

HOW TO GET AWAY FROM A STRANGER



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You've probably heard it a million times before. Don't talk to strangers. Don't go anywhere with a stranger. Beware of strangers.



Timmy, no dressing strangers up in monkey suits and keeping them in cages in your room. We've all heard it, from parents, from teachers, from adults. But do you know why people tell you to keep away from strangers?
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Is it because all strangers are bad? Is it because they have coodies? Is it because strangers are really witches who want to take you home so they can cook you inside a giant pot?



Of course not. You see, most strangers are good. Most strangers are nice. Most strangers would help you out, not hurt you. But there are also some strangers out there who hurt children. It is because of these few strangers that we need to be extra careful.

A stranger is anyone who we do not know well. Since we don't know them, there is no way to tell if they are good or bad. Nice people can look mean, and mean people can look nice. You can never tell by looking. Because of this, we need to be extra careful around all strangers. But who is a stranger?



Someone is a stranger unless **YOU** know them well, and **YOUR MOM AND DAD** know them well. Until then, they are a stranger. Even if we've seen them before, they are still a stranger until mom and dad know them well. No matter how nice a person seems, they are still a stranger until we get to know them.

Is the person in the circle a stranger?
Yep. This is Beth. You probably don't know her. She works at an office, and she's a stranger.



Is the person inside the triangle a stranger? This is John. He works at The Burger Planet, and he's a stranger. You probably don't know him. Even if he says hi to you when he sees you, he is still a stranger. You don't know him well.

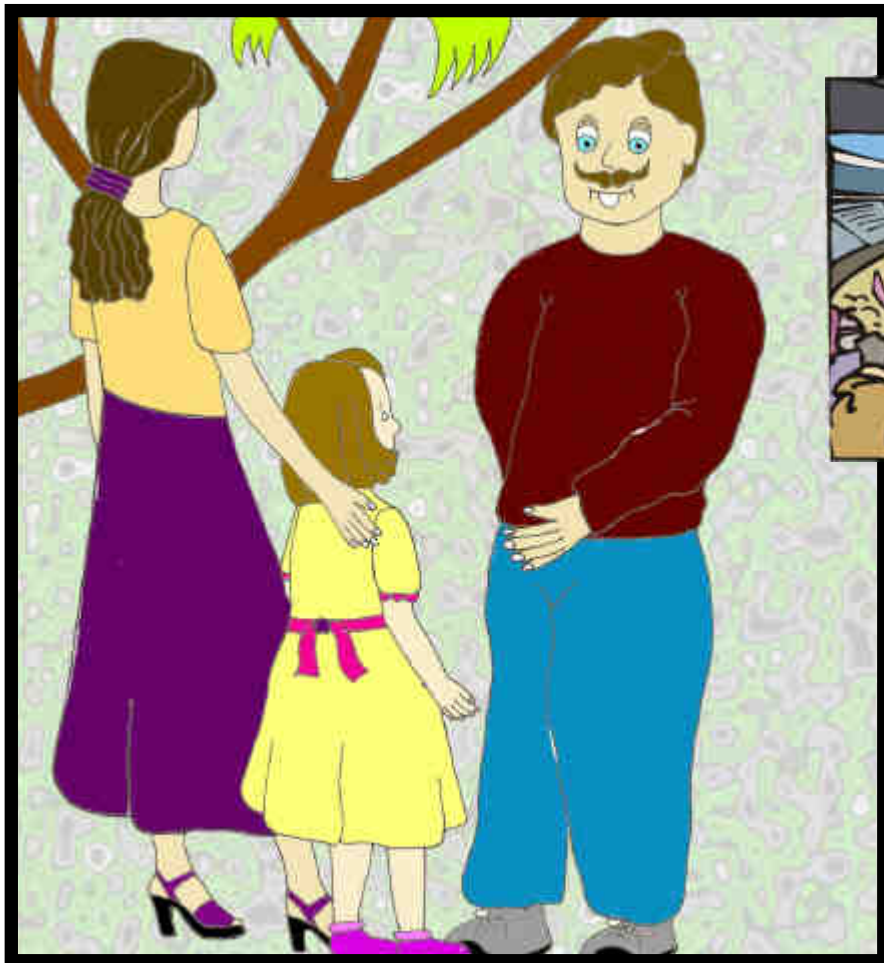


Is the person in the square with the silly hat a stranger? Yep. This is Mark. He's a clown, in more ways than one. It's his job to make children laugh and act goofy. But he's still a stranger to you, and you should only talk to him with your parents around.



Is the person in the mask a stranger? Is the person without a mask a stranger? Yep. This is Nathan, and he is having a bad day. He thought the bag might help. But he is still a stranger, with or without a mask.

There are certain times when it is OK to talk to a stranger. It is just fine to talk to strangers if your parents or the adult you are with is right there by your side. But we should never talk to strangers if we are alone. Our adult has to be right there by our side.



It's Ok to talk to strangers in the supermarket, if the adult who is watching us is right there. It's Ok to talk to strangers we meet at the park, if the adult who is watching us is right there. It's Ok to talk to strangers at the ball stadium, if the adult who is watching us is right there.

