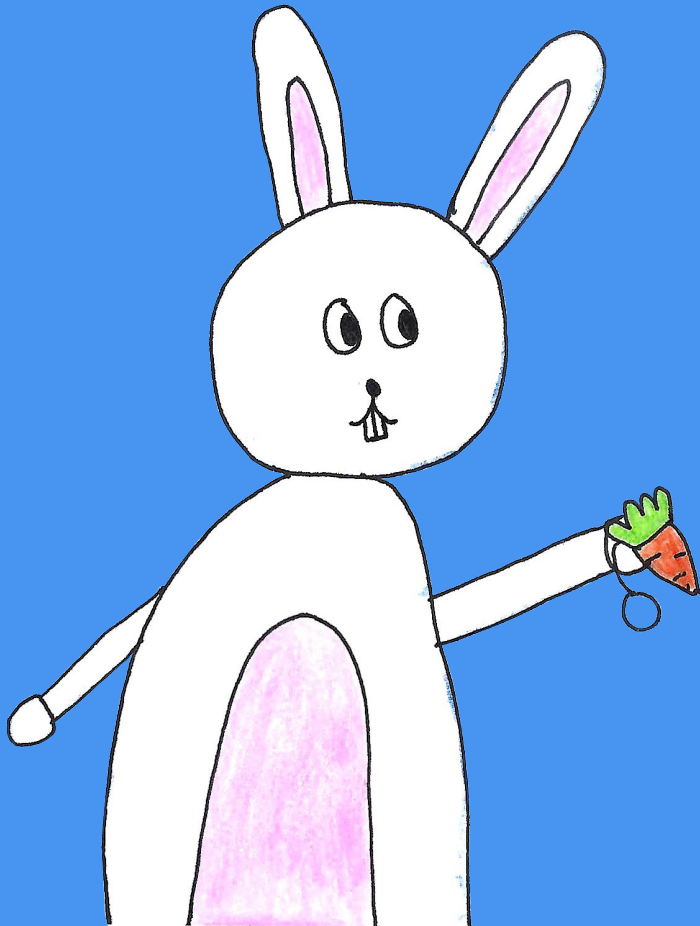


National Youth Foundation *Presents:*

Billy's Magic Keychain

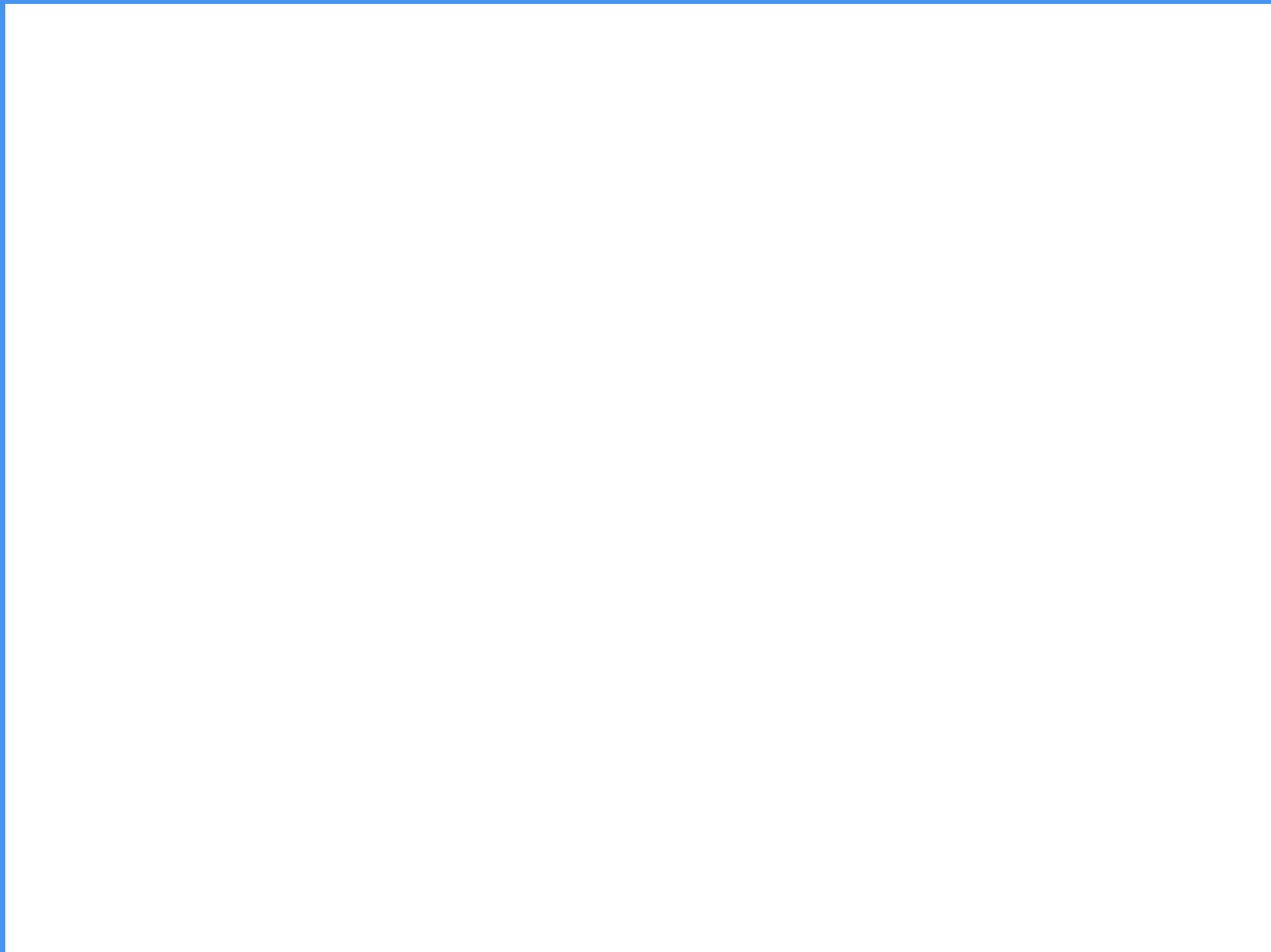


Written by: Jeremy Zhang and Lumina Zhang

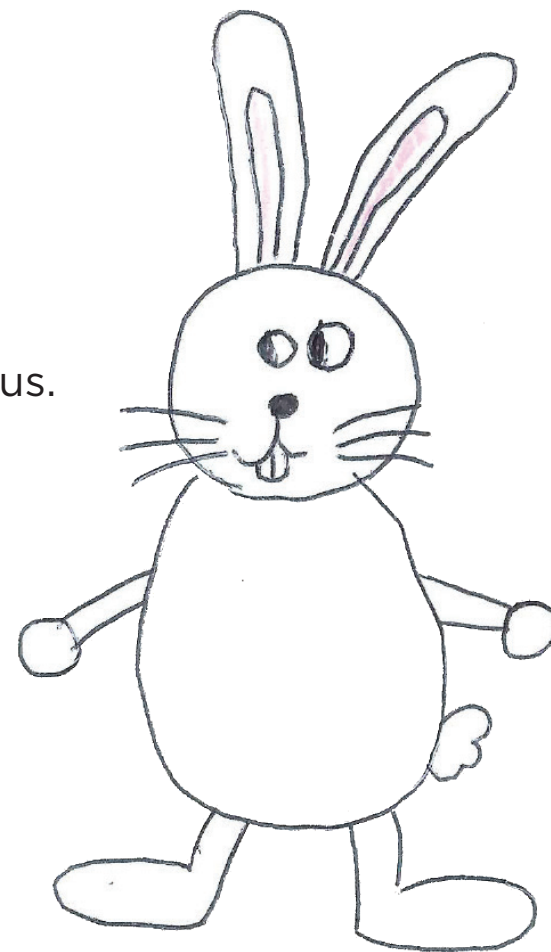
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This book is dedicated to our mom for always supporting us.



It was a beautiful day at Forest Village, and Billy Bunny had just moved into his new burrow with his family: Papa Bunny, Mama Bunny, and Granny Bunny.

“Ah,” Papa Bunny said, “What a gorgeous, peaceful town.”

“Yes, it’s so much better than the noisy city we used to live in,” Mama Bunny agreed.

“Yay! I love our new home! There’s so much nature here we can explore!” Billy Bunny yelled while jumping up and down.

“Careful there now,” Granny Bunny chuckled, “Let’s go inside and get you ready for your first day of school tomorrow.”

Billy Bunny stopped jumping at once. “School?” he asked.

