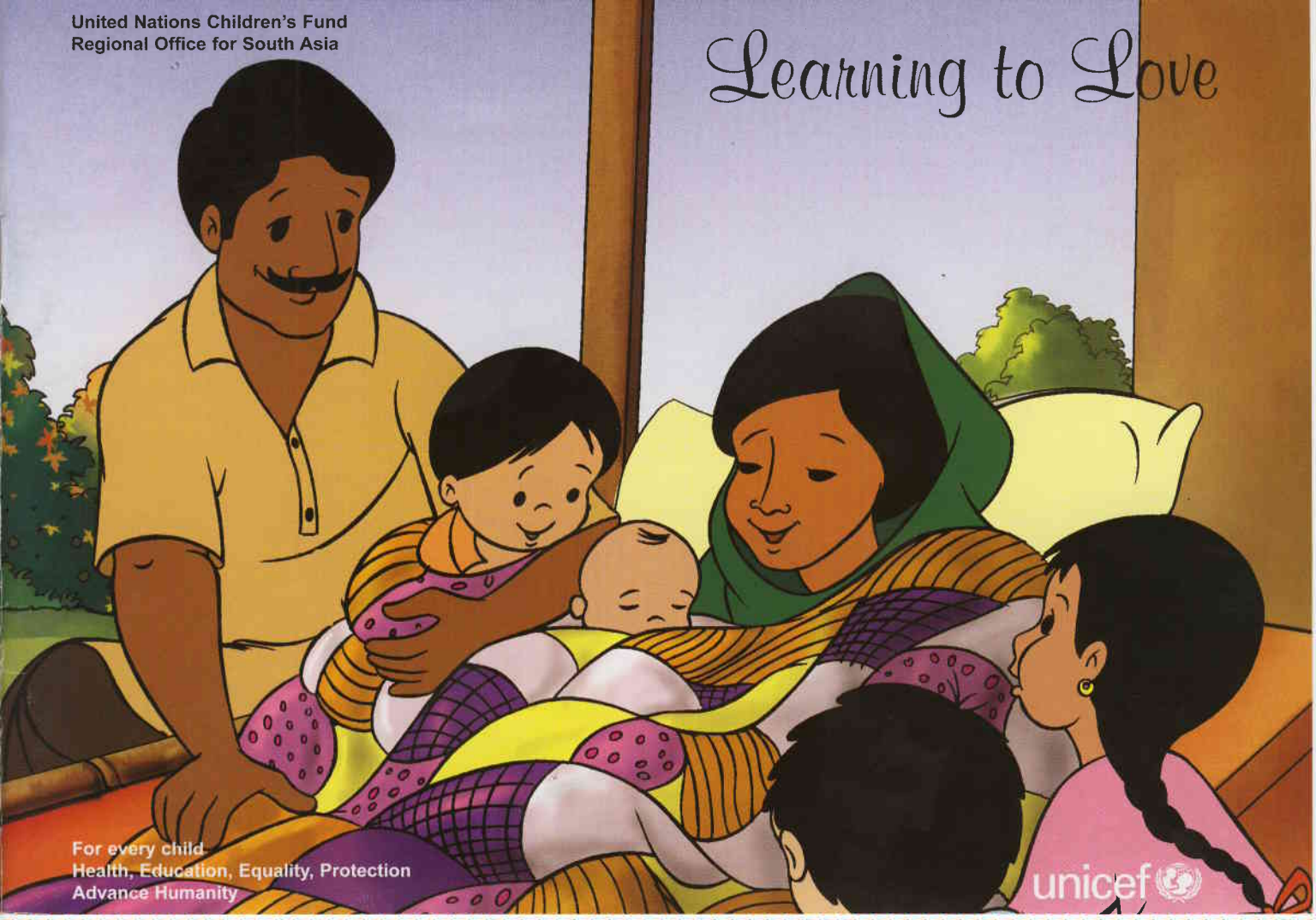
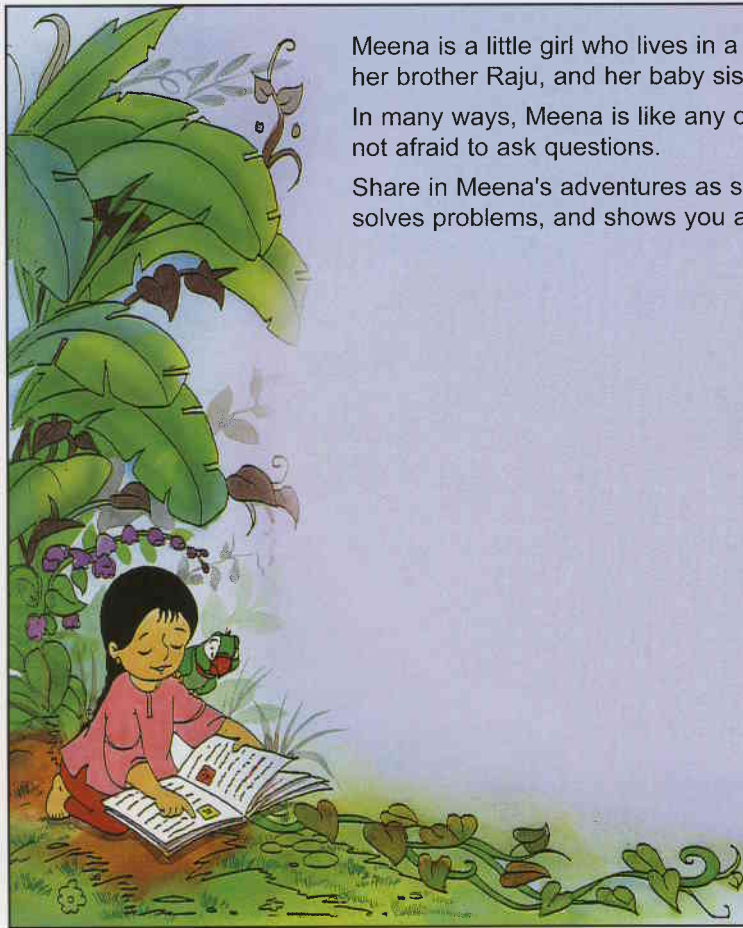


