



# **Stretch The Brave Slug: A Tale Of Friendship And Courage**

**By Lydia Sterry**

**Illustrations by Joel and Veola Sterry**



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By Lydia Sterry, Illustrations by Joel and Veola  
Sterry

*Hello, dear young adventurers!*

*Gather around as we embark on a magical journey with Stretch, a bold and clever young boy, through the enchanting world of peer pressure. This delightful story is inspired by true events, transformed into a captivating tale to teach you, my young friends, how to face challenges with bravery and resilience.*

***Dear Parents and Caregivers:***

*Parents and caregivers, be prepared for a heart-warming adventure that might stir some emotions. Fear not, for this story is crafted to guide you and your child through important lessons. Best suited for children aged four and older.*

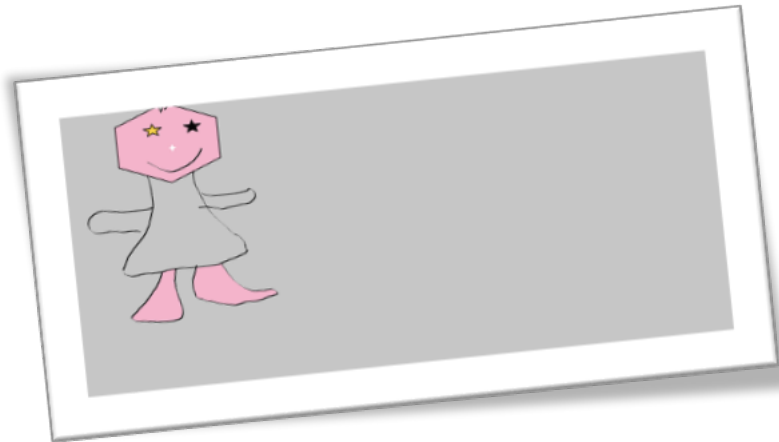
*Now, let's not view this as a mere story; think of it as an ongoing conversation about 'peer pressure.' Parents, feel free to ask your little ones, "Have you thought more about our chat from yesterday or last week?" or perhaps, "Do you have any questions about what we discussed on Wednesday?" These questions can open the door to exploring these concepts further, making them a little less mysterious.*

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Once upon a time, in a lively town, there lived a spirited boy named **Stretch**. He earned this unique name because he believed in stretching his imagination and courage. Stretch had a close-knit group of friends with whom he loved to **explore** the world around him.

