

Sharing Information with Strangers



Meet our friends in Beastie Valley



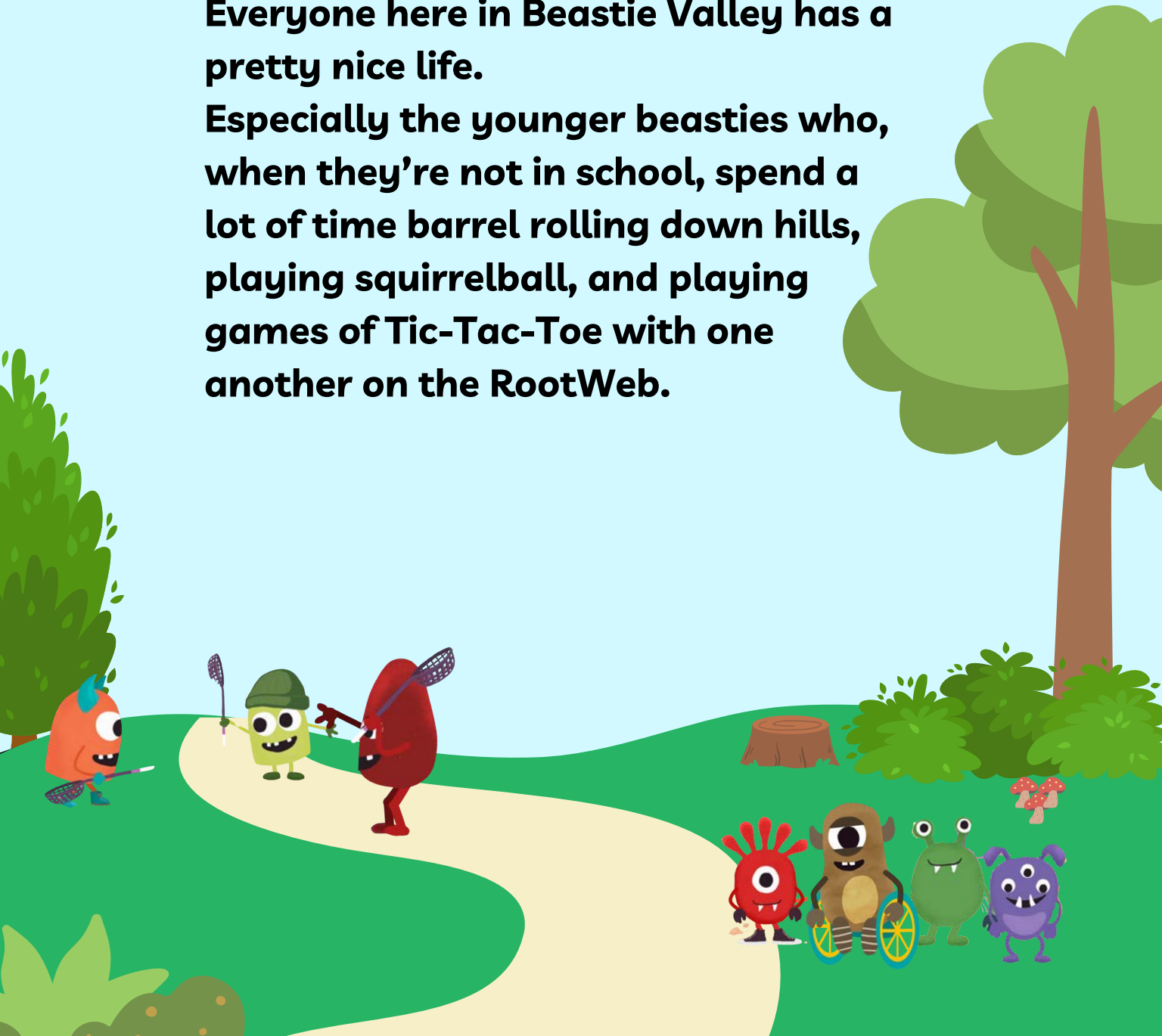
Privacy is important - even though someone may seem nice online, they may want to trick you into sharing your private and personal information. Personal information are things like your name, your school, where you live, and where you play. It's very important to remember to keep these things private and not share them with strangers or people we have just met on-line or in real life.

