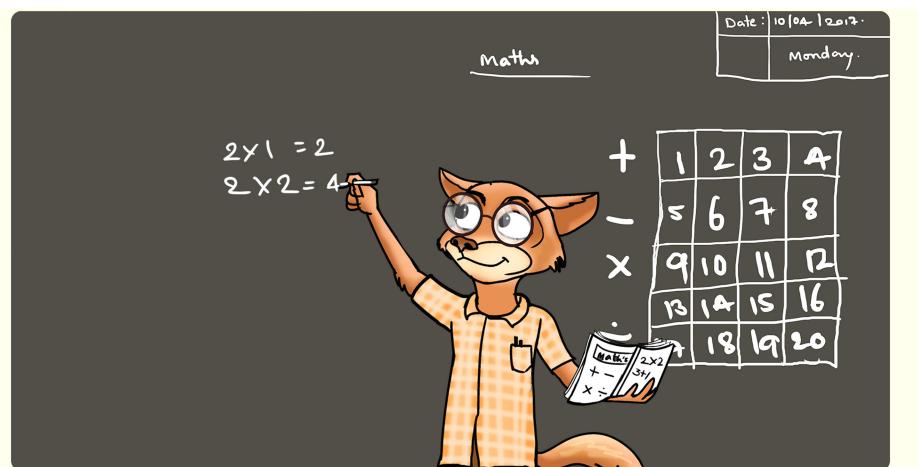




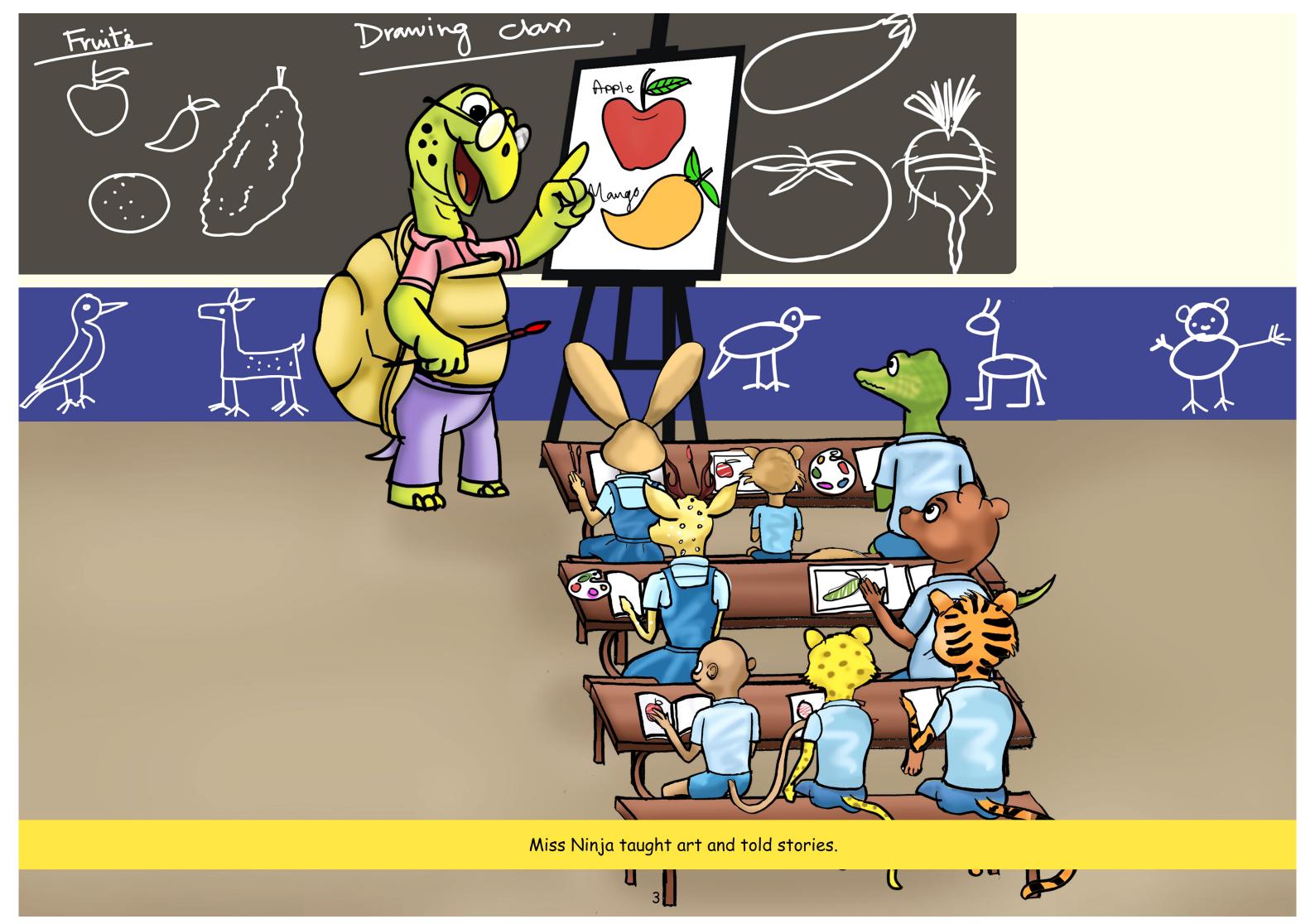
Like most other animal children, Mimi went to the school in the forest.

