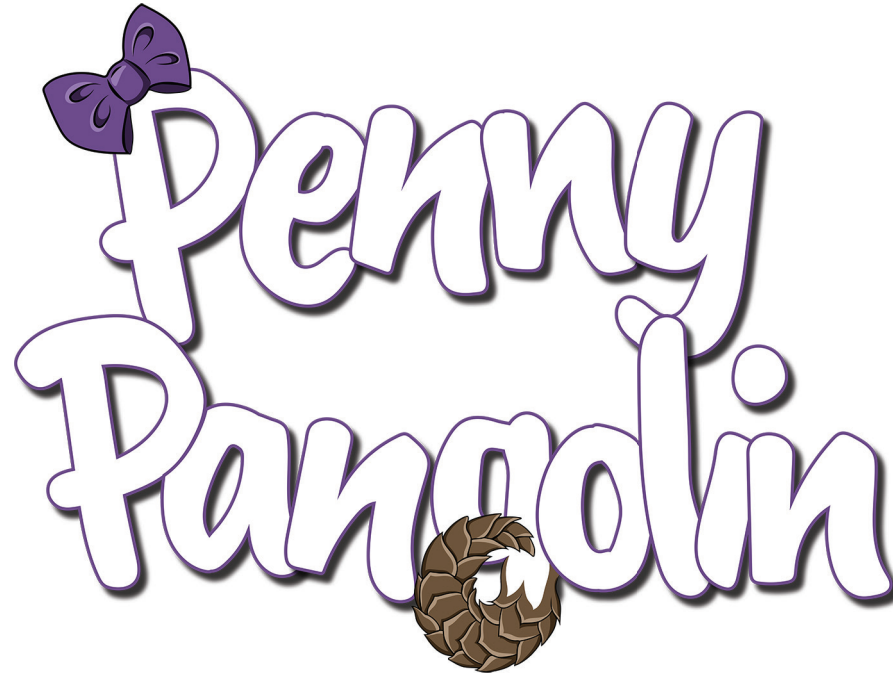




and the Termite Trophy

Written by Wayne D. Kramer

Illustrated by Jade Zivanovic



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For Dawn, Brooke, Holly, Ivy, and Jade

Excitement filled the air in Penny Pangolin's village! It was time for the annual **Big Claw Tournament**, when teams played and raced against each other to win the coveted Termite Trophy.

Penny and her friend Vin usually just watched the tournament. But this year they were finally old enough to participate!



Penny and Vin were a **dynamic pangolin duo**. They loved competing in volleyball, soccer, and any sport that could use a good, strong pangolin tail. But the competition didn't call for duos. It called for trios. That meant finding another team member!



Vin wanted Otis
Orangutan for his
swinging skills,
both in the trees and on
the **dance floor**.



Edith Aardvark, Penny's neighbor, had told Penny that she'd always wanted to be in the tournament and had a great idea to help them **win**.



"I already **promised** Edith she could join us," Penny told Vin.

Vin shrugged. "We have a better chance of winning with Otis," he grumbled, "but okay."



Soon, the three teammates were busy preparing for the tournament.

“The only thing we know about the tournament is that it ends with the Gravity Car Race every year,” said Penny. “And we know we need to build our own car. We won’t see anyone else’s car until the day of the race, so we need to come up with something **extra special!**”



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“What if we give the car **big wings** so others can’t get near us?”
suggested Vin.

Penny shook her head. “The rule book says we can’t have anything on the outside that could hit other cars on the course.”



