

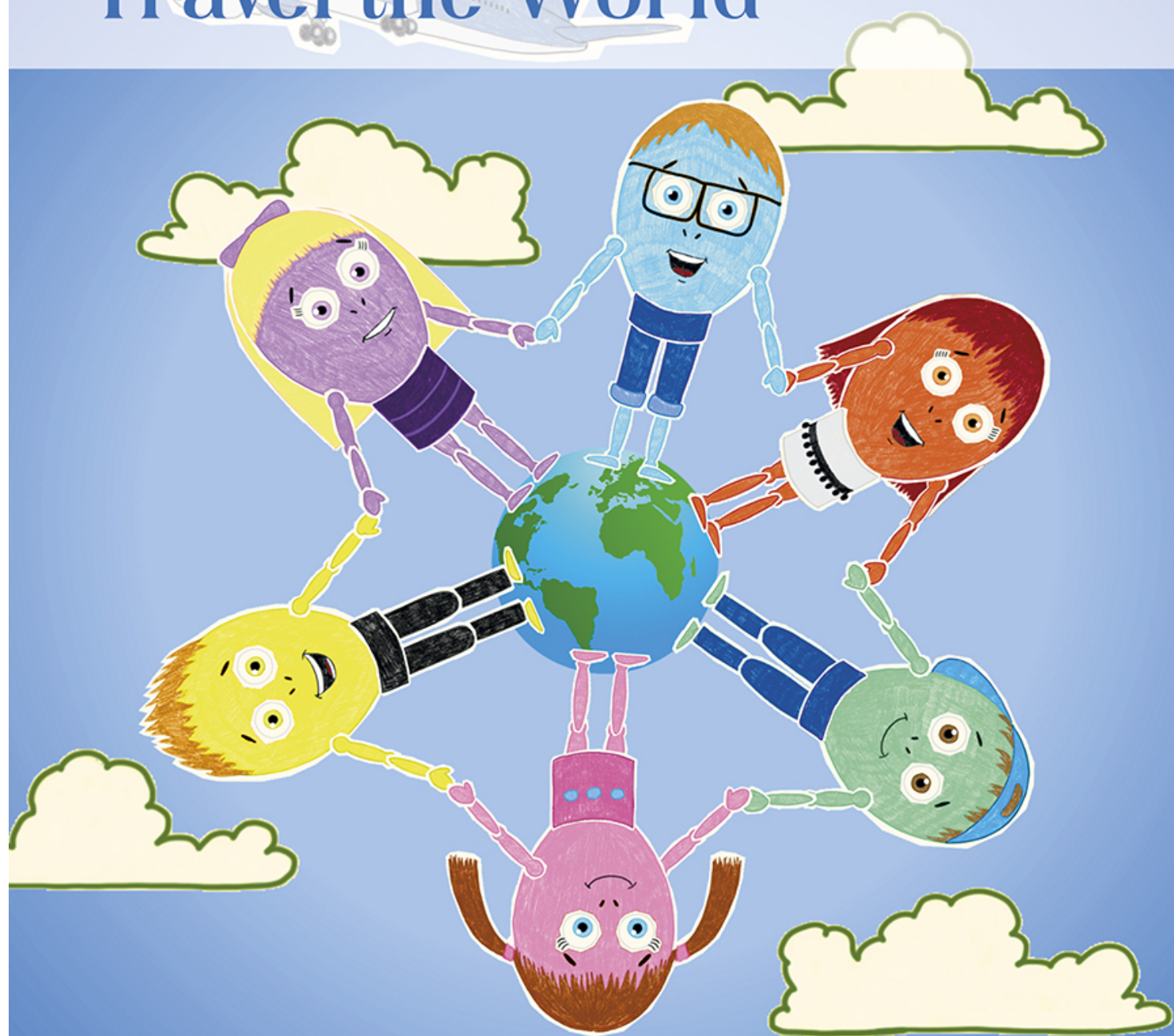
The

BOOK 2 - Diversity

BY: S. Ciaramitaro

Good Eggs

Travel the World



A SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING SERIES

ILLUSTRATED BY: BRAD TROFIN

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Good Eggs

Travel the World

The Good Eggs Travel the World

Essential Concepts for Children
about Virtues, Diversity, and Service

BOOK 2 - Diversity

By: S. Ciaramitaro
Illustrated by: Brad Trofin

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To a World full of Good Eggs
May we always realize the similarities of our differences

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Chapter 1 – September

The Journey Begins

The trees of Albumen gently rustled in the wind as a warm breeze blew through the streets. Summer had ended, and the Eggs were preparing to return to school. With only two days left before the start of the new school year, Seggourney and Megg decided to go shopping for school supplies.

“What do you think about this orange backpack?” asked Megg. “It has plenty of zippers.”

“I think it looks perfect,” replied Seggourney. “You should get it.”

Megg put the backpack in the shopping cart, and the girls continued wandering through the store. After a short while, they made their purchases and headed home.

“It feels good to have new supplies for school,” said Seggourney. “It makes me feel like I can accomplish anything!”

“Oh, Seggourney, you’re so funny!” chuckled Megg.

