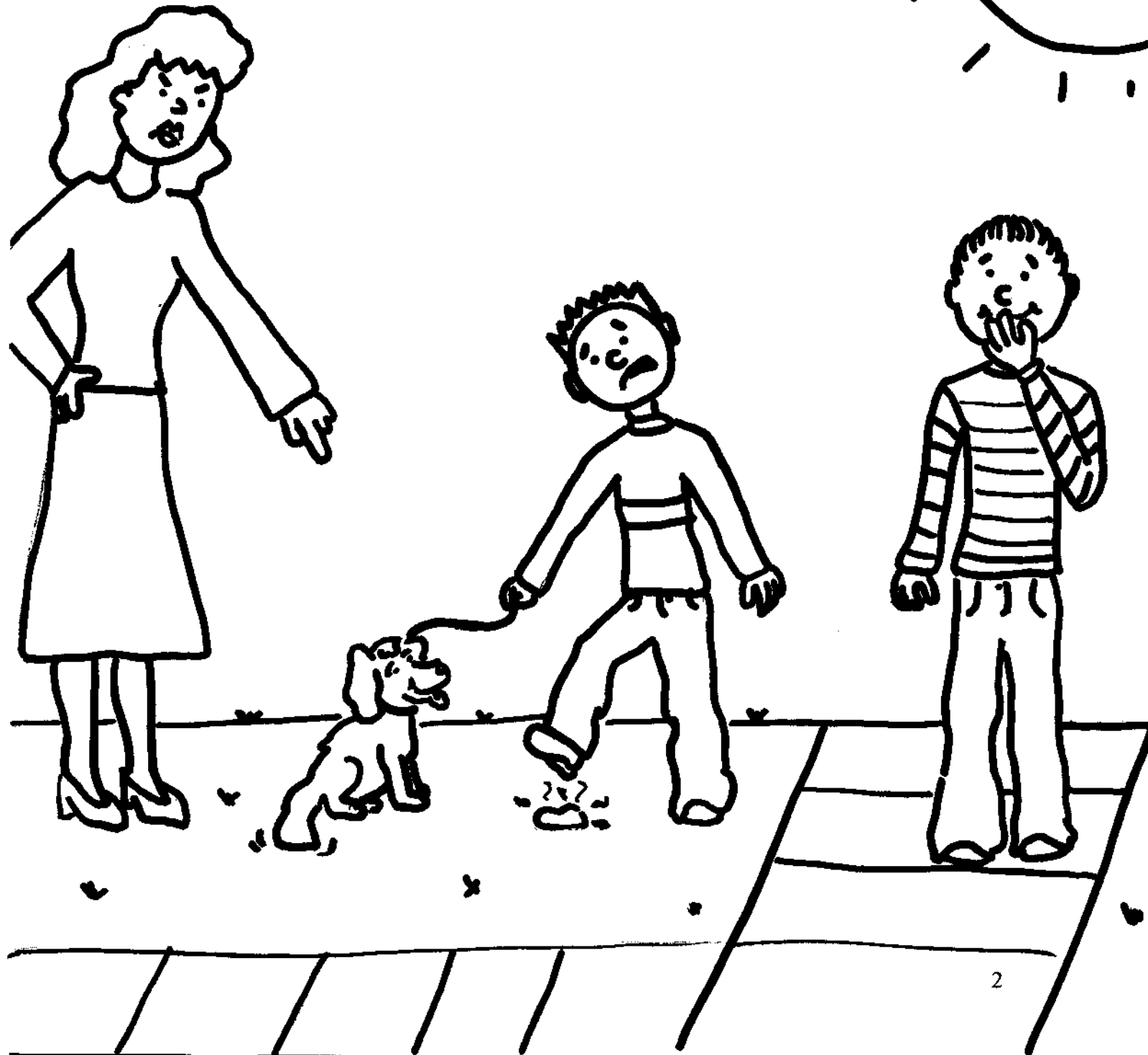


Hi, my name is Jake and I'm going to tell you a story about how I learned to make ethical decisions. My brother Andy and I earn money doing chores for our parents. For each chore we complete, we earn one dollar. We sometimes do chores such as taking out the garbage, washing dishes, walking our dog, and cleaning our rooms.



