

*To Joy – EGTBOK ~Love, Julia
Thank you to Terri and all my friends!*



Making Friends Is an Art!

2ND EDITION

BOYS TOWN
Press
Boys Town, Nebraska

Written by **Julia Cook** with K.D. Smith
Illustrated by **Bridget A. Barnes**

Making Friends Is an Art!, 2nd Edition

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Thanks,
Anne & Mike!

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FORWARD

Dear Julia – It was from a sincere place of concern that I reached out to you on social media to find out what your intentions were in creating the character and dialogue for the Brown pencil in *Making Friends Is an Art!* Thank you for being receptive to my inquiry and appreciative of the challenge that came with it. Thank you for using this as an opportunity to grow and make the necessary revisions to present another children's book that gives our children affirmation that they are wonderfully made and valuable, just as they are. In the story, the Brown pencil discovers that with trust and communication, making friends can happen. He has many talents and the most valuable thing of all: himself. The Brown pencil's friendship art extends way beyond these pages. We, too, are now dear friends because of the Brown pencil. Who would have ever imagined?

– Kimberly Smith, J.D.
ROLWIM Founder, author of *Crystal Stairs* by K.D. Smith

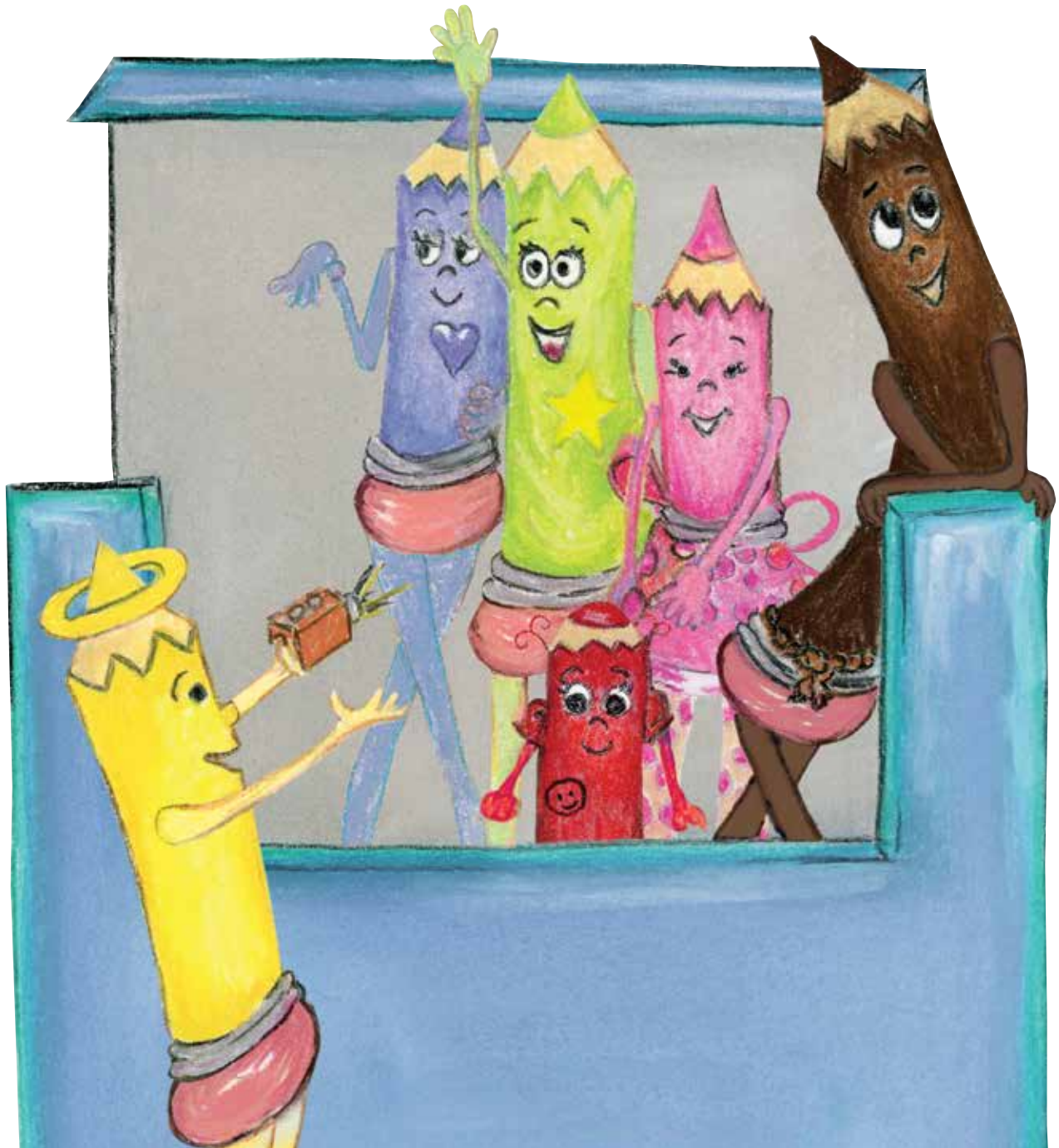


Dear Kimberly – Thank you for reaching out to me. When you saw something out there that didn't send the right message, you chased down the source and inquired with courage and hopefulness. You have given me priceless feedback about this book that has allowed me to grow as a human being. My pure intention is to write stories that can help ALL children. Your candid feedback and guidance helped me accomplish that with this story. Thank you for *your* trust and communication. Thank you for giving me the tools I needed to turn this story into a difference-maker. When people truly listen to others, amazing things can happen. It is a huge honor to call you my friend.

– Julia Cook, M.S.
National Award-Winning Children's Author/Parenting Expert



My name is **Brown**, and I'm the luckiest pencil in the box.
I spend most of my time hanging out with all of my friends.



We're all different... some of us are long, others are short.



Some look really sharp... others are super cool.



But we all have something in common – we each have a talent to share with others that makes us a great friend.





Black looks out for everyone.

Yellow always does what's right.

Purple has hopes and dreams.

And **White** won't let us fight.

