

**FULL COLOR  
HALF SHEET  
PRINTABLE  
STORY BOOK**

# Bryan Learns about Loss



Bryan and Henry were the very best of friends. They loved to ride bikes to the park, play videogames, and race their remote control cars together. The two boys were happiest when they were together.

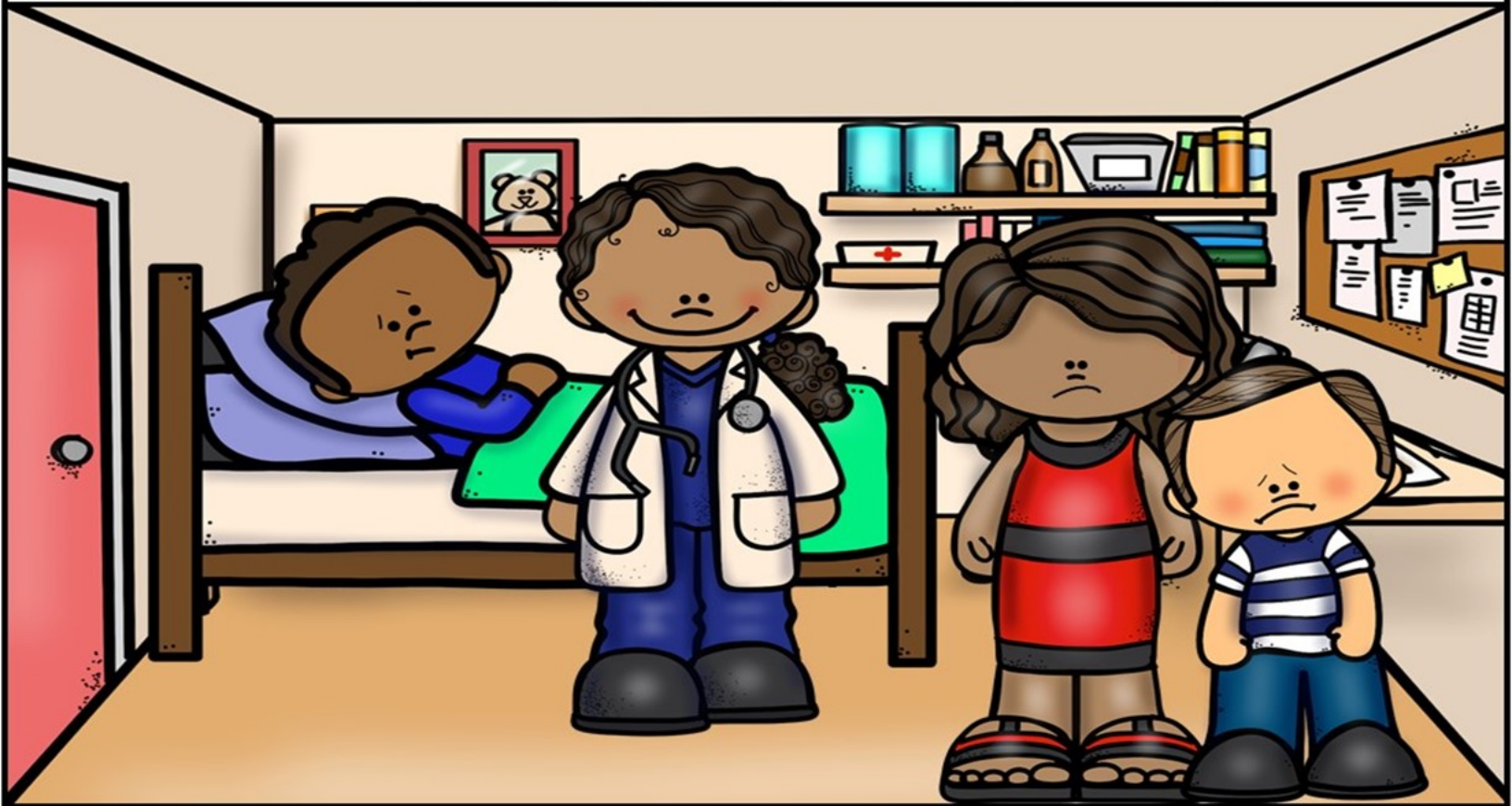




One day while Bryan and Henry were playing at the park together, Henry started to feel sick. Bryan felt really scared to see his friend not feeling well.



Bryan brought Henry back to his house right away and Henry's mom took him right to the hospital. The doctors tried and tried, but Henry got sicker and sicker. Bryan stayed by Henry's side all day and all night.

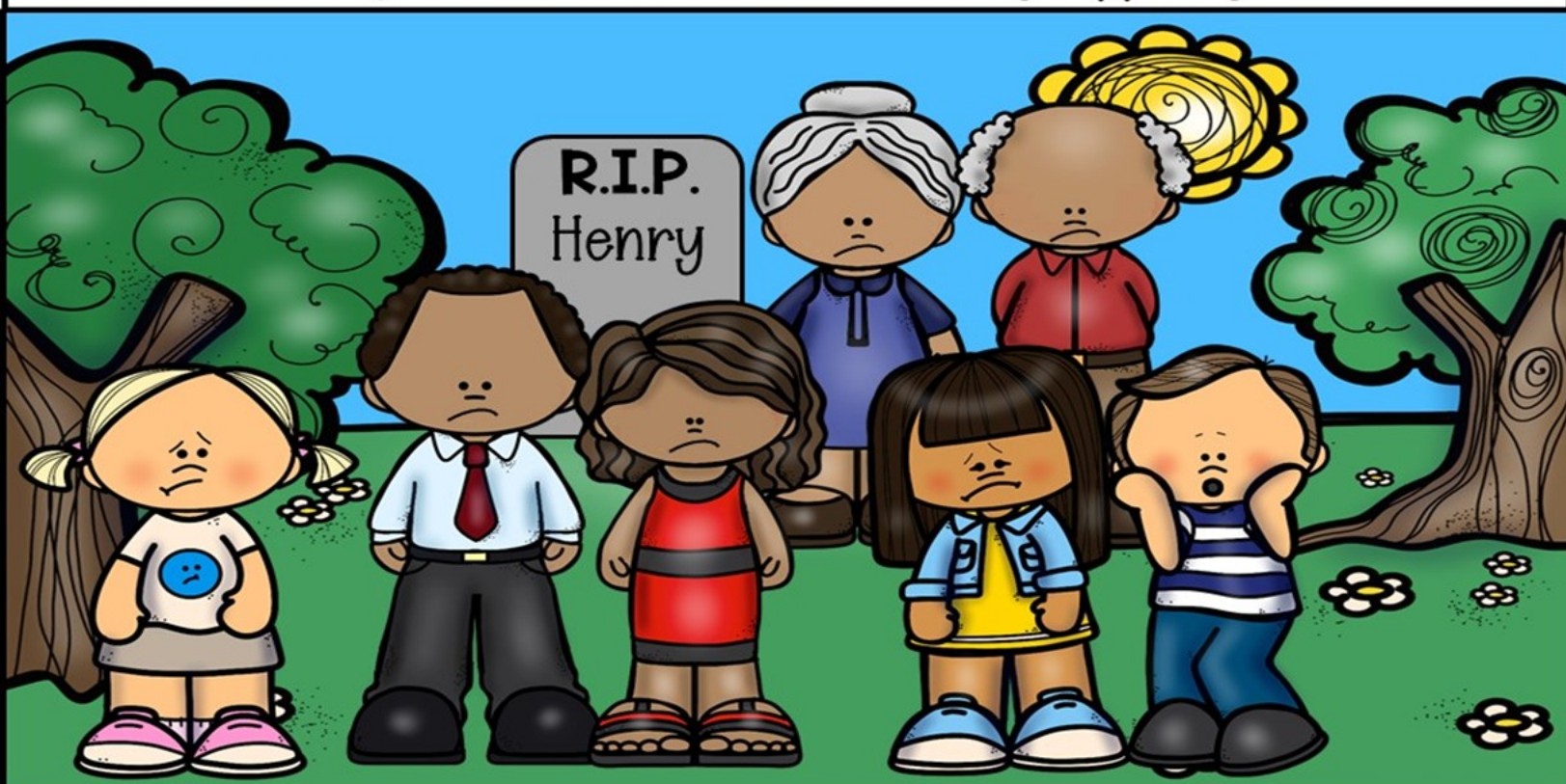




Bryan just couldn't believe his ears when the doctor said that Henry had died. What would he do without his best friend? Who would he ride bikes with? Who would he play Minecraft with? Bryan knew that his life would never be the same again.



All of Henry's family and friends came a couple of days later to Henry's funeral and burial to celebrate his life. They sang songs and shared stories of their favorite memories with Henry. Bryan was too shocked to sing or to even speak. He just couldn't believe this was really happening.





After the funeral, Bryan just couldn't get Henry off of his mind. Every morning he would wake up and think about what he would play with Henry that day and feel excited to see him at the bus stop. Then he would suddenly remember that Henry was gone. Bryan just couldn't understand why his best friend wasn't with him anymore.



One day at recess Bryan saw Hannah and Charlie playing tag together, just like Bryan and Henry used to do. Bryan wondered, "Why do they still have their best friends to play with but I'm all alone? This is NOT fair! Henry, WHY did you leave me here all by myself?!" Bryan felt so angry inside that he could explode!





Bryan took some deep breaths and asked his teacher if he could go talk to his school counselor. He asked Mrs. Rogers, "What if I had taken Henry home sooner? Or what if we hadn't played so hard together that day? Would he still be alive? Is this my fault?"



