Basketball on Wheels

Basketball is a challenging sport to play. Players need
9 strength to move up and down the court and bounce the ball while
22 they are on the move. They also need to be alert for the opportunity
36 to pass. Basketball players cannot relax or let their attention stray
47 for a second. People who play basketball work as a team and
59 depend on each other for support. The same is true for people who
72 play basketball from wheelchairs.
76 The United States has many basketball teams for
84 children in wheelchairs. The children on these teams bounce
93 the ball, pass, and shoot from their wheelchairs. They learn to
104 move quickly in their chairs and keep track of the ball. They
116 must also be good at passing and shooting. They need a lot of
129 balance, energy, and upper-body strength. Just think how
138 high the basketball hoop looks when you are sitting down.
148 Wheelchair basketball is an excellent way for children
156 in wheelchairs to be on a team. These players show us we can
169 all be strong if we make the effort. 177
One Birthday for All

Every family has traditions. Traditions are things 7 people do year after year. Beth King’s family has many 17 traditions they celebrate, but Beth’s favorite tradition is 25 about birthdays. Because Beth has so many aunts, uncles, and 35 cousins, it is impossible to celebrate each birthday. 43 So once a year, on the third Saturday in July, Beth’s 54 relatives have one big birthday celebration for everyone. 62 The adults stay at Beth’s grandparents’ house. The 70 children sleep in tents on the lawn. 77 Everyone brings food and every meal is a feast. 86 The cousins play soccer. Grandpa and the uncles sit 95 on the wide porch and drink homemade lemonade. 103 The aunts have a softball game. Everyone roots for their 113 favorite team. Afterward, everyone eats hamburgers and fresh 115 corn. At the end, Grandma brings out a big frosted cake. 132 Every year, after the family birthday celebration, 139 Beth goes to bed and starts thinking about next year’s 149 birthday party. 151
Bill Peet, Writer and Artist

Bill Peet is a popular children’s writer and artist. Many of his books have animal characters because he loved to draw animals. The animals act like people and were often like people Bill Peet knew. Before he began writing children’s books, Bill Peet wrote and drew illustrations for the movies. He worked on famous films like Peter Pan and Sleeping Beauty. Many of Bill Peet’s books are very funny, but at the same time they talk about serious problems. In his book Farewell to Shady Glade, a group of animals has to leave its home because people want to put up buildings where they live. The animals lose their home, and the reader doesn’t know if they will find a new one. Other books give lessons about life. The book Kermit the Hermit is about a selfish crab. After a boy rescues him, Kermit learns that it is important to share. Through Bill Peet’s books, both children and adults get to see the world through new eyes. They get to laugh, but at the same time they get to learn important lessons about life. 184