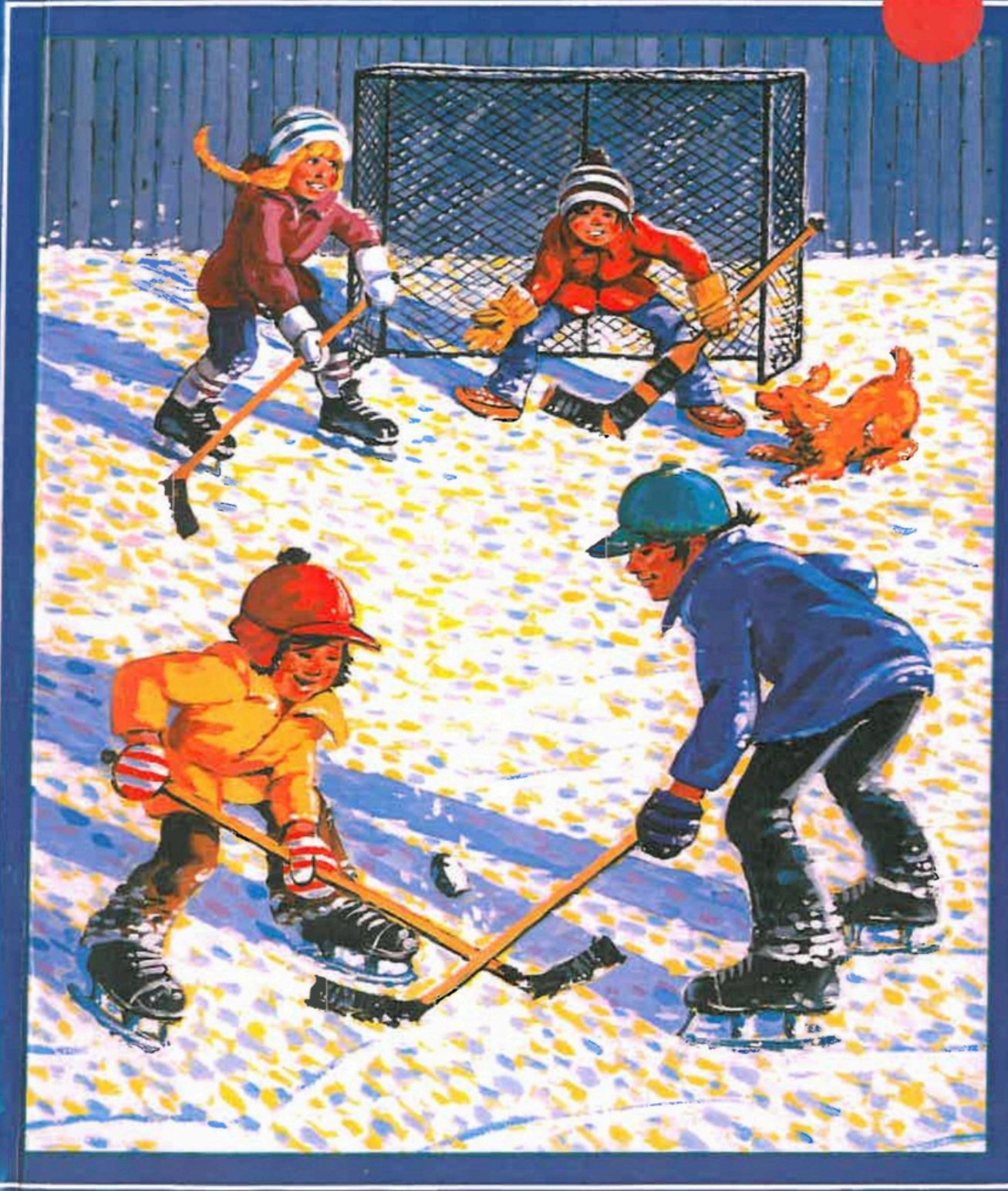


The Moccasin Goalie

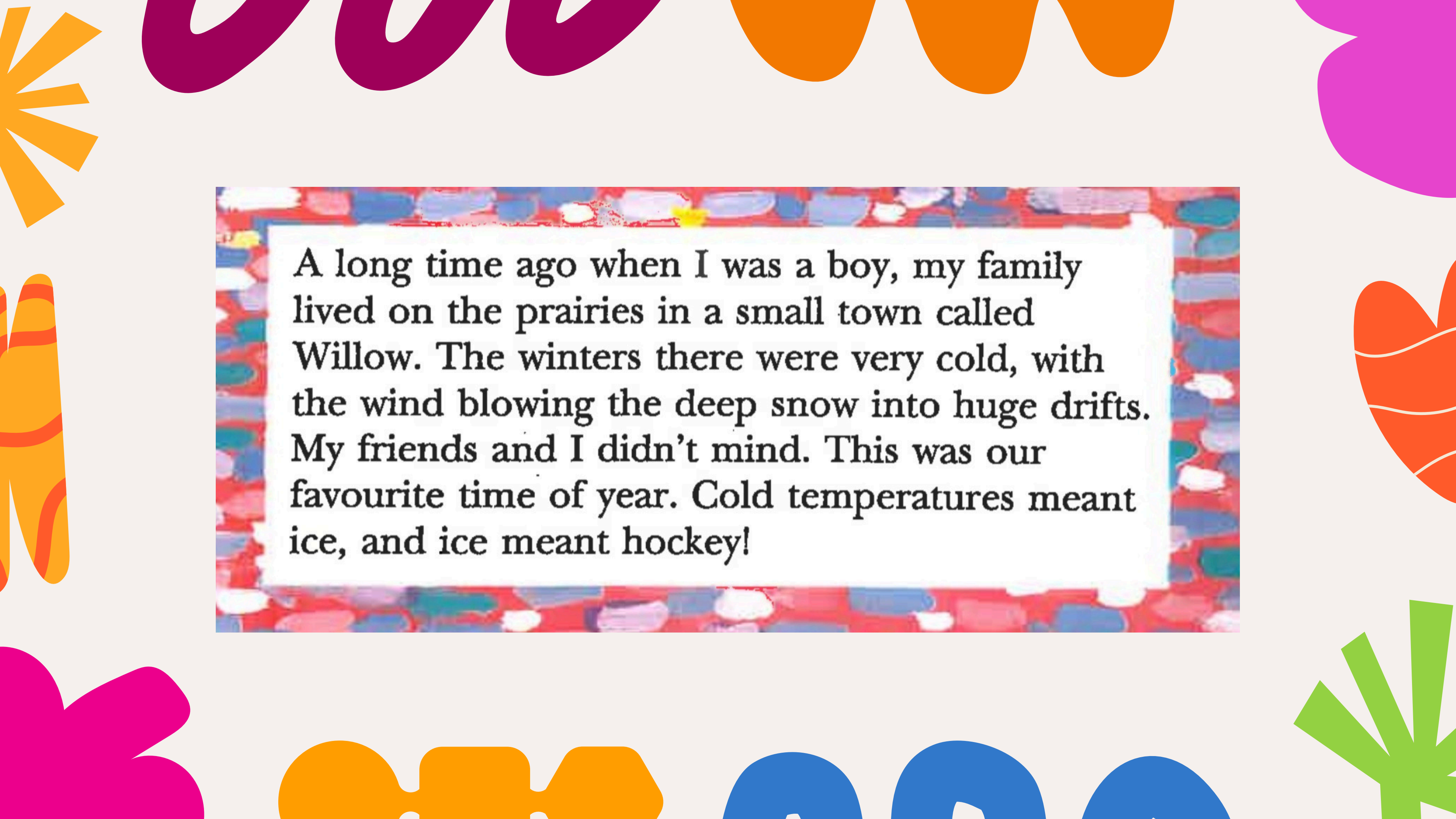
WILLIAM ROY BROWNRIDGE



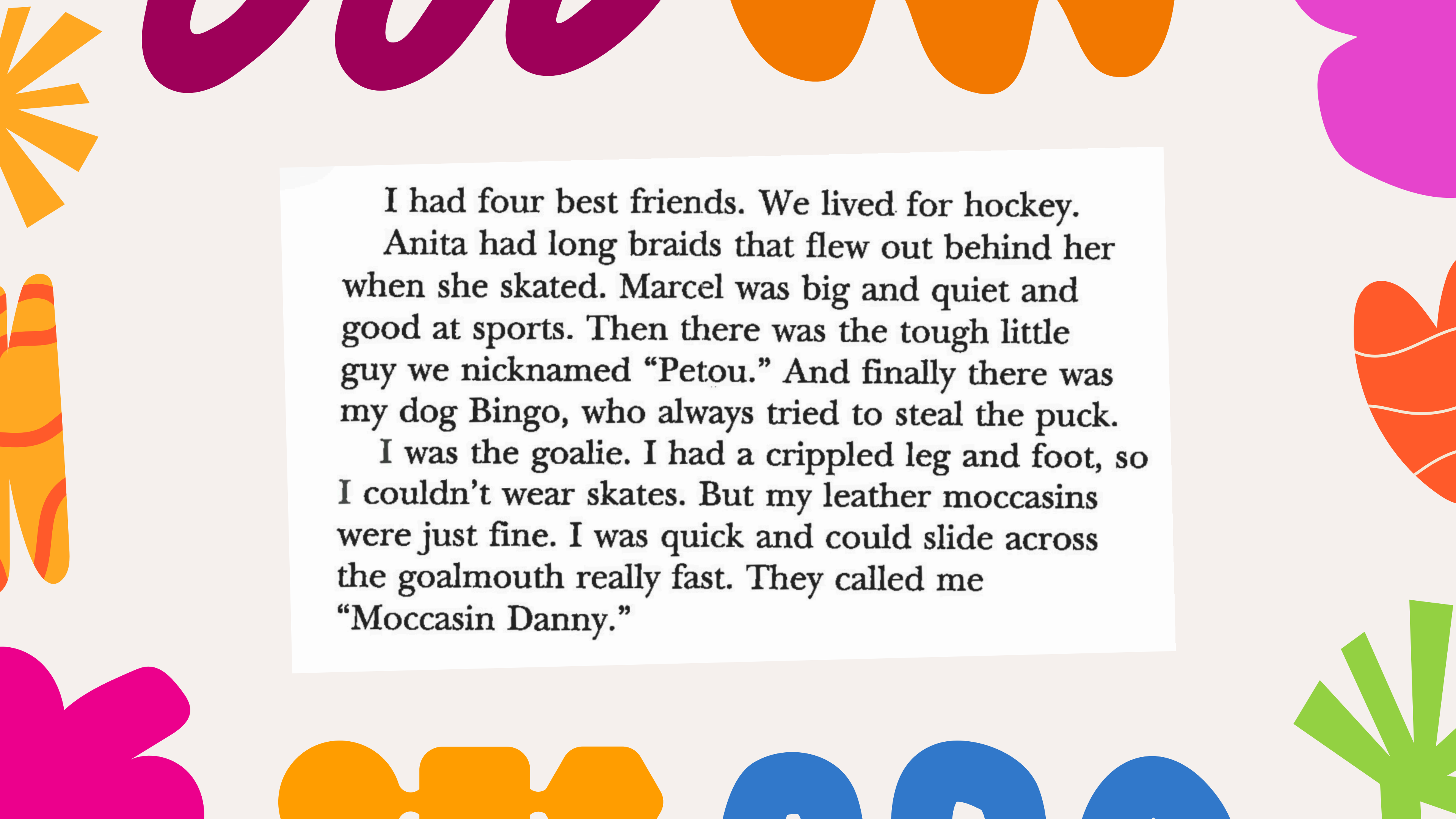


Summary


The Moccasin Goalie is about a boy named Danny, who loves hockey but can't wear skates due to his physical disability. Along with his three friends, Anita, Petou, and Marcel, he tries out for a town hockey team but is rejected. Danny is rejected because he can't skate, Anita because she is a girl, and Petou because he's small. Later, Danny gets a chance to play when the team's goalie is injured and helps the team win. His success leads to the coach adding him and his friends to the team.



A long time ago when I was a boy, my family lived on the prairies in a small town called Willow. The winters there were very cold, with the wind blowing the deep snow into huge drifts. My friends and I didn't mind. This was our favourite time of year. Cold temperatures meant ice, and ice meant hockey!



