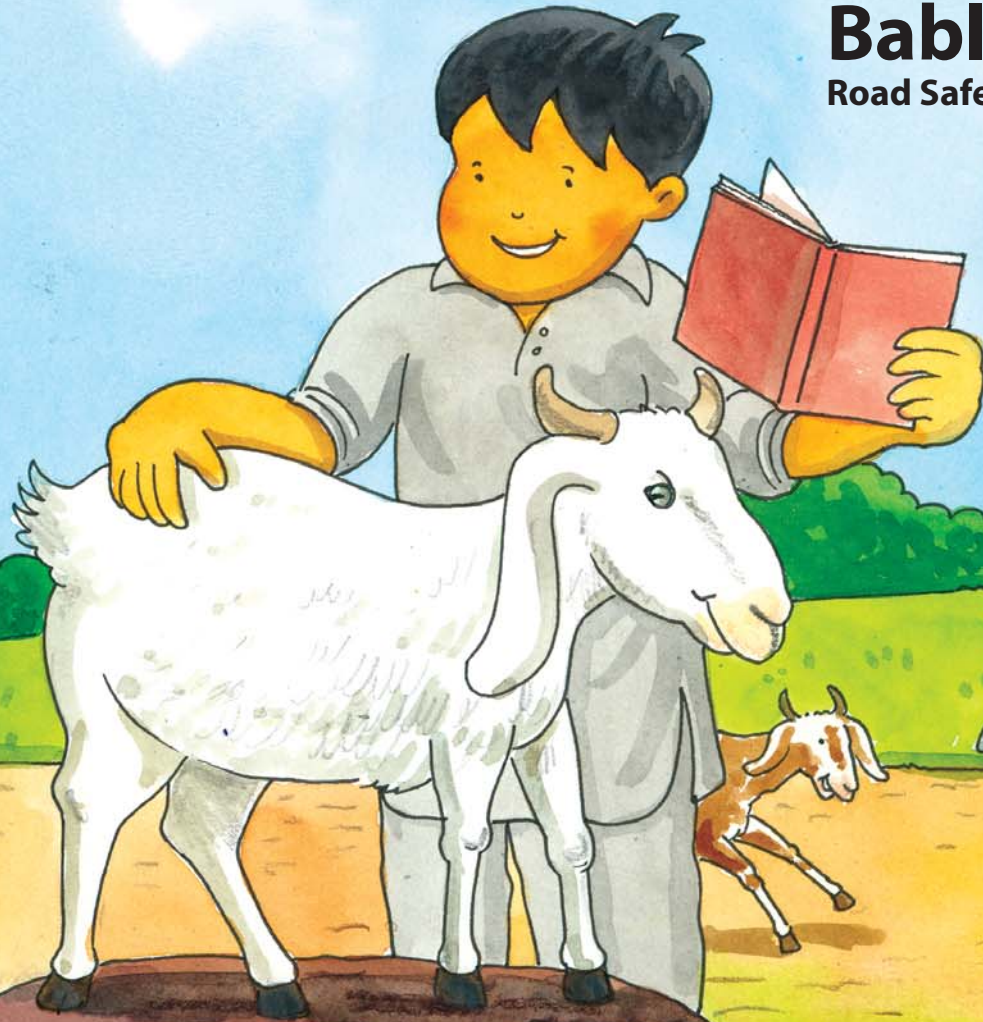
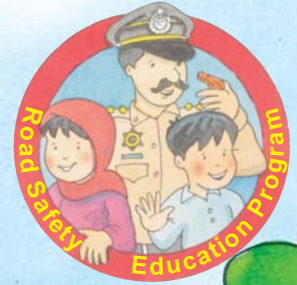


