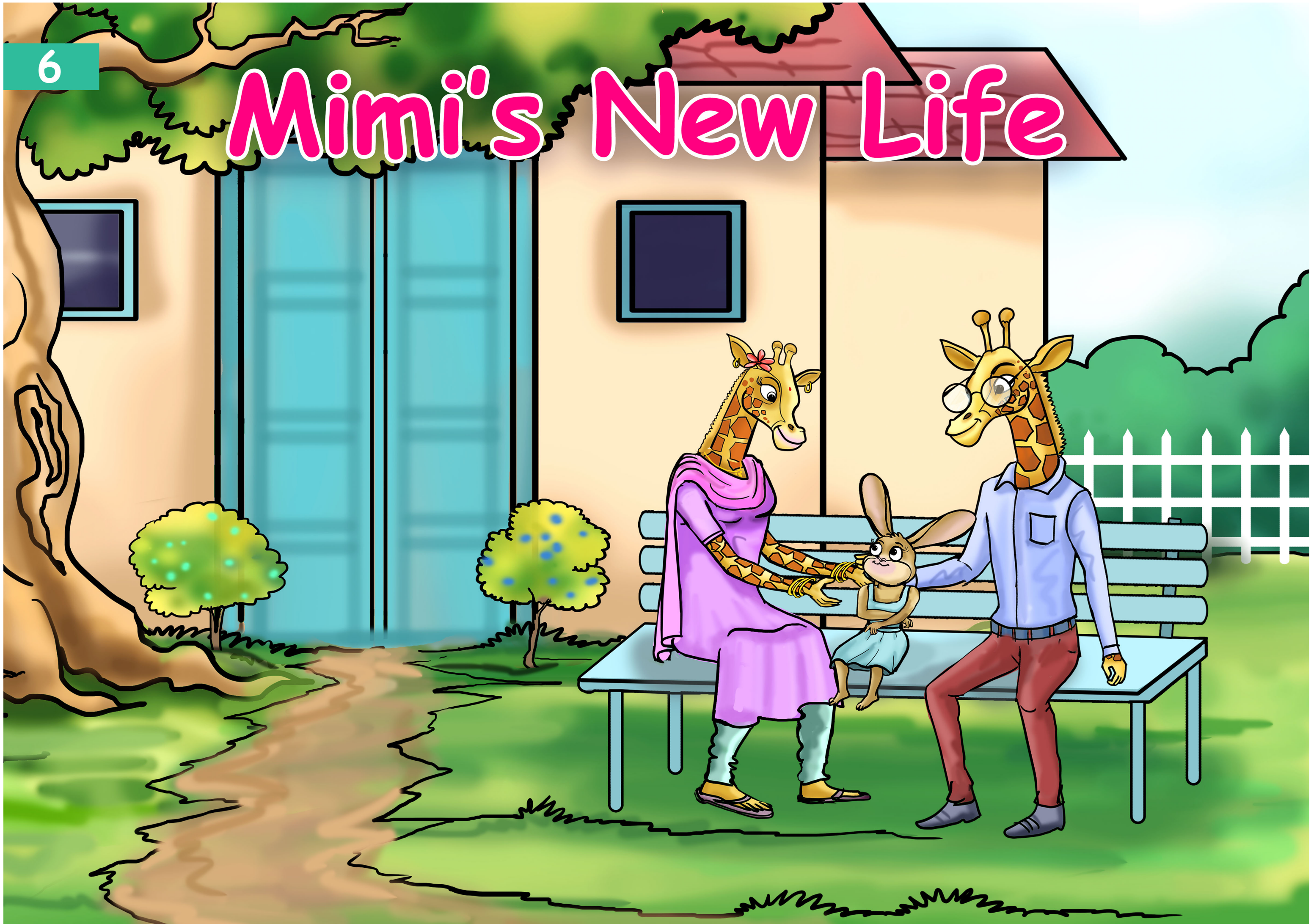
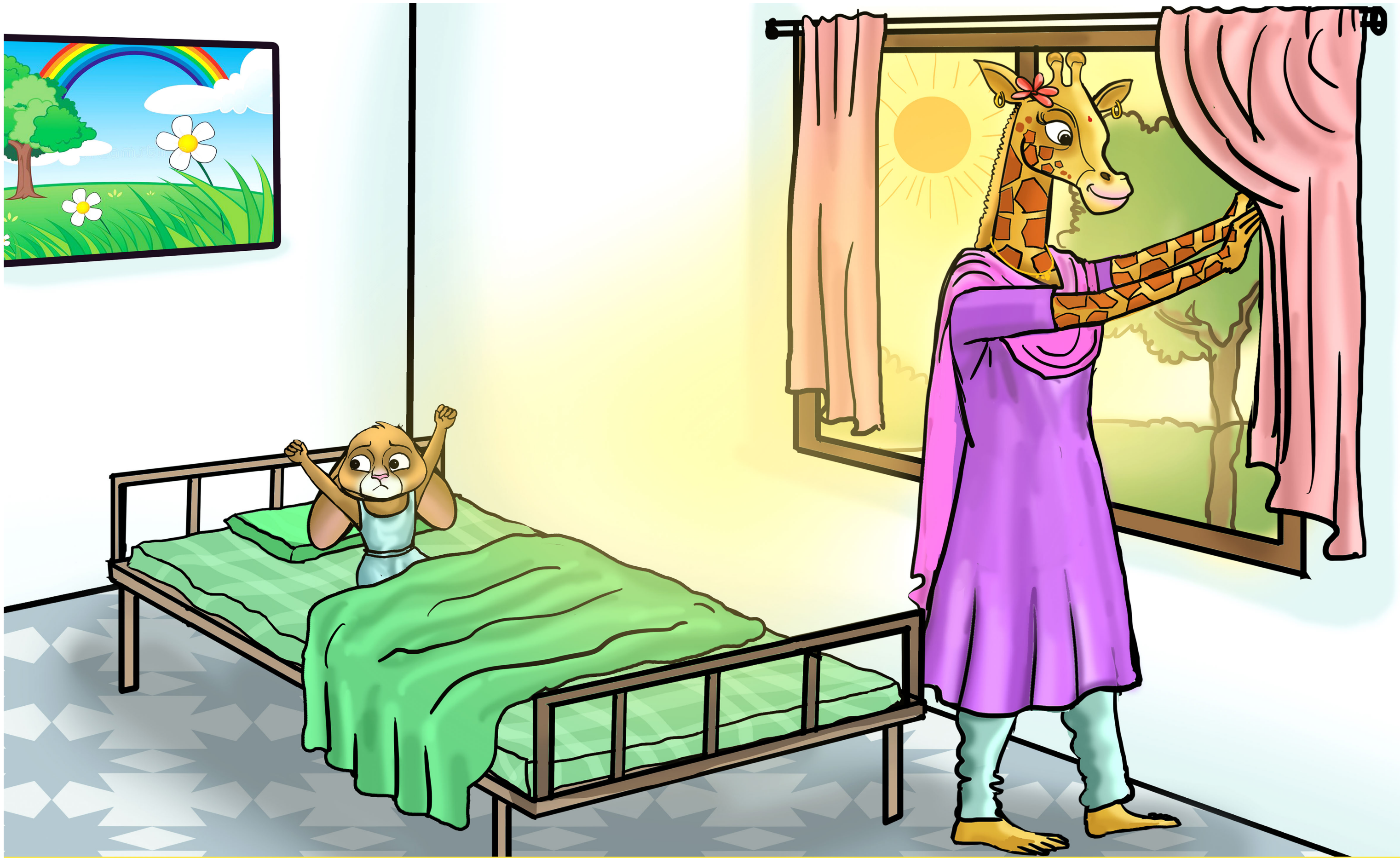


