

The Harvest Festival

A Little Squirts Storybook



Written & Illustrated by Mark Griffin

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Little



Squirts

A Storybook

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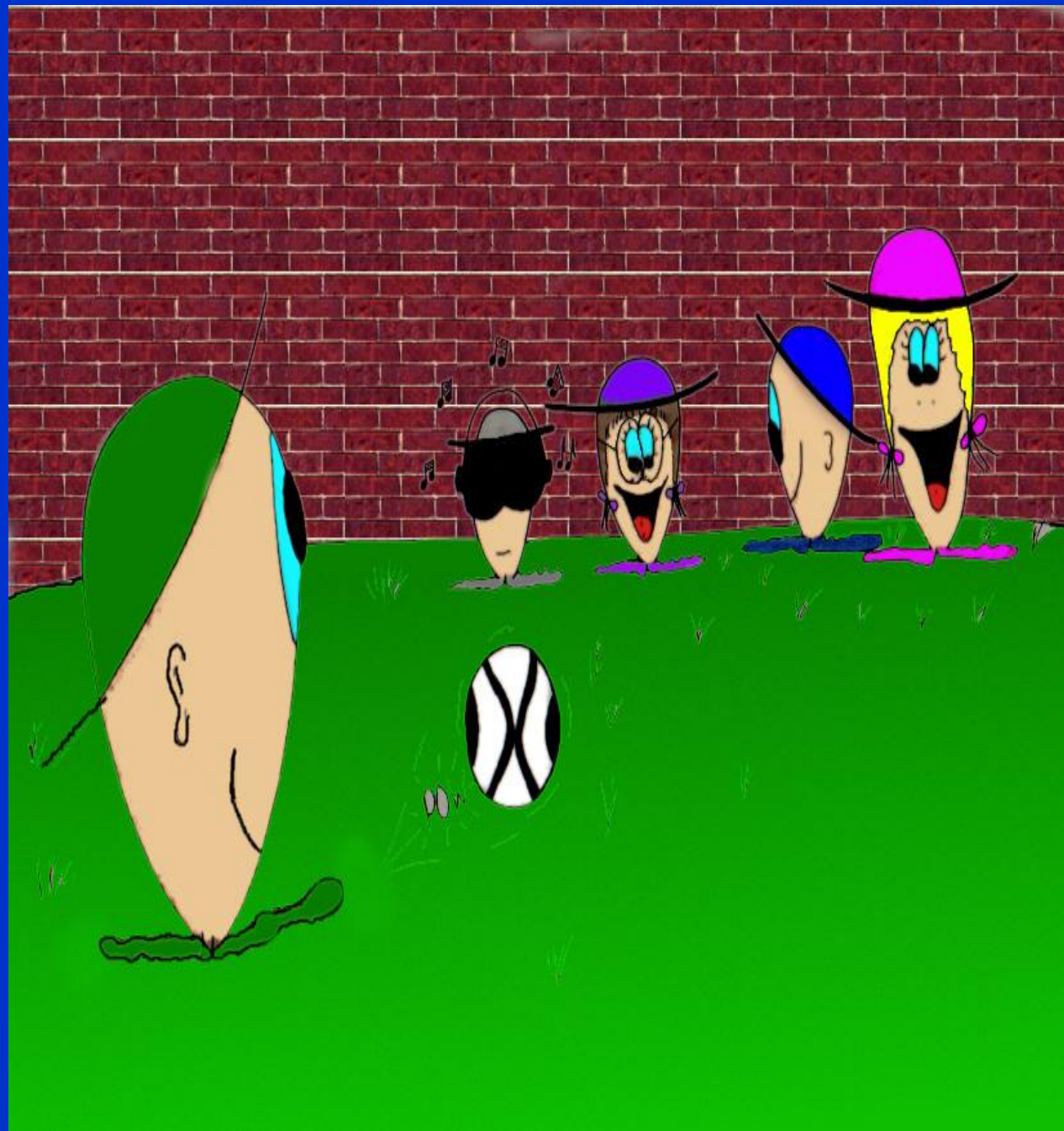


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The whole town was getting excited. Summer was almost over and the Harvest Festival was only a few weeks away.



