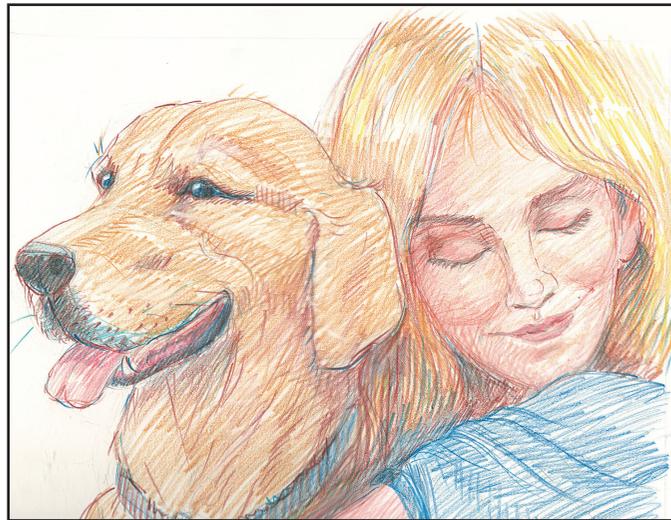


Daisy Mae

Finds Her Way



Written by Catherine Gibson & Michael LaChance
Illustrations by Christine Cancelli

For Children With Love Publications
Farmington, Connecticut



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Illustrations Christine Cancelli

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Description: Farmington, Connecticut : For Children With Love Publications, [2017] | "A portion of the proceeds from this book will go into the For Children With Love Foundation which will support animal causes." | Interest age level: 006-009. | Summary: Renee and Maria encounter a scrawny dog named Daisy Mae. When the dog is abused by their bullying classmate, Butch, Renee defends the dog. Later, Daisy Mae rescues Maria from drowning at one of the kids' favorite swimming places. This makes her a hero and opens the eyes and heart of Butch enough to make him become a friend instead of a bully.

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Thank You

To my Love **Jim Gosnell**, for his support and encouragement in everything I do. **Jeff Witjas** for making a dream come true. I appreciate all the extras you did to make things happen. **Scott Sierakowski** for the computer magic he performs turning the pictures and words into pages. **Michael LaChance**, my friend and partner on our tv show and in book writing. You make each day a joy on the journey doing what we love to do, and most of all, spreading kindness through our stories. **Dr. Mark Goldstein**, thank you for your endorsement. We believe in the same message for animals and children. **Betty White**, There are few voices for animal welfare that ring with as much clarity or carry the weight that yours does. Your endorsement of *Daisy Mae Finds Her Way* touched our hearts, thrilled our souls and gave us a stamp of approval that “thank you” isn’t big enough to repay. We are so grateful.

Xo, Catherine

**A portion of the proceeds will go to the For Children With Love Foundation,
which supports animal causes.**

With our story, we are proud to honor animal rights activist and friend, Renee DiNino, and the memory of the real-life Daisy Mae, who Renee rescued from a life of abuse and neglect. Daisy Mae could have had no better friend.



Renee DiNino is the Director of Community Affairs & On Air Programming for iHeartMedia in Connecticut. Her most recent pet projects have included working on an Anti Bullying Campaign, raising money for the CT’s first Fisher House and working with the CT Animal Control Officers to educate the public on the overpopulation of animals and the proper surrender of them. One proud accomplishment was being a part of Desmond’s Law to ensure an advocate in the courtroom to speak for abused animal(s) and also a supporter and advocate of Kenway’s Cause.

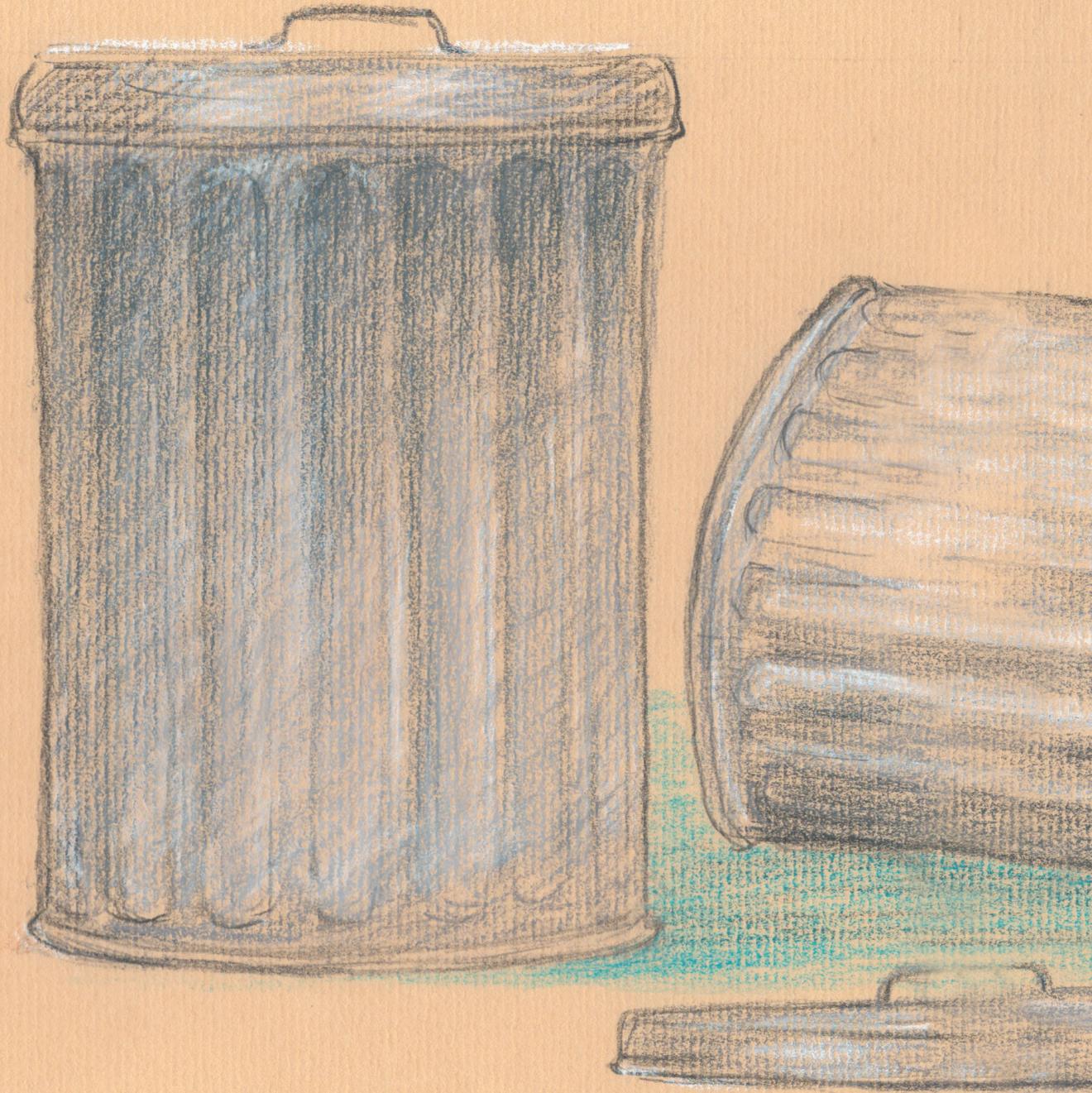
Boom! Smash! Crash!

“Watch out!” called Renee.

Renee and Maria were on their way to school when one of the trashcans that cluttered the sidewalk in front of them tipped over and clattered to the ground. The girls watched a skinny dog scrounge for scraps from among the scattered litter.

