

**FULL COLOR  
HALF SHEET  
PRINTABLE  
STORY BOOK**

# Bryan Learns about Loss



Bryan was an 8-year-old boy who loved playing soccer, riding bikes, and playing videogames. Bryan was very grateful to have a wonderful mom who took the very best care of him. Bryan loved baking cookies with his mom, going on walks to their favorite park, and reading goodnight stories together.





One day while Bryan and his mom were on a walk at the park together, mom started to feel sick. Bryan felt really scared to see his mom not feeling well.



Bryan brought mom back home right away and called his dad to come home from work. Bryan and his dad took mom to the hospital as soon as they could. The doctors tried and tried, but mom got sicker and sicker. Bryan stayed by his mom's side all day and all night.

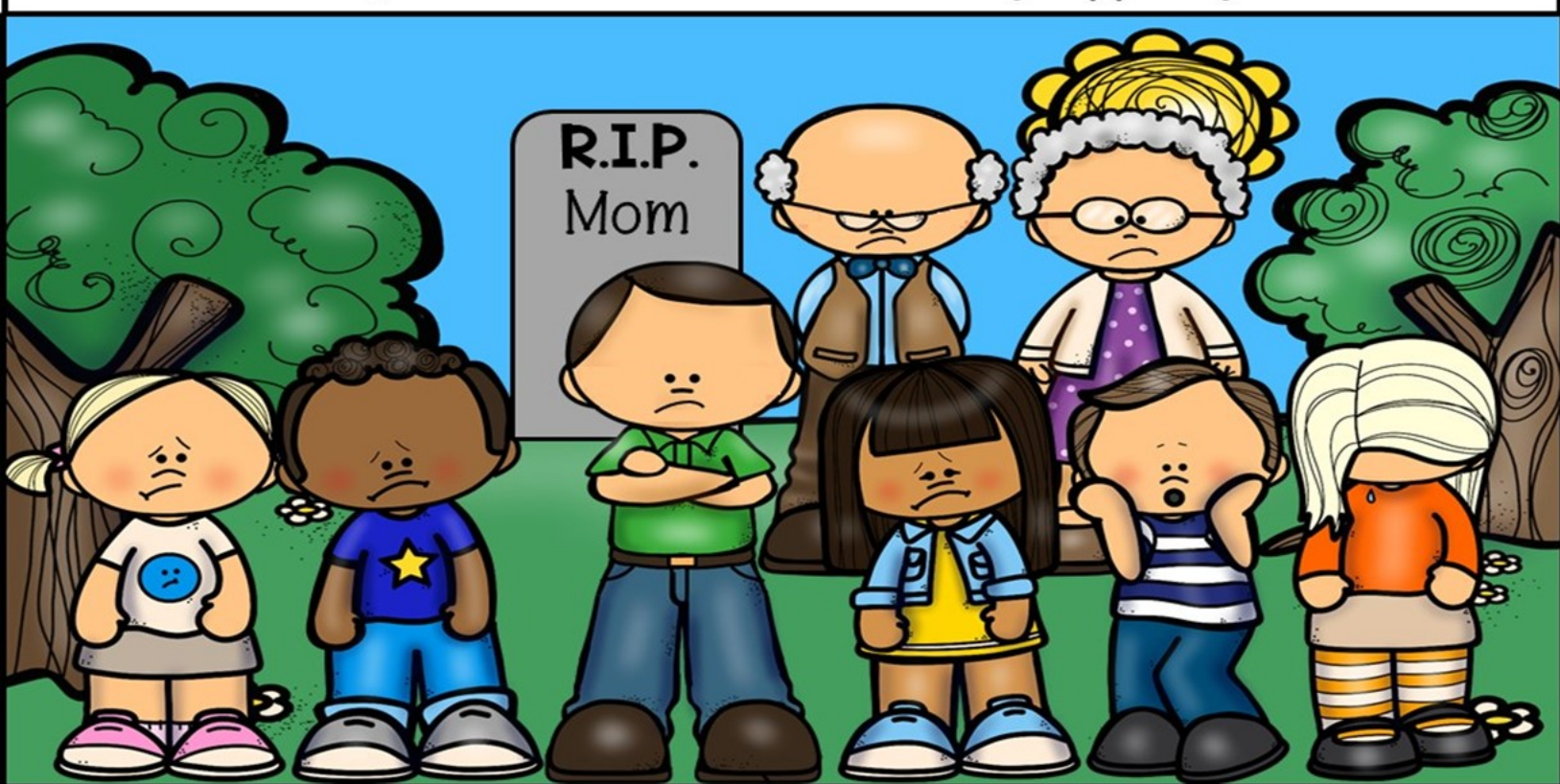




Bryan just couldn't believe his ears when the doctor said that his mom had died. What would he do without his mom? Who would he bake cookies with? Who would read him bedtime stories? Who would pack his lunch for school? Bryan knew that his life would never be the same again.



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

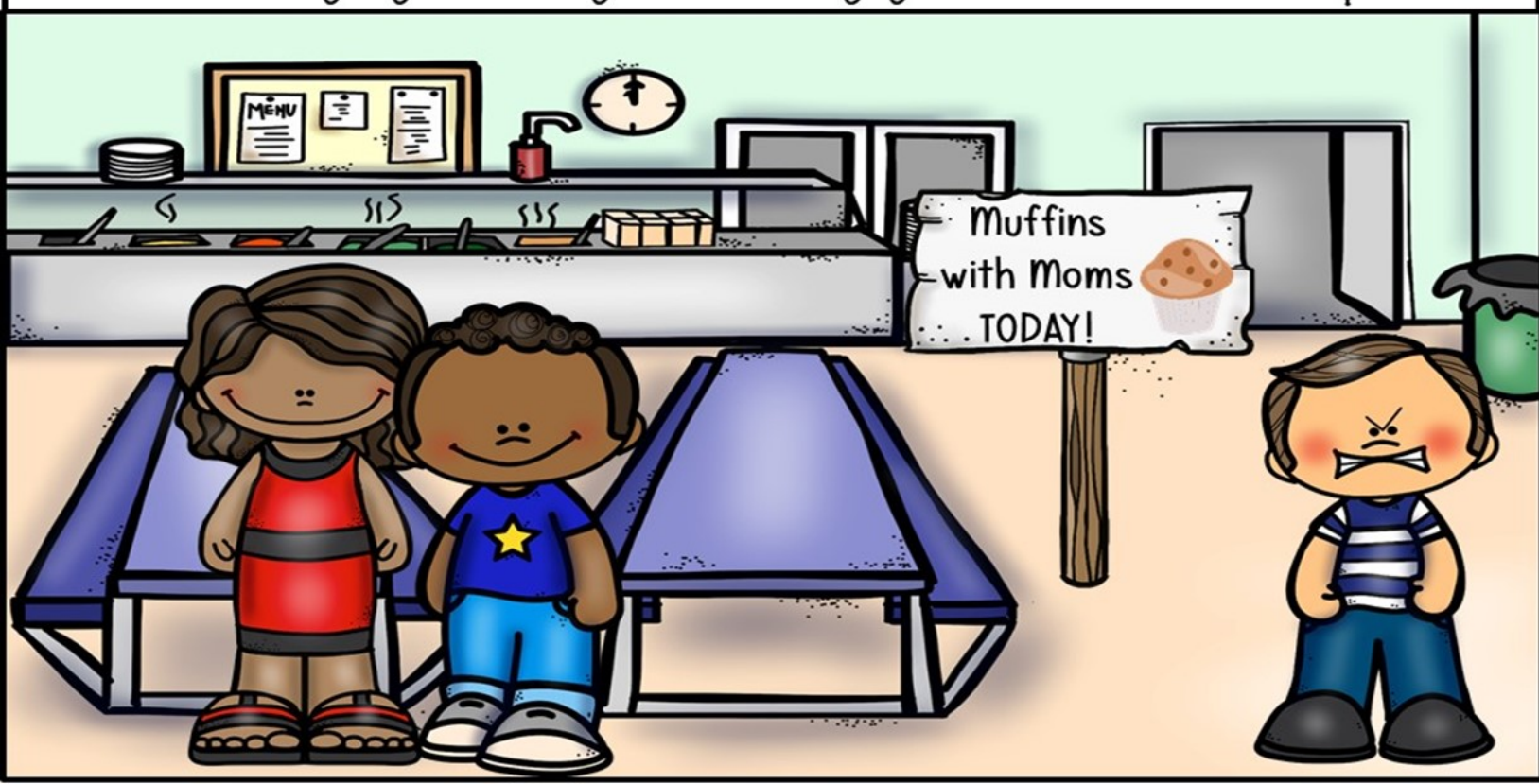




After the funeral, Bryan just couldn't get his mom off of his mind. Every morning he would wake up and think about what his mom was making him for breakfast and how she would walk him down to the bus stop. Then he would suddenly remember that his mom was gone. Bryan just couldn't understand why his mom wasn't with him anymore.



The next day at school was a special Muffins with Moms breakfast in the cafeteria. Bryan saw Charlie walk in with his mom. Bryan wondered, "Why does Charlie still his mom but I'm all alone? This is NOT fair! Mom, 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 told Mrs. Rogers, "I feel completely heartbroken that my mom isn't here for Muffins with Moms with me. What if we had taken her to the hospital sooner? Would she still be alive? Is this all my fault?"



Mrs. Rogers said, "Bryan, I'm so sorry you are so hurt. I bet it's so hard to see the other students here at school with their moms today. But, it's important for you to understand that you did everything you could to save your mom. Your love meant the world to her and no one would ever blame you for her death. Bryan cried, "I understand, Mrs. Rogers. I just wish there was something I could do to bring her back. I'd never ask for anything ever again. I just want my mom back in my life."





Mrs. Rogers calmly shared, "If there was something I could do to bring your mom 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 mom?"



Bryan understood what Mrs. Rogers said. He promised her he would think about a special way to honor his mom 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 videogames, go to school tomorrow, or even eat dinner. He just wanted to be alone.





Bryan's dad heard him crying and came in to talk to him. He told Bryan that he missed mom too and wished there was something he could do to help him feel better. Bryan's dad asked if he could ask his 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.

