

Level 6



A Champion Beyond the Board



By Cathy Hite Sakumalefo
Illustrated by Anton Syadrov

A Champion Beyond the Board



By Cathy Hite Sakumalefo
Illustrated by Anton Syadrov

Library For All Ltd.



Leisara was a lively 14-year-old girl from Siviri, a small village on Efate in Vanuatu. She was the star of her school's sports team, playing soccer and volleyball with skill and passion.



Her dream was to one day represent Vanuatu in sports. Her coaches believed she had what it took to achieve it.

But one rainy afternoon, everything changed.
As Leisara was running home, she slipped on a
muddy slope and fell, badly.



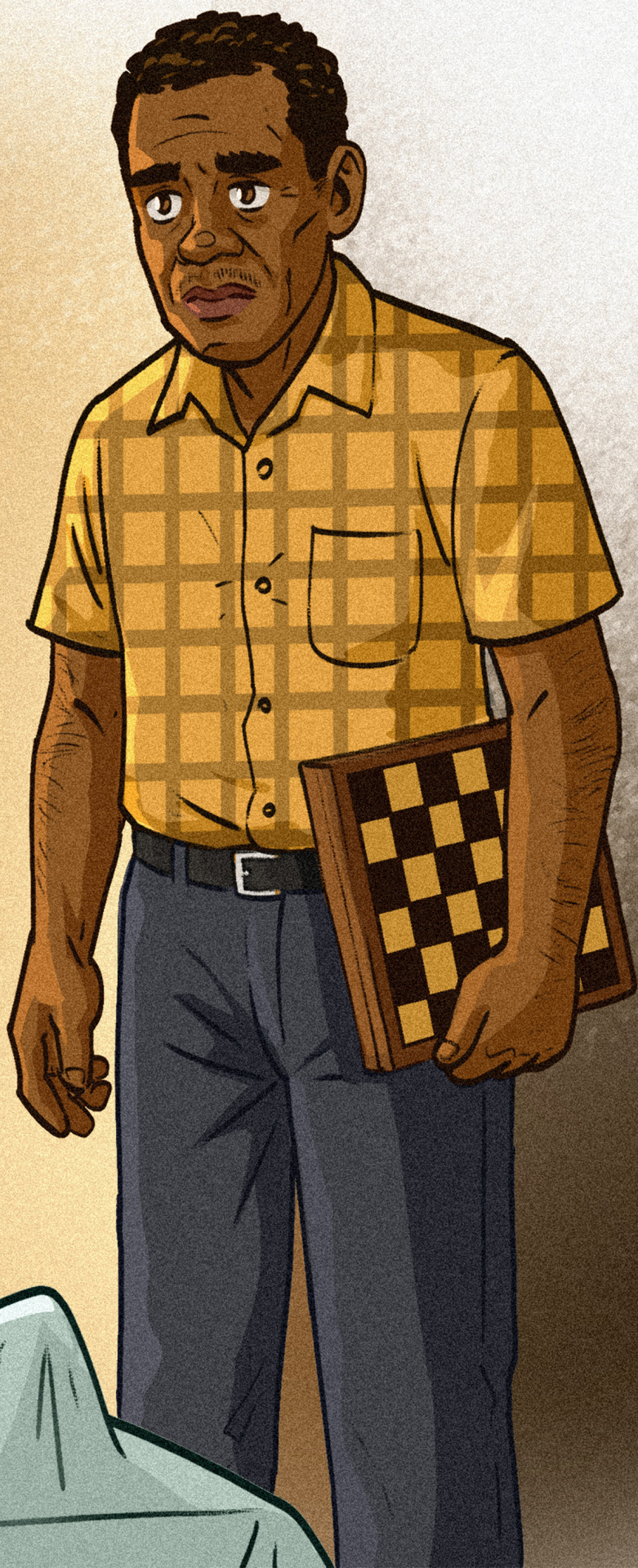
The accident caused a serious injury to her back, leaving her unable to walk or play sports again.