# Bablu and his Cleverness

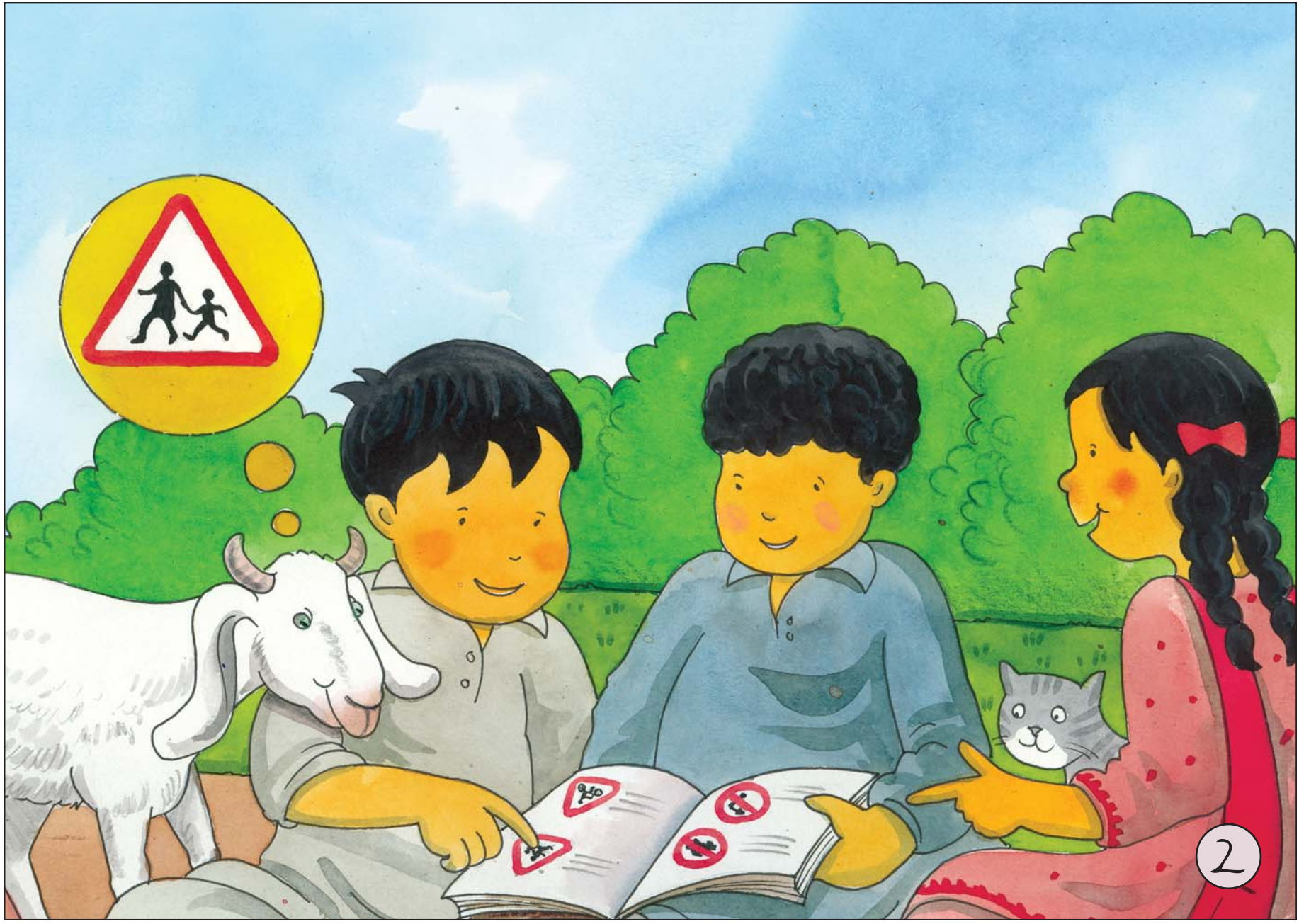
Road Safety Stories for Children



Bablu lived amongst a herd of goats in the village. His was a happy herd. All day long the elderly goats would manage the herd while the females would take care of the baby goats. The young goats would play around and learn new things everyday. In the afternoon they would go across the road to play with the children of the village and at night they would listen to the stories told by the elder goats.

Bablu loved playing with the children of the village. He would love to hear about what they learnt at school and he would try learning it too. Bablu knew how to count and even how to read. One day the children were talking about the different road signs they learnt at school and Bablu even learnt that. Bablu was quite an intelligent little goat.