I had four best friends. We lived for hockey. Anita had long braids that flew out behind her when she skated. Marcel was big and quiet and good at sports. Then there was the tough little guy we nicknamed “Petou.” And finally there was my dog Bingo, who always tried to steal the puck. I was the goalie. I had a crippled leg and foot, so I couldn’t wear skates. But my leather moccasins were just fine. I was quick and could slide across the goalmouth really fast. They called me “Moccasin Danny.”



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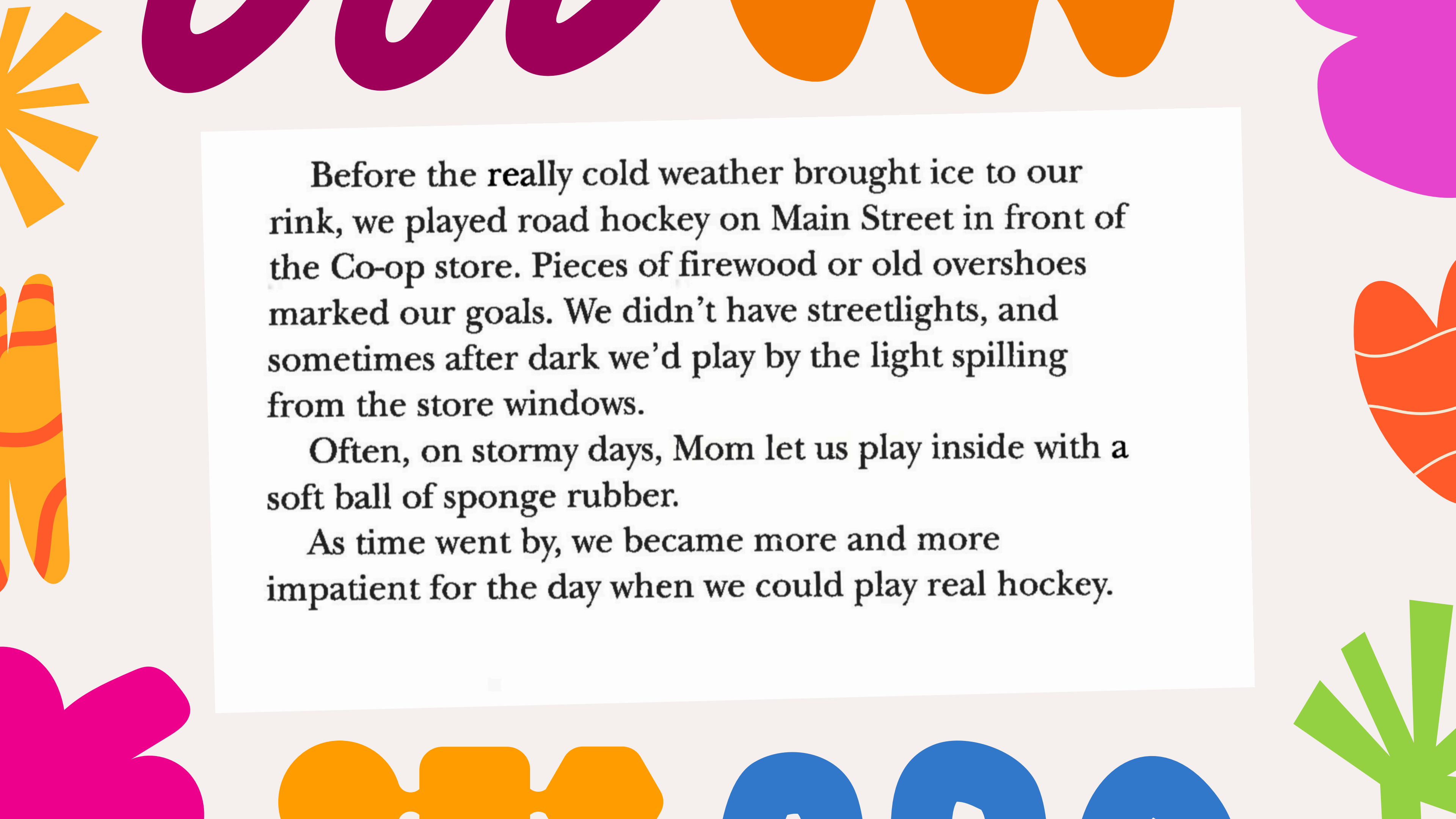
How does this text demonstrate inclusion?

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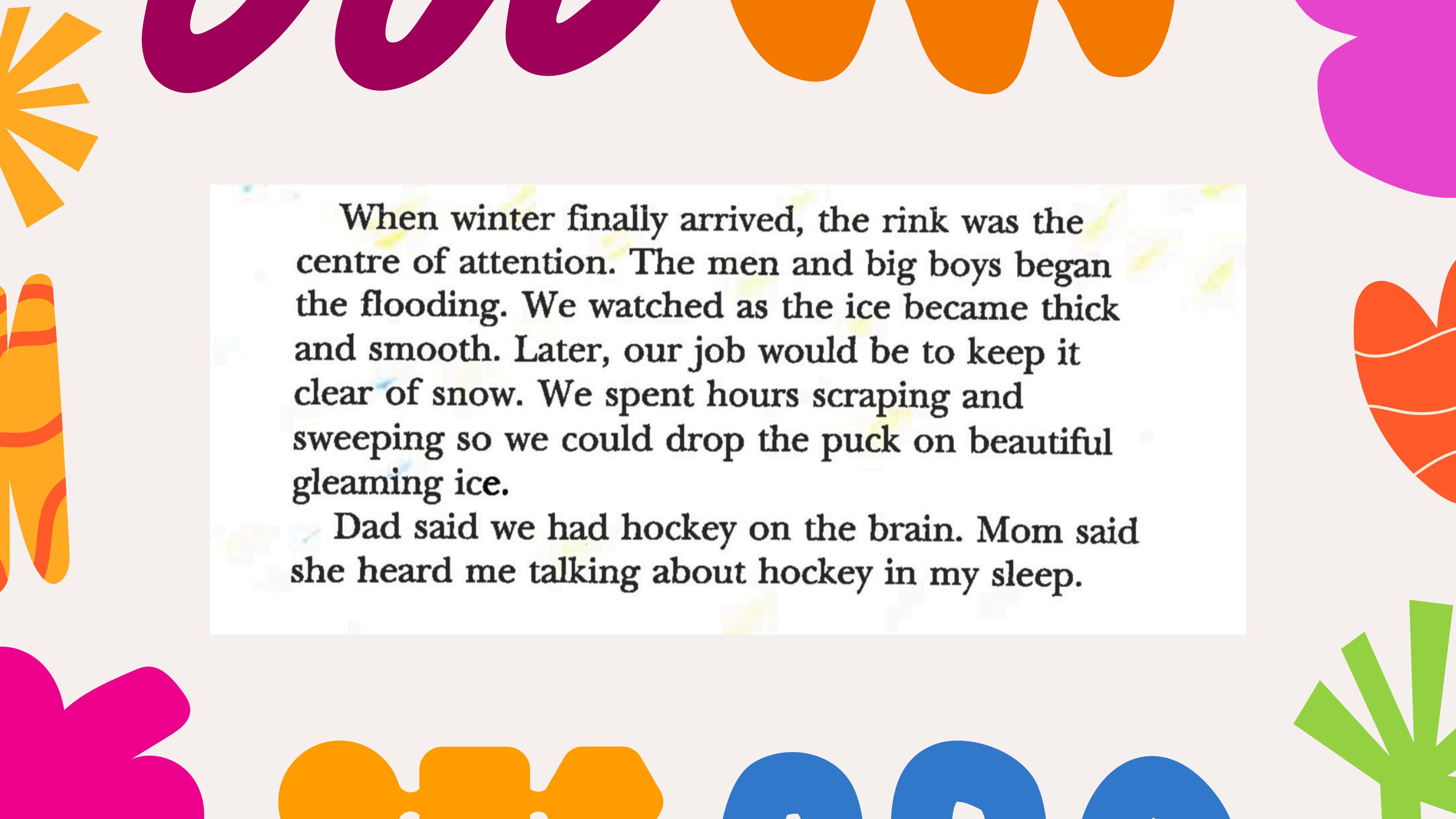
- **No stereotyping or bias.**
 - **Antia is a girl on a team of three boys.**
 - **Danny is physically disabled on a team with three able-bodied kids.**
 - **Petou and Marcel are opposites but seen as equals on the team.**



Before the really cold weather brought ice to our rink, we played road hockey on Main Street in front of the Co-op store. Pieces of firewood or old overshoes marked our goals. We didn't have streetlights, and sometimes after dark we'd play by the light spilling from the store windows.

