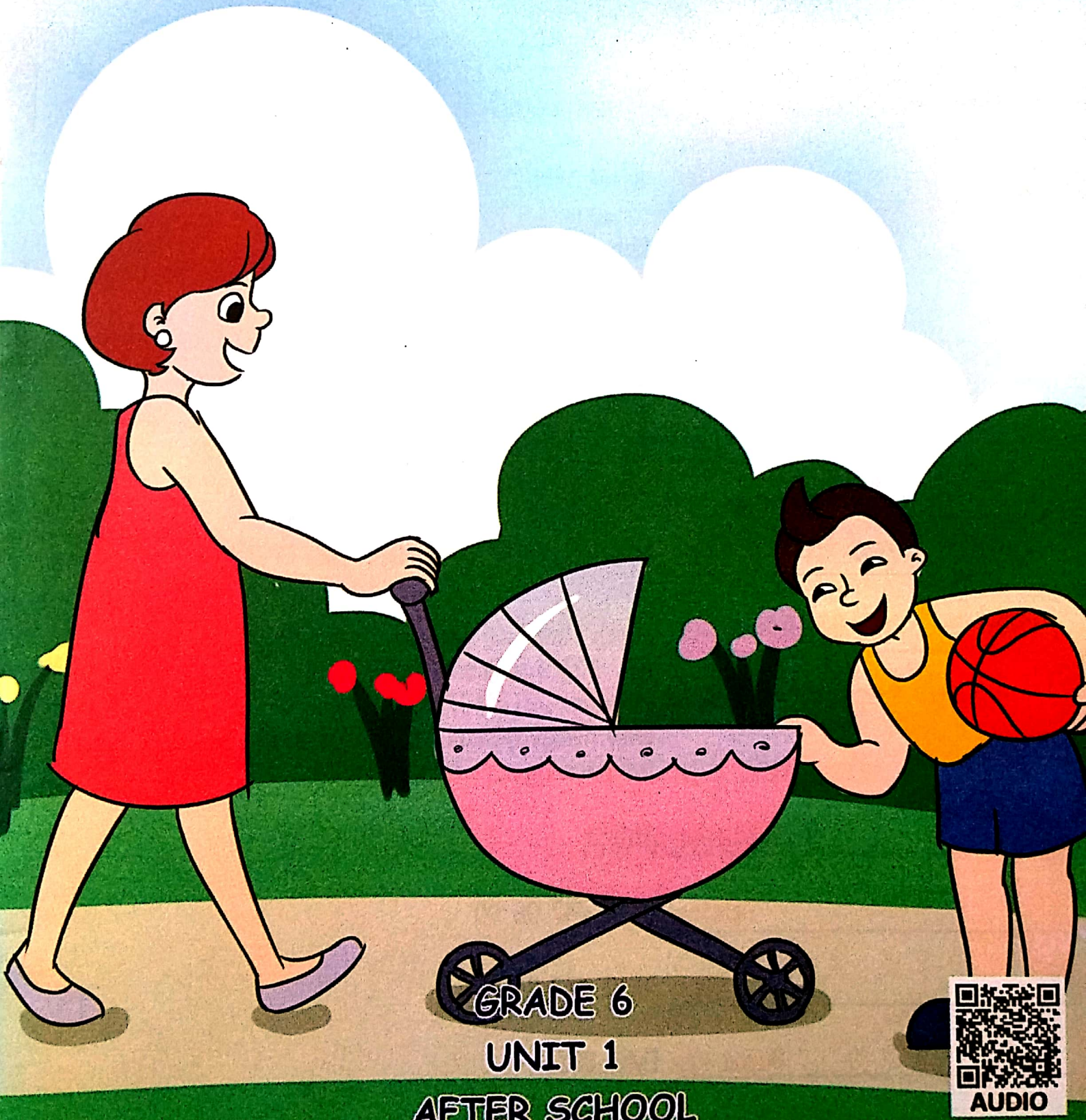


# KEVIN IS BECOMING A BIG BROTHER



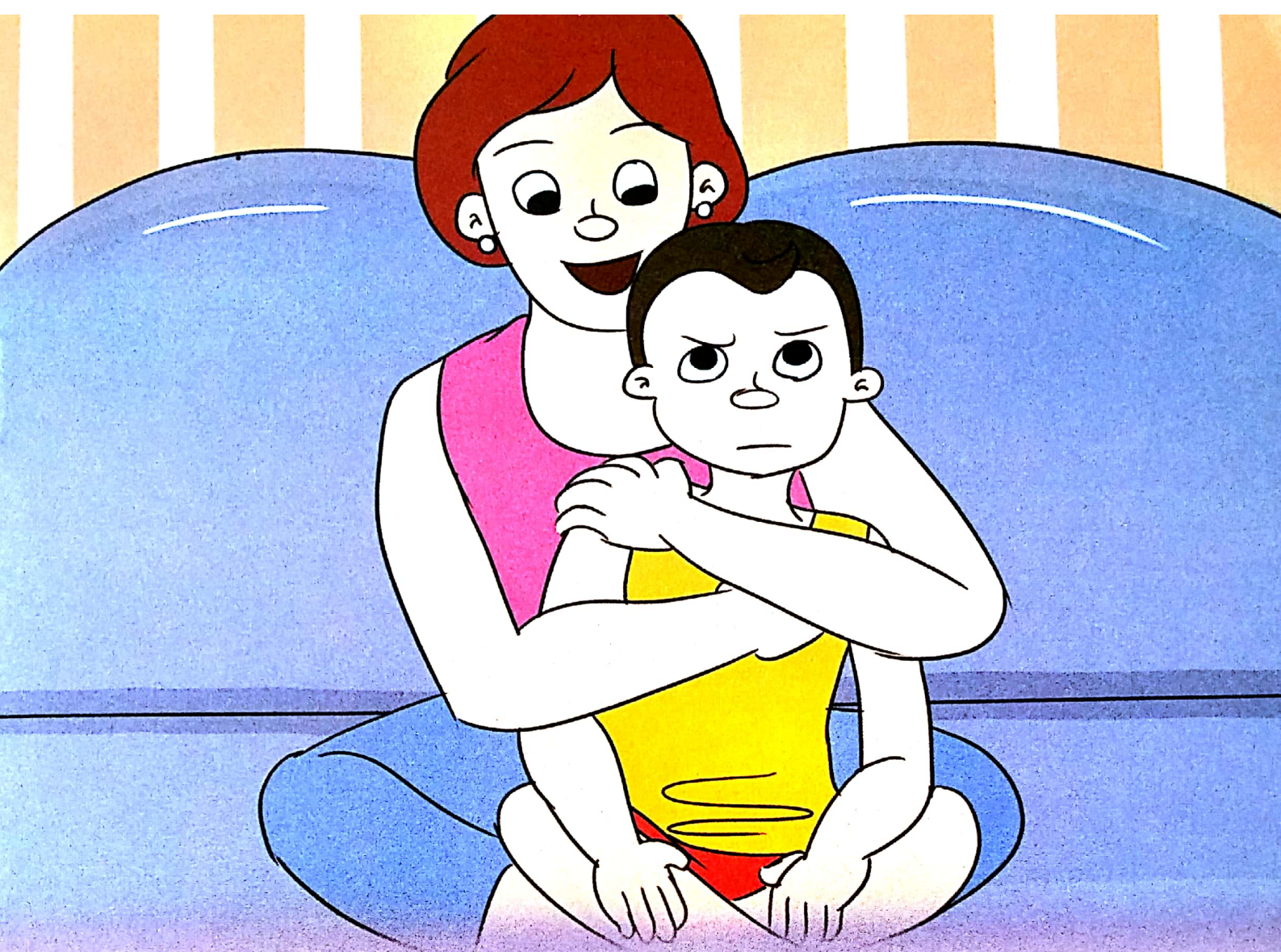
GRADE 6

UNIT 1

AFTER SCHOOL



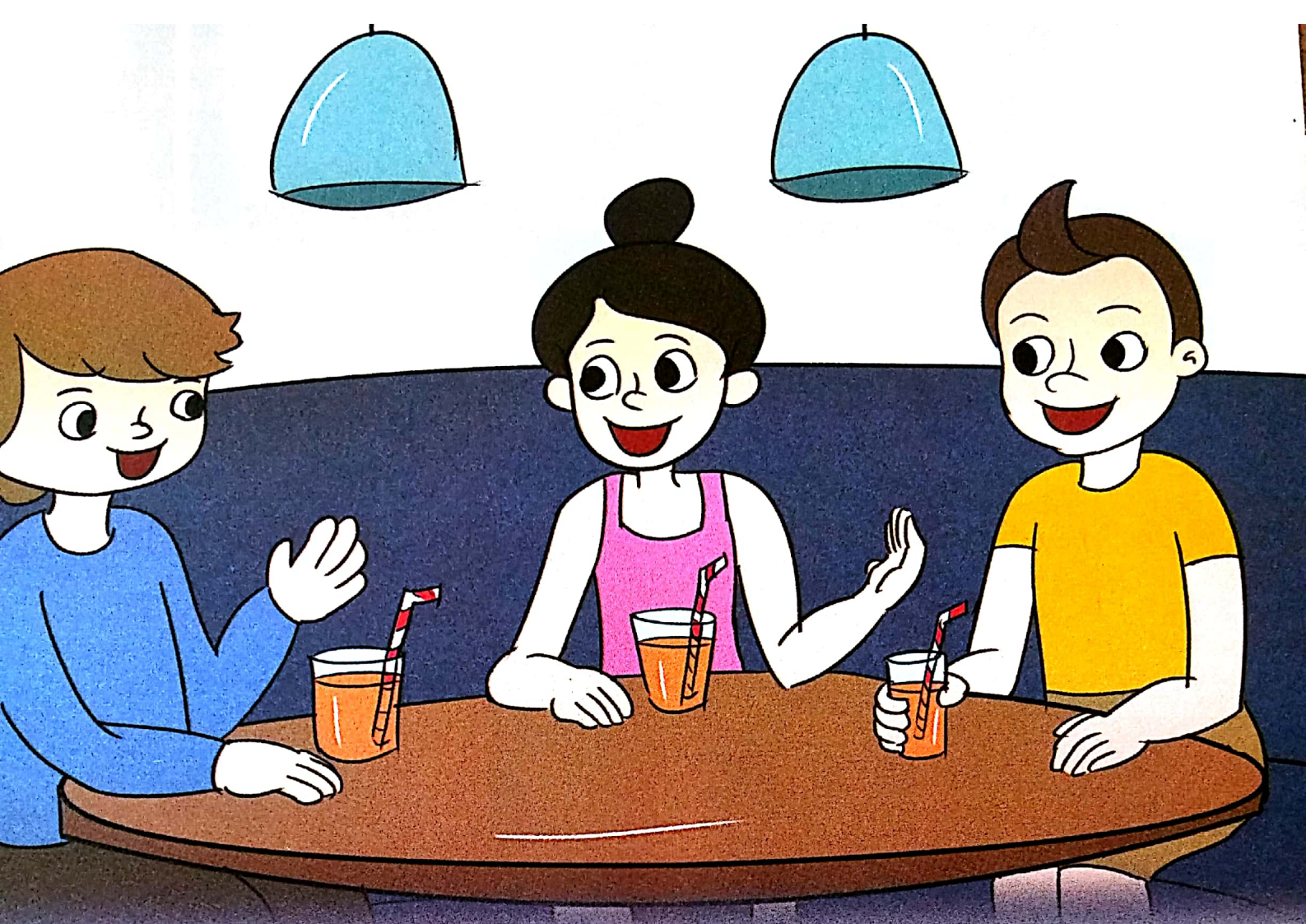
AUDIO



