



ALLIANCE FOR EQUALITY
IN THE ROOKIE YEAR

Alliance for Equality in The Rookie Year

A production of

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First day of the school year. The Alliance for Equality is getting ready for the school club sign up.

Kinsey FaceTimes® several of the Alliance for Equality members.




Just wanted to call and wish you luck at the club sign up!

It is a lot right now but once I settle in I think it is going to be really fun.

Thanks Carlos. How is college?

I am sure going to miss having you in classes. I better go. I will talk to you later.



Hey guys, just wanted to make sure we have everything for the club sign up?

I got the table set up.

I have the sign up sheets.


It's going to be great.

I am ready to meet new people.

Becky was getting the cupcakes packaged up.



As the Alliance for Equality prepare for the school club sign-up, freshmen twins Allison and Judd are getting ready for their first day of High School.

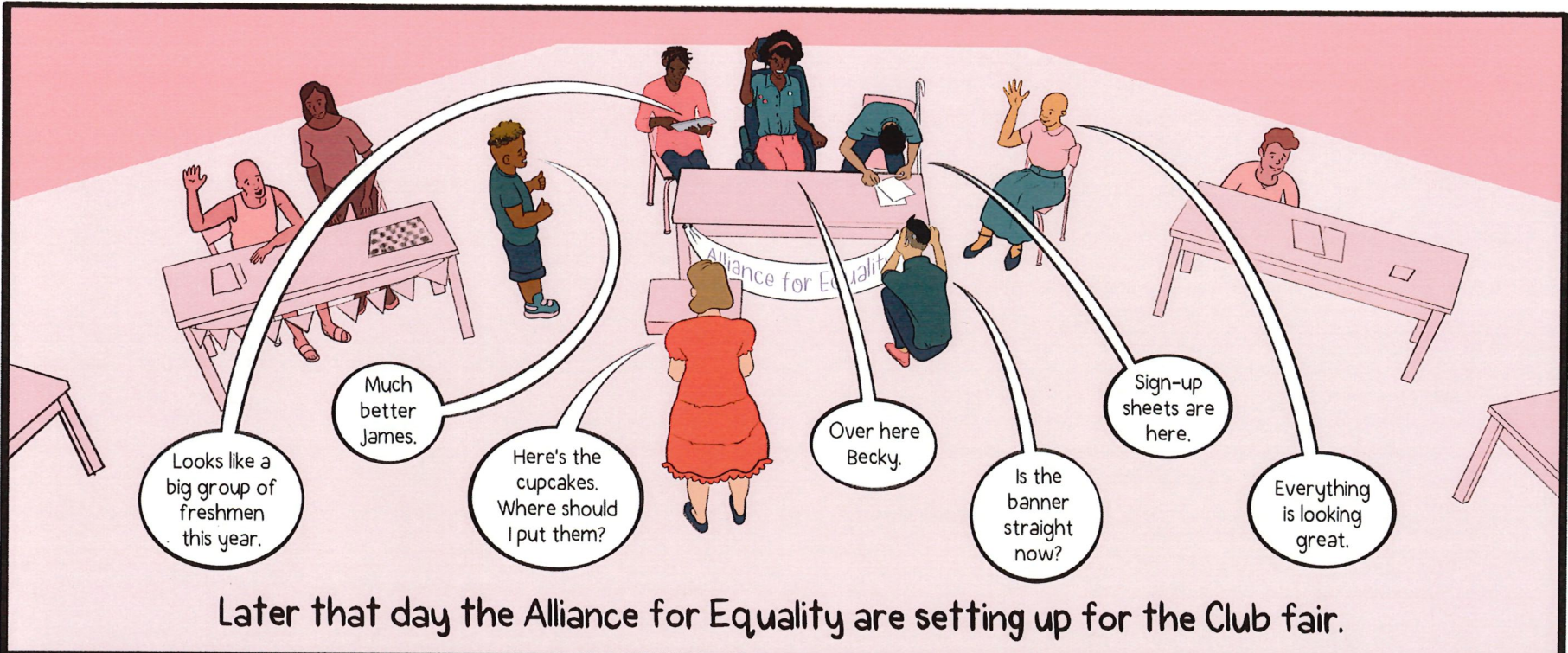


Why do you worry so much? It is nothing to be weird about.

Hey, is this shirt long enough? You can't see anything right?

James is finishing up the club banner.





As students are participating in the club fair, Allison and Judd are deciding what club to sign up for.



A few weeks into the school year, Judd is eating a snack on his way to his next class.

