



Remember to be safe on the bus!



Don't Monkey Around with Safety on Field Trips



For more information on traffic safety:

www.drsrcr.info
www.tmccec.com
www.texaslre.org



by
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illustrated by
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About Driving on the Right Side of the Road

This publication is a part of the Driving on the Right Side of the Road (DRSR) program, developed by the Law-Related Education Department of the State Bar of Texas, Law Focused Education, Inc., and the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center with funding from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and the Texas Department of Transportation. These organizations are very concerned about traffic safety in Texas communities. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 5-20 year olds in the United States. Young children are often hurt if they do not sit in a booster seat, do not wear their safety belt, do not obey traffic signals, or fail to wear protective equipment when bicycling, rollerblading, or skateboarding. The purpose of the DRSR program is to offer a preventive educational resource to encourage responsible decision-making and adherence to safe practices when children are in a car, on the street, or out in public.

DRSR has created a series of lessons for social studies classes at the elementary and secondary levels on citizenship education and traffic safety. The program is aligned with the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills), which all students are tested on in Texas public schools. Upper grade level lessons use student-centered, interactive strategies to teach traffic safety while studying city, state, and national government, the three branches of government, and the responsibilities of citizenship. Elementary lessons also use traffic safety content to teach language arts and math skills. Traffic safety games and information are also available on the DRSR website.

DRSR's Information Sheets provide teachers with background information about traffic laws and municipal court. DRSR can assist teachers in contacting local municipal judges, court support personnel, and city prosecutors to ask them to serve as resource persons in the classroom. Resource persons can bring the lessons alive by providing real life or hypothetical examples, accurate descriptions of what the law requires, and serve as positive role models for students.

We thank you for using these materials in your classrooms.

For more information and resources, please visit:
www.drsr.info www.texaslre.org www.tmcec.com

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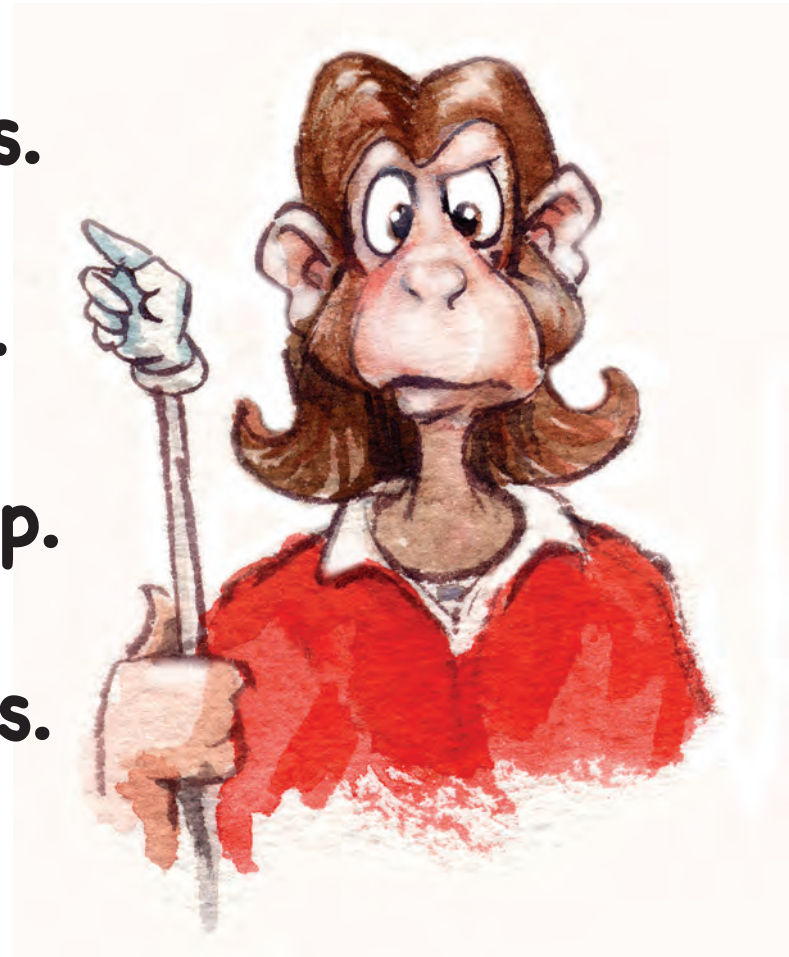
It was a very special day in Mrs. Morales' class. They were getting ready to go on a field trip. They had been counting down the days. They couldn't wait to go to the museum. Tomorrow was the big day!



