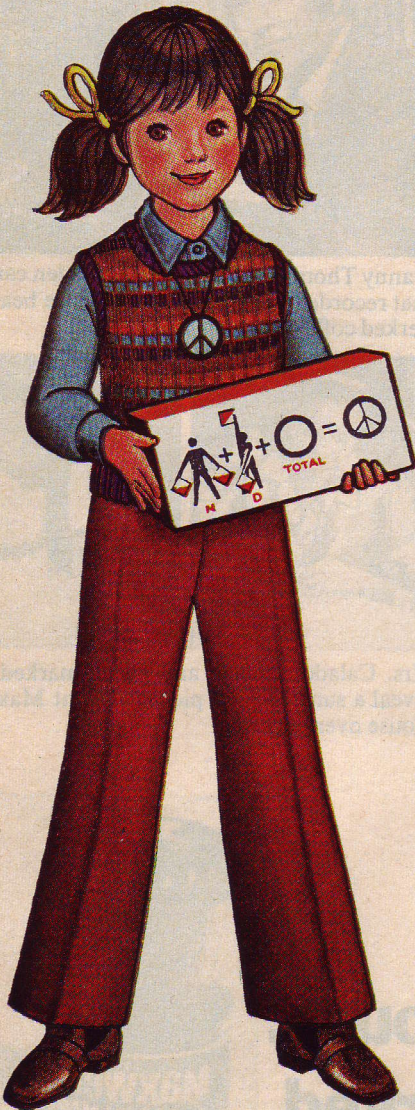




BETSY McCALL LEARNS SYMBOL TALK

Guess what language you'd understand anywhere, even if you were too young to read or didn't know a word of English or French or Spanish or *anything*. The answer is SYMBOL language, which *anybody* can read. Look at the ones at the top of this page—they're only a few of the thousands of picture symbols in the world. A man named Henry Dreyfuss, who has made a dictionary of a zillion symbols, told our school about them in Assembly. He held up a card with this on it: + - = ? & . "These are some symbols that you know well," he said. "A symbol is something that stands for something else. *Numbers* are symbols for amounts—1 kitten, 2 degrees, 3 hours. *Notes* are symbols for sounds in music; they mean the same everywhere. *Colors* can be symbols: red for *stop*, green for *go*. Many more symbols need to be invented, and maybe some of you here will invent them! Most symbols in public places are to direct you (up, down, in, out, fast, slow—you know) or to protect you: A red circle with a red slanting line means DANGER—DON'T DO IT—whether it's drinking impure water, entering a forbidden area, or whatever. A triangle framing a symbol means caution. And you all know what Smokey the Bear means! He's one of our best symbols."

Put your arm over the answers at the bottom of this story and then try to guess what the symbols on top stand for. If you can't (and we couldn't guess every one of them), here's what:



1. Lost child. 2. First aid. 3. Biodegradable. 4. Go fast. 5. Electric fence. 6. Go slow. 7. Emergency exit. 8. No entry. 9. Camping. 10. No smoking. 11. Restaurant. 12. Emergency telephone. 13. Drip-dry. 14. Lost and found. 15. Poison. 16. Hot. 17. Don't touch. 18. Quiet. 19. Caution. 20. Thin ice. 21. Slippery. 22. Don't drink the water. The peace sign I'm holding: semaphore N (nuclear) + semaphore D (disarmament) + circle (total) = total nuclear disarmament.

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