

National Youth Foundation *Presents:*

Deimos and the Bully

a story taking place on the planet Jupiter



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This book is dedicated to my writing teacher, my Grandma, and my sister.

Characters



Mrs. Halo



Ganymede



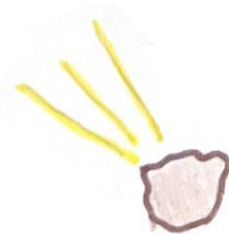
Callisto



Europa



Deimos
(Day-mos)



Rocky

One rainy day, a new kid walked into Great Red Spot Middle School. He introduced himself as Deimos and shyly said that he had just moved from Mars. The class erupted into laughter since Mars was a fairly small planet compared to Jupiter. Ganymede, well known as the class bully, said that explained why Deimos's clothes were so dirty and his hair uncombed.



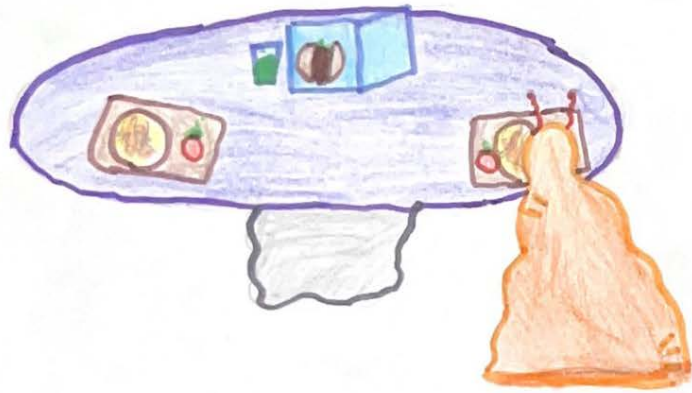


Later at lunch, Deimos sat at a table in the corner of the room and his classmates all came over and started to make fun of him. They teased him for his traditional Marsian food, a red stardust sandwich, and complained about the smell and look of it. “Why is it so red! It looks like you stuffed a sandwich with someone’s red hair!” Ganymede laughed.

Then, he took his lunchbox away and threw the rest of Deimos's Martian food into the trash can. "This food is disgusting," Ganymede said, with an evil look in his eyes. The kids around him laughed and one of them agreed, saying that it looked like it was made of trash. Deimos ran away, embarrassed. He sat outside, where it was very cold, and tried to eat the remains of his Martian sandwich.



EAT
your
trash.



Ha
Ha





After lunch, Deimos returned to the classroom and walked to his cubby to put his lunchbox into his solar-powered backpack. He noticed Ganymede and a couple of his minions lurking in the doorway with a pencil bag in their hands. Deimos saw them point and jeer at him, while one of Ganymede's minions, Callisto, whispered into his ear. Deimos returned to his seat and decided to ignore Ganymede and his minions and to focus on the lesson instead.

Mrs. Halo started to say that maybe he had just lost it during lunch, but a group of kids were already looking through backpacks hanging on the cubby shelves. “I FOUND IT!” one of Ganymede’s minions cried, “It was in Deimos’s backpack!” Everyone stared at Deimos and the teacher walked over, an angry look on her face. “Deimos, I understand you are new and you don’t have any friends yet, but you didn’t have to steal Callisto’s pencil case! That’s not something we do here on Jupiter!”





ENOUGH!
Apologize!



Deimos started to explain that it wasn't him, but all that came out were blubbers.

"Mrs. H-halo, I-I- d-don't know w-who did i-it, b-but-"

"That's enough!" Mrs. Halo said, "Apologize to Callisto and you have detention for the rest of this week!" Ganymede and Callisto snickered and smiled at Deimos, knowing that they had just ruined his opportunity to make a good first impression on the teacher. Deimos couldn't hold it in anymore, so he ran out of the classroom and cried in the hallway.