“Yes, honey,” Mama Bunny replied, “your new school here is Green Tree Elementary School!”

“Wow! A new school! I’m so excited! Time to pack my backpack!” Billy Bunny said while starting to jump again.

The family hopped into their cozy burrow and prepared all of Billy’s school supplies.





The next day, Billy Bunny and his family hopped to the bus stop at the end of their street. Billy was delighted at the thought of school, but as the school bus drove their way, he started to get butterflies in his stomach.

The bus stopped and opened its doors. All the other kids raced each other, trying to squeeze through the tight doors together, but Billy was a little hesitant.

Just then, Granny Bunny came up to him and handed him a little carrot keychain.

“This was my favorite keychain from when I went to school,” Granny Bunny whispered to Billy, “it’ll bring you good luck.”

“Wow!” Billy exclaimed. All his worries vanished after holding the little keychain as if the little carrot was magical.

“Thanks, grandma,” Billy said as he jumped onto the bus, “I’ll keep it safe!”

The bus arrived at Green Tree Elementary School, and Billy skipped to his classroom. He was amazed at the sight of his new classroom. There were all kinds of different animals sitting at desks, talking, laughing, and playing with each other. The room's walls were covered in colorful drawings and decorations, and a large circle-shaped carpet sat in the middle of the room.

A lady walked up to Billy and said, "Hi, I'm Ms. Deer, your new teacher. Nice to meet you, Billy!"

"Hi," Billy said shyly.

"I hope you enjoy class today! How about you sit here, next to Sam Squirrel," Ms. Deer said, pointing to an empty seat.

Billy thanked her and sat down.

"Hi, I'm Billy the bunny," Billy said to Sam, the big squirrel who sat next to him.

"Hmph," said Sam Squirrel, "what a midget."

Billy was a little offended, but he kept his mouth shut. This squirrel really intimidated him. He held onto his carrot keychain tight and wished that his other classmates would be kinder.





Soon, Ms. Deer called for everyone to settle down. It was time for math. Ms. Deer handed them each a worksheet of math problems and asked them to complete it.

Billy finished the problems with ease and handed his worksheet to Ms. Deer.

“Wow, Billy! You got all the questions correct! Nice job!” Ms. Deer complimented him.

“Thank you,” Billy said humbly. However, he didn’t notice that Sam Squirrel was listening as well.

“Whatever, I could do better,” Sam grumbled under his breath. “So what if that little midget is smart? I’m still bigger, stronger, and more powerful than him!” he added.

After math class, Ms. Deer read them a story and had them answer some questions about the story.

Again, Billy got all the questions right easily, and Ms. Deer complimented him again.

“Billy is so smart!” Rylie Raccoon, Bella Bear, and Frederick Fox, some of Billy’s classmates said.

“Hmph, I’m smarter than him. Why are they all complementing Billy? We’ll see who’s stronger at recess,” Sam muttered to himself.

“It’s time for recess!” Ms. Deer exclaimed.

The class cheered and ran out of the classroom onto the school’s playground. Billy looked around and saw the biggest slide ever! Billy loved going down slides, so he quickly got in line and patiently waited for his turn.

Suddenly, someone tapped Billy’s shoulder.

“Hey there, you dork,” Sam Squirrel said as Billy turned around.

“Oh, h-h-hi Sam,” Billy stuttered. He was surprised and scared to find Sam behind him. Even worse, Sam had brought two of his mean friends: Will Wolf and Sebastian Snake.

“Grr, I’m going to blow you out of this school,” said Will with a mean glint in his eye.

“Sss, go back to where you came from, Mr. Sssmarty-pants,” said Sebastian.

