

Me
My & Mate
Manners



Me & My Mate Manners

Illustrated by Peter Nash

Concept by Elizabeth Woods, Peter Nash and Kevin Leong

Inspired by and written for the children of Cobh

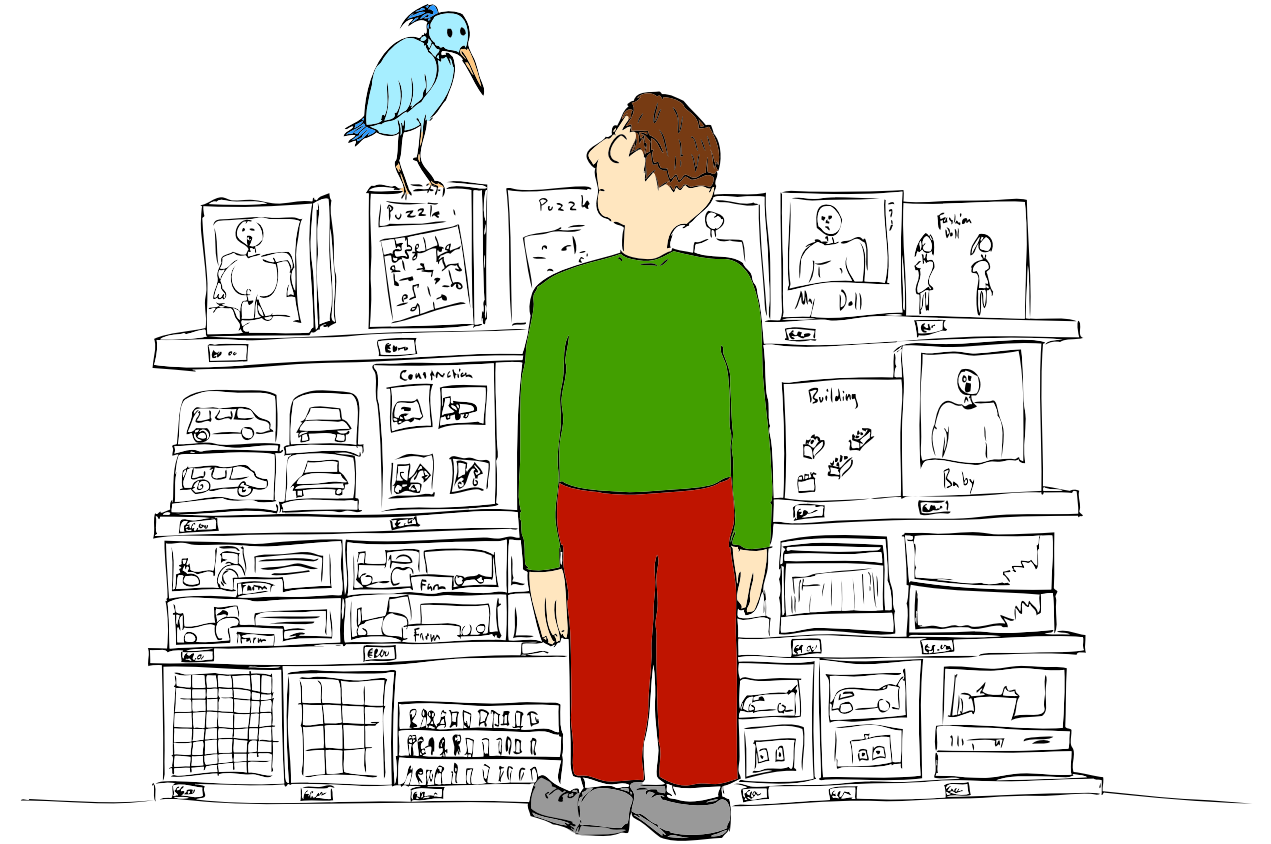
Cobh Youth Services / Chill on the Hill
Cobh, Co. Cork, Ireland



Before I met my friend Manners, I would sometimes upset people but I didn't understand why.

When I went into a shop I would always touch everything. Manners taught me that it's not respectful and that is why the shop keepers would get upset.

Manners taught me to say hello to the shopkeeper. Manners taught me not to mess up the display and told me to ask for help if I needed to find something.



The most important thing Manners taught me was to thank the shopkeeper when I left. I would say, 'Thank you', and they would reply, 'No problem, come back any time!'





My favourite place to sit on the bus is at the front, because I can see everything. My mate Manners taught me that I had to make sure there were no older people who needed my favourite seat. I have to remember that it's much harder for older people to be comfortable and safe.