As the girls arrived at Megg’s house, the phone rang. “Hello?” Megg answered. “Oh hi, Greggory. Seggourney and I just got back from school shopping. What’s up?”

Greggory replied, “Megg, did you get a letter from Ms. Poach today? I got one and so did Reggie. She said in the letter that she wants to see us tomorrow at one o’clock.”

“Hmmm, let me check my mailbox,” said Megg.

Megg put down the phone, ran to the curb, and reached inside her mailbox. She quickly returned to the house with the same letter from Ms. Poach.

“Yes, Gregory. I got one, too,” she replied as she picked up the phone and flipped her ponytail. “Seggourney is going to call her mom to see if *she* got one.”

“Ok, then I will see you at school tomorrow for our meeting with Ms. Poach. I sure wish I knew what this was all about,” said Gregory.

“Me, too,” replied Megg. “See you tomorrow.”

Seggourney called her mom who told her that a letter had indeed arrived from Ms. Poach.

“I wonder what Ms. Poach wants? It must be important if she is meeting with us before the school year begins,” said Seggourney. “I’ll see you there tomorrow, Megg.”

“Ok, Seggourney. See you tomorrow,” replied Megg.

* * *

The next day, Megg, Reggie, Gregory and Seggourney met at the school at one o’clock for their meeting with Ms. Poach. Coach Flo greeted them at the door. “Welcome back, Eggs! I hope everyone had a nice summer,” she said with an inviting smile.

“Hi Coach Flo,” said Reggie. “It’s great to see you!”

Coach Flo led the Eggs down the hallway and into a classroom. Ms. Poach was sitting at a desk doing some paperwork but immediately jumped up when she saw the Eggs enter the room.

“Oh my! You have all grown so much over the summer!” she exclaimed as they all embraced in a group hug. “It’s so wonderful to see you.”

“Ms. Poach, we are ready to get back to school tomorrow, but we are very curious about the letter you sent to each of us for this meeting,” said Reggie as he adjusted his glasses.

“I’m sure you are! Have a seat, and Coach Flo and I will explain,” replied Ms. Poach. She gestured with her hand to the desks in the classroom, and the Eggs sat down.

“You see, children,” began Ms. Poach, “last summer, the Mayor of Albumen entered a contest sponsored by the United Nations. The winning town would get to choose four outstanding students who made a difference in the areas of academics and community awareness. The contest offers a study-abroad program to four students in our town, and we won! The Mayor, of course, asked me for help in choosing the students. I looked over our class lists carefully, and you four stood out to me. I also asked Coach Flo for her input, and she also chose you four! The recycling project you did last year for our town, along with your responsibility and leadership qualities exhibited throughout the year, made our decision easy.”

“Ms. Poach, what exactly is the United Nations?” inquired Gregory.

“And what does study abroad mean?” asked Segourney.

“I knew you would have many questions,” Ms. Poach said with her warm smile. “The United Nations is

an organization made up of many, many countries around the world. They work together to try to make the world a better place. The purpose of this program is to educate young people on the customs and cultures of others around the world. Study abroad means to learn while traveling to other countries.”

“You mean we are going to travel to other countries?” Megg asked as she rapidly flipped her ponytail. “I don’t think my mom and dad will let me go.”

Ms. Poach answered with an assuring tone, “Coach Flo and I have already spoken to your parents. They are very excited about this opportunity for you but wanted you to make your own decision. They are willing to let you go, but only if you want to. If you decide to go, they agreed to be chaperones, along with me and Coach Flo.”

Seggourney’s eyes grew wide. “Oh my! This sounds like it is an honor for us to represent our country.”

Greggory scratched his head. “But what about school? How long will we be gone?”

Ms. Poach replied, “Study abroad means you will still be doing your schoolwork, just in another country. I must tell you, though, this is a long commitment. You will be visiting ten countries, one month at a time. So . . . we will be gone for ten months!”

“TEN MONTHS!” All four Eggs exclaimed together. “That’s a loooong time!”

“Yes, it is,” said Coach Flo. “You will need some time to think this over. It’s the opportunity of a lifetime and your parents want to make sure you understand

that. They know you are here meeting with us. They are waiting for you at home so you can discuss this. If you decide to go, we will leave next month. We need time to get your passports and other paperwork together.”

“We understand,” replied Seggourney with a wink.

The Eggs gave Ms. Poach and Coach Flo a goodbye hug and began to walk home.

“Wow!” shouted Megg. “This is a lot to think about.” She turned to her friends and said, “What do you think?”

