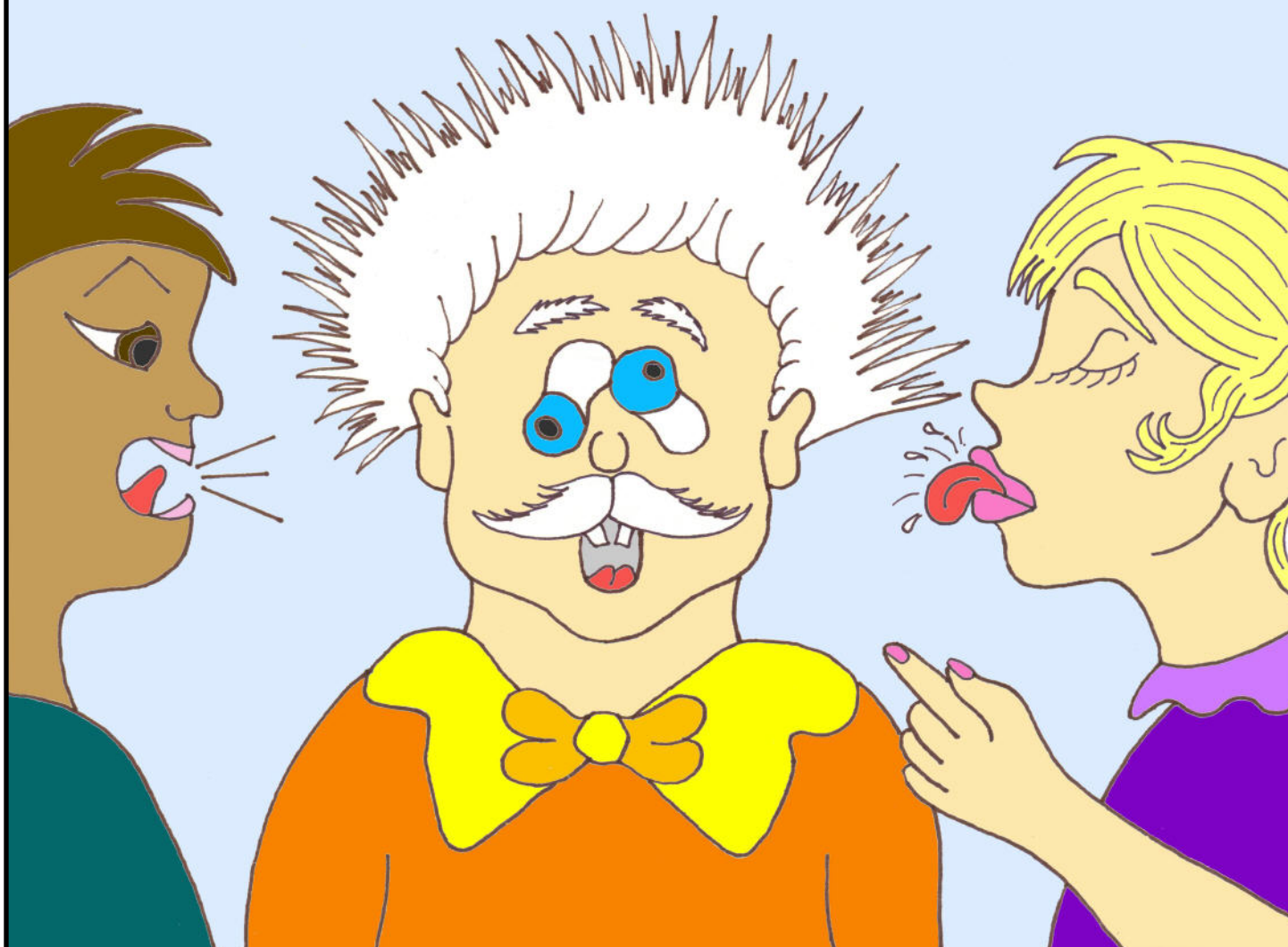


**MAKING FUN OF
EINSTEIN:
LESSONS ABOUT
BULLYING
& THE NATURE OF HOSTILITY**



Global Children's Fund
www.KeepYourChildSafe.org

About This Book

Making Fun of Einstein is a general purpose anti-bullying book. While its primary focus is on helping bullied children deal with what they are going through by framing the abuse in its proper perspective, it also teaches many valuable social lessons that will help ALL KIDS learn how to refrain from bullying others. So it's not just for kids who are being victimized at the moment. It's a general education book that every child should read.

This story takes kids on a journey throughout various episodes in history, showing them how the people who condemn, judge, and ridicule are always wrong in the scorn they dish out. This helps bullied children depersonalize the hurt they are experiencing and recognize it for the nonsense it is. It should also prompt other kids to think a little deeper about their actions before engaging in bullying themselves. It then walks kids through the process of how to deal with bullying, including what everyone should do if they see someone else being bullied.

Bullying generally takes off and becomes commonplace around 5th grade, but it can also start much sooner. This book is aimed at children in grades 3 through 6 (or kids ages 8 to 12), in an attempt to reach them at the age when the seeds for bullying are being planted.

We hope this story helps every child cope with bullying while learning how to be kinder, more caring people themselves. As always, we'd love to hear feedback on how it's helped you child or what we can do to improve our materials so that they better help other kids in the future. You can contact us at:

support@keepyourchildsafe.org,

Or by writing to the address below:

Global Children's Fund
P.O. Box 559
Sedalia, Co 80135

Making Fun of Einstein Workbook

Schools, teachers and parents can also download our accompanying workbook that goes with this story to create a richer curriculum experience for their kids.

Visit our bullying resources main page at

www.keepyourchildsafe.org/bullying.html

Thank you for your support.

History is full of examples of people doing awful things to each other. Times when those around us show the uglier side of human nature. People will be mean to others because of how they look or the way that they dress. People will be mean to others because of what they believe. They'll be nasty and cruel to someone because of who they love, or the things they love to do. They'll even hate others simply because of the color of their skin or the place they come from. Sad, isn't it? That people can be so hostile to each other, especially over such silly differences.

The thing is, most people never stop to think about how mean-spirited they're being when they do such things, and that's precisely the problem. Nobody gets out of bed and says to themselves, "hmmm, today seems like a good day to be a real jerk to those around me." The problem is that people can convince themselves that they have good reasons to act like this, even when they really don't. It's not that people are evil at heart, no matter how cruel their actions may seem. It's just that they're easily fooled into thinking all sorts of ideas that aren't true, and making issues out of things that shouldn't really matter. They get lulled into thinking that their way of behaving is the only right way to act, so they judge anybody who seems different harshly.



Back in the Middle Ages when people were more "civilized" and believed they knew everything there was to know about the world, they could be very stubborn in their beliefs. People who tried to think for themselves were ridiculed. Those who disagreed with what the crowds considered to be the truth were usually scorned, humiliated, or worse. Back then, people were sure that the world was flat, that the earth was at the center of the Universe, and that the sun revolved around the earth. At the time, these things *seemed* to be perfectly logical things to believe.

