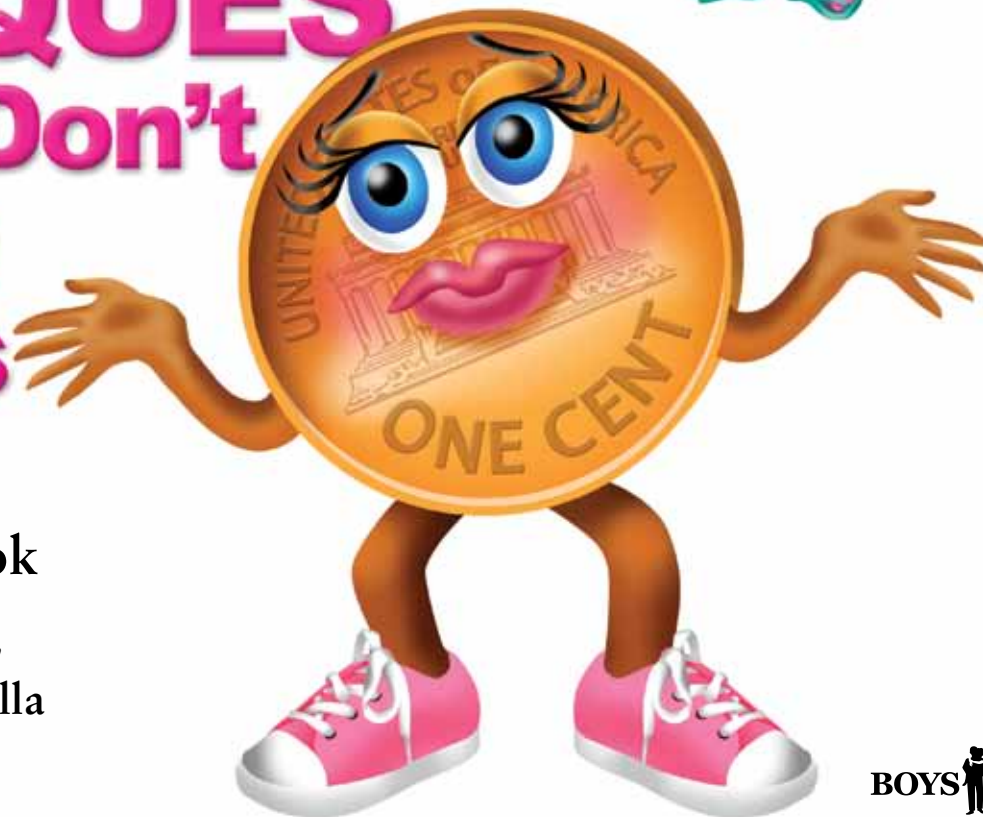


To Jennifer  
for always believing in me  
~ Julia



# CLIQUEES Just Don't Make Cents



Written by  
**Julia Cook**

Illustrated by  
**Anita DuFalla**



Boys Town, Nebraska

I hang out with the other coins.  
They are my friends ... well, kind of.

There's **Half Dollar** – she's bigger than me,  
and shinier than me.

All of the coins look up to her. She likes to  
tell everyone what to do and how to roll.  
She has cool ridges.



When we get stacked, **Half Dollar** is always on the bottom.  
She says it's because she's worth the most.



**Nickel** is my best friend, but sometimes she hangs out more with **Dime** and **Quarter** than she does with me.

I try to hang out with the silvers.

I do everything that **Half Dollar** tells me to do, and I try to roll like the others.

But since I don't have ridges and I'm not silver, I just can't seem to roll like they do.

**Nickel** can't roll like the rest of the coins either, but since she's silver, it's easier for her.





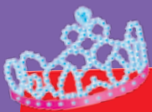


**Dollar** grabbed a handkerchief that was in the pocket with us, and taught me how to give myself a shine.

“If you’re going to roll with me, you have to believe in yourself, and you have to be proud to be different!”

When I got done polishing up, I hardly recognized myself!  
Then, the coolest thing happened ... not only did I shine on the outside,  
I felt shiny on the inside too!



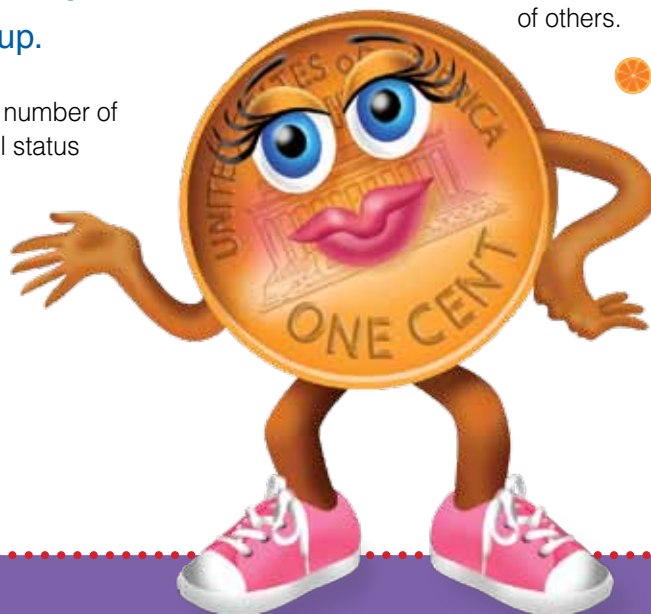


## Tips for Parents and Educators



**Cliques are everywhere** – from the childhood playground to the adult workplace. They are a part of human nature in every society and have existed since the beginning of mankind. Unlike a friendship group, where members often welcome other people to join in, a clique will have a strict code of membership and member expectations. People belonging to a clique will often only associate with other clique members. In comparison, a regular “group of friends” is open to members socializing with those outside of the group.

People join cliques for a number of reasons including: social status and acceptance, fear of being left out, opportunities to be in control of others, and having the security of being in a place where the rules on “how to act” are clearly defined.



Cliques are very hard for EVERYONE (those on the inside and those on the outside), and they are not going away...so here are a few tips on how to deal with them:

- Teach children to maintain their sense of self-worth and get in touch with their own values, interests, and opinions.
- Help kids understand that a clique is not all that it seems. Many times the leader and members of a clique are insecure and unhappy. Members may also choose to belong because they are too scared to leave.
- Encourage kids to participate in activities that make them feel good about themselves.
- Help the Pennies, Dimes, and Nickels of the world to look outside the clique to find other friends.
- Encourage all children to develop a strong sense of self and to form their own opinions of others.
- Create a safe environment (at home and in school) where kids are encouraged to include everyone and cliques are not validated.

For more parenting information, visit:

  
from BOYS TOWN.