

Jonni and Tray

Friends and Leaders



**Jonni and Tray was written by Caitlin Kelley Aldridge
and supports the Explorations in Leadership Curriculum**

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Illustrations for Jonni and Tray were done by Krista Kelley Walsh
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Produced 2013

Project coordinated by
Saint Paul Public Schools Community Education
in collaboration with St. Paul Sprockets Network

Funding for this project provided by:



Chapter 1

Good Morning

Jonni and Tray meet at the **bus** stop, on a sunny Monday morning.

“Good morning Tray! How was your soccer game this weekend?” asks Jonnie.

“What’s up Jonni?” Tray asks with a smile. “The game was good. There was a new player on the team, we worked together to score the winning goal. She passed me the ball, then I passed it back to her and she scored!”

“Wow Tray! I am surprised you passed the ball back to her and helped her get the goal. That sounds like leadership and teamwork,” Jonni reflects.

“Thanks, Jonni. Remember our book about being leaders? I am trying to practice my leadership skills,” Tray says proudly.

“I have been trying to practice too,” Jonnie agrees, “ever since that service learning project we did last year. That was cool of Mrs. Williams to lend us her book.”

The two **friends** continue to talk and wait for their **bus** just like they do every morning before school.



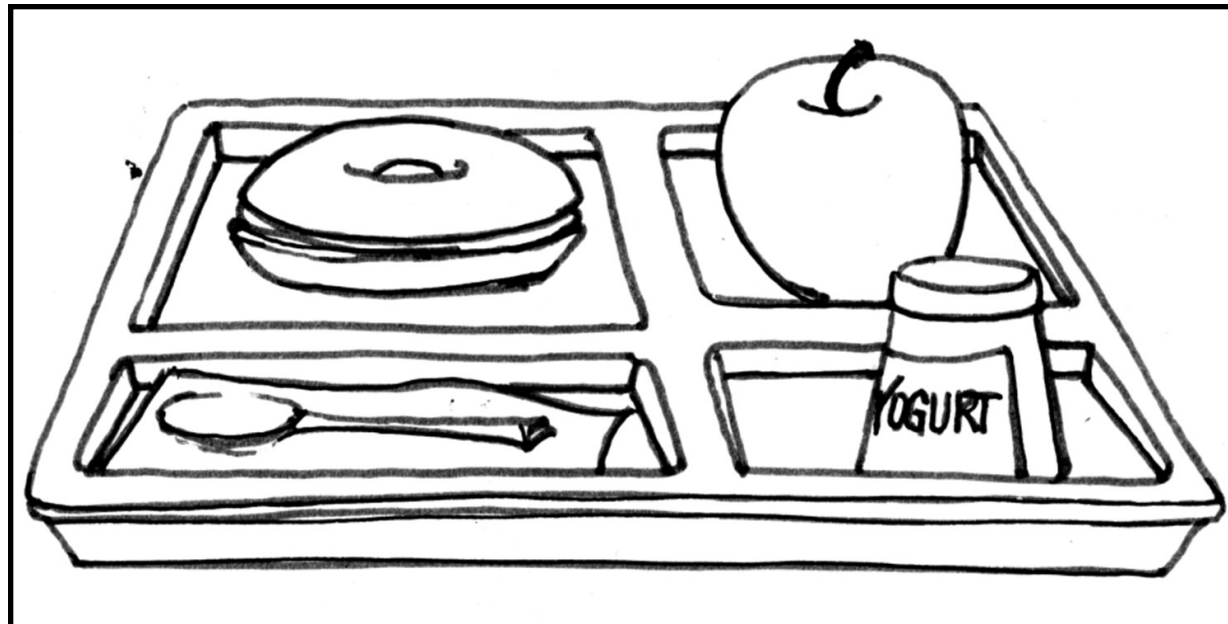
When Jonni and Tray arrive at school, they grab their breakfast from the cafeteria and say goodbye to each other before heading to their **classrooms**.

“Bye, Jonni. I hope Mrs. Williams is nice today!”

“She will be. Remember it’s **Experiment** Day? Her favorite day of the year,” Jonni whispers to Tray.