Mrs. Rogers said, "Bryan, I'm so sorry you are so hurt. I miss Henry too. But, it's important for you to understand that you did everything you could to save Henry. Your loving friendship meant the world to him and no one would ever blame you for his death. Bryan cried, "I understand, Mrs. Rogers. I just wish there was something I could do to bring him back. I'd never ask for anything ever again. I just want Henry back in my life."





Mrs. Rogers calmly shared, "If there was something I could do to bring Henry back, you know I would do it in an instant. But, when someone we love dies, we have to just remember them, honor them, and be thankful for the special times we had together. I'm so glad that you came to talk to me — talking with a grown-up we trust about our feelings is so helpfull Also, sometimes it helps to write in a journal or create something special in honor of our loved one. Why don't you give that idea some thought...is there something that you could do to help everyone remember your cherished friend?"



Bryan understood what Mrs. Rogers said. He promised her he would think about a special way to honor Henry and write in his journal each night. But he still felt more sad and lonely than he ever had before in his life. When he got home from school, he went to his room and cried. He didn't want to play Minecraft, go to school tomorrow, or even eat dinner. He just wanted to be alone.





Bryan's mom heard him crying and came in to talk to him. She told Bryan that she missed Henry too and wished there was something she could do to help him feel better. Bryan's mom asked if she could ask his other friend, Kaleb, to come over. Maybe he'd like to ride bikes with Kaleb to the park? Bryan immediately said no, he just wanted to be alone. But, after giving it some more thought, he decided that getting some fresh air might be a good idea after all.

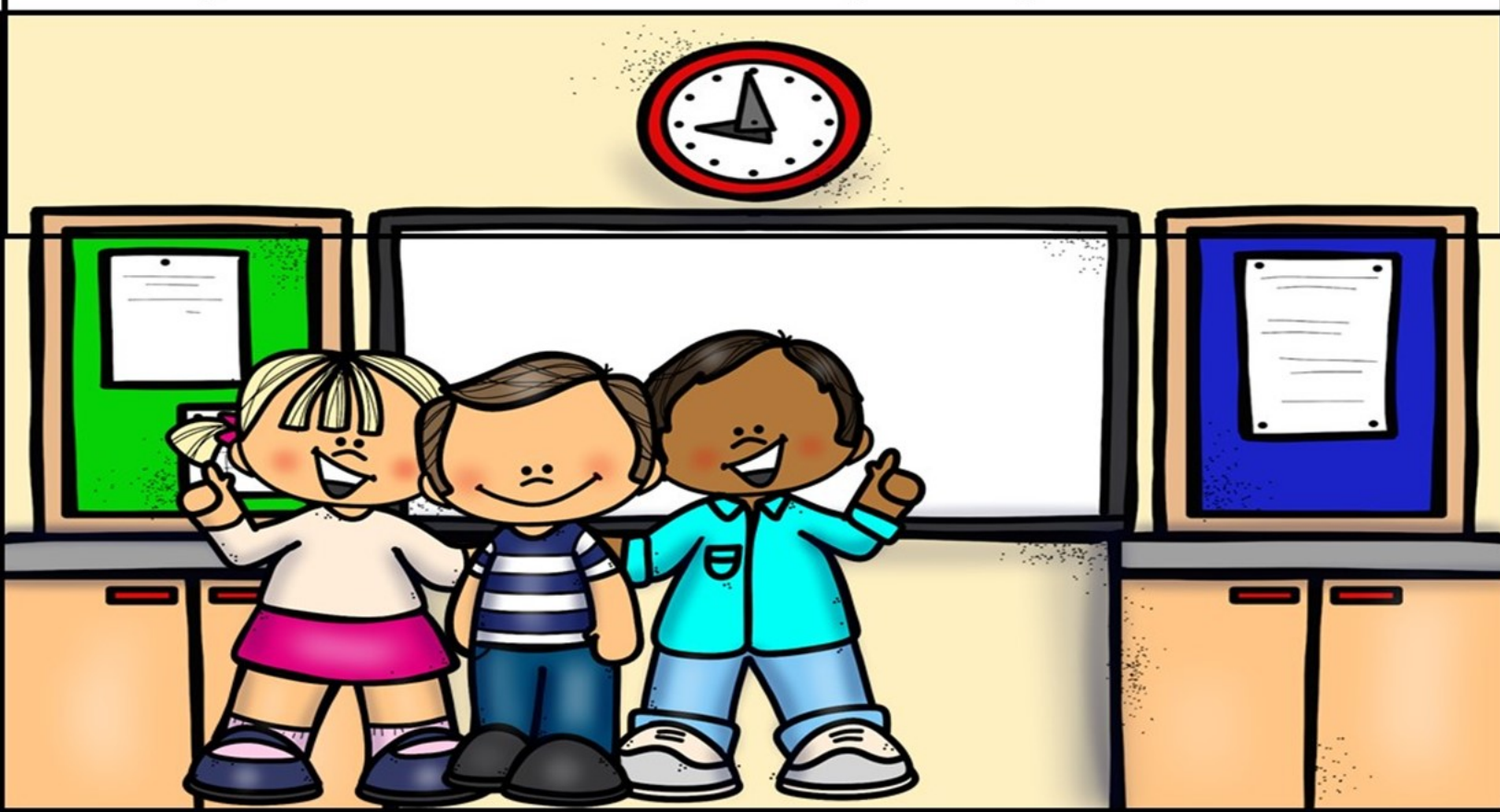


Bryan and Kaleb rode bikes to the park together. As they rode, the boys shared special memories and funny stories with Henry. Kaleb said that he had never had a best friend before and that Bryan was lucky to know what it feels like to have a true best friend. Bryan knew that he would always miss Henry, and that no one could ever replace him. But it did feel really nice to have Kaleb to talk to.

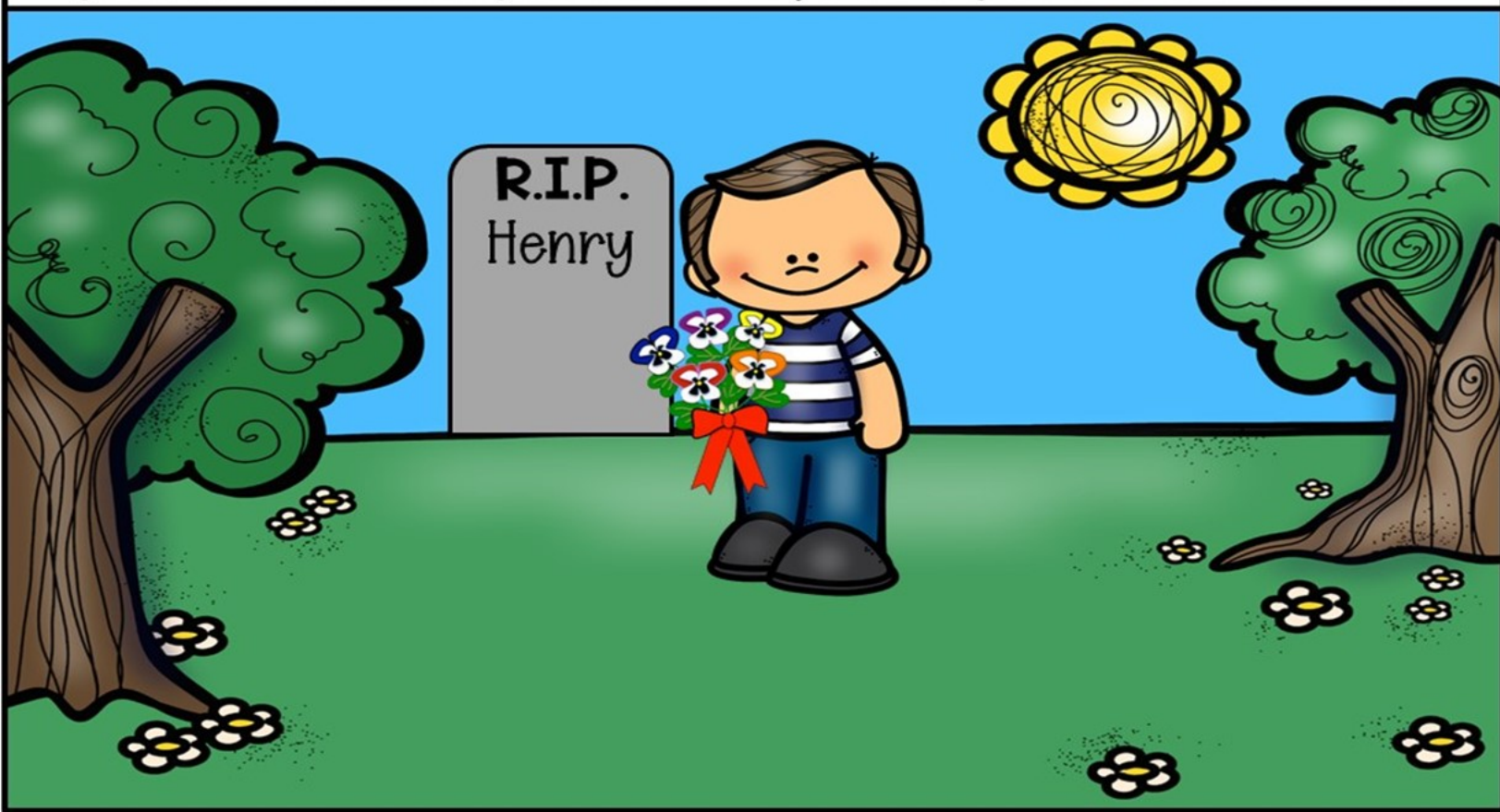




Little by little, as the days went on, Bryan started to feel more and more like his old self. He continued talking to Mrs. Rogers, writing in his journal, and sharing stories and memories about Henry with anyone who would listen.



