



**Some Ways the Same,
Some Ways Different.**



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Under this contract, made possible through the Public Awareness Program for the Handicapped, WGBH Boston produced ten film portraits and ten books, each based on one of the film portraits, about and by children who have handicaps. The films are in two national children's television series, ZOOM and REBOP, produced at WGBH.

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Some Ways the Same, Some Ways Different.



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These kids live in the same neighborhood, and they spend a lot of time together. Here they're measuring each other. Carl is the tallest. His little sister, Ellen, who wants to go everywhere that Carl does, is the shortest. Peter is a year older than Maria, but right now they're almost exactly the same height.

We're all like each other in some ways, and different in others.

Who has brown eyes?

Who has blue eyes?

Does anyone have hazel eyes?

Who has straight hair?

Who has curly hair?

Who has the longest little finger? (It may not be the biggest person!)

Can you bend just the last joint of one of your fingers?

Can you think of some ways each of you looks different from all the others?

(No one has exactly the same fingerprint.)

Can you think of some ways you all look like each other? (You all look like kids, don't you?)

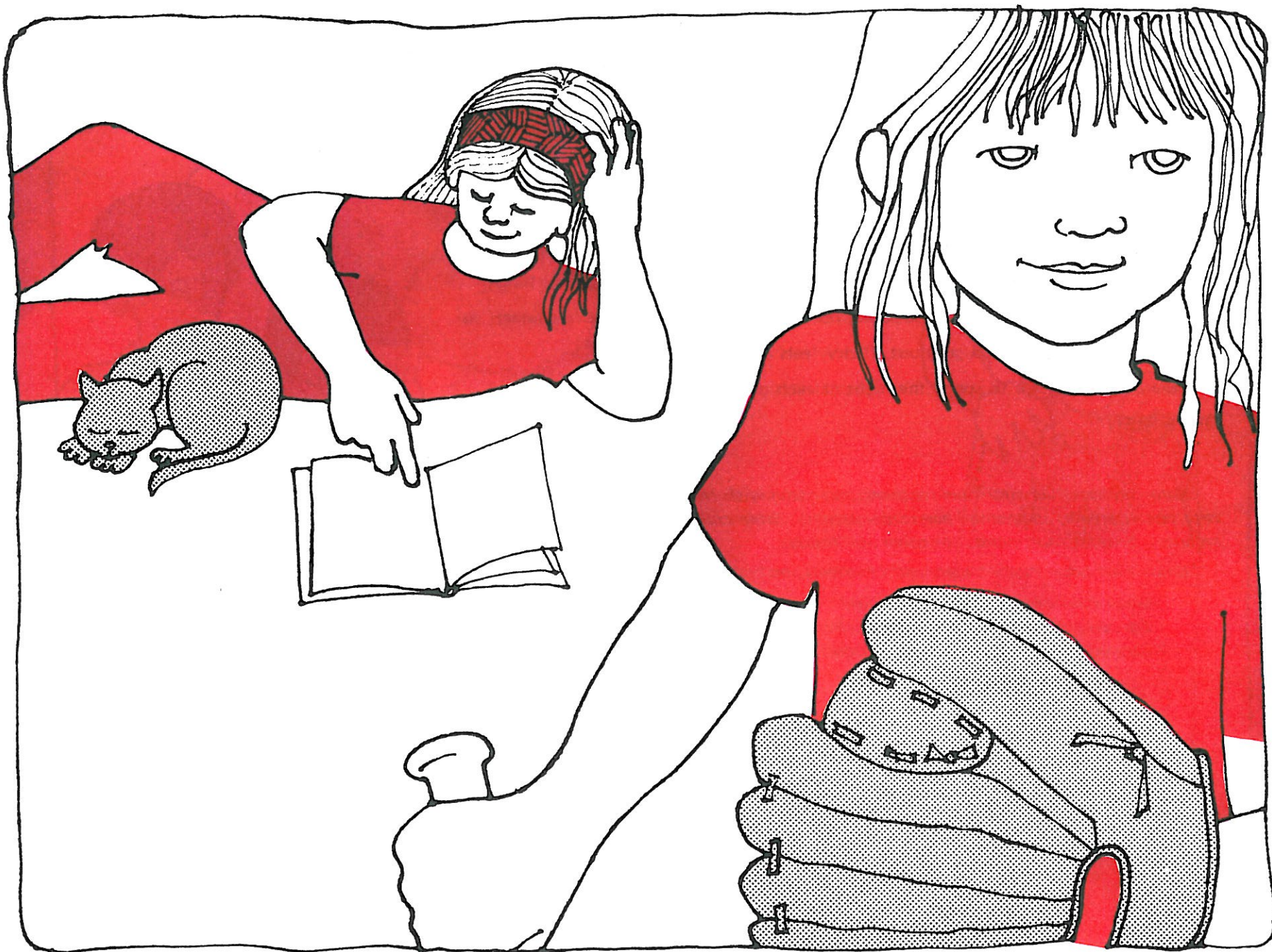


