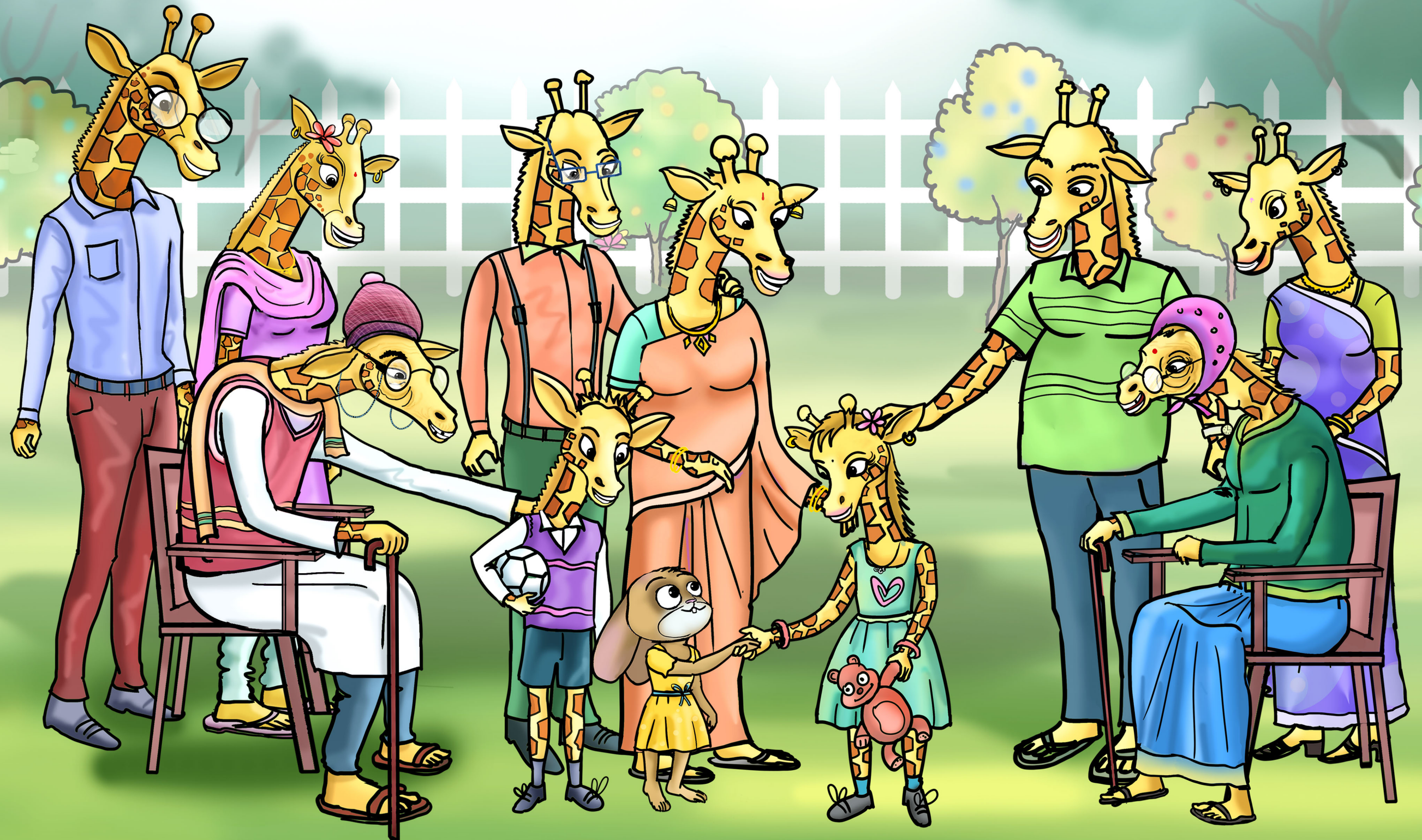
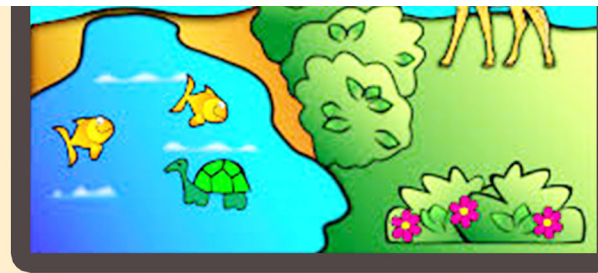
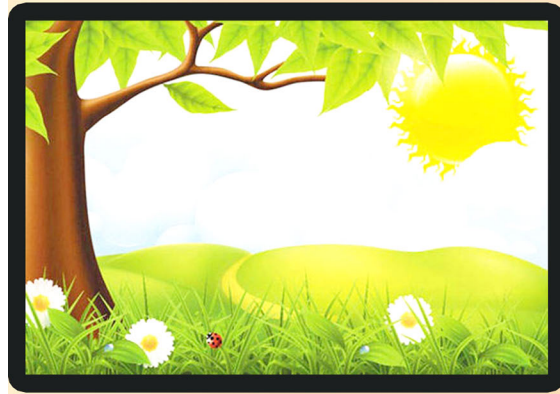
