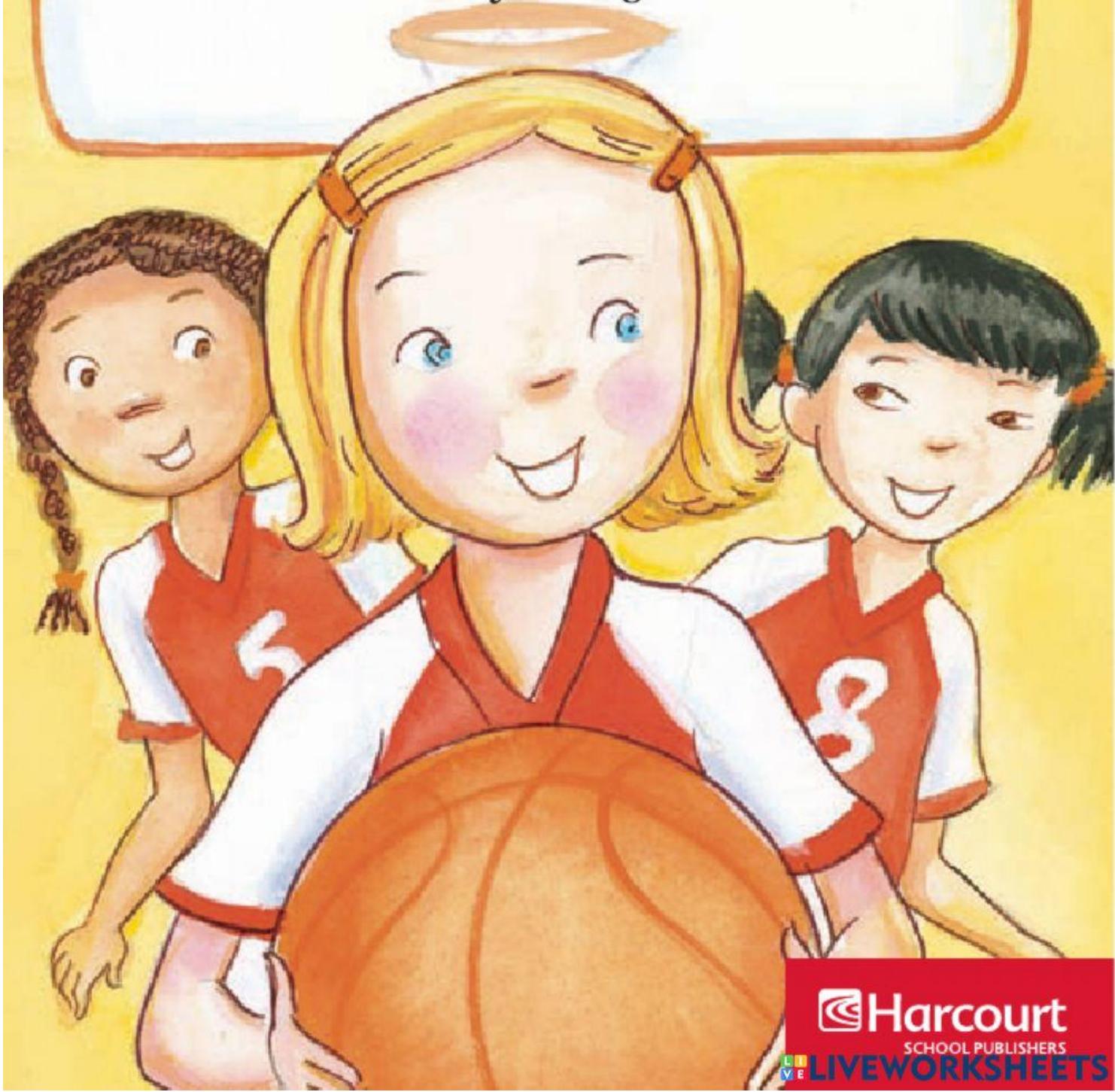


Lia Leads

by Carson Sands

illustrated by Margeaux Lucas



“Lia!” called Mom. “You’re going to be late!”

Lia sat in her room. Everything seemed the same, but it wasn’t. Sam, Lia’s best friend, had moved away.



► “Don’t worry, Lia,” Mom said.
“You have lots of other friends.”
► “I know,” Lia murmured sadly.
► Sam was her best friend. They
had always known each other and
done everything together.





► Sam was so much fun. She came up with new games. She made up stories, and she even wrote plays.

