

Dan was a very mean, selfish, 12-year-old boy who no one enjoyed being around. At home, he would wreck his sister's Lego sets, pull their hair, and hide his dog's favorite toys. And at school, he was even worse. He tripped kids who were playing tag during recess. Dan "accidentally" bumped into kids and even teachers in the hallways causing them to drop their books and fall to the ground. HE. WAS. THE. WORST. Little did Dan know that his life was about to change.

One Saturday after a full morning of picking on his sisters, Dan was bored. He wished he had someone else to pick on, but since he didn't, he decided to go for a walk in the woods behind his house. He was hoping to have a little "target practice", in reality, it was just throwing rocks at little baby birds and squirrels.

As he walked toward his favorite stump, the one with the best view of the nests and trees, Dan saw something that wasn't there yesterday. It was an odd-looking glass bottle. It was a deep, plum color and about the size of a pop bottle. It looked like it didn't belong, but yet, like it was there for a purpose. Dan stopped, picked it up, and saw his own name etched across the bottle in big letters. He looked around to see if anyone was nearby. Then he opened it up. Inside was an ordinary looking stick. As he turned the stick around in his hands he saw the words "Use me three times to help. Then pass me onto another person, who you think needs me". Dan had absolutely no clue what it meant.

The next day Dan was twirling the magic stick in his backyard. Out of nowhere he got stung by a wasp on his arm. Holding back tears, Dan thought maybe this stick can help. "Hocus pocus!" he said waving the stick over his wasp sting, but nothing happened. Dan tried a few others sayings but nothing worked. Just as he was about to give up, Dan tapped the stick to his arm and in 3 seconds the stinging went away! He was awestruck that the stick had healed his arm.

Now it got him thinking about what else he could do. If this stick healed my arm, then I bet it can heal me if I jump off the roof of the house onto the trampoline. I've always wanted to do that, but my annoying parents never let me. But if I jumped off and heal myself right away, then no one will ever know! So Dan started hatching a plan to get to the top of the house roof with no one noticing.

Later that day, as Dan was ascending the ladder to the roof, he heard his little sister Lucy playing in their front yard with their dog, Asher. He started to get worried that Lucy was going to see him and tell their parents. I better jump quickly Dan thought. Suddenly Dan heard Lucy cried, "Ow Asher! No bite! ...Oh, I'm bleeding!" Asher had accidentally bitten Lucy's hand! Hearing this, Dan remembered how the stick had healed his arm. He thought, maybe I can be kind, just this once, and heal Lucy's hand. Slowly, he climbed down the ladder and jogged over to check on Lucy. The bite looked pretty nasty. "Are you okay Lucy?" Dan asked sympathetically. "No, it really hurts and its bleeding. Do you think I will need stitches? I really don't want stitches, they hurt!" Lucy exclaimed. "No, you won't need stitches Lucy. Let me help." Dan said in a gruff voice. He ran

back to retrieve his stick next to the ladder. When he came back, he tapped her hand with the magic stick, and in exactly 3 seconds, the wound on Lucy's hand was healed! Dan felt proud, in a good way, for helping his sister.

The next day Dan's youngest sister, Julie, was swinging on the monkey bars on their play set. CRACK! Julie had fallen off and broke her wrist! As Julie was crying, Dan bolted over to use his magic stick for the 3rd and final time. He ever so gently tapped Julie on the wrist and in 3 seconds Julie said, "It feels all better, thank you Dan!". Dan realized how happy he felt helping others. He also realized how important it is to help others. Dan felt like nothing could stop him from helping others now even though he wouldn't have the stick anymore!

As they were going inside Dan saw a homeless man searching for food in the dumpster in the alley across the street from their house. Dan ran over and offered the man the magic stick. The man hesitated not sure if he should trust Dan. After a minute the man said "Yes," and accepted the magic stick. "Use this stick wisely and to help others. Then you will live a happy life," Dan said.

Before Dan found the magic stick, he was extremely mean, but now he is very kind, thanks to a little magic.