HOW RAJU RESCUED GOLDIE

Raju lived with his parents and a little sister in a small house near a very busy street. He was 10 years old. He had a cat named Goldie.

Goldie was very young and yet to explore the spaces around Raju's house. Raju was often worried that if Goldie went outside the house, she would get lost. He would often get up in the night to check if she was there or not.

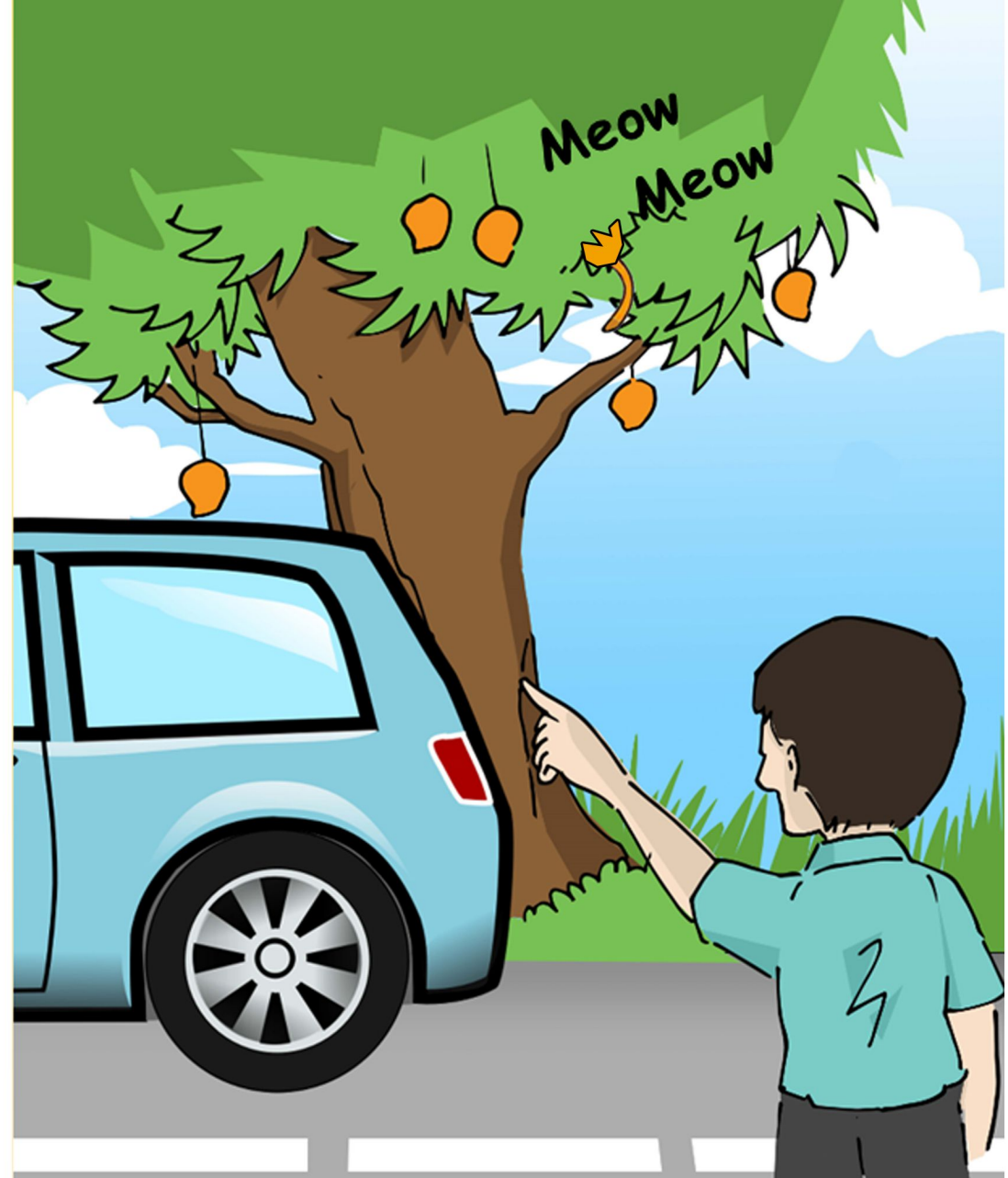He would often get up in the night to check if she was there or not.

One day, when he was away at school, someone had left his front door open, and Goldie went missing.

He came home from school and heard from his sister that his cat was gone.

He was very worried.

He looked for her around his house, searching everywhere…in the neighbour's compound, in the dark corners, in the bushes, even in the drains. But he simply could not find her.

