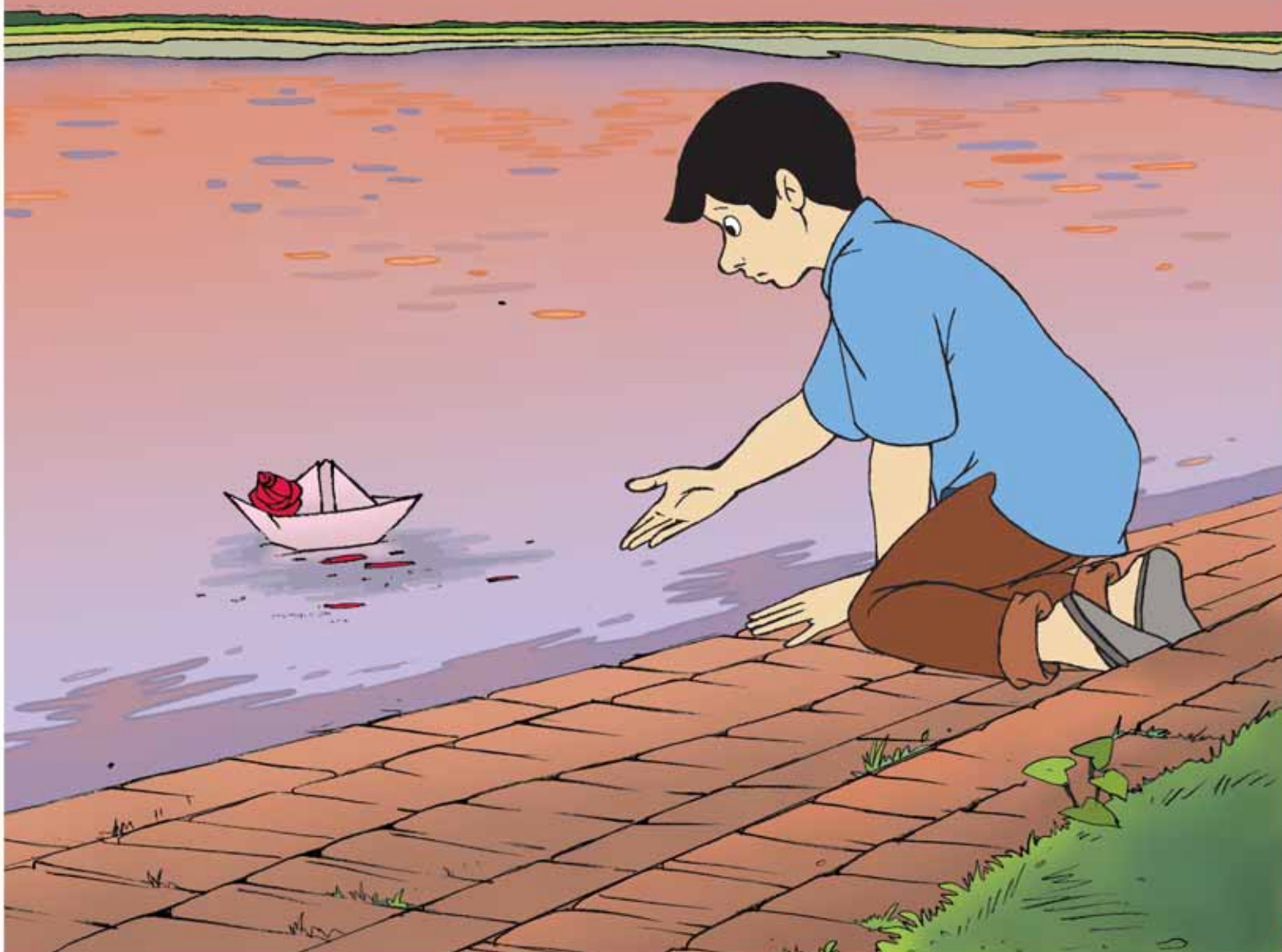




FLOWER BOAT





FLOWER BOAT



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Nijeke Jano

A COMIC BOOK SERIES

This is the third in a series of comic books of the "Nijeke Jano" or "Know Yourself" package of communication materials for adolescents. This series deals with various health and development issues and concerns of adolescent boys and girls.

The comic book series is centered on the Hossein family and their adolescent boy Sajjad, age 15, and girl, Shanu, age 13 who live in a small town in Bangladesh. The adolescents' father, mother, Aunt Rina, cousin Nasima and mischievous little brother, Babu, are also important characters of the series. Hedayet is a teacher in the Hossein household and Sajjad and Shanu have many friends. These enthusiastic, energetic, and adventurous adolescents struggle to learn how to handle their concerns and problems, with some help from adults.

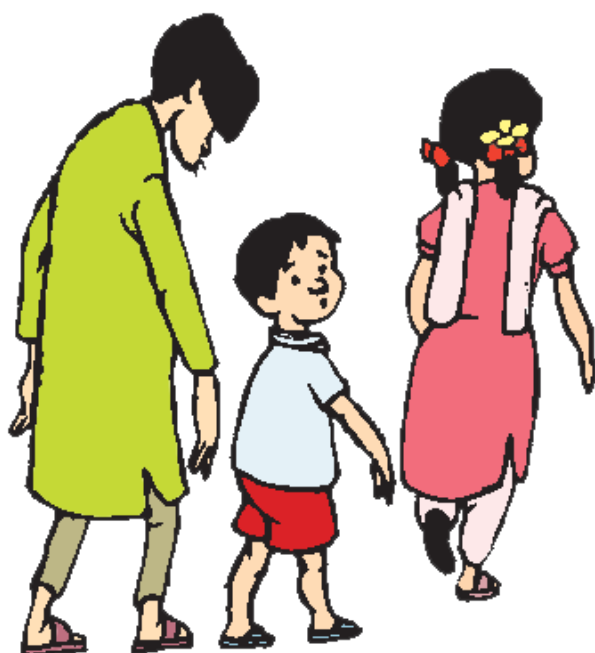
This series addresses a range of adolescent health issues with special focus on reproductive health. Foremost, the series seeks to help adolescents gain the knowledge and life skills needed for positive behavior development. These skills include problem solving, decision-making, critical and creative thinking, dealing with conflict and emotions, self-awareness and empathy, among others. Some of the health topics covered in the series include: emotional and physical changes in puberty, conception and pregnancy, avoiding early marriage and early pregnancy, preventing HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), and avoiding substance abuse, as well as other important health issues.



This third comic book talks about different types of emotional and mental changes during adolescence, including sexual attraction and how to cope with these changes. In the story, Shanu makes herself look different and tries to imitate her Aunt Rina. She gets upset easily and becomes sulky. Sajjad falls in love with Lucky and can't concentrate on studies. His father scolds him and out of anger he leaves home. The police catch him, but with the help of family and friends, Sajjad is brought home safely. Eventually, both Shanu and Sajjad come to understand that emotional and mental changes happen to all adolescents and it's a natural process.

The "Nijeke Jano" comic book series has been developed by the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) with technical support from the Health Communication Partnership based at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health / Center for Communication Programs and UNICEF. Comic book development involved an extensive process of design workshops with Adolescent Working Group members, writers, artists, researchers, adolescents and programmers as well as formative research with adolescents, parents and community leaders throughout Bangladesh. We hope you enjoy this story.

Produced with financial assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and UNICEF and with the active participation of the Adolescent Reproductive Health Working Group, Bangladesh.



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April 2004

ISBN 984-757-032-9

READER'S GUIDE TO SELF-ASSESSMENT

Dear adolescent friends,

This comic book has been written for you and for all adolescents your age on different types of emotional and mental changes, including sexual attraction. We hope you will like the story and the characters. The story is humorous and entertaining with facts for adolescents.

You will surely read this comic book with great interest and attention. Following is a set of questions for you. After you finish reading the book, go through the questions and either think of the answers yourself or discuss the answers. This will help you to focus on the story and the messages that we want you to know.



- What is the subject matter of the story?
- Who are the characters in the story?
- Who do you think are the central characters in the story?
Why?
- How old are Sajjad, Shanu, Lipi and Lucky?
- What do you know about emotional and mental changes?
- What problems did Shanu face?
- How did Shanu overcome her problems?
- What kind of advice did mother give to Shanu?
- What problem did Sajjad face?
- How did Sajjad overcome his problems?
- What would you have done if you were in Sajjad's position?
- What did you learn from the story?

Characters in this story



Sajjad: Adolescent boy, 15 years old

Shanu: Adolescent girl, 13 years old

Rina: Sajjad and Shanu's aunt,
works at the school

Babu: Sajjad and Shanu's
younger brother



Anowar Hossein: Sajjad and Shanu's father,
shopkeeper

Nazma Hossein: Sajjad and Shanu's mother

Hedayet: Lodging master at
Sajjad and Shanu's
house



Uncle: Nazma Hossein's brother
and imam of local mosque

Grandmother: Nazma Hossein's aunt,
Sajjad & Shanu's
grandmother

Aziz: Hossein family friend



Sajjad and Shanu's friends



Ratan



Masum



Ein

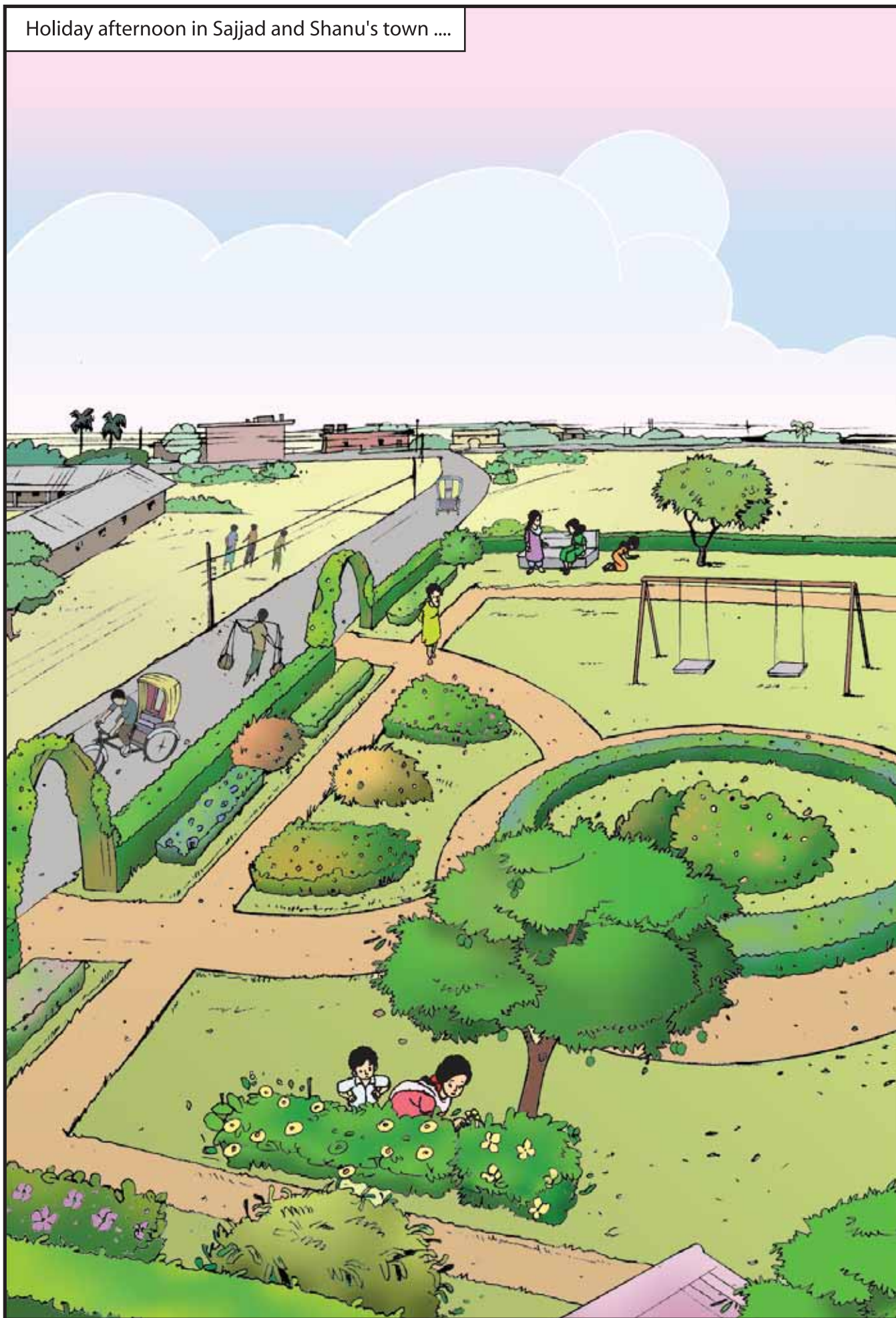


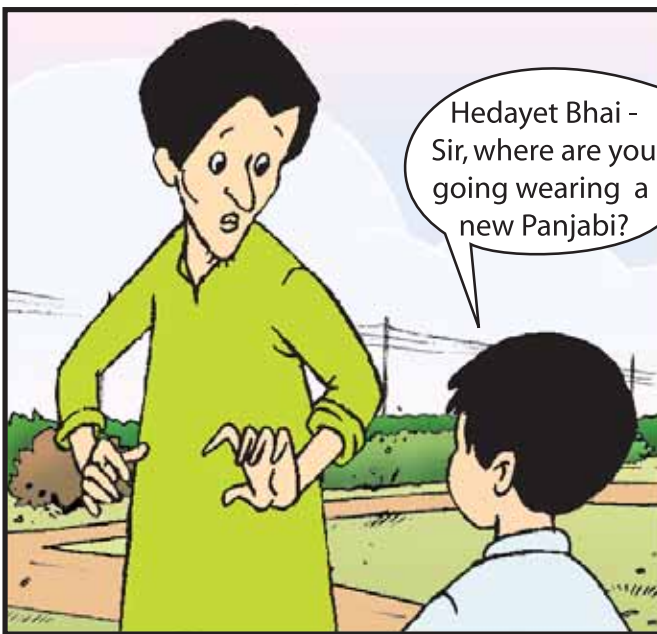
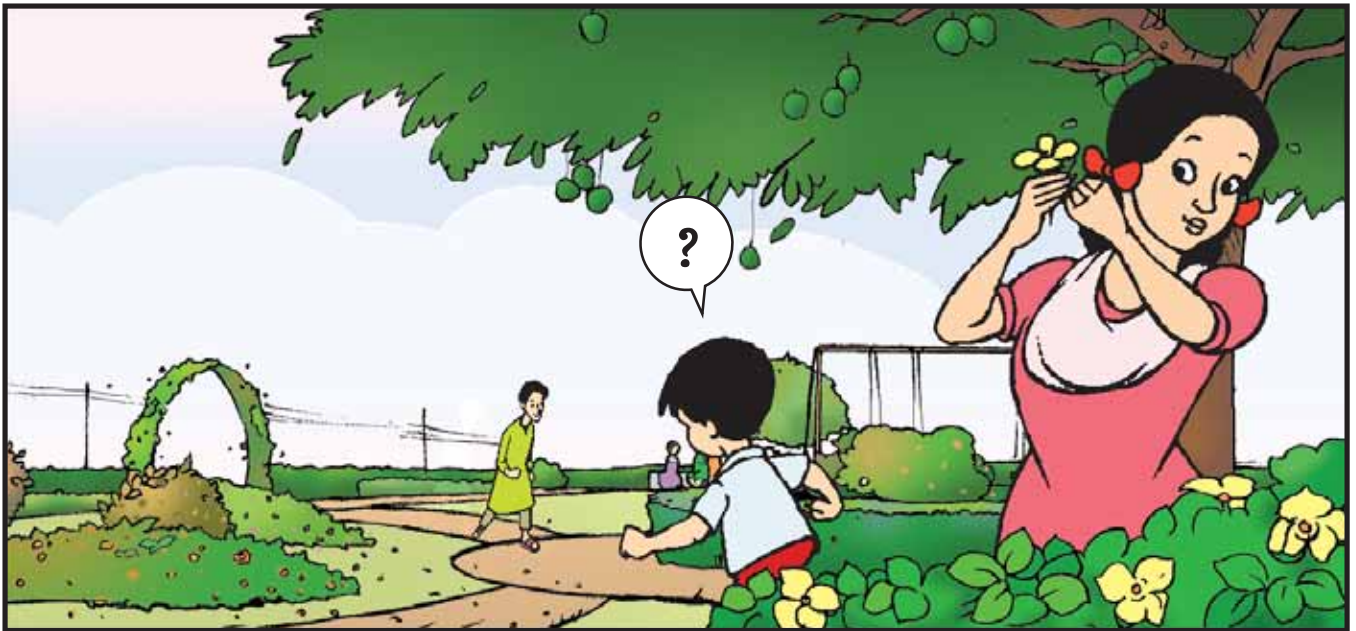
Lipi

