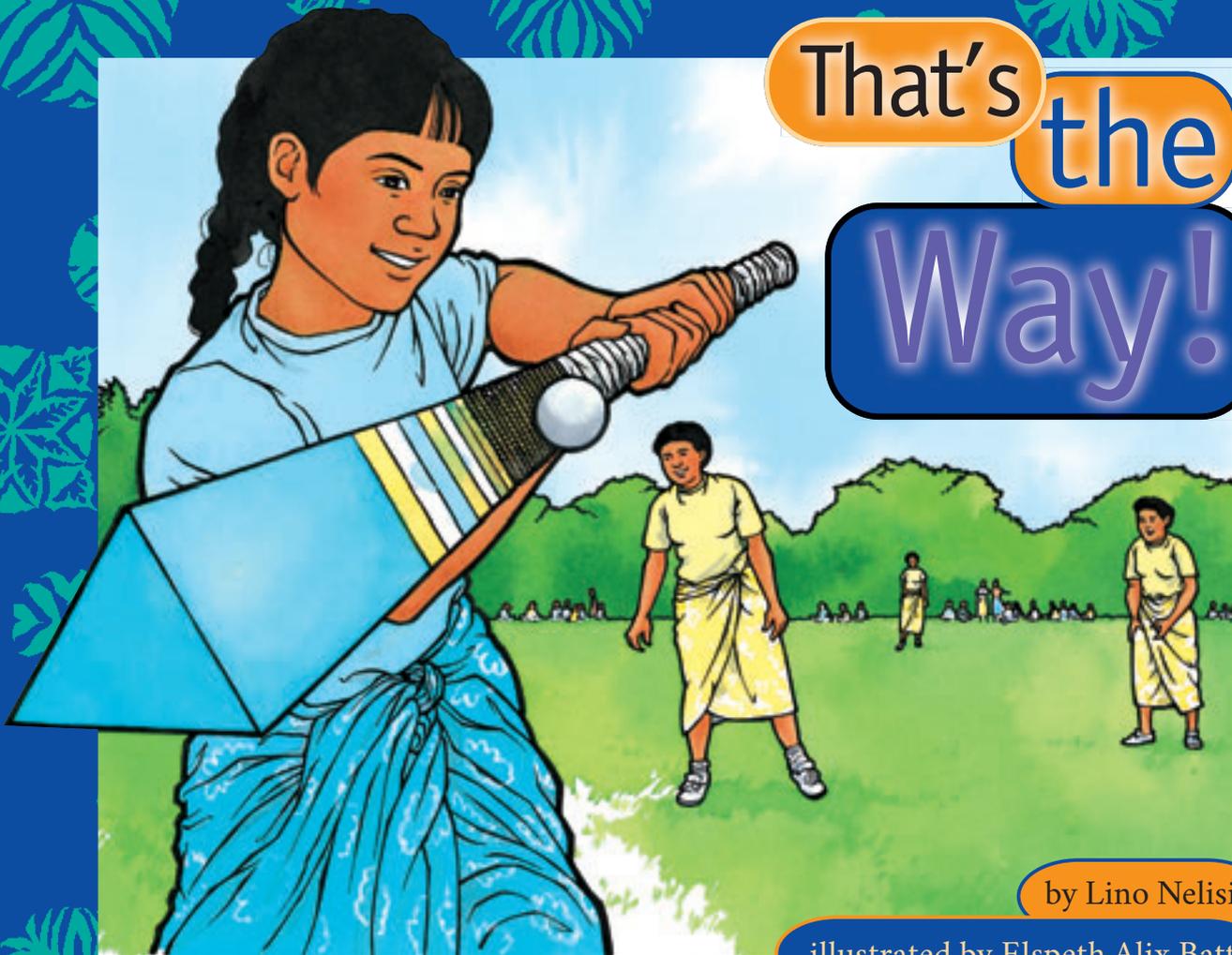


That's
the
Way!



by Lino Nelisi

illustrated by Elspeth Alix Batt

Ready
to Read

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The teacher support material (TSM) and audio for Ready to Read texts
can be found online at www.readytoread.tki.org.nz

This book includes English, vagahau Niue, and gagana Sāmoa vocabulary.

Fakaave (fa-ka-ah-vay): Hurry up!

Animoe (ah-nee-mo-e – e as in 'egg')

lavalava (lahva-lahva): Samoan word for wraparound skirt or kilt

Pasi taha (pah-see ta-ha): One clap!

Pasi ua (pah-see oo-ah): Two claps!

Pasi tolu (pah-see toh-loo): Three claps!

Tū (too): Stand firm!

Ono mai (or-naw my): Look at the ball!

Kia mau (kee-a mow – mow as in English 'now'): Are you ready?