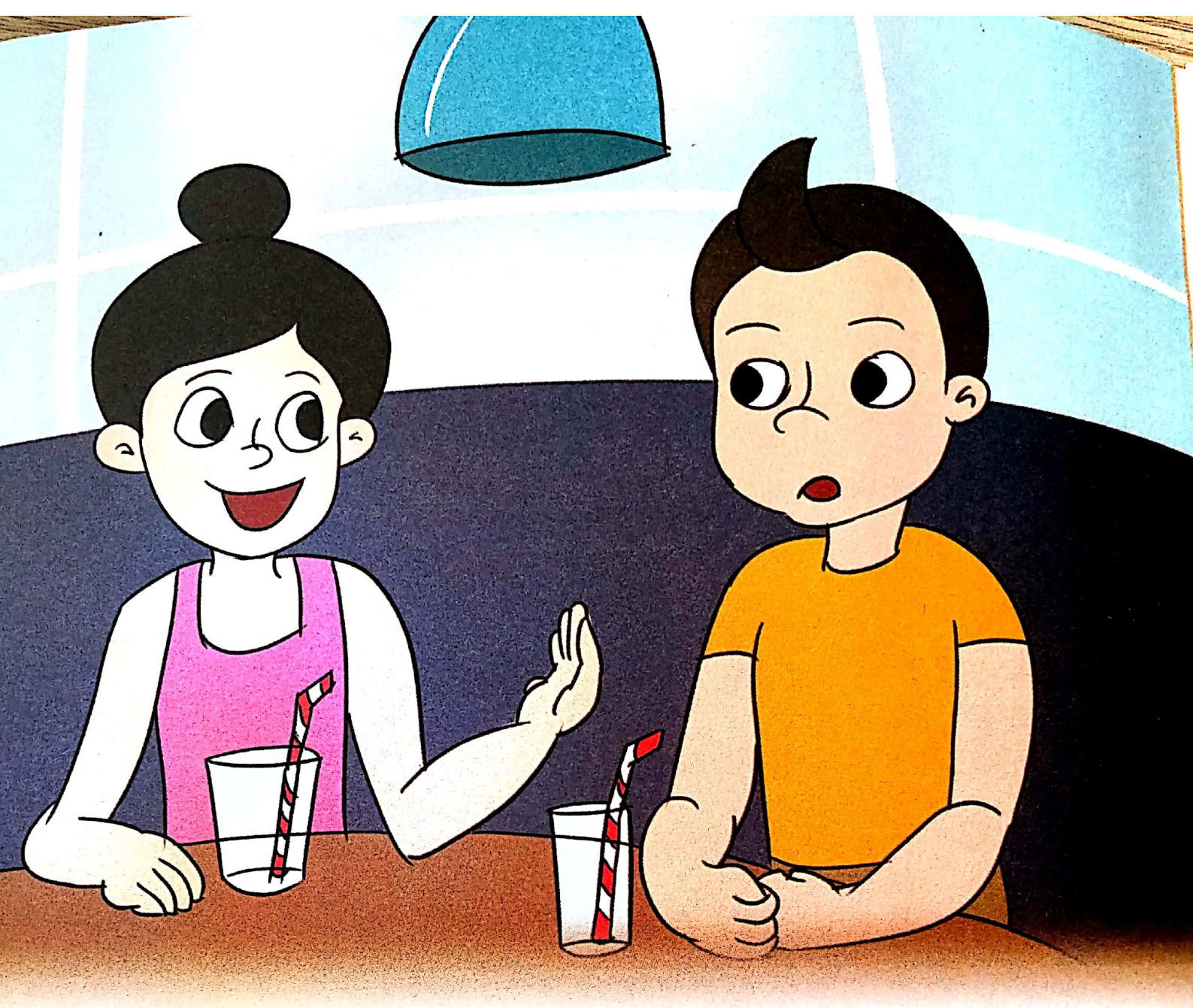
Kevin is a little shorter<sup>1</sup> than his friends. His mother hugs him and sometimes calls him, "My little<sup>2</sup> boy." Kevin gets mad<sup>3</sup> when she says that. He is obsessed<sup>4</sup> with his height<sup>5</sup>. He is 12 years old and he wants to get taller<sup>1</sup>. That's why he is such a cranky<sup>6</sup> and a disobedient<sup>7</sup> child now. He plays basketball at the weekends.