Mimi's New Life





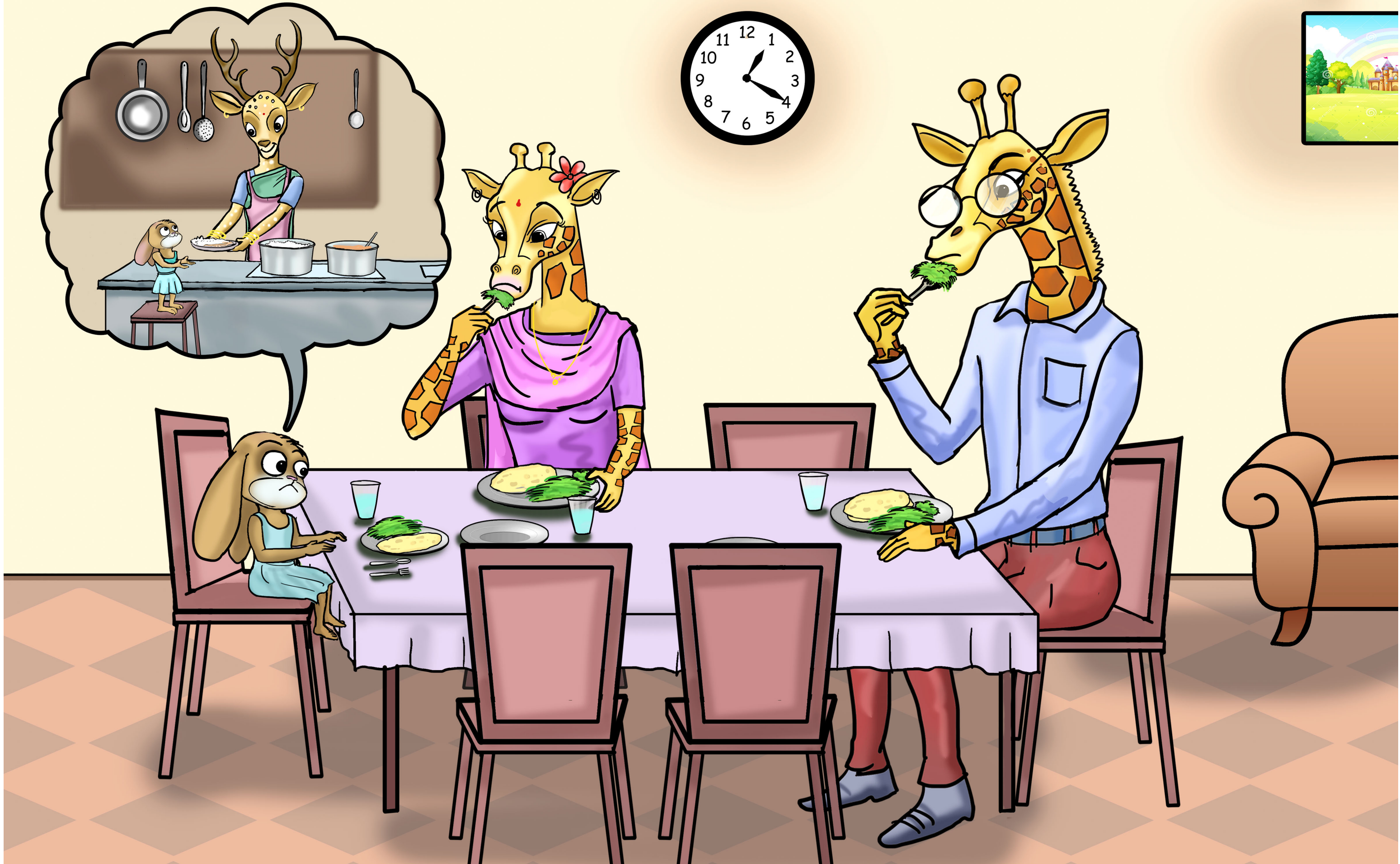
The sun streamed in through the window as Mrs. Giraffe drew the curtains and greeted Mimi who was just waking up in her new room. Where am I, wondered Mimi stretching her arms. She could not see Tingu and Kiki or the bunnies Monty and Bunty in the