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we don't eat our
CLASSMATES

NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR
RYAN T. HIGGINS



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HEY, KIDS!
You will never be
eaten by a T. rex.
They are extinct.
I promise!

To Mom, for passing along her love of books
And to Dad, for making me a storyteller

I would like to thank Ava B., Ava H., Cecilia, Cora, Delila, Eben, Griffin, Jillian, Kaden, Karen, Kelsey, Lexie, Luna, Noah, Penelope, Quint, Sam, Theodore & Willow for their help with drawing dinosaurs.

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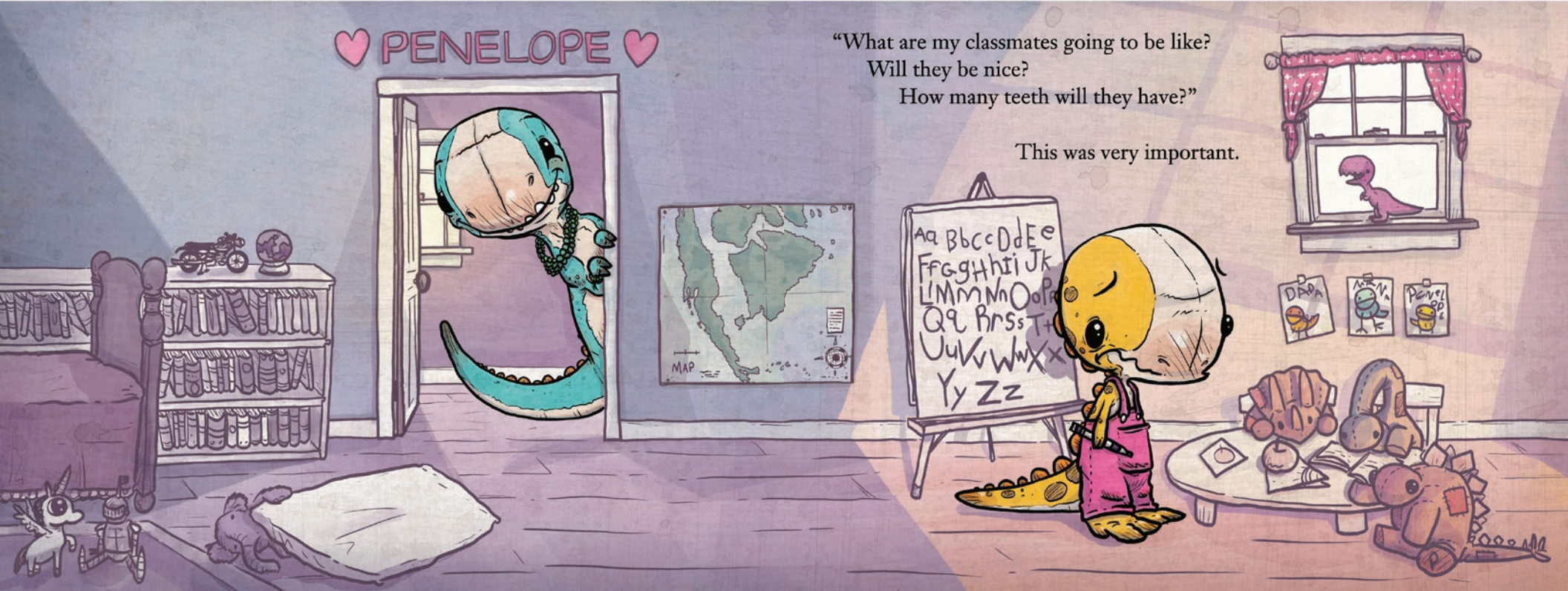


Penelope Rex was nervous.
It's not every day a
little T. rex starts school.

♥ PENELOPE ♥

"What are my classmates going to be like?
Will they be nice?
How many teeth will they have?"

This was very important.



Penelope's mom bought her a new backpack
with ponies on it.



Ponies were Penelope's favorite.
Because ponies are delicious.

Penelope's dad packed her a lunch of three hundred
tuna sandwiches



and one apple juice.

