

# Curiosity Lab

## WORKSHOP 4:

WHAT DO YOU MEAN,  
MY FAMILY HAS A  
CULTURE?



We hope you had fun playing "Would you rather!" Have you ever wondered why we all have different answers for "Would you rather?"



What makes people act differently, think differently, believe differently, or think different things are important?



Why do you like something that someone else might hate?



We've already explored a "little bit of what makes you you" - your personality, your likes & dislikes, your character traits, your recipes...and that's part of what makes people different.



But a big part of who you are also comes from the cultures of the groups you belong to - your family, your school, your clubs, sports teams, your religious organizations, and other groups you're a part of.

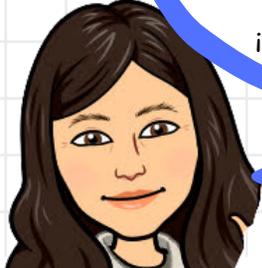
# What is culture?



Culture has lots of meanings, but in this situation, we are talking about the characteristics of a group of people.



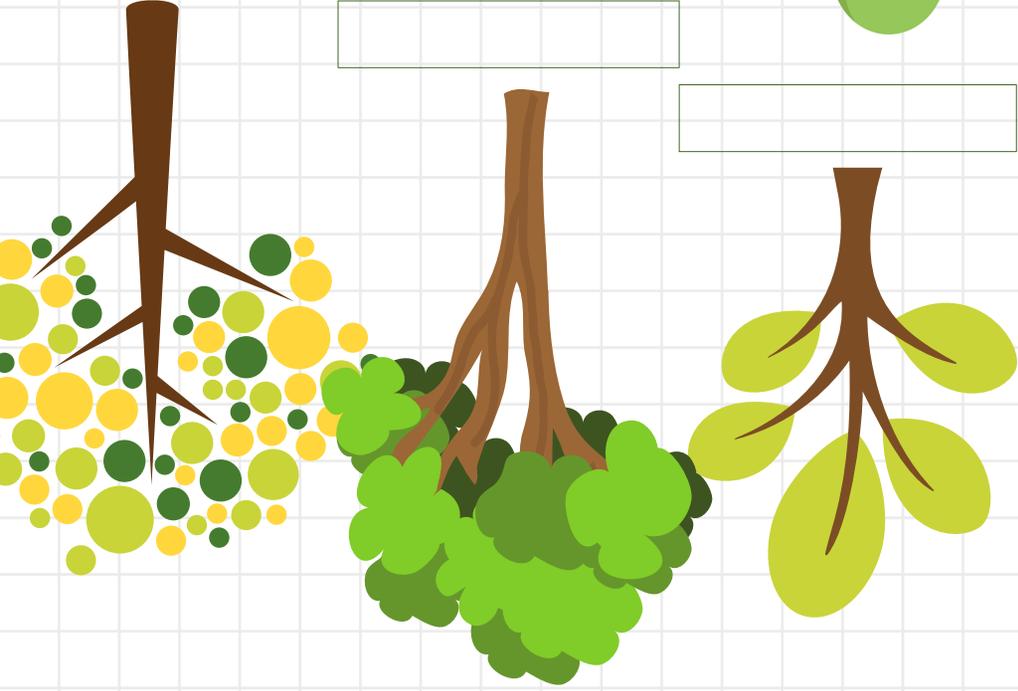
Just like you have your own character traits, a group of people living, working, or being together can have traits, or things that make them "them."



Many times people think of themselves, the way they do things, and their lives as "normal," and that OTHER people have a culture that makes them different. But EVERY person is a part of, and is influenced by, many cultures!

# A Forest of Cultures

What cultures are you and your family a part of?



[Blank box]

[Blank box]

[Blank box]

[Blank box]

17

[Blank box]

*dance class*

*mosque*

**family**

*church*

*theatre group*

**Scots**

*band, orchestra, or music group*



*club*

EXTRACURRICULAR

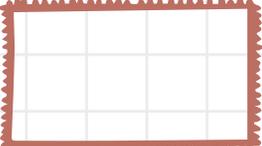
TOWN

CLASS

EXTENDED FAMILY

**neighborhood**

What groups do you belong to? Circle & write in.



