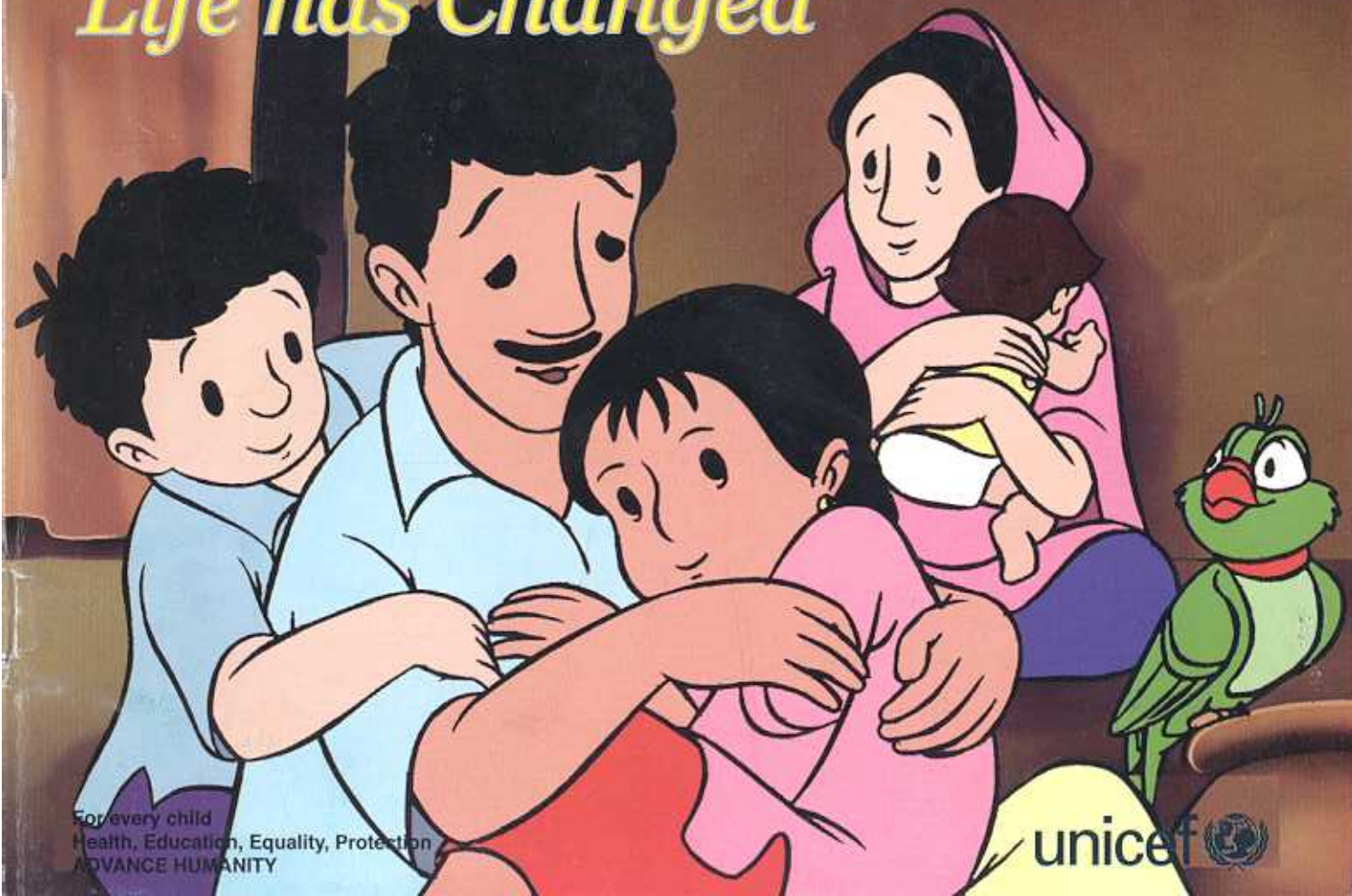