Learning to Love





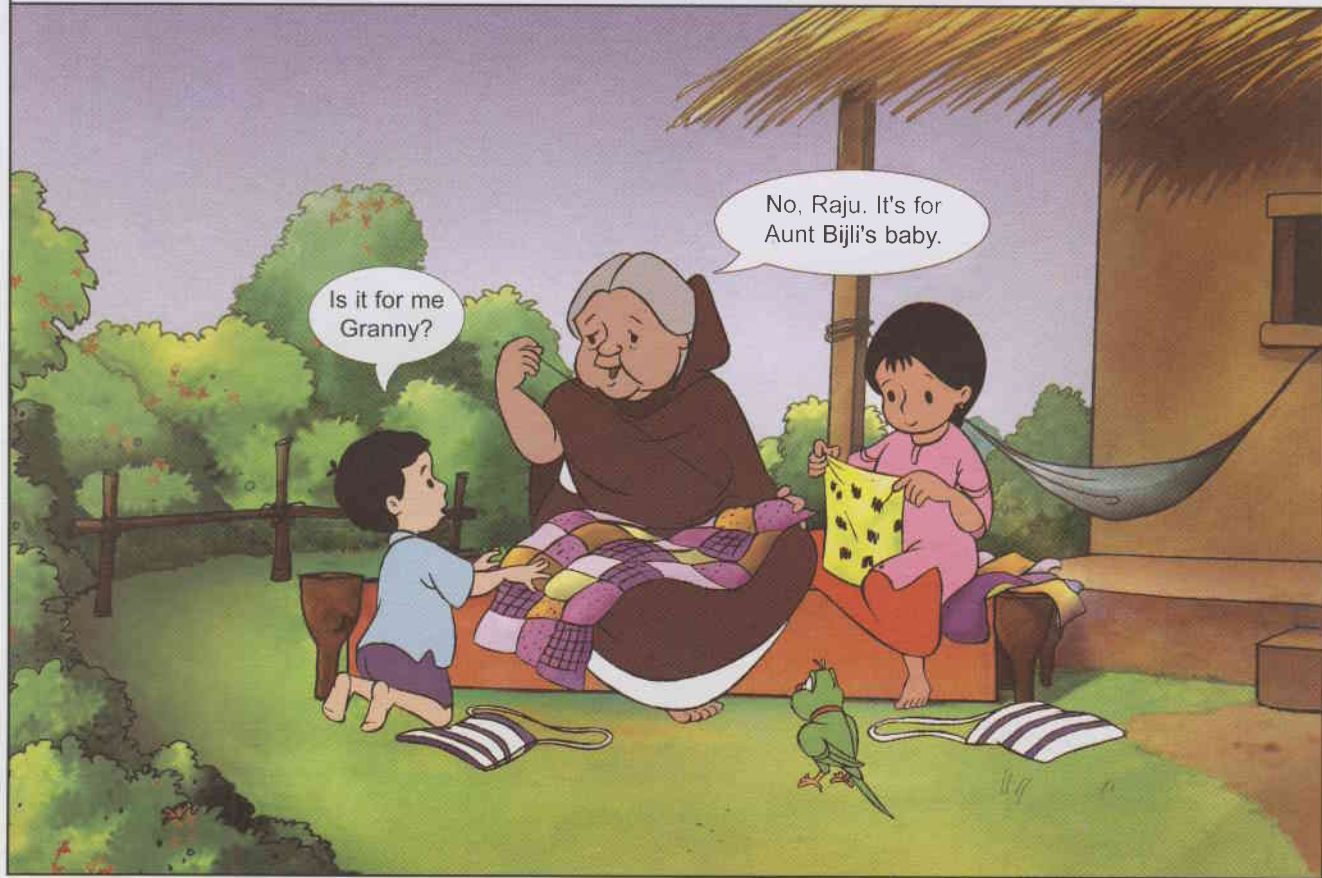
Meena is a little girl who lives in a village with her parents, her grandmother, her brother Raju, and her baby sister, Rani. Mithu, the parrot, is her best friend.