volunteer organization

*synagogue*

*sports team*

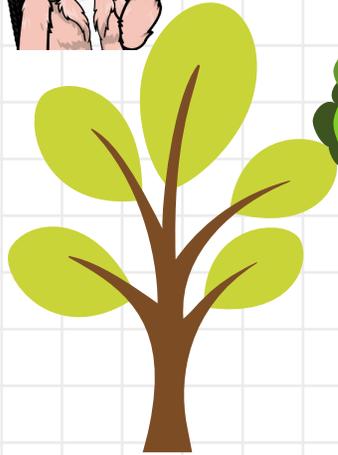
**SCHOOL**

Each of these groups have their own cultures - they have their own ways of doing things, their own ideas of what is important, their own rules about everything from how to treat each other to how to get things done.

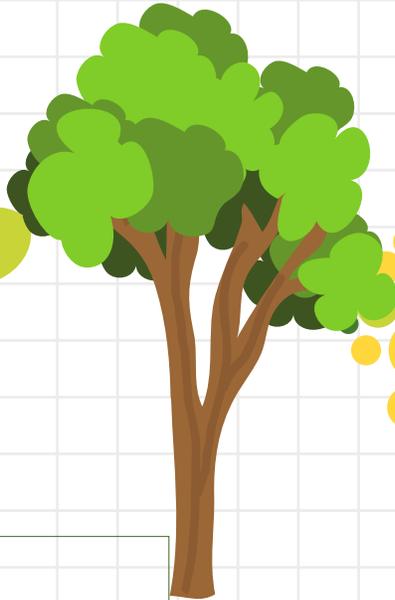


# A Forest of Cultures

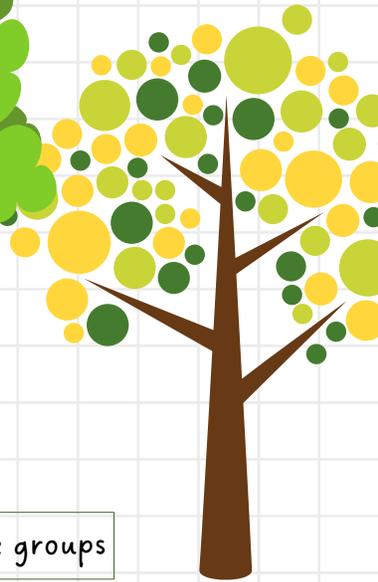
What cultures are you and your family a part of?



school band



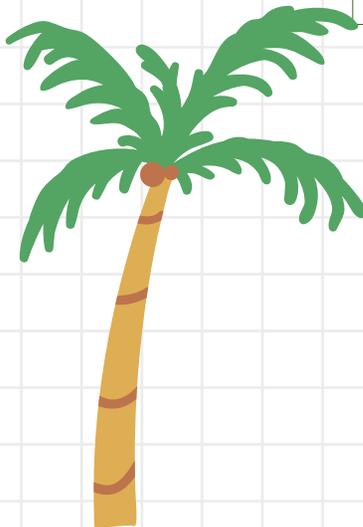
drama club & theatre groups



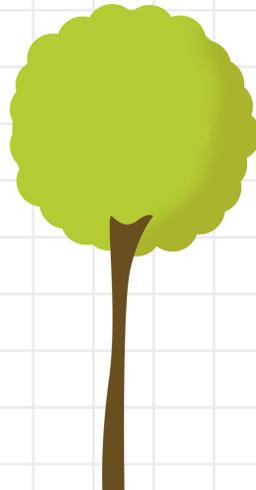
swim team



dog owner culture



Ethiopian culture



Environmental culture

Your family is unique! Every family has their own way of being, their own beliefs, and their own way of doing things.

You may be part of many group cultures, but we're going to look carefully at one of them.

