

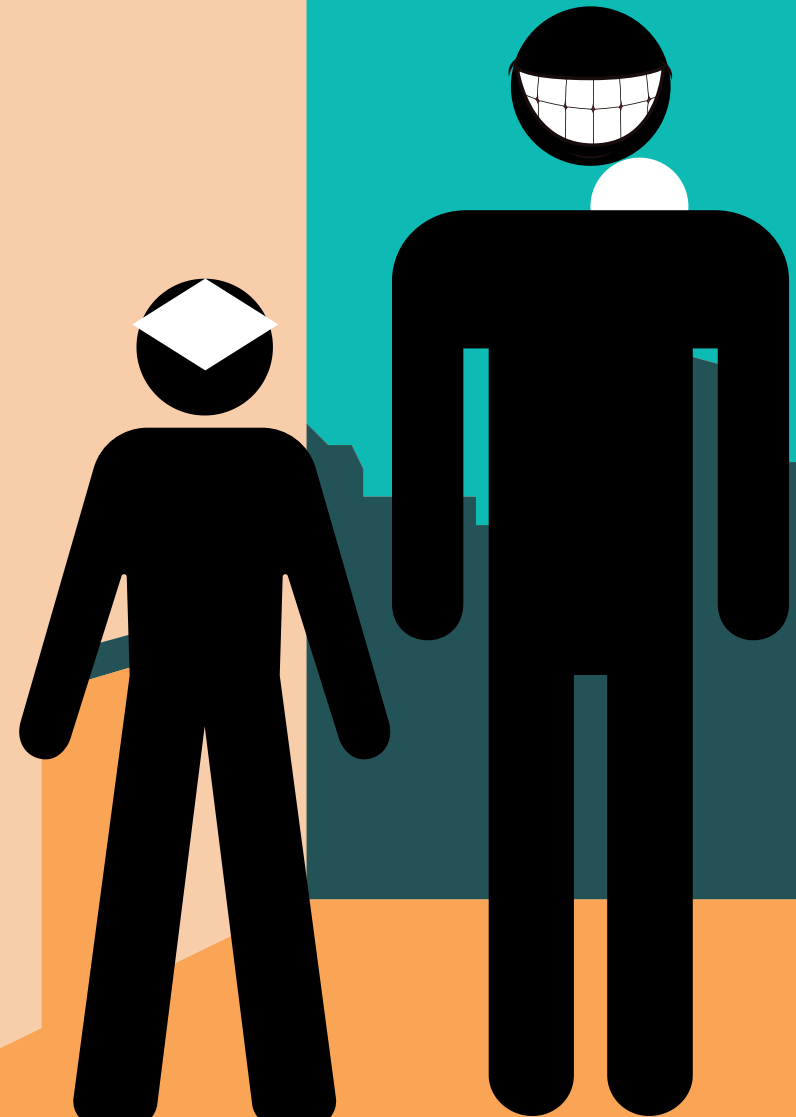
# FRIENDS?



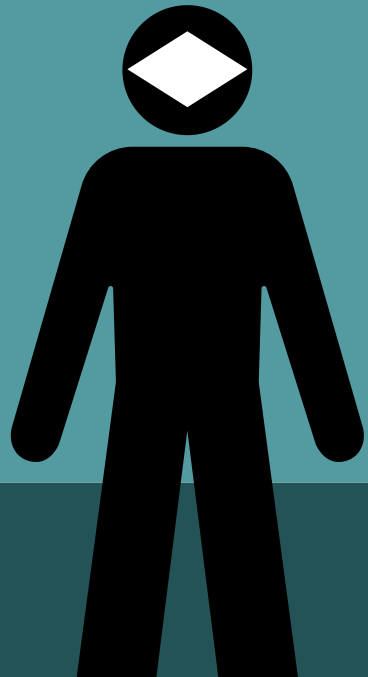
By Violet Gibson



**Trudging into school I felt the cold Autumn breeze hit my skin while I waited to hear the familiar, “Hi Ivy!” that Nick would greet me with everyday. But I heard someone else instead. It was Alex and her friends.**