His mother wants him to play basketball because she thinks it might make him taller. His father is tall and Kevin wants to be like him. One day after school, he calls his mother and says, "Mom, can I hang out with<sup>8</sup> my friends?" His mother says, "Okay honey, don't be too late. Your father and I have a surprise for you."



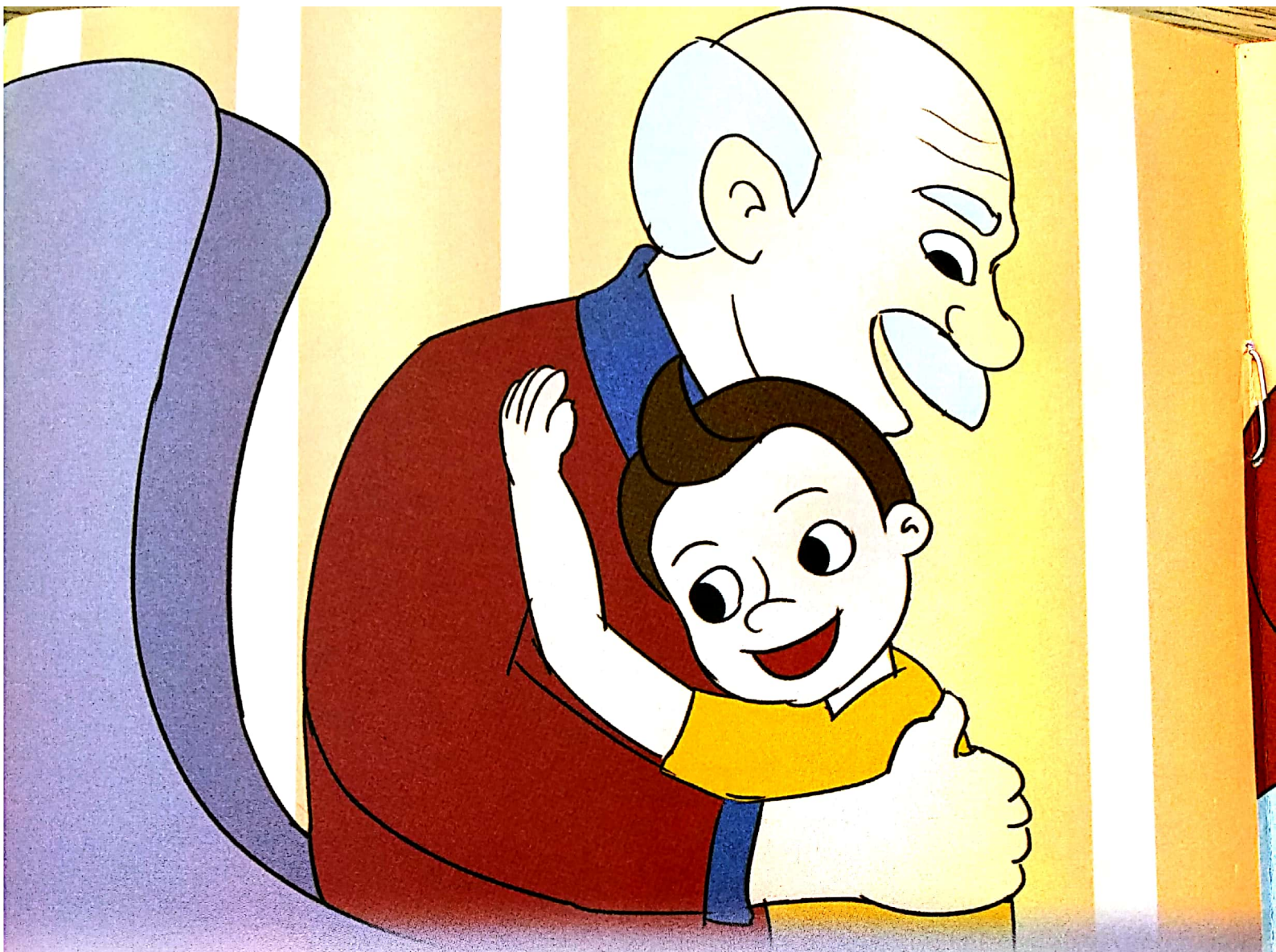
Kevin is curious about the surprise. Kevin and his friends, Ashley and Brad, go to a café after school. Ashley loves to dance and she likes ballet<sup>9</sup>. Brad likes to play the guitar. He takes guitar classes in the afternoons. His guitar teacher Carlos is sick today so the lesson is cancelled<sup>10</sup>. Ashley and Brad are Kevin's best friends.



