

The BANANA BUNCH

and the Birthday Party

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BLUE APPLE

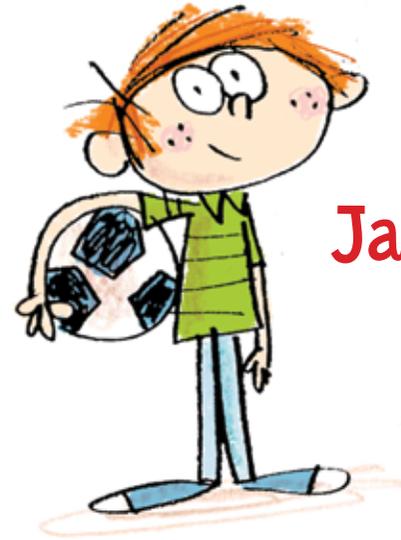
Meet

The BANANA BUNCH

Lucas



Jack



Sue



Molly



Sam



Scott



Scruffy



Chapter One

New Business



Hi. We're a group.

We're friends.

We've named ourselves the Banana Bunch.

Right now, we're off to a meeting
at our clubhouse.

You can come with us.

There's plenty of room.

Meet the gang.

There's Lucas, Sam, Jack,
Molly, Sue, Scott, and Scruffy.

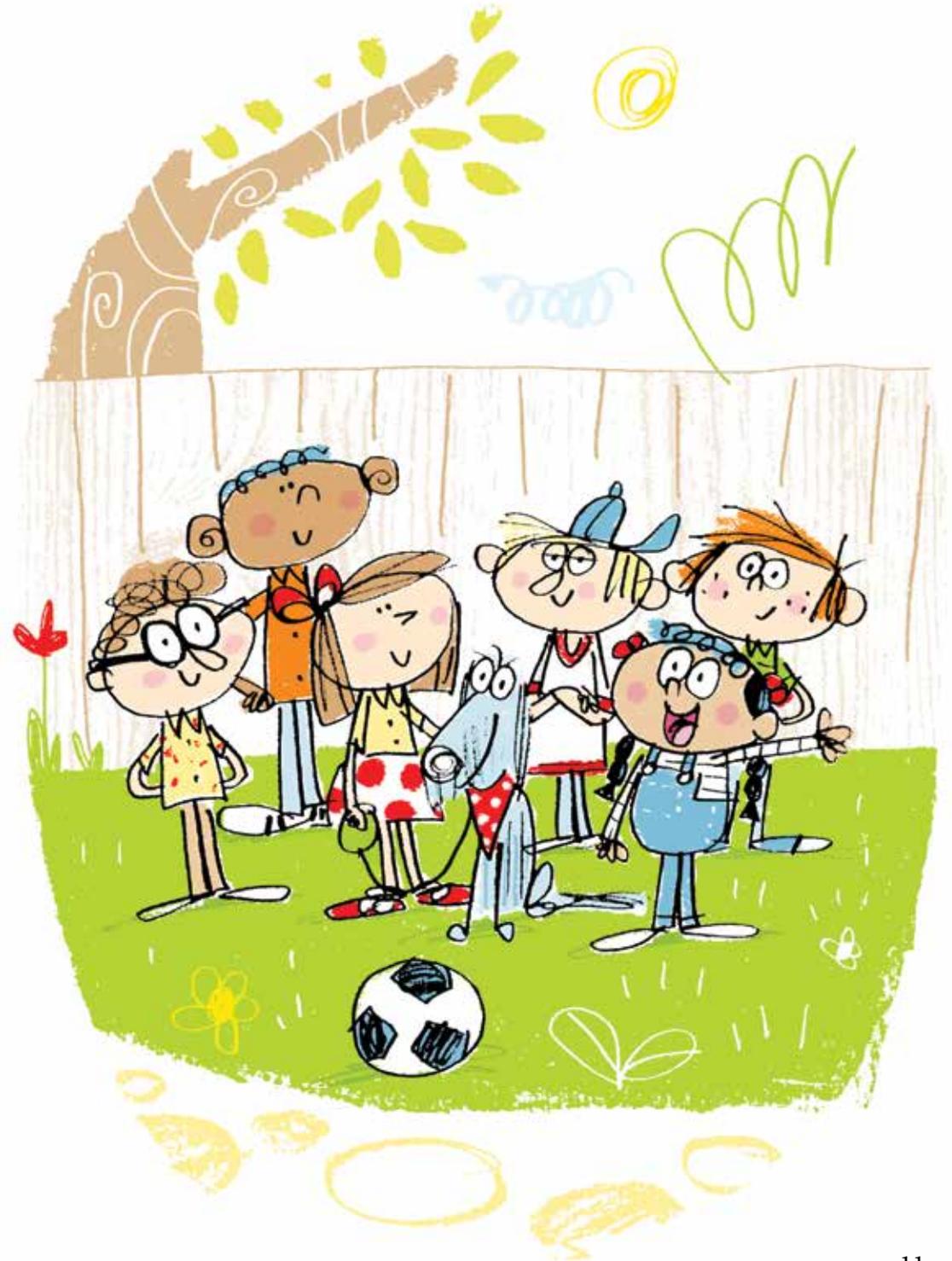
Lucas wears glasses.