“Yep, I remember. We are making gum together! See you at lunch,” Tray says as he walks away.

The two friends go to their separate **classrooms**, sit down at their desks, and eat their breakfasts.



Mrs. Williams is so excited for **Experiment** Day she almost skips morning check in.

“Good morning class,” says Mrs. Williams. “Today is **Experiment** Day. All of you will get to pick one **experiment** this afternoon and if there is time you might get to try both **experiments**. One of the **experiments** will be making play dough...”

Jonni puts her hand up, interrupting Ms. Williams.

“Jonni, please wait until I am done explaining the **experiments**,” says Mrs. Williams.

“Excuse me, but Mrs. Williams, shouldn’t we do our daily check in first?” Jonnie asks.

“Jonni, the **leader**. Always keeping me on track. Thanks, lady!” Mrs. Williams affirms.

The class does their daily check in and all of the students take turns sharing their “hot and cold” from the weekend.

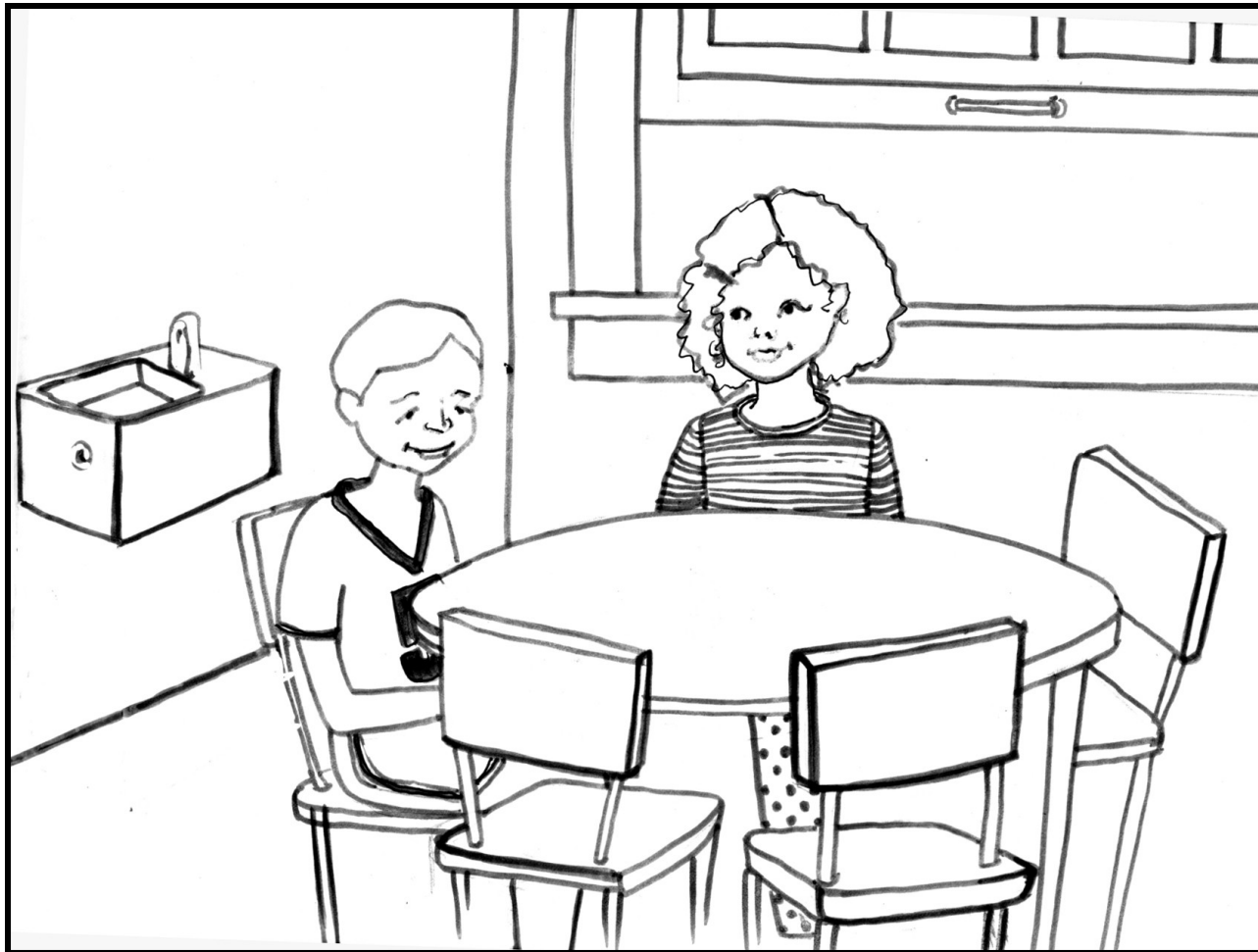


Chapter 2

Lunch Time

In the lunchroom Tray and Jonni sit down at their table by the window. Just like they do every school day.

They sit there because Jonni likes the sunlight and Tray likes that they are close to the drinking fountain.



The lunch lady, Ms. Wendy, welcomes everyone and explains the menu.

“Hello students. Today we are having a taco salad bar. When I call your tables please quietly wash your hands and then come to the salad bar to make your lunch. Don’t forget to take your fruit!” Ms. Wendy reminds the group.

“I love the taco salads!” Jonni tells Tray while they wait in line to wash their hands.

“Me too, but I don’t understand why we have to take one of the gross **bananas!**” Tray complains.

“Just eat it, **bananas** are good for you,” Jonni encourages Tray.

The two **friends** get their lunch trays, make their taco salads and take their **bananas**. When they get back to their table, they notice a new kid sitting there.

“This is our table” Jonni explains.

“I am sorry, today is my first day. I didn’t know where to sit,” the new kid nervously tells them.

Tray introduces himself. “Hi, I am Tray and this is my **friend** Jonni.”

“I am Frankie. I will move,” Frankie says as she stands up.

