

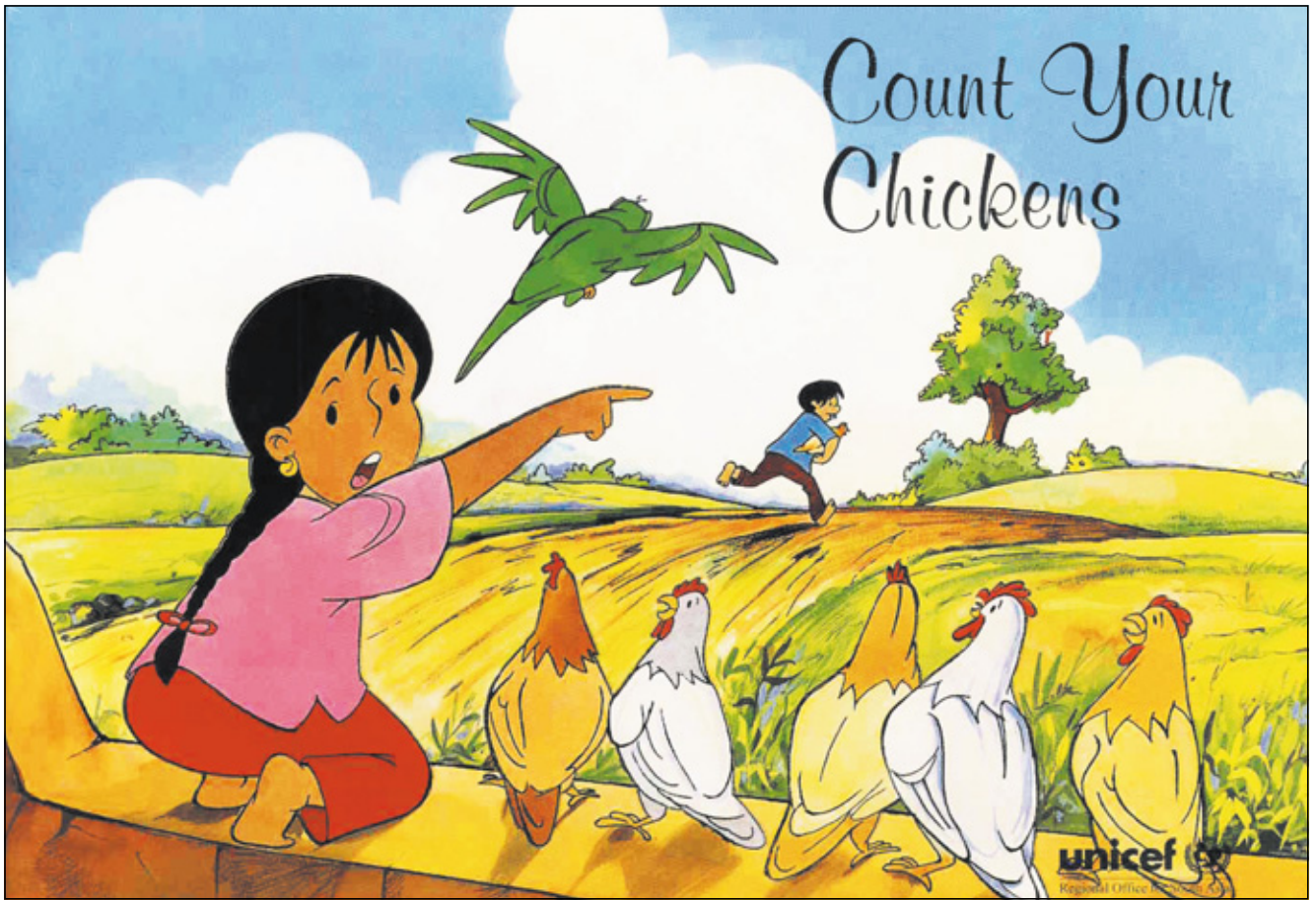
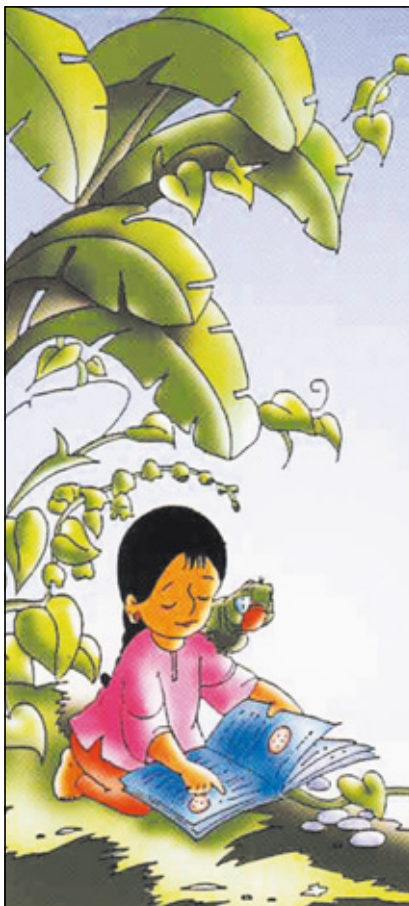
English and Digital for Girls' Education

EDGE Meena Booklet



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Meena is a little girl who lives in a village with her parents, her grandmother, her brother Raju and her baby sister Rani. Mithu the parrot is her best friend.

In many ways, Meena is like any other little girl you know. But in some ways she is completely different.

Share in Meena's adventures as she laughs, climbs trees, asks questions and solves problems, and shows you all the things that a little girl can do.

Script:	Rachel Carnegie
Original concept:	Neill McKee
Comic book adaptation:	Deepa Balsavar and Deepa Hari
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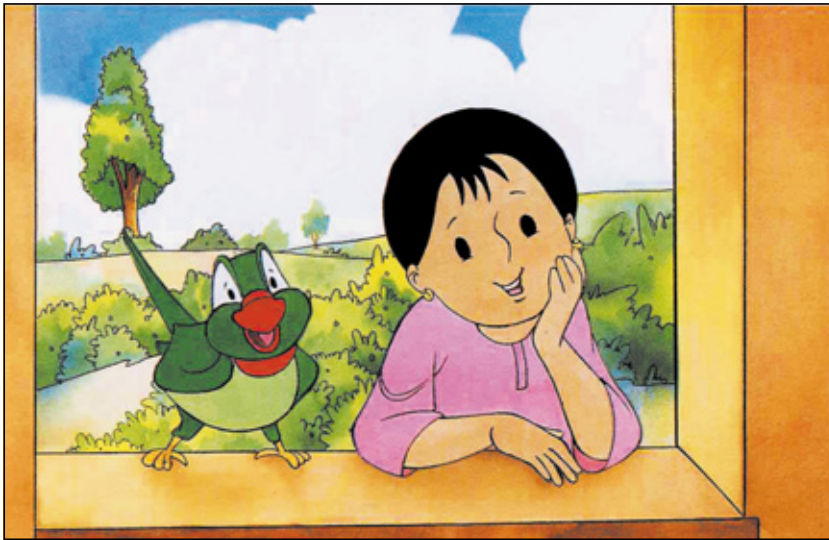


One day, Meena and Mithu were returning home after collecting firewood.

They had to pass the village school on the way. Raju went to this school. Meena and Mithu decided to stop at the school and see what was happening.



They found that the teacher was telling the children a wonderful story.



Meena and Mithu liked the story so much that they listened till the very end. Meena wished so much that she could go to school, too.

Walking back home, Meena pretended that she was a teacher and that Mithu was her student. She taught the parrot to say his name.



When Meena got home, Raju was proudly telling their father about all the things he learnt at school.



Meena looked at her father. “Oh, please, why can’t I go to school, too?” she asked.

“You are needed at home to help Mother,” said her father. “Girls only need to cook, clean and look after the house,” added her mother. “You don’t need to go to school for that!”



Poor Meena! That night she stood sadly at the window. The school building was shining in the moonlight. How she wished she could study!



When she finally fell asleep, Meena had a strange dream. She was in class with many other girls and boys – and Mithu was the teacher!

The next morning, Meena watched sadly as Raju and his friends went to school.



She remembered her dream and sat down to think. Somehow, she must make it come true. But how?



Then Meena had a wonderful idea. She would send Mithu to school. And he would come back and teach her everything he learnt there!

Mithu sat all morning at the window of the classroom. He listened carefully as the teacher taught the 2 times table.

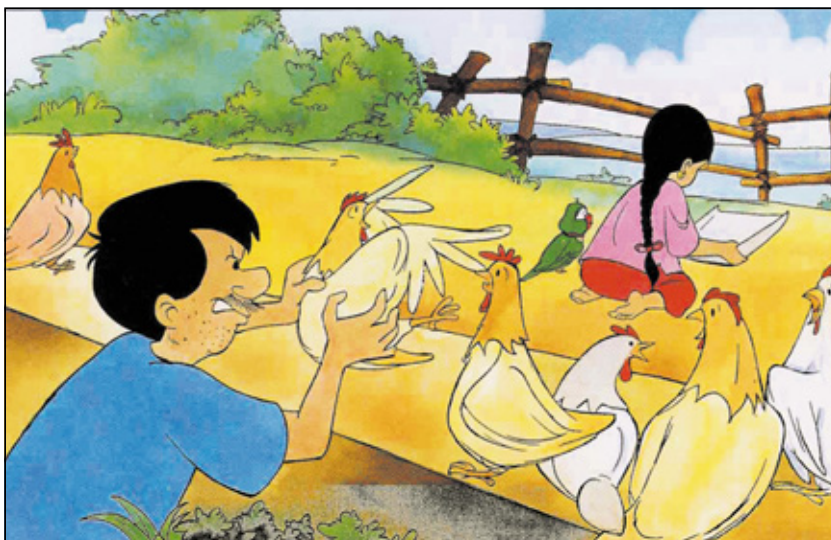


And then he flew back home and taught Meena...



...Two ones are two
Two twos are four
Two threes are six...
Soon, Meena was counting six of
everything she saw.

She kept counting her father's six
chickens. Meena was finally learning
arithmetic, just like Raju.



That afternoon, when Meena and
Mithu were busy, a thief came
creeping up the wall. He stole one of
the chickens and ran off.

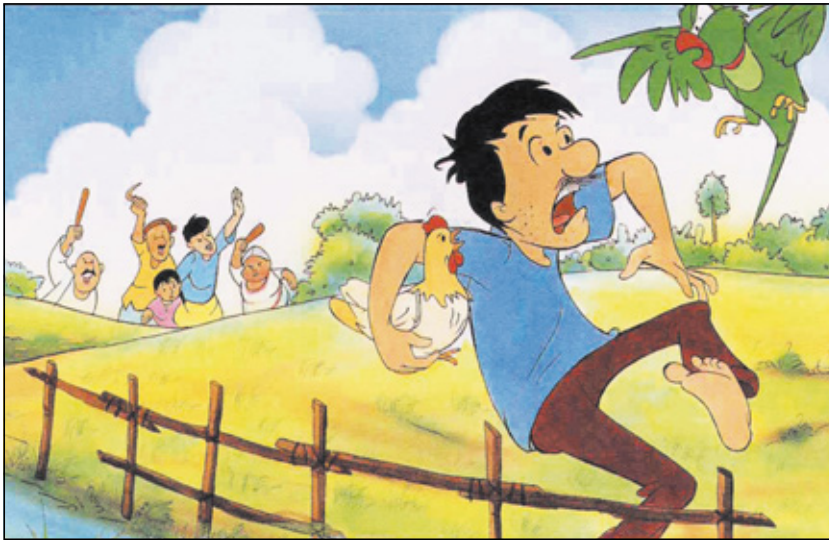


“Six grains,” counted Meena, “.....and six chickens.” She turned to count them once more but there was one missing.

Meena was puzzled. She looked all around, and that’s when she saw the thief running away. “Thief, thief!” shouted Meena, as she and Mithu ran after him.



Soon, half the village had joined in the chase.



“Thief, thief,” squawked Mithu into the thief’s ear.
The man was so scared that he fell backward into the paddy field.

And there he stayed until the villagers came running up.



The village headman was very proud of Meena. He asked her how she had noticed the thief and Meena explained that she had counted the chickens and found one missing.



The headman then congratulated Meena's parents for sending such a clever girl to school. When Meena's parents said that Meena did not go to school, the villagers were amazed. "Every child should go to school," said the headman.

"Yes," said a neighbour, "my married daughter lives far away, but she can write me letters, because I sent her to school." "My educated daughter runs her own poultry business," said an old woman proudly. "I went to school and can look after my baby better," added a shy, young mother.

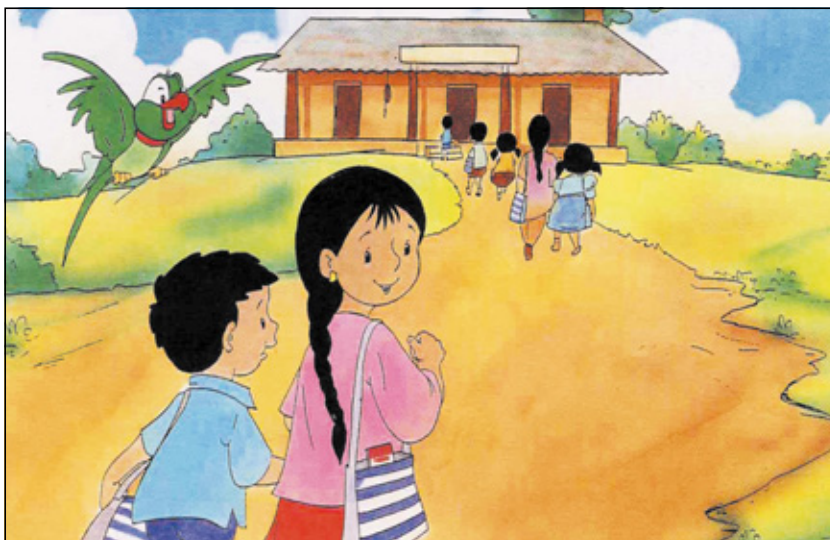


Meena's parents made a big decision. They decided that Meena would start school the very next day.



Meena and Raju were overjoyed.
They danced with happiness.

Everyone was still puzzled about one thing. Who had taught Meena to count? "A friend," said Meena and giggled as Mithu announced proudly, "My name is Mithu!"



The next day was Meena's first day at school. She was so happy. She had caught a chicken thief and made her dream come true!



Meena and Mithu say, "Every child must go to school!"



Solve this puzzle by placing the point of your pencil on dot number 1 and drawing a line to dot number 2. Then draw another line to dot number 3 and so on, until you have connected all the dots. After you have done this, you may use your crayons to color this surprise picture.

Words and meanings:

chicken – कुखुरा	firewood – दाउरा
wonderful – प्रशंसनीय/अचम्मको	story – कथा
pretend – बहाना/अभिनय गर्नु	moonlight – जूनको उज्यालो

1. What's the word?
Write the word under the pictures.

parrot	firewood	father	children	sun	moon	chickens
--------	----------	--------	----------	-----	------	----------



a. children



b. _____



c. _____



d. _____



e. _____



f. _____

Read the story

2. Choose the answer!
Read the sentence. Circle the right answer.

- Meena was standing _____ at the window. (sadly) happily / angrily
- Meena and Mithu were coming back home after collecting _____. stones / firewood / fruit
- Meena and Mithu listened to the _____. story / news / song
- Meena pretended to be a _____. nurse / farmer / teacher
- Raju told his father about the things he learnt at _____. house / school / library

3. True or false?

Read the story. Circle true or false for these sentences.

- | | | |
|--|-------------|-------|
| a. Meena wanted to go to school. | <u>True</u> | False |
| b. Raju did not go to school. | True | False |
| c. The children were telling a story. | True | False |
| d. Meena and Mithu liked the story. | True | False |
| e. Meena taught the parrot to say his name. | True | False |
| f. Meena's father was ready to send her to school. | True | False |

4. Draw a picture of your school and write five things you see there. (For example: white board)



Answers

3. b. False	c. False	d. True	e. True	f. False
2. b. firewood	c. story	d. teacher	e. school	
1. b. moon	c. firewood	d. parrot	e. chickens	f. father



Meena is a little girl who lives in a village with her parents, her grandmother, her brother Raju and her baby sister, Rani. Mithu, the parrot, is her best friend.

In many ways, Meena is like any other little girl you know. She is friendly but is **not** afraid to ask questions.

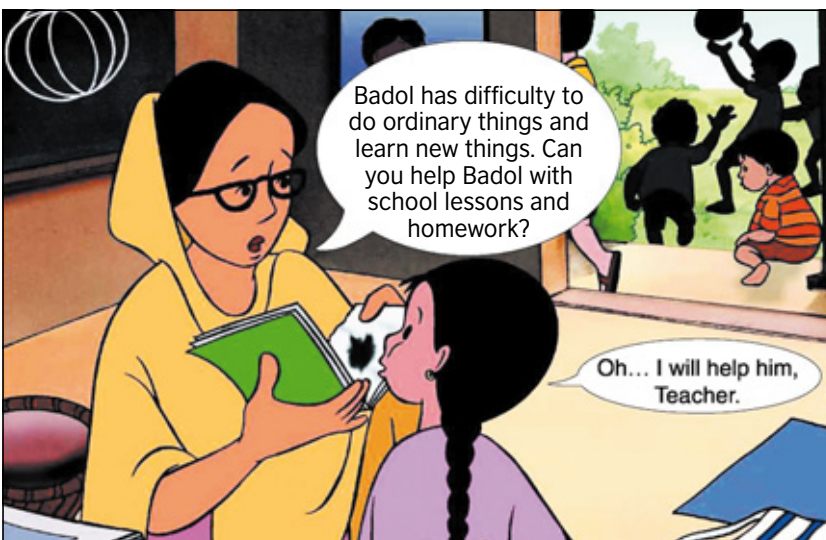
Share in Meena's adventures as she laughs, climbs trees, asks questions and solves problems, and shows you all the things that a little girl can do.

Script:	Nuzhat Shahzadi
Original concept:	Neill McKee
Creative team:	Rachel Carnegie Deepa Balsavar Mira Mitra Zafin Chowdhury Sayeeda Begum Indrani Chakma
Technical advice:	Professor Mammur Rashid Mostafizur Rahman Hassanuzzaman Agatha Prat Iyorchuan Uha Purushottam Acharya Iutfur Rahman
Artistic development and character designs:	Ram Mohan
Research:	Research and Computing Services Private Limited Bangladesh
Comic book adaptation:	Deepa Balsavar Harsha Mehta
Creative guidance and project management:	Nuzhat Shahzadi UNICEF - Rosa
Produced with support from The Government of Norway	



Meena, Raju and their pet parrot Mithu were just walking into school when they saw their teacher talking to a new boy and his mother. He looked small for his age.

The new boy's name was Badol. Teacher made him sit next to Meena. Meena soon noticed that Badol had a lot of difficulty in keeping up with the rest of the class.



In the recess, Meena asked Teacher about Badol.



Most of the other children, though, did not understand about Badol. The next day, Meena found Dipu and his friends teasing him.

Poor Badol! Though he tried hard, he missed the ball every time. Meena was really upset with the boys.

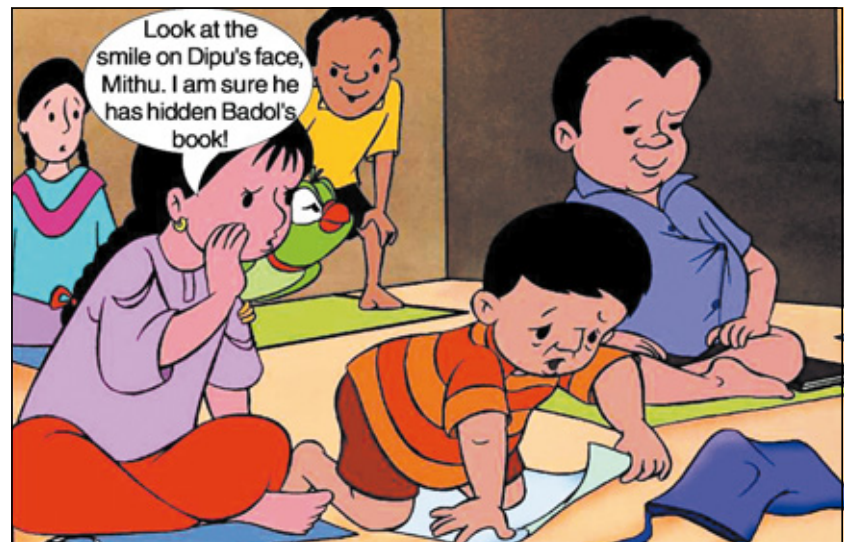


Meena and Raju decided that they would be friends with Badol.



