



ADVENTURES OF THE SCENCE GANG





ADVENTURES OF THE SCENEGANG



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Nijeke Jano

COMIC BOOK SERIES

This is the fourth 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, 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 fourth comic book talks about adolescents' ability to understand their relationship with others and build self-confidence and skills to deal with peer pressure. Sajjad and his friends get themselves into mischief over dares to climb a coconut tree and a science project gone awry. Both Aziz and the school headmistress help them to understand that each one must decide what is good for himself first, in order to deal with peer pressure from others.

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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READER'S GUIDE TO SELF-ASSESSMENT

Dear adolescent friends,

This comic book has been written for you on different types of relationships you will have with others. It intends to help you build self-confidence to be able to deal effectively with peer pressure. 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 do you think are the central characters in the story? Why?
- How old are Sajjad, Masum, Ratan and Ein?
- What do you know about peer pressure?
- Did Sajjad and his friends act responsibly?
- What kind of advice did Headmistress give to Sajjad and his friends?
- How did they overcome their 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



Aziz: Hossein family friend



Headmistress: Headmistress of the
local secondary school.



Guard: Guard for the school.

Sajjad's friends



Ratan

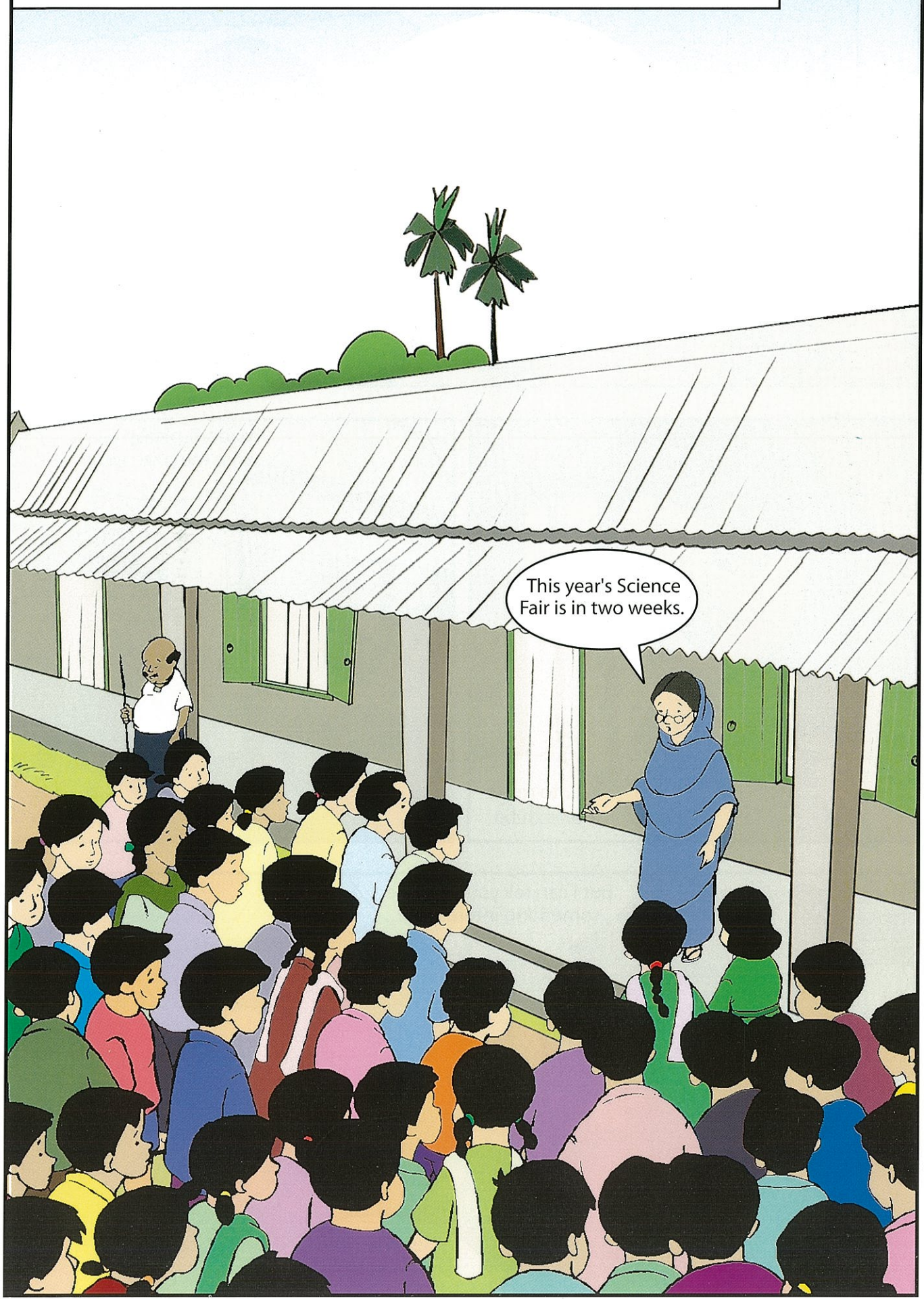


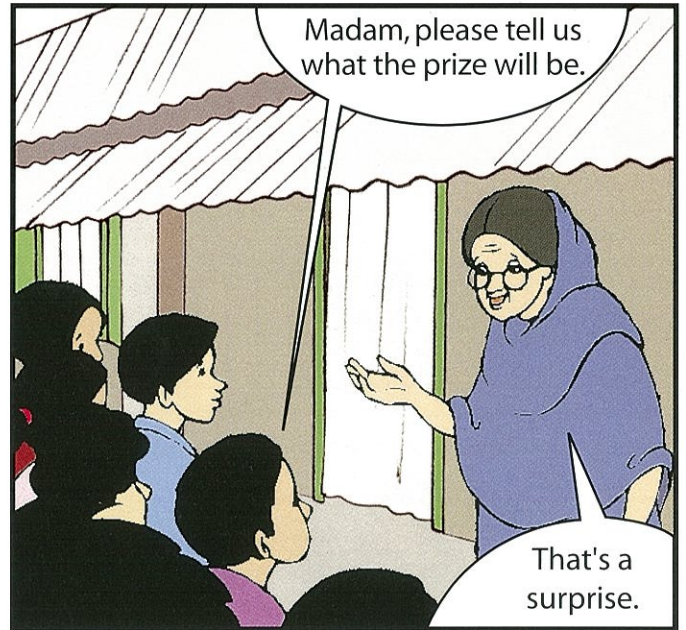
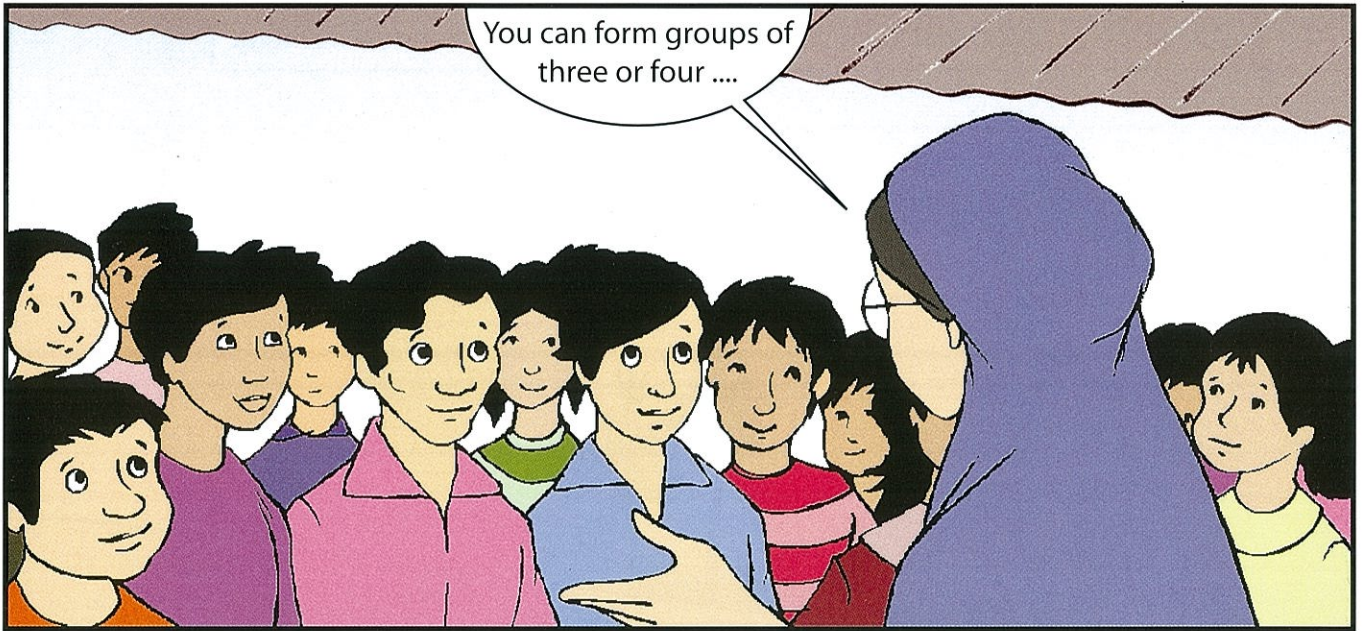
Ein




Masum

The Headmistress at Sajjad and Shanu's school gives an important announcement.





School is over and the boys are planning.



We could make an exhibit showing how mold grows in food.

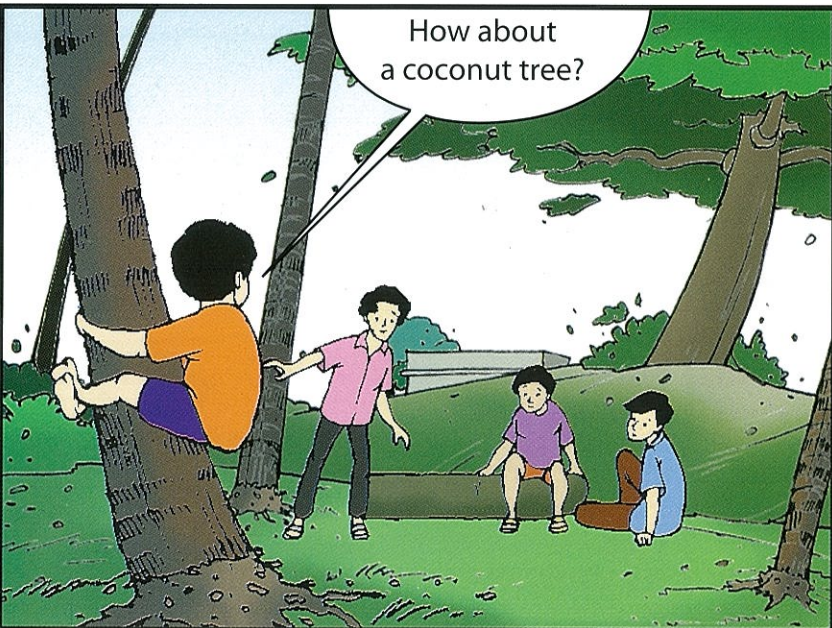
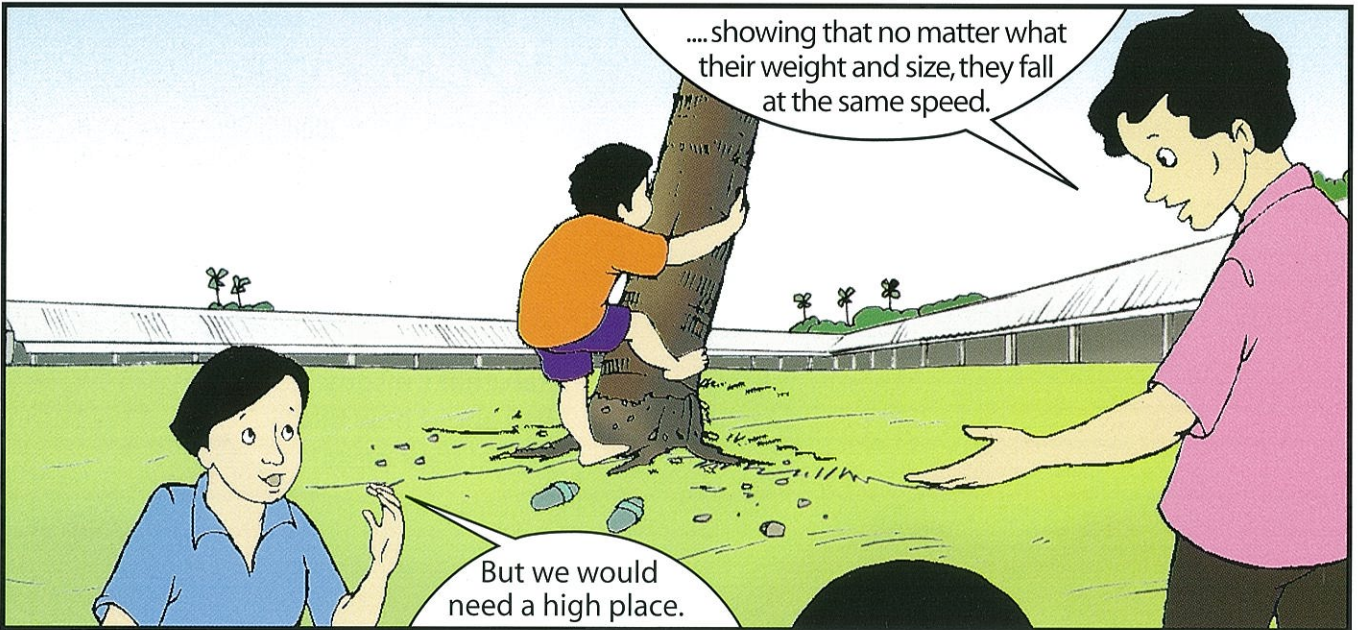
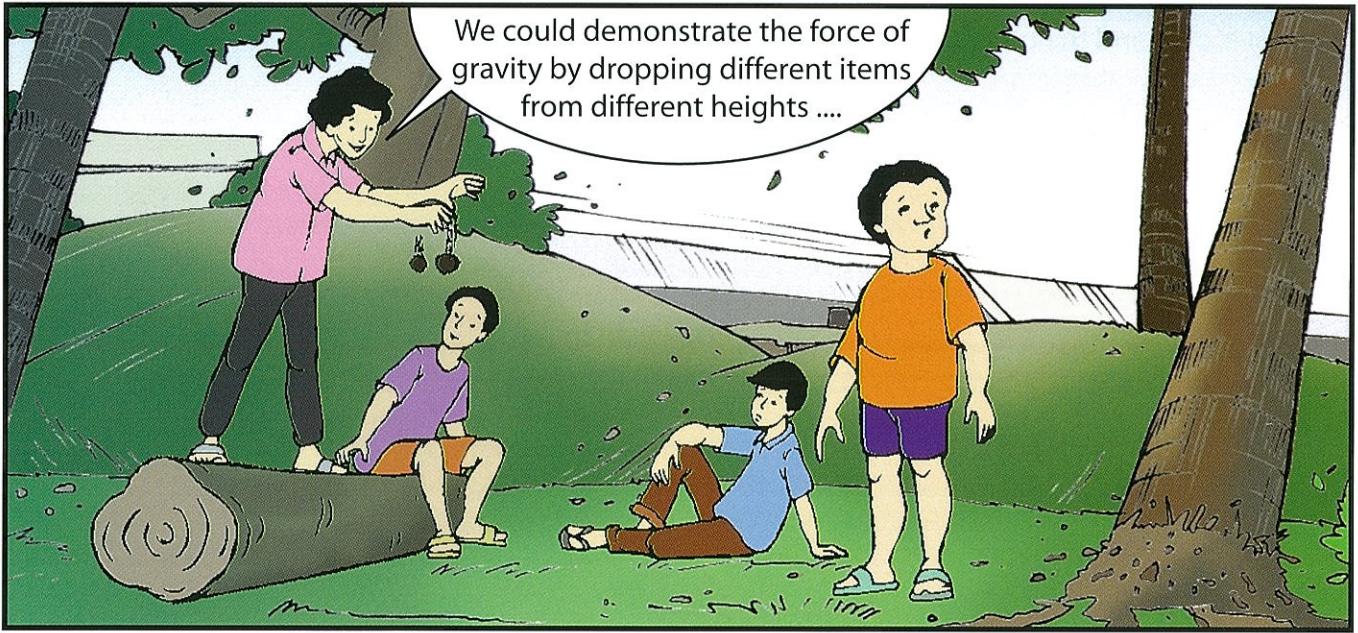
Ratan, that's disgusting. How about how birds build their nests?

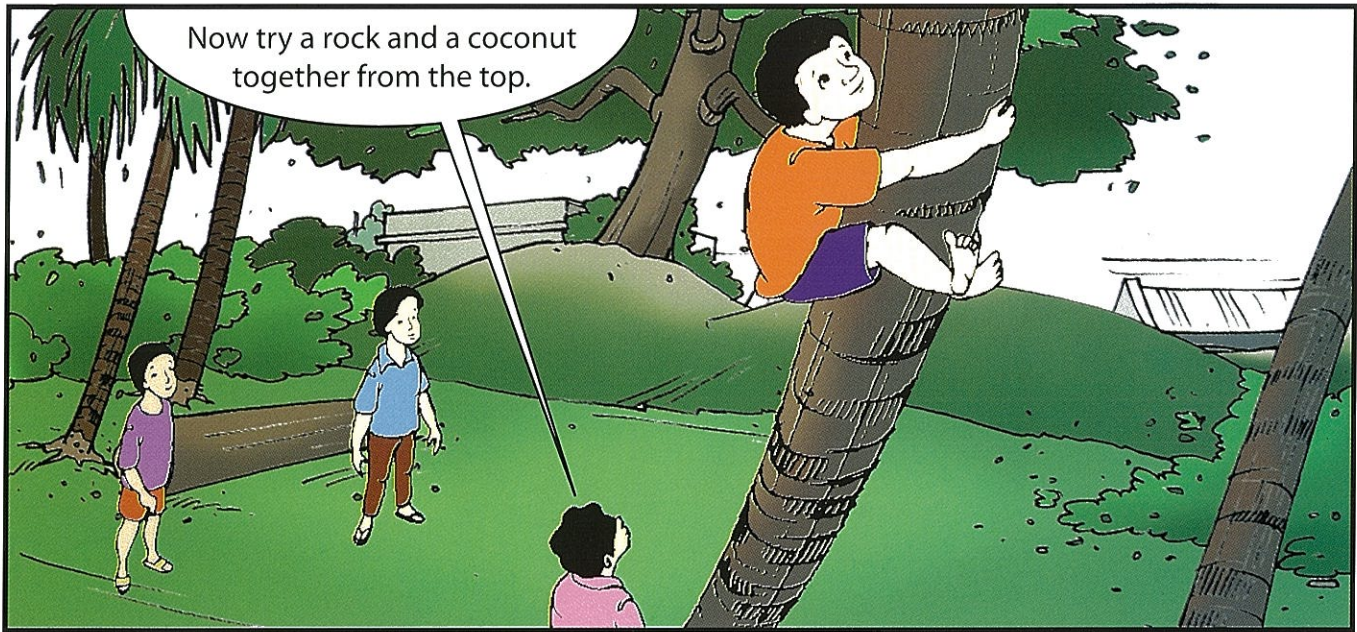


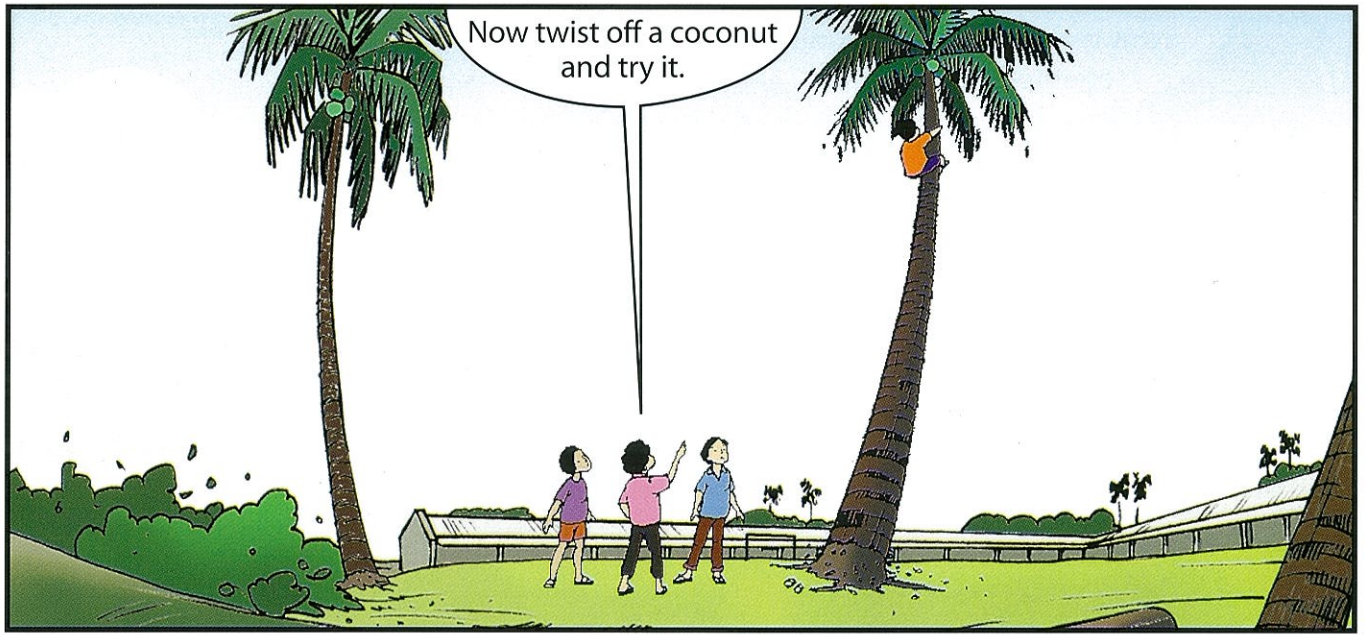
That's boring, Masum. We could make a display showing how if you drop a heavy liquid into a lighter liquid, it sinks to the bottom!



