

**A BRIDGE  
NAMED  
AMOS**

**written by Rick Yarosh**

**illustrated by Kevin Cannon**

**a book by Sweethearts & Heroes**

## **A BRIDGE NAMED AMOS**

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**GOOD!  
MORNING!**



**GOOD!  
MORNING!**

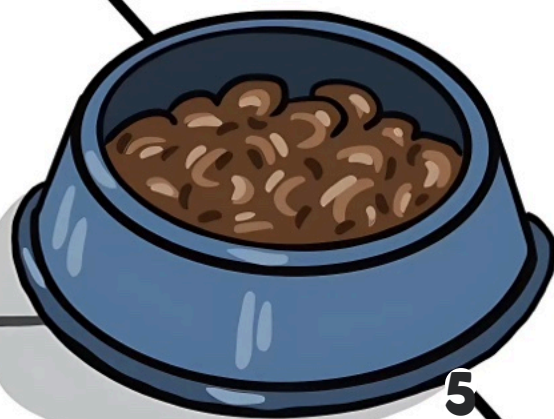
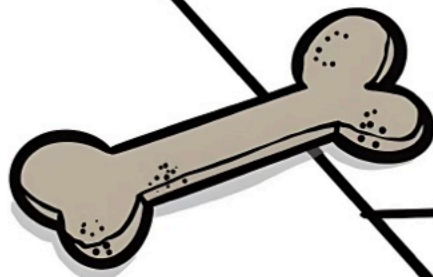
**GOOD!  
MORNING!**

**Oh, wait... is it morning?**

**Maybe it's NIGHTTIME!**

**Or is it the middle of the day?**

**Oh well, I'll just start by saying –  
HELLO! My name is AMOS, and I'm  
a black LABRADOR RETRIEVER!**






**When I was born,  
I was meant to  
be a SERVICE  
DOG!**

**Do you know  
what that is?**

**A service dog is trained to  
HELP PEOPLE with many  
different things.**

**I have a year and a half  
of training ahead of me to  
learn how!**





**Training is hard  
work but so  
much FUN!**

**I've been training for a  
year already, and today is  
my first birthday!**

**My birthday is on  
CHRISTMAS DAY!**

**I only have six more  
months before I'll be an  
ACTUAL service dog!**





**I am learning some amazing things, like how to turn the lights on AND off.**

I am even going to learn how to

**CALL 9-1-1!**

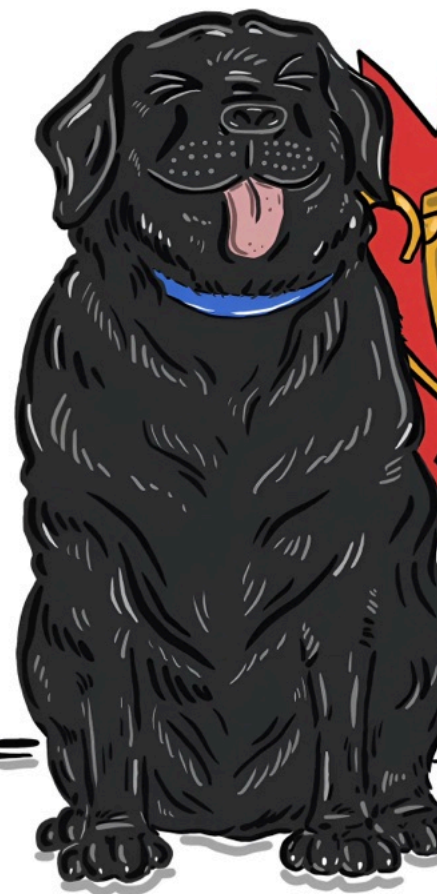


Once I'm done  
training, I'll be the

**BEST**

service dog

**EVER!**





**I can't wait  
until I meet the  
person that I  
am going to help  
for the rest of  
my life.**

**I just found out today  
that when I graduate,  
the person I will be  
helping is a**

**SOLDIER.**

**My trainer said he got  
hurt pretty badly... I  
can't wait to meet him!**



**Just ONE  
more month  
to go!**



**WOW! Training went SUPER fast.**

**I'm one and a half years old  
already; I can't believe it's**

**GRADUATION DAY!**

**But I feel something a little weird.  
I actually feel nervous about  
meeting my person today.**

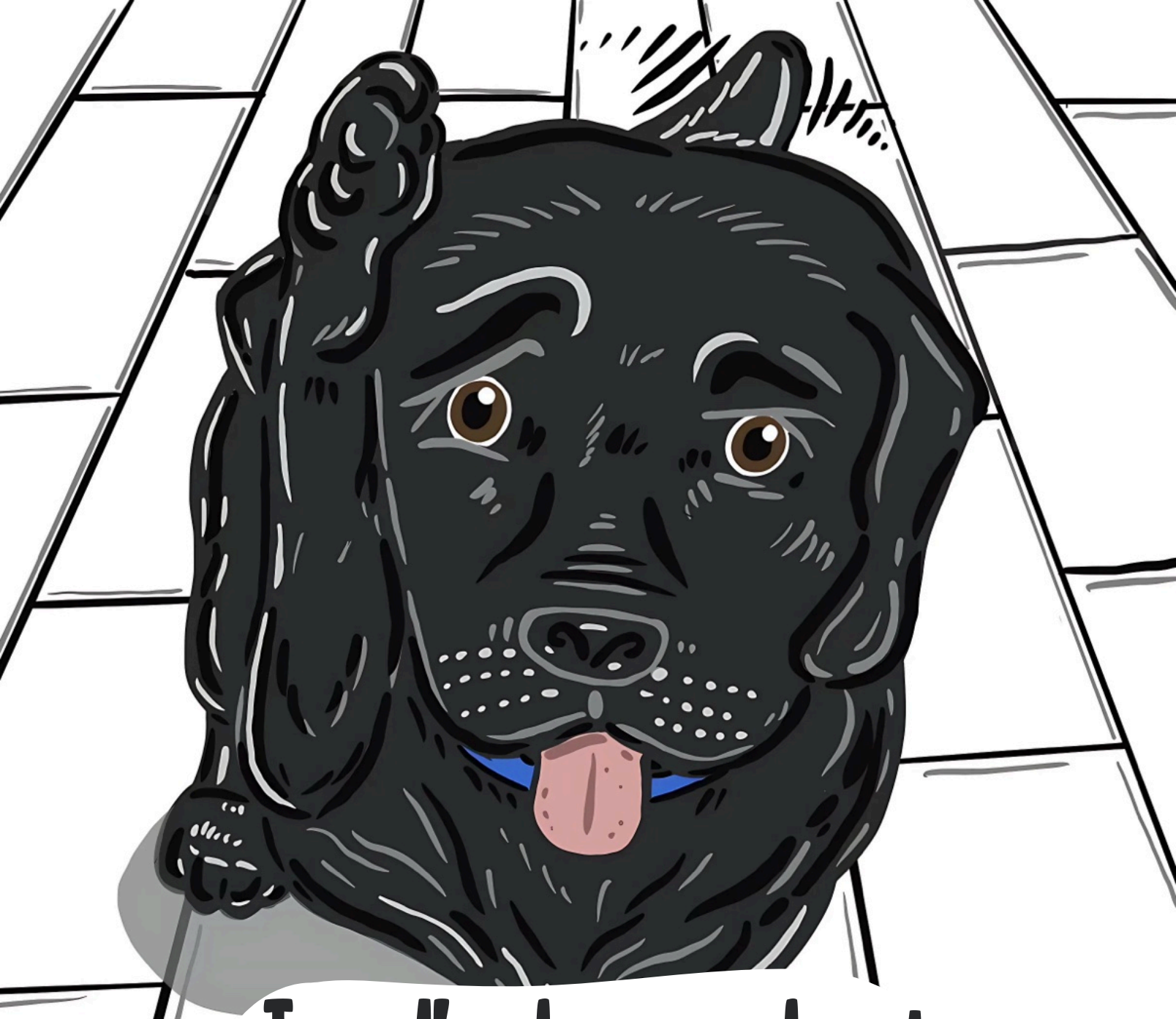
**I've trained a year and a half for  
this moment, but – I'm ANXIOUS!**

