

BY DAVID & EMBERLI PRIDHAM

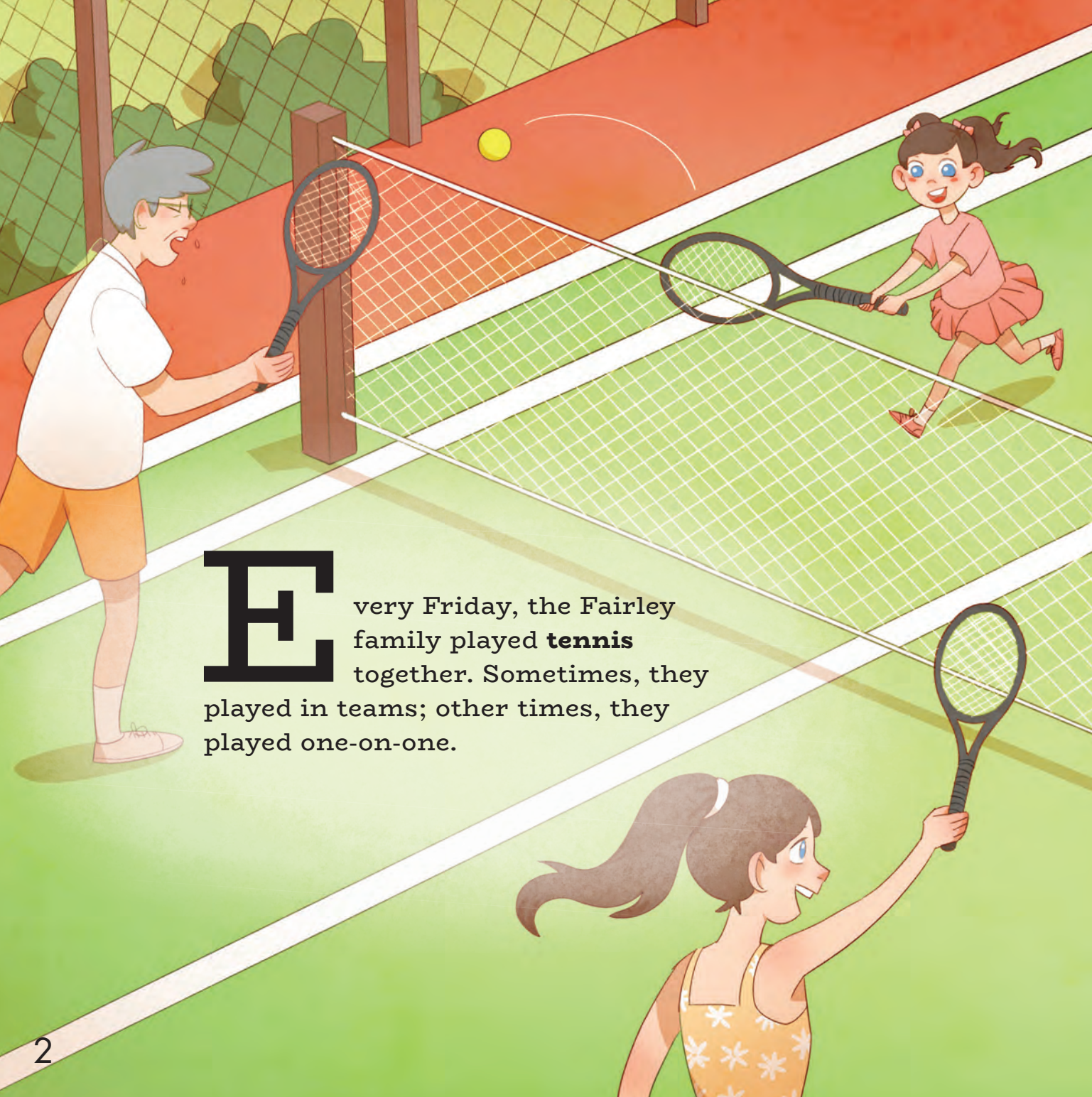
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANYU ROUAUX

# IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?

Let the Games Begin!







**E**very Friday, the Fairley family played **tennis** together. Sometimes, they played in teams; other times, they played one-on-one.





Sometimes, they just **whacked** tennis balls around the court. The Fairleys never kept **score** and always had fun.



