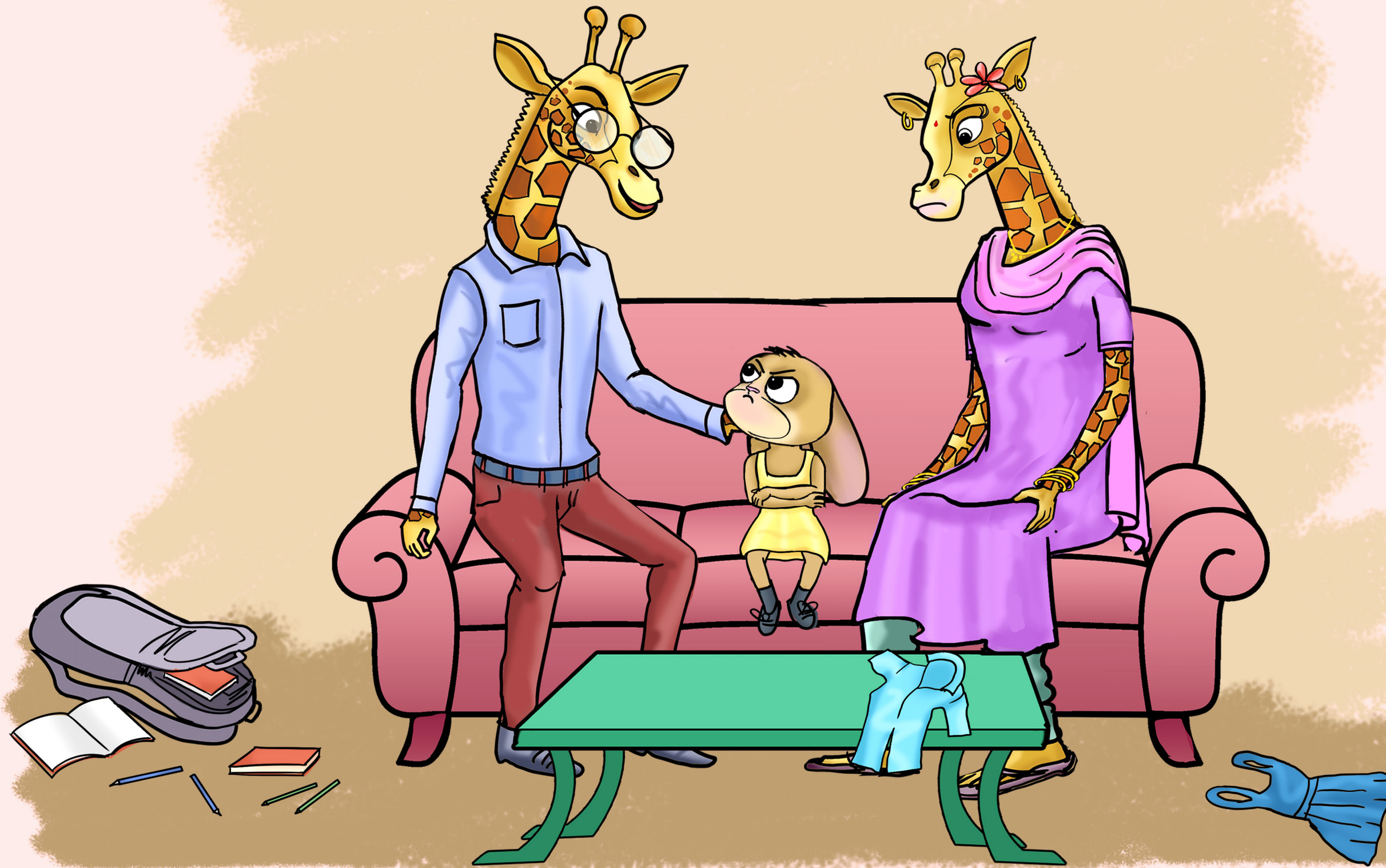
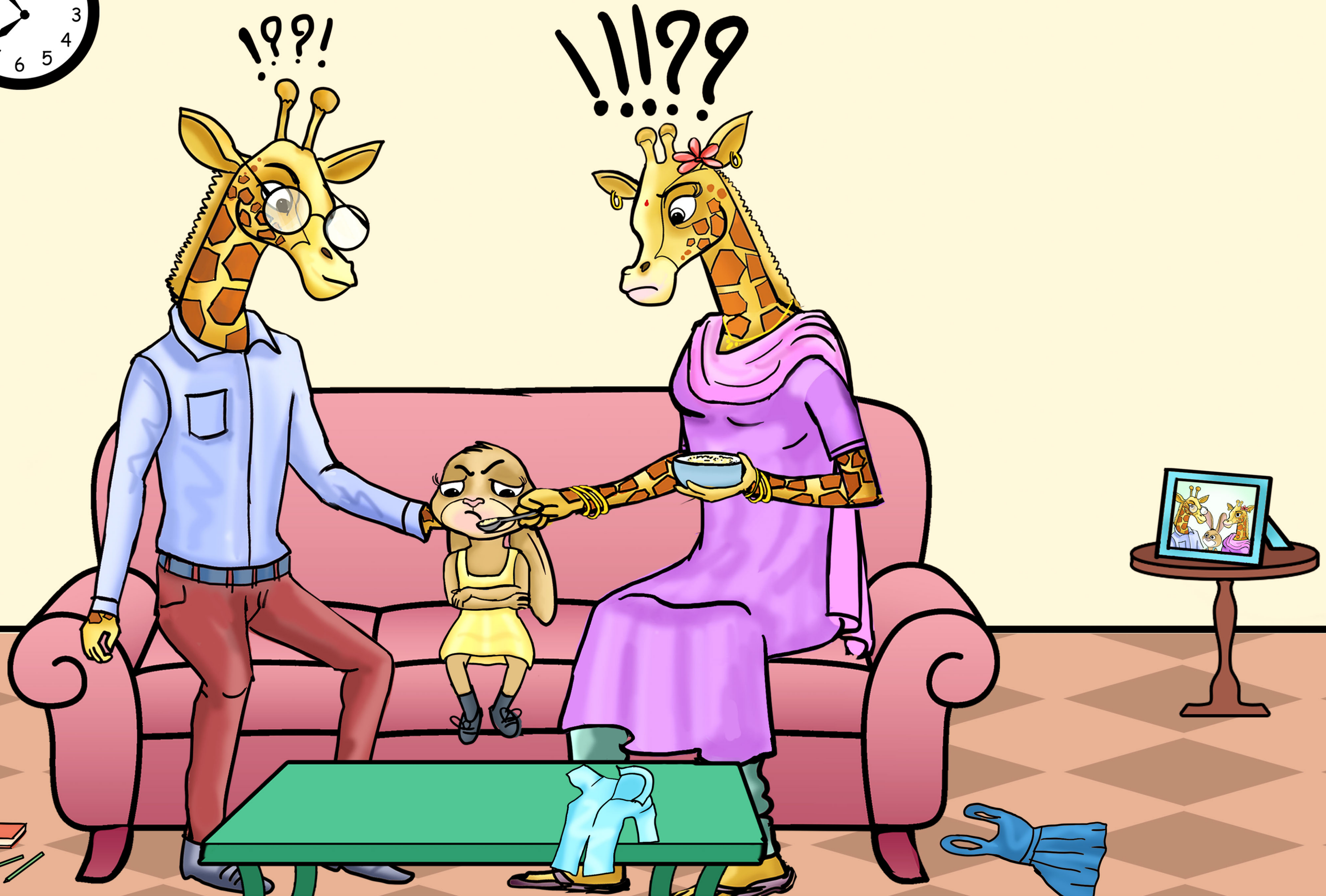
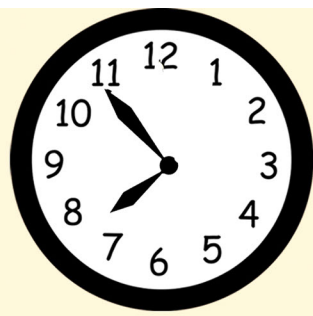


