



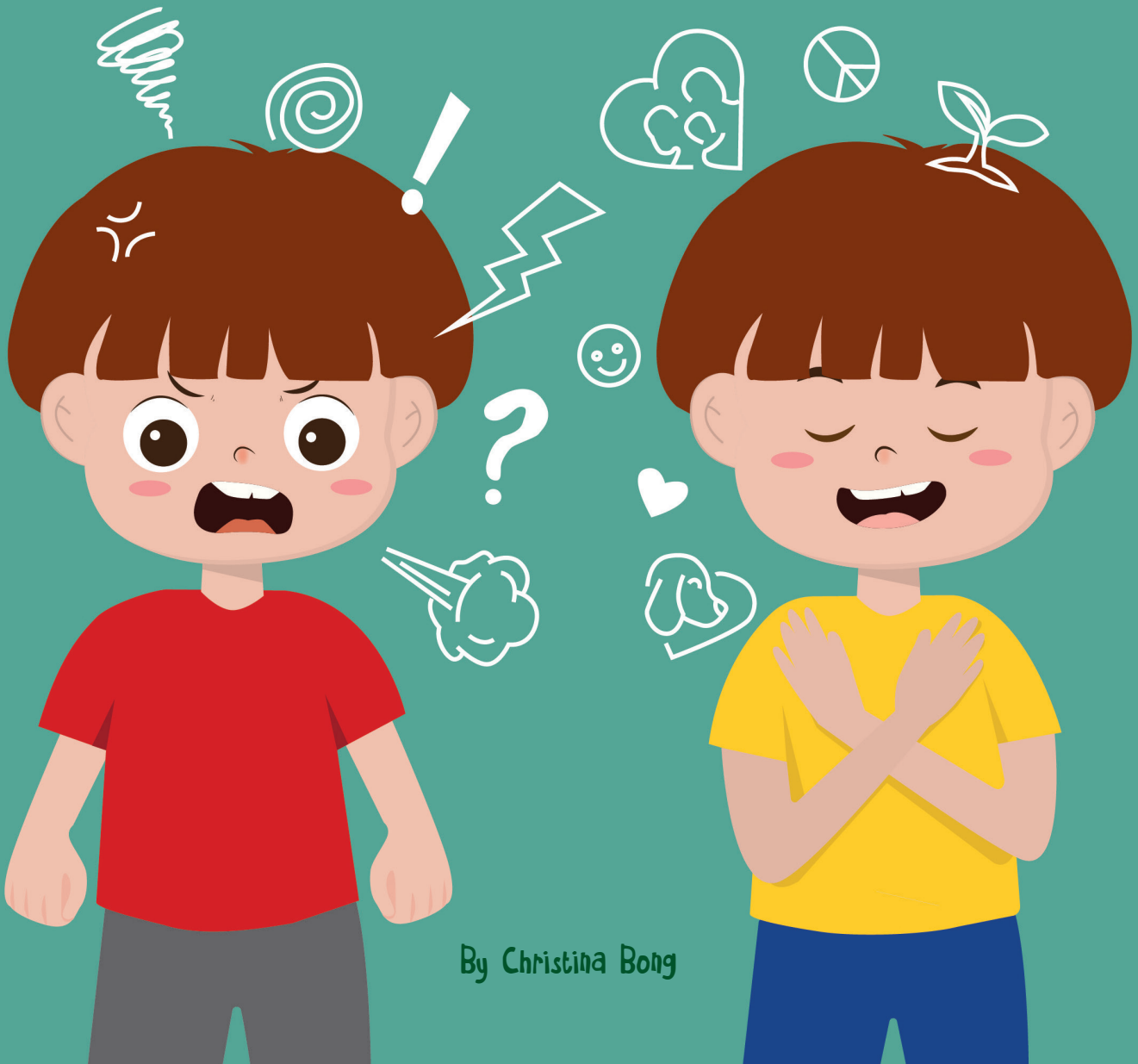
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Awaken
Children's Series

APD 83



Larry's Journey to Kindness



By Christina Bong

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Larry's Journey to Kindness



By Christina Bong

In a small town, there lived a boy named Larry. Larry had a day that could only be **described**^[1] as a disaster. First, he forgot to set his morning alarm and woke up late for school.



