



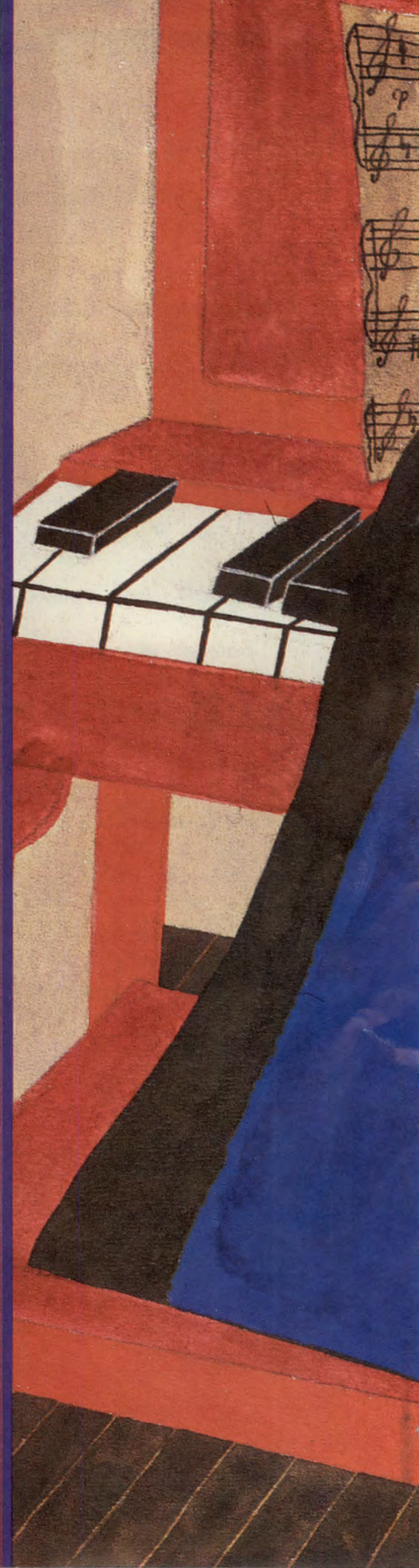
Person to Person

*Cuando ayudamos a otro,
ambos nos fortalecemos.*

When one helps another,
both gain in strength.

— Ecuadorian proverb

Untitled #2 by Keith Haring (above) Collection of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Hoffman,
courtesy of Kohn Turner Gallery, Los Angeles. © The Estate of Keith Haring.
The Music Lesson by Jacob Lawrence (right) New Jersey State Museum Collection,
Gift of the Friends of the New Jersey State Museum, FA1973.19





Person to Person

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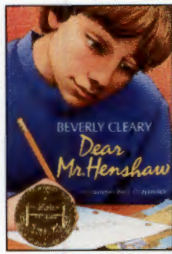


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Reader's Library

- Something for Everyone
- Pretty Cool, for a Cat
- Trevor from Trinidad
- Upstate Autumn

Theme Paperbacks

The Junior Thunder Lord

by Laurence Yep

Frindle

by Andrew Clements

Where the Flame Trees Bloom

by Alma Flor Ada



Book Links

If you like . . .



Mariah Keeps Cool

by Mildred Pitts Walter

If you like . . .



Mom's Best Friend

by Sally Hobart Alexander

Then try . . .

Ernestine and Amanda

by Sandra Belton (Simon)

When their paths keep crossing, two girls reluctantly form a fragile friendship.



Then try . . .

Like Jake and Me

by Mavis Jukes (Knopf)

Alex wants to be like his rugged cowboy stepfather, but they don't seem to have much in common.



The Kid in the Red Jacket

by Barbara Park (Random)

Ten-year-old Howard thinks a move across country is bad enough, but he hadn't counted on a six-year-old neighbor determined to become his best friend.



A Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt

by C. Coco De Young (Delacorte)

When her family faces losing its home during the Depression, Margo believes a letter to Eleanor Roosevelt is their only hope.



If you like . . .



**Yang the Second
and Her Secret
Admirers**

by Lensey Namioka

Then try . . .

Thank You, Jackie Robinson

by Barbara Cohen (Beech Tree)

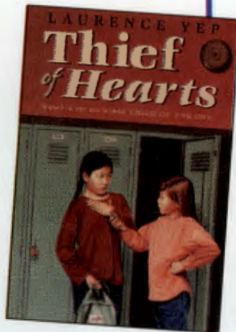
A boy and an old man of different races and religions become friends through their admiration for Jackie Robinson.



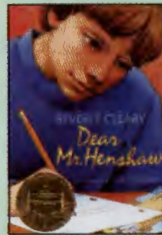
Thief of Hearts

by Laurence Yep (Harper)

Chinese American Stacy resents having to look after the new Chinese girl at school, until the girl is accused of theft.