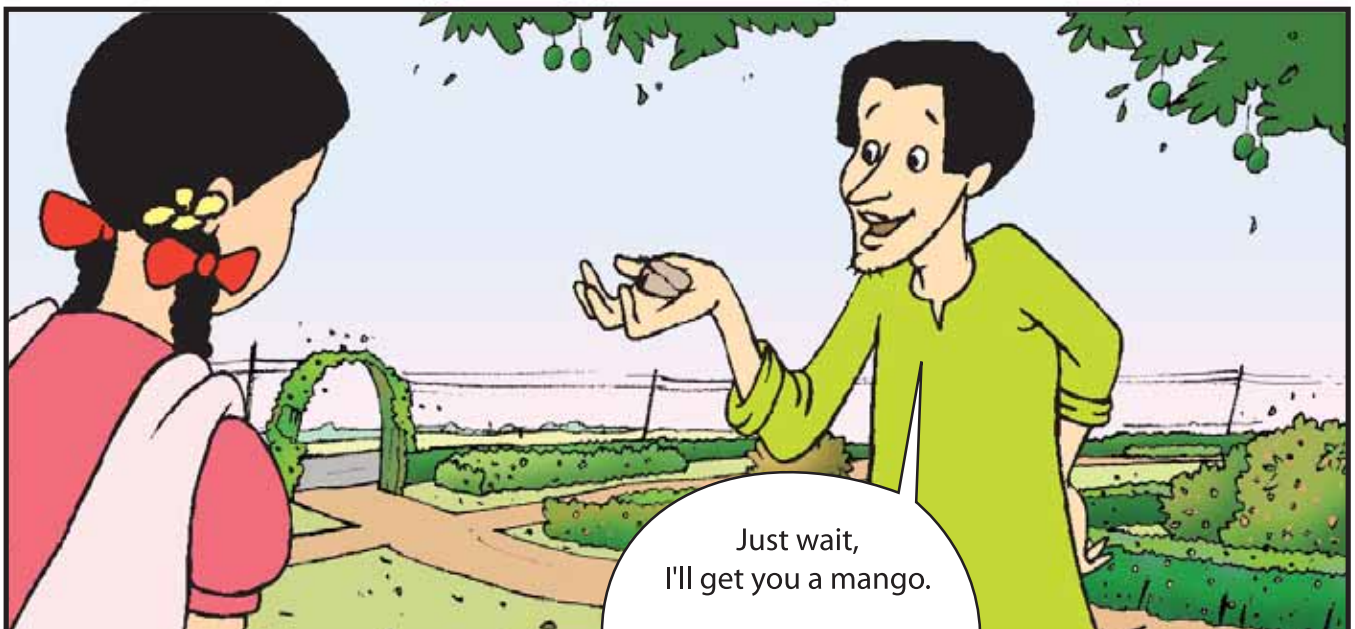
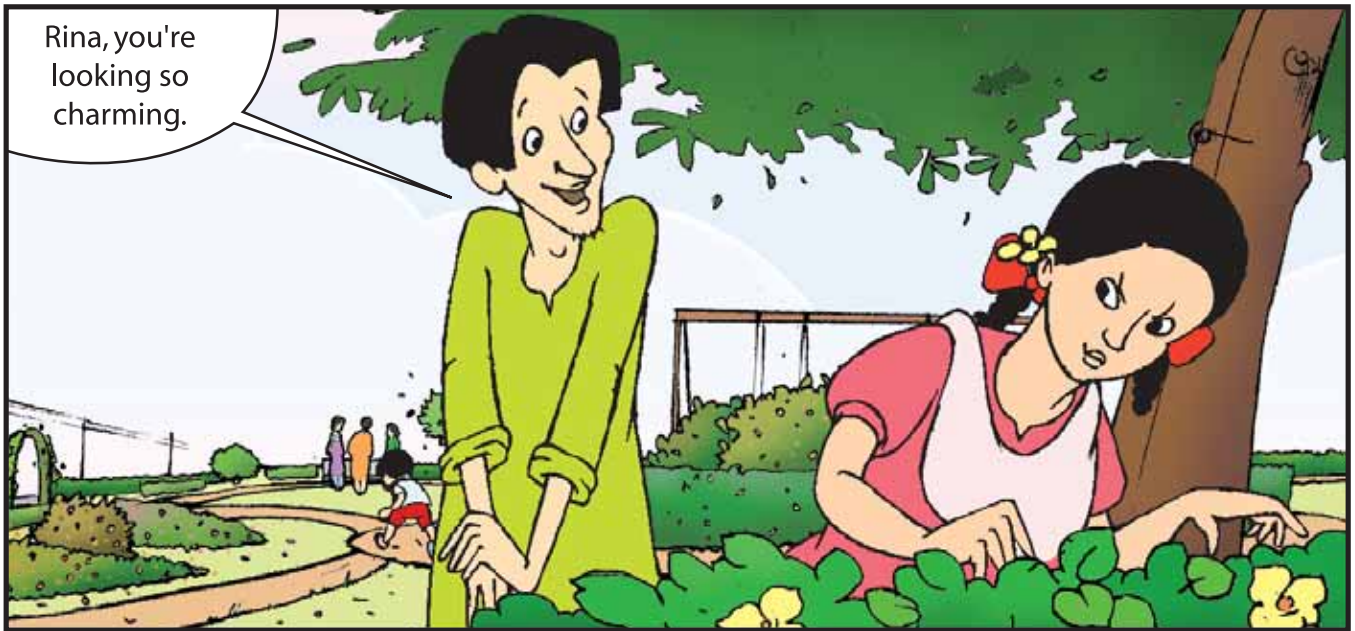


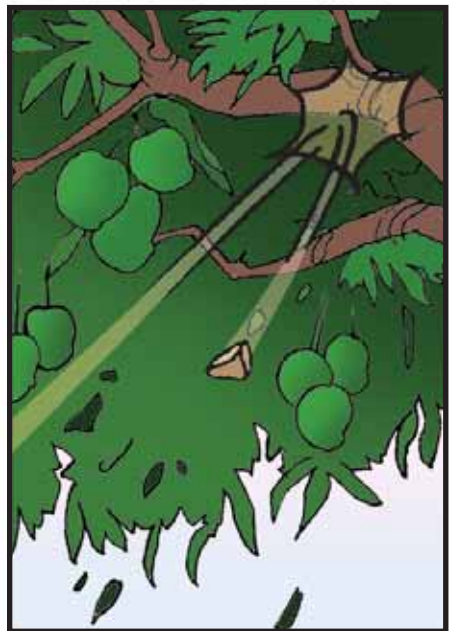
Lucky

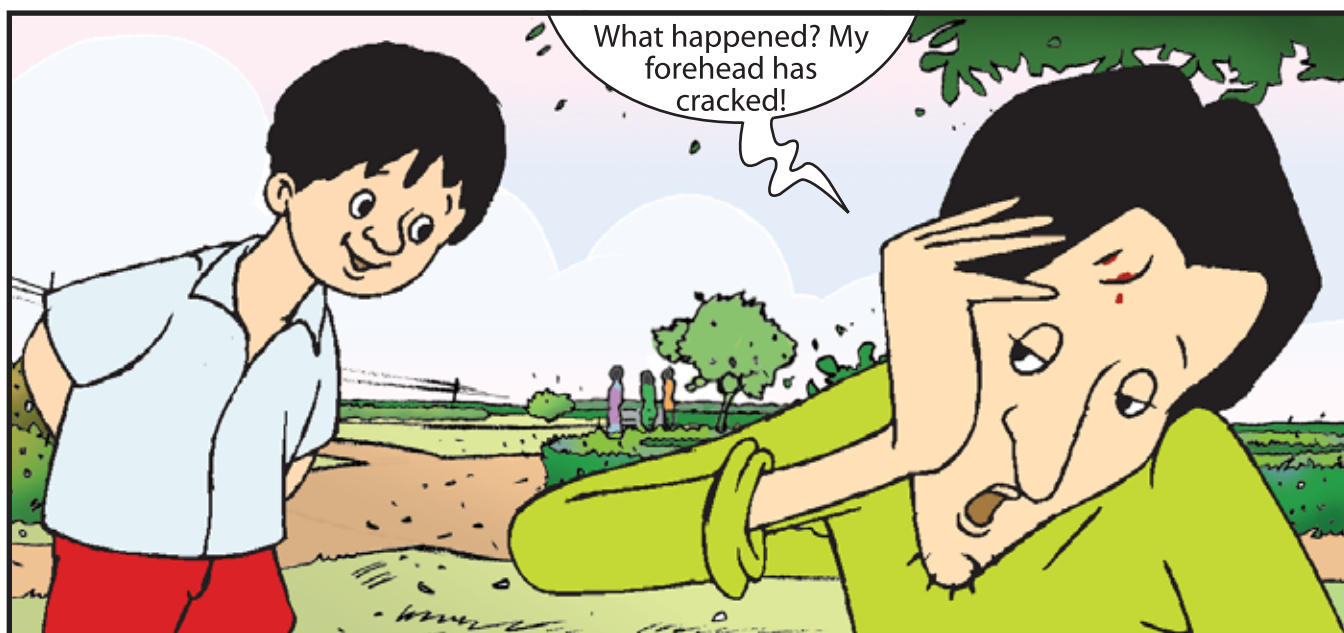
Holiday afternoon in Sajjad and Shanu's town

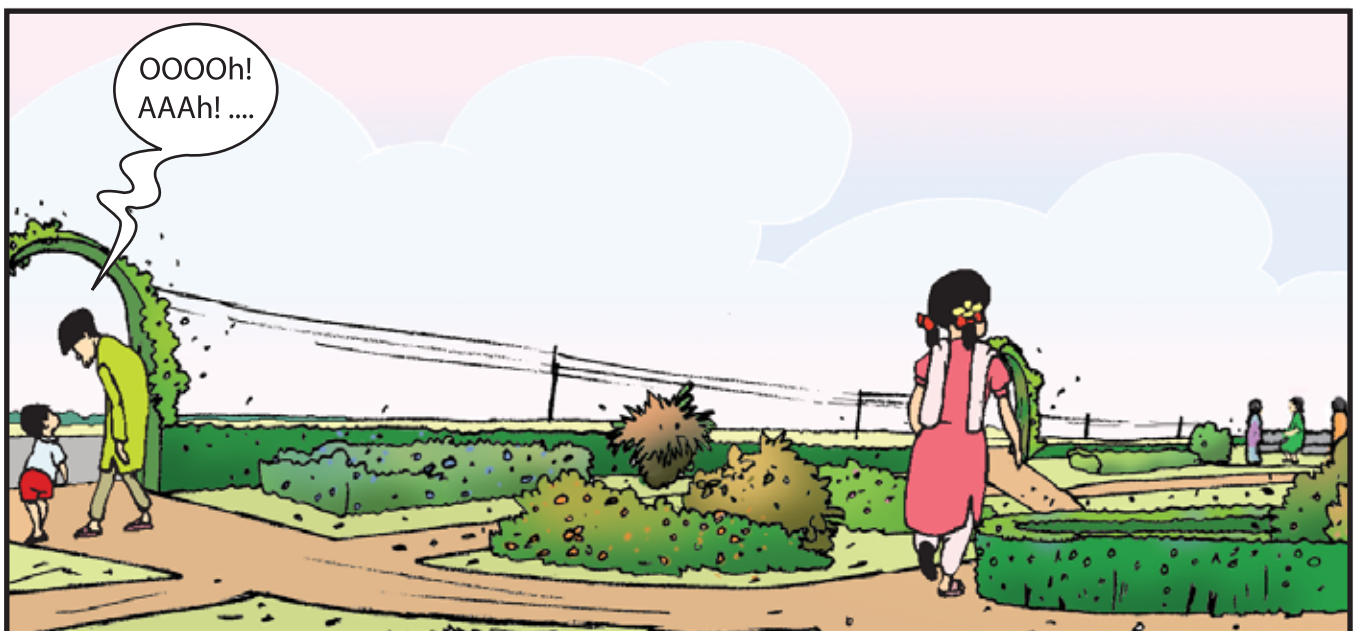
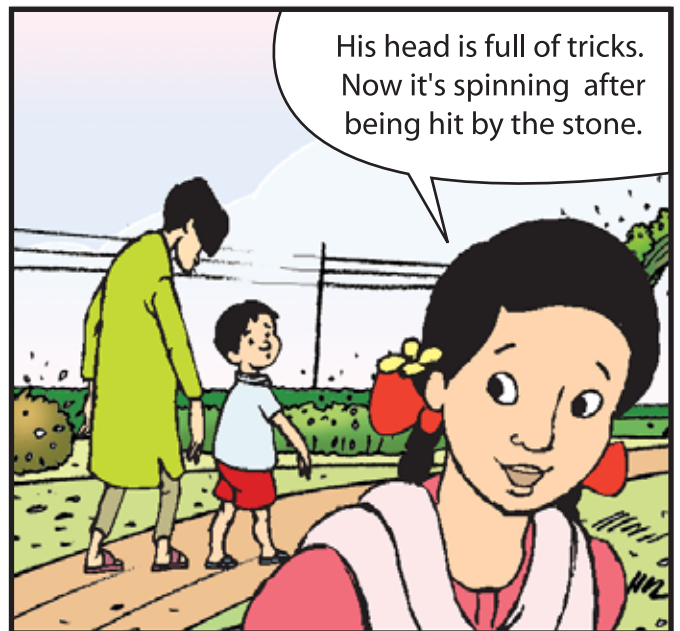
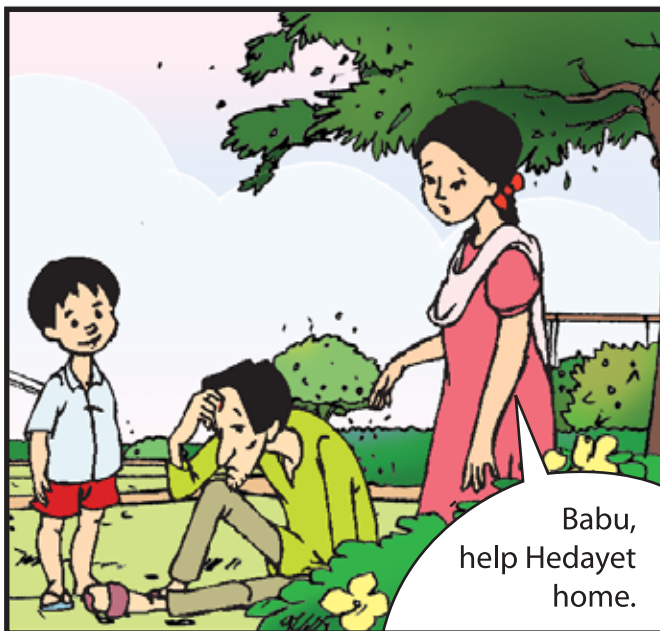