“Ugh! She’s so dirty. And you can see all her bones,” said Maria.

“Poor thing. I wish we could help her,” replied Renee.







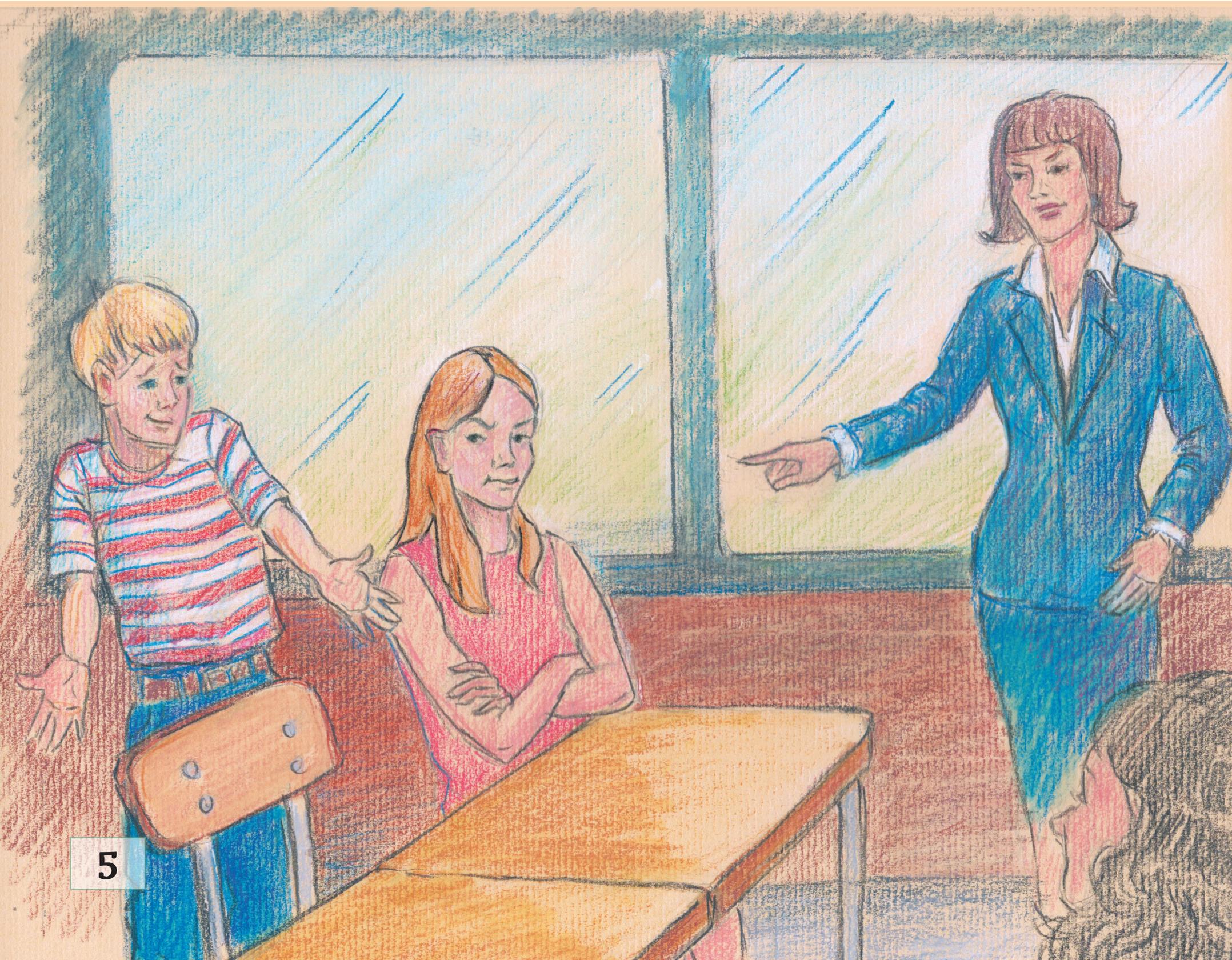
Just then, a school mate, Butch, dashed up and grabbed two trash can covers. He clanged them together like cymbals. "Get outta here, you dumb dog," he shouted, then whipped his arm back and flung one of the lids like a frisbee and barely missed the dog's head. She skittered away, her tail between her legs.

"Hey, what did you do that for?" Renee said angrily.

Butch sneered. "It doesn't even look like a real dog. More like a chicken." He flapped his arms and clucked.

Maria rolled her eyes and tugged Renee's arm, "C'mon, we're gonna be late for school."







This year, Renee's class was on the second floor. She walked in and sat down in a chair next to the window. All the seats were taken except one next to her. The bell rang and Mrs. Kisko shut the door. "Good morning, everyone," she said.

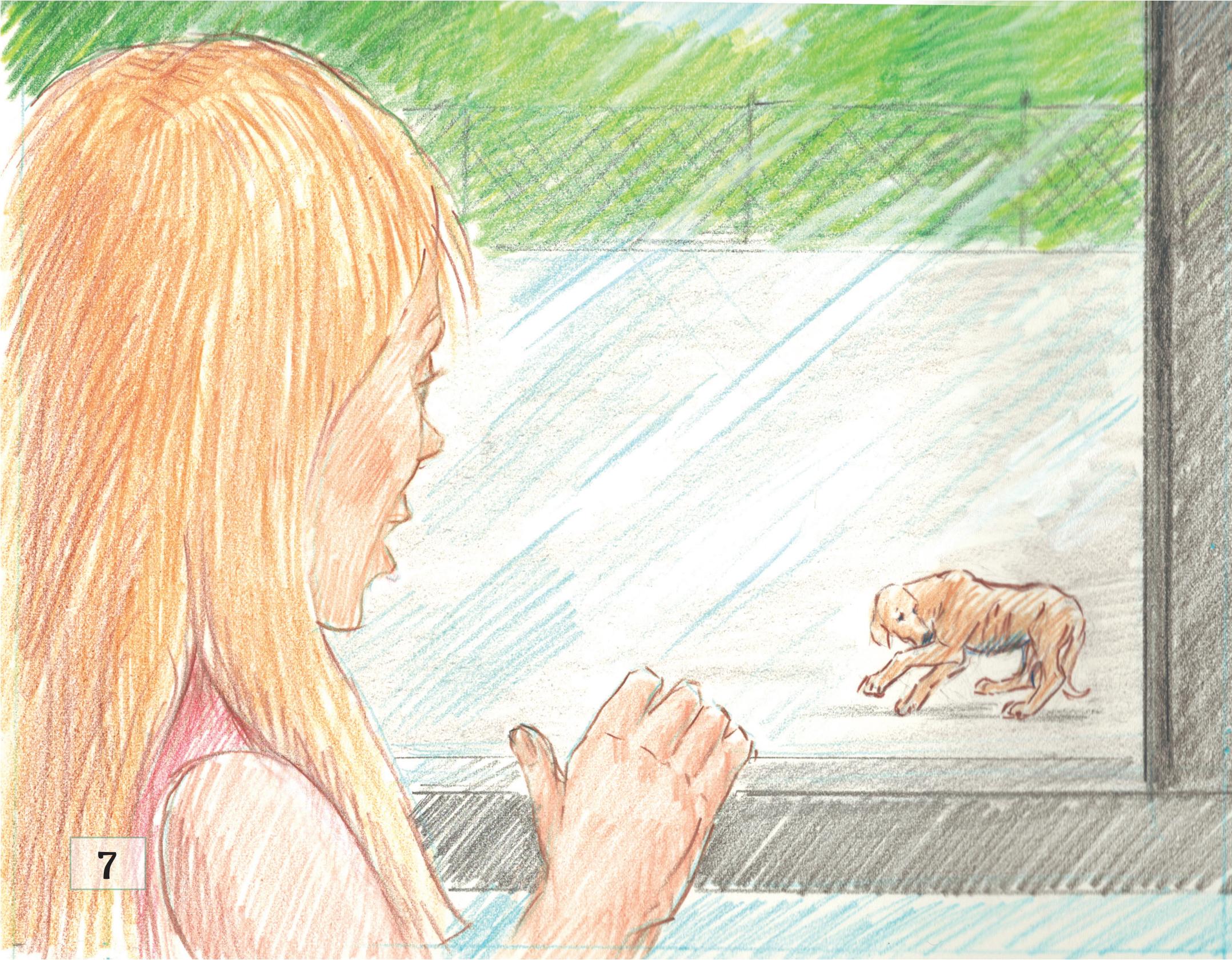
Knock! Knock! Knock! The class was interrupted by loud banging on the door.

