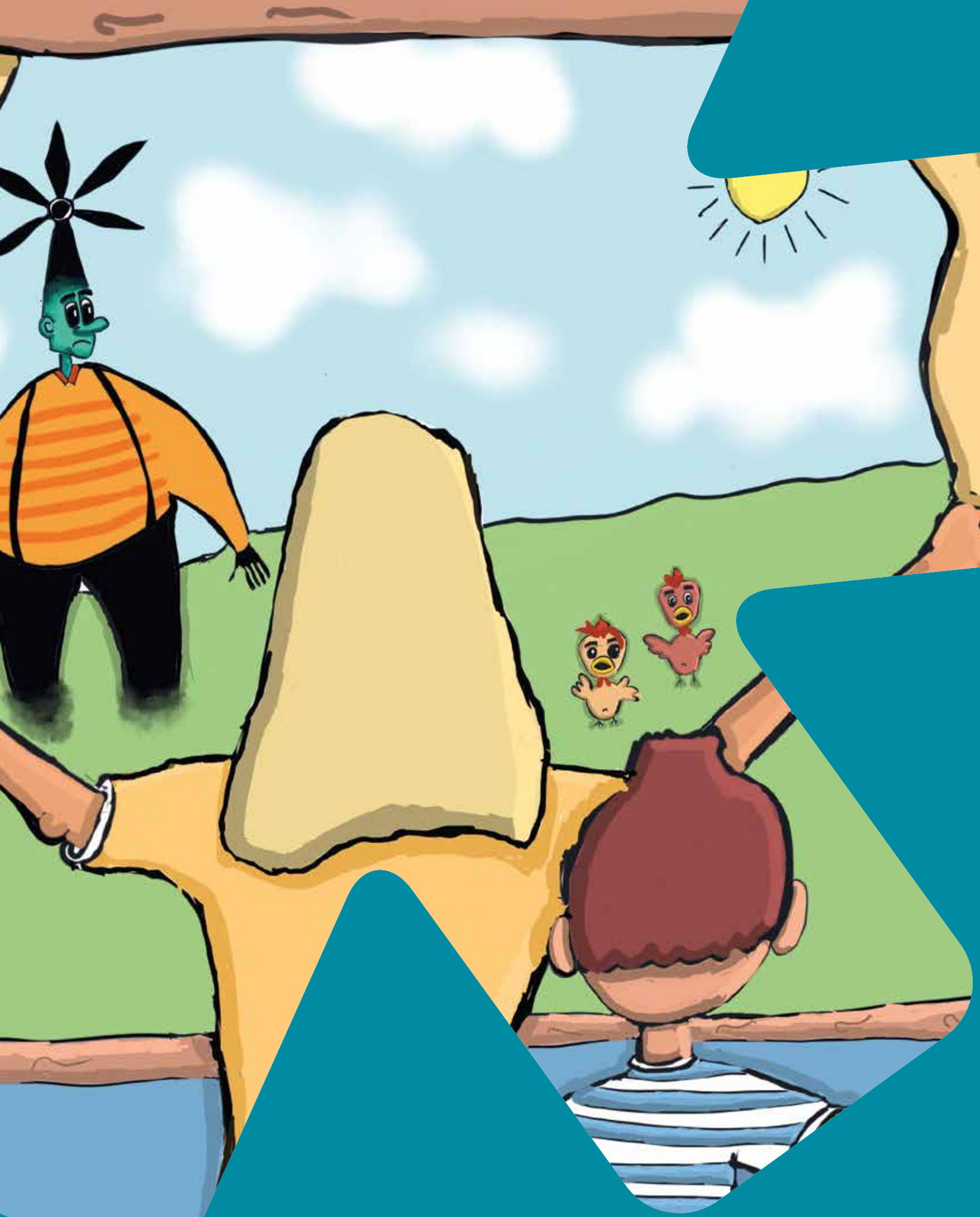


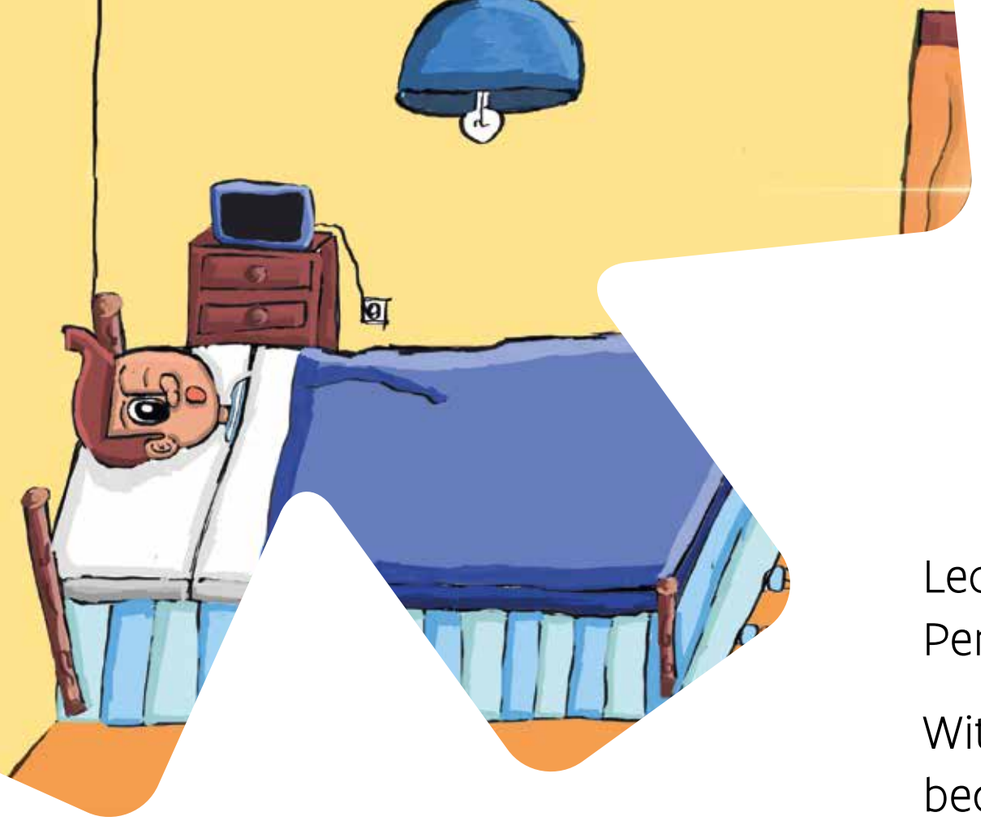
LEON

DEN ATELJEE

VLAAMS-BRABANT

MOS duurzame scholen straffe scholen

vu.: Provincie Vlaams-Brabant, Provincieplein 1 3010 Leuven



Leon wakes up with a start. “Hey, the bedroom is lit! Perhaps Mommy has forgotten to turn off the ceiling light?”

With one sleepy eye, Leon watches the alarm clock on his bedside table. “Weird, the orange numbers on my alarm clock are gone. Where could they have gone?”

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Who knows what an alarm clock is?
  What does an alarm clock do?
- Who owns an alarm clock (radio) at home?
  Where is it then?
- What are the (orange) numbers on an alarm clock for?
- Where have they gone in the story?
  Let the kids fantasize about this.

