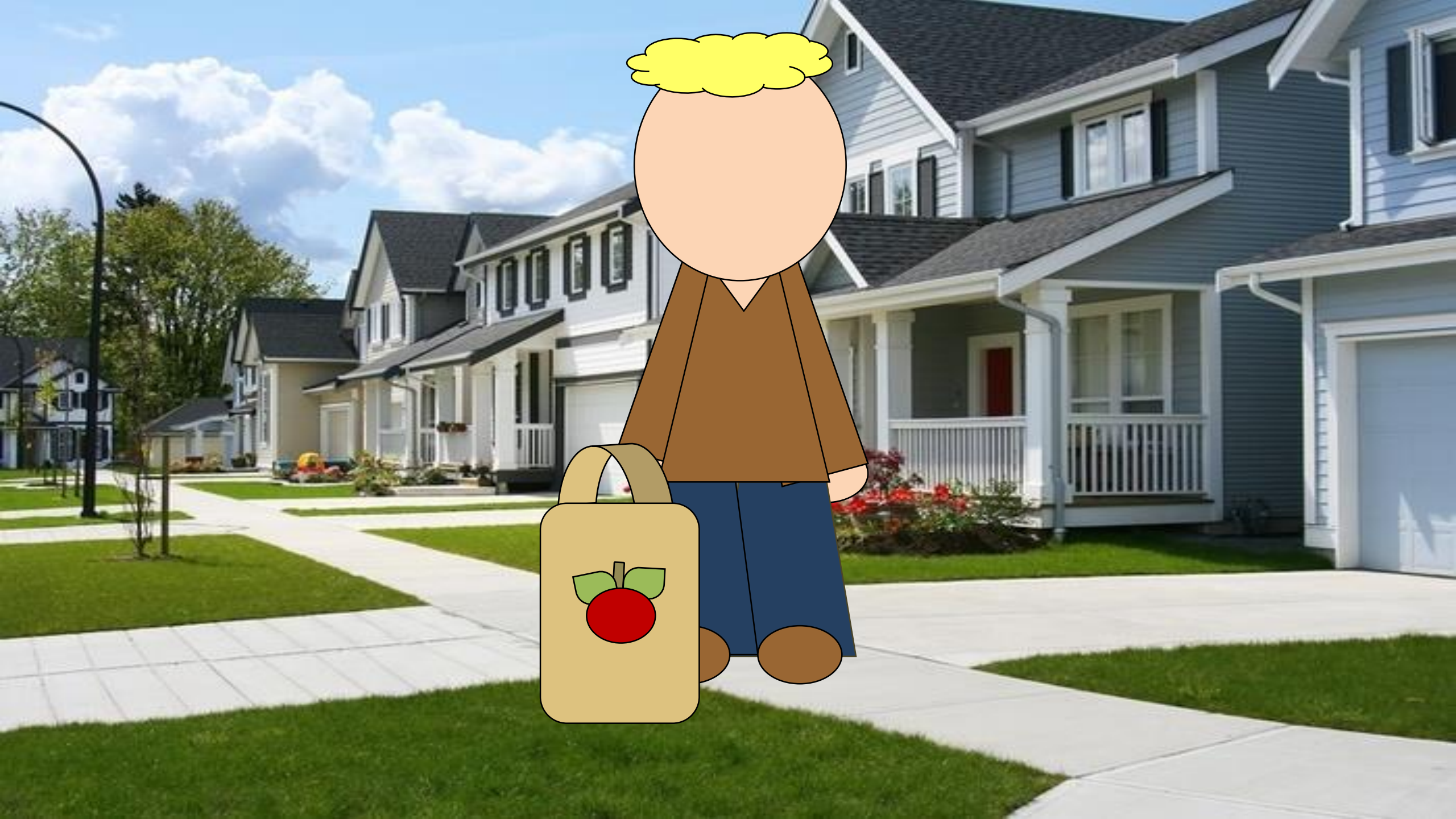
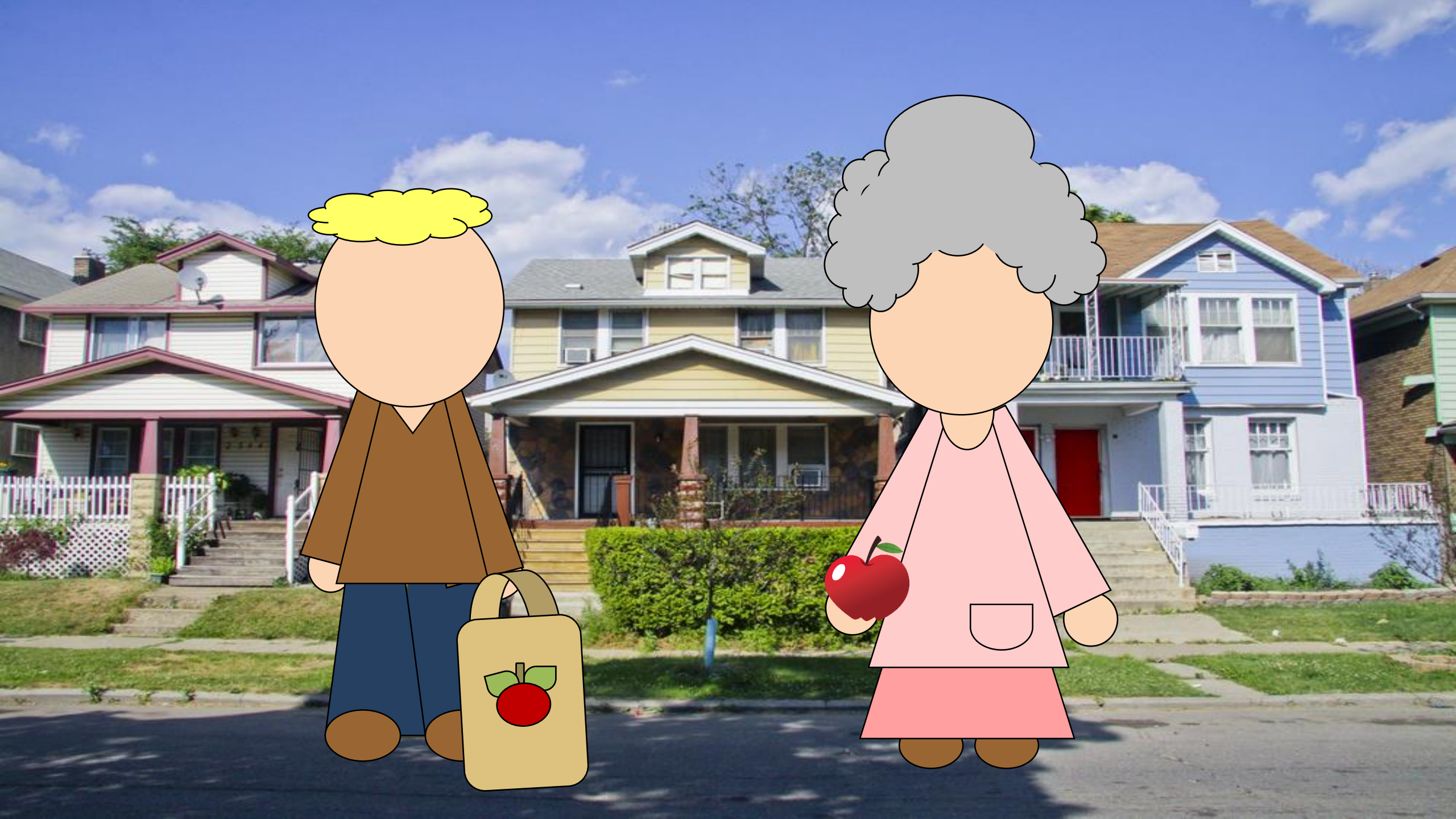