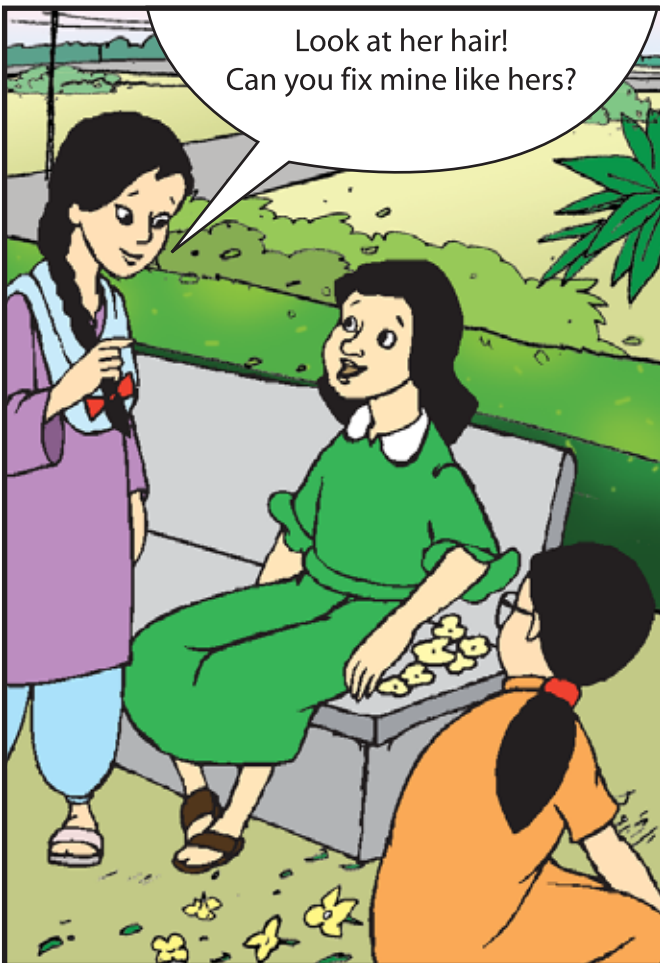


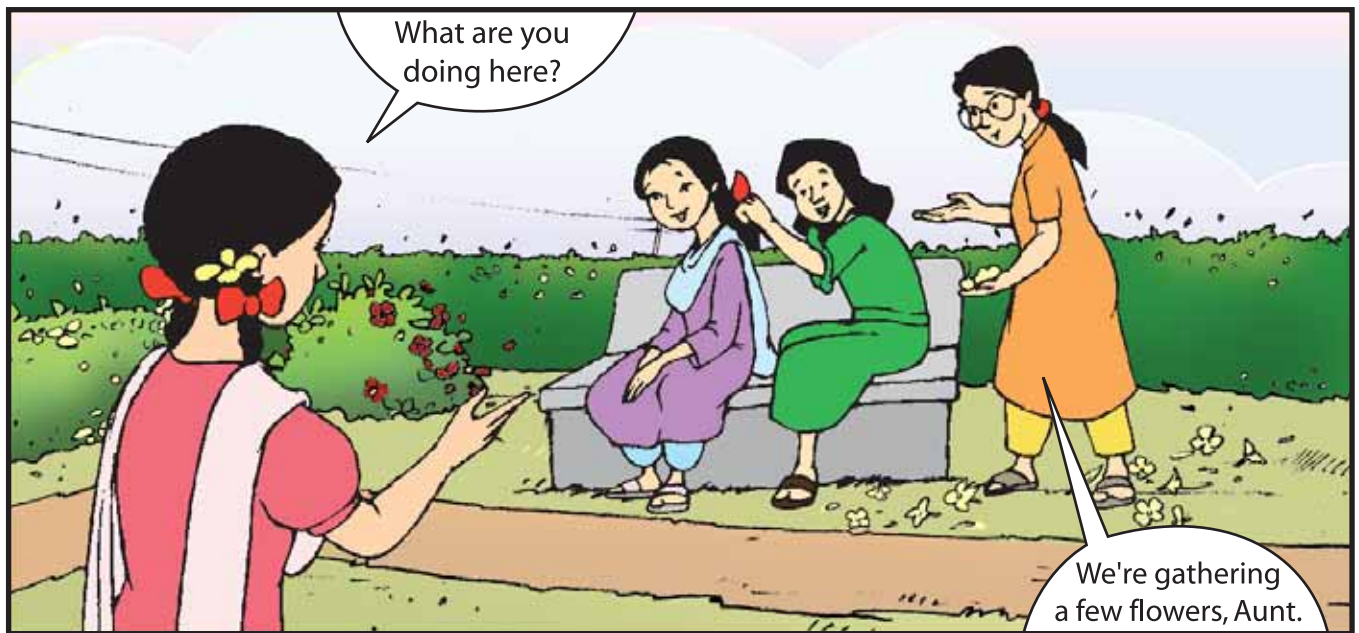




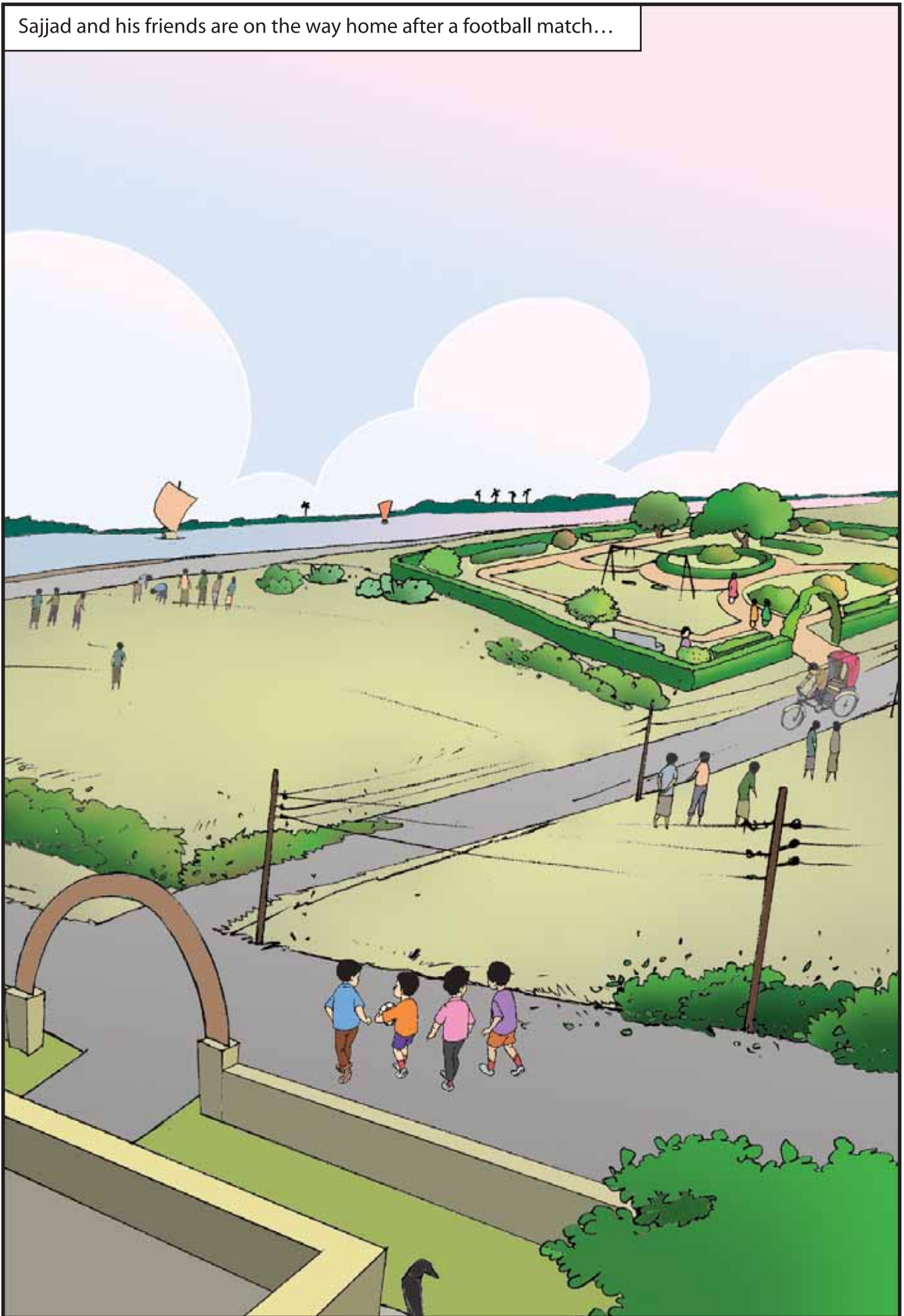


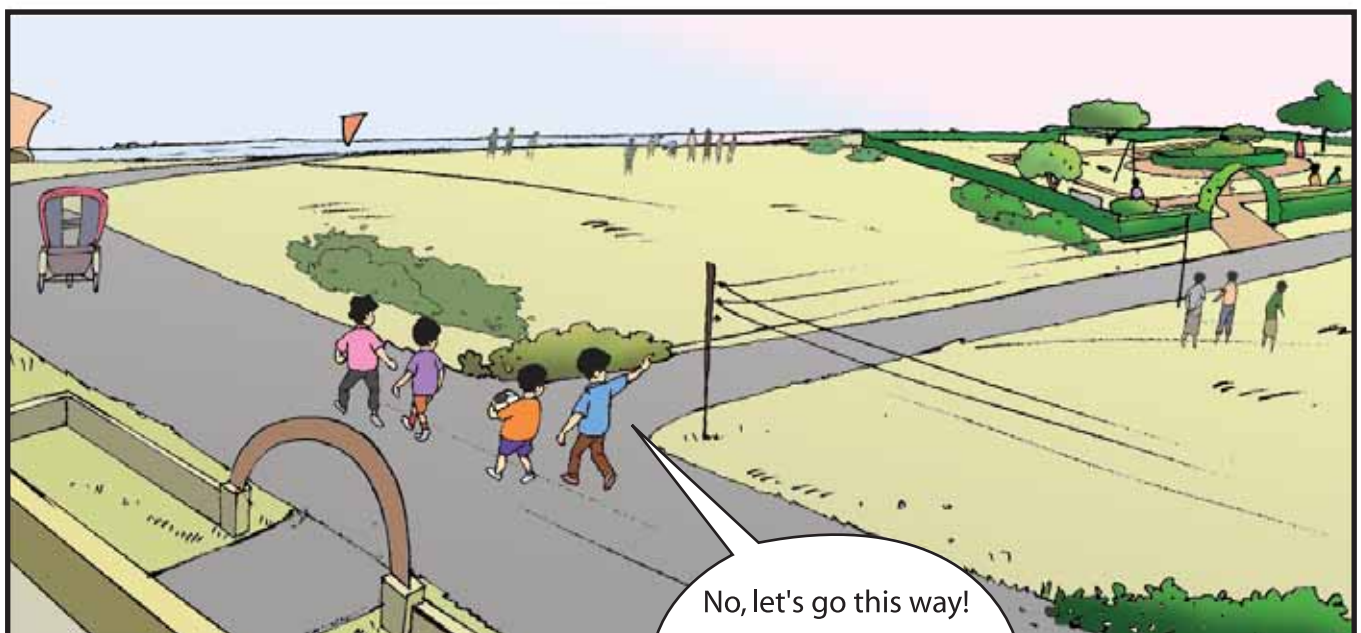
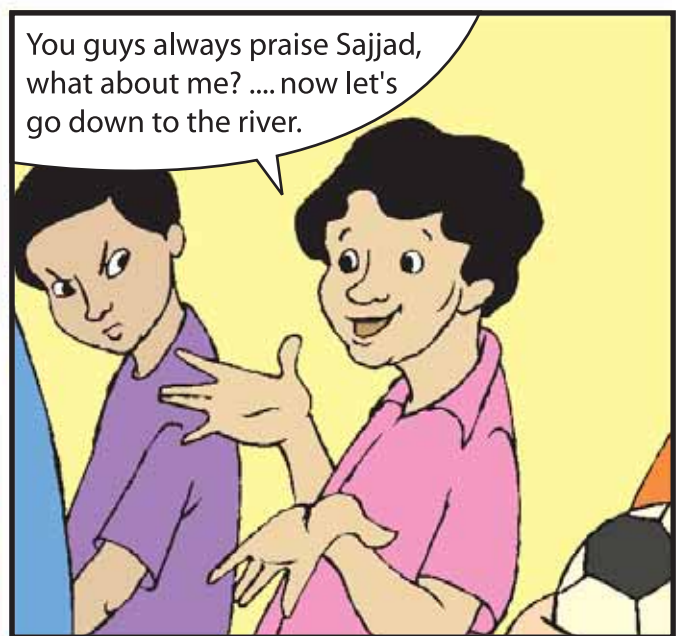
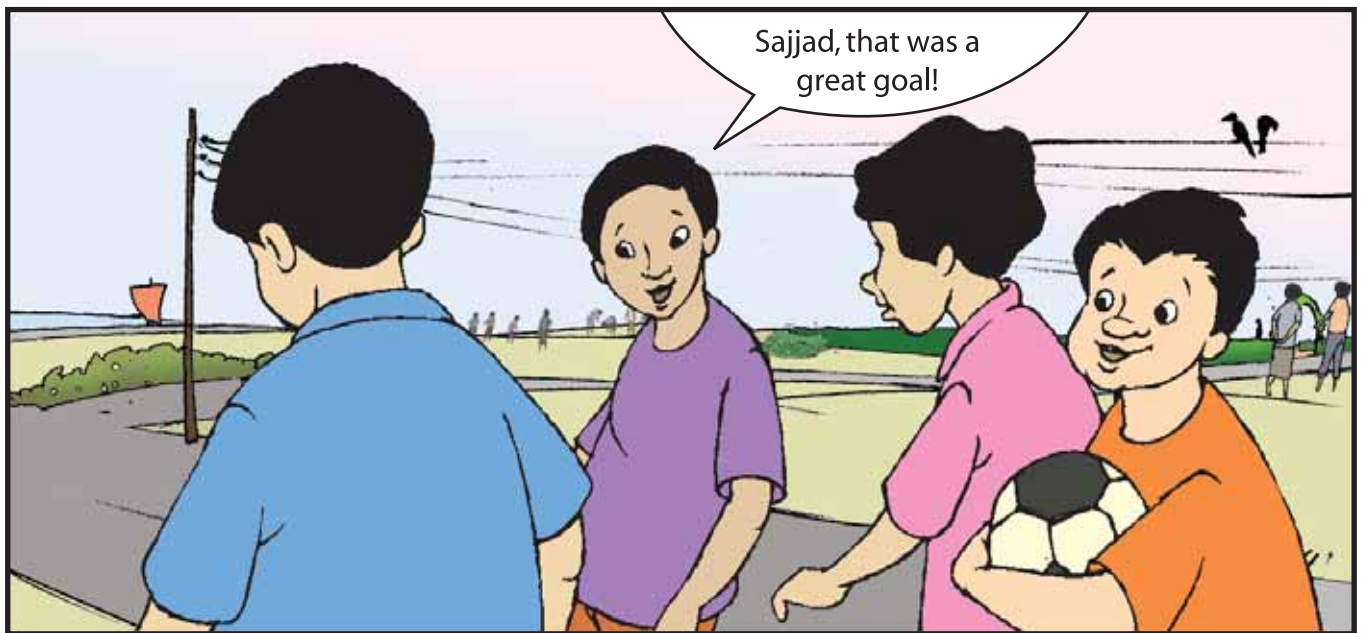
At the other end of the park, Shanu and her friends are busy talking...



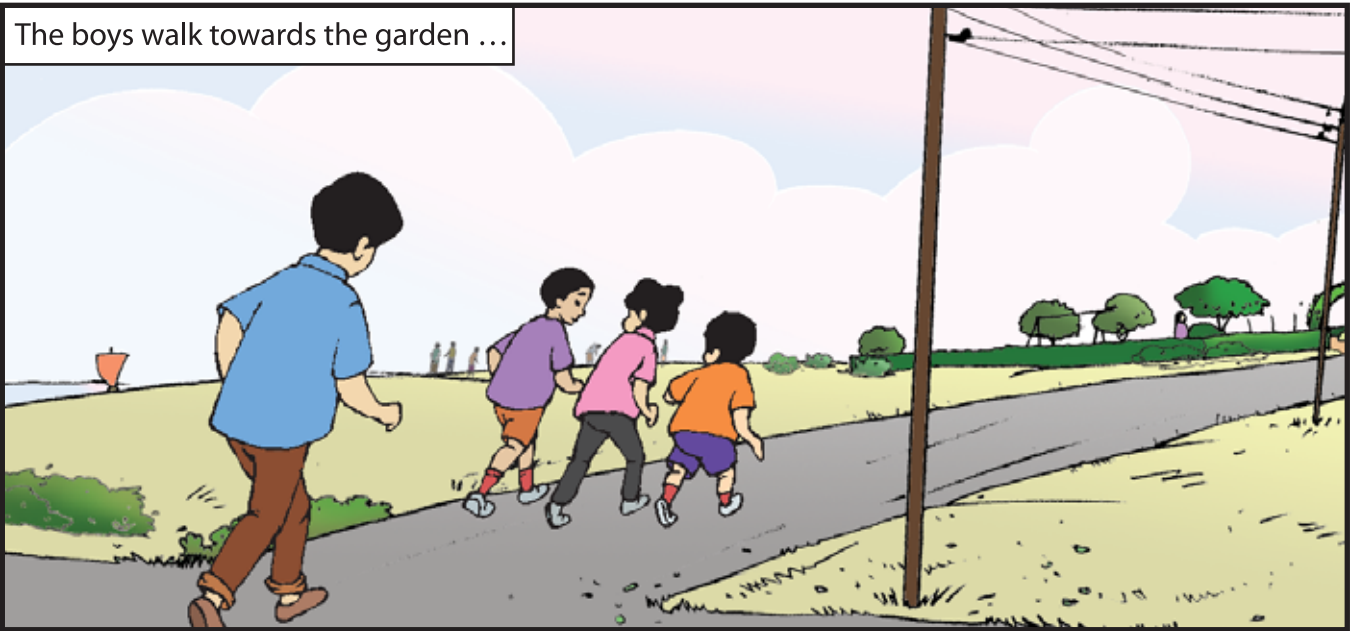


Sajjad and his friends are on the way home after a football match...