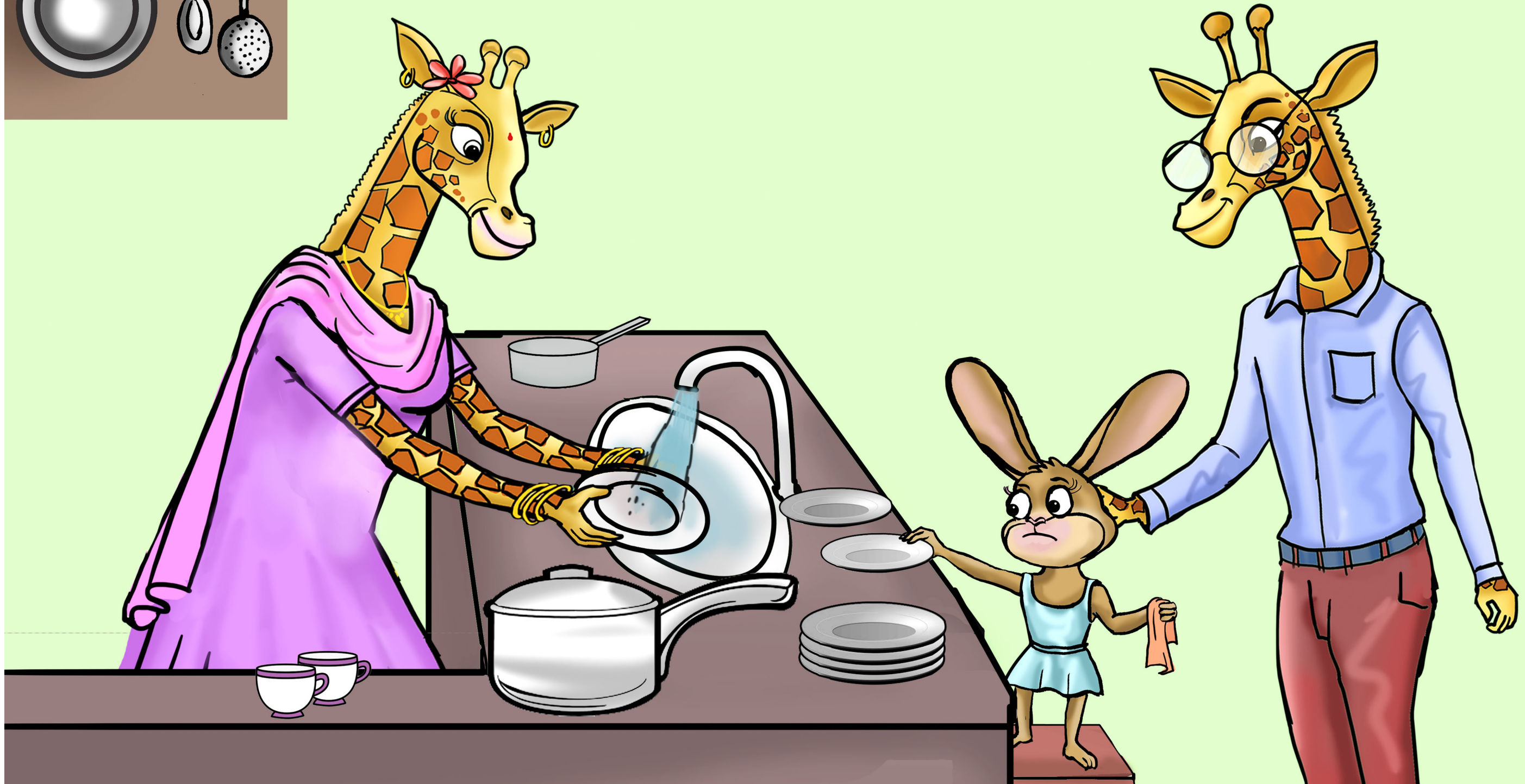
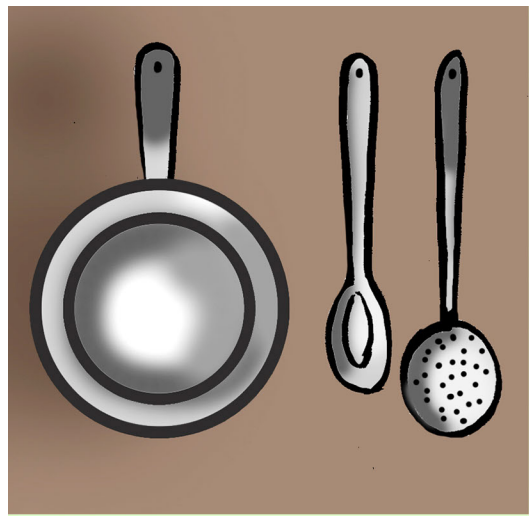