“Sorry, I remember you now. You are in Mrs. Williams’ **classroom**, right? During check in you said your ‘cold’ was moving out of your old house, right?” Jonnie asks.



“Yes. My family moved. I had to leave my school and come here,” Frankie says as she starts to cry. “I don’t have any friends and I don’t know anything about this school.”

Frankie picks up her lunch and starts to walk away.

“Wait,” says Jonni. “You should stay.”

Frankie smiles and says, “Really? Thanks!”

Frankie stays at the table and the three of them eat lunch together.

While they eat, Tray and Jonni tell Frankie everything she needs to know about their school, the teachers, the playground, and what to *not* eat from Ms. Wendy.

When lunch is over, Jonnie takes Frankie’s hand and walks with her to Mrs. Williams’ **classroom**.

Chapter 3

Welcoming Frankie

“Mrs. Williams,” Jonnie asks, “before we meet with Mr. Adams’ class for **Experiment** Day, can we welcome Frankie into our class and add her name to the poster?”

“Perfect idea Jonni, there you go showing your leadership again. That is very thoughtful,” says Mrs. Williams.

Everyone in the **classroom** introduces themselves to Frankie. They share their name, their favorite color and something unique about themselves.

Jonni says, “ Hi Frankie, you already know my name. My favorite color is magenta and my beautiful curly hair makes me unique”

Frankie tells the class all about her old school, the friends she left behind, and how she was feeling scared to come to a new school.

“I was nervous all morning, but I ate lunch with Jonni and her **friend** Tray and now I feel better,” Frankie explains to the class.

Jonni shows Frankie their class poster with everyone’s name on it. Frankie adds her name with a purple marker.



Jonni smiles because she feels good for being a **leader** and helping to welcome her new **friend** to their school.

Chapter 4

Experiment Day!

Mrs. Williams' and Mr. Adams' classes meet in the science lab for **Experiment** Day.

“Welcome to **Experiment** Day! I know you have been looking forward to these special activities for weeks!” says Mrs. Williams.

Jonni whispers in Frankie's ear, “Mrs. Williams has been looking forward to this since last year.”

