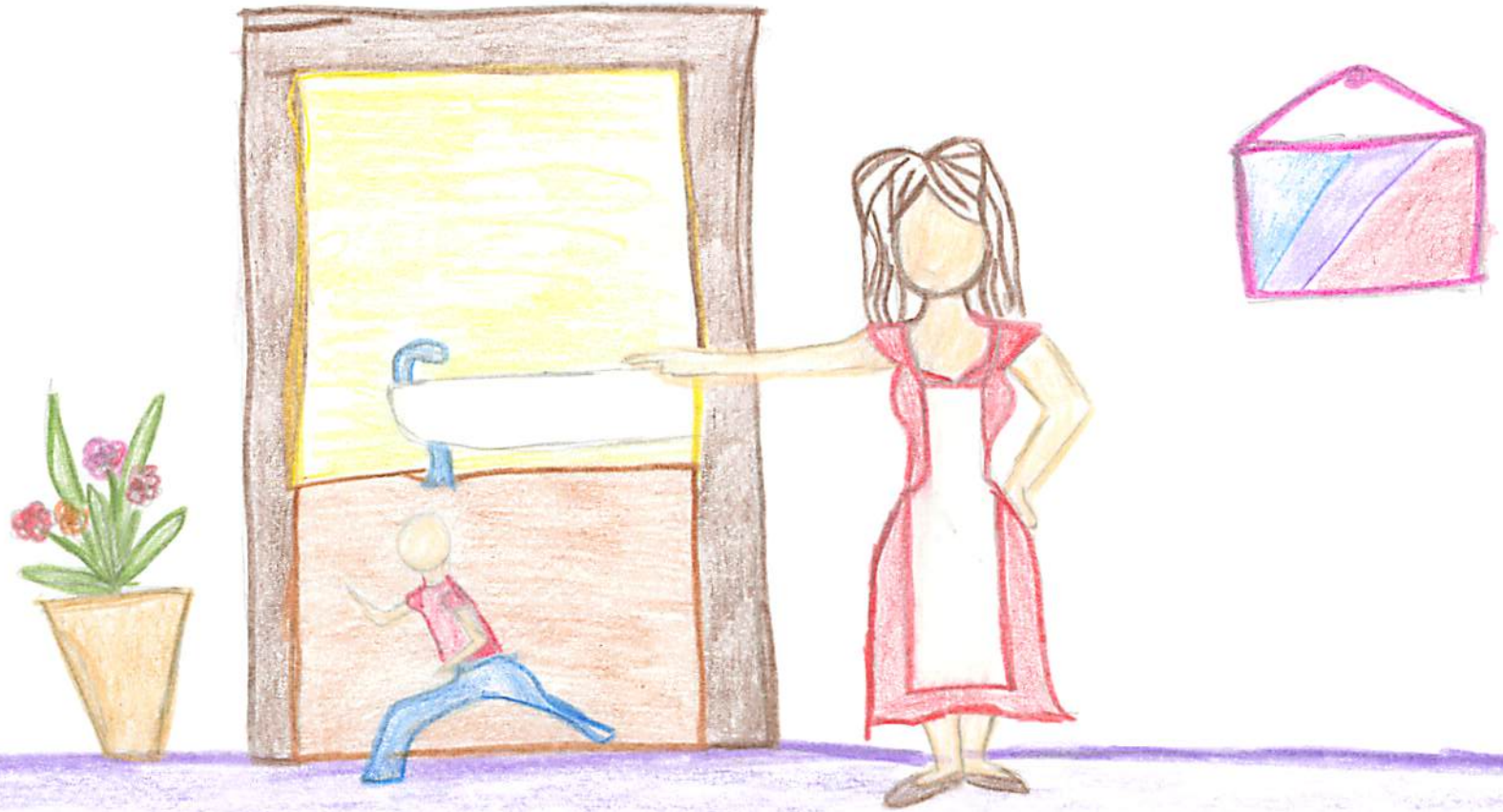


The Cold Shower

Once upon a time there lived a boy named Marley who did not like to take showers. He was always running and playing and sleeping, but never did he take a shower. He would go to school, run around during recess, and when he got home he would go to the park accompanied by his mother before going to sleep, but never did he take a shower.