Mimi Meets Relatives





When Mimi had settled down in her new home, her new giraffe Mummy and Daddy decided that it was time she met the rest of the family. So, they decided to invite their relatives to come visit them. Daddy started making calls to ask everyone to come home to meet Mimi.



As Mr. and Mrs. Giraffe cleaned the house and cooked, in preparation for their guests, Mimi grew a little worried.

"Mummy, what if they don't want me?" she asked.

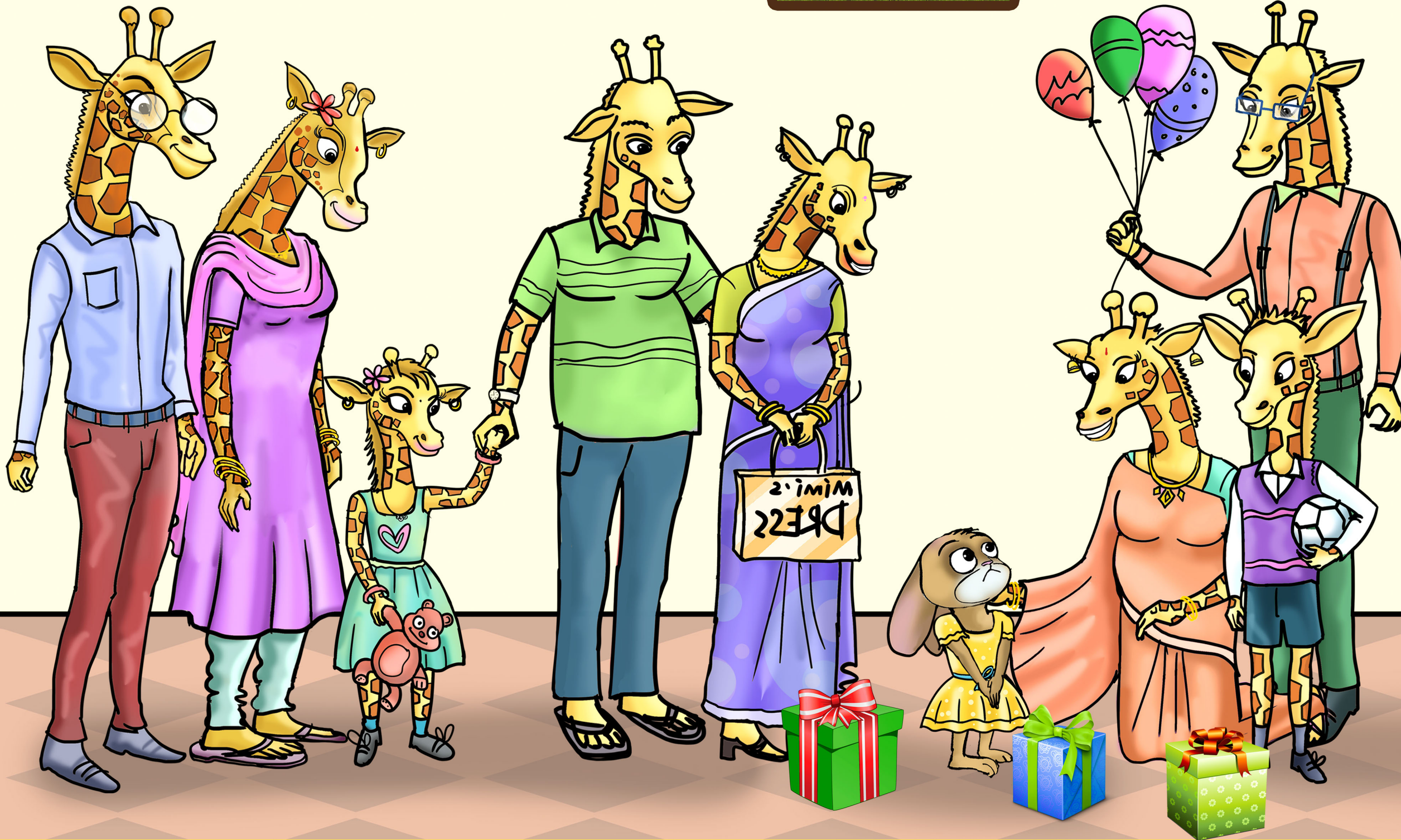
"We have told them how much we wanted you and that you are as much a part of our family as anyone else is," said Mummy.

"But what if they don't like me? I am scared to meet them..." asked Mimi.

"I think they will like you, especially when you have spent some time together with them," said Daddy. "Remember it takes a while for people to know each other...just like it was when you came here and it took you a while to know and like Mummy and me. I am excited for them to meet you and know you."



Mimi wore her favourite yellow dress the day everyone was coming.
At exactly 12 o'clock, the lunch party started arriving...grandpa and grandma were the first to arrive.
Mimi smiled nervously at them as Daddy said "This is our daughter, Mimi!"
"Mimi, these are your grandparents!" exclaimed Mummy.
"I made you some carrot cake," cried Grandma.
"Really glad you are here," said Grandpa, patting her head.



Then the aunts, uncles and cousins arrived.
They had brought her presents too.

"Look Mimi, these are your cousins Pinto and Mia...you have new playmates too!" said Mummy.

"We have been waiting to meet you, Mimi!", said the aunts affectionately.