DEN ATELJEE
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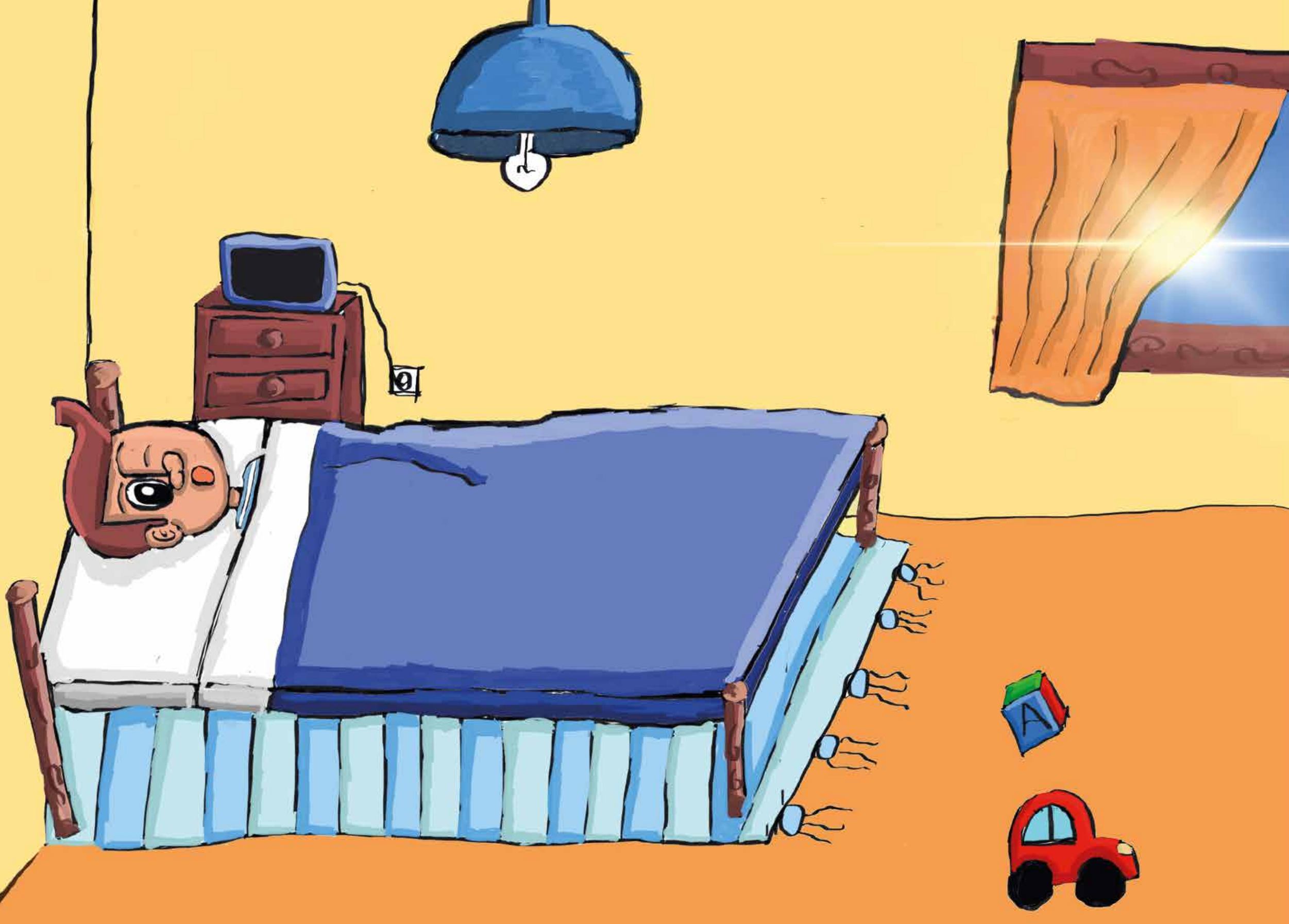
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Leon gets out of bed. He still believes Mommy has forgotten to turn off the ceiling light. “Maybe I can turn off the light by magic, as Mommy always does at bedtime.”

Leon makes himself tall and reaches for the magic button. He knows the button allows the lamp to be switched on and off. When he’s standing on his big toe and he reaches straight up with his index finger, he can just about reach it. ‘Nothing! The lamp does not turn on or off. I’m obviously not a magician,’ Leon thinks a bit disappointed.

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- How come Mommy can turn the lamp on and off with the magic button?
- How come the lamp lights up when you press the light button?

GOLDEN TIP

Electricity lines are (hopefully) not lying unprotected on the ceiling and the wall but are concealed in them. That makes electricity/power, especially for small children, very abstract. To visualize it better, you can demonstrate the way a (night) lamp with a switch works. You can have a conversation with the kids about the function of lamps (= artificial light). It is also important to explain the operation of a socket at their level. Don’t forget the safety aspect!

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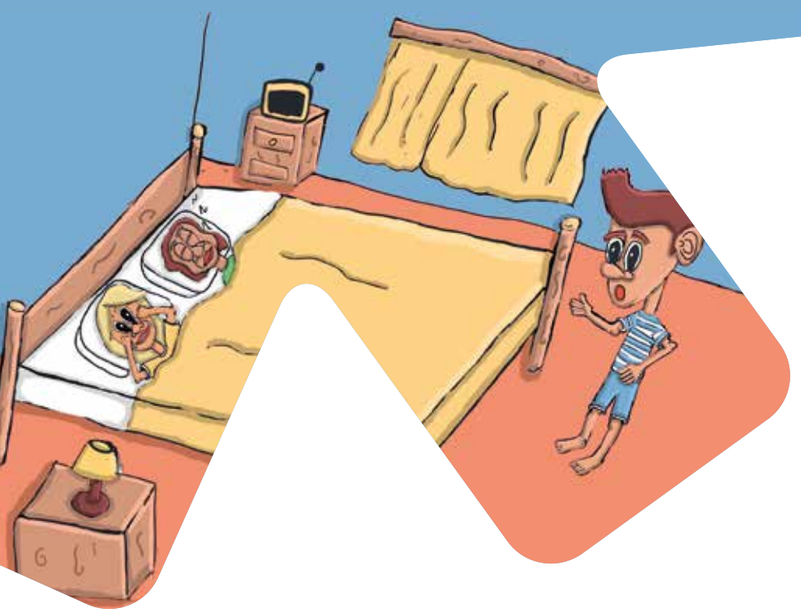

Then Leon decides to go to Mom and Mommy's room. But with them, too, it seems that the bedroom lamp has been left on. This is not good, not good at all.

Mom, Mommy! Wake up! The light is acting weird. It seems as if all the lights are on. And just like in my room, the numbers on your alarm clock have disappeared.

Mom rubs the sleep from her eyes, but Mommy doesn't seem to hear Leon. She goes on snoring lustfully."

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- How come it is light in Leon, Mom and Mommy's bedrooms, and the lamps are not on? What could be going on?
- Who knows what snoring is?
  When do you snore?
  During your sleep when you sleep with an open mouth.
- Do you sometimes snore yourself?
  Your mom or dad? What does it sound like?
  Here you can let the children imitate snoring.

