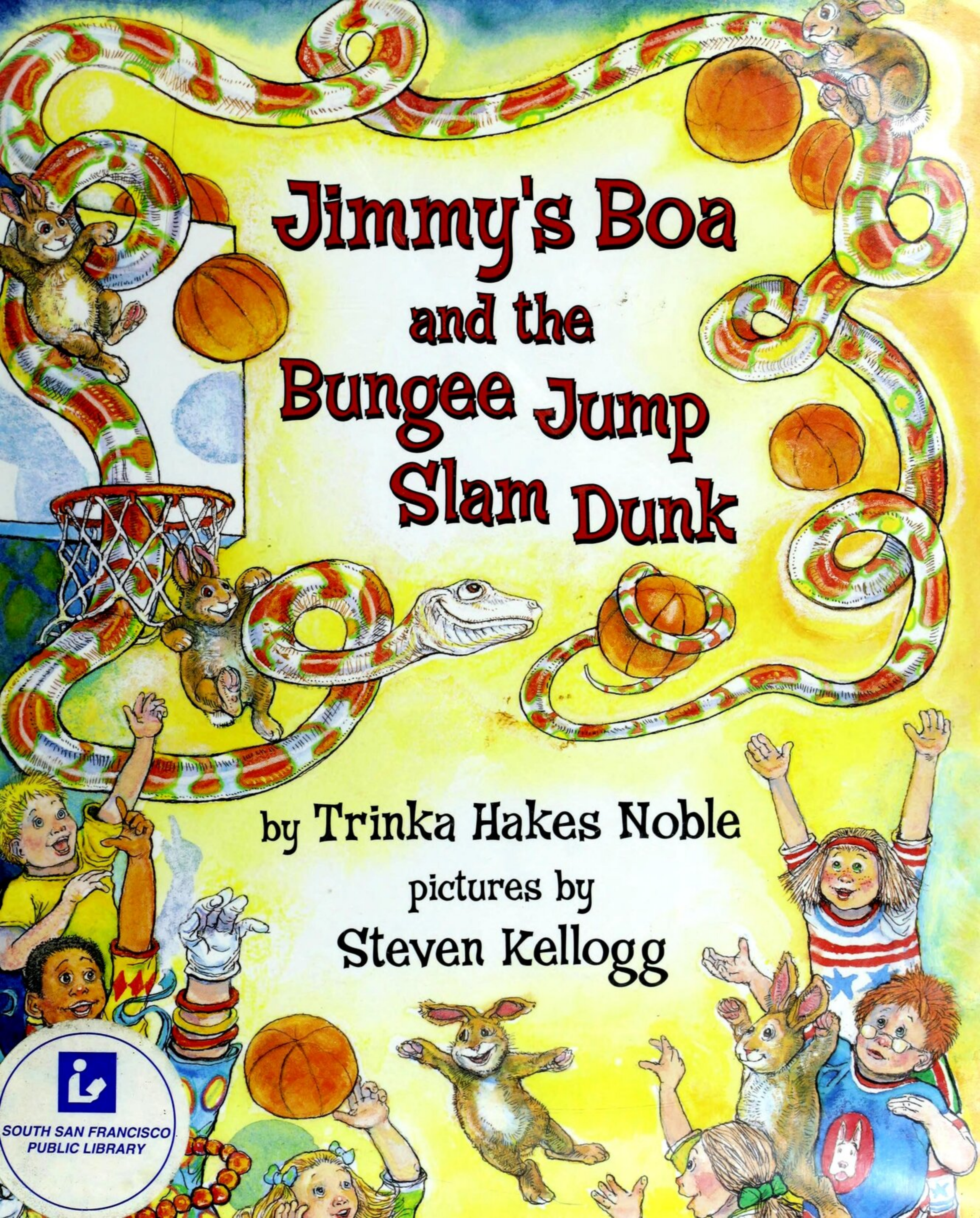




# Jimmy's Boa and the Bungee Jump Slam Dunk

by Trinka Hakes Noble  
pictures by  
Steven Kellogg

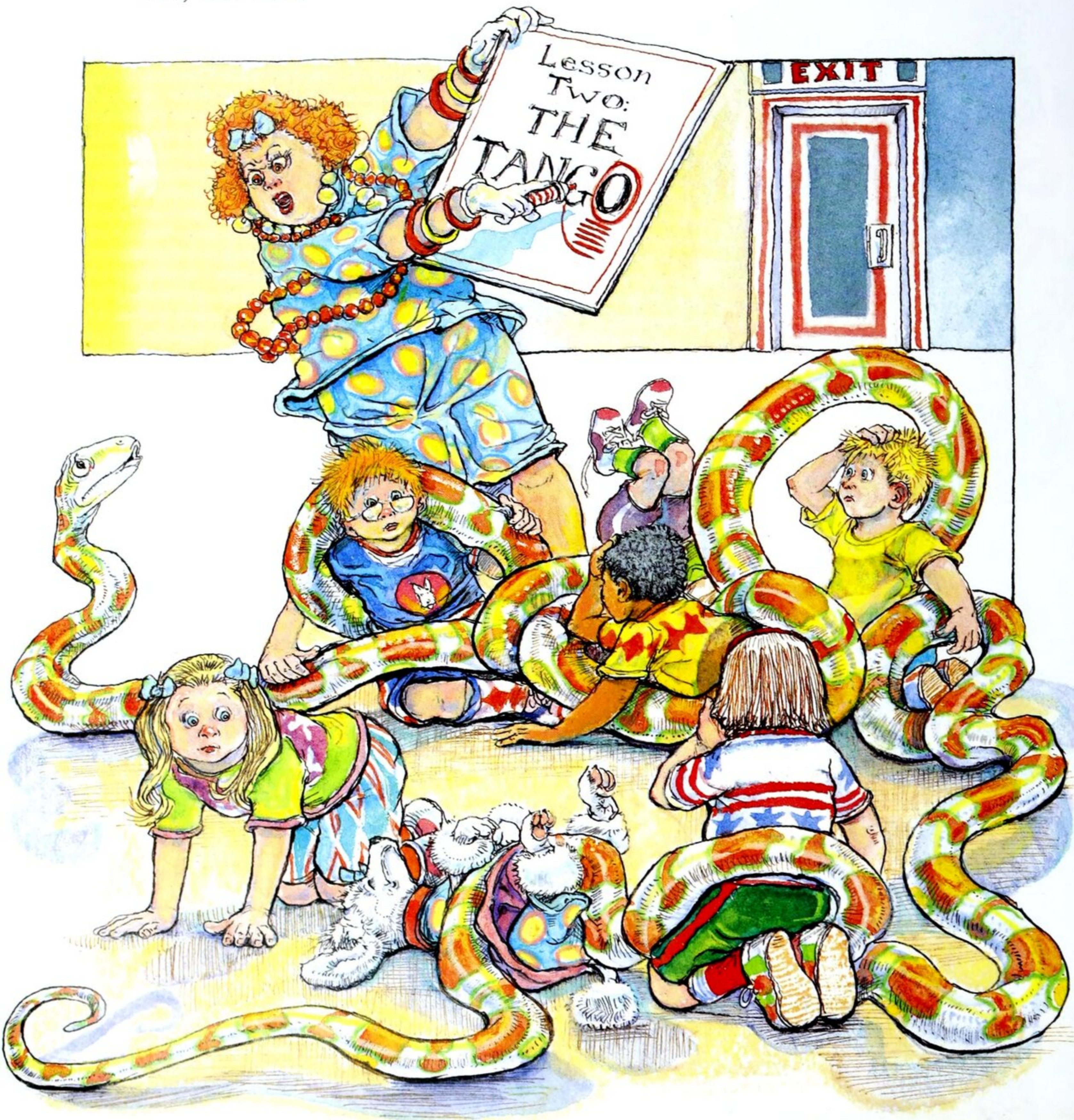


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“Not when Jimmy’s boa is dancing. His tail was so long that we got all tangled up. Miss Peachtree got mad and said he had two left feet.”

“Jimmy?”

“No, his boa.

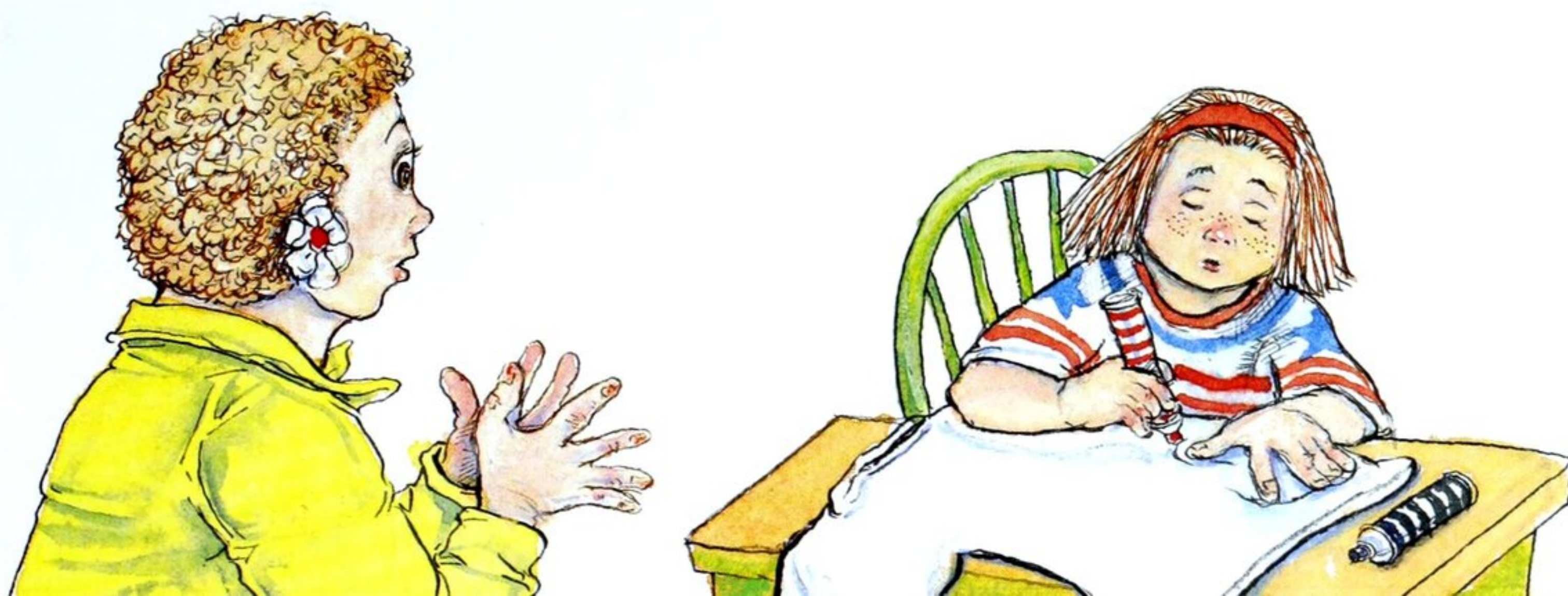


“And I think it hurt the boa’s feelings, because he climbed up in one of the baskets and wouldn’t come down. So Jimmy tried to coax him out with a basketball.”



