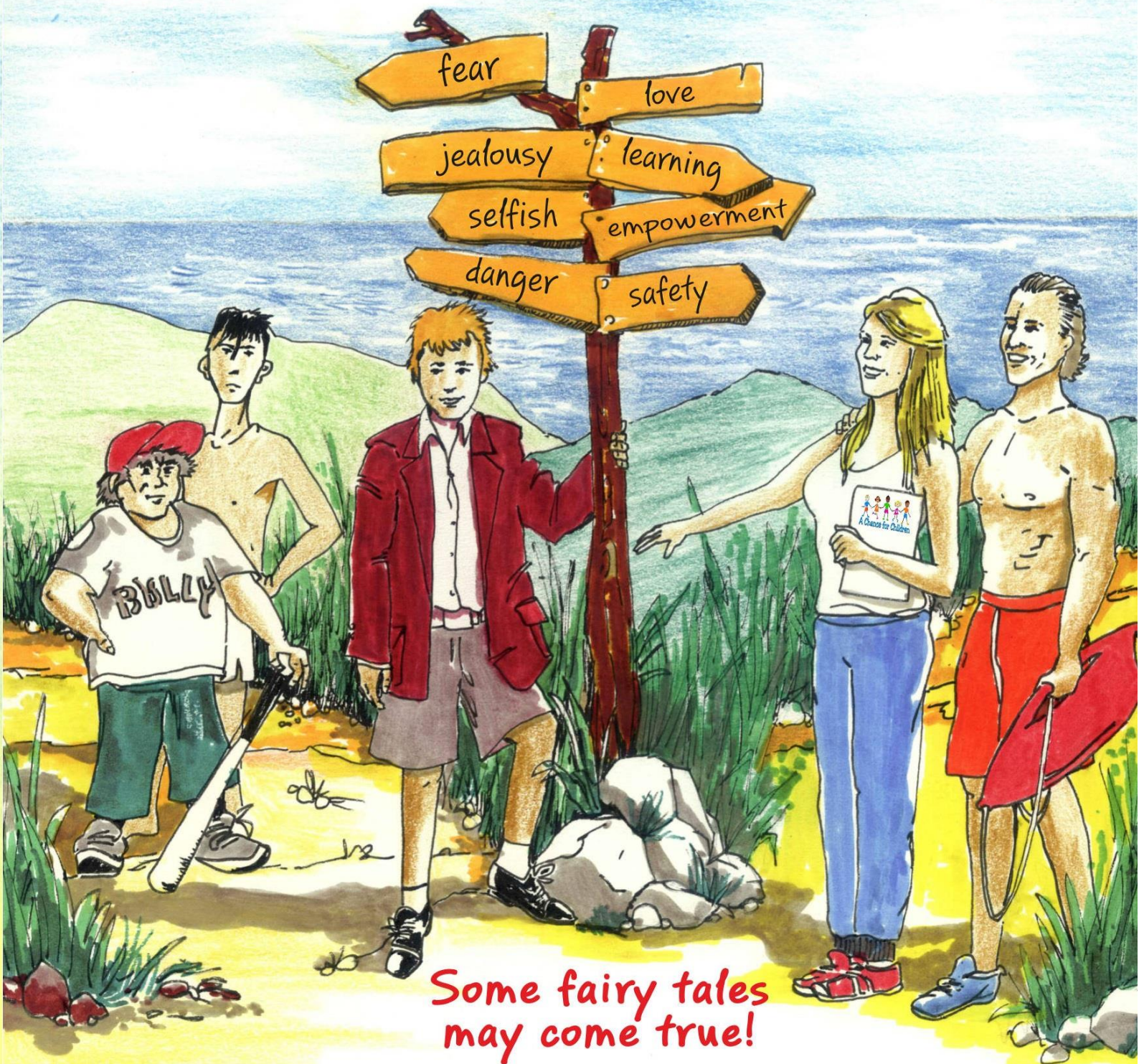


Stathis Avramidis

Illustration
Nikos Kouremenos

A Chance for Children



Some fairy tales
may come true!

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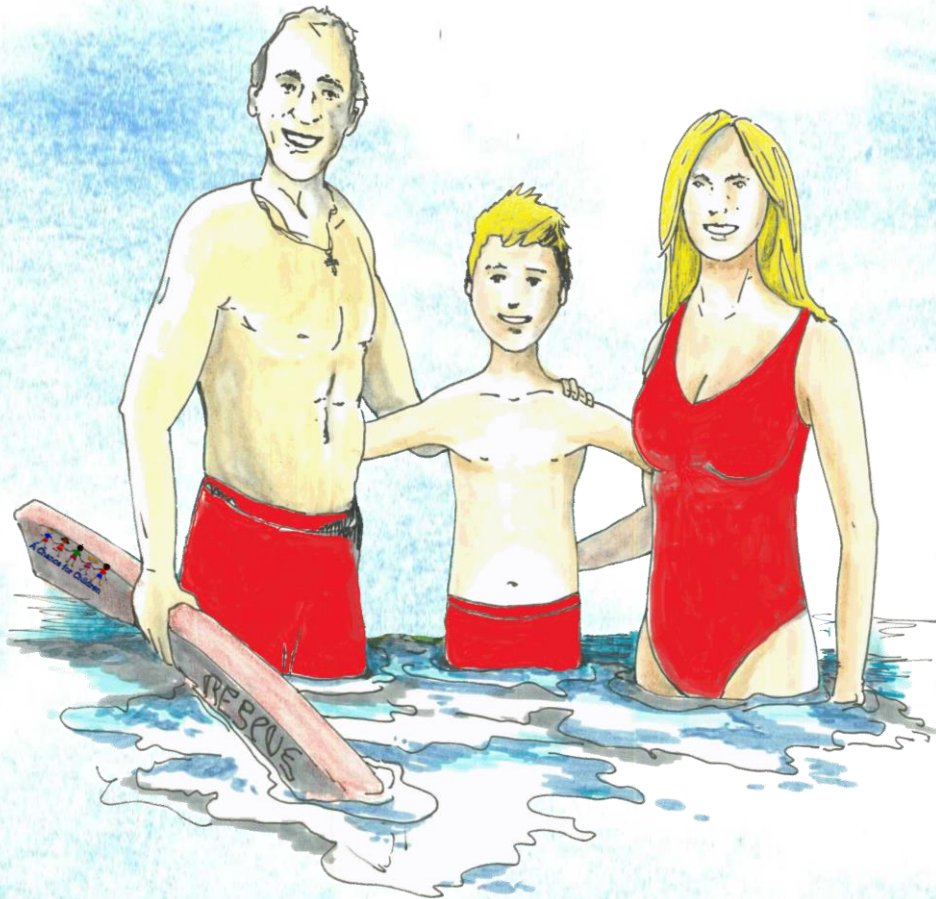


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Athens 2016

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Υπουργείο Παιδείας,
Ερευνας και Θρησκευμάτων