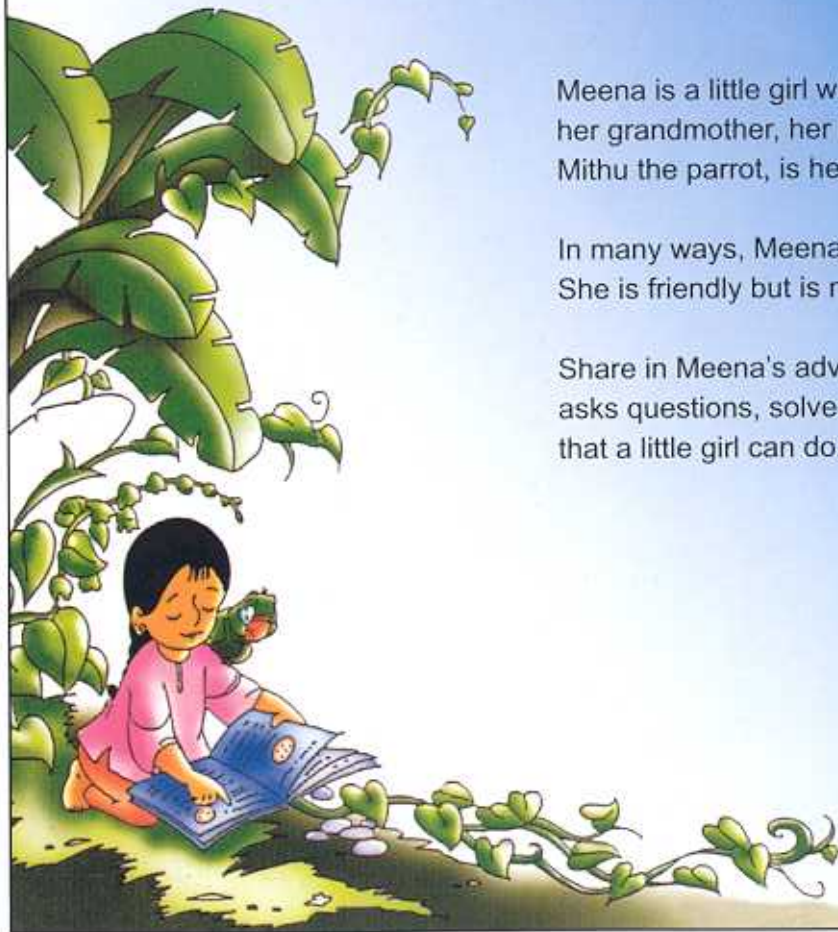


