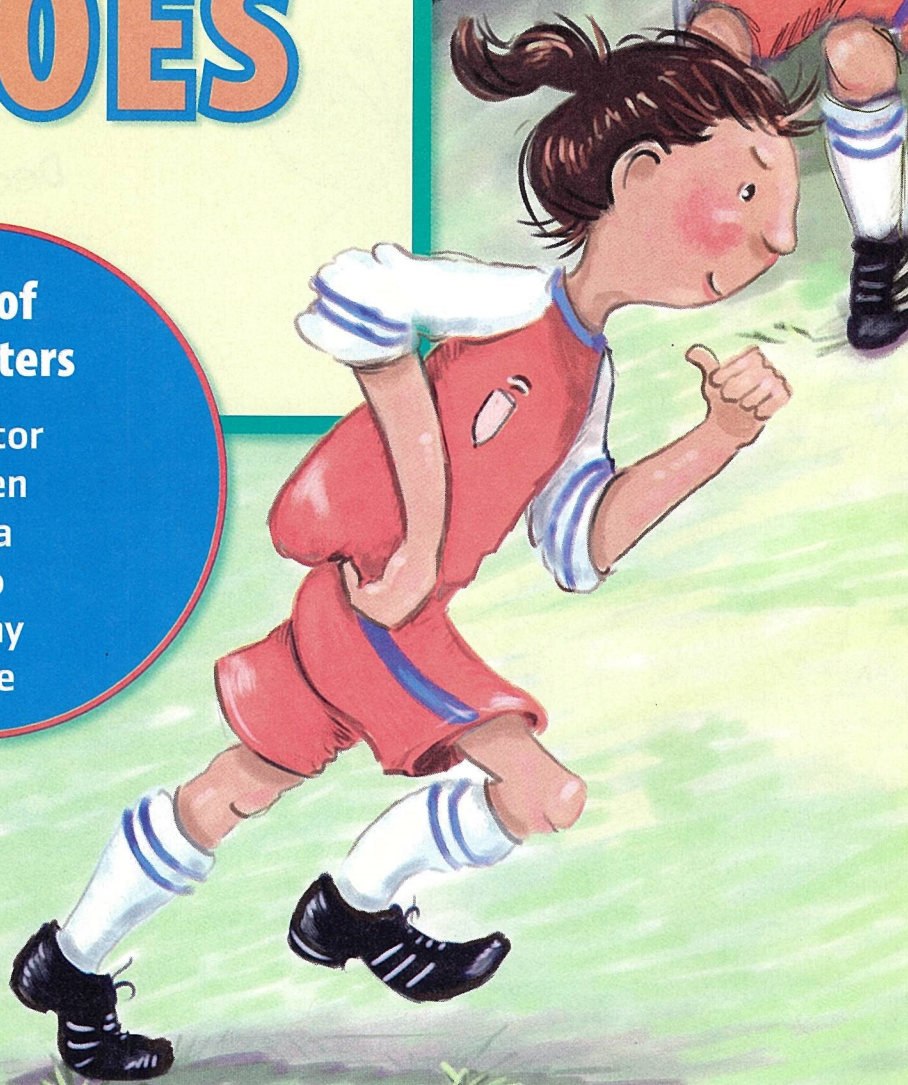


Lesson  
29

# A New TEAM of HEROES

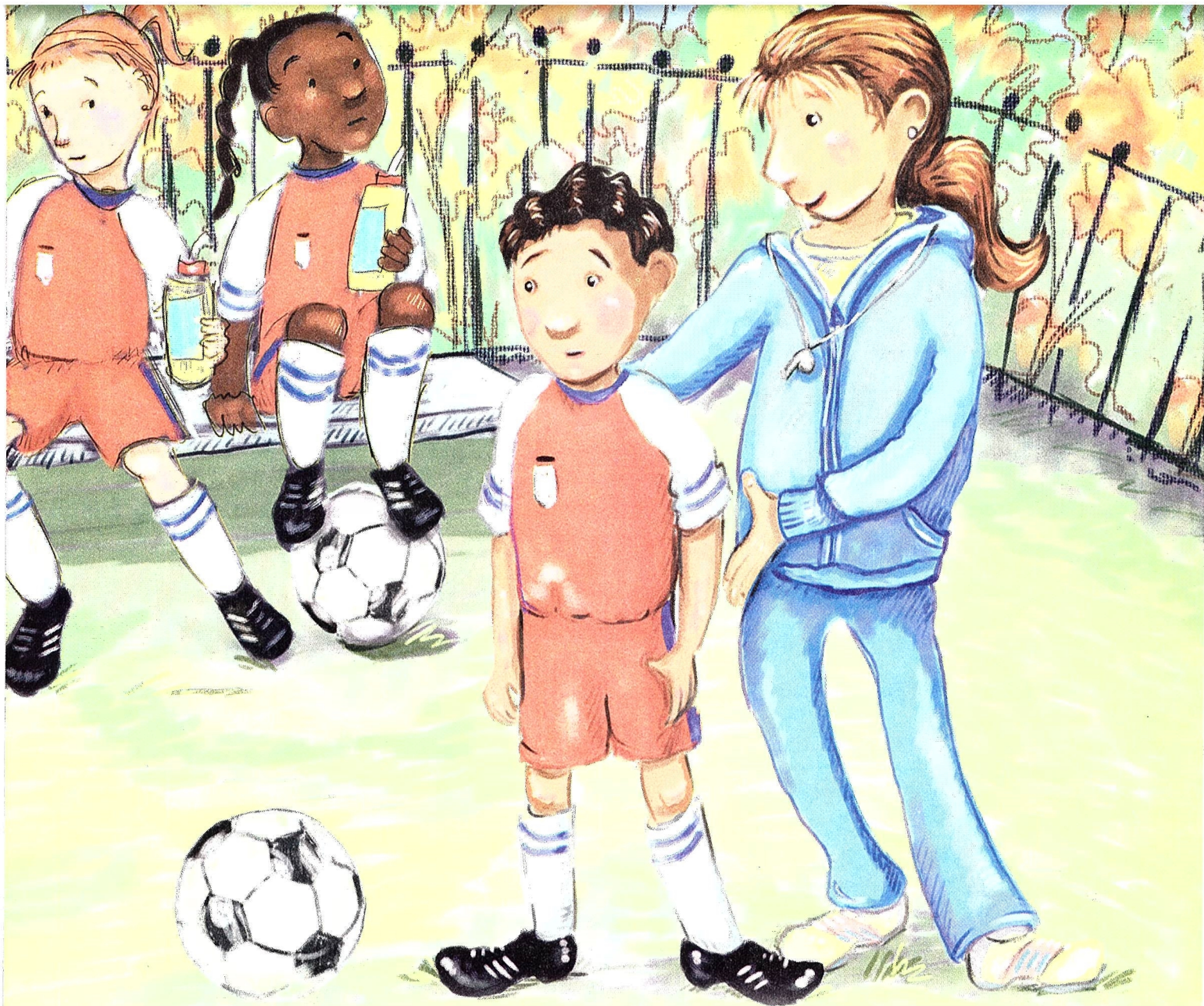
## Cast of Characters

Narrator  
Lauren  
Carla  
Hiro  
Manny  
Gayle



**Narrator:** Lauren, Carla, Hiro, and Gayle are close friends and members of their third-grade soccer team, the Hawks. Of course, as with any team, some players are better than others.





**Lauren:** Look at Carla fly down the field! *She's* the reason we win so many games.

**Hiro:** I wish I could play like her.

**Gayle:** Me too. But it takes *all* of us to win games, not one player.

**Narrator:** Late in the fall, just before a big game, a new player joins the Hawks. The coach introduces Manny to everyone. The four friends hope he knows the game.

**Gayle:** I wonder what kind of player he is.

**Carla:** Do you think he's good?

**Hiro:** Why don't you go ask him?

**Carla:** No, *you* ask!

**Lauren:** It doesn't matter, since we've got Carla on the field! No one can stop you, Carla.

**Carla:** Well, I hope he can play.

**Gayle:** Come on. Let's go practice!



**Narrator:** A few days later is the big game. Before the start, Manny sits on one end of the bench tying his shoes. The group of friends sit at the other end.

**Hiro:** This game will be tough.

**Gayle:** Coach says we can win if we all play hard.

**Lauren:** That new boy is just sitting by himself.

**Carla:** Maybe we should talk to him.

**Gayle:** Let's not worry about it now. It's time for the game to begin.

**Narrator:** As always, Carla runs onto the field, leading her other teammates.

**Hiro, Gayle, and Lauren (together):**  
Go, Carla!

**Narrator:** The game is close. Carla scores two goals, but the other team scores two as well. Every player on the Hawks' bench has had a turn except Manny. When Gayle comes off the field, she decides to sit next to him.

