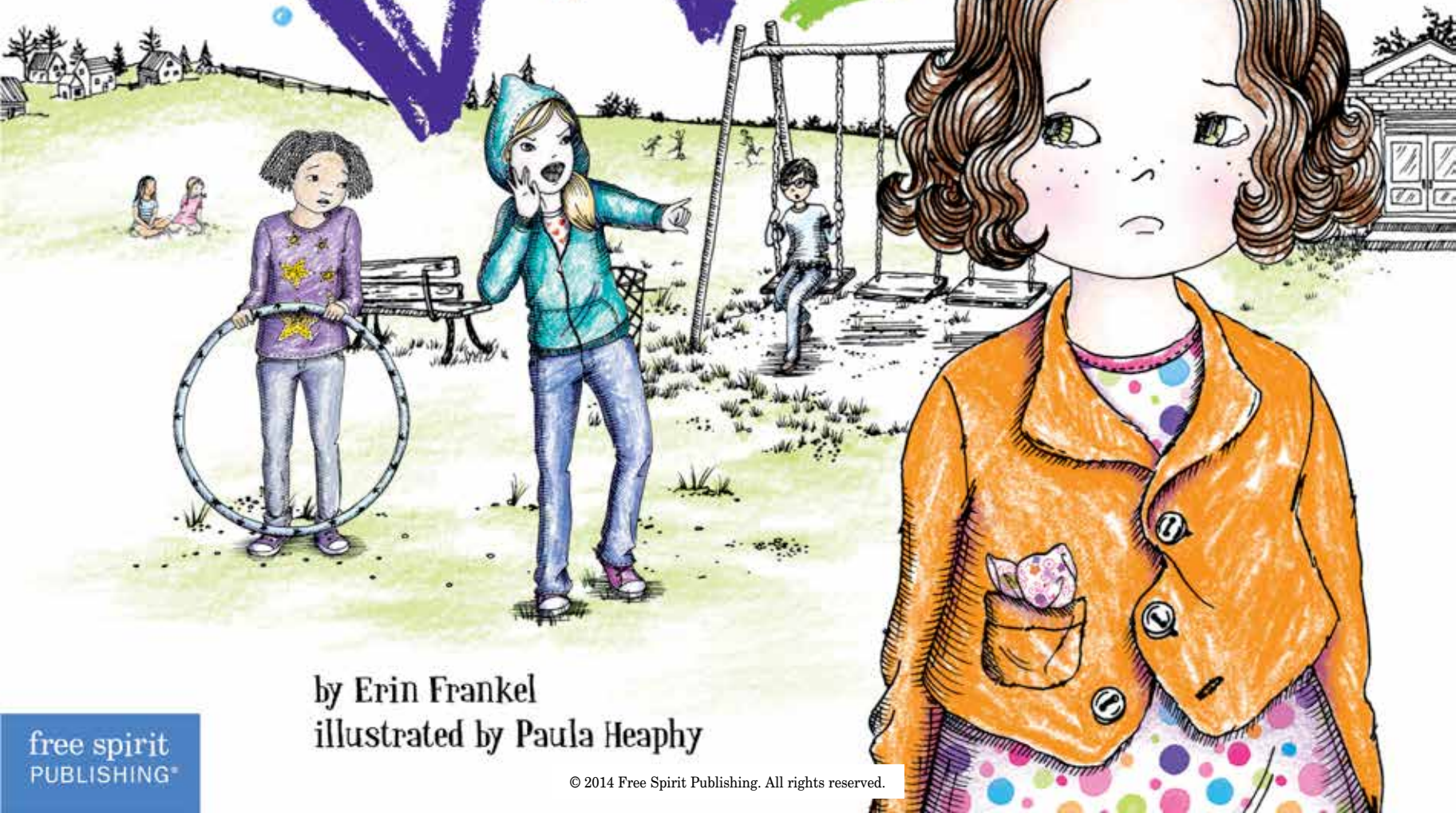


WELCOME!



by Erin Frankel
illustrated by Paula Heaphy

“The wonderful books in the Weird series are great resources to help build young children’s social skills to address and prevent bullying.”

—**Trudy Ludwig**, children’s advocate and best-selling author of *Confessions of a Former Bully*

“I love this series. Kids are sure to empathize with the characters and recognize their own power to stop bullying.”

—**Dr. Michele Borba**, internationally recognized child expert and author of *The Big Book of Parenting Solutions*

“The well-drawn characters have real problems with . . . credible resolutions. This [series] should find a home in every school library.”

—**Kirkus**

“The books stand alone as separate titles, but they’re much more effective when utilized together to give a complete view of how the main characters are feeling and the outside events that help shape their roles.”