His mother would get mad at him and would try to make him take a shower, “Marley! Its time to take a shower come in the bathroom I don’t want to have to go and get you.” But Marley would break out into a run as soon as he heard this, having his mother chase him all over the house. He would run under tables, into tight areas, and ended up hiding in small corners of the large house. His mother eventually became tired and stopped the high speed chase, but later found little Marley sleeping and only carried him to bed. This was all in a days work, Marley had accomplished to not take a shower once again.

He continued like this for a long time. The next day at school he started giving off a bad smell and it just kept getting worse as the days went on. It was after recess when the smell just got out of hand and the teacher had to ask, “Kids would everyone please check you shoes, I’m afraid someone might have stepped on dog poop.” Suddenly, all of the kids quickly checked the bottom of the shoes feeling relieved to find out that they were not the



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ones to blame for the awful smell. When the teacher moved closer and closer to the smell she quickly found out it was Marley that was causing it. She then announced to the class that tomorrow there was going to be a water party so bring clothes you wouldn't mind getting wet.

Marley went home that day frightened. All he could think about was that water party tomorrow at school. He did not want to go. He didn't like the water, that just reminded him of taking a shower. He had to think of something to save himself.

The next day came, and as usual his mother woke him up so he could get ready to go to school, but Marley was acting strange. He locked himself in the bathroom for a long time when his mother finally came and knocked on the door.

"Marley hurry up you're going to be late for school."

"Mommy, my stomach hurts." Responded Marley in hope of tricking his mother into letting him stay home.

"Well just stay in there it'll go away eventually. Meanwhile I'm going to go fix you some breakfast."

Marley was upset and knew there was no way he could miss school. His mother had to go to work and knew he would not be able to stay home. He spent a couple more

minutes in the bathroom before getting out and eating his breakfast. He then went to the car and waited for his mother.

“Mom why do I have to go to school today?” Asked Marley with a sad tone in his voice.

“Well honey, schools important and besides you would get bored if you would stay at home.”

“But I’m not feeling so well, my stomach hurts.”

“You know what might help your stomach ache go away.”

“No what?”

“If you take a shower, It’ll make you feel all better. Like brand new!”

Marley’s stomach began to hurt even more at hearing this. It just made him think even more about the water party today at school.

Shortly after they arrived, the teacher greeted Marley with a big enthusiastic smile and hug. His tardiness had begun to worry her and she might of thought he wasn’t going to show up, but his presence delighted her. He was just in time for the water party.

“Class! Class! Settle down class! I have an announcement about the water party. So in fifteen-minutes we’ll go out to recess and right after that we can have the party. I’m going to be filling up water balloons right now so everyone just finish up your paintings meanwhile.” Announced the teacher.

Fifteen-minutes plus recess time, Marley thought. He had to think of something quick in order to escape this ultimate fear. Soon enough recess came and went by. The class was held in a grassy area of the playground where they would have the water party. The teacher had brought out the water balloons she had been filling up and announced the rules of the game.

“Okay class, given its a bright and sunny day this is a perfect time to be having a water party, aren’t all of you excited. Now I’m going to be handing out water balloons to each and everyone of you and the point of the game is to not get wet, but wet as many people as you can. And if you do get wet then you can step outside and wait for the game to finish. The only thing is that you guys can’t leave this area.” Pointing to the set of cones she used as boundaries.

She began handing out a pair of balloons to each and every kid in the class, then the games began. Marley quickly threw his first balloon hitting a kid on his chest and in consequence getting him wet and eliminating him from the game. He had one more balloon left and became panicked. For his luck, he managed to stay in the game towards

the end. The teacher noticed nobody was going to be able to get him so she stepped into it as well. Her primary target was Marley. He then began to run, cut quickly, and dodge the balloons coming his way. Just like the drill he was used to at home, but this time with a little more excitement. And so once again Marley had managed to become water free.

Soon enough days went by and then weeks, and Marley still continued with this condition only to find himself getting sick and fungus growing within him. But after all this he still refused to take a shower. His mother would beg and at times try to force him, but it was all worth nothing in the end. He was just a rebellious child she couldn't handle.

Until one day however, when the sun shined the brightest and the temperature was at its highest. Marley was playing in the patio suffering from his fungus and sickness he had which didn't seem to bother him. But that's when his mom decided that enough was enough and had the perfect plan to introduce Marley to the water. She discreetly went outside to wash her car and let Marley help her. But at the end she grabbed the hose and wetted Marley from head to toe with the cold refreshing water. Shortly after, Marley got all better and was no longer sick nor did he have fungus. And ever since that day Marley has been taking showers, sometimes with the hose.



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