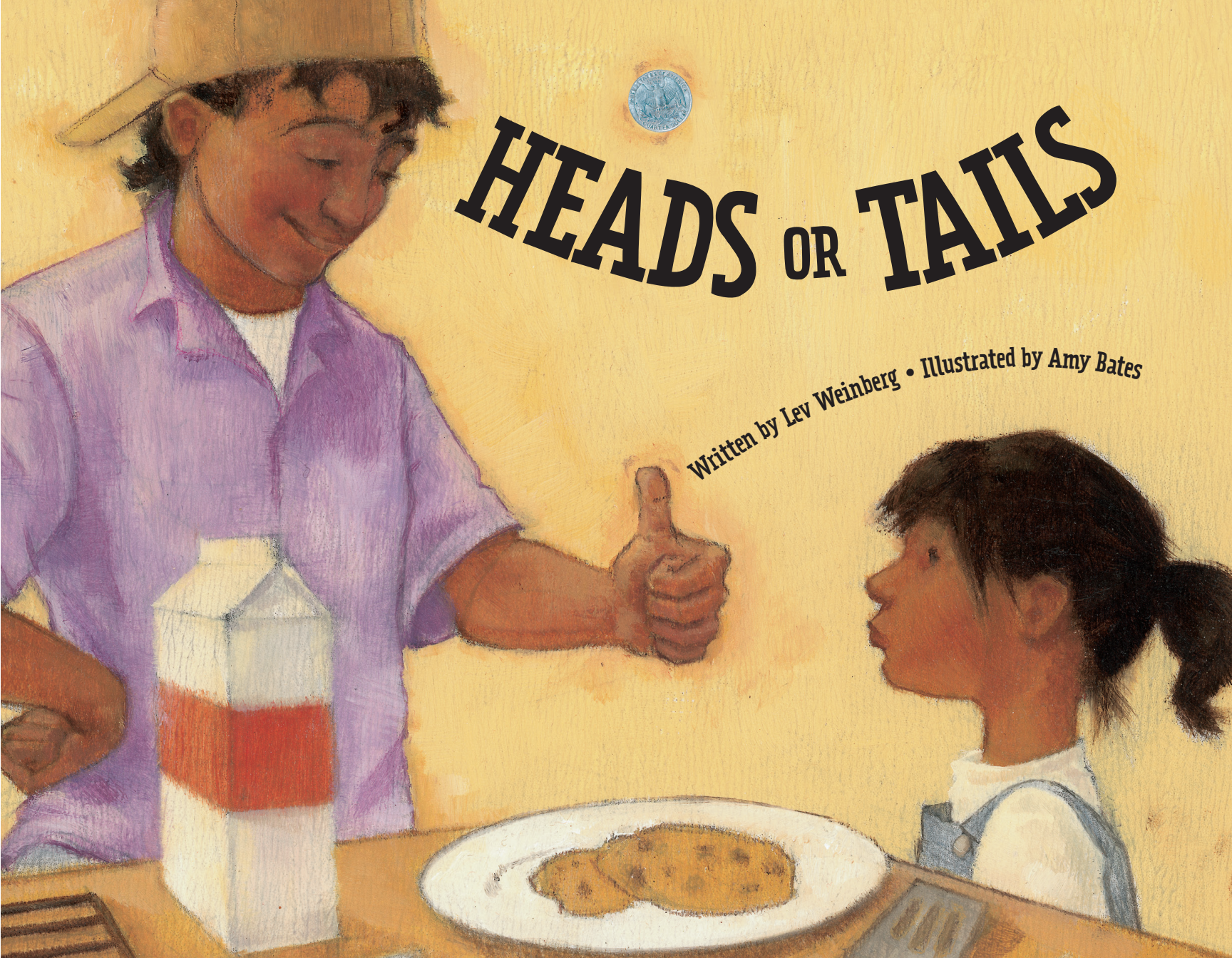
