

**FULL COLOR  
HALF SHEET  
PRINTABLE  
STORY BOOK**

# Bryan Learns about Loss



Bryan and his dog Sparky were the very best of friends. They loved to go on long walks, play ball, and chase each other around the park. Bryan and Sparky were happiest when they were together.





One day when Bryan and Sparky went to the park together, Bryan noticed that Sparky didn't want to chase the ball or run around at all. Bryan knew something wasn't right with Sparky and felt really scared to see his dog not feeling well.

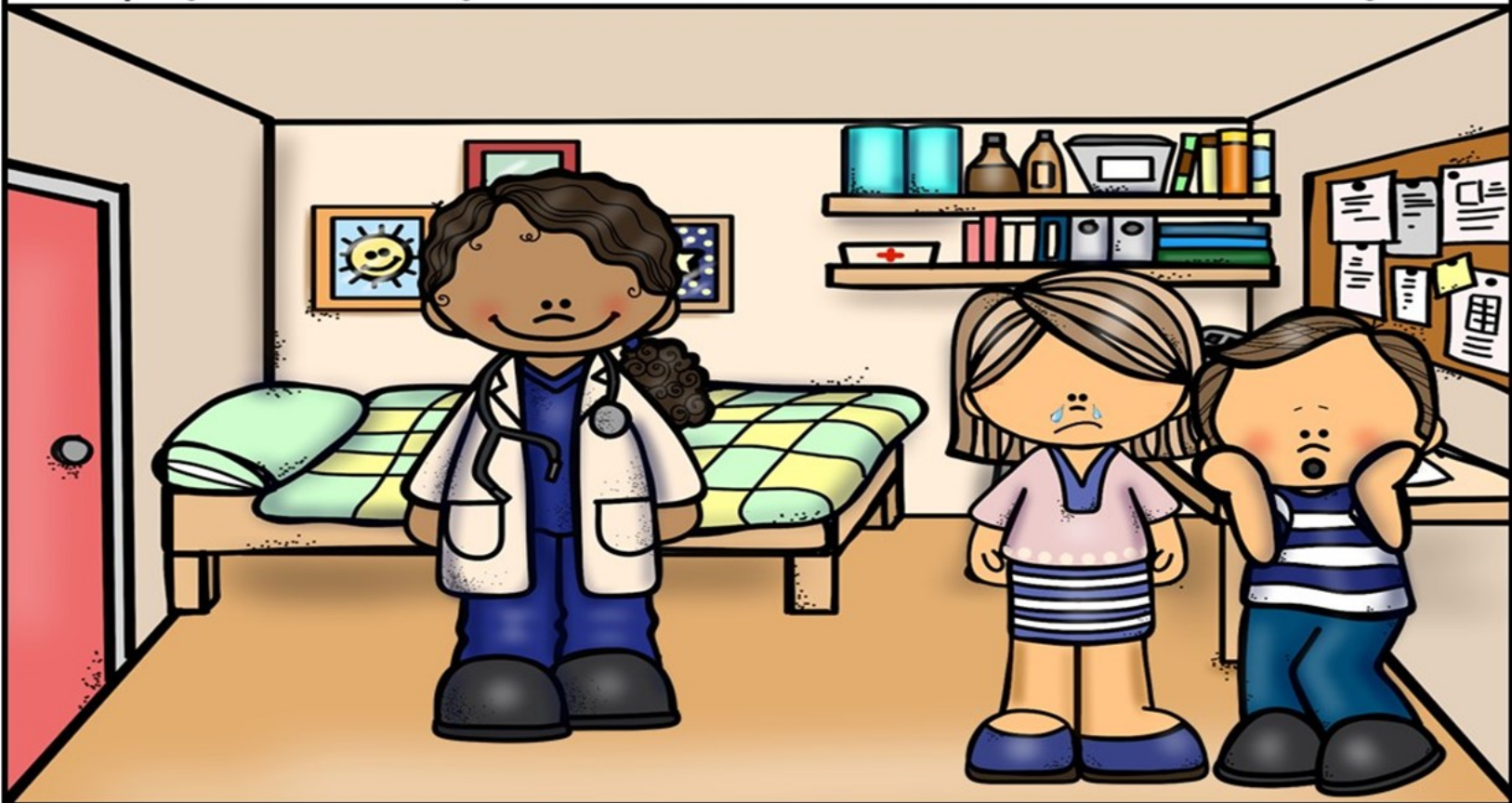


Bryan brought Sparky back home and his mom took him right to the veterinarian's office. The doctors tried and tried, but Sparky got sicker and sicker. Bryan stayed by Sparky's side all day and all night.





Bryan just couldn't believe his ears when the doctor said that Sparky had died. What would he do without his dog? Who would he go on walks with? Who would he play ball with? Bryan knew that his life would never be the same again.



Bryan and his mom brought Sparky home from the vet and buried him in the backyard. Bryan's mom invited his family and friends to come by Sparky's grave to sing songs and share stories of their favorite memories with Sparky. Bryan was too shocked to sing or to even speak. He just couldn't believe this was really happening.





During the next few days, Bryan just couldn't get Sparky off of his mind. Every morning he would wake up and think Sparky was sleeping at the foot of his bed, like he always did. Then he would suddenly remember that Sparky was gone. Bryan's mom always brought Sparky to the bus stop to wait with Bryan, but now Bryan had to go alone. He just couldn't understand why his dog wasn't with him anymore.



One day at recess, Hannah and Charlie were talking about their dogs and sharing funny stories about them. Bryan wondered, "Why do they still have their dogs to play with but I'm all alone? This is NOT fair! Sparky, 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 Sparky home sooner? Or what if we hadn't played so hard together the day before? Would he still be alive? Is this my fault?"



Mrs. Rogers said, "Bryan, I'm so sorry you are so hurt. But, it's important for you to understand that you did everything you could to save Sparky. 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 Sparky back in my life."





Mrs. Rogers calmly shared, "If there was something I could do to bring Sparky 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 helpful! 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 Sparky?"



Bryan understood what Mrs. Rogers said. He promised her he would think about a special way to honor Sparky 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 mom heard him crying and came in to talk to him. She told Bryan that she missed Sparky too and wished there was something she could do to help him feel better. Bryan's mom asked if she could ask his friend, Kaleb, to come over. Maybe he'd like to go on a walk 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.

