

**MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

"Children...will discover the power of appreciation, respect and love and realize that who they are makes a difference."

**HELICE "SPARKY"
BRIDGES**

Creator of the
"Who I Am Makes A Difference®"
Blue Ribbon
Acknowledgement System

**Miriam
Laundry**

pictures by Jenniffer Julich

Mrs. Ruby held up a ten-dollar bill.
“Who would like one of these?” she asked her class.
Every hand in the room shot up.
“Great!” she exclaimed. “I have one for each of you!”



Alex couldn't believe it.
He had been saving up to buy a new basketball since
he'd lost his old one. Now was his chance to get it!

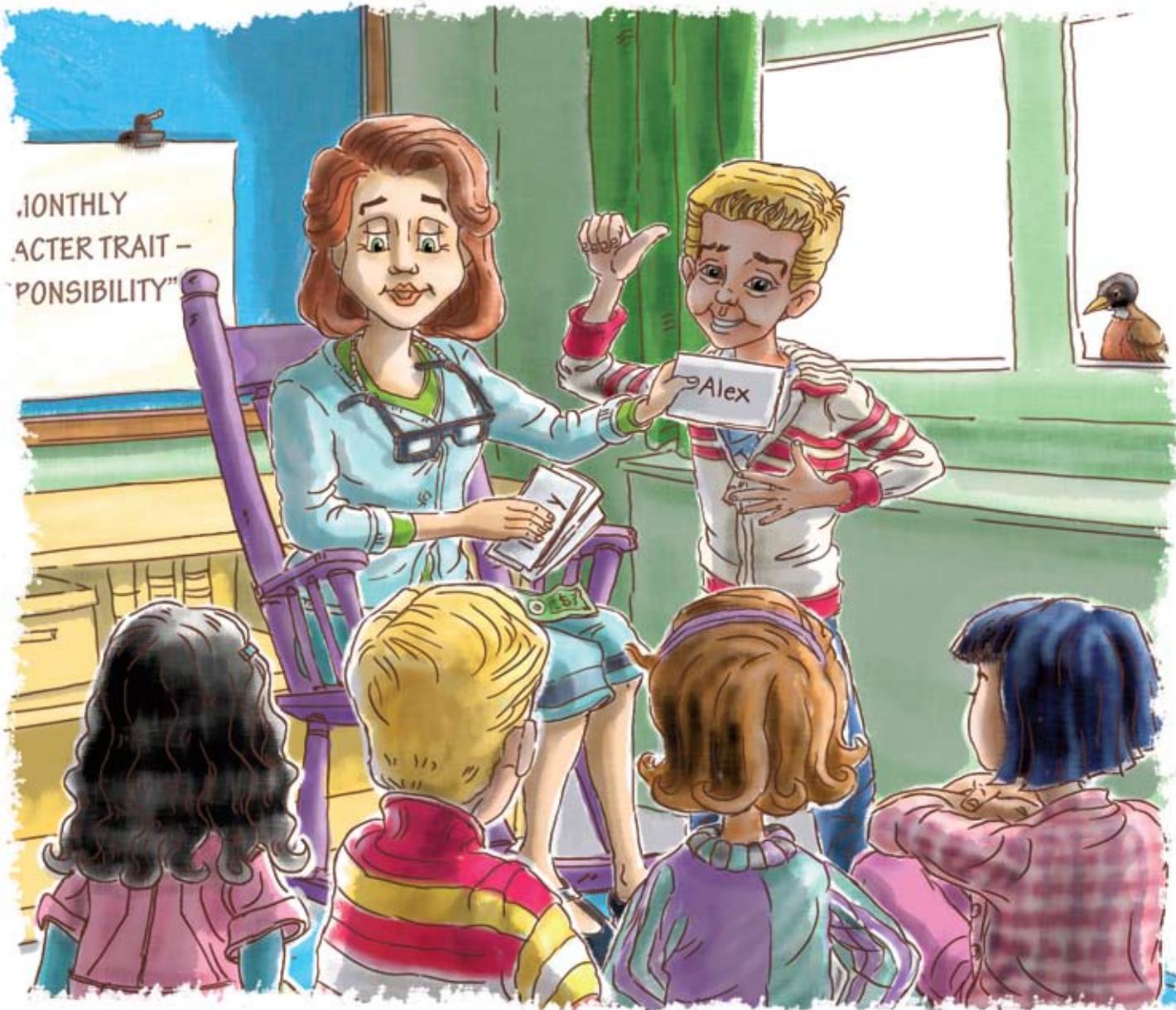
“But there’s one thing you need to know,” continued Mrs. Ruby, “you cannot spend this money on yourself.” All the hands went down.