Life has Changed



For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY

unicef 



Meena is a little girl who lives in a village with her parents, her grandmother, her brother Raju and her baby sister, Rani. Mithu the parrot, is her best friend.

In many ways, Meena is like any other little girl you know. She is friendly but is not afraid to ask questions.

Share in Meena's adventures as she laughs, climbs trees, asks questions, solves problems and shows you all the things that a little girl can do.

It is a beautiful morning in Meena's village. Teacher is taking a class on plants.



It is a beautiful morning in Meena's village. Teacher is taking a class on plants.



Suddenly, the ground begins to shake, the classroom windows rattle and the goat shed falls down. It is an earthquake!



The bamboo poles that hold up the melon creeper crash and the ripe watermelons smash open!



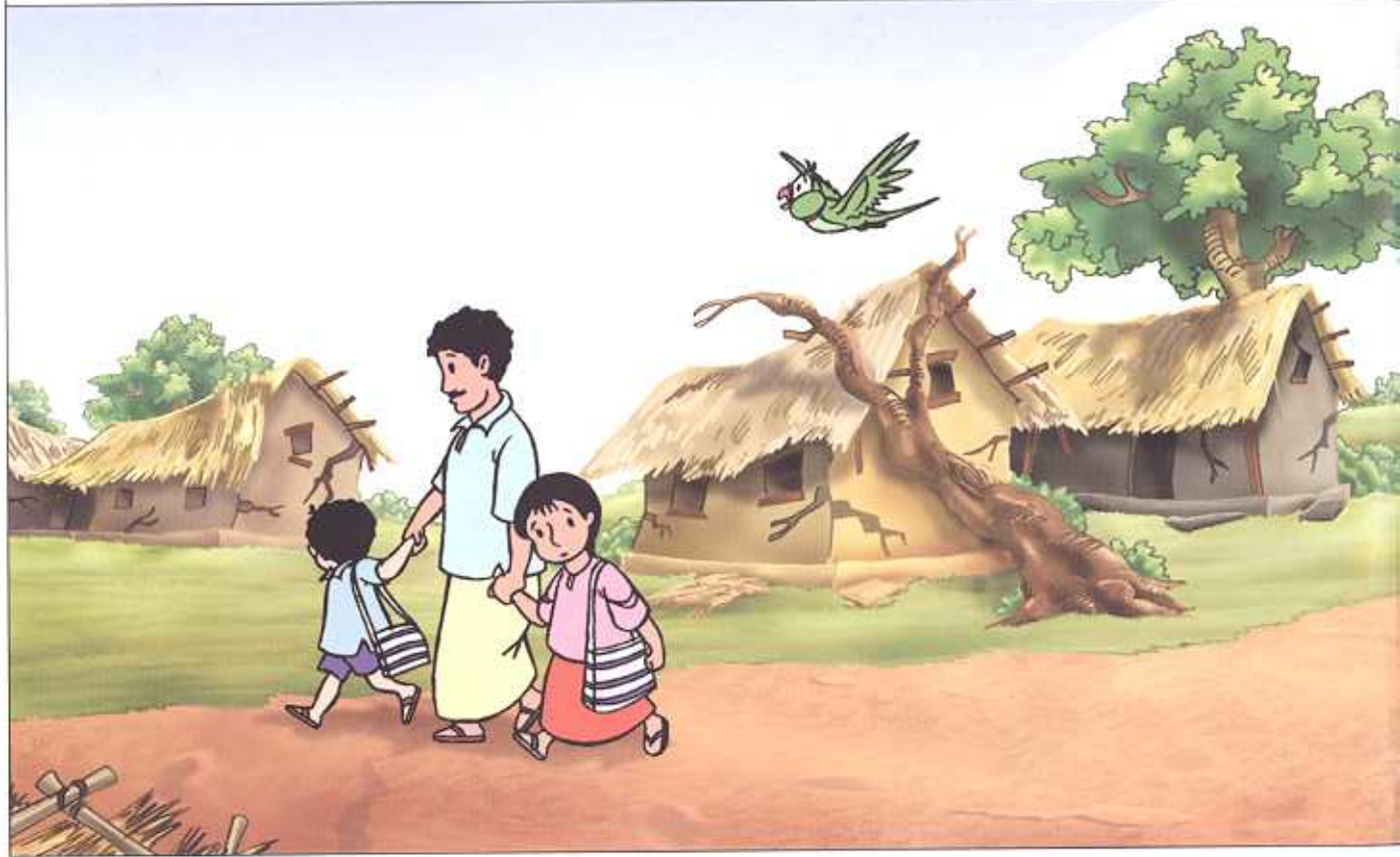
Meena, her brother Raju and their classmates are so scared. Teacher tries to calm them down. Meena's pet parrot Mithu is scared too.



Soon, Meena's father comes to collect his children. The earthquake has been very bad in other places, he says.



On the way home, Meena and Raju see some houses and trees that have fallen down due to the earthquake.



Raju rushes to tell Grandma all the things he has seen that day



Meena's father tells the family that many people in other villages have lost their homes and are hurt.



The next morning, the family sees strangers in the government building. They have arrived during the night to take shelter.

