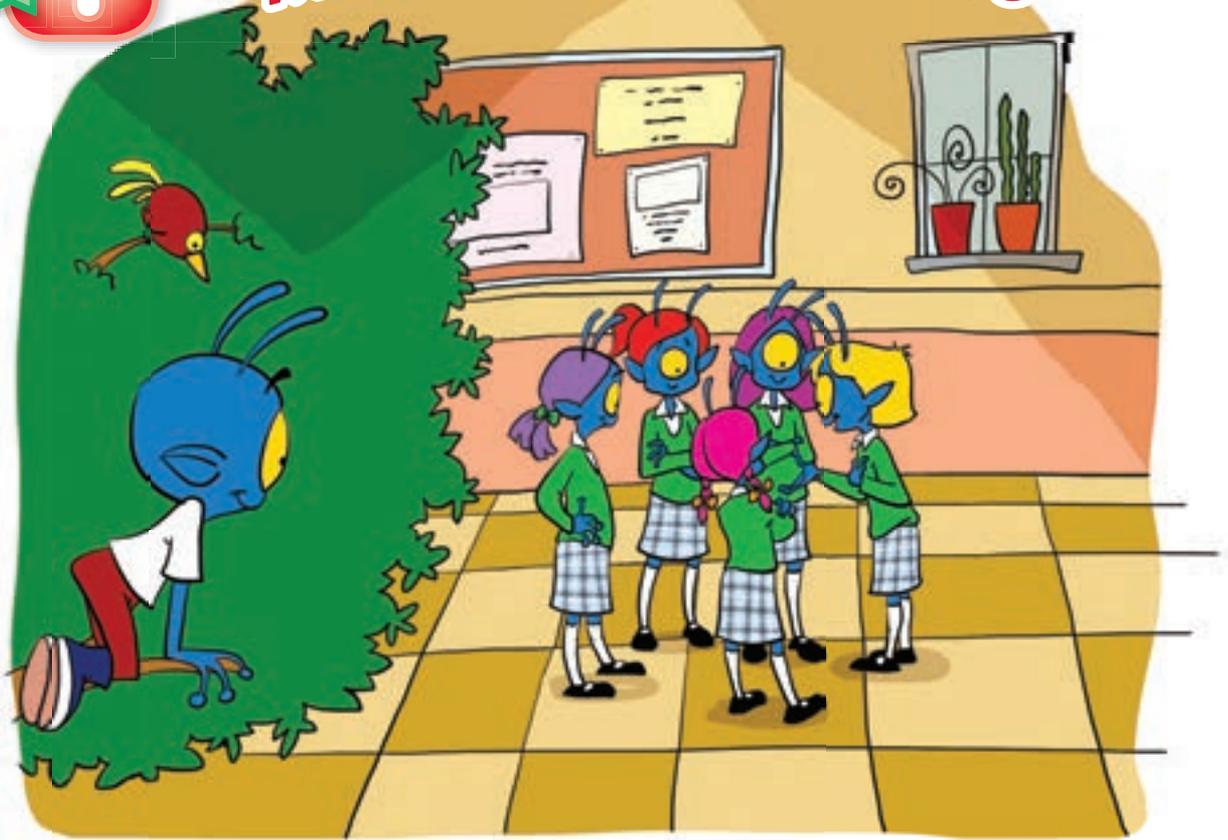


Marty Martian in Love



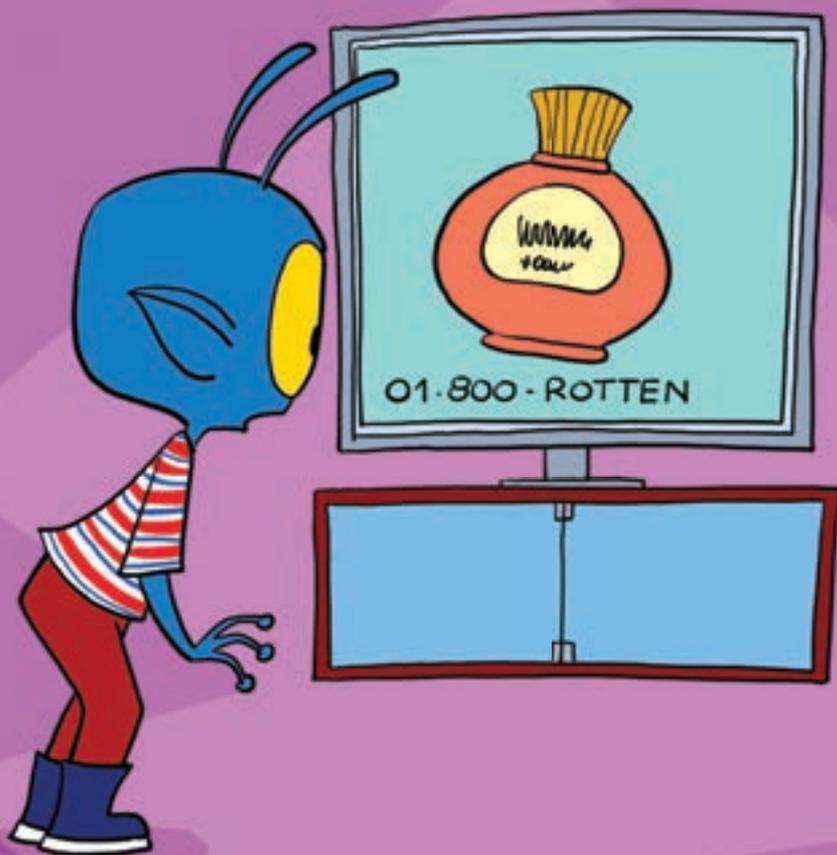
Marty Martian had a crush on Lea, the most beautiful Martian fourth grader ever. Lea was smart, and in Marty's opinion, everything she did was perfect. She was so pretty that Marty dreamed about her every night!

Unfortunately, Lea didn't seem to notice Marty. She was very popular and very busy. One day, he tried to say hi, and she walked right past him.

Poor Marty! He felt totally ignored by the love of his short life. Marty wanted Lea to like him back, but how could he make a good impression?

One day, Marty was watching his favorite show on TV when he saw a commercial. “Catch her eye with Rotten Cologne,” said a man on TV. Marty opened his eye wide. Was a new fragrance all that he needed to get Lea’s attention? “Just dial 01-800-ROTTEN and receive a sample today!” the announcer insisted.

Marty was convinced. He called the number and ordered some Rotten Cologne.



When the package arrived, Marty put on some of the Rotten Cologne. Then he went to school. But the results were not good. When he walked near Lea, his heart sank.

“What is that disgusting smell?” asked Lea. She looked around, but she didn’t see Marty. He pretended not to notice. Then he went to the bathroom to wash it off.



▶ **Match the words from the text with their synonyms.**

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. cologne | attractive |
| 2. commercial | act |
| 3. pretend | horrible |
| 4. pretty | perfume |
| 5. disgusting | advertisement |

That night, Marty was reading his favorite magazine, *Rock Stars from the Stars*. In the magazine, there was an advertisement. “Love isn’t wrong. Write her a song,” Marty read. The ad showed a rock star playing drums. There were lots of women all around him. “Call 01-800-ROCKSTAR and get your own set of drums,” Marty read. Immediately, he closed the magazine.



He was not going to buy drums this time to impress Lea. He didn't need to. He already had an electric guitar! He just needed the right song...



On Tuesday, Marty arrived early at school. He wore sunglasses, a black jacket and red boots. He looked like a rock star with his guitar. Everybody stared at him. Marty thought he looked awesome! At last he saw Lea, played his guitar, started singing and then...