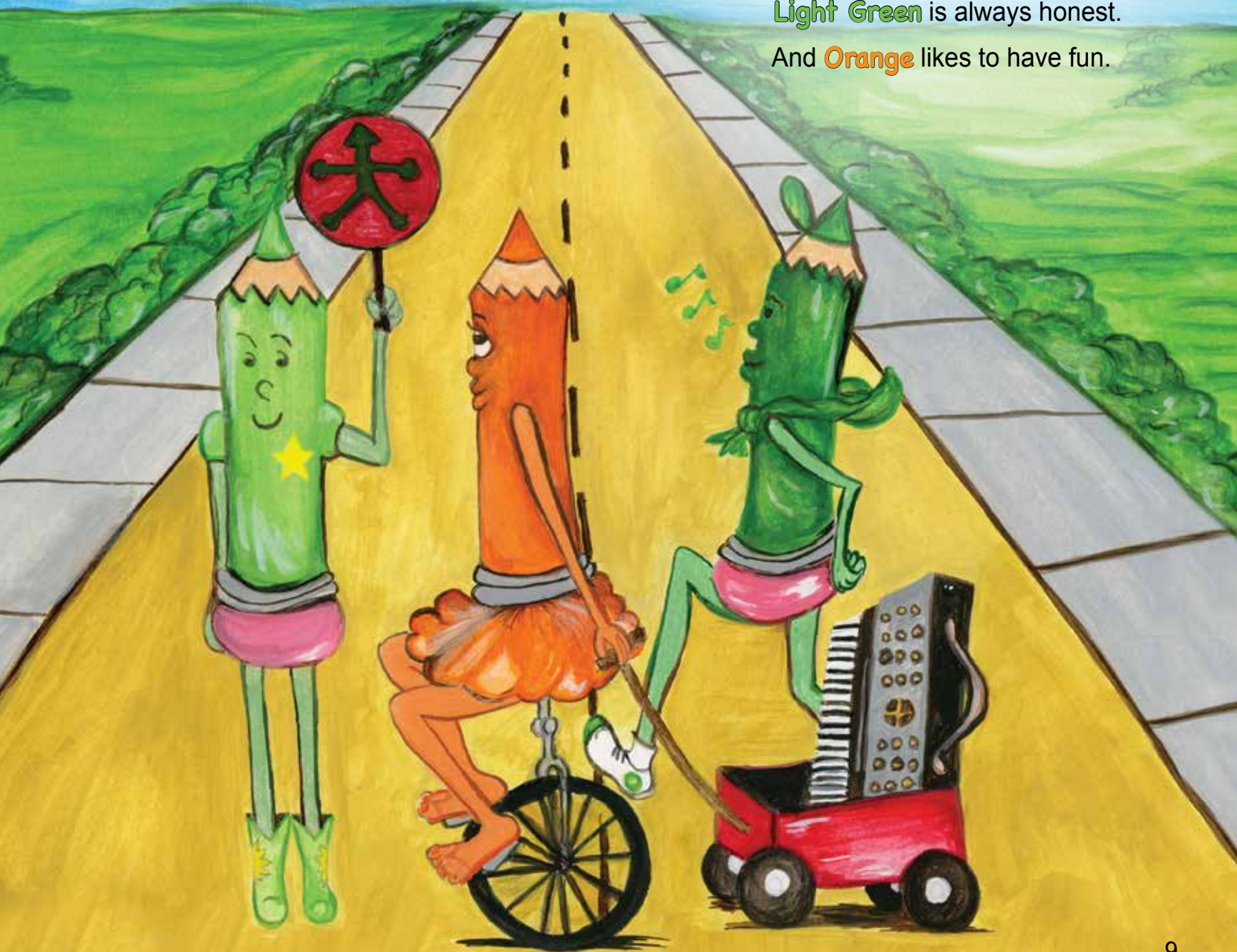


Dark Green is very trustworthy.

Pink listens to everyone.

Light Green is always honest.