The children looked confused as Mrs. Ruby explained further. “You must use this money to make a difference in someone’s life.”

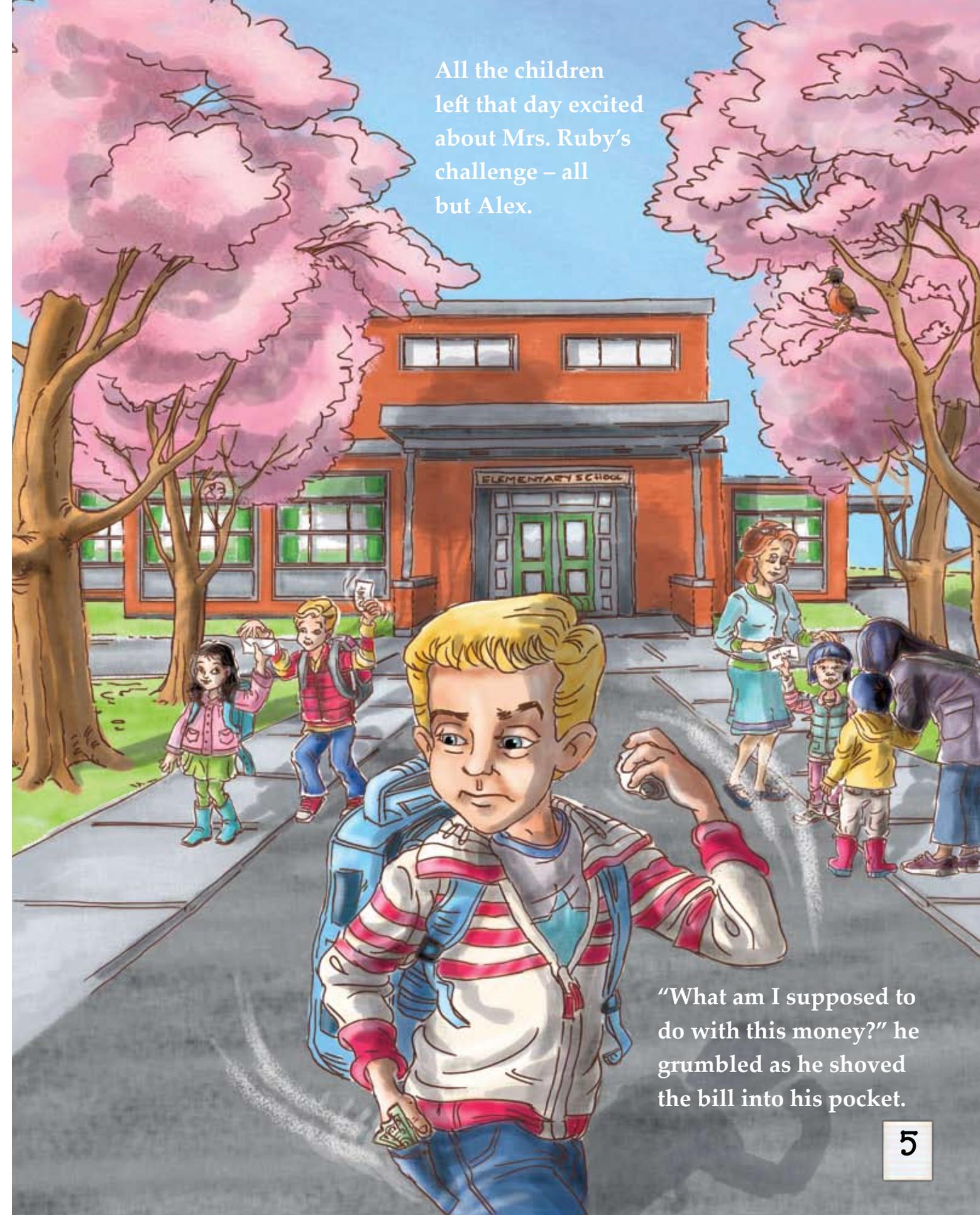
Alex couldn’t resist. “I’m a someone. Can I make a difference in my life and buy *myself* a basketball?” Mrs. Ruby clarified. “Someone else’s life, Alex.”

“Well, can someone else make a difference in *my* life and buy *me* a basketball?” asked Alex with a smirk.



