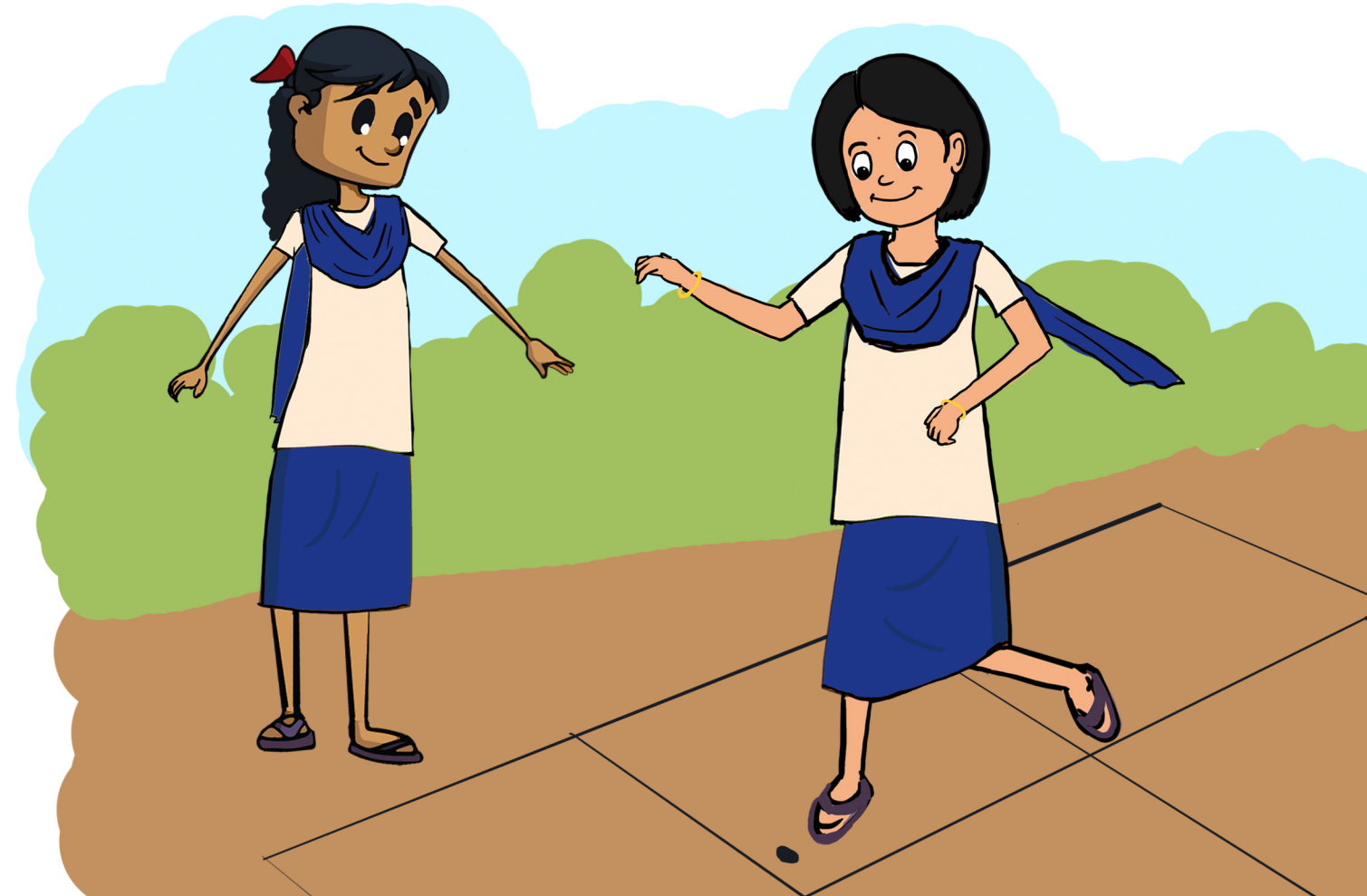
