

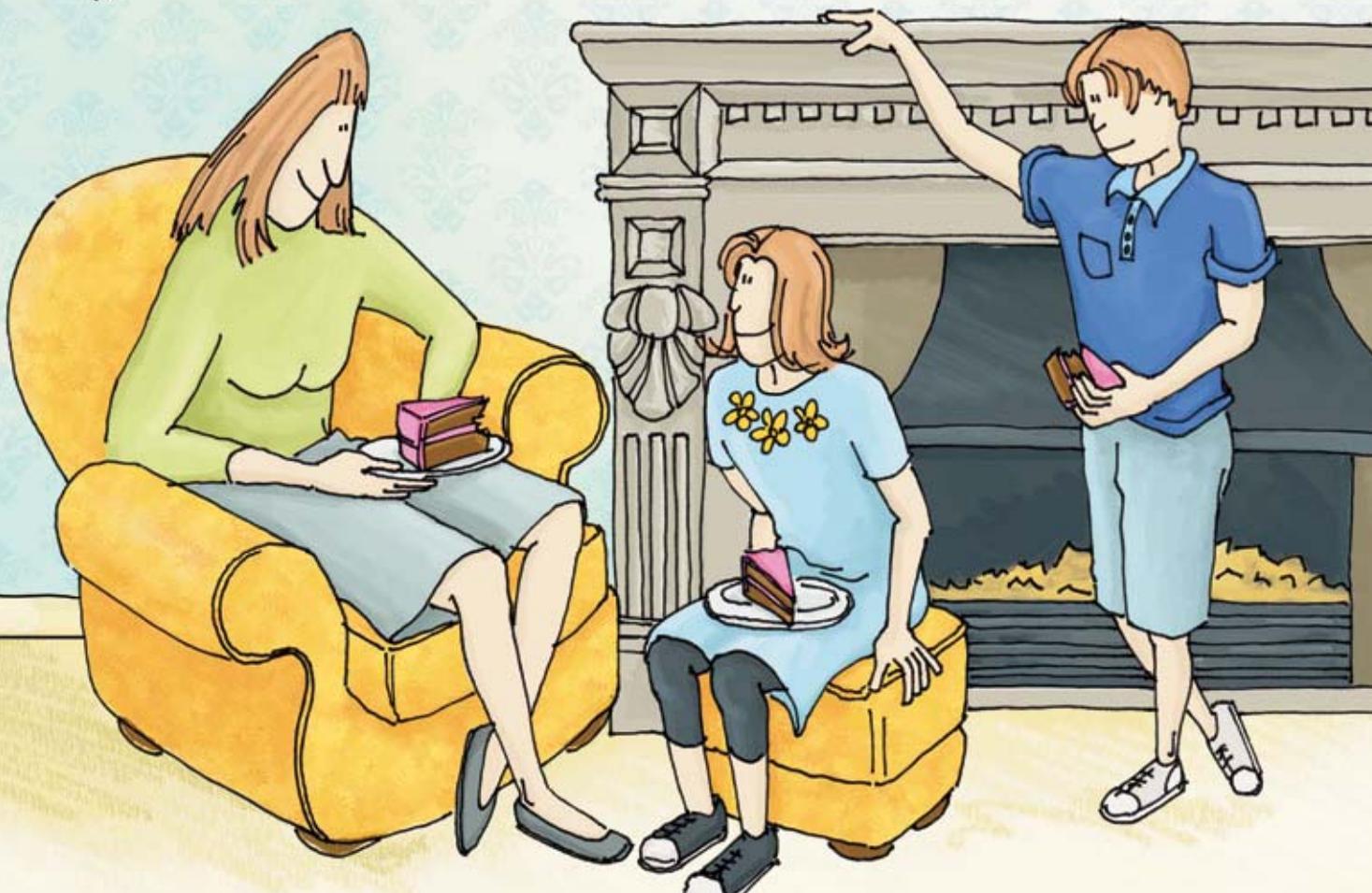
MS

Multiple Sclerosis Society

Our Mum

Makes The Best Cakes

Written by Jo Johnson
Illustrated by Kath Harding



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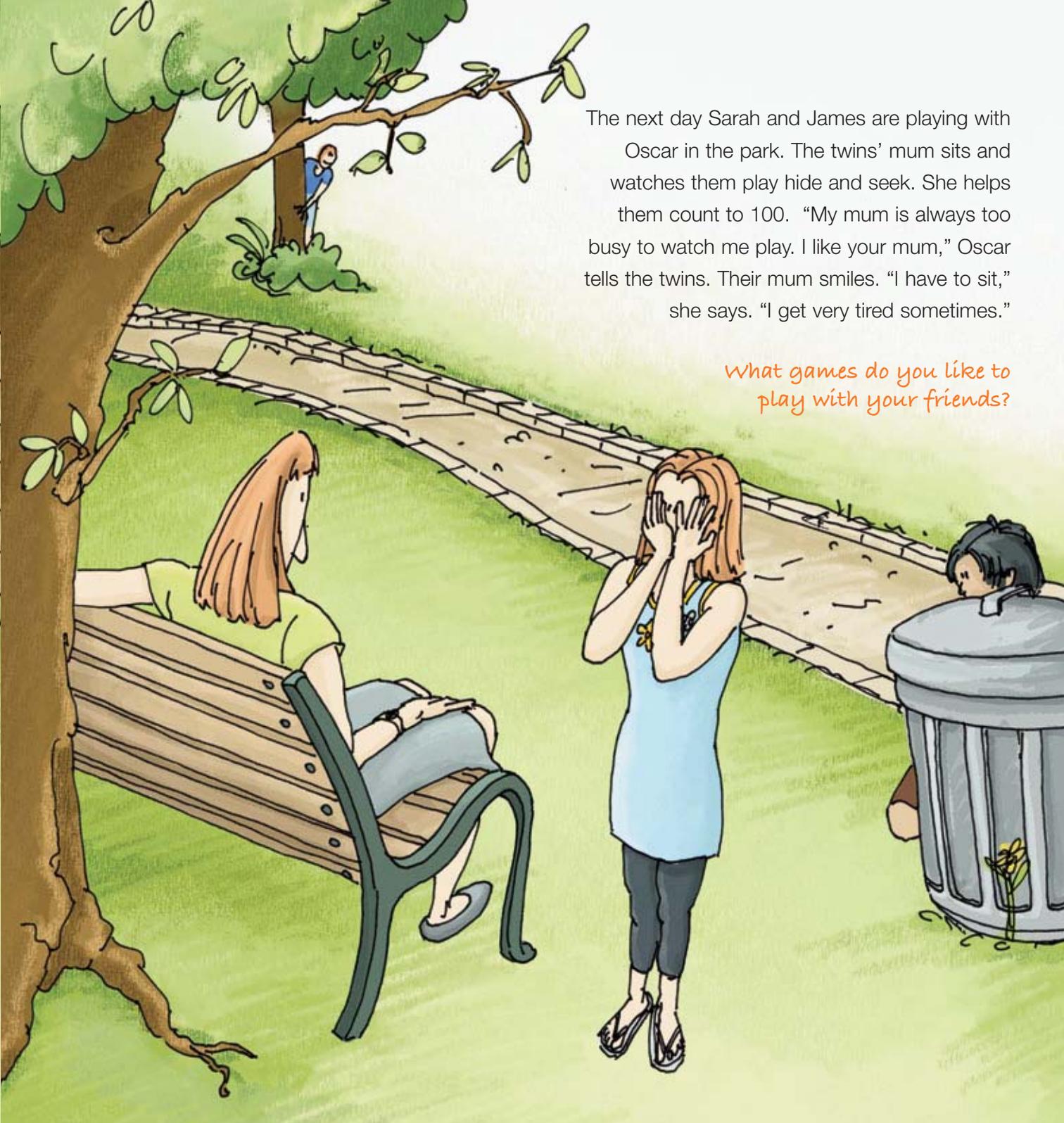
Sarah and James are twins and they are six today. They are very excited because they are having a party in their back garden. Their little sister Ellie and their friends Sonal, Oscar, Zoe and David have come along.



