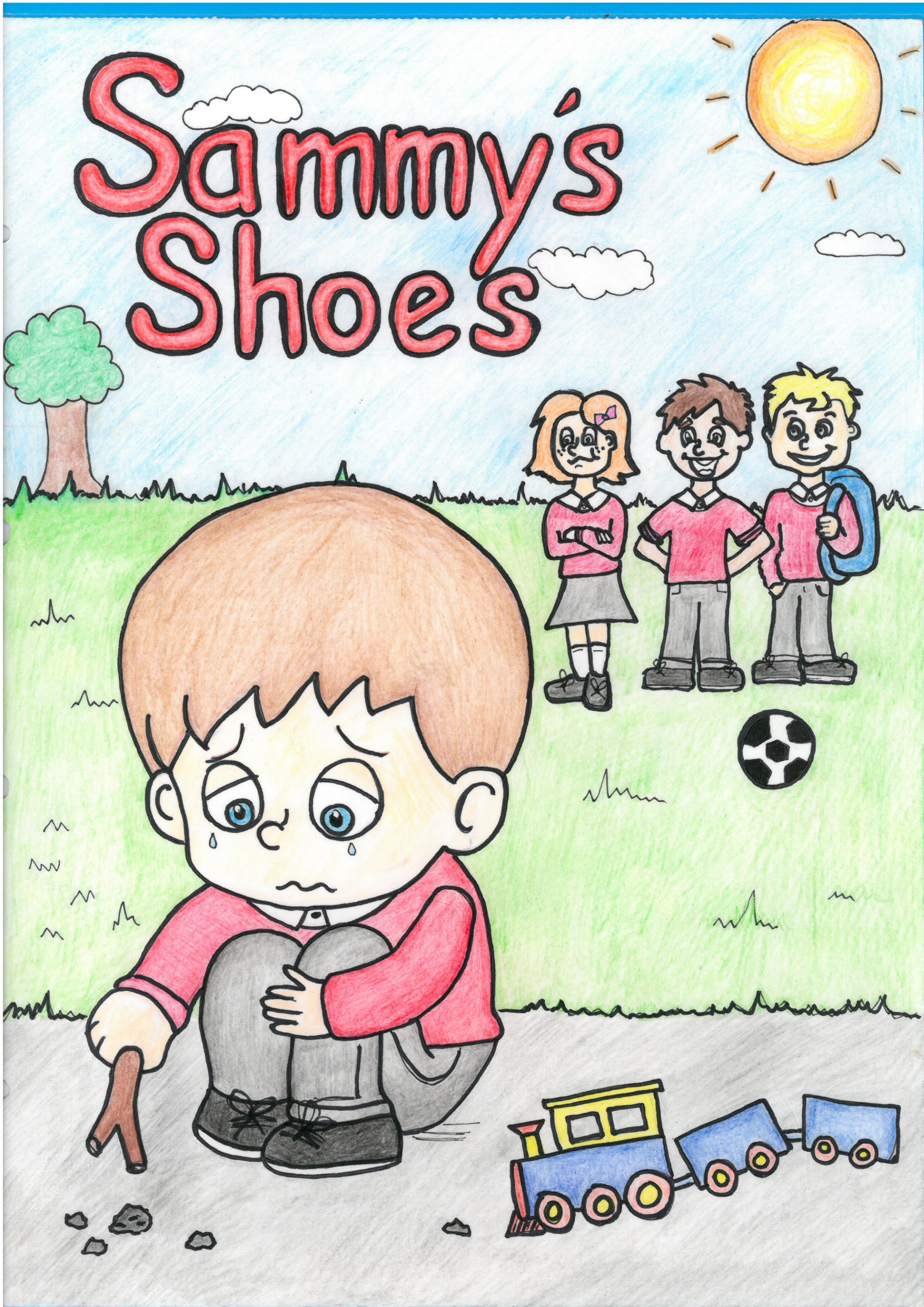


# Sammy's Shoes

