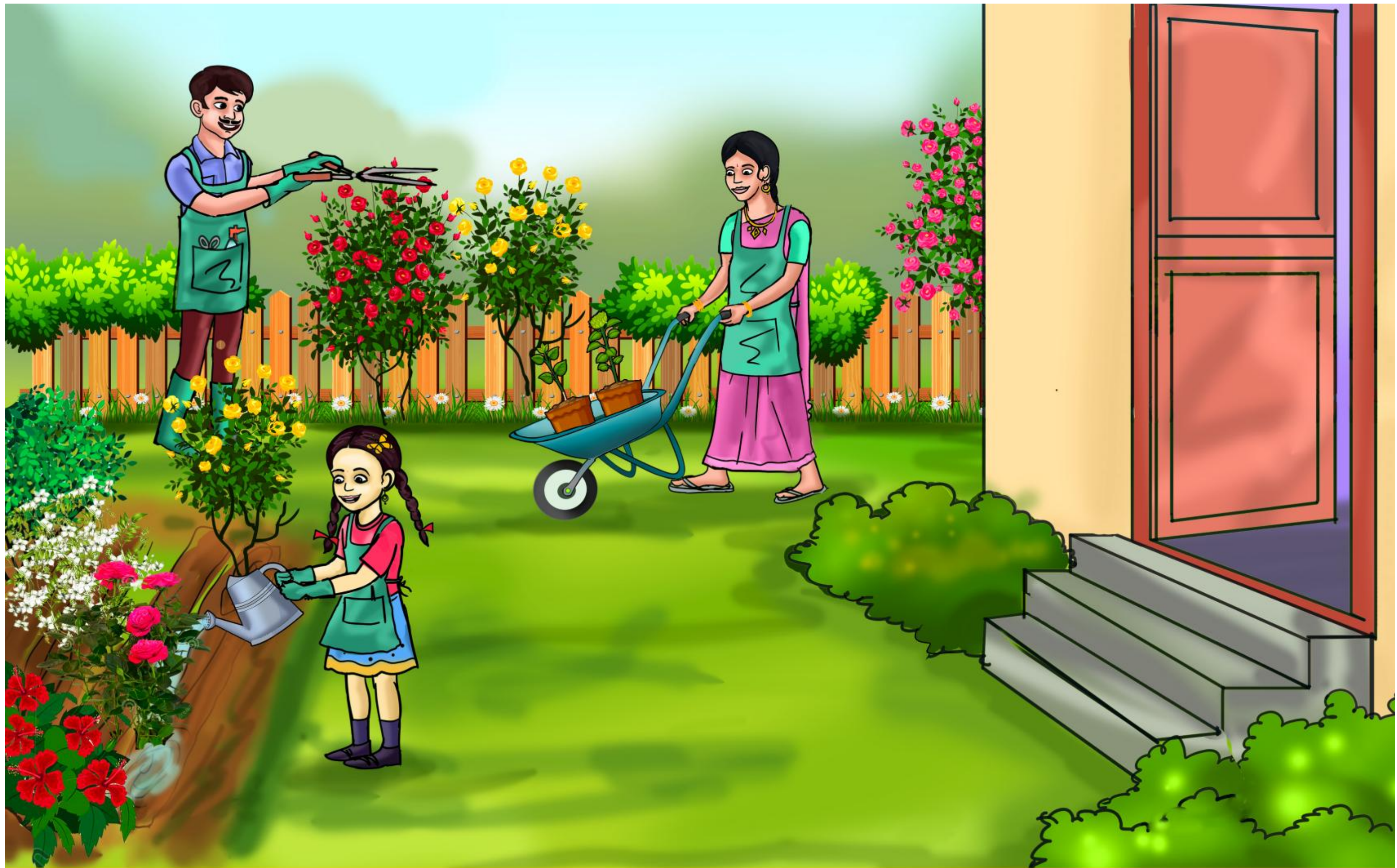


'Leela Learns about her family'