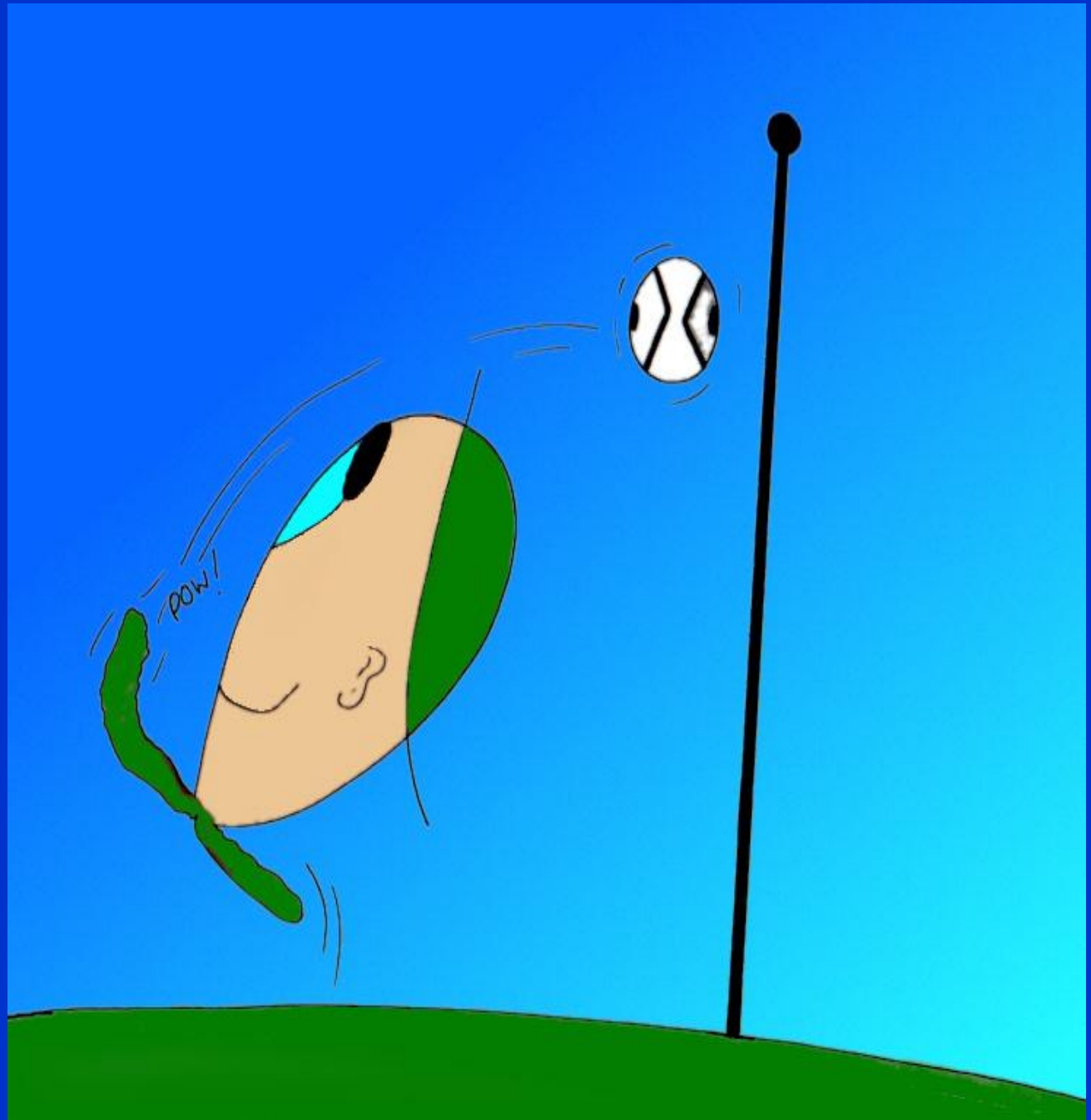
Bruno, Rocky, Mitzy, George and Rosy were getting ready for the big soccular game (circular soccer) to be played at the Harvest Festival. Their team, the Rockets, were going for the championship.



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Bruno was the captain of the Rockets soccer team. He made everyone practice very hard. He loved the game and always tried to help learn new kicks.

George loved to watch Bruno and did his best to keep up with the star player.



The local pizza parlor owner bought new uniforms and the television station was going to record the event. There would be pizza and root beer for all the players after the game. Bruno could hardly wait. He loved pizza, especially with lots of sauce.



One morning on their way to the field, the kids ran into Bizby, the little squirt. Bizby was given his name because he was usually "busy as a bee." Today he looked sad.

"What's the matter Bizby?" asked Rosy. "You don't look like your usual cheerful self."

"I'm in charge of the cloud races at the Harvest Festival this year and there isn't a cloud for miles," said Bizby.

"THAT'S AWFUL!" cried everyone at once.

"WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?"

"I just don't know. This has never happened before," said Bizby glumly.

"I have never seen Bizby so down in the mouth," said Bizby's sister, Slipper.

"Maybe the powerplants can help. Let's go see!" said George as he ran down the hill.



The kids all raced down to the pond to talk to the powerplants. They are the keepers of all knowledge in the village and live to be thousands of years old. They collect sunbeams during the day and turned them into electricity to keep the houses warm at night. Their main job is to teach the children. Everyone loves to talk to the powerplants when they needed advice.

"Hi kids! What's the hurry?" asked Mrs. Sunland.

"The cloud races are only a couple of weeks away and I can't find any clouds.

What do you think we should do?" asked Bizby.

"That is a tough one. Why don't you kids go practice your kicks and I'll give it some thought," smiled Mrs. Sunland.