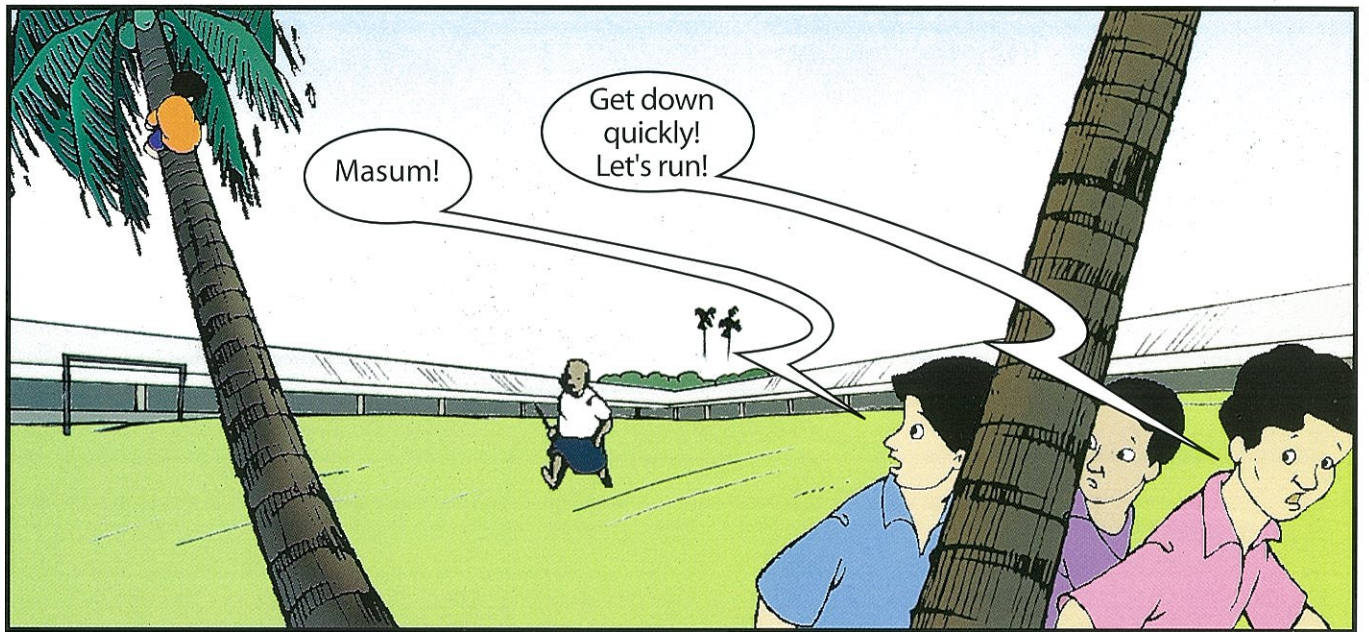
I think Gita did that last year.



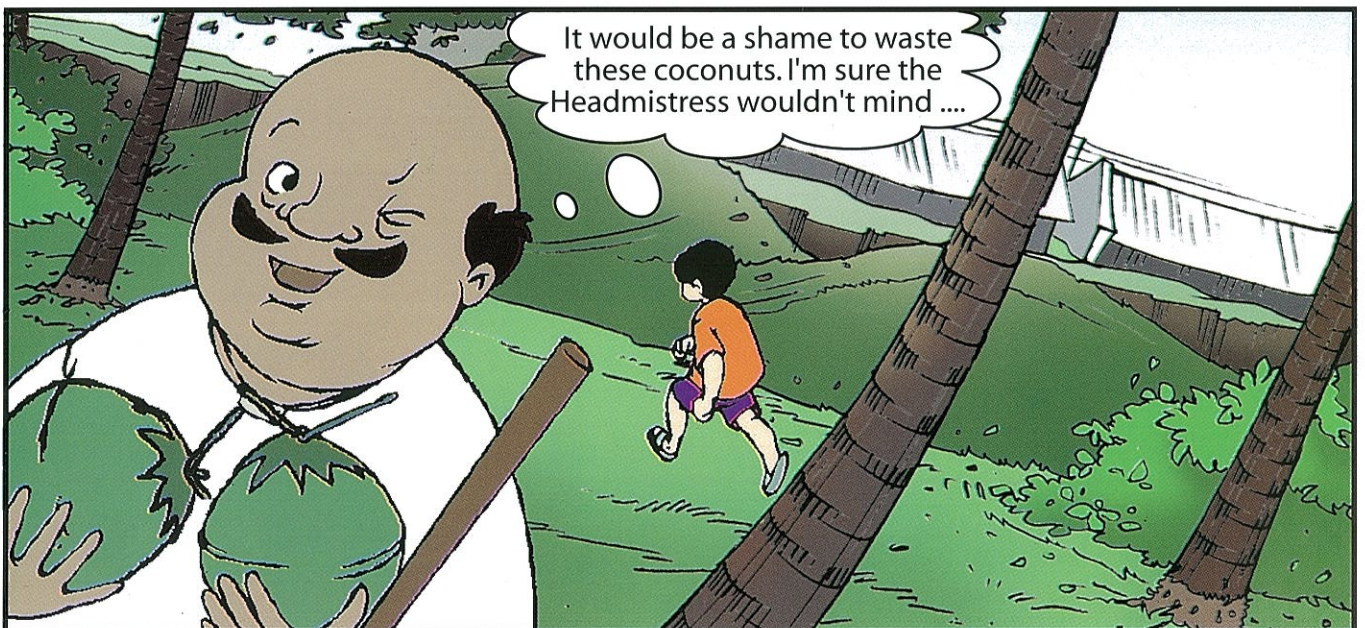
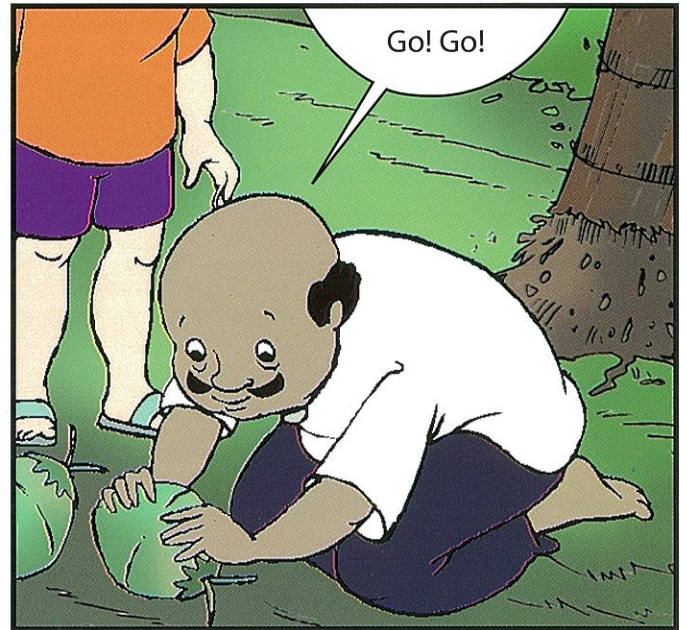
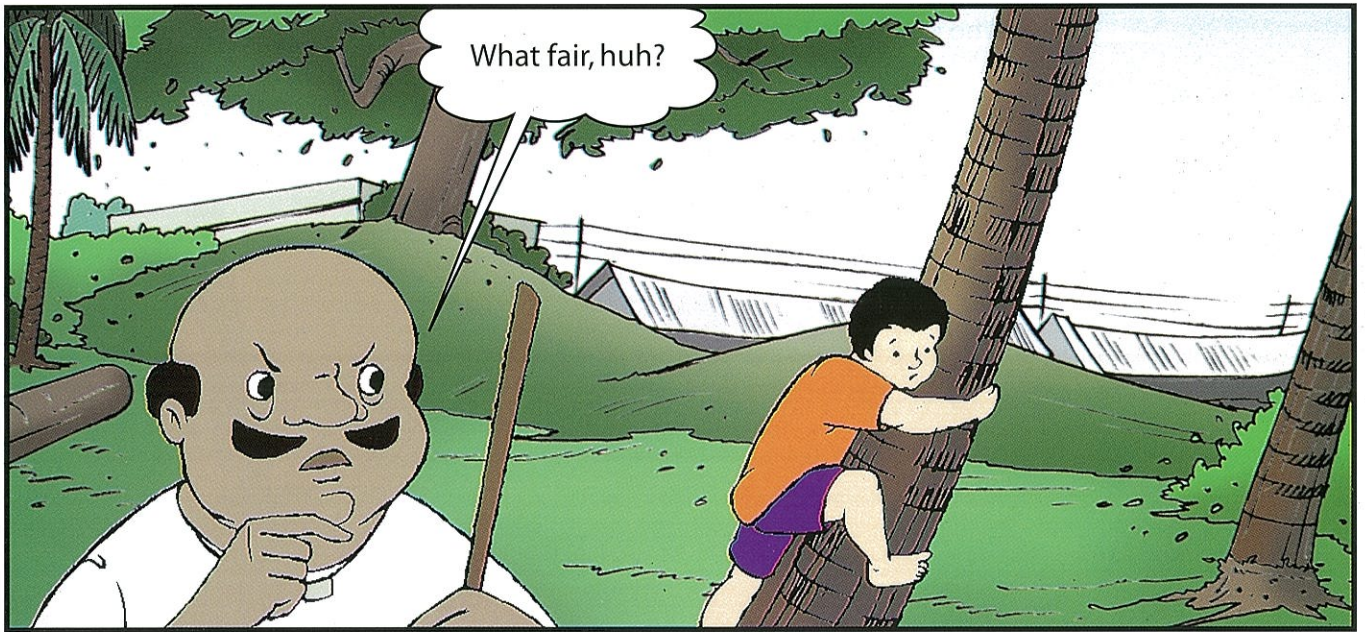


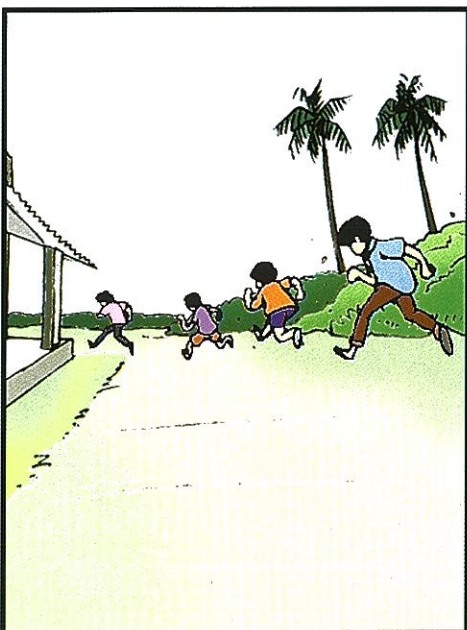
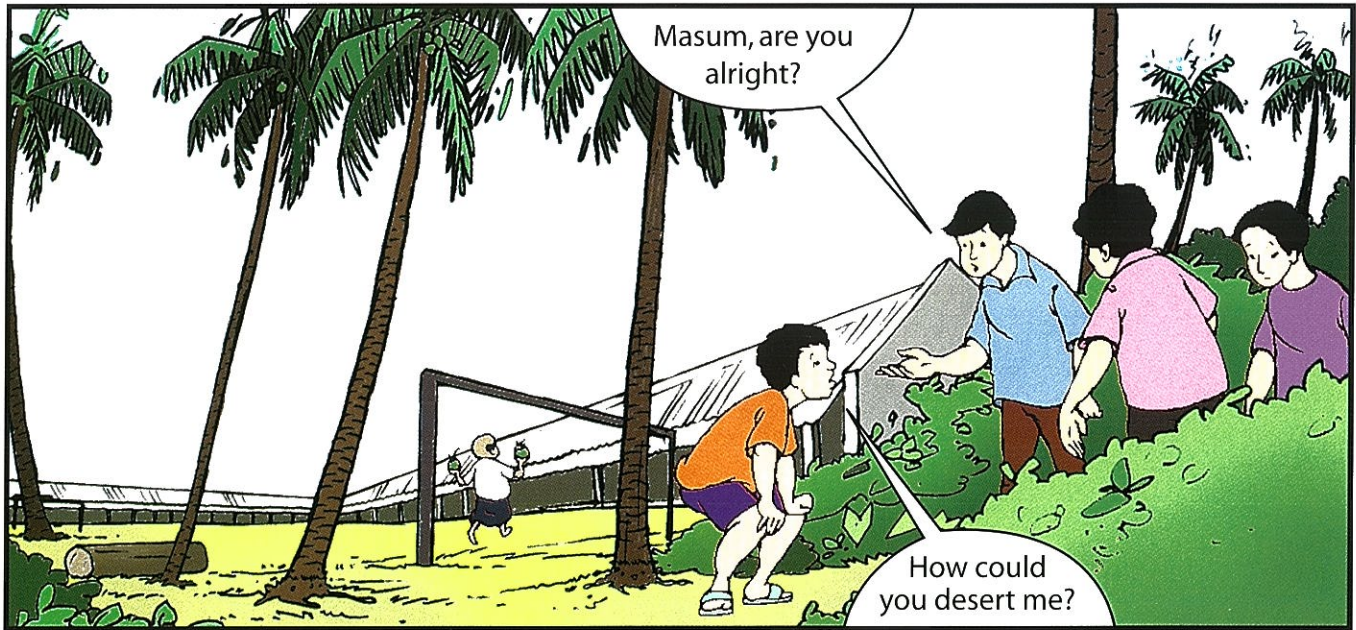












The next morning, Masum faces the Headmistress.



Masum, why were you up in a coconut tree?



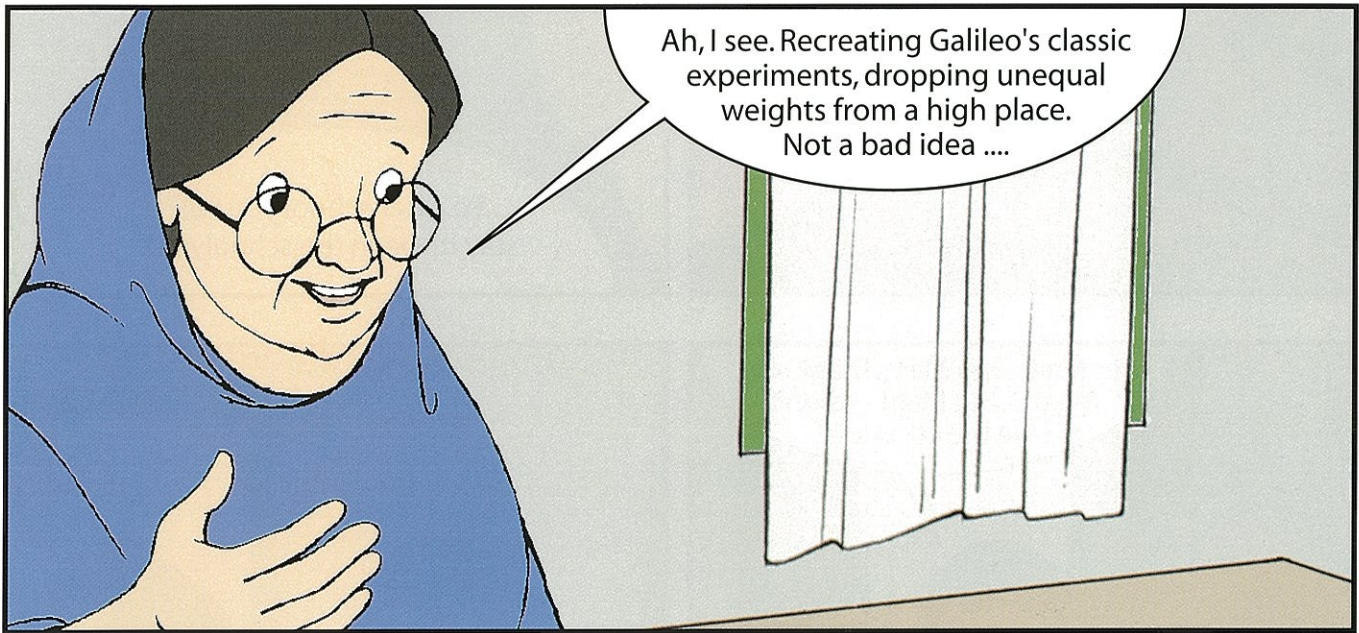
Madam, it was for the Science Fair.



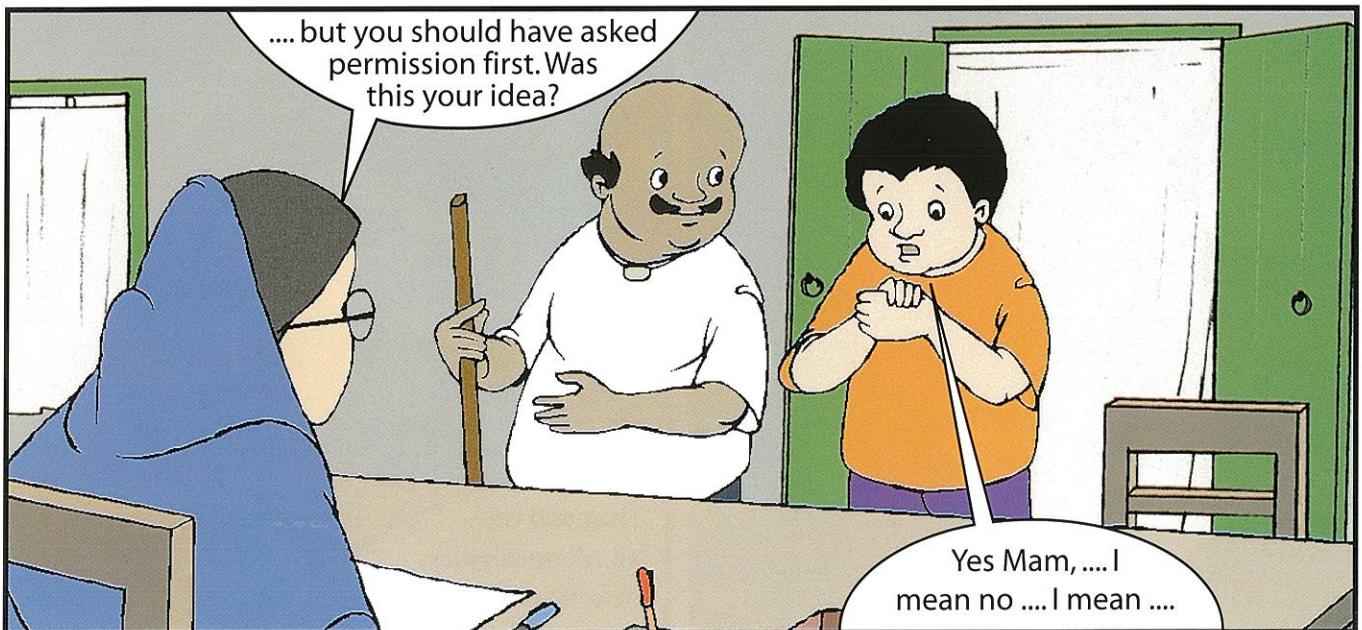
What do coconuts have to do with the Science Fair?