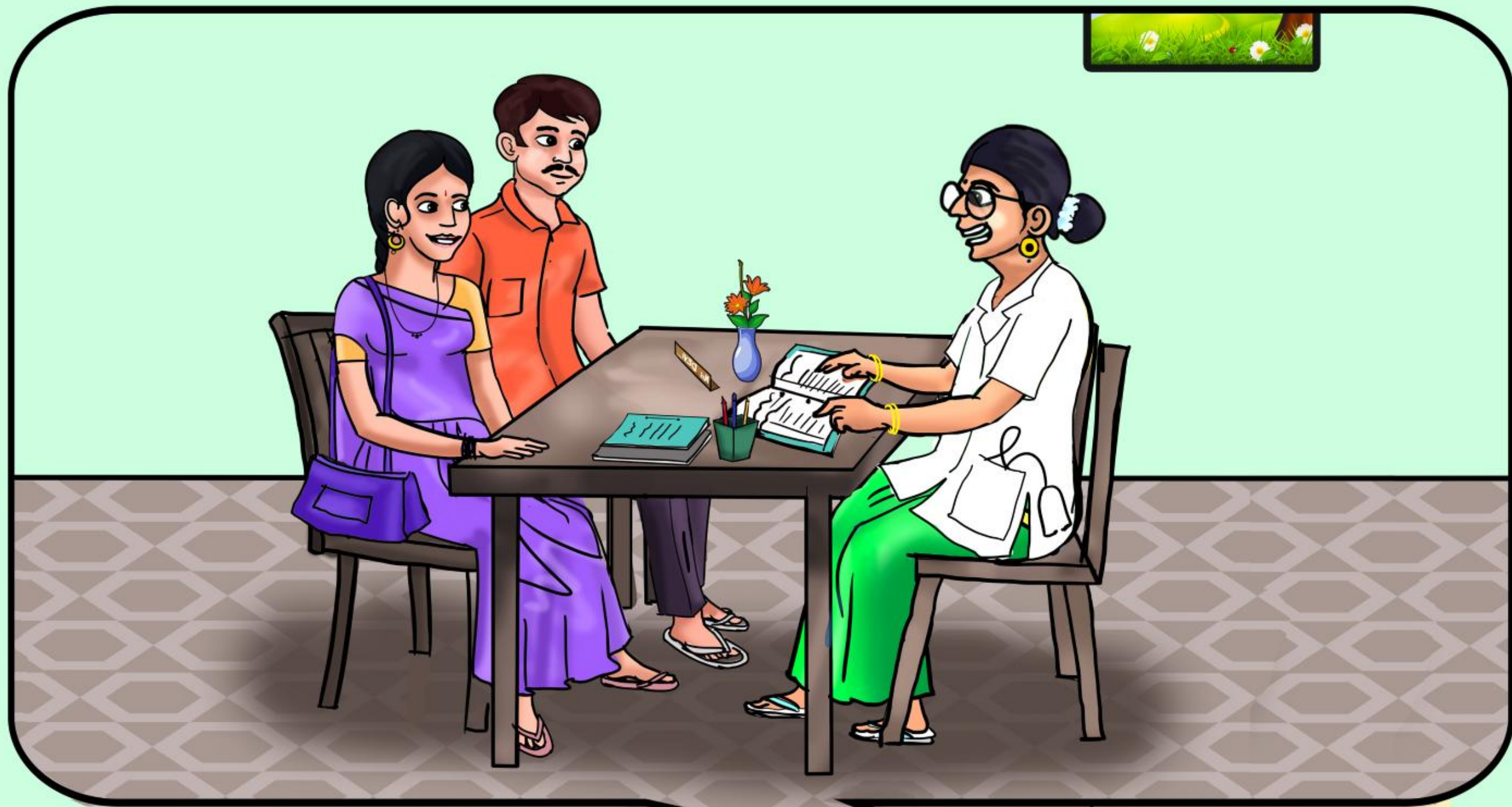


Once upon a time, there was a girl called Leela. She lived with her parents, in a house with a large garden. She loved working in the garden and often helped her mother and father to mow the lawn water the plants and do some weeding. Her favourite plants were the flowers; she loved the rose, hibiscus, and jasmine, and tended them carefully everyday.

