

We Love Our School



There are fruit
trees in that
school

We can't go,
there is a
scarecrow

Scarecrows
can't run or
shout !

Author & Illustrator
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Message from the Director of Cooperation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Sri Lanka

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is Switzerland's International Cooperation Agency within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)

SDC's Humanitarian Aid Programme is committed to providing support to the most vulnerable in times of need, regardless of gender, political or social background. Supporting the continuity of education for children in the aftermath of disaster and war is an important priority for SDC. As such, SDC supported the reconstruction of schools after the tsunami and the post-war repair and rehabilitation of schools in the Northern Province.

Ensuring that schools are well maintained after they are reconstructed and repaired is very important. We encourage teachers and parents to use this book as a learning tool, to remind children of the importance of maintaining school property. We hope this book will inspire children to love and care for their school buildings and facilities, so that they, and the generations after them, can study and enjoy school life in a pleasant environment.

Philipp Beutler
Director of Cooperation
Swiss Cooperation Programme Office
Sri Lanka.

Message from the Director (School Works Branch), Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka

Physical facilities of a school play an important part in the education of our children. Every year large amounts of money are spent on the repair and rehabilitation of schools; this is mainly because of the rapid deterioration of school buildings and facilities. If small repairs are not done on time they grow into major repairs. If children do not take proper care to keep their schools clean and neat, school buildings and gardens can become neglected and school property can break and become unusable. Well maintained schools are a pleasure to study in. The cost of repairs could also be reduced if schools are well maintained. Children, teachers and parents have an important role in regularly maintaining and taking care of school buildings, property and facilities. This book was prepared with love, with the hope that every child who reads it will grow to love their school, and try to make it a beautiful place where they, and the children after them, can spend their childhood joyfully.

(Eng.) Mrs. I.M. Fernando
Director (School Works)
Ministry of Education
Isurupaya,
Battaramulla,
Sri Lanka.



Next day

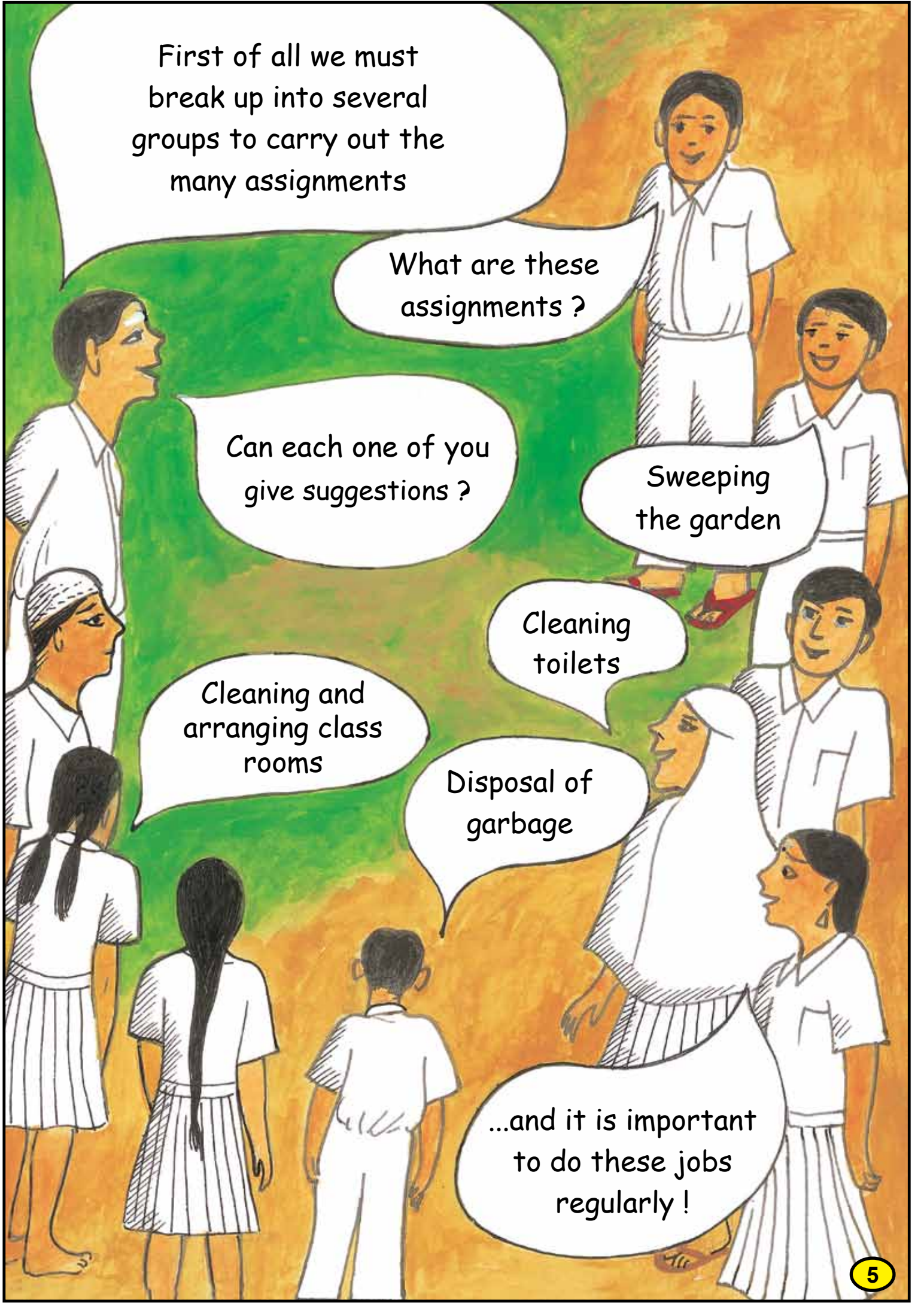
I came up with a brilliant idea. Listen !

What is it Sriram ?

Tell us

We should make our school also look beautiful like the school Raju saw

Agreed ! I think we can study better in a pleasant environment



First of all we must
break up into several
groups to carry out the
many assignments

What are these
assignments ?

Can each one of you
give suggestions ?

Sweeping
the garden

Cleaning
toilets

Cleaning and
arranging class
rooms

Disposal of
garbage

...and it is important
to do these jobs
regularly !

Sir, we want to bring our school to a better standard. We discussed this among ourselves. All are willing to work hard sir !

Good. As the Principal of the school, I fully approve of your project children. Go ahead !

With all the gods' blessings may they succeed.

This work has to be done after school. Go home and come back in the afternoon.

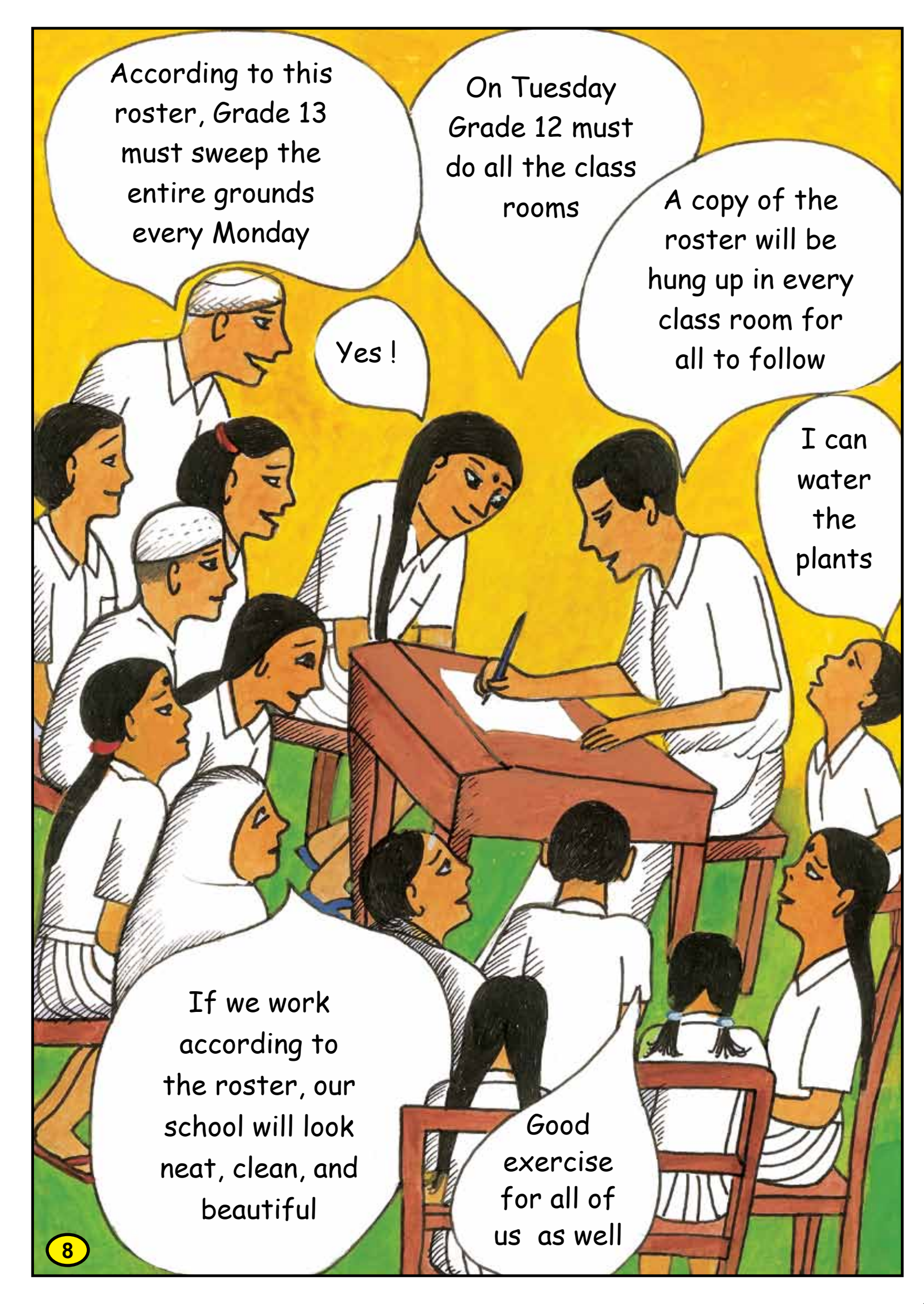
I think we should work in batches Rahul.

I think we should draw up a roster

Yes of course. All mustn't get tired out at the some time

I will also come to help

We mustn't skip Sunday School. So leave out Sunday.



