

# The Whole Story

From the practice of Elliott McCray, Ed.S., The McCray Learning Lab

**What this builds (transformative SEL):** Belonging (“I belong”) with a thread of Curiosity (“I wonder”).

This story teaches **perspective-taking**: pausing a fast reaction long enough to read another person's feelings and reasons. It's also a **reading skill**: the same “use the clues to figure out what isn't said” move a child uses on a character in a book.

## Ways to keep it going

- When your child jumps to “they're being mean,” try asking “*what clues do you have?*” and “*what might their whole story be?*”
- When you read together, pause and ask “*how do you think this character feels, and how can you tell?*”
- Naming **the Snap** out loud (“ooh, that was a Snap. Let's look slow”) gives your child a handle for the fast guess.

This is a practice tool for social and reading skills, not therapy or grief counseling. If your child is carrying a real loss, a caring grown-up and, when needed, a school counselor are the right support.

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## The McCray Learning Lab

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