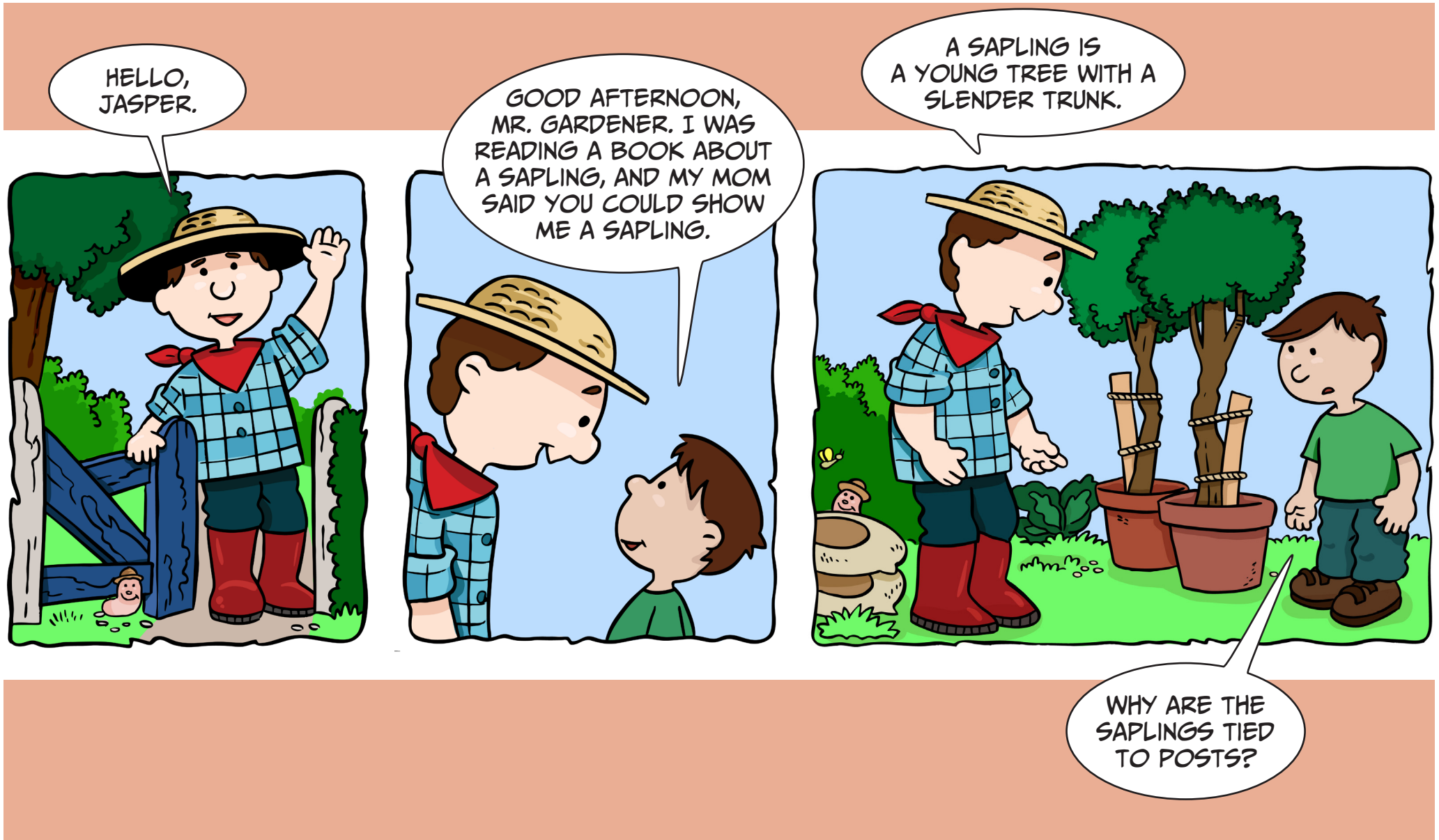
