

# BETTER THINGS TO DO

Emilia Rivas  
illustrated by Garth Glazier



Luis hopped off the school bus like he did every day with one thing in mind—video games.



2

He went straight in the door and started playing.



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Luis was so engrossed in his game he didn't even hear his mother speaking to him. "Luis," she said, "no video games today! Go outside and play with your friends."



Luis went outside to play with Kyle, his best friend. They rode their bicycles to the park. Luis had to admit he liked riding his bike with Kyle. Today the two boys found a new way to get to the park that was filled with some cool hills.



Two other boys from their school were playing basketball. Luis and Kyle joined them.

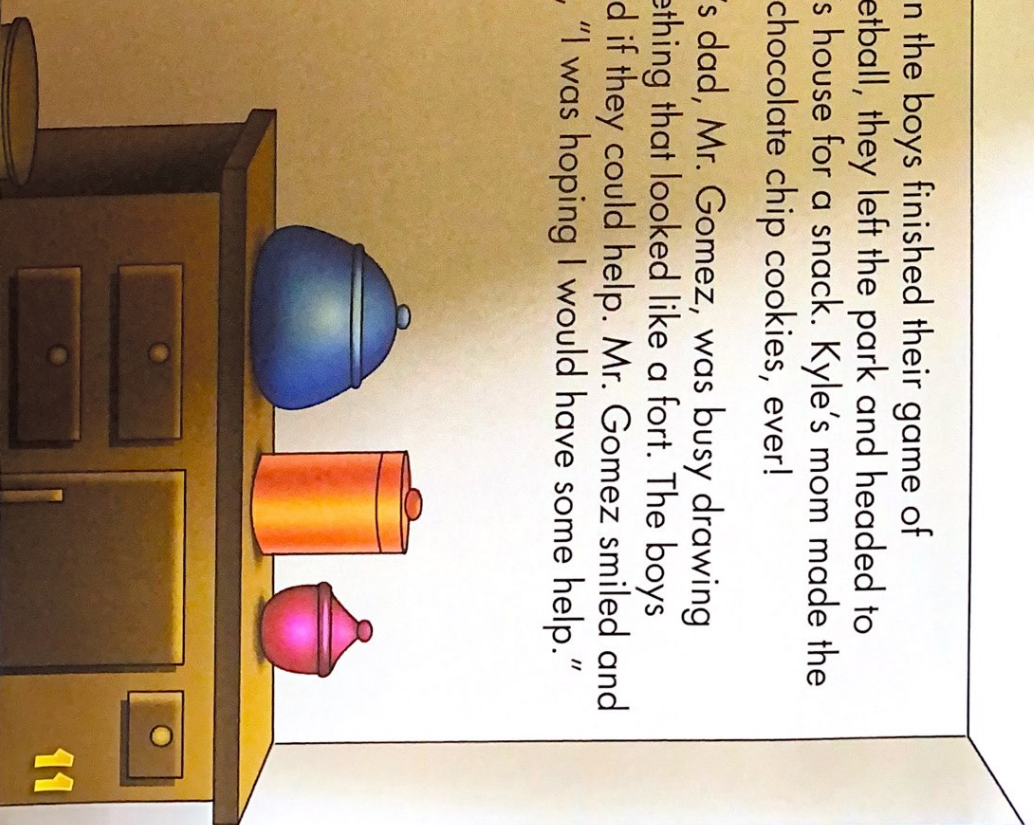


They had a great time and Luis found out he was really good at getting the basketball into the hoop.