Mrs. Morales looked at her students with a serious face, "We can't monkey around on our trip. I have two jobs. It is my job to help you learn and to help you be safe."

Marigold raised her hand, "What are the rules for our trip, Mrs. Morales?" Mrs. Morales reminded the students of the safety rules for a field trip.

- **Listen to the adults.**
- **Be safe on the bus.**
- **Stay with the group.**
- **Be safe around cars.**





The students all agreed to the rules. They even signed a contract that they would follow the rules. Marigold got to sign her name in an orange marker, an orange almost the same color as a marigold flower. Mrs. Morales smiled at them and then gave them a note reminding them to wear their school shirts and to bring a sack lunch for the trip.

Field Trip Contract
I, Marigold, will not monkey around on the field trip. I will follow these rules.
I will listen to adults.
I will be safe on the bus.
I will stay with the group.
I will be safe around cars.
Marigold
Signature of Student



The next day the students brought their lunches. They wrote in their journals while Mrs. Morales passed out nametags and packed the cooler.

Before they knew it, it was time to line up. Mimi rushed to the front of the line. "Me first! Me first!" she hollered. But Mrs. Morales shook her head. "No monkeying around. Line up in number order. Maurice, you are the line leader this week." The students got in line and walked to the bus.





On the bus, the bus driver, Mr. Murphy, greeted the students with a smile. Then, he told the students that he needed their help.

"It is a big job to drive the school bus, so no monkeying around," he said with a grin.

"I need everyone to sit on their pockets and stay in their seat. If I need to stop the bus, you could get hurt if you aren't sitting down."





You can talk to your seat partner, but use an inside voice. When we get to a railroad crossing, I have to listen for the train, so I need you to be silent."

"Keep your hands inside the bus. It is very dangerous to reach outside of the bus. Does everyone understand?"

The students all said, "Yes, Mr. Murphy!" And soon, they were on their way! The bus rumbled away from the school.





It was hard to stay quiet when they were so excited.
"I wonder if we will see dinosaur bones?" asked Martin.

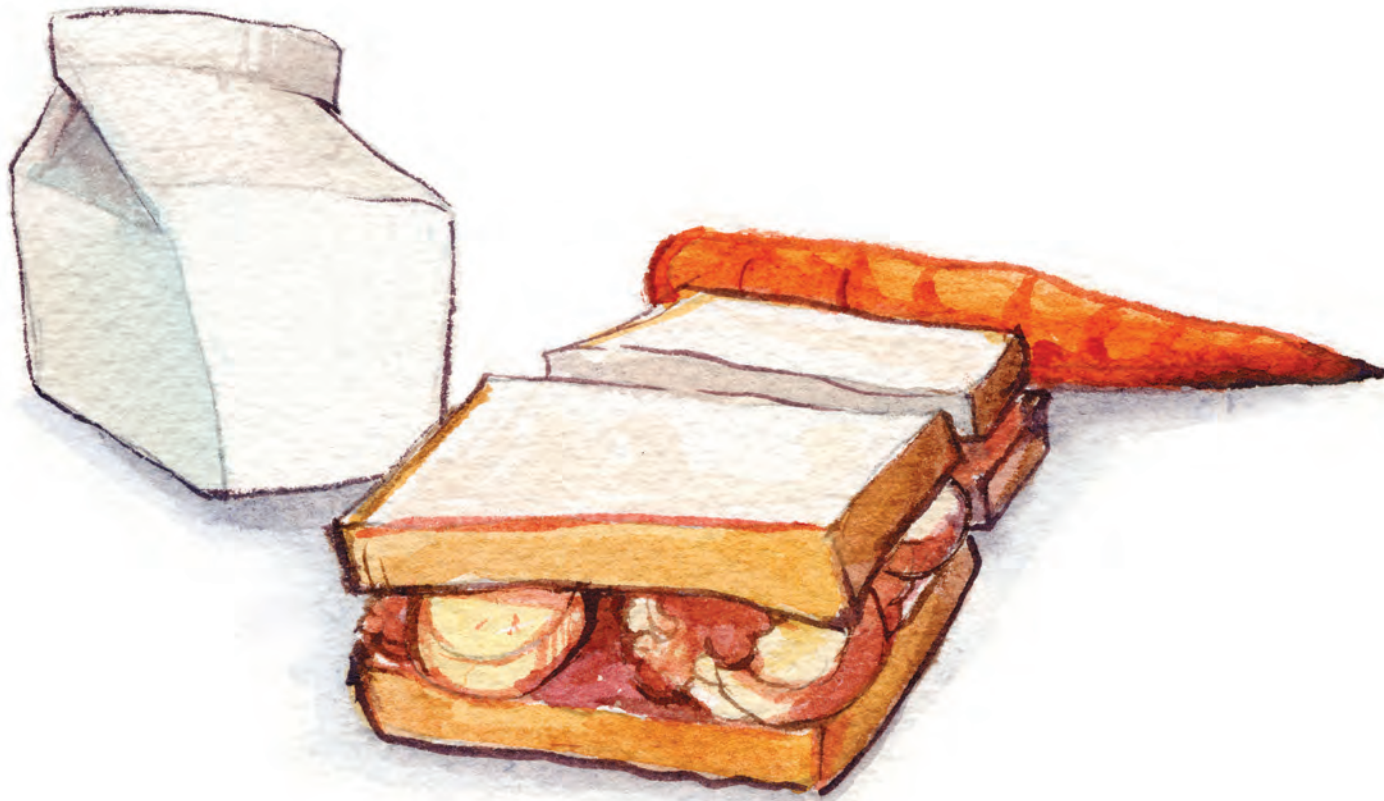
"I want to see a pirate ship," replied Melissa.