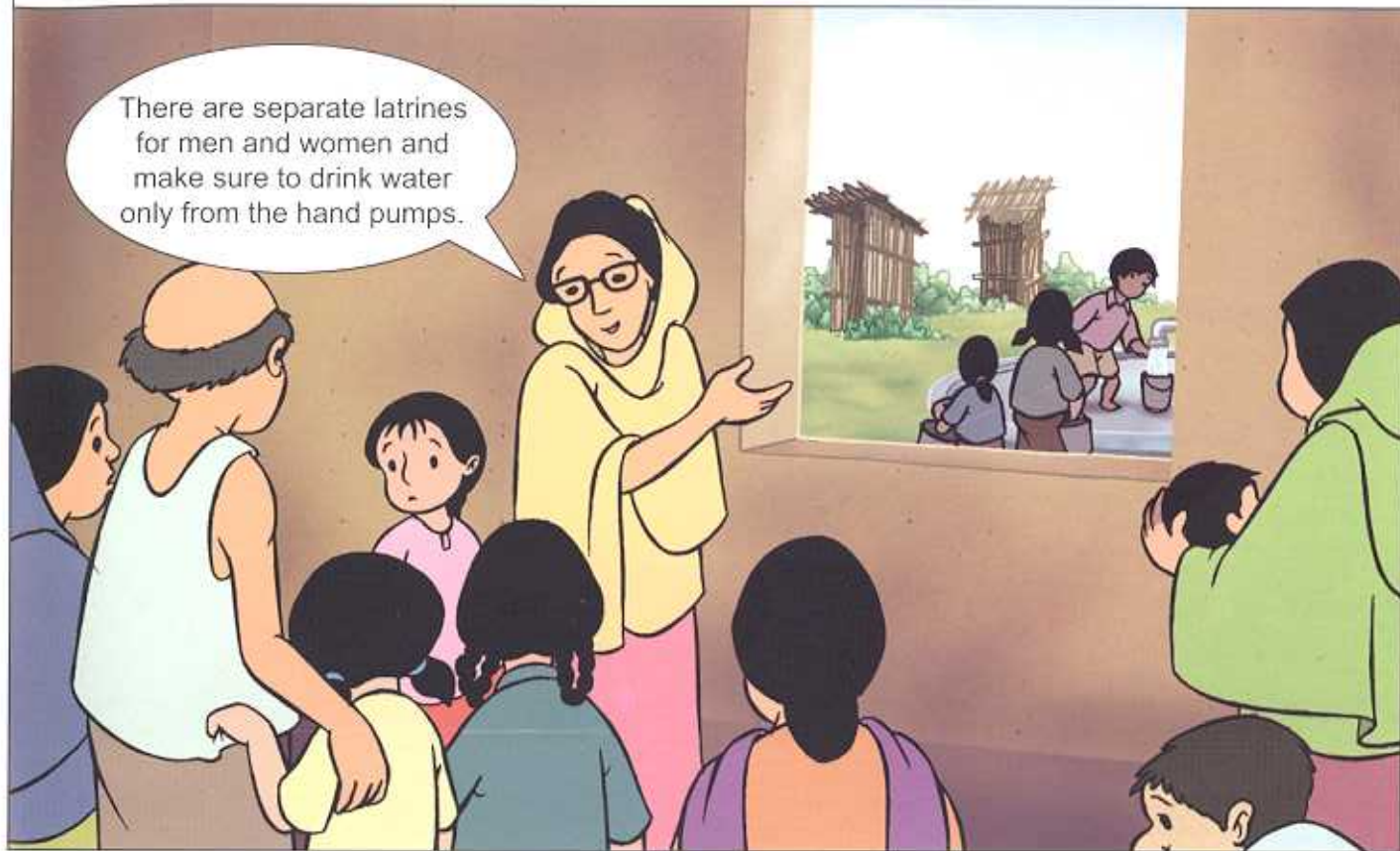


The Teacher and Health Worker are already there helping the people.



The Teacher talks to people about the importance of using sanitary latrines. She also tells them that the hand pumps have water that is safe for drinking.

There are separate latrines for men and women and make sure to drink water only from the hand pumps.



