

Little Johnny Big Bully Problem
By Maximo Snodgrass, 7th Grade

Once upon a time there was a boy named little Johnny, as his name suggested he was the shortest 4th grader in his school and shortest in his family. Little Johnny had no friends, but he had family to support him right? wrong. His siblings picked on him all the time, his mother who used to say; “just push through their insults, they can’t really hurt you unless you let them.” So Little Johnny took those words to heart. Johnny was sad and getting anxious because he didn’t have friends. He was trying to figure out how to make friends.

A few days later, he was just sitting on a chair at recess when some kids came up to him and started bullying him again, saying “dwarf,” “shortie,” “peanut,” “smurf,” “water cap,” “midget,” “short-stack,” “crumbs,” “baby,” and “I won’t make fun of your height, I wouldn’t go that low,” and so many other words and phrases that rhyme with small. He had to deal with this every day, sometimes 3 times a day.

One day he felt something in his pocket. He wasn’t paying attention to the bullies because he wanted to know what was in his pocket. He looked and took it out of his pocket, he realized it was an expo marker, and then he thought; *maybe I can make a friend*. So he got the marker and drew a face on a chair. After a few minutes he named the chair Chairamy.

He started to play with Chairamy every recess and every time he could, Little Johnny hid Chairamy at the end of every recess as well, so no one could take the chair away. He played with Chairamy day after day. The teachers didn’t mind, after all, he was always picked on. He even tried to take Chairamy out of school grounds. Then one day other students started noticing how much fun Little Johnny was having. Soon more students asked for expo markers to make silly faces on chairs.

The bullies couldn’t bully him because so many kids were making chair friends, even some of the bullies were doing it.

Little Johnny started to talk more and express his feelings about why he made Chairamy and show others how to make funny faces and expressions on the chairs. From that day on, Little Johnny didn’t need Chairamy because he had real, non-chair friends; he was no longer picked on at school.

On the other hand, back at Little Johnny’s house his siblings noted his change of mood and they started asking him questions about his day such as “how many friends did you make?” “Why are you more talkative today?” and Little Johnny said, “I no longer care about my size. I can be the shortest person on Earth and still have a heart of gold.” His mom was very happy about how many friends Little Johnny made. But above all, she was happy that he realized he was more than a size, he was a very creative, imaginative, funny, and friendly kid. He started to love himself and to notice how much he was worth.

In the end Little Johnny realized that the only thing that needed to change was his attitude towards the problem. After he created Chairamy, he realized that many students thought of him as a creative person as well, and then he realized that he just had to show the real him so that everyone would notice. And even if no one noticed, he would still have Chairamy .

The end.

If you're wondering what happened to Chairamy, he stayed in a local forest where Little Johnny hid him 14 years ago.