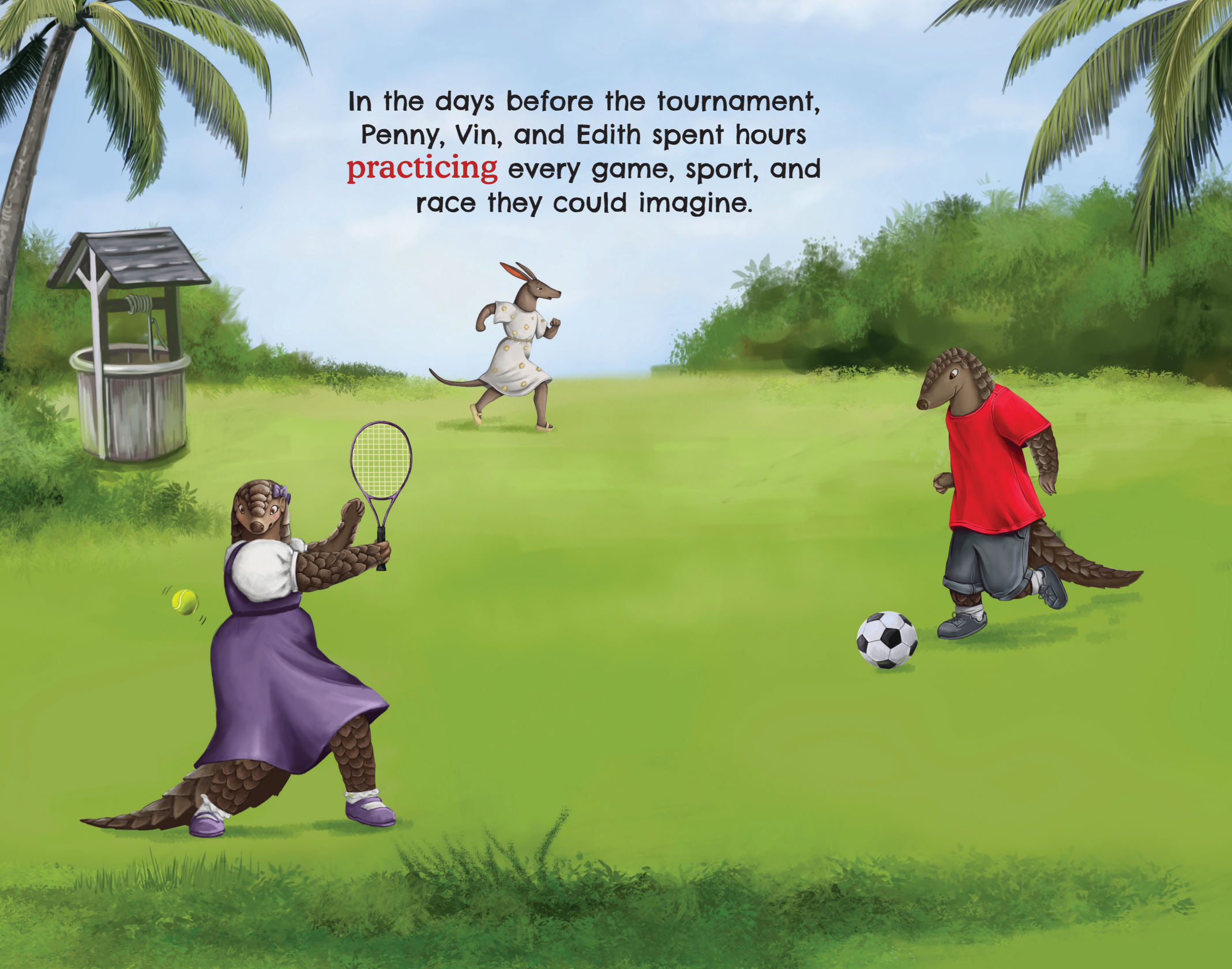
Edith told the others her idea: “We should make the car extra wide for better handling.”

“I think sleek and narrow would give us more speed,” said Vin.