**When I watched the soldier walk in, I saw  
he had a WICKED AWESOME ROBOT LEG!  
I've never seen one before, but I wasn't  
nervous anymore; I knew that we would be  
perfect together!**

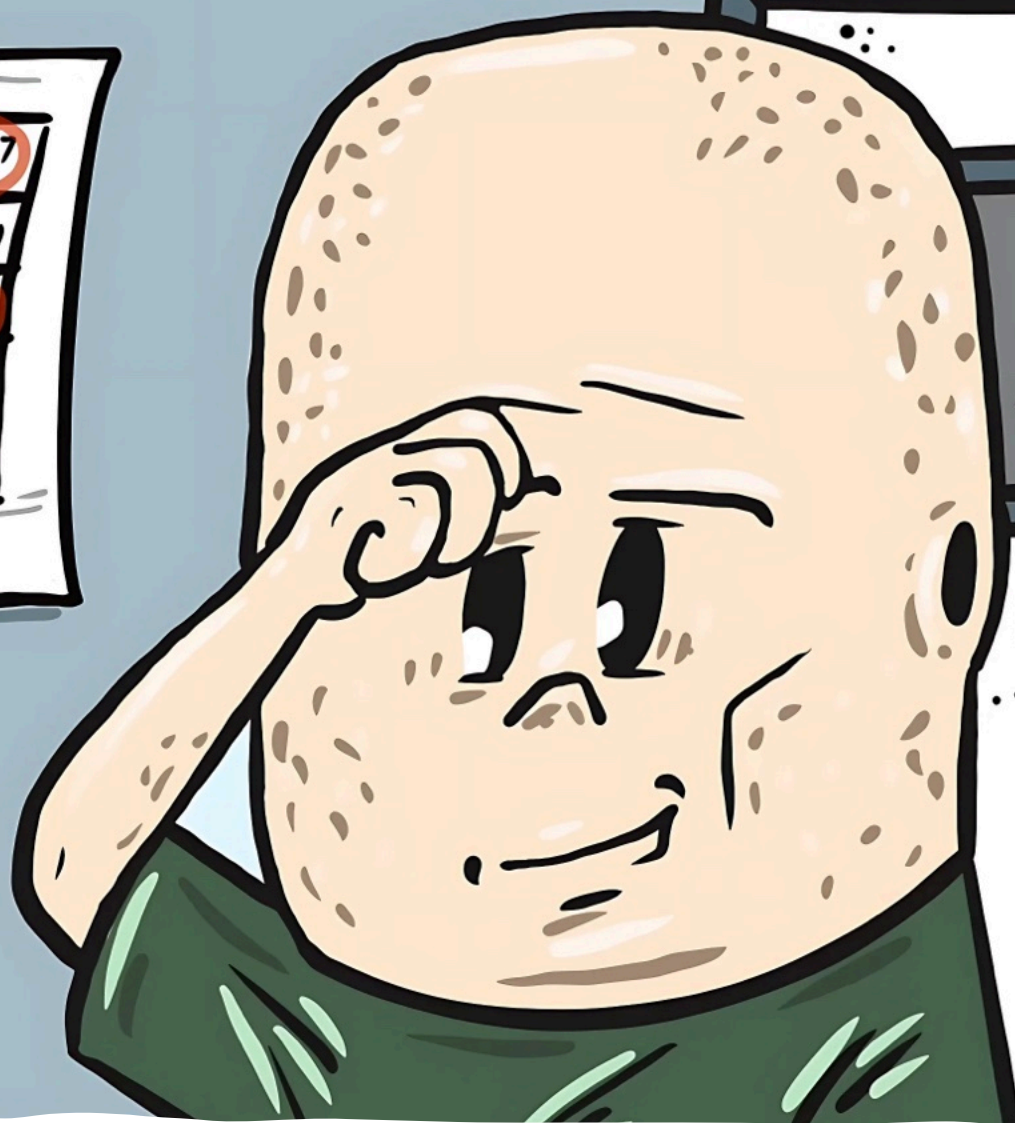




**He looked a little sad, but I knew  
I could make him feel better.**



**I walked up and sat  
in front of him.**



**I know one thing soldiers do is salute, so that's what I did – I gave him a big SALUTE!**

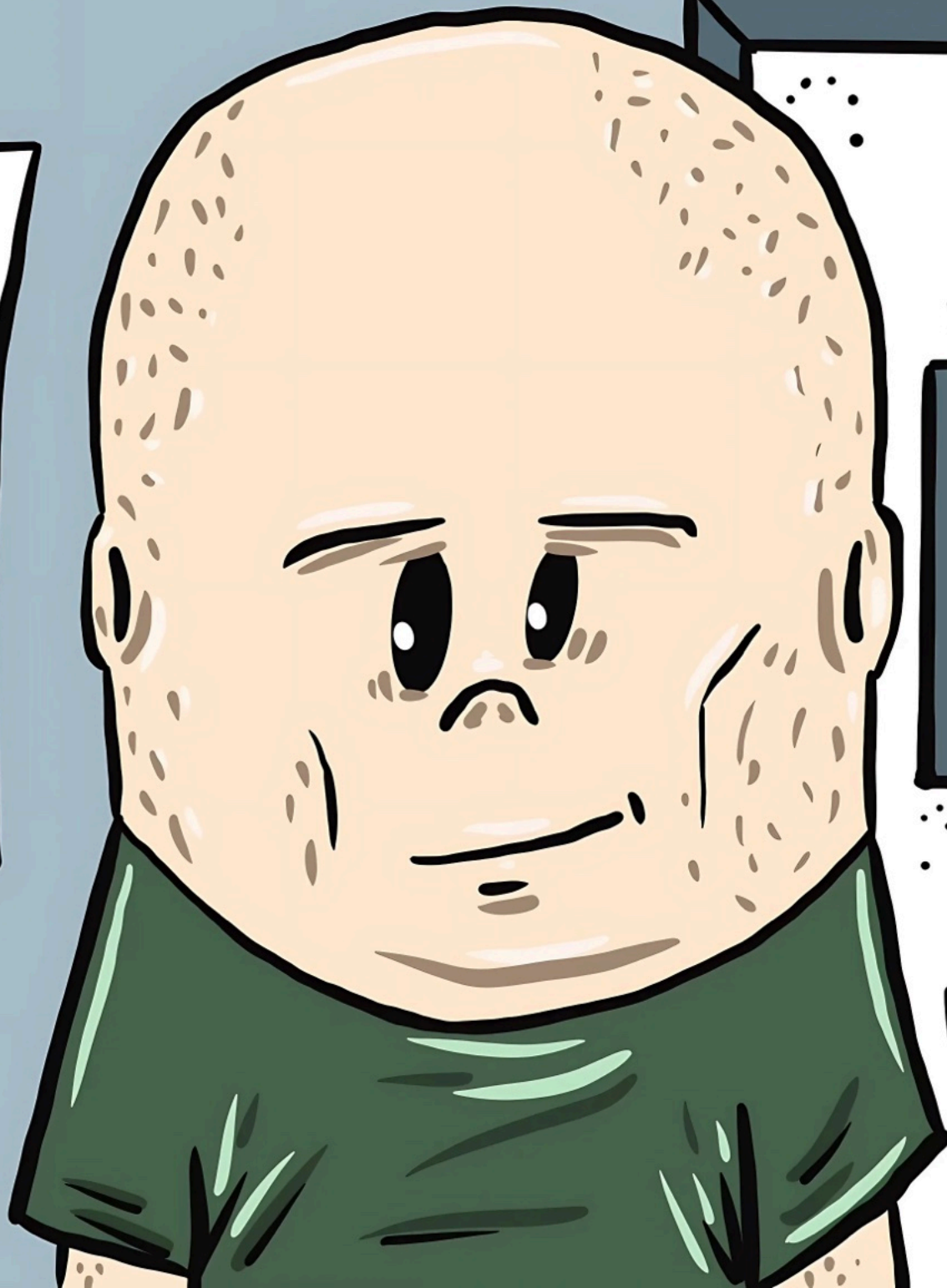


**When the soldier saluted back, I noticed his hands looked very different from the hands I was used to seeing with the people who trained me.**

**It looked like he couldn't  
even open them.**



