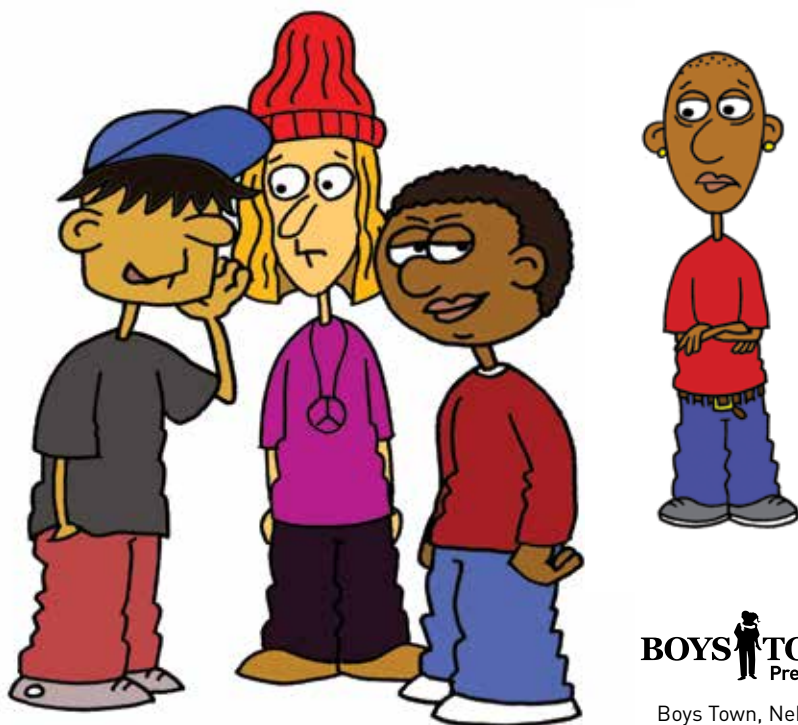


# THE POWER OF A POSITIVE NO

Willie Bohanon & Friends Learn the  
Power of Resisting Peer Pressure

Written by  
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**BOYS TOWN**  
Press

Boys Town, Nebraska

Willie has shown me a lot of courage  
and I wish I could say the same for a few of his friends.



They are letting others influence them in a bad way,  
but that's not how this story ends.

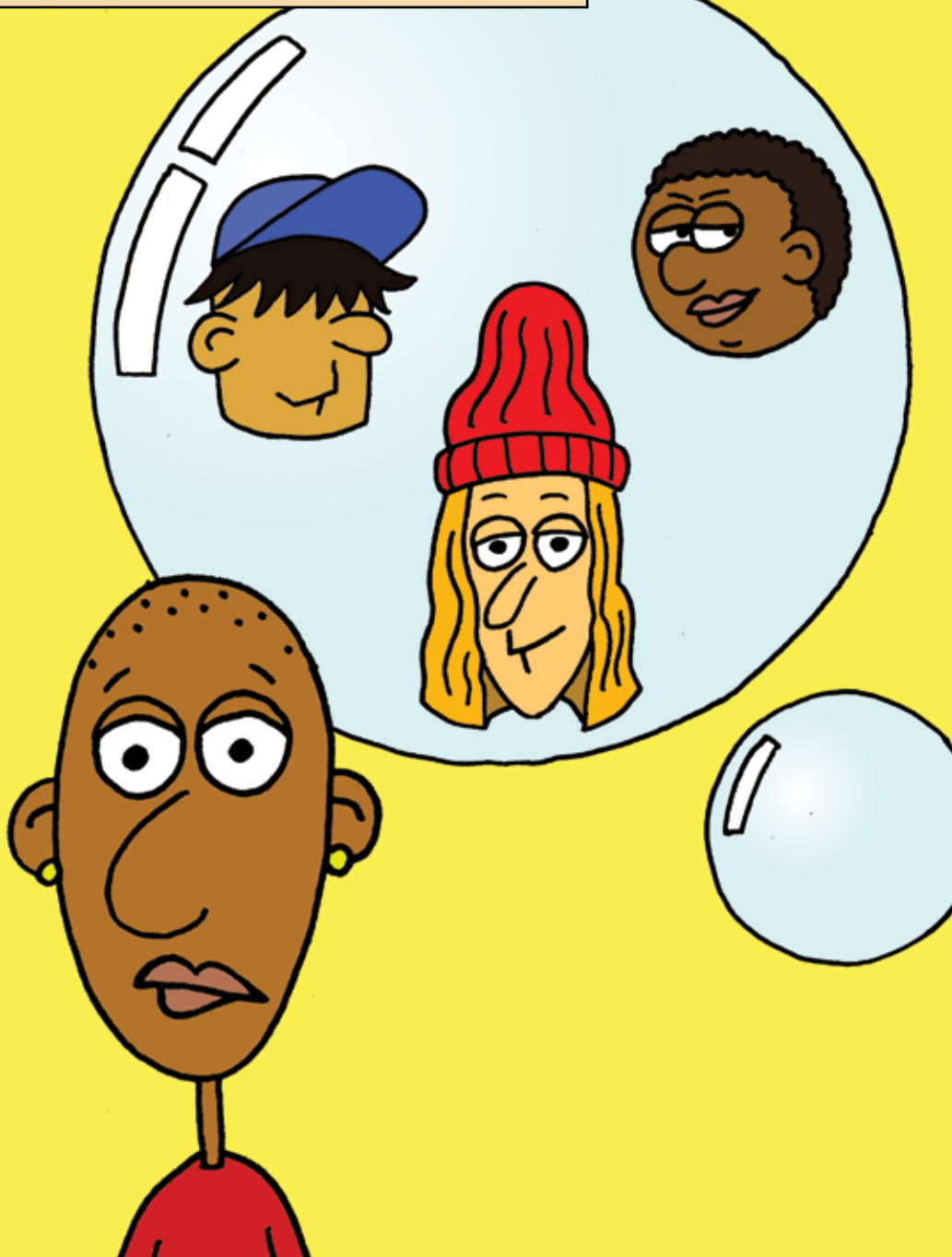
It all started when Willie was playing basketball at the Rec Center and he saw Derf with some other boys shooting pool.



