

**BOX:** What's up, buttercup? Got the stuff, powder puff? I can't wait! It's almost time. When they put in my battery and I can go POW CACHUFF CACHING VOLLY-OOP SPLAT CACHIZ BOOM!!POW POW POW POW—WOOO-OOP!

**DOLL:** It turned out I don't need a battery.

[*She dances.*]

**LITTLE GIRL:** [*Voice from offstage.*] Look, Mom, look! She's dancing!

## Different Friends

Paige Steadman

### Comic

**TAYLOR:** 7 to 10, a girl

**LEE:** 7 to 10, a boy

**SUMMER:** 7 to 10, a girl

*TAYLOR has walked into a new elementary school. LEE is the popular kid. SUMMER is not very popular. TAYLOR has befriended both LEE and SUMMER, but that doesn't mean that LEE and SUMMER get along well. They are on the playground. LEE is bouncing a ball. TAYLOR and SUMMER enter.*

**TAYLOR:** Hi, Lee!

**LEE:** I didn't say you could bring her.

**SUMMER:** Fine. I'll go.

**TAYLOR:** Summer is my friend, too.

**LEE:** You're my friend.

**SUMMER:** No, she's my friend.

**LEE:** She's my friend. You're different.

**TAYLOR:** We can all be friends. Please. Let's try it!

**LEE:** [*Walks over to SUMMER.*] You don't smell bad today.

**TAYLOR:** Lee!

**SUMMER:** Thanks?

**LEE:** [*To TAYLOR.*] What? I said something nice. [*He tosses the ball to TAYLOR, who tosses it to SUMMER, who puts the ball down.*]

**SUMMER:** I don't want to play ball. I want to play pretend.

**TAYLOR:** Ooh, okay. We could play house?

**LEE:** Bo-ring!

**SUMMER:** Let's play adventure! Like once upon a time, and fairy tales and rescues.

**LEE:** Okay! I'll be the big, nasty ogre, and Taylor is the princess in the castle, and you can be the knight.

**TAYLOR:** I guess.

**SUMMER:** [*To LEE.*] You don't want to be the knight?

**LEE:** I'll be the big, nasty ogre.

**SUMMER:** Ogres are scary!

**TAYLOR:** He could be a dragon instead.

**LEE:** A dragon. This is my lair.

**TAYLOR:** And this is my castle! Ooh, that's tall. Summer, will you give me a hand up there?

**SUMMER:** I don't want to play this way.

**TAYLOR:** Then what do you want?

**LEE:** Rrrrrr! I'm the big, nasty dragon, come to kill everyone in the castle!

**TAYLOR:** Oh brave knight, defend me!

**SUMMER:** Defend yourself. [*She goes off to the side and sits, pouting.*]

**LEE:** Rarr! Hiss! My flames will burn the castle!

**TAYLOR:** Dragon, wait!

**LEE:** Huh?

**TAYLOR:** Dragon, why do you want to hurt princesses?

**LEE:** It's tradition! That's what all dragons do!

**TAYLOR:** Well that's species-ist.

**LEE:** Huh?

**TAYLOR:** Come, thou awful, fiery beast, and, and, and listen to a maiden's mourningful plea.

**LEE:** What?

**TAYLOR:** That's tradition, too.

**LEE:** Oh. Okay.

**TAYLOR:** Dragon, I'm awf'lly worried about my lady knight.

LEE: Why should the dragon care?

TAYLOR: It's another maiden in danger. Besides. The princess will start crying!

LEE: Oh no, don't do that.

TAYLOR: Dragon, help me find my knight.

LEE: She's just being different.

TAYLOR: You say that like it's bad. I don't get you sometimes. We're different from each other.

LEE: That's . . . it's . . . oh fine. Come on. [LEE helps TAYLOR step down from her perch. LEE and TAYLOR go over to SUMMER.]

LEE: Summer? Why didn't you join us?

SUMMER: It doesn't matter.

TAYLOR: Yeah, it does.

LEE: Are you mad at us?

SUMMER: I never get to be the princess!

TAYLOR: You wanted to be the princess?

LEE: Why didn't you just say so?

TAYLOR: We can do that! I wanted to be the knight, anyway.

LEE: Why didn't you say so?

TAYLOR: I dunno.

SUMMER: I can be the princess?

TAYLOR: Yeah!

LEE: Okay. You can be the princess.

SUMMER: I want a blue dress. Blue is my favorite color.

TAYLOR: It's your princess dress.

LEE: Dresses? Doesn't matter to me. Look, it's starting to get dark.

SUMMER: I . . . I guess I feel a little silly.

TAYLOR: Me, too.

LEE: We should go home.

[SUMMER and TAYLOR look at him expectantly.]

LEE: What?

TAYLOR: Never mind.

SUMMER: Hey, guys? Let's try this again tomorrow.

TAYLOR: Yeah. And next time, I get to be the knight!