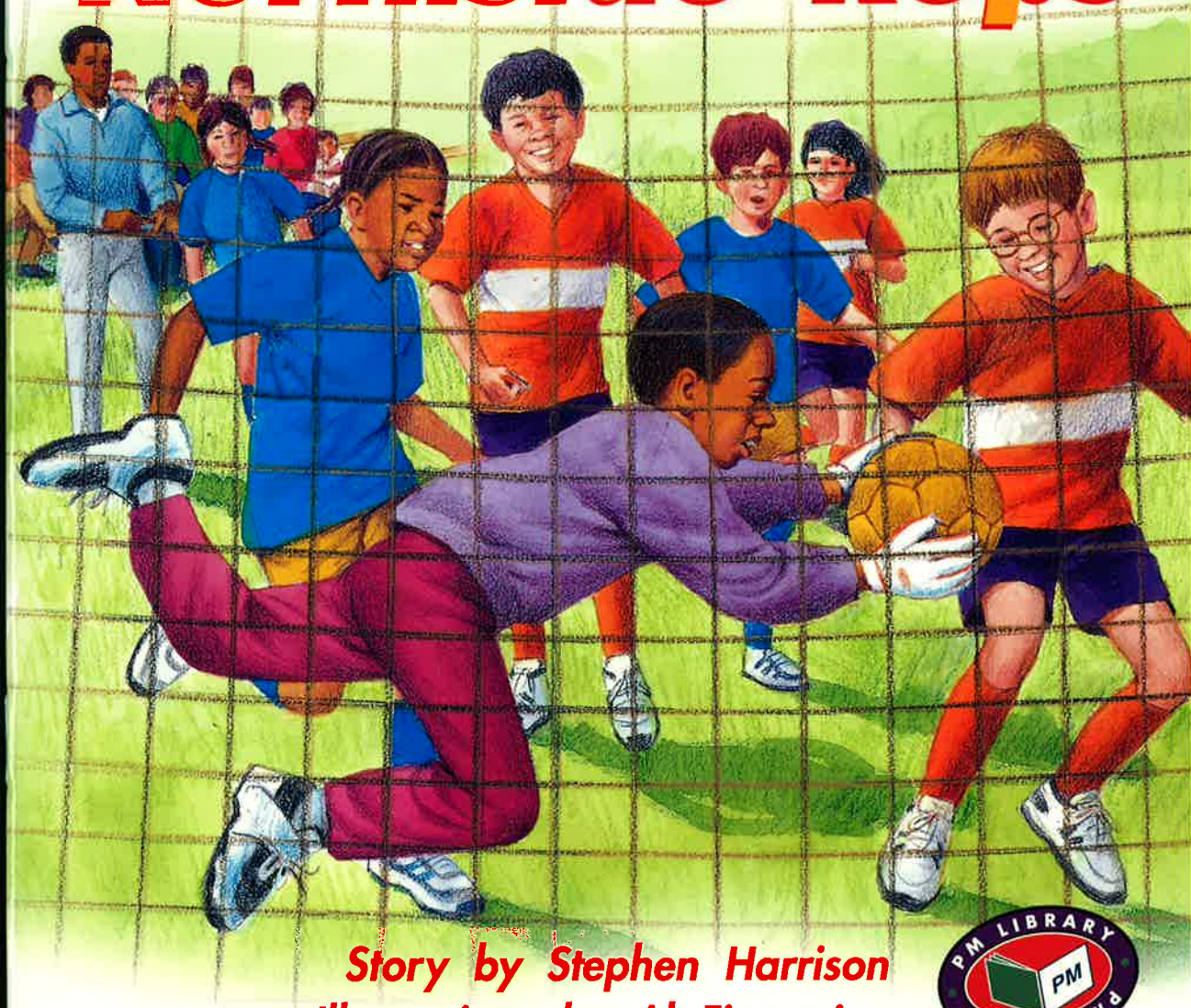