# Promises



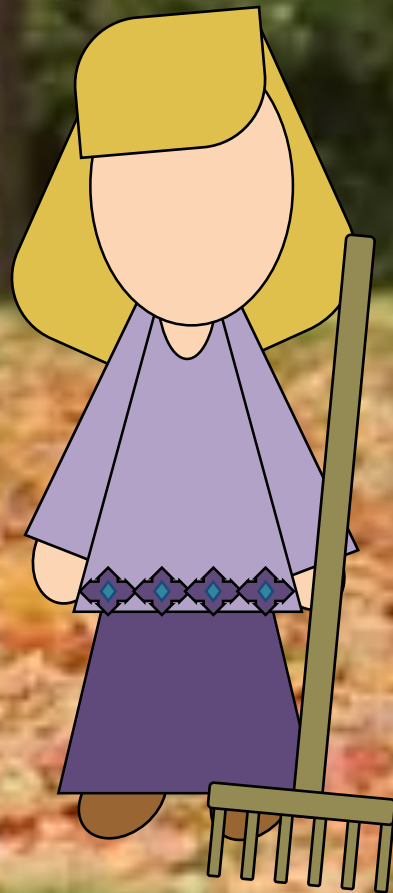
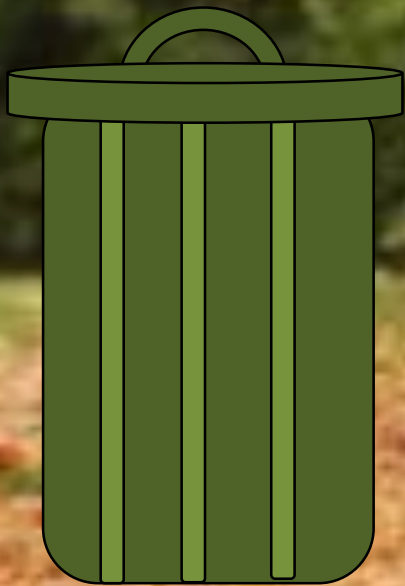






# Covenants









Stephen was about to go out to play one morning when his mother handed him a bag of apples.

“This bag of apples is for Sister Jones down the street. Could you deliver them for me?” she asked.

“Sure,” said Stephen as he took the bag.

“Be sure you deliver the apples before you play, and be careful not to drop any on the ground,” cautioned his mother. “Take them right to Sister Jones.”

“I will. I promise!” said Stephen.

When Stephen came out of his house with the bag of apples, two of his friends were waiting for him. They were starting up a game and wanted him to play.

“I’ve got to deliver these apples first,” Stephen replied.

One of the boys said, “Oh, you can do that later. We can only play for an hour, so we need to get started.”

“No, I’ll do this first. I promised my mother.”

As he walked, Stephen began to swing the bag of apples in the air. Then he remembered his promise.

If he swung the bag high in the air an apple might fall out and get bruised. He held the bag carefully as he walked the rest of the way to Sister Jones’s house.

As he handed the bag to Sister Jones, Stephen smiled.

Jean excitedly told her father that the circus was in town and asked if they could go. Father reminded Jean that yesterday the wind had blown lots of loose trash into the yard, and it needed to be cleaned up. Jean frowned.

Father told her that if she cleaned the yard in the morning, he would take her to the circus that afternoon. Jean said she would clean the yard. Both Jean and her father made a promise to each other.

A covenant is a two-way promise. When you make a covenant with someone, you agree to do certain things and that person agrees to do certain things.