Finally, the big day came,



and Penelope Rex was very surprised to find out
that all of her classmates were . . .



CHILDREN!



So she ate them.

Because children are delicious.

"Penelope Rex!" said Mrs. Noodleman,

WE DON'T EAT
OUR CLASSMATES!
Please spit them
out at once!

So she did.



It was NOT the best way to start school.
Still, Penelope was determined to have a good first day.



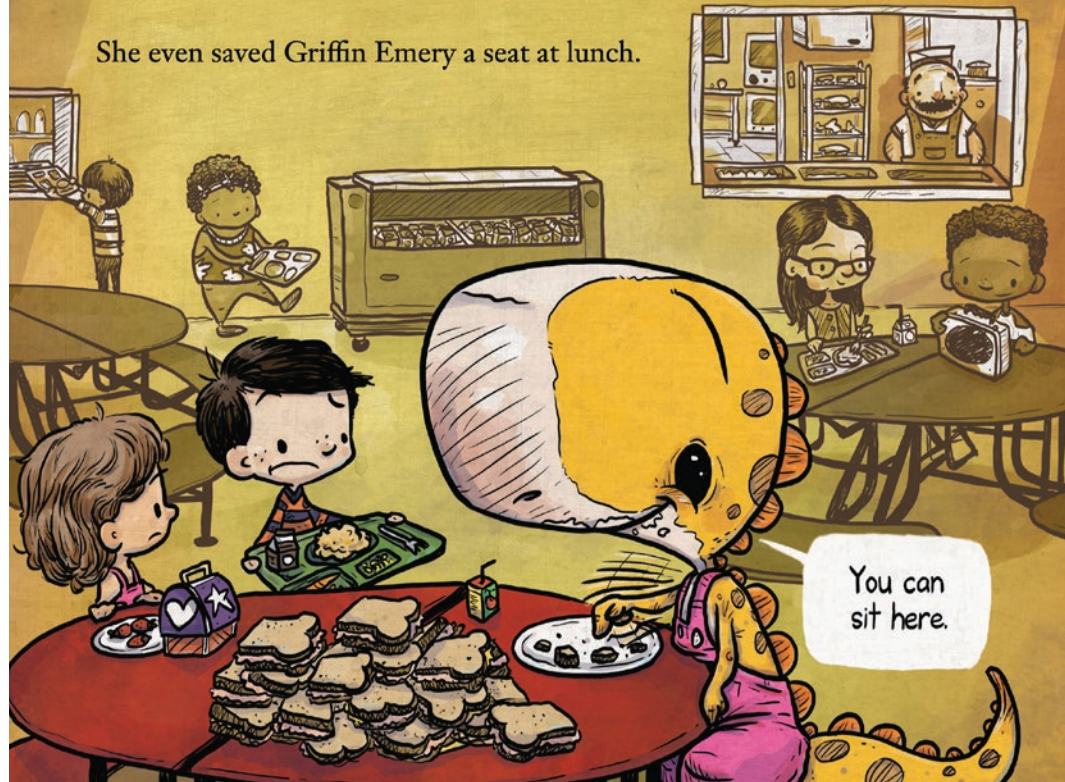
She tried hard to make friends at recess.



She finger-painted some of her best work.



She even saved Griffin Emery a seat at lunch.



Penelope started to notice
everyone was making friends
but her.



It was lonely.

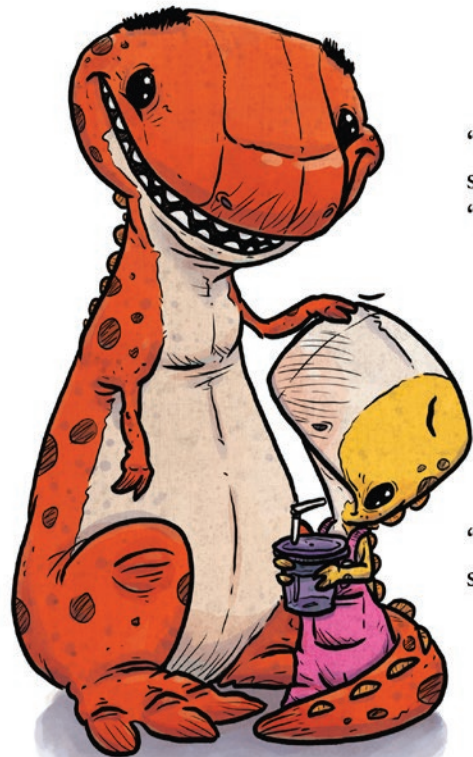
When she got home, her dad asked about her first day of school.