Just as he was about to give up, he heard a small 'meow' sound. He ran excitedly towards the sound...Goldie was somewhere nearby! O there she was...on the branch of a mango tree outside his gate, across the street.
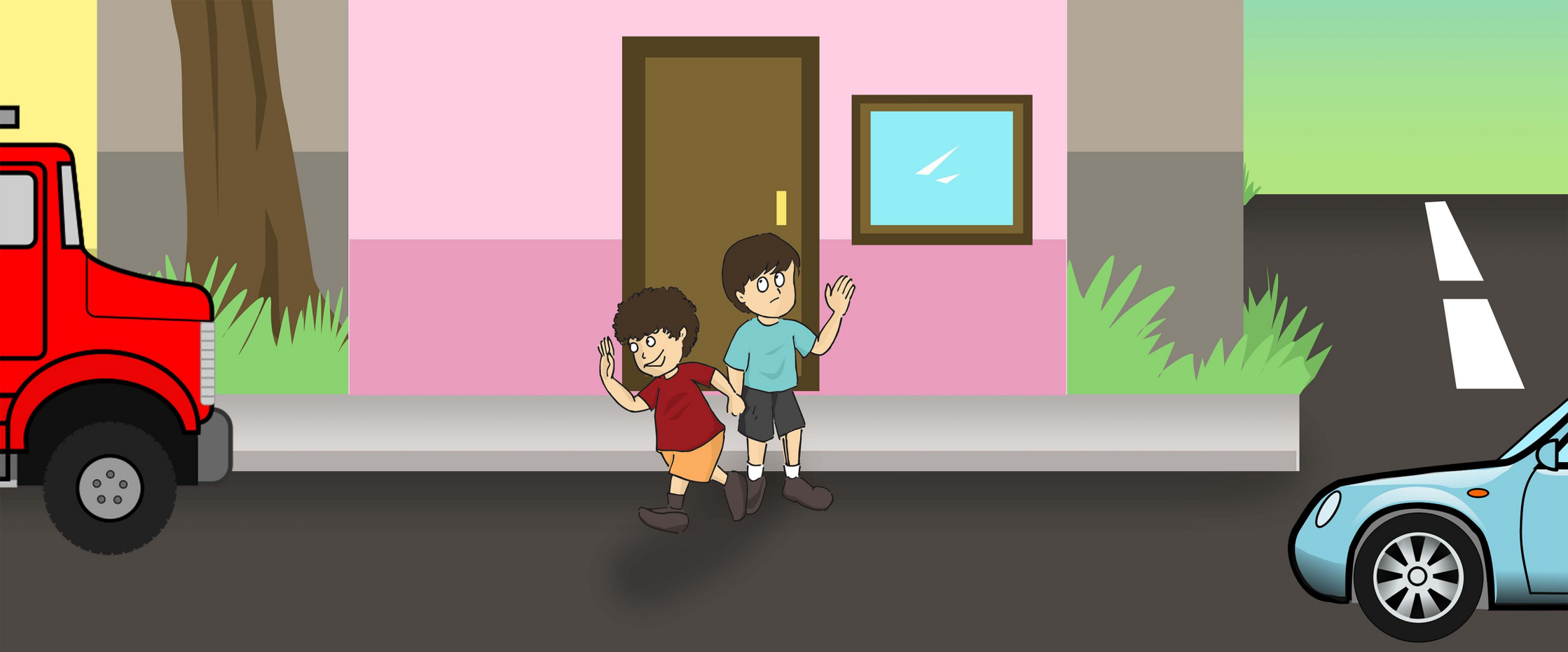
He realized that she had climbed up the tree but did not know how to get down. He was very relieved to see her, but there was only one problem—how to bring her back? The tree was across the busy street, filled with traffic, and Raju had always been scared to cross that street. Raju waved anxiously to Goldie trying to reassure her that he was there and that he would rescue her, but all the while worrying about how he would do so.

Just then, his friend Ali came by and saw Raju looking worried.

"Hello, Raju, why do you look so worried?" asked Ali. Raju pointed to Goldie and told him he

was scared to cross the road but he had to somehow do so to bring his pet home.

"Don't worry, Raju, I will help you", said Ali. "We will cross the road to-gether...it is not difficult...first you look to the right and make sure no ve-hicle is coming too close...and then you look to the left and do the same. You can even put your hand out to say 'stop' to the vehicles." And so, Ali took Raju's hand and helped him to cross the road.

Once they were across the road, Raju ran towards the mango tree and leapt up on its branches. You see, although Raju found it difficult to cross the road, he was really good at climbing trees! And so he climbed quickly up to the high branch where Goldie was stuck, and carefully carried her down.

"Wow, Raju, I didn't know you were so good at climbing trees...and you are brave to climb so high...I would be scared to do that," said Ali. Raju was happy when he realized that he was good at something.

"Do you want me to help you cross the road again to go back home?" asked Ali.

"No, I think I can manage now—thank you for showing me how to do it the first time," said Raju.

Although a little nervous, he held tightly onto Goldie and crossed the road to go home.
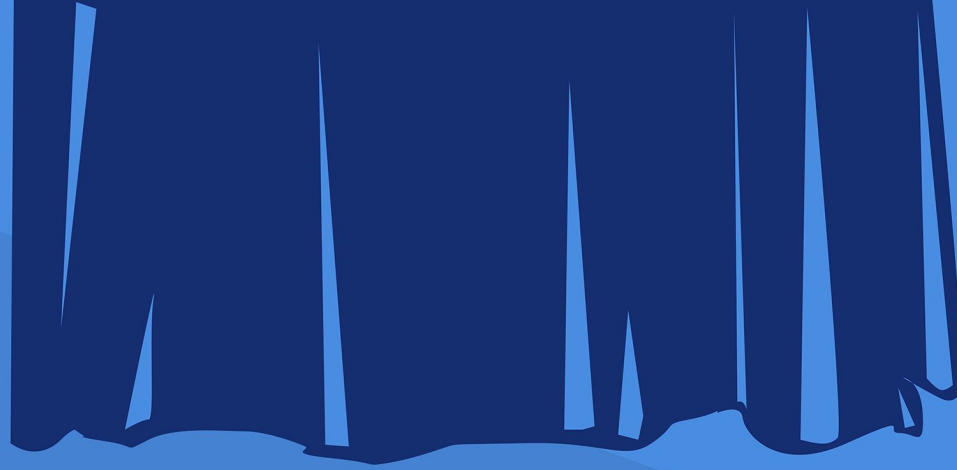
Later that night, Raju told his mother what had happened. "I felt bad that I could not cross the road...and so I was scared, Amma," Raju said.

"Everyone may not be good at everything but everyone is good at something," said Amma. "You are good at climbing trees even if you are scared to cross the road. But today, you learnt to cross the road and although you were scared, you did it...which shows that you are very brave."

Raju went to bed happy and proud because not only was he good at something but he had been brave enough to get over his fear and learn something new.

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