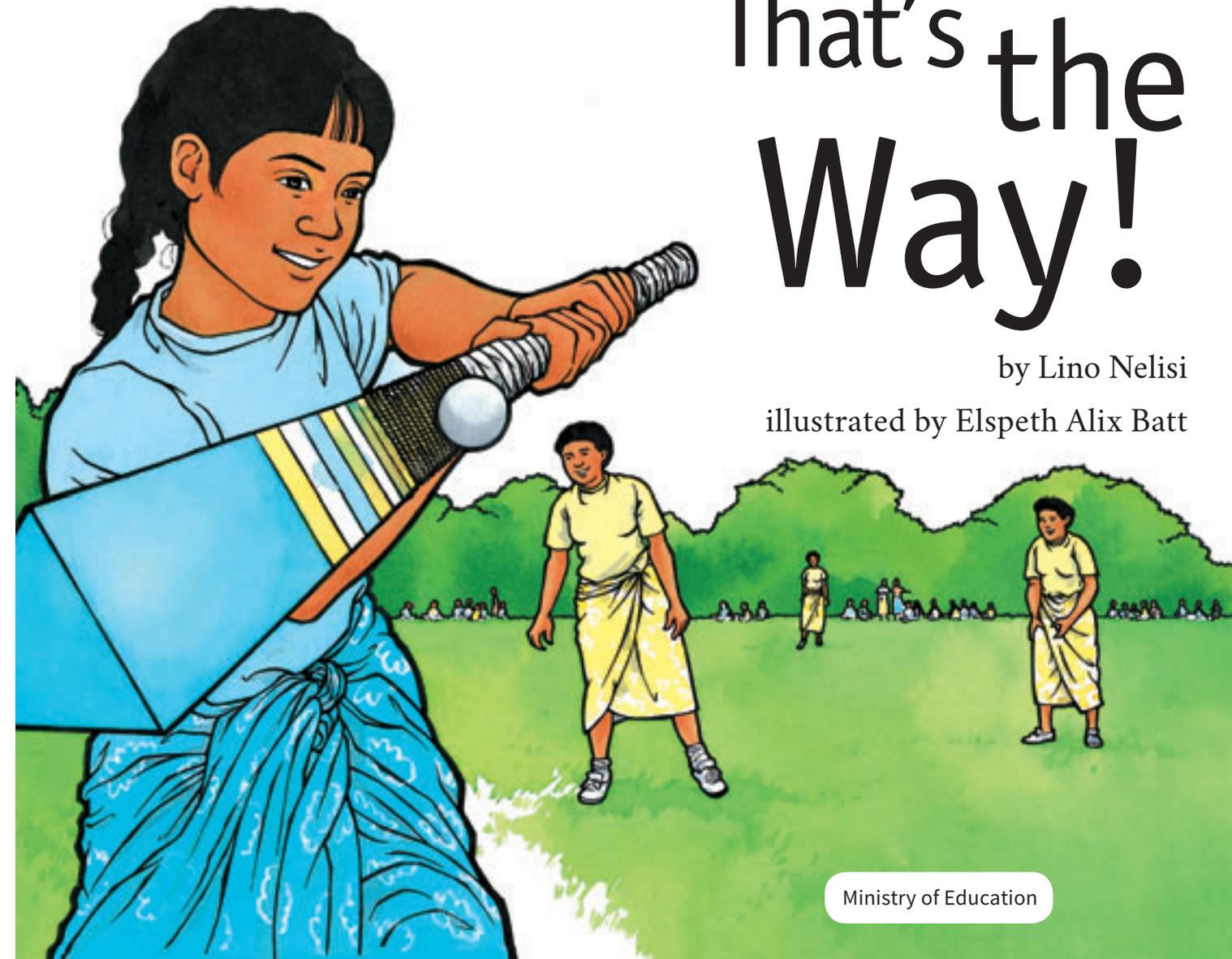
fā (fah): four

lima (lee-mah): five

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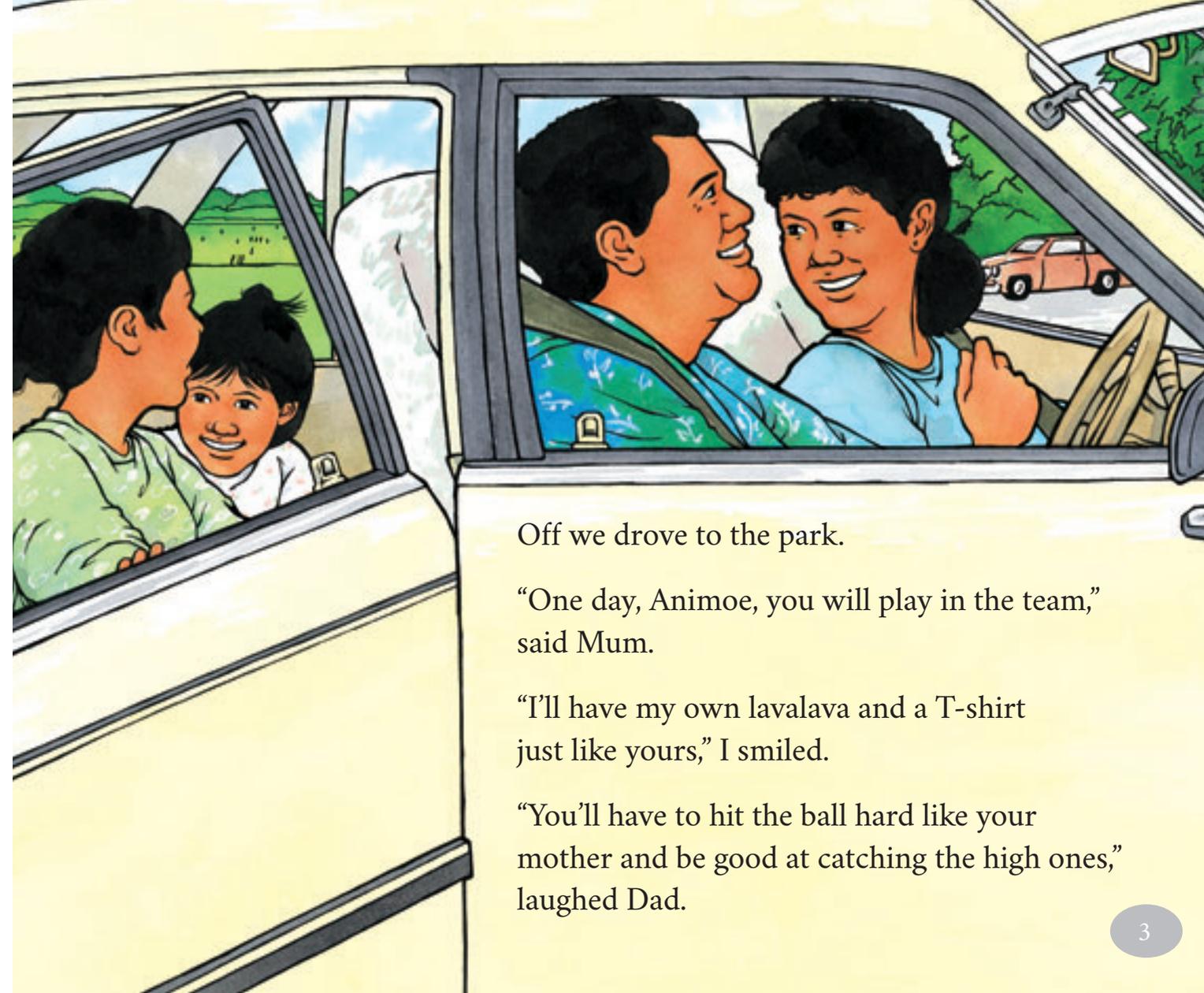