Bryan also liked visiting Henry's grave each week. He always brought flowers and told Henry stories about what was happening at school and in his Minecraft game. It comforted Bryan to have this peaceful quiet time with his friend.





One day, Bryan rode his bike to the park and as soon as he arrived, he had an amazing idea! What if he planted a special garden at the park in honor of Henry? That way everyone who came to play at their favorite park would remember Henry and his spirit could live on at their special place!



Bryan got to work on Henry's Garden. Each day after school he planted all sorts of beautiful flowers and even made a special sign to honor his best friend.

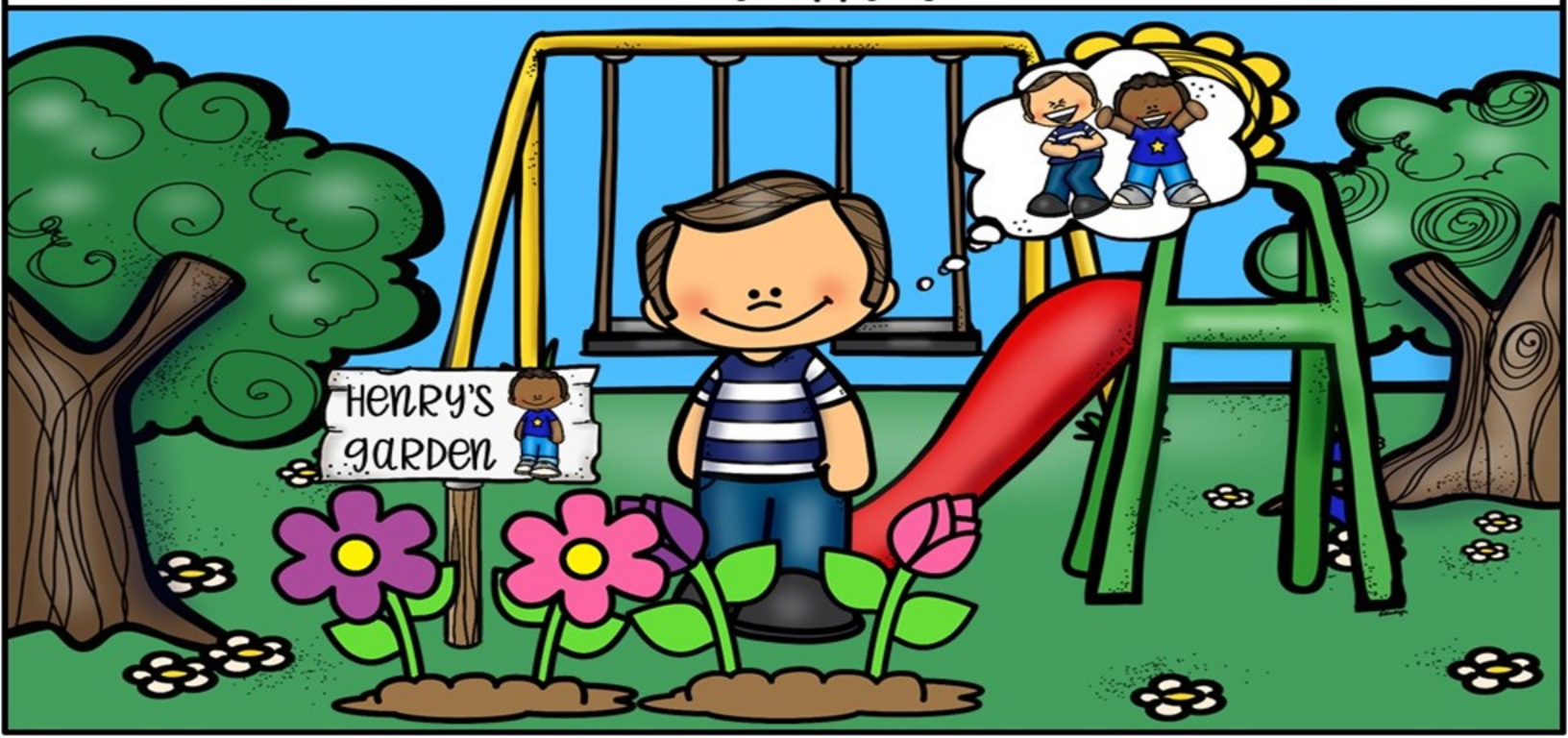




As soon as the flowers grew, Bryan invited Mrs. Rogers and all of Henry's friends and family to visit Henry's Garden. Everyone was so proud of Bryan's hard work and loved sharing special stories and memories about Henry in the garden. Bryan knew he had really created something special to honor his best friend!



Bryan still missed Henry and still wished they could play together. He would give anything for just one more day with him! But, as Bryan took care of Henry's Garden, he laughed to himself thinking of their funny memories together and truly felt at peace. The garden gave him a new purpose and a new joy. Bryan was finally happy again.





**BLACK & WHITE**

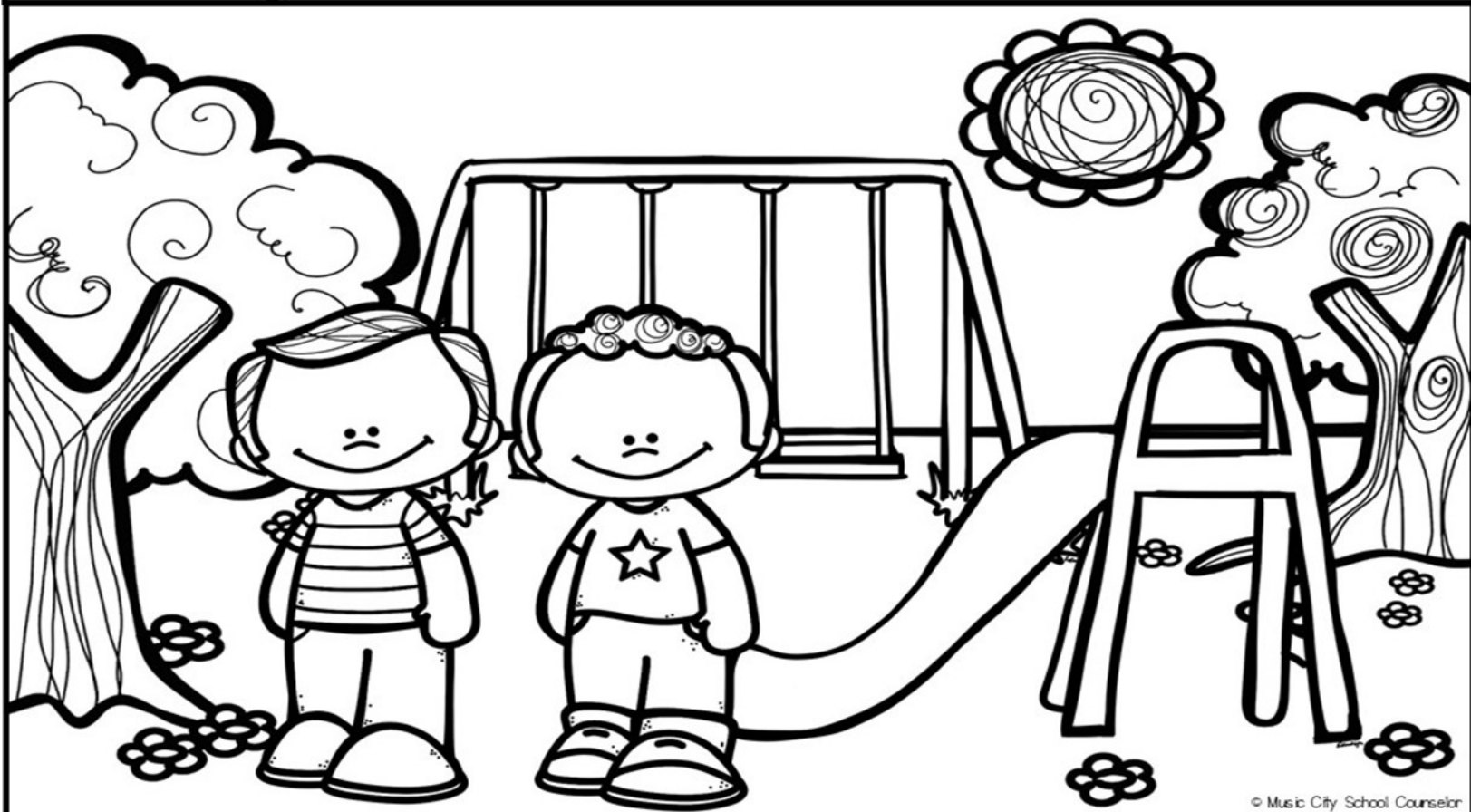
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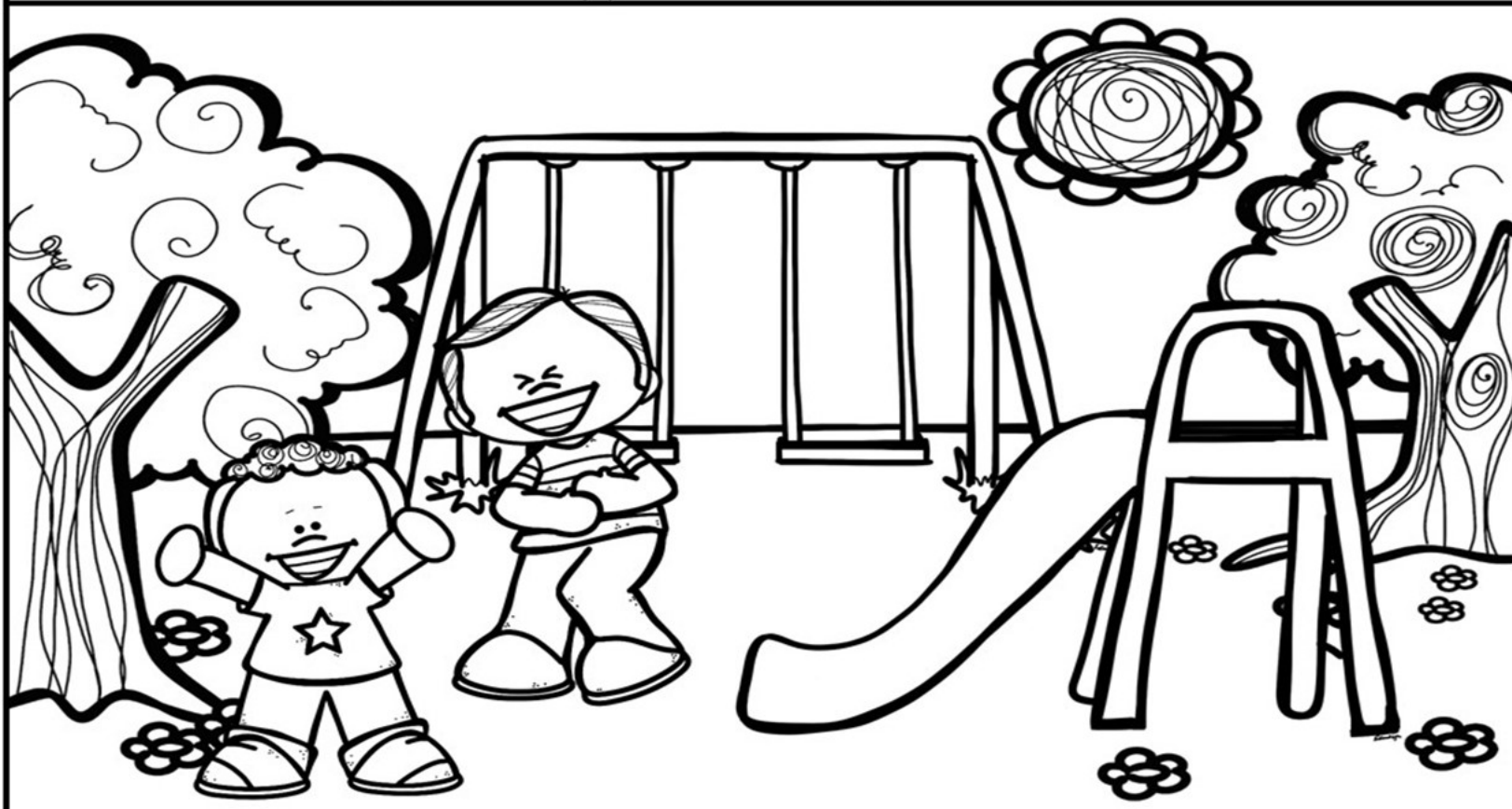