One day, Andy and I had to walk our dog, Alvin, around the neighborhood. Andy held Alvin's leash and let him walk on everyone's lawn. Andy let Alvin do his business on our neighbor's lawn. The woman in the house came out yelling at us. "Andy, you should respect other people's property!" she yelled. As Andy looked up at her and started laughing, he also put his foot into Alvin's mess. "I'll bet you're sorry now Andy," I said to him. "Stop laughing at me you meanie!" All I said back to him was, "You smell."



After we dropped our dog off at our house, we saw a note from our mother asking us to wash yesterday's dishes. I rolled up my sleeves and went right to work with my sponge but Andy made popcorn and sat on the couch watching television. "Hey, aren't you going to help me with these?" He replied, "No. You're going to do them anyway because you don't want to get into trouble, so why should I help you?"



"Hey, mom's coming up the driveway," I told him.

"You're just saying that so I help you." But then he heard the door start to open and he flew from the couch and grabbed a towel.

"Oh, good! I see you're doing the chores I asked you to do. Thank you so much!"

Andy just smiled and said "Thank you mom!" I gave him a dirty look.

"Mom, can I have some food?" Andy asked. Our mother looks in the cupboard.

"There are no clean plates. I guess you'll have to wash some before you can do that Andy."

"Forget it, I'll go hungry," he said, stomping out of the kitchen.



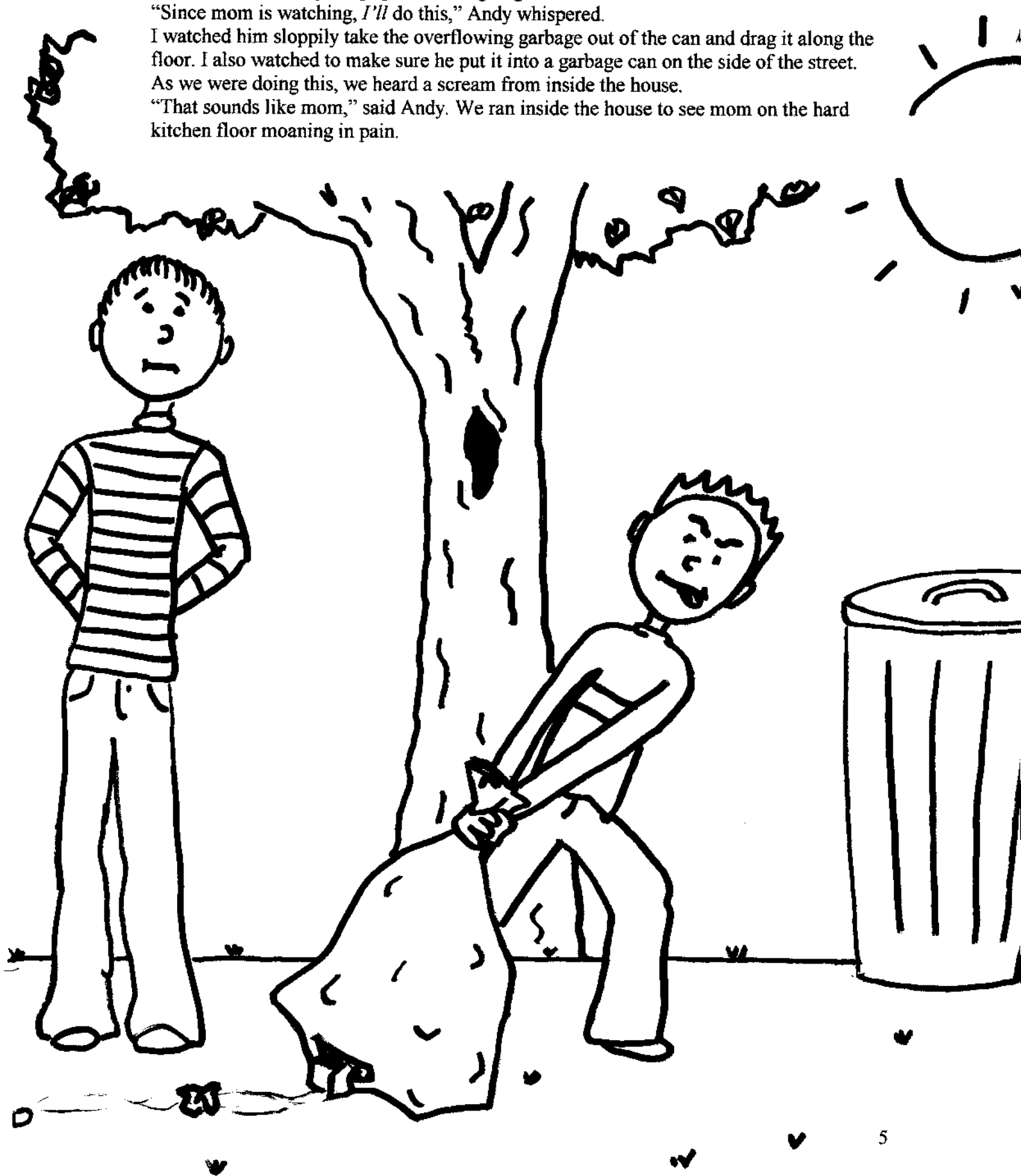
"Boys, take out the garbage please! It's going to overflow soon."

