

Cooperation

Boys and girls, I want to tell you a story about your hands. Some hands are big, some hands are small. Some hands are black, some hands are white, some hands are redder, some are whiter. Some are darker, some are more yellow. I am Moozie cow, and I don't have hands like you. I have hooves. You are very lucky to have hands. Hold both of your hands in the air and wave them. Your hands are one of the ways you can show kindness. You show kindness when you wave at someone? With your hands we can clap to show others that we like what they did. I would like you to clap exactly three times with your hands. It would be hard to clap if you only had one hand wouldn't it. With your hands you can put one of them over your mouth when you sneeze so the germs don't go all over the room. And that is a kind thing to do.

On your hand you have four fingers and one thumb. Show me your fingers, now show me your thumb. And holding the fingers and thumb in place is a big thing called the palm of your hand. Point to the palm of your hand.

I am going to tell you a story about Mr. Palmer and the five children. The story starts a long time ago. Way back before you were even born, even before mother and dad were born, even before your grandma and grandpa were born. A long long time ago.

A long time ago, the fingers and thumb didn't like each other. They would say unkind things to each other and would snap at each other. Mr. Palmer, the palm of the hand, had lots of frustrations with the fighting that was always going on between the fingers and thumb. We might say that he had his hands full. He called the thumb and fingers his children, and he gave each of them a name. Hold out your right hand and I will give you their names. First we are going to begin with the little finger, clear on the edge of your hand. Hold up your little finger so everyone can see it. The name given the little finger was Pinky for it was the shortest of all the fingers. Then next to shorty was the finger that people wear their ring on so he called it the Ring Finger. To make it simpler, he used two initials, RF. Then there was the longest finger right in the middle he called it Tallie, Then the finger between Ring and the thumb he called Sindex. So he had Pinky, RF., Tallie, and Sindex and he called the thumb, Thumber, which rhymes with slumber.

Mr. Palmer liked it when Thumber slept for when Thumber was awake, he

would always be in trouble. Thumber would snap at the other children. Thumber especially like to snap at Tallie. Thumber would snap at Tallie then run away. I can't show you what I mean with my cow hooves but you can show your self how Thumber tormented Tallie. Take your thumb and make a snapping noise with Tallie, and if you can't make a snapping sound, just making a patting sound.

Tallie got very upset when Thumber was picking on him. Thumber liked picking on Tallie because Tallie was bigger. Tallie would moan, , "Make Thumber stop picking on me because its making me mad -- I don't like to be bullied". Mr. Palmer said, When Thumber is bulling you, just leave, Just leave,just leave, And Tallie did just that. He leaned way back completely away from Thumber. Can you take your hand and show how Tallie could, just leave, could move away. Tallie had done the right thing by telling Palmer about being bullied and Palmer gave good advice in telling Tallie to just leave when you are being bullied.

When Tallie started avoiding Thumber, Thumber then started picking on Sindex. This upset Sindex. The harder Thumber snapped, the harder Sindex snapped back. The harder Thumber pushed against Sindex, the harder Sindex pushed back. Can you show that on your hand. Take your thumb and push against the finger next to the thumb. Push harder, harder yet. That is how Thumber and Sindex pushed back and forth.

Palmer soon stopped the pushing and said "Would you two stopping fighting for it is wearing me out"? Did you notice how your hand got tired when your thumb and next finger were pushing against each other? That is how tired Mr. Palmer was getting. Palmer told Sindex, just what he told Tallie, "just leave, just leave, just leave.

Pinky and Pinky Sr. could see that Thumber was picking on Sindex and Tallie and they did not want to play with a bully so when they saw Thumber coming toward them, they would just back out of the way, like Mr. Palmer had told Tallie and Sindex.

Shorty and RF had a lot of fun just playing with each other. They played pick up the paper. This game was that they would pick up a piece of paper between them by pushing together. They would pick up one piece of paper, move it, then pick up another, until they might have a whole stack of papers they picked up. They asked Tallie to join in. Tallie pushed against RF as they they picked up another piece of paper. Now there was a piece of paper squeezed in between Pinky and RF and one

between RFI and Tallie. Then they asked Sindex them and they picked up three pieces of paper. They could hold three pieces of paper by squeezing against each other. At first that was hard to do but they got better and better at it.

While they were having all this fun, Thumber was over there by himself. They didn't want to play with him because he wasn't nice to them.

One day while the four fingers were playing it started to rain. They liked playing in the rain. When the drops of rain hit their faces, it made their faces shinny. They liked the way they looked with their shinny faces. As they looked at each other with their shinny faces, Tallie noticed that Mrs. Yardworth's favorite book on the table out and was starting to get wet. They liked Mrs. Yardworth and knew how much she liked that book. The four fingers tried to pick it up but even though they pressed hard against each other, the book was too heavy to lift. They tried by having Tallie on the bottom of the book and the three of them on the top, but the book was just too heavy. They worked and worked and the book was getting wetter and wetter,

Then Pinky said, I have an idea, Let see if Thumber would help us. At first none of them wanted to ask Thumber for he was always mean to them. But as they saw the book getting wetter and wetter, Tallie said, "Okay, this one time we will ask Thumber, but if he snaps us, we will never ask him again.

Thumber had been watching them try to lift the book and was laughing to himself they couldn't do it. Because of his mean spirit, he liked to see others have trouble. But as he was watching he was feeling very left out for he wasn't a part of what they were trying to do. When Tallie asked Thumber, at first he wanted to act tough and say, do it yourself, then he saw how wet the book was getting and he also liked Mrs. Yardworth, so in his tough sounding voice, he said " Okay, if you can't do it yourself, I will try to help" Even though his voice sounded tough, inside he was very pleased to be asked for he was feeling lonely.

This time when they got ready to lift the book, the four fingers got on top of the book, and Thumber got on the bottom of the book. The four fingers pressed down and Thumber the pushed up. This was the first time that the fingers had ever had pressed against the thumb this way, and it felt good and it was surprising what they could do when they worked together.

After moving the book out of the rain, Thumber said, "I like working with you. That was fun. By working together we can do things that I can't do my myself and things you can't do by yourself." As the five of them talked they started thinking about all the different things they could now do easier if they worked together as a team, like picking up litter, carrying books, holding a pencil, turning door knobs. I bet you can think of a lot of things that they could do by working together that they couldn't do on their own.

Ever since that day long time ago, the fingers and thumb have worked together. It made Mr. Palmer happy they were helping each other instead of fighting. Since I don't have hands, I just get to watch what the hands do. It make me very happy when I see children doing kind things with their hands. I bet you can think of a lot of kind things that can be done with our hands and maybe you would like to make a list of all those things. Remember, when you are doing kind things, you have the mood attitude, of doing kind things. And that makes me very happy.