

AISAKI AND ANNIE



This book is part of the Inuutsiarniq Reading Series, developed by the Department of Health in Nunavut. The Inuutsiarniq Reading Series is a unique, Nunavut-developed literacy initiative that infuses Northern values of healthy living and self-care into a culturally appropriate reading program.

The Inuutsiarniq Reading Series was developed to support the reading level guidelines outlined in the Department of Education's Inuktut guided reading program, Uqalimaariuqsaniq. Uqalimaariuqsaniq is a sequential and progressive Inuktut reading program that supports students in their development from emergent to fluent readers.

Healthy students are better learners and become healthy adults. For more information, visit www.gov.nu.ca/health and your local Health Centre.

AISAKI AND ANNIE



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**Illustrated by
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Aisaki is the new kid in school. He moved to the community right at the beginning of the school year. Everyone already has a group of friends, so Aisaki just keeps to himself. He walks to school and back on his own, and he spends most weekends at home in his room playing video games.





One day, as Aisaki is arriving at school, he feels a tug on his jacket. He turns and sees Annie.



Annie sits behind Aisaki in math. She's beautiful. She has dark eyes and a big smile. Aisaki has always been too shy to talk to her.



Hey
Aisaki!

Oh, hey...

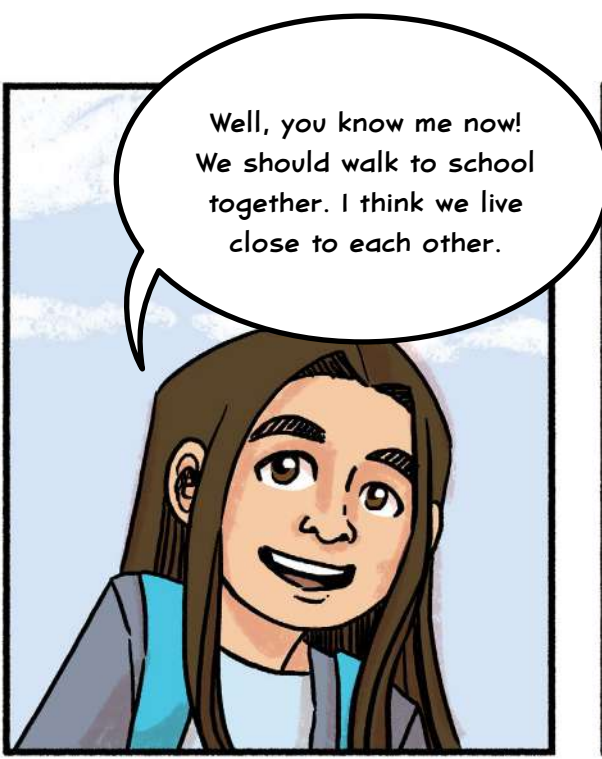


I think you dropped these.



Oh yeah, those
are mine. Thanks.





All through his morning classes, Aisaki thinks about Annie. He can't wait to see her at the end of the day.



Later that day...



Pretty good.
You?



Great! I just got back
an English assignment.
I worked on it forever and I
got a really good grade.



That's awesome.



Aisaki suddenly feels anxious. He's just getting to know Annie and doesn't want to think about her leaving.

Wouldn't you miss Nunavut?

I'd still come home to visit my family and friends!