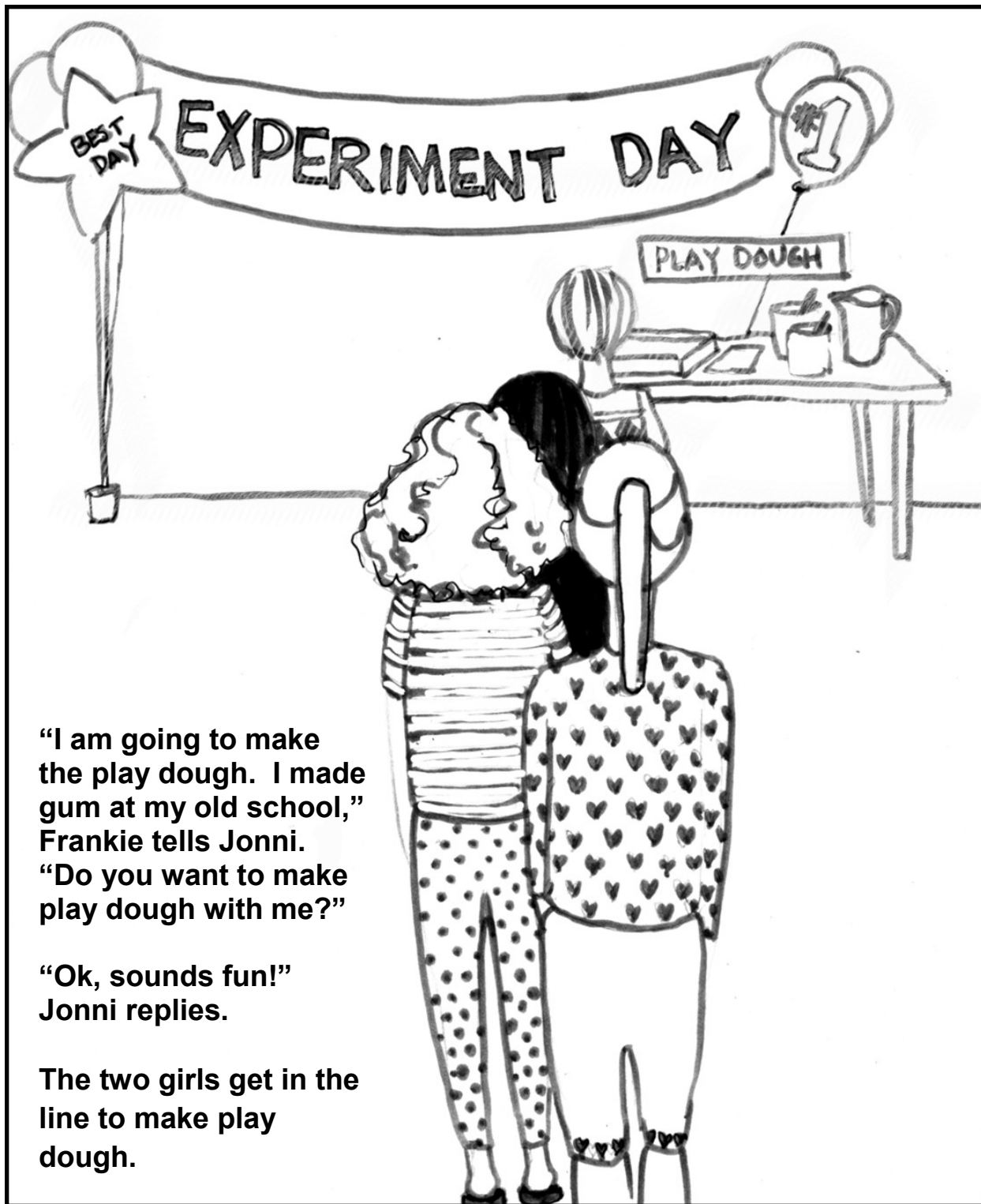
“What did you say?” Tray says quietly to Jonni.

“Nothing Tray! I was talking to Frankie,” Jonni snaps. “Be quiet before we get in trouble!”

Mrs. Williams explains the choices. “Today you will get to pick an **experiment**. You have two choices. You can either create your own play dough with me or make bubble gum with Mr. Adams.”

