

**FULL COLOR
HALF SHEET
PRINTABLE
STORY BOOK**

Bryan Learns about Loss



Bryan and his sister Alice were the very best of friends. They loved to ride bikes to the park, play tag, and catch fireflies together. Bryan and Alice were happiest when they were together.



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



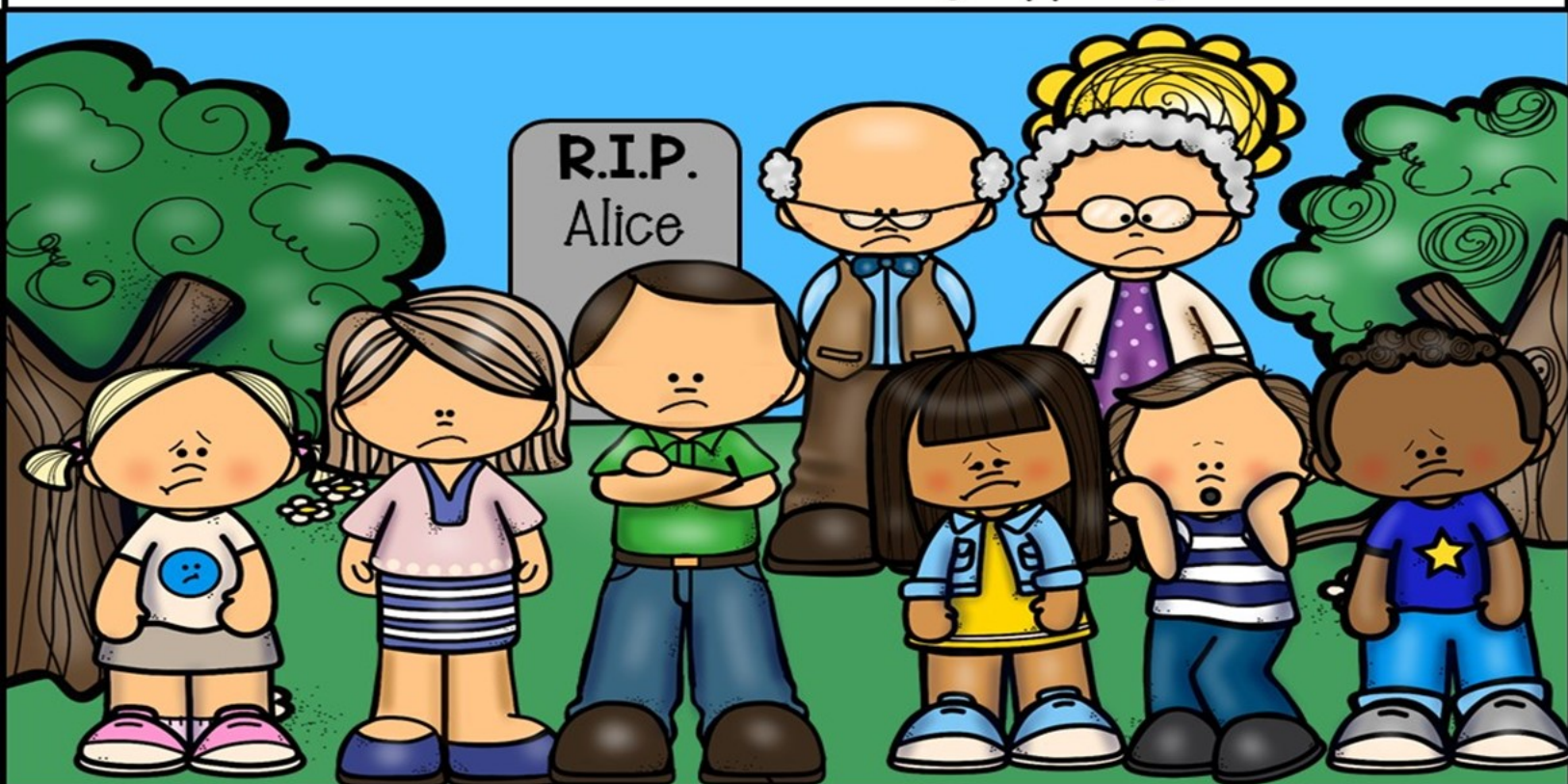
Bryan brought Alice back to their house right away and their mom took her right to the hospital. The doctors tried and tried, but Alice got sicker and sicker. Bryan stayed by Alice's side all day and all night.



Bryan just couldn't believe his ears when the doctor said that Alice had died. What would he do without his sister? Who would he ride bikes with? Who would he catch fireflies with? Bryan knew that his life would never be the same again.



All of Alice's family and friends came a couple of days later to Alice's funeral and burial to celebrate her life. They sang songs and shared stories of their favorite memories with Alice. 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 Alice off of his mind. Every morning he would wake up and think about what he would play with Alice that day and feel excited to walk with her to the bus stop. Then he would suddenly remember that Alice was gone. Bryan just couldn't understand why his sister wasn't with him anymore.



One day at recess Bryan saw Hannah and Charlie playing tag together, just like Bryan and Alice used to do. Bryan wondered, "Why does Charlie still have his sister to play with but I'm all alone? This is NOT fair! Alice, 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 Alice home sooner? Or what if we hadn't played so hard together that day? Would she still be alive? Is this my fault?"



Mrs. Rogers said, "Bryan, I'm so sorry you are so hurt. I miss Alice too. But, it's important for you to understand that you did everything you could to save her. Your loving friendship 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 Alice back in my life."



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



Bryan understood what Mrs. Rogers said. He promised her he would think about a special way to honor Alice 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.



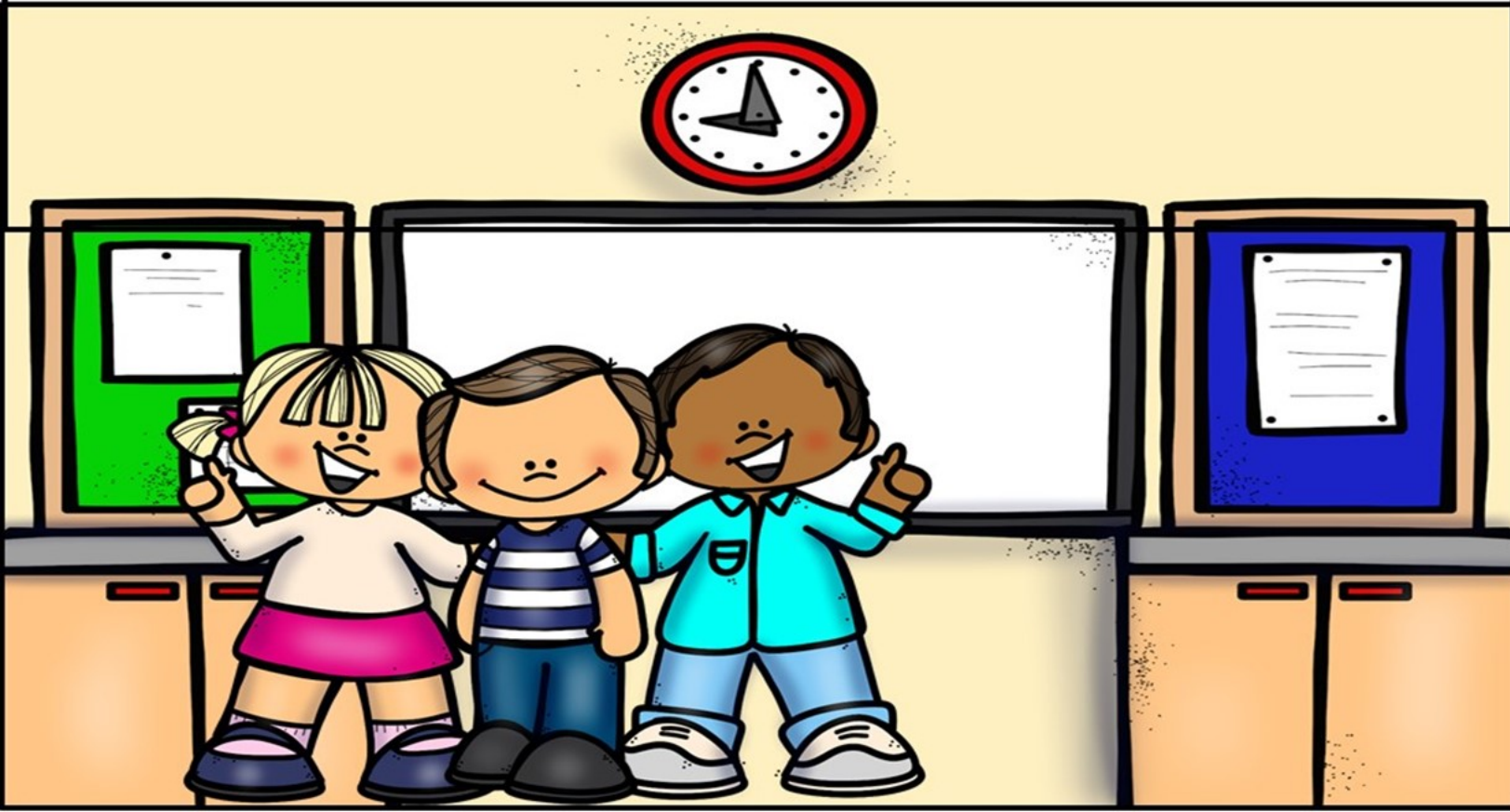
Bryan's mom heard him crying and came in to talk to him. She told Bryan that she missed Alice too and wished there was something she could do to help him feel better. Bryan's mom asked if she could ask his friend, Kaleb, to come over. Maybe he'd like to ride bikes with Kaleb to the park? Bryan immediately 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 Alice. Kaleb said that he didn't have a sister and that Bryan was lucky to know what it feels like to have a true best friend. Bryan knew that he would always miss Alice, 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 Alice with anyone who would listen.