Then people like Nicolaus Copernicus came along. He was a 16th century astronomer who worked hard trying to understand how the universe worked, and what he discovered told him that these ideas were wrong. He learned that the earth was round and that it circled the sun, which was the true center of our solar system. But when he tried to tell others about what he had learned, instead of welcoming these new ideas with intrigue, many people hated him for what he was saying. He was branded a heretic. People called him a fool and thought he should be hung. The same thing happened to a man named Galileo, who was one of a small group of people who were smart enough to discover the truth. They scorned him and called him names. They accused him of blasphemy. They arrested him and put him in jail. Other people who said similar things were even less lucky: they were killed . . . hung in the square in front of cheering crowds.

Of course, nowadays even kindergartners know that the Earth is round and that it circles the sun. Today, we know that those people who were persecuted and called names were some of the smartest people of their time. What did the group know? They knew how to be mean, angry, and how to call names. They knew how to be close-minded and crazy, and how to gang up on someone because they thought differently about things. But they didn't know much else.

It just goes to show that **people can be loud, mean, and awfully sure of themselves, and they can be COMPLETELY WRONG at the same time.** They can go to great lengths to act superior, when in reality, it's *their* ideas that are seriously inferior.



When Albert Einstein was young, he didn't learn to talk until he was around four-years-old. Einstein was different from other kids. He was delayed in parts of his development. His parents even thought that he might be mentally handicapped. People called him retarded. He was not very good at interacting with others, and he didn't have many friends at school. His classmates would often make fun of him, doing mean things and calling him stupid or dumb. So were they right?

Shows what they knew. This was Einstein they were calling dumb, who, in case you didn't know, turned out to be just about the most brilliant person ever to have lived. He would go on to write grand papers on science and mathematics, teaching us most of what we know about the Universe today. His ideas led to many scientific breakthroughs.

Even now, many decades after his death, scientists are still amazed at his intellect. They continue to discover he was correct about many things others thought were impossible. And it's *precisely because* Einstein was so different & unique that he was able to accomplish such amazing things. Pretty impressive for "stupid little Einstein" if you ask me.

So if kids at school could think *Einstein was stupid*, then tell me, what's that say about their judgment when they say mean or hurtful things about you, or when they tease others around you? **They were wrong when it came to Einstein, and they're just as wrong when they make judgments about you, too.**



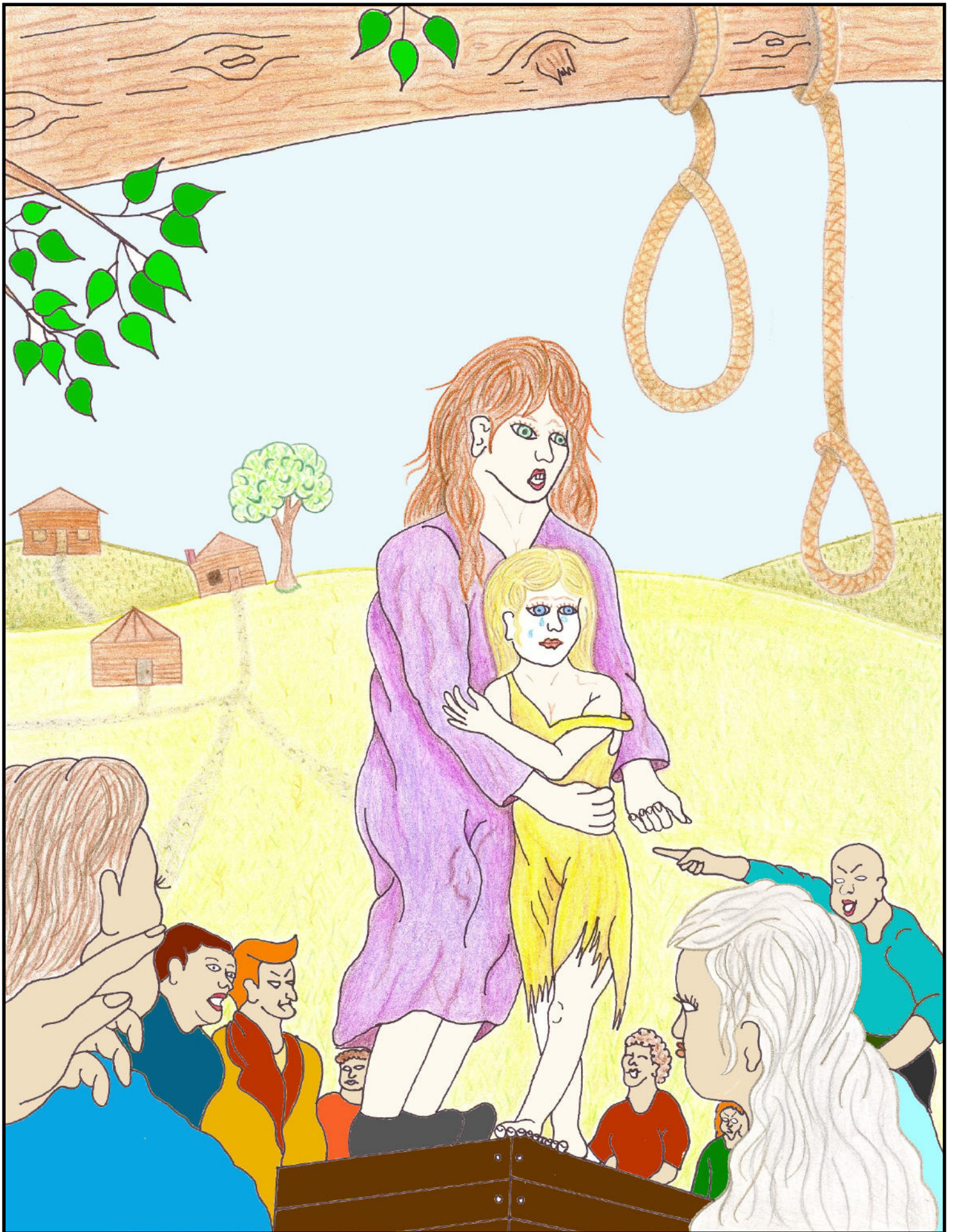
Throughout medieval times in Europe and even right here in America, lots of people got all crazy and weird over witches. Of course, it wasn't real witches who were tormenting their thoughts. The people they thought were witches were really just ordinary people . . . sometimes even small little girls who were just getting ready to start school. It's a horrible chapter in human history, but also an important lesson about how people can get carried away with judging others.

People accused others of being witches for all sorts of reasons. Sometimes it happened because the town's crops didn't grow or something disastrous happened, and so the townspeople needed a scapegoat to blame it on. By believing that a witch cast a spell over them, they could blame all their troubles on someone else. Then by destroying the people they blamed, they could feel like they were in control. Sometimes a spiteful neighbor would accuse someone they didn't like of being a witch so that they would be thrown in jail or killed. Other times, people just let their imaginations run wild. Much like a kid who believes that there's a monster under the bed, they convinced themselves that others around them really were witches. And some people accused others of being witches ***just because they thought pointing a finger at someone else might keep people from accusing them.***

Amidst this hysteria, people accused mothers and old women. They said little girls were evil witches who could cast spells that would ruin grown men. At the time, it seemed like a perfectly reasonable thing to do. They honestly felt that those they accused were evil, and that this evil needed to be destroyed. People spread rumors to their neighbors, telling them that these witches just might come along and cast a spell on their family or eat their children in a witchy stew. In the worst cases, angry mobs rounded up women and little girls, then either burned them alive or hung them in the town square. The youngest child known to have been killed was just 4-years-old. People tied her to a stake and then cheered as she was burned alive. Pretty sad, isn't it?