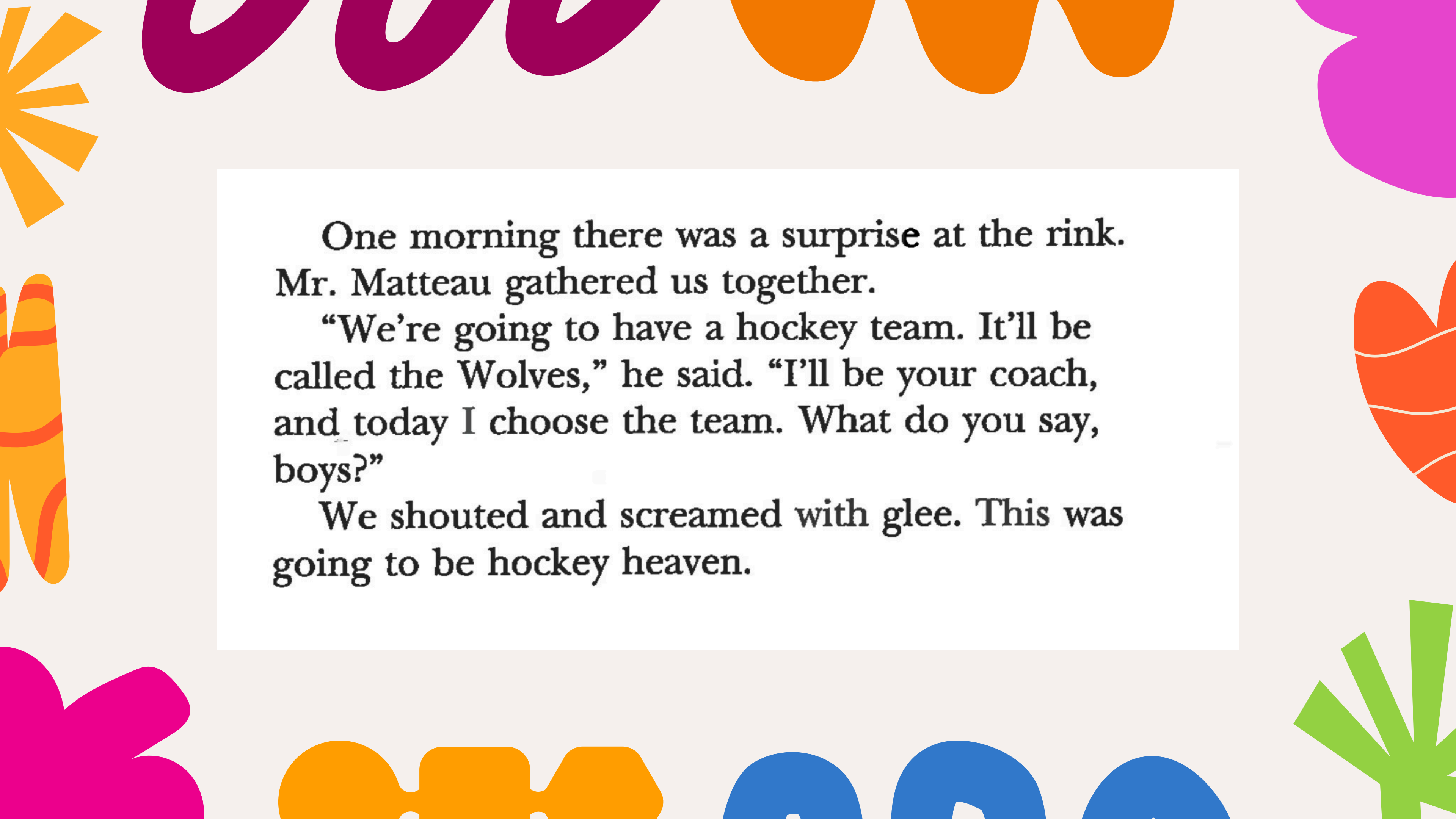
Often, on stormy days, Mom let us play inside with a soft ball of sponge rubber.

As time went by, we became more and more impatient for the day when we could play real hockey.



When winter finally arrived, the rink was the centre of attention. The men and big boys began the flooding. We watched as the ice became thick and smooth. Later, our job would be to keep it clear of snow. We spent hours scraping and sweeping so we could drop the puck on beautiful gleaming ice.

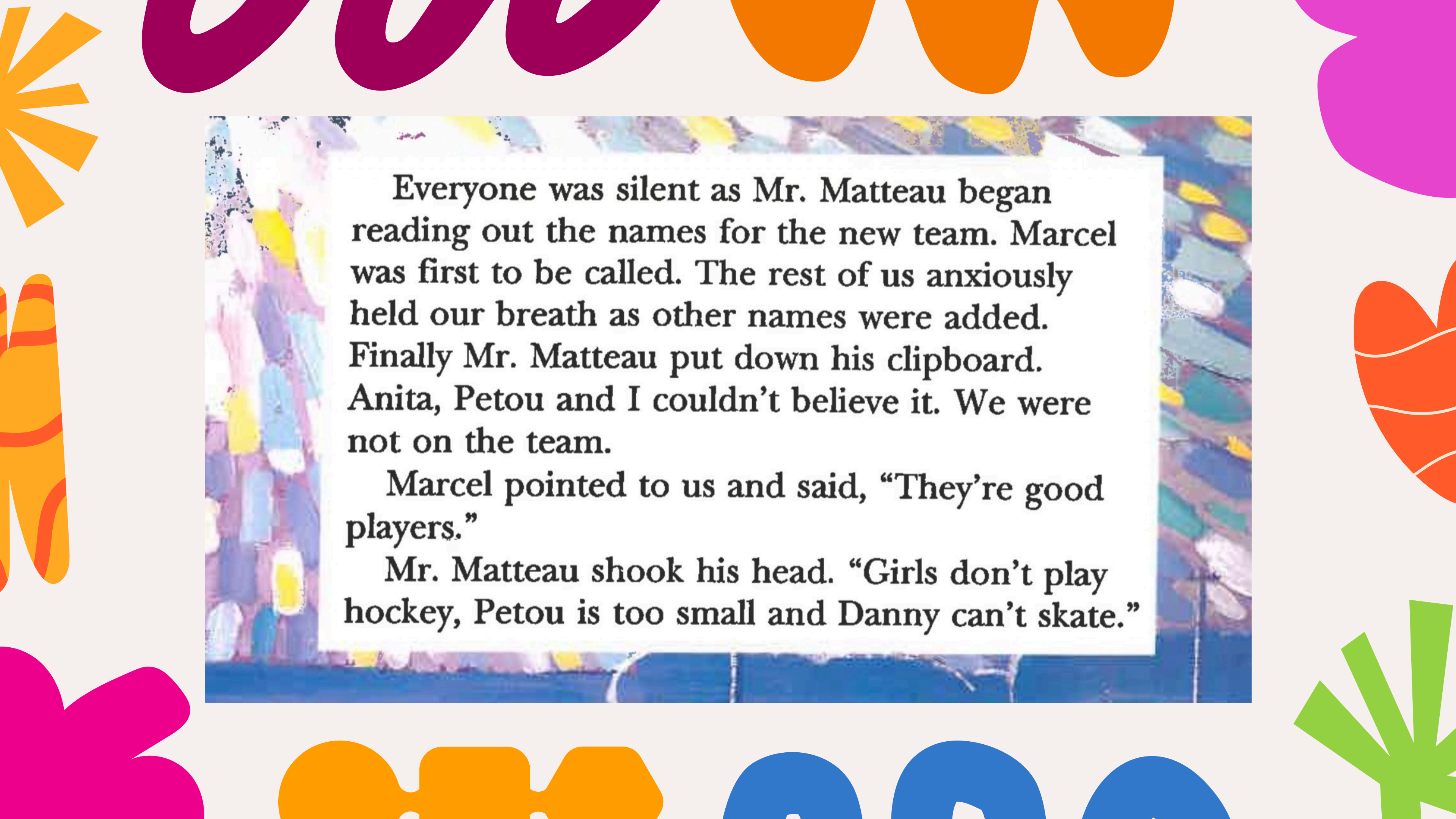
Dad said we had hockey on the brain. Mom said she heard me talking about hockey in my sleep.



One morning there was a surprise at the rink. Mr. Matteau gathered us together.

“We’re going to have a hockey team. It’ll be called the Wolves,” he said. “I’ll be your coach, and today I choose the team. What do you say, boys?”

