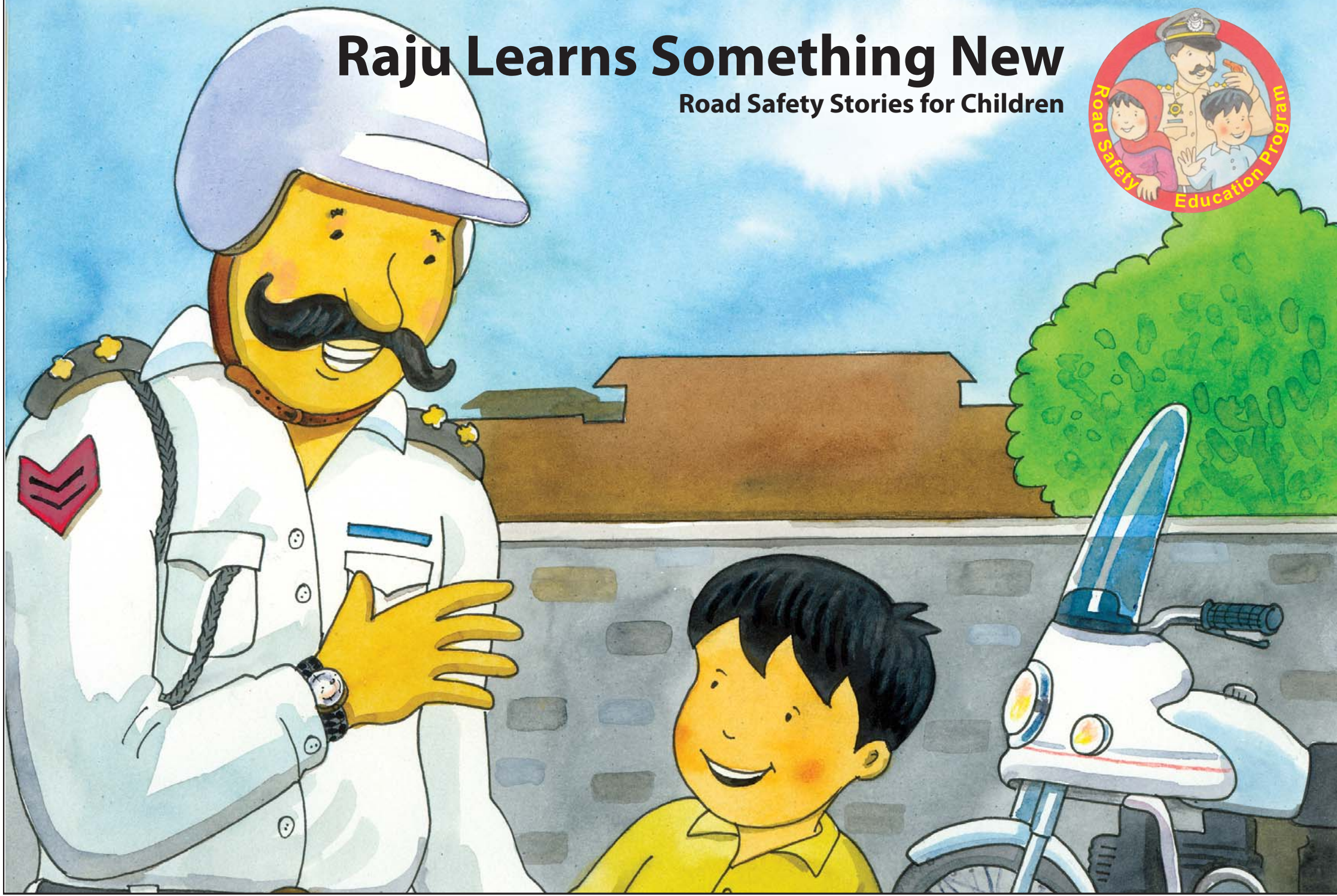
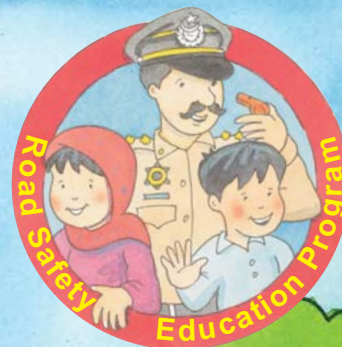