“Did it work?”

“Not really.”



"Jimmy's boa took the ball and whipped it downcourt for a long shot.

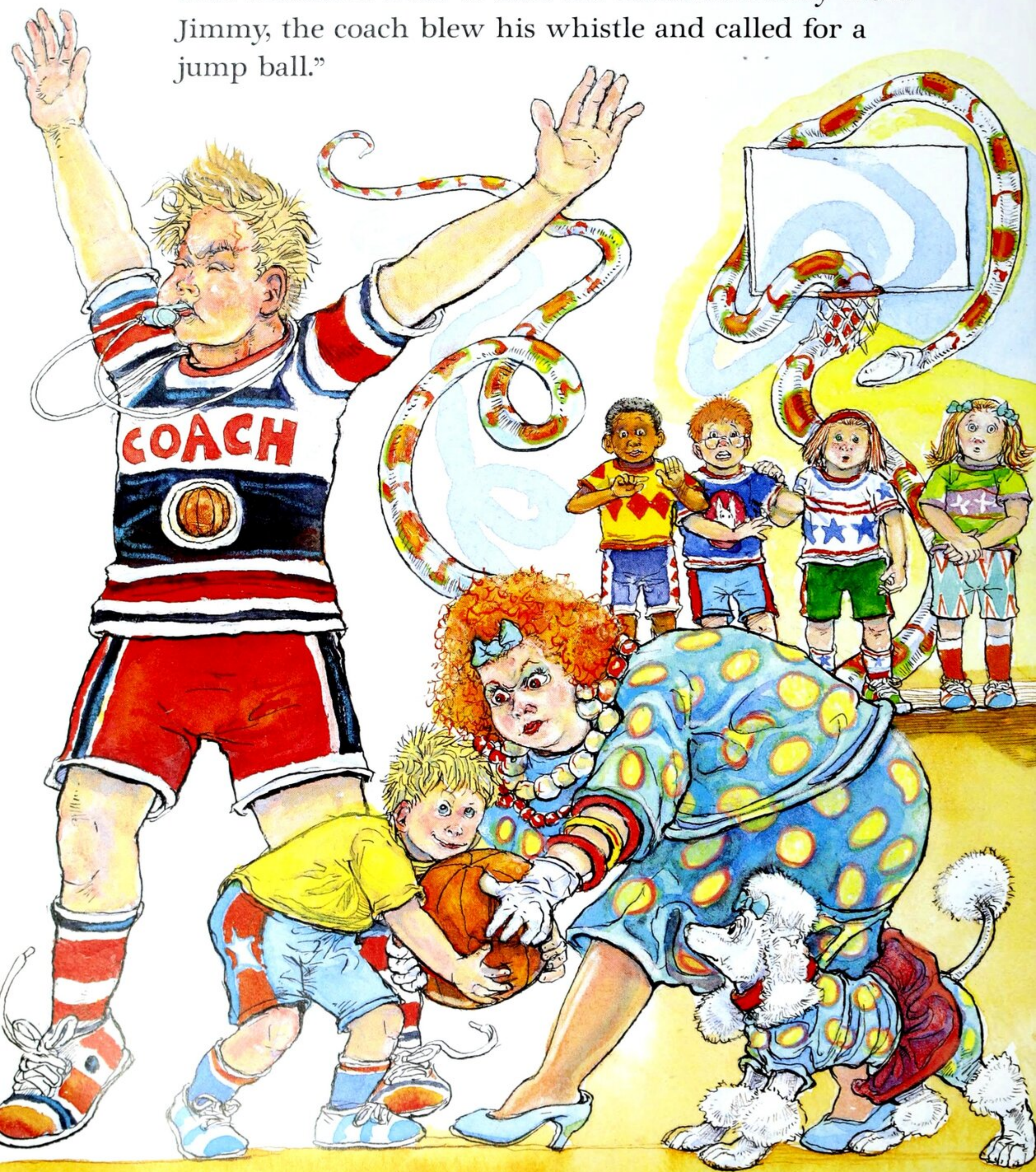


“So Jimmy ran down, grabbed the rebound, and sunk a super hook shot. That’s when Coach Carney came dancing out of his office.”

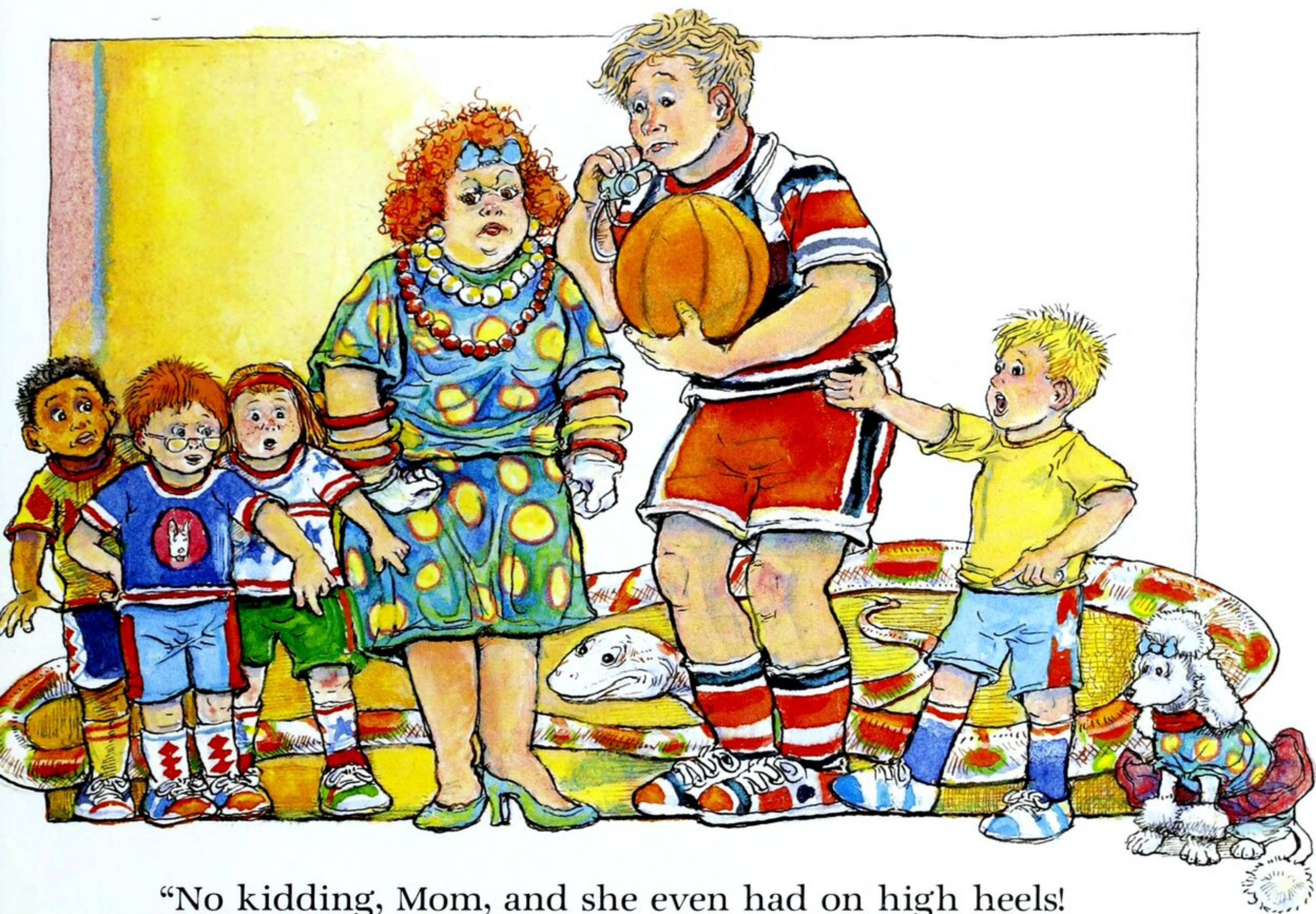


“Coach Carney was dancing at Miss Peachtree’s class?”

“Well, sort of, and it was a good thing too, because when Miss Peachtree tried to take the basketball away from Jimmy, the coach blew his whistle and called for a jump ball.”



“A jump ball between Miss Peachtree and Jimmy? But isn’t Miss Peachtree taller and bigger than Jimmy?”



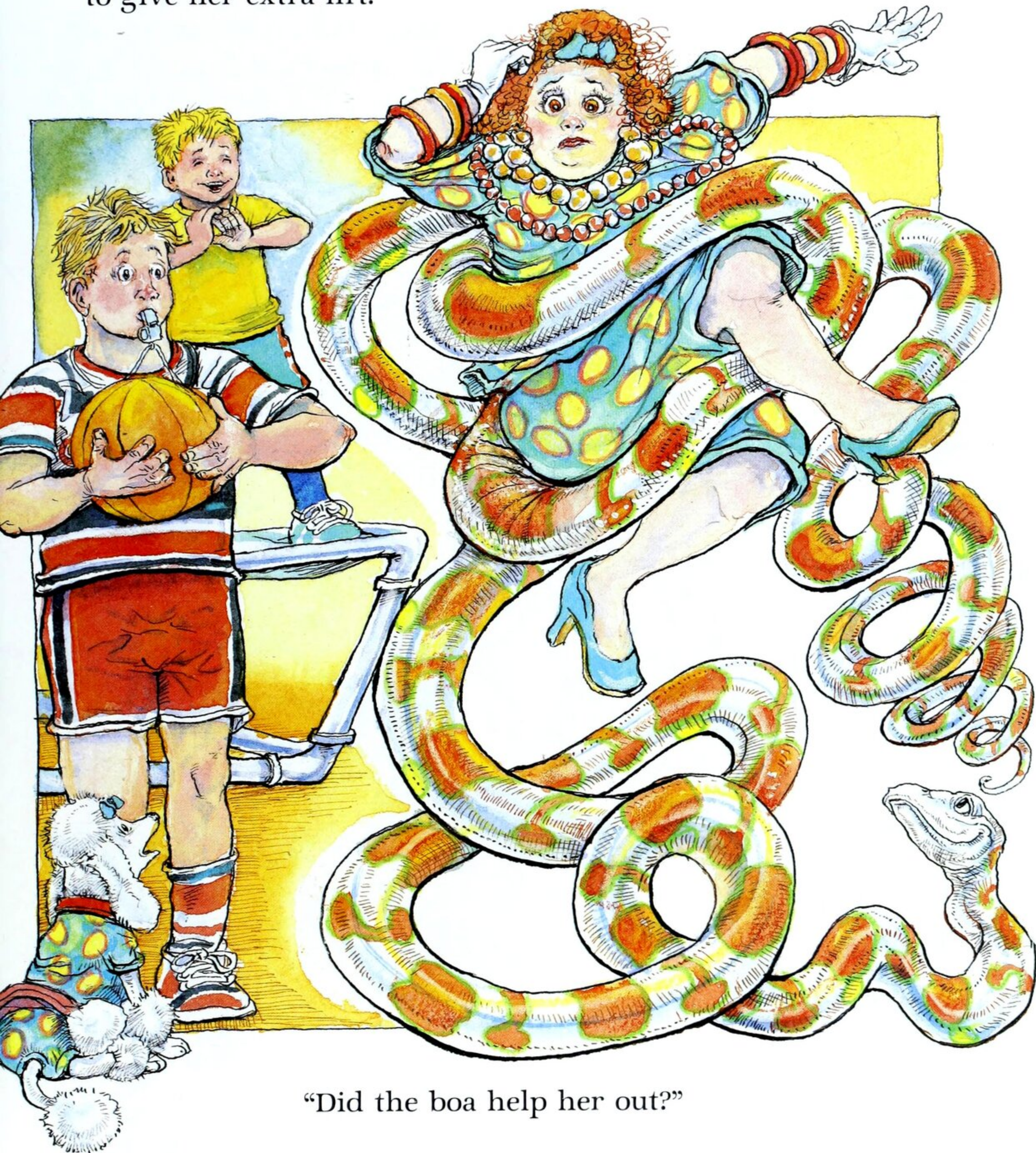
“No kidding, Mom, and she even had on high heels!”



