

James and the Bully

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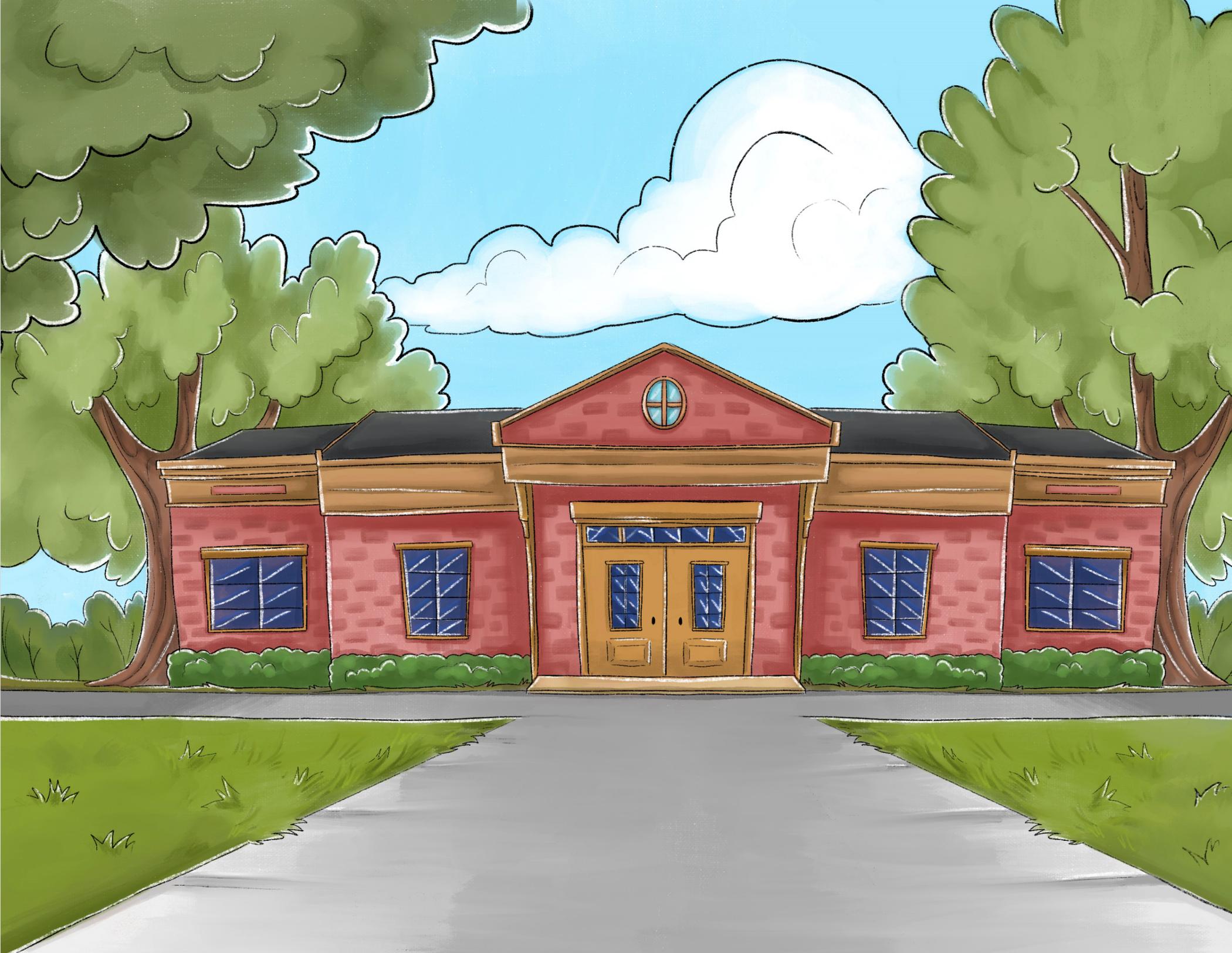
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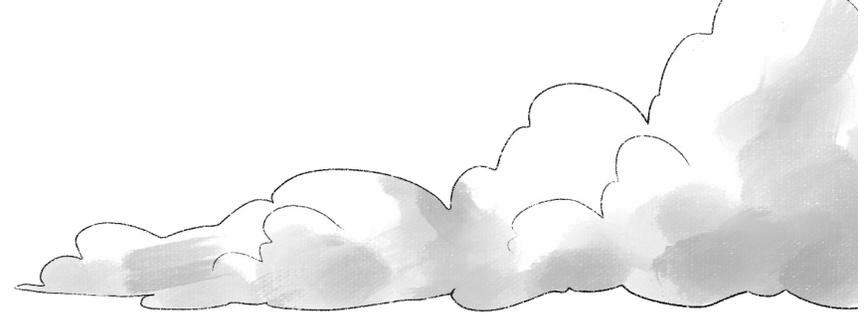
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"Hey, Weirdo!" Joseph calls James. "Give me your lunch or you will be sorry!"