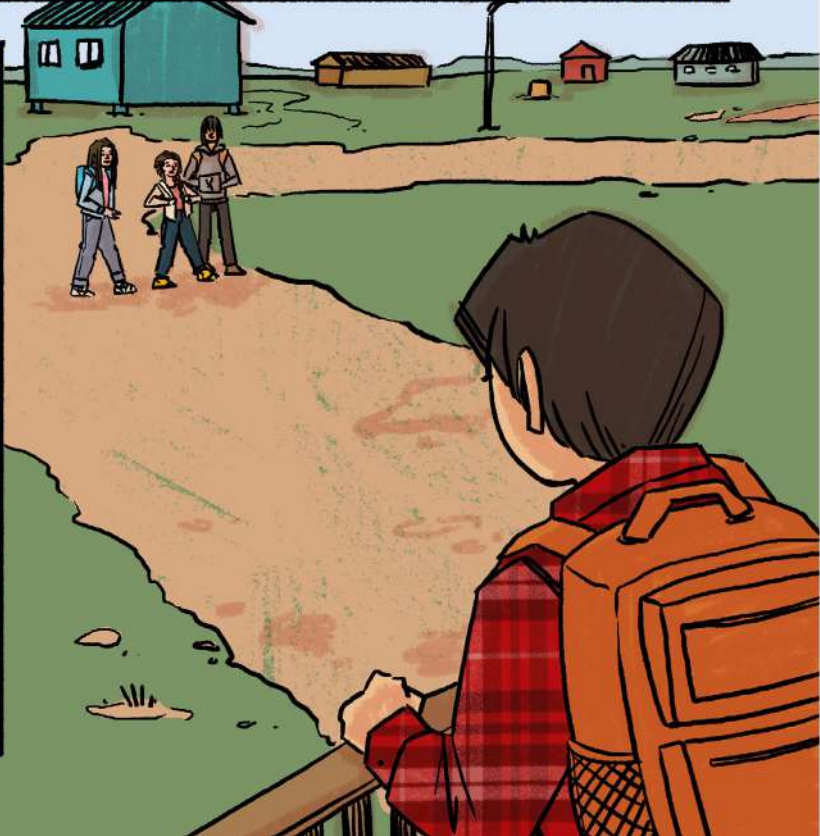
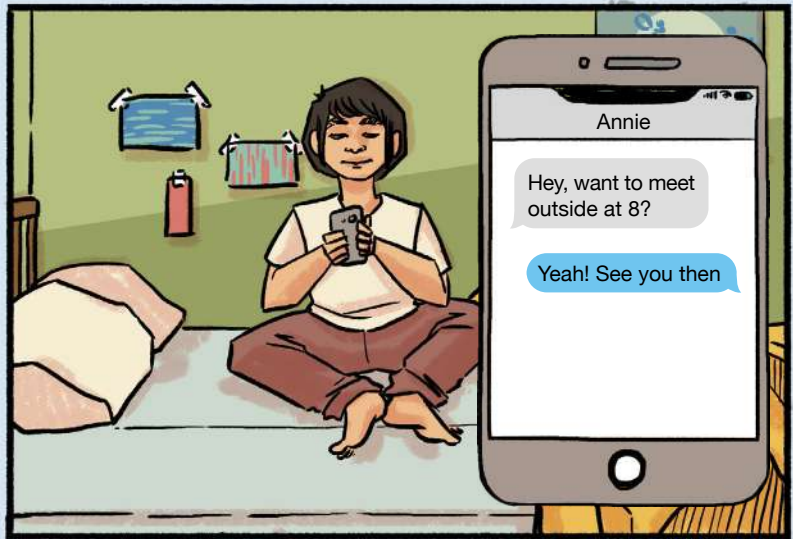
Oh, this is my street. Do you want to walk together tomorrow morning?

Yeah!

Cool. I can send you a message when I leave the house, if you want.

Sure. You want my number?









The rest of the day is a blur. Aisaki barely hears anything his teacher says. In social studies class, Aisaki puts in his earphones so he can listen to music and think about Annie.



After school that day...



Hey! Are you heading home?

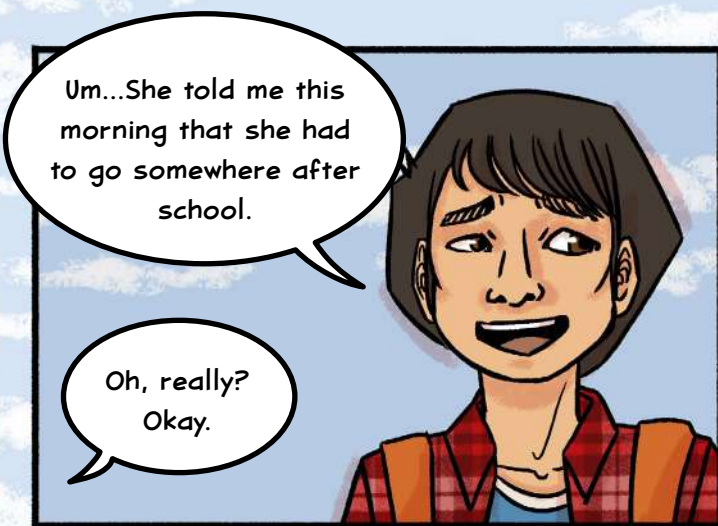


Yeah!

Cool, let's go!

Great, none of her friends are here yet. It's just the two of us!







Hey, there's my dad! He was out seal hunting today. Want to come over for supper?



Sure!



We can make bannock while he cuts up the seal.

Oh no, I suck at cooking...

Um...