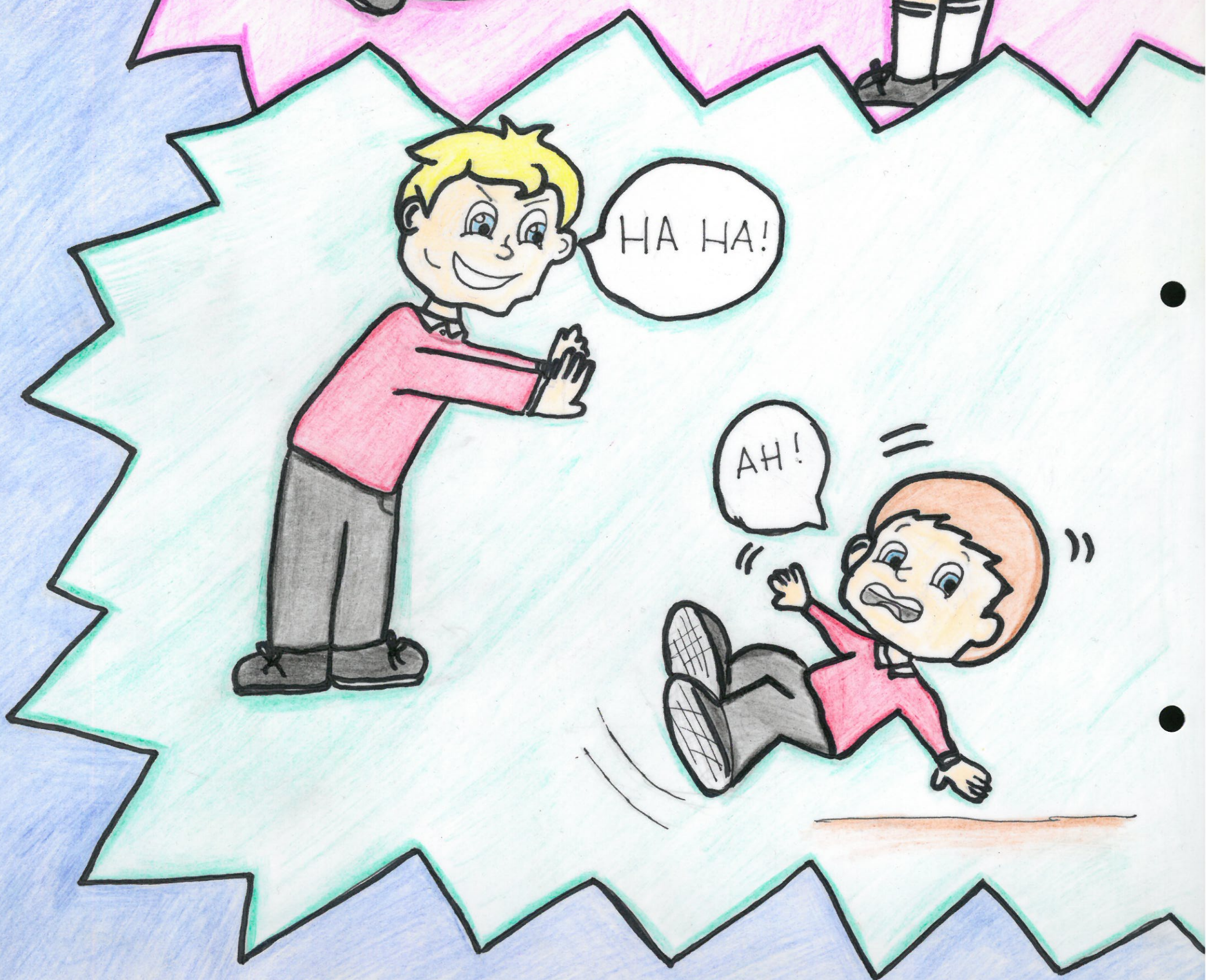
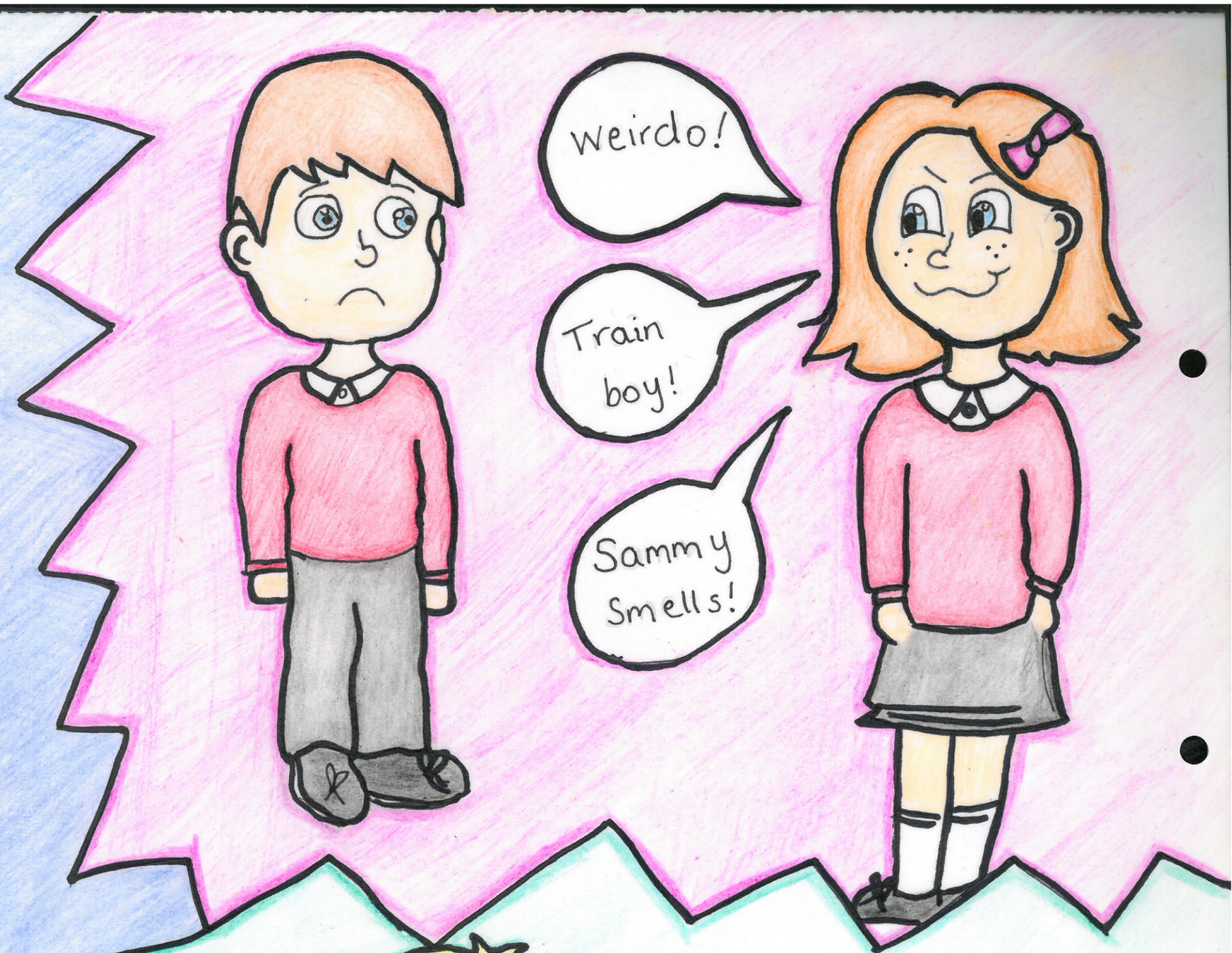