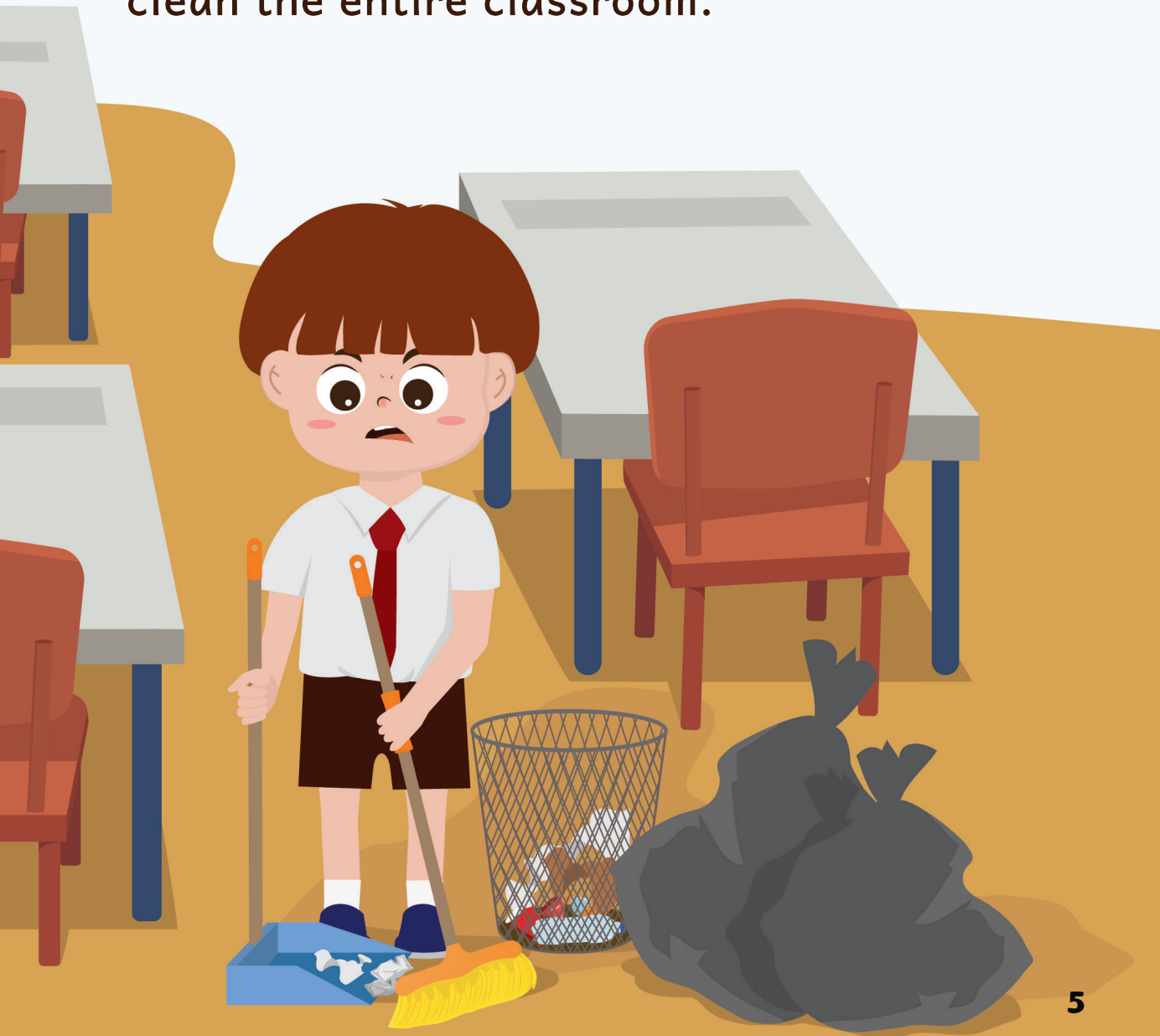
Then, he realised he had not done his homework. To make matters worse, he got into a silly argument with his friends.



