

Willow



The Cat



On a cold winter evening, Willow and her family gathered around the fireplace. Today was a special day for Willow because it was her birthday!



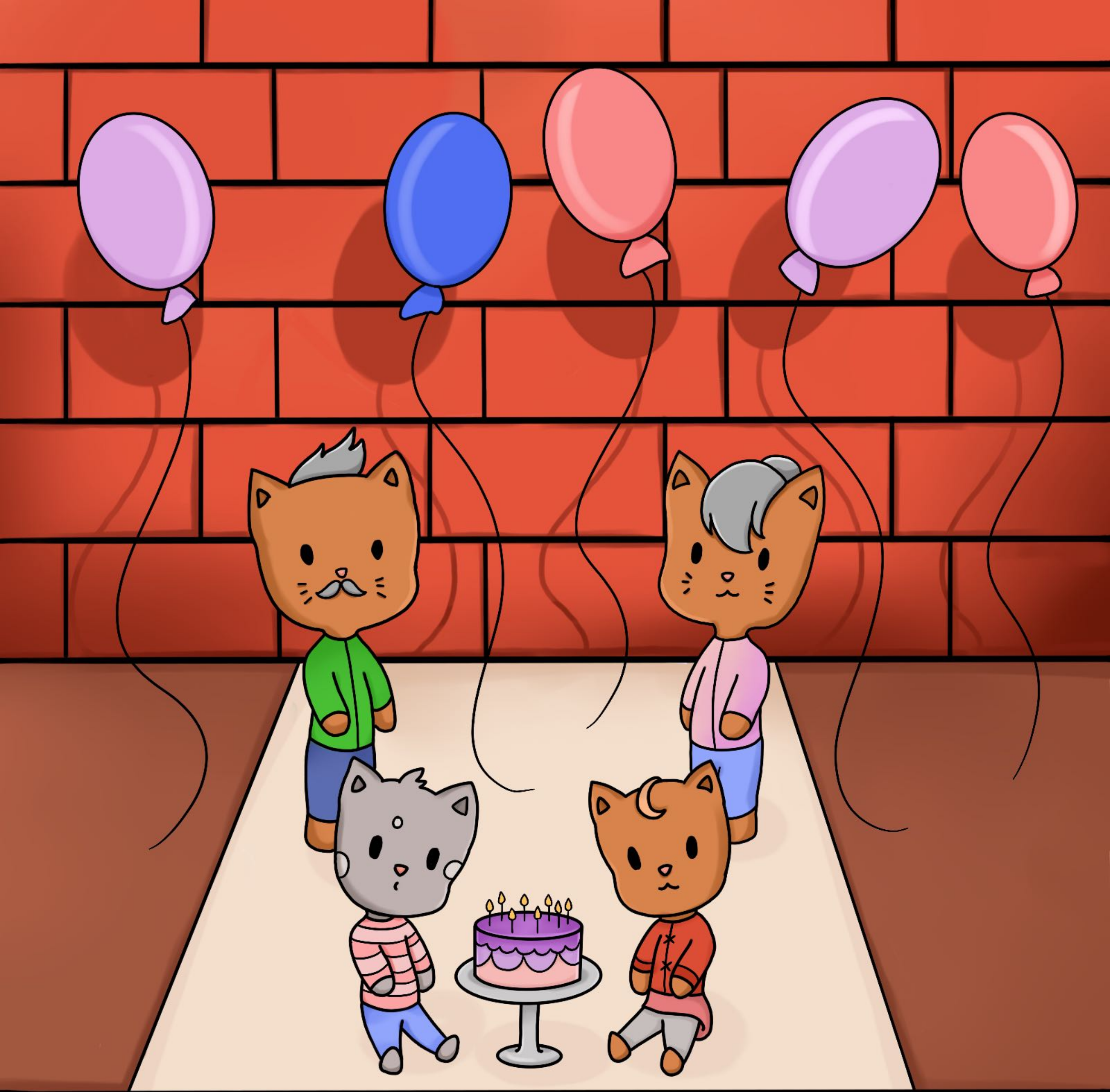
**“You know, I still remember that day when we found you Willow,”
said Papa Cat.**

**“Ah yes, we found you on the doorsteps of our house in the freezing
cold winter,” added Mama Cat.**



"I know the story already Papa and Mama," replied Willow, "you told me the story many times before!"

"Haha, we know, but it's always nice to talk about that moment again," chuckled Papa Cat.



Willow loved being with her adopted family, even though she was so different from them. Her family had ginger fur, but Willow's fur was grey. She wanted to have ginger fur like them.

As Willow blew the candles out, she made the same wish as every year: a friend.



