

Copyright © 2017 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company



When Venus Williams was a child, she played games with her dad. But they did not play games in a **field**. They played games on a tennis court.

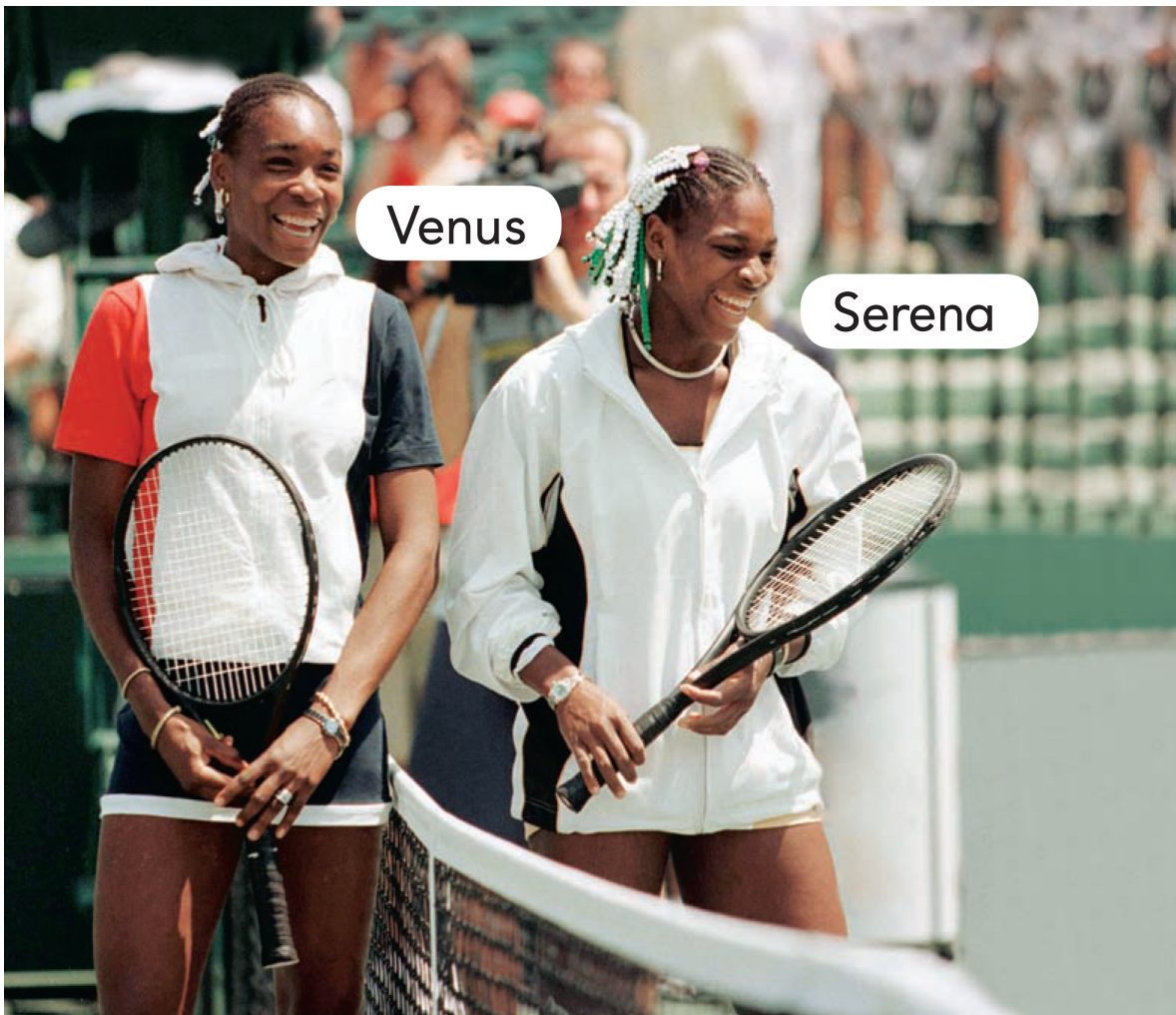
Venus's dad gave her a tennis racket. He helped her hit a ball with it.

2



Venus **loved** playing tennis with her dad. She always tried to hit the ball over the net.

Venus played tennis almost every day. She learned how to play tennis well.



One day, Venus played tennis with her sister, Serena. Venus hit the ball to Serena. Serena hit the ball back to Venus. The sisters played many games of tennis together.

4



Venus and Serena played tennis against other girls. The sisters were winners in many tennis games. **Everyone** saw that Venus and Serena were strong and fast tennis players.