If you like . . .



Dear Mr. Henshaw

by Beverly Cleary

Then try . . .

Strider

by Beverly Cleary (Morrow)

In the sequel to *Dear Mr. Henshaw*, Leigh Botts and a friend care for an abandoned dog they name Strider.



Chevrolet Saturdays

by Candy Dawson Boyd (Puffin)

Joey's difficulties at school with an unsympathetic teacher and coach may bring him closer to his new stepfather.



Technology

Visit www.eduplace.com/kids **Education Place**[®]

Read at school



Read at home www.bookadventure.org



Mariah
Keeps Cool



California
Standards

Standards to
Achieve

Reading

- Inferences/
generalizations
(R2.4)
- Analyze literary
forms (R3.1)
- Main problem/plot
conflict (R3.2)

Volunteering

To **volunteer** is to give your time and energy freely, not because you have to, but because you want to.

In *Mariah Keeps Cool*, one of the characters volunteers her time at a shelter for the homeless. Other characters organize a party to benefit the shelter.

Have you ever volunteered to do something? What did you do? How did you feel while you were helping?

Maybe you've been part of a team of volunteers. People can be **amazingly** productive when they're all working together, whether it's to perform in a play, clean up litter on a beach, or **decorate** a wall with a mural.

Members of a team of volunteers don't **compete** with each other. They're working together for a common goal: to finish a job, to create something, to help people. And at the end, there's often a **celebration** to say: We did it!



These students in St. Paul, Minnesota are helping to clean up their neighborhood.

Creating a mural brings student artists together in Los Angeles, California.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Mildred Pitts Walter

Born: Sweetville, Louisiana, 1922

Home: Denver, Colorado

Work: Shipwright helper during World War II; elementary school teacher; children's book writer since 1969

How her writing career began: Looking for books by and about African Americans for her students, Walter was challenged by a publisher to write one herself.

The result was her first book, *Lillie of Watts: A Birthday Discovery*.

Family: "I think family is everything within the lives of human beings. Not just the nuclear family, but the extended family — grandmothers, uncles, cousins, friends, community, city, country."

Booklist: *Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World*; *Kwanzaa: A Family Affair*; *Have a Happy*; *Mississippi Challenge*; *The Suitcase*



MEET THE ILLUSTRATOR

Nneka Bennett

Born: New Jersey, 1972

Favorite art materials: Watercolor paints and colored pencil

Illustrators she especially admires:

Leo and Diane Dillon

To young artists: "You can take my mom's advice: Follow your heart and don't let anyone sway you away from your dreams."

Internet



To find out more about Mildred Pitts Walter and Nneka Bennett, visit Education Place. www.eduplace.com/kids



MARIAH KEEPS COOL

by Mildred Pitts Walter

Strategy Focus

Read the selection title and the introduction. What do you **infer** about Mariah? How do you **predict** her plans will turn out?

Mariah and her pals — the Friendly Five — are getting ready for a big swim meet, with the help of their classmate and coach, Brandon. Meanwhile, Mariah is planning a surprise birthday party for her sister Lynn, with guests bringing donations for the homeless shelter where Lynn volunteers. Organizing the party has also brought Mariah closer to her half sister, Denise.

Only four days before Lynn's birthday and nine days before the swim meet. Mariah felt there were not enough hours in the day for all she had to do. Lynn's party took time, but the hardest work continued to be getting ready for the meet. Each step she took as she walked down the street was measured to the approach on the springboard. She often thought about Lorobeth and wondered if all this work was worth it. Maybe she could never compete and win.

Besides now having to spend four hours a day swimming, instead of two, she had to spend time on the party. Each afternoon she worked with Brandon, members of the Friendly Five, and Denise at Brandon's house getting everything ready. Denise was more helpful than Mariah had imagined. Today she was going to show the Friendly Five how to make paper flowers to decorate their yard for the party.