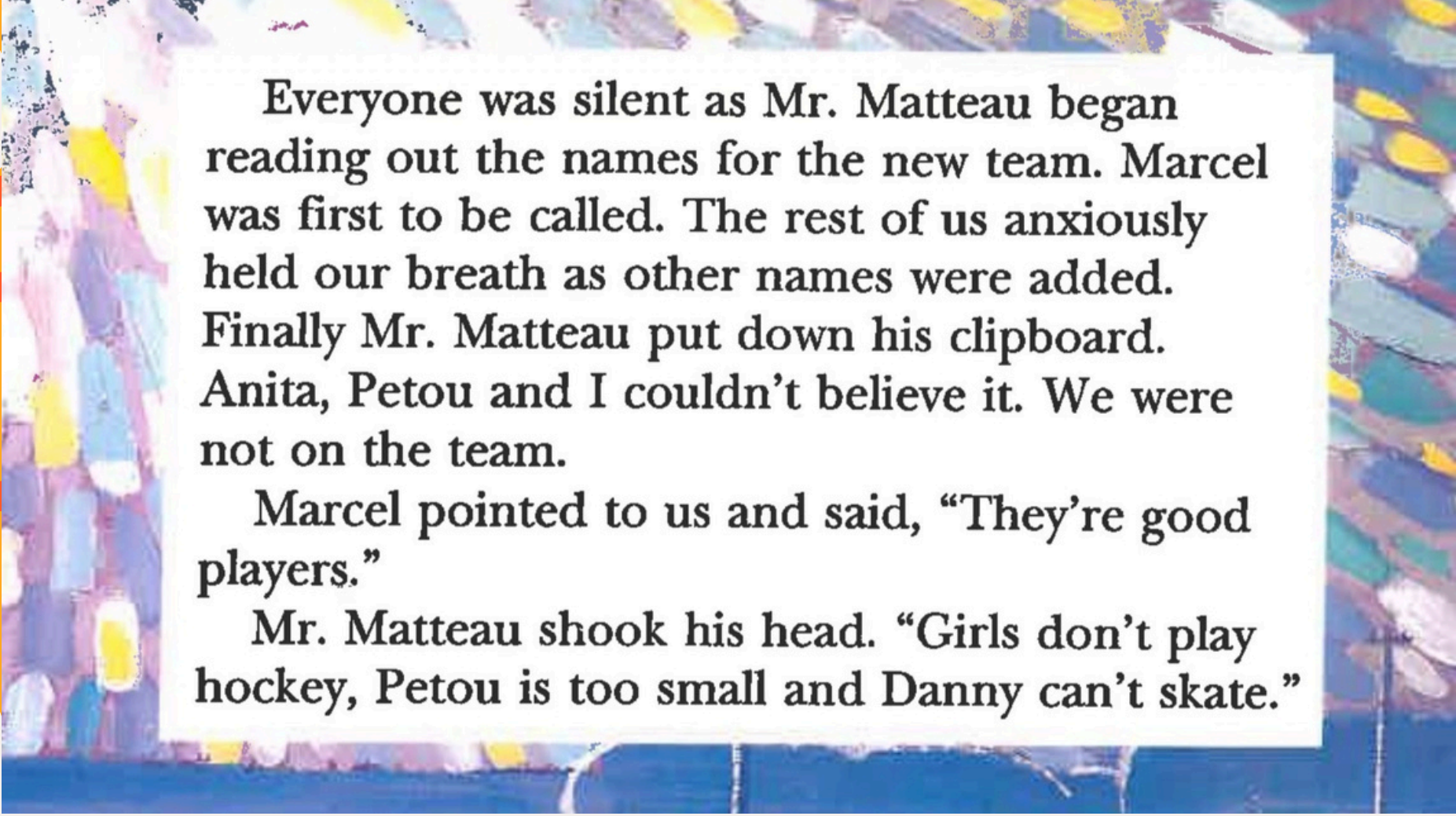

We shouted and screamed with glee. This was going to be hockey heaven.



Everyone was silent as Mr. Matteau began reading out the names for the new team. Marcel was first to be called. The rest of us anxiously held our breath as other names were added. Finally Mr. Matteau put down his clipboard. Anita, Petou and I couldn't believe it. We were not on the team.

Marcel pointed to us and said, "They're good players."

Mr. Matteau shook his head. "Girls don't play hockey, Petou is too small and Danny can't skate."




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Discuss the following question in your base groups:

What are some examples of bias found in the text



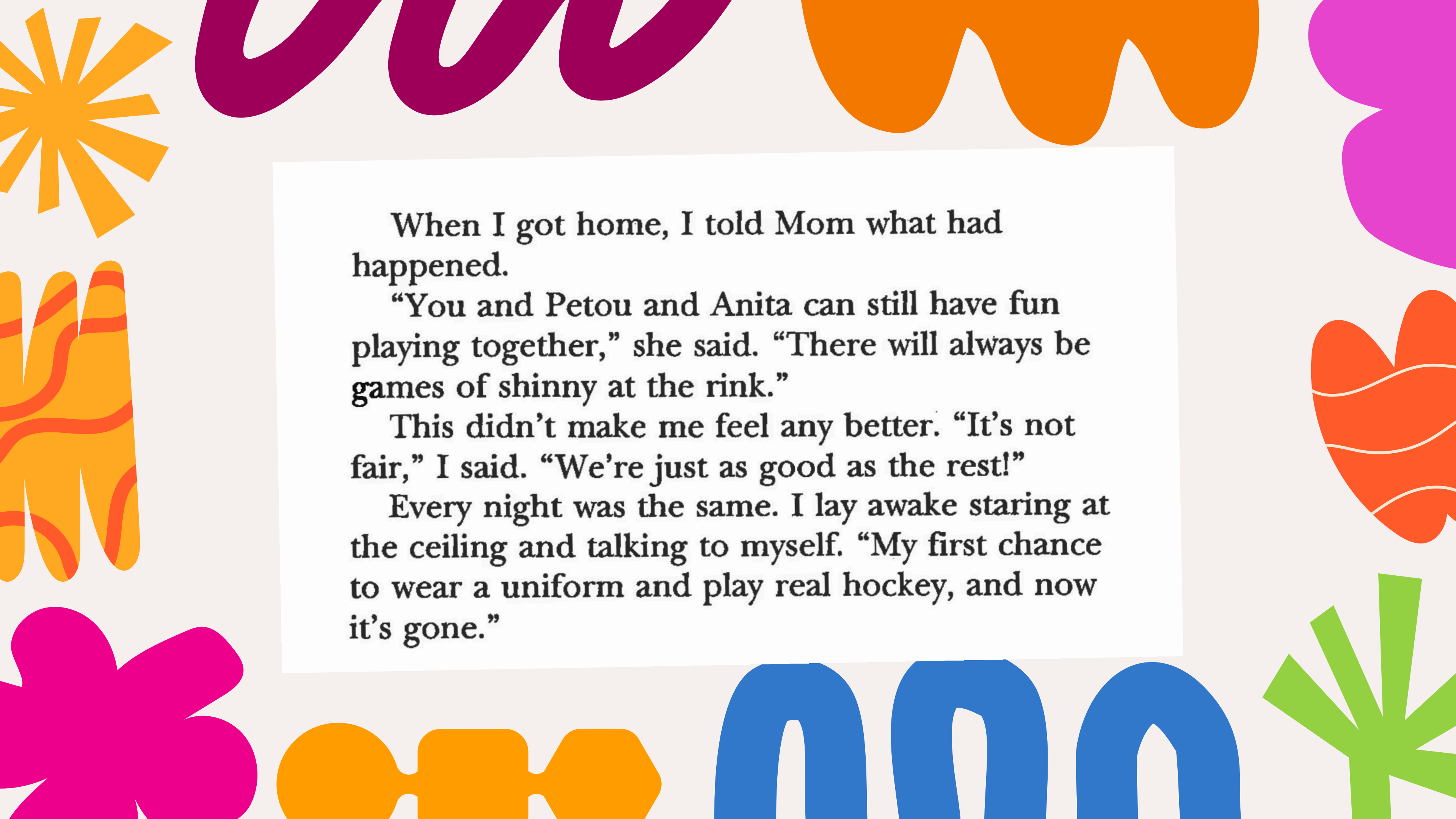
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- **Physical Ability or Disability:** People living with disabilities are portrayed mainly as being incapable, helpless, lacking intelligence, or lacking creativity.
- **Language:** The book contains gratuitous or derogatory use of sexist terms.
- **Appearance:** People of certain shapes, sizes, heights, and appearances are negatively portrayed as having a limited range of abilities or as less accepted by individuals, groups, or societies
- **Sex, Sexual Orientation, and Gender:** The language of this book portrays genders in stereotypical ways.

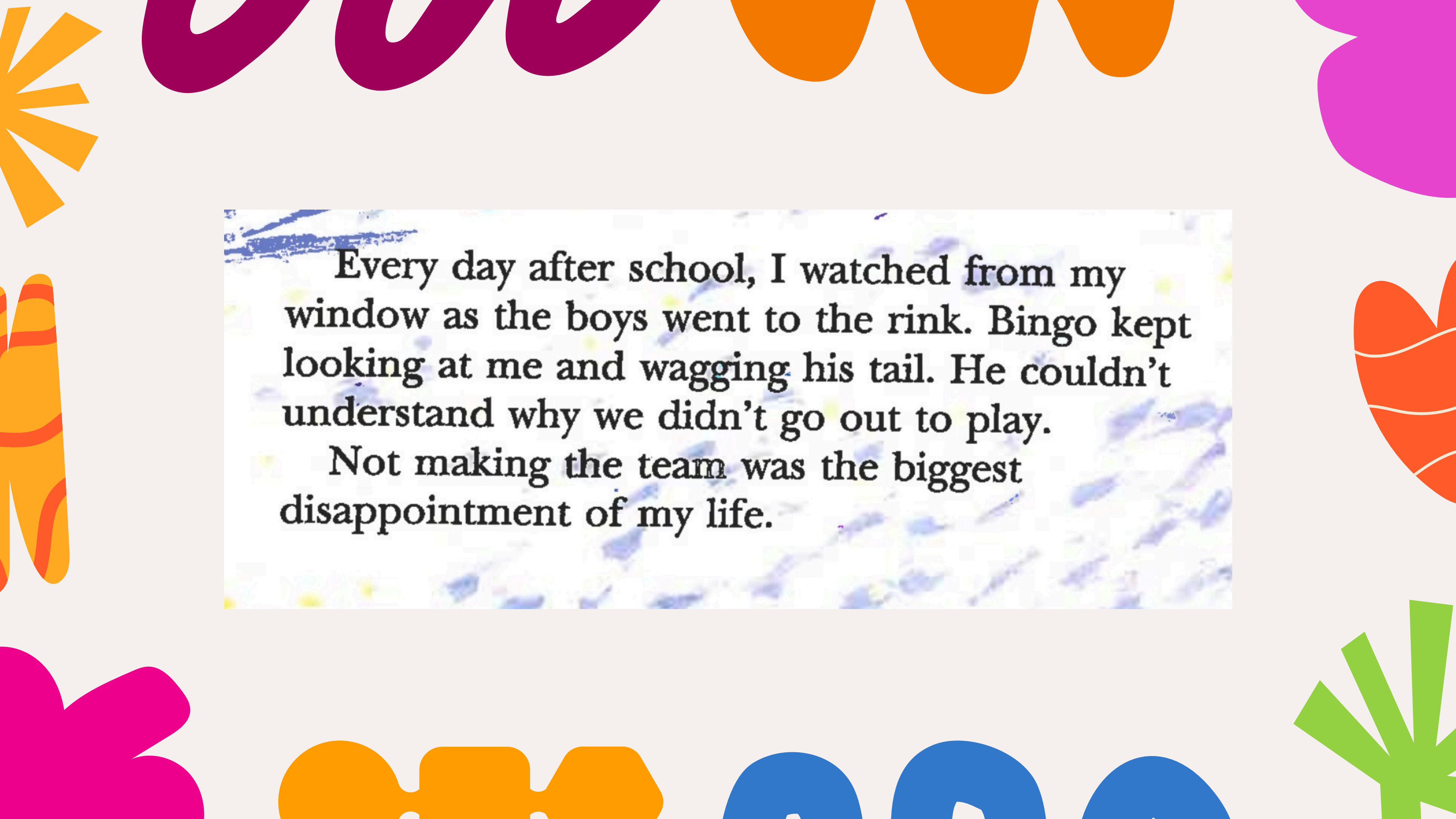


When I got home, I told Mom what had happened.