Raju Learns Something New

Road Safety Stories for Children

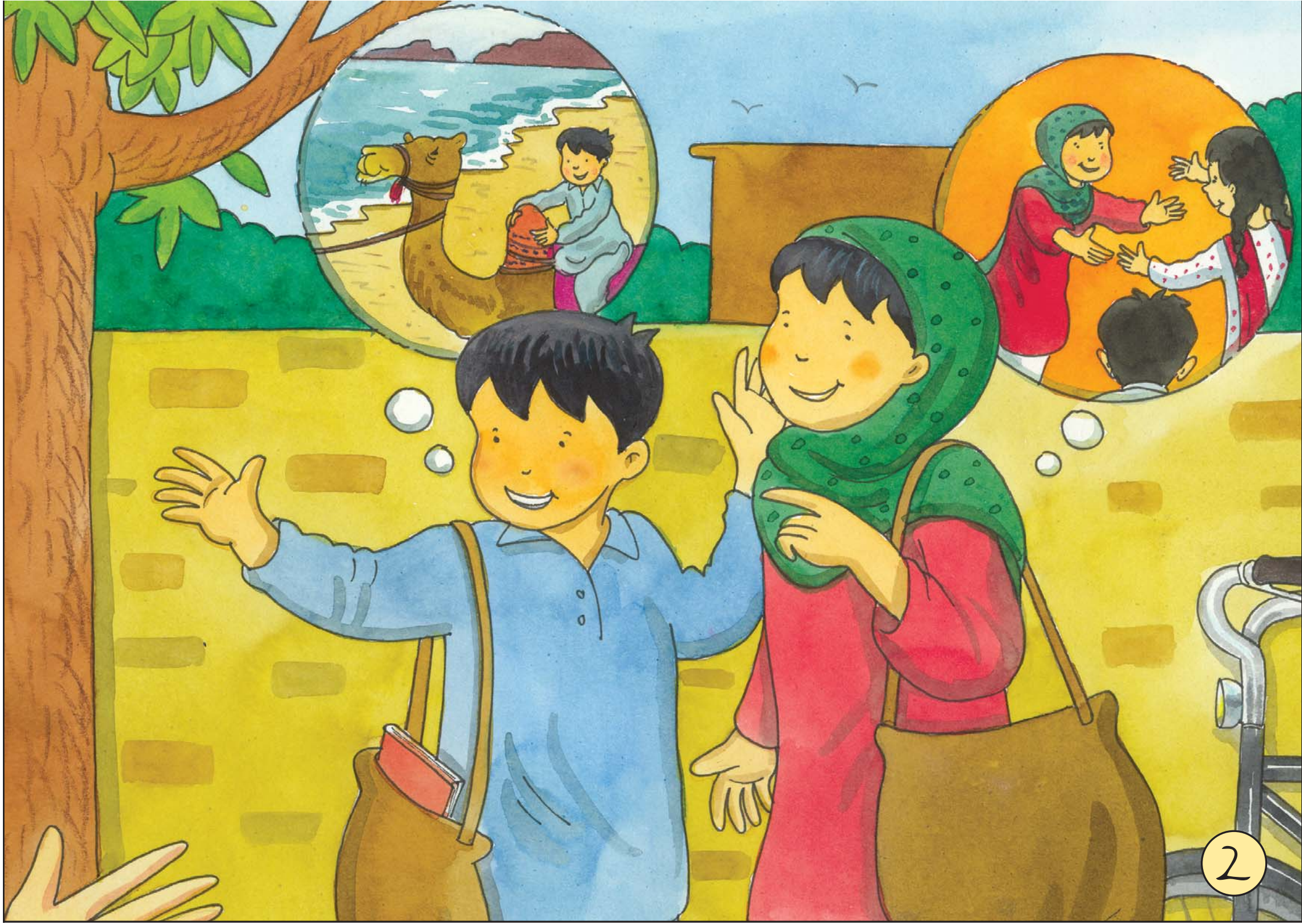


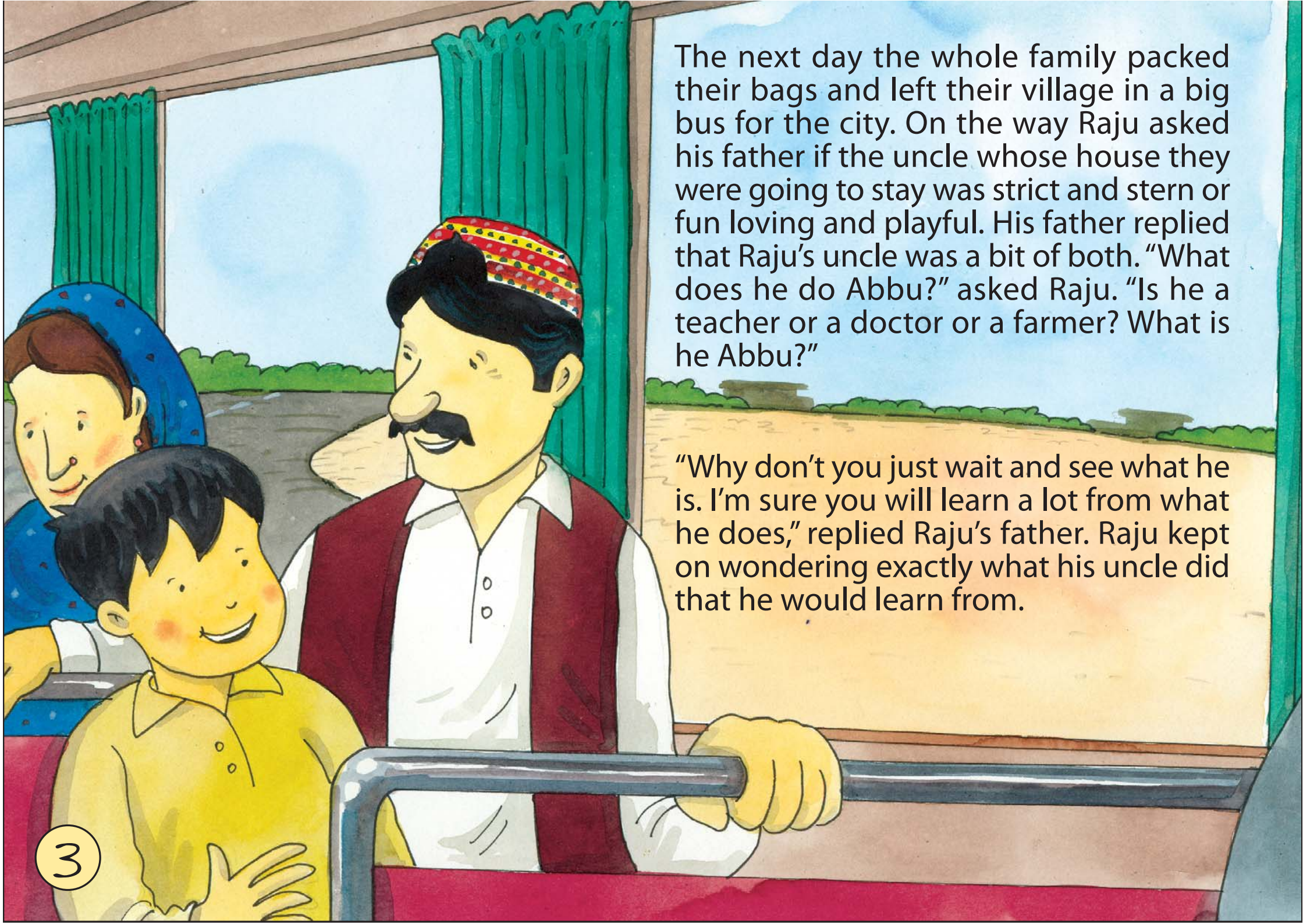
On Raju's last day of school his mother promised him that she had a surprise for him and his sister Kiran. Raju rushed home that day from school impatient to know what the surprise was. He begged his mother to tell him what it was. He just couldn't wait to know.