According to this roster, Grade 13 must sweep the entire grounds every Monday

On Tuesday Grade 12 must do all the class rooms

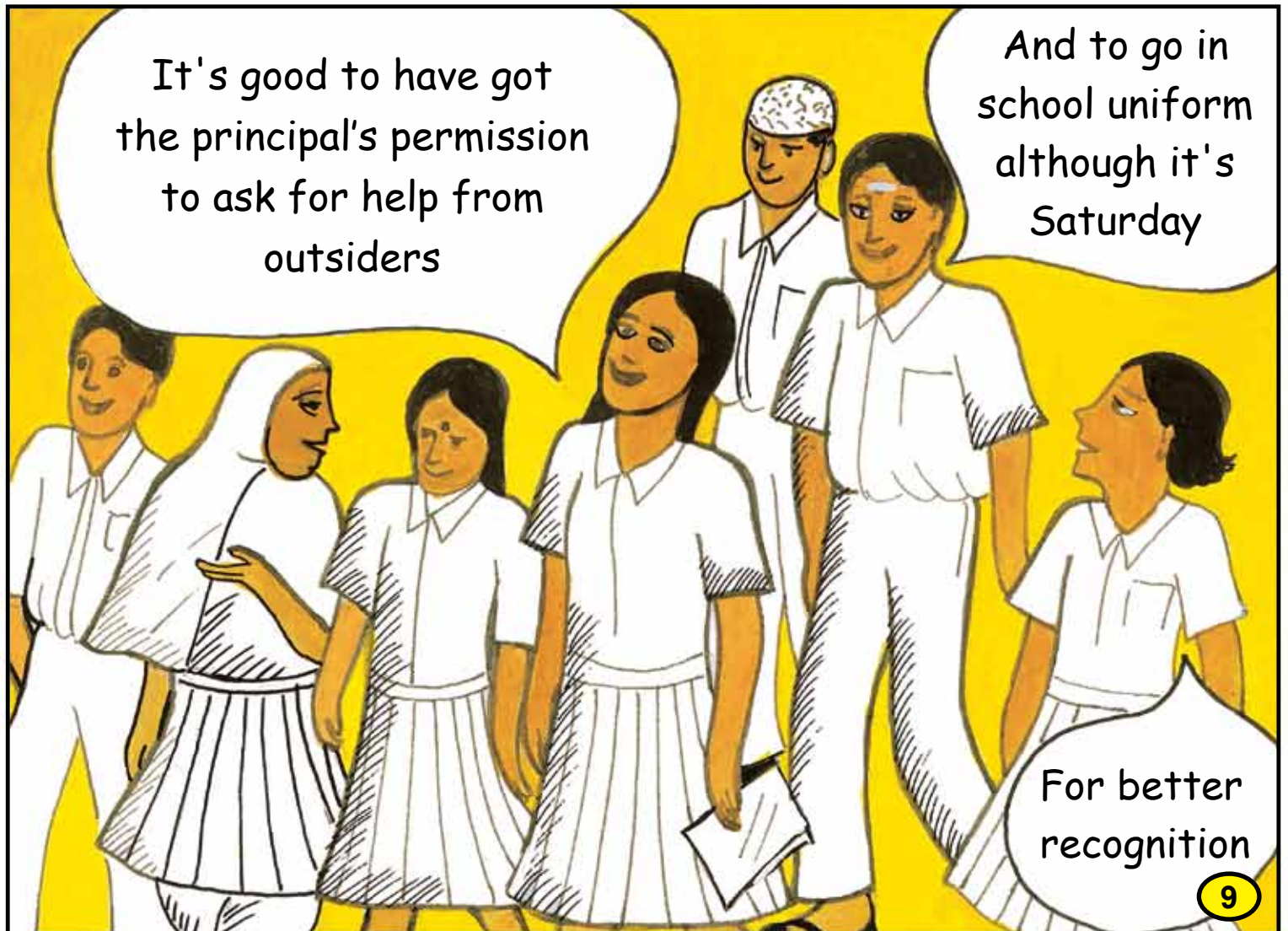
A copy of the roster will be hung up in every class room for all to follow

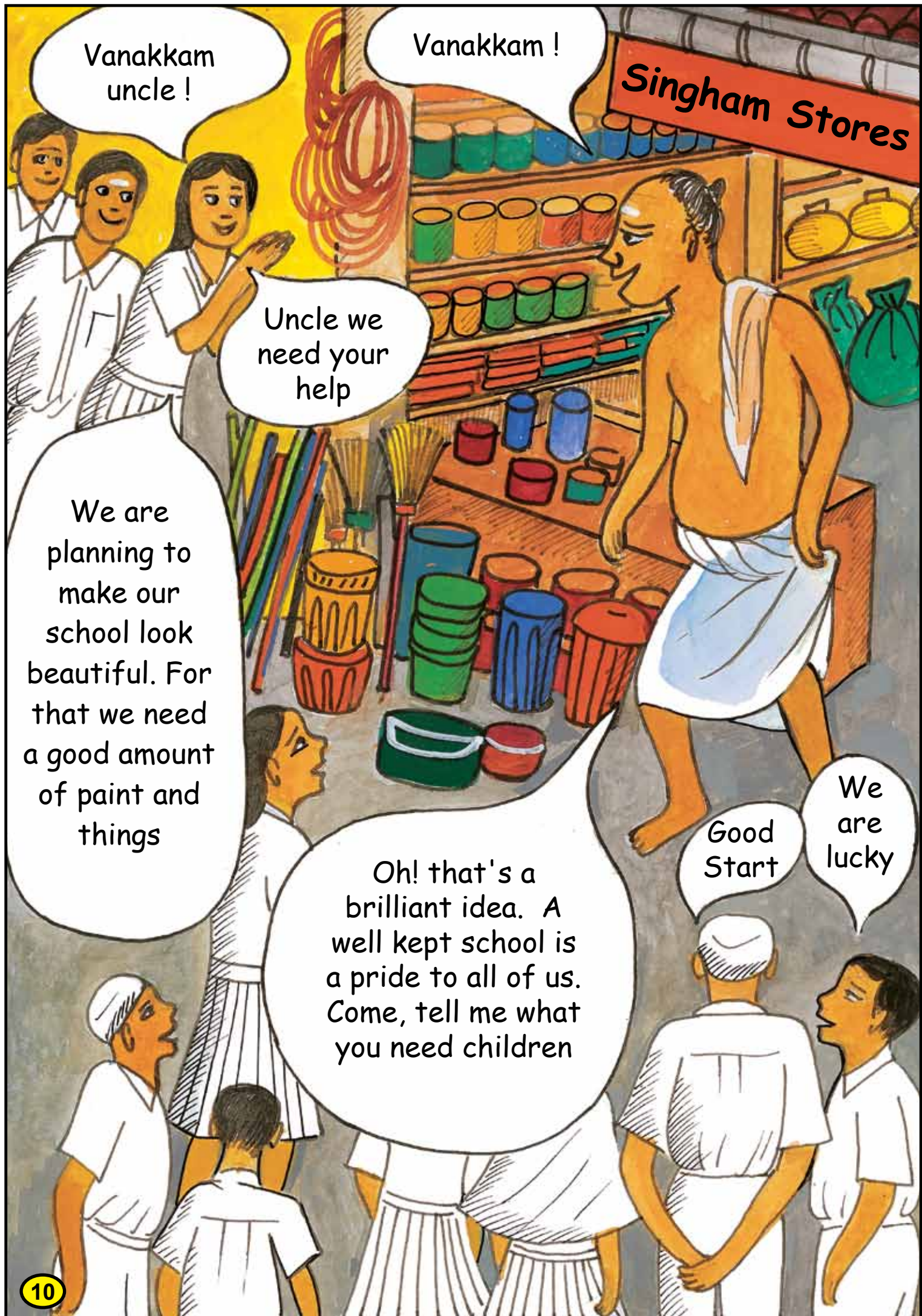
Yes!

I can water the plants

If we work according to the roster, our school will look neat, clean, and beautiful

Good exercise for all of us as well





Vanakkam
uncle !

Vanakkam !

Singham Stores

Uncle we
need your
help

We are
planning to
make our
school look
beautiful. For
that we need
a good amount
of paint and
things

Oh! that's a
brilliant idea. A
well kept school is
a pride to all of us.
Come, tell me what
you need children

Good
Start

We
are
lucky



Siri and Sons

Ayubowan !
Good morning
uncle

Ayubowan !
Why so early
to see me ?

Uncle, we
need your
help

We plan to make our
school beautiful. For
that we need things
like paint brushes,
ekel brooms, spades,
a step-ladder, a
crowbar, mops
and toilet cleaning
equipment

Oh! That's a
grand idea !
School is your
second home,
children. I
will help you
in whatever
way I can.
Come select
what you need

After School

How good we finished weeding one side at least in one afternoon

How lucky we are to get all that we wanted, don't you think so Ravi ?

Of course ! Good deeds get good results

When lucky ones like us are involved, hm !

Well said Devi !

Saturday

These children are truly working hard without the least encouragement from me, as the principal

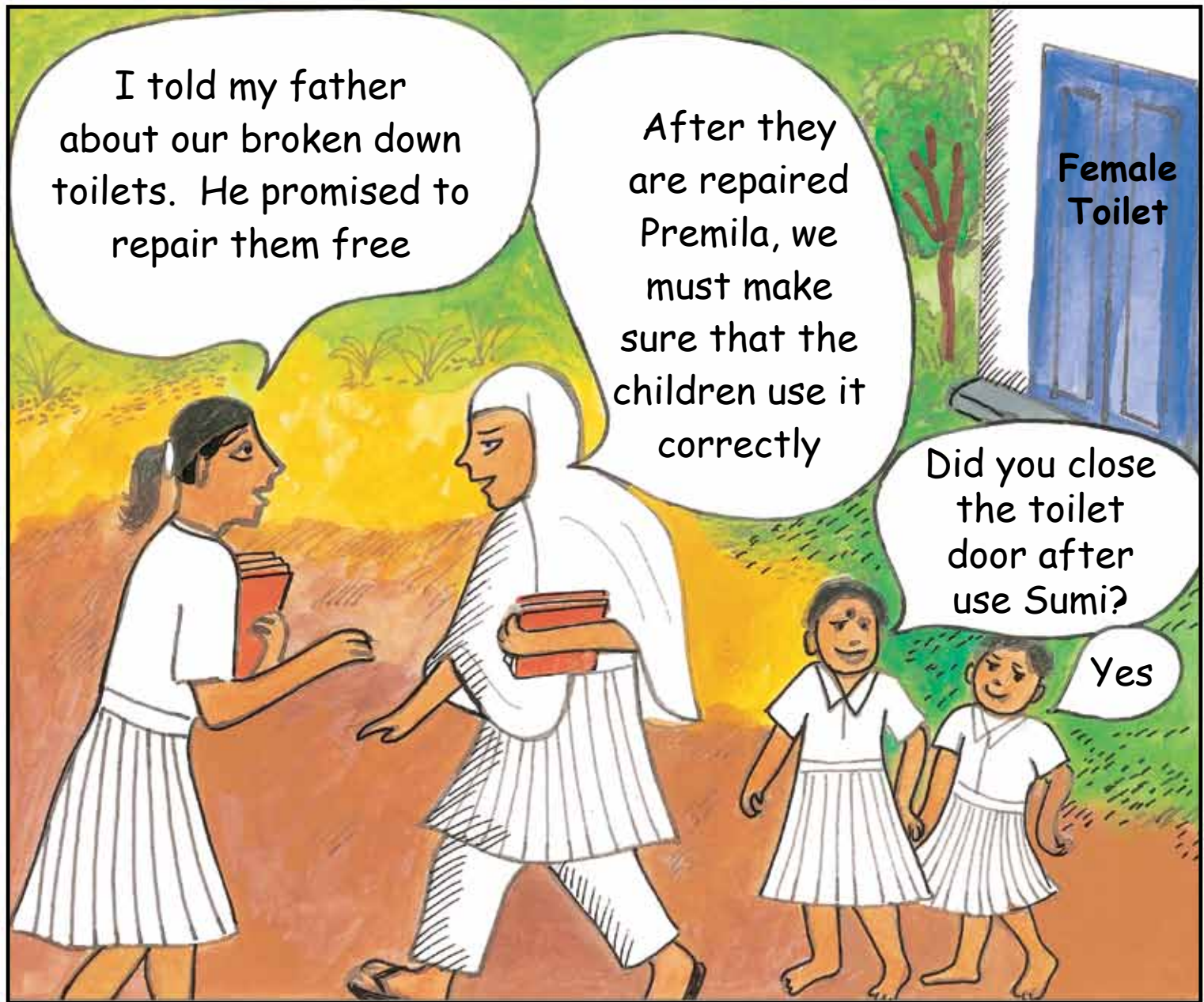
The seniors set a good example to the younger ones. They are all working hard together