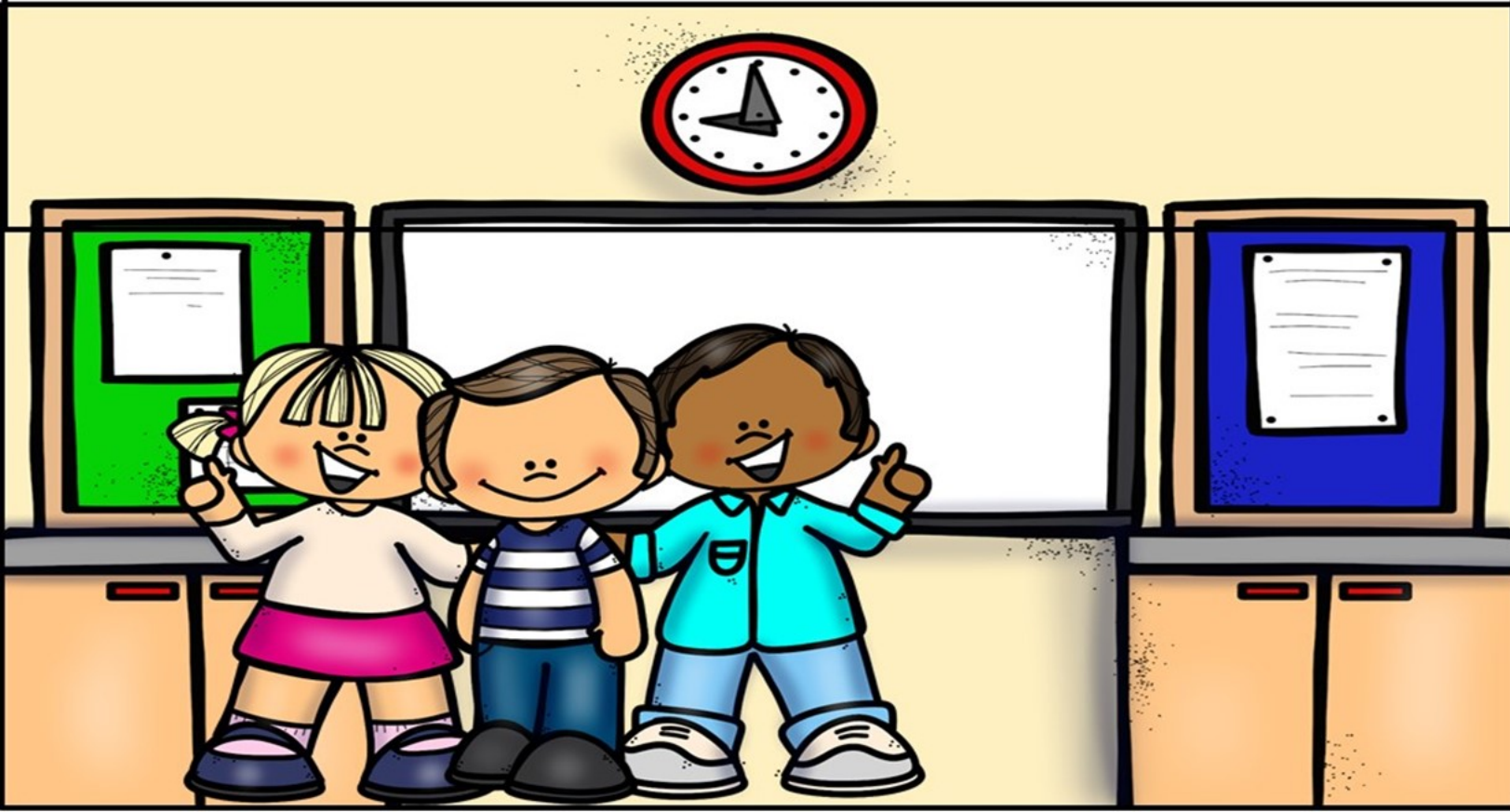


Bryan and Kaleb walked to the park together. Bryan felt sad walking to the park without his furry best friend. As they walked, the boys shared special memories and funny stories with Sparky. Kaleb said that he didn't have a pet and that Bryan was lucky to know what it feels like to have a true best friend. Bryan felt really thankful 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 Sparky with anyone who would listen.



Bryan also liked visiting Sparky's grave whenever he could. He always brought dog bones and told Sparky stories about what was happening at school and in his adventures at the park. It comforted Bryan to have this peaceful quiet time with his dog.





One day, Bryan walked to the park and as soon as he arrived, he had an amazing idea! What if he built a special dog house at their favorite park in honor of Sparky? That way other dogs who came to the park could enjoy the house and Sparky's spirit could live on at their special place!

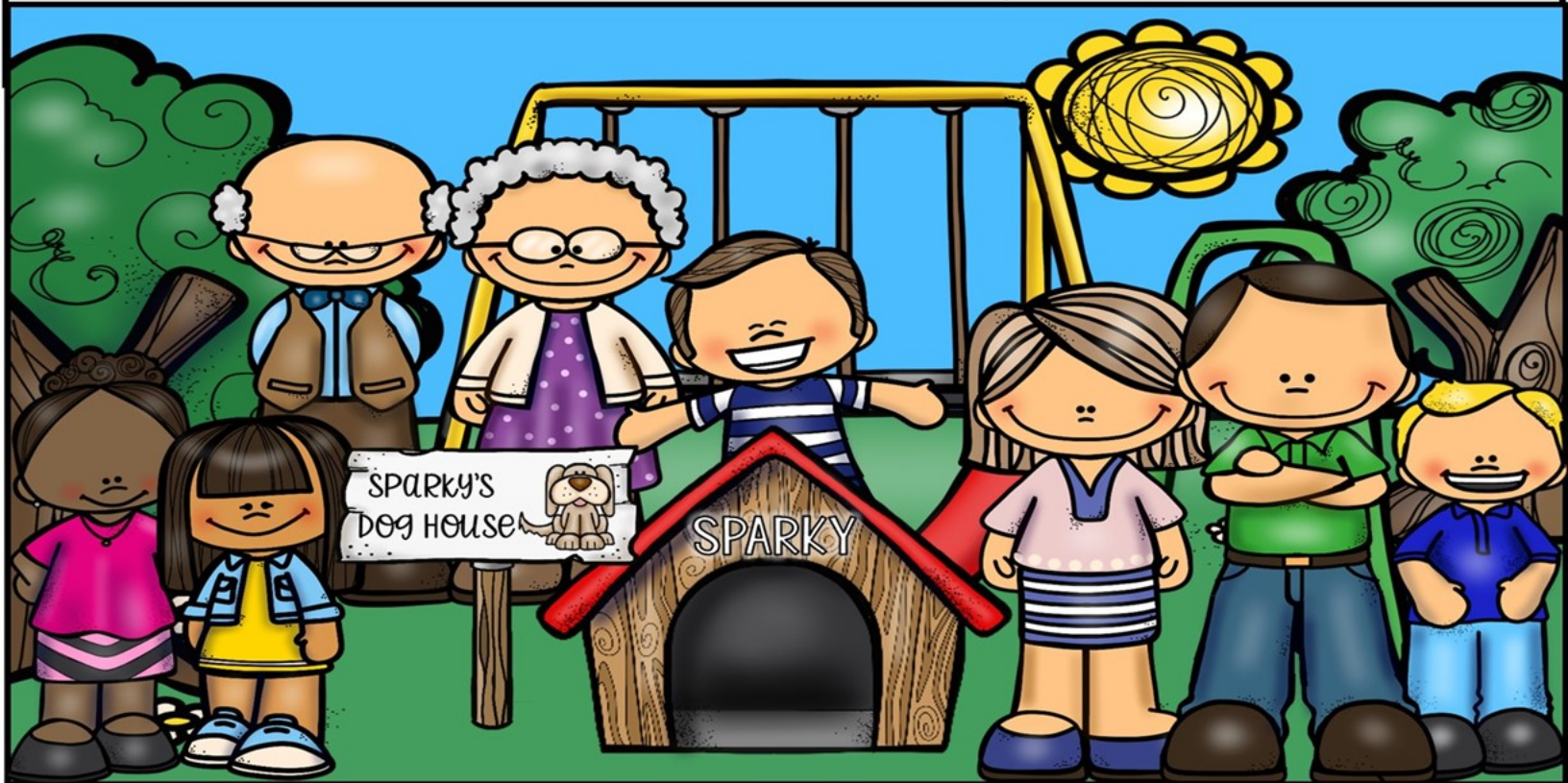


Each day after school Bryan and his dad got to work on Sparky's Dog House. They had so much fun building this special project together! They even made a sign so everyone would know that the house was built in honor of Sparky.

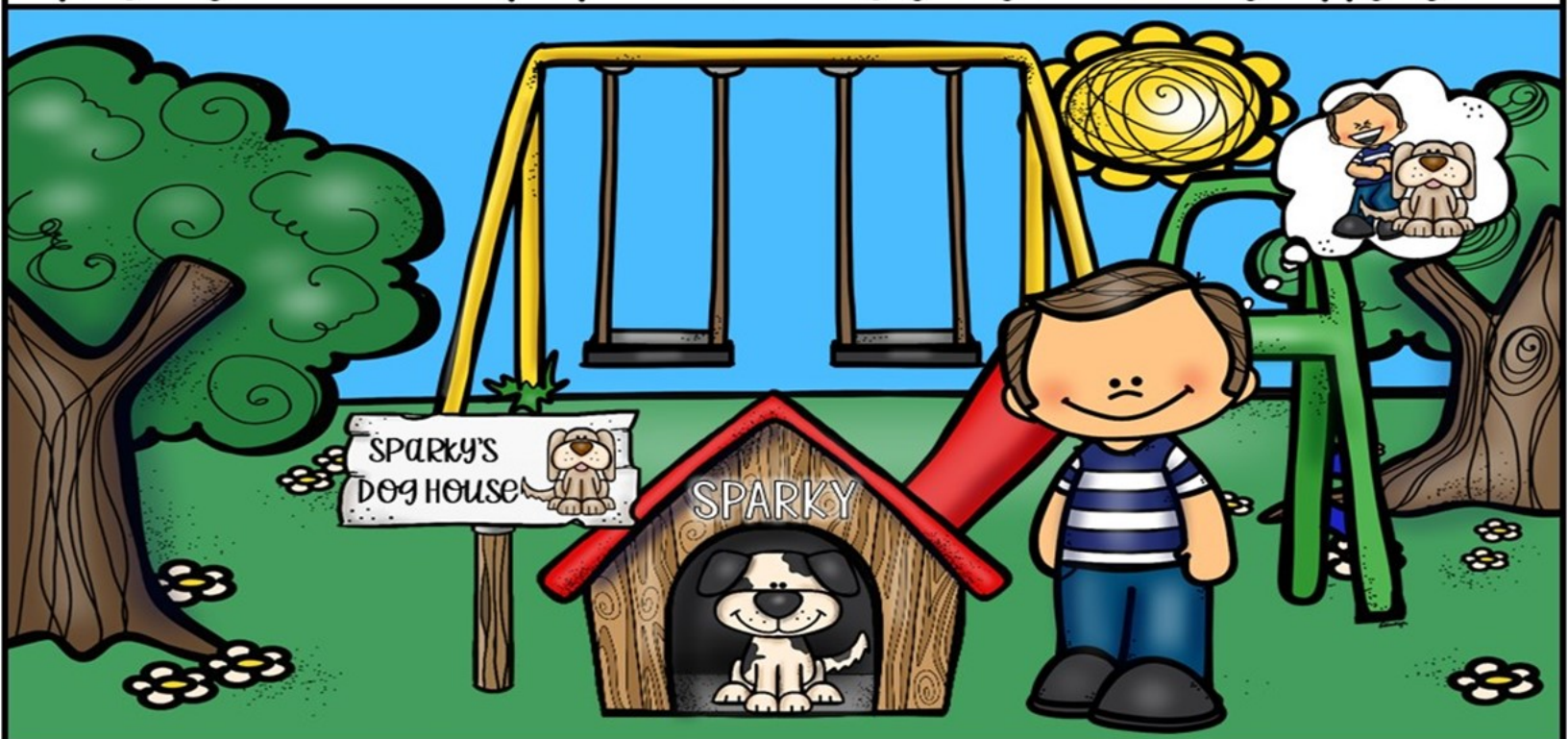




As soon as Sparky's Dog House was finished, Bryan invited Mrs. Rogers and all of his friends and family to visit. Everyone was so proud of Bryan's hard work and loved sharing special stories and memories about Sparky at his favorite park. Bryan knew he had really created something special to honor his dog!



