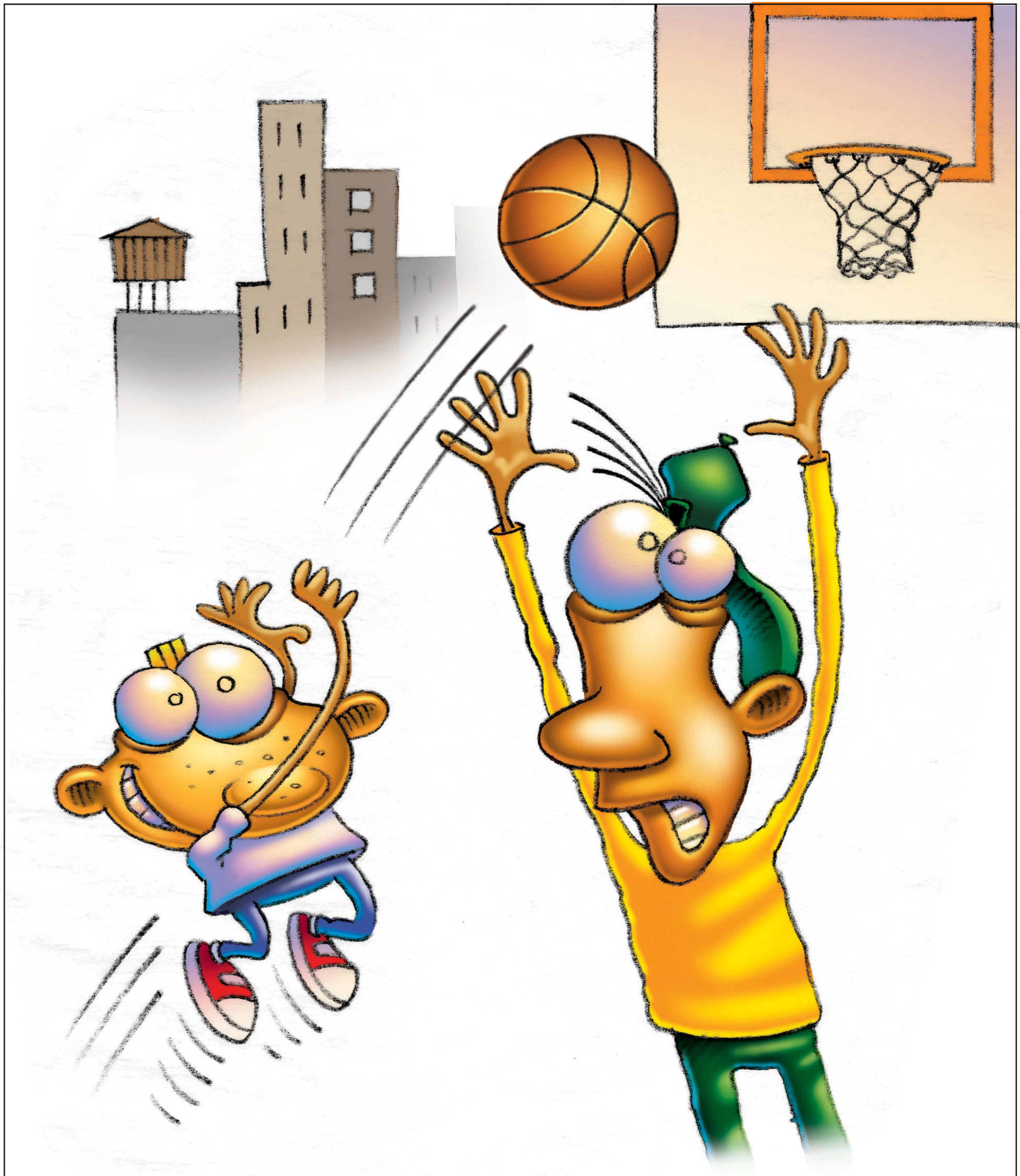


My Brother's "Friends"