Yeah, okay...



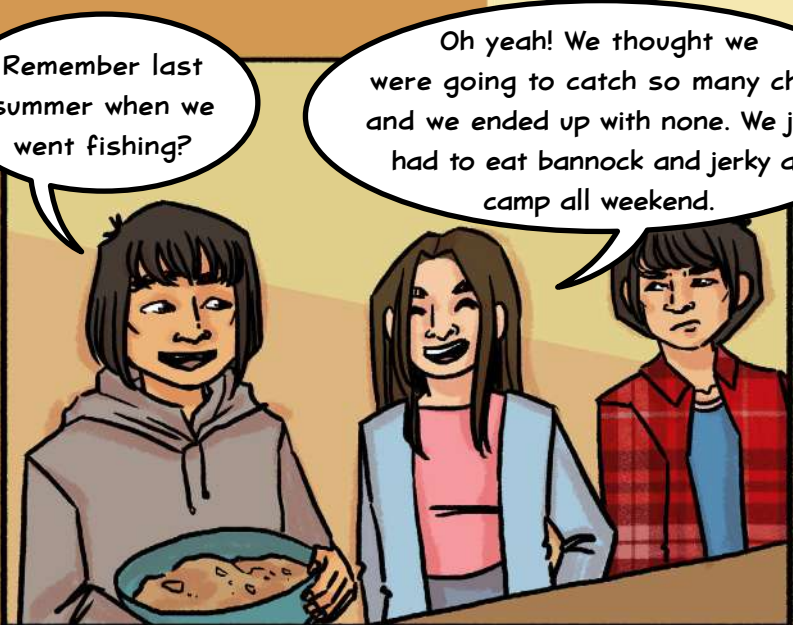
Or you can help my dad skin the seal.

It's okay.
I want to hang out with you.









Remember last summer when we went fishing?

Oh yeah! We thought we were going to catch so many char and we ended up with none. We just had to eat bannock and jerky at camp all weekend.



Sounds like you're not too good at fishing, eh?



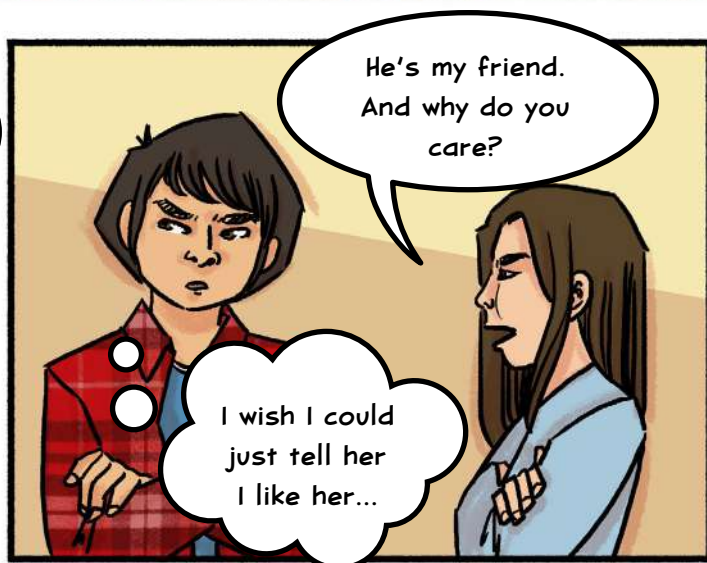
Uh?

Aisaki!



Whatever, I'm outta here.