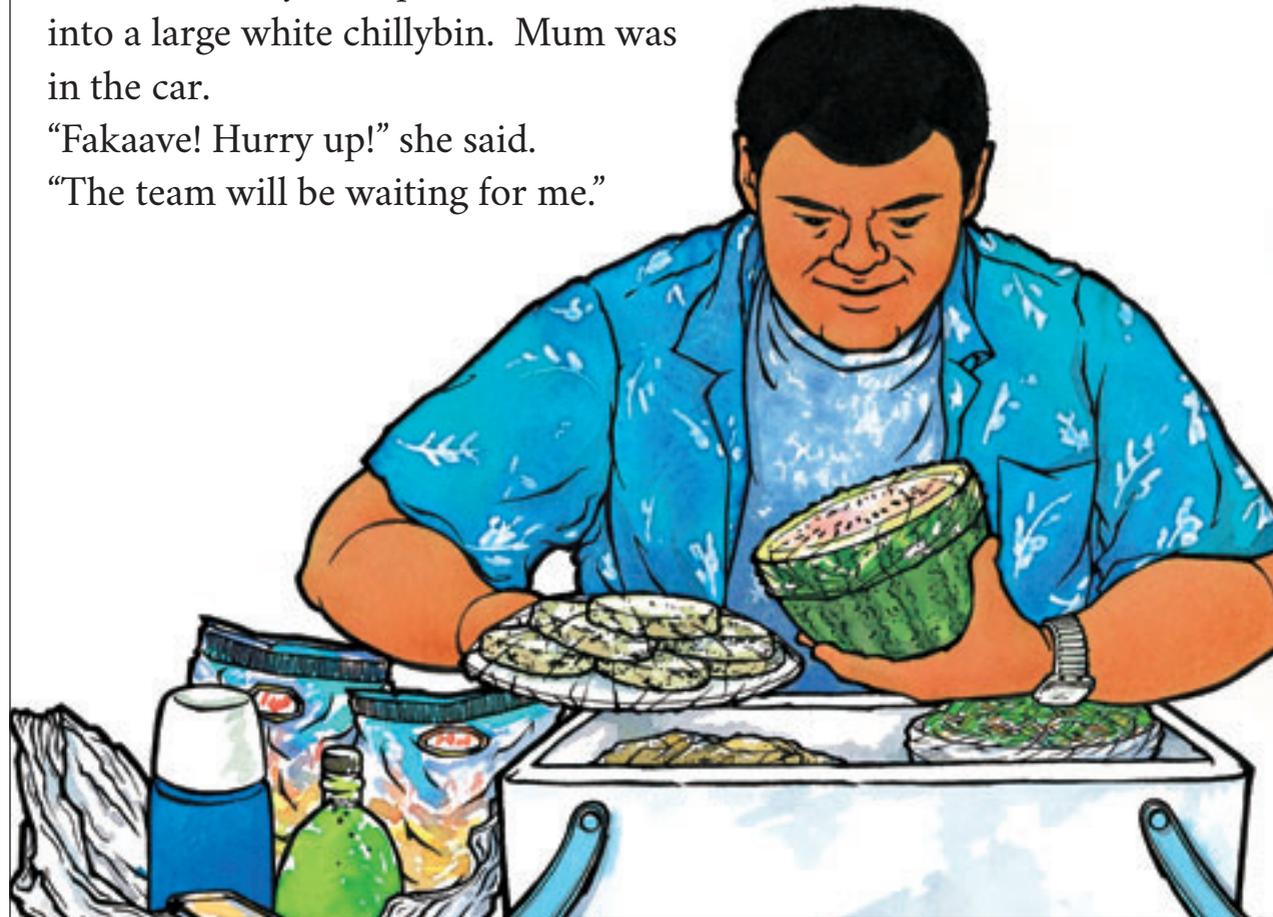
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On Saturday, Dad packed our lunch into a large white chillybin. Mum was in the car.