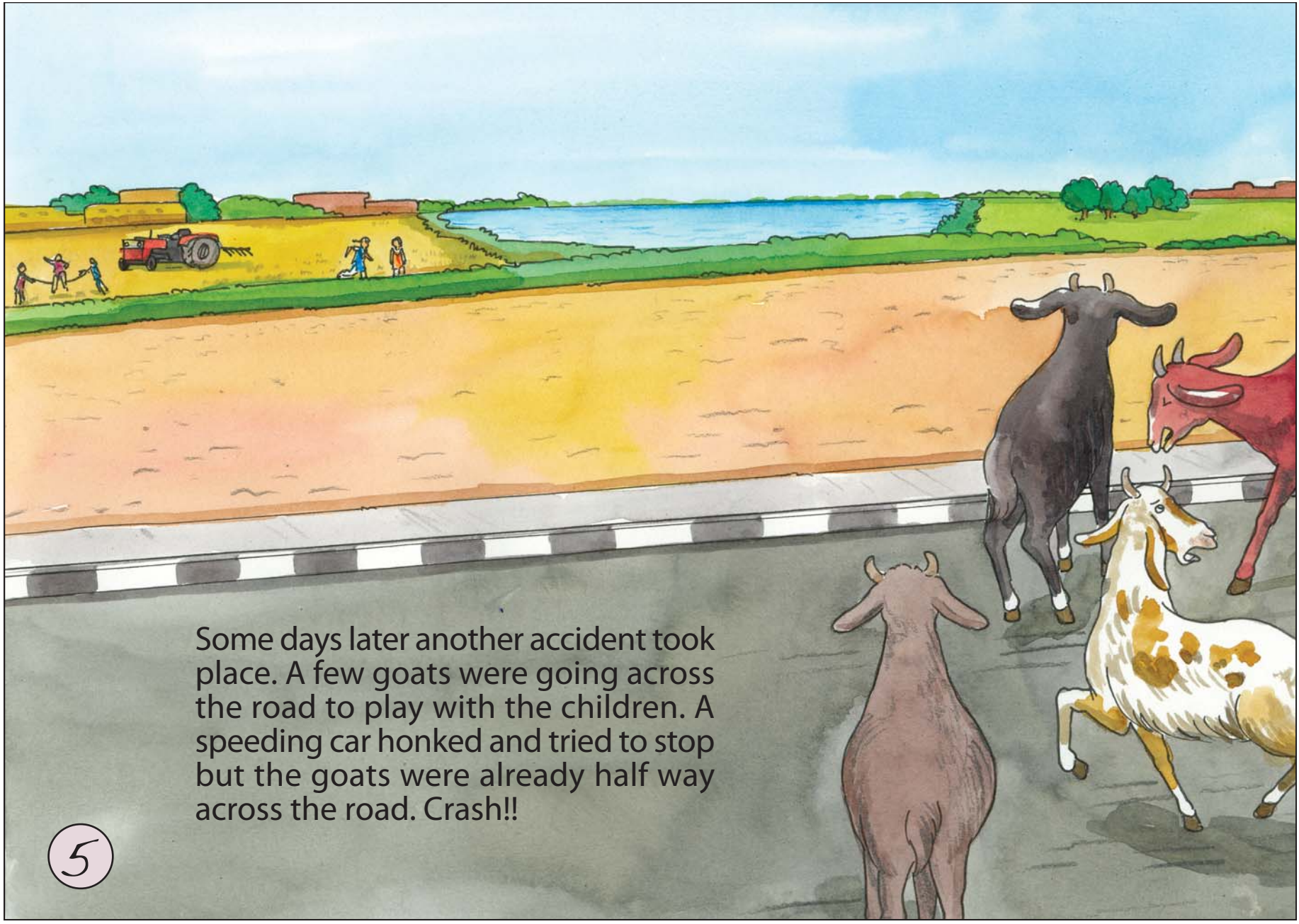


Recently, the elderly goats of the herd were very worried. There had been many injuries amongst the herd; all of them because of road accidents. Just the other day Bablu's friend Baakar went to have a drink at the lake across the road and he was hit by a truck. Baakar had been lucky to survive the accident but he had broken two of his legs. Things were indeed not very happy and joyful in the herd.