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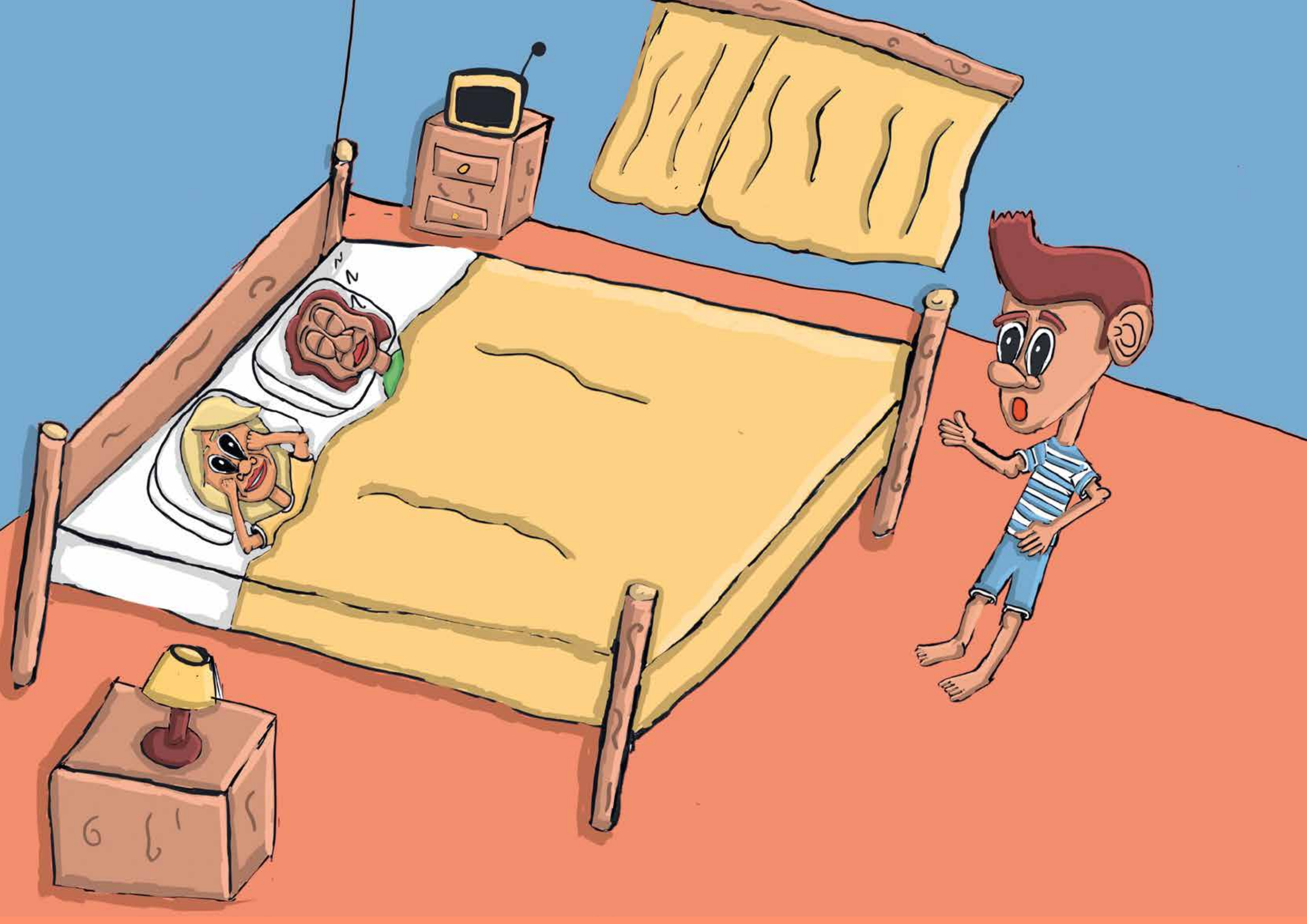

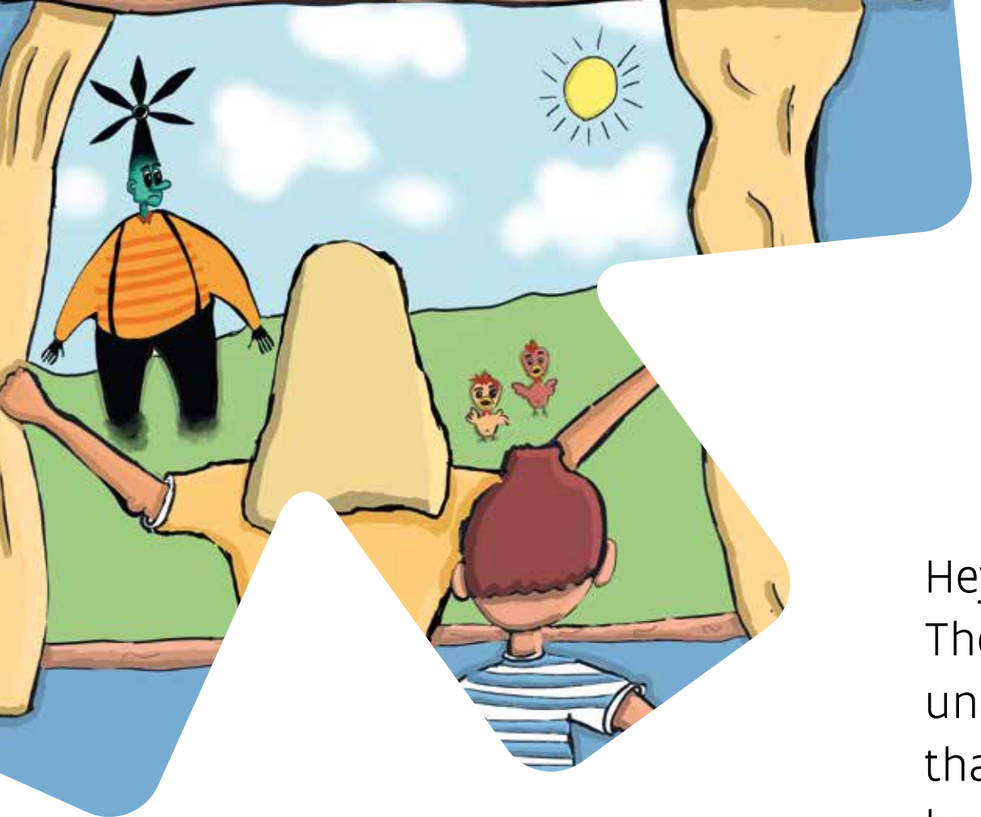

Hey Mommy, wake up! Time to get up! We overslept!
The electricity has gone out,' Mom suddenly shouts. Leon doesn't understand a thing. "Electricity? What sort of a strange word is that", he wonders. "Come and have a look" says Mom, opening the bedroom curtains.

Laura, the sun, is shining her rays of sunshine inside. Aha, that's why it's so light, Leon thinks. But what about Giant Colossus? His wings have come to a complete standstill. They don't move at all! "And that's why we have no electricity," Mom explains, pointing at Giant Colossus.

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Who is Giant Colossus?
  Find more information in the kaMOShibai story 'Giant Colossus is really upset'.
- What exactly does a windmill do?
  Here you can explain in a simple way (e.g. with a drawing) the link between the wings catching the wind and the conversion of this energy into electricity, and the light that burns because of this.

GOLDEN TIP

Use the story to work on the pre-schoolers' awareness of sound. Electricity' is a very difficult (new) word for them to pronounce, which can be learnt with practice.

You can find more information about pre-schoolers' sound awareness at **www.klasse.be.**

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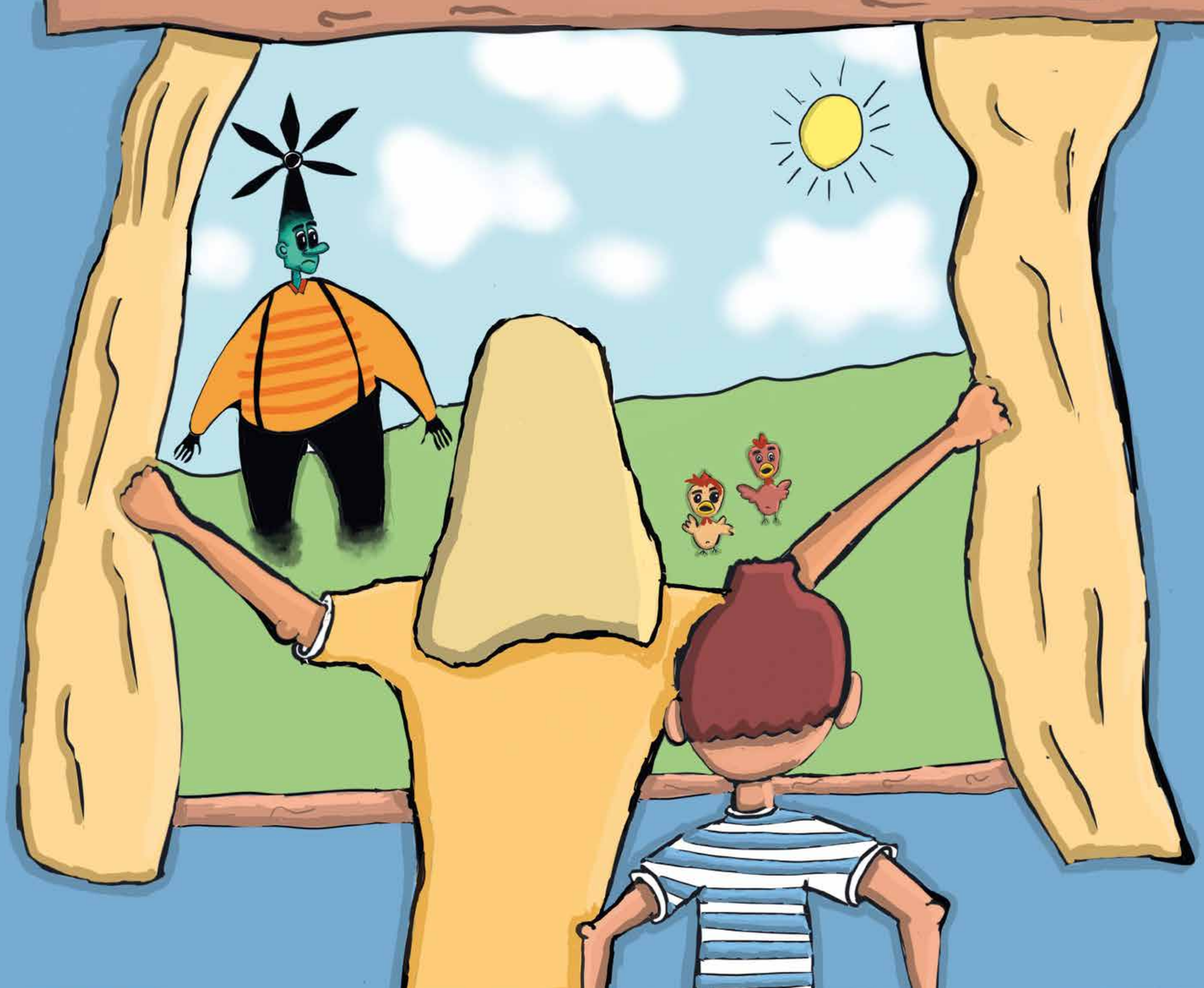