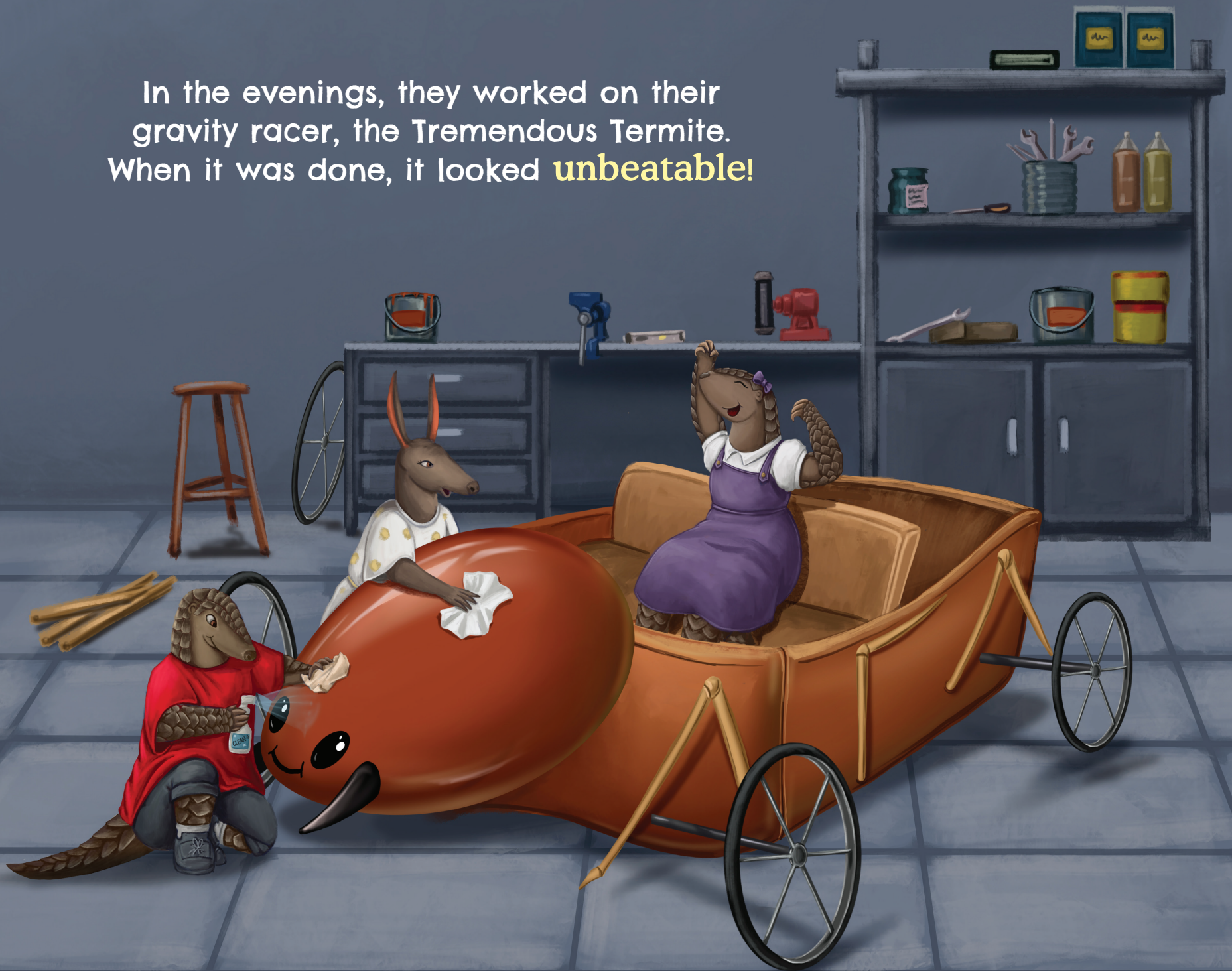
Penny thought for a moment. “Everyone is going for just speed. If we want to beat the others, then we need an edge—something unique. We can’t just do the same thing. Wide it is!”



In the days before the tournament,
Penny, Vin, and Edith spent hours
practicing every game, sport, and
race they could imagine.



In the evenings, they worked on their gravity racer, the Tremendous Termite. When it was done, it looked **unbeatable!**



Finally, tournament day arrived! The first event was volleyball. With a nod to the other team captains—Otis, Pat Panda, Gabby Gibbon, and Mel Monkey—Team Penny took to the court.

Team Penny defeated Team Mel the fastest, after three spikes from Vin! Team Otis won their first match after a hit by Team Gabby landed on the line.

“Out of bounds!” called Mr. Weasely, the referee.



TEAM	ROUND1	TOTAL
PENNY	9	9
OTIS	6	6
PAT	4	4
GABBY	2	2
MEL	1	1

After all the teams played, the final volleyball match came down to Teams Penny and Otis.

It was an exciting game. Edith missed hitting the ball, but Vin's tail **saved the day**! Team Penny came in first place, which earned the most points for the first round of the tournament!



Next up was vine-swinging. This time, Penny's entire team was **nervous**. Pangolins and aardvarks weren't the best at hanging from vines, but they hoped their powerful claws would carry them through.

Vin fell into the safety net almost immediately. Edith's grip slipped about halfway through, and Penny almost made it.



TEAM	ROUND 2	TOTAL
PENNY	1	10
OTIS	9	15
PAT	6	10
GABBY	4	6
MEL	2	3

Team Penny got **last place** in that round.



The next game was tunnel digging. “Okay, team, we’ve got this,” Penny said. “All we have to do is be the first team to tunnel under the wall and back up again.”

Penny, Vin, and Edith rubbed their claws together with glee. Pangolins and aardvarks were **naturals** at digging through dirt.



Team Penny was off to a great start. They got a bit distracted with lots of **tasty** ants along the way, but it didn't matter.
Team Penny won the round!



Team Penny thought for sure they would win the next game, too: Termite mound **sculpting**!



But when the crowd voted on their **favorite**, Team Pat came out the surprising winner.





Finally, it was time for the Gravity Car Race!

The crowd oohed and aahed as each car was lined up at the top of a big hill. Penny's family cheered extra loud when the Tremendous Termite came out.