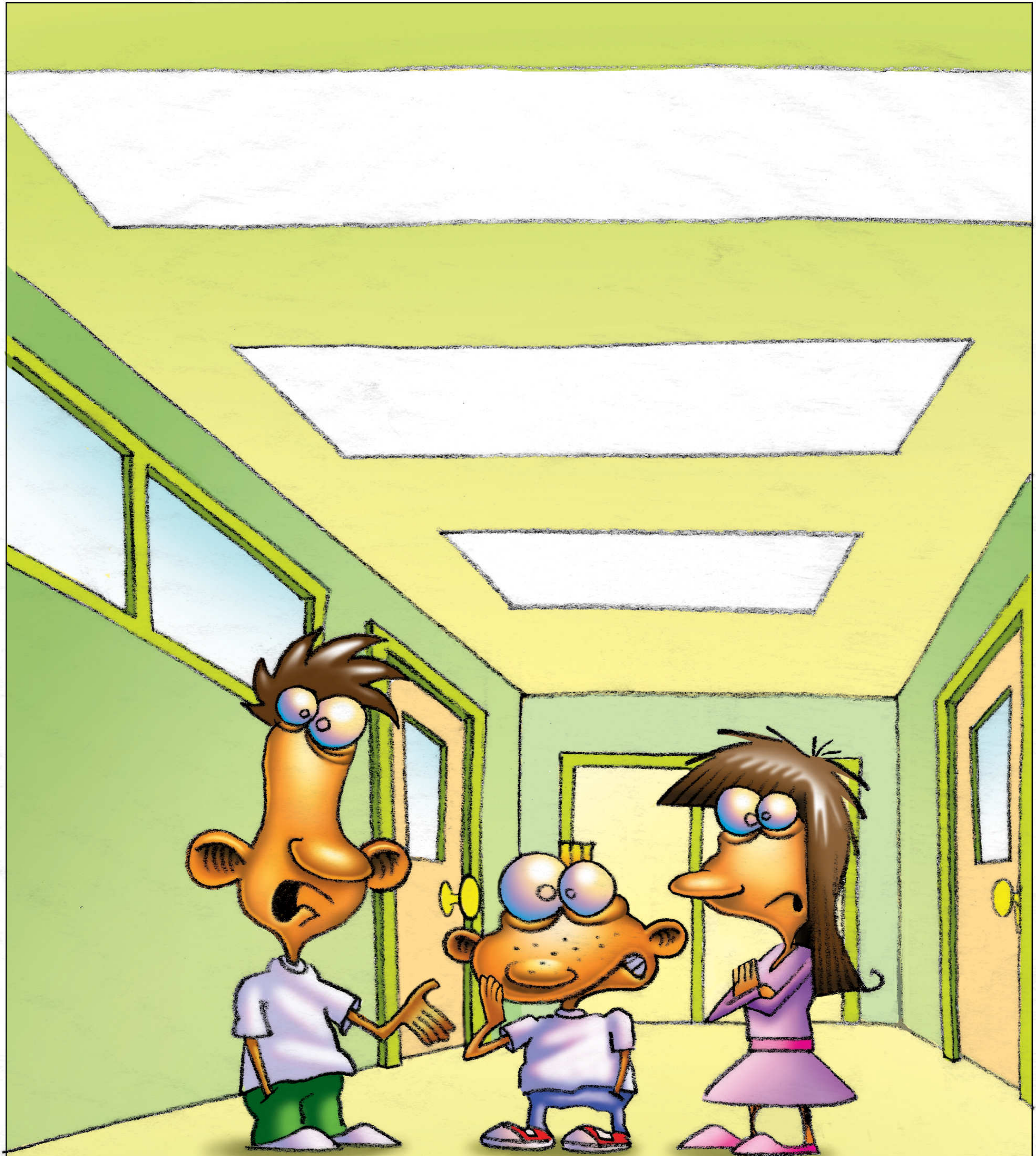
**by Carl A. Bartol, MPA, Esq.
Illustrations by Steve Gray**