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

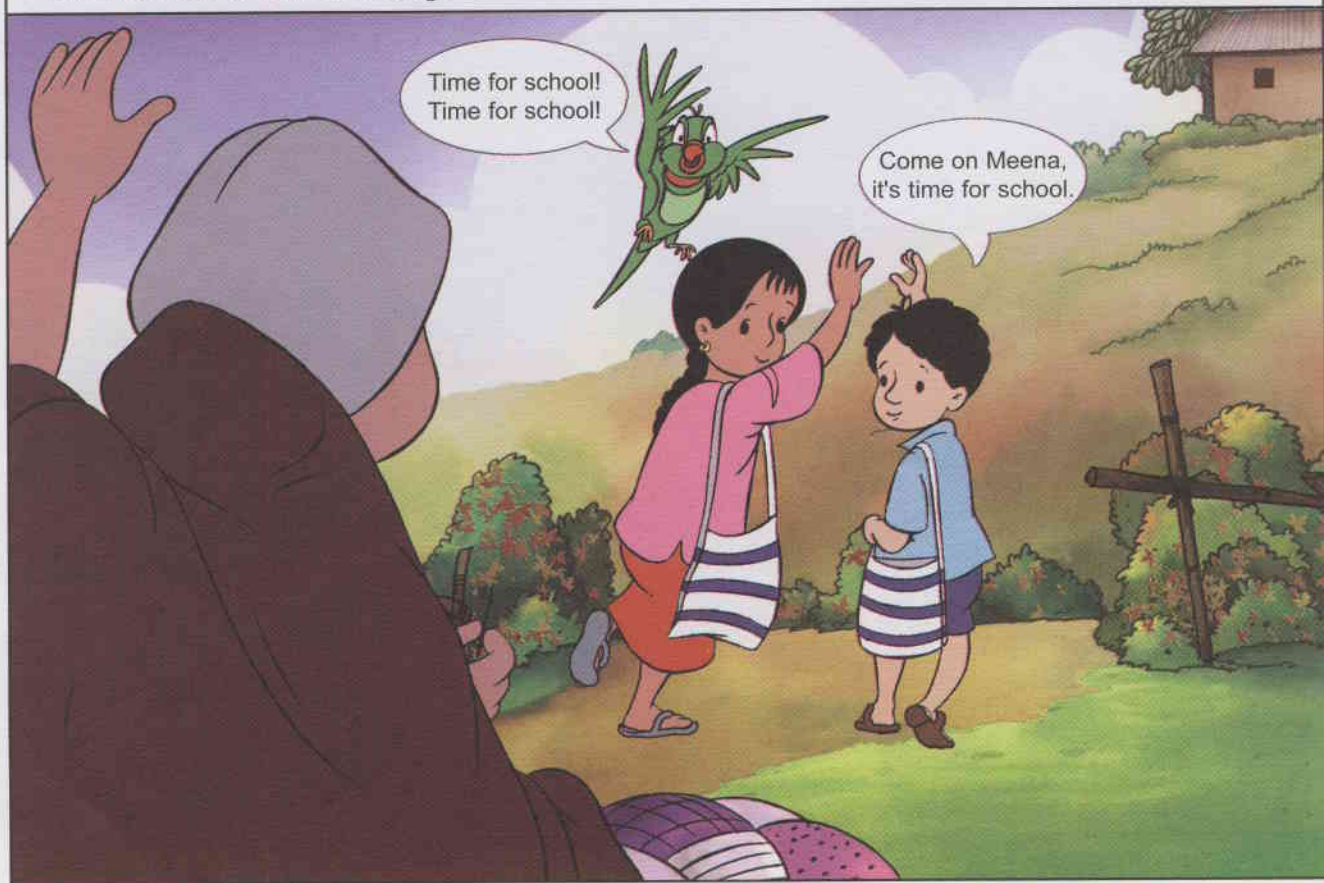
Share in Meena's adventures as she laughs, climbs trees, asks questions and solves problems, and shows you all the things that a little girl can do.