"Since mom is watching, *I'll* do this," Andy whispered.

I watched him sloppily take the overflowing garbage out of the can and drag it along the floor. I also watched to make sure he put it into a garbage can on the side of the street.

As we were doing this, we heard a scream from inside the house.

"That sounds like mom," said Andy. We ran inside the house to see mom on the hard kitchen floor moaning in pain.



"I tripped on that banana peel!"

"You tripped because Andy wasn't careful with the garbage. He only wanted to do it in the first place because you were watching. And, by the way, he did not help me with the dishes!"

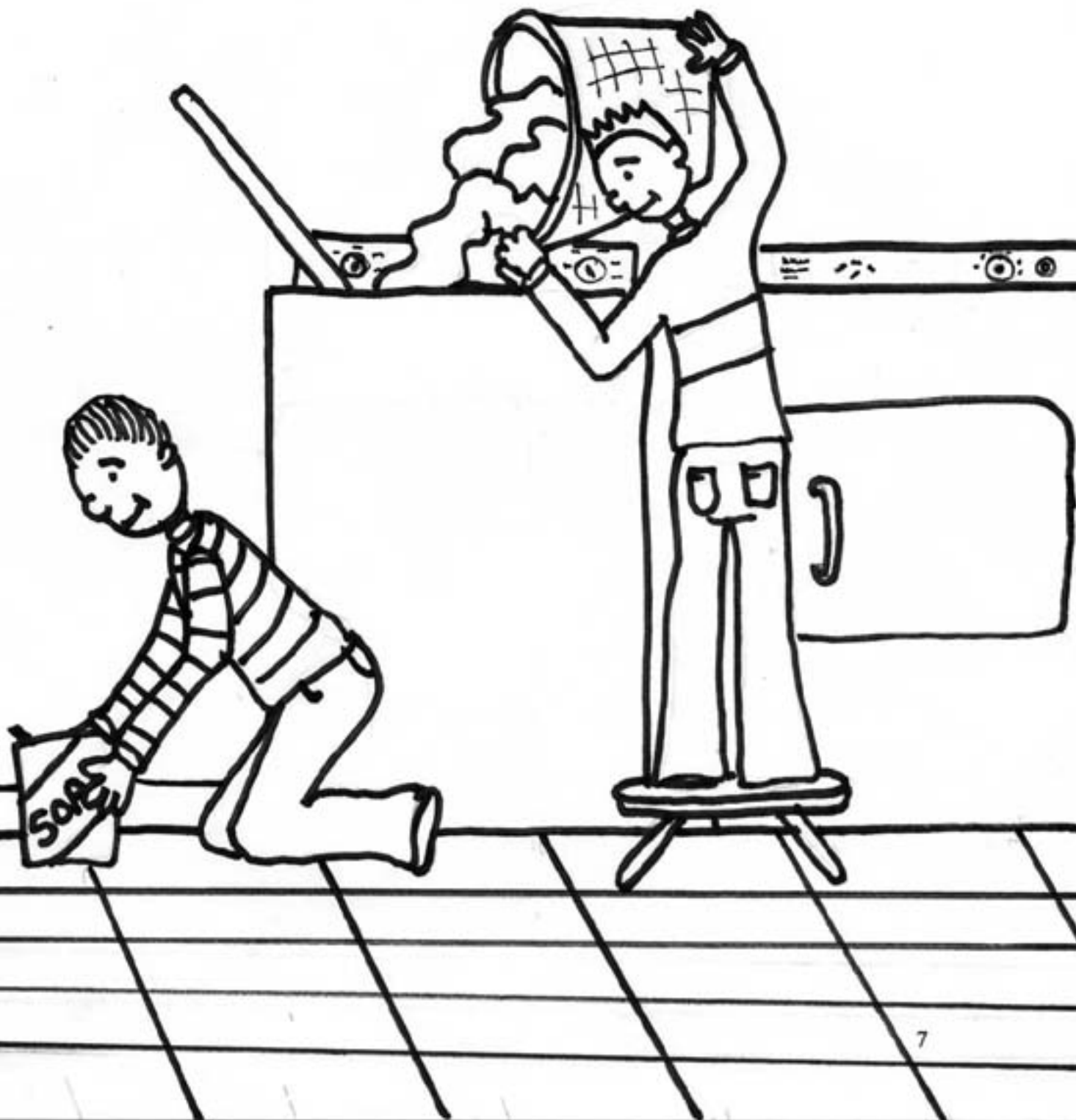
"Andy! It is very unethical to take credit for something you didn't do. It's also not good to be lazy. I'm very disappointed," said mom as she got to her feet.