And **Orange** likes to have fun.



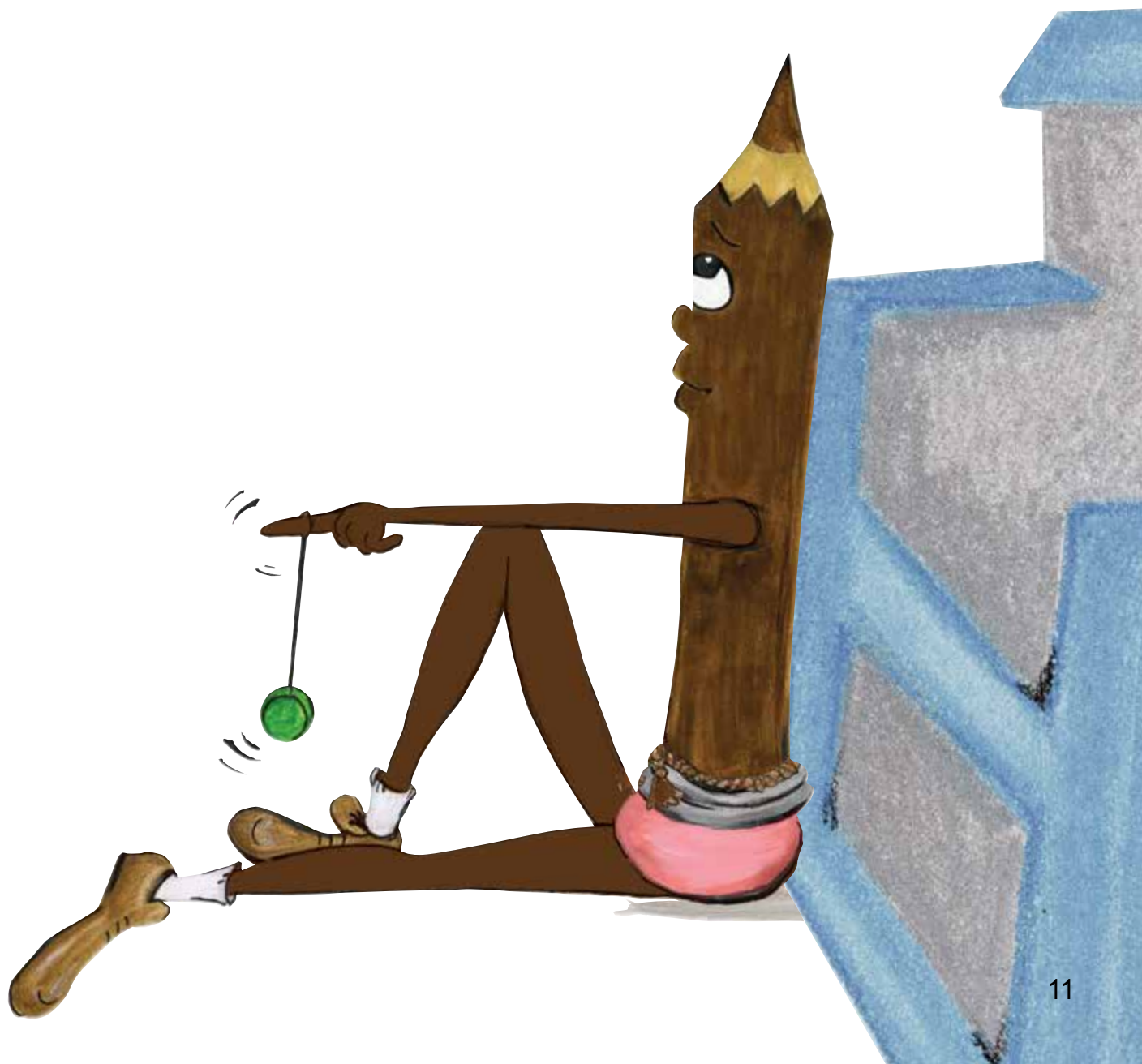
Blue gives everyone great hugs,
whenever we feel down.