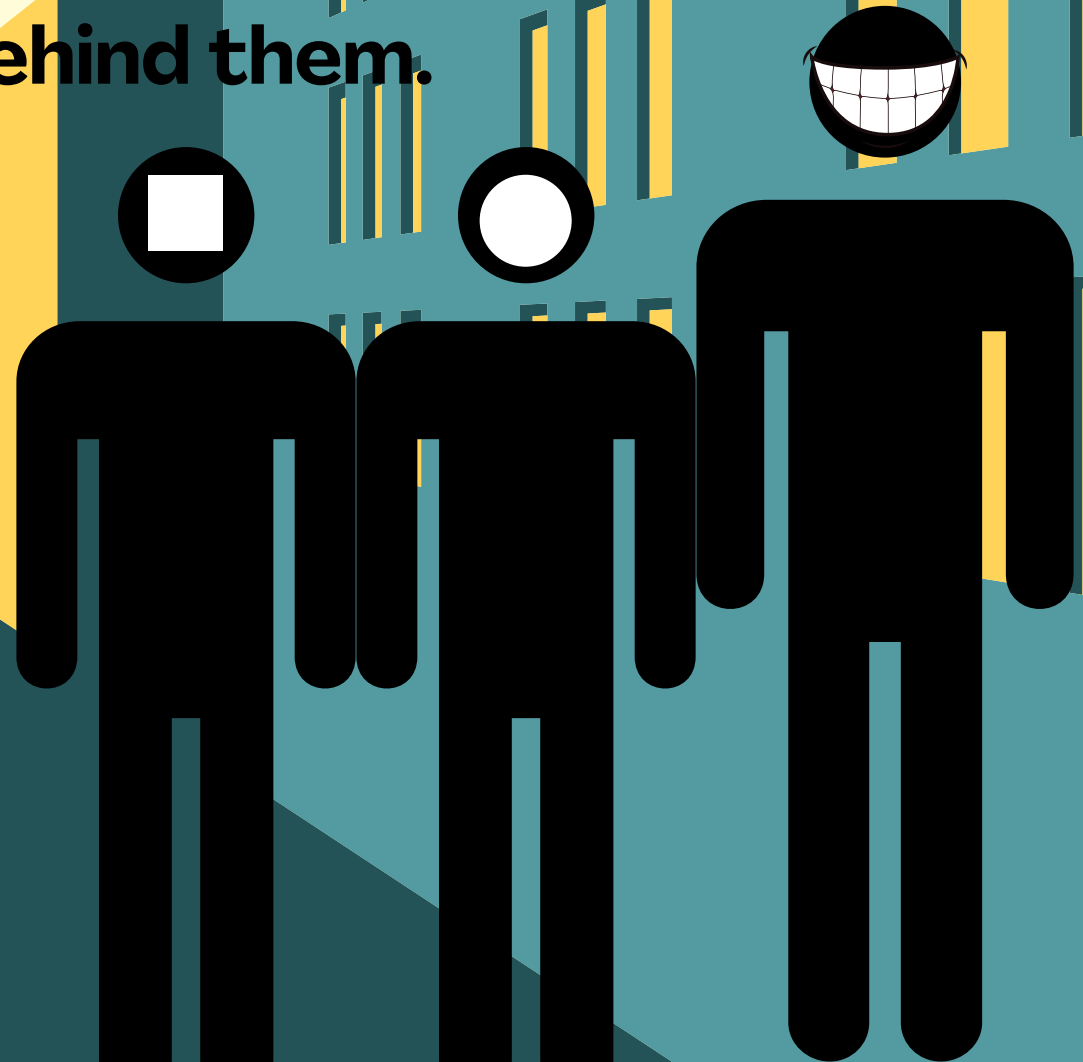
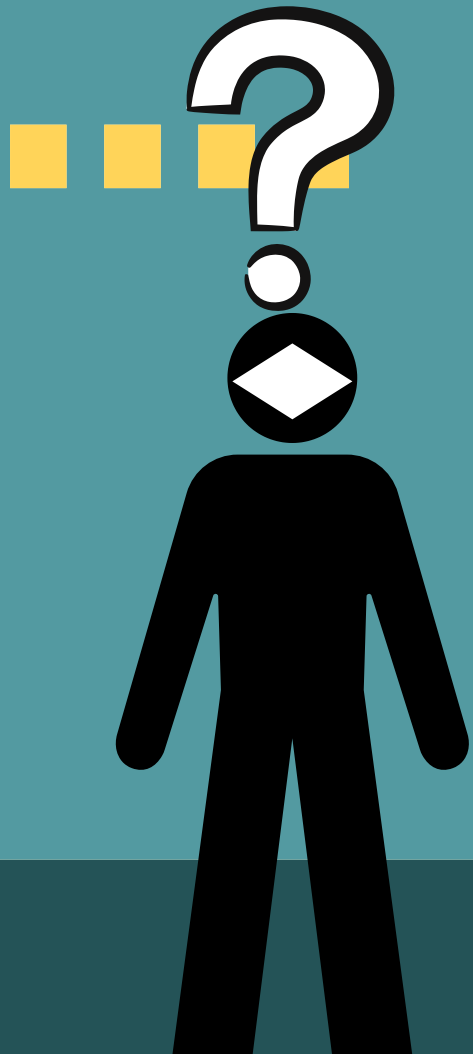


