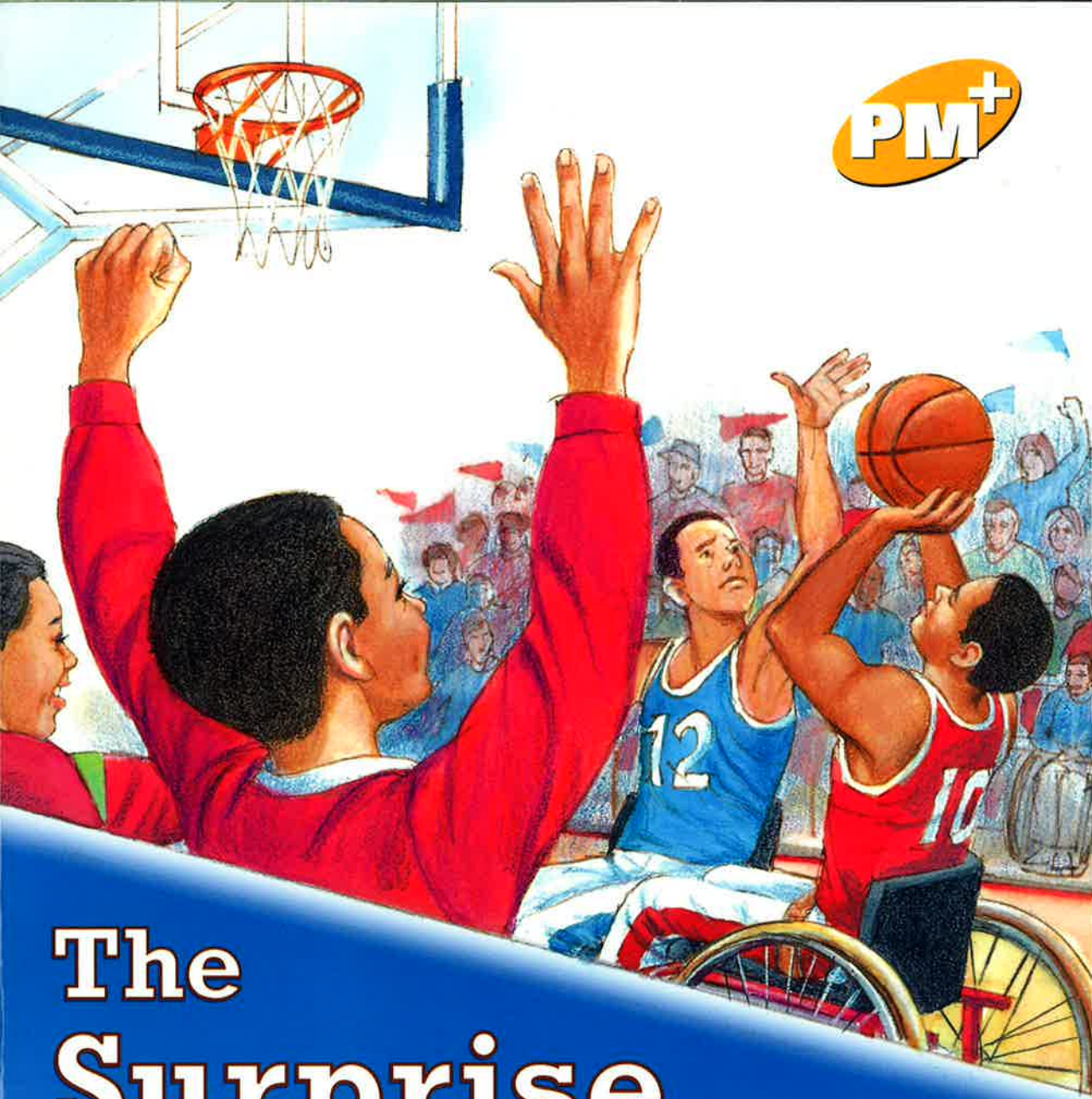


The Surprise Invitation

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Jon enjoyed watching basketball
on television.

But one day, he said,
"I wish I could play basketball
like that instead of just watching."

Jon's sister Nicola wanted to help him.
"Maybe there's something we can do,"
she thought.
Then she had an idea,
and she went to talk to Mum.

"Yes," said Mum, "I like that idea.
Let's write a letter,
but we'll have to keep it a secret."



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Next week, something arrived in the mail.
It was addressed to Jon.
"It's an invitation!" he said,
"and it's from a basketball club!
They've invited us to a game
on Saturday night! Why **us**?"

Mum and Nicola grinned at each other.



On Saturday, at six o'clock,
a car pulled up outside the house.

"It's time to go, Jon!" called Nicola.