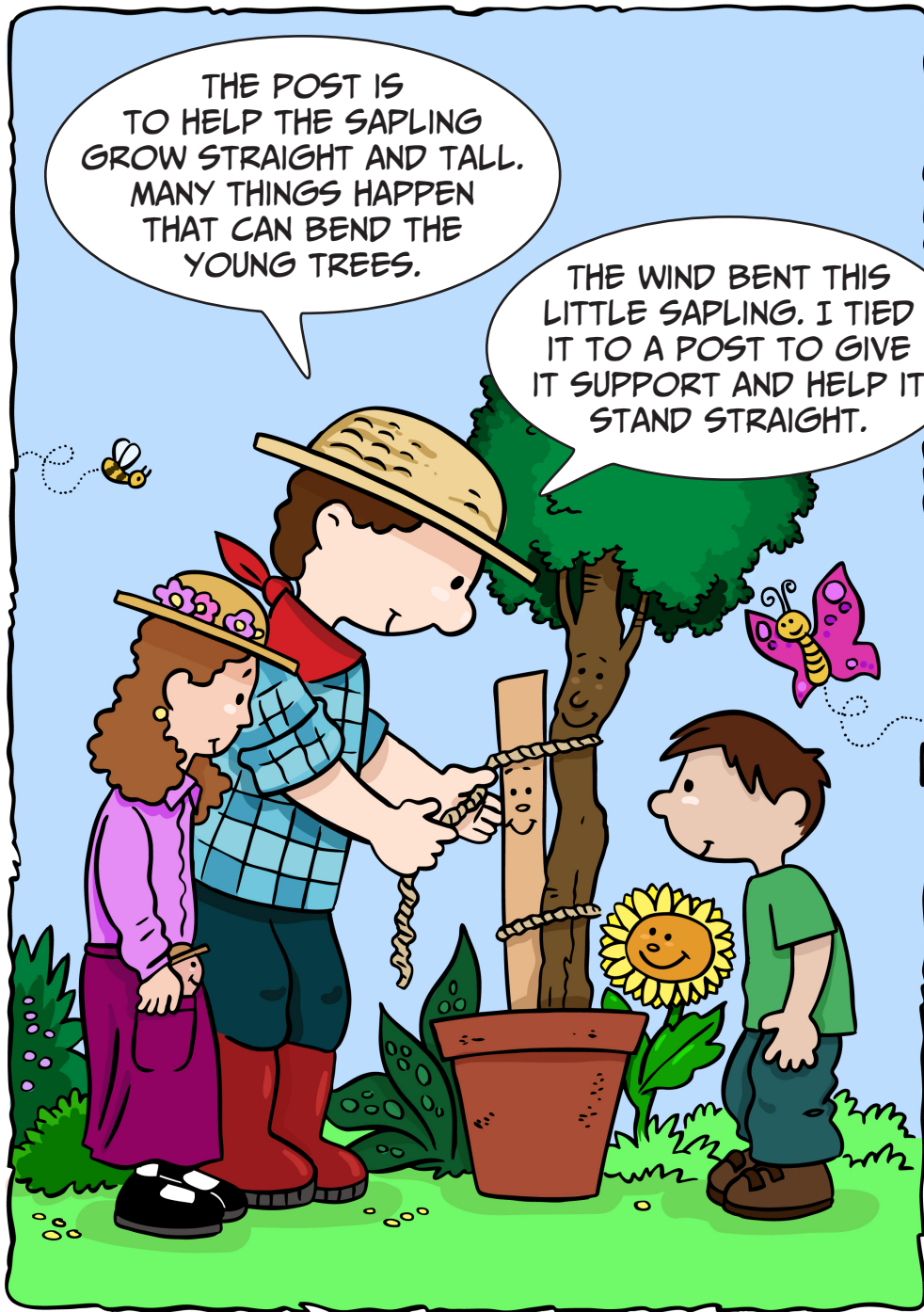