When Larry returned home that day, his Mummy and Daddy saw the **gloomy**^[2] look on his face. Concerned, they asked him what had happened. Larry did not hold back and began to let out his angry feelings.



“I had a nightmare last night, I forgot to set the alarm and that caused me to be late for school. I had to come up with an excuse and lied to get in. Of course, Mrs Woon punished me by making me clean the entire classroom.”



“I also forgot to do my mathematics homework last night. So, I tried to borrow from Peter, but he was just so selfish! He refused to lend me his work and told me that copying is wrong. In the end, I got punished for not handing in my homework. I got so mad and poured milk on Peter’s workbook, hid his new pencil case, and even spread **rumours**^[3] by **labelling**^[4] him as being rude, ugly and a coward. That will teach him a lesson for not being a friend!”

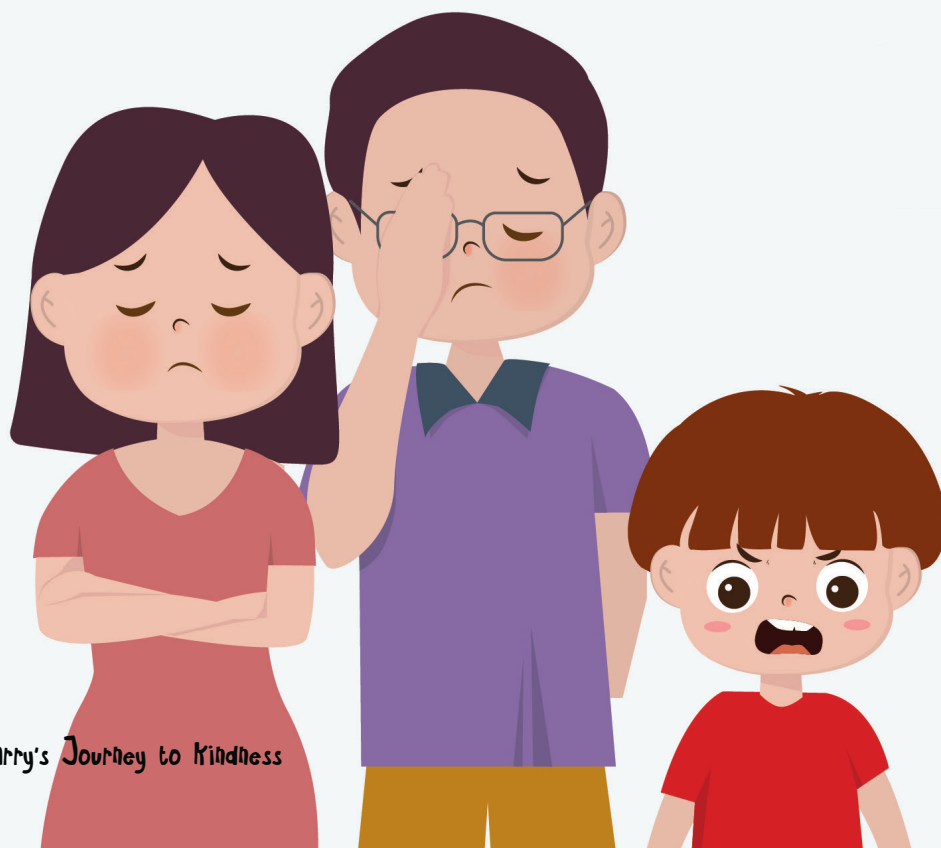


**YOU
ARE
UGLY!**



Larry's parents shook their heads in **disappointment**^[5], yet they listened to him patiently.

He continued, "After school, I went to the park with Ben and Edwin to play catch. There were so many **annoying**^[6] stray cats in the park. I kicked those cats because they made me lose the game! Then suddenly both Ben and Edwin got upset and left me. They said I was cruel and heartless."