But if the person who is watching us is not right by our side, or if we are playing alone, we never talk to strangers. They might try to steal you from your mom and dad. You just might be so cute and adorable that they want to steal you and keep you.



Even though most strangers are nice, the ones that aren't are very clever and tricky. Like the big Bad wolf, they are good at pretending they are nice and they are good at finding children. So let's be tricky ourselves and learn what tricks a bad stranger might say to get us to go with them.

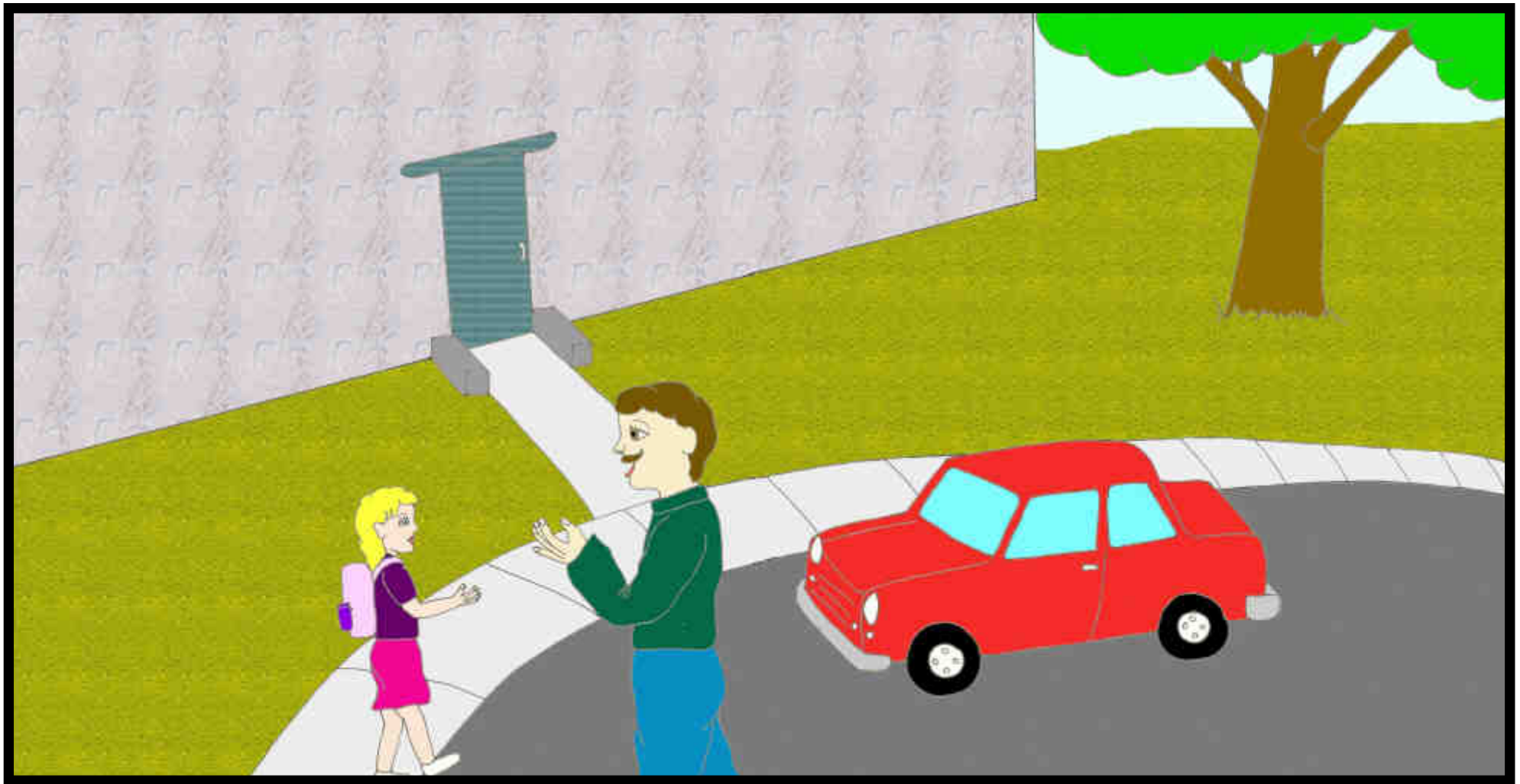


What if you were playing somewhere or walking along and you saw a stranger whistling for a dog. The stranger went up and asked you if you saw his dog. You told him no, you hadn't seen his dog. He tells you what his dog looks like, and then asks you to come help him look for the dog.

Tell me, is that what you think a grown up would do? **NO! Stranger tricks! Stranger tricks!** Good grown ups might ask you if you've seen their puppy. But grown ups would know better than to ask a strange kid to come with them to look.