A few minutes later, Rocky, one of the kids in his class, came out into the hallway and sat next to Deimos. “I know it wasn’t you... those kids are awful. They did the same thing to me when I moved here from Earth and I faced the same trouble. Are you okay?”

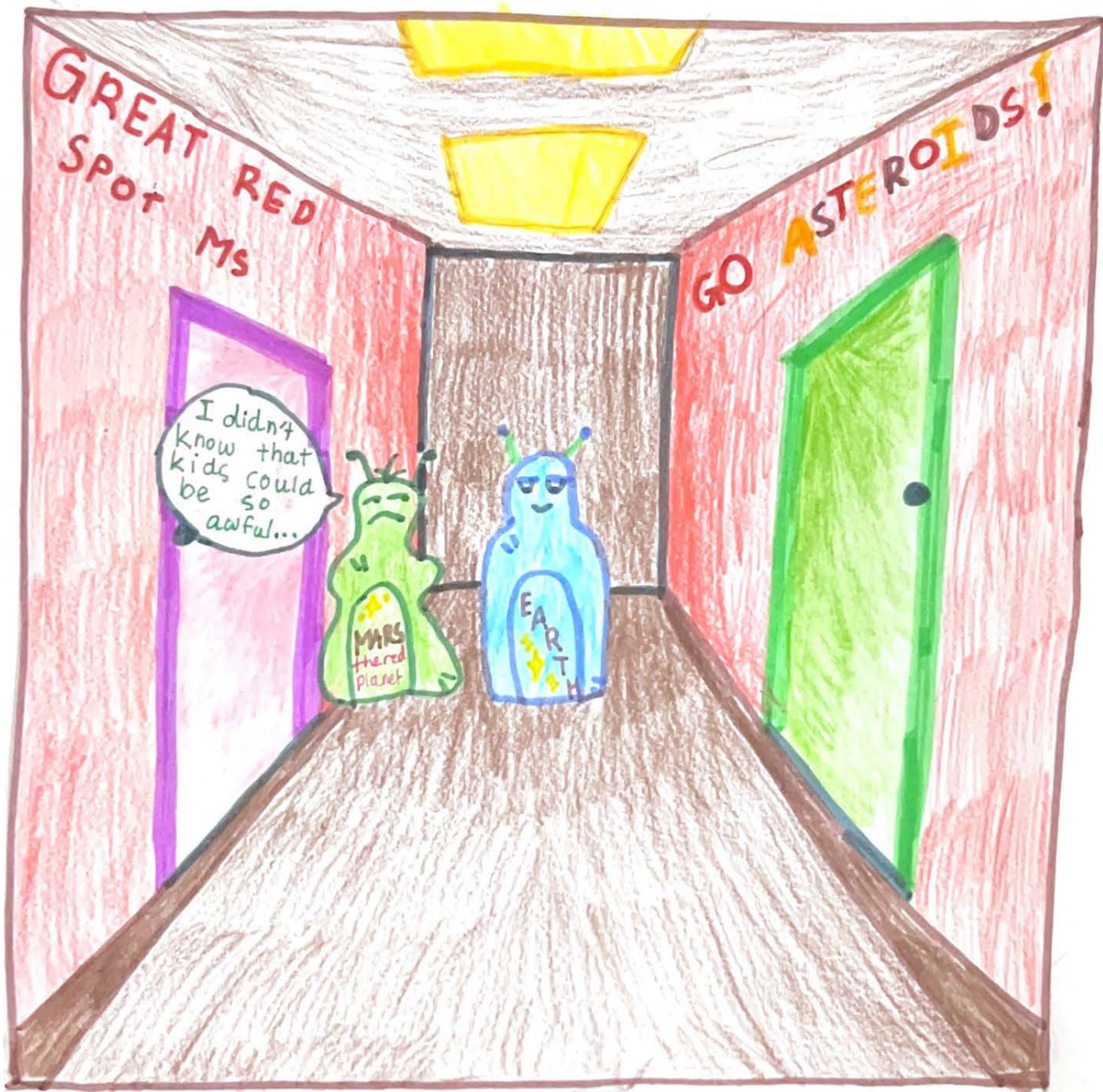
GREAT RED
SPOT MS

GO ASTEROIDS!



