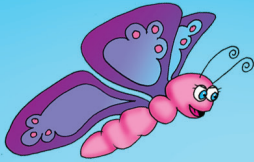


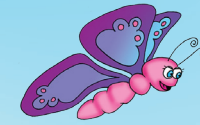
"Me and the Other" Series of stories

"Be-Free" Program Publications



We Learn and Have Fun with our Differences





We Learn and Have Fun
with our Differences

"Be-Free" Program Publications 2012

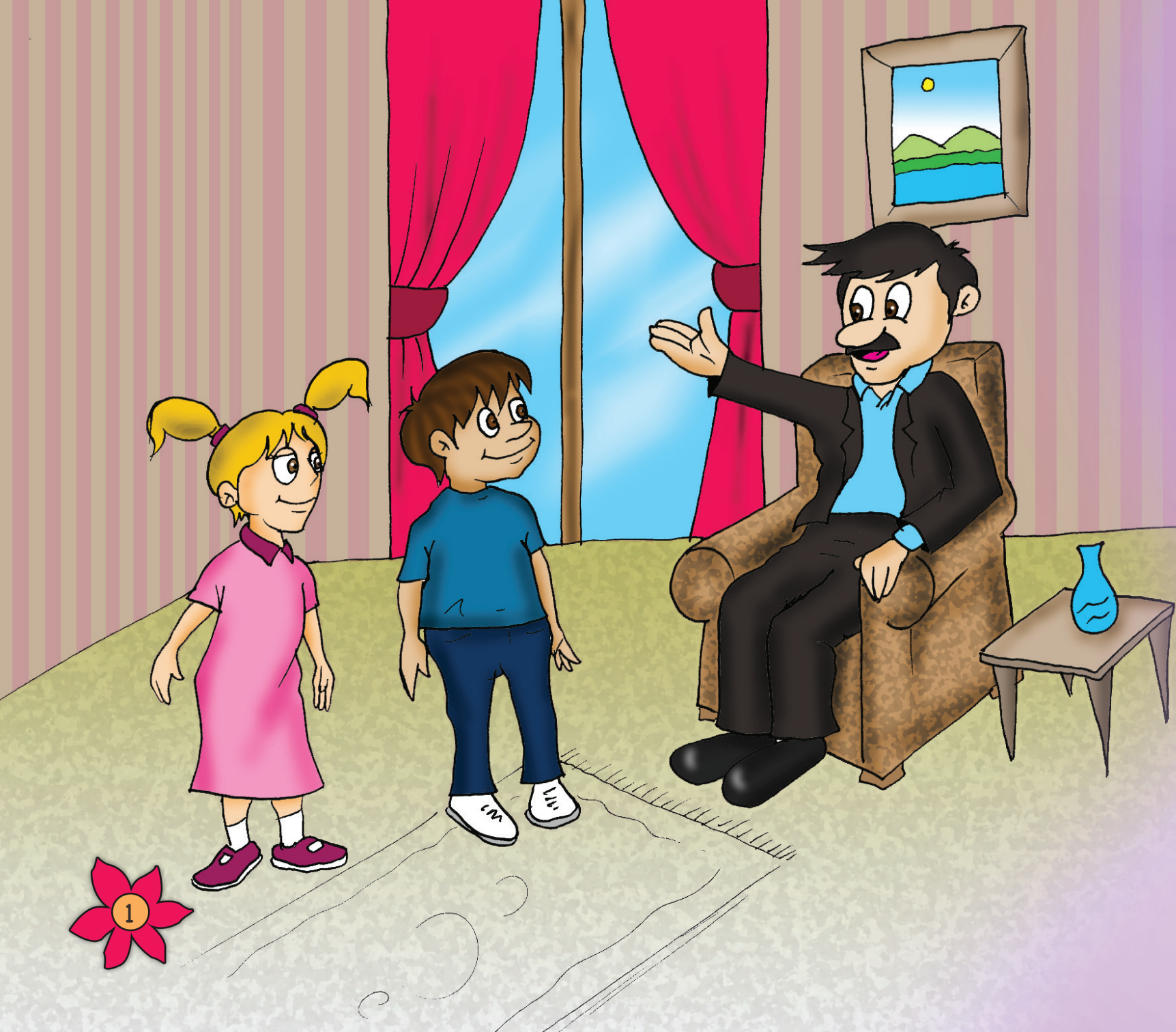
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Be-free

For Safe Childhood ... Conscious Adolescence ...
Cohesive Family ... and Humanistic Society ...