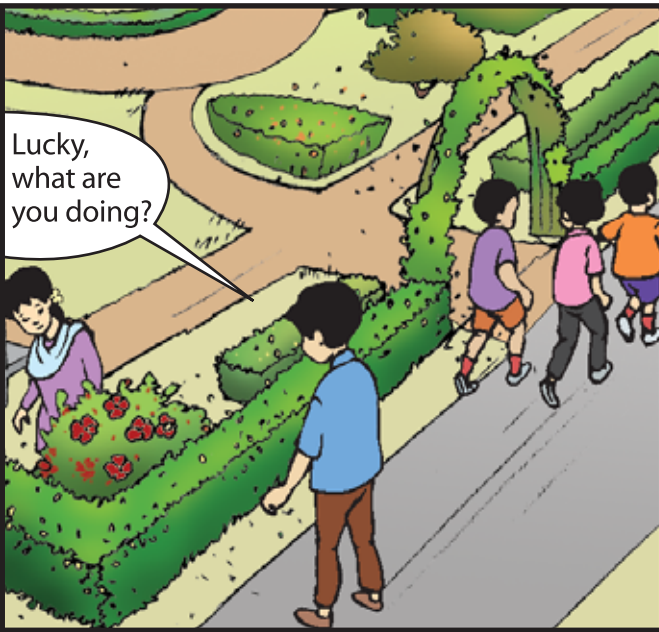




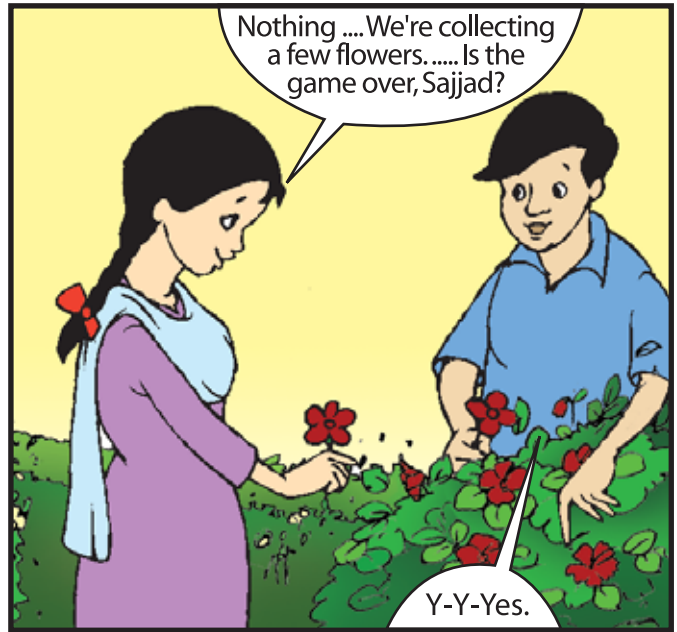
The boys walk towards the garden ...



Lucky,
what are
you doing?



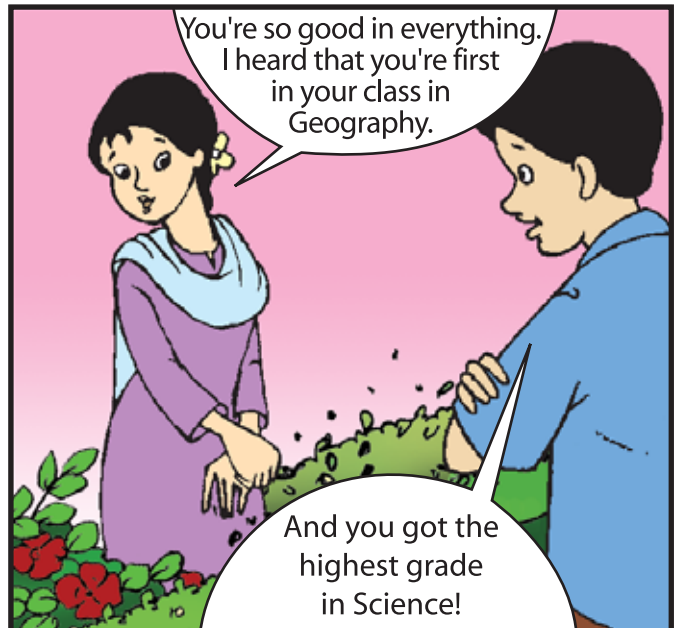
Nothing We're collecting
a few flowers..... Is the
game over, Sajjad?

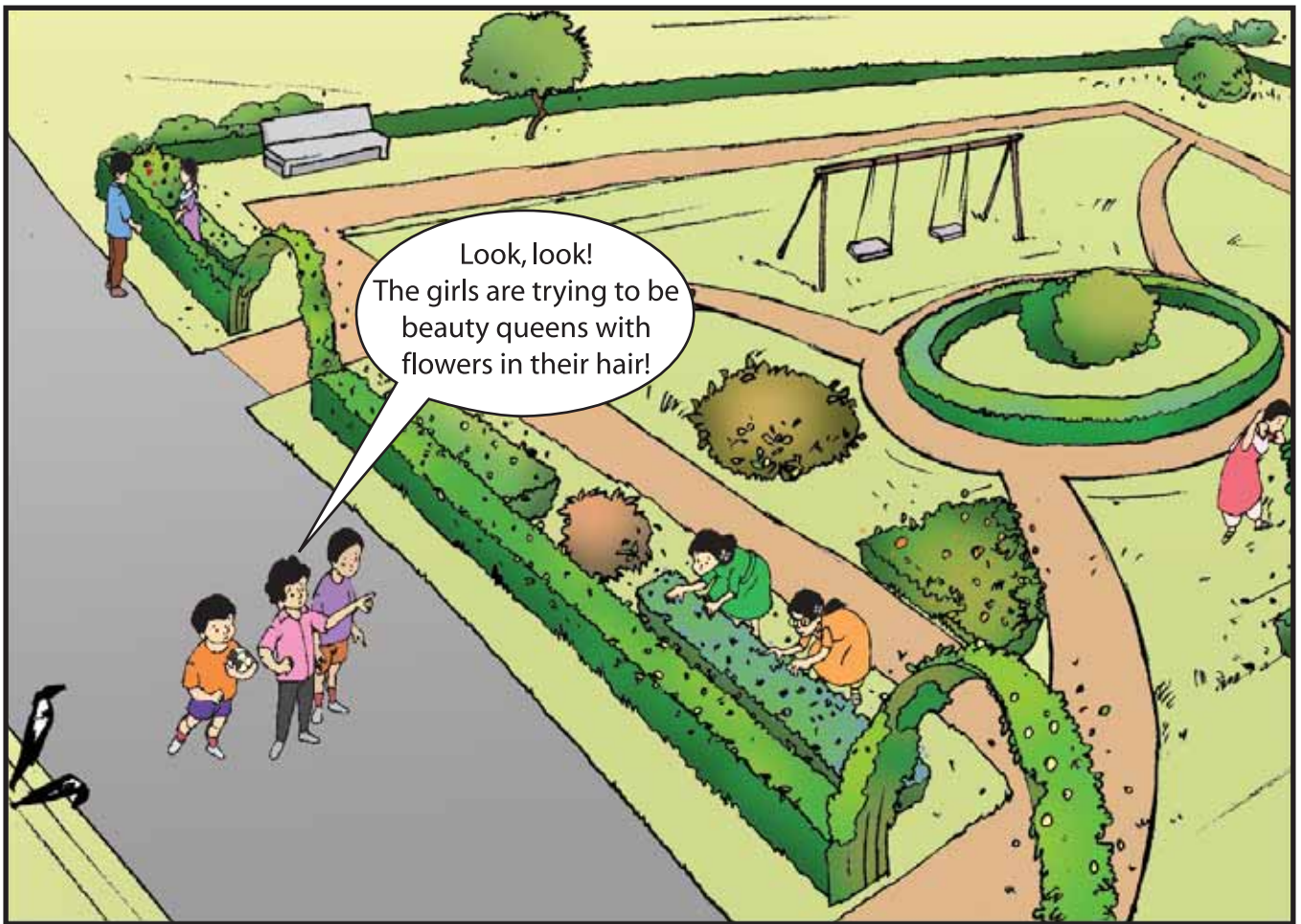


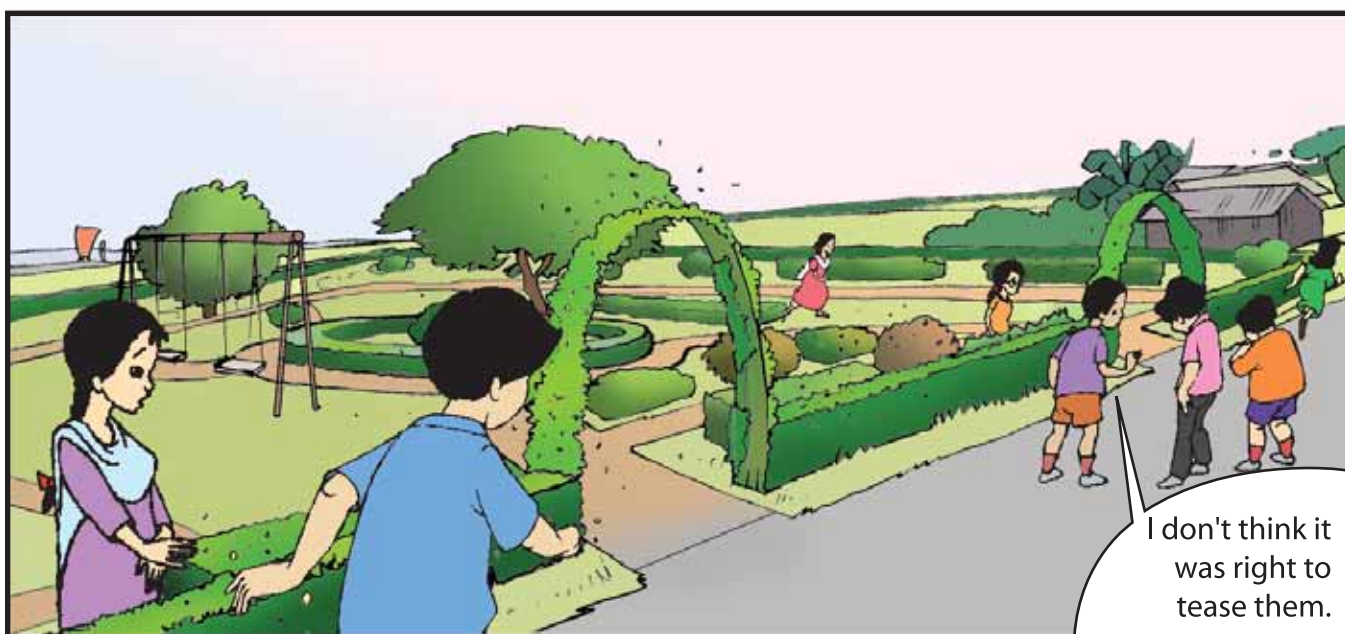
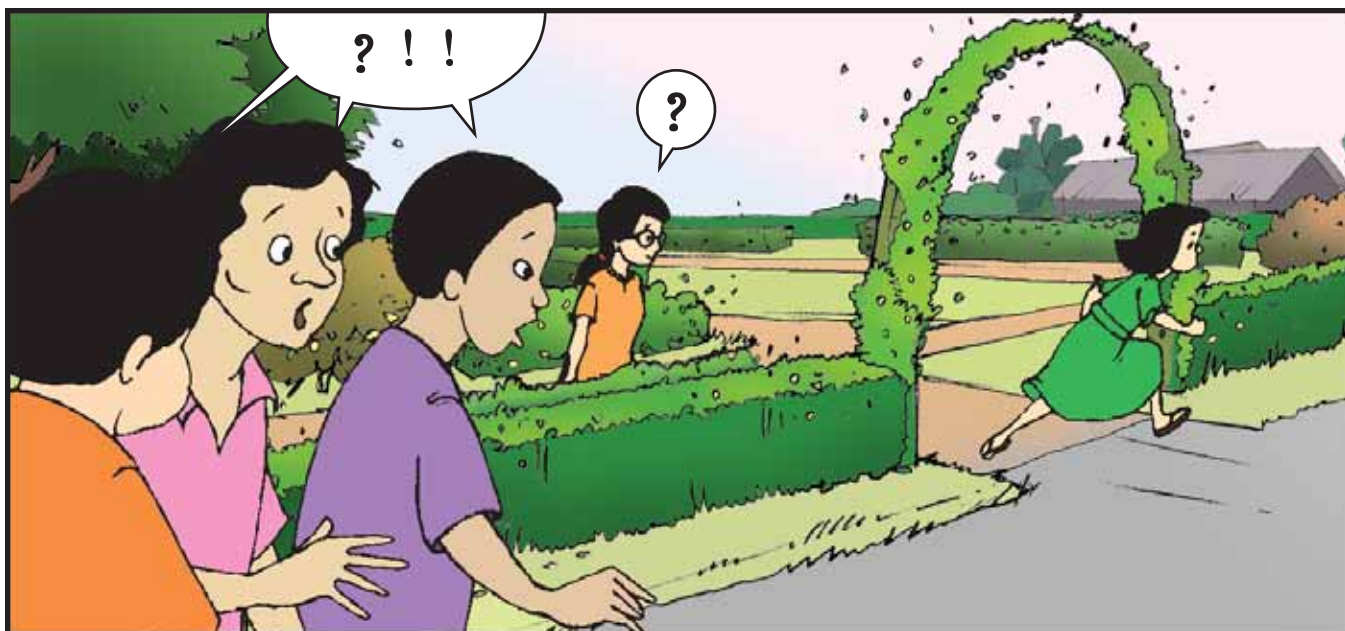
Did you score
again?



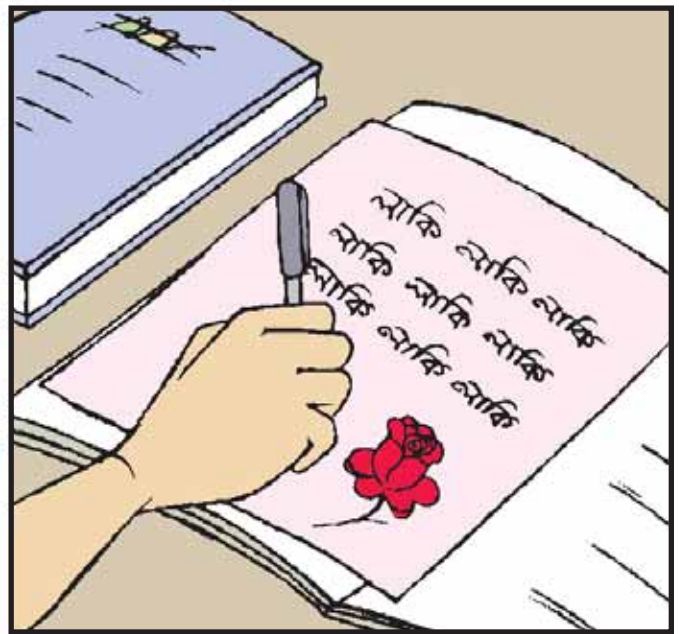
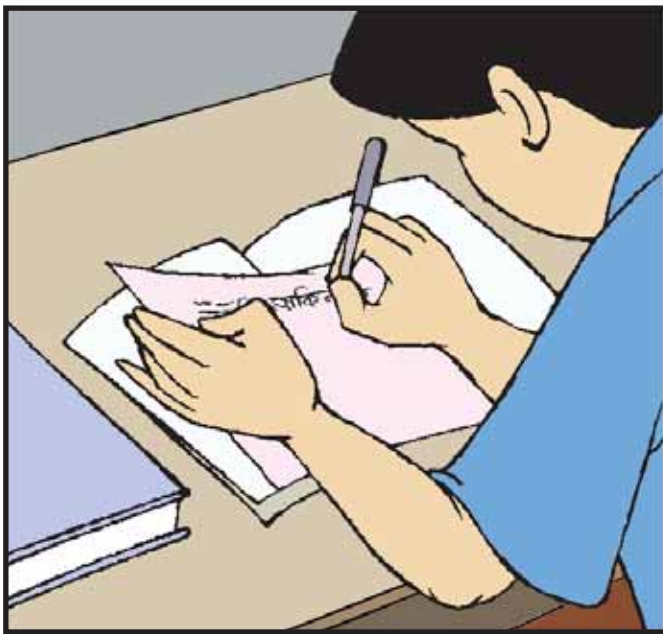
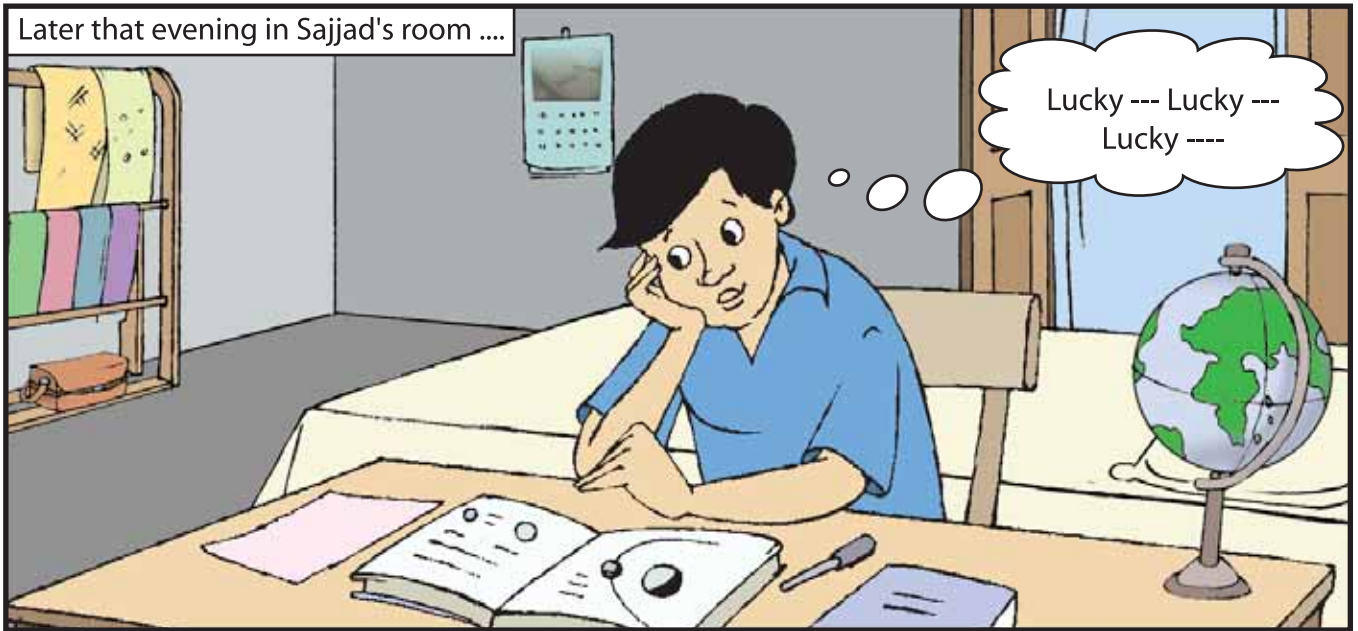
You're so good in everything.
I heard that you're first
in your class in
Geography.



