

Boo! I'm the Ball!

Boo!





Hello! Don't be scared, I won't hurt you! Yes, **ghosts** exist, and I'm one of them! My name is Gad, but I'm a good **ghost**, I promise! No, I do not want to scare anybody. I'm very friendly. Some **ghosts** are not quite so friendly, though!

Actually, a lot of them are really quite nasty. They love nothing more than to scare people.

Those **ghostly ghouls** lurk in the woods all night, waiting for someone to walk by. Then, they jump out and make them scared for months!

That's not really what I like to do.





I like to have lots
of fun!

But I am very
lonely, because
other good **ghosts**
don't exist.

Oh, what's that
down there?

I float down to them as nicely as I can, trying not to make them anxious. 'Hey, kids, what's going on? I'm Gad!' But they do not listen to what I am saying. They take one look at my **ghostly** green form and run away! 'Wait! Come back!'





'Why are you afraid? I just want to play!' I shout. But it is no use, they run away as fast as their legs can carry them! They look like they have seen a **ghost!** Well... I suppose they have seen a **ghost,** but I'm a friendly **ghost!** I will try again.

I slip into the market and hide in a pile of coconuts. My **ghostly** face peeks out, but I am the only coconut with eyes. A boy runs right past without a glance.



Time for Plan B, so I puff up and float into a bunch of balloons. I grin from the green one, and nobody spots the **ghost** in the middle.





I float over to the kids as a green balloon, trying not to seem too much like a **ghost**.

'Hey kids, who wants to play with me! I'm just a talking balloon,' I say.



The kids still look a little scared.

Just then, a curious cat spots me bobbing in the air and pounces!



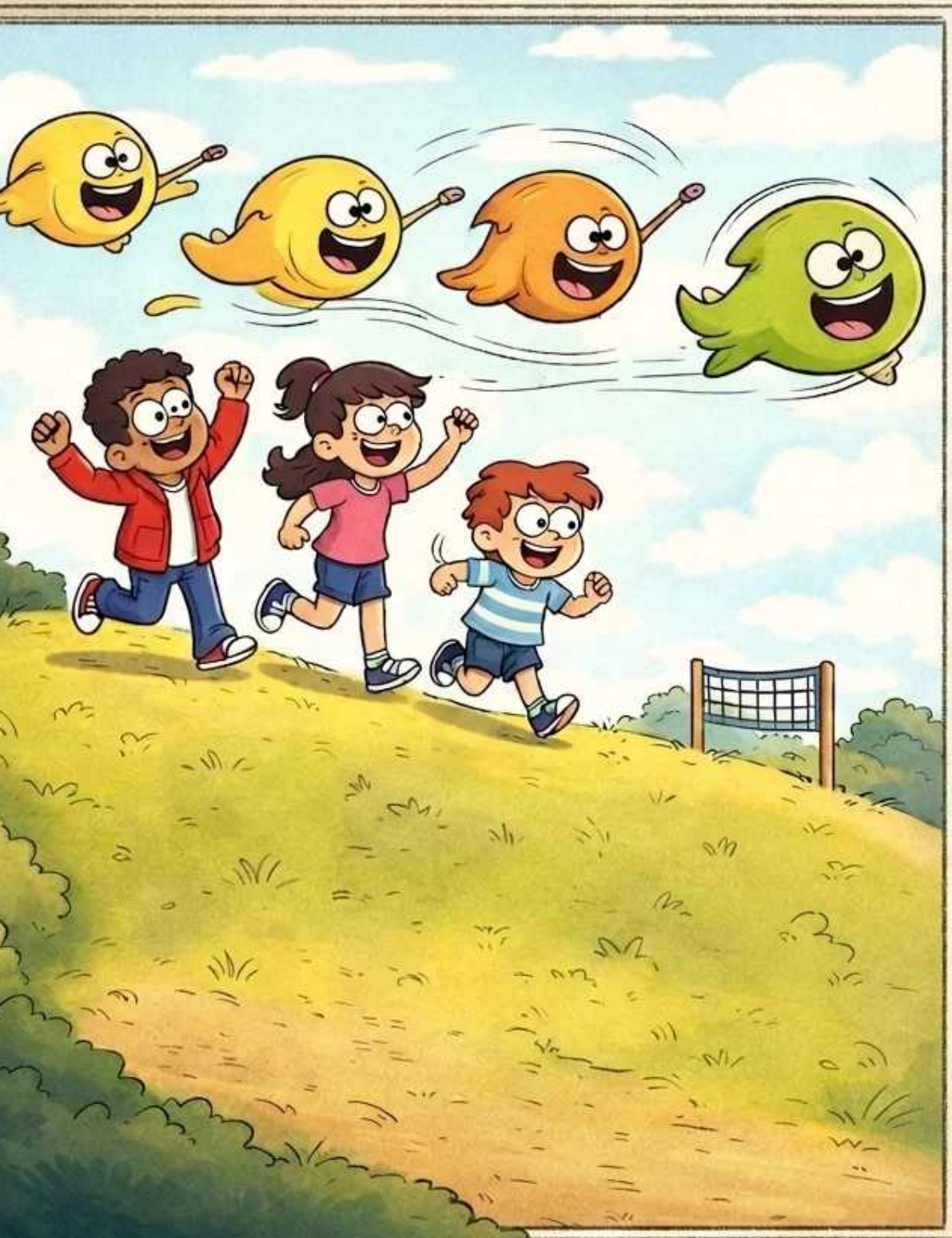
The cat tries to pop me, but I am more flexible than that!



