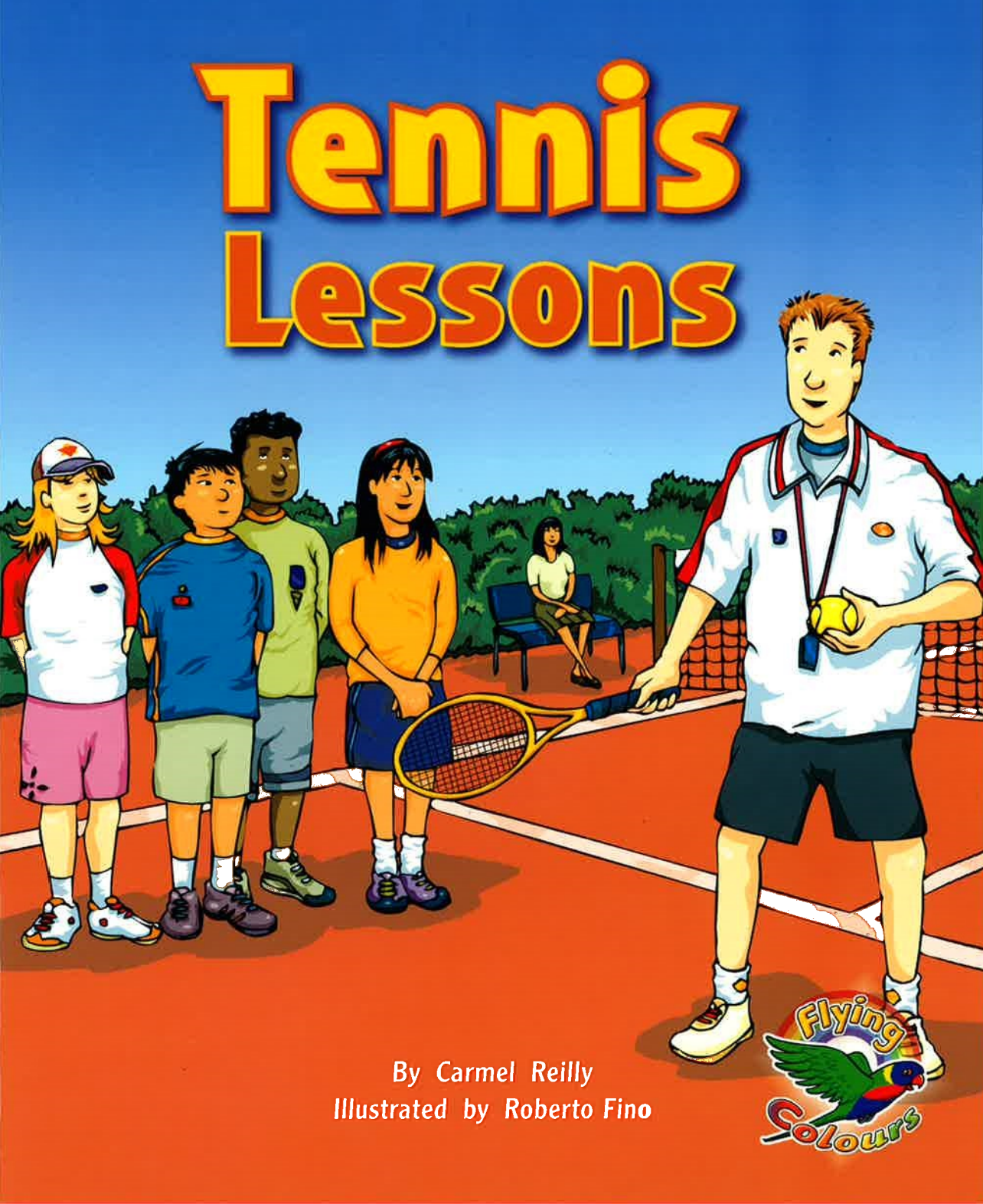
Tennis Lessons



By Carmel Reilly
Illustrated by Roberto Fino

Flying Colours



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Chapter 1

Something New

As Eddie walked past the basketball court, he heard the thud of a ball landing near him.

"Quick, Eddie, grab it," he heard someone say.

By the time he turned around, a boy had already caught the ball. Eddie saw him bouncing it up towards the goal.



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Eddie stood at the side for a moment before turning around and walking over to one of the benches. He sat down. From there, he watched his friends as they rushed wildly around the basketball court. Although he could see that they were having fun, playing basketball never seemed like much fun to him.



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"I'm so bad at sports," he told his mum that night. "I'm a slow runner and I'm not very good at kicking or catching balls."

"Perhaps you need more practice," Mum suggested.

Eddie shook his head. "I've tried to join in with basketball and football, but I never get picked for the teams."

"What about trying something different?" asked Mum.

Eddie looked at her. "Like what?" he asked slowly.

"You could try tennis. There are some old racquets in the cupboard. You could use one of those. What do you think?"

Eddie looked unsure. "I don't know, Mum," he answered.

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Chapter 2

Learning the Basics

A few days before the end of term, Eddie's mum told him that she had booked him in for some tennis lessons during the holidays. "Only four," she said. "Just so you can try it out."

Eddie groaned. "Do I have to?" he asked.

"Eddie," Mum said. "We've discussed this before. Just because you don't like sport doesn't mean you shouldn't do anything physical. Everyone needs to exercise. You just need to find something you enjoy doing."

"I don't think I'm going to enjoy tennis," Eddie muttered.

"Come on, have a go," replied Mum. "You won't know until you try it."

Eddie felt anxious as he walked with his mum to the tennis courts the next week. When he arrived, he saw that there were only three other children in the class. They were all beginners like Eddie, and they all looked about the same age. Eddie quickly relaxed and forgot his fears.

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