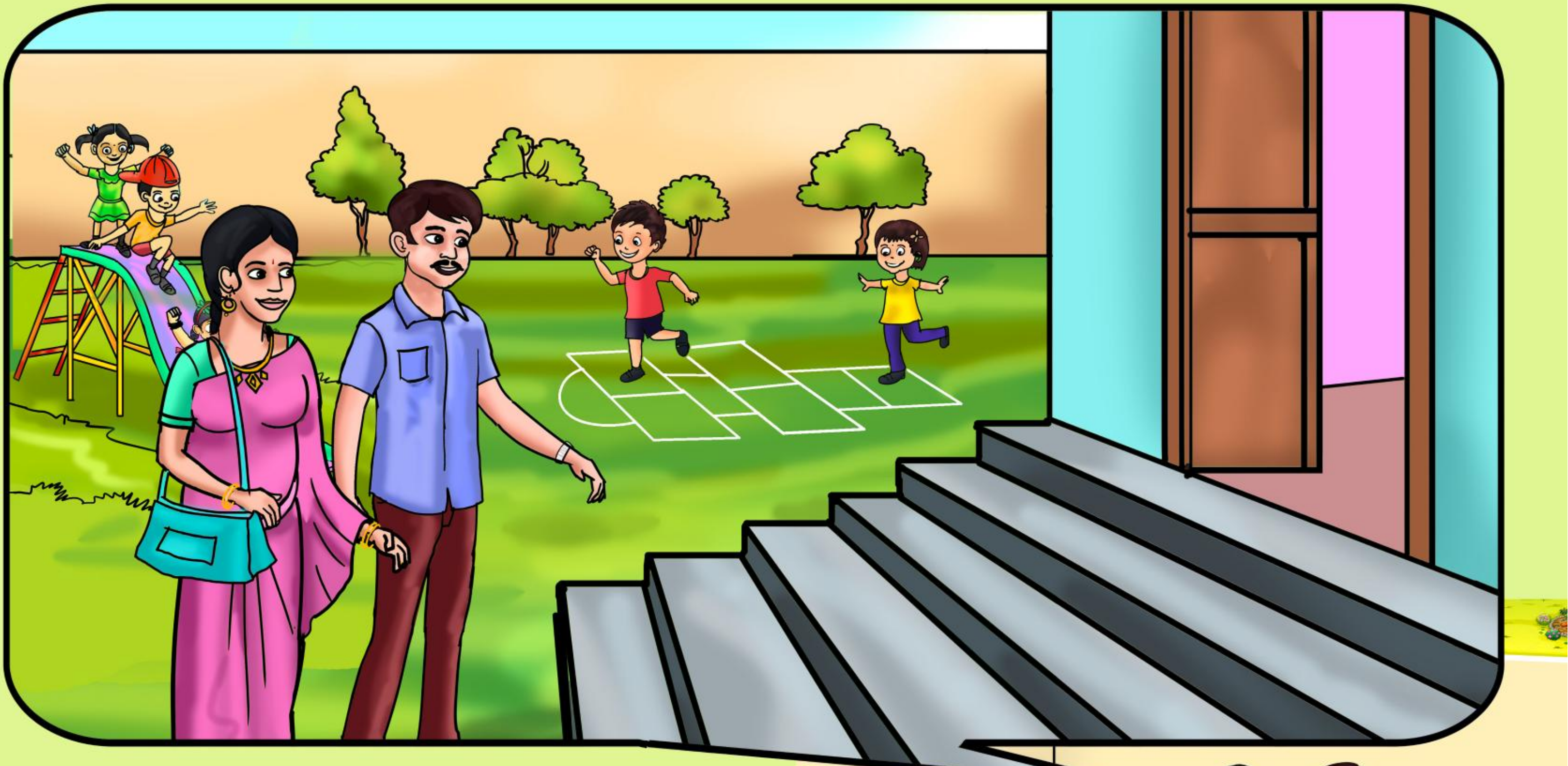


One day, her parents called Leela and said that they wanted to tell her something.
'I have a little story to tell you', said Leela's mother.
It goes like this...once upon a time, there was a family who really wanted a child. But they were not able to have one of their own.

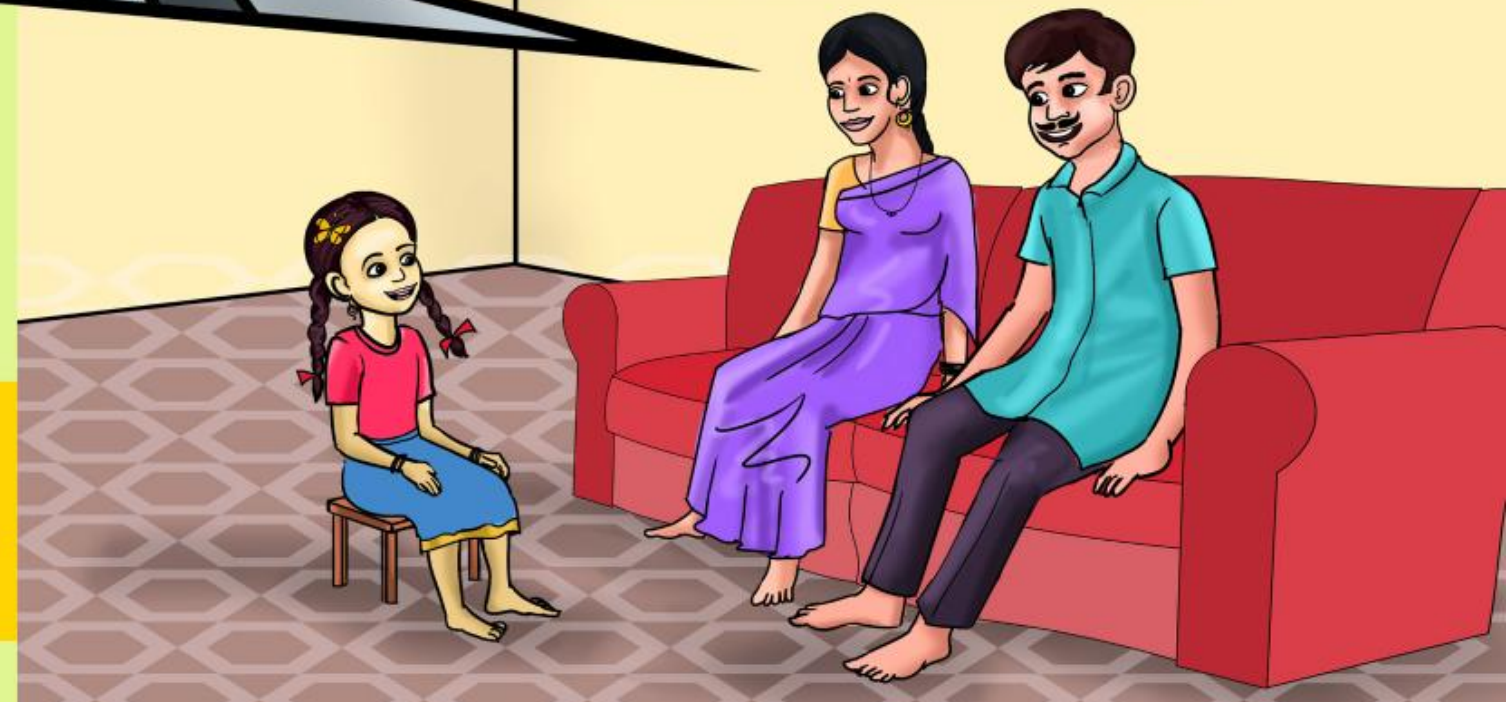




Their doctor told them that there were ways in which such people could have a baby; that there were many children who did not have parents, and who lived in children's homes. She told them that they could make a request to the government to get a baby from such homes.