**“Hey,” said Alex as she walked in front of me. “Have you heard the news?” asked Amy not so innocently. Before I could respond, Ren screamed something. “Nick has left the school and moved!” I just stared at him not being able to think of anything to say.**



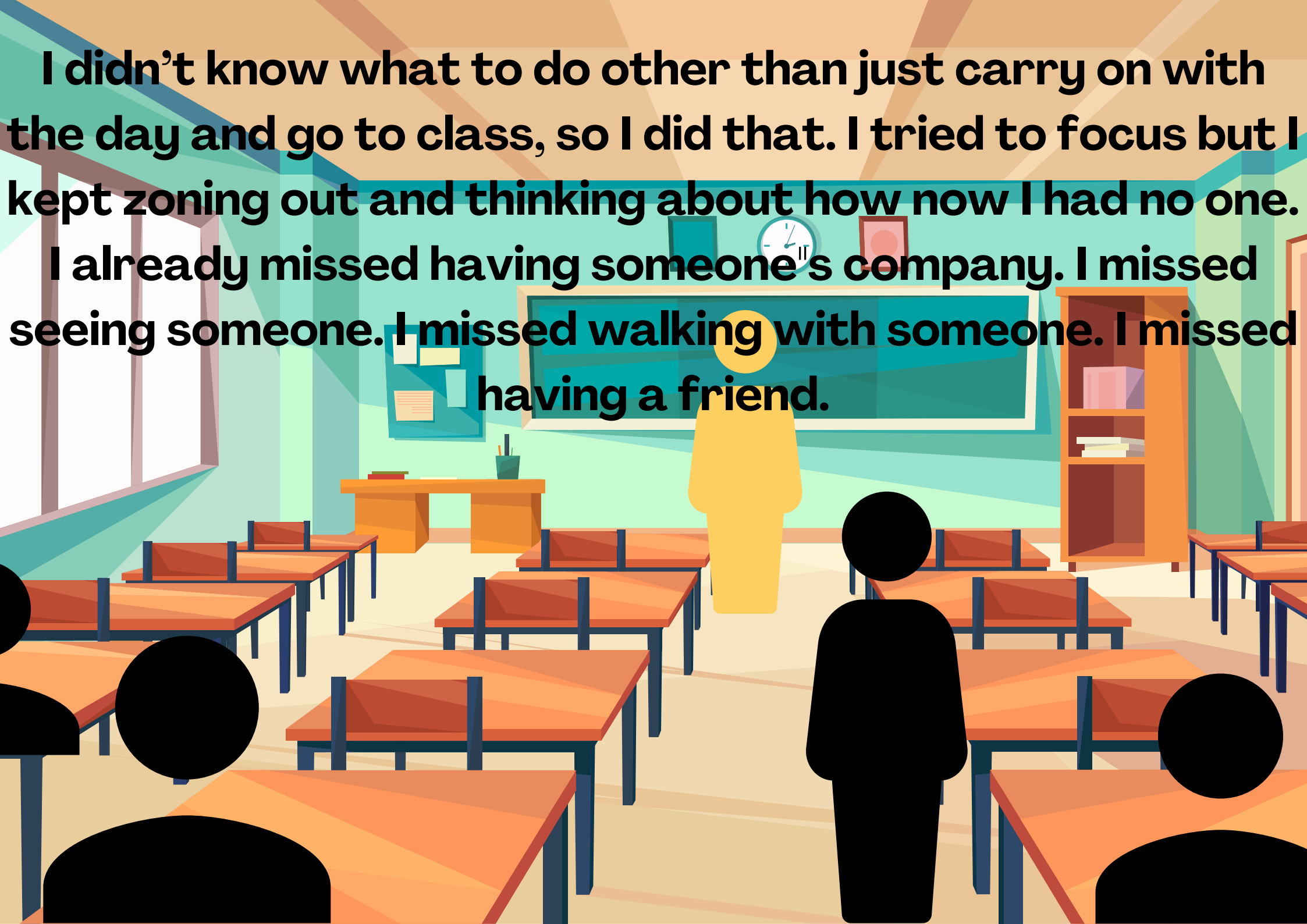
**“W-wh-what!” I stuttered “That’s impossible! Nick would have at least told me if he was leaving the school.**