Madam, I wanted to see which falls faster from a high place, a coconut or a rock.



Ah, I see. Recreating Galileo's classic experiments, dropping unequal weights from a high place. Not a bad idea

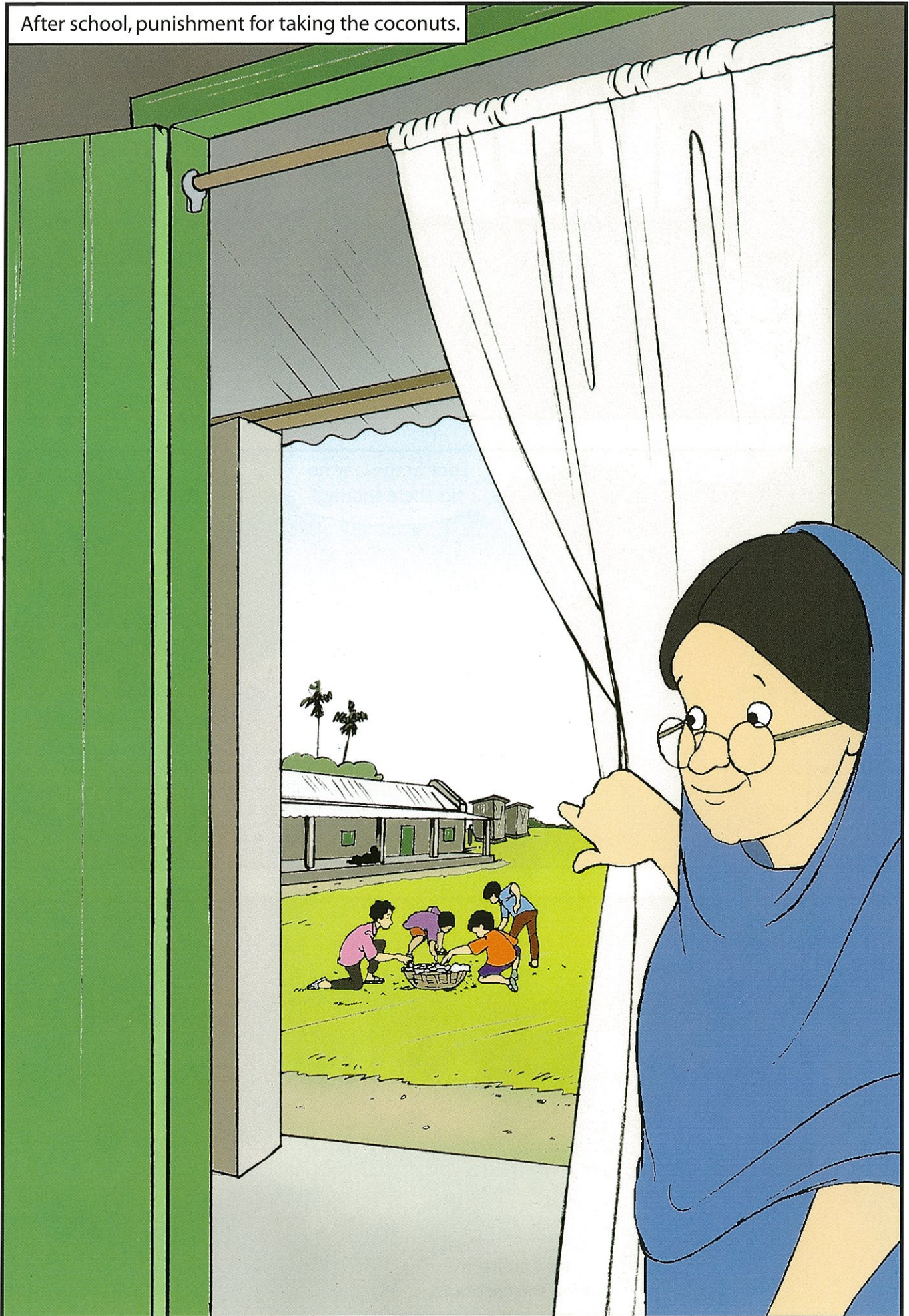


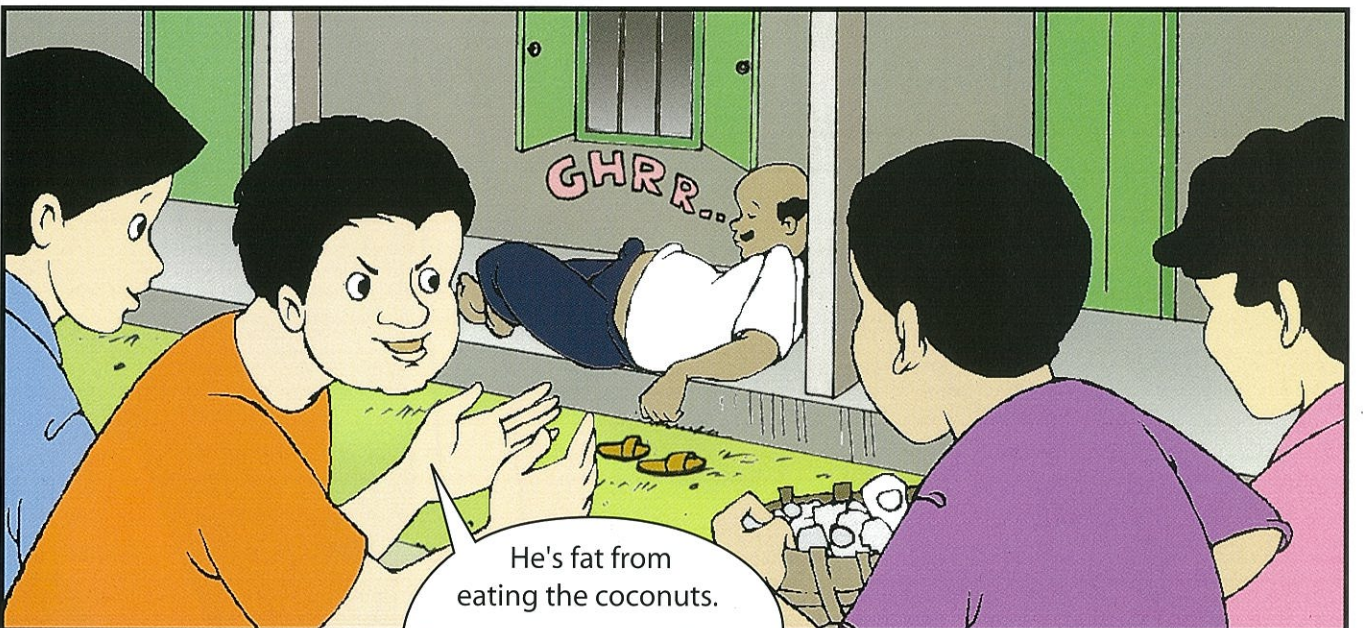
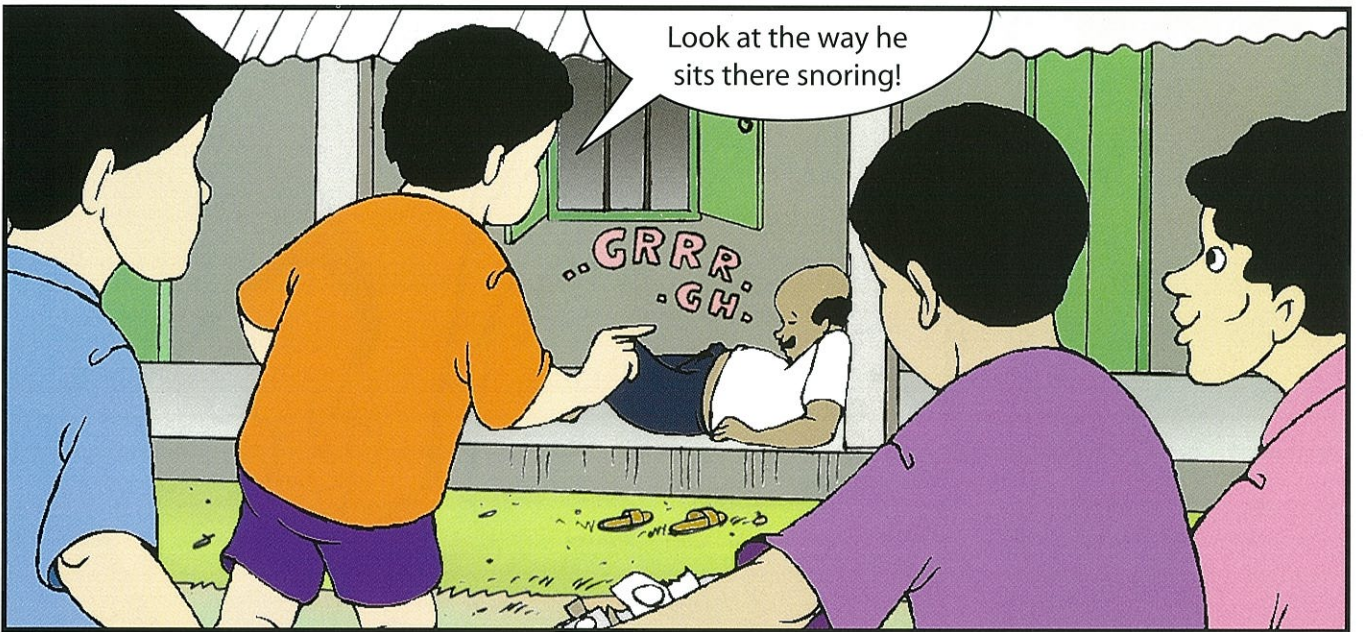
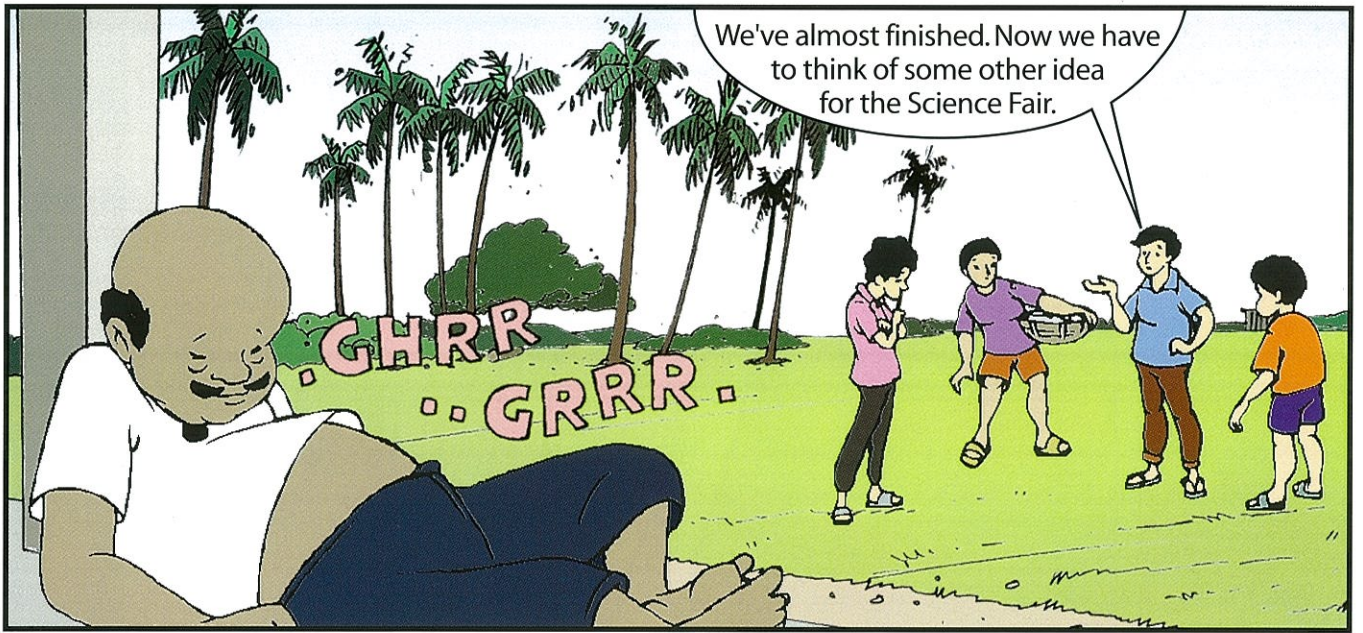
.... but you should have asked permission first. Was this your idea?

Yes Mam, I mean no I mean



After school, punishment for taking the coconuts.