Their dad comes out into the garden carrying the most amazing cake with six candles on it. The twins blow them out together and make a wish. Their mum has made them a cake that looks exactly like their dog, Molly. Sarah does a funny dance and sings, "Mmmm... Molly cake yummy!" They all laugh. "Your mum makes the best cakes. I wish my mum could make such great cakes," says David.

How old will you be on your next birthday?





The next day Sarah and James are playing with Oscar in the park. The twins' mum sits and watches them play hide and seek. She helps them count to 100. "My mum is always too busy to watch me play. I like your mum," Oscar tells the twins. Their mum smiles. "I have to sit," she says. "I get very tired sometimes."

What games do you like to play with your friends?

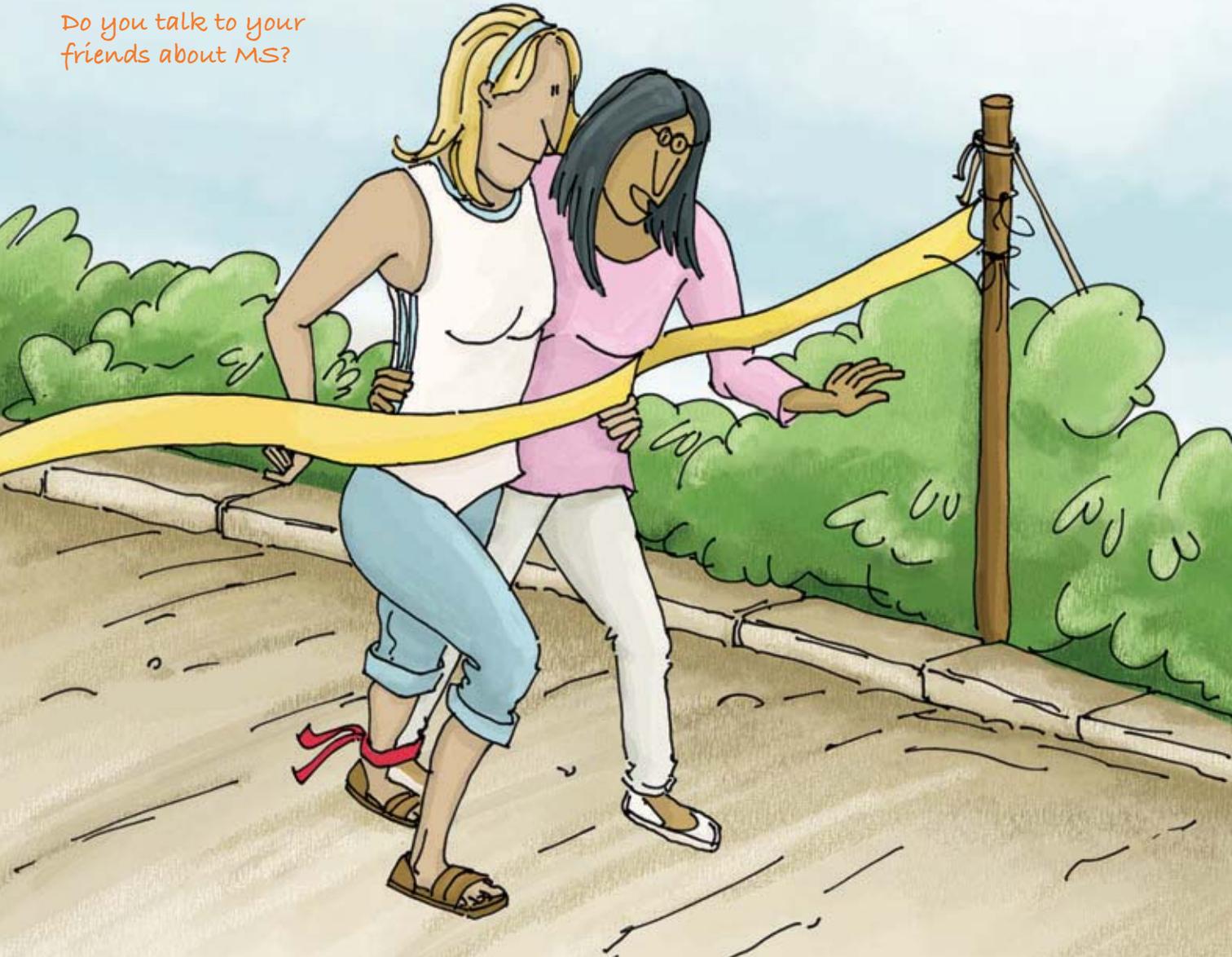
Today is sports day. Sonal's mum wins the mums' three-legged race. Everyone cheers and claps. "How come your mum doesn't run in the mums' race?" asks Sonal.