Her uncles took turns to give her rides on their backs.
"Such fun to have a new niece!" they cried.
"You know, Mimi, there is a circus coming soon...we shall all go to it next week!" they said.



Everyone seems very nice and they really seem to like me, thought Mimi, happily. She then took her cousins Pinto and Mia to her new room and excitedly showed them all her toys. "What do you want to play?" asked Mimi. "Shall we play ball or do you want to play hide-and-seek outside?"

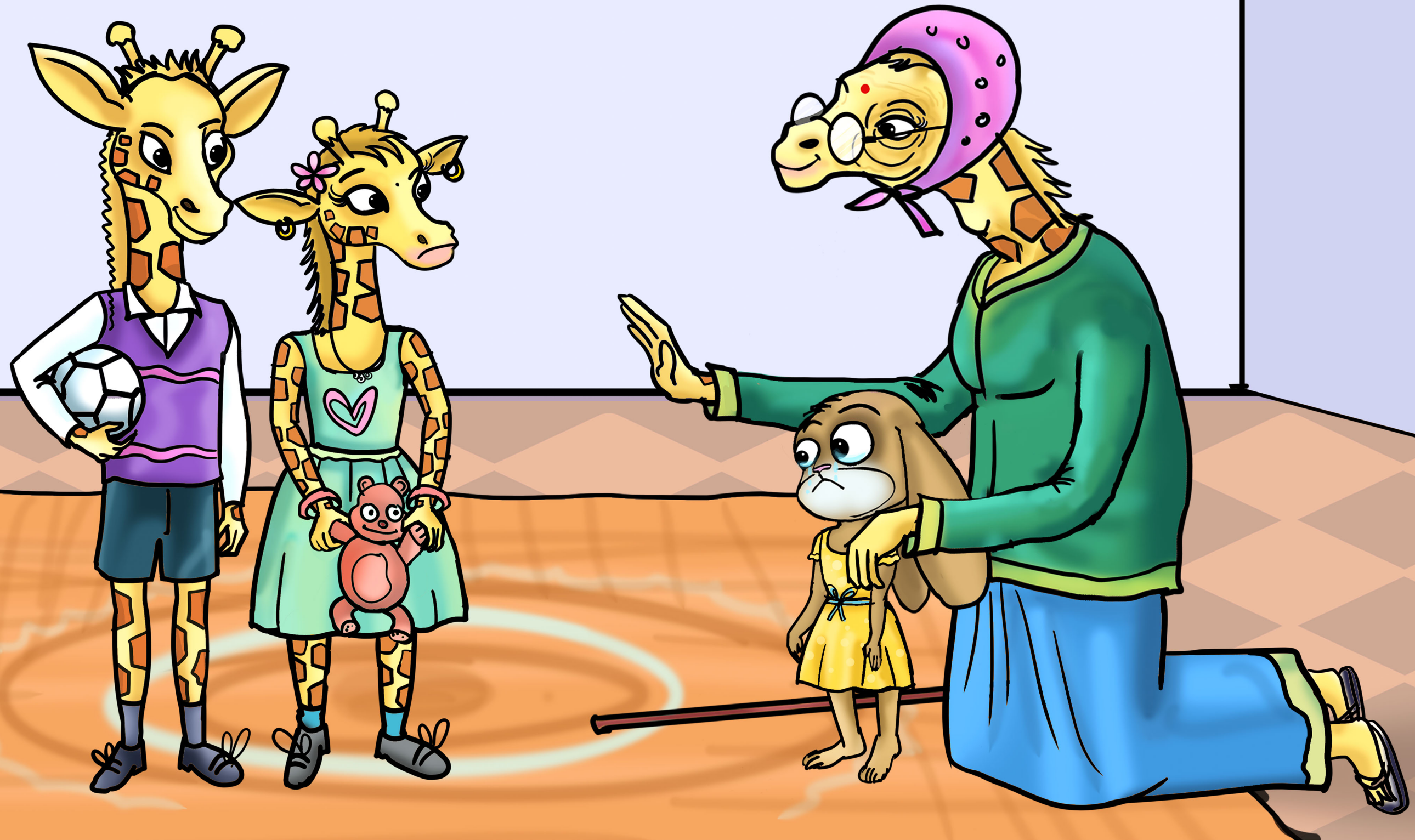


"I am not playing anything with you--and neither is Pinto", said Mia rudely.

"Why not?" asked Mimi, surprised.