In the meantime, Mommy has also woken up. “Come on Leon, let’s explore our house. Let’s find out what is still working and what isn’t,’ she says. Exploring! Leon is always in favour of it.

They keep searching, but nowhere the lights are on, the radio and TV don’t work, and even the doorbell doesn’t. Does everything run on electricity? And brrr, it is cold. Leon gets goosebumps. The hairs on his arms stand up straight.

ACTION!

Like Leon, we are going on a discovery tour! We are looking for things that work on electricity in our classroom (and school).

OPTIONAL:

- We look for the electricity meter in the school. Exciting! What are all those numbers on the meter for?

Then we will look for objects that do not require electricity (e.g. a (wind-up) car, a ball, a spinning top.

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- How come these objects work without electricity?
  Conversion of human (muscle) power into energy.
- And what about a flashlight/tablet?
  Principle of (rechargeable) battery (= stored electricity).

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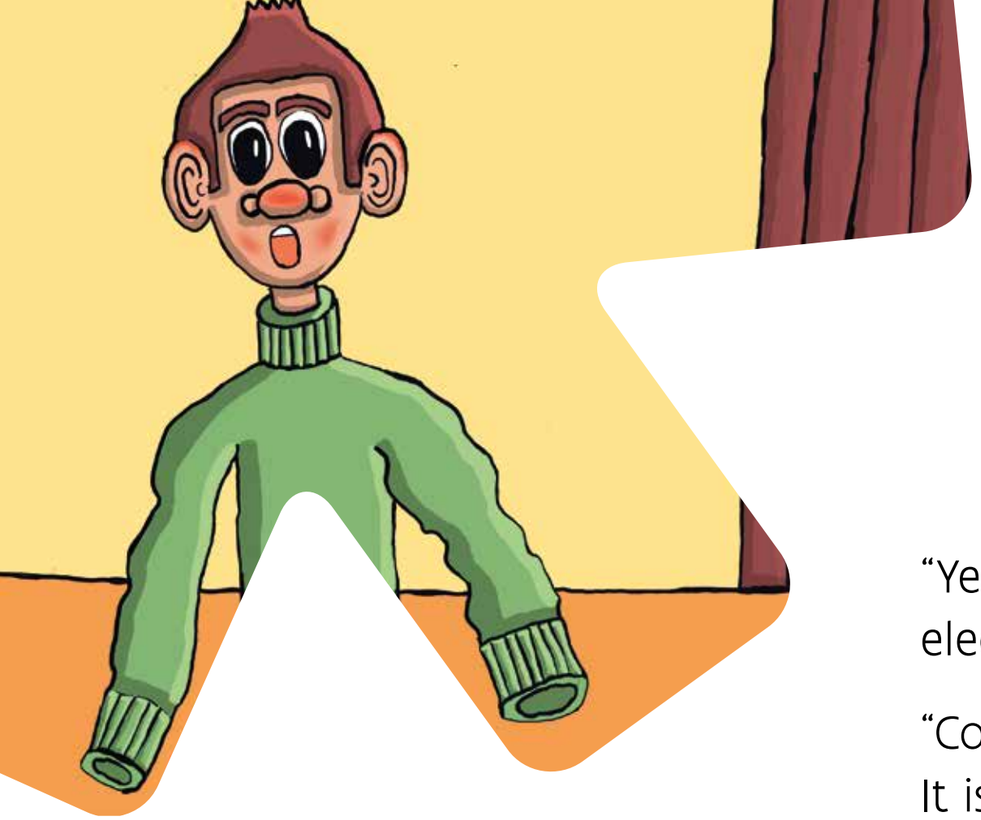

“Yeah,” Mommy says. The heating will not work without electricity. And without heating it will be cool in the house.”

“Come on,” Mom says, helping Leon into his thick sweater. It is much too big of course and a bit funny, but nice and warm. It makes Leon glow.

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- What do you think of a thick sweater? When do you put it on?
- Why does a thick sweater make you warm?
- What material, do you think, a sweater is made of? Who makes it then?

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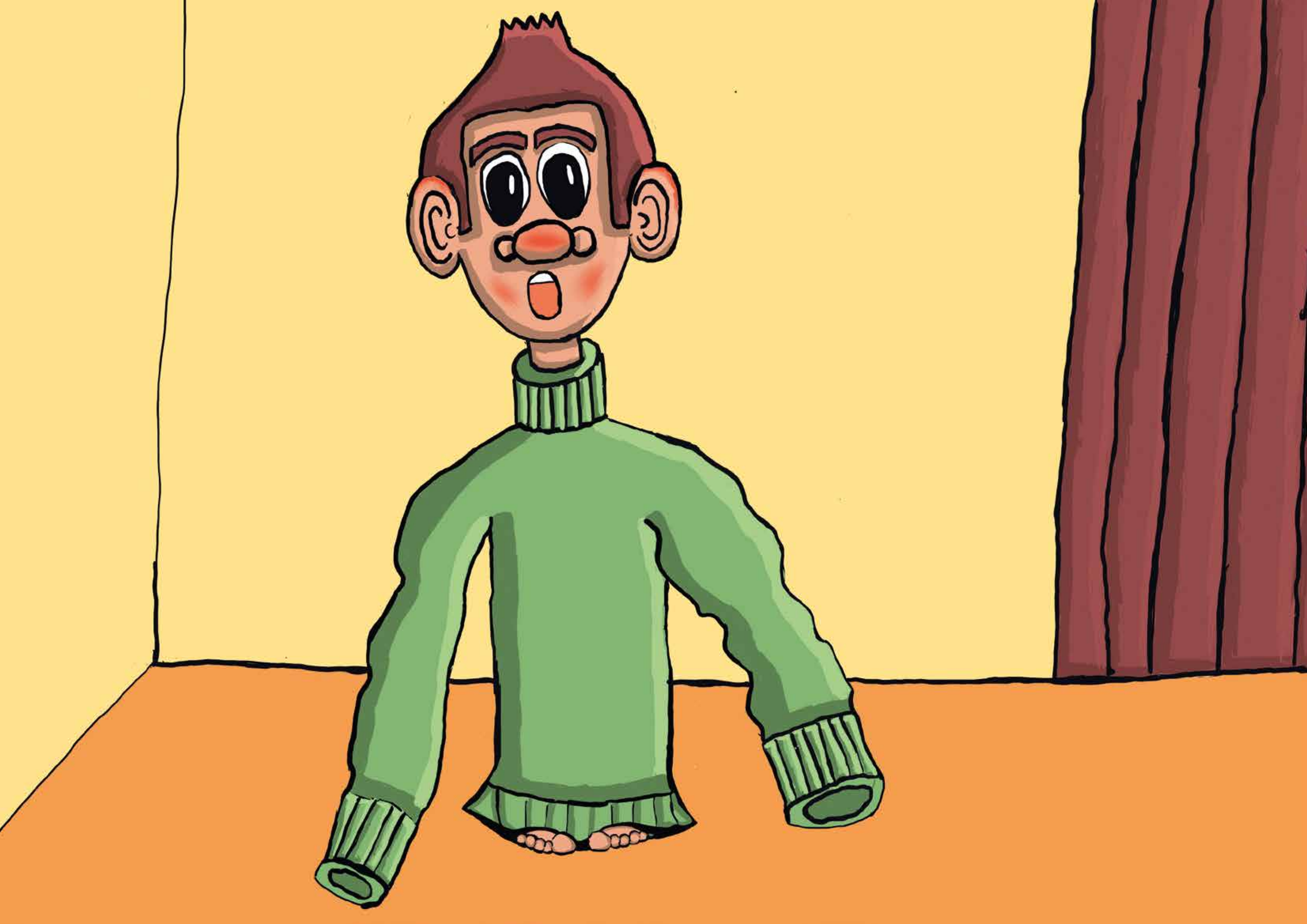