Badol cheered up at the children's friendliness. They saw a little black puppy on the school verandah. It belonged to Dipu. The puppy licked Badol's outstretched hand and he began to smile again!

In the classroom, Badol could not find his notebook. He looked everywhere. Meena realized that Dipu and his friends were playing another trick on Badol.

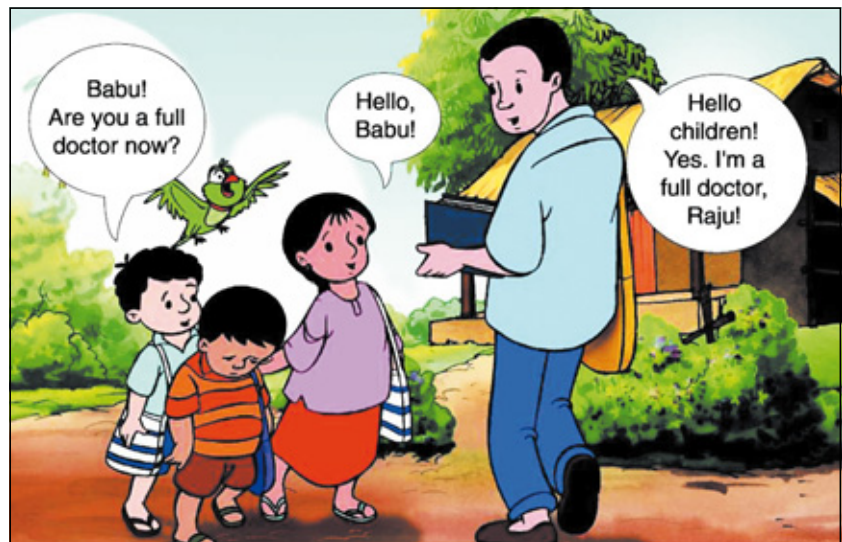


Mithu saw the suspicious shape inside Dipu's shirt. He swooped down and tugged at his collar. Out fell Badol's book!



Badol was very happy to get his book back. Teacher understood what had happened and was upset. The children realized that teasing Badol was not right.

After school Badol walked home with Meena and Raju. They met Babu, the shop keeper's son, outside Meena's house.



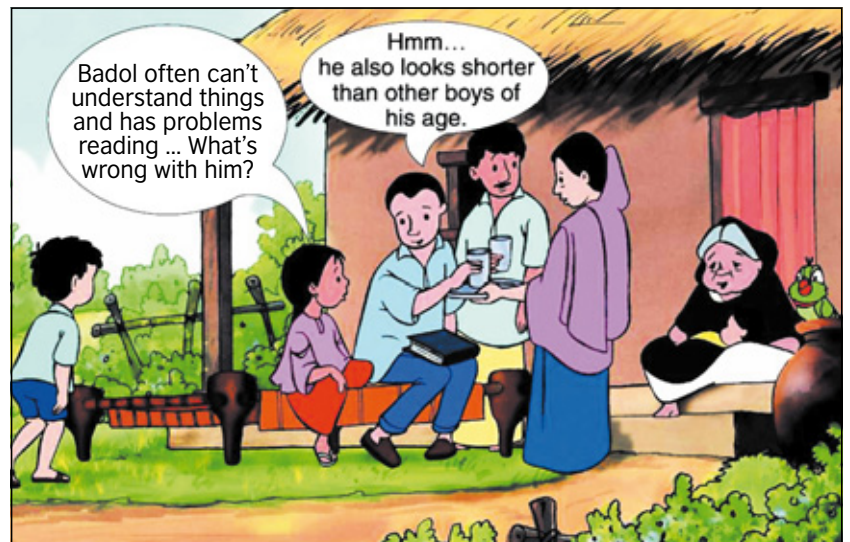
Meena introduced Babu to Badol. But Badol was lost in his own world.



Badol suddenly walked away. He seemed to have forgotten that he had come to play with Meena and Raju.

Babu had come to visit Meena's family. Everyone was very pleased to see Babu. Meena wanted to know more aboutt why Badol was different.

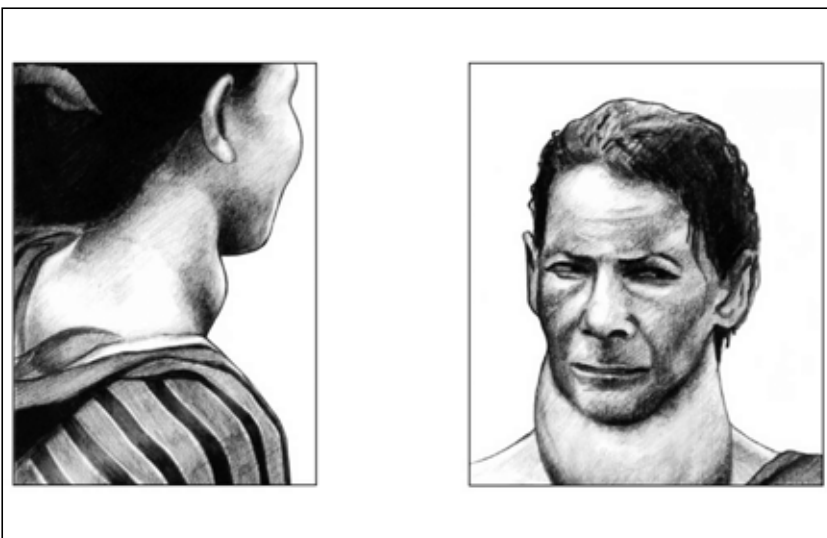
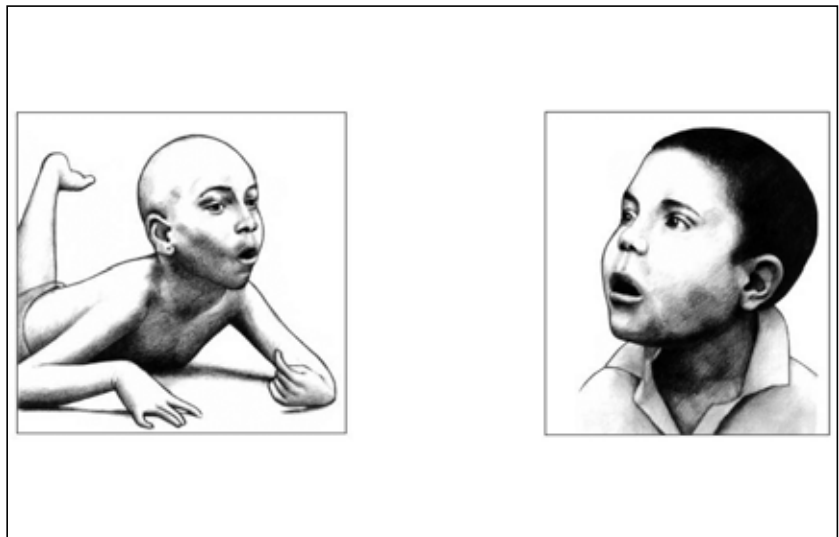
Babu looked thoughtful..... then he showed some pictures from his medical book to everyone.





Babu explained that if a pregnant woman doesn't take sufficient iodine she might give birth to a baby, which lacks iodine. Also, if a child doesn't get enough iodine during the early years of life the development of the brain can get damaged. This damage can be mild or severe.

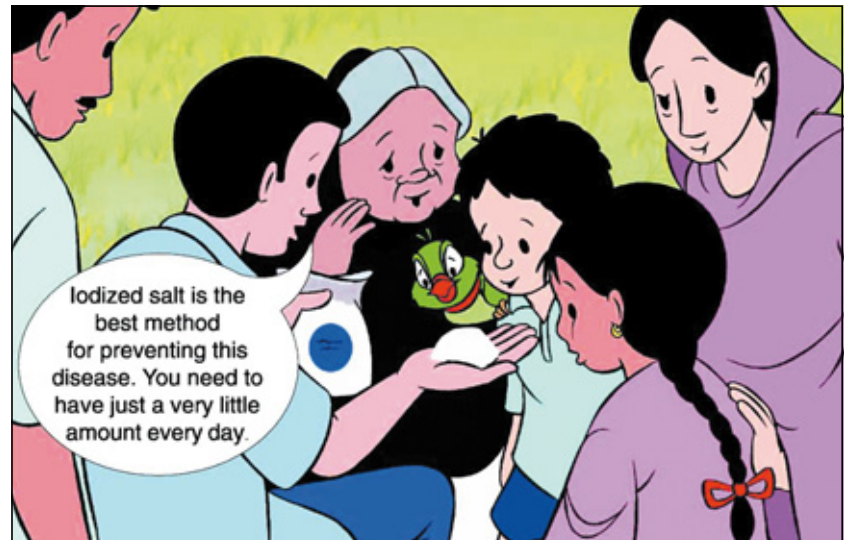
Babu said lack of iodine in the early years of childhood could lead to difficulty in learning and remembering things. Sometimes children may have hearing and speech problems, and their growth may also get stunted. When such children become adults they can't do the same work as others. During the early years of development of the brain if this deficiency is corrected, the child might be all right. But once the brain is damaged it can't be cured.



Iodine deficiency can also result in goitre.



Babu held out a handful of iodized salt and explained about it.



Mother and Father agreed that from then on they would only use iodised salt.



That night Meena had a dream in which Badol was playing happily with the other children. Everyone seemed to love him!

The next morning Meena felt sure that her dream would come true.



On the same day, Meena and Raju went to the market with their father.



Meena looked at the packet. She did not see the word 'iodised' printed on the packet.

Just then Babu appeared. He explained to his father, the shopkeeper, the importance of iodised salt, and he made him exchange the packet for the right one.



The next day in school, a worried Dipu told Meena and Raju that Kala, his little puppy, was missing. All his friends had searched for Kala.

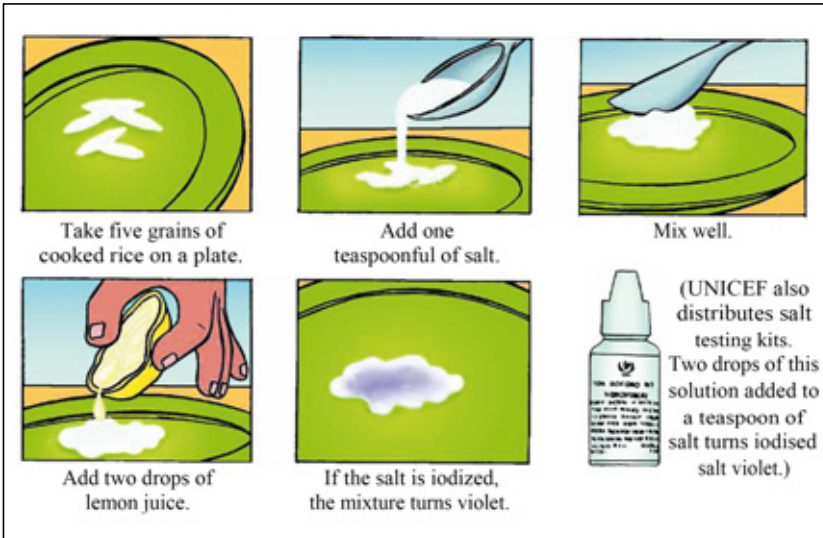


Just then Badol scrambled up from a nearby ditch. He was dirty and messy, and cradled carefully in his arms, was Kala!

Dipu was overjoyed. He put an arm around Badol and asked him to be his friend. Badol smiled happily and Meena saw her dream coming true.



Soon after, Dr. Babu came to Meena's school. He showed the class how to test whether the salt is iodized.



This is what Babu taught Meena and her friends:

Meena, Raju, Badol, Dipu and of course Mithu, now tell everyone to make sure that iodised salt is used in the house. Do you use iodised salt in your house?



Colour this picture

Words and meanings:

difficulty – कठिनाइ/समस्या	goitre – गलगण्ड/घाँटीमा ठूलठूला थैला आउने रोग
tease – जिस्काउनु	puppy – कुकुरको छ्वाउरो
cheer up – प्रसन्न हुनु/रमाइलो मनाउनु	friendship – मित्रता
pregnant – गर्भवती	severe – गम्भीर

1. Circle the odd one out. (नमिल्ले शब्दलाई गोलो घेरा लगाउनुहोस्)

a. school	flower	market	house
b. teacher	shopkeeper	road	doctor
c. puppy	rice	lemon	salt
d. boy	book	ball	bag
e. play	walk	catch	table

Read the story

2. Circle the wrong word and write the correct word.

a. Badol was big for his age.

Correct word

small

b. Kala was Raju's puppy.

c. Badol could not catch the stone.

d. Badol was sad to get his book back.

e. Meena showed the children how to test if the salt has iodine or not. _____

3. How can we test if the salt has iodine? Put the steps in the correct order.

Mix well.	
If the salt is iodised, the mixture turns violet.	
Take five grains of cooked rice on a plate.	1
Add one teaspoonful of salt.	
Add two drops of lemon juice.	

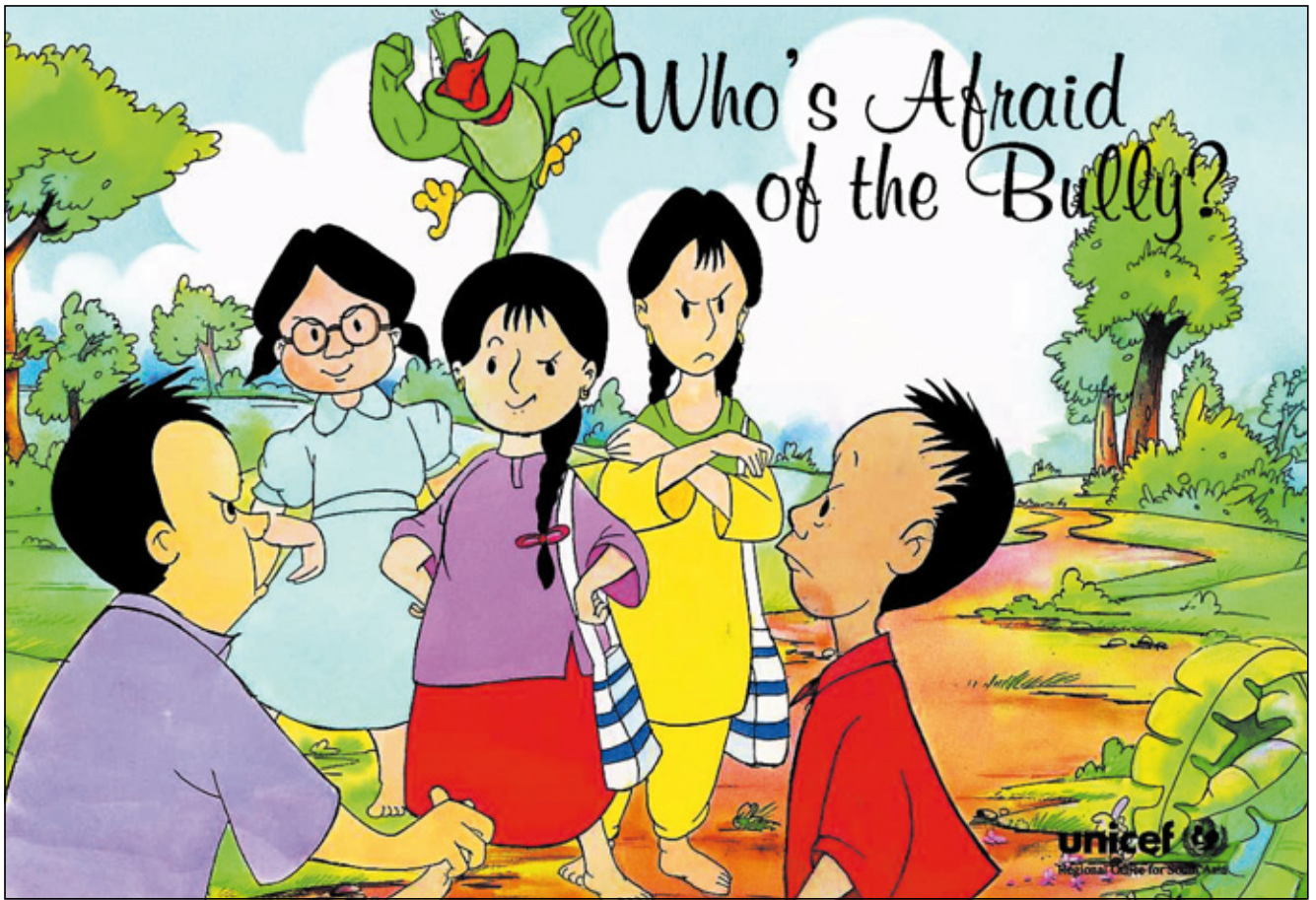

4. Write any five sentences about your friend.

Answers

1. b. road
c. puppy
d. boy
e. table

2. b. Raju's-Dipu's
c. stone-ball
d. sad-happy
e. Meena- Babu

3. 2. Add one teaspoonful of salt.
3. Mix well
4. Add two drops of lemon juice.
5. If the salt is iodised, the mixture turns violet.

Meena is a little girl who lives in a village with her parents, her grandmother, her brother Raju and her baby sister Rani. Mithu the parrot is her best friend.

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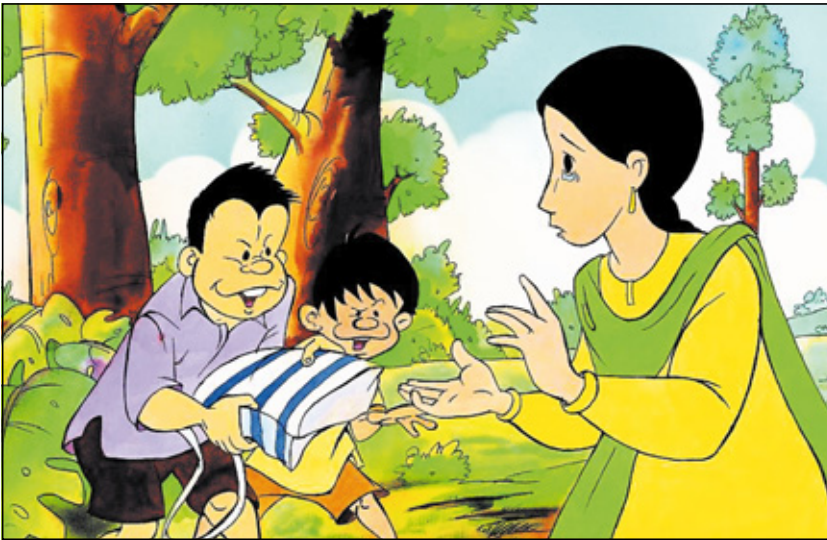


One day, Meena and Raju were playing in the garden with Munmun the lamb. Mithu felt jealous at all the attention given to Munmun.

Suddenly, a gang of crows swooped down on Munmun and frightened her. The poor little lamb ran to Meena for protection.



Meena and Raju chased off the crows and scolded Mithu for not helping Munmun. "If both of you stand up together against them, the crows can't hurt you," said Meena to Mithu.

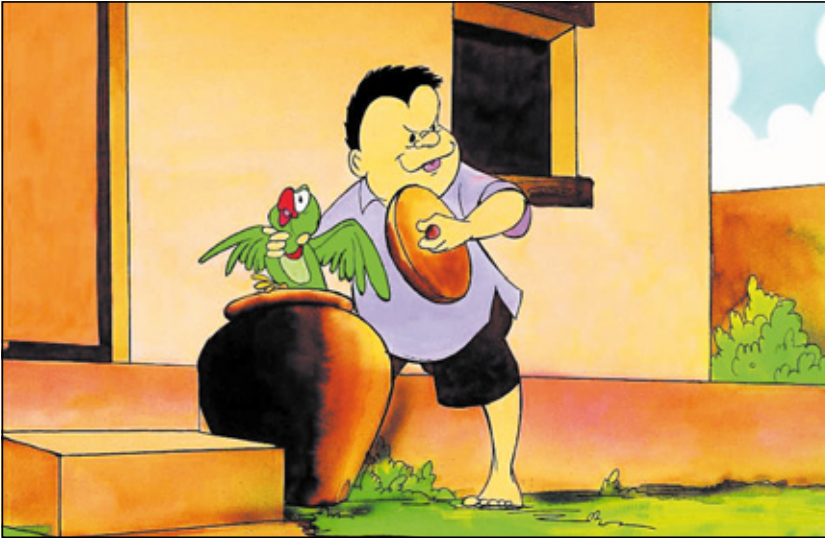


On their way to school the next morning, Meena and Raju saw a group of boys teasing one of their classmates. The boys were tossing Rita's bag around and bullying her.