nearby beds. And then she remembered...she was in her new home, with her new family. She felt lonely without her friends and had been scared to sleep alone last night, in what felt like a strange bed.



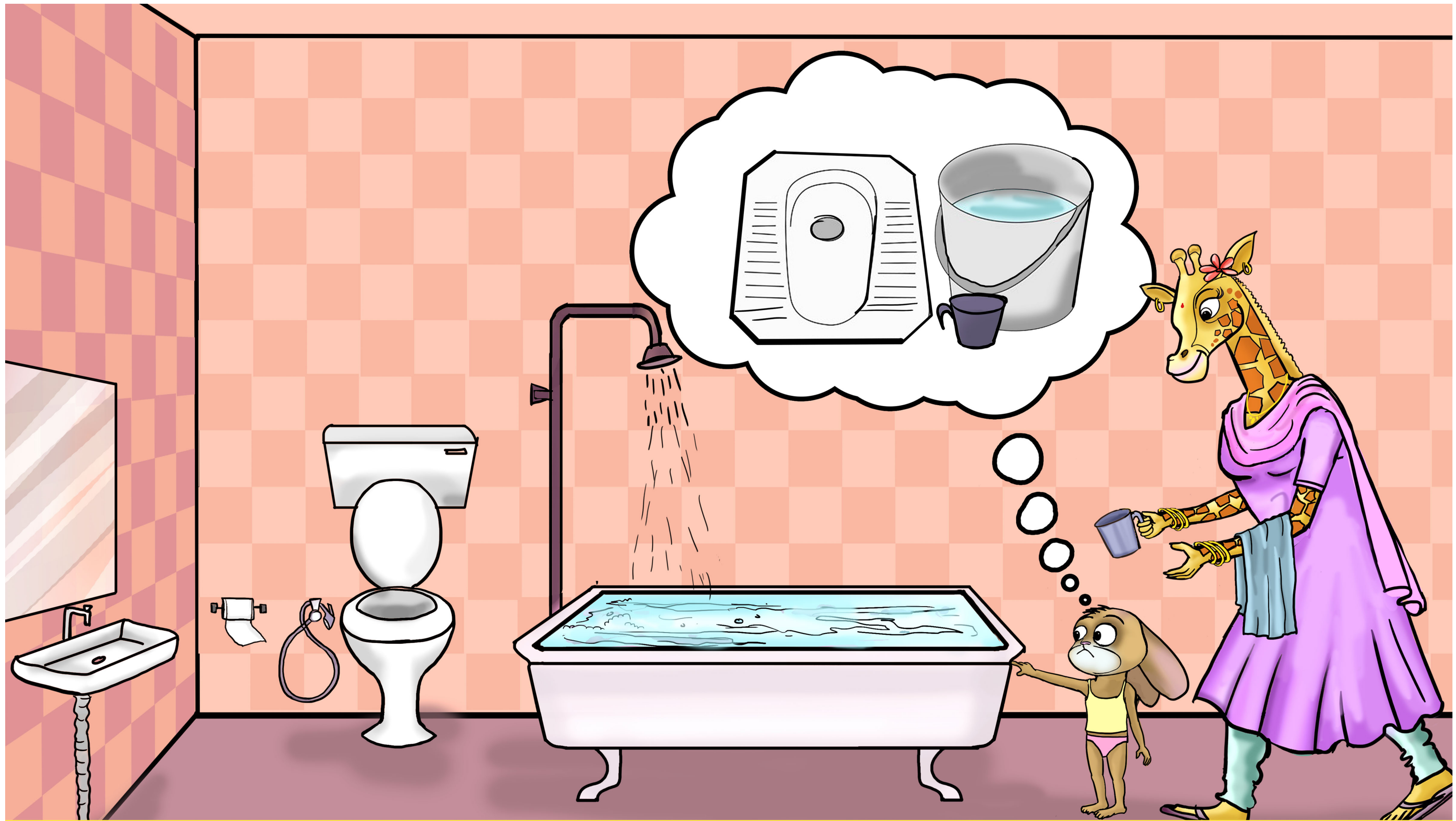
."Good morning, Mimi", said Daddy Giraffe as Mimi came to the table.