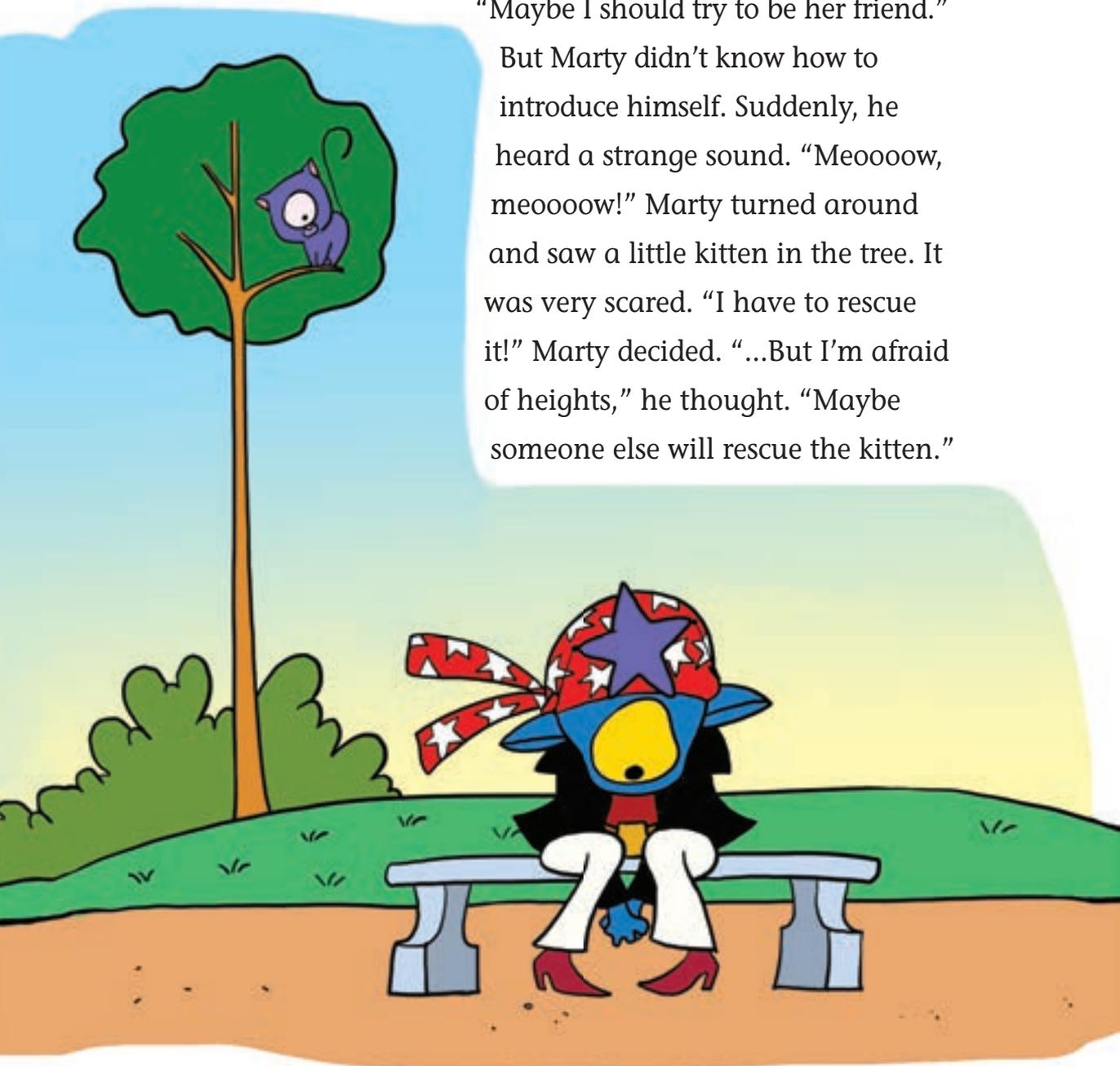
“Where is that awful music coming from?” said Lea.
“I don’t like it at all.”