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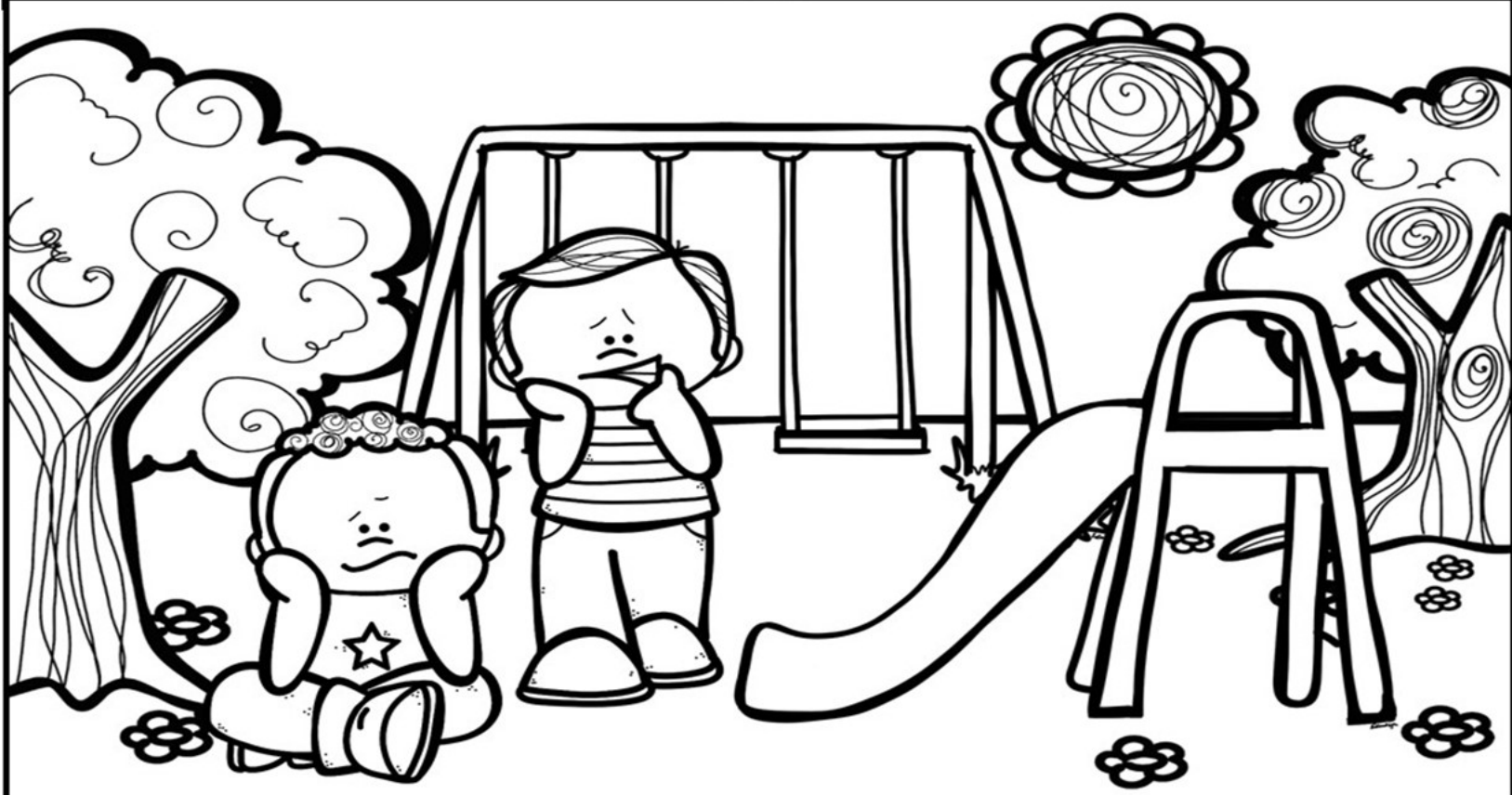
© Music City School Counselor

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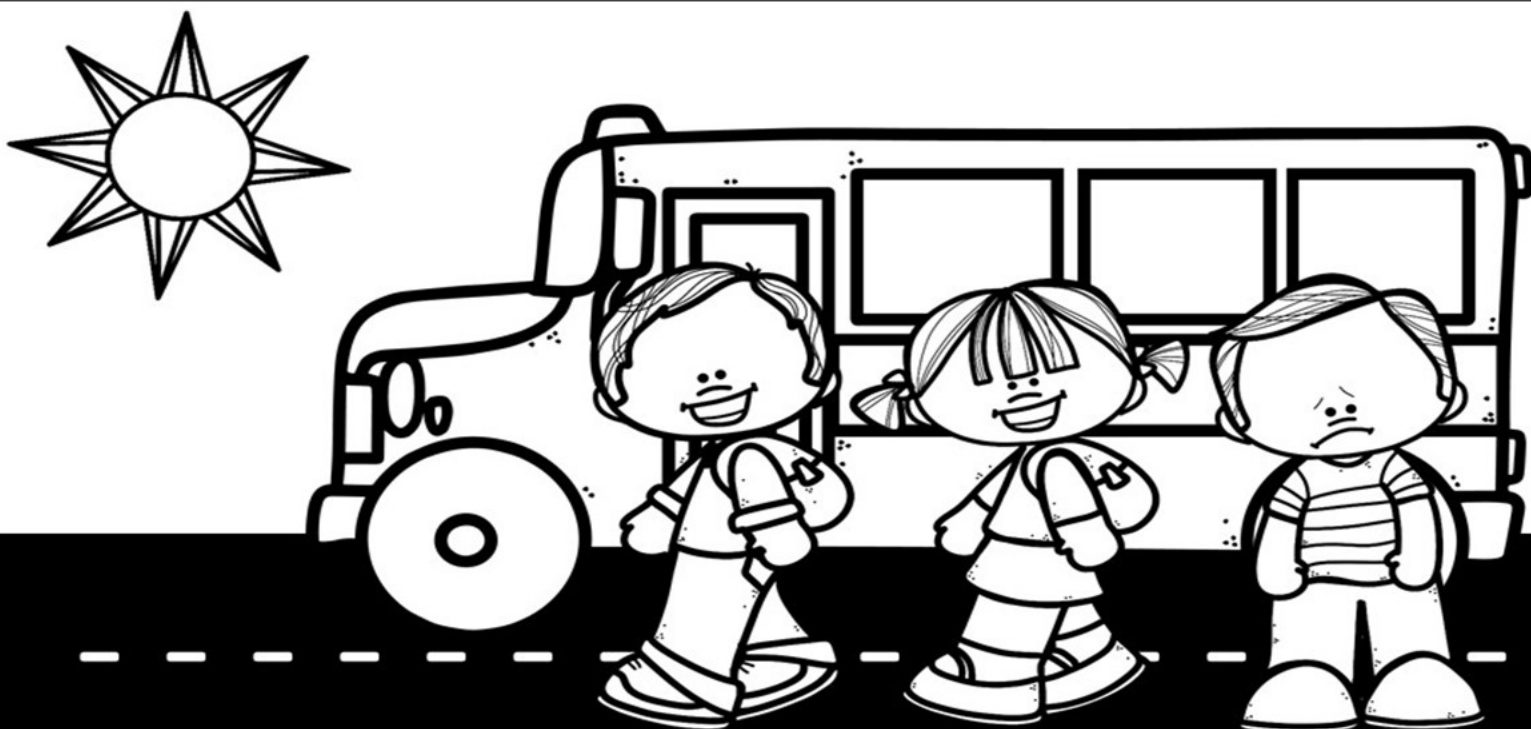