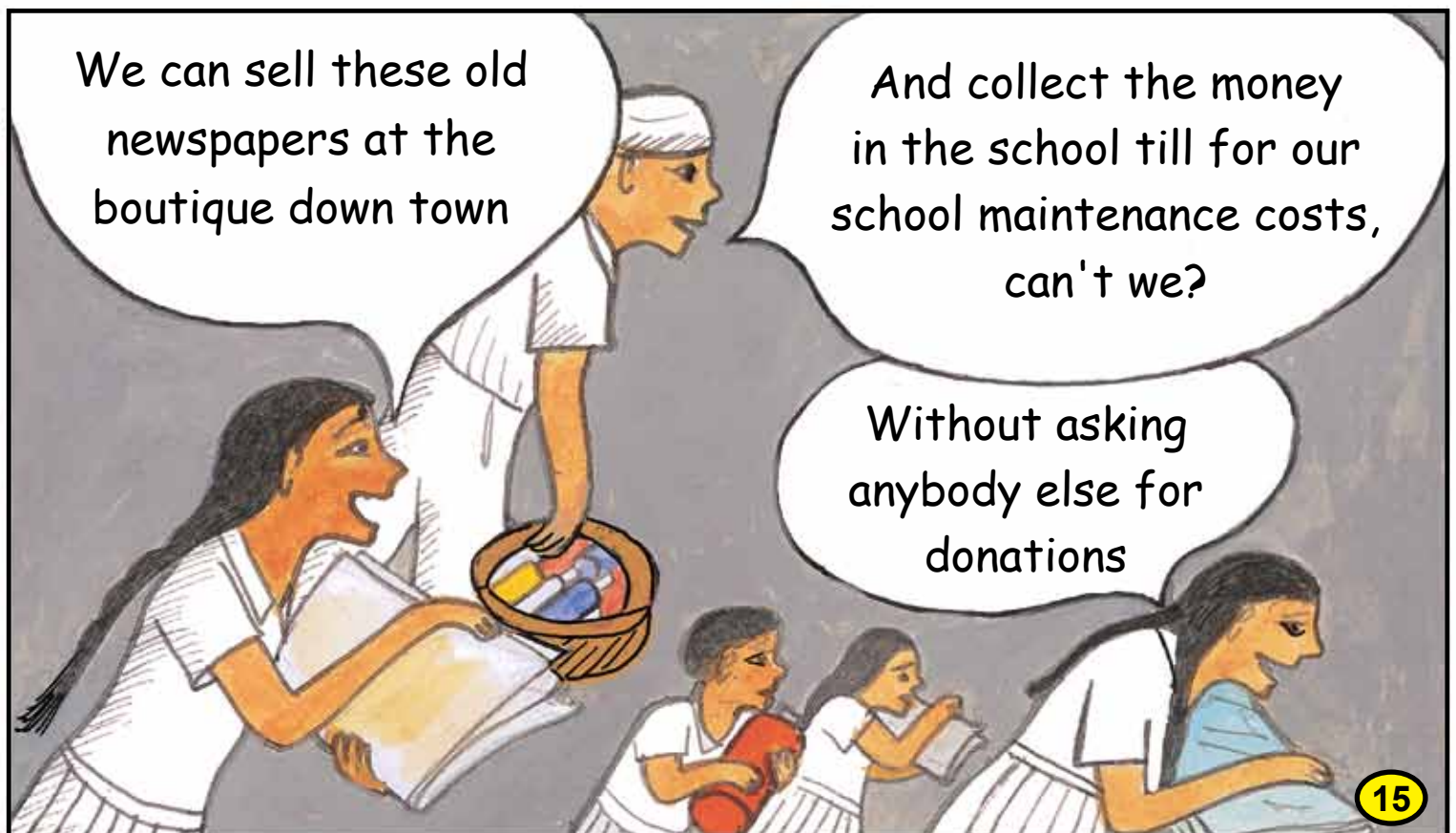
Let me take over Abdul

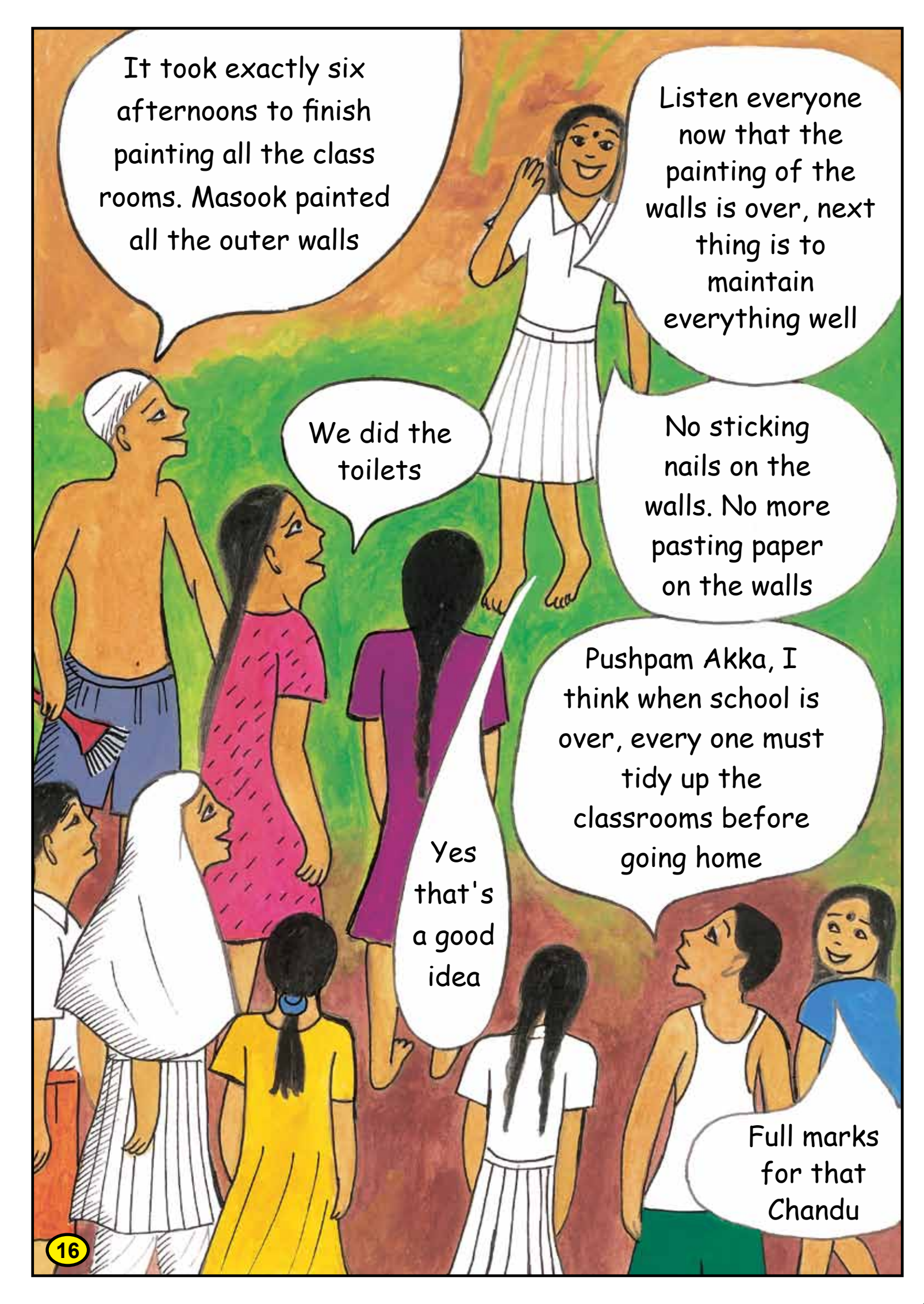
We may need more sticks and rope to fix the fence firmly

To prevent cats and dogs creeping in

Later







It took exactly six afternoons to finish painting all the class rooms. Masook painted all the outer walls

Listen everyone now that the painting of the walls is over, next thing is to maintain everything well