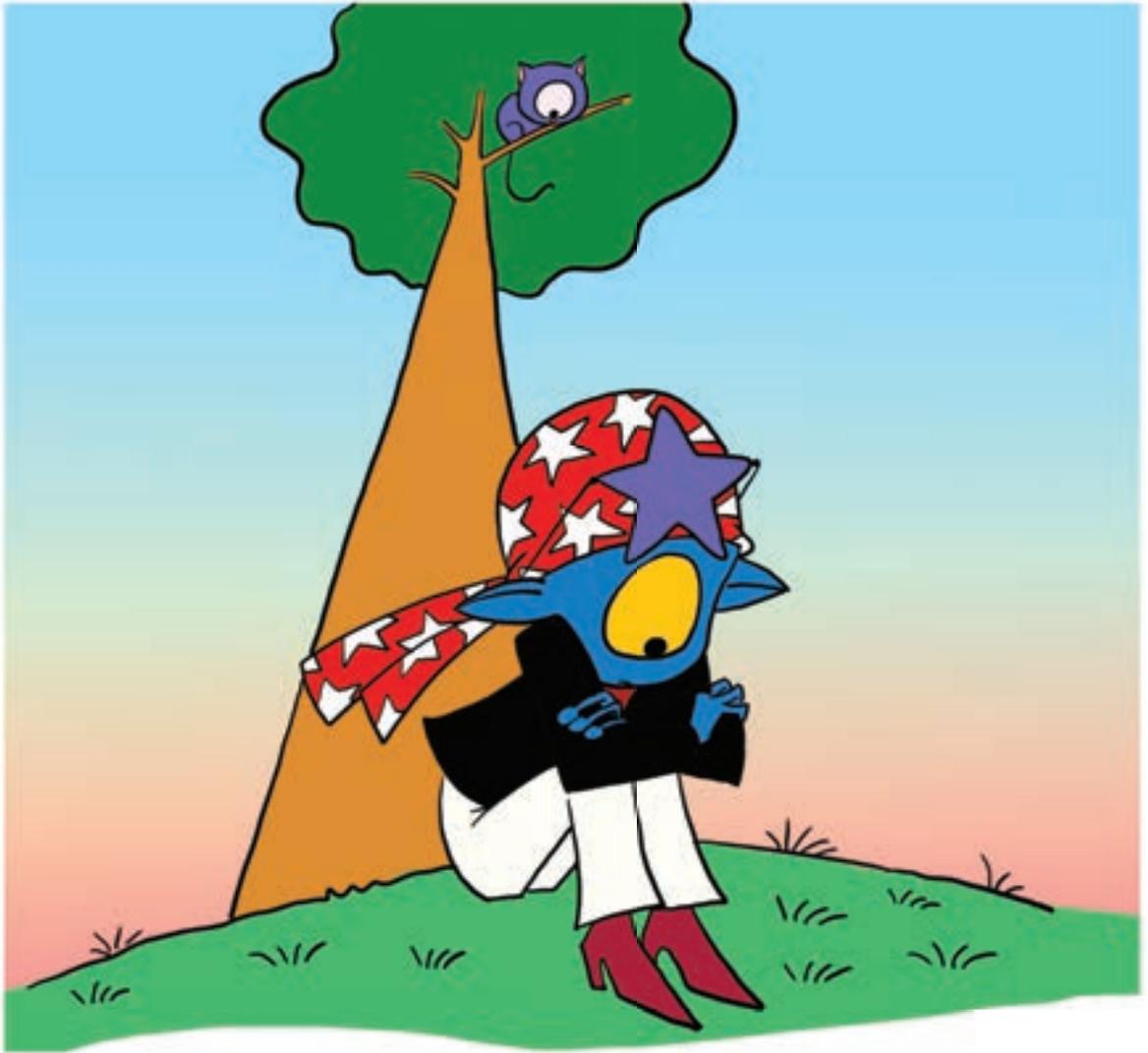
Marty stopped playing. He hid his guitar in his locker until everyone went home at the end of the day.

One day, Marty was at the park. He felt very sad. The things he tried only made things worse. Lea didn't like Marty's cologne and she wasn't impressed at all with his music. "Maybe I should just be myself," Marty thought.

"Maybe I should try to be her friend."

But Marty didn't know how to introduce himself. Suddenly, he heard a strange sound. "Meooooow, meooooow!" Marty turned around and saw a little kitten in the tree. It was very scared. "I have to rescue it!" Marty decided. "...But I'm afraid of heights," he thought. "Maybe someone else will rescue the kitten."





Marty thought about ignoring the problem, but he felt bad for not helping the little cat. He could use a ladder to rescue the kitten, but Marty didn't have one. Or he could call the police or the fire department to get some help, but he didn't have a phone.

"Meoow, meooooow!" the kitten insisted. The poor kitten was terrified. Marty needed to think of something fast! Suddenly, he had a great idea.



Marty ran home so fast that his heart was beating hard. He went upstairs to his room. He looked in his closet and then under his bed. He was desperate to find something, but what was he looking for?

Marty's mother walked into his room. She saw him looking under the bed. "What's the matter, Marty?" she asked. "Mom, I promise I'll explain it to you later, but right now, I'm in a hurry!" said Marty. Then he shouted, "I found it!" And he ran straight back to the park. He was in a hurry!

