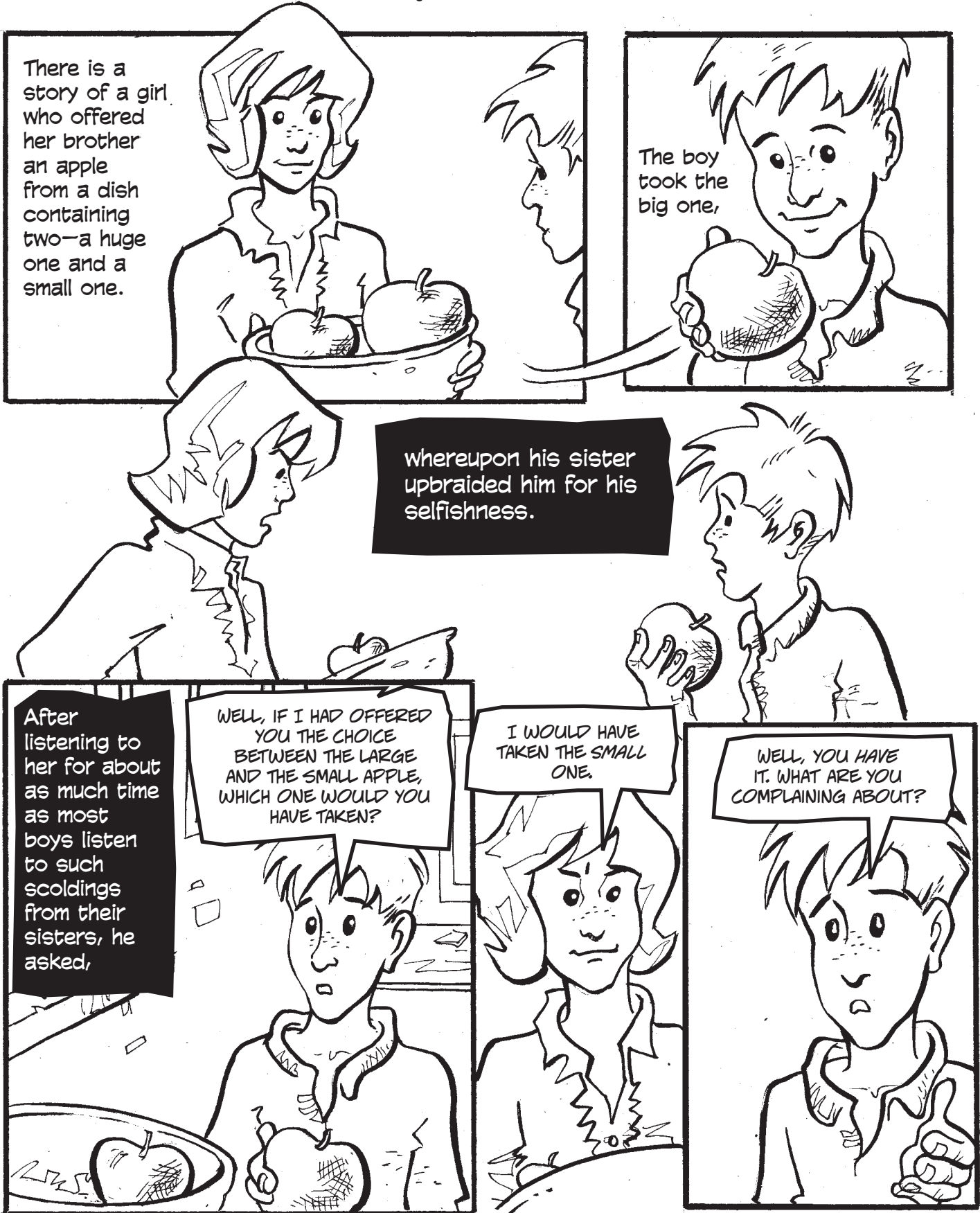


# Beware of Self-Deception



The boy and the girl were equally selfish.