"Coach let Jimmy use the trampoline, but Miss Peachtree said that wasn't fair.



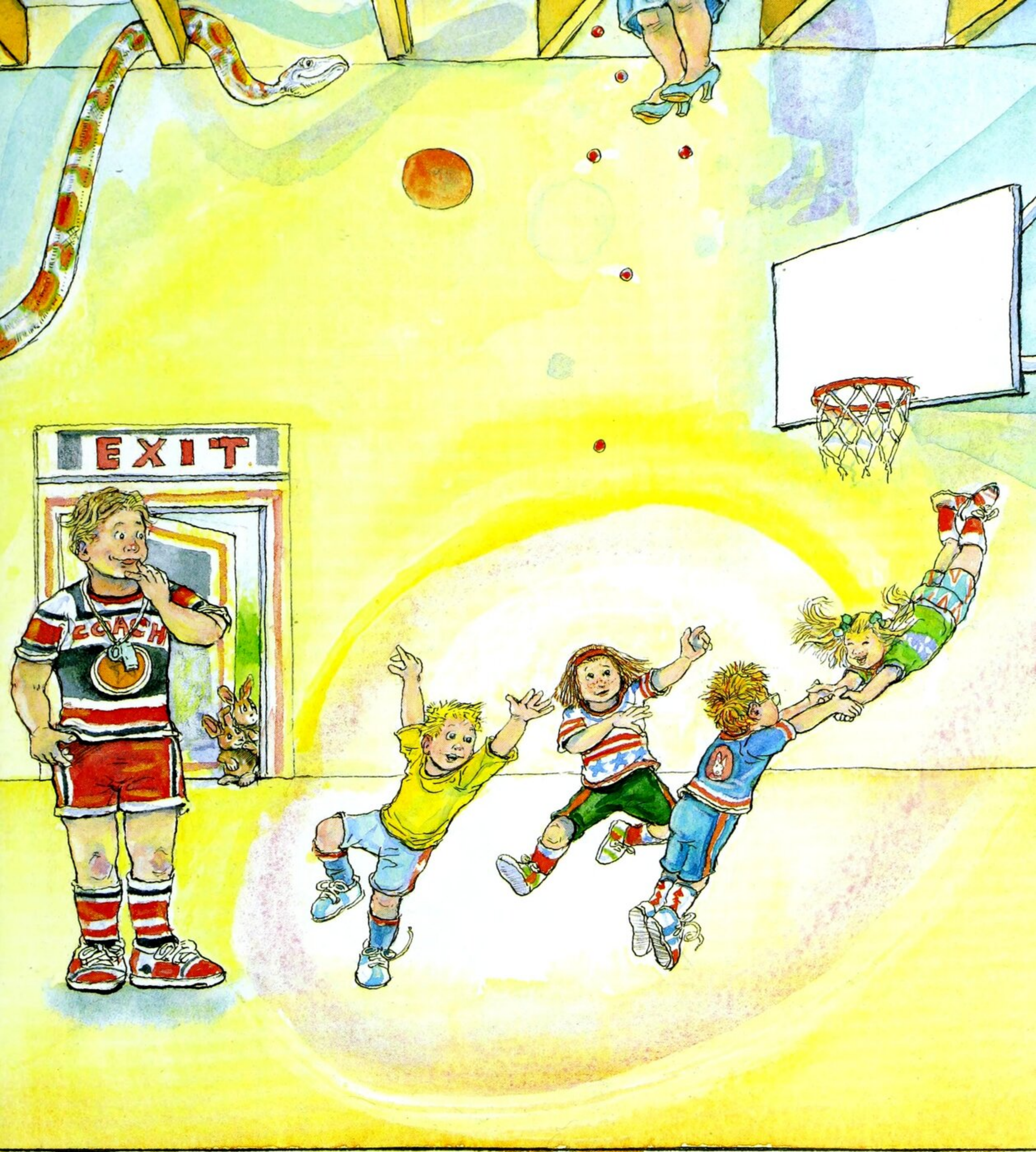
“So Jimmy’s boa came down and made himself into a spring to give her extra lift.”



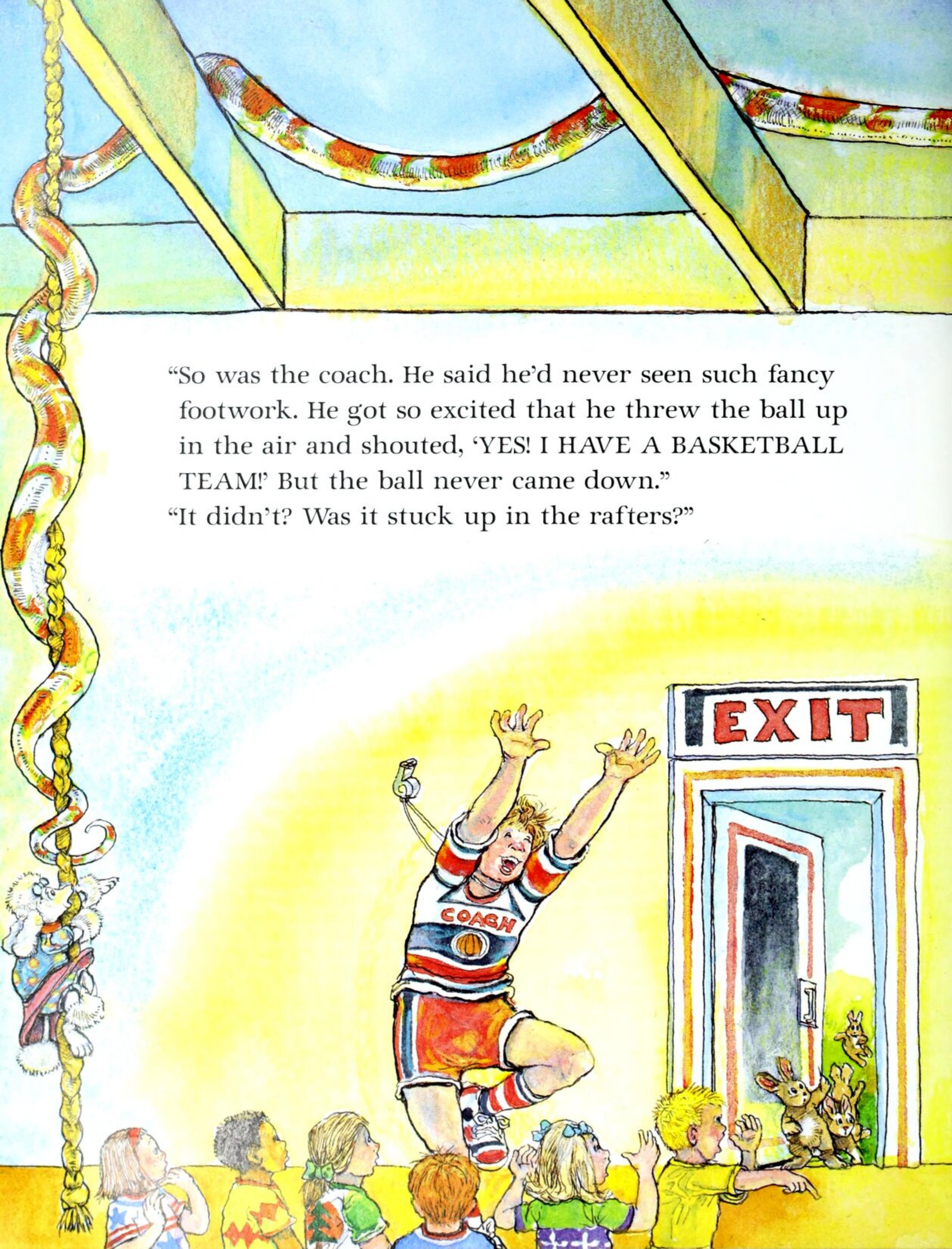
“Did the boa help her out?”

“Yeah, way out! She never came down. So Jimmy tipped the ball to me and I waltzed it to Tommy, who swung Jenny downcourt for a layup shot. Then Marianne and Jerome hip-hopped the ball out to Miss Peachtree’s chauffeur, Dobson, who scored from downtown!”





“Why, Meggie, I’m so impressed!”