Bryan also liked visiting Alice's grave each week. He always brought flowers and told Alice 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 sister.



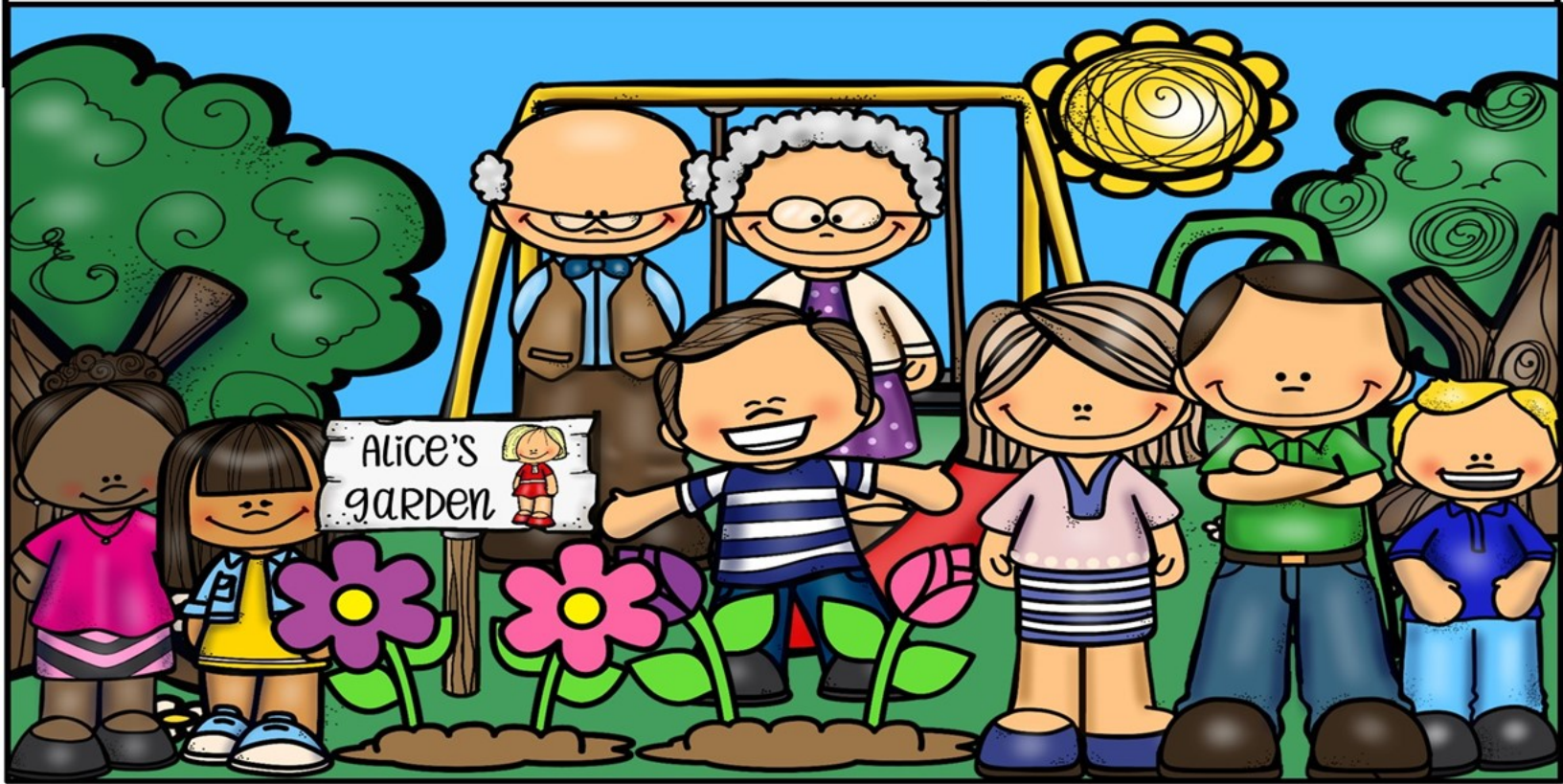
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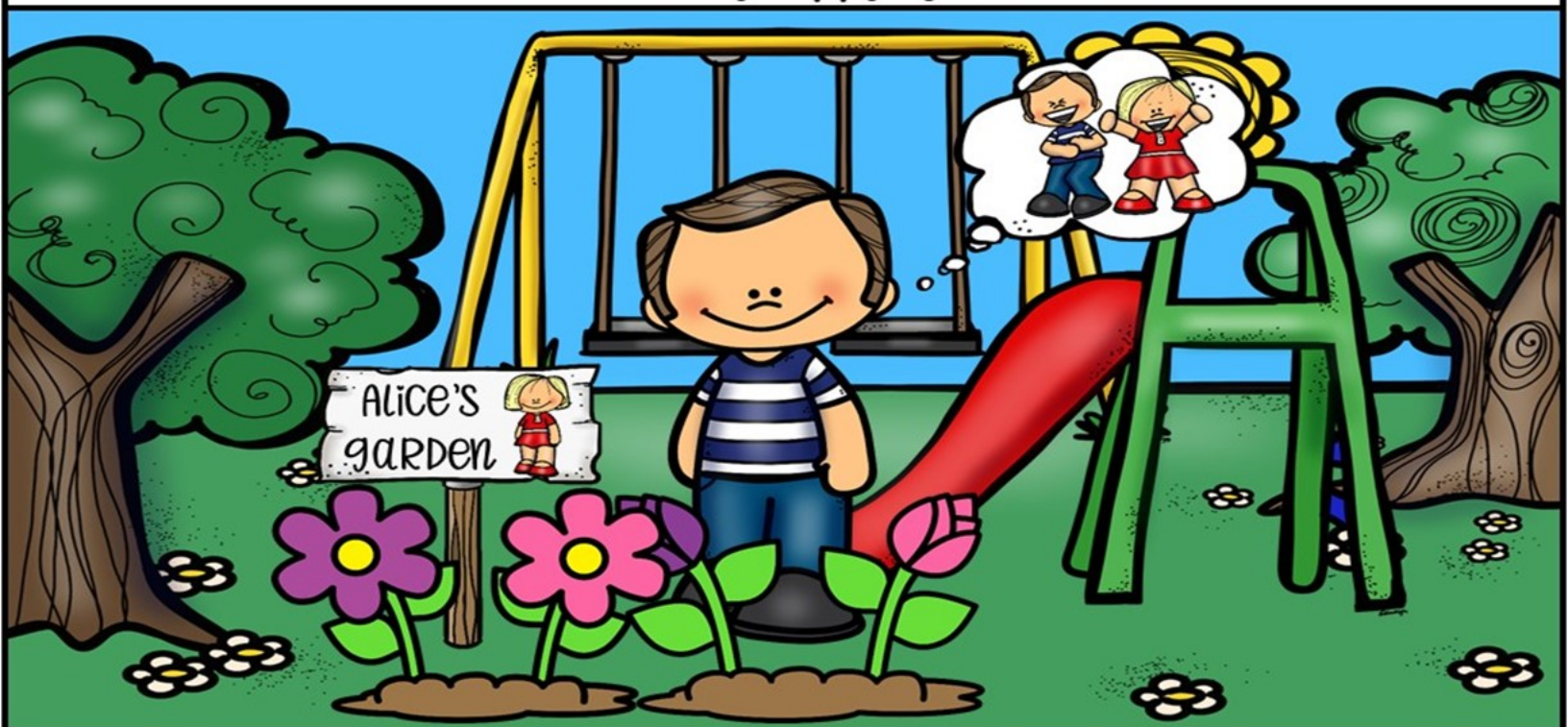
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As soon as the flowers grew, Bryan invited Mrs. Rogers and all of Alice's friends and family to visit Alice's Garden. Everyone was so proud of Bryan's hard work and loved sharing special stories and memories about Alice in the garden. Bryan knew he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