In the end, it turned out the witches were make-believe. You or I could have probably told them that. In the end, it was the ones who were doing the accusing who were acting in evil ways. They thought they had good reasons to do what they were doing, but in reality they were just silly, ignorant humans doing horrible things to people who had done nothing to deserve it.

Most people today no longer get all crazy over witches. Yet even today, you can see people acting in similar ways. They still look for scapegoats and others to blame for their problems. **People still search for someone to tear down and judge in order to feel a little better about themselves.** The reasons they dream up can seem very real at the time, but just like the witches of old, these excuses are based on nonsense they dreamed up in their head.



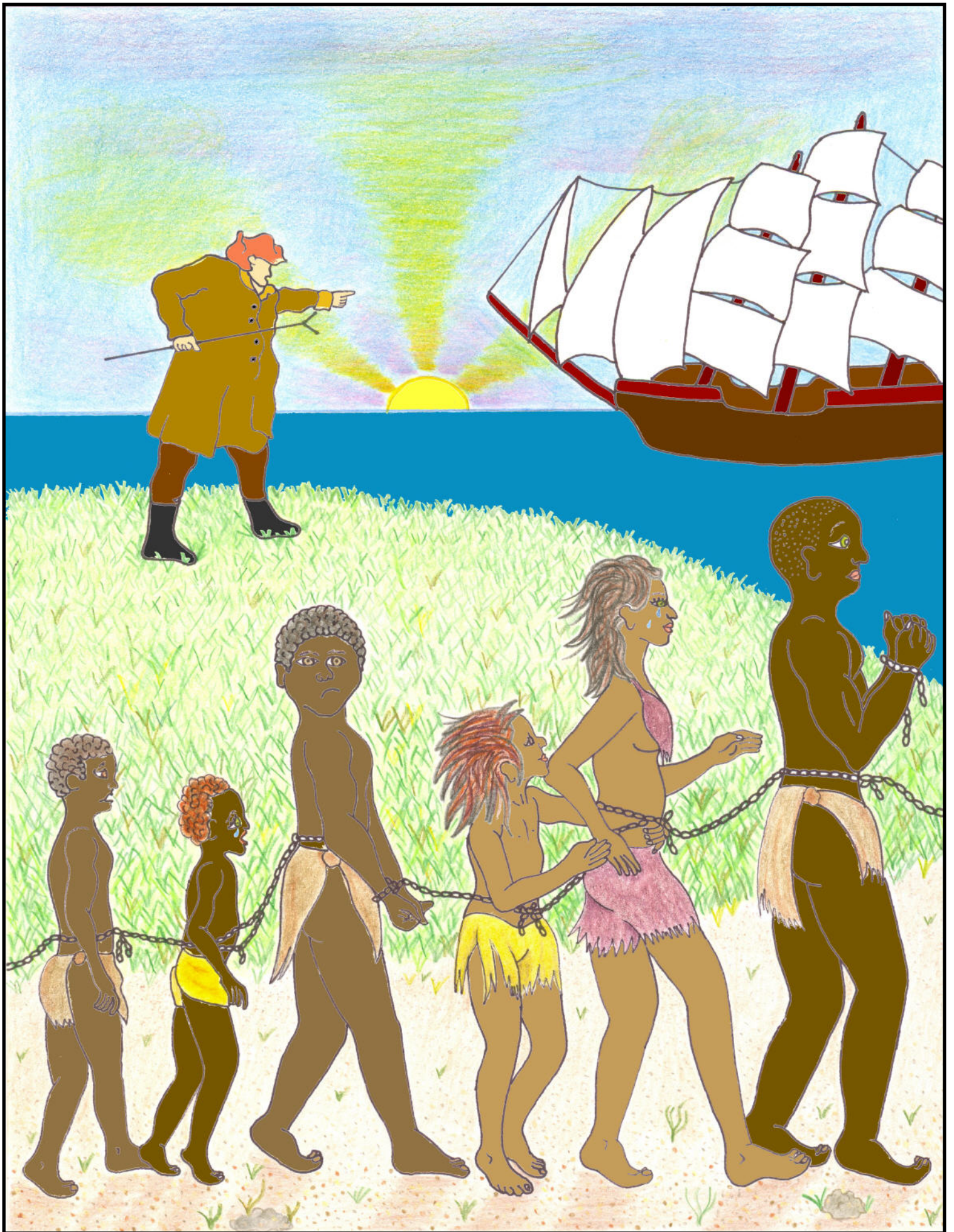
Back when the United States was young, this country wasn't free and fair for everyone. In fact, for a long time in the U.S. it was perfectly legal for people to keep other human beings as slaves. People were brought over from Africa by the boatload. Ruthless merchants tricked the native Africans by telling them they would enjoy riches and a much better life if they came with them to America. Others simply rounded up entire villages with brute force – killing anyone who resisted. They loaded them on boats and shipped them across continents. When they got there, they were sold as slaves and forced to work long and hard in the fields for little food and no pay. Some were literally worked to death – pushed so hard they collapsed in the fields.

Many generations of children were born as slaves. When a slave had a child, that child was born the property of the slaveowner, and would never live a free life with the same opportunities as a white child. Slaves and slavechildren alike could even be murdered. Since they were considered property, it was perfectly legal for a slaveowner to destroy his property, if he chose. You'd think that people would know this was wrong, yet they seemed to have no problem inventing reasons for why it was perfectly OK to do. Church preachers even taught their members that people with a darker skin were “savages” who had no soul. Since they weren't considered human, it was alright to treat them like animals to be slaughtered at will. They were called “savages” because they were taken from a way of life that was different from that of the settlers.

Back then, keeping slaves was just something people did. Lots of people seemed to be doing it. And lots of people seemed to agree that people with darker skin were lesser human beings who didn't deserve the same rights as everyone else. Many people claimed to be ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN that they weren't as smart, weren't as deserving, or weren't as civilized as white folks. For the longest time, over a period of hundreds of years, few people questioned these beliefs.

There were some white people who believed it was wrong, but they were in the minority. And just as is the case with bullying today, they risked being attacked and ridiculed if they spoke up about it. An entire population, millions upon millions of people over many generations considered it perfectly acceptable to enslave others based on the color of their skin. And yet, these millions upon millions of people couldn't have been more wrong.

Nowadays we would consider such behavior to be evil and cruel. We know that people can be just as smart, just as good, and just as wonderful whether their skin is black, white, tan, brown, or perhaps neon blue. Today, almost everyone would agree that it's the people who judge others by their skin color who are inferior, not the other way around. It just goes to show, **an idea can still be wrong even if a lot of people seem to believe it.** Or as the writer Bertrand Russell once said, “If 50 million people say a foolish thing, it's still a foolish thing.”



