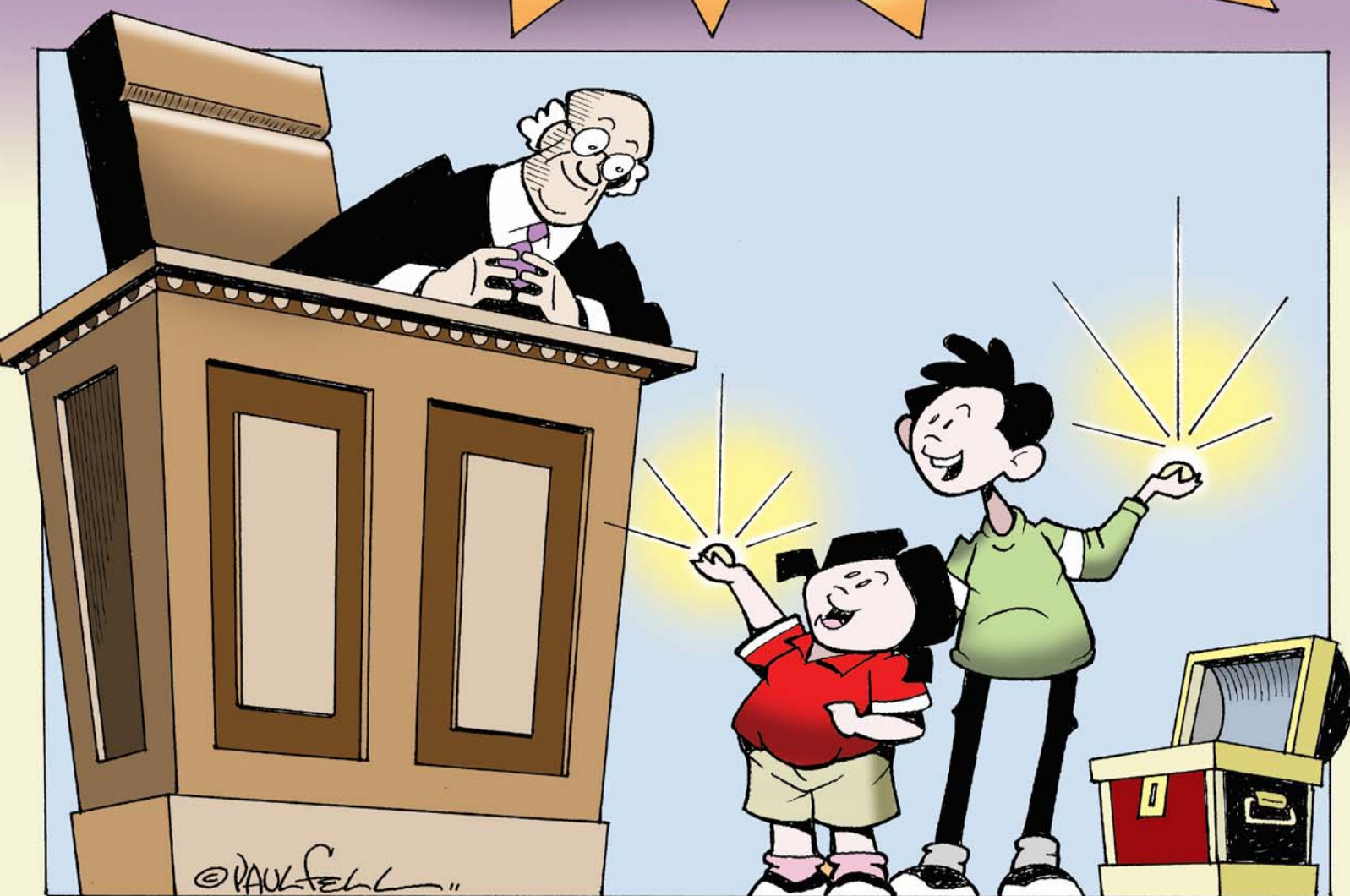


BEN and EMMA
discover their

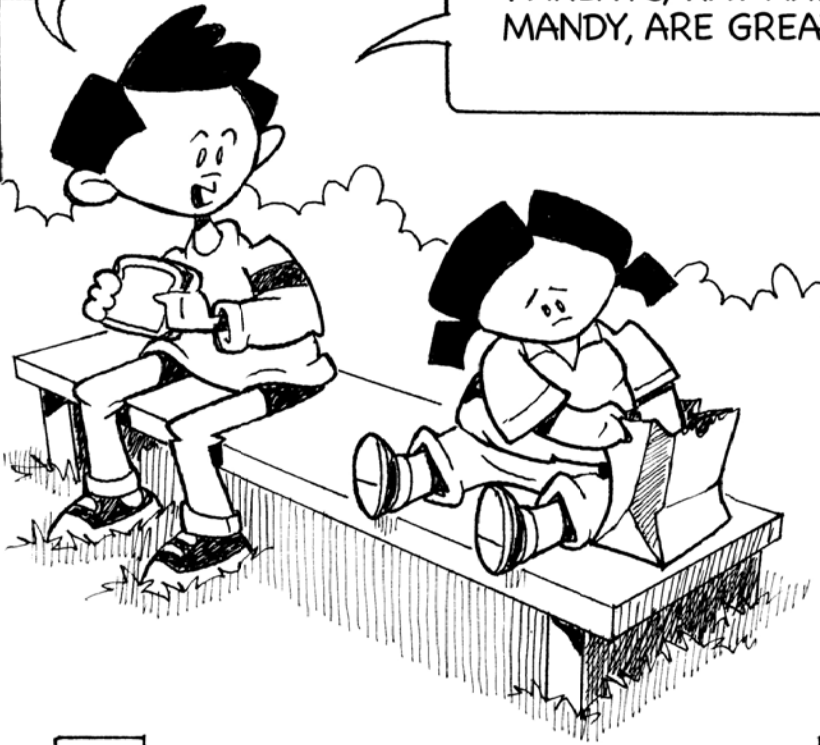
SUPER POWERS!



BEN AND EMMA
HAVE RECENTLY
MOVED OUT OF
THEIR HOME AND
NOW LIVE WITH
TWO
DIFFERENT
FOSTER FAMILIES.
THEY WANT TO
LIVE TOGETHER...