"I don't want to see any old ship. I want to see triceratops bones. ROAR!" Martin roared at Melissa, and she squealed.

Marigold looked at them both. "Shhh, we can't monkey around. Mr. Murphy asked us to be quiet." Melissa and Martin nodded. They sat down and began wondering if they might see butterflies or spiders.







Mack turned around in his seat and looked back at Marigold. "What did you bring for lunch, Marigold? I have a peanut butter and banana sandwich."

"I love those," whispered Marigold, "but to be safe, you have to sit flat on your pockets." Marigold smiled when Mack sat down with his back flat to the seat.

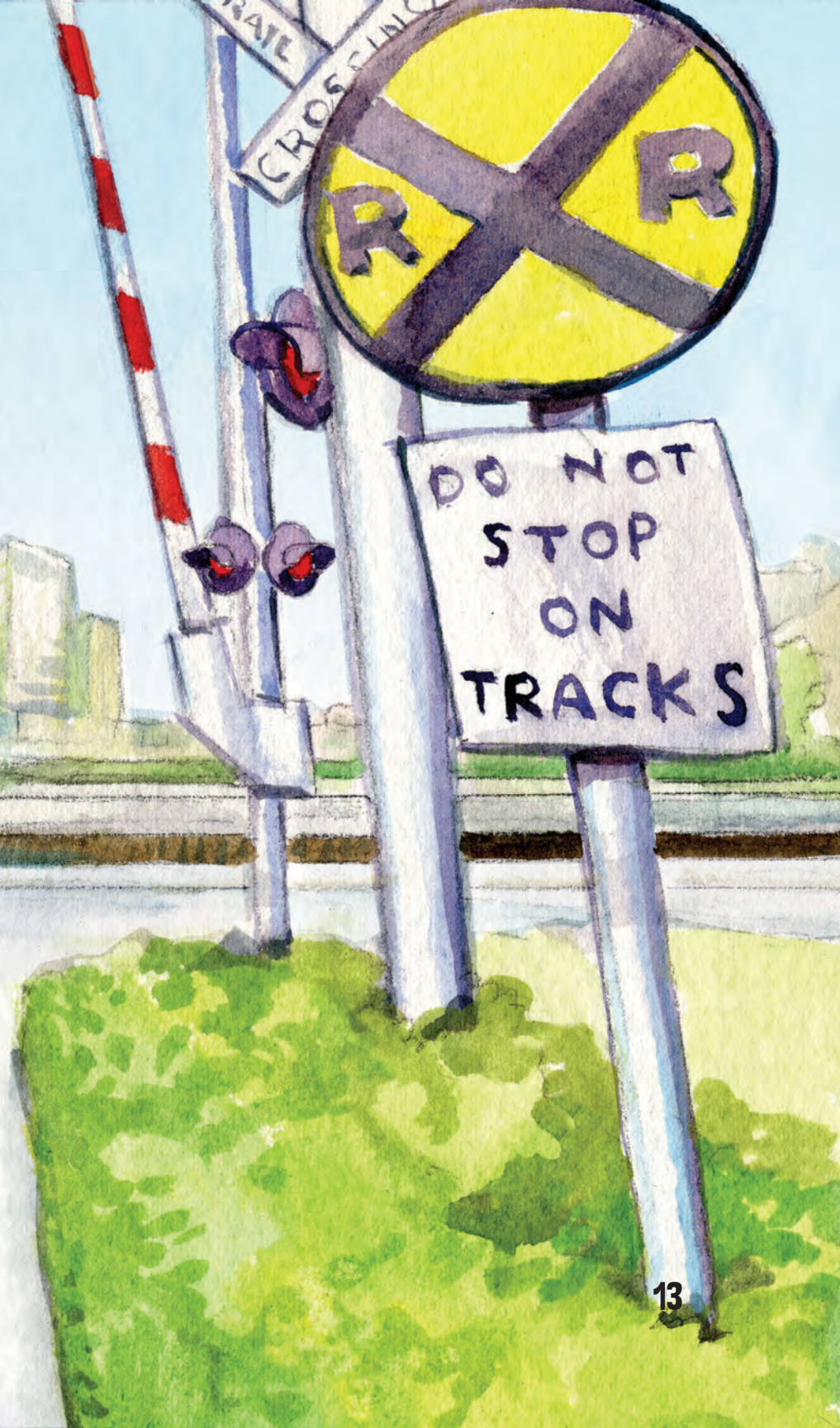


The bus rolled down the road. Then, the bus stopped. Mrs. Morales held up her hand in the quiet sign.

Everyone stopped talking. Mr. Murphy opened the bus door and listened.

Then, bump, bump, bump, they went over the railroad tracks. Martha gave Marigold a thumbs-up.

The class had been very quiet.





Mr. Murphy stopped the bus in front of the museum. The students started to rush out of their seats. But Mrs. Morales shook her head and told everyone to sit down. The class wanted to go inside the museum. They didn't want to wait.

Mr. Murphy smiled at the kids. "Make sure you don't let your backpacks or jackets get caught on the door and be careful on the steps." He watched as the kids came down the steps.

Martha started to jump from the middle step but Marigold looked at her and they both said, "No monkeying around." Then Martha walked down the steps carefully.







The class lined up behind Mrs. Morales. She took five giant steps, like in *Mother May I*, before she started to cross the street. Marigold thought it looked a little silly. "Mrs. Morales, what are you doing?" Mrs. Morales smiled at her.

"I am glad you noticed. I am taking five giant steps so that we are far enough from the bus that the bus driver can see us. Now, we look both ways and off we go to the museum."




The students followed Mrs. Morales in a straight line, but Marigold stopped. Her hair felt funny. Her special flower hair clip that she wore every day was gone!

She turned around and saw it. It was right in front of the bus. She wanted to go get it. She wanted to go get it really badly. It was her favorite hair clip; it had a marigold on it, just like her name. But if she went in front of the bus, Mr. Murphy couldn't see her and that just wouldn't be safe. So, she followed her class.

Mrs. Morales saw Marigold lingering at the end of the line. "What is it Marigold? Is something wrong?" Marigold did her best not to cry, but she was sure that her hair clip was gone forever. "My...my...hairclip. It fell out. It is in front of the bus." Mrs. Morales patted Marigold's back.