When they saw Raju, the boys tossed the bag to him. Not wanting to be called a sissy, Raju tossed it back to them. Meena was very angry with Raju for being so weak.



Finally, Mithu and Munmun helped to rescue the bag. They gave it to Meena, who returned it to Rita.



After school was over, the bully captured Mithu and shut him in a pot at Meena's house to teach him a lesson.

Meena, Raju and Rita searched a long time for Mithu before discovering where he was.



Rita was still upset at what the bullies had done. She told Meena's mother that the bullying was bothering her so much that she was thinking of leaving school.



Meena's mother told Rita that leaving school was not the solution. She said that all the children would have to stand up to the boys together.

Just then, the bullying crows attacked the lamb again. But this time, Munmun and Mithu were ready. They drove the crows off together. "That's what we have to do," said the children.



Meena, her friends, and Raju got together and made a plan...



... and dressed Mithu up as a girl.

They set up an elaborate trap for the bullies.....

As soon as the bullies appeared on the road, the girls challenged them.



Raju refused to join the boys this time. He asked the bullies why they had to tease the girls.



Most of the boys tiptoed quietly away at being faced by so many girls. But Dipu, their leader, walked boldly up.

He saw the new 'girl' and grabbed her bag.



Mithu jumped out and scared Dipu.



Then the trap was released and a bucket of red water came straight down on Dipu's head.

How all the children laughed - the girls as well as the boys!



Dipu was helped up by Raju - he had learnt his lesson.



“Don’t be afraid of bullies.
Get together to deal with them;
Meena and Raju said.”



Solve this puzzle by placing the point of your pencil on dot number 1 and drawing a line to dot number 2. Then draw another line to dot number 3 and so on, until you have connected all the dots. After you have done this, you may use your crayons to color this surprise picture.

Words and meanings:

bully – आफू भन्दा कमजोरलाई जिस्काउनेर दुःख दिने व्यक्ति	toss – फ्याक्नु
jealous – डाह गर्ने, ईर्ष्या गर्ने	challenge – चुनौती
protection – सुरक्षा	trap – पासो
grab – खोस्नु	frighten – डराउनु

1. Look at the pictures. Guess what is happening. Choose and write the correct word.



a. The children are laughing. (laughing/crying) ✓



b. The girl is feeling _____. (happy/worried)



c. The boys are _____ the girl. (teasing/helping)



d. The girls are _____ with the boys. (angry/happy)

Read the story

2. Make it right.

Read the story. Find the mistake. Circle the mistake and write the correct word

a. The lamb was afraid of the parrot.

Correct word
crows

b. The boys were teasing Raju.

c. Rita's mother told that Rita should not leave school.

d. A bucket of green water came down on Dipu's head.

e. All the children laughed at Raju.

3. Answer the questions.
Read the story. Write short answer to the questions.

a. Why did Meena and Raju scold Mithu?
for not helping Munmun.

b. Who were teasing Rita?

c. Where did the bully keep Mithu?


d. What did Meena's mother tell Rita?

e. Did Dipu learn a lesson at last?

4. What will you do if someone bullies you? Write your answer. (यदि तपाईंलाई कसैले डर देखाउन खोजेमा तपाईं के गर्नुहुन्छ? लेख्नुहोस् ।)

Answers

1.	b. worried	c. teasing	d. angry
2.	b. Raju-Rita	c. Rita's-Meena's	d. green-red
3.	b. the boys	c. in a pot	d. leaving school was not the solution/all the children would have to stand up to the boys together
e. yes			

Meena is a little girl who lives in a village with her parents, her grandmother, her brother Raju and her baby sister Rani. Mithu the parrot is her best friend.

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One day, Meena and Mithu climbed a tall mango tree to pluck a ripe fruit. Meena ran home to share the juicy mango with her brother Raju.

Mother cut the mango and divided the pieces between Meena and Raju. Meena was upset when she saw that Raju had been given a bigger share. When she protested, Grandmother said that boys always get more to eat than girls.

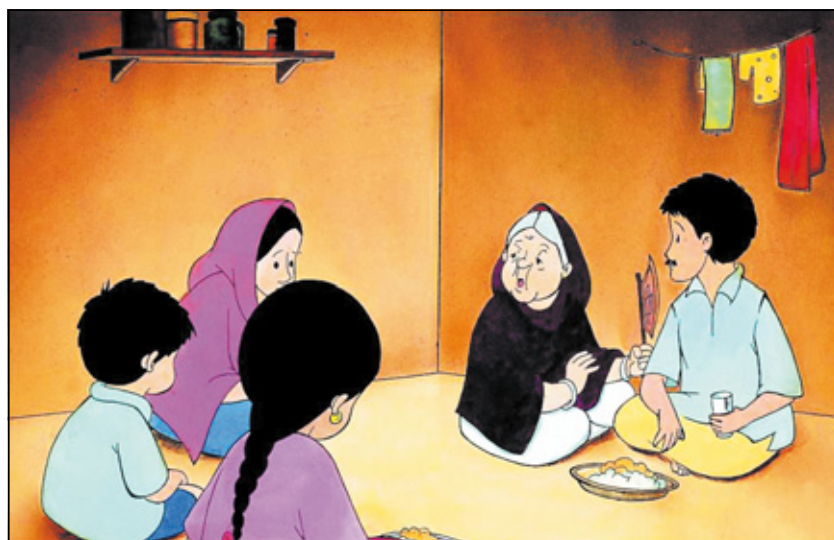


That night too, Meena noticed that Raju was given more food. Mother also gave him an egg, while Meena got none. Mithu watched from behind and was not at all pleased.



When the children went to wash their hands, Mithu divided the egg into two and put half of it on Meena's plate.

When they came back, Meena was made to return the egg to Raju.



Grandmother started scolding Meena for wanting the egg, but Father thought it was unfair because both the children were growing up and both worked hard.



Raju didn't agree. He thought he worked very hard, much harder than Meena, and therefore deserved more food. "Your work is so simple," he told her. So, Meena suggested that they change places for a day and do each other's chores.

The next day was a holiday. Meena asked Mithu to wake Raju up early in the morning to light the fire.

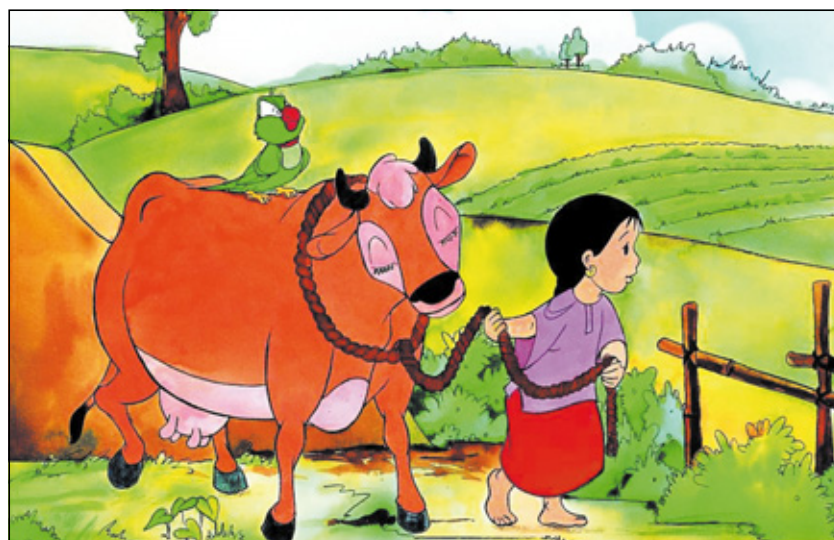


Raju discovered that lighting the fire was not a very easy job.



Next, he had to sweep the yard....

....and then feed the hungry chickens who jumped all over him.



Meena took Lali, the cow, out to graze.



While Raju collected the cowdung, scrubbed the dishes....

....washed the clothes....



....and filled the pots with water, Meena sat dozing under a tree.



Suddenly, Mithu woke her up screaming, "Lali! Lali!"

Meena found out that Lali had wandered into the headman's vegetable garden. She had to chase Lali for a long time before she was able to catch her.



When Meena finally returned home, Raju was looking after baby Rani.



Raju was tired and hungry. Grandmother had watched him all day and had realized just how much work Meena did every day.

That night at dinner, Mother gave Raju Meena's usual share of food, and put the larger plate of food in front of Meena.



Poor Raju looked so disappointed! Looking at his face, everyone burst out laughing. Everyone now knew that boys and girls need equal food to grow strong.



On the way to school the next morning, Raju plucked a ripe guava that was hanging from a low branch.

As he shared the fruit with Meena, Raju promised to help her with the housework whenever he could. Meena admitted that Raju's work of looking after Lali was not very easy either.



Words and meanings:

Divide – भाग लगाउनु	scrub the dishes – भाँडा माभ्नु
Pluck – टिप्नु	dozing – हलुका निदाउनु
Upset – रिसाउनु र चित्त दुखाउनु	discover – पत्ता लगाउनु
vegetable garden – करेसा बारी	graze – चर्नु

1. Circle the odd one out. (नमिल्ले शब्दलाई गोलो घेरा लगाउनुहोस्)

a. cow	<u>garden</u>	chicken	goat
b. mango	guava	egg	orange
c. fire	boy	girl	child
d. morning	day	pot	night
e. grandmother	father	mother	tree

Read the story

2. Choose the correct answer.

- The cow went to the headman's vegetable garden.
(vegetable garden, house, shop)
- Mother did not give _____ to Meena.
(milk, egg, rice)
- The _____ jumped over Raju.
(cows, pigs, chickens)
- _____ was tired and hungry.
(Mother, Father, Raju)

3. What's the order?

Read the story and put the sentences in order. (कथा पढ्नुहोस् र दिइएका वाक्यहरूको क्रम मिलाउनुहोस्)

Raju washed the clothes and did other housework.	2
Raju was tired and hungry.	
Raju promised to help Meena with the housework.	
Meena said that Raju's work was also not easy.	
Meena and Raju changed their work.	1

4. How do you help your family members? Write your answer.
(तपाईं आफ्ना परिवारका सदस्यहरूलाई कसरी सहयोग गर्नुहुन्छ? लेख्नुहोस् ।)
For example: I help my mother to cut vegetables.

Answers

1. b. egg c. fire d. pot e. tree
2. b. egg c. chickens d. Raju
3. Raju was tired and hungry.
4. Raju promised to help Meena with the housework.
5. Meena said that Raju's work was also not easy.



Meena is a little girl who lives in a village with her parents, her grandmother, her brother Raju, and her baby sister, Rani. Mithu, the parrot, is her best friend.

In many ways, Meena is like any other little girl you know. She is friendly but is not afraid to ask questions.

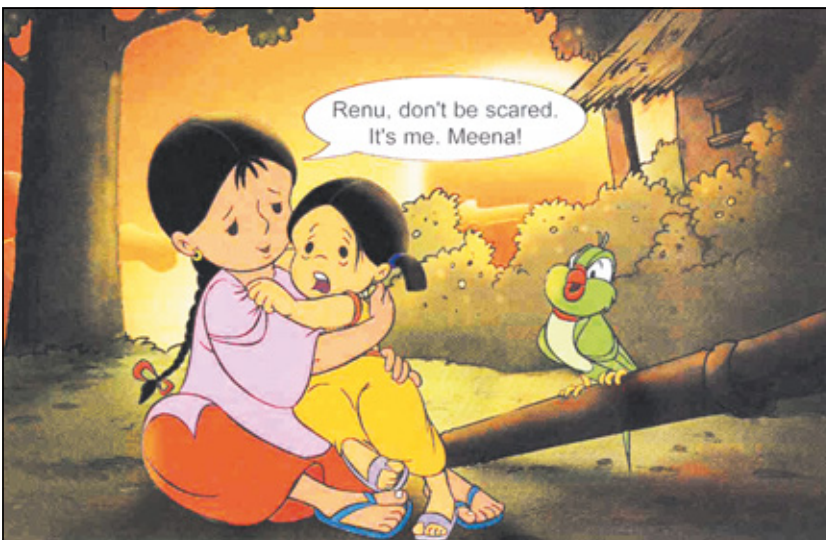
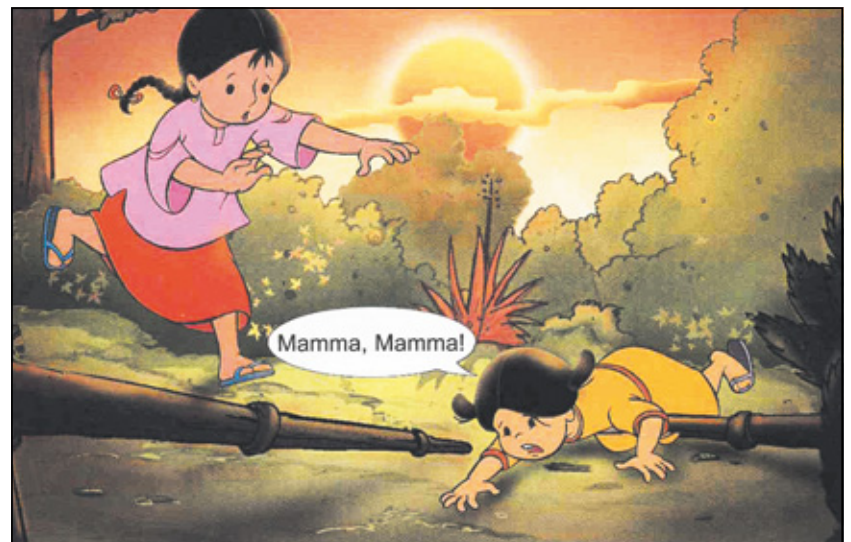
Share in Meena's adventures as she laughs, climbs trees, asks questions and solves problems, and shows you all the things that a little girl can do.

Script:	Deepa Balsavar
Original concept:	Neill Mckee
Technical and creative input:	Geeta Athreya Renu Ghosh Sudeshna Mukherjee Siddharth Nirupam Sheila Vir
Artistic development and character design:	Ram Mohan
Comic book adaptation:	Deepa Balsavar Harsha Mehta
Creative guidance and project management:	Nuzhat Shahzadi UNICEF - Rosa
Produced with support from The Government of Norway	



It was late evening and the sun had begun to set. Meena, Raju and their pet parrot Mithu, were playing with friends from next door.

Suddenly, Meena noticed that something was wrong with little Renu. She looked scared. She ran, this way and that, tripping and falling.



Meena rushed to comfort her. She could not understand what was wrong.

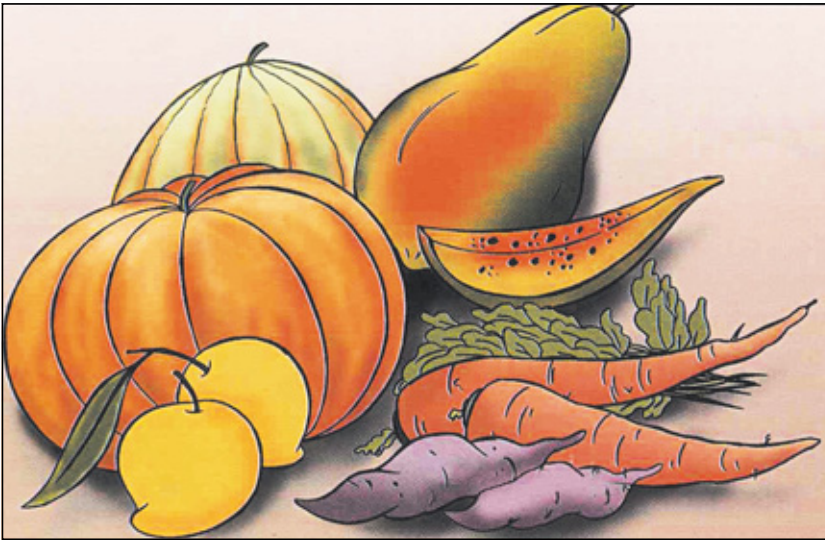


The next day, Renu's mother took her to the health centre. Meena was worried, so she decided to go with them.

The health worker looked at Renu. She said that Renu was suffering from night blindness. That means difficulty in seeing in the dark or when the light is not bright enough. Night blindness happens when children do not get enough Vitamin A.



The health worker gave Renu half a teaspoon of Vitamin A syrup and said that she would give another dose within a week. She said Renu should get the regular prevention dosage like all children under 3 years get



Vitamin A is very important for good eyesight and for health. It is found in yellow and orange foods like carrots, pumpkins papayas and mangoes.

The health worker told Renu's mother to give Renu lots of orange and yellow fruits and vegetables to eat. She said to give Renu milk, cottage cheese, eggs and leafy vegetables, too. They would help her become strong.

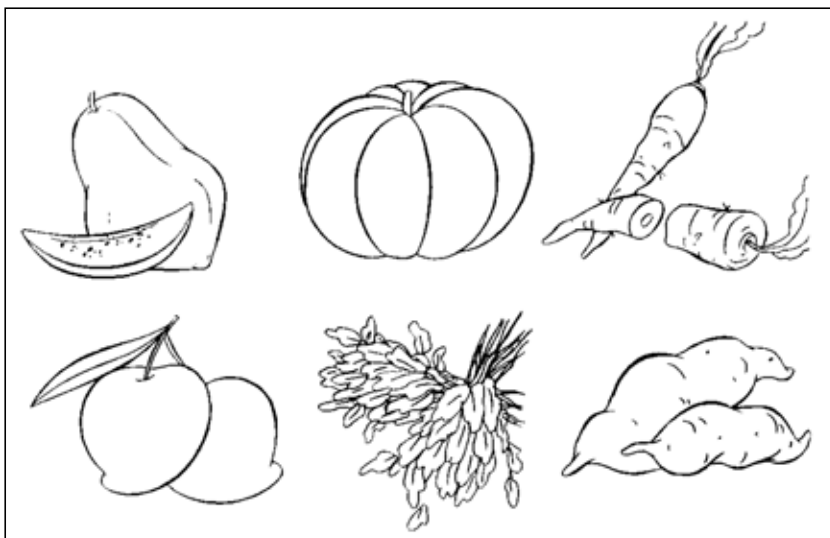


Renu's mother made sure that she got foods with Vitamin A and six months later, Renu got her second dose of syrup.



Look at Renu now! She can see much better in the dark, and she is healthier too.

Remember, to prevent problems like night blindness, Vitamin A should be given once every six months to all children between nine months and thirty six months of age.



To be healthy, eat fruits and vegetables that are rich in Vitamin A. (This is a picture for you to colour)



Children between 9 - 12 months get half spoonful of Vitamin A syrup after every six months. Children between 12 - 36 months old get 1 spoonful of Vitamin A syrup after every six months. It is very important to get 5 doses. It starts from 9 months and ends on 36 months.