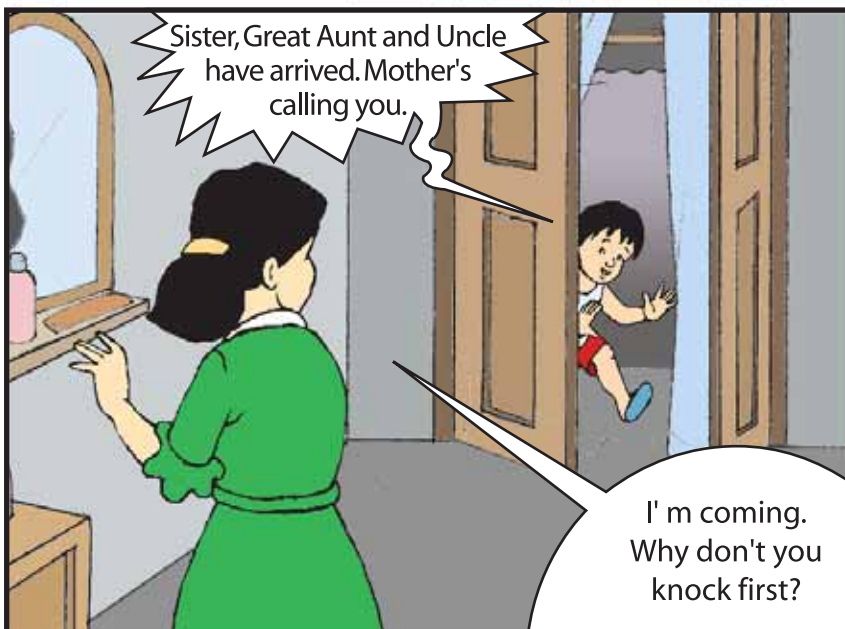




Later that evening in Sajjad's room

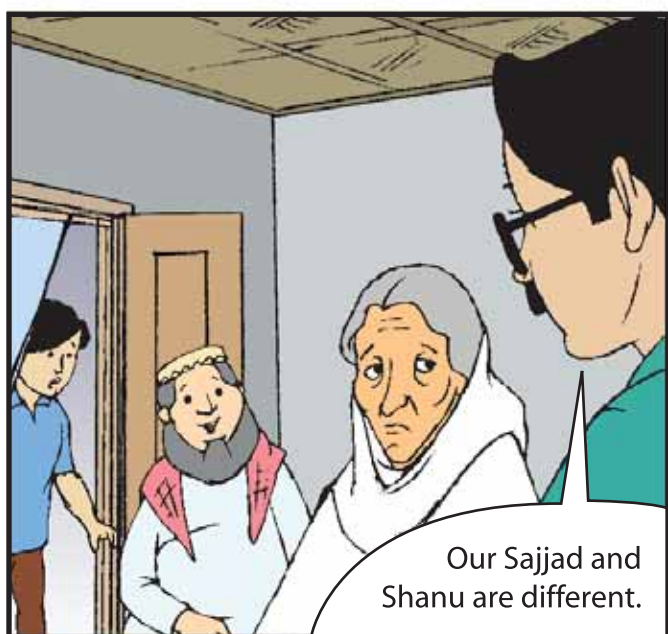
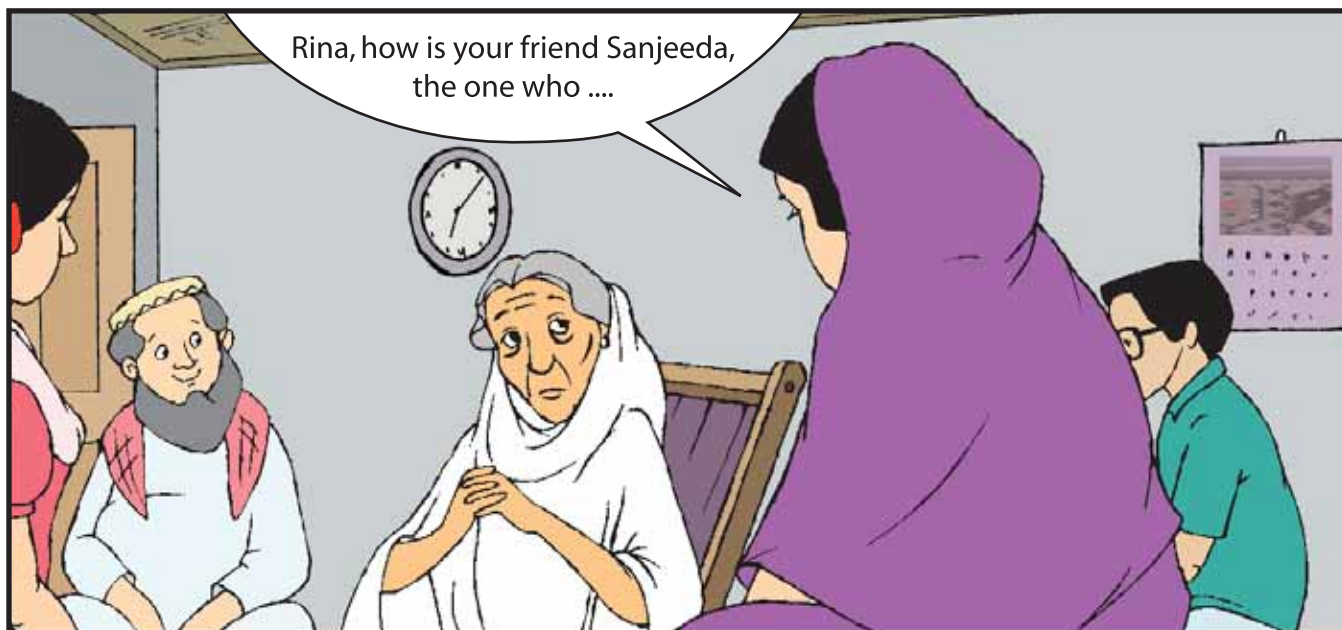


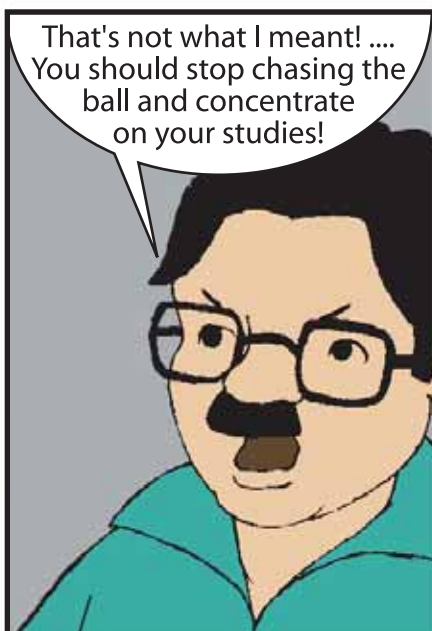
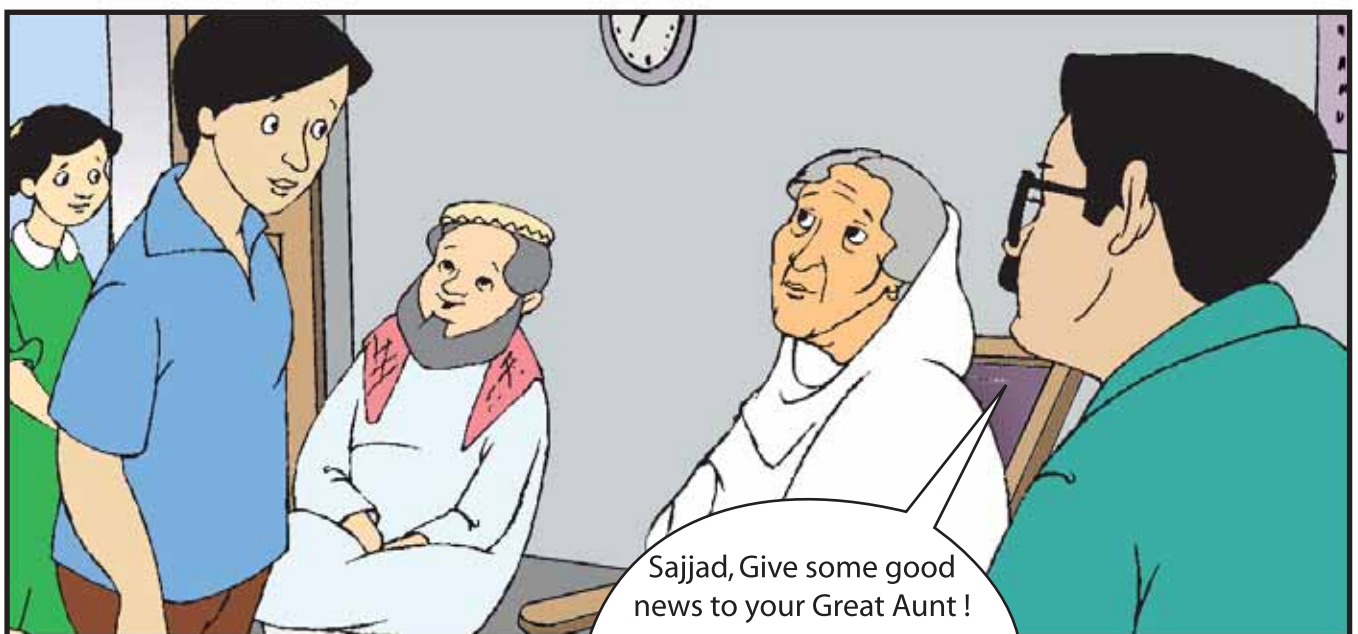
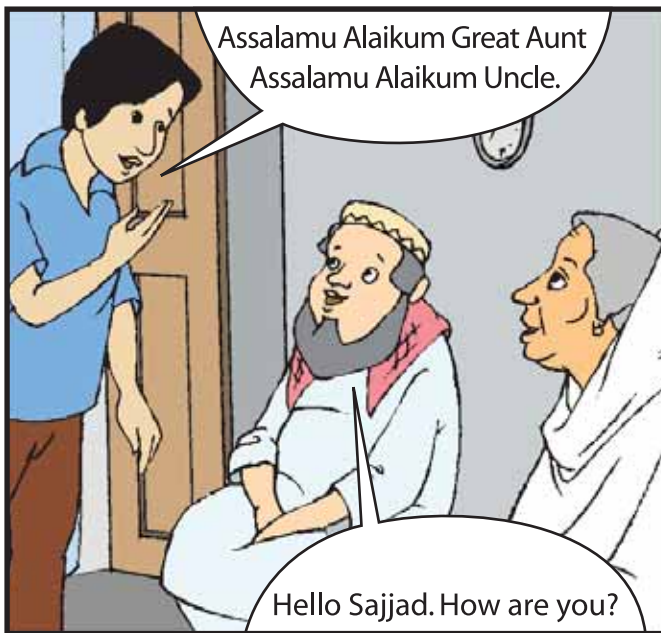
In Shanu's room

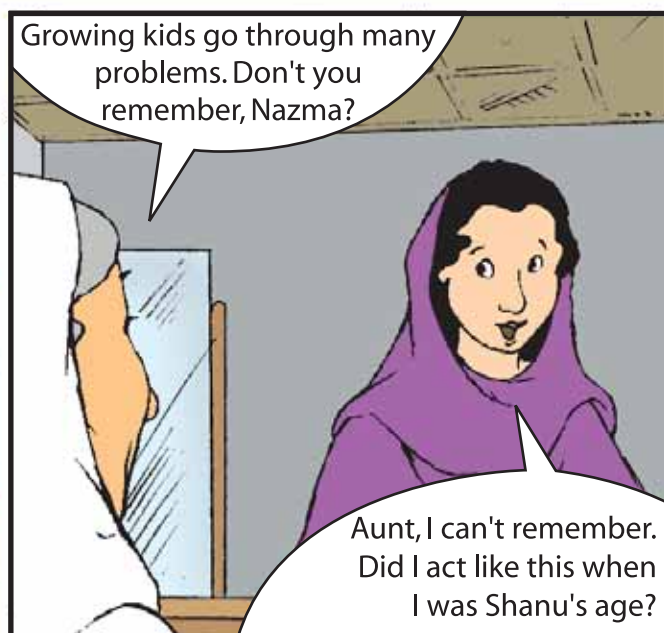
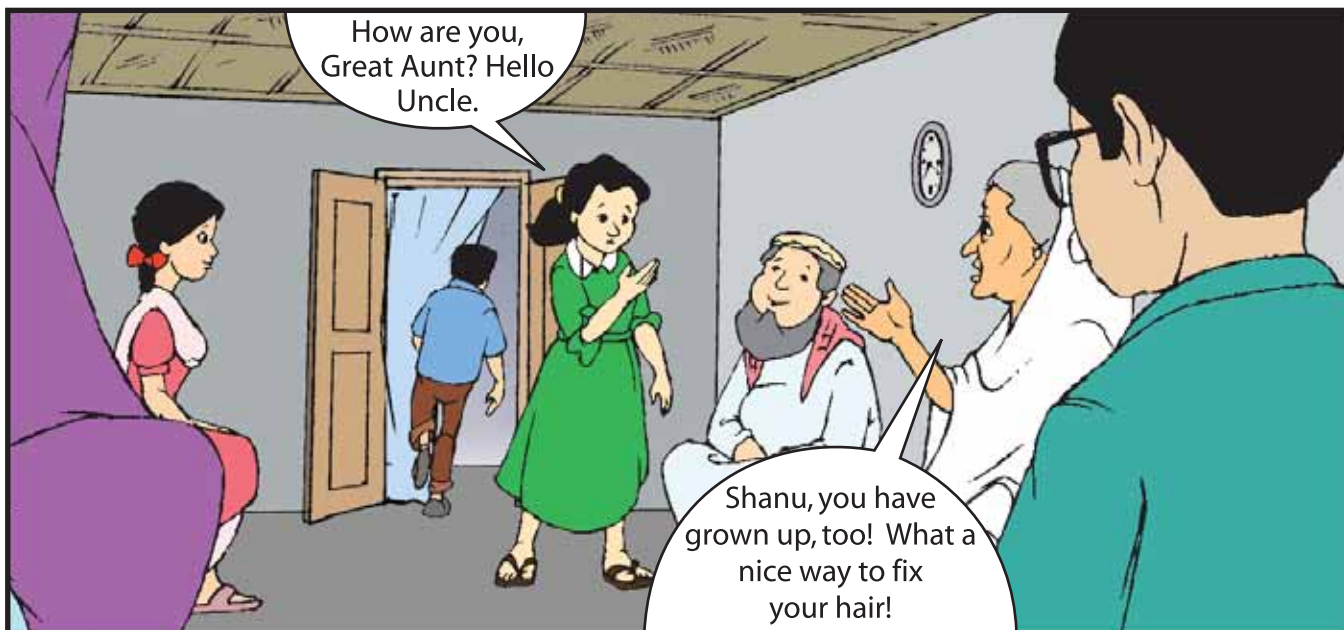


