

Chester's New Phone

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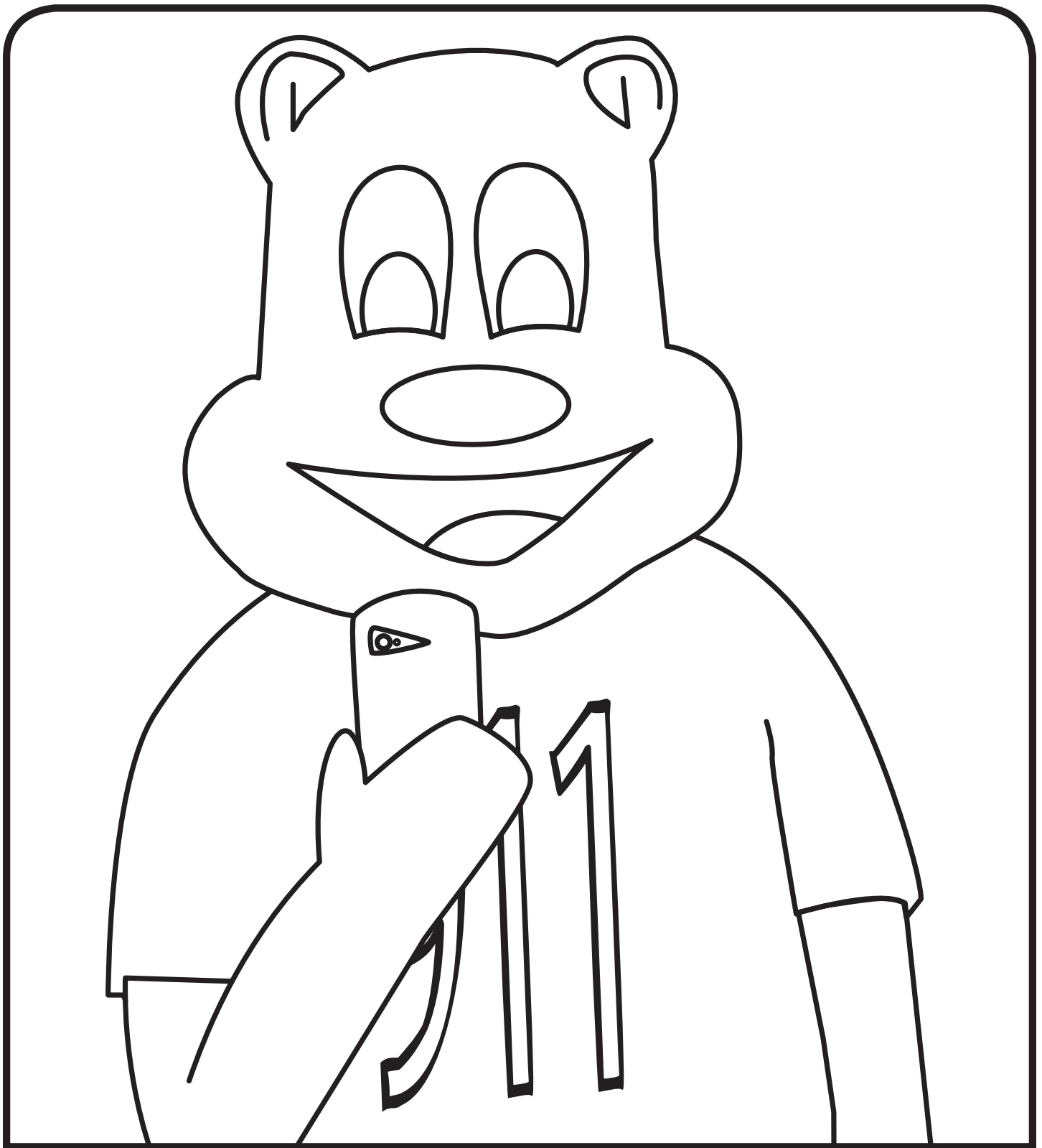
Editor: Matt Puccio