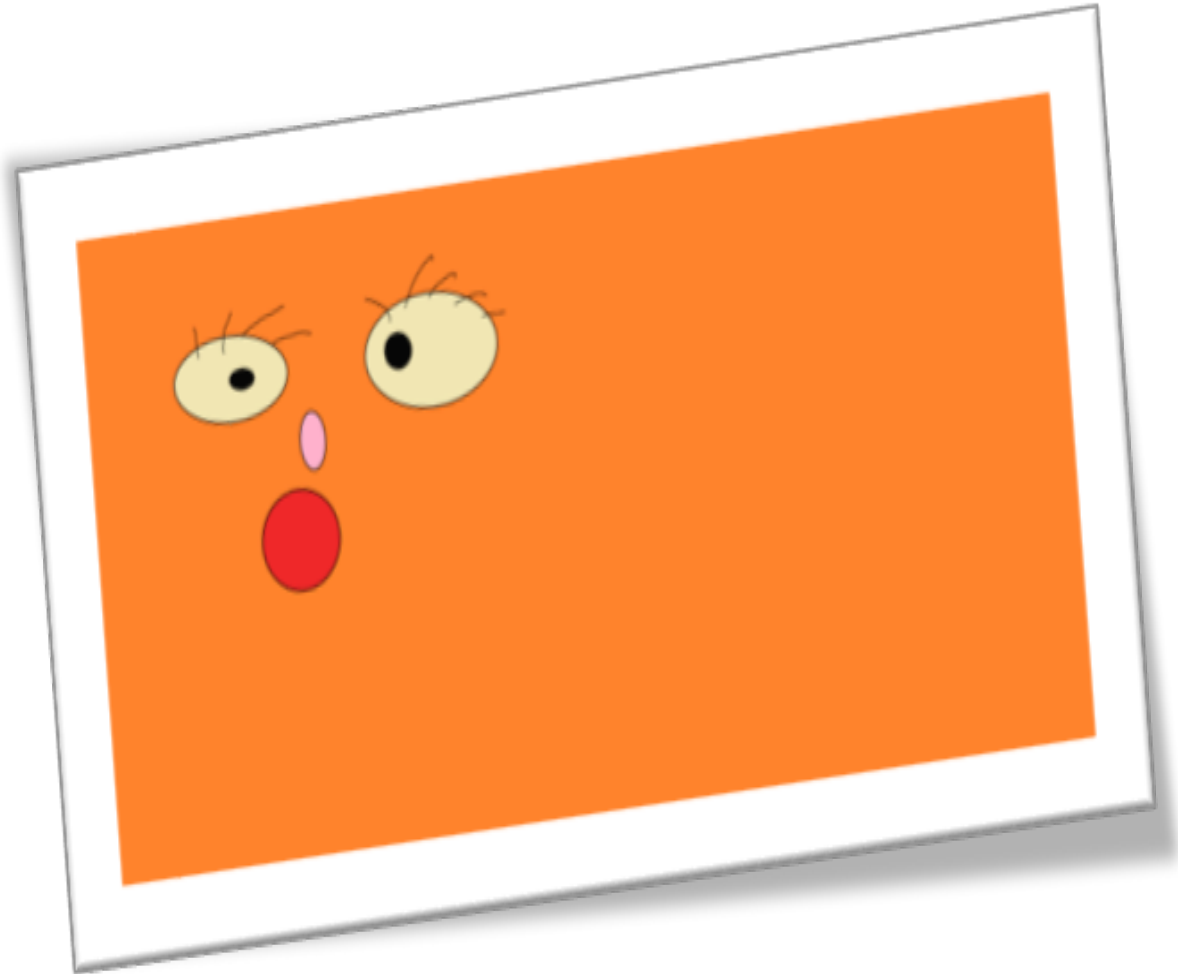
One sunny day, they found themselves in the park, surrounded by swings, slides, and a vast green area perfect for adventures. Little did they know; this day would unfold into a remarkable journey of **friendship** and **courage**.



As they played joyfully, discovering the wonders of the park, they stumbled upon tiny, slimy slugs on the ground. Laughter echoed as one of Stretch's friends shared a curious fact—his dad claimed that everyone in France **ate** slugs.

The atmosphere took a turn as playful banter transformed into a daring challenge. The cheers of "go on, it's only a slug, eat it" and "bet you're too

scared" **filled** the air. Stretch felt torn between fitting in with his friends and staying true to himself.



The pressure intensified with each chant of "do it, do it, do it," and Stretch could feel the butterflies fluttering **wildly** in his tummy.

