

# Gordon the Uncertainty Giant



Australian  
Childhood  
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Last night Josh got up to get a drink of water and there was a friendly, but kind of jumpy looking Giant playing cards at his family's dining table. The Giant looked up and smiled. "Hi, my name is Gordon" he said. "The coronavirus has me visiting lots of people right now. And so, here I am, at your service." He stepped forward and bowed. Josh looked at him curiously and replied "I'm sorry to tell you Gordon, our house is full. We don't have room for any extra Giants right now." Josh turned around and went back to bed.



The next day Josh was the first to get up and who should be standing in the kitchen but Gordon. “Good morning!” he chirped. “Why are you still here?” Josh enquired. “Well,” he began, “it’s my job to be around people and make sure that they realise that there are many different things that could happen next in their lives- it’s called uncertainty. I am always around really, but most of the time people don’t notice me.”

Gordon continued “I was there on your first day of school. Remember that feeling as you walked into the building for the first time? That was me, I was there.” He looked pleased with himself. “I was there at your last big game when you were about to shoot for goal and you didn’t know if the ball would go in or not.” Gordon grinned.



Josh went to the fridge. “That doesn’t explain why you are standing there right now, taking up half of the kitchen” Josh said. “Ah”, he said, “yes, well, it’s just that I seem to have puffed up a bit with the coronavirus around. Usually, you can’t see me because I’m much smaller, but because the coronavirus keeps throwing normal life out the window, I seem to have expanded.” Josh rolled his eyes at Gordon as he poured a glass of milk.



Gordon proceeded to follow Josh the whole morning. He sat too close, and breathed his bad breath all over Josh. He was a close talker and it was getting annoying. Josh tried to shake him a few times by listening to music and playing soccer in the backyard, but no, there he was with his nervous energy and neediness.

By the next day Josh had, had enough. He couldn't stand another day with Gordon. He was sick of him being in the way all the time. When Gordon was around he felt unsettled and nervous. Gordon's uncertainty was reminding Josh that he wasn't sure if his school would shut again, or if his soccer competition would be postponed.



So, Josh told his mum about Gordon and how he was making him feel. His mum said she was glad that he said something to her. She said she knew about Gordon and that he was frustrating lots of people at the moment. Josh felt relieved that he wasn't the only one.

Josh's mum said "Lots of people are annoyed or worried by Gordon and some people are even a bit scared of him. Hardly anyone wants Gordon hanging around too closely." Josh nodded. Josh's mum said, "when Gordon is small and not in your face, he's ok. The uncertainty that he brings can make life worth living, because how dull would life be if we always knew what was going to happen next? The trouble is sometimes he can grow to be an enormous Giant and he becomes hard to live with." Josh considered this. He could see how a little bit of Gordon would be ok, but too much at once was not ok. Josh looked up at his mum and said, "I think I need to have a talk with Gordon."

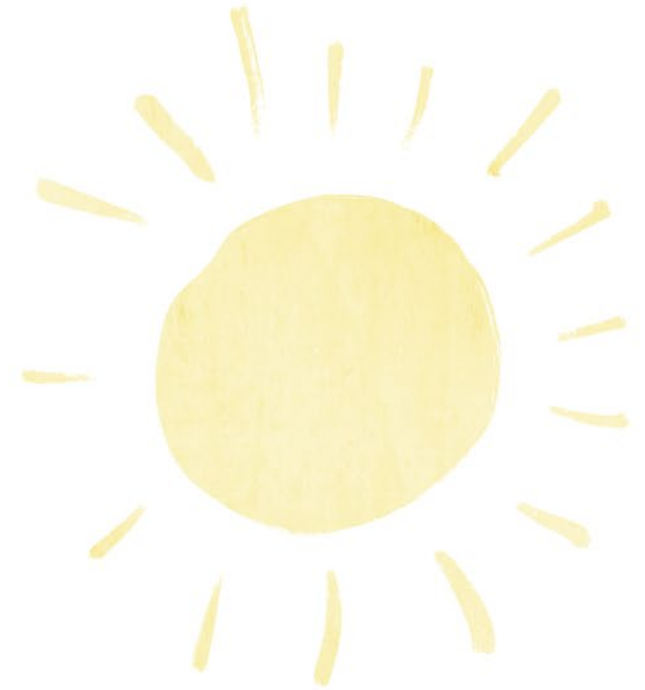


Josh sat on the back step and waited. It wasn't long before Gordon poked his head around the corner of the house. "Gordon, we need to talk" Josh said. Gordon looked concerned and sheepishly came over. "I am having some issues with you" Josh admitted. Gordon's eyes began welling with tears. Josh continued "it's not that I don't want you in my life completely, but you are just being too full on right now. I think we should take a break. I need some space."