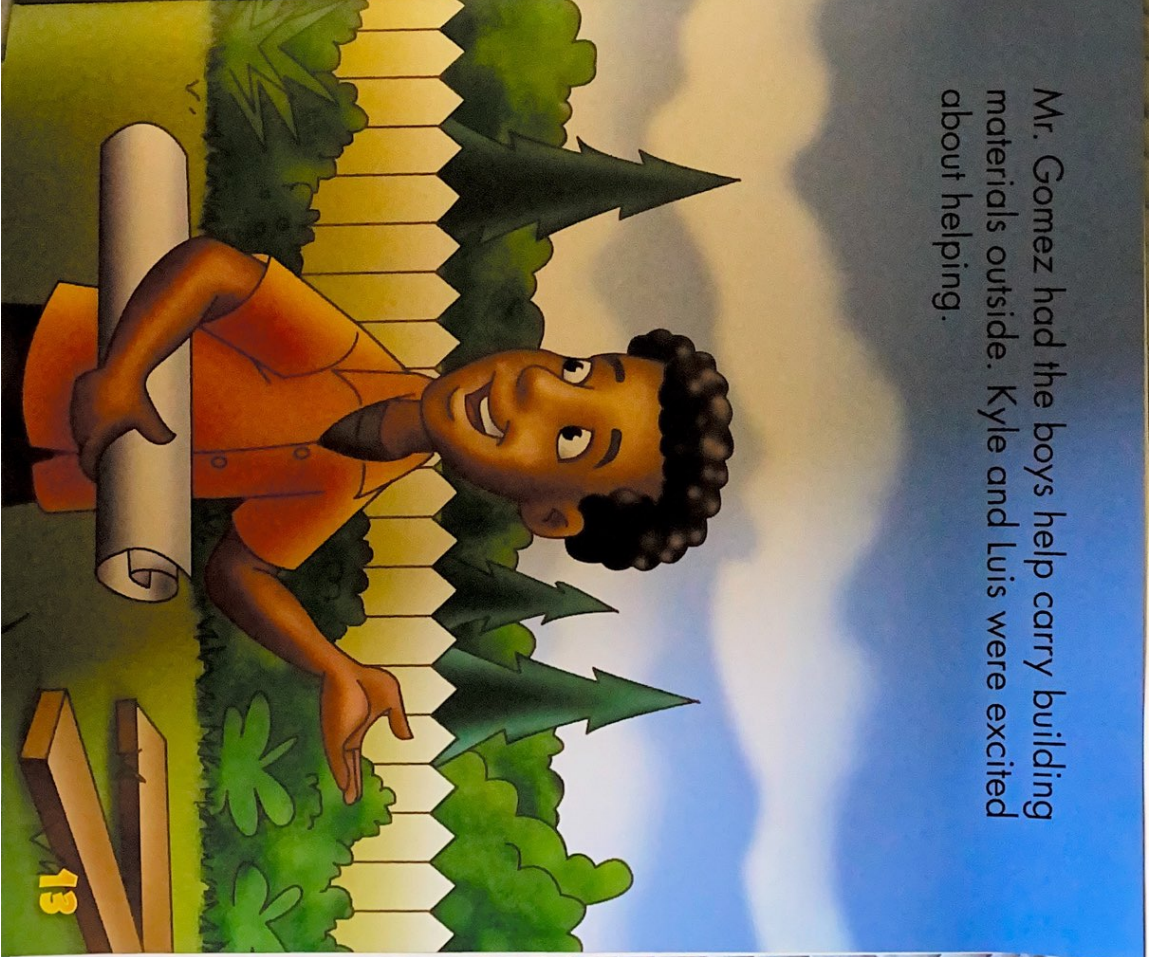


When the boys finished their game of basketball, they left the park and headed to Kyle's house for a snack. Kyle's mom made the best chocolate chip cookies, ever!