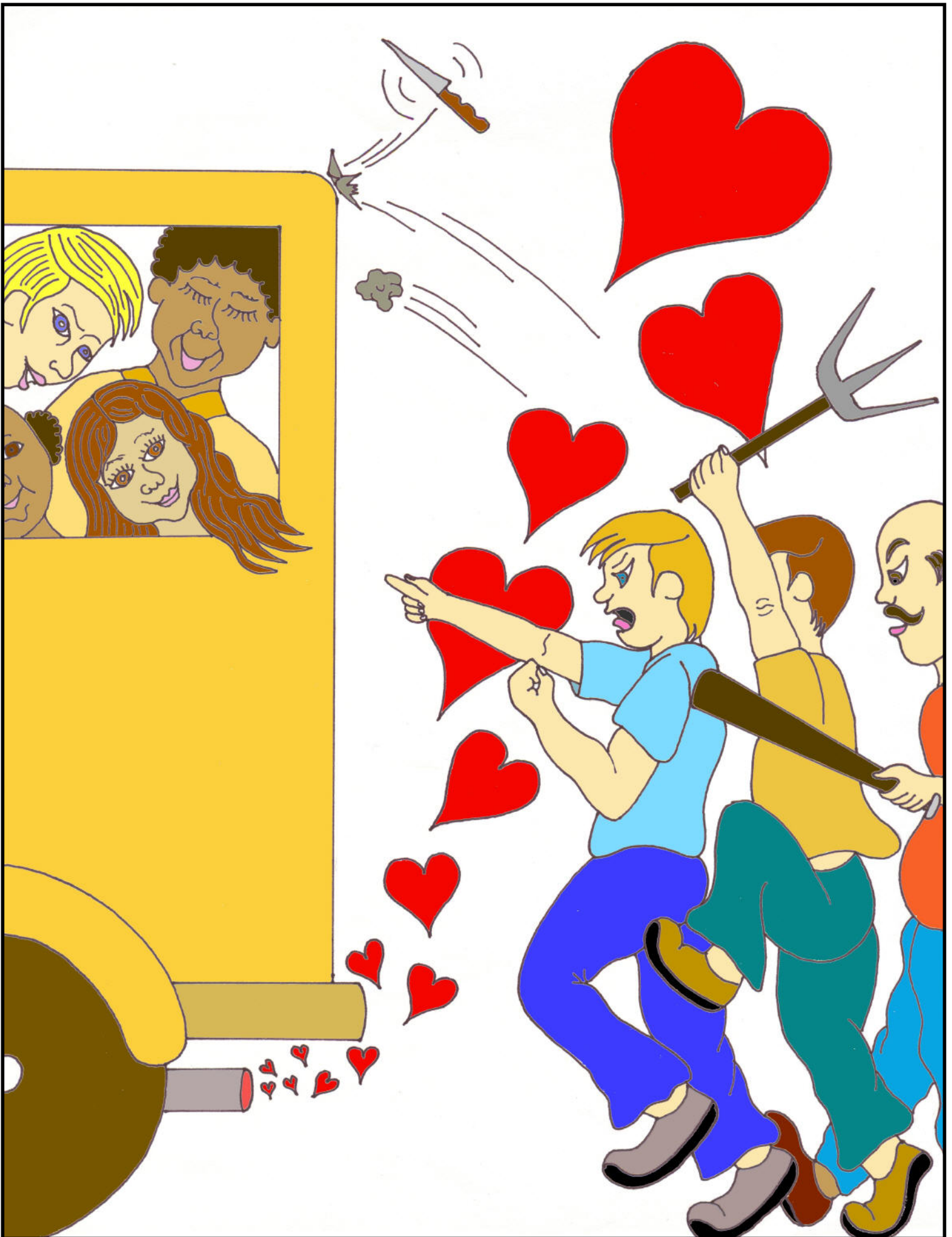
Even after slavery was abolished, many people continued to discriminate in other ways. Black people weren't allowed to eat at the same restaurants or even sit where they wanted to on the bus. African American children weren't allowed to swim in public pools with white children, and were treated as though they had some horrendous disease. During the 1960s, (which was not all that long ago), there was a group of people who came to be known as the freedom riders. They were people of all races – whites, blacks, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans – who all held one simple belief: that people should share the same equal rights and be kind and friendly and love one another no matter what the color of their skin. That probably doesn't sound like such a horribly radical idea to you. In fact, it probably sounds like a wonderful, self-evident idea that nobody could argue with. That's not what they thought back then.

The freedom riders got together and rented their own bus. Then they drove back and forth across the country. They lived together, laughed together, ate together, played together, loved together, and wanted to show the whole world that prejudice and racism were silly. They wanted to help end the bigotry that caused so many people in the world so much pain and unnecessary suffering.

If we lived in a world where people were rational and group thinking usually got things right, these people should have been greeted as heroes. Unfortunately, that's not what happened. Instead people were rather angry. In fact, some were downright furious. People all over the country called the freedom riders horrible names. Many people called in to radio shows saying that all of them should be killed – hung or shot for trying to spread their message of compassion. (Sound familiar?) Preachers went on the news claiming that what they were doing was a threat to our children; a horrible thing that would anger God and evoke his wrath. And they didn't stop at words.

Wherever the freedom riders went, angry crowds gathered to harass them. They shouted horrible things, threw bottles and rocks at the bus, and spit on the freedom riders as soon as they got off of it. Most of the freedom riders were assaulted. Big 300 pound men would drag away small defenseless women and beat them on the side of the road. Men were attacked by mobs of people. A number of freedom riders were stabbed with knives and some were seriously wounded. The only thing they did "wrong" was to believe in kindness and tolerance. And for that, many foolish people thought that they deserved to die.

Nowadays we would consider such behavior to be cruel and evil. We know that the freedom riders had it right all along, and that those who attacked them were acting in horrible, ugly ways. It just goes to show: **You can be doing everything right, and still have the dunces in the group rise up against you.**