"It's because she has MS," James says.

Oscar thought he said, "My mum has a mess!" They all think that's funny.

Sarah tells their friends that MS is an illness that can sometimes make their mum's legs go wobbly and makes her tired, and sometimes she can feel sad.

*Do you talk to your
friends about MS?*



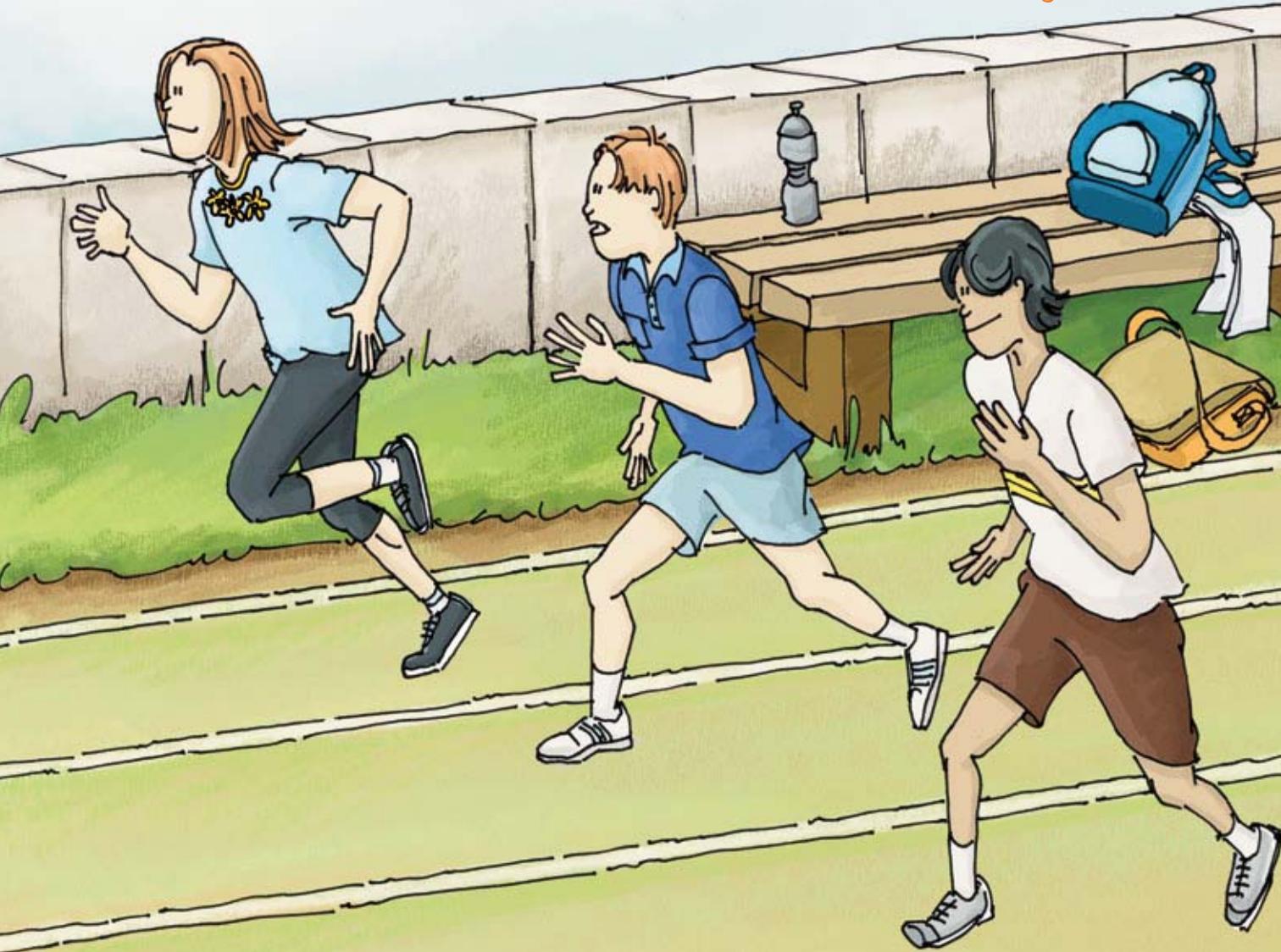
One day after school James and Sarah and their friends are at running club. Sarah is a fast runner.

“Why don’t you have wobbly legs like your mum?” Oscar asks her.

James laughs, “Because she doesn’t have MS, silly. You can’t catch MS or get it from your mum; it’s not like a cold or chicken pox.”

Oscar wished he could run as fast as Sarah.

Can you run fast?



Sarah and James are eating their dinner. It's their favourite – mashed potato, sausages and carrots with lots of gravy. James really loves the gravy!

"Mum," says James, "at school I told Oscar that you can't catch MS."

"That's right," Mum answers.

"But if you can't catch it, how did you get MS?" asks James.

"That's a good question, but nobody really knows why some people get it," Mum says.

Dad says, "The good thing is that lots of doctors are working very hard to find out how people get MS so they can help people like your mum."

"I hope they find out soon," Sarah says.

Mum smiles, "So do I."

James nods his head.

He can't talk because his mouth is full of sausages.

Do you have any questions about MS?