Are you okay?

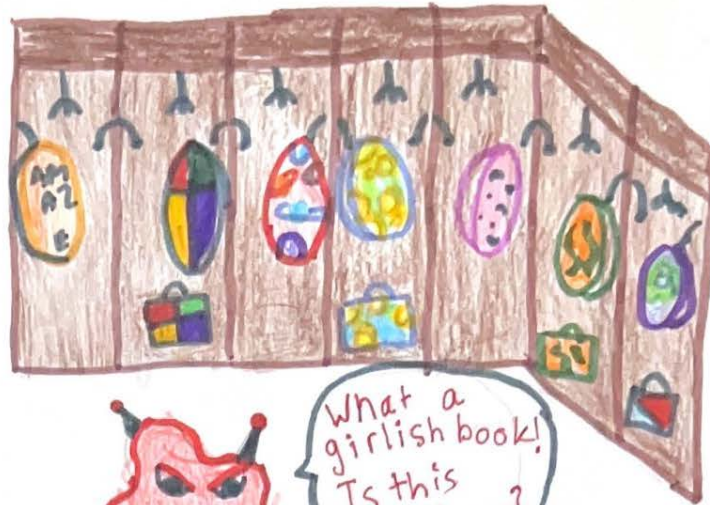




Deimos looked up and realized that he probably looked terrible from all the crying. He wiped the tears from his face and replied, “I didn’t know that kids could be so awful... but I just don’t have the courage to stand up to them, and even when I try, it just backfires on me and I end up getting hurt even more.”

“Well, when they bullied me, I either ignored them or told a trusted adult, such as my teacher or my parents, and they told me how to stand up for myself. You should always deny what they say and tell them that it’s what makes you who you are. If they can’t accept it, it’s their problem, and you’d be better off just avoiding them.”

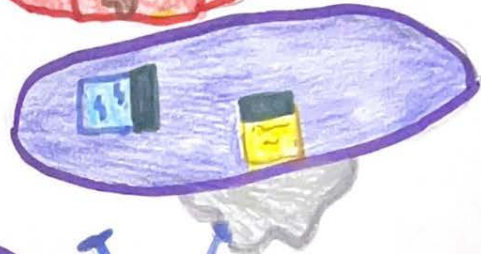




Ha
Ha



What a
girlish book!
Is this
your
sisters?



Deimos thanked Rocky for his advice, and they walked back into the classroom together. They saw Ganymede teasing one of his minions, Europa, about the book he was reading. “What a girlish book. Is this your sister’s?” He laughed and the rest of his minions joined him. Deimos and Rocky could see Europa’s face get red and he looked like he was about to explode in anger.

“No, it’s not my sister’s, actually, it’s mine, and if you even tried to read it, although I seriously doubt you can, you would see that it’s a really good book about how the portals of Saturn and Jupiter are connected!!” Europa shouted. This time, Ganymede’s minions all laughed at Ganymede whose face got red with embarrassment.

“W-well maybe I just don’t want to read it because it’s so g-girly,” Ganymede said, trying to put the focus back on Europa.



No, it's not my sisters, actually, it's mine...