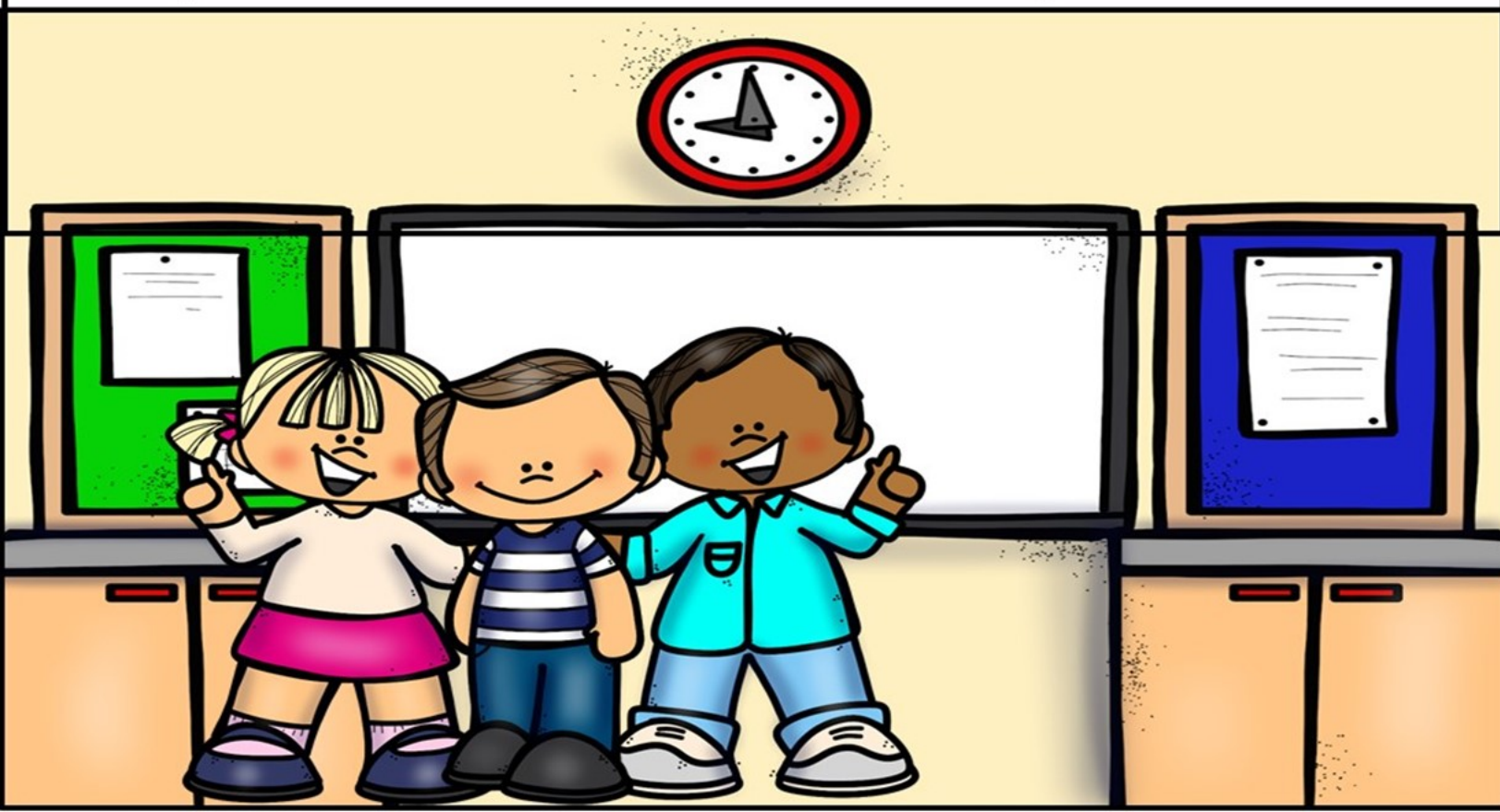


Bryan and Kaleb rode bikes to the park together. As they rode, the boys shared special memories and funny stories with Bryan's mom. Kaleb said that his mom lived in another state and that Bryan was so lucky to know what it feels like to have such a loving and caring mom. Bryan knew that he would always miss his mom, and that no one could ever replace her. But it did feel really nice to have Kaleb to talk to.

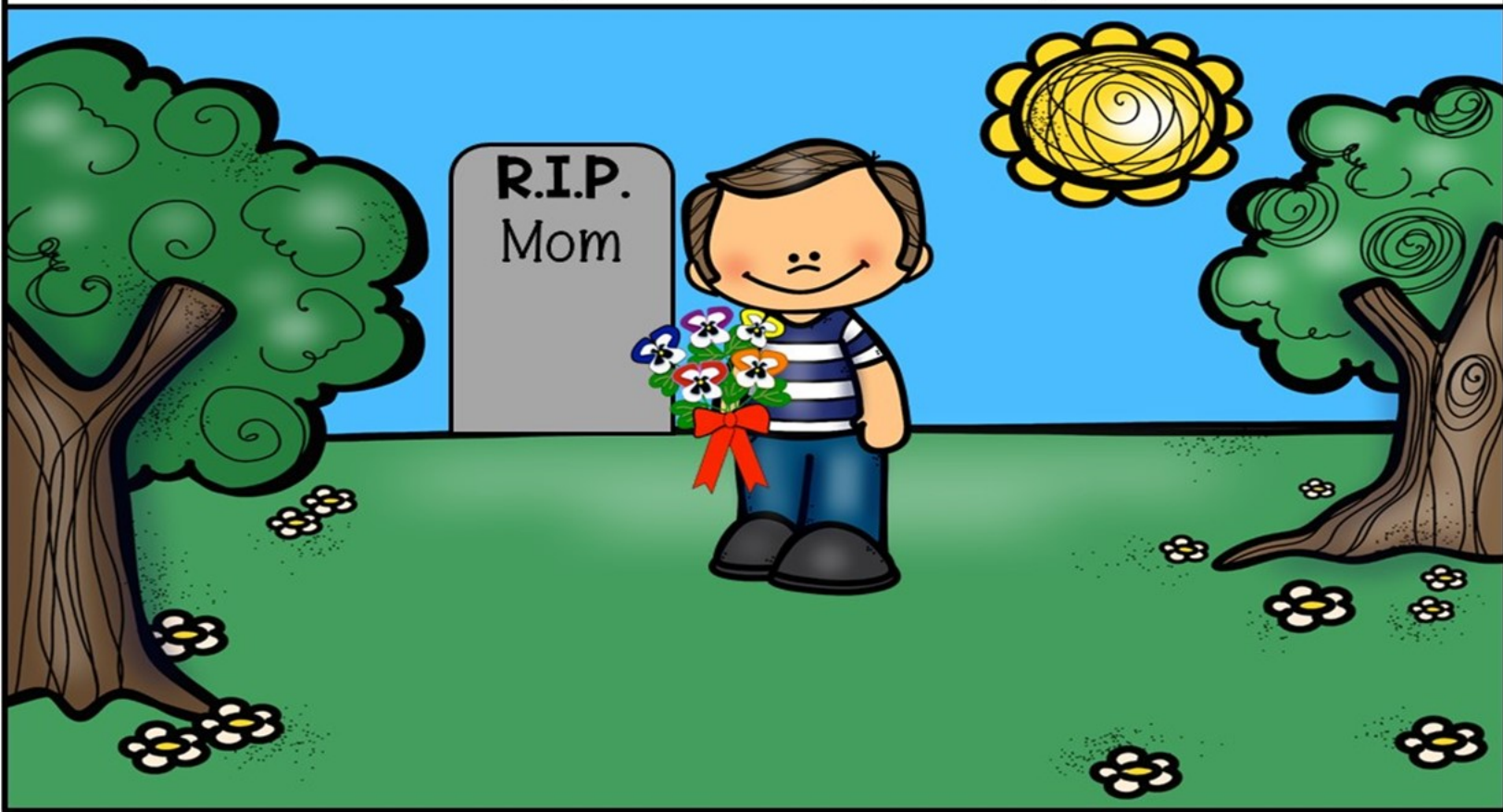




Little by little, as the days went on, Bryan started to feel more and more like his old self. He continued talking to Mrs. Rogers, writing in his journal, and sharing stories and memories about his mom with anyone who would listen.



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





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 his mom? That way everyone who came to play at their favorite park would remember his mom and her spirit could live on at their special place!



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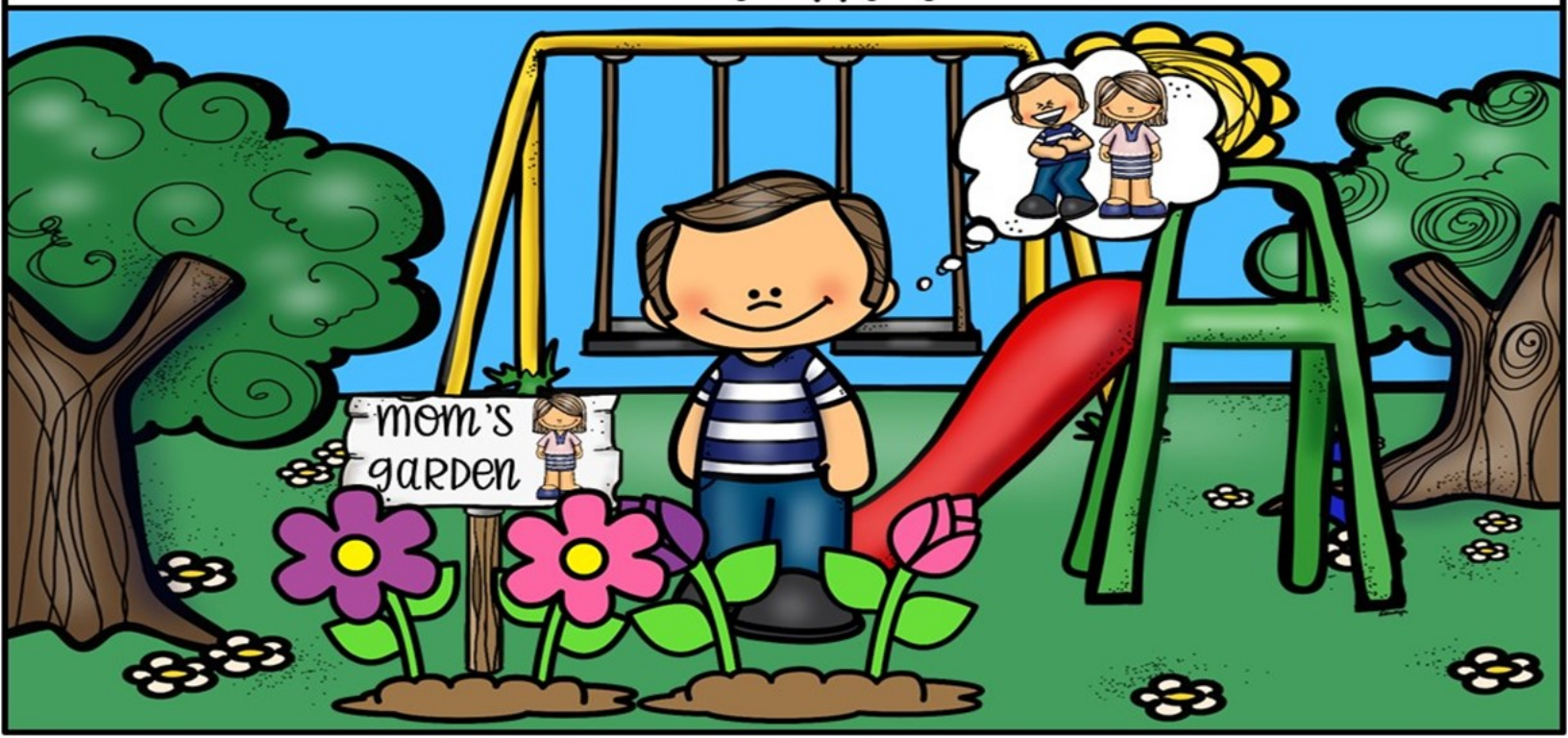




As soon as the flowers grew, Bryan invited Mrs. Rogers and all of his friends and family to visit Mom's Garden. Everyone was so proud of Bryan's hard work and loved sharing special stories and memories about mom in the garden. Bryan knew he had really created something special to honor his mom!