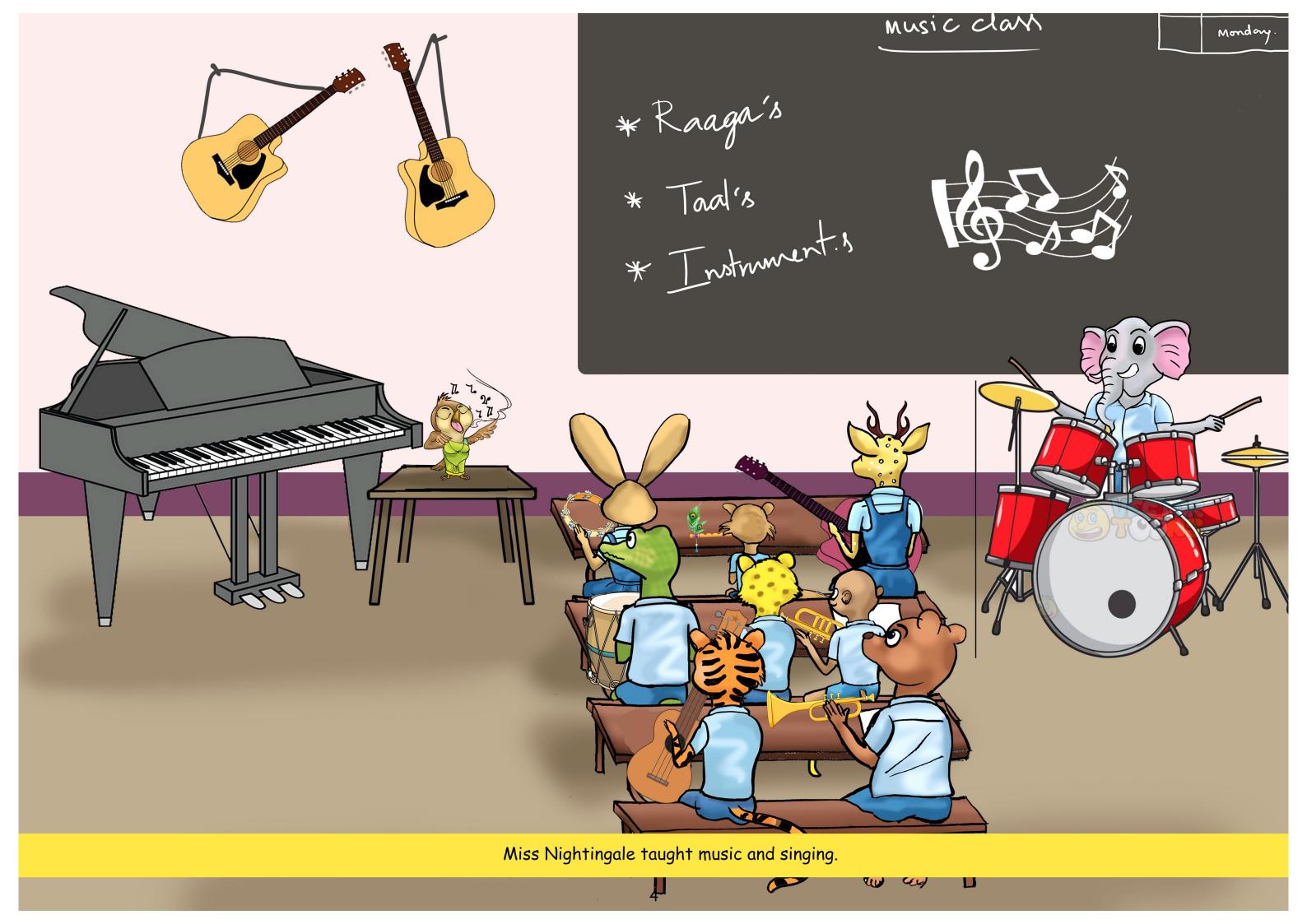
Young birds, giraffes, elephants, alligators, bears, tigers, lions, deer, monkeys, squirrels and rabbits went to this school. It was bigger than the one that Mimi went to in Mrs. Bear's Home. She also had many different teachers now.





