GROWING FRIENDSHIPS

A COMIC FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN

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HAVE YOU EVER HAD SOMETHING YOU'RE EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN?

HI, I'M LEO. THIS IS MY GARDEN. THE THING I LIKE BEST IS GROWING PLANTS!

ONE REASON I LOVE MAKING SEEDS GROW IS THAT IT HELPS ME UNDERSDAND ABOUT GROWING FRIENDSHIPS.

LET ME TELL YOU HOW GROWING FRIENDSHIPS IS LIKE PLANTING SEEDS.

HELPING THEM GROW.

AND DEALING WITH ANY PROBLEMS THAT COME UP.

STARTING FRIENDSHIPS IS A LOT LIKE PLANTING SEEDS.

A FEW SEEDS WILL SPROUT AND GROW. BUT MANY DON'T– AND THAT'S OKAY.
WHEN 'PLANTING' FRIENDSHIPS YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP TRYING.

YOU CAN 'PLANT' FRIENDSHIPS IN A LOT OF DIFFERENT PLACES! LIKE AT SCHOOL, A CLUB OR EVEN IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD!

SOMETIMES FRIENDSHIPS ONLY LAST A LITTLE WHILE.

ANNA AND I WERE REALLY GOOD FRIENDS, BUT SHE HAD TO MOVE AWAY.

MOM SAYS IT'S OKAY TO BE SAD WHEN FRIENDSHIPS END BUT NOT TO STOP TRYING TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS.

AND SOME LAST A REALLY LONG TIME!

YUSIF AND I HAVE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE KINDERGARTEN!

DAD SAYS IT'S GREAT TO HAVE FRIENDSHIPS THAT LAST BUT THAT YOU CAN STILL MAKE NEW FRIENDS TOO.

PLANTS NEED THE RIGHT KIND OF LIGHT, WATER AND SOIL TO GROW.

FRIENDSHIPS ALSO NEED GOOD CARE TO LAST.

YOU TAKE CARE OF FRIENDSHIPS BY TAKING TURNS PICKING ACTIVITIES.