CALL IF YOU CAN

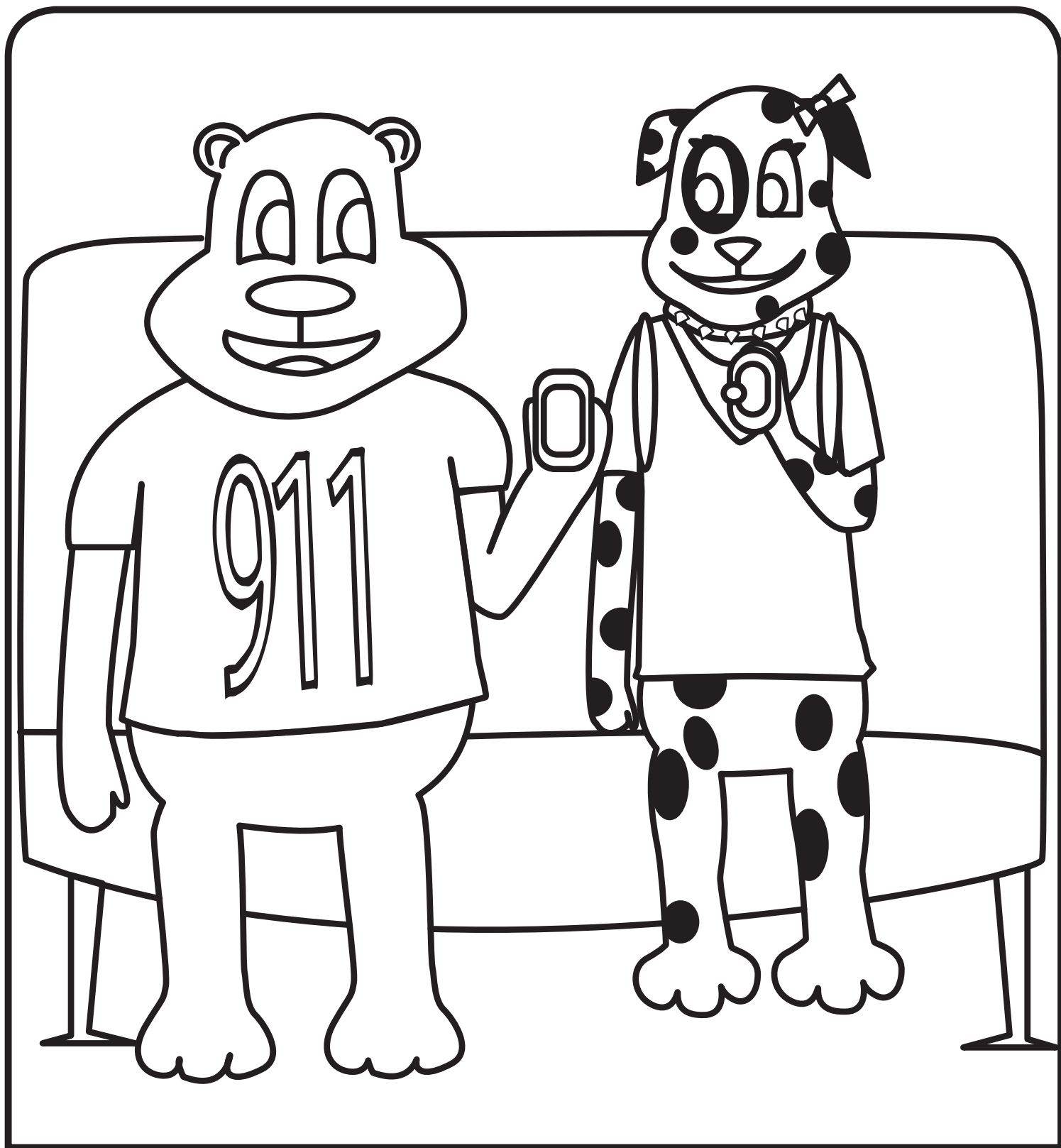
TEXT IF YOU CAN'T

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Chester's tenth birthday was last week and he had received his first cell phone from his parents as a gift. He was told that he should only use it for emergencies and Chester

promised his parents he would be very responsible. Chester loved his new phone and took it out on the bus on the way to school to show his friend, Donna.