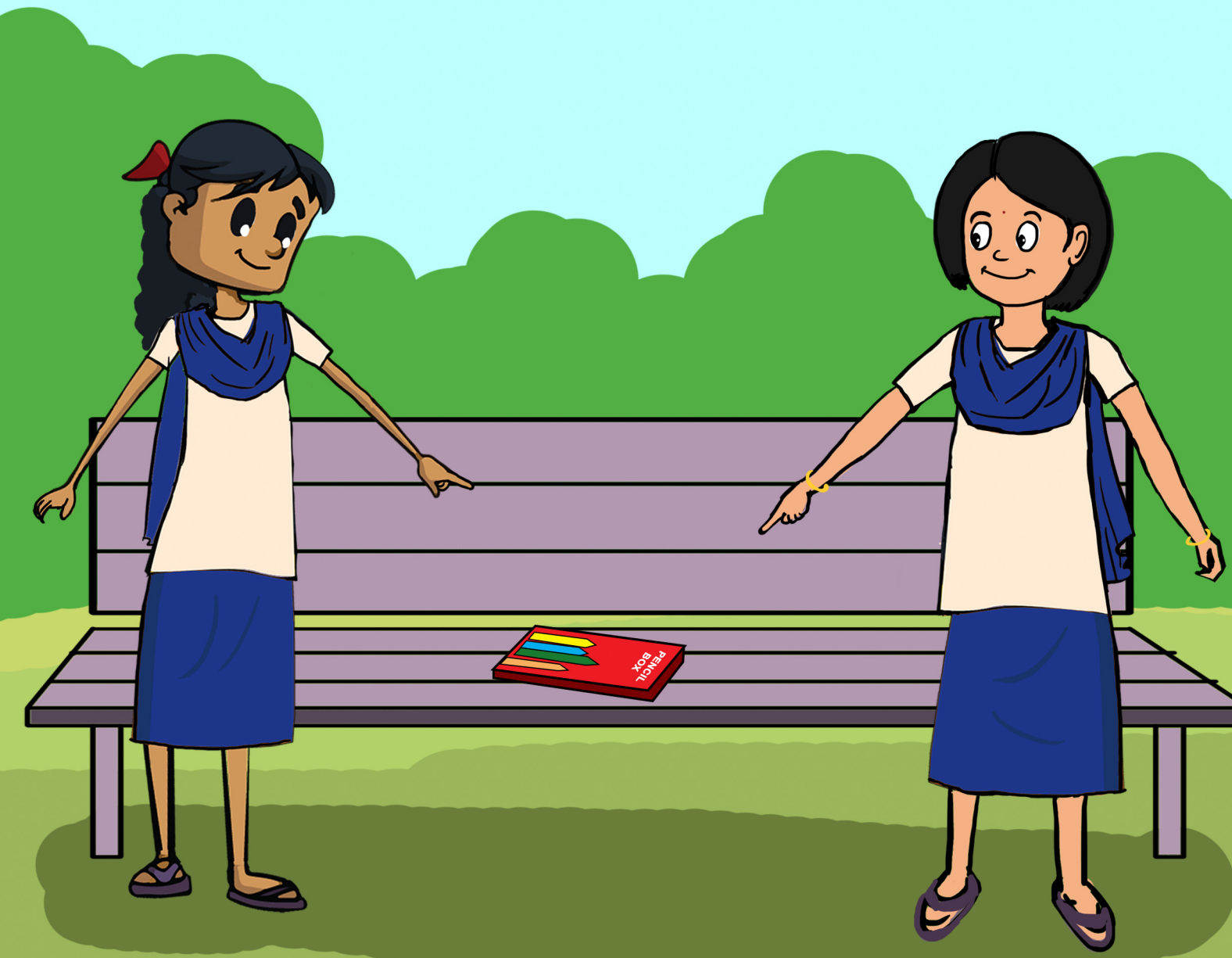