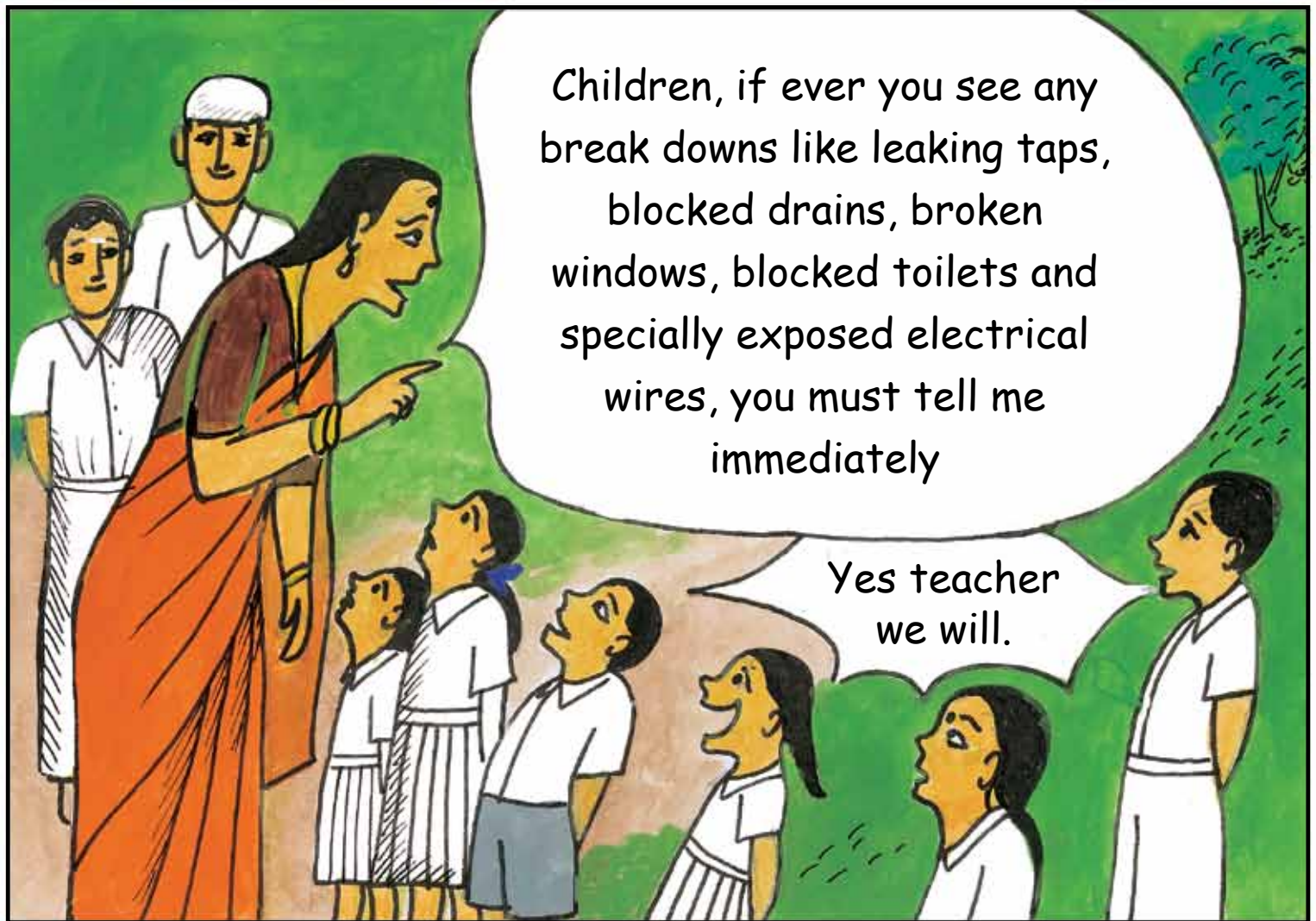
We did the toilets

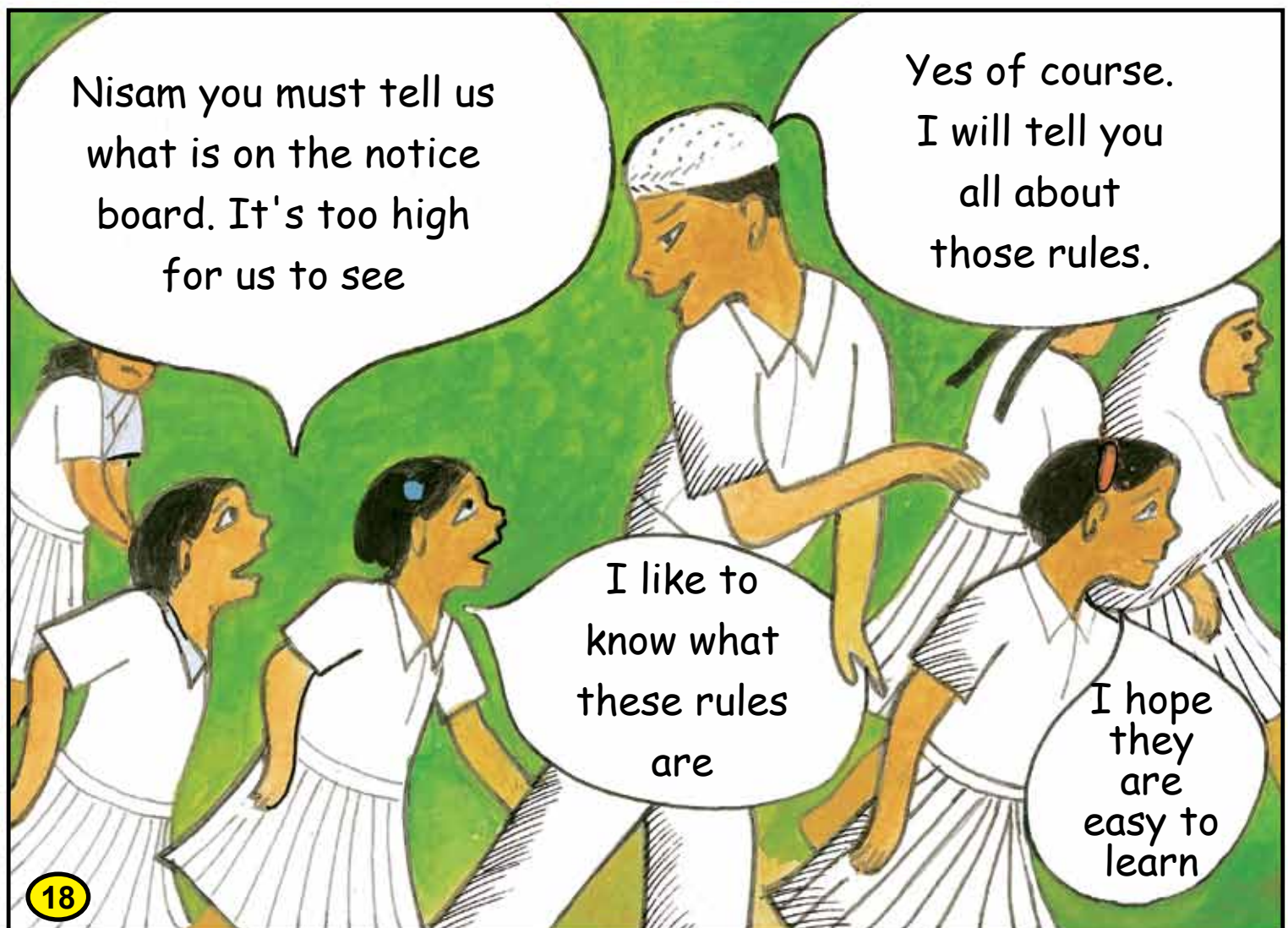
No sticking nails on the walls. No more pasting paper on the walls

Pushpam Akka, I think when school is over, every one must tidy up the classrooms before going home

Yes that's a good idea

Full marks for that Chandu





Notice Board

Do's and Don'ts to Keep our school clean and beautiful

Keep your classroom clean and tidy

Don't paste things on walls; the paint peels off. Use notice boards where possible.

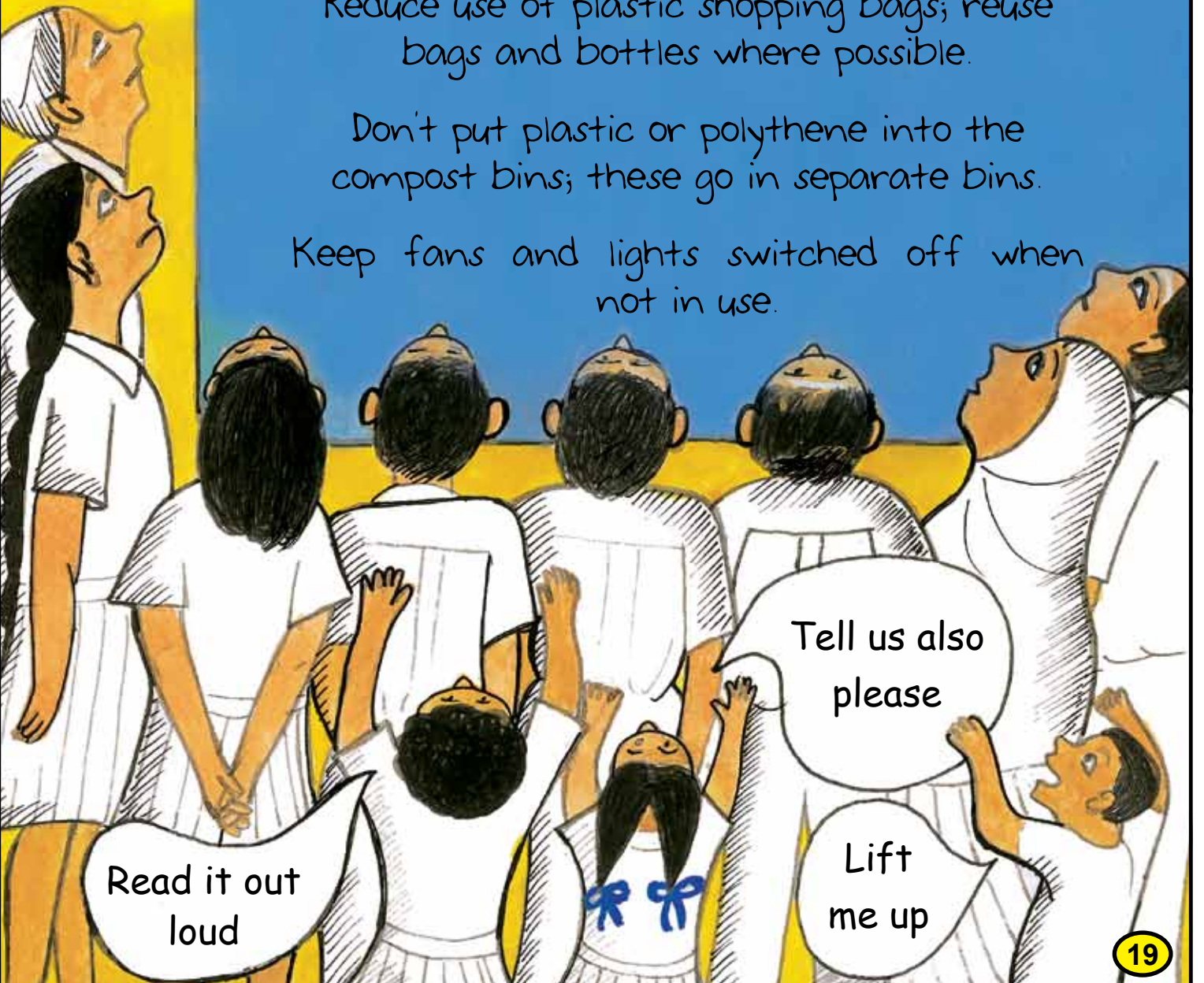
Keep your school grounds neat.

Don't throw waste on the floor-use the school garbage bins.

Reduce use of plastic shopping bags; reuse bags and bottles where possible.

Don't put plastic or polythene into the compost bins; these go in separate bins.

Keep fans and lights switched off when not in use.



Read it out
loud

Tell us also
please

Lift
me up

Notice Board

Don't write on school walls or school furniture

Flush the toilet with water and leave it clean after you have used it.