HOW ARE THINGS
GOING AT YOUR
FOSTER HOME?

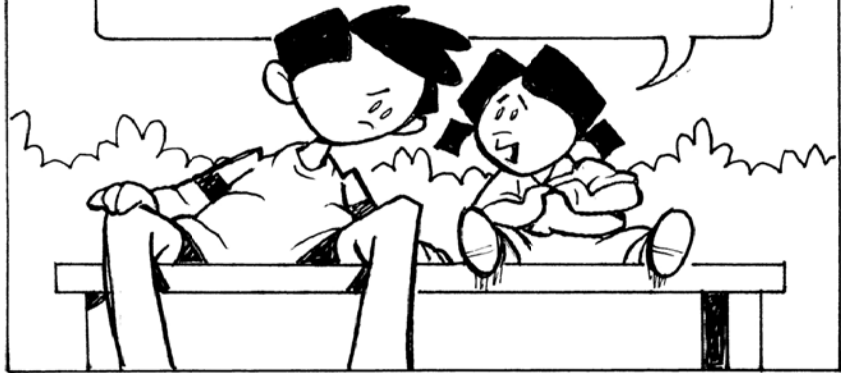
MY FOSTER
PARENTS, RAY AND
MANDY, ARE GREAT.



I MISS LIVING AT HOME,
BEN, EVEN THOUGH IT
WASN'T GOOD FOR US TO
STAY WITH MOM.



I DON'T LIKE MY FOSTER
HOME. WHY CAN'T WE LIVE
TOGETHER?