Bryan still missed his mom and still wished they could play together. He would give anything for just one more day with her! But, as Bryan took care of Mom'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**

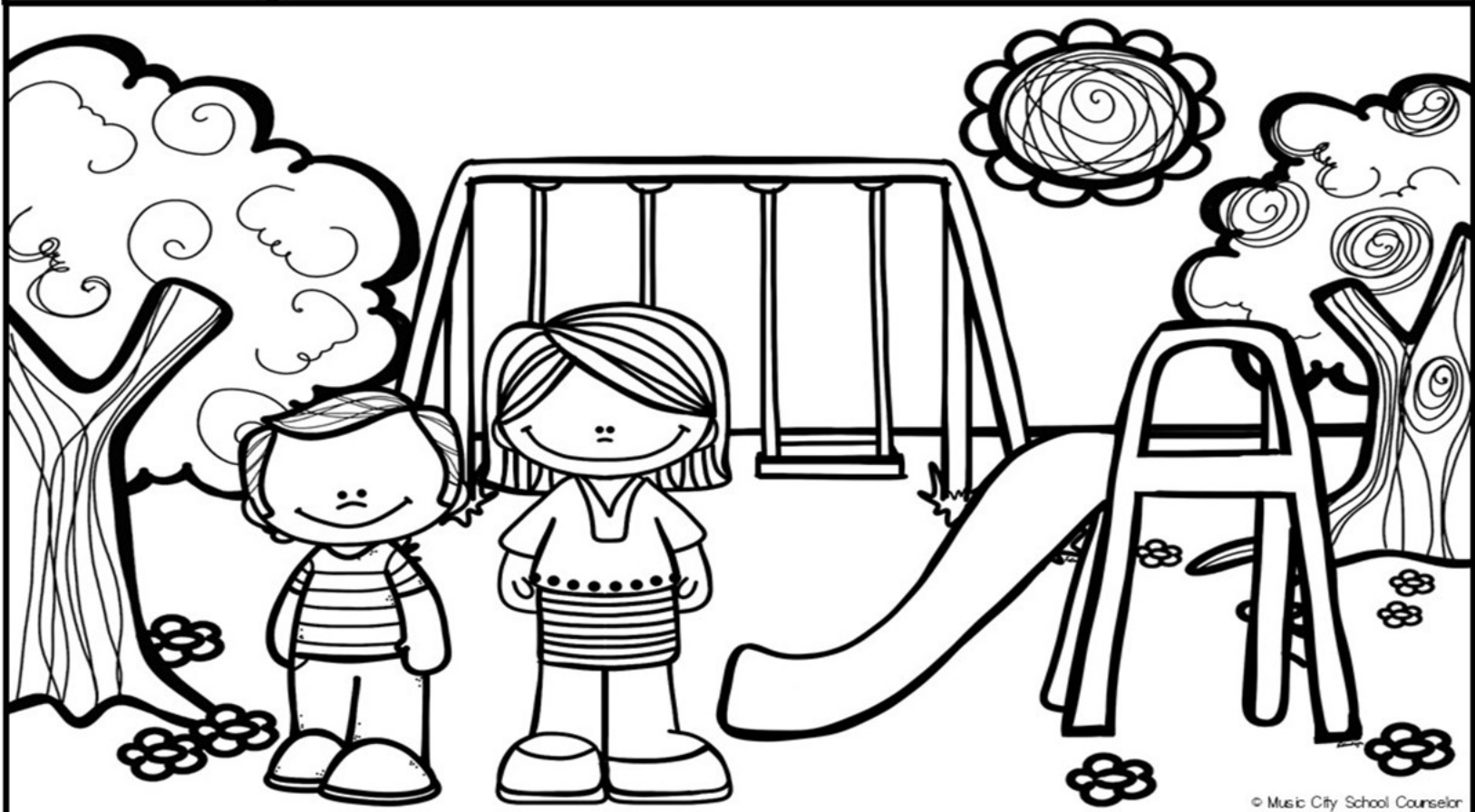
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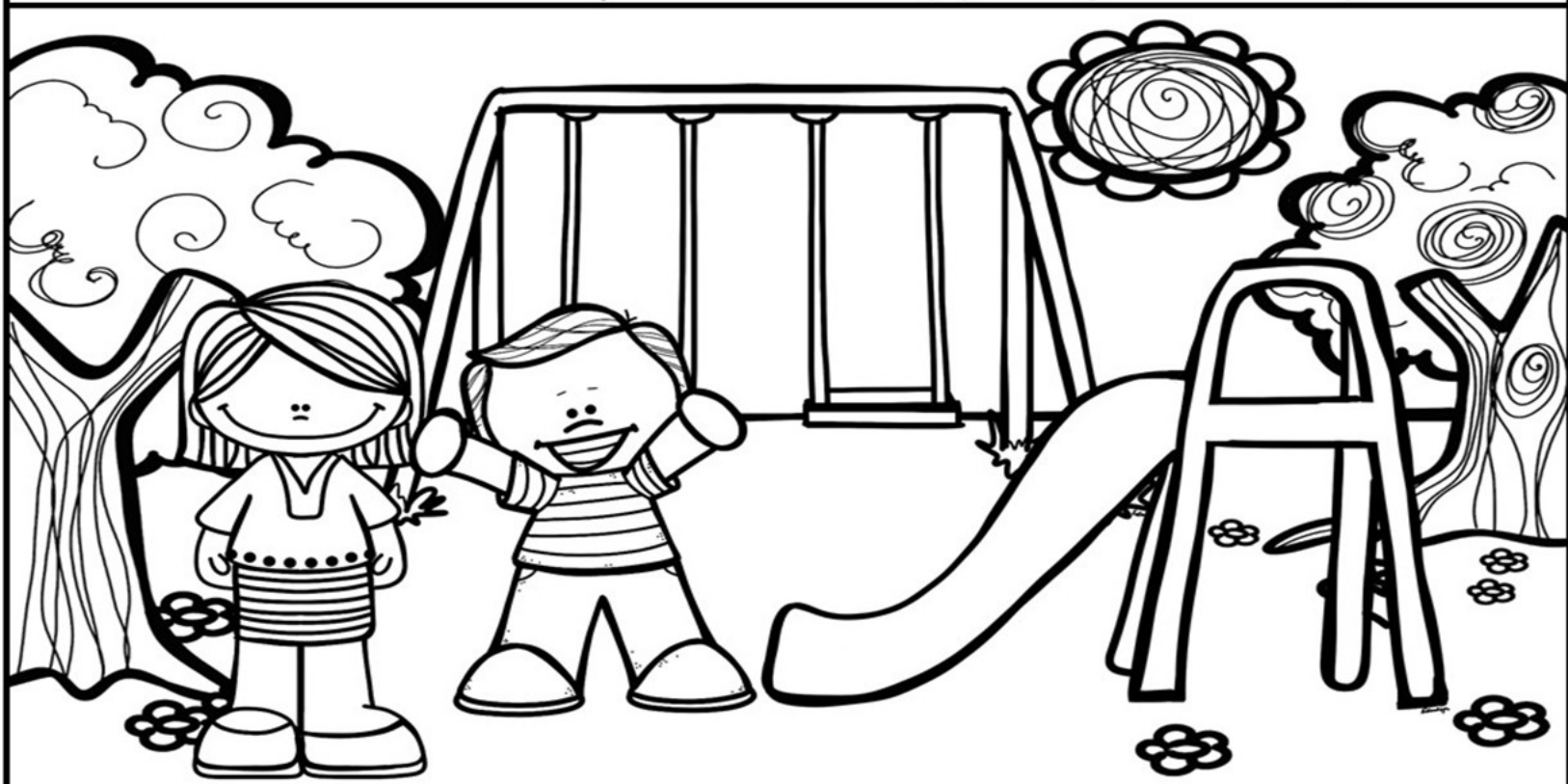