“You and Petou and Anita can still have fun playing together,” she said. “There will always be games of shinny at the rink.”

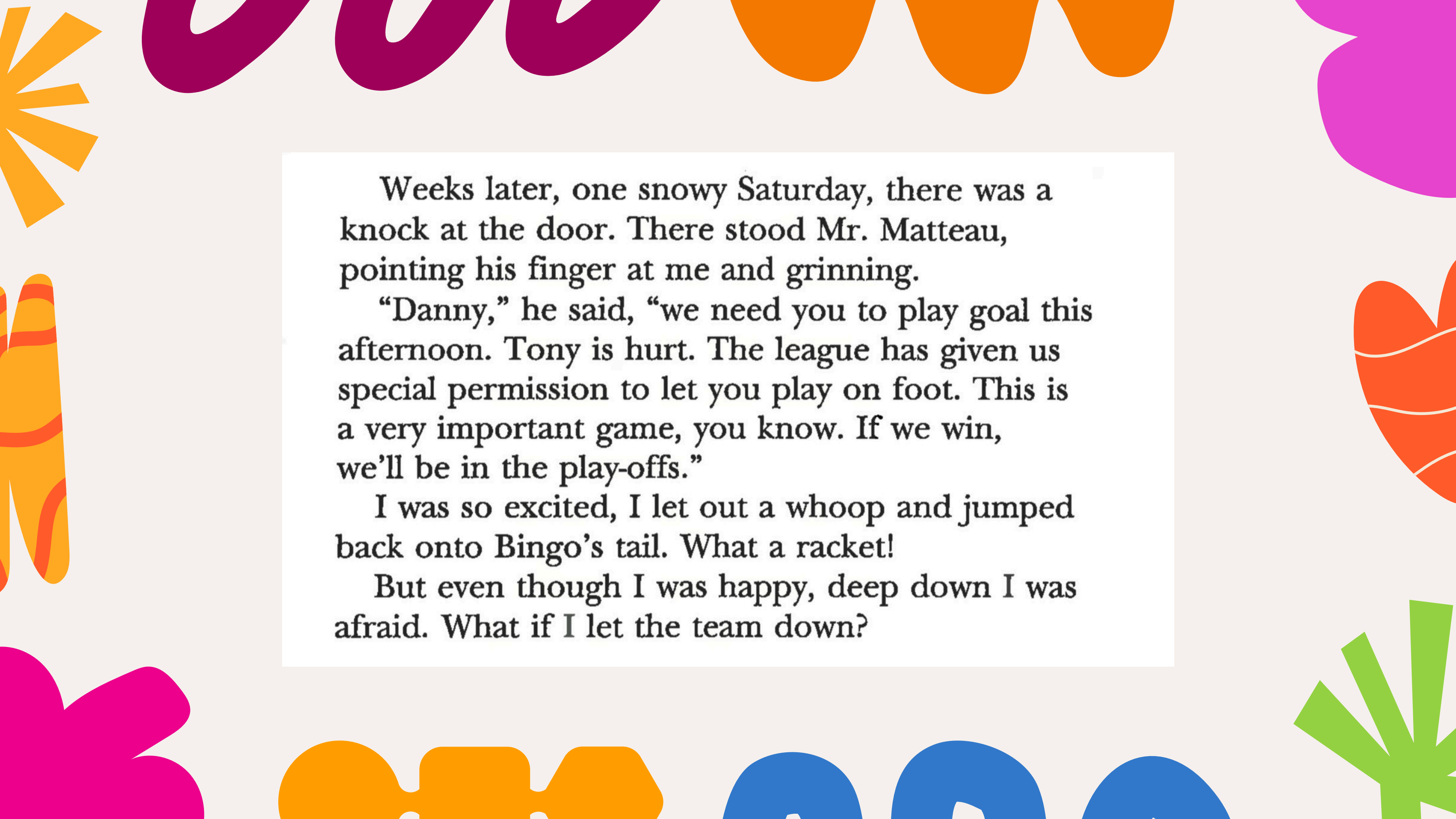
This didn’t make me feel any better. “It’s not fair,” I said. “We’re just as good as the rest!”

Every night was the same. I lay awake staring at the ceiling and talking to myself. “My first chance to wear a uniform and play real hockey, and now it’s gone.”



Every day after school, I watched from my window as the boys went to the rink. Bingo kept looking at me and wagging his tail. He couldn't understand why we didn't go out to play.

Not making the team was the biggest disappointment of my life.

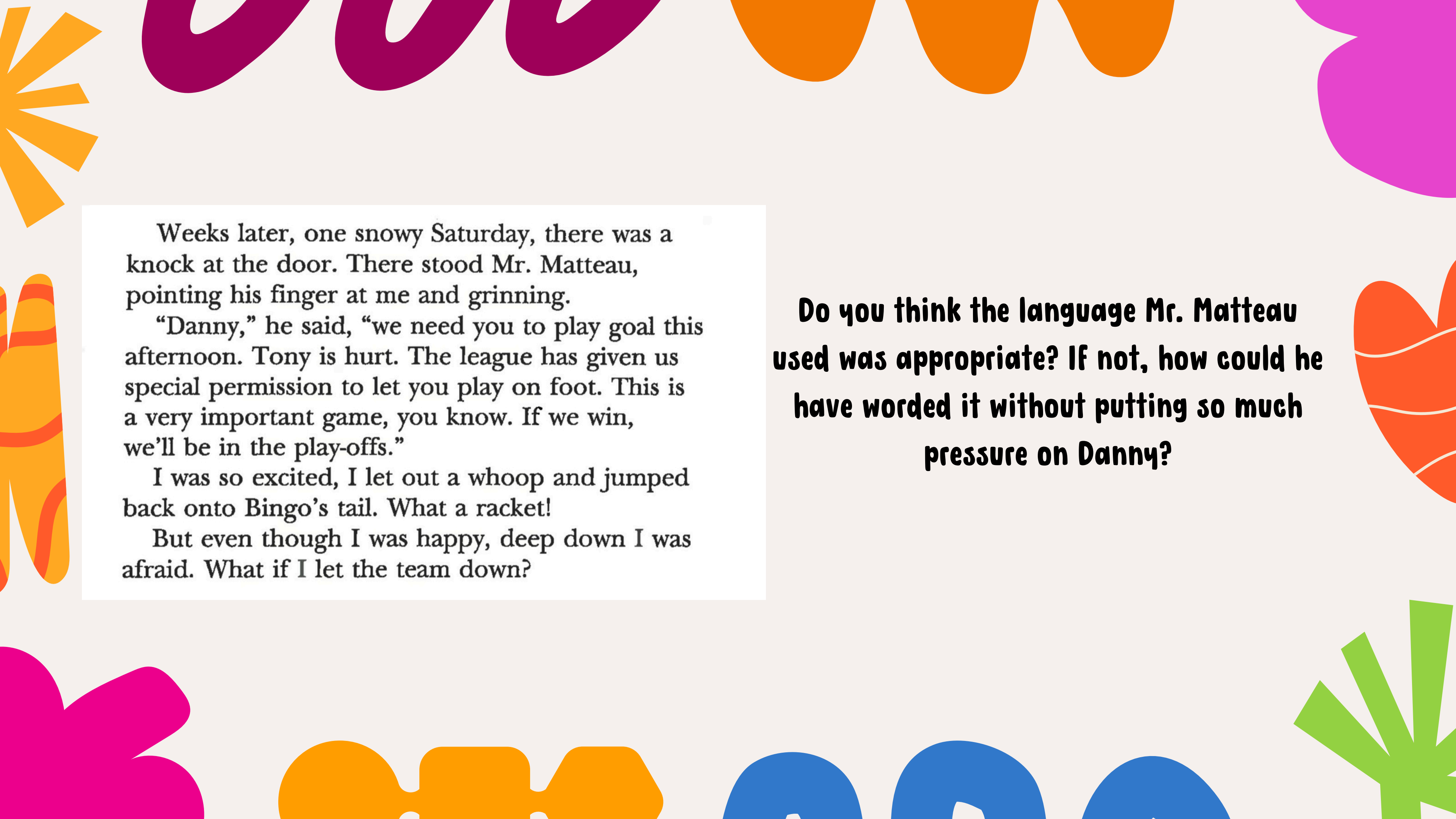


Weeks later, one snowy Saturday, there was a knock at the door. There stood Mr. Matteau, pointing his finger at me and grinning.

“Danny,” he said, “we need you to play goal this afternoon. Tony is hurt. The league has given us special permission to let you play on foot. This is a very important game, you know. If we win, we’ll be in the play-offs.”

I was so excited, I let out a whoop and jumped back onto Bingo’s tail. What a racket!