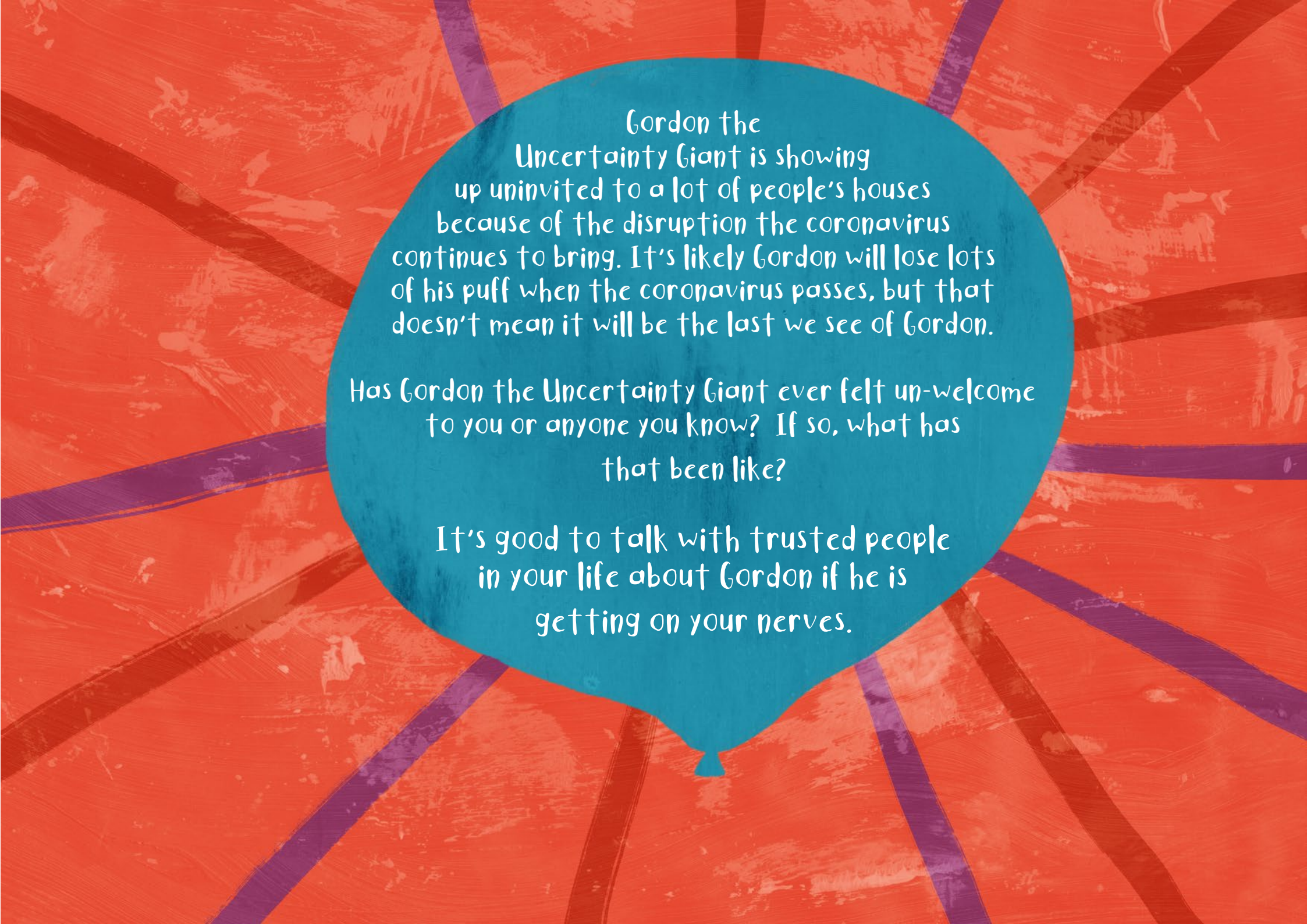
Gordon bowed his head. "I've done it again haven't I" he said. "Sometimes I just want to be someone's friend so badly that I overdo it. I overwhelm them." Josh nodded. "I'm sorry" said Gordon.



“I’ve had an idea” Josh said to Gordon. “I’ve decided that you can stay, but we need to do what everyone else is doing at the moment and practice physical distancing with each other.” Gordon looked interested. “No more breathing all over me and sitting too close.” Gordon agreed. Josh went on, “we’ll try that out and see how it goes. It’s my birthday soon and I would really like you around in case of a surprise birthday present. Also, I’m going to need to keep my mum informed about you.” Gordon smiled. “It’s a deal” he said, and the pair got up and walked back inside, exactly 1.5 meters apart.







Gordon the  
Uncertainty Giant is showing  
up uninvited to a lot of people's houses  
because of the disruption the coronavirus  
continues to bring. It's likely Gordon will lose lots  
of his puff when the coronavirus passes, but that  
doesn't mean it will be the last we see of Gordon.

Has Gordon the Uncertainty Giant ever felt un-welcome  
to you or anyone you know? If so, what has  
that been like?

It's good to talk with trusted people  
in your life about Gordon if he is  
getting on your nerves.



# Make your own Gordon the Uncertainty Giant Balloon

- With your parent/carer see if you can find a Gordon coloured balloon.
- Blow up the balloon and ask your parent/carer to hold onto it so no air gets out while you draw Gordon onto it with a permanent texta.
- Let go of the Gordon Balloon and watch him fizzle out across the room. You can blow him up and let him go as many times as you like.
- Ask a parent/carer to blow up your Gordon balloon and tie him off to however big you think he needs to be today. Toss your Gordon balloon around the room as much as you like.
- You might like to talk with your parent/carer about a time when Gordon the Uncertainty Giant was annoying for you? You might like to tell Balloon Gordon about how that time felt for you?