 **Answer the questions.**

1. Why didn't Marty buy the drums?

2. What should Marty do to get Lea's attention?

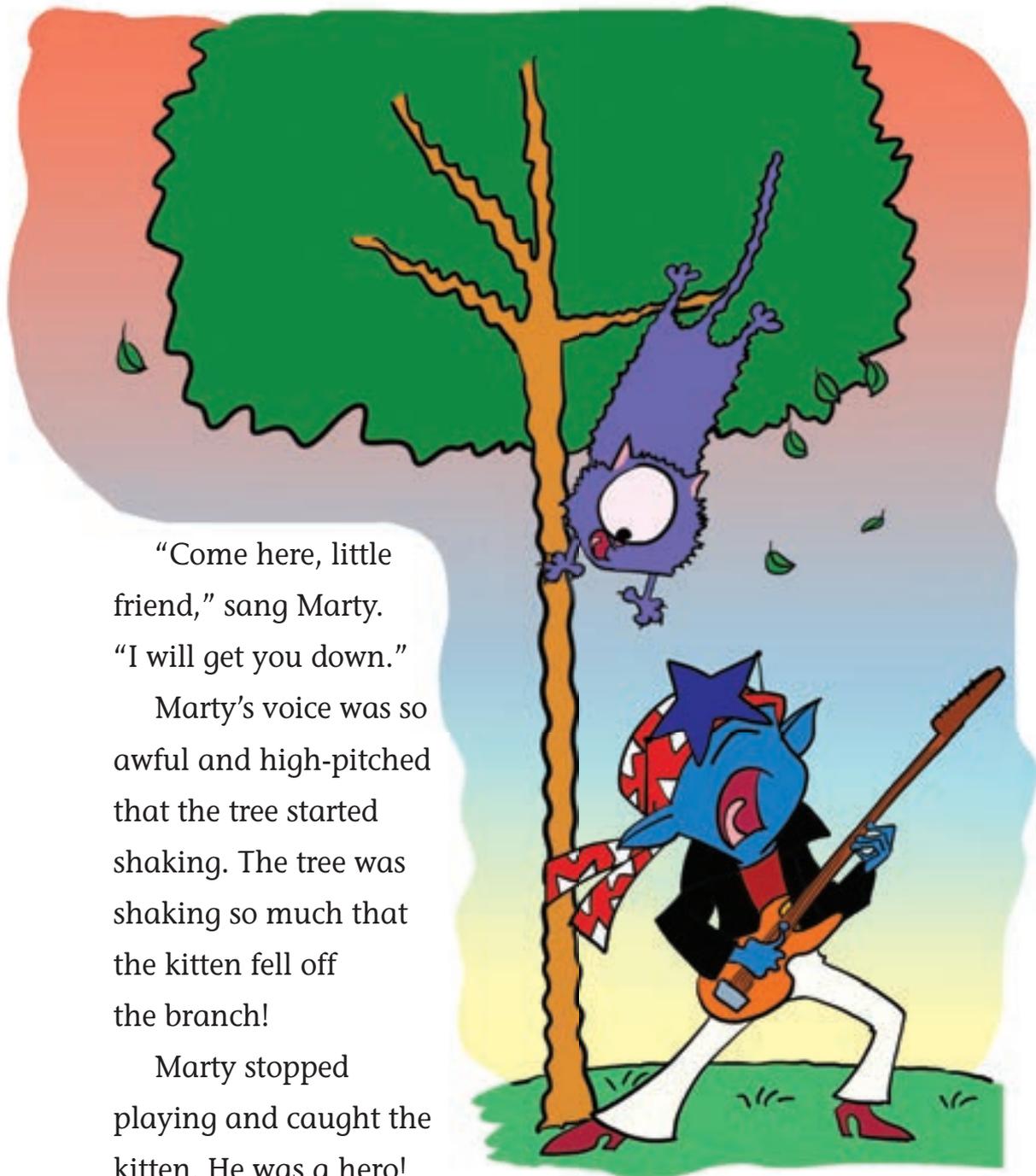
3. How do you think Marty will save the kitten?

Marty returned to the park. This time, he was prepared to save the kitten. He put on his sunglasses and started playing his electric guitar.

“Come here, little friend,” sang Marty. “I will get you down.”

Marty’s voice was so awful and high-pitched that the tree started shaking. The tree was shaking so much that the kitten fell off the branch!

Marty stopped playing and caught the kitten. He was a hero!





Marty and the kitten were pleased to see each other.

“Thanks for saving my cat!” said a familiar voice.

Marty turned around to see who it was. It was Lea! “Is this your kitten?” he asked.

“Yes. He’s always getting into trouble!” said Lea. She was very happy to have her cat back. She gave Marty a kiss on the cheek. “Would you like to go for ice cream?” she asked. “Sure,” said Marty, shyly. “What’s your favorite flavor?” he asked. It was the start of a beautiful friendship.

▶ Discuss the questions with a partner.

1. What did Marty do to impress Lea?
2. Were they good ideas? What would you do differently?
3. How do real friendships start? How do people make new friends?