But even though I was happy, deep down I was afraid. What if I let the team down?



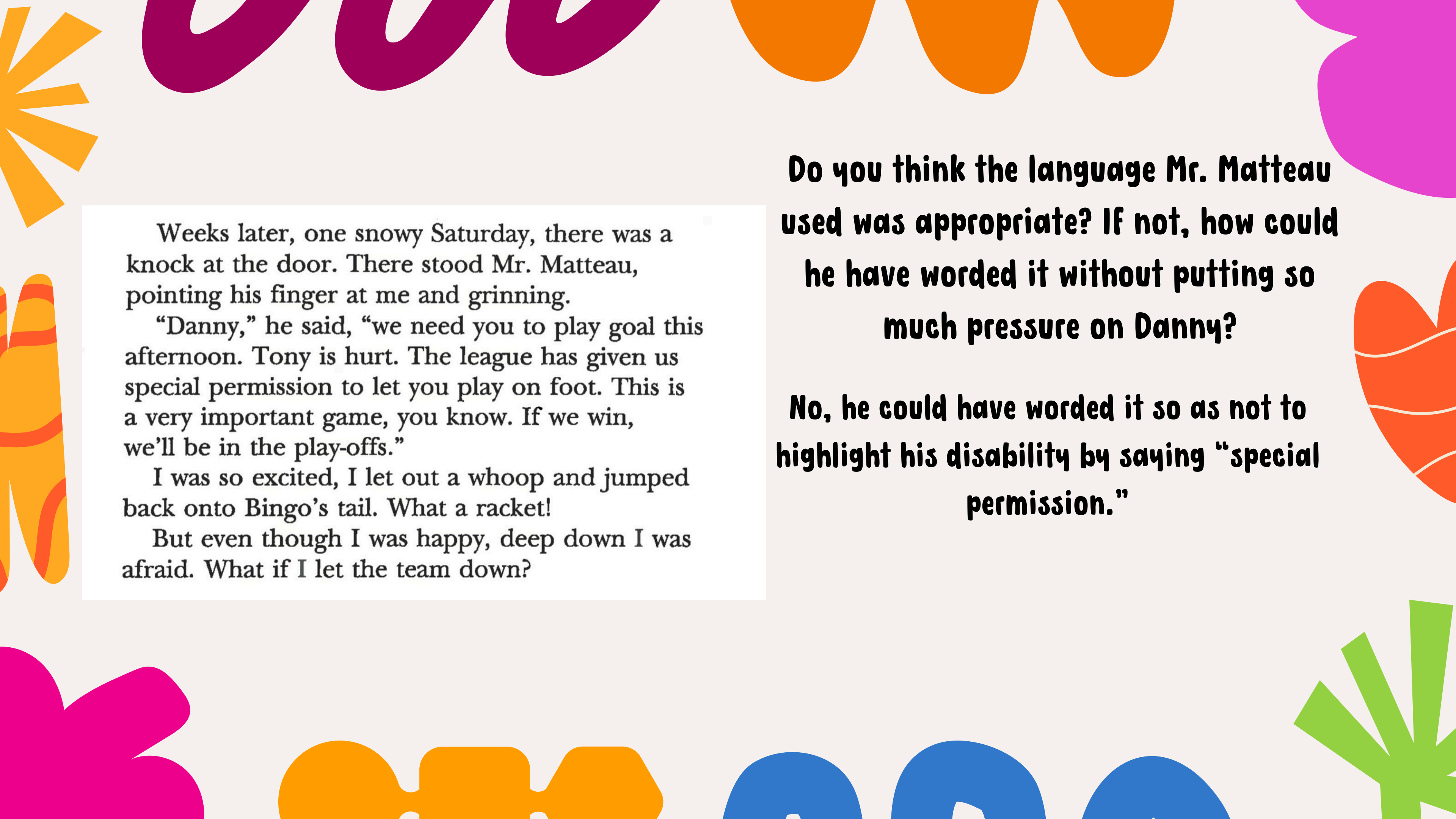
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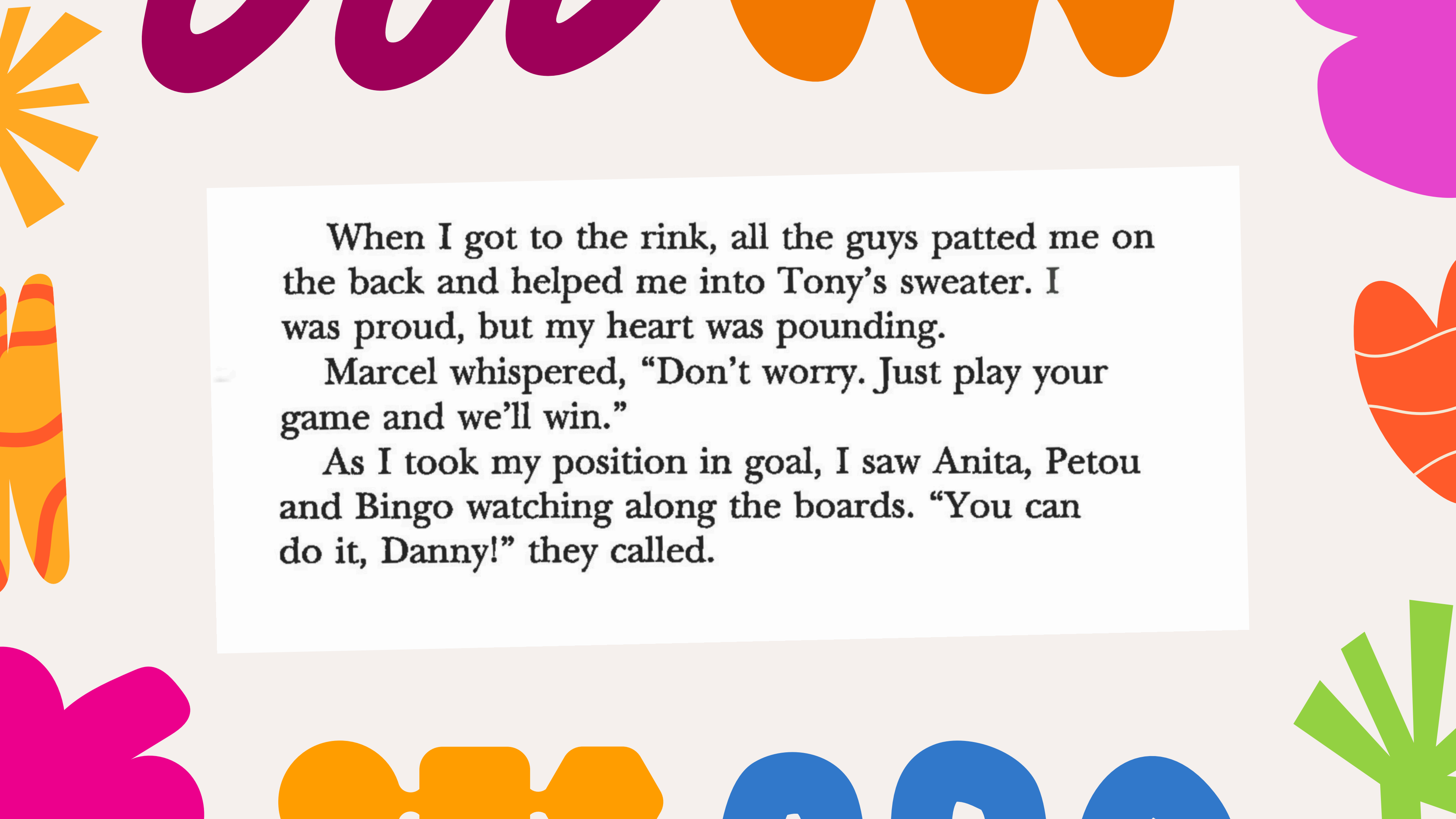
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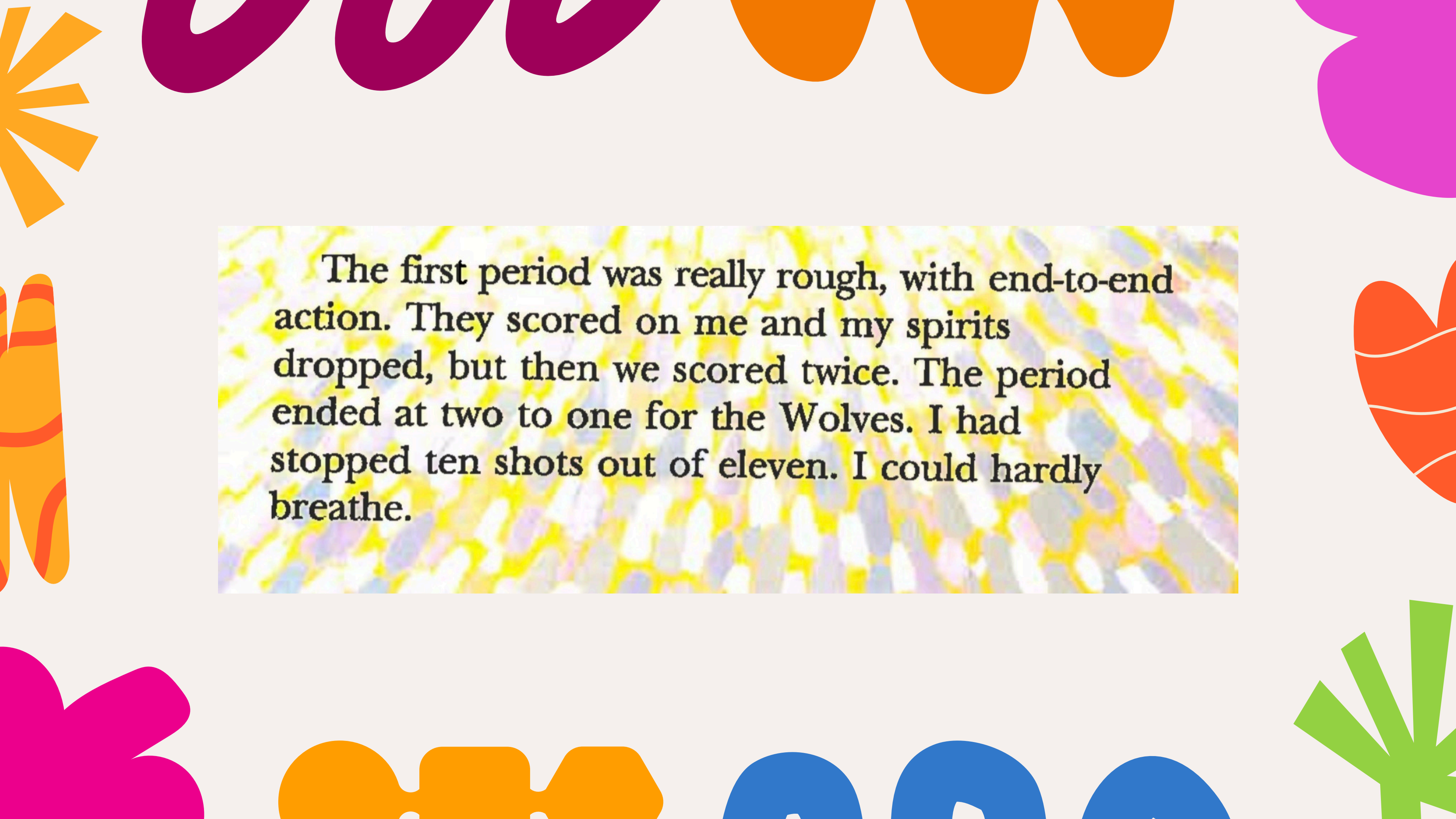
No, he could have worded it so as not to highlight his disability by saying “special permission.”