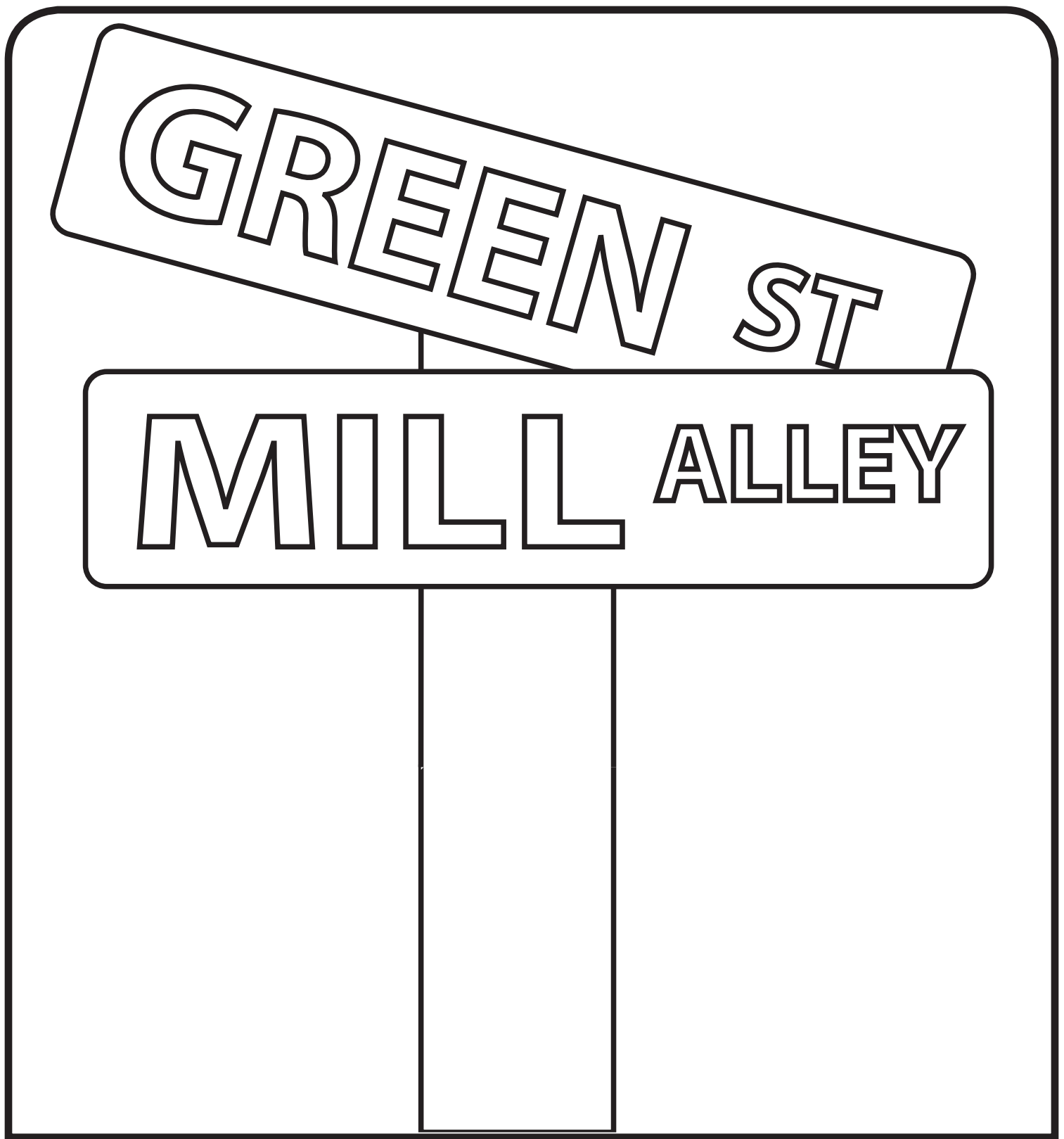
Donna signed to Chester that his phone was really cool! Donna had a phone too. Her parents had given it to her a couple years ago to help her communicate with them more easily. Donna had been deaf since birth so

she was unable to make phone calls like Chester and their friends could. She relied on texting a lot of the time to talk to her parents and friends.



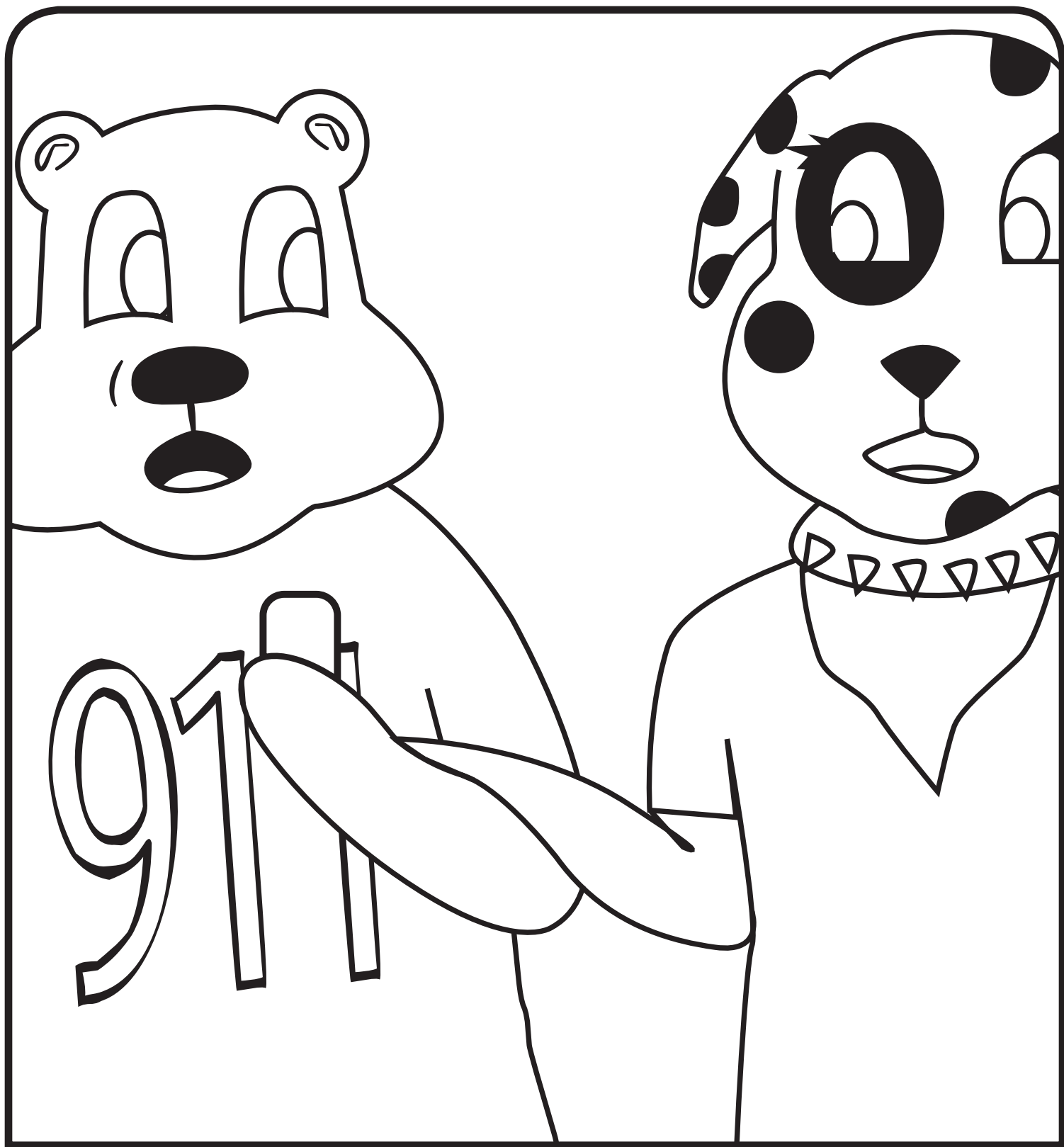
Chester and Donna were the first two stops on the bus route and were the only children on the bus when the bus driver pulled over to the side of the road. The bus driver, Mrs.

