

Stay Clean and Prevent Blindness From Trachoma Part - 2



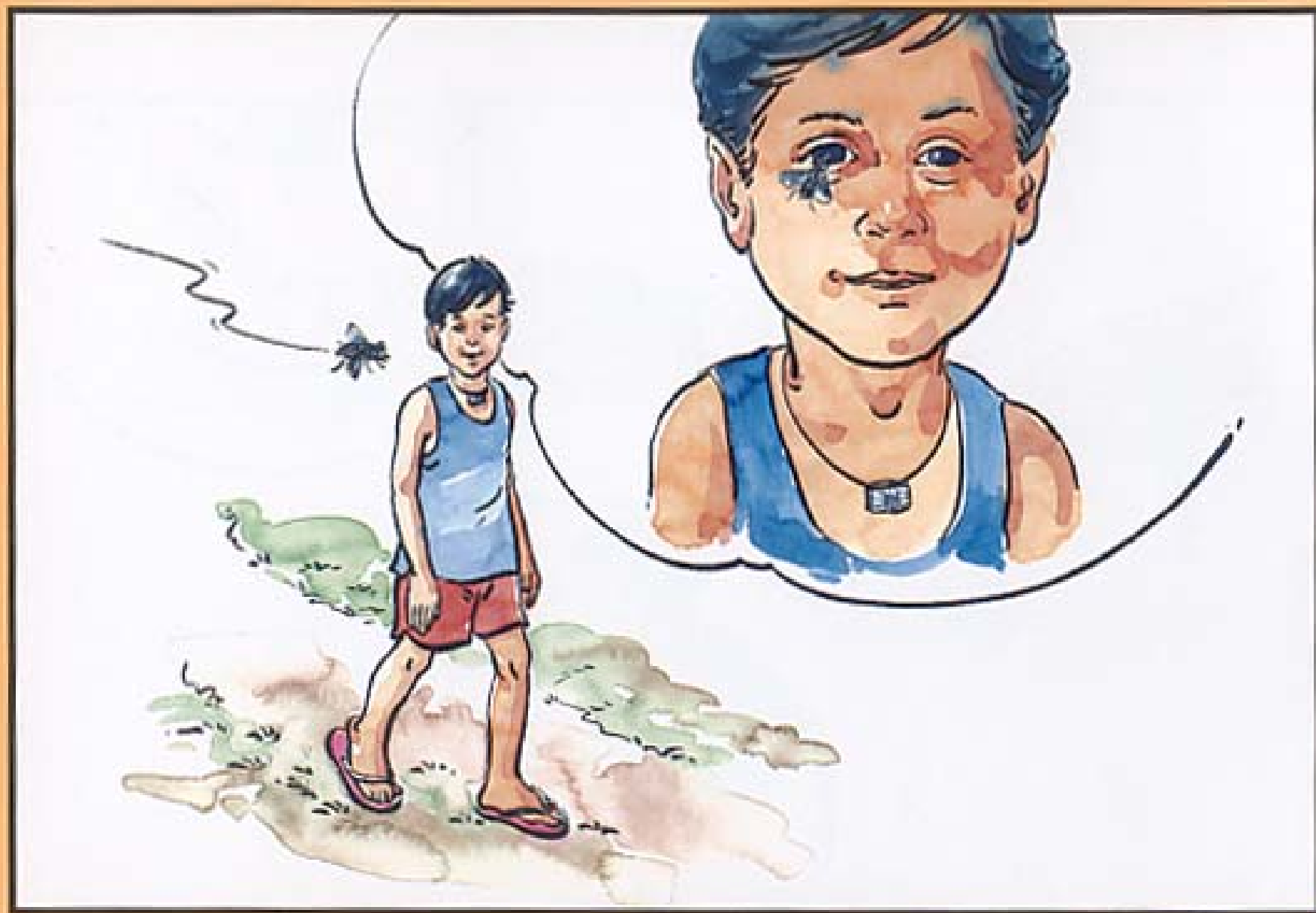
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Fly Brings Disease



Once upon a time there was a fly. He liked to get really dirty and to find dirty things to get into.



One day as the fly was flying, he saw Kalu on the road.
He landed on Kalu's face.