"I've spoken to your father and he has agreed to take us all to the city. We will spend a month there with your uncle and we will make sure we stay like good guests," Raju's mother said.

Raju jumped all around the house filled with delight. He loved going to the city. He would get to sit in big bus. He would get to stay in his uncle's house; he would get to go to the beach and also maybe get to eat lots of goodies there. It would be great fun. Raju's sister, Kiran, was also excited to go. She would get to meet her cousins in the city after quite a few years.



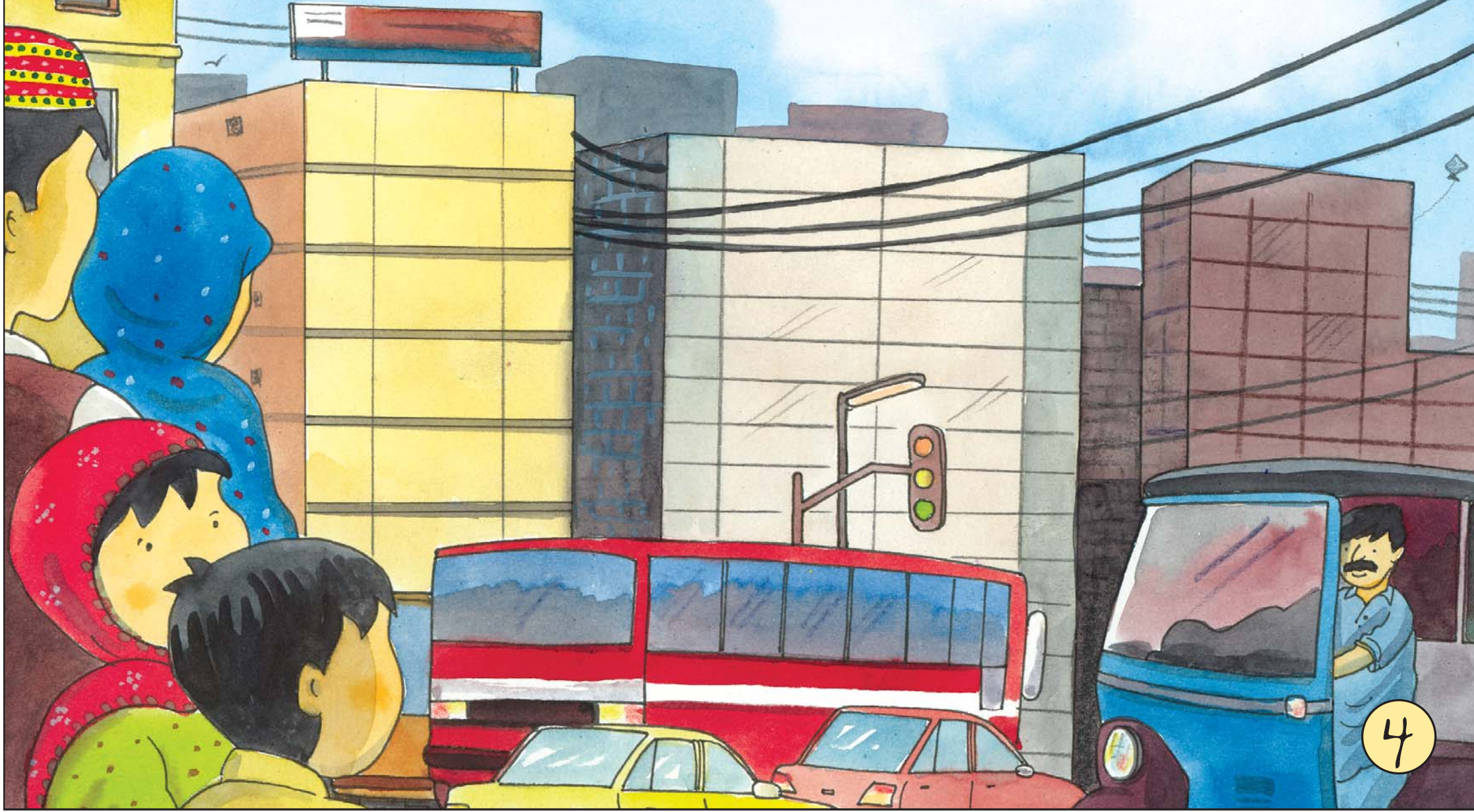




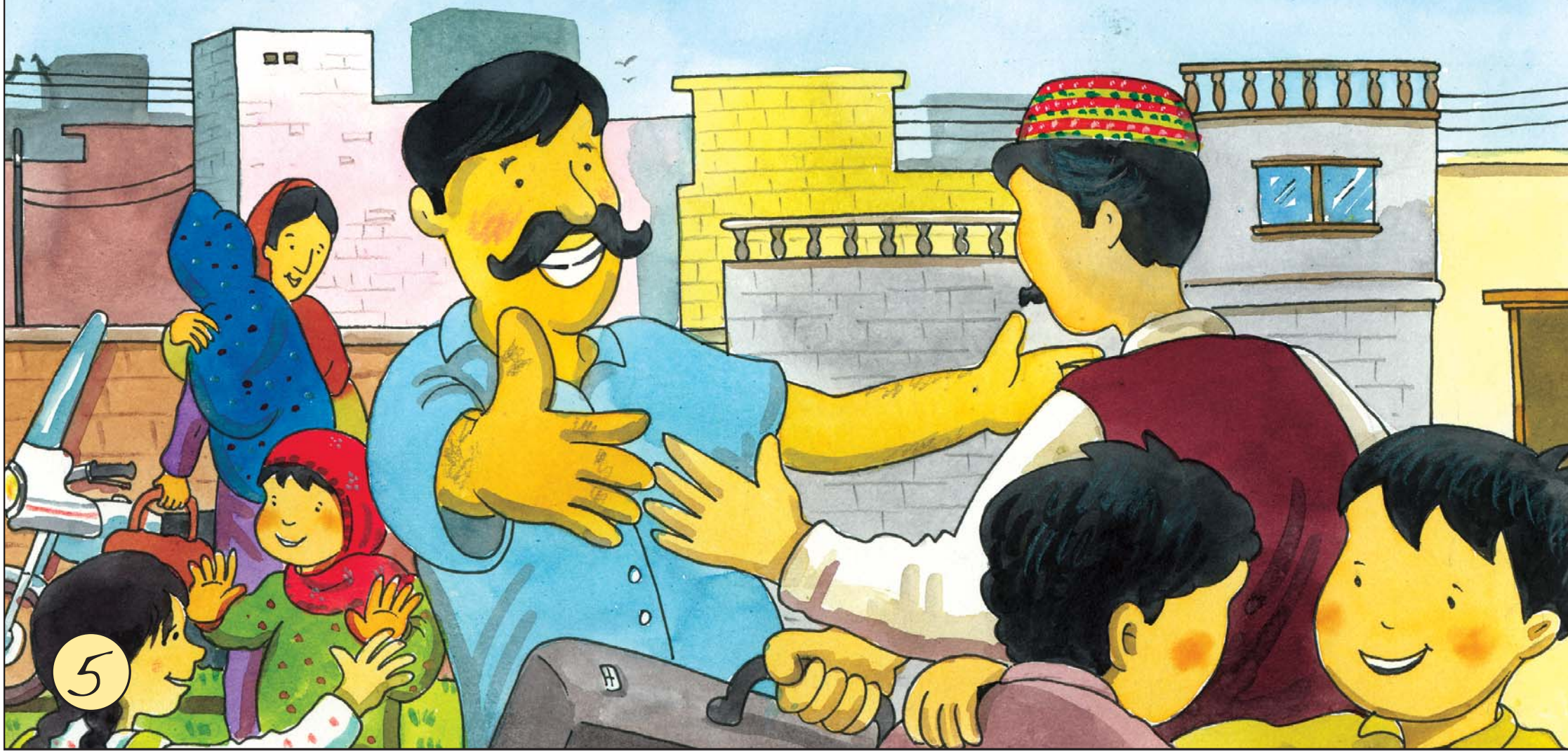
The next day the whole family packed their bags and left their village in a big bus for the city. On the way Raju asked his father if the uncle whose house they were going to stay was strict and stern or fun loving and playful. His father replied that Raju's uncle was a bit of both. "What does he do Abbu?" asked Raju. "Is he a teacher or a doctor or a farmer? What is he Abbu?"