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



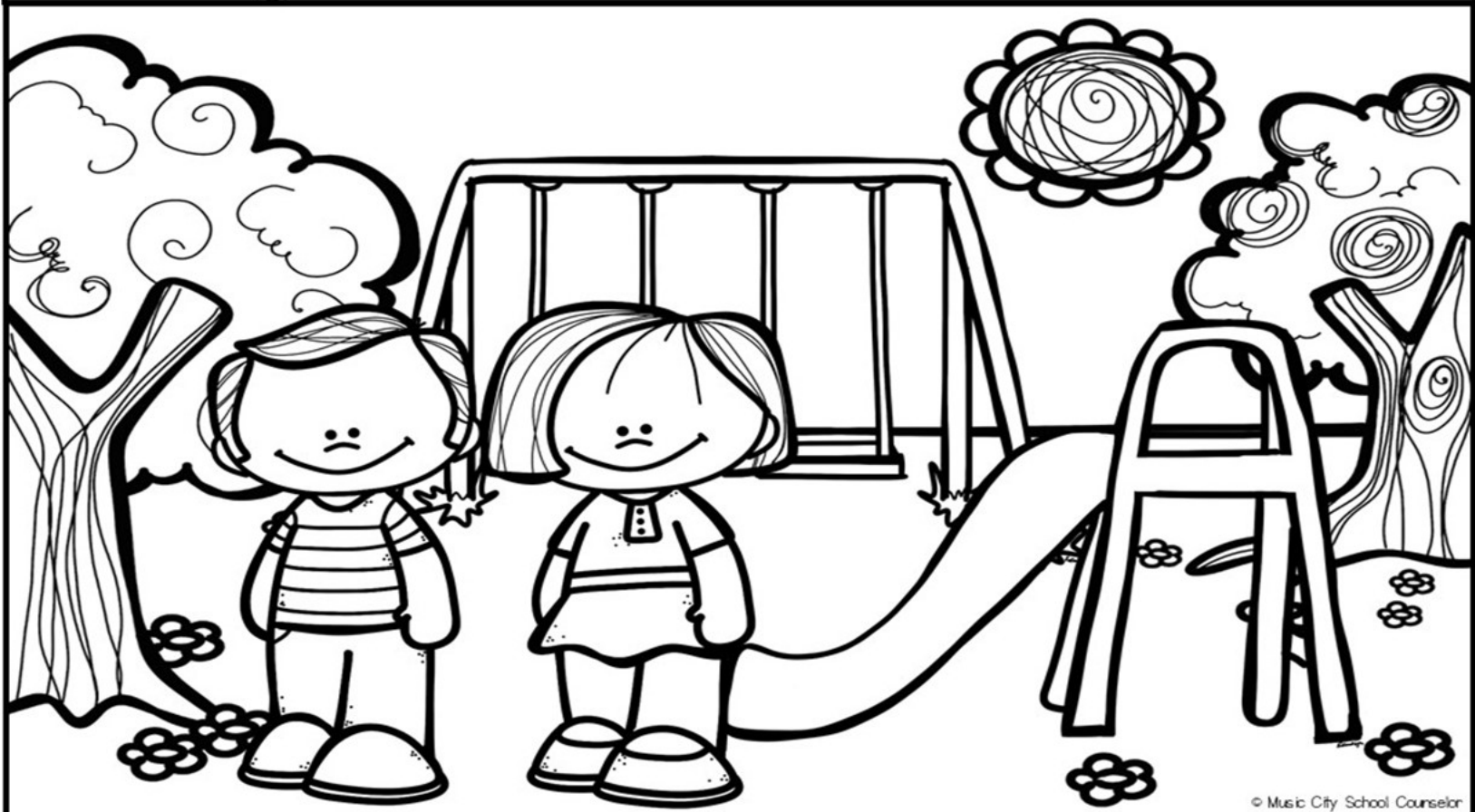
BLACK & WHITE

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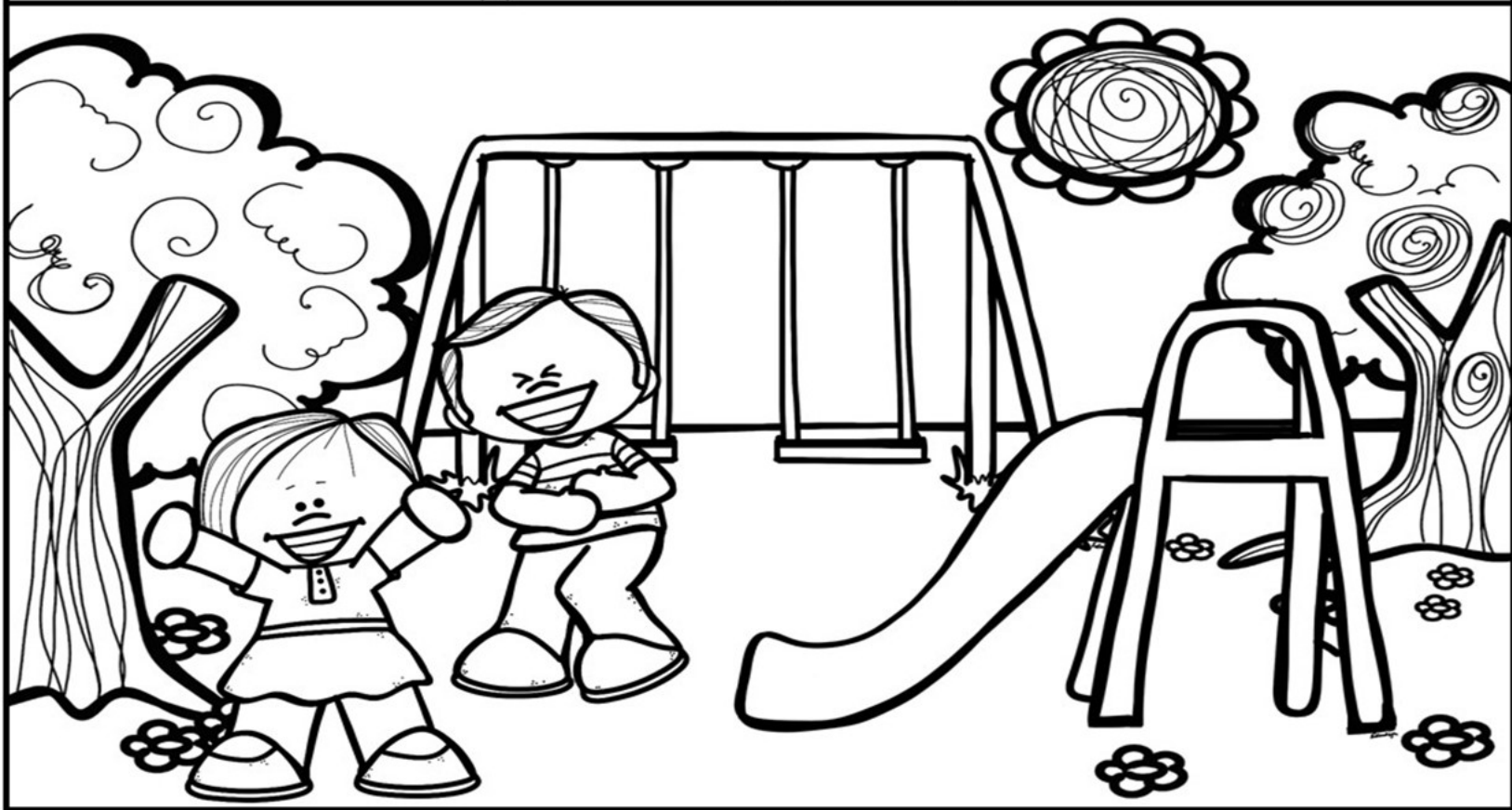
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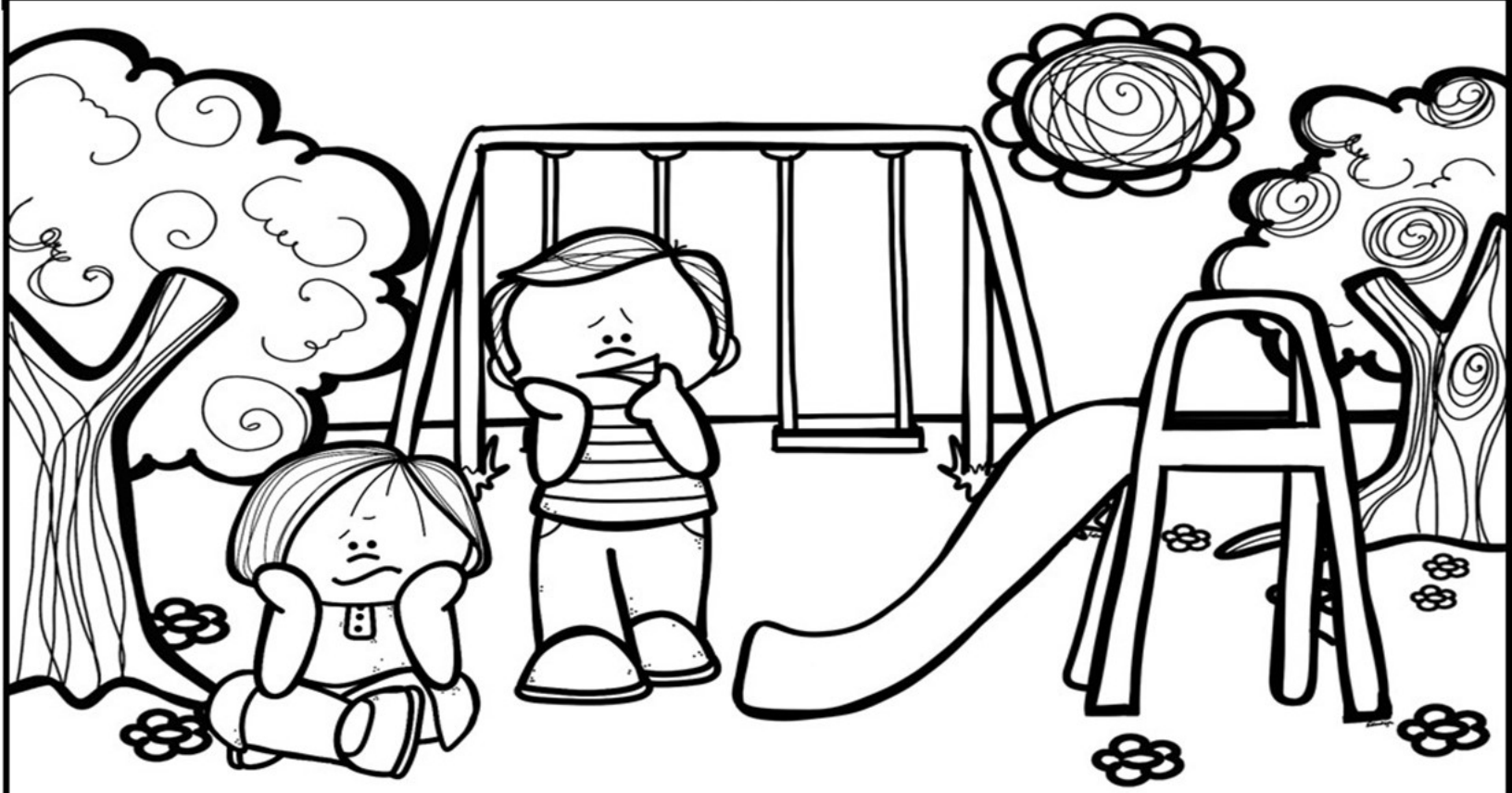