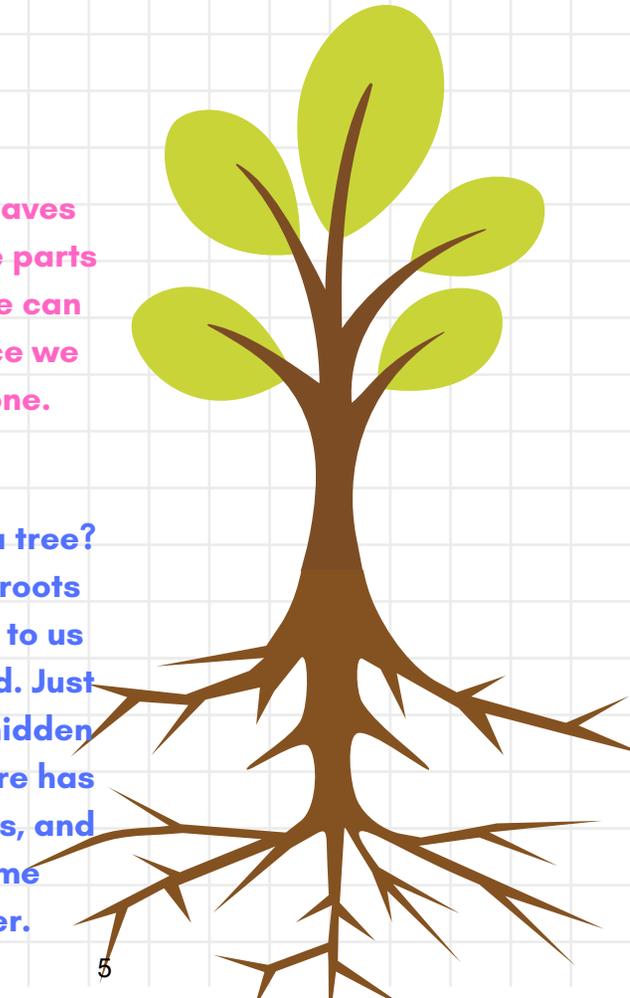
Your family has its own culture!

To understand and learn about our own family culture, we're going to think of the different parts of a culture like a tree.



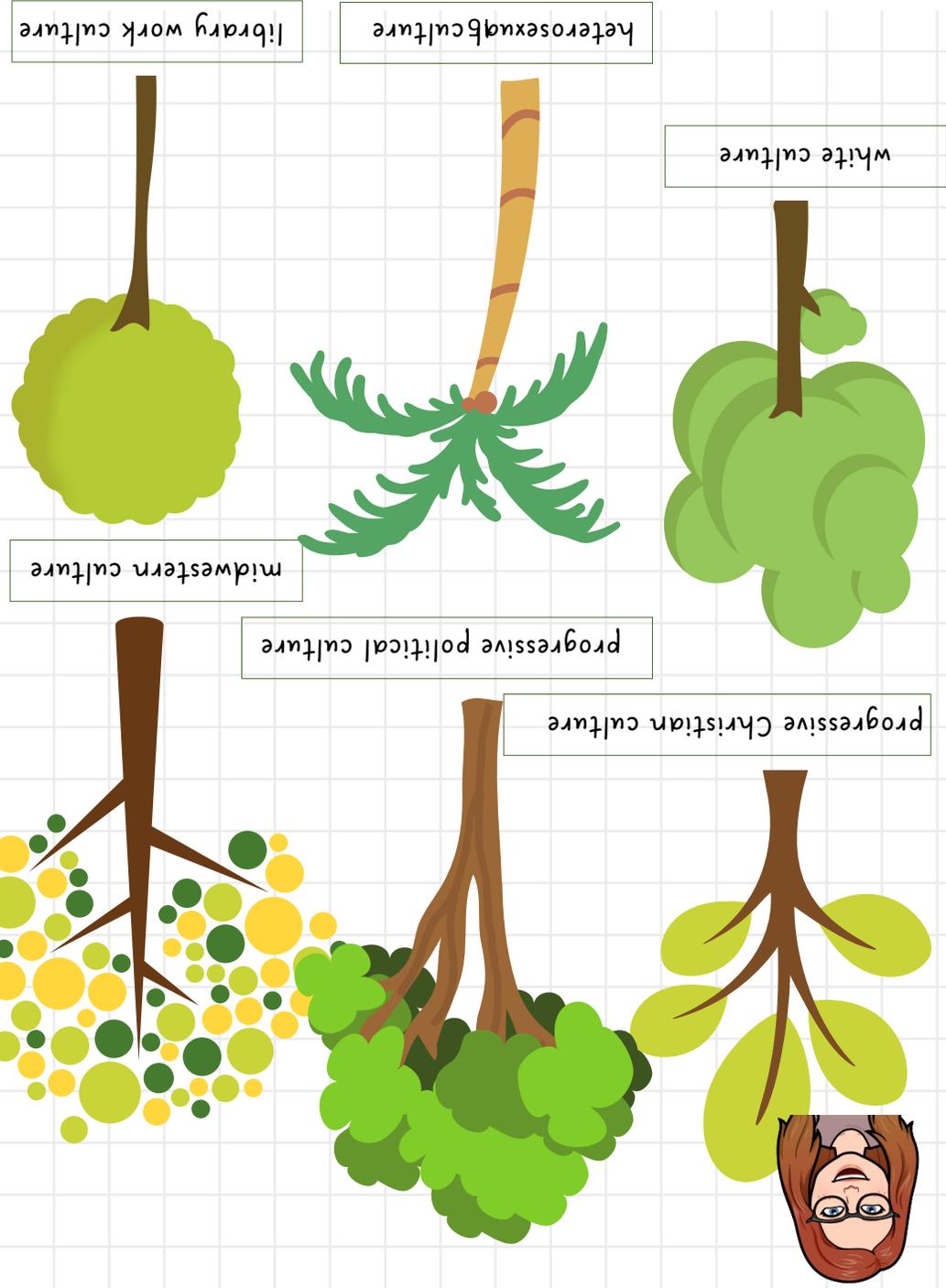
In our analogy, the leaves and trunk are like the parts of our culture that we can see pretty easily once we get to know someone.