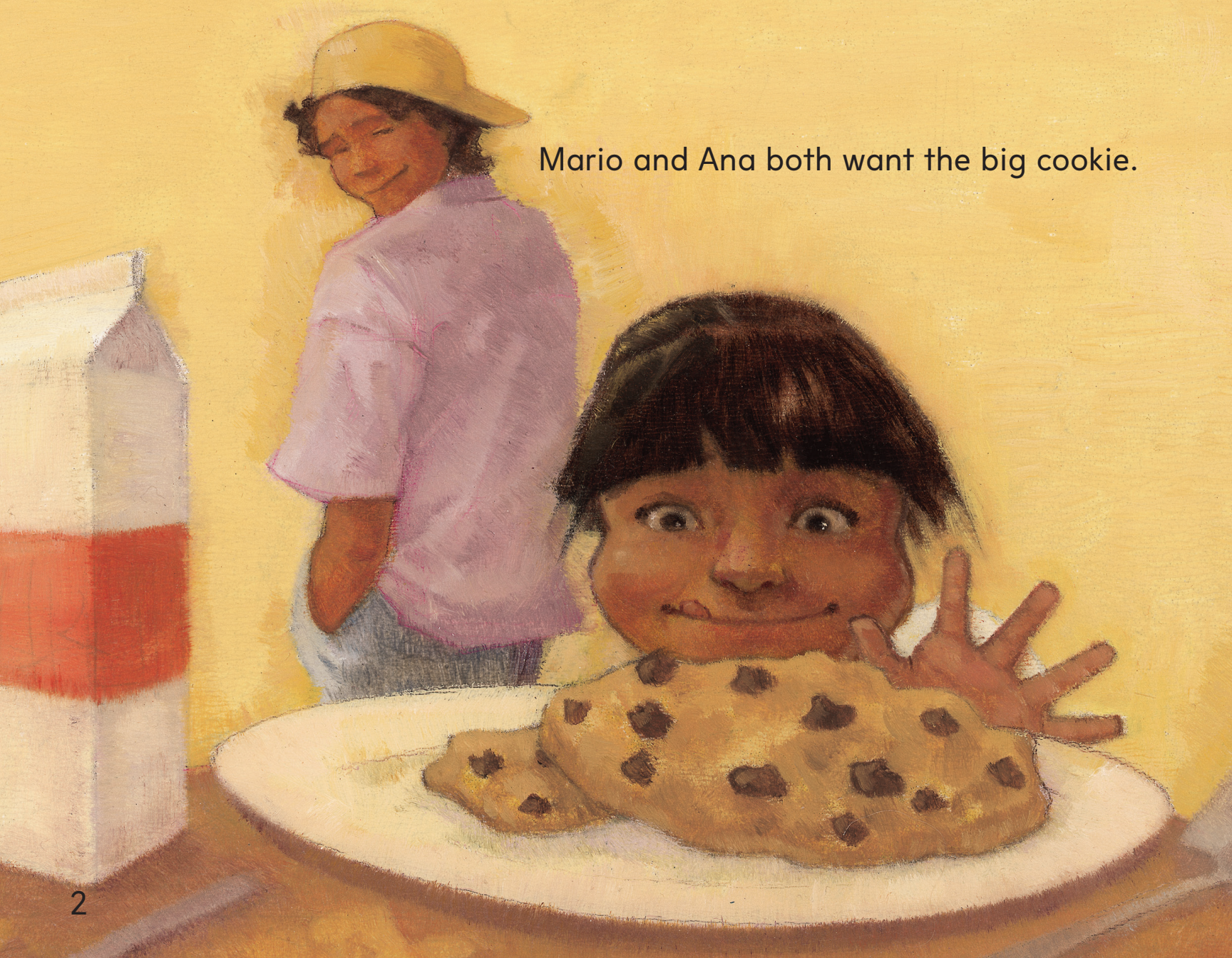