Poole, said she wasn't feeling well and just needed to rest for a minute. Chester and Donna were worried about her and walked to the front of the bus to see if they could help.



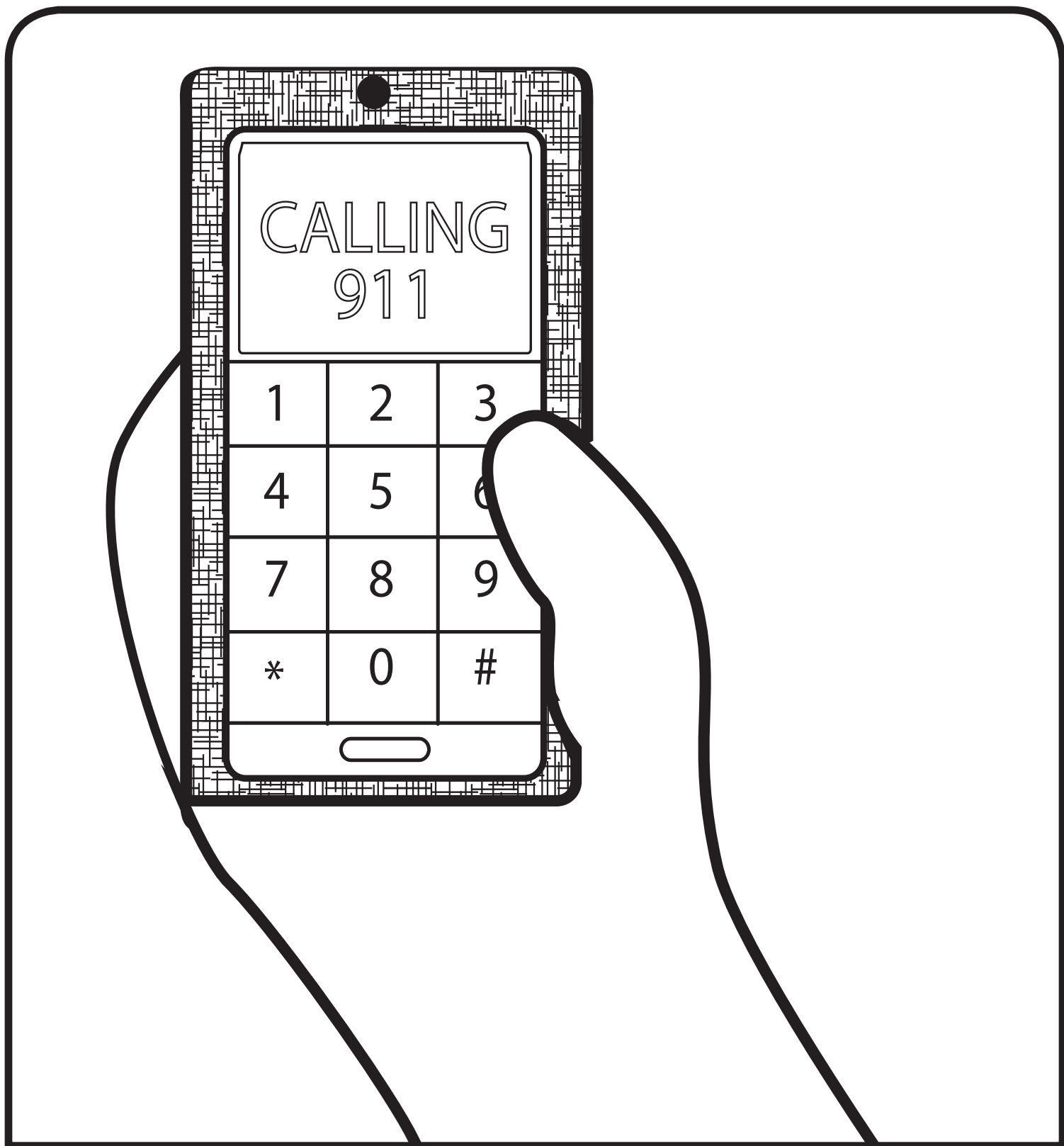
Mrs. Poole told the children that she was having trouble breathing. She asked them to call 911 for help. She pointed to the street signs in front of the bus so they would know where they were. Chester saw that they