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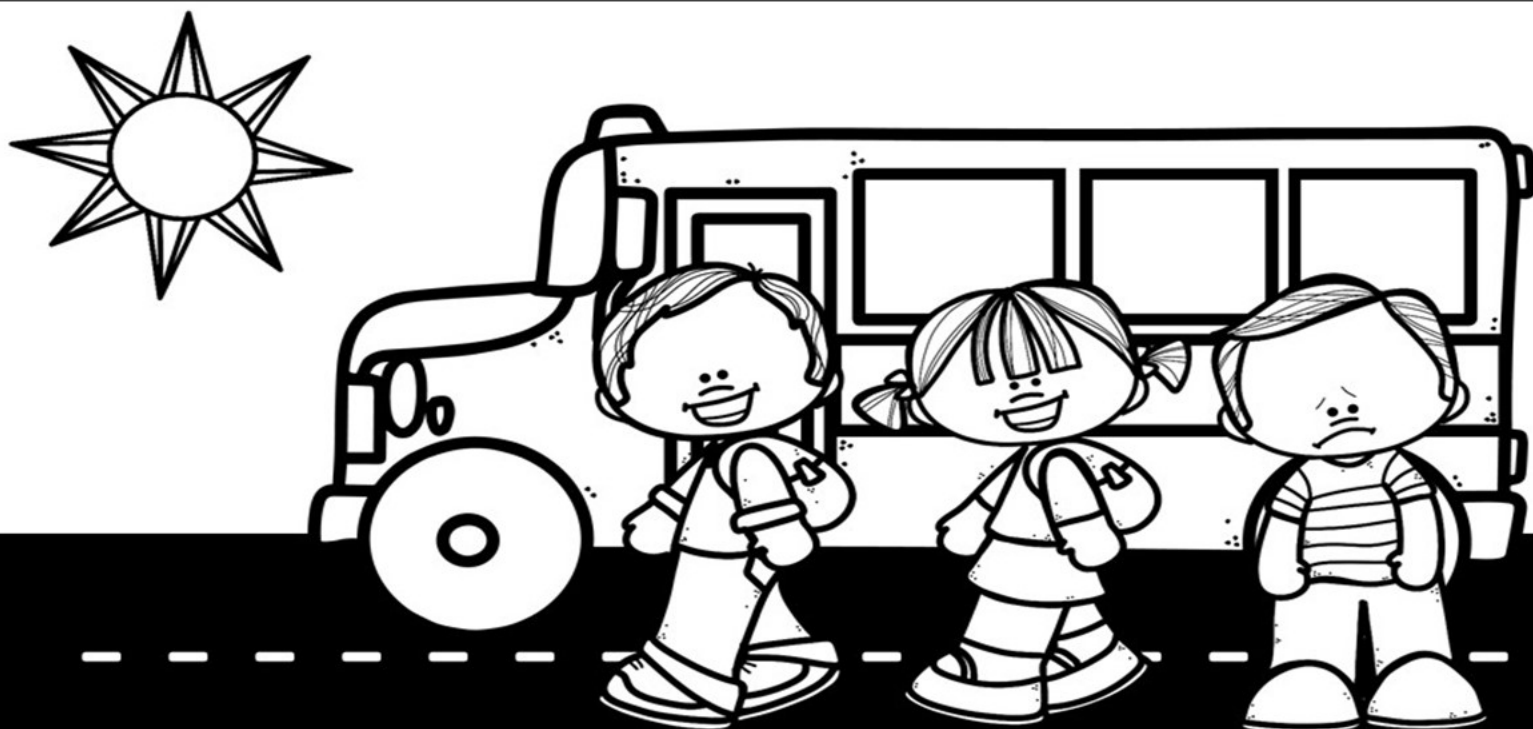
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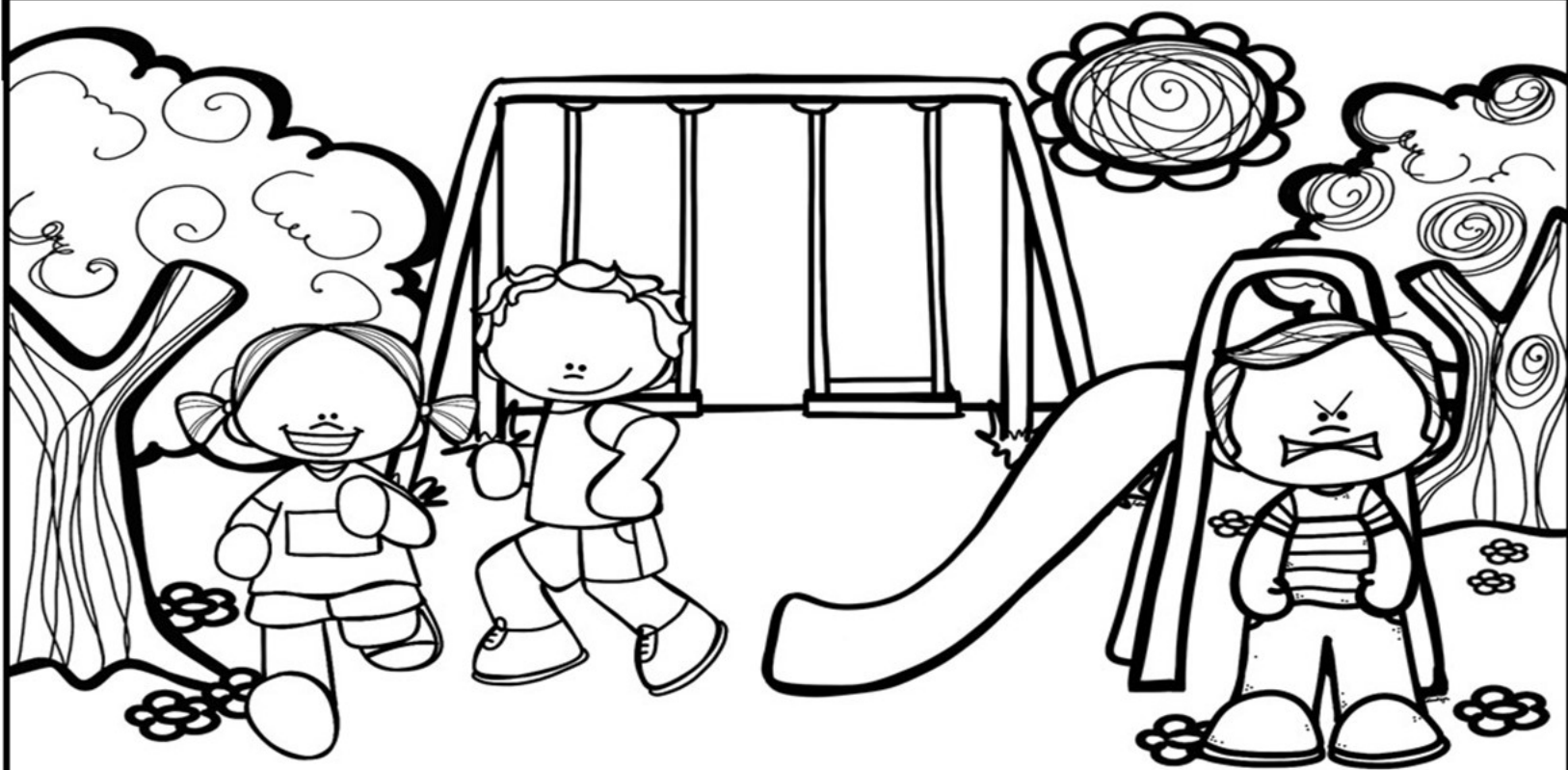