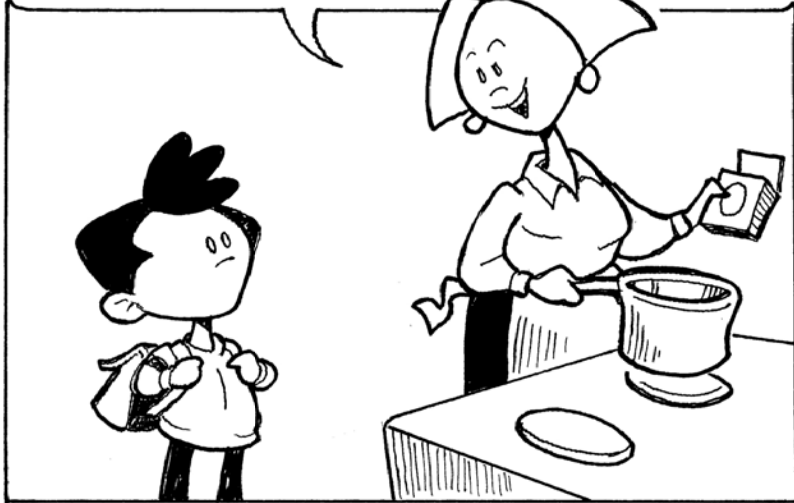
I'M SORRY, EMMA... I WISH WE
COULD BE AT A FOSTER HOME
WE BOTH LIKE.



LET'S HOPE MOM GETS BETTER
AND THE JUDGE WILL LET US GO
BACK TO LIVING WITH HER
SOMEDAY SOON.



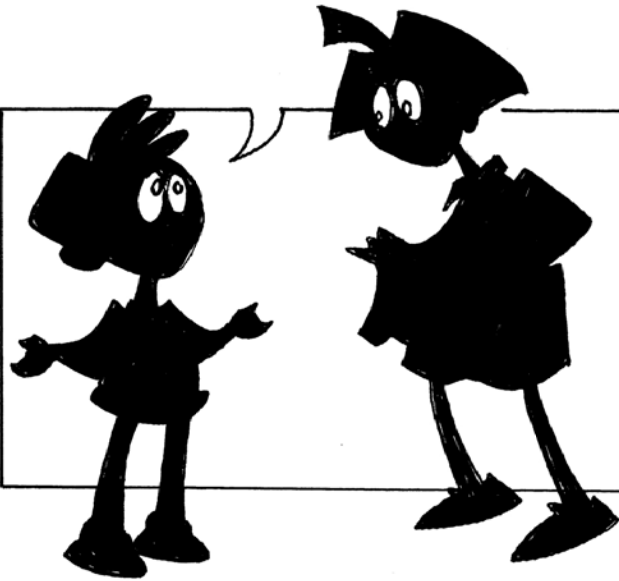
HOW WAS SCHOOL TODAY, BEN?
DID YOU GET TO SEE YOUR SISTER?



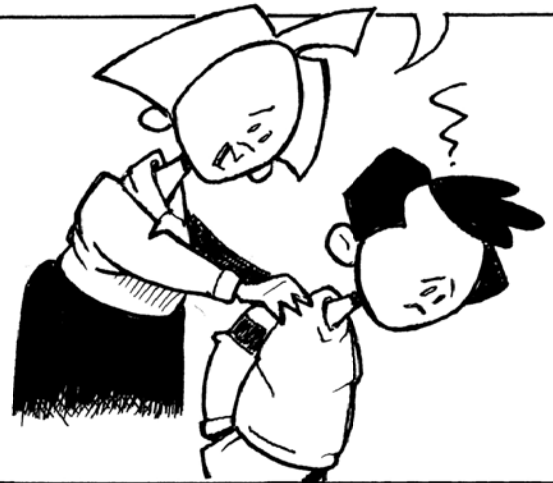
SCHOOL WAS FINE, AND
I DID GET TO SEE EMMA.



SHE DOESN'T LIKE HER FOSTER
FAMILY AND WE BOTH WANT
TO LIVE TOGETHER.



BEN, SOMETIMES MOMS
GET BETTER AND KIDS
CAN MOVE BACK HOME.



AT TIMES, THOUGH,
IT'S BETTER FOR YOU
TO BE IN ANOTHER
HOME UNTIL YOU'RE
OLD ENOUGH TO
CARE FOR YOURSELF.



WELL, I HOPE MY
MOM GETS BETTER
SO MY SISTER CAN
LEAVE HER FOSTER
HOME AND WE CAN
BE TOGETHER.



BEN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL YOUR MOM GETS BETTER TO HELP YOUR SISTER.

HOW? IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE GETS TO DECIDE WHERE WE LIVE.