HEADS OR TAILS

Written by Lev Weinberg • Illustrated by Amy Bates



An illustration in a soft, painterly style. In the foreground, a large chocolate chip cookie sits on a white plate. A young girl with dark hair and bangs is looking at the cookie with wide, excited eyes and a slight smile, her hands raised as if reaching for it. In the background, a young boy wearing a yellow hat and a purple shirt is looking back over his shoulder at the girl. To the left, a carton of milk with a red stripe is visible. The background is a warm, yellowish-gold color.

Mario and Ana both want the big cookie.

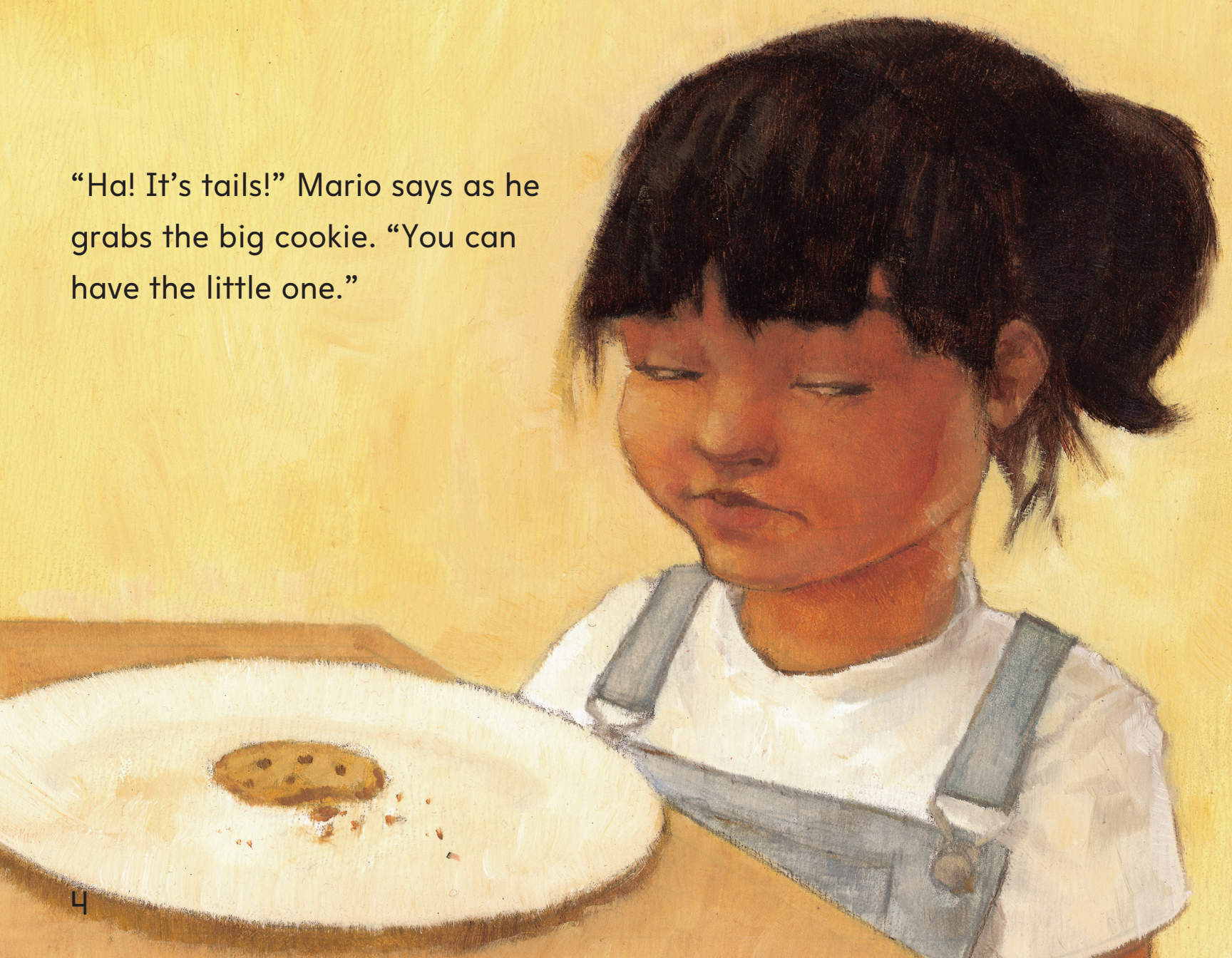


“Let’s flip a quarter for it,” says Mario.

