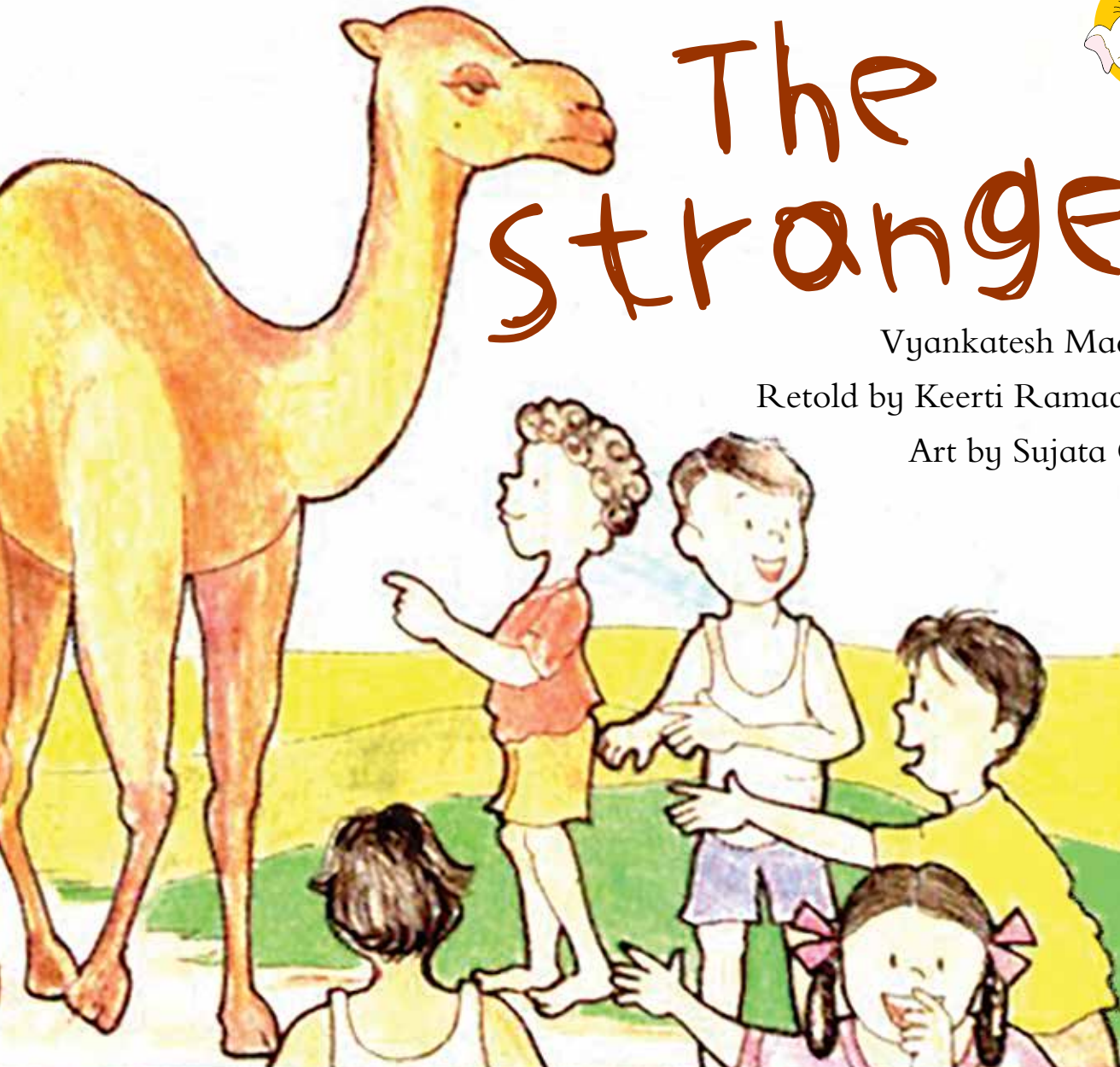


# The Stranger

Vyankatesh Madgulkar

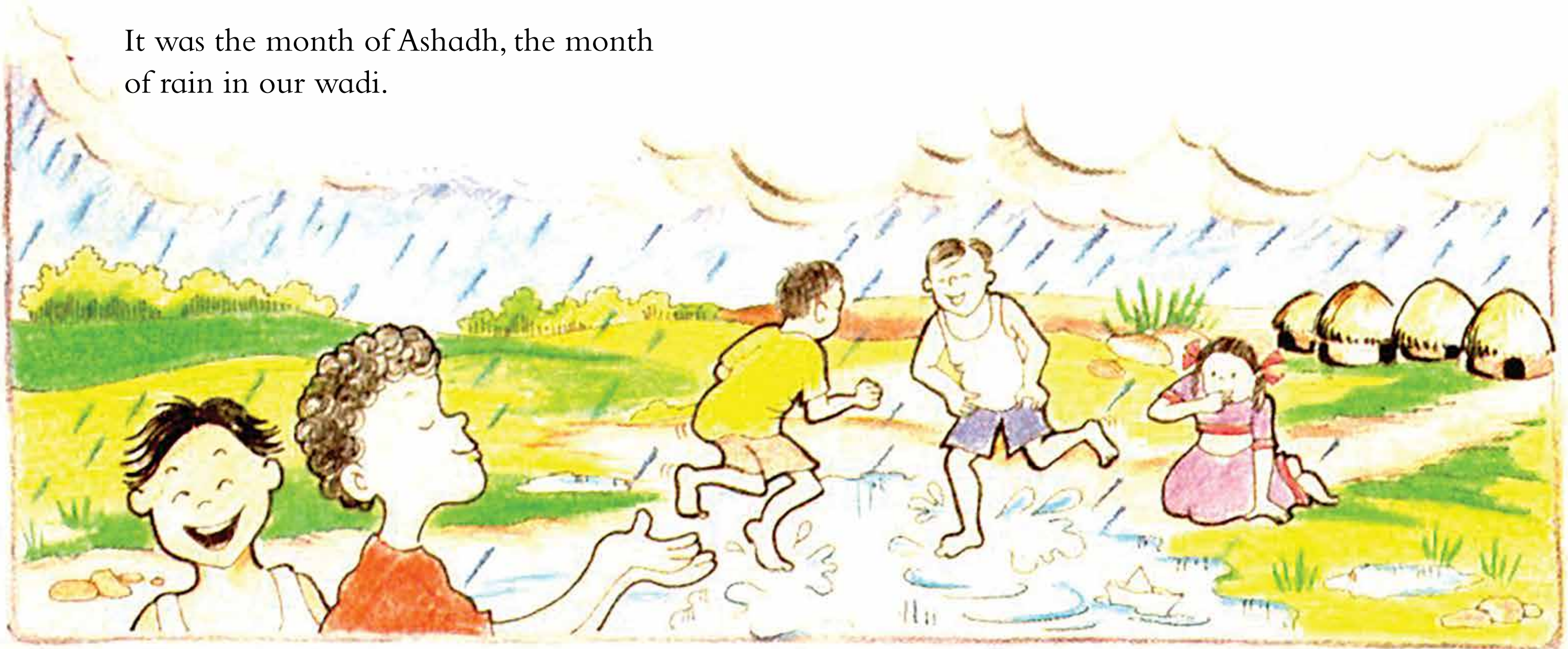
Retold by Keerti Ramachandra