A SAPLING'S SUPPORT

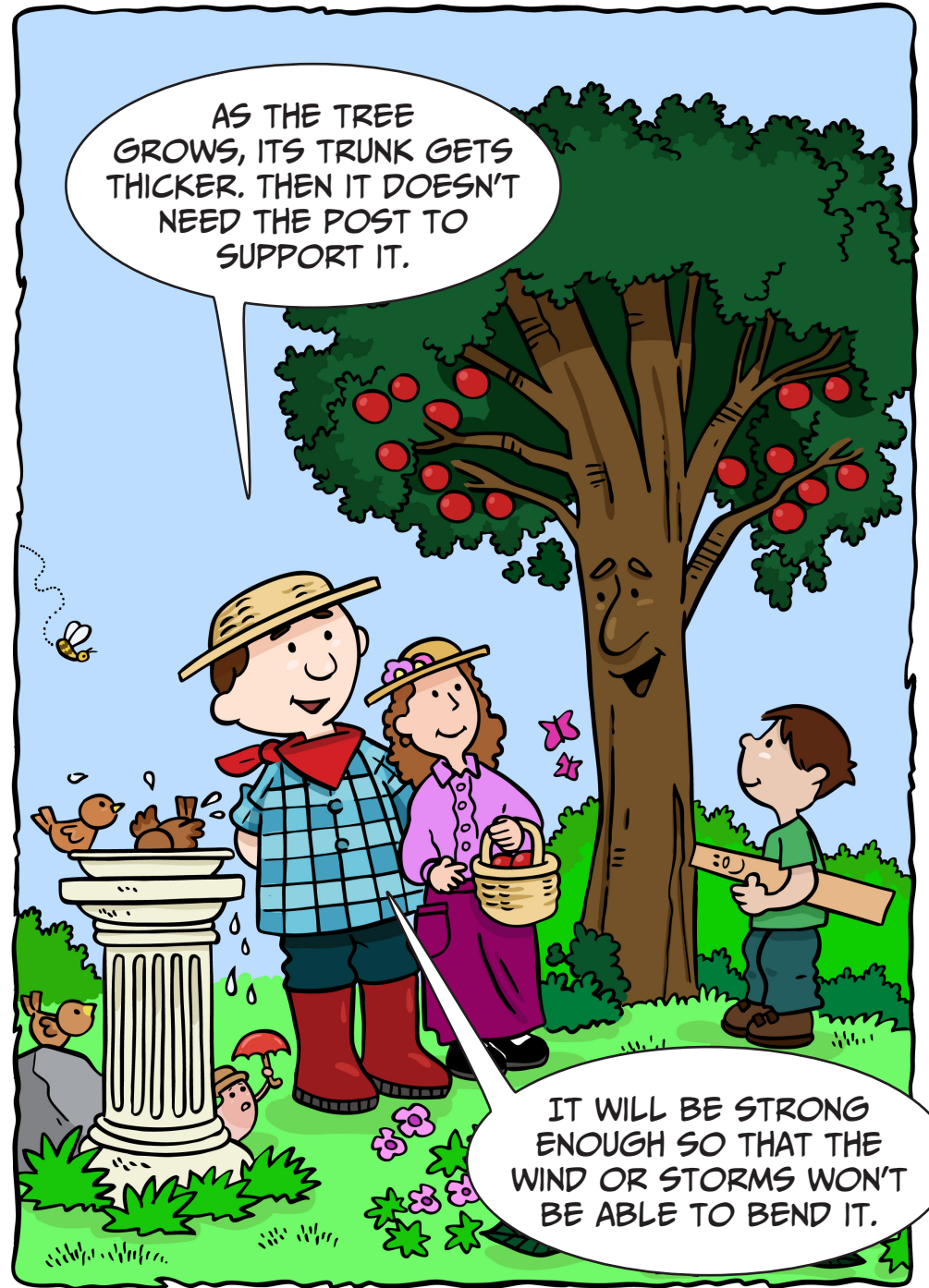


THE POST IS TO HELP THE SAPLING GROW STRAIGHT AND TALL. MANY THINGS HAPPEN THAT CAN BEND THE YOUNG TREES.