But can we see all of a tree? No, there are a lot of roots that are often hidden to us from above the ground. Just like a tree has these hidden roots, our family culture has beliefs, rules, priorities, and ideas that take some thought to discover.



# A Forest of Cultures

What cultures are you and your family a part of?



# The Culture Tree

"Hello, my name is" culture  
 (also known as "surface culture")

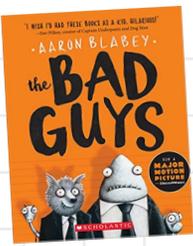
The leaves on the tree stand for things about your family (or group) that are easy for other people to see - things like language, clothing, foods you eat, holidays you celebrate, music you listen to. Just like a name tag lets other people know your name, these pieces of culture announce something about us.

"This is the way" culture  
 (also known as "shallow culture")

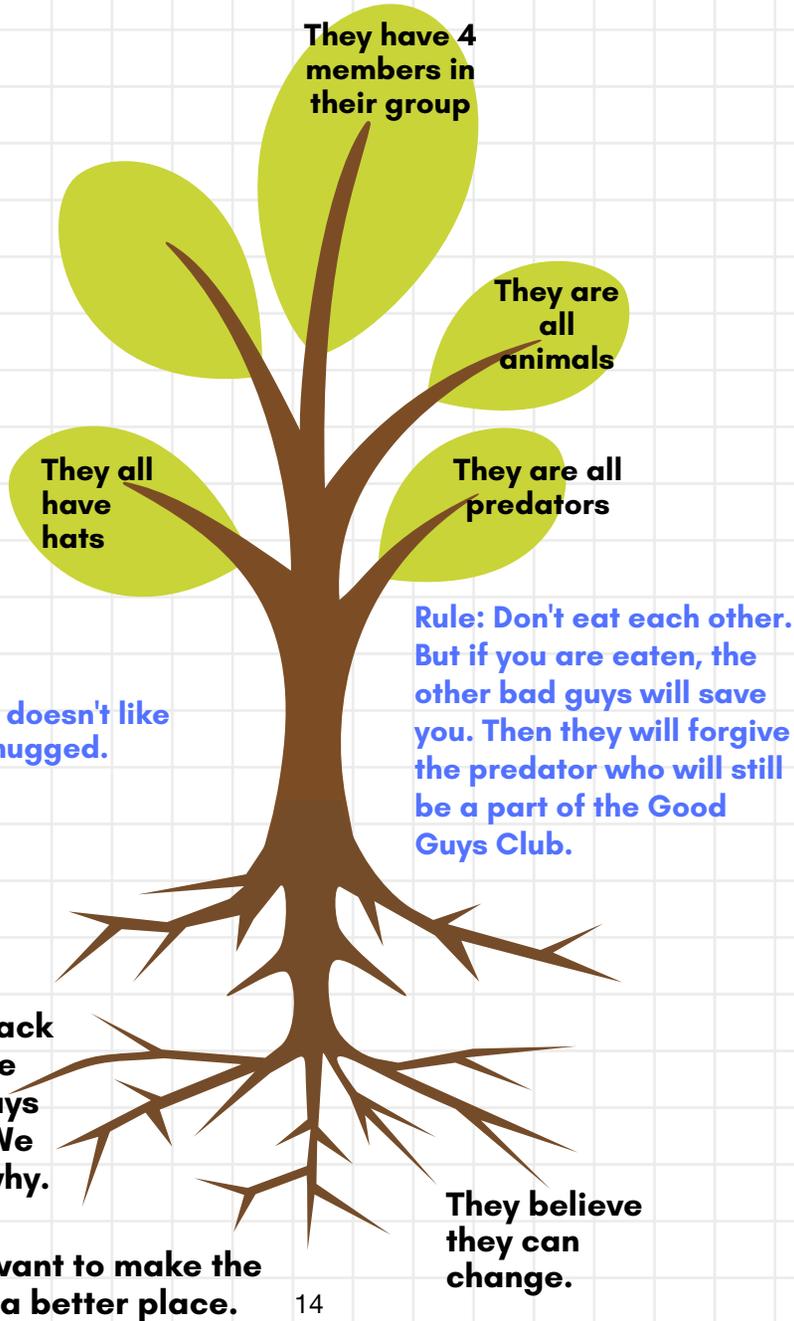
The trunk of the tree stands for unspoken rules of your family, things like how your family spends time, what's okay and not okay for your family members to do, and what's important to your family.