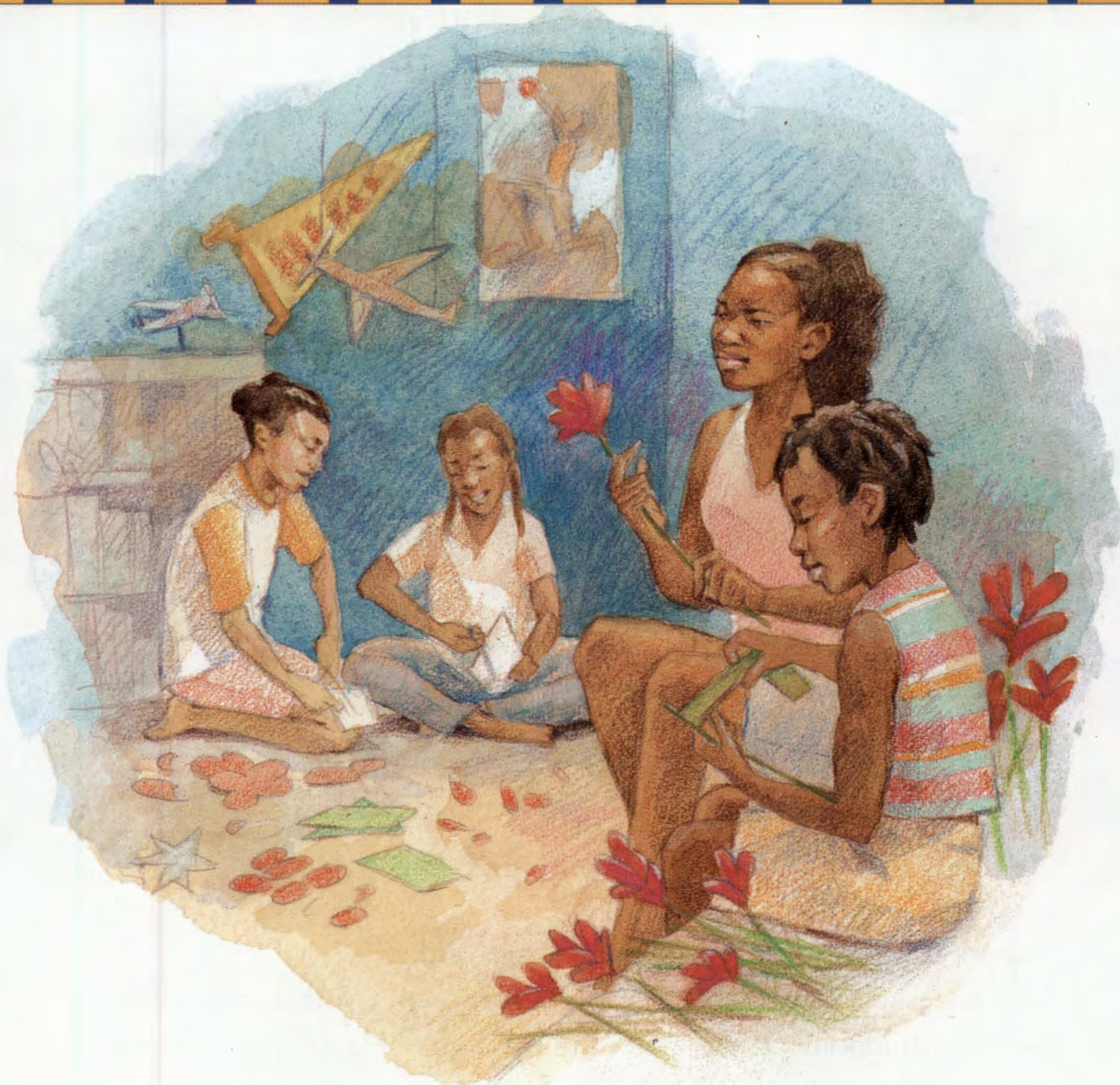
Everything seemed under control except Lynn. Mariah felt that Lynn suspected something unusual was going on when Lynn sometimes suggested that Denise do things with her. Whenever Denise begged off, Lynn, sometimes offended, wanted to know just what Denise was up to.

Mariah was grateful that Mama often stepped in and insisted that Lynn do things with, or for, her.

That afternoon when Mariah was leaving for Brandon's she called, "See you later, Denise."

"Where y'all going?" Lynn wanted to know.

Realizing she had made a mistake, Mariah quickly said, "I'm going to Brandon's to swim."



“So where will you see Denise later?”

“At home. Same time I’ll see you. When I get back.”

As soon as Mariah reached Brandon’s she called and asked her mama to please call home and send Lynn on an errand so Denise could more easily join them at Brandon’s.

Finally Denise arrived. In Brandon’s room they all got busy cutting colorful paper flower petals and clipping thin wire, wrapping it with strips of green paper to make flower stems. Mariah was surprised at how quickly Denise shaped the petals and stems into beautiful flowers. Soon all the girls were turning out flowers while Brandon worked on signs and banners.



“I think Lynn suspects something,” Denise said.

“She better not know. This has to be a surprise,” Cynthia said.

Just then Brandon’s mother rushed to the door. “Hurry, get out to the pool. Lynn is coming.”

They all started up. “Not you, Denise,” Mariah commanded. “You hide in here.”

“Oh, we don’t have on our suits,” Trina whispered as they all raced through the house.

“Take off your shoes,” Mariah demanded. “Sit on the edge of the pool. Splash your feet.”