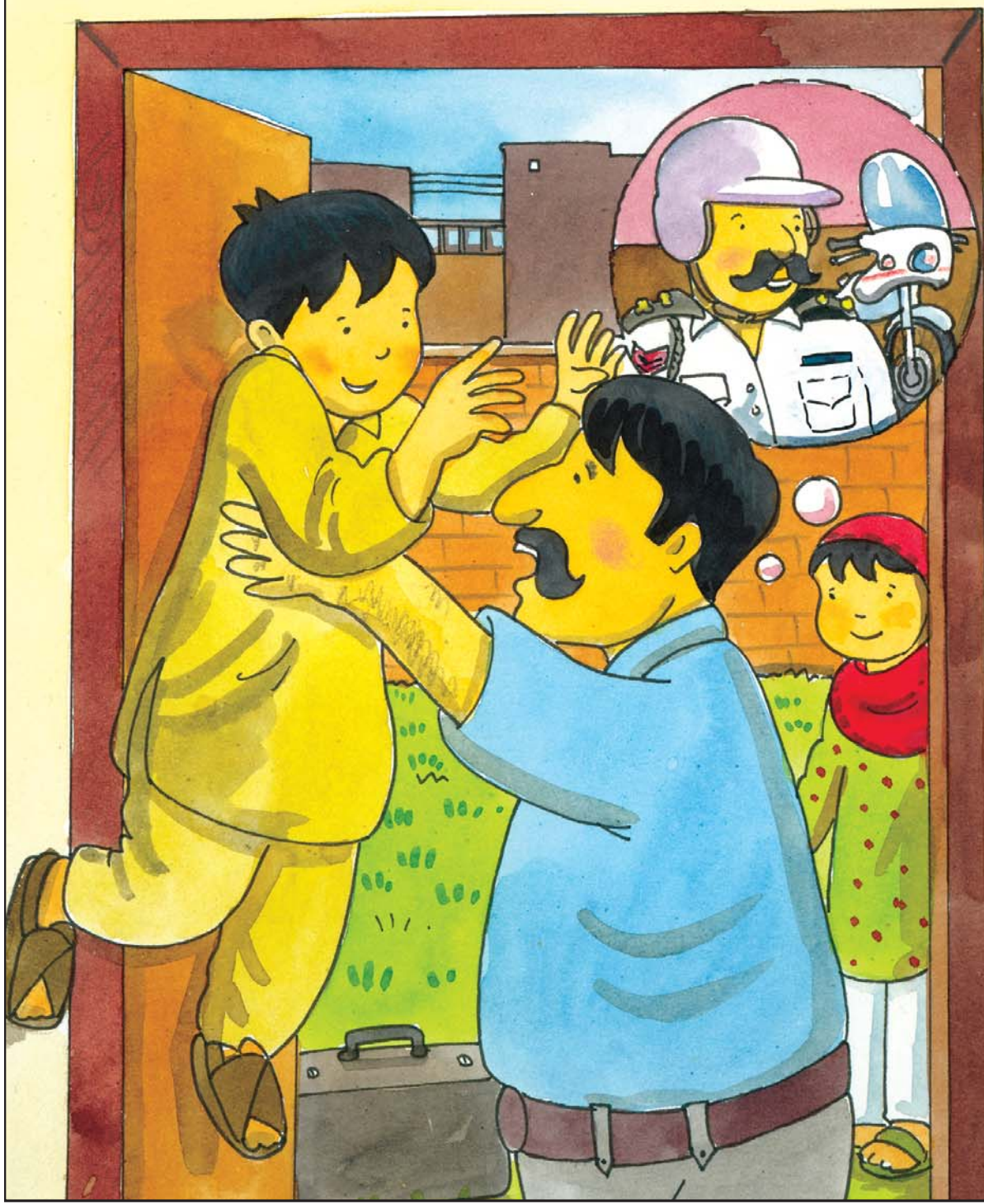
"Why don't you just wait and see what he is. I'm sure you will learn a lot from what he does," replied Raju's father. Raju kept on wondering exactly what his uncle did that he would learn from.

In a few hours the bus reached the city. Raju was excited to be there. He loved looking at the big cars, how they zoomed past by on the big roads, and the big buildings, and the big parks. Raju was excited to be there. When Raju reached his uncle's house the whole family was waiting for them.



Raju's cousins, his aunt and his uncle welcomed them all with open arms. "It's been so long Raju since I last saw you. You were hardly till my knees when you last came and now you are a big boy," said Raju's uncle. Raju liked him immediately. His big moustache, his friendly smile and the fact that he did something that his father said he would learn a lot from all made Raju think that he would have a good time with his uncle.