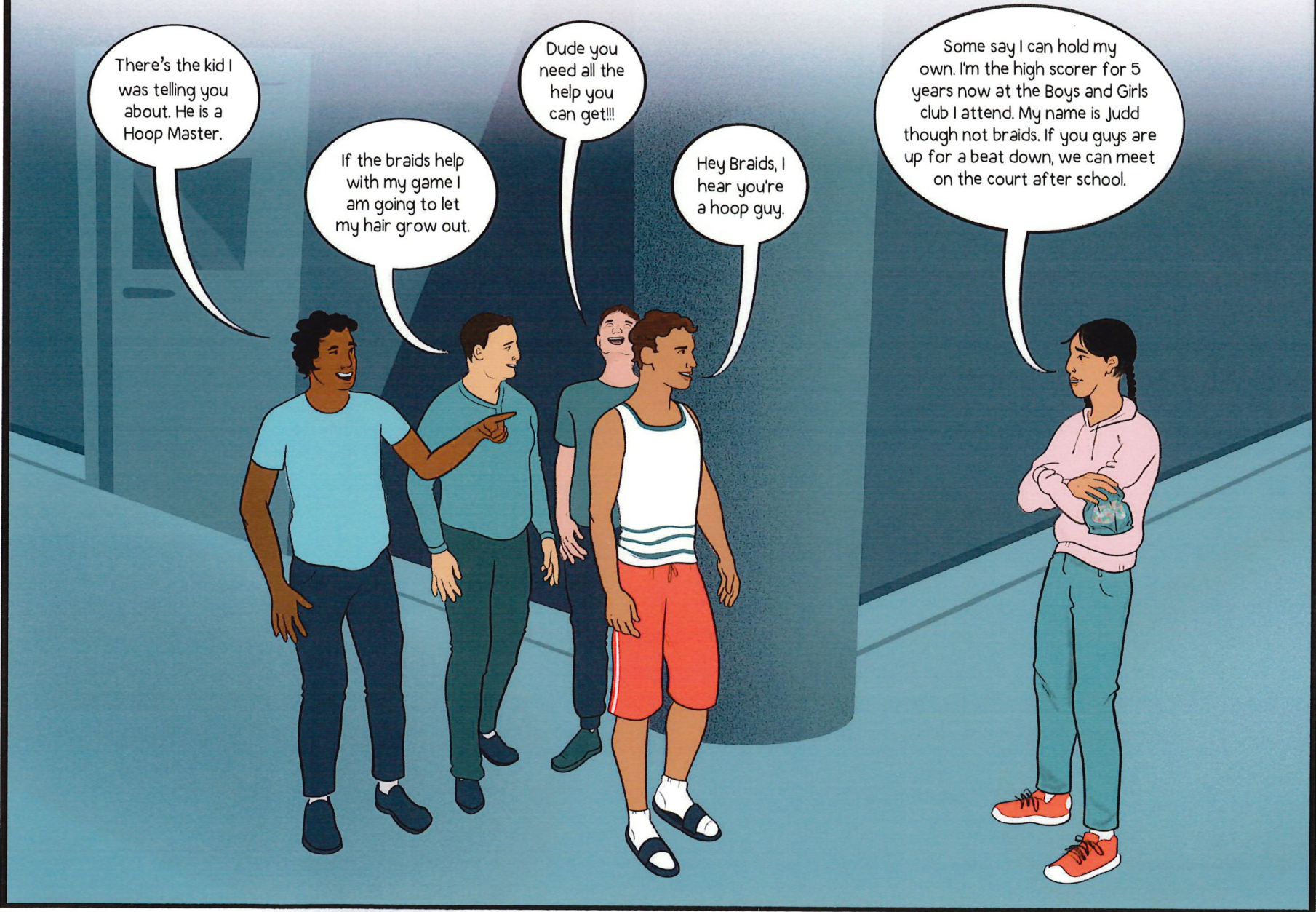
There's the kid I was telling you about. He is a Hoop Master.

If the braids help with my game I am going to let my hair grow out.

Dude you need all the help you can get!!!

Hey Braids, I hear you're a hoop guy.

Some say I can hold my own. I'm the high scorer for 5 years now at the Boys and Girls club I attend. My name is Judd though not braids. If you guys are up for a beat down, we can meet on the court after school.



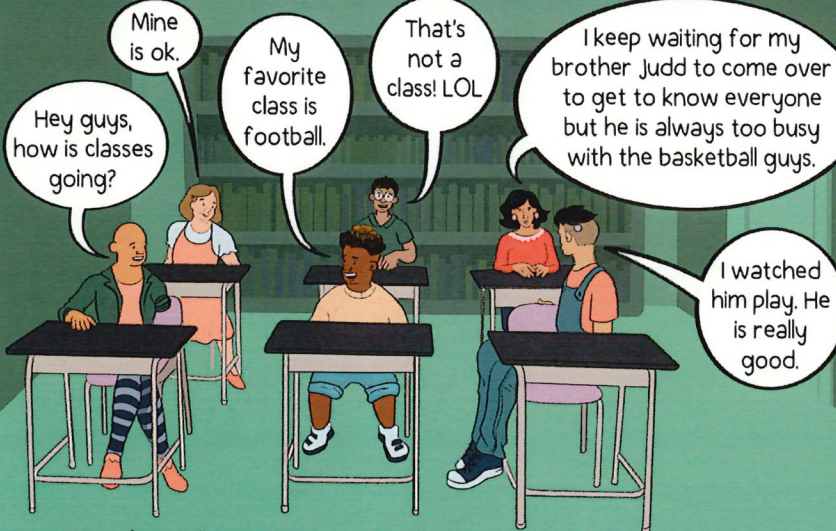
Allison asks Judd about the conversation she heard in the hallway when they get home.

I overheard those guys making fun of you today. It really makes me mad.

I guess you're right. I sure wish you were ok with other things about yourself.

Oh Sis let it go. It doesn't bother me that much when they remark about my braids. I'm proud of my braids. It is our culture. They don't know how important my braids are to me and why. I just brush it off.

Whatever, you're such a pain!



As school continues Allison gets to know the Alliance for Equality.



Judd becomes part of the basketball crew.

In class the next week, Judd is in class. All of a sudden a noise is heard in the class.



That is the weirdest ring tone ever.

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

Is that the bell? Is class over?

Look he is getting a snack. It must be snack time!!

Sorry, it's my phone. I forgot to turn it off.

Why you beepin'?

I'm ready for class to be over!

That evening Allison comes into the room as Judd is throwing his bookbag and pillows around.