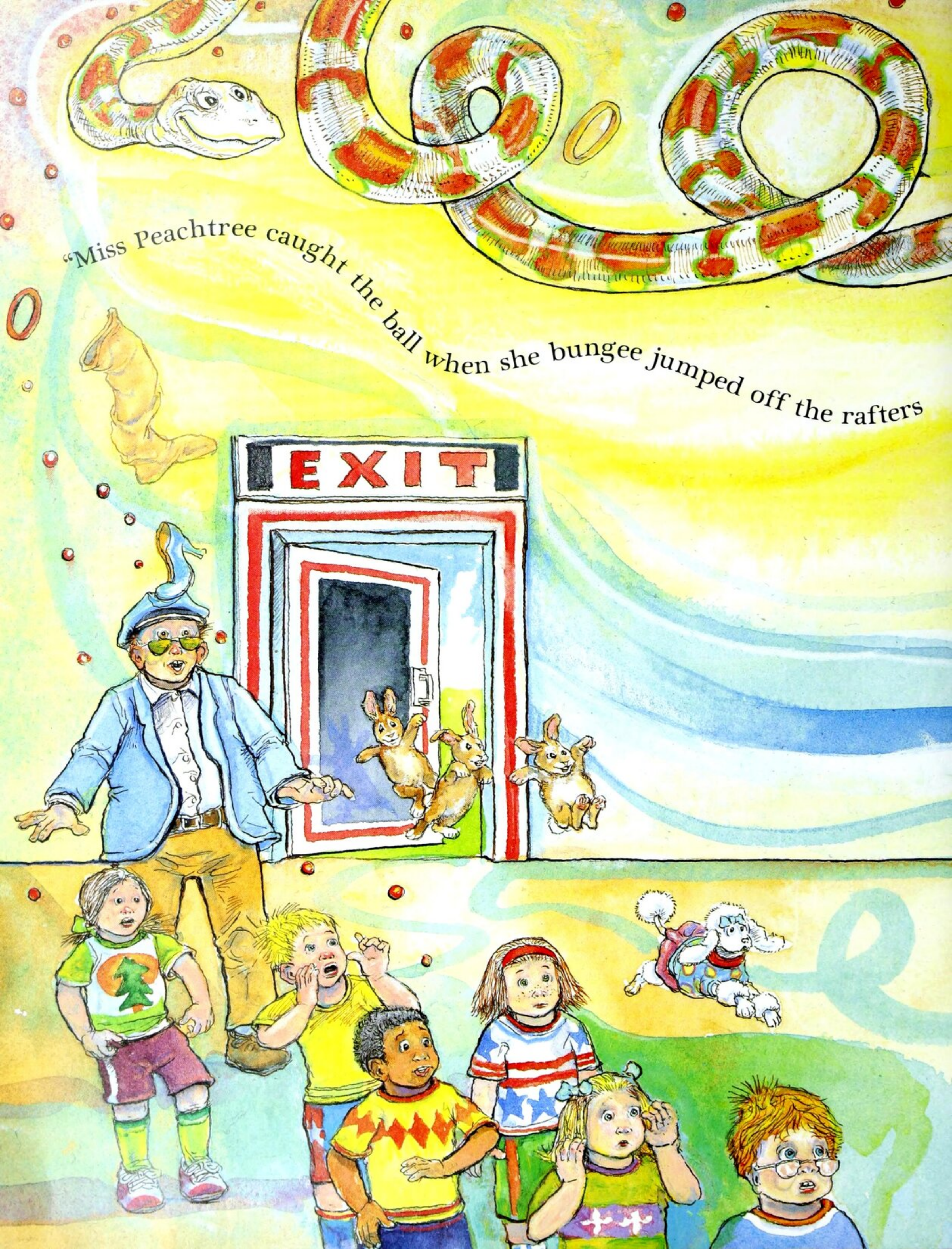


“So was the coach. He said he’d never seen such fancy footwork. He got so excited that he threw the ball up in the air and shouted, ‘YES! I HAVE A BASKETBALL TEAM!’ But the ball never came down.”  
“It didn’t? Was it stuck up in the rafters?”



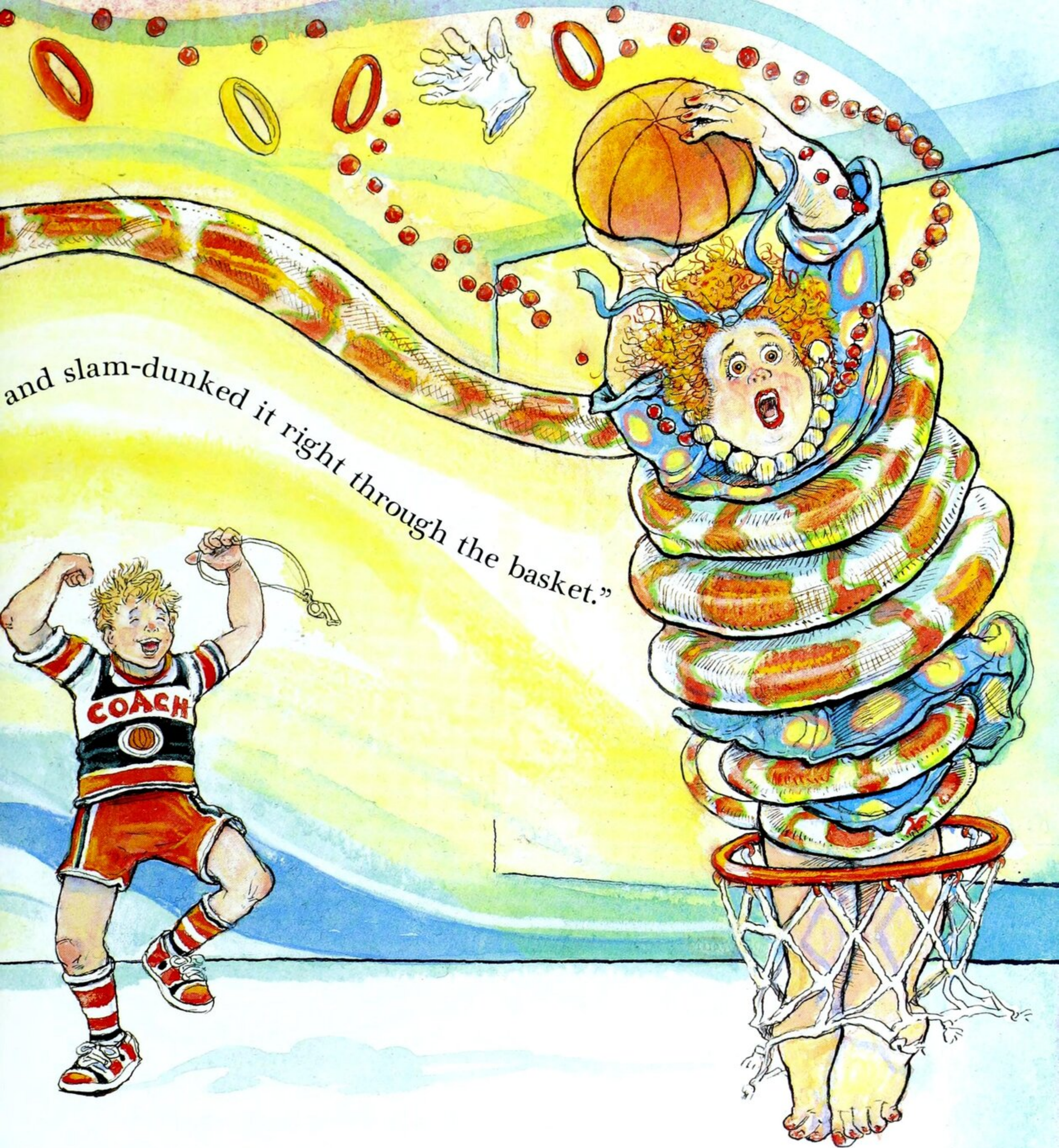
"No, but Miss Peachtree was."





"Miss Peachtree caught the ball when she bungee jumped off the rafters

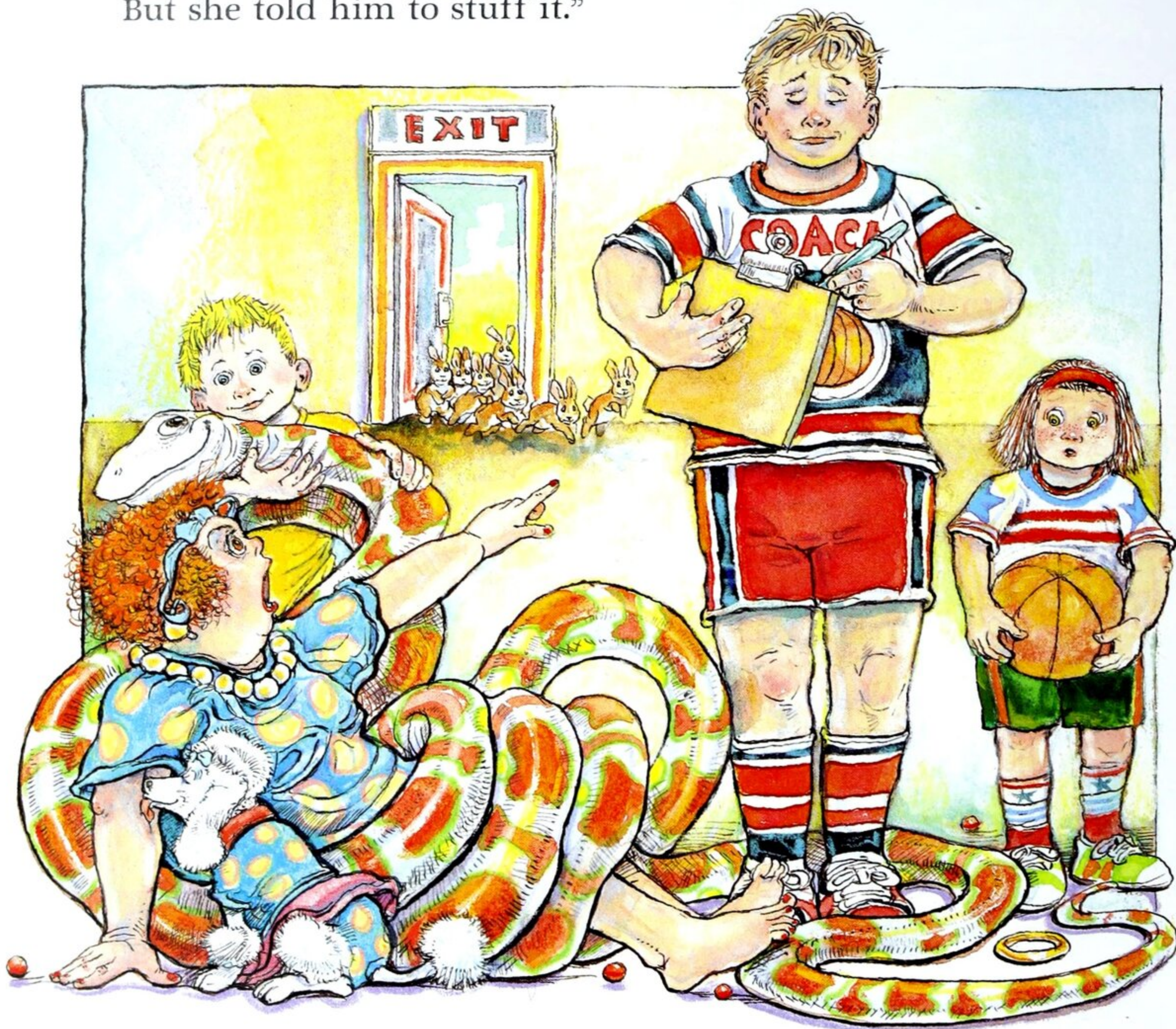
EXIT



and slam-dunked it right through the basket.”

