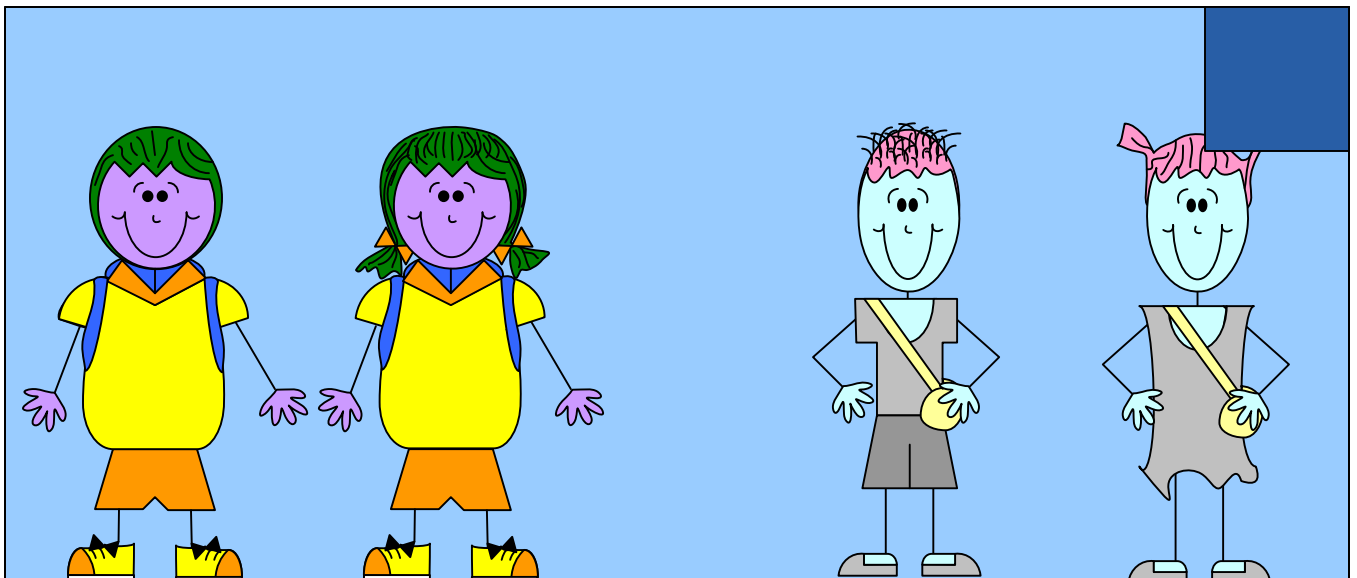


The Swacks Meet the Clags

Written and Illustrated by Jennifer Cheatham

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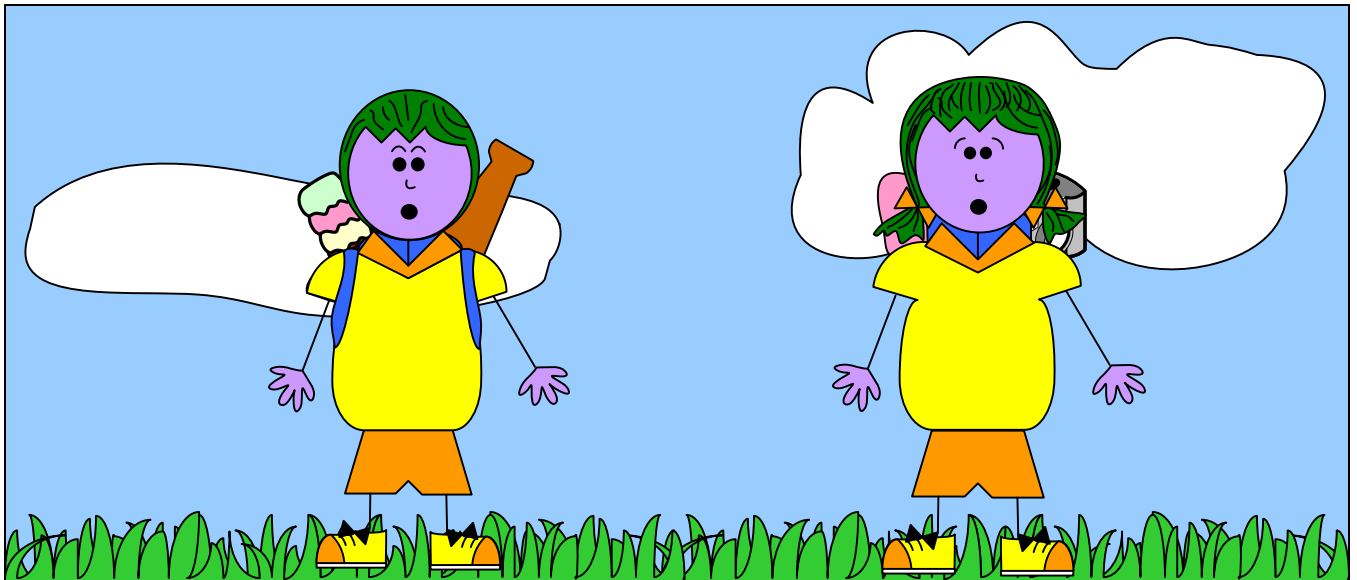