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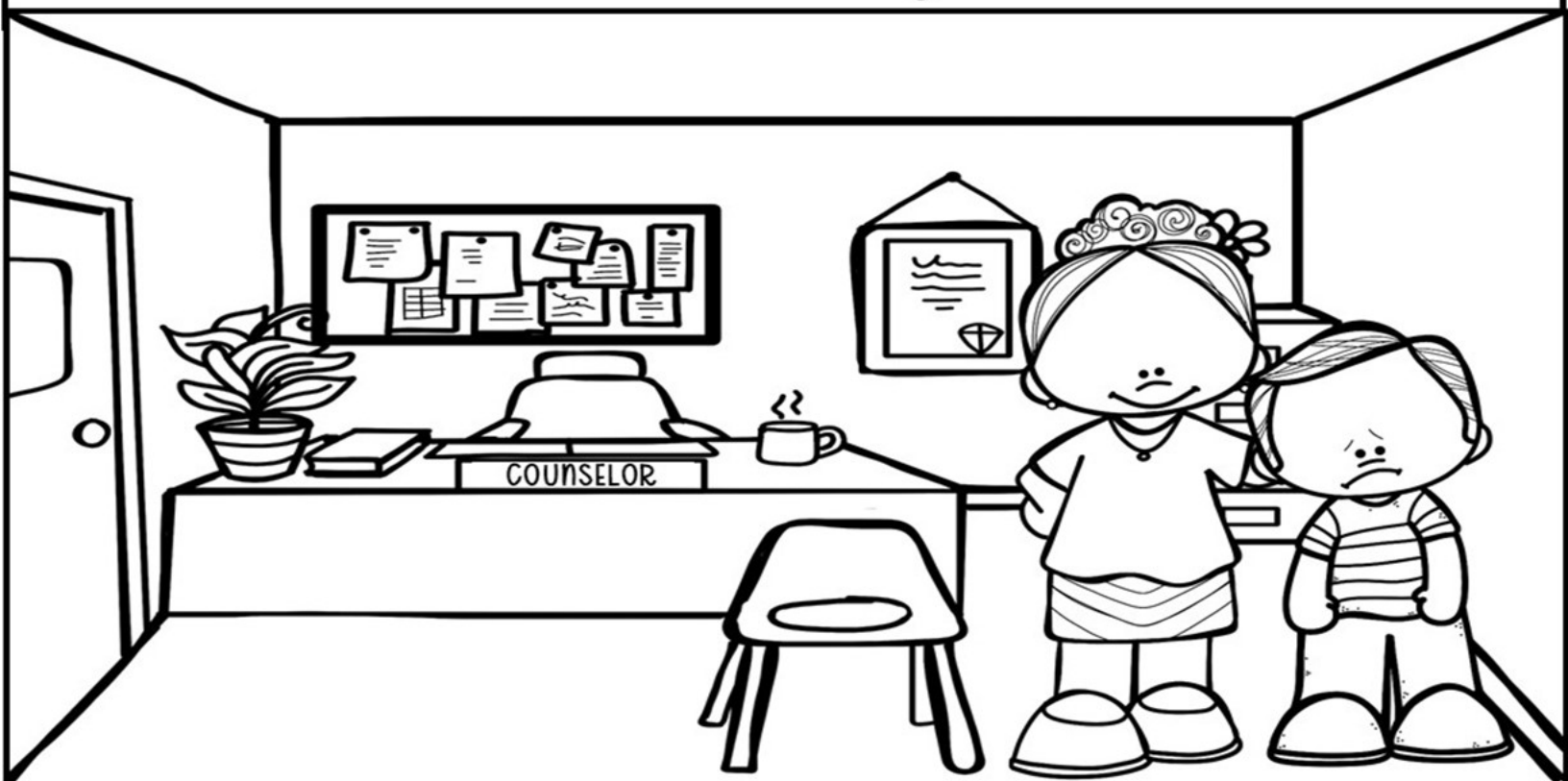
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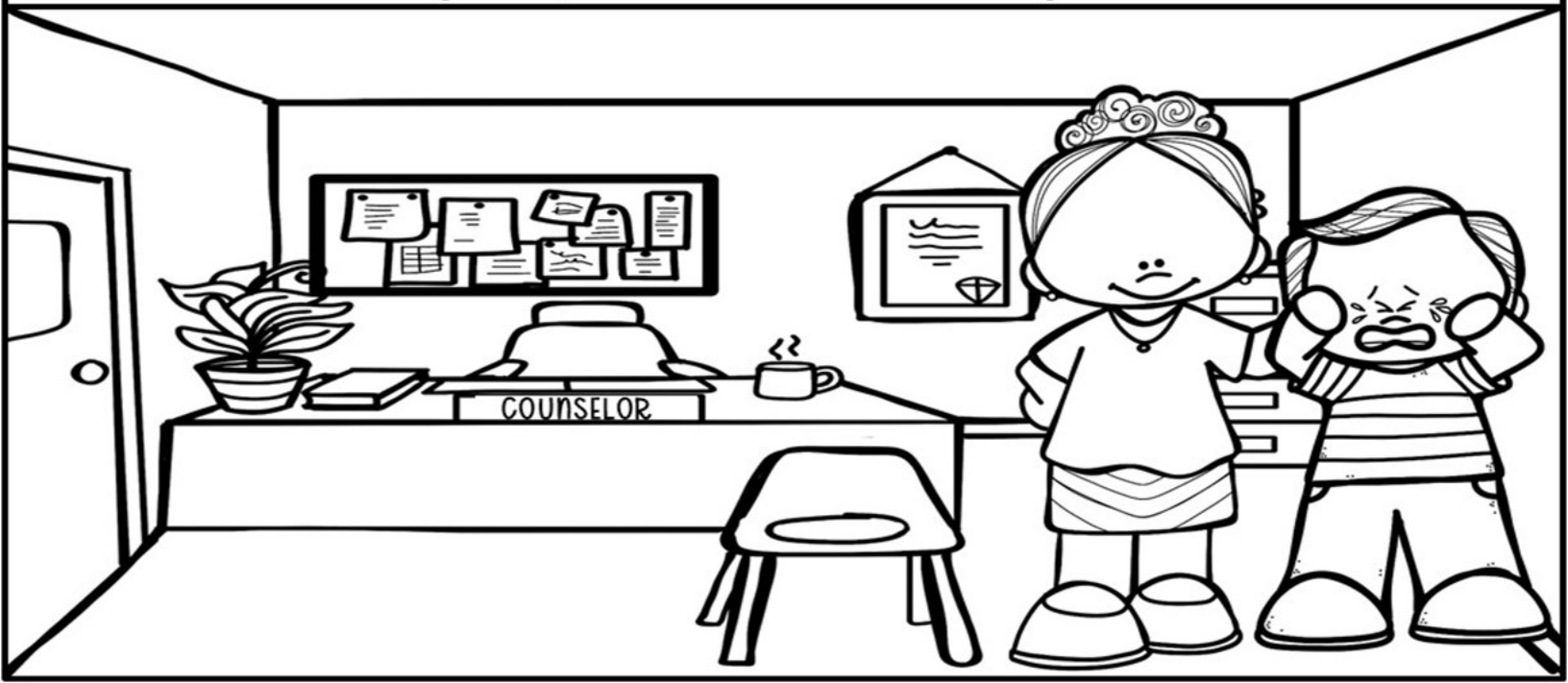
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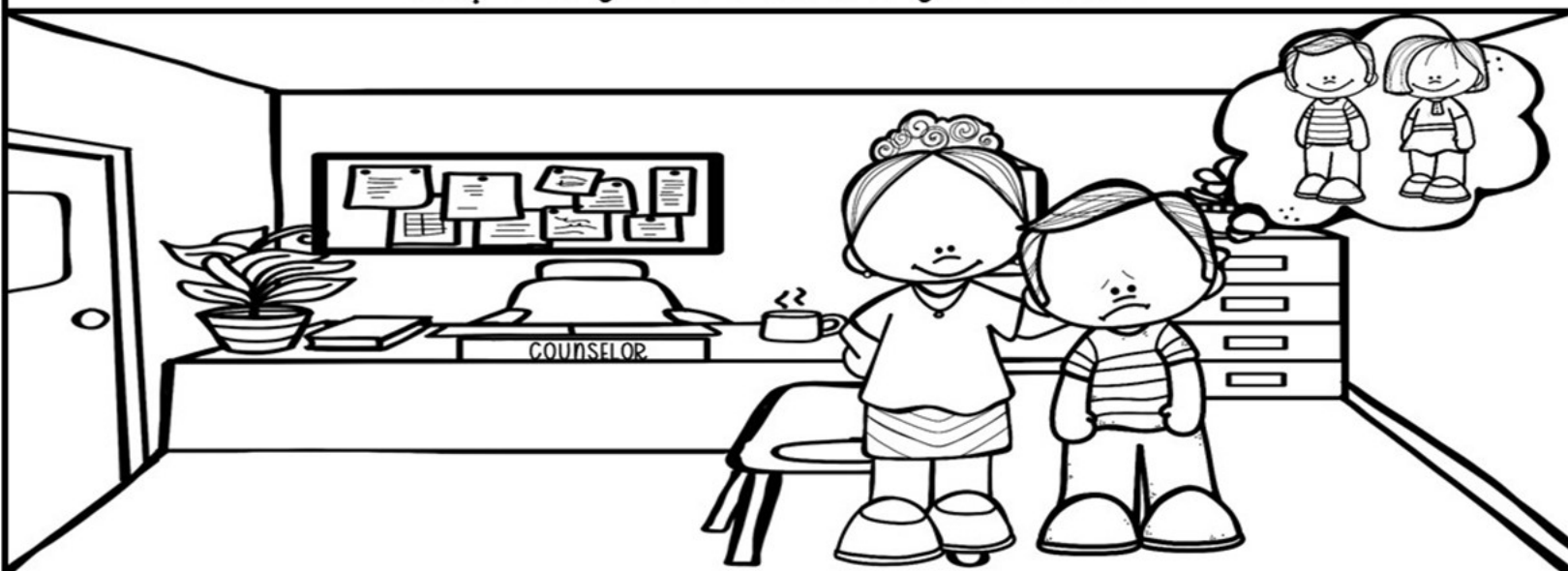