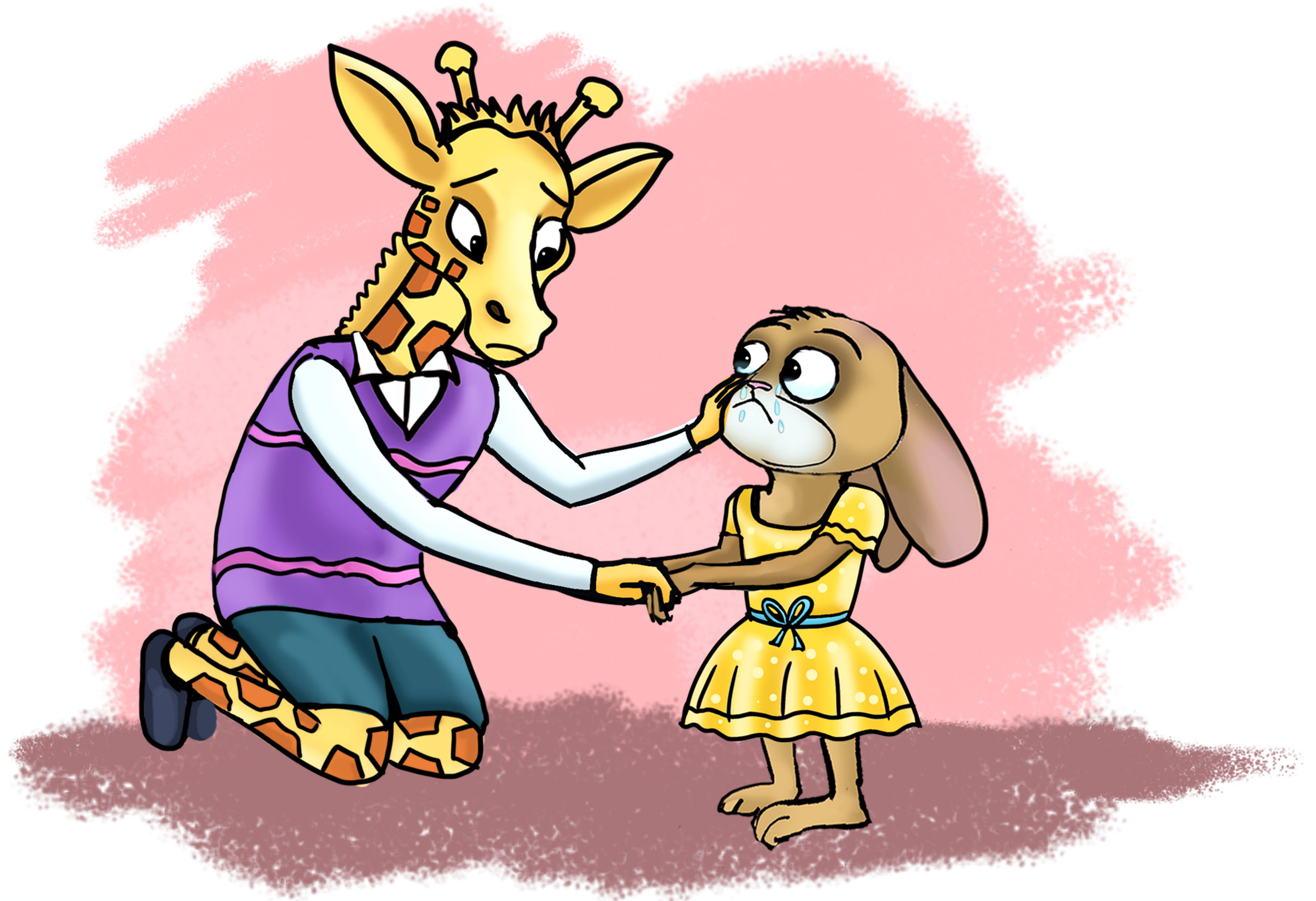
"Because you look different from us...we are tall and you are short...and you have real funny floppy ears. How can you belong to our family? I don't know why your parents decided to bring you to live with our family. We don't want you...you are not my cousin", she said.

Mimi began to cry.

