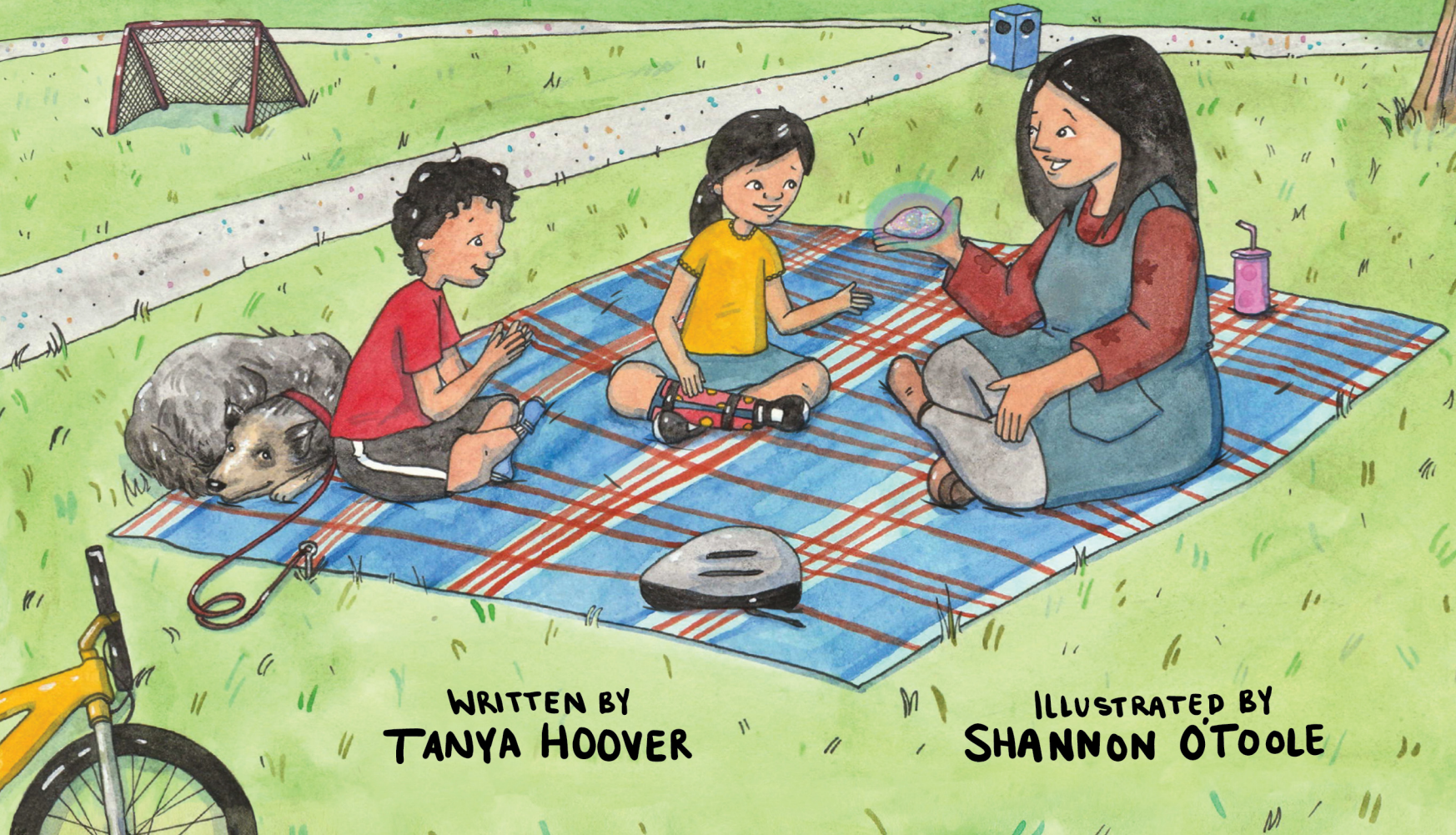


THE HELPING ROCK



WRITTEN BY
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“I can’t do it!” Lani wails. “I can’t ride with only two wheels!”



“Oh my brave girl. It’s hard, but I know you’ll learn in time,”
Mama says.

“All my friends learned forever ago. I’m the last one.”

“Your friends don’t have the extra challenge you do. You have
to work harder at keeping your balance. Your cousin Tai loves
biking. How about asking for his help?”

“No!” Lani shouts. “I don’t want *anyone’s* help.”



“Maybe we need a reminder to give help and ask for help.”
Mama picks up a sparkly rock next to the picnic blanket and places it in Lani’s hand.