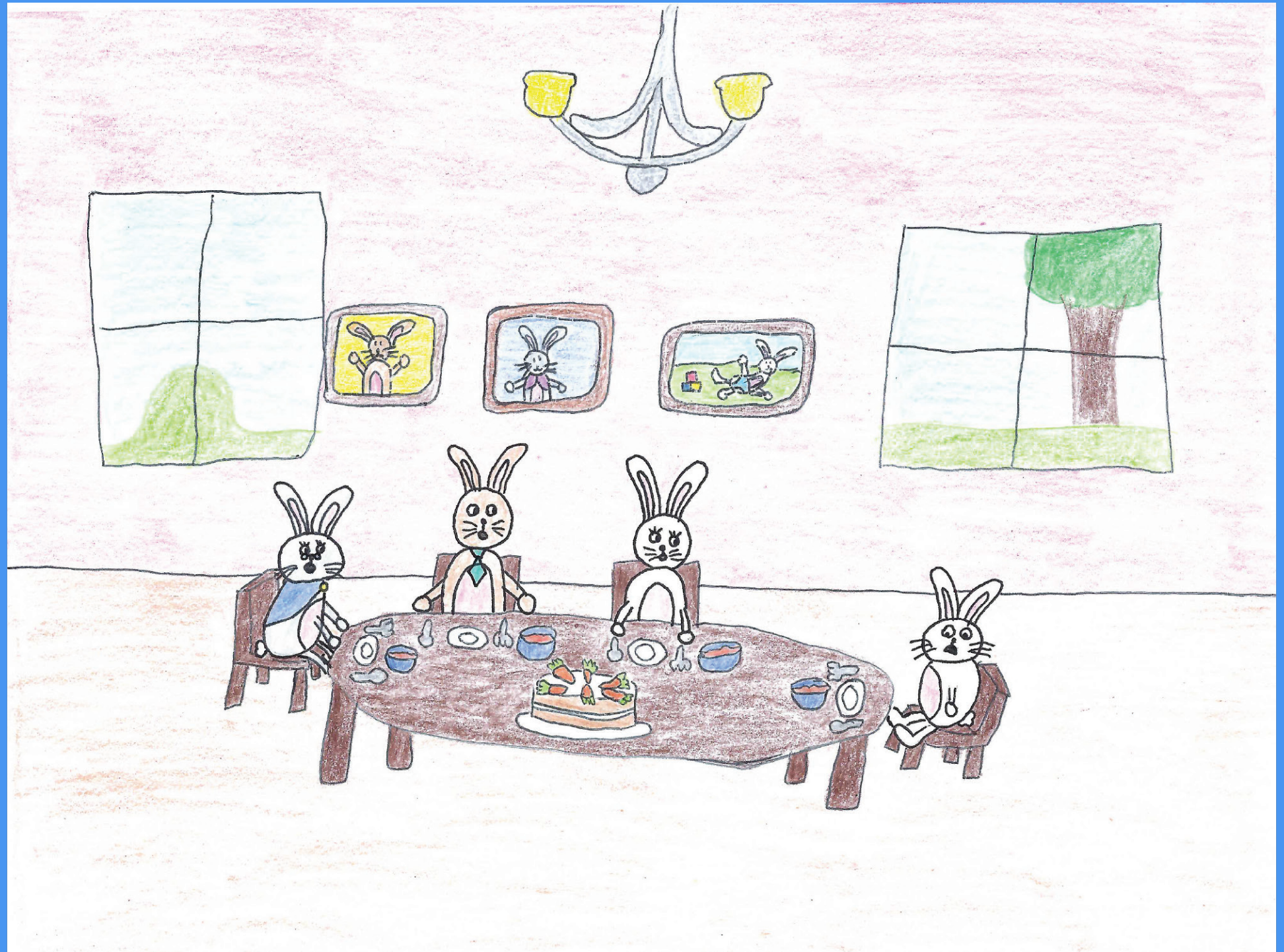
“Hahaha,” laughed Sam, “you’ll never be better than me!”

Billy was scared out of his mind. “Aaaah!” he yelled as Sam, Will, and Sebastian laughed and called him names. Billy ran and ran until he was out of breath.

He hid behind a tree and took out his special carrot keychain.

“I do not like this school,” he told the little carrot, wiping away his tears.





The rest of the school day did not go any better, and Billy sadly went home when school ended.

“Hey honey, how was school?” Mama Bunny asked when Billy came out of the school bus.

“Horrible, like stinky rotten carrots. I don’t want to go back there anymore,” Billy grumbled angrily.

“Aww, my poor Billy, can you tell me what happened?” Mama Bunny asked empathetically.

“I don’t want to talk about it,” Billy said as tears started flowing down his cheeks. He ran back home as fast as he could and threw himself onto his bed.

A while later, Papa Bunny knocked on Billy’s bedroom door.

“Billy? Want to come down for some dinner? Your mother made your favorite carrot soup. You can have some carrot cake too!” Papa Bunny said gently.