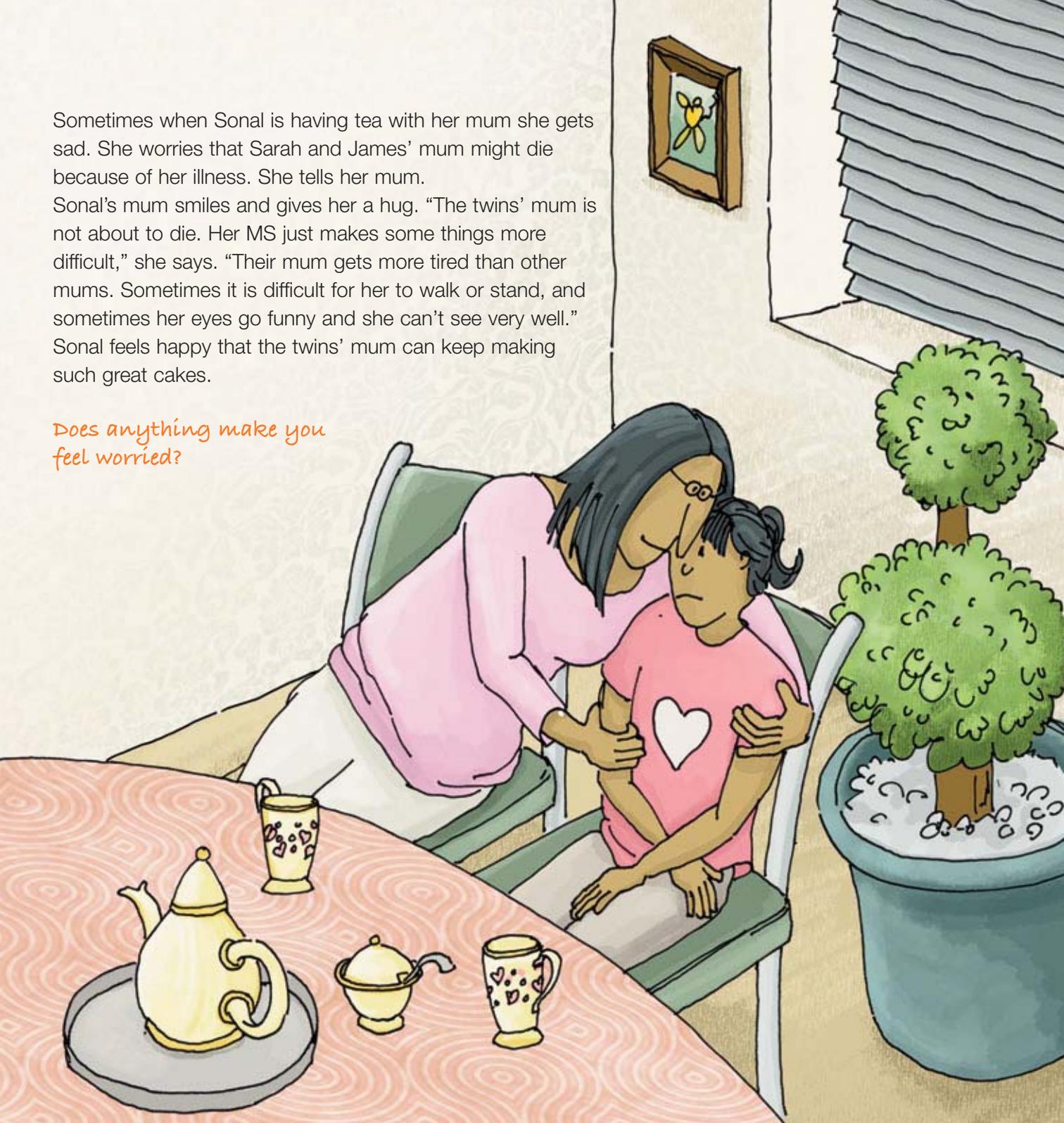




Sometimes when Sonal is having tea with her mum she gets sad. She worries that Sarah and James' mum might die because of her illness. She tells her mum.

Sonal's mum smiles and gives her a hug. "The twins' mum is not about to die. Her MS just makes some things more difficult," she says. "Their mum gets more tired than other mums. Sometimes it is difficult for her to walk or stand, and sometimes her eyes go funny and she can't see very well." Sonal feels happy that the twins' mum can keep making such great cakes.

Does anything make you feel worried?



One day, when they get home from school, the twins' dad is a bit grumpy.

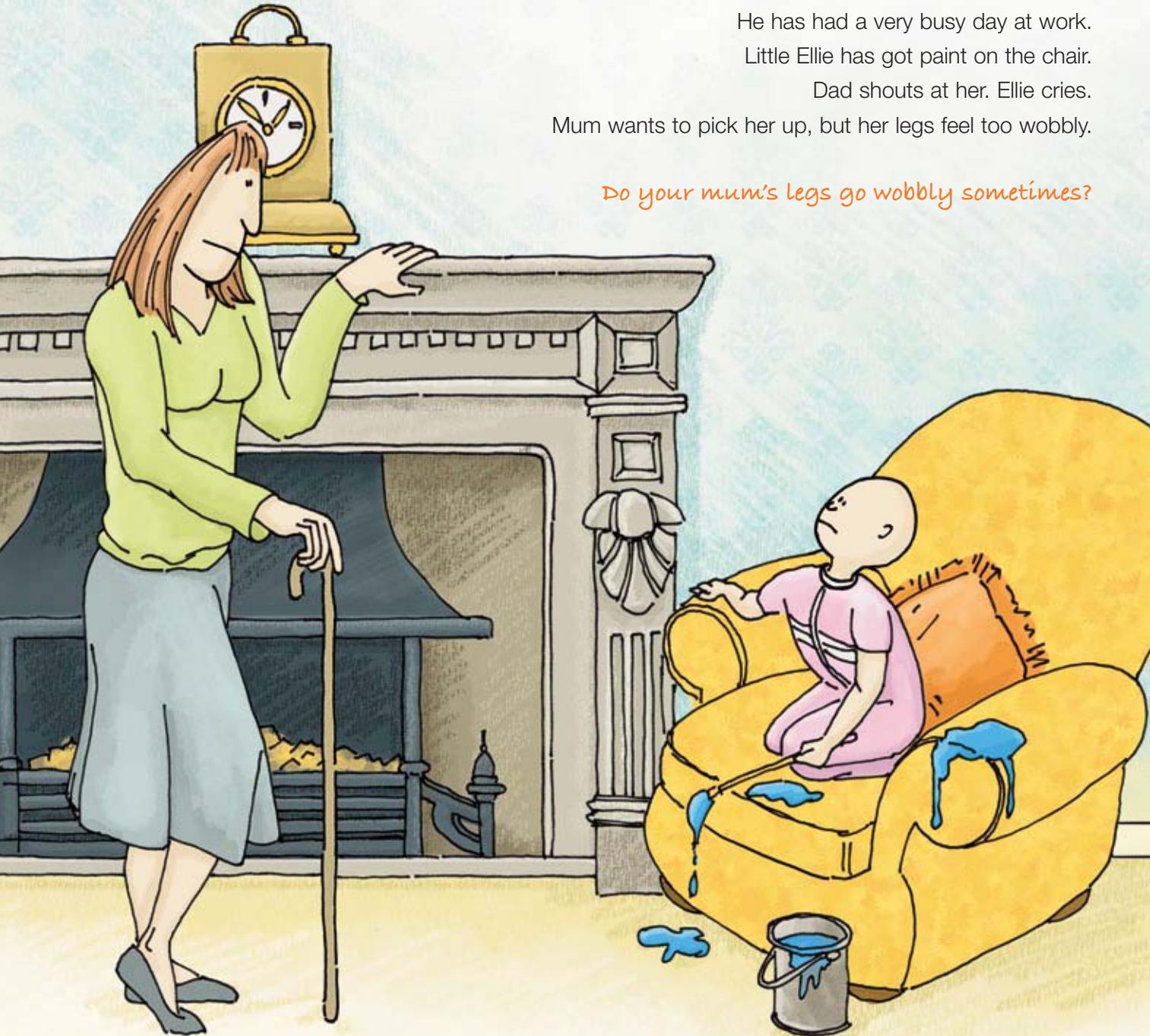
He has had a very busy day at work.

