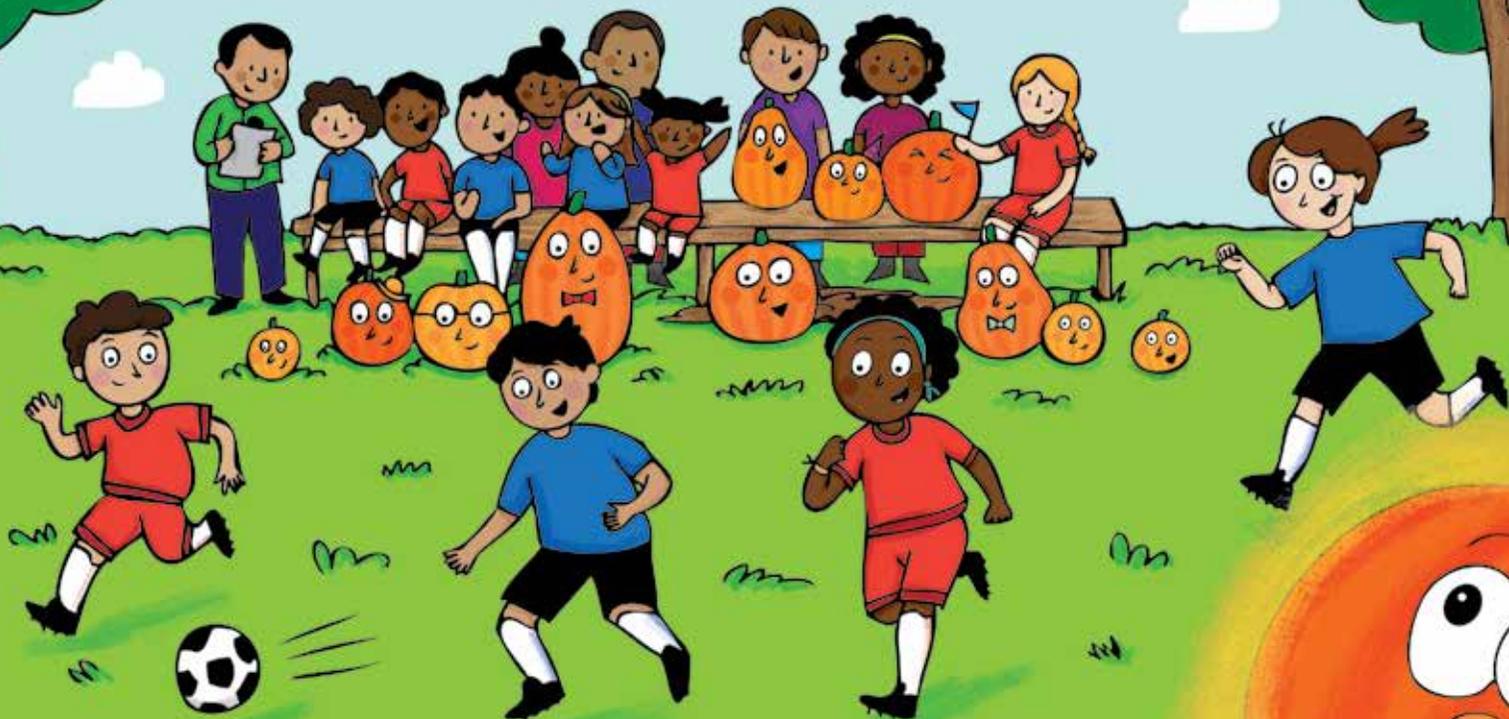


# PATCH THE PUMPKIN

## BELIEVING IN OTHERS



WORDS BY MAIRI NEEVES WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROBYN LEAVENS  
FROM WORLD VISION UK



## PATCH THE PUMPKIN IS BACK FOR ANOTHER ADVENTURE!

Patch the Pumpkin and his friends are off on another fun adventure. This time, our big-hearted little superhero learns a bit about what it means to be a good friend, by believing in and encouraging others.