Words and meanings:

dark – अँध्यारो	papaya – मेवा
night blindness – रतन्धो	bright – चम्किलो
cottage cheese – पनीर	enough – पर्याप्त
prevention – रोकथाम	

1. Find the missing letters to complete the food names.



a. P _ U _ M _ P _ K _ I _ N



b. C _ _ R _ _ O _ _



c. M _ _ N _ _ O



d. P _ _ P _ _ Y _ _



e. E _ _ _

Read the story

2. Read the passage. Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.

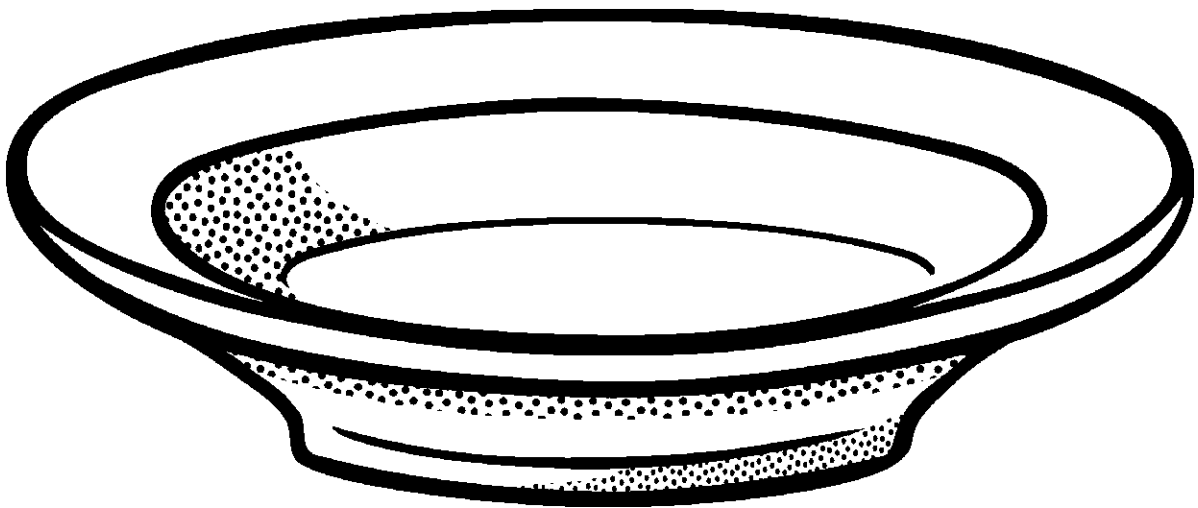
eyesight	day	thirty-six	dark	health worker	night blindness
----------	-----	------------	------	---------------	-----------------

- Renu was suffering from night blindness.
- Vitamin A is important for good health and _____.
- The _____ gave Renu Vitamin A syrup.
- If we have night blindness, it's difficult to see in the _____.
- Vitamin A should be given to every child aged between nine months and _____ months.

3. Name any four foods that the health worker told Renu's mother to give Renu.

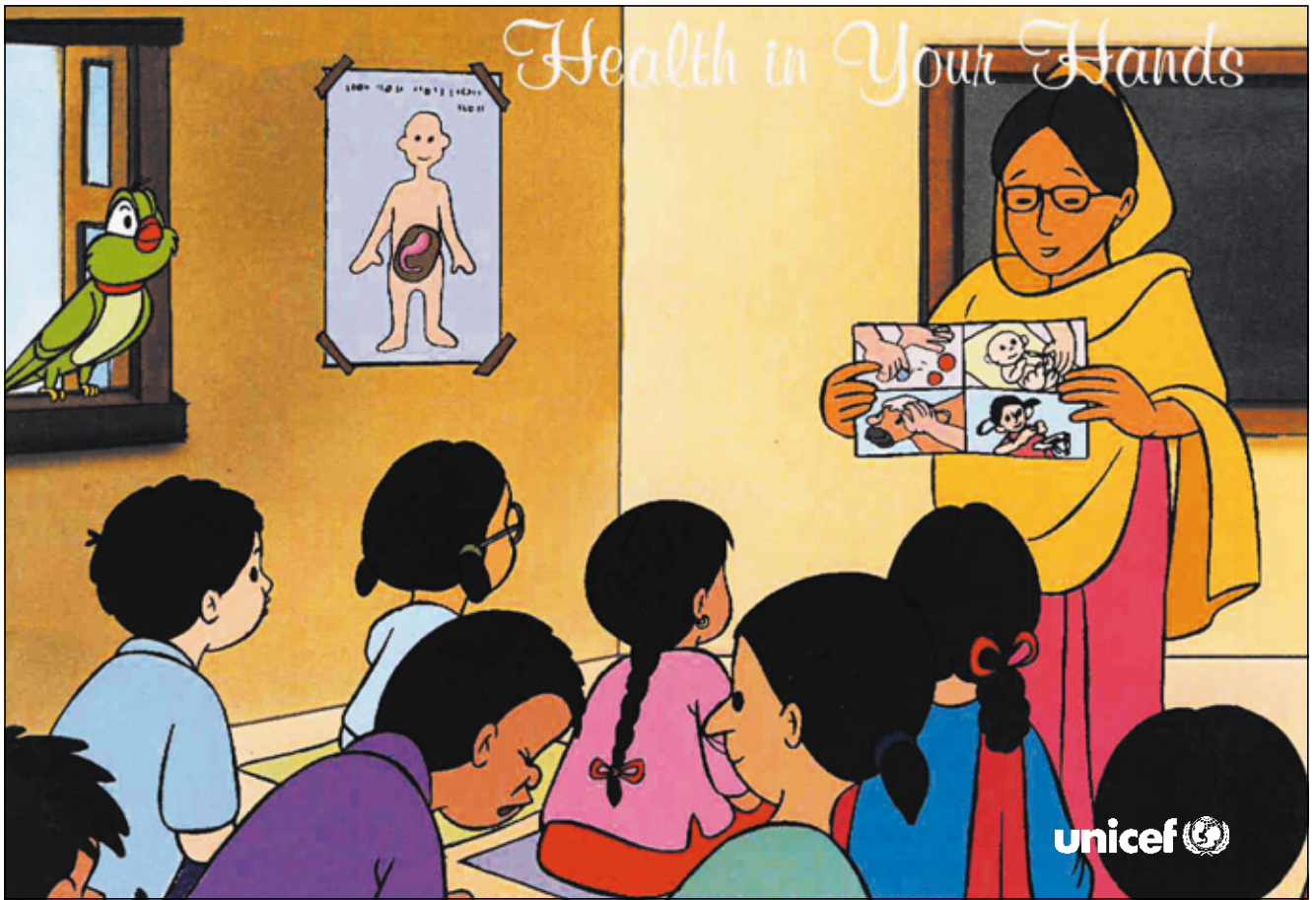
<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
---------------------------	---------------------------

4. Draw some healthy food on this plate and color.



Answers

<p>1. b. carrot c. mango d. papaya e. egg</p>	<p>2. b. eyesight c. health worker d. dark e. thirty-six</p>
<p>3. yellow and orange fruits and vegetables/milk/cottage cheese/eggs/leafy vegetables</p>	



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In many ways, Meena is like any other little girl you know. She is friendly but is not afraid to ask questions.

Share in Meena's adventures as she laughs, climbs trees, asks questions and solves problems, and shows you all the things that a little girl can do.

Script: Deepa Balsavar

Original concept: Neill Mckee

Technical and creative input: Geeta Athreya
Akhilesh Gautam
Renu Ghosh
Gurinder Gulati
Alka Malhotra
Henk Norden
Rachna Sharma
K Suresh

Artistic development and character design: Ram Mohan

Comic book adaptation: Deepa Balsavar
Harsha Mehta

Creative guidance and project management: Nuzhat Shahzadi
UNICEF - Rosa

Produced with support from The Government of Norway



Our teacher was talking a lesson on illnesses like diarrhoea, dysentery and worms. They are really bad illnesses and many children fall ill with them.



Did you know that germs cause most of these illnesses? They get on our hands and under our fingernails in the latrine or from playing in mud and dirt or from animals. When we put these dirty fingers to our mouth or eat without washing our hands, then the germs get inside our bodies.



Teacher explained that it's quite easy to prevent these illnesses if we are careful about keeping ourselves and especially our hands clean. This is important because germs are very small and cannot be easily seen.

Then teacher took us outside and showed us the correct way to wash our hands.



It was such fun ...



... And we were learning at the same time!

That afternoon Raju and I saw Dipu. He had just come out of the latrine and he hadn't washed his hands! We told him what we had learnt in school and made him wash his hands well.



We soon discovered that a lot of our friends did not know how important it is to keep hands clean.



So we passed on the message of cleanliness to them.





Colour this picture

Words and meanings:

diarrhoea/dysentery – झाडा पखाला	running water – बगिरहेको पानी
illness – रोग: बिरामी भएको अवस्था	germ – जीवाणु
prevent – कुनै काम हुन वा गर्नबाट रोक्नु	latrine – शौचालय
careful – सतर्क	

1. Put a tick ✓ for good habits and cross ✗ for bad habits given below:

brushing teeth	✓
biting nails	✗
doing exercise	
washing hands	
wearing dirty clothes	
sleeping late at night	

Read the story

2. Write True or False:

- Hands that look clean can also be full of germs. True
- Germs are big and we can easily see them. _____
- Germs can get inside our bodies. _____
- We should keep our nails long. _____
- We should wash our hands with soap. _____

3. Fill in the banks with the correct words from the box:

careful	fingers	running	nails	after	mud
---------	---------	---------	-------	-------	-----

- We can prevent illness if we are careful.
- We should wash hands _____ using the latrine.
- We should use _____ water for washing hands.
- We must clean between _____ while washing hands.
- Germs can hide under our _____.

4. Write five things that you do to keep your body clean.
(तपाइले आफ्नो शरीर सफा राख्न गर्ने कुनै पाँच कुराको बारेमा लेख्नुहोस्।)

Answers

1.	✓ doing exercise	✓ washing hands	x wearing dirty clothes	x sleeping late at night
2.	nails - short			
	germs - very small			
	scrub hands - soap			
	cannot see easily - germs			
3.	b. after	c. running	d. fingers	e. nails



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In many ways, Meena is like any other little girl you know. She is friendly but is not afraid to ask questions.

Share in Meena's adventures as she laughs, climbs trees, asks questions and solves problems, and shows you all the things that a little girl can do.

Script:	Rekha Kibria Nuzhat Shahzadi
Original concept:	Neill McKee -
Creative team:	Rachel Carnegie Deepa Balsavar Mira Mitra NCTB-Bangladesh Bably H. Siddiqui Surangani Abaysekera Rupa Joshi Renu Ghosh Chetana Kohli Kerstin Westergren Martin Dawes
Technical advice:	Shamee Hasan Sheila Wamahu
Artistic development and character designs:	Ram Mohan
Comic book adaptation:	Deepa Balsavar Harsha Mehta
Creative guidance and project management:	Nuzhat Shahzadi
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It was a school holiday. Meena, Raju and their friend Sumi had finished all their chores, but it was too hot to play. Their one storybook had been read over and over again.

Sumi was tired of reading the same book and she already knew every single word in it. If only they had more books to read!



That's when Meena had a wonderful idea! Why should they wait for books? They could make their own! Sumi and Raju loved the idea. They decided to start right away and tell all their friends too.



A little later, all the children were hard at work. Everyone had brought something – a few sheets of paper, some colours, pencils and erasers and of course their story ideas!

They helped each other write and draw and colour, and when the stories were ready, some of the older girls stitched the pages together.



When Teacher entered the classroom the next day, she was absolutely amazed!



There were books everywhere! Some were even hung up across the room. And all of them were so bright and beautiful.

Teacher was really pleased with the books. She was also eager to show them to the school inspector.



The school inspector was very impressed. She has never imagined that children could be so clever and creative. She wanted to take their ideas to all the other schools she visited.



Teacher was excited too. Their school could make many other books, on all sorts of topics!

Meena and her friends now have lots of books to read and Teacher helps them make new ones. The children will not get bored again, and it is all because of Meena!





This is a picture for you to colour

All girls should be in school.

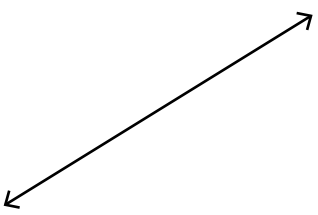


Words and meanings:

chores – घर धन्दा	stitch – सिलाउनु
amazed – चकित हुनु	eager – उत्सुक
school inspector – विद्यालय निरीक्षक	impressed – प्रभावित हुनु

1. Match the following.

book	writing
eraser	stitching
pencil	reading
colour	rubbing
needle	painting


Read the story
2. Circle the correct answer.

- Meena, Raju and Sumi didn't want to play because it was raining cold hot
- The children wanted more food toys books
- The children helped each other to wash draw and colour cook
- The books made by the children were beautiful heavy dirty
- The teacher wanted to show the books to the school inspector parents head teacher

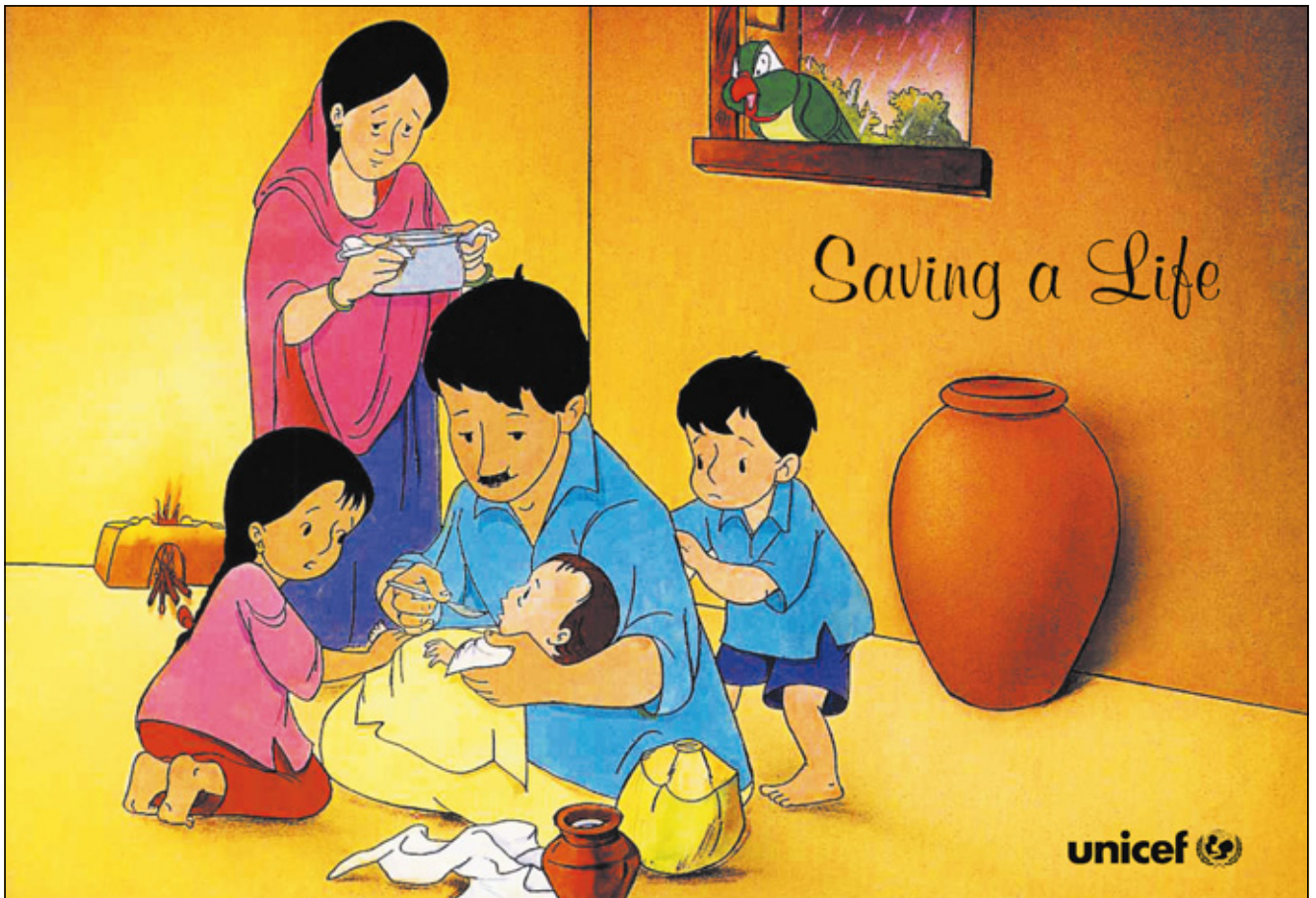
3. Write True or False.

- Sumi liked reading the same book. False
- The children decided to make their own books. _____
- The boys stitched the pages of the books. _____
- The school inspector did not like the books. _____
- The teacher also helped the children to make their own books. _____

4. Write five things that you like to do in your free time?
(तपाईंलाई आफ्नो फुर्सदको समयमा गर्न मन लाग्ने कुनै पाँच कुराको बारेमा लेख्नुहोस् ।)
For example: I like to play football.

Answers

1.	book-reading	eraser-rubbing	pencil-writing	colour-painting
2.	b. books	c. draw and colour	d. beautiful	e. school inspector
3.	b. True	c. False	d. False	e. True



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 Kelvin Lopez
 Sachin Satankar
 Milind Kadam

Creative guidance and project management: Nuzhat Shahzadi
 UNICEF - Rosa



One day, Meena, Raju and Mithu were playing with their friends.

Suddenly, Meena noticed some plants that had dried up. She knew that they would die without water.

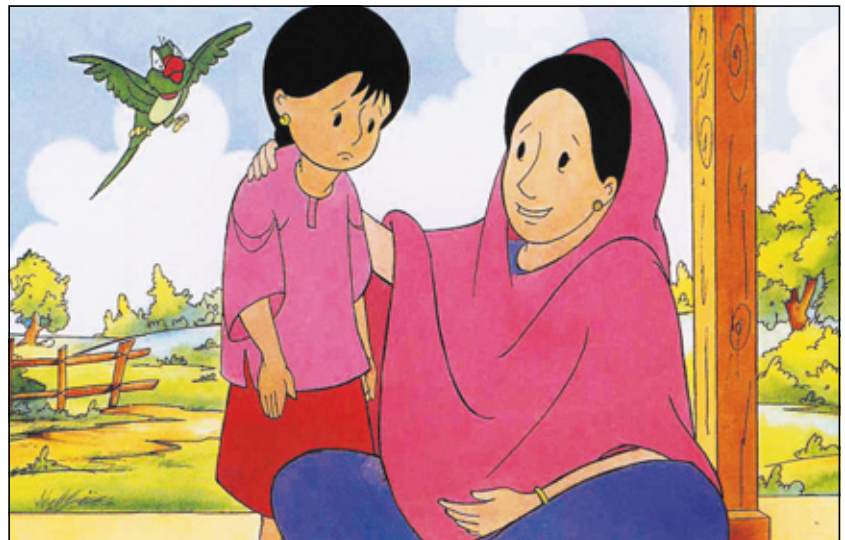


Meena and Raju watered the plants, which soon seemed to revive.

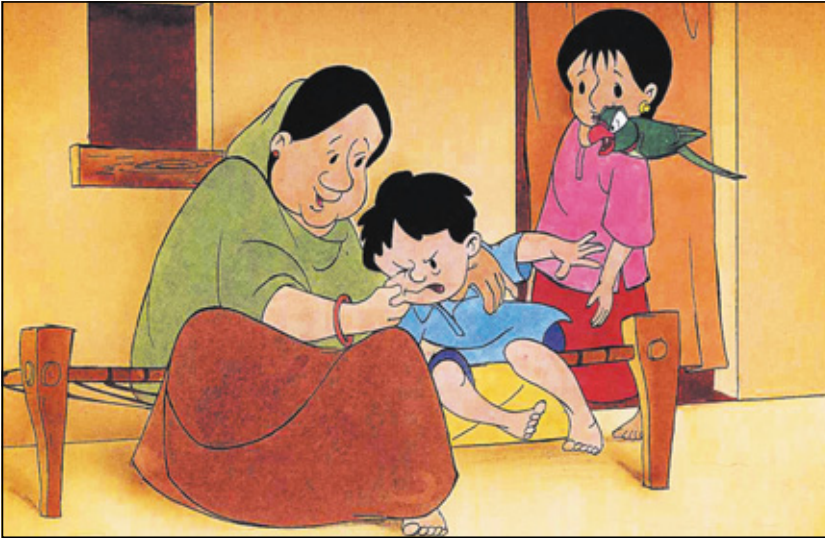


When the children got back home, their old aunt had arrived for a visit. Aunt was very old-fashioned. She believed that girls should not play or go to school - instead, they should stay at home and learn to do the housework.

Meena's mother told Aunt that Meena was learning housework, and she was also learning many other things at school.