Little Ellie has got paint on the chair.

Dad shouts at her. Ellie cries.

Mum wants to pick her up, but her legs feel too wobbly.

Do your mum's legs go wobbly sometimes?



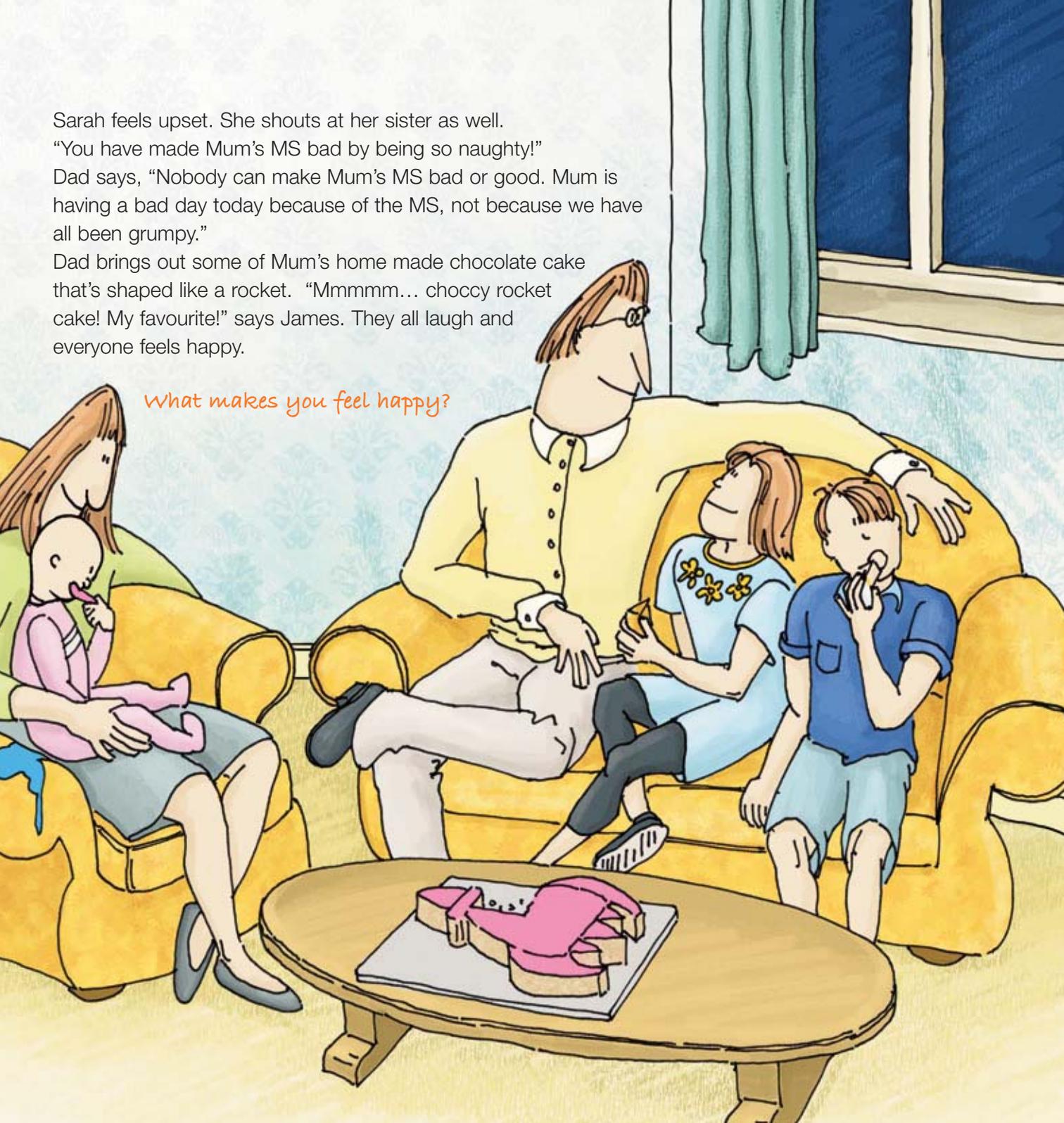
Sarah feels upset. She shouts at her sister as well.

"You have made Mum's MS bad by being so naughty!"

Dad says, "Nobody can make Mum's MS bad or good. Mum is having a bad day today because of the MS, not because we have all been grumpy."