**“Right?” I looked at Ace but she said nothing. Before I could ask anything more, Alex left with Amy, Ren and Ace following behind them.**



**I didn't know what to do other than just carry on with the day and go to class, so I did that. I tried to focus but I kept zoning out and thinking about how now I had no one.**

**I already missed having someone's company. I missed seeing someone. I missed walking with someone. I missed having a friend.**



**Seeing Alex and her friends come up to me and taunt me was fine. It didn't matter. At least they were not bullying me. I knew I would probably make a new friend soon anyway.**



**After weeks of loneliness and bullying someone else became Alex's target. Her name was Elle, she had just recently joined the school and didn't have many friends. I only realised after I saw Amy talking to her. Before this happened I had already realised that Alex was mean and that them talking to me was worse than them not talking to me. So I was happy.**

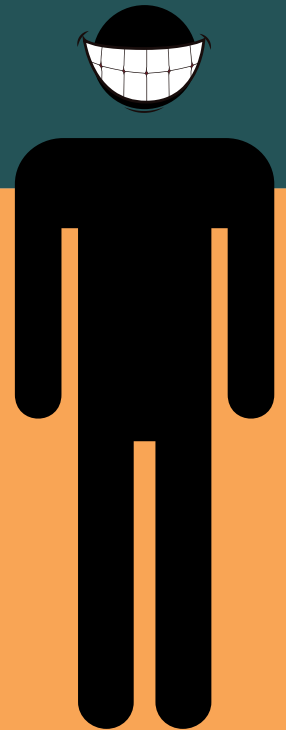
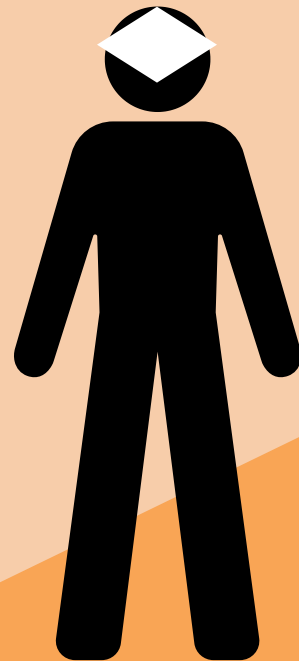




**It didn't seem like Amy was trying to bully Elle but Elle did seem kind of angry. Later that day I realized that the conversation Amy and Elle had must have lead to Alex going back to bullying me because they came up to me and started talking again.**

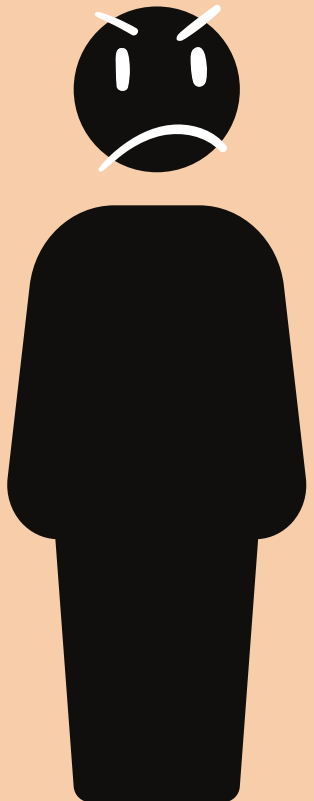


**“You still have no friends? How sad.” Alex said in a almost mocking tone. I wanted to say something but I couldn’t. I felt frozen in time. I thought I had finally been freed of ever having to listen to Alex talk again. Clearly I had thought wrong. After I realised Alex had run away I decided to sit down and watch everyone play with their friends like I did every day then I saw Elle.**