James is a new fifth-grade student at Grace Elementary School. Everyone likes James because he is smart, funny, and kind except for Joseph, the school bully. Joseph thinks James is nerdy and weird because every student likes James and Joseph is jealous.





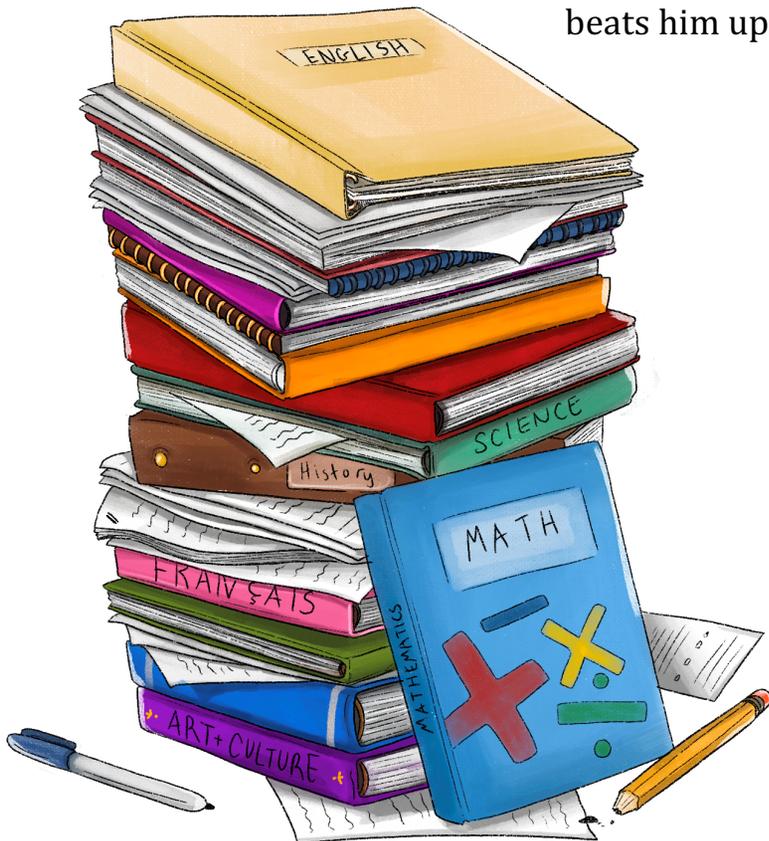
Joseph thinks every student at Grace Elementary School fears and dislikes him because he is aggressive, mean, and violent. Joseph is mean to all the students, and he bullies them too.