"Roots" culture  
 (also known as "deep culture")

The roots of the tree, which are mostly invisible to us as we look at the tree, represent the ways that your family understands the world and your place in it. Even though they're invisible most of the time, they are really important and guide the way we make choices about how we live, treat other people, and see ourselves.



# "The Bad Guys" in "Good Guys Club" Culture



# The Family Culture Tree

## "HELLO, I'M \_\_\_\_" CULTURE (ALSO KNOWN AS "SURFACE CULTURE")

- Who lives in your house?
- What does your family eat?
- What holidays do you celebrate?
- How do people in the family work to help each other get what they need?
- What kind of music do you listen to?
- What clothes or jewelry do people wear?



## "THIS IS THE WAY" CULTURE (ALSO KNOWN AS "SHALLOW CULTURE")

- How does your family view rest or play or leisure time?
- What are some of your family stories or sayings?
- How does your family play together? Spend time?
- How are kids in your family supposed to show respect to adults?
- What happens in your family when someone has big feelings?
- What feelings & behaviors are acceptable in your family?
- How does your family take care of bodies and health?
- What are the rules for kids in your family? Rules for meals?
- What are your family's priorities?
- How do family members show affection for each other?
- How do you treat other people in your family?
- How do you treat people outside your family?
- What happens when someone in your family makes a mistake?

## "ROOTS" CULTURE (ALSO KNOWN AS "DEEP CULTURE")

- What does your family believe are the most important things in life?
- What does your family believe about higher powers?
- What does your family believe about people in other cultures?
- How does your family make decisions?
- How does your family accept other people into their family?
- How do people in your family think about themselves?
- Is it okay for people in your family to say what they need?
- What does success look like in your family?



# My Family Culture Tree

We celebrate Ethiopian New Year and Ethiopian Christmas, plus American holidays too

We eat Asian food, Ethiopian food, Indian, American, and Mexican food. My dad, mom, and brothers all cook - and I eat!

We have a big family and we get to see my cousins.

At Christmas we sing songs and my grandma fills handmade stockings and we have a special dinner. The kids get our own table.

We show each other saying it, tucking each other in, making things for each other, reading books to each other, and sometimes snuggling.