1st Edition

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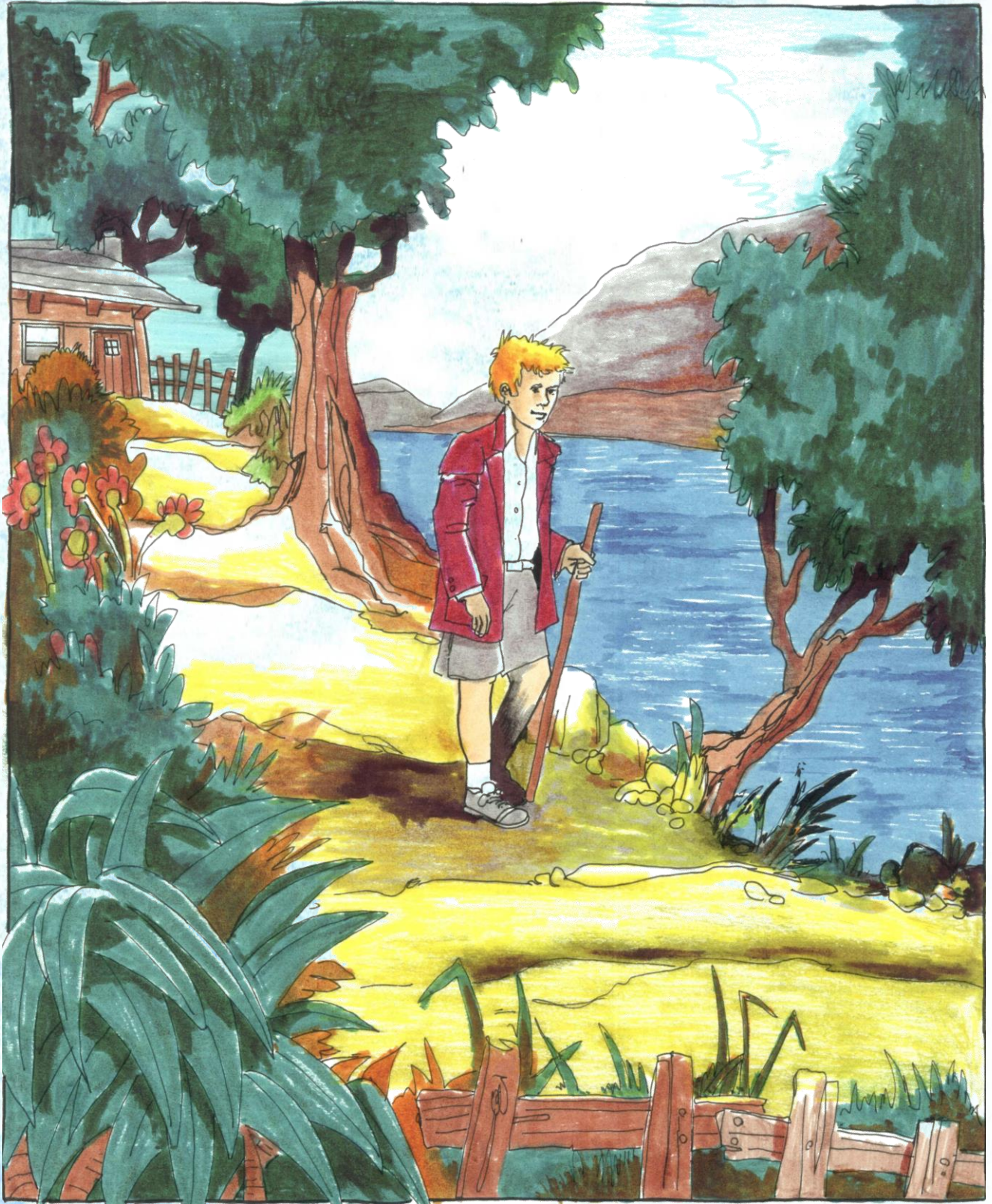
A Few Words from the Author

The story of writing this fairy tale represents a hymn to human empowerment. In 1992 my mother did a starvation strike outside the Ministry of Education, fighting for my right to study as national water polo champion. She succeeded and so I became a student. The first year of my studies, I couldn't find a job. So very often I wasn't able to pay my ticket for the bus to go to university. There was a time that I fed myself and my sister with what we found in the garbage. My only entertainment was reading, a habit that I inherited by my father. One night, I questioned myself: "I don't have money to go out. What am I going to do about it?" I read the "Little Prince" by **Antoine de Saint-Exupéry**. I thought: "I believe that I can also write a fairy tale!" From the day I wrote it until the day of its publication, 22 years went by full of mixed emotions, obstacles and challenges that led to changes in its content so it could serve a higher purpose.

The fairy tale aims at giving several messages, incarnated by human characters. **Dear** shows us how to search our inner selves at a deeper level reaching our destination to life by empowering ourselves and the others. **Bully** helps us understand that abusing one another and immorality can prevent us from creating the right team. **Little Precious** personifies when humans only think about themselves. **Grandpapa** is the figure that symbolizes the family and love. **Frienda** reveals that humility, modesty and trust are necessary in a friendship. In contrast, **Jealous** shows how damaging it can be when someone denies to recognize the values of other people and the importance of "fair play" in sport. **Choosy** represents the example of working together as a team. **Savey** saves a child from drowning revealing the value of knowing swimming and how to be safe around the water. **Smiley** welcomes the child offering him love and learning.

Books are dedicated to important people. The well-known Greek film director **Yiannis Smaragdis** has said that "in reality the creator of a film", (or in this case of the fairy tale), "is not the authentic creator but the 'intermediary'. The supreme authority of the universe, plants ideas into his mind, and he expresses them in his own words to other people". The messages that were "embedded" in my mind, I wanted to deliver mainly to children. This is why I wanted to dedicate this fairy tale to people, who contribute to the lives of children in a meaningful way. Each time I communicate with this man, I read at the bottom of his email, the phrase: "it is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men". In the website of her organization, the woman has written: "kids go where is excitement... but they stay where there is love". I agree with both of them. I am not surprised that these extraordinary individuals are a couple. So, I dedicate this fairy tale to **Greg Bonann** and **Tai Collins**, that having established the "**A Chance for Children Foundation**" in the USA, they contribute in the wellbeing of at-risk children.

