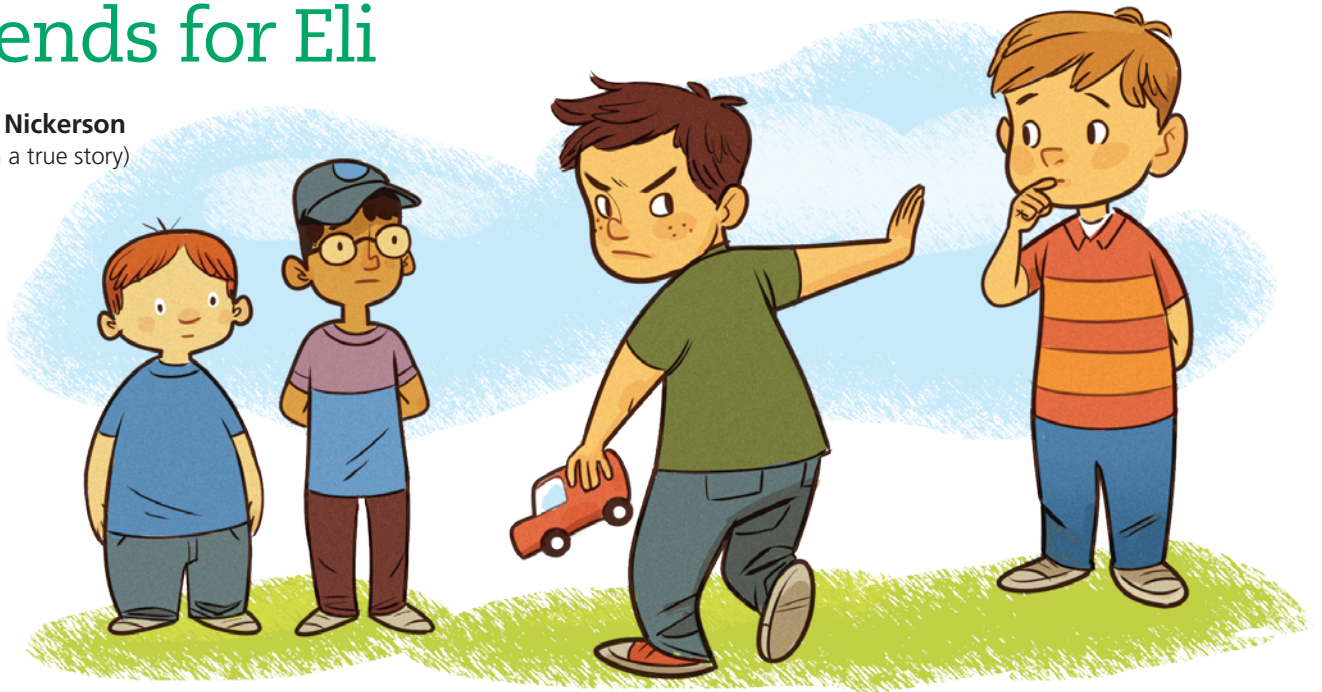
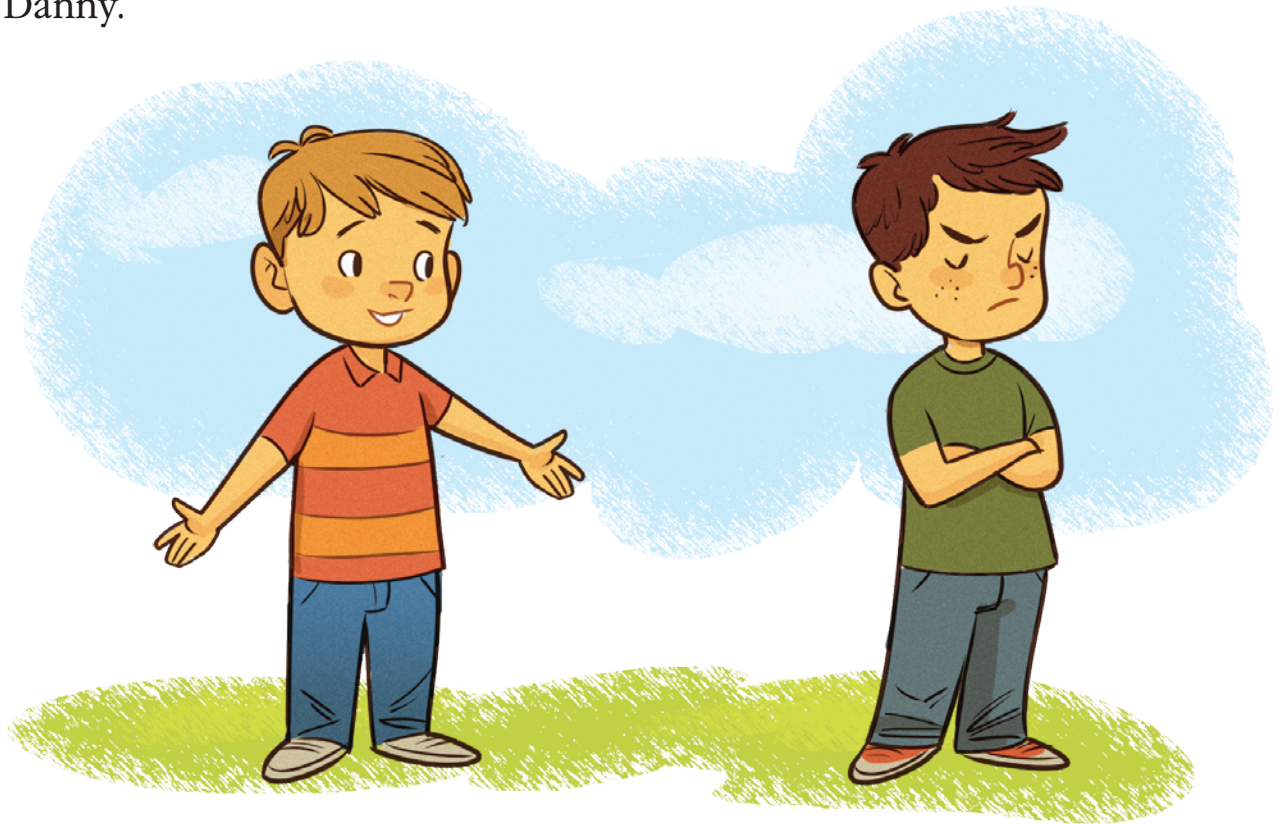