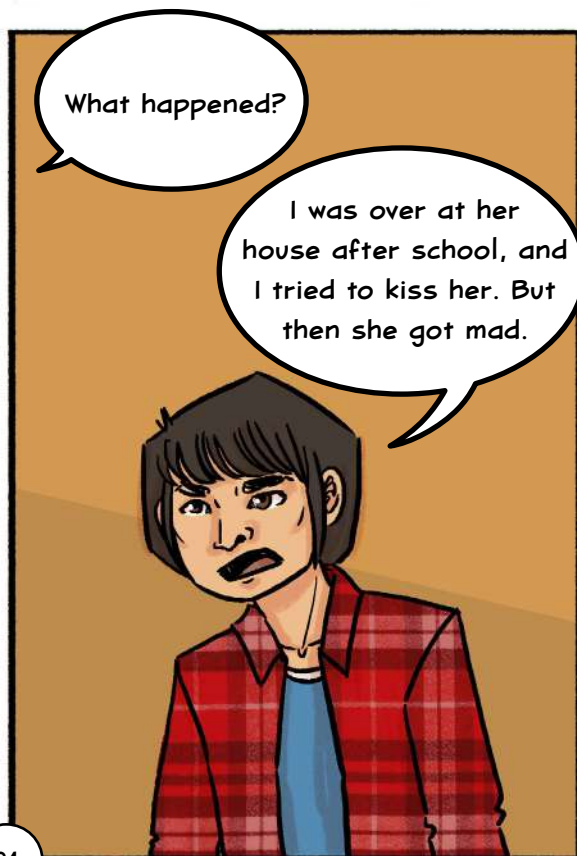


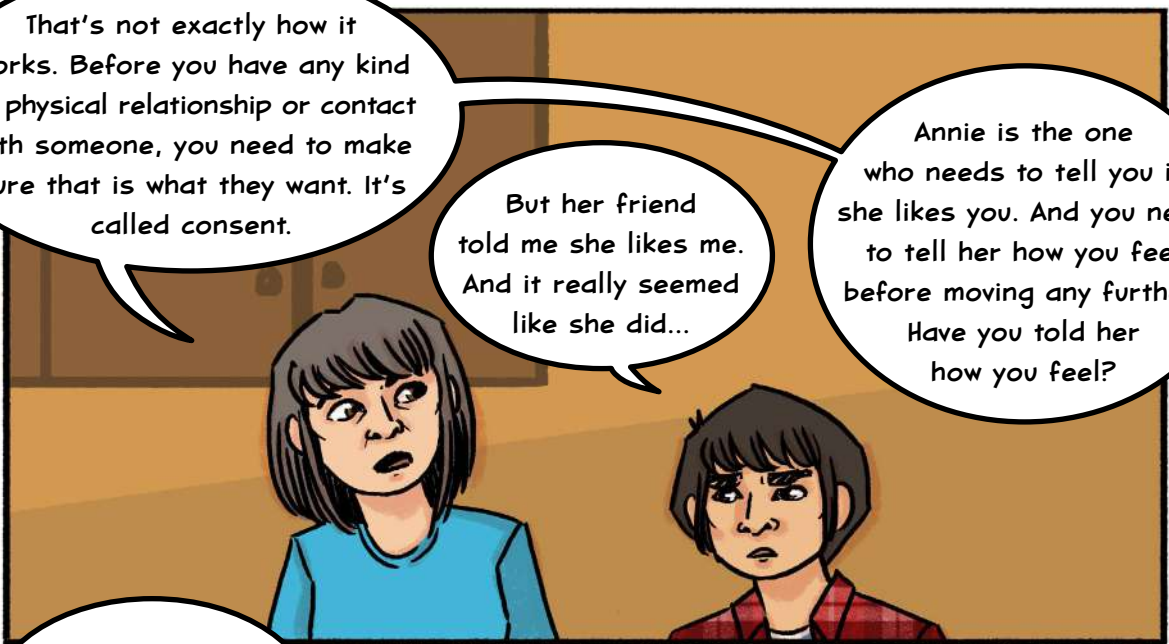












That's not exactly how it works. Before you have any kind of physical relationship or contact with someone, you need to make sure that is what they want. It's called consent.

But her friend told me she likes me. And it really seemed like she did...

Annie is the one who needs to tell you if she likes you. And you need to tell her how you feel before moving any further. Have you told her how you feel?

No. I wanted to, but then this other guy showed up.