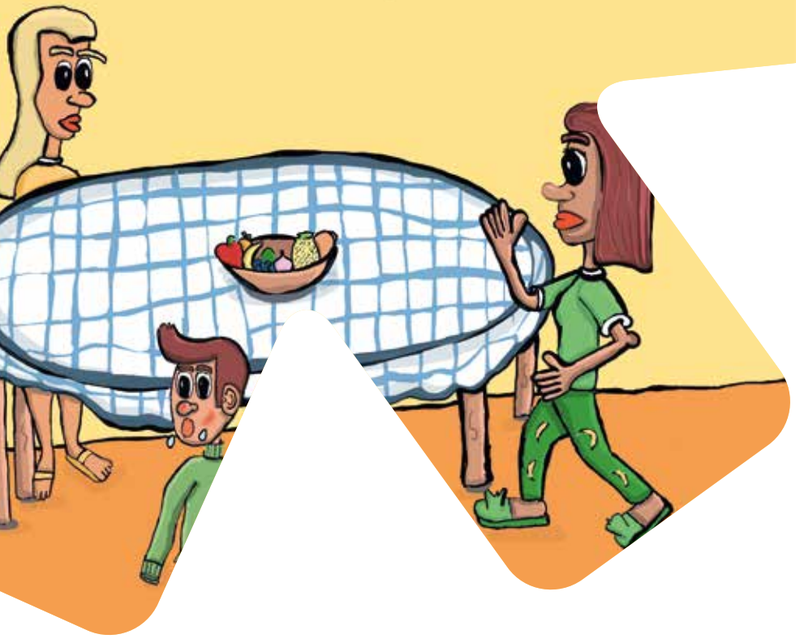

But soon even Mom's sweater is no longer warm enough, and Leon gets cold again.

"I know what!" says Mommy. Mommy always has good ideas.

"Shall we quickly kick on the spot or run around the table? Then we'll get warm right away."

They do. After a few minutes Leon gets very hot. There is sweat on his forehead. Moreover, all that running makes him very hungry. His energy is gradually running out.

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Name some other ways Leo can warm himself? (e.g. creeping under a blanket, cuddling, ...)
- Who has already sweated? How did that happen? How did that feel?
- Why do we sweat?
  To cool the body.
- What is meant by 'Leon is running out of energy'?

DEN ATELJEE
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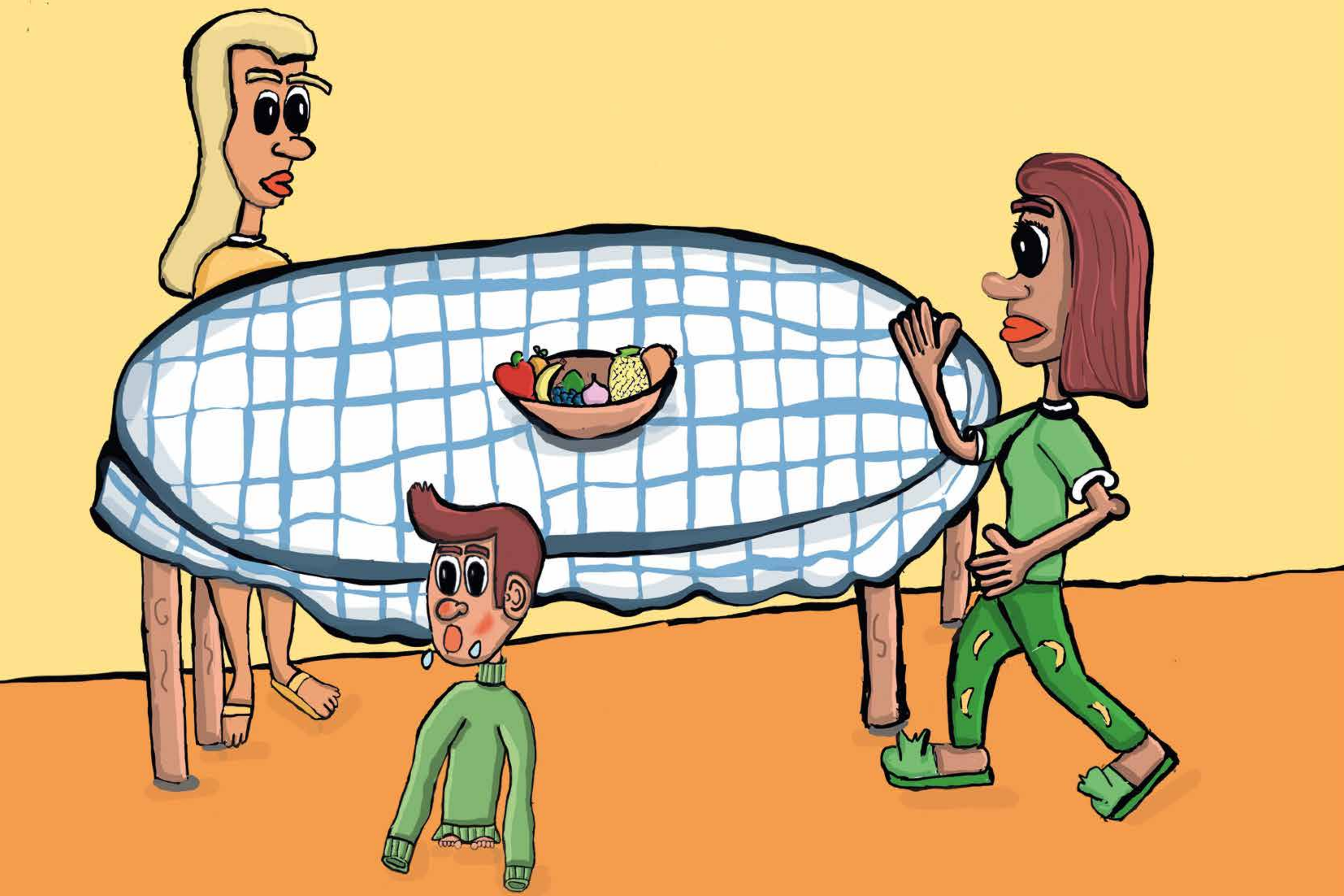

