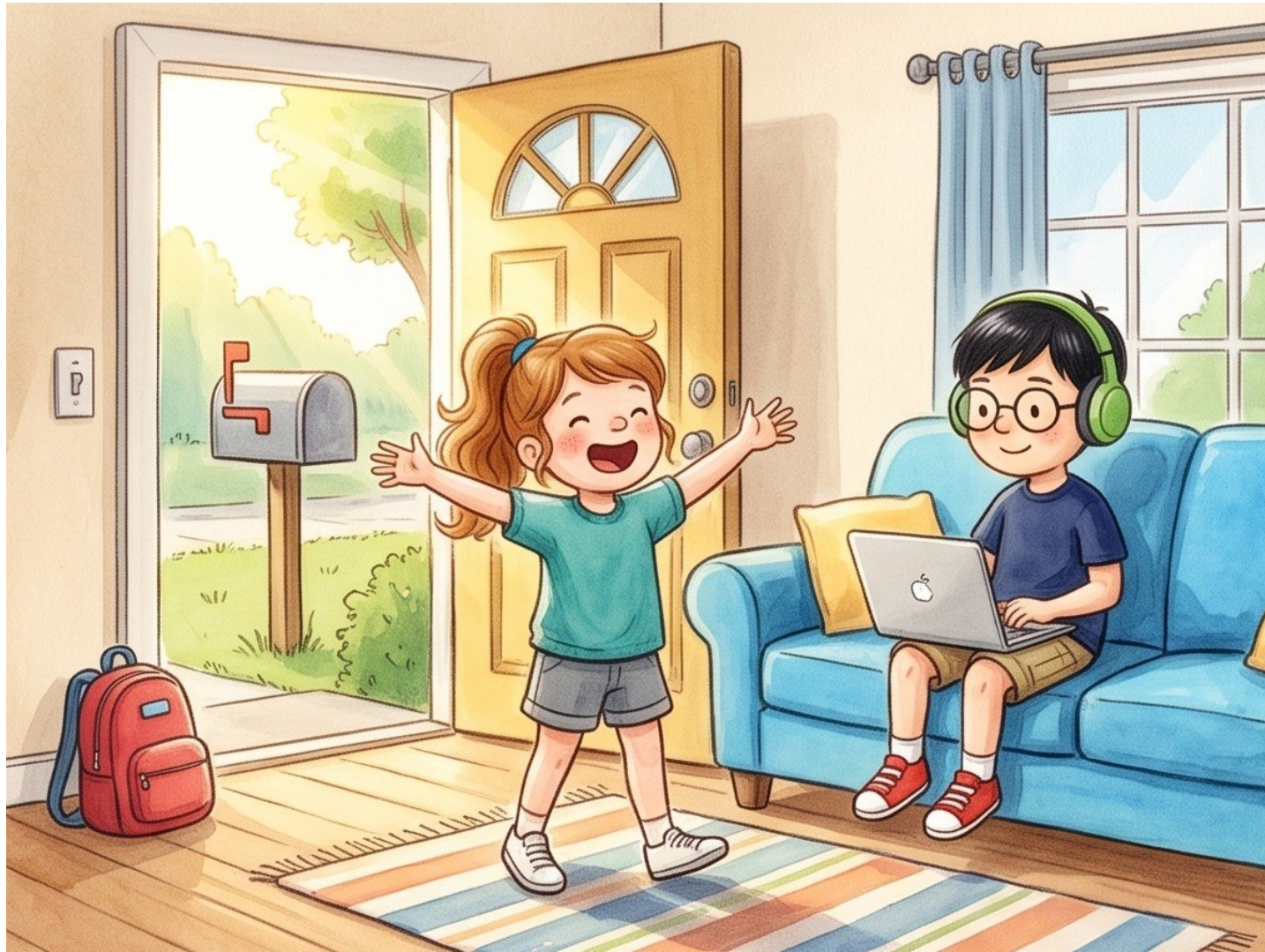




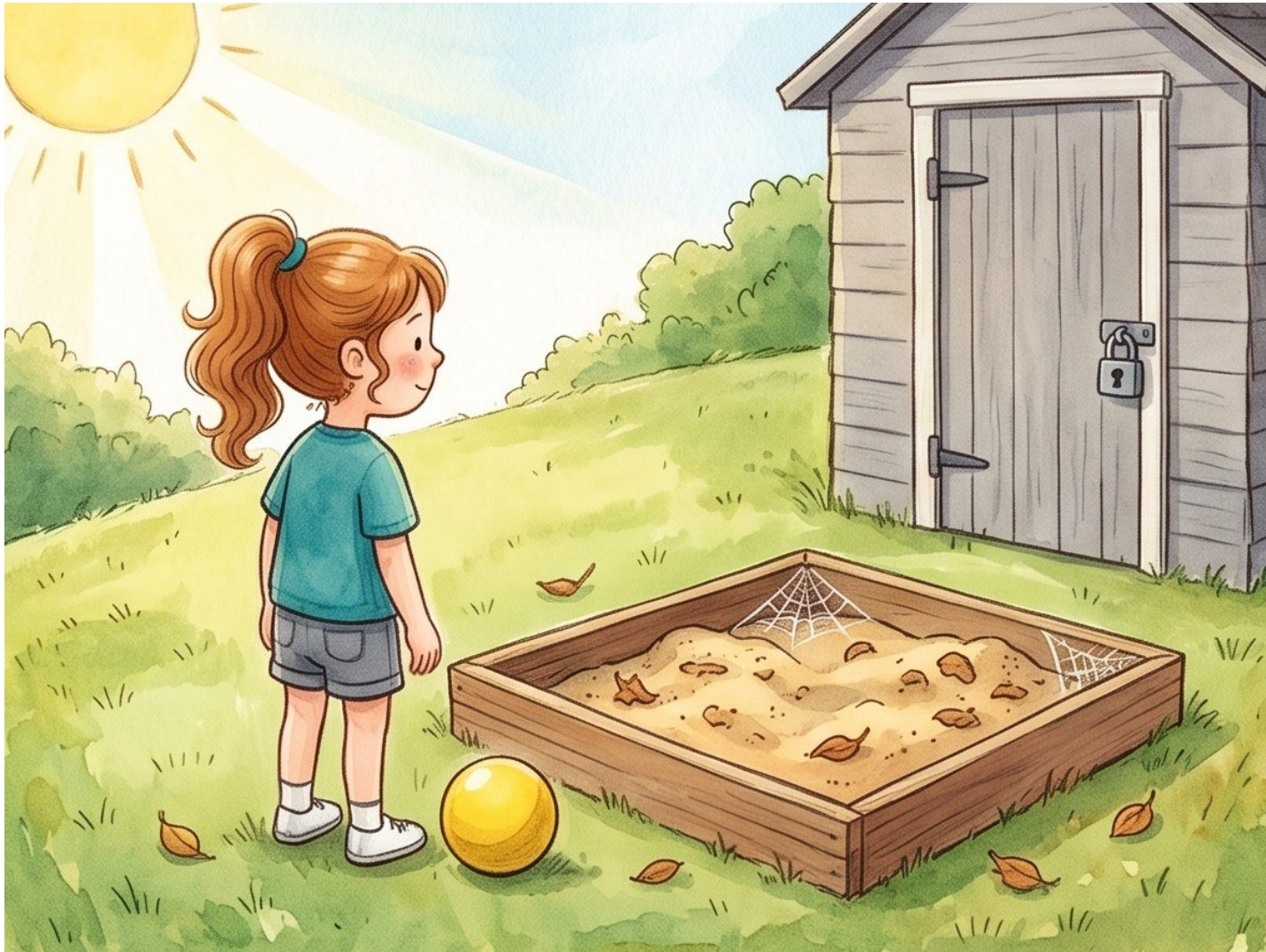
Shelly's Sandbox Jump



The sun was bright, and Shelly wanted to play a game outside. She dropped her backpack by the mailbox and ran inside. Her pals Dan and Pam had come over to her house. Dan sat on the couch with his laptop on his lap and his headphones on. "Come out and play!" said Shelly.