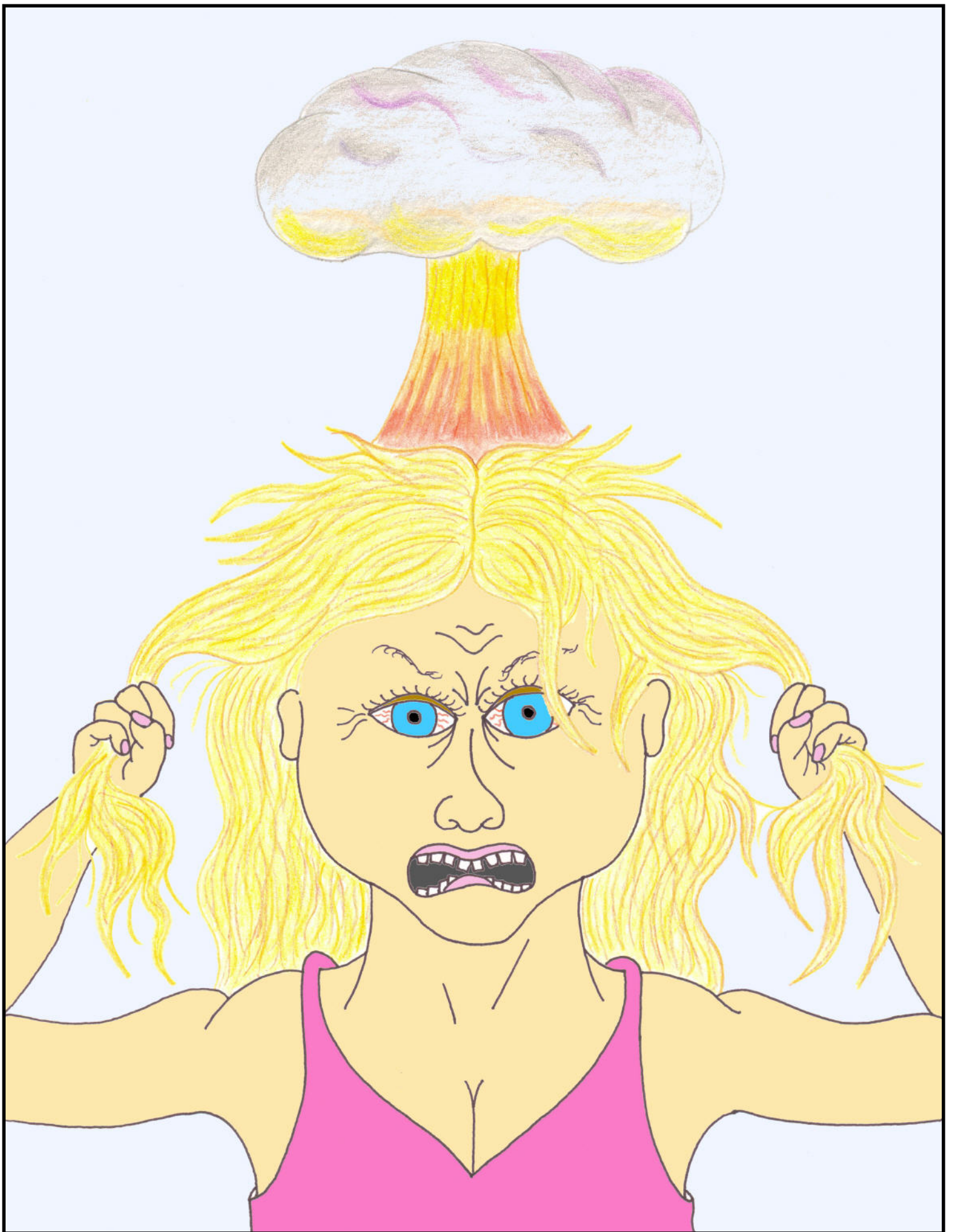


So what was the point of telling you about these horrible things people have done to each other? Was it to depress you? Make you angry? Drive you crazy so that you put your pants over your head and run around in circles singing show tunes? Of course not. (Though that might be funny to see...just don't post it on YouTube.)

The point is this: people are prone to acting crazy and ridiculous at times. It's just one of the unfortunate things people do. On a regular basis, people do and say all sorts of mean-spirited things that are not good, not right, and simply not correct. They can do foolish things without thinking about the feelings of others. They can gang up on people for any number of ridiculous reasons and pretend they're right to be doing so, when in reality they are **COMPLETELY WRONG**.

And so if there are times when people make fun of you over the different things about you, or they criticize you because of what you look like or what you wear, what you believe or how you act, always remember: that hardly means their opinion is accurate or true. How do I know? Because history tells us so! In fact, if there's one predictable rule about life, it's that whenever a bunch of people are ganging up against others, no matter what their reason for doing so, it's bound to be wrong.

People can say and do all kinds of silly things, but as these stories have taught us, that doesn't make them true.



You might think that being a world renowned movie star or famous musician would protect you against bullying. That if you were rich and famous and loved by people all around the world that you would never have to put up with such a thing. You'd be wrong.

Even famous and successful people have to deal with naysayers from time to time. Usually their only crime is being too talented, too successful, or especially hard working. People tease them because they are on TV or crack jokes about the things they create. As kids, many of them were made fun of because they were off showing their talent and winning awards while the other kids were just sitting around not doing much of anything. People felt jealous, and so they were mean.

It's like this: normally people tease others because they are different or seem like an easy target. But other times people will be mean **because they're insecure themselves, and find anyone who is more talented or more successful or smarter than they are threatening.** If they think someone else might make them look bad – say, by being smart or studying hard – then they get defensive and try to attack that person first.

It's not something people sit down to think about. It's often something of an instinct that goes on below the levels of conscious awareness. Something deep within them is shouting: "This person is smart. Uh-oh, I might not be as smart as them. If they are smarter than me, that could be a threat. So I better do all I can to tear them down, so that they don't feel as threatening to me." Of course, if you asked them, they would deny thinking such things. They probably don't even realize their mind is thinking such things. But this is the basic conversation that is going on in their head.

The bottom line is that you can be doing everything right in life, like studying hard and being smart or successful – and you could still end up the target of someone else's scorn, precisely because you're a better or kinder person than they are. If that sounds like ridiculous nonsense to you, it's because it is; yet this is the type of logic that drives many people to be nasty to each other.



Even if what others are saying has just a little bit of truth to it – let's say maybe you are a little overweight and other kids call you fat, or perhaps you do have lots of freckles or something else that makes you stand out from the crowd – they are absolutely wrong to harass you about it.

We all have ways we are different, and ways we are imperfect. We all have traits we need to work on. Maybe some of us do need to lose a little weight. Perhaps we could use a little work on our social skills, or a little polishing in areas where we are rough around the edges. Whatever our flaws may be, it's important we help each other out in these areas, not poke fun at them. We shouldn't tear each other down for being imperfect. We make one another better when we offer encouragement, not scorn. Because I can guarantee you one thing, and you can take this to the bank: those doing the teasing have many things that are imperfect about themselves, too.

They may not have the same problems as you, but we all have issues. Maybe they aren't as smart as others... or maybe they don't have as good of a personality... or maybe they have big flaws in their character... or maybe they don't receive the same love and affection from their parents... or maybe they're still scared of the dark... or perhaps they have embarrassing secrets of their own that they wouldn't want to be criticized about. Imagine how crummy the world would be if everyone spent their time searching for the insecurities in others and then used those weaknesses to hurt them. Since we all have flaws, we'd all be miserable. This is why it's so silly to make fun of others for their shortcomings. Since those doing the teasing ALWAYS have their own issues to work on – PROBLEMS THAT ARE NO BETTER OR WORSE THAN YOUR OWN – then taunting and teasing others is a show of what a hypocrite you can be, not proof of how awesome someone is.