Script:	Deepa Balsavar with Nuzhat Shahzadi Rachel Carnegie
Original concept:	Neill Mckee
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Research:	Dr. Mira Aghi with research teams from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Maldives, Vietnam.
Comic book adaptation:	Deepa Balsavar and Harsha Mehta
Creative guidance and project management:	Nuzhat Shahzadi UNICEF - Rosa
Produced with support from	The Government of Norway

One morning, Meena's grandmother was working on a quilt. Meena's brother, Raju, loved it.



Just then the school bell rang.



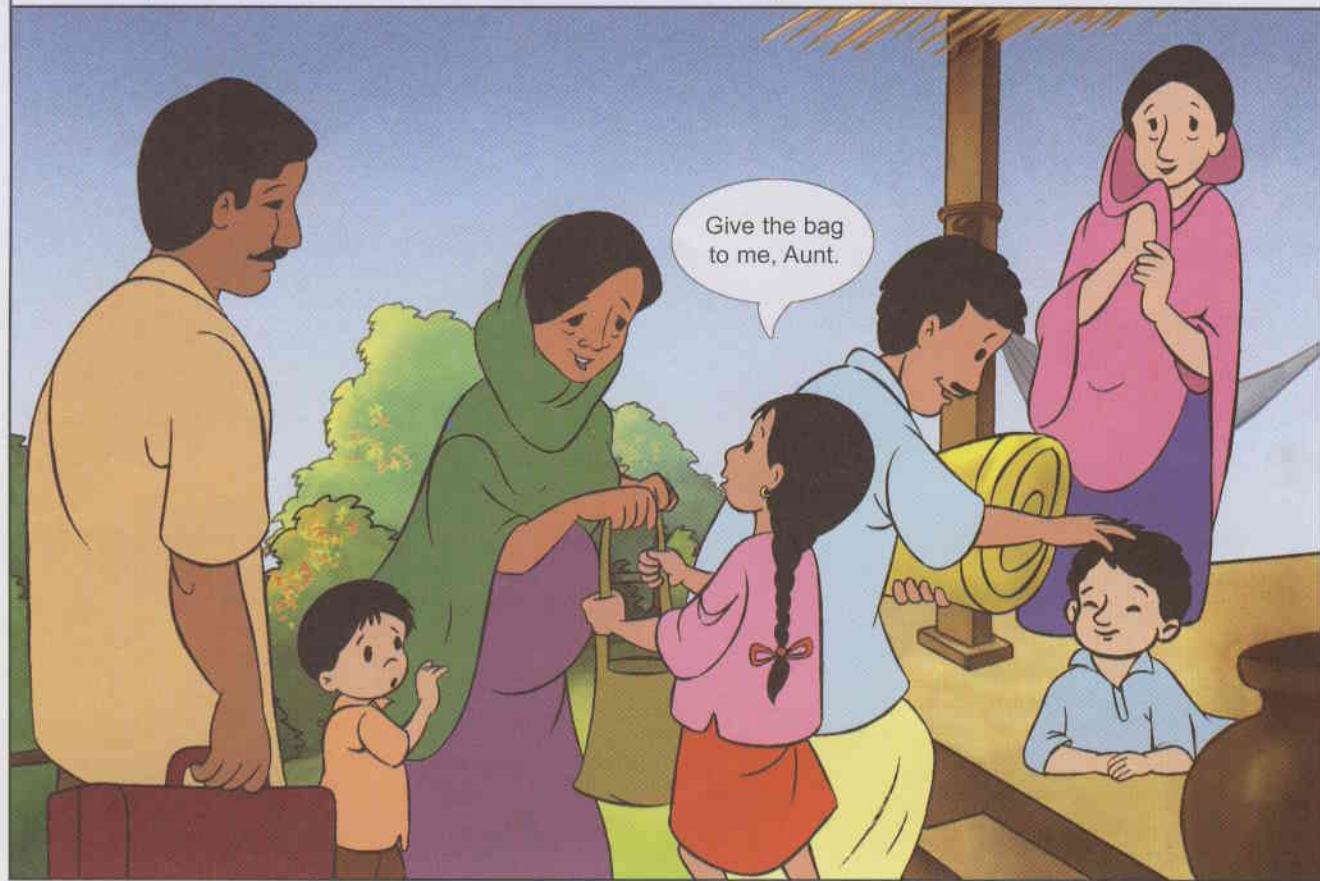
When Meena and Raju reached school, the whole class was gathered around the school cat. She was going to have kittens.



