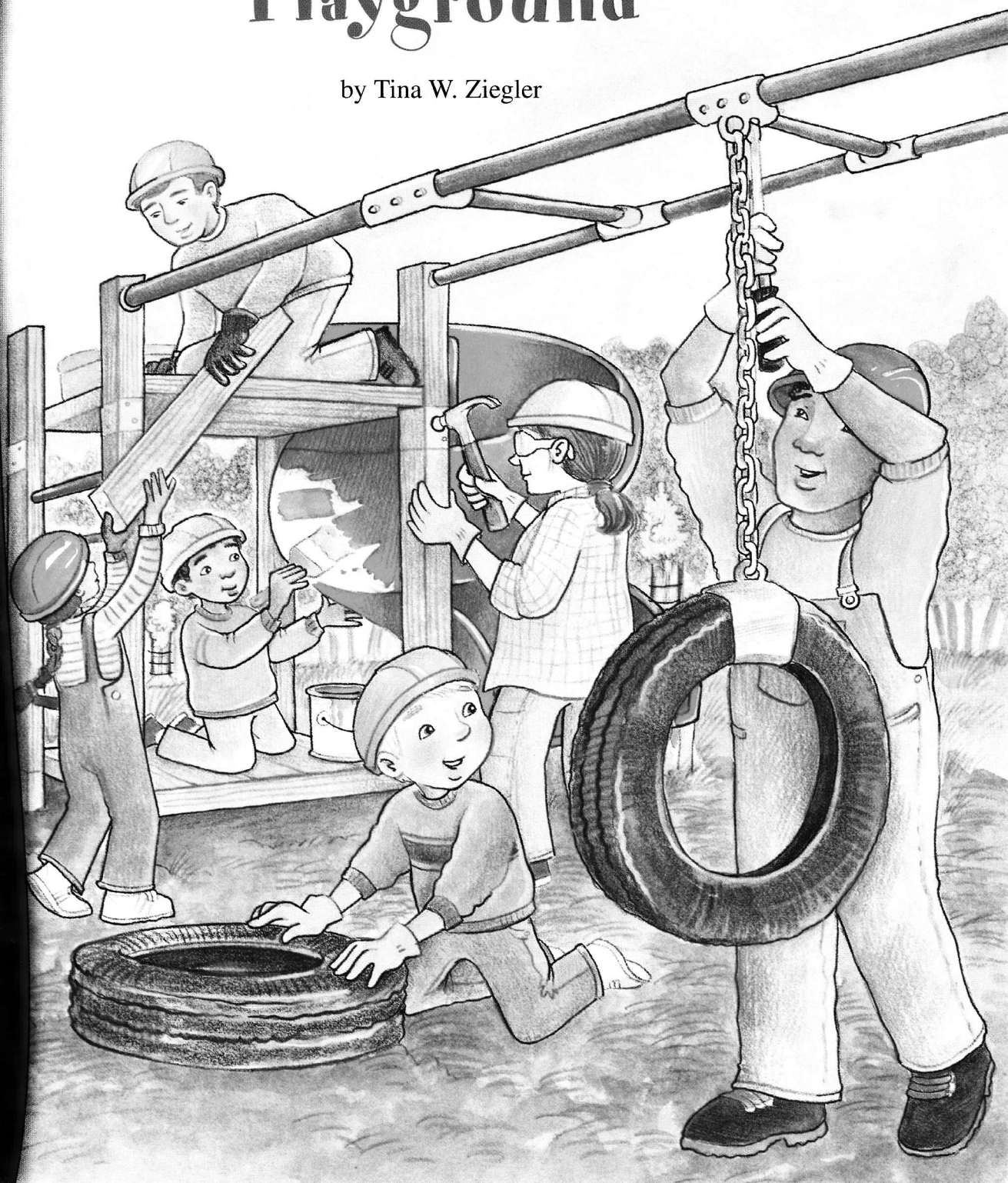


The New Playground

by Tina W. Ziegler



There was an empty lot in Jake's neighborhood. It was covered with weeds. It was full of litter. No one walked or played in it.

One day, the neighbors got together. "That big lot is such a waste," said Mrs. Brown.

"What can we do about it?" asked Mr. Thompson.

"Let's build a playground," suggested Jake's mother.

"We can use old tires for swings," said Jake. "Then they won't be thrown away. We'll be helping the environment."

"We can use benches made from recycled plastic," said Rita.

"That's another way to clean up the planet."

The people went to the mayor. "I like your idea!" he exclaimed.

Everyone helped. Some people got rid of the trash. Others planted trees. Some painted the tires bright colors. Others built swing sets and jungle gyms.

Soon, the playground was finished. Jake's neighbors were proud.

The lot is no longer empty. It is a playground full of fun things to do. It is also filled with happy people.

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 Another good name for this story is
 - a** Neighbors Working Together.
 - b** Using Old Tires.
- 2 Mrs. Brown thought the empty lot was a waste because
 - a** no one used it.
 - b** it was in Jake's neighborhood.
- 3 The people of the neighborhood felt
 - a** that building a playground was too much work.
 - b** proud of the work they did on the new playground.
- 4 The people took their idea to the mayor because they
 - a** could not agree on what to do.
 - b** wanted him to approve it.
- 5 You know the people worked well together because
 - a** they built the new playground.
 - b** the mayor liked their idea.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Jake's neighborhood the trees' leaves

Add an 's to *Jake* to show that he owns something. The mark (') is an apostrophe. Add only an ' to *trees* to show that more than one tree owns something.

Add an 's or an ' to each word to show that it owns something. Write the word.

- 1 mayor
- 2 playground
- 3 Jake
- 4 trees
- 5 neighbors



LEARN ABOUT WORDS *(continued)*

C Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 The people asked for the _____ help.
- 7 _____ mother wanted to build a playground.
- 8 The _____ leaves were many colors.
- 9 The _____ swings were made from old tires.
- 10 All of the _____ ideas were good.

THINK ABOUT IT

D Read each sentence. Which word in the box means the opposite of the underlined word? Write the word.

few going first small bottom

- 1 A large tree was planted in the lot.
- 2 The lot had many weeds.
- 3 The benches were built last.
- 4 Jake painted the top of the slide red.
- 5 Jake asked, "Is the mayor coming?"