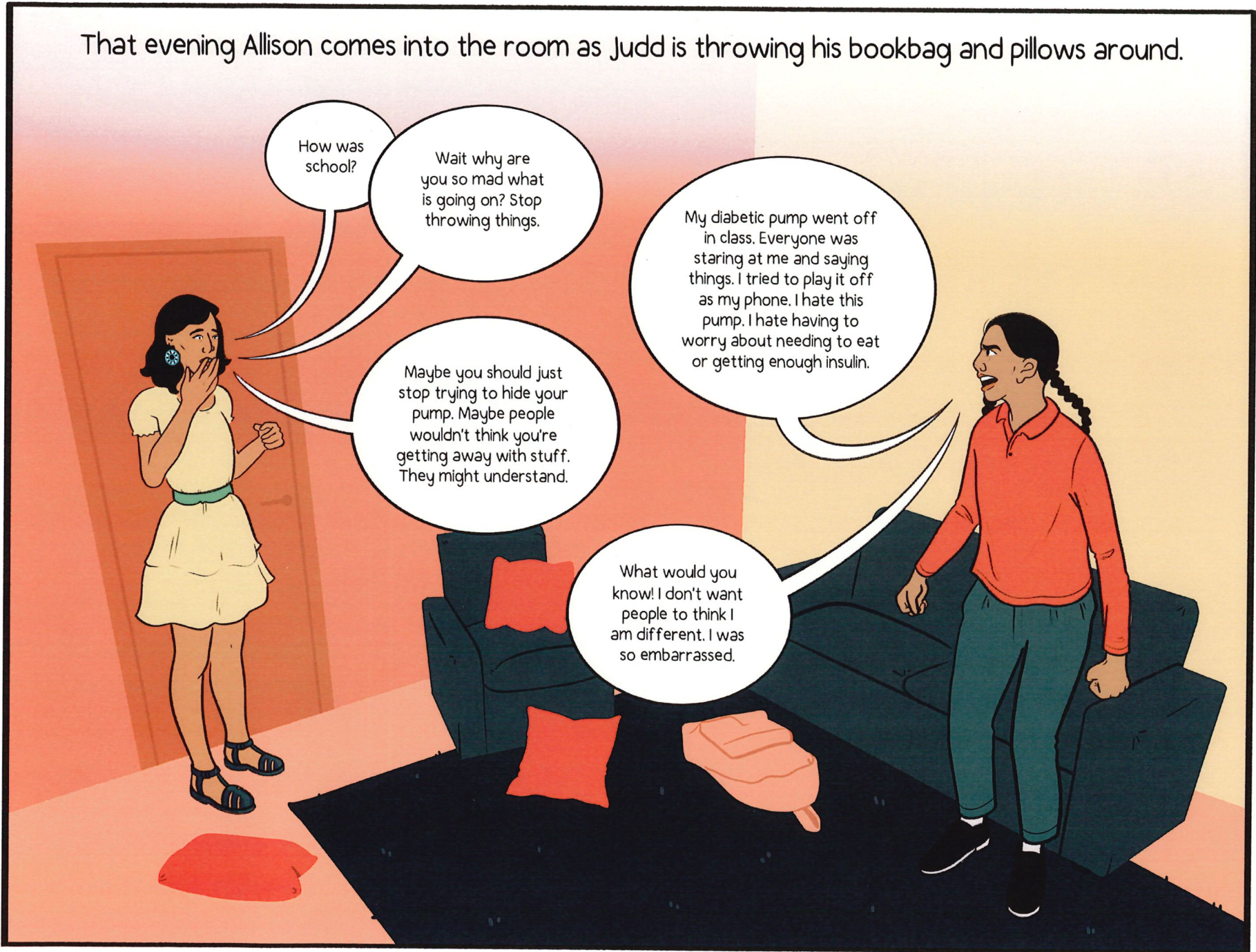
How was school?

Wait why are you so mad what is going on? Stop throwing things.


Maybe you should just stop trying to hide your pump. Maybe people wouldn't think you're getting away with stuff. They might understand.

My diabetic pump went off in class. Everyone was staring at me and saying things. I tried to play it off as my phone. I hate this pump. I hate having to worry about needing to eat or getting enough insulin.

What would you know! I don't want people to think I am different. I was so embarrassed.



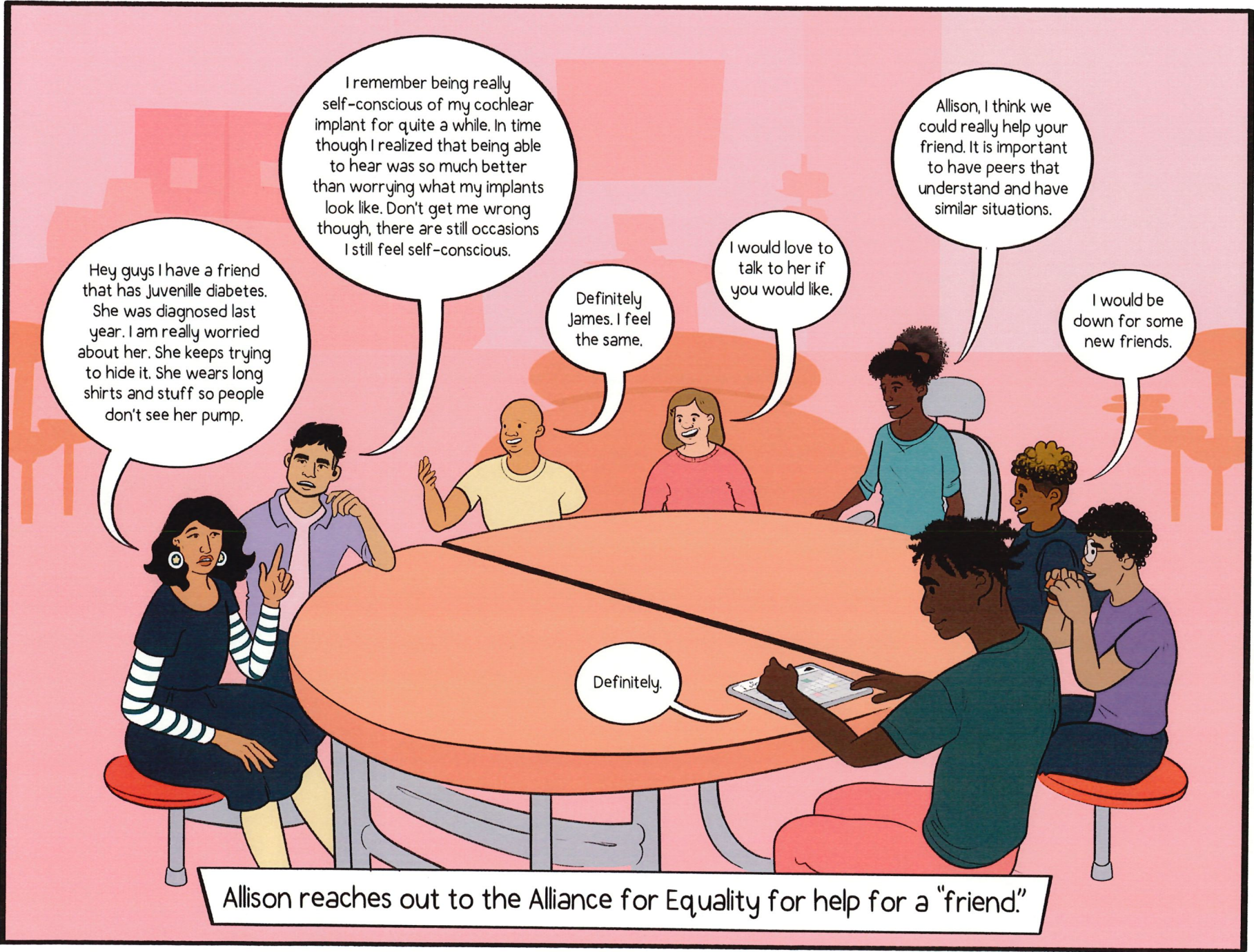
Judd's parents try to comfort him later the same evening.



