

BOOK SERIES

Little Voices **BIG** Choices

because all voices and all choices matter



BOOK SERIES SUMMARY

Welcome to the Little Voices, BIG Choices series, a picture book series that focuses on the adventures of me (Walter- -I'm six and a half), my monster friend, Retlaw, and our awesome group of friends.

The coolest part of the series are the visuals- -interactive , 2D illustrations that help parents and young people better communicate. It turns the idea of grownup **charts and graphs into visuals kids can understand-**

-whimsical illustrations that explain cause and effect, so we know things like why going to bed late and eating too much candy can make us feel like little monsters.

In each book, we go on adventures that help teach us about age-appropriate responsibility, decision-making and how to use our little voices to make BIG choices.



WALTER

- age 6½
- inquisitive
- friendly
- kind, sincere
- naive
- forgiving
- adventurous
- bright
- imaginative
- considerate
- thoughtful
- observant



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- age **6 1/2** (in monster years that's **19 1/2** - - monsters age **3x faster** than humans)
 - lovable, but gruff
 - Danny DeVito type voice
 - Retlaw loves being Retlaw
 - struggles with self-discipline
 - sometimes too sure of himself
- in a **I know everything in my purview and if I don't, I can make it up as I go along way**
(as opposed to: **I don't know what I don't know**)
- doesn't make good choices, but **owns the ones he makes**
 - mischievous, adventurous
 - trouble magnet
 - funny, yet unintentional comic relief



THEIR RELATIONSHIP

With a nod to the iconic Calvin and Hobbes, Walter and Retlaw navigate the world together through **neverending imagination** and a **spirited sense of adventure**. They are polar opposites, but they're best friends.

The first book introduces Walter and Retlaw. As the series opens up, it includes Walter's friends and their monsters. We'll meet shy Ava and her bold monster, also Ava; adventurous Tena'i and her cautious monster l'anet; precocious Tyler and his silly monster Relyt...

To the reader, Retlaw may be Walter's "imaginary" friend, but Retlaw is part of Walter's daily life. Retlaw personifies (more like **MONSTERFIES**) immaturity without a compass, whereas Walter personifies the desire to make more mature decisions with his compass facing true north.



THE ILLUSTRATIONS

The illustrations are the **kid version of charts and graphs** and are tools for the parents, guardians, and/or caregivers to initiate and inspire meaningful conversation geared to their own lives.

This isn't your boss's PowerPoint.

Line graphs, pie charts, bar graphs, area graphs, X-Y plots put through our LVBIGCmeter and kidified and viola- -they become empowerment tools for young people- -helping them navigate and gain more control over their decisions and lives



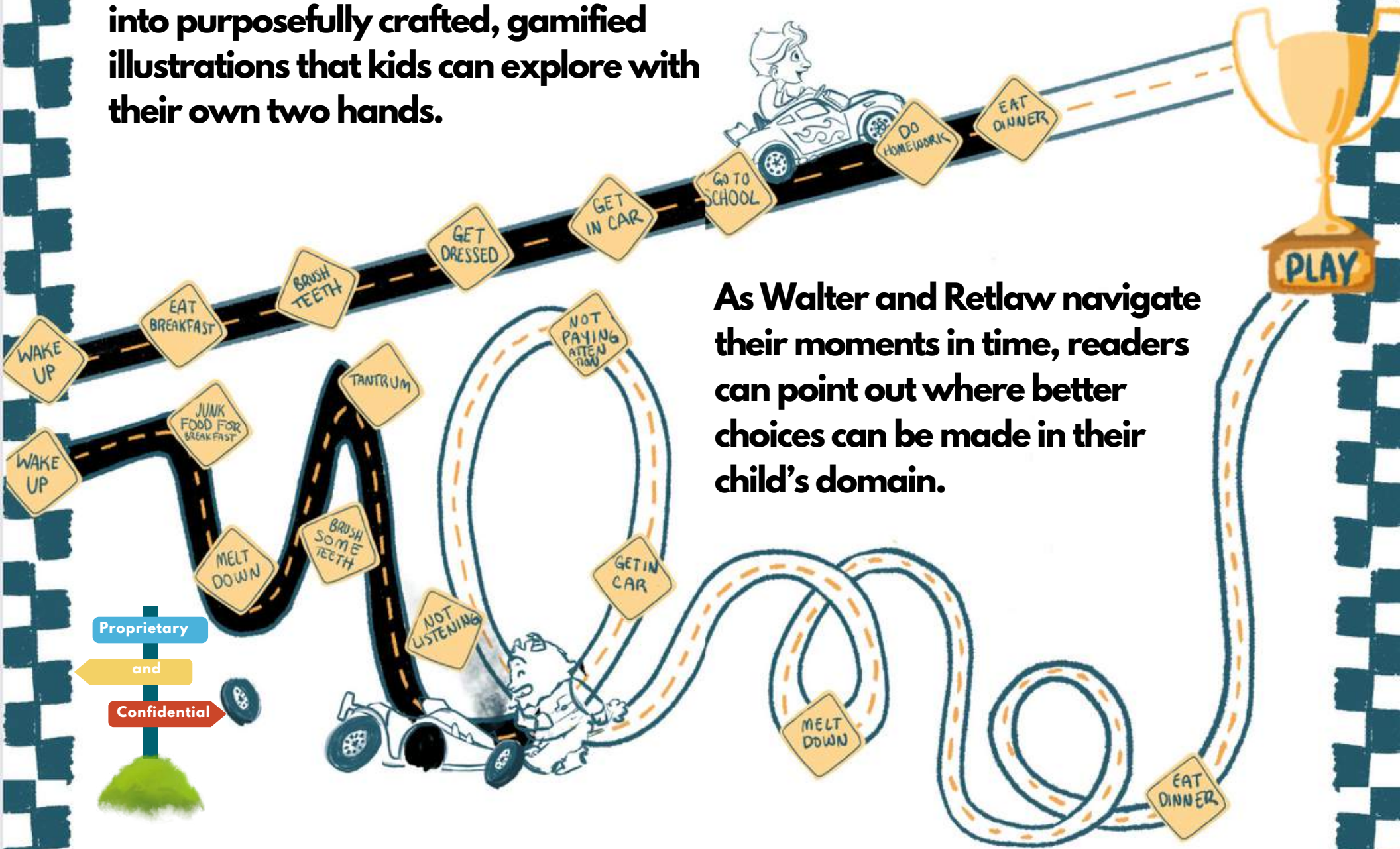
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THE ILLUSTRATIONS