Holidays

We care for each other

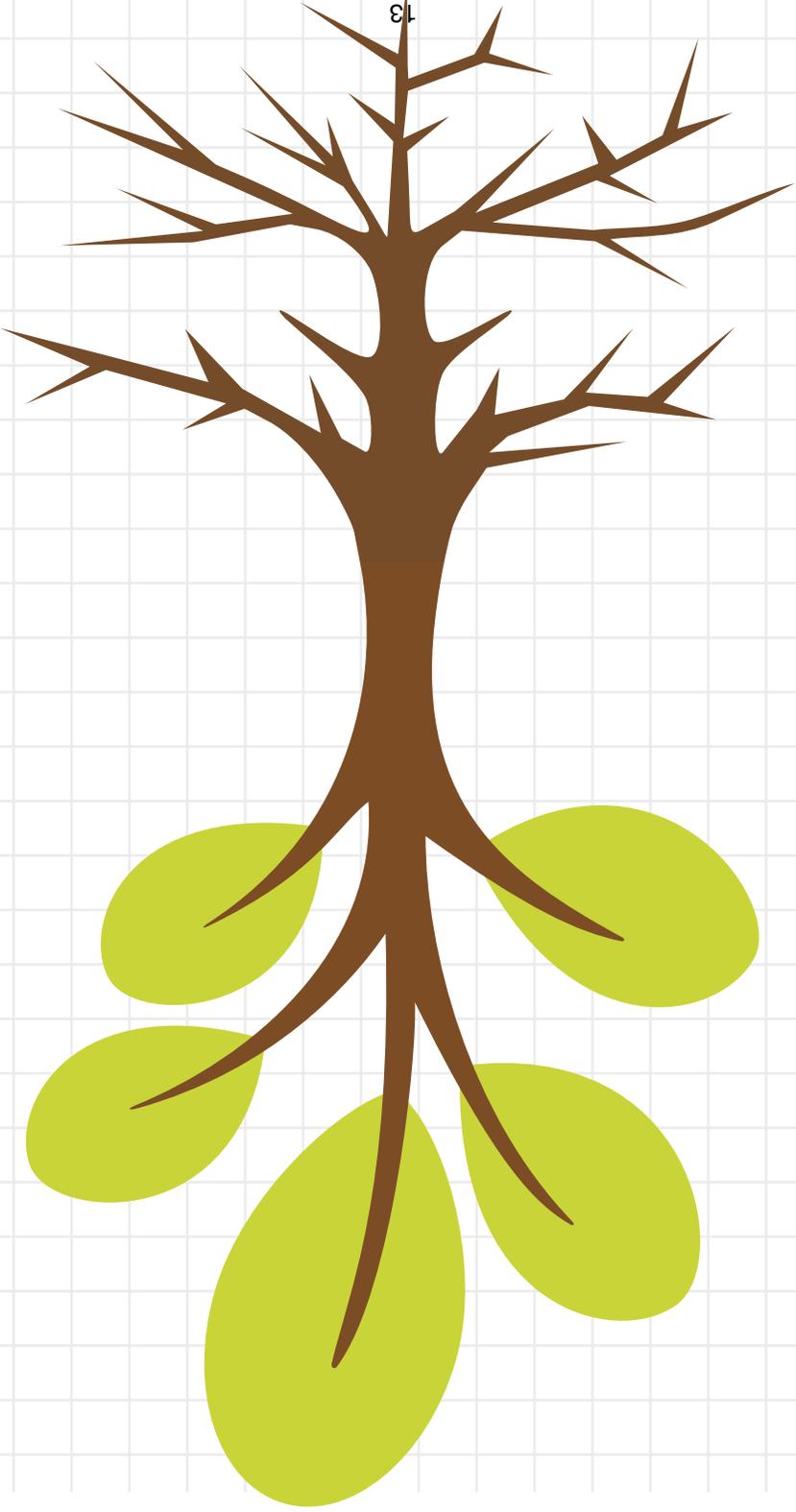
Cousins!

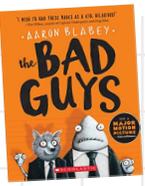
We are multiracial

We play fun games together. We tease and joke with each other mostly in friendly ways.

Success is if you try your best. You give it your all and you don't have to win.

My family doesn't go to church but we believe in God. Our family believes the most important things in life are to be kind, don't judge people based on what they look like and stand up for minorities.





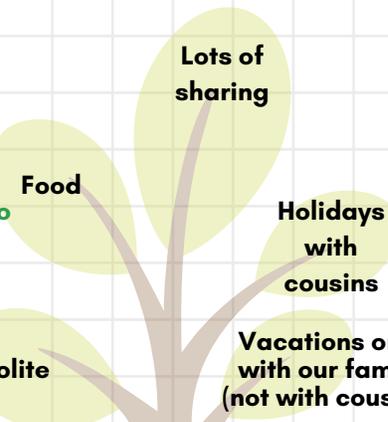
# "The Bad Guys" in "Good Guys Club" Culture



# My Family Culture Tree

I grew up in a family with 5 kids, so there were always a lot of people around. We shared almost everything and I mostly wore hand-me-down clothes from my sister (even underwear, which I did not like!) But my parents worked hard to let us each pick an activity after school that we wanted to do.