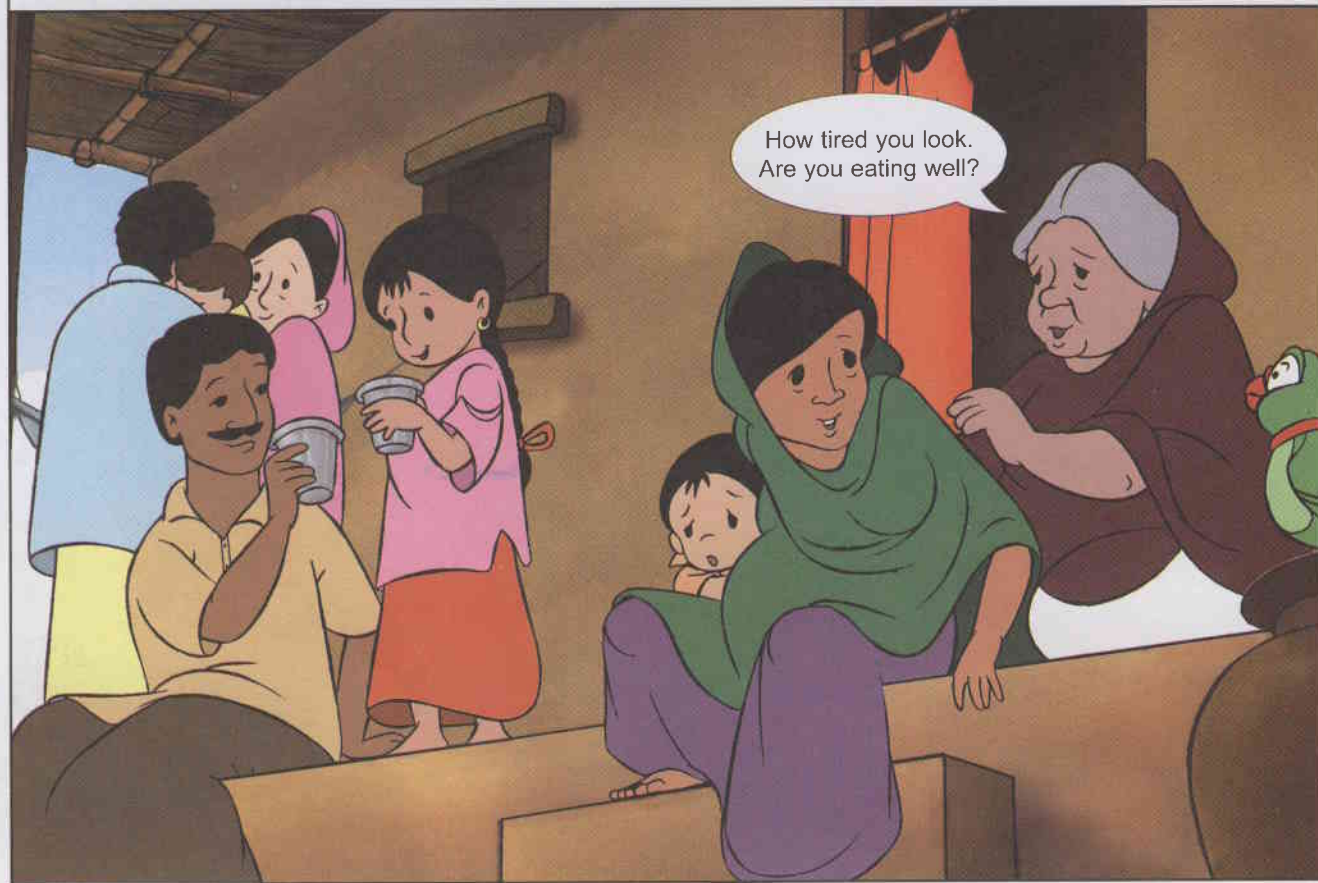
Meena's Aunt Bijli was going to have a baby, too. She and her family arrived that afternoon to stay at Meena's house till the baby was born.



Aunt Bijli was Father's sister. Her son Lala, was visiting his cousins' home for the first time.



When Grandmother saw Aunt Bijli, she was worried about her health.



