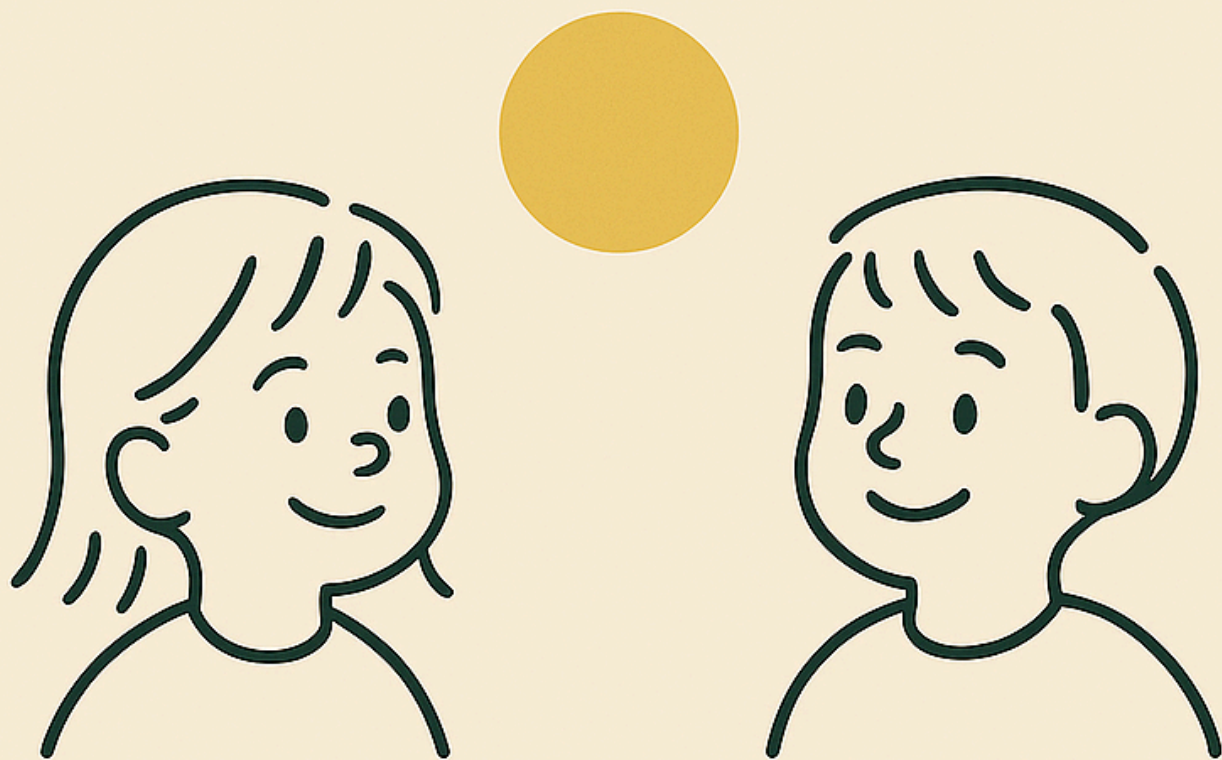


Written by
**Marcus
Young**

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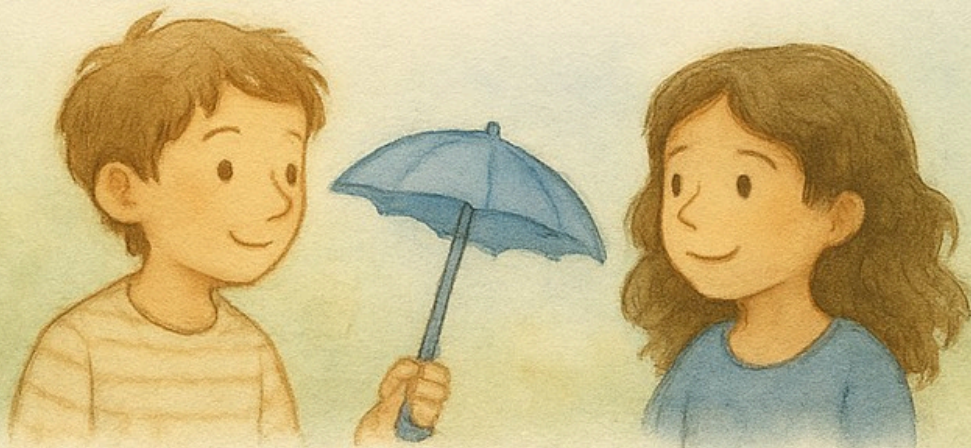


Preamble

Some stories help us see the world more clearly.
Others help us see each other more kindly.

It was inspired by a man named R.D. Laing, who believed that what we often call “strange” or “mad” might just be someone’s way of expressing feelings the world hasn’t learned to hear yet.

It’s about listening.



It’s about Remy, a boy who carries an umbrella on sunny days—not because he’s being silly, but because bright light and loud sounds feel overwhelming to him. It’s about Alia, a girl who chooses to sit beside him, ask questions, and truly listen.