# PinkyLearns that Sometimes Even Known People Can hurt Us

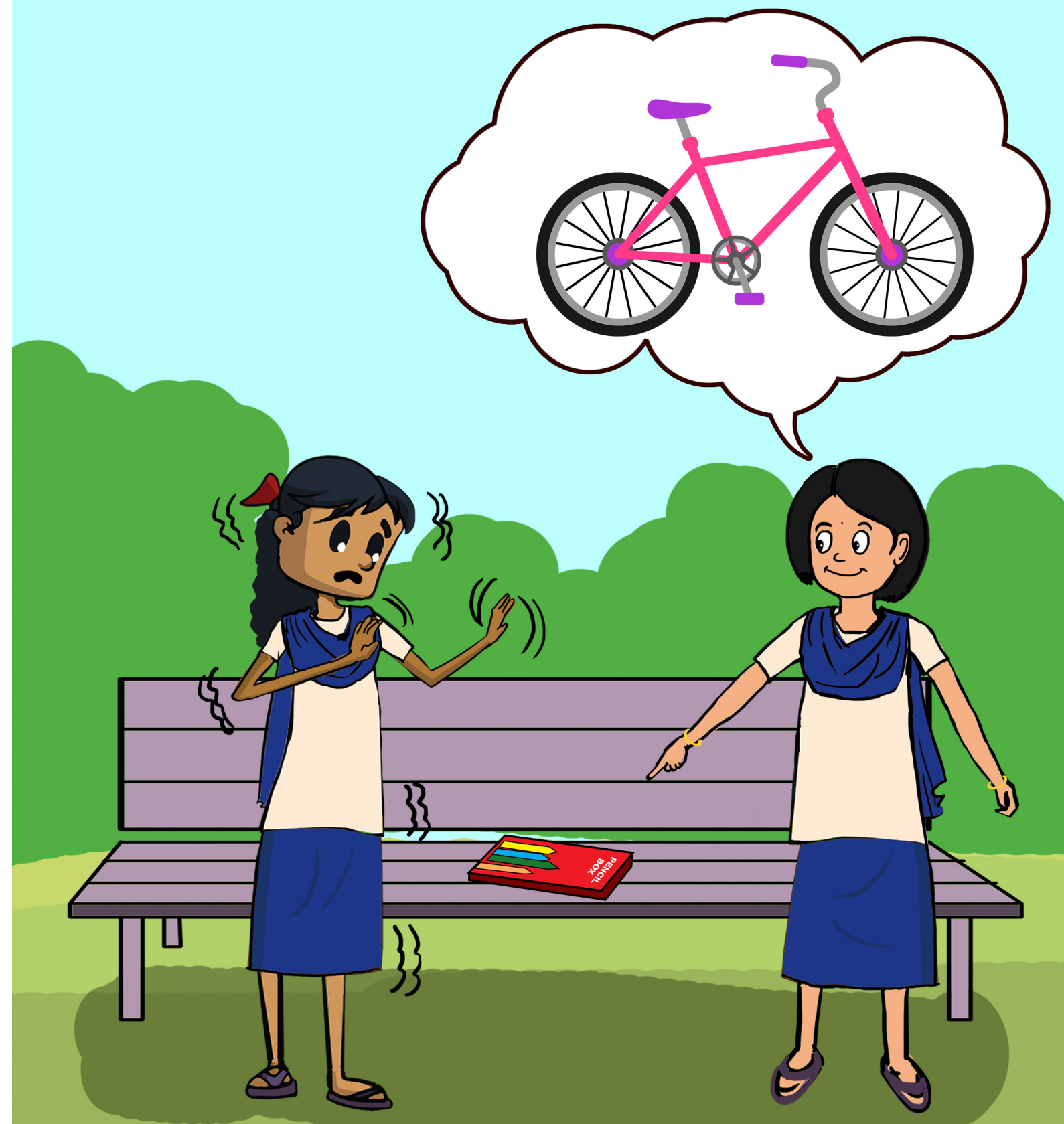




Pinky had a special friend in school. She was called Meena. They were very good friends and sat next to each other in class, did homework together and played all their favourite games together—like hide and seek and hopscotch.