Mr. Adams tells everyone the rules. “When you finish your experiment, you will put it in a bag to bring home. You cannot chew gum in school and we don't play dough all over our school building.”

Mrs. Williams adds, “If everyone follows the correct steps and shares the supplies, we will probably have time for everyone to do both **experiments**.”



"I am going to make the play dough. I made gum at my old school," Frankie tells Jonni.
"Do you want to make play dough with me?"

"Ok, sounds fun!" Jonni replies.

The two girls get in the line to make play dough.

From across the room, Tray yells, “Jonni you are in the wrong line, remember we were going to make gum together!”

“I decided to make play dough with Frankie instead,” Jonni explains.

“What? We have been planning this all year!” Tray shouts.

Tray runs over to Jonni and pushes her.

“You are so mean Jonni, you promised me!” Tray screams.

“Do not push me! We can try both experiments!” Jonni yells back.

“I don’t care. I don’t want to do anything now!” Tray shouts and he runs away. Tray runs to a chair and puts his head on the table.

Jonni and Frankie turn around and see it is their turn to make play dough. The two girls look at each other and ask Mrs. Williams if they can leave the line to talk to Tray.

“Sure girls, that sounds like a good idea,” agrees Mrs. Williams.



The girls walk over to Tray and ask, "Tray, can we talk to you for a minute?"

"No, go away!" Tray demands.

“Tray, please listen to us,” says Jonni.

Frankie tries to explain, “Tray it is my fault, I asked Jonni to make the play dough **experiment** with me. I didn’t know you two had plans. I am sorry.”

“It is not ok to push me because you are upset Tray. You know I am your best **friend**,” Jonni adds.

Tray picks his head up off the table, looks at Jonni and asks, “Why did you ditch me?”

Jonnie says, “I didn’t ditch you, I just wanted Frankie to feel welcome at our school. That is what **leaders** do, they help people. Remember how you told me you helped your teammate in the soccer game?”

Frankie perks up and asks, “Tray will you come make play dough with us? If we start now we might have time to make the gum, too.”

“I want to be a **leader**, too. I was just sad because I thought you forgot about me,” Tray admits.

Jonni gives Tray a big hug and says, “I would never forget about you Tray, you are my best **friend!**”

Tray, Frankie and Jonni get back in line and make the play dough and gum as a team of three.

Chapter 5

The Bus Ride Home

When everyone finishes their **experiments**, the class makes a big circle in the science lab. They quietly answer reflection questions about Experiment Day in their journals. And then they share their thoughts with the rest of the group.

Frankie says, “Today was the best day ever, I want to be a scientist when I grow up!”

Mrs. Williams reflects, “Great job today! We all followed the rules and directions, worked together, and everyone was able to complete both experiments. I would like to give a special shout out to Jonni and Tray for welcoming Frankie to our school today! You both were great **leaders!**”

“That is because we are reading the book you gave us. We read a new story everyday on the **bus** ride home. Thanks, Mrs. Williams,” says Jonni.

Tray adds excitedly, “Yesterday we read a story about a seven year old girl who collected 987 winter hats for homeless people in her city. That’s a lot of hats!” School is over for the day, so everyone puts away their journals and leaves the science lab.

“Jonni!” Tray yells, walking down the hallway. “Mrs. Williams said we are **leaders!** We are **leaders!**” He is so excited he dances all the way to the **bus**.

“I really had fun today! I feel better about coming to school here. You two are funny and nice!” says Frankie as she gets on her **bus**.



Jonni and Tray get on their **bus** and sit in their seats.

“Hey Jonni, I am really sorry I pushed you today,” Tray says.

“It’s ok. I guess I understand why you did it. Just don’t ever put your hands on me again!” Jonnie warns him, jokingly.

“I definitely will not,” says Tray.

“Tray,” Jonni adds, “I am sorry, too. I was so worried about helping Frankie that I forgot about you and the plans we made.”

“I know you were practicing being a **leader** by helping Frankie. That is why I like you so much, you are a good **friend**,” Tray explains.

The two best **friends** smile at each other and lean in to read another chapter of their book together. Just like they do every other day on their **bus** ride home.




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