

# Fatna and the Destiny Club

Fatna watches the other kids playing at recess. She's not happy. There's a group of boys and two girls playing football. Three girls are jumping rope. There are also a few kids who don't really know what to do with themselves.



Fatna walks up to a boy who's all alone and asks him, "Peter, do you want to play hopscotch with me?"

"No thanks. I wanted to play cards. I asked Donovan if he wanted to play, but it's always the same. He plays football with his gang every day. But since I don't play well, they never pick me."

"The two of us can play together if you want."

"No, that's all right thanks. In the end I think I'll just play by myself."

Salowa, Fatna's friend, smiles at her from across the yard and Fatna runs toward her.

"Want to play tag?" asks Salowa.

"Yeah, but we need more players. Let's invite Paola."

"No, she's jumping rope with her friends. I wanted to do it with them, but they told me no because they said I'm no good. Paola is really mean when she's with her friends."

"It's not possible! It's always the same kids who decide everything! I'm sick and tired of it. We need to do something."

But the bell rings and all the kids need to go back to their classes. Fatna has a hard time concentrating in class. Her teacher says to her, "Fatna, what's wrong with you? You have your head in the clouds today!" But Fatna can't stop thinking about Salowa and Peter and how they can't play with the others.



Fatna walks in the door of her apartment and goes straight to her desk. She grabs a piece of paper and some markers. "Nejma, come help me," she says to her sister. She tells Nejma about her big idea and both



of them start drawing big circles with two semi-circles, one rightside up and the other upside down. That makes two faces: a smiley face with the word "yes" and a frowny face with the word "no." Nejma and Fatna add the title: "D-E-S-T-I-N-Y C-L-U-B."

A few hours later, their mom comes back from the community center, where she's learning how to tell stories to children. Fatna says to her, "Hey Mom, come quick! Look at what Nejma and I made!"

Her mom approaches and says, "Looks great Fatna, but what's the Destiny Club?"

"It's an idea I had when I saw that no one wanted to play with Salowa and Peter. It's a group of kids who like to pick the games they play together. We'll take turns choosing a game. Everyone can join, as long as they let the others pick games too."

"Sounds good to me Fatna, but why the name 'Destiny Club?'"

"Our group group will be the club for kids who want to choose their own destiny."

"Great, but maybe you should add a couple sentences to your poster to explain so that everyone understands."



The next day, Fatna puts her poster up in the yard and waits right next to it to see if anyone wants to join the club. Salowa is the first to walk up to her.

"What's your poster there?" When Fatna explains it to her, she replies,

"Okay, but can we play tag?"

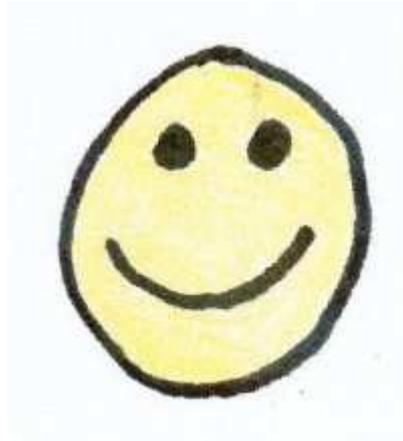
"Of course, but if you choose tag today, tomorrow someone else can choose another game."

"That works for me." While they're talking, they see Peter sitting all alone on a bench. They walk up to him and Salowa says,

"Peter, want to play with me and Fatna?"

"I wanted to play cards."

"Yeah, but Fatna has an idea. We can make a club where we all get a turn to decide what we play."





More and more kids join the Destiny Club. Sometimes Donovan suggests a football game where everyone can play, even the kids who are no good at it.

One day, Fatna gets to school and sees her poster ripped up and lying on the ground. "Who could have done that?" she asks Salowa.

"It must be Donovan's friends. They're always making fun of the Destiny Club!"

But since Donovan keeps coming to play with Fatna and her friends, little by little, even his friends come and play with them.