**I was even more  
excited because  
I knew I could  
HELP him!**





**The soldier's face looked  
different, too.**

**I wonder if that's why he  
looks sad... Maybe people  
say mean things about him...  
Or maybe they stare...**

**But that's okay. I knew I  
could help. I would LOVE him  
because that's what dogs  
are born to do.**

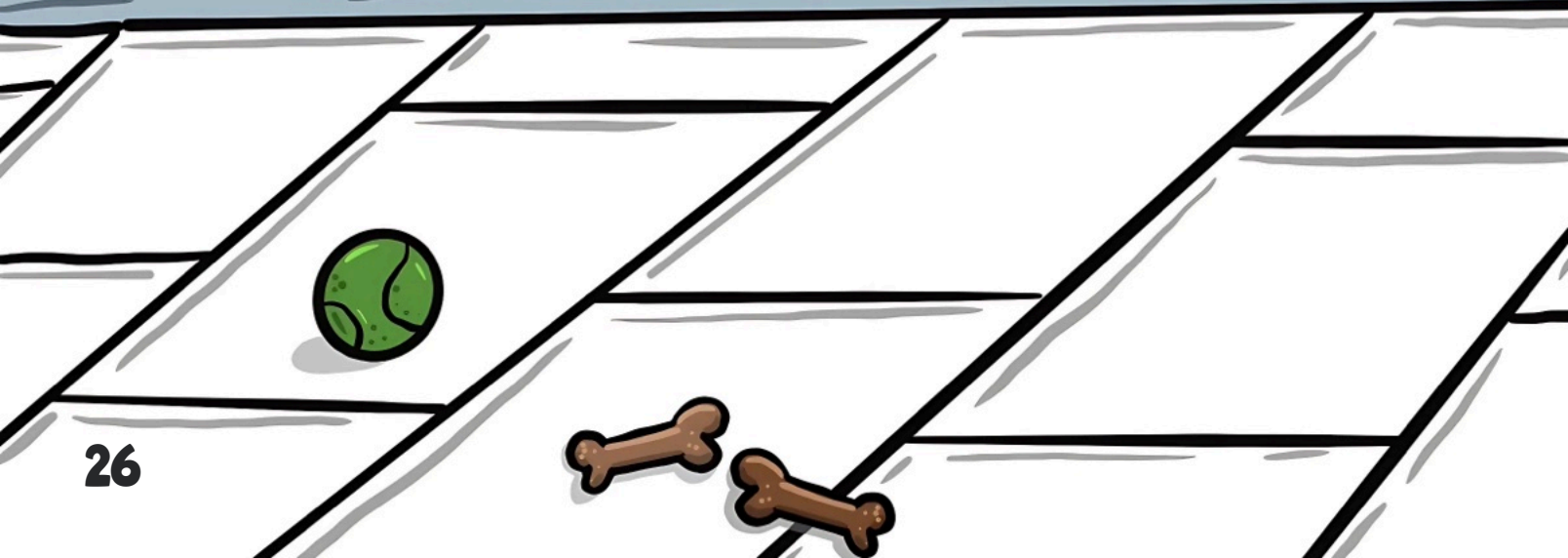



**One of my trainers came up  
and introduced us.**

**“Rick, this is Amos, and Amos,  
this is Rick.”**

**His name is RICK! What a  
WONDERFUL name.**

**Rick looked at me and said,**





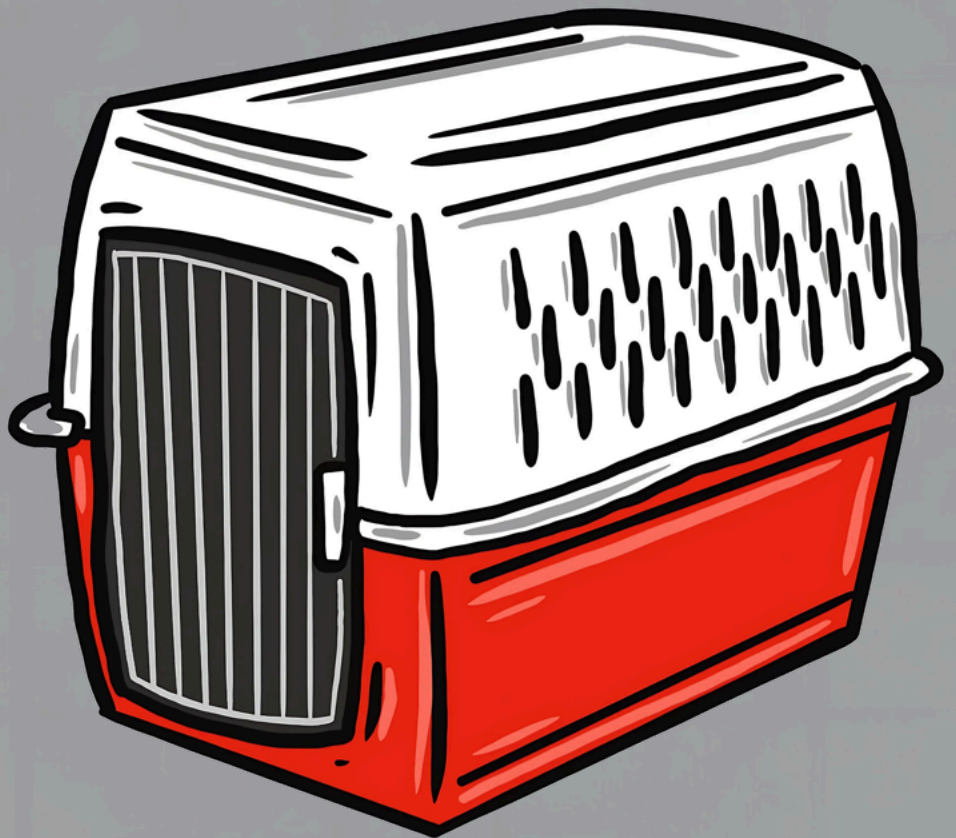
**“Hello, Amos. You look like such a good boy!”**