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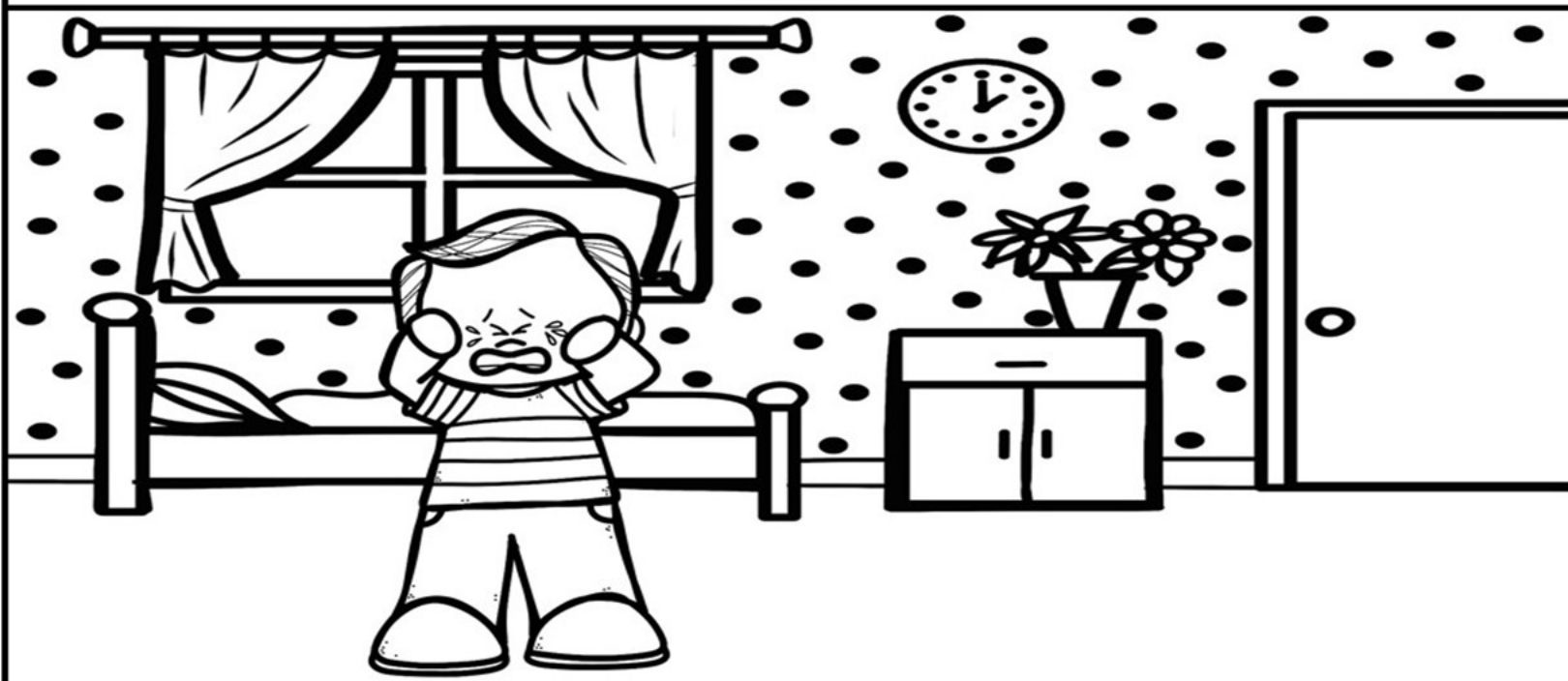
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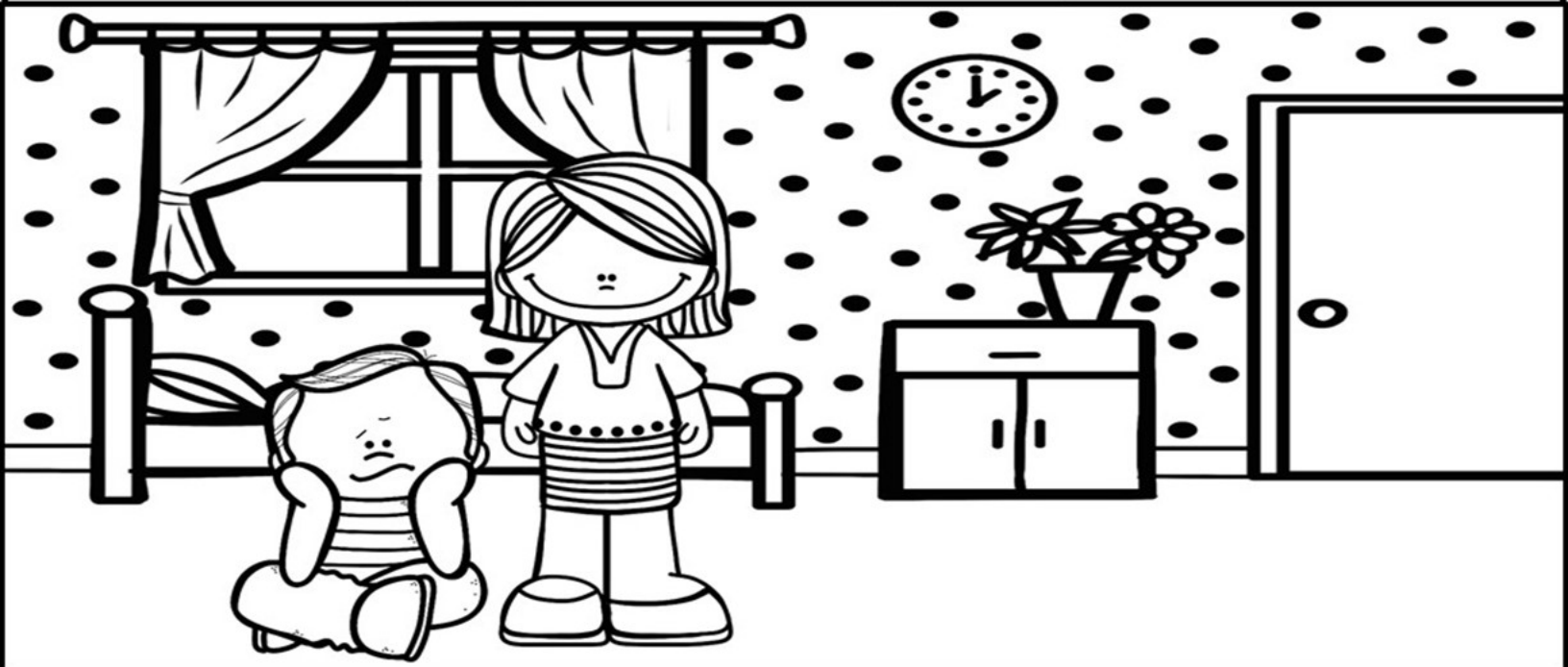
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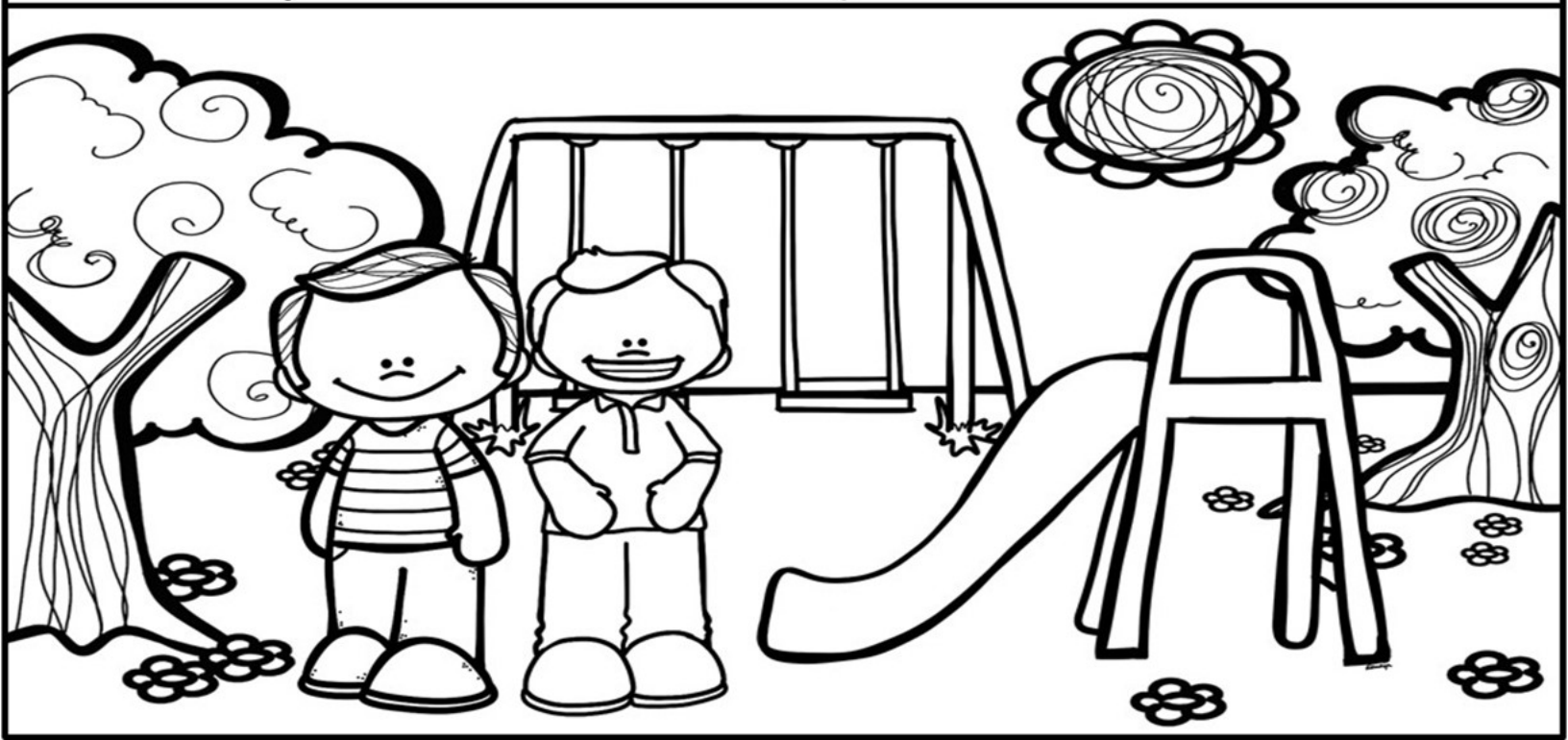