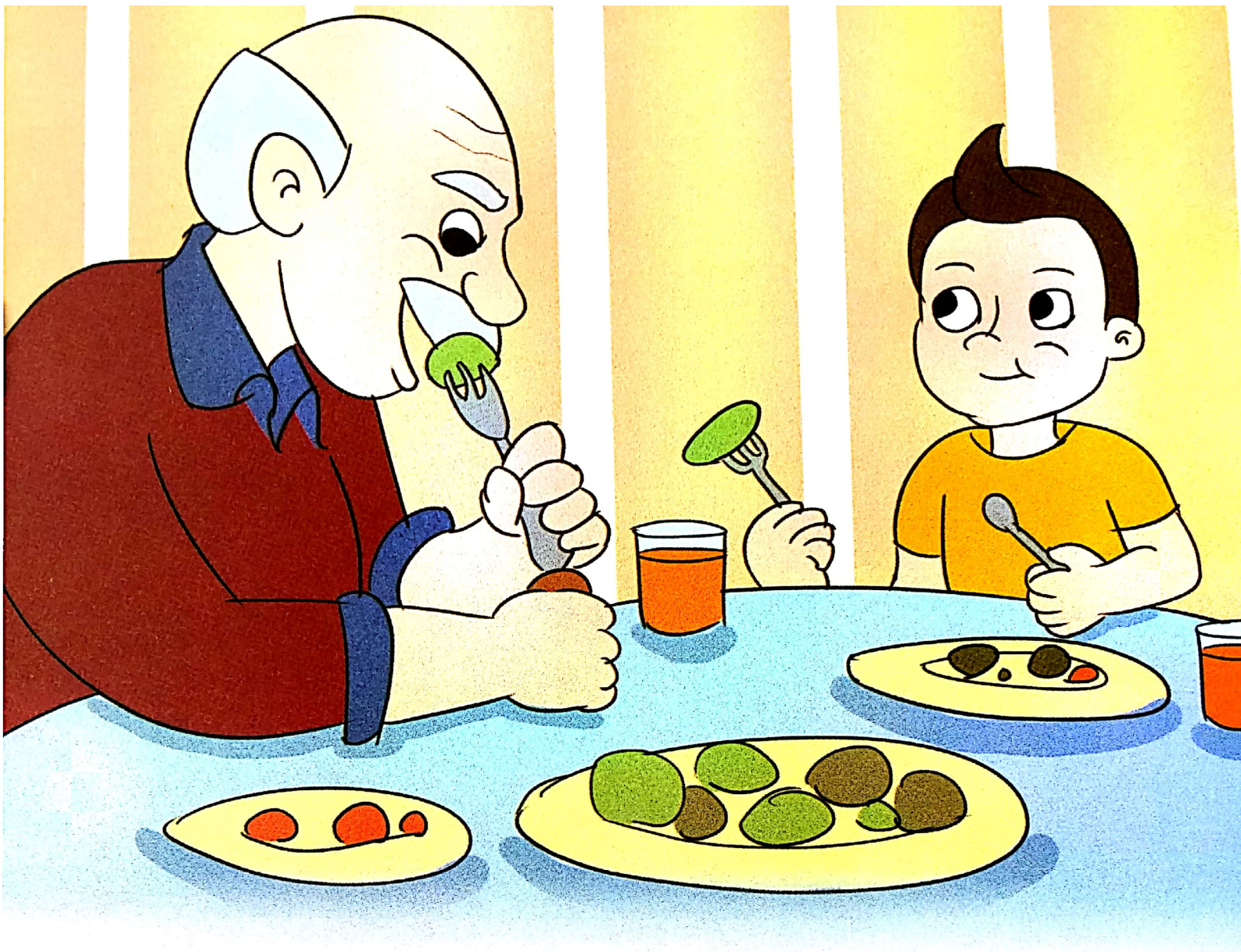
Ashley is very happy today. It's her little sister's<sup>11</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. Ashley thinks that having a sister is great, and she asks Kevin, "Isn't it boring<sup>12</sup> not to have any siblings?<sup>13</sup> Don't you get bored<sup>12</sup> alone?" Kevin doesn't know what to say.



