

TALLY FORMS A TEAM

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ABOUT THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

A statutory body tasked with implementing the anti-discrimination legislation in Hong Kong, the Equal Opportunities Commission aspires to create a pluralistic and inclusive society free of discrimination, with no barriers to equal opportunities.

ABOUT POLYU DESIGN

PolyU Design has been an important and dynamic hub for design education and research in Hong Kong since 1964. Our long-standing heritage and dedication to innovative, flexible programmes has helped us achieve our position as one of the best design schools in Asia and globally in the area of art and design (QS World University Rankings by Subject). The School of Design provides a high level, well-equipped teaching and learning environment for the students.



FOREWORD

Children hold the future of our society. The values we instil in them today will eventually shape the world's culture and even change the course of human history. That is precisely why we should teach, and even better, demonstrate by example to our children the best and brightest side of humanity.

On this note, I am very happy to present to you *Tally & Friends*, the first-ever picture book series developed in collaboration by the Equal Opportunities Commission and The School of Design of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Created with our future generation in mind, the series narrates a little tale of Tally, a boy from Planet Diversity, whose experience has taught him that understanding and kindness make our world a better place. This is also the message we want to get across to the young readers.

I would like to thank the very talented team of designers as well as members from The School of Design for bringing Tally and his friends to life. I do hope these unique, cheerful and tall characters will help sow the seeds for a more inclusive future. And I encourage parents and teachers to join us in this meaningful effort.

Alfred C.M. CHAN
Chairperson
Equal Opportunities Commission

TALLY & FRIENDS

Guided Reading Kit for Teachers & Parents

Tally & Friends is a storybook series written for children aged 5-7. Based on the fictional character Tally, the book series tells how Tally interacts with friends of different abilities and personalities, and how he learns to respect their differences. There are altogether three books, each illustrated with vivid and colourful images to arouse children's interest in reading and viewing. Through these storybooks, we hope to help children understand the values of diversity and mutual respect at an early age.

It is suggested that children should read the storybooks under the guidance of teachers or parents. Before reading the books, teachers and parents may want to flip through the pages and show your children the pictures. Talk to them about the covers, the titles and the pictures, and discuss with them what the books may be about to pique their curiosity.

When reading the books, ask your children if they see words that they do not understand. Pause to give them time to work out the words, give them hints or prompt them if necessary, and tell them the correct pronunciation and meaning. Praise them for trying even if mistakes were made.

After reading the books, discuss with the children the meaning of the story. Ask them questions to make sure they fully understand the story, such as how they think of a particular character, what they would do if they were in the story and what would happen next.

In this book, Tally, a 12-year-old boy from Planet Diversity, invited his friends to join him in a basketball match on Earth. Tally thought that he and his friends — all with different looks and abilities — would form a good team. This storybook provides a good base for discussion with the children the ideas of respecting differences and people with disabilities.

Story plot

Jerry told Tally that he hurt his hand and could not play basketball.

Sample questions

- Why did Jerry refuse to play basketball with Tally?
He hurt his right hand.
- Will you play with Jerry if you were Tally?
- Do you know what “disability” means?
A physical or mental condition that limits a person's movements, senses or activities.
- Do you/Does your friend(s) or classmate(s) have a disability or condition that limits your/their movements, senses or activities?

Learning points

Children with disabilities are like all other children – they want to make friends, to be respected and included. Despite their conditions, people with disabilities can do a lot of things – sometimes with assistive devices, sometimes not (please refer to the EOC webpage Barrier-free Life to obtain more information and inspirations for sharing with your children).

Story plot

Tally invited Bolli and Curly to join the team.

Sample questions

- What are the strengths of Bolli and Curly?
Bolli has a kind and gentle heart, and Curly has good eyesight.
- What is your strength, that is, something you do well?
- What is the meaning of “foreigner”?
A person who comes from another country.
- Have you met any foreigners before? Imagine if you go to a different country, what would you become? A foreigner? Would you feel alone? Would you want others to help you and be friends with you?
- How would you feel if other children wouldn’t let you play with them just because of how you look, what you wear, the language you speak or where you come from?

Learning points

We are all different – with different strengths and weaknesses. We should respect and appreciate others’ differences instead of rejecting them.

Story plot

Tally, Jerry, Bolli and Curly formed a team.

Sample questions

- What are the similarities between Tally, Jerry, Bolli and Curly?
They are all tall and love to play basketball.
- What are the similarities and differences between you and your friend(s)?
- What are the things you cannot do alone and need the help of others?
Playing football, basketball, and music in a band or an orchestra.