Stathis Avramidis

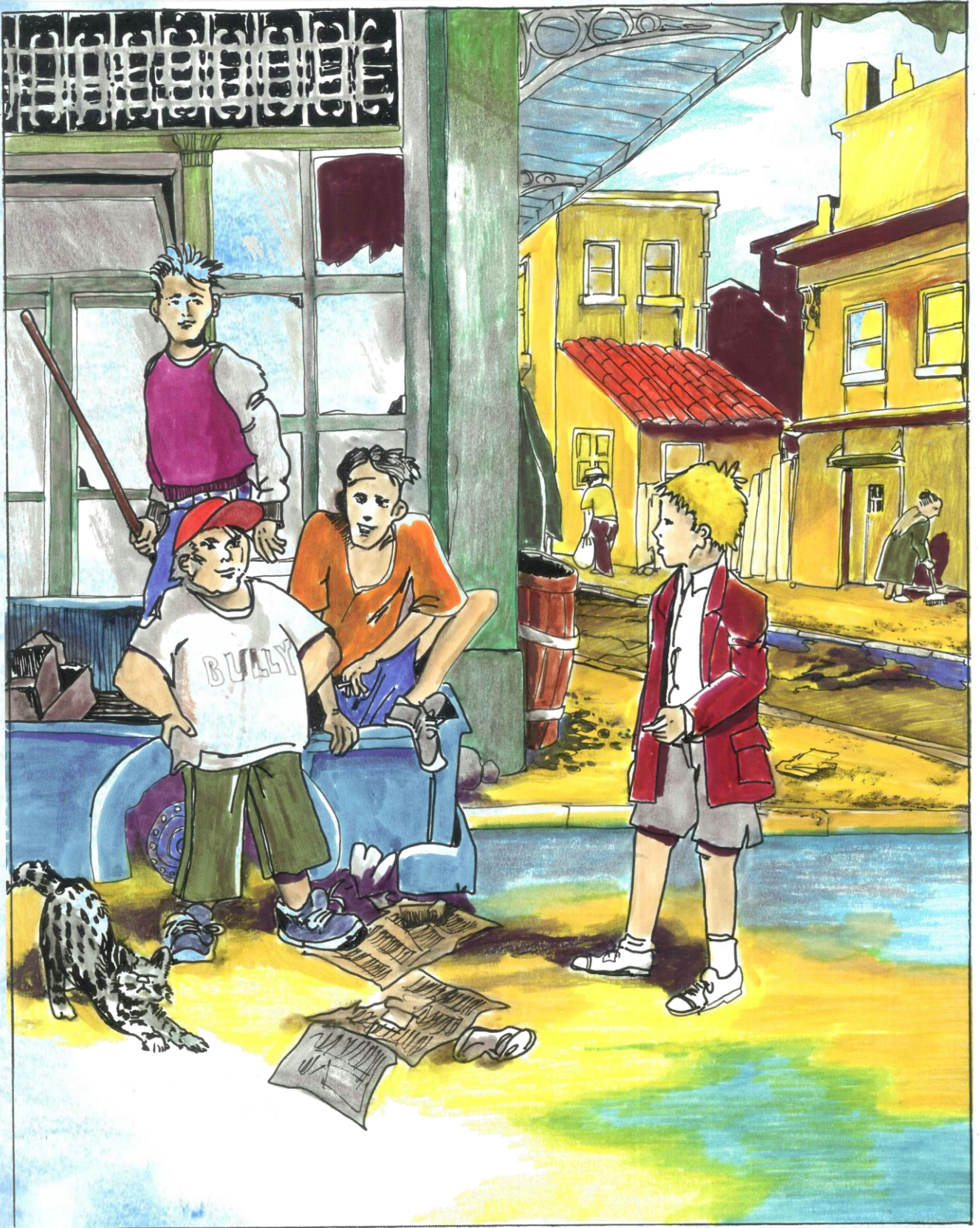




nce upon a time there was a poor family who had a young son, named **Dear**. The economical crises forced them to abandon their home and to settle down in a village. After they moved, he had to leave his friends from his old neighborhood.

The family went to live in a semi-demolished house on the mountain. His parents worked very hard from morning to night to survive. So he had to spend a lot of time during the day at home alone; without his parents and without his friends.

A few weeks after they moved, he became really bored and feeling very lonely. One morning, before his parents left for work, he asked for permission to leave the house. His mother agreed, as long as he was very careful in whatever he was planning to do. He wore his nice clean clothes that he wore to church, and walked out to find new friends. He walked down the hill and went towards the sea.



In down-town, the children were mean to him.

"He is so tiny! He does not look like us."

"Look at this shirt! He must be rich."

"Then, he must give us money to be with us. Hey you, come here."

"Please don't hurt me", Dear said frightened.

"Do you have anything to give us?"

"The only thing I can give you, is my friendship!"

Dear lost his smile, when **Bully**, the leader of the gang, spoke.

"What can we do with you? Can you lie?"

"No way!"

"Can you hit and rob somebody?"

"No, I can't!"

"See? You are not worthy! What do you want around here?"

"I am looking for new friends. I am a child. Give me a chance."

"You are too good for us! Go away!" Bully answered with a loud laugh.

Dear had difficulty holding his tears. He walked away. He didn't want them to see him crying, even though he knew deep down it is an honor for a child to cry and not to be ashamed about it. He felt lucky that they didn't end up hitting him.



ok

Walking quickly, he reached a garden of a rich house, in which he met **Little Precious**. He smiled and thought:

"Oh she looks like a nice girl. She does not have friends, so she would like to play with me".

"Hello there", he said with confidence.

"Who are you? What do you want?" she answered while she was combing her wet hair.

"I am child. Give me a chance. Can you be my friend?"

"I don't know you. There is no way we can be friends!"

Dear having turned red he tried to explain:

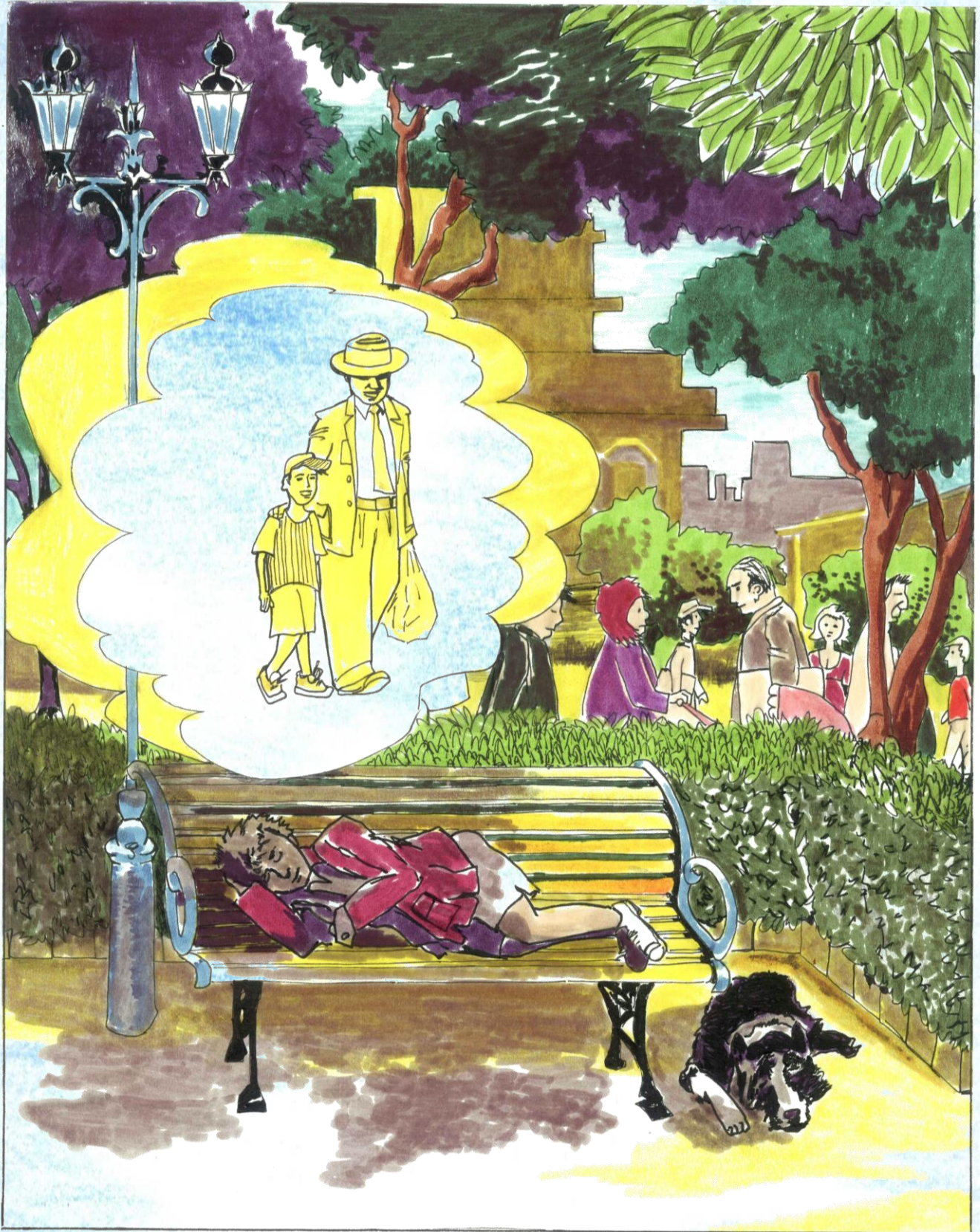
"If you won't be my friend, I will be lonely. Let's play only for a little bit."

Little Precious looked towards his dirty shoes. He felt more confident and tried to win her over.

"I am well dressed like you. Look at me!"

"You are such a fool, don't try to persuade me that we look alike. We are not the same!" she answered.

Her parents came out to the garden to have breakfast. She started singing to attract their attention. Dear did not say a word. He lowered his head and disappeared. It was not in his character to fight.