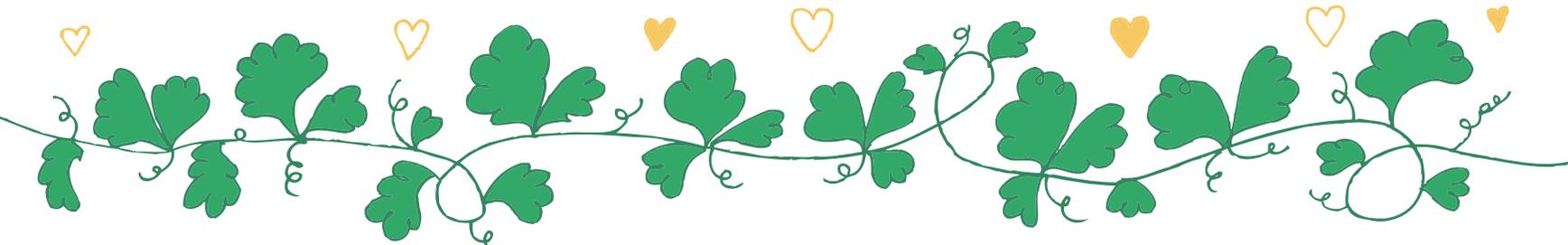
Through Patch, children learn about God's love for them in a fun way; they are reminded that they are chosen and special and of the importance of community. It's our desire to help children think about those who are lonely and afraid; and especially those whose lives are very difficult in other parts of the world.

This storybook is a great companion to a Pumpkin Heroes party or anytime for a fun story with little ones. You can also watch our storybook film at [pumpkinheroes.com/2020](https://pumpkinheroes.com/2020).

We hope you enjoy this story as you share God's love in your church and community this year.

♥ Love from World Vision

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# PATCH THE PUMPKIN<sup>®</sup> BELIEVING IN OTHERS

WORDS BY MAIRI NEEVES WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROBYN LEAVENS



**World Vision**  
NO CHILD WITHOUT A FUTURE

PRODUCED WITH PROSPECT ARTS



One day, the pumpkins were sitting underneath the Wise-But-Grumpy Owl's tree making buddy bracelets. The Biggest and Most Average-sized Pumpkins were doing the actual making. Teeny, the Tiniest Pumpkin, was rolling around, flattening flowers and getting stern looks from the Wise-But-Grumpy-Owl. As for Patch, he was feeling a bit mischievous - full of energy; bouncing around. "I'm fed up!" he moaned. "Let's go on an adventure. I need something to dooooooo!"

Just then, along came Amira with an odd look on her face. They all stopped what they were doing and gathered around her.

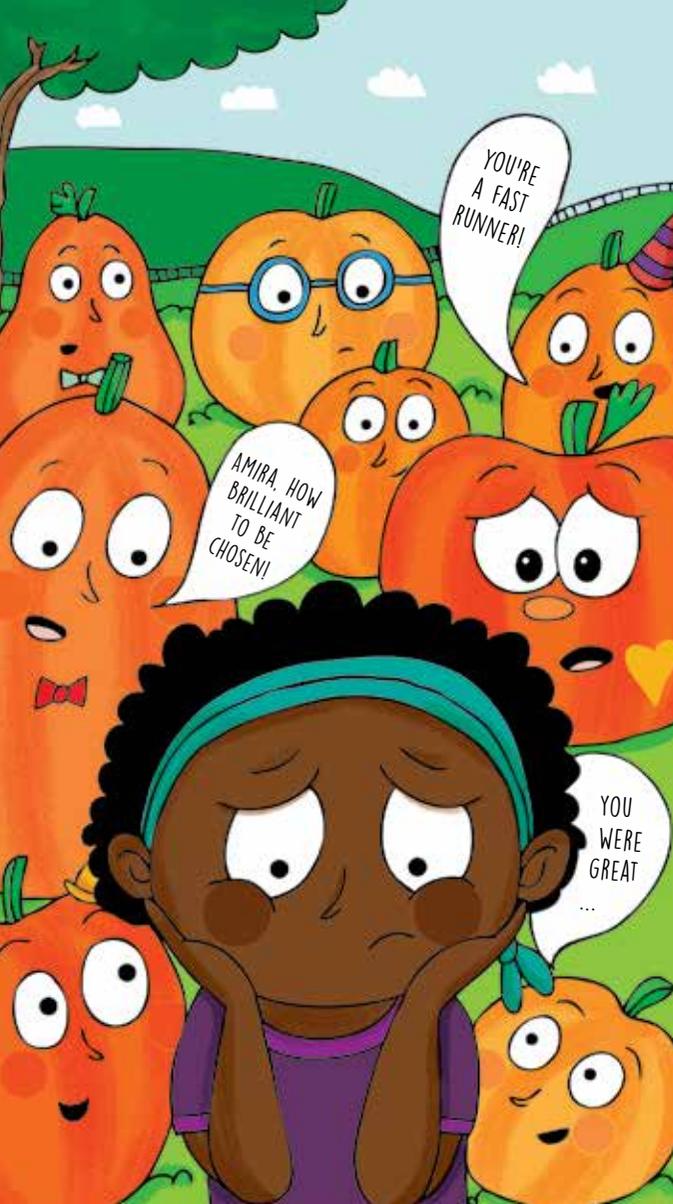
"Poor Amira, she looks like a frightened carrot!" said the Biggest Pumpkin.