were at the corner of Green Street and Mill Alley. He pulled his phone out and said to Donna, "I will text 911! I am too afraid to talk to them."



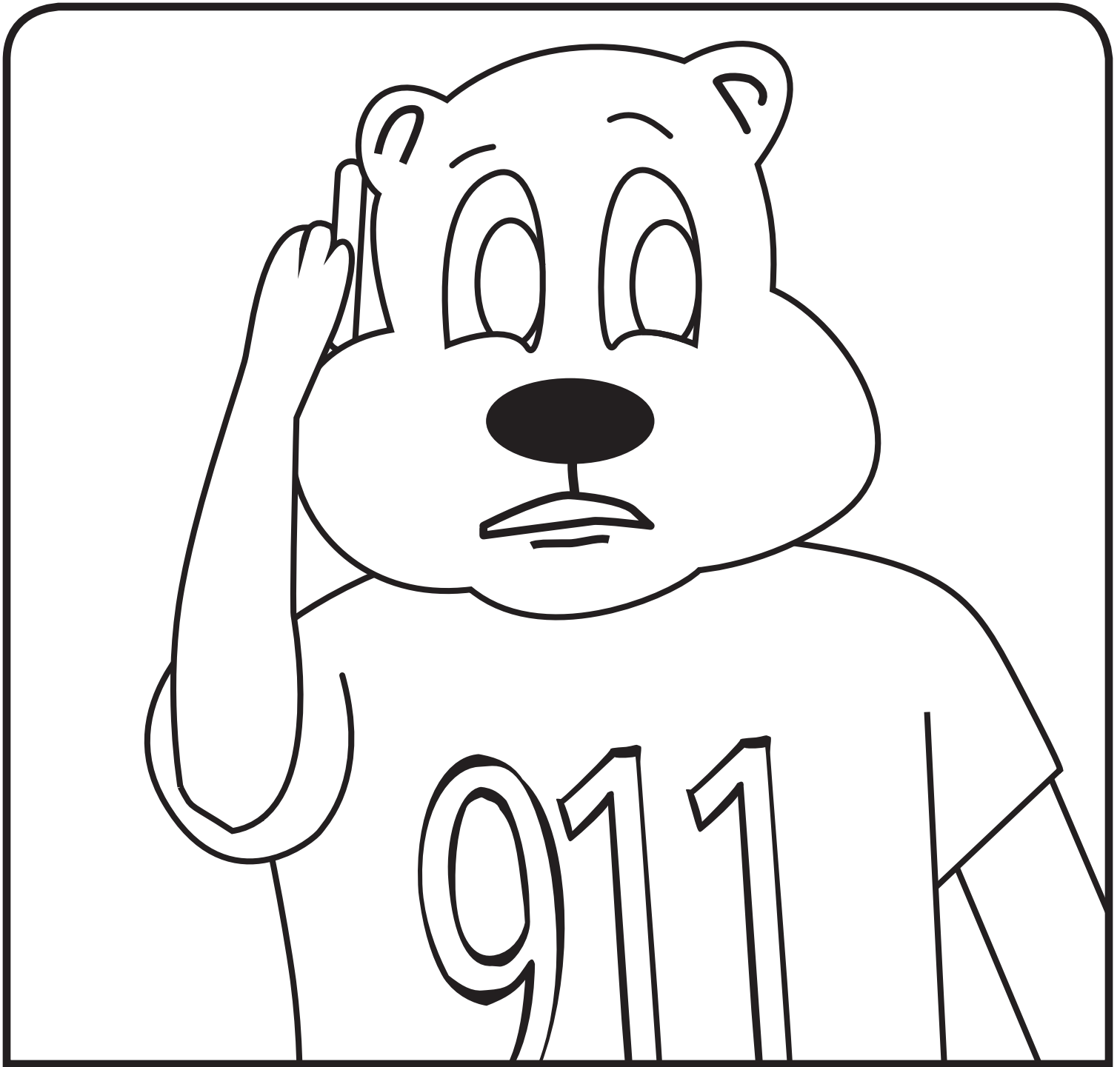
Donna reached out and touched Chester's hand to stop him. She shook her head and mouthed "NO!" Chester was still working on his sign language skills so Donna grabbed her phone and typed on it for him to

read. "You should always call 911 if you can talk to them," Donna typed. "Texting is only for when it is the only choice! You can talk, so you need to call them."