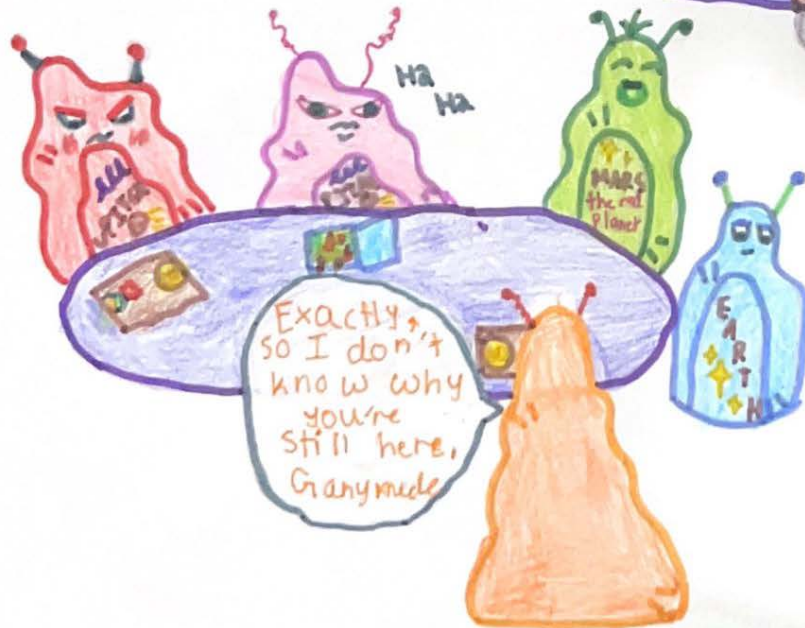
Deimos and Rocky watched all of this happen and realized that Europa had just modeled how to stand up to a bully. They walked over to Europa and asked him how he knew to defend himself so quickly. Europa shrugged. “I knew that Ganymede’s just picking on me because he’s bored. He picks on everyone, so I decided that enough was enough and told him exactly what he tells everyone else.” Deimos and Rocky looked at him in awe. They both admired his courage.

The next afternoon, Deimos and Rocky joined Ganymede's lunch table. They were met with open mouths from his minions and a nasty comment from Ganymede who sneered, "Who asked you two to sit here?"

Deimos and Rocky looked at each other and nodded. Enough was enough. Rocky looked Ganymede in the eyes and said, "Actually no one did, but we wanted to sit here, so we will."

Ganymede laughed in Rocky's face and said, "Well this table isn't designed to hold losers, so get out of here."





“Exactly, so I don’t know why you’re still here, Ganymede,” Europa replied. Ganymede looked shocked and all his friends whispered and giggled. Deimos and Rocky looked at Europa in admiration before glaring at Ganymede whose face turned as red as Mars.

Deimos, Rocky, and Europa all walked to a different table on the opposite side of the lunch room. Some of Ganymede's other friends joined them and Ganymede was left with just one of his friends, who soon got up, seeing that everyone else left.

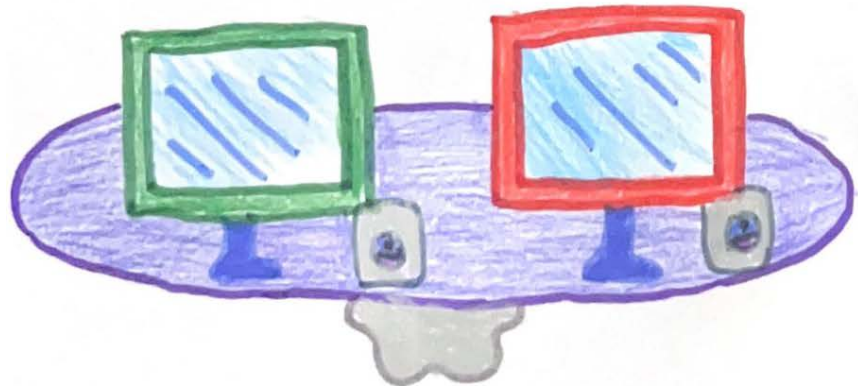
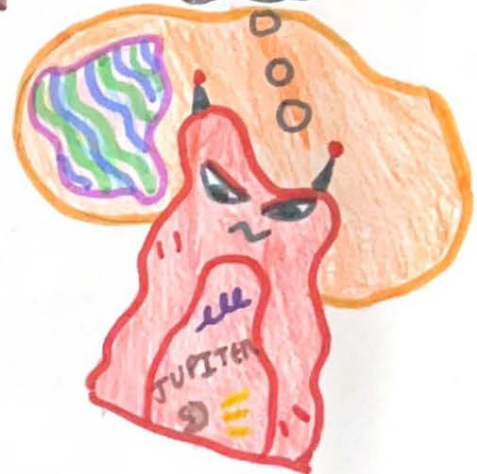




