

CHAPTER 2: WHAT ABOUT MY NOSE AND MOUTH?

Ivan and Ryan are twins. They are 9 years old and in the fourth grade. They are good students that study hard and make good grades. Their family and friends call them “military brats” because their parents are in the Army. Their mom and dad told them the world is a very big place with many different people and cultures. They also told them that all people should be treated the same.



The family loved to travel. The twins enjoyed summer road trips the most. Yesterday was the last day of school, and they were excited to get on the road. They loaded their last bag in the trunk and hopped in the car.

Just as they drove into Kansas, Ryan's stomach made a strange sound.

Dad laughed, "It sounds like someone is ready to eat. I am too. There is a really good restaurant that all of us will love."

Mom and Dad stood in the long line for a table. Ivan and Ryan saw video games across the lobby. They begged to go play.



When they got to the gaming area, Ivan joked, "Wow! Look at that girl's big nose and mouth!"

"I can't believe you said that," said Ryan, "That is not funny."

Ivan was shocked that Ryan didn't find it funny.

Ryan continued, "We're twins, but you are one inch taller than I am, and I'm bigger than you are. Sometimes my classmates ask me why am I chubby, but my twin is skinny. That is like a kick in my stomach. It makes me very unhappy."

"I'm sorry. I didn't know that. That wasn't a nice thing for them to say to you and that wasn't a nice thing for me to say about that girl. I hope she didn't hear me." Ivan felt really bad.

Their table was ready, the family ate a good dinner and even shared a dessert. Everyone was happy except Ivan still felt a little bad and wished he could take his words back.

After dinner, they continued the road trip.

Ryan turned to Ivan and said, "You know, I am thinking about how my classmates are from all around the world. They all look and sound different, but each one is smart and important. Lucas and his family moved to the United States from Spain, and Isaiah's family is from Israel. Mia's family, who's from England, moved to the USA, Matthew was born in Colorado, and Shalini is from India."

