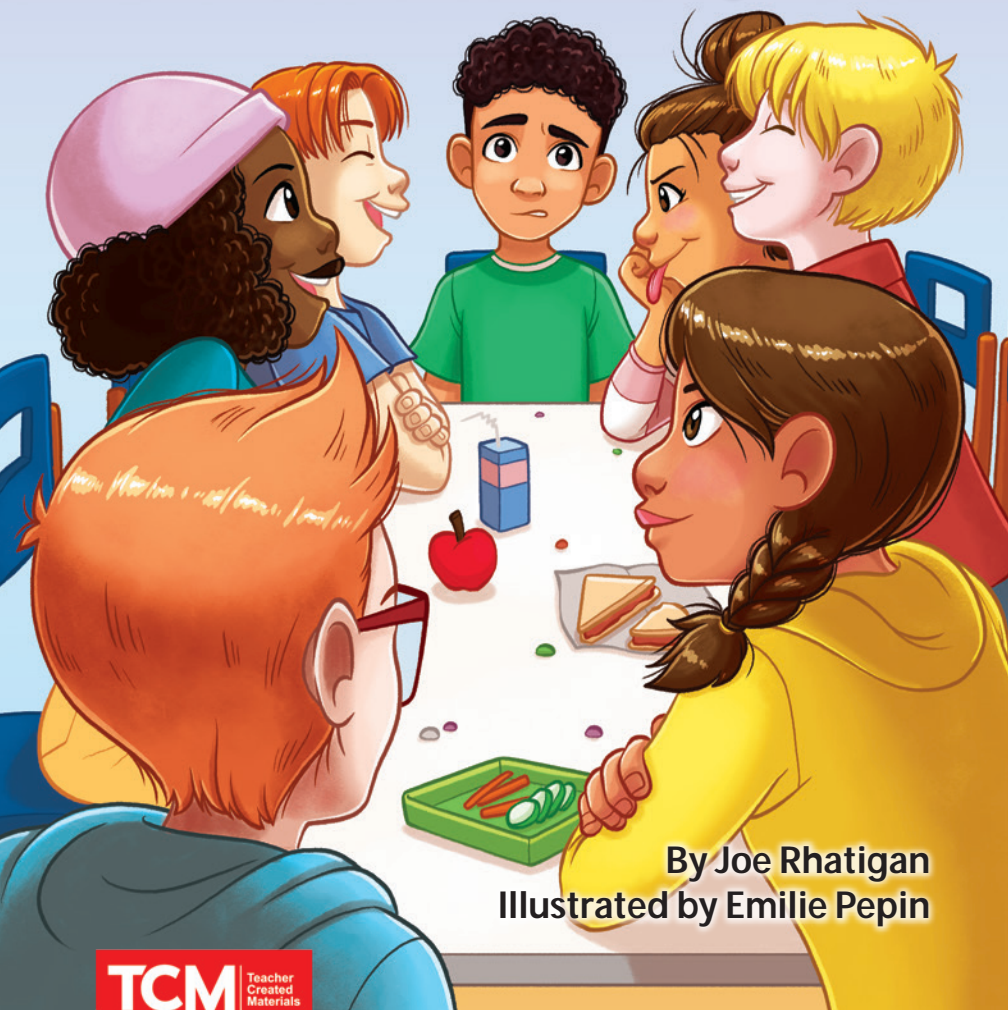


The Egg Salad Sandwich Incident



By Joe Rhatigan

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After lunch, in social studies, a boy sitting next to Jesse said, “My name is Tobias, and that was awesome what you did with the potato puffs.”

“Thanks, I guess,” Jesse said.

“You should sit with us tomorrow.”

Jesse said, “Sure. Why not?”

The next day, Tobias introduced Jesse to the cool table kids.

Tobias named a bunch of kids, each with a rhyming nickname, including: Lucy Goosy (because she’s silly), Red Ted (because he has red hair), Too-Tall Paul, and Maria Diarrhea.

Jesse took a seat at the end of the table next to No-Nickname Laurie. He asked her, “Where’s your rhyming nickname?”

“I guess Tobias can’t think of one.”

“What about ‘Laurie Lavatory’ or ‘Gory Laurie’?” Jesse suggested.

“Keep *those* names to yourself...if you know what’s good for you,” Laurie teased.

Jesse laughed but then looked over at where Timothy sat by himself. He wanted to invite Timothy over but knew the kids at the table wouldn't like it. He felt sad and guilty, but he turned away while he decided whether he would drink the concoction his new friends were passing to him.

Tobias said, "It's a mac and cheese chocolate milkshake with grape juice, raisins, graham crackers, and, of course,



One of Jesse's favorite people at the cool table was Lucy Goosy. Lucy was fearless. She was great at making faces and imitating teachers. She cracked everyone up with her impression of Mr. Freeman, the social studies teacher. She even made fun of Tobias once in a while. The others at the table would never do that. He was their leader.

About a month after Jesse started sitting at the cool table, Tobias had an idea for a prank. He handed out stickers and whispered, "When you get back to class, put a sticker under every mouse. No one will be able to use the computers."

Jesse thought about saying "No, thanks," but he put a few stickers in his pocket. The stickers made him feel included but also something else... something that didn't feel like *himself*.

Everyone at the table seemed really excited about the prank at lunch, but only a couple of kids went through with it. Tobias got away with it by swearing



Name: _____

Date: _____

Advice Poster

Directions: Write activities that new students can do at your school to get involved and ways they can make friends. Draw a picture of one of the activities.

Are You New Here?

Things to do at our school: _____

Ways to make friends: _____

