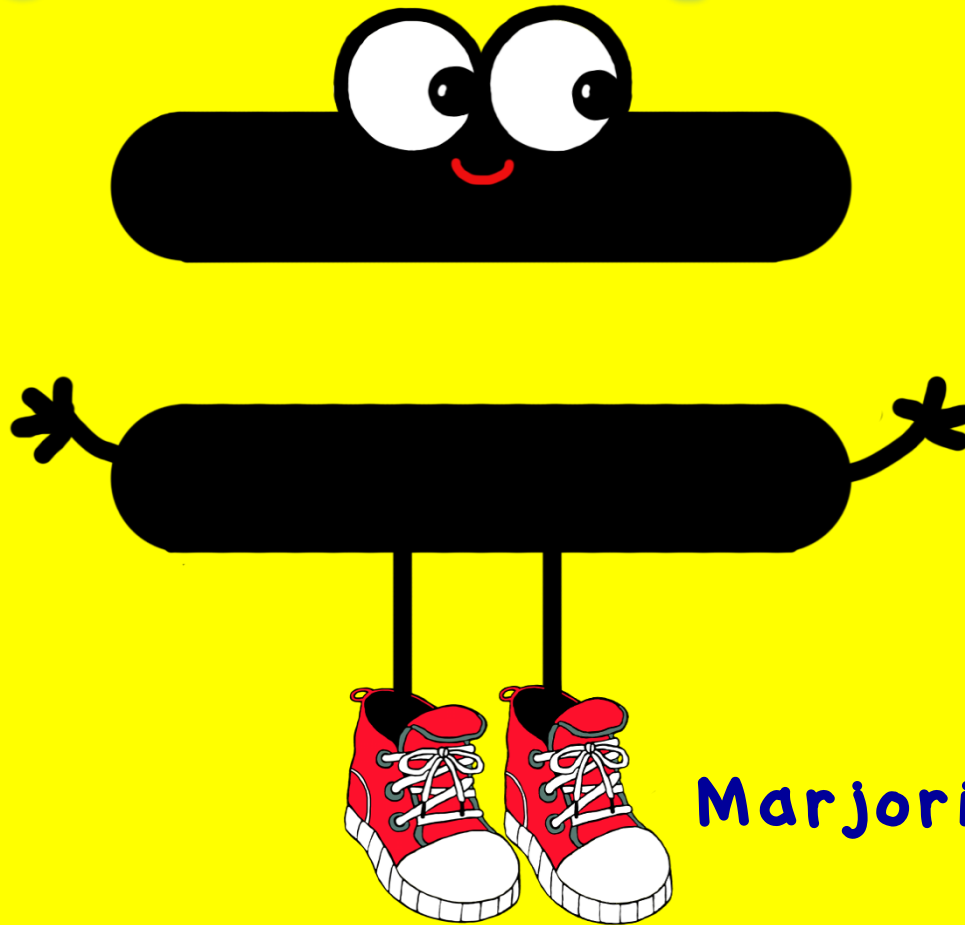


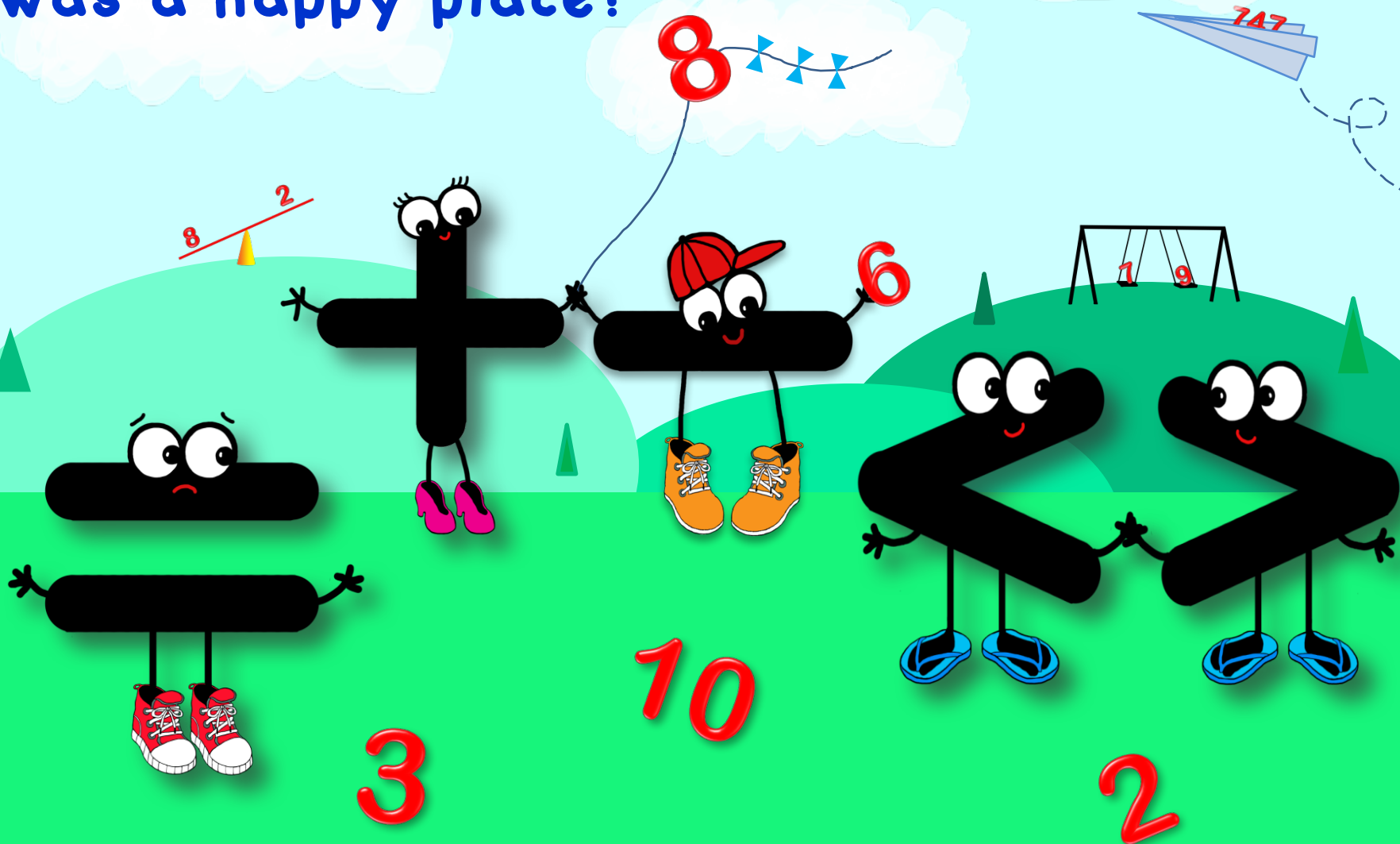
# I Am Equal!