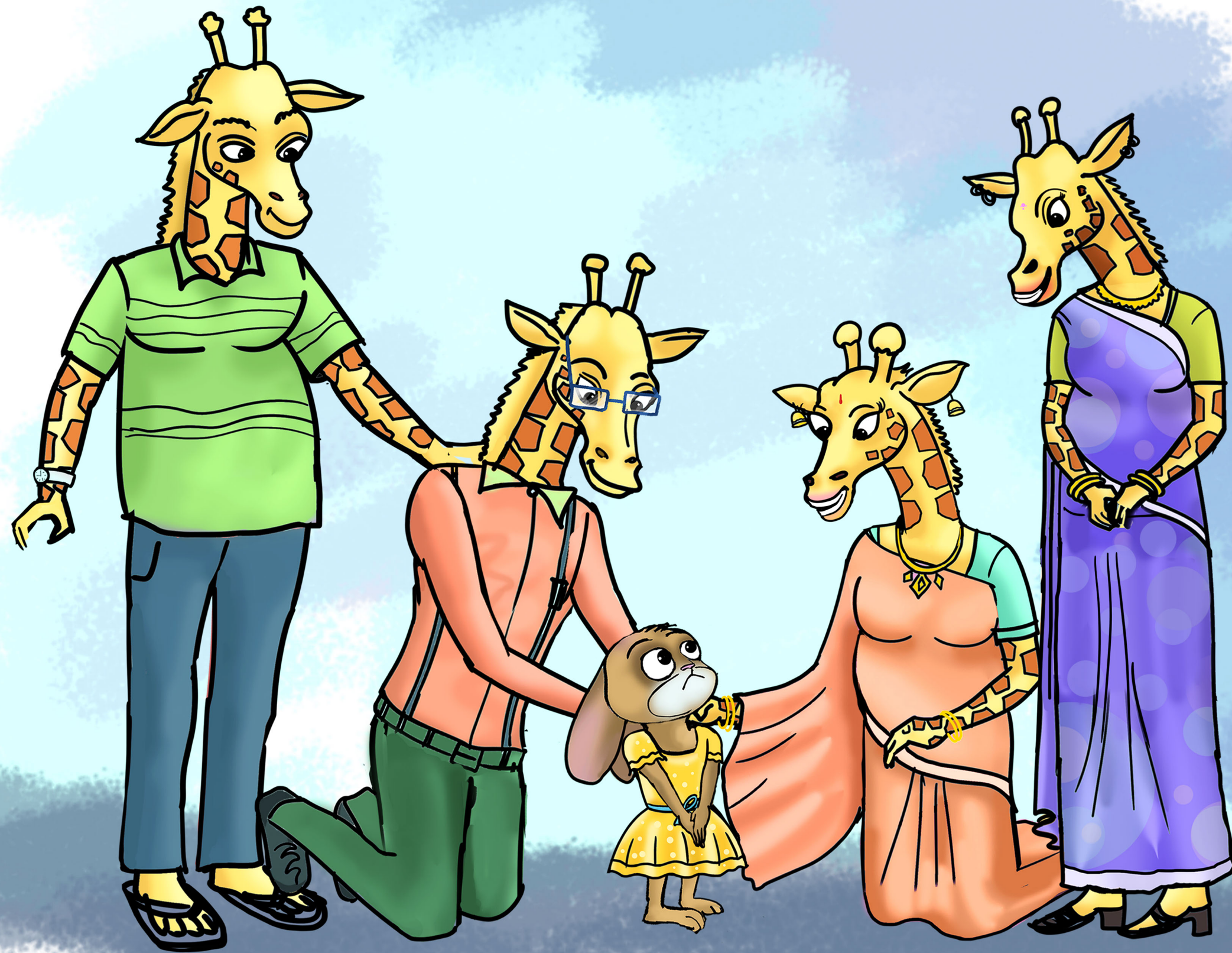


Just then, grandma came up behind them .

"I heard that, Mia...that is not a nice thing to say to Mimi—she won't want to play with you if you if you make her sad. Mimi is certainly a part of this family, just as much as you and Pinto and all of us are", said Grandma.