“You call it. Heads or tails?”

Up goes the quarter. “Heads!” Ana shouts.

“Ha! It’s tails!” Mario says as he grabs the big cookie. “You can have the little one.”





“Let’s flip again,” says Mario.

“The loser has to clear the table.”

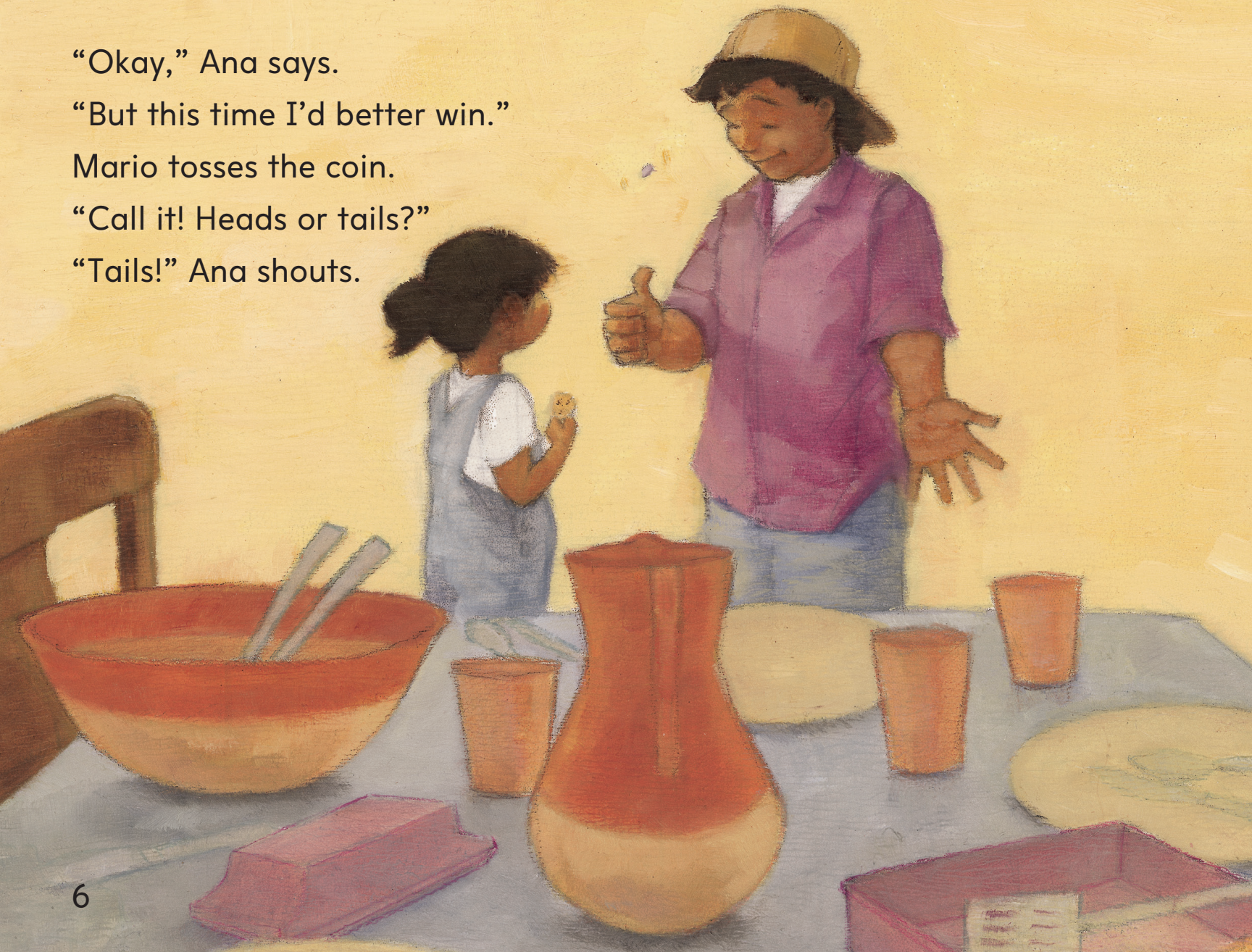
“Okay,” Ana says.