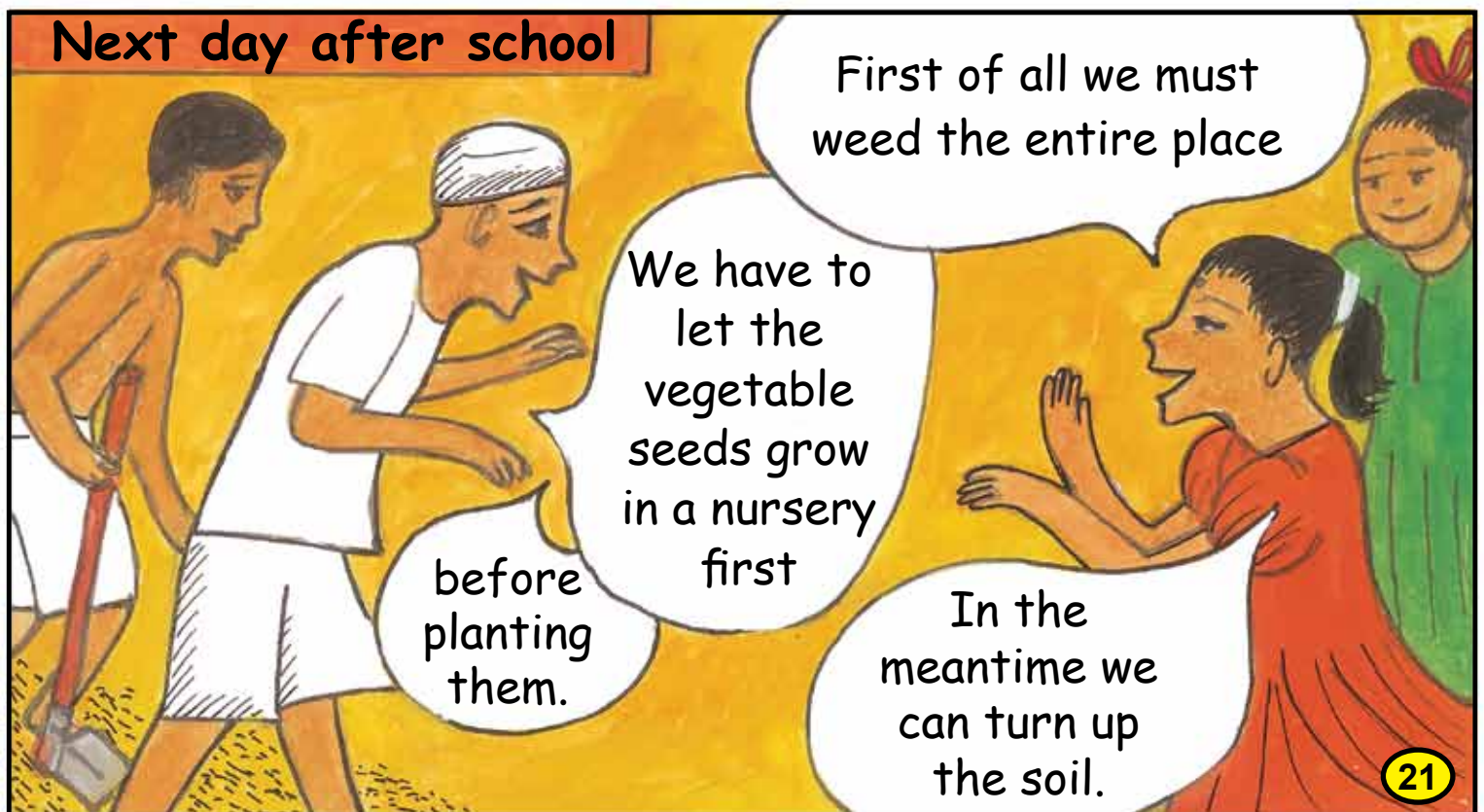
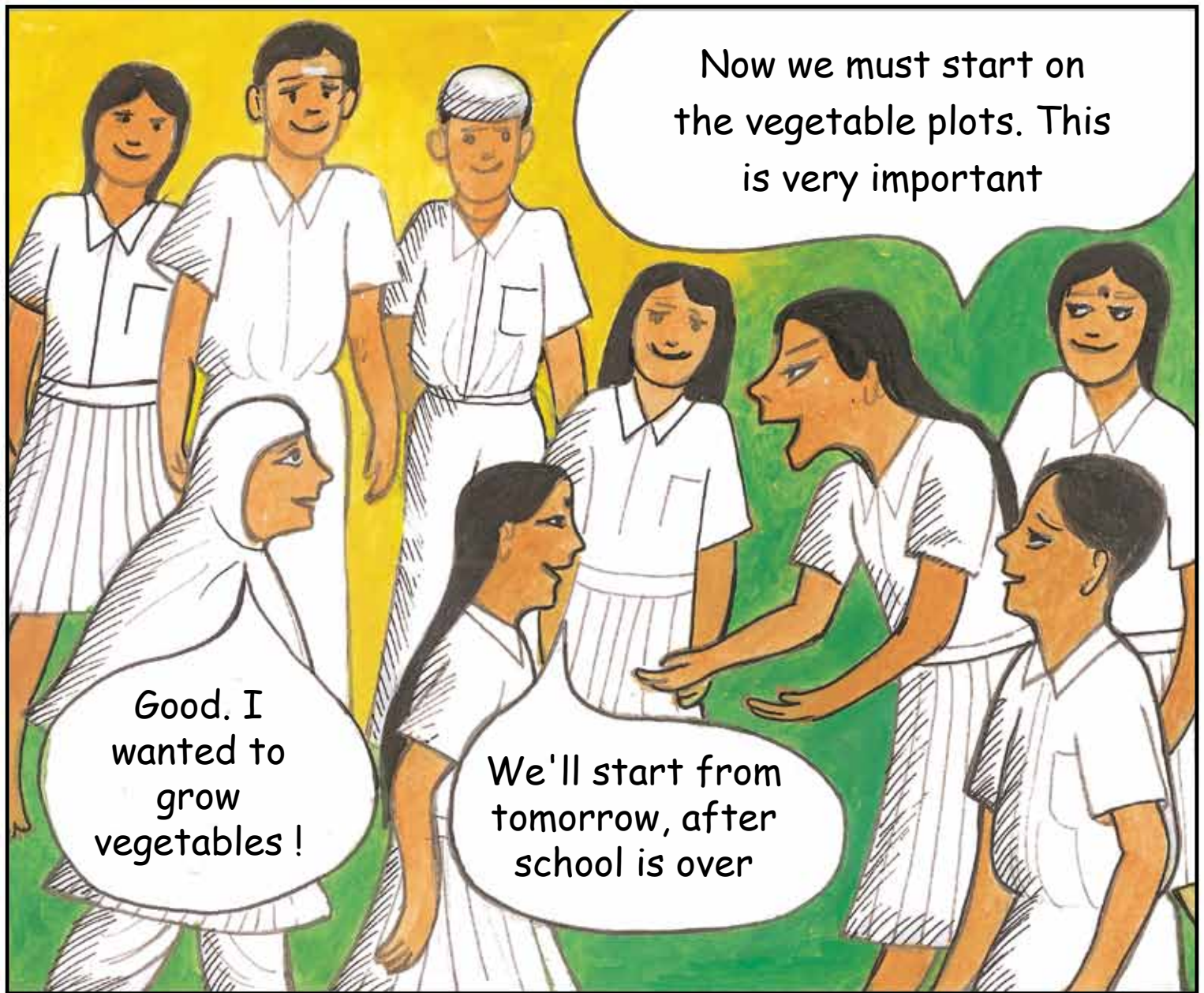
Make sure water isn't collecting in plastic containers/empty tyres outside. Mosquitoes can breed there.

You can grow vegetables, fruit trees, grass and flowers around your school to make it beautiful.

"Be the change you want to see"
start today, and soon others will follow your good example



I might have to copy it down



Two Weeks Later

The seedlings should be planted a good distance away from one another

Our plot will be bandakka. It grows fast

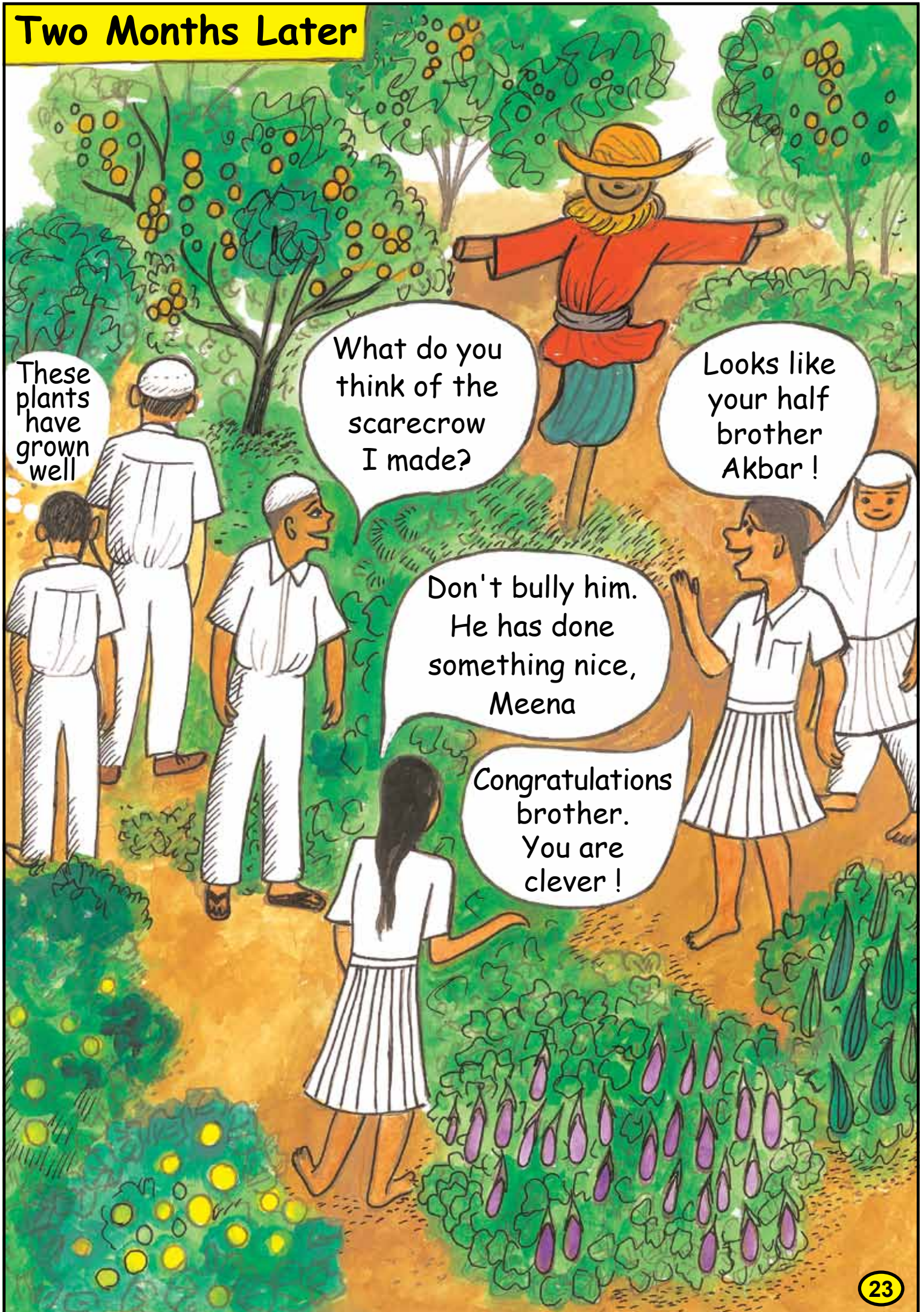
Yes nangi, I will give you some seeds to plant