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Bruno lined the team up for exercises, but no one's heart was in it. The festival just wouldn't be the same without the cloud races. Everyone quit early and went home feeling gloomy.

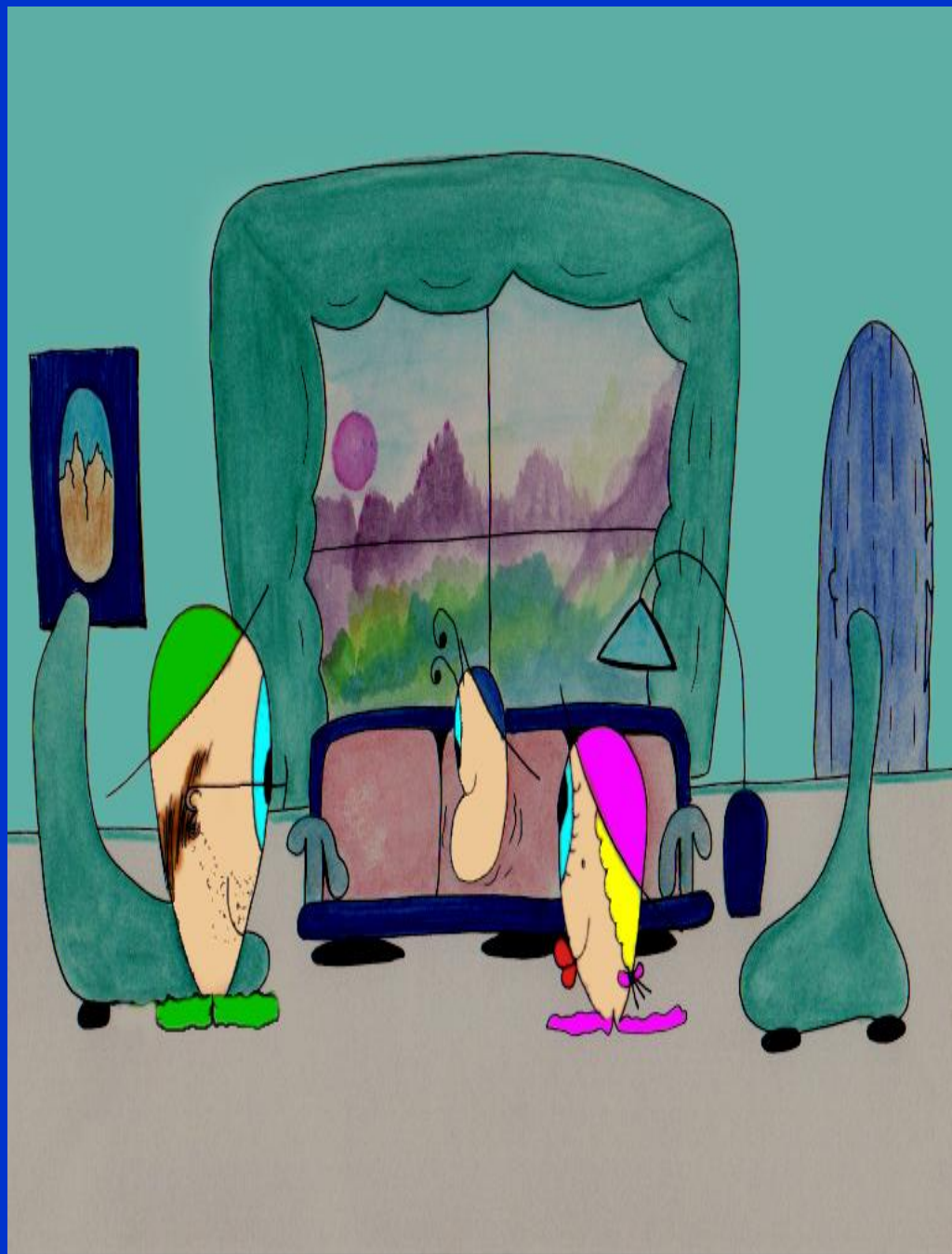


When Rosy got home, Bizby was already there, talking to Grandpa, who was the captain of a spaceship.

"Tomorrow we'll take ol'Betsy, that was the name of his ship, and go cloud hunting," said Grandpa trying to act serious.

"I talked to the powerplants and they said their friends the Wheelrights had seen a few loose Nimbus clouds on the other side of the Stoney mountains."