Kalu swatted away the fly. The Fly was surprised. The fly asked, " Kind boy why did you swat me away? I only wanted to visit your eye and get some dirt and then fly on to a next person."



Kalu said, " My teacher told me that many people in the village have eye infection these days. He said that you are the one who spreads the eye-infection in the village. "



The fly asked, "But how do I spread eye-infection?"

Kalu replied, "People who have eye infection have discharge on their eyes and nose. You go and sit on that discharge. Then you carry the germs of eye infection and go to other people's face and spread the disease there too. So, those who do not have eye infection will also get it."



"My grandfather became blind like this. But, I do not want to become blind like him."



Ramkali: Oh really! I am glad Geeta didi that I you came with Meena to our house. I learnt many new things today. From today, I will try to keep my house and the environment clean. I will ask my father to build a pit latrine. We will use the latrine, and keep it clean.



"Now, go away before I swat you again!"
The fly flew away and Kalu quickly walked home.



As soon as he reached home, Kalu washed his face and hands immediately so that no more flies would want to visit his face and hands again.

Lets Keep our House and Environment Clean



One day Meena was going to her friend Ramkali's house. She met the Female Community Health Volunteer, Geeta on the way. Geeta asked her where she was going.

Meena: I am going to Ramkali's house Geeta didi.

Geeta: Oh really? I am also going there. Let us go together Meena. They went together to Ramkali's house. Ramkali's house looked very dirty.



Ramkali's brother was defecating in the courtyard. There were a lot of flies around.

Meena: Ramkali, you should not let the children defecate in the courtyard like this. Everyone should defecate a latrine.

Ramkali: Ughh! Who would want to defecate in a smelly latrine? We would never defecate in the smelly place!



Geeta: But you have to clean the latrine everyday. After you defecate, you should clean it with plenty of water. And you should keep the hole of the latrine covered when it is not being used. Then why would it smell?

Meena: Ramkali, Geeta didi has also taught my family how to keep our house clean.



Ramkali: How can we keep our house clean Geeta didi?

Geeta: We should sweep our house and courtyard. The cowshed should be away from the house. Animal excreta should be collected in a pit. That can later on be used in the fields as fertilizer .

Exercise:

1. Go outside the classroom with the teacher and walk around the schoolyard or other busy area. Observe the places where lots of flies can be seen. After returning to the classroom write down the answer of the following question in the space provided:

In which places did you see a lot of flies? Where did you see the maximum number of flies?

2. *At the end of the class, the teacher asks all the children go out to the tap and wash their hands and face.*



Meena: Waste-water, which comes from washing the dishes can be used for the kitchen garden. Isn't that so Geeta Didi?

Geeta: Yes, you are right. If you can utilize the waste-water in the kitchen, you will not have to worry about irrigation. If we keep the environment clean, there would not be lots of flies around.



Ramkali: But why should we be bothered with flies? They won't harm us!
Geeta: Flies spread diseases. Have you noticed that many people in the village are suffering from eye infection these days? That eye infection is also transmitted by flies.

Look at the picture given below. Color all the dirty things/activities in blue and clean things/activities in red:



Exercise:

1. Now write about what we can do to keep our environment clean.

Activities:

1. Pick up the pieces of paper lying on the floor and put them in the dustbin.
2. Go outside the classroom with the teacher and pick up the waste paper lying around the school. Put them in a dustbin. Wash your hands properly after this activity.
3. Help your parents to keep your house and environment clean.