"Eat some breakfast with us...here's some toast and eggs", said Mummy Giraffe, putting a plate before her.

"I don't eat bread...back home, Mrs. Deer used to make us porridge" said Mimi, pushing her plate away.



At lunch too, Mimi refused to eat any food because the Giraffes had made chapatti .
"Mrs. Deer makes rice and dal", said Mimi. "That's what I eat for lunch...not chapatti--I don't like it."
She also noticed that they used spoons and forks, which she did not know how to use--she could only eat with her hands.



The biggest worry Mimi had was the toilet.

The bathrooms were so different in Mrs. Bear's Home! There, buckets and mugs were used for a bath.

But at the Giraffe's home, there was a funny looking tap high on the wall from which water gushed out and one stood under it to bathe.

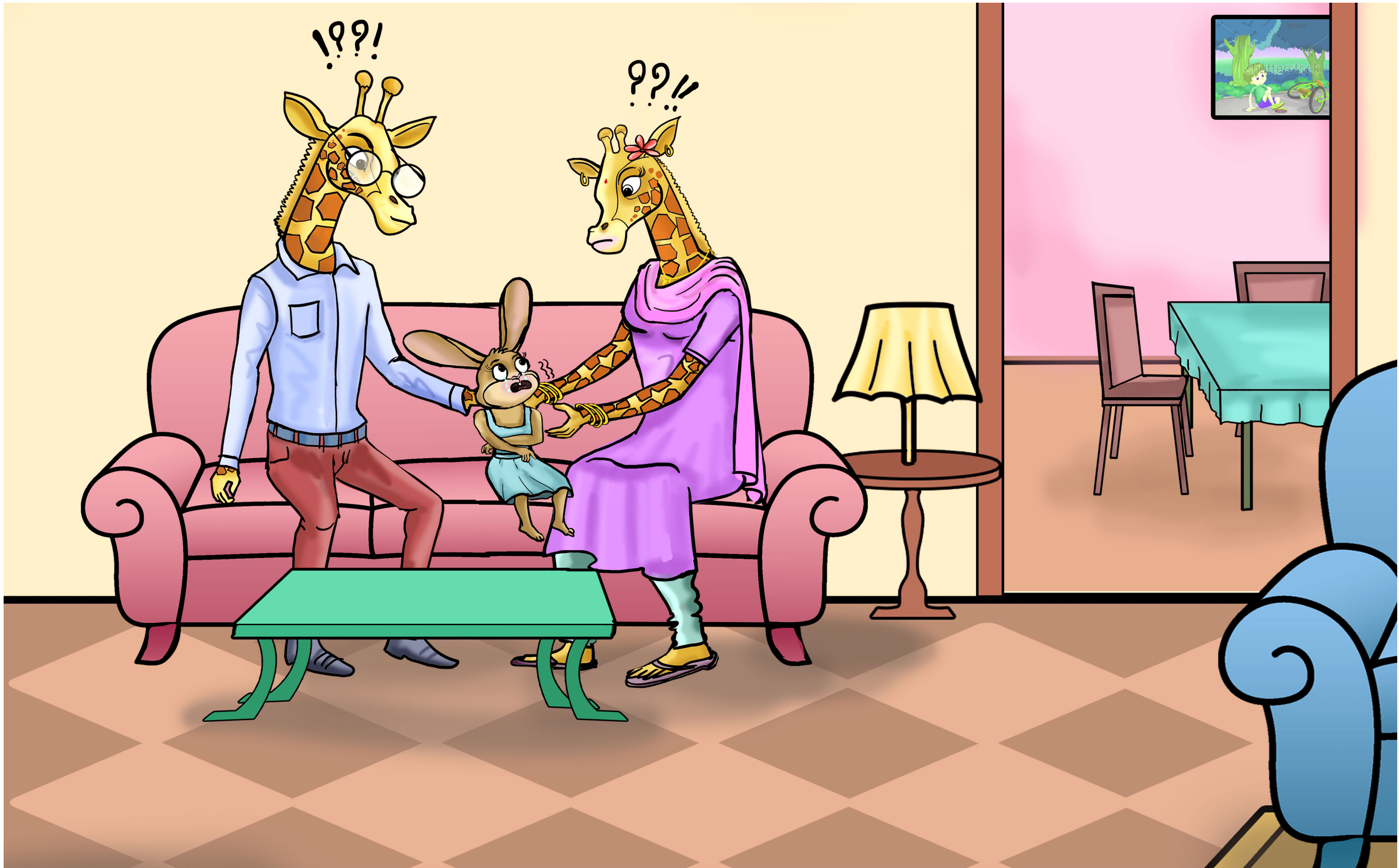
They called it a 'shower' and Mimi found it scary when the water burst out of it.