"It's also unethical to tattle!" said Andy.

"I better not hear any more about this, Andy," said mom.



"Come on, Andy, let's do the laundry while mom's at the store."
Since our mother's warning, he decided to help me out with this chore.
"Andy, sort these clothes into whites and darks. Be sure there are no darks with the whites or they might get stained." After he completed this, I put in the soap and turned the washer on.



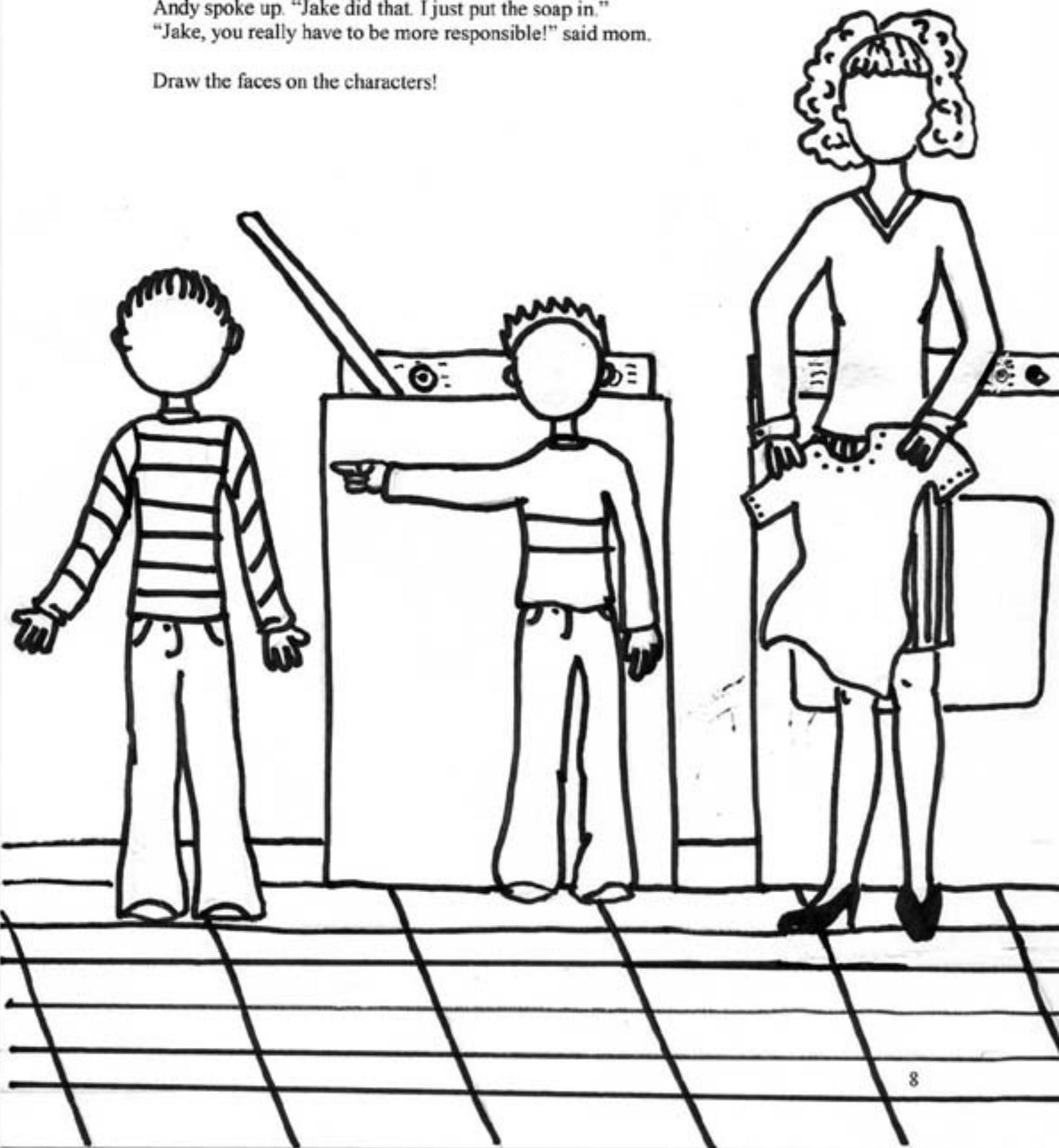
Twenty-five minutes later the laundry was done and mom was back from the store. She went down to get the clothing to put in the dryer and we heard a gasp from the laundry room. Mom was standing there with an angry look on her face. In her hand was her favorite white blouse, now stained pink.

"Who put a red sock in with the white clothes?"

Andy spoke up. "Jake did that. I just put the soap in."

"Jake, you really have to be more responsible!" said mom.

Draw the faces on the characters!



At the end of the day, we stood in front of mom, waiting for our money.

"Boys, since I have to go out and buy a new blouse, I'm only going to give you one dollar to split. Andy, I'm going to trust you by giving you the dollar to split with Jake because I'm out of change."

"Thanks, mom."

As we walked back to the room, Andy tucked the dollar in his pocket and told me, "You're not getting any of this money."

"What? Why not?"

"You were mean to me today."

"I was only teaching you a lesson. Ethics is really important!"

"You only get ahead if you're smart like me," said Andy, as he went into the room.



As I was walking back to the kitchen, mom stopped me.

“Jake, I know you didn’t put the sock in the washer because you’re always so ethical and honest with me. Here’s an extra five dollars for you.”

“Thanks, mom!”