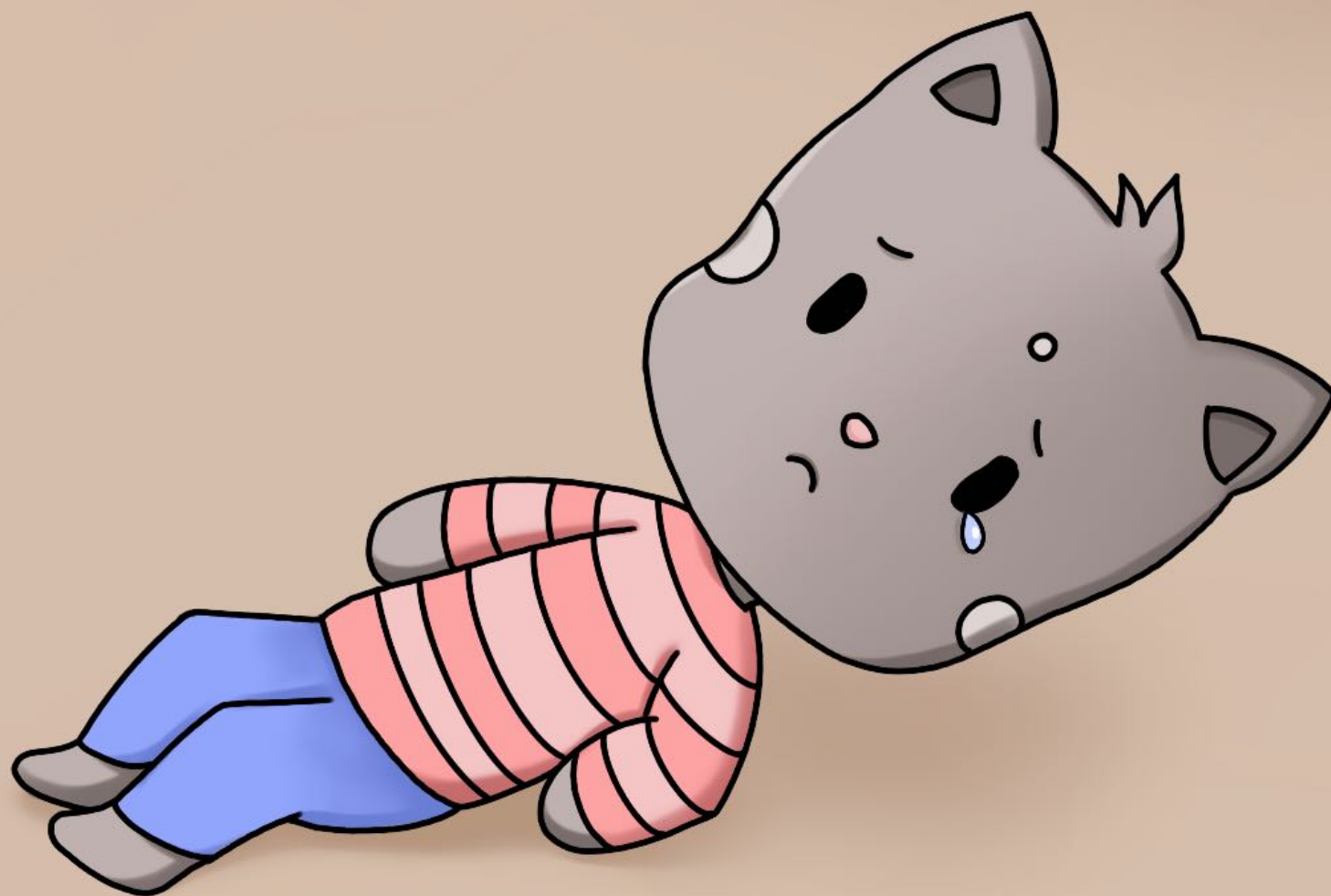
The next day at school, as everyone started entering the classroom, her classmate Troy ripped her bow off.

“Why did you do that?” she asked sadly. It was her favorite bow that her mom knitted for her and now it was ripped.