Annie and Grace are friends. After school, Annie likes to curl up in a cozy place and read a good story. Grace hates to sit around; she'd much rather play baseball.

Once in a while, Grace stays in and reads, just because Annie's her friend. Annie's learning to play baseball, too. She isn't very good at it yet, but that doesn't bother either of them a whole lot.

What do you like to do after school?

How do you work it out if you and a friend like to do different things?



Steve and Ricky both have families, but look at the difference! Ricky lives with his father (and his goldfish, Shiny, who isn't in the picture). Steve lives with his father, his mother, his brother, his little sister, his cat (Whiskers), and his big sister, Laura, who's away at college right now.

Steve likes all the busyness at his house; there's always something interesting going on there. But sometimes he wishes he could have supper with just his parents. Ricky spends a lot of time with his father, and that makes him happy. They cook funny meals together. Once they felt like eating porkchops and Rice Krispies for dinner, so they did. But when his dad goes out, Ricky feels a little lonesome.

Steve and Ricky like to spend the night at each other's houses, because it's so DIFFERENT!

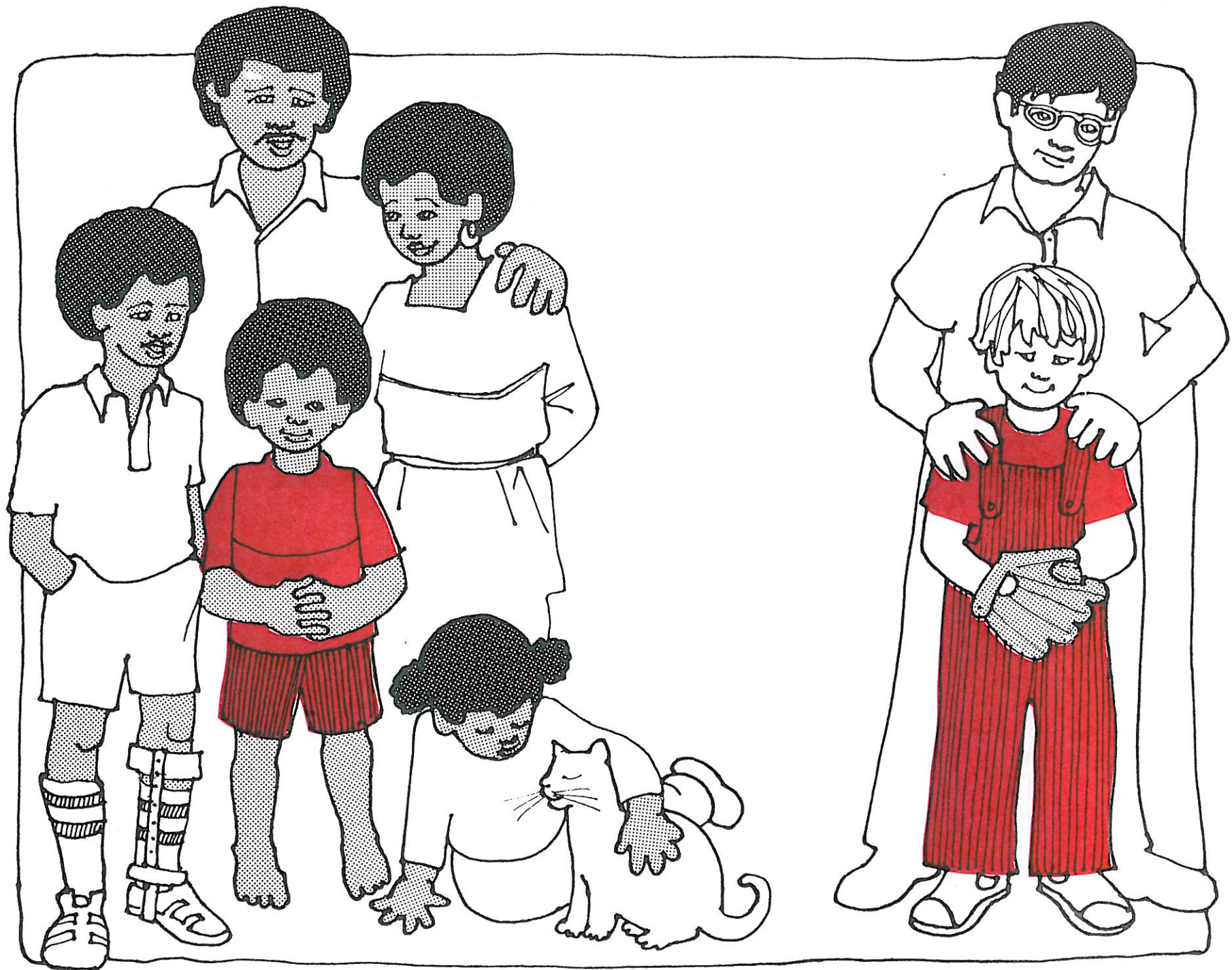
Some children live with their mothers, and some with their fathers. Some kids live with both parents, and some have step-parents. Some children live with their grandparents, or aunts and uncles, or grown-up friends.