We celebrated Christmas with my mom's side of the family. Even though my dad was born in China and grew up there, I did not learn Chinese languages, celebrate Chinese holidays, or experience much Chinese culture.



In my family, my white, Wisconsin-born mom did all the cooking. We ate lots of Midwestern-style cooking and delicious baked goods. I did not have things like tacos, Indian food, or Thai food until I was in college. But, my mom learned how to make some recipes from my Chinese & Japanese dad's side of the family, so we had Chinese dishes once or twice a week.

We called other adults by "Mr." or "Mrs."

I have three sisters and one brother. We spent a lot of time playing together and taking care of each other. Growing up, it seemed to be more important to spend time with family than with friends.

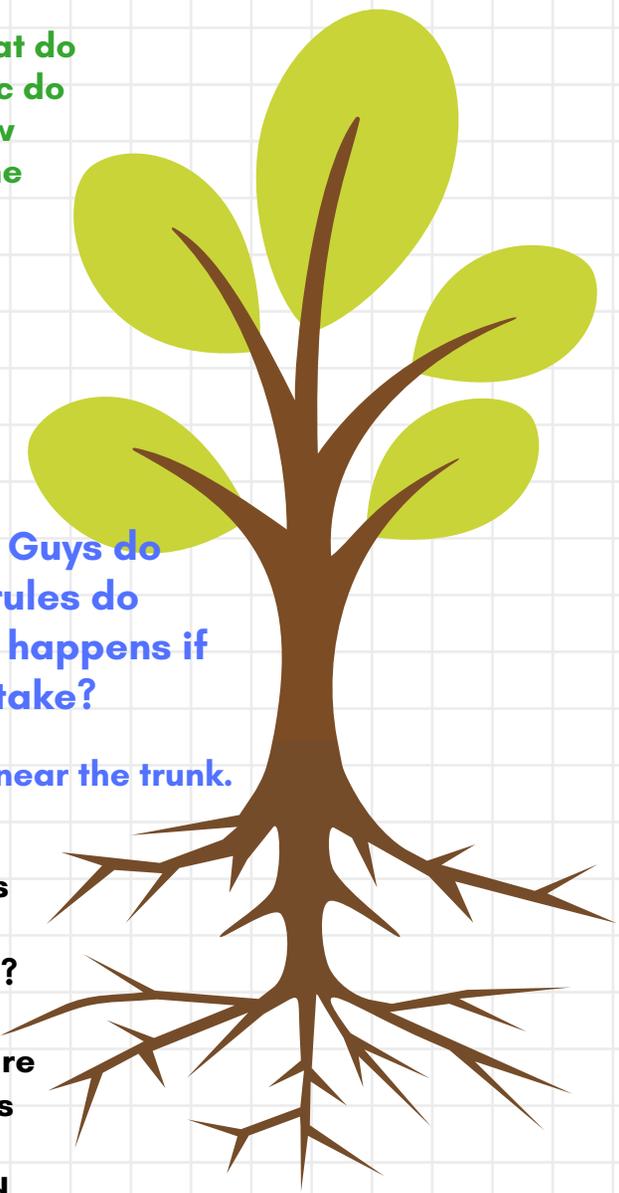
It was hard to talk about or feel negative feelings in my family.

In my family, it was hard to ask if you needed something. It was better to do something yourself and be self-sufficient.

In my family, you had to try to be the best and that was the only success that counted. But, you weren't allowed to feel good about anything you did - that would be bragging.

In my family, we were lucky to go on a summer vacation every year. We mostly camped in tents, but every once in a while we would stay in a hotel room - all 7 of us plus the dog in one hotel room. Three of the kids would share a bed, one would sleep with my parents, and one would sleep on two chairs pushed together.

I grew up in a family where my parents believed different things about God and had different priorities and ideas about what was important. So I got lots of different conflicting ideas about how to live life. There were "right ways" and "wrong ways" to do things and it felt like I was always doing life wrong no matter what choice I made!



What are things about the Bad Guys that you can see?

What do they eat, what do they wear, what music do they listen to, and how many people are in the group?