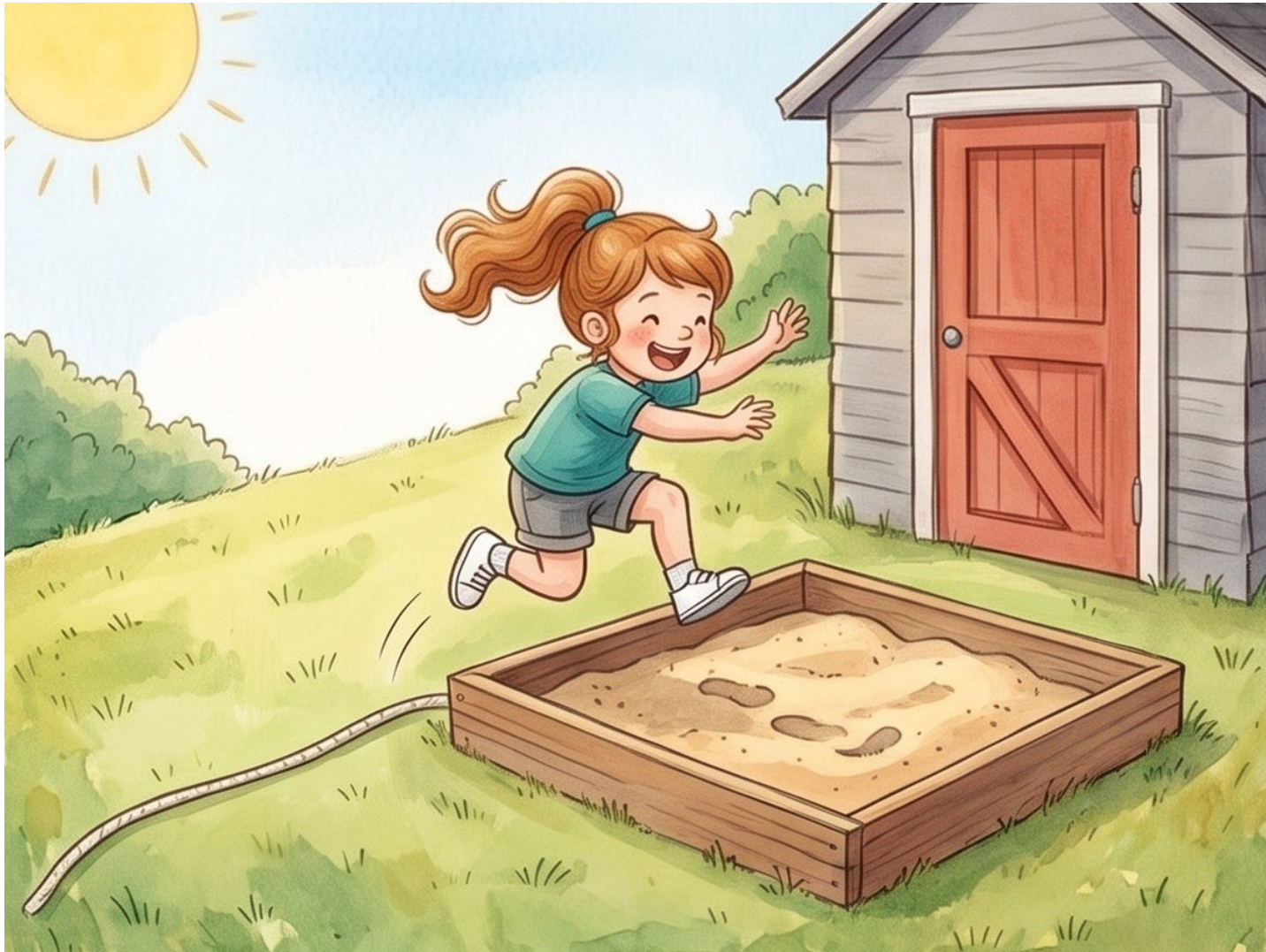
Dan did not look up. "After this show," he said, and he ate a bit more popcorn. Pam was at the kitchen table doing her homework. "I cannot come out yet," said Pam. "I still have a whole page of math left." Shelly sighed. Nobody wanted to come outside.



Shelly went back out by herself. She kicked a ball uphill, but it just rolled back down to her. A game for one was not much fun. Then she saw the old sandbox by the shed. A cobweb lay across one corner, and the sand was full of lumps.