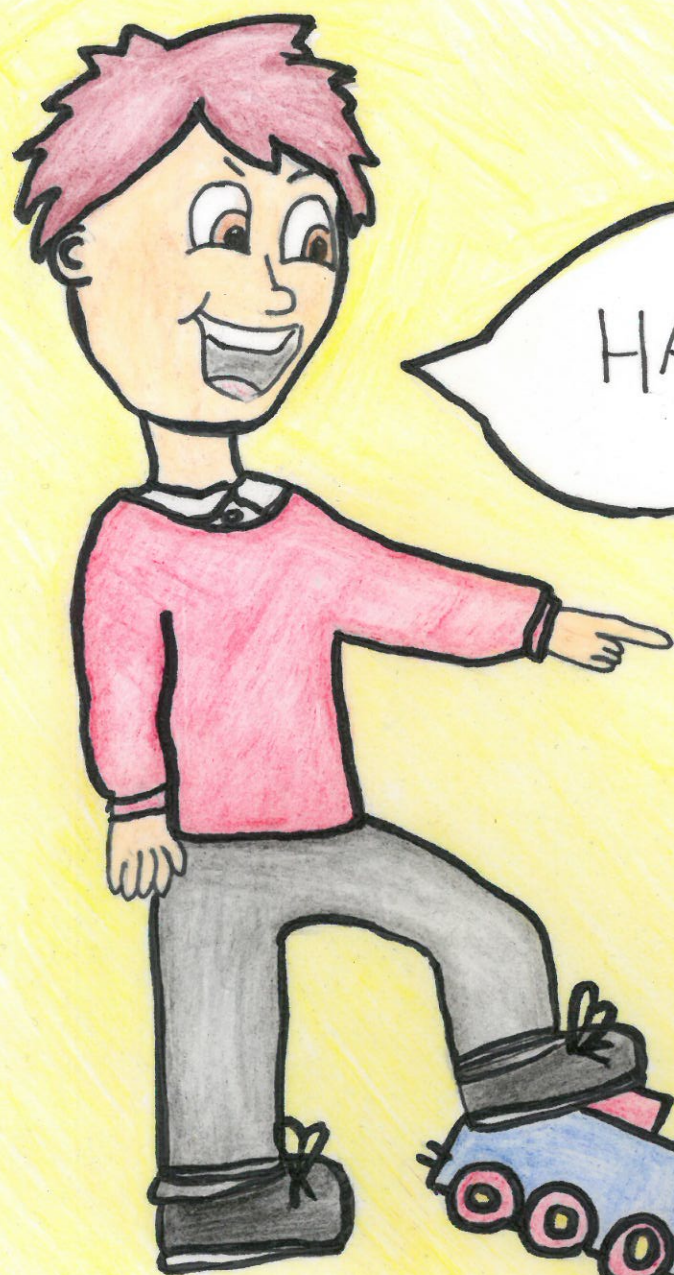


Sammy loves trains and learning lots of new things, but he does not love school. Sammy finds school difficult because he isn't like the other boys and girls in his class. Sammy is different, as he doesn't see things the way everyone else does. Sammy has autism.









HA - HA!

Bullying is when people are mean or hurt others on purpose everyday.

Some people who have autism can be very interested in one or two activities or objects, and may not want to do or play with anything else.