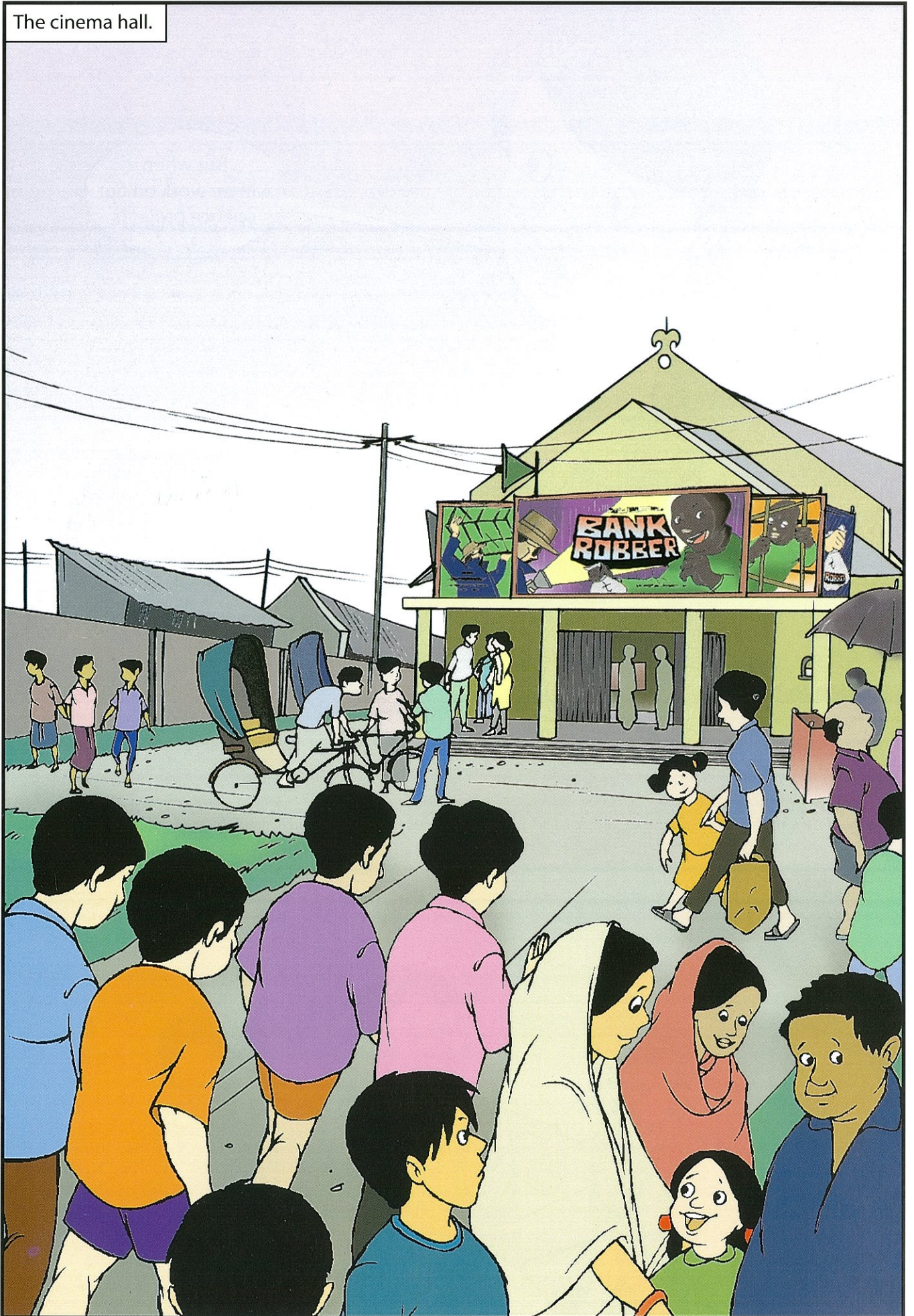


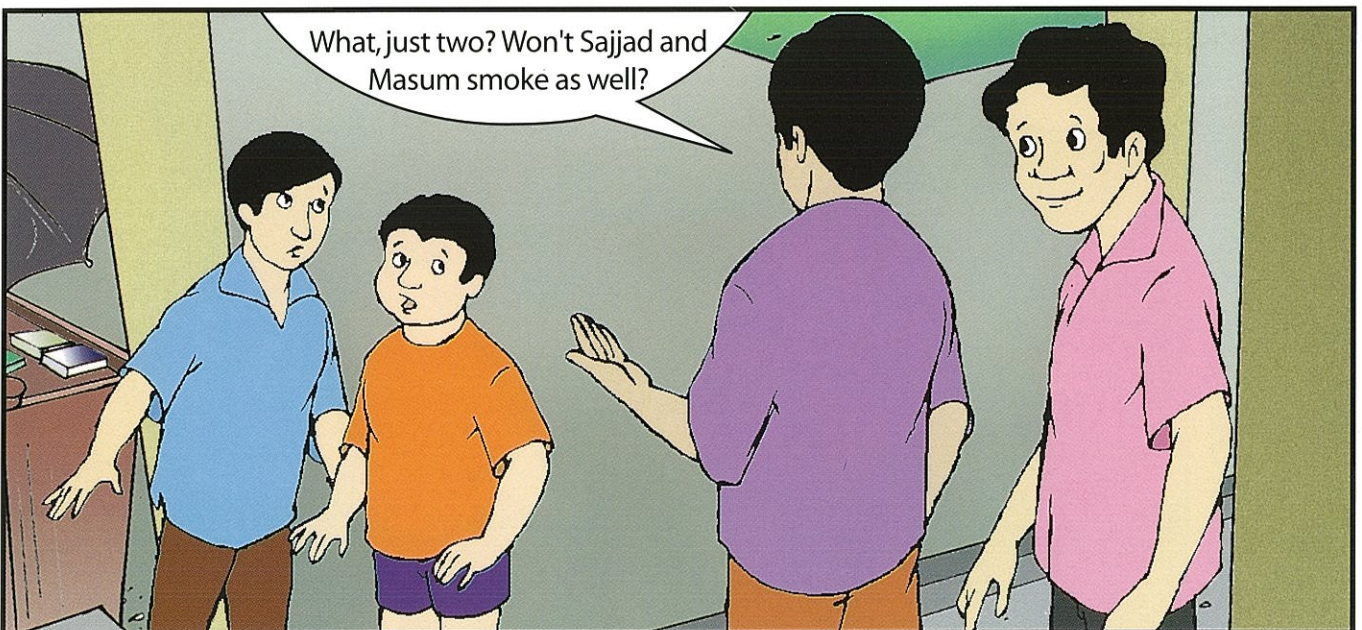
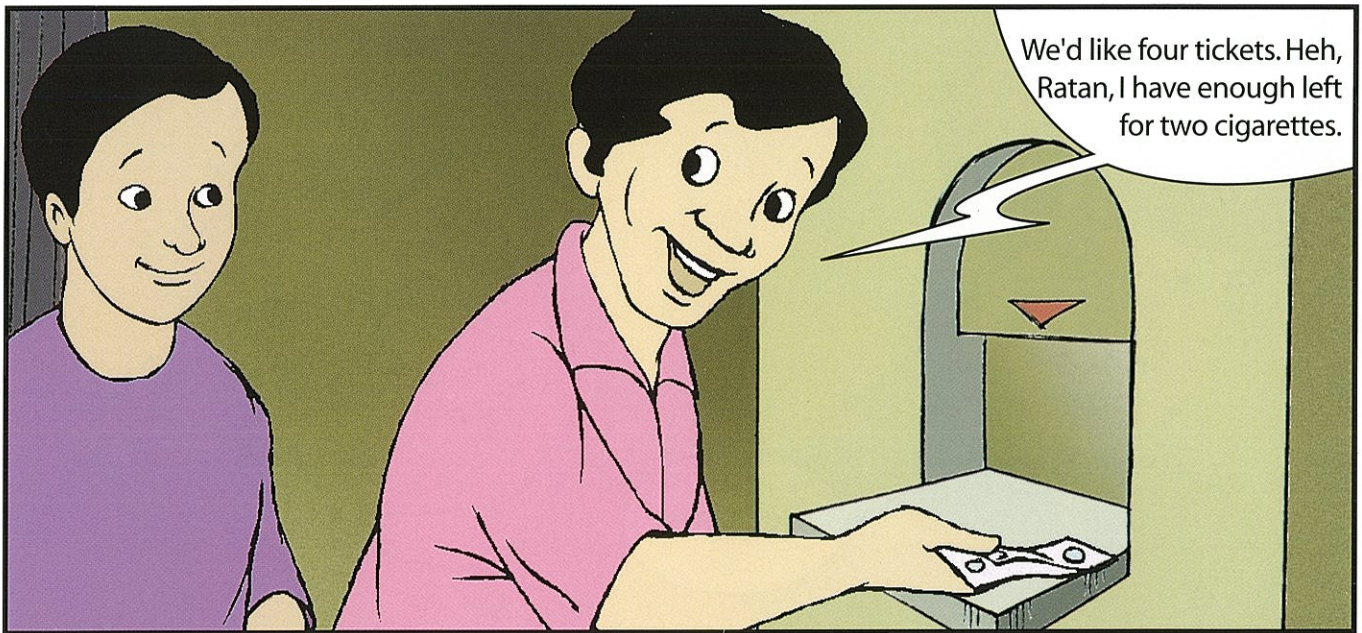
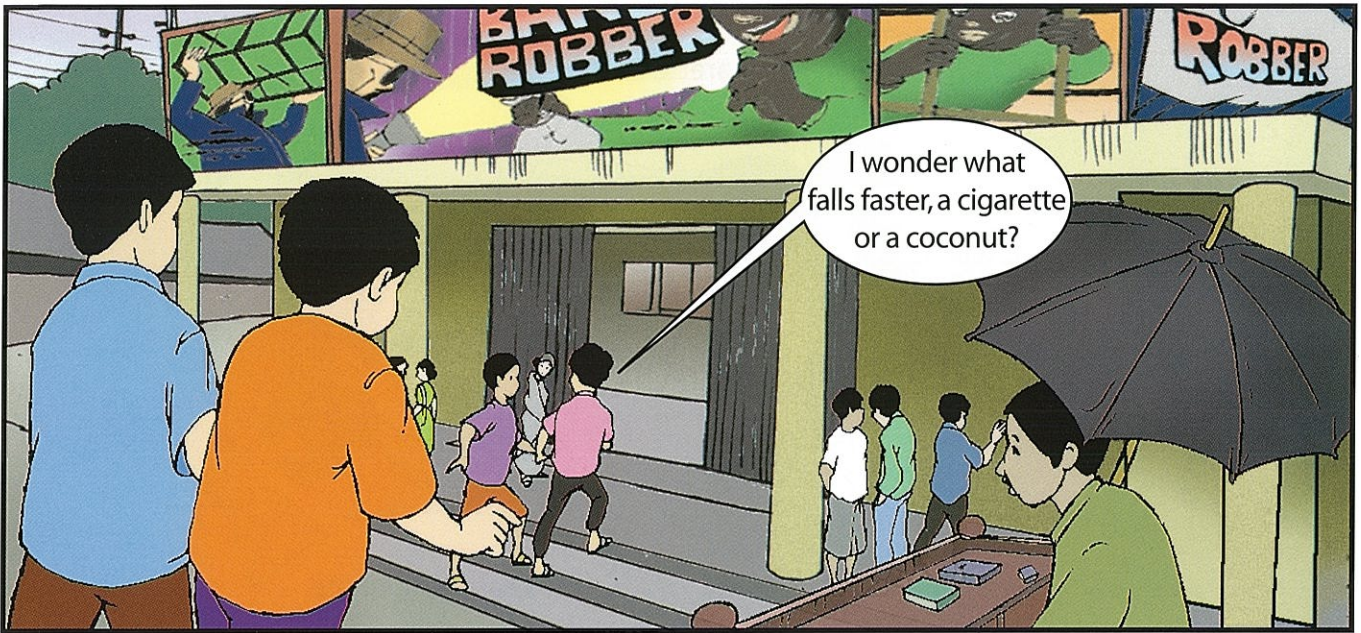


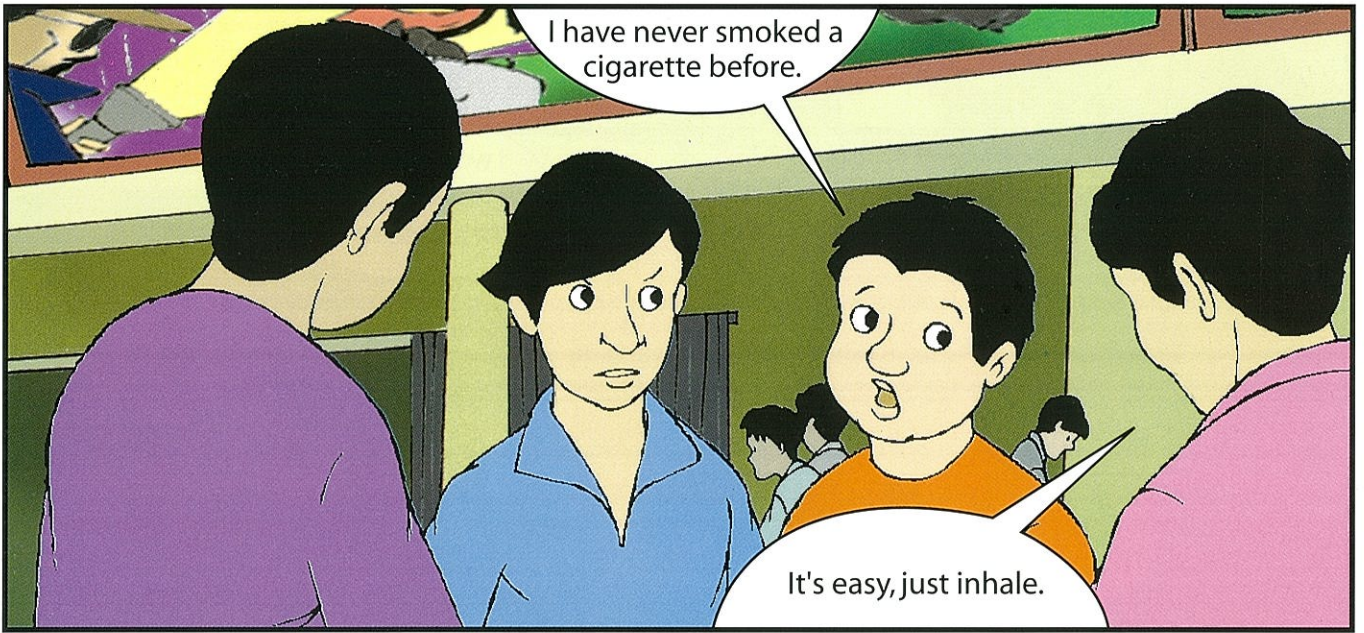




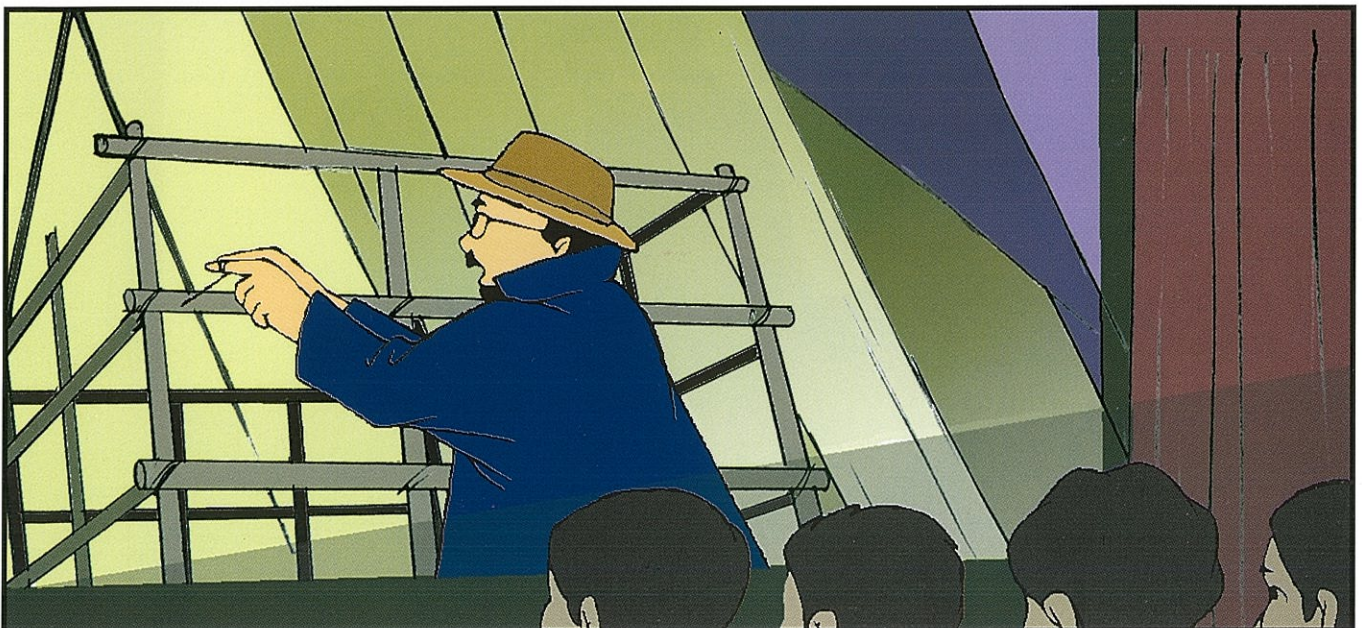
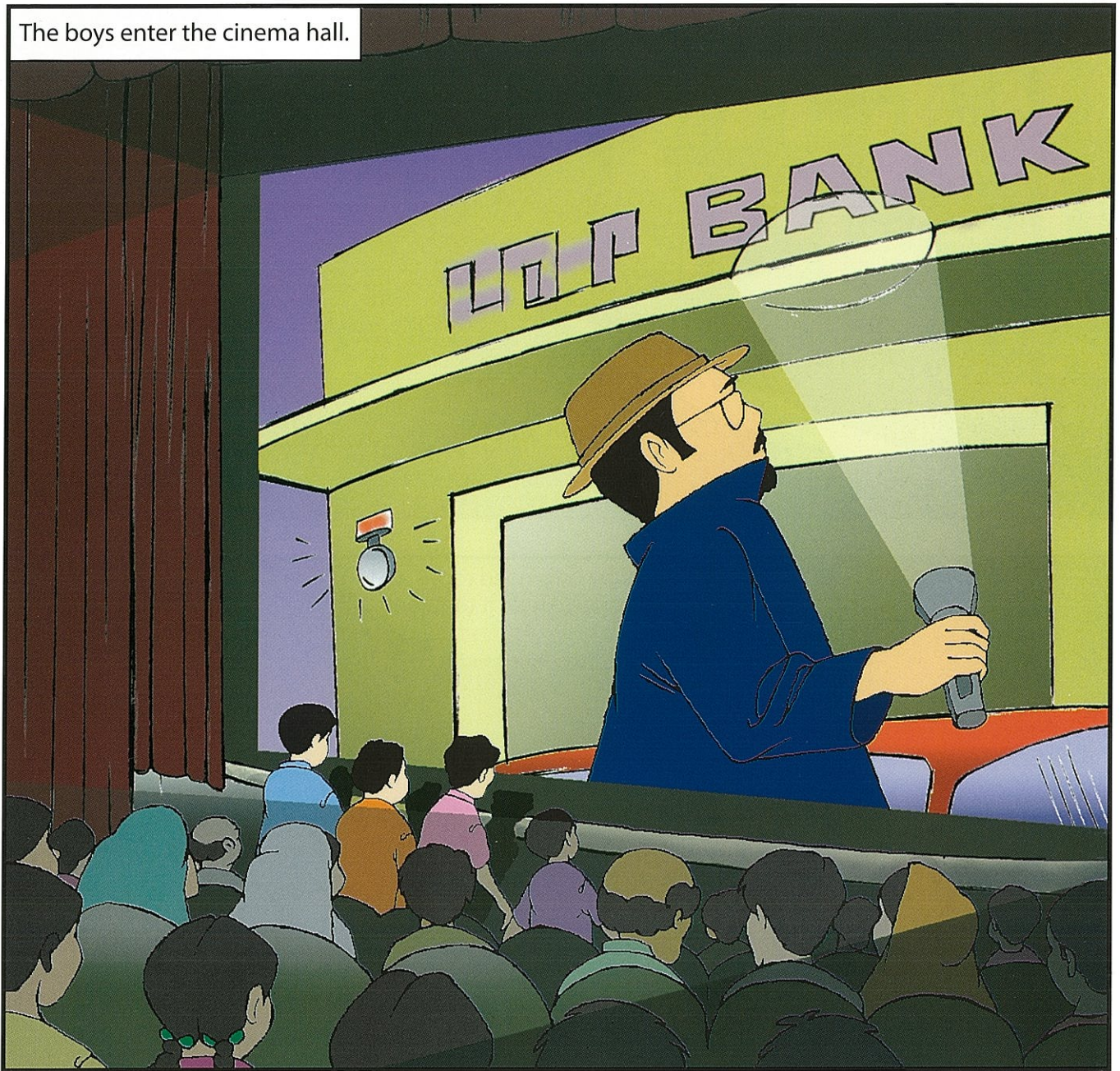
The cinema hall.

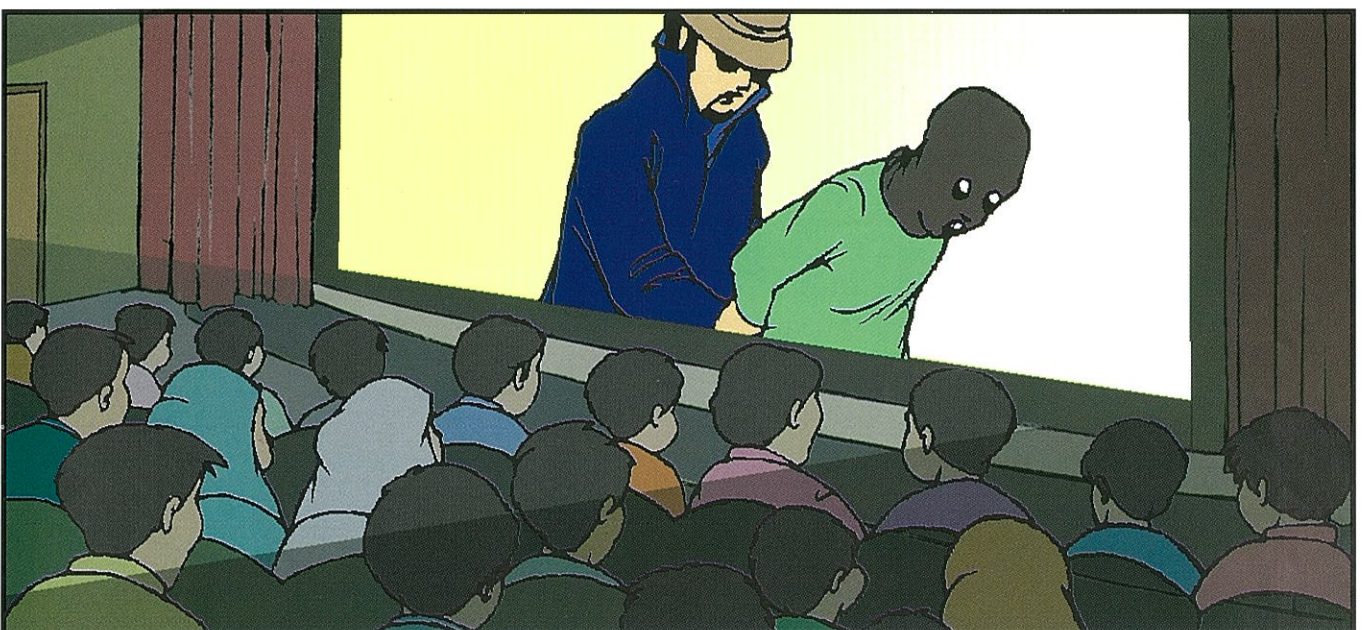
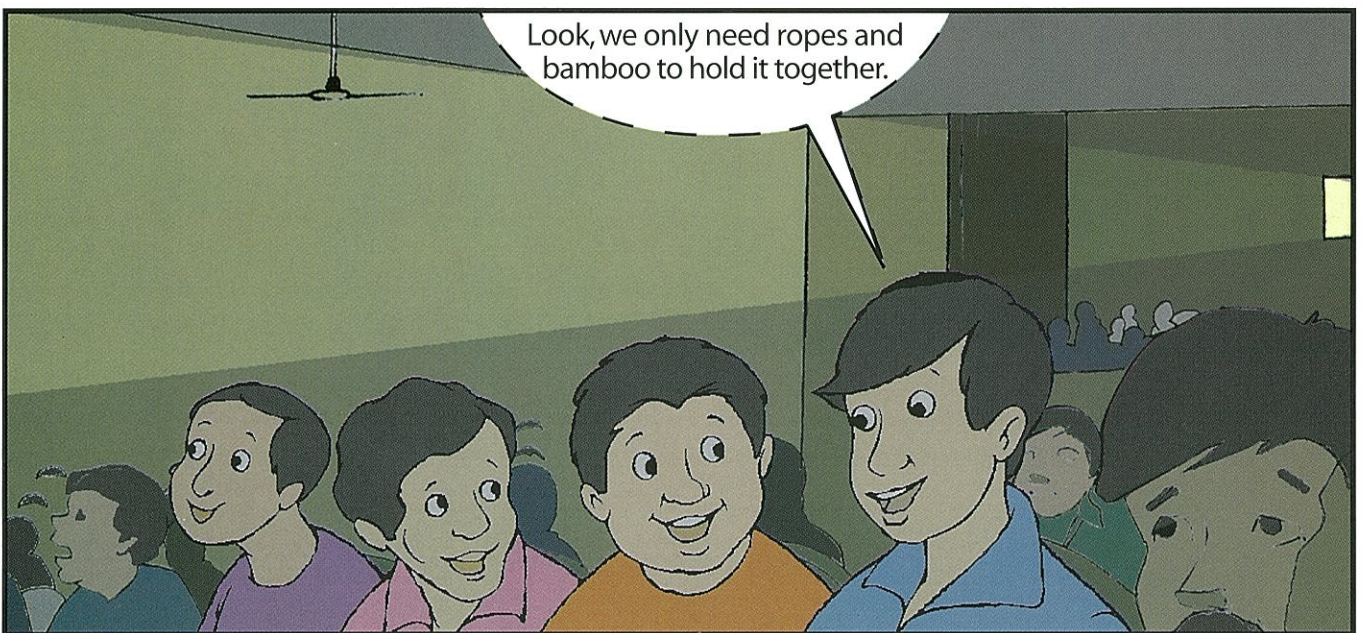




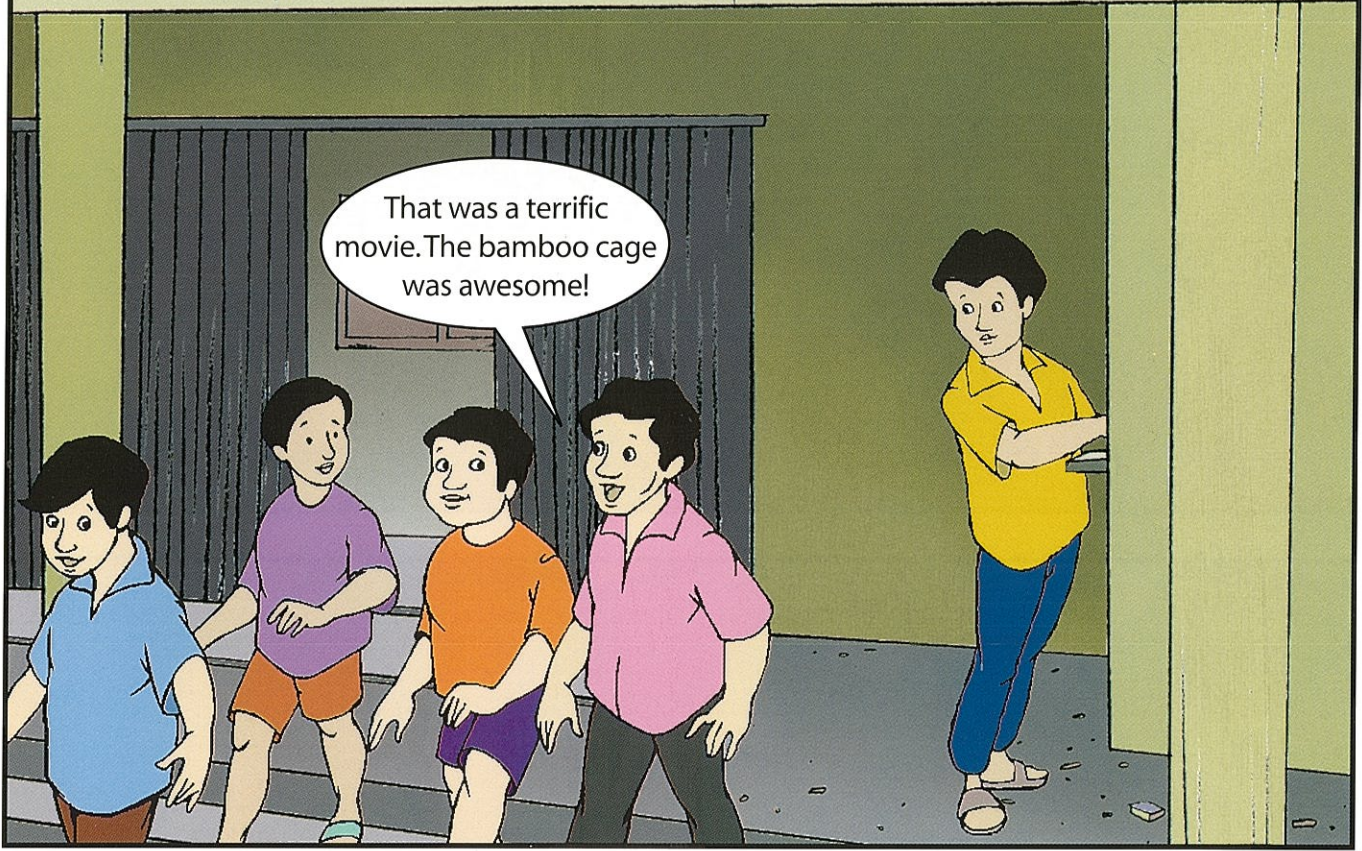


The boys enter the cinema hall.

