

**THE LITTLE TEACHERS:  
A STORY FOR BIG  
AND LITTLE CHILDREN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649251407

The Little Teachers: A Story for Big and Little Children by Ralph Crosman

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**RALPH CROSMAN**

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AND LITTLE CHILDREN**



# The Little Teachers

*A Story for Big and  
Little Children*

By  
Ralph Crosman

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

The ten Bosch Company  
121 Second St., San Francisco

## The Little Teachers

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Once there was a great city in which only children lived. Some of them were big, grown-up children, called men and women; and some of them were little children, known as boys and girls.

Now the children had been told by a Great Teacher that they must always be kind and just to one another, and always Play Fair in their games. The Great Teacher had told them that their games would not come out right if they did not use Fair Play all the time. So, as the Big Children went about their favorite game—the one they called Work-of-the-World—many of them tried to

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be kind and just to their playmates. But as they could remember the words of the Great Teacher only a few minutes at a time, they often quarreled with one another and said and did many unkind and unjust things. They were often resentful and did mean tricks.

Now this strange city was full of trial and tribulation. Curiously enough, however, it was the big, grown-up children who were the hardest pressed by trouble. The Little Children got along with one another much better and were freer and happier—except some of them who learned to imitate the older ones in their naughty ways.

As time went on, the Big Children had so much trouble that they became very peevish in their play.

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Often they said and did mean things that they knew were not Fair Play, without knowing why they said or did them. And if they were asked why they did not Play Fair, or why they did certain queer things, they would answer that it was because they had to keep the games going. They said that if they did not do unfair tricks once in a while, that if they did not bustle around and make a big stir, the games would all die out or be broken up. They said that the Little Children did not know how to look out for themselves while they played, and that they, the Big Children, sometimes had to do queer things to the little ones to protect them.

Well, things went on this way for quite a while. The more trouble the



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Big Children had, the more trouble the Next Smaller Children seemed to have also. Trouble seemed to go down from the Big Children to the Next Smaller Children, and from them to the next smaller and so on, until finally some of the Little Children, who did not want to be left out altogether, followed the example of the older ones and began to feel uncomfortable and to become peevish in their play.

But there were some of the Little Children who could not learn the unfair ways and plays of the older ones, and who would not join in the fear games and the trouble plays. Even when the Big-Girls-Who-Played-They-Were-Mothers and the Big-Boys - Who - Played - They - Were - Fathers talked loudly about Fear

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Thoughts and Trouble Things or whispered about them just loud enough for the little ones to hear, these Little Children refused to have anything to do with the Fear Thoughts and Trouble Things.

It seemed just as if clouds of Fear Thoughts and Trouble Things, coming from nowhere, settled down upon the heads of the cityful of Big Children first, then upon the Next Smaller Children, and so on until they came to some of the Little Children, who, without knowing anything about it, could not receive the Fear Thoughts and Trouble Things. So, not being received by these little ones, the clouds of Fear Thoughts and Trouble Things stopped, leaving the Little Children untouched, free, happy, and full of joy.

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While the Big Children were all mixed up with Fear Thoughts and Trouble Things and so were full of trial and tribulation, down where the Little Children lived, all was joy and happiness. While the Big Boys played their big business games and the Big Girls played giving big dinner parties, all of them mixed up with clouds of Fear Thoughts and Trouble Things, and many of them doing mean tricks to keep the games going, the Little Children, down where the sky was blue and crystal clear and warm and sunny, Played Fair in their little games, without trying at all to keep them going when they were tired.

Then by and by one or two of the Big Children who were very tired with their own play, noticed some-