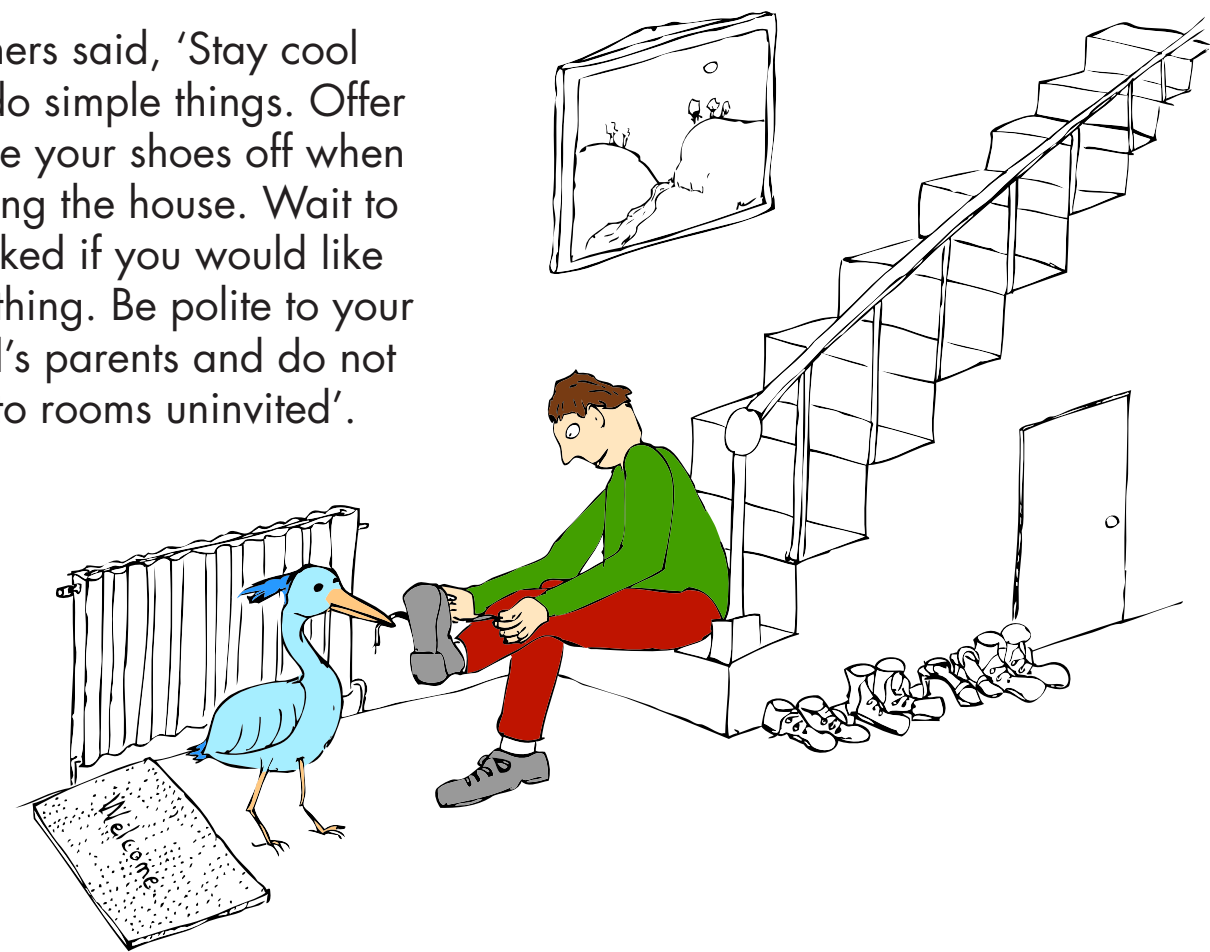
Manners said that it's a good idea to offer your seat to people who are having difficulties on the bus and not just old people. Others too, like mothers with babies and people with a disability. One day, I gave my seat to a man who had a lot of big packages. I even helped him hold them. He was very thankful to me and I felt good for helping him.





I said to Manners one day, that sometimes, I feel awkward when I visit other people's homes. Sometimes, I don't know what to do.

Manners said, 'Stay cool and do simple things. Offer to take your shoes off when entering the house. Wait to be asked if you would like something. Be polite to your friend's parents and do not go into rooms uninvited'.



Manners says, 'Remember that you have been invited into a person's home and this is kind of a big deal. You are a guest and it's important to be respectful'.



Manners and I go everywhere together. I still ask Manners for help when I'm in a new place like a library or café. When I'm not sure how to behave, Manners always says, 'If you do these simple things that consider other people, you're going to be OK'.

At the library, I don't take food and try my hardest not to shout because there are other people there.

At the chipper, I'm always nice to the staff and wait patiently. If I need something, I politely say, 'excuse me'.



At the art gallery, I don't run around and try my best not to touch anything even though it's so hard.

Manners says that there are lots of simple things we can do to make the world a happier place, and to make grown-ups respect and listen to us.

It's simple enough...



... Just follow Manners!



From the beginning, a project such as this has to be a collaboration. In 2016, we approached Cobh Youth Services to run a programme addressing Cobh's community. What was to be? We had no idea.

The amazing Peter Nash, new to Cobh at the time, jumped on board to help out and the project turned into a hive of discussion. With ideas, workshops and drawings, *Me and My Mate Manners* was born. Never in our wildest dreams did we think we would be publishing a children's book.

Elizabeth Woods and Kevin Leong

This book is part of *See you tomorrow*, a project conceived and led by Elizabeth Woods and Kevin Leong, in partnership with Sirius Arts Centre. The project produced a series of public events focused on an optimistic collective vision of Cobh's future.

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