It flops and jumps about while I make funny **ghostly** faces.

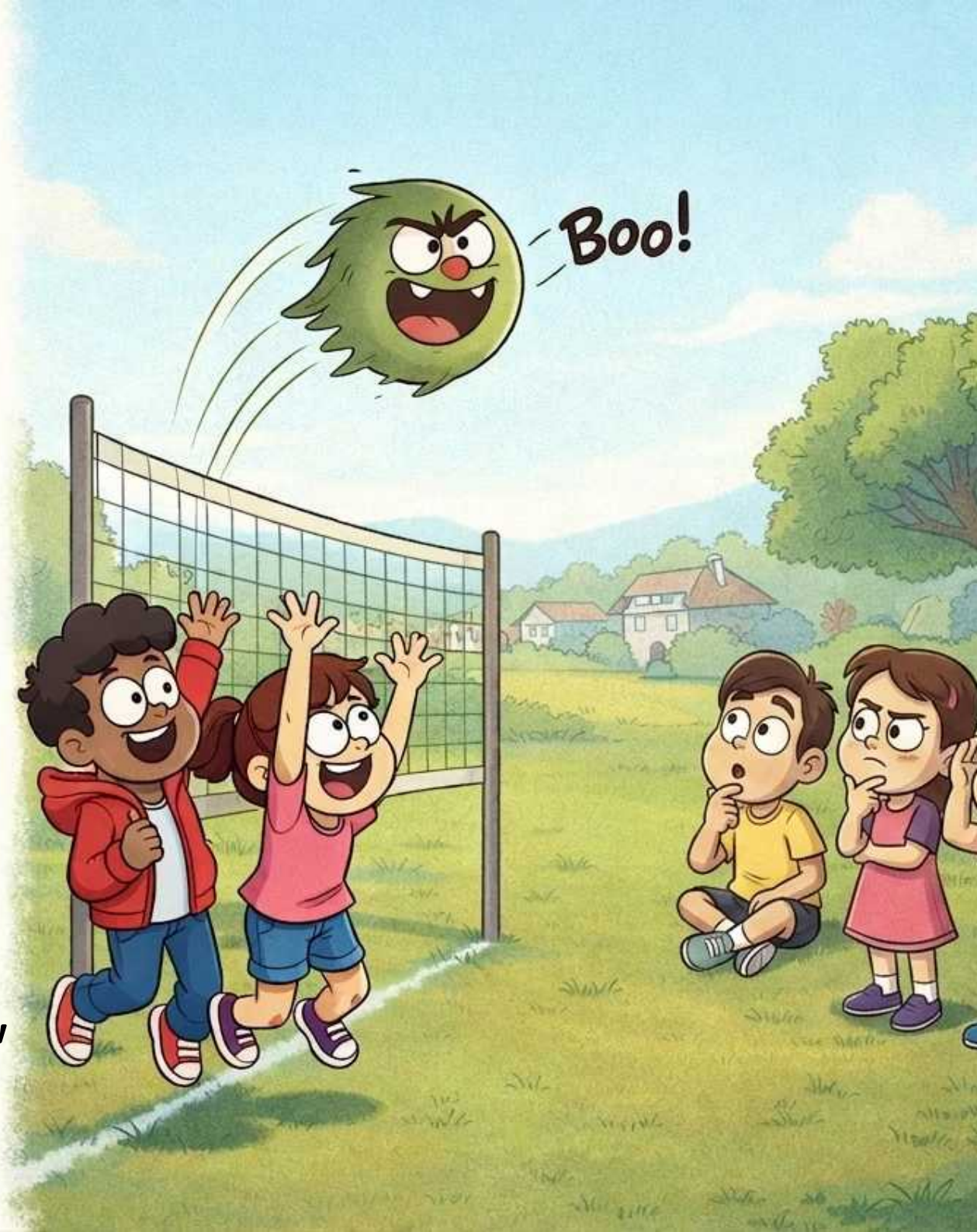
The kids start laughing!