Mr. Fox taught them numbers and Math.

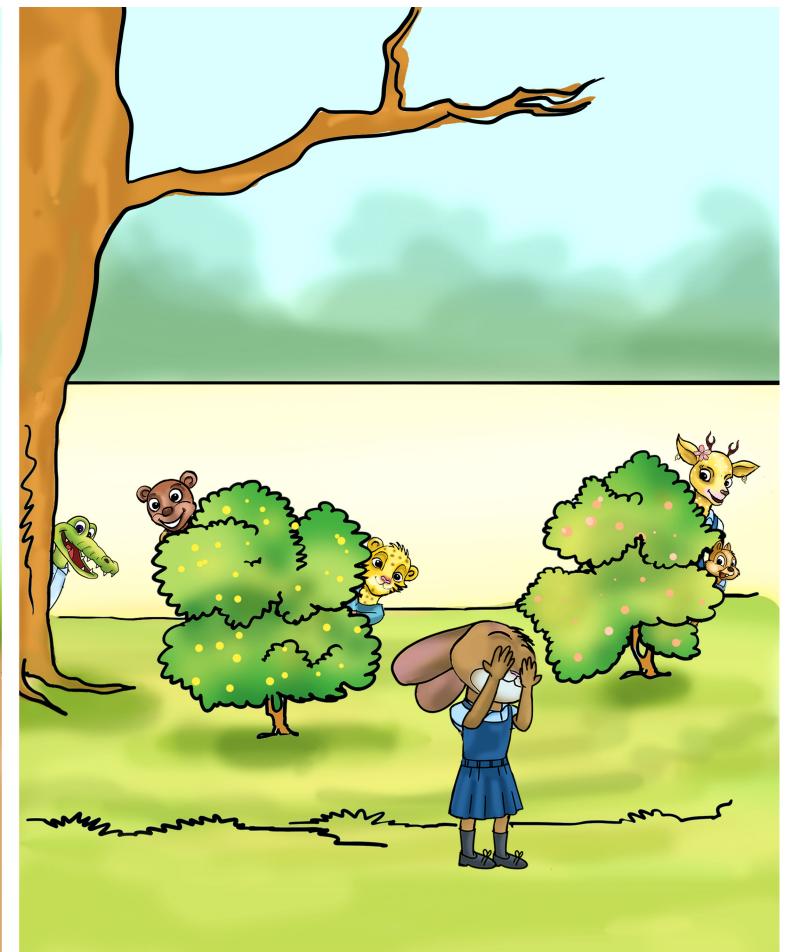






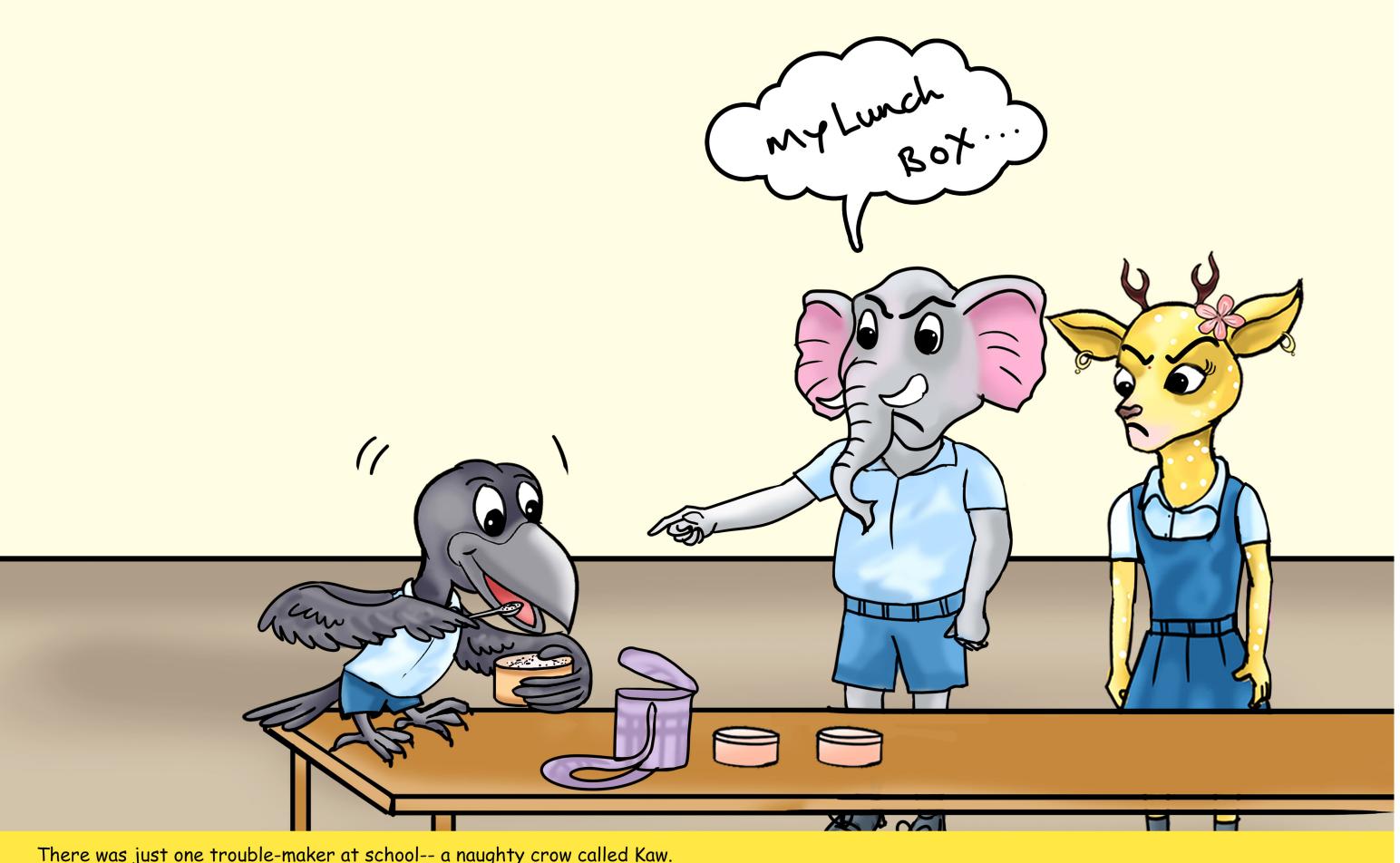
Mr. Chimpanzee made them do exercises and play basket-ball everyday.