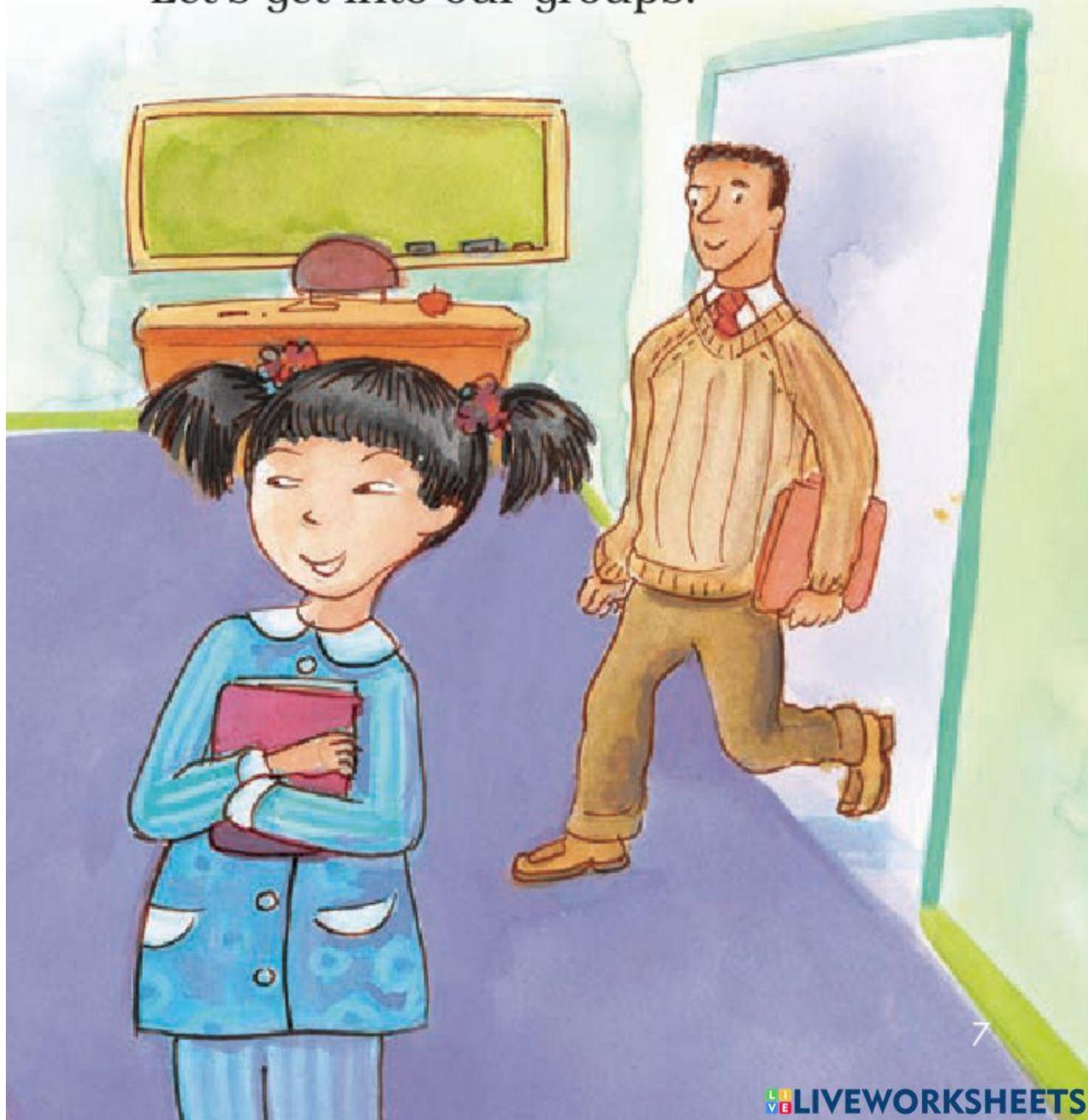
► Loyal Lia followed along. She recited the lines Sam made up, and she sang songs that Sam wrote. She modeled a costume that Sam made. Now what would she do?

- ▶ The classroom was filled with voices.
- ▶ “Hi, Lia,” said Alice sweetly.
- ▶ Lia tried to smile. “Hi, Alice.”
- ▶ “Are you signing up for basketball this year?” asked Alice.
- ▶ “I don’t know,” said Lia.
- ▶ “You definitely should!” said Alice.



► Lia wasn't sure. Sam had been a great basketball player and had led the team. Lia wasn't sure she wanted to play without her.

► "All right, class!" said Mr. Harris. "Let's get into our groups."

