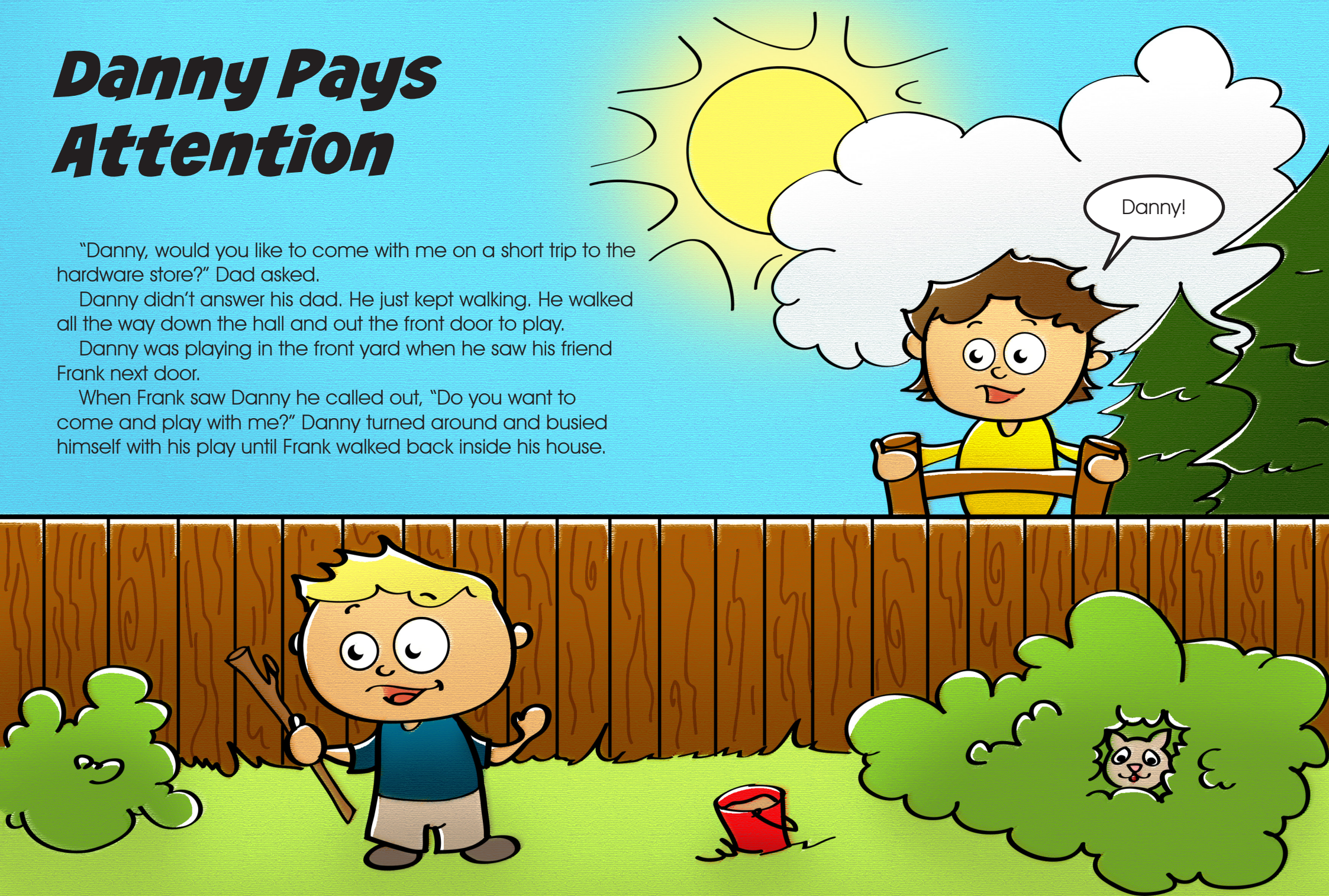# Danny Pays Attention

"Danny, would you like to come with me on a short trip to the hardware store?" Dad asked.

Danny didn't answer his dad. He just kept walking. He walked all the way down the hall and out the front door to play.

Danny was playing in the front yard when he saw his friend Frank next door.

When Frank saw Danny he called out, "Do you want to come and play with me?" Danny turned around and busied himself with his play until Frank walked back inside his house.

Danny!

Danny played alone for a while, but it wasn't fun playing alone, and he soon got bored and decided to go back inside.