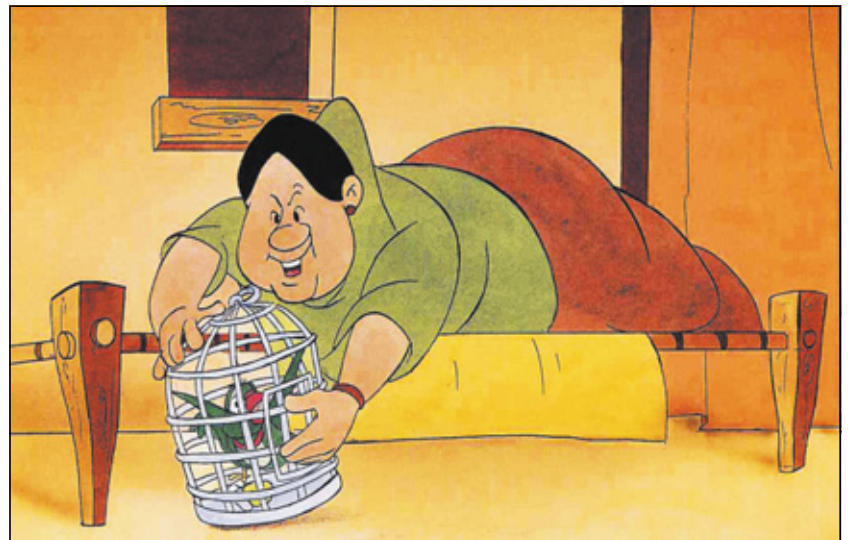


Aunt was also upset because Meena's mother's new baby was a girl, not a boy.

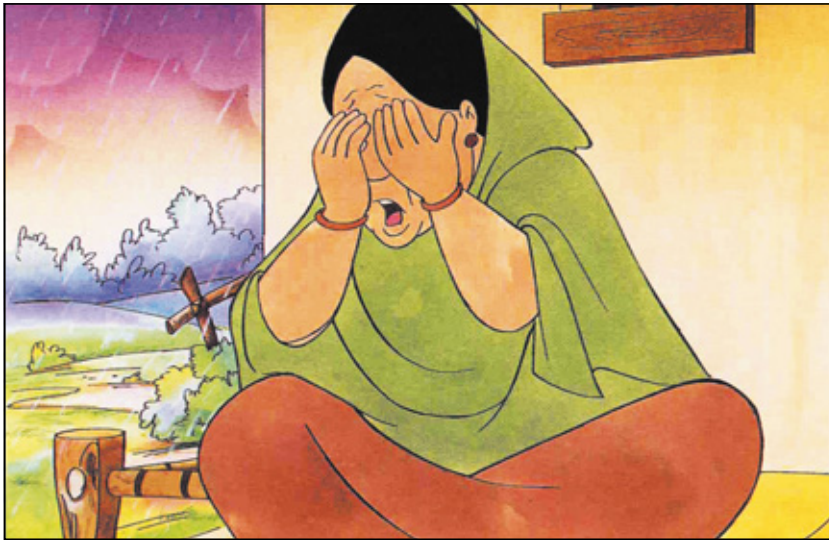


Aunt loved boys. She pulled Raju to her and gave his cheek a big pinch.

Aunt was annoyed with Mithu. She did not like parrots flying free. So, she bought a cage and tricked Mithu into it.

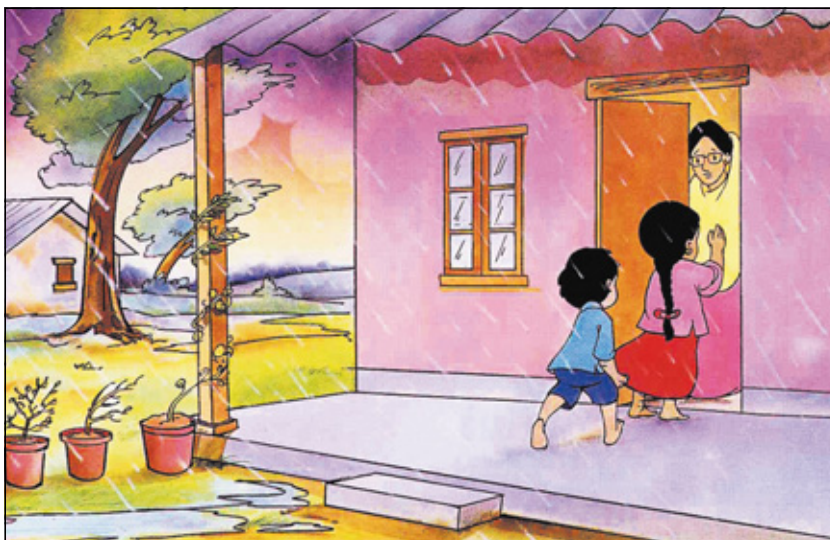


That evening, it was stormy and wet. Baby Rani had diarrhoea, and she was vomiting as well. Father had not yet got back home, and the health worker lived far away. Nobody knew what to do.



Aunt remembered her baby dying of diarrhoea when it was only one year old.

Meena and Raju said they would go to their teacher's house. Teacher would know what to do.



Thunder and lightning flashed around them as the children ran to find Teacher.



Teacher explained that diarrhoea can be very dangerous because the baby loses a lot of water from the body. If too much water is lost, the baby may even die.

To save a baby with diarrhoea, it should be fed lots of liquids - rice water, dal water, coconut water, and especially, mother's milk.



The storm was now worse than ever. How would the children get back home to tell Mother what to do?



Just then, Mithu flew in. He had managed to escape from Auht's horrible cage.

Meena asked Mithu to fly back to Mother with the message, "Give plenty to drink."



When Mithu flew back home, Father had returned. Meena's parents heard what Mithu had to say. Then they started giving baby Rani lots of liquid. Aunt was horrified that they would listen to a parrot. Sometimes Rani vomitted, but they continued to give her drinks with a spoon, sip by sip.



Meena woke up the next morning to find that the storm had stopped and that baby Rani looked much better. She even smiled.

Meena's teacher stopped by to see the baby. "As long as there is no blood in the stool, she will get better soon," said Teacher. "Just remember to continue to give her plenty to drink, and plenty to eat as well so she can get strong again."



Soon, baby Rani was well again and even Aunt had to agree that Meena, Raju and Mithu had saved the baby's life. Meena, Raju and Mithu say, "Give children with diarrhoea plenty to drink and eat."

Words and meanings:

save – बचाउनु	diarrhoea – पखाला
plenty – प्रशस्त	vomit – बान्ता गर्नु
liquid – तरल पदार्थ	life – जीवन

1. Circle the correct answer.

- a. Which of these can you drink?
potato water apple
- b. Which of these is a bird?
parrot tiger butterfly
- c. What do you call a person who teaches you in school?
policeman teacher doctor
- d. What do you call a person who works in the health centre?
teacher farmer health worker
- e. What does a plant need to live?
plastic water clothes

Read the story
2. Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the box.

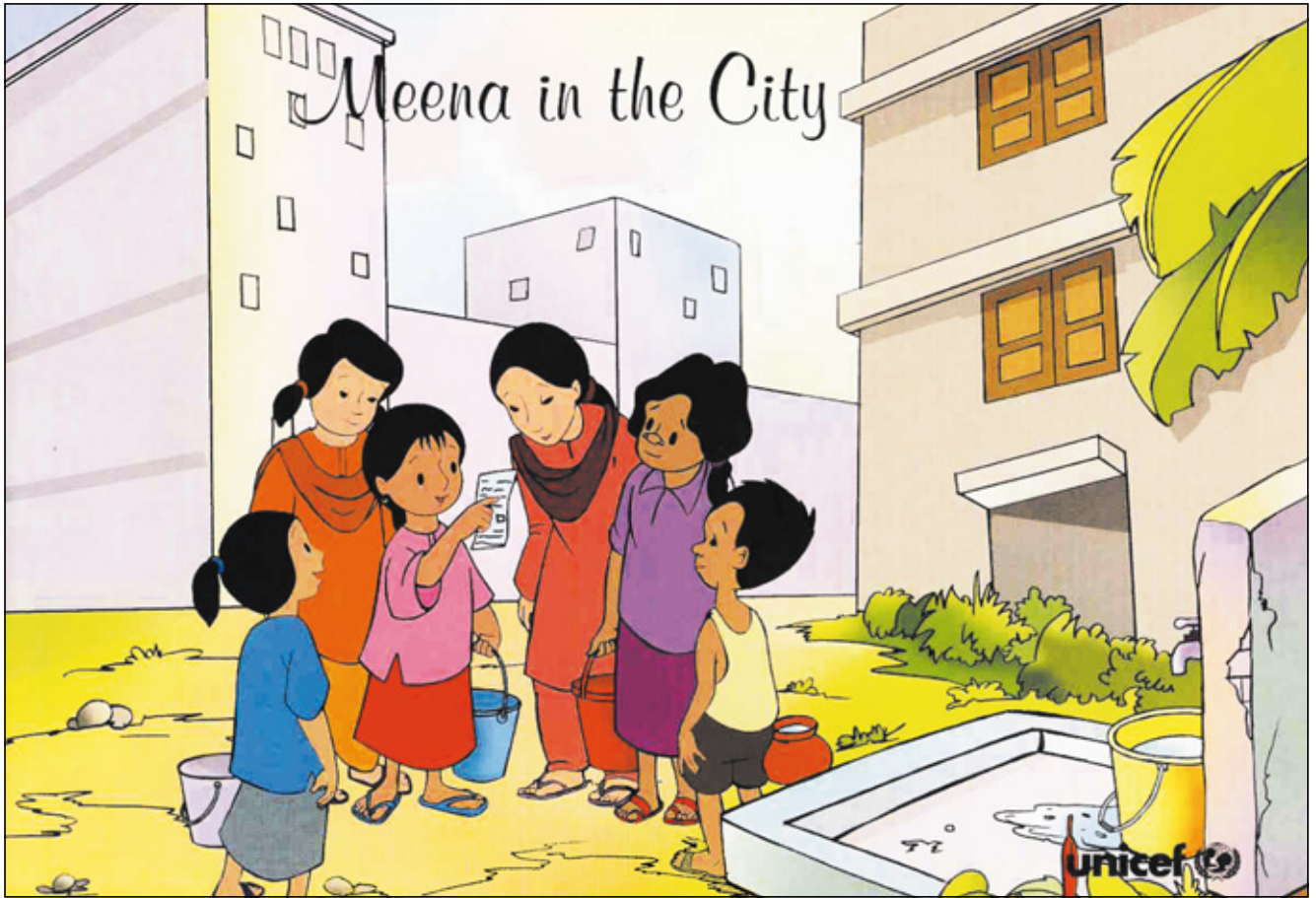
water	aunt	vegetable	teacher's	cage	girl
-------	------	-----------	-----------	------	------

- a. Meena's mother's new baby was a girl.
- b. Meena's _____ had come for a visit.
- c. Aunt bought a _____ to keep Mithu.
- d. Raju and Meena went to _____ house.
- e. Teacher told to give Rani a lot of _____.

3. Write any five things you do to keep yourself healthy?
(तपाइले आफूलाई स्वस्थ राख्न गर्ने कुनै पाँच कुराको बारेमा लेख्नुहोस् ।)

Answers

1.	b. parrot	c. teacher	d. health worker	e. water
2.	b. aunt	c. cage	d. teacher	e. water



Meena is a little girl who lives in a village with her parents, her grandmother, her brother Raju, and her baby sister, Rani. Mithu, the parrot, is her best friend.

Meena is like any other little girl you know. She has the same hopes and worries and dreams.

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Deepa Balsavar

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One day, Meena, Raju and Mithu were playing with their friends.

Father decides that he must go to the city to find work. He takes Meena and Raju with him to stay with their aunt. Mithu, Meena's parrot, goes as well.



After a long and tiring journey, the family reaches the city. They have to search for Aunt's new house. When they finally arrive at the right place, they are told that Aunt is away. No one knows when she will return.



Father is so upset. What can he do? They have no where to stay. He finally agrees to let the children stay and work with other families, while he earns some money.

The landlord of the building takes Raju home with him. Raju is excited about seeing a TV.

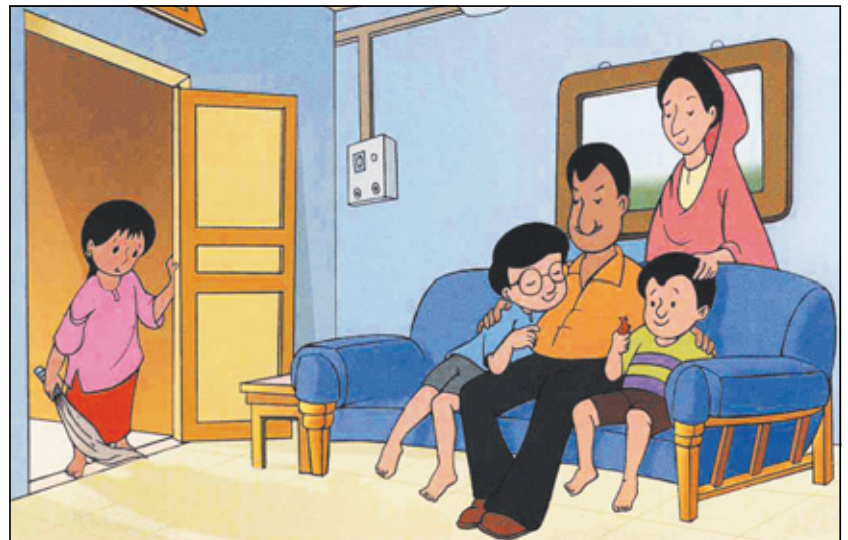


And Meena is found work with a family in her aunt's building. As soon Meena's father left, the woman sends Mithu away and puts Meena to work.



It is hard work! Poor Meena has to get up very early in the morning. She scrubs the dishes, cooks the food, cleans the floor, dusts the house and is kept busy till late at night.

Sometimes, she watches her employer's family together and feels so lonely. She misses her own home so much.



Then one evening, the family goes to the zoo, leaving Meena alone at home. Suddenly, Mithu enters at the kitchen window. He brings a letter from Raju, who is also very lonely.



Mithu sees that Meena is very unhappy and the clever parrot performs a funny circus act to cheer her up.

Over the next days, Meena makes friends with the children in other buildings, and learns about their hard lives.



Reena is fourteen years old. Sometimes, her employers hit her. And now the children of the house have started hitting her too.



Gulab is twelve. Her employers leave for work early in the morning. They lock her up inside the house all day. Ayesha is thirteen. She has not been allowed to go home to her family for over two years.

And Munna, the youngest, is only eight years old. This little boy has been in the city for six months. He cannot stop crying, thinking of his family.



Meena feels very sorry for all the children and for herself. When will Father come and fetch her and Raju? Will Aunt ever return from her trip?



Father does come once to see Meena. But her employer pretends that Meena is out. She does not want Father to see that Meena is unhappy working in that house.

As the days pass, Meena helps her employer's son, Pappu, with his homework. They soon become friends and Meena starts feeling a bit better.

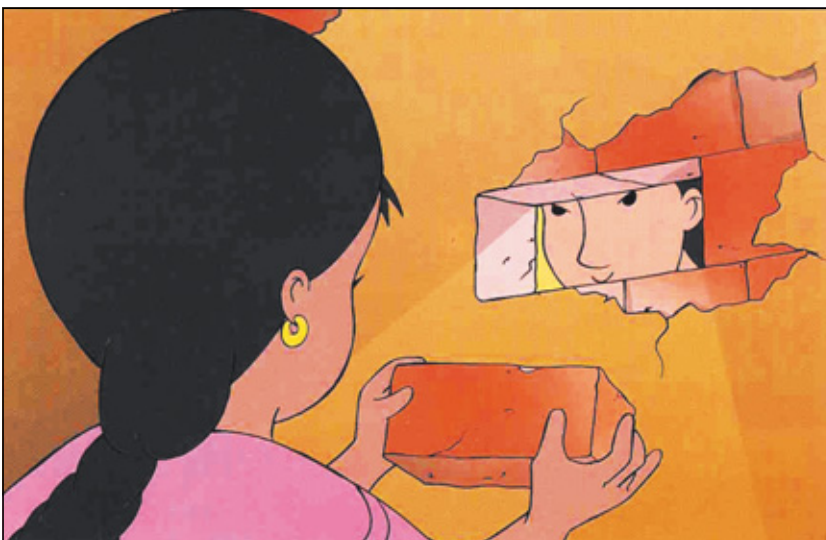


Sometimes Pappu even helps her with her chores.



One night, Meena is reading from an old newspaper. She sees a report about an afternoon school for working children. She is so excited. Maybe this will help all the other girls and boys!

Suddenly, she hears a tapping on the brick wall of the kitchen.



Meena removes the brick and meets Sara. She works for the family next door. They are just back from a trip. Meena and Sara talk half the night. Sara says her employers are good to her but she does not want to be a domestic worker all her life.



The next day, Meena meets Sara and the other children. She shows them the paper cutting about the afternoon school. The girls are excited, too, but they do not think that they will be allowed to go. Only Sara feels that she can ask her employer, who is kind and understanding.

A little later, as Meena struggles up the stairs with her bucket, the neighbour comes out of her house. It is Aunt! She is Sara's employer! How surprised and upset she is to see Meena working.



Aunt quickly brings Meena and Raju home. She tells Meena's employer that it is against the law to employ children under 14 years. They should be in school.



By now father has earned enough money, so the family go home. Meena is so happy to be at home and at school again. She often wonders about Sara and her other city friends. Did they ever get to go to the school for working children? Then one day, she gets a letter from Sara.

In her letter, Sara says that Aunt was worried about her going to school alone. She called the teachers from the school to talk to the other employers. The people talked and talked. It was not easy. Finally, a few of them agreed to send the children working in their homes to the afternoon school.



In her letter, Sara say she is so excited! She is now learning so many new and useful things! At last, she can plan a better future for herself.



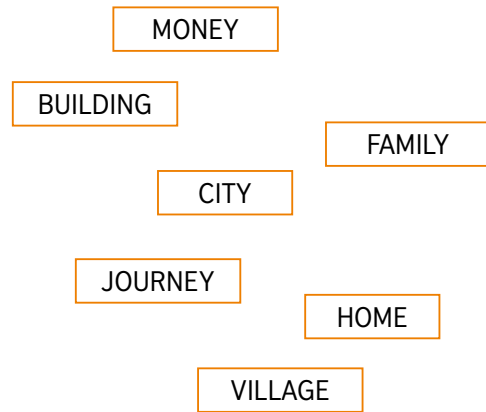
LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE A
BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL CHILDREN.