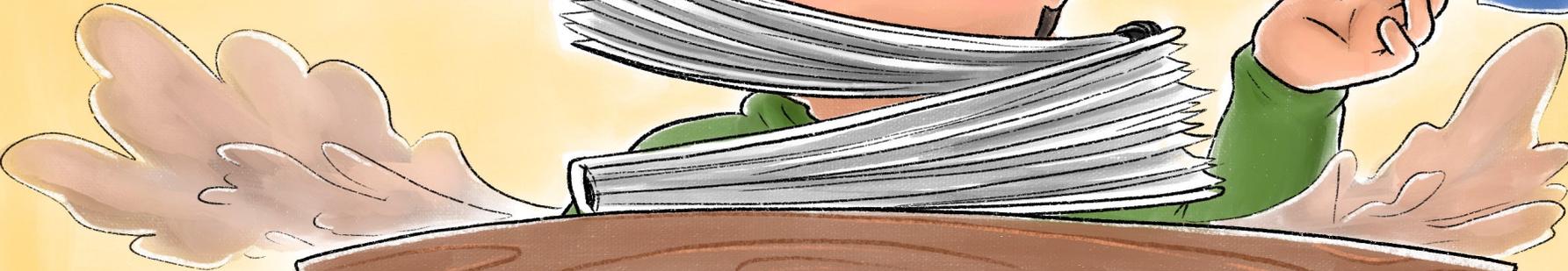
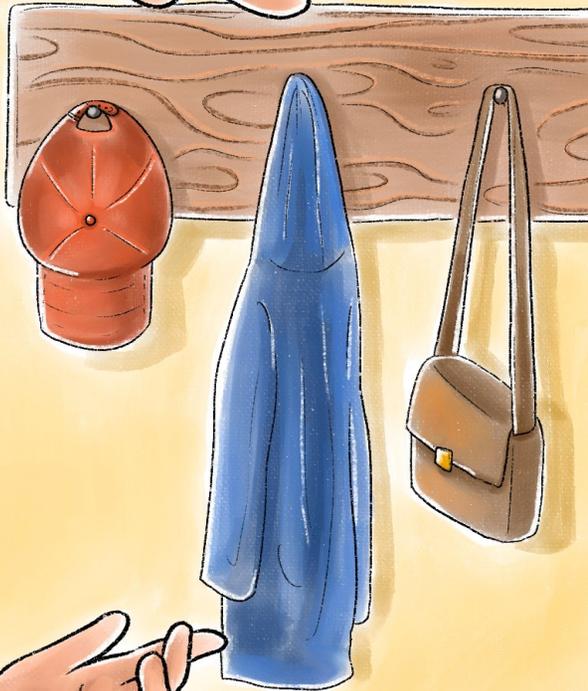
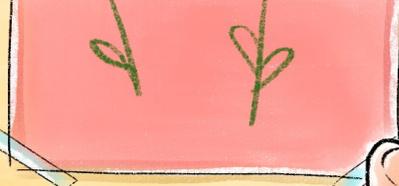
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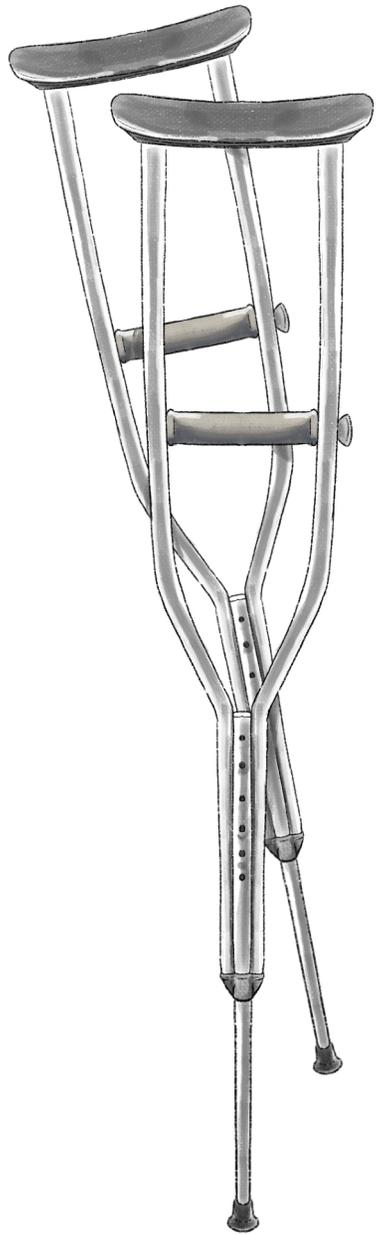
Joseph makes Andrew, the smartest kid in his class, do all of his homework. If Andrew refuses to do the homework, he beats him up.





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W	X	Y	Z





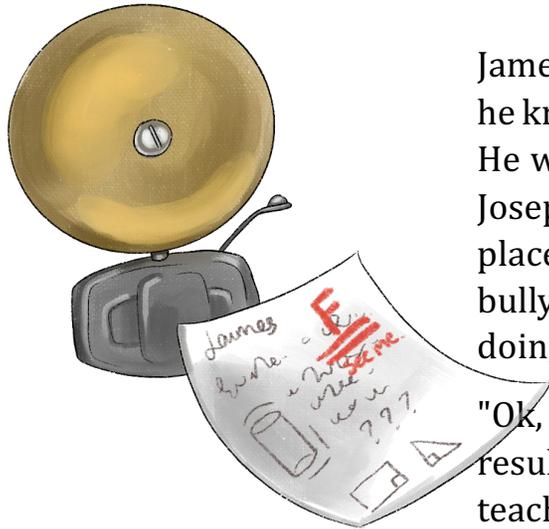
Michael, who injured his legs while playing basketball, has to walk with crutches so that his legs heal. Joseph would imitate him by making fun of the way he walked and sometimes stealing his crutches.