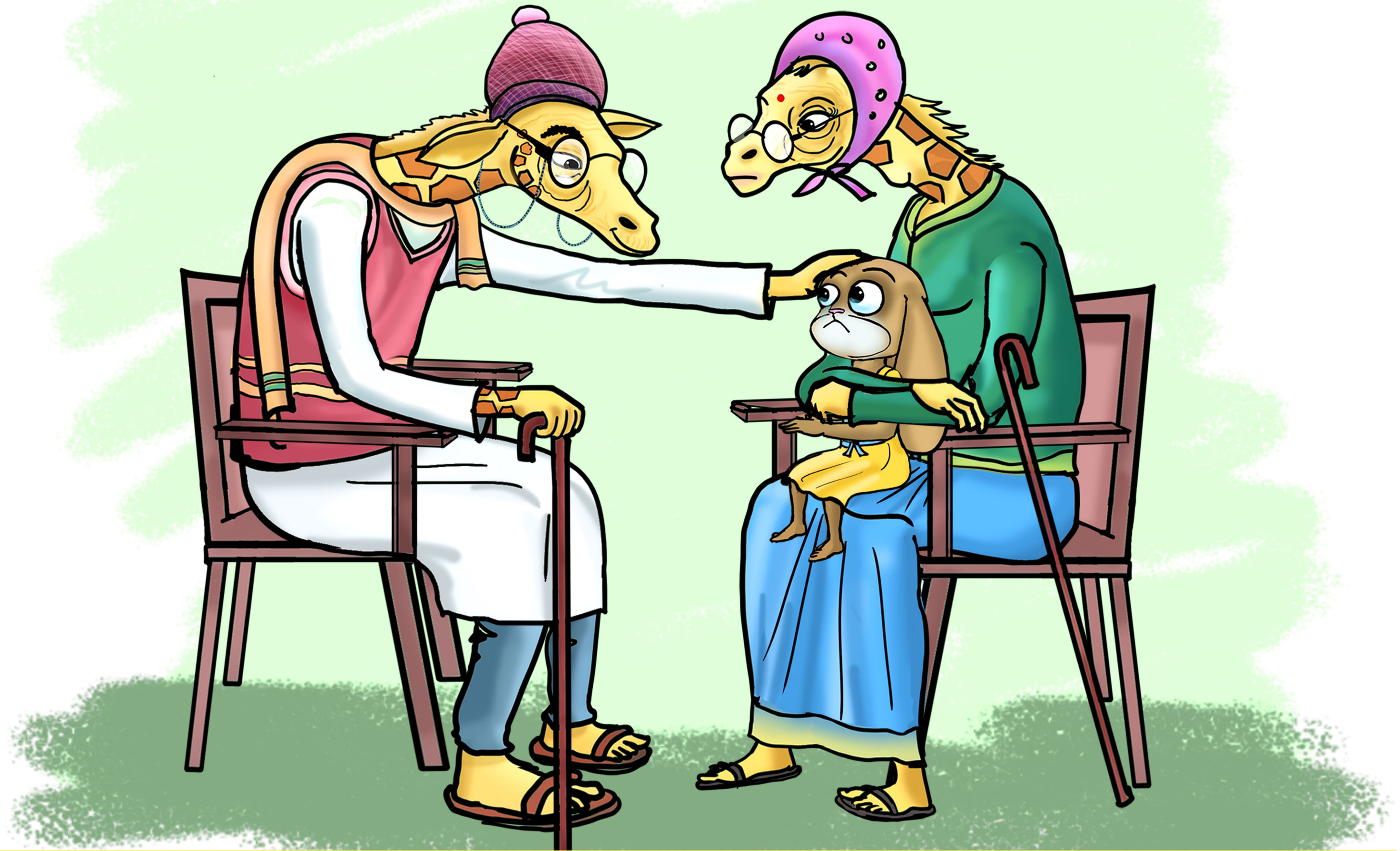


"Don't worry, Mimi, of course you are our cousin," said Pinto, taking Mimi's hand.
"I am sorry that she made fun of you and hurt you...she should not have done that. Maybe she just needs some time to understand that you really are our cousin and a part of this family."

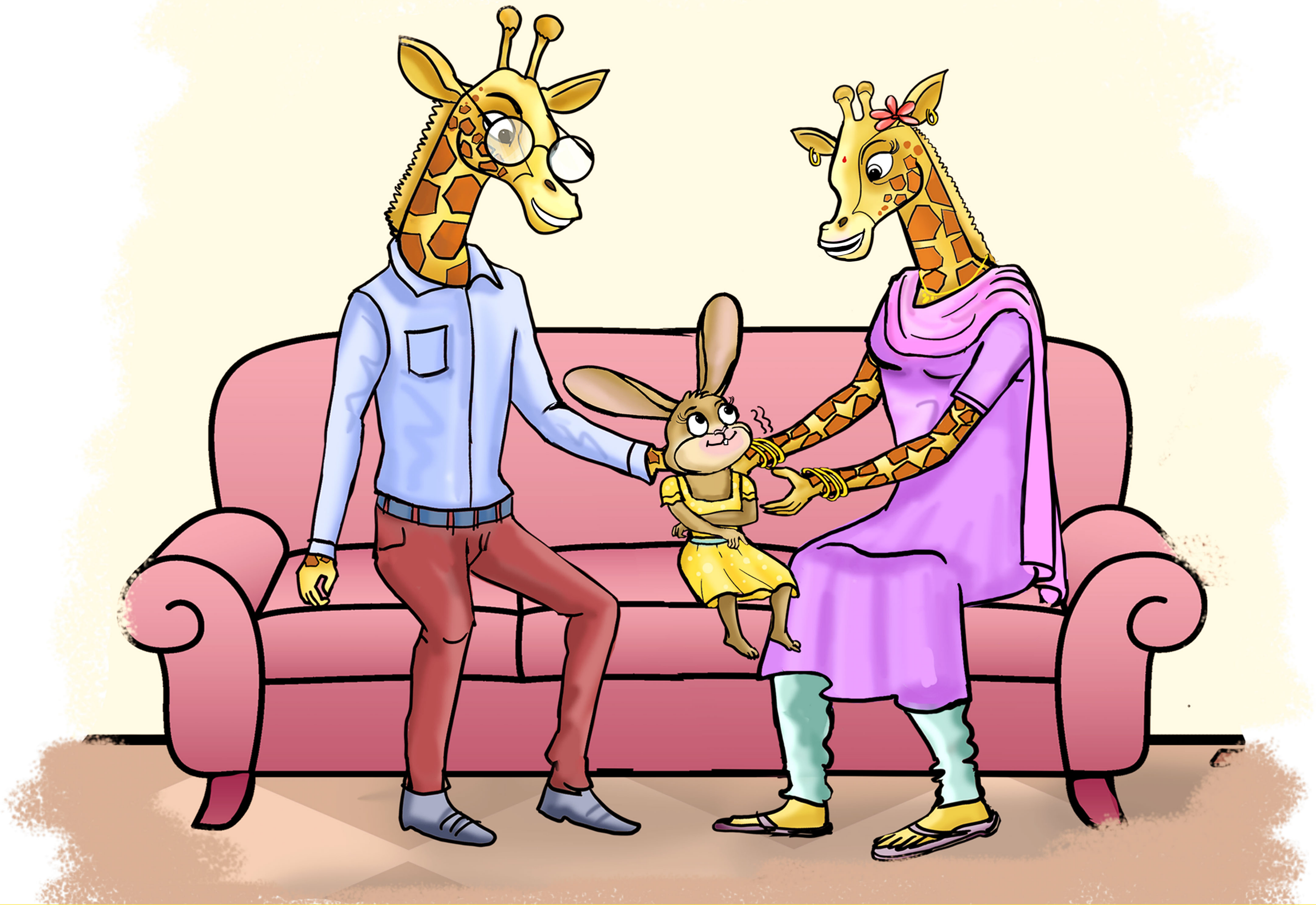


"And you are our niece," said the uncles.