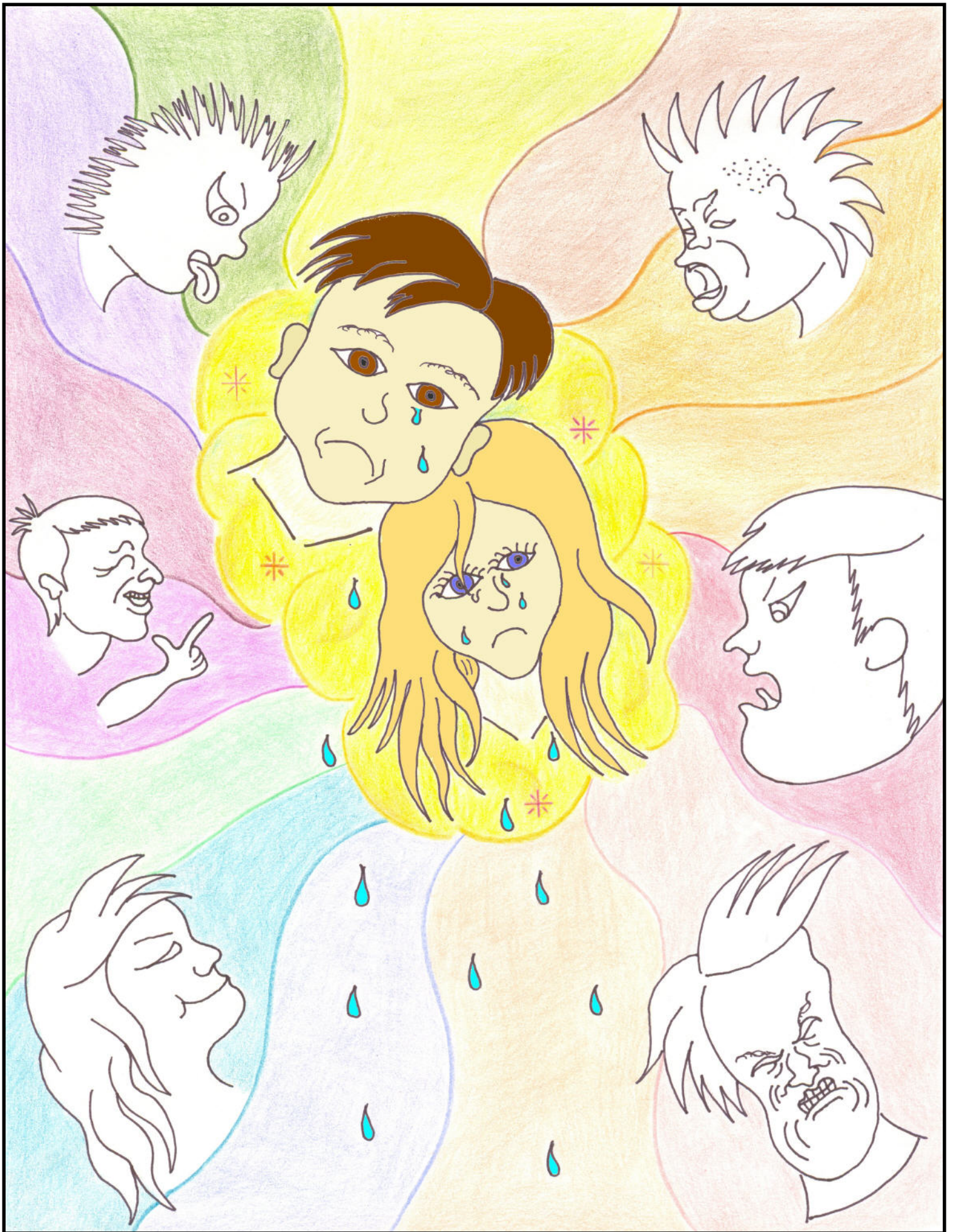


Of course, people can be entirely 100% wrong, and you can even know they are completely wrong, but it still hurts. That's one of the downsides of being human. We're social creatures, which means we want to be connected with people and liked by those around us. So when people say hurtful things, it doesn't matter how sensible or logical or truthful they are being, it still hurts.

I wish there was some magic pill we could give you that would make this hurt go away. But alas, if I knew of such a pill, I would be a rich tycoon sipping juice cocktails on a private island right now, with an army of circus clowns to entertain me, because Lord knows, EVERYONE would be in need of such a pill from time to time. There may not be a magic pill, but there **are** things you can do to ease the pain.

The first thing you should do is remember that everyone has felt similar hurts from time to time. Everyone has been in the same position. No matter how cool/awesome/special/popular/perfect others may appear to be, they've all faced the wrath of others at some point. So before you go beating yourself up too much about what others say or do, remember that even the most popular among us have been scorned before.

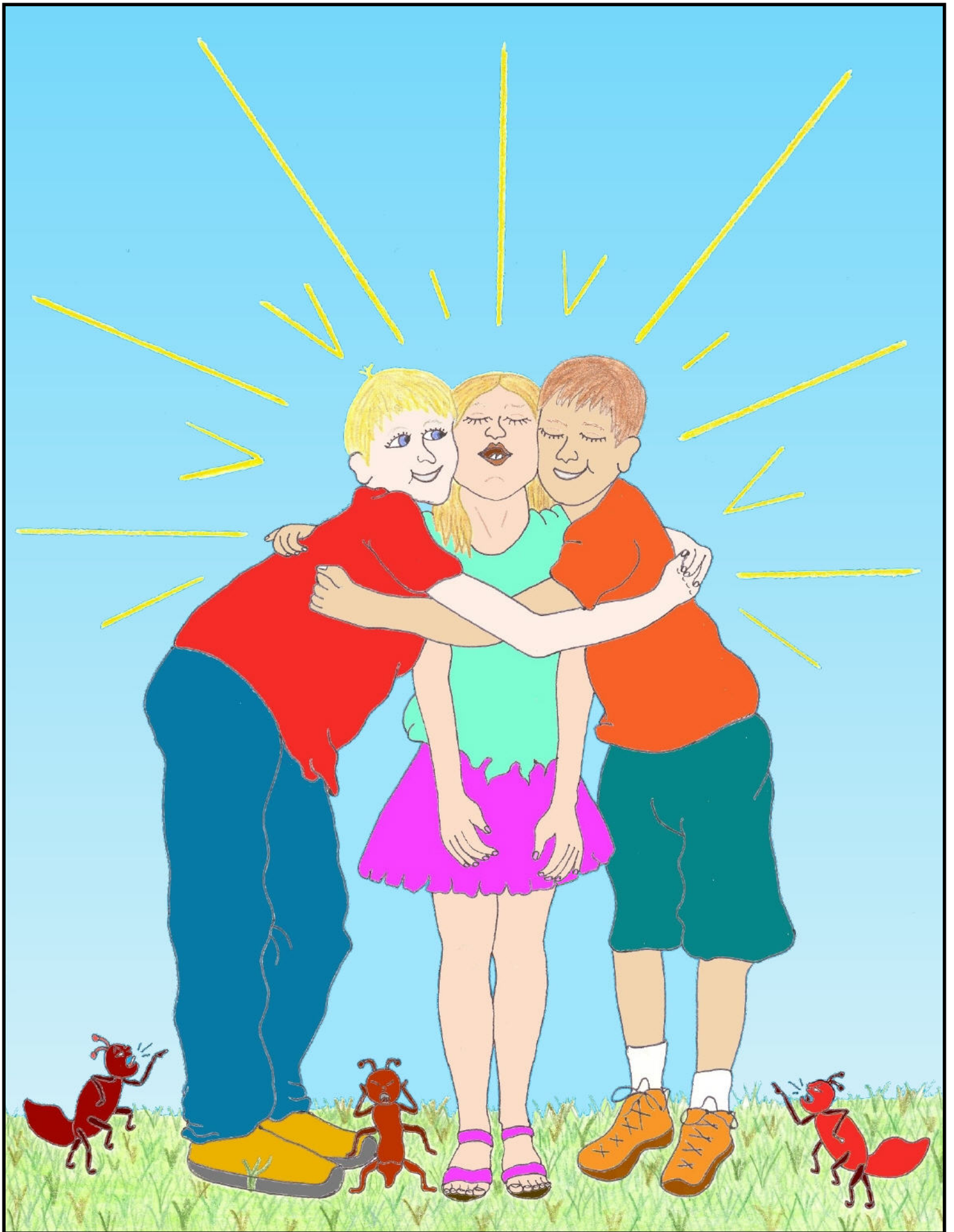
Einstein was teased. President Barack Obama was made fun of. Football player John Elway was called all sorts of names. Movie stars like Brad Pitt or Angelina Jolie were at one time taunted told they would never amount to anything. Successful pop stars have had things thrown on them and been called every horrible name imaginable. Many of the most famous, most talented, most successful people in the world went through times when they had to deal with others being cruel to them. So just keep your head up, and you'll get through it too.