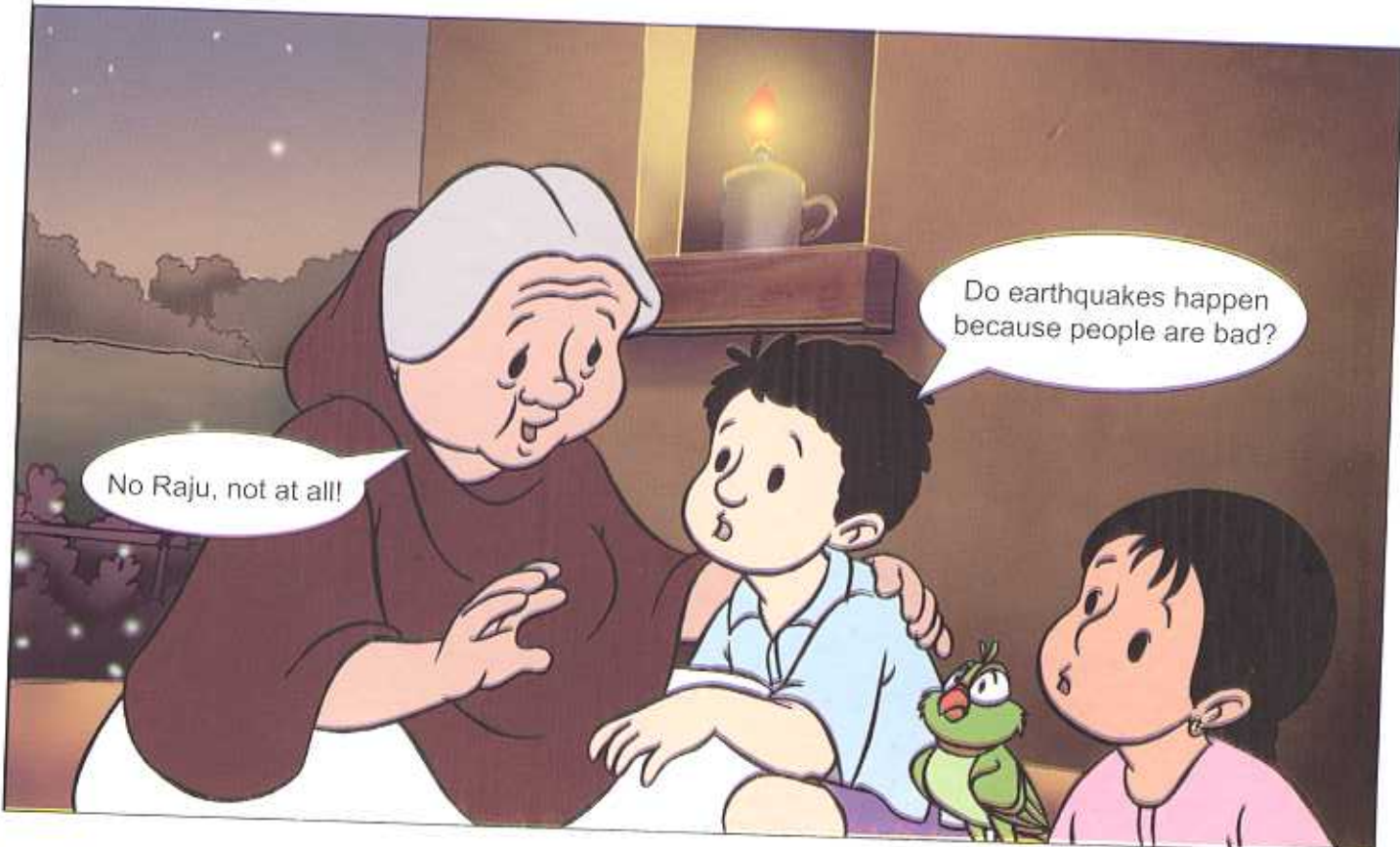
The Health Worker offers help to anyone who is sick or needs treatment.



The girl turns her face away. She does not want to talk to anyone. Meena feels sad.



At home, Raju asks Grandma why earthquakes happen. She tells him that they sometimes happen because the land on which we live is shifting slowly all the time.



Meena wants to know if only children get scared of things like earthquakes. Father explains that everyone gets scared when something they are not prepared for happens.



Father knows that Meena is really scared, so he takes her on his lap and holds her close. He tells her that he will always try to be there for her.



