

# Ease the Tease



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# Ease the Tease

**Judy S. Freedman and Mimi P. Black**

**Illustrated by Steve Mark**

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PUBLISHING®



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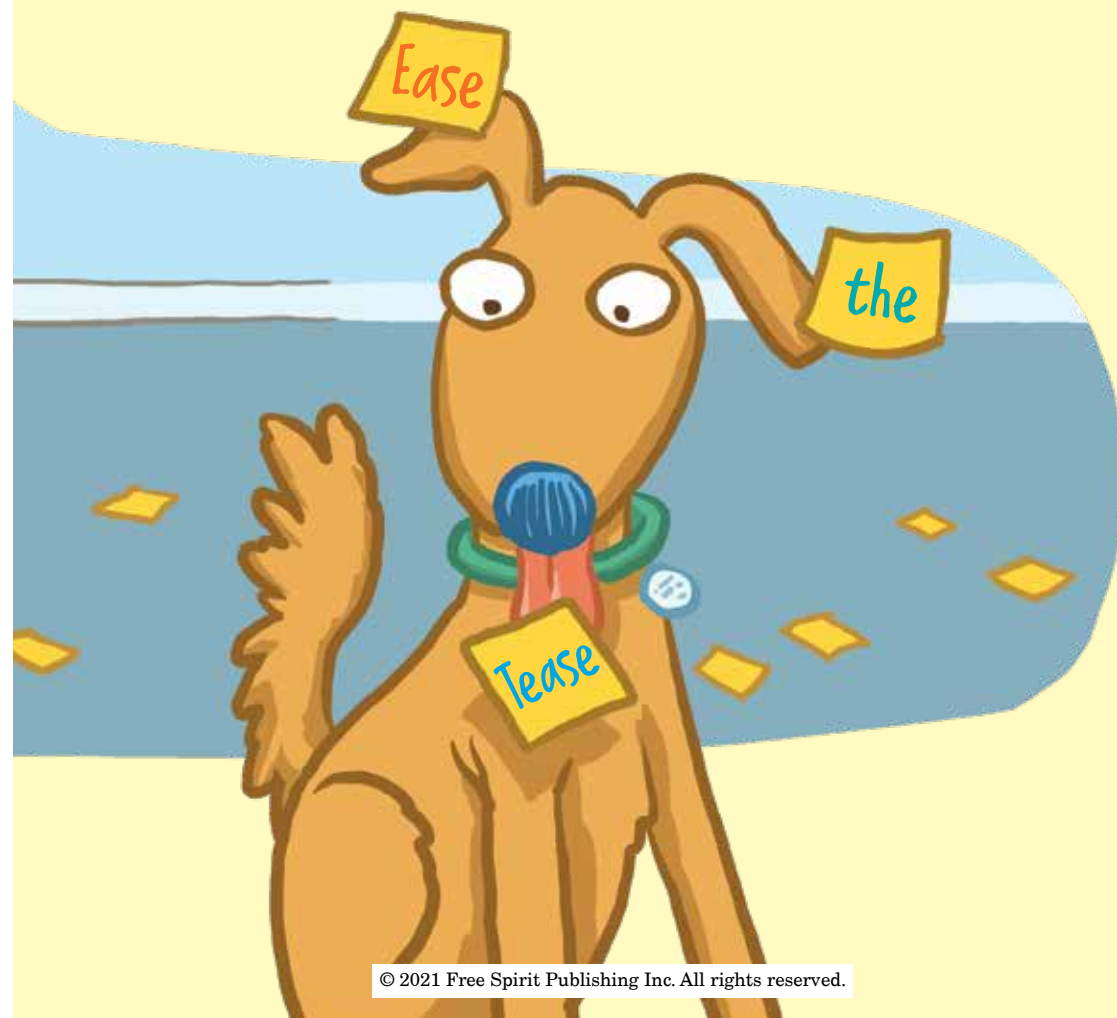
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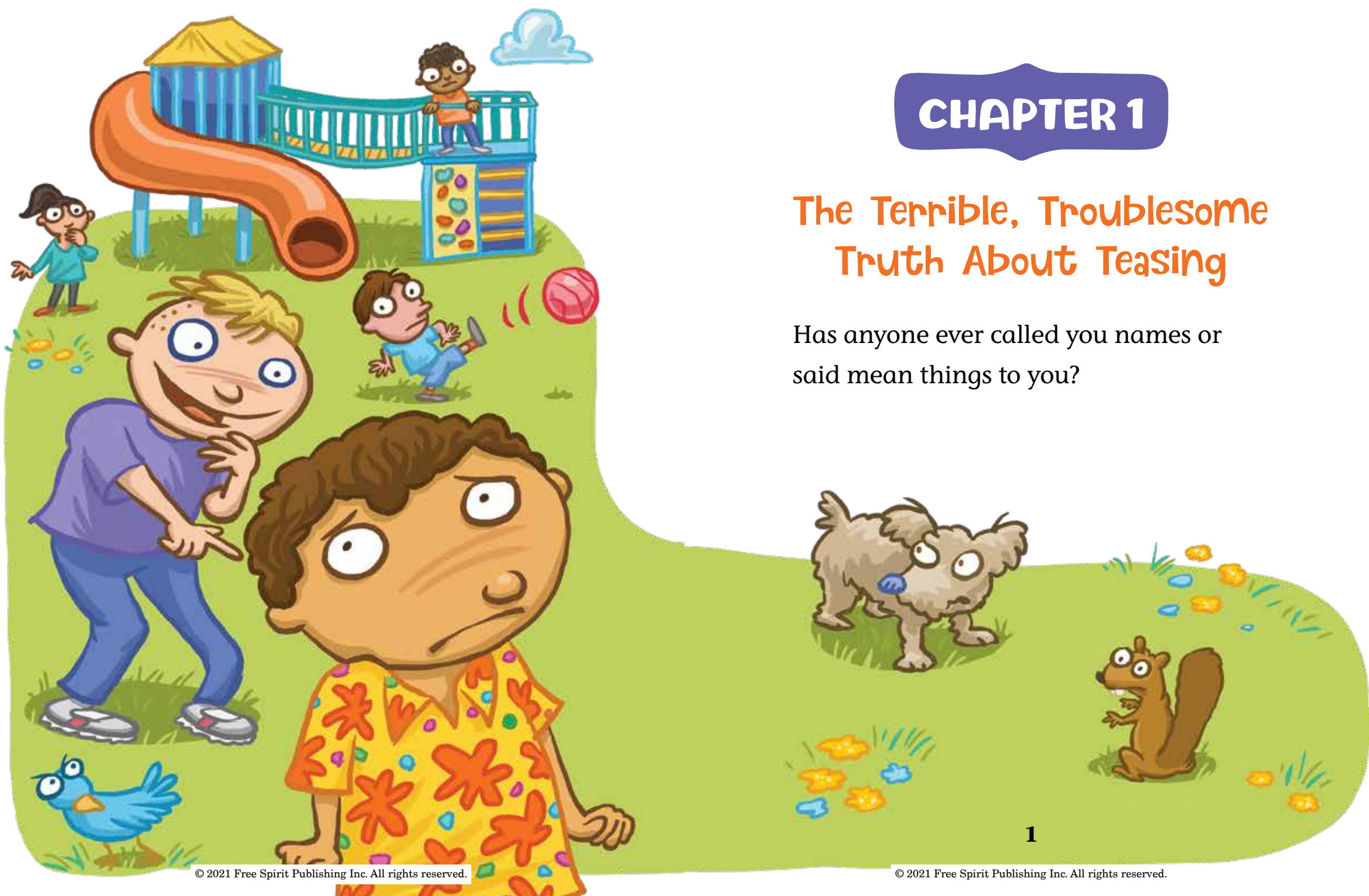
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# CHAPTER 1