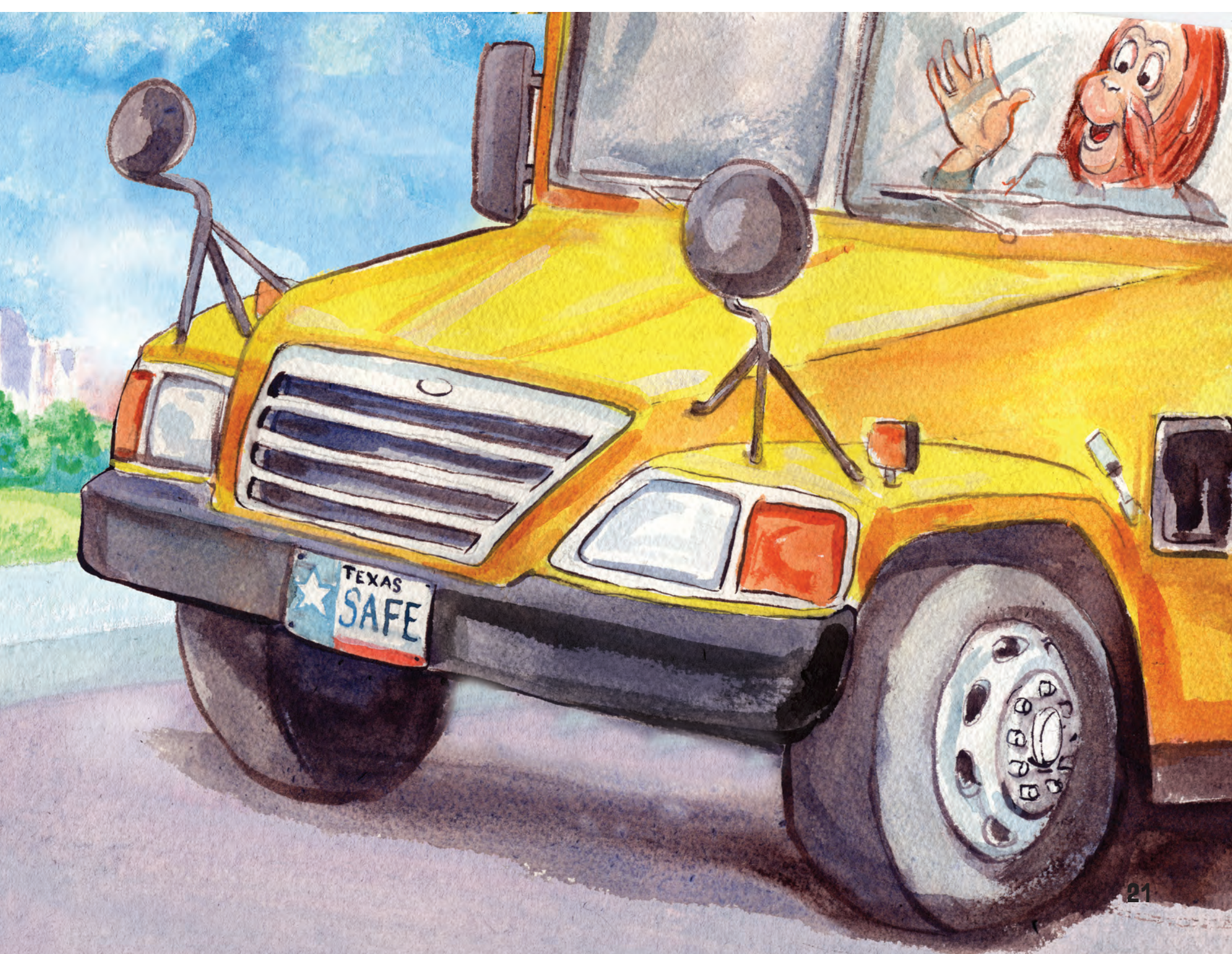




"Good job, Marigold! It wouldn't have been safe to go in front of the bus. I will ask Meg's mom, Mrs. Maxwell, if she will go get it for you."

Meg's mom, Mrs. Maxwell, looked both ways and waved at the bus driver. She carefully picked up the hair clip and gave it to Mrs. Morales.

The whole class cheered. Mrs. Morales passed the hairclip back to Marigold and she had a giant smile when she snapped it back into her hair.





The class was met at the door by the museum tour guide. Oh, they were so excited. They wanted to see everything all at once. There were signs for dinosaurs, cowboys, ships, airplanes, butterflies, and all other sorts of exciting things. Everybody had their own favorite and everyone wanted to see their favorite first.

"Mrs. Morales class, I need your attention please." The tour guide held his hand up and waited until all the class was quiet. "I am Mr. Molinar. I know you are very excited, and we are going to see many things today. But we are going to go together. I have some very cool things to tell you, and you can only hear them if you are listening."



Mrs. Morales reminded the students of the rules. "Remember, we listen to the adults taking care of us and we stay together. Stay with our group."





And then Mr. Molinar led everyone into the fossil room. The students got to pretend to dig up dinosaur bones; they also got to make rubbings of some real Texas fossils. There were movies to watch and information to read.



Marigold and all of her friends learned so much at the museum. They were all tired when it was time to line up and head back to the bus. They said goodbye to Mr. Molinar at the museum door. Mr. Murphy was waiting with the bus.





The students knew to go on the bus in a quiet straight line. They sat on their pockets with their seat partners. Mr. Murphy reminded them to talk quietly with their seat partners. Marigold checked her hair to make sure her hairclip was there.





Marigold and Martha talked about the butterfly garden at the museum and watched the city out the window. In front of them Melissa and Martin were talking about the fossils. Soon, they were back at school.

They got back just in time to play on the playground for a few minutes. Mrs. Morales smiled at the class, "Students, you did great! Everyone was safe and we learned so much! Now, we can monkey around!" The students ran to play chase, slide on the slide, and climb the monkey bars. Marigold checked her hair clip one last time and then started to climb.



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will not monkey around on the
field trip. I will follow these rules:

- I will listen to adults.
- I will be safe on the bus.
- I will stay with the group.
- I will be safe around cars.

Student's signature