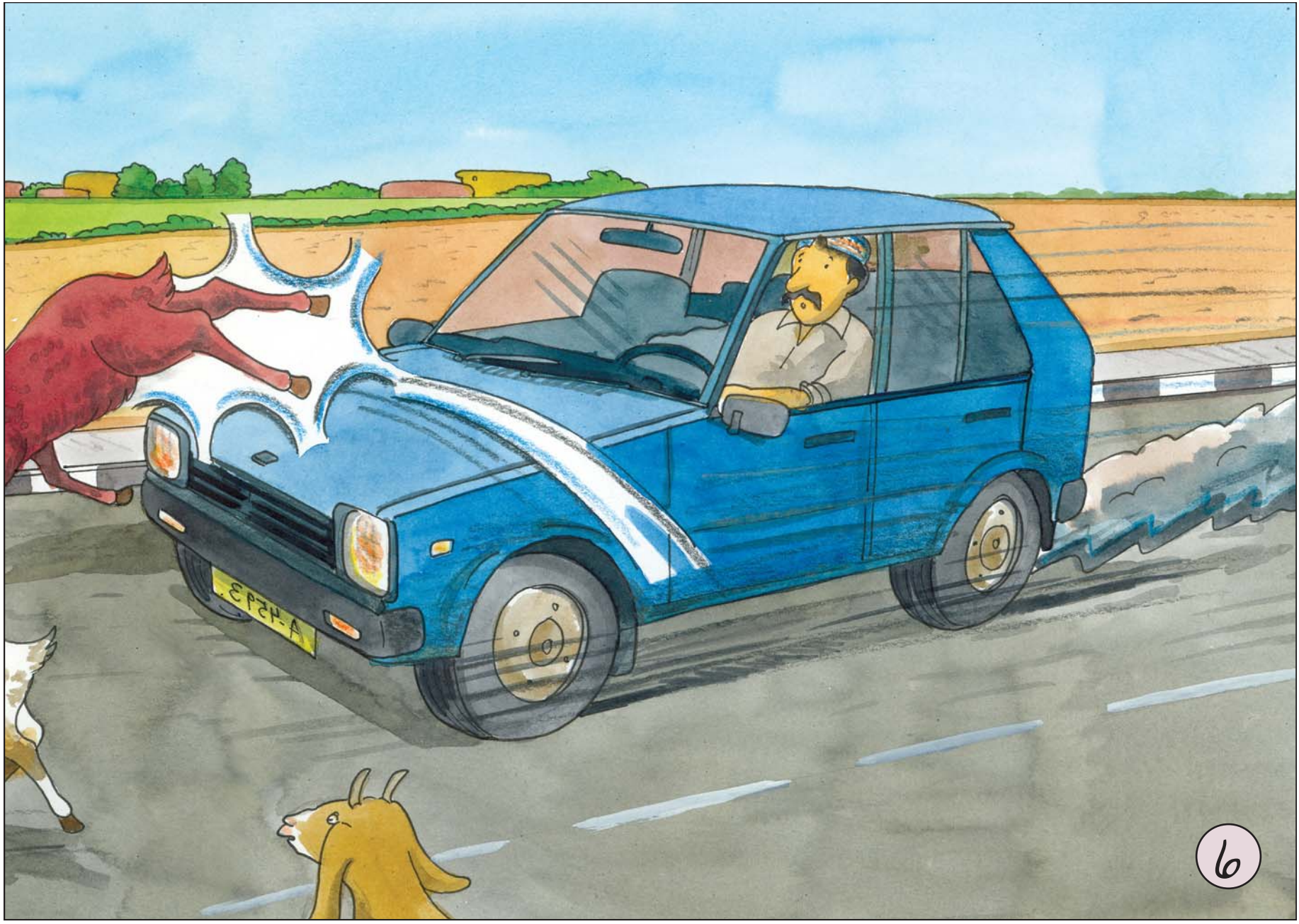


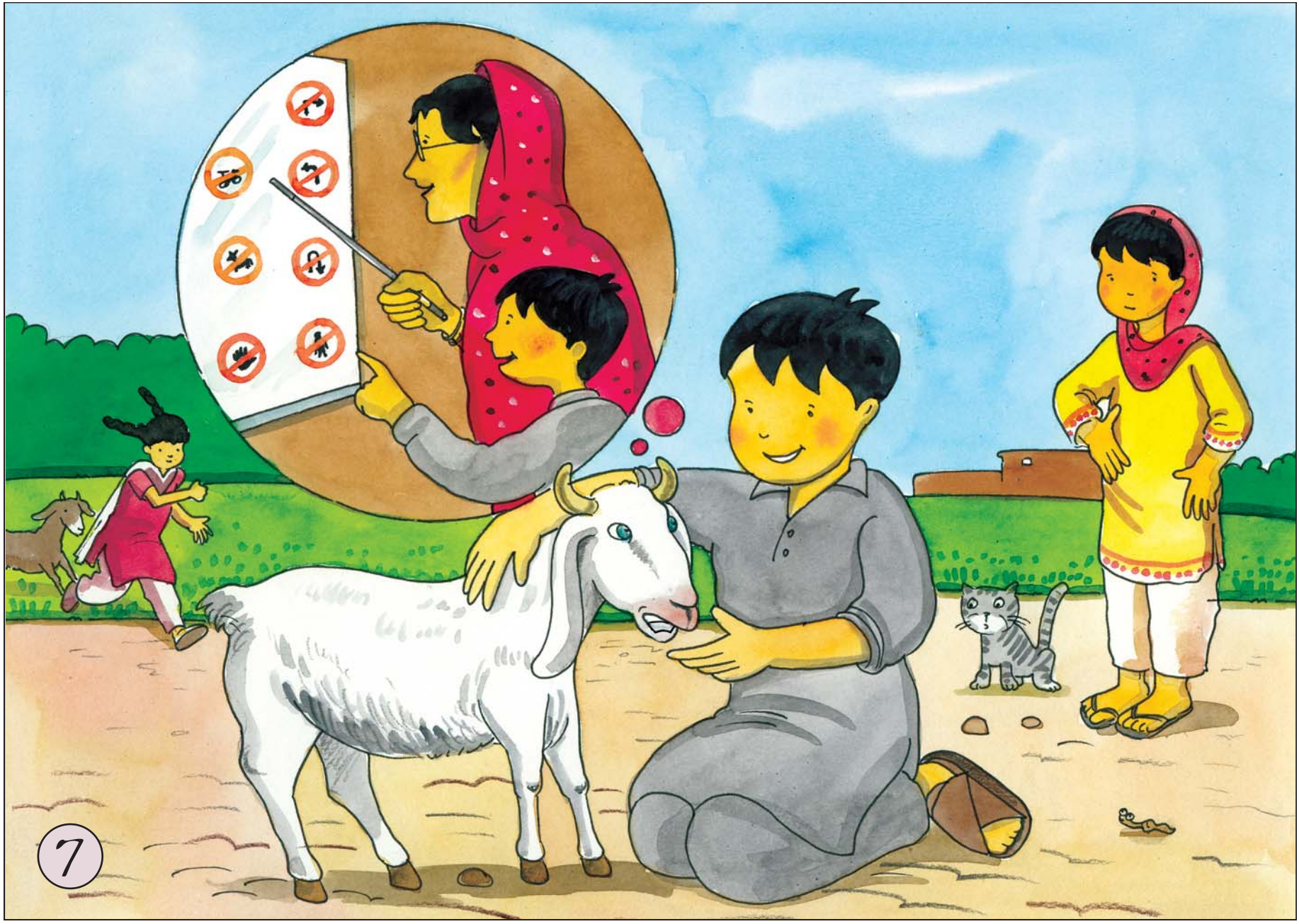
The elderly goats did not know what to do. They were worried that if they did not think of a solution to their problem fast more goats would get injured. At first one goat said, "Maybe we should all stay away from the road." But no one liked that idea. The elder goats knew that the lake was on the other side and keeping away from the road would mean no water to drink. The young goats too disagreed. They would not be able to play with the village children if their parents did not allow them to cross the road. Something else had to be thought of.





