

Catherine Potts was a third grader at Rosewood Elementary School. She had two brothers, a dog, four gerbils, and a pet rock. Catherine Potts would have been an ordinary third grader at Rosewood School except for one interesting thing. Catherine Potts had very, very curly hair.

"Hey! Curly-Haired Catherine! Curly-Haired Catherine!" several classmates would shout on the playground. Others would run up behind her and pull her long ringlets and say "Boi-ing! Boi-ing!" like a bouncing ball. "My name is not Curly-Haired Catherine! It's just Catherine, Catherine Potts. Please leave me alone!" she cried.

That afternoon, as Catherine walked home from school, her eyes filled with tears. She could not understand why people were so cruel sometimes. Along the way, her friend, Daryl, who was generally nice to everyone, joined her, and Catherine hoped he would not say anything about her hair.

"Hello, Daryl. You may walk with me, but please don't say anything mean about my hair," said Catherine. "OK," said Daryl, "but all of this reminds me of something. Do you remember when you called Terry 'Smarty-Pants' on Monday just because you were jealous of his 'A' when you got a 'C'? His feelings were hurt." "That's not the same thing," said Catherine, and they walked on home.

As Catherine headed for her house, she saw Miss Lawson down the street working in her garden. Miss Lawson was the most beautiful woman Catherine had ever seen. She was tall with long, brown hair.

Catherine decided to walk down and say hello. "How are you, Catherine?" Miss Lawson asked. "I'm depressed because everyone

teases me about my curly hair," replied Catherine. "I wish I looked like you."

Miss Lawson laughed and said, "Why, when I was in school, everyone called me 'Too-Tall Tracy'." Catherine could not believe it!

"We all have been hurt by mean names. You just have to remember how it feels," said Miss Lawson.

Catherine thought about Terry and she smiled because she knew she would never call anyone names again.

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