Learning points

Notwithstanding our differences, we do share similarities. We should learn from each other and work as a team. The world would be boring and dull if everyone looked, acted and dressed the same.

**TALLY
FORMS
A TEAM**

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Planet Diversity lies light years away from Earth. There are all kinds of people living on it.

Among them is Tally, a 12-year-old boy who is three metres tall and loves playing basketball.





One day, Tally saw a poster on the street as he was walking home from school.

“Whoa, there is going to be a basketball game on Earth, the biggest in the galaxy!” Tally said.

“But wait a minute. Basketball isn’t a one-person game. I will need a team.”





Then Tally remembered his childhood friend, Jerry. They shared a passion for basketball and often watched basketball matches on TV together.

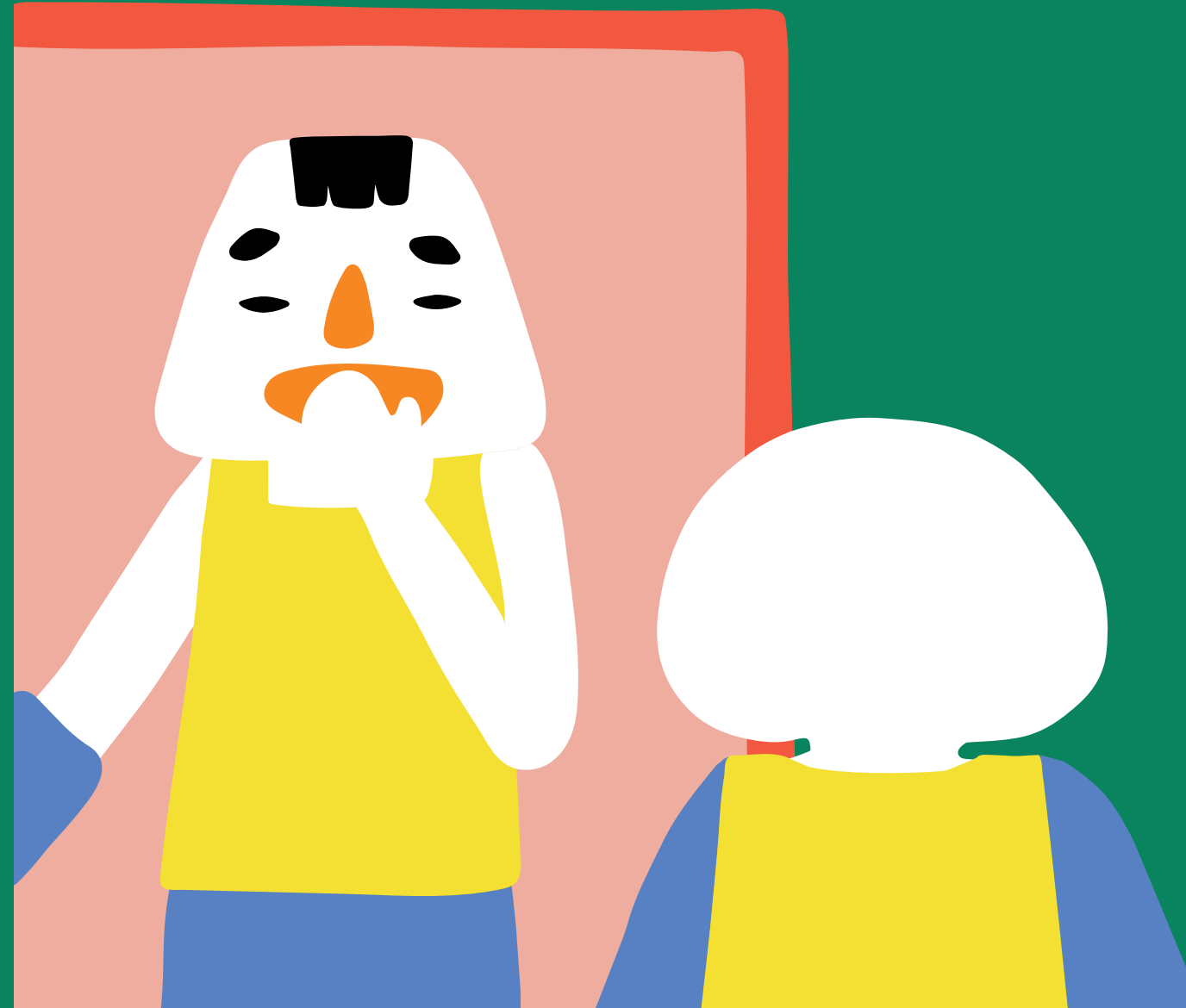
They have not seen each other since Tally's family moved away four years ago. So Tally decided to pay Jerry a visit.