"No, she looks excited!" said the Most Average-sized Pumpkin.

"She looks like she's just seen the Bitter-Nut-Squash," said Teeny, shivering at the thought, "Or worse, a soup!"

"What's wrong, Amira?" asked Patch.

"I've been picked for the football team," Amira explained. "But I'm so nervous! I think I'm good, but I'm not sure I'm good enough. Tomorrow's the match. I don't want to mess up and I don't want everyone to laugh at me."



Immediately, the pumpkins started talking all at once, offering her advice, and encouragement.

"Amira, how brilliant to be chosen!" said the Biggest Pumpkin.

"You're a fast runner!" said the Most Average-sized Pumpkin.

"You were great when we played ten pin bowling that time! Don't you remember!?" said Teeny, the Tiniest Pumpkin.

"Thanks everyone," laughed Amira. "When we are all together I feel fine about most things really, but I know I'll get scared tomorrow."

"Let's make you a buddy bracelet!" offered Patch, and his heart glowed, as it always did, when he showed kindness. "You can wear it on the pitch tomorrow, and you'll never forget we believe in you."

"Yes! yes!" they all agreed.

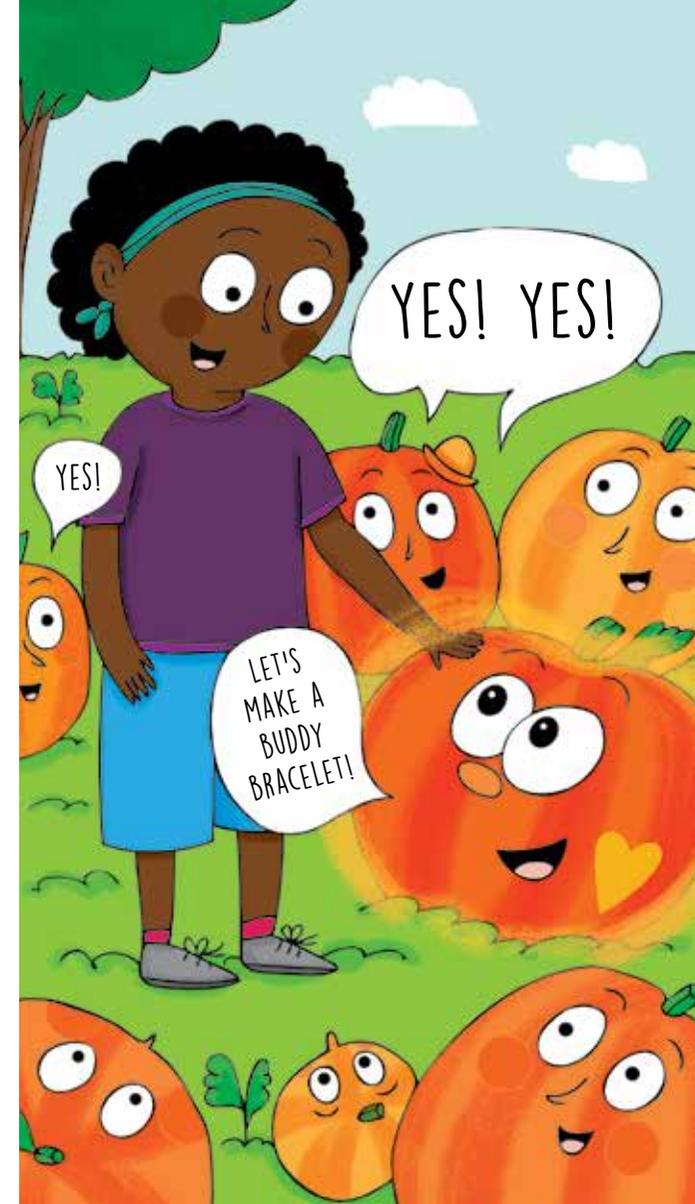
"That would be amazing!" said Amira. "I have to go to practice now. Thanks for being so kind; I feel much better."