Sam has freckles.

Jack is tall and Molly is not.

Sue has braids and Scott does not.

He's also Molly's dog. And Scruffy is Scruffy.



“Let’s start this meeting now,” says Lucas.

“Okay,” says Sam. “If everyone will be quiet, I’ll give the treasurer’s report.”

“Shh!” shouts Sue.

Finally Sam announces that the Banana Bunch has \$12.42.

“Wow!” says Jack. “We’re rich!”

Then Molly says, “This clubhouse is too small! I think we should make it bigger.”

“Agreed,” says Scott.

“But how?” asks Sam.

Molly answers, “We can add a porch.”

“I don’t think we should bother,” says Lucas.

“Building this clubhouse was hard enough!”

“But we can try to make it better,” insists Molly.

“I’ll send Scruffy to get some rope.”





After Scruffy leaves, Sue says,
“I have important new business.”
Everyone gets pretty quiet when Sue says
“important.”
“You all may have forgotten, but I didn’t.
Tomorrow is Scruffy’s birthday.”
“What can we do for his birthday?”
asks Lucas.
“Why should we do anything?” asks Jack.
“Scruffy is just a dog!”

“He’s not just a dog!” says Sue.

“He’s a special dog, who also happens
to be a regular member of our club.

I think we should have a party.”

“I think we should buy Scruffy a present,”
adds Sam.

“Let’s vote,” says Lucas.

“Yeses stand up and nos stay down,”
says Molly.

Lucas looks around and counts.

“There are six yeses and zero nos—
the vote is unanimous!”



“I’d like to buy the present,” says Sam.

“I’d like to go with him,” says Jack.

“Me, too,” says Sue.

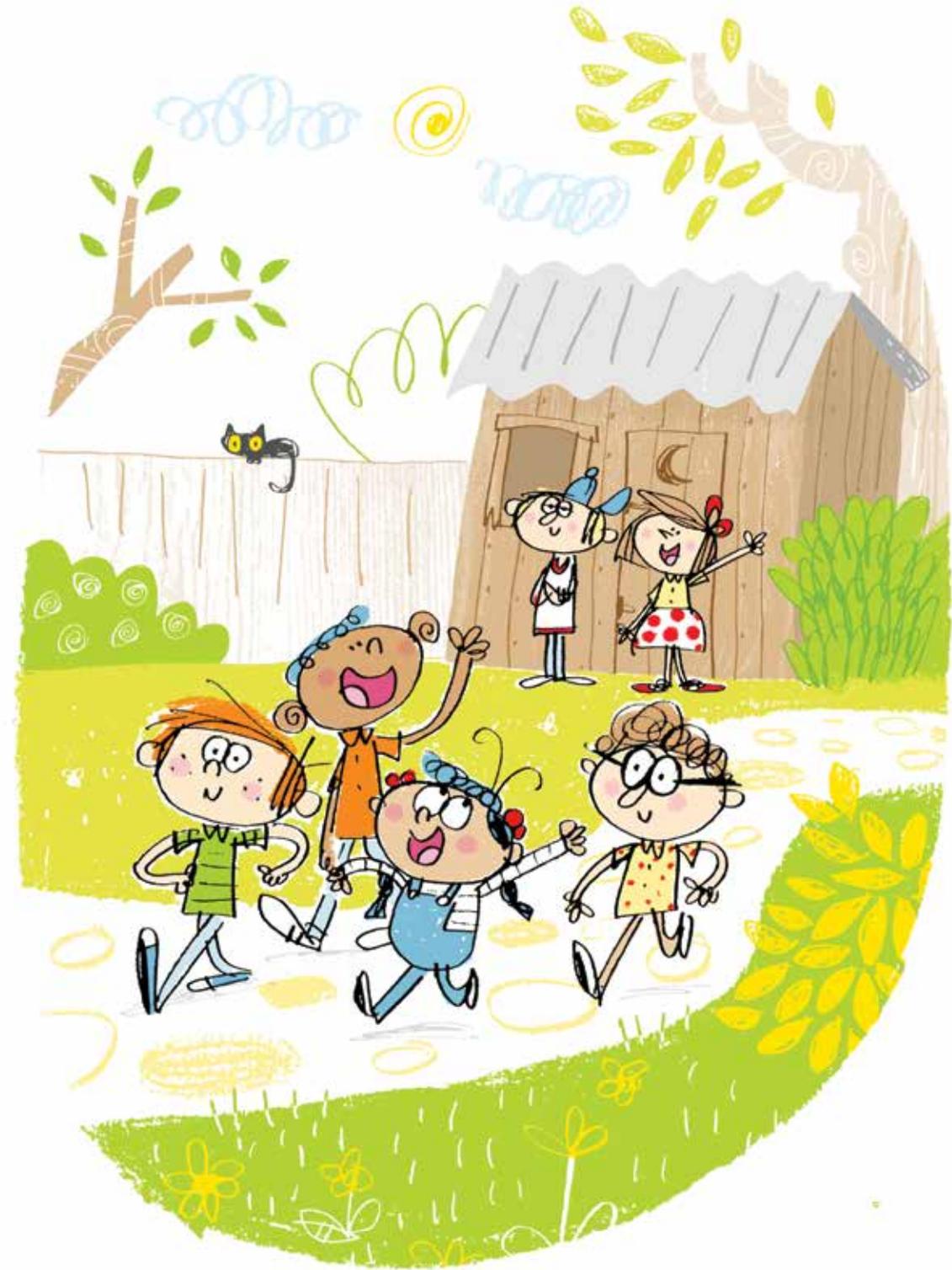
“And me, too,” says Lucas.