After a little while he reached the square. There were people walking by, who were going to work. This place reminded him his old way of life. It was so beautiful then. Everybody loved him. He had many friends.

The hot mid-day sun had made him feel tired. He fell asleep on the bench and had two dreams. In the first dream, he saw that he was coming back from shopping with his **Grandpapa**. He kissed him and said:

"I am very poor to make you happy with something that can be bought. I will give you some advice which would be of greater value even from the most expensive gift. Always remember that the most important things in life should be love and learning."

Dear rarely got presents from his parents because they were poor. He liked the advice. He wrote it on a piece of paper so he could remember it and he made it his purpose in life.



In his second dream he saw that he was playing with his friends. He really missed their company and their games in the poor neighborhood. With **Frienda** he had the best adventures. He would not complain when his best friend stuttered when she spoke, when she always had dirty hands, when she covered her ears when he was clapping and because she always sounded like a broken record. He had learned about unconditional loving. They spent a lot of hours dreaming about the future.

A day before he moved to his new house, they went for their last walk to the beach. They were both very sad that they may not see each other again. To make him feel better, she shared a phrase from a book she had read:

"There is always a reason for whatever happens, which often we discover later. In life we are tested with something negative at first, before the positive comes along. So don't be upset."

Dear felt better from what she said and let her hug him for the last time.



A short time later Dear got up in a bad mood. He wanted to be in a team and to find friends to be able to apply his Grandpapa's advice.

"Oh Gosh, nobody asked me to be their friend today", he thought.

He walked to the beach. Some children were happily making a castle on the sand.

"What is your name?" **Jealous** asked, a boy who lived at the beach.

"Dear is my name. I am so tired."

"Did you come from the mountain?"

"I am a child. Give me a chance. Do you want to be friends?"

"Look. First we will compete in swimming and then we can become friends."

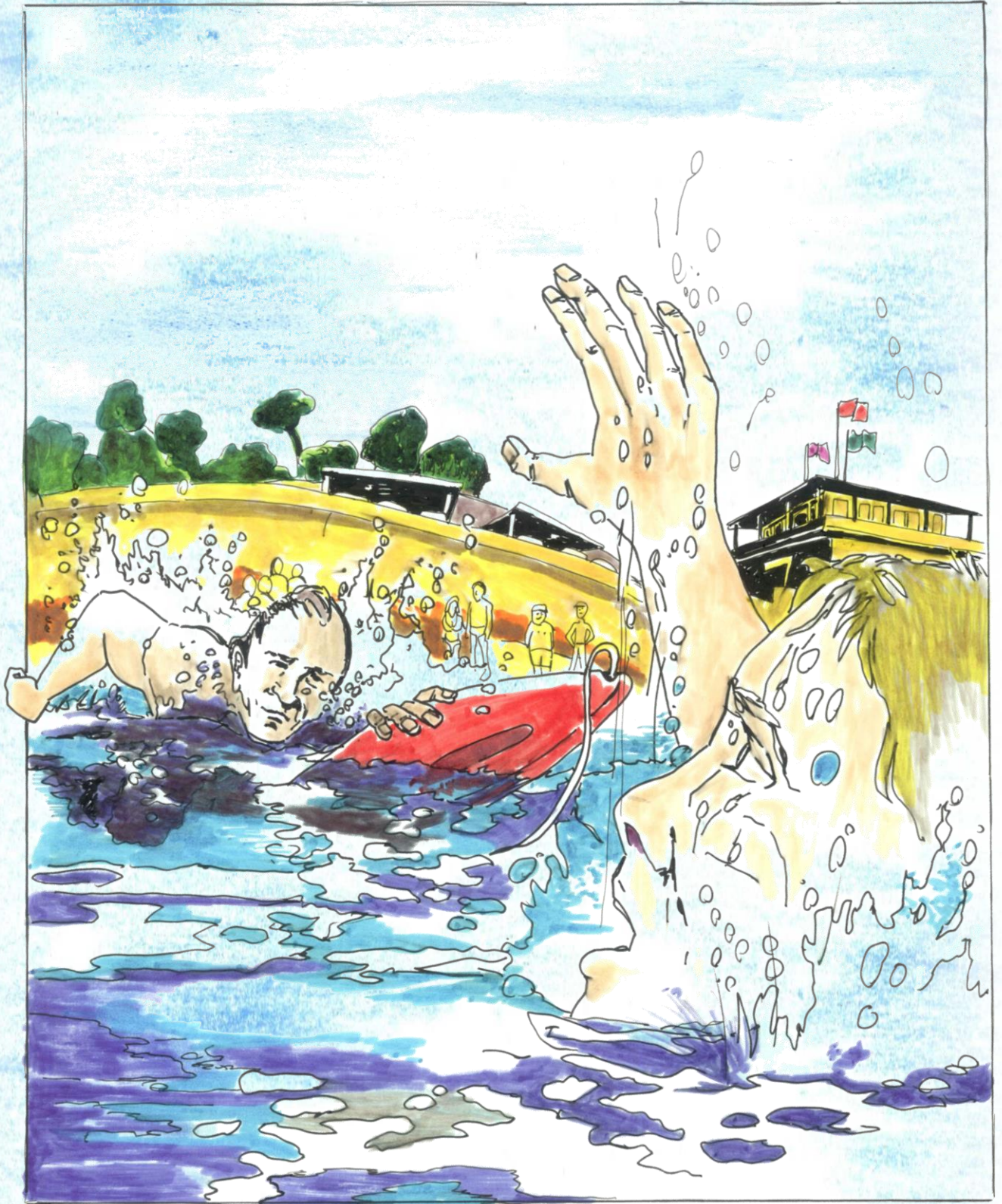
"OK", he agreed and took his clothes off.

"...one, two, **THREE!**" Jealous counted loudly.

They dove in the water and started swimming. Dear swam faster and finished first. When they got out of the water, he walked towards Jealous who lost. Jealous turned his back because he was angry.

"I always win in a race. The child of the mountain beat me! I won't tolerate it!" he thought.

