

Ted the Tortoise Comes Out of His Shell.

By Brandon Crawford

Illustrated By Abigail Tan

(Dedication Page) **To our sweet kids: Connor, Hazel, Vivian, and Nash.**

Don't let anyone ever say you can't do something. Unless it's your mom and I, then don't do that thing.

1. Ted the Tortoise is shy but he's learning to come out of his shell, He loves learning new things and does it oh so well.

**2. One day his family took him to go see his very first basketball game,
And he was so amazed by what he saw that his life would never be the same.**

**3. The players dribbled and ran and jumped high in the air!
And they bounced the ball into the net off the little red square.**

**4. They travelled down the court at lightning-fast speed!
And he could tell that it was so much fun, that was guaranteed.**

**5. Ted was filled with excitement and suddenly he knew,
That he wanted to be one of the great basketball players too.**

**6. So Ted grabbed an old basketball and he headed to the park,
Mom said, "don't forget about dinner honey, be home before dark!"**

**7. He was so excited that he ran the entire way,
He imagined scoring his first basket and was so excited to play.**

**8. He was surprised when he saw that the court was so full,
And Ted got quite nervous seeing Gabby the Giraffe and Barry the Bull.**

**9. He thought "Maybe I should go back home" so he headed back down the street.
When he heard "Come play with us, Ted!" invited Sasha the Sheep.**

**10. He thought for a moment after Sasha called his name,
*Will Ted come out of his shell and agree to join the game?***

**11. Ted suddenly turned around and he shyly agreed,
He thought if he just did what the pros do then surely, he'd succeed.**

**12. They started the game and Frank the Fox passed Ted the ball,
But Ted quickly lost his balance and it suddenly made him fall.**

**13. Later in the game, Barry the Bull knocked Ted's glasses right to the ground,
And Ted landed on the back of his shell, and he spun all around.**

**14. Ted went back home feeling incredibly sad,
Even though he had never played before, he didn't think it would be that bad.**

**15. Mom later asked "What's wrong, Ted? You haven't touched your tortellini, your
favorite dish!
Know that you can always talk to me about anything that you wish."**

**16. "I thought I could be a basketball player but I am as slow as can be,
I'm just not meant to play basketball and everyone can see."**

**17. She replied "You have to practice and practice my dear, that's the only way!
And if you asked the world's greatest players, that's what all of them would say.**

**18. The more you practice anything, the better that you'll get,
So, give it a little more time, just don't give up yet."**

**19. He thought for a moment, and he knew mom was right!
He decided to go back to the park the next day at the first sign of light.**

**20. When Ted arrived at the court, he saw Sasha the Sheep and Frank the Fox, too,
Sasha said "so, you want to learn how to play, we would both love to help you!"**

**21. Sasha taught Ted how to dribble and he learned it pretty fast!
He laughed the whole time; Ted was having a blast.**

**22. Frank showed Ted the proper shooting form and it really helped a lot,
And they all jumped for joy when Ted made his first shot.**

**23. They practiced altogether week after week,
And Ted became a wonderful player with outstanding technique.**

**24. One sunny day, everyone met at the park after school,
Ted was about to play against Gabby the Giraffe and Barry the Bull.**

**25. He suddenly felt so nervous and he grew so concerned,
When Sasha Sheep shouted, "Trust in yourself Ted, and all that you've learned!"**

**26. Ted then thought about all of his practices at the rise of the sun,
And how he grew to love this sport that was so much fun.**

**27. The old Ted would have hidden in his shell and trembled with fear,
But it was a brand-new, tougher, Ted that was standing right here.**

**28. His mom was even supporting from the crowd and cheering on her son,
And in the next moment the game had finally begun.**

**29. The referee tossed the ball to start the game and Barry pushed Ted right to the floor!
But Ted had more motivation now than he ever did before.**

**30. He hopped to his feet and brushed off his shell,
He was focused on the game and everyone could tell.**

**31. Ted dribbled the ball to the hoop when Gabby the Giraffe blocked his shot!
But that didn't keep Ted from trying and he scored quite a lot.**

**32. The whole crowd was nervous about the close game, they were on the edge of their seat!
Will Ted become the winner or will it sadly end in defeat?**

**33. It was down to the last point and the score was tied,
When Ted stole the ball from Barry the Bull and he ran down the side.**

**34. Ted took the last shot and it fell right into the hoop!
And the whole crowd cheered, Sasha, Frank and the rest of the group.**

**35. Barry the Bull and Gabby the Giraffe were in shock, they never lost before!
And Ted now had basketball skills that no one could ignore.**

**36. "Congratulations, Ted" Barry the Bull walked over to Ted to say,
"Yeah!" added Gabby the Giraffe, "You really played great today!"**

**37. They learned a valuable lesson that day, that anyone can become great at anything,
even a sport,
It doesn't matter if you are slow, four-legged or short.**

**38. All that matters is how much practice you have and the dedication you show,
Because the more that you practice something the more that you'll know.**

**39. Ted was thankful for his mom and friends and inspired by the words that they said,
From then on, he remembered to never give up and to always practice hard instead.**

**40. He made many new friends through basketball and was having fun as well,
And surely enough, Ted the Tortoise was quickly coming out of his shell.**

41. The End

42. About the Author

Brandon lives in the sunny state of Arizona. As a mental health advocate, and parents of four wonderful children, Brandon and his wife's ultimate mission is to guide children in a fun, positive, direction and hope their children's books will be a tool that does just that. Their inspiration comes from their children, personal experiences, and understanding there are joyful lessons in everyday struggles.

43. Back Cover Blurb

Ted is one shy tortoise. After seeing his first basketball game, He learned that he too wanted to be a basketball player. He went to the park and was quickly discouraged and worried. His mom then taught him that it is practice that makes someone good at anything. Follow along as Sasha the Sheep and Frank the Fox show him the way, and with practice he is able to face his fears and beat Gabby the Giraffe and Barry the Bull.