

Fernando's Fun-tastic Friends

With love to my fun-tastic son, Mason—Tina Powell

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The author would like to recognize the creative genius of Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*.

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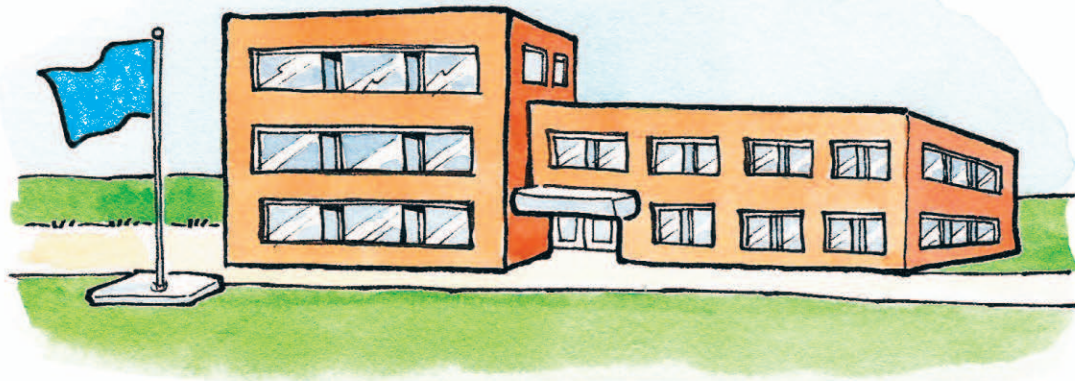
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Fernando's Fun-tastic Friends

by Tina Powell

Illustrated by Jenny Campbell





It was Fernando's first day at Fickle Field Elementary School. "Find your seats, everyone," said Miss Ferguson. "I'd like you to meet a new student. His name is Fernando. He just moved here from Florida. Who would like to show Fernando around our school?"





Forty hands flew up in the air. In fact, some children raised both hands! Some even raised their feet! Fernando felt fabulous! Miss Ferguson smiled at Peter, Samantha, and Andrew. “You can be the first to welcome Fernando to our school.”



At recess, Peter, Samantha, and Andrew invited Fernando to join Fickle Field Elementary School's new Fitness Fun Club. "What will the club do?" asked Fernando.

"We'll play sports and games," said Andrew, "and make sure everyone is fit and having fun!"

Fernando was not a fan. "That doesn't sound like much fun to me."

"I guess we could sign up later," said Peter. "Do you want to play flag football instead?"

"Or four square?" suggested Samantha.

"Or freeze tag?" offered Andrew.

Fernando forced a smile. "No thanks. You guys go ahead."





Fernando left his friends and found a quiet place to read his Frankenstein comic book. There he sat for the entire recess, flipping the pages.



At lunch, Peter, Samantha, and Andrew invited Fernando to sit at their table. “Would you like half of my sandwich?” offered Samantha. “It’s got fresh turkey, feta cheese, fruit salad, and flaxseed on it.”

“That sounds awful!” said Fernando. “I’m fine with just French fries.”



For five days, Fernando's new friends failed to have fun with Fernando.

"Want to play follow-the-leader?" asked Peter.

"How about leapfrog?" suggested Samantha.

"We could go five-pin bowling," offered Andrew.



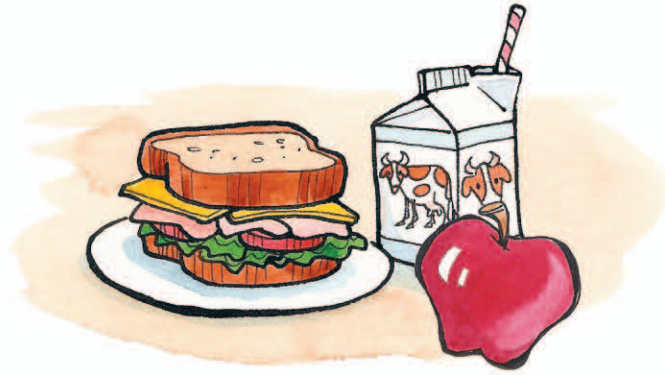


Fernando's answer was always the same. "No, no, no."

Fairly frustrated, Fernando's friends asked, "What would *you* like to do, Fernando?"



For the next five days, the four friends watched Frankenstein movies, feasted on fruit gummies, read the funny papers, played foosball, and finished all fifty levels in Fernando's new video game.



Fernando smiled at his new friends. “Look at them,” he thought, “fighting over the last fruit gummy.” Fernando frowned. “Fighting over a fruit gummy? That’s no fun! That’s downright foolish.”

Fernando furrowed his forehead. “Why are my friends acting so funny?” he wondered.