**Gayle:** Your name is Manny, right? I'm Gayle.

**Manny:** Hi. You're not a bad soccer player, Gayle.







Gayle: Well, I'm not as good as Carla.

Manny: Yes, she's great!

Narrator: Hiro and Lauren move down the bench.

Hiro: She sure is!

Narrator: Just then, the opposing team scores.  
Everyone on the bench groans.

Lauren: How could that happen?

Hiro: Now we're losing!





**Manny:** I've noticed something. Their goalie always moves to her left when we're ready to take a shot. I think I could score on her.

**Hiro:** Only Carla can beat their goalie.

**Gayle:** Manny, do you really think you can score on her?

**Narrator:** Manny nods. Gayle leaps up to talk with the coach.

**Lauren:** What makes you so sure you can score, Manny?

**Manny:** I played a lot of soccer at home in Guatemala. I faced goalies like her, and I'm sure I can get past her.

**Narrator:** Just then, Carla comes to the sideline. Her uniform is stained with grass and dirt. She is gasping for breath.

**Carla:** I can hardly run any more. And now we're losing by a goal!

**Gayle:** You'll have some help soon. The coach is going to put Manny in.

**Carla:** I hope you can play well, Manny.

**Manny:** I think I can, and I have an idea. When we attack, drive to the goalie's left, and then pass back across to me. I think the net will be open.

**Carla:** I'll give it a try.





**Lauren:** Well, Coach says I'm going in the game too. Let's do it!

**Narrator:** Manny, Carla, and Lauren race onto the field while the others watch.

**Hiro:** This is amazing! Manny is as good as Carla.

**Gayle:** He might even be better.

**Hiro:** Look at them go!

**Narrator:** On the field, Lauren passes to Carla. Carla races to the goal. The other team's goalie shifts left, just as Manny predicted. Carla passes the ball over to Manny.

**Hiro and Gayle (together):** Goal! Manny scores!



**Narrator:** Manny, Carla, and Lauren run to the sideline during the time out. The grinning players are sweaty and breathing hard.

**Manny:** This time, let's do the same play, but keep running toward the goal, Carla. When they turn to stop me, I'll kick a pass over them back to you.

**Carla:** We'll need to time our passes perfectly.

**Manny:** I can do it. Can you?

**Carla:** I'll try.

**Narrator:** This time, the coach sends Manny, Carla, and Hiro on the field. With just seconds left in the game, Hiro passes the ball to Manny. Their teammates watch as Manny and Carla dash past the bench toward the goal.

**Lauren:** Did you see that pass? Carla is a great player!

**Gayle:** Go, Manny!

**Lauren:** He kicked it across! Get it, Carla!

**Gayle:** She has it! She scores! Goal!

**Lauren and Gayle (together):** We win!

**Narrator:** The players start to run off the field. The players on the bench run to meet them.

**Manny:** Great shot, Carla!

**Carla:** Great pass, Manny!

**Hiro:** Three cheers for Carla!

**Lauren:** Three cheers for Manny!

**All:** Three cheers for the HAWKS!





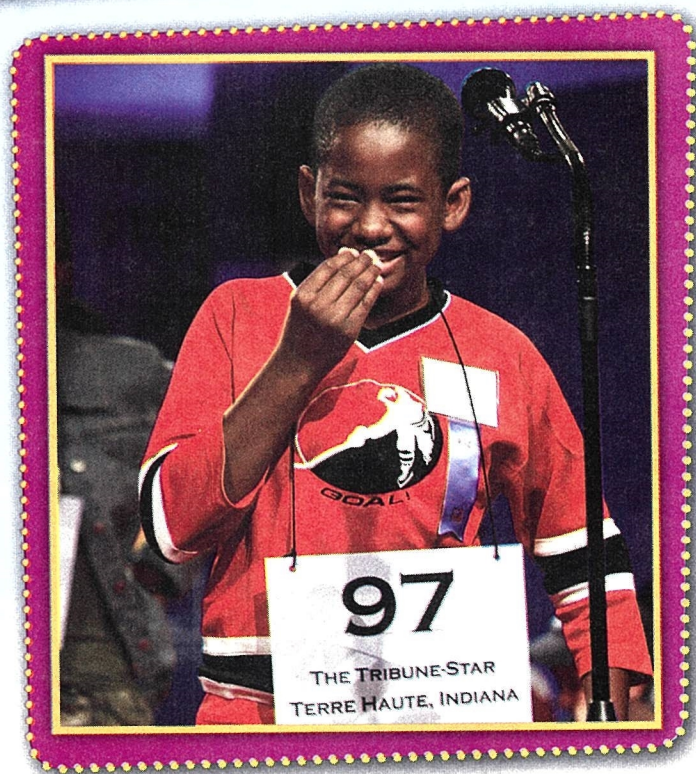


# C-H-A-M

Imagine you are standing on a stage. Hundreds of people in the room are watching you. Millions are seeing you on TV. A man says, "The word is *champion*." It is up to you to spell it.