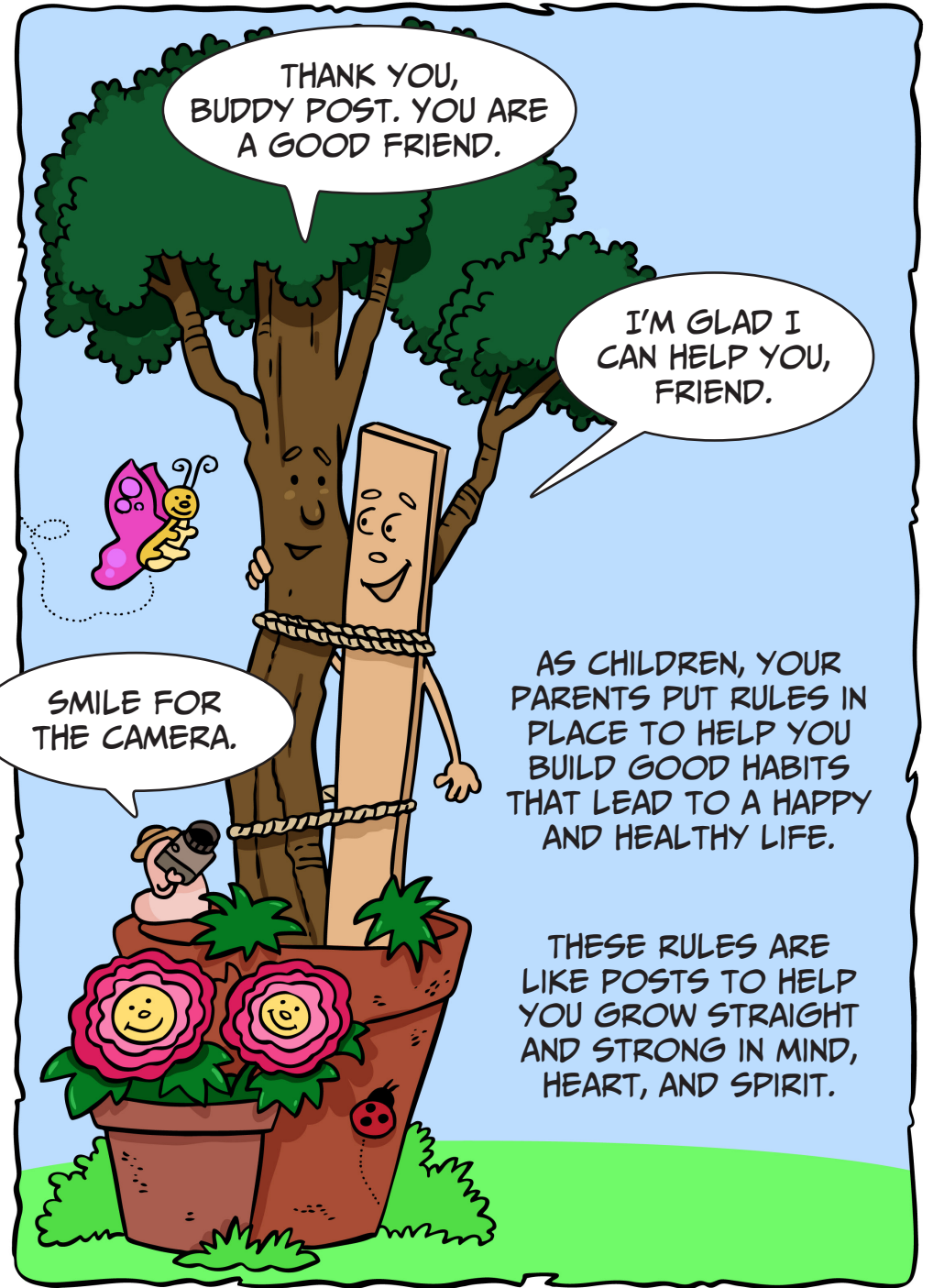
THE WIND BENT THIS LITTLE SAPLING. I TIED IT TO A POST TO GIVE IT SUPPORT AND HELP IT STAND STRAIGHT.