Ashley has one sibling, and Brad has two. They both say that they love their siblings very much even though they fight<sup>14</sup> a lot. Ashley leaves early because she needs to make preparations for her little sister's birthday party. Kevin and Brad also go home before it's too late.

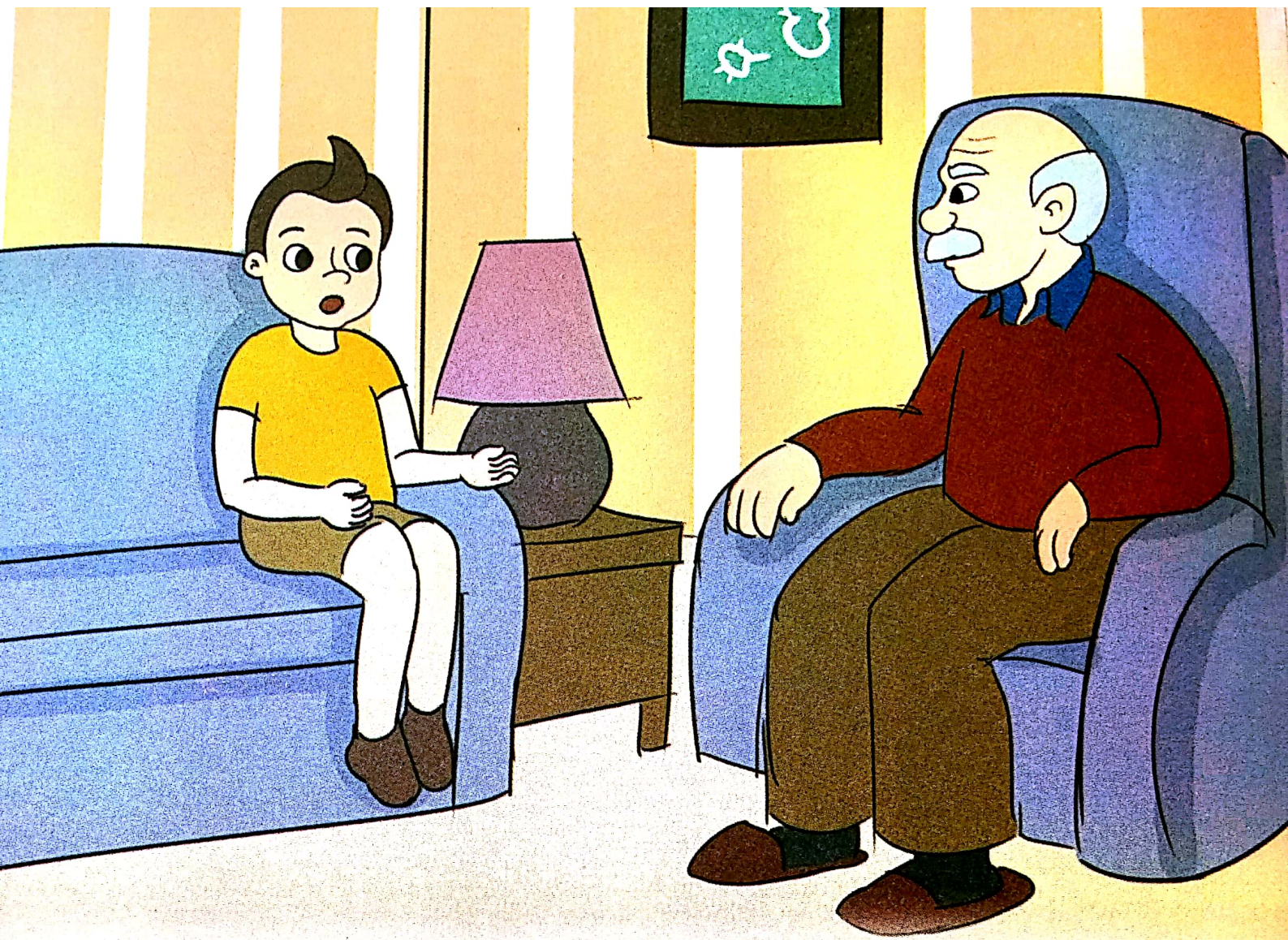


His mother opens the door for Kevin. "Welcome home Kevin!" she says. "Look who is here!" Kevin goes inside and sees his grandfather<sup>15</sup>. He loves his grandfather very much. He runs to him and hugs him. "Welcome<sup>16</sup> Grandpa!" he says. "Thank you Kevin," his grandfather says. "You look more grown<sup>17</sup> than the last time I saw you." Kevin is very happy to hear this and he asks, "Really Grandpa? I look taller?"