Typical **charts and graphs** transform into purposefully crafted, gamified illustrations that kids can explore with their own two hands.

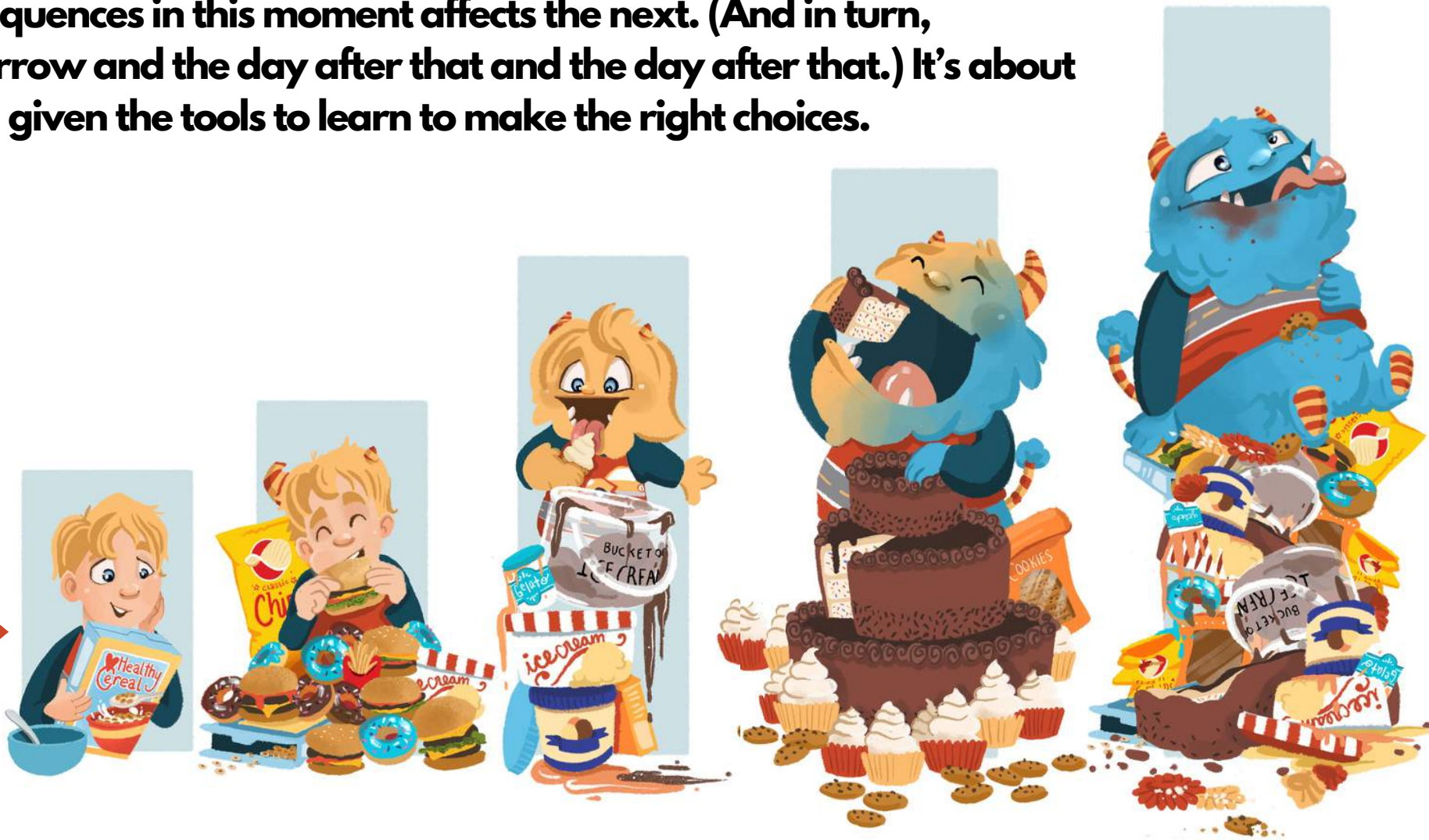
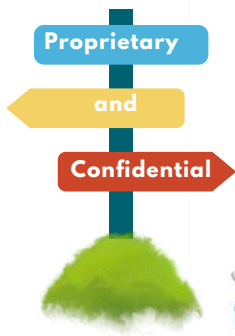