# Bryan Learns about Loss



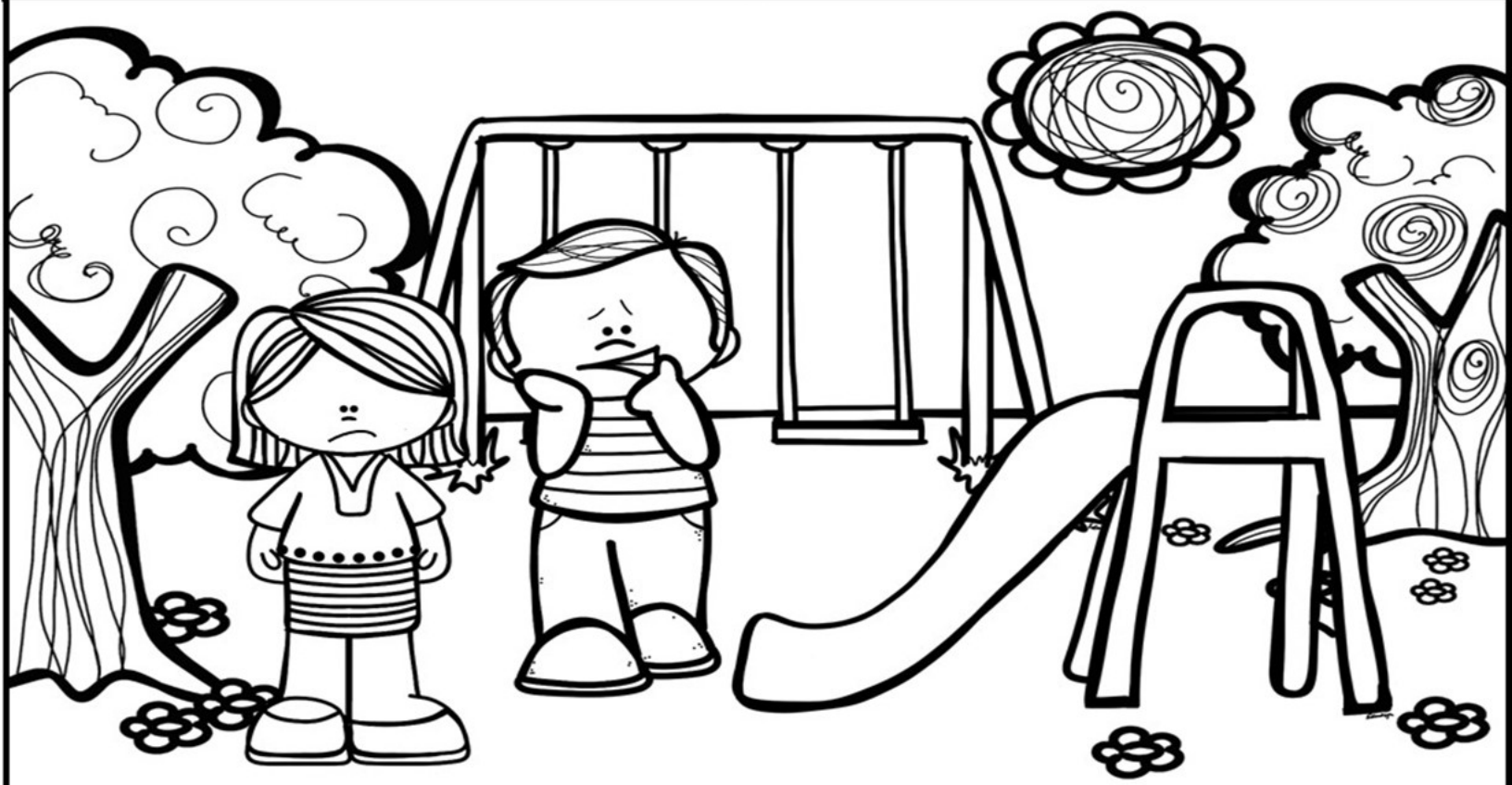
© Music City School Counselor

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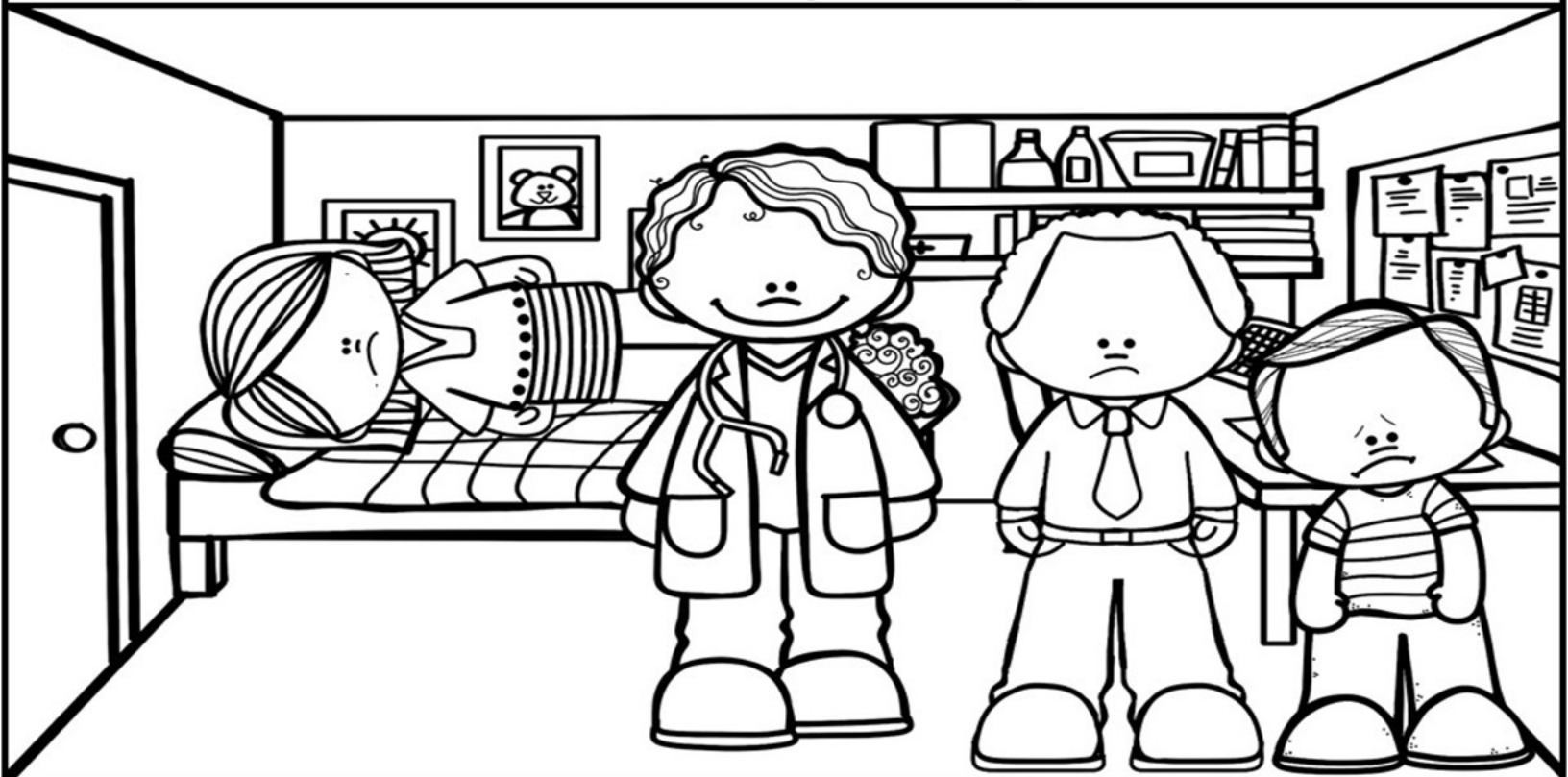




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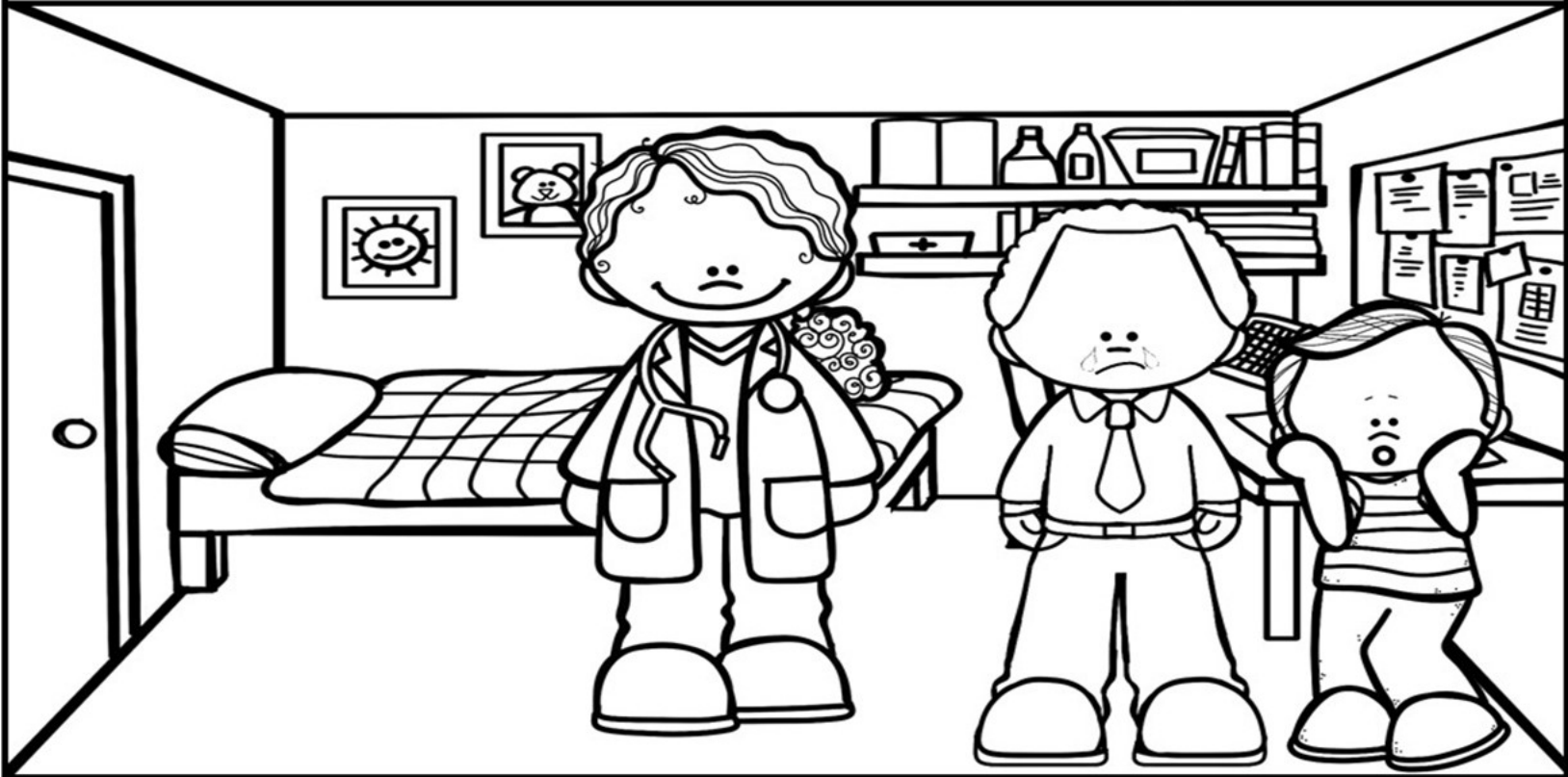


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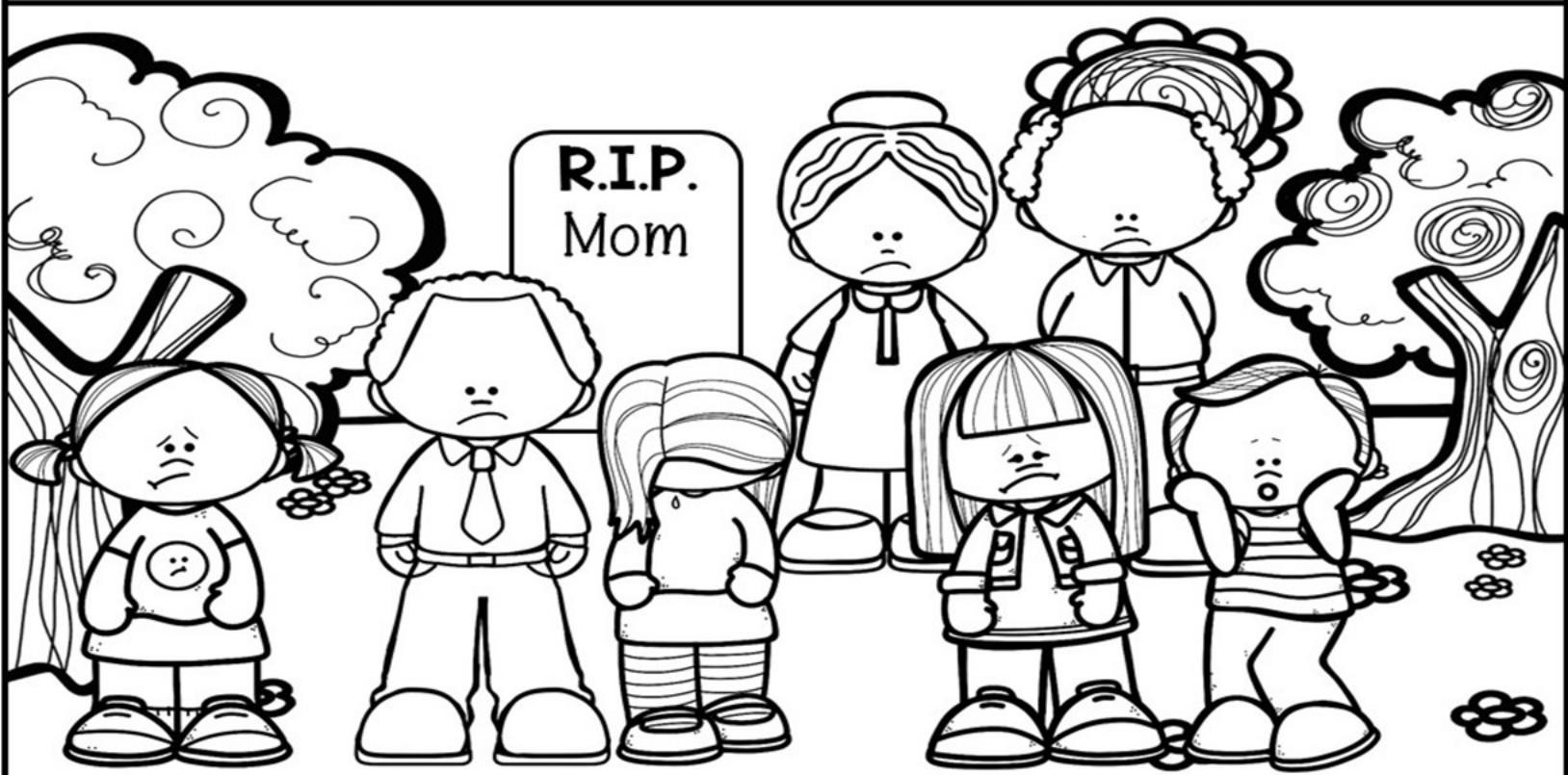