Ding dong! Tally pressed the doorbell. The door opened slowly and a tired-looking Jerry came out.

“Hi, Jerry, it’s been a long time! How are you?”

“Hi, Tally,” Jerry said and yawned.





“Jerry, do you remember how much you liked basketball? There is going to be a basketball game on Earth. Will you be interested in taking part with me?” Tally asked.

Jerry said with a small frown,
“Basketball? It was only a
dream. Right now I’m only
interested in sleeping.”





Jerry used to be happy and active. What had happened to him?

“Have you forgotten how much you loved playing basketball, Jerry?” Tally asked.

Jerry pointed to his right hand and said, "I haven't forgotten my dream, but I hurt my hand badly in an accident last year."





“But you still have your left hand, Jerry, and you run so fast! You can pass the ball around easily. We need people with different abilities in the team. Come on, it will be a lot of fun!”

Tally took Jerry’s hands and smiled.

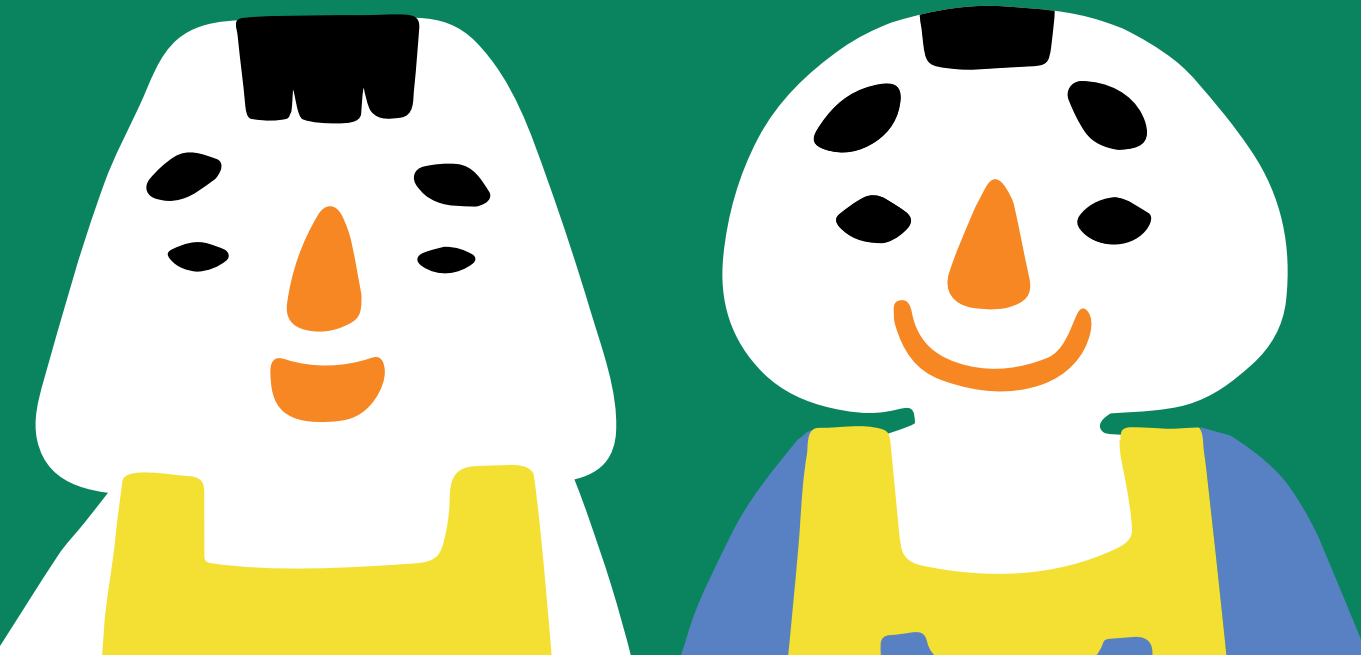
Jerry smiled back and said,
“Okay, Tally. I will join the
game with you. Thank you for
not looking down on me.”