Red does things with everyone.

And I'm unique because I'm **Brown**.



At first, I couldn't figure out what my friendship talent was. That made me worry, so I went to talk to **Blue**.



Pages 12-31 are not included in this excerpt.



Multi-talented Brown is the luckiest pencil in the box!

In this fun, creative story, Brown learns that in order to make and keep friends, he needs to know how to be a good friend. And to be a good friend, Brown must find a way to share his many talents with others. At first, that seems hard for Brown. But he soon realizes that to be a good friend, all he has to do is be himself!

Making Friends Is an Art! is a wonderful story for teaching kids of all ages how to practice the true art of friendship and getting along with others. Educators, counselors, and parents will love reading the second edition of this very popular story with children which features fewer words and more positive, empowering messaging. Brown and his friends learn to recognize their talents by being true to themselves.



“The second edition of *Making Friends Is an Art* is an inspirational friendship tale that follows a colored pencil named Brown who is on a quest to discover his unique friendship talent. Brown receives repeated encouragement and affirmation about how special he is, and reading this was especially delightful for me as a woman of color. It was refreshing to see Brown celebrated and encouraged to be himself as he demonstrated empathy and kindness to all the other colors in the box. These revisions illustrate deliberate, compassionate strides to acknowledge and uplift *every* child who hears or reads this story. Thank you, Julia, for listening and growing alongside your reading community. I am proud to add the second edition of *Making Friends Is an Art* to my school counselor collection!”

– Meecheeca McNeal, M.S.Ed, Professional School Counselor



JULIA COOK, a former teacher and school counselor, writes books for children that let them

laugh while learning to solve their own problems, use better behavior, and develop healthy relationships. She has received the *Association for Educational Publishers Distinguished Achievement Award*, and her books have been honored by The National Parenting Center and Mom’s Choice Awards.

Julia also plays the accordion and rides a unicycle, just like **Orange!**



K. D. SMITH is an author, speaker, and consultant from New York, New York.



BRIDGET A. BARNES is an artist and illustrator in Omaha, Nebraska.

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