“Hmm, fine,” Billy said as he pulled himself up. Despite going down to dinner, he didn’t have an appetite for anything, not even carrot soup.

After dinner, Billy went back into his room and continued to lie in his bed. He still felt sad and scared.

Before bed, Granny Bunny came in and sat beside him.

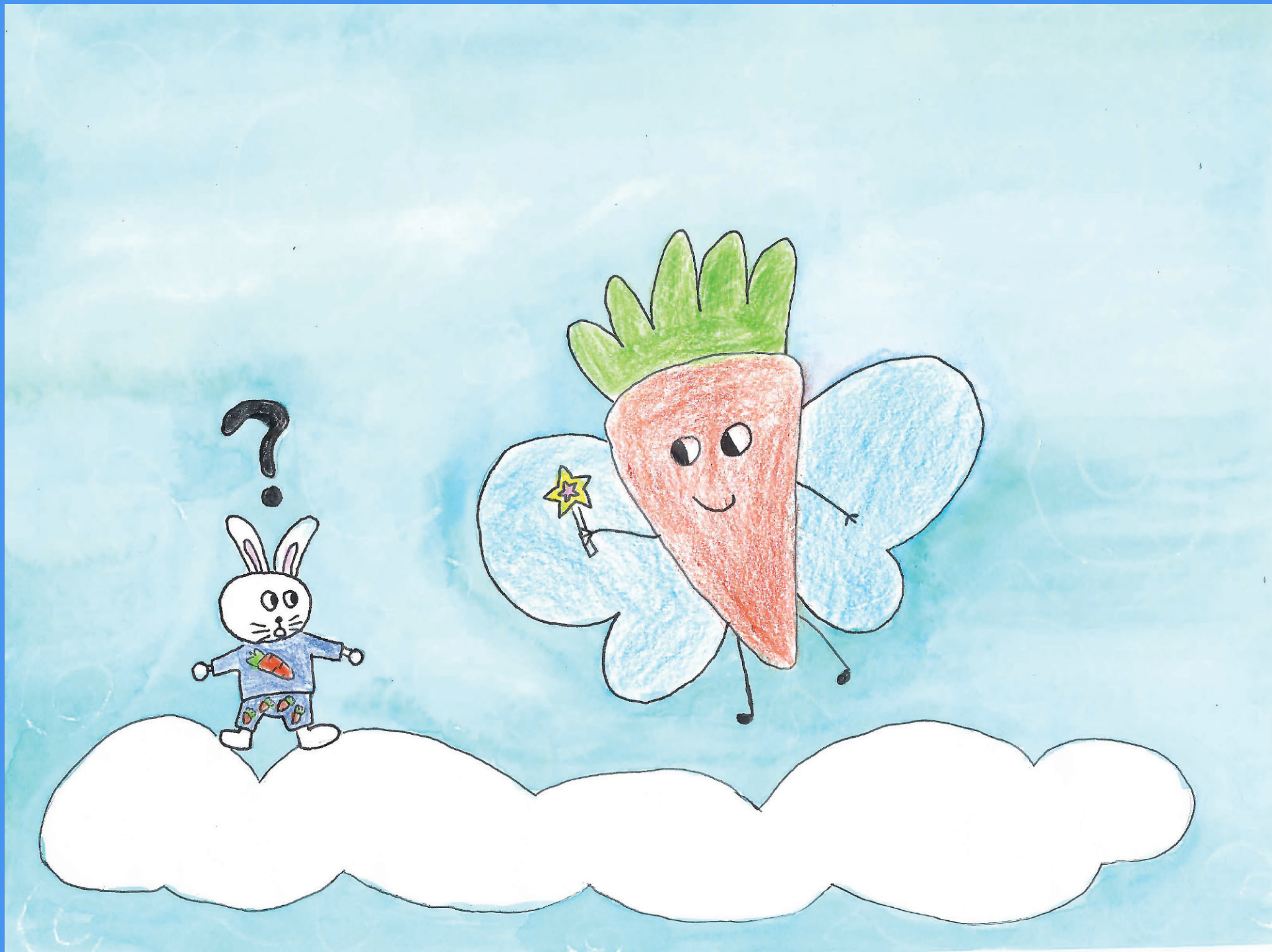
“Did something happen at school? You looked down during dinner. Can you tell me what happened?” Granny Bunny asked softly.