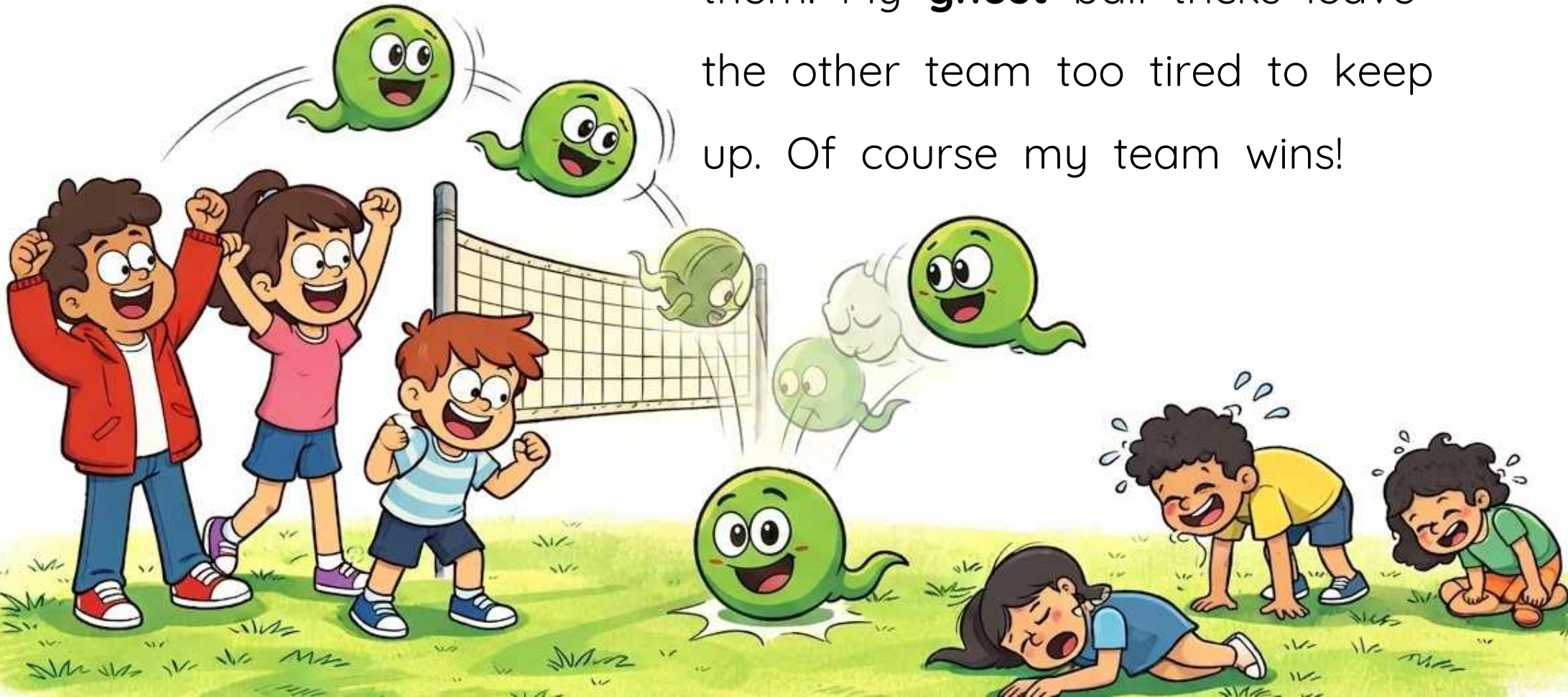


The kids laugh so hard that they beg me to play with them. 'I thought you'd never ask!' I say. I change colors and shapes to make them smile even more. I whizz around like a **ghost** on a mission, getting smaller and bigger. They chase me up the grassy hill, laughing and grabbing at the air, until I spot just where they are leading me.

Oh, we're going to play volleyball!
And I'm the ball! I can't wait until the other team finds out that I am a **ghost!** Well, here goes nothing. 'Boo!'