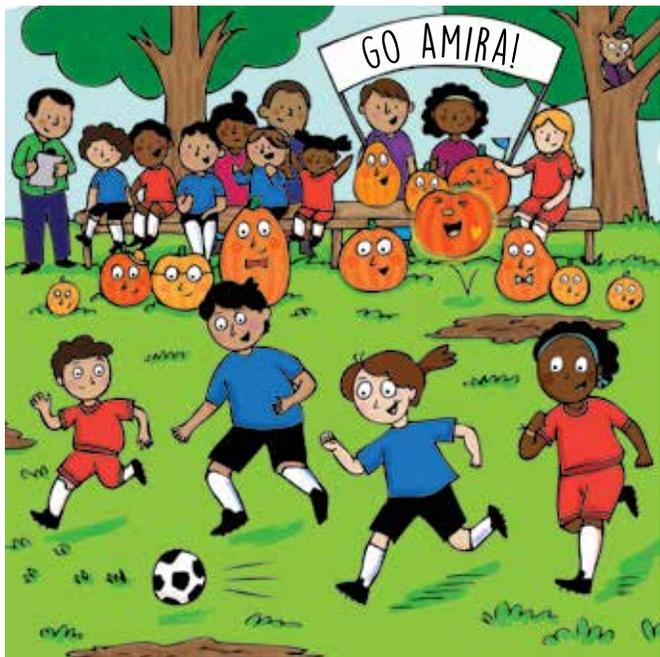
"Before you go..." Patch moved forward nervously. "Do you think that there might be a place on the team for..." he paused hesitantly, "well, for me?"

Amira looked at his excited face; she knew just how he felt. "Oh Patch, I am so sorry. I don't think it would be a good idea, you might get hurt." She gave him a pat, before leaving for her practice.

After she had gone, the pumpkins settled back into bracelet-making. Patch joined in this time, but deep down inside, he felt very sad.

The next day was the day of the match. The pumpkins rolled into the village just in time, all





ready to support their friend. Patch gave a series of his biggest bounces; but deep inside he still wished he could be playing with the children. He did his best to be happy for her.

As Amira ran onto the pitch she waved to her friends with her bracelet. They had written WE BELIEVE IN YOU in big letters.

Then the match began.

Amira seemed shy at first, but soon she was chasing the ball up and down the pitch with the others. By half-time it was 1-1. All the children looked flushed and happy. Patch had decided that every time he felt just a bit jealous of all the action he should do an almighty big bounce. He had, by now, done many of these and was beginning to feel a little queasy, so he sat beside Amira as she sucked on an orange.



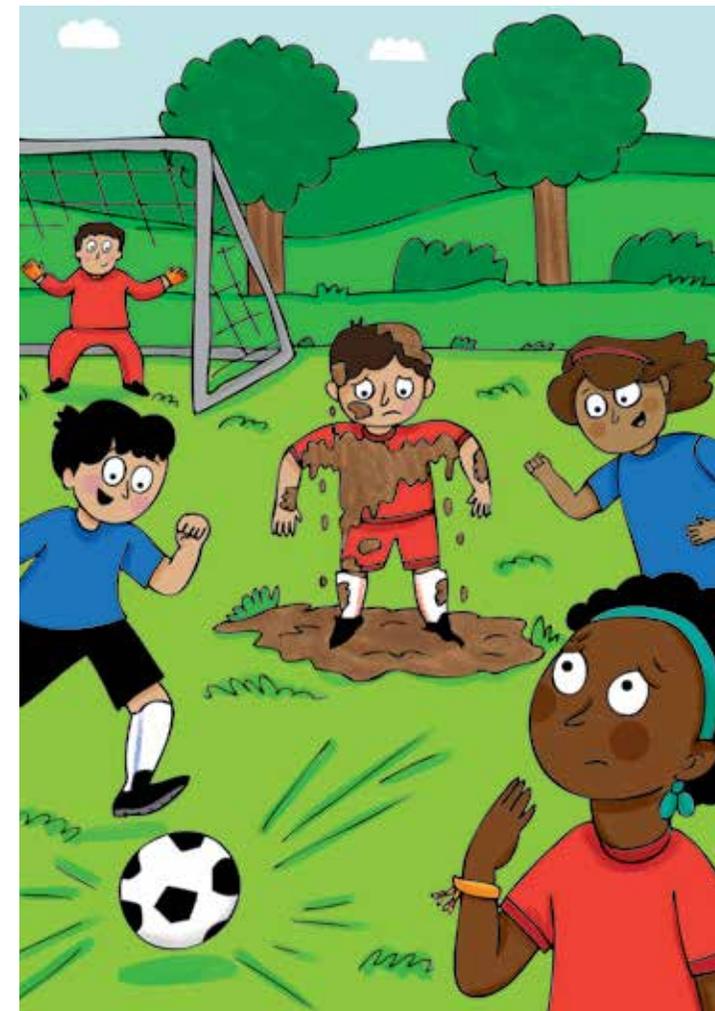
The second half was even more fast-paced. The coach was busy shouting directions from the side line and the children were all doing their best. It was very exciting.