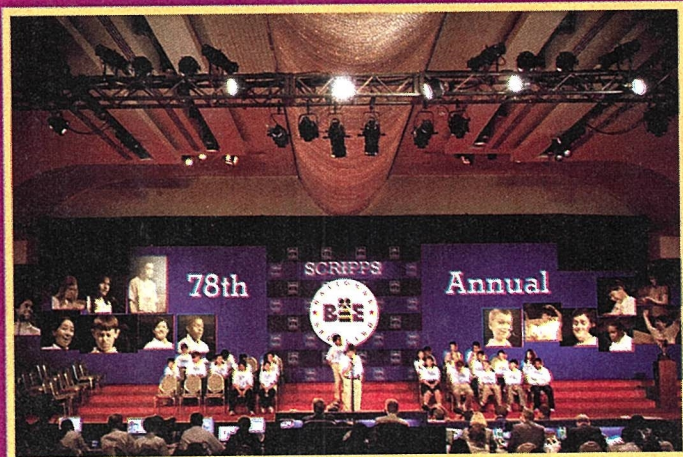
That's how kids in the national spelling bee feel.

Each year, more than 250 kids in elementary and middle school make it to the final bee. They come from all over the United States. A few even come from Canada, the Bahamas, and other countries.



Television helped make spelling bees popular. In 1994, the TV sports station ESPN started showing the national final bee. After that, spelling bees grew fast, and the bees got harder!

To get to the national bee, each speller works up through many smaller bees. A classroom bee might be the first one. The winner then





# P-I-O-N

competes against students from other classrooms in the school. One student will win. That winner will spell against students from other local schools. Finally, the Scripps National Spelling Bee is held in Washington, D.C., and shown on TV.

Getting to the finals is hard work. The ones who make it study and practice day after day. They learn base words and roots. That helps them correctly spell words that they have never even heard before.

The spellers face a lot of pressure. To win, they have to spell harder and harder words. One year, a speller

fainted at the microphone. Before anyone could help him, he jumped up and correctly spelled his word!

Another year, Katharine Close won by correctly spelling *ursprache*. Most adults don't even know what that word means. (It means "an early language.") Katharine seemed very cool on TV. She just stood with her hands in her pockets and spelled word after word.

Later, Katharine admitted she was not as cool as she looked. Her hand was in her pocket to hold her good-luck charm. It worked!



## 2006:

When 13-year-old Katharine Close won the national spelling bee in 2006, it was her fifth time in the finals.





# Defender

By Linda Sue Park

Everyone wants to get the ball,  
run with it, and score a goal.  
But when we win one-nothing,  
that "nothing" means everything.

It's tough, playing for nothing.  
Defense: Intense immense suspense.



# SPELLBOUND

By Sara Holbrook



Confluence

and recompense,

aphid,

ibex,

muse,

chrysalis and zygote.

Words

I know I'll never use.

But like

gossamer and quell,

I had to learn to spell.





# YOU'RE A STAR!

When you reach a goal or do something important, you might receive a Certificate of Achievement.

A certificate is a special award that tells what someone has accomplished. Here's an example:

**Certificate Title** → **CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT**

**Person's Name** → **Super Speller** → **Achievement**

**Activity** → This award is presented to Noah Lane for winning Mesa Elementary School's Third-Grade Spelling Bee

**Date** → On this day of April 8 Presented by Anna Day → **Signature**

A small, detailed illustration of a bee is positioned to the right of the word 'Speller' in the title 'Super Speller'.

Think about the partner you interviewed last week. Reread your interview notes. Use them to make a Certificate of Achievement for your partner. Then give the certificate to your friend.



# Become a Character

Many characters in stories achieve goals. Think of a character you've read about who is an achiever. It could be one of the soccer players in the magazine article "A New Team of Heroes," or it could be a character in another story you read this year.

Take a sheet of poster board. Cut a hole for your face.

Decorate the board to look like your character. Go before the class and tell your classmates your story:

- ▶ who you are
- ▶ what you achieved
- ▶ how you achieved it
- ▶ why you are proud of what you did

Be sure to speak clearly while making eye contact with your classmates.