**I AM a good boy! It's true!**

**Rick took me home with him and showed me around the house.**

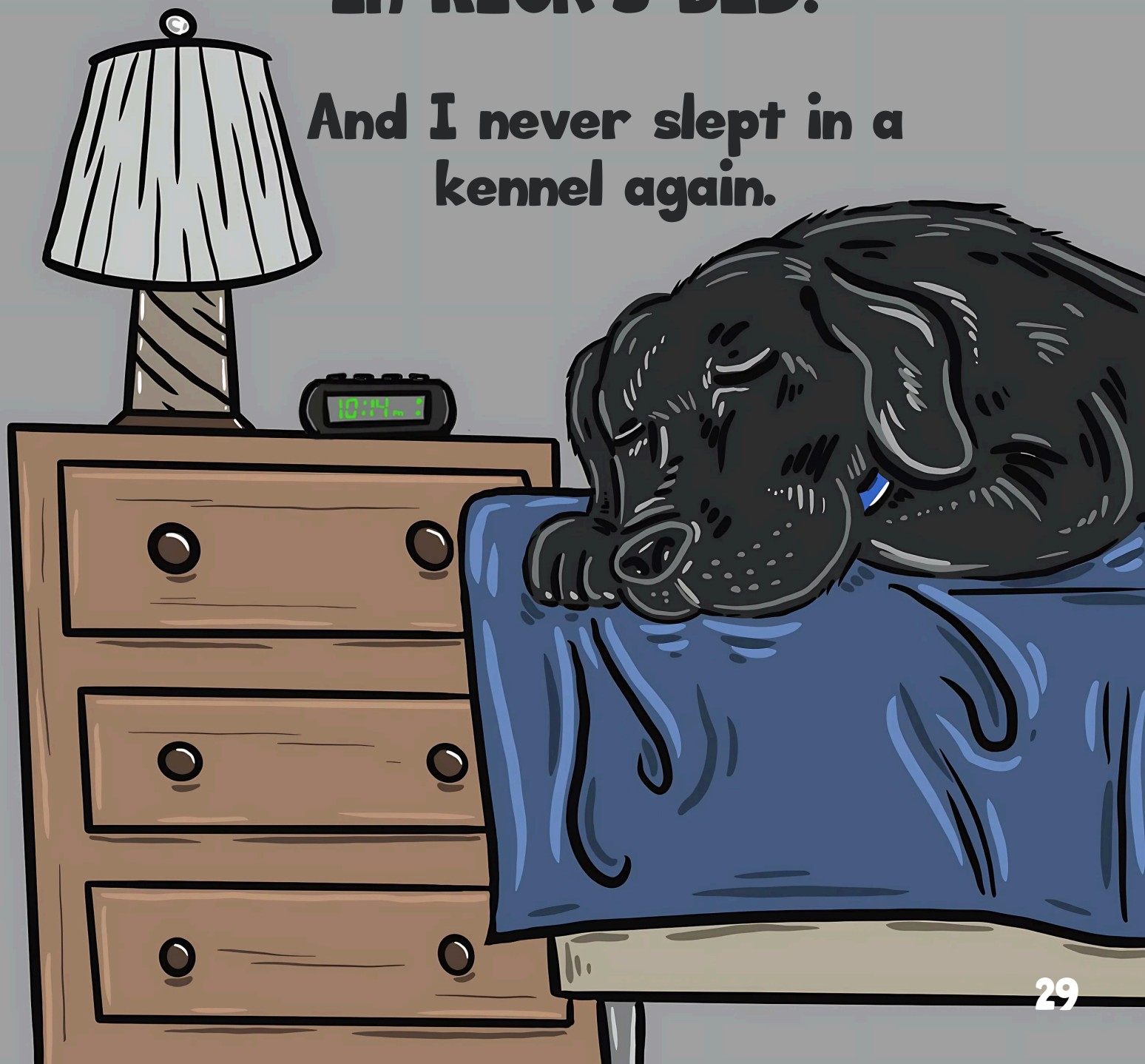
**He showed me my kennel, where I would sleep at night.**