Bryan still missed Sparky and still wished they could play together. He would give anything for just one more day with him! But, whenever Bryan walked to the park he felt so happy and proud to see Sparky's Dog House. Sometimes he saw other dogs enjoying the house which made Bryan feel extra proud! The dog house project gave him a new purpose and a new joy. Bryan was finally happy again.





**BLACK & WHITE**

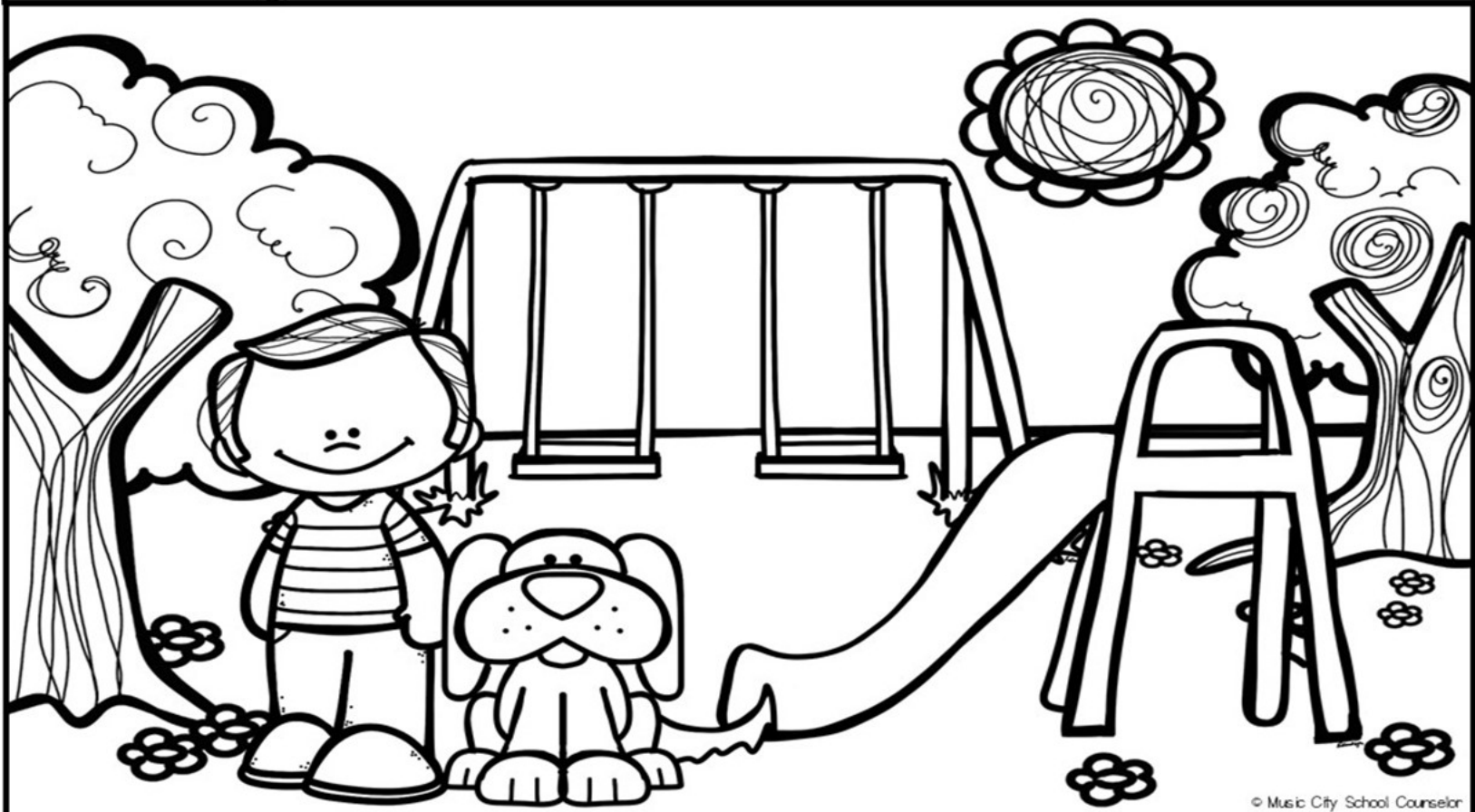
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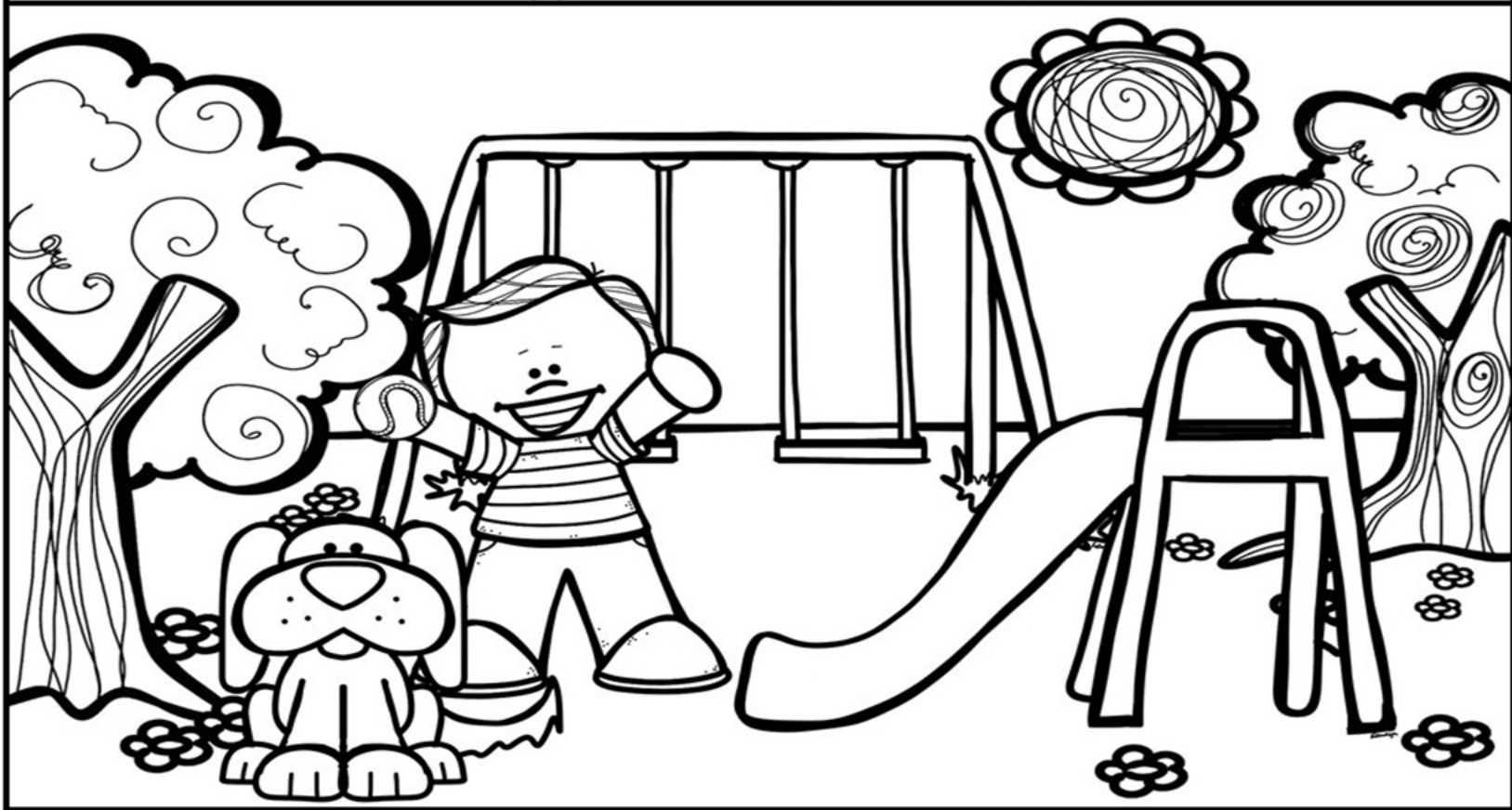