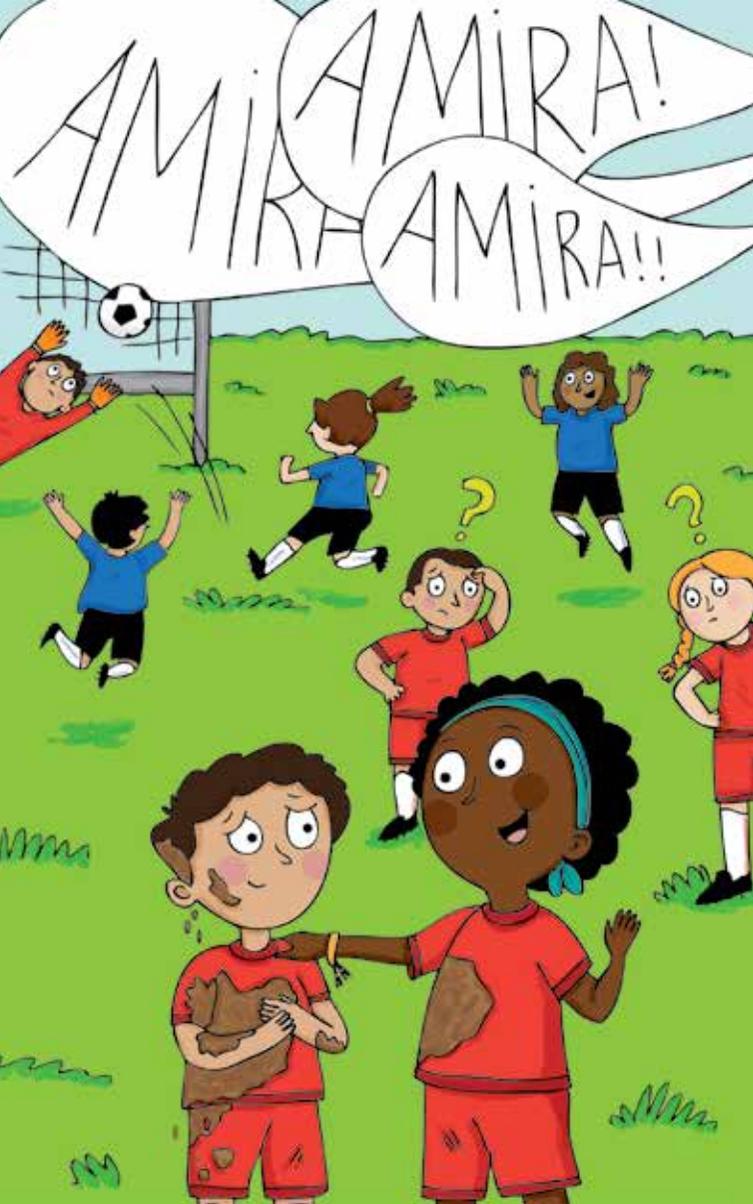
All of a sudden, one of the children slipped over. Game played on, but as he stood up, he was totally covered in mud. His lower lip began to wobble. His eyes welled up and he burst into tears.

Amira was running past - she was right near the ball, and was about to give it a big kick toward the goal.

But then she saw the boy.

She paused, and ran straight towards him. Forgetting all about the game, she gave him a hug and helped him move off the





pitch. But in the meantime another child from the other team had kicked the ball - and scored a goal!! Everyone groaned. “AMIRA!!!!” yelled one of the team members. Amira had missed her chance! She could have lost them the game! All the pumpkins were filled with dismay.

Now they were down a goal, and the referee said they needed another player to continue. Everyone looked around. Who could play? The adults looked up and down the pitch. The children looked up and down - but there was no one.

Then, Patch pushed himself forward. Trying not to look too keen.