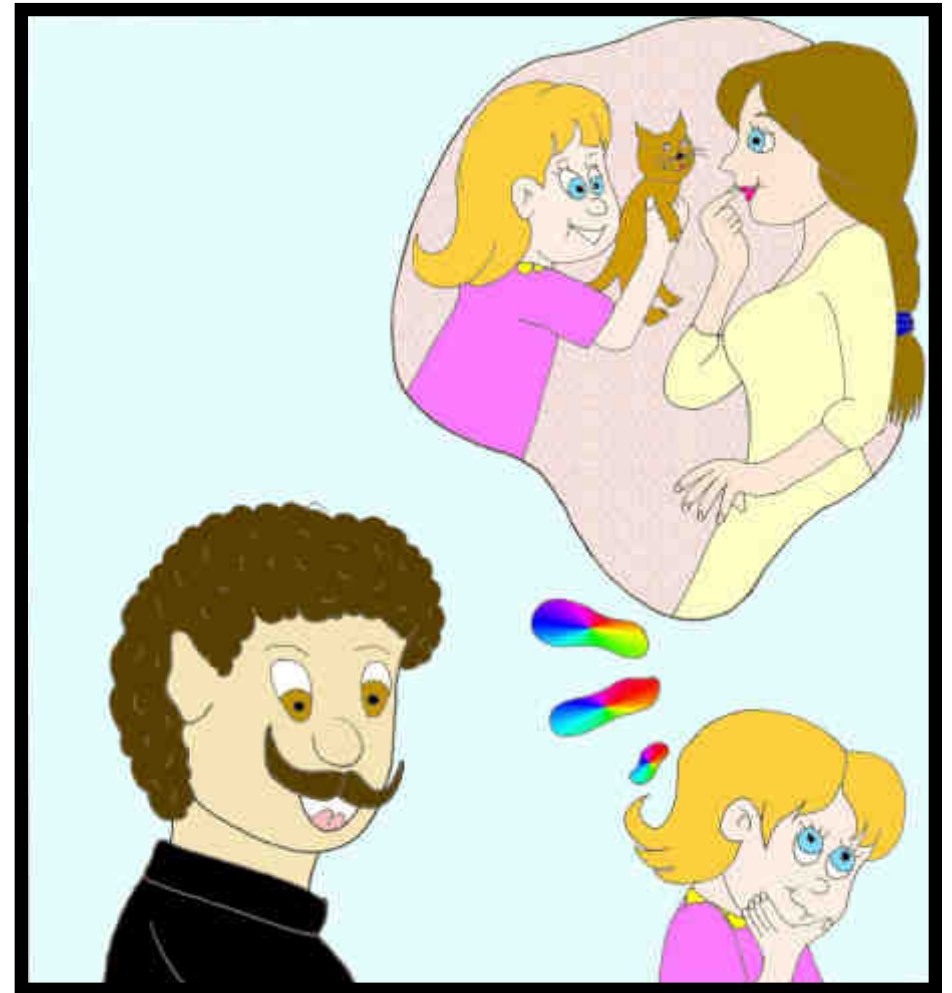
OR what if you were walking home from school, and a stranger pulled up in a car. He was holding a backpack. He said he found it on the road, and asks you to come take a look at it and see who it belongs to. What do you think, would a grown up do that? **No! Stranger Tricks! Stranger Tricks!** If a grown up did find a backpack, he would just look inside to see who it belonged to and call them. Or he would give it to the school. This is just a trick to get you close enough to the car so that he can grab you.



What if you were just out of school, and someone in a car pulled up and told you "Jessica, I need to pick you up, your mom told me to come get you. She's busy and needs you right away."

Do you think that would happen? **NO! Stranger Tricks! Stranger Tricks!** Your mom would never send someone to pick you up without telling you, especially a stranger. You would need to go inside and talk to the teachers at school.

What if you were playing at the park and this man walked up with a cute, soft, fuzzy, adorable little kitten. He let you pet the kitten. Then he says he's got a whole litter of kittens back at his house, and if you want to come look you can pick one out and ask your mom if you can have it.