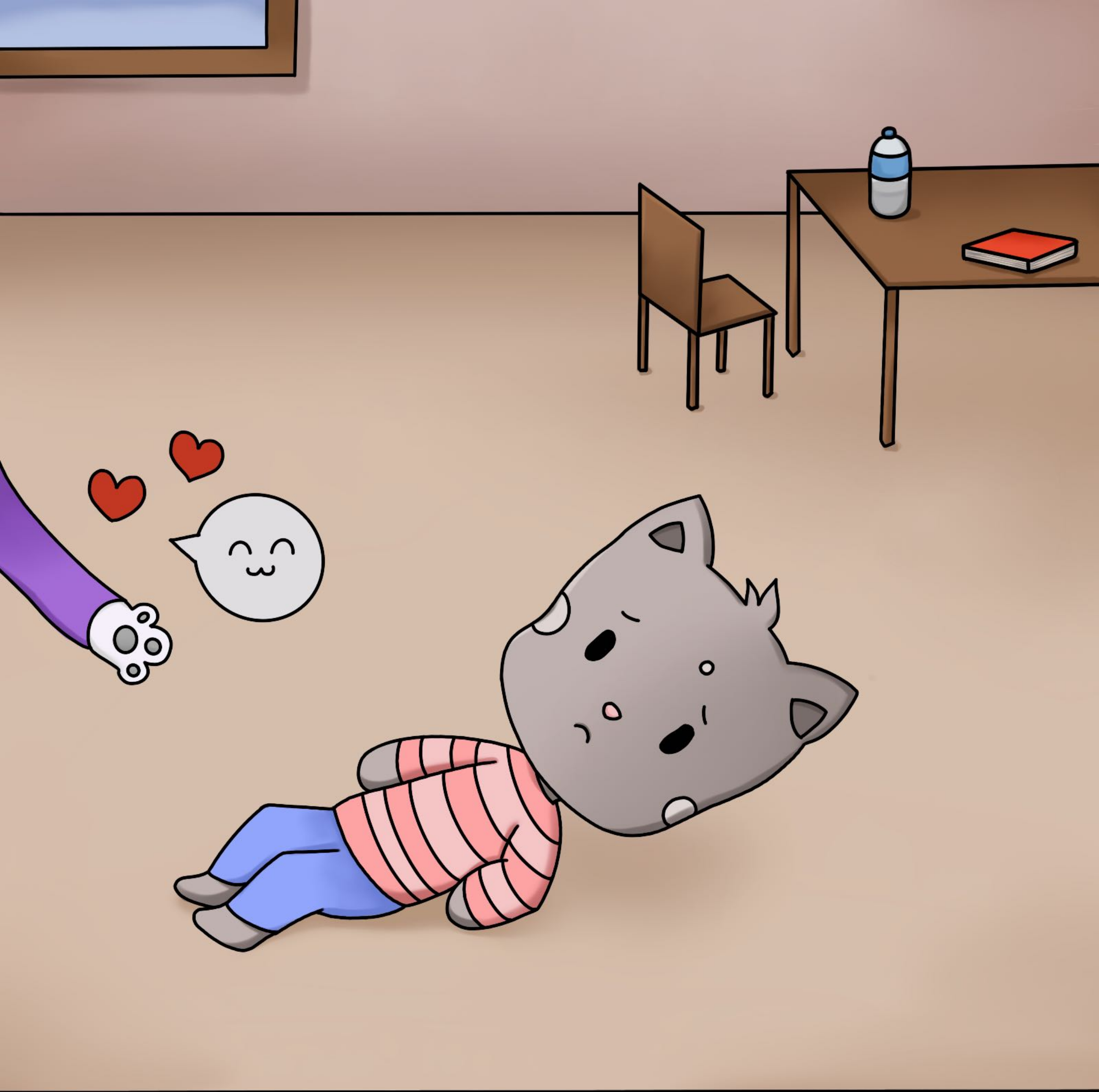


"Don't act like you belong with us," he said.

Willow was so shocked, she ran away crying.



While running away, someone tripped her and made her fall on the floor. Willow tried to stop crying as everyone walked past her just staring.



Suddenly, she saw a white paw reached out in front of her. Willow looked up with confusion.



"Hello, I'm Lily," the white fur cat said, "You look very sad. Let me help you, I'm a new student who just moved here!" Willow took her paw and got up.

"My name is Willow," Willow replied.



"I'm glad to see a cat that isn't ginger. Everyone was staring at me," Lily giggled.

"Me too!" Willow said surprised. Lily and Willow both got excited to find someone who did not have ginger fur.



From that day on, Willow and Lily quickly became best friends. Every day, they swung on Willow's backyard swings and played together. Willow's wish for a friend came true!



Lily always talked about how it is unfair the other cats are bullying them.

"Just because we're different doesn't mean they should do that," Lily growled.

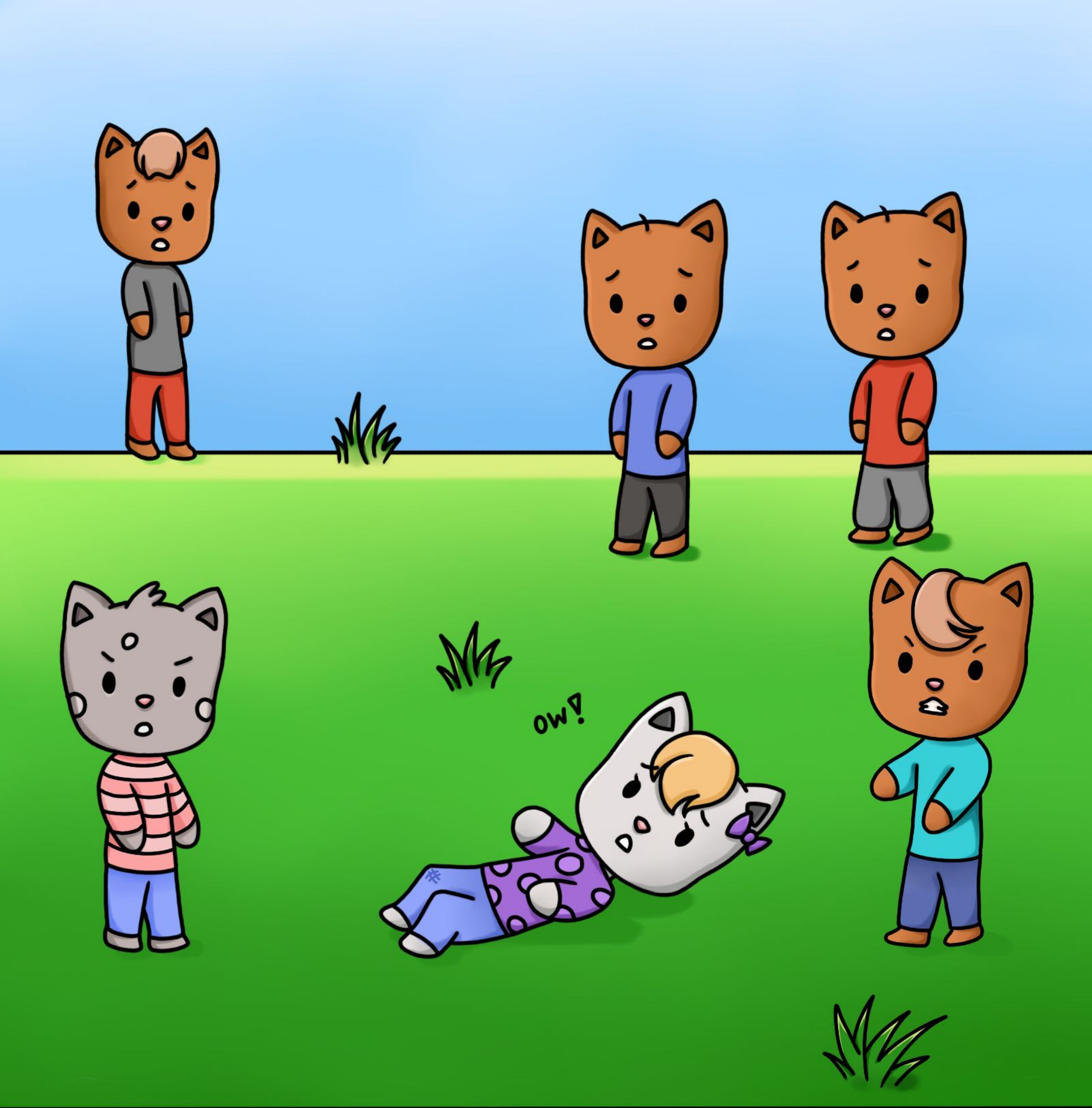
Willow did not think about that before and she just nodded. It felt like being different wasn't a good thing but Lily thought it made you special.