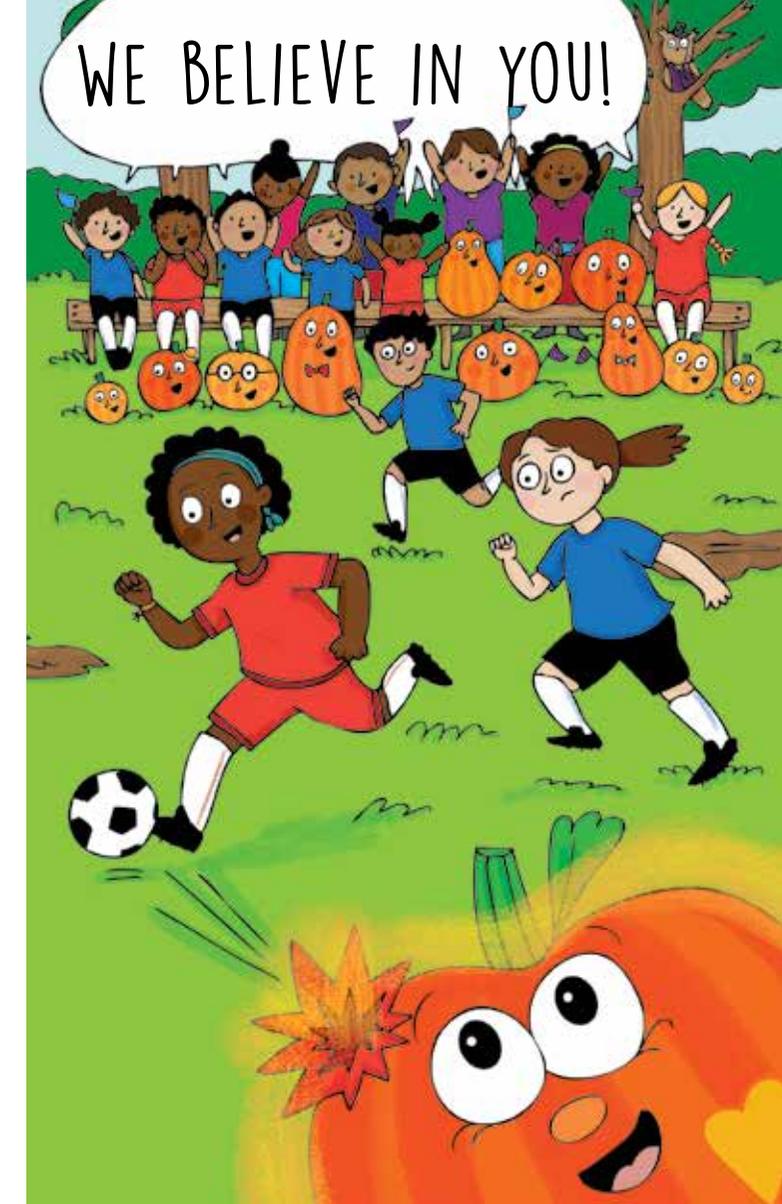
“Perhaps Patch could play?” suggested Amira.

“Yes! Yes!” the pumpkins all agreed.

“This could work,” agreed the referee slowly. Patch’s smile stretched right round his face.

There were only a few minutes left, but thankfully Patch still had some bounce left in him. He pinged onto the pitch, bopping up and down. Amira and the others were tired by now, but seeing Patch gave them all a boost.

Patch was surprisingly good at football. He launched himself towards the ball, and it ‘boi-inged’ off him. In the last 30 seconds, Amira had another chance at the ball. One of the children kicked it towards Patch, who sent it flying in Amira’s direction. She ran towards it, swung her foot and –



GOAL!

Everyone was leaping up and down with joy. The game was over, it was a draw! All the children and the pumpkins jumped around with happiness.

As the afternoon came to a close, someone put on some music and the pumpkins led everyone in a bounce party.

