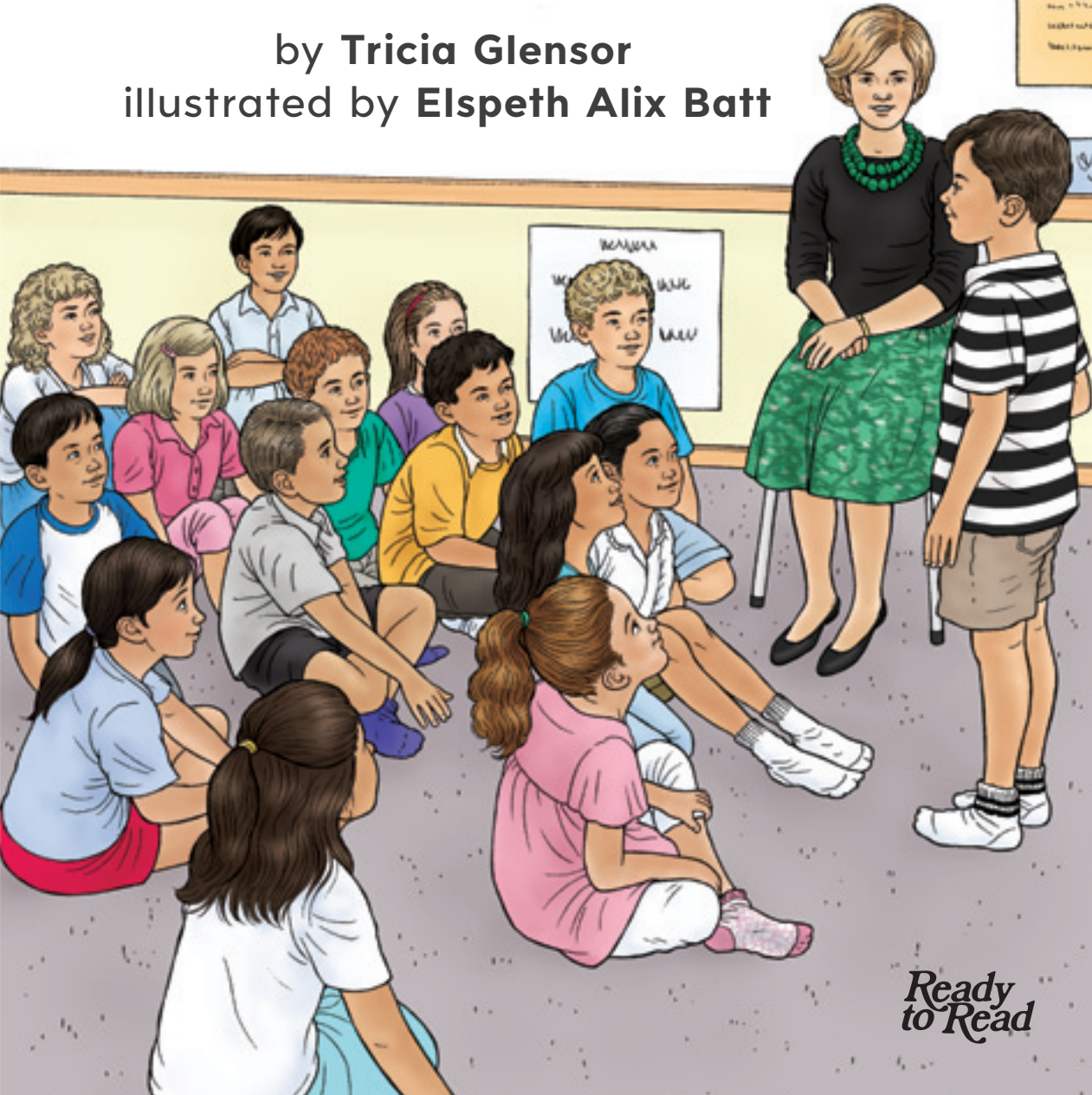




# Joe's News

by Tricia Glensor  
illustrated by Elspeth Alix Batt



*Ready  
to Read*



Me (Troy)



