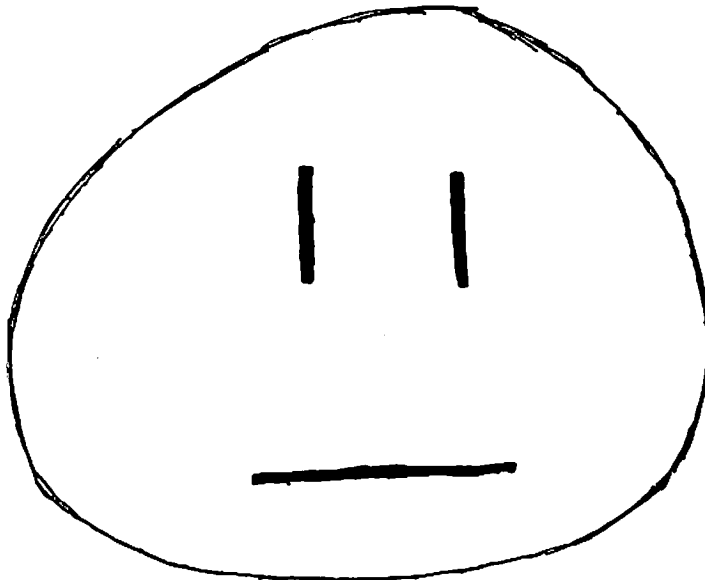


Smilers in Smileyville

By David Crane

There once was a city called Smileyville, in a country called Smileyistan, that was inhabited by Smileys. There were young Smileys, old Smileys, Smileys with yellow teeth (eeeeewww). There were even Smileys with jobs, like construction workers and coffee brewers.

Smileys loved their jobs. They worked all day and were very worried all the time. This meant that they didn't always get to smile as much as they wanted to. Pretty much every smiley in Smileyville Smiled only on weekends and during their smiley hour.



Pretty much, except for two.

Jason Smileston and Hank Smilington both loved to smile. They smiled all the time. They'd smile in the morning. They'd smile in the evening. Smile before going to the movies. People often gave them strange looks and murmured things like, "Dumb smilers..." under their breath. But Jason and Hank didn't care. They were too smiley to care.



One day, after a particularly good smile-sesh in Jason's basement, Hank had a really good idea.

"Dude, let's go to the ridge and check out the view and smile." He said

"Yeah dude! Awesome idea! We better bring some food though." Jason said

"Dude, we ate all our food."

"Oh yeah, dude."

"It's okay though dude. We'll stop by the Smileymart and the dude there will give us some munchies, dude. We're cool, dude."

So they went.

They were on their way, bouncing past the gray Smiley's that preferred to simply roll down the street tiredly. Jason wasn't watching where he was going and fell into a trash can. He was stuck.

"Dude what're we gonna do? I'm stuck!"

"Hold tight dude, I'll get you out"

"Careful dude, it's nasty in here."

"Okay dude, how are we gonna do this? Let's think for a sec."