When the driver of the car saw them coming,
he opened the window and called,
"Hi Jon! I'm Ricky.
Your mum can help you into the car,
and your chair can go in the back."

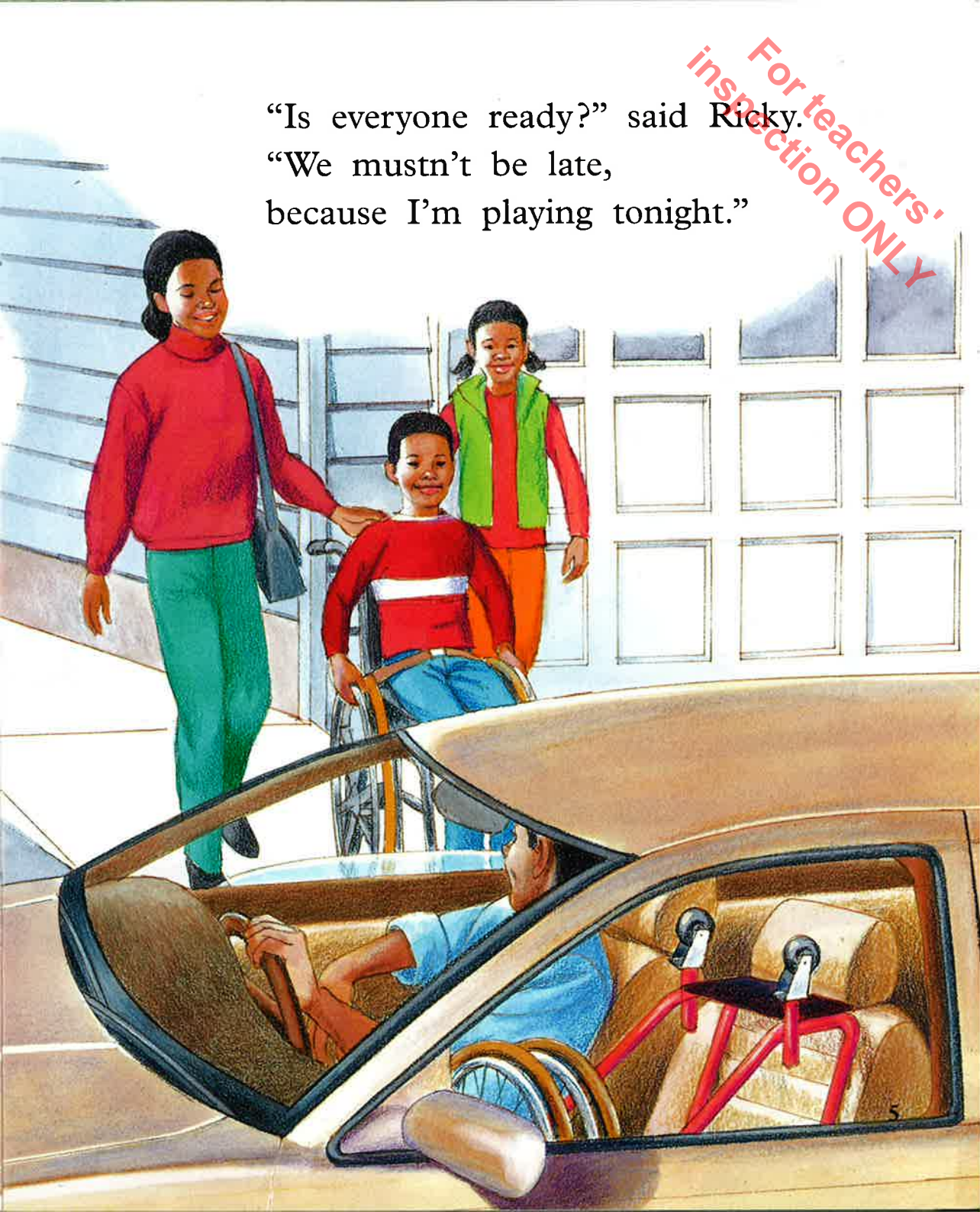
In the car, Jon saw another wheelchair,
which was folded up
and buckled into the front seat.
"I wonder who that belongs to,"
he thought.

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"Is everyone ready?" said Ricky.
"We mustn't be late,
because I'm playing tonight."



When they arrived at the stadium,
Ricky opened the driver's door.
He reached for his wheelchair
and lifted it out of the car.

"I'd better have my wheels!" he laughed.

Jon watched in surprise
as Ricky set up the wheelchair
and pushed himself into it.

"You're in a wheelchair,
but you can drive, too," whispered Jon.

"Oh, yes," laughed Ricky,
"this is a special car!"



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