This worried him because Derf was failing all his classes and getting into a lot of trouble at school.

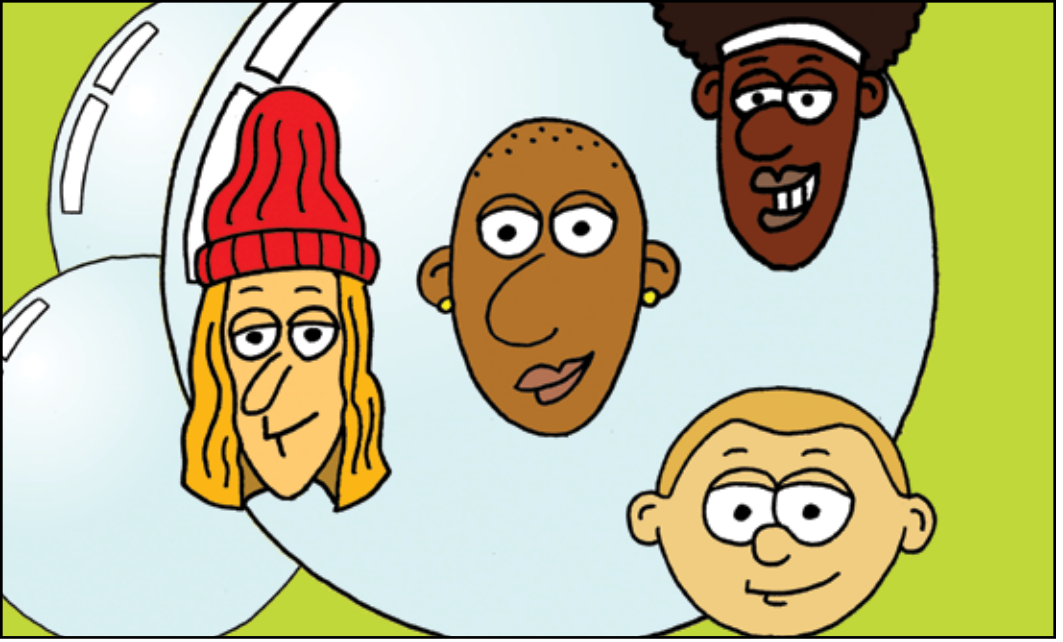


Willie knows peer pressure from friends can sometimes lead to trouble.



He worried now about Derf's choices and the new people in his **FRIENDSHIP BUBBLE.**

Willie learned about a **FRIENDSHIP BUBBLE** in Guidance class from Mr. Jones, also known as Mr. J.



