

Level 5



Daisy's New Friends

By Vivane Mawa

Illustrated by Nadica Zlatkova Mitevska



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“Luke, wake up! It’s Children’s Day!
It’s finally here!” Daisy jumped on her
brother and dragged him out of bed.

Their parents had promised to take
them to the playground to meet and
play with other children.

The family got ready and drove to the
playground.

“Look, kids! There are so many people to make friends with here today,” said Mum.



As soon as the car was turned off, Daisy and Luke rushed out to play.



Luke climbed up the slide, too excited to notice anything, but Daisy had seen some new people.

“Luke, who are they?” Daisy asked. Luke looked to where she was pointing and grinned. He slid down the slide.



“Hi!” Luke exclaimed. “I’m so glad you all came to Children’s Day. This is my sister, Daisy.”



Daisy waved but looked curiously at her brother's friends.

"I'm Max," one of the boys said.



“Hi, Max!” Daisy greeted. “What’s that in your ear?”

“It’s a cochlear implant,” Max explained. “I have a hearing impairment, but it helps me hear things.”

Daisy admired it. “So cool!”





“My name is Sarah,” a girl said, holding out her hand. Daisy noticed she only had one arm.

“How do you play skipping rope?”
Daisy asked.

Sarah laughed. “My friends help!”
she exclaimed. “My mum helps a lot too, especially when we bake cakes. But I can do a lot by myself.”

Daisy decided she would play skipping rope with Sarah later, and greeted another boy in the group. She saw he was sitting down.

“I’m Paul,” he said.

“Can your chair move?” Daisy asked.

Paul smiled. “Yes, it’s a wheelchair. My legs don’t work like yours, so I need it to get around. It’s my best friend. I can even play tennis in it!”

“Wow!” Daisy exclaimed.



Daisy saw the last girl in the group quickly moving her hands and the boy beside her watching closely. He looked up at Daisy with a smile.

“Hello, Daisy! My name is Naomi,” says Naomi,” the boy said. “And I’m Peter.”



Daisy's eyes widened. "Can you read minds?" she asked Peter.

Peter giggled. "No, Naomi talks in sign language," he explained. "I can help you understand her until you learn some signs too."

"Awesome!" Daisy was so happy to make new friends.



The group decided to play hide-and-seek. Daisy ran away to hide with Sarah, watching as Peter covered his eyes and started counting. Luke and Max sped off together, too. Naomi crouched behind her brother with a grin. Daisy struggled to hold in her laughter.



That's when she noticed another boy who'd been watching them. He clearly wanted to join in their game, but had stayed sitting on the swing.



Quietly, Daisy approached him. She held out her hand.

“Would you like to play, too?” she asked.
“I’m Daisy. You can hide with Sarah and I if you want.”



The boy smiled slightly and nodded.
Daisy noticed he didn't say anything as
they ran back to hide.



“Do you prefer quiet games?” Daisy asked.

The boy nodded. He looked at the ground and whispered, “My name is Samuel. I am autistic. Sometimes I talk a lot, but sometimes I don’t like talking.”



“That’s okay!” Daisy exclaimed. “Maybe Naomi can teach you sign language.”

There was a laugh from the playground and Daisy saw Peter pointing right at her. “Found you!”

