



This book is part of the Tamatta Pijunnautiqagtugut Reading Series, developed by the Representative for Children and Youth's Office. The Tamatta Pijunnautiqagtugut Reading Series was developed to support the reading level guidelines outlined in the Department of Education's reading program, Uqalimaariuqsaniq. Uqalimaariuqsaniq is a sequential and progressive Inuktut reading program that supports students in their development as readers.

The Tamatta Pijunnautiqagtugut Reading Series is a unique, Nunavut-developed literacy initiative that incorporates information about child and youth rights into a culturally appropriate reading program. This series aims to increase the reader's self-awareness, encourage healthy coping strategies, promote positive relationships, demonstrate the importance of effective communication, and support the development of self-advocacy skills among young Nunavummiut.

The Representative for Children and Youth works to make sure the Government of Nunavut provides children, youth, and their families with consistent, fair, and equal services that meet their needs and support their rights. When a young person and/or their family do not get the support they need from a Government of Nunavut department, the Representative for Children and Youth's Office can help. For more information, call or text 1-855-449-8118 or visit [www.rcynu.ca](http://www.rcynu.ca).

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### Book details

**Level:** 10

**Text type:** Fiction

**Subject/themes:** Problem-solving, working together, playing outdoors

**Key features:** Third-person point of view, dialogue

# Annie and Uqi Play Out



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**Ali Hinch**

The first thing Annie did when she woke up was look out the window.

She was supposed to play out with her best friend Uqi yesterday, but it had rained all day. Annie had been very disappointed.





But today, it was bright and sunny. Annie ate her breakfast quickly and brushed her teeth.

Then she ran to Uqi's house. Uqi lived next door. Annie and Uqi loved to play out together.



Annie arrived at Uqi's house and walked inside.

"Hi, Uqi," Annie said. "The sun is out! Do you want to play out today?"

Uqi looked up at her mom. Her mom raised her eyebrows and smiled.

"Let's go!" Uqi said.





Annie and Uqi ran to the playground.  
Uqi liked to go down the curvy slide.  
Annie loved the swings. She would swing  
so high it felt like she was flying. Swinging  
made her forget all of her worries.

But when they got to the playground, they quickly stopped running and frowned.

“Oh no!” Annie said, pointing at the swing set.

The swings were wrapped all the way around the top bar of the swing set.

“That’s not fair,” Annie said. “We can’t use the swings like this.”







Uqi knew how much Annie loved to swing. She did not want her friend to be sad. Uqi thought for a moment. Then she had an idea.

“Don’t worry!” Uqi said. “We can fix this.”



“Maybe we can jump really high to reach the swings and throw them back over the bar,” Uqi said.

But no matter how high Annie and Uqi jumped, they couldn’t reach the swings.





“Wait! What if you climb on my shoulders?” Annie said. “Maybe together we will be tall enough to reach the swings!”

“Okay!” Uqi said. Annie knelt down, and Uqi climbed on her shoulders. But when Annie tried to stand up, she stumbled and fell over.

Annie and Uqi sat on the ground looking up at the swings.

*What if we can never use the swings again? Annie thought. Where will we play?* She felt very discouraged. She wanted to cry.

“Let’s just go home,” Annie said sadly.







“We can’t give up,” Uqi said. “Other kids will want to play on them too. We have to fix the swings!”

She pointed to the basketball court. “Look!” she said.

Mosesie was there, shooting hoops by himself. He was an older kid who lived across the street.

“Maybe Mosesie can help us,” Uqi said. She ran over to the basketball court.

“Mosesie, someone threw the swings over the bar, so now we can’t play on them,” Uqi said. “Can you help us get them down?”

“Of course I will help you,” Mosesie said. “It was not very nice of someone to do that to the swings.”





Mosesie was athletic. He loved to play basketball, and he was really good at high-kick.

He jumped as high as he could. But even Mosesie couldn't reach the swings.



“I have another idea!” Mosesie said.  
“I’ll be right back.”

Mosesie jogged across the street to his house. He came back with a ladder and his big sister, Leetia.





Mosesie and Leetia set up the ladder and made sure it wasn't wobbly. Then Mosesie climbed up the ladder while Leetia held it steady. Mosesie flipped one swing over the top bar, and then the other.

Annie and Uqi cheered.



“Thank you for helping us!” Annie said.  
“I’m glad you asked for help instead  
of giving up,” Mosesie said. “You solved a  
problem for the whole community!”





Annie and Uqi felt very proud.  
They played on the swings all day in  
the bright sunshine.



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