# Bryan Learns about Loss



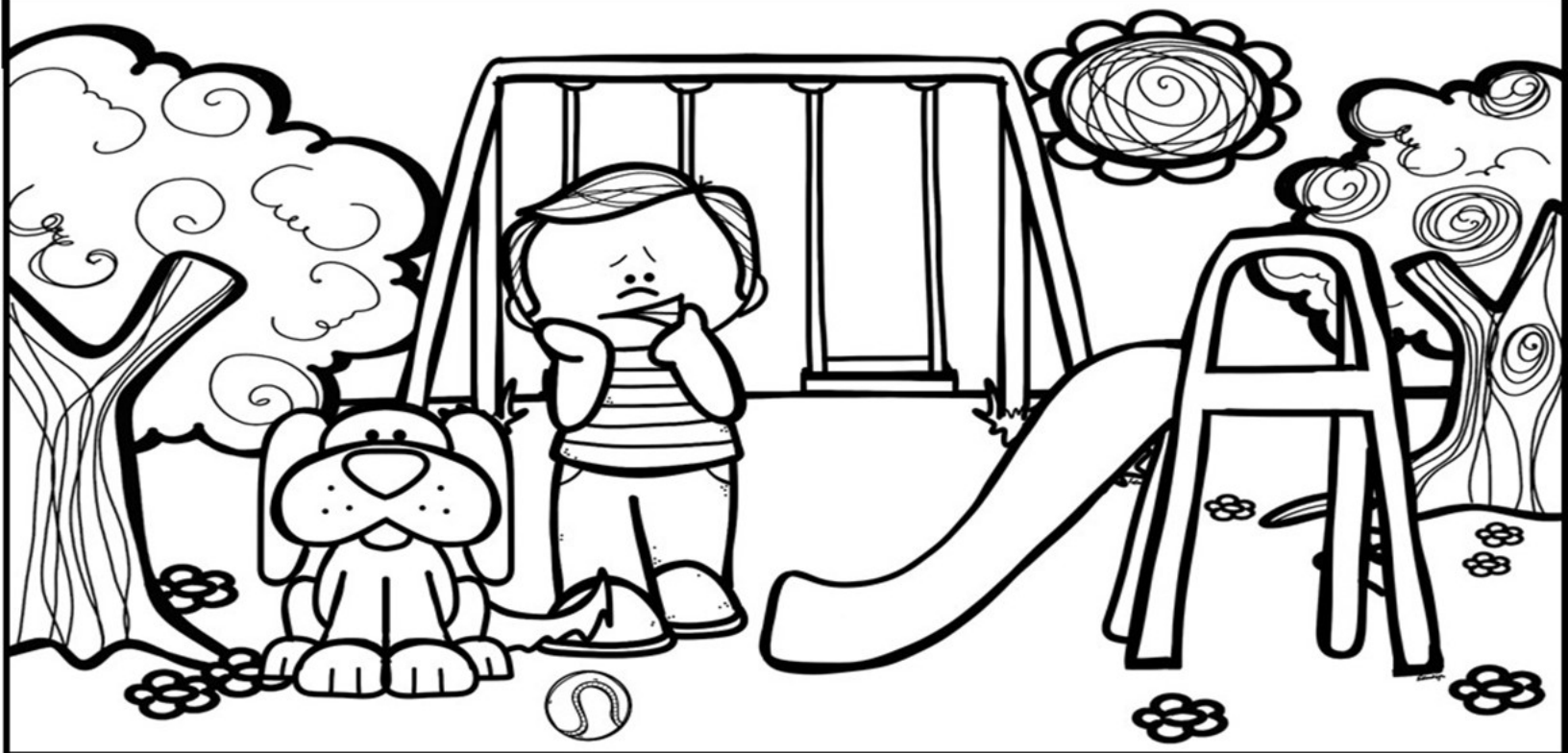
© Music City School Counselor

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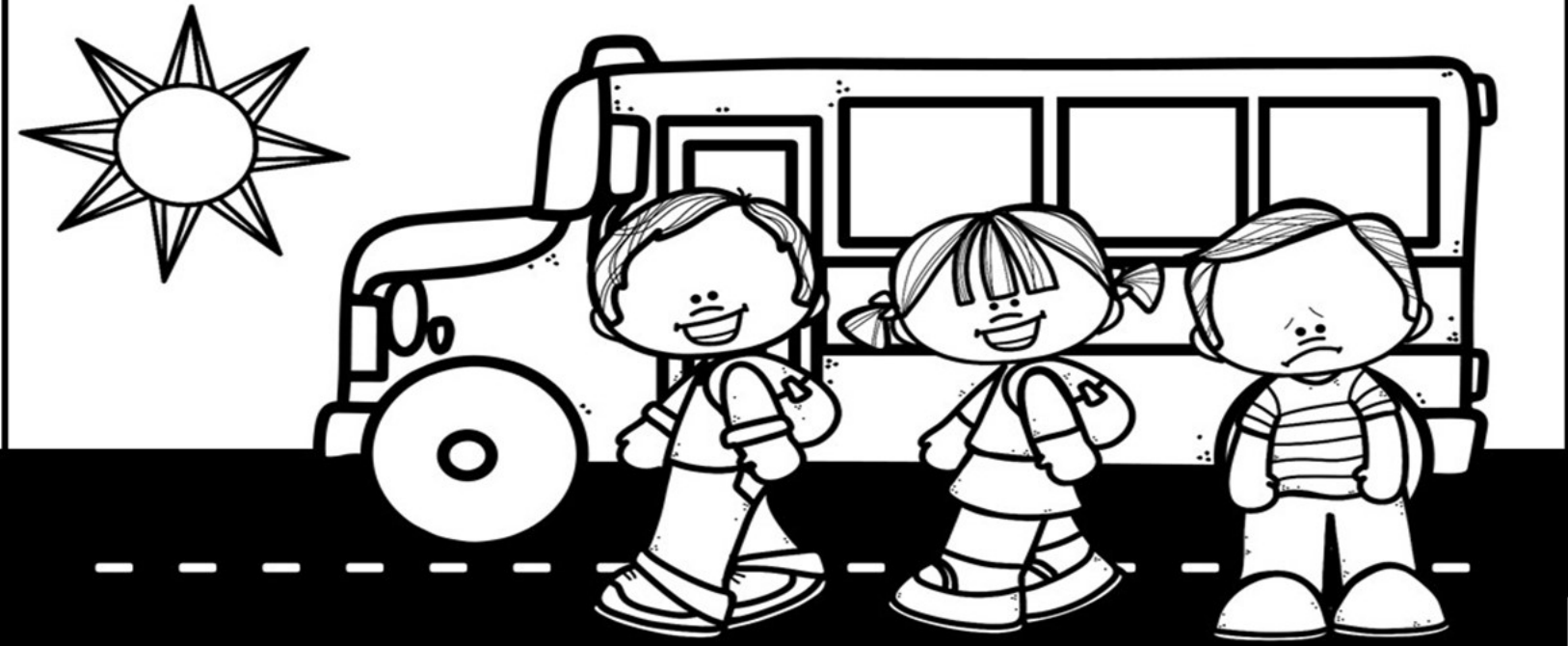