Some days later another accident took place. A few goats were going across the road to play with the children. A speeding car honked and tried to stop but the goats were already half way across the road. Crash!!





The next day Bablu was playing with the children. He too was very worried about his herd and the goats that were injured. One of the boys Bablu was playing with, Raju, who was also Bablu's best friend, asked "what's wrong Bablu? Why do you look so sad?" Bablu told him about the road accidents and the fact that his herd did not know what to do about them.

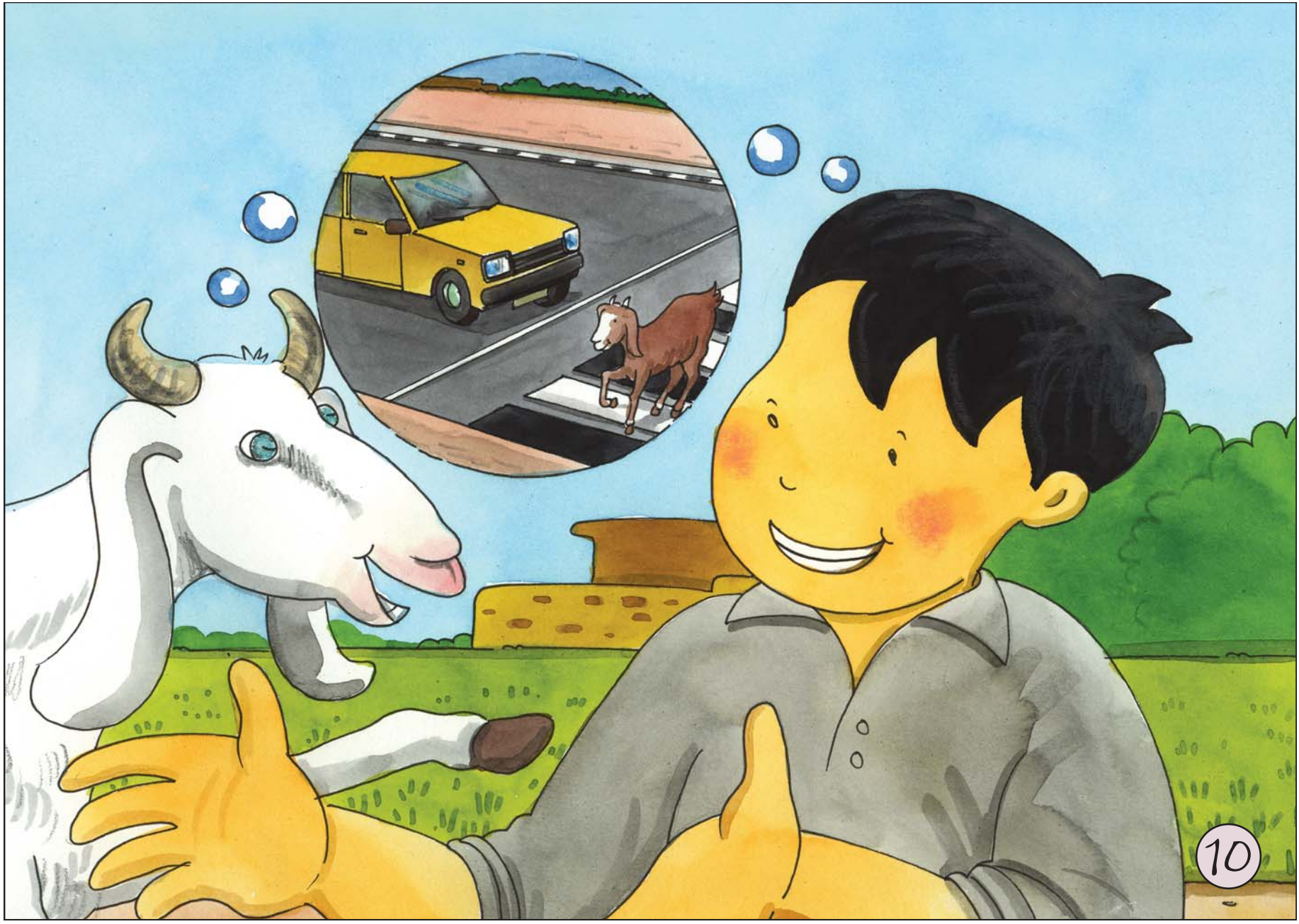
While telling Raju about the road accidents Bablu's eyes suddenly lit up. "I know what we can do," Bablu said to Raju. "You remember you once taught me different road signs. Why don't you go ask your parents or your teacher if they can tell you some road safety habits that we should learn when crossing the road. I'm sure there is something all of us can learn to avoid accidents and injuries on the road."