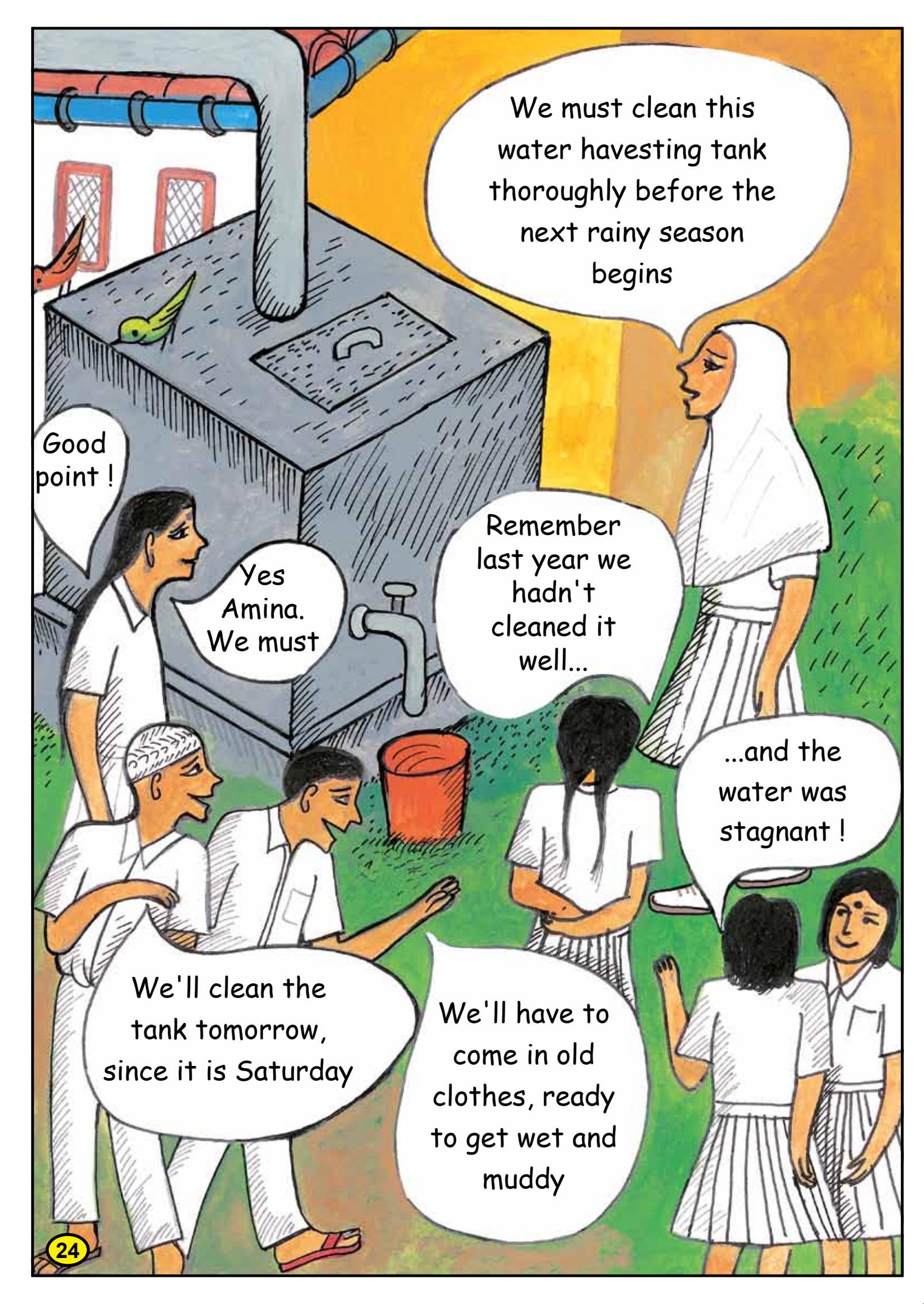
Let me also plant something please, akka

This is compost from our bins

for the plants

Two Months Later





We must clean this
water harvesting tank
thoroughly before the
next rainy season
begins

Good
point !


Yes
Amina.
We must

Remember
last year we
hadn't
cleaned it
well...

...and the
water was
stagnant !

We'll clean the
tank tomorrow,
since it is Saturday

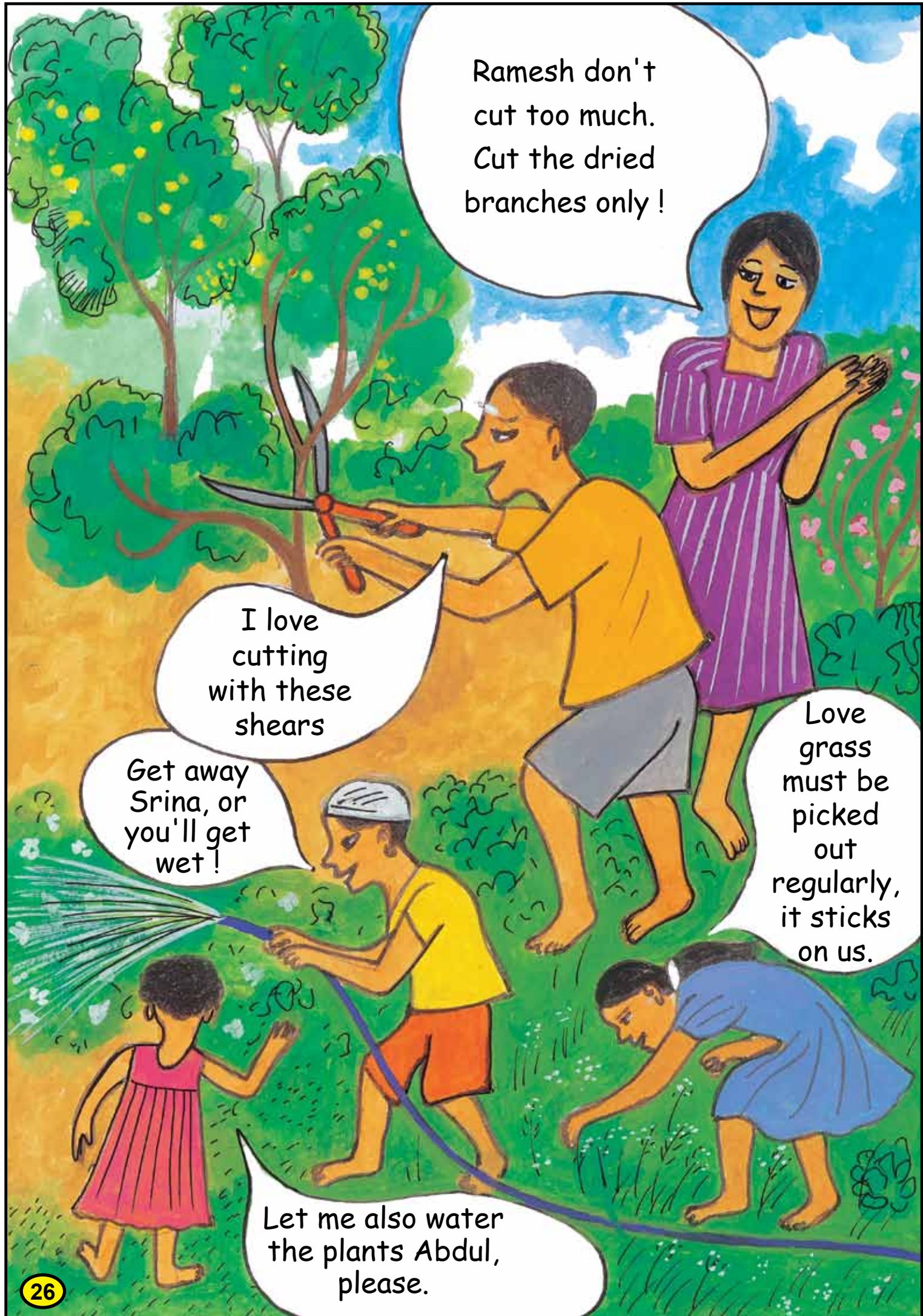
We'll have to
come in old
clothes, ready
to get wet and
muddy

A colorful illustration of a classroom. A female teacher in a teal and red sari stands on the right, gesturing with her right hand. She is addressing a group of students seated at red wooden desks. The students, both boys and girls, are wearing white school uniforms. One girl in the foreground is wearing a white headscarf. In the background, there is a blackboard and a small table with a vase of flowers and books. The room has orange vertical blinds on the wall.

Caring for your
school is like
caring for your
parents. School is
your Alma Mater
children

I am truly happy to
see you working hard
to keep the school
looking clean and
beautiful. I find a
vast improvement in
your studies as well.

Keep up the
good work
children !