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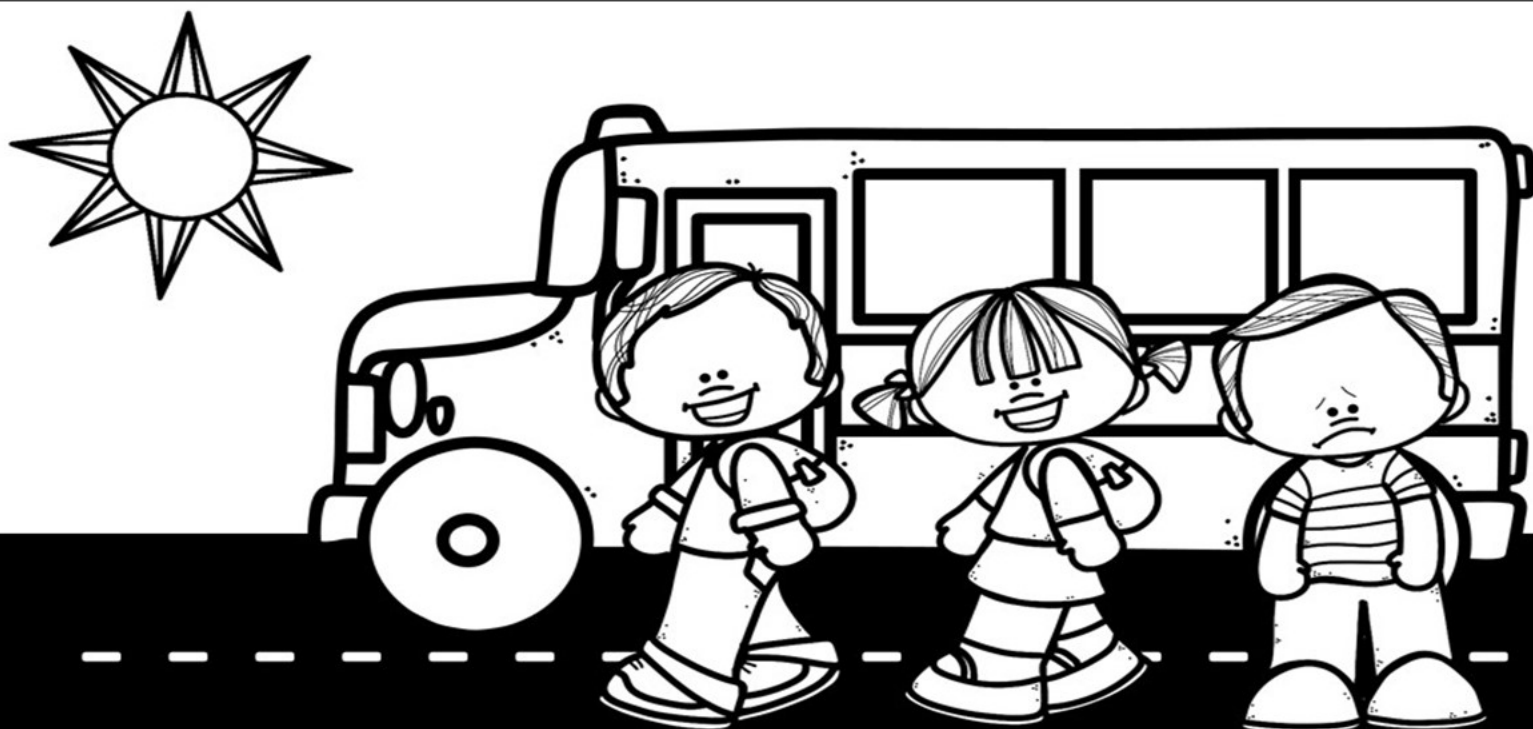


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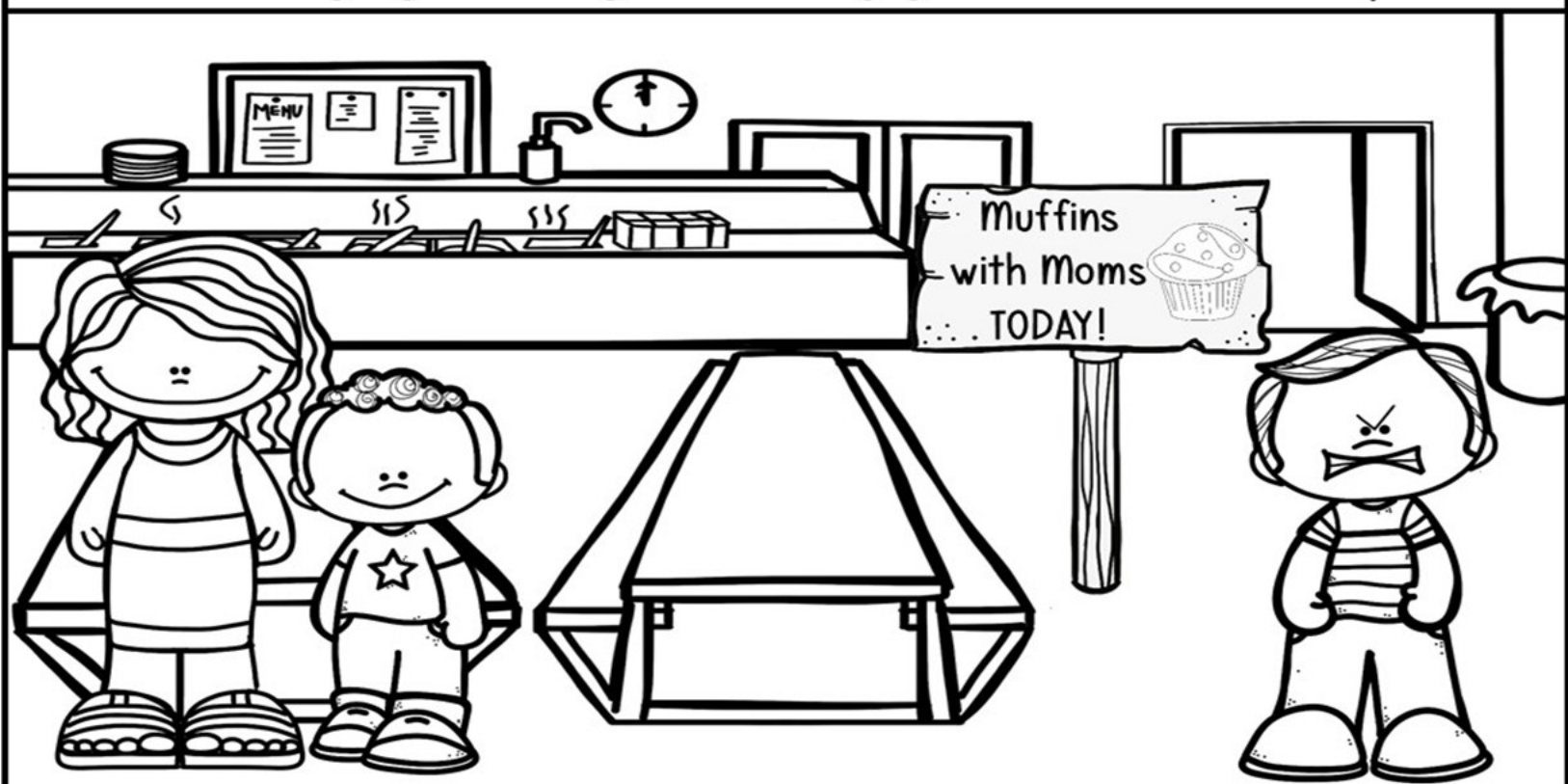




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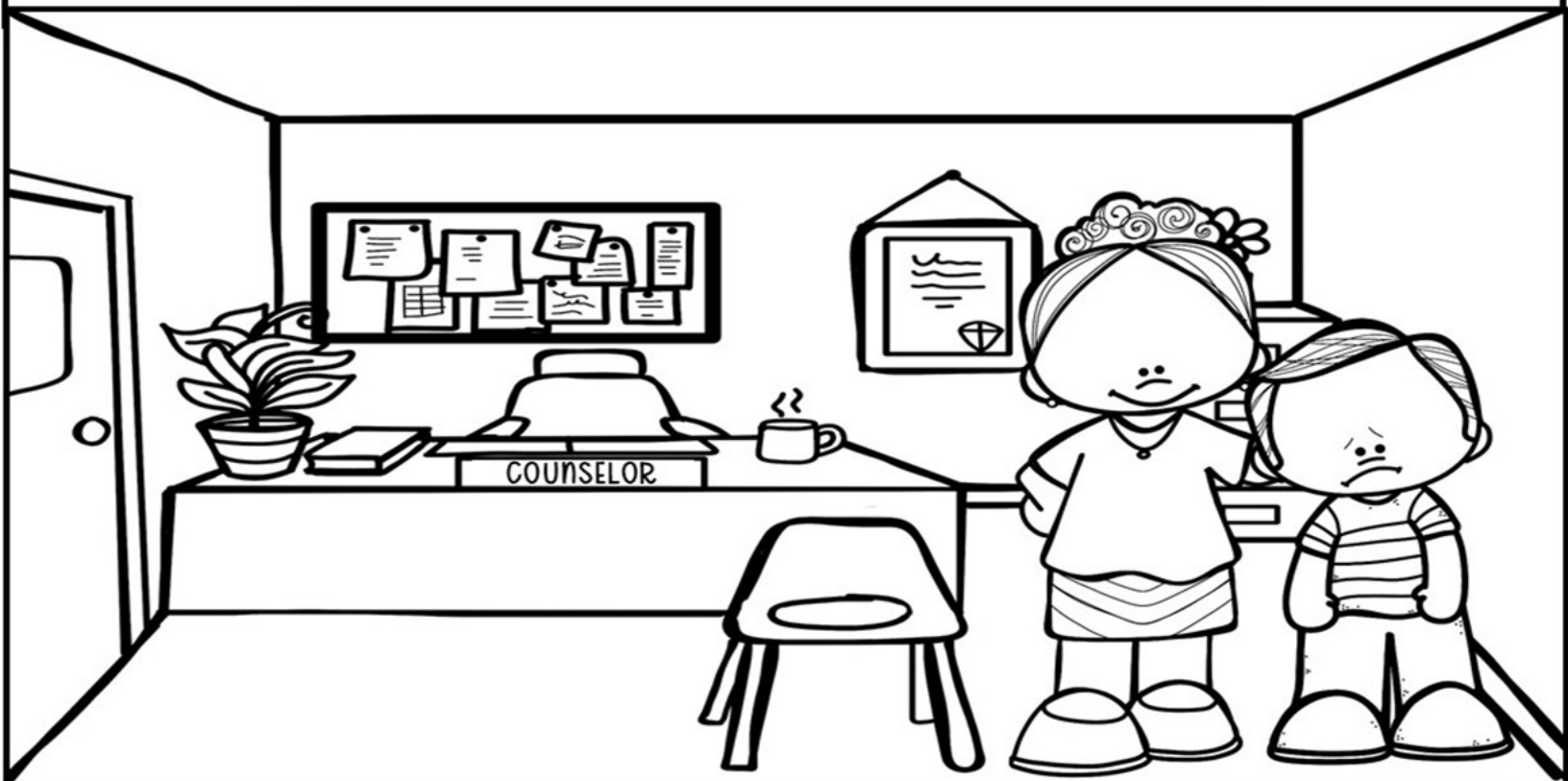