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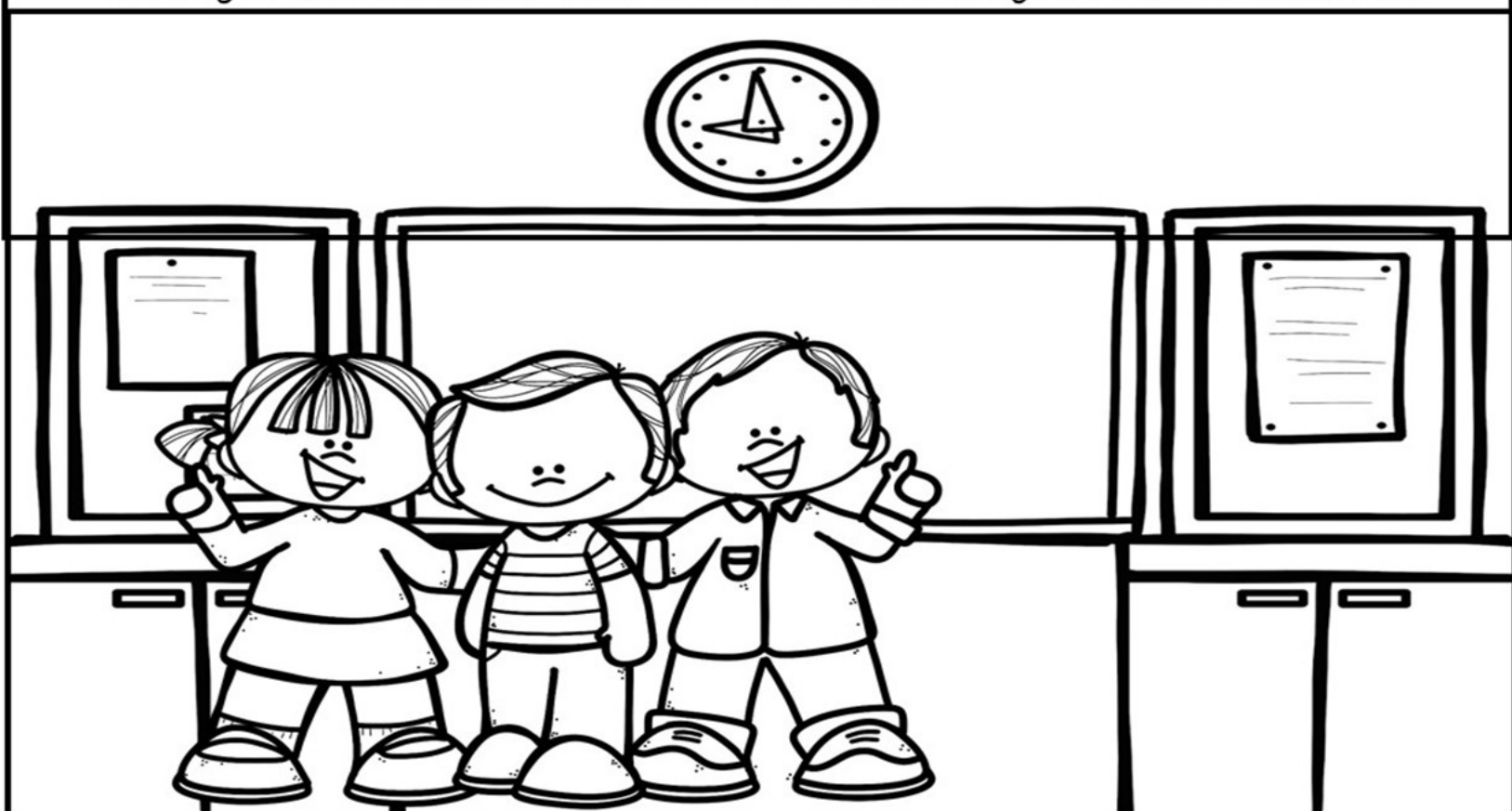
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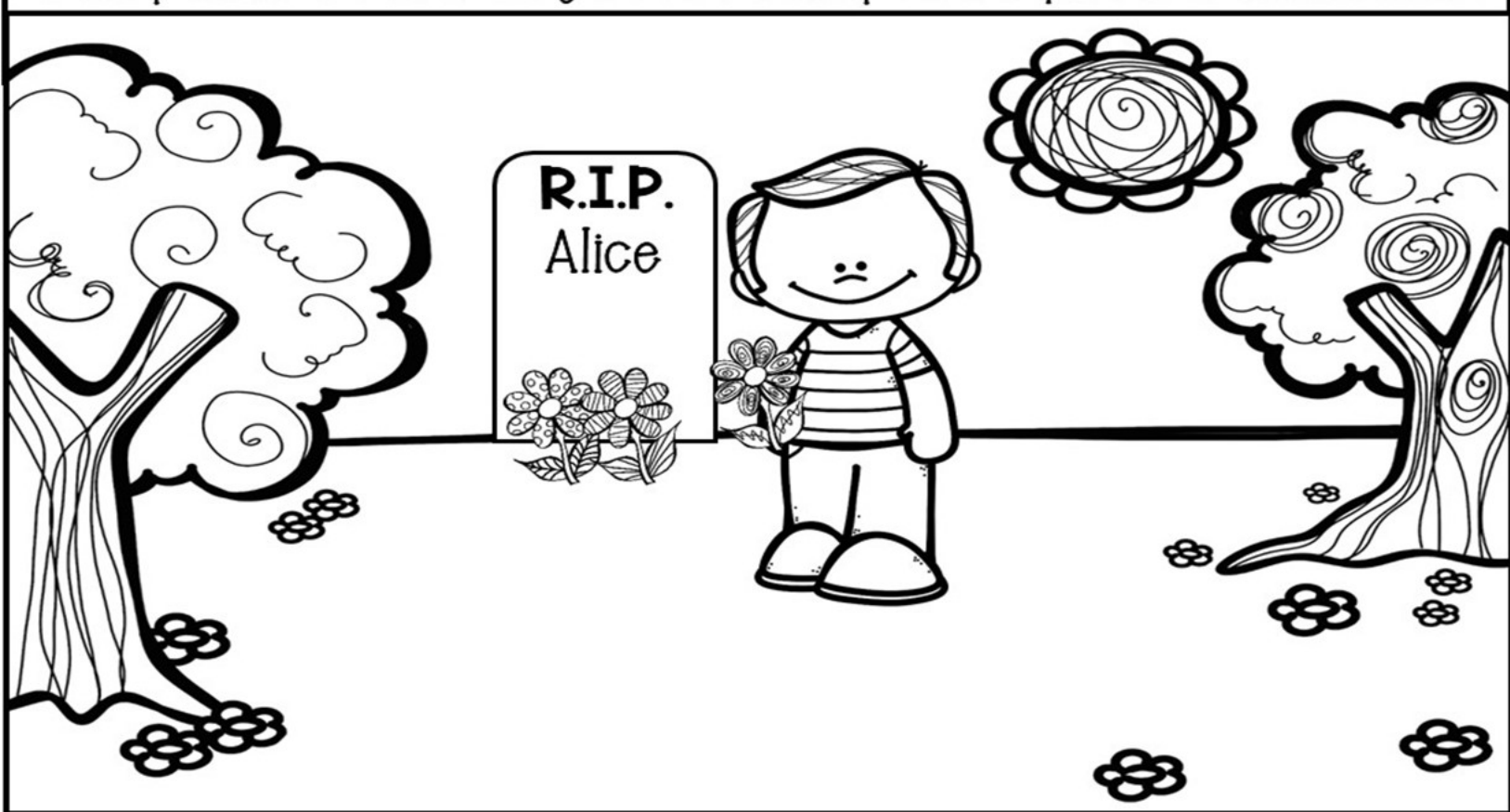
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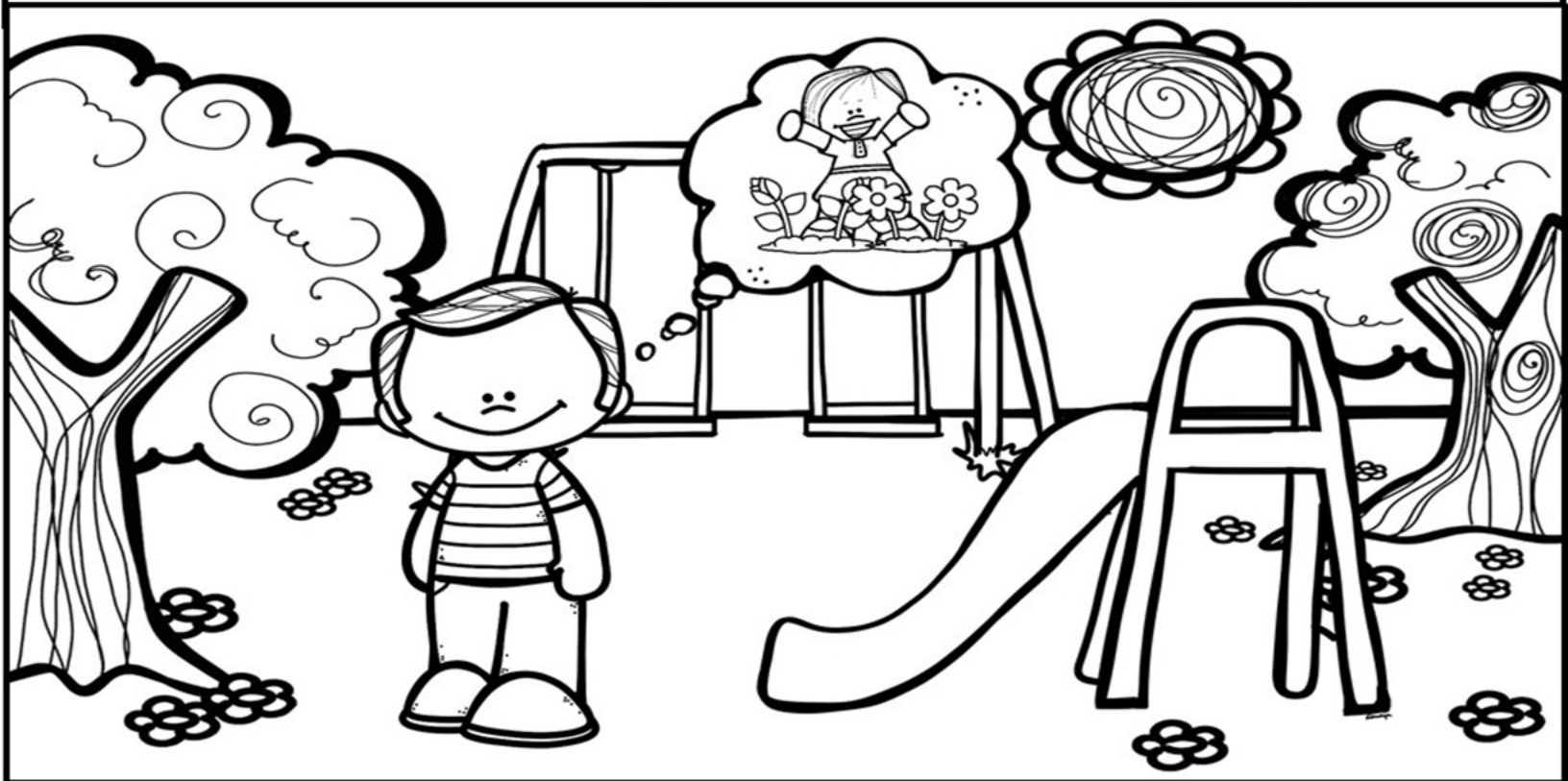