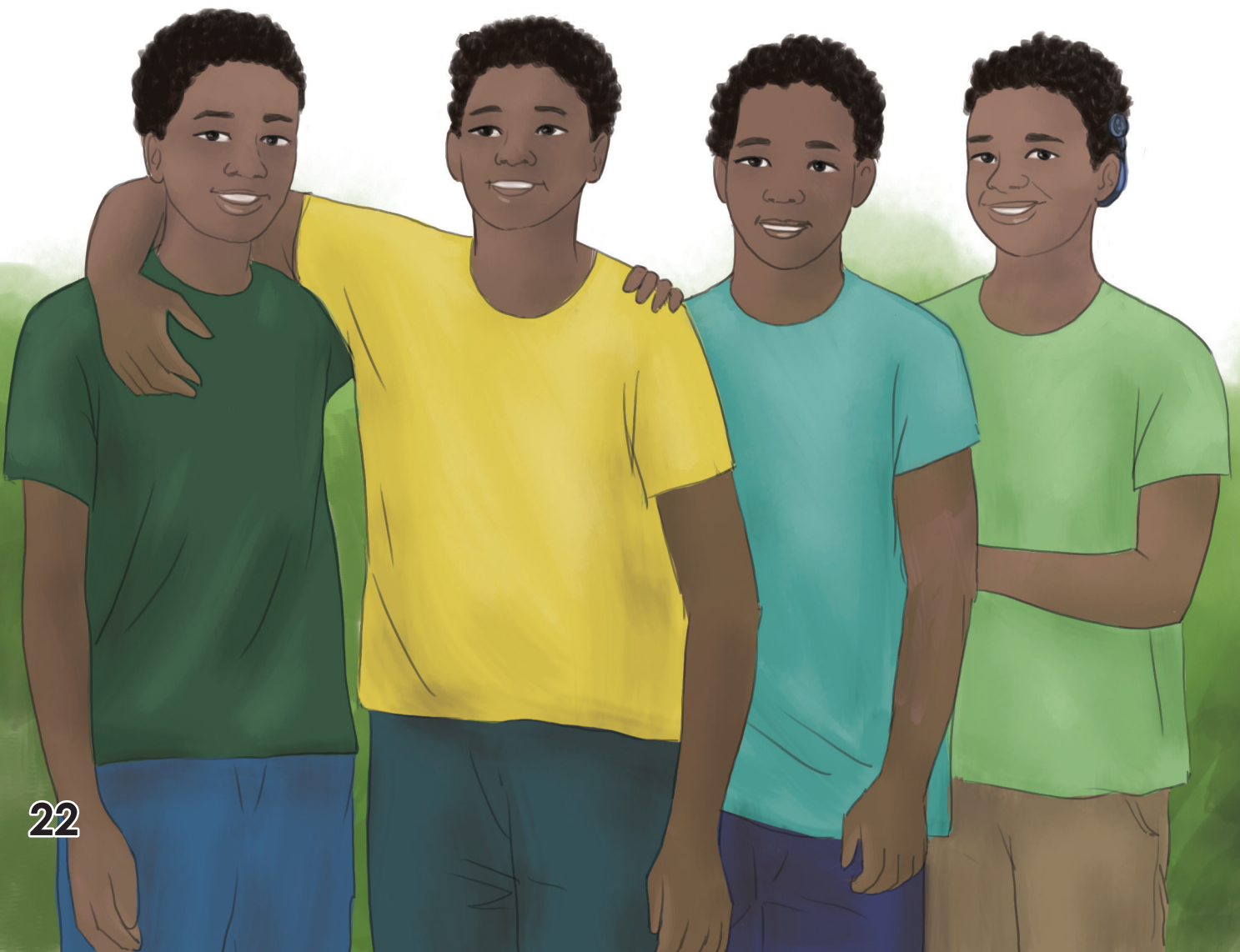
Daisy groaned. She’d given herself away! But her new friends could stay hidden.



Peter found Luke next, and he stood next to Daisy.

“All our friends are different,” Daisy said.

Luke nodded. “Isn’t it great?” he said. “We have so much to learn from each other.”



Hours later, Daisy and Luke's mum took a photo of all the children standing together, grinning.

"We'll play again soon!" Daisy and Luke promised.



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



**What game did all the friends
decide to play?**



Why didn't Samuel ask to join in?



**Why might learning sign language
help Samuel?**



**Discuss how you would include
one of Luke and Daisy's friends
in your own games!**

About the author

Vivane was born in Vila but now lives at Agathis. She wanted to write a story because she enjoys engaging with children through words and images, and helping to educate them as much as she can. As a child, her favourite story was *Little Red Riding Hood*. Vivane likes to crack jokes and sing when she spends time with friends and family.



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First published 2025

Published by Library For All Ltd

Email: info@libraryforall.org

URL: libraryforall.org



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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 Nadica Zlatkova Mitevska

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Mawa, Vivane

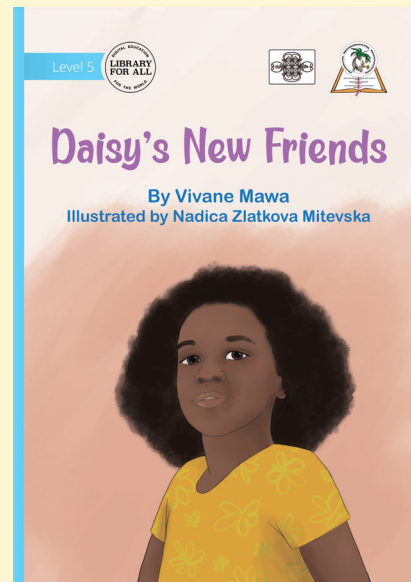
ISBN: 978-1-923554-59-7

SKU04974



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Daisy and Luke are off to the playground for Children's Day, where Daisy meets Luke's friends. They're all different, but they're excited to play together!



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ISBN 978-1-923554-59-7



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