“Fakaave! Hurry up!” she said.

“The team will be waiting for me.”

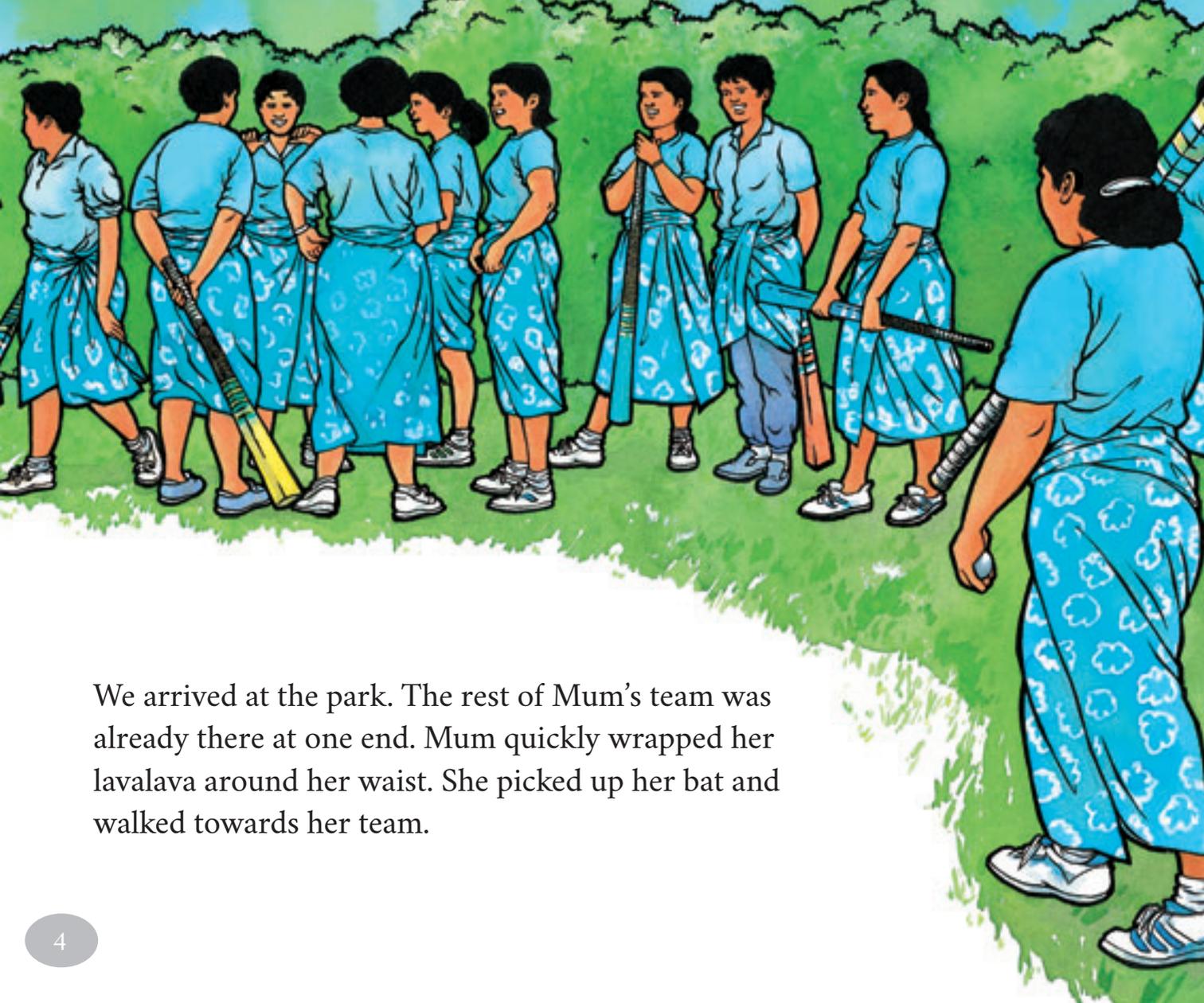


Off we drove to the park.

