

Written by Loris Lesynski Illustrated by Gerry Rasmussen

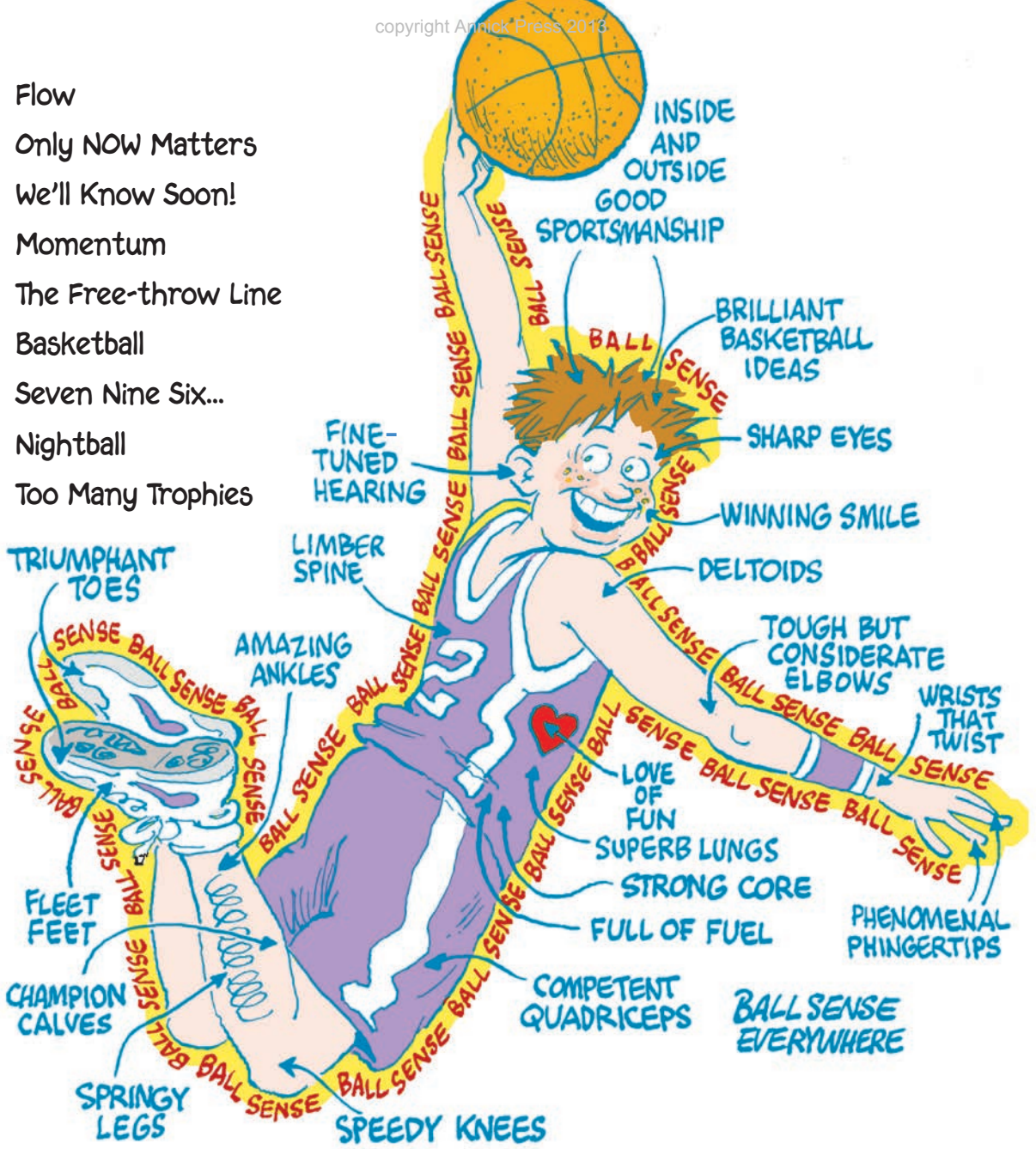
# CRAZY ABOUT BASKETBALL!



annick press

Toronto • Vancouver • New York

- 26 Flow
- 26 Only NOW Matters
- 27 We'll Know Soon!
- 27 Momentum
- 28 The Free-throw Line
- 29 Basketball
- 30 Seven Nine Six...
- 31 Nightball
- 32 Too Many Trophies



## Born to Play Basketball

Your feet just lumps of muscle,  
 your arms just sacks of skin,  
 your eyeballs wobbly jelly blobs  
 until the games begin.

Then something brilliant happens—  
 all your parts (and in between)  
 connect and shoot together!  
 You're a basketball machine!