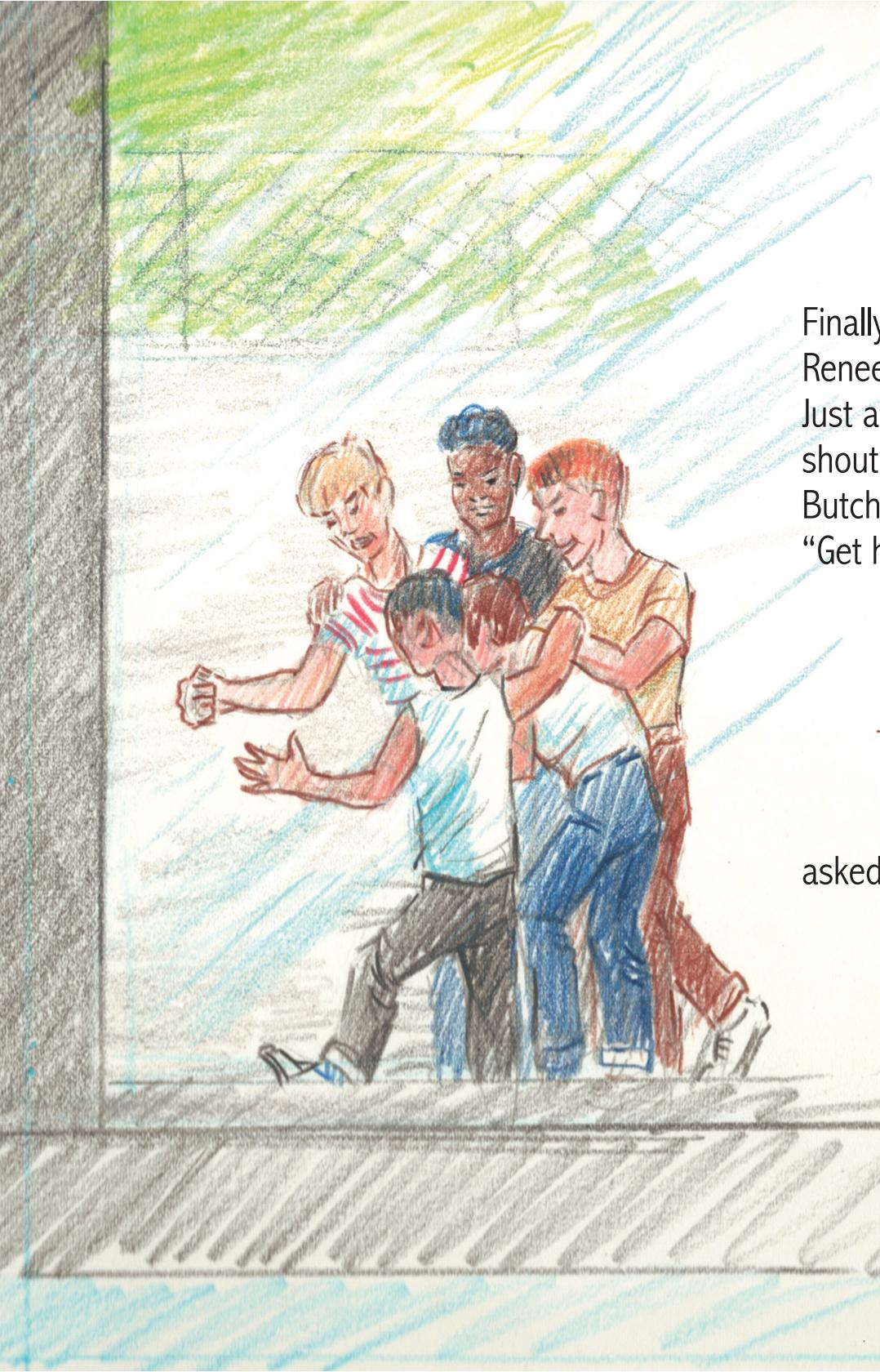
Mrs. Kisko pulled the door open again. There stood Butch. "You're late on the first day of school. Do I have to send you to the office for a tardy pass?"

Several students grinned and a few giggled. Renee saw Butch quickly hide a smile, just as he tucked his chin and dropped his head. "Please don't," he said in a sad voice. "I'm only late because I was... I was helping a lost dog cross the street.

Mrs. Kisko said, "Hmm..." then firmly pointed to the empty chair.

Butch walked over and smiled as he sat down next to Renee. She crossed her arms and just glared at him.





All that day, Renee tried her best to avoid Butch. Finally, the last bell rang. Everyone rushed out except Renee. She carefully put her books in her backpack. Just as she finished, there was loud laughter and shouts outside. She glanced out the window and saw Butch and his friends standing in a circle, chanting, “Get her! Get her!”

“Yelp!” Out of the circle raced the skinny dog.

