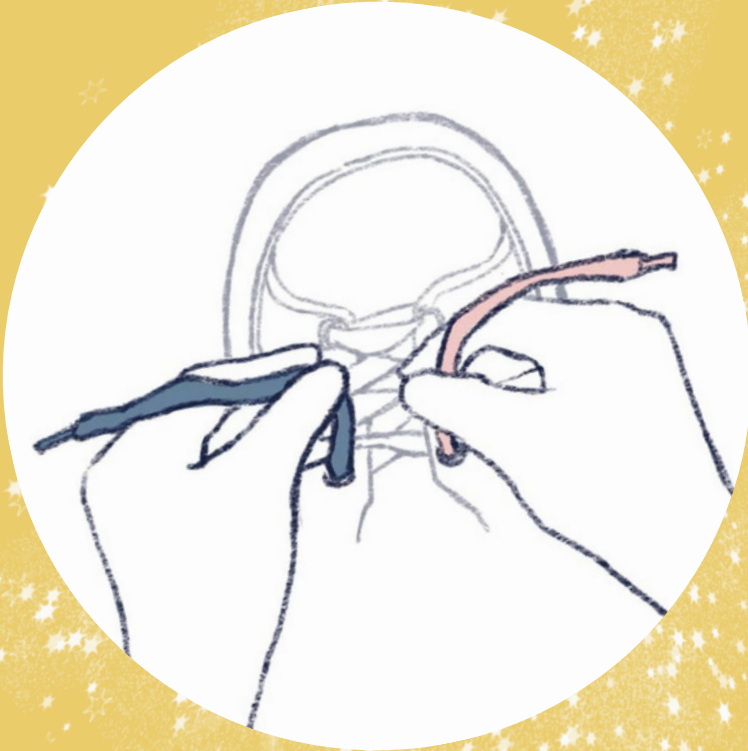
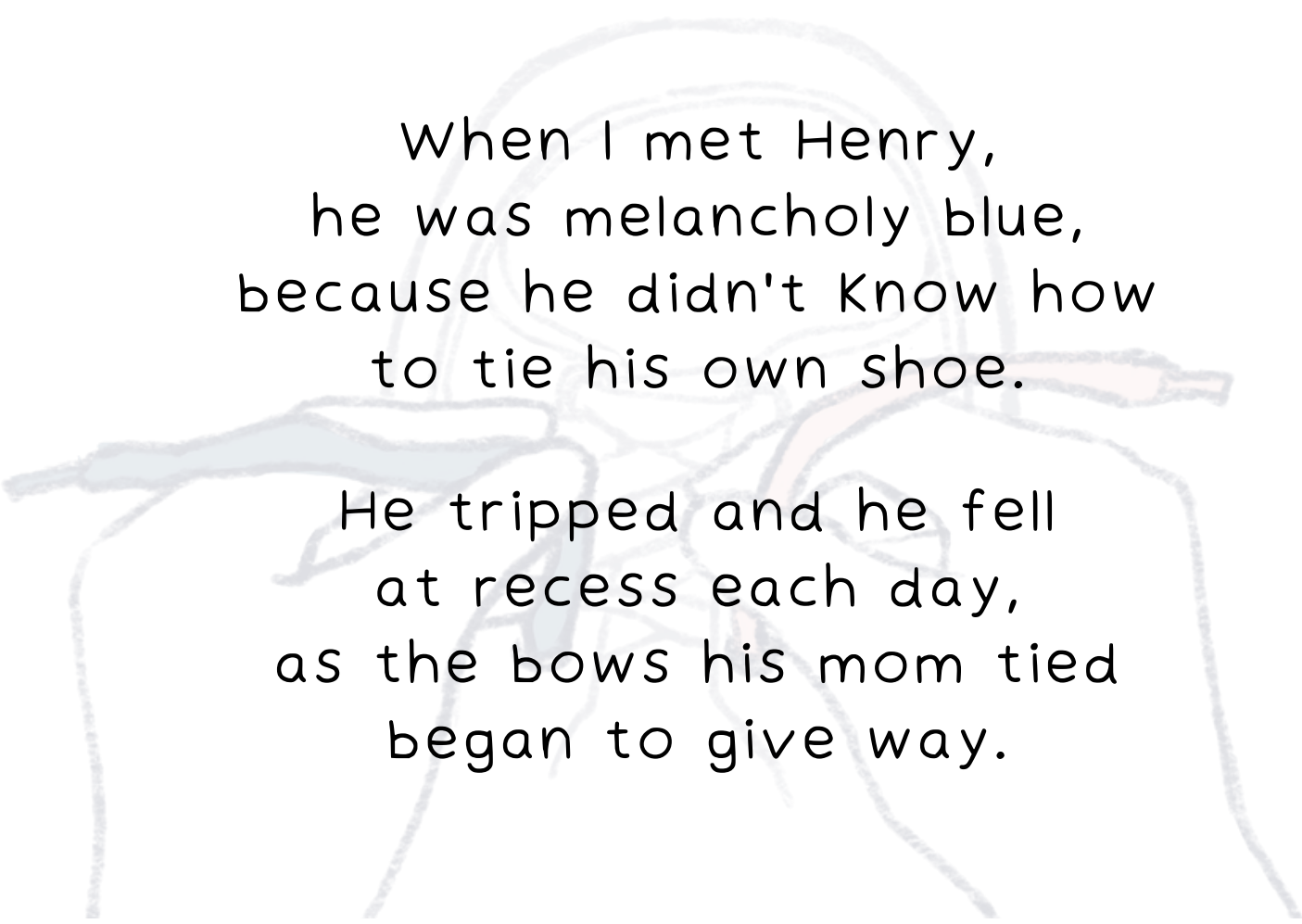


