Lily loved to draw. Her favorite pictures were usually of bouncy bunnies, happy suns, and swirly flowers. But one rainy afternoon, Lily decided she wanted to draw something completely new: a monster!

She grabbed her biggest, darkest crayon. She drew a monster with enormous, sharp teeth, pointy horns, and grumpy, squinty eyes. His body was big and scaly. She called him Grumpy Gloop.

When she finished, Lily looked at her creation. "Wow," she whispered, "he looks very, very scary!" Grumpy Gloop sat on the paper, frowning up at her. Lily felt a tiny shiver and quickly put the drawing down on her desk, a little bit uneasy.

Later that day, the sun peeked out, and Lily went back to her drawings.

Grumpy Gloop was still there on the page, looking just as scary and grumpy as before. But as Lily looked closer, she started to wonder. Did Grumpy Gloop *really* want to be scary? Or did he just look that way because she drew him like that?

An idea sparked! Lily picked up a bright yellow crayon. Very gently, she drew a tiny, cheerful flower right next to Grumpy Gloop's scaly foot. Then, she added a little purple butterfly fluttering near his big horns. And for the bravest touch of all, she drew a tiny, friendly smile on Grumpy Gloop's face, right over his frown.

Suddenly, Grumpy Gloop didn't look scary at all! His big teeth looked less sharp, his grumpy eyes looked more like he was just thinking very hard, and the flower and butterfly made him look rather sweet. He wasn't frightening anymore; he just looked a bit... different and quite friendly.

Lily giggled. She had made Grumpy Gloop scary, and then she had made him friendly. She realized that sometimes, things might look scary or unfriendly at first, but if you look a little closer, or even add a little kindness, you might find something wonderful instead.

Moral: Don't let first impressions scare you away, for even the grumpiest-looking things can be wonderful if you give them a chance.