Mariam and Ahmed were very happy to hear the good news. Earlier that day, their father had told them that the Eid festival was going to be very special that year, as two family friends were coming to visit them with their children.

Mr. Nadim and his two children; Saeed and Rayhana were coming from a far away town and Mr. Haj Kareem and his two children, Majed and Abeer were coming from the beautiful village behind the big mountain.



Mariam and Ahmed could not wait to play and have fun with the children, they were very excited. They ran to the back garden to share the good news with their little friends, the insects!





Mariam and Ahmed waited and waited for the children to arrive. When they finally did, both Mariam and Ahmed were very surprised to see how different everybody was. Each family dressed in a different way and they also had different ways of giving Eid presents.

One family gave the children small toys and another family gave them money, while Majed and Abeer's parents gathered the children and told them a story as an Eid present.

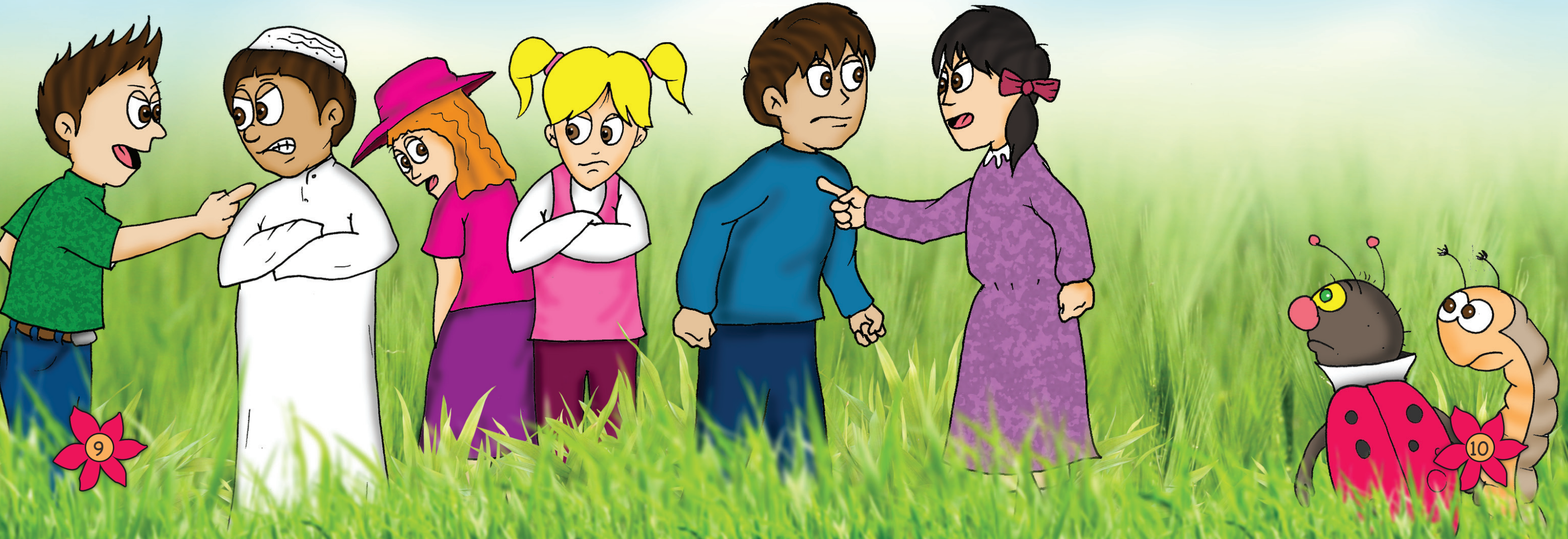
The children were all different. Each liked a different color and a different type of food. They also differed in the games and school subjects they liked. Mariam and Ahmed were also surprised to learn that each child liked to keep a different kind of pet.