Sammy tried to make friends with Bruce, Jake and Lucy, but they thought that Sammy was weird and picked on him instead.

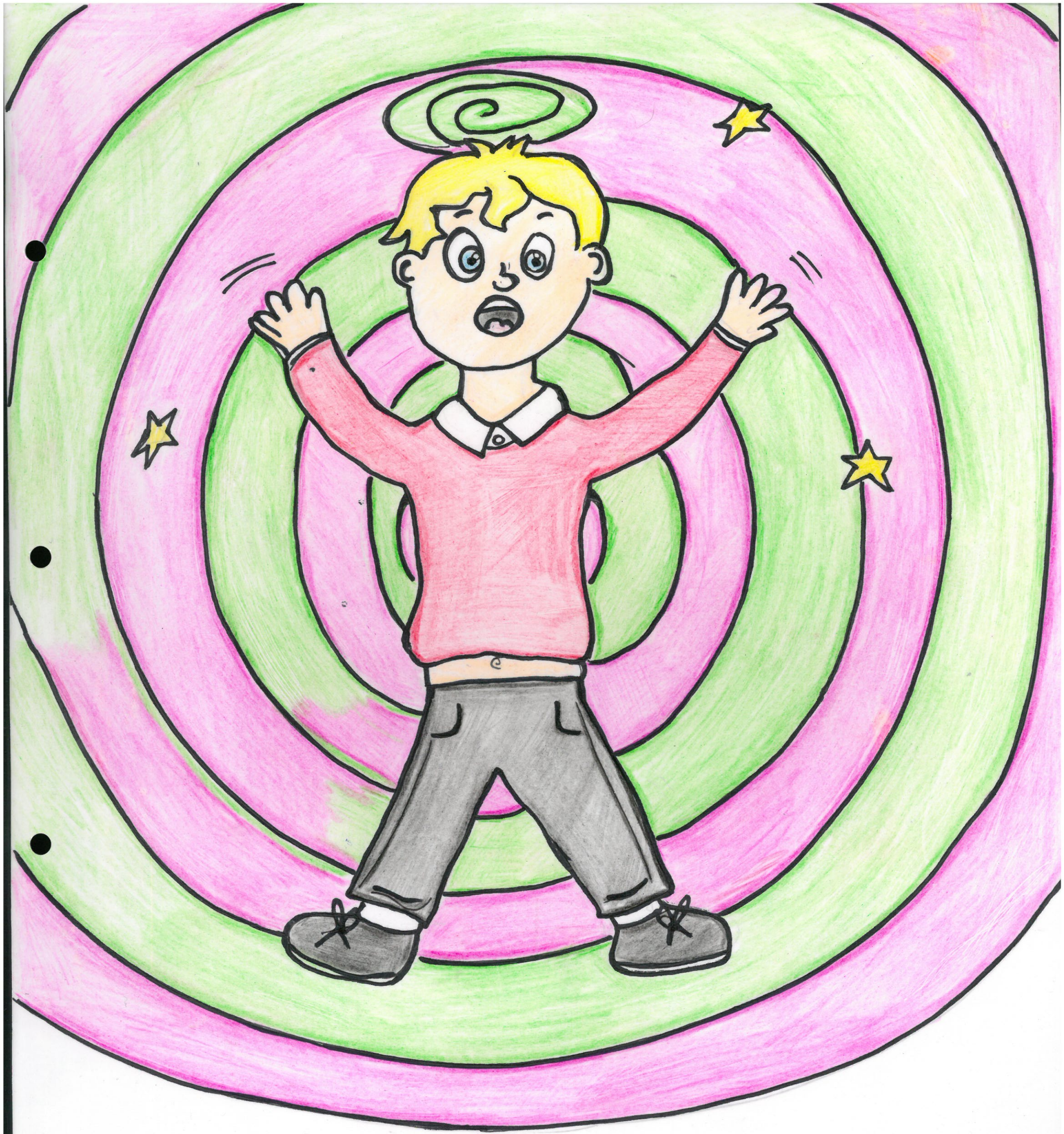
They make fun of Sammy everyday at break-time because he only ever wants to play with trains instead of playing football with the others. They call him nasty names when Miss Brown helps him with his work. They even push him over in the cloakroom when the teacher isn't looking.