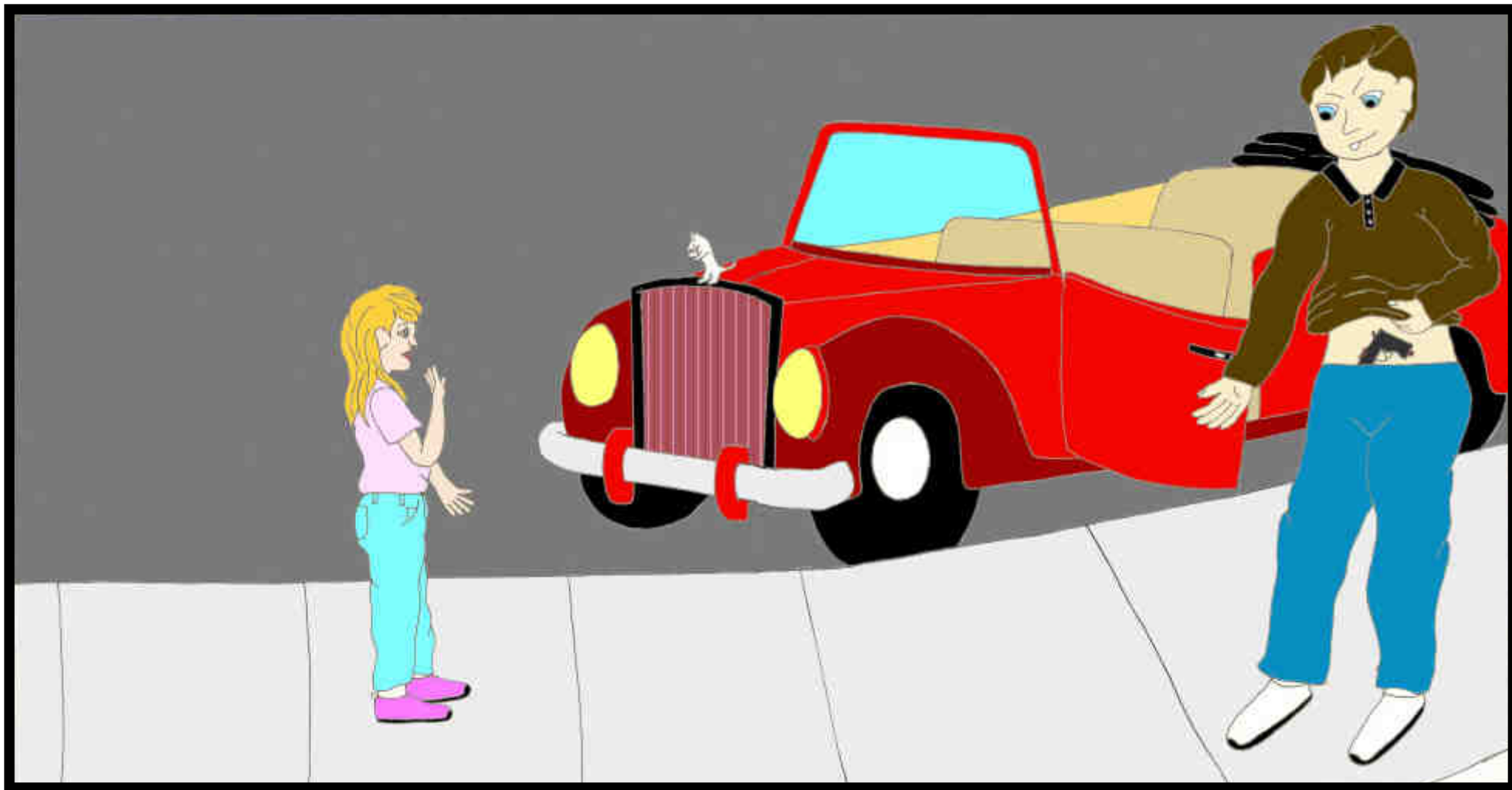


Would that Be Ok to do? **NO! Stranger tricks! Stranger tricks!** If this person really was giving away kittens, he would never ask a child unless his or her parents were right there too. This is definitely a stranger trick.



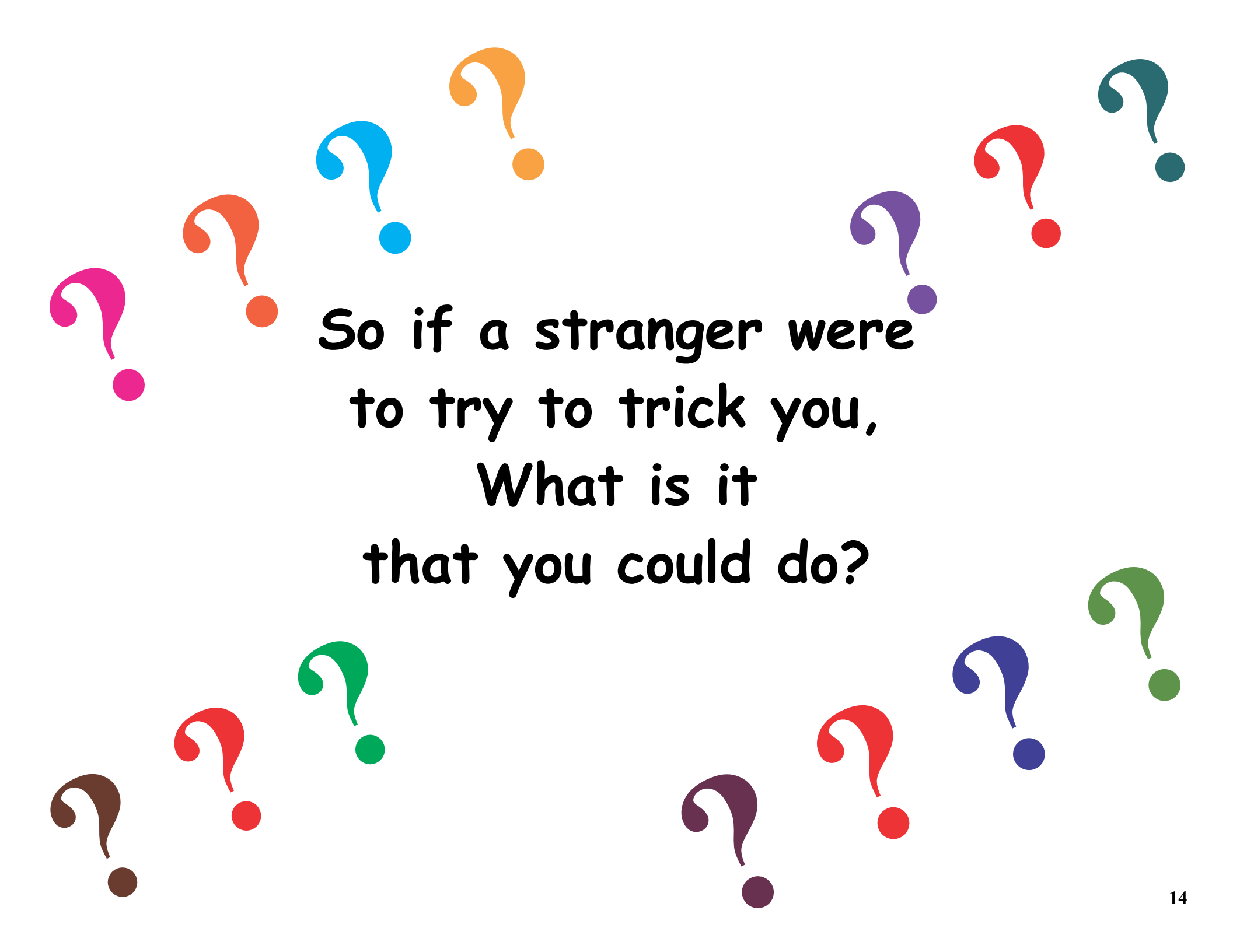
What if someone came by while we were standing at the bus-stop and offered to give us a ride to school? What if it was really cold out, and we didn't like standing at the bus stop? Tell me, do you think this is a good thing to do?