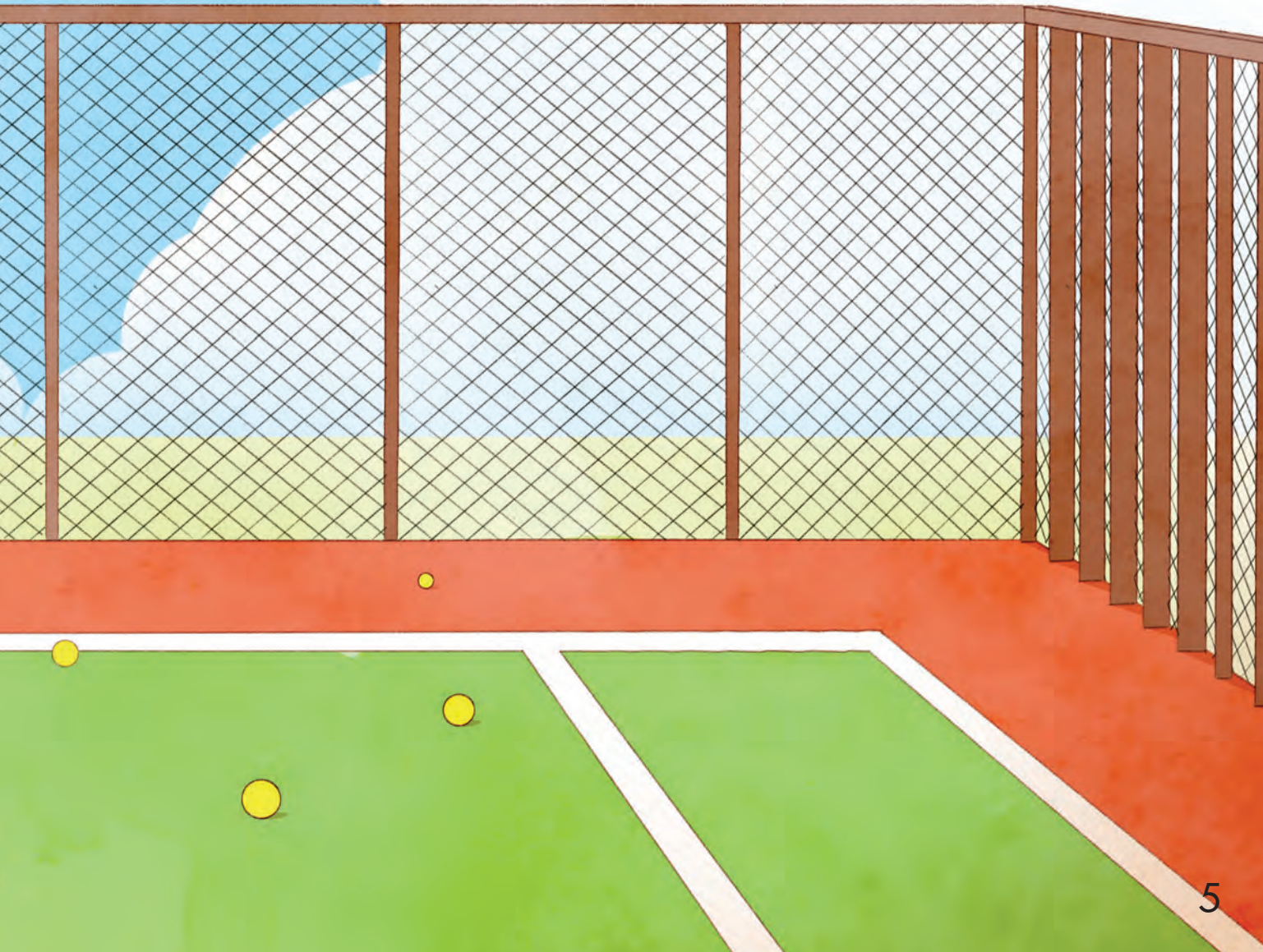
“Brooke, Noah, let’s pick up the tennis balls before we leave,”  
Mom said.





Brooke had invented a picker-upper for collecting tennis balls. Now she pulled it from her tennis bag. “I can pick up more balls than you, Noah!” Brooke shouted, as she raced around the court while picking up tennis balls.

But Noah had invented his own tennis ball hopper, and it was just as fast!



# INVENTOR'S SPOT

An invention is something new that people can use. In the past, someone invented the tennis-ball hopper, the tutu, the ice-cream bar, and many other things mentioned in the story *Let the Games Begin*. These inventions helped make life easier, more delicious, and more fun for people.

**Tutu** A French artist named Eugène Lami designed the first tutu in **1832**. It was first worn by a ballerina at the Paris Opera.



**2000 BCE**



**Beanbag** No one knows when the first beanbag was invented. However, some historians believe the ancient Egyptians invented it around **2000 BCE**. These beanbags were probably small, round, made of leather, and filled with beans. The Egyptians may have used them to play different games. Native American tribes also used beanbags to play games, particularly one called beanbag toss. In this game, players take turns tossing a beanbag, trying to get it through a hole cut into a **board**.

**1832**

**1884**



**Peanut Butter** In **1884**, Marcellus Gilmore Edson, a Canadian chemist and pharmacist, patented a way to make peanut paste, an early version of peanut butter. Edson removed the shells from the peanuts. Then he ground them up in a mill used for grinding flour.

**Basketball** James Naismith invented the game of basketball in **1891**.

Naismith was a physical-education teacher. He wanted to create a sport that students could play inside during winter.



**1891**

**Wheelchair** No one knows exactly when the first wheelchair was invented, but it dates back to ancient times. The modern folding wheelchair was invented in the **1930s** by American engineers Harry Jennings and Herbert Everest after Everest was disabled in a mining accident.



## Patents: How Inventors Protect Their Ideas

Inventors stop people from copying their inventions by getting a patent from the government. No one is allowed to copy an invention that has a patent. A patent lasts for up to twenty years. After that, anyone can copy the invention.

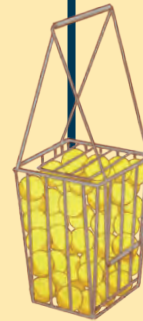
**1920**



**Ice Cream Bar and Truck** The idea of putting ice cream on a stick and selling it from a truck came from Harry Burt in **1920**. Burt lived in Youngstown, Ohio, where he ran an ice-cream shop.

**1930s**

**1960s**



**Tennis-Ball Hopper** Jake Stap, who ran two tennis camps in Wisconsin, invented the tennis-ball hopper in the **1960s**. He wanted to spend less time picking up tennis balls on the court after giving tennis lessons.