

CRAZY ABOUT HOCKEY!

Written by Loris Lesynski
Illustrated by Gerry Rasmussen



For teacher/librarian and sportsman Caley Feldman, with thanks for putting together all those “focus groups” of terrifically athletic kids at Chester Public School to help me with my hockey (and soccer and basketball) poems. —LL

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© 2015 Gerry Rasmussen (illustrations)

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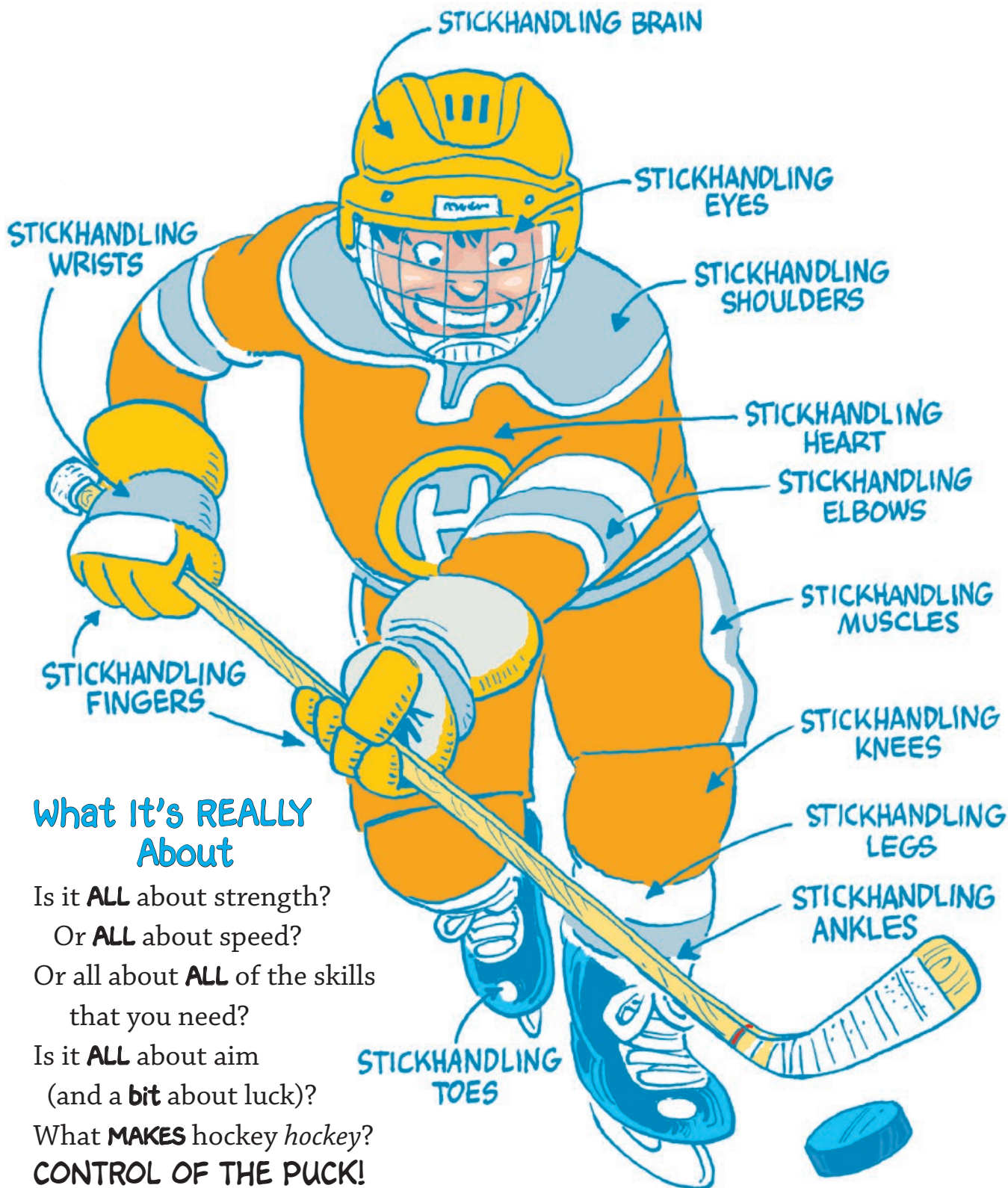
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What it's REALLY About

Is it **ALL** about strength?

Or **ALL** about speed?

Or all about **ALL** of the skills
that you need?

Is it **ALL** about aim

(and a **bit** about luck)?

What **MAKES** hockey *hockey*?

CONTROL OF THE PUCK!



No Game Without It

open a basketball,
what'll be there?
layers of wrapping
and then only air

but pucks have no pieces,
a puck has no parts
in motion the moment
a period starts

a puck is all puck
from the bottom to top
so solid that only the net
makes it stop



a puck is all puck
from the outside to in
a blob with one job: to
get out there and win!