THE JUDGE DOES DECIDE, BUT HE WANTS TO KNOW WHERE YOU AND YOUR SISTER WANT TO LIVE..

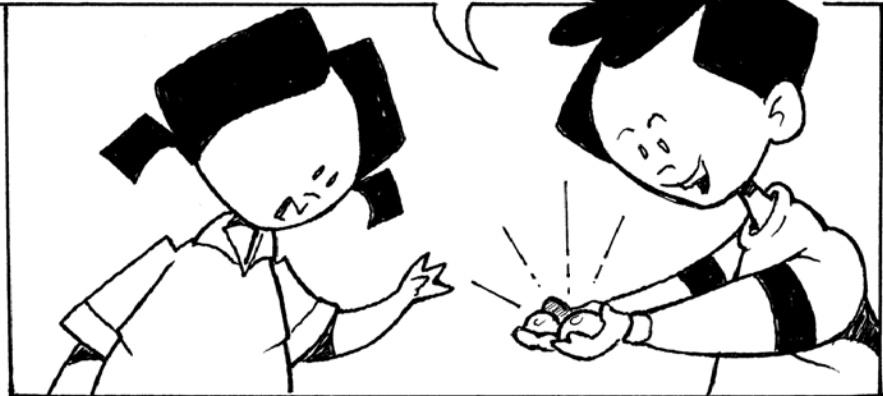
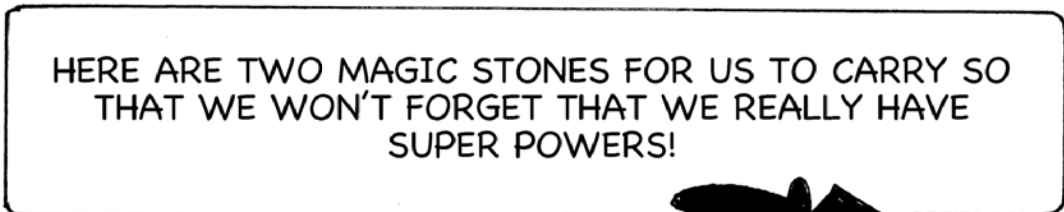
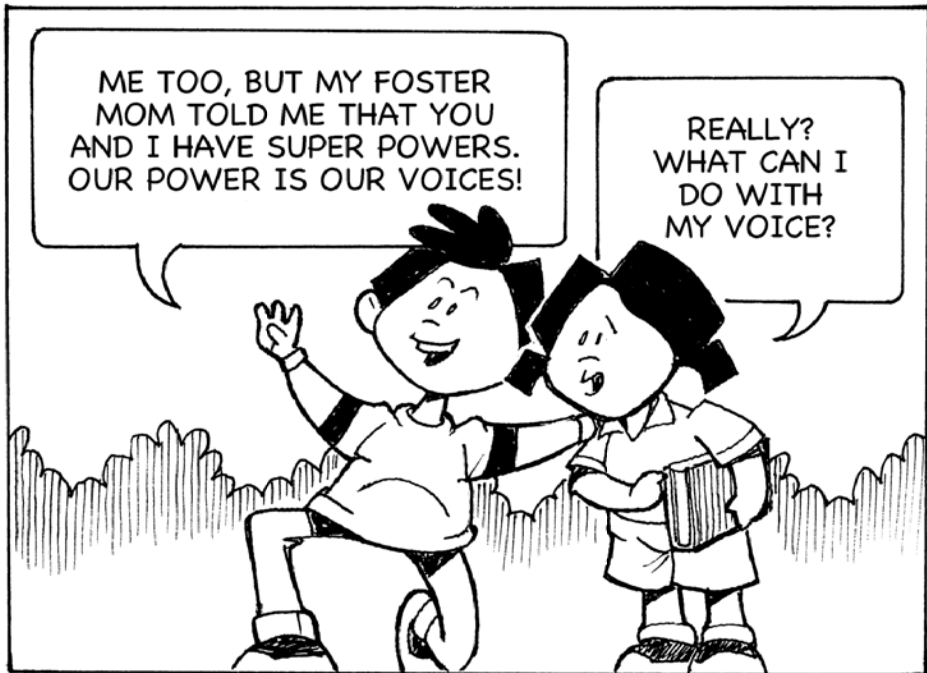
WHY DON'T YOU USE YOUR SUPER POWER, BEN?