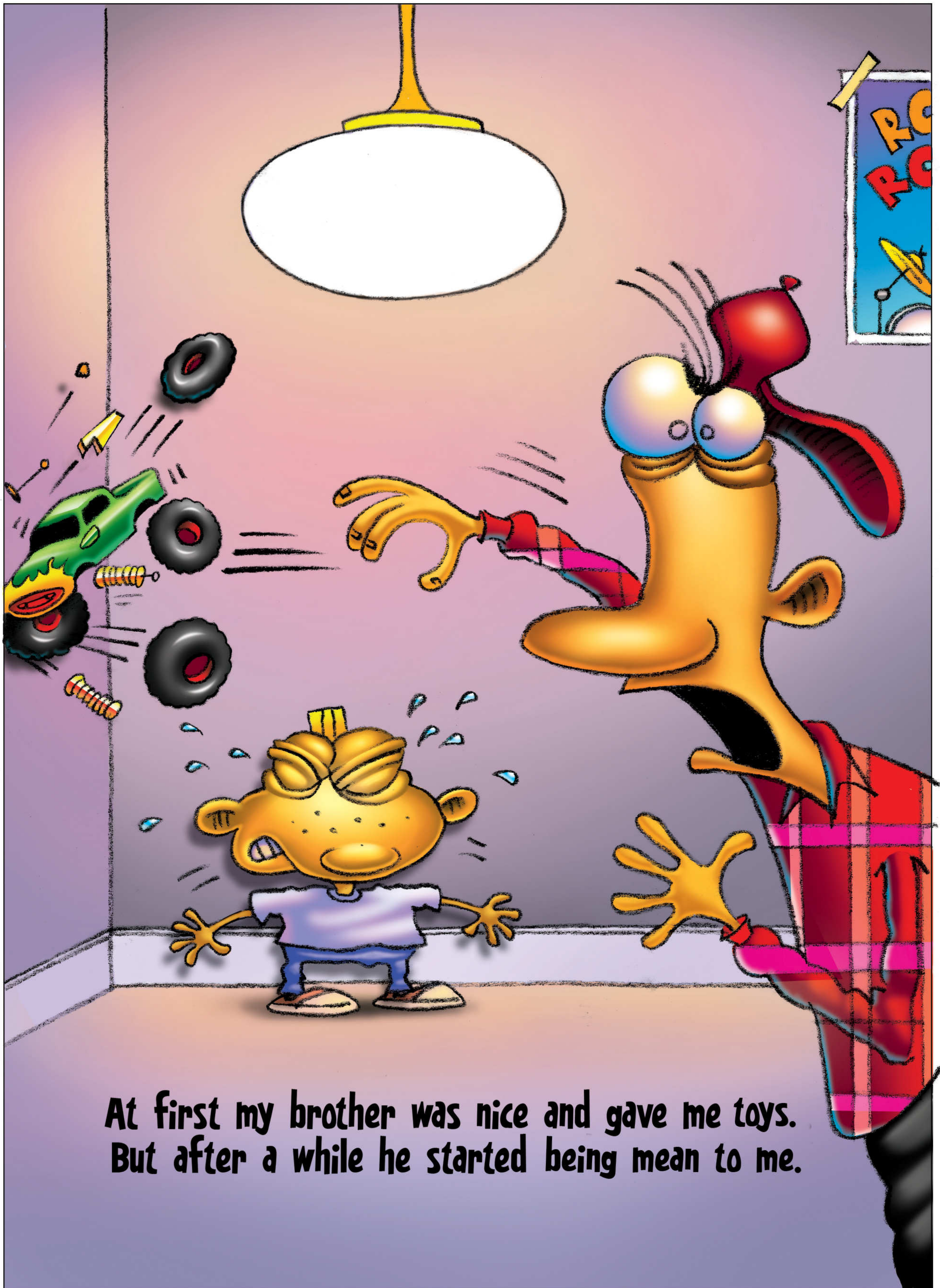
**My brother and I used to play together.
He made me feel happy and safe.**



**Then my brother made new friends.
They dressed funny and acted weird.**



**Kids at school told me my brother joined a gang.
I asked him what that was and he said it's a secret.**



At first my brother was nice and gave me toys.
But after a while he started being mean to me.



One day my brother
had to go away.
The police said he
did a very bad thing.



**Now my mom cries all the time.
I wish she would talk to me.**



My brother's friends say they want to be my friends too. I feel alone and scared.



What should I do?