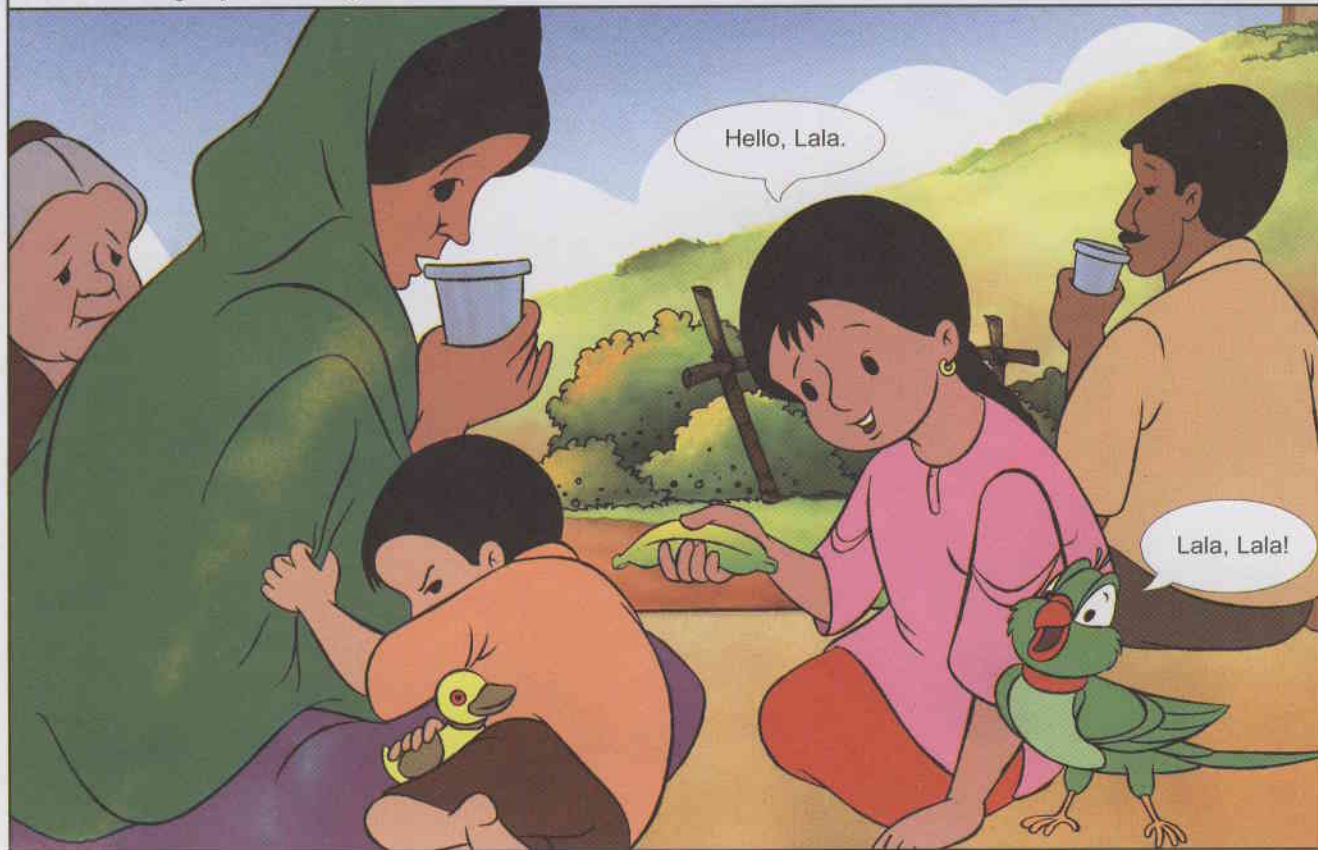
Raju remembered what the teacher had said about good food.