BUT...I DON'T HAVE SUPER POWERS.

YOU HAVE TO SPEAK UP TO YOUR GUARDIAN AD LITEM, THE JUDGE, AND YOUR CASEWORKER ABOUT WHAT YOU AND YOUR SISTER ARE GOING THROUGH.

YOUR SUPER POWER IS YOUR VOICE!

THAT POWER CAN MAKE THINGS CHANGE, BEN! HERE ARE TWO MAGIC STONES FOR YOU AND YOUR SISTER TO CARRY. THEY WILL REMIND YOU THAT YOU POSSESS THE SUPER POWER TO SPEAK UP AND MAKE THINGS CHANGE.



HI, EMMA! I AM MS. APPLE, AND I AM YOUR GUARDIAN AD LITEM. I'M YOUR LAWYER WHO TELLS THE JUDGE WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU AND WHAT YOU WANT. HOW CAN I HELP?

I WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE FOSTER HOMES AND LIVE WITH MY BROTHER, BEN.

I'M VERY GLAD YOU ARE TELLING ME THIS, EMMA.

I KNOW THE JUDGE HAS THE FINAL SAY AND WILL DO WHAT'S BEST FOR ME, BUT I DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN THIS PLACE ANY MORE.

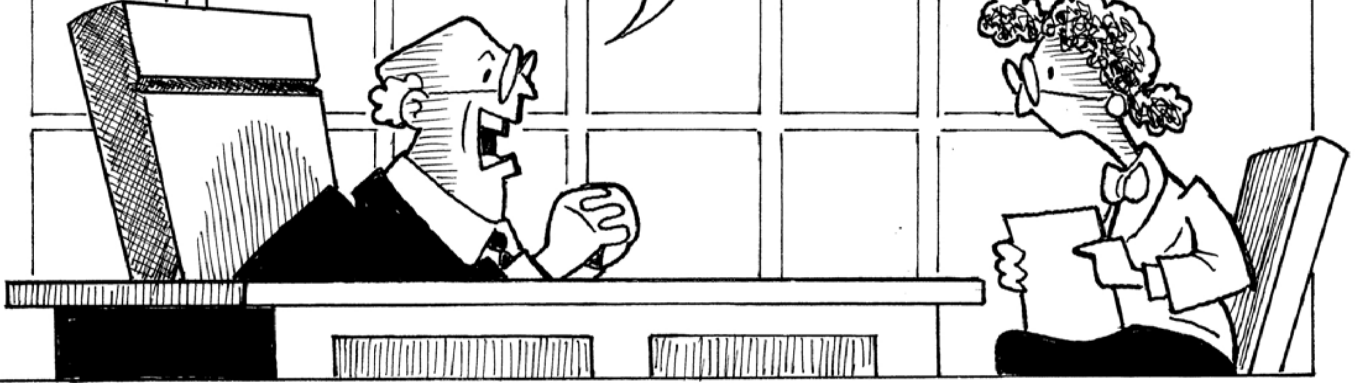
WELL, YOU'LL BE IN SCHOOL WHEN I SEE THE JUDGE NEXT. WOULD YOU LIKE TO WRITE HIM A LETTER ABOUT WHERE YOU WANT TO LIVE?

I CAN MAKE SURE THE NEXT HEARING IS AT A TIME WHEN SCHOOL IS OUT SO YOU CAN BE THERE IF YOU LIKE.

I WANT TO GO TO COURT.

YOU TELL THE JUDGE HOW I FEEL AND WHAT I WANT. NEXT TIME, I'LL TELL HIM MYSELF.

SO, MS. APPLE... HOW IS THE
PLACEMENT OF BEN AND EMMA
COMING ALONG?



EMMA WANTED ME TO TELL YOU
THAT SHE'S NOT HAPPY WITH HER
FOSTER HOME AND WANTS TO LIVE
WITH HER BROTHER.
BEN LIKES HIS FOSTER HOME.