Inside the house, Danny's grandmother tried to get his attention. "Danny, I could use your help to move my chair into a better spot. I made some cookies too. Would you like to have some?" asked Grandma.
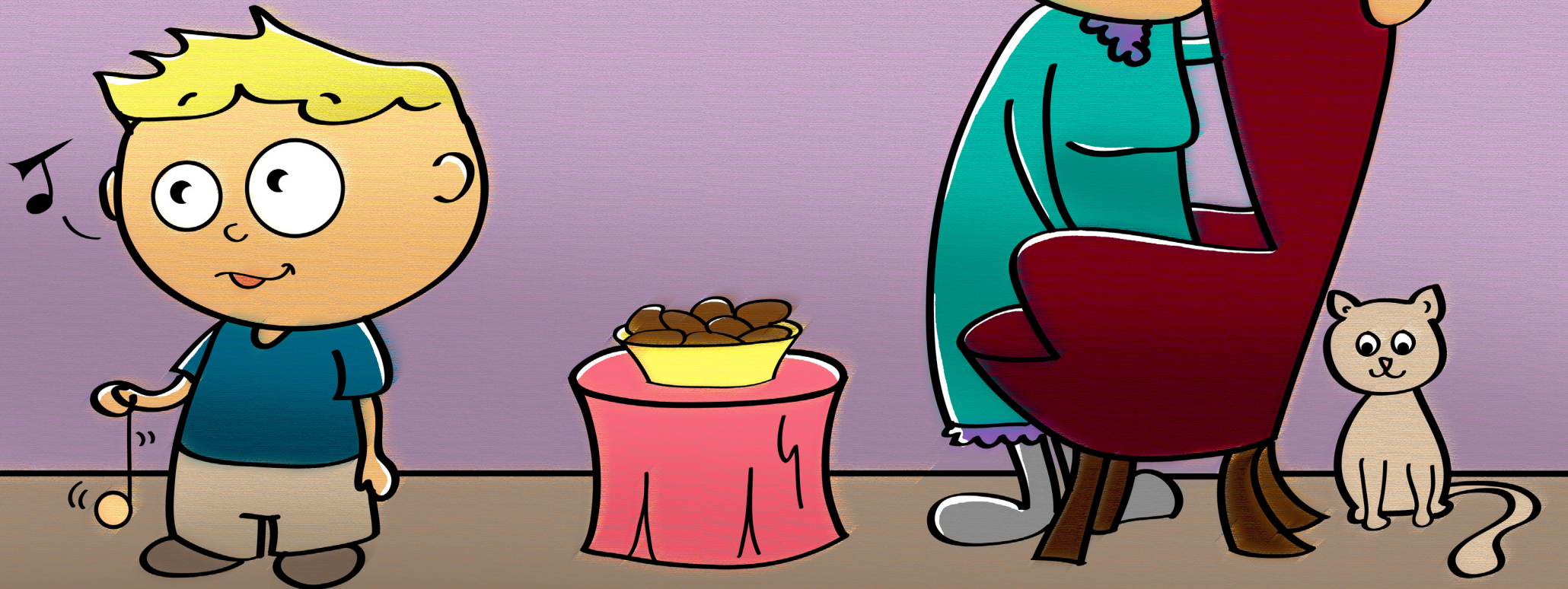
Danny barely glanced her way and walked past without answering. Danny's grandmother shook her head.

The thought of cookies made Danny a bit hungry. *I'll have a snack later,* he thought. *I'd like to build my LEGO spaceship first.*

As Danny turned the corner, he saw his dad.

"Hey, Dad, can you help me build my LEGO spaceship? It's kind of tricky," Danny said.

But Danny's dad didn't stop. He walked right past Danny and into his study. Danny looked puzzled for a minute and then ran after his dad.

"Dad, Dad! Why didn't you answer me when I asked you to help me with my LEGO set?" Danny asked.