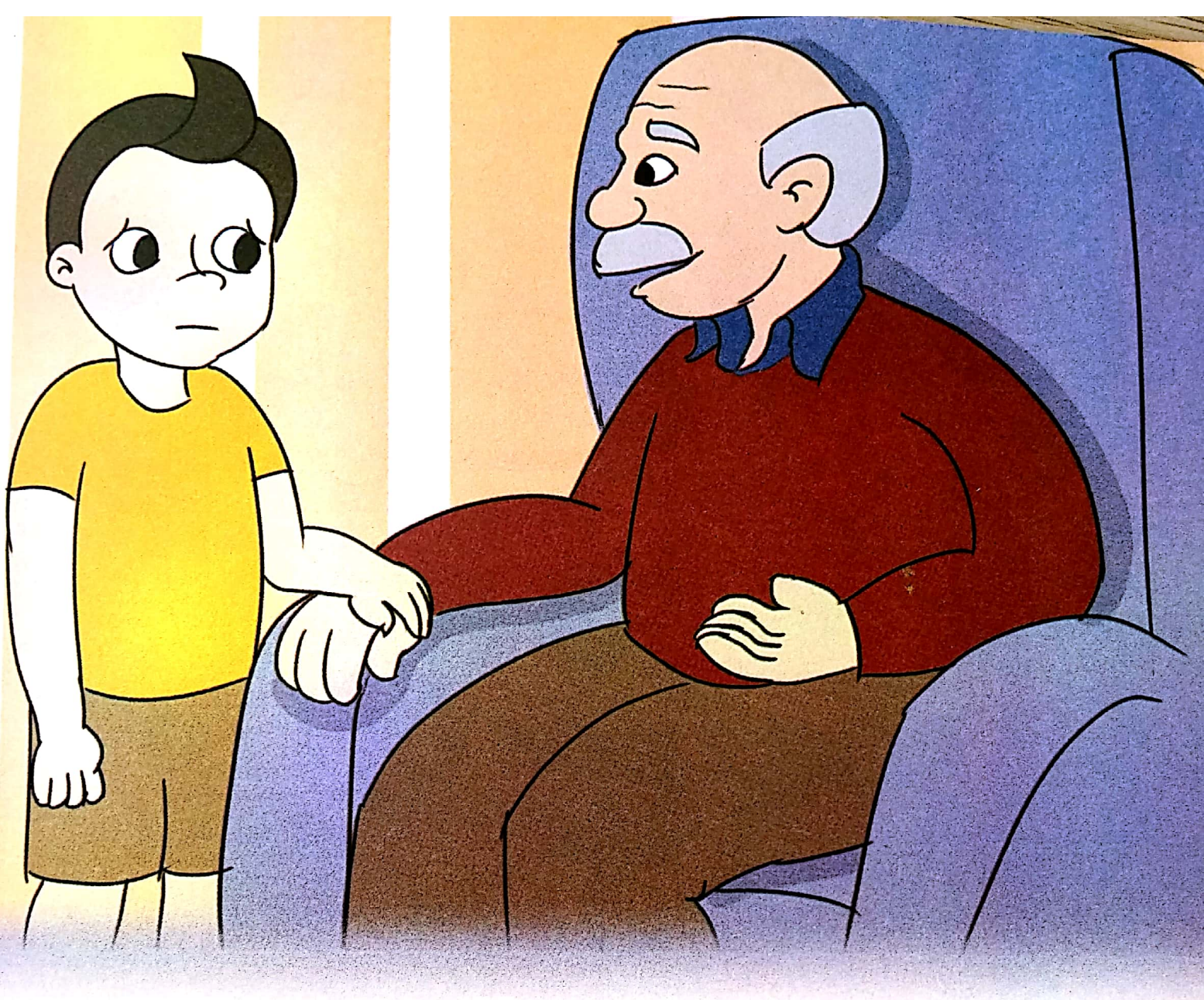


His grandfather smiles and says, "Of course my dear! Look how big you are!" They have a lovely dinner together. Kevin tells his grandfather about basketball. He loves chatting with his grandfather. He asks Kevin how he is doing at school. Kevin is a little embarrassed<sup>18</sup> because he isn't studying<sup>19</sup> much at the moment. All he thinks about is his height.