By  
Marjorie Sheridan

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∨ + - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > = ^

Numbers and symbols are very playful,  
and the Land of Numbers  
was a happy place!



+ - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > =

The green grass was perfect for running and jumping.

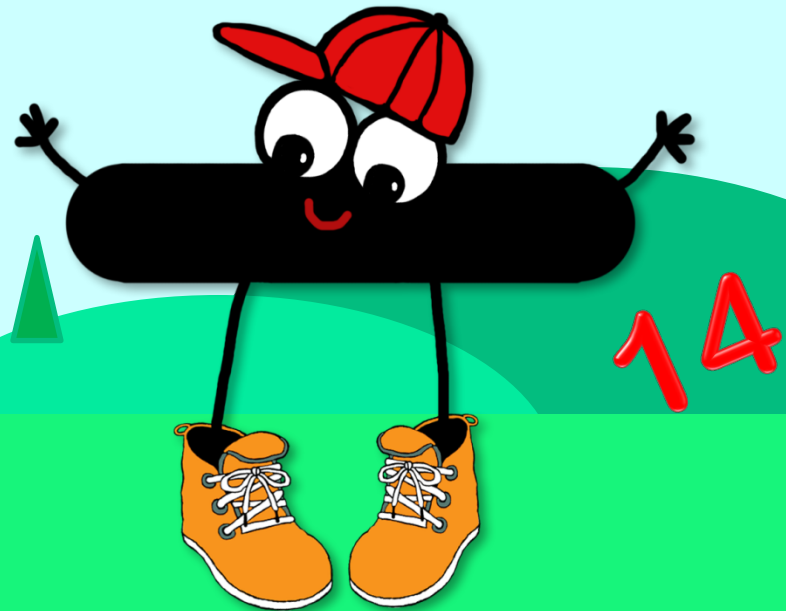
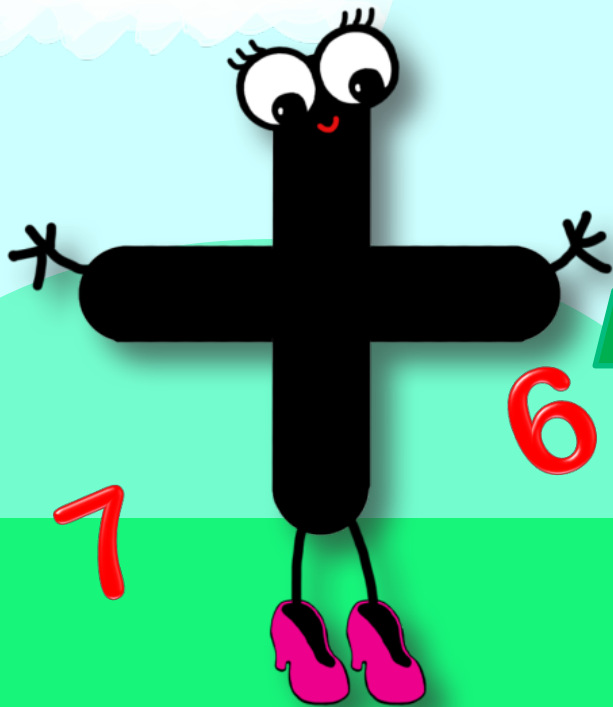
The soft, rolling hills were great for playing hide-and-seek.

The numbers and symbols were all great friends and enjoyed each other's company.

+ - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > =

The symbols were in charge of all the fun activities in The Land of Numbers.

They kept everyone busy.



+ - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > =

The symbol **Plus** and her best friend **Minus** were always surrounded by numbers.

They loved to magically transform numbers by putting them together or taking them apart.

They both had very important jobs and were very happy and proud.

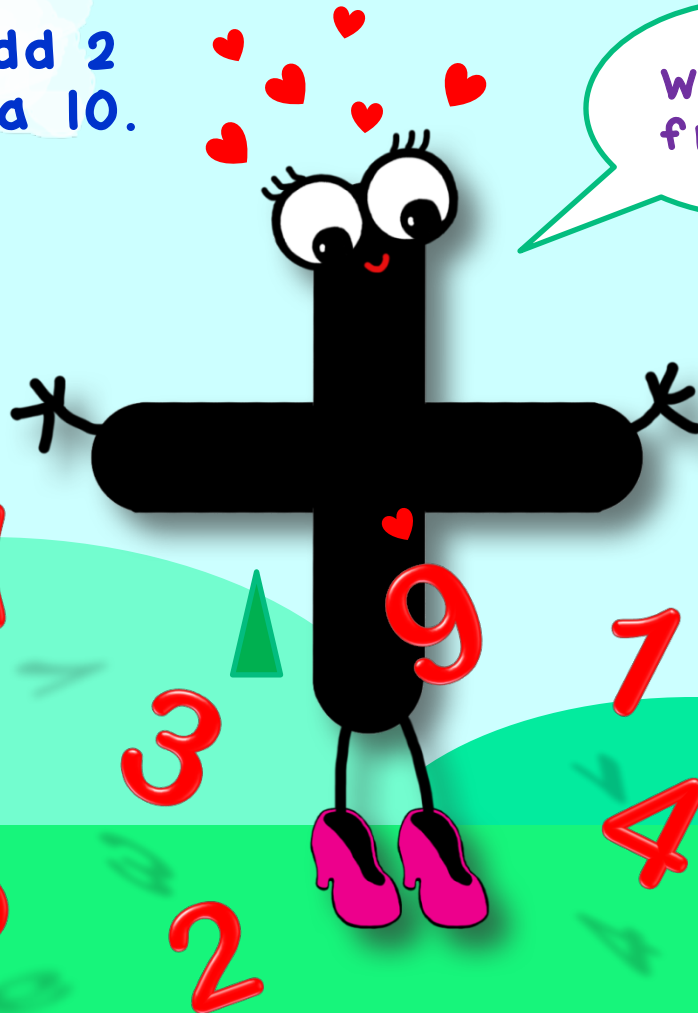
+ - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > =

**Plus** was always sweet and kind. She brought numbers together to make them larger.

She could add 2  
5's to make a 10.  
 $5+5=10$

Welcome  
friends!