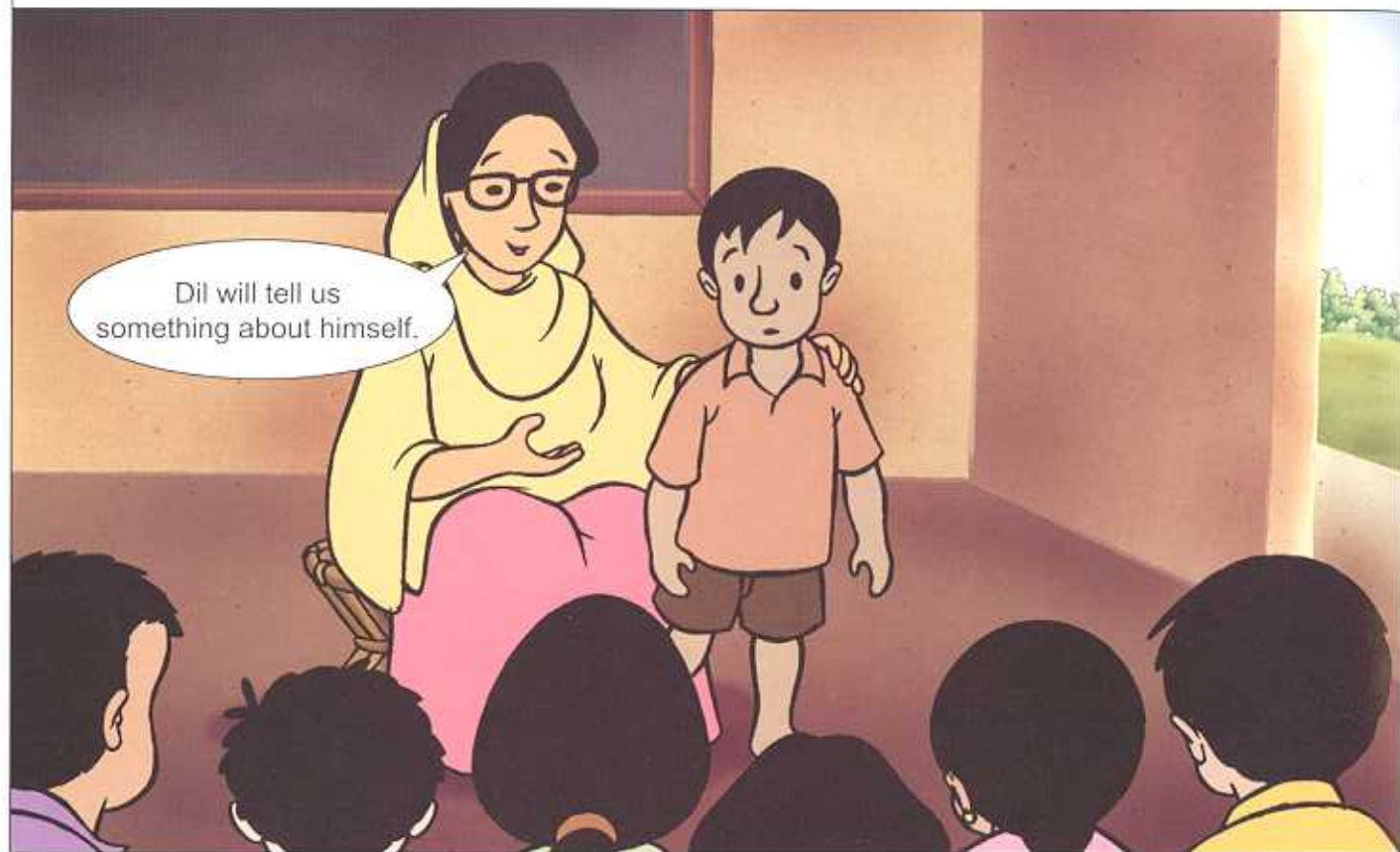
A few days later, Teacher brings the children from the relief camp to school with her.



Meena finds out the little girl's name is Neela. She tries to make friends again, but once more, Neela turns away.



In a day or two, most of the new children have settled down. Teacher asks them to tell their stories to the class.



Dil tells the class he was in a boat when the earthquake happened and broke the embankment. He was thrown in the water. He was scared but clung to a piece of wood to keep afloat. Finally, his father rescued him.



Another little girl called Ruby wants to tell her story too.



When the earthquake came, she was alone at home. She ran out and saw people everywhere. In panic she ran with them until she was lost. Finally a kind lady brought her home.



Meena is curious to know why Neela doesn't talk or play with anyone. Teacher tells her that Neela was separated from her family and does not know the name of her village.



The next day is a holiday. Meena finds Neela under a tree drawing and a little later Dil's mother joins them. Meena invites both of them home.



At home, the kindness and love shown by Meena's family makes Neela smile for the first time.