# Extra! Extra!

## Read All About Me!

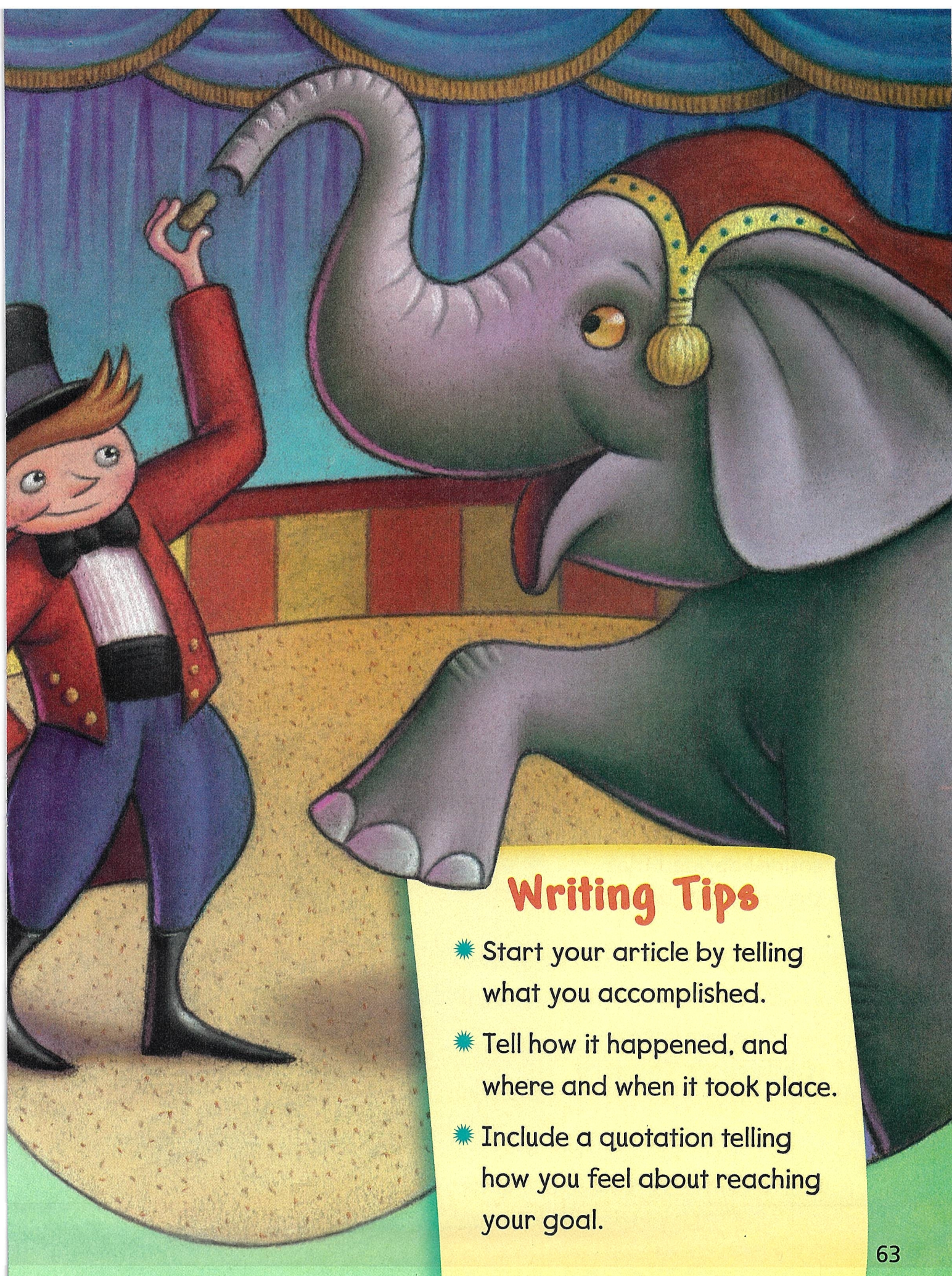
You've been reading about students who are achievers, including soccer players and spellers.

Now it's your turn!

Think about something you've done that you're proud of, or something you've dreamed of doing. Take the role of a reporter and write a newspaper article that tells the world about your accomplishment.







## Writing Tips

- ✦ Start your article by telling what you accomplished.
- ✦ Tell how it happened, and where and when it took place.
- ✦ Include a quotation telling how you feel about reaching your goal.