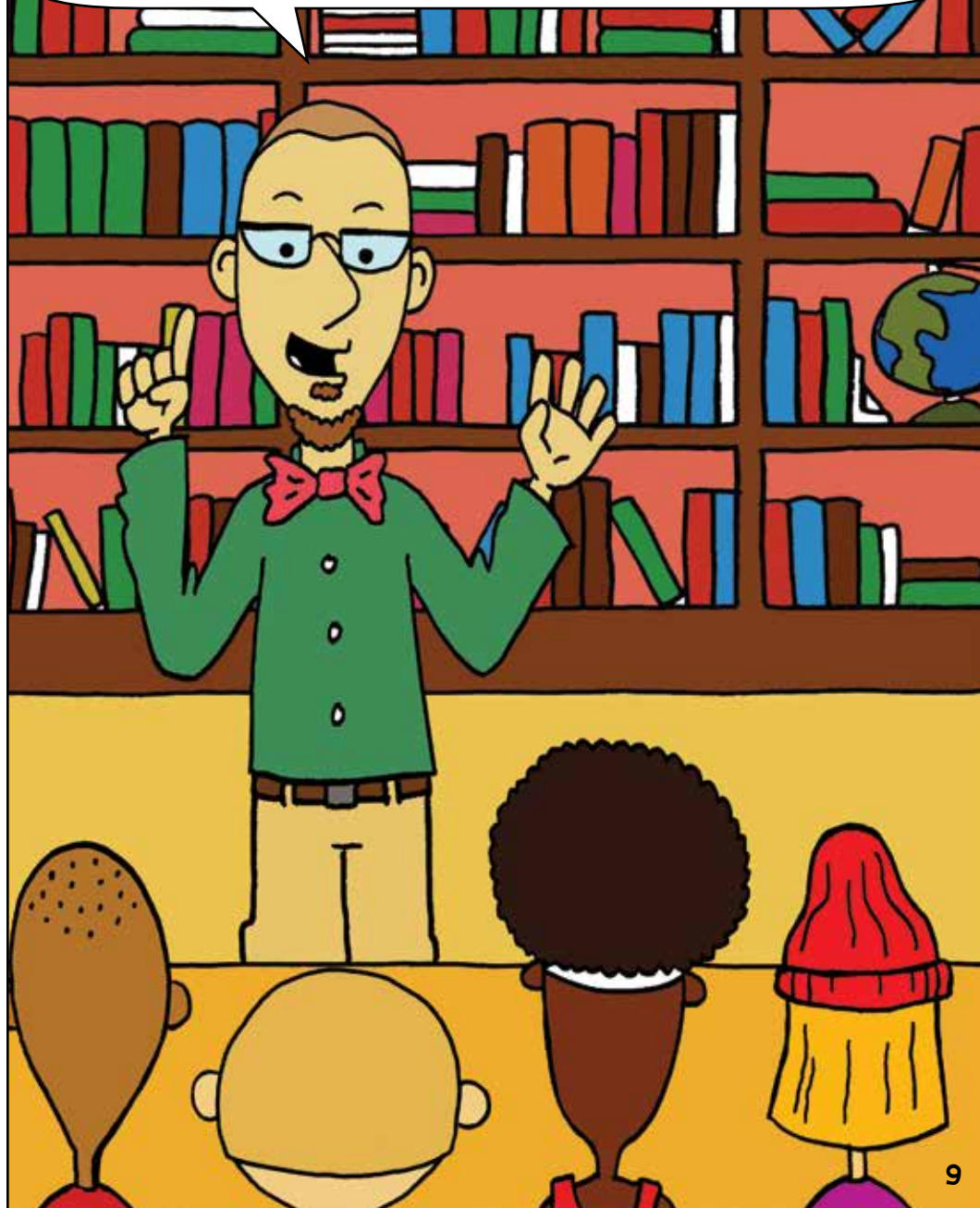
He told the class,

You need to be careful because people can influence you and lead you astray!

A **FRIENDSHIP BUBBLE** is made up of close friends that you hang out with the most. They are not just people you know or see sometimes on your Social Media posts.



They should be trustworthy, caring and always accept you for who you are.  
So surround yourself with friends like this and in life you will go far.



Derf seemed to be slowly letting these guys influence him and enter into his bubble.

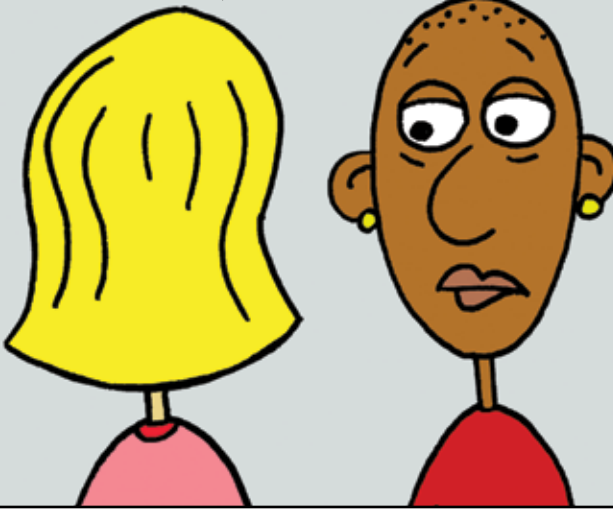


I'm afraid with the choices they are making he is going to get himself into **BIG TROUBLE.**