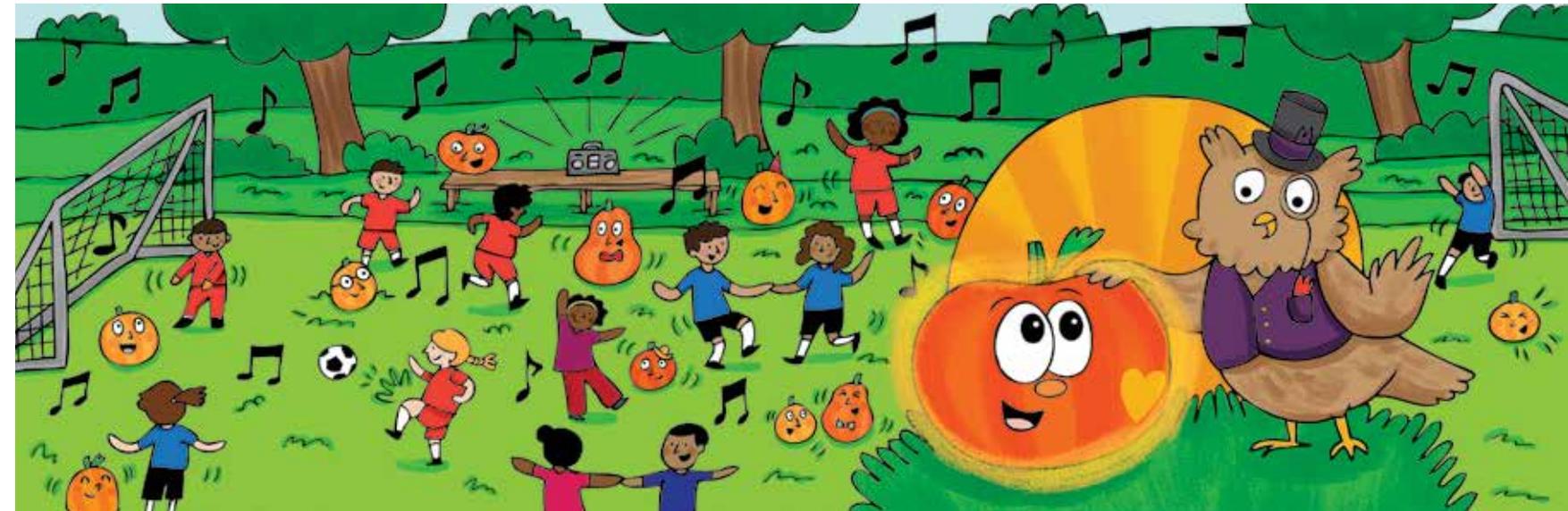
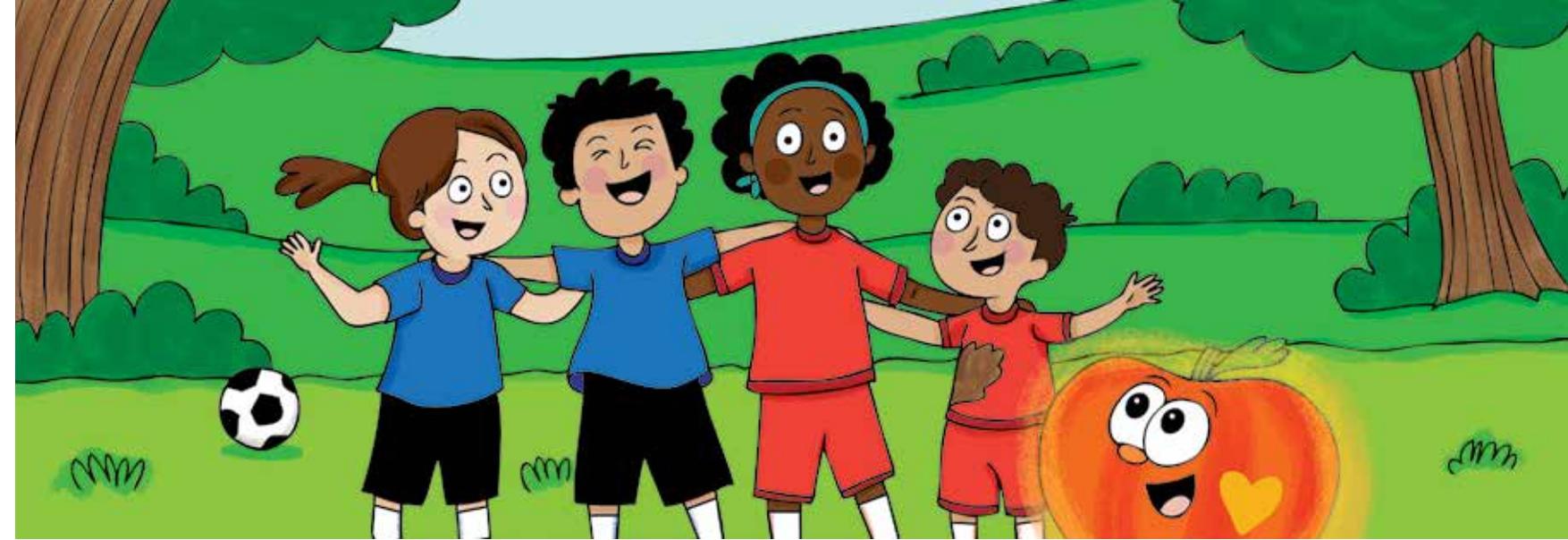
Patch, finally tired, was sitting on the grass, when the Wise-But-Grumpy Owl flew up silently and perched beside him.