Words and meanings:

save – शहर	employer – मालिक
disaster – प्रकोप/ठूलो क्षति	destroy – नष्ट गर्नु
earn money – पैसा कमाउनु	scrub the dishes – भाँडा माझनु
dust the house – घर सफा गर्नु	lonely – एक्लो
stairs – भन्याङ	

1. Find the given words and circle it.

B	U	I	L	D	I	N	G
B	D	F	H	O	M	E	C
J	F	A	M	I	L	Y	A
B	D	K	M	O	N	E	Y
C	I	T	Y	K	Q	Z	A
M	V	I	L	L	A	G	E
J	O	U	R	N	E	Y	T


Read the story

2. Write True or False.

- Meena's father wants to go to another city to earn money. **True**
- Meena does not have to do hard work in the city. _____
- Raju is happy in the city. _____
- Pappu and Meena help each other. _____
- Meena does not want to go back to village. _____

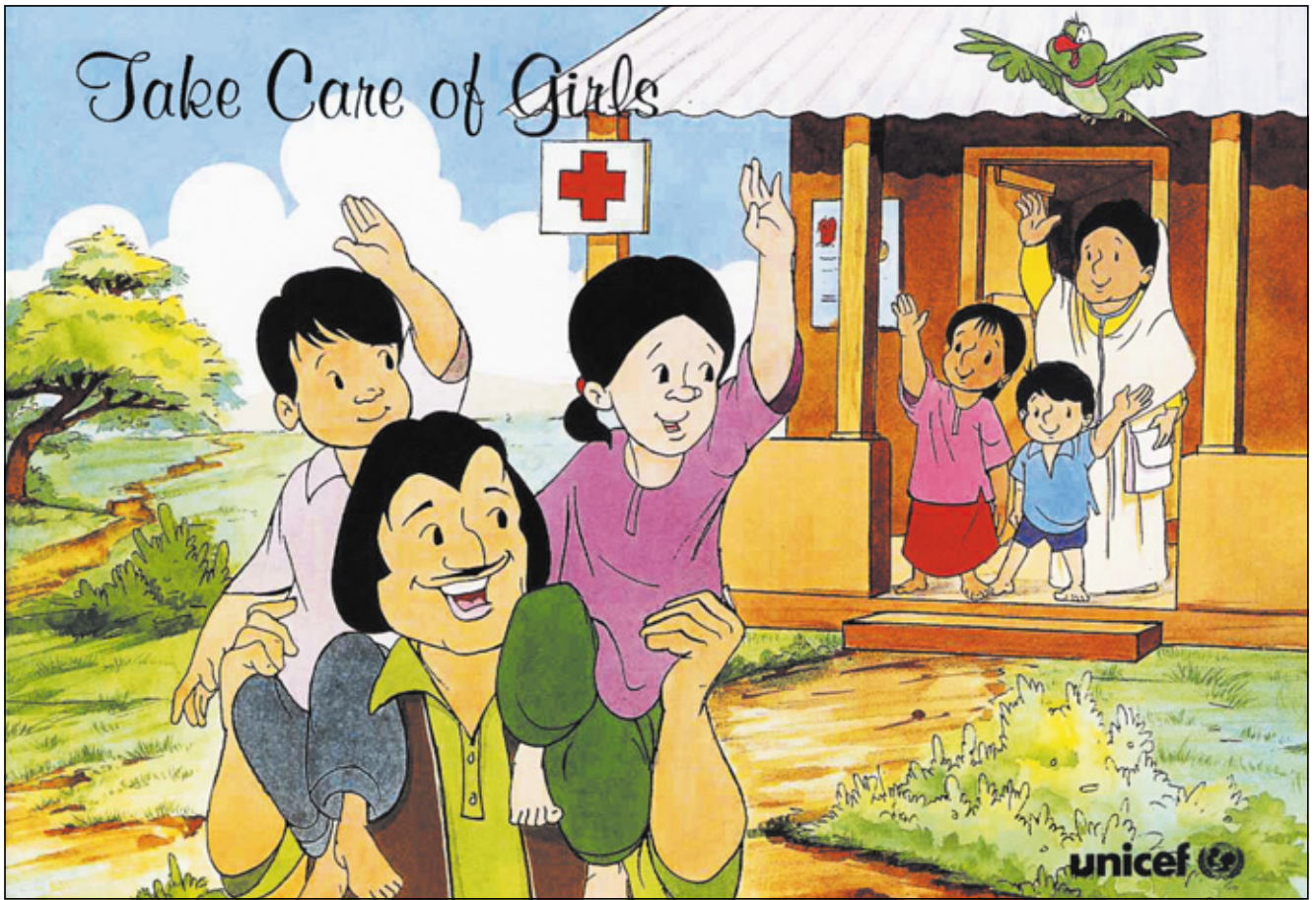
3. What's the order?
Read the story and put the sentences in order.

Meena tells her friends about the afternoon school.	
Sara writes a letter to Meena and tells that some of the working children are going to school.	
Meena makes friends with children working in other buildings.	1
Meena goes back to village.	
Meena reads about an afternoon school for working children.	

4. Do you think it is good for children to work in other people's homes? Write your answer.
(बालबालिकाहरू अरूको घरमा काम गर्नु राम्रो हो कि होइन? लेख्नुहोस्।)

Answers

1.	B U I L D I N G	B D F H O M E	J D A M I L Y	B D K M O N E Y	C I T Y	M V I L L A G E	J O U R N E Y
2.							
3.							
4.	<p>b. False c. False d. True e. False</p>						
5.	<p>1. Meena reads about an afternoon school for working children. 2. Meena tells her friends about the afternoon school. 3. Meena goes back to village. 4. Sara writes a letter to Meena and tells that some of the working children are going to school.</p>						



Meena is a little girl who lives in a village with her parents, her grandmother, her brother Raju, and her baby sister, Rani. Mithu, the parrot, is her best friend.

In many ways, Meena is like any other little girl you know. She is friendly but is not afraid to ask questions.

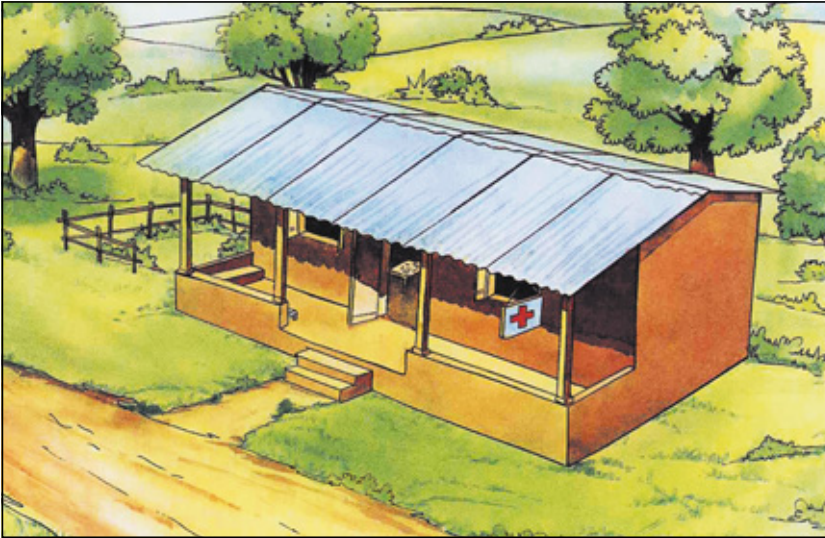
Share in Meena's adventures as she laughs, climbs trees, asks questions and solves problems, and shows you all the things that a little girl can do.

Script: Rachel Carnegie
Original concept: Neill Mckee
Comic book adaptation: Deepa Balsavar and Deep Hari

Artistic development and character designs: Ram Mohan
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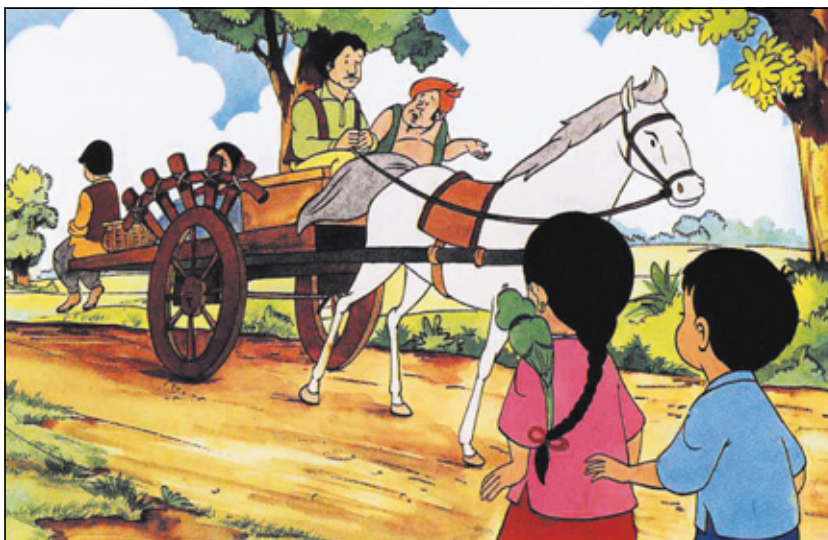
Layout and design: Harsha Mehta
Kelvin Lopez
Sachin Satankar
Milind Kadam

Creative guidance and project management: Nuzhat Shahzadi
UNICEF - Rosa



One day, Meena and Raju were taken to the health centre by their mother.

They had been ill, but the doctor said that they were now well enough to go back to school.



When they came out of the health centre, Meena and Raju saw a horse and cart draw up. A family of acrobats were on their way to perform at the local fair.



There were three children in the back of the cart. Two of them – a little boy and a girl – looked very ill.

Meena and Raju watched as the little boy was carried in by his father to see the doctor. They asked Kamal, the older boy, what was wrong. His little brother, Pasha, had fever, he said.

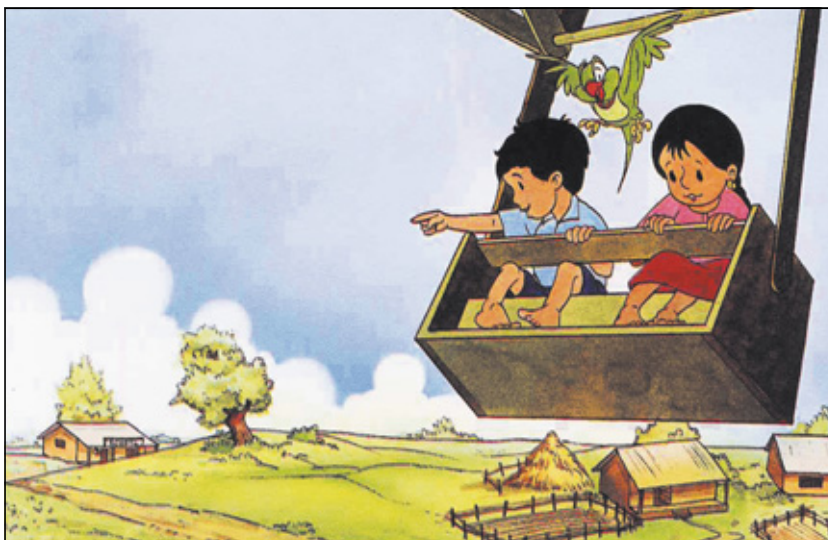


Sabina, their sister, was also burning with fever. But the children's uncle, who was driving the cart, insisted that she did not need to see the doctor. Girls didn't need any treatment, he said, they could get better if they just drank some tea.

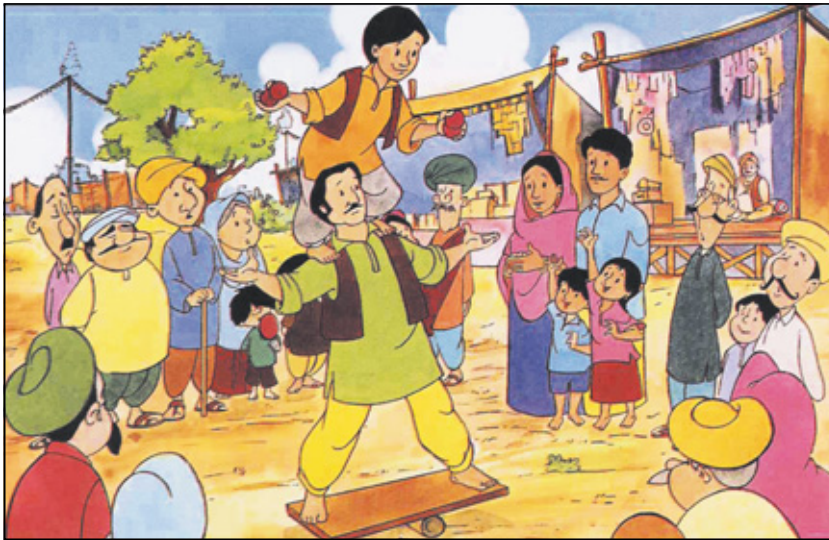


That afternoon, Meena and Raju went with their parents to the fair. It was a wonderful sight.

One of the first things they did was to sit on a huge giant wheel.



From the very top of the giant wheel, Meena and Raju saw their school. It was really exciting, but Meena was also a bit scared of the height.



Then they saw the acrobats performing. They saw Kamal standing on his father's shoulders and performing some great tricks.

Meanwhile, Meena's parrot, Mithu, had flown away to watch the snake charmer. Mithu danced in tune to the music along with the snake.

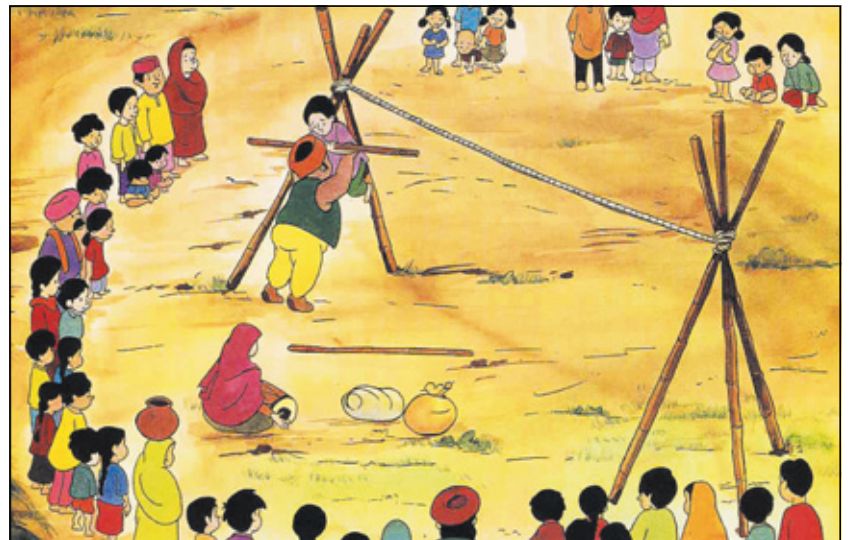


When Meena went in search of Mithu, she found the snake charmer shouting in a loud voice. She recognized him as Kamal's uncle who had driven the cart that morning. The snake charmer wanted Sabina to get up and perform, while Pasha, her sick brother, rested. He felt that Sabina was not really ill, but was only pretending.



Sabina almost fell while walking past Meena. She seemed to be very sick. Meena was so worried. But what could she do?

The sick little girl was put up on the tightrope by her uncle. A large crowd started to gather.

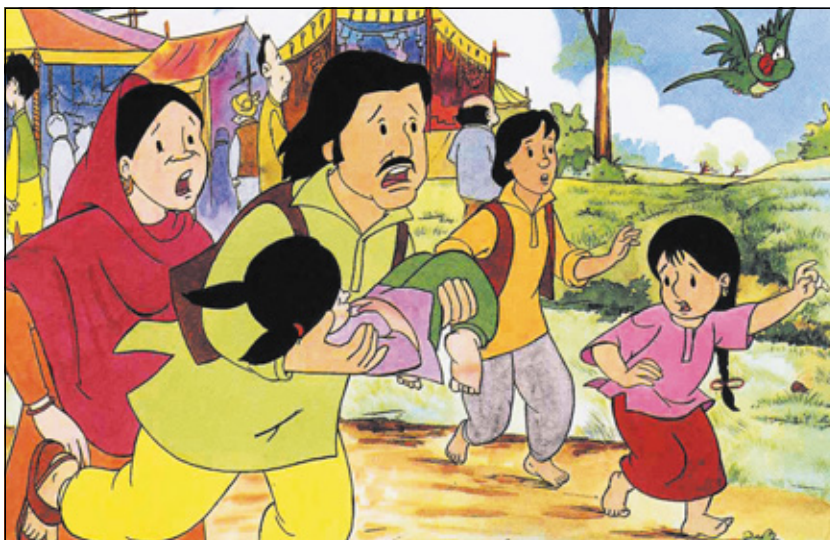


Sabina started walking slowly across the rope. She looked ill and unsteady. The crowd was very quiet.

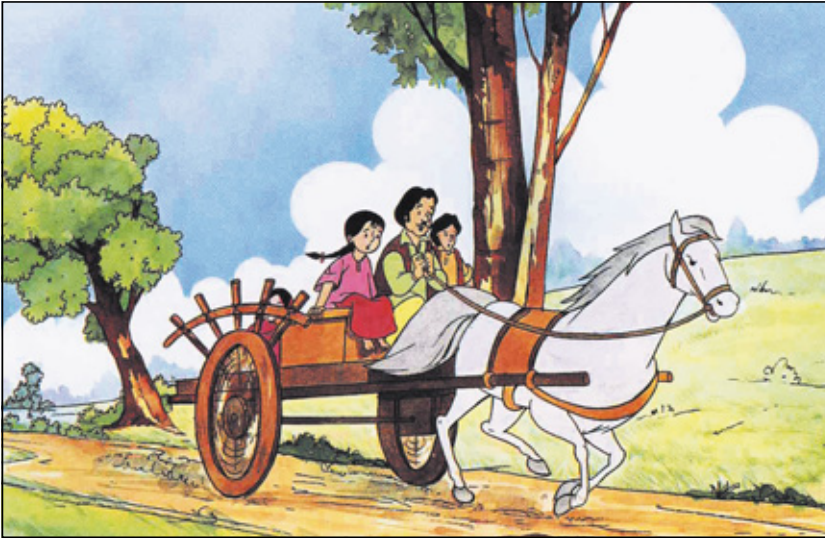


Suddenly, she swayed and lost her balance. With a small cry, she fell to the ground.

Everyone was horrified. The poor little girl lay still. Her mother started screaming, while her father lifted her up, not knowing with to do.



“Quick! The doctor!” shouted Meena. She knew that the doctor would soon be leaving for the next village. Along with Sabina’s parents, she rushed towards the horse and cart.



What a ride it was! The horse raced over the bumpy road and everyone bounced up and down.

Meena had sent Mithu on ahead to inform the doctor. That was a good idea, because the doctor was just about to leave the health centre.



Later, the doctor bandaged Sabina's foot. She said that Sabina was lucky that it was just a sprain. But she still needed lots of care for her fever. Sabina's parents realized that they were wrong not to have brought her in for treatment earlier.



The doctor told them that it is very important for boys and girls to get equal care and treatment.

When both Sabina and Pasha were well again, they came with their family to Meena's school. They put up a special show for the children and even taught them some tricks. Sabina's parents decided to send their children to school, too.



Meena and Sabina balanced on a plank of wood and hugged each other with happiness, while Mithu wen around saying, "Take care of girls! Take care of girls!"



Colour this picture

Words and meanings:

health centre – स्वास्थ्य चौकी	fever – ज्वरो
insist – जोड़ दिएर भन्नु	acrobat – सर्कसमा खेल वा चटक देखाउने व्यक्ति
giant wheel – रोटे पिङ्ग	fair – मेला
cart – गाडा	treatment – उपचार

1. Find the words and circle it.

A	U	N	C	L	E	D
M	O	T	H	E	R	V
S	F	A	T	H	E	R
B	R	O	T	H	E	R
M	S	I	S	T	E	R

BROTHER	
FATHER	SISTER
MOTHER	
UNCLE	

Read the story

2. Give short answers to the following questions:

- Where was the doctor going?
to the next village
- Why did Meena's mother take Meena and Raju to the health centre?

- What was Kamal's sister's name?

- What did Meena and Raju see from the top of the giant wheel?

- Could Sabina see the doctor?