She could add a 3  
and a 4 to make 7.  
 $3+4=7$



**Minus** was always full of energy!

Chasing numbers around all day was fun!  
He NEVER got tired!

He could start  
with a 7, chase  
away a 2, and  
end up with 5.

$$7-2=5$$

He could start  
with a 10, chase  
away a 3, and  
end up with 7.

$$10-3=7$$



Wait for me!

Run away!

Go! Go! Go!

Yee haw!



**Greater Than and Less Than** were twins.

They helped numbers show their values by showing who was greater or who was less.



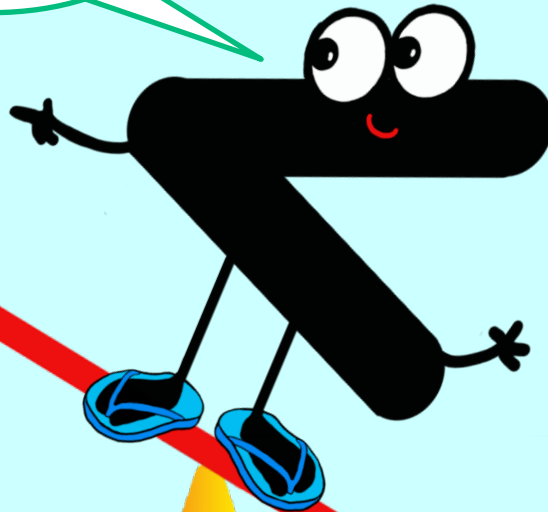
You're greater!

They liked playing with seesaws to help show the difference.

The numbers loved this game! The twins were very happy and proud of their jobs.

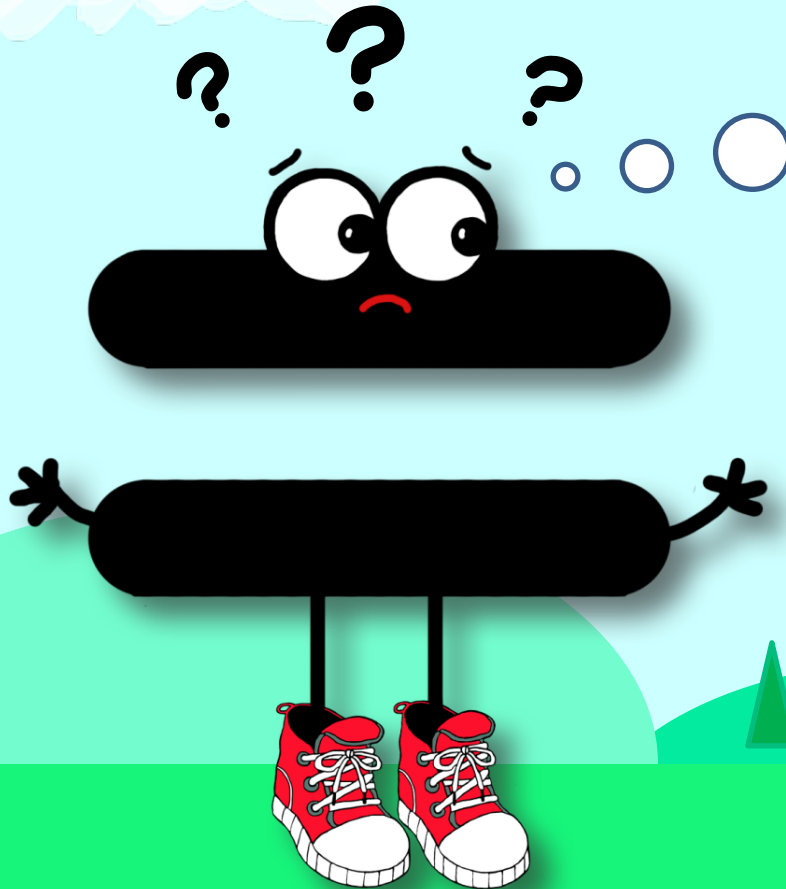
24

You're less!



62

The only symbol in the Land of Numbers who was *NOT* happy, was **Equal**.



$$7 + 4 = 11$$
$$9 - 1 = 8$$

+ - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > =

Even though the other symbols always included him in their number sentences and equations, he did not feel special.

**Equal** did not feel important.

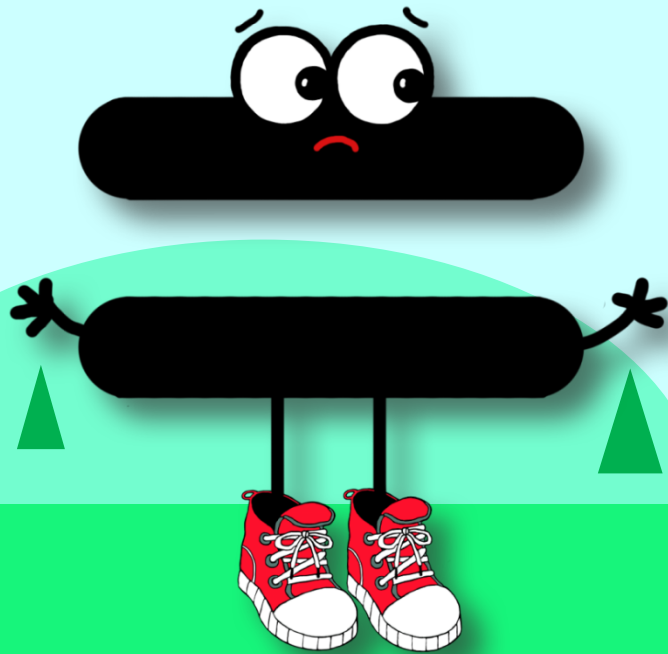
He simply did not understand his job!

+ - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > =

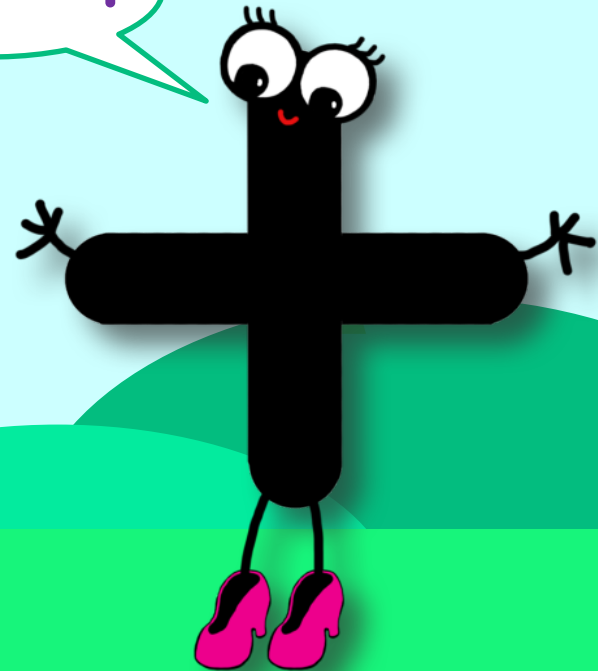


He decided to ask the other symbols for help.

The first symbol he met was **Plus**.