AS THE TREE GROWS, ITS TRUNK GETS THICKER. THEN IT DOESN'T NEED THE POST TO SUPPORT IT.



IT WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH SO THAT THE WIND OR STORMS WON'T BE ABLE TO BEND IT.



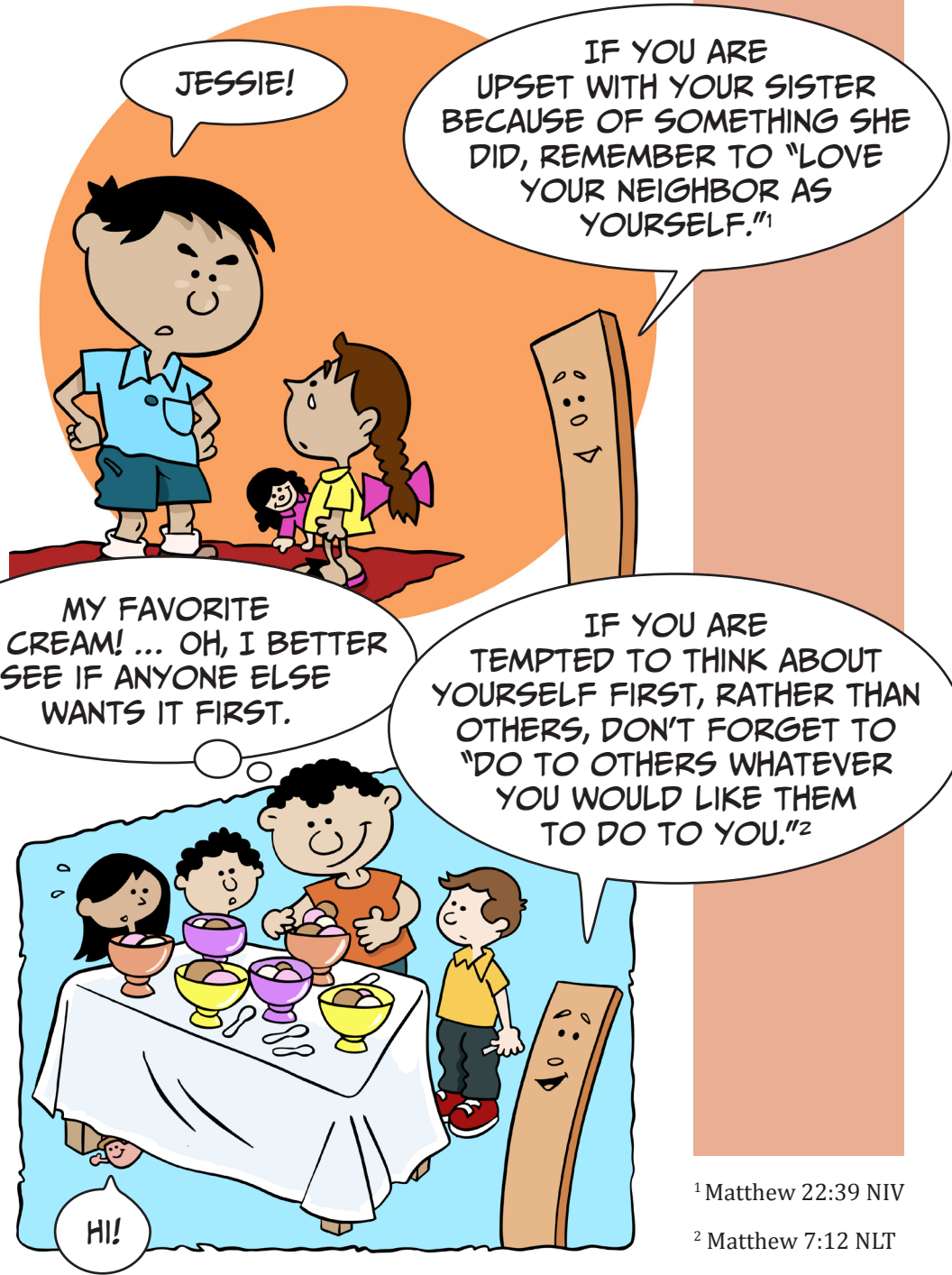


HELP! THE WIND IS BLOWING SO FIERCELY. I'M BEING BLOWN AWAY!