Great Aunt is speaking in the parents' room



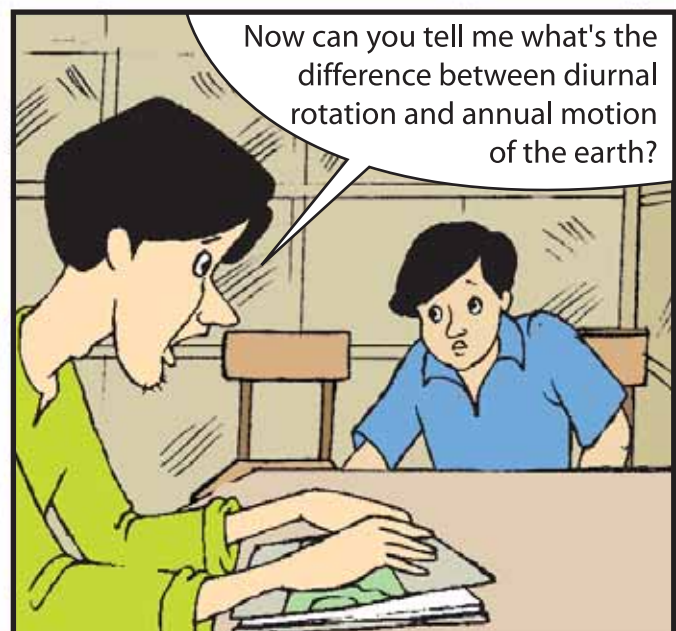


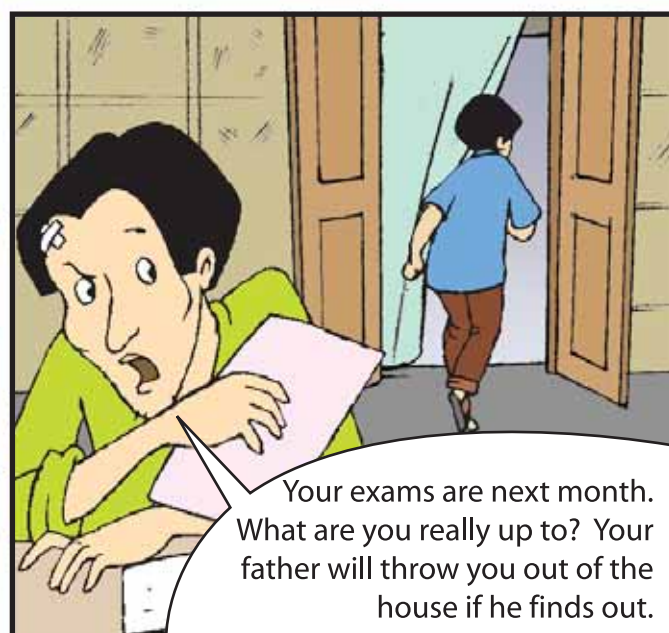
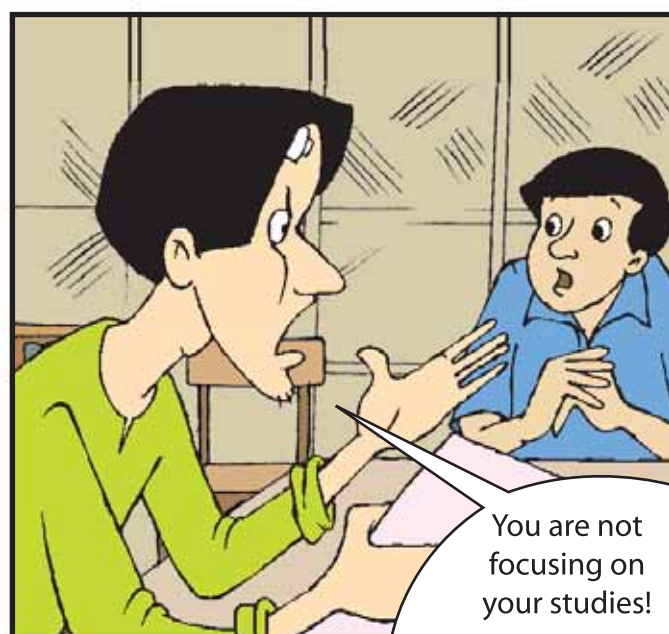
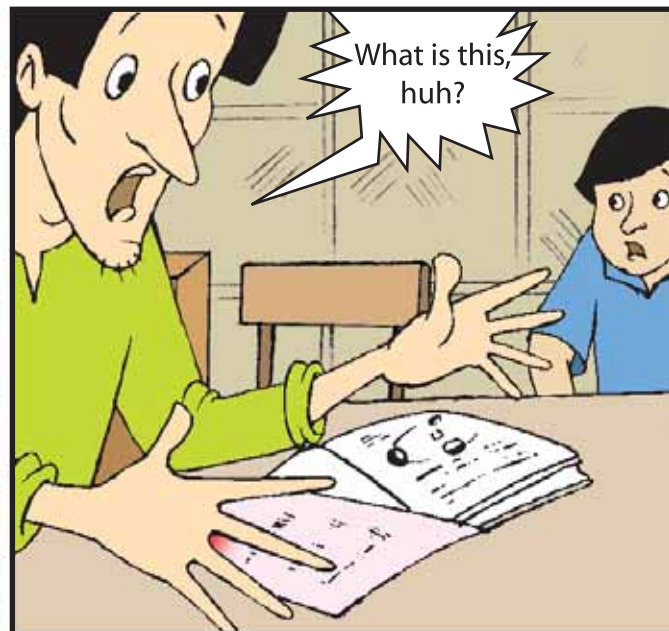
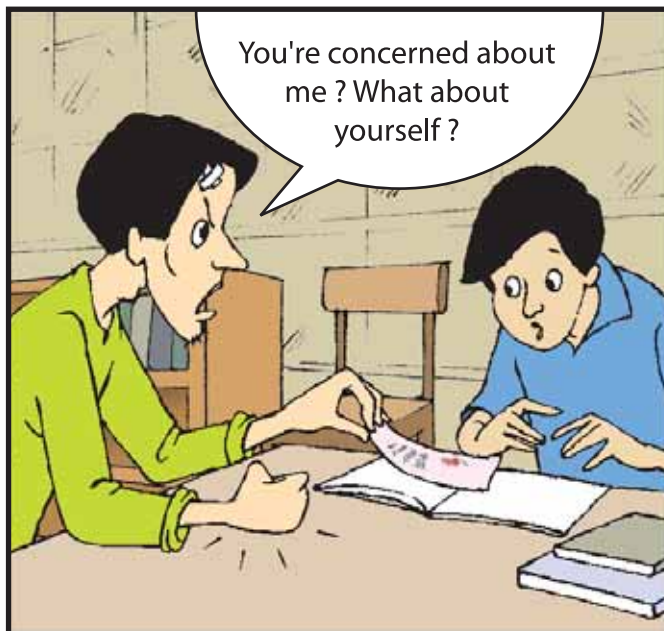






Meanwhile, in Hedayet's room.





Sajjad in his room, early morning.

What am I going to do?
Am I suppose to only study?
No one appreciates my
football games ...
only Lucky.

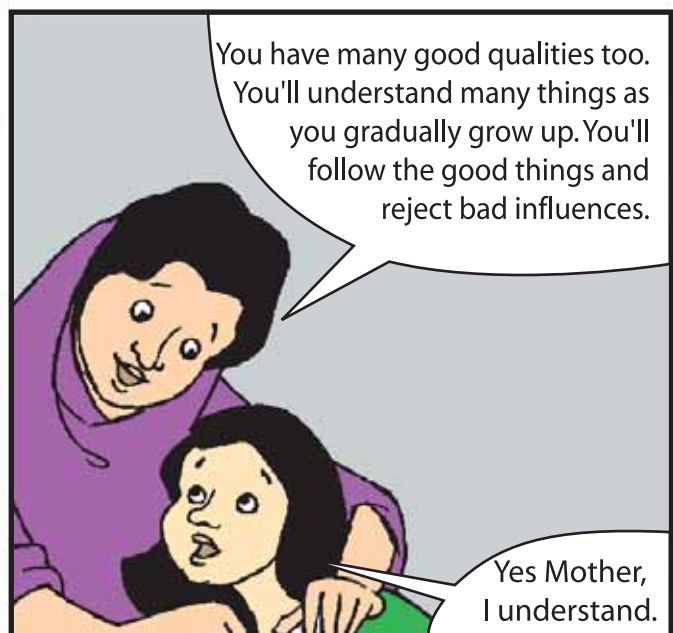
Will Hedayet
show the note
to Father?

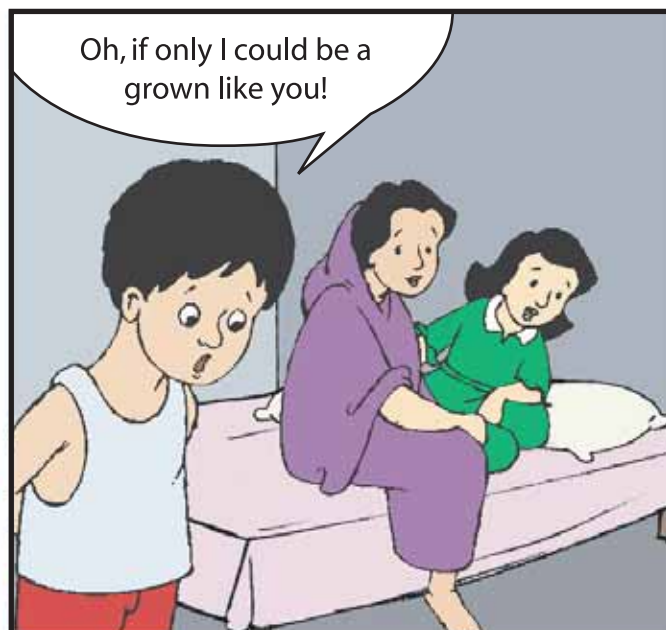
Was it a mistake to
write a few lines to a
girl? I'm old enough to
make decisions.

I know when to
play and when
to study.

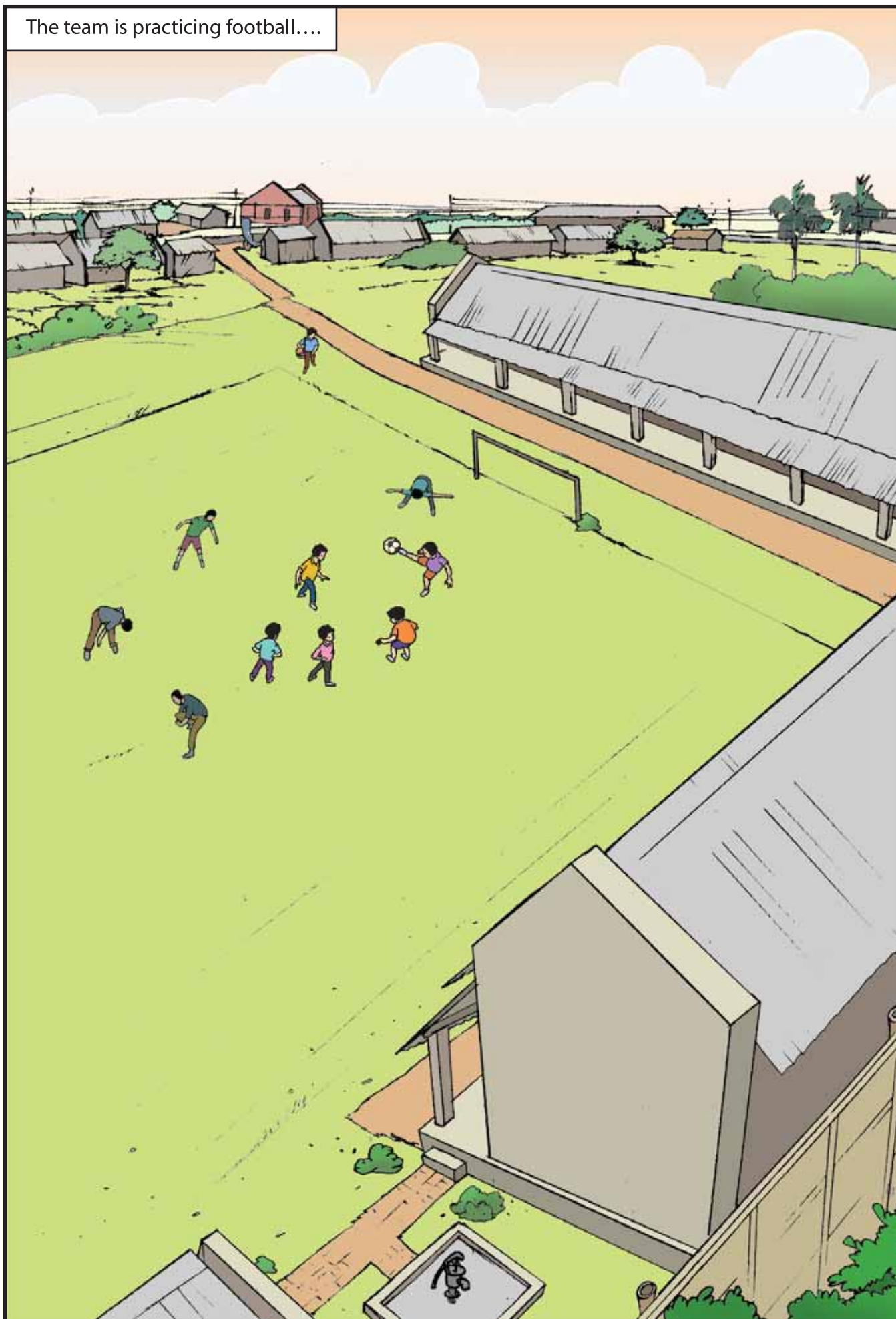
.... It's better to
leave this house.







The team is practicing football....

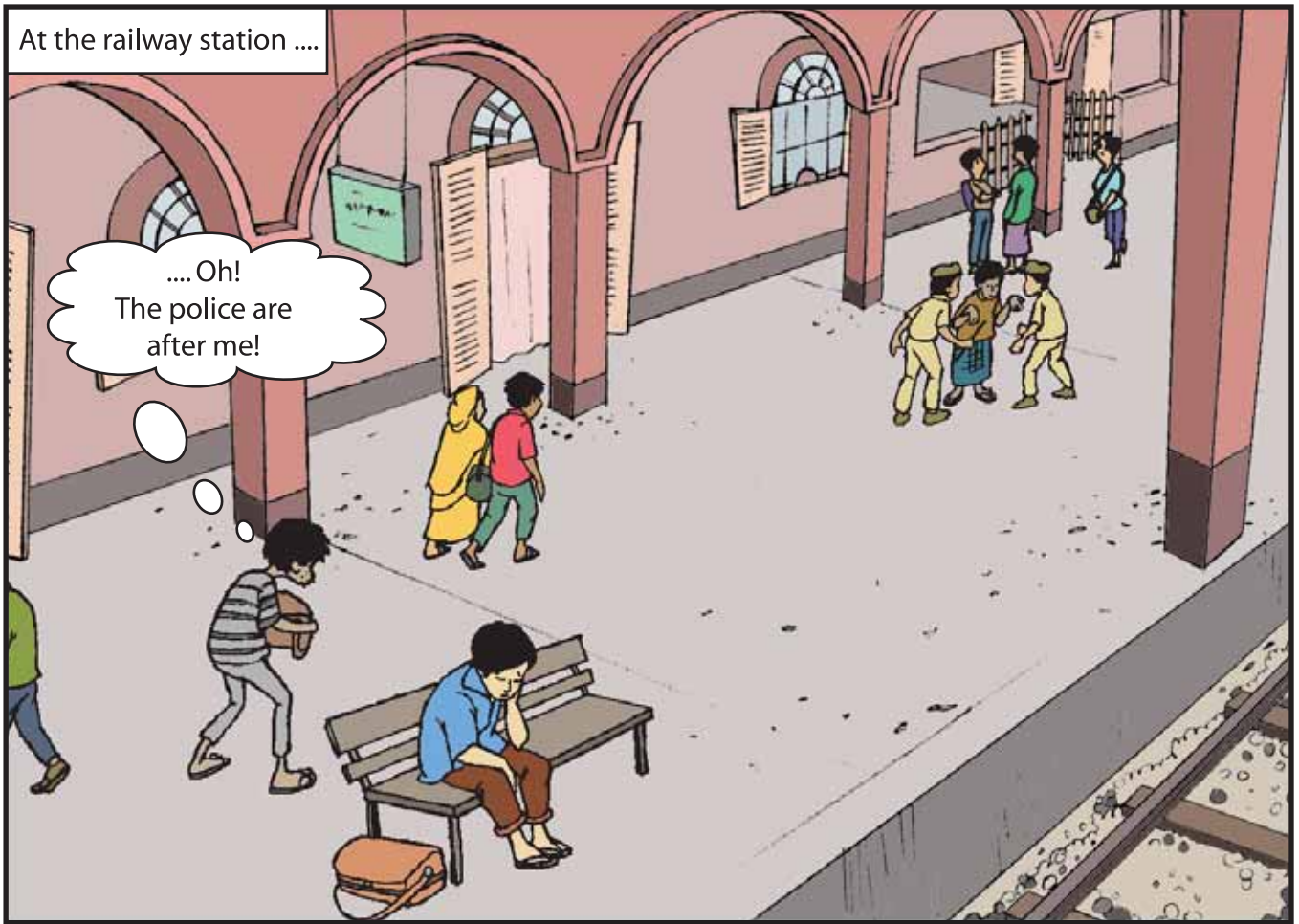






At the railway station

.... Oh!
The police are
after me!