Leisara was heartbroken. She stayed in her room for weeks, feeling like her dreams were gone forever. Her family didn't know how to help her, and they missed her cheerful smile.

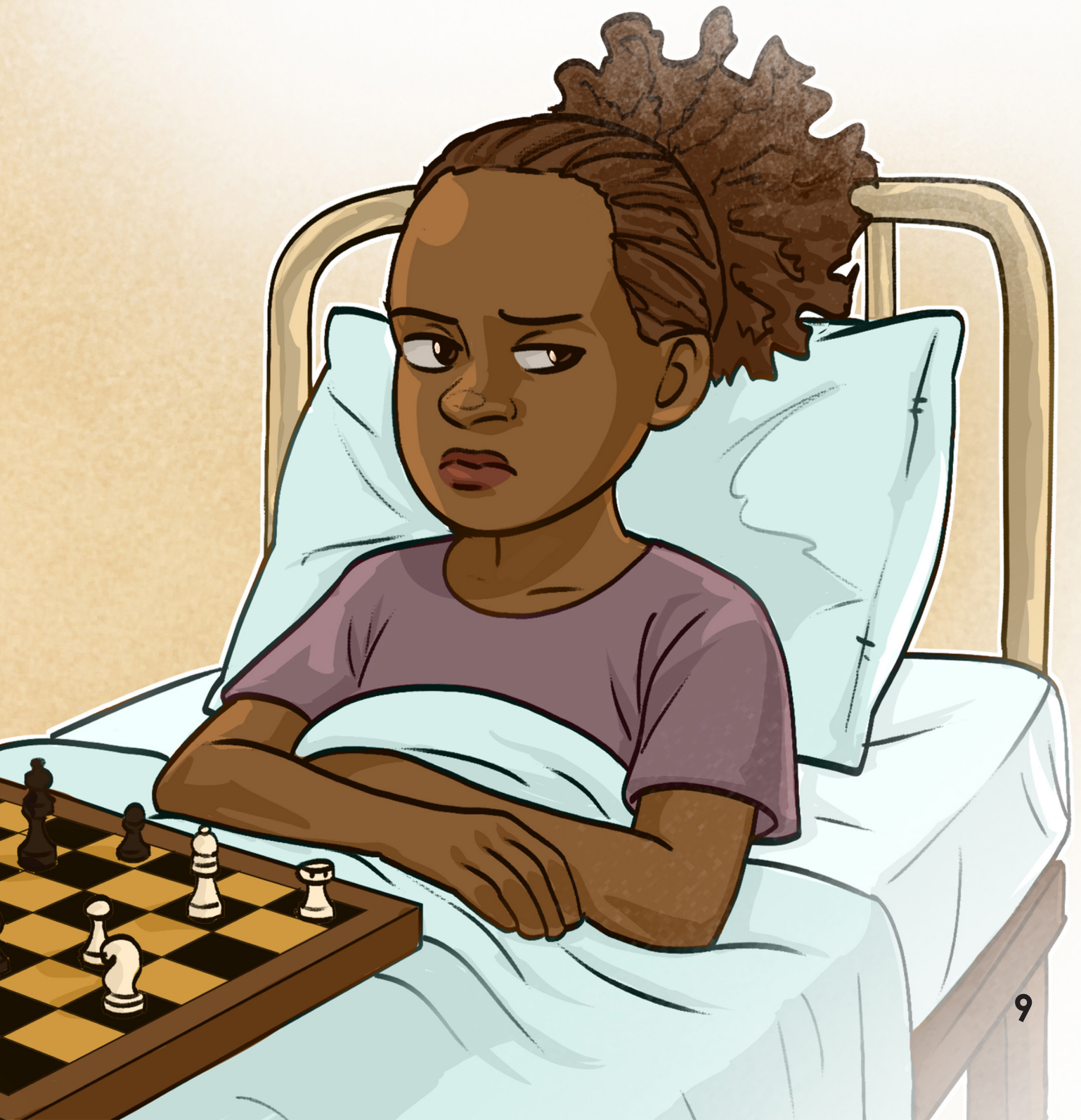


Then one day, her Uncle Kalo came to visit, carrying something in his hands: a wooden chessboard.