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“An excellent tool for teaching school-age children good mental health techniques to survive and grow beyond bullying.”

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“A good discussion starter.”

—**Booklist**

“Incredibly insightful . . . a must-own for educators.”

—**Imagination Soup**



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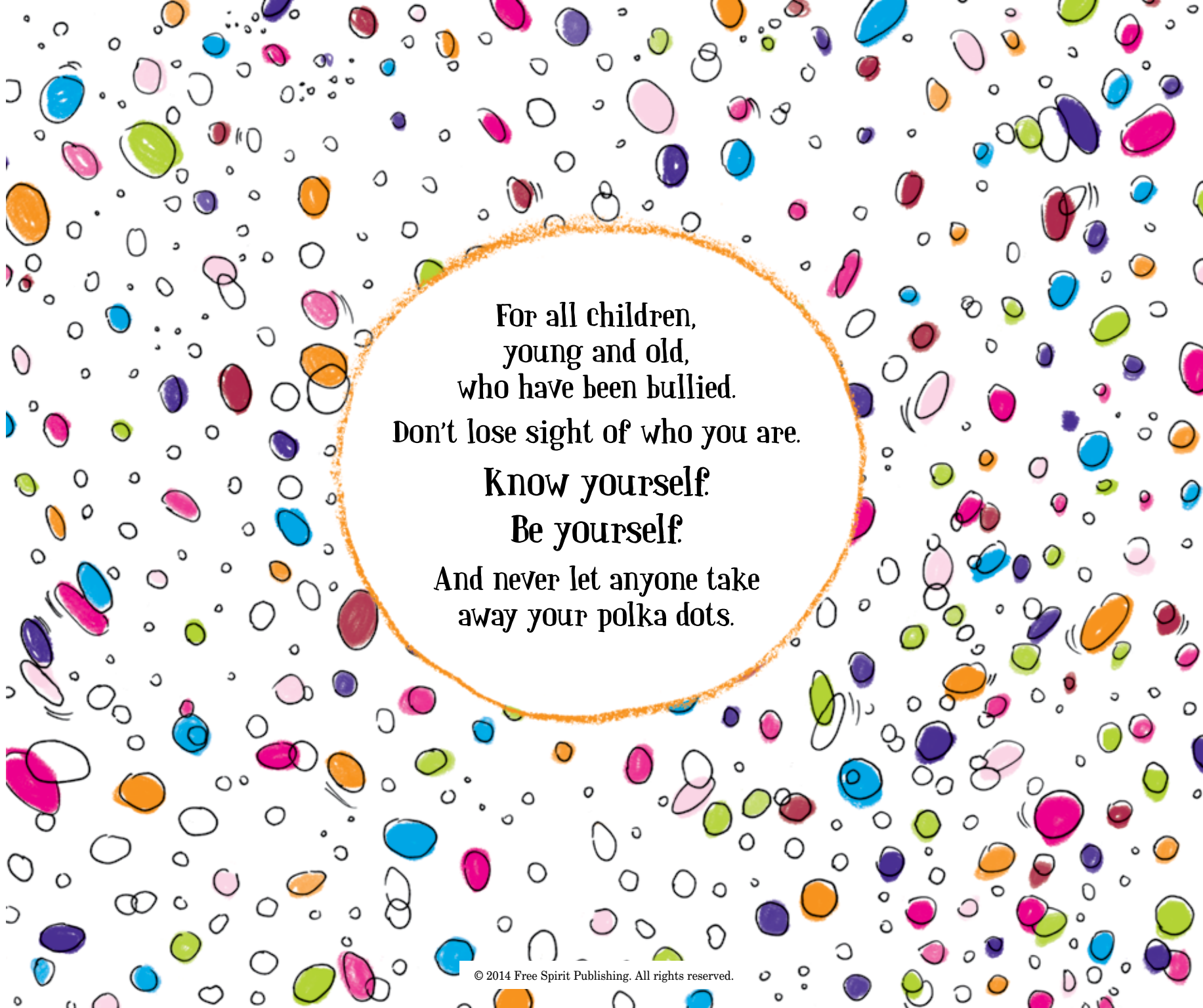
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For all children,
young and old,
who have been bullied.
Don't lose sight of who you are.
Know yourself.
Be yourself.
And never let anyone take
away your polka dots.