**I thought about going up to Elle and talking to her because she was sitting down alone. I decided not to.**

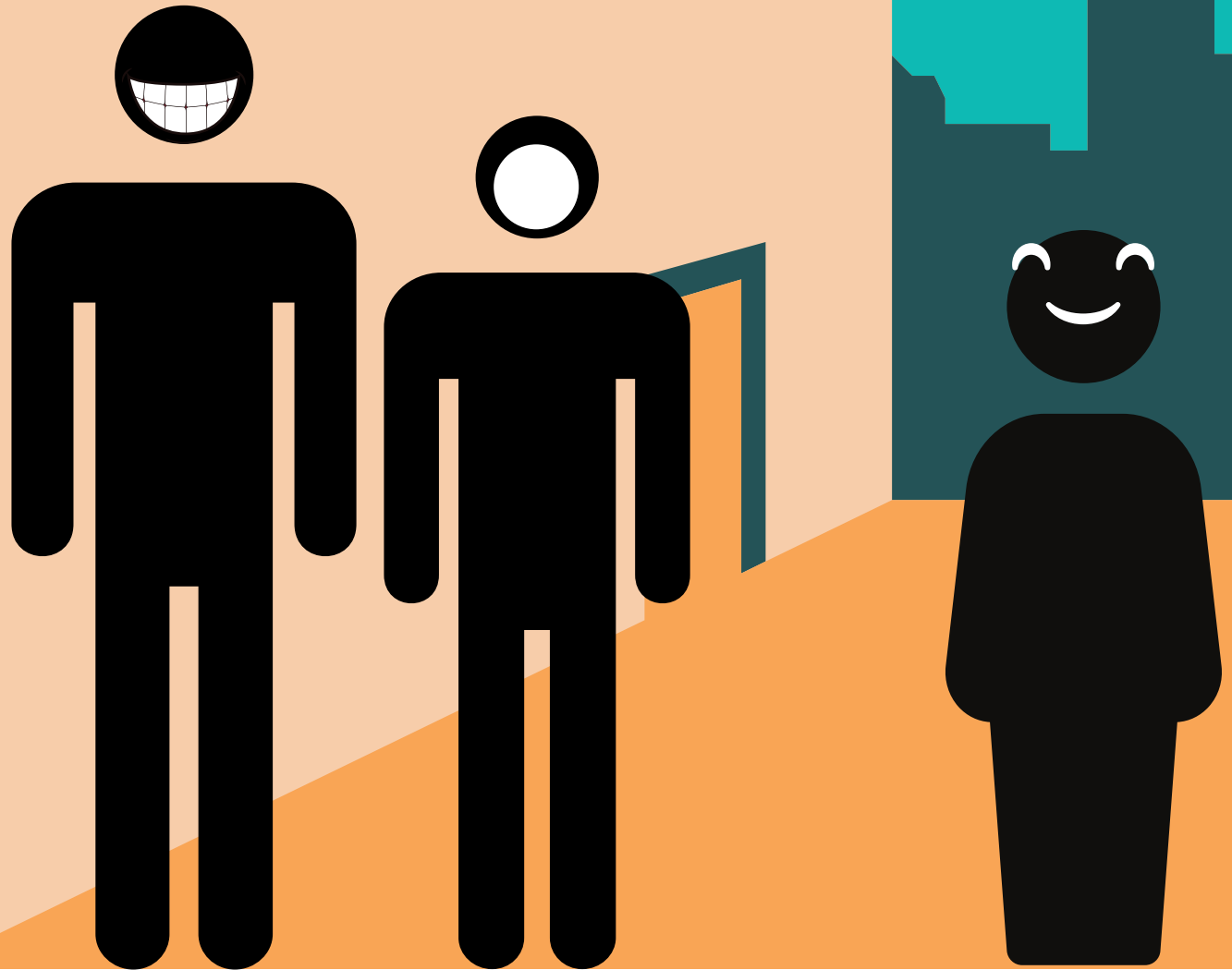
**When she saw me staring at her, she looked at me almost as to say “I don’t want you to come anywhere near me.” I quickly looked away and pretended I was interested in some sticks lying on the ground, which probably is the most unbelievable thing ever but there I was pretending it's not.**