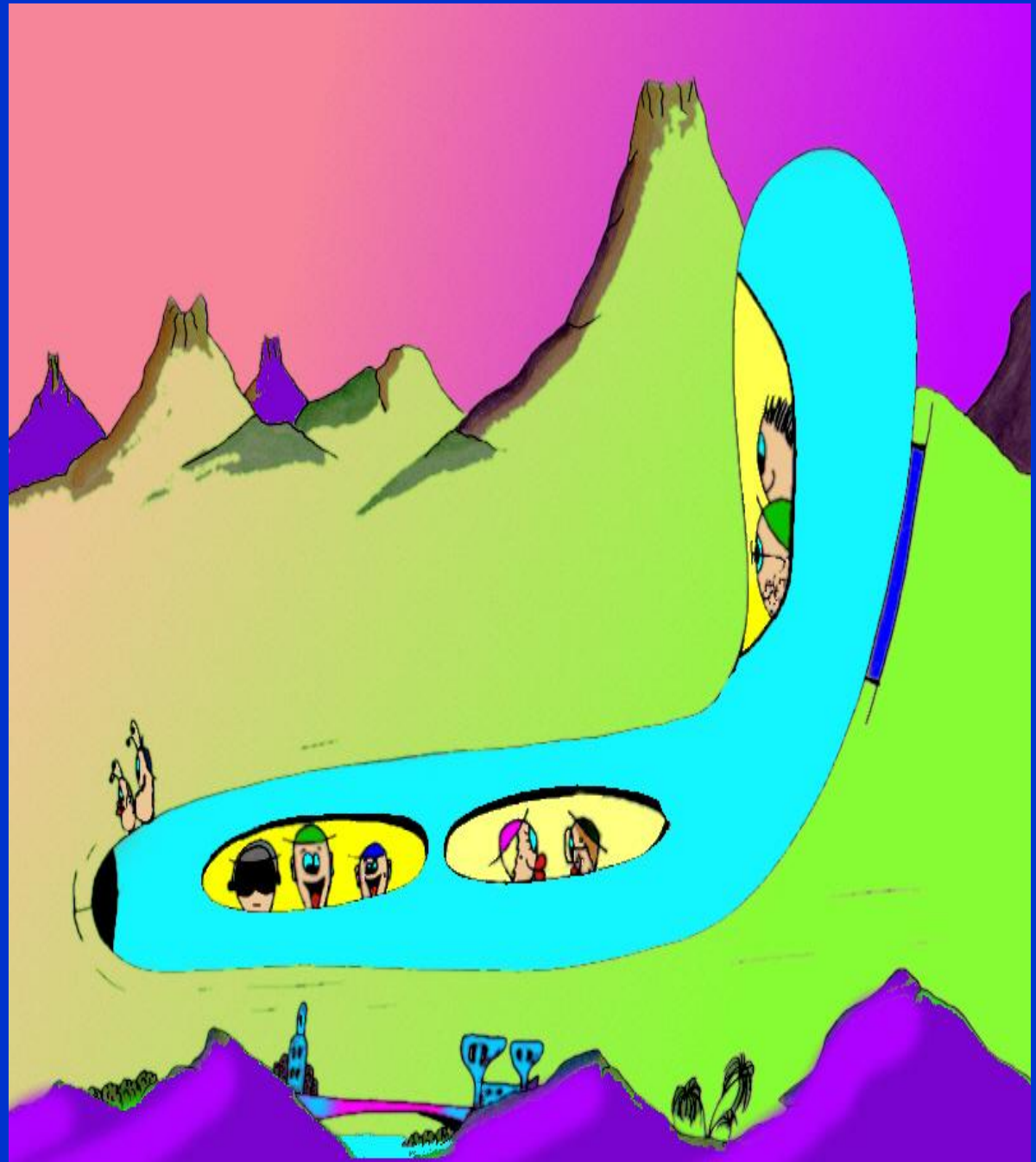
"YAHOO!" cried out Rosy and Bizby in unison. "Can we go with you?" "Of course you can, and bring the rest of the Rockets team," said Grandpa, who was always looking for an excuse to go flying. "You better go get some shut-eye. We blast off at the crack of dawn."



All the kids were up early and dancing with excitement. Rosy's mother packed them a lunch. "You kids be careful and be sure to wear your seatbelts," said Rosy's mom, who always worried a little bit.



"READY FOR TAKEOFF!" yelled Sparky, the ships' co-pilot and radio operator. "READY!" yelled the kids all at once as they zoomed into the early morning sky. "WOW! Everything sure looks little from up here. I can see my house and the pool!" squealed Mitzy. Even Rocky was impressed by the beautiful sight.



"Hey! There's Rock Creek. The team we're playing for the championship lives there. Maybe we could sneak by and watch 'em practice," laughed Bruno. "Better yet, we can videotape them from the air and look at it when we get home," said Sparky. "Isn't that a little like cheating?" asked George. "All the pro teams look at videos. Why not us?" said Rosy, but she still didn't feel quite right about it.



"We are almost up to the mountains," said Grandpa. "They sure look a lot bigger than I remember. Sparky use the computer and measure them."

"Aye, aye sir," replied Sparky.

"Something must be wrong. The mountains have grown almost twice as big in the last twenty years and are still growing," said Sparky looking puzzled.