"I didn't make any friends!" Penelope cried. "None of the children wanted to play with me!"

"Penelope Rex," her father asked, "did you eat your classmates?"

"Well . . . maybe sort of just a little bit."





"Sometimes it's hard to make friends,"
said her dad.
"Especially if you eat them."

"You see, Penelope, children are the
same as us on the inside. Just tastier."

That gave
Penelope
a LOT to
think about.





But poor Penelope.
She could not stop herself
from eating her classmates.

The next day Penelope
tried REALLY hard!

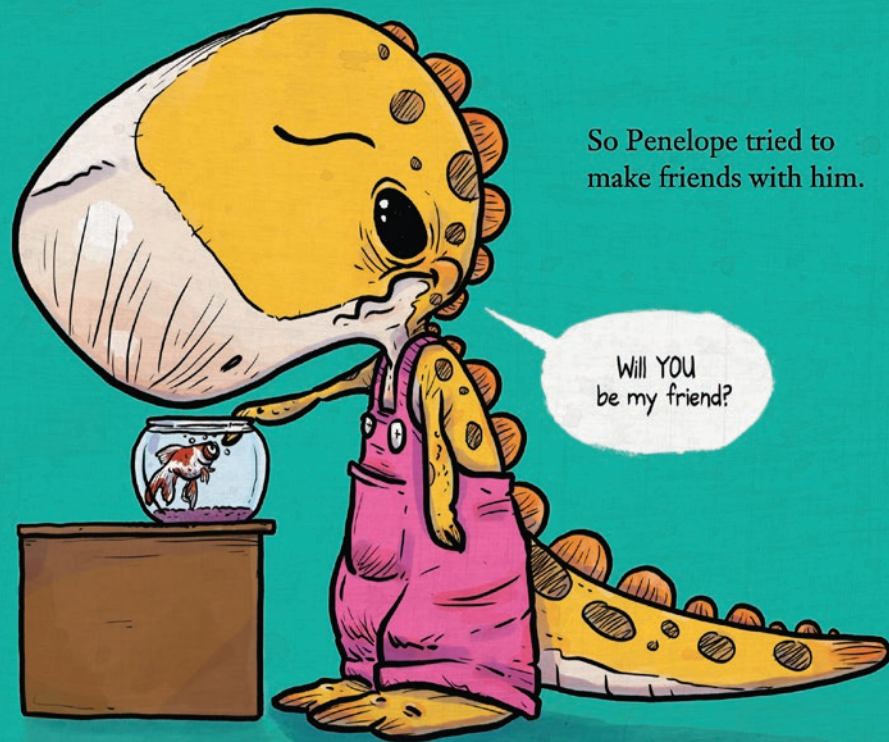


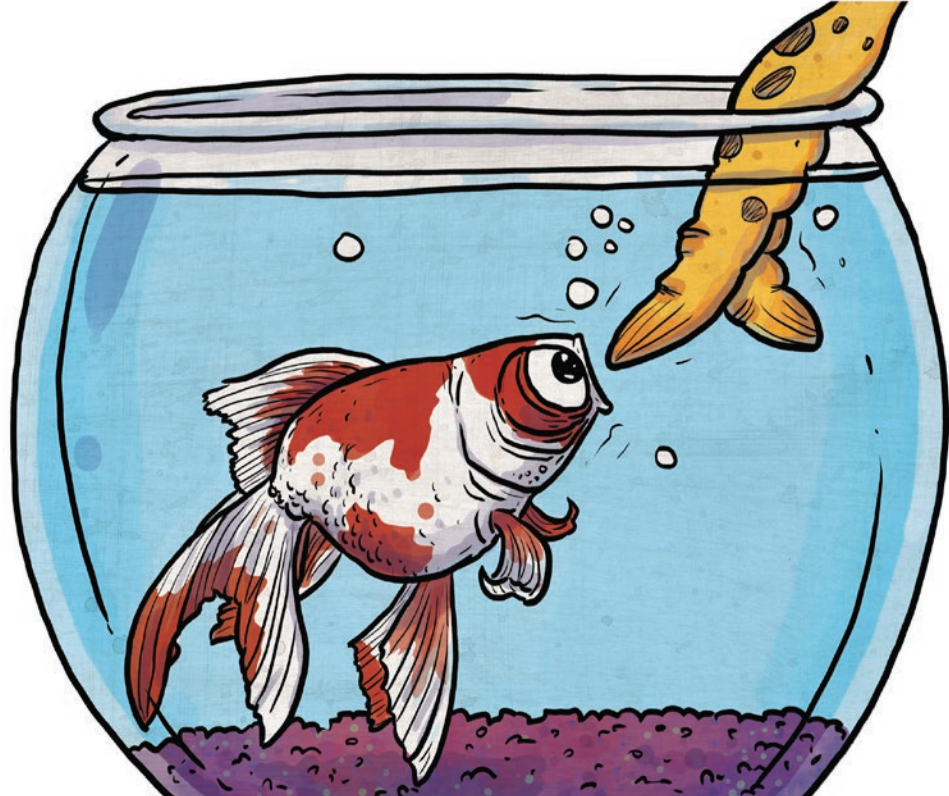