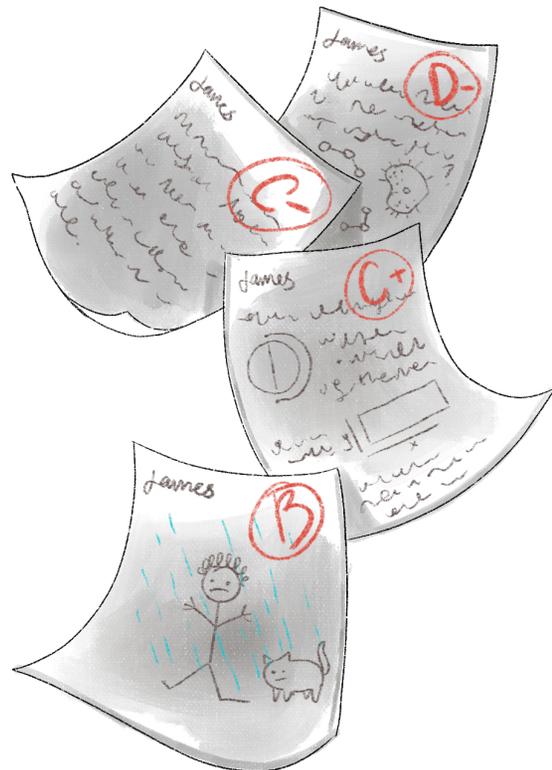
John, who is a smart kid and a talented artist, gets beaten up by Joseph and pushed into lockers.





James dreaded going to school because he knew Joseph would be waiting for him. He would sometimes skip lunch to avoid Joseph, but Joseph would still bully him in places other than the cafeteria. The bullying got so bad that James started doing very poorly at school.

"Ok, class, I am going to give you back the results of your spelling test." Kate, James' teacher, said.



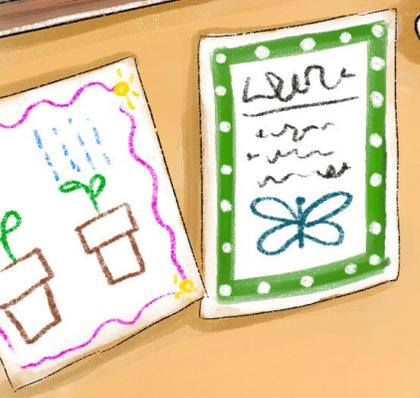


"James, you failed the test. Is there anything you'd like to talk about? You've never failed a test before in my class and I'm concerned."

"Yeah, everything is fine. I have been distracted a lot lately and I have not had time to study very much, James said quietly while looking at the ground."



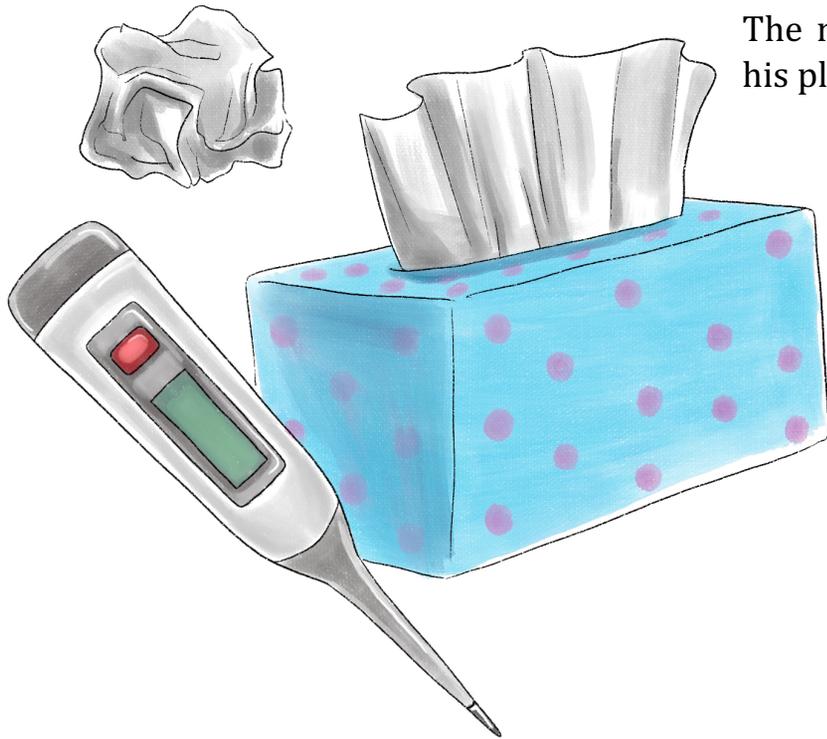
1 + 1 = 2
2 + 1 = 3
3 + 2 = 5
5 + 3 = 8
8 + 5 = 13
13 + 8 = 21
21 + 13 = 34