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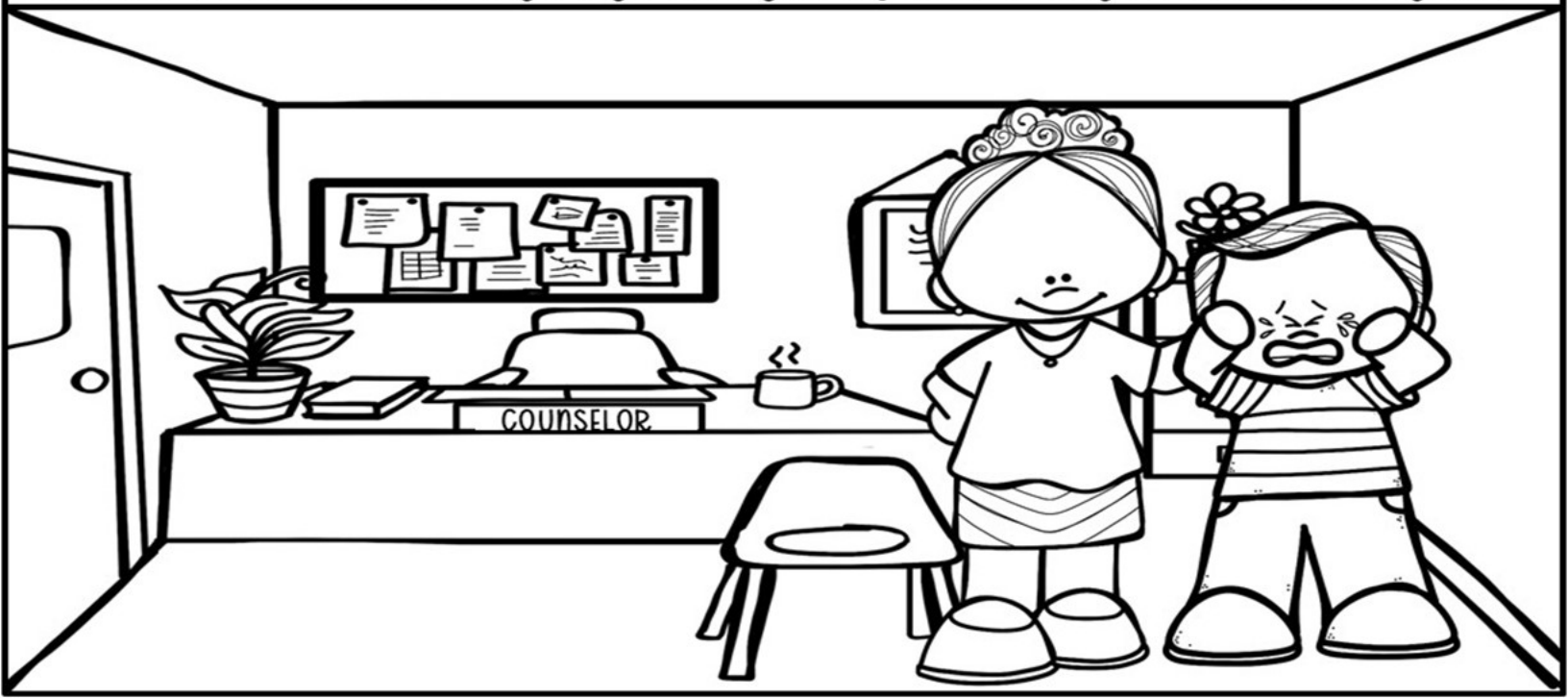




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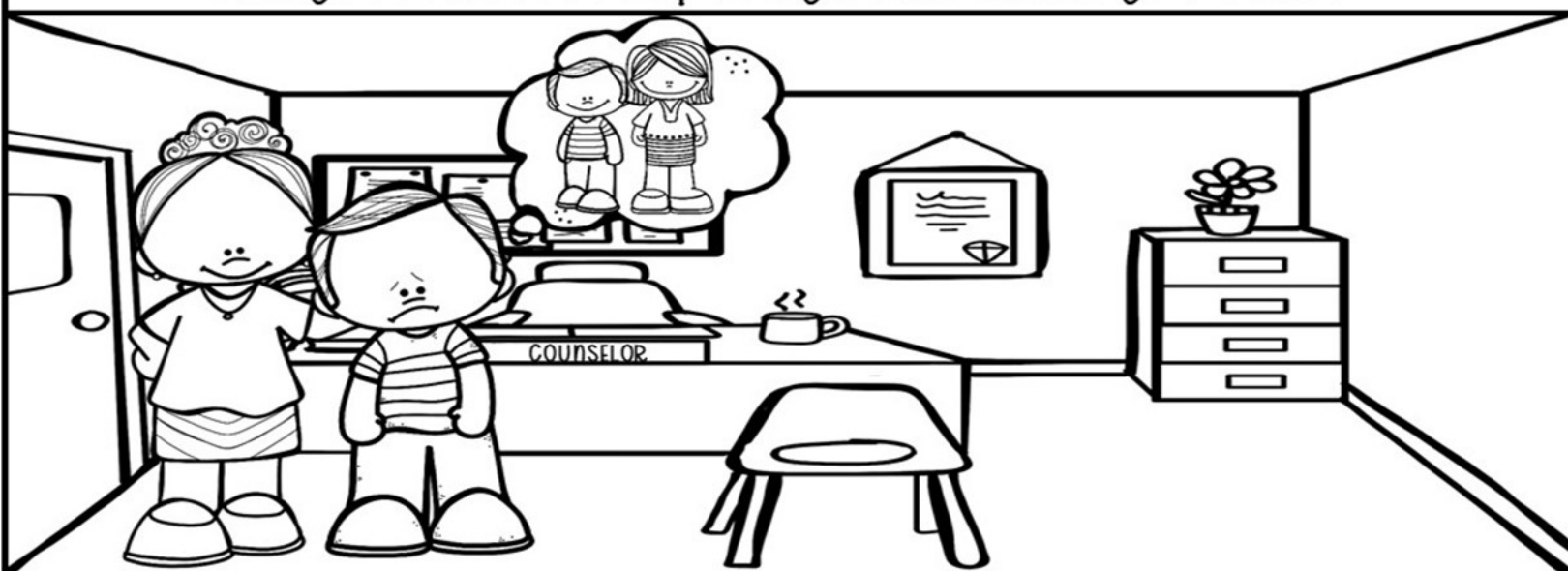


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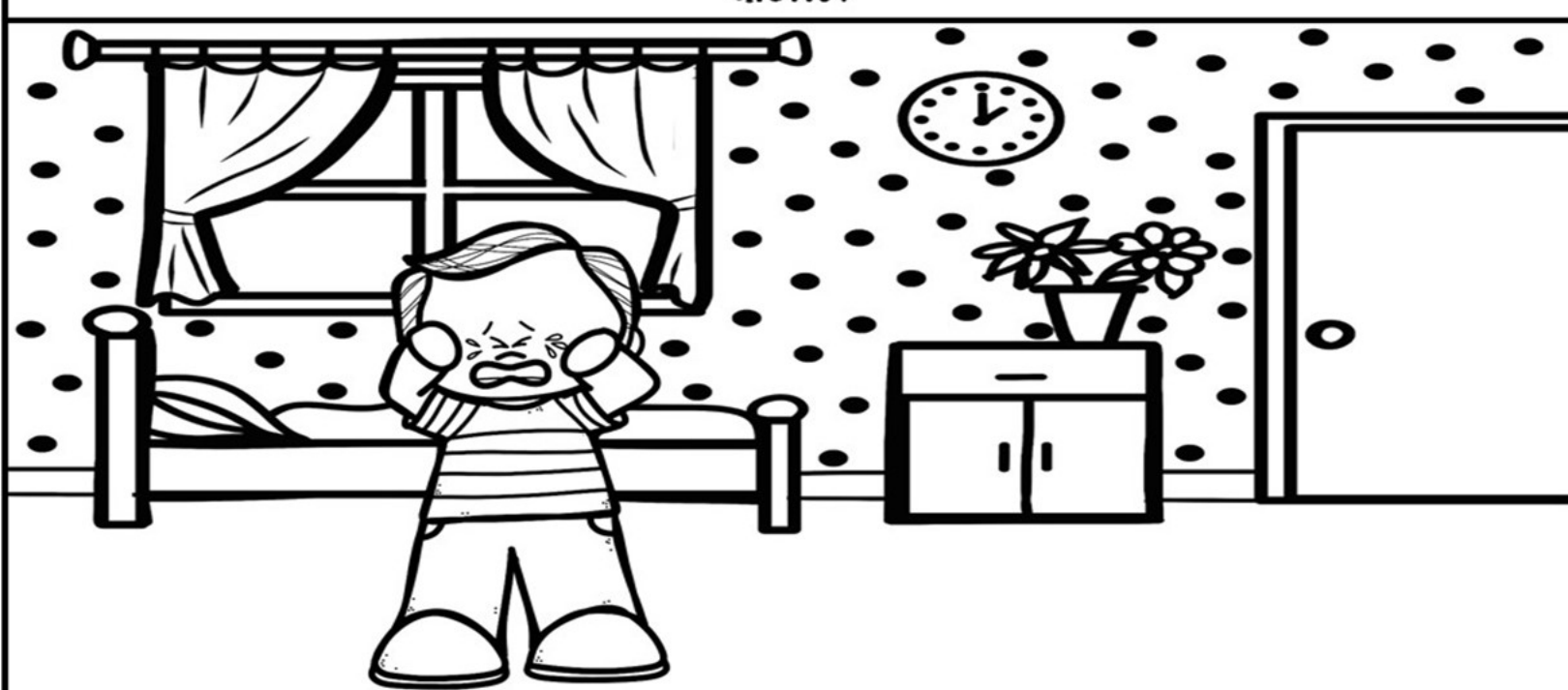