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The Swacks all have packs on their backs
to hold the things they think they need.
They carry around this and that,
such and such,
like toys, games, and books they can read.



In fact, the Swacks have so many things they don't all fit in their packs. They try to cram it all in anyway. The overfilled packs hurt their backs.

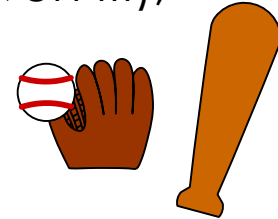
The more the Swacks have stuffed in their packs, the happier they seem.

They will put anything in their packs.

One kid even packed his ice cream!



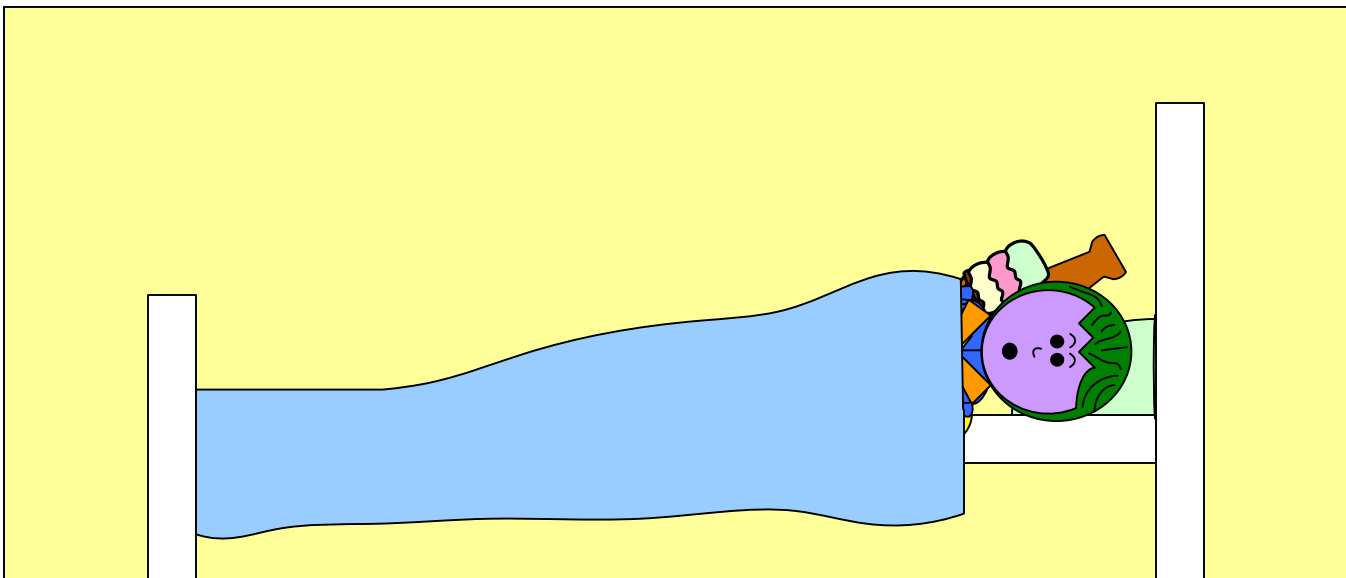
They keep lots of clothes (some don't even fit), and shoes, food, and much more, like bats and balls and dolls and cars, and drinks and snacks galore.



The more the Swacks have, the more that they want. They cannot ever get enough.

They get and take and take and get.