I understand. Try our best to get rid of all distractions. Focus on studying very hard so that you can pass your homework, tests, and exams. Miss Kate smiled, "want to see you succeed, James."

"Thanks, Miss Kate", "James said quietly.

As the final bell rang to signal the end of the school day, James walked home with a heavy heart. He decided that he would pretend to be sick tomorrow because he didn't want to deal with Joseph anymore. The next morning came, and James put his plan into action.





James mother knocked softly on his door and James scrambled to pull blankets up to his face. His mother said, "James wake up, its time for you to get ready for school. You're going to be late!"

"Sorry mum; I feel sick. I don't think I can go to school today." James' mother checked his temperature.

"Your body does not

feel hot. Is everything okay?"

"Yes, mum. Everything is ok. I just feel sick." James said.

"I have to go to work now, but the babysitter is coming so that you can stay home and rest. I'll call the school to let them know you're sick. Get some sleep, do your homework, and I've left some food for you if you feel like eating later. You'll feel better soon!"

"Thanks, mum." James sighed.





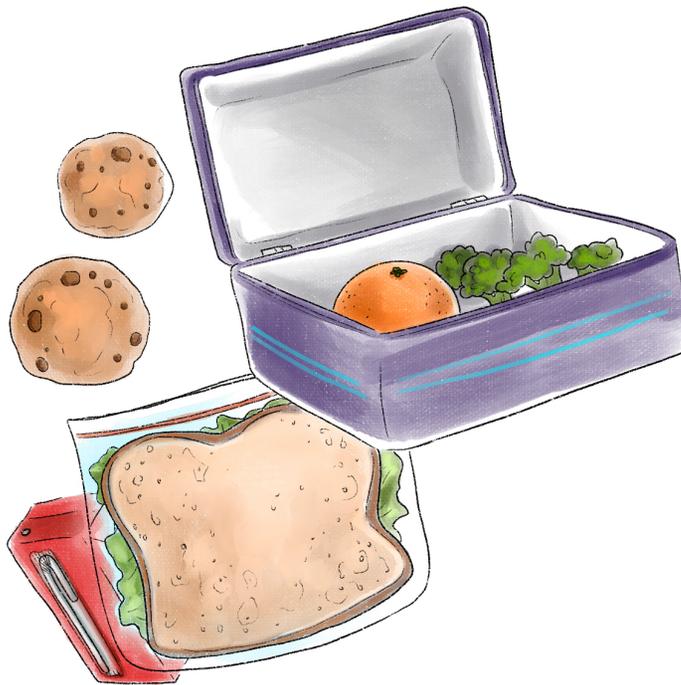
James knew he couldn't pretend to be sick again, so he went to school the next day.

"I am really tired of Joseph bullying me; he always takes my lunch, trips me when I am walking and shoves me into lockers. I don't know what to do!"

"Well, what if you had a plan?" Michael said.

"What kind of plan?" James asked.

"When he asks for your lunch, give him the food you don't like and hide the tasty food for yourself!"