“Leisara,” he said gently as he sat by her bed, “I know life is hard right now. But I brought this game for you. It’s called chess. It’s about kings, queens, knights, and castles. In this game, your mind does all the running.”



Leisara sighed and rolled her eyes. “I don’t want to play a silly board game,” she muttered.

But Uncle Kalo didn’t give up. He set up the board and showed her how the pieces moved.

“Just try one move,” he said. “You might like it.”





Reluctantly, Leisara pushed a pawn forward. As Uncle Kalo explained more about the game, she started to get curious.

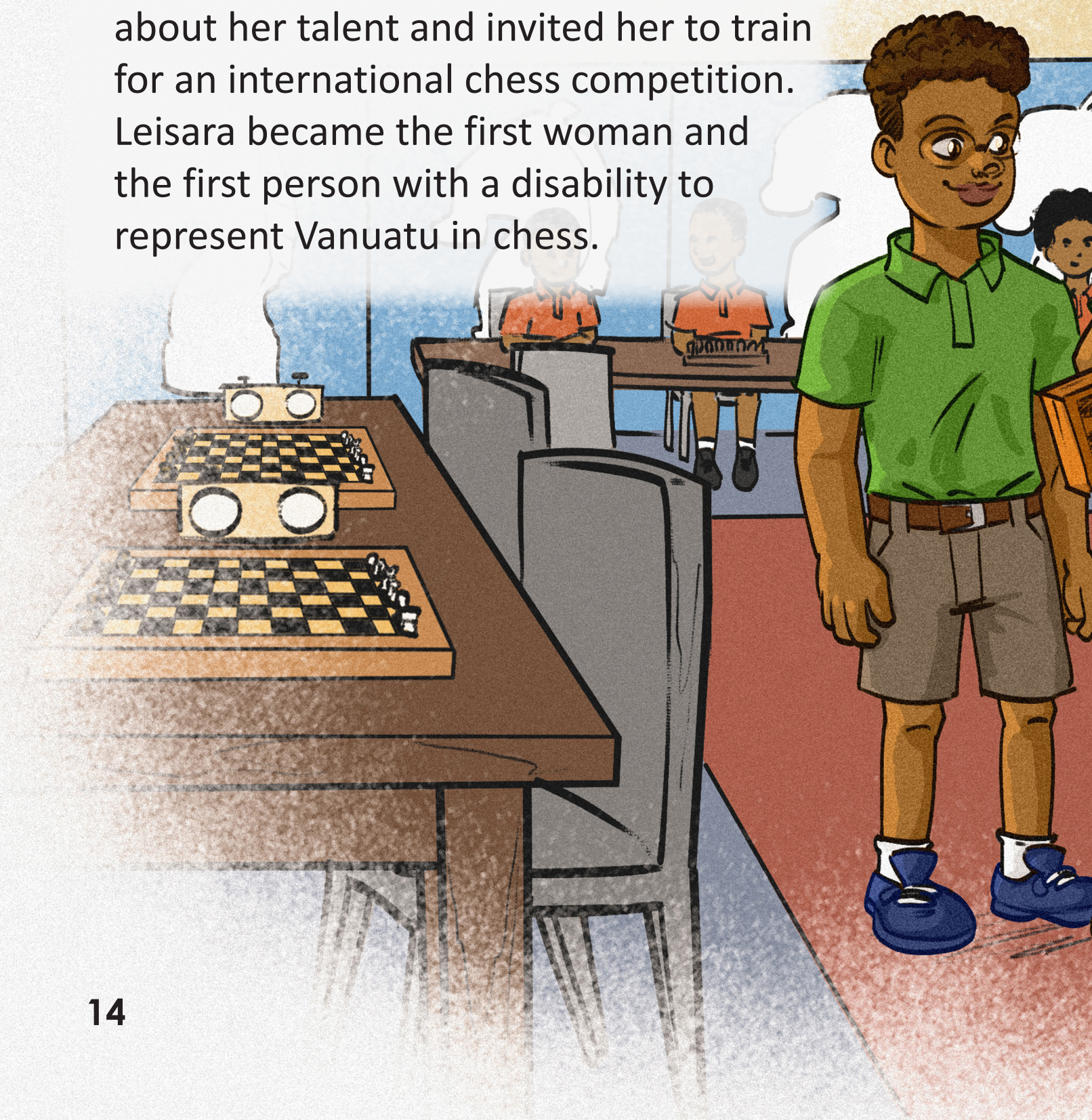


She soon saw chess as more than a game; it was like a battlefield where her quick thinking could shine. Within days, Leisara was hooked, spending hours practising and learning new moves.



Leisara's love for chess grew fast. She joined online games, surprising players who were much older and more experienced. Her clever moves and careful planning made her stand out.

The Vanuatu Chess Federation heard about her talent and invited her to train for an international chess competition. Leisara became the first woman and the first person with a disability to represent Vanuatu in chess.







At the tournament, Leisara sat proudly in her wheelchair with Vanuatu's flag behind her. She played against top players from around the world, showing courage and determination. Her story inspired everyone there.



1	white	2	2	k	6	1
2	white	2	2	2	6	0
3	white	3	4	2	1	1
4	white	2	2	3	2	2
5	white	2	1	1	1	1
6	white	10	2	2	1	1
7	white	2	1	1	1	1
8	white	1	1	1	1	1



Leisara didn't just break barriers for people with special needs, she also showed that women could excel in a game often dominated by men. She became a symbol of strength and hope, proving that no matter the challenges, dreams can still come true.



Today, Leisara teaches chess to children in Vanuatu and encourages others to follow their dreams, no matter what.





**You can use these questions
to talk about this book with
your family, friends and
teachers.**



Who introduced Leisara to chess?



Why is chess a mental game?



How do you win chess?

Have you ever played chess?



**See if you can learn the rules of
chess and have a game!**

About the author