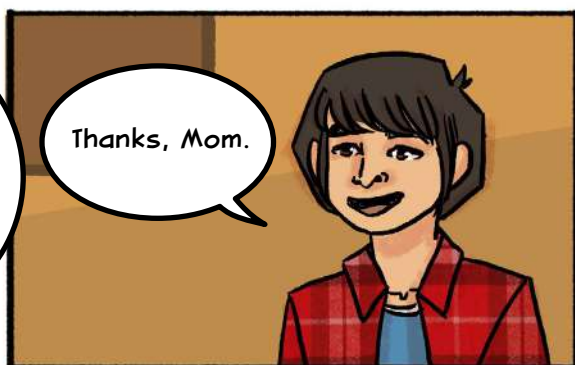
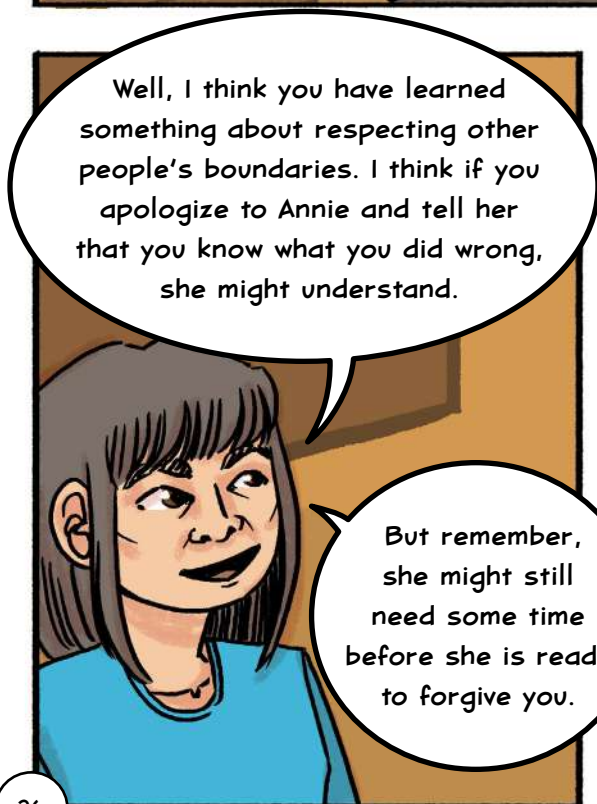
Who was the other guy?

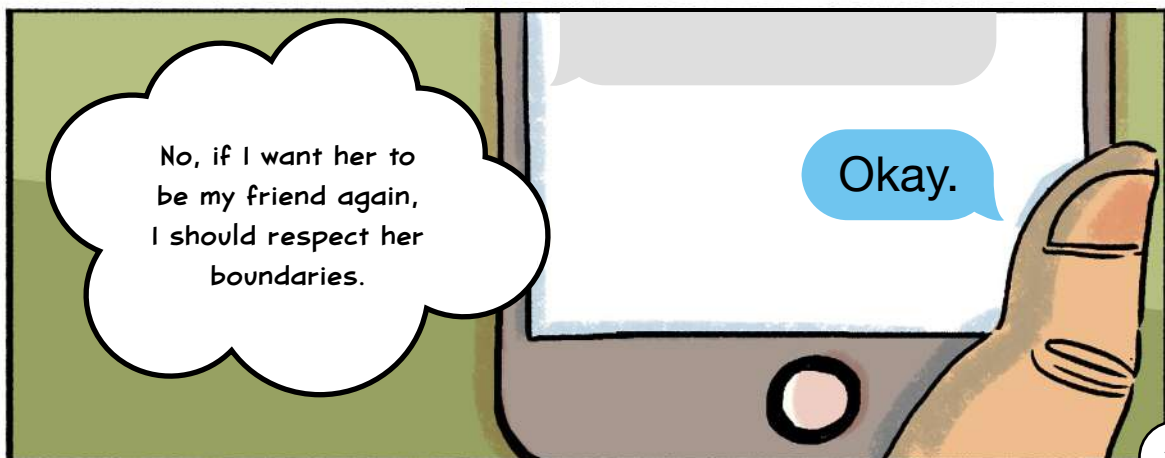
Her friend Johnny.

Well, there's nothing wrong with her having friends.

Yeah, I know.

But he's really cool, and Annie really likes him.