As Walter and Retlaw navigate their moments in time, readers can point out where better choices can be made in their child's domain.

A CRITICAL TOOL

It's meltdown mediator and a critical tool for parents, educators, therapists and counselors.

By showing how **every action** causes a **reaction**, our kidified charts and graphs can help mediate meltdowns by visually explaining how consequences in this moment affects the next. (And in turn, tomorrow and the day after that and the day after that.) It's about being given the tools to learn to make the right choices.



REACHING OUT

This series isn't just for the home and classroom.

It has reach in areas like hospitals, refugee housing, juvenile justice centers, and therapist offices.

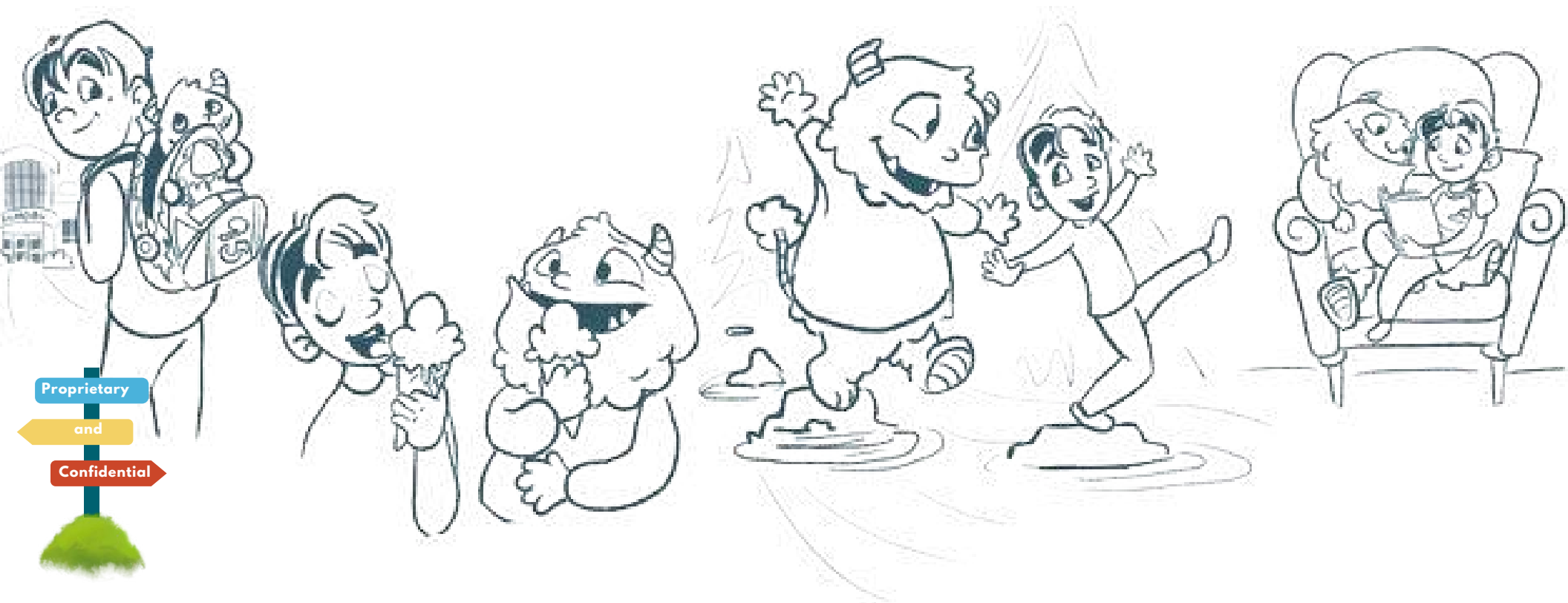
With input from stakeholders in each of these populations, we can author titles in the series that deal with things like illness, displacement, justice, and alternative futures.