# Game On!

the center circle's  
where it starts  
fans' and players'  
thumping hearts  
the game is on!  
the whistle blows!  
*there's* the jump ball  
up it goes!  
instantly the ball's  
in play  
we're fired up  
to rule today

a great fast break  
the team is pumped  
and right away  
the ball is dunked  
another pass  
another throw  
*no* one knows  
which way we'll go!  
*got it! shot it!*  
YES, it's in!  
our destiny today?  
to win!

another foul!  
again it's time  
for nerves of steel  
on the free-throw line  
some lousy shots  
and tragic misses  
man oh man,  
a game like this is  
*too* exciting,  
fans are screaming  
players grinning  
coach is beaming

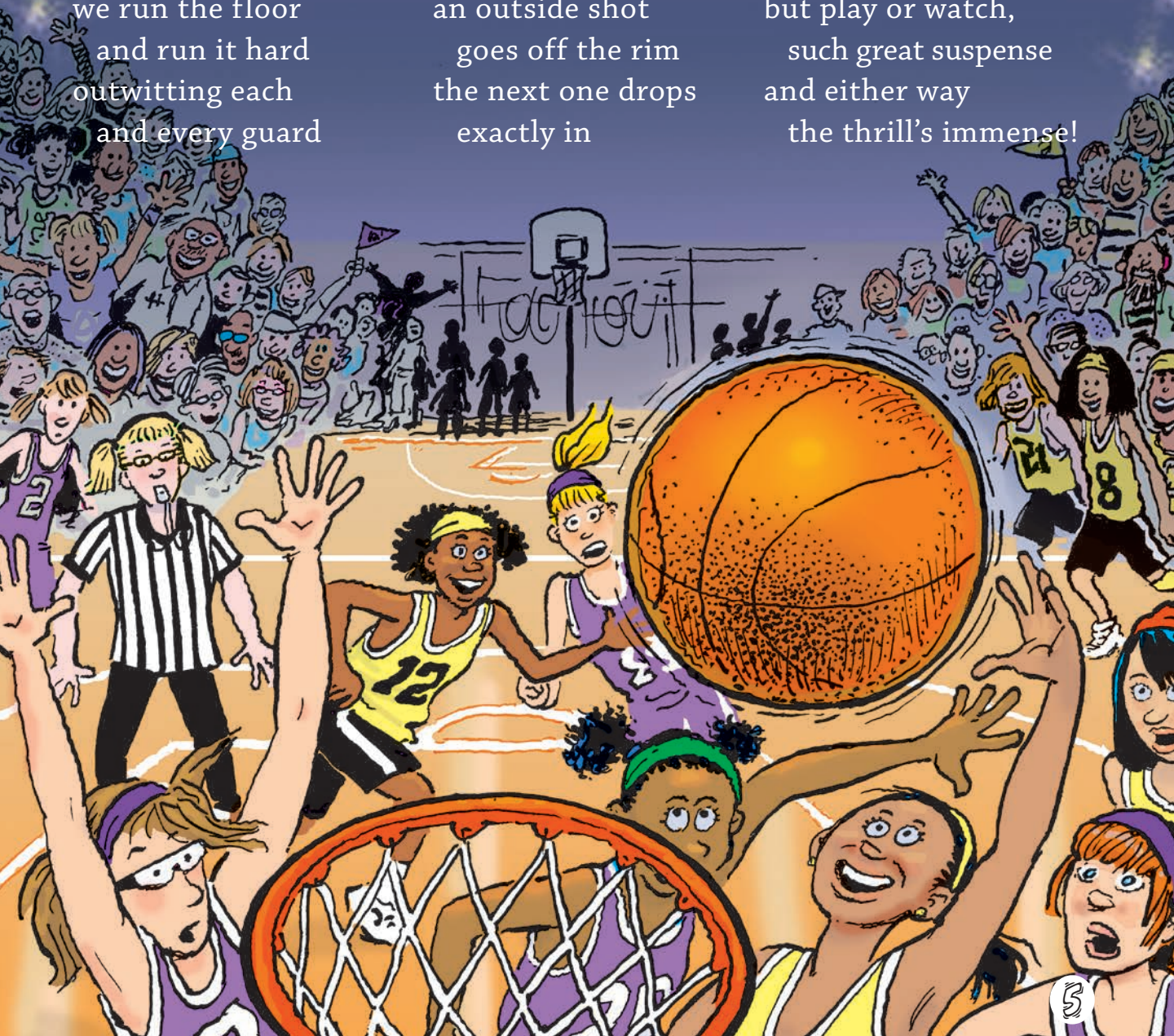




leaps and shots  
beyond astounding  
ball is bouncing  
feet are pounding  
half-time break  
review mistakes  
then *in* again  
for all it takes!  
we run the floor  
and run it hard  
outwitting each  
and every guard

the ref shouts out  
a foul, and then  
a free-throw flub!  
behind again  
the fans are tense  
suspense is high  
the final seconds  
*flying* by  
an outside shot  
goes off the rim  
the next one drops  
exactly in

the shot clock stops  
the game is done  
we got the point!  
we won? *WE WON!*  
the gym is full of  
joy and sweat  
(and on the other  
side, regret)  
but play or watch,  
such great suspense  
and either way  
the thrill's immense!