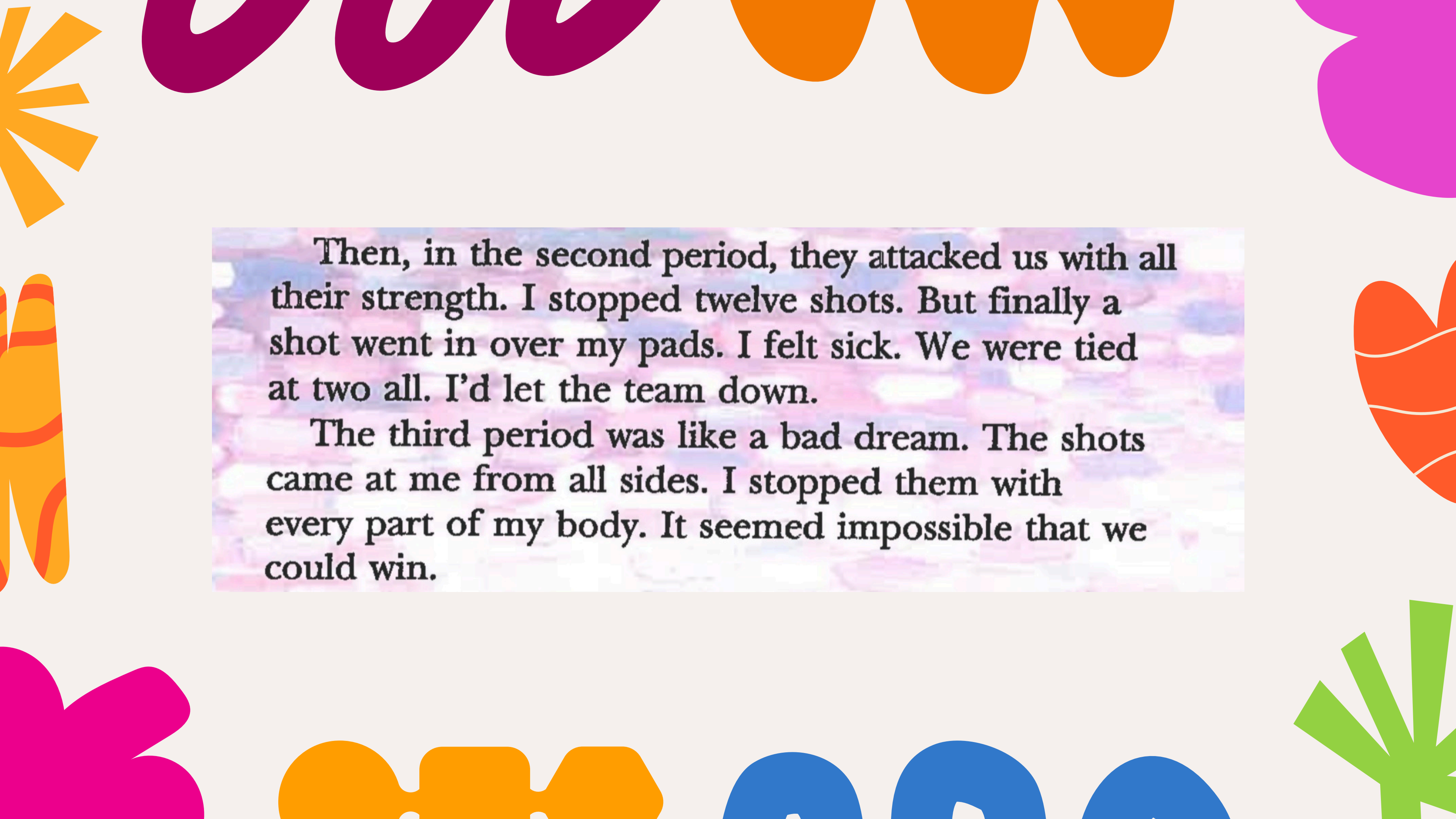
When I got to the rink, all the guys patted me on the back and helped me into Tony's sweater. I was proud, but my heart was pounding.

Marcel whispered, "Don't worry. Just play your game and we'll win."

As I took my position in goal, I saw Anita, Petou and Bingo watching along the boards. "You can do it, Danny!" they called.

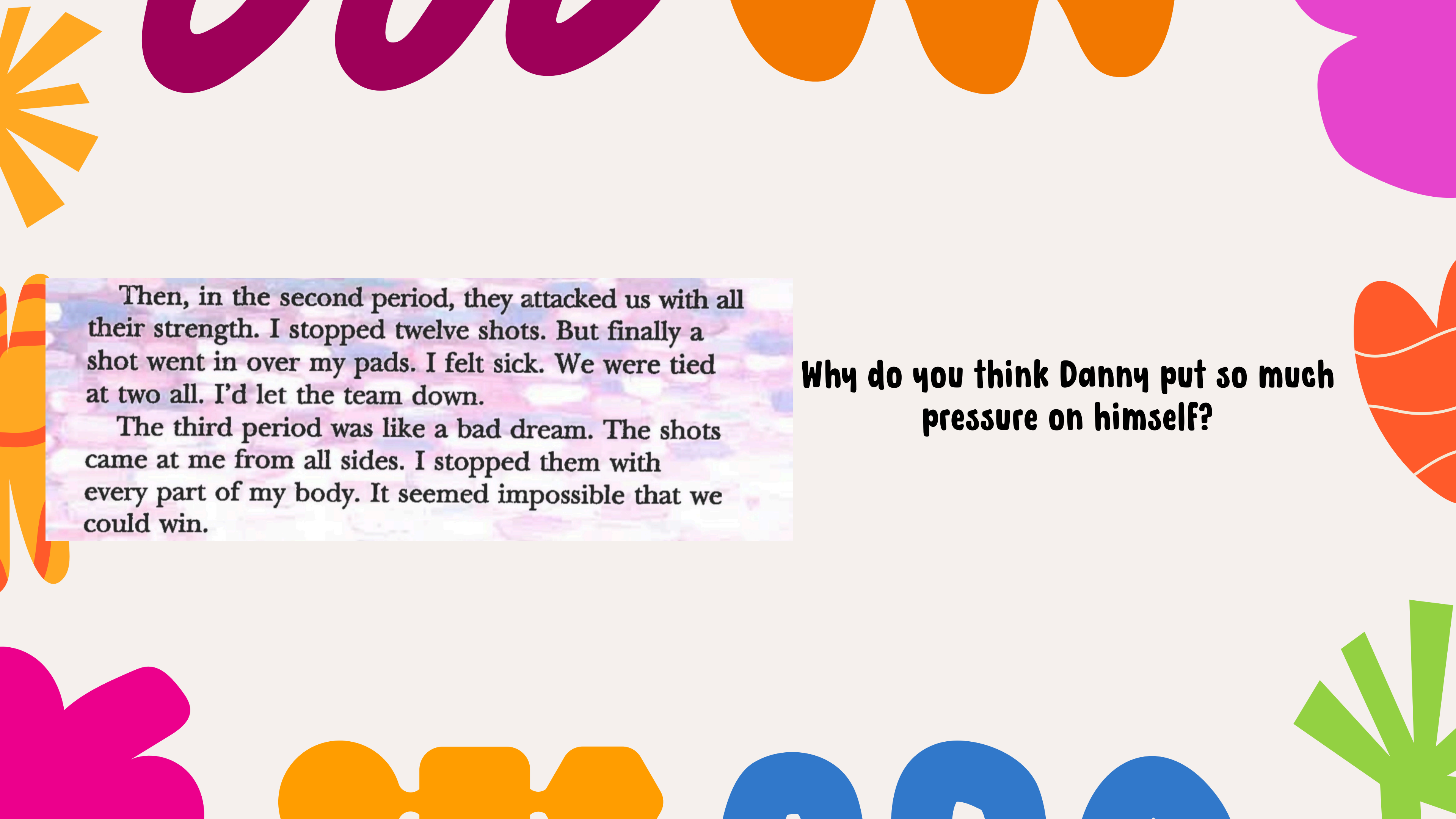


The first period was really rough, with end-to-end action. They scored on me and my spirits dropped, but then we scored twice. The period ended at two to one for the Wolves. I had stopped ten shots out of eleven. I could hardly breathe.



Then, in the second period, they attacked us with all their strength. I stopped twelve shots. But finally a shot went in over my pads. I felt sick. We were tied at two all. I'd let the team down.

