

Adam loved playing in the park.



His favorite things were the swings and playing basketball with his friends, including his best friend, Isaiah.

Adam and Isaiah liked a lot of the same things.
They both liked video games, music, and superheroes.



Adam and Isaiah especially liked playing basketball together. They each had a feel for what the other was going to do—pass, shoot, or drive to the basket. This made them great teammates and even better friends.

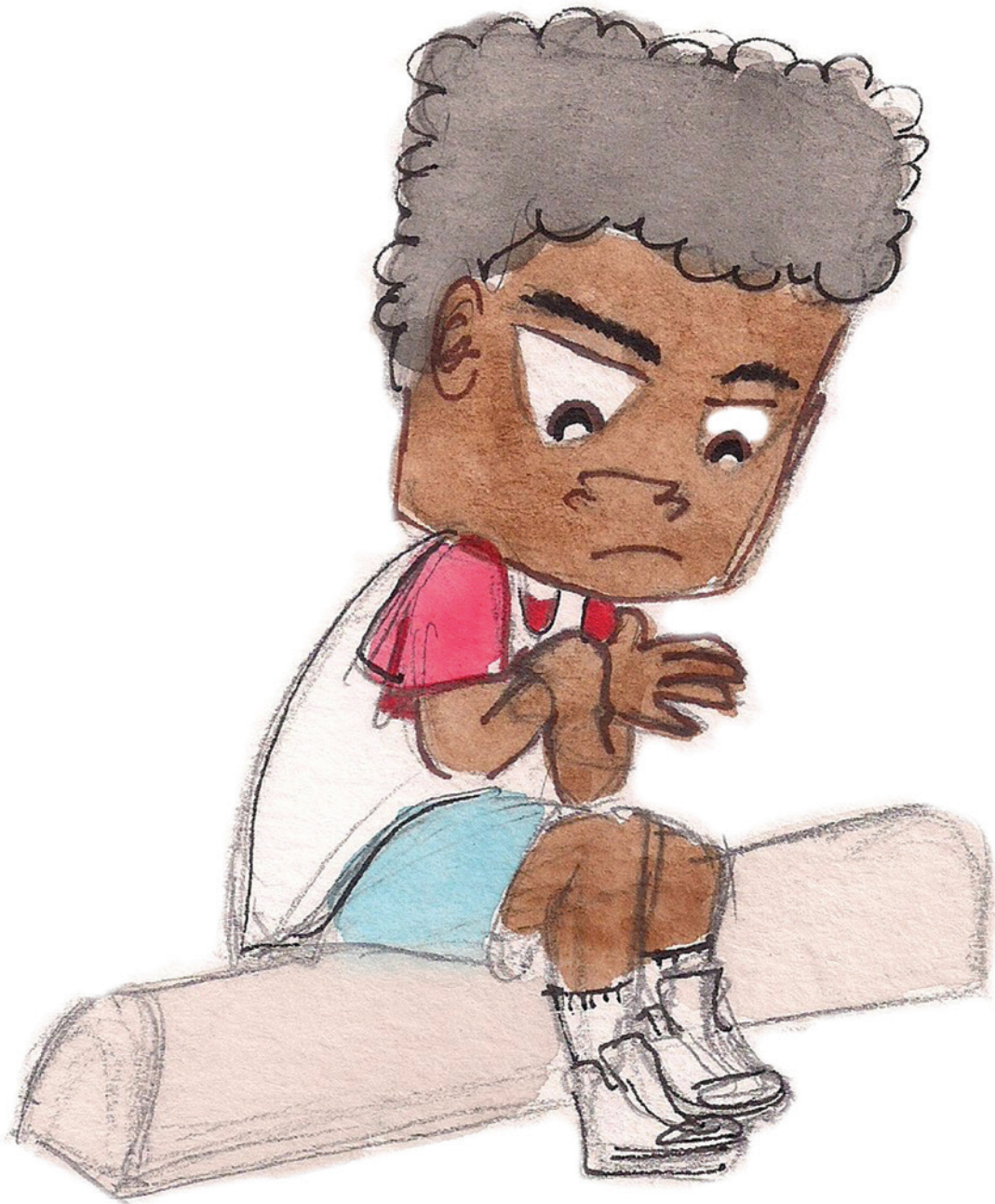


One day, after playing basketball in the park with Isaiah, Adam was sweaty, happy, and hungry for dinner. While crossing a parking lot on the way home, he tripped and fell. His right hand came down on a broken bottle.

A big piece of glass was stuck deep in his hand. Tears welled in his eyes. It was a big hurt.



Adam didn't mean to trip and fall and have a big piece of glass stuck deep in his hand. It wasn't his fault. But his hand was bleeding and he had to decide what to do about it.