**I slept in a kennel every night when I was training, but that first night, when it was bedtime, guess where I slept?**

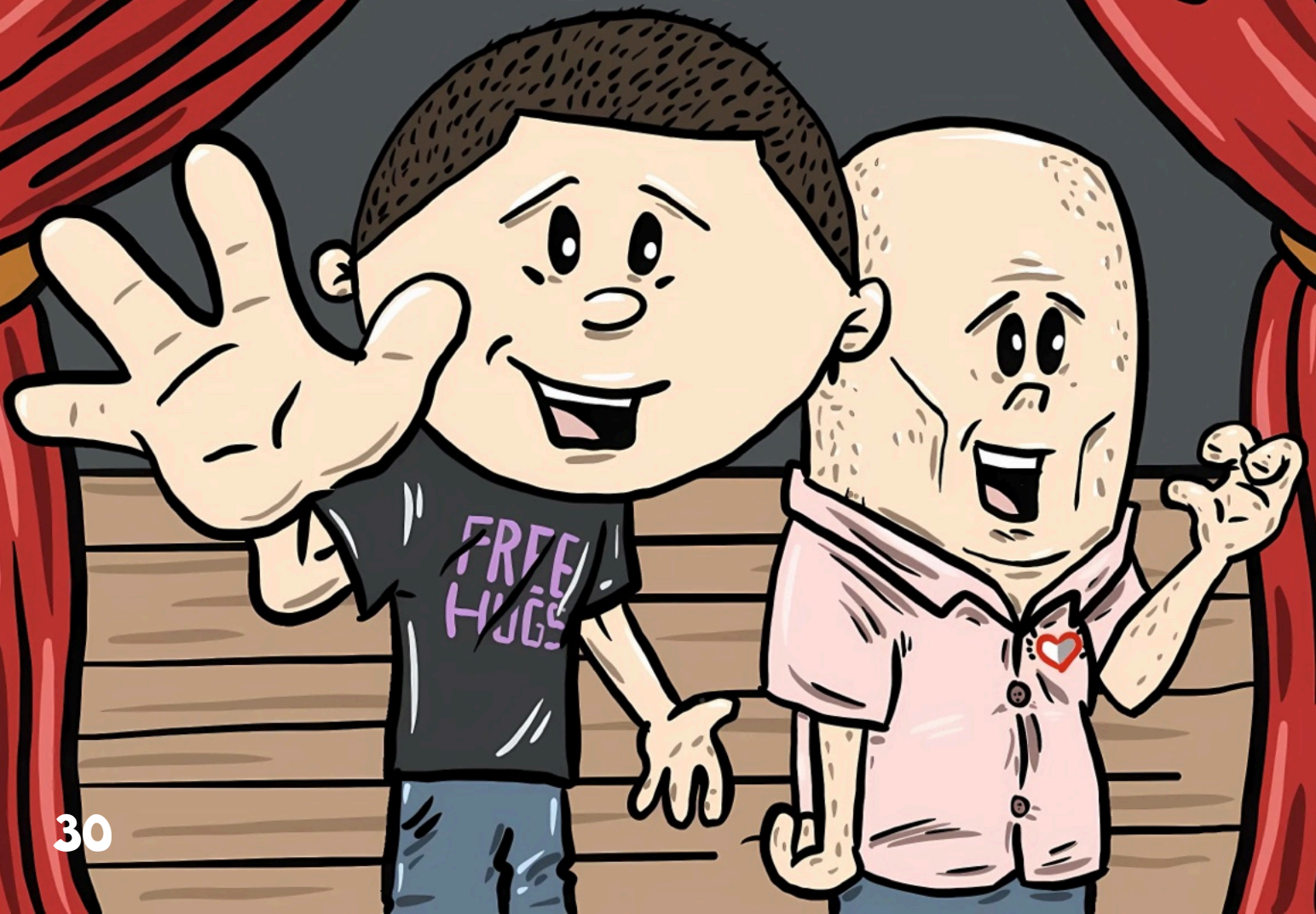



**In RICK'S BED!**

**And I never slept in a  
kennel again.**



**I found out what  
Rick did for a job.**





**One day, we went to a school. Rick and his friend, Tom, went into a big auditorium that was FULL of teenagers.**

**I was amazed to hear his story of how he got hurt and how he was able to be very strong to get better.**

**He told stories about HOPE (he said it meant Hold On, Possibilities Exist), and about these people called Sweethearts & Heroes!**



**He told the students that Heroes  
are people who HELP others.**

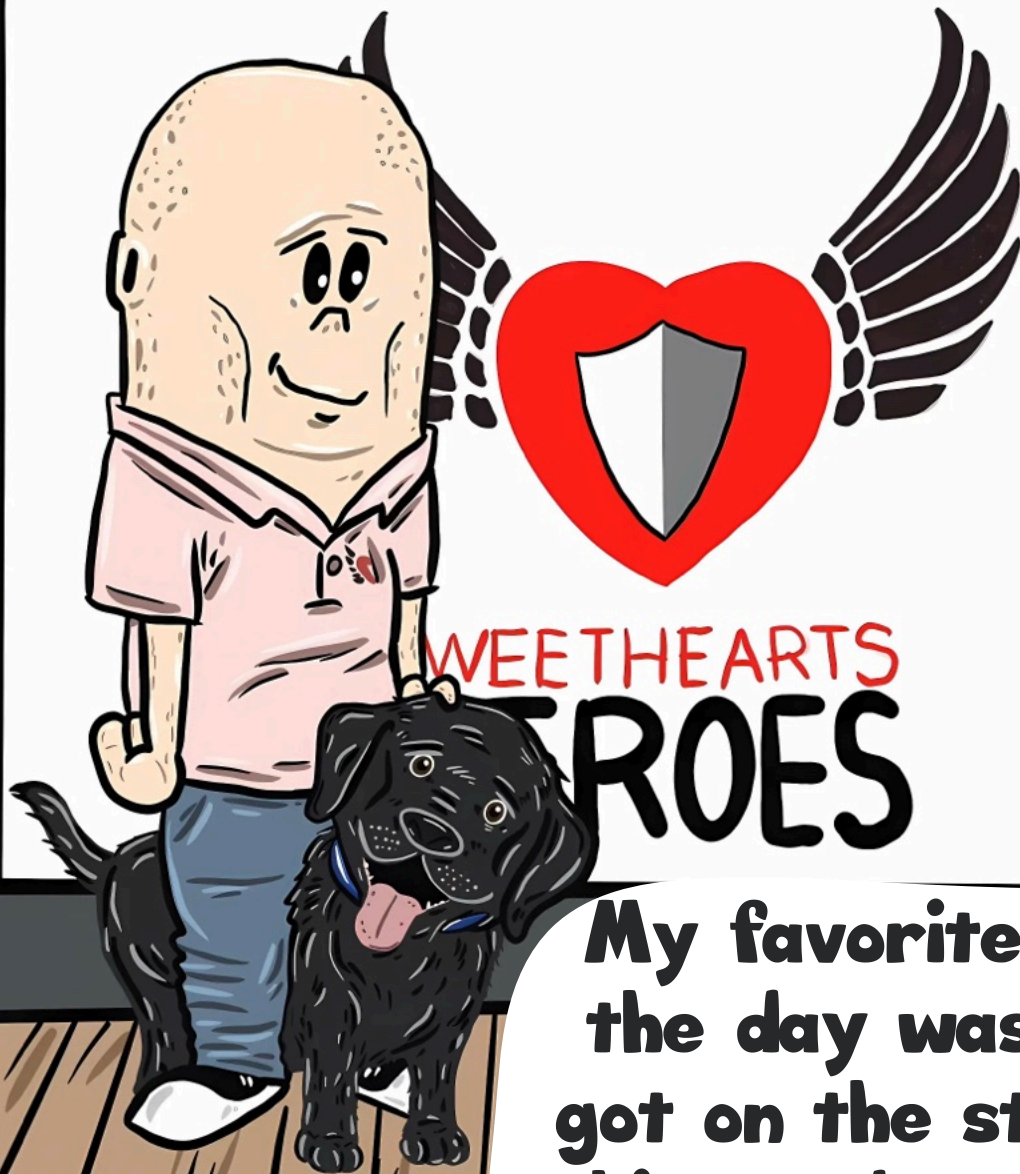
**I thought that was funny because  
Rick called ME a Hero. I'm not a  
person, but dogs can be Heroes,  
too!**