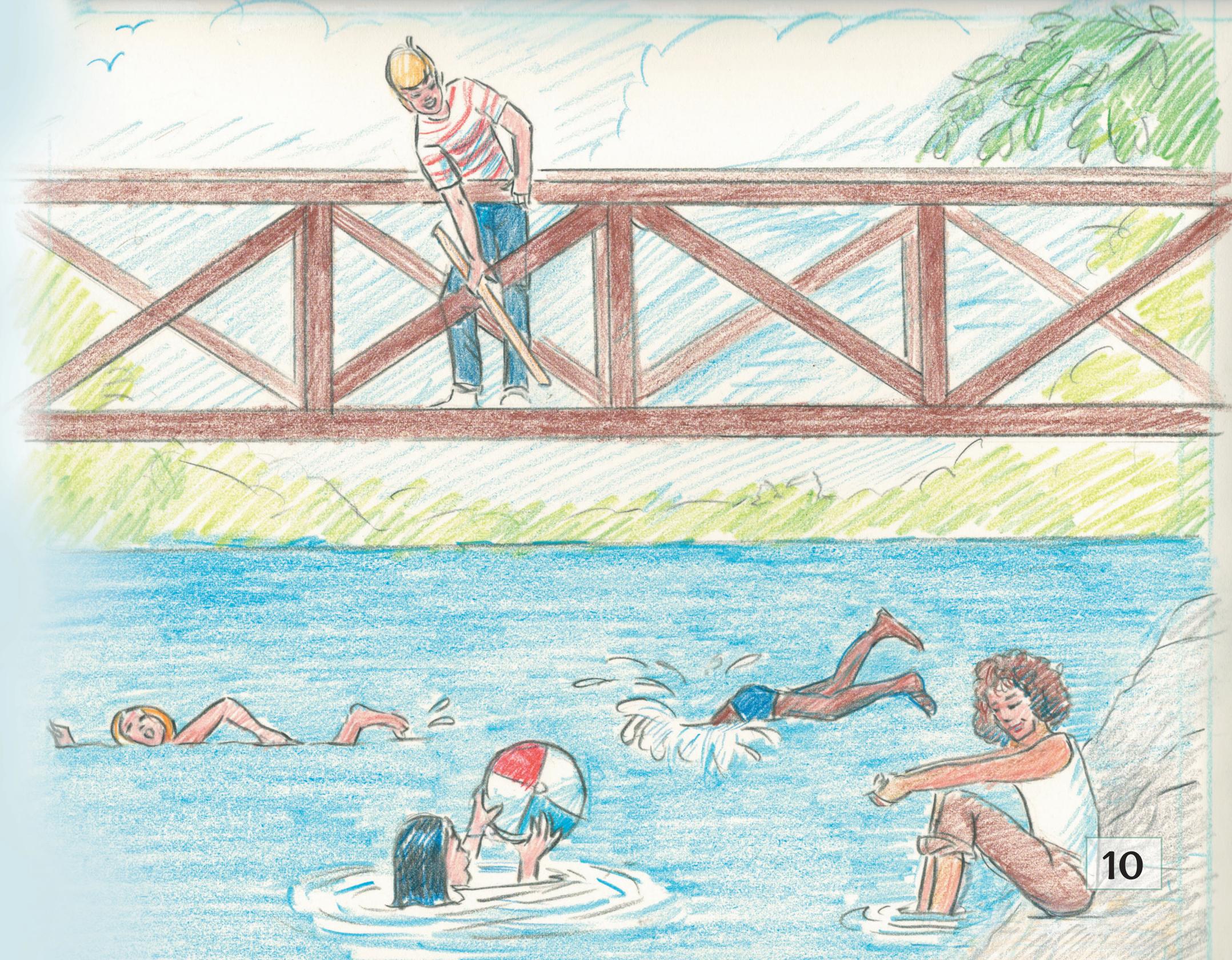
“Hey! Stop it!” Renee banged on the window.

“What’s the matter? Did something happen...?”
asked Mrs. Kisko.

Renee didn’t answer. She was already gone.

When she reached the playground, everyone was gone. Renee snapped her fingers and thought to herself, “Gibson’s Cove,” and off she went.

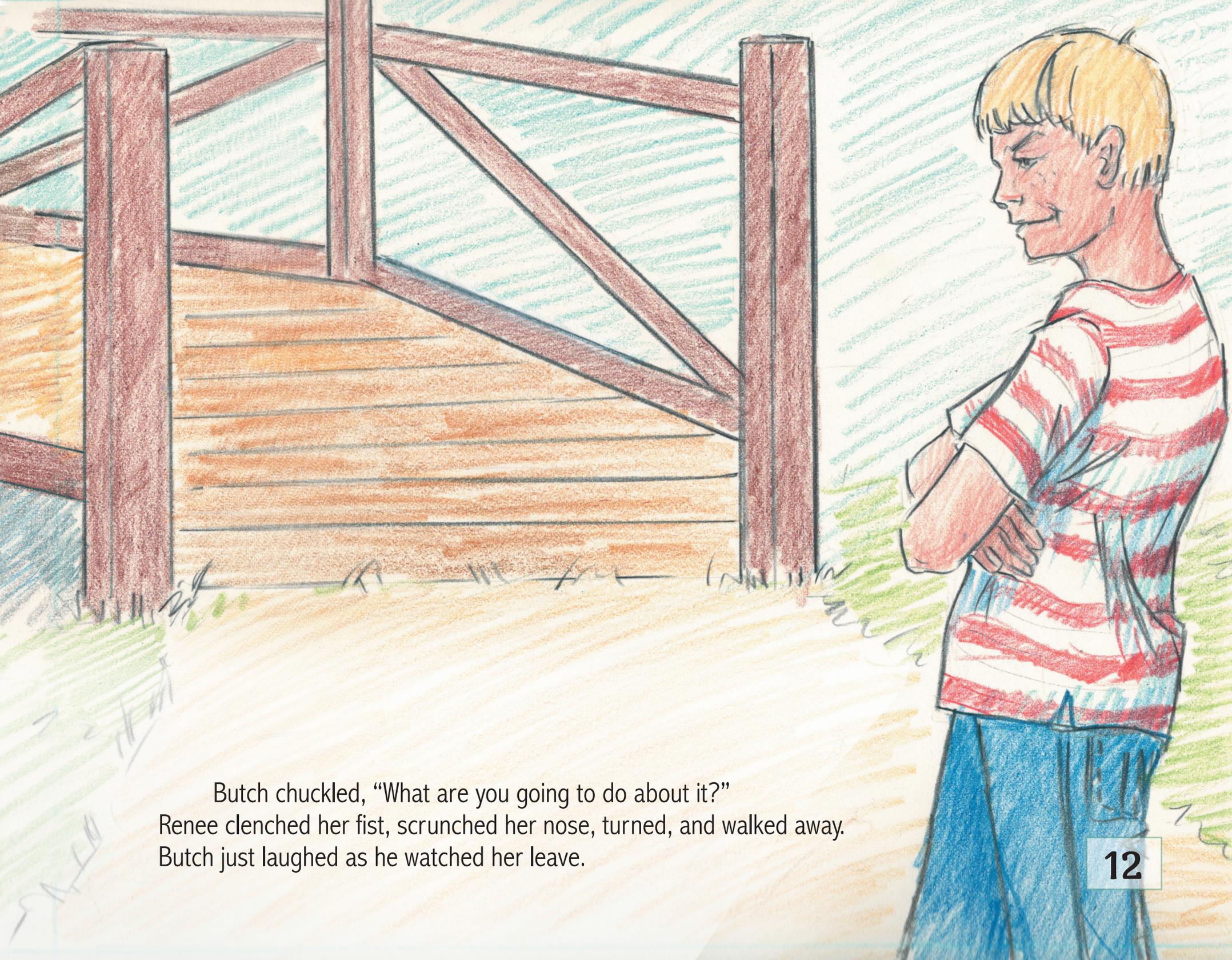
Most of the kids were there swimming and having fun, but there was Butch. He stood in his favorite spot, barking orders, telling everyone what to do.