Every day during story time, Sammy takes off his shoes and places them neatly at the back of the carpet area. But one day everything changed. Bruce stole Sammy's shoes and put them on, as the class were listening to the story. He knew that this would really upset Sammy.





- As soon as Bruce put Sammy's shoes on, everything that he could see changed. The classroom became so bright, that it burned Bruce's eyes and made it hard for him to see. The teacher seemed to be shouting very loudly, as she read the story to the class.



Bruce suddenly realised that he was in Sammy's shoes. Everything that Bruce was seeing and hearing is exactly how Sammy sees and hears every day.



Bruce could not bare the bright light and the **booming sounds**, so he covered his ears, buried his head in his knees and rocked back and forth. Bruce was crying and screaming!





People with autism may move differently. They may rock, flap their hands, bury their head and cover their ears. This helps them to let out their feelings.

Everyone laughed at Bruce, which made him cross and even more upset. They just didn't understand how he was feeling.

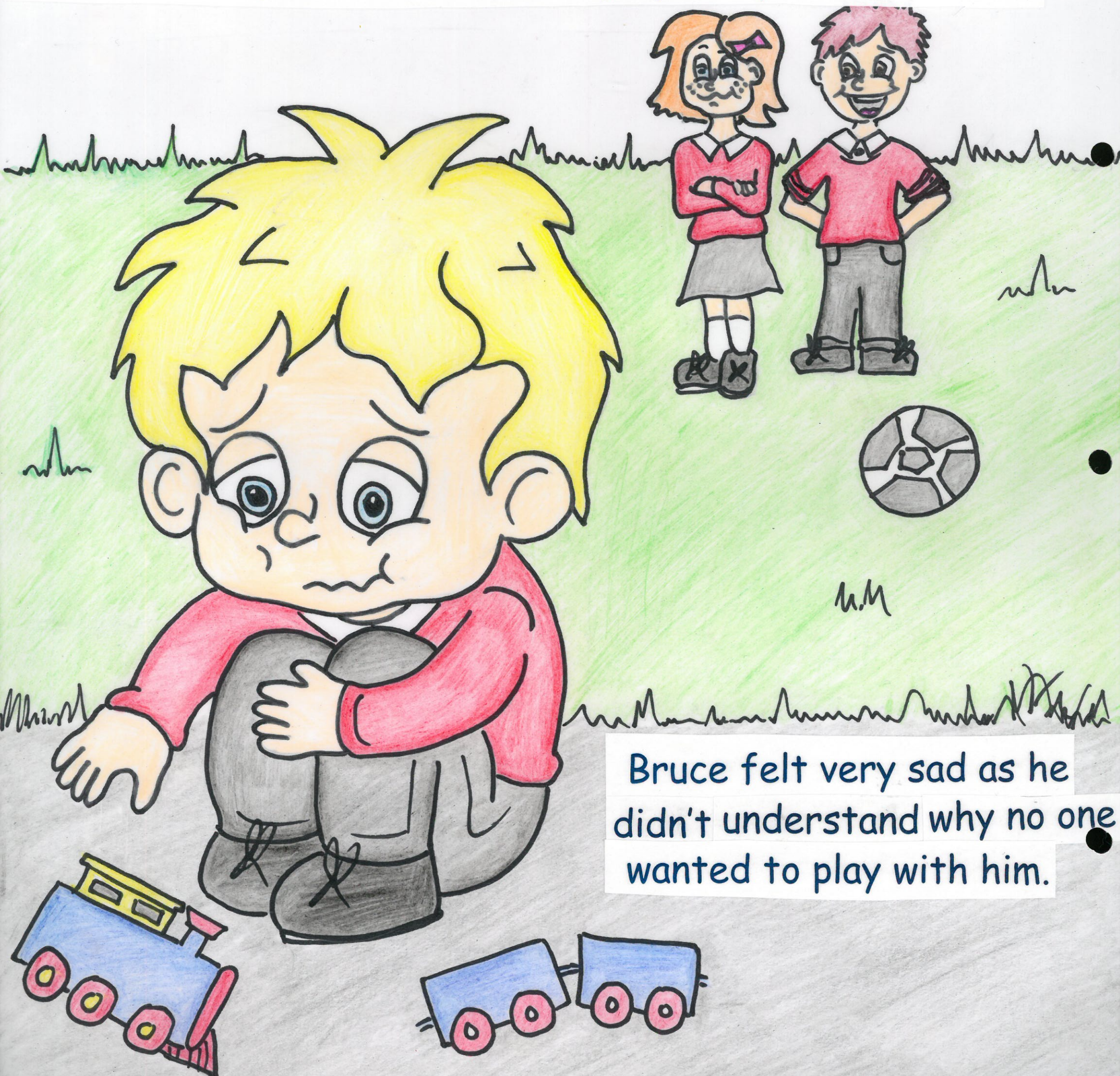


At break time, Bruce went outside but no one wanted to play with him. Bruce saw Jake and Lucy in the playground. 'Would you like to play Thomas the Tank with me?' asked Bruce.

Jake and Lucy replied nastily,

'We aren't playing that game, it's for babies!'

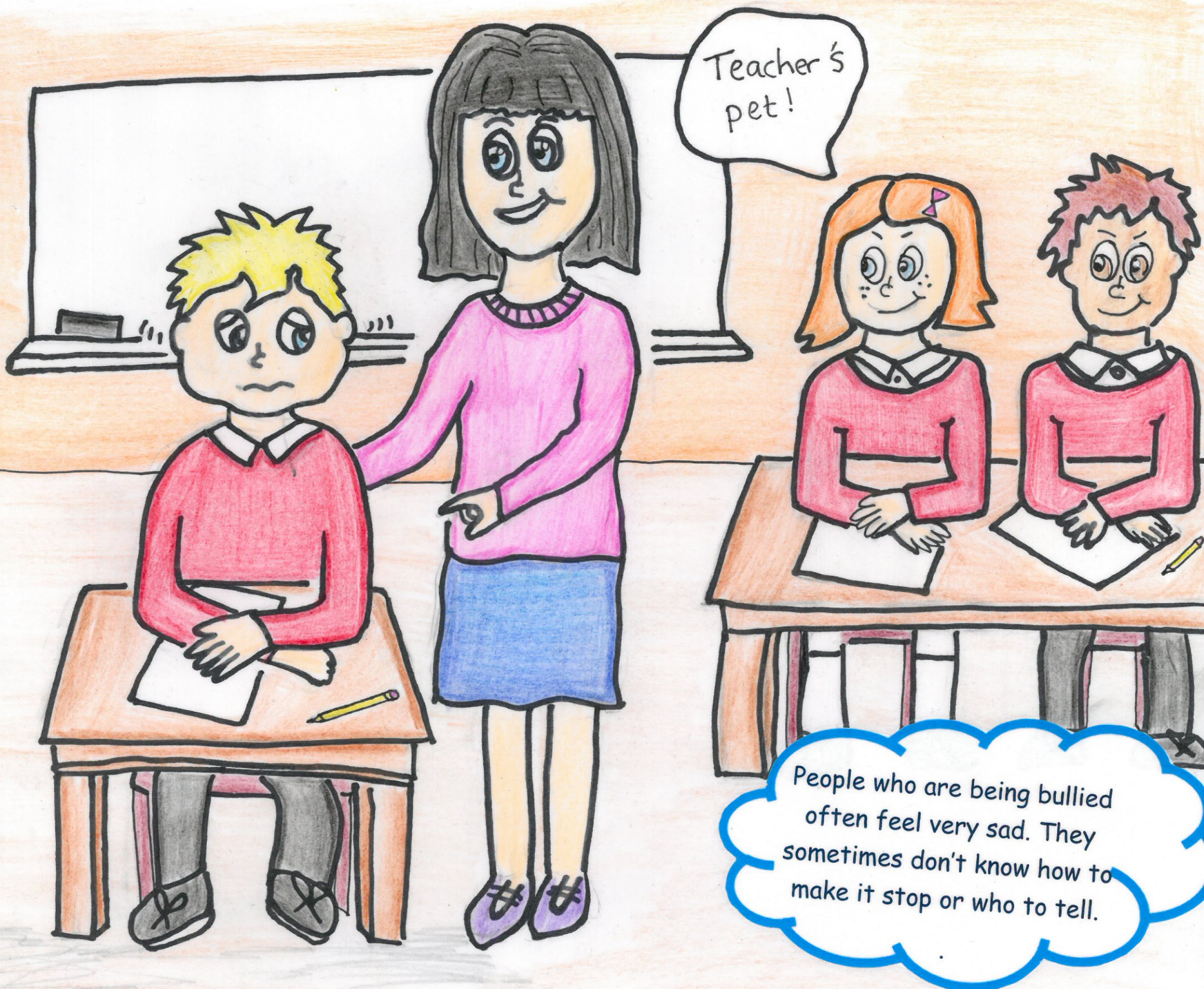
They ran away and left Bruce to play all by himself.