After you realize that you're not alone, you should remind yourself that the hurtful things others say has as much truth to it as claiming the world is flat. It makes as much sense as calling Einstein stupid. It's as factual and reasonable as declaring that someone should die because a confused, angry, insecure person dreams up that they might be a witch. The mean things people do and say to each other is formed from the same silly nonsense as all these other things. So while it still hurts when others are mean to us, remember how ridiculous these ideas ALWAYS are, and try not to let the hurt sink in too deep.

After that, you should focus on all the people who know better. Whether it be your parents and relatives, your friends or teachers, or anyone else who knows the true you – who knows all the talent and worth that makes you a valuable person – remind yourself that the world does not share the opinion of those who hurt you. Just because someone says something doesn't make it true, and just because a certain group of people believes in nonsense or repeats insults like a parrot, that doesn't make it gospel truth for everyone else.

In fact, much of the world today would quickly recognize such teasing for what it is: utter nonsense. They would be more likely to judge your tormentors harshly than they would be to think negative things about you. So do your best to rise above the naysayers. Put their cruel words in their proper place: like the squawking of puny little ants whose nasty opinions mean very little in the long run. Think of them as an annoying but otherwise insignificant part of your life.



You should also remind yourself that even many of the people involved may not agree with what they say or do to you, but are just going along with the crowd. When one person shouts "witch!" others often are merely following along. You've probably heard the phrase: "Monkey see, monkey do." This happens a lot with kids at school. They don't actually think about what they are doing, they merely copy what others do and say.

Schools can be filled with all sorts of popularity games. It's a place where kids put on false faces to try and fit in or impress their friends, and it's easy for people to do and say things they don't really mean. Kids might go along with the teasing because they're afraid the crowd will turn on them if they don't participate, or because they want to gain favor with a certain friend. Or it might be because they're insecure themselves and it makes them feel better to be on the giving end for a change.

When you're the one being picked on, it's easy to forget this. When Janey got teased by a group of kids at school, she felt horrible afterwards. Just thinking about all the different people who hate her so much makes her brain want to explode and then leak out her ears. But here's the thing: most of the kids aren't actually thinking, "I really hate Janey, Janey's so stupid." They're thinking something more along the lines of: "Rebecca doesn't like Janey. I don't have a problem with her, but Rebecca might like me better if I pretend to hate her too." Or they might be thinking, "Janey's prettier than I am, and knowing she's prettier makes me feel sad. But wow! Being mean to Janey and putting her down really makes me feel like I'm better than she is." Or they might be thinking, "If I don't go along, they might pick on me!"

It's human nature to take teasing personally, but you have to remember this: **it's always more about them and the problems in what they feel than it is anything about you.** You should also remember that sooner or later, most people wise up, although some people take longer to mature than others. When they do, they are more likely to be embarrassed by their behavior than they are to be proud of it. And those that don't ever wise up are not the type of people whose opinions we should care about.



One thing you have to remember is that people never *think* they are being evil or out of line when they do these cruel things. The problem is that they invent all sorts of excuses to justify the crummy things they do. They may tell themselves that this person is really a bad person and so they deserve it. They might tell themselves that they're only having fun and so this person shouldn't get so upset. They dream up many different reasons and excuses to make their nasty behavior seem justified. As a wise philosopher once said, "You see, there is only one terrible thing in this world, and that is everyone has their reasons."

Think back to the stories in this book: the people who kept slaves, the mobs who beat up the freedom riders because they thought black & white people shouldn't be friends, or the angry townspeople who killed women and little girls because they were terrified of witches. None of these people *thought* they were being wicked at the time. Their problem was much less sinister: They had all been infected with evil ideas that *fooled* them into believing that this hostility was proper and just. Just like colds, ideas and beliefs are infectious and can spread from person to person like a nasty virus.

You probably aren't the type of person who would be cruel to others on purpose, but we have to be careful not to get dragged into this nonsense ourselves. Maybe it's the clothes someone is wearing (those really *seem* like ridiculous clothes) or the way they talk (that does *seem* like a crazy accent). Perhaps it's something they did (that does *seem* like a bad or ridiculous thing to do) or something they believe (that really *seems* like the wrong way to think). But no matter how valid the reasons may seem, we can't let ourselves be fooled.