Go to the Health Post When You Have Eye Infection



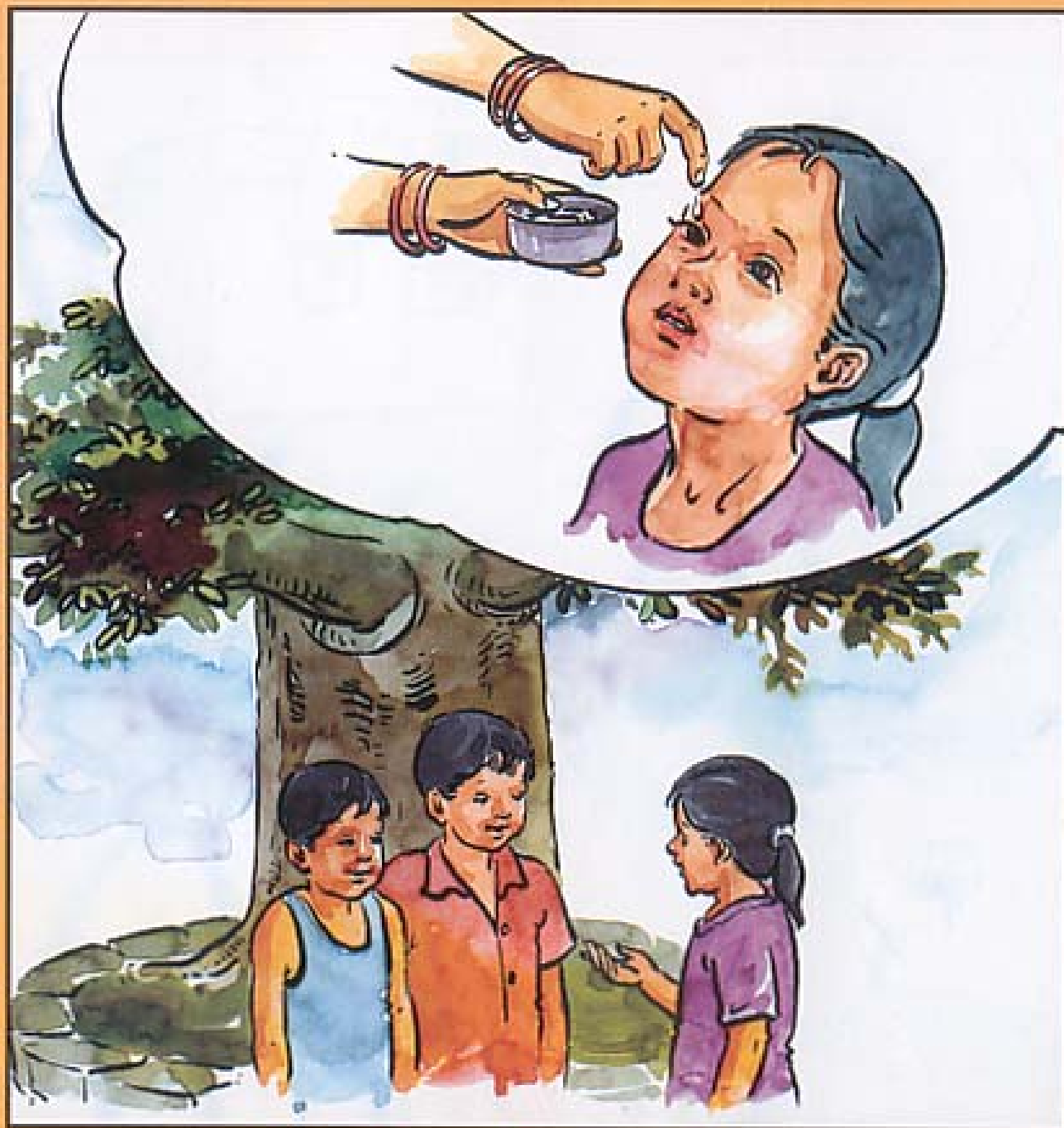
Mohan and Rabi met Rita at the Chautaro.