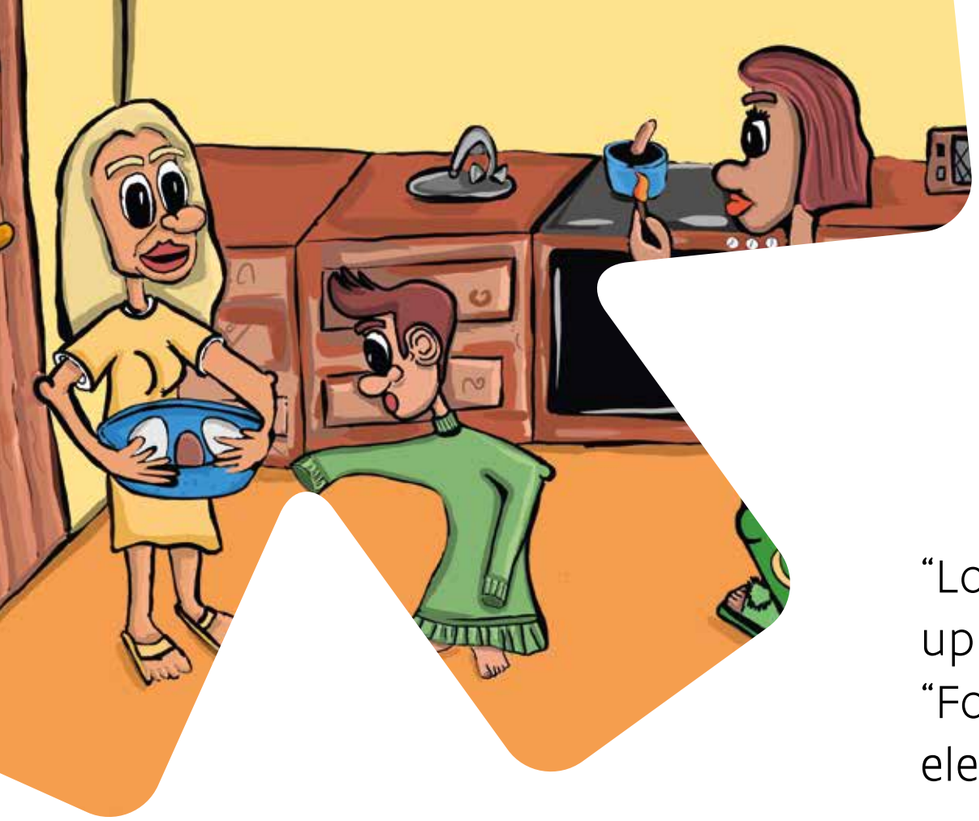

“Look!” Mommy says, and from behind her back she conjures up three beautiful eggs. One brown egg and two white ones. “Fortunately, Tick and Tock, our chickens, don’t work on electricity,” she laughs.

“But Mom,” Leon says, “without Giant Colossus, you can’t cook the eggs, can you?” “Luckily, our cooking fire works on gas,” Mommy laughs. She strikes a thick match and lights the gas fire.

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- If chickens are not powered by electricity, where do free range chickens get their energy from?
- Where does the gas from the gas fire come from?
  From Terra, the Earth (= fossil fuel)

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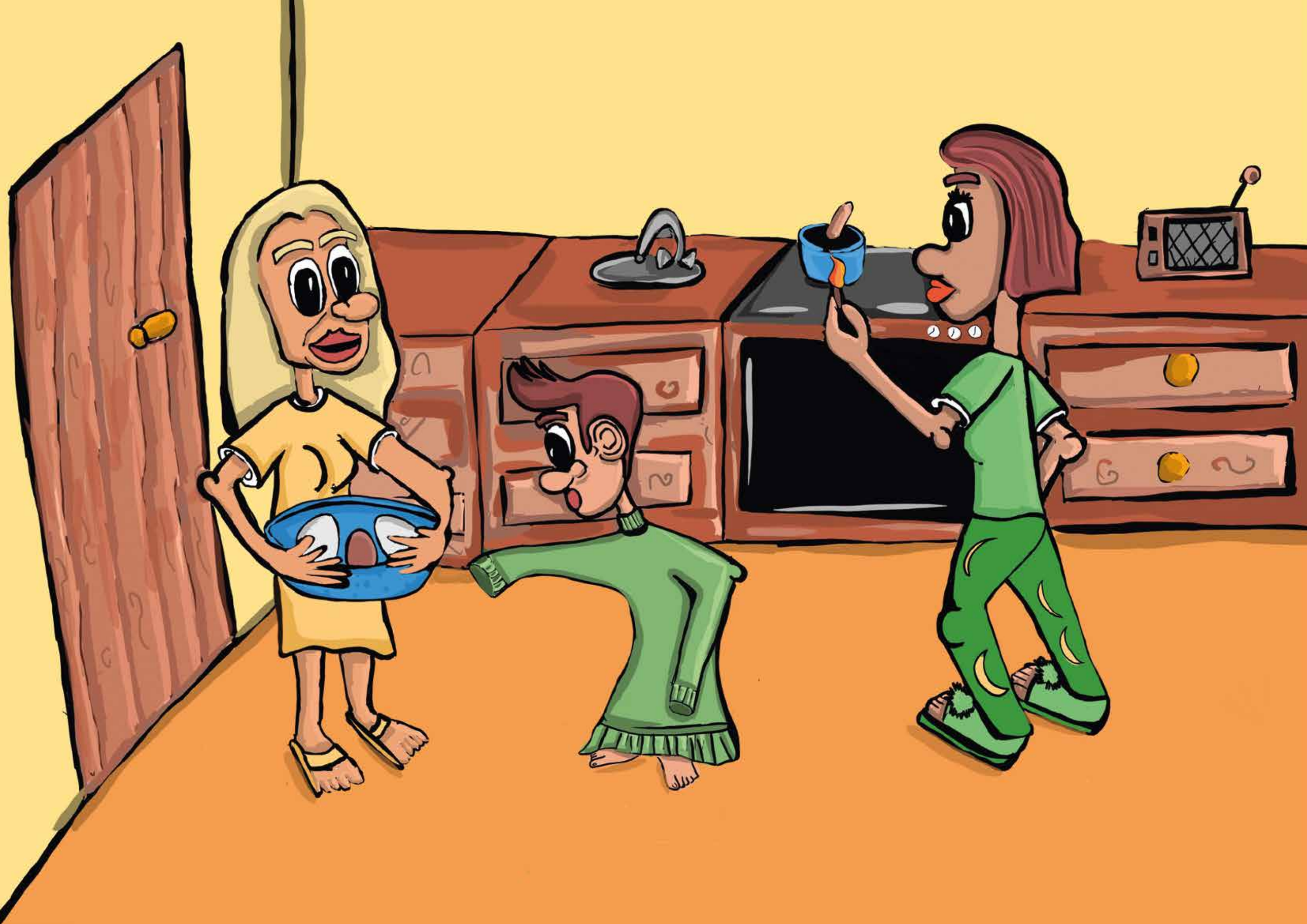