Honey you OK? We are here to help. I know we discussed different devices to keep your diabetes in check. Would you like to look at those again?

I will figure it out. I don't want to talk about it. I am tired of talking about it and you guys keep trying to smother me.

You know we are here if you need us. You are not in this alone. We have a lot of resources that we can reach out to.



Hey guys I have a friend that has Juvenile diabetes. She was diagnosed last year. I am really worried about her. She keeps trying to hide it. She wears long shirts and stuff so people don't see her pump.

I remember being really self-conscious of my cochlear implant for quite a while. In time though I realized that being able to hear was so much better than worrying what my implants look like. Don't get me wrong though, there are still occasions I still feel self-conscious.

Definitely James. I feel the same.

I would love to talk to her if you would like.

Allison, I think we could really help your friend. It is important to have peers that understand and have similar situations.

I would be down for some new friends.

Definitely.

Allison reaches out to the Alliance for Equality for help for a "friend."

Judd's fears of his diabetic pump being seen by his peers happens the next day at basketball practice when he trips and falls down.

He has wires and a box, is he a robot?

What is that connected to you? That is not a phone!

Hey guys maybe we should take it easy if Judd has health issues we don't want him to get hurt. We probably shouldn't be playing so hardcore.

If that box falls off do you lose your basketball skills?



Angry and sad Judd runs to the locker room.

I am so embarrassed. I guess I couldn't keep it a secret forever. I knew they wouldn't understand. They either think I am a freak or I'm someone that is fragile and can't play ball.

I am alright I guess.

I have juvenile diabetes and this box is my diabetic pump. I was diagnosed last year. It doesn't stop me from playing ball but a lot of people don't understand that.

Hey R U OK? I saw what happened.

There are people that understand. I am one of them.

I am here if you want to vent.

I do need to eat. Let's go.

It is almost Lunch time. Let's go get a table.



In the lunch room Jordan introduces James, Tom, and Dre.

Hey guys this is Judd. He is really good at basketball.

Some kids on the court were commenting on Judd's Diabetes.

Hi Judd I'm James.

WHAT???

Hey nice to meet ya. I hope you don't mind sitting with a robot.

Some people are so clueless. They make fun of what they don't understand to make themselves more comfortable.

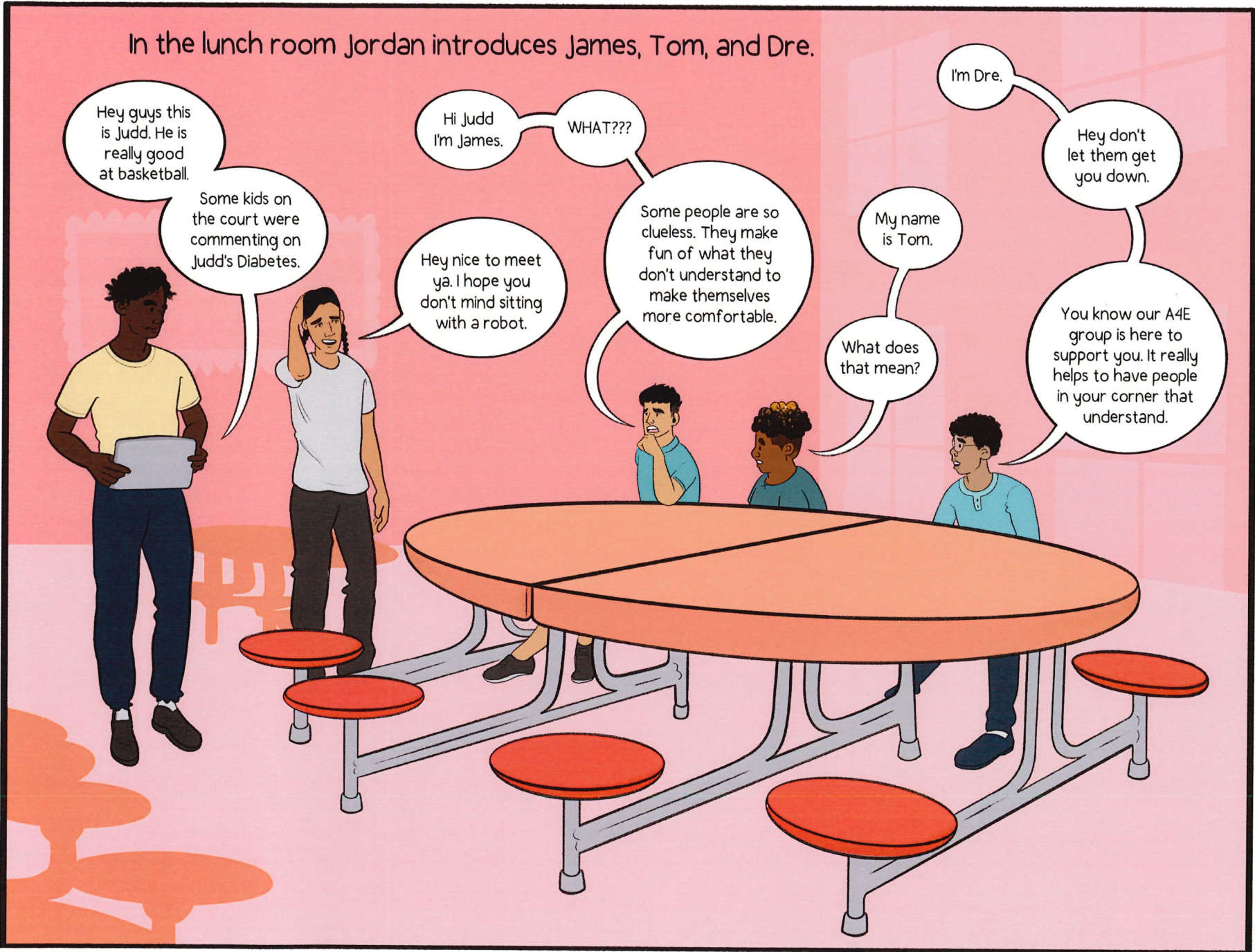
My name is Tom.

