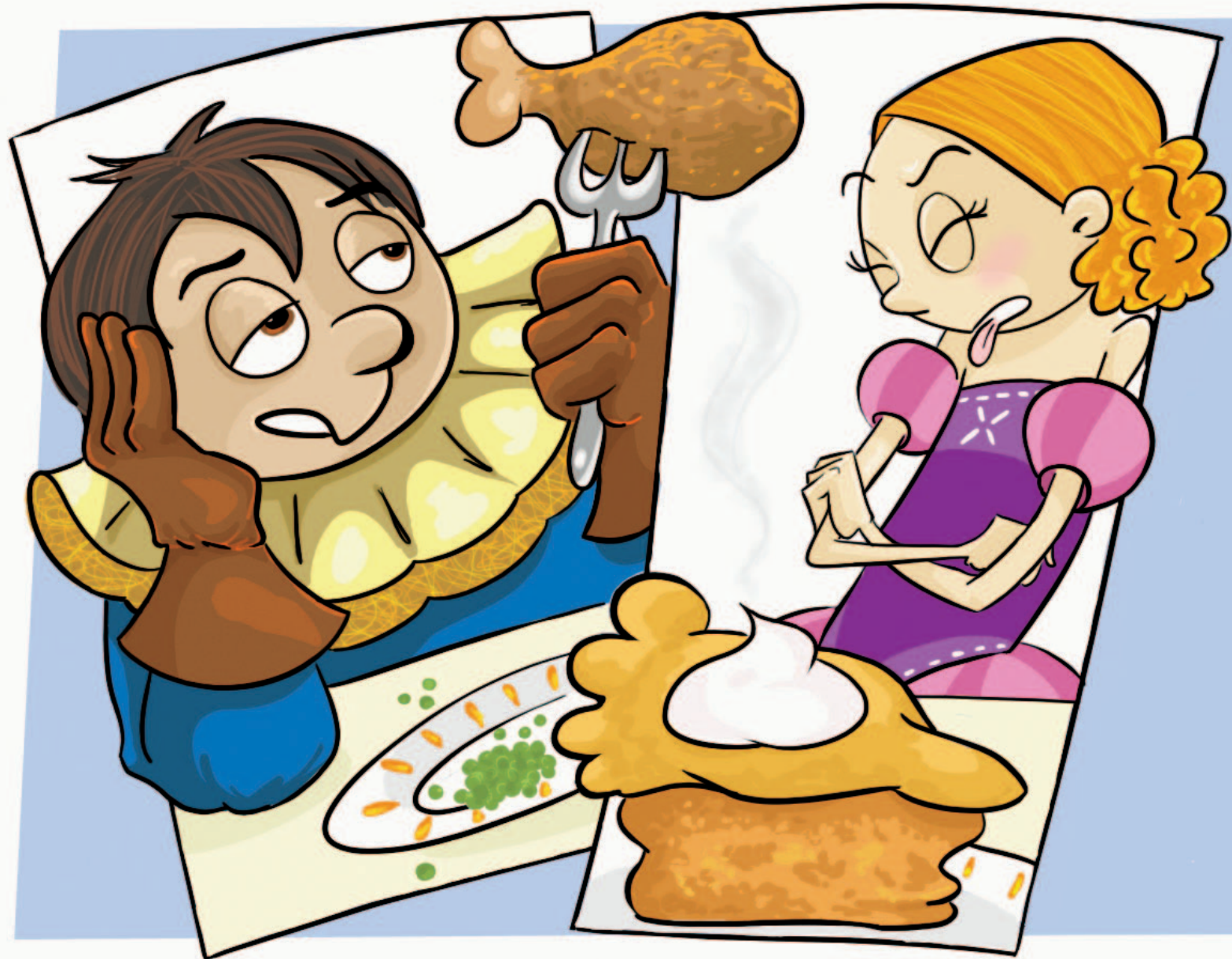


KING FREDDY

Once upon a time there lived a king called Freddy. King Freddy was a polite, kind, and considerate king. He had good table manners, and before eating he always thanked the cooks for preparing such a delicious meal.

However, some of the people at his castle had very poor table manners. They never washed their hands before eating and always grabbed the biggest slices of pie for themselves. They never said “excuse me,” but they just reached over others to get what they wanted. They didn’t thank the cooks or anyone else for the meal, and almost everyone grumbled about the food.



“Chicken again! Why can’t we have steak?” some would say.

“Pie for dessert? But I want pudding!” someone else would grumble.

This made King Freddy sad.

What can I do to show everybody how important it is to be thankful, considerate, and well mannered? King Freddy wondered.

Suddenly he had an idea.

He arranged for a grand feast. In his invitation he asked everyone to dress nicely, wash their hands and faces, and comb their hair before coming, as he wanted it to be a very special feast.

