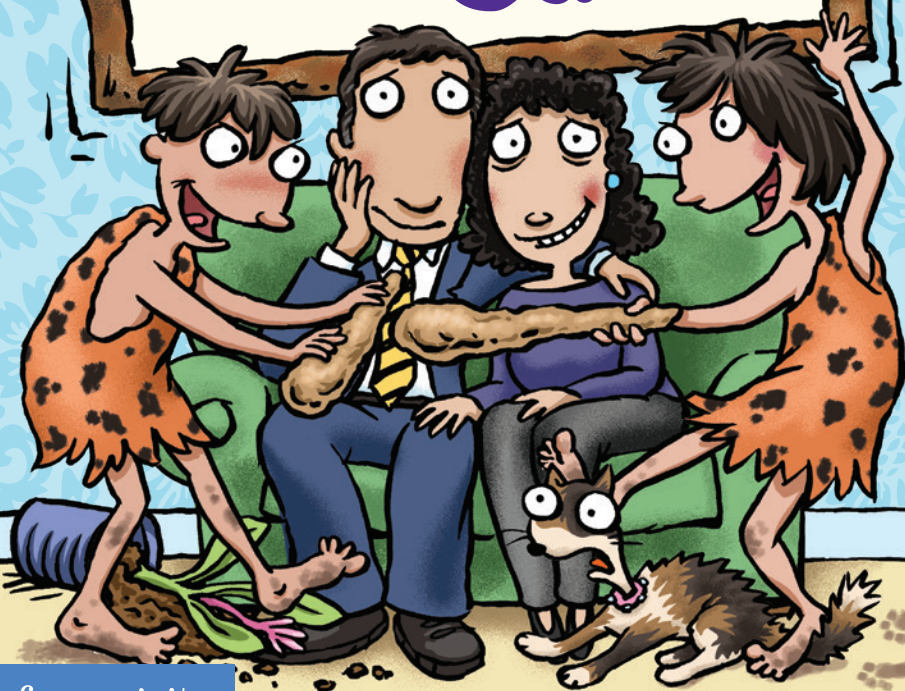


Laugh & Learn®

Don't Behave

Like You Live
in a Cave



free spirit
PUBLISHING®

Elizabeth Verdick • Illustrated by Steve Mark

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by Elizabeth Verdick

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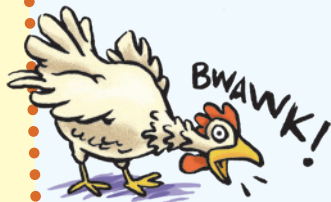
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Oh, Behave!

- Do other kids often give you the “What is *up* with you” look?



- Do people ever ask, “Were you born in a BARN?”

- Do adults say you “act up” or “act out”?
- Do they yell, “Why do you act like this?!” while pulling out their hair?



Maybe you tell them:

It's NO "act."
It's just how I am!
I CAN'T HELP it!

And maybe you secretly wonder:

Am I, like, a
PROBLEM CHILD?



Well, no. You're a great kid in many, many ways. But maybe you need to make smarter choices about how you behave at home and school. Why? So . . .

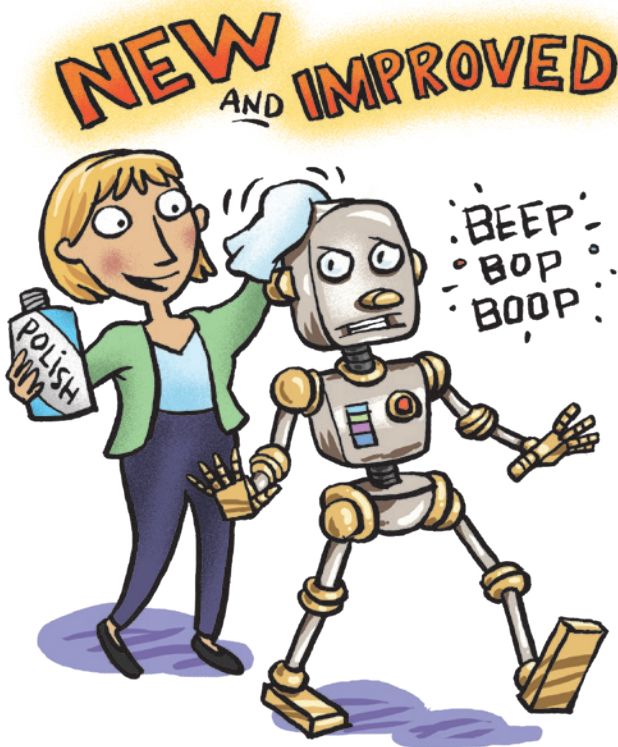
- 1.** You don't get in as much trouble. (That means more time for FUN.)
- 2.** You feel good about yourself and your choices.
- 3.** You get along better with family, friends, classmates, and teachers—and get along better in the world.

