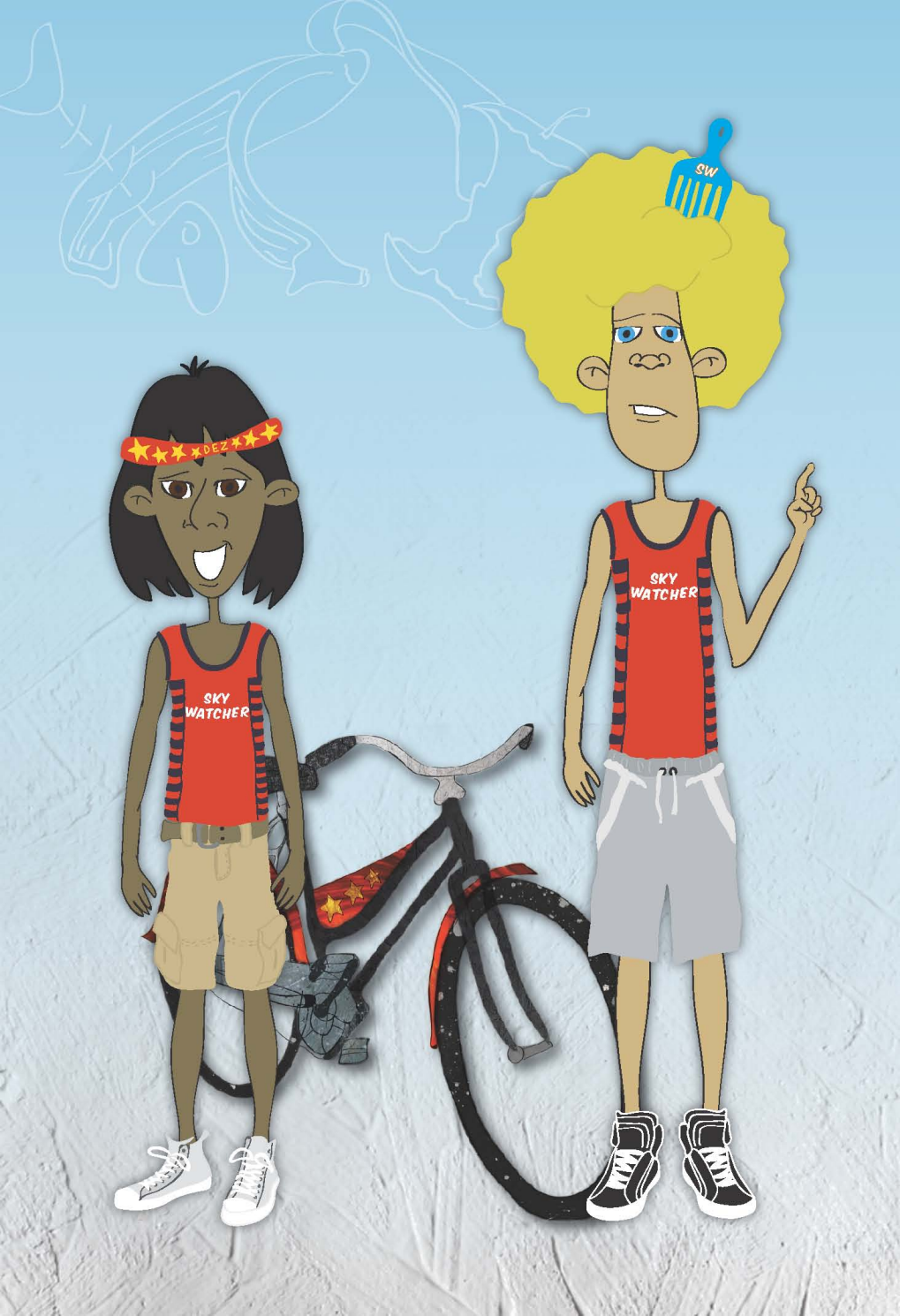




# SKY WATCHERS

VICKI C. HAYES





**MEET THE**



DEZ

**Age:** 12 ... and a half

**Family:** has four younger sisters

**Favorite Color:** gold

**Future Goal:** to clean up the ground  
beneath the trees

**Best Quality:** bravery

# CHARACTERS



JAX

**Age:** 13—held back a year

**Most Proud of:** his hair

**Wants to Become:** more confident

**Future Goal:** become an actor and star  
in action movies with Kath

**Best Quality:** being a good friend

# 1 DEZ

Dez flew to school. He hopped on his sky bike. He used to zoom to school. He zoomed on the sky bike path. The path went to school. The sky path was up high. It was up in the air. The houses were up in the air too. They had to be.



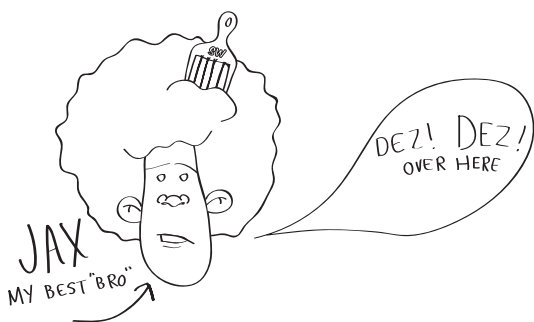
The ground was covered with trash. The ground was covered with muck. It was not safe there. People lived up in the air. And kids flew to school. They flew on the sky path.

But this year Dez did not zoom. This year Dez flew slowly. He watched all the other kids. The sky path was filled with kids. Each kid had a sky bike. The bikes came in all colors. The bikes came in all sizes. Some bikes had gold stars. Dez's bike had gold stars. Dez was a Sky Watcher. Sky Watchers watched kids fly to school.



Only sixth grade kids could be Sky Watchers. Dez really wanted to be a Sky Watcher. This year he was in sixth grade. This year his dream came true. He was picked! He was a Sky Watcher! Dez patted his bike. He touched the gold stars. He grinned.

“Dez!” someone called. It was Jax. He was Dez’s best friend. Jax flew up next to Dez.



“Have you seen any spinners?” Jax asked. Jax was a Sky Watcher too. The two boys liked to watch together.

“No,” said Dez. “Not yet.” He looked at the trees below him. He watched the leaves.

The trees were below the sky path. The trees were tall. They covered the ground. The trees were made of plastic. They covered all the trash and muck. The trees stopped the bad air. The trees kept the kids safe. But the trees had one bad thing. The trees had spinners.

Spinners looked like round plates. They flew up from the trees. Spinners took bike packs from kids. All the kids had bike packs. They put their books in the packs. They put their lunches in the packs. The bike packs clipped on the bikes. But a spinner could break the clips. A spinner could grab the pack. It would take the pack down. It would take the pack into the trees. Gang kids waited in the trees. They waited for the





packs. Then they kept them.



Sky Watchers kept the packs safe. Sky Watchers stopped the spinners. Dez and Jax had to stop the spinners.

All of a sudden Dez saw something. He saw leaves shaking. The leaves were shaking on a tree below him.

“Jax!” he called. “I think I see a spinner!”