Mimi Learns how Families are Made





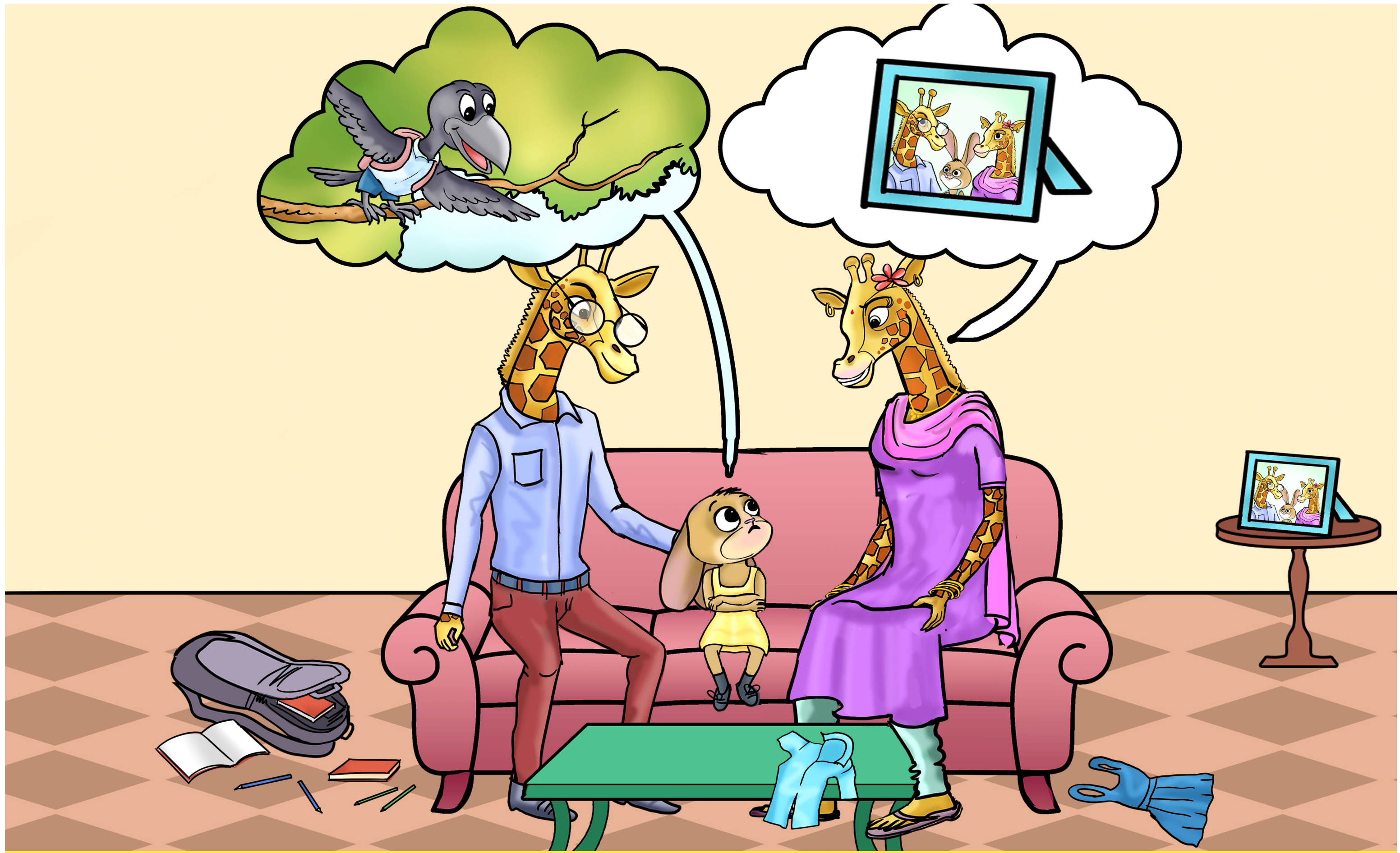
Mimi refused to go to school for the next two days after naughty Kaw the crow had teased her about being adopted. She was sad and did not want to play with her toys or eat her food. She was quiet these days and hardly spoke to anyone. "I know you are probably thinking about what happened in school and worrying about some things," said Daddy. "Perhaps you could tell us about some of your thoughts and confusions...maybe we could help," suggested Mummy.



"What does 'adopted' mean?" asked Mimi. "Is it a bad thing?"