Our social impact work has given us connections for distribution in each of these settings.



THE ADVENTURES

Stories are based in **social and emotional learning** and designed to teach specific life skills, help with self-regulation and emphasize critical thinking. We can't always find the words, yet by giving kids interactive visuals they can see and touch, they have another avenue to communicate, be taught autonomy and decision making in an empowering way. Helping them on a path of self-control and self-discipline. You're teaching kids to be their own boss.



MONSTER IN MY MIRROR

Walter's morning routine went from usual to unusual in one swift second. Everything was fine until he looked in the mirror. Instead of his normal reflection, he found a (not-so-scary) monster looking right back at him. This not-so-scary, but very bossy monster, named Retlaw is the mirror opposite of good behavior.

He spends the rest of their day trying to get Walter to misbehave- -leaving Walter to make some very big choices. They have colorful back-and-forth discussions about everything from eating habits to screaming at the top of their lungs. And in the course of the story, Walter discovers that the many little decisions he makes can have a significant effect on his overall happiness.

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DON'T PULL THAT TAIL

What's the point of having a tail if you can't pull it?!

Ahh, Retlaw. He just didn't understand why they had to make room in Walter's house for a puppy. Puppies are all fur, have pointy teeth and make a mess wherever they go- -and there's so much responsibility.

Sounds like Walter has two Retlaws to attend to, yet through a morning of choices and Retlaw not being able to see the forest for the trees, we get to the other side and see that through shared experiences you can make love in your heart.



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THE MAGIC WORD

It seems the “magic word” is the key to everything.

**“Thank you”, “please”, “excuse me”, “pardon me”, “I’m sorry”-
-to adults, they’re the building blocks to manners. But Retlaw
doesn’t understand why those blocks stand in the way of
getting what he wants.**

**He tries to convince Walter that the only magic word is
“abracadabra” saying, “that word pulls rabbits out of hats.”**

They both soon learn that magic truly happens with manners.



SURVIVING SCHOOL

Francisco sat alone at lunch on the first day of school.

On the second, too.

It wasn't until the third day that Walter noticed. He'd been busy reacquainting with friends he hadn't seen during the summer.

While other kids played with each other he caught Francisco's eye and waved. Francisco did not wave back.

One of the kids Walter was with said, "Boy, he's not friendly" and those words traveled around the class quickly.

That night, all Walter could think about was how Francisco didn't even say anything and the kids thought he was mean.

Walter and Retlaw take a deep dive into body language , respecting boundaries, embracing differences, and English as a second language in a story about bullying that proves **words and actions** matter.



That's not going to work", Walter told Anna as she screamed and threw three pillows across the room.

"Being mad is okay," he said, "but you're not going to get more candy doing that."

Retlaw's two cents didn't help,. "Sure she will. Her parents will give in eventually."

Walter tries to coach his five year old (little) cousin into using words and sign-language to communicate what she wants.



ADVENTURES IN THE REFRIGERATOR

Walter's favorite drawer in the refrigerator is the cheese drawer.

And he was perplexed that he was told cheese and milk were good for his bones, but Leo wasn't even allowed to have things with dairy- -but that was okay, because he got his nutrients in other ways.

And his parents tried to get Walter to venture to the meat drawer, but he didn't want that.

He'd check out the fruit drawer and even the vegetable drawer once in a while, but every time he did that, Retlaw would keep him up all night with horror stories of turning green from broccoli.

It's hard to learn how to try new foods when you have a monster in the house.



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WE'RE NOT GETTING ANYWHERE

Hitting the ball out of the park was usually a good thing... until it goes into the woods.

Walter, Tyler, Cole, Jenny and Christian had been trying to find Jenny's baseball after her home run for what seemed like for. ev. er.

And now...they were lost.

Stress, anxiety, fear, positivity, and focus all come into play as Walter and the gang navigate the big curveball of getting lost in the woods.



THE ME IN TEAM

The kids gathered round for their soccer practice.

Everyone wanted to kick, the new coach had quite a job ahead of him. Some of the kids even would pick their balls up and run.

The coach blew her whistle, “You can’t use your hands.”

There is so much to learn before even going on the field including teamwork, sportsmanship, and mechanics.

“There’s no “i” in team”, Walter told Retlaw the night of their first soccer practice. The two seemed to be up all night talking.

As Walter struggled to keep his eyes open, he shared one last thought. “There’s definitely a lot of “me’s” on the team, but I like it just that way, because that’s how you get to teamwork.”

A team functions best when **everyone** contributes.



THANK YOU FOR PLAYING READING



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