

# On Our Own



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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](http://www.gov.nu.ca/health) and your local Health Centre.

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## Book details

**Level:** 11

**Text Type:** Fiction

**Subject/themes:** Responsibility, family relationships, how to stay safe at home and in your community, first aid

**Key features:** Dialogue, third-person point of view, past tense

It was almost the end of the school day.  
Timusie was disappointed that he would be late  
to play hockey with his friends again.

“Why are you always late, Timusie?” asked Charles.

“I have to pick up my little sister and take her to  
my grandmother’s house,” Timusie said.





Timusie's sister, Ally, had just started Kindergarten.  
His parents told him that Ally was too little to  
walk to their grandmother's house all by herself.  
She might get hurt if she walked alone.  
Timusie didn't understand what the big deal was.  
Walking wasn't hard.

The school bell rang. Timusie walked to Ally's classroom. When Ally saw Timusie, she ran to him for a big hug.

"Ally, I'm happy to see you, too, but you can't run in the school. You could bump into someone and get hurt," Timusie said.





Timusie and Ally walked out of the school.  
Timusie saw his friends playing hockey.  
Last year, Timusie always played with his friends  
after school. Now he had to drop his sister off  
and run back to play. He knew even if he ran back,  
he would miss the beginning of the game.

As they left school, they saw a lot of parents in cars and on snowmobiles waiting to pick up students. Ally was about to walk in front of a snowmobile that was pulling out of the parking lot!

“Ally, stop!” shouted Timusie. Timusie stopped Ally from walking in front of the snowmobile.





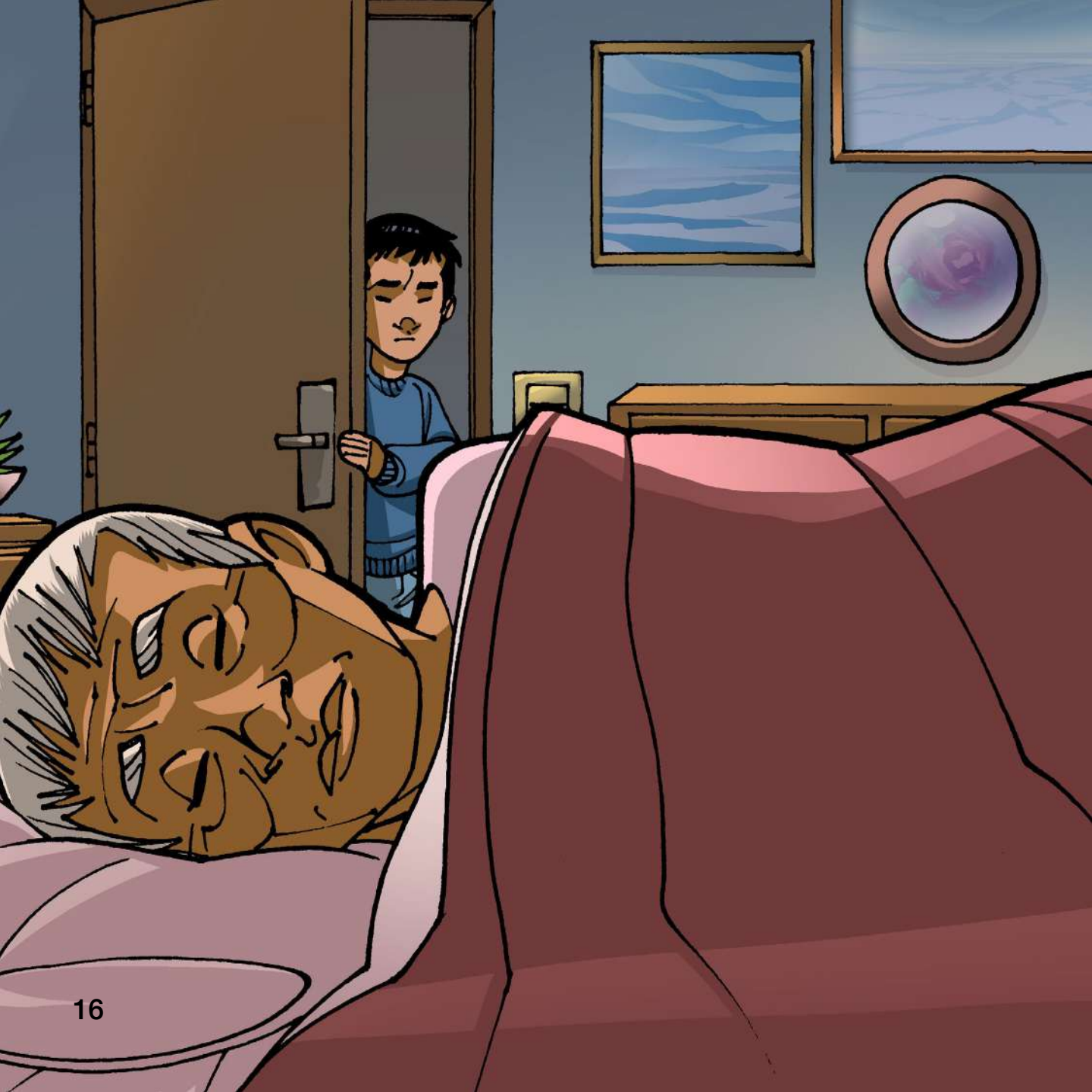
“You have to look both ways in the parking lot and before you cross the street,” Timusie said. For the rest of the walk, Timusie kept his sister next to him. Timusie saw that his sister really did need his help to get to their grandmother’s house safely.