Mrs. Noodleman,
Penelope ate
William Omoto again!



And they were all afraid of her.

Except Walter. . . . Walter was a goldfish.





CHOMP!

"EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!"

cried Penelope.

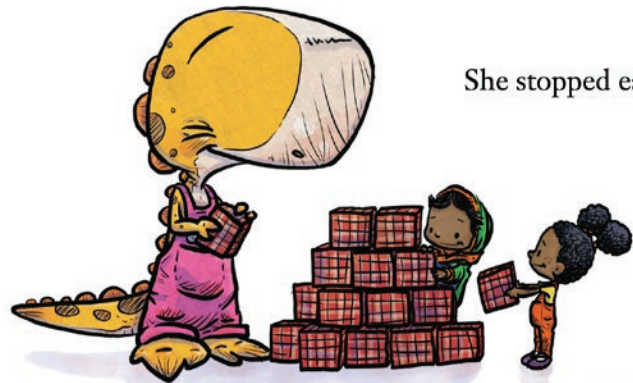
"He's eating my finger!"

"WAAAAHHHHH!"



Once Penelope found out what it was like to be someone's snack, she lost her appetite for children.





She stopped eating her classmates. . . .

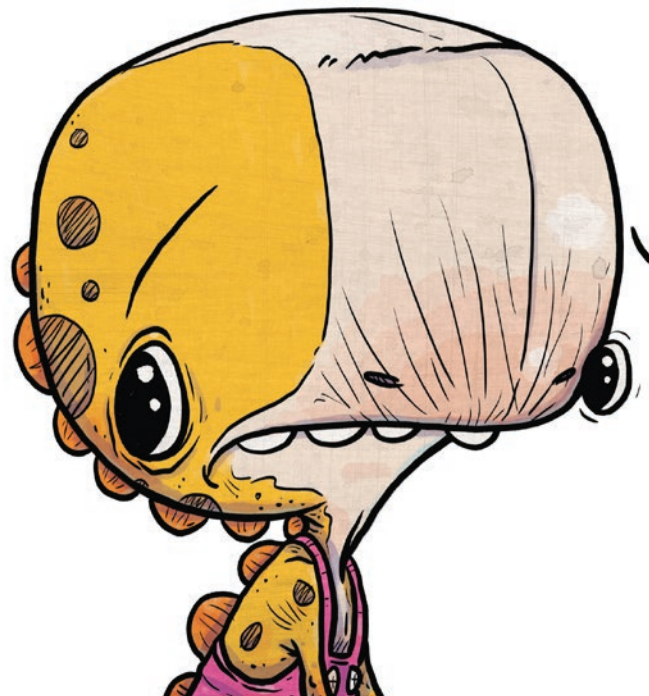
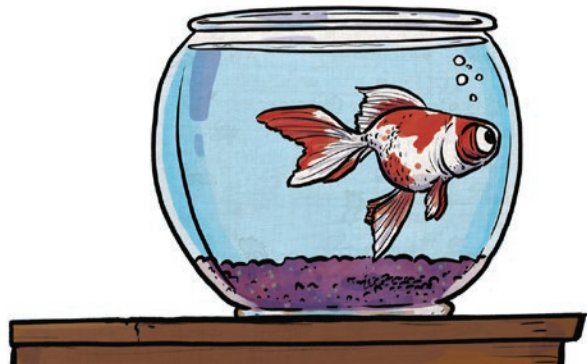
(Even when Cece Woodman
spilled BBQ sauce
all over herself.)