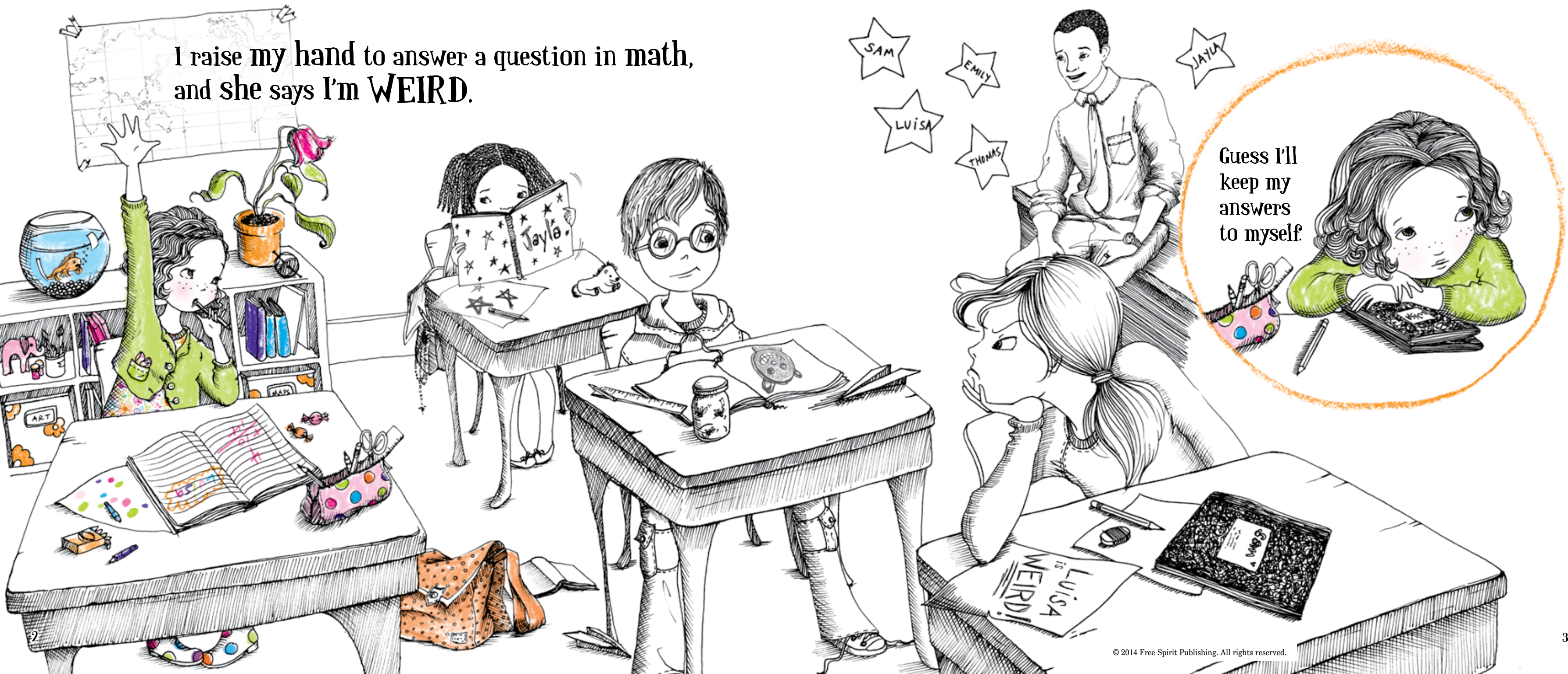


Hi. My name is Luisa and I have a problem.

There is a girl in my class named Sam who thinks that everything I do is

WEIRD!

I raise my hand to answer a question in math,
and she says I'm WEIRD.



Guess I'll
keep my
answers
to myself.

Luisa's Notes

Boy, am I glad I got my polka dots back—and they're not *weird* at all! Here are some things I can remember so I won't lose them again:

When I feel nervous, scared, or sad, I can think positive thoughts.

Everyone has the right to feel safe and respected, including me.

I am not to blame when someone chooses to bully me.

Remember there are people who care and want to help me if I ask them to.

Don't give anyone the power to take away what makes me special.



Sam's Notes

It used to bother Luisa when I called her “weird,” but now she looks happy and confident . . . which makes me feel not so *tough* anymore. Here are some things I've been thinking about:

Trying to bully someone who ignores me isn't any fun.

Owning up to my behavior is going to be hard, but maybe it's worth it.

Until Luisa acted confident, I felt like I had power over her.

Guess bullying won't get me what I want after all.

Hearing others stand up for Luisa made me step back and think about what I was doing.

Jayla's Notes

I'm so glad Luisa is back to being herself. Now I know that I can *dare* to stand up for someone who is being bullied. Here are some other things I've learned as a bystander to bullying:

Doing what's right can be hard at first, but it always feels good in the long run.

Asking others for help makes a big difference.

Real friendship is about standing up for each other.

Encouraging Luisa to be confident in herself helped Sam stop bullying her.