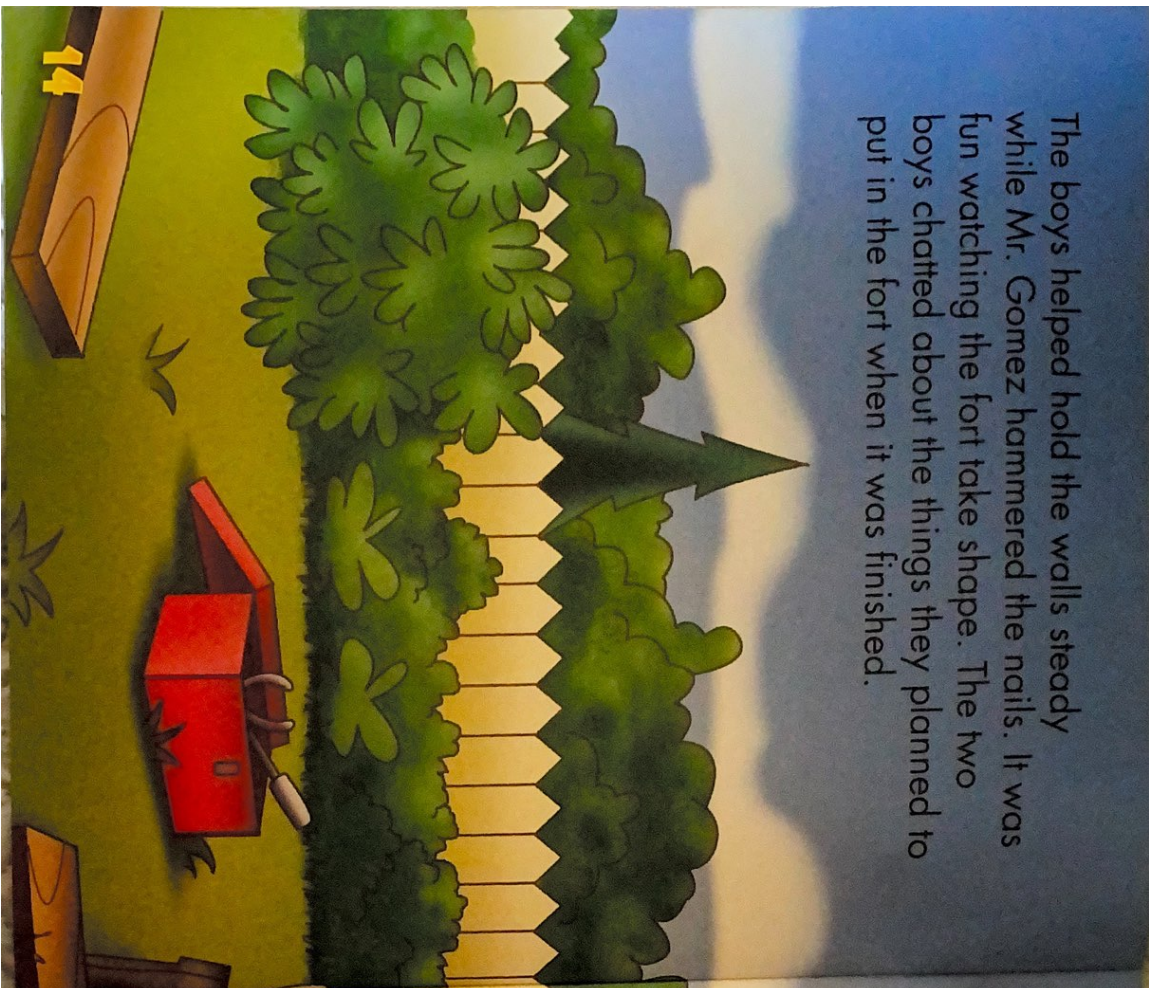
Kyle's dad, Mr. Gomez, was busy drawing something that looked like a fort. The boys asked if they could help. Mr. Gomez smiled and said, "I was hoping I would have some help."



Mr. Gomez had the boys help carry building materials outside. Kyle and Luis were excited about helping.



The boys helped hold the walls steady while Mr. Gomez hammered the nails. It was fun watching the fort take shape. The two boys chatted about the things they planned to put in the fort when it was finished.



Luis told his mom all about riding his bike, playing basketball, and building the fort. He decided he didn't want to spend so much time watching TV or playing video games anymore. He had better things to do!





**About the Author**

Emilia Rivas was born in Lima, Peru. She currently lives in Cypress, Texas with her husband (Luis), her two children (Luchito and Santiago), and her two dogs (Billy and Chachi). She loves to read, play the guitar, and cook for her family and friends.

**About the Illustrator**

Garth Glazier was born in 1958 in North Detroit. He spent his childhood in the forest with the plants and animals. He always knew that he would be an artist and a writer. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Alma College in drawing, painting, and printmaking. He has been an illustrator for 27 years working in watercolor, colored pencil, gouache, ink, and acrylic. He and his wife, who is a chemist and artist, have two daughters—both scientists.



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