3. Write True or False.

- Sabina had two brothers. **True**
- Sabina's brother had fever. _____
- Sabina's uncle wanted to take her to the doctor. _____
- Meena was worried because Sabina was very sick. _____
- Sabina was taken to the doctor by bus. _____

4. Write how you can take care of yourself if you are sick?

(यदि तपाईं बिरामी हुनु भयो भने तपाईं आफ्नो ख्याल आफैँ कसरी राख्न सक्नुहुन्छ? लेख्नुहोस् ।)

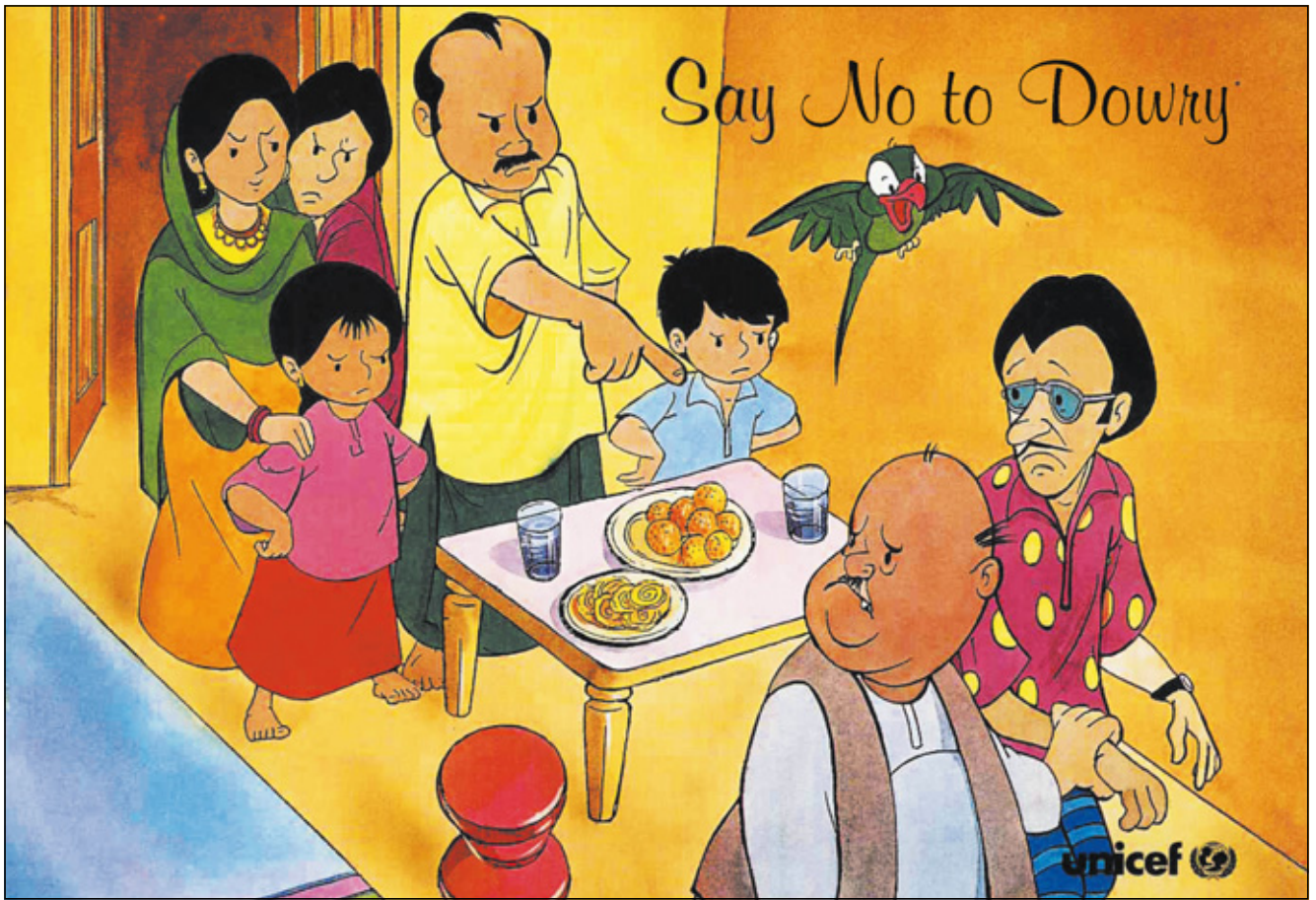
For example: I will not play in the sun.

Answers

1.	A	U	N	C	L	E	D
	M	O	T	H	E	R	V
	S	A	T	H	E	R	V
	B	R	O	T	H	E	R
	M	I	S	T	E	R	V

2. b. They had been ill.
c. Sabina
d. their school
e. yes

3. b. True
c. False
d. True
e. False



Meena is a little girl who lives in a village with her parents, her grandmother, her brother Raju, and her baby sister, Rani. Mithu, the parrot, is her best friend.

In many ways, Meena is like any other little girl you know. She is friendly but is not afraid to ask questions.

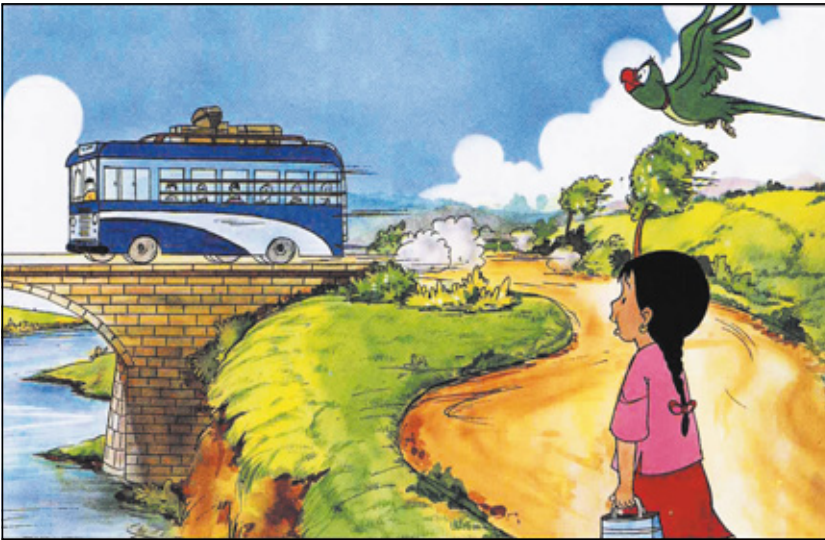
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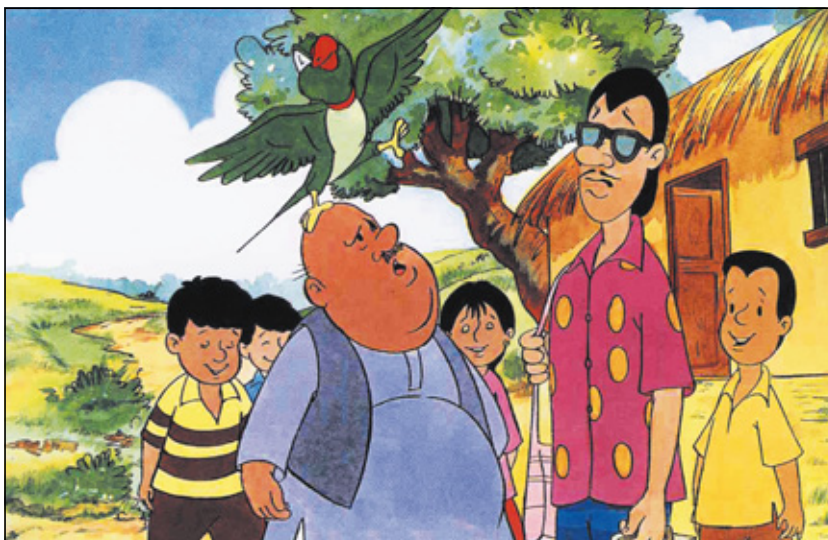
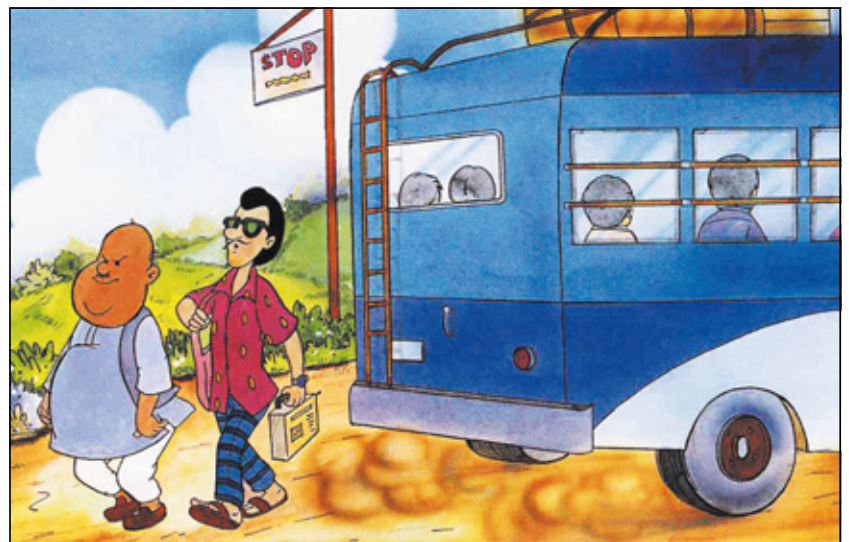
Layout and design: Harsha Mehta
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Meena and her pet parrot Mithu were on their way to her cousin Tara's house one morning, when a bus rushed past them and came to a halt a short distance away.

Meena saw that two strangers had come to their village. They seemed like father and son and were obviously from the city.

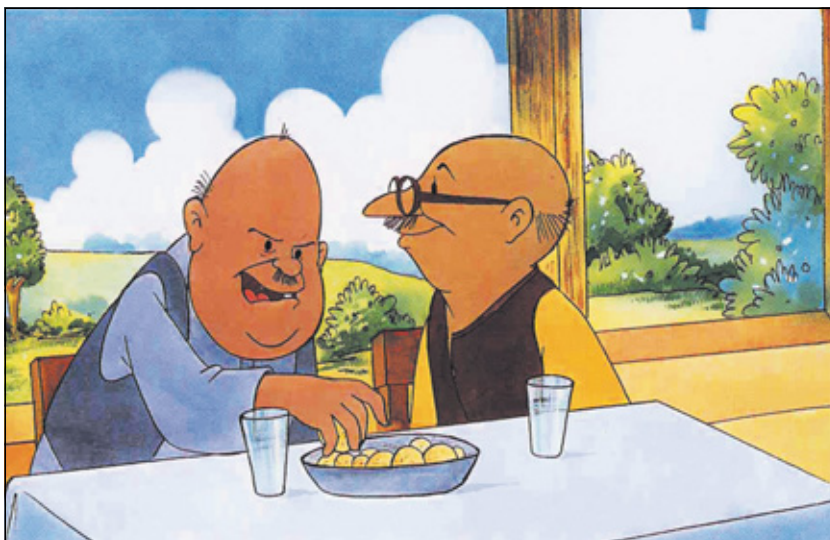
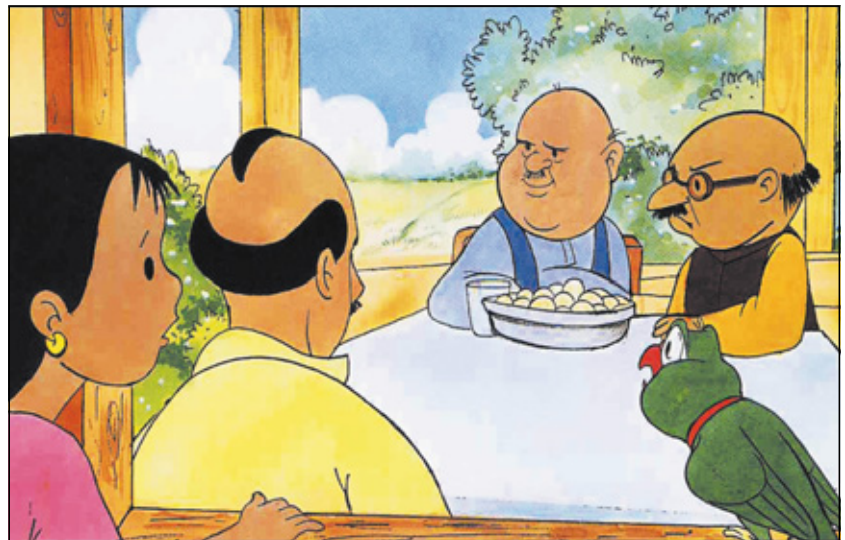


The other village children quickly noticed the newcomers and formed a procession behind them, until the older man rudely shouted at them.



When Meena and Mithu reached Tara's house, they found her in tears. Tara had turned 18 and her parents had decided that it was time for her marriage. An offer had already come for her and the boy's father was outside at that very moment, talking about dowry. Tara was upset because the visitors seemed greedy. She didn't want her parents to be ruined paying dowry for her marriage. But what could she do?

Meena tiptoed to the window and looked out. Imagine her surprise when she saw who was seated there. It was the man from the city! And next to him was the mean village shopkeeper. Meena discovered that they were brothers and that the fashionably dressed young man she had seen in the morning with the rude man was the prospective groom.

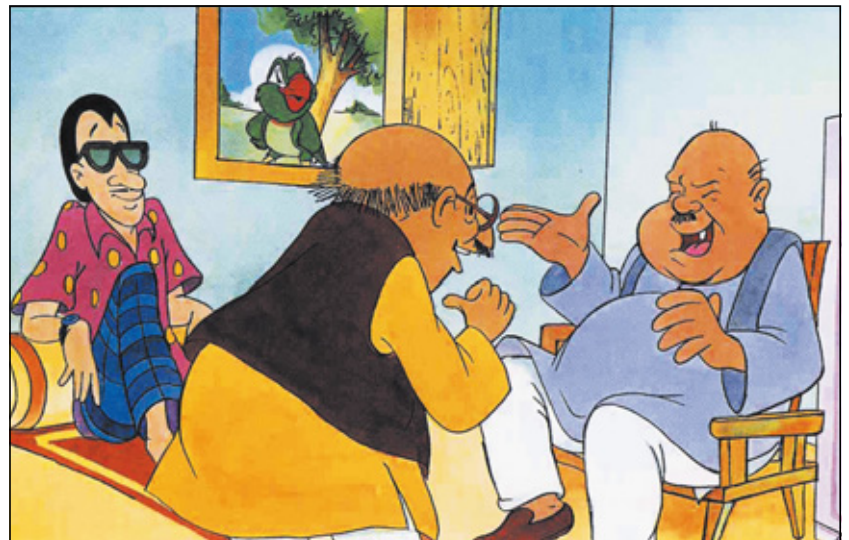


"We are not asking for much," she heard the men say. "Only a bicycle and some money. If you are not willing, there are plenty of families in this village who will be happy to pay for such a fine match."

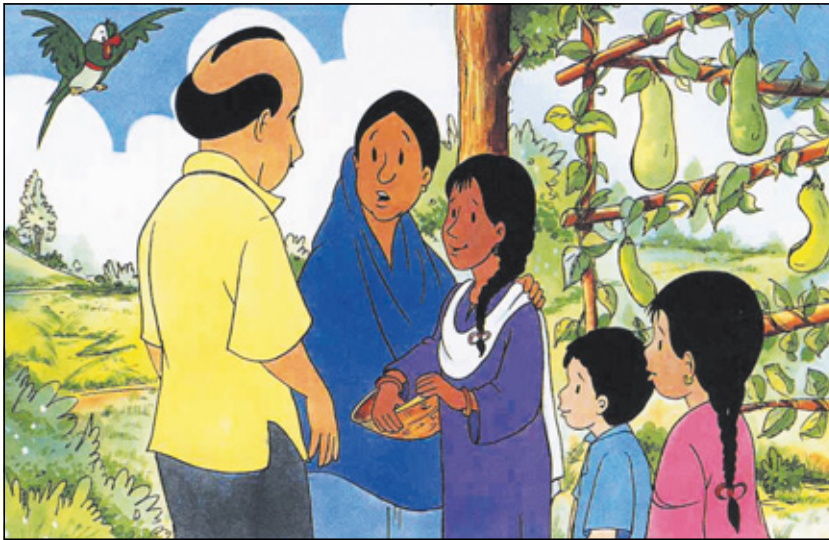


Meena went home and told her parents and grandmother what she had heard. They were all shocked. Meena's younger brother Raju decided that he would not ask for any dowry when he grew up and Meena decided that no dowry would be paid for her marriage either. "Say No to dowry," the children said to their proud parents.

In the meantime, Mithu had flown to the shopkeeper's house to see what was happening. He overheard the shopkeeper's family making plans to ask Tara's parents for a motorcycle after the marriage, in addition to the bicycle before it. The city visitors were indeed greedy.



Grandmother and Meena got very angry when Mithu came back repeating, "Bicycle now, motorcycle later!" Meena and Raju ran to tell Tara and her parents the shocking news.



When Tara's parents heard the news, they decided to stop the marriage talks. They also decided that the whole village should be warned against such greedy people, who were more interested in their money than in their daughters.

A village meeting was called and everyone was informed about what had happened. Most of the villagers did not know that dowry is banned by law and that people can be punished for giving or taking it.



At the meeting, a decision was taken to stop the practice of dowry in the village. As Grandmother said, "Only if everyone refuses to give or take dowry can this evil be stopped."

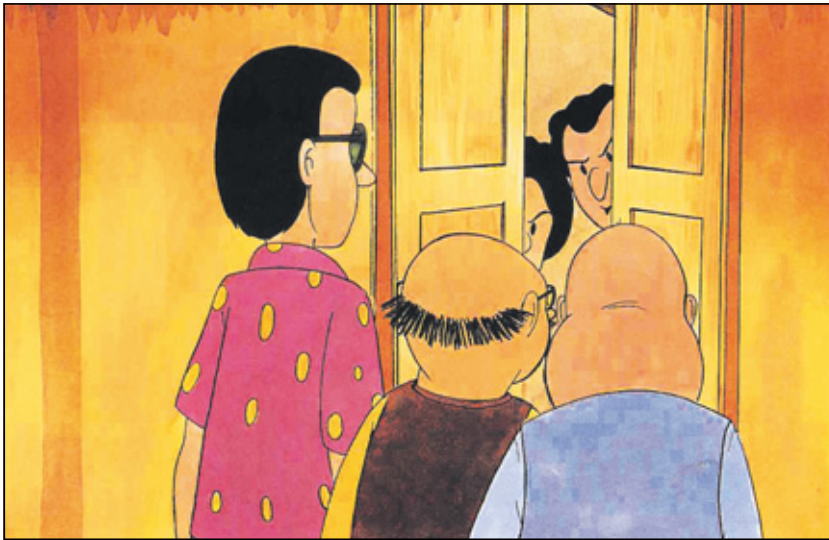


Meena and Raju taught all the youngsters their new slogan, "Say No to Dowry!" "Say No to Dowry!"

The next day, the shopkeeper, his brother and nephew were back at Tara's house. When Tara's father refused their demands, they were surprised but confident that other families would be willing to pay dowry.

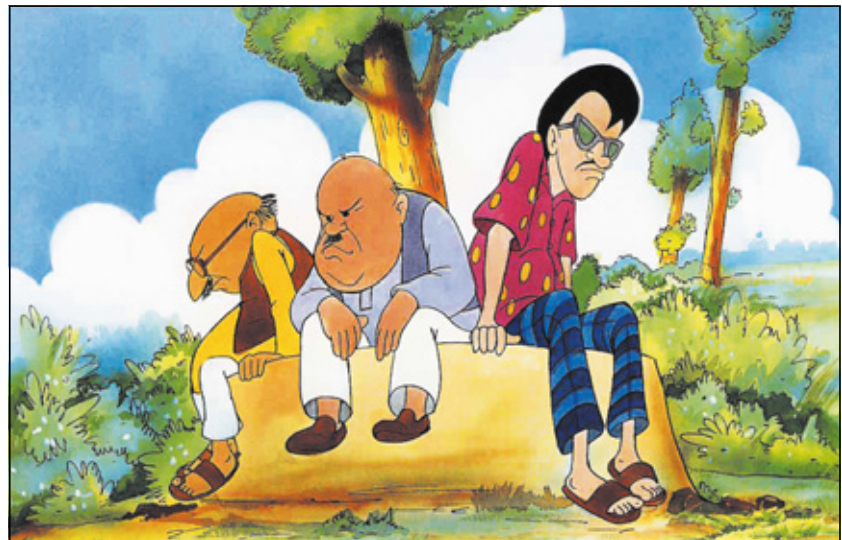


What a shock it was for them when every door was shut in their face...



... and they were turned away from every house!

At the end, after visiting several houses in the village, the disappointed bridegroom had to return to the city without a bride – or a dowry!



Words and meanings:

dowry – दाइजो	punish – सजाय दिनु
law – कानून	stranger – पराई/अपरिचित व्यक्ति
greedy – लोभी	banned – रोक लगाइएको
rudely – कठोर ढङ्गले बोल्नु	groom – बेहुला/दुलाहा

1. Match the following.

cousin	←	हजुरआमा
parents		भतिजो
nephew		छोरी
grandmother		आमा-बाबु
daughter	→	मामाको छोरी

Read the story
2. Choose the correct answer.

