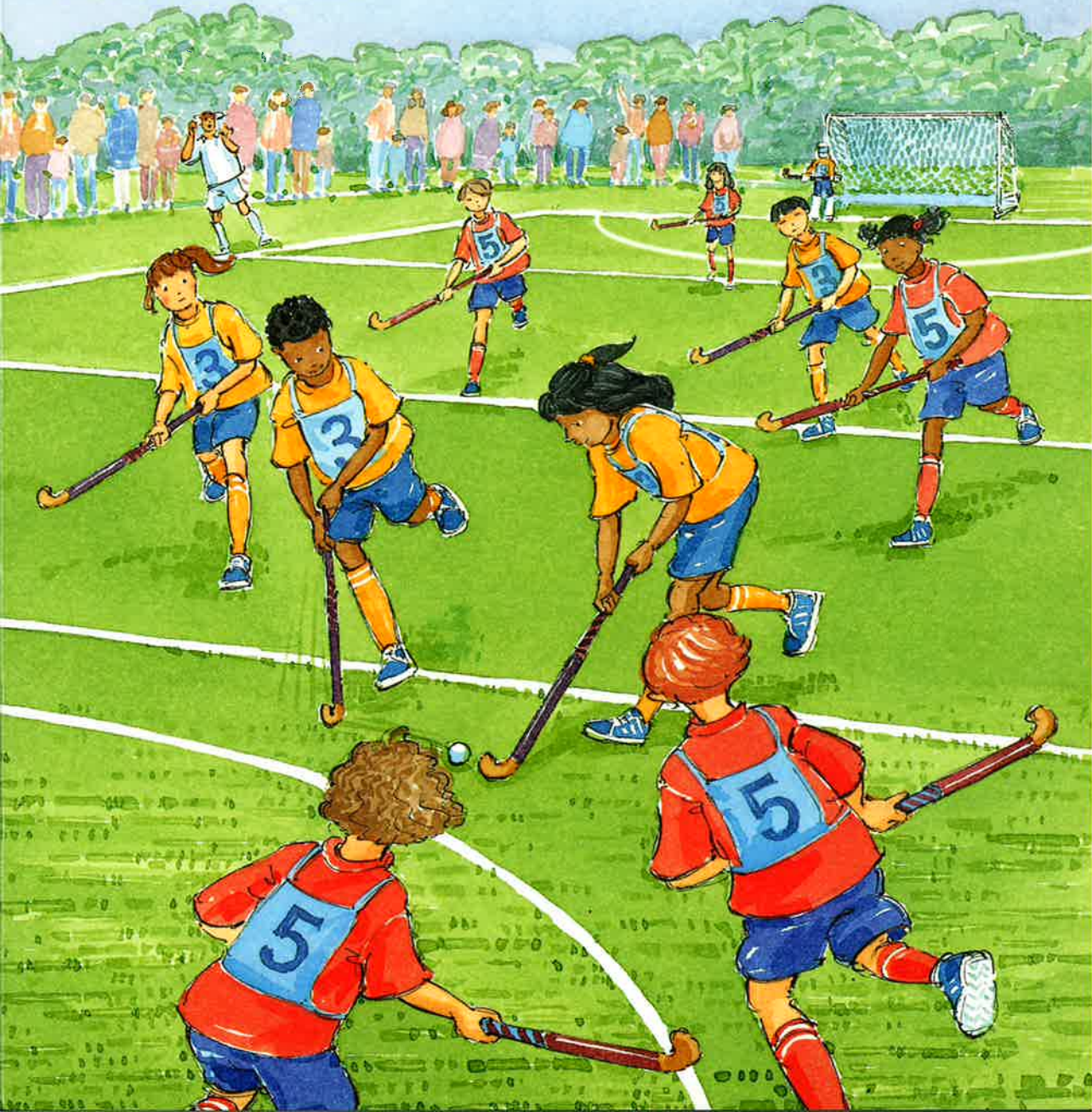
Teamwork

PM+

Story by Dawn McMillan Illustrations by Pat Reynolds



When Karina came to her new school, she had thought that making friends would be easy. At her other school, she had known everybody. Now, in this big school, she was lonely.

"Don't worry, Karina. You'll soon settle in," said Mum gently.

At first, Karina joined in all the games at school. When they played baseball, she hit the ball high into the air, past the fielders, and scored a home run almost every time. When they played basketball, she raced past the other children to score, again and again. And when they played chasing, no one could catch her — not even Lisa, who had always been the best runner in the class.

Soon, the children stopped asking Karina to play.

"We've got enough players on our baseball team today," said Lisa.

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Karina was surprised that they didn't want her on the team.



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Every lunchtime, Karina stayed in the library.

Mr Walker, her teacher, was worried about her. "Take a break, Karina," he said. "Go out with the other children. Have some fun!"

"It's all right, thanks, Mr Walker," replied Karina. "I like to get my homework done early." She turned back to her books. "No one wants me on their team anyway," she thought.





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One day, when Karina came home from school, she tossed her bag down and started to cry.

"Karina!" said Mum in surprise. "What's wrong?"

Karina put her head in her hands. "I don't want to go to this school, Mum. I've tried to make friends. At lunchtime, the other kids don't ask me to join in their games. Everyone thinks that I'm a show-off!" she sobbed.