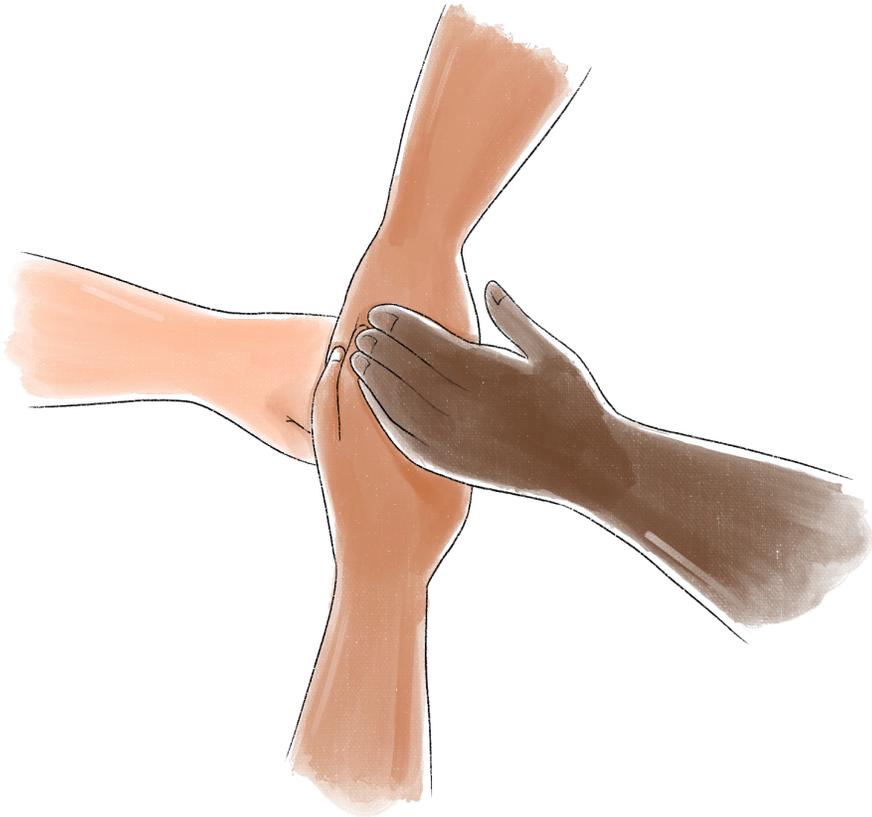




"Yeah!" John said, "And when he tries to trip you or push you into lockers, yell for help and we'll come running.

"Everywhere we go around the school, let's go together so we can help and look out for each other."

"Those are good ideas," said James. "Let's do that!"







The next day, James was eating lunch in the cafeteria.

"Give me your lunch, or you'll be sorry!" Joseph said to James.

"Are you sure you want my lunch?" James said with a smirk, "Because I

only brought Brussels sprouts."

"Give me that!" Joseph said as he tried to grab James' lunch bag, but James stepped out of the way and Joseph tripped in front of the entire cafeteria.

Roars of laughter filled the room and Joseph's cheeks turned red with rage. "Stop laughing at me!" Joseph shouted.



James stuck out his arm to offer Joseph a helping hand off the ground.

"Why are you helping me? I've been terrible to you," Joseph said quietly.

"Because I'd rather be friends than enemies. I know what it's like to be laughed at; it doesn't feel very good," James said.

Joseph took James' hand and stood up, "I'm sorry for being a bully."

James smiled, "I accept your apology."

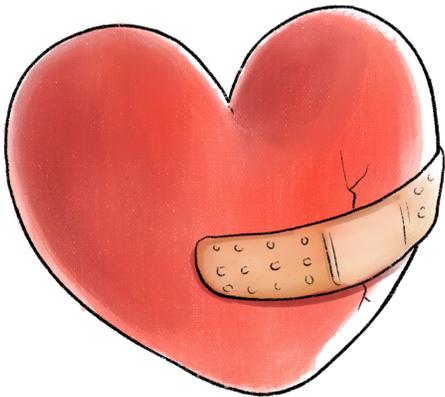
Joseph grinned, "Can we be friends?"

"Do you promise not to bully me or anyone else ever again?" James asked.

"I promise," Joseph said.

James looks at his friends, who nod their heads yes.

"Yes, we can be friends."



“Why are you helping me? I’ve been terrible to you,” Joseph said quietly.



Alex Goubar is a digital illustrator who has completed her Bachelor's Degree in Illustration at Sheridan College. She had begun her children's book illustrating adventure during her 3rd year co-op, where Lacey invited her to join her team. Alex was born in Minsk, Belarus and is currently living in Ontario, Canada.

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Kids Collection