On Tuesday afternoon, Anne looked out the front window of her house. It was a bright sunny day, and her friends, Carlos, Mohammed and Linda were playing in the park across from her house.
Can I go outside to play?” Anne asked.

“Not just yet,” her mother answered. “We’re going to the health centre now for your booster shot. Remember? We talked about booster shots yesterday.”

“But I’m not sick,” Anne said. “Why do I need a booster shot?”

“A booster shot is a needle that a doctor or nurse puts in your arm for a few seconds,” her mother explained. “The needle is full of a liquid that keeps you from getting sick.”
As they drove to the health centre, Anne had another question.

“Why is it called a booster shot?” Anne asked.

“When you were very young, you got needles that protected you from many diseases that could have made you sick. Now that you are older, your body needs to be reminded how it can fight these diseases. When the doctor or nurse gives you another needle today, it will make your body remember what it has to do to fight these diseases. The needle will boost your body’s memory of what to do. That’s why we call it a booster shot.”
Soon they had reached the health centre where Anne would receive her booster shot. They went inside. Anne asked her mother another question.

“Will the needle hurt?” Anne asked.

“You’ll hardly feel it at all,” her mother said. “It will all be over very quickly.”
The nurse saw them right away. “Hi, my name is Andrée,” she said to Anne and her mother. Then, she rolled up Anne’s sleeve and dabbed a spot on Anne’s arm with a cotton ball that had alcohol on it.

“We always do this before giving a booster shot,” Andrée said. “It makes sure that your arm is clean.”

Anne was nervous. But then the nurse started asking her questions, and Anne forgot about the booster shot for a moment. Andrée asked Anne what she wanted for her sixth birthday. She asked Anne about her friends, and about her class at school. Then Anne felt something on her arm. It was like a small prick.

“All done,” Andrée said, smiling.

“Was that the booster shot?” Anne asked. “That hardly hurt at all!”
When Anne returned home, her friends were still playing outside. She went out to join them.

“Hey everyone, look at this!” she said.

Her friends gathered around Anne as she rolled up her sleeve.

“This is where I got my booster shot!” Anne said proudly. She pointed to the spot on her arm.
“What's a booster shot?” asked Mohammed.

Anne explained to her friends everything she had learned about booster shots.

“Does your arm hurt?” asked Linda.

“No,” said Anne. “I hardly feel it at all. Even when I got the booster shot, it hardly hurt.”
After everyone had looked at her arm, Anne rolled down her sleeve. Then, she and her friends started to play again. Anne forgot all about the booster shot. It was as if it hadn’t happened at all. The only difference now was that Anne would be protected even longer from diseases that could make her very sick. Now, that was something to be happy about.