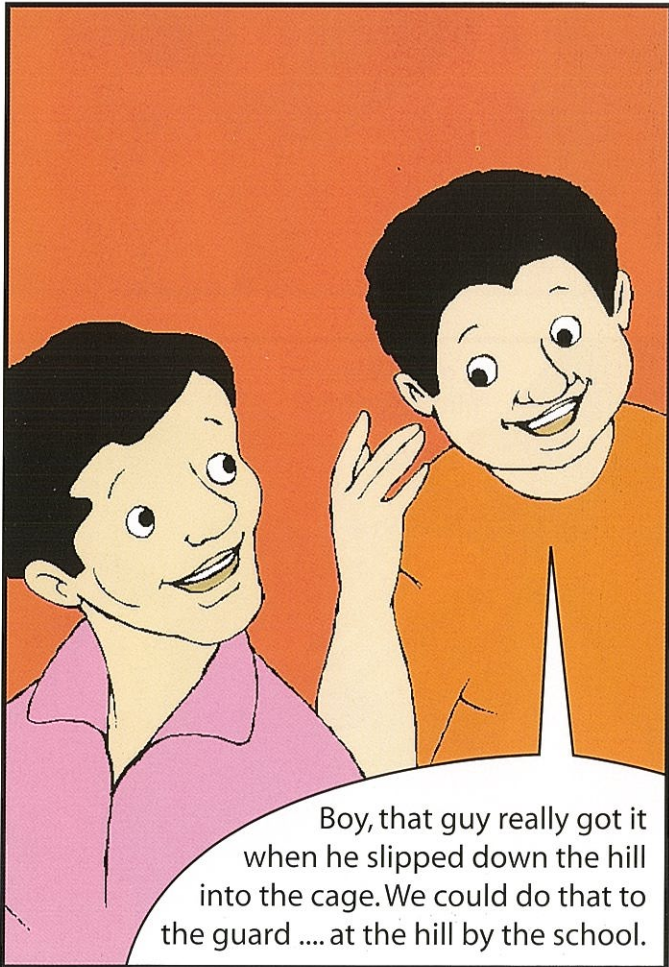




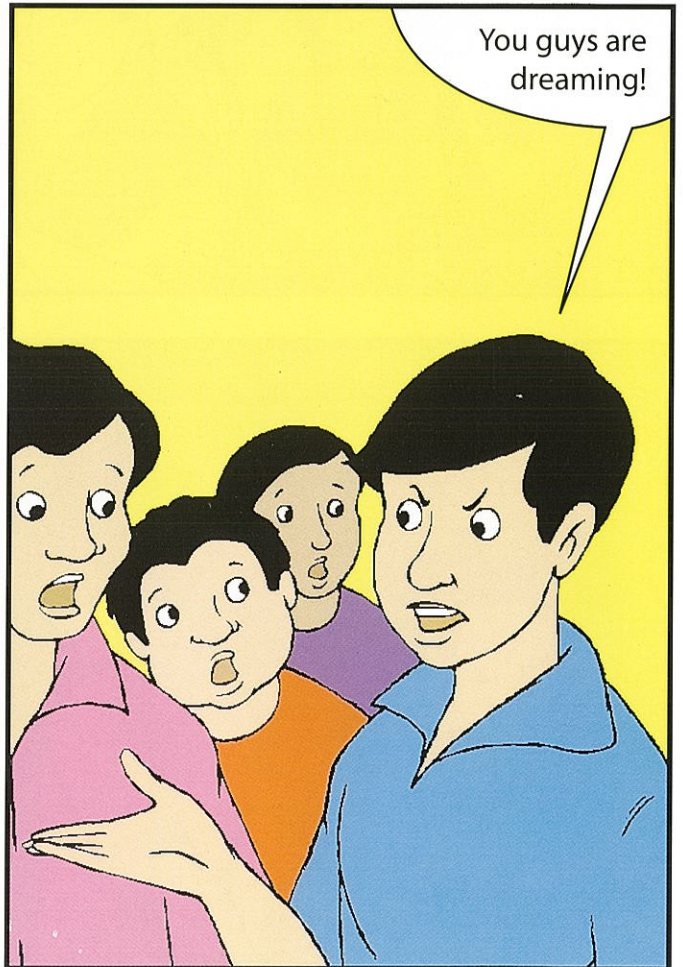
After the show



That was a terrific movie. The bamboo cage was awesome!

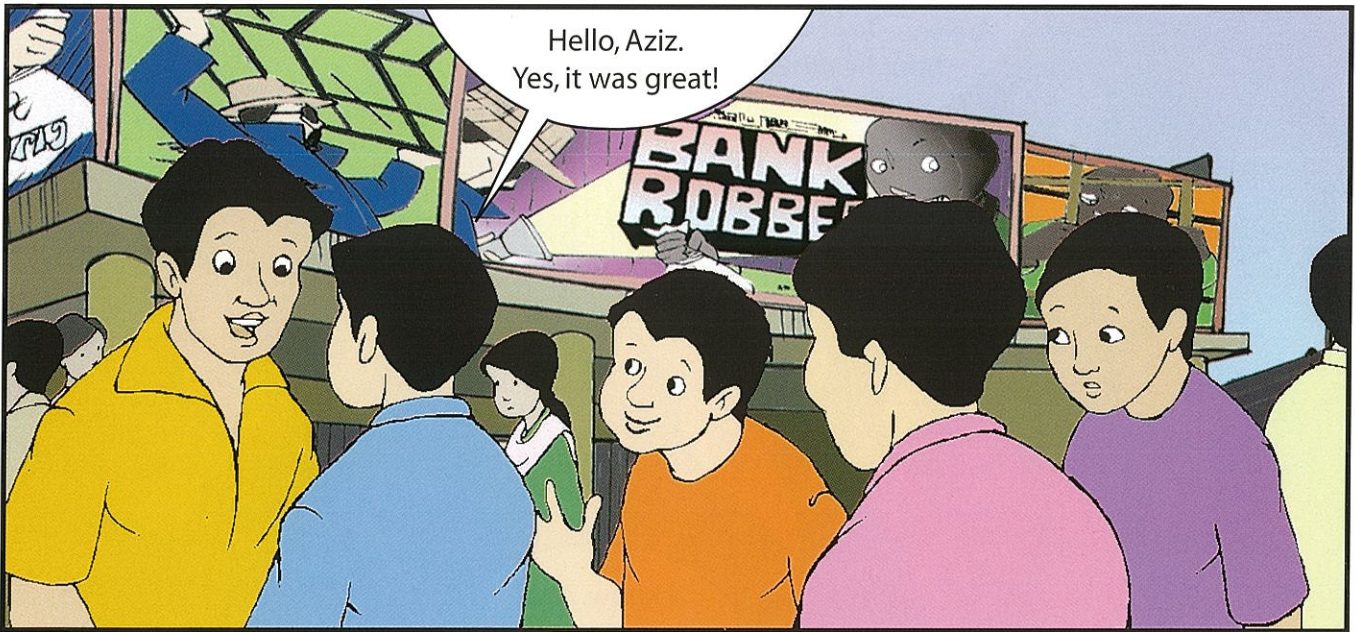


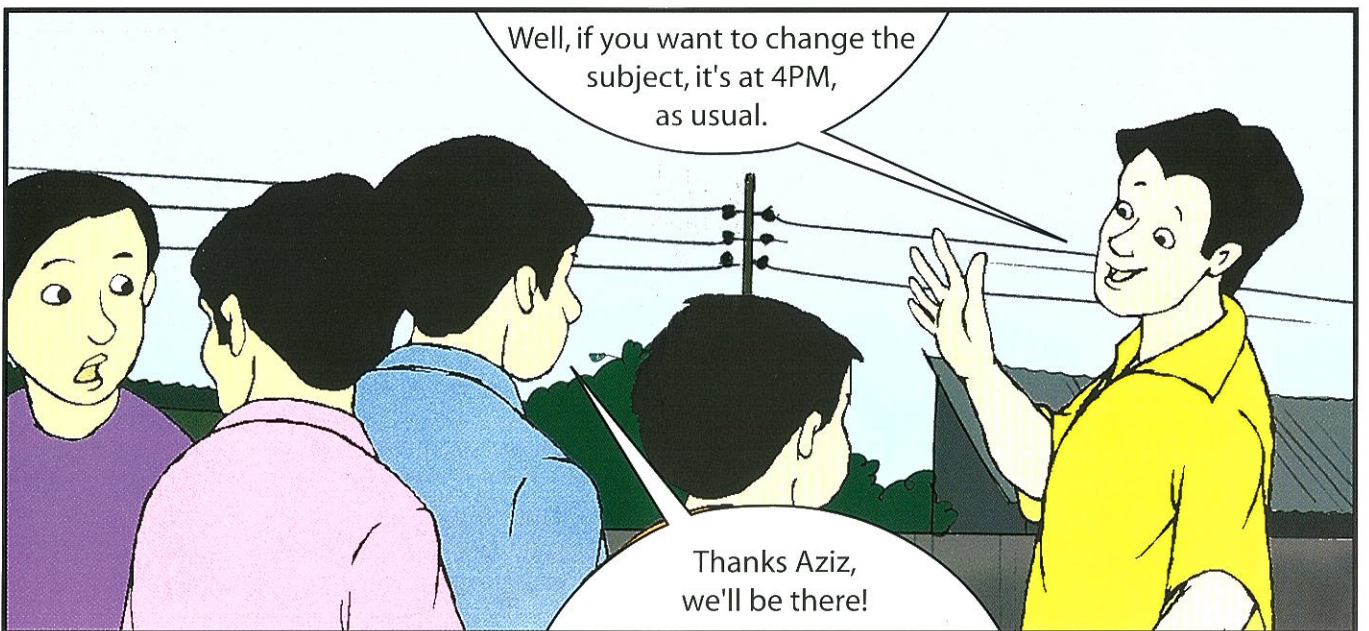
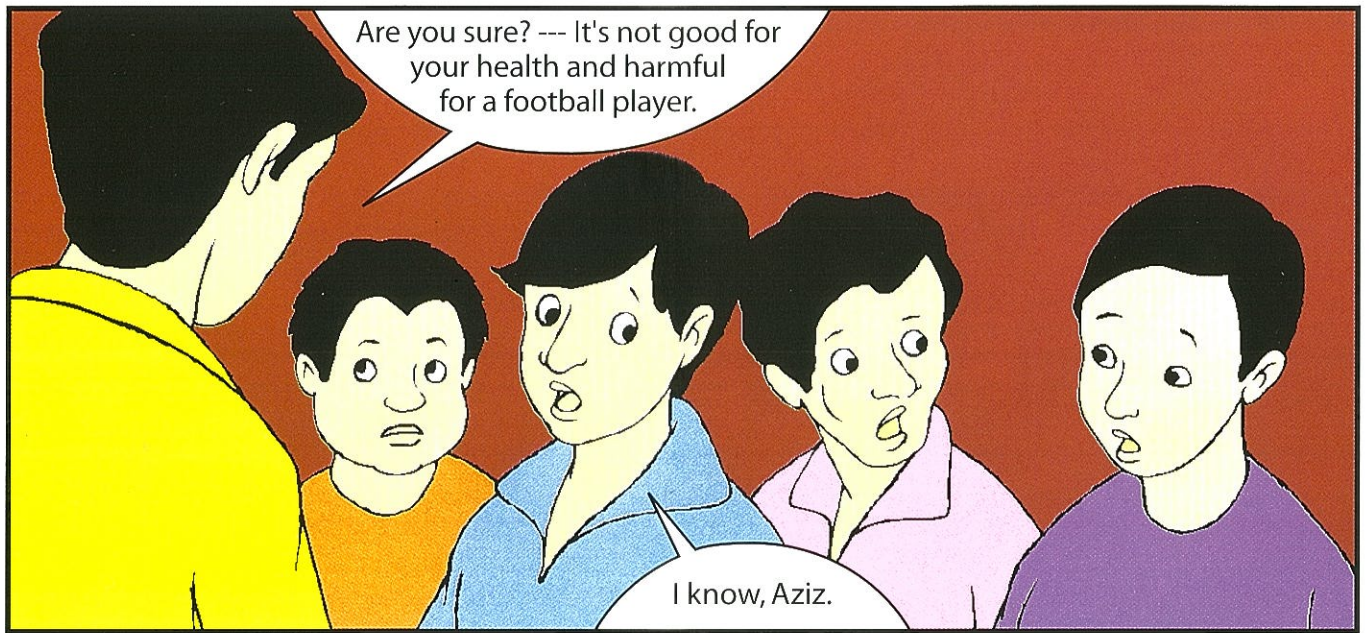
Boy, that guy really got it when he slipped down the hill into the cage. We could do that to the guard at the hill by the school.

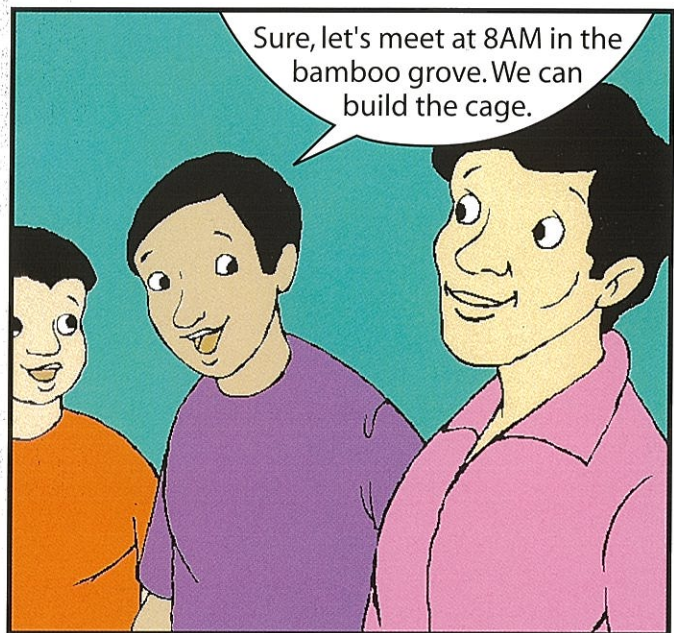
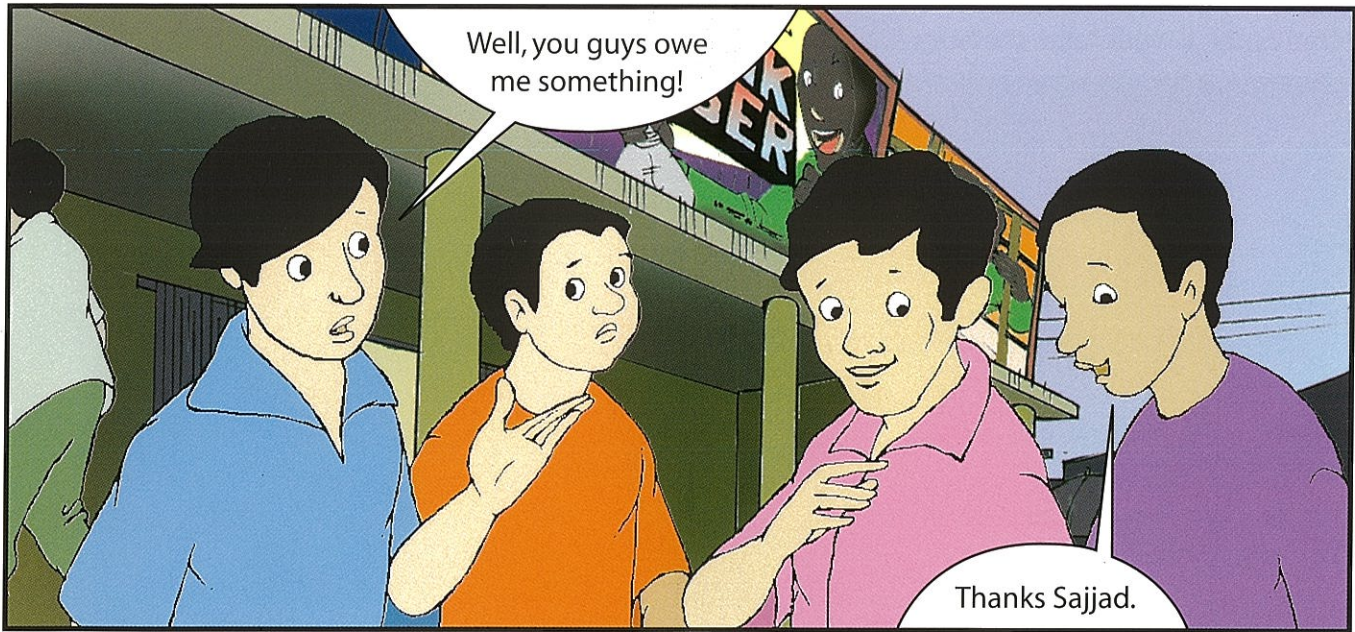


You guys are dreaming!