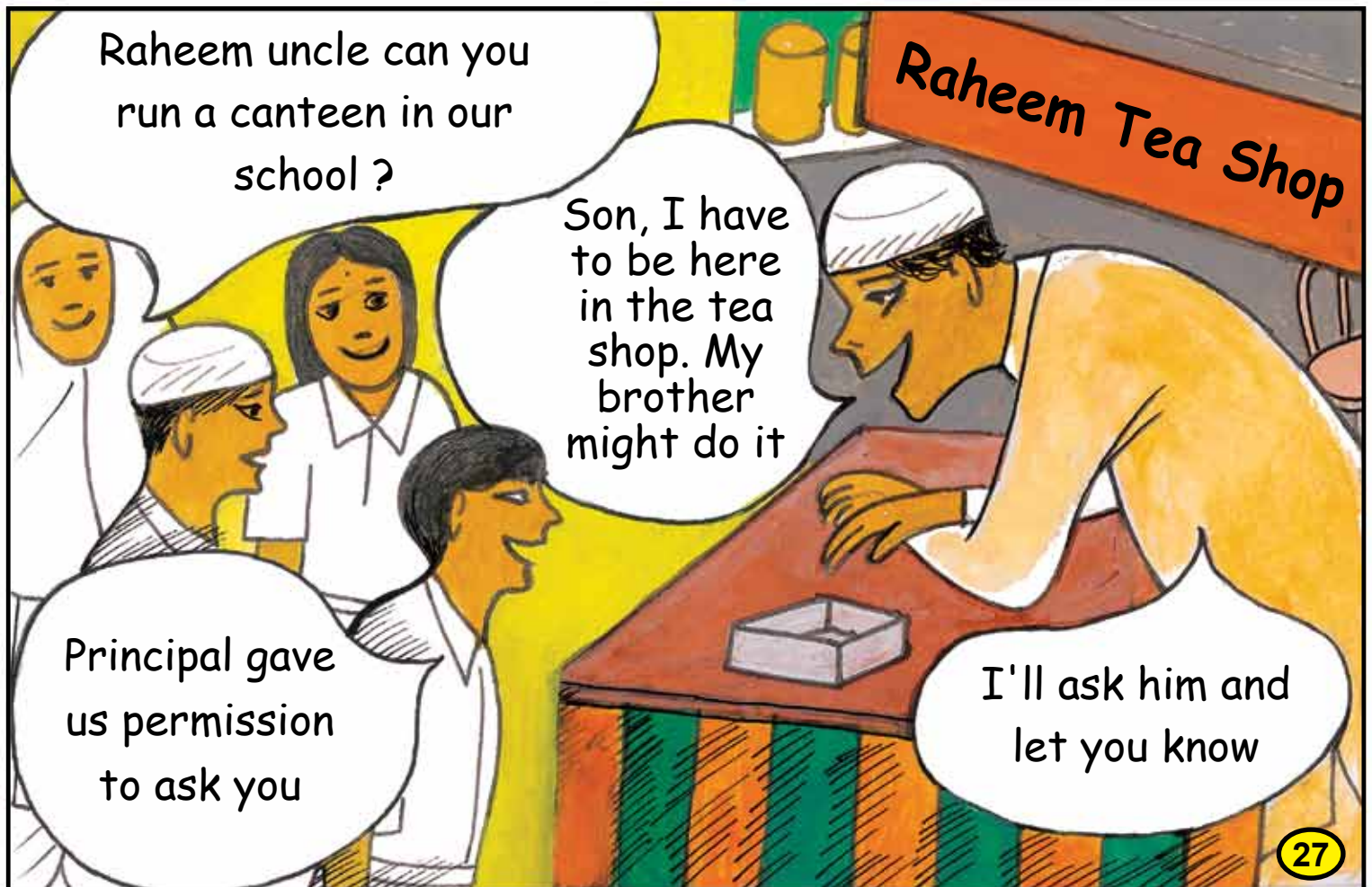
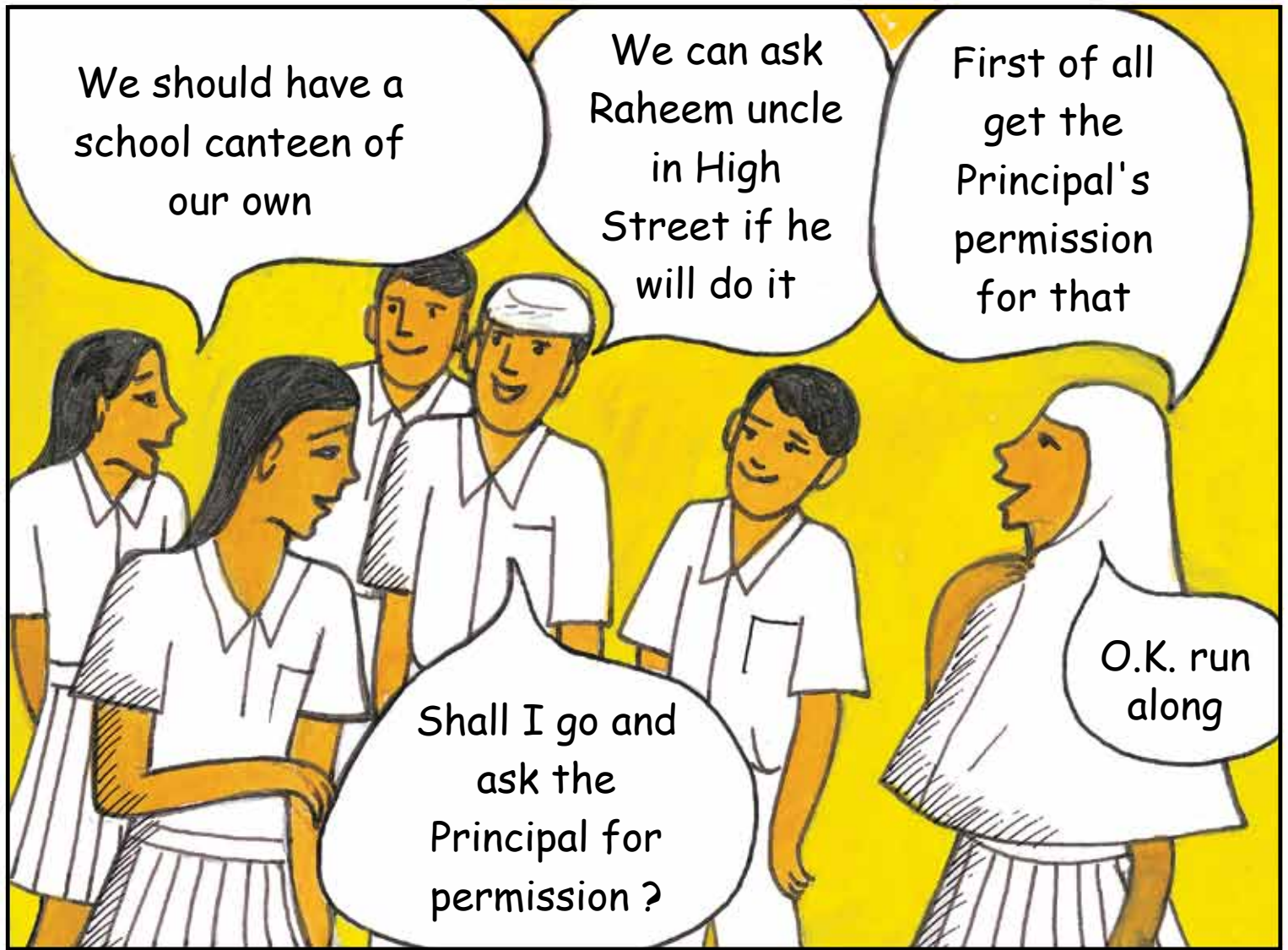
Ramesh don't
cut too much.
Cut the dried
branches only !

I love
cutting
with these
shears

Get away
Srina, or
you'll get
wet !

Love
grass
must be
picked
out
regularly,
it sticks
on us.

Let me also water
the plants Abdul,
please.



Madam, our children now are motivated to keep the school looking beautiful. They work so hard !

Yes, the Principal and the entire staff are very happy about them !

There is also a vast improvement in their studies !

My little girl is always talking about growing vegetables

Stop, stop don't run so fast !

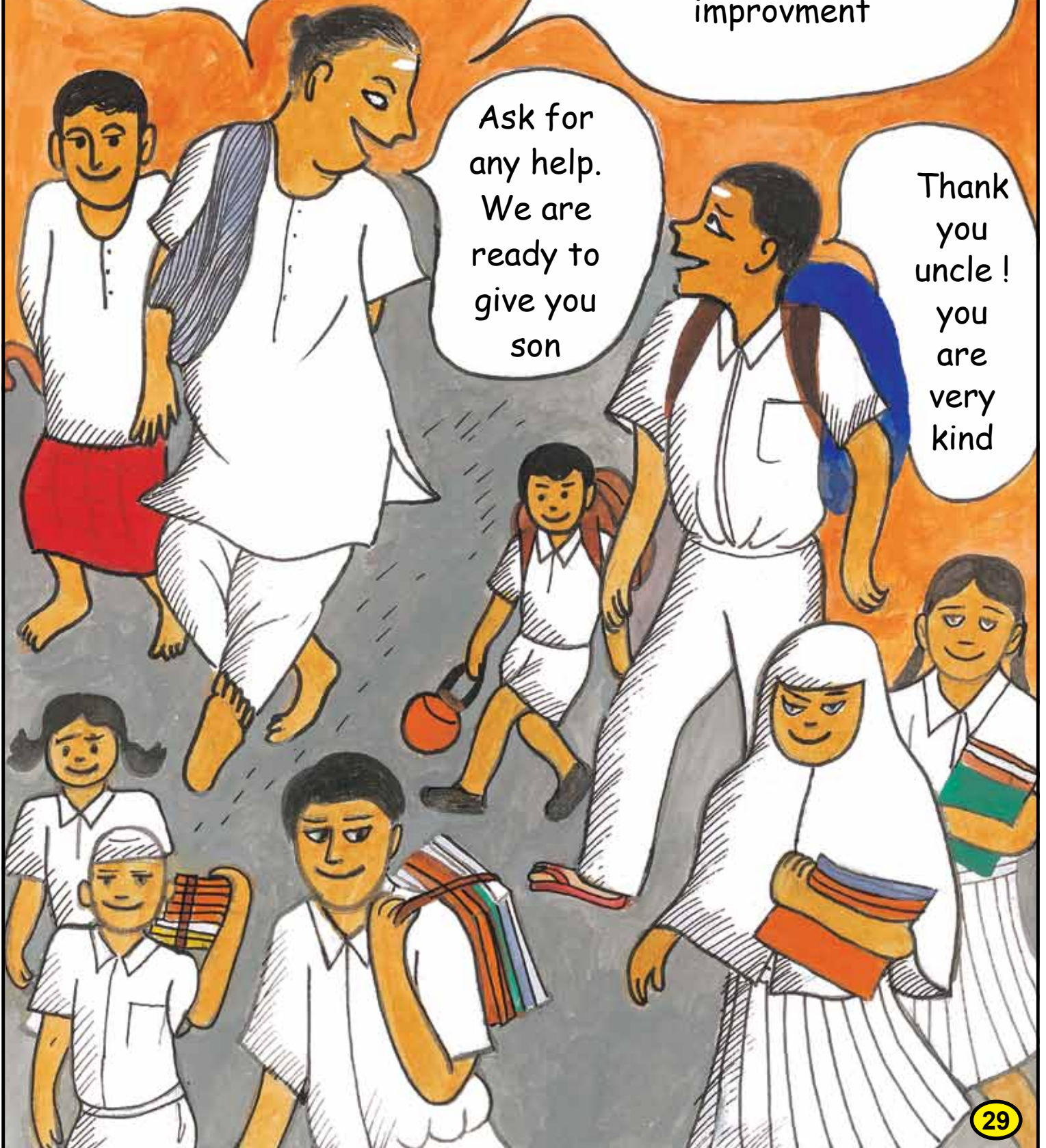
Teacher auntie.... teacher auntie....

Sivam, I have always
wanted to tell you
son, that your school
is now looking
beautiful !