I'm Dre.

Hey don't let them get you down.

What does that mean?

You know our A4E group is here to support you. It really helps to have people in your corner that understand.



The next day Judd meets the other members of the Alliance for Equality.



First basketball practice after Judd's fall. Sides are being picked for scrimmage.
Judd is one of the last to be picked.

I don't know. Judd is good but do you think he is OK to play hard?

Jordan

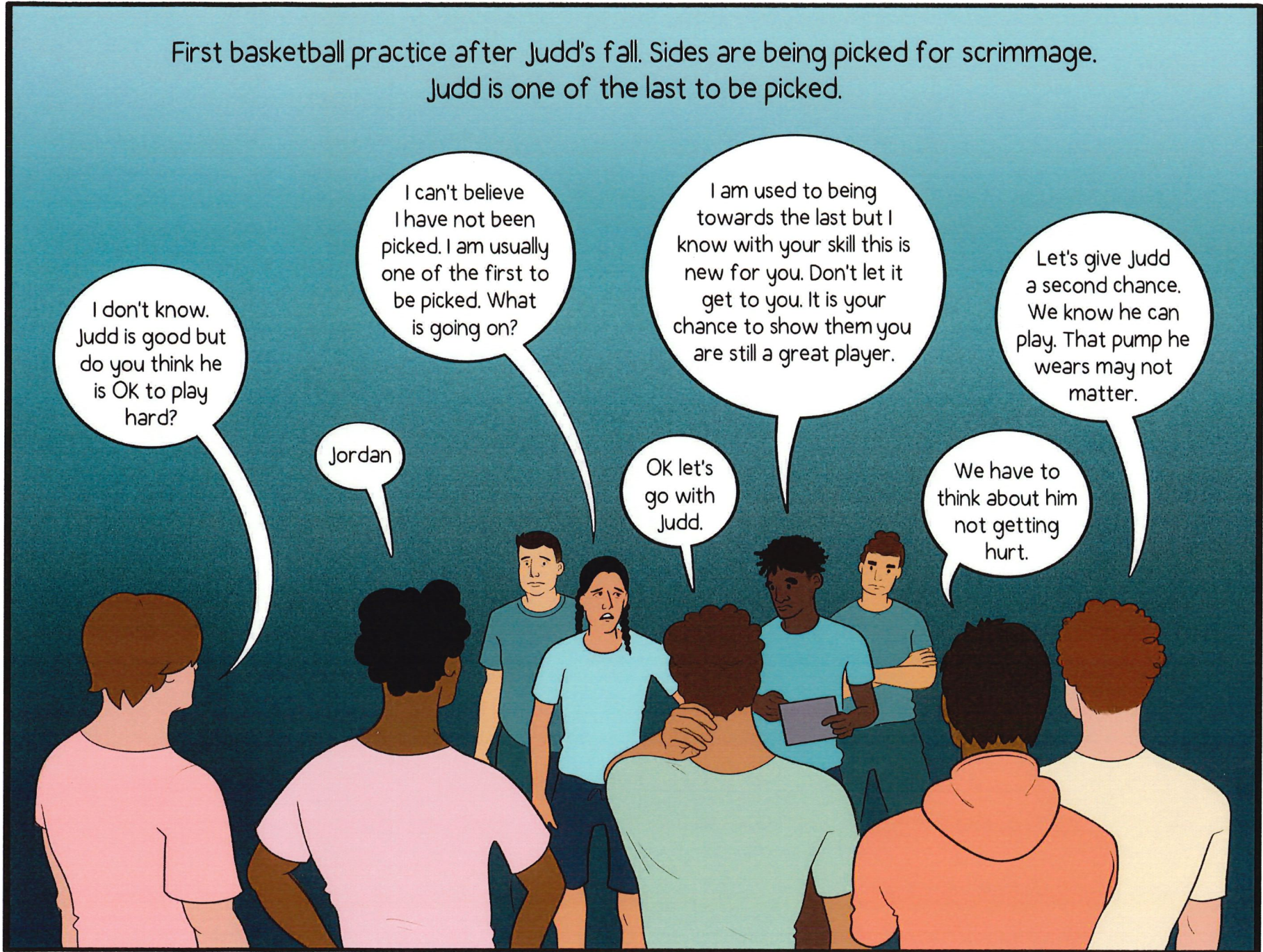
I can't believe I have not been picked. I am usually one of the first to be picked. What is going on?

OK let's go with Judd.