SCHOOL



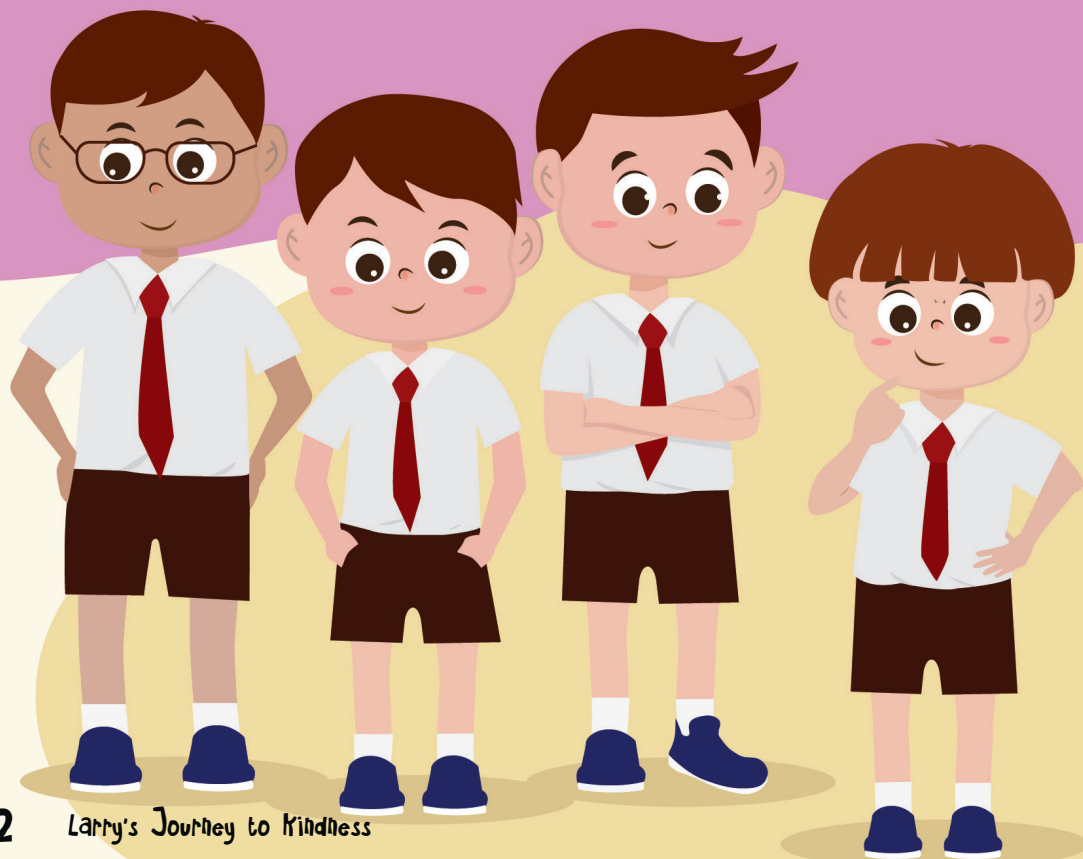
🐜 Larry paused, took a deep breath, and sighed, “And when I got home, my favourite strawberry cake was **ruined**^[7] because I forgot to put it in the fridge before going to the park. I started reaching out to crush all the ants, but they were just too many. So, I drowned them in the sink. Sigh, there goes my cake too.

What a terrible day! Everything just went so wrong!”



Larry's parents were deeply concerned by what they had heard. They sat him down and spoke gently but firmly.

Mum said, "My son, we are sorry that you had such a bad day, and you must be very tired. But no matter how tough things get, you should never get angry, lie, steal or even hurt your friends or any living creature, like those cats and ants. They have feelings, and can feel pain too."







Dad continued, “When you face unpleasant situations, try to stay calm and think before you act. Take a deep breath and focus on the good things around you before you speak or do anything. Your actions today may have been out of **ignorance**^[8] and anger, but remember, they have **consequences**^[9]. If you do good, good things will come your way, but if you do bad, you can only expect more of the same.”