A few minutes later, Timusie and Ally arrived at their grandmother's house, safe and sound. There was a big pile of frozen fish on the porch. Their grandmother had been out fishing today!

“Hello, Grandma, we're here,”  
Timusie said as they walked inside.

“We're here!” shouted Ally.





There was no answer.  
Timusie called out again, but again  
there was no answer. Timusie could see that  
his grandmother's bedroom door was open.  
Quietly, he tiptoed inside.  
His grandmother was sleeping in her bed!

Timusie didn't know what to do. He didn't want to shout or poke his grandmother to wake her up. He knew she must be really tired from fishing. Timusie decided that he would take care of his sister all on his own!





Timusie walked back out of his grandmother's room and closed her door.

“Okay, Ally, Grandma is sleeping. I am going to stay with you!” Timusie said.

“Hooray!” said Ally. She started to jump up and down on their grandmother's couch.

“Ally, don't!” Timusie said. But it was too late!

Ally fell off the couch and bumped her head on the coffee table. She started to cry. Her nose was bleeding. Timusie had to help her. Lucky for them both, he had learned about first aid in school. Timusie told his sister to sit on a chair.





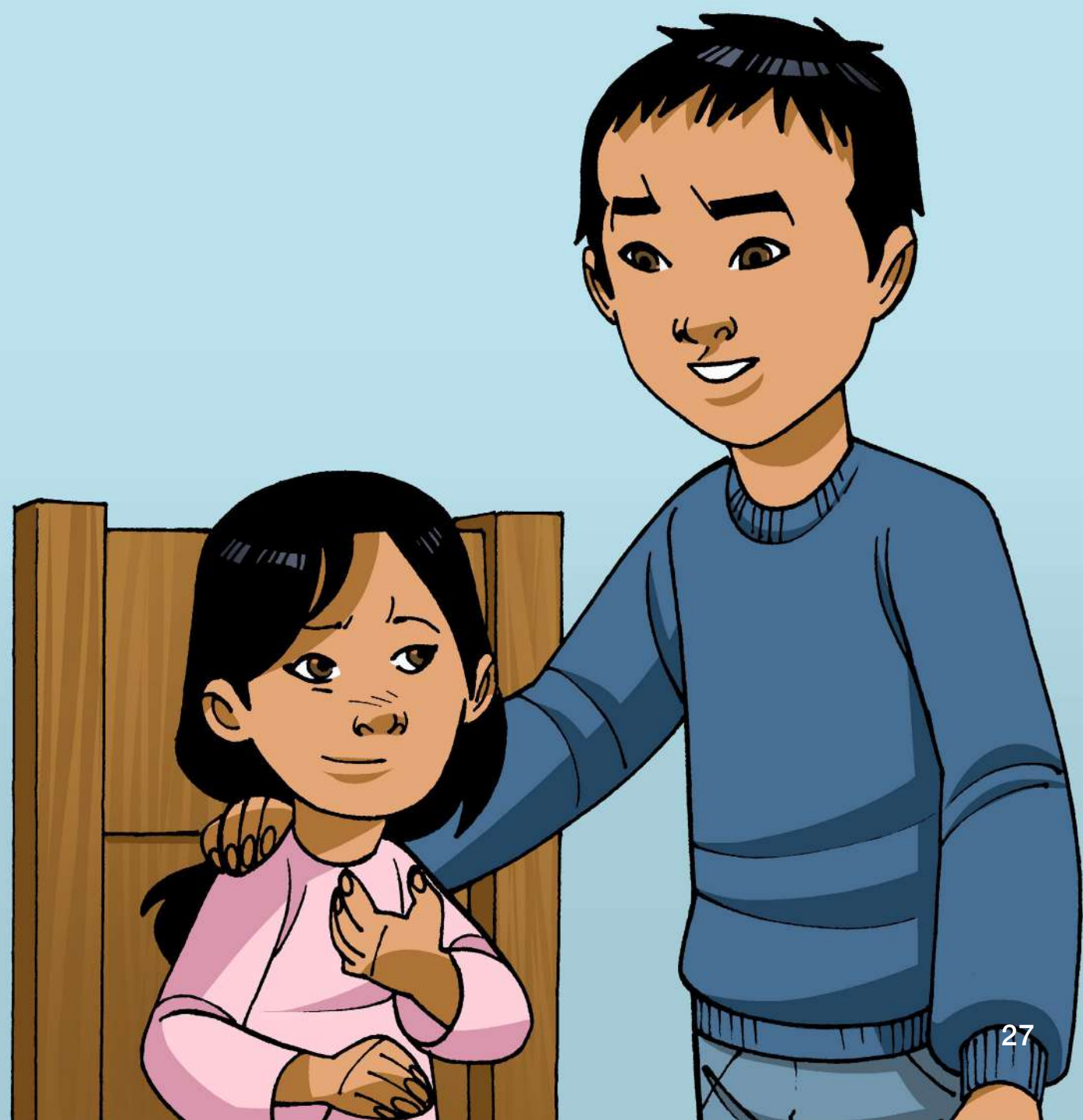
Timusie told Ally to use her thumb and finger to pinch the middle of her nose. He told her to lean forward in her chair just a little bit. While Ally was doing this, Timusie found tissue to help clean up his sister's nose and face. He talked to her to calm her down.

After 10 minutes, Timusie told Ally to stop pinching her nose. The bleeding had stopped.

“Are you feeling better, Ally?” Timusie asked.

“Yes, Timusie. I’m sorry for jumping on the couch,” Ally replied.

“That’s okay,” Timusie said.  
He was glad he was there to help her.





At that moment, their grandmother came out of her bedroom. She gasped when she saw Ally.  
“Are you two all right?” she said.

“We’re fine, Grandma! Timiusie took care of me,” Ally said.

Their grandmother thanked Timiusie for being responsible. They made caribou stew together for dinner.

Afterwards, Timusie and Ally walked home. When they crossed the road, Ally looked both ways to make sure it was safe. Timusie's friend Charles appeared from down the street.

“You missed the whole game today!” Charles said.  
“That’s okay. I needed to help take care of my sister.  
We can have a game on the weekend!” Timusie said.



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