“You did a good thing today, Patch,” observed the Owl, softly.

“I did, didn’t I?!” agreed Patch. “I knew I could play football. It was brilliant!”

“I didn’t mean that,” offered the Owl. “You helped a friend by telling them you believed in them. Belief gives great courage. It helps people to be the best they can be, as they realise they have been chosen and are very special.”

And as they sat there together, watching the party in full swing, Patch thought that it had turned out to be really the best afternoon he could remember in a long, long time.



## CHILDREN WHO INSPIRED THIS STORY

This story was inspired by the lives of the very poorest children.

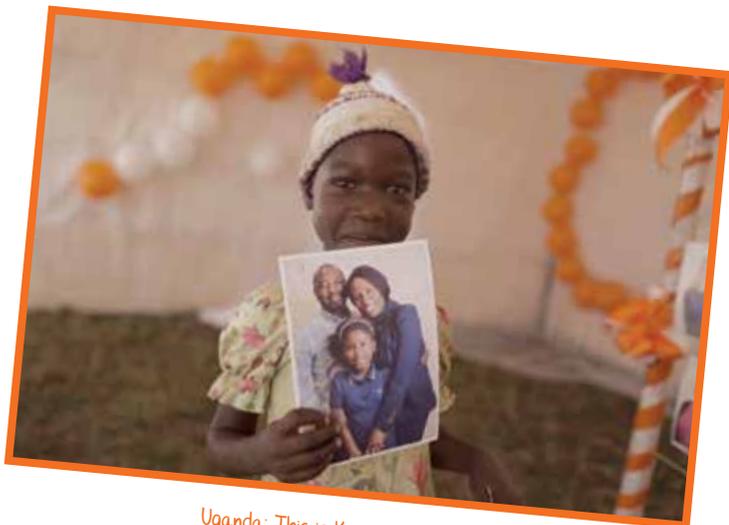
Because no matter where children live in the world, they all deserve to be loved and believed in.

Just as God chose to make every one of us, and He believes in and loves us all.

*This little girl lives in Uganda, Africa. At a party in her village she chose the UK family she'd like as her sponsor.*



*Uganda: Children playing games and having fun at a party for the villages.*



*Uganda: This is Kevin - she's a girl, even though her name is normally given to boys in the UK.*



*This young girl was taking her time to choose the UK family that would become her new friends.*



## PRAYER

God, thank You for this day! Thank You for my family and friends, for the birds and the animals, the flowers and the trees, the lakes and the streams, and the sun that rises and sets over them each day.

Thank You for creating everything! Thank You for the life we live, and for choosing each of us and making every person special and different.

Thank You for Jesus, who died for us so that we can go to heaven one day just for believing in Him. What an amazing God You are!

In Jesus Name,  
Amen.

But sometimes when families are poor, children just like you, don't have choices.

They can't afford to go to school, they have only dirty water to drink and they might need to work to buy food.

But for some children life is getting better.

For the first time, Choosing Parties in Uganda in Africa are giving poor children the chance to choose you and your family to be their friend and help them.

Because being chosen feels good!

*"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful!" - Psalm 139: 14*



*Uganda, Africa: A party for all the boys and girls, where they could each choose the UK families that would be their sponsors.*

# JOIN PATCH THE PUMPKIN ON ANOTHER ADVENTURE!



Patch the Pumpkin is back. And this time, he's just a bit bored. But not for long! Join our superhero as he learns a few life lessons about friendship, disappointment, and whether pumpkins can be good at football.

Join the fun with Patch and his friends - don't miss out!

Patch

**World Vision**

NO CHILD WITHOUT A FUTURE

[worldvision.org.uk](http://worldvision.org.uk)

World Vision believes that by working together with children, their communities, and our supporters and partners, the lives of the world's most vulnerable children can be transformed. As a Christian organisation, we aspire to reflect God's unconditional love in all we do.

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