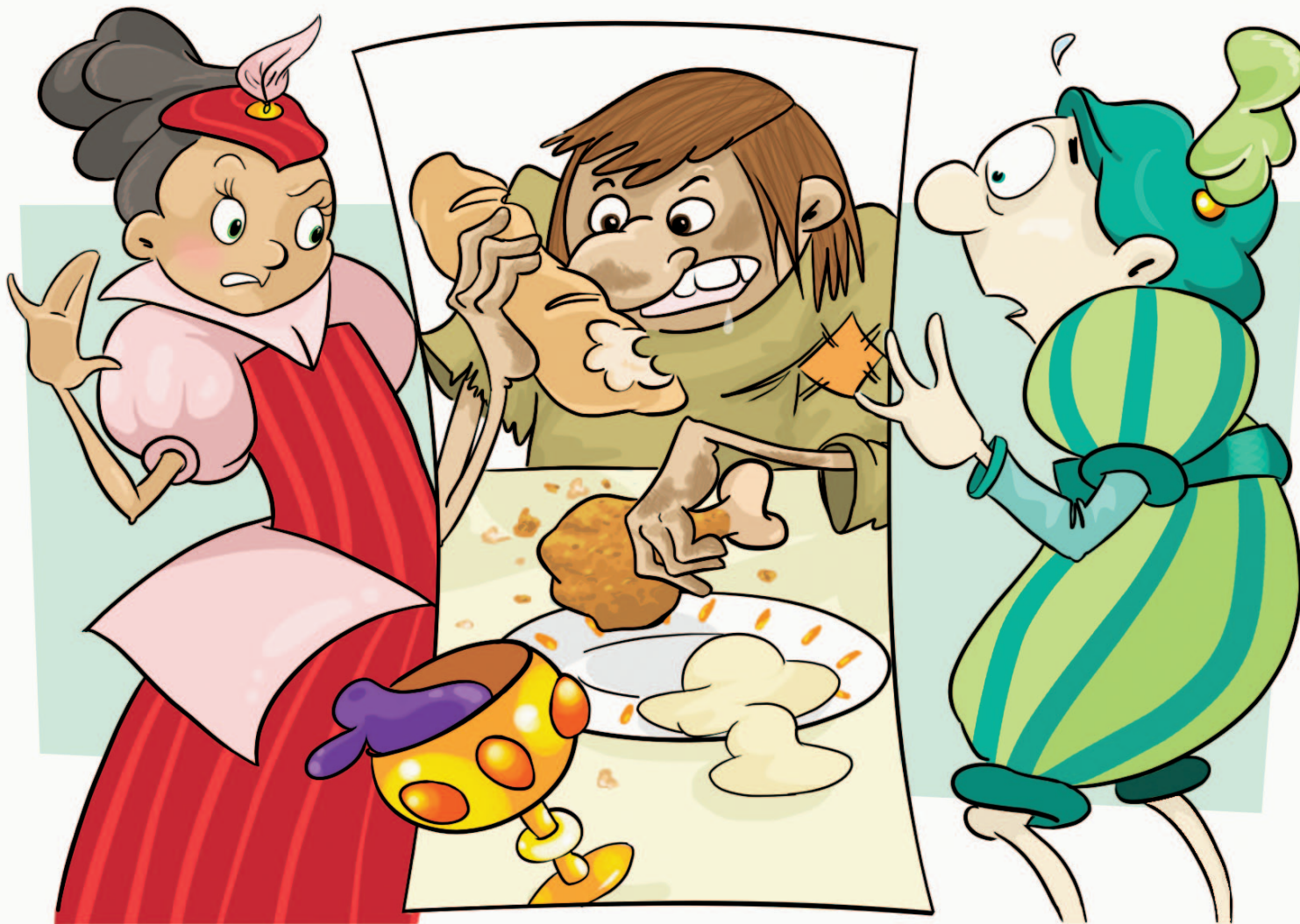
On that great day the banquet room was filled with very hungry people. But King Freddy was nowhere to be seen.

“Where is King Freddy?” the people grumbled.

“We want to start eating!” someone else said.



Suddenly a dirty, ragged man ran into the room, sat down in the king's chair and began grabbing food with his hands. He chewed with his mouth open and knocked things over. He slurped the soup and licked his fingers. A palace guard began to remove the messy man, but he pulled out a smudged and dirty invitation. Everyone was shocked.



Just then, the royal trumpets announced the arrival of the king. The messy man grabbed more food and scurried off.

When everyone was seated, King Freddy said, "I am sorry I kept you waiting. Did anyone notice someone with bad manners sitting in my chair?"

"Oh yes!" the people exclaimed. "It was disgusting! He had no manners at all."

"And he was so discourteous," others commented. "He never said 'please' or 'thank you.'"

"I have seen many people with poor manners, but he was the worst," King Freddy agreed, "and that's why I invited him."

“But why?” someone asked.

“To show everyone how awful bad manners are and why good manners are so important.

“We’ve all made some of the same mistakes that this man has made. But I hope no one will ever behave like that again. Let’s try to have better manners!” King Freddy said with a smile.

“Yes!” everyone answered cheerfully. “We’ll try to have good manners.”

This time when the cooks brought the food, the guests all thanked them kindly. They were careful to mind their manners and be courteous throughout the feast by saying *please* and *thank you*.

The banquet was a success. And from that day forward, mealtimes throughout King Freddy’s kingdom were happy times for everyone.

The End