For a moment, he tried to pretend this wasn't happening to him.
He felt mad that the big hurt had interrupted his good day.
He didn't want to give it any attention at all.



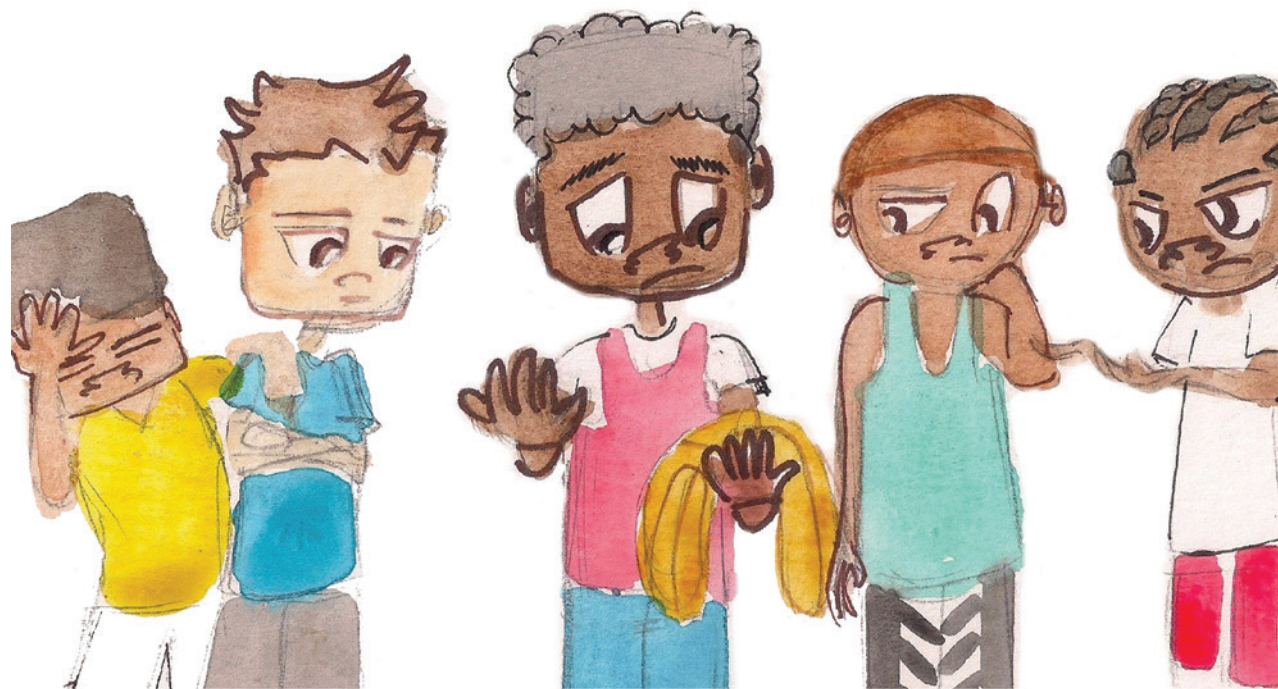
He thought,
“Maybe I can just go home, eat my dinner,
and act like it never happened.”



He imagined trying to eat dinner...
hug his baby sister...
pet his cat...
play video games...
and read his book.

He thought about going
again to play in the park...

How could he play on the
swings with glass in his hand?



And how could he play basketball?

Adam realized that leaving the glass in his hand and ignoring his big hurt was going to cause too many problems.