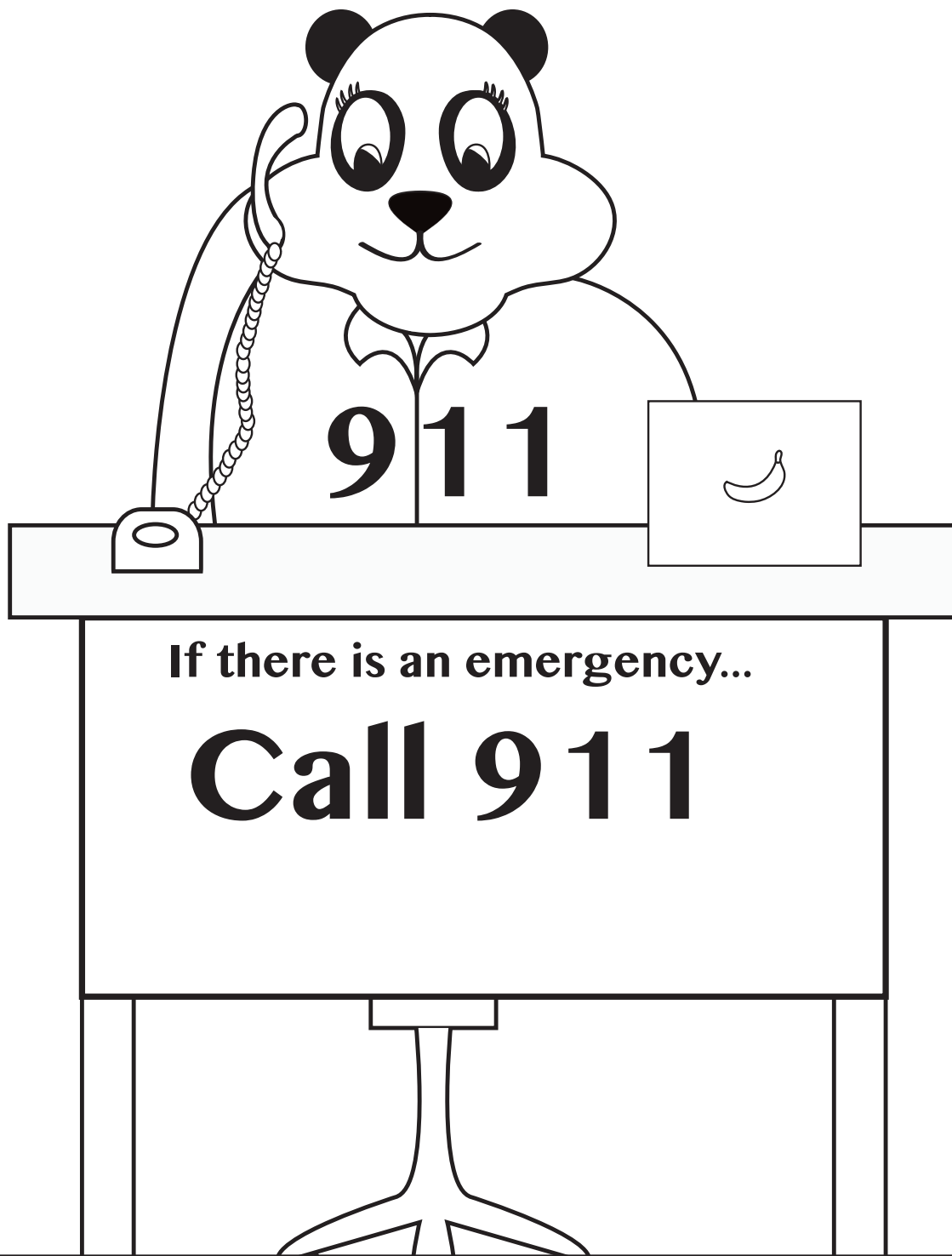
Chester was disappointed but he knew Donna was right. He dialed 911. On the other end of the phone he heard a calm woman's voice say, "911, where is your emergency?"

Chester told the dispatcher that they were on the school bus at Green Street and Mill Alley and that Mrs. Poole was having trouble breathing.



The dispatcher told him that her name was Tara and that she would send help and stay on the phone with them until it arrived. She asked Chester some questions about Mrs. Poole. "Is Mrs. Poole awake and able to answer you when you talk to her?" Chester told Tara she was. "Is

Mrs. Poole having any pain in her chest?" Chester asked Mrs. Poole who shook her head no. Tara then said, "Ok Chester, the police and an ambulance are on their way. Tell Mrs. Poole she needs to stay calm and that help is on the way."