Raju agreed and he told Bablu that he would try his best to learn something about road safety so he could teach it to Bablu.

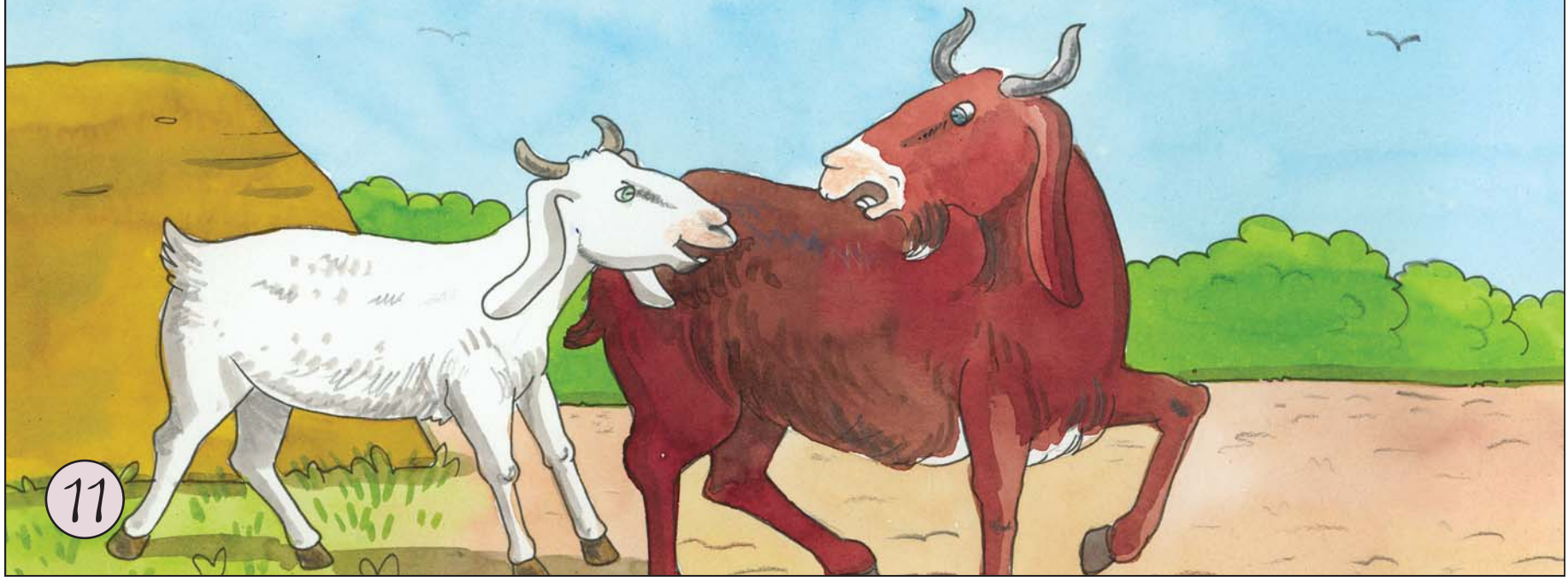
The next day when Bablu went across the road, Raju was waiting. Bablu could see that Raju was excited and had something to share with him. "Bablu, my father and my teacher taught me many things about traffic safety behavior. It can keep everyone of us safe from deadly accidents."

Bablu was excited too. He could not wait to learn all the things Raju had to tell him. He would then share all this information with his whole herd so all of them could avoid injuries and accidents on the road. So the rest of the day Bablu and Raju discussed about all the road safety behavior and rules Raju had learnt.





The next morning Bablu was the first one of his herd to get up. He was bursting to share all the things Raju had told him the other day. He went to the elderly goats who had just woken up and were grazing grass in the field nearby. Bablu told them that he had a solution to help the herd's problems with road accidents. The elderly goats were quiet for a while. One of them stepped up and asked, "What is it Bablu? What is your answer to our worries?"