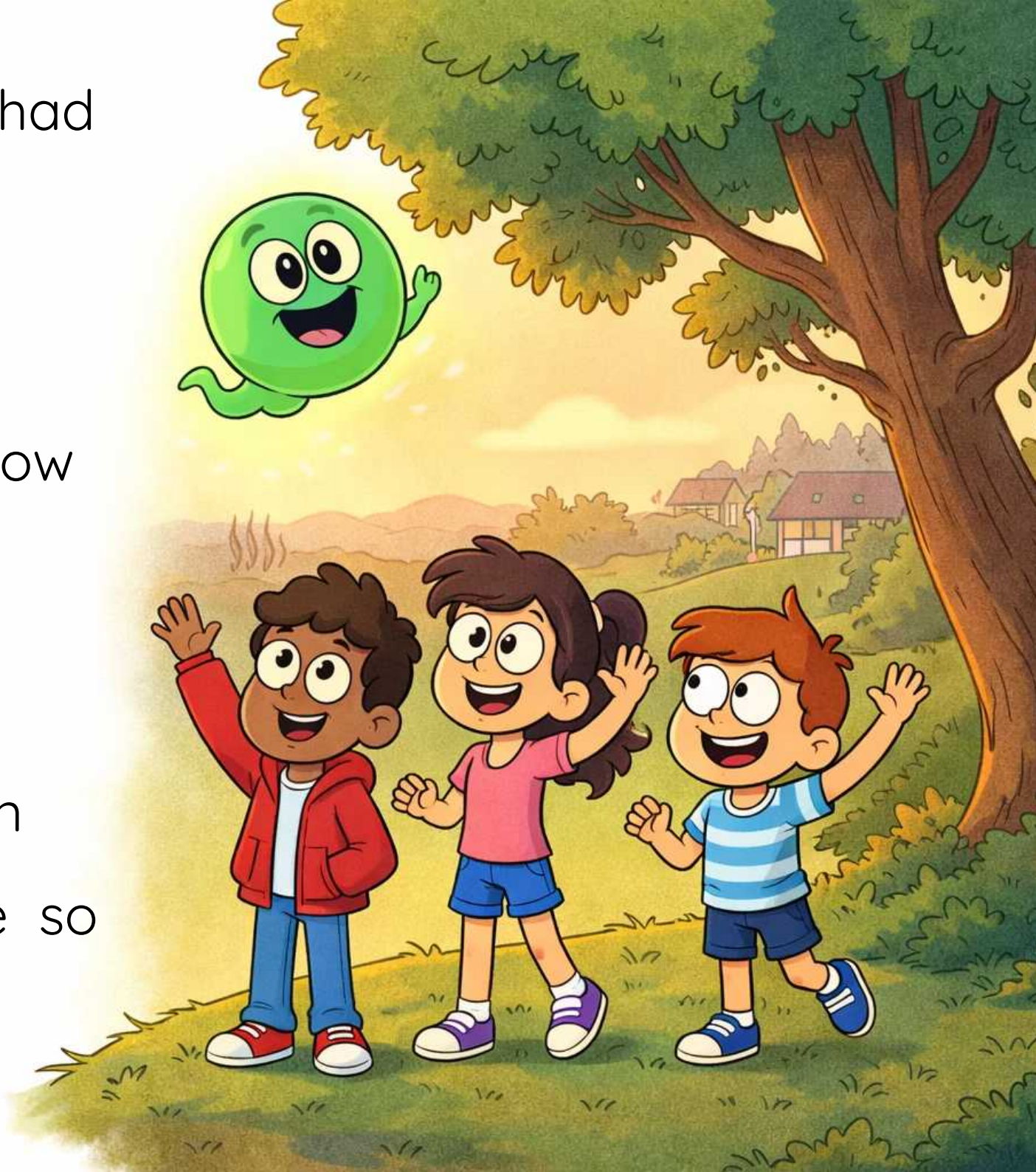
I am great at volleyball. When they try and serve me, I bounce the opposite way. When they try to hit me, I pass straight through them! My **ghost** ball tricks leave the other team too tired to keep up. Of course my team wins!



What a fun day I had today!

I met some new friends, and they now know good **ghosts** exist!

The other **ghosts** in **Ghost** Town will be so jealous.





Boo! I'm the Ball!

Meet Gad, the friendliest ghost in the forest! He's spent ages floating all alone, watching grumpy ghouls jump out and scare people just for fun. But Gad doesn't want to scare anyone - he wants to play! So when he spots a group of kids at the park, he zooms down to say hello. Will they run away screaming, or could Gad finally find the best friends he's been dreaming of? This decodable reader practices the gh phonogram in words like 'ghost,' 'ghostly,' 'ghosts,' and 'ghouls.'

Reading Skills: <gh>

ghost, ghostly, ghosts, ghouls

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