And Mrs. Bear's bathroom had a pit in the floor to pee and poop into—but the Giraffe's home had a funny sort of chair with a hole in it.

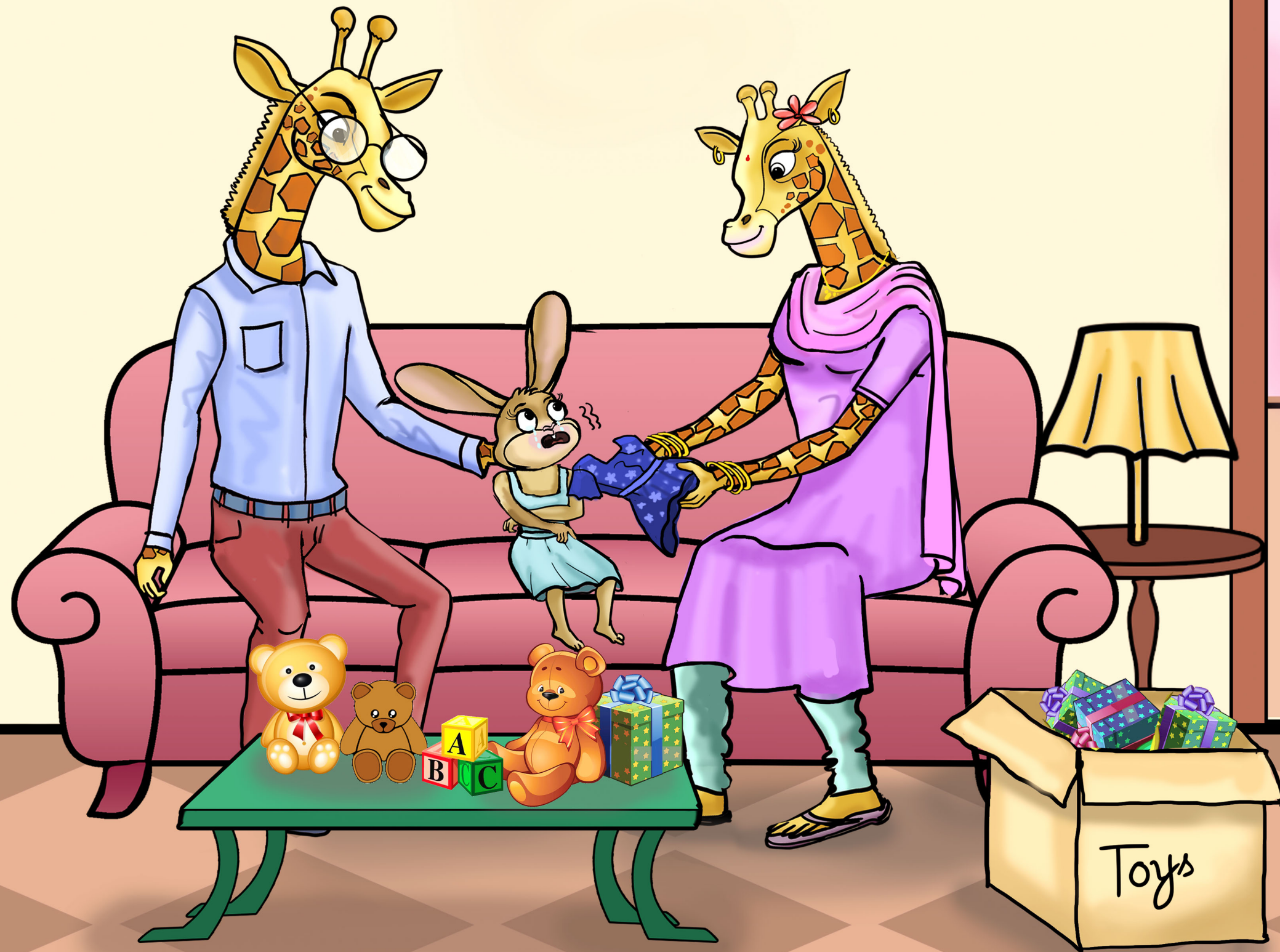
Mimi found it strange to sit on it and pee.