Mr. Weasely waved a flag, and they were off!

Seconds later, Teams Otis and Pat were side by side,
just ahead of Team Penny.

“Look!” shouted Vin, pointing at Team Pat’s car. One of Pat’s
teammates was pushing a thin **wooden** pole out from
the side of their car.

It got caught in Team Otis’s wheel and caused them to crash!



Without a second thought, Penny **swerved** to the side and stopped.
“Are you okay?” she called.



“We’re fine,” said Otis, inspecting his car. “What happened?”

“Pat’s team cheated,” said Vin.

“Yeah, and now they’re going to win the race and the tournament,” Edith **huffed**.



“It doesn’t matter,” Penny replied. “Come on, we’ll start again right here and race down together, **fair and square.**”



Soon, Teams Otis and Penny were neck and neck, Otis in front by a nose. “Curve up ahead!” shouted Penny, **gripping the wheel** tightly in her claws.

Otis’s car slid around the curve, and he had to hit the brakes. With Edith’s wider design, Team Penny was able to steer right through.





The crowd went wild as Team Penny
crossed the finish line!

TEAM	ROUND 5	TOTAL
PENNY	2	27
OTIS	1	26
PAT	9	32
GABBY	4	13
MEL	6	12

Penny's team watched, **disappointed**,
as the final scores flashed on the board.
"At least we had an honest finish," Penny said.

“Wait, look!” Vin shouted as the scores suddenly changed. Team Pat had been **disqualified** for cheating. Team Penny was the winner, and Team Otis was runner-up!



TEAM	ROUND5	TOTAL
PENNY	4	29
OTIS	2	27
PAT	0	0
GABBY	6	15
MEL	9	15

Penny squealed for joy when the judges handed her the Termite Trophy.

Otis gave Penny his second-place ribbon. “For **caring** more about others than winning.” He grabbed Penny’s claw and raised it into the air. “Three cheers for Team Penny!”



What is a Pangolin?

Pangolins are the only mammals that have scales on their body. These scales are made of keratin, the same substance in your hair and nails, and they help to protect pangolins from predators.

Termites and ants are their favorite food. With their long sticky tongues, pangolins can eat up to 200,000 of these bugs in a single night!



Pangolins are nocturnal, which means they are most active at night.

A baby pangolin is known as a pangopup.

The name pangolin comes from the Malay word “pengguling,” which means “rolling up.”

Critter Superpowers



Many creatures have amazing abilities that are almost like superpowers! Pangolins and armadillos both have strong digging claws and long, sticky tongues to slurp up thousands and thousands of insects. They're both nocturnal, meaning they're most active at night, and they both have an amazing sense of smell for finding food, identifying their territory, and alerting themselves to predators. It's no wonder Penny, Vin, and Edith make such a great team!



Despite their amazing abilities, pangolins are threatened with extinction. Many of them are illegally captured for their scales and meat. But there's good news! Some people, such as the Wildlife Conservation Network, are working to help pangolins and other endangered animals. Check out SavePangolins.org to learn more!



Look for more wildlife in Penny's story...



Leopard Cat



Yellow-Throated
Marten



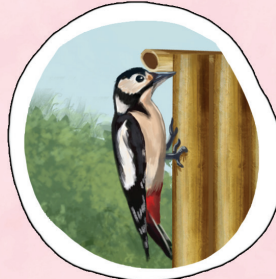
Asian Green
Bee-Eater



Redlace-Wing
Butterfly



Hog Badger



Great Spotted
Woodpecker



Aardvark



Orangutan



Panda

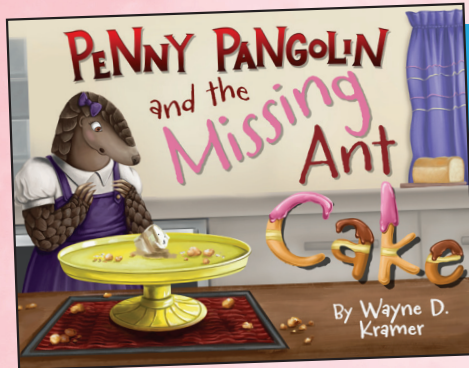


CRITTER COMPENDIUM

Scan the QR Code
below to learn
all about Penny's
favorite critters.