Billy shook his head. It felt suffocating to keep everything to himself, but it was so hard to talk about something that hurt so much.

Granny Bunny nodded understandingly and said, “Ask your carrot keychain what you should do. Maybe it will teach you how to get help.” As Billy took out his keychain, Granny Bunny got up and left the room, gently closing the door behind her.

Billy looked at his little carrot and said to it, “What should I do to stop getting bullied?” He put the keychain into his drawer and fell into a deep sleep.





At once, Billy felt like he was flying. He opened his eyes and gasped. He was surrounded by colorful mist, and it was like he was floating.

“Where am I? Am I dreaming?” he asked.

“You’re on a cloud, Billy. As for whether or not you’re dreaming, well, you’ll have to figure that out yourself,” a mystical voice replied.

“What? I’m on a cloud? Who are you?” Billy asked, bewildered.

“Why I am your little carrot, of course,” the voice said. Suddenly a carrot as big as Billy appeared. This carrot did look like the carrot from Billy’s keychain, but it had a face, arms, legs, wings, and was holding a magic wand! It was a carrot fairy!

“Little carrot? So you’re actually a fairy?” Billy asked again.

“Yes, I am a carrot fairy, and I am here to grant your wish,” the carrot fairy said.

“My wish is to stop getting bullied?” Billy asked.

“Correct. I will teach you all about anti-bullying,” the fairy replied.

The fairy waved her wand, and suddenly a blackboard, a seat, and a desk appeared out of thin air!

“Now,” the carrot fairy said, “Let’s get started with class, shall we?”

Before Billy even understood what was happening, the fairy plopped him into the seat and got started.

“In simple terms, bullying is when kids use their power to harm others. This could be in the form of physical bullying, which could be hitting or pushing someone, verbal bullying, which could be saying mean things or name-calling, or social bullying, which could be excluding someone or spreading rumors. Sound familiar?” the carrot asked.

“That sounds just like what Sam Squirrel is doing to me! So the type of bullying I’m experiencing is verbal bullying!” Billy exclaimed.

“That’s right! Now that you know what bullying is, I’ll teach you how to stop it. Firstly, it is important to always tell a trusted adult if you are being bullied. A trusted adult could be a teacher, a parent, or any other adult you trust and feel comfortable around. An adult can help you when you need it. Another thing you can do is stand up to the bully yourself. Telling the bully that bullying is wrong will help the bully understand that what they are doing is bad,” the carrot fairy said.

“Oh, I see. Thank you so much, little carrot!” Billy said happily.

“No problem! Now, I better send you back to bed!” the carrot fairy replied. She waved her wand, and Billy was back in his own room in a flash.





Billy woke up and stretched his arms as the sun peeked in through the window. He had the strangest dream last night about a carrot fairy who taught him about anti-bullying. Billy shrugged and took his carrot keychain out of the drawer.

“Huh? Why does the little carrot have a face, arms, legs, and a wand? It looks just like the fairy from last night! Was the dream from last night real?” Billy asked himself. He was confused, but he did not have time to think about it more, he was going to be late for school!

Billy ran out of the house just in time to catch the bus. He felt much better than before, and he knew just what he had to do to stop getting bullied.

When Billy got to school, he marched into his classroom to his desk.

“Hey, you crybaby,” Sam Squirrel snickered as Billy walked up to him.

“It’s not nice to bully others, Sam. Name-calling is a form of bullying and what you and your friends did to me at recess was very mean,” Billy said to Sam firmly.

Sam looked perplexed. He was about to call Billy another mean name, but Billy was one step before him.

Billy walked up to Ms. Deer and told her all about getting bullied. Ms. Deer looked horrified when she heard how mean Sam, Will, and Sebastian were.

“Thank you for telling me, Billy. I will sort this out at once,” Ms. Deer said.

Billy saw Ms. Deer walk towards the three bullies and smiled. He had finally done it. He had stood up for himself and stopped the bullying.

“Wow, Billy! You’re so cool to be able to defeat big bad Sam!” Rylie Racoon said.

“Yeah! You’re a hero! Sam has been mean to all of us for a long time!” Bella Bear added.