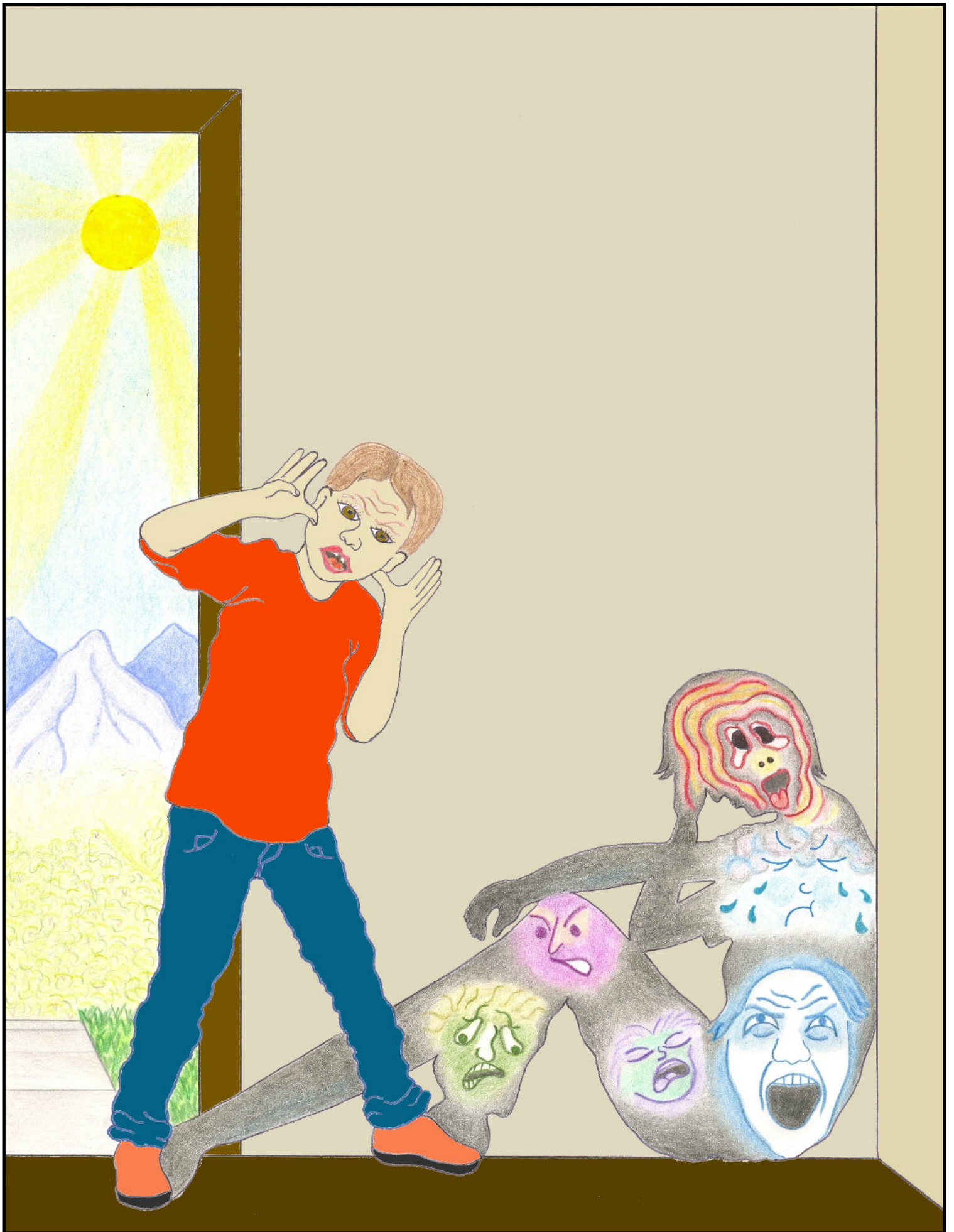
When you go around judging others, you're ALWAYS going to be wrong. You'll ALWAYS be wrong because you could never possibly know everything there is to know about that person. You could never know how they think, what they feel, or all they've been through. You'll be wrong because your opinion of how someone should act is just one out of a billion different viewpoints, and some of the best people this world has ever known have been those who think differently or act differently than the rest of us. And you'll be wrong because even if through some miracle you're 100% right about everything else, it's always wrong to be vicious. Cruelty never helps the situation or makes things better, no matter how much you think someone deserves it.



You don't want to wind up like the crazy person who thought witches were real and that they live next door, or the fools that called Einstein stupid. You certainly don't want to be the type of person who makes others feel bad. So whenever those around you are picking on someone, don't join in. We should all do our best to speak out against cruelty whenever we see it. This isn't always easy. It can be tough to go against the group, especially when the group includes people we consider to be friends. But it's the only proper thing to do. Even if you don't feel you can do anything at the time, at the very least you could say something kind to the victim afterward just to let them know they aren't alone, and that not everyone dislikes them.

This rule of kindness also applies to those who do the bullying. It's easy to get angry at those we see acting ugly, especially if you're their target. But it's important to treat ALL people with compassion, even those who wrong us. Bullies aren't horrible people, just horribly misguided. It's not that they *want* to be mean-spirited and cruel. They just have problems of their own that cause them to behave this way. Sometimes they're spoiled and stuck up, and are too used to getting their way all the time. Or it could be just the opposite: they themselves are insecure. A lot of times the people who bully like this have bullies of their own that they have to deal with. It might be kids at school, or adults who mistreat them at home. They get so hurt and insecure by what others have done to them that they take this frustration and do the same to others.

We may never know the different things that cause people to act like this, but we DO know that acting ugly in return won't help. This doesn't mean we let them walk all over us or do whatever they please, it just means that we try our best to take the high road. We disapprove of what they do without responding with cruelty ourselves.



Consider the example shown by a bonobo in Africa. Bonobos are a primate like chimpanzees. They share 98.7% of our DNA, so they're human in a lot of ways. Bonobos are mostly peaceful (unlike chimpanzees), but just like humans, they sometimes have to put up with some rather ugly treatment.

One of these bonobos was a 3-year-old girl named Lodja. She regularly got picked on by Bandaka the bandit, a 6-year-old boy bonobo whose favorite game seemed to be terrorizing Lodja. He was a lot bigger than she was, and would always pull her hair, steal her toys, and otherwise just act like a real jerk.

Then one day both Lodja and Bandaka were moved to a new enclosure. Maya, a grown-up bonobo, was the big girl on this block, and she kept all the other bonobos in check. It wasn't long before she grew tired of Bandaka's shenanigans'. Whenever he got out of line or acted obnoxious, she would "correct him" bonobo style, which basically meant a good scolding and a swat or a spanking.

One day she really let Bandaka have it. Bandaka was so upset that he ran off into the bushes and sat alone, crying and hugging himself. There he laid face down in the dirt, slapping his palms and howling in despair. None of the other bonobos would go over and comfort him, because none of them wanted to get in trouble with Maya. No one, that is, except little Lodja.

Despite every mean thing he had done to her in the past, she crept over and wrapped her arms around him, kissing him tenderly and patting his head. The distraught Bandaka collapsed into her lap, and Lodja spent all afternoon kissing and grooming him. As you might imagine, Bandaka was a lot nicer to her from then on, and they soon became friends.

When the tables were turned and Bandaka was the one feeling hurt and vulnerable, little Lodja didn't take advantage or rub it in. Instead she responded with kindness.



Special thanks to
Vanessa Woods, author
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pictures featured
herein.



If a bonobo can do it, so can we. We should all try to be like little Lodja and treat others with compassion, even when they've wronged us before. We should do this because whether we're human or bonobo, we all just want to be loved and valued. Whenever others act crummy, it's either because they lack the love they need or have learned faulty ways of feeling valued.

You can never cure hate with more hate. Only love can do that. If someone is acting mean because they feel bad about themselves, being cruel and making them feel even *more insecure* will only make them *more difficult* to deal with. It's only through spreading compassion and kindness that we make the world a better place.

It's up to people like you and me to make sure the lunatics don't overrun the asylum. The world needs more kind and caring kids like you in it. People who value every person and know that it's our differences that make each other so special, so uniquely wonderful. People who know how much it hurts to feel like an outcast, and who would never intentionally do that to others.

If we all do our best to remember these things, the best part is that despite all the sad chapters in this book, we can help write a better ending. Bit by bit, piece by piece, one act of kindness at a time, we can erase the bigoted ways of the world. Should times get rough, know that there's an army of people on your side. People you may not even know who dislike cruelty and who want to see you succeed and do wonderful things. Together we can conquer the world.

The End.

