

The Grumps: “Bobby Runs Away” (Almost)

Book 3 in The Grump Series



By: J. Stanley



Dedicated to my grandsons—

You are the spark in every story,
the laughter between the lines,
and the adventure that never ends.

Through your wonder, courage and boundless energy,
you remind me how magical the world can be
when seen through young eyes.

With love always,
Robert, Chris, Jordan, Dylan, William,
Lincoln, Max, and Jonah

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*Look for the **Pause & Reflect** icon throughout the story. When you see it, take a moment to ask the corresponding question from the Discussion Guide in the backmatter to help your child explore their big feelings.*

Young readers: When you see this icon, it's a good place to stop and talk about the story together.



Bobby pressed his nose against the cold bedroom window.

A lump grew in his throat. Why did they get to stay out?

Right there in his own backyard, his friends were skating.

“Hey! I can see you!” he called out to his friend Lincoln.

Lincoln, of course, couldn't hear Bobby through the window.

Bobby was very sad that he couldn't go ice skating with his friends.

Bobby thought to himself, how dare they have so much fun when it is my ice-skating rink, and I can't be there with them.



“Bobby! Come skate!” someone shouted.

“Last race!” another laughed.

Girls and boys, all friends of Bobby, skated together.

As the music played, they all danced on the ice.

It was so much fun, and Bobby was so jealous.

Why did his parents not let him outside?

Tomorrow wasn't a school day, and he wasn't in trouble.

But it was his normal bedtime.



Mom peeked into his room.

“Sorry, buddy. It’s bedtime.”

“But the ice is right there!” Bobby groaned.

“I know, but it is still your bedtime.” She then added, “And I’ve already let you stay up 30 minutes longer than your brother.”

“It isn’t fair,” Bobby almost shouted as Mom turned out the lights.

He could feel his tummy getting twisty-mad.





Bobby flopped onto his bed.

“Swoosh! Ha-ha!” he muttered.

“This is the worst bedtime ever.”

Every giggle sounded louder than the last.

His feet wiggled under the covers.

His heart felt wiggly too.

Dad smiled as he poked his head in to say good night.

“The ice will still be there tomorrow.”

“But tomorrow is forever away,” Bobby said.





This is a
PREVIEW!

We're skipping
to the end of the book!

That night, Bobby went to bed on time.

And the next day...

Bobby skated with Lincoln and his friends.

“This feels better,” he said.

“Because you chose right, to not run away?”

Willy smiled.

“Yes, and I’m never going to choose to run away again.” Bobby grinned.

He didn’t know that his parents had talked about his running away, and they knew that the lesson Bobby learned was more important than any punishment they could give him.



A Note for Parents & Caregivers

Children experience big feelings in very real ways. Disappointments and frustrations can feel overwhelming.

This story invites gentle conversations about choices and consequences. It shows that children can pause, reflect, and make better decisions—even when it is hard.

You may ask:

- How was Bobby feeling?
- What choices did he make?
- Which choice was the best one?
- What was Bobby feeling in his belly when he saw his friends skating?
- What is the difference between a 'big feeling' and a 'big choice'?
- What are some other choices Bobby could have made when he felt so upset?
- Can you think of a time when the 'fun' choice wasn't the 'right' choice?

Thank you for reading *The Grumps* together.

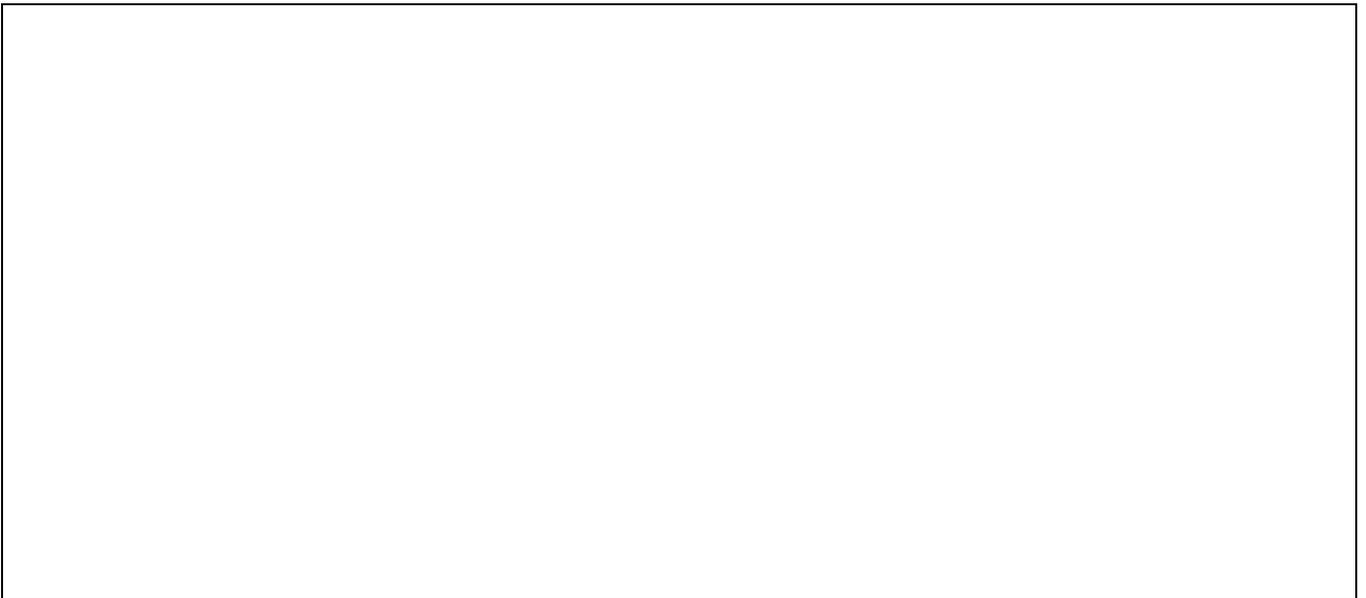
A Note for Teachers & Families

The Grumps: My Choices Chart

A Tool for Responsible Decision-Making

Directions: Think about a time you had a big feeling or a hard choice to make. Use the boxes below to draw pictures or write words to tell your story.

1. The Situation: What was going on right before you had to make a choice?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for students to draw pictures or write words to tell their story.

A Note for Grown-Ups: This chart is designed to align with the Responsible Decision-Making competency of the CASEL framework. It encourages children to pause, reflect on their emotions, evaluate their actions, and plan for future, more positive outcomes. Encourage them to focus on the process of reflection, not just the outcome.

Children learn best when lessons feel playful, reassuring, and relatable. The Grumps do not tell children how to feel—instead, they help children understand that feelings, differences, and mistakes are all part of growing up.

Thank you for sharing the Grumps with your readers.

The Grumps Series

By *J. Stanley*

More stories and resources at

www.jstanleybooks.com



SCHOOL B

Goodbye!
We hope that you'll follow all our stories about The Grumps.





**J Stanley
writes
funny,
heartfelt
picture
books about
mischief,
friendship,
and
learning
from
mistakes.
He grew up
in a large**

family with three brothers and three sisters who taught him everything he knows about wild haircuts, tree forts, and the joy of getting into (and out of) trouble together.

Today, he writes funny, heartfelt picture books for kids who love to laugh and parents who remember what it was like to be little.

**When he's not writing about the Grumps,
J. Stanley dreams up new stories with
robots, pixels, and brave garden explorers.**

More books by J. Stanley

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