THAT'S GREAT THAT EMMA TOLD
YOU HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT HER
CURRENT SITUATION.
RIGHT NOW SHE CAN'T MOVE IN
WITH HER BROTHER BECAUSE
THERE'S NO ROOM.



HOWEVER, AS SOON AS SPACE OPENS UP
I WILL WRITE AN ORDER TO PLACE EMMA
IN HER BROTHER'S FOSTER HOME.



THANK, YOU MANDY, FOR TELLING EMMA AND ME ABOUT OUR SUPER POWER TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT WHAT WE WANT AND NEED.



I'M SO GLAD THAT BEN AND I GET TO FINALLY LIVE TOGETHER.

ALTHOUGH IT DIDN'T HAPPEN RIGHT AWAY, I KNOW THAT EVERYONE LISTENED TO US AND HELPED US.



EMMA, WE'RE SO GLAD THAT YOU COULD FINALLY MOVE IN WITH US.

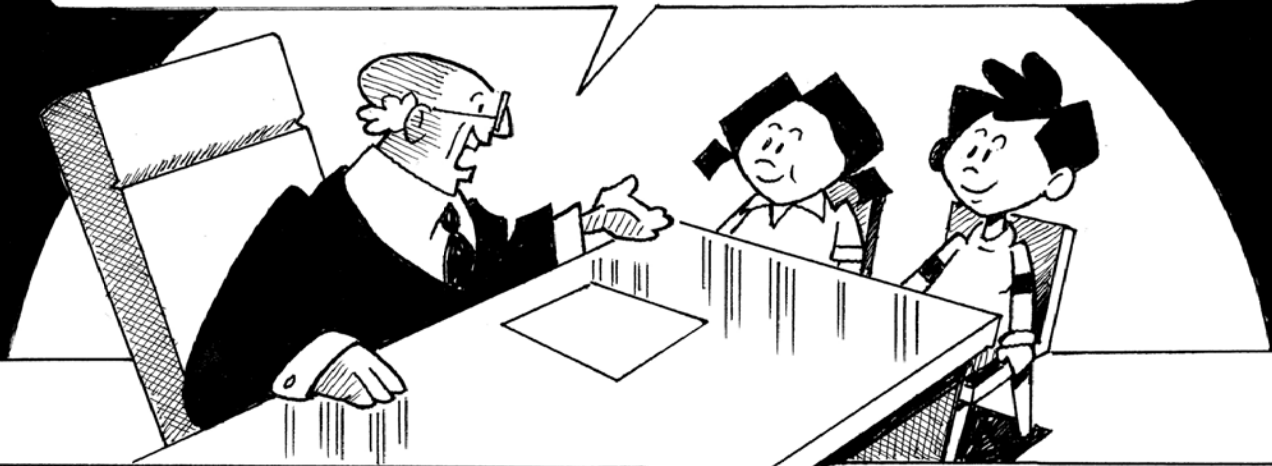


NOW, BEN AND EMMA, DON'T FORGET TO USE YOUR SUPER POWERS TO KEEP ME INFORMED ON HOW THINGS ARE GOING WITH BOTH OF YOU.

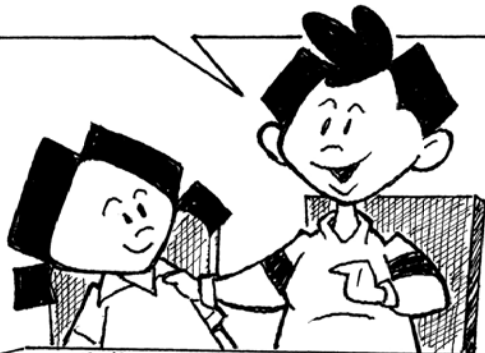


NOW YOU KNOW THAT WHEN YOU SAY THINGS IN A GROWN-UP WAY, EVERYONE WILL LISTEN AND TRY TO HELP... ALWAYS.

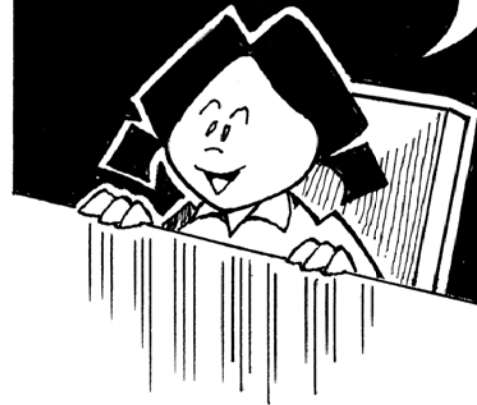
THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY, EMMA AND BEN.
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH ME?