Let's remember to make sure they are safe to talk and play with by checking with a Trusted Grown-up FIRST.



Everyone here in Beastie Valley has a pretty nice life.

Especially the younger beasties who, when they're not in school, spend a lot of time barrel rolling down hills, playing squirrelball, and playing games of Tic-Tac-Toe with one another on the RootWeb.



But, once in a while, the younger beasties need a little help making the right decisions because, well... they're young. And that's okay.

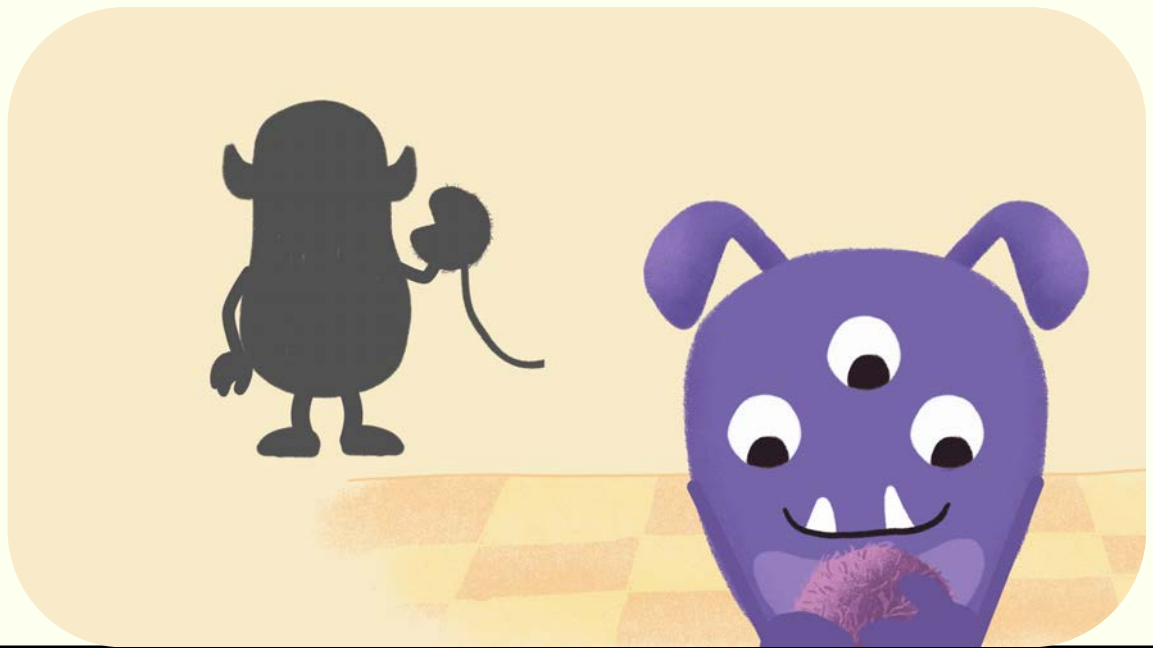
So, when a younger beastie is having trouble with something, they can always turn to an *Older Trusted Beastie* for help or advice.



For instance, PurpleBeastie loves to make new pals from far away on the RootWeb. PurpleBeastie has been told over and over by their Grown-ups to never share personal info with strangers - like their name, where they live, or go to school. So PurpleBeastie always uses their online name, “three-eyes55”.