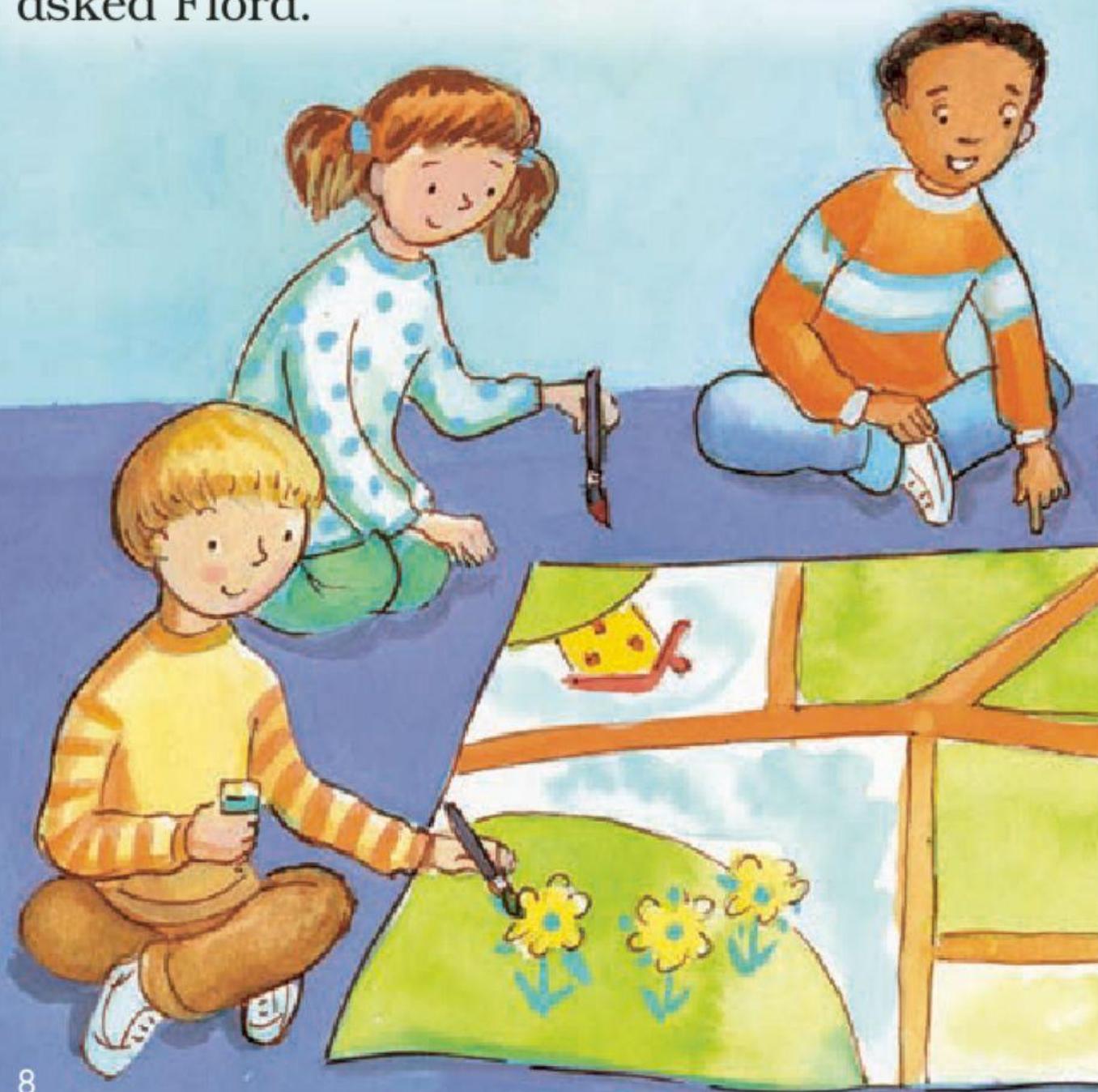


► Lia sat with her group. They were making a map of a town.

► “We need a park,” said Jen.

► “The firehouse needs to be in the center,” said Carl.

► “What do you think, Lia?” asked Flora.



► Sam had always had the good ideas.
Lia suddenly felt shy.

► “Whatever you want,” said Lia.

► The rest of the week was the same.
She didn’t lead a song in music, or
choose a book for the class. Sam
would have done both.





► Lia got a note from Sam.

► "Hi, Lia!" wrote Sam. "My new school is fun! I hope you can visit soon."

► "I am having fun, too," Lia wrote back. "Basketball won't be the same without you. I hope you can visit soon, too."