## From the Ball's Point of View

What's the most popular game of all?

For balls, of course, it's **BASKETBALL**.

We don't get clubbed.  
We don't get hit.

A free throw doesn't hurt a bit.

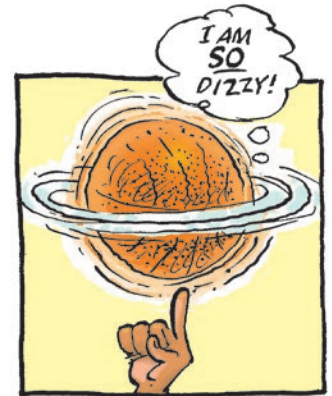
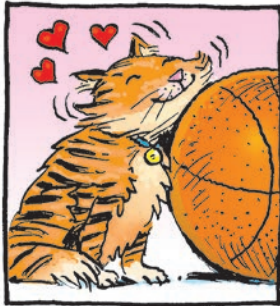
We don't get smacked.  
There are no kicks.

We never get attacked with sticks.

It's always so exciting when we bounce, then bounce, then **BOUNCE** again!

And much as we **LIKE** the pats we get,

*boy*, do we **LOVE** getting dunked in the net!





## Crazy About Basketball!

the feel of it  
the appeal of it  
the belong of it  
in my hand

the size of it  
the surprise of it  
as I plan where it's  
gonna land

the game of it  
the aim of it  
we love it *every time*  
I think this year our basketball  
should get a valentine!



## Basketball = Life

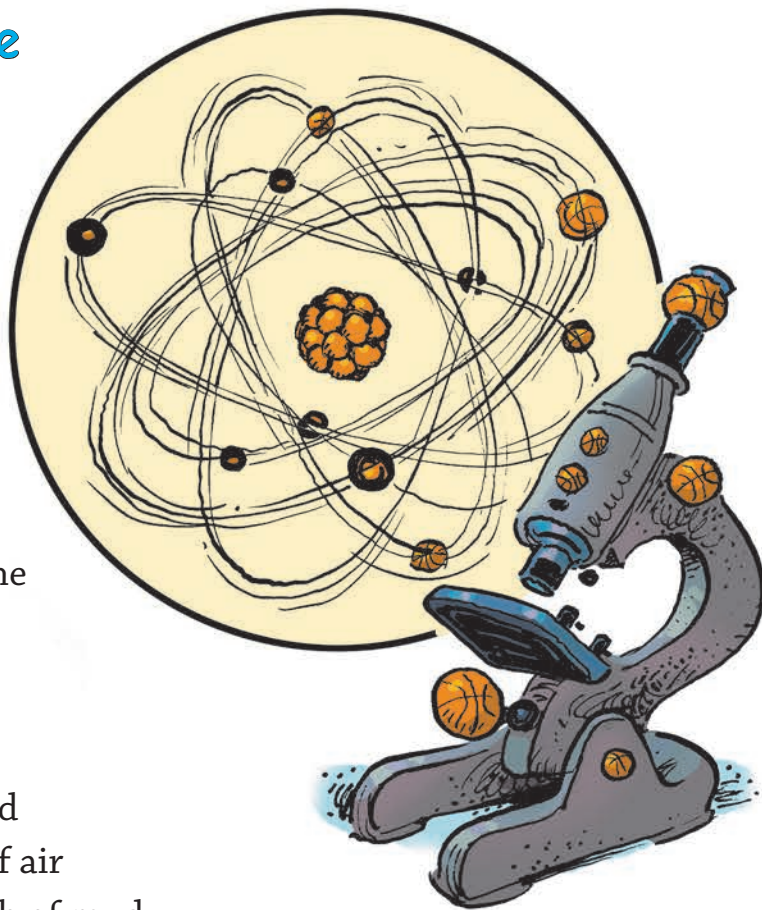
the world is made  
of bounce and aim

basketball's  
not *just* a game

in every little cell alive,  
you'll find a move,  
a bounce, a jive

atoms vibrate all the time  
in people, puppies,  
trees, and slime

a grain of sand  
a drop of blood  
a gasp of air  
a blob of mud



*everything* has  
bounce inside it  
even rocks  
although they hide it

everything  
you'll ever know  
is always moving,  
on the go  
the universe?  
this brilliant game?  
they sometimes seem  
a lot the same