No! Stranger Tricks! Stranger Tricks! An adult would not offer strange kids a ride to school. Even if he was a parent of one of the other kids and we didn't know him, we should play it on the safe side and say "no thank you".



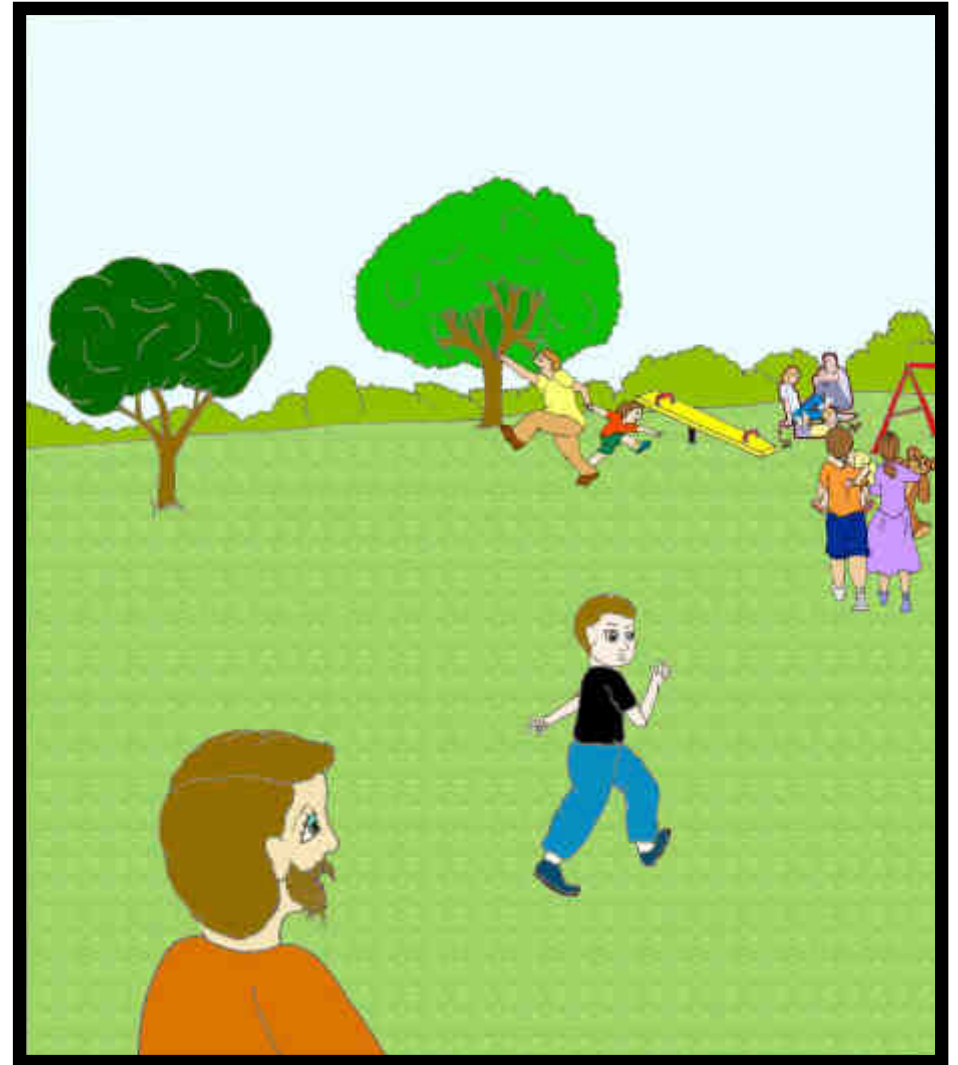
Or how about this one....What if a stranger came up to you and said: "I've got a gun. Come with me right now or I'll shoot you." This is a scary one. What do you think? **Stranger Tricks! Stranger Tricks!** Of course a grown up would never

do that. Whatever you do, don't listen. If you run away, they will not shoot you. They will run too. But if you get in, then they can take you away to someplace people won't see and then hurt you. So never listen to this trick.