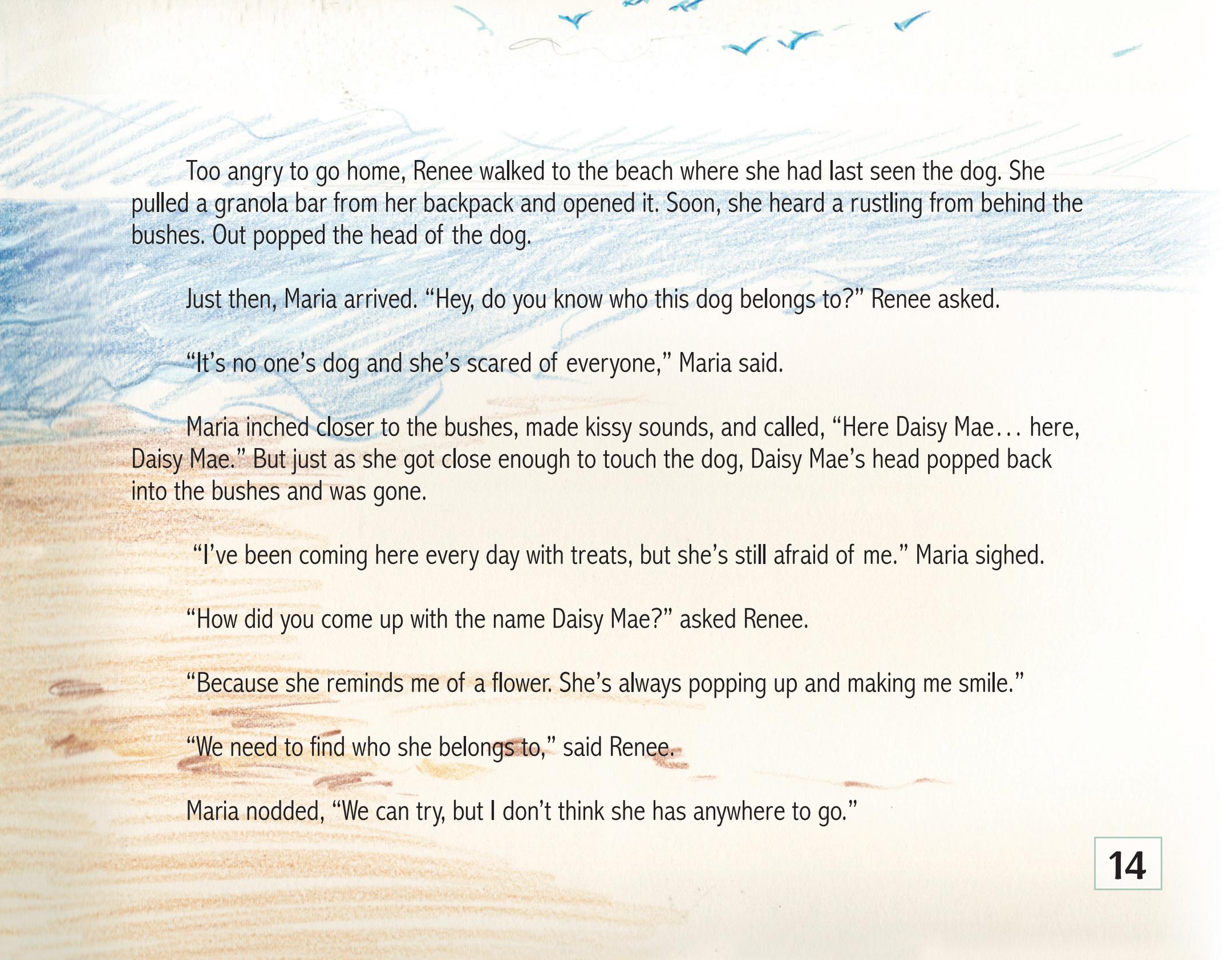
Renee was out of breath and could hardly speak. She stomped over to the side of the bridge, took a deep breath, and yelled, "Butch, you big bully!" The cove went so quiet that even the frogs stopped croaking. Slowly Butch got up and walked over to her. "Oh, I guess you saw me playing with the dog again, huh?"

"Leave that dog alone," she said firmly.



Butch chuckled, "What are you going to do about it?"
Renee clenched her fist, scrunched her nose, turned, and walked away.
Butch just laughed as he watched her leave.





Too angry to go home, Renee walked to the beach where she had last seen the dog. She pulled a granola bar from her backpack and opened it. Soon, she heard a rustling from behind the bushes. Out popped the head of the dog.

Just then, Maria arrived. “Hey, do you know who this dog belongs to?” Renee asked.

“It’s no one’s dog and she’s scared of everyone,” Maria said.

Maria inched closer to the bushes, made kissy sounds, and called, “Here Daisy Mae... here, Daisy Mae.” But just as she got close enough to touch the dog, Daisy Mae’s head popped back into the bushes and was gone.

“I’ve been coming here every day with treats, but she’s still afraid of me.” Maria sighed.

“How did you come up with the name Daisy Mae?” asked Renee.

“Because she reminds me of a flower. She’s always popping up and making me smile.”

“We need to find who she belongs to,” said Renee.

Maria nodded, “We can try, but I don’t think she has anywhere to go.”

The next day at school Mrs. Kisko, who had also noticed what happened on the playground, stood in front of the class. “Today we are going to talk about kindness. We need to be kind to ourselves, our families, and our pets. Now, who likes animals?”

All the kids raised their hands, except Butch.

Mrs. Kisko asked, “Butch, don’t you like animals?”

“Nah. My dad says pets are for sissies. He doesn’t like animals and I don’t either,” said Butch.

“I’m sorry to hear that,” said Mrs. Kisko. She turned to the class. “Whether we like animals or not, we should never abuse or hurt them. Animals can’t speak for themselves and they can’t tell you if they are hurt. If you see an animal that needs help or if you see someone hurting an animal, you should tell someone. Just because you don’t like something doesn’t mean it’s okay to hurt it. Leave the animal alone.”

When the bell rang and the class was dismissed, Butch stormed out.

“Renee, do you want to come over to my house and meet my dogs?” asked Maria.

“Sure!” Renee replied.





When the girls walked into Maria's house, her dogs rushed over with their tails wagging. One jumped up on Maria's belly and licked her cheek.

"Yuck! This . . .," she laughed, "this is Cinnamon. And that's Luke," Maria said between giggles.

Renee hugged Luke, who kissed her over and over. She was thrilled. All her life she had wanted a dog.

"Where did you get them?" asked Renee.

"They are rescue dogs. We saved them," replied Maria.

"What do you mean?" asked Renee.



“Some animals don’t have a home, like Daisy Mae. If they’re lucky, the animals are found by someone like my Mom, who works at an animal shelter. They’ve been trying to rescue Daisy Mae, but she’s too fast for them. If she would let them catch her, she would get a bath, food, water, and a safe place to sleep.”

“Do the animals stay at the shelter?” asked Renee.

“No, the animal shelter finds them, ‘forever homes.” Maria’s eyes grew wide. “Hey, I know! Why don’t you adopt Daisy Mae?” she asked.

Renee smiled at first, but then looked down at the floor. “I can’t,” she said. “My Dad is in the Marines and we move around a lot, so my parents said it would be too hard to have a pet. But I would love to,” said Renee.

The girls went outside and sat on the front porch. They could hear loud, angry voices coming from next door.