4 They always want more and more stuff.



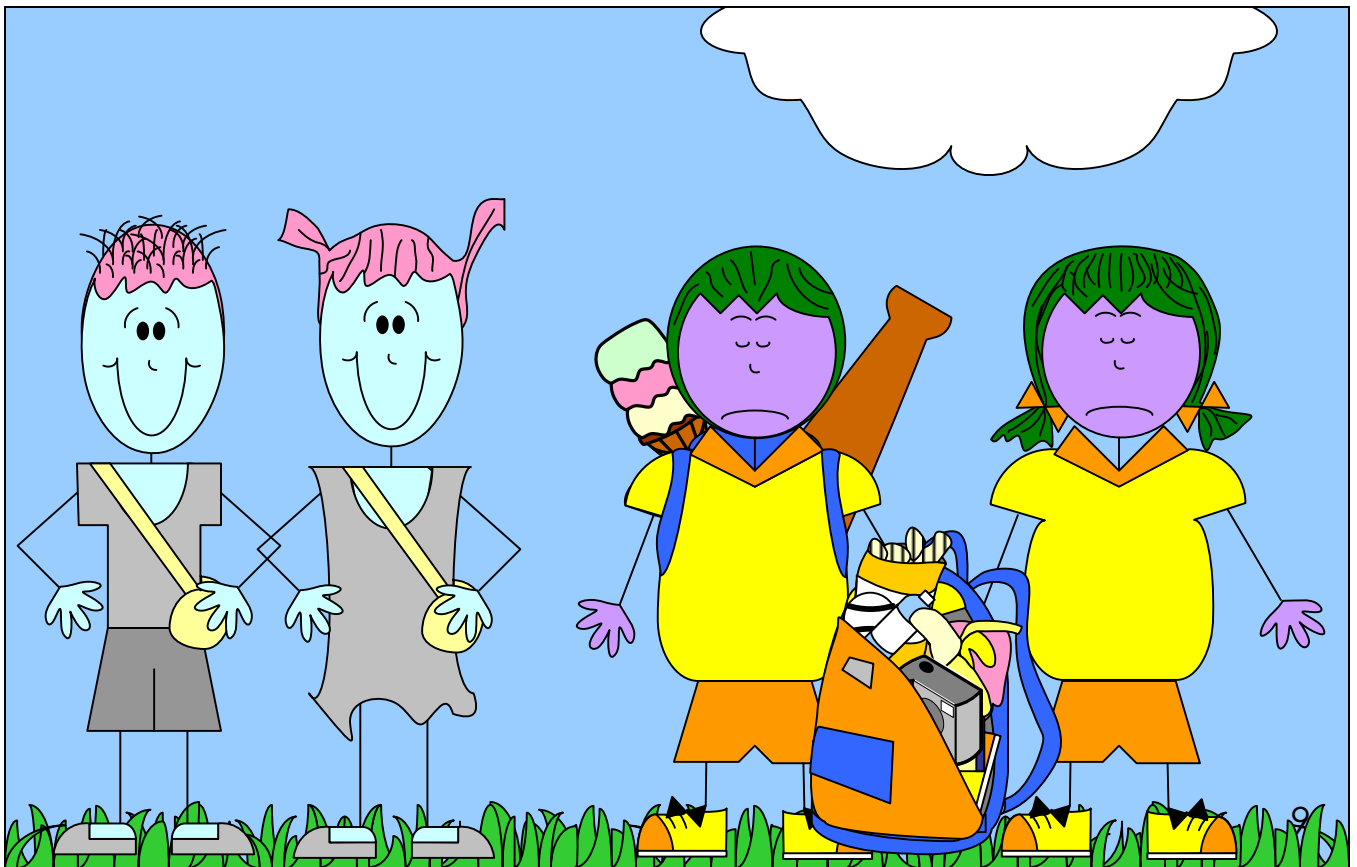
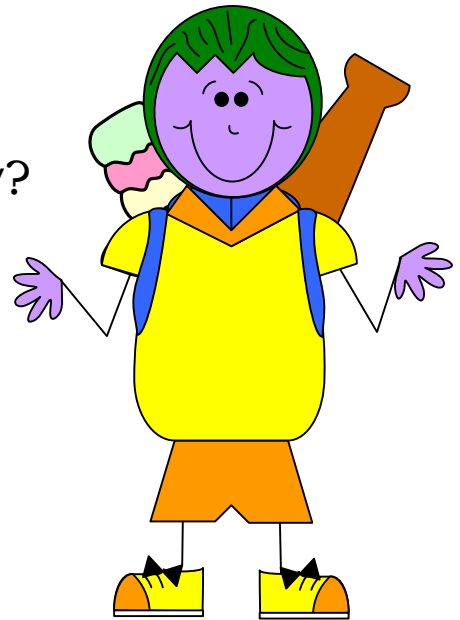
The Swacks walk along with hurt backs on the look-out for new things to keep.

They never go anywhere without their packs.