Mimi found it all strange and confusing...her bed, her room, the food, the toilet were all so different from what she was used to and comfortable with. And the Giraffe's house was so large...poor Mimi kept getting lost as she tried to find her way to various parts of it! But what was most confusing for her was to have to call the Giraffes 'Mummy' and 'Daddy'. I already have a mummy and daddy...or at least I had a mummy and daddy. How can I call these people the same thing? she wondered.

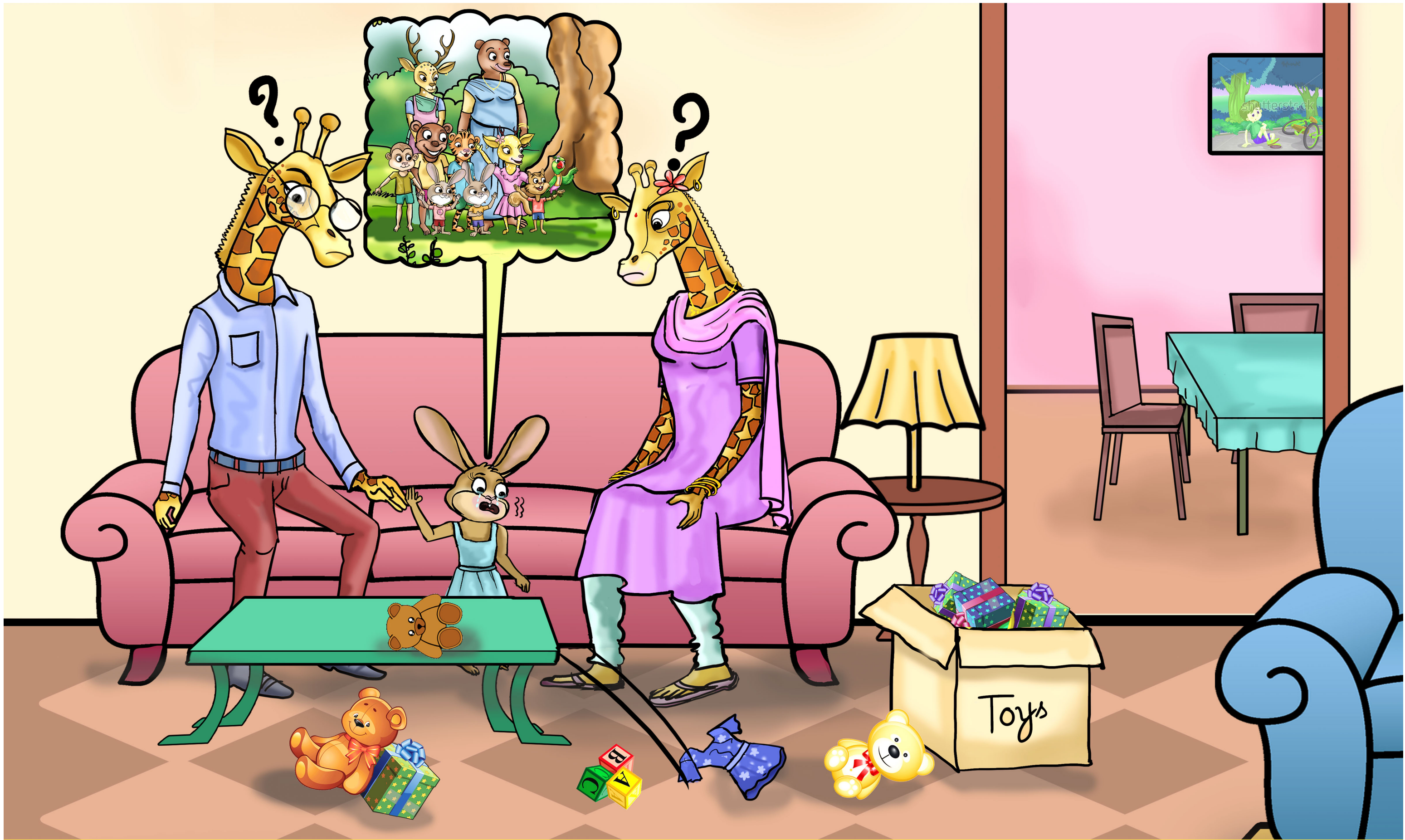


So, by evening, Mimi was in tears.
The Giraffes found her crying bitterly.
"What's the matter, Mimi?" they asked worriedly.