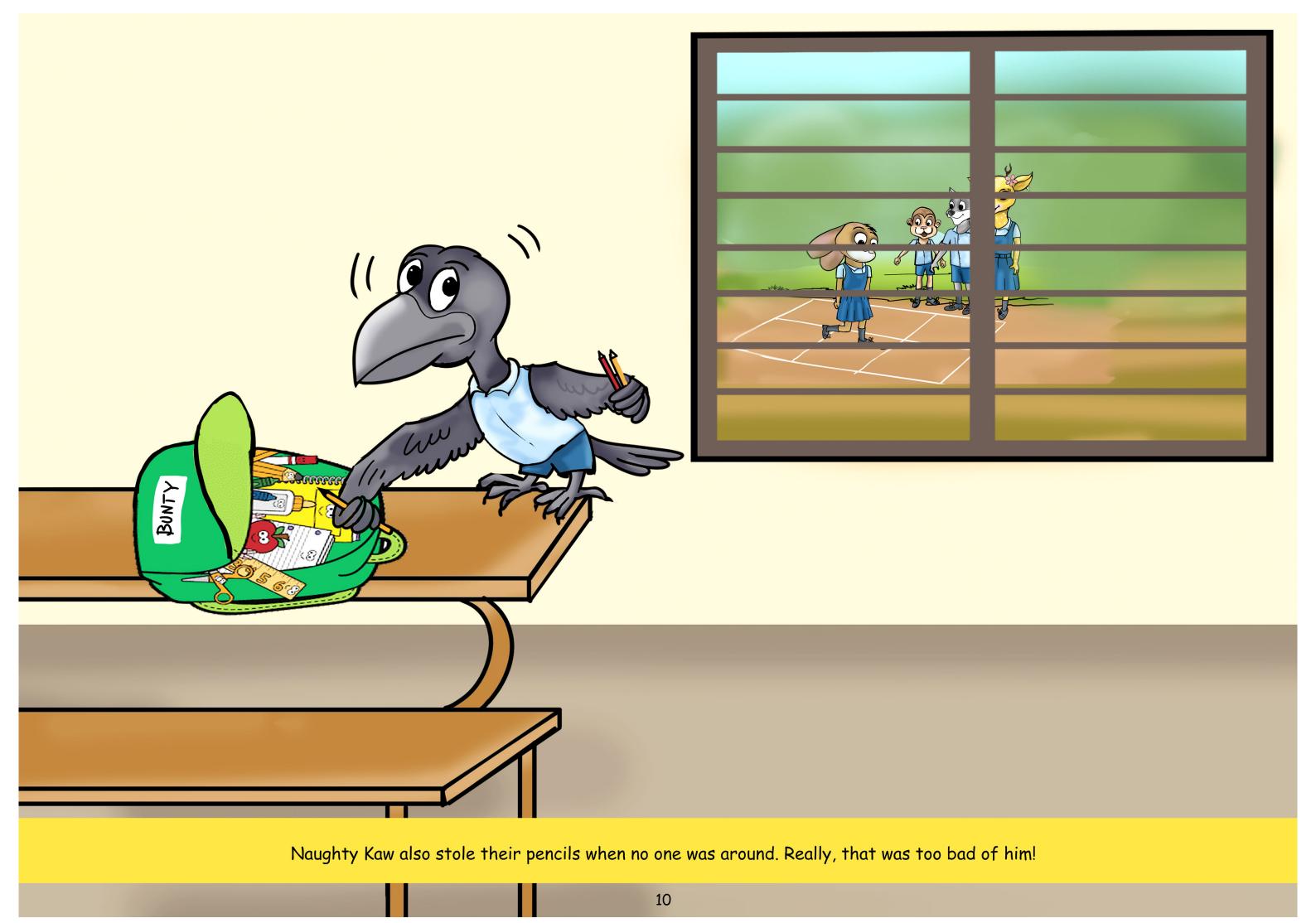


Mimi had made many new friends at school and enjoyed playing hide and seek and hopscotch with her friends. They were kind and helpful, welcoming her to join in their games.





There was just one trouble-maker at school-- a naughty crow called Kaw. He often ate out of his classmates' lunch boxes without their permission...making them very annoyed indeed.





One day, when Mimi was walking to school, Kaw was perched on a tree nearby. "Miiii-miii is funneeeyyyy, she doesn't have a real daddy and mummy!" he called out Mimi shooed him angrily. "I do have a Mummy and Daddy," she cried. "But they aren't real because you were adopted", taunted Kaw.



Mimi noticed that other animals had gathered around and were listening to Kaw. Everyone was astonished.

Some were quiet while others pointed at her and laughed.

"Really, Mimi, so you don't actually belong to your parents?" asked a squirrel.

"Mimi didn't come from her mummy's tummy," said a young bear.

"So that's why Mimi looks so different from her parents!" exclaimed a young wolf.