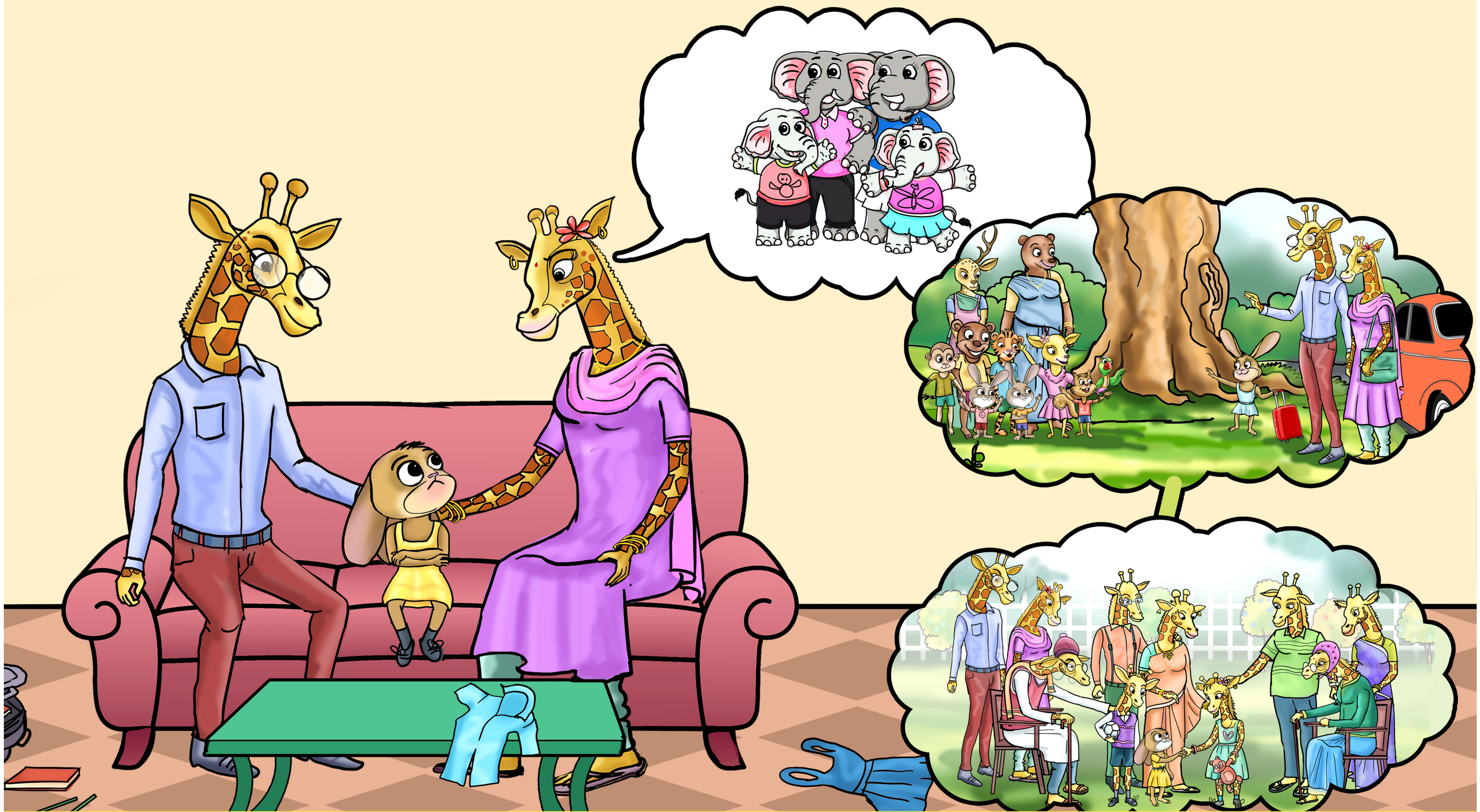
"Being adopted just means that we have become your parents and you have become our child—and that we both agreed to this arrangement because we are happy with it, so it cannot be a bad thing", said Daddy.

"In fact, it is a very good thing", said Mummy. "Because when a child is adopted, people have the chance to be someone's parents, to have a child...to play...to have ice-cream...which they could not have done otherwise. Imagine if we could not adopt you! We would have been sad because we would not have been able to be parents...and we love being your parents!"



"Then why were Kaw and the others making fun of me?" asked Mimi.

"Well, some folks just don't understand how wonderful adoption is and how much happiness it brings a family...so, when they don't know, they are mean about it...and they should not be", said Mummy.



"But they said at school that I didn't come from your tummy, and that I don't look like you..." said Mimi sadly.

"Children come into families in different ways," explained Mummy. "Some are born to their parents...these are the ones that come from their mummies' tummies. Others are adopted...like you were, from a Home...because the parents you were born to were not around anymore to look after you".

"But it does not matter how children come to a family or whether or not they look like their parents...once they are in the family, that's where they belong because their parents want them and love them...just like it does not matter where you came to us from or that you look like a rabbit and not a giraffe...what matters is that you are our child now, part of our family and that we love you", said Daddy.



What if one day you don't want me? Will you then give me back to Mrs. Bear's home?" asked Mimi, worriedly.

"Of course we would not give you back to Mrs. Bear's home...Mimi, no matter what you do, you are our child", said Mummy.

"This is your home and you are here to stay. We love you and want to be your parents forever," said Daddy.



Mimi felt much comforted by what her parents told her and decided to go back to school the next day.

"My parents are real and I am their child, no matter what you say, Kaw...you don't even know what a wonderful thing being adopted is and how families are made! If you make fun of me again, I shall tell teacher about how mean and hurtful you have been to me," said Mimi firmly, to Kaw.

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Supported by the Dept. of Women and Child Development, Govt. of Karnataka

Design and Art work : SathishRam