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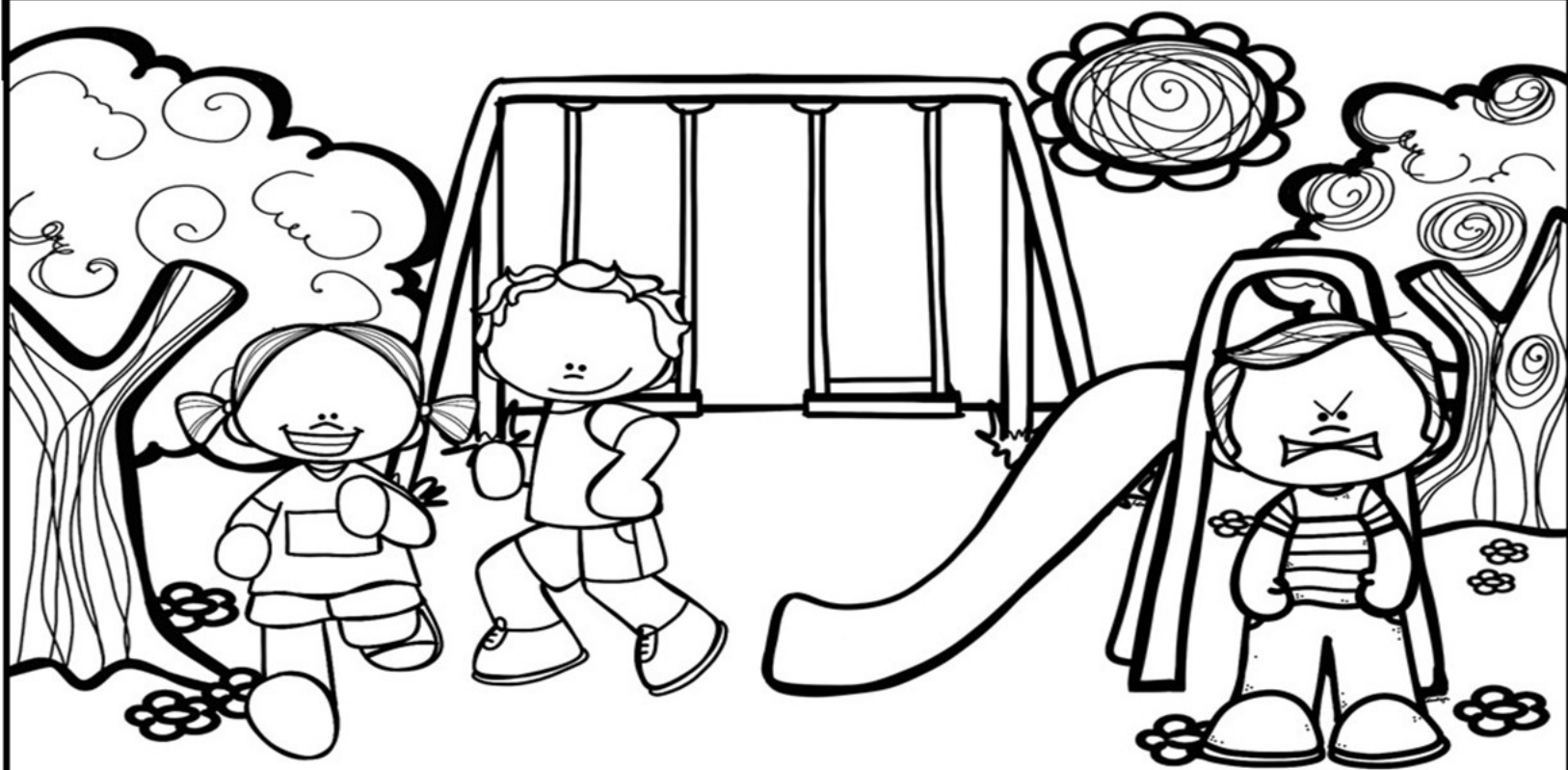




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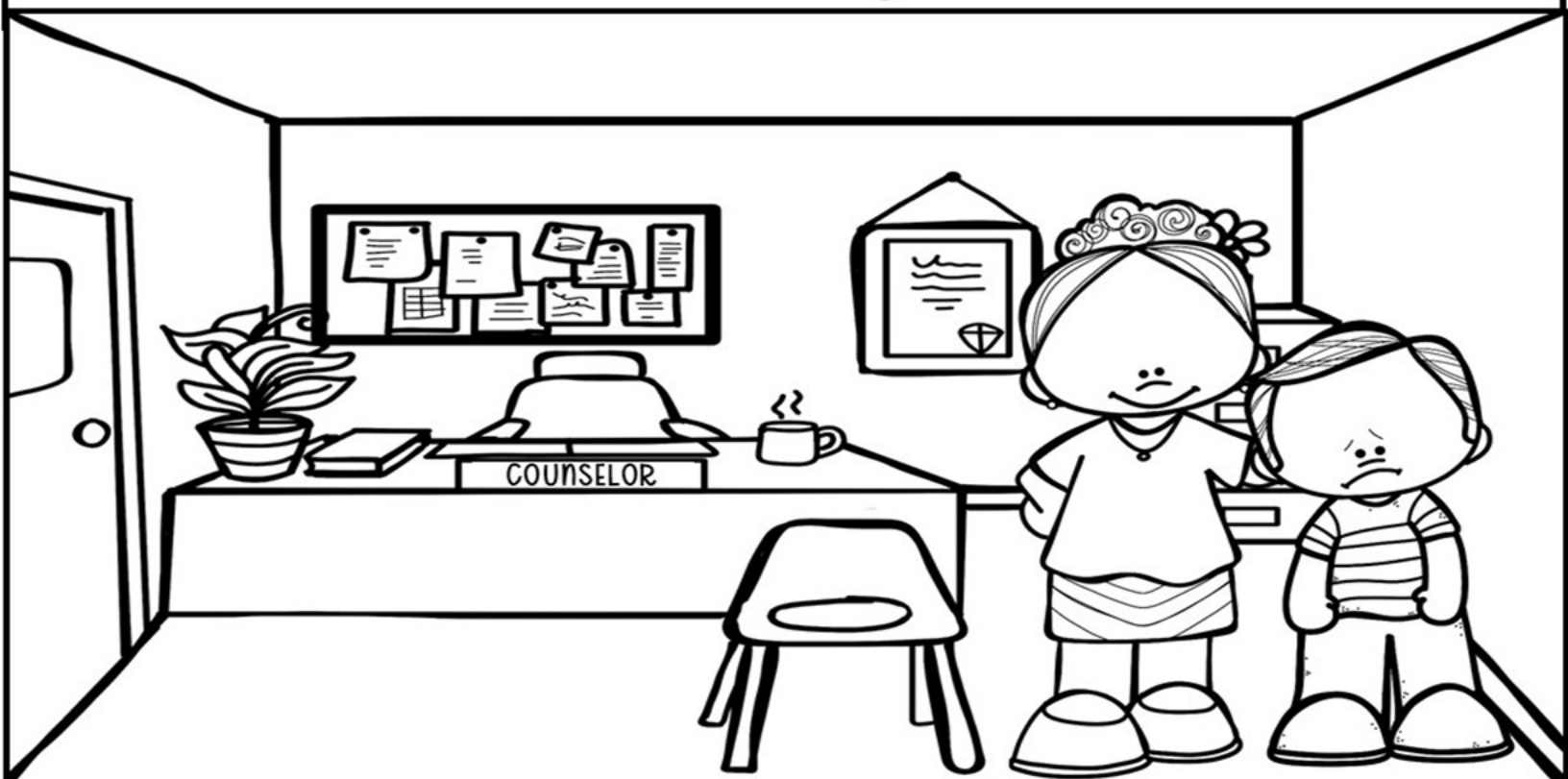