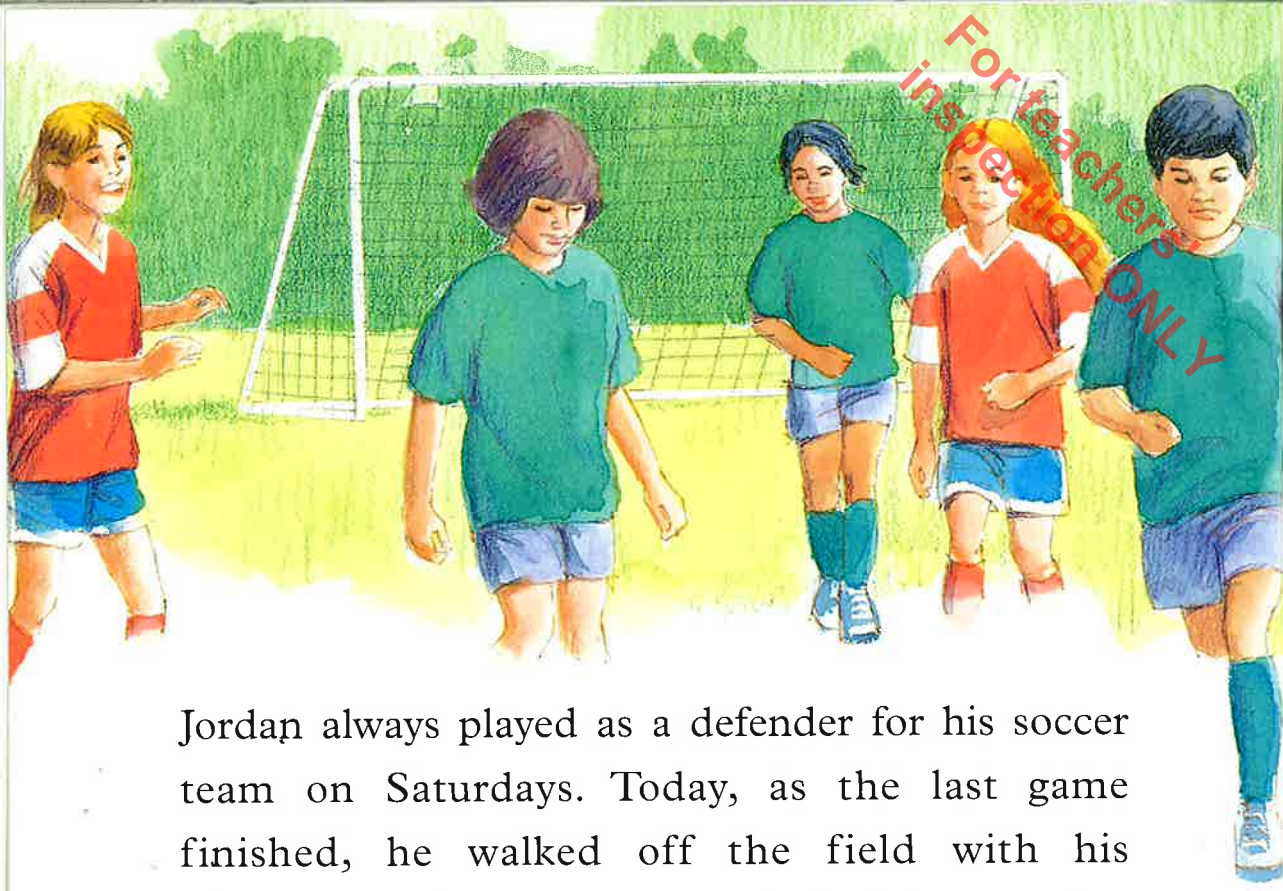
Jordan and the Northside Reps