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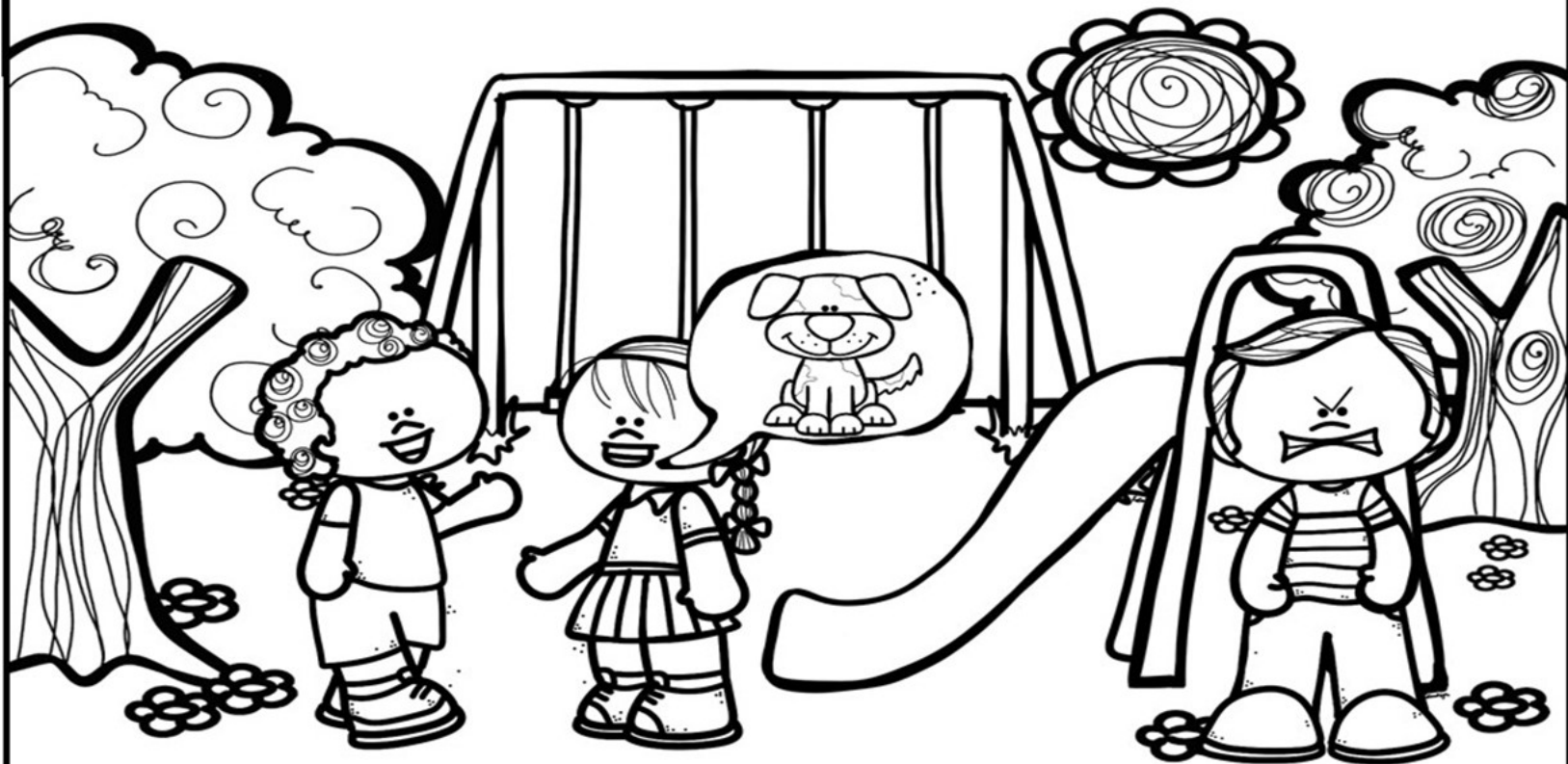




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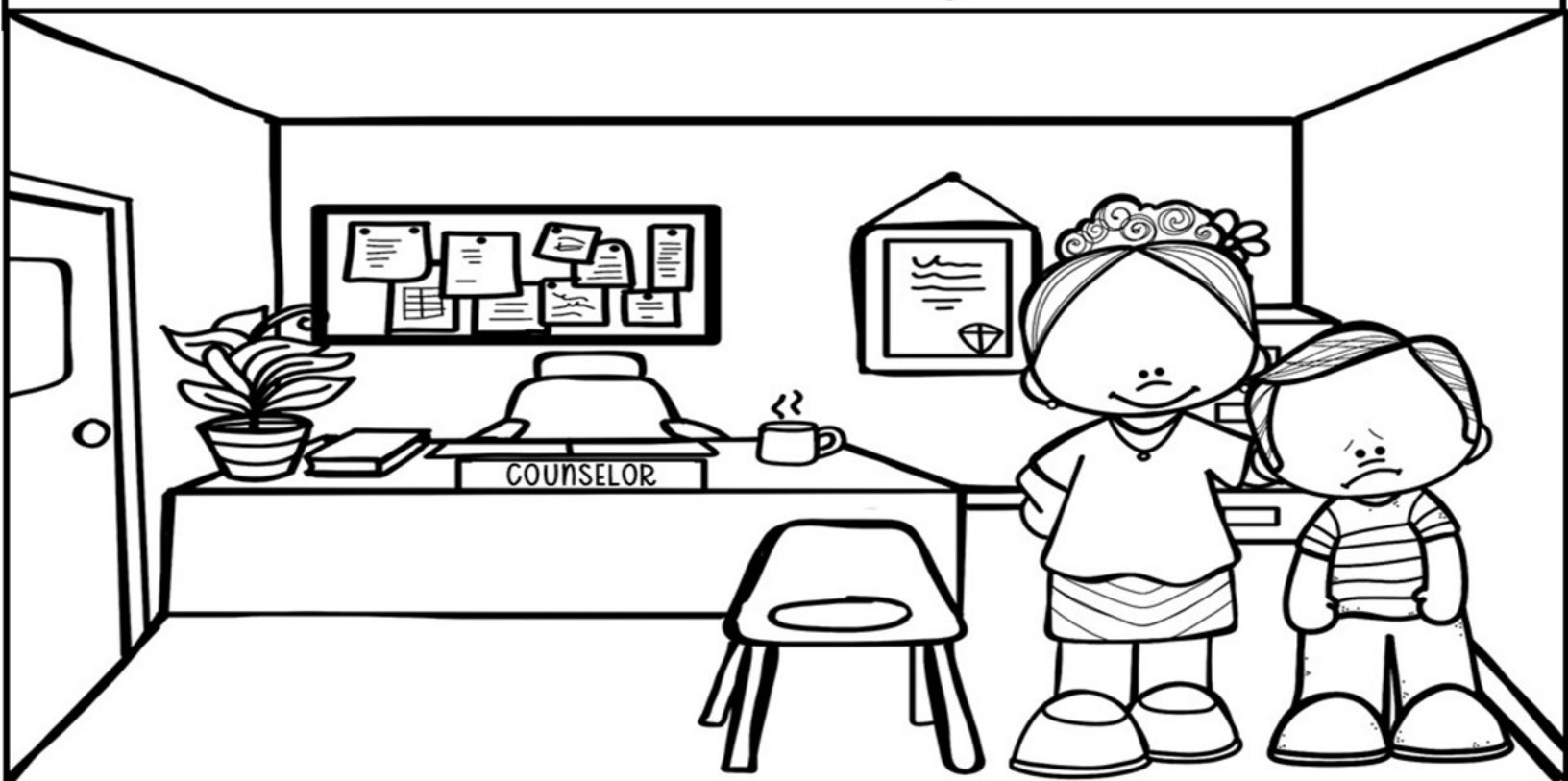


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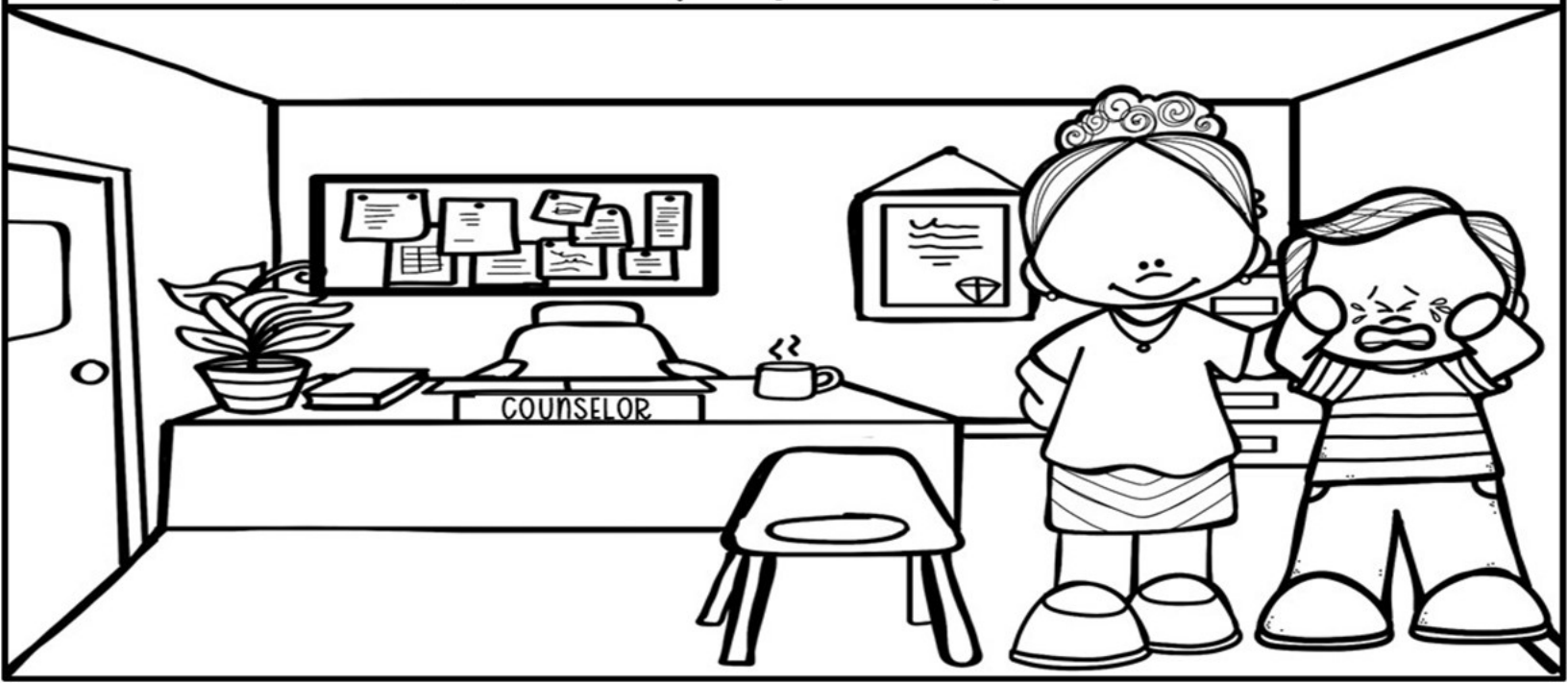