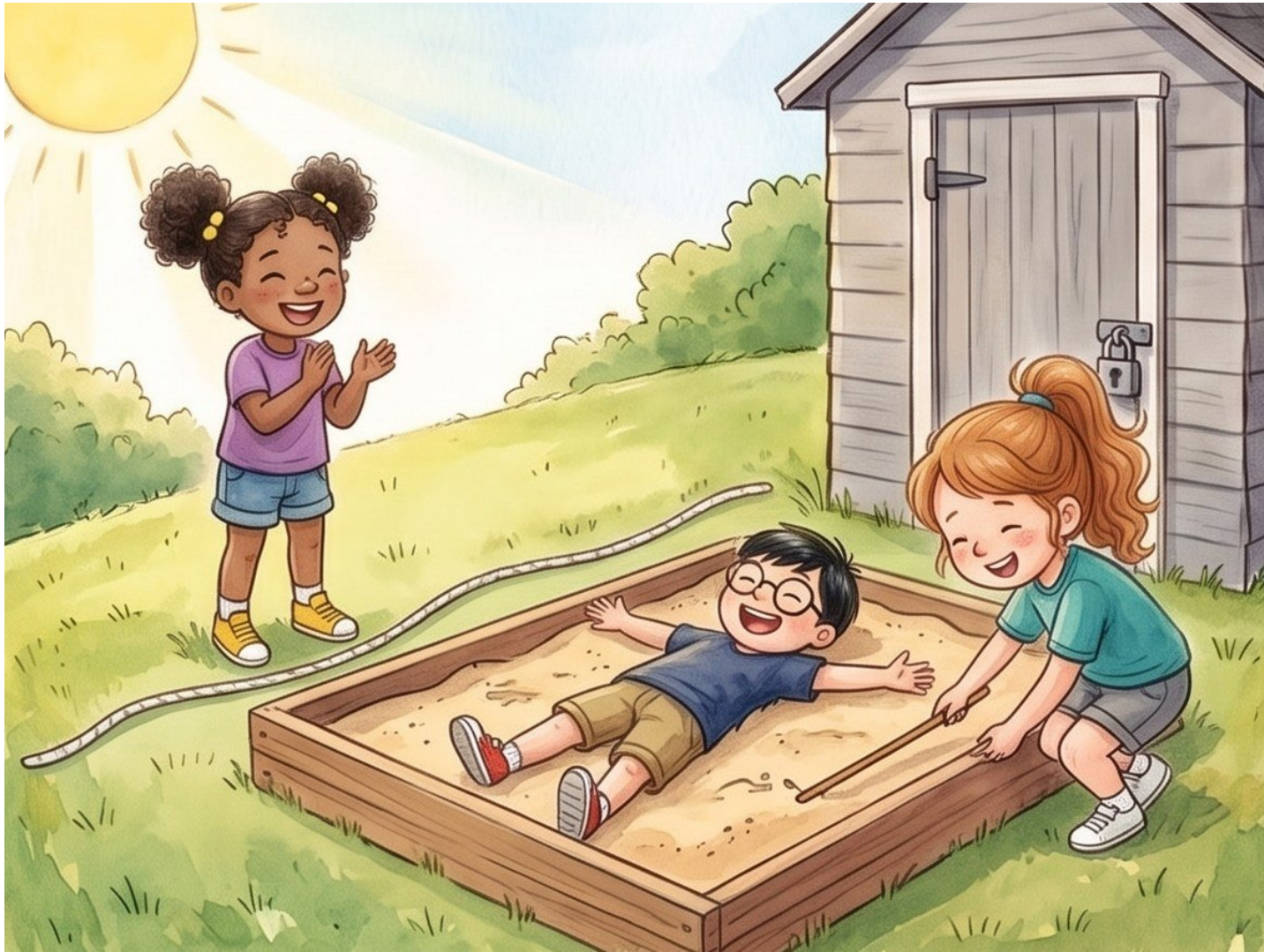
"I can fix that," she said. The shed had a padlock on it, but Dad had left it open. Shelly got the rake and a dustpan. She picked up some old leaves with the dustpan and raked the sand until it was flat and smooth.



Then she laid a rope on the grass to make a line. Shelly ran fast, jumped from the rope, and landed in the sand. Wham! "Six feet!" she yelled. "My best yet!" She jumped again and again.



Each time she landed with a wham and cheered as loud as she could. Inside, Dan took off his headphones. "What is that sound?" he asked. Pam peeked out the kitchen window. They saw Shelly fly across the sandbox. "I bet I can beat that," said Dan.



Pam finished her last sum and shut her math book. "Wait for me!" she said. The three of them took turns running and jumping. Dan fell flat like a pancake and laughed. Pam had the longest jump of all, and Shelly drew a line in the sand for each jump.



They played until sunset turned the sky pink and orange. Then Mom called from the door, "Who wants a hotdog and a cupcake?" Shelly grinned. She had her game, and she did not have to play it by herself.