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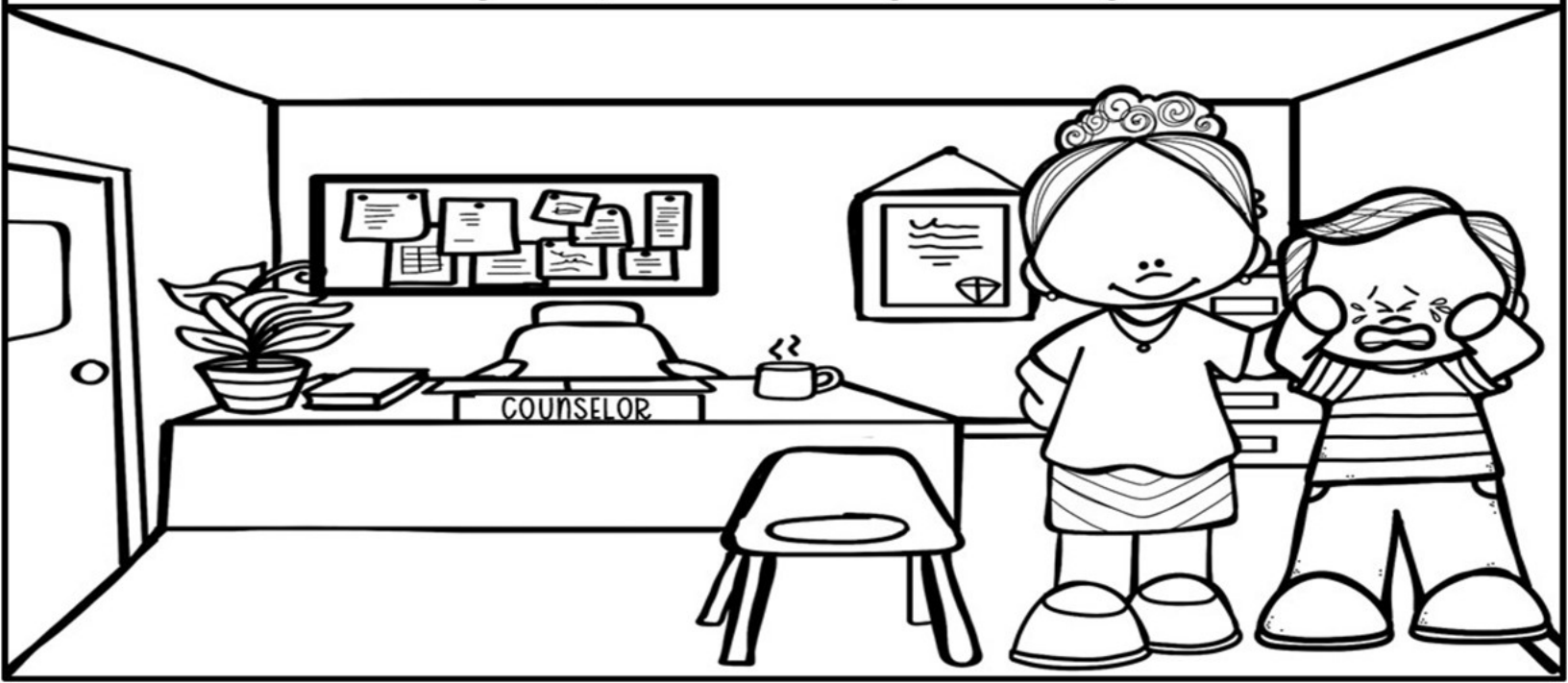




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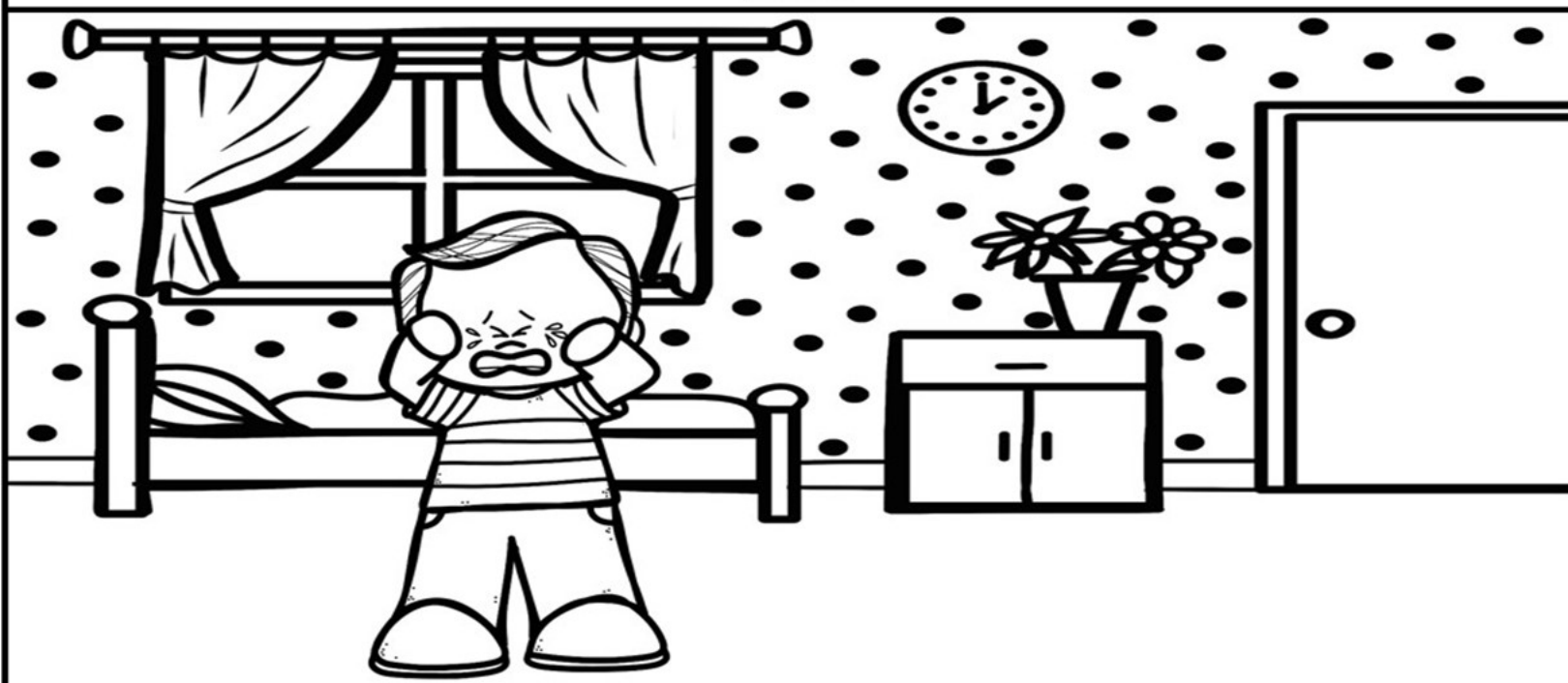




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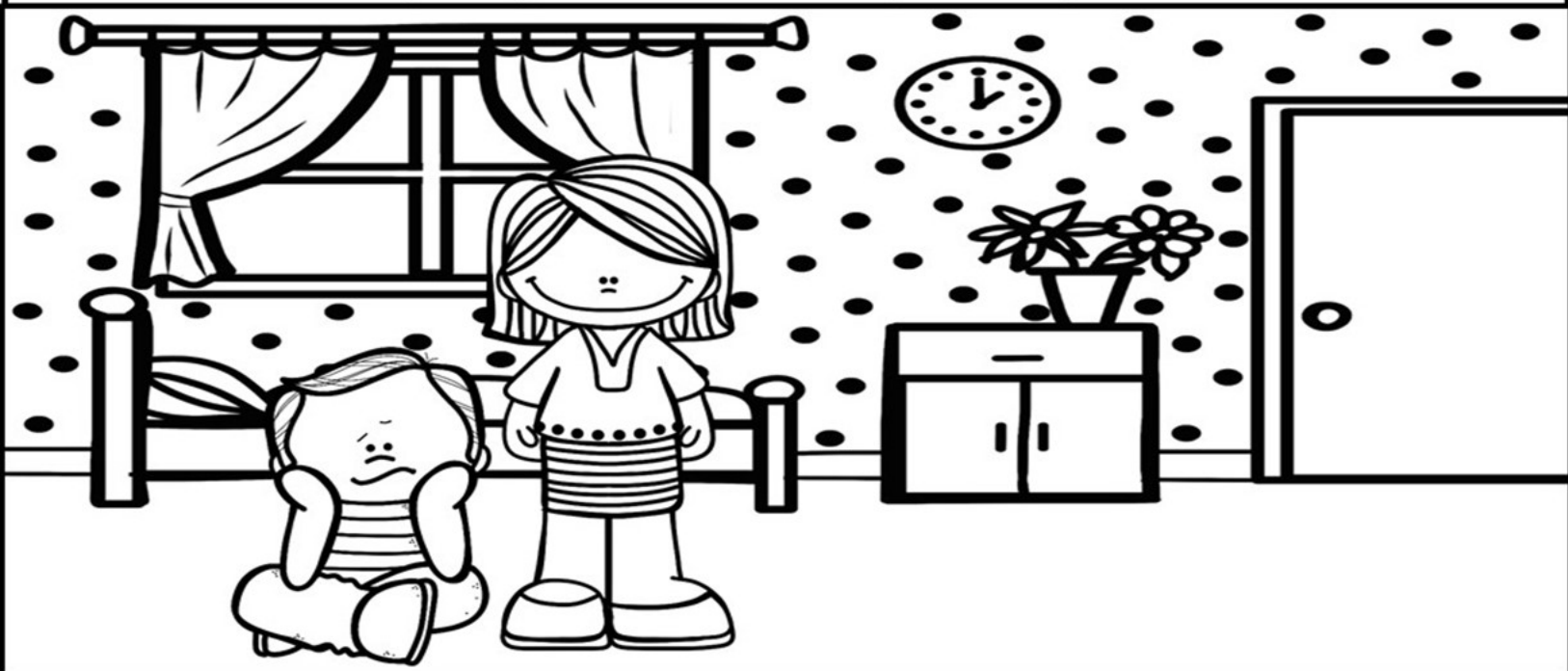