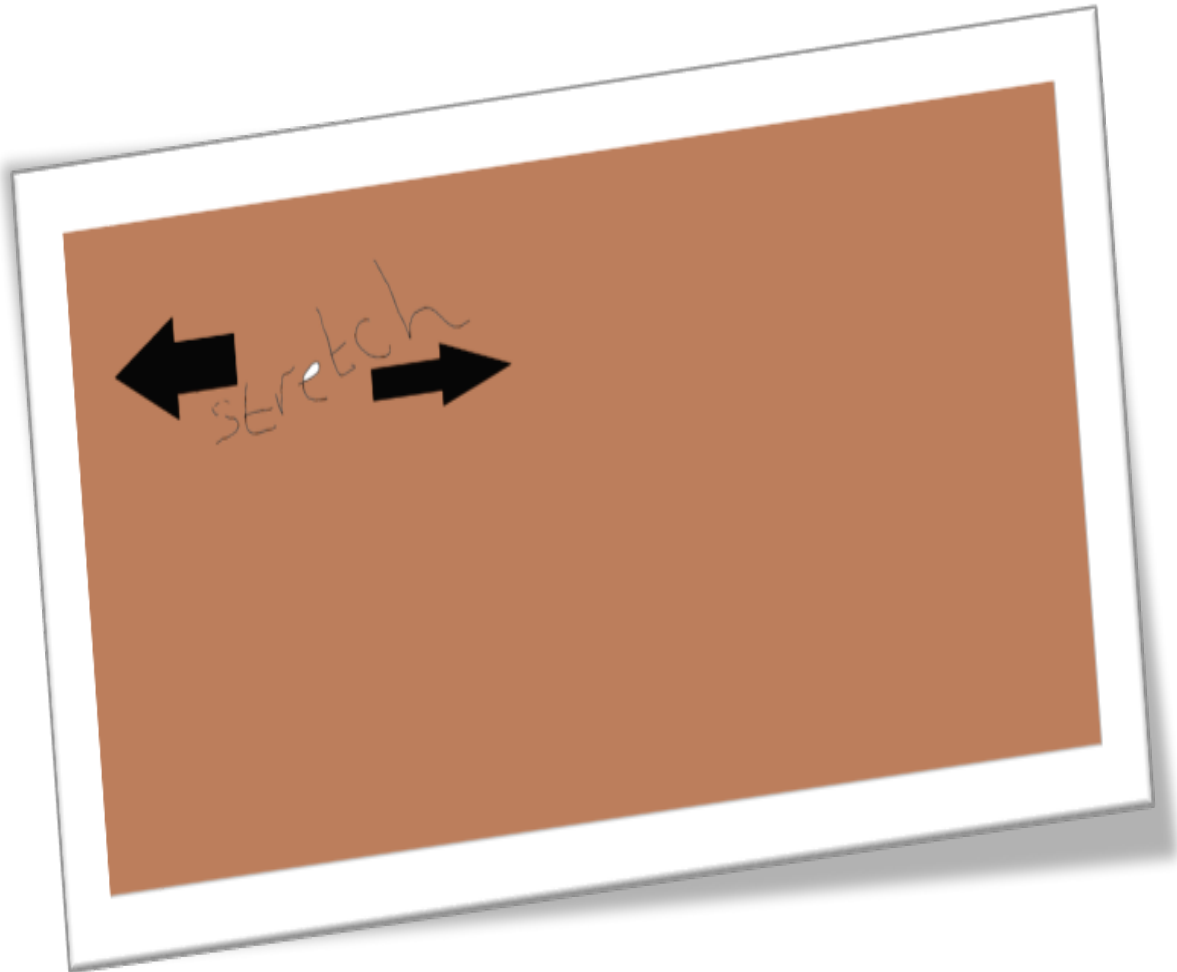
His hands became sweaty, and confusion clouded his thoughts. The situation seemed as challenging as a **whirlwind**, much like picture below.



A tear rolled down Stretch's cheek as he struggled with the internal **conflict.**

To add to the pressure, one friend picked up a slug, attempting to push it toward Stretch's mouth. It felt as if a swarm of bees had stung the young boy's heart, as he pulled away in disgust.