Some kids have a lot of sisters and brothers, and some don't have any.

What kind of a family do you have?

Can you think of something you like about the way you live?

Can you think of something you don't like about the way you live?



Carmen and Mei Ling both speak English. They speak it to each other all day long in school, because they're best friends. In fact, their teacher says they speak it to each other entirely too much!

But at home, they each speak in a different language. Carmen speaks Spanish with her family, and Mei Ling speaks Chinese to hers. Mei Ling's grandmother came from China last year to live with them, and Mei Ling has to speak Chinese to her, because the grandmother doesn't speak any English.

The families of all of us who live in the United States came from somewhere else originally. That's one of the things that makes this country lively. If your family came from another country recently, do they still follow some customs that came from that country, like special food? Or celebrations?

Do you speak any languages besides English? Does anyone in your family?

雪糕



helados



Sandra and Danny sit next to each other in school. Danny is a really good reader. And besides that, he can spell well. Sometimes Sandra feels a little jealous of him, and a little bad about herself. She has a hard time with reading!

Some kids can read easily, and some kids are good at other things. Some kids have trouble with school subjects, and some kids miss more balls than they catch. Some kids get around their neighborhoods or towns as though they had maps in their heads, and others have to think hard how to get to the nearest store. Everybody has trouble with something; everybody has a little handicap of some kind.

What's hard for you to do? How do you feel about that?

Once in a while, do you feel jealous of someone who has an easy time with something that's hard for you?



But, wait a minute—look at this. Sandra can do difficult math problems quickly, and she hardly ever makes a mistake. Danny has a hard time with math, and sometimes he feels bad about that!

If you stop and think, there's probably something you do that you feel good about. It might be math, or reading, or science, or art, or music, or sports, or knowing how to work hard, or having good ideas for games, or helping other people.

What do you think you do well?

Do you suppose someone else wishes she or he were good at that?



Jim and Sam are brothers. They look a lot alike on the outside, but they're very different on the inside.

Jim makes friends right away when their family moves to a new place. But Sam is shy. He isn't sure how to act with kids he doesn't know well. It's hard for him to find a friend.

Most people feel uncomfortable, like Sam does, once in a while. Some people feel that way whenever they think they're different from others.

Can you think of a time when you felt like that?

Could you have done something to make yourself feel better?

Did anyone help you out?

How could someone have helped you?