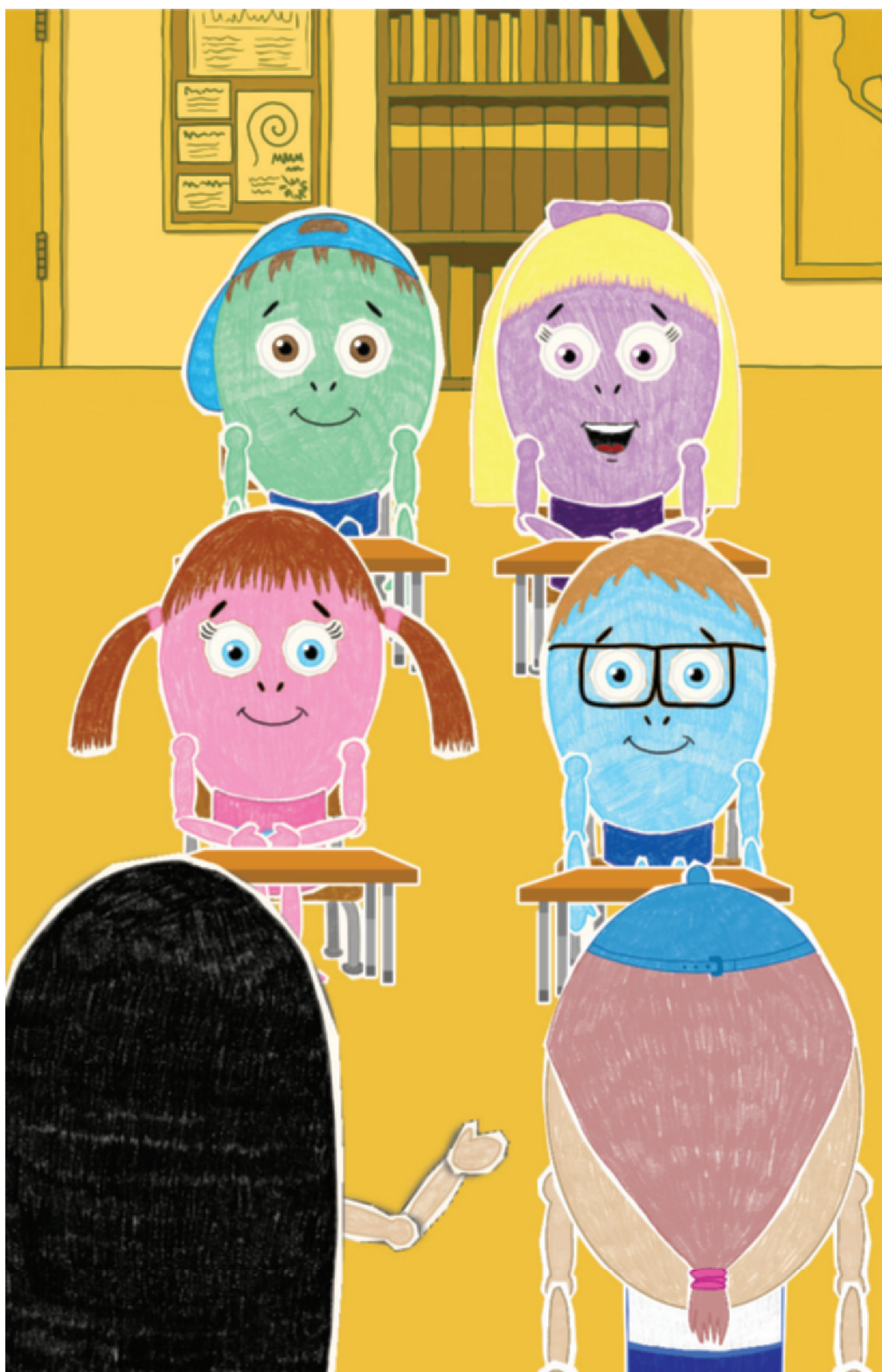
“To tell you the truth, Megg, I’m very excited about this. I know it’s a long time, but we will all be together. ALL of us, including Ms. Poach, Coach Flo and our parents,” replied Seggourney.

“I wonder what countries we will be visiting,” Gregory said as he adjusted his glasses and looked to the sky. “I’m starting to get excited about this, too.”

The rest of the way home their enthusiasm grew, as they imagined all of the wonderful things they might encounter as they traveled the world.

* * *

That evening, all of the Eggs and their families met at Gregory’s house. The amazing opportunity was discussed at length. The parents assured their children that all would be taken care of. They told them they had been discussing and working on this since early in the summer, when Ms. Poach first told them Albumen won the contest. The study abroad program would allow the parents to take a leave of absence from work. Their



homes would be lived in and pets taken care of by relatives for the duration of the program.

A vote was taken, and it was unanimous! They all wanted to go. "I'm so excited we are actually going to do this," squealed Reggie. "I'm not going to sleep tonight!"

They all chuckled and said goodbye for the night. There was a lot of preparation to get started on if they were to leave next month.

The next day was the first day of school. Megg, Seggourney, Reggie and Greggory arrived early to tell Ms. Poach their decision.

"Ms. Poach, we talked everything over with our parents last night and guess what? We're all going!"

"That's wonderful!" she exclaimed. "I knew you would see this as a great opportunity that will help you grow and understand our world in a beautiful way. I can't wait to get started. Coach Flo and I will also need to contact our substitutes for the year. Let's meet after school to discuss how the program will work."

The Eggs all agreed and took their seats in the classroom. It was hard to concentrate on the first day of school, because they were all daydreaming about what it was going to be like to travel the world.

"I wonder what the people in other parts of the world will think of us," thought Reggie as he stared out the window for the rest of the day.