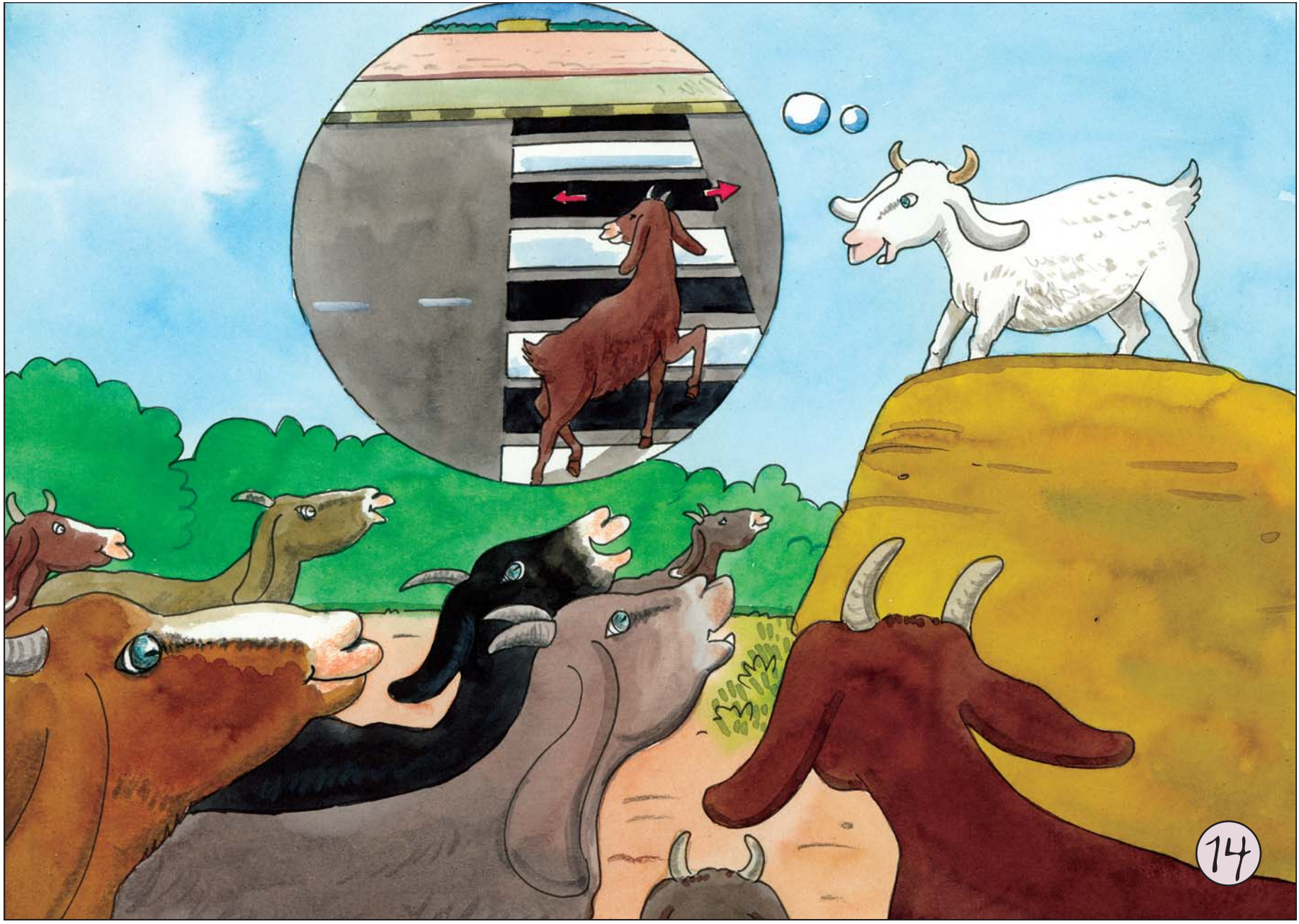
“I will indeed tell you all,” replied Bablu. “But first you have to gather all the goats in the field so everyone can listen and learn.”

The elderly goats spread the word and in a little time the whole herd had gathered in the field to listen to what Bablu had to say. The father goats with their young children, the mothers with the babies; everyone was present in the field.

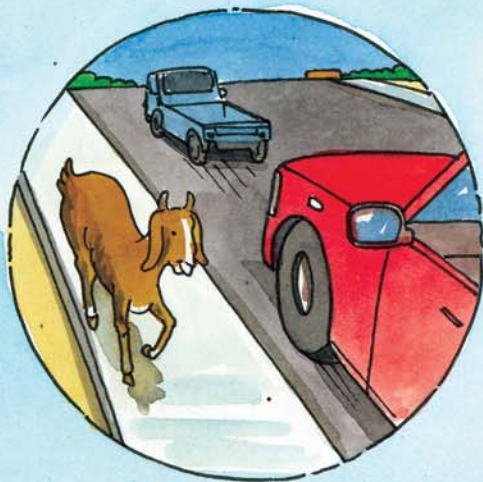


Bablu stepped up on a stone and called out to every one of them, "My fellow goats. It makes me very sad that so many goats are getting injured and are dying due to road accidents." Bablu went on as all the goats intently listened to him, "Did you know the sole reason for these accidents is the fact that we do not know how to cross the road properly? It is a very simple thing but it still requires attention and if we put our mind to it we can easily learn how to safely cross even the busiest of roads.

"The first mistake all of us make is to never look right or left before crossing a road. To run across the road without looking is calling for a major accident. We can avoid it simply by stopping on the side, hearing for an approaching vehicle, looking right and left and then crossing. What's more is that we tend to cross roads from wherever point we feel like. The best place to cross a road is where there is ample light, where the road is not very wide and where the cars and trucks are slow, like near a traffic signal, a speed breaker or a zebra crossing. For those who don't know zebra crossings are the white and black striped lines. They are meant for vehicles to slow down so animals and people can cross on them."