$$5+4 = 9$$



√ + - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > = ^

|| "Plus, what is my job? Am I important?" ∨

+ -

^ "Your job is very important!" said Plus. ||

√

|| "When I put numbers together, it's your ∨

+ -

^

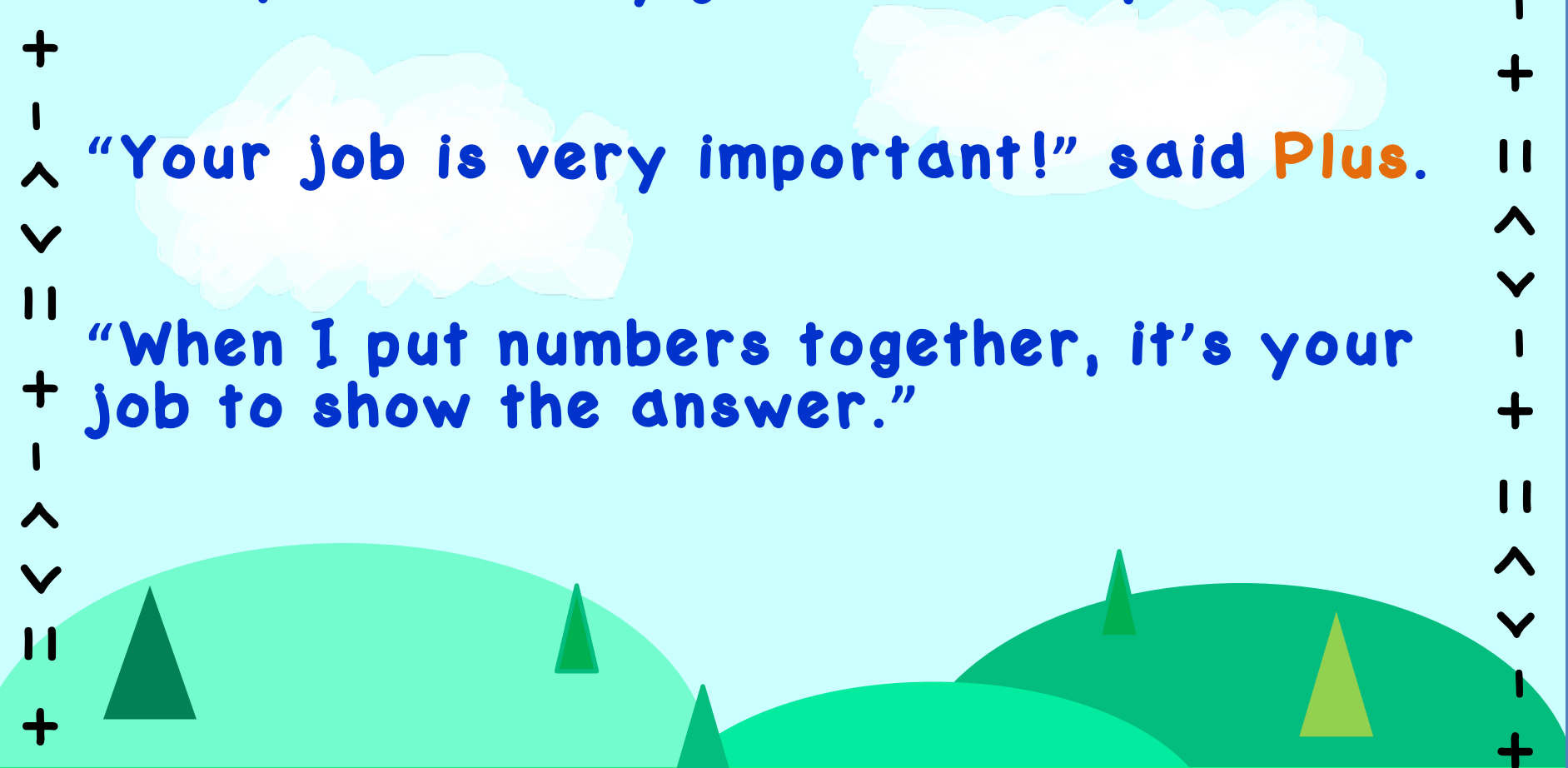
√

||

+ -

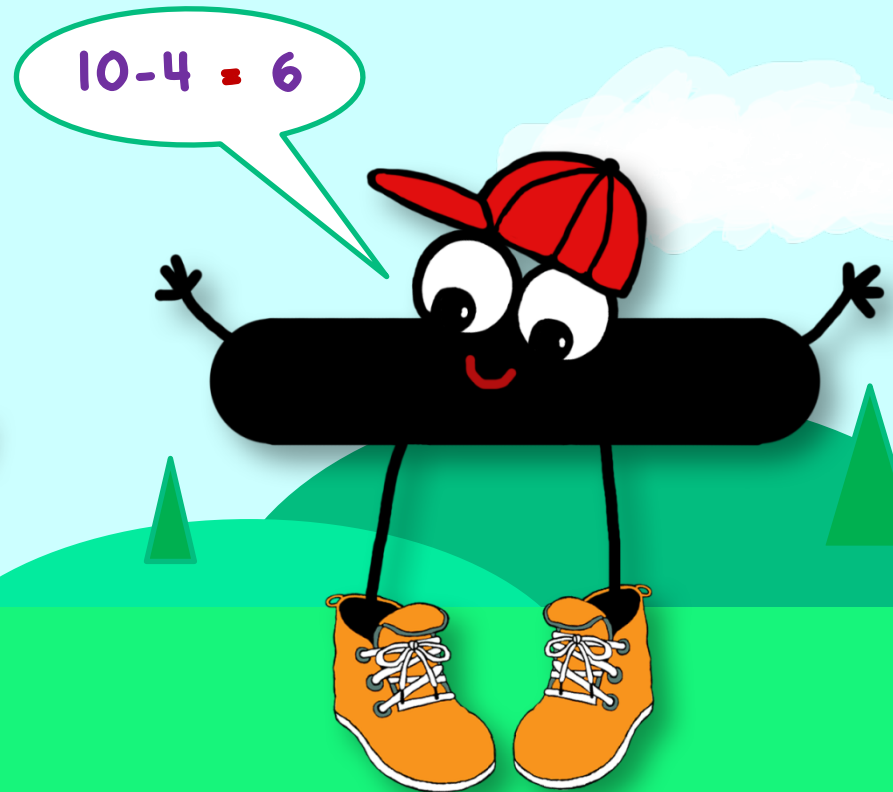
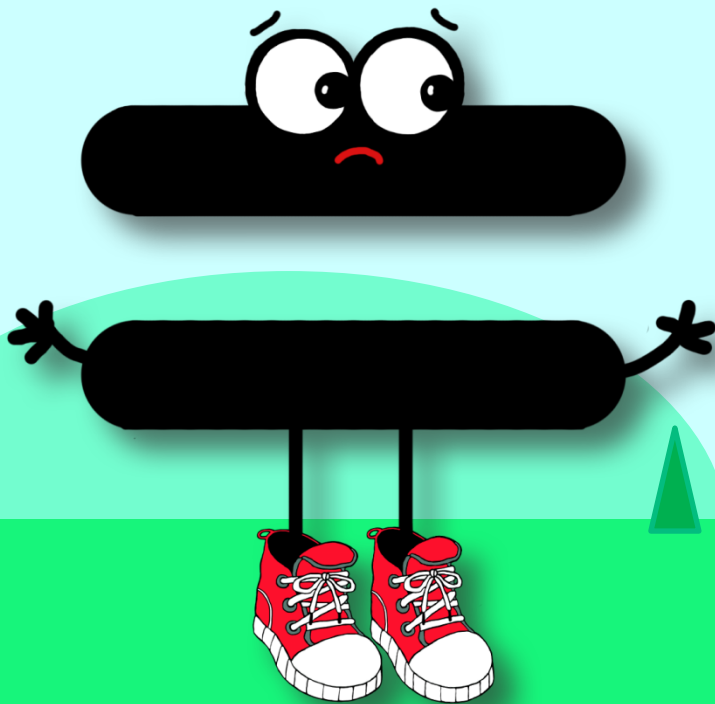
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√ + - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > = ^



**Equal** thanked **Plus**, but he did not think that seemed like a very important job.

He decided to ask **Minus**.



+ - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > =

"Minus," said Equal, "What is my job?  
am I important?"

"Oh, I think you're very important!"  
said Minus.

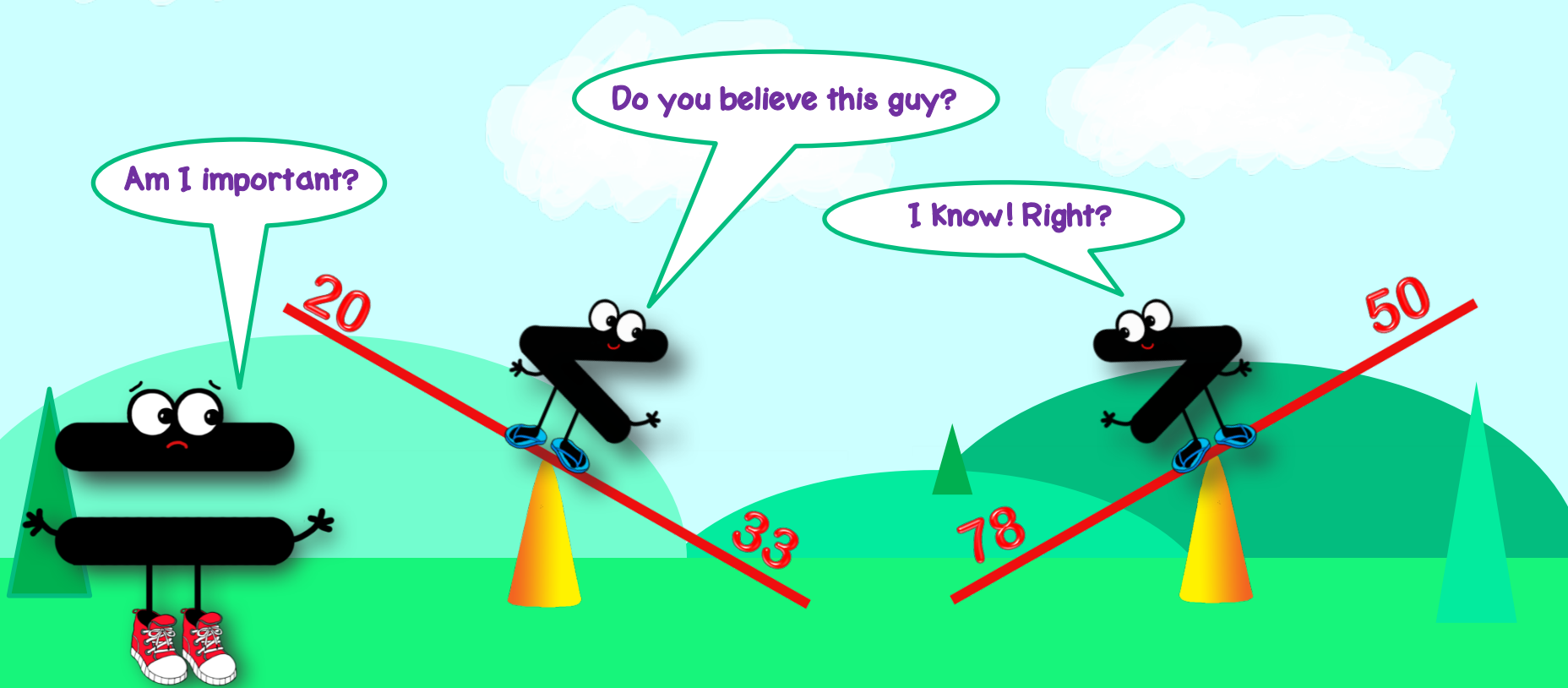
"When I take numbers away, it's your  
job to show the answer."

+ - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > =



**Equal** thanked **Minus**, but he still did not feel that simply *showing* an answer was a very important job.

He found **Greater Than** and **Less Than** playing on their seesaws.



+ - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > =

**Equal** shouted, "Excuse me, but I need your help!  
I know that **Plus** puts numbers together.

**Minus** takes them apart.

I know that **Greater Than** shows bigger numbers.

**Less Than** shows numbers that are smaller.

But what is *my* job? Am I important?"

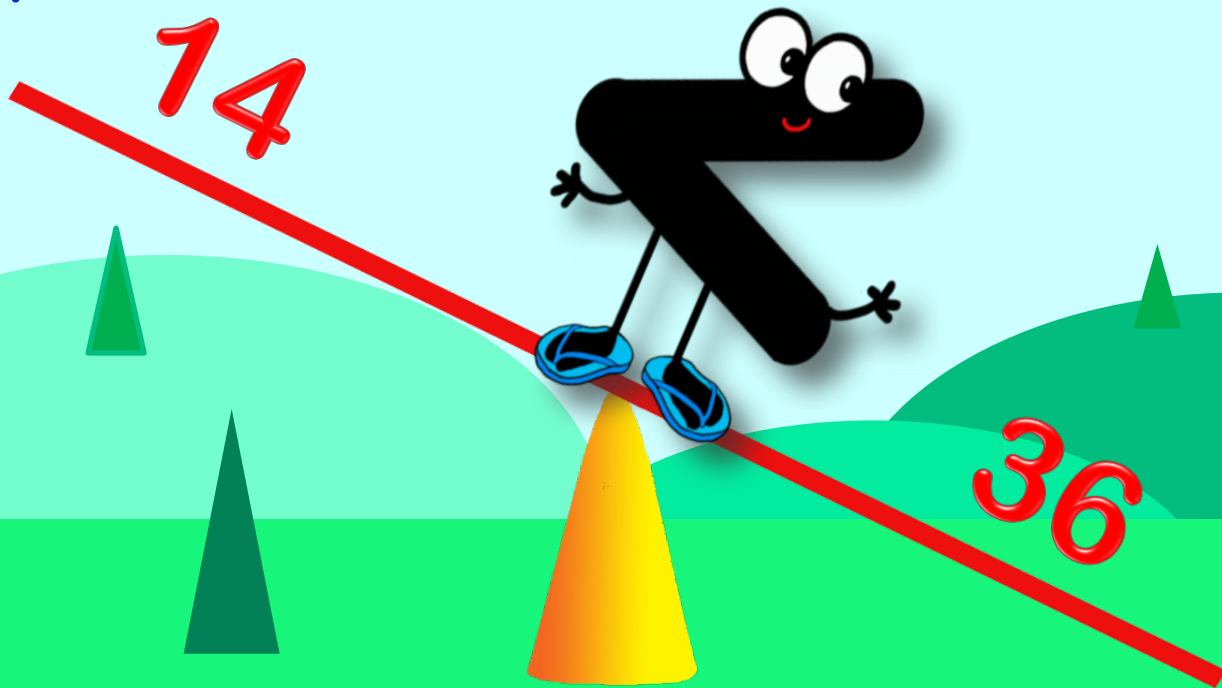
**Greater Than** and **Less Than** looked at each other  
and began to laugh.

"You're **EQUAL**, silly! You have the  
most important job of all!"

+ - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > =

**Equal** was confused. "But, I still don't understand! What does that **MEAN**? What is equal?" he asked.

**Less Than** turned to **Equal** and said kindly, "Using a seesaw may help. We tip our seesaws one way or the other to show how numbers are *different*. Some are larger, and some are smaller."



+ - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > =

“**Equal**, you must always try to keep your seesaw **even** by balancing numbers or equations that are the same value.”

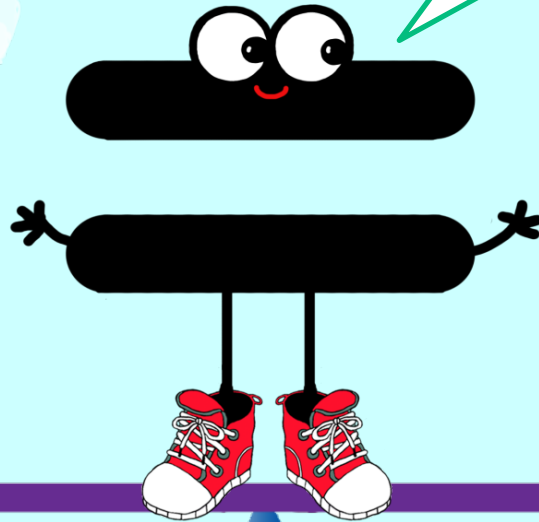
Practice, and you will see!

O.K. I will try.



So, **Equal** found a seesaw and worked hard to keep it **even**. First, he balanced one number on each side.

$9 = 9$ .  
That was so easy!



9

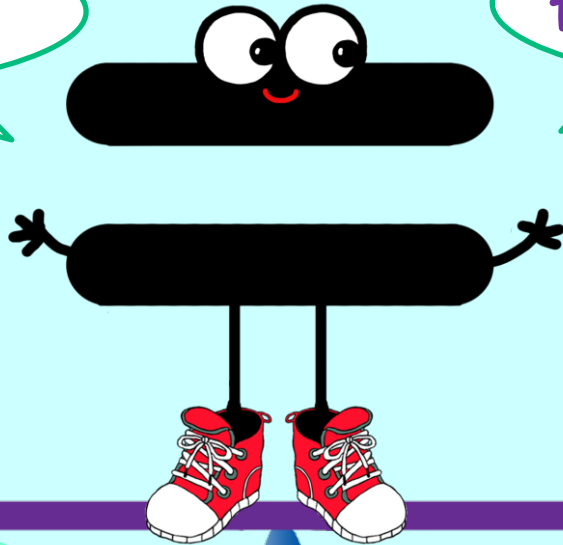
9

He wondered what would happen if he balanced equations on each side.

He tried  $2 + 6 = 6 + 2$ .

Both sides make 8!  
They're equal!