Grandpa pointed the little ship up and over the Stoney Mountains. "Bizby! Look at this!" yelled Slipper. "YES!" cried Bizby as his eyes lit up. There on the other side of a huge canyon were the most beautiful bunch of big puffy clouds that anyone had ever seen. The mountains had grown so large that the clouds couldn't get over them.



"What do you think we can do?" asked bizby.

"There are all the clouds we need and no way to move them over the mountains."

"We'll have to use the ships' robot to dig a canyon for the clouds to go through. I hope I can get it done by festival time.

HEAD FOR HOME!

There is no time to lose," ordered Grandpa.



Grandpa and Bizby took the ships' robot back to the mountains the very next morning. They looked for a place to dig the canyon. When it was found, they controlled the robot by remote from the ship. Within a few hours some of the larger clouds were starting to find their way down the canyon.

"We better not let those clouds all through at once or else we'll have a huge storm on our hands," said Grandpa with concern. But it was too late. The biggest of the thunderclouds was racing through the canyon and pouring down rain on the robot.



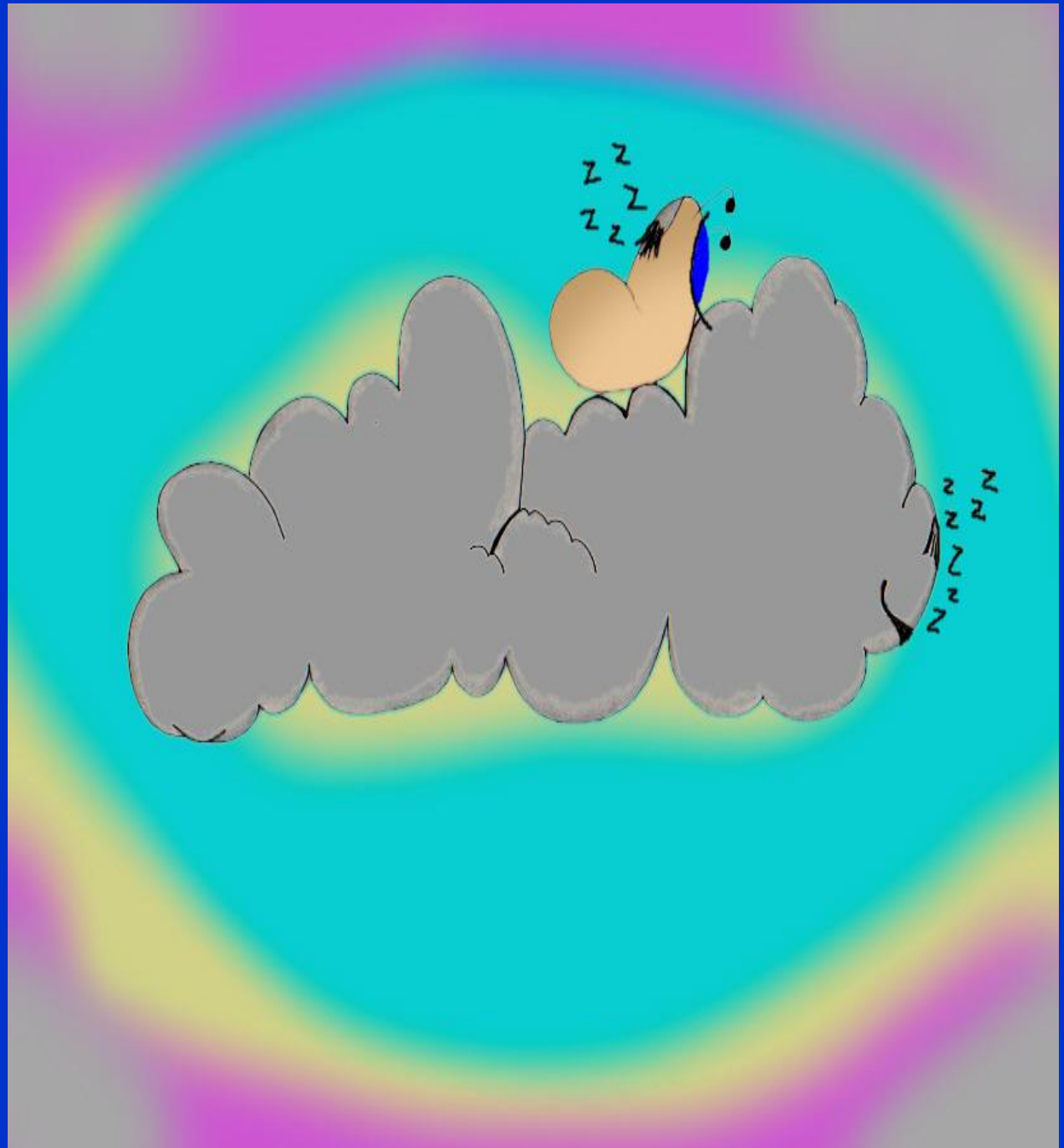
"BACK TO THE SHIP!" ordered Grandpa to the robots just as a huge wave started to form. "Bizby, see if you can slow that big cloud down." "I'll try," hollered Bizby, but he didn't think he had a chance. Bizby flew up to the head of the huge cloud and jumped on its back. He pointed it straight up to the sun where it warmed up and became lazy and slow. "Yikes! That was a close one!" exclaimed Bizby, as he caught his breath. "Yes, but that flashflood is heading towards our town. Look at the size of that wall of water. If we don't do something the whole town could be ruined," yelled Grandpa as he turned the ship around.