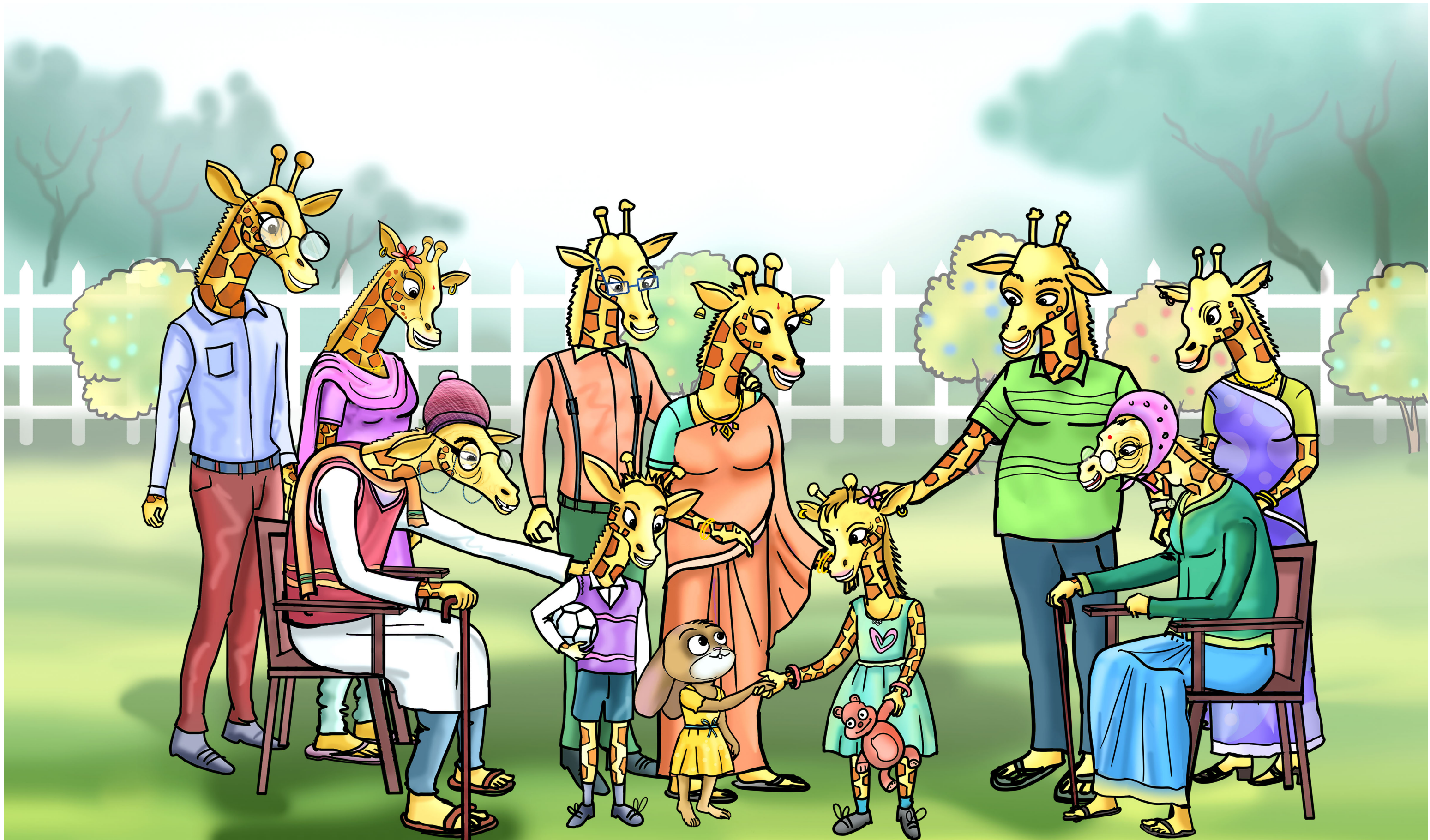
"A niece we want to play with and cook for and love, always", said the aunts.



"You are our grand-daughter and we are very proud of you ," said grandpa.
"I hope you will come and spend week ends and holidays with us, just like Mia and Pinto do", said grandma.



"Most of all, she is our daughter and we love her," said Mummy and Daddy.
And so, Mimi felt cheered.



"Sorry Mimi, for making you sad", said Mia, a little later. "I sure want you to be my cousin. May be you can come and play with Pinto and me over the week end?"
"I would like that", said Mimi happily. "And I can teach you some games I learnt at Mrs. Bear's Home!"

Mimi also remembered what Daddy had told her earlier that week—that everyone needed time to get to know each other and like each other. Getting to know family takes a while--just like how she took a while to know and love Mummy and Daddy.

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