Cathy Hite Sakumalefo was born in the Malaita province of the Solomon Islands and now lives in Port Vila. She likes to watch movies and share food with her family. Her favourite story as a child was *The Heron Bird and the Turtle*. Cathy wanted to write a children's story because storytelling is the way Pacific Islanders have shared skills, wisdom, and knowledge for generations.



Did you enjoy this book?

We have hundreds more expertly curated original stories to choose from.

We work in partnership with authors, educators, cultural advisors, governments and NGOs to bring the joy of reading to children everywhere.

Did you know?

We create global impact in these fields by embracing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



libraryforall.org

You're reading **Level 6**

Learner – Beginner readers

Start your reading journey with short words, big ideas and plenty of pictures.

Level 1 – Rising readers

Raise your reading level with more words, simple sentences and exciting images.

Level 2 – Eager readers

Enjoy your reading time with familiar words, but complex sentences.

Level 3 – Progressing readers

Develop your reading skills with creative stories and some challenging vocabulary.

Level 4 – Fluent readers

Step up your reading skills with playful narratives, new words and fun facts.

Level 5 – Curious readers

Discover your world through science and stories.

Level 6 – Adventurous readers

Explore your world through science and stories.



Library For All is an Australian not for profit organisation with a mission to make knowledge accessible to all via an innovative digital library solution. Visit us at libraryforall.org

A Champion Beyond the Board

First published 2025

Published by Library For All Ltd

Email: info@libraryforall.org

URL: libraryforall.org



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>.

This book was made possible by the generous support of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Global Partnership for Education (GPE).



Save the Children



Original illustrations by Anton Syadrov

A Champion Beyond the Board

Sakumalefo, Cathy Hite

ISBN: 978-1-923485-78-5

SKU04829



A Champion Beyond the Board

Leisara dreams of being a professional sports player, but a terrible accident shatters her dreams. Her Uncle Kalo introduces her to chess, and she finds a new passion in life.



libraryforall.org
#lettheworldlearn

ISBN 978-1-923485-78-5



9 781923 485785