“One day, Animoe, you will play in the team,” said Mum.

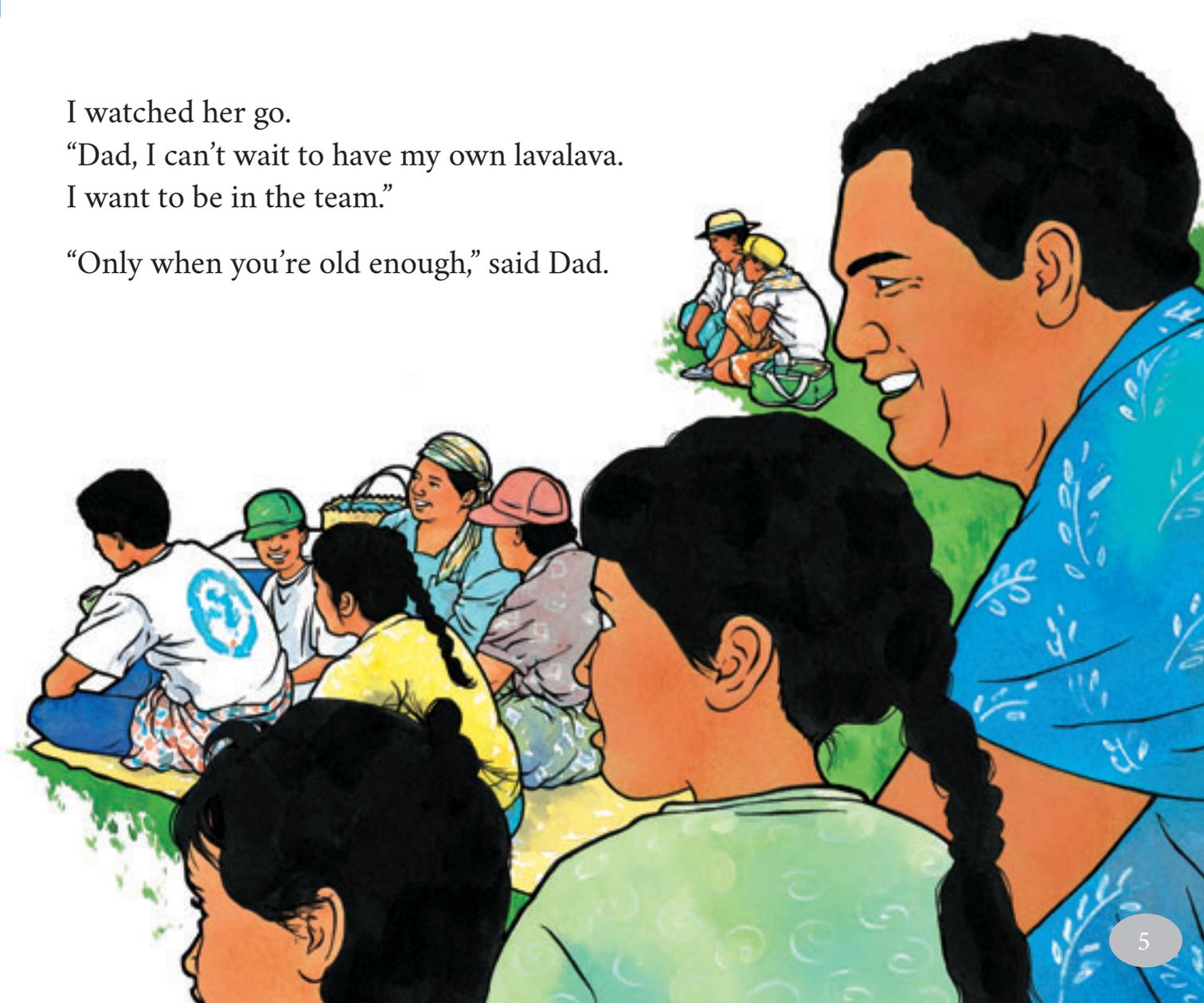
“I’ll have my own lavalava and a T-shirt just like yours,” I smiled.

“You’ll have to hit the ball hard like your mother and be good at catching the high ones,” laughed Dad.