DON'T WORRY, I'LL HOLD YOU TIGHT!

WHEN DIFFICULTIES COME YOUR WAY OR WHEN YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE RIGHT FROM WRONG, THE RULES YOU LIVE BY AND THE GUIDANCE YOUR PARENTS GIVE YOU WILL BE THERE TO KEEP YOU GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. YOU WILL CONTINUE TO GROW STRONG IN CHARACTER AND UPRIGHT IN YOUR HEART BECAUSE YOU WILL HAVE THE GUIDANCE OF RULES, YOUR PARENTS' LOVE, AND GOD'S WORD.

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF RULES THAT HELP YOU GROW UP STRAIGHT:



JESSIE!

IF YOU ARE UPSET WITH YOUR SISTER BECAUSE OF SOMETHING SHE DID, REMEMBER TO "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."


MY FAVORITE ICE CREAM! ... OH, I BETTER SEE IF ANYONE ELSE WANTS IT FIRST.

IF YOU ARE TEMPTED TO THINK ABOUT YOURSELF FIRST, RATHER THAN OTHERS, DON'T FORGET TO "DO TO OTHERS WHATEVER YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO DO TO YOU."

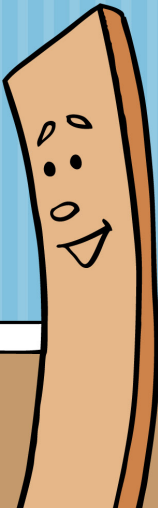
HI!

¹ Matthew 22:39 NIV

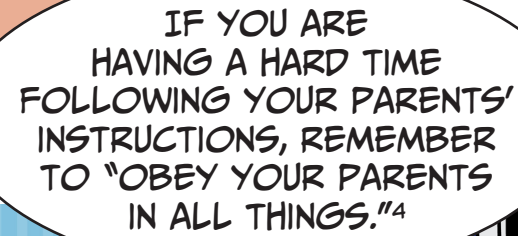
² Matthew 7:12 NLT



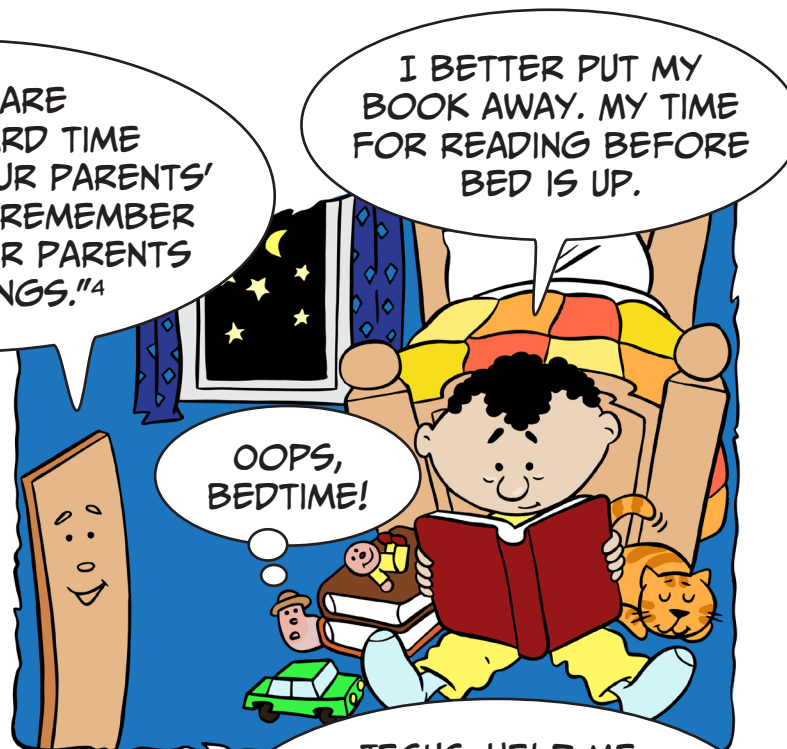
OH, TEDDY WANTS MY CARS ... I GUESS I CAN LET HIM PLAY WITH SOME OF THEM.



IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE SHARING WITH OTHERS, REMEMBER TO "GIVE, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE. ... THE AMOUNT YOU GIVE WILL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT YOU GET BACK."³



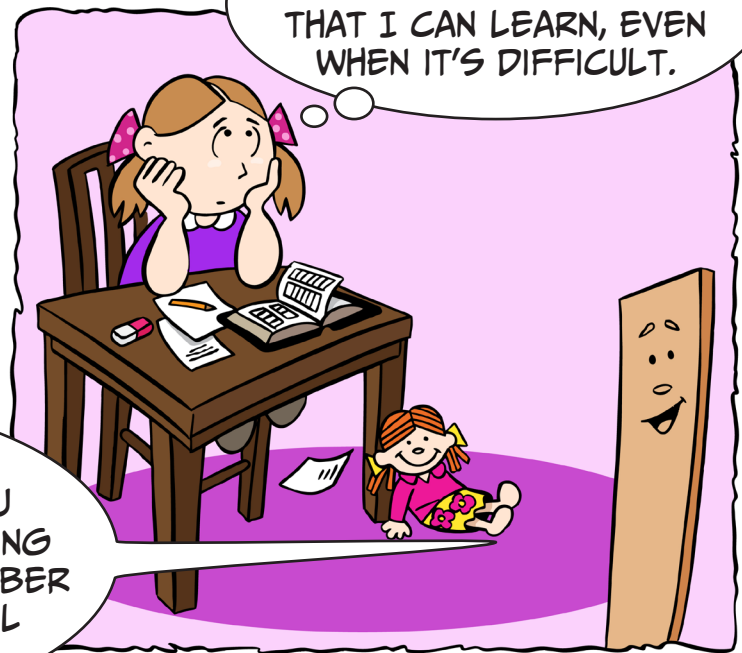
IF YOU ARE HAVING A HARD TIME FOLLOWING YOUR PARENTS' INSTRUCTIONS, REMEMBER TO "OBEY YOUR PARENTS IN ALL THINGS."⁴



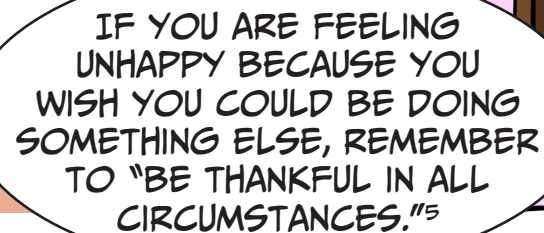
I BETTER PUT MY BOOK AWAY. MY TIME FOR READING BEFORE BED IS UP.



OOPS, BEDTIME!



JESUS, HELP ME TO BE GRATEFUL FOR ALL THAT I CAN LEARN, EVEN WHEN IT'S DIFFICULT.



IF YOU ARE FEELING UNHAPPY BECAUSE YOU WISH YOU COULD BE DOING SOMETHING ELSE, REMEMBER TO "BE THANKFUL IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES."⁵

³ Luke 6:38 NLT

⁴ Colossians 3:20 KJV

⁵ 1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT

GOD'S WORD IS FULL OF GUIDANCE TO HELP YOU BUILD GOOD CHARACTER. FOLLOW THOSE INSTRUCTIONS AND THE DIRECTION GIVEN TO YOU BY YOUR PARENTS AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR YOU, AND JUST LIKE A TREE, YOU WILL GROW STRONG AND BEAR GOOD FRUIT—FRUITS OF KINDNESS, JOY, FRIENDSHIP, DILIGENCE, AND SO MUCH MORE!



HOW MANY PICTURES OF WORMY CAN YOU FIND IN THIS STORY?

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