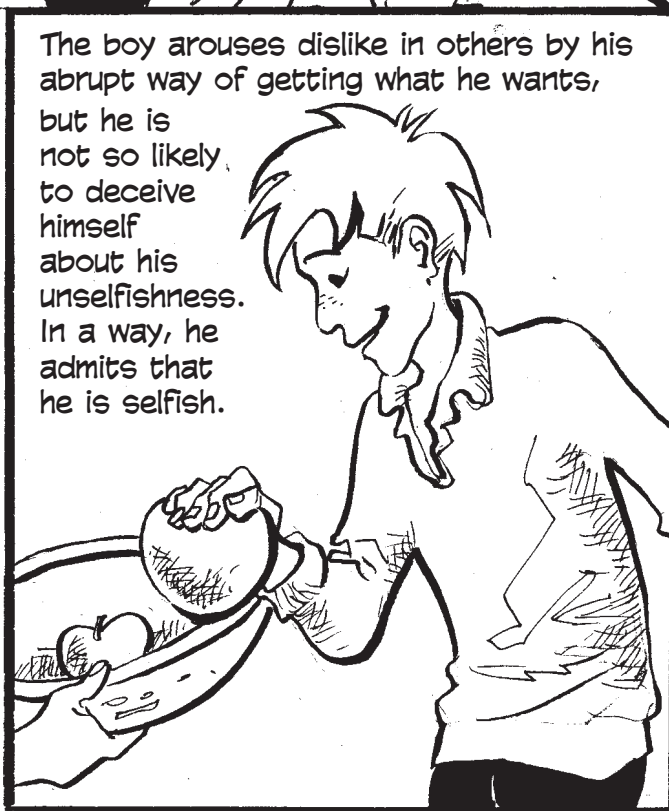
The difference between them was that the girl concealed her selfishness behind a social convention, while the boy ignored that convention.

# Both wanted the big apple.

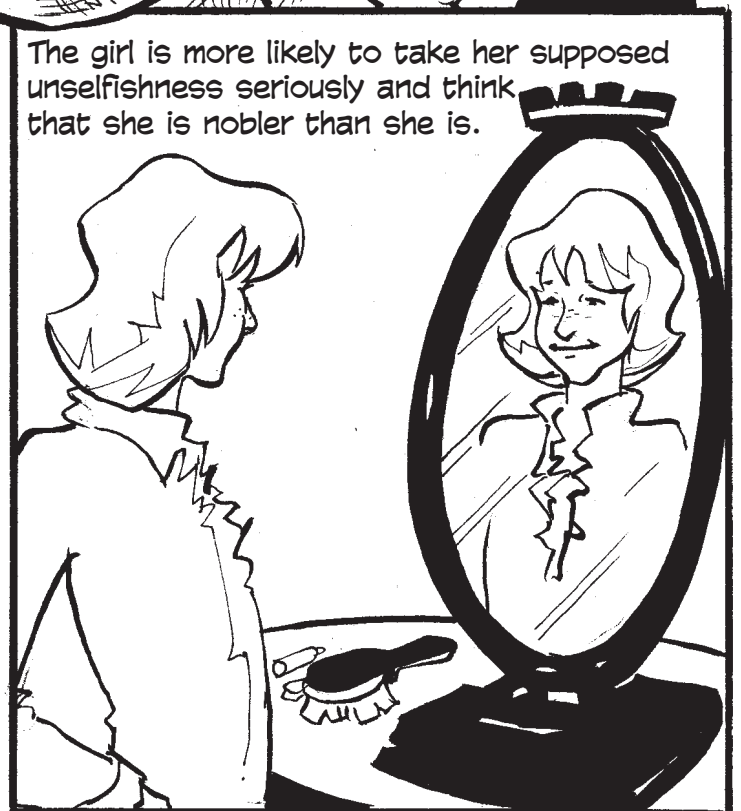
The girl tried to get it by using a little social trick.

The boy, not being quick enough to devise such a trick, defied convention and simply took the big apple.

Which type of conduct is better?



The boy arouses dislike in others by his abrupt way of getting what he wants, but he is not so likely to deceive himself about his selfishness. In a way, he admits that he is selfish.



The girl is more likely to take her supposed unselfishness seriously and think that she is nobler than she is.

Since self-deceit is dangerous, the girl would seem to be in the more vulnerable position. God delights when truth reigns in our inmost being,<sup>1</sup> because He knows that His truth will set us truly free.<sup>2</sup> He blesses those in whose spirit there is no deceit.<sup>3</sup>

#### Footnotes:

- 1 See Psalm 51:6.
- 2 See John 8:32.
- 3 See Psalm 32:2.

S&S link: **Character Building: Values and Virtues: Integrity-2b**  
This article is adapted from *Keeping a Sound Mind*. Macmillan Co., 1947.  
Authored by John J. B. Morgan. Illustrated and designed by Jeremy.  
Published by My Wonder Studio. Copyright © 2020 The Family International.