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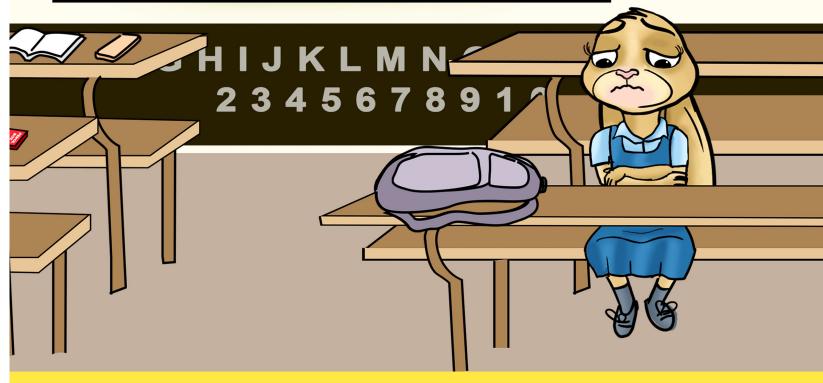
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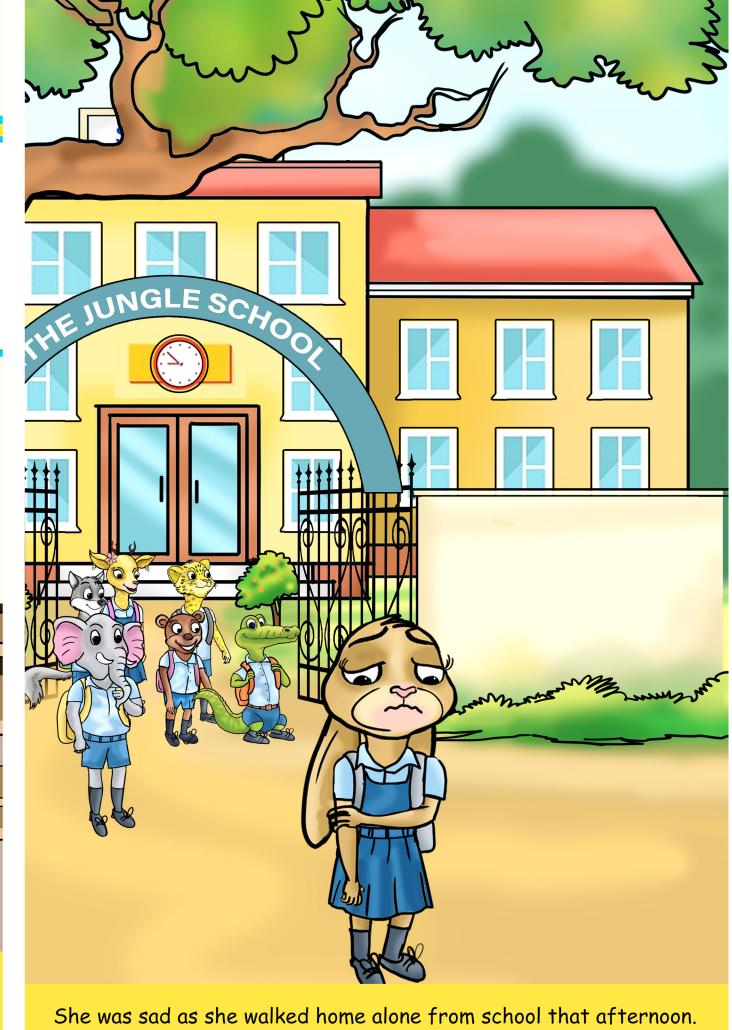
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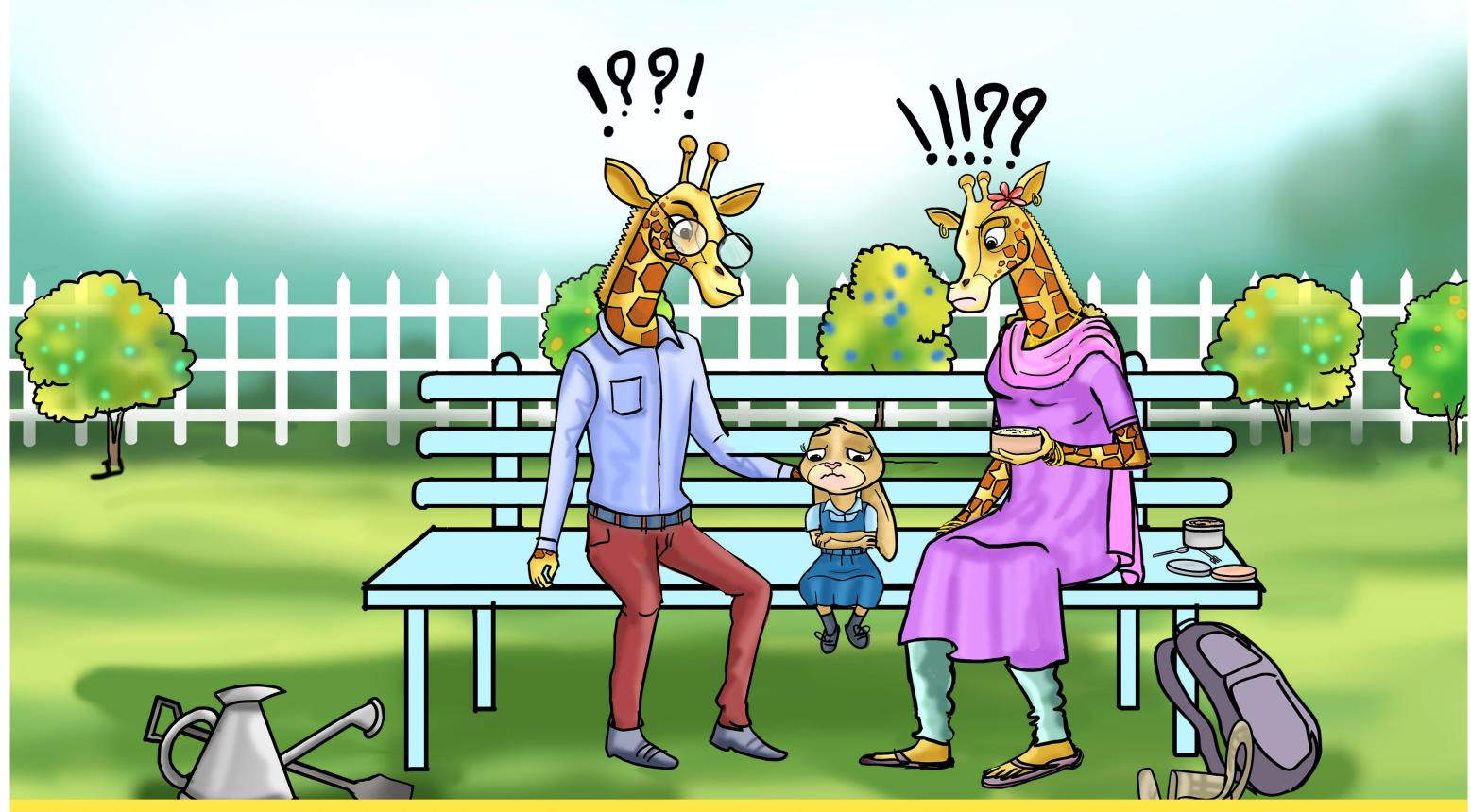
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