"Well, Danny, tell me something. How did it make you feel when I didn't reply?"
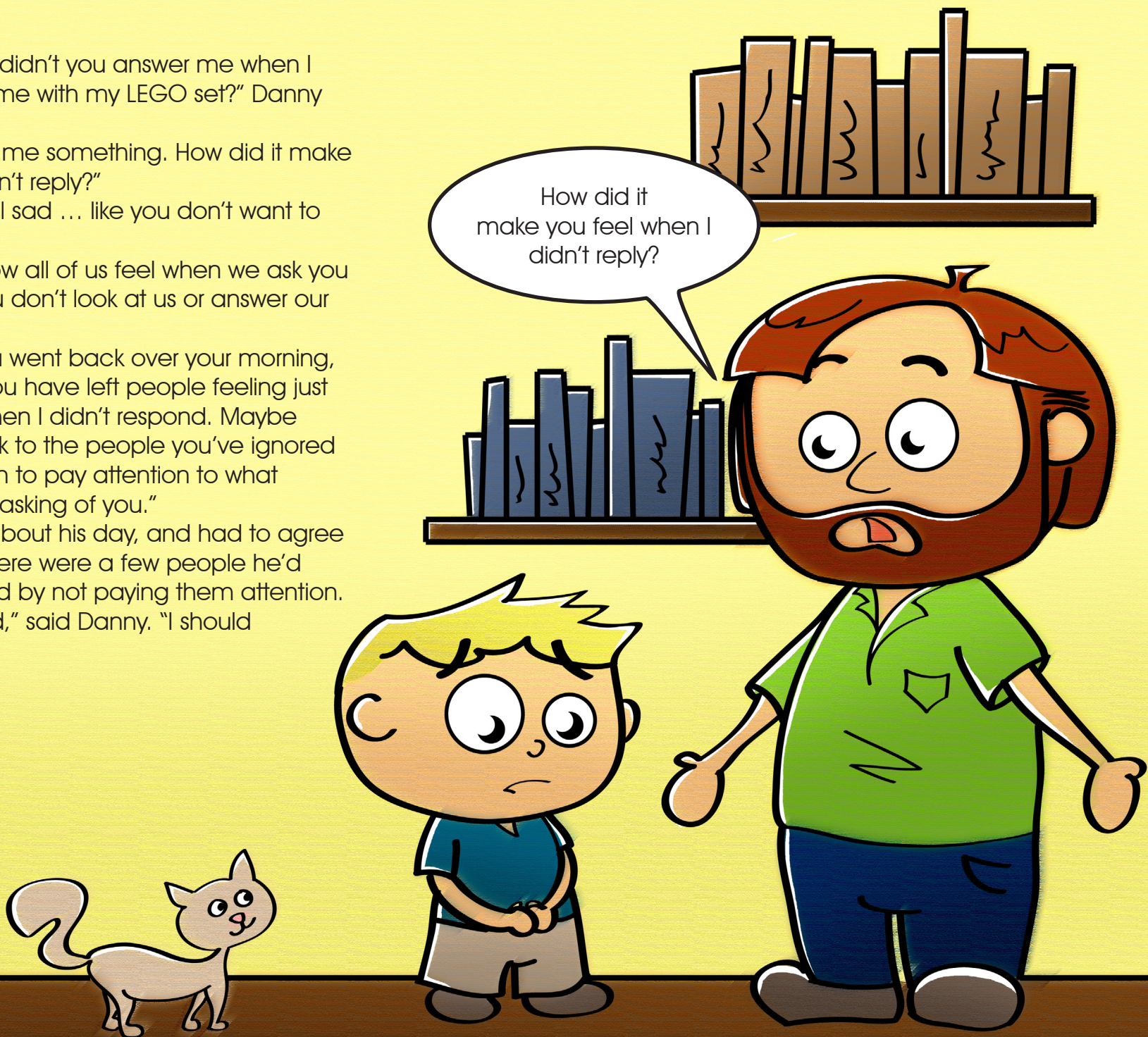
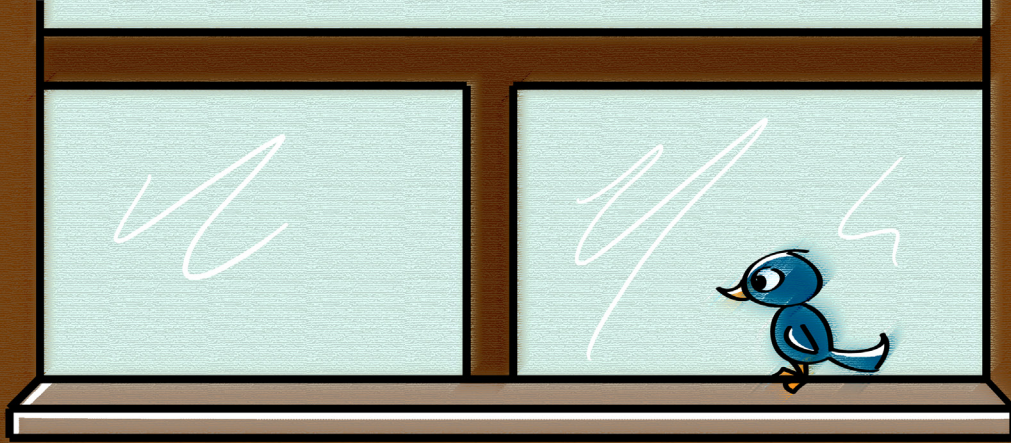"It made me feel sad … like you don't want to be with me."

