

Cameron calls 9-1-1



Cameron was at home one day with his mom and dad.



Dad was in the kitchen making supper and his mom was outside in the garden.

Cameron was playing with his airplanes.

One of them fell behind the couch and he couldn't reach it.



He called for his dad, but his dad didn't hear him. Then Cameron saw the phone.

Cameron's mom and dad had talked to him about calling 9-1-1 if he needed help.

So he picked up the phone and pressed 9 then 1 then 1.



A lady answered and said,
"9-1-1 for what city?"

Cameron said "Calgary"
and the lady said,
"Do you need
fire, police or
ambulance?"



Cameron told her that
he couldn't reach his
airplane, and then the lady
asked to speak to
Cameron's mom.

"You should never play with the phone,
Cameron, and you should never call 9-1-1 unless
you need the police, fire or ambulance right
away. 9-1-1 is only for emergencies, like if
you're really sick or hurt, you see fire or smell
smoke or if you see someone else being hurt,"
Cameron's mom told him.

Cameron's dad said,
"If someone who really needed help tried to call
them, they might not be able to answer because
they were on the phone with you."



The next week Cameron was at Jaxson's house. Jaxson said,

"Let's play with the phone. We can call the police and the fire department if we just dial 9-1-1."

But Cameron remembered what his mom and dad had told him so he said,

"9-1-1 is only for when we need help. If we call when we don't need help, then people who really do need help might not be able to talk to 9-1-1."