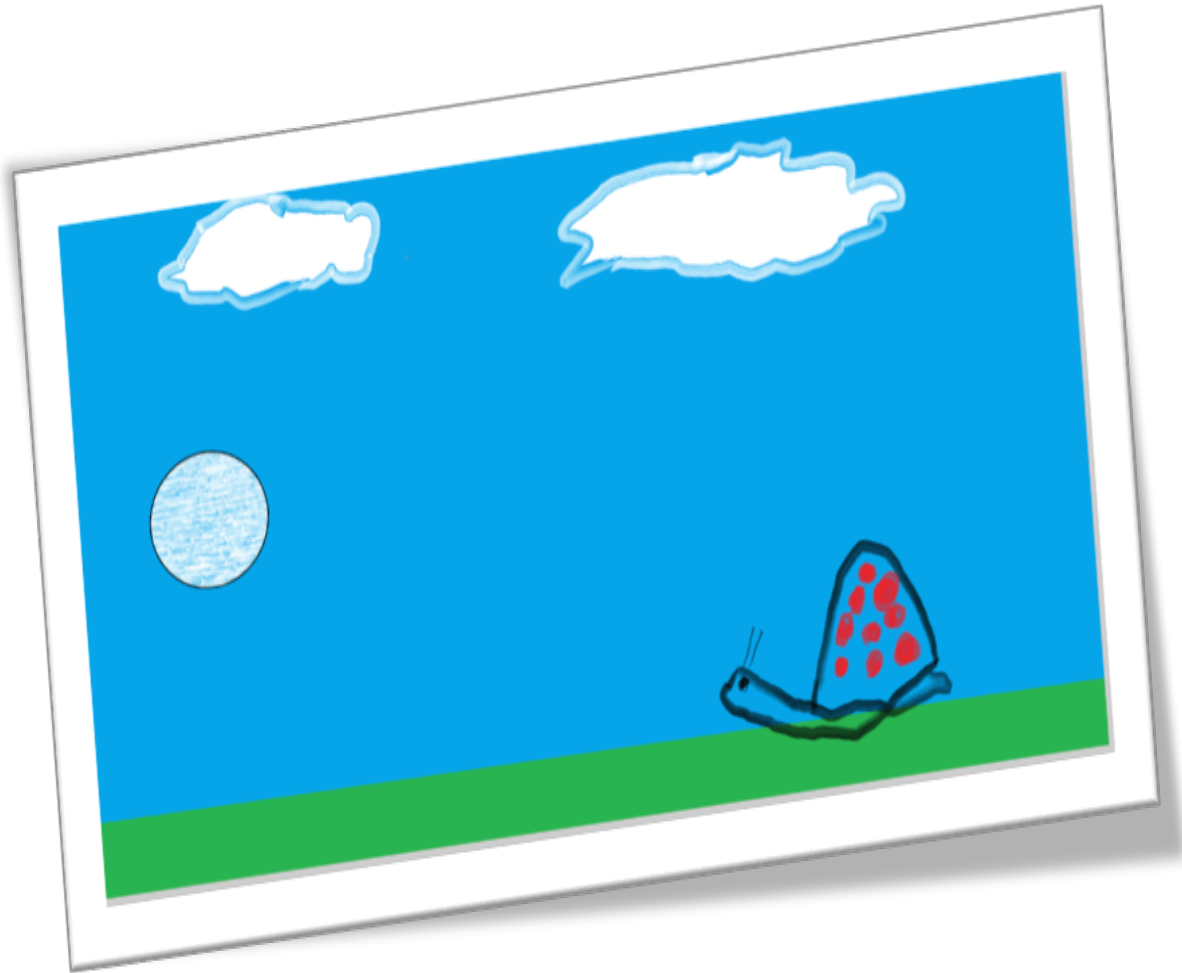
It was in this moment of chaos that Stretch remembered the essence of his name—stretching his mind and creating space to think. With newfound **strength**, he pressed pause in his mind, shutting out the loud voices and focusing on what truly mattered.



Stretch's eyes widened as he took a deep breath and proclaimed, "I'm no chicken, but I'm not stupid either." The magic of courage enveloped him, and he realised that, even under **pressure**, there was always a **choice**.

With his arms on his hips, holding a confident stance, Stretch took a step back and created more space for himself.

He calmly walked away from the slugs and his friends, leaving them in awe of his **bravery**.



Though some tried to apply more pressure, Stretch had found his own path and continued to play on the slides.

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And so, dear young adventurers, we conclude Stretch's brave escapade. While the ending might differ from reality, the tale serves as a reminder that you, too, have the power to stretch away from peer pressure.

Always remember, like our hero Stretch, you can bravely navigate the challenges that come your way.

The End, until our next adventure!