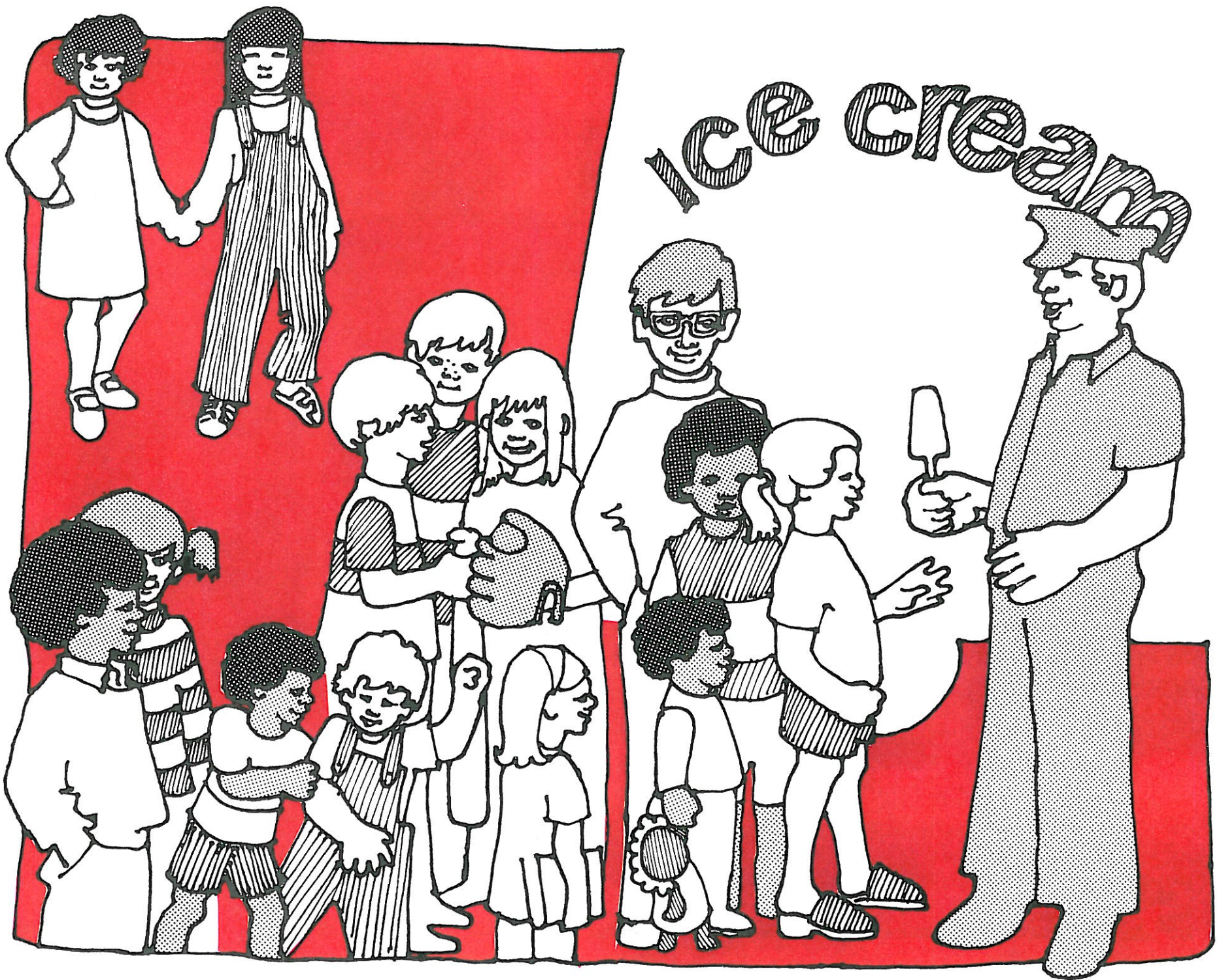


All the kids in this book are different from each other in a lot of ways. But in some ways, as you can see, they're just the same!

Here they are lined up at the ice cream truck; can you find each one? Maria and Peter are the first ones. Right now, Peter looks a little taller than Maria. Carl is the tallest of all, and his little sister, Ellen, is with him, of course. Annie's got her book, and Grace is still wearing her baseball glove. (She puts it under her mattress at night.) Jim is already asking Grace if he can play, and Sam is watching, as usual. Steve and Ricky just spent the night at Ricky's house; his dad gave them both money for an ice cream. Sandra and Danny decided that ice cream is much more important right now than math or reading. And last of all, there are Mei Ling and Carmen. Carmen says, "Let's get *helados*," and Mei Ling calls them *syut gou*, but in any language—

THEY ALL LIKE ICE CREAM!

Can you think of some ways you're all the same? (You're all kids. You all live in the United States. You all sleep, and eat, and wear clothes. What else?)





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