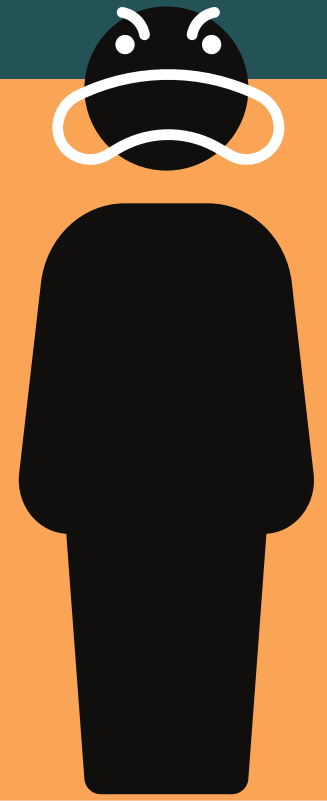
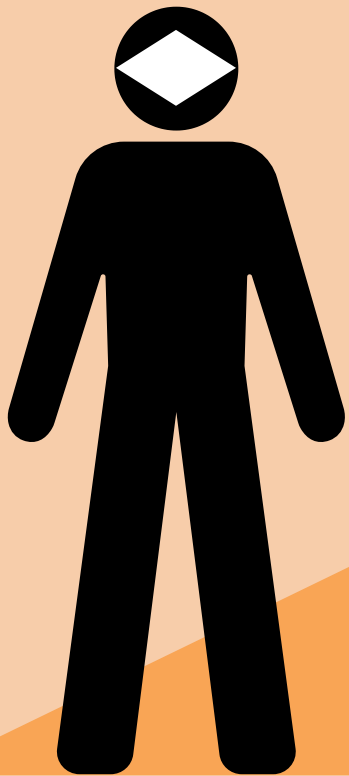
**She must have been thinking about how much of an annoying and rude person I was for staring at her for so long. Whenever I saw her she always looked at me the same way she did before.**



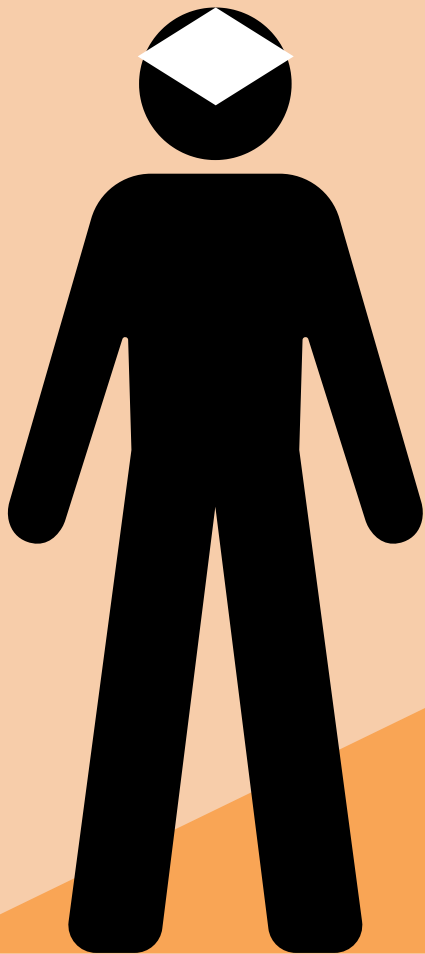
**I thought that Alex had ran out of insults and that's why she stopped talking to me. It turned out that she was busy talking to Elle instead. I saw Amy talking to Elle multiple times but never thought anything of it since Amy was the friendliest out of all of Alex's friends.**