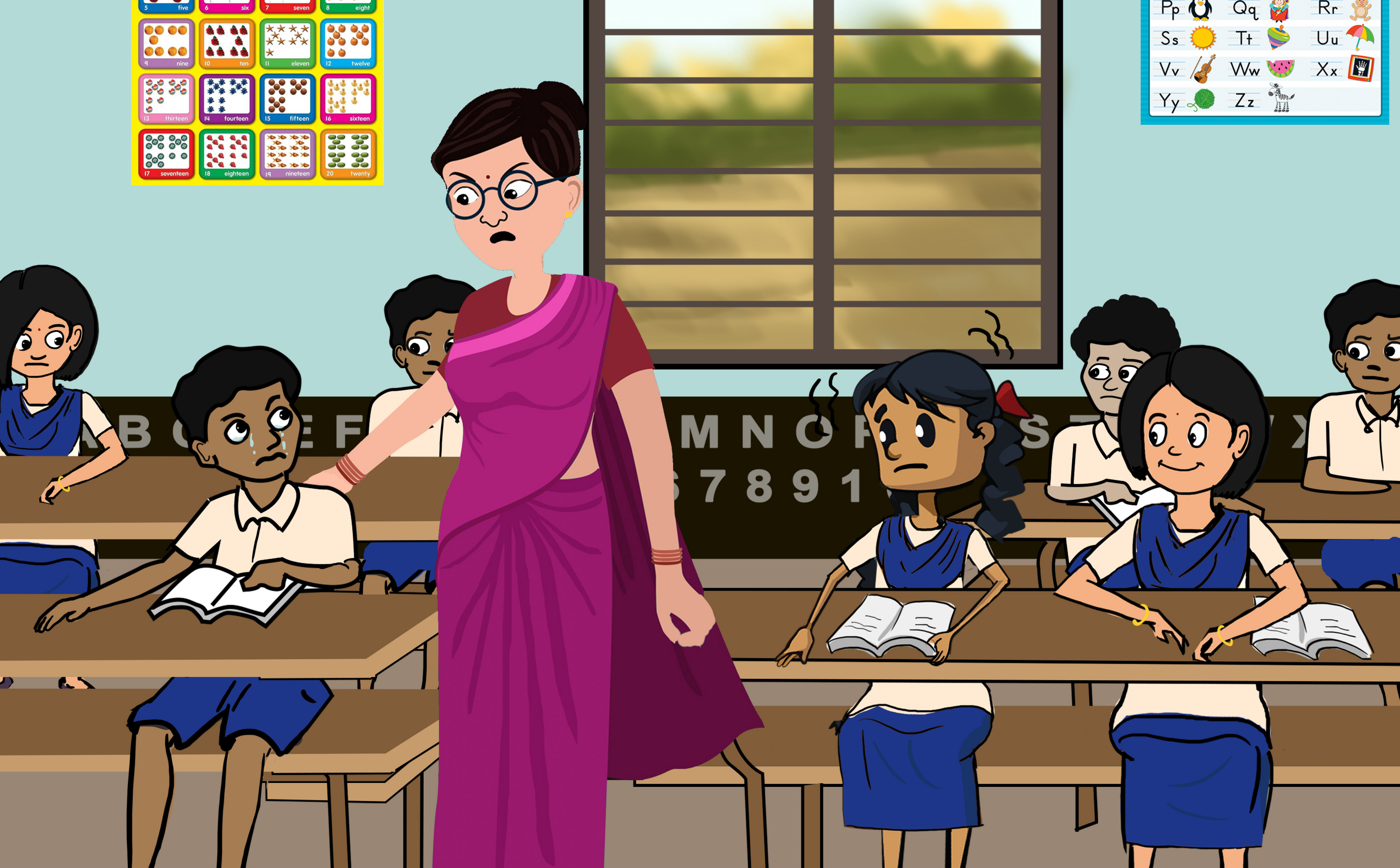
One day, while they were in the school playground, they found a shiny red pencil box on the bench. "I wonder whose pencil box it is...someone has forgotten it and left it here," said Pinky.



"If it has been left here, it belongs to us now...we can take it," said Meena. Pinky was worried. "I don't think so...it does not belong to us...we can't just take what belongs to someone else...and they will be sad without it, no?" she said. "Don't be silly," said Meena. "You worry too much about everything. Just take the box and put it into your bag...and we will see what we can do with it later. If you don't take it, I will not be your friend anymore...if you do what I say, you can ride my new bicycle."



And so, although Pinky did not want to keep the pencil box, she was forced to do so by Meena. Pinky was scared that if she did not obey Meena, then Meena would not be friends with her—and Pinky really wanted Meena to like her and be friends with her.



That afternoon, when they went back to class, Tinku was sitting at his desk and crying. When the teacher asked why, he said that he had lost his new red pencil box—the one that his uncle just gifted him on his birthday—and his mother was going to be very annoyed with his carelessness too.