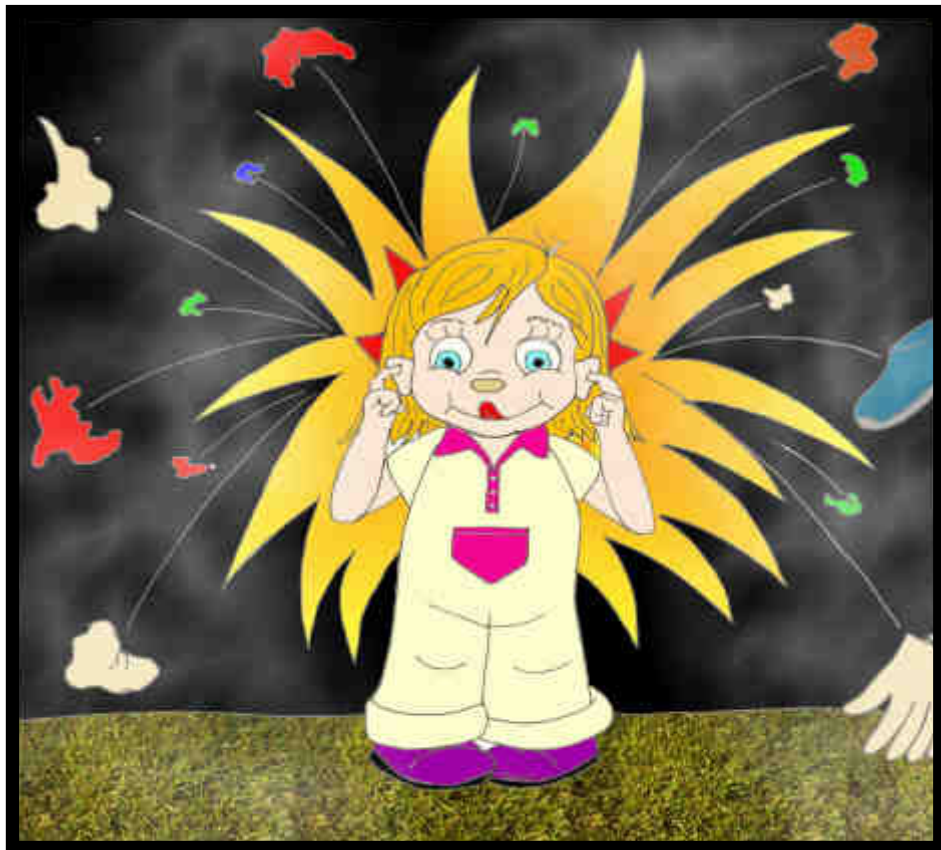
**So if a stranger were
to try to trick you,
What is it
that you could do?**

Well, if you were in the park and a stranger tried to trick you, you could always take out a giant wooden mallet and just bop that stranger on the head! Oh, but you probably wouldn't have a giant mallet in your pocket. And even if you did, the stranger could take it from you and bop you with it instead.



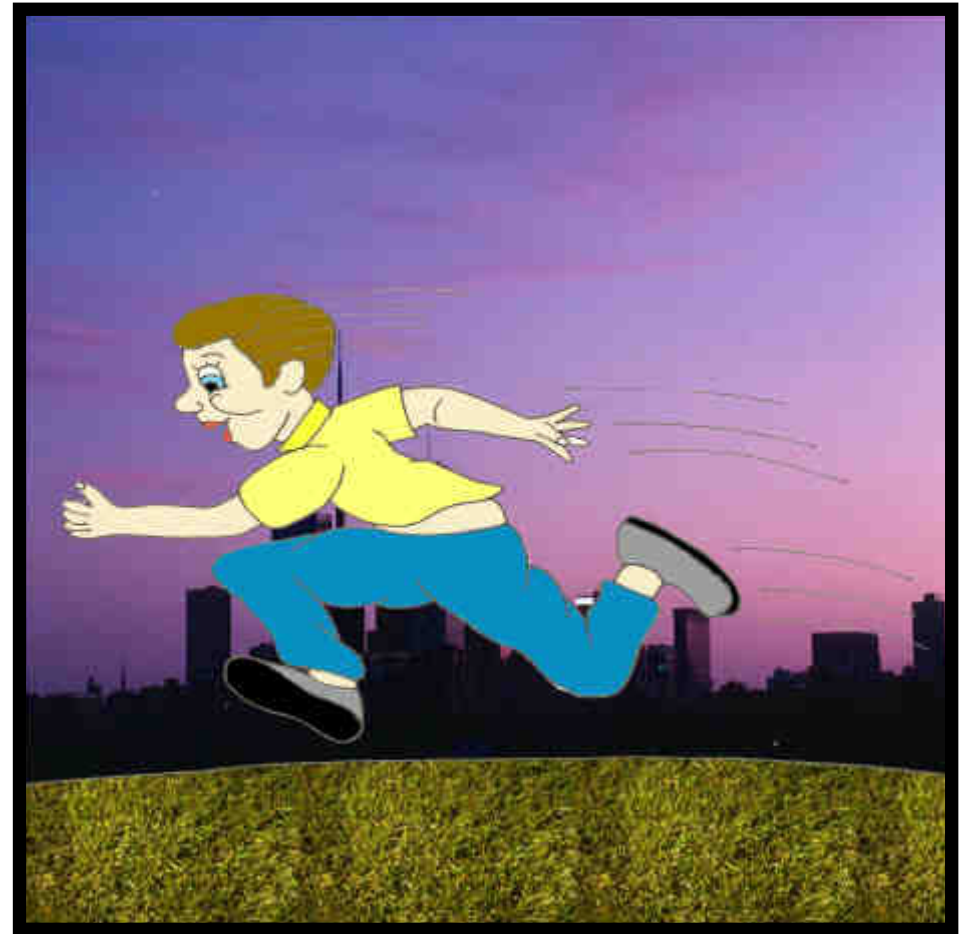
What you could do is to start walking or running over to the most crowded place, with the most people around. You could shout out for your mom or dad, even if they aren't there. That's what you could do.