On the day of the school trip Willow and Lily ran to get to the empty swings. It was their favorite thing to do after all. They laughed as they got higher on the swings...



Suddenly Troy came from behind and pushed Lily off the swings, laughing at them.



Lily started crying because her knee was scraped really badly. Everyone else started gathering around them, shocked, as the teachers came rushing to help.

"Why did you do that?" Willow shouted at Troy.

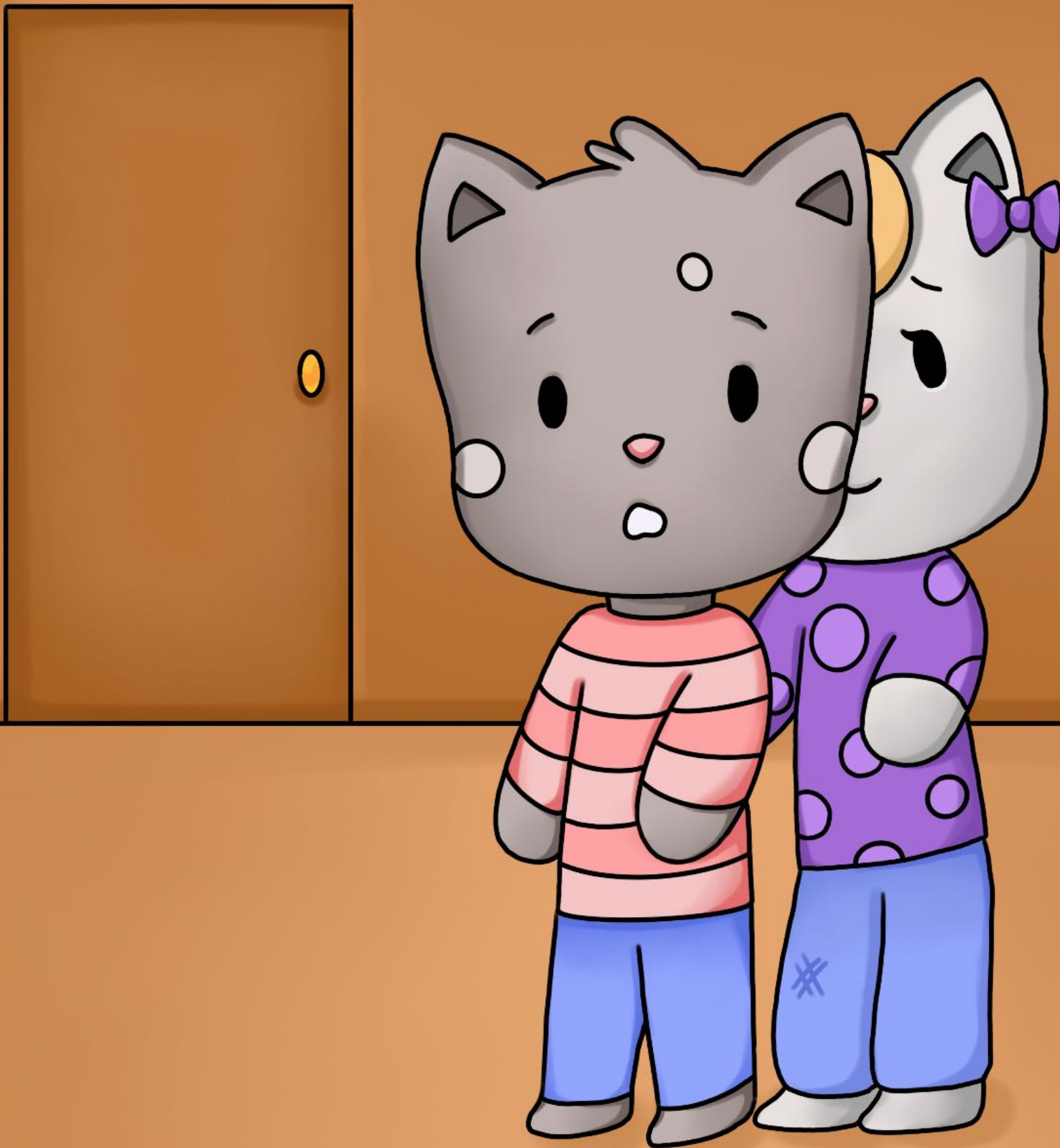
Troy looked at Willow and did not answer. He looked nervous for some reason. Willow and Lily turn and head back to the school.

