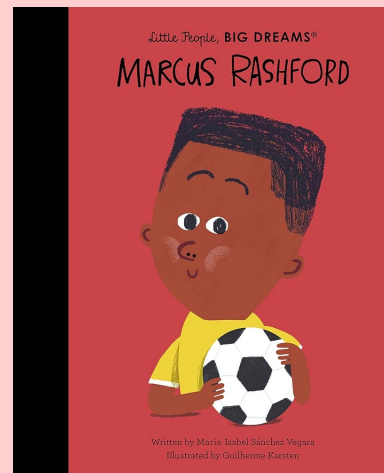


On Friday, we raised money for UNICEF to help support children around the world. Today's story is about a young man who uses his voice to do the same thing...



Article 24

You have the right to
have healthy food.



Article 31

You have the right to
play.





In a humble district of Manchester, England, lived a boy who spent all day practicing with his soccer ball. His name was Marcus, and though he didn't have much, he felt rich. He had his family's love and his neighbors' affection.

His mother worked from dawn to dusk to bring food to the table. She even skipped meals to make sure her children had enough to eat.



Even so, the family had to rely on free school meals and the help of food charities.



Marcus was five when he started playing as a goalkeeper for a local soccer team. As they polished their skills on the playing field, the girls and boys learnt not only to be good players on the pitch, but even better people off it.



Marcus went from defending the goal to being the best at attacking it. The day he helped his team win a tournament, 15 scouts were watching. Soon, he joined the academy at Manchester United—one of the top teams in the world!



For eleven years, Marcus worked hard to become a great forward. Every time he played, he felt he was doing it not only for himself, but for his family, friends, and everyone in the neighborhood who had shared his dream.





When he was given a place on the first team, Marcus knew this was his chance to show those who believed in him that he deserved their trust. He had to sit on the bench for three long months... but in his debut game, he scored two goals!

Three months later, he pulled on the national team shirt of England, ready to give his best. That day, he became the youngest player to score for his country in his first match. He was only 18 years old.



One day, a global pandemic hit the country. Even schools had to close. Children who relied on free meals from school were given food vouchers instead. But Marcus realized many families in his hometown still struggled to feed their children.



Marcus worked with a food charity to make sure that no child would go to bed hungry—not just in Manchester, but across the country. He also wrote a letter to the government asking them to keep helping families during the holidays.





The next day, even the Queen was talking about his letter!
It forced politicians to help those in need and it turned Marcus into a role model for the next generation. He had sparked a sense of solidarity all around the country.



Marcus felt prouder than ever when he represented England as part of the Euro 2020 squad.

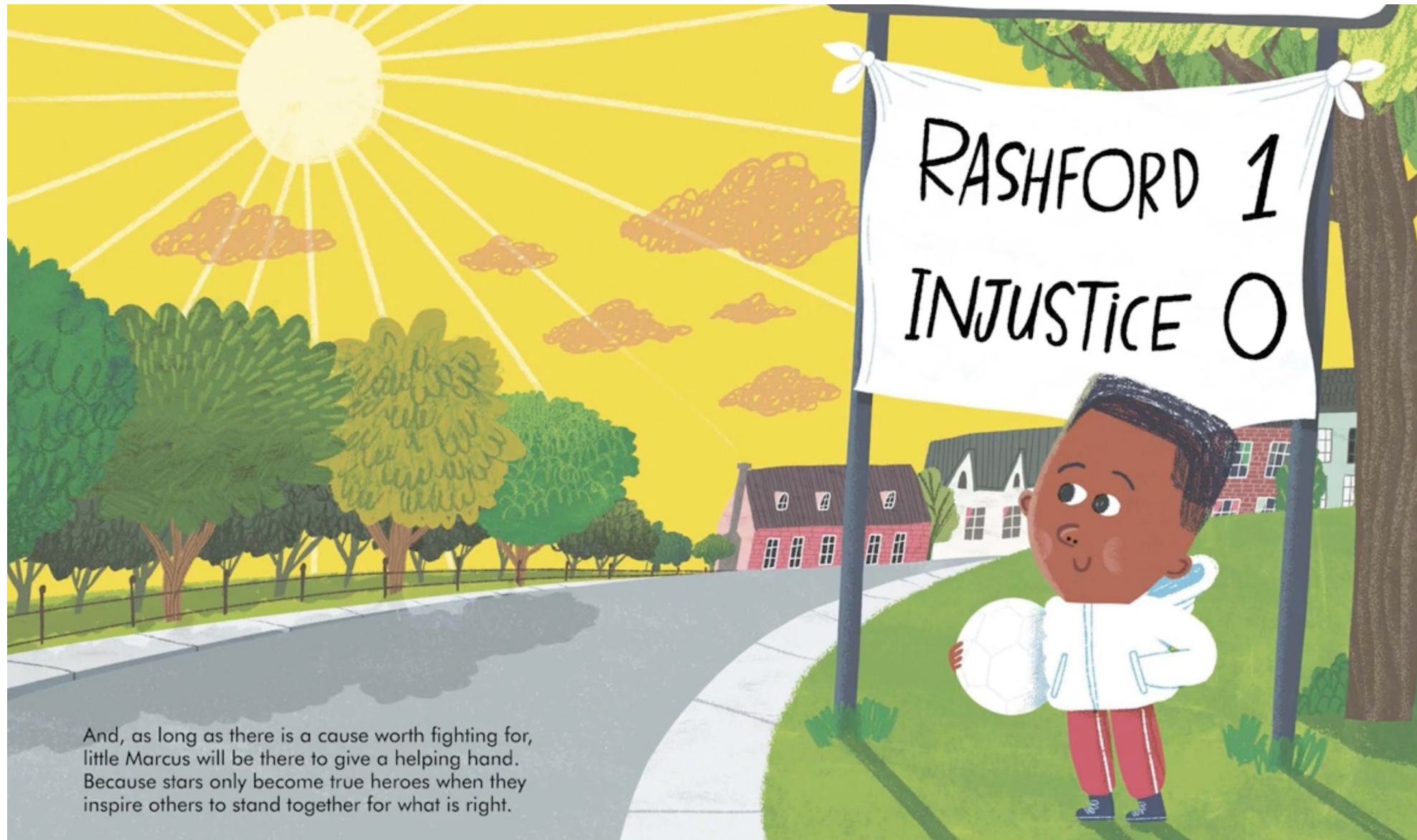
The team knelt at the beginning of every game, sending a message of unity, equality, and justice.

Sadly, Marcus and two others missed their penalties in the final match shoot-out. A few noisy and angry people wrote terrible, racist things about them.




But everyone else in the country felt proud of their players. People came out to support Marcus and stand up to the bullies.





And, as long as there is a cause worth fighting for, little Marcus will be there to give a helping hand. Because stars only become true heroes when they inspire others to stand together for what is right.

The background is a light pink color with a repeating pattern of various food items, each with a simple, happy face. The items include sandwiches, avocados, eggs, and pretzels. There are also small white clouds and heart-shaped speech bubbles scattered throughout.

How does Marcus know about
some children not having
enough food?

How do you think Marcus felt
when he missed that penalty?
Did he let this feeling stop
him?

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School Reflection

This is our school,
Let peace dwell here,
Let the rooms be full of contentment.

Let love abide here,
Love of one another,
Love of mankind,
Love of life itself.

Let us remember
That as many hands build a house,
So many hearts make a school
Help us to learn, play and share together.

We hope our school will be a place of great discovery, adventure and creativity.

May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love,
A place where everyone is respected, and all are deeply valued.