What if a stranger pulled up to you in their car and tried a stranger trick. What could you do? Well, I suppose you could whip out a big piece of dynamite and throw it in their lap when they aren't looking. Wala, no more stranger. Oh, but you probably won't have a stick of dynamite laying around. And even if you did your parents probably wouldn't let you carry it around with you.

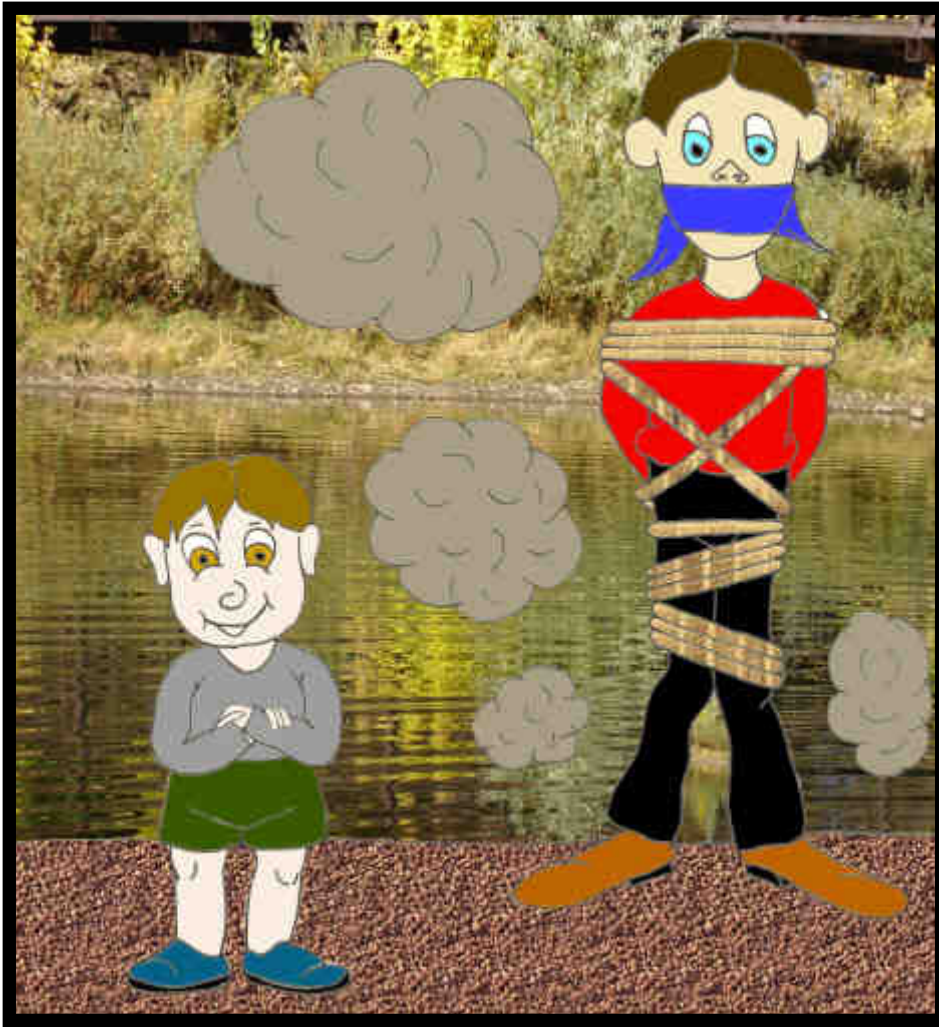


What you could do is start running away as fast as you can in the opposite direction of their car. That way they would have to turn around to chase you. And if they did chase you, you could find any grown up or go to any house and scream for help.

But what if a stranger had a gun or knife, and they said they would kill you if you don't listen? Well, in that case, you could whip out a bazooka of your own, and you could grunt and say "Make my day, punk!" to scare the stranger off. Oh, but you probably aren't allowed to use guns. And you probably couldn't even lift a bazooka anyway.