You could see all the goats taking mental notes. Even the young ones nodded their head at all that Bablu had to say. Bablu went on, "When walking along the road the biggest mistake is to walking the middle of it. Roads are made for cars, buses and trucks, not goats or people. That's why we should always walk on the left-most side so we can avoid being hit by a speeding car coming from behind. If there is a pavement then we should try to walk on the pavement. Moreover, when traveling at night it's always best to wear bright clothes so people driving their cars can see you even where there is no light. And my message to all the elder goats, accompany your younger goats when they are crossing the roads. And teach them how to take care of themselves in heavy traffic." Bablu sure had a lot to share with his herd and he was confident that if they learnt about road safe behavior they would help save their own lives.



“My friend Raju taught me all this. We goats too ought to keep sharing with each other all that we learn,” said Bablu. All the goats stamped their feet on the ground and cheered for Bablu. His idea to talk to Raju and then share everything he learnt with the herd has till now kept the whole herd safe from road accidents. Even today if you go to Bablu’s village and see a goat wearing a bright ajrak at night you will realize how they keep themselves safe on the road. So learn more about road safety and remember to share all that you learn with all your family members and your friends.



# WALKING



- Stop, look, listen, think and then cross the road.
- When there is a pavement or footway, use it.
- Where there is no pavement, walk on the right most side of the road to face the traffic coming towards you  
If there is no pavement, stand back from the edge of the road but where you can still see traffic coming.
- Walk one behind the other at bends in the road or at night or if there is a lot of traffic



- Take special care if you can't see the road very far ahead.
- Always wear bright clothing at night or in bad weather. Fluorescent materials are good. They show up in daylight and at dusk. Reflective materials are good at night.

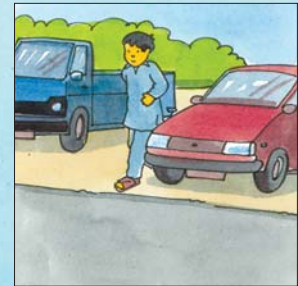


- Walk one behind the other at bends in the road or at night or if there is a lot of traffic.
- Give yourself lots of time to have a good look all around before crossing.

- If possible cross the road at zebra and traffic light crossings or where there is a police officer or a road safety officer.
- Where a police officer or a road safety officer is controlling the traffic, wait until s/he signals to you to cross the road. Always cross in front of them.



- Do not cross unless there is a safe gap and you are sure there is plenty of time. If you are not sure, don't cross.
- Always walk across a road, never run.
- Try not to cross between parked vehicles.
- If there is nowhere else to cross, make sure neither of the cars you are crossing between is about to move

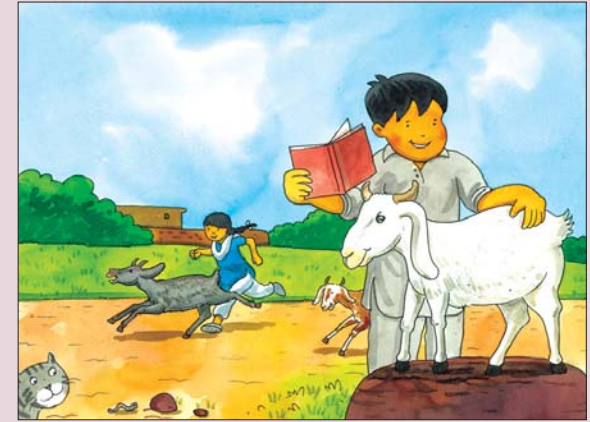


- If you are looking after somebody younger than you, always hold their hand when using the road.
- Listen carefully before crossing the road because you can sometimes hear traffic before you can see it



# Bablu and his Cleverness

The most frequent victims of road accidents on inter-district and provincial highways are animals and children. The cases usually involve a bad judgment of approaching traffic and lack of knowledge crucial for pedestrians. The theme of this story attempts to educate children on what being a good pedestrian means and how Raju and Bablu use their knowledge to save the herd of goats from further road accidents and injuries.



The Road Safety Education Program is a joint program that is being implemented in 100 schools of high-traffic districts of Sindh by the Road Sector Development Directorate, Government of Sindh and the Sindh Education Foundation.

This story is part of a wonderful series of books that can help children learn more about keeping themselves safe on the streets. Read the whole series and be a road safe child.



Playing on the Road can be Fun but...



Raju Learns Something New



Who is the Stranger in the Village?



Raju and his Injury



Raju's New Cycle!



Raju and his Wonderful Dream



**Sindh Education Foundation**  
Government of Sindh



**Road Sector Development Directorate**  
Works and Services Department  
Government of Sindh

Author: Youshey Zakiuddin | Illustrator: Adeel uz Zafar | Translator: Gul Baig GurGej | Composer: Khadim Hussain

**SINDH EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Plot 9, Block 7, Kehkashan, Clifton 5, Karachi - 75600  
Ph: (92-21) 111-424-111 (Ext: 216), Fax: (92-21) 9251652  
Email: rsep@sef.org.pk