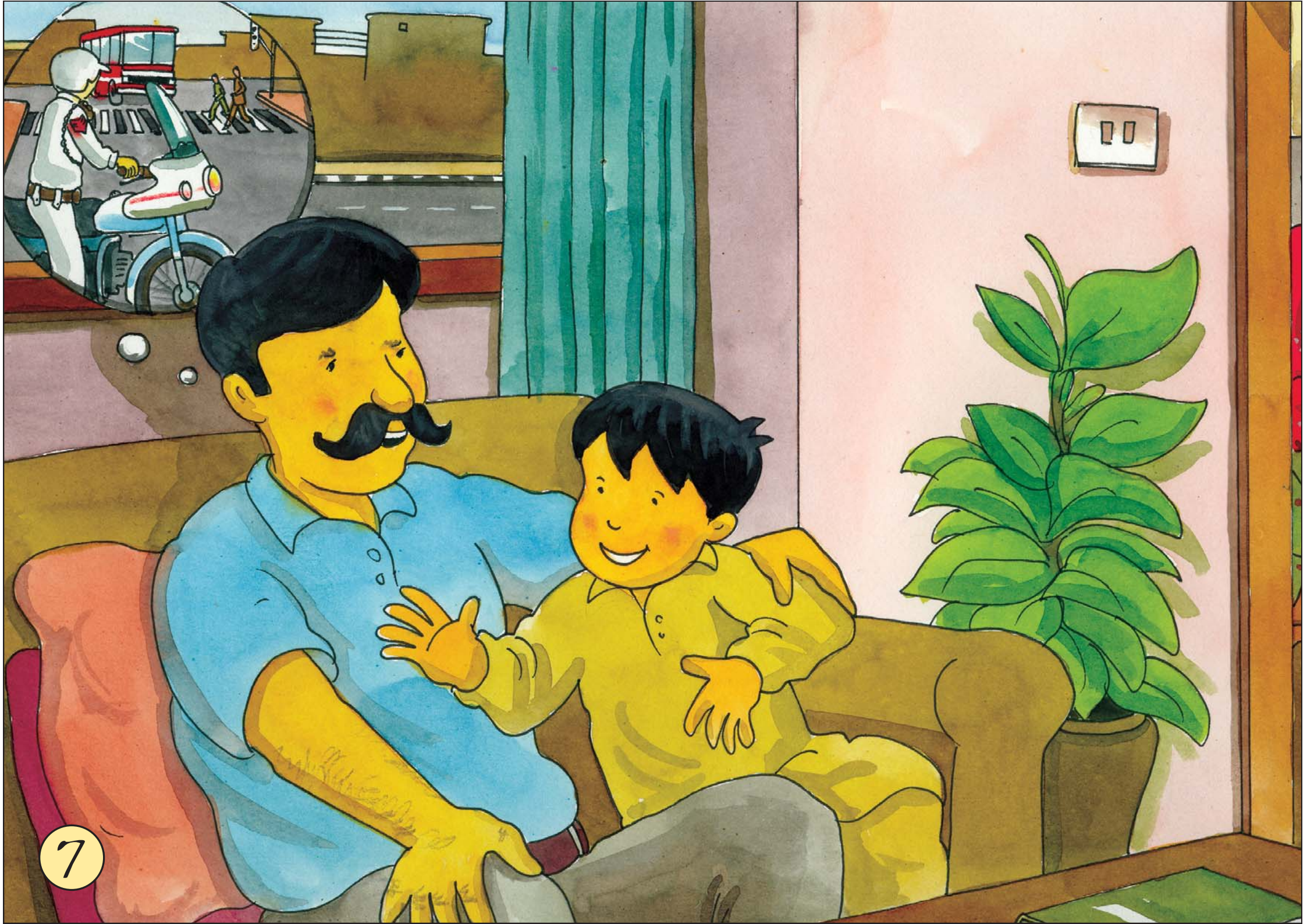


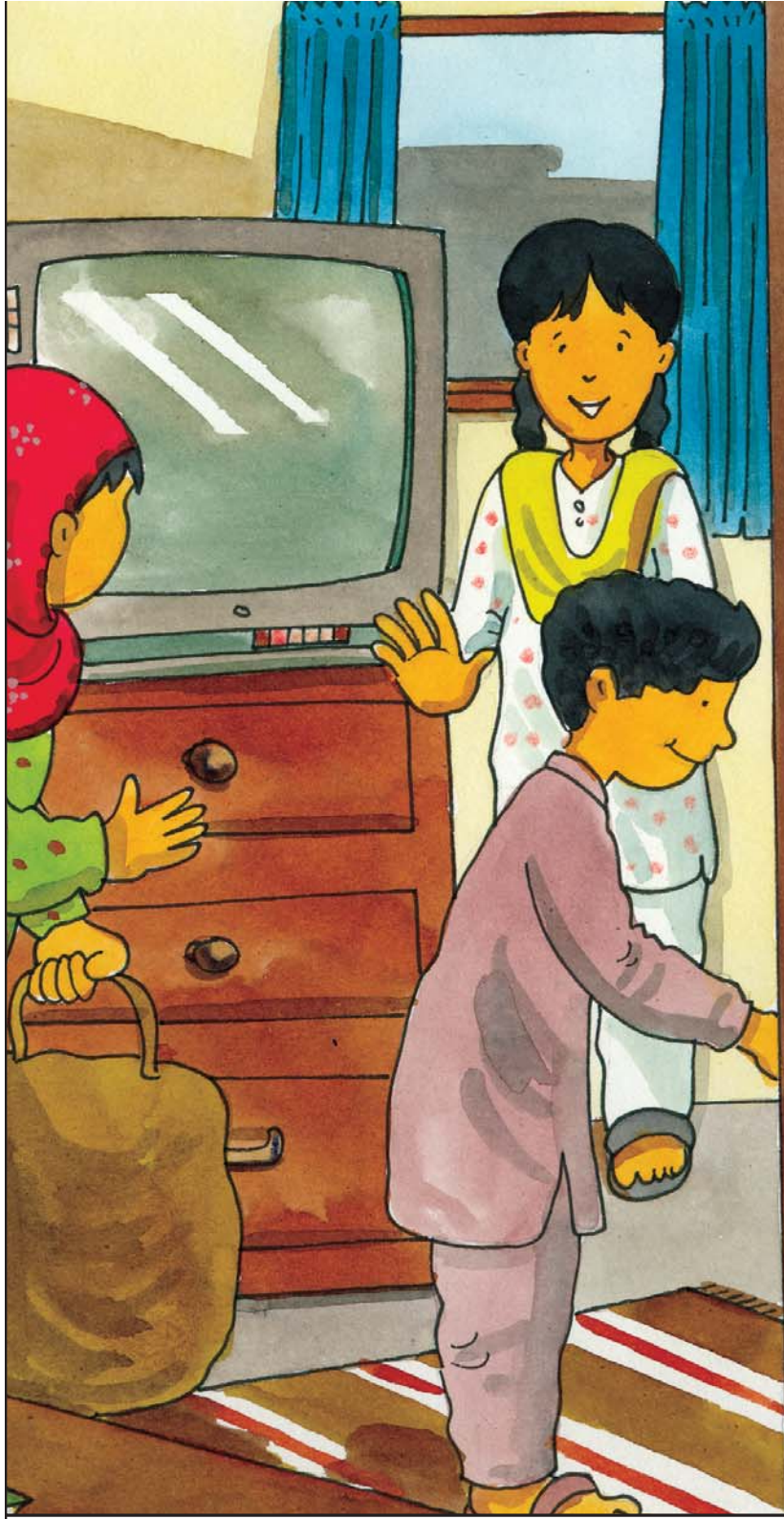


"What is it that you do uncle," asked Raju impatiently, not even waiting to unpack his bags. "My father tells me it is something very interesting and I really want to know."

"Well, Raju if you know what a road safety officer does, you may have an idea what exactly it is that I do," replied Raju's uncle.

"A road safety officer? I've heard what a policeman does, but I'm not sure what traffic has got to do with it. Do you catch robbers and stop people from hurting others?" questioned Raju.





"Not exactly catch robbers, but yes I do stop people from hurting each other," replied his uncle. "Are you aware that in the city and in the villages one of the biggest causes of injuries and deaths is road accidents? A traffic policeman's job is to make sure he prevents these accidents so that people can use and cross the road safely and easily."