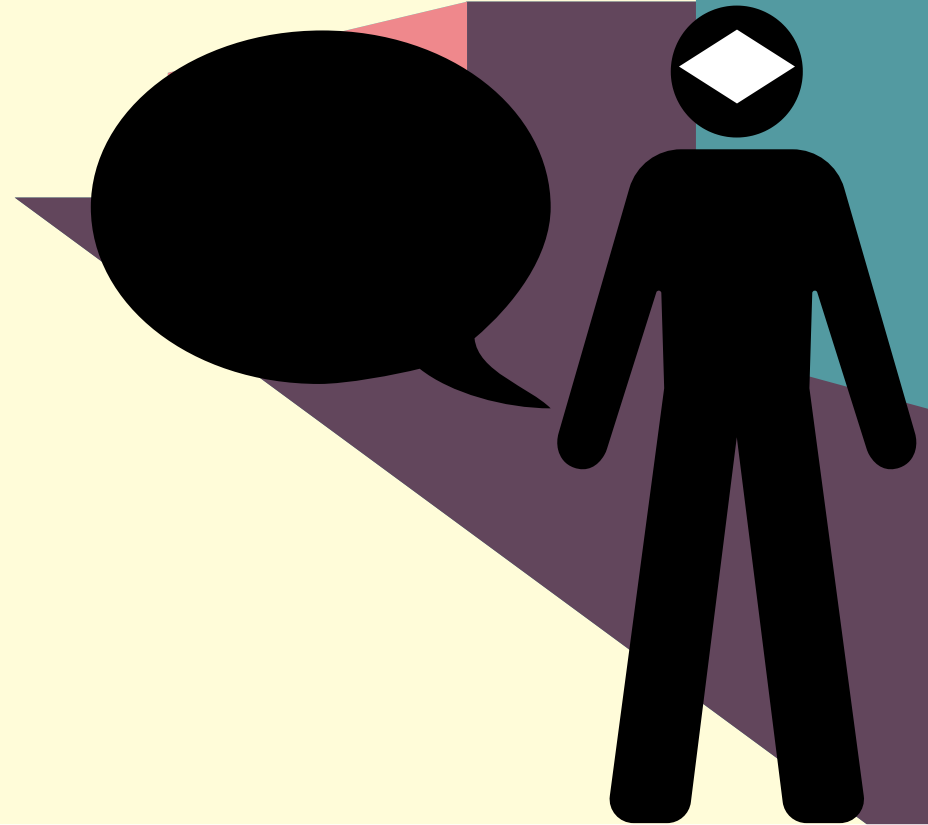
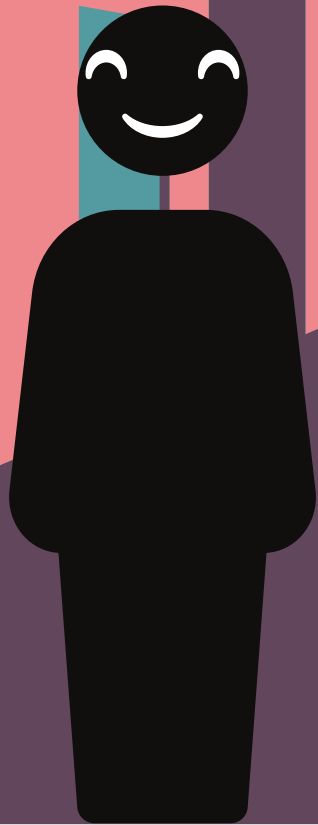
**When Amy had stopped talking to her, Elle ran up to me "IVY!  
WHY WOULD YOU TELL ALEX TO SAY THAT TO ME?! Elle  
screamed loudly. I just stared at her blankly for a few seconds  
and then finally responded. "What do you mean? I responded as  
calmly as I could." "Don't act like you don't know that you told  
Alex to say things to me!" Elle didn't sound that mad any more,  
she sounded more like she was sad.**



**“If this is about Alex bullying you, I’m sorry that they said that but I would never tell them to. Who lied and told you that I said that? Was it Amy?” I asked. “Yes it was Amy. She is the only one I talk to out of all of Alex’s friends. All their other friends bully me!”**