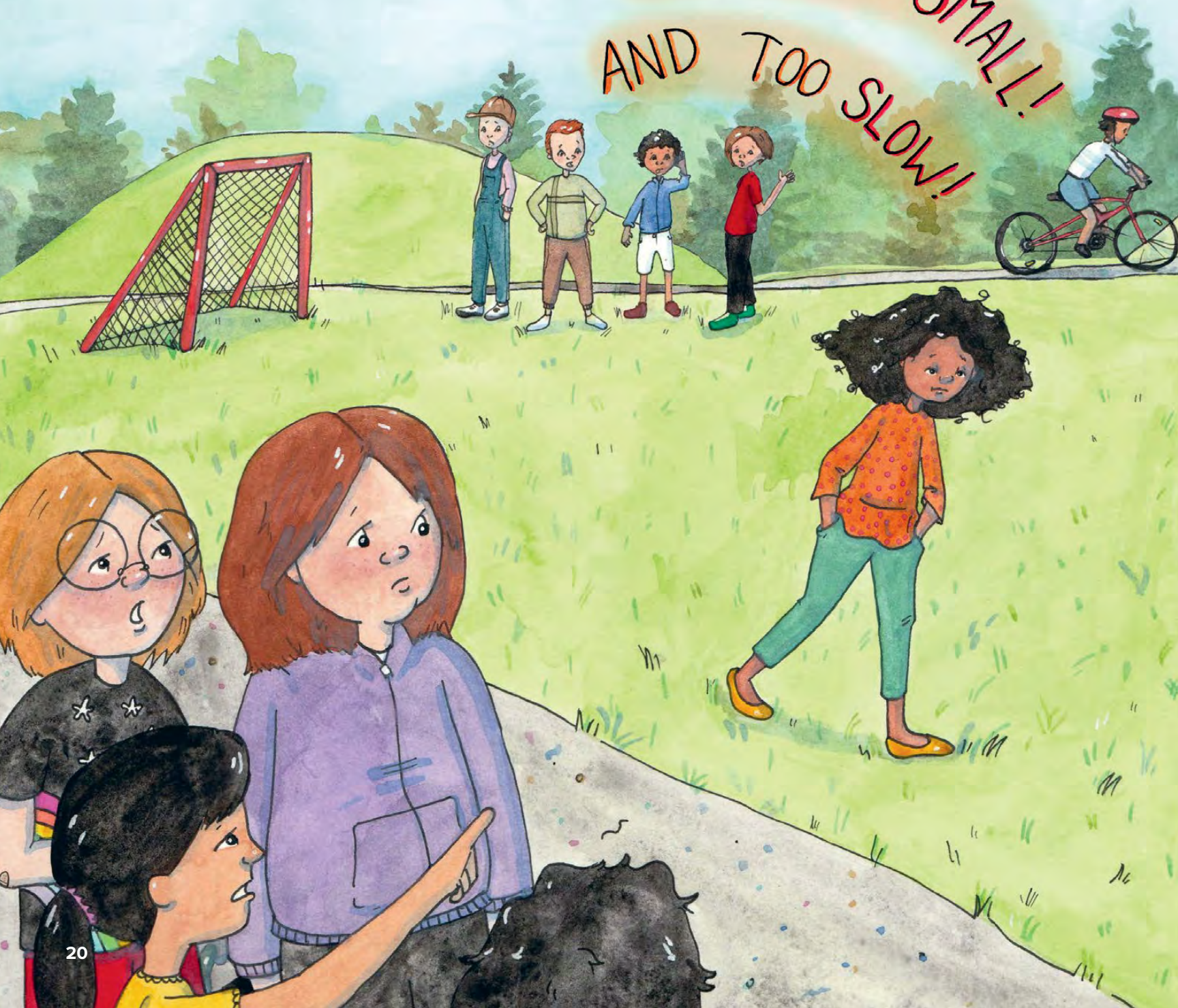
“Wow! It’s so pretty,” Lani says. “Look at all the colors.”

“It’s like the world around us,” Mama says. “It’s filled with so many different people and so many different gifts. When we all share our gifts and help each other, the world sparkles like the rock.”



“That’s Jade,” Lani says.
“They’re shouting at Jade!”

YOU'RE TOO SMALL!
AND TOO SLOW!



River and Charlie catch up with Jade.

"I'm sorry they said those things to you, Jade," River says.

"Me too," Charlie adds.

River turns back to the soccer field and shouts, "We want Jade on our team."

"Yeah," Charlie says. "*Everyone* gets to play soccer."

The other players shrug and get ready for a game on the field.