"How do you do that? Do you stop people from walking on the roads?" asked Raju.

"Stopping people from crossing the roads would make it hard for them to reach places, because there are roads everywhere. How my job helps is to help them cross the road safely and I do that by making sure they only walk on the roads when there is not much traffic and the cars are slow. Otherwise you should always remember to stay away from the road when the cars and the trucks are fast," replied uncle.

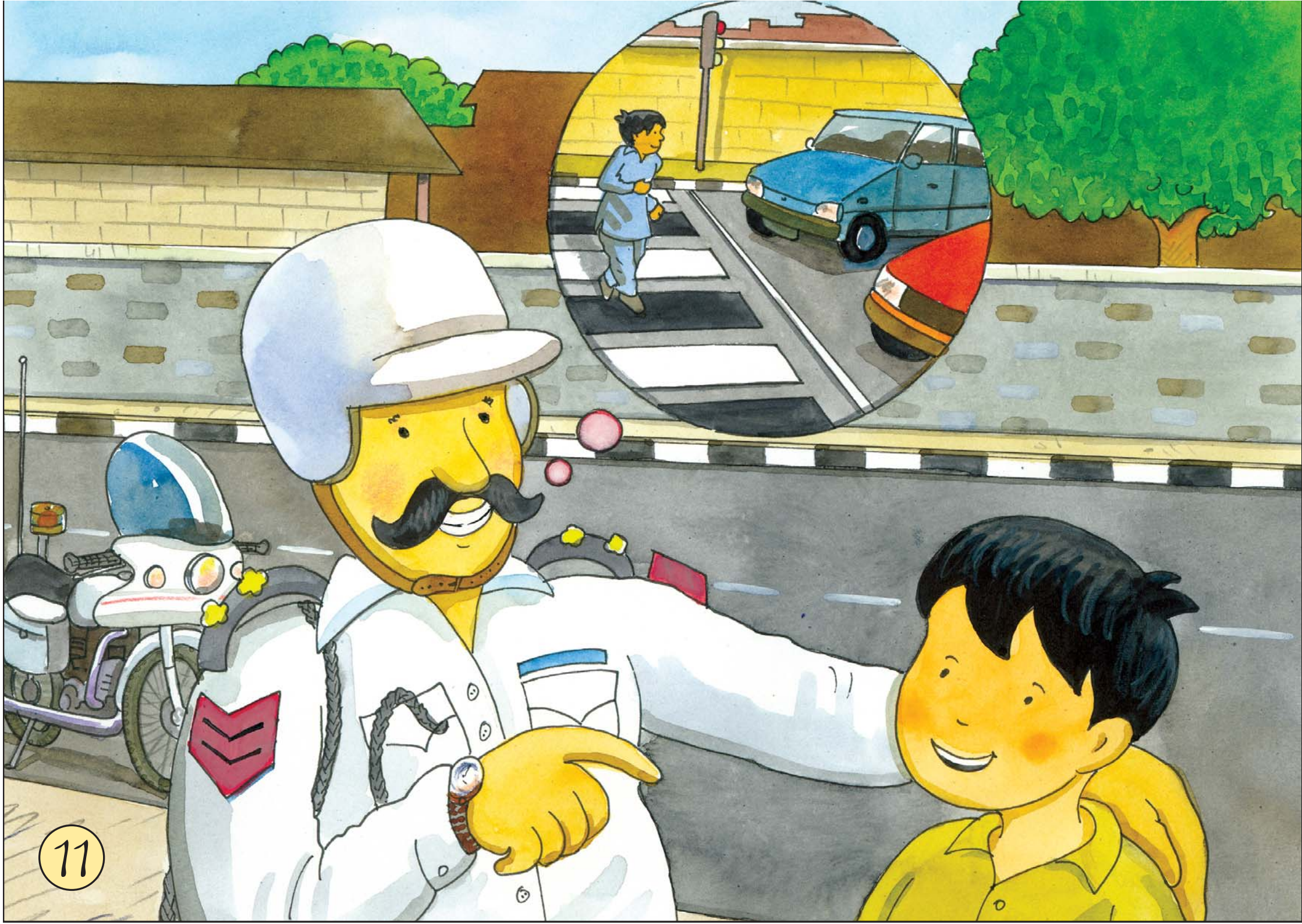
Raju's uncle wore his uniform and got ready to go to work. He even took Raju along. They went on a bug white motorcycle which Raju loved. They stopped at a school where Raju could see many children playing behind the gates.