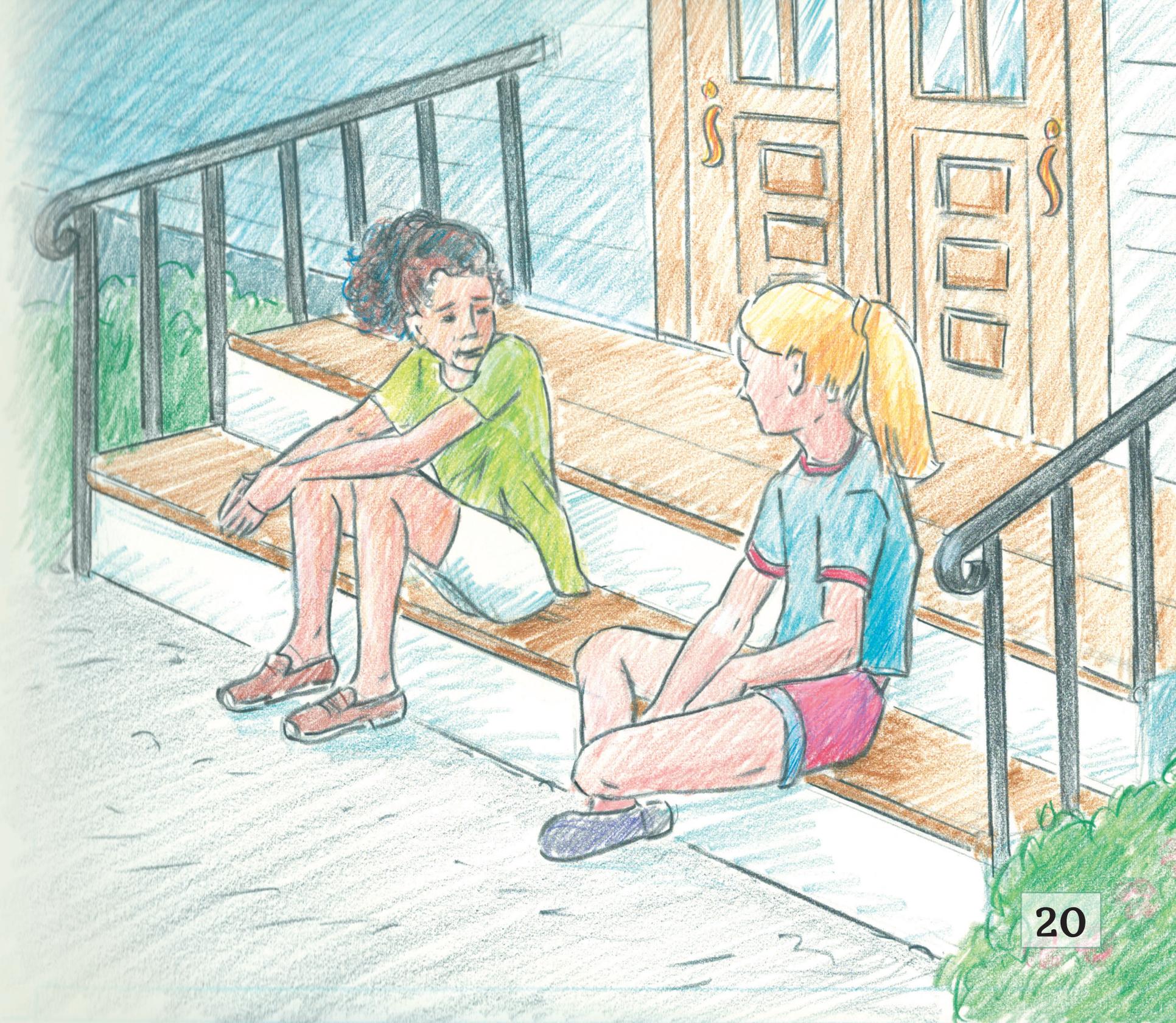
“Uh oh,” said Maria quietly. “I think Butch is in trouble—again.”

“You know Butch?” Renee whispered.

“Yeah, he’s my cousin.”

Suddenly, the noise stopped. Butch stormed out and slammed the door behind him. He walked up to the girls, grabbed Maria’s hand and yanked her to her feet. “C’mon. I’m going to Gibson’s Cove and my dad says I gotta take you with me!”

Renee watched them walk away and felt sad. She thought she understood now why Butch never seemed happy.



Renee went home, grabbed her bathing suit, and followed the others to Gibson's Cove. She saw Maria sitting on the bridge railing close to where Butch was in his usual spot, barking orders at everyone else. Today, he was swinging a tree branch like a baseball bat. Renee quickly looked around the cove and spotted Daisy Mae hiding behind a big rock that the kids liked to climb. She got Maria's attention and pointed to where the dog was hiding. Butch looked over and saw Daisy Mae too. "You again! How many times do I have to tell you to stay away?" He darted off the bridge. "This time you're going to get it."

Renee shouted, "Stop! Leave her alone!"

Butch kept running. As soon as he was close, he swung the branch. WHAP! It smashed down hard on the rock and scared Daisy Mae away.



“No! Don’t,” yelled Maria. She jumped up, lost her balance, slipped off the bridge, and fell right into the water. She came up for air, slapping the water and crying out for help.

“Go help her,” shouted Renee.

Butch just stood there, “I-I...can’t swim!” Renee jumped into the water but couldn’t swim quick enough to reach her.

Butch ran back up on the bridge, knelt down, and extended the branch. “Grab on,” he yelled! Maria gripped it with both hands. He pulled and pulled with all his might.

Slowly she started to rise out of the water, but the branch slipped out of Butch’s hands. Again, Maria went crashing back into the water.

Maria was still holding the branch and trying to stay afloat, screaming, “Help! Help!” But no one could reach her. Maria was getting very tired. It seemed hopeless.

All of a sudden, from behind the big rock, Daisy Mae jumped into the water. She swam over to Maria and bit down on the branch. Everyone on shore started yelling, “Swim Daisy Mae, swim!” With every last bit of energy she had, Daisy Mae tugged Maria back to shore.





Renee swam back to shore as quickly as she could and ran over to see if Maria was okay. She was very relieved to see her friend sitting up. Then Renee turned to look at Daisy Mae. Her eyes were closed and she was motionless.

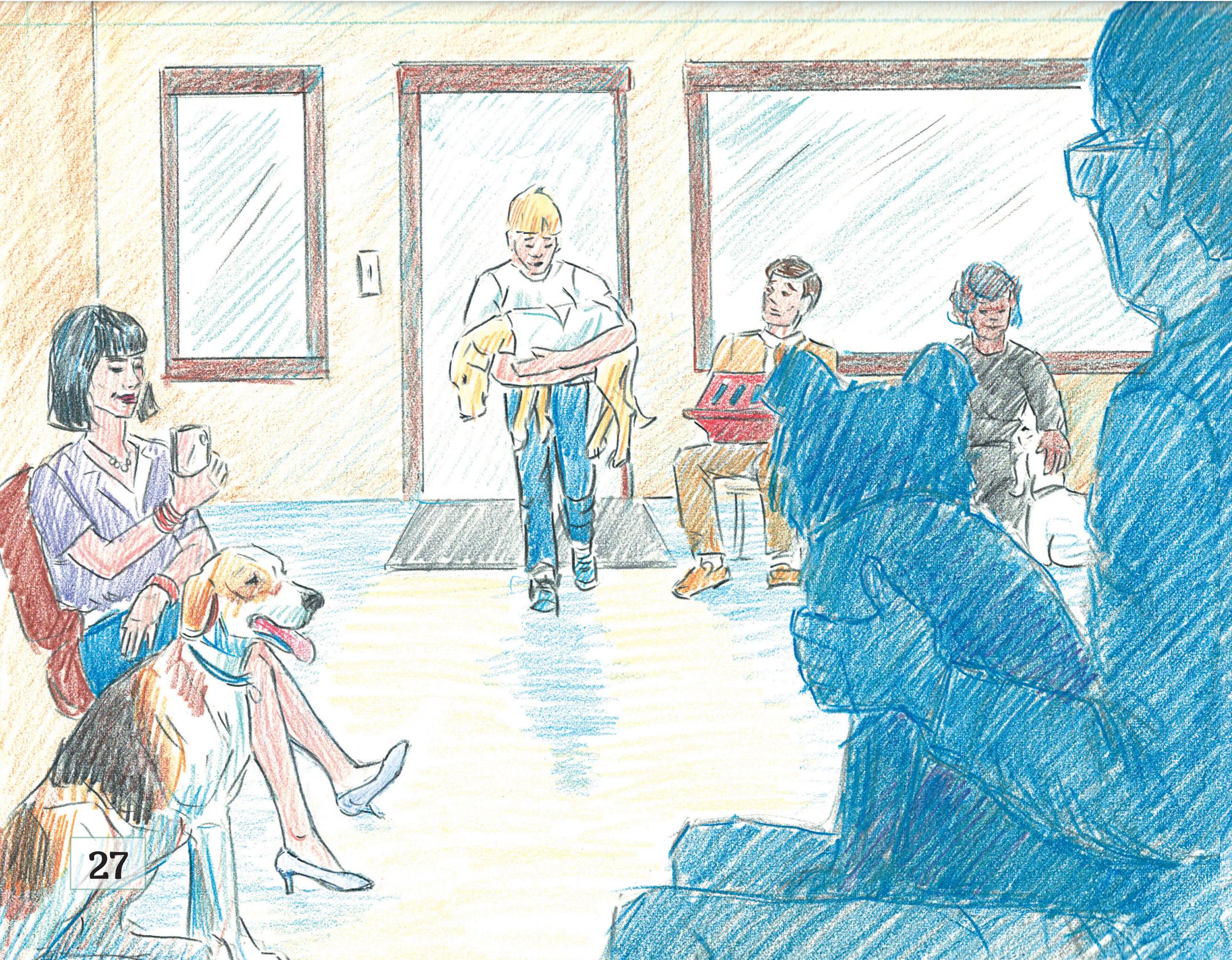
“Oh, no,” she cried.