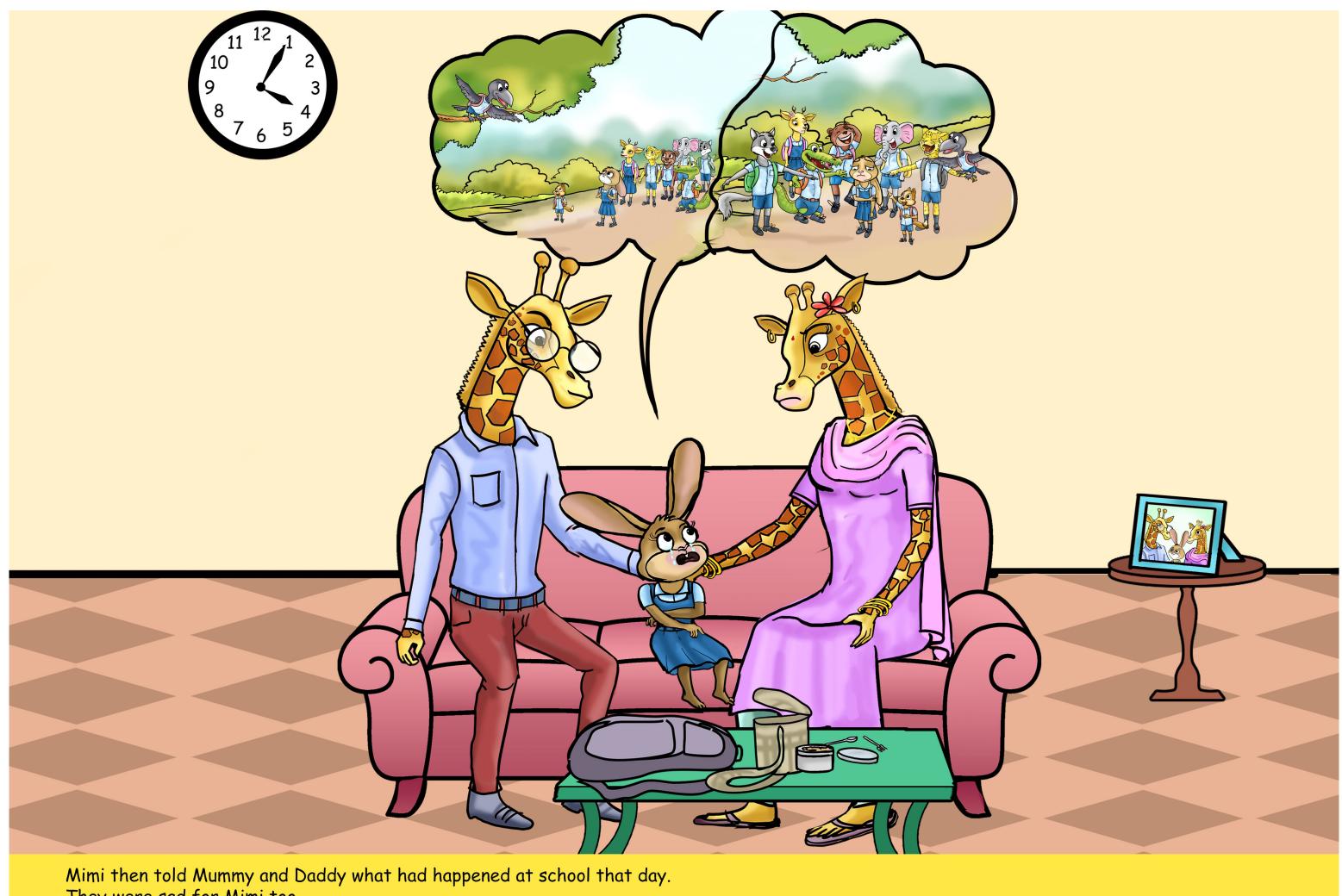
Mimi talked to no one at school that day—not even to the bunnies and the deer, her favourite friends.

