

Ellie and Emma did everything together. There was only one house in between Ellie's house and Emma's apartment. Every day after school, the girls would stop at Emma's apartment first. Emma always had the best snacks to eat. Her grandmother loved to cook and made fresh bread and cookies almost every day. If the girls asked, she would even help them make popcorn. After they ate, Ellie and Emma always went to Ellie's house. Ellie had a tree house in her backyard. The girls had to climb a ladder up the side of the tree. The tree house had windows that opened and closed. They used a pulley with a bucket attached to get toys and games up in the tree house. This was their favorite place to play when the weather was warm.

One night Emma's grandmother informed her that she had signed her up for soccer. Emma was happy because she loved to play sports. The team practiced two afternoons every week. Soccer games were early on Saturday mornings. Emma went to the first practice the next day. Her best friend did not go with her because she had not signed up for the team. The next day, Emma looked for her friend after school. She couldn't find her at their usual meeting spot in front of the building. Emma talked to her grandma about it. Her grandmother thought that her friend's feelings might be hurt because Emma had joined the soccer team without her. She suggested that Emma invite Ellie to join the team.