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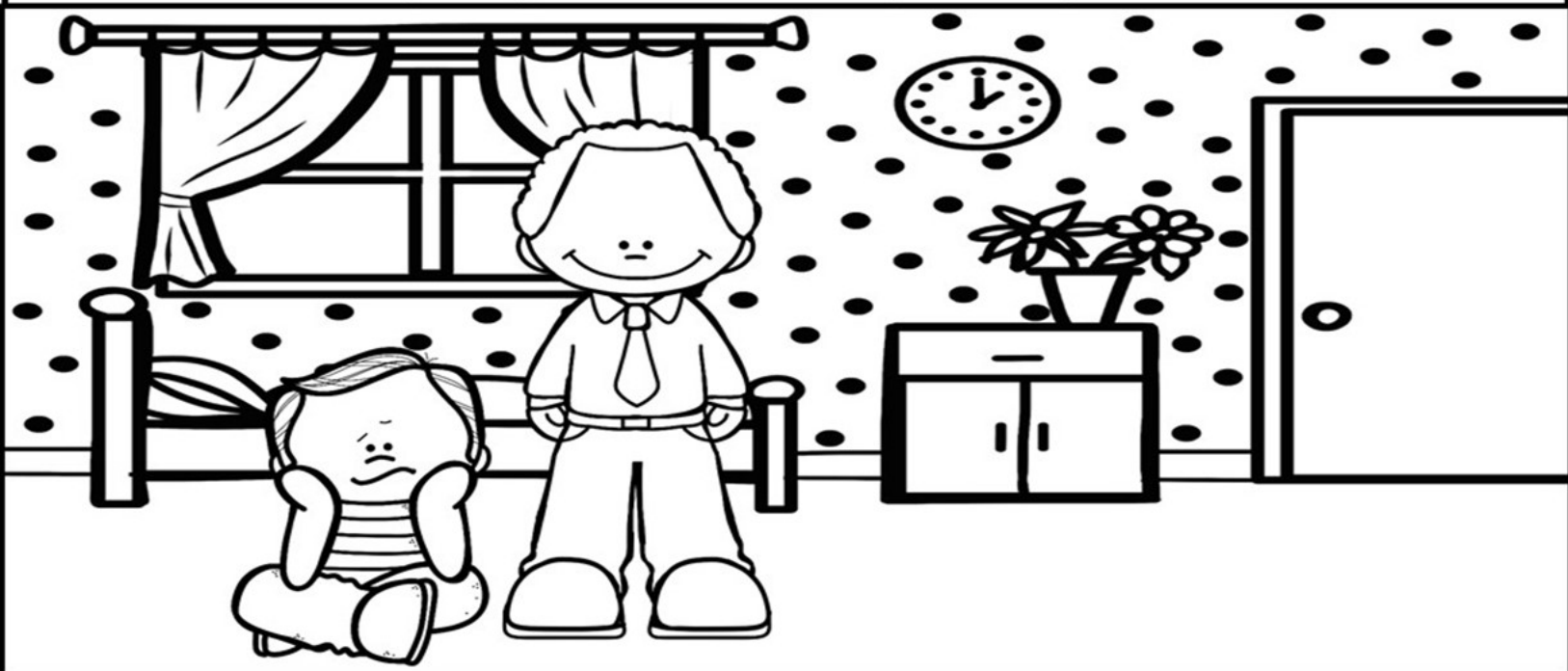


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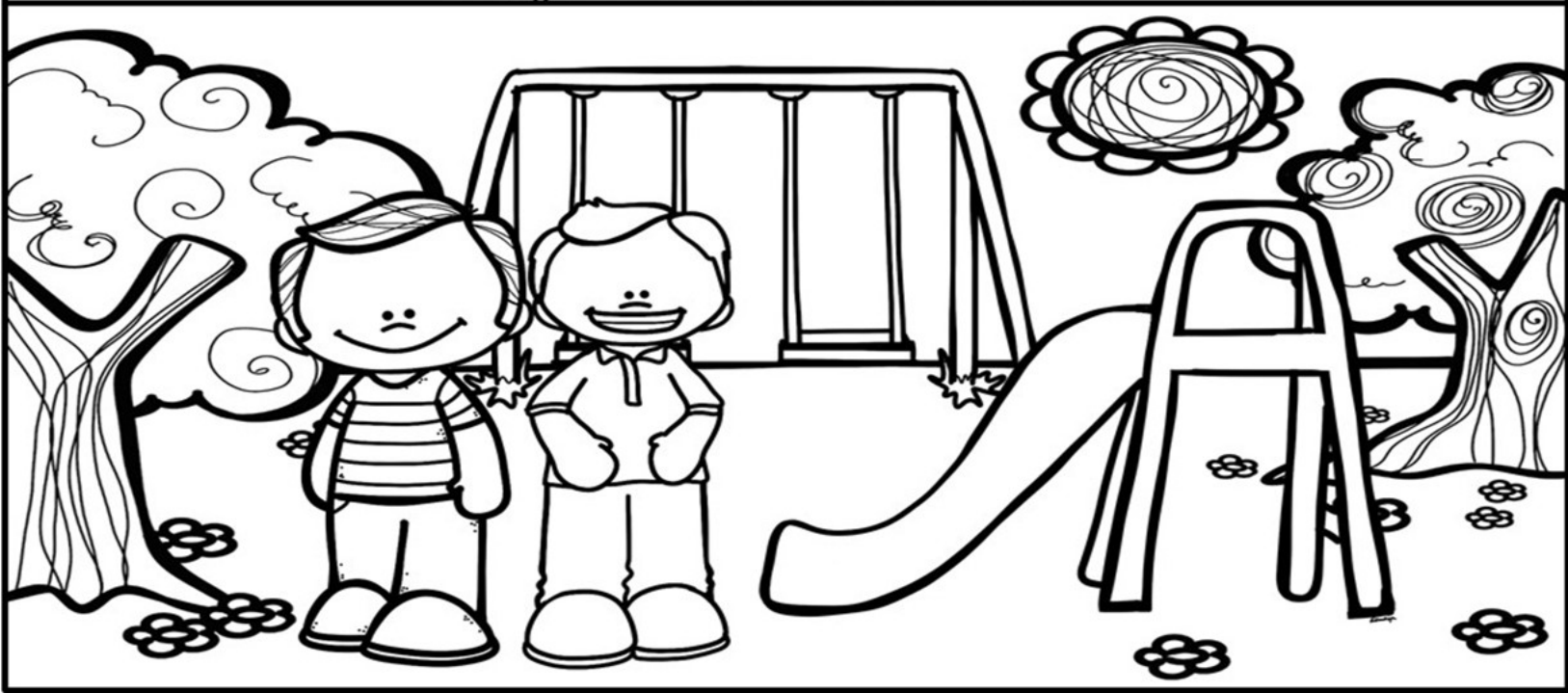




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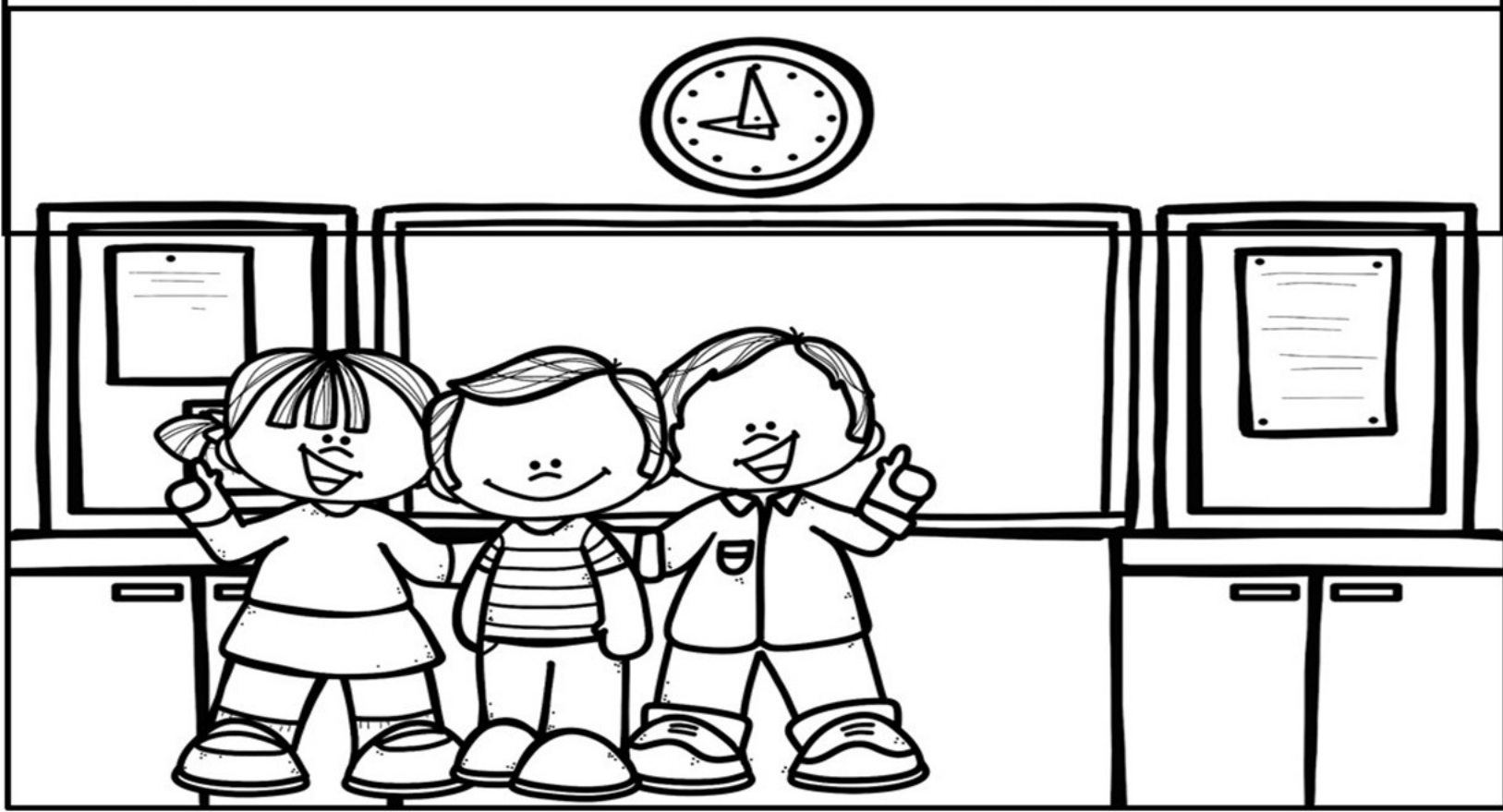