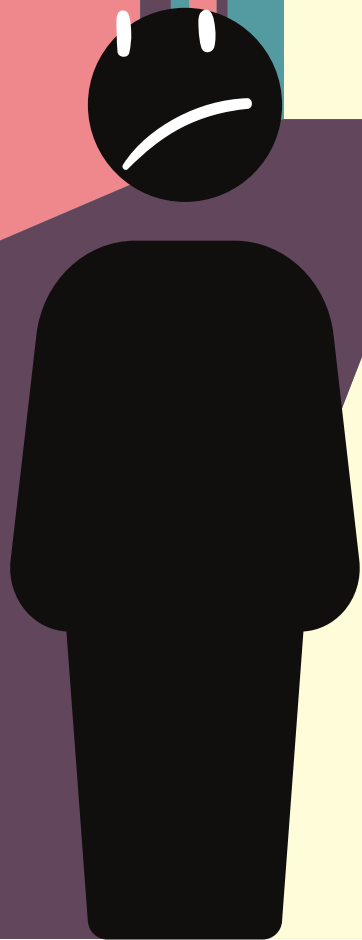


**Two days later I saw Elle walking towards me and I wondered if she was going to yell at me again. “Hey, I just wanted to say I’m sorry. I don’t expect you to forgive me but I have thought about it and I have realised that you are most likely right and Amy was probably lying.” Elle said once again sounding sad. Unlike yesterday this time she sounded disappointed. “Its okay!” I happily replied.**

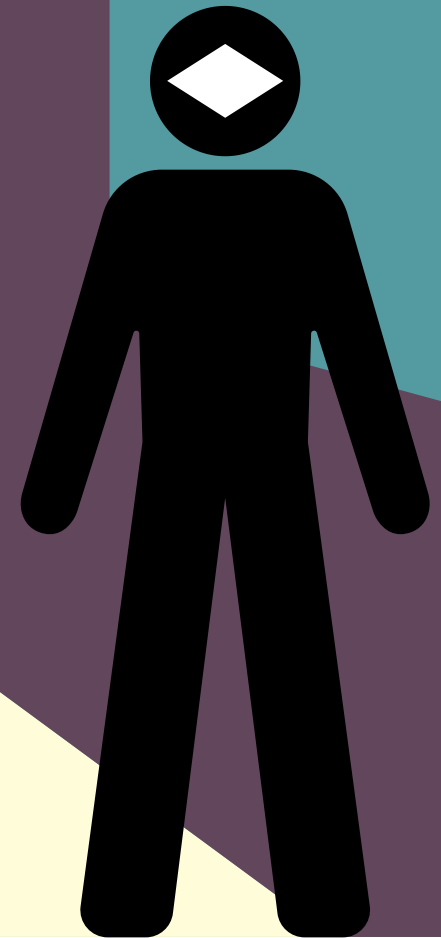
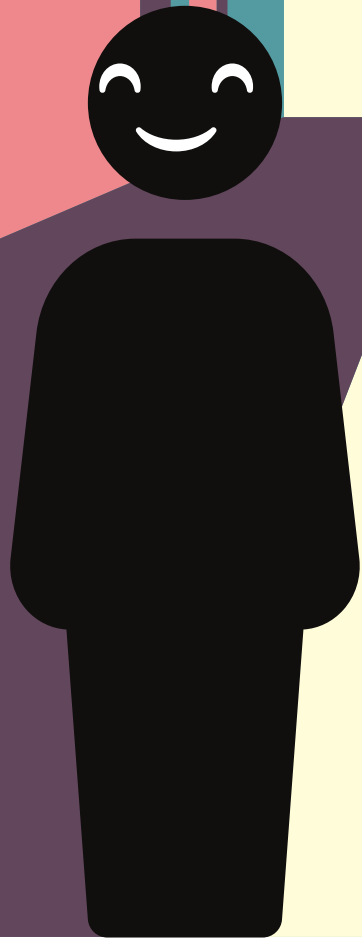




**I could tell why she was so angry a few days ago. The person she trusted most had told her something that at the time she didn't realise was untrue so she yelled at me. "Wait really? I thought you would be angry at me!" Elle said surprised. "I can understand why you said what you said and why you reacted that way," I answered**



**A few weeks later and it turned out me and Elle were friends! Since me and Elle had a friend now Alex, Amy, Ren and Ace stopped bullying us. I felt happier but I could never stop thinking about Nick and how much I missed having a friend like him.**





**After Ivy's only friend leaves the school she thinks she will never make a new friend. Then someone new comes to the school, but she doesn't like Ivy. Will Ivy ever make a new friend?**

