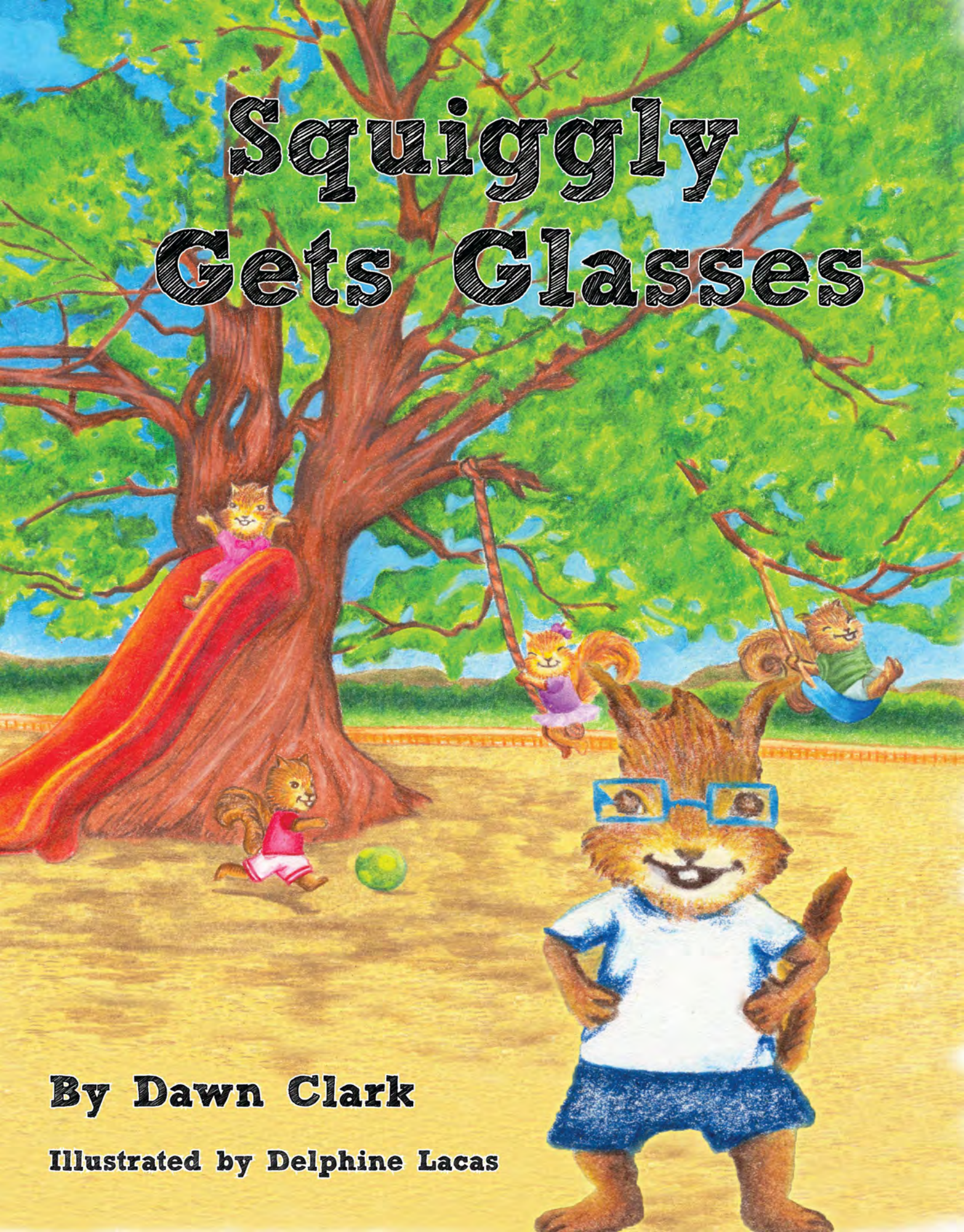


Squiggly Gets Glasses



By Dawn Clark

Illustrated by Delphine Lacas



Squiggly didn't look like the other squirrels. He had bright eyes and a cute, perky nose, but his ears were twice as long as the other squirrels. And while all the other squirrels climbed trees and balanced themselves with their long, bushy tails, Squiggly's tail was short and skinny.

Squiggly didn't quite fit in. When he tried to climb trees and play with the other squirrels, he always lost his balance and fell down. Squiggly didn't like being different. He wanted to be like everyone else.

Squiggly had two best friends—Sammie and Suzie.

They called themselves “The Gang.”

Sammie was tall, thin, and a little shy. Suzie was short and round but always playful and fun. Both of his friends had long, thick tails, just like a squirrel’s tail should be.

They could climb and jump and use their tails to balance themselves. He wished he could be like them.



And then there was Archie, the playground bully. He was always jumping and climbing from branch to branch.

He could climb to the top of any tree! He didn't seem to be scared of anything.

"I'm the king of the playground," he'd yell from the top of the big maple tree.

Archie always reminded Squiggly that he was different from the other squirrels.

"Squiggly, Squiggly, slow as can be. You can't climb trees 'cause you're different from me!" Archie chanted.

Archie would then point and say, "You look like a chipmunk with that skinny tail and a rabbit with those ears." All of the squirrels would laugh at Squiggly.