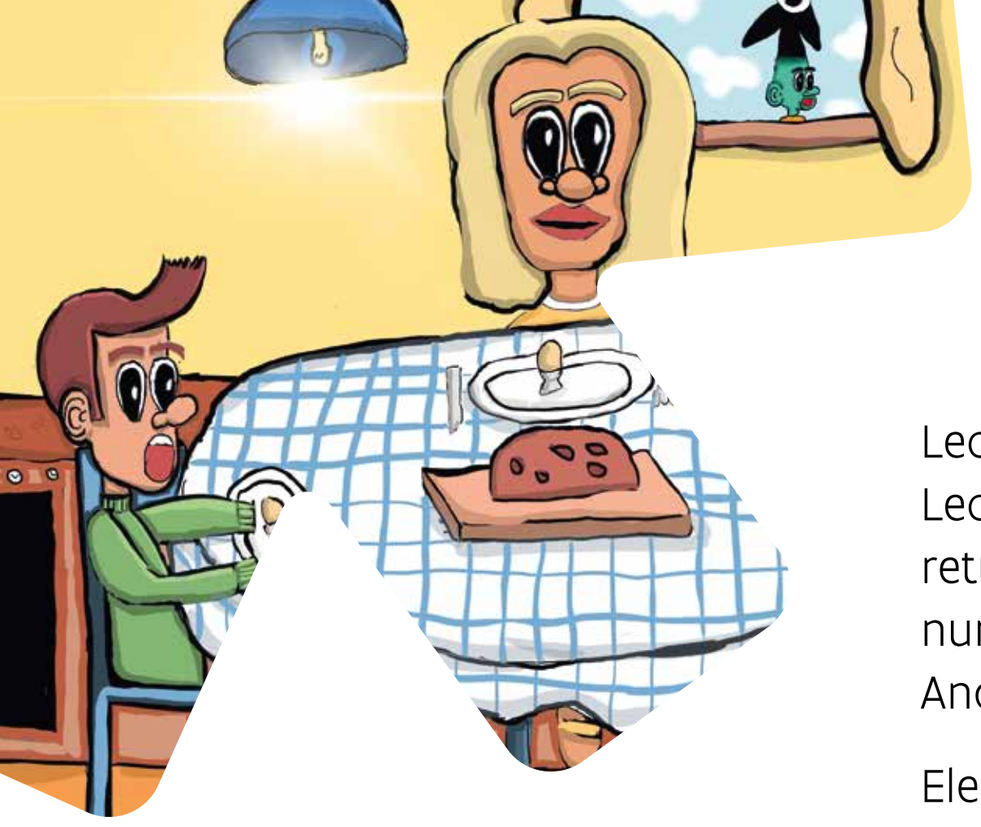

Leon is enjoying his breakfast. That egg tastes good!
Leon's hunger is quickly tempered, and he feels his energy returning. Suddenly the lamp in the kitchen flickers on. And the numbers on the oven have appeared again. Leon looks outside. And yes, Giant Colossus is turning his wings again.

Electricity is back. "I'd better turn off the lamp in the kitchen," says Mommy. "There is enough light from the rays of the sun, and we don't want to participate in waste."

Mom and Leon can only agree with her about that.

POSSIBLE KEY QUESTIONS

- Who also likes eggs? Brown or white? Do they taste different or the same?
- How do you feel about Mommy turning off the light because she doesn't want to waste electricity? Why do you think that?
- Do we sometimes waste energy too? Is that good or do we prefer it differently? How?

ACTION!

We make a plan in order to waste less energy together. We look for what we can do better in the classroom (and the school). Energy Captains (in turn) make sure that lamps are not on when they are not needed, doors are closed, electrical appliances are not switched on unnecessarily, ...

TIP:

The Energy Captains can of course also be given another name. The best thing is that the name is chosen by the children themselves. That increases the involvement in the action.

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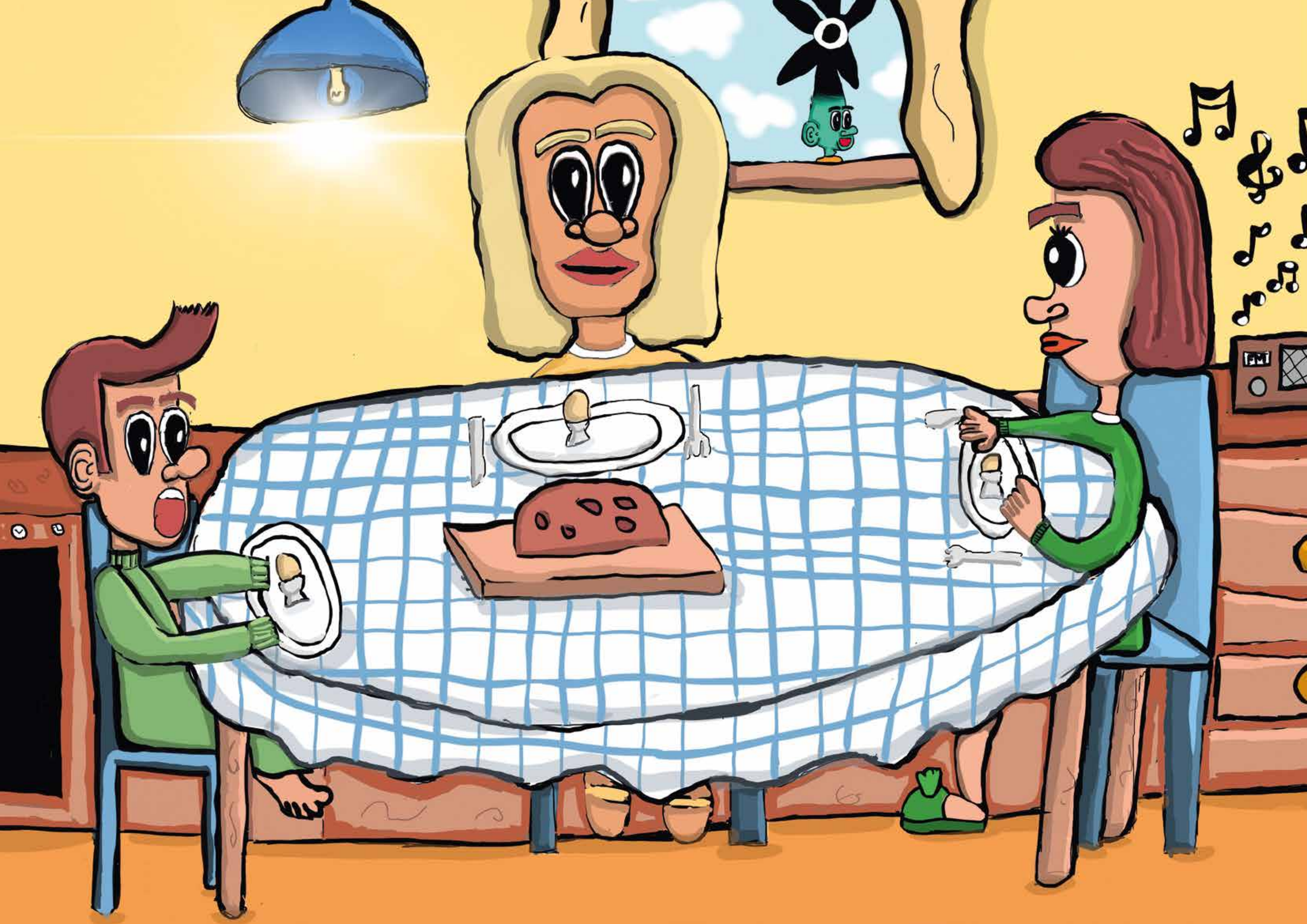
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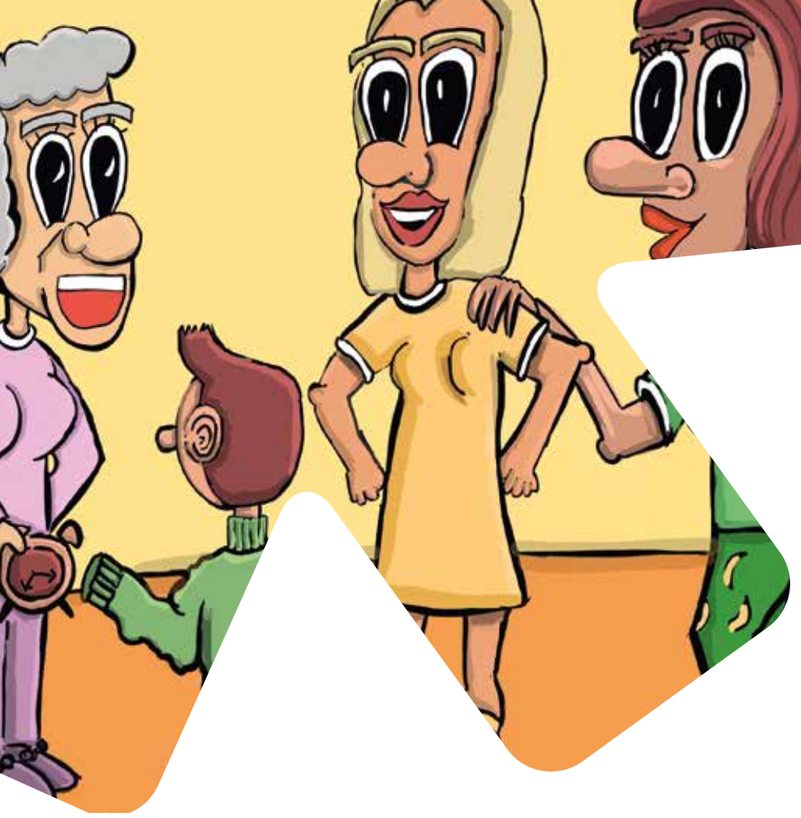

The doorbell rings. Leon rushes to the door. Grandma comes to visit. She has heard about the blackout and is curious whether everything is working again. Leon proudly guides her through all the rooms. All the lights are back on, the radio is playing music, and the numbers on the oven and the alarm clocks work too.