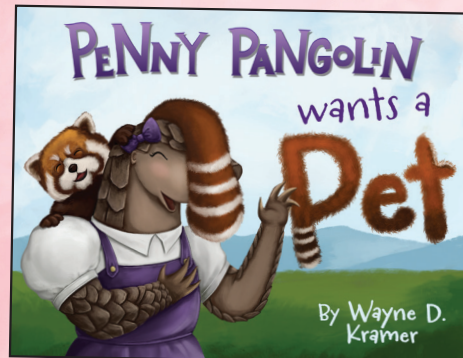


More Adventures with Penny Pangolin and Friends



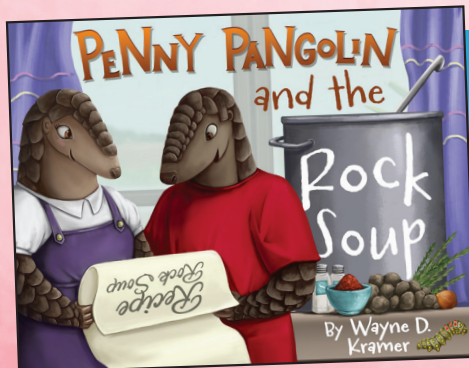
Penny Pangolin and the Missing Ant Cake

Penny's favorite lemon-ant cake dessert is in trouble! When Penny finds the culprit, she must choose between what she feels is deserved and what is right.



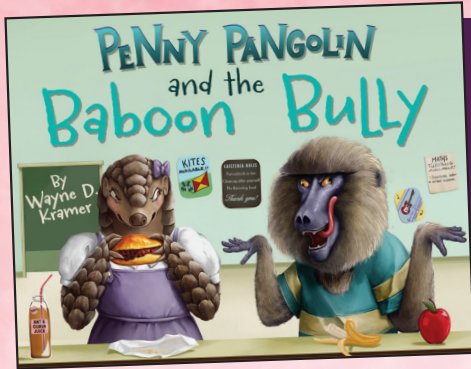
Penny Pangolin Wants a Pet

Penny must prove to her parents that she's responsible enough for more than just a pet plant. Out of an act of compassion blossoms an unexpected, unbreakable companionship.



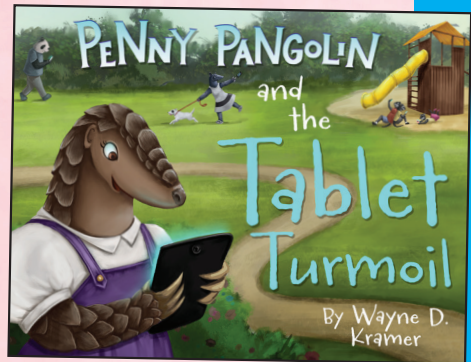
Penny Pangolin and the Rock Soup

The village festival is on! Penny is in for an unsettling surprise after touring the food booths. At least her friend, Vin knows one of Penny's favorite foods—homemade rock soup!



Penny Pangolin and the Baboon Bully

When Penny steps in to defend her friend Edith against a school bully, she quickly finds herself his new target! Penny must navigate the rocky path of dealing with bullying without becoming a bully herself. Themes of friendship, forgiveness, anger management, and seeing other points of view.



Penny Pangolin and the Tablet Turmoil

Penny Pangolin discovers the Internet! When Penny receives a tablet from her aunt Petunia, she soon sees how easy it is to keep her eyes glued to a screen all day. But when she accidentally loses the tablet, she realizes how much of the world around her she had been missing. A much-needed lesson in screen safety for kids and a wake-up call for grown-ups alike, with a satisfying ending! Features themes of responsibility and awareness.

Printable and Digital
Resources Available
for Educators!

Get it all at
PennyPangolin.com!



About the Author



Wayne D. Kramer lives in the southern Indiana countryside with his wife and kids.

The idea for Penny Pangolin came to Wayne one day while discussing an interest in creating a series of children's picture books with his family. Pangolins, in particular, had always fascinated the kids. Wayne enjoys brainstorming new Penny ideas with his kids over smoothies at the coffee shop.

He graduated from the University of Louisville in 2005 with a Bachelor of Business Science. He has visited nearly 40 countries and 25 states in the US. He especially loved visiting Hobbiton in New Zealand.

Wayne is also author of the "Heroes of Time" adventure fantasy novel series. All of his works, including signed copies, are available from **shop.heroesoftime.com**.

About the Illustrator



Jade Zivanovic lives in rural Victoria, Australia with her husband and pets.

Jade has always enjoyed creating pictures that help to tell a story and has studied under prominent artists, also gaining a diploma in concept art and visual storytelling.

Her works hang in private collections across Australia, the US and Europe. She has also been awarded placings in art shows, her favorite being a People's Choice Award, as she always considered herself an artist for the people.