And soon Penelope
made friends!

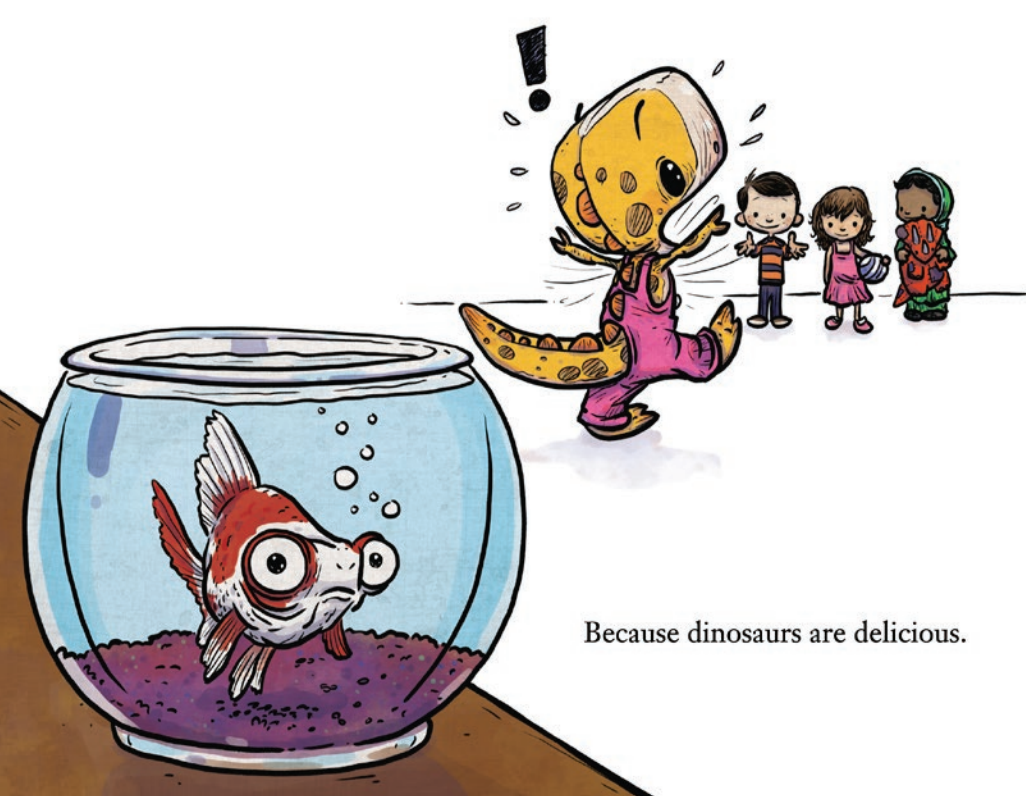


Now, even when children look especially delicious,
she peeks at Walter and remembers what it's like
when someone tries to eat you.



And Walter, the goldfish, stares right back
at her and licks his lips.





Because dinosaurs are delicious.