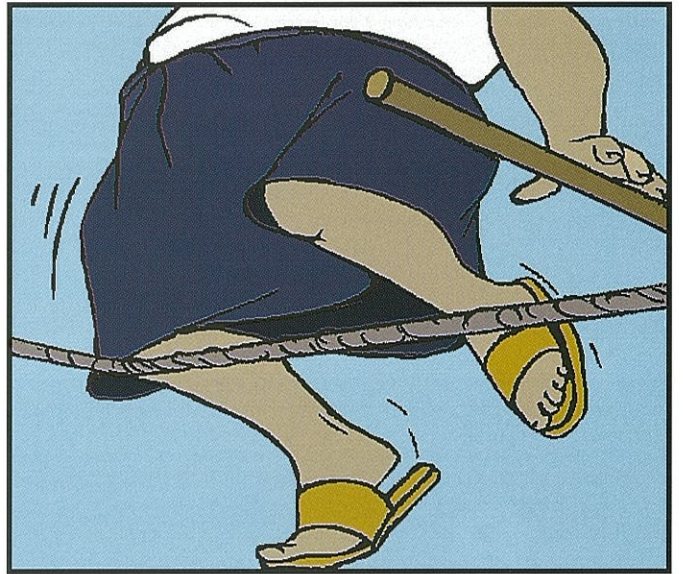




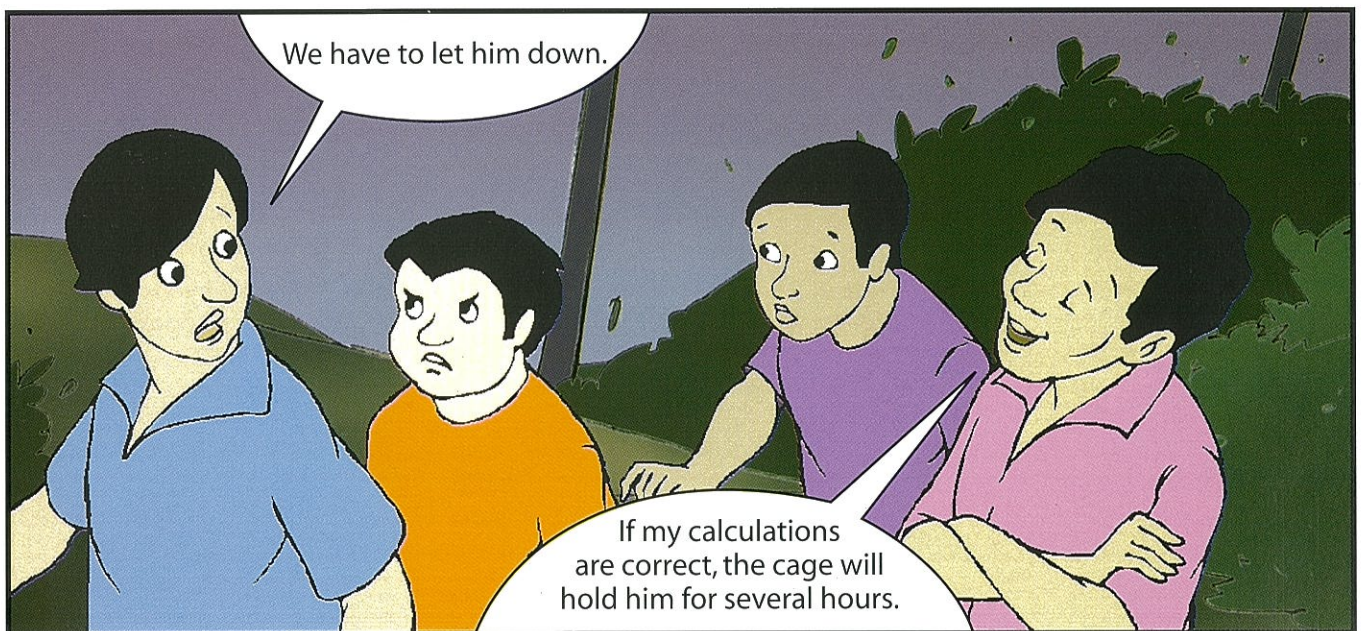
One night, a week later, the boys have finished their experiment.

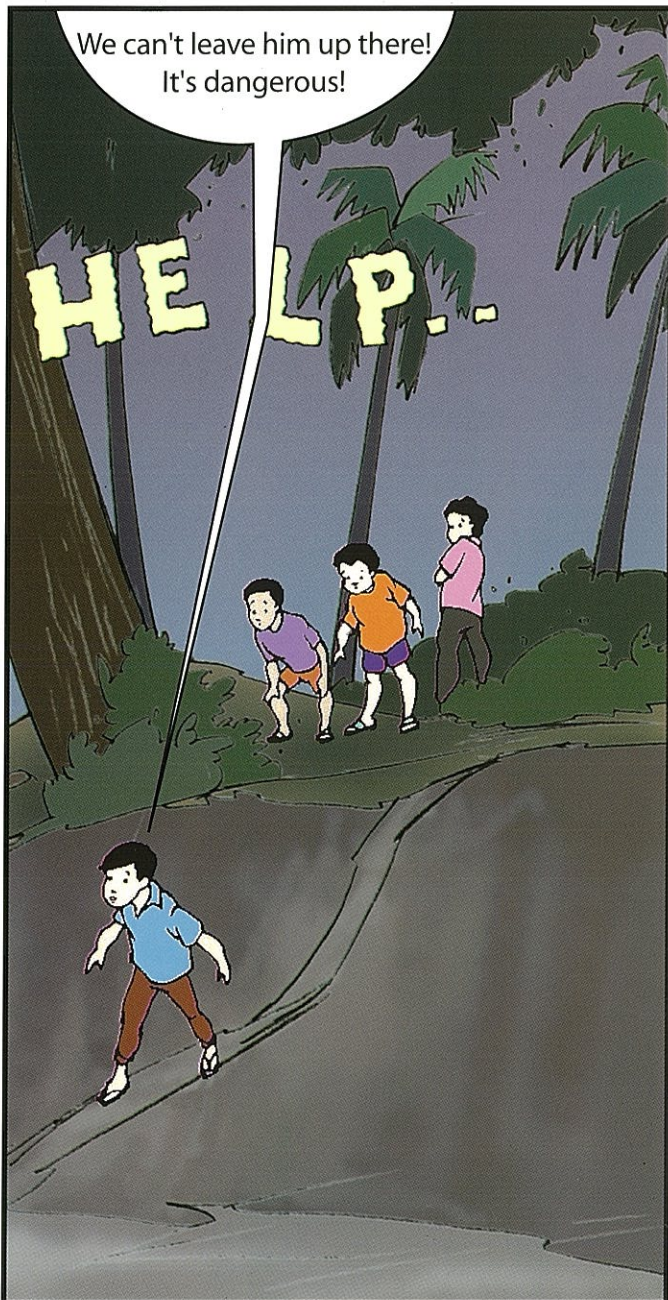
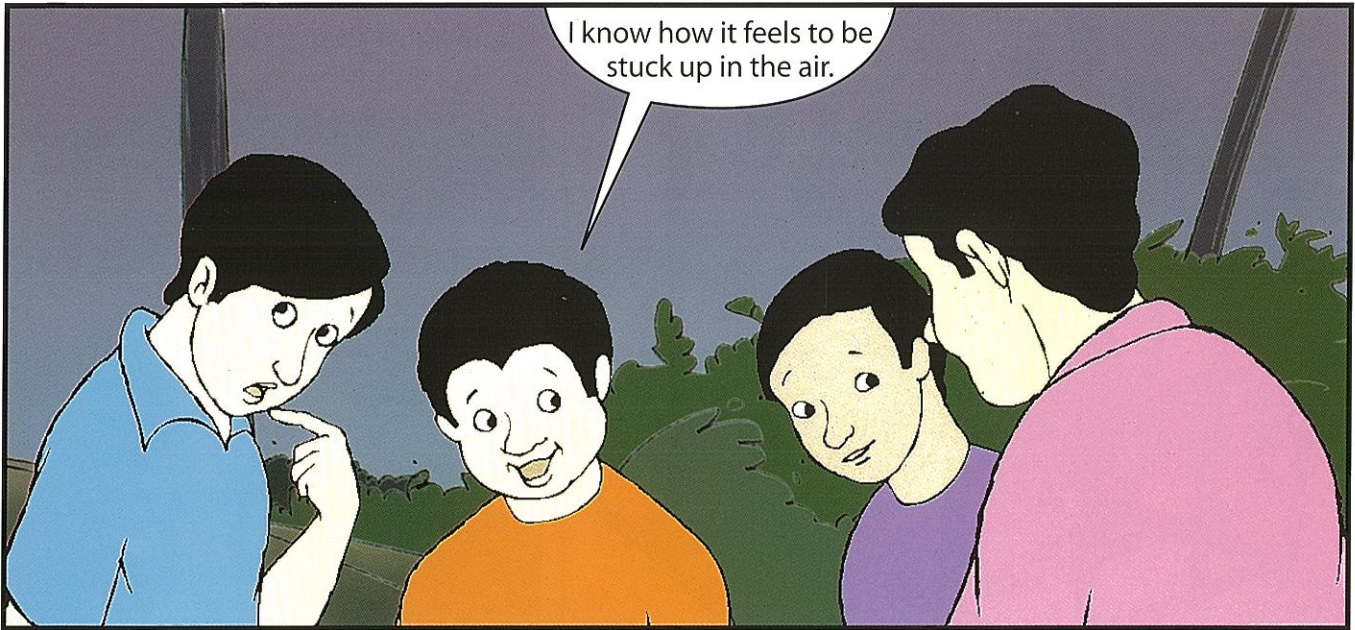


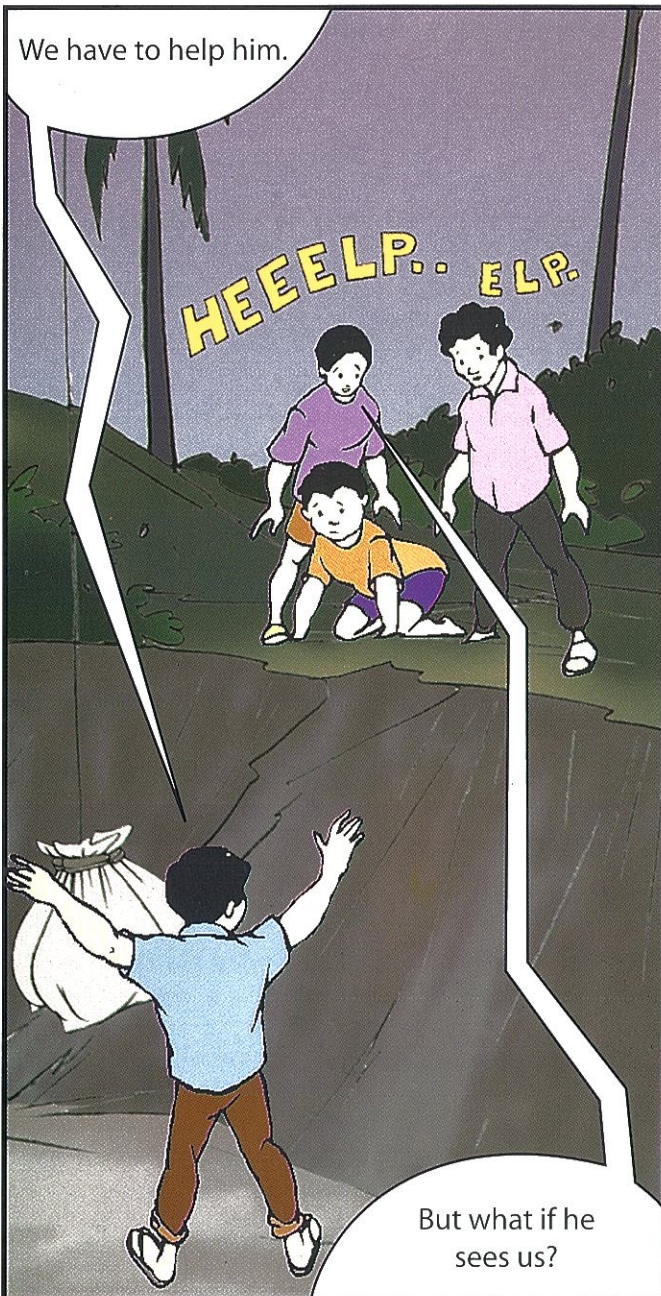
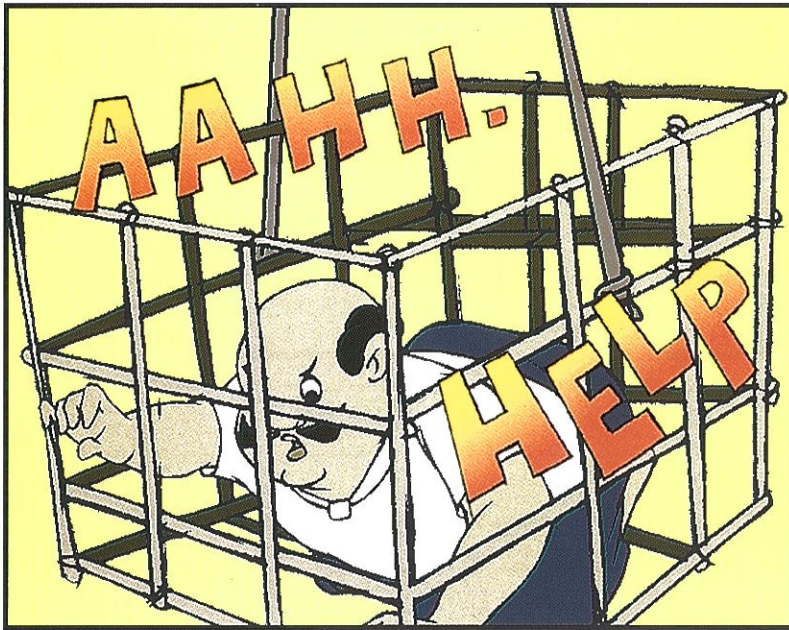




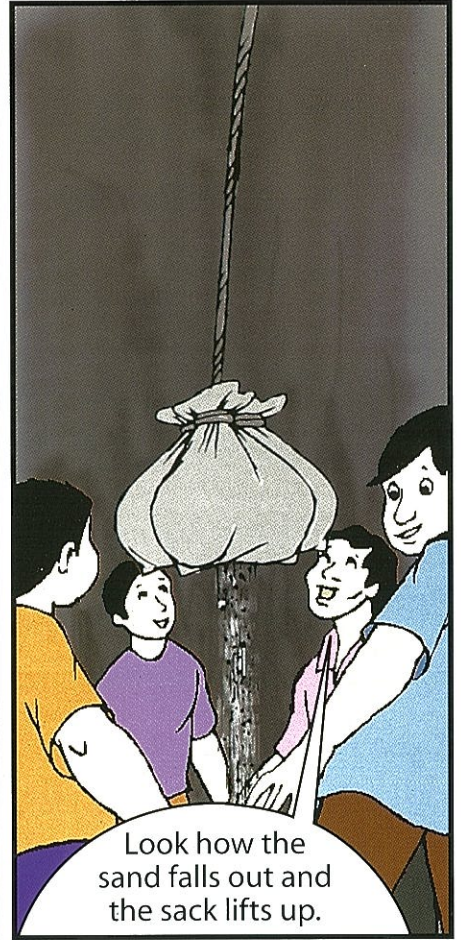
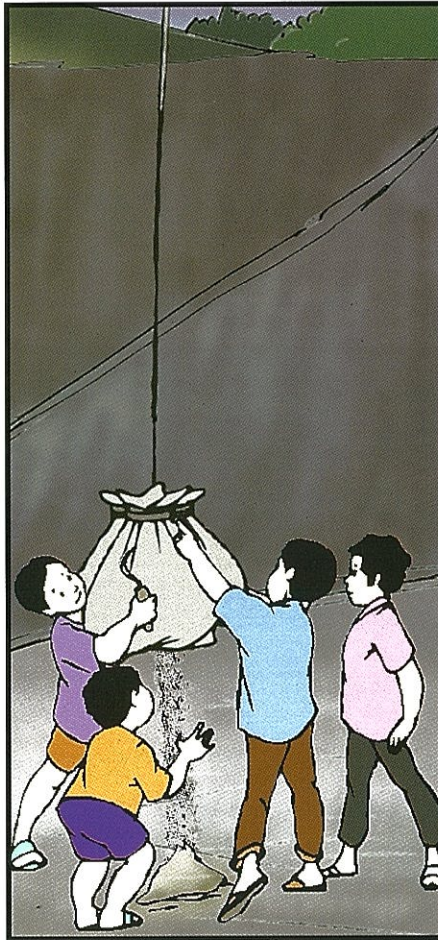








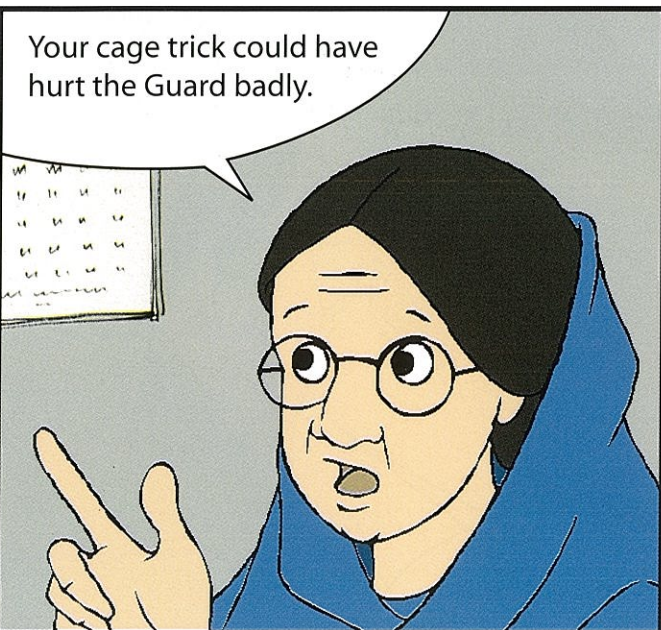




The day of judgment has come



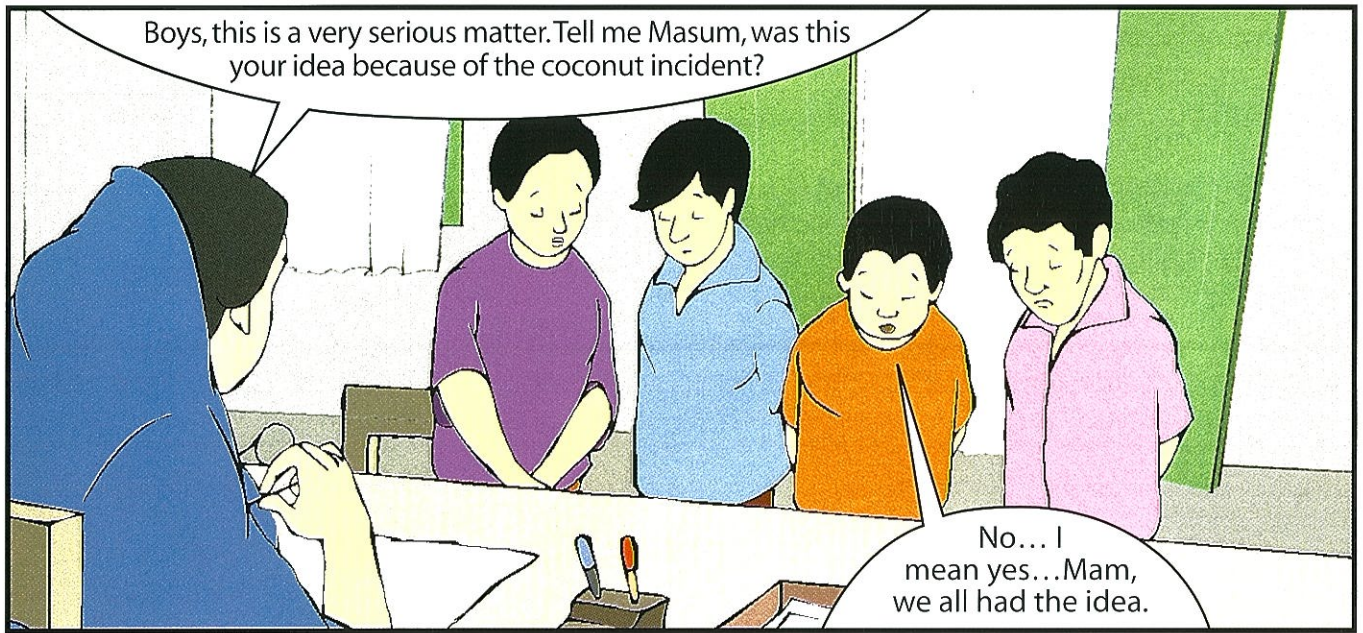
Why did you do this?



Your cage trick could have hurt the Guard badly.



Luckily your contraption was strong and he wasn't hurt.