The government agreed for these two people to become parents, and told them that they could visit a children's home to meet a baby that was in need of a family. So, they decided to go to the children's home to see the baby.

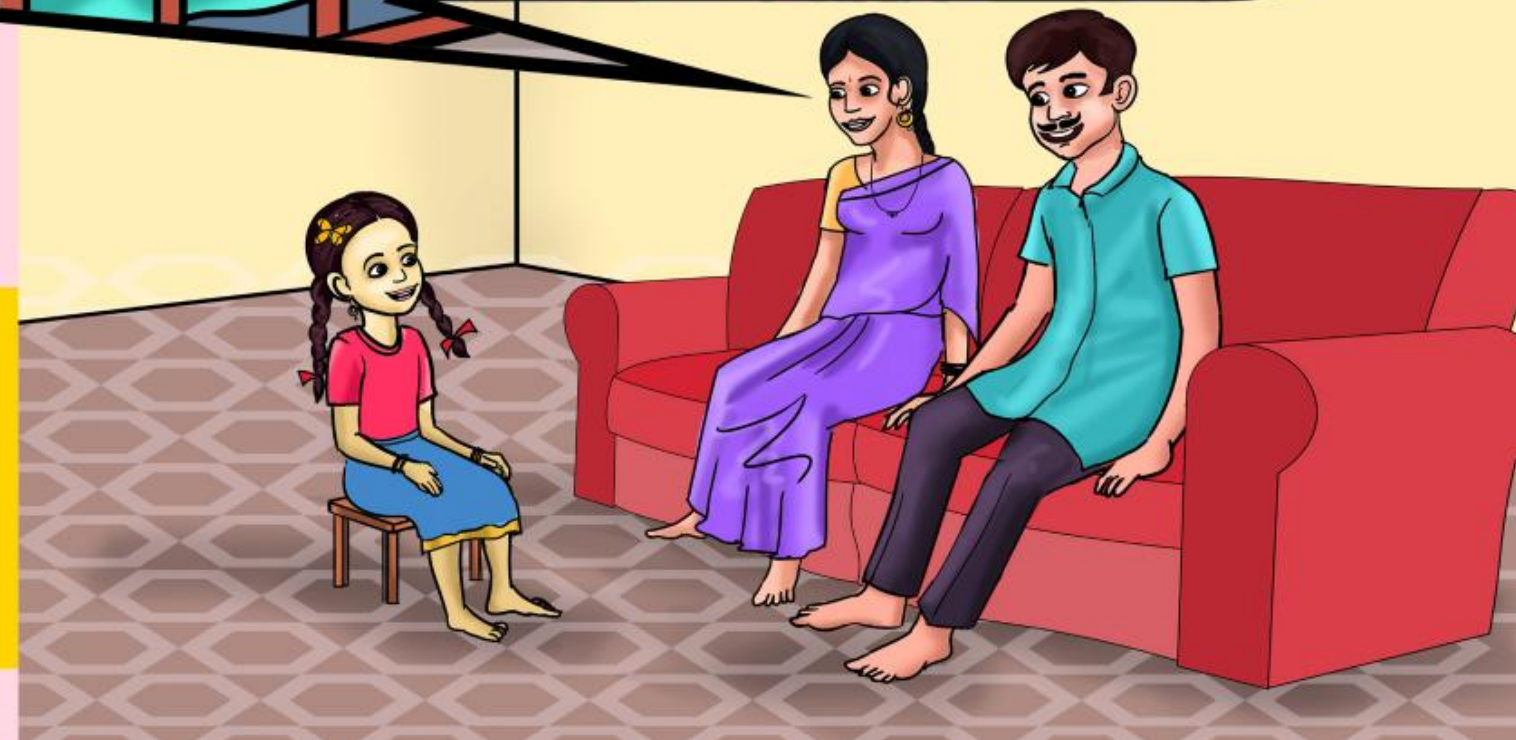


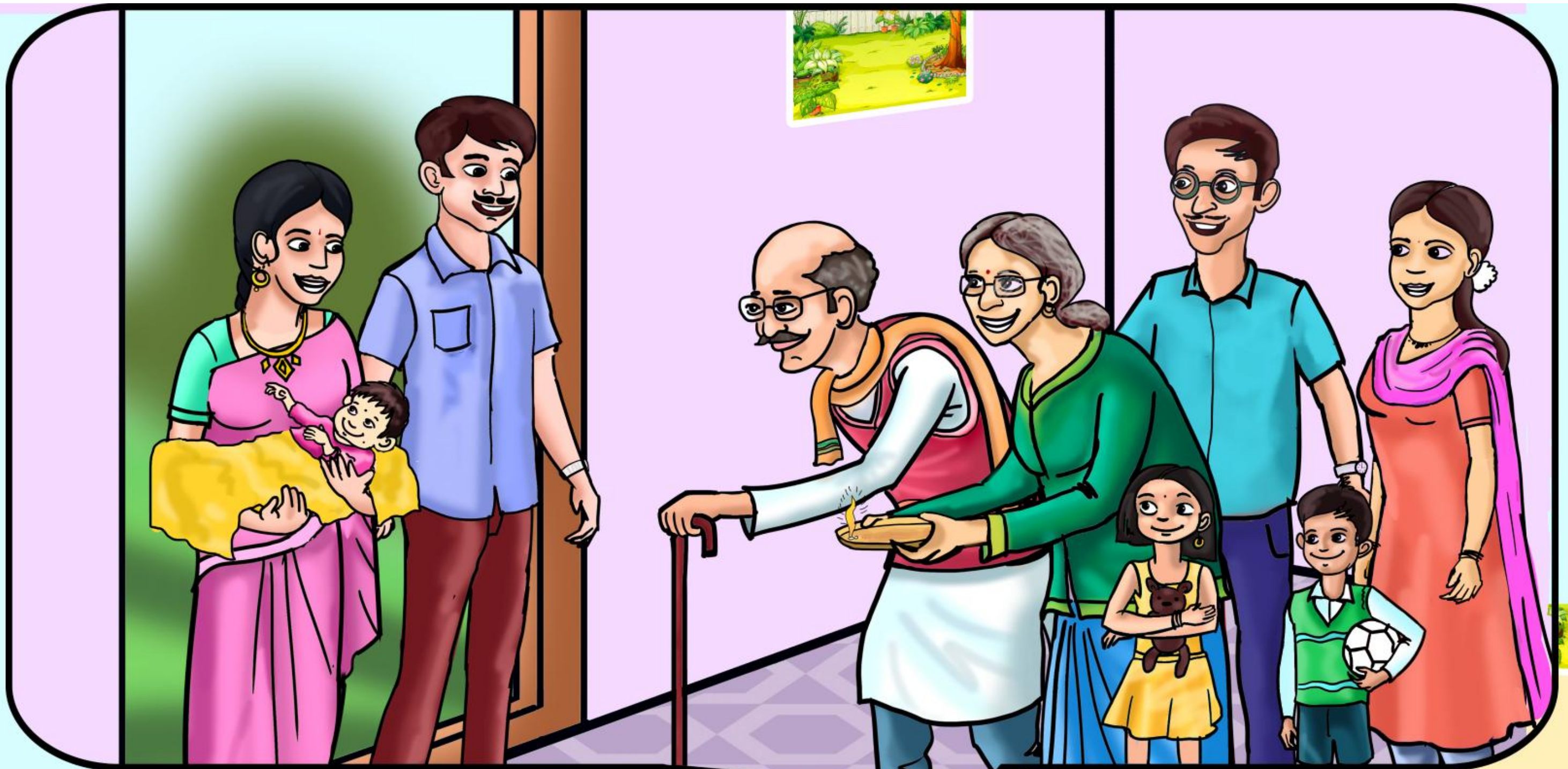


At the home, there were many babies. The caretaker there showed them the baby that wanted a family. She was a beautiful baby girl...the only one who looked up at them and smiled!

"I knew this would be the one...she is special and I want to be her mummy!" said the mother excitedly.