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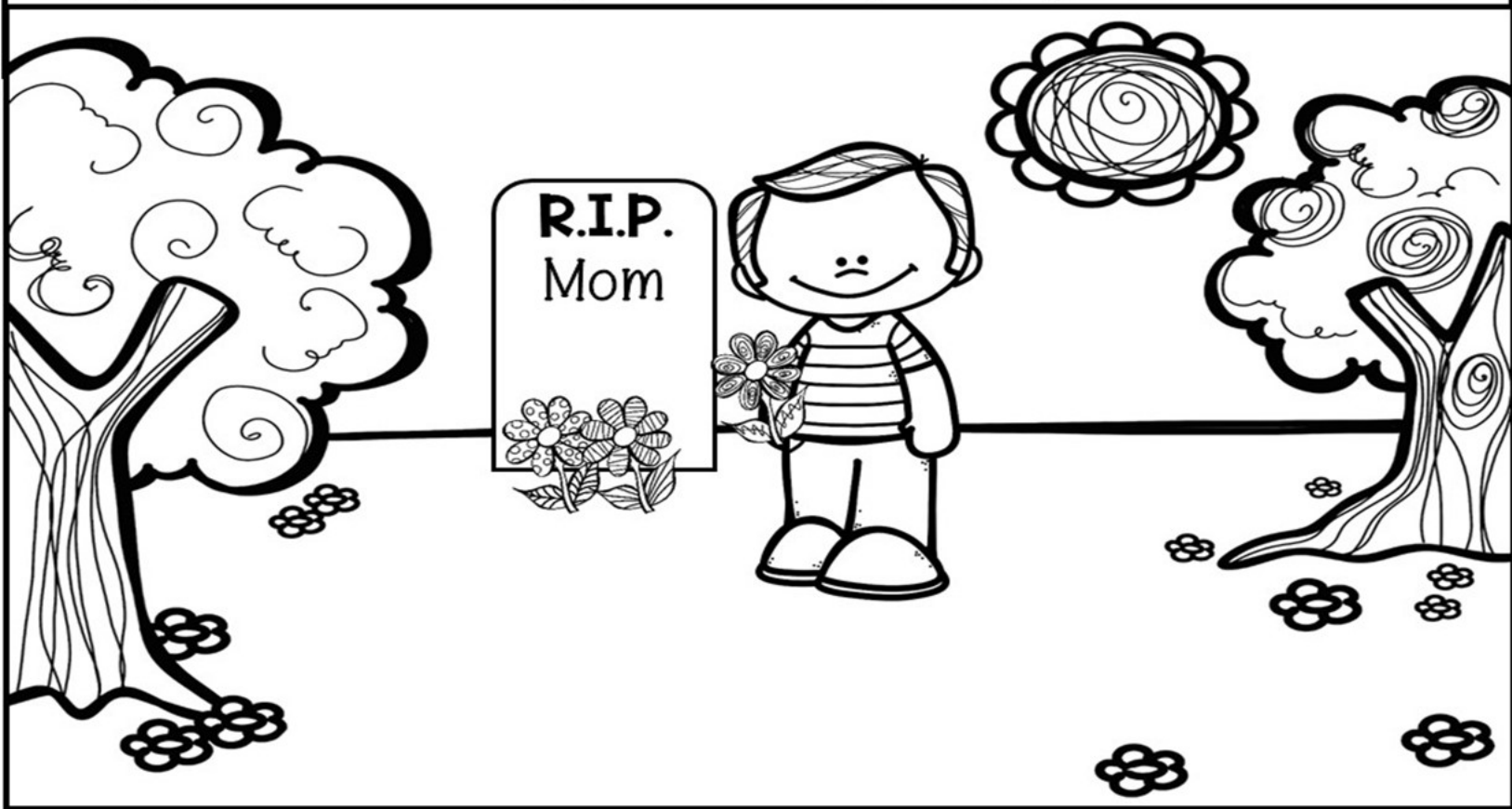




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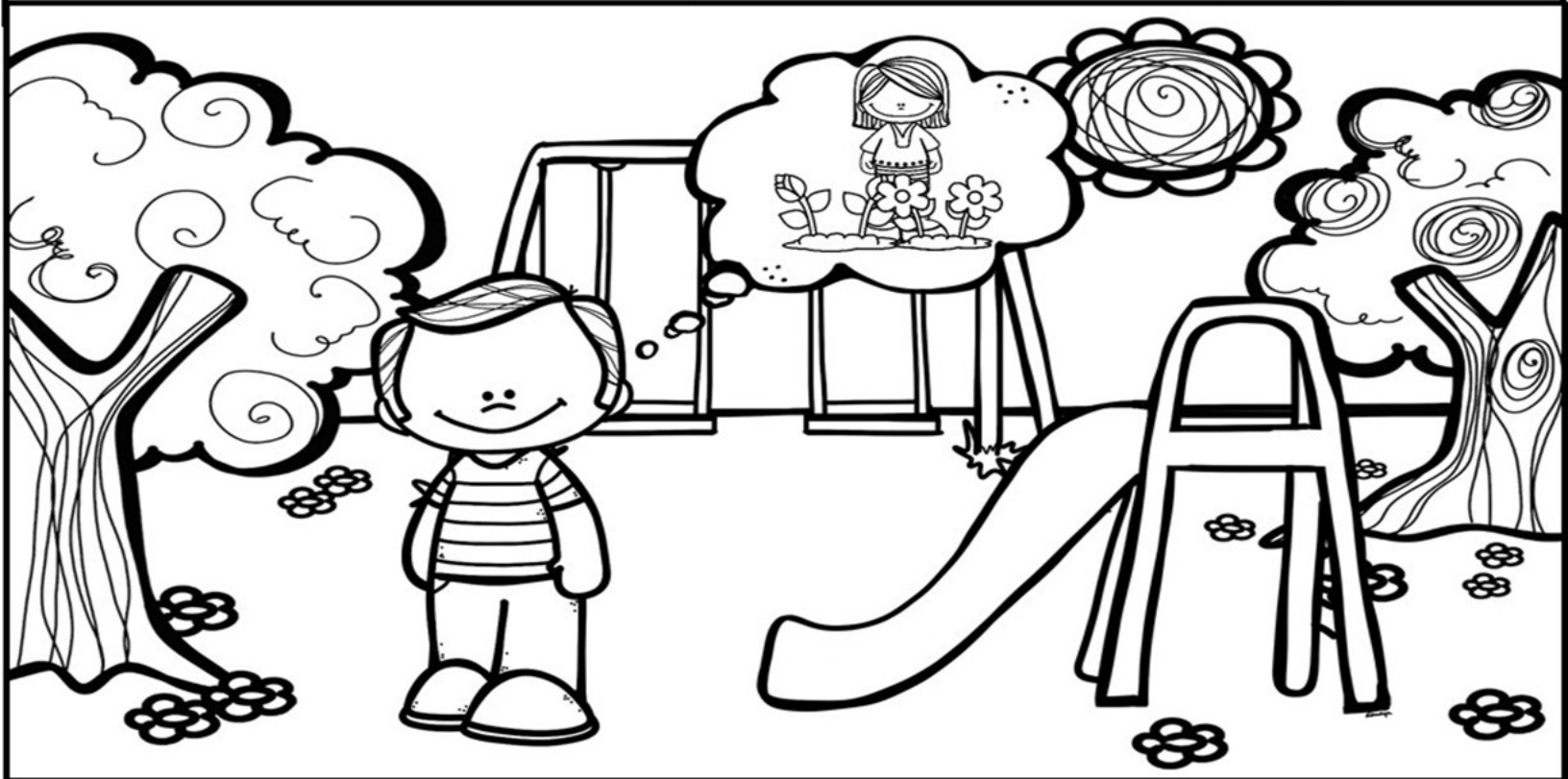


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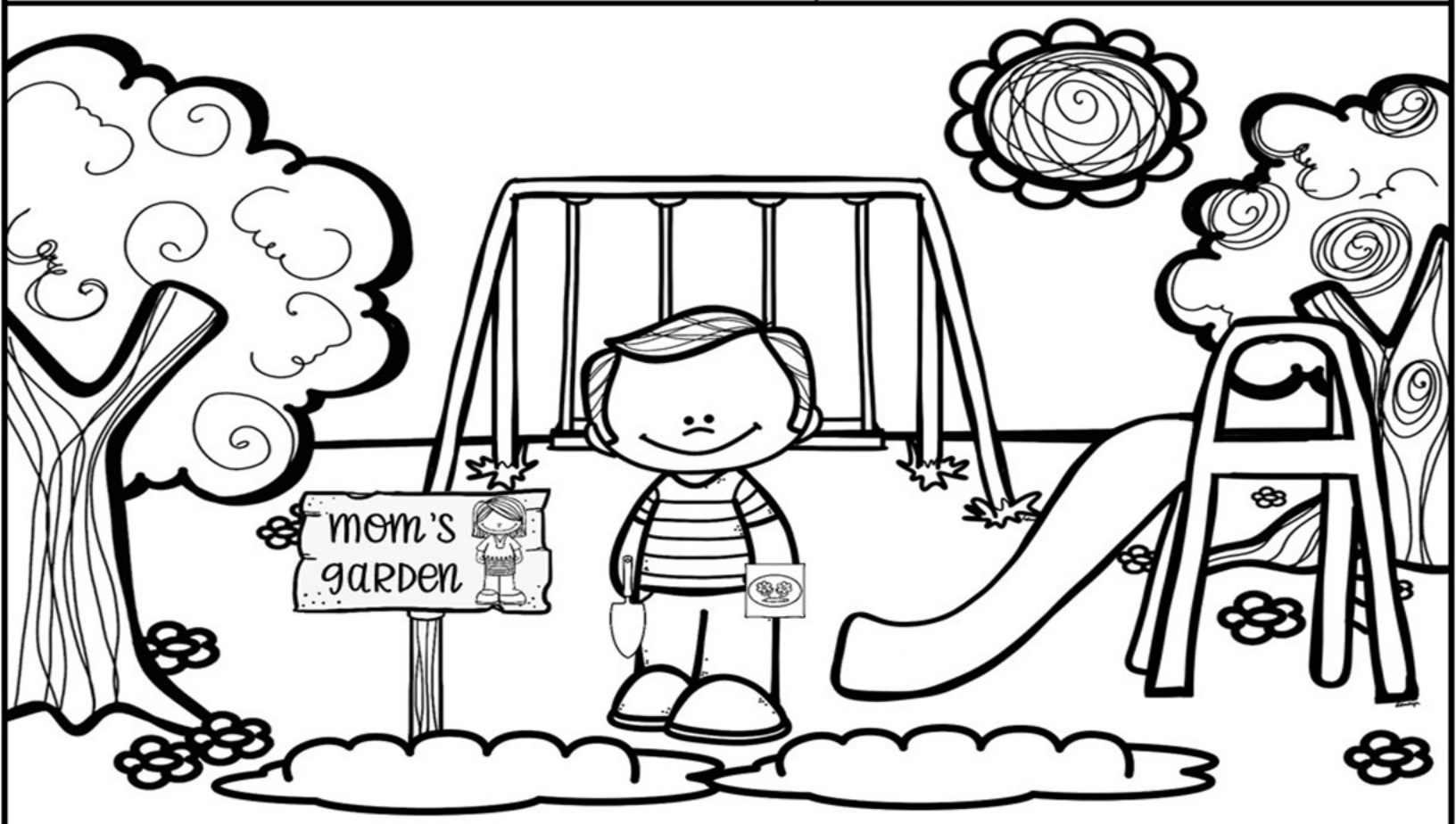




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