- Raju said that he would not ask for **dowry** when he grew up. (dowry/ food)
- The city visitors asked for _____ and some money. (bicycle/car)
- The city visitors were _____ people. (kind/greedy)
- Tara's _____ was not ready to give dowry. (uncle/father)
- Most of the _____ did not know that dowry should not be given or taken. (villagers/ teachers)

3. Think about the story.

Put the pictures in the correct order according to the story:
(दिइएका चित्रहरूलाई कथाको क्रम अनुसार मिलाएर राख्नुहोस्)



a. _____

b. _____

c. _____



d. _____

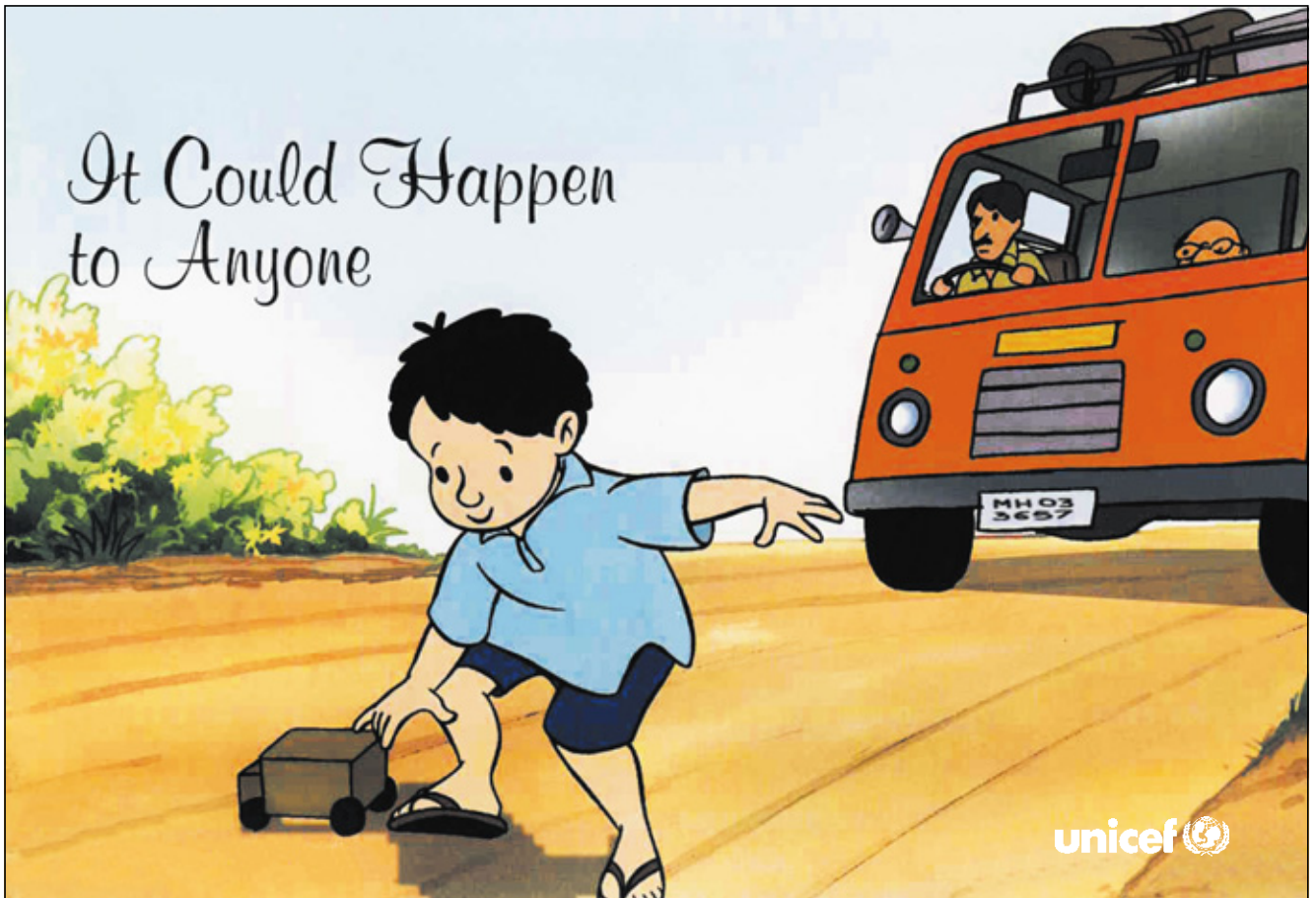

e. 1

4. If you could change three things about your community, what would they be? Write your answer.
यदि तपाईंले आफ्नो समाजमा तीन कुरा परिवर्तन गर्न पाउनु भयो भने ती के हुन्छन् होला? लेख्नुहोस् ।

For example: I will make a rule where both girls and boys must go to school.

Answers

1.	parents - बाल-बाल
	nephew - भातिजा
	grandmother - दादाबुआ
2.	daughter - छोरी
	bicycle - बाइल
3.	a-5
	b-4
	c. greedy
	c-3
	d. uncle
	d-2
	e. villagers

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Script:	Nuzhat Shahzadi
Original concept:	Neill McKee
Creative team:	Rachel Carnegie Deepa Balsavar Mira Mitra Zafra Chowdhury Saima Khan Shumona Shalinaz
Technical advice:	Morten Giersing Huan Linnan Dr. AKM Fazlur Rahman Prof. Aminur Rahman Prof. Mazharul Hoque Dr. MA Wahid
Artistic development and character designs:	Ram Mohan
Research:	RCS Private Limited Bangladesh
Comic book adaptation:	Deepa Balsavar Harsha Mehta
Creative guidance and project management:	Nuzhat Shahzadi UNICEF - Rosa
Produced with support from	The Government of Norway

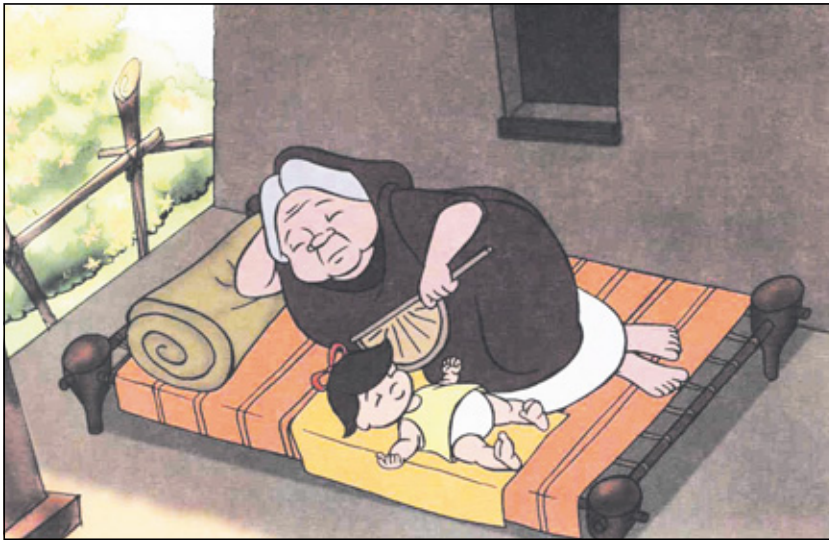


It was a hot summer's day. Meena was reading a book while her brother Raju, was playing with his toy car. Grandma was half-asleep.

Just then Mother came out on the verandah. She was on her way to the shop and wanted Meena to go with her.



Baby Rani was fast asleep, so Mother placed her next to Grandma and they set off. Meena's pet parrot Mithu also followed them.



The afternoon was so hot that soon Grandma was fast asleep too.

On the way to the shop, Raju and Mithu raced away. Mother was worried because the main road was just ahead.

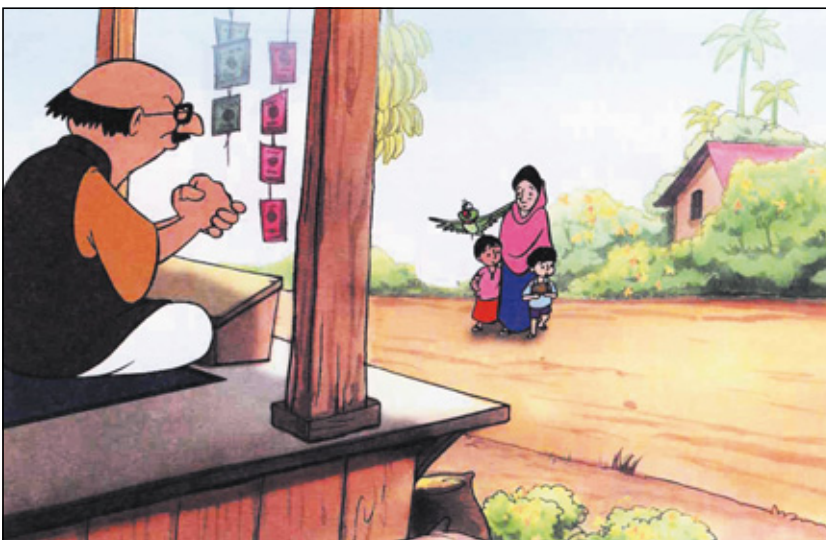


Mother and Meena caught up with Raju just in time. The road was full of trucks and buses.



Mother told the children that it is very important to stop at a busy road and look both ways carefully before crossing.

Only when there is no traffic coming should the road be crossed.

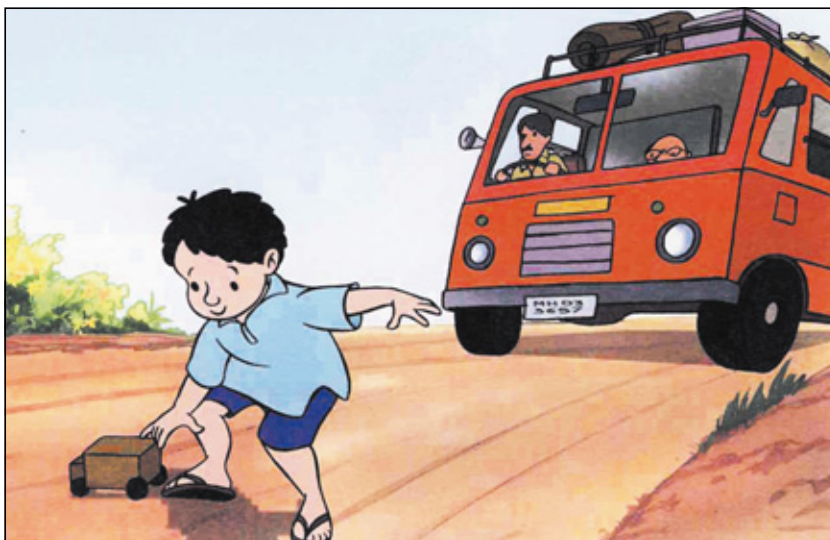


They finally arrived at the shop.



There were so many things to buy. Mother and Meena didn't notice that Raju was off again with his car!

He was so busy playing that he soon forgot what his Mother had said about the dangers of a busy road. Silly Raju!



He did not look to the right or to the left before stepping onto the road, and he did not see the big bus coming straight at him.



Mother and Meena heard the terrible screech of brakes. Only then did they realized that Raju was not with them.

Terrified, they ran towards the crowd already gathering in the front of the bus.

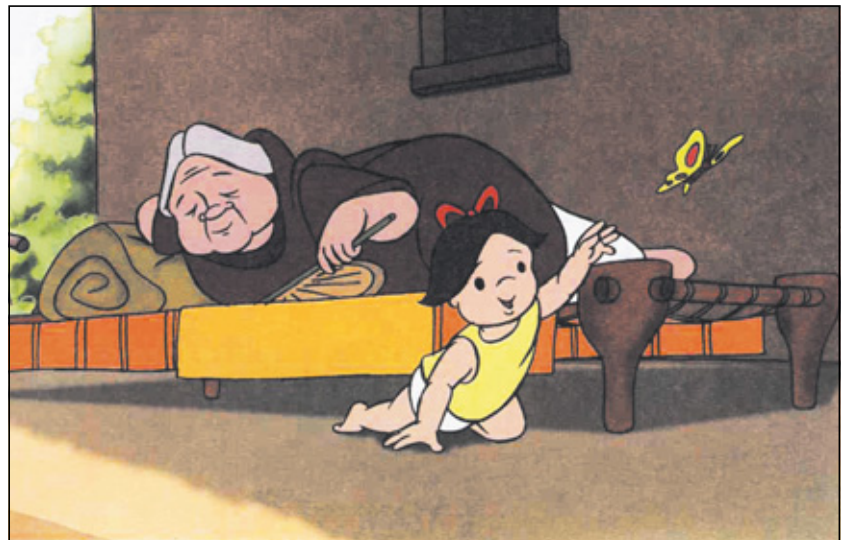


What a relief it was to see that Raju was safe! The bus driver had managed to brake just in time.



Mother was so sorry that she had not kept an eye on Raju. He could have been killed!

While all this excitement was going on, back at home Baby Rani had woken up and was on an adventure of her own.



Grandma was still asleep and did not see Rani climb down the steps into the yard.



Rani wandered behind the house and into the tall grasses. There were so many wonderful things to see. There were insects and birds, flowers and the sparkling water of the pond!

When Mother, Meena and Raju returned home some time later, Rani was nowhere to be seen.



They searched the house and all over the yard. Where could little Rani have gone? Granny was in tears.



When the search continued into the overgrown area behind the house, Mother got really worried. Surely Rani could not have fallen into the pond?

Then Raju found Rani's ribbon caught on a branch just beside the pond. Mother took it with trembling fingers.

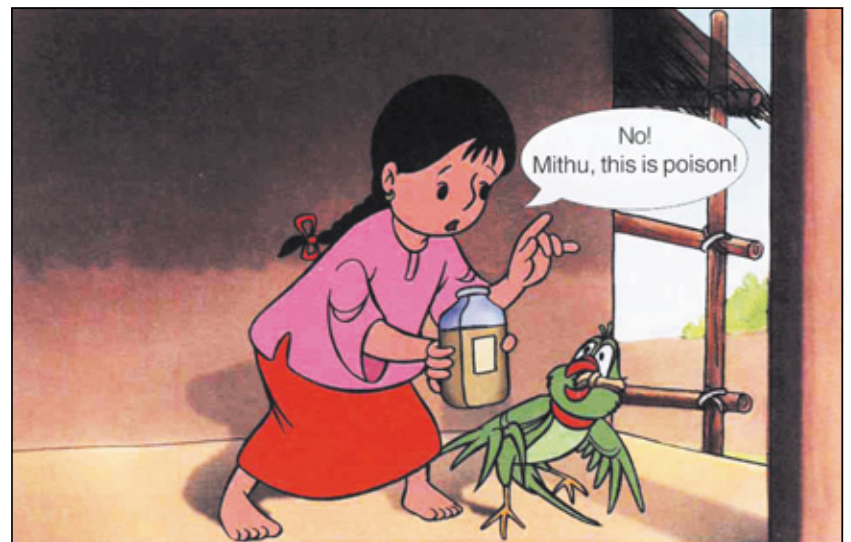


But Meena shouted with joy! Here was Rani! She had wandered past the pond and into the pumpkin patch!

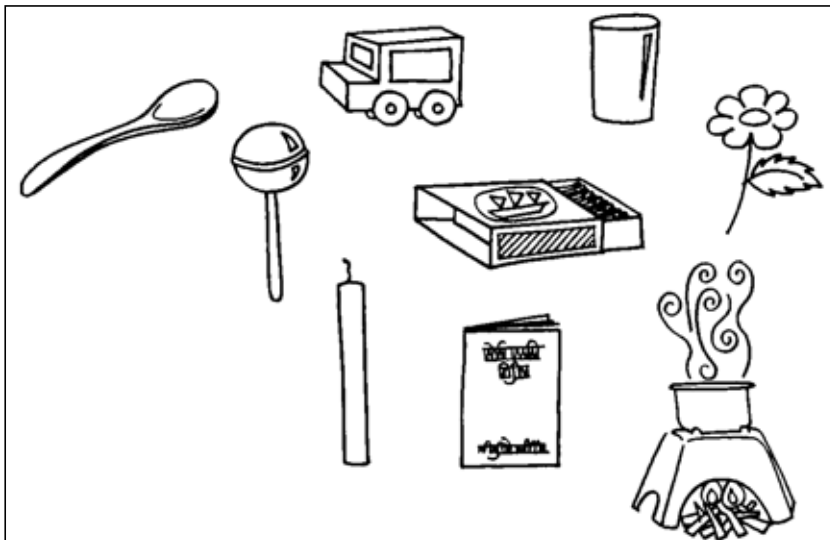


What a scary day it had been! Both Raju and Rani could have been seriously hurt. That night Father and Mother discussed things they could do to keep the children safe.

It's not only children who have to learn! Curious animals and birds can get into a lot of trouble too!



The next day itself, Father started building the fence and Mother tied bells around Rani's waist. They did not want to waste any time making things safe because they had realized that there are so many ways in which small children can get hurt.



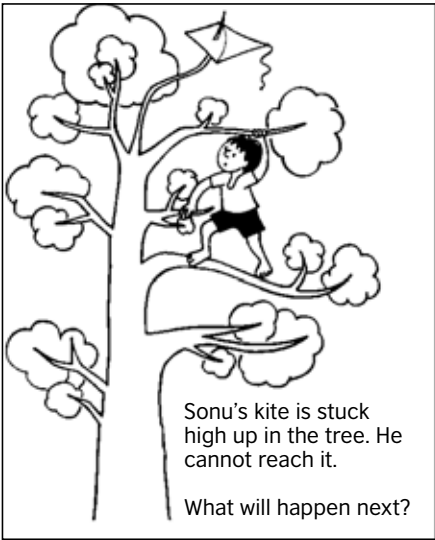
Find three things on this page that can burn you. Put an X mark on them.

Keep away from fire and things that can burn you.

There are some very dangerous sharp objects in this picture. Who may get hurt? How? Where should these sharp objects be kept?



Medicines can help you get better when you are sick. They can also harm you if you take the wrong type of medicine or the wrong amount. Always take medicine only on the doctor's advice.



Colour this picture

Words and meanings:

asleep – निदाएको	fence – खेत वा फूलबारीमा लगाइने बार
yard – घरसँग जोडिएको जग्गा	crowd – भीडभाड, हुल
pond – पोखरी	scary – डरलाग्दो
knife – चक्कु	

1. Choose the correct answer.

- We must be careful while we are crossing the road. (careful/careless) ✓
- We should play on the _____ (road/playground)
- We should not play with _____. (toys/scissors)
- A _____ (knife/book) can cut us.
- _____ (Water/Fire) can burn us.

Read the story

2. Write Yes or No:

- Did Grandma fall asleep? Yes
- Did Rani go to the shop with Mother? _____
- Did Raju play on the road? _____
- Did Grandma know where Rani had gone? _____
- Had Rani fallen in the pond? _____

3. Circle the correct answer.

- Who did not wait for Mother while going to the shop?
Meena Grandma Raju
- Who told Meena and Raju to be careful while crossing the road?
Mithu Mother Grandma
- Where did Rani go when Grandma was asleep?
on the road behind the house to the school
- What did Raju find on the branch?
Rani's shoes Rani's bag Rani's ribbon
- Who found Rani at last?
Mother Father Meena

4. Write five things that we should remember while walking on the road.
(हामीले बाटोमा हिँड्दा ध्यान दिनु पर्ने पाँच कुराहरू लेख्नुहोस् ।)

For example: We should not run on the road.

Answers

1.	b. playground	c. scissors	d. knife	e. fire
2.	b. No	c. Yes	d. No	e. No
3.	b. Mother	c. behind the house	d. Ran's ribbon	e. Meena

English and Digital for Girls' Education (EDGE)

The British Council's English and Digital for Girls' Education (EDGE) programme is one of the components of the wider SfS-II programme which aims to improve the life prospects of adolescent girls in socio-economically marginalised communities in Nepal. The programme enhances participants' English proficiency, digital skills and awareness of social issues. As a result, they will be able to make more informed and independent life choices, as is their right, in order to contribute more fully to the family, the economy and the society. The project, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, was being delivered through after-school clubs which are 'safe-spaces' in their communities.

Since the beginning of 2020, the whole world has been affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic, which has also affected Nepal. Now, more than ever, girls' education will face more challenges due to this situation. As girls are "go-to persons" for domestic support, they have lesser access to a supportive learning environment. According to the latest information from UNICEF, it is estimated that 23 million children, majority of them being girls, will likely drop out of school as a result of this pandemic and developing countries will be hit the hardest.

The government of Nepal has recently endorsed a set of guidelines that support an alternative approach to learning which includes learning through TV, radio and print materials. This booklet is prepared to bridge the learning gaps resulting from this crisis and aims to support remote learning of English and other social issues in order to build the confidence and skills of young girls to not just read about and understand real life issues but also to prepare them to return to school later.

For further information:

British Council
Lainchaur, PO Box 640
Kathmandu, Nepal.
Tel: + 977 1 4237700
www.britishcouncil.org.np