“She WHAT? How’d she do THAT?!”  
“With a little help from Jimmy’s boa.  
He was her bungee cord.

“Coach Carney thought Miss Peachtree’s slam dunk was so spectacular that he signed her up as our assistant coach. But she told him to stuff it.”



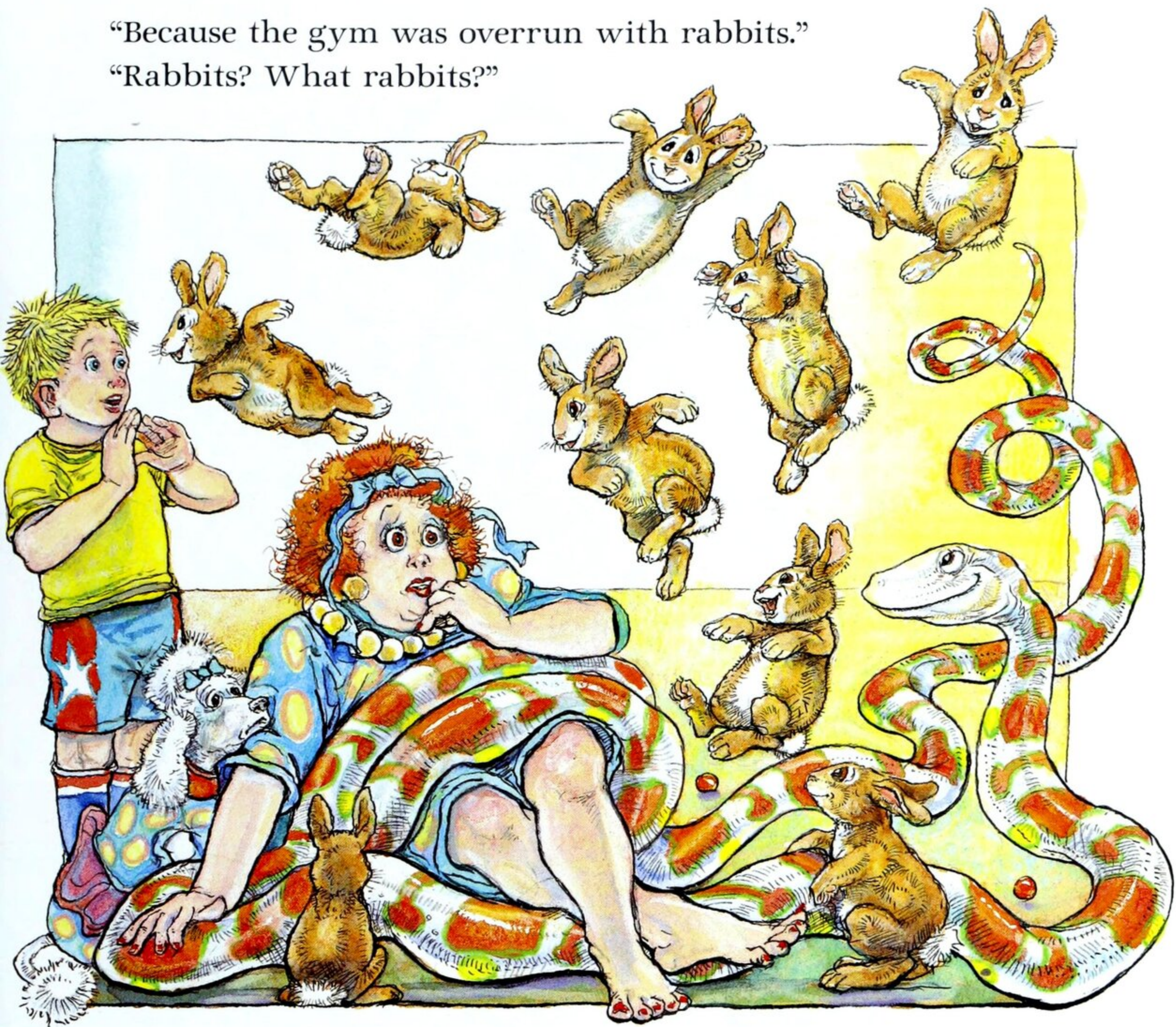
“Oh, dear. Was he mad?”

“No, glad. He thought she meant to stuff the basketball. He said, ‘That’s the spirit, old girl.’ Anyway, we couldn’t start practice right away.”

“Oh no? Why not?”

“Because the gym was overrun with rabbits.”

“Rabbits? What rabbits?”

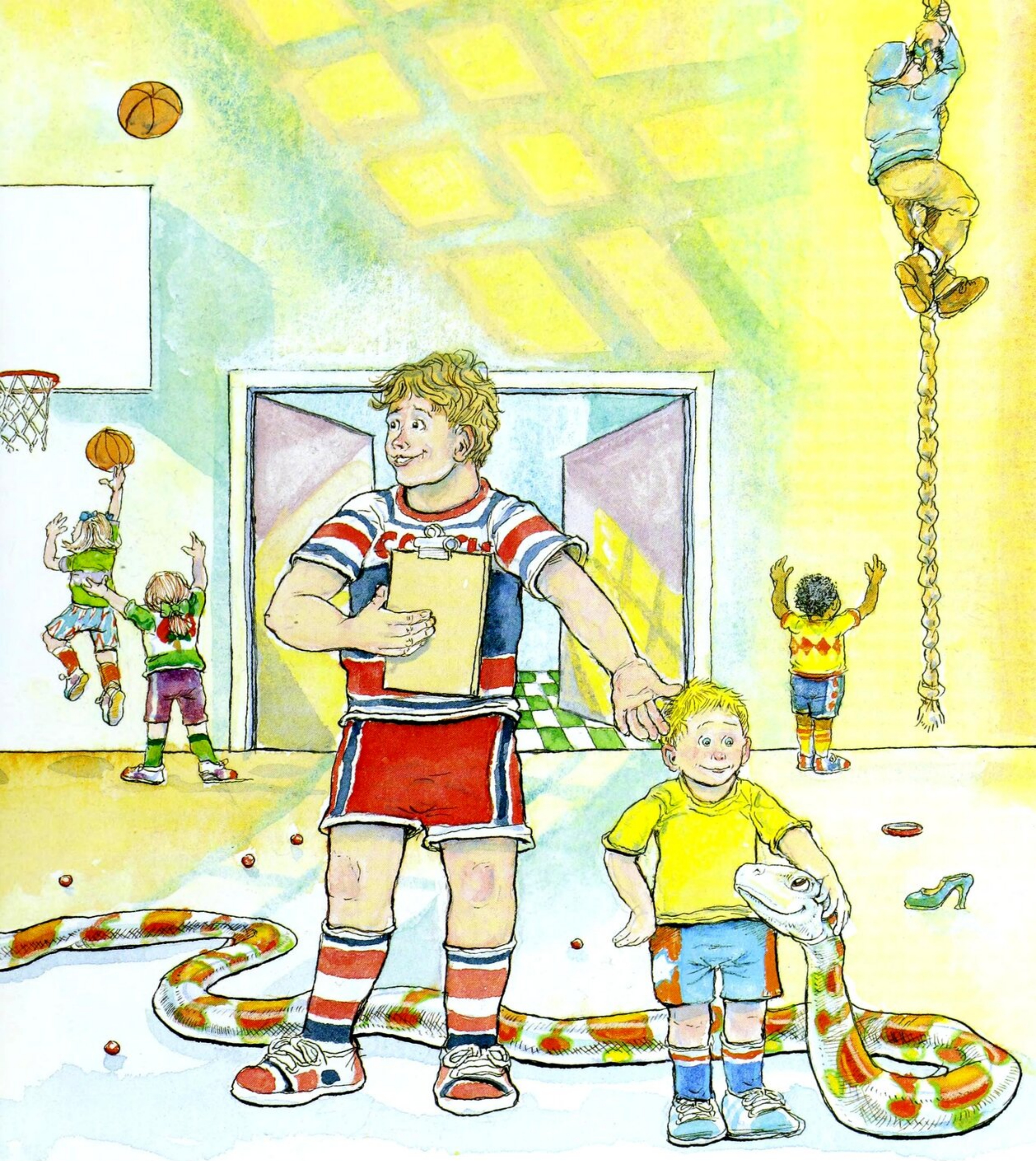


“The ones living near our playground. When they heard all the bouncing, they peeked in the side door and were blown away by Miss Peachtree’s super jump. Mom, those rabbits were all ears, wanting to know her jumping technique.”

“Was she okay with that?”

“Yeah, I think so, because she said the rabbits should join our team.”





“But Coach said no, there was only one space left and that was for Jimmy’s boa.”

“Why would he want that boa?”





"I think it has something to do with our team's name."

"Oh? What's your name?"

"The Scream Team."