“Is she all right?” asked Butch.

“I don’t think so,” said Renee.

Without hesitation, Butch scooped up Daisy Mae in his arms and held her tight.



Where are you going with Daisy Mae? shouted Renee.

“Dr. Bryler’s!” yelled Butch.

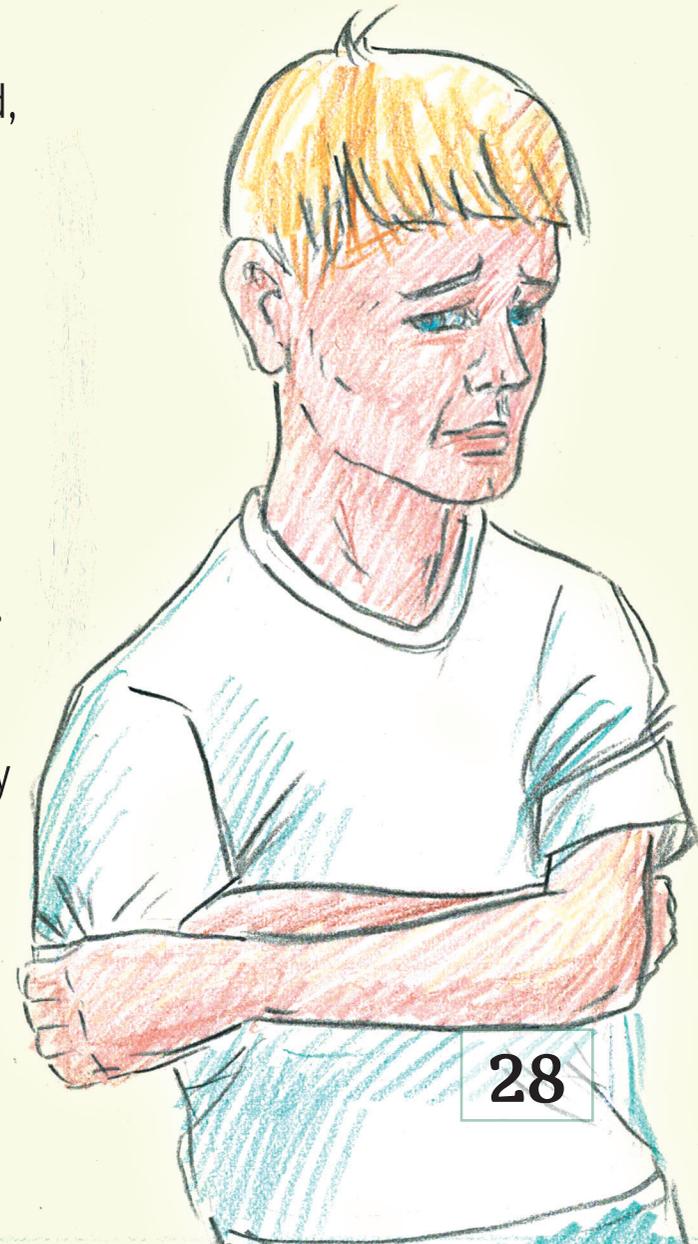
He ran as fast as he could to town. He ran past the schoolyard, up Main Street, and right into the veterinarian’s office.

The other patients in the waiting room barked, meowed, and chirped from all the excitement.

“This dog just saved my cousin from drowning! Help her, please!” Butch pleaded with the receptionist.

Dr. Bryler came out and took Daisy Mae to the back right away.

Butch finally caught his breath. He slumped down in a chair in the waiting room and thought about how mean he had been to Daisy Mae and how sorry he was. “I will never hurt anything ever again,” he promised himself.



Soon the town heard what happened. It wasn't long before the waiting room was packed with Renee, her parents and many friends. Maria and her family were there, too.

Finally, Dr. Bryler came out of the examining room. He had a very serious look on his face.

"Is she okay?" asked Butch.

"Well, she's okay for now," said the vet, "but she needs a home and a family who will love and take care of her."

Renee started to cry. She loved Daisy Mae.

Her dad put an arm around her and gently wiped the tears from her face. "Daisy Mae is going to have a family," he said. "We will adopt her."

"Really?" Renee's face lit up.

Her father nodded. "That dog is a hero. In the Marines, no one gets left behind. She's coming home with us.

The nurse brought Daisy Mae out. She barked and wagged her tail as everyone cheered!



The next day, the town was at Gibson's Cove to celebrate. Butch walked over towards Daisy Mae. She hid behind Renee's legs. He pulled a dog treat from his pocket, knelt down and put his hand out. Slowly, she sniffed the treat and took it.

Butch asked "Can Daisy Mae come and sit with me on the bridge?"

At first, Renee wasn't sure, but then she saw something on Butch's face that she had never seen before — a smile.

Renee hugged Daisy Mae and handed the leash to Butch. They went up and sat on the bridge together, watching over the swimmers and keeping everyone safe.

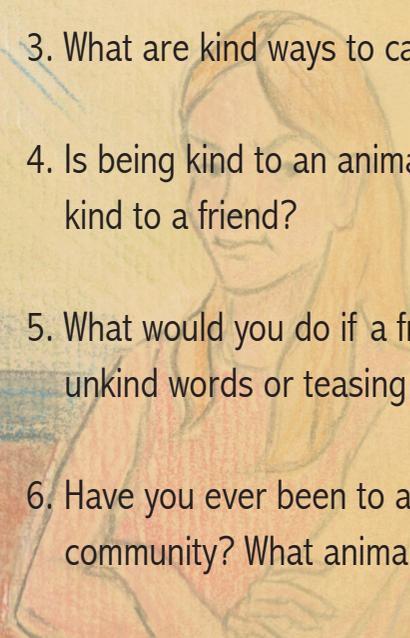
Daisy Mae had found a home and Butch had made a friend!





What would you do if this happened to you?