Story by S.J. Rosson
Illustrations by Lan



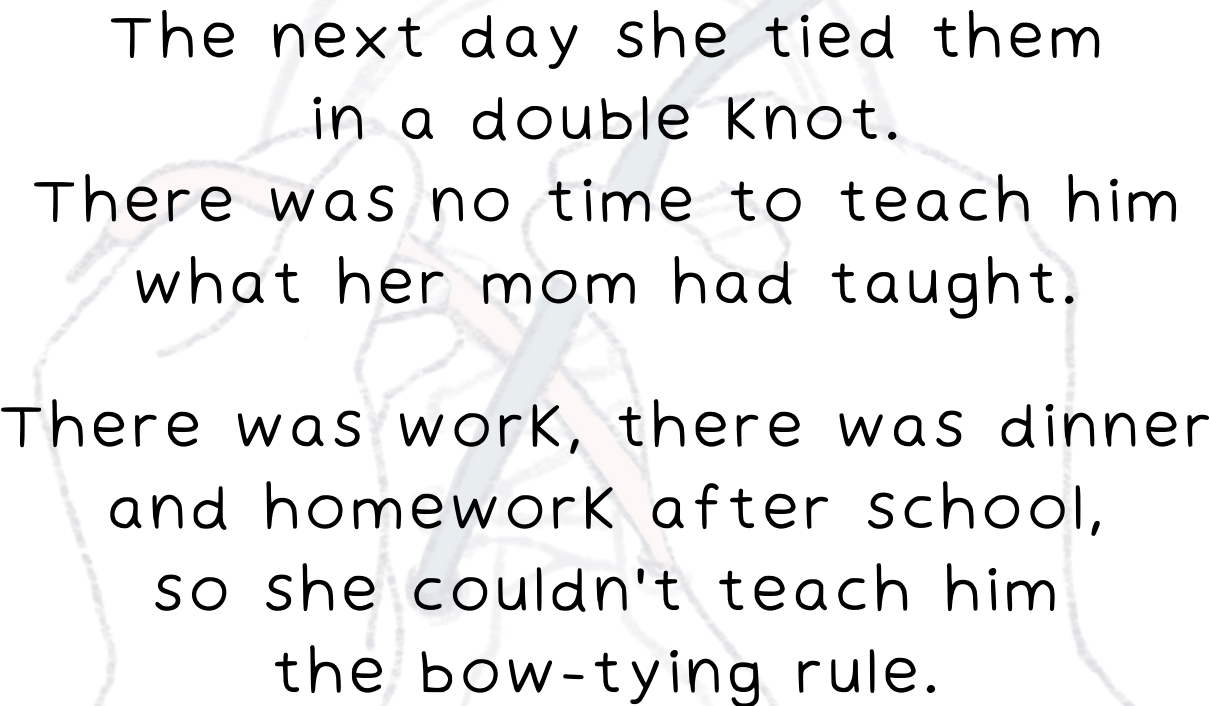
Tie
Your
Shoe



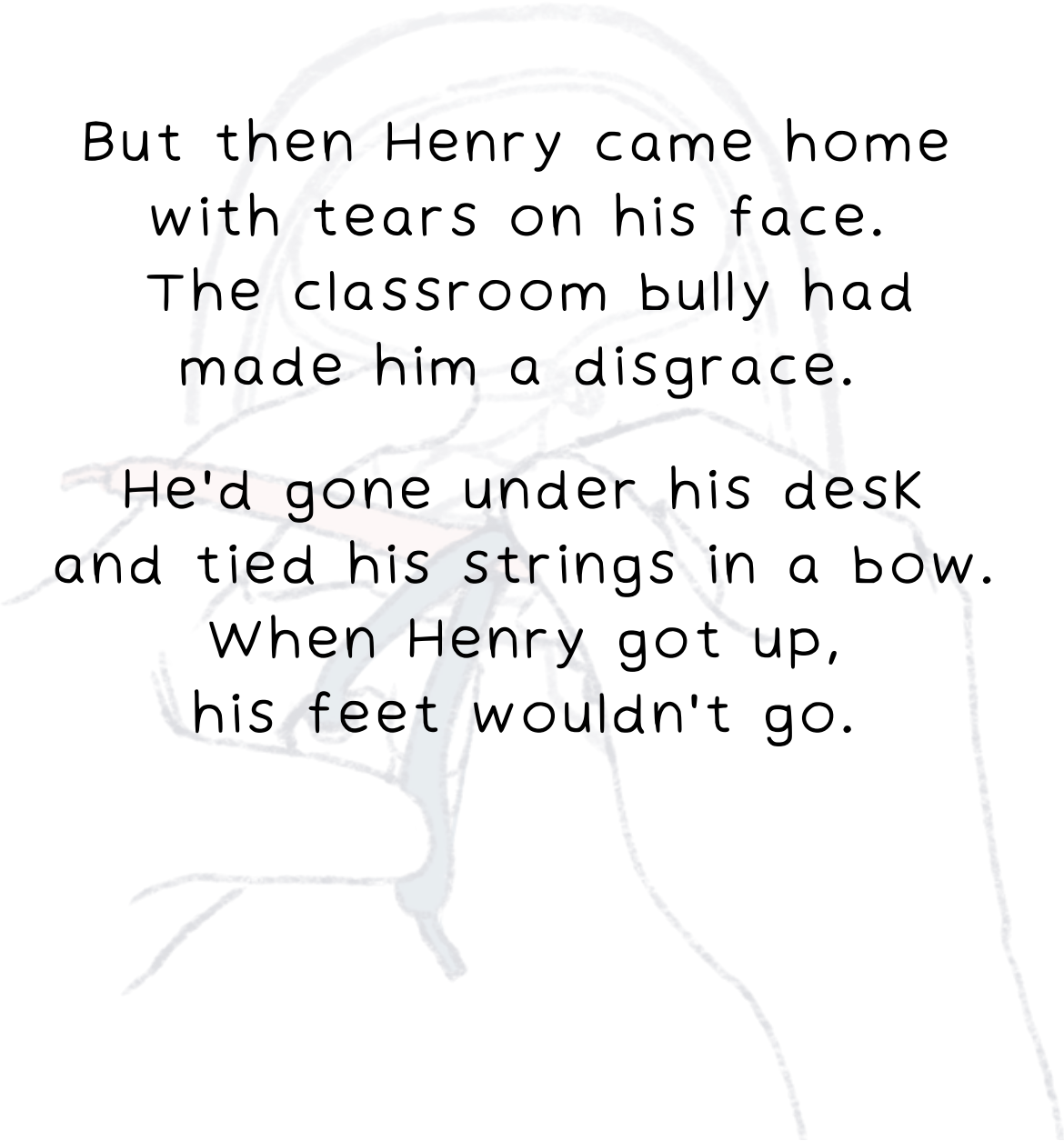
A faint, stylized illustration in the background shows a person from behind, wearing a blue shirt and light-colored pants. They are tripping over a shoelace that is tied in a bow. The shoelace is depicted as a thick, light blue line. The person's legs are spread apart, and their arms are outstretched, suggesting a fall. The overall style is simple and illustrative.