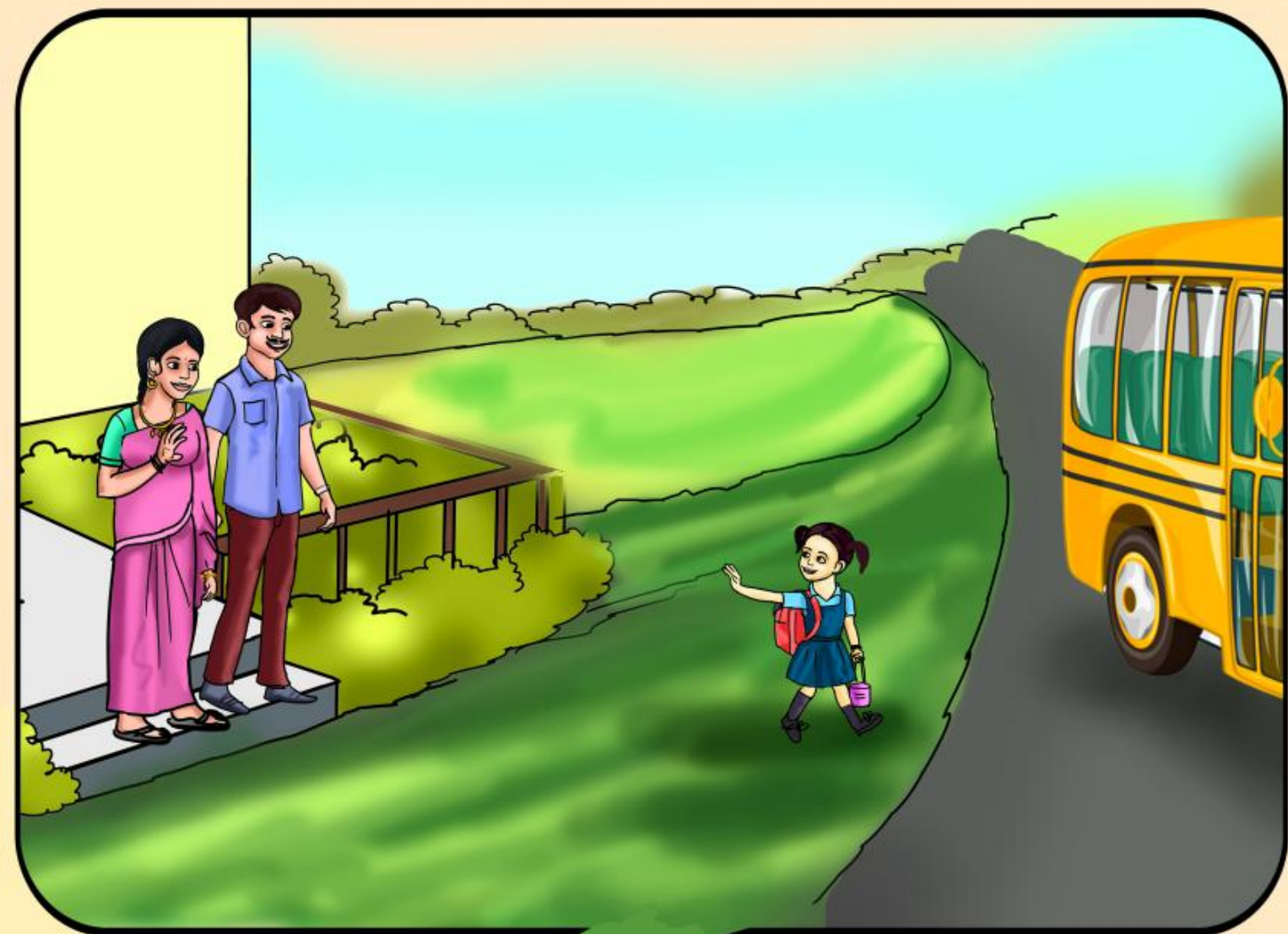
"I hope we can take her to our home soon," said the father, happily.





After some time, the mother and father were able to bring the baby home. There was much celebration upon her arrival... grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins all joyously welcomed the baby to her new home and family.