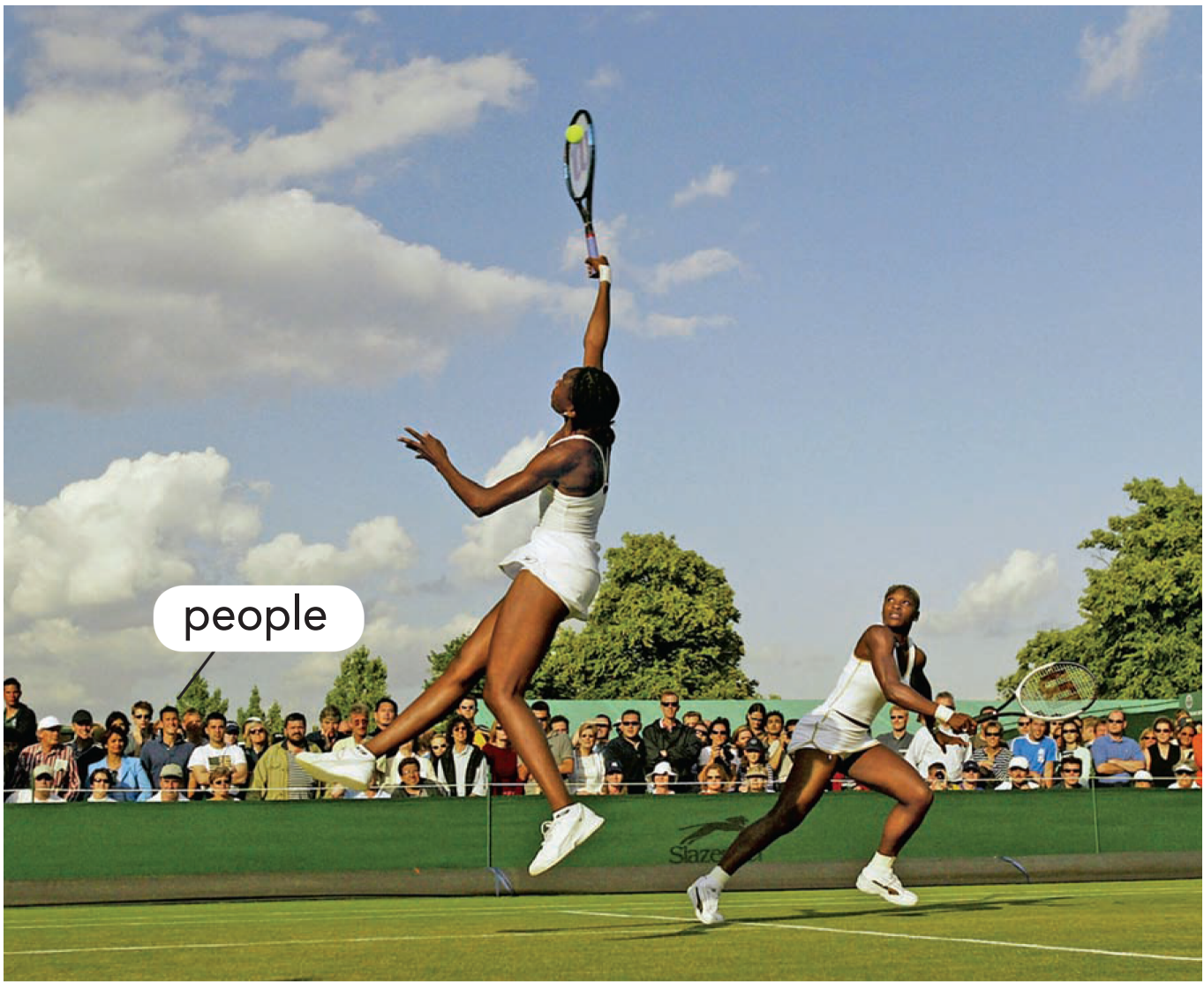


Venus always helped her sister. Once Venus said that she liked to win tennis games. But she also liked to help her sister. Venus said she liked to care for Serena and give her what she needed.



Serena loved her sister, too. But Serena also loved to win tennis games. Sometimes Serena played tennis against her sister.

In 1999, Serena won the U.S. Open tennis games. She was not **sorry** that she was the winner.



Venus and Serena have played tennis for more than 20 years. They have won many games. **People** love to watch the sisters play tennis.

8



Tennis is not the **only** thing Venus and Serena like. They like to read books. They like to make clothes to wear. They both work very hard.



Venus and Serena may fight sometimes. **Most brothers** and sisters do. But these sisters are also good friends.

“Tennis is just a game,” said Serena. She thinks families are more important than tennis!