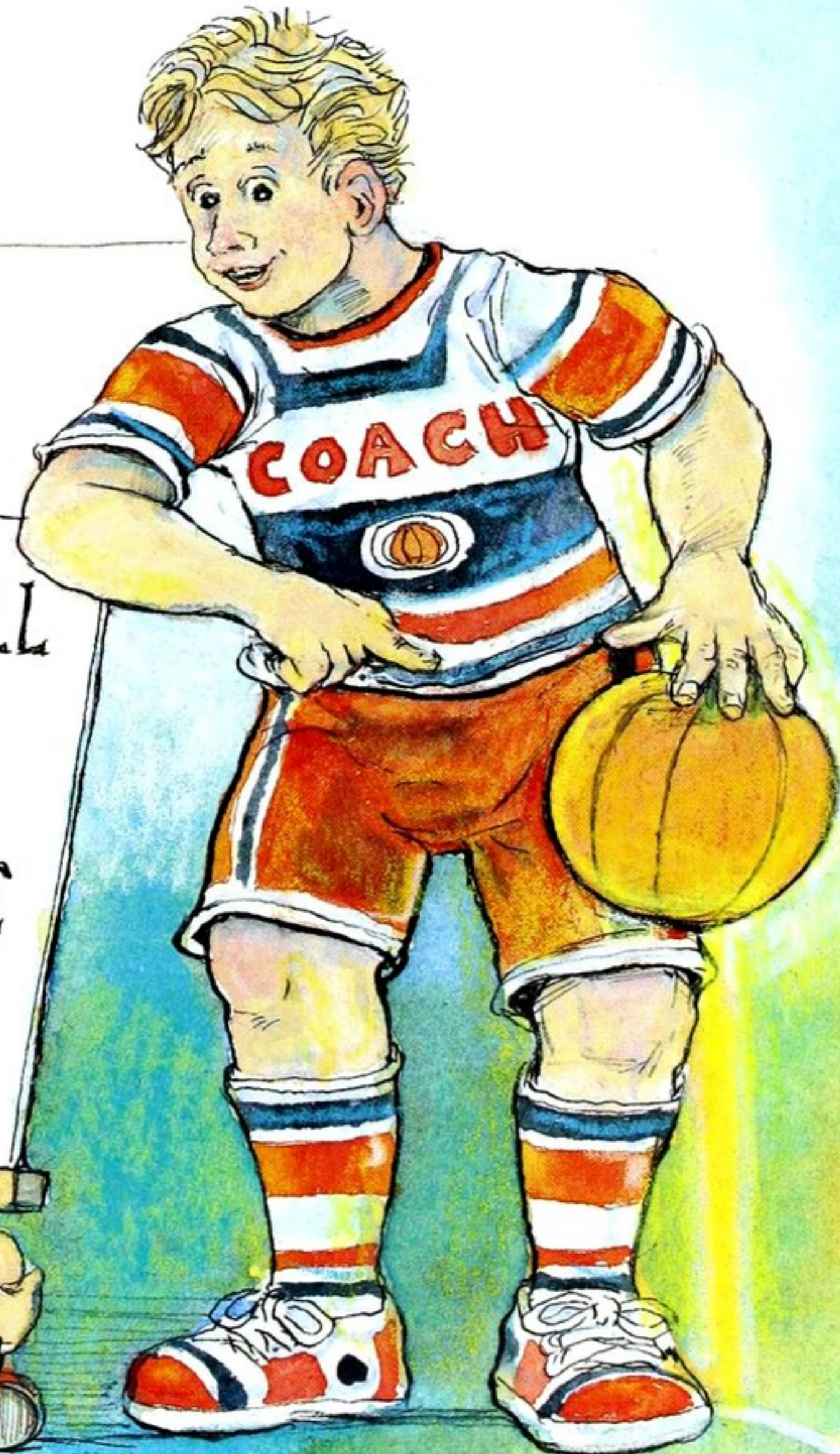
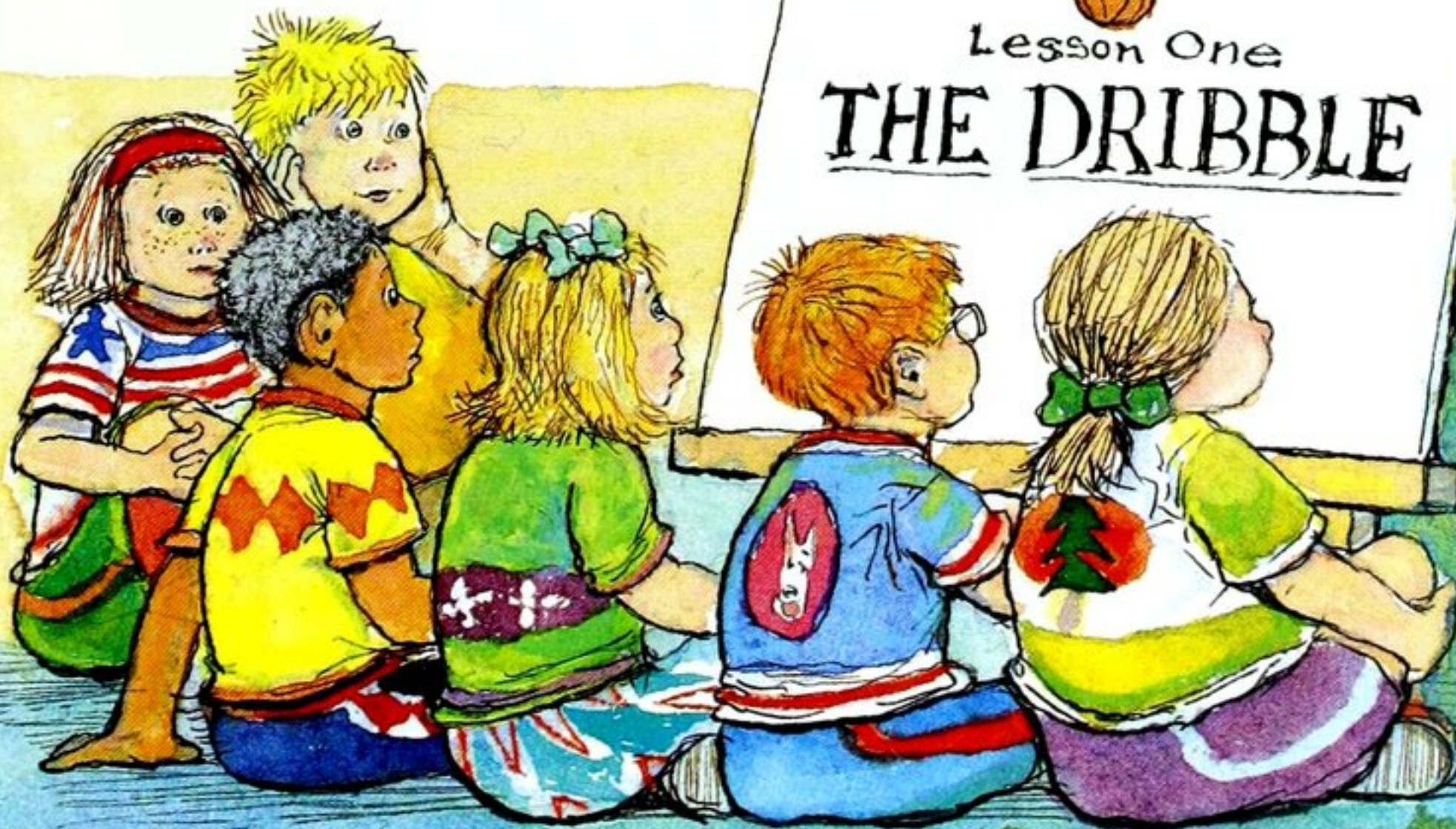
"THE SCREAM TEAM?!"



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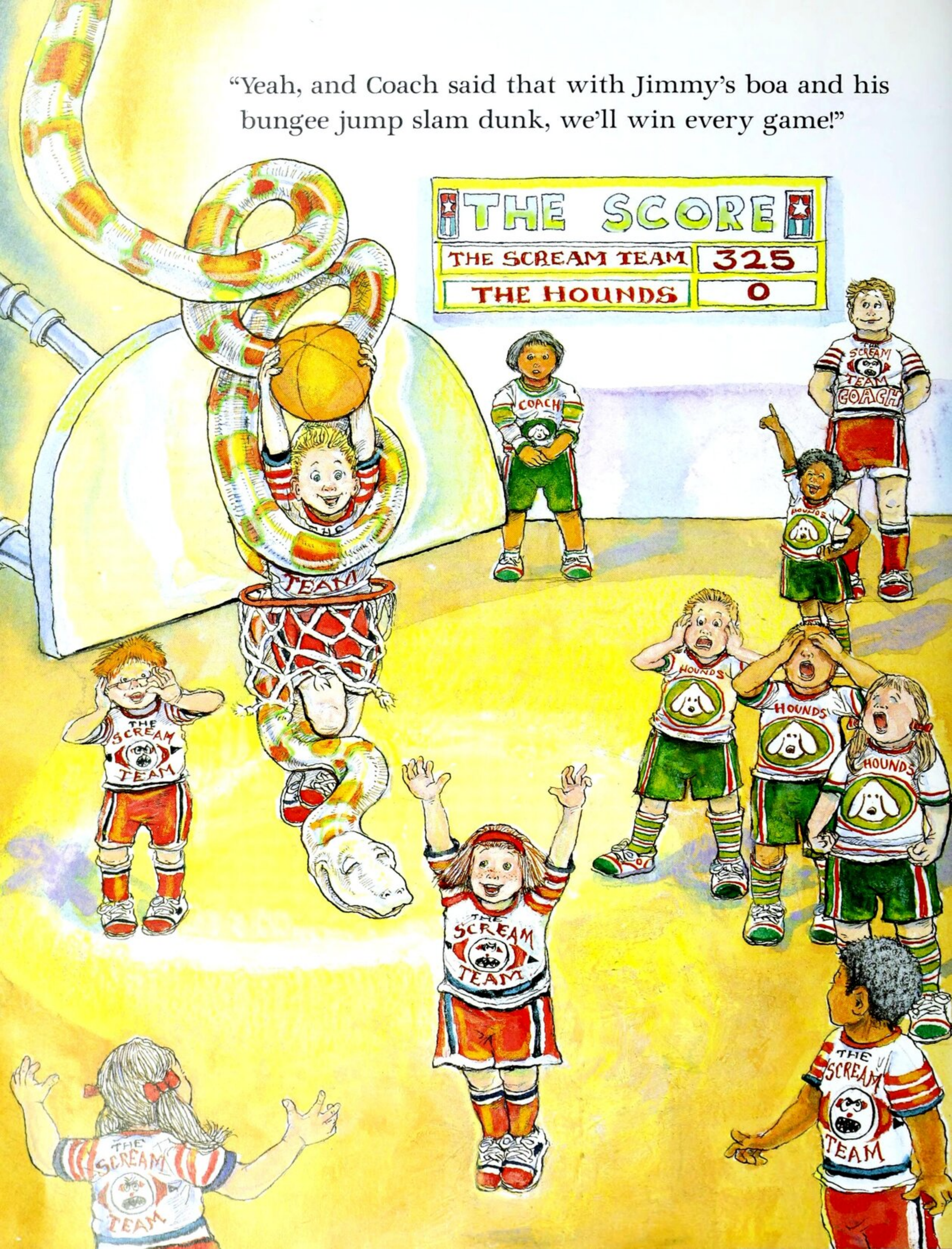


BASKETBALL  
PRACTICE  
Lesson One  
THE DRIBBLE



“Yeah, and Coach said that with Jimmy’s boa and his bungee jump slam dunk, we’ll win every game!”