Dad brings out some of Mum's home made chocolate cake that's shaped like a rocket. "Mmmmm... choccy rocket cake! My favourite!" says James. They all laugh and everyone feels happy.

What makes you feel happy?



Soon it will be Mother's Day. At school Miss Underwood has something special planned. Everyone likes Miss Underwood. She is fun. She gives them all a piece of red paper cut into a heart shape. "Write something nice about your mum," says Miss Underwood.

Sonal writes, "I love my mum. She can run fast."

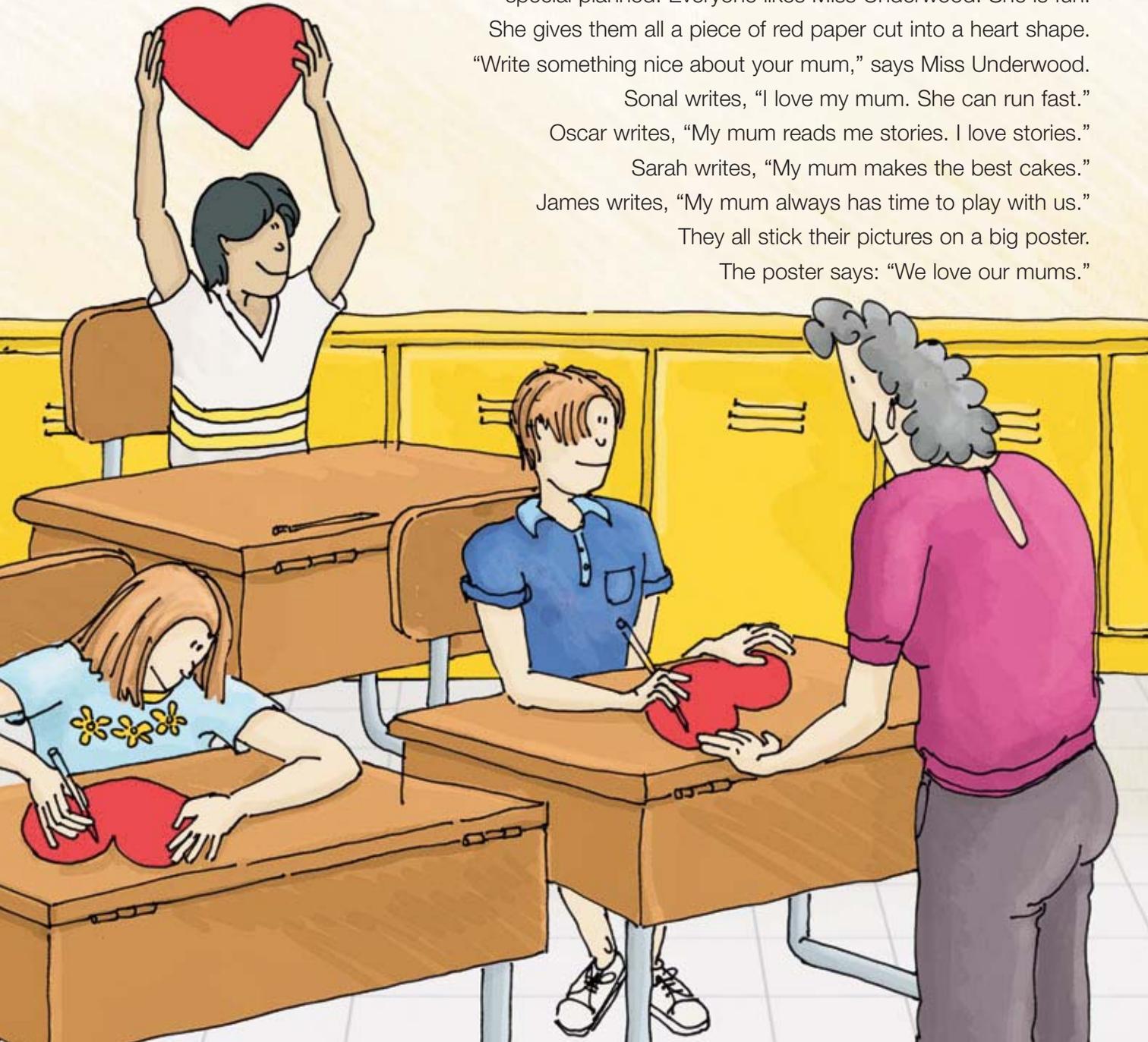
Oscar writes, "My mum reads me stories. I love stories."

Sarah writes, "My mum makes the best cakes."

James writes, "My mum always has time to play with us."

They all stick their pictures on a big poster.

The poster says: "We love our mums."