**Maybe tonight, when we  
get home, I can help  
him take his socks off.**



**He doesn't really  
need help with that,  
but he knows how  
much I like doing it!**



**My favorite part of the day was when I got on the stage with him, and we showed the students some of my tricks!**

**I showed them my salute and  
how I could lay on my back. I  
even went through Rick's legs,  
and when he asked me**

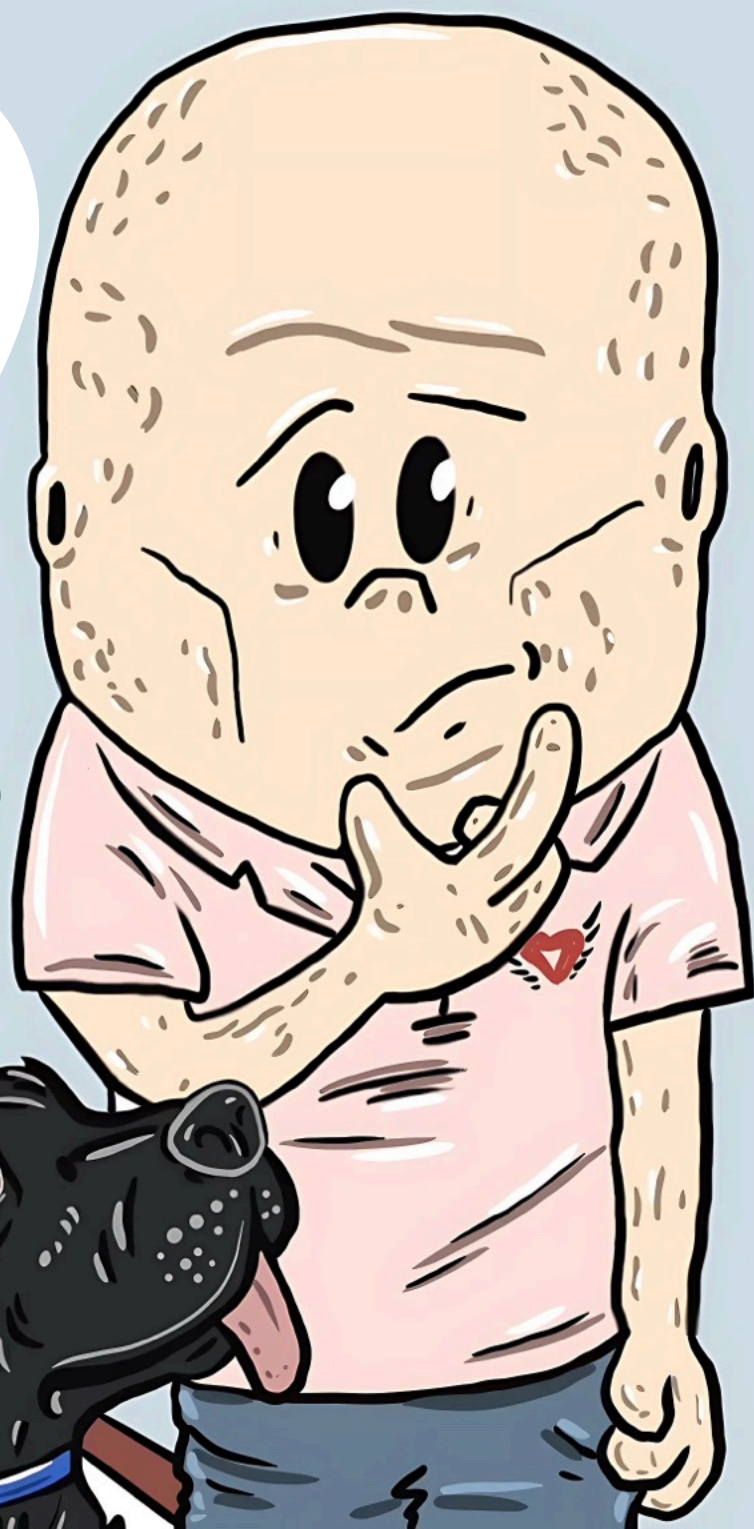
**“Who’s your daddy?”**

**I gave him a big BARK! All of the  
students laughed and clapped  
their hands. I was FAMOUS!**

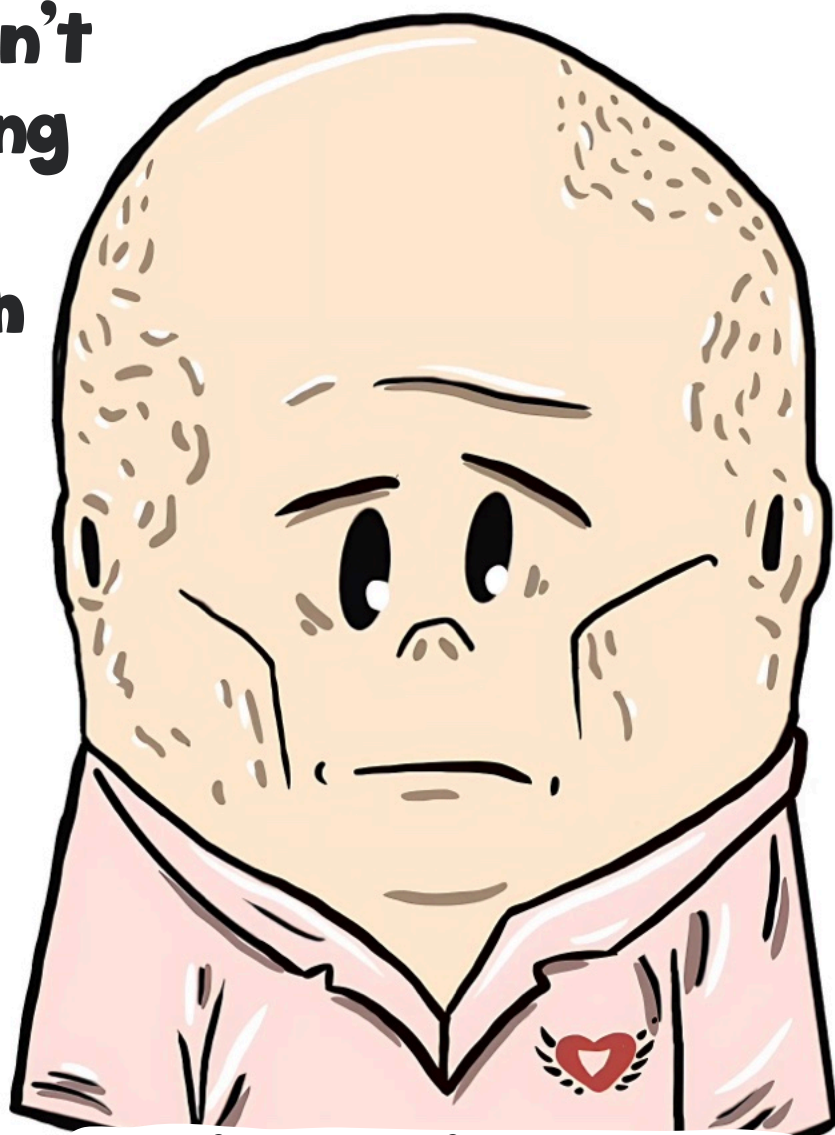
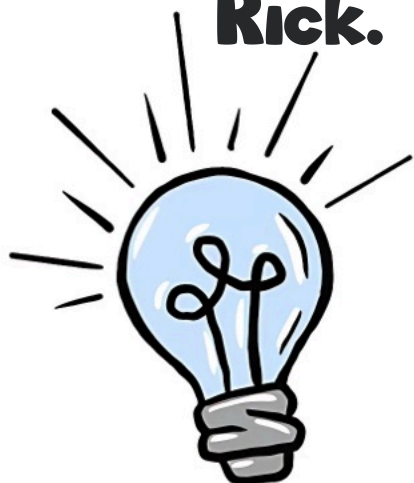