When I met Henry,
he was melancholy blue,
because he didn't know how
to tie his own shoe.

He tripped and he fell
at recess each day,
as the bows his mom tied
began to give way.

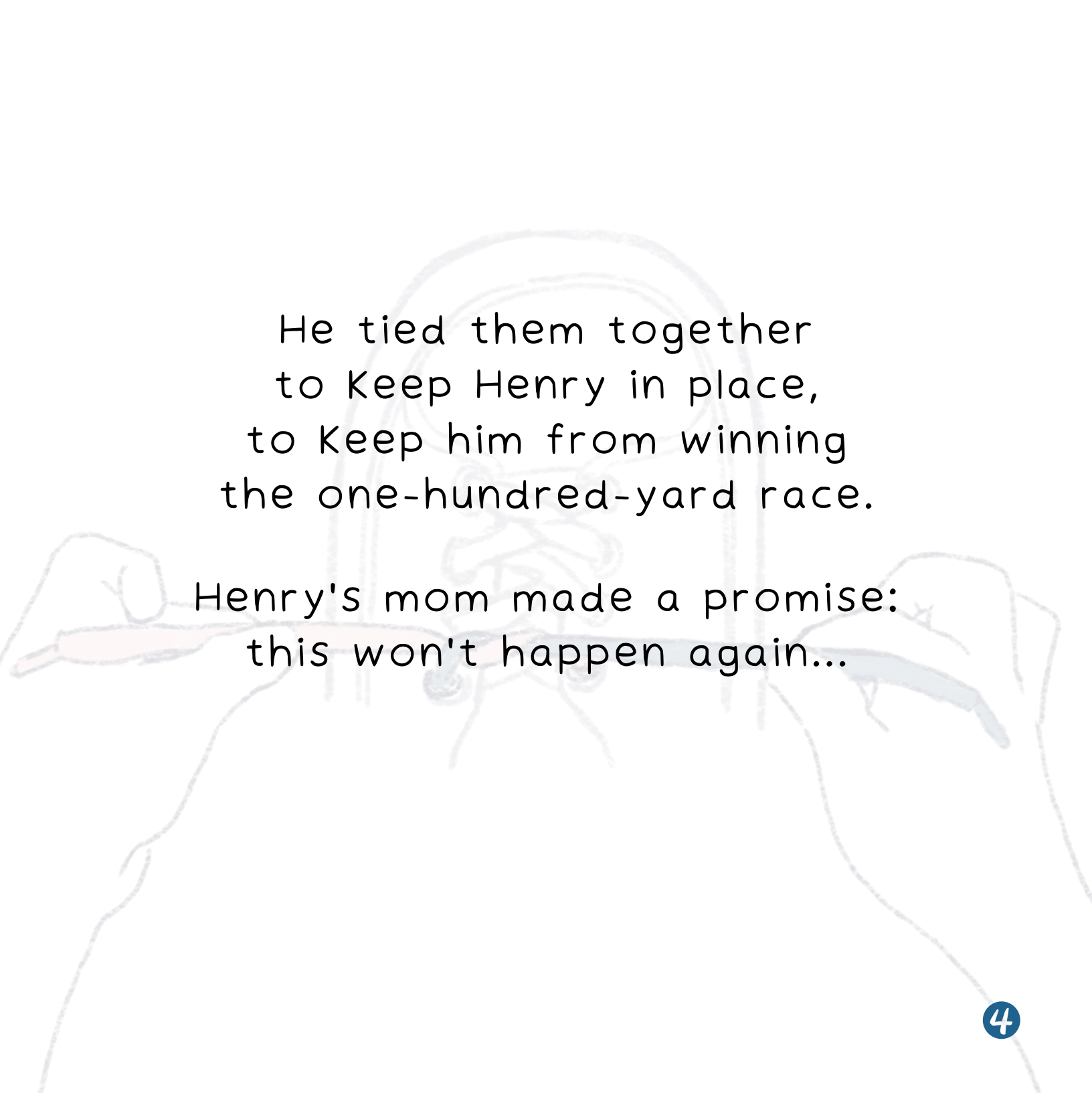


The next day she tied them
in a double Knot.
There was no time to teach him
what her mom had taught.
There was work, there was dinner
and homework after school,
so she couldn't teach him
the bow-tying rule.