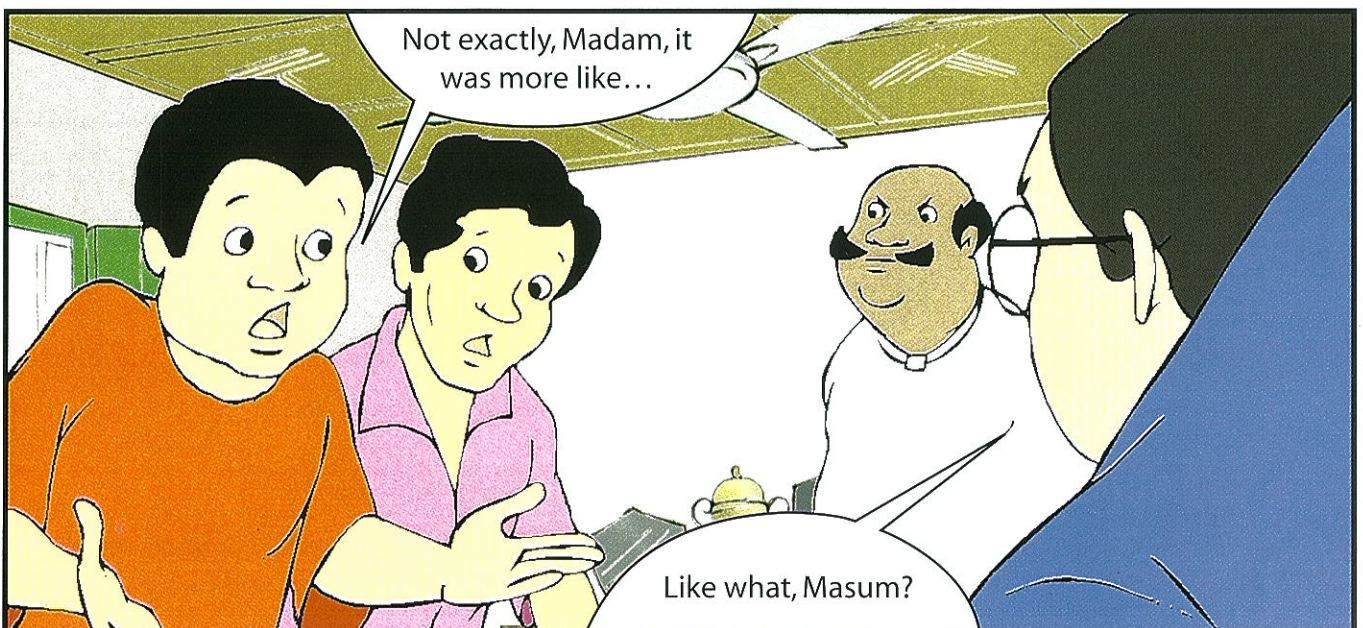


Boys, this is a very serious matter. Tell me Masum, was this your idea because of the coconut incident?

No... I mean yes... Mam, we all had the idea.

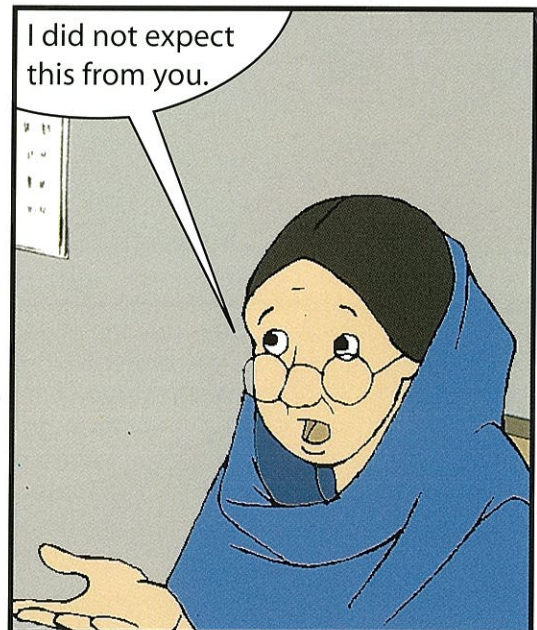
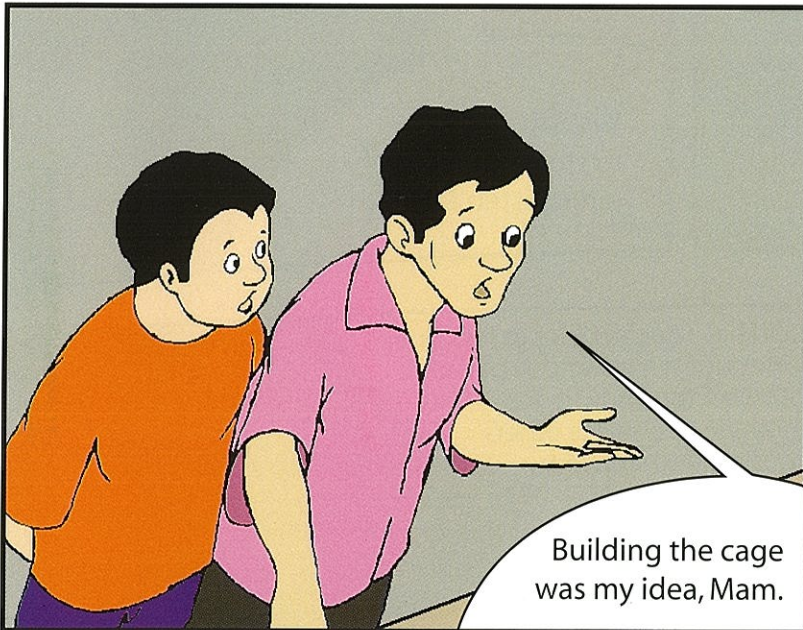
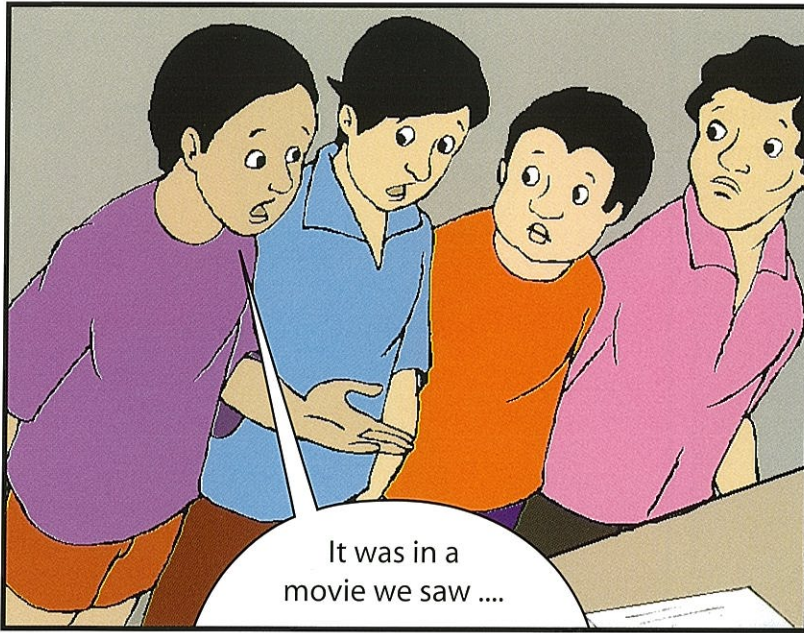


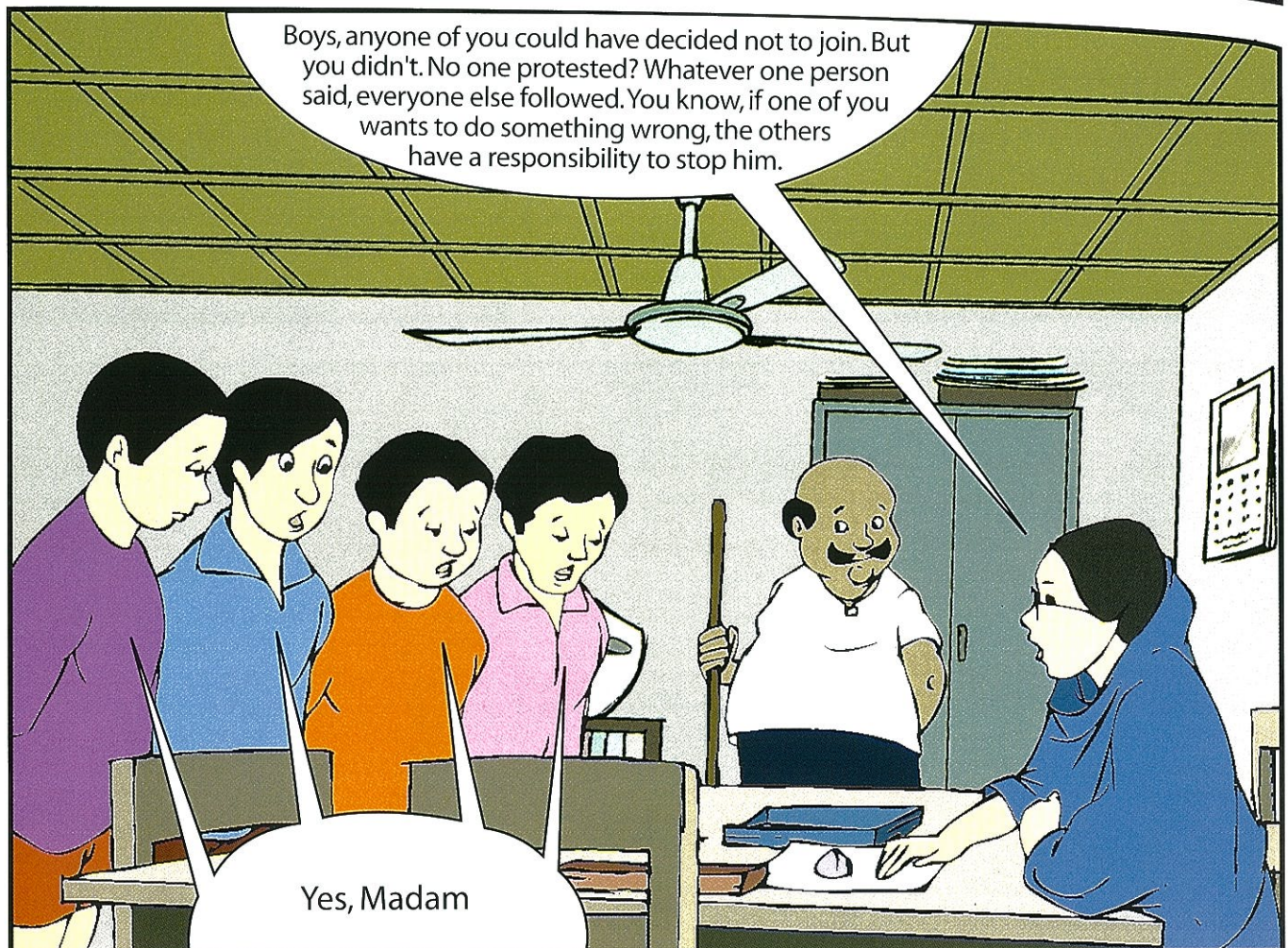
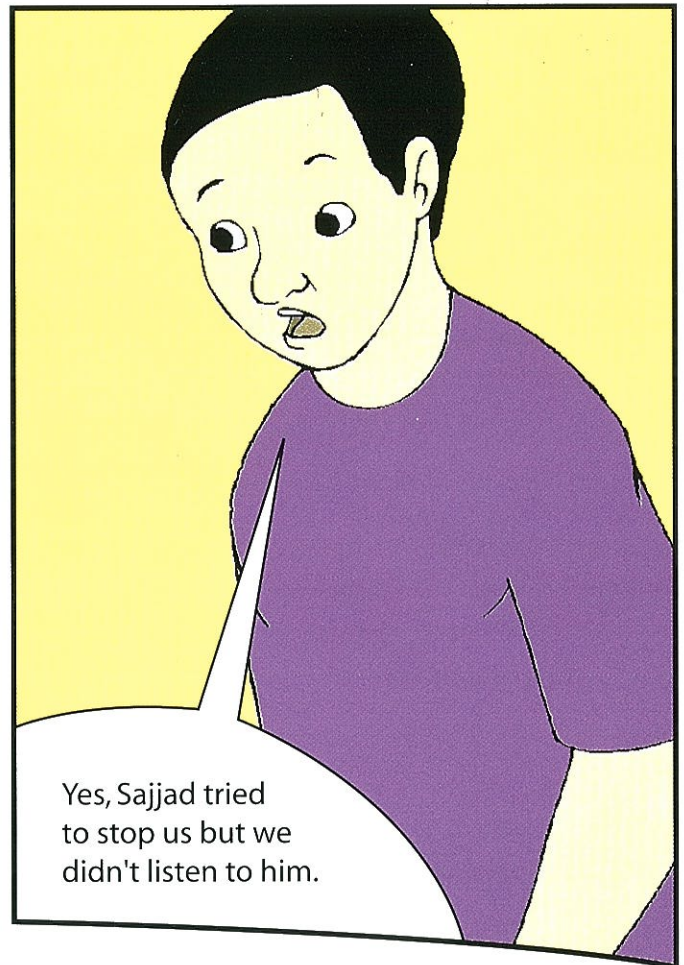
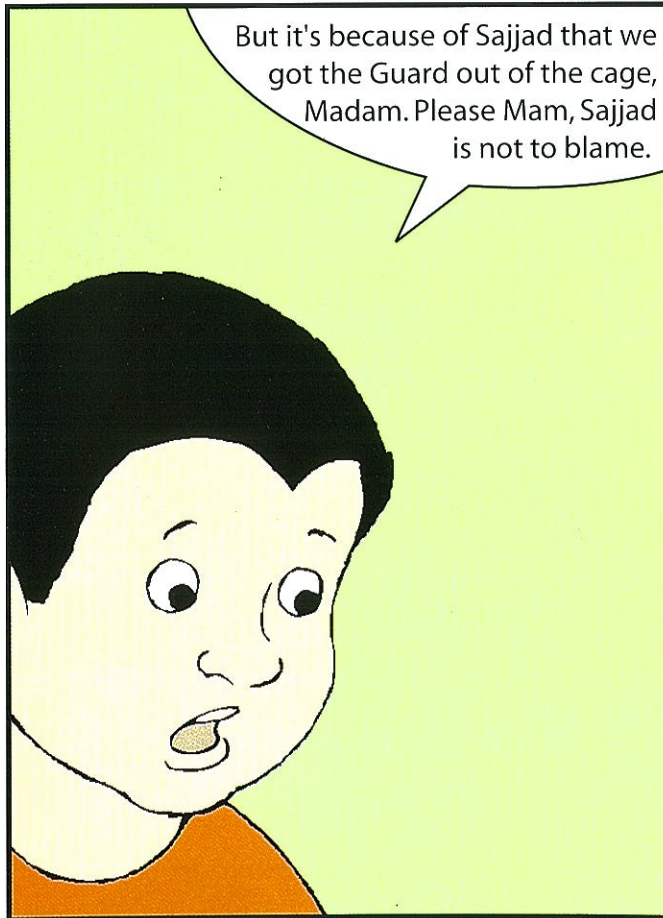
You all came up with the same idea? To build a cage? And trap the guard?

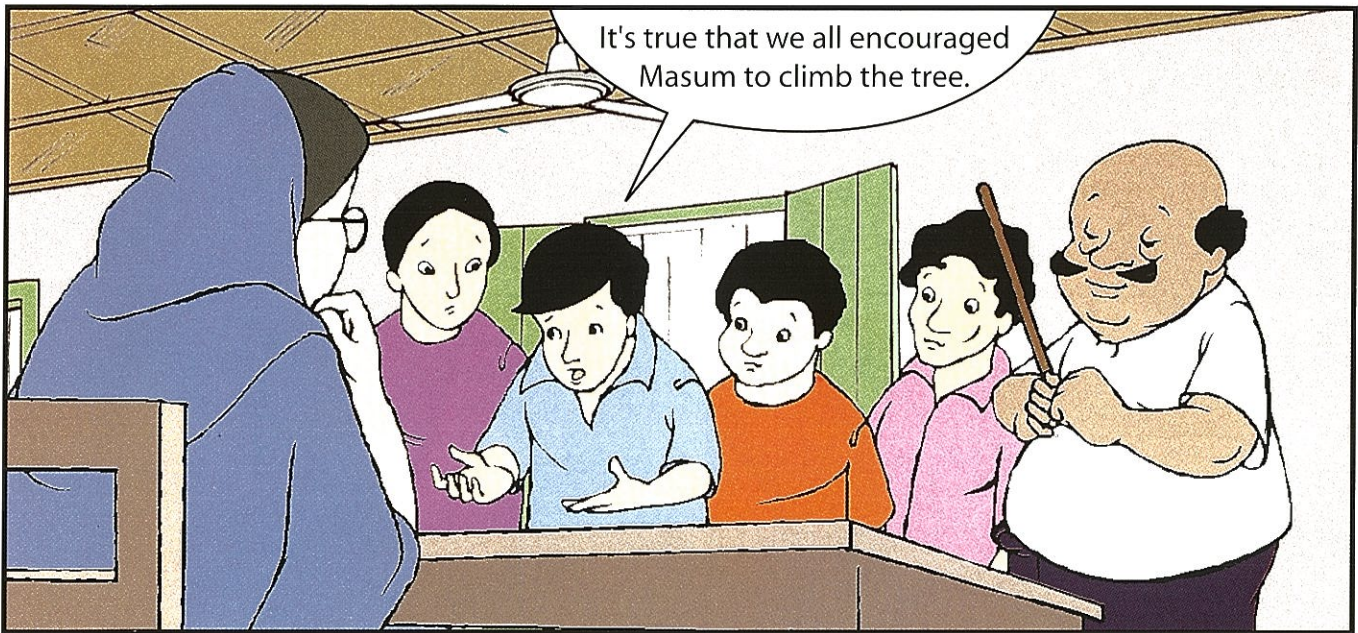
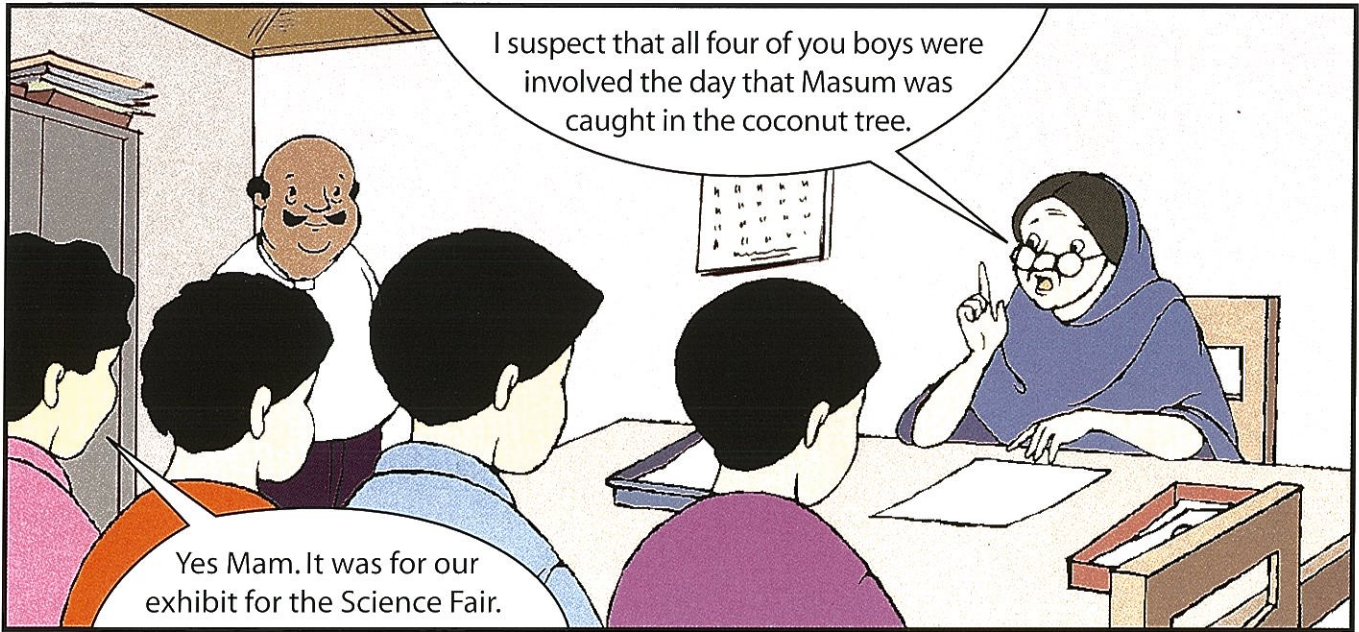