Hey!  
This is kind of fun!



$$2 + 6$$

$$6 + 2$$

**Equal** practiced all  
night ...

Is  $10 + 5$  the same as  $15$ ?  
YES!



**15**

**$10 + 5$**

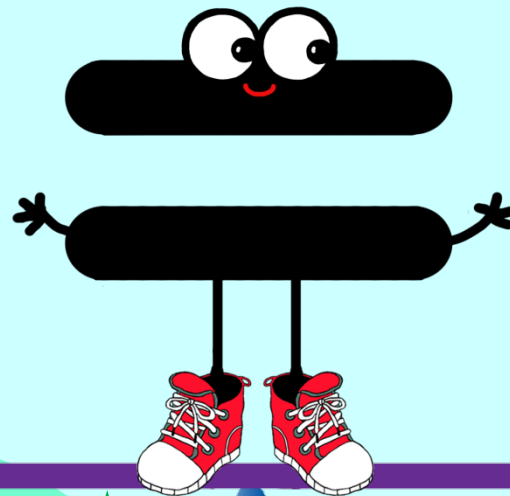
... and all day!

He tried it with three numbers.

Both sides make **5**!  
They're equal!

It was finally  
beginning to  
make sense!

Yes!



$$2 + 2 + 1$$

$$1 + 2 + 2$$



+ - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > =

**Equal** tried experimenting. He used a plus on one side and a minus on the other.

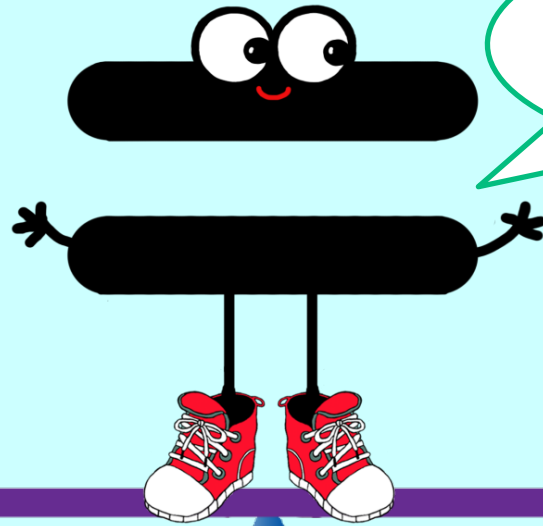
Did **3 + 3** equal **10 - 4**?

He checked it out by solving both equations. Their answers were the **same!**

They were **EQUAL!**

+ - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > =

**Equal's** job was to show numbers and equations that were the same **value**.  
The **value** on one side of him had to be the exact same value on the other side!



Hmmm...the answer  
on both sides is **6**.  
It works!

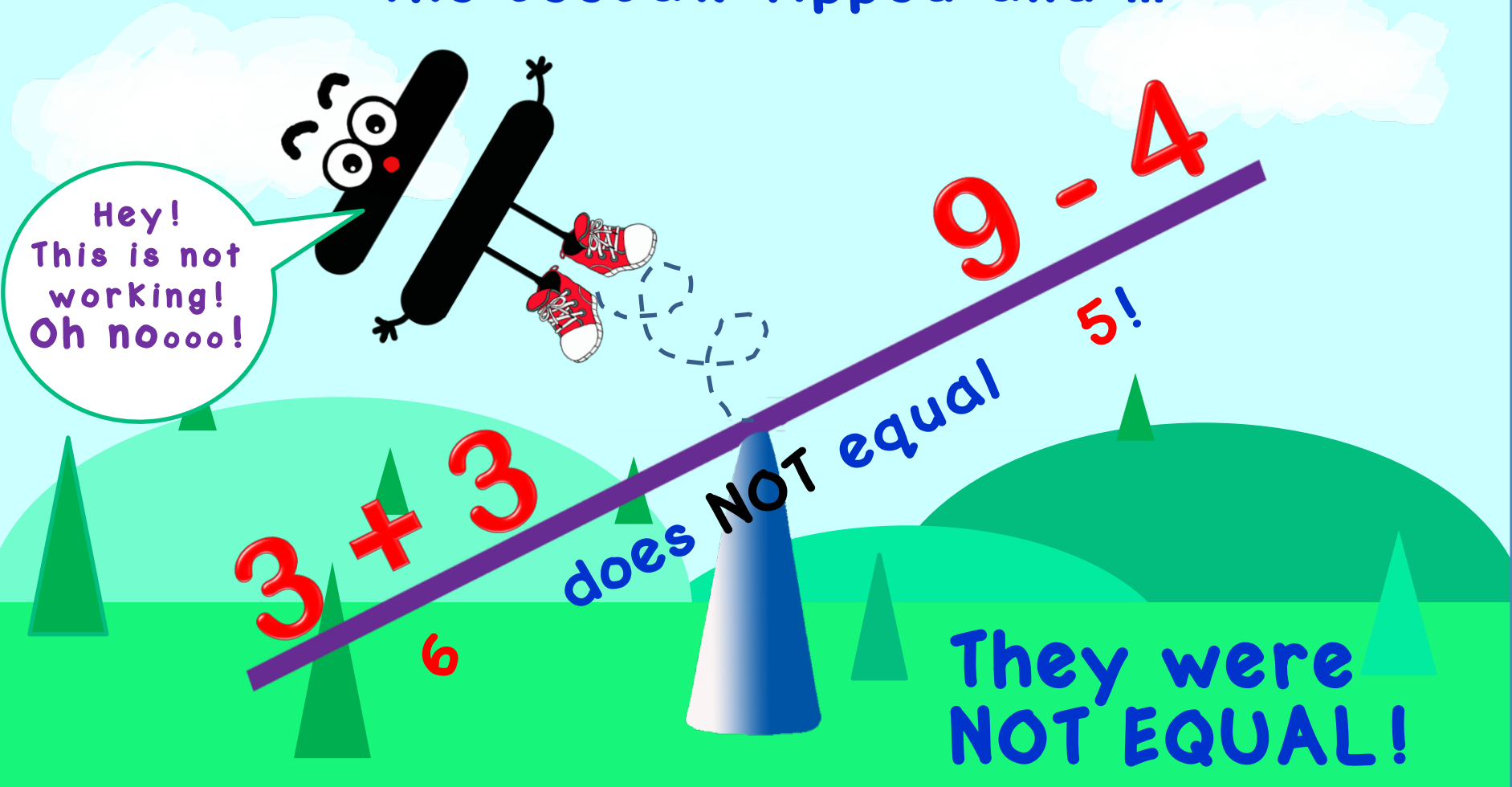
$$3 + 3$$

$$10 - 4$$

**Equal** wanted to see what would happen if the values were NOT the same on both sides.

Did  $3 + 3$  equal  $9 - 4$ ?