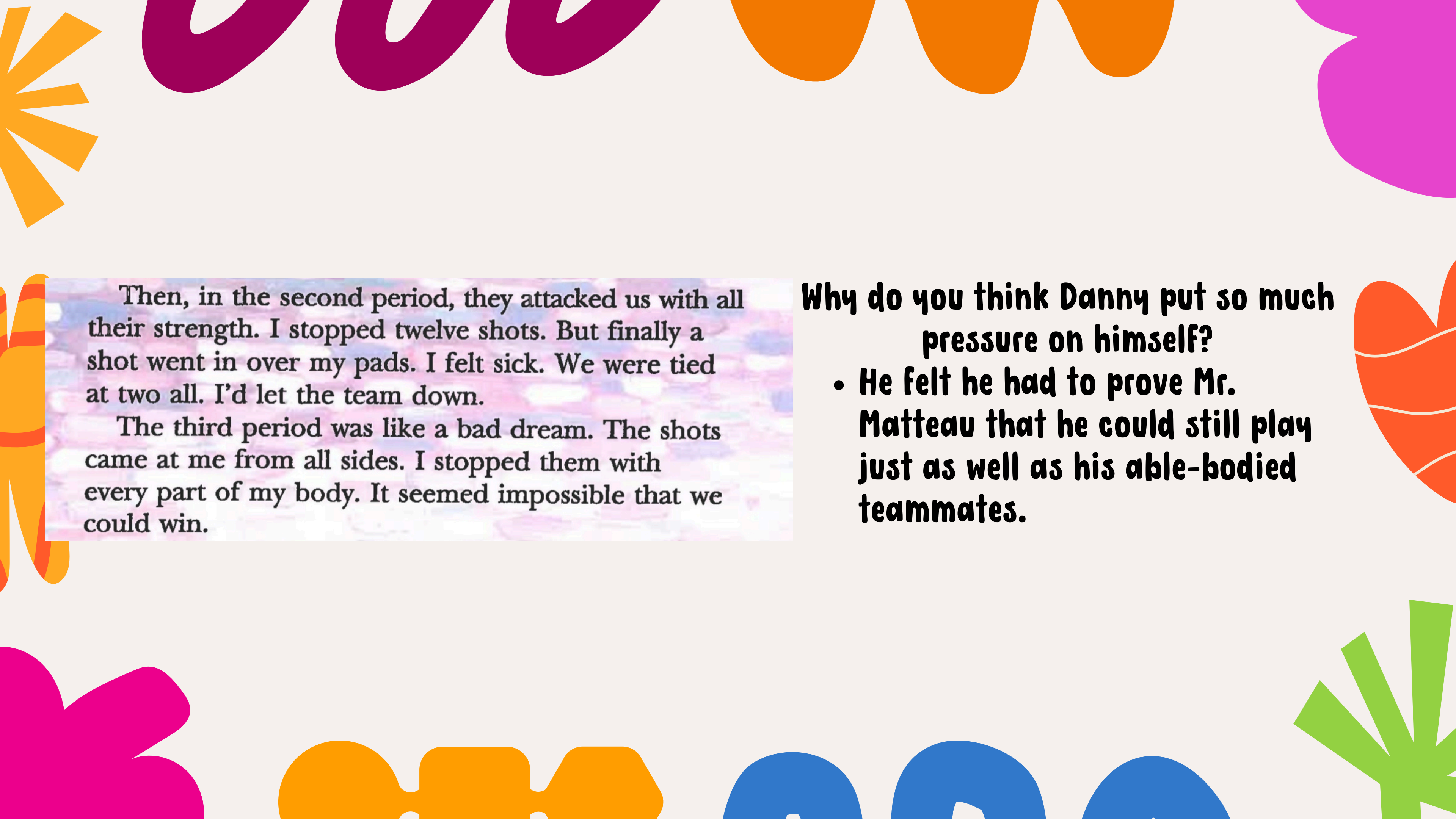
The third period was like a bad dream. The shots came at me from all sides. I stopped them with every part of my body. It seemed impossible that we could win.



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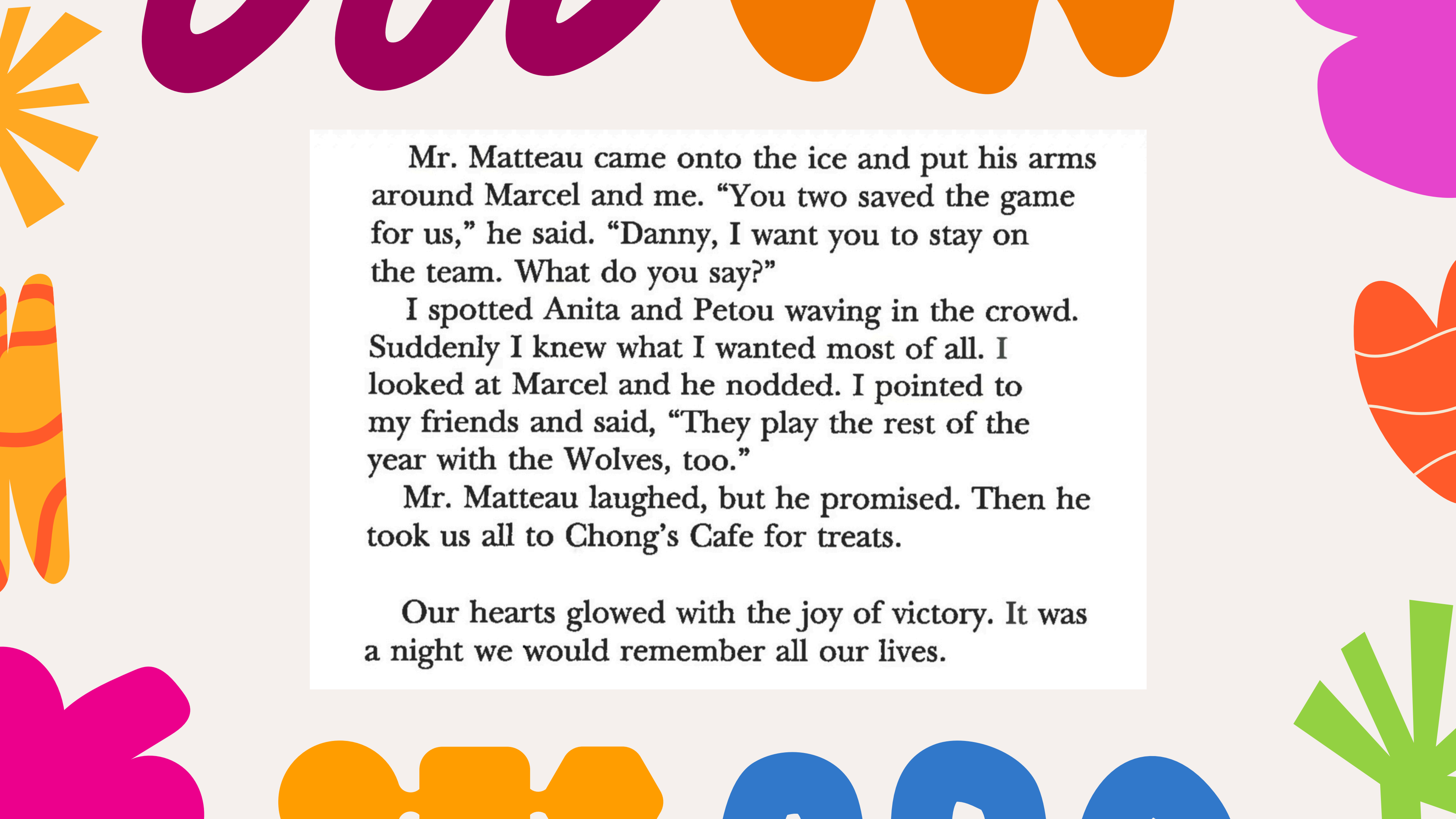


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Why do you think Danny put so much pressure on himself?

- **He felt he had to prove Mr. Matteau that he could still play just as well as his able-bodied teammates.**



Mr. Matteau came onto the ice and put his arms around Marcel and me. “You two saved the game for us,” he said. “Danny, I want you to stay on the team. What do you say?”

I spotted Anita and Petou waving in the crowd. Suddenly I knew what I wanted most of all. I looked at Marcel and he nodded. I pointed to my friends and said, “They play the rest of the year with the Wolves, too.”

Mr. Matteau laughed, but he promised. Then he took us all to Chong’s Cafe for treats.

Our hearts glowed with the joy of victory. It was a night we would remember all our lives.

Highlights

- Overcoming obstacles: Danny plays hockey despite not skating.
- Teamwork and friendship are the centre of the story.
- The Coach in the end recognizes ability rather than his original stereotypes

Bias

- Reflect real-world exclusion/bias societal attitudes:
 - Danny's disability seen as a reason to exclude him.
 - Anita is excluded for being a girl.
 - Petou is excluded for his size

Stereotypes

- Challenges
 - Danny resists the stereotype that his physical disability prevents his athletic success
 - Anita and Petou end up joining the team, resisting the stereotypes about girls and being small
- Reflect
 - Exclusion based on the fixed ideas about who "belongs" in sports
 - The title and lack of cultural context may unintentionally evoke Indigenous imagery without having an authentic representation.

Mind Map

Belonging

- The coach recognized Danny's skills and effort.
- Danny's persistence and team success helped the group shift to being accepted.
- The story demonstrates how personal achievement can create new pathways to community belonging for all.

Inclusion

- Danny, Petou, and Anita are initially excluded due to disability, gender, and size, but eventually gain inclusion.
- The narrative of the story promotes the idea that people with different abilities do belong in team activities.

Improvements

- Include explicit cultural context if moccasins are meant to reference Indigenous tradition, to avoid tokenism and enhance representation.
- Provide more background on Danny's disability to avoid outdated language (e.g., "crippled leg")



NS Bias Evaluation Tool

Partially inclusive:

- **Positives**

- **Challenges exclusion based on ability, gender, and size.**
- **Promotes belonging through achievement and acceptance**

- **Negatives**

- **Used dated descriptors for disability (used ableist language)**
- **Lack of a clear cultural voice when including elements (e.g., moccasins) that could suggest Indigenous culture without context.**



Thank you!

