

Joey Daring Caring and Curious



How
a Mischief
Maker
Uncovers
Unconditional
LOVE

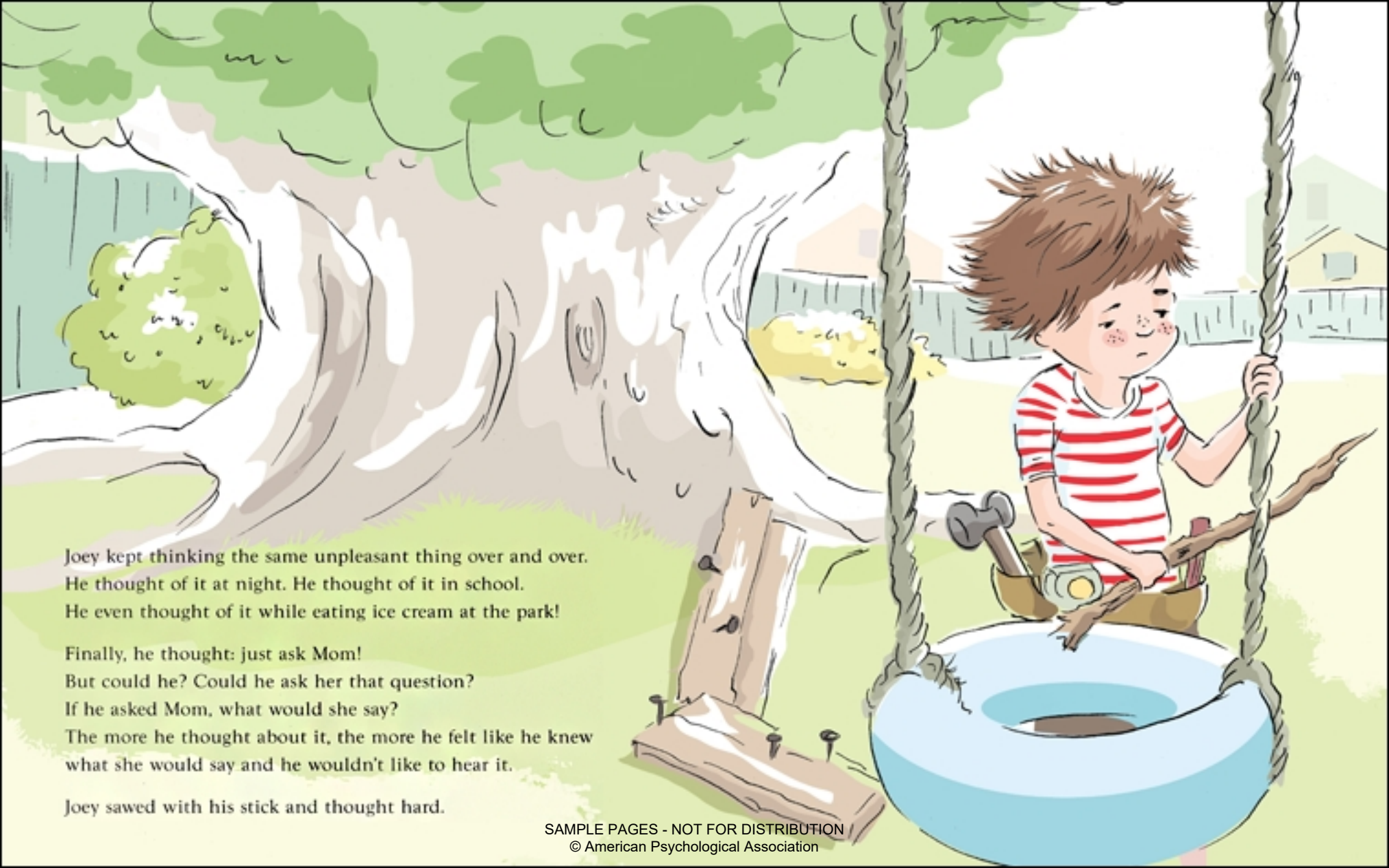
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A colorful illustration of a young boy with brown hair and freckles, wearing a red and white striped shirt and brown pants. He is sitting on a blue tire swing that is hanging from a thick rope. He is using a wooden stick to saw the tire. A hammer and a wrench are in a tool belt around his waist. The background shows a large tree with a thick trunk, green foliage, and a fence in the distance.

Joey kept thinking the same unpleasant thing over and over.
He thought of it at night. He thought of it in school.
He even thought of it while eating ice cream at the park!

Finally, he thought: just ask Mom!
But could he? Could he ask her that question?
If he asked Mom, what would she say?
The more he thought about it, the more he felt like he knew
what she would say and he wouldn't like to hear it.

Joey sawed with his stick and thought hard.



Joey tried to ask Mom before school but...



He tried to ask her outside but...

He tried to ask her
after dinner but...

Joey, now more worried than before,
bravely wrote Mom a note.



He held his breath as he
slipped it under her pillow.



Dear mom,
Who is your favorite?

☒ Jake ☒ Joey ☒ Olivia

Please check one

When Joey found the note, he did not understand. Three checks! He was sure Mom liked Jake and Olivia more. Jake was bigger, faster, and helpful. Olivia was little, sweet, and Mom loved to dress her in pink—something Joey would never wear! Joey knew he acted daring and curious sometimes, but he was caring too. Now he had more questions. Could he ask the one that gave him the chills?



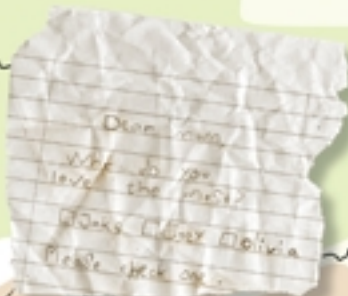
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How a Mischief Maker Uncovers Unconditional LOVE

Children's /
Unconditional love
Ages 4-5

Is it possible that Joey's mom prefers his siblings over him? Dare he ask? Joey does get in trouble a LOT more than his studious older brother Jake and his sweet baby sister Olivia! Is there anything good there for a mom to love?

A Note to Parents and Other Caregivers by Elizabeth McCallum, PhD, offers strategies for encouraging appropriate behavior in children, while reassuring them that you will always love them for who they are as individuals.



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