Bruce felt very sad as he didn't understand why no one wanted to play with him.



In the classroom, Bruce could hear the children whispering and saying nasty comments about him. This made Bruce even more upset. Bruce had had enough, he couldn't stand being in Sammy's shoes anymore, so he flung them across the carpet.



Immediately, Bruce was back on the carpet in his own shoes. His feelings towards Sammy had changed. Bruce suddenly realised that he and the other children had been bullying Sammy every day.



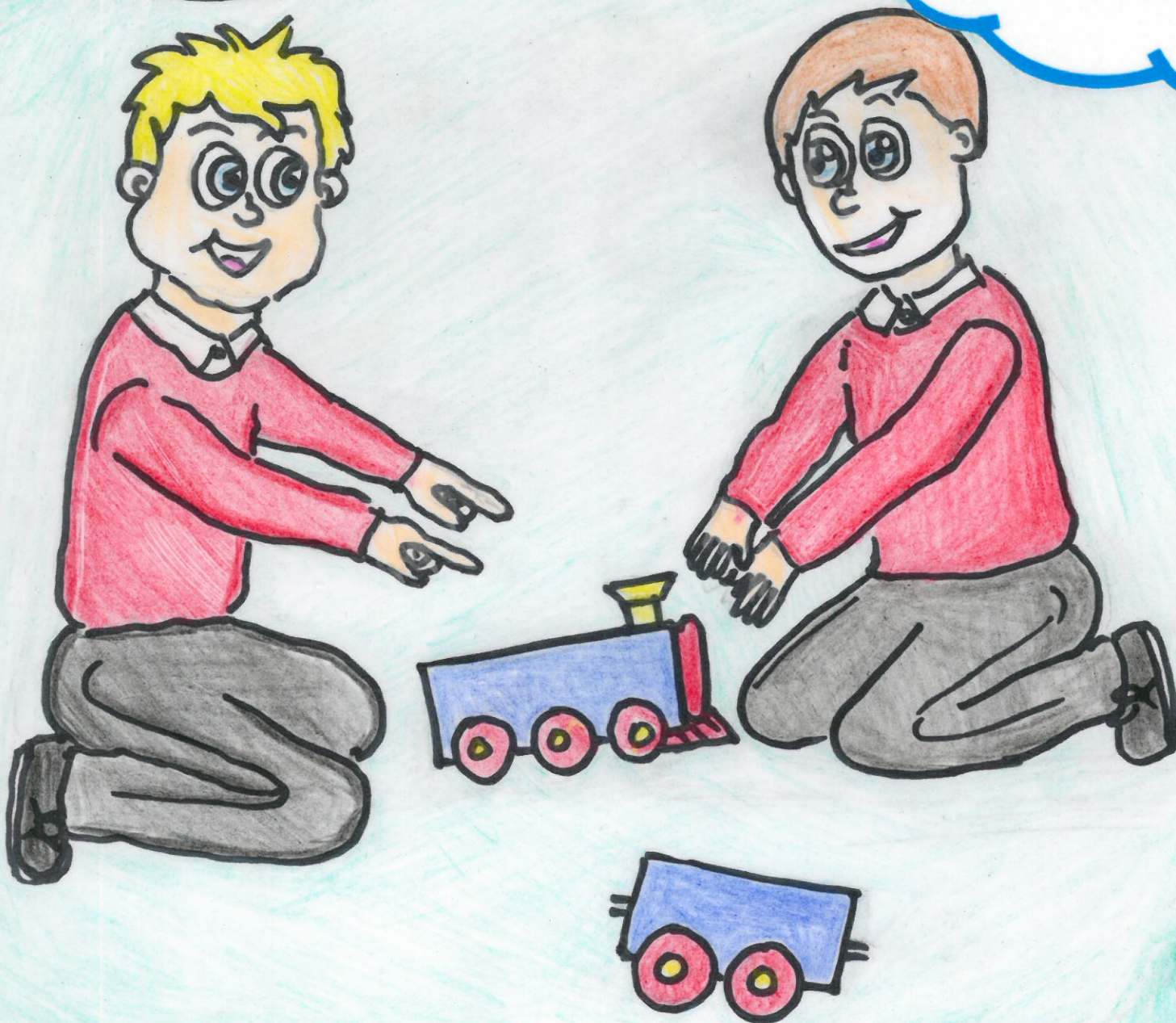


Bruce picked up Sammy's shoes and gave them back to him. Bruce apologised for all of the horrible things that he had done to Sammy. Bruce sat beside Sammy during lessons, and even played Sammy's favourite train games with him in the playground. Bruce and Sammy became best friends.