Each child thought that their tastes and preferences were better than the tastes and the preferences of the other children.



Later in the afternoon, the children went out to play in the garden, but they could not agree on one way to play. Each time one suggested a game, the children disagreed on how to play it.

The children argued and disagreed for more than an hour and as time passed the children began to feel upset and started to make fun of each other's differences.





The insects that lived in the garden were very sad to hear the children argue and make fun of each other's differences. They gathered together and decided to teach the children a few things about differences. The insects wanted to tell the children that differences are beautiful and not a bad thing, and that no child is allowed to hurt or make fun of another child because he is different.

The insects also wanted the children to know that no child is better than the other because he is different. Each person lives differently and has a different taste, likes and dislikes. This is an awesome thing! Because if everybody had the exact same taste, habits and way of thinking, the world will be boring. There will be no inventions, discoveries or anything new.

The Earthworm and the Beetle walked towards the children and the rest of the insects followed them. The Earthworm greeted the children and asked "Why are you fighting children? Why do you think that differences are bad and say cruel things to each other because of them?" the children were looking at the Earthworm in surprise as it continued to speak "Look at me children.

I am very different from my friend; the Beetle. I am light and striped while she is dark and looks different than me. I love her, she is my friend and she loves me.



She respects me even though I am tall and thin and don't have any legs and I respect her even though she is very dark and fat compared to me. I learn patience and calmness from her."





Then came the Butterfly and the Grasshopper..

The Butterfly smiled to the children and said "This Grasshopper has tall legs and can jump to high places while I cannot. On the other hand, I have a blend of beautiful colors on my wings while he doesn't. Despite our differences we fly together each time we meet. I respect him deeply and he respects me. I am amazed by his love and devotion to his Grasshopper friends. I learned a lot from the way they cooperate and work together."



Then came the Cockroach and the Ant..

The Cockroach looked at the children and said "This Ant is so small and fragile compared to me. I am much bigger and I can move much faster. But we are best friends and we respect each other very much. I am amazed by her orderliness and her enthusiasm."



The Earthworm spoke again and said "We insects respect the differences among us. We learn new things from one another and try to live with peace and happiness. We are happy to have different friends and we spend our time



loving, respecting and helping each other. You can learn and grow from your differences and from each other too."

The Beetle added "Think about this; children ...think... you can learn from each other and you can help people around you learn from their differences and learn to respect the other different people too".



The children smiled and thanked the insects and promised them to think about what they said. Since that day, the children never mocked any different child and always kept in mind that differences bring goodness and knowledge to the world. This made them happier and more successful.

The children started by agreeing on a game to play. They enjoyed their afternoon and had lots of fun together.



**Because you are a Smart and Respectful child..
You can think in the following concepts of
humanistic ways of dealing with others:**

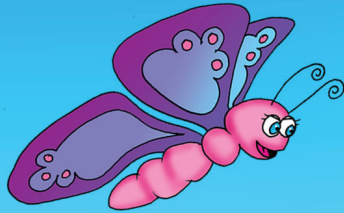
- ✿ I am respectful and I respect others.
- ✿ My opinion is respected and so are the opinions of others.
- ✿ I learn from differences.
- ✿ I identify common grounds between me and the other and build on them.
- ✿ I start my conversation with the best in the other.
- ✿ I empathies with others and I respect their feelings.
- ✿ I wish for the other what I wish for myself.
- ✿ I develop my society together with others, and tolerance is a value I adopt in life.



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the following link:
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You are a child and the future lies ahead of you...

You deserve to live a peaceful life, not one that is filled with problems and conflicts with others...

A life that brightens your mind, develops your personality and makes your life better...

You can be a leader and help in making your surroundings better.... Yes, you can do that!

For this reason, you need to develop the way you look at and interact with others... and especially those who are different than you...

This story can help you discover the beauty of differences, and learning from it...



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