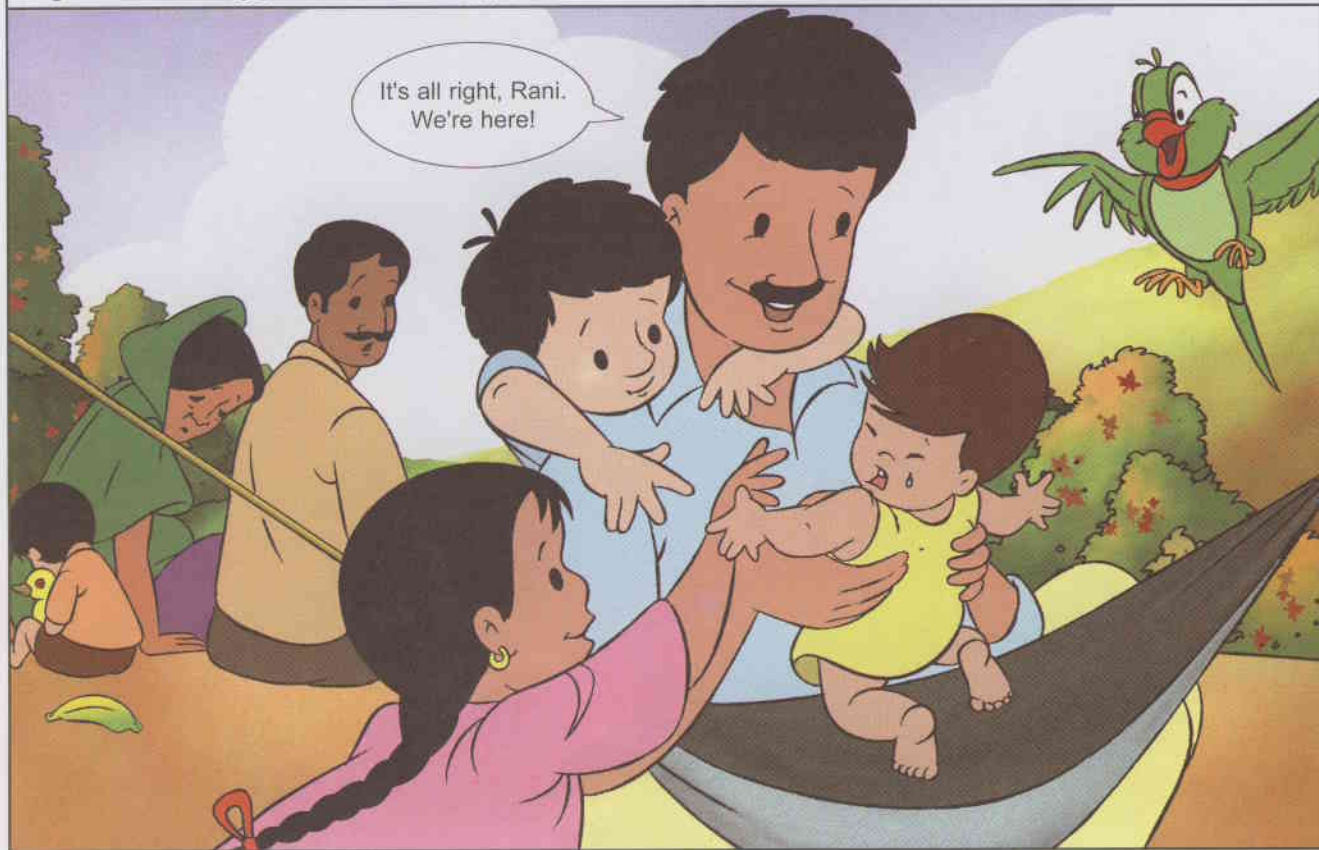
Here, Aunty.

Hmm!
Good food!

Meena and Mithu tried very hard to make friends with Lala. He refused to look at them and just held on tightly to his toy duck.



Then Meena's baby sister, Rani, started crying. Father, Meena, Raju and Mithu immediately gathered lovingly around the baby.



The next morning, Aunt was slightly rested. Lala had still not looked at or spoken to anyone. Mother was massaging Rani.