NURSE



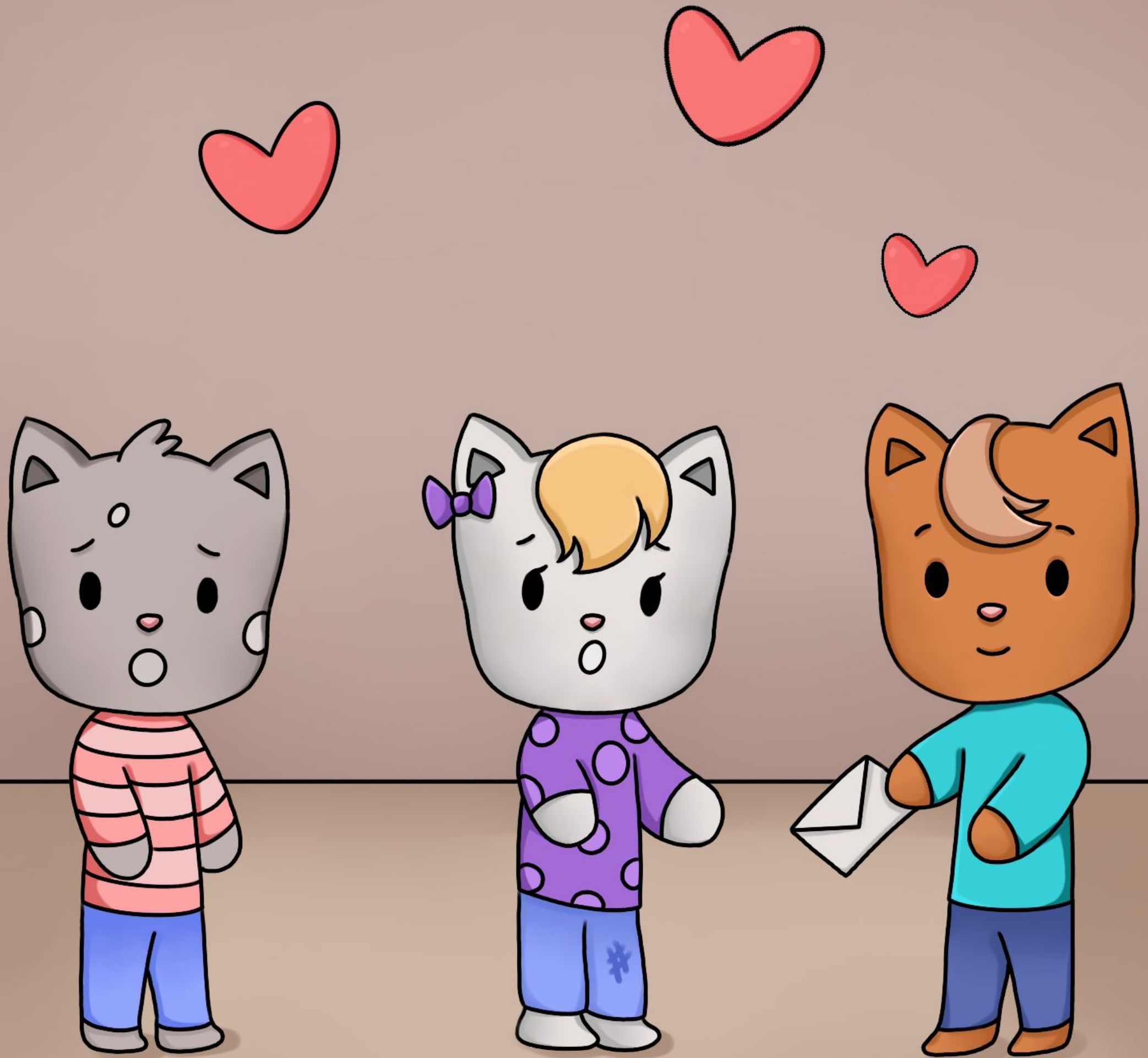
While the nurse puts a band-aid on Lily's knee, Willow is talking to Ms. Daisy in the hallway. She tells her everything.

"Thank you for telling me about this Willow," Ms. Daisy said, promising them that the students would be punished for bullying.