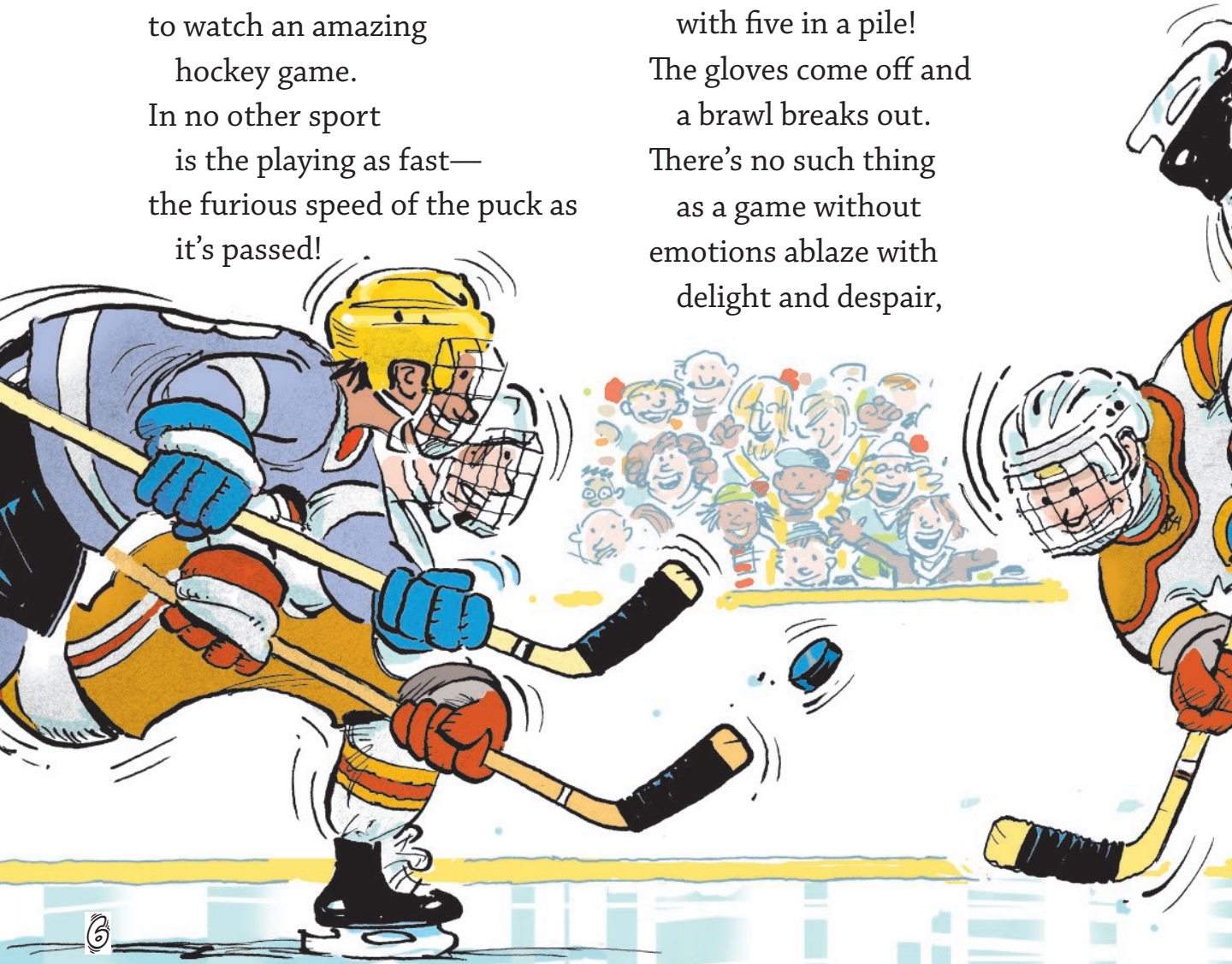
Why WE Win

we gotta get it
all in sync
the way we move
the way we think
a team's all speed
and skills and more
connected: that's
the way to score!
our team becomes
one brilliant brain
so *yes!* we win
another game!

My Team!