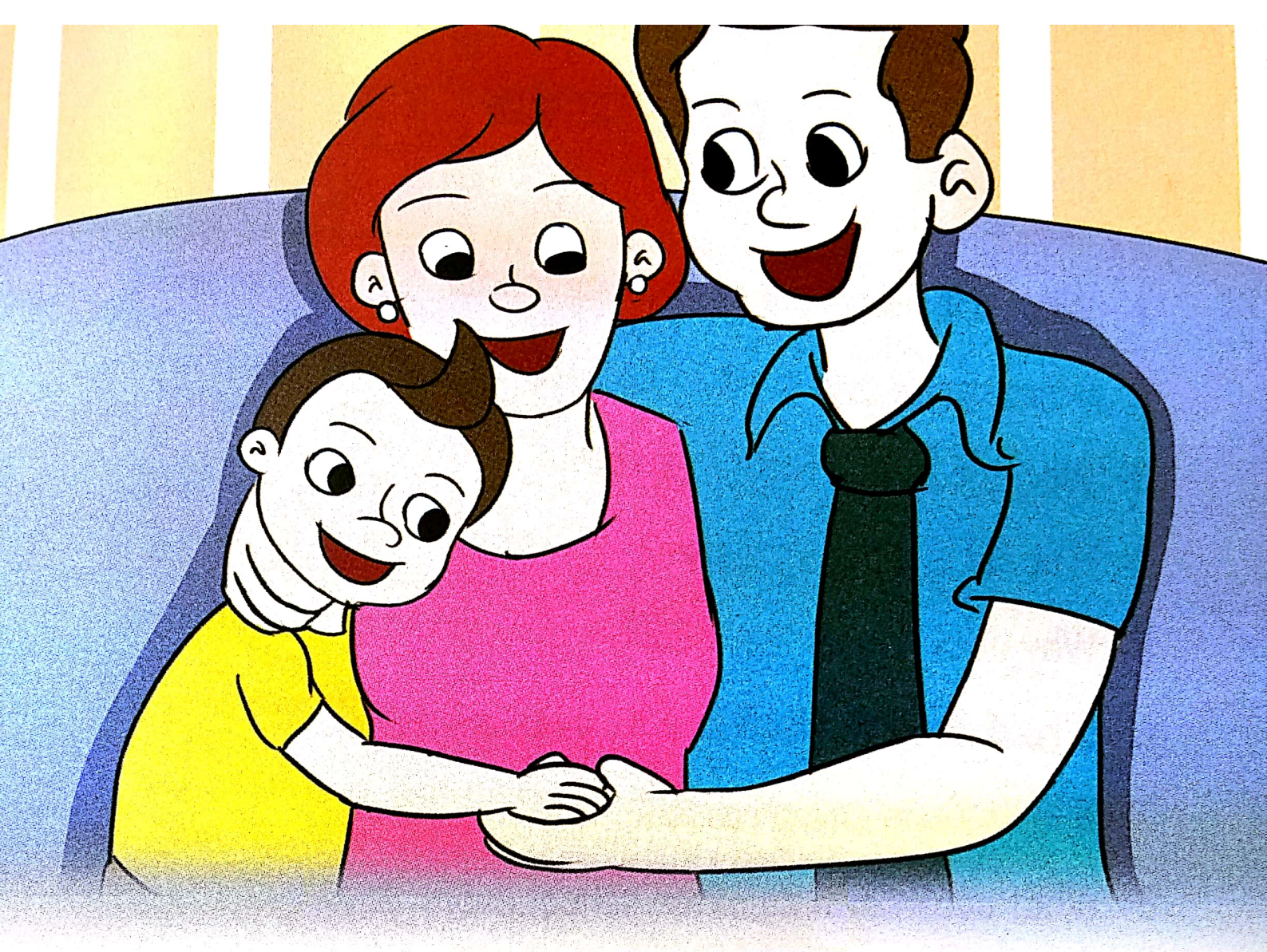
After school, Kevin either watches TV or plays computer games<sup>20</sup> every day. He is neglecting<sup>21</sup> his lessons. He never does his homework<sup>22</sup>. His grandfather is not happy to hear this. He starts telling Kevin a story<sup>23</sup> from his own childhood<sup>24</sup>. Kevin loves listening to his grandfather's stories.



"My dear grandson, when I was your age I was worried about my height too. All my friends were taller than me. But I never neglected my lessons. There was a very beautiful girl in our class. I liked her. I was sad, because I thought she wouldn't be interested in<sup>25</sup> me. There were a lot of tall boys in our class. But one day I learned that she liked me back."



"Don't worry about anything this much! Nothing can be more important than love<sup>26</sup>, friendship<sup>27</sup>, and family. And you know what? I'm still with that beautiful girl; she is your grandmother!"<sup>28</sup> Kevin is affected<sup>29</sup> by this story. He thinks that his grandfather is right<sup>30</sup>. Kevin makes a promise<sup>31</sup> to his grandfather and his parents not to worry about his height any more.



Kevin's parents sit next to him. They have good news - Kevin is going to be a big brother! He is very happy to hear this. Now he can be a big brother like his friends. He is already thinking about the games they can play after school, and he can help his little brother or sister with homework. Kevin says to himself, "You only understand that you are grown when you become a big brother."