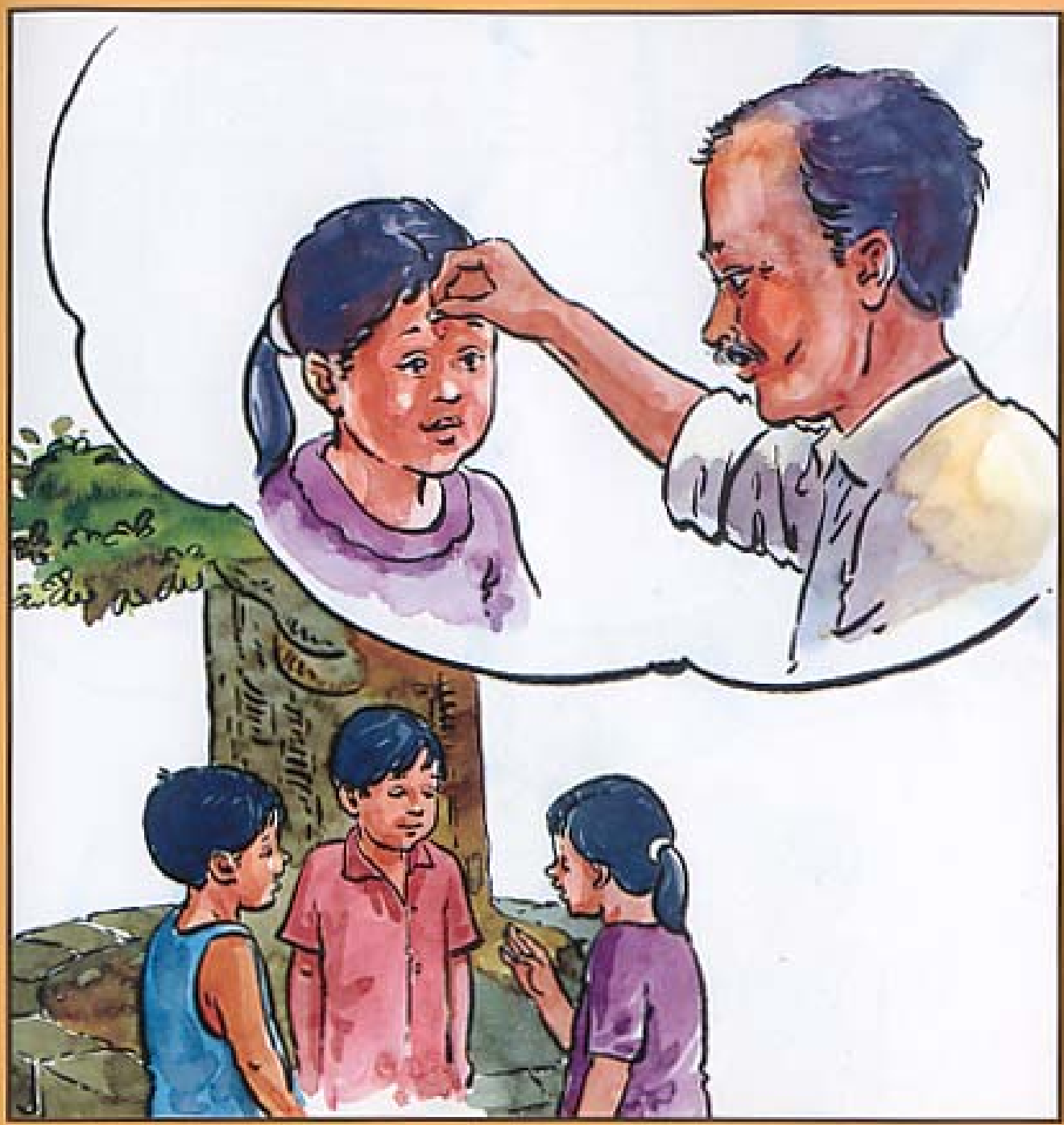
Mohan: Hello Rita!
Where are you coming from?

Rita: I am coming from the Health Post. I have been suffering from eye problem for the past few days. My eyes are red and itchy. I feel as if there is sand in my eyes. It is very painful you know. That is why I went to the Health Post.

Rabi: What did you do for it then?

Rita: At first, my mom heated the oil and applied it to my eyes. But that did not help. I also applied herbal medicine. But that too did not do any good.





Rabi: You should have gone to the Guruwa. He would have cured it.

Rita: I did go to him. He put some ash on my forehead and said that I would be cured. He told me to come back if the eye infection was not cured.

Mohan: But Rita, your eyes still look red. Didn't you go to the Guruwa again?

Rita: Sure, I did. But he said that I am not under the spell of ghost or witches. Then he told me to go to the Health Post once. So, I went there.