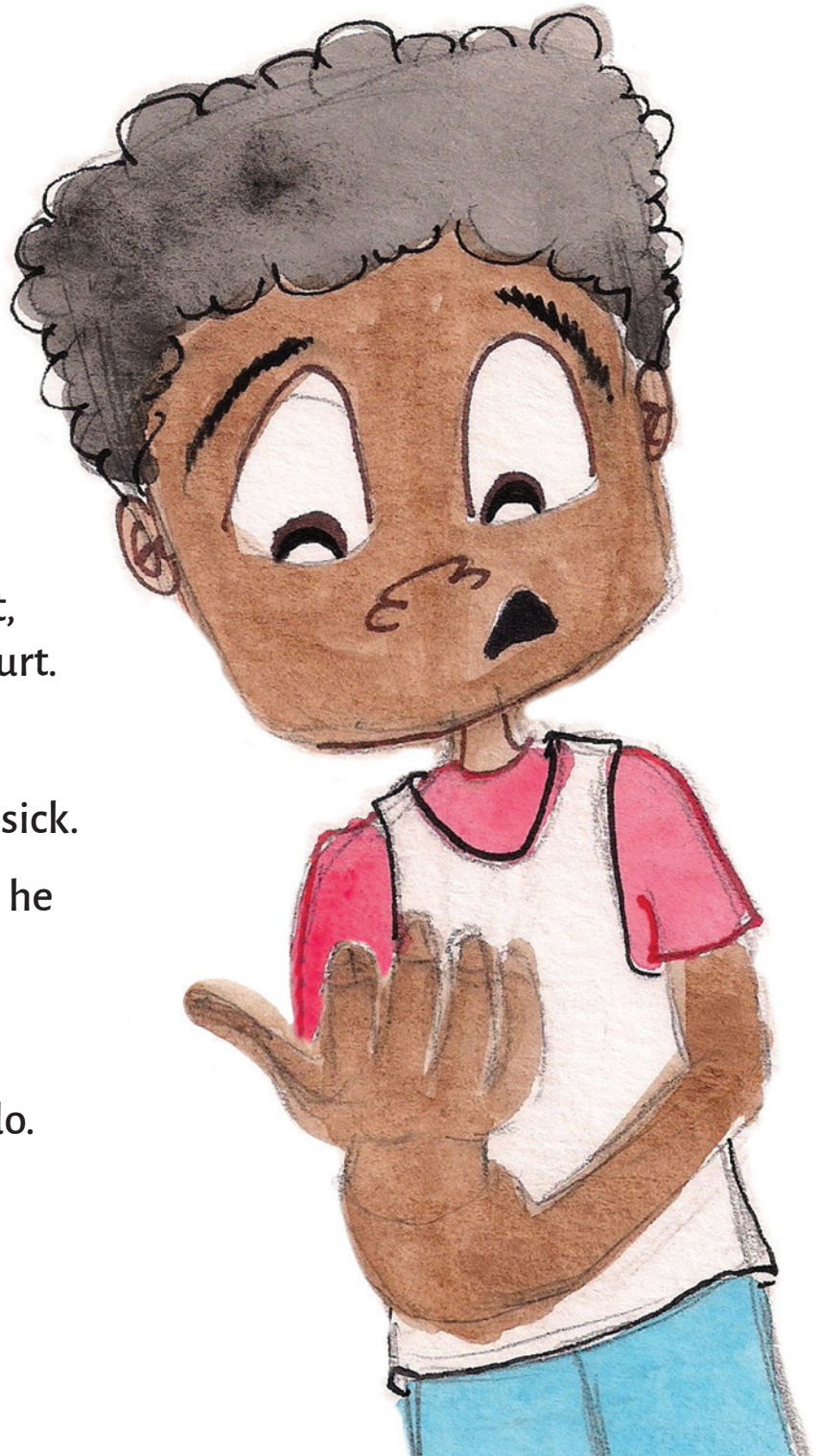
He could hurt his baby sister, his cat, and his friends at the basketball court.

His hand would keep hurting.

It could get infected and make him sick.

Maybe it would even get worse and he would lose his hand!

Adam decided what he needed to do.



He was about to call to his friends for help when he felt a hand on his shoulder. Isaiah was there.

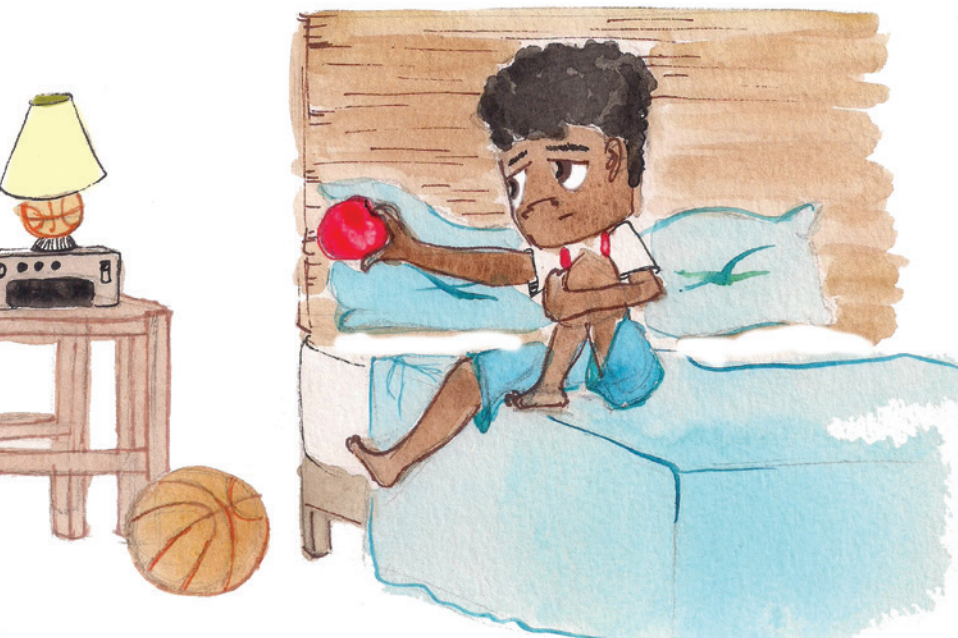


“I need some help,” Adam said.