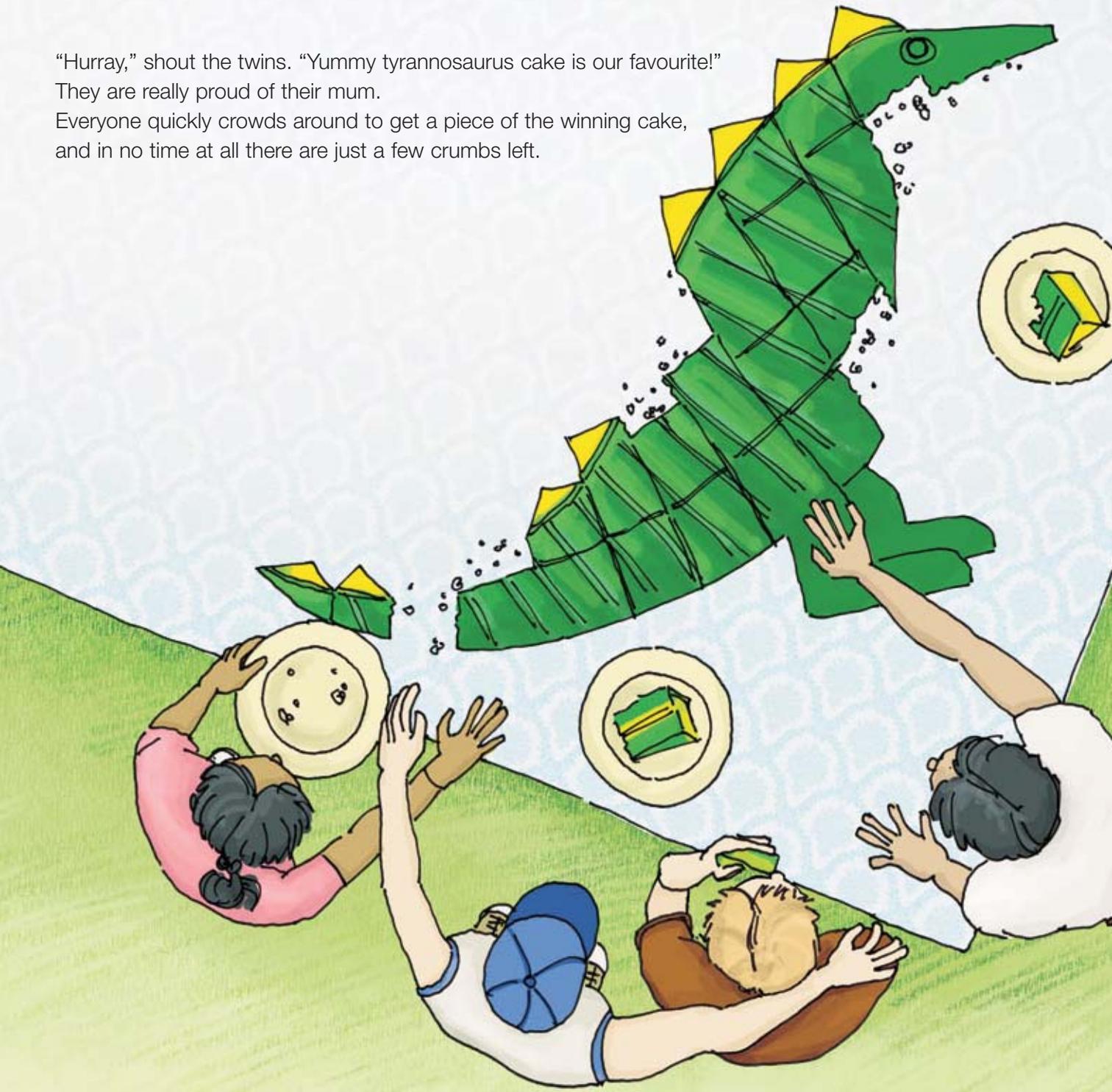
Today is the school fayre. There is a coconut shy and a bouncy castle.
James and Sarah love bouncing high in the sky.

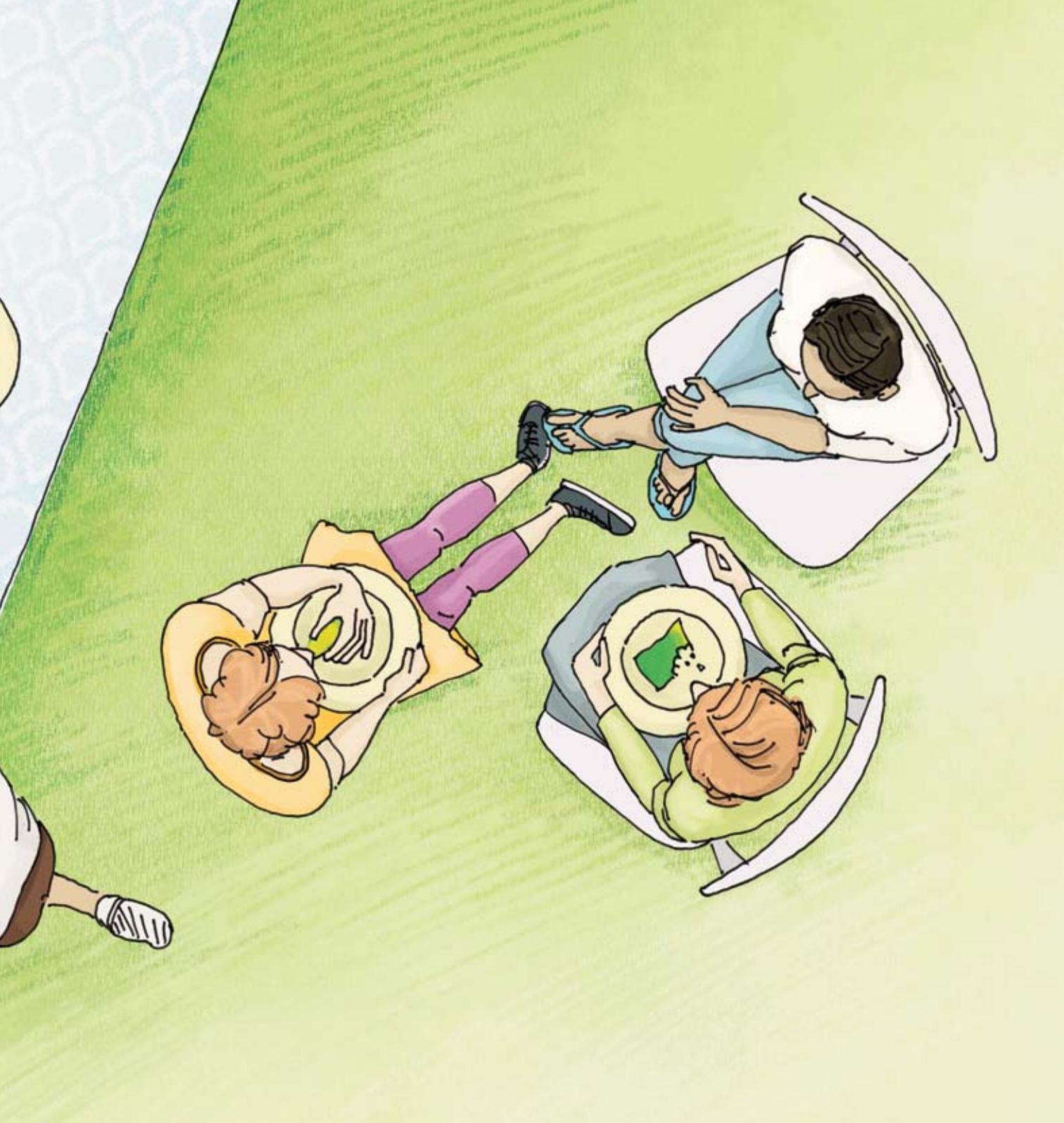
There is a cake baking competition and the twins' mum has made a cake in the shape of a dinosaur.
"I wonder who will win?" says Sarah, secretly thinking that her mum's cake is the best one of all.
Oscar's mum has also made a very good cake – in the shape of a giant fish.
It's a difficult decision for the judges... but the twins' mum wins first prize!