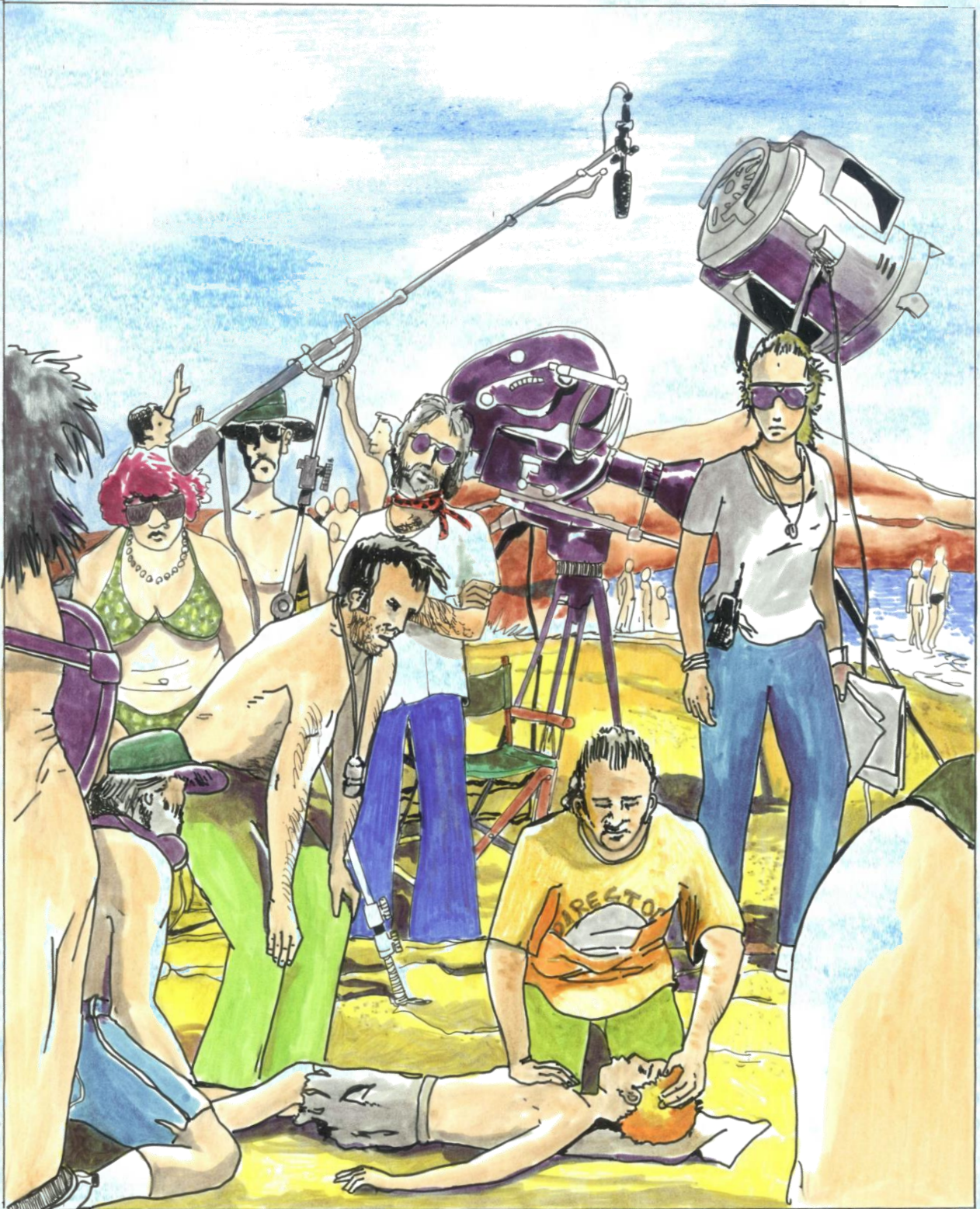
Dear didn't worry at all. "He loses. I win. I would have shared with him a thousand wonderful things about the mountain. Now he is never going to find out. I am going to discover everything about his beach."



All the children returned home fooling around with each other. Dear found a cave at the beach and he sat there on his own. He was determined to stay there for a few more hours with the hope that he would find a friend before he went home. He could see from a distance the fishermen and their boats. He had decided to stay there a few more hours in the hope that he would find a friend before he walked back home.

A few hours later, he started to worry that his life would be boring at the village because he wouldn't have friends to share love and learning. From a distance he saw a fish boat in which the fishermen were singing. He thought that if he swam there, maybe they would accept him in their group.

He began swimming on his own. Before he knew it, he was caught in a very strong current and he became exhausted. He started drowning. At the same time, at another area of the beach, a crew team was filming a television series. The director, who was known with the nick-name **Savey**, froze. He realized that the young boy was in great danger and swam very quickly to save him. As you can see, he was a lifeguard.



"Everybody move away. The child urgently needs help", **Savey** shouted as he was carrying him out of the water unconscious.

Immediately everyone from the film crew and the actors did what he said. They were speechless. They were anxious to see whether the child would survive. They trusted his abilities because, apart from being a director, he had forty years of experience as a lifeguard. Savey gave him the "kiss of life". After the initial attempts, he brought him back to life.

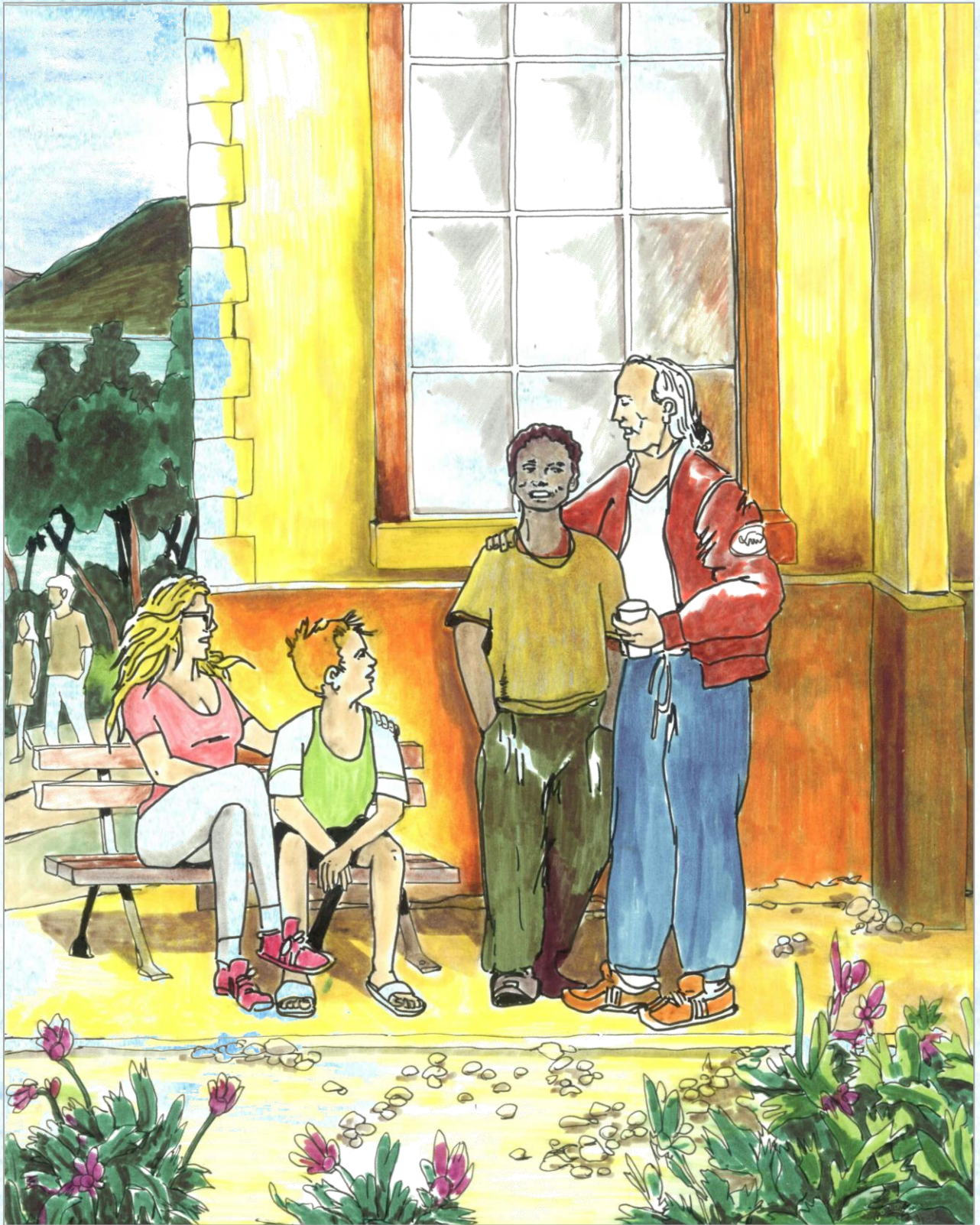
"Why did you swim alone? It is dangerous to swim in a sea with currents and no lifejacket", he said.

"I have no friends. No one wants me. I am a child and nobody gives me a chance", Dear replied and started crying.

Savey was touched from what the child said.

"Don't worry. Do you want to come to my Camp? You will like it very much", he suggested.

"Yes. Thank you very much", Dear answered without knowing what he would come across.