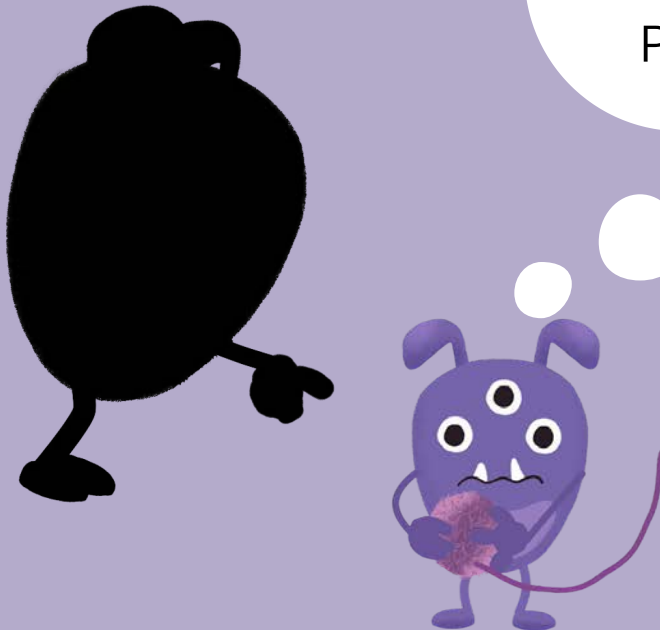


Sometimes, PurpleBeastie makes new friends on the RootWeb and forgets to check with a grown-up first. Like, one day, PurpleBeastie finds themselves chatting with another beastie from a far away valley who seems nice. They start exchanging knock-knock jokes and stories about their lives in each other's valleys.



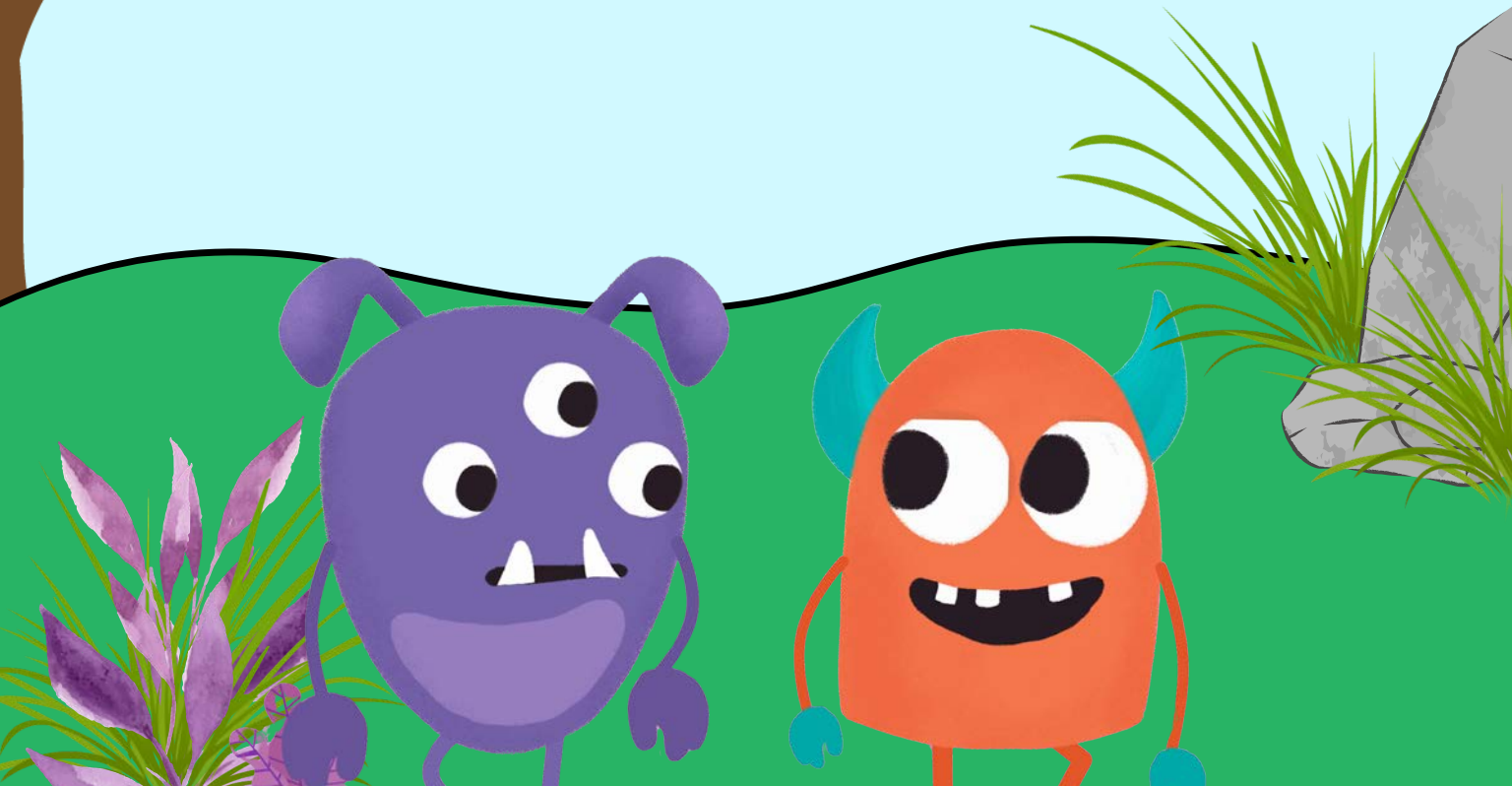
Well, after a few back and forths, this other beastie asks for PurpleBeastie's tree location and *real name*. This makes PurpleBeastie nervous as their Grown-ups' voices echo in their head:


“Never share personal information with strangers, PurpleBeastie... never... ever... ever...)



But PurpleBeastie really likes this new pal and is certain it would be okay - and besides, if PurpleBeastie refuses to share information, their new pal might not want to hang out at all.

PurpleBeastie tells all of this to their best “in real life” pal, OrangeBeastie. OrangeBeastie quickly reminds PurpleBeastie not to do it until they check with a *Trusted Adult Beastie* first.





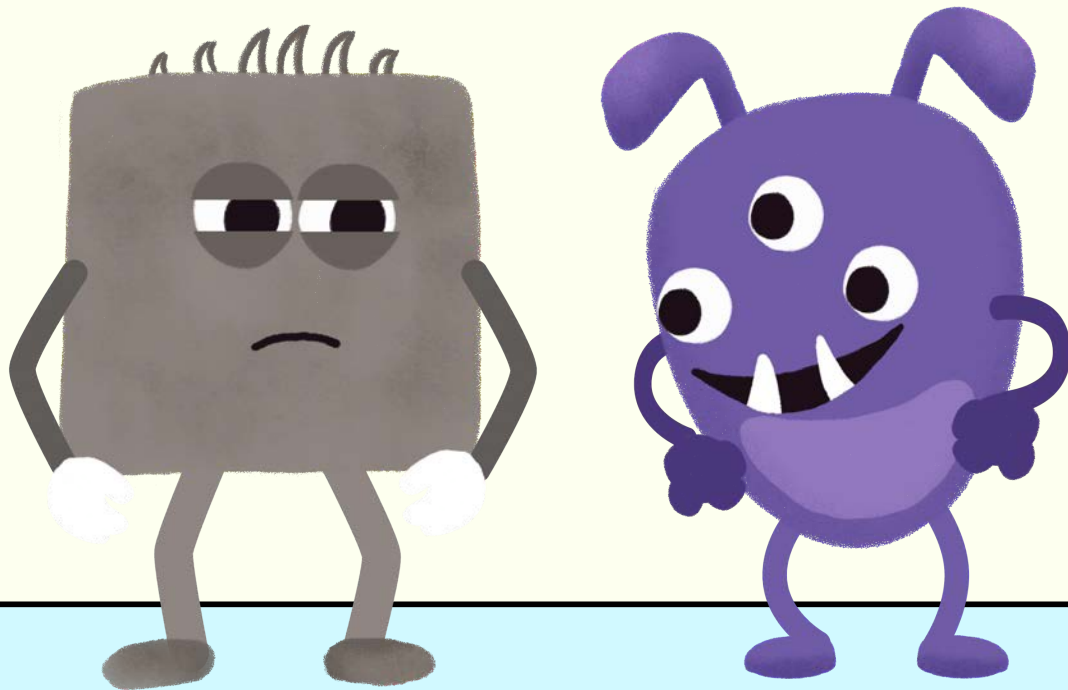
So, just to be certain the two beasties seek out the advice of SilverBeastie, who's always thoughtful about this sort of thing - and is a Grown-up that PurpleBeastie trusts.