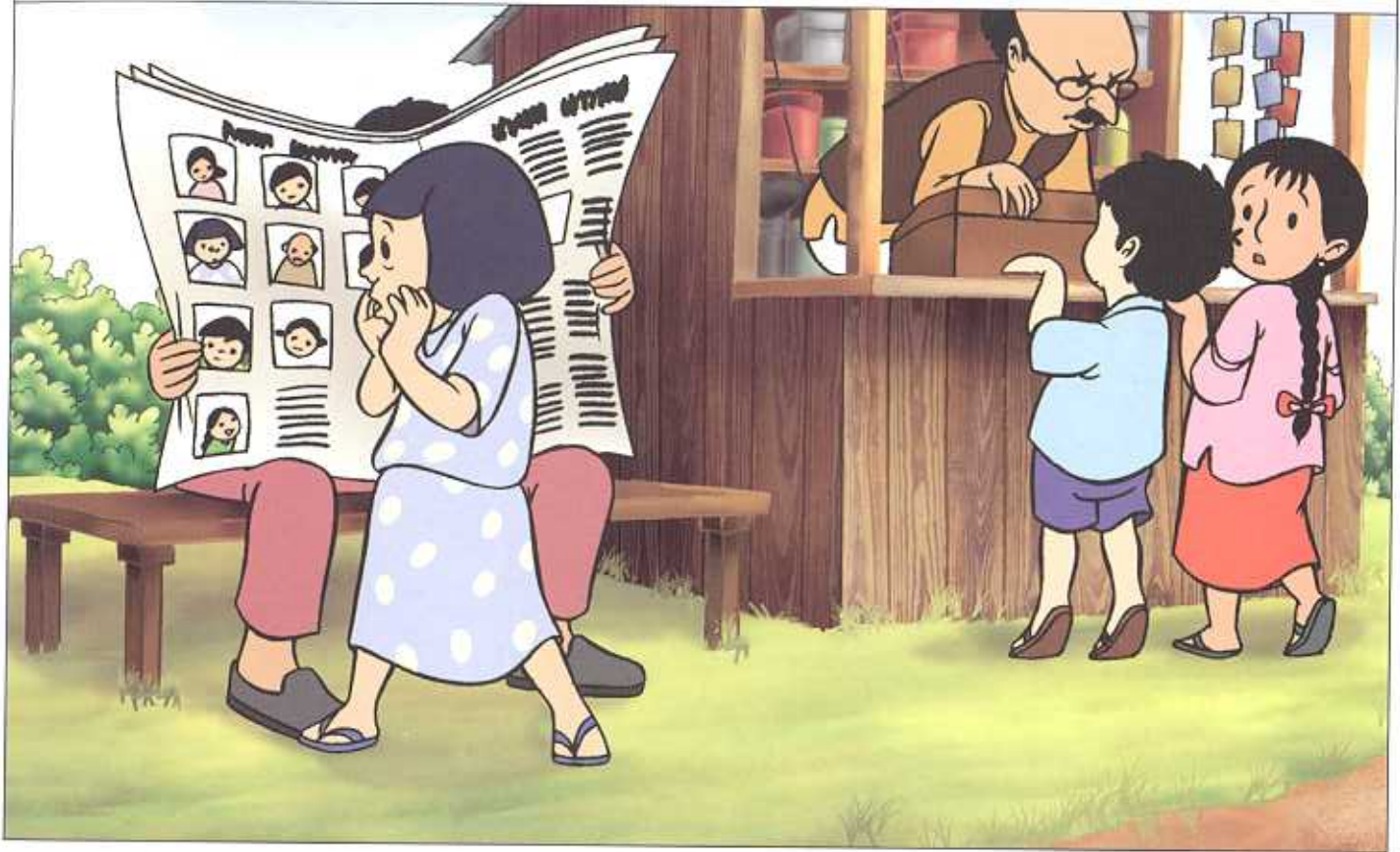
Neela shows them her drawings. When the earthquake came she got separated from her parents. She saw her grandmother killed by a falling tree.



Mother and Grandma hug the little girl. They tell her that she can always come and talk to them as talking can help.



A few days later, after school, Meena, Raju and Neela are at the shop when Neela sees her picture in the newspaper. Whatever can it mean?



Meena tells Neela that the newspaper is carrying pictures of people missing since the earthquake. It is good news!



The excited children run to tell the news to Father. He tells Teacher and the village Headman to let Neela's parents know where she is.



Three days later, there is a big group sitting on Meena's verandah. They are all waiting for Neela's parents to arrive.



Just as the sun begins to go down, Neela shouts and rushes out ... straight into the arms of her father! Her mother and sister are both there. They are safe!



What a happy day it is for the little girl and for Meena who has been such a good friend to her!



What kind of things could you say to Neela to make her feel better?



Colour this happy picture!



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Other titles in this series

1. Count Your Chickens
2. Dividing the Mango
3. Will Meena Leave School?
4. Take Care of Girls
5. Who's Afraid of the Bully?
6. Saving a Life
7. Meena's Three Wishes
8. Say No to Dowry
9. Too Young to Marry
10. I Love School
11. It's Got to Be a Boy!
12. A Girl's Story
13. Meena in the City
14. Strangers in the Village
15. Learning to Love
16. Reaching Out
17. Meena and her Friend
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