

Don't Behave Like You Live in a Cave

by Elizabeth Verdick

Illustrated by Steve Mark



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Oh, Behave!

 Do other kids often give you the "What is up with you" look?

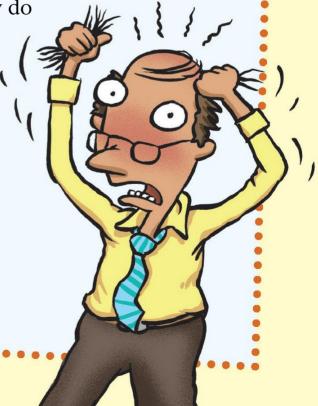


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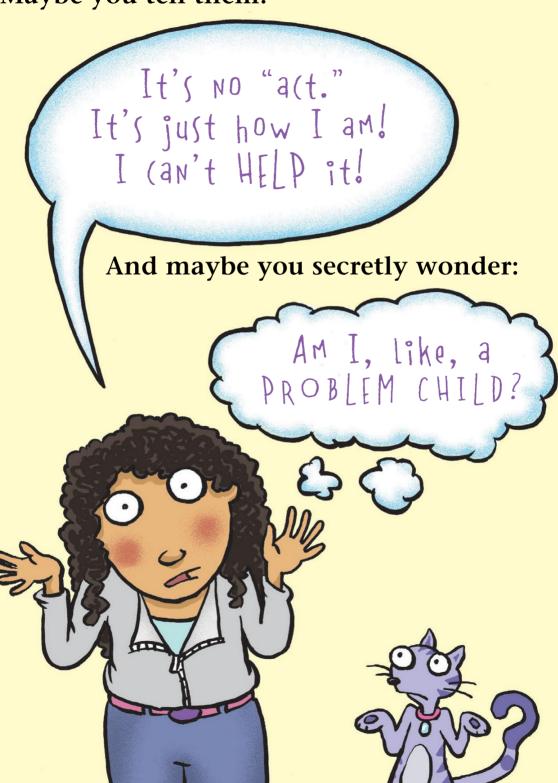
 Do people ever ask, "Were you born in a BARN?"

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:



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.



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