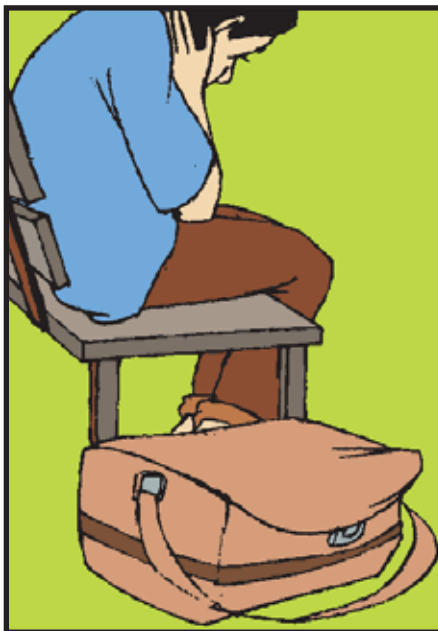


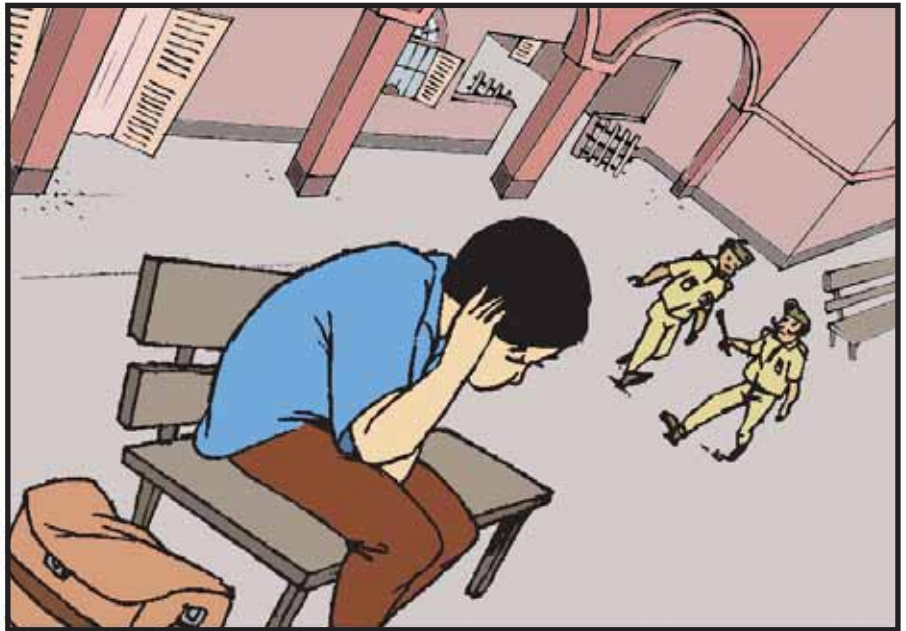
They will catch
me with these
watches...



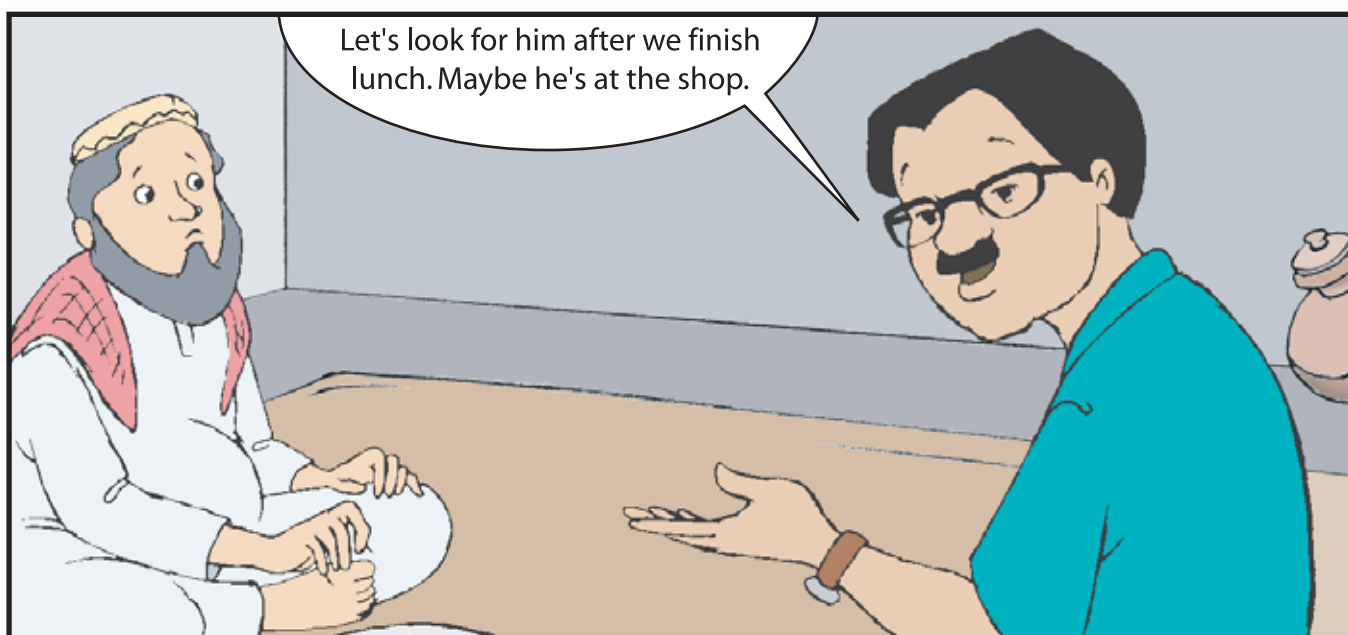
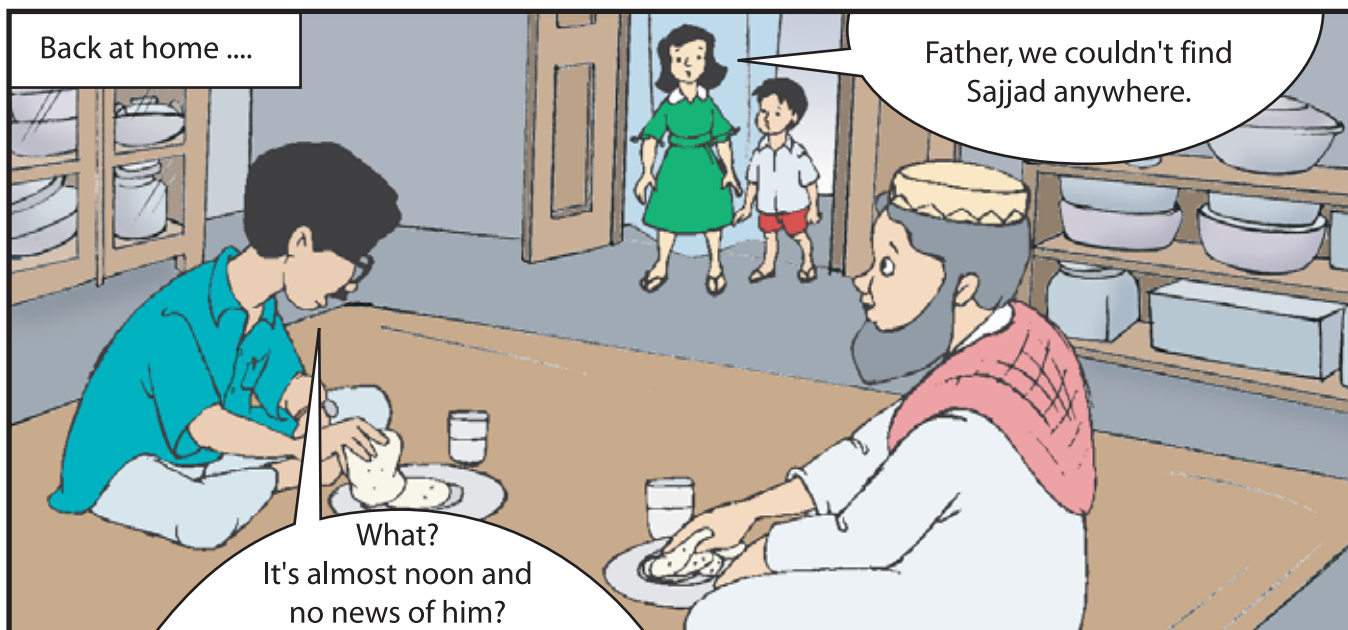
What should
I do?





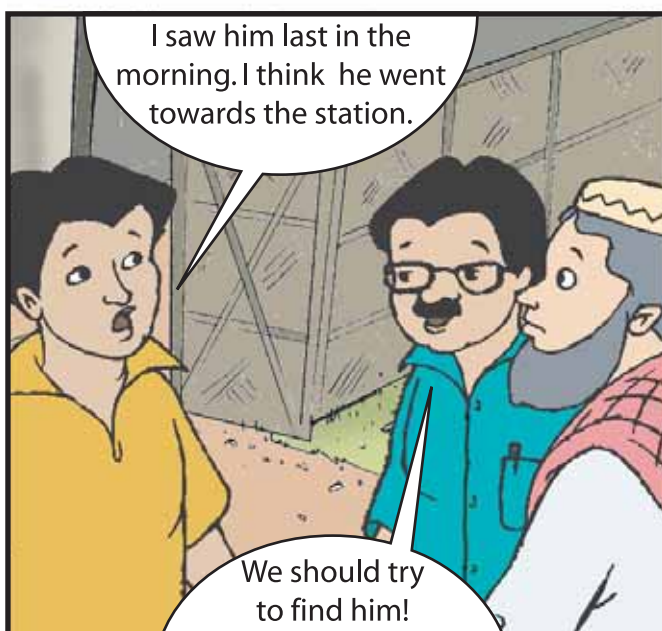
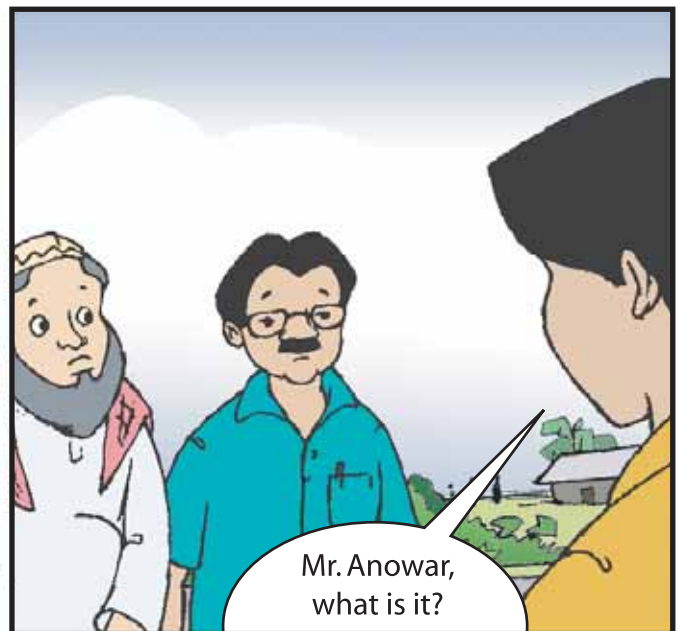
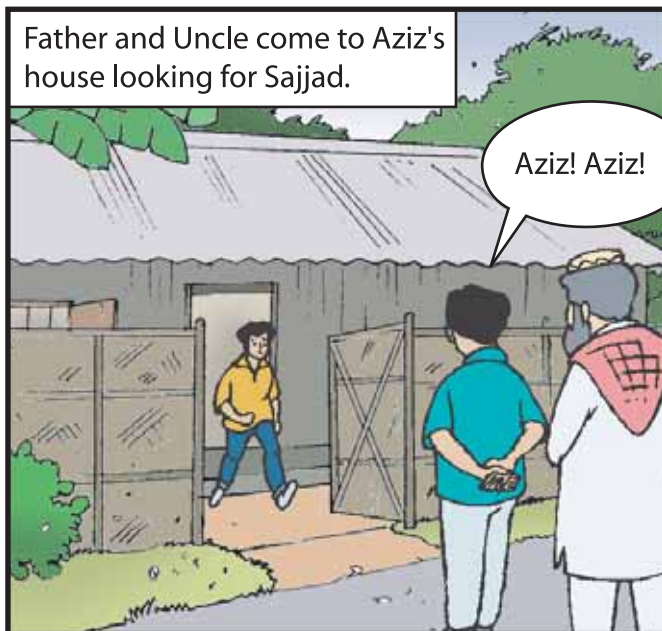


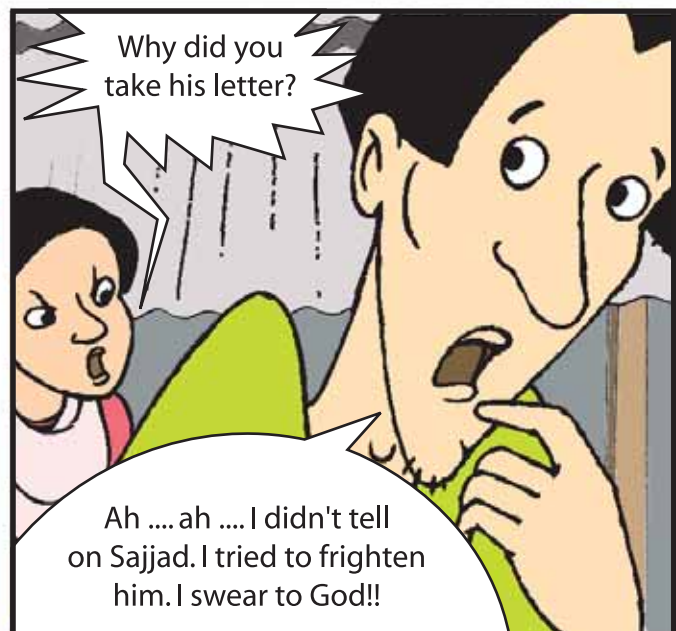
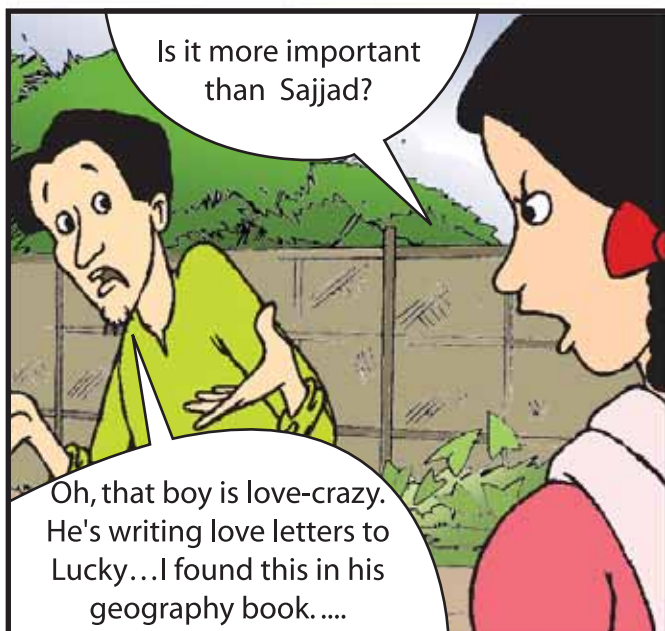




Sajjad has already spent a few hours in police custody







Looking desperately for Sajjad, Father, Uncle and Aziz finally arrive at the Police station



Inside the Police Station they talk to the Officer in Charge..

Surely there's a misunderstanding, Sir. My son wouldn't steal the watches!!