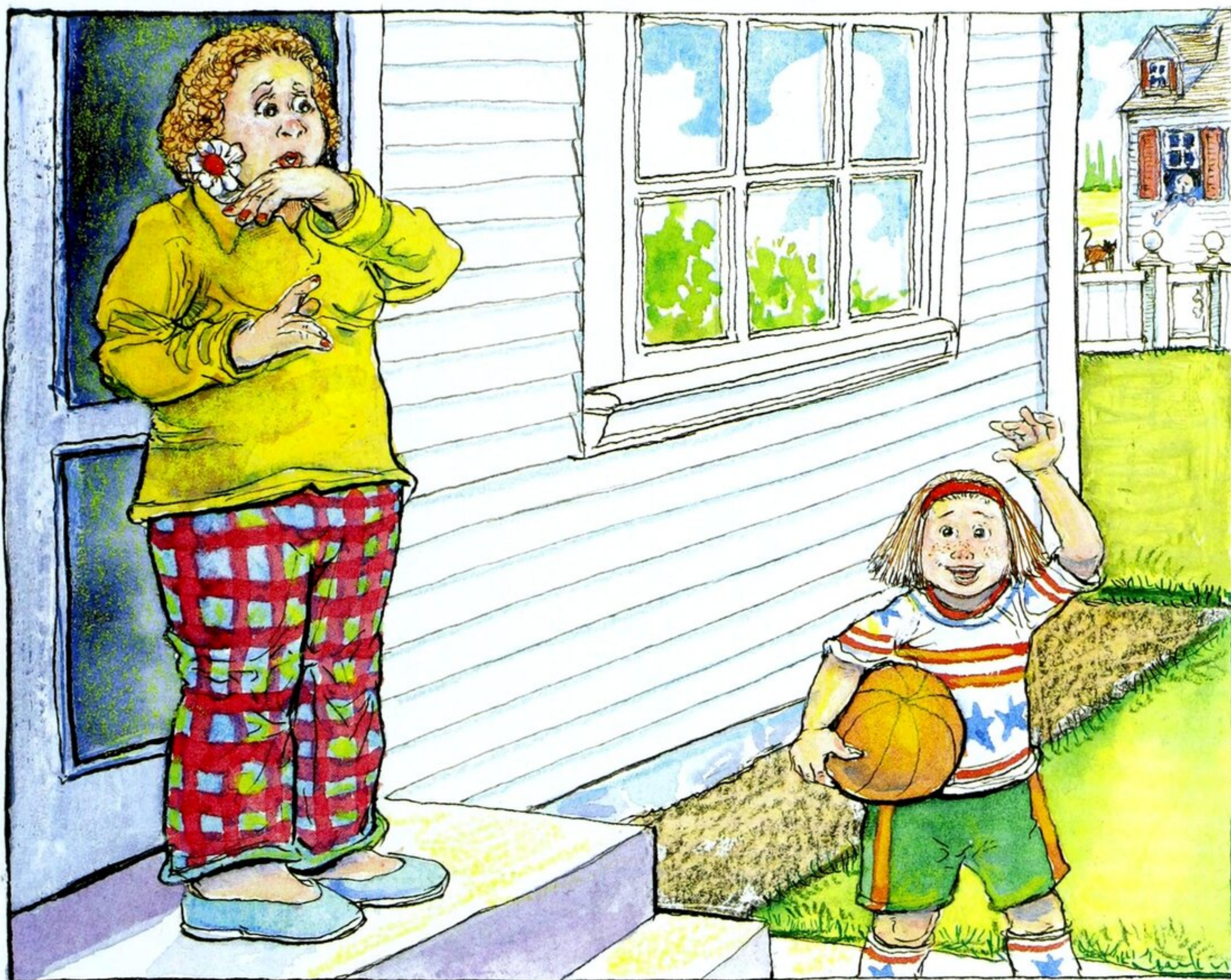
| THE SCORE       |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| THE SCREAM TEAM | 325 |
| THE HOUNDS      | 0   |



"My goodness, I guess that was the end of dance class, huh?"

"Not really, Mom. Tomorrow the rabbits are going to teach us the bunny hop so we can practice jumping. And that's why I've got to go over to Jimmy's to help."

"Oh, no. To help with what?"

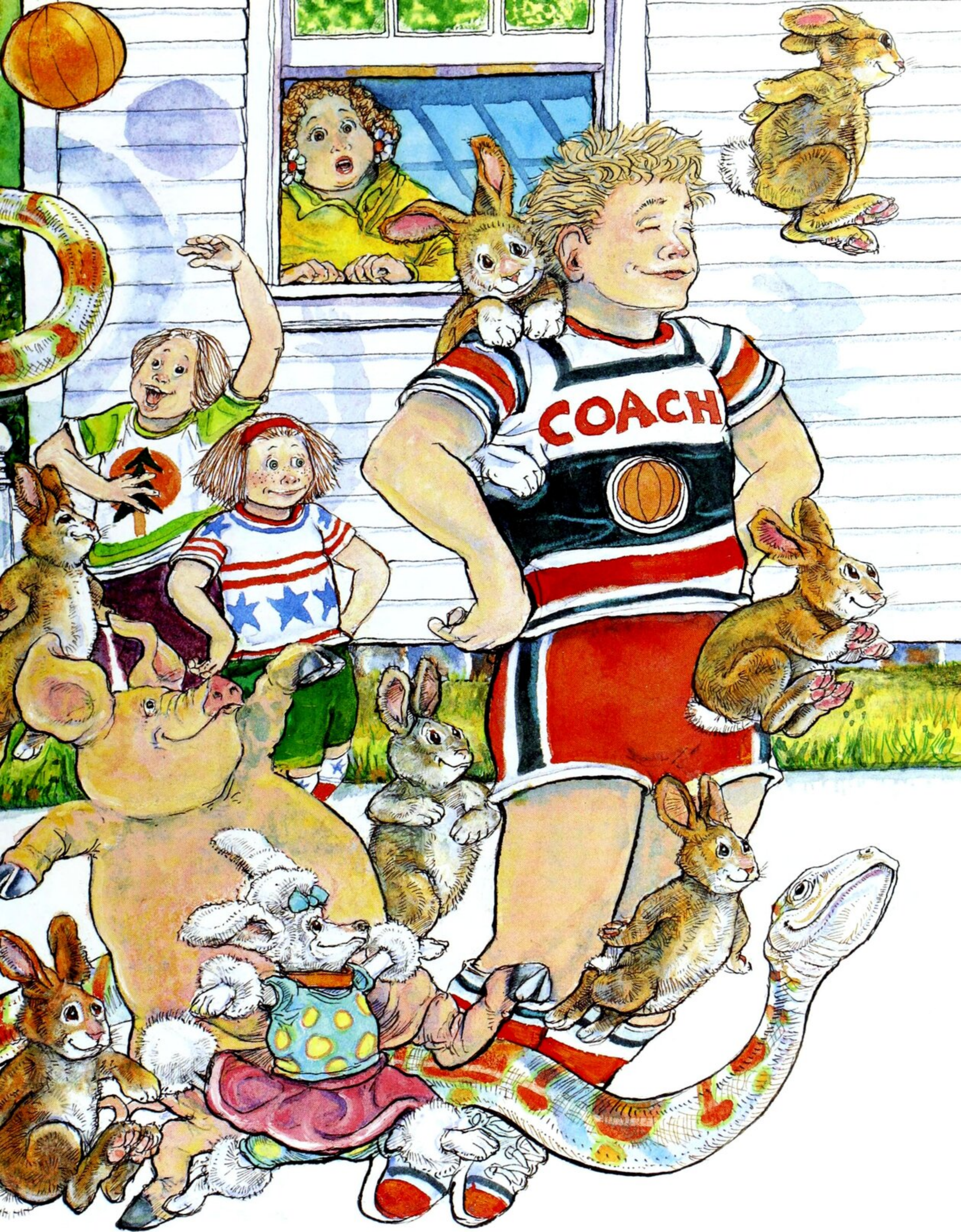


"The rabbits. They all went home with Jimmy."

"I don't know how Jimmy's mom does it."

"Don't worry, Mom. You'll find out. I'm bringing Jimmy and the rabbits and the whole gang home for dinner!"







"Carrots, anyone?"