Savey took him by the hand and they reached a place with many children. They were welcomed by a blond good looking woman, which was playing with a child. Dear's face glowed with happiness. He remembered Frienda which had said that the universe challenges us with something bad before we have something good...

"I present you a new member of our team", Savey said.

"What is your name?" the good looking woman asked.

"Dear. I am a child. Give me a chance", he answered.

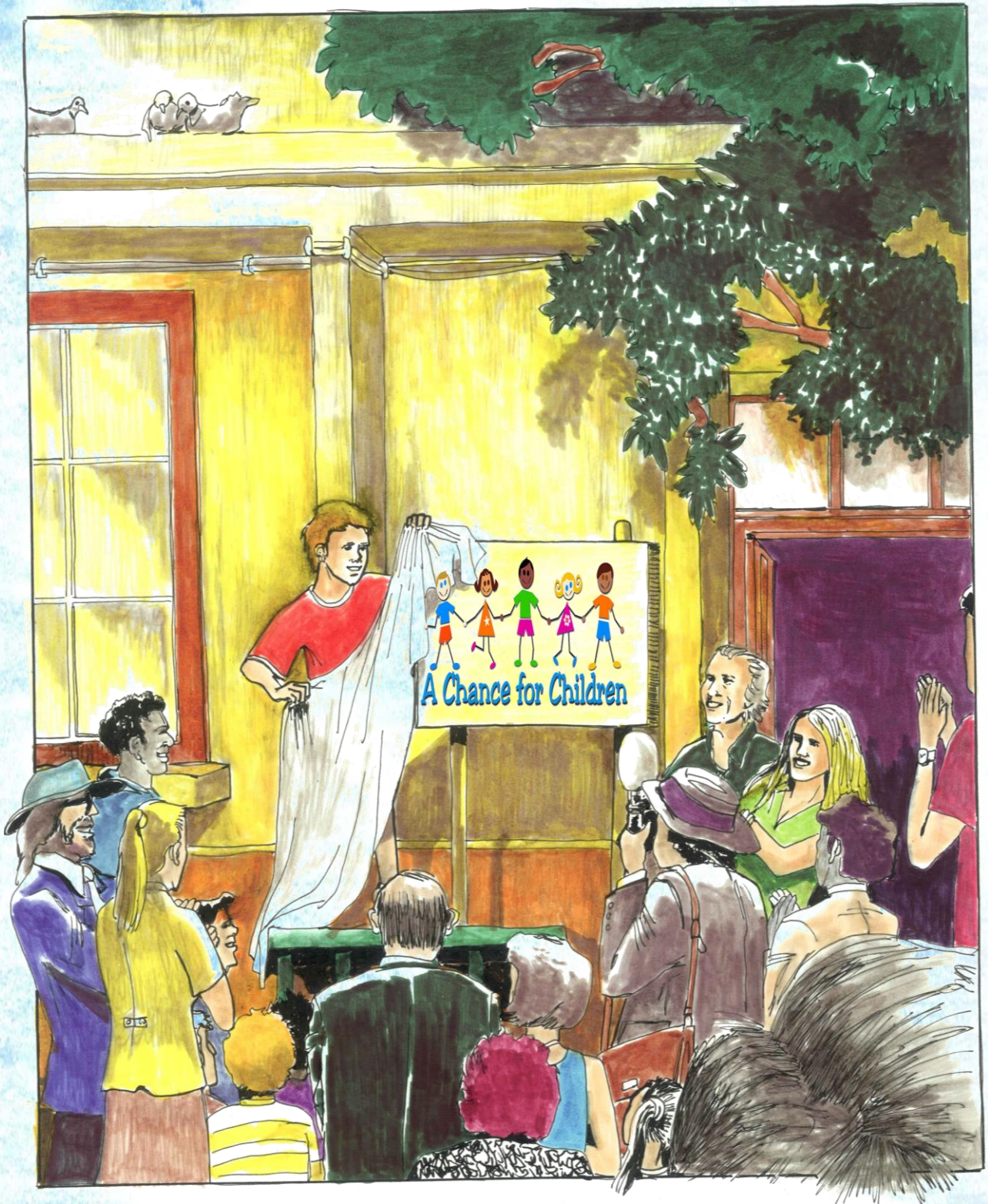
"My name is **Smiley**".

"Will I have love and learning here?"

"Of course you will. Here we give only love and learning to ALL children", she told him.

"I am **Choosy**. We can be friends! Let's go and play", answered the child who was gasping for air after running around. He grabbed his hand and took him to the other children.

Dear was so excited from the kindness of his new friends. He had succeeded his goal. He was a member of a team.



After some time, when the television series had finished playing, Savey asked from Dear to be the one that would present the new name of the children's camp. Smiley gave him a sign that this was the time.

Dear was so happy and pulled the sheet away. The name of the team was revealed: "**A Chance for Children**". Five children were holding their hands as a symbol. Everyone started clapping. Dear presumed that this name came from his phrase "I am a child. Give me a chance". He felt so proud of himself. However, he never expressed it, because he remembered how selfish all the children that he met looked like, when they showed their false pride. His reward was the smile on the children's faces after they saw the new name.

They all walked into the building. Dear went in last and closed the door. He was very happy because, closing the door of the fairy tale, he knew that he was opening a door... to reality. And they lived long and happily together. They still are!

End



Time to Play!

(No adults involved please...)

Choose the Correct Answer

Without looking back in the story or the pictures...

Can you remember how Savey advised Dear to avoid drowning?

1. To swim in a race with his friends in deep water
2. To swim on his own so no one annoys him
3. Not to swim in the sea with currents and without a lifejacket

Can you remember what the most important things are for Dear?

1. He fights with all the children, tells lies and steals from others
2. To empower yourself and others by love and learning
3. To play on his own

Which characteristic could hurt Frienda and her friends?

1. That she sounded like a broken record
2. That she always had dirty hands
3. That she read books and she shared her knowledge with Dear



How Jealous would have treated Dear according to "fair play"?

1. To sink him under the water while swimming to win
2. To congratulate him on winning the swimming race and to become friends
3. To tell his friends to boo him when he came out of the water as the winner

What is the best time for Dear to go swimming to be safe?

1. One hour before the sunrise
2. Three hours after the last meal and during the daylight
3. After a light dinner

Can you remember how Savey administered first aid to Dear?

1. He gave him to drink water with sugar
2. He gave the "kiss of life" blowing air in his mouth and compressing his chest
3. He gave him an aspirin

Can you remember who empowered Dear as a true friend?

1. Little Precious and Jealous
2. Bully and his gang
3. Frienda, Savey, Choosy and Smiley

Drowning Chain of Survival

Savey taught Dear the "drowning chain of survival" (source: Szpilman et al, Resuscitation 2014) in order to prevent any aquatic accident in the future. **Tasks:** (1) Write the chain on a piece of paper. (2) Make a collage with the chain, placing inside the circles photos of people known to you (school mates, family members). (3) Explain the importance of each circle in the chain. (4) Ask a lifeguard which link is the most important.



What are you Going to do About it?

Early one morning as the sun was rising it cast its reflection on Dear. He noticed that his shadow was large. "Look how big I am", he said happily. Smiley who was sitting next to him smiled without talking. At midday on the beach the sun had risen over the heads and now the shadows seemed smaller in the sand. "Look how small I have become", he said. Smiley looked at him and replied: "In life, people will tell you that you are short or tall. This happens because the circumstances make us look more or less important. **But only YOU must realize what your actual height is!**" Dear thought that this has happened to him many times. "What do I do when they say I am something that in reality I am not?" "You ask yourself firstly, **what am I going to do about it?** And then try to do your best", replied Savey, who had received the same advice not so long ago from his friend **Dorothy** (*Dorothy, a.k.a. Dorothea in Greek, means a "gift from God"). **Questions:** (1) Draw an image putting yourself in the place of Dear. (2) What made an impression on you with Dear, Smiley and Savey? (3) Have you ever been told that you were something or had done something without it actually happening? If so, how did you react?