A faint, light blue background illustration of a boy. He is wearing a large, round hat and is holding a bow in his hands, with an arrow pointing downwards. The illustration is centered behind the text.

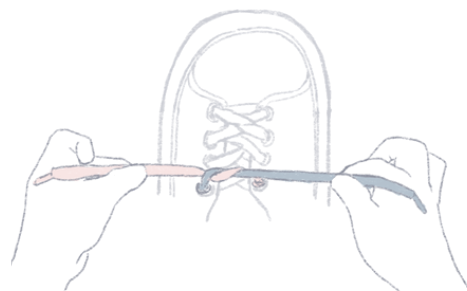
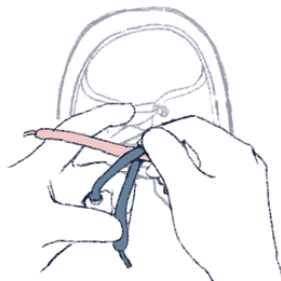
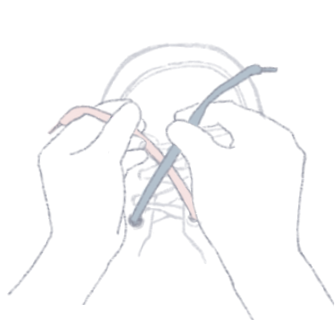
But then Henry came home
with tears on his face.
The classroom bully had
made him a disgrace.

He'd gone under his desk
and tied his strings in a bow.
When Henry got up,
his feet wouldn't go.

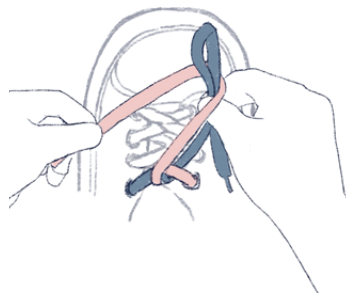


He tied them together
to Keep Henry in place,
to Keep him from winning
the one-hundred-yard race.

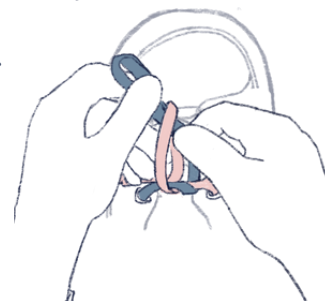
Henry's mom made a promise:
this won't happen again...



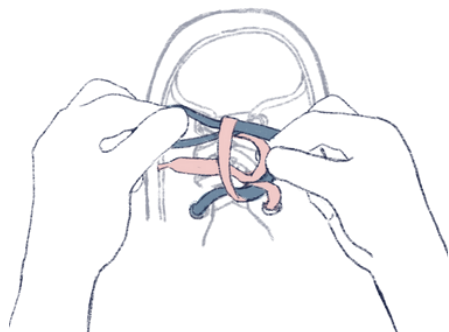
End over end,
let the lesson begin.



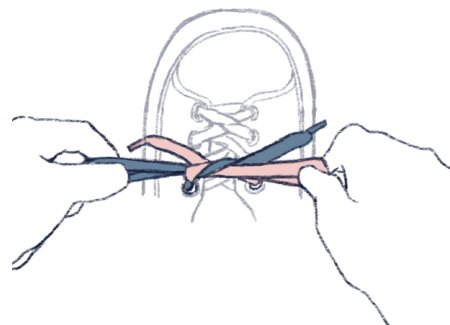
Take this bunny-eared loop
between your fingers and thumb.



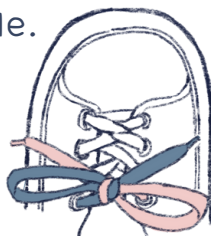
With the other, form a circle
as round as a plum.