SilverBeastie is glad that PurpleBeastie told them, and they understand how confusing it can be when someone seems really nice online - even if you've never met them in real life.



SilverBeastie also reminds PurpleBeastie that they should ask permission from their Grown-up before they make someone they don't know their friend online.

Unless you or someone you trust actually *knows* your online pal, you should never give out your personal information.



PurpleBeastie returns home and responds to their online pal, saying “Hey, let’s just use our root-web names” - and their pal completely understands. PurpleBeastie is relieved because, if they didn’t understand, PurpleBeastie would stop being their friend.

Then the two beasties start telling each other the latest knock-knock jokes.



Discussion Questions

1. What was the rule PurpleBeastie was told to follow by their Grown-ups when making new pals?

Review the rule: PurpleBeastie has been told over and over by their Grown-ups to never share private and personal information with strangers - like their name, where they live, or go to school. So PurpleBeastie always uses their online name, “three-eyes55”.

2. What was PurpleBeastie’s problem?



Review the Problem: PurpleBeastie has been asked by their new online pal to share their tree location and their real name. PurpleBeastie really likes this new pal and is certain it would be okay to share private and personal information like their name and where they live - and besides, if PurpleBeastie refuses to share this information, their new pal might not want to hang out at all.



Discussion Questions



3. Did something like that happen to you?

If **yes**,

- Remain calm and review what happened.
- Remind the child that they can come to a Trusted Grown-up like yourself if someone asks them to share their private and personal information like their name, where they live, where they go to school, and where they play.
- Review who else they can go to as a Trusted Grown-up.

If **no**,

- Ask what they would do if someone asked them to share private and personal information?
- Who would they go to as their Trusted Grown-up?
- Make a list of their Trusted Grown-ups.

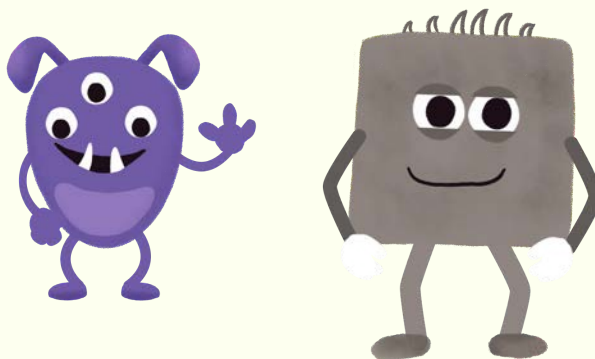
Also remind them that it is important to **stay safe** and that even though someone seems nice they could be pretending to trick them into sharing their private and personal information. If they say 'no' to sharing personal information with a pal and then their pal doesn't want to hang out, it's okay to never talk and play with them again, even if it makes them sad. It probably means that this person was not being their real friend and was trying to trick them.

Discussion Questions



4. What did PurpleBeastie do about the problem?

Review: PurpleBeastie talked to SilverBeastie a Trusted Grown-up. SilverBeastie was glad that PurpleBeastie told them, and they understand how confusing it can be when someone seems really nice online - even if you've never met them in real life. SilverBeastie also reminded PurpleBeastie that they should ask permission from their Grown-up before they make someone they don't know their friend online, something PurpleBeastie forgot to do. Unless you or someone you trust actually knows your online pal, you should never give out your personal information.



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