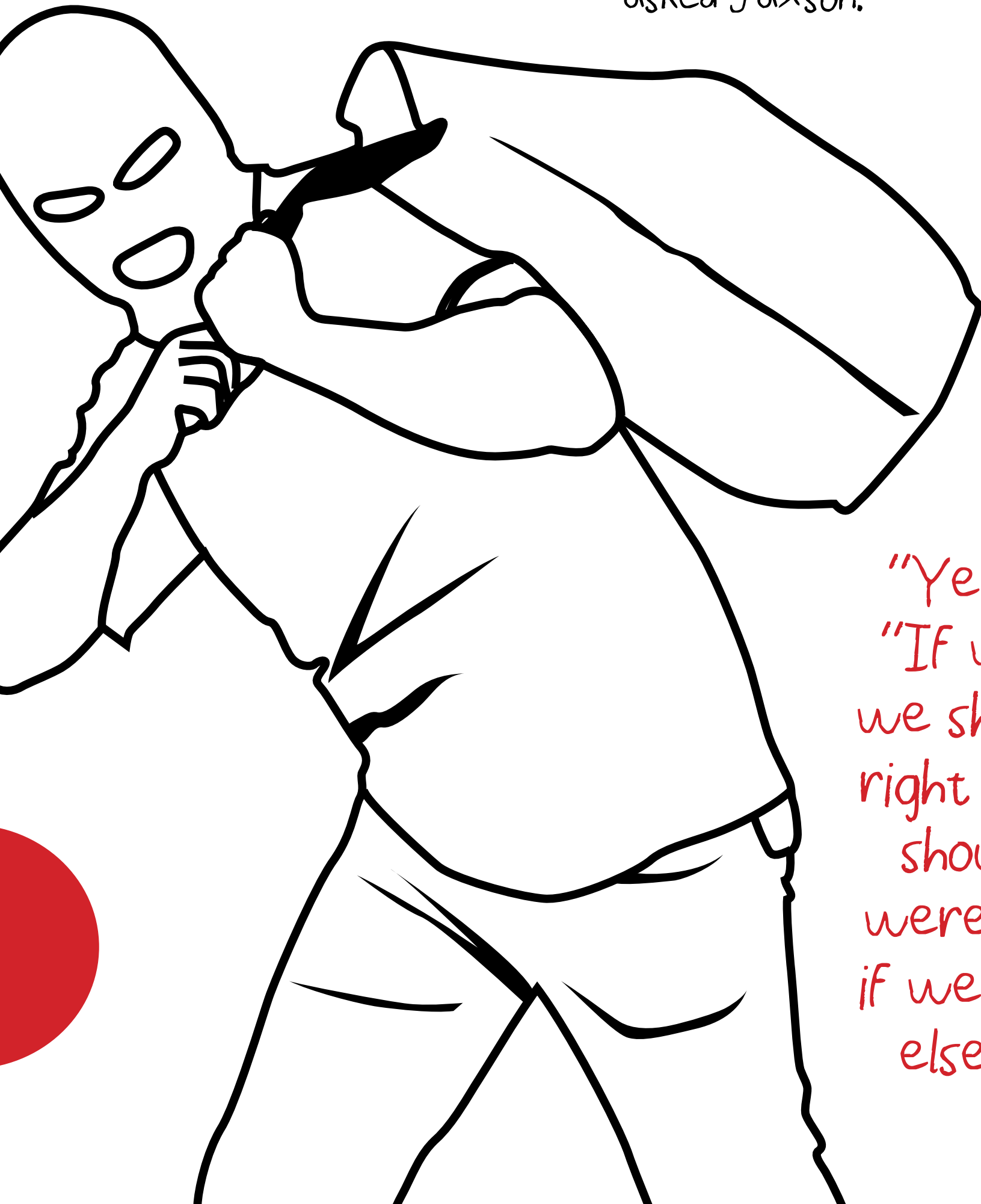
Jaxson asked,

"What if we need help with our homework or when my mom makes me eat brussels sprouts? Can I call 9-1-1 for that kind of help?"

"No," said Cameron. "9-1-1 is only for emergencies, when we really need the police, fire or ambulance right away. If we were really sick or hurt, or if we saw a fire or smelled smoke we should call 9-1-1."



"What about if we saw someone stealing?"
asked Jaxson.



"Would we
call 9-1-1
then?"

"Yes," said Cameron.
"If we saw that,
we should call 9-1-1
right away and we
should call if we
were being hurt or
if we saw someone
else being hurt."

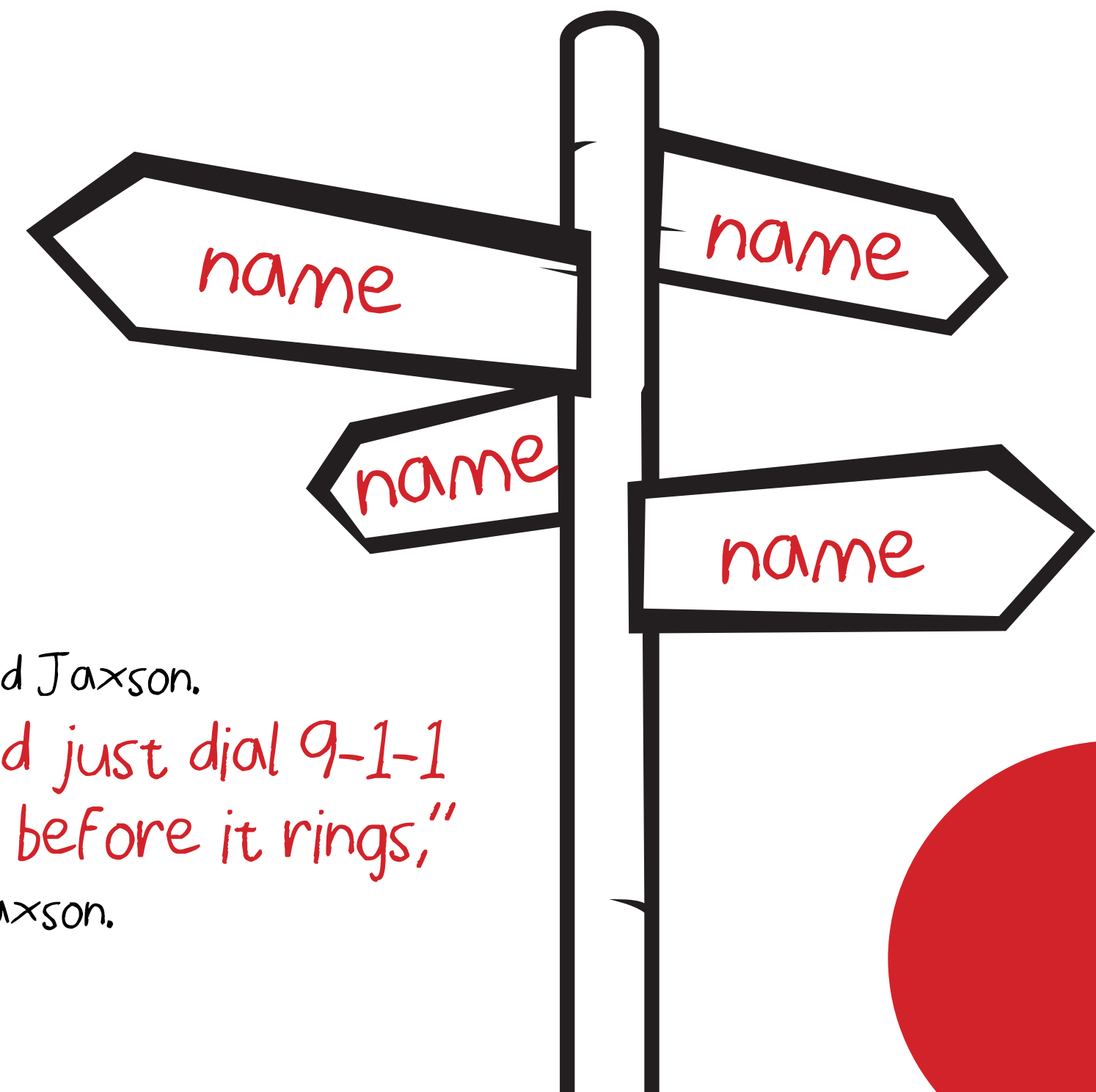
"But how do the police or firefighters know
where to go when we call? Do I tell them
I live in the green house on the corner?"
Jaxson asked.