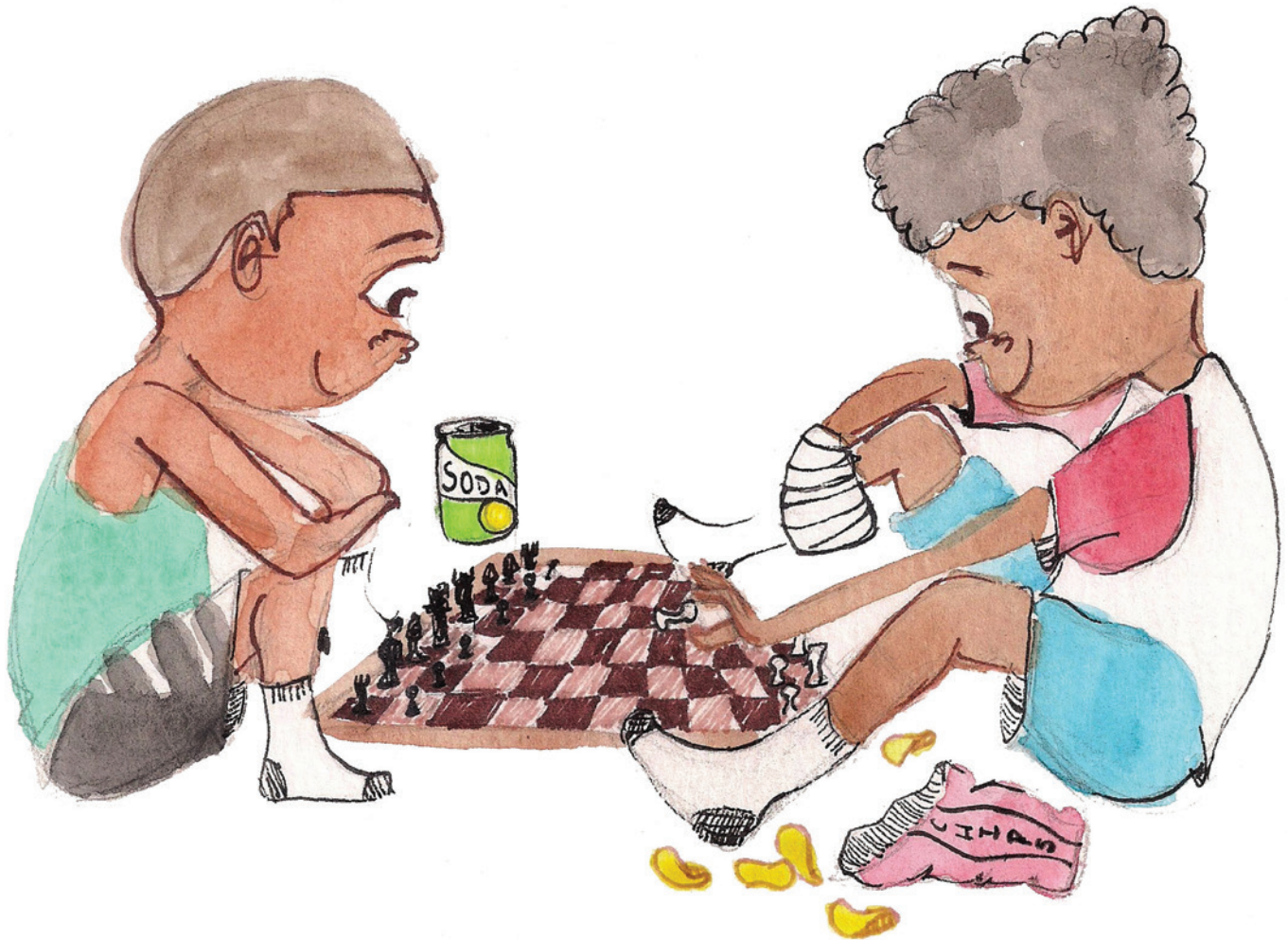
Isaiah took off his shirt and wrapped it carefully around Adam's injured hand. He helped Adam up, put his arm around Adam's shoulder, and walked Adam home.

Adam's mother and father quickly took him to the hospital where the glass was removed from his hand and nurses and doctors cared for his big hurt.



For a long time afterwards, Adam was careful with his hand. He needed to protect it from other injuries, but he also needed to use it so that it would keep its strength.

While his hand healed, Adam didn't go to the park. He missed the swings, but he especially missed playing basketball.



He didn't miss being with Isaiah, however, because Isaiah often came to Adam's house. The two friends found other things to do while Adam's hand was healing and getting stronger.



Finally, Adam was ready to return to the park.