They zoomed out ahead of the huge wave and with the ship's laser blasted a huge hole in the ground. Just in time. The water came wooshing in and formed a beautiful lake; just right for swimming.



Bizbys' little brother, was named Lazlo because he is "lazy and slow." He discovered a big fat, warm cloud that didn't move too fast. A perfect place to take a nap. Lazlo loves to sleep. He even dreams about taking a nap.



The Harvest festival was only a few days away. Bizby and the other little squirts were rounding up clouds and training them to race. Meanwhile, Bruno and the Rockets were practicing their best moves for the big game. Caught up in all the excitement, they had forgotten about the video Sparky had taken from the window of Grandpa's ship.

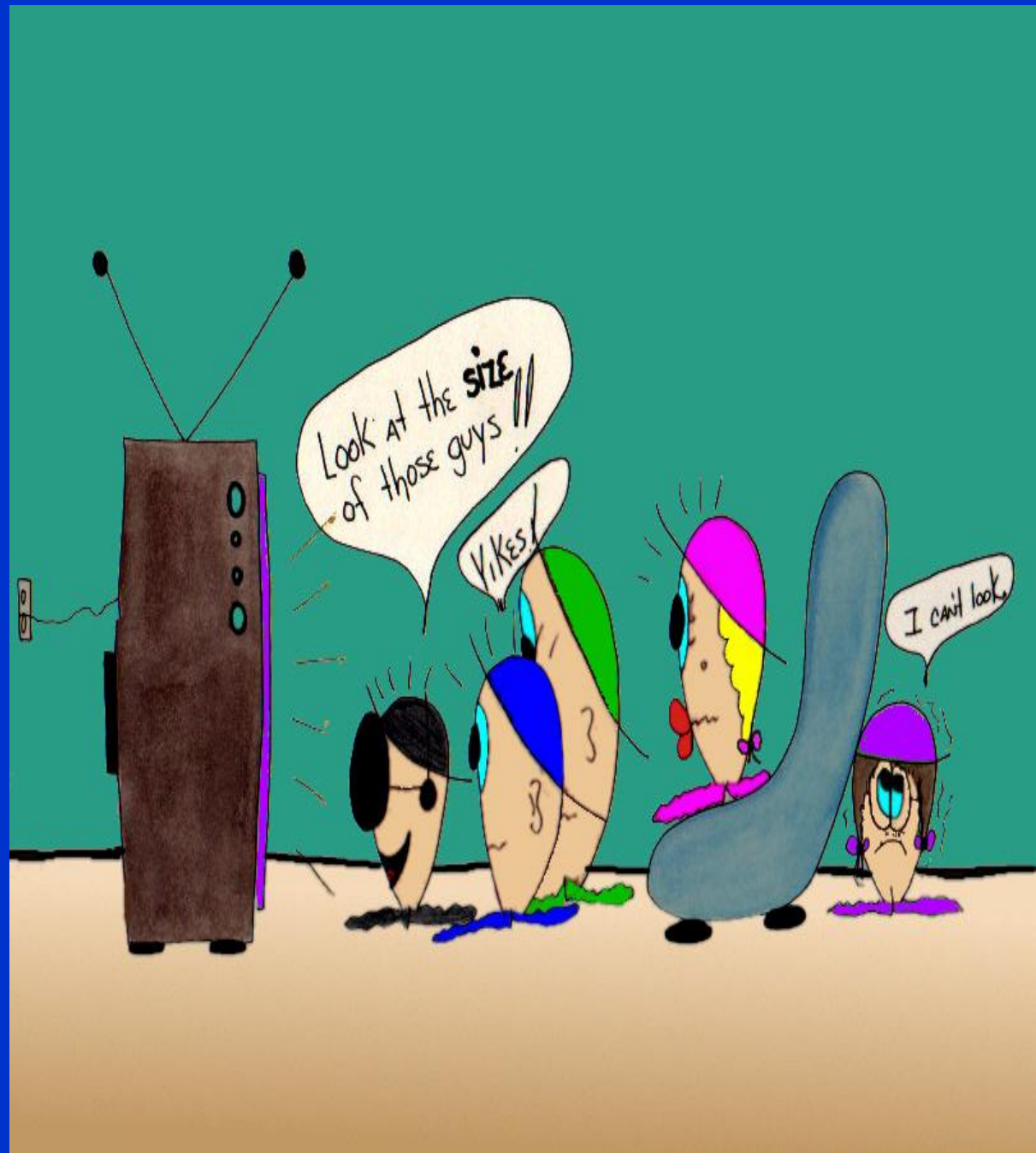
"Let's take a look," said Rosy, still feeling a little guilty.