**We went to a lot of schools, but one thing I noticed was I never saw any little kids.**

**Did little kids even go to school?**



**When I thought  
about it, I couldn't  
remember seeing  
little kids  
anywhere with  
Rick.**



**I think I figured out  
why Rick was sad.**



**I could tell that  
Rick was sad  
because he knew  
that little kids were  
afraid of him.**

**He knew he looked  
different, and he  
was OKAY with  
that.**


**But he didn't want  
kids to be afraid.**



**I knew I had  
to HELP.**



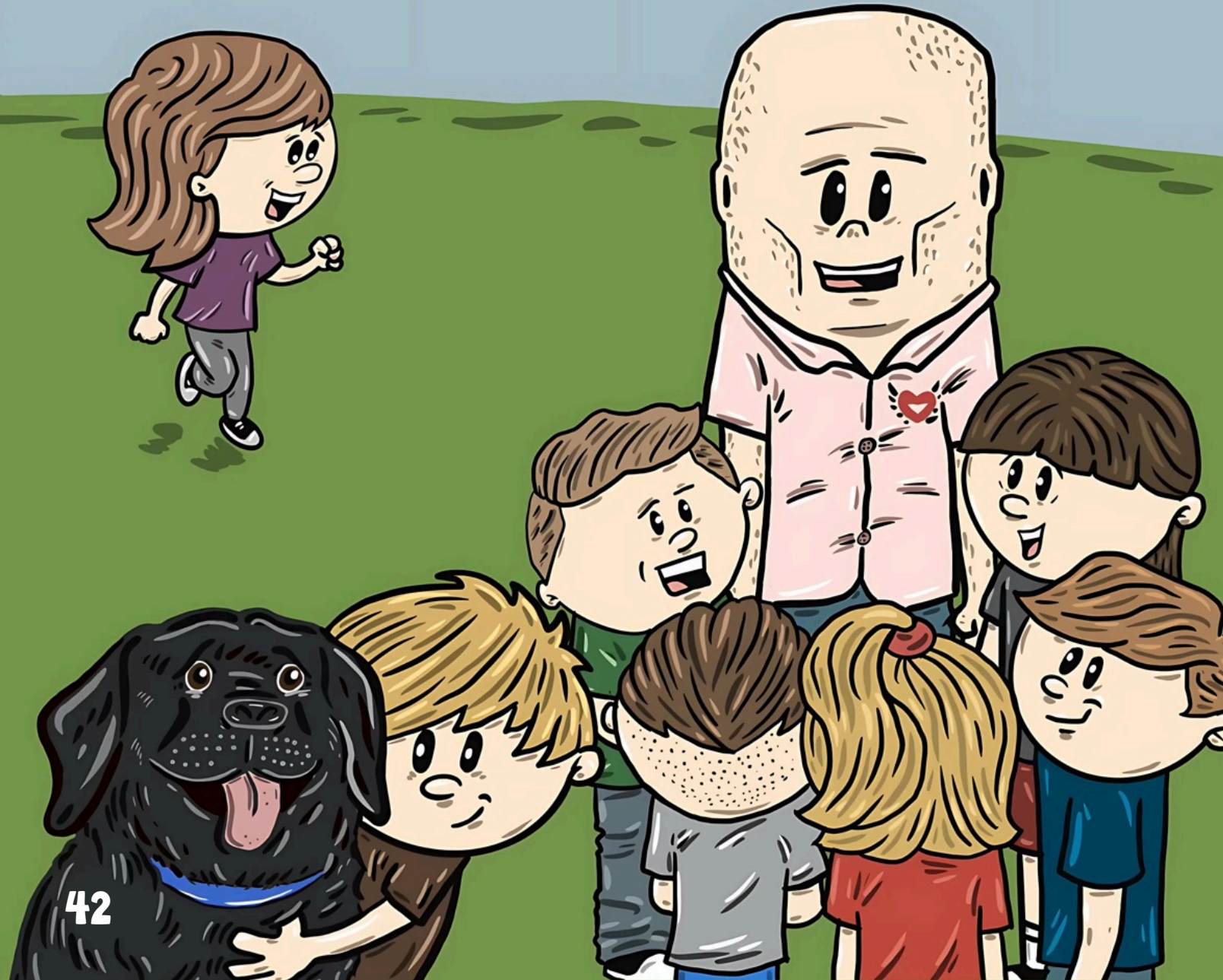
**One day, when we were at a school talking to older kids, I saw little kids on the playground.**



**I knew that I needed  
to get Rick outside, so  
I pretended that I  
had to go potty.**

**Rick saw all of the  
little kids on the  
playground and tried  
to go outside a  
different way, but I  
wouldn't let him.**

**We went outside, and I walked  
Rick right over to the playground.**



**All the little kids came running over to us, and they started petting me.**

**I LOVE being pet!**

**(I even snuck in a few doggy licks...)**

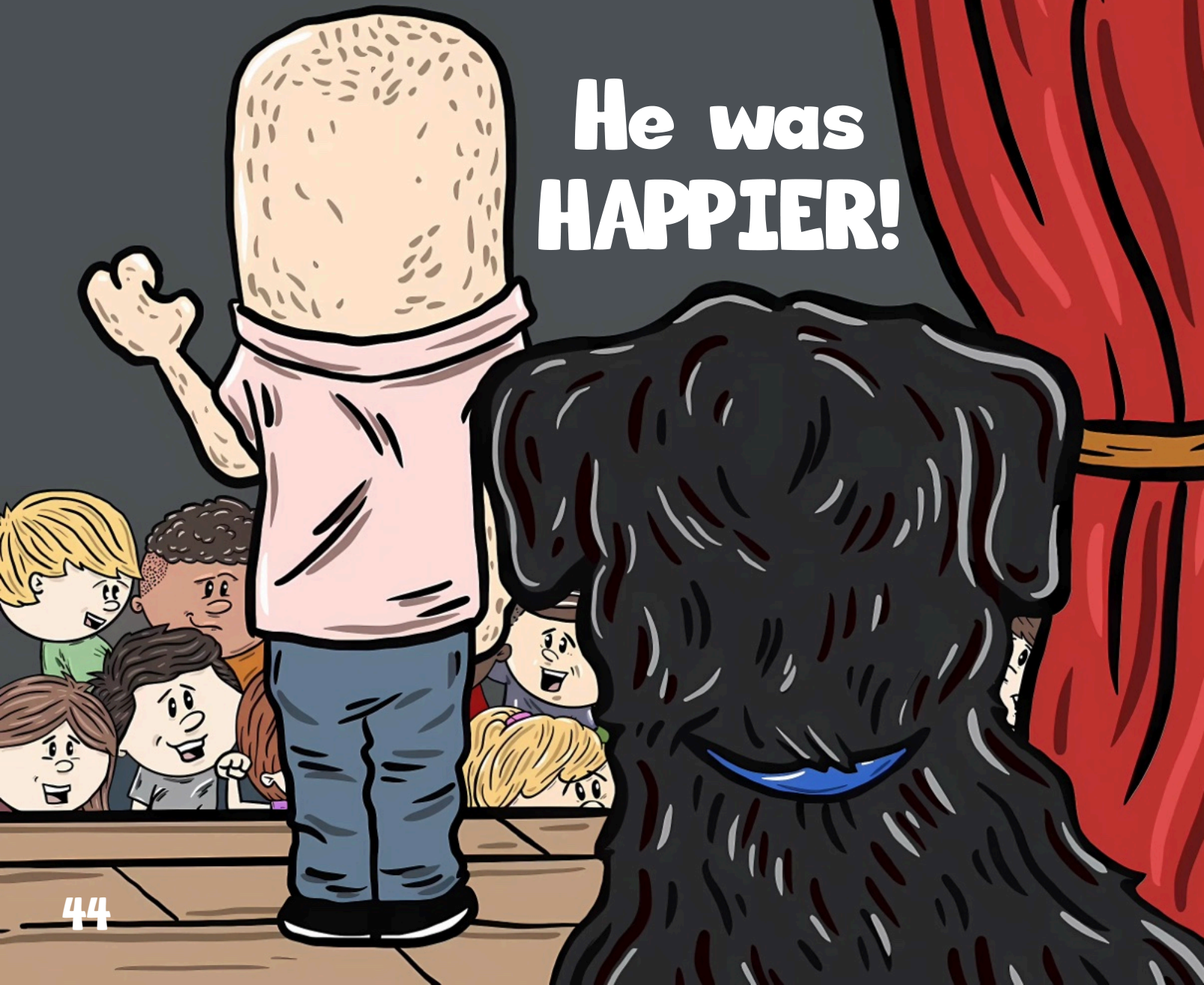
**As the kids were petting me, I saw a couple of them notice Rick, and guess what? They didn't run away! They even asked him what happened, and Rick SMILED.**

**They weren't afraid!**



After that day, I could  
see that Rick had changed.