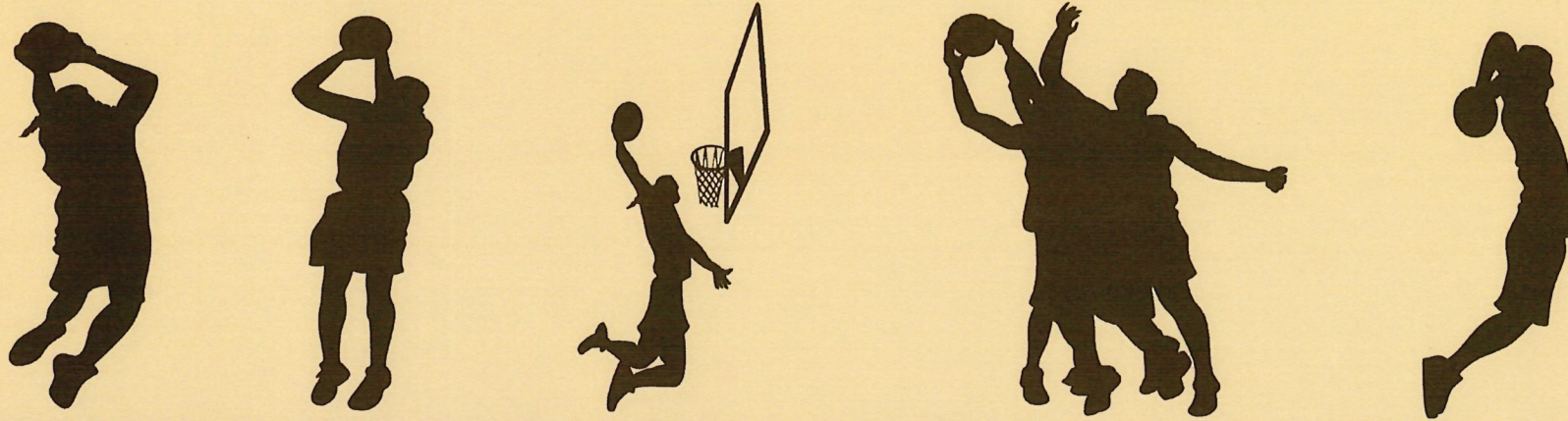
I am used to being towards the last but I know with your skill this is new for you. Don't let it get to you. It is your chance to show them you are still a great player.

We have to think about him not getting hurt.

Let's give Judd a second chance. We know he can play. That pump he wears may not matter.



Judd fires up the court and leads the team to a resounding W.



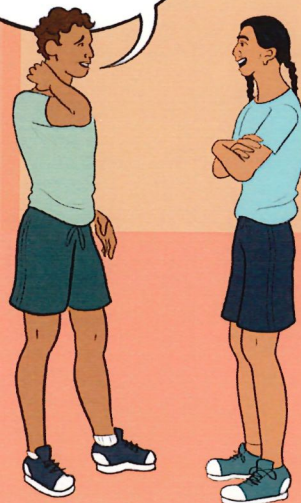
Next time Judd is getting picked at the start.

Yea, we def need him on our team next time.



You were on fire.

That box you wear doesn't slow you down. Apologies Hoops for thinking you couldn't keep up.



Thanks guys. I just wanted to show you that my diabetes doesn't hurt my skills.

Way to go.

Man, I am sorry I doubted you.

Great game



Later that night in his bedroom Judd thought about the day's events.

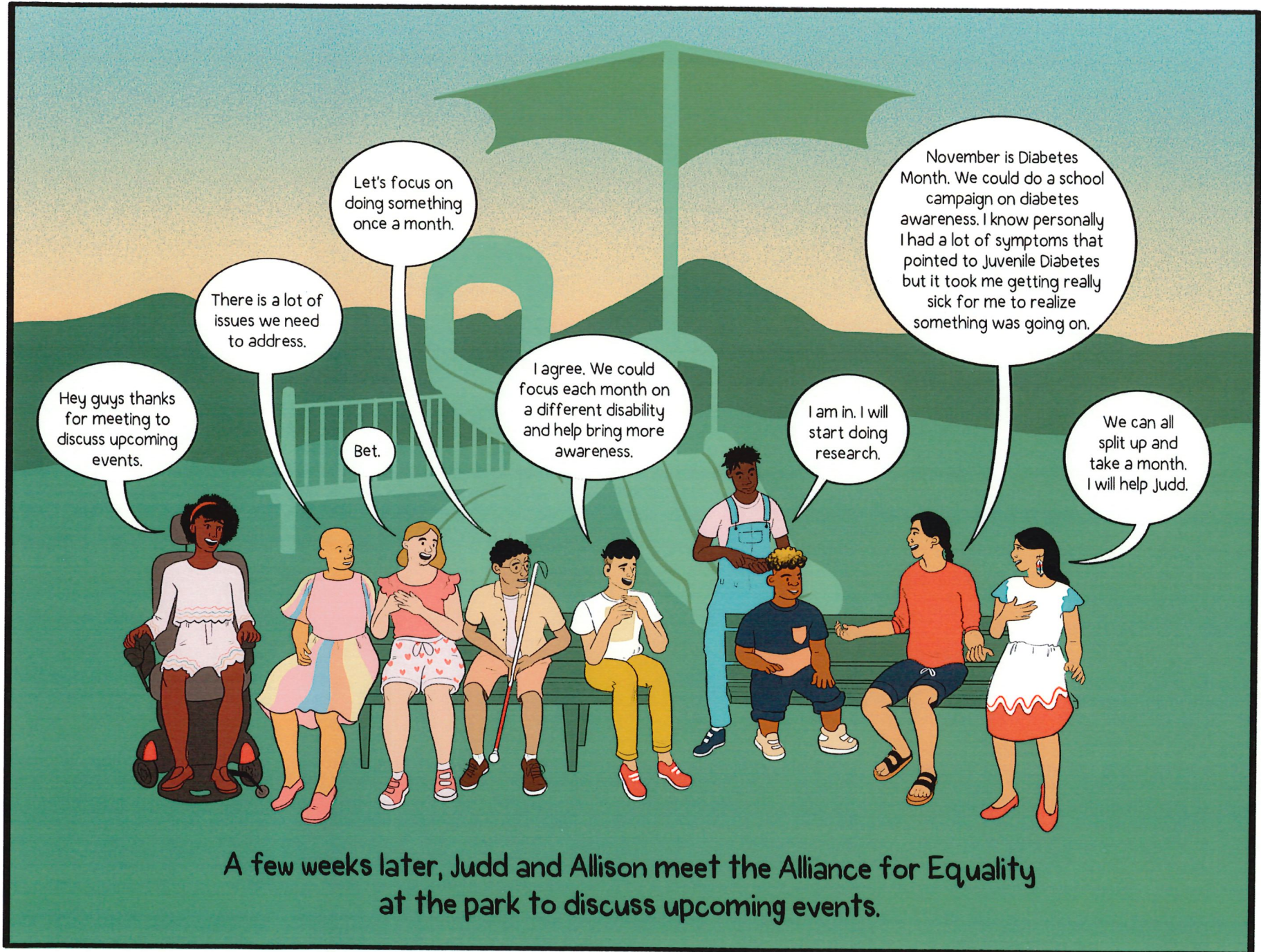
I have support of my family and friends, and I can be supportive to others because of my experiences.