But what you could do is not listen and just run away as fast as you can. That stranger is not going to shoot you if you run off. They will be scared too. They are just saying this so they can trick you into going someplace quiet where nobody will see, then they might really shoot you. So don't listen, and just run, run, run, run!



What if a stranger got a hold of you and was trying to yank you away? Well, you could always bust out the super stealth ninja moves, and that stranger would never know what hit him. Oh, but the thing is, even the best super kid ninja is no match for an adult, no matter how skilled they are.



But what you could do is pull away. Bite the stranger, kick him, hit them in their personal parts, scream for help at the top of your lungs. If a stranger has your clothing you could wiggle out of it to get away. It's not a time to be shy. It's much better to lose a jacket or a shirt than to lose you. You do whatever you can to get away from that stranger right then and there, while screaming for help from others.

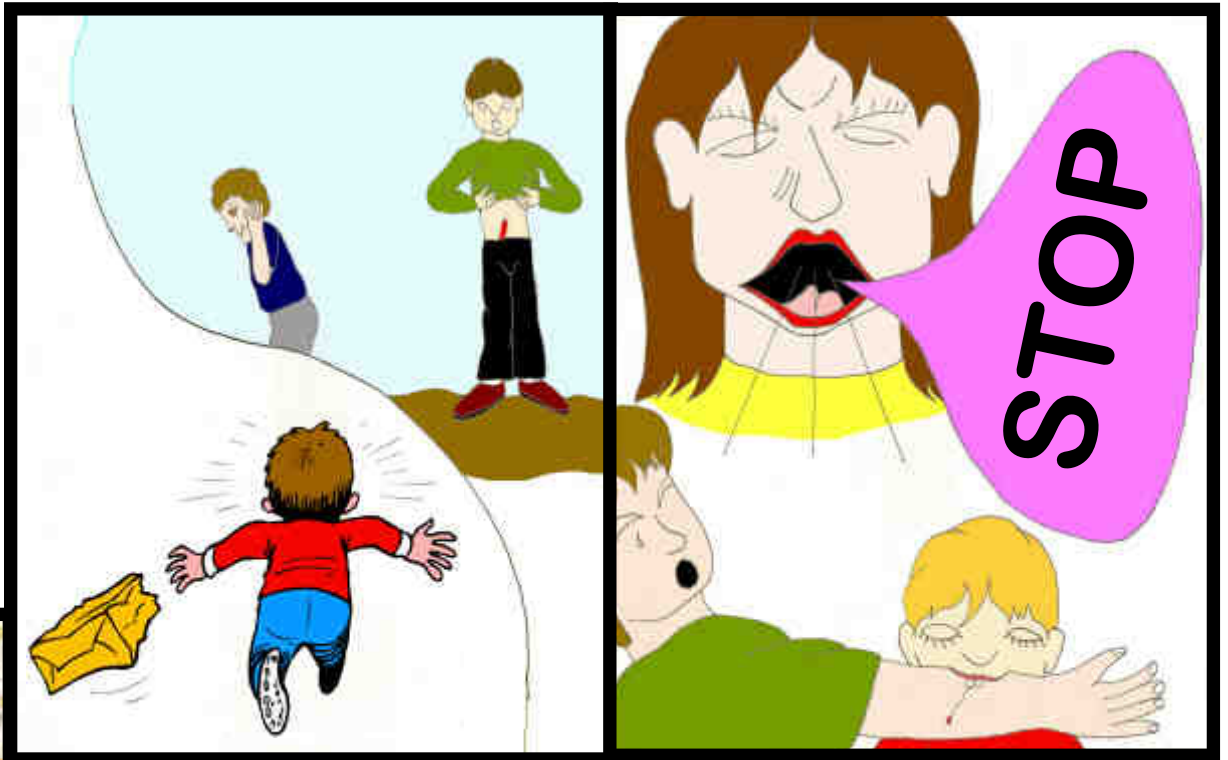
Whatever it takes!

What if a stranger was able to grab you and get you into his car? Well I suppose you could just use your wrist transmitter to send a super secret spy code to have a super secret spy helicopter come with a giant magnet and pick that car up so the stranger couldn't get you. Oh, but you probably wouldn't have all that stuff.



Instead you could bang on the windows and scream for help to any other cars you see. If the car stops at an intersection you could try to run out and run away, but only if the car is stopped. Try to get someone else's attention or get away when the driver stops.

So when a stranger is getting you, what should you do? Should you invite the stranger over for a cup of tea and Biscuits? Should you go along willingly just to save them the trouble? Should you get to know each other and try to be friends?



No, you should scream "Stop touching me there stranger!" or you could shout " Stop touching me like that stranger!" You should bite, you should kick, you should elbow. You should poke the strangers eyes, you should hit them in their personal parts, you should put a stick of dynamite down their trousers (if you have one). You should do everything you can to get them to let you go, even if they say they won't hurt you. Then, when you get away, you should run like the wind and get some help.

So, for the hundredth, millionth, billionth, gazillionth time,
be careful around strangers!

