

This week's story is about a young lady who wasn't allowed to play a sport because of her heritage...



Little Evonne grew up on a hot, dusty farm in Australia.  
She was the third of eight children, all of them descendants  
of the Wiradjuri people, who had lived on the land  
for more than 60,000 years.



Evonne's family was very poor and couldn't afford to buy her many toys. But one day, under the wheel of her father's car, Evonne found the most amazing treasure: an old tennis ball.



She loved that tennis ball so much! Her father made her a wooden racket to hit it with. It didn't look like the real thing, "But I can start with anything!" Evonne thought.



One evening, she discovered a story about a young female tennis player who went to a place in England called Wimbledon and won on its magical center court. She went to bed dreaming about that girl.



But taking part in a world-class tennis tournament felt like a fairy tale to a little Indigenous girl! Evonne was not allowed to join a tennis club and had to watch the games through the fence, memorizing everything the coach said.



Evonne went to the club day after day. Finally, the club's manager noticed her. He gave her the keys so that she could teach herself how to play when all the kids were gone. And she did!



A tennis coach named Vic Edwards heard about a young girl who could play faster than any other new talent. He asked Evonne to move to Sydney. There, she lived with his family and trained to become a professional player.

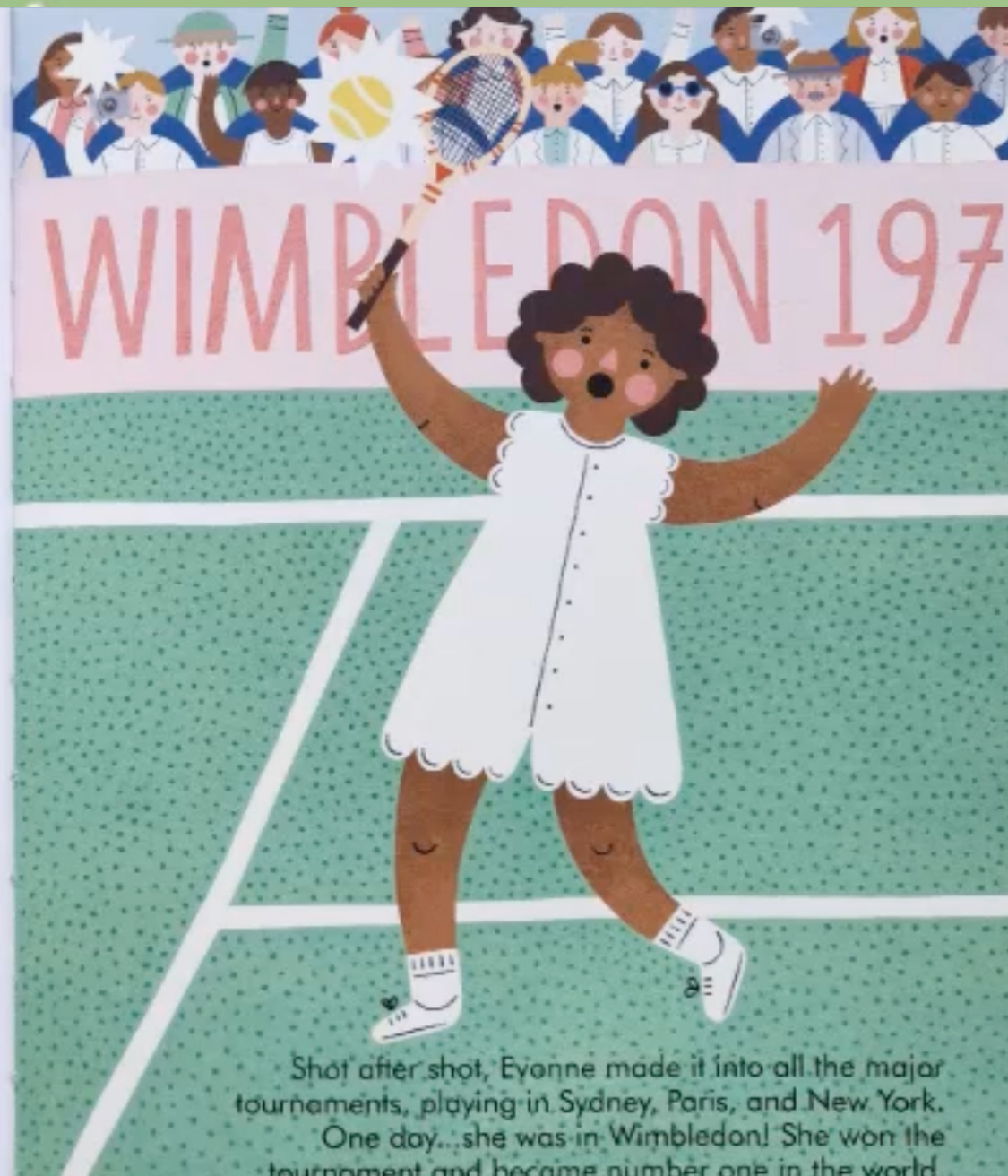


The day she left home, her mother gave Evonne a tennis dress made of bedsheets and some very good advice: "Do not worry about winning or losing. Just play your best and have a lovely time."