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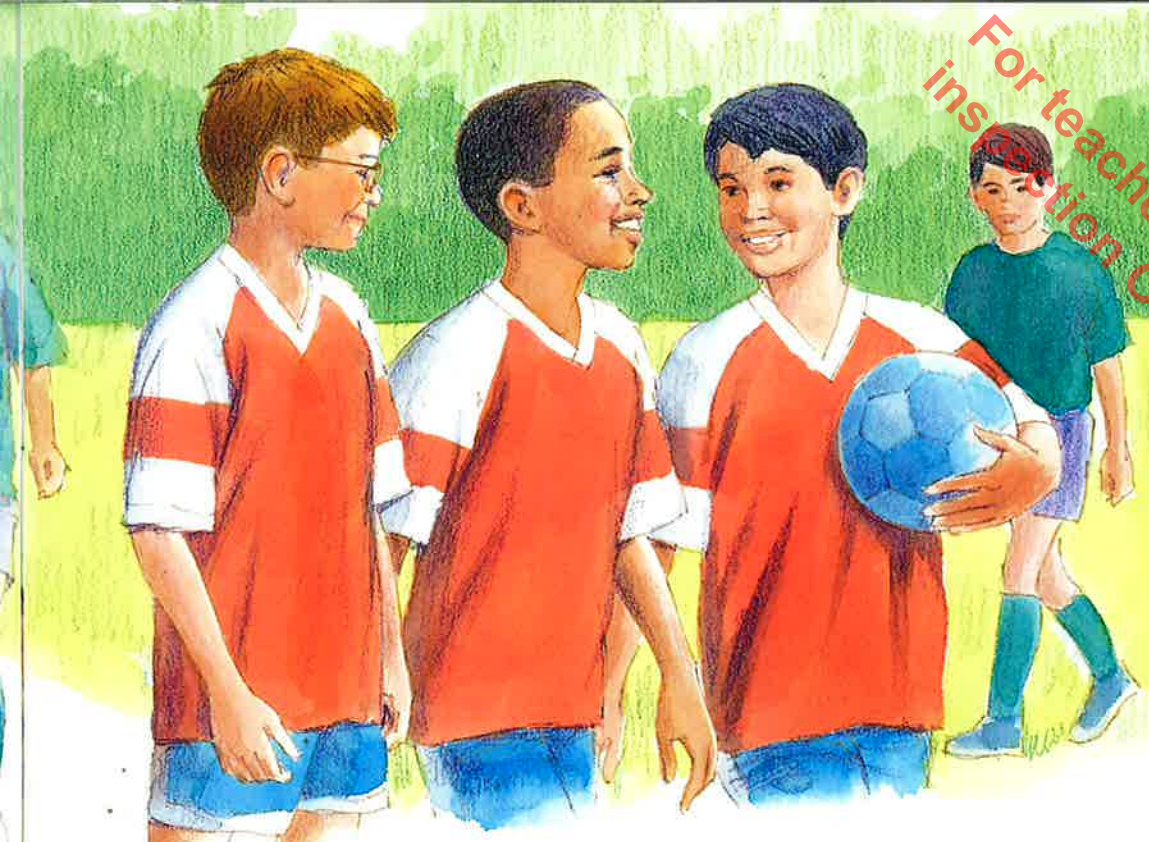