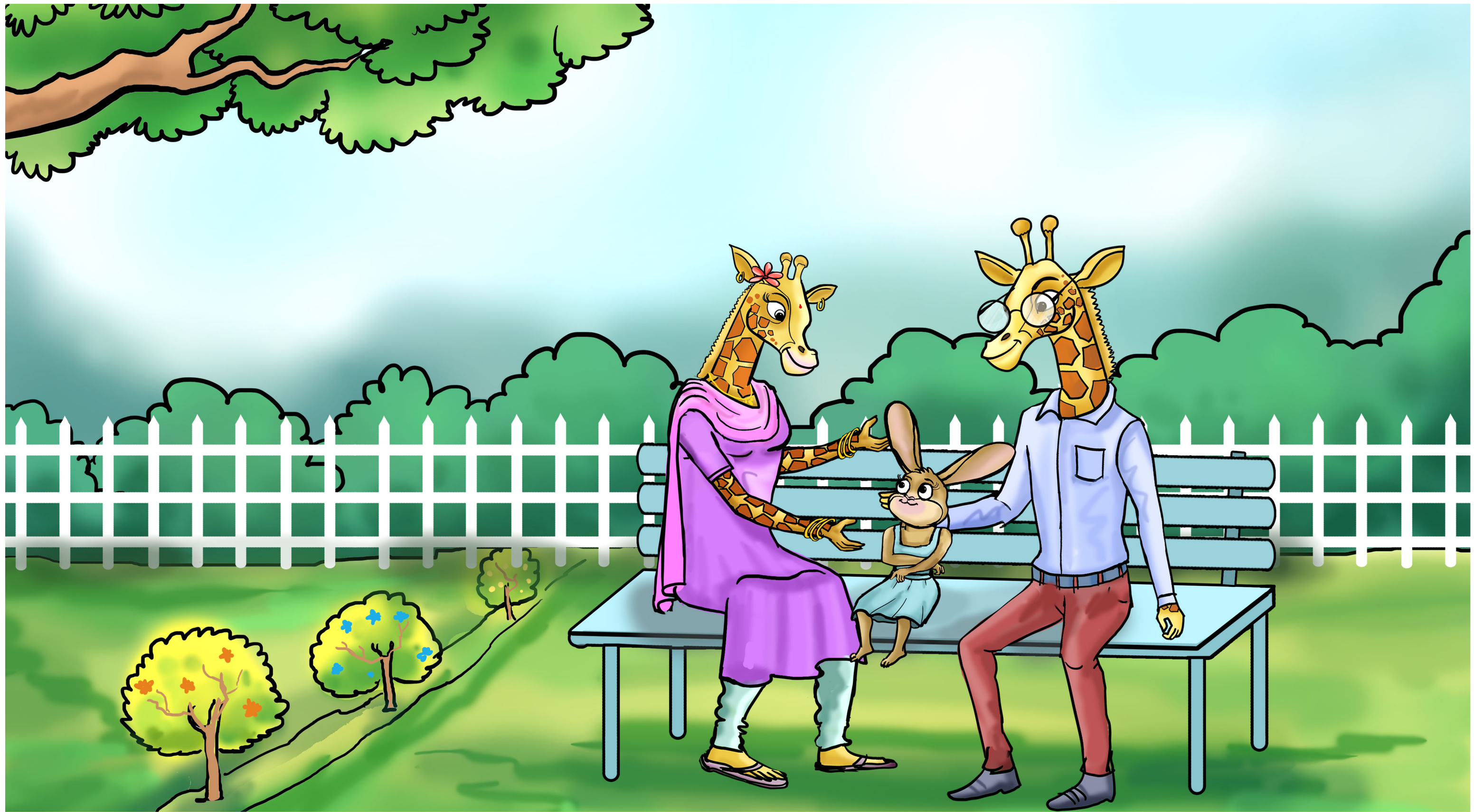
"Here's a new dress that we bought for you," said Mrs. Giraffe.

"And maybe you will feel better if you spend some time in your new toy room...don't you like all the lovely new toys you have?" asked Mr. Giraffe.



But Mimi threw the new dress across the floor. "I don't want to stay here anymore...I don't like it", sobbed Mimi. "But this is your home...and we are your parents," said the Giraffes.