While they were waiting, the dispatcher told Chester that he and Donna had done the right thing and were doing a great job. Donna was holding Mrs. Poole's hand trying to keep her calm. Chester really wanted to know more about texting

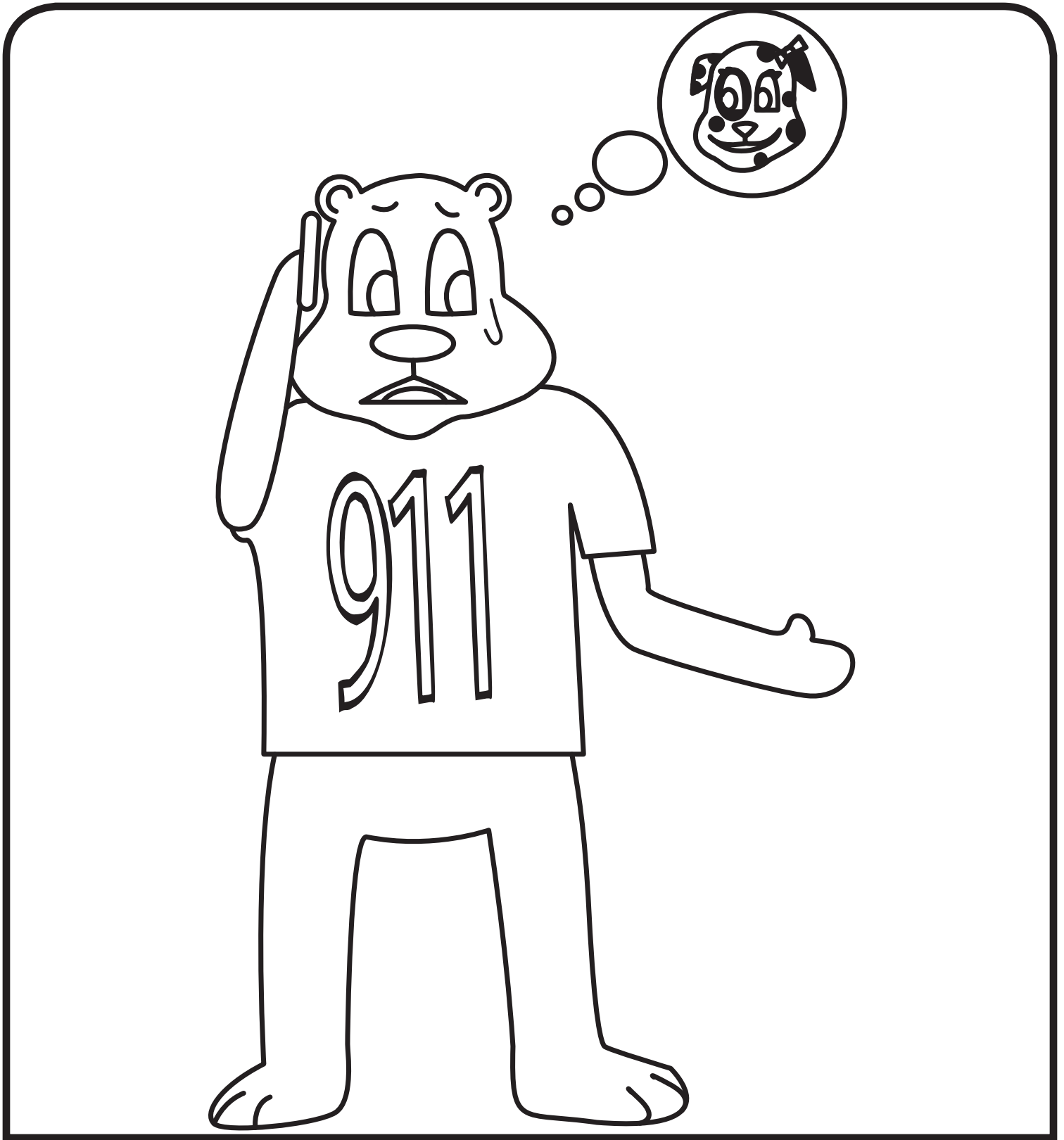
911 so he asked Tara if he could have done that. "That is a great question, Chester. Texting 911 is for situations where you are unable to speak to the operator. You should always call if you can, but if you must text you can do that too."



Chester asked Tara, “My friend Donna is deaf. She told me I should call 911, not text. Would she be able to text 911 for help in an emergency?”

“Absolutely,” Tara said. “If Donna ever needed help and there was no

one there to make a phone call for her, texting 911 is exactly what she should do. She should tell us what is wrong and try not to use any abbreviations. Sometimes they can be confusing and we want to be sure we know exactly what is going on.”