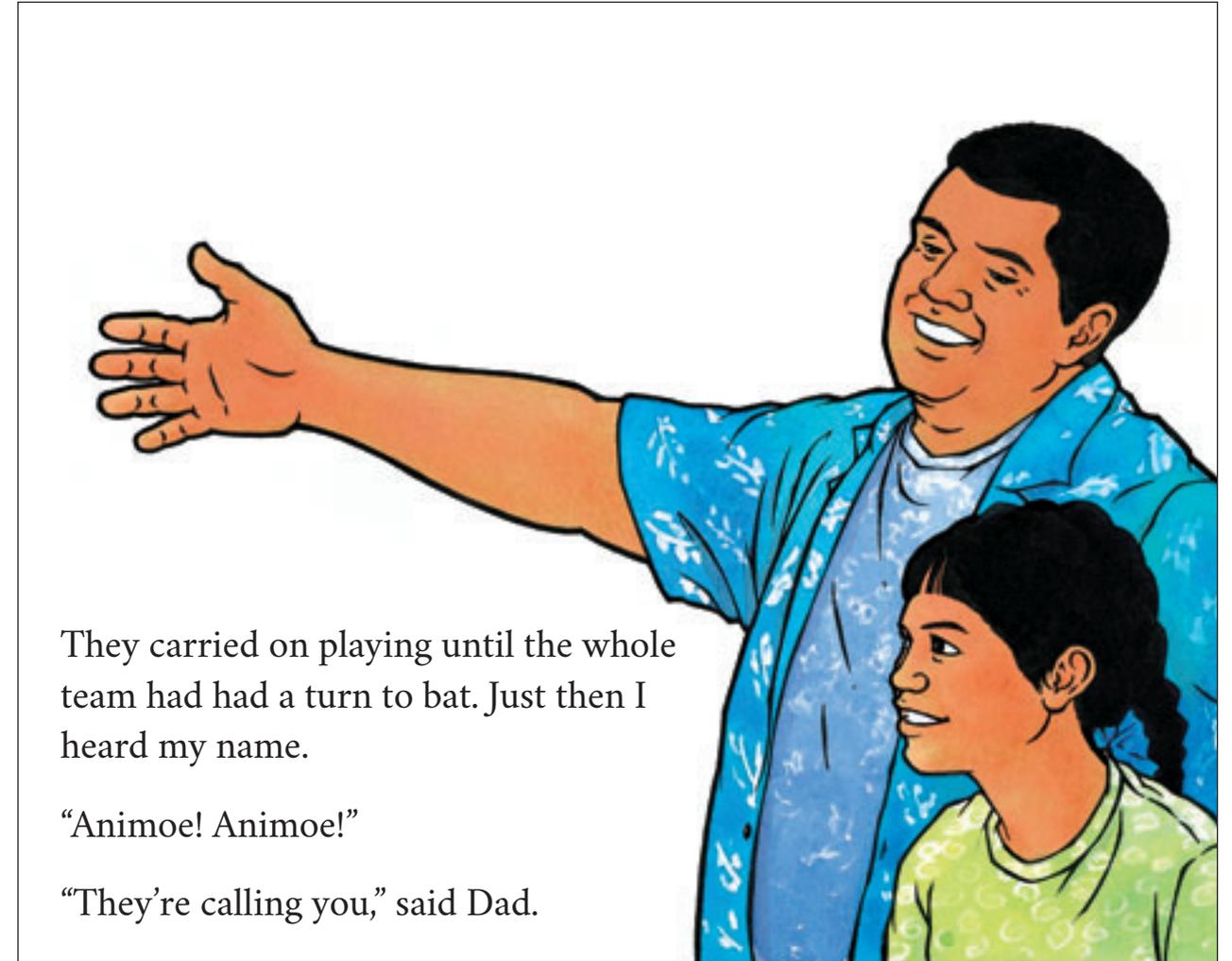
We arrived at the park. The rest of Mum's team was already there at one end. Mum quickly wrapped her lavalava around her waist. She picked up her bat and walked towards her team.

I watched her go.
"Dad, I can't wait to have my own lavalava.
I want to be in the team."
"Only when you're old enough," said Dad.



We loved watching the women playing island cricket. They were much more fun to watch than the men. When a woman from the other team was out, they all cheered, clapped, and whistled.