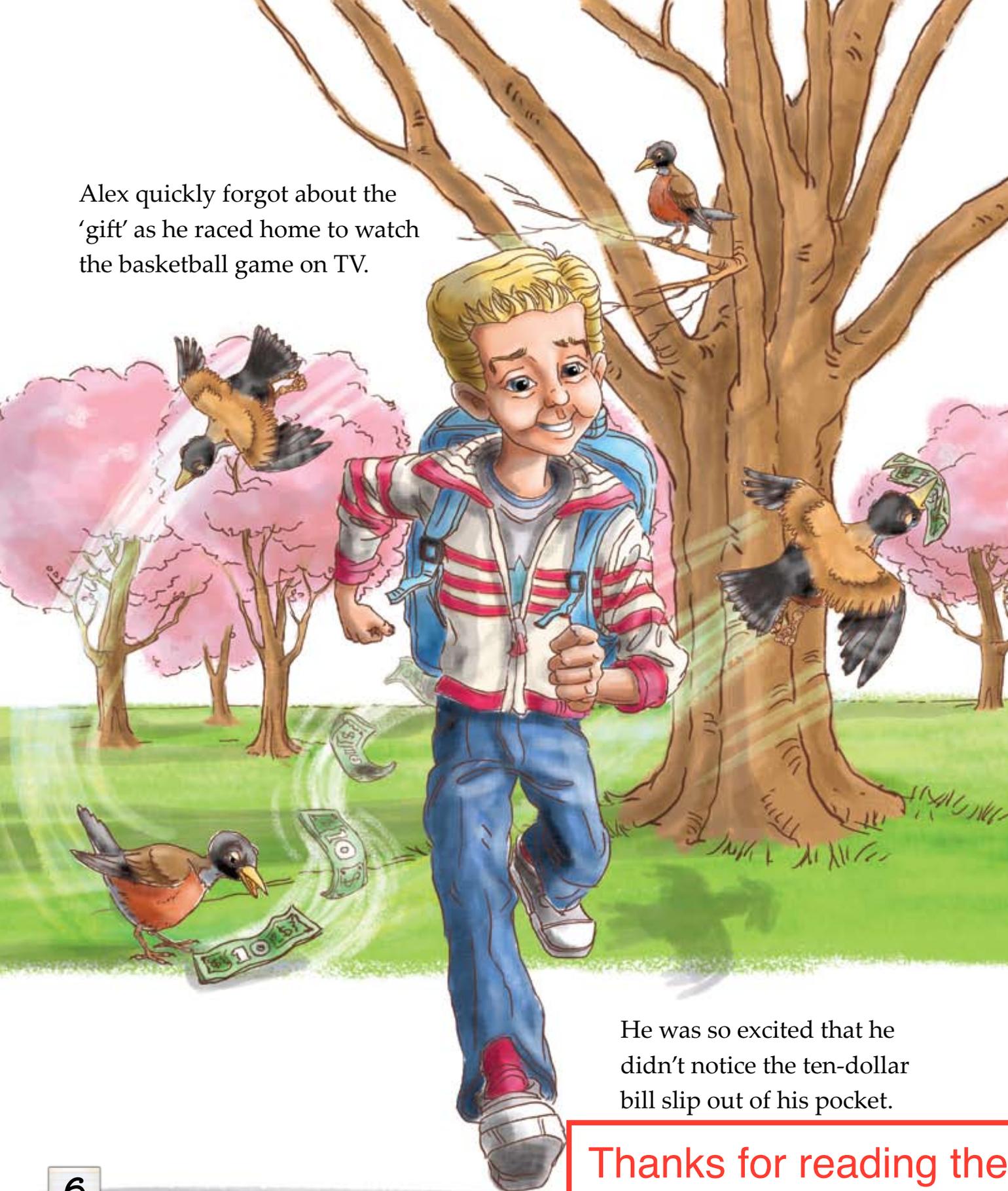
Mrs. Ruby just continued, “We have been talking all month about RESPONSIBILITY and now is your chance to demonstrate it with this money. You have one week to report to the class on how you made a difference.”

All the children left that day excited about Mrs. Ruby’s challenge – all but Alex.



“What am I supposed to do with this money?” he grumbled as he shoved the bill into his pocket.

Alex quickly forgot about the 'gift' as he raced home to watch the basketball game on TV.



He was so excited that he didn't notice the ten-dollar bill slip out of his pocket.

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The next day during gym class, the children were practising their free throw shots when Mrs. Ruby started to partner the children.

"Alex," said Mrs. Ruby,
"I'd like you to work with Molly."