# Friends for Eli

By Jane Nickerson  
(Based on a true story)



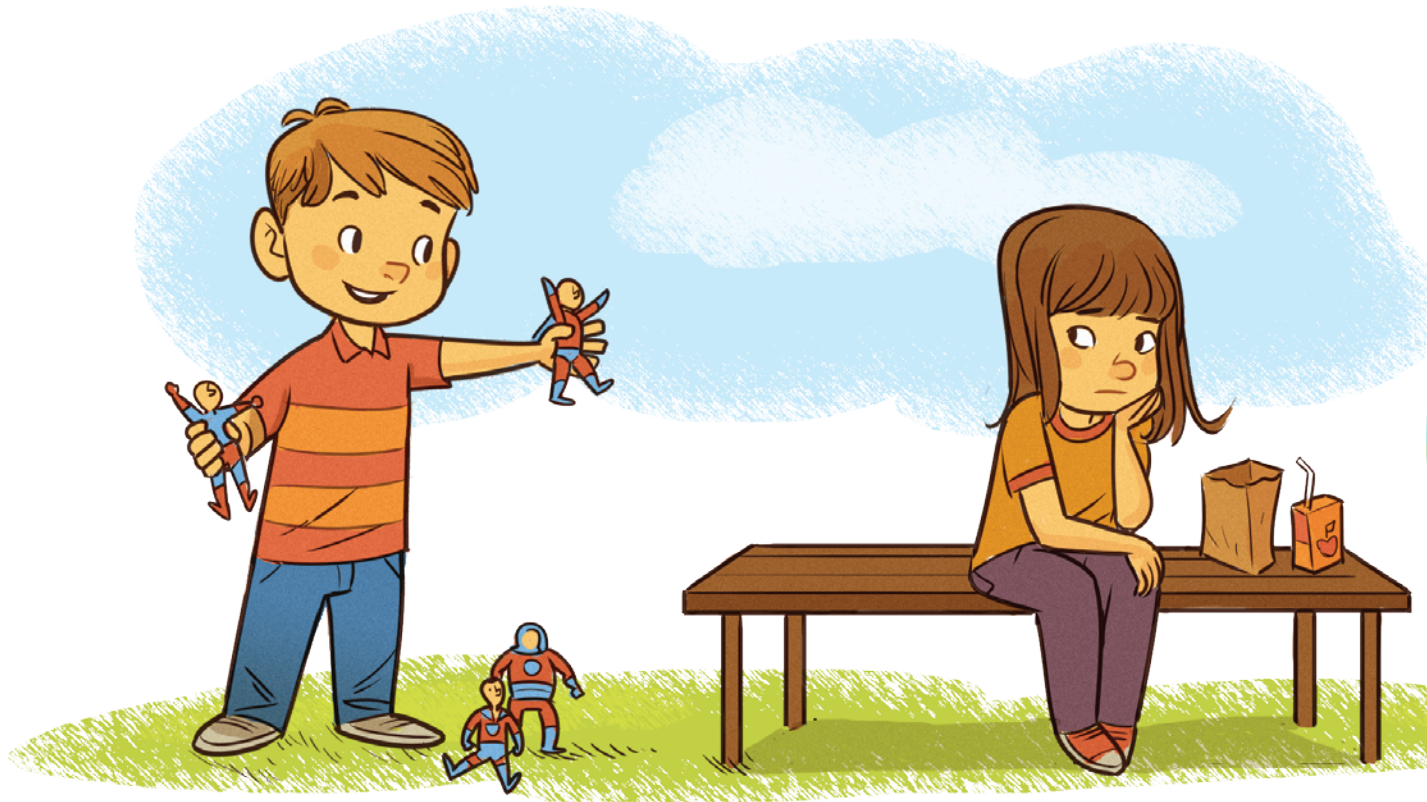
Eli tried to be a good friend. But Will wouldn't play with him.  
"If you play with Eli, you can't play with me," Will told Jake and Danny.



Eli asked Will nicely, but Will said, "No. Go away."



Eli tried to join in when the other boys played chase. But no one would chase Eli.



One day Eli brought some toys to school. A new girl named Emma watched him playing.

“Do you want to play with me?” Eli asked.

“Yes,” Emma said. “That looks like fun.”



Jake and Danny asked, “Can we play too?”  
“Yes,” Eli said.



Will looked lonely.  
“Come on, Will,” Eli said. “You can play too.” ◆

The author lives in Ontario, Canada.