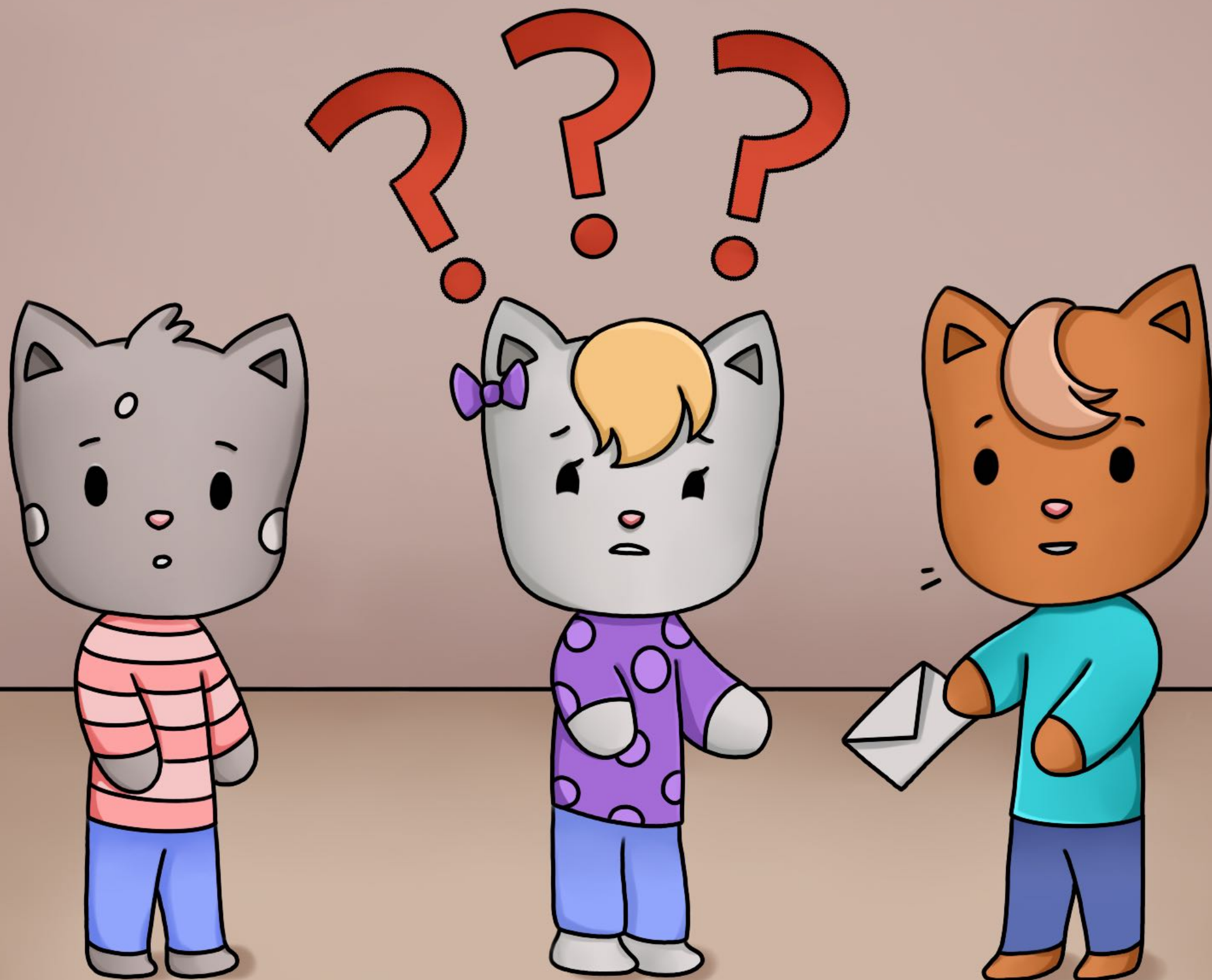
When Lily comes out of the room, she gives Willow a big hug.

"I overheard what you said," Lily said, smiling while hugging Willow, "I'm so proud of you!"



As Willow and Lily went back to their classroom, they saw their classmates all standing together. Troy walked up to them and gave them a card.

"We signed a card for you. I'm really sorry. We're all sorry about being mean,"
Troy apologized to Willow and Lily