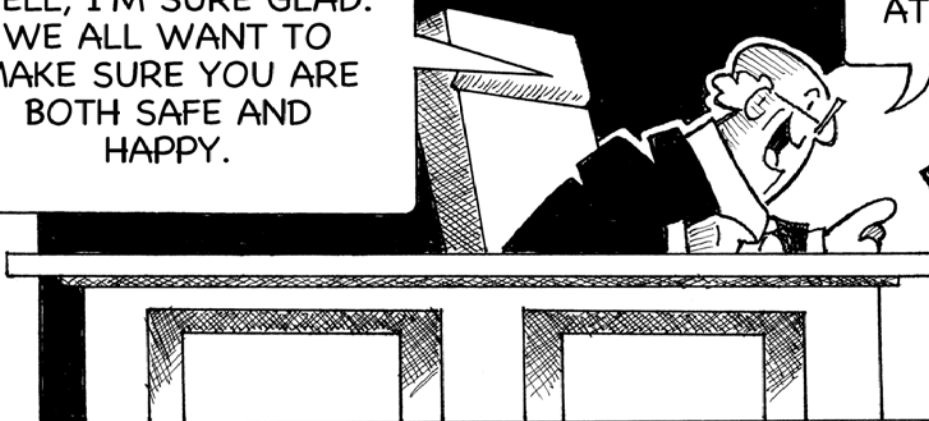
YES, SIR...
THANKS FOR LETTING US LIVE
TOGETHER. WE LEARNED THAT WE
HAVE THE SUPER POWER TO
SPEAK OUT ABOUT ABOUT WHAT
WE WANT AND FEEL.



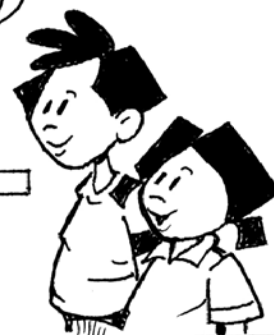
THAT'S RIGHT!
WE WERE ABLE TO TELL
MS. APPLE AND SHE TOLD
YOU AND NOW WE ARE
TOGETHER. THANK YOU!

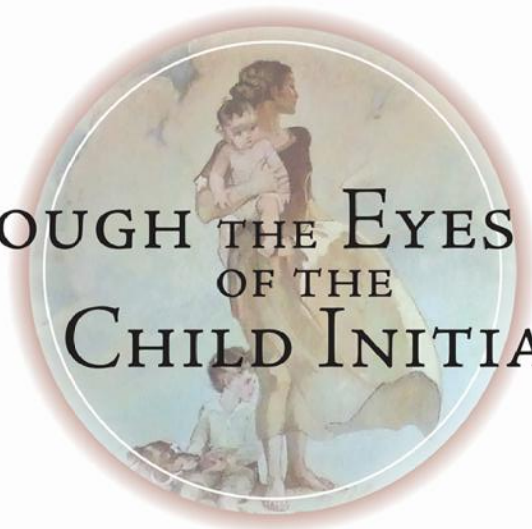


WELL, I'M SURE GLAD.
WE ALL WANT TO
MAKE SURE YOU ARE
BOTH SAFE AND
HAPPY.



NOW... HOW ABOUT
LETTING ME HAVE A LOOK
AT THOSE MAGIC STONES?





THROUGH THE EYES
OF THE
CHILD INITIATIVE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CREATED BY ALEXANDRA BALL

CARTOON ILLUSTRATIONS
BY PAUL FELL

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VICTORIA WEISZ, PHD., MLS
KELLI HAUPTMAN, J.D.
MELISSA TOWNSEND

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
CENTER ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND THE LAW
206 SOUTH 13TH. STREET, SUITE 1000
PO BOX 880227
LINCOLN, NE 68588-0227
(402) 472-3479

NEBRASKA COURT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2011 EDITION