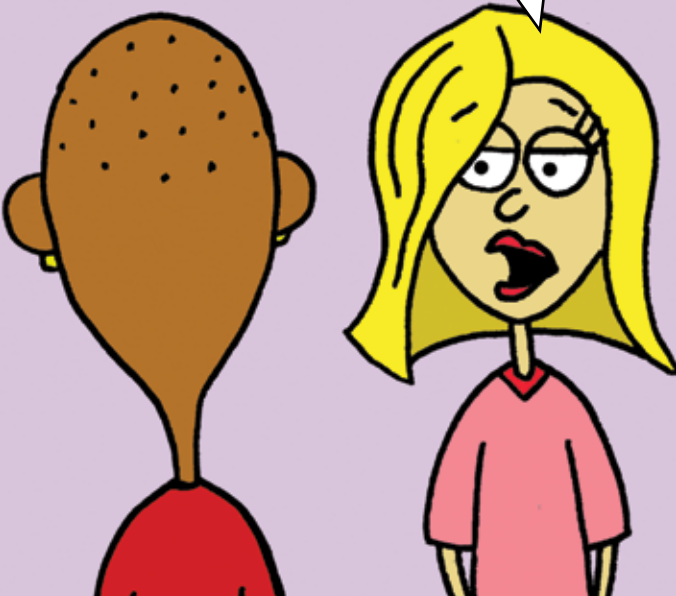


Derf's stepsister, Chelsey, told Willie,

Those boys are always trying to get me to cover for them and lie.



Just like the other night when Derf brought some pills home they wanted him to try.

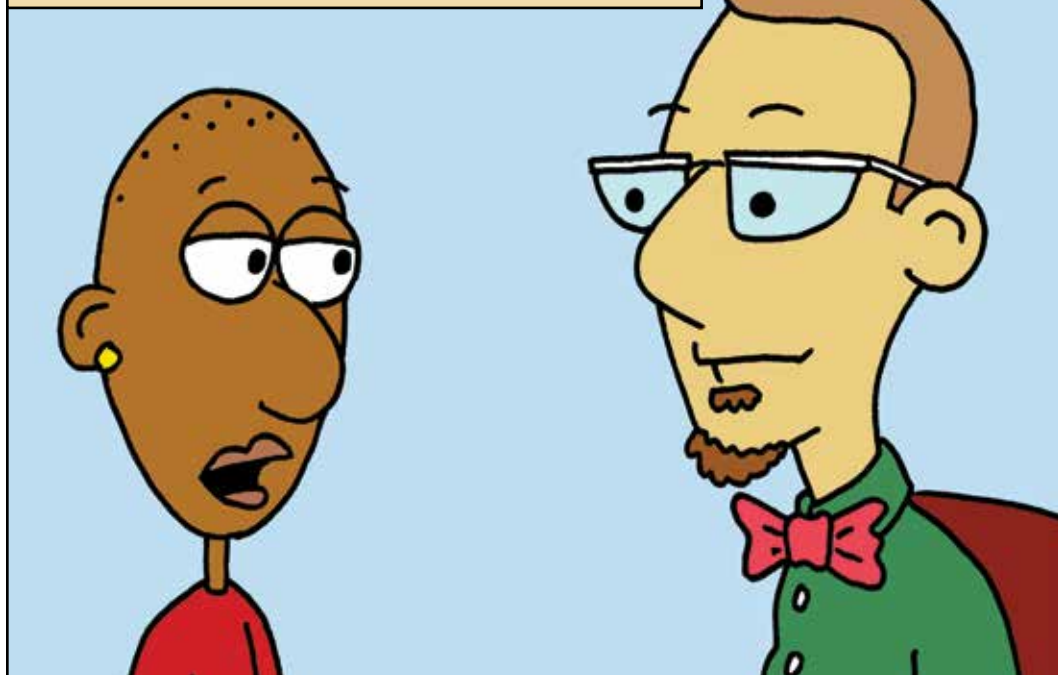




Mr. J just has one class on Fridays so students can come to his office if they need advice.  
So Willie went to talk with him that next day, not just one time, but twice.



The first time he went by himself to let Mr. J know everything he knew.



The second time was with Derf, Chelsey and Bernard, because it was the right thing to do.



Mr. J spoke to each one individually...



Derf said,

My step dad is only mean when he hangs out with Al K. Hall and "Pills" McGhee.

It seems like he is a totally different person when it's just those three.



Mr. J replied,

The people you hang out with can influence how you act.  
We like to call it **PEER PRESSURE**, Derf, and it's a well-known fact.

Which brings me to my next question about  
the new friends you have made.  
Tell me about the pills you received, because  
that makes me very afraid!