Table Game with one Dice

The **nice** characters help Dear to reach his destination (ladder), whereas the **bad** characters delay his journey creating problems (snake). The game can be played up to 8 people. Notice who has got a big fat toe finger: this person is going to play first and is also going to say in which order you are going to throw the dice! Whoever doesn't answer questions in the red boxes loses their turn.

END	49	48		5 WAYS TO SAVE SOMEONE FROM DROWNING
41	5 REASONS TO LOVE YOUR PARENTS	43	44	45
40	5 POSITIVES OF COMING FROM MODEST MEANS	38	5 WAYS TO STAY SAFE AROUND THE WATER	36
31	5 GOOD REASONS TO HAVE GOOD FRIENDS	33	34	
30		28	27	26
21	22	23		25
	19	18	17	
5 WAYS OF HAVING FUN WITHOUT HAVING TOYS	12		14	15
10	9	8	7	
1		3	5 DIFFICULTIES OF MOVING TO ANOTHER HOUSE	5

Activities for the Home, Neighborhood or School

1. Which person of the story would you like to have as a friend? Why?
2. You are Dear and the children are telling you to lie. What would you do?
3. You go to the beach. What do you need to be careful on so you will be safe?
4. What does a lifeguard need to do to save a child from drowning?
5. What do you need to do as a lifeguard when a child is not breathing?
6. Draw a picture of yourself and a child that you consider a good friend of yours at a beautiful moment. Explain why you chose this picture.
7. Which is the phrase you repeat very often in your everyday life?
8. Draw a picture of your favorite fish and give it a name.
9. Draw your family and yourself in a difficult moment. Explain to the other children how you believe you would be able to overcome this difficulty.
10. Go on a swimming race with your friends in front of a teacher and a lifeguard. Then discuss how you as the winner or a loser felt after a nice or a bad reaction by the opponent.
11. Discuss with your teacher the meaning of "fair play".
12. Choose a reliable source (e.g., Centre for Disease Control) and find out on the internet the right way of washing your hands.



Find the Hidden Words

Find 7 words with a **positive** and 7 words with a **negative** meaning.

C	O	R	R	U	P	T	I	O	N	S	T	H	L	G
O	E	O	Q	M	T	V	I	O	L	E	N	C	E	R
L	R	L	A	N	S	E	L	F	I	S	H	T	A	E
K	F	L	W	J	N	N	M	N	T	T	G	A	N	G
M	R	M	W	L	H	M	F	H	T	E	H	O	E	J
J	E	M	P	O	W	E	R	E	M	E	N	T	I	Z
H	S	N	W	V	R	L	I	F	E	G	U	A	R	D
E	C	M	E	E	E	J	E	A	L	O	U	S	Y	S
D	U	Y	E	M	W	L	N	J	M	T	T	L	K	T
S	E	T	R	L	S	P	D	T	N	E	T	R	S	B
F	G	E	R	Y	T	I	S	S	J	R	H	E	R	O
G	T	R	T	U	P	U	H	Z	U	T	S	T	R	N
V	Y	L	E	A	R	N	I	N	G	L	S	S	N	A
W	H	I	T	T	I	I	P	T	I	T	S	I	E	N
Q	K	E	H	H	D	Y	H	W	M	M	B	H	T	N
A	I	E	N	M	T	A	I	C	O	L	L	I	N	S

Theatrical Play.

Imagine you and your friends are the heroes of the fairy tale. So play the same theatrical game several times acting each time different roles. At the end of the performance, discuss how you felt on the way others behaved towards you. Talk about how you would feel if this happened to you in real life, and how you could avoid the unpleasant experiences and seek the pleasant ones.



Rescue with a Human Chain.

Look again at the picture that shows Dear revealing the new name of the camp, "A Chance for Children". The children are holding each other's hands. When someone is drowning, the lifeguards hold each other in a similar way to rescue the victim, by making a human chain. Discuss with a lifeguard the advantages and disadvantages of this technique.



Game with Cards

Print the pictures on a card size. Place them between the players of the two teams. Team A pulls a card. They look at the list below and makes a question to team B, that corresponds to the card. If team B answers correctly, they win 10 points. If not, team A wins 10 points. Winning team is the one that will accumulate 100 points.

Picture 1: Tell me 5: (a) difficulties in moving house, (b) problems in lack of friends, (c) problems of loneliness, (d) financial problems in a family, (e) ways of helping one another in a family.

Picture 2: Tell me 3 threats of: (a) a bad friendship, and (b) crime. (c) Report 3 ways of how to avoid somebody who is trying to hurt you.

Picture 3: Tell me 3 reasons why: (a) our clothes need to be clean, (b) we should not be selfish, (c) we should not judge people from their outside appearance.

Picture 4: Tell me 3 reasons why: (a) we should not sleep on benches and in parks, (b) we should listen to the advice of adults, (c) we should not pat homeless animals.

Picture 5: Tell me 2 reasons why: (a) friendship is important, (b) we accept friends as they are, (c) we wash our hands, (d) we stand by each other in difficult times, (e) we read useful books.

Picture 6: Tell me 3 applications of "fair play": (a) as a winner, (b) as a loser, (c) as a spectator, (d) as a parent of the loser, (e) as a parent of the winner. (f) Give me 5 reasons to participate in sports.

Picture 7: Tell me 3 ways: (a) to stay safe around the water, (b) for a lifeguard to save someone in the water, (c) for an amateur lifesaver to save someone in the water.

Picture 8: Tell me: (a) how would you do the "kiss of life" to someone who is not breathing, (b) how would the bystanders be able to help you, (c) the type of equipment you would need to save someone.

Picture 9: Tell me 3 ways to empower: (a) yourself, (b) the people around you. (c) How would someone need to treat you to make you feel loved and to offer knowledge?

Picture 10: Give me 2 reasons for: (a) the importance of succeeding in your goals, (b) why it is nice to participate in a good team, (c) why it is nice when you grow up to also create an opportunity for children in your own way.



The Author: Stathis Avramidis, DipEd, BEd, MSc, PhD has popularized aquatics and



water safety as athlete, instructor, academic and media professional for 30 years. He works as an Associate in the Hellenic Centre for Disease Control & Prevention and as a Director of Lifesaving Sport at the Hellenic Federation of Underwater Activity. He was a Lecturer of Aquatics / Visiting Research Fellow in Leeds Metropolitan University (UK) and Advisor of Accident Prevention - Health Education at the Secretary General of Public Health in the Ministry of Health, the Co-Chairman of the inaugural International Aquatic History Symposium and Film Festival (IAHSFF), the creator of the Hellenic National Water Safety Program and the founder of lifesaving sport in Greece. With over 80 rescues, over 150 certifications from 10 countries, 15 books and over 300 publications/conference presentations to his credit, he is considered as one of the most dedicated water safety advocates in the world. He was also national water polo champion, award recipient in national/world beauty contests and was honored 17 times in 8 countries. This includes the Paragon Aquatic Safety and ISHOF Service awards by the International Swimming Hall of Fame, two Diplomas by the Royal Life Saving Society Commonwealth whose Patron is Queen Elizabeth II and the Best Young Film Director by the IAHSFF judging committee, whose chief film judge was Greg Bonann. In 2015, the World Open Water Swimming Association (Huntington Beach, S. California) enlisted him in the "50 Greatest Watermen in the Open Water Swimming History". He believes that when we meet, our Creator will ask what we did in our lives for love and learning.