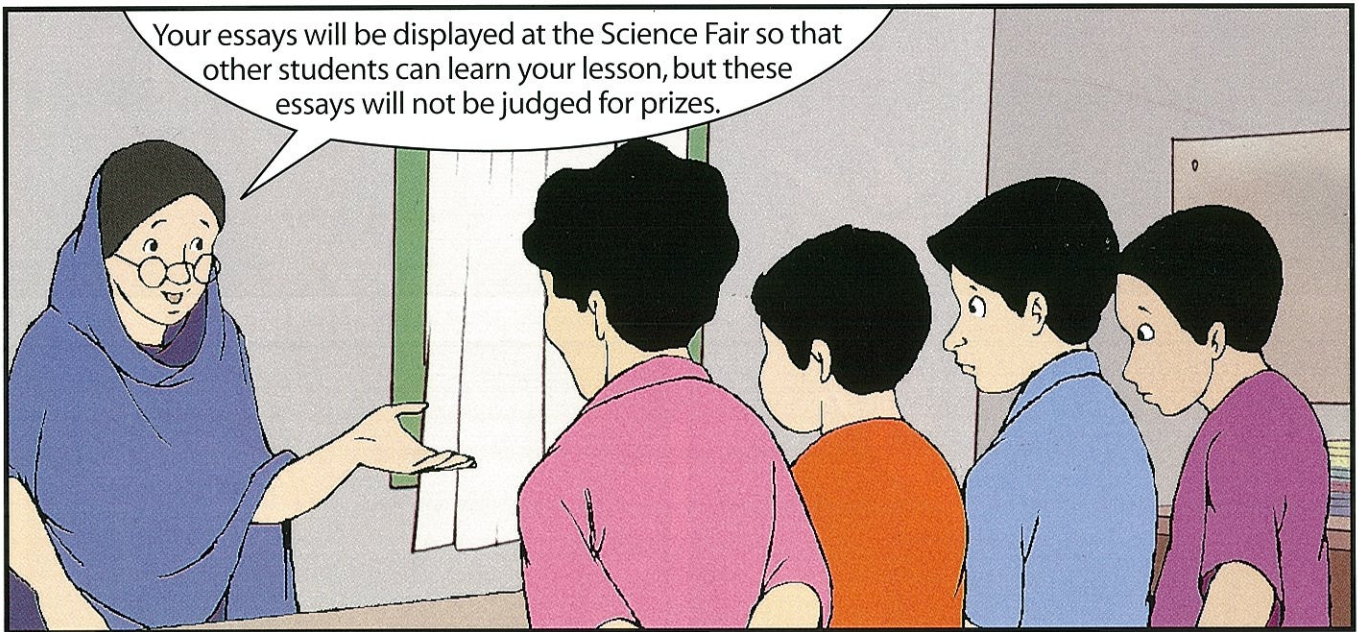
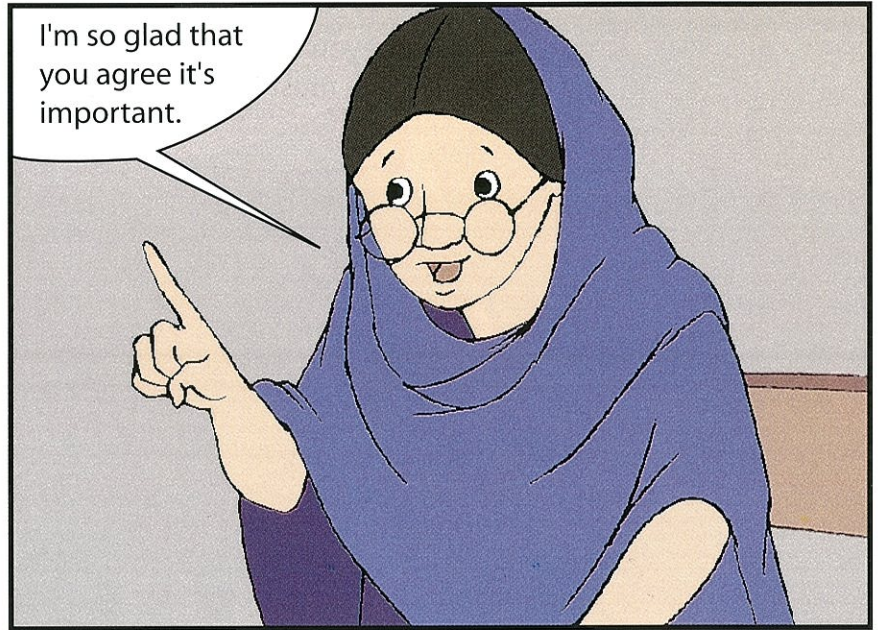
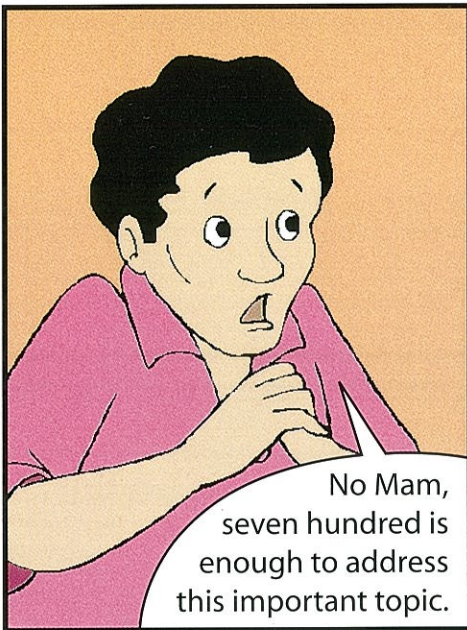
Not exactly, Madam, it was more like...

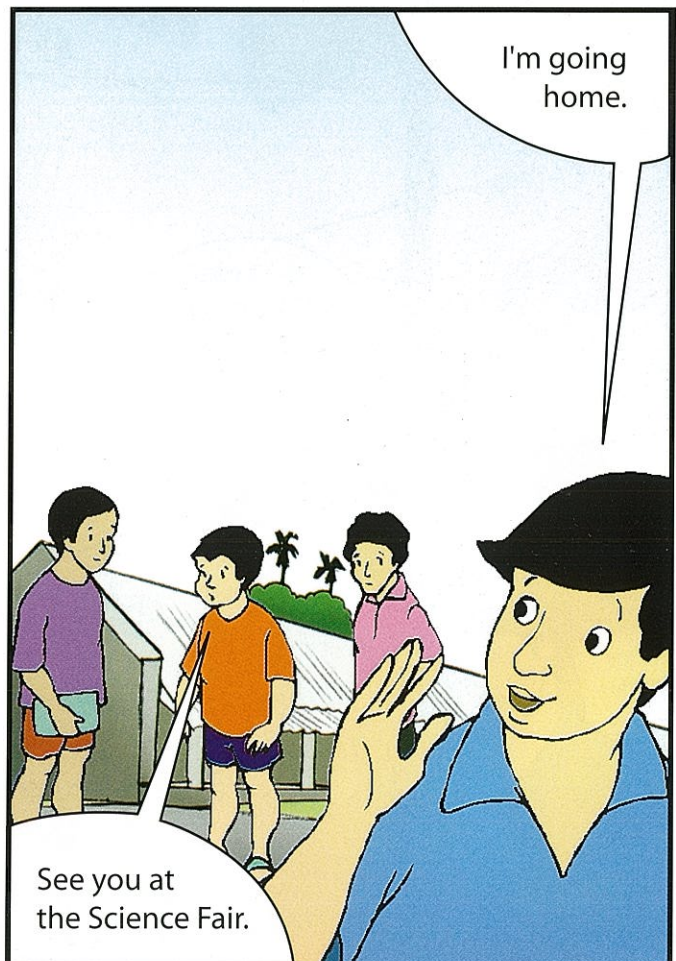
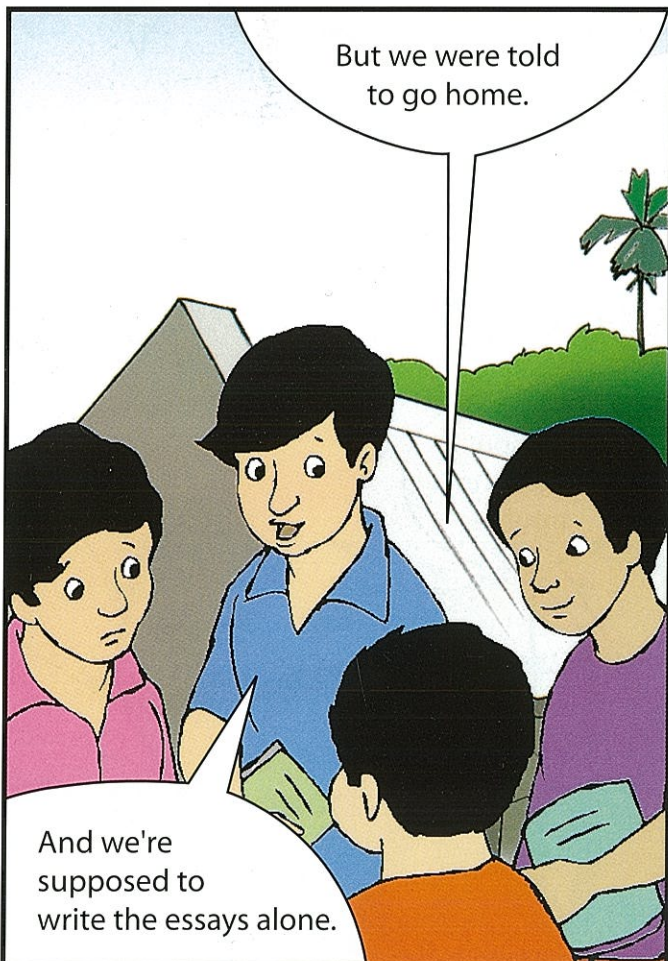
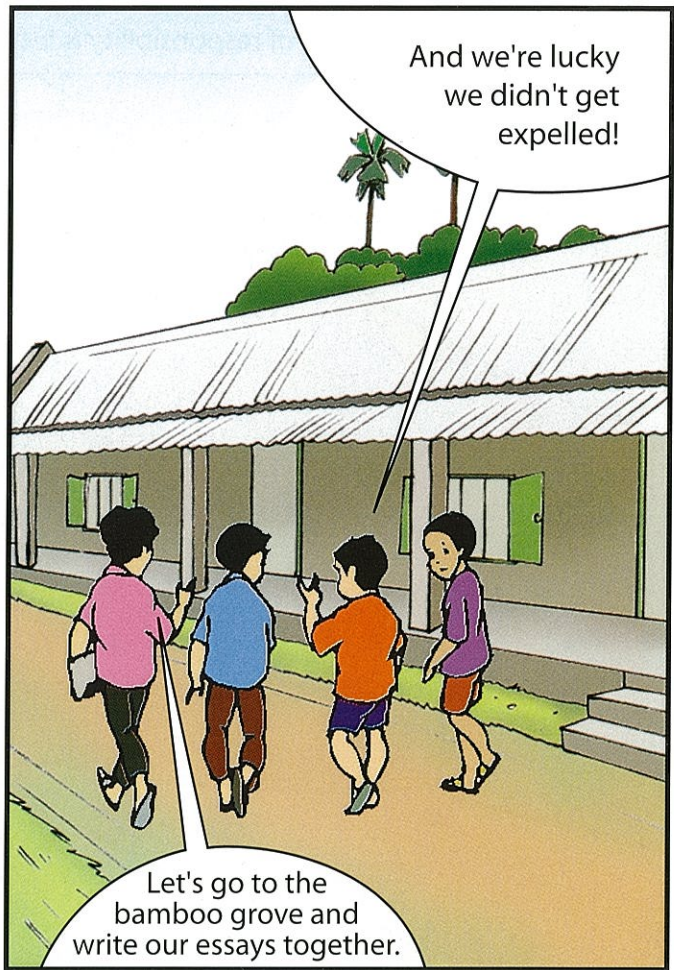
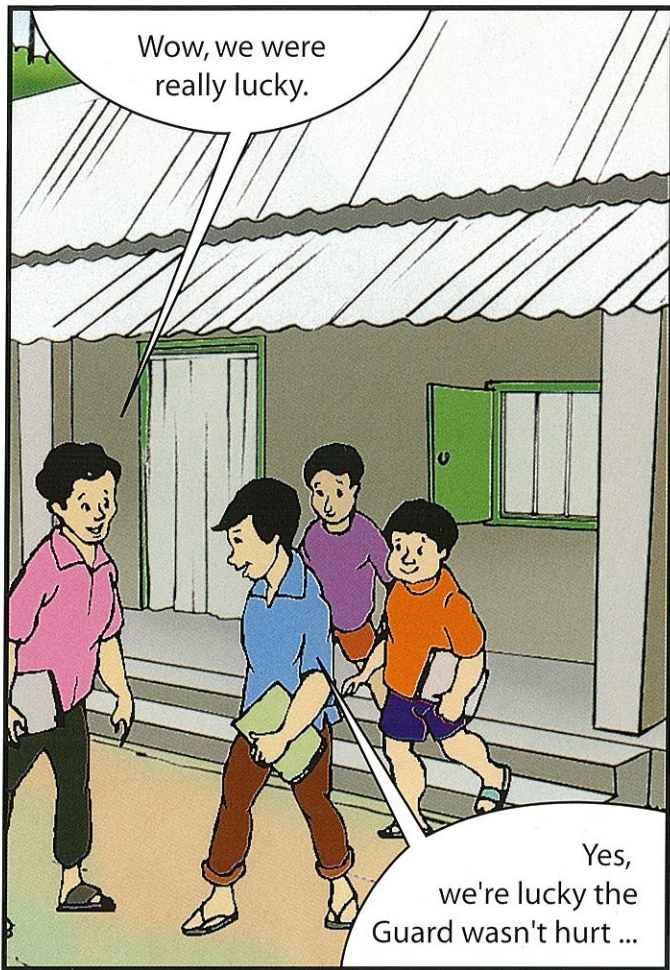
Like what, Masum?



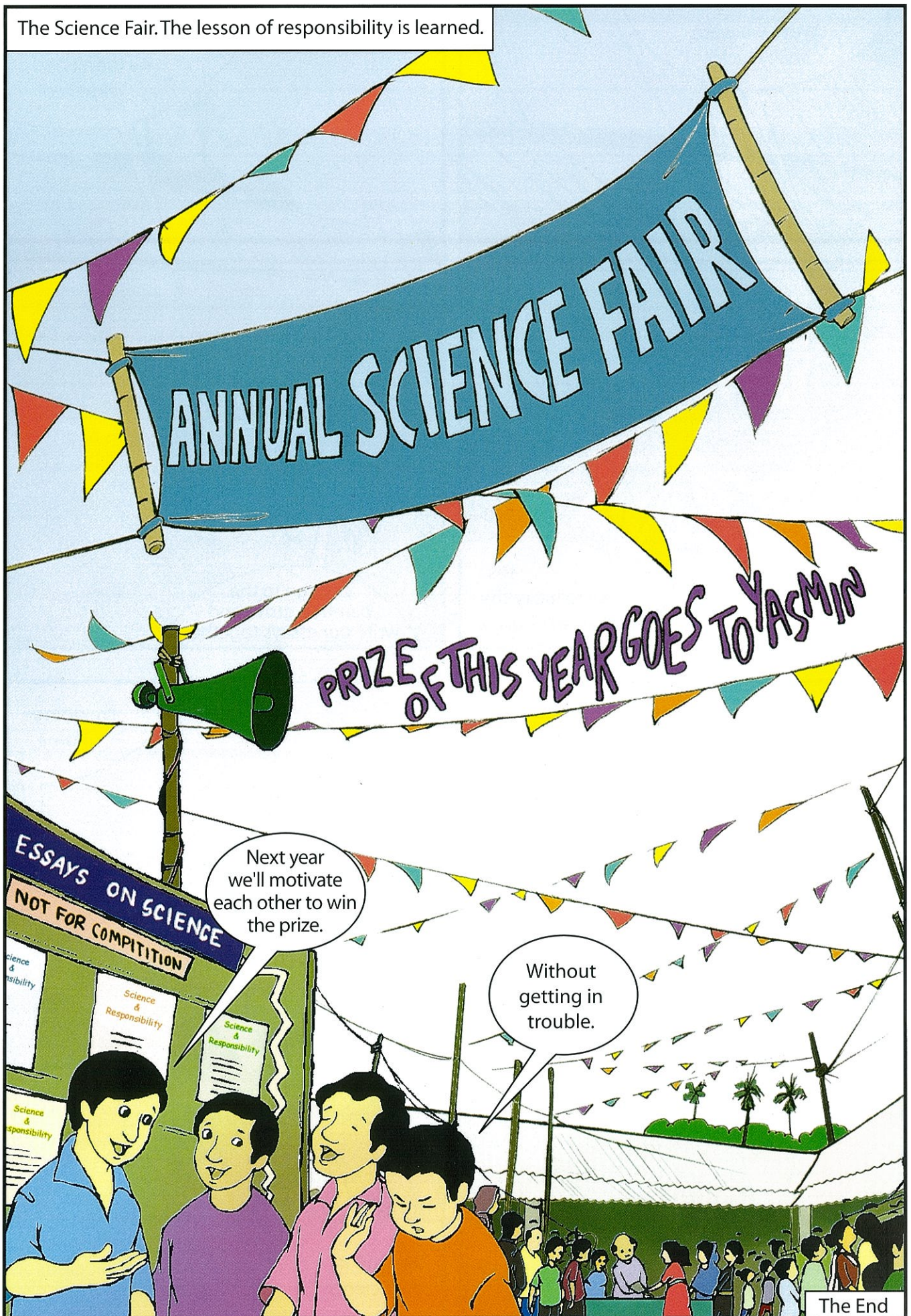








The Science Fair. The lesson of responsibility is learned.



The 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. This comic book intends to equip adolescents with knowledge to decide what is good for themselves first, then deal with peer pressure from others.

Adolescents might not choose friends and accept the advice of friends without first thinking about the consequences for their health, well being and future. In order to have these discussions they will be able to apply their critical judgement before they take any decision.

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 targeted 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 fourth comic book talks about adolescents' ability to understand their relationship with others and build self-confidence and skills to deal with peer pressure. Sajjad and his friends get themselves into mischief over dares to climb a coconut tree and a science project gone awry. Both Aziz and the school Headmistress help them to understand that each one must decide what is good for himself first, in order to deal with peer pressure from others.



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 boys & girls on the facts of choosing friends and how to avoid peer pressure.
- Create awareness among parents on avoiding peer pressure and that adolescents can make decisions for themselves about what is good and what is not good for them.
- Encourage adolescent girls and boys to discuss their problems more openly with peers, teachers, parents and family members.

Outlets for comic book

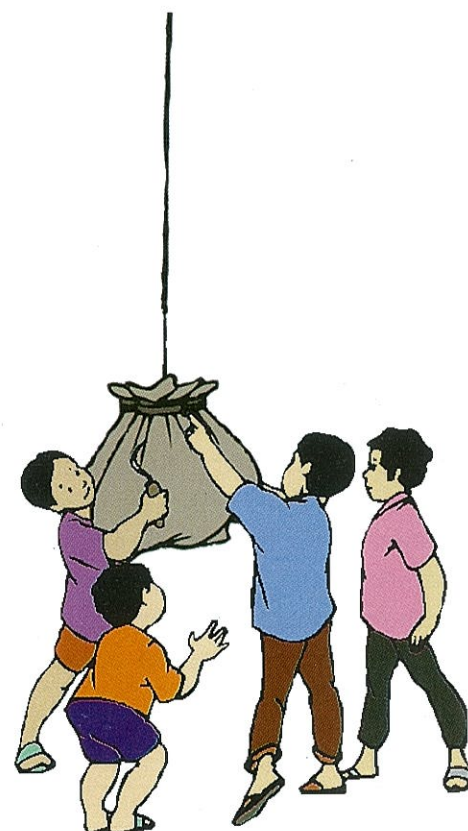
The comic book will be made available in classrooms, bookshops, school libraries, and public libraries. Furthermore, this comic book will be promoted through adolescent clubs and other important places.

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 do you think are the central characters of the story? Why?
- What do you know about peer pressure?
- Did Sajjad, Masum, Ratan and Ein act responsibly?
- What punishment did Headmistress give to Sajjad and his friends? Why?
- What did you learn from the story?





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