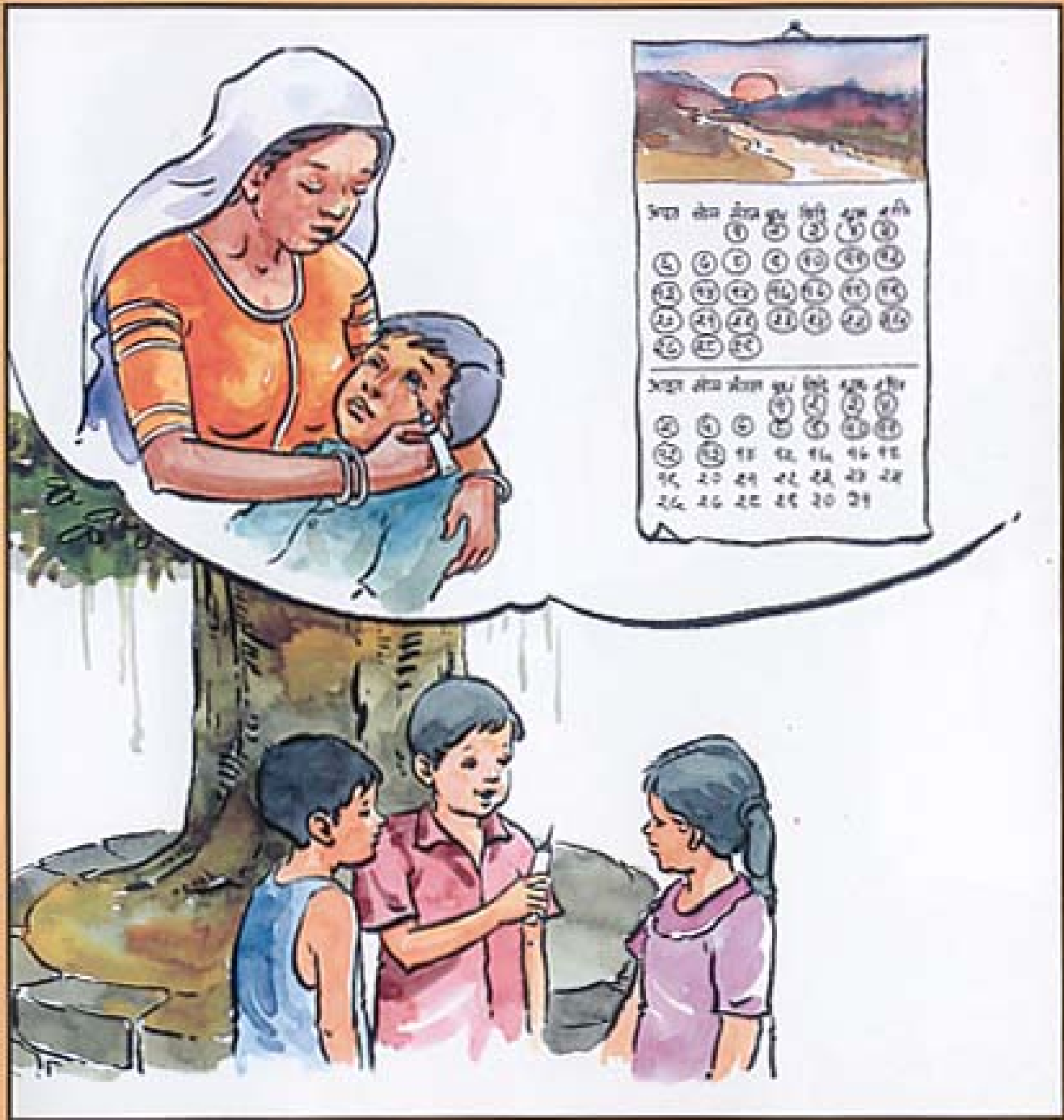


Rabi: What did the Health Worker at the Health Post tell you then?

Rita: He said that I am suffering from an eye disease called trachoma, which can make a person go blind. So, he has given me this ointment. He said that I should apply it two times a day continuously for six weeks.

Mohan: Let me see the tube. Oh! I also used the same ointment when I had painful eyes last week. I applied it for two three days. It did seem as if my eyes had been cured for a couple of days. Then I stopped using the ointment. But after a few days, my eyes started to be the same. I tell you this ointment is no good!