You wouldn't be the first kid who needs this kind of help, and you won't be the last. *Lots* of people have difficulty with their behavior at some point in life, for different reasons—adults included. You're not alone!

Chapter 1

What's the Big Deal?

This book isn't about turning you into a "perfect" person, a goody-goody, the teacher's pet, or some kind of **robot-kid**. Instead, it can help you take a look at how you act and how other people *react*. Do your actions help you—or do they hurt you? Keep reading to find out.



A Really Stupid Story



“There,” said Cave Girl. “I’m all ready.”

Cave Boy took one look at her and burst out laughing. *What was she wearing?* Her new animal-hide outfit looked stupid.

If there was one thing Cave Girl couldn’t stand, it was people laughing at her. She screamed “Wedgie!” and gave Cave Boy’s loincloth a yank.

Bang, bang, bang! Their cave-guests were at the cave-door. Soon they were all seated around a big stone table, their wooden clubs resting nearby. Cave Boy plunked down a plate of delicious cooked meat and said, “Dig in.”

Cave Girl grabbed the biggest piece and stuffed her face. Cave Boy started laughing at her again.

“Cave Girl,” he said, “you eat like a *Daeodon*.”*

“Are you calling me a stinky old hog?” she asked. She tossed the meat bone in the corner and glared.

“What if I am?” said Cave Boy.

Cave Girl lifted her club. “Shut up, or I’ll smash you!”

“I’ll smash you right back!” He grabbed his club.

The other cave-kids kept eating. That meat was really good.

Cave Boy and Cave Girl jumped up from the table, clubs raised. They chased each other out the door, yelling threats at the top of their lungs.



* A giant, monstrous prehistoric pig

No one in the cave made a move to stop them because, to be honest, things were easier without those two around.

Cave Girl and Cave Boy were so busy yelling insults at each other that they didn't notice BIG trouble just around the corner . . .

The End

(in more ways than one)



Quick Quiz

And the moral of that cave story is?

- (A) Watch out for hungry saber-toothed tigers.
- (B) Get yourself a really big club.
- (C) Don't behave like you live in a cave.

Answer: C. Easiest quiz ever.



What do Cave Boy and Cave Girl have to do with a modern kid like you? Glad you asked.

Cave Girl was big on wedgies and hitting people with her club. Cave Boy was always taunting people and making a pest of himself. What can you expect? They were Cave Kids—they hadn't evolved much.

You, on the other hand, are evolving quite nicely. But, like any kid, you sometimes do things that make adults go ARRRRGH! Soon, they're watching your every move (like hungry saber-toothed tigers). You don't need *that*.

You want the people in your life—grown-ups and kids alike—to look at you and think, “That is one cool kid.” Right?

Right.

Young man,
your behavior is
inappropriate!



Sound Familiar?

Uh-oh. You got caught doing something you weren't supposed to do.

Or, you got caught *not* doing something you *were* supposed to do.

Either way, it's trouble.

Trouble-makers

Using a whoopee cushion in class

Toilet-papering someone's house

Imitating the teacher

Writing rude jokes on the bathroom wall

Tripping kids in the hall

Farting on your sister

Making your brother eat a bug

Teasing someone in a mean way, then saying "Just kidding"

Making prank phone calls

Aw, I was
just messing
around.



But I
was MAD!

Hitting

Kicking

Poking

Punching

Pushing

Screaming

Swearing

Slamming doors

Making threats

Hurting animals

Damaging property (your
own or someone else's)



So? What's
the big deal?

Skipping chores

Avoiding homework

“Borrowing” money from parents without asking

Taking a friend's stuff without permission

Shoplifting candy or gum

Cleaning your room by shoving
everything under the bed

Telling rude & crude jokes

Criticizing

Complaining

Mouthing off