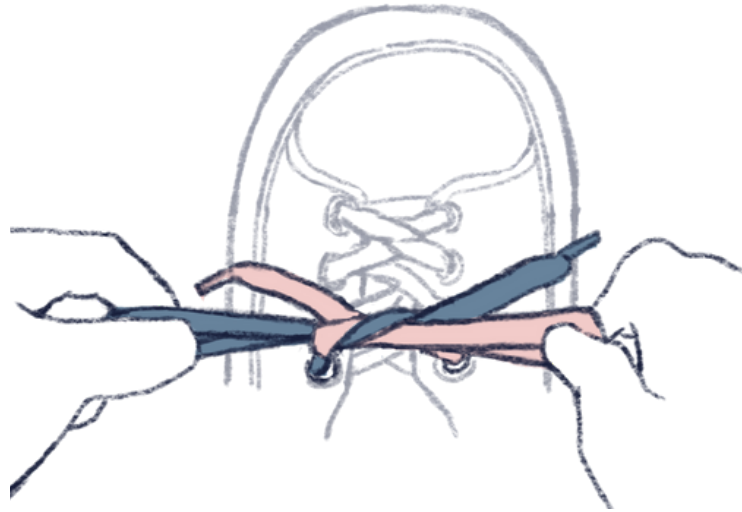
Poke the lace through the circle.



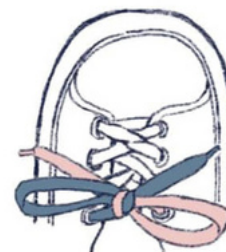
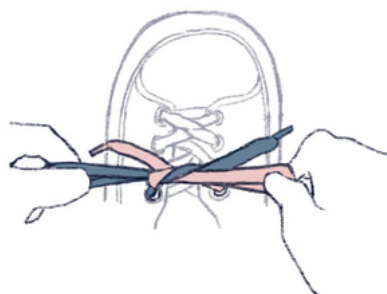
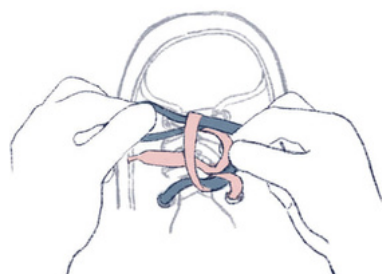
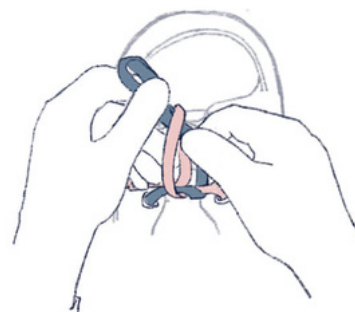
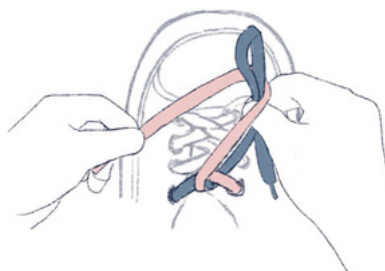
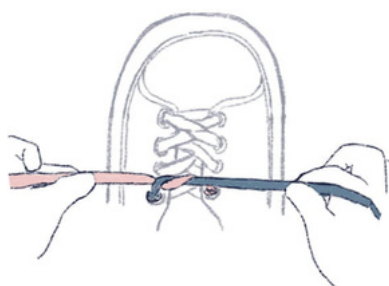
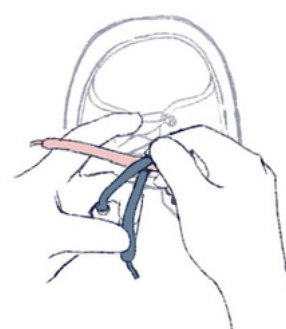
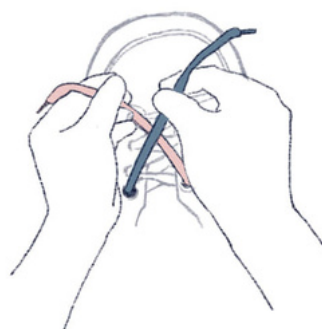
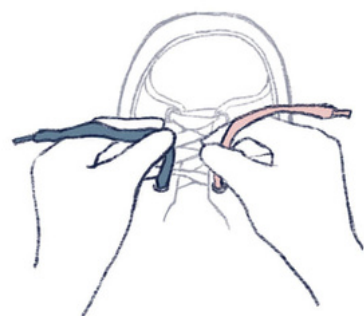
Now give each end a pull.



You just made a bow
using the bow-tying rule!



Then Henry transformed
from melancholy blue
to the color of sunshine
when he tied his own shoe.



SJROSSON

I write stories