“I’ll stay with Molly and Scruffy.

We can fix the clubhouse,” says Scott.

“Good idea,” says Sam.

“If you two stay here with Scruffy,
then the present we buy will be a surprise.”



Molly and Scott sit down to wait for Scruffy.

Before long, they hear him.

“Scruffy, Scruffy, we’re here!” shouts Scott.

Scruffy heads straight for Molly.

He stops at her feet, then drops the rope.

Molly gives Scruffy a pat and says,

“I knew you’d find it. Now we can get to work.”



Chapter Two

More Room



“Let’s get moving,” says Molly.

“We need to find a couple of broomsticks to use as stakes.”

“Molly, sometimes you’re so weird,” says Scott.

“Where do you expect us to find two broomsticks?”

“Follow me,” says Molly.

Molly leads Scott toward the street.

Scruffy follows them.

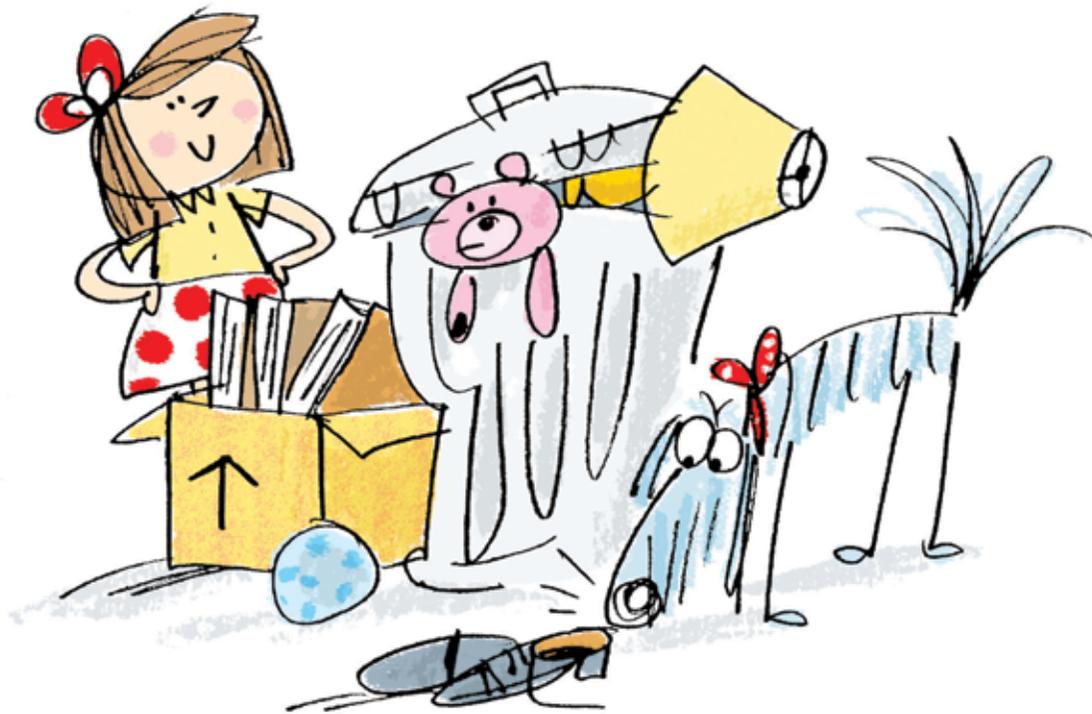
Molly knows tomorrow is clean-up day.

Molly stops in front of a big pile.

Scruffy sniffs.

Scott says, "We're wasting our time.

We'll never find what we need."



Molly is hopeful.

The stuff looks good.

There is an old lamp, a broken wagon,
lots of cartons, some pieces of carpet,
snow tires, newspapers, an air conditioner—
but no broomsticks.

"Come on! There's nothing here," Scott says.

“Just one more minute,” says Molly.

Then Scruffy barks. “Arf! Arf!”



He sees something!

Molly and Scott run to see what Scruffy found.

Sure enough, it is something good—
a big beach umbrella.

“This is great!” says Molly.



Molly and Scott carry the umbrella
back to the clubhouse.



“Now what are we going to do?” asks Scott.

“Don’t worry,” answers Molly.

“Just get out of my way! You too, Scruffy.”

Scott and Scruffy step aside.

They both watch Molly as she digs the
umbrella into the ground, then opens it.

“That’s a pretty small porch,” says Scott.

“Well, if you want to make it bigger,” says Molly,

“you’ll have to help me with the rope.”

Scott says, “Okay, I’ll help.”