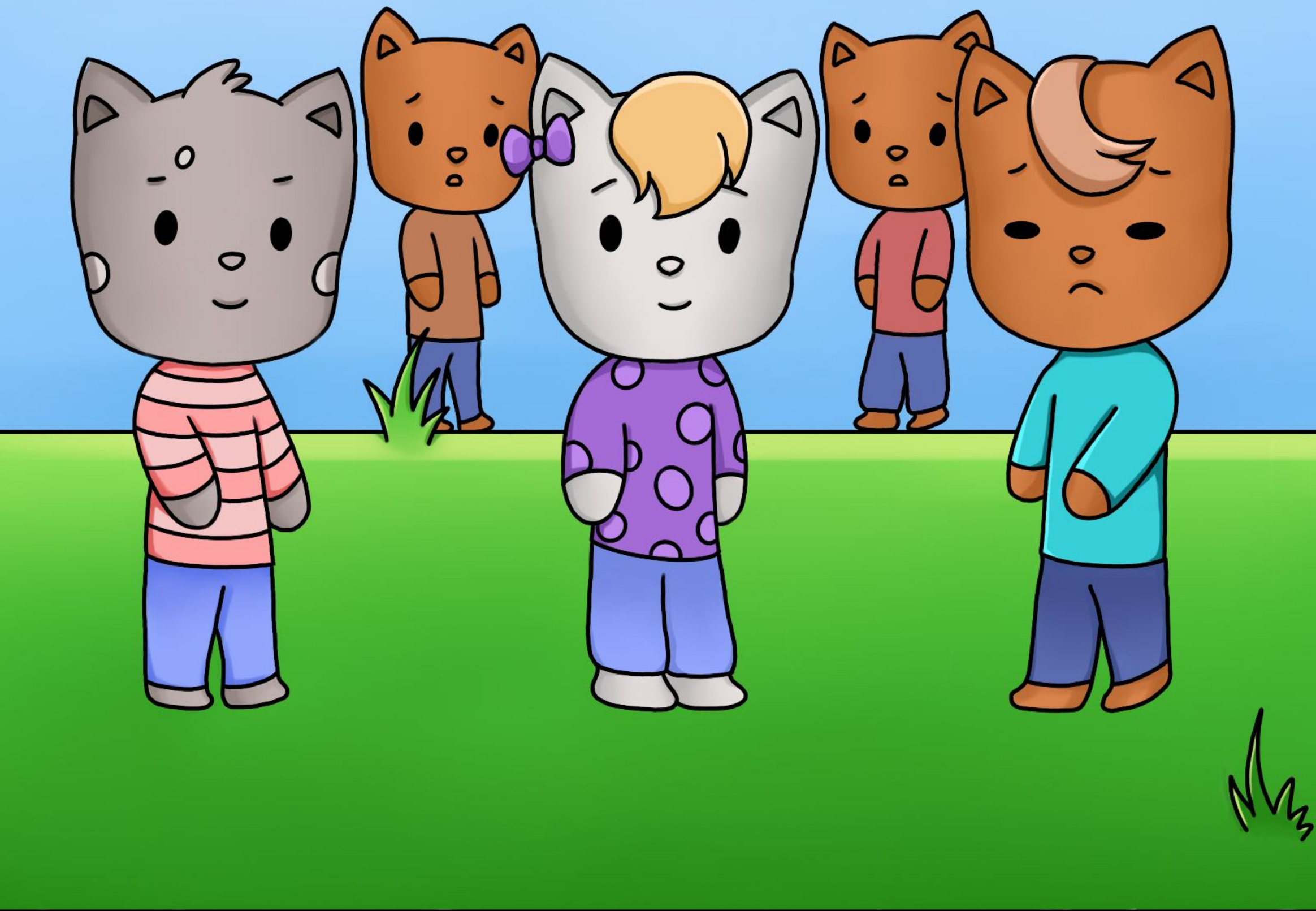


Willow and Lily looked at each other shocked as they saw everyone's names on the card.

"Is this another one of your tricks?" Lily asked angrily.

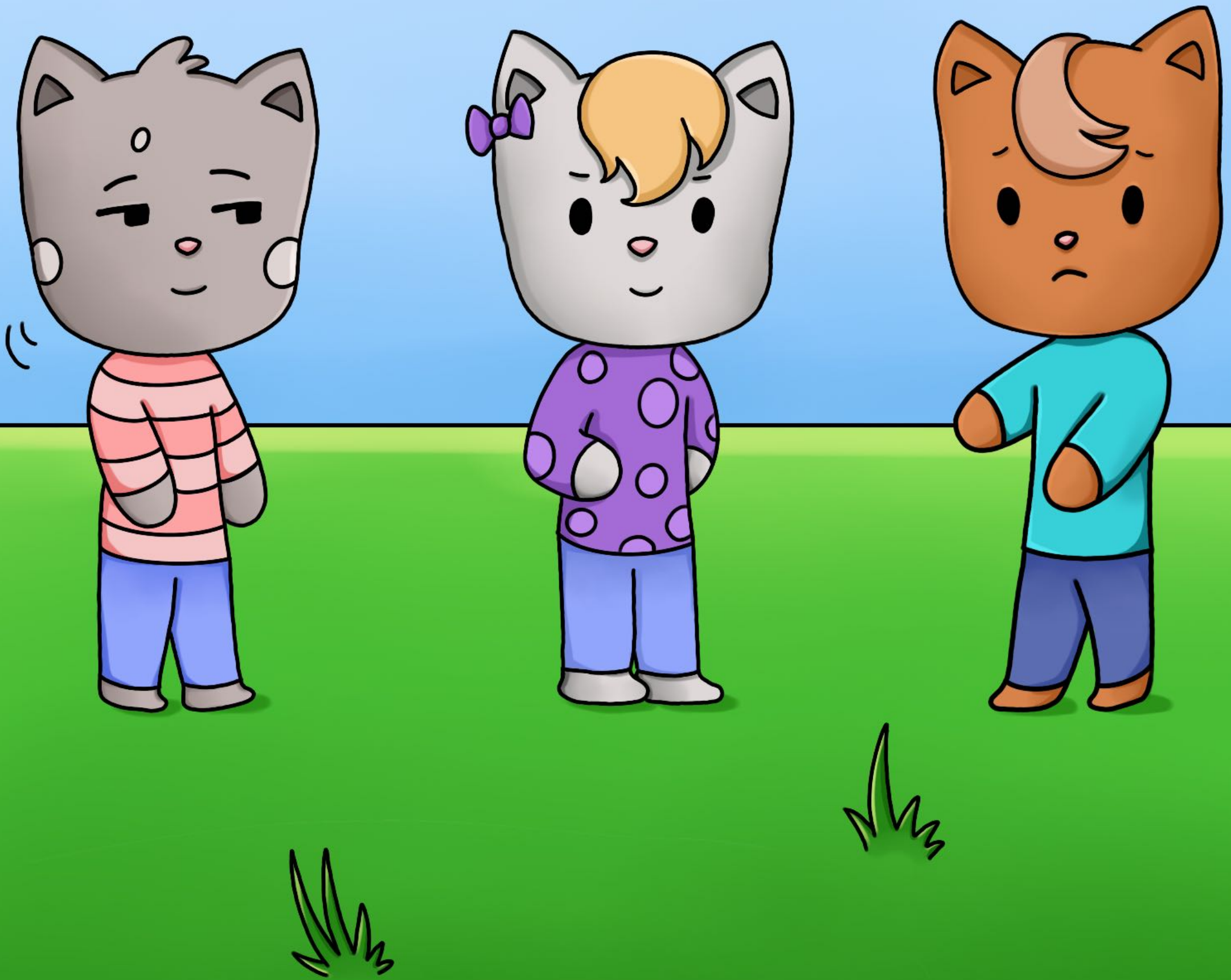
"No, we really mean it," Troy responded.