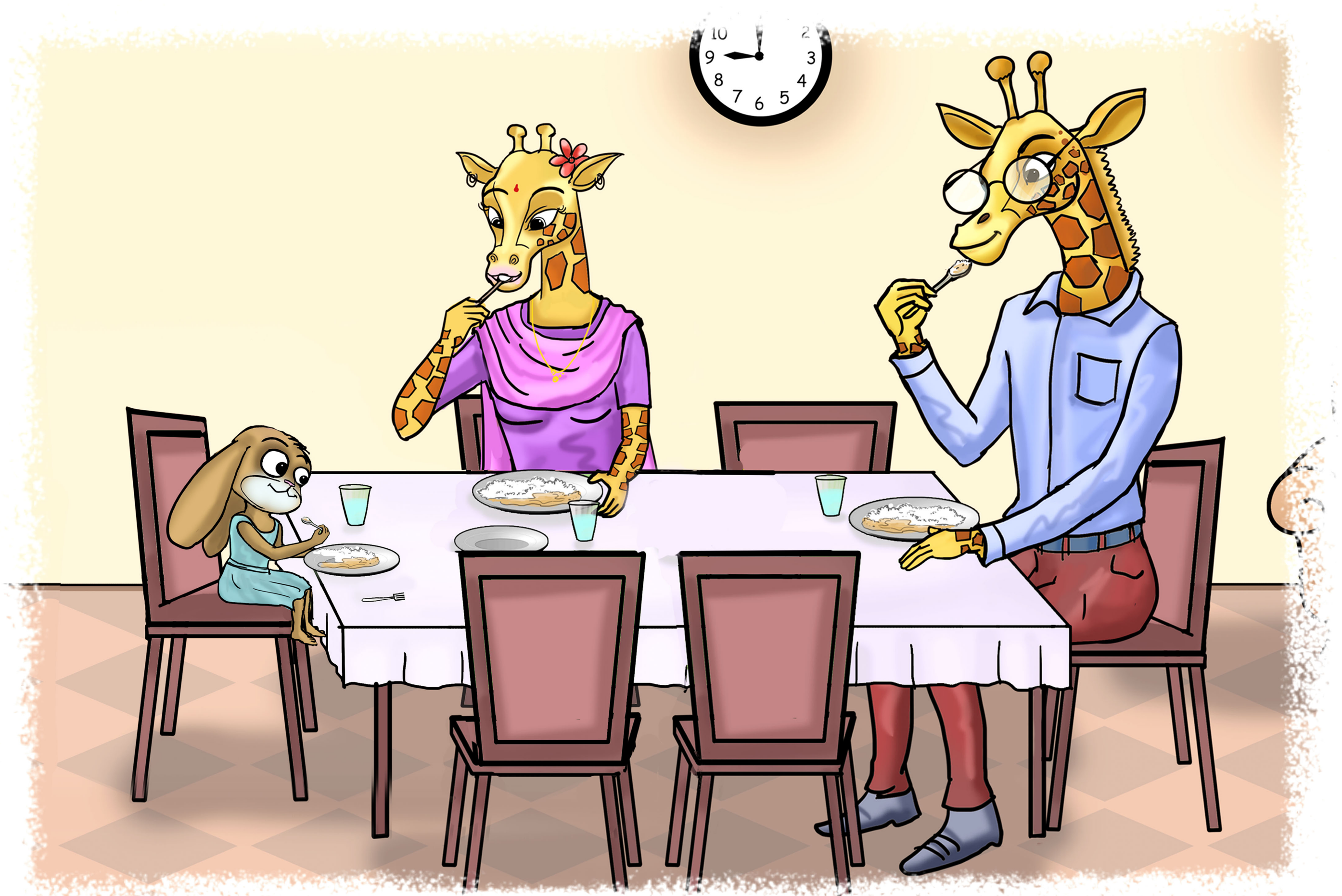
"No, this isn't...I want to go back to Mrs. Bear's home and all my friends there! And I don't want to call you 'Mummy' and 'Daddy' because you are NOT!" sobbed Mimi.



"I now understand why you are sad," said Mr. Giraffe. "You know, Mimi, it is always difficult for everyone to move and live in a new place...because everything is new. And of course you miss Mrs. Bear and all your friends in your old home...I know you love them".

"I know you had a mummy and daddy before", said Mrs. Giraffe. "It is quite alright if you don't feel like calling us that right now. I think in time, you might settle down here with us and be happy...just like you did at Mrs. Bear's home. And when you do feel better about being here, perhaps you can decide to call us Mummy and Daddy then".

"We still love you and want you very much...and we believe that you are our child", said the Giraffes to Mimi.



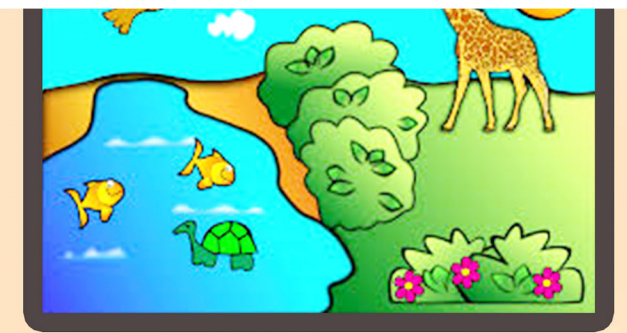
Then, the Giraffes slowly helped Mimi settle down...they made her dal and rice for lunch and said it was fine to eat with her fingers.
...And she even learned how to use a spoon and fork!



Mrs. Giraffe helped her use the new toilet and shower, showing her how it worked. She now loved the shower it was fun to stand under it and pretend like it was raining!



Mimi slept on a little bed in the Giraffes' room so she no longer felt lonely and afraid at night. The Giraffes also said that they could plan a visit sometime to Mrs. Bear's home so that Mimi could see her old friends. And so, Mimi slowly grew used to her new home and family.



"Mummy, Daddy, don't I need to go to school?" asked Mimi one day.

"Yes, of course you must," the Giraffe said, smiling at Mimi's happiness. "Just as soon as the summer holidays end, you will go to the forest school where all the children go."

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