Today was so awesome. I feel like my old self.

I don't feel so self-conscious anymore.

I know I will have times when I will need to remind myself it will work out. I just have to go about things a little different.





Hey guys thanks for meeting to discuss upcoming events.

There is a lot of issues we need to address.

Let's focus on doing something once a month.

Bet.

I agree. We could focus each month on a different disability and help bring more awareness.

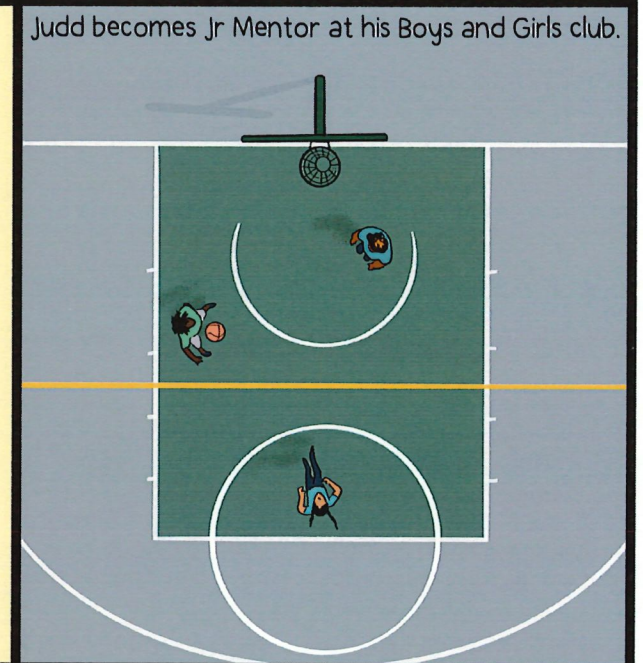
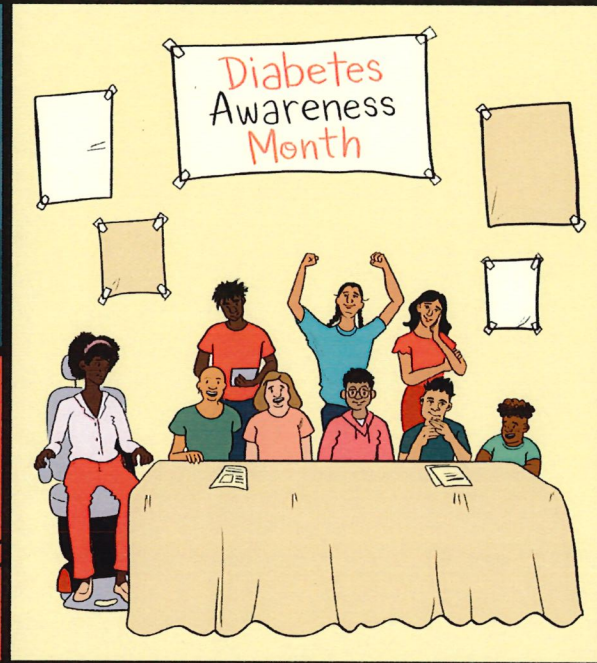
I am in. I will start doing research.

November is Diabetes Month. We could do a school campaign on diabetes awareness. I know personally I had a lot of symptoms that pointed to Juvenile Diabetes but it took me getting really sick for me to realize something was going on.

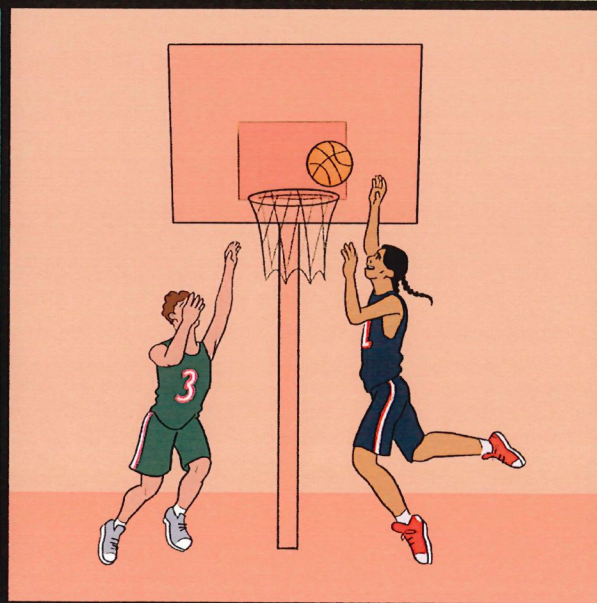
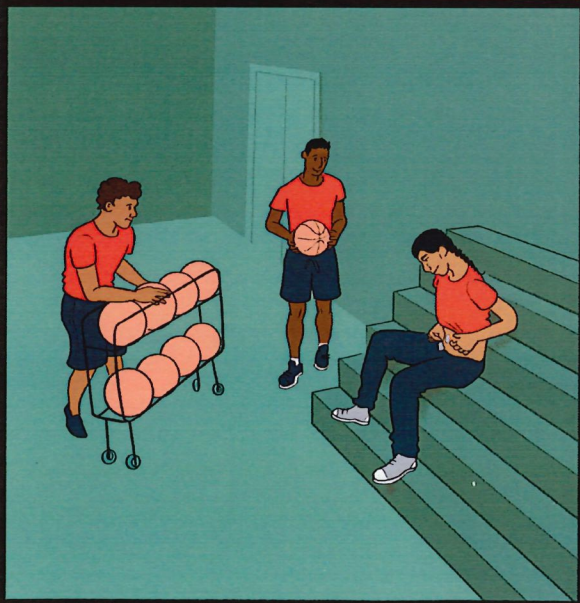
We can all split up and take a month. I will help Judd.