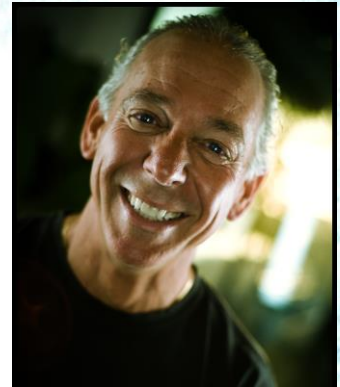
The Illustrator: Nikos Kouremenos, B.Ed. graduated from the University of Athens with



a degree in Mathematics. In drawing and illustrations he is self-taught. He has participated in comic exhibitions and he has illustrated children's books and articles. Together with Stathis he has been working many years on lifeguard books such as *The Manual of the Greek Lifeguard* (1998), *The Specialized Lifeguard* (2001), *Pool/Waterpark Lifeguarding* (2003), *Real Lifeguard Incidents* (2006), *Lifeguarding means...prevention of accidents in and around the water* (2006), *Aquatic Rescue and Pool/Waterpark Lifeguarding* (2007), *Handbook on Safety and Lifesaving* (2008), *History of Aquatic Safety* (2010), *Baby Swimming* (2012) and *Near-Death Experiences while Drowning* (2015). His illustrations appeared for a decade in the popular magazines *Underwater World*, *Greek Diver*, *Vythos*, *Fishing*, *Technical Rescue Magazine* and *Swimming Pool*.

The Story of the Real ACFC Foundation

In the early 90's **Greg Bonann**, the creator of the world famous TV series **Baywatch**, honoree of the International Swimming Hall of Fame and the International Life Saving Federation for his outstanding work in cinematography and lifesaving, talked about the creation of a "**Baywatch theme related camp.**" **Tai Collins**, a freelance writer for the show and a very decorated person, who has been honored among others with the 1999 Humanitarian Award alongside Kofi Annan and Al Gore, asked Bonann if he was serious about it. He loved the idea, but due to the heavy demands of executive producing and directing the series, he simply didn't have the time needed to bring it into fruition.



Collins, with a background in mission work and after school programs, offered to help. She was already working with children and her thought was to make this a camp for homeless and inner city youth, who live in poverty and around gang influence and violence. Kids who could easily choose the wrong path without productive and creative outlets to develop and discover their dreams. Greg's vision was to give these children a chance to learn swimming, be water safe, have knowledge of CPR and have happy memories.



In 1992, "**Camp Baywatch**" came to life at Pepperdine University and quickly became more than just a summer camp. It offered a variety of programs starting in kindergarten – seeing as many youth as possible through to college. Its founders knew to make a real and significant difference; long-term relationships and programs were needed to inspire kids to believe in themselves. The greatest way to do that is through giving them something to do – to be creative, to play, to have and develop goals and dreams by positive reinforcement – using sports, role models, programs, scholarships, and life skills. The foundation continues to grow offering more programs to youth and their families.

Baywatch ended its long television run and with that ending the foundation was renamed to reflect what it does – **A Chance for Children Foundation**. It has grown and changed in other ways. At one time it served youth from all over the US, New Zealand and S. Africa, enabling them to have the "camp" experience. **Tai and Greg** have watched their own dream become real. They have now watched a generation of youth grow into adulthood seeing lives touched and changed firsthand. **A Chance for Children Foundation** is dedicated to children. Its founders know that kids go where there is excitement... but they stay where there is love (www.achanceforchildren.org).

Comments About the Fairy Tale Book

WOW!!! FANTASTIC!!!

Gregory J. Bonann
To: Stathis Avramidis

Fri, Mar 8, 2013 at 11:45 PM

Stathi,

I have just returned home from a trip to Cape Town (where we may be shooting **Rescue 3**) and your Fairy Tale Book was waiting for me!!! It is so thoughtful and fantastic that you did it for us! Tai was in tears.. and laughter as she read it to me aloud in the car as we were driving home from the airport, immediately upon opening it up! We can't thank you enough. Also thanks to your collaborator/illustrator Nikos! He is so talented too!! You are such a talented man... NOW you may have to come to Cape Town to see me!!! With best regards and profound appreciation, Gregory J. Bonann, Tower 18 Productions



Hi from Tai

Tai Collins
To: Stathis Avramidis

Mon, Apr 8, 2013 at 9:34 PM

Stathis,

Greg received your package and we have been giggling over your children's book! LOVE it! Love to talk and see what you have in mind for it! Greg says great things about you and your creativity! Hope to do some fun thing together soon! Thank you!!! Tai Collins

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." Franklin D. Roosevelt

Re: Permission to reproduce "A Chance for Children" fairy tale for National Water Safety Campaign

Gregory J. Bonann
To: Stathis Avramidis

Sun, May 24, 2015 at 6:42 AM

Stathis,

Congratulations on your great work and service, it is fantastic what you do. You have my permission to use the fairy tale book in any way you wish to help the children of Greece. I hope you are well and wish you the best of success on all of your endeavours. With best regards, Greg.



Gregory J. Bonann, Tower 18 Productions

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

~Frederick Douglass



Greg Bonann recieves the "I Can Award" by the County of Los Angeles for his contributions to ACFC.



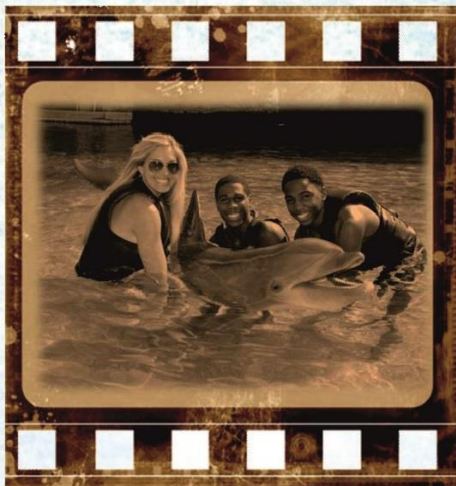
Greg Bonann and Tai Collins, the founders of the true ACFC.



Comemorative photo during "Camp Baywatch".



Tai Collins receives the "Woman's History Month Award" for her contributions to ACFC.



Tai having fun together with ACFC children and dolphins.



Tai Collins with children of ACFC South Africa.



Greg and Tai teach swimming at Camp Baywatch.



Greg with Lunathi
at ACFC South Africa.



David Hasslehoff trains children
at the inauguration of "Camp Baywatch".



Tai with ACFC children.



Tai and Greg (the founders) with Stathis (the author),
in a promotional pot-pourri photo for the fairy tale book.



Nikos (cartoonist) and Stathi (author)
are making drafts of the fairy tale book.

A Chance for Children

Most fairy tales have a happy end too good to be true; except this one that aims to be a hymn of human empowerment! It talks about an at-risk poor boy named Dear who was wandering around, saying "I am a child; give me a chance" and seeking to share with others love and learning. After he met several children that ignored and humiliated him, he was saved from drowning by a lifeguard who took him to a wonderful place so he could feel that he belongs to a group and to discover that this summer camp was called "**A Chance for Children**". He is the fictional protagonist of the fairytale. His story represents the obstacles and challenges which millions of children experience in their everyday lives globally.

The most fundamental needs in all cultures are love and learning. When someone is dreaming of them, this dream may become true, like what happened with Dear.

The "**A Chance for Children**" Foundation does exist for real from the inspirational work of its creators. It was founded in 1992 as **Camp Baywatch** from **Greg Bonann** (honoree of the International Swimming Hall of Fame and creator of the TV series Baywatch) and his partner at work and in life, **Tai Collins** (Miss Virginia-USA 1983, screenwriter of Baywatch). When the well-known worldwide series came to an end, the foundation was renamed (achanceforchildren.org) and it continues today to offer assistance and opportunities to homeless and at-risk children.

The **Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation** funded the book printing to enhance drowning prevention among children.

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