She sat all by herself, not going outside to play games or to eat her lunch.

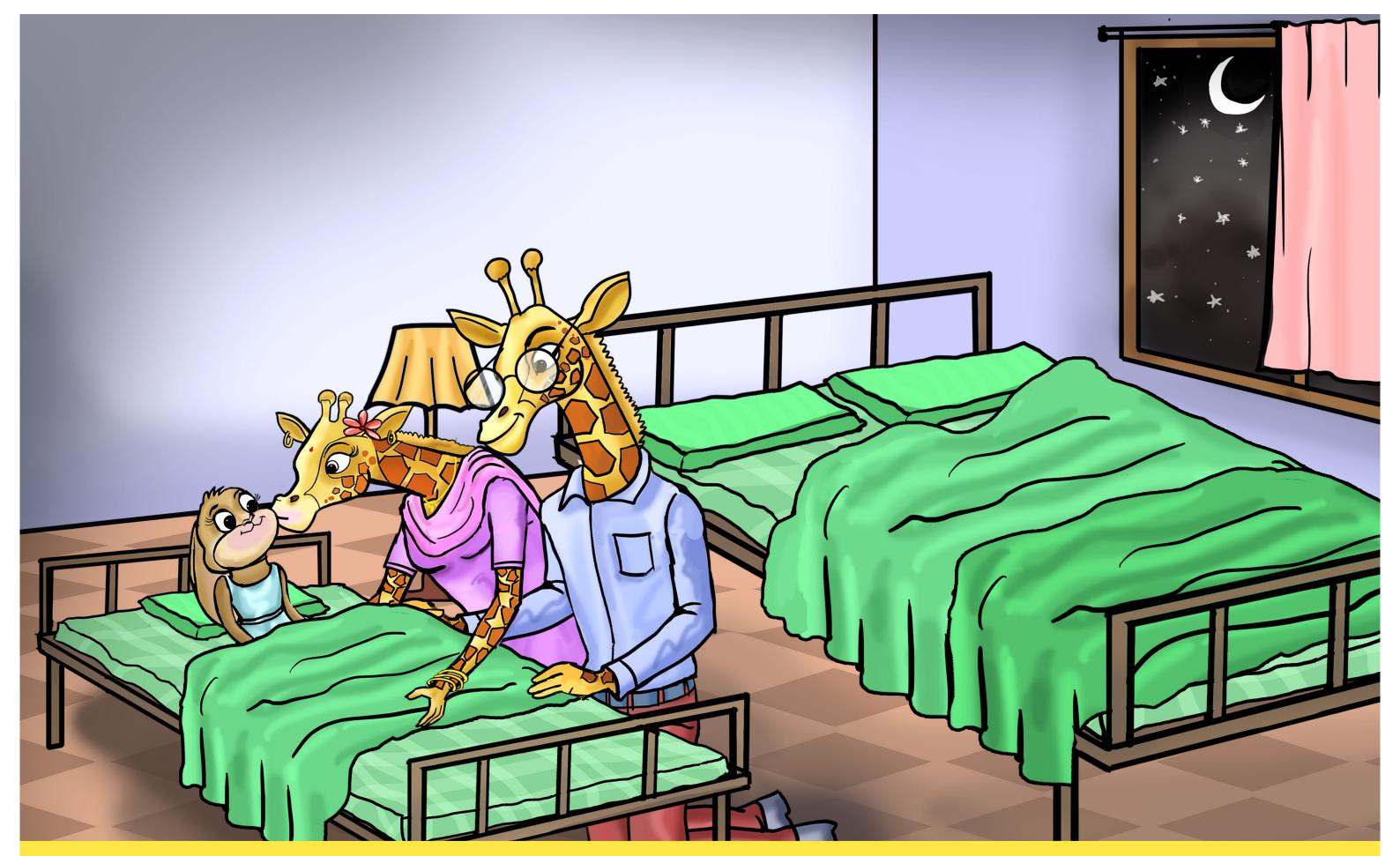




"Why didn't you eat your lunch today?" asked Mummy. "It was pulao—one of your favourite foods!" "What happened, Mimi? You look sad today", said Daddy.



Mimi then told Mummy and Daddy what had happened at school that day. They were sad for Mimi too.



[&]quot;Tell you what," said Daddy. "It has been a long and difficult day for Mimi, so let us go to bed and talk about all this tomorrow".

[&]quot;Yes", said Mummy, kissing Mimi. "Don't worry, just go to sleep now."
"And remember Mimi, no matter what other people say, we are your parents and always will be," said Daddy.

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