Art by Sujata Chopra

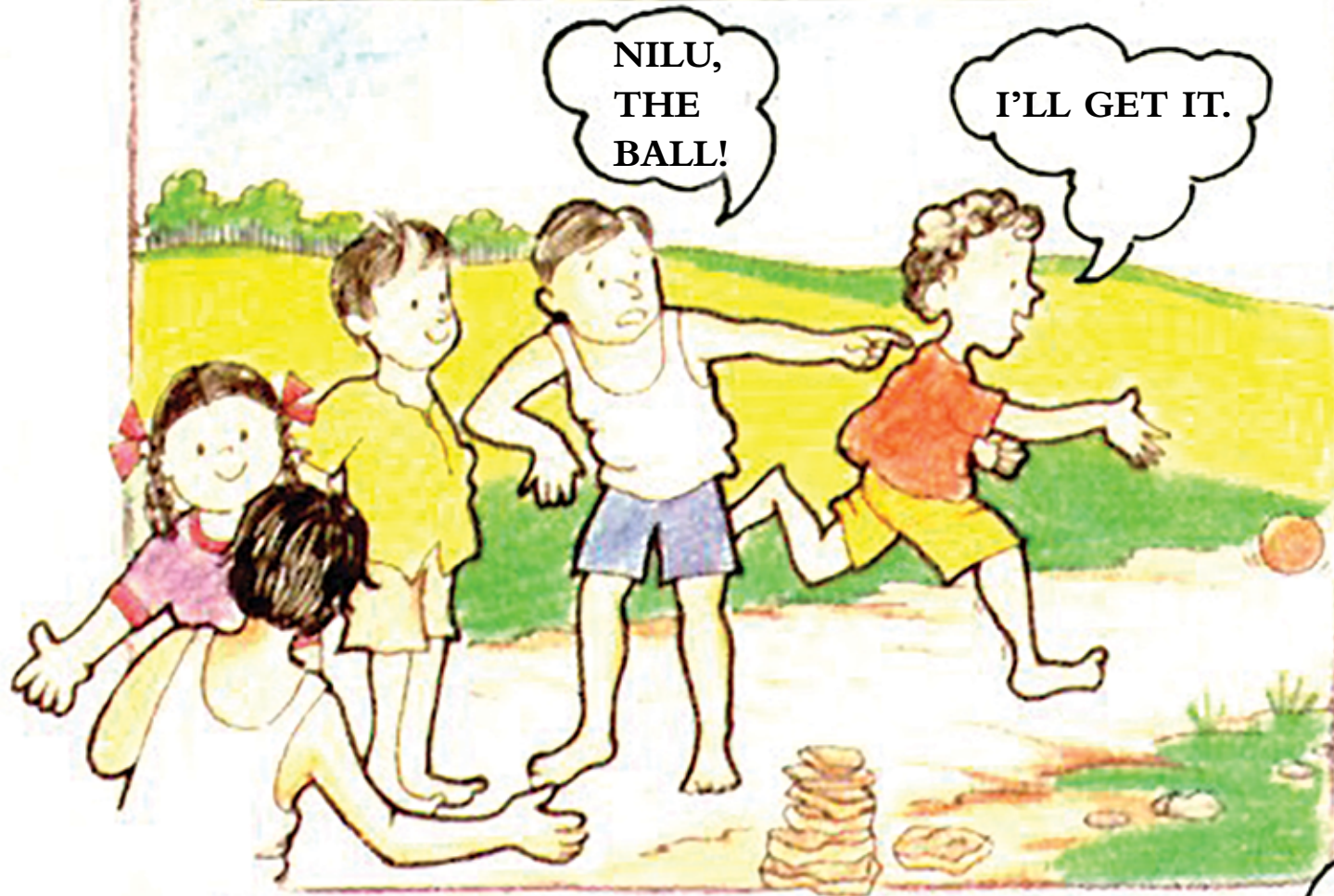


a 300m thinkbook from Katha 

It was the month of Ashadh, the month  
of rain in our wadi.



But that July there was no rain,  
we played lagori.



NILU,  
THE  
BALL!

I'LL GET IT.

Suddenly,  
Nilu stopped.



SHANKAR,  
WHAT'S THAT?