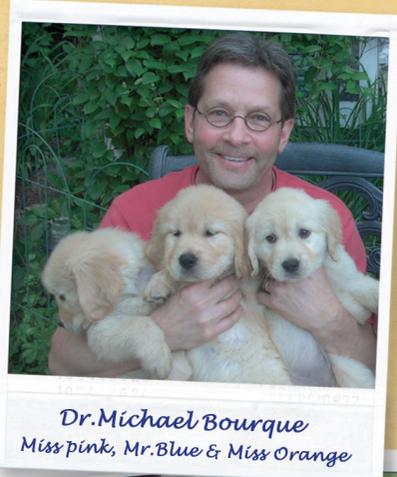
1. Have you ever been in a situation where you saw an animal that seems to have been mistreated? What would you do?
2. What would you do if a friend was teasing or abusing a dog or any animal?
3. What are kind ways to care for a pet? What do they need?
4. Is being kind to an animal the same or different than being kind to a friend?
5. What would you do if a friend was mistreating someone by saying unkind words or teasing them in ways that hurt them?
6. Have you ever been to a Rescue Shelter? Is there one in your community? What animals are there?
7. Do you know anyone who has adopted an animal from a shelter? How can it be different than getting a pet from a pet store?
8. What are ways you can help get the word out about being kind to animals and how rescue shelters help abused animals?



Rescued Pets, the Love They Give Us



Jo Ann & Monty



Dr. Michael Bourque
Miss pink, Mr. Blue & Miss Orange



Taryn with
Chelsey & Charlotte



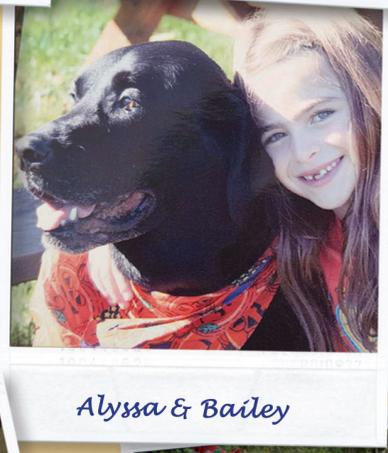
Diana
Baron & Duchess



Kylee & Ozzie



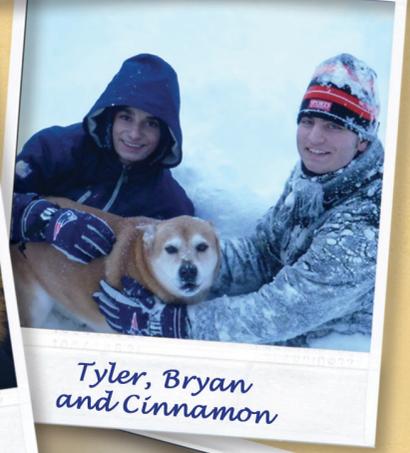
Tyler & Carissa
Riley & Brady



Alyssa & Bailey



Terri
Coco and Goldie



Tyler, Bryan
and Cinnamon



Krissa & Wrangler



Stefan & Trails



Rachel & Prince



Stan & Joan- Gunny

The Cathy Gibson Show



Authors Catherine Gibson and Michael LaChance with puppet Bluesy.

...featured on Nutmeg TV sends a positive message to children along with character building, story time and fun lessons in sign language. The show airs every Saturday at 4pm on Channel 5. Kids can email in for a visit to their school or class trip to the studio, by sharing what they are doing for others in their community. Email to: whatsyoursomethingspecial@gmail.com. Nutmeg TV serves the local community by providing a structure in which people can learn, create and develop ways to access cable television in their areas. Watch live on Nutmeg TV! www.nutmegtv.org

Catherine Gibson



award-winning author

Captivating, inspiring children's books teach acceptance and respect for ourselves and each other.

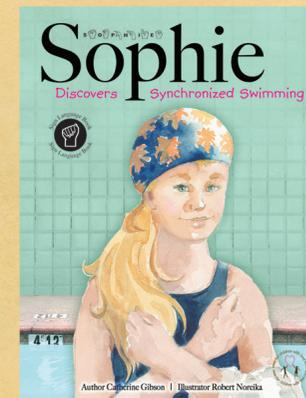


Through Sophie's Eyes

Sophie, a young, deaf girl loves ballet and wants to learn to dance. Unable to hear the music like the other girls in class, Sophie learns to persevere. Her friends learn what it is like for her to adjust to life in the hearing world, forging understanding and the spirit of friendship.

Sophie Discovers Synchronized Swimming

Sophie is intrigued by the beauty and form of synchronized swimming when she attends her cousin's swim meet. His full support combined with Sophie's determination leads her to success and acceptance as a swimmer and a friend. Her cousin's friends also learn to embrace Sophie's individuality, discovering how physical challenges of others can change them as well.

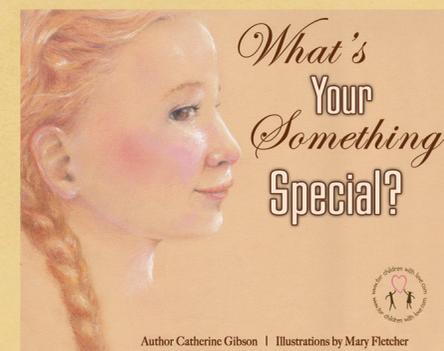


Coach Bob & Me

Self-doubt and the normal anxieties of being a teenager are issues that cause Stephan to second guess his abilities on and off the field. Having a mentor who understands and encourages him is the key to nudging Stephan toward a path of success and confidence.

What's Your Something Special?

Samantha longs to be just like everyone else. But she is special. She wonders if she is only special for what she can't do - walk. Is this all that makes her unique. Beth is the only friend that understands because Beth is different too. One summer night, a mysterious magical offers a gift to Samantha that will change forever how she sees herself and her friend. This gift will help each reader find their own something special.

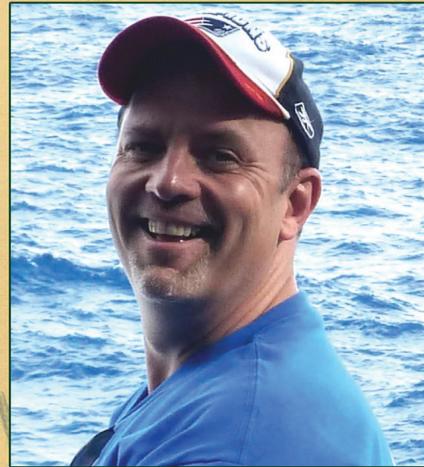


Visit our website: www.forchildrenwithlove.com
Spreading kindness in our stories



Author

Catherine Czerwinski Gibson is an award-winning author of five books for children, host of The Cathy Gibson TV Show, and the founder of For Children With Love, an organization which supports various children's charities. The mother of two grown sons, Cathy fills her time creatively, writing children's books with a positive message and producing her TV show. At the heart of all of Cathy's work is finding ways to instill in children the joy inherent in showing kindness and respect to others. Cathy lives, writes and films her TV show in Connecticut.



Co-Author

Michael LaChance is first and foremost a family man blessed with his wonderful wife Laura and two amazing boys Tyler and Bryan. He is a creative story, script, and song writer as well as co-producer, director, puppeteer and voice impersonator for the Cathy Gibson Show. Michael loves to help kids by getting a message across through humor and levity. A native of Connecticut

Michael enjoys collaborating with his good friend Cathy Gibson.

Illustrator

Christine M. Cancelli is best known for her paintings of dogs and horses. Her work has appeared in many for publications including The New York Times and Reader's Digest. She lives in New Jersey close to Monmouth Park and the Monmouth County giving her easy access to her favorite sports.