A few weeks later, Judd and Allison meet the Alliance for Equality at the park to discuss upcoming events.

The school year brought Judd and Allison and the members of the Alliance for Equality success in many things.



Judd becomes Jr Mentor at his Boys and Girls club.



This year has turned out really good. You guys really are great friends. We would like to share something with you.

Our Spring Powwow is coming up and we would like you to come. Please ask Carlos too. We would love to meet him.

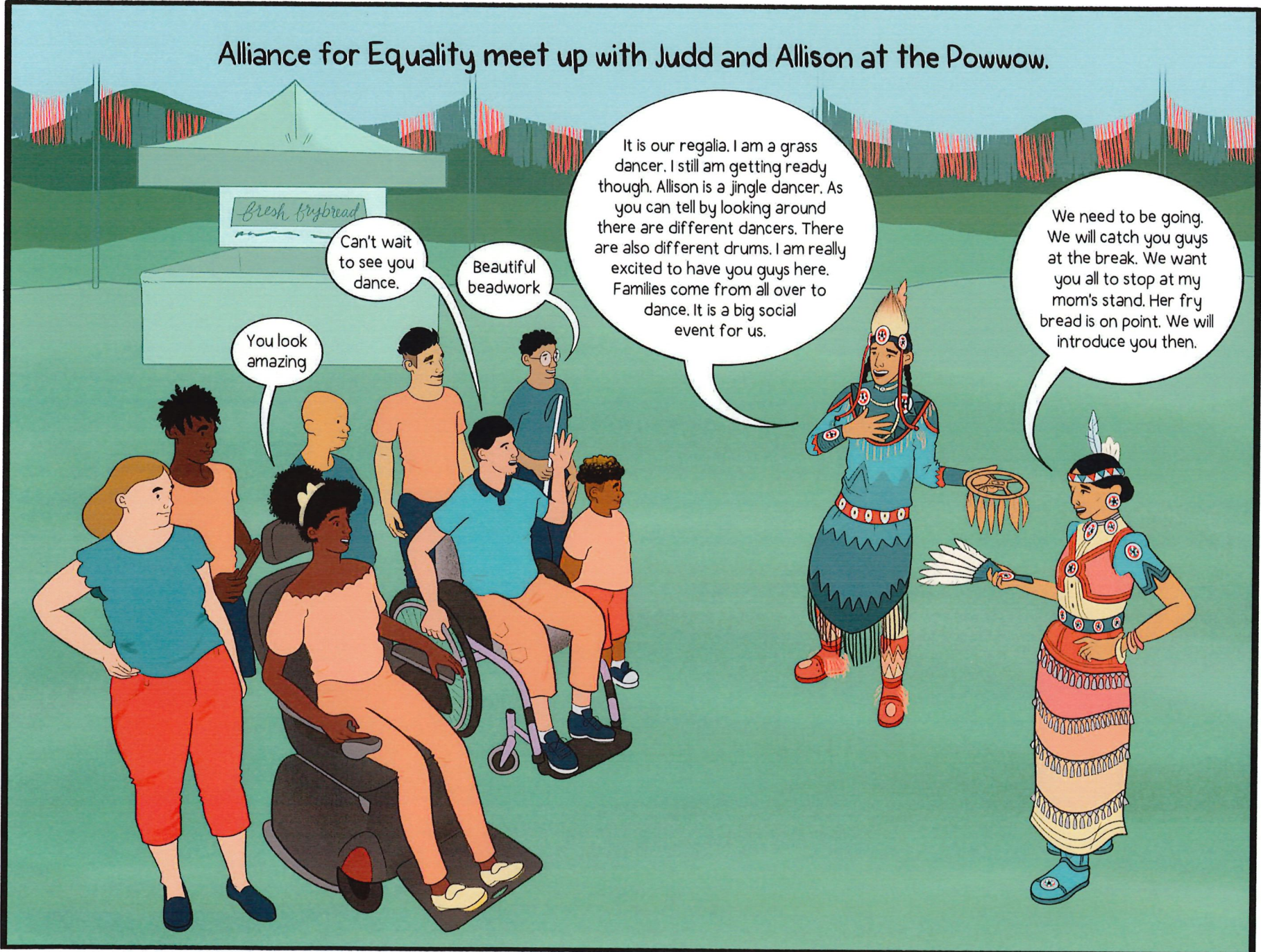
I'm in

Sounds great

I will call him tonight

Love too

Alliance for Equality meet up with Judd and Allison at the Powwow.



Can't wait to see you dance.

You look amazing

Beautiful beadwork

It is our regalia. I am a grass dancer. I still am getting ready though. Allison is a jingle dancer. As you can tell by looking around there are different dancers. There are also different drums. I am really excited to have you guys here. Families come from all over to dance. It is a big social event for us.

We need to be going. We will catch you guys at the break. We want you all to stop at my mom's stand. Her fry bread is on point. We will introduce you then.

The following are common symptoms of type 1 diabetes:

- Increased thirst
- Frequent urination
- Increased hunger
- Weight loss
- Dry mouth
- Nausea and vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Fatigue
- Blurred vision

There are four insulin manufacturers who offer
Immediate assistance and long-term resources.

Lilly Diabetes Solution Center
833-808-1234

Novo Nordisk NovoCare®
1-844-NOVO4ME
1-844-668-6463

Sanofi Patient Savings Programs
1-855-984-6302

MannKind Support Programs
Co-Pay Program
Direct Purchase Program

Medical Device Manufacturers, call directly to learn about
their patient assistance program.

Abbott
1-888-522-5226

Dexcom
1-888-738-3646

Eversense CGM
1-844-736-7348

Insulet
1-800-591-3455

Medtronic
1-800-646-4633

Tandem Diabetes Care
1-877-986-0601



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