Write one thing on each leaf.

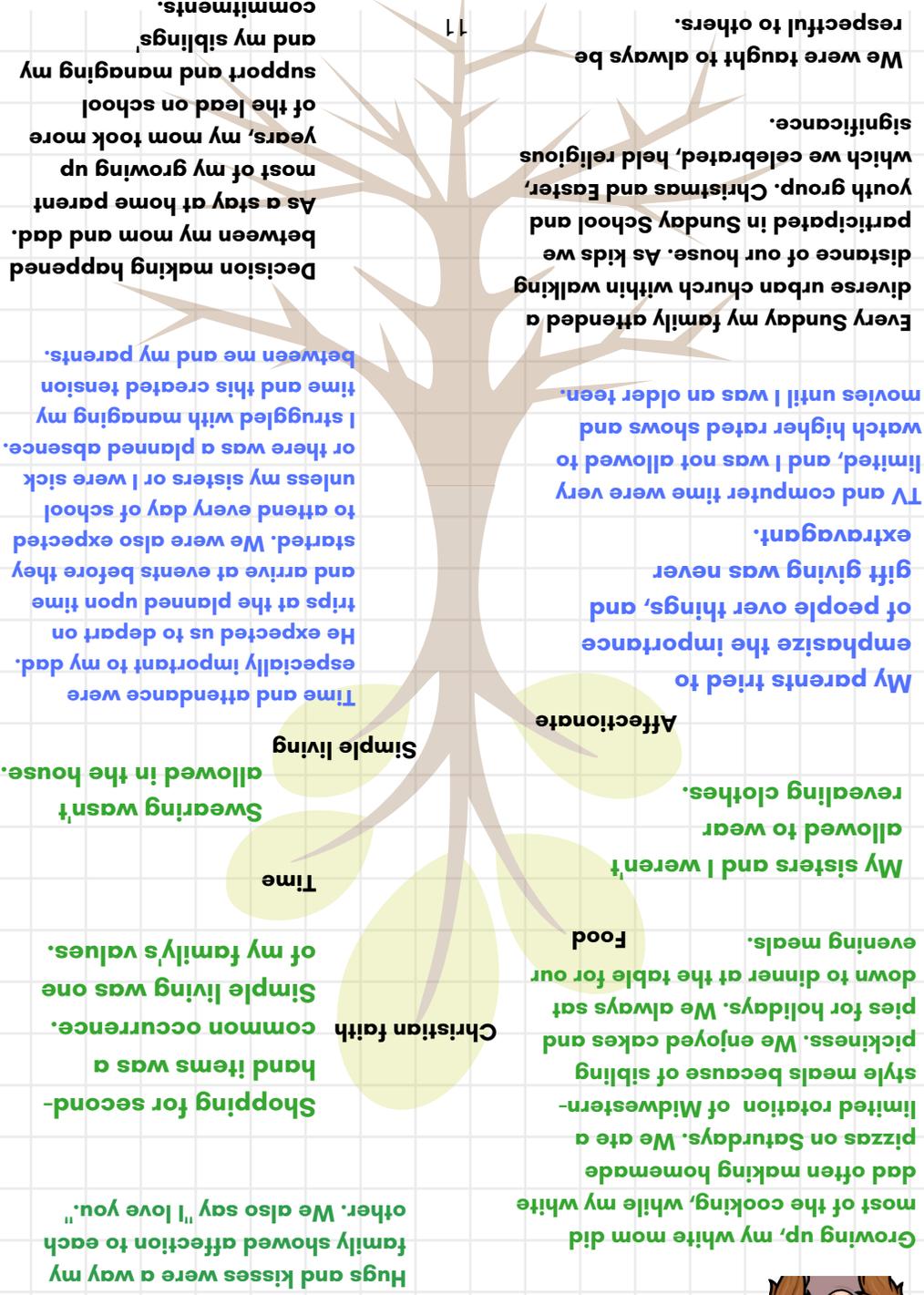
What do the Bad Guys do together? What rules do they have? What happens if they make a mistake?

Write these things near the trunk.

What do the Bad Guys believe is the most important thing in life? What does it mean to be successful if you are a part of the Bad Guys (in the Good Guys club)? How do the Bad Guys make decisions?

Write these things near the roots.

# My Family Culture Tree



# My Family Culture Tree