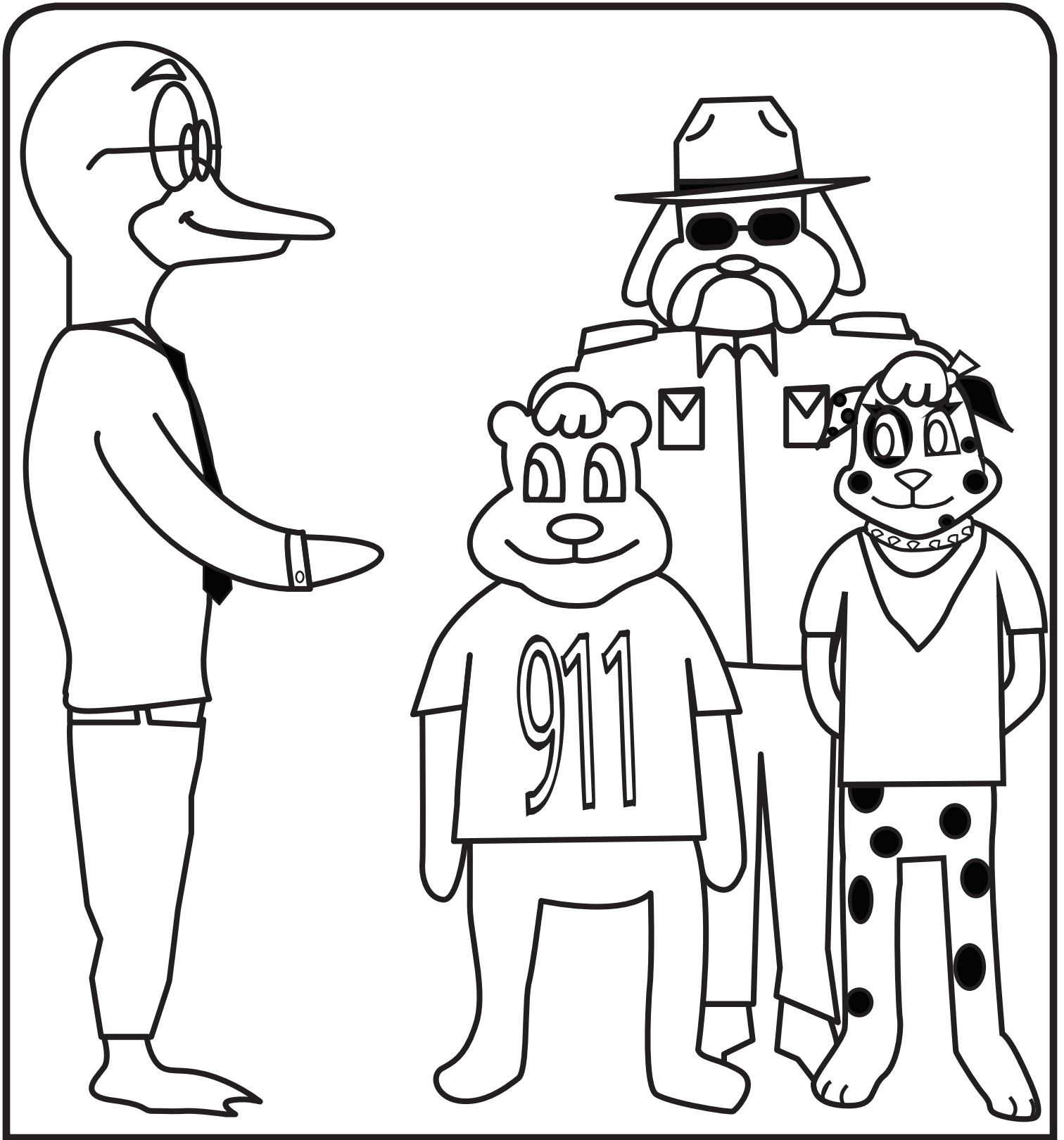
Chester was glad he had asked. As he thanked Tara for all of her help he saw a police car pull up behind the bus. Officer Bernard, whom Chester had met at the park one day, got out of the car and climbed into the bus.

Tara said, "I am going to let you hang up, Chester. Officer Bernard will help you now." Chester thanked her again and pushed "end call" on his phone.



Chester and Donna were a little late to school that day but they got to ride in Officer Bernard's police car! Officer Bernard told the school principal, Mr. Mallard, that the two children had been very brave. Chester then told Mr. Mallard

what he had learned about 911 and texting. The principal was very proud of both children and asked if they would share that information with the other students at school. They both agreed!



The school came together for an assembly. Chester spoke, and Donna signed, telling the story of what happened on the bus and what they had learned about 911. They told them that Mrs. Poole

was going to be okay and would be back next week. Everyone clapped and cheered. Then, they ended by telling their classmates that in an emergency you should call 911 if you can, or text 911 if you can't.



MY EMERGENCY LIST

1. Your full Name:

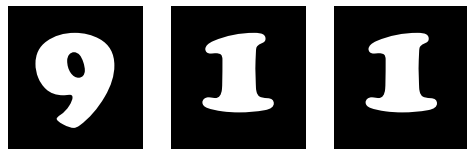
2. Your Parent's full names:

3. What is your address & phone number?

4. Who do you call if you can not reach your parents?

What is their phone number?

5. For a serious emergency always call:



6. If you get separated from your parents in an emergency, where is your meeting place?