He was  
**HAPPIER!**





**Now, when we went to other schools and I looked in the crowd, all I saw were little kids listening to Rick!**

**I HAD helped him!**


**Rick was strong, but even really strong people need help sometimes.**

**We traveled together for 8 years  
before it was time for me to  
RETIRE.**




**I loved going to the schools to meet the kids, but I got tired of the long car rides and all the hotels.**



The background features several light pink hearts of various sizes and two gold wedding rings with large blue diamonds. One ring is positioned in the top right corner, and another is in the middle left. The text is centered and written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Rick had added to  
our family, so I  
wouldn't be lonely  
when he was away.**

**He even met his  
forever person and  
married AMY!**

A cartoon illustration of a wedding scene. A bride with blonde hair in a white dress and veil holds a bouquet of colorful flowers. A bald groom in a grey suit stands next to her with a wide smile. A black dog with floppy ears sits in front of them. A large pink heart shape is on the left, containing text.

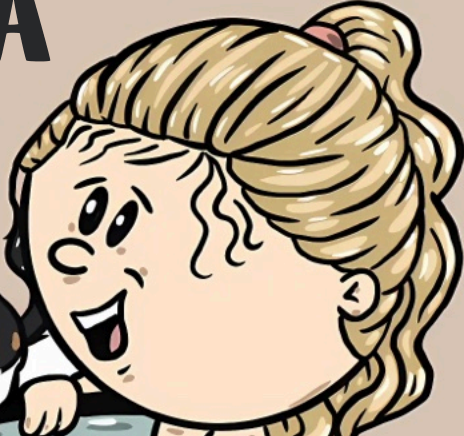
**I even got  
to be in the  
WEDDING!**

**Meet my two  
KITTY sisters,  
one DOGGY  
brother, and  
two HUMAN  
sisters!**

**GRACE**

**SOPHIA**

**TENLEY**



**ELLIE**

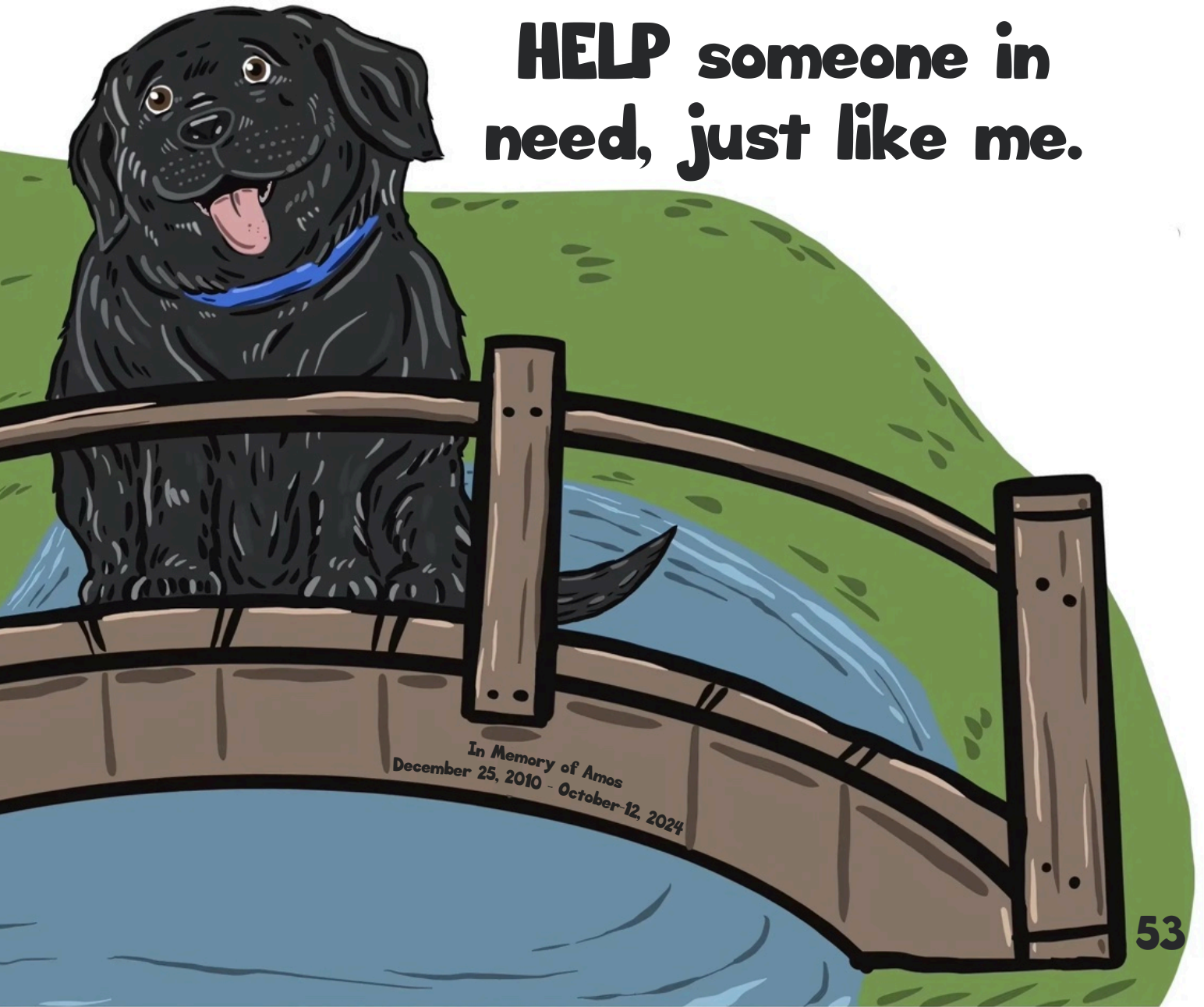
**TOBY**

**I am so happy that Rick still  
visits the schools even  
though I don't go.**

**I'm glad I could  
HELP and be the  
BRIDGE  
he needed to find  
HAPPINESS...**



...and **I HOPE** you too  
can be a Hero and  
**HELP** someone in  
need, just like me.



In Memory of Amos  
December 25, 2010 - October 12, 2024





**Rick & Amos**





# **Sweethearts & Heroes**

**is a social and emotional wellness and youth leadership team dedicated to promoting empathy and empowering students to become positive influencers within their communities.**

**Our mission is to spread the message of Sweethearts, those who give H.O.P.E. (Hold On, Possibilities Exist), and Heroes, those who Jump into Action and help others.**

**Find us on social media**



**[www.sweetheartsandheroes.com](http://www.sweetheartsandheroes.com)  
[www.thehopeclassroom.com](http://www.thehopeclassroom.com)**