"OH NO!" They all cried at once.

"LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THOSE GUYS!" screamed Rocky, who almost never says a word unless he has to.

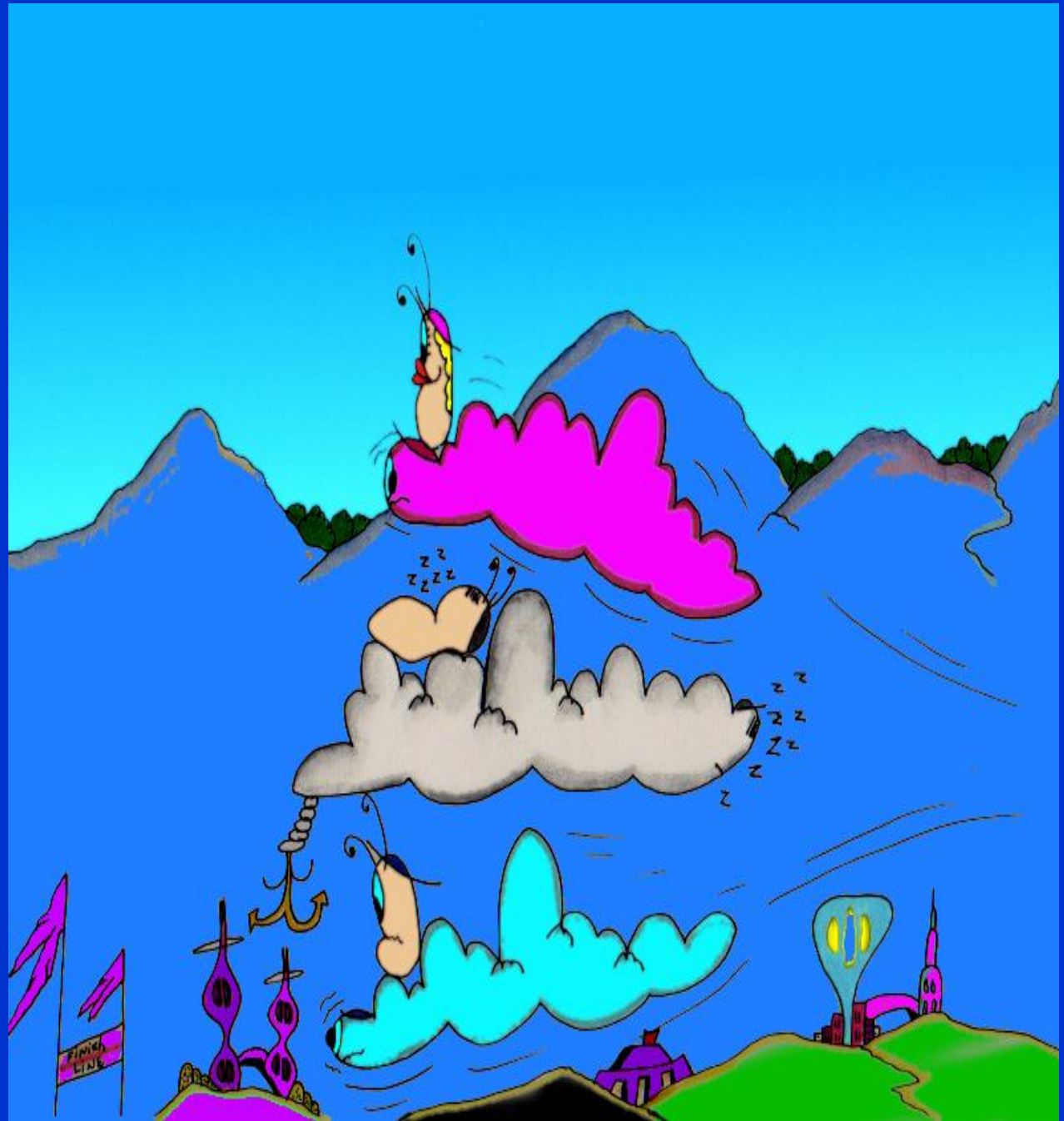
Sure enough, everyone on the team was huge. All the moves they were making were very good. "I'm scared," said Mitzy, trying to hold back tears. "We'll just have to outsmart 'em," said George. "Yes, we'll watch the video, find their weak points and work on them," said Bruno trying to be confident.