“Don’t cry”, said teacher. “Let us look for it—we are sure to find it.” The teacher got everyone to search their desks and the classroom.



Pinky, who by then was very scared, took the pencil box out of her bag and handed it to teacher.

When teacher asked Pinky why she had taken Tinku's box, Pinky tried to explain that she had not wanted to, that Meena had forced her to...but when teacher asked Meena, she said "I don't know anything about the pencil box—I have never even seen it before. Pinky is lying."



Pinky was very sad when she went home that day. "I can't believe that Meena got me into trouble," she cried to her mother. "Meena is supposed to be my friend. Doesn't she care about me? Why did she make me do bad things and tell lies?"

"Most people whom we know, especially those who are our friends are good and trustworthy people. But sometimes even people we have known for a long time, and think are our friends may not be good or trustworthy—just like Meena turned out to be," said her mother.

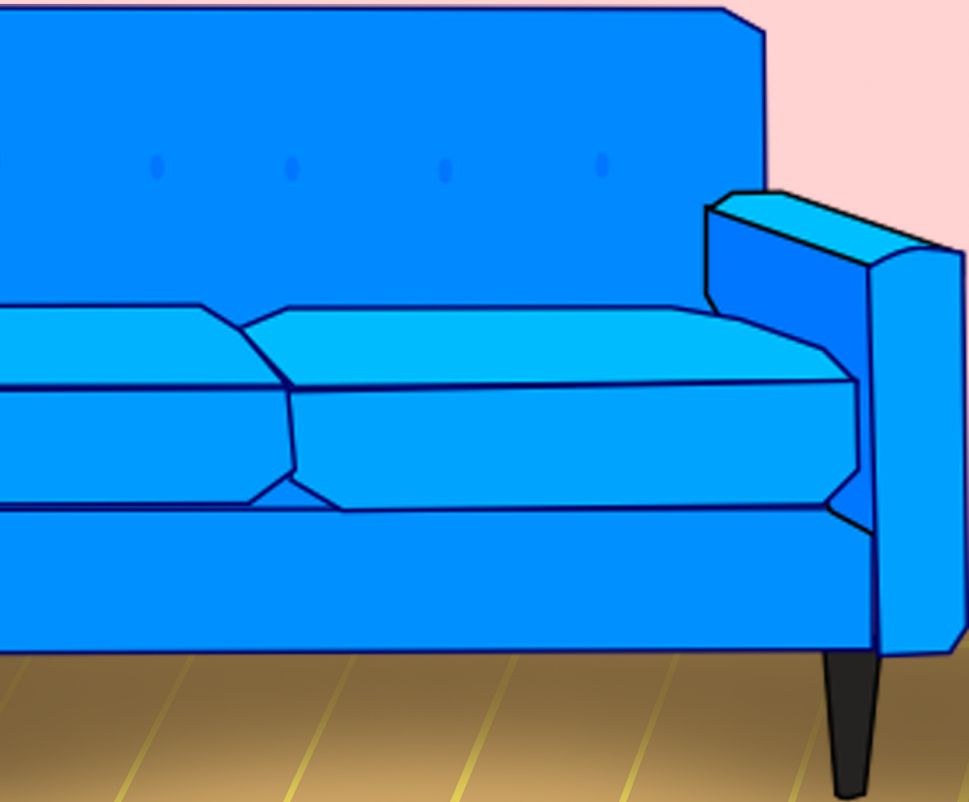


"But how do we know when not to trust someone?" asked Pinky.

"Anyone who tells you to steal something or do anything that will hurt either you or someone else could not possibly be telling you something good...and so you know that person is not good and trustworthy," answered her mother.

"And if someone tells me to do bad things, like Meena did, what should I do?" asked Pinky.

"You can just come and tell me or Appa first...or your teacher or some grown-up you can really trust. And we will help you to deal with the bad person. Now, don't cry any more...I am sure you have other friends to play with whom you can trust—remember not all our friends are bad and untrustworthy. I will talk to your teacher tomorrow to explain what happened with Meena, I am sure she will understand."



"Ok Amma, I am glad you are there to help me," said Pinky wiping her eyes. "Of course I am...and I always will be," said her mother, hugging Pinky.



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