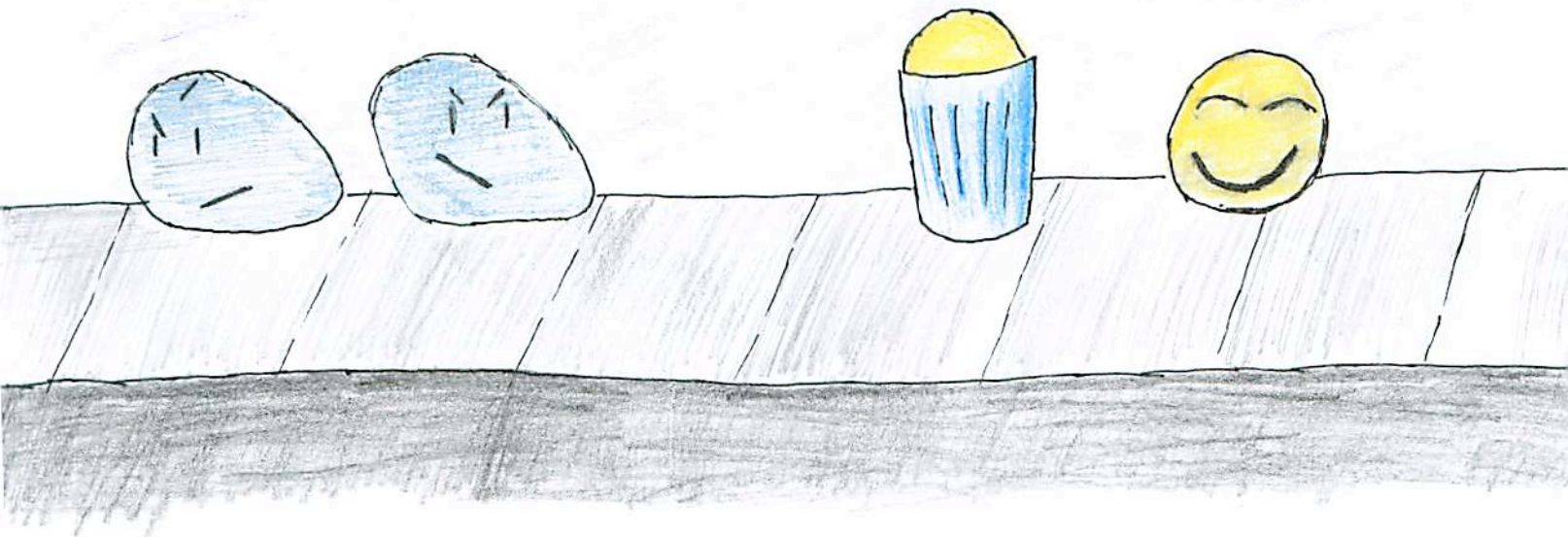


Hank thought long and hard on what to do. Hank couldn't pull on Jason. He had no arms. Suddenly, he figured it out. He backed up to get some momentum, and then he rammed the trashcan. He knocked it over and Jason hit his head.

"Dude, that hurt."

"Sorry. Can you get out?"

"Maybe if I wiggle..."



And Jason wiggled his way out of the can. When he got out the whole place smelled like fish.

"Aw dude, sick."

"Yeah let's get out of here."

So they bounced away even faster, the cool wind blew against their faces as they got faster, making them smile even wider. Eventually they found themselves in a park. They lay in the grass and looked up at the trees and watched the way they moved in the breeze. It was really really cool, they thought.



Suddenly, a large dark shadow moved across the sky. It blocked out the sun! It got bigger and bigger and bigger until...



“HEADS!”

The Frisbee landed right on Hank’s face.

“Ow!”

“Hey watch it! You’re in the middle of our game.”

“Sorry, we’ll get out of here.”

“Stupid smilers...”

And so, Jason and Hank continued their quest.

They were going down 5th Smileyvard, one of Smileyville's main streets. There were lots of cool shops with cool stuff that they would have loved to check out, but they didn't have much money and had to eat. They were pretty hungry.

Finally, at the end of 5th Smileyvard stood the SmileyMart. Hank and Jason looked at one another, smiled, and went inside.

SmileyMart was a wonderland. Everywhere they turned they'd find gummy gum sweets, chocolate donuts, and chips. Lots of chips.