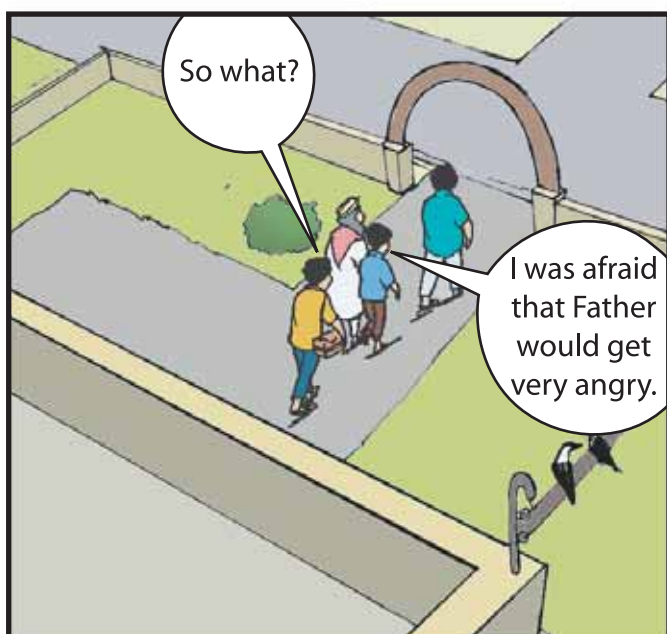
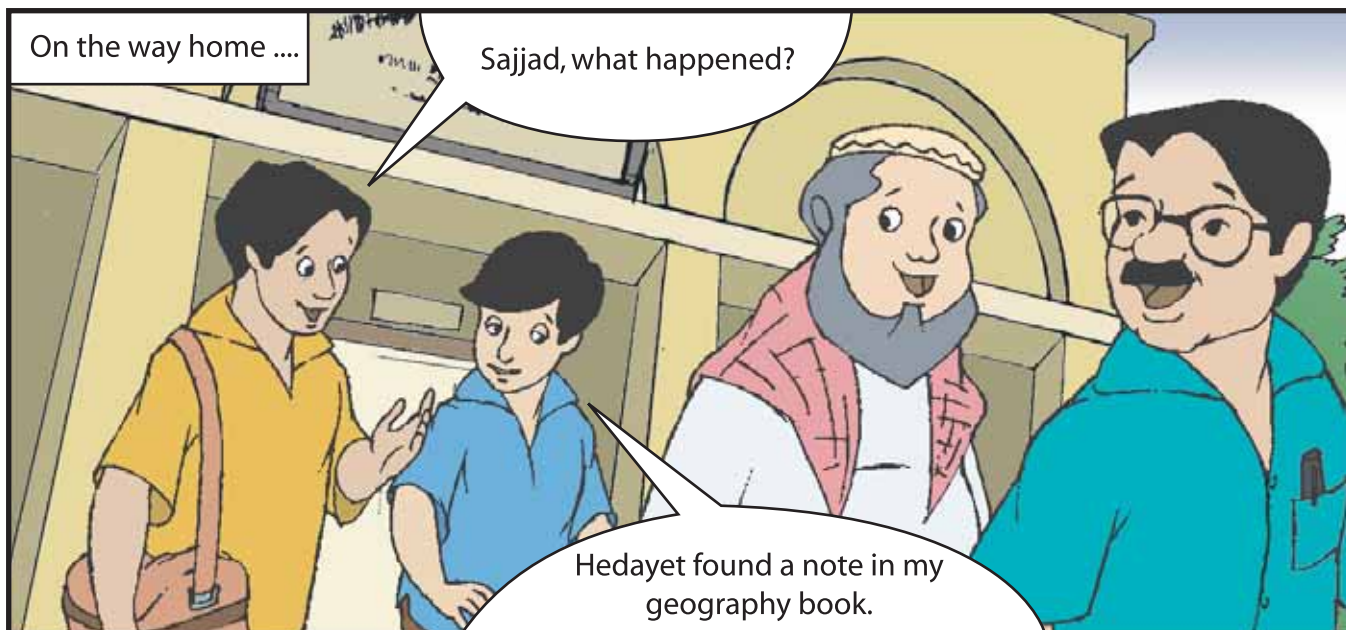
Then what was he doing with them at the station?

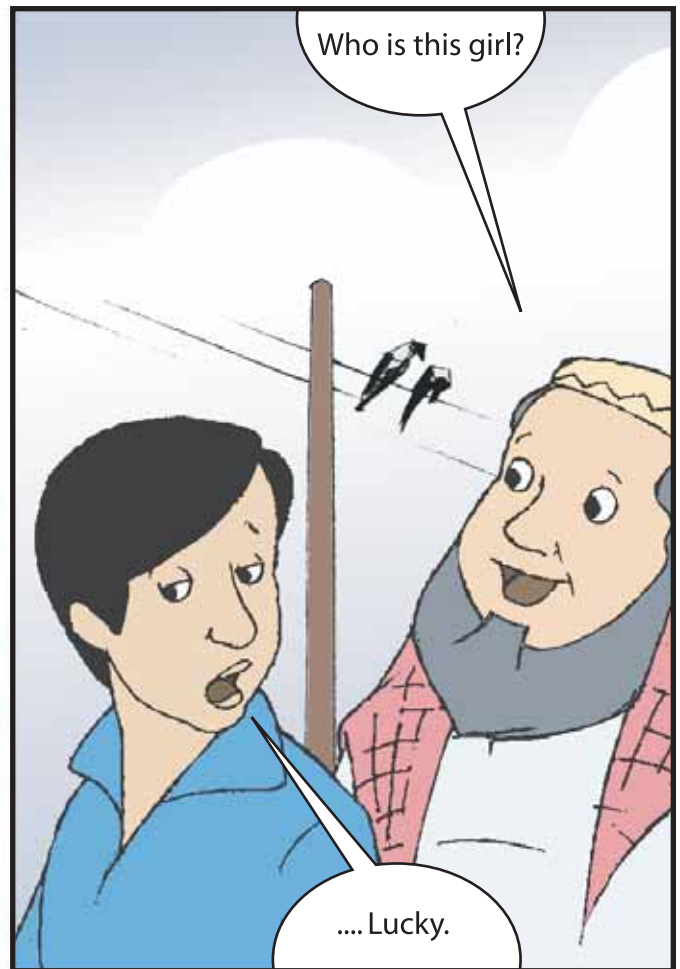
Actually his father scolded him. So he was upset ... but stealing?! ...

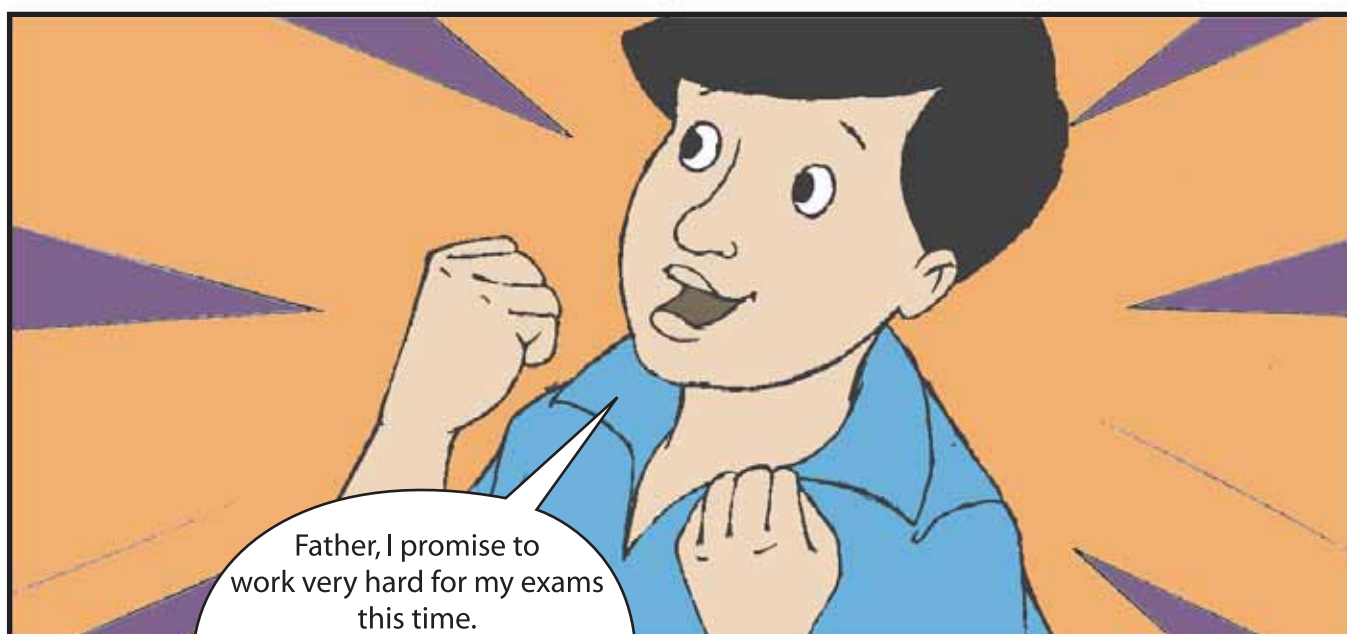
Sajjad is a very good boy, Sir. He's good at his studies and one of the best on our football team!

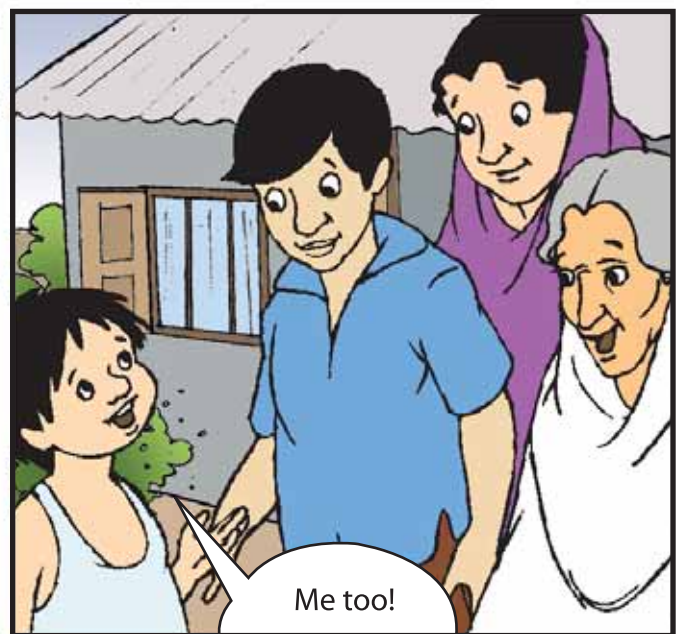
But he was caught red-handed with these stolen watches!



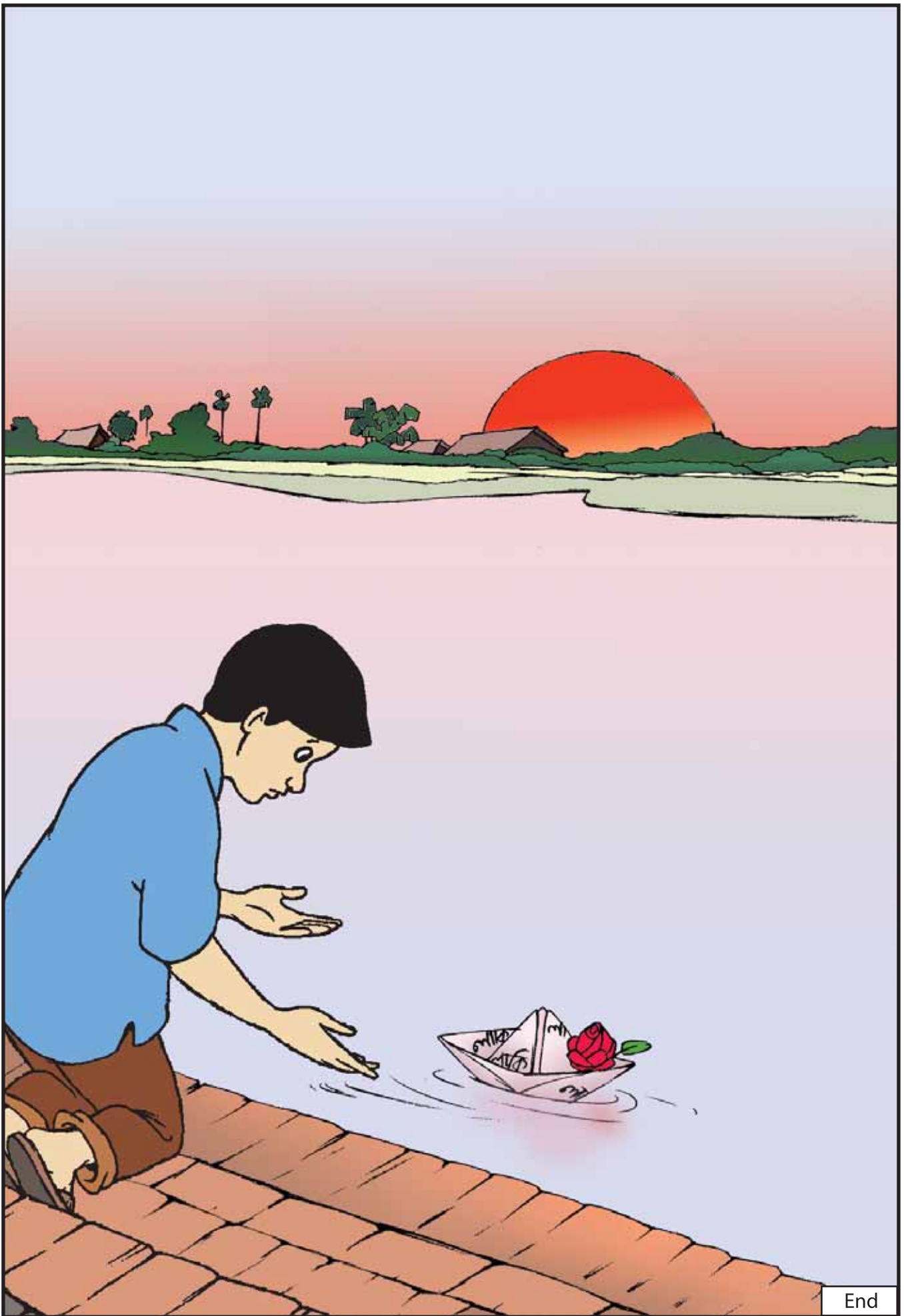












End

DISCUSSION GUIDE

There are various stages in a person's life. Adolescence, the period between the ages of 10 and 19, is a time of great development and change. Adolescent boys and girls go through profound physical and emotional changes as they grow into adulthood. It is a time of curiosity and excitement but also a time for learning how to solve different types of social and emotional problems in daily life, including early sexual attraction, coping with tension and anxiety.

During adolescence, these changes can cause confusion and stress. This comic book will share an experience of adolescent boys and girls dealing with their emotional and mental changes and how they cope with attraction.

Adolescents might not feel free to discuss and to exchange ideas, views and emotional feelings concerning others, including members of the opposite sex, with their peers, parents, other family members. In order to have these discussions, adolescents need to have correct and relevant information on the issues.

To address different issues of adolescence, a package of materials has been developed including:

- Question and answer booklets
- Videos featuring adolescents discussing issues
- Video facilitators' guides
- Comic books
- Radio programs
- Television programs



All these materials are intended to raise awareness and encourage positive behavior among Bangladeshi adolescent boys and girls age 10 to 19 years, regardless of marriage or school status. The materials also strive to address issues of hard-to-reach adolescents, especially working adolescents in domestic or commercial sectors.

The story theme

This third comic book talks about emotional and mental changes, a common concern of adolescent boys & girls in Bangladesh, and how they can come to understand this as a normal process.

Objectives

Using the enter-educate approach, this lively, interesting and appealing story conveys messages for adolescent girls and boys, family members, parents, teachers, opinion leaders and service providers. The comic book can be effectively used to:

- Stimulate discussion among adolescent girls on the facts of emotional and mental changes; that they are a natural part of growing up.
- Create awareness among parents on emotional and mental changes, that boys & girls should be told about before they happen.
- Encourage adolescent girls and boys to discuss their problems more openly with peers, teachers, parents and family members.



Outlets for comic book

The comic book will be made available in classrooms, bookshops, school libraries, and public libraries. Furthermore, this book will be promoted through adolescent clubs and other important places.

Group Discussion

Group discussion allows adolescents to discuss the story with others. One member will facilitate the discussion, allowing others to join in with their opinions. This can be done in groups of six to ten. Such discussions can be arranged in same sex groups for adolescent girls and boys. This guideline for asking questions can be helpful in guiding the discussion. If appropriate, discussed points can be noted and used as a reference for following meetings. Ensure maximum participation from everybody in the group by encouraging all participants to speak.

Guideline for asking questions

- Did you like the story? If yes, why? If no, why not?
- Which characters did you like in the story? Why?
- Which ones you didn't like? Why?
- What is the subject matter of the story?
- Who are the characters of the story?
- Who do you think are the central characters of the story? Why?
- How old are Shanu, Lipi and Lucky?
- What problem did Shanu face?
- What do you know about emotional and mental changes?
- What advice did mother give to Shanu?
- What problems did Sajjad face? Do you think a girl could face a similar problem?
- How did Sajjad deal with the problem? What would a girl do if she faced this type of problem?
- What would you have done if you were in Sajjad's position?
- What did you learn from the story?





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The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the funding agencies