"Then why did you act like that in the first place?" Willow asked.



At first, everyone hung their heads low and said nothing.

“We were jealous of your fur. I actually think it’s really cool because everyone here is just plain ginger. We’re sorry,” Troy said with teary eyes looking down at his feet.

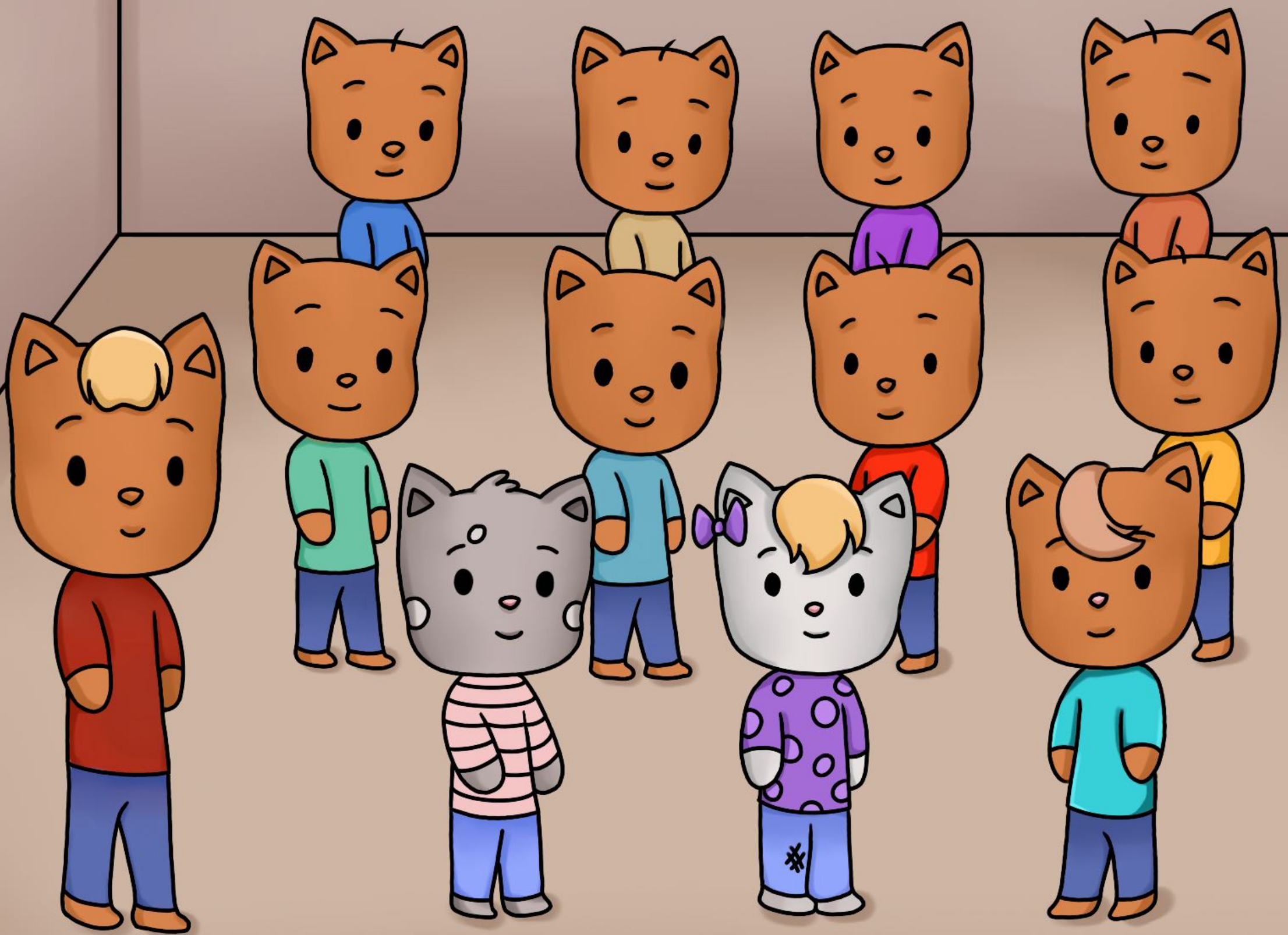


“Humph! I guess we will accept your apologies,” Willow says as she looks away with a smile on her face.



Willow then looked at Troy and said "Troy your fur is not lame. I think ginger is an amazing color."

Willow never ever saw Troy smile but just now he had the biggest smile on his face.



From that day onwards, Willow and Lily became the best of friends with their classmates. She was glad that she was finally brave enough to stand up for herself and her friend. Willow is now comfortable with her fur and does not want to be any other color. Wishes sometimes do become true!