Larry kept quiet, he bent his head a little and seemed to be **in deep thought**^[10]. He started to reflect on his mistakes. He realised that his actions had hurt others and that he needed to change. He apologised to his parents for his bad behaviour and promised not to repeat his mistakes.

The next day, Larry went to school and said sorry to Ben and Edwin for his actions at the park.

He made **amends**^[11] by returning Peter's pencil case, giving away his favourite pencil and asked for forgiveness.

In the evening, he went to the park with food and water to feed the stray cats.



The illustration is divided into two main scenes. The upper scene is set against a light blue circular background and shows four school boys in white shirts, red ties, and dark shorts. One boy on the left has an orange backpack. A speech bubble from one of the boys says "I am sorry!". In the center, a boy with a blue backpack looks sad and holds a pencil. To his right, a taller boy with a green backpack looks on. The lower scene shows a boy in a yellow shirt and blue pants kneeling on a grey path, petting a smiling orange tiger. A red bowl of food is on the ground. The background features green bushes and stylized orange flowers.

**I am
sorry!**

Over time, Larry's friends saw the change in him. They noticed his efforts to make things right and his newfound kindness towards others, including the animals. Slowly but surely, they forgave him and welcomed him back into their group of friends.

Larry had learnt a valuable lesson about the importance of patience, understanding, and **rectifying** ^[12] mistakes. He understood that his actions could hurt others and that taking responsibility for his mistakes and making things right are the paths to true friendship and happiness.





Moral

Everyone wants to be happy always, but not every day is a good day. Therefore, when we face challenges, it is essential to keep our cool, think before we act, and avoid taking our frustrations out on others. It is only when we choose to do good that good things will come our way.



The Buddha advises us to:

- To avoid all evil.
- To do good.
- To purify one's mind.
- Speak kindly, free from lies and angry words.

Food for thought

After reading the story, what do you think Larry has done wrong?

When faced with each mishap, what do you think Larry should have done?

What did Larry do to show regret for what he had done?

Can you think of similar incidents that you have experienced at home or in school? How did you react? Could you have done better?

Let us learn some words and phrases.

1. Described : told someone what something is like or what it looks or feels like.
2. Gloomy : a dark, sad or cloudy feeling.
3. Rumours : things you hear about someone, but they might not be true.
4. Labelling : giving someone a name or calling someone by a certain word.
5. Disappointment : feeling sad or let down because something did not happen the way you hoped for or expected to be.
6. Annoying : something or someone who is bothering you, making you feel unhappy.
7. Ruined : damaged or spoilt.
8. Ignorance : the state of not knowing or not being aware of something.
9. Consequences : the results of our actions.
10. In deep thought : thinking very hard about something.
11. Amends : trying to fix or make things right when you have done something wrong or hurtful.
12. Rectifying : making something right or correcting a mistake.

The Five Moral Precepts in Buddhism

The Five Moral Precepts in Buddhism are like special rules given by the Buddha to help us lead better lives. They are kind of like a guidebook on how to be a good person and make the world a better place.

The First Precept

This one is about **being kind to all living things**. Just like you love your life, animals love their lives too. So, we should be nice to them and not hurt or kill them, especially for fun or money. We should always try to be friendly and caring to all living creatures.

The Second Precept

This is about **not taking things that do not belong to us**. Think about the things you need to live, like food, clothes, and a place to stay. If someone took them away, it would be really hard for us to survive. So, we should not take things that are not ours; instead, we should be generous and share what we have especially with those in need.

The Third Precept

This is about **being respectful in our relationships with others**. Imagine if someone took away the people you love or treated them badly, you would definitely not be happy, right? So, we should always be honest and treat others with respect. This helps create happiness in our families and friendships.

The Fourth Precept

Being truthful is super important. Think about the people you love — your parents, friends, siblings, and teachers. How would you feel if you found out they were lying to you? It would make you unhappy, wouldn't it? So, we should always tell the truth and avoid gossip or mean words.

The Fifth Precept

This is about **staying away from things that can mess up our minds**, like drinking alcohol or taking drugs. When people use these things, they sometimes do things they would not normally do, and it can cause a lot of problems. So, it is best to keep our minds clear and not try these things, especially when we are young. Learn to say “no” to drugs and alcohol.