“But this time I’d better win.”

Mario tosses the coin.

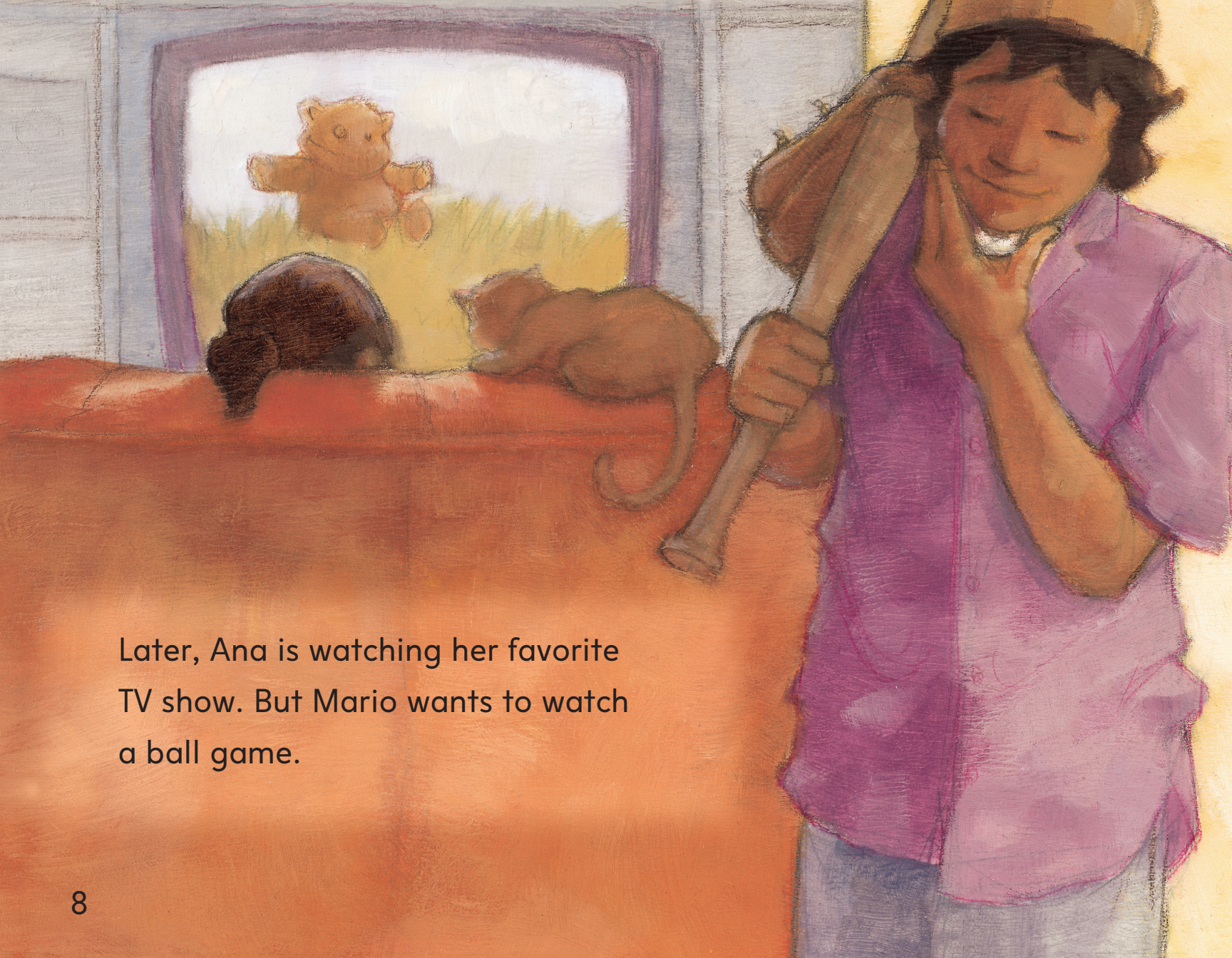
“Call it! Heads or tails?”