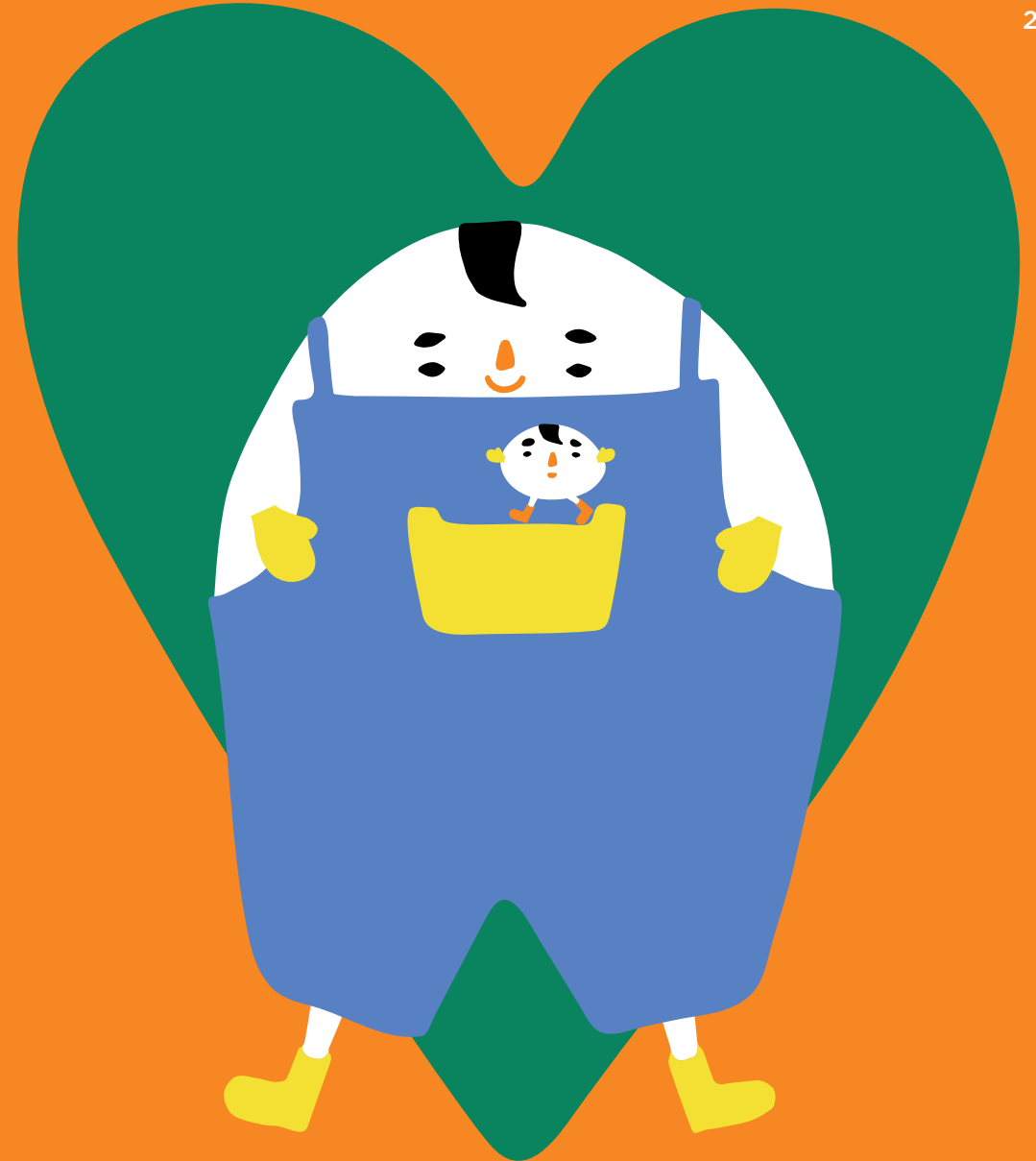


Tally and Jerry still needed more teammates for the game.

They thought about Bolli and Curly, who went to the same school with them.



Bolli has a round body. Other people make fun of it. What they fail to see is that she has a kind and gentle heart. She takes good care of her little brother when their parents are working. And she can surely block other players in the basketball game!





Curly, by contrast, is skinny. Her parents came from another planet, which is why she has green, wavy hair unlike others. At school, her classmates call her a “foreigner”. Curly has a secret skill: she has very good eyesight. She will make a superb shooter.

Bolli and Curly were happy when Tally asked them to join his basketball team. “Finally, we have a full team!” Tally said happily.

The four of them may look different, but they share something in common: they all enjoy basketball and accept each other’s differences. And they are all tall!



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Tally
& friends 



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