Identify good and bad behaviours



the correct behaviour.



the bad behaviour.

Making friends with new students at school.

Turning off the lights when you are not using them.

Hurting animals like kicking stray dogs or cats.

Waiting in line when you are buying food from your school canteen.

Saying mean things, making fun of others, or being unkind on purpose.

Borrowing an item and not returning it.

Having good manners and saying the right things when you speak to others.

Leaving a store without paying for the items you intend to buy.

Giving way to a cyclist on a shared pathway.

Blaming someone else for a mistake you made.

Not waiting for your turn to speak and continue to talk while someone else is talking.

Holding onto the handrails in an orderly line when you are going up the escalator.

Telling lies, spreading stories that may not be true, and gossiping about others.

Gently guiding a caterpillar from your room and letting it go safely into the garden.

Being kind and caring to all living beings.

Giving away useful and usable things you no longer need to charity and the needy.

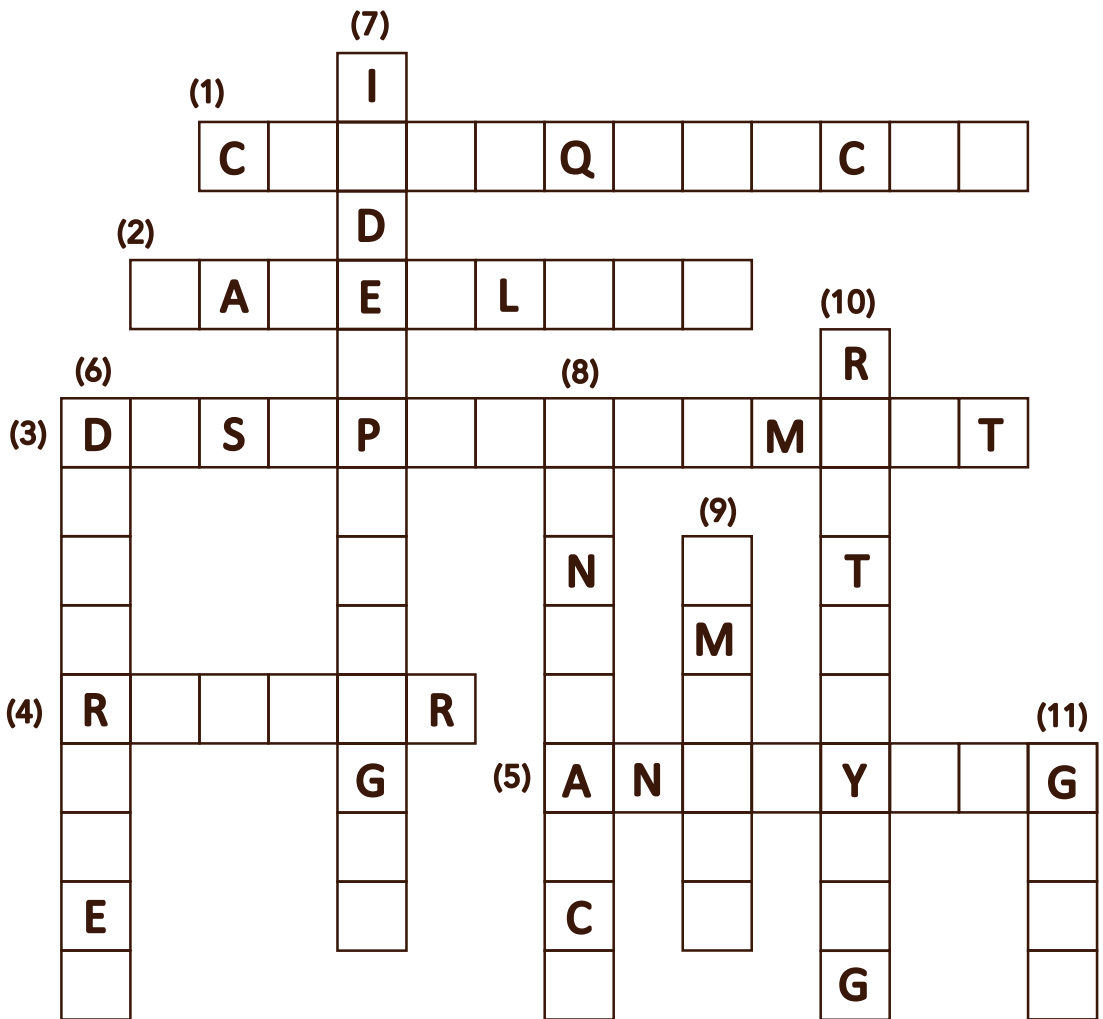
Fill in the missing words in the sentences below and then fill them on the crossword puzzle. (Hint: Words can be found on page 23)