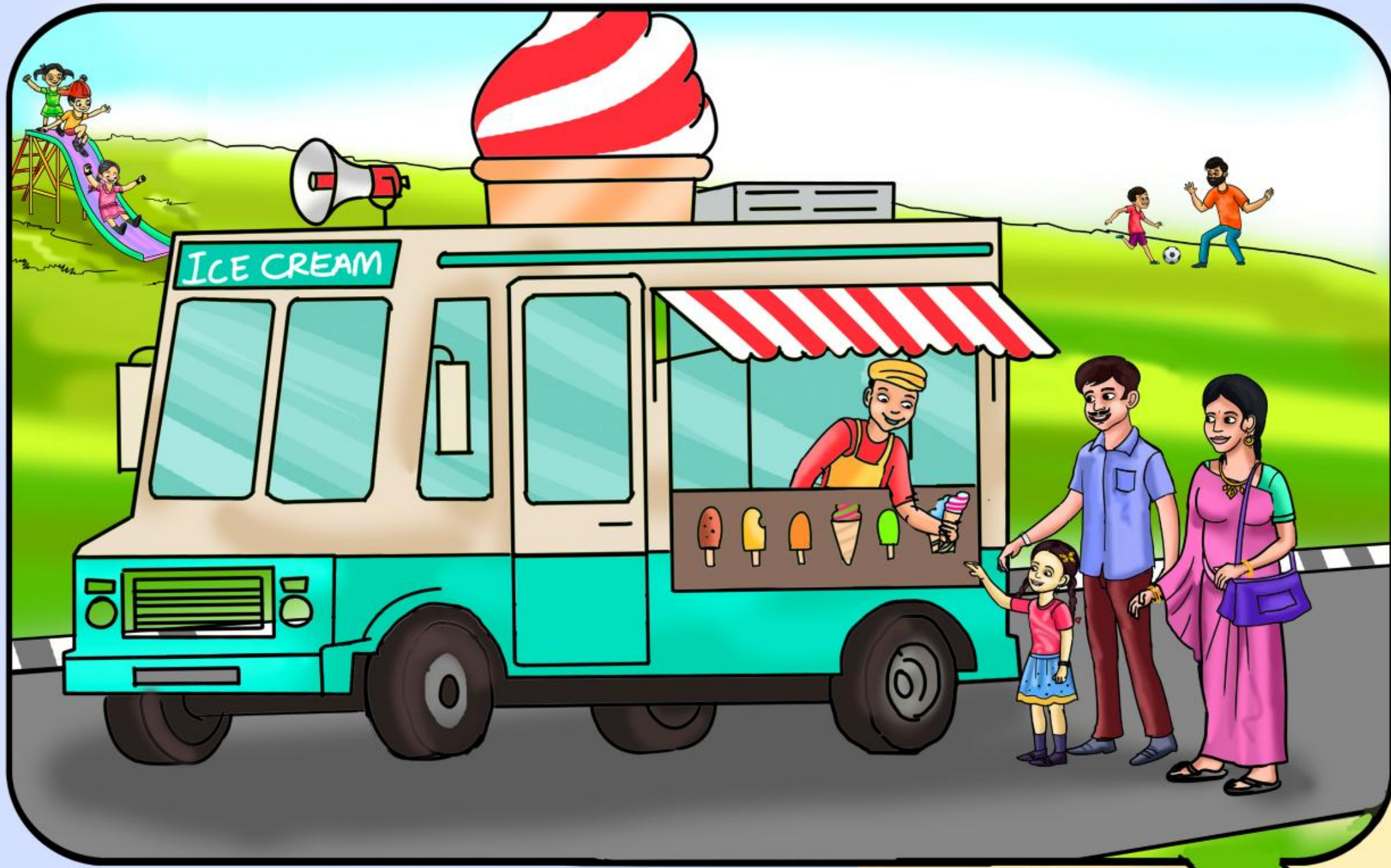




Years passed, the baby grew into a lovely little girl and the family lived on happily. At last they were able to be parents and do the things that parents and children do together, as a family. The mother and father loved being this little girl's parents...playing with her, and sending her to school....



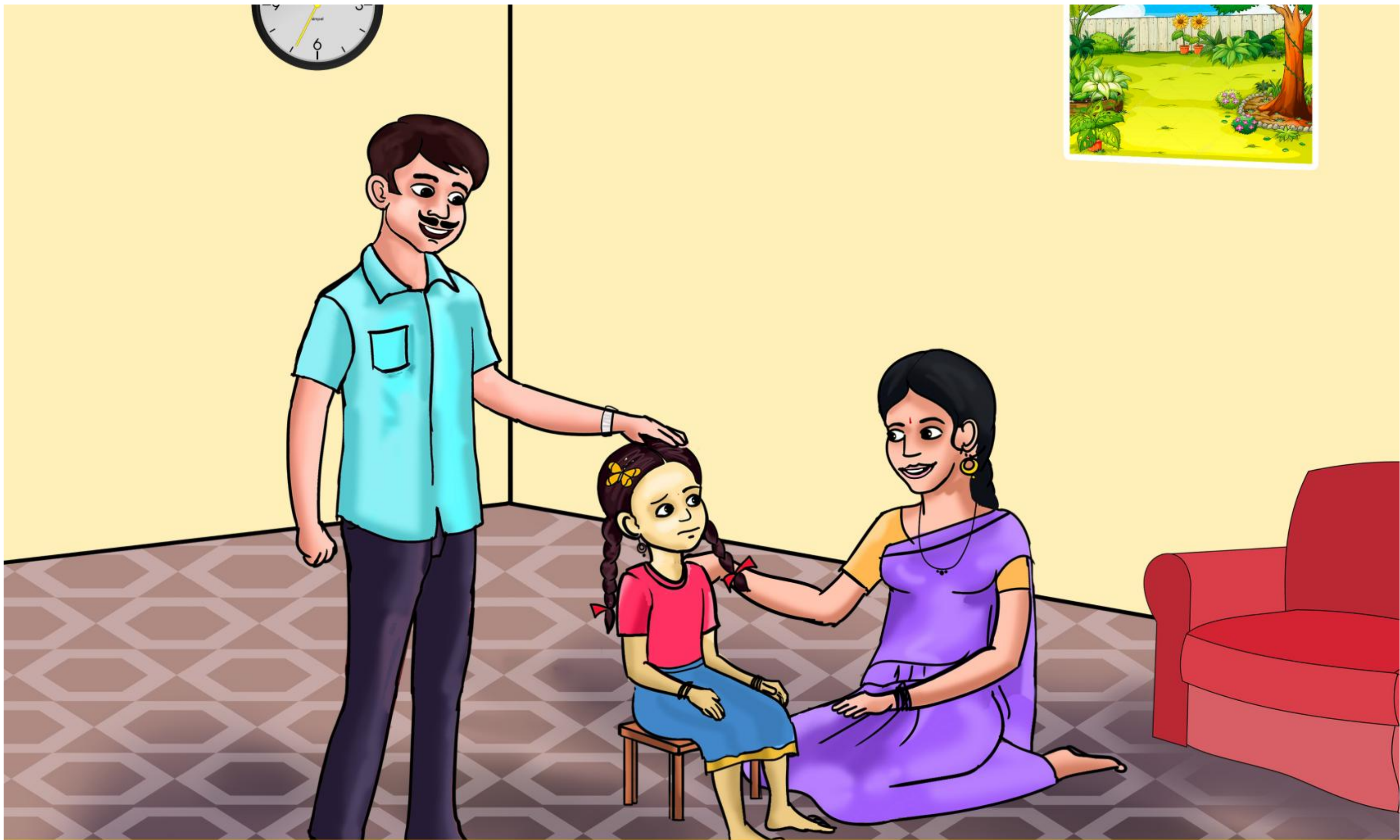
Celebrating festivals...