Ganymede didn't know what to do, so he tried to go to the table where all of his friends were now sitting, but Deimos spoke up this time.

“There's no room for losers at this table, sorry,” Deimos said, with a satisfied look on his face. Ganymede looked at him, surprised, then ran out of the lunchroom, realizing that he had lost all of his friends.

Ganymede ran to the library and sat in a corner, not hungry and feeling unappreciated. He was completely friendless at this point, and he didn't know what to do. He realized that the only way to gain back his lost friendships was to apologize to Deimos and Rocky.

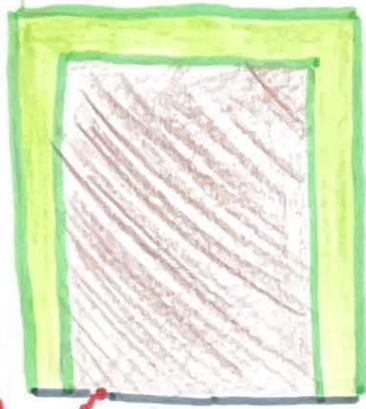




The next morning, Ganymede walked over to Deimos and Rocky and apologized. “I’m sorry that I made you feel left out, and although it took me a long time to realize, I understand how it feels to be ignored and excluded, so I regret making you guys feel that way.” Deimos and Rocky seemed surprised by Ganymede’s apology, but they smiled at him and replied.

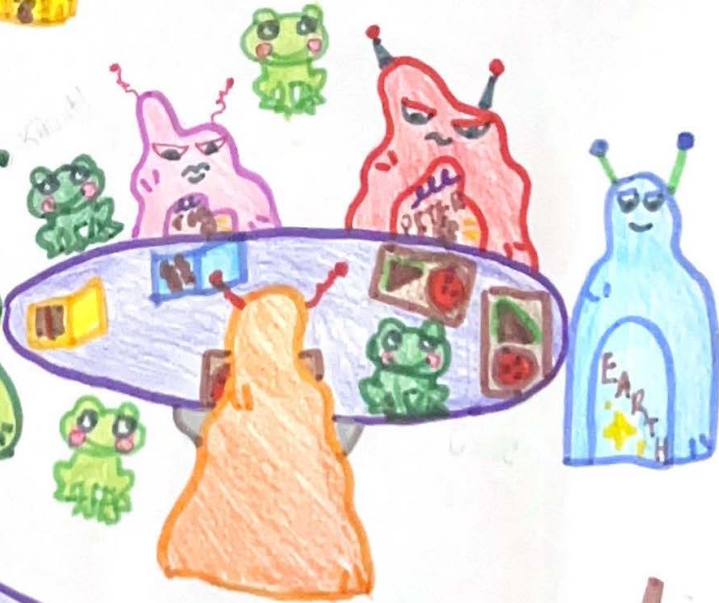
The only reason that he bullied kids was because he thought that was the only way that the other kids would look up to him, and he enjoyed seeing them laugh when he teased Deimos and Rocky.

Now, he realized how left out Deimos must've felt when he denied him sitting at his lunch table, and when he made fun of his food, and understood what it meant to be in Deimos's shoes.



He now understands what it's like to be left out!





Ribbit!



“We forgive you, but on the condition that you never bully us or any other kid again...”

Ganymede promised, and he joined them in making levitating frogs and they all ended up sitting at the same lunch table, no losers or minions, just a group of friends.