ACROSS

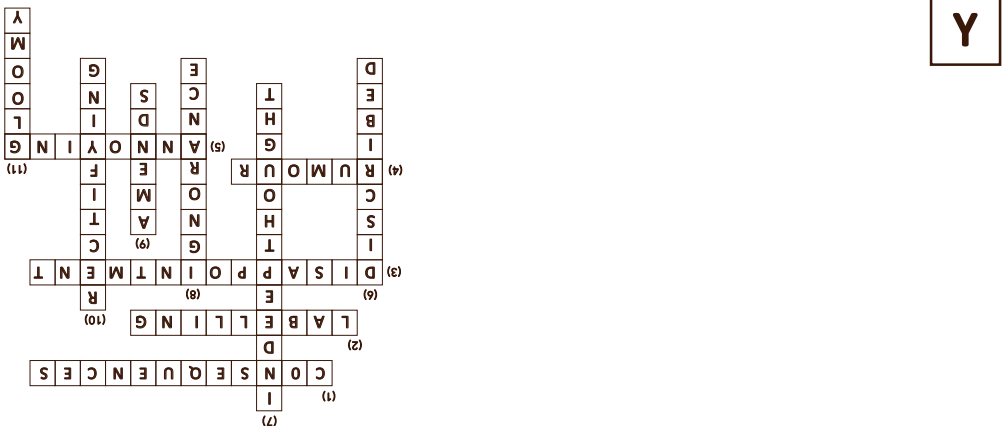
- 1) He did not realise the _____ of his actions until it was too late.
- 2) _____ others with mean words can hurt their feelings and make them feel left out.
- 3) Emily felt a deep sense of _____ when her favourite team lost the game.
- 4) There is a _____ going around that we might have an extra-long recess today.
- 5) The buzzing mosquito was so _____ that I could not sleep all night.

DOWN

- 6) This morning, the teacher _____ a sunset scene with beautiful rainbow colours, and got the class to imagine and drew it.
- 7) Tommy was _____ about trying to figure out the best way to complete the jigsaw puzzle.
- 8) _____ about the importance of recycling can harm the environment.
- 9) To make _____ for breaking his friend's favourite toy, Tim apologised and offered to buy a new one to return him.
- 10) She was _____ the mistake on her homework by erasing the wrong answer and writing the correct one.
- 11) On a _____ day with thick clouds, people often prefer to stay indoors and read a book.



Answer:



Tips for parents:

- ◆ Teach your children to empathise with others by discussing how Larry's actions affected those around him. Ask them to think about how they would feel if they were in the same situations.
- ◆ Initiate a conversation about the behaviours your children like or dislike in their friends.
- ◆ Encourage your children to reflect on the story's moral and how it relates to their own lives. Discuss with your children about the difference between good and bad behaviours. Give examples.
- ◆ Ask your children to share examples of their own good behaviours or those of their friends.
- ◆ Explain to your children the importance of cultivating good qualities in life. Give examples.
- ◆ Work with your children on the activities.
- ◆ Explain the concept of the Five Precepts, emphasising their importance in guiding ethical behaviour. Discuss how these principles align with the lessons learned from the story.



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An engaging and valuable story
that teaches important life lessons
in a relatable and accessible way.

This book is an excellent resource for children to
learn about the significance of kindness, patience
and rectifying one's mistakes.