Standing Up for Darla

The morning bell had just rung at Petal Elementary School. It was time for recess! The Flower Friends headed outside to the playground.

“Who wants to play hopscotch?” Tula the Tulip asked the Flower Friends.

“I do,” Zinni replied.

“Me too!” Gerri added.
The Flower Friends ran over to the hopscotch board.

“You go first, Tula,” Gerri said.

“Okay,” Zinni said. “Ready, set, hop!”

Giggling as they took turns, the Flower Friends began to play.
Then Tula noticed some dandelions playing kickball nearby. A few of them were teasing Darla, one of the smaller dandelions.

Tula didn’t like to see anyone treated unkindly.

I should tell them to stop, she thought.
But what if they start being mean to me?
Maybe I should pretend I didn’t see anything.

Then Tula saw a tear trickle down Darla’s face.

**I have to say something,** she thought.

**Even if I’m a little scared, I know I can act with courage.**

She marched over to the dandelions.
“Hey, everyone,” Tula said. “I can see that Darla is sad. How about if everyone plays together?”
The dandelions hung their heads.

“We’re sorry, Darla,” the dandelions said.

“Do you and Tula and your friends want to play kickball with us?”


Tula went back to Gerri and Zinni and told them that the dandelions had invited them to play kickball.

“That sounds great,” Gerri said. “We’re glad you were courageous and strong enough to ask the dandelions to stop teasing Darla. Maybe we’ll make some new friends because of it!”

“You can’t tell us what to do!” one of the dandelions said.

“Yeah!” another one chimed in.

Tula knew she didn’t have to fix this by herself. She turned to go find an adult. But the school principal, Miss Evergreen, had walked over. She had overheard everything that Tula and the dandelions had said.

“Tula’s right,” Miss Evergreen said. “Remember, teasing hurts people’s feelings.”