"Danny, that's how all of us feel when we ask you something and you don't look at us or answer our questions.

"I'll bet that if you went back over your morning, you'd see where you have left people feeling just like you did now when I didn't respond. Maybe you should go back to the people you've ignored today and try again to pay attention to what they're saying and asking of you."

Danny thought about his day, and had to agree with his dad that there were a few people he'd probably made sad by not paying them attention.

"You're right, Dad," said Danny. "I should apologize."

How did it make you feel when I didn't reply?

Danny went next door and asked to see Frank. "I'm sorry for ignoring you this morning, Frank," Danny told his friend. "It was rude and unkind. Will you forgive me?"

"Sure," said Frank.

"Thank you! I need to help my grandma with something. Do you want to come with me and help me build my LEGO spaceship after I finish helping Grandma?" Danny asked.
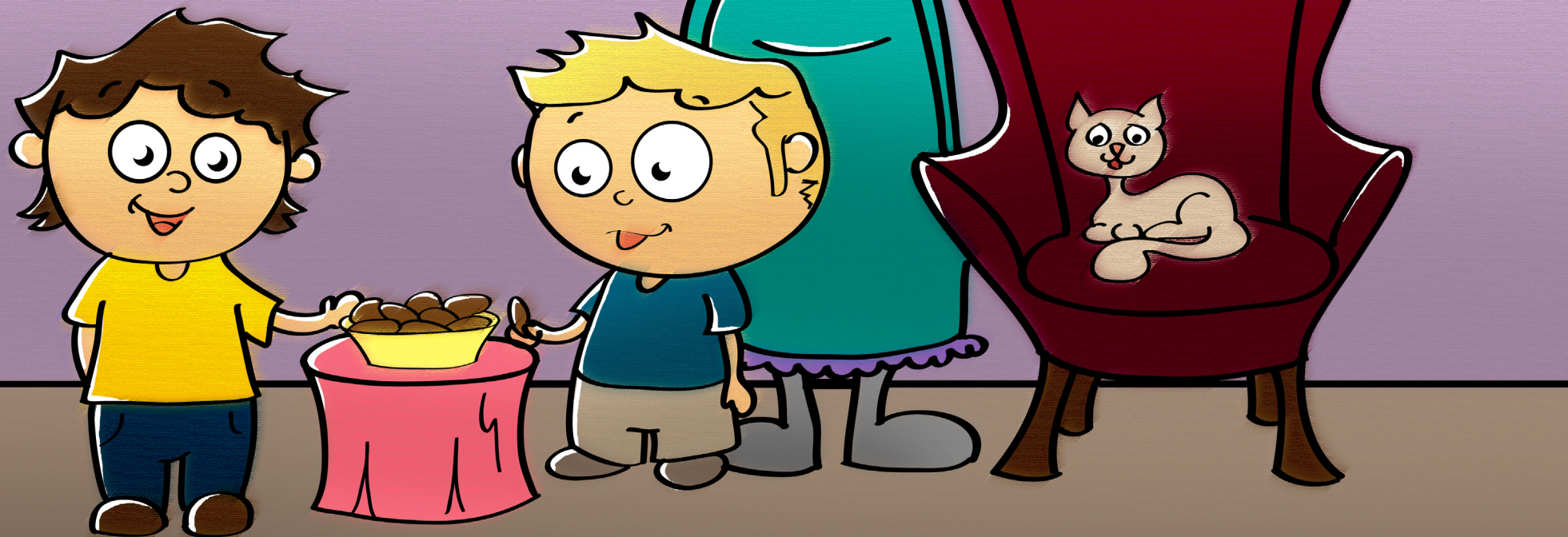
"You bet! And I can help, too." Frank answered.

The two friends walked next door to find Danny's grandmother.

"Grandma, would you like our help to move your chair?" Danny asked.

"Why, yes, of course! Thank you so much!" exclaimed Grandma.

After they were done, Grandma brought them homemade cookies. The two friends sat down to enjoy the snack, while they built the LEGO spaceship with Danny's dad.

Moral: Show kindness and respect to others by paying attention, by looking at them, and by answering them when they speak.