My friend Joe

# Joe's News

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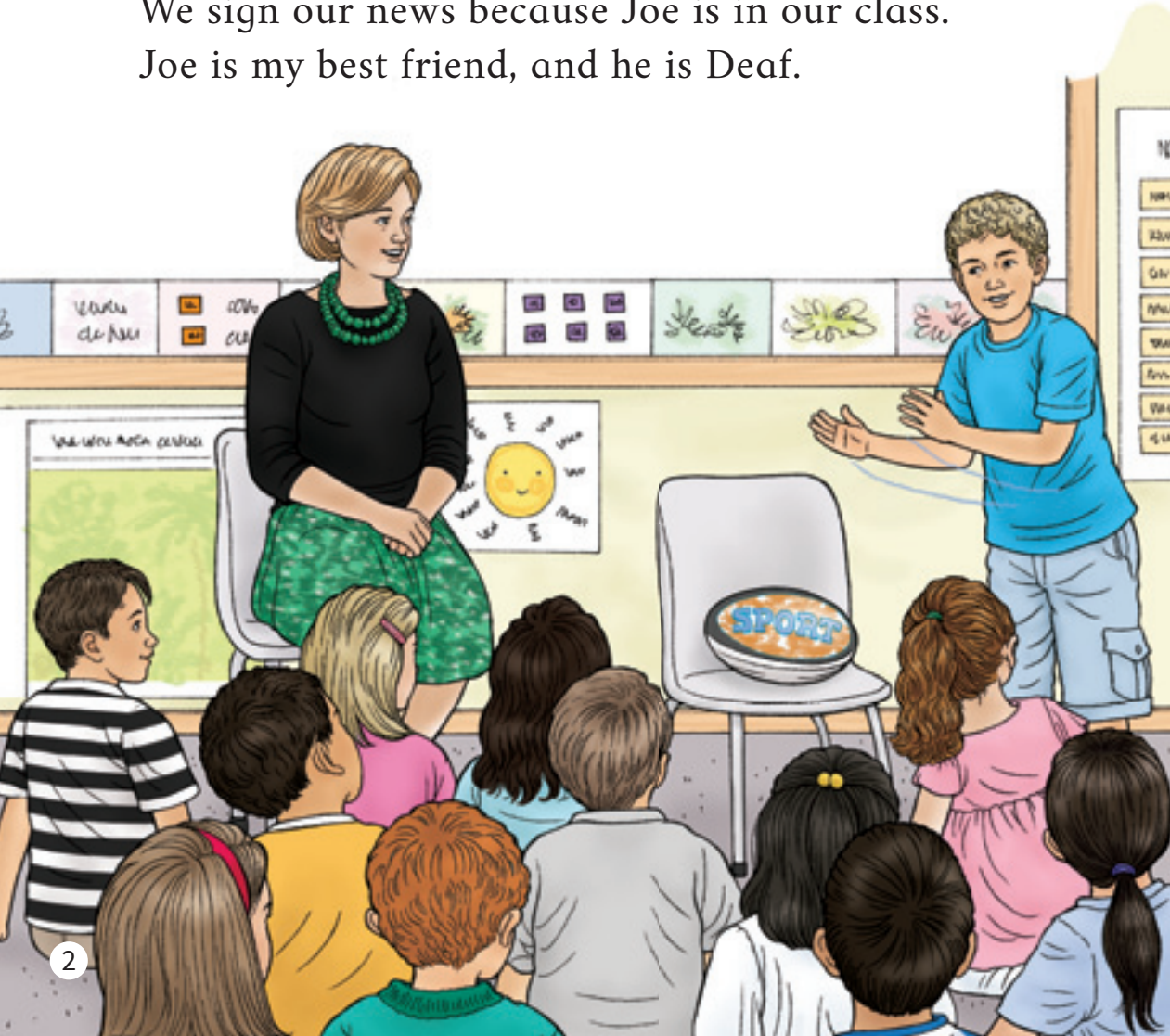
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by **Tricia Glensor**  
illustrated by **Elspeth Alix Batt**

New Zealand Sign Language is one of the official languages of Aotearoa New Zealand. The other two official languages are English and te reo Māori. More than 20,000 people use New Zealand Sign Language. Many people who use sign language are Deaf. It is usual to write Deaf with a capital letter.

This is my class. When we have news,  
our classroom is very, very quiet.  
When we have news, no one talks.  
In our class, we sign our news.  
We sign our news because Joe is in our class.  
Joe is my best friend, and he is Deaf.



When our teacher told us  
that Joe was coming to our class,  
we were a bit worried.  
How could we talk to Joe?  
How could Joe talk to us?

“Don’t worry,”  
said our teacher.  
“This is Ellie.  
She’s going to help us  
learn to sign.”





Ellie told us that signing is a way of talking with your hands and your body and your face.

When someone is signing, you need to watch them to see what they are telling you.



Ellie showed us how to spell our names with our fingers. We learnt to sign lots of other words too.

When Joe came to our class, I signed, "Hi, Joe! My name is Troy."

Joe signed back, "Hi. My name is Joe."



Today, Joe had some special news.  
We all watched to see what he was signing.  
“It’s my birthday today,” he signed.  
“Happy birthday!” we all signed back.  
“Are you going to have a cake?” signed our teacher.



“Yes,” Joe nodded. “And I got a ...”  
Just then, the door opened.

Here are some signs that Troy and Joe used in this story.



Hi



rugby



birthday



puppy

In came Joe’s mum.  
“You got a puppy!” we all signed.

You can find out more about sign language at:  
<https://nzsl.vuw.ac.nz>



The teacher support material (TSM) and audio for Ready to Read texts can be found online at [www.readytoread.tki.org.nz](http://www.readytoread.tki.org.nz)

To go directly to audio and TSM for this book, scan the QR code or use the short URL.



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