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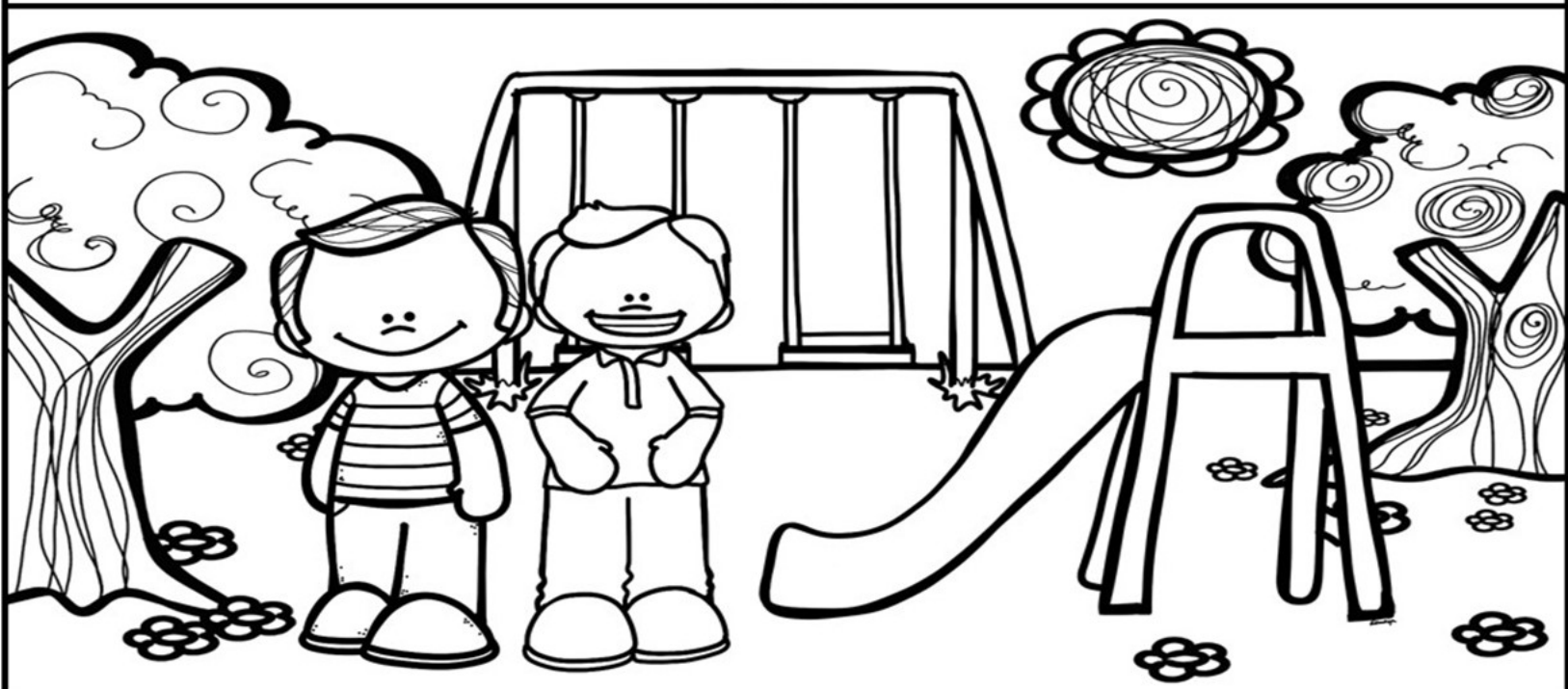




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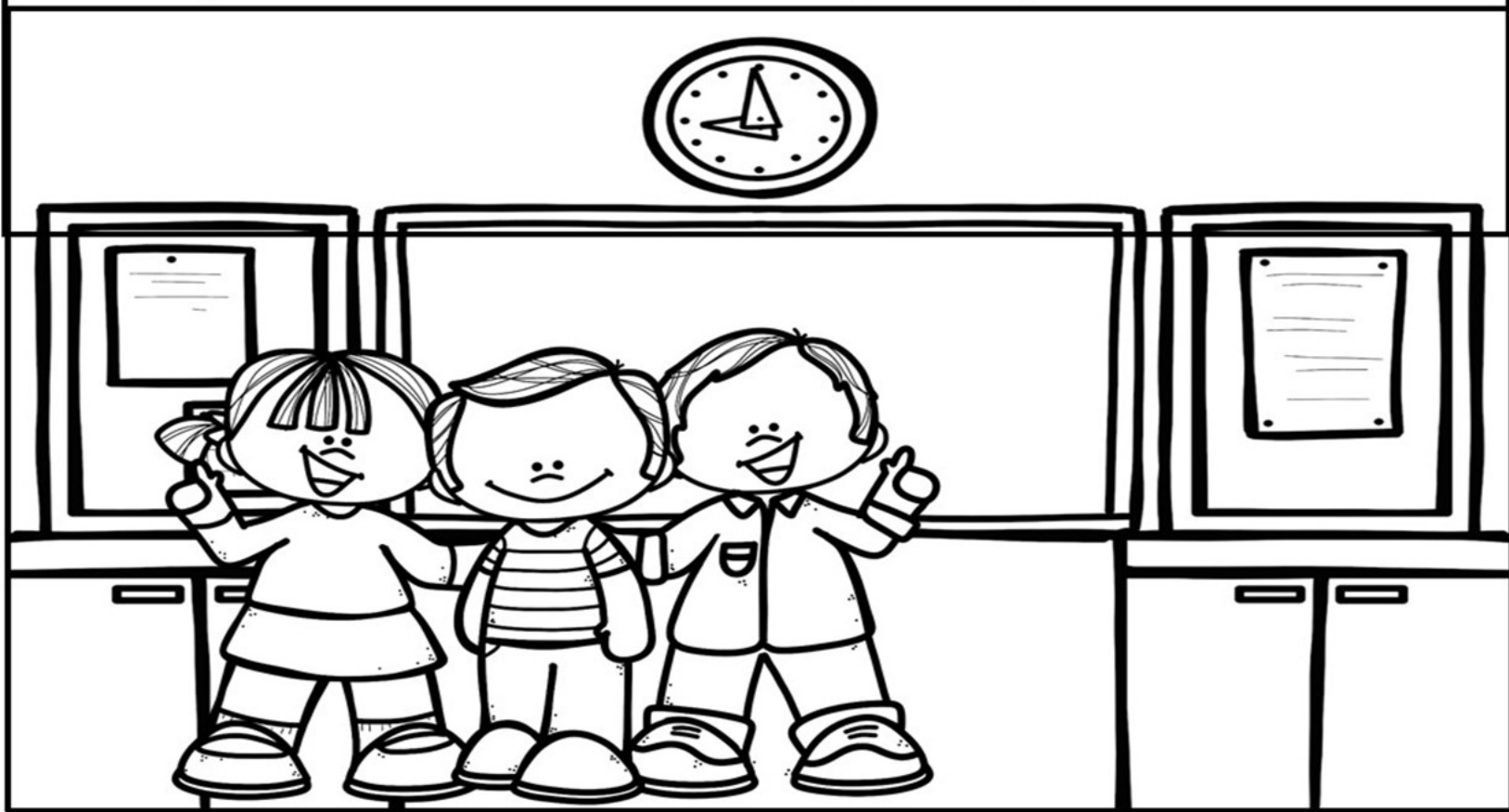


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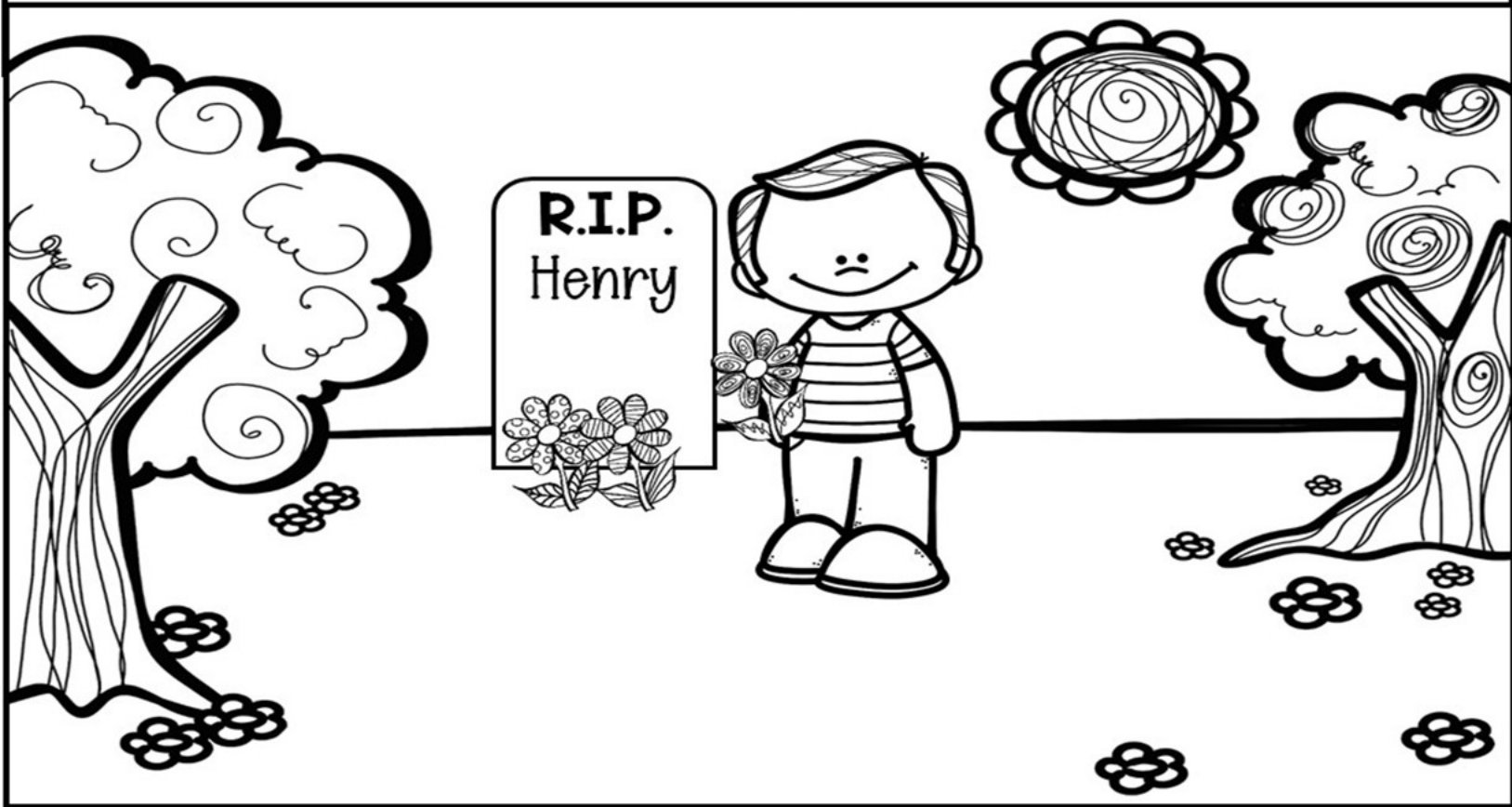