## The Terrible, Troublesome Truth About Teasing

Has anyone ever called you names or  
said mean things to you?





Teasing. It happens to lots and lots  
(and lots!) of kids.

Every day.

Sometimes people tease in a friendly way. Fun and friendly teasing is when one person **has fun with** another person. It's a way of joking and kidding around that makes everyone smile or laugh.





Sometimes teasing is *meant* to be friendly . . . but feels hurtful.

Sometimes teasing isn't meant to be friendly at all. Mean teasing is when someone **makes fun of** someone else. Maybe they call them mean names or laugh at them.

This kind of teasing is wrong. Sadly, it still happens. Sometimes kids don't even realize it's wrong!



# What Hurtful Teasing Sounds Like

Kids can be teased about . . .

## ✓ what they do

- “You are such a slow runner. I wish you weren’t on my team.”
- “Your voice is so annoying.”



## ✓ how they look

- “Fatso.”
- “Your hair is weird.”

## ✓ their feelings

- “Scaredy-cat.”
- “What a crybaby.”



## ✓ their schoolwork

- “Nerd.”
- “Can’t you read?”

## ✓ their friends

- “Why do you like Maria? She is such a loser.”
- “You hang out with the geeks.”

## ✓ what they like

- “Your lunch is gross!”
- “That game is for babies.”



Kids can be teased about . . .

✓ **their family**

- “Weirdo! You have two moms.”
- “Your parents don’t even speak English.”

✓ **their names**

- “Stinkin’ Lincoln.”
- “Mary, Mary, hairy and scary.”



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✓ **their differences**

- “Your accent is dumb.”
- “Joey, why do you like girls’ games?”

✓ **anything (even if it’s not true)**

- “Dog breath.”
- “Butthead.”



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## What Hurtful Teasing Feels Like

Mean teasing can hurt. It can feel embarrassing.

When you're teased, you might feel angry. Maybe you even feel like you'll explode.



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You might feel sad. You might feel scared.

You might even feel smaller than you really are.



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