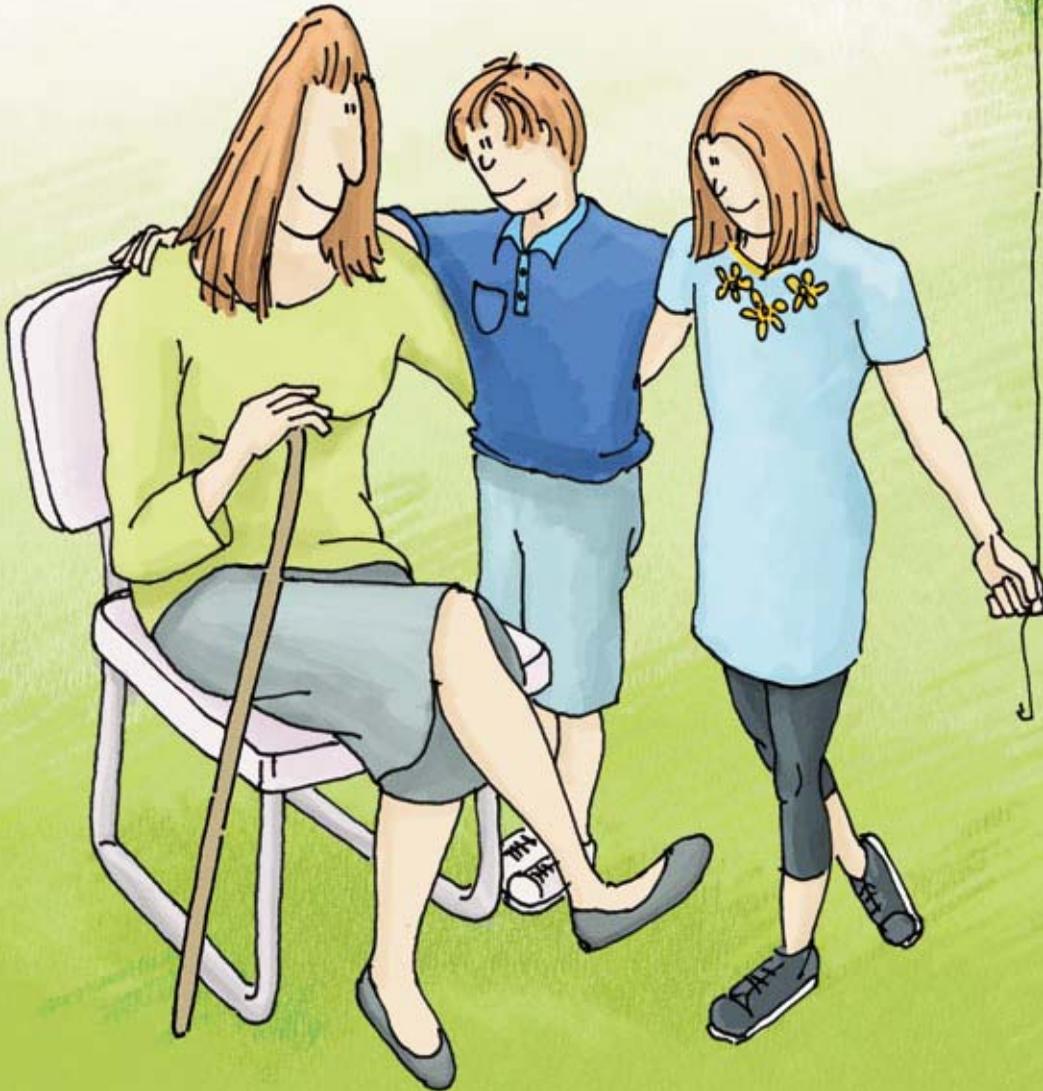


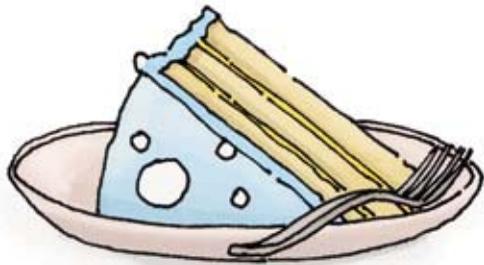
“Hurray,” shout the twins. “Yummy tyrannosaurus cake is our favourite!”
They are really proud of their mum.
Everyone quickly crowds around to get a piece of the winning cake,
and in no time at all there are just a few crumbs left.





James and Sarah are sad. They didn't even get a piece.
"Don't worry kids," their mum whispers in their ears.
"I made another dinosaur cake just for us and it's waiting at home."
The twins laugh and say together, "Our mum makes the best cakes!"





FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS (MS):

For parents –

www.mssociety.org.uk and

www.mssociety.org.uk/pieces

or call the Information Team on

020 8438 0799 (weekdays 9am-4pm)

For children and teenagers –

www.youngms.org.uk

National MS Helpline

Freephone 0808 800 8000

(weekdays 9am-9pm except bank holidays)

MS SOCIETY

The MS Society is the UK's largest charity dedicated to supporting everyone whose life is touched by MS. We provide information, support, grants, education and training, as well as specialist MS health and social care professionals and respite care. Our network of over 300 local branches is run by volunteers with direct experience of MS. We fund around 80 vital research projects, to improve care and treatments for MS.

You can help the work of the MS Society by:

- becoming a member
- making a donation
- offering your time as a volunteer

CONTACT INFORMATION

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MS Society Cymru

Temple Court

Cathedral Road

Cardiff, CF11 9HA

Telephone 029 2078 6676

MS Society Northern Ireland

The Resource Centre

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Belfast, BT7 3JJ

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