But grandma doesn't feel completely comfortable. As a surprise, she got Leon her old alarm clock from the attic. "It doesn't need electricity," she says. "Because you never know. And then you can wake up those sleepy heads Mom and Mommy in time.' And everyone thinks that's a great idea.

GOLDEN TIP

Before reading the story, buy a wind-up alarm clock from the thrift store. Compare this with an electric alarm clock, a smartphone, ...

What are the differences? Advantages? Disadvantages? You can use the alarm clock in the classroom to announce certain activities (e.g. playtime, ...).

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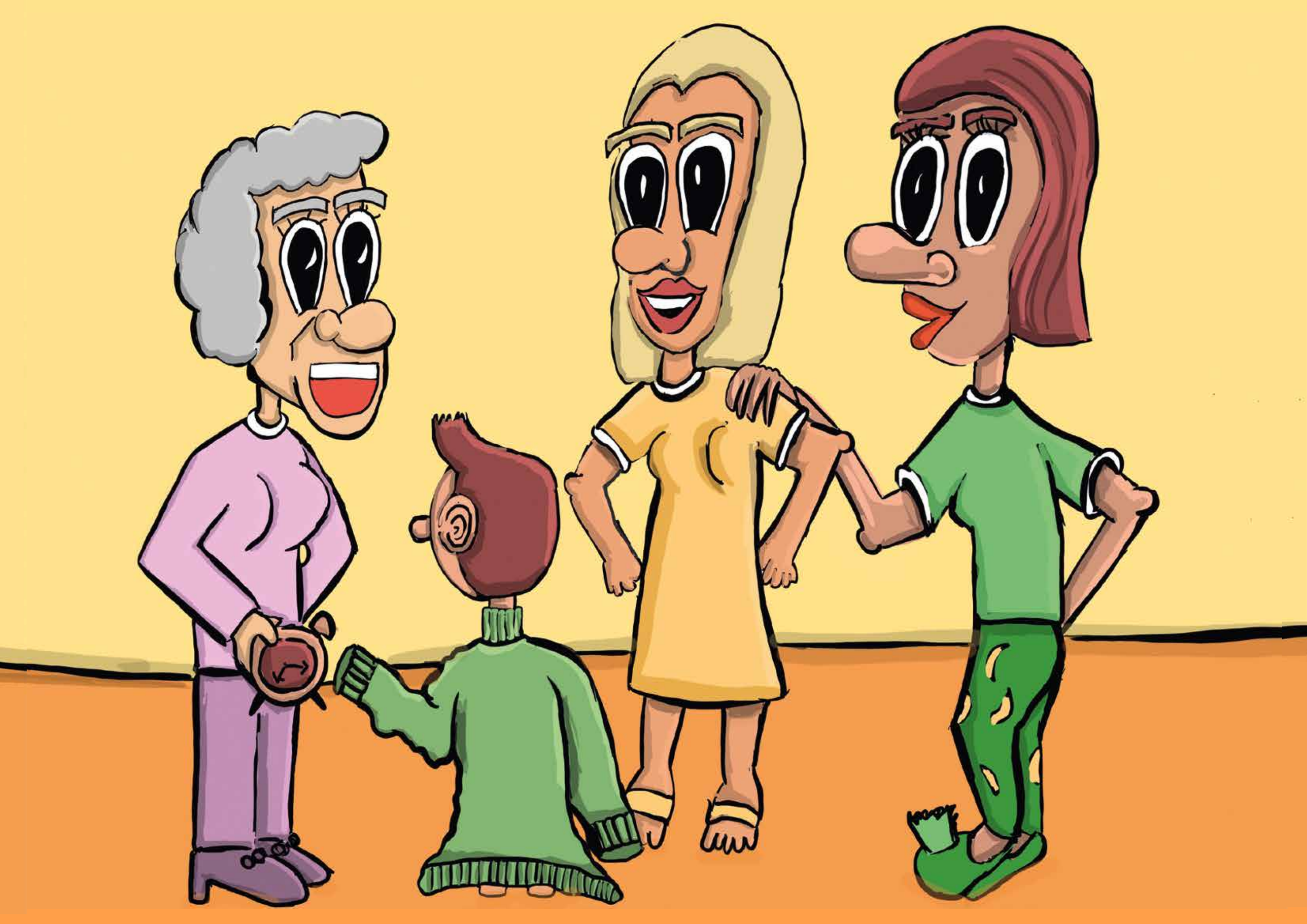

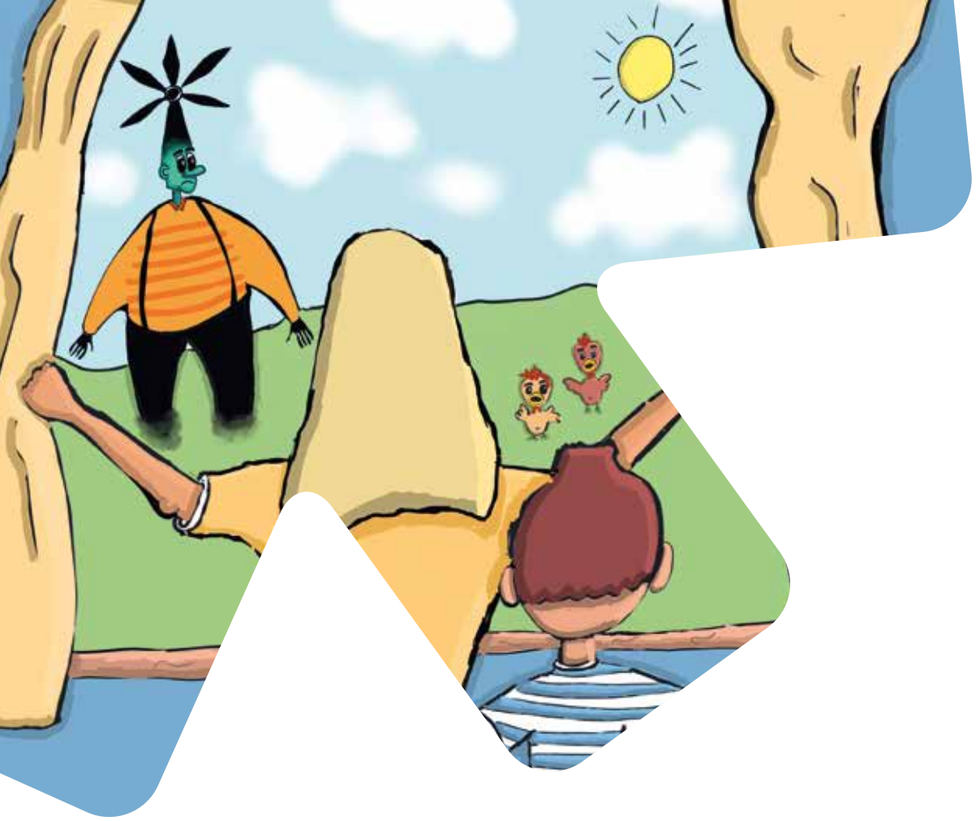

LEON

› **TARGET GROUP:** 2nd pre-schoolers – 1st grade

› **STORY:** Herwig Kevelaerts

› **ILLUSTRATIONS:** Pieter Swinnen

This story was drawn by Pieter Swinnen, works and draws in “den Ateljee” two days a week. “Den Ateljee” offers meaningful daytime activities to people with disabilities and thus promotes their social integration and personal well-being.

DEN ATELJEE

VLAAMS-BRABANT

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