"I think there are a lot of green houses in Calgary," said Cameron.



"My dad said that I need to know my address and if I'm not at home, I should know the address of where I am or look around for a street sign or building with a name on it."



"OK," said Jaxson.
"Maybe we could just dial 9-1-1 and then hang up before it rings," said Jaxson.

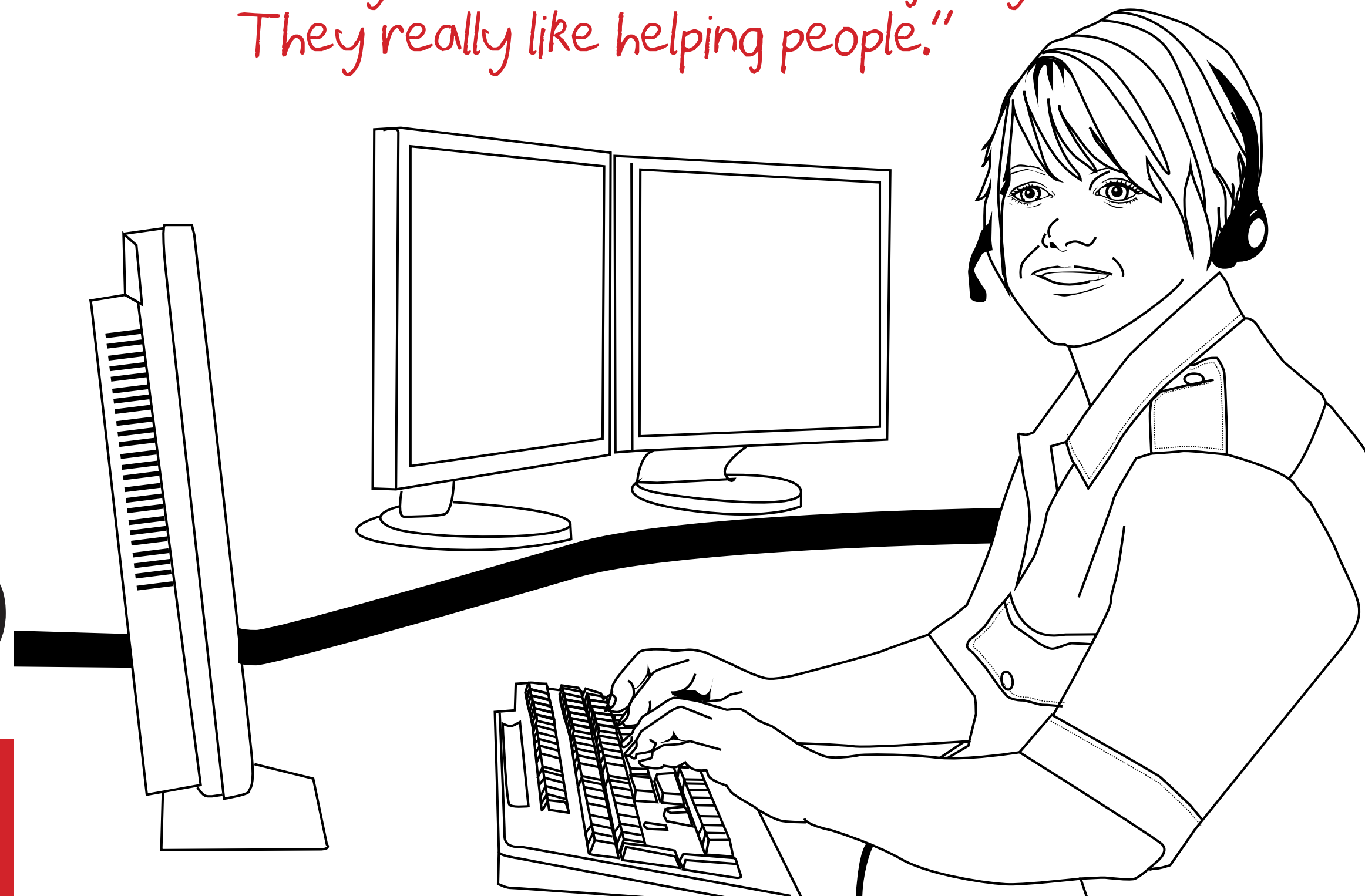
"No", said Cameron. "My mom told me never to hang up when I call 9-1-1, even if I did it by mistake. She said I should always stay on the phone and tell them I made a mistake."