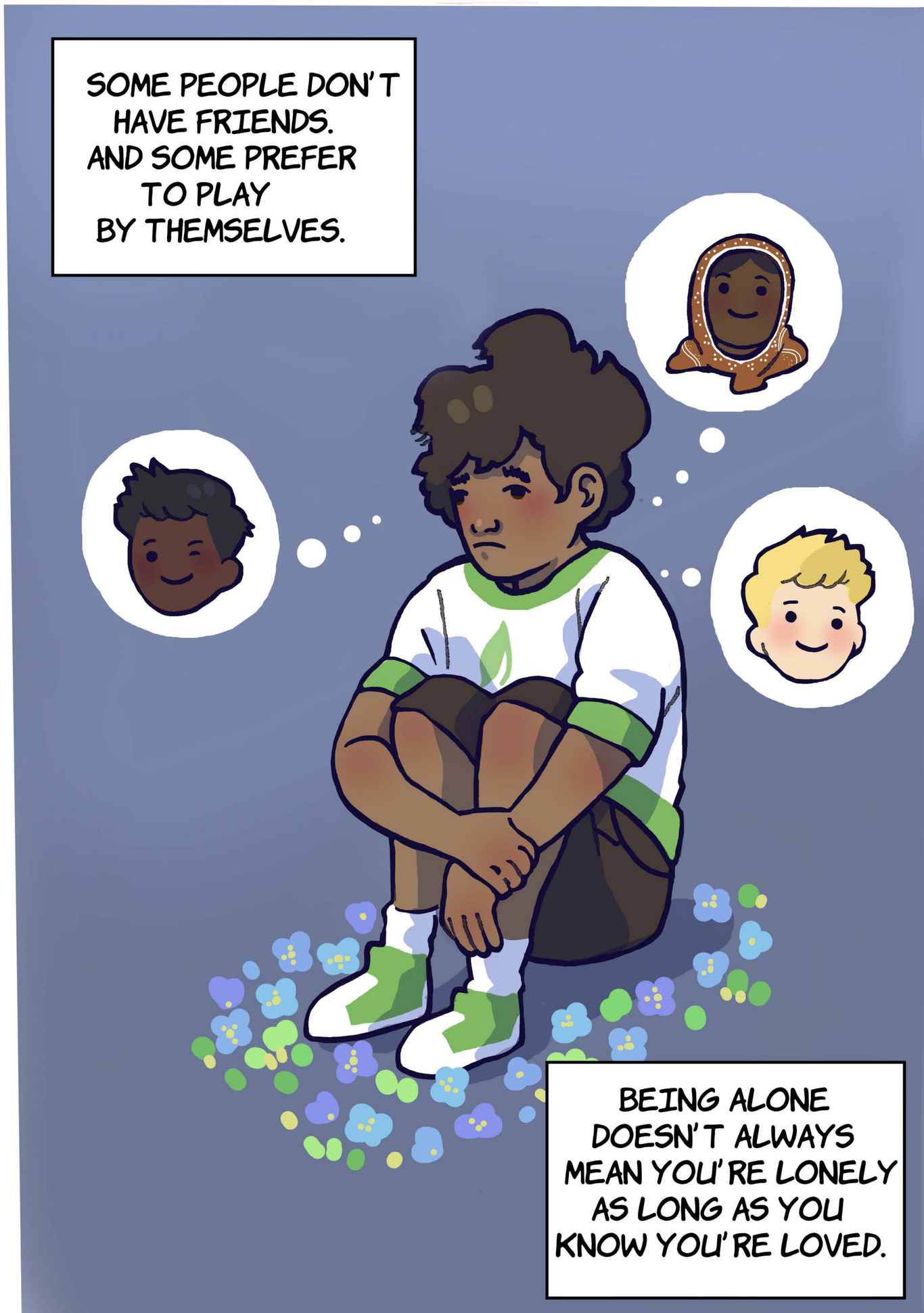
YOU CAN HELP A FRIEND WHO'S SAD OR WORRIED BY LISTENING AND BEING THERE FOR THEM.

YOU CAN EVEN SHARE FRIENDS WITH OTHERS!

PLANTS CAN RUN INTO PROBLEMS. AS A GARDENER, YOU CAN TRY TO FIX THEM.
FRIENDSHIPS CAN HAVE PROBLEMS TOO. SOME YOU CAN FIX, AND SOME YOU CAN'T.

FRIENDS CAN DISAGREE AND ARGUE. THEY MIGHT EVEN NEED TO APOLOGIZE. SOMETIMES YOU NEED HELP FROM A GROWN-UP YOU TRUST.

FRIENDS CAN GROW APART AND LOSE INTEREST IN EACH OTHER. IT'S OKAY TO FIND NEW FRIENDS.


SOME PEOPLE DON'T HAVE FRIENDS. AND SOME PREFER TO PLAY BY THEMSELVES.
BEING ALONE DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN YOU'RE LONELY AS LONG AS YOU KNOW YOU'RE LOVED.

'PLANTING FRIENDSHIPS' CAN BE DONE IN SO MANY WAYS. WHICH WAYS HAVE **YOU** TRIED? WHAT ARE SOME WAYS YOU MIGHT TRY?

CARING FOR FRIENDSHIPS CAN TAKE YEARS TO LEARN. WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO CARE FOR FRIEDSHIPS THAT YOU CAN GET EVEN BETTER AT?

EVERYONE HAS FRIENDSHIP PROBLEMS SOMETIMES. WHAT ARE SOME FRIENDSHIP PROBLEMS YOU'VE HAD? WHAT KIND OF HELP DID YOU NEED?

CHECK OUT THE ACTIVITY PAGES HERE! THESE COULD HELP YOU TO GET BETTER AT STARTING FRIENDSHIPS AND WORKING ON FRIENDSHIP PROBLEMS!