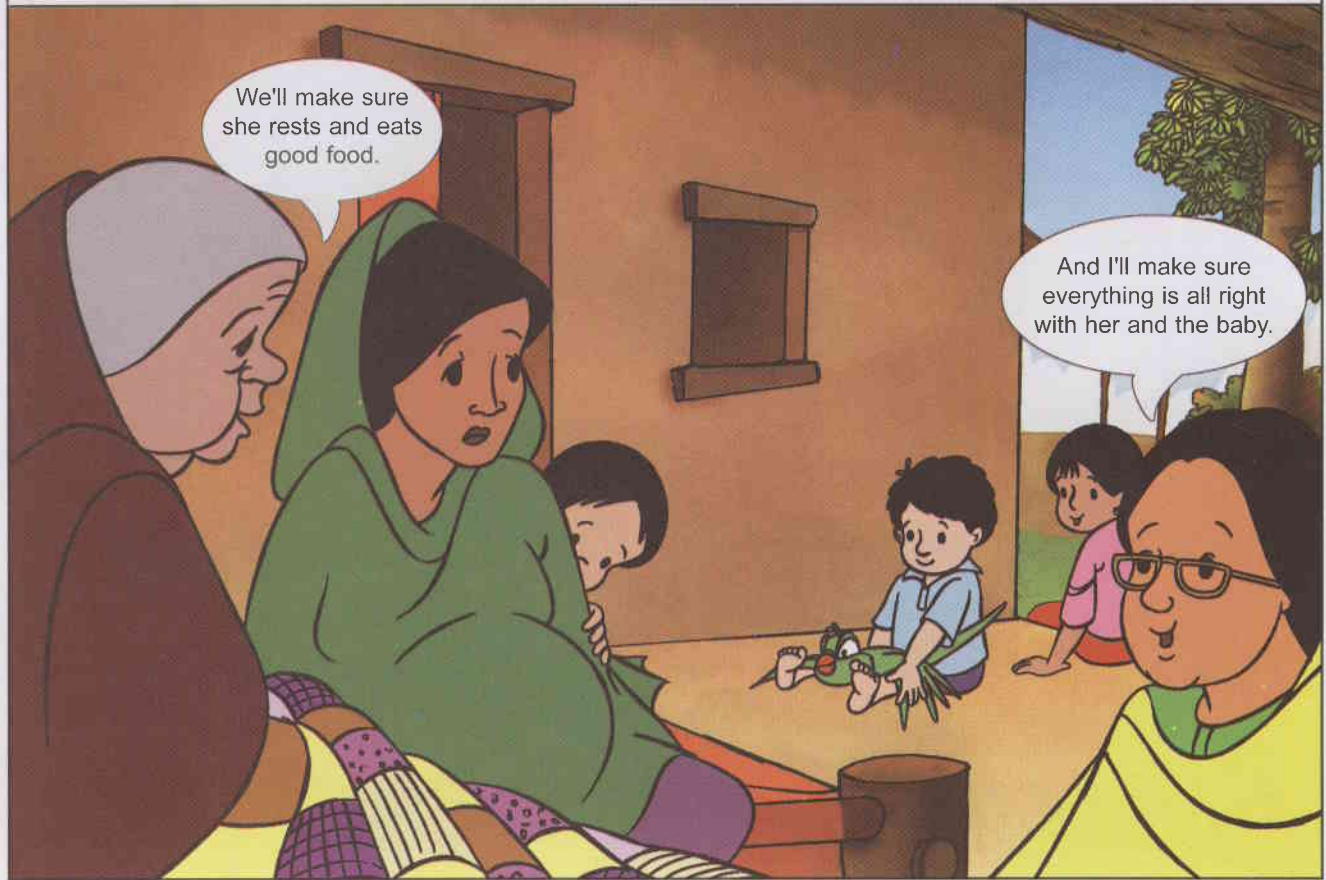
Raju was trying to massage Mithu.



The health worker came in. She liked to check up on all the babies in the village.



The health worker asked Aunt Bijli to visit the health centre for a check up.



Lala refused to make friends with the health worker too, although she tried her best.



Back in school, the cat had just had her kittens.



While walking home after school that day, Raju asked Meena why Lala did not talk and play like other children.



Maybe Aunt and Uncle don't play much with Lala.

Meena and Raju decided that they would try extra hard to make friends with their cousin.



Over the coming days, Lala got more interested in the children's games, but he was still not ready to play. He watched and held on tightly to his little duck.



Meena's parents also realised that Lala needed extra love and attention. Uncle was very thoughtful when he heard this.

Children need to be constantly played with and loved.



It took weeks of chatter, laughter and love in Meena's home for Lala to begin to change. He and his duck slowly started joining in Meena's and Raju's activities.



Then one afternoon, Meena and Raju taught everyone a new game.



Look at Rani.
Clever girl!

It's easy!
All you have to do
is copy me.

Suddenly, Raju jumped into Meena's lap. Rani and Lala had to copy him. Then Mithu hugged Meena and Mother hugged Rani.



When Aunt Bijli and Lala hugged, the little boy laughed with joy.



Soon, it was almost time for Aunt to have her baby.



It was a holiday from school. Meena and Raju took Lala to see how much the kittens had grown.





While they were in school, Mother came to say that Aunt was taken to hospital. She sent the children to fetch Uncle.

Uncle ran all the way to hospital, He washed his dirty hands and face before going inside to wait.





A little while later, Aunt gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. As Uncle held the baby against his chest, he smiled.



At home, with the quilt wrapped around him and the baby, Lala looked very different from the little boy of some weeks earlier. Uncle now realised the importance of showing children love and attention.

Aunt's family was finally ready to leave. As the adults talked, only Lala noticed that baby Rani had crawled to the edge of the verandah.





Lala had finally spoken!



Then everyone watched with amazement as Lala took his precious duck and put it in Rani's hands. What a special day!



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 Girls' Story
13. Meena in the City
14. Strangers in the Village
15. Reaching Out

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Also Available

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