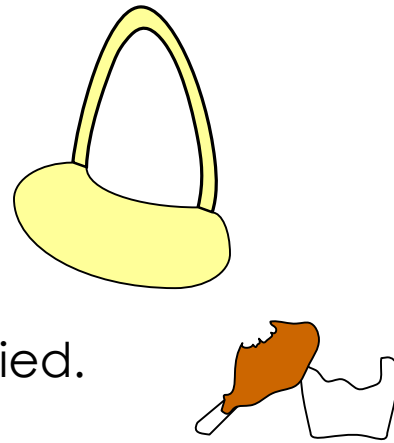
6 They even wear them to sleep.

Now if you asked the Swacks
why they have their packs
and never let anything go,
The Swacks will all say
they need all the things, but why?
They don't really know.

The Swacks kept on taking,
and getting, and packing
every single thing they could.
But packing away
all the things that they had
never did anyone any good.



Then one day came the Clags
who had their own bags,
but, sadly, what they had inside
Were just a few bites,
a meal a day old,
of bread and chicken that was fried.



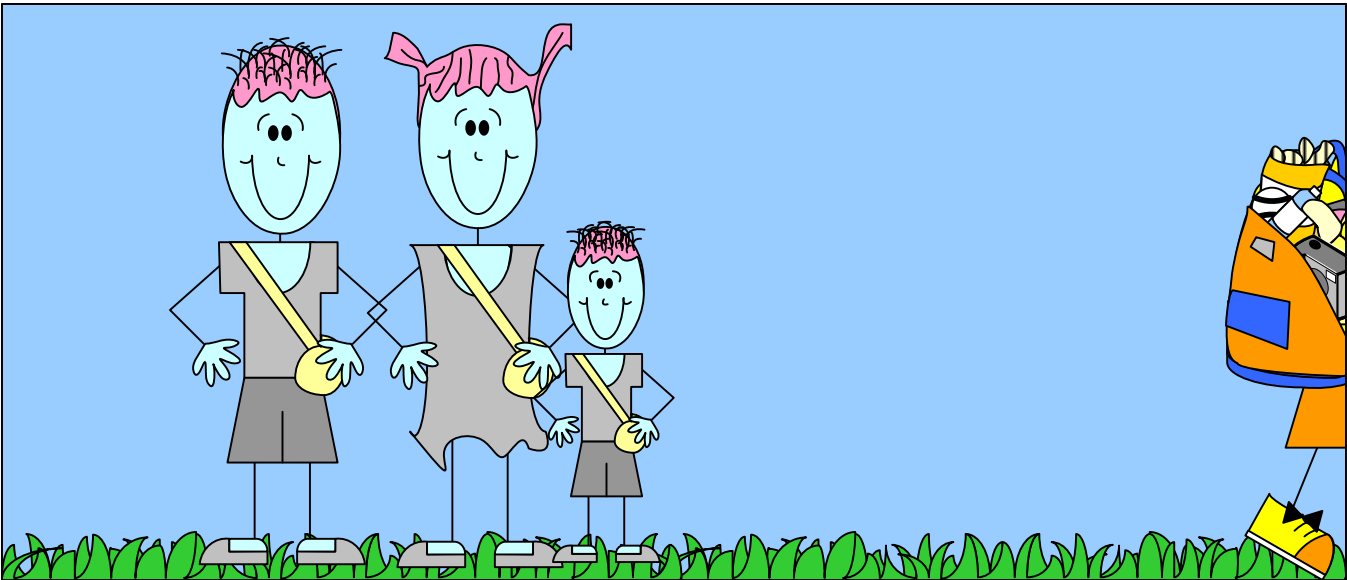
The Clags had almost nothing.
They needed food, shoes and new clothes.
When the Swacks with their packs
saw the Clags with their bags
they just looked down at their own toes.

Then one little Swack said, "Mommy, I know.
Why don't we help out the Clags?
We have so many things
and they have nothing in their bags."

"Oh, Zook," Mom said, "no, we cannot share.
We worked too hard for our stuff.
Plus, if we gave some things to the Clags
then we would not have enough."



Zook stood and he thought to himself,
"I don't really need my pack."
He walked up to the Clag
and gave him the pack off his back.



Most Swacks just walked off,
not willing to share their stuff.

“So what if the Clags have no things?” they said.

12 “These are mine and that’s just tough.”



“I have more than I need,” Zook said,
“so I want to share with you.”

Zook helped the Clag as he filled his bag
14 with all of his things that were new.

Some other Swacks, for their own greed,
began to feel great shame.
They took their packs and one by one,
began to do the same.

Those Swacks felt a new feeling.
It was like nothing they'd felt before.
Yes, they liked to get things,
but they liked to give even more.



That day a few Swacks changed their ways because they learned to care about the needs of others and how it's important to share.



The rest of the Swacks kept on getting and taking and packing away. They missed their chance to do something good and make their lives better that day.