I see the children are
also very orderly. We
as neighbours of the
school are very happy
about the vast
improvement

Ask for
any help.
We are
ready to
give you
son

Thank
you
uncle !
you
are
very
kind



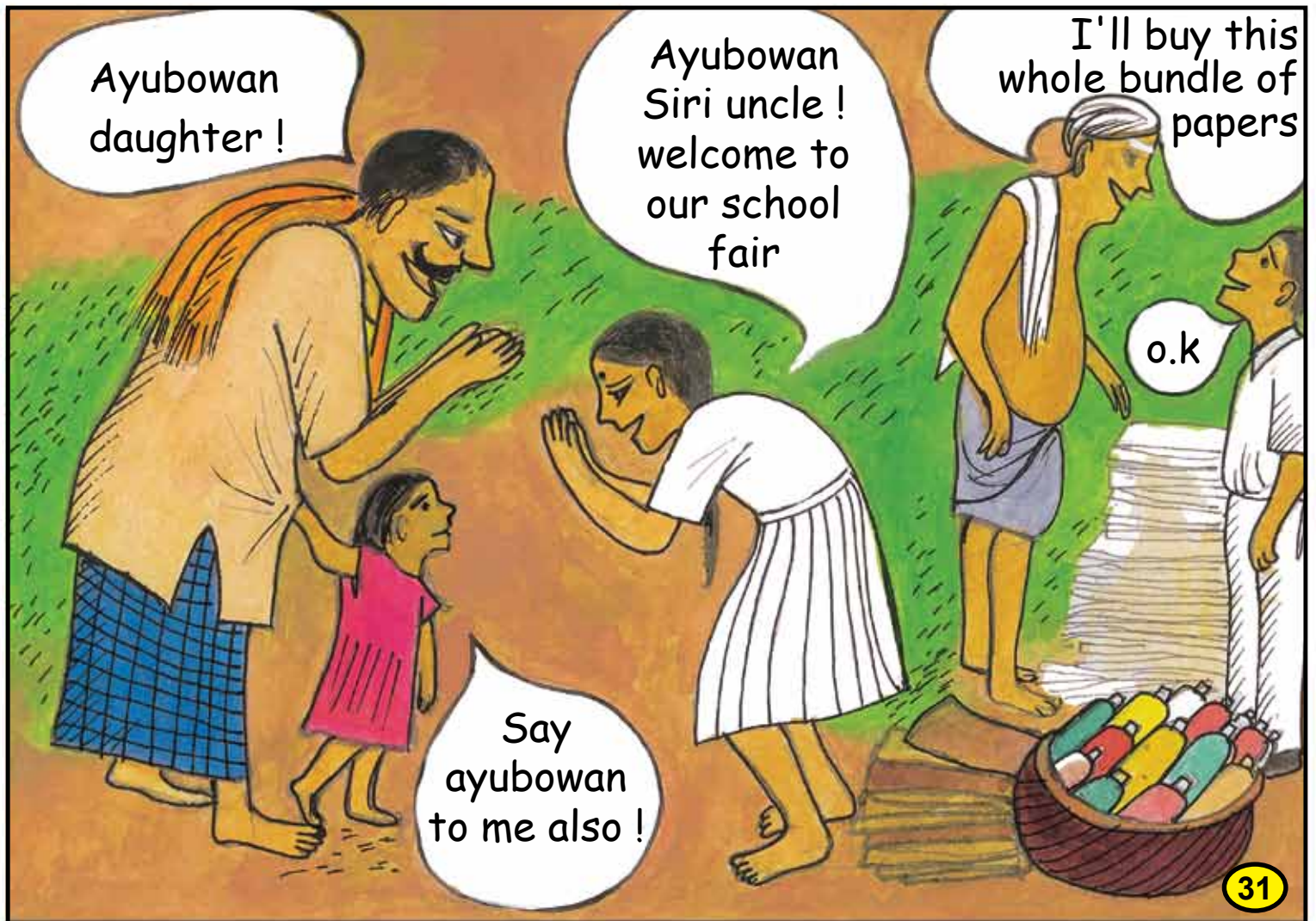
Three months later

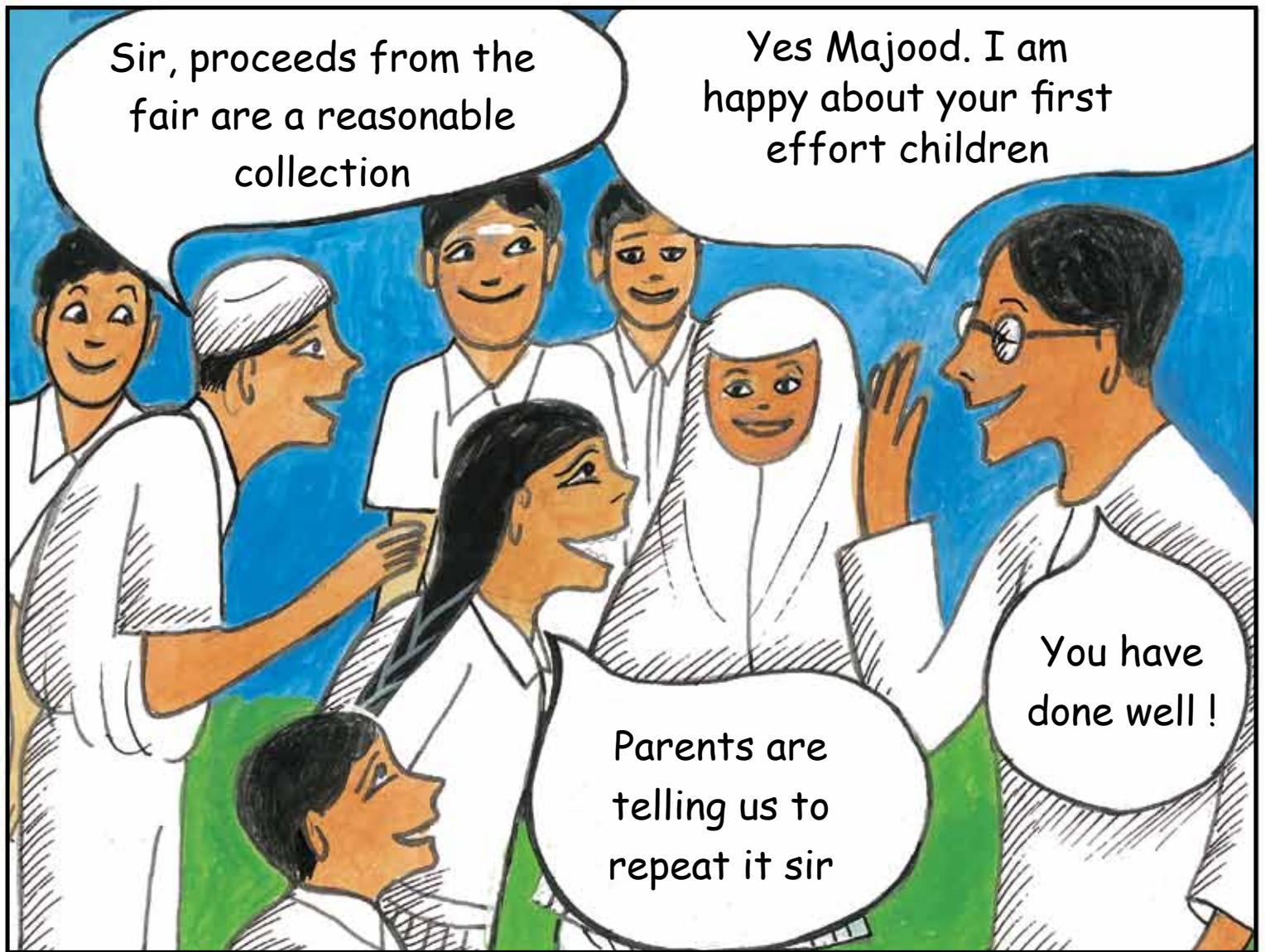
Sir, our vegetables and fruits are ready to be plucked. Can we organise a fair in the school sir, this week-end ?

That's good news Motalib, organise it.

That's a very good quality children, being grateful to someone who helped you. I am proud of you. By all means invite them !

Sir, can we invite uncle Singham and uncle Siri as the chief guests ? They helped us by giving us all that we needed





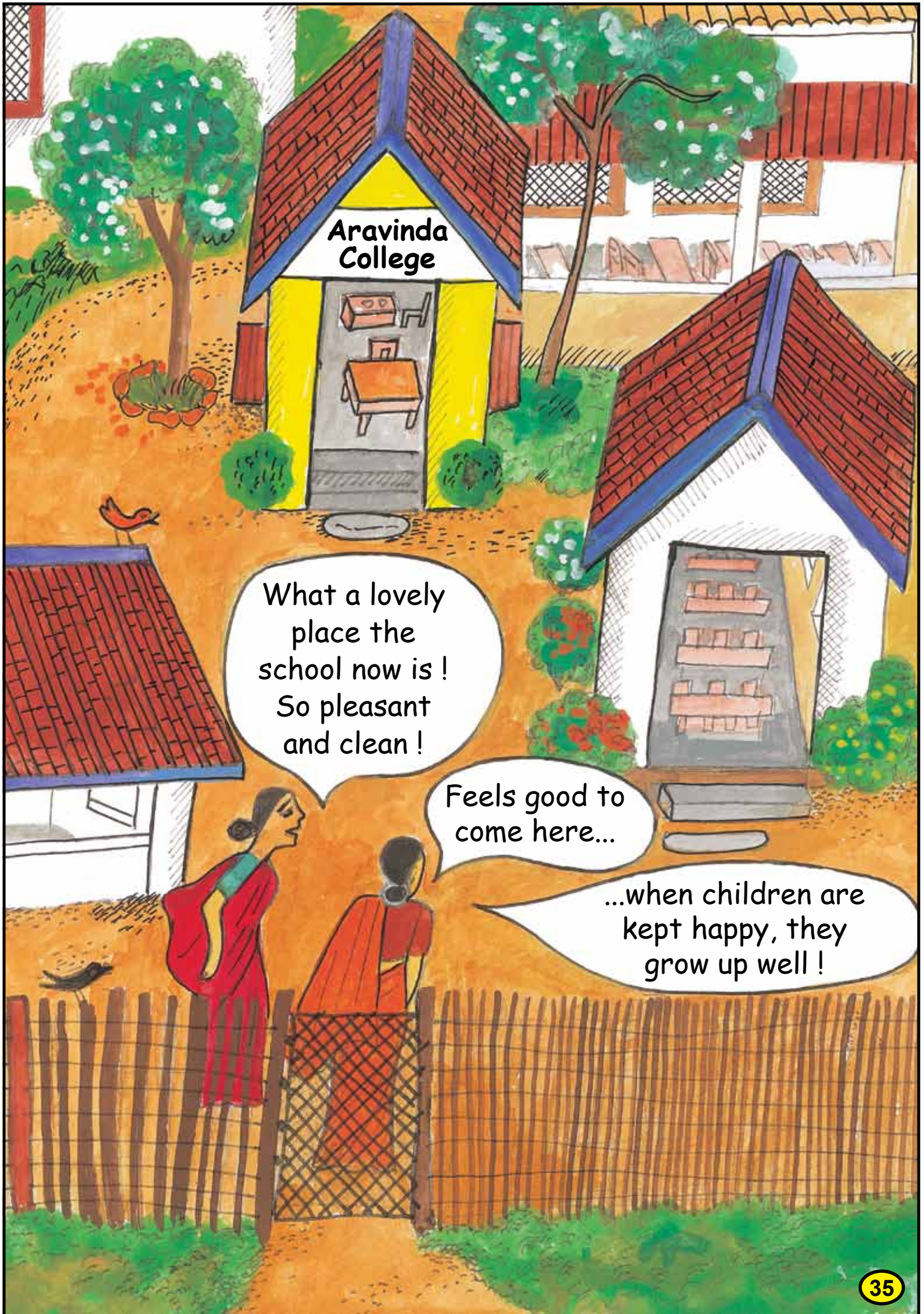


Dear children, you have done extremely well to bring the school to a high standard. The school is very clean, orderly and beautiful now...

...we saw that everyone worked hard

The whole staff is proud of you

...and we are confident that you will keep it up for long



Aravinda
College

What a lovely
place the
school now is!
So pleasant
and clean!

Feels good to
come here...

...when children are
kept happy, they
grow up well!

The School Song

The school is our home
Our second home
Where we mix together
In harmony
Here we learn
To rise in life
As learned men
and women
We call our school
Our Alma Mater
And remember her
All our lives
In humble, grateful
Heartfelt love
We'll keep her
Shinning all throughout