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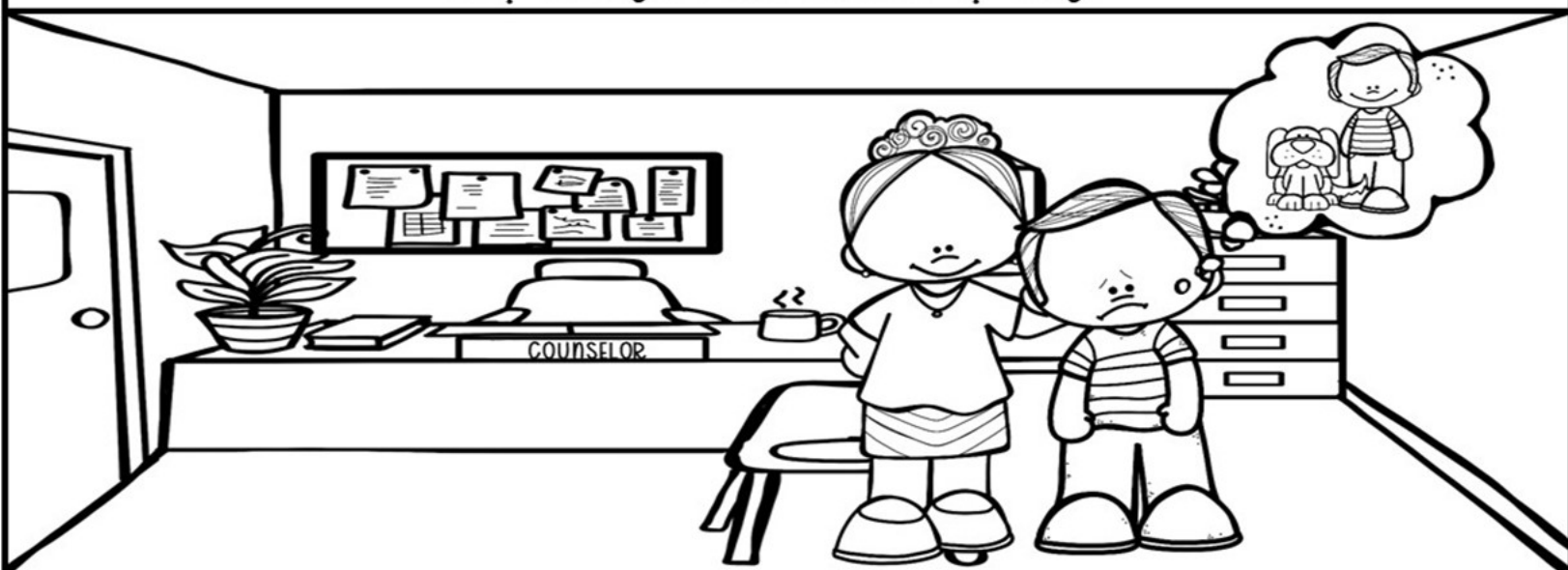


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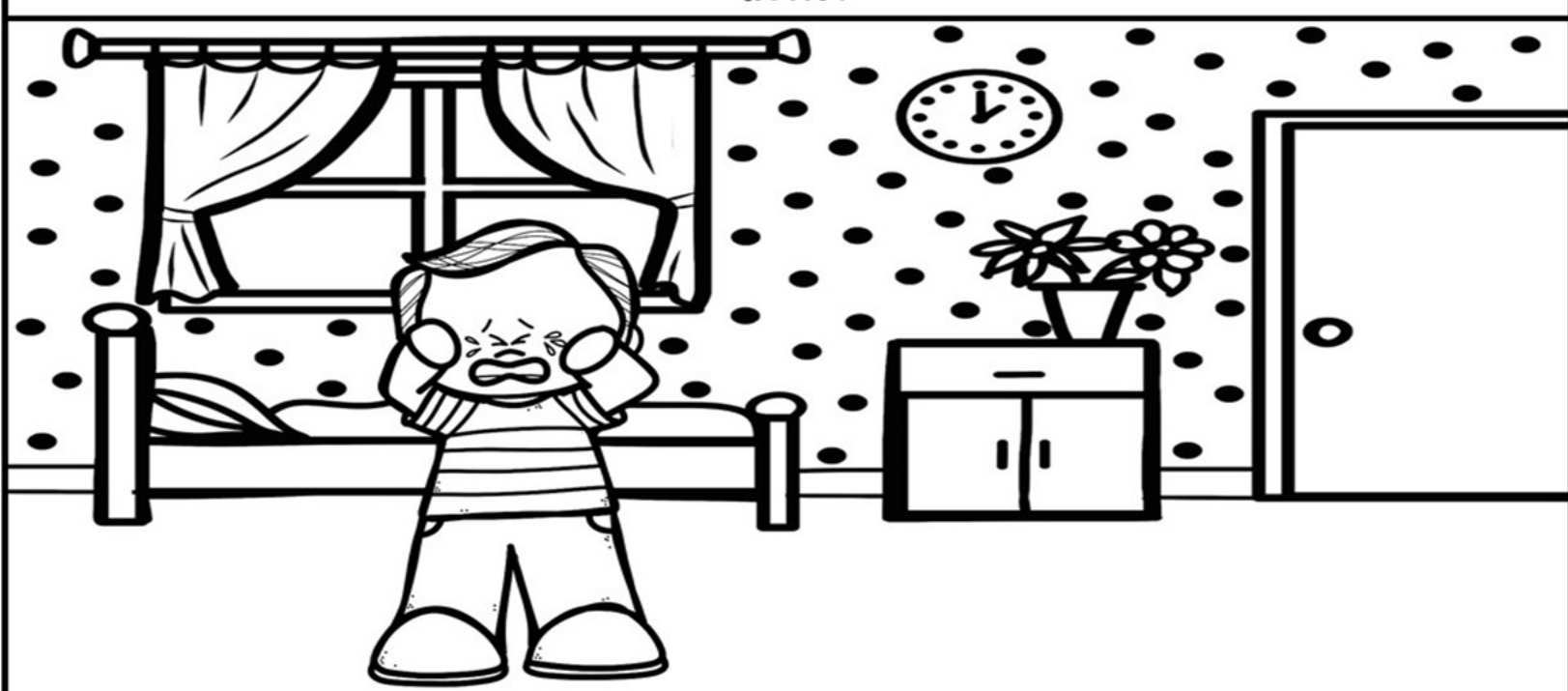