“Tails!” Ana shouts.



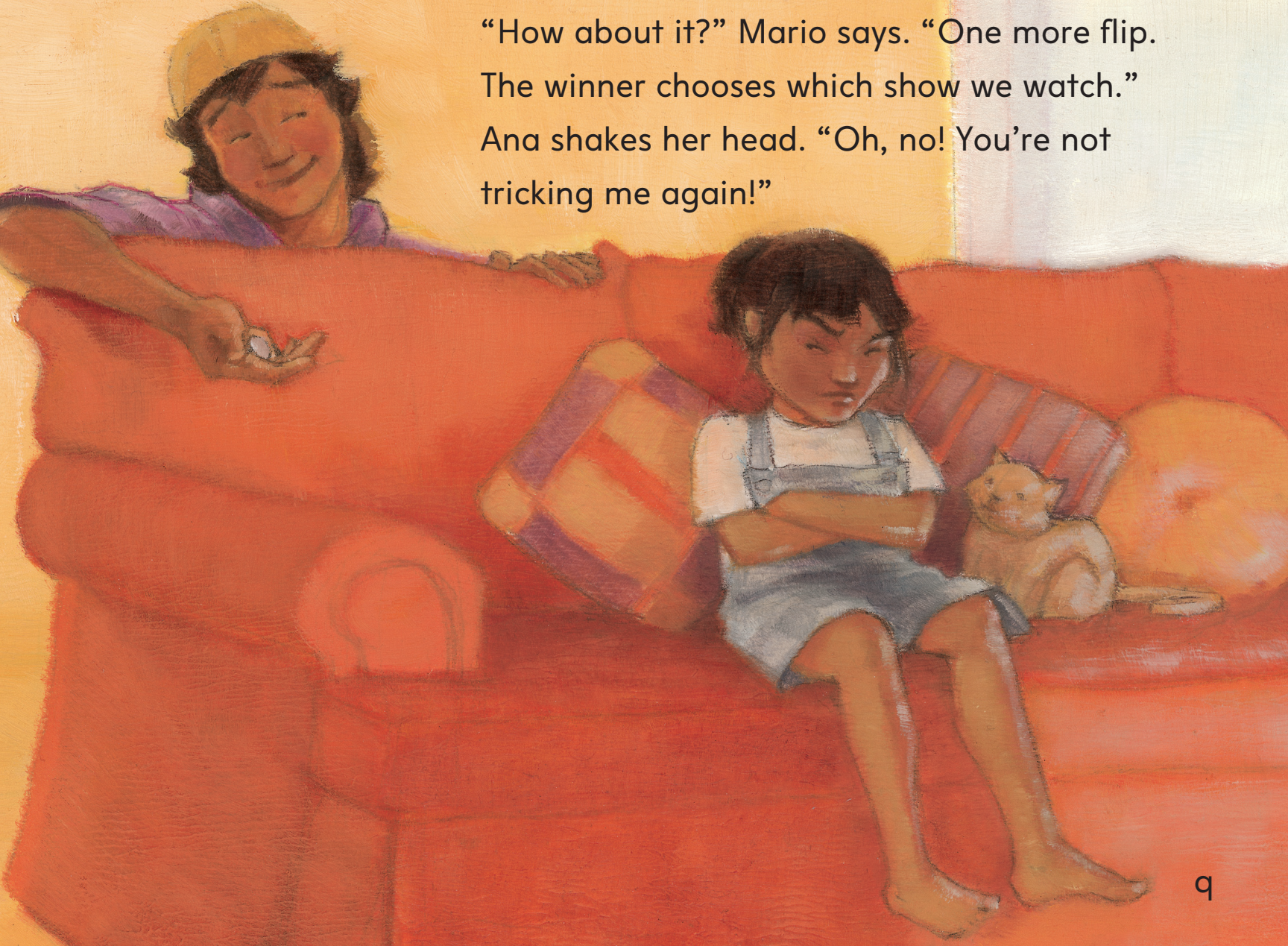


“It’s heads!” Mario laughs. “See you later!”
“That’s not fair!” Ana whispers.
“I should have won!”