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Jordan always played as a defender for his soccer team on Saturdays. Today, as the last game finished, he walked off the field with his friends, Kris and Liam. They had all been trying to play well, because the selector for the Northside Reps had been watching every game.

"Let's go and see if we got in the Rep team," said Jordan. "They're going to announce it now."

"We should get in," said Kris, "because we all played for the Reps last year."



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The three boys waited for the selector to read out the names.

"I feel a bit nervous," said Liam. "I don't think I'm going to get in. There are some good players here today."

"You'll get in as a striker!" said Jordan. "You scored two goals today!"

The selector began to read from his list.

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Kris and Liam grinned at each other as their names were announced. But by the time the selector had finished speaking, Jordan realised that his name hadn't been called.

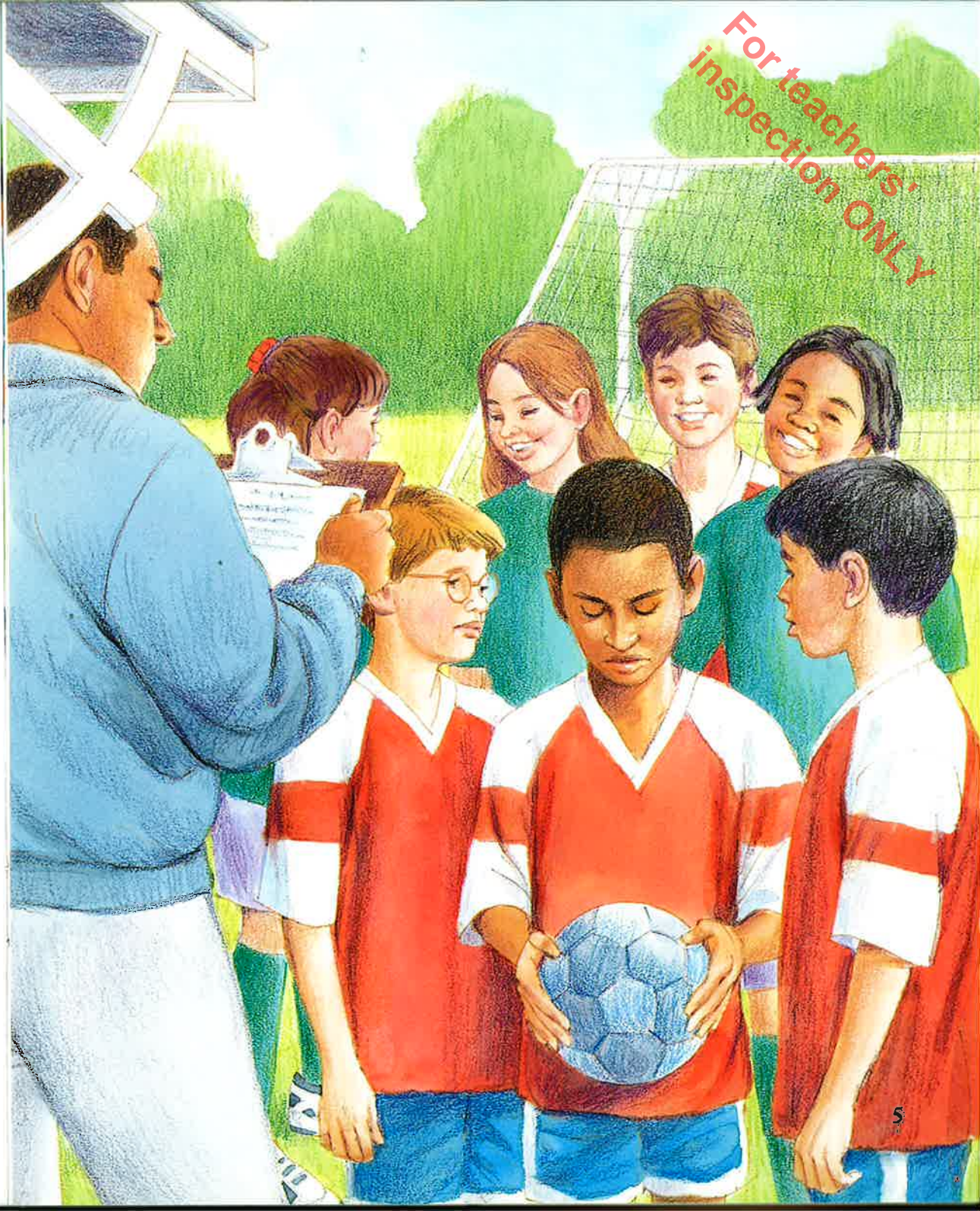
"I've missed out," he said quietly. "I didn't get in the team."

Liam and Kris looked at Jordan in dismay. Then the selector said, "Congratulations to the new Northside Representatives. There will be a team practice here next Saturday morning. Now, as you will have noticed, we haven't chosen our goalkeeper yet. We are going to have another trial, during the first practice game, for players who want to try for this position."

The boys started to walk away.

"I wish you were in the team, Jordan," said Kris.

"No chance of that now," said Jordan. "I've missed out, and that's the end of it."



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"Wait a minute!" said Kris. "You're a good goalkeeper, Jordan. Why don't you tell the selector that you'll come to the trials next Saturday?"

"Yes!" said Liam. "You sometimes play in goal for the school games."

"But I don't really like being goalkeeper," said Jordan. "I hate it when the ball gets past me, and the other side scores. And I hate the way everyone yells at goalkeepers."

"Everyone yells at strikers, too, when they miss a shot," said Liam, "but I don't care. I just think about scoring the next one."

"Go on, Jordan," said Kris. "Give it a try!"

"Yes," added Liam. "You could get in the team with us."

"**No**," said Jordan. "I just don't want to be a goalkeeper."