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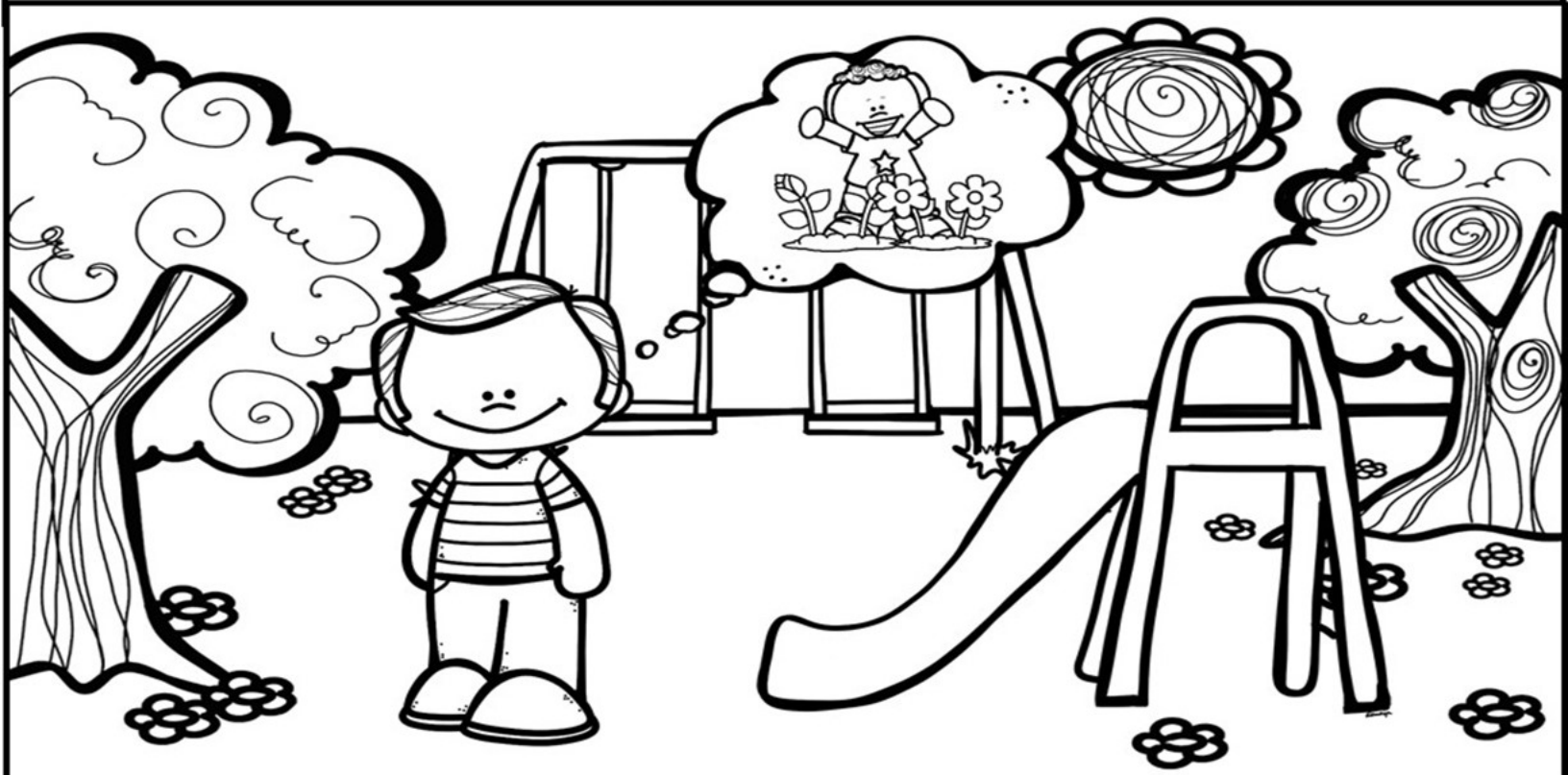


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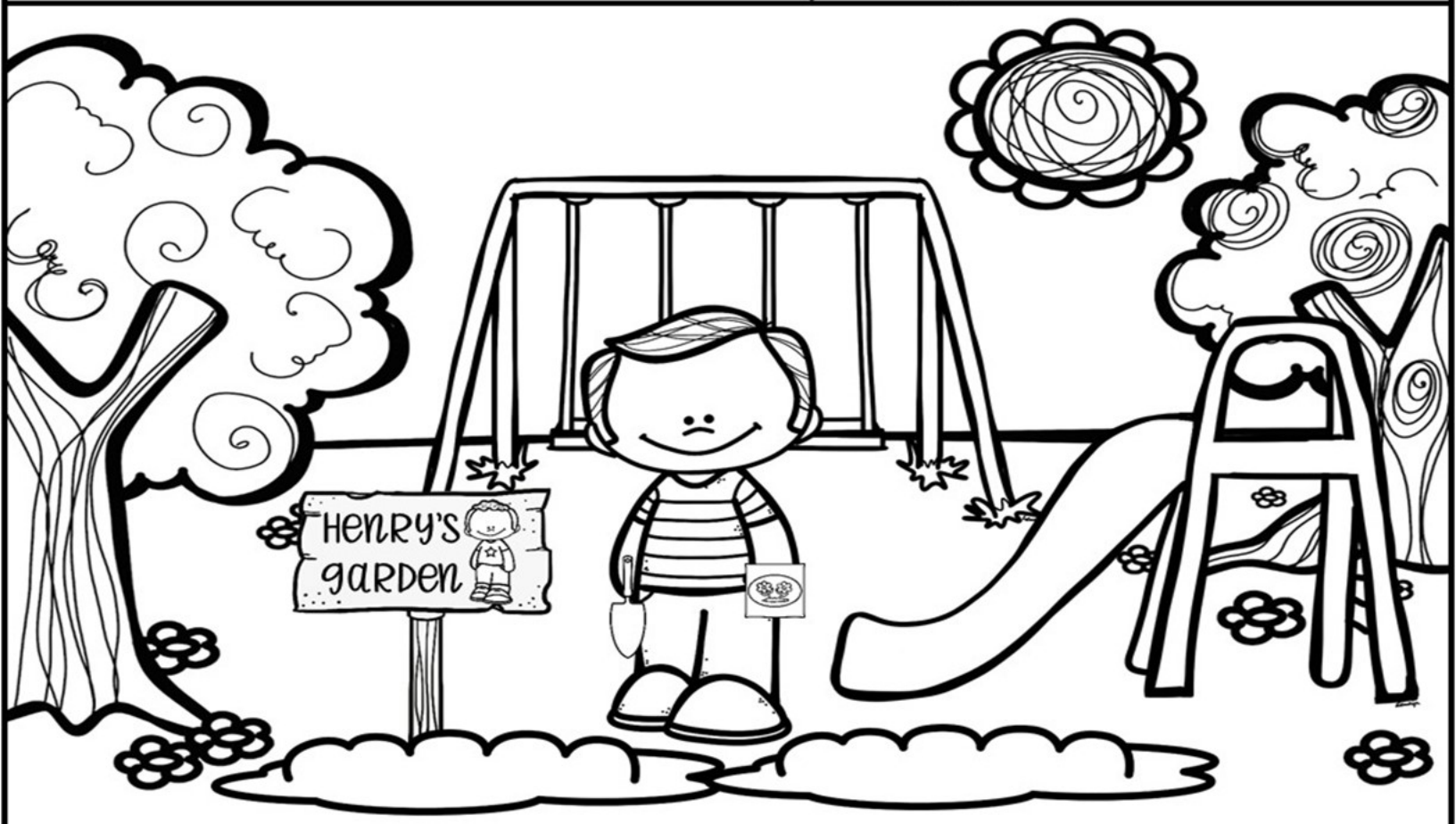




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