Mariah listened as Brandon’s mama talked to detain Lynn, and when Lynn entered the backyard Mariah called out as if surprised, “Lynn, what you doing here?”

“I was on an errand this way and thought I’d stop to see how you guys are doing with your strokes for the meet. You’re not swimming today?”



“I’m letting them rest for a little while,” Brandon said. “They’ll be at it pretty soon.”

“Please, Brandon, give us the day off,” Nikki suggested.

“No way. We gotta work. And Lynn, you had better go.”

“Let me see them for a little while. Just once,” Lynn pleaded.

“No spectators when we work. Rules. Suit up, girls,” Brandon ordered.

“Bye, Lynn,” they all sang as they marched inside.

When Lynn had gone they rushed back to Brandon’s room. “Whew!” Mariah exclaimed. “Brandon, you saved the day.”

“Something’s up,” Trina said.

“Yeah. But who could’ve told?” Jerri asked.

“I really don’t think she knows,” Denise said. “I think maybe she suspects something.”

“We better hurry and finish all this stuff,” Mariah said. “This is getting to be hard on the nerves.”

At dinner on the day before her birthday Lynn announced, "I just want to do nothing on my birthday but rest in bed all day."

Oh, no, Mariah thought as she glanced at Mama and then at Denise. Did Lynn know? Was she going to make it impossible for them to pull the party off as a surprise? Lynn really could be a pain.

"Fine," Denise agreed with Lynn. "Mariah and I will make breakfast and serve you in bed."

"You and Riah make breakfast?" Lynn laughed.

"Sure. We can fix fruit and cold cereal, huh, Riah?"

"You can make your specialty, Denise," Mariah suggested.

"She wouldn't want corn muffins for breakfast." Denise laughed.

That was the only thing Denise made successfully since she had started to learn to cook.

"Yours are so good, Denise, maybe," Lynn said.

"We'll give you millet cereal for sure," Mariah said, and they all laughed.

Mariah went to bed worried. How would they ever get ready for the party? If only her sister were not so weird!

Early the next morning Mariah and Denise took a tray to Lynn's room, followed by Mama and Daddy. They sang "Happy Birthday" and as they were leaving Lynn to eat alone, Mama asked, "Lynn, are you sure you want to stay in bed all day?"

"I'm sure."

"Aw, Lynn . . ."

Mama quickly raised a hand. "Riah, we must honor that."

In the kitchen Mariah argued. "She can't be here. We'll never get things done. Do something, Mama. Take off from work and get her out of here."

"I had planned to take half a day off," Mama said.

"Hey, remember, Lynn said she wanted some books," Denise reminded them.

"She'd never refuse to shop for books," Mariah said. "And take her to lunch and to a movie, Mama."

"What if she won't go?" Denise suggested.

"She will," Mama said. "She'd better."





Mariah joined her friends at the rec center. They all wanted to know what time to come to get ready for the party.

"Might not be a party." Mariah told them about Lynn's decision to stay in bed all day.

"Somebody talked and she's being cool, huh?" Trina suggested.

"She makes me sick even if she is my sister," Mariah fumed.

"We told you. She's weird," Jerri said.

"I can say that, but you can't, okay?"

Mariah returned home just before noon and Lynn was still in her room. "I don't think she's gonna get up," Mariah said to Denise.

Denise responded quickly, "If she wants to act that way, I don't care. There'll be no surprise. We'll have to tell her."

Just then Mama came home. She went to Lynn's room. Mariah heard her say, "Lynn, I know you don't want a celebration, but I took off so you and I can do something."

"I don't want anything special."

"This isn't special. We'll go to the bookstore. How about that?"

"If we go maybe Riah and Denise would like to come, too."

Mariah wanted to shout *No!* but Mama said it for her, "No, no. We said no big thing. Just me and you. Get up and get ready."

As soon as they were out of the house, Mariah rushed to the phone. "Lynn's left the house. The surprise is on."

By three o'clock that afternoon Daddy had picked up all the things from Brandon's and everyone was there ready to work. Brandon's mother and Cynthia's grandmother came to help, too.

Mariah liked the way Denise had mixed and matched the colorful paper that covered the boxes. Only Denise and Lynn would dare mix those colors, she thought. The boxes were amazingly attractive.

Brandon put his handmade signs on the boxes: MEN'S AND BOYS' CLOTHING; WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' CLOTHING; and there was a box with the sign: CLOTHING FOR SMALL CHILDREN. Then he helped Mariah's daddy string the big banners across the yard so that they could not be seen from the street.

"Where's the music?" Brandon asked.



“Oh, I forgot the music,” Mariah shouted.

“What’s a party without music?” Trina asked.