It became Evonne's secret weapon! She didn't think winning was everything and losing was a disaster. Every time she hit the court, she enjoyed her matches and looked forward to the next point.





Shot after shot, Euyenne made it into all the major tournaments, playing in Sydney, Paris, and New York. One day...she was in Wimbledon! She won the tournament and became number one in the world.

She had to wait nine years until she won Wimbledon again. That day, there was a very special guest watching her from the stands—her daughter Kelly. Evonne became the first mother to win the tournament in more than 60 years.

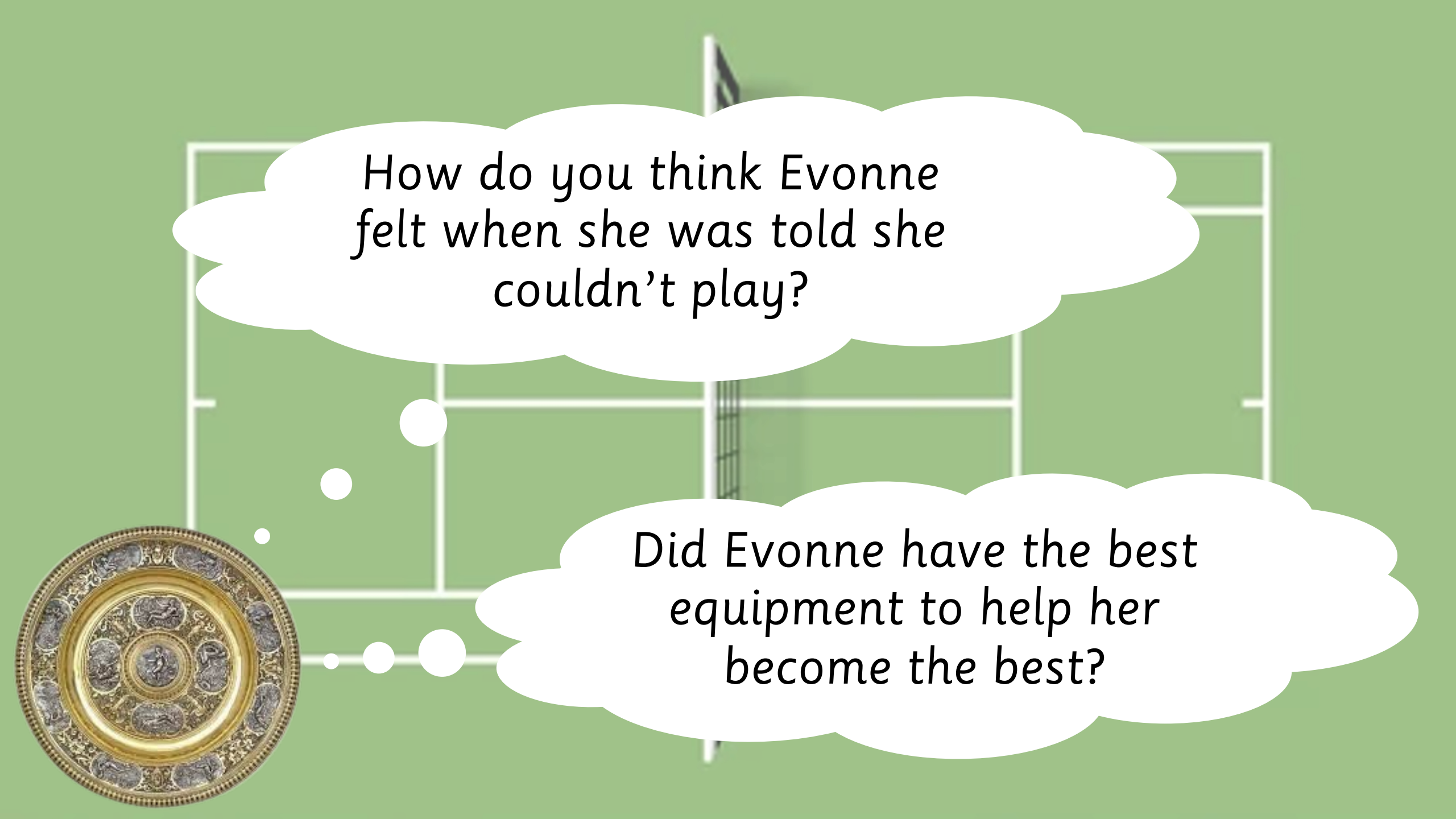


When she retired, Evonne kept inspiring the next generation of Australian tennis players, helping young Indigenous children make it onto the court.






And this is how little Evonne became the most graceful player the world has ever met. A living legend who breaks barriers every time she hits the ball.



How do you think Evonne felt when she was told she couldn't play?



Did Evonne have the best equipment to help her become the best?



## 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.