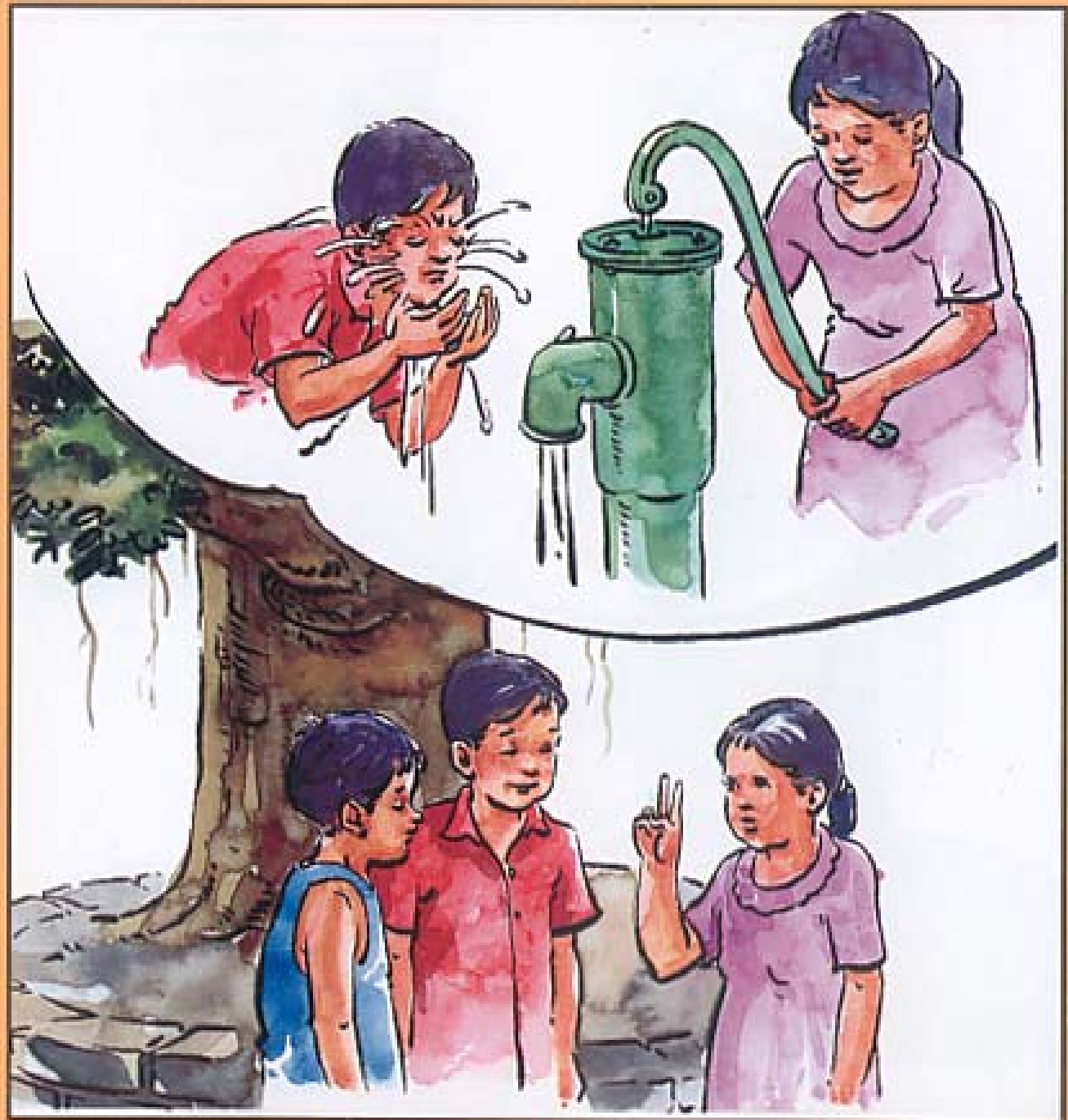


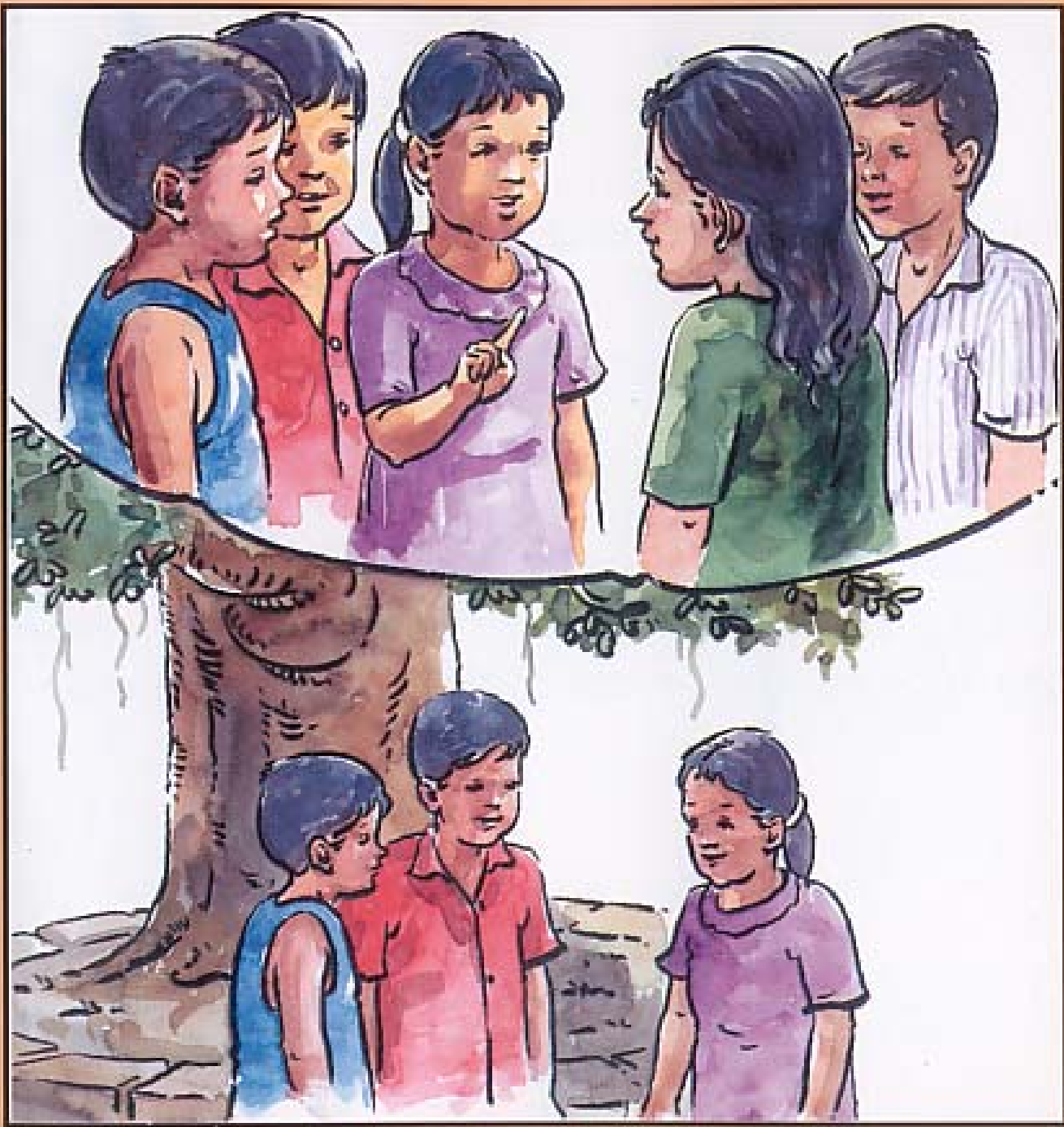


Rita: Mohan! you should have applied the ointment for full six weeks. The Health Worker has told me that if I do not apply it continuously for six weeks, the eye infection will come back again.

Mohan: Oh! Is that so? I did not know this. If I had known this before, I would have applied the ointment in the eyes for six weeks too.

Rita: Another thing Mohan, along with using the ointment, we should also wash our face at least two times daily. Then only will this trachoma be cured.





Mohan: Thank you Rita for telling this to us.

Rita: Let us go and tell our other friends who have eye infection to wash their face at least two times a day and to use the ointment for full six weeks.

Exercise:

1. If Shyam applies the ointment 2 times a day, how many times does he apply the ointment in the eyes in 2 days?

Answer x =

2. If one person would need 3 tubes of ointment, to apply it in the eyes for six weeks, how many tubes would be needed for 3 people to use it for six weeks?

Answer x =