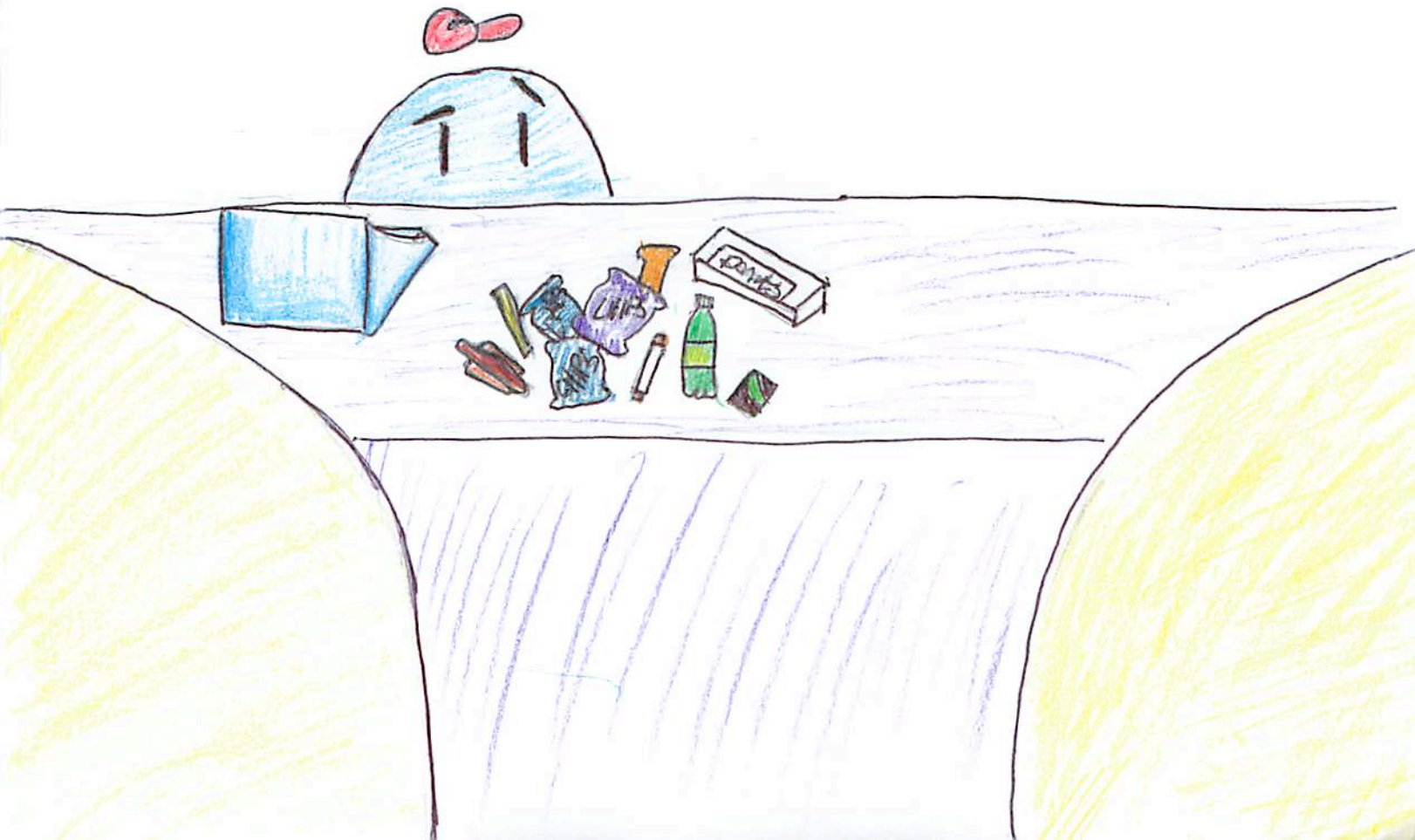
Jason loaded up on food and supplies. The next and last leg of their journey was going to be the toughest.

And with that, they bade farewell to the dude behind the counter.

"See ya dude."

"Dumb smilers..."

And they were off.



They were going uphill. At first they didn't really notice. It was pretty much flat. But after a short while they were totally out of breath and each bounce took extra effort. It was all that smiling. It made them out of shape! They kept going, eating SmileyBursts to keep from totally collapsing. The climb was grueling. They'd never done something so hard! Finally, after panting and heaving, sweating and straining, Jason and Hank collapsed at the top of the hill. They were just about ready to fall asleep.

"Dude," Hank said, "that was so hard."

"Yeah dude." Said Jason.

They lay there, waiting to get their breath back. Suddenly, Hank sat up. He looked around himself, confused. There was a bench and some trash and a brick wall with a view beyond it.

"Dude, why did we come here?" He said.

Jason sat up and looked around as well.

"I don't know dude. Let's go back to my house.

I have some sweet board games we could play."

"Oh totally dude!"

"Totally!"

And so, Jason and Hank bounced all the way home. They got lost a few times on the way back, but don't worry about them. They'll be alright.