“Don’t worry,” Daddy said. “I’ll call Brandon’s dad. He’ll rig it up.” Brandon’s father supplied equipment for concerts and big parties.

Soon everything was ready. The yard looked festive as people began to arrive. The Friendly Five worked collecting food to put in boxes marked: CANNED GOODS and STAPLES AND DRIED FOODS. Denise worked with Brandon’s mother and Cynthia’s grandmother separating clothing and filling boxes.

Mariah looked around. The yard looked like a magic garden with the flowers and colorful boxes, the lights and banners. People stood together talking softly, waiting. Where was Lynn? Mariah worried. Had something happened?

Brandon’s father set up the musical equipment and went to help Mariah’s daddy get the grill ready for the hot dogs and bring out the tub of ice for the soft drinks. The cake, hot dog buns, chips, and all the relishes were on the table. Why didn’t Mama bring Lynn?



Finally, Mariah heard the car in the driveway. She became so excited she could hardly say softly with force, “Quiet, everybody. She’s here.”

Lynn entered the backyard and they all shouted, “*SURPRISE!*”

Lynn’s eyes widened, her mouth opened, she quickly covered it to stifle the sound and then spun around and tried to escape. Mama held her there until she came to herself.

Mariah beamed. She rushed to Lynn and threw her arms around her. “We did it,” she cried. Lynn looked stunned, truly surprised. Mariah watched as Lynn looked at the banners: *HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LYNN, WE LOVE YOU* and *SHARING IS CARING*. Then Lynn saw the boxes filled with food and clothing for St. Martin’s Shelter. Mariah knew she was fighting back tears when she said, “I didn’t want a party, but I’m so glad all of you are here. I know my friends at St. Martin’s will be happy to know that you care.” She looked at Mariah, “Why didn’t I think of this? I bet this was your idea, Riah.”

“She’s guilty!” a member of the Friendly Five shouted.

“And my friends and our sister, Denise, made it happen,” Mariah said proudly. “Give them a hand.” After everyone applauded, Mariah shouted, “Let’s party.”

Brandon picked a record, with some help from the Friendly Five. The music and the smell of hot dogs roasting filled the air. Mariah moved about making sure everyone was getting enough to eat and was having a good time.

Soon she had nothing to do. She stood with her friends watching Lynn and all of her friends dancing. No one asked her or the other Friendly Five members to dance.

“Go ask Brandon to come and dance with us,” Jerri suggested.

“Not me,” they all cried.

“I’ll ask him,” Mariah volunteered.

She came back without him. “His excuse is that he’s playing the music.”

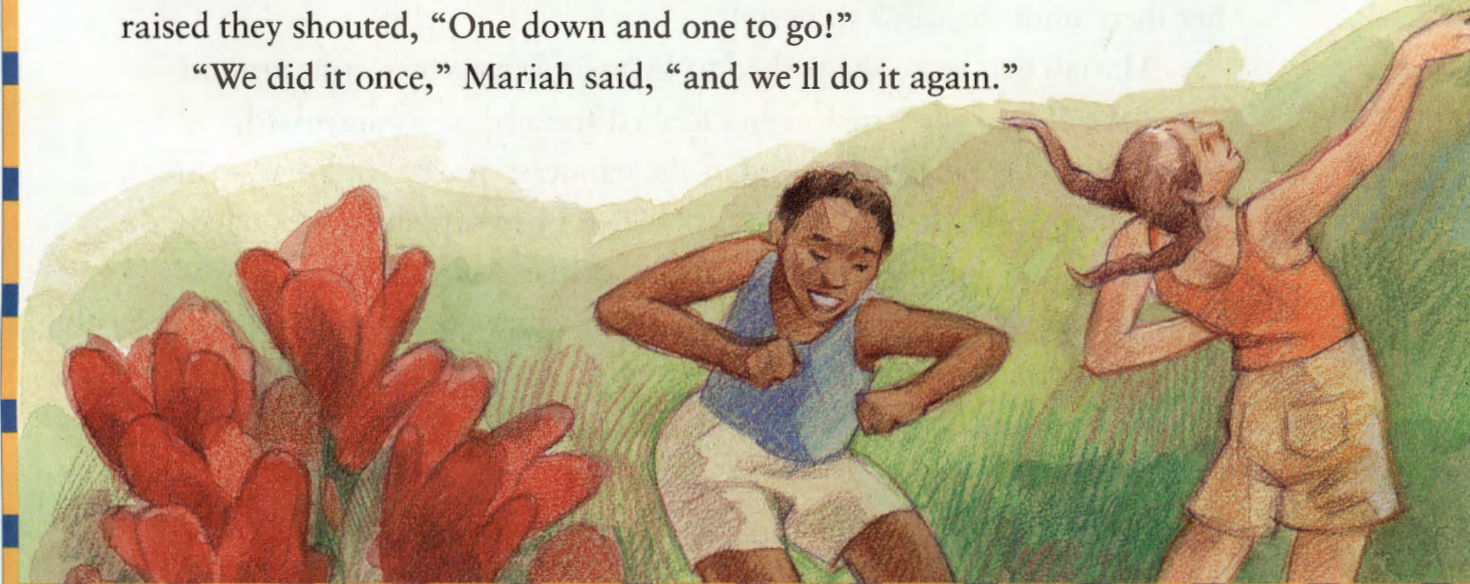
“And Lynn’s friends all think we’re too young,” Trina complained.