The seesaw tipped and ...



Hey!  
This is not  
working!  
Oh noooo!

$3 + 3$   
6

does NOT equal

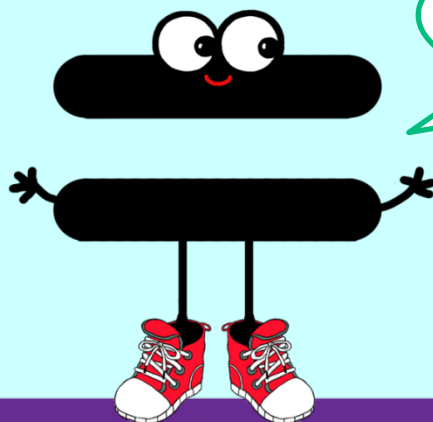
$9 - 4$   
5!

They were  
NOT EQUAL!

**Equal** was getting very good at his job. He made up a game called "Missing Number."

He would place numbers on both sides with one number **missing**. The numbers had to guess who was missing to make the equation equal.

Of course, the numbers loved this!



Which number will make this side equal to 7?

7

9 -

9

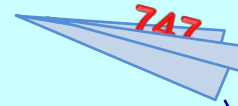
3

2

Me! Me! Me!

4

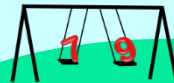
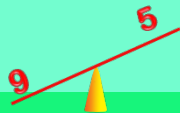
**Equal** didn't need the seesaw anymore. He could pop himself into any equation or number sentence and know why he was there.



$$0 + 9 = 7 + 2$$



$$9 + 3 = 12$$



1 9



$$10 = 5 + 5$$



$$7 + 1 = 4 + 4$$



$$10 - 4 = 3 + 3$$



$$18 = 18$$



+ - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > =

**Equal** finally understood his job,  
*and*

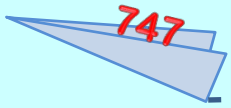
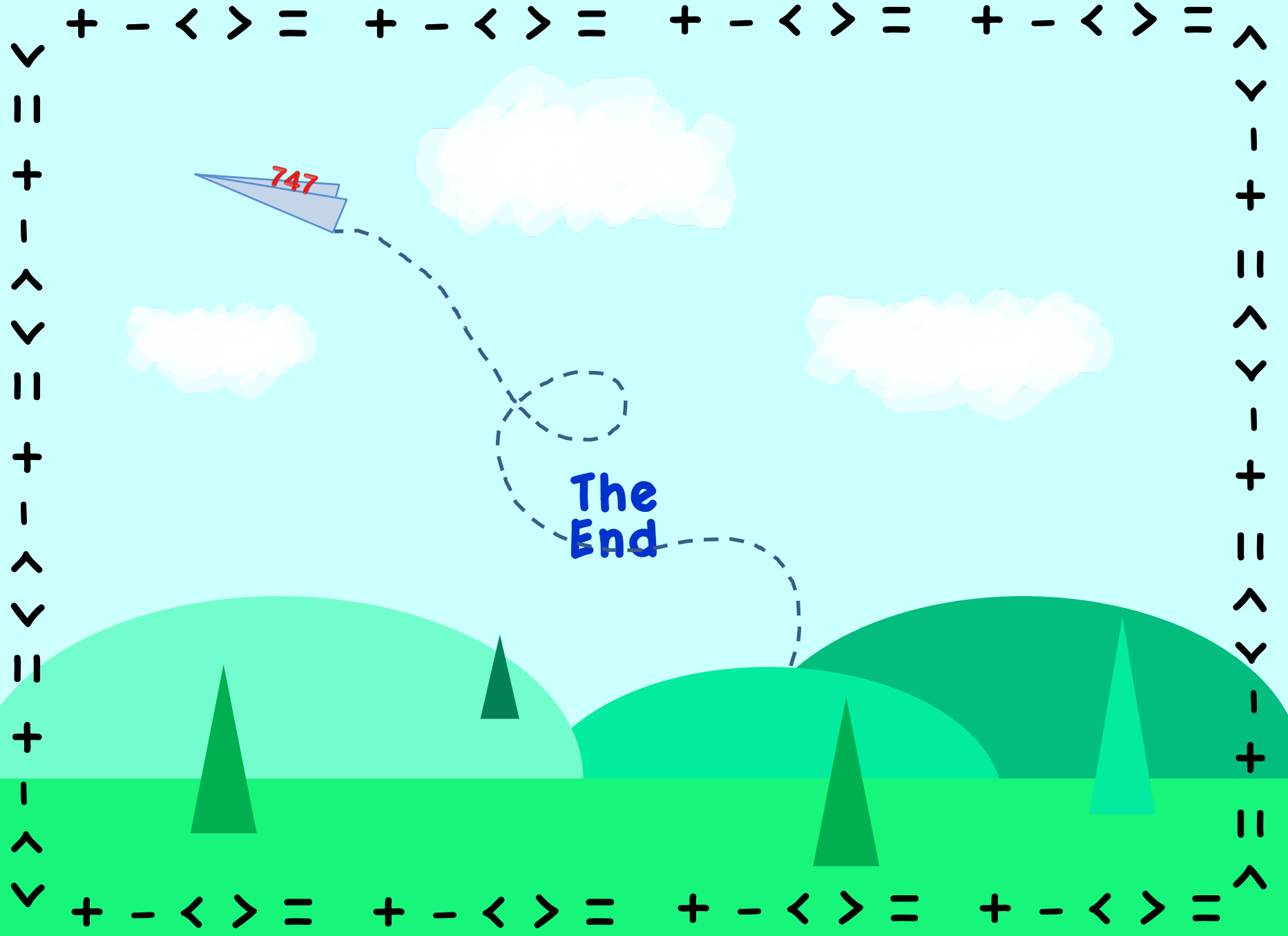
he knew he was just as important as  
all the other symbols.

He could finally say ...

+ - < > = + - < > = + - < > = + - < > =

"I am Equal!"





The  
End