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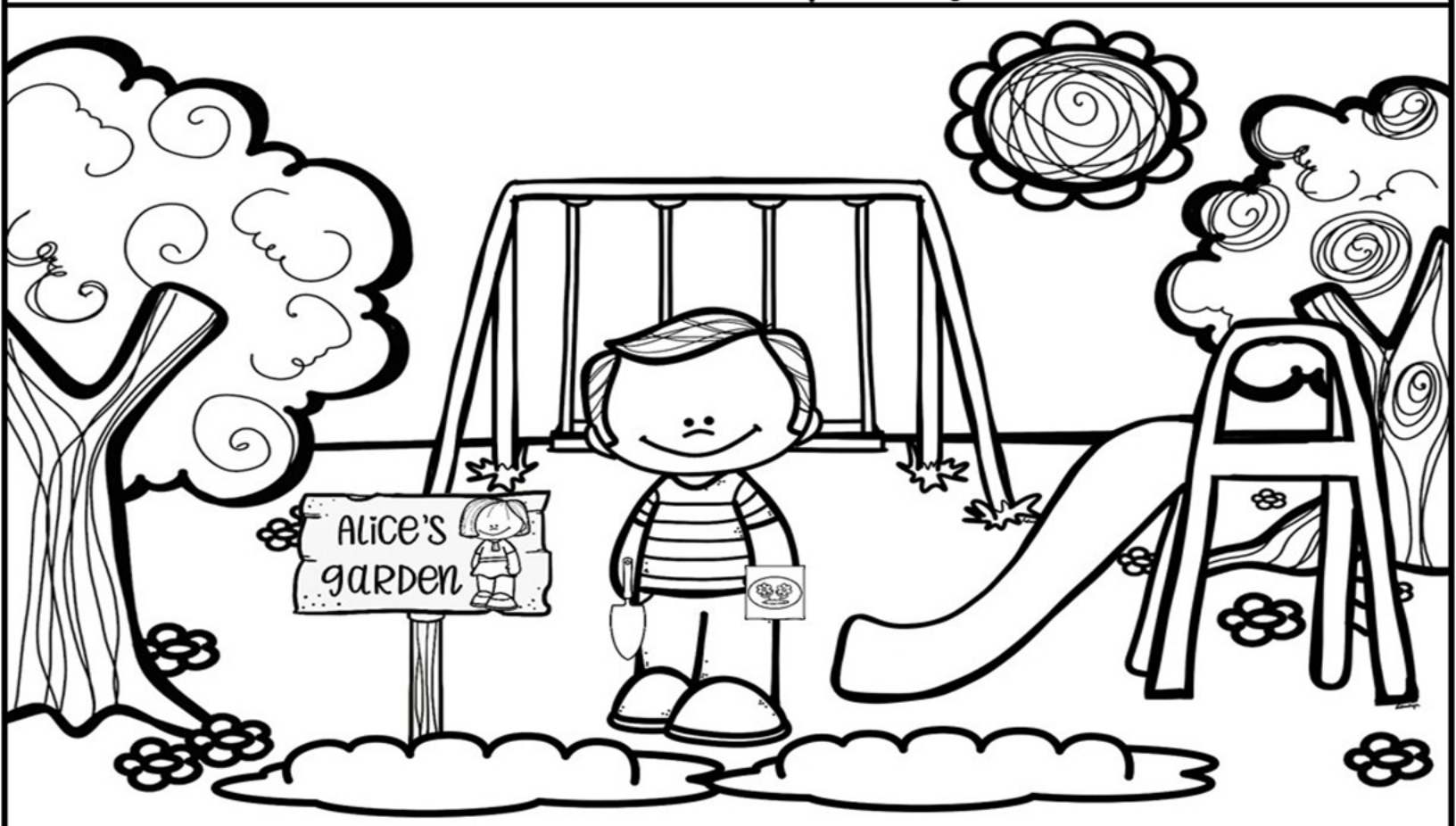
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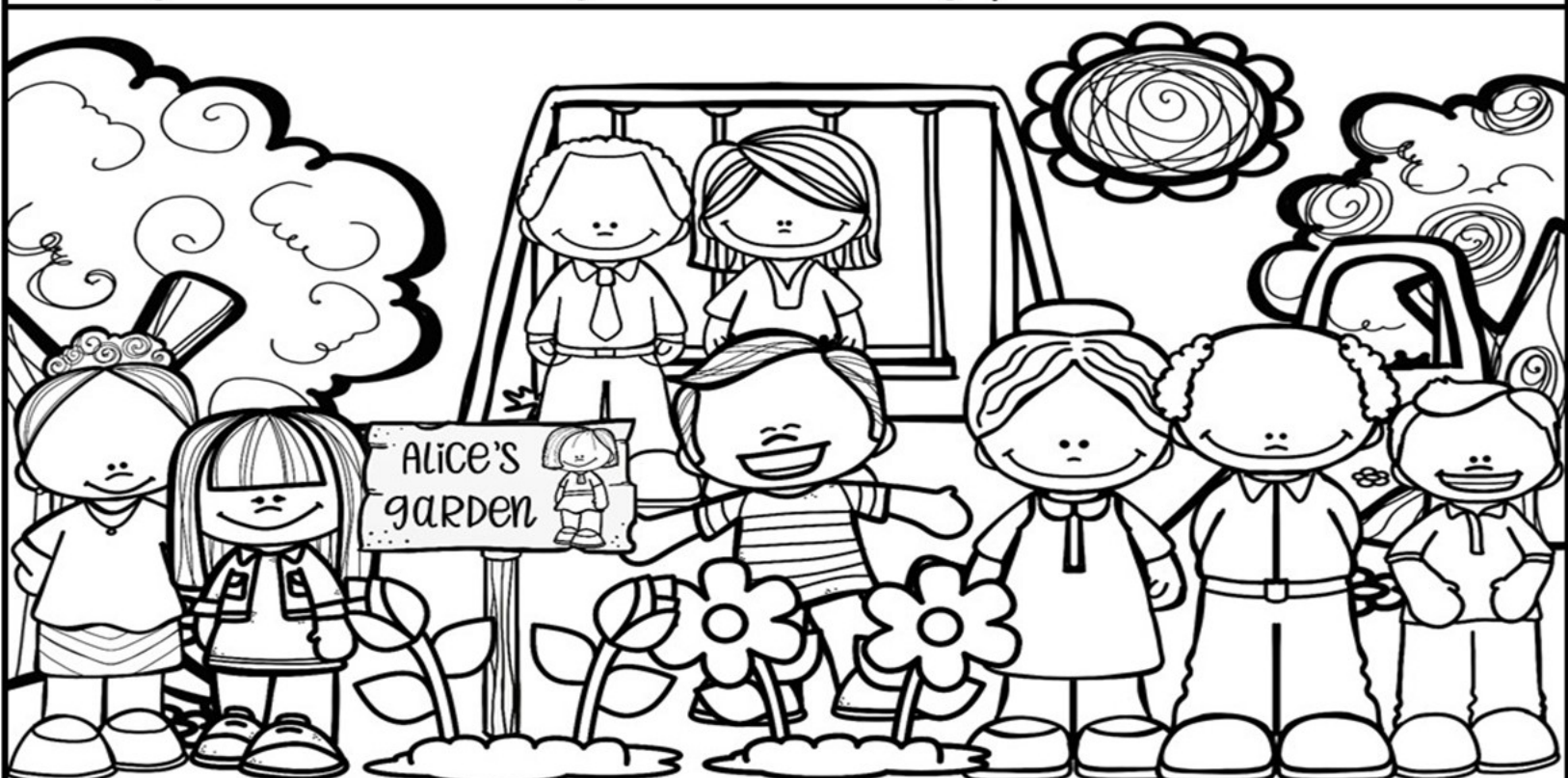
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