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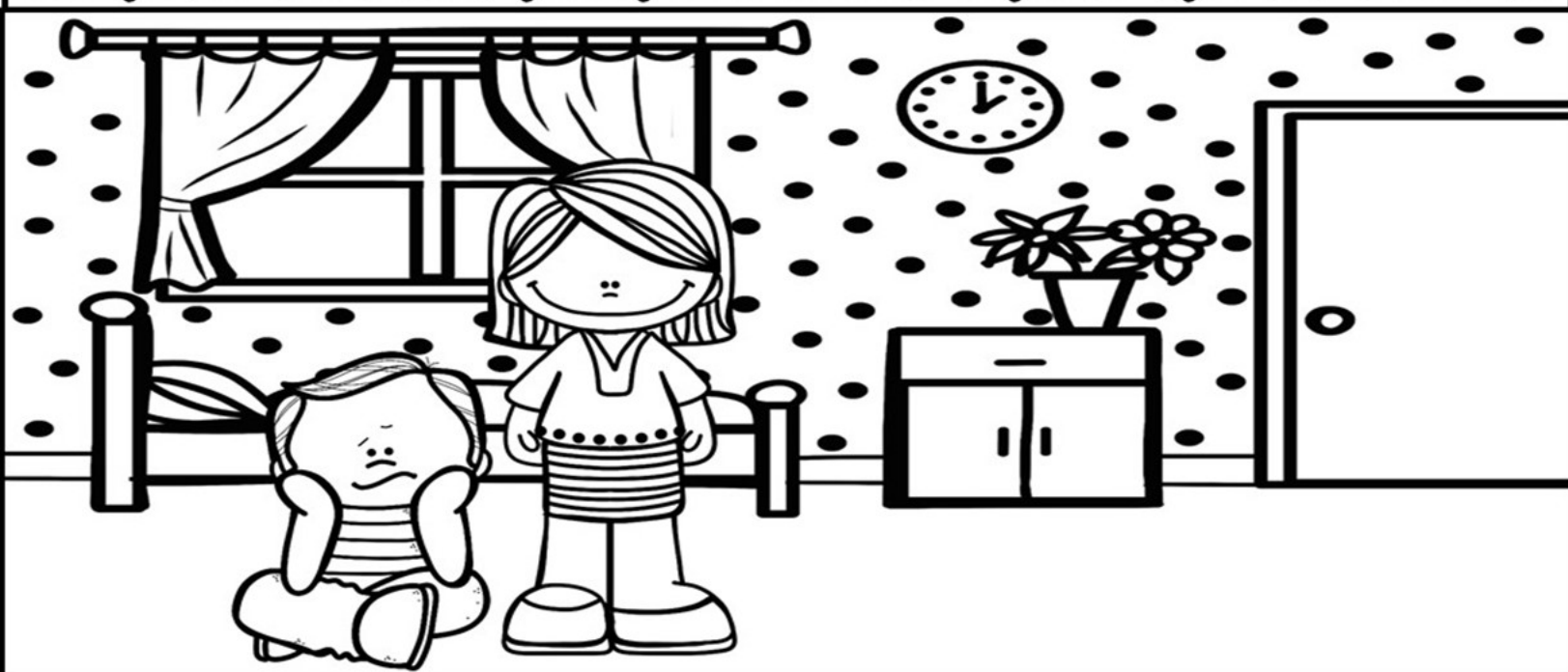


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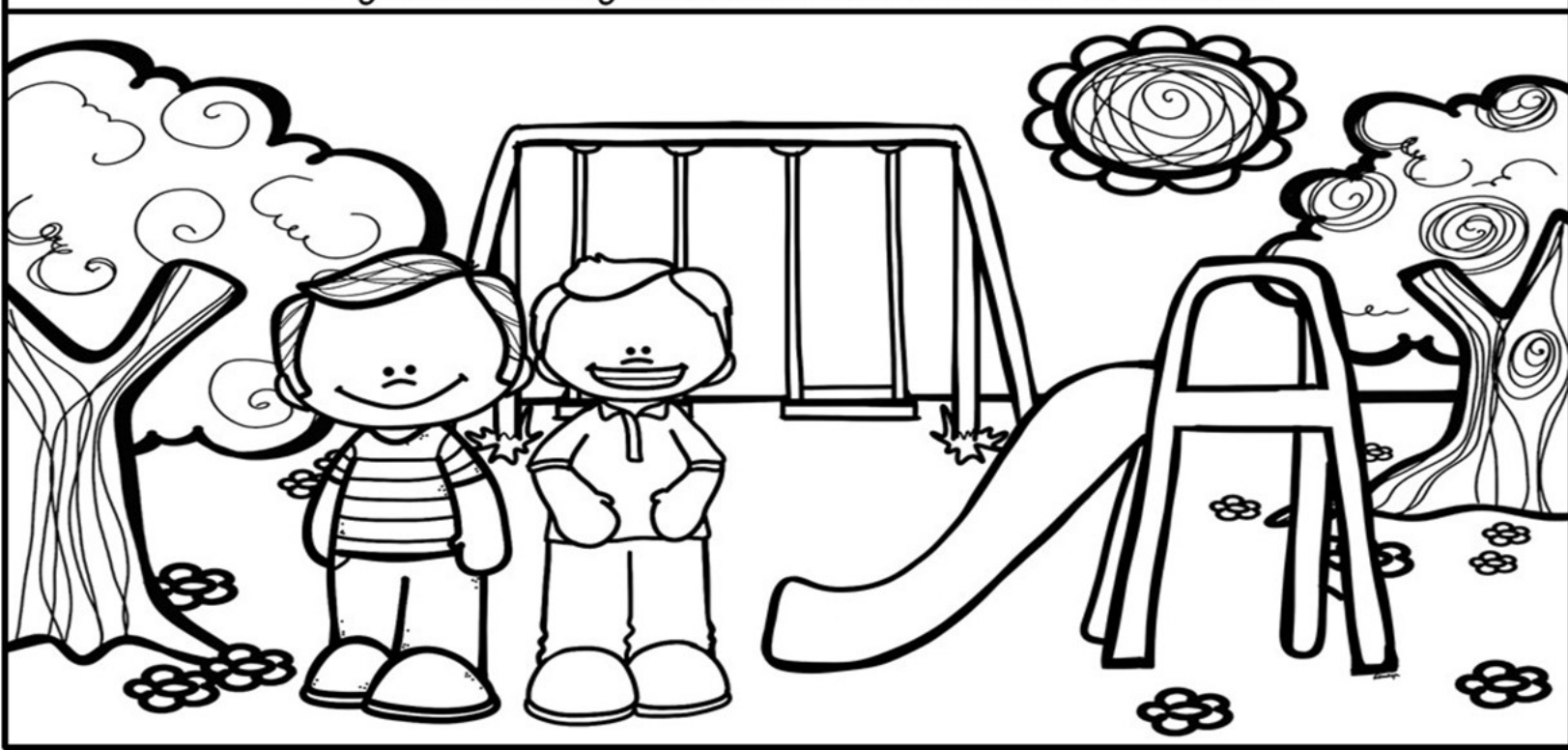




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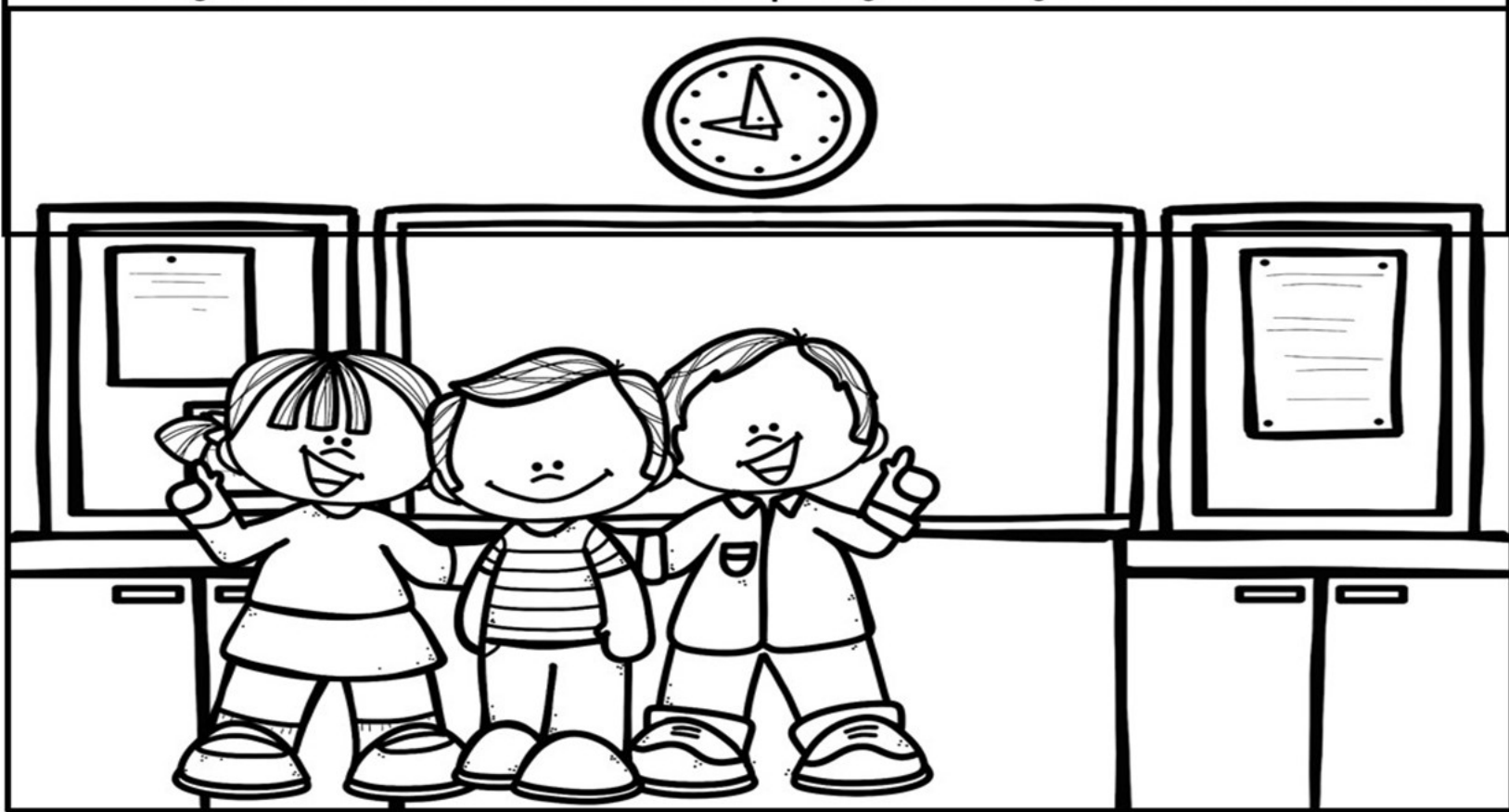