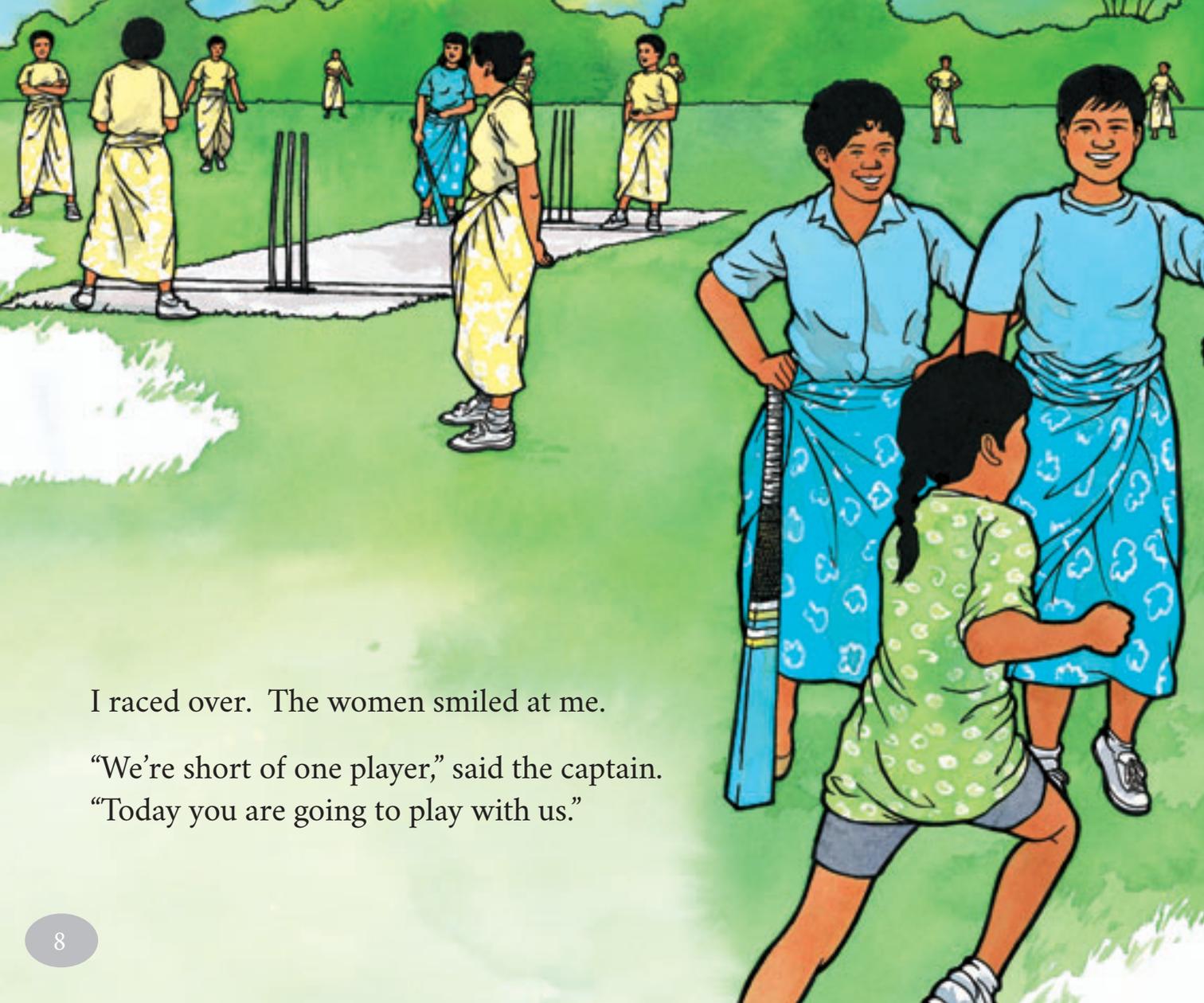
Mum would blow her whistle and shout out to her team, “Pasi taha! Pasi ua! Pasi tolu!”



They carried on playing until the whole team had had a turn to bat. Just then I heard my name.

“Animoe! Animoe!”

“They’re calling you,” said Dad.



I raced over. The women smiled at me.

“We’re short of one player,” said the captain.
“Today you are going to play with us.”

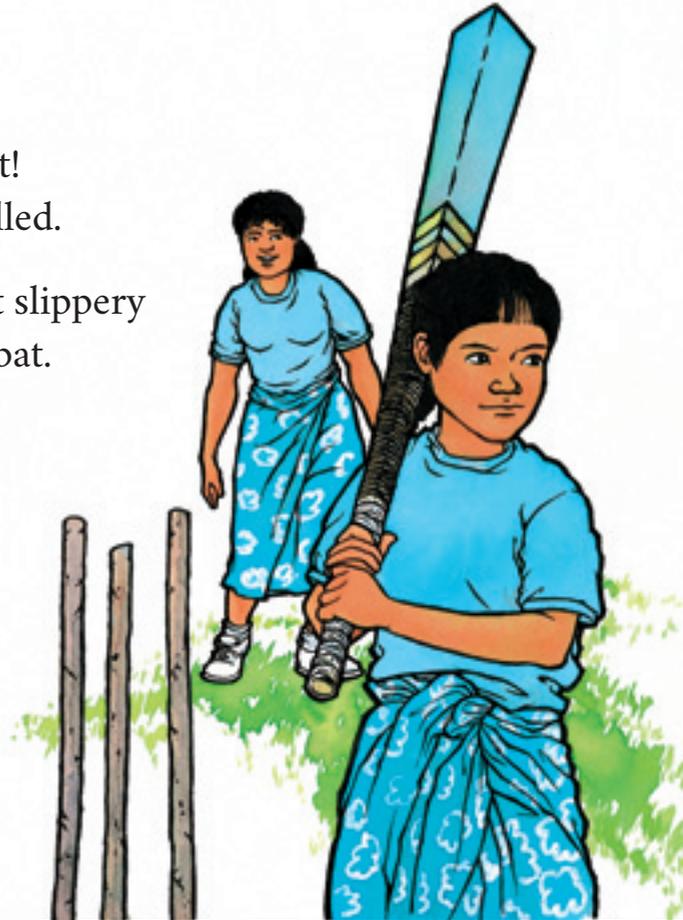


Mum handed me a blue lavalava, a blue T-shirt, and the bat. I laughed with the women when they saw that the bat was as tall as me! But the bat was light. I carried it on my shoulder, just like Mum.