"What are we doing here uncle; I don't want to go to school. I'm on a vacation," said Raju worryingly.



“O Raju, we’re here because I work here. In about 5 minutes the bell will ring and all the children will be rushing out of the gate to leave for home. But do you see that hi-traffic road right outside the gate. That is very dangerous because children usually don’t see both ways before crossing the road. They just rush in and that is very unsafe.” Raju’s uncle said.



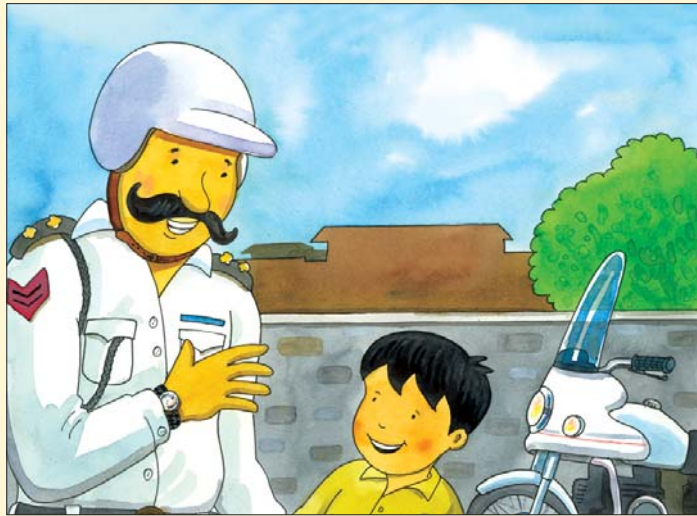


"Children should really learn more about how to cross the road safely shouldn't they?" said Raju to his uncle silently promising that he would always follow traffic rules so that he and his friends would cross the road safely.

"Yes, if children learn about Science and English and other subjects, it is equally important that they also learn about how to stay safe on the roads. Did you know that amongst all accidents children are most injured," Raju's uncle said. "Children should always learn to know what side of the road to walk on, what side to cycle on and what sides to look when crossing a main road.

"The biggest mistake children and other people make is that they think that the middle of the road is made for walking on, when it's clear that roads are for cars," Raju's uncle said.

Raju realized what his father meant when he said that Raju would learn a lot from what his uncle did. Raju was so glad he had someone like his uncle to teach him about road safety. He realized that children and adults can save themselves from so many accidents if they simply learnt about road safety and basic traffic rules.

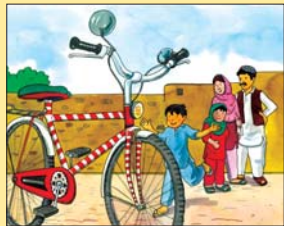


Raju Learns Something New

Road safety is usually given a level of importance that is at best secondary and minor. However, the rate of accidents show that children are the most frequent victims of road accidents, something that is very alarming and which requires immediate attention. Children can learn to keep themselves safe by realizing that there are some rules to proper behavior on the road. Here Raju pays a visit to his uncle in the city who has a lot to teach him about what he had never given much thought to before.

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.



Raju's New Cycle!



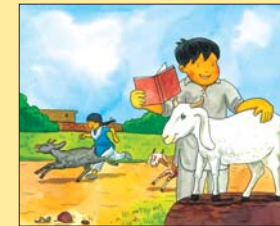
Playing on the Road can be Fun but...



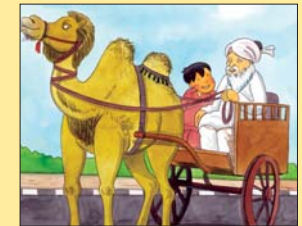
Who is the Stranger in the Village



Raju and his Injury



Bablu and his Cleverness



Raju and his Wonderful Dream



Sindh Education Foundation
Government of Sindh



Road Sector Development Directorate
Works and Services Department
Government of Sindh

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