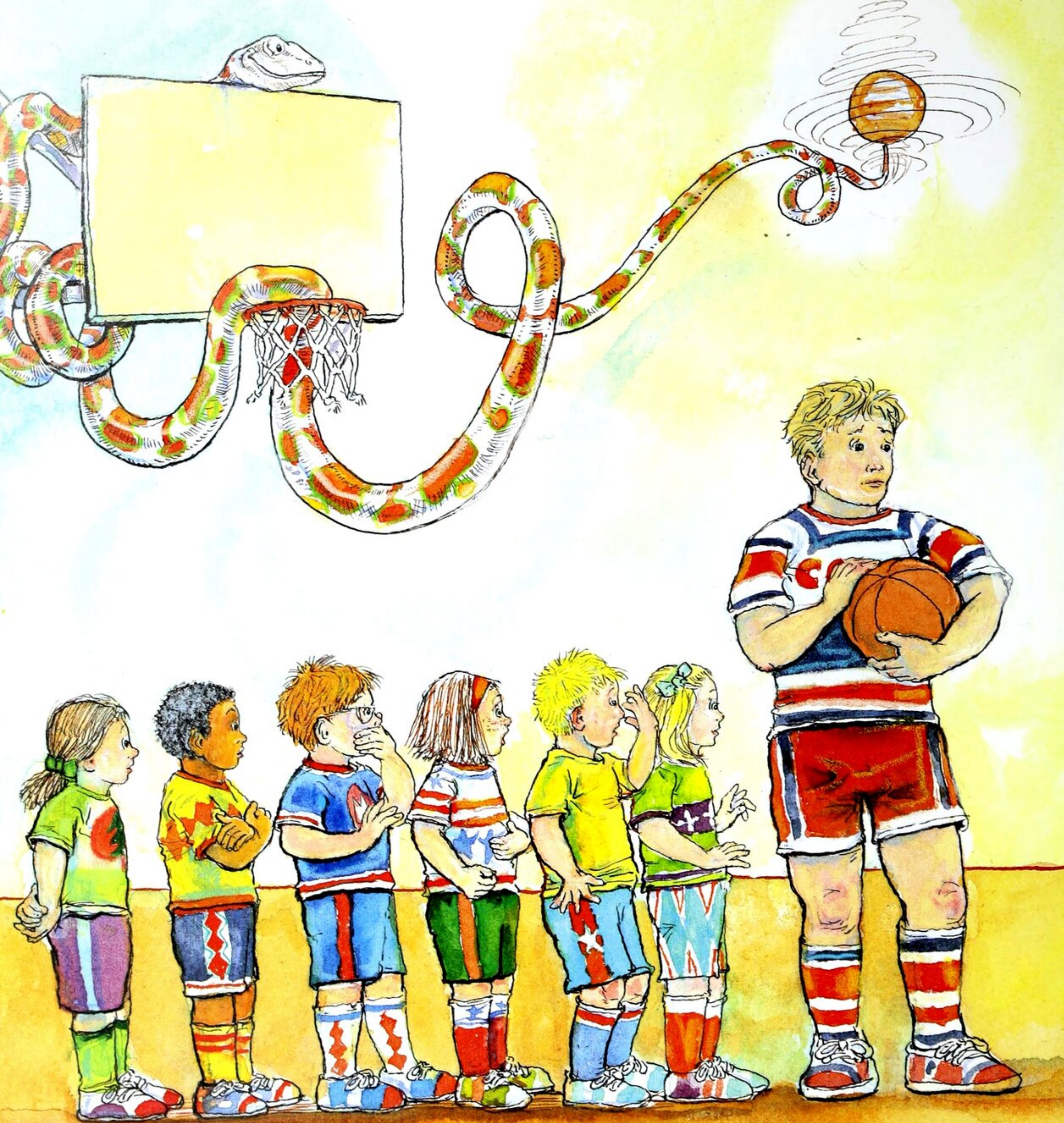




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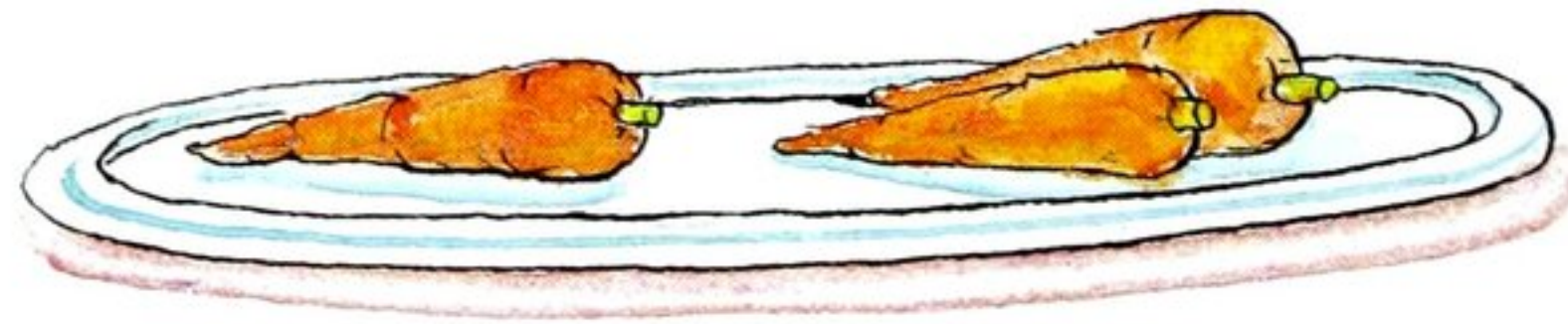
by Trinka Hakes Noble

pictures by Steven Kellogg

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For Erica and Tom, with love  
—T.H.N.

To Peter the Great, with love  
—S.K.



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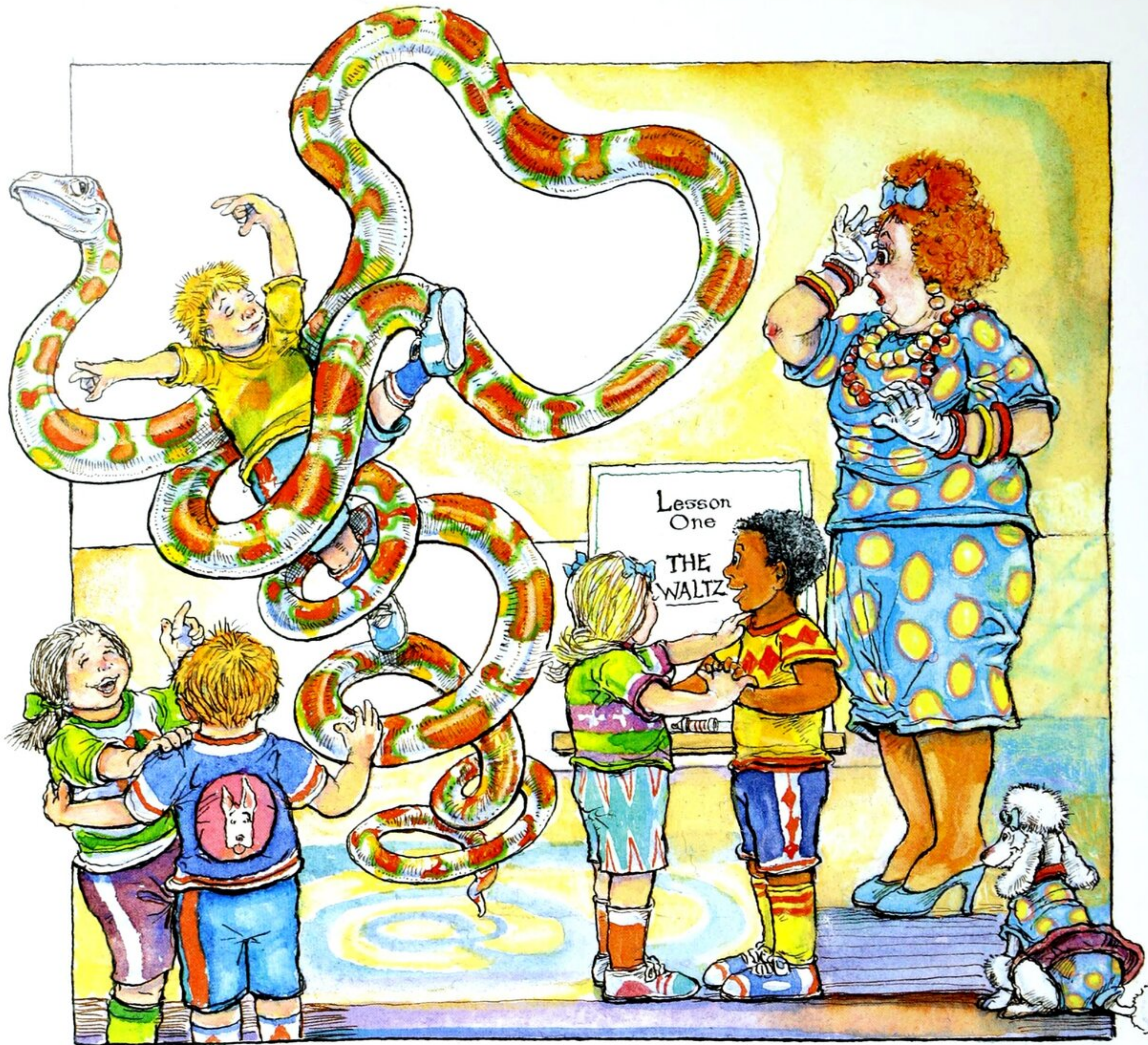
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The artwork was prepared using ink and pencil line,  
watercolor washes, and acrylic paints.

“Hi, Meggie. How was basketball practice?”



“A real bummer . . . until Jimmy’s boa saved the day.”  
“His boa? What was Jimmy’s pet boa constrictor doing there?”

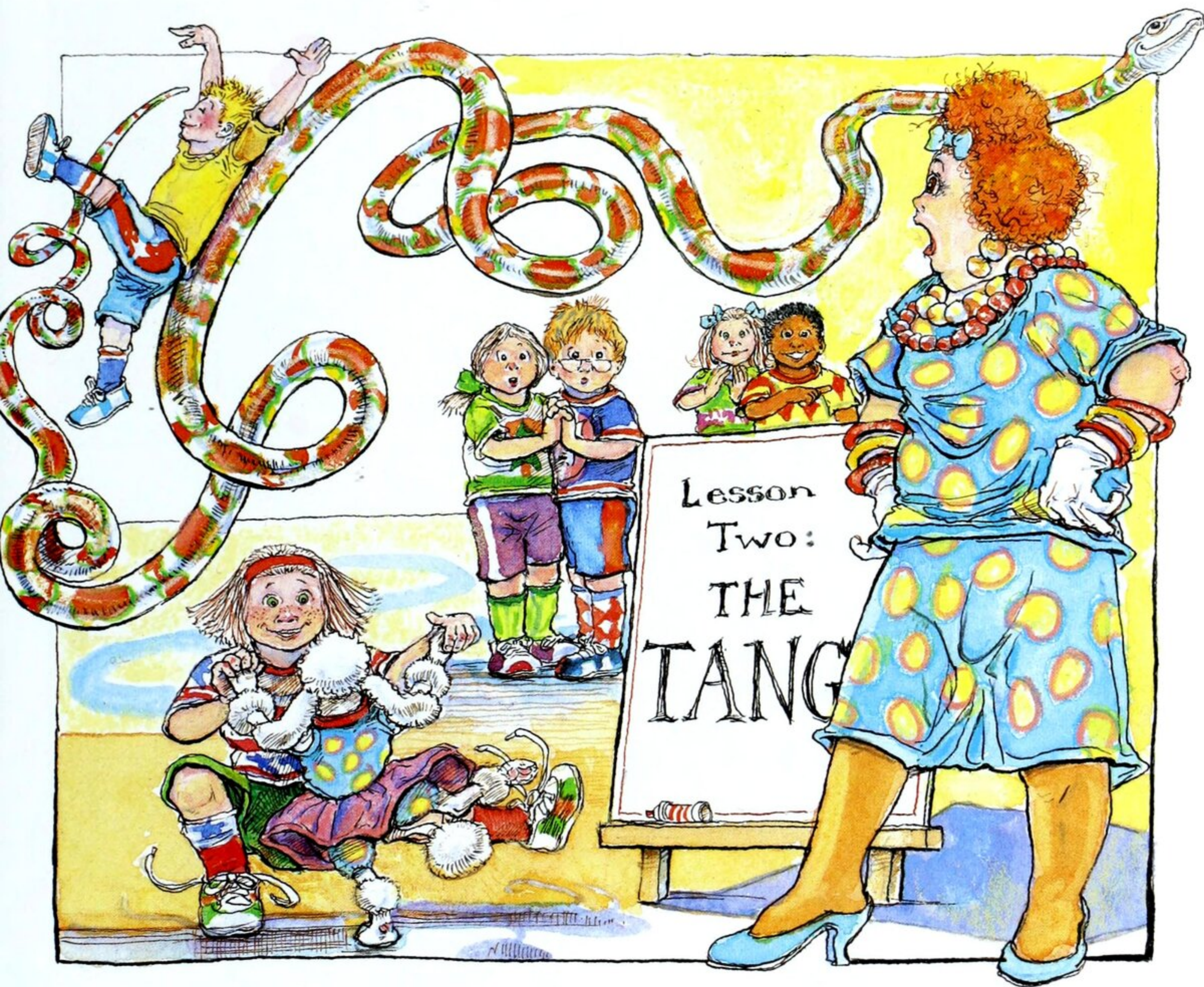


"Dancing with Jimmy."

"Dancing?"



“Yeah. Miss Peachtree took over the gym for her dance school. Jimmy refused to dance with anyone but his boa, so I had to dance with Peaches, Miss Peachtree’s poodle. But when Miss Peachtree tried to teach us the tangle—”



“Uh, Meggie, don’t you mean the tango?”