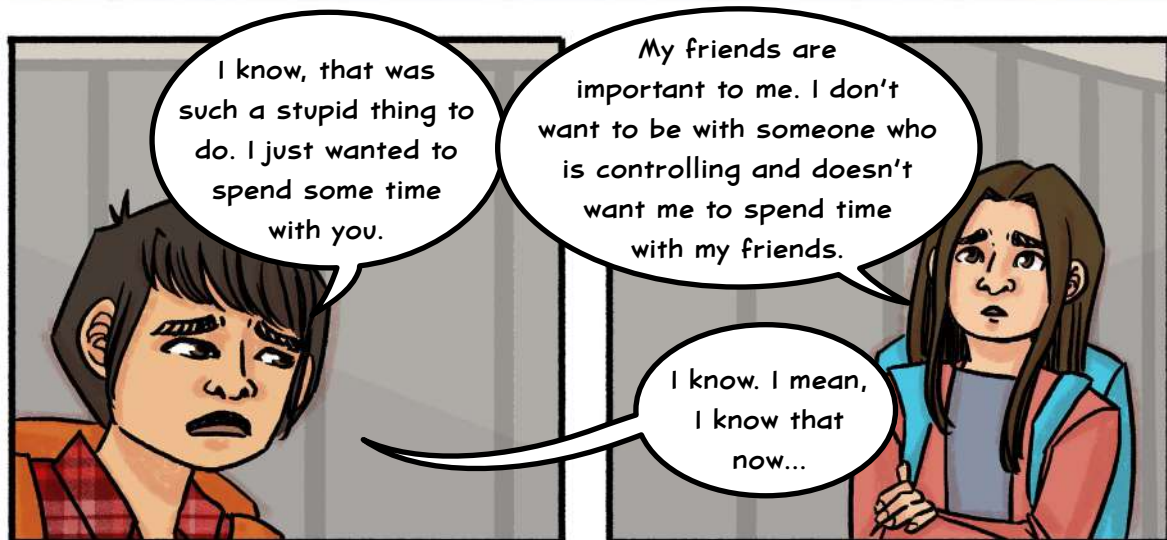


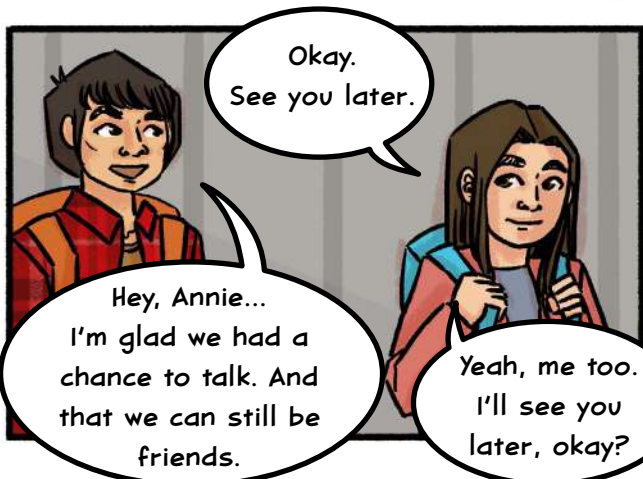
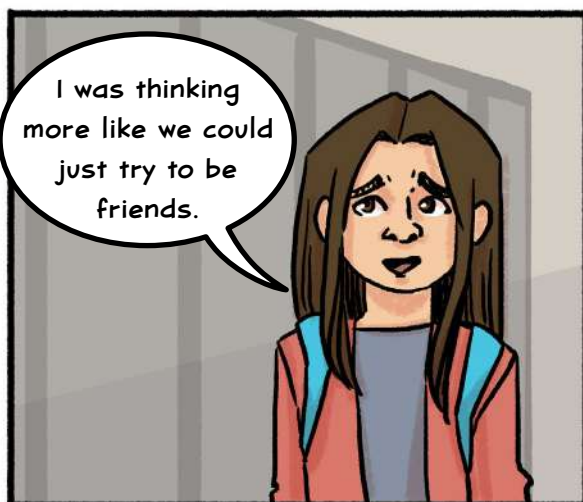


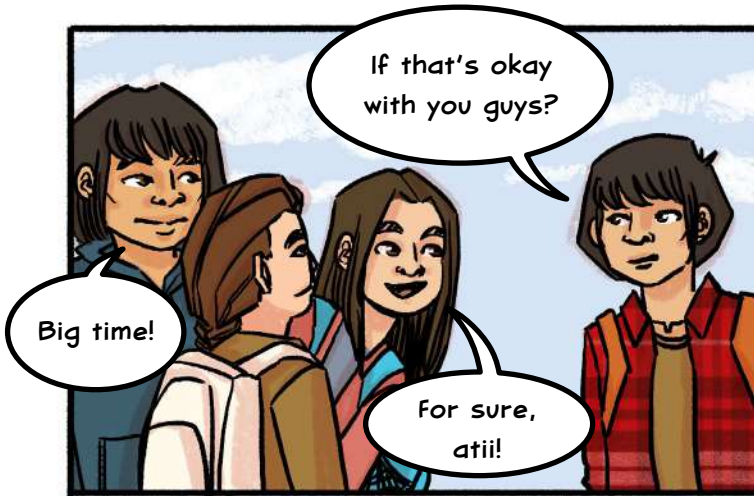
The next morning...











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Aisaki is having a hard time fitting into his new community...until he meets Annie. She's smart and outgoing, and she introduces him to all her other friends. Aisaki likes her a lot, but he worries she might not like him like that. Or maybe she likes someone else. How is Aisaki ever going to let her know how he feels?



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