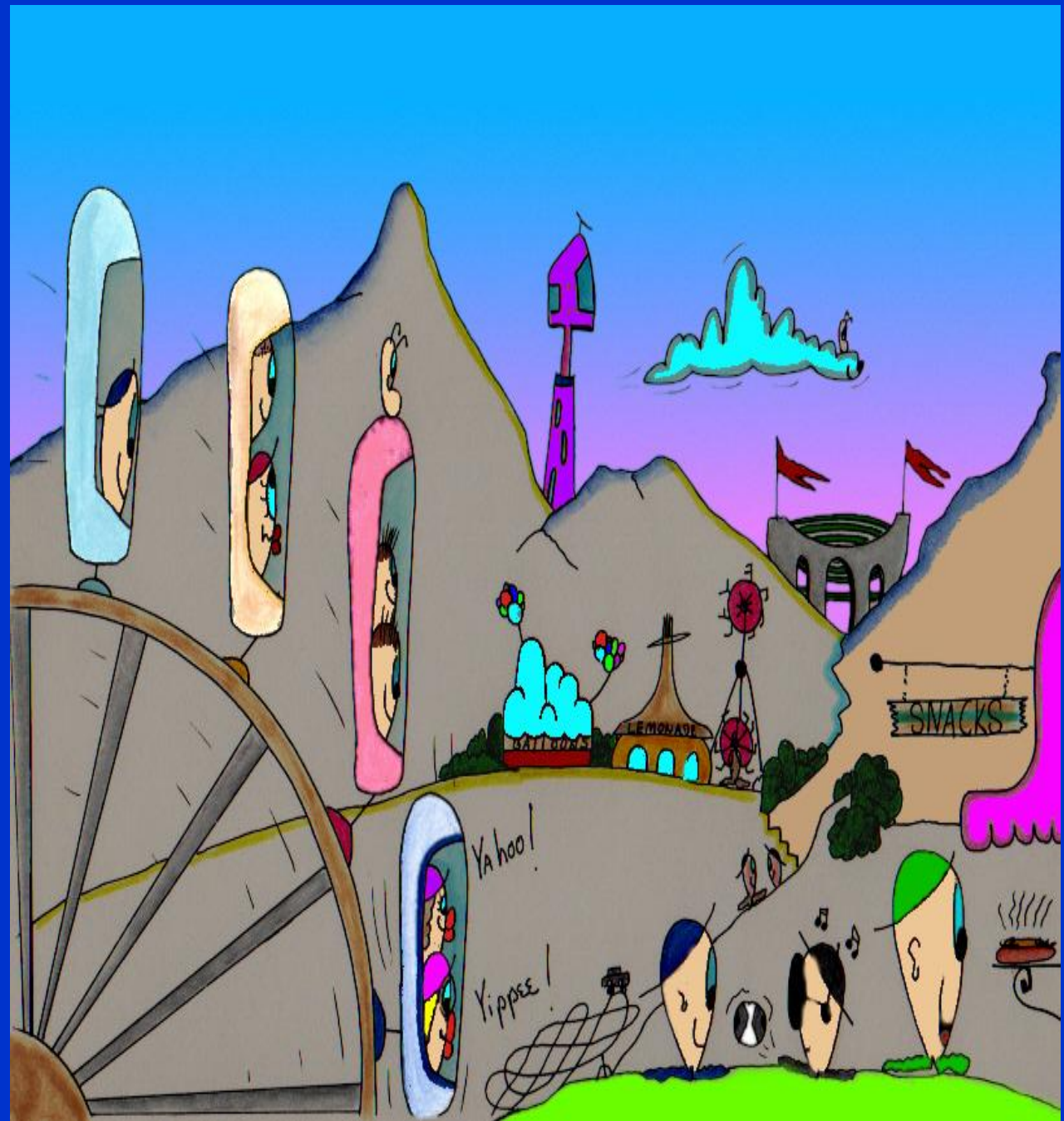
The opening day of the Harvest Festival had finally arrived. The cloud races were an all-day event. Bizby and Slipper were racing for first place when suddenly out of nowhere a big fat cloud that Lazlo was napping on drifted loose from the anchor and floated right out into the middle of the race course. "OH NO! THEY'RE GOING TO COLLIDE!" yelled the crowd.



Thinking quickly, Slipper turned to the left and Bizby went right, just missing Lazlo who slept through the whole thing. They both crossed the finish line at the same time. The race was a tie. "This means we are both winners," smiled Bizby.



Mitzy and Rosy were enjoying the carnival rides while Rocky and George passed the ball around. Bruno was testing out the snack stands and enjoying every minute. They were all trying to take their minds off the big game. Everyone was still a bit nervous after seeing the video.



Finally it was time for the big game. TV cameras were set in place. Grandpa was giving the team a last minute pep talk as the whistle blew for the other team to enter the field.

"Hey! They don't look so big after all. Sparky must have been filming the adult team. They are the same size as us!" exclaimed Bruno with a sigh of relief.

"Let's go get 'em," screamed the Rockets.



They used all the moves they had learned watching the big guys on the video. By the time the game was over they had won by 10 points. "Boy! where did you learn such great moves?" asked one of the player from the other team. "Oh.....from *your* parents," laughed Rosy.

THE END