The Boy with the Umbrella on Sunny Days



Written by
Marcus Young

In the town of Clearville,
weather forecasts were simple:
rain meant staying inside,
clouds meant wearing jackets,
and sunshine meant everyone went outside
to play, laugh, and enjoy the brightness.





Everyone, that is,
except for Remy.



On the sunniest days, when other children raced to the playground, Remy would slowly walk to school carrying a large blue umbrella. He'd open it wide above his head, even though there wasn't a cloud in sight.



“The sun feels too loud,”
he’d explain when asked.
“It’s like the brightness
is shouting at me.”



The other children would exchange glances.

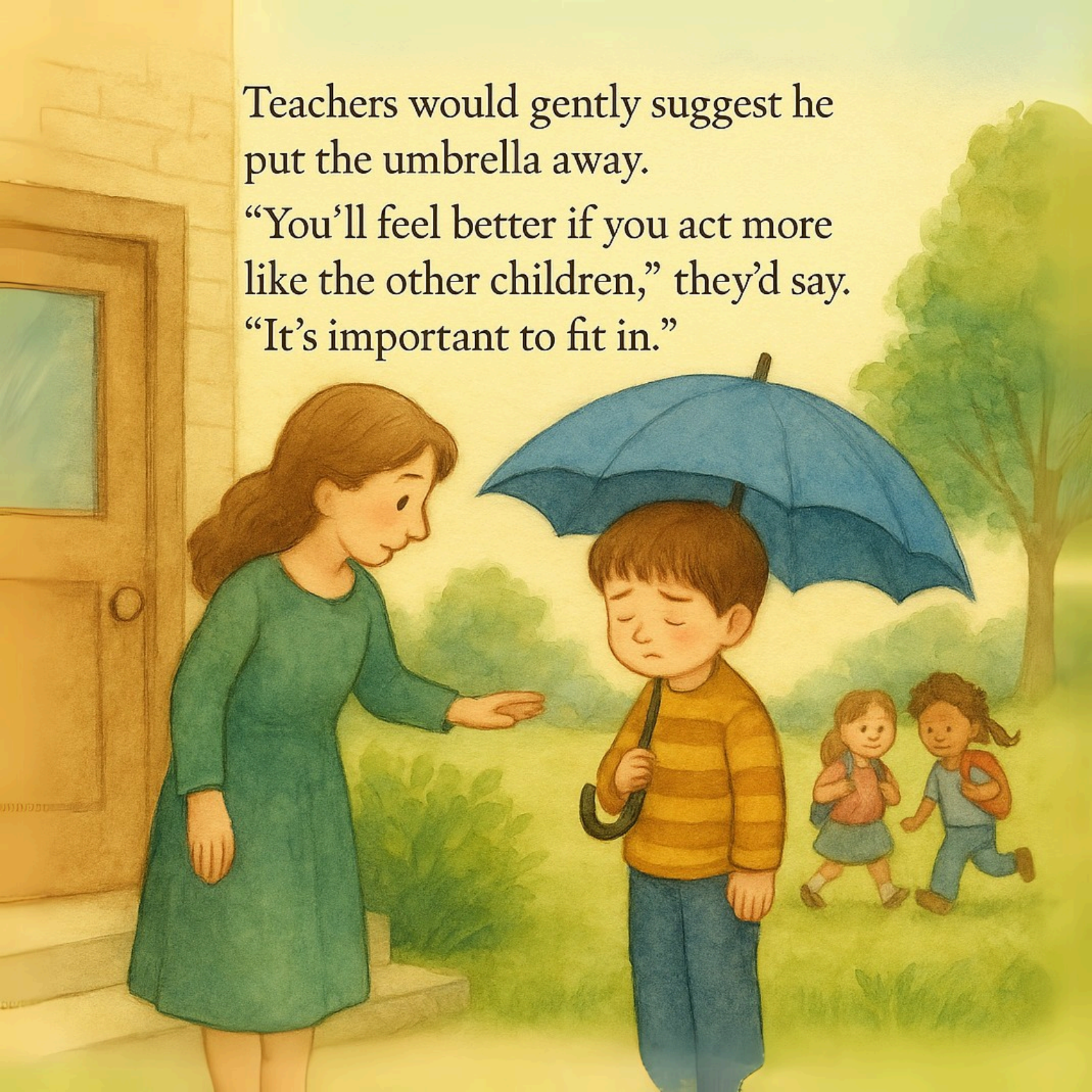
“But the sun doesn’t make noise,” they’d say, giggling behind their hands. “That’s just weird.”



Teachers would gently suggest he
put the umbrella away.

“You’ll feel better if you act more
like the other children,” they’d say.

“It’s important to fit in.”



Even Remy's parents worried.
“We just want him to be normal,” they
whispered when they thought he couldn't
hear.



Alia noticed. She sat behind Remy in class and watched how he relaxed when he could sit in the shadowy corner, how he flinched when the classroom got too bright or too noisy. She saw how he covered his ears during fire drills when others just held their hands over their hearts.