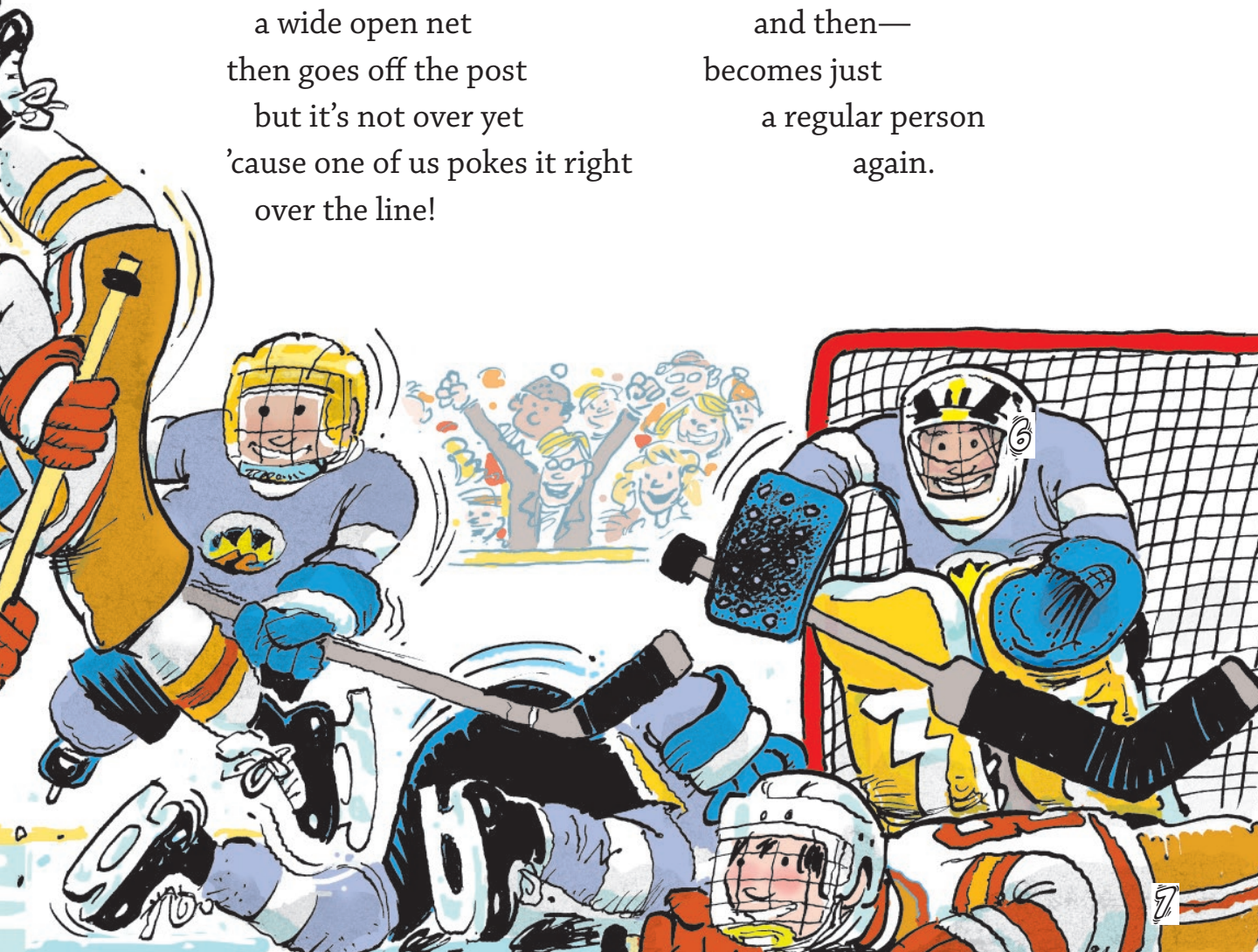
We get in position,
about to start,
around us the thumps
of every heart—
the hearts on the ice
and the ones that came
to watch an amazing
hockey game.
In no other sport
is the playing as fast—
the furious speed of the puck as
it's passed!

The atmosphere: electrifying!
Players skate like eagles
flying!
Precision, decisions,
momentum and style,
sometimes collisions,
with five in a pile!
The gloves come off and
a brawl breaks out.
There's no such thing
as a game without
emotions ablaze with
delight and despair,



but *whoa* to those moments
when tempers flare!
The game goes on,
even more intense,
for us and the fans,
an insane suspense.
The puck makes its way to
a wide open net
then goes off the post
but it's not over yet
'cause one of us pokes it right
over the line!

The other team knows that
they've run out of time.
Our goalie's grinning
'cause winning's so sweet.
The shouts from the crowd
can be heard in the street!
Each of us leaves the ice
and then—
becomes just
a regular person
again.



HocKey?

Seems it's *packed*
with **K**s
and uses them in countless ways.

LIKE WHAT? You know
that **K**ids'll as**K**.
Like s**K**ates, and stic**K**s,
and s**K**ills and mas**K**!

Like strea**K**ing, and de**K**ing,
and then attac**K**
knowing your teammates
have your bac**K**!

Fa**K**ing and hat tric**K**s.
A rin**K**! A wrec**K**!
Of course Canuc**K**s!

A hoo**K**! A chec**K**!
Shot bloc**K**ing, roo**K**ies, and brea**K**away plays—
hoc**K**ey's got a **CRUSH** on **K**s!

The **K** sound in hoc**K**ey—hear how it roc**K**s.

(See one that's **SNEA**K**Y?**

The **PENALTY BO**K**s!**)



Hockey: A Very Short History

It was thousands and thousands of years ago when cavemen hunted on ice and snow.

The very first skate that they ever made used an animal bone that was carved like a blade.

They must have used strapping for speed and control, pushing ahead on the ice with a pole.

Over the centuries, skates were improved, and feet were then able to turn when they moved.

Did *hockey* begin then? No, everyone knows a sport wasn't fun if it meant that you froze!

What *made* hockey happen, and then made it better?

When someone invented the *hockey sweater*!