Going on outings, eating ice-cream...



Then Leela's father said: 'This family is us. That baby girl is you, Leela.'
'And we have been so happy... ever since we have had you', said her mother, hugging her.

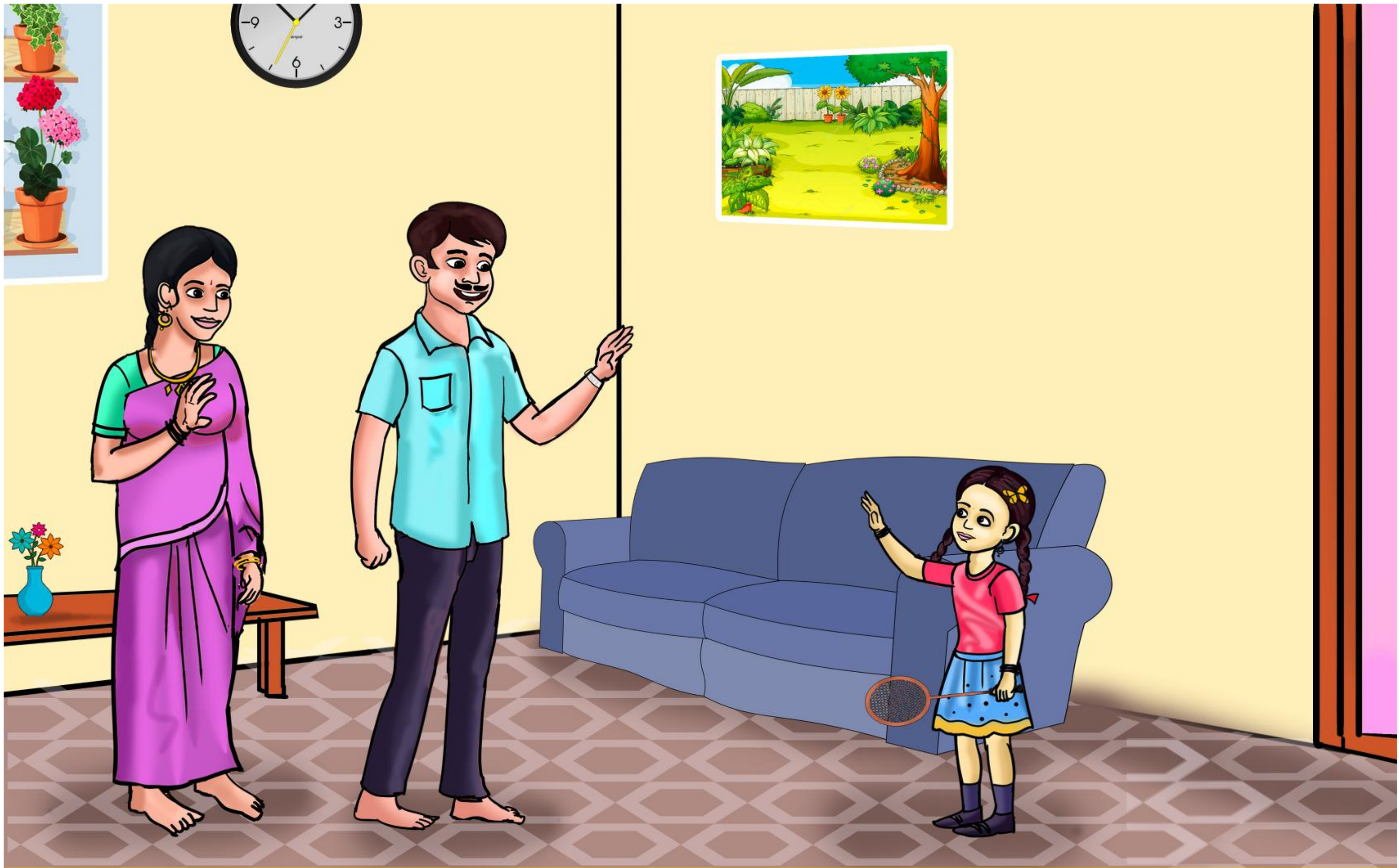


At first, Leela was silent.

"You mean, I am not actually your baby? I was someone else's baby?" she asked.

"You were born to someone else; but darling, you always were and always will be our baby", said Pappa.

"Pappa and I love being your parents...and we love you very much", said Mummy.



'Ok', said Leela. 'I guess I was special and you...and you really wanted me. I love you too.'
So saying, she went off to play with her friends.



A few days after her parents had told her their family story, Leela's mother found her in her room, getting ready to go to play. "Leela, you have forgotten to do many things today—you have not tidied your room and you have not done your homework...didn't you say you have a maths test tomorrow? Aren't you going to study for it?' asked her mother. "I know what I am supposed to do", said Leela, sulkily. "If you know it, then why aren't you studying for it? What will happen if you don't study? There is a test and you are going out to play with your friends!" her mother said.



'I will do what I want...you don't tell me what to do", shouted Leela, angrily. "You are not my real mother and you cannot tell me what to do. I know that you will give me back to the children's home—you don't love me."
Leela's mother silently left the room.

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