Later, Ana is watching her favorite TV show. But Mario wants to watch a ball game.

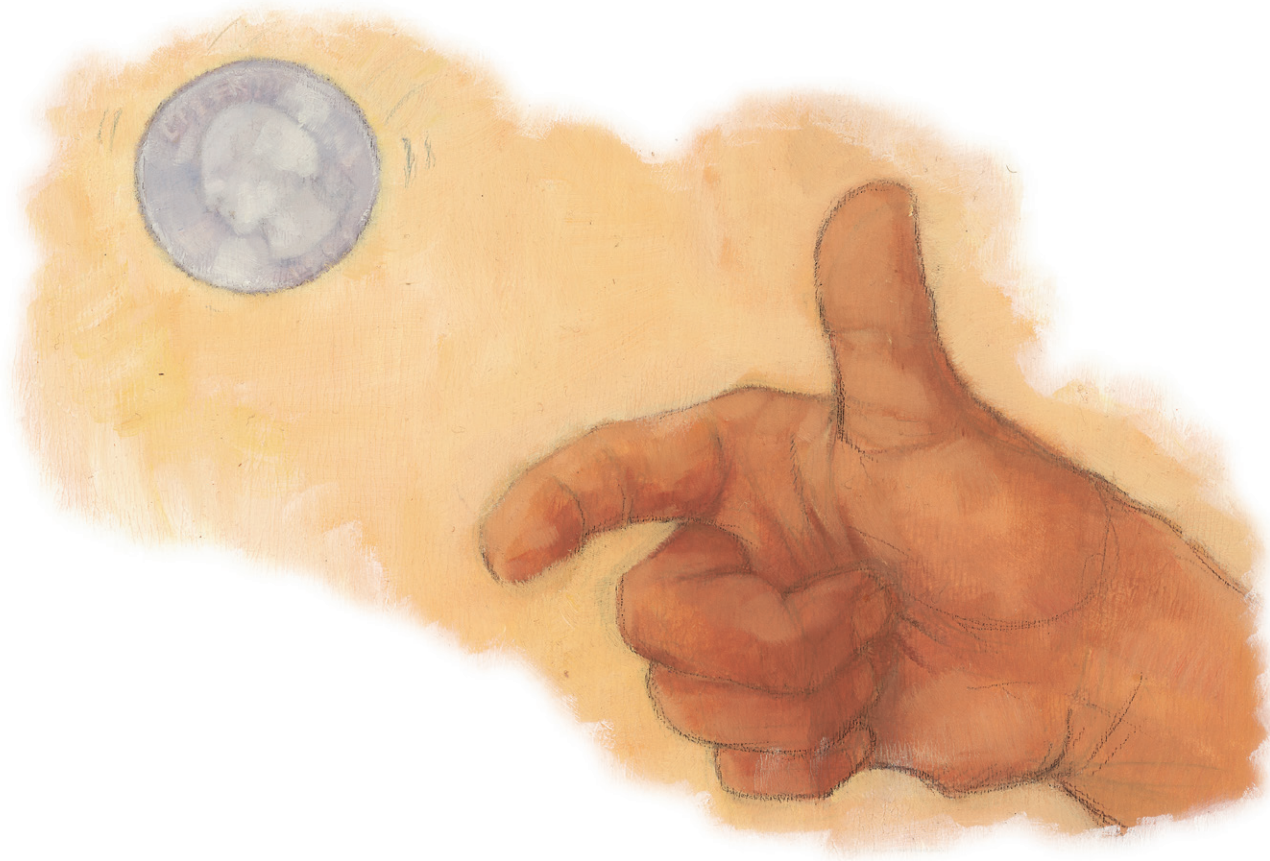
“How about it?” Mario says. “One more flip. The winner chooses which show we watch.” Ana shakes her head. “Oh, no! You’re not tricking me again!”





“It’s no trick!” Mario says. “It’s just probability! A coin has two sides. When we flip, it’s equally likely to come up heads or tails!”