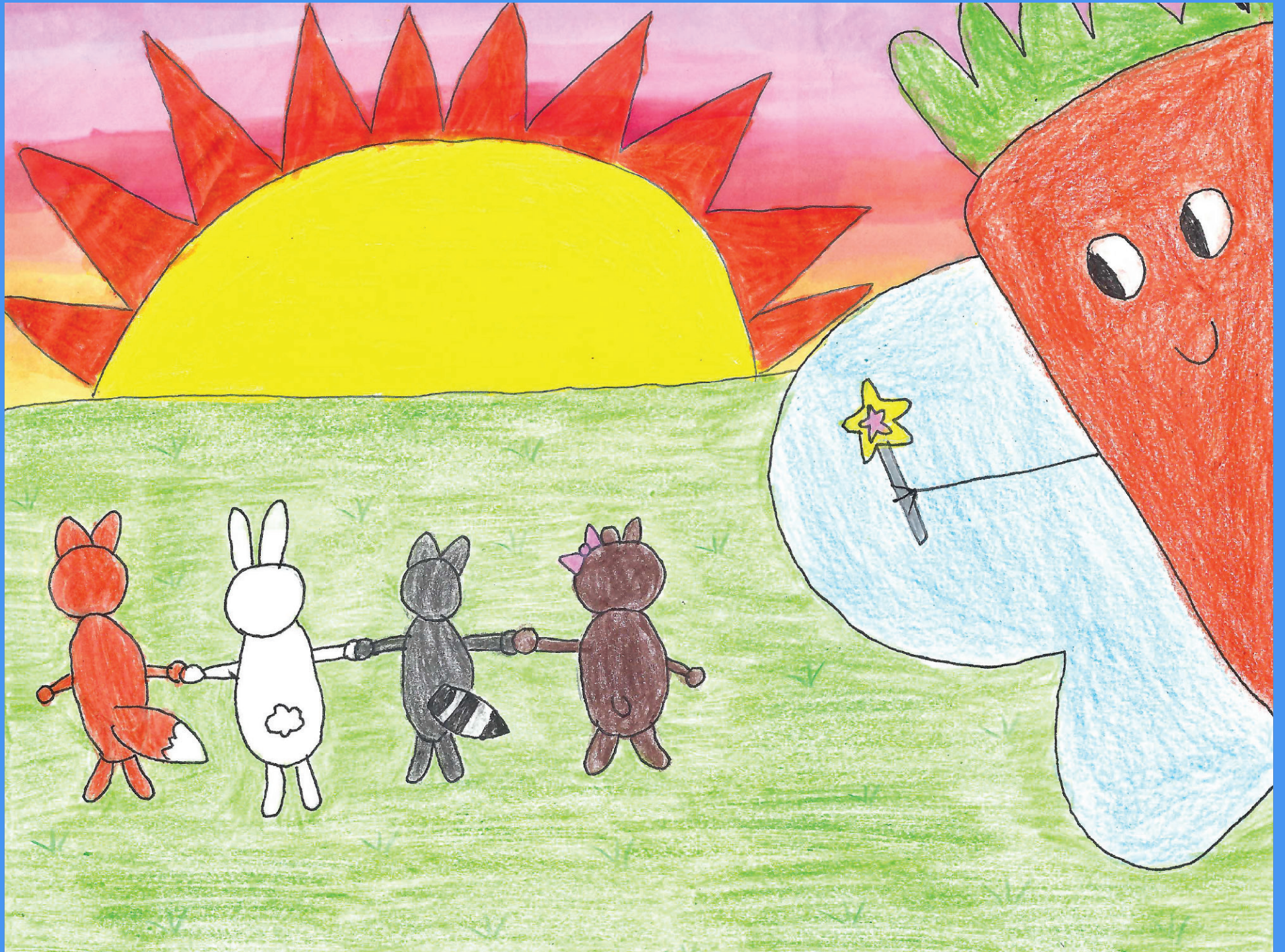
“How did you stop him from bullying you?” Frederick Fox asked.

“Well, I just gathered up some courage, told him that bullying was wrong, and most importantly, told a trusted adult!” Billy said, summarizing the lesson he had learned from the carrot fairy. Billy was glad to have stopped Sam, Will, and Sebastian from bullying anyone ever again, and he was happy to have made some new friends.

“Come on!” Billy said to Rylie, Bella, and Frederick, “Let’s go teach others about anti-bullying too!”

“Yes!” the three friends cheered together.





The little carrot fairy smiled as she watched Billy stop bullying. She flew high into the sky and went to find another kid in need of help from bullying.



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