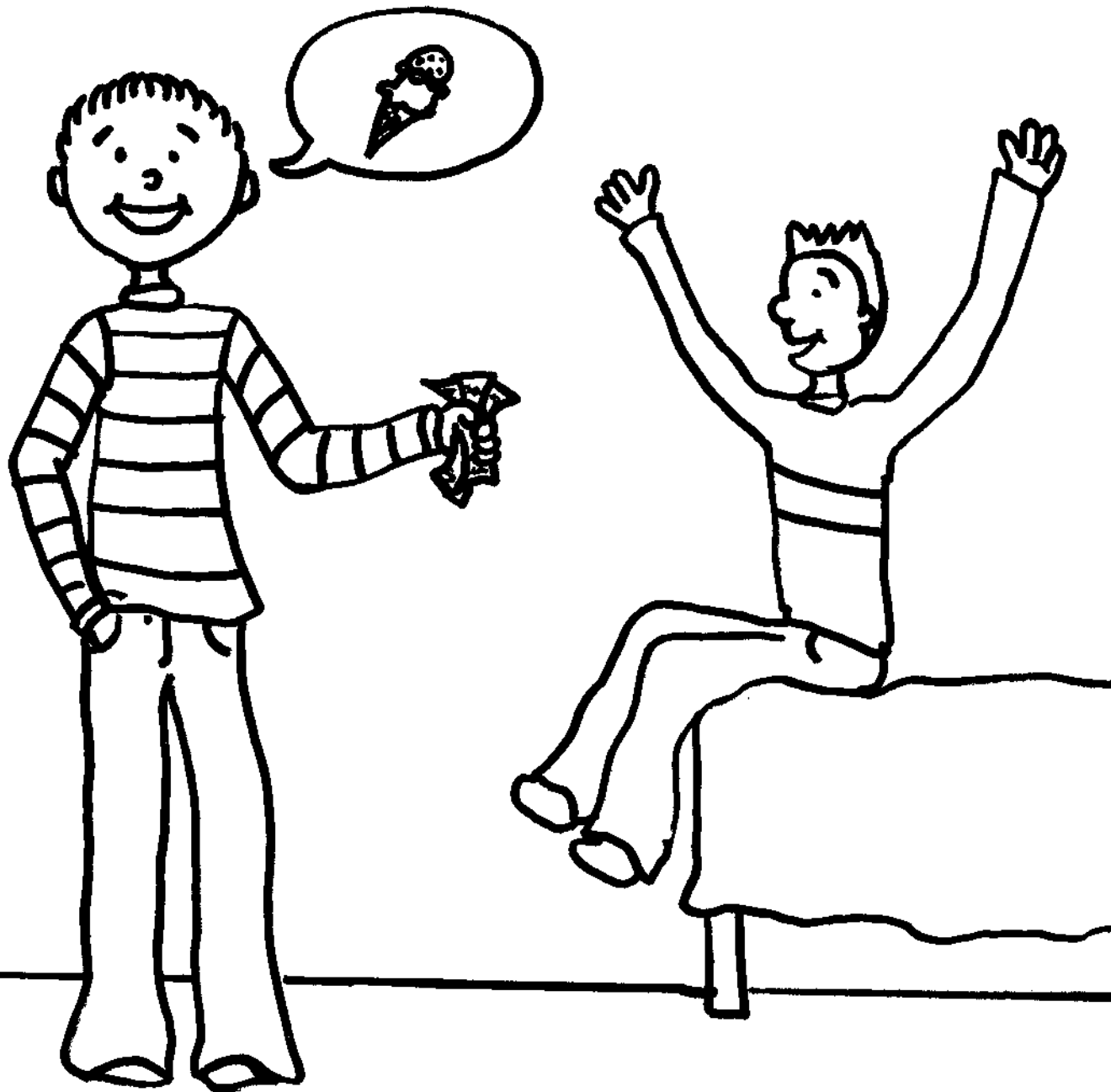
As I walked into the room I shared with Andy, I saw him crying on his bed. When he heard the door open he turned to me.

“I’m really sorry for being so mean today, Jake. I know what I did was wrong and I should be more honest in the future.”

“I forgive you, Andy.”

I thought for a moment and then took out the five dollars in my pocket.

“Since I have some extra money here in my pocket, why don’t we go out for ice cream?”



Glossary



“Ethical”- When Jake listens to his mom he is making an “ethical decision”. When he does what is right his mom is happy. When he does what is wrong his mom is sad.



“Chores”- Jake cleans his room, takes out the garbage and walks his dog to help his mom. Andy should also help because he lives there too.



“Respect for other people’s property”- When Andy let Alvin do his business on other neighborhood lawns he was not respecting other people’s property. He should have controlled Andy by holding his leash tight.



“Responsible”- When Andy left the banana peel on the floor he was not being responsible. His mom could have slipped and hurt herself.



“Honest”- When Andy grabbed a towel so that his mom would think that he did chores he was not being honest. He was being dishonest.



“Allowance”- When Jake was a good boy and did his chores, his mom gave him \$5 to spend. She wanted to show him how happy she was that he did his chores.