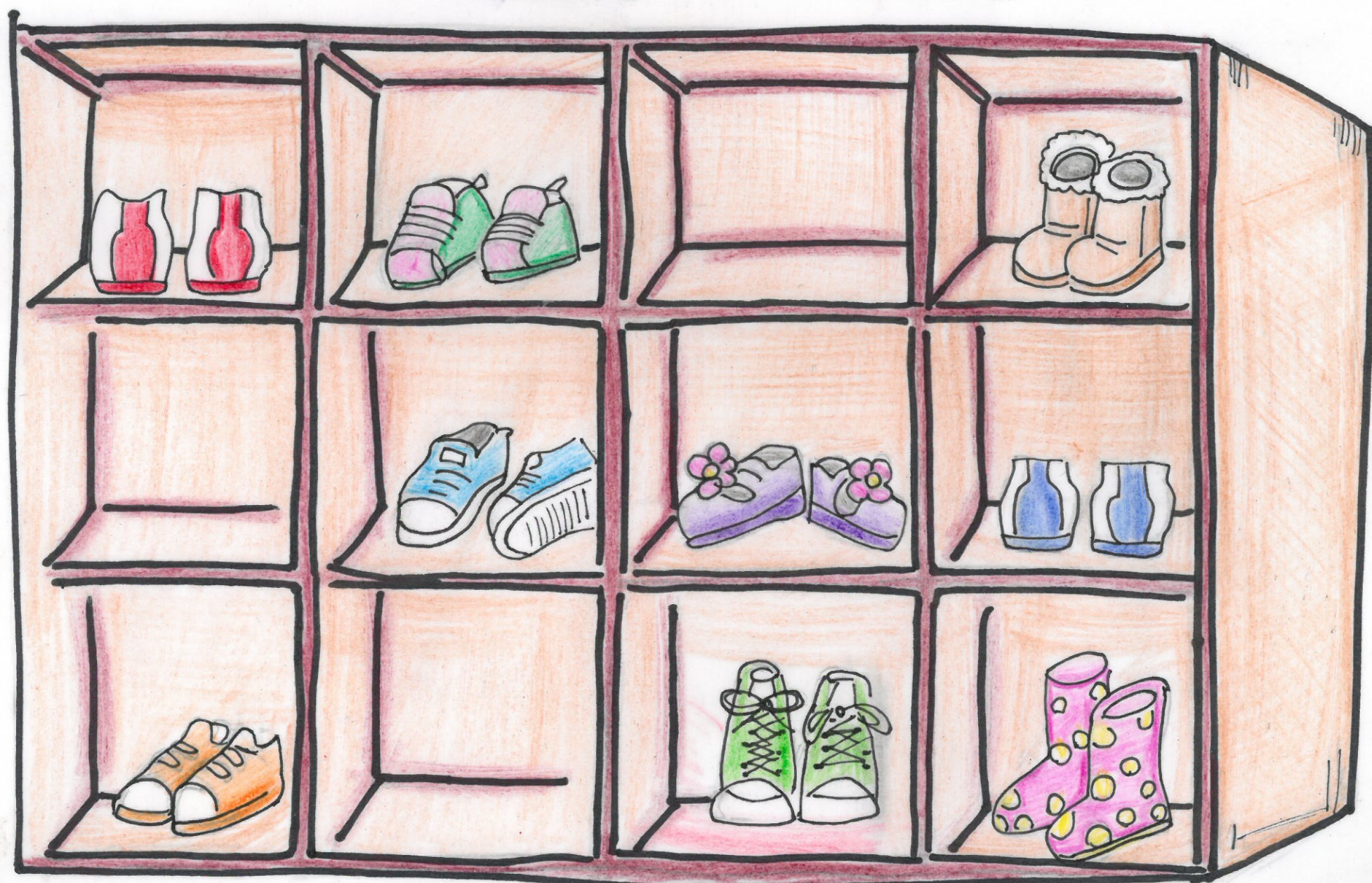


You can be a good friend to someone who has autism by understanding what they like and dislike, and knowing how they want to be treated by others.





Bruce now understood what a day in Sammy's shoes was really like. This made him realise that we all have different shoes, and sometimes we need to walk in someone else's to really understand how they are feeling.





**How to seek help when you or your friend  
is being bullied**

- Tell someone who you trust and know  
will help you
- Talk to your teacher
- Report the bullying to the child  
protection designated teacher
- Be a good friend to someone who is  
being bullied
- Contact Childline on 08001111