I marched smartly to the field. The referee looked at me.

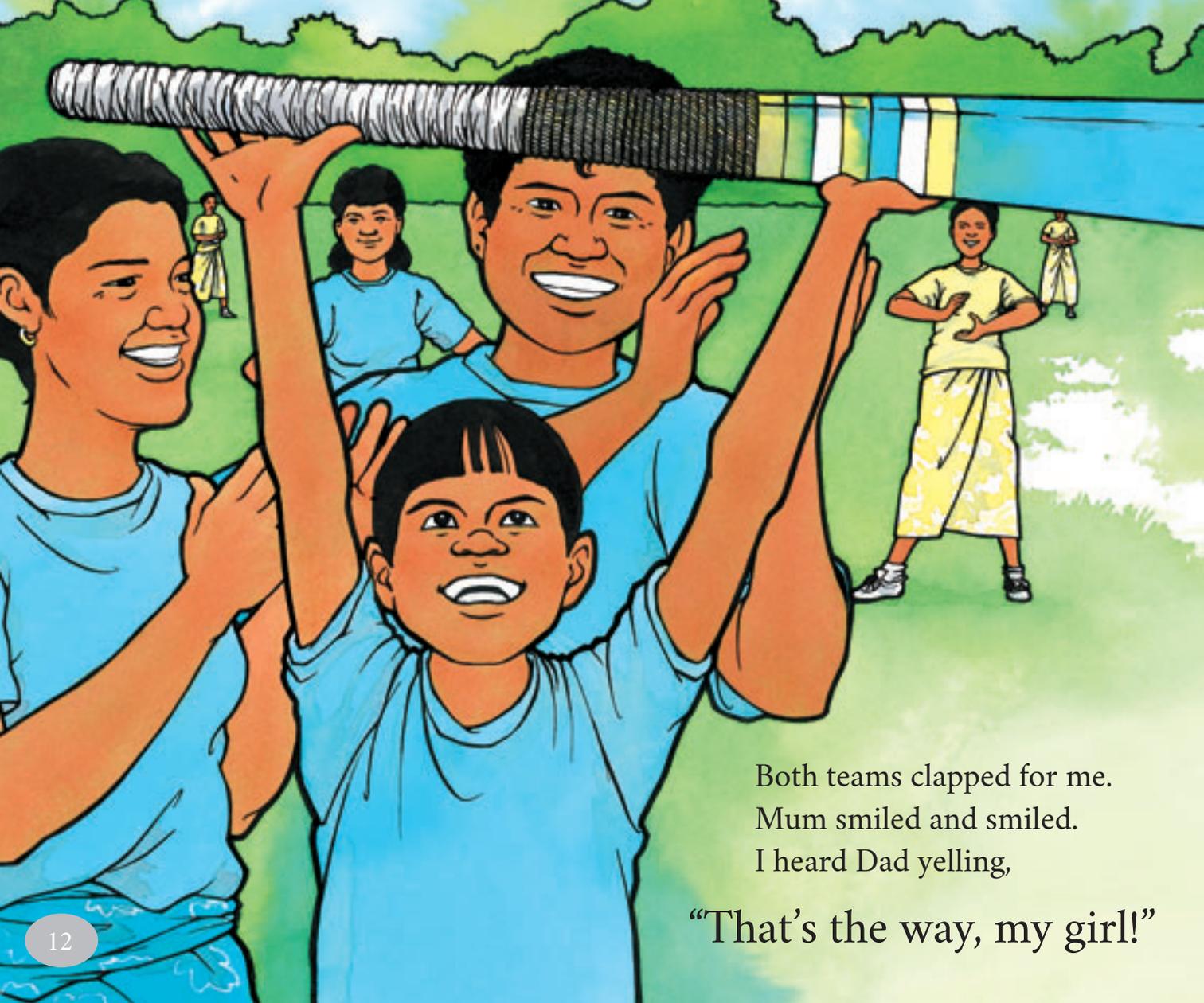
“Tū! Stand firm!
Ono mai! Look at the ball and hit!
Kia mau? Are you ready?” she called.

I nodded my head. My hands felt slippery as I tried to grip the neck of the bat.



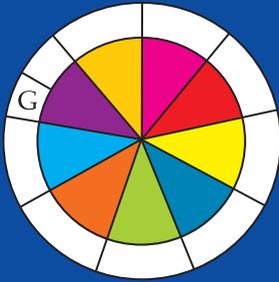
I swung the bat. The ball spun across the field and into the hedge. The women from the other team ran after it and searched and searched.

“Taha ... ua ... tolu ... fā ... lima!” counted the captain.
“Five runs for Animoe,” she called.



Both teams clapped for me.
Mum smiled and smiled.
I heard Dad yelling,

“That’s the way, my girl!”



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To go directly to audio and TSM for this book, scan the QR code or use the short URL.



That's the Way

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