“So I could still win?” Ana asks.

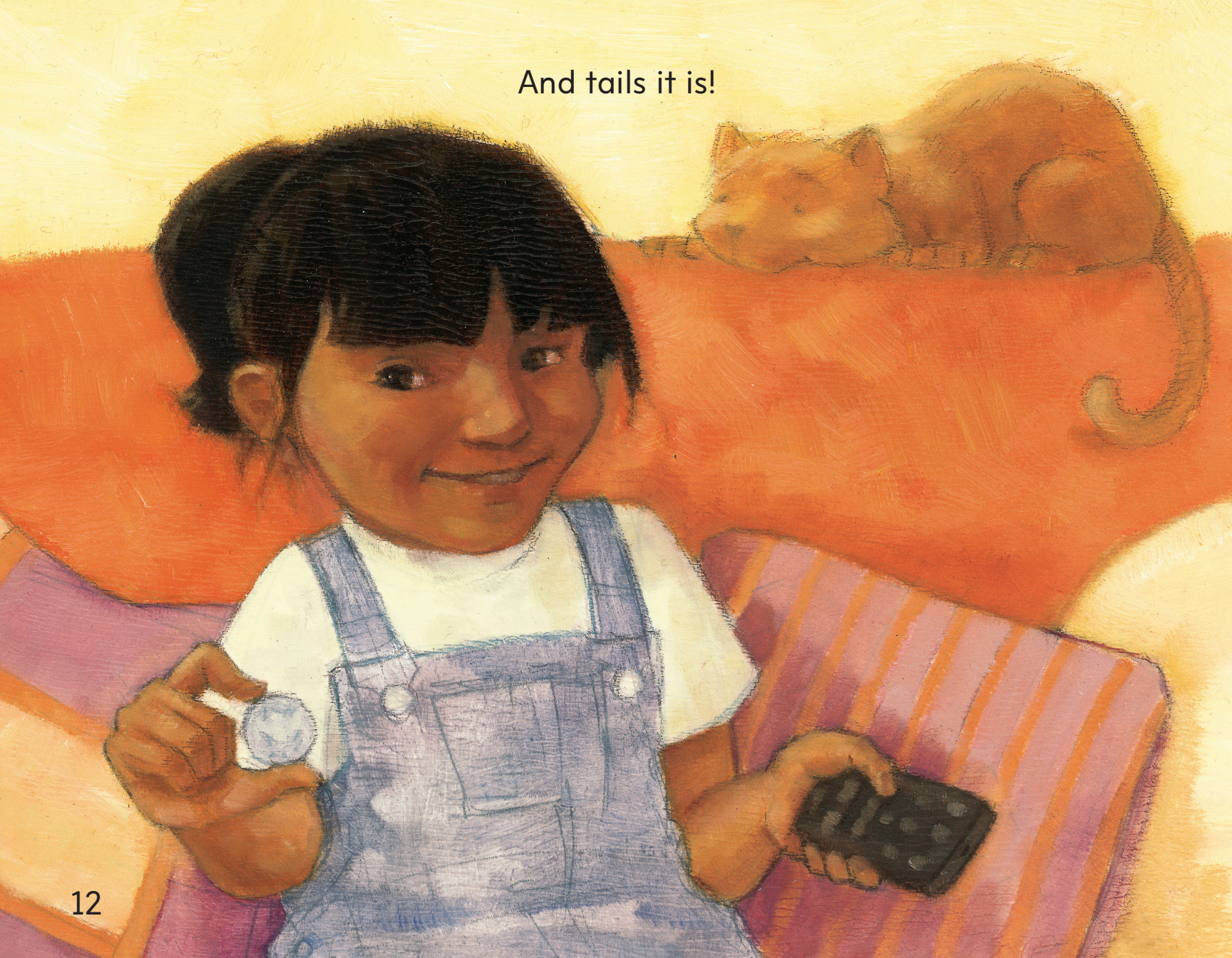


“Try it.” Mario tosses the quarter.

“Heads or tails?”

“Tails!” Ana shouts.

And tails it is!



Math & Science

Probability

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