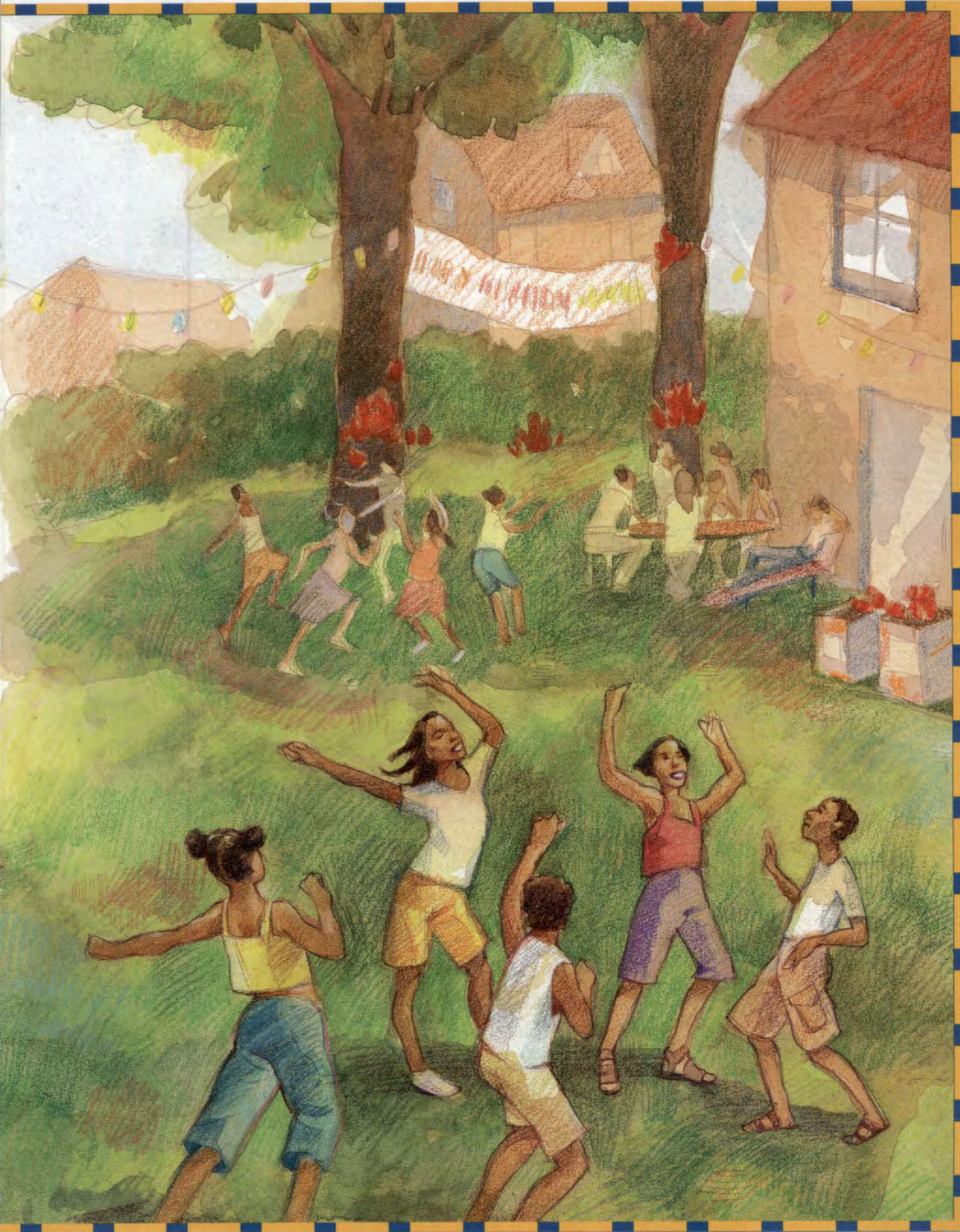
“We don’t need them. Let’s dance together, or by ourselves,” Mariah said.

Later everyone sang “Happy Birthday” and shared Lynn’s birthday cake and ice cream. After that, the crowd stayed on, reluctant to leave.