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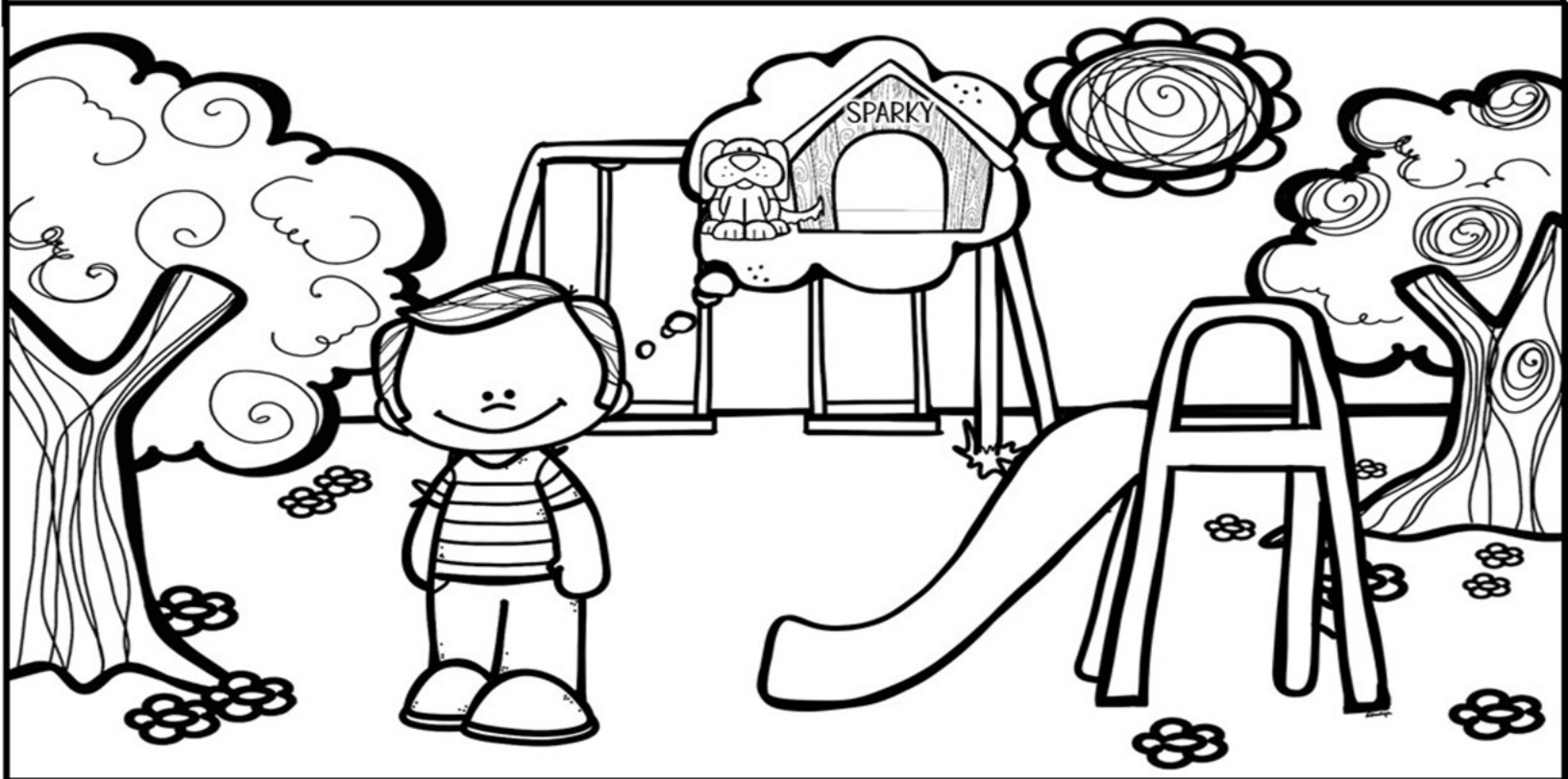
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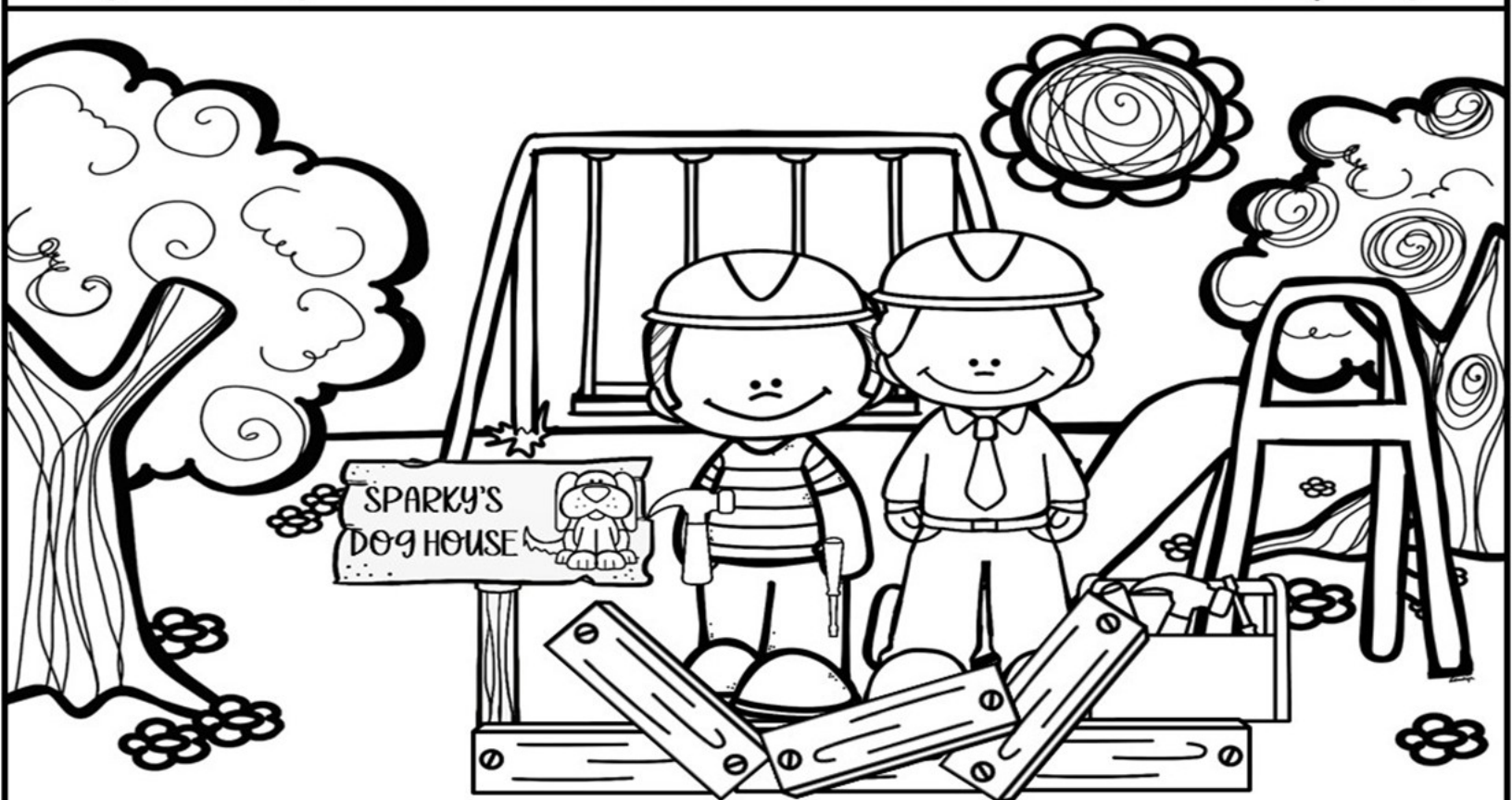
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