"If we practise calling them and we don't have an emergency, then maybe they wouldn't be able to answer if someone called them who really did need their help right away."

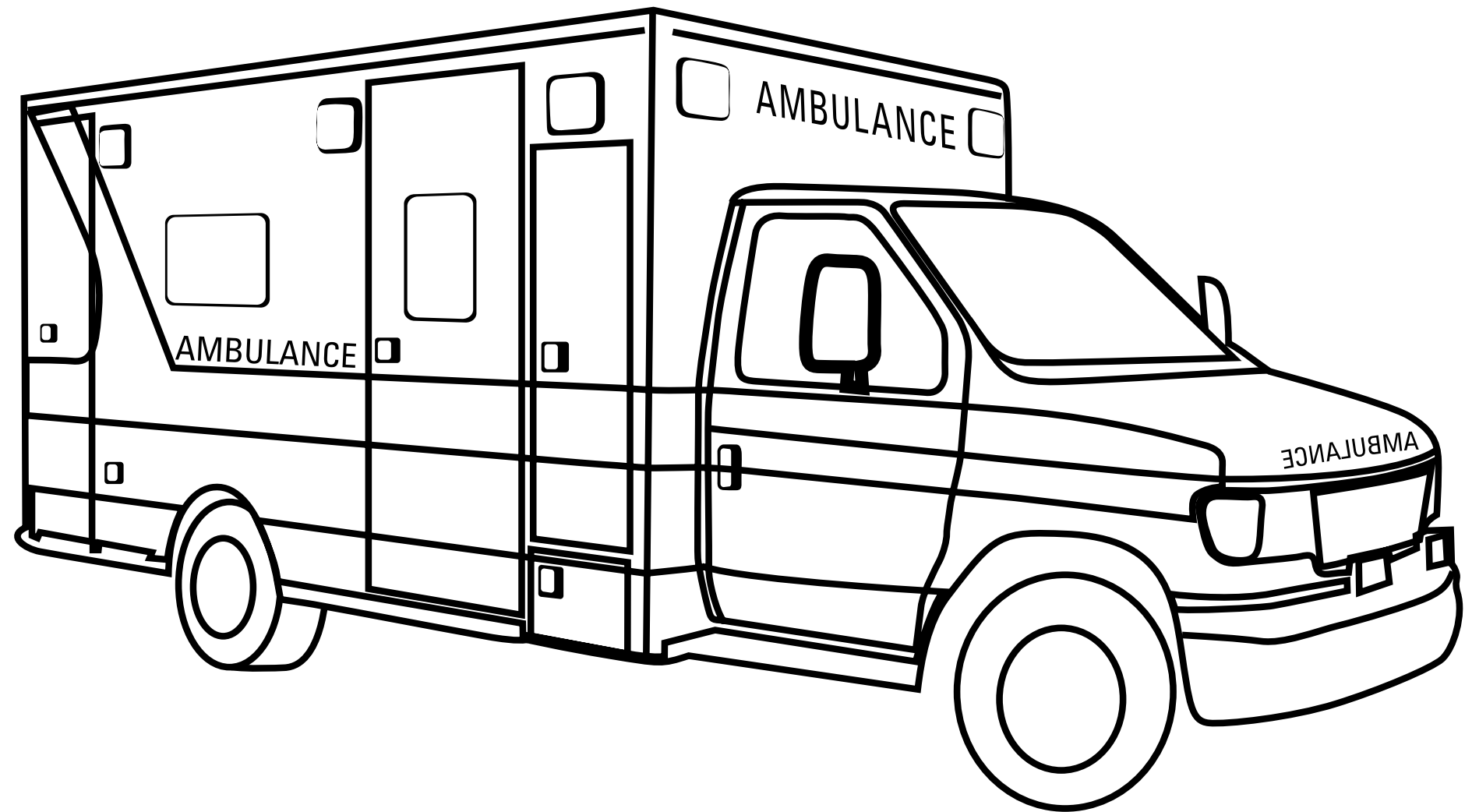


"The 9-1-1 people are really nice," said Cameron.

"They didn't get mad at me when I called them last week. They just told me that I should only call if it was an emergency. They really like helping people."



So Cameron and Jaxson decided to play with their cars instead.



And they always remembered to only call 9-1-1 if they really needed help from the police, fire or ambulance.



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