After midnight, when all the guests were gone, Mariah, still happy, did not even notice how tired she felt. The Friendly Five huddled with Brandon. “Now on to the meet,” Mariah cried. With joined hands raised they shouted, “One down and one to go!”

“We did it once,” Mariah said, “and we’ll do it again.”





Think About the Selection



1. Why do you think Mariah chooses the gift she does for Lynn? Do you think it was the right choice? Why or why not?
2. Would you like to receive, or give, the kind of gift Lynn received? Why or why not?
3. When Jerri says that Lynn is weird, Mariah replies, “I can say that but you can’t, okay?” Why does Mariah say this?
4. Is Lynn surprised by the party, or did she know that something was up? Find details in the story that support your answer.
5. How would you describe Mariah? Would you like to have a friend like her? Explain.
6. How do the Friendly Five show that they are good problem solvers?
7. **Comparing/Contrasting** How do you think this selection fits the theme *Person to Person*? What do people do for each other?



Informing

Write an Invitation

In planning Lynn’s party, Mariah might have sent invitations to the guests. Write an invitation Mariah might have sent. Give all the important information a party guest would need to know, including the surprise.

Tips

- Tell when and where the party is, and for whom.
- Include details about what to bring and why.
- Capitalize proper nouns and check for correct punctuation.

Health

Plan a Healthy Diet

With a partner, review the categories of food that Lynn's guests collected for the homeless shelter on page 354. Note that *staples* means "important basic foods," such as flour or rice. Under each category, make a list of foods that you think would contribute to a healthy diet.

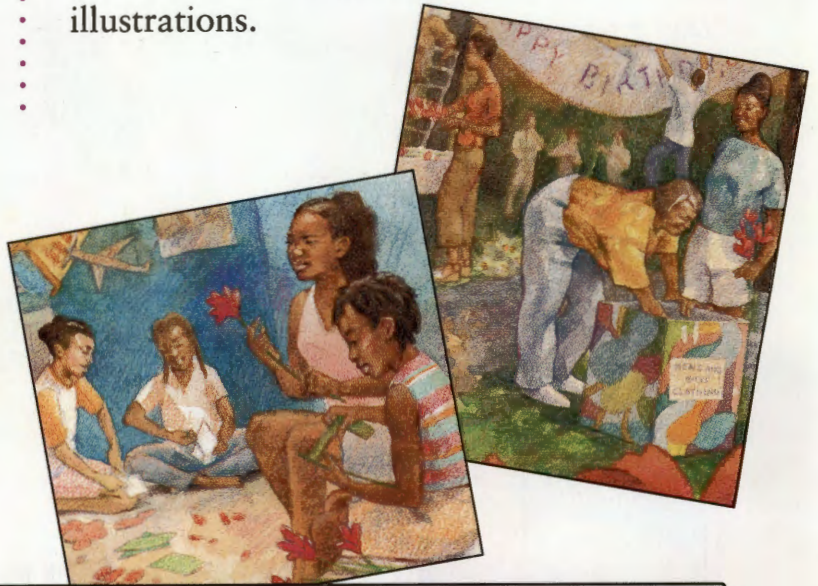
Bonus Plan a meal using the foods in your list.



Viewing

Review an Illustration

Choose one of the illustrations in *Mariah Keeps Cool*. With a partner, discuss your thoughts about it. How does it fit with the words on the page? Is it a scene you would have chosen to illustrate? Why do you think the illustrator made the choices she did? If you wish, review more illustrations.



Internet

Take an Online Poll

In a group, brainstorm a list of ways you could help people in your community. Then take an online poll at Education Place to find out how other students your age have helped out in their communities. www.eduplace.com/kids

**Skill: How to Read
a News Article**

Before You Read . . .

Read the title or headline. Try to figure out the topic of the article.

As You Read . . .

Look for answers to these questions:

- **Who** or **what** is the news article about?
- **When** and **where** are the events taking place?
- **Why** are the events taking place: what has caused them?
- **How** are the events unfolding: what are the steps?

California
Standards

**Standards to
Achieve**

Reading

- **Discern main ideas (R2.3)**
- **Facts, inferences, opinions (R2.5)**
- **Analyze literary forms (R3.1)**

One Pair of Shoes and a lot of good souls!



by Ms. Ginsberg's fifth grade class

at the Ramaz School in New York City, New York



Many people in the world are less fortunate than you or me. They don't have shoes or even a house. My school decided to do something to help.

— *Samantha Springer, age 11*

How it all started

One day on Zev Alpert's way to school, he saw a homeless man walking on the street without shoes. Zev didn't like the fact that it was close to winter and people who didn't have shoes would freeze their feet, so when he got to school he asked Ms. Ginsberg (our teacher) if he could start a shoe drive. She asked "Why?" Zev explained how he saw a man without shoes and Ms. Ginsberg said, "We're already doing City Harvest. Sorry, I don't think we can do it with everything else we have to do." Ms. Ginsberg thought about what Zev told her and started to regret the answer that she gave to him, so she went over to Zev and said "You know what? We will do the shoe drive and I regret what I said to you." That is how it got started.

— *Jonathan Robin*

How it all works

We get the shoes by giving out flyers to different people in the school building. Shoes come in from parents and kids. When we get to the school in the morning we always hang up our coat and books. But there's one thing different: We know that when we finish, if we have time left, we will polish and tie shoes. We buy different kinds of polish and make old shoes new again. It seems as though there's no end to them!

— *Jacob Savage*





To make the shoe drive successful we made posters and hung up advertisements.

— *Eric Rechtschaffen, age 11*

Every Friday I go to the shoe stores to pick up shoes. I tell people every 2 pairs of shoes they bring in they get 15% off. This way it will help the shoe stores get more customers and help us get more shoes.

— *Hannab Zimet, age 11*

What we do with the shoes

A call came in from a drop-in shelter named Peter's Place on 23rd St. and 7th Ave. Our class delivered the shoes to Peter's Place. We had gotten 136 pairs of women's shoes and 62 pairs of men's shoes. We delivered the shoes and stayed for about two hours. In those two hours we played with the people, who were mostly seniors, watched television, and played ping-pong, chess, and checkers.

When we got back to school, we made plans to return. We decided to go have lunch at Peter's Place. We also decided to bring some gifts to the people at the shelter. Another class had an even greater task. They had to collect children's shoes and give them to a shelter for the children.

— *Jess Mermelstein, age 10*

The word *mitzvah* means a good deed in Hebrew. The project of giving shoes to those who need them is a big mitzvah.

— *Samuel Jesselson*

Every morning when I go to school, I always see a lot of people working with the shoes. They wash the shoes, polish them, and tie them, and much more. This has been going on since November and I still don't get bored helping and watching the shoes in motion. It's just amazing that so many kids get involved and want to help.

— *David Pollack, age 11*

So far we have collected about 800 pairs of shoes and we hope to reach at least 1,500!

— *Samantha Springer, age 11*



A Personal Narrative

A personal narrative gives a first-person account of a true experience. Use this student's writing as a model when you write a personal narrative of your own.

Grand Slam!

A good beginning catches the reader's interest.

"Smack!" It looks like it's going all the way past the pale silver fence, 135 yards away from the plate.

"Oh man," I said, as the ball plopped down on the ground just before the fence. "Nick almost had a homer!"

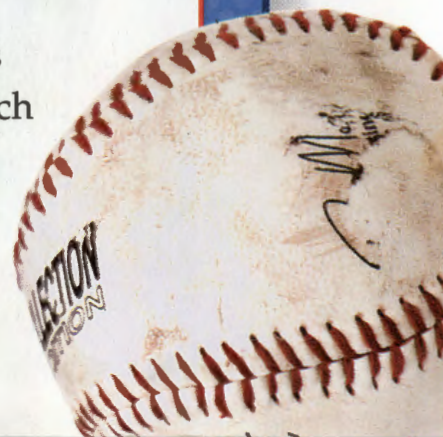
Then I heard coach John say, "Shepard, you're up!"

Nervous and dripping with sweat, I got up to the plate. There were two outs and three men on: Ron, Nick, and Mike.

"Strike one!" called the ump. "Ball one! . . . Ball two!" Then again, "Strike two!"

The pressure was on as my teammates cheered, "Let's go, Tim. Let's go!" The pitch was there. It was a big, fat meat ball. I swung as hard as I could.

Dialogue makes a personal narrative come alive.



“Crack!” I hit the microscopic ball. As I ran to first, I saw my first base coach signaling me to go to second. As I touched second, I saw the ball glide over the fence. Then I heard a bang. “Beep! Boop! Boop! Beep! Beep! Boop! Beep! Boop!” I had hit a car, but I was still happy. It was a grand slam. I slowed down to a trot.

Details help the reader follow the narrative.

As I touched the dirty home plate, my team crowded around me. They were screaming and cheering. I tried desperately to run from them, but they kept chasing me around the field. I gave up the chase and they dog-piled me. I was so happy that my cheeks felt bright red.

A good ending ties the narrative together.

Then I noticed something. My grand slam had just won us, the Vipers, the championship game! We had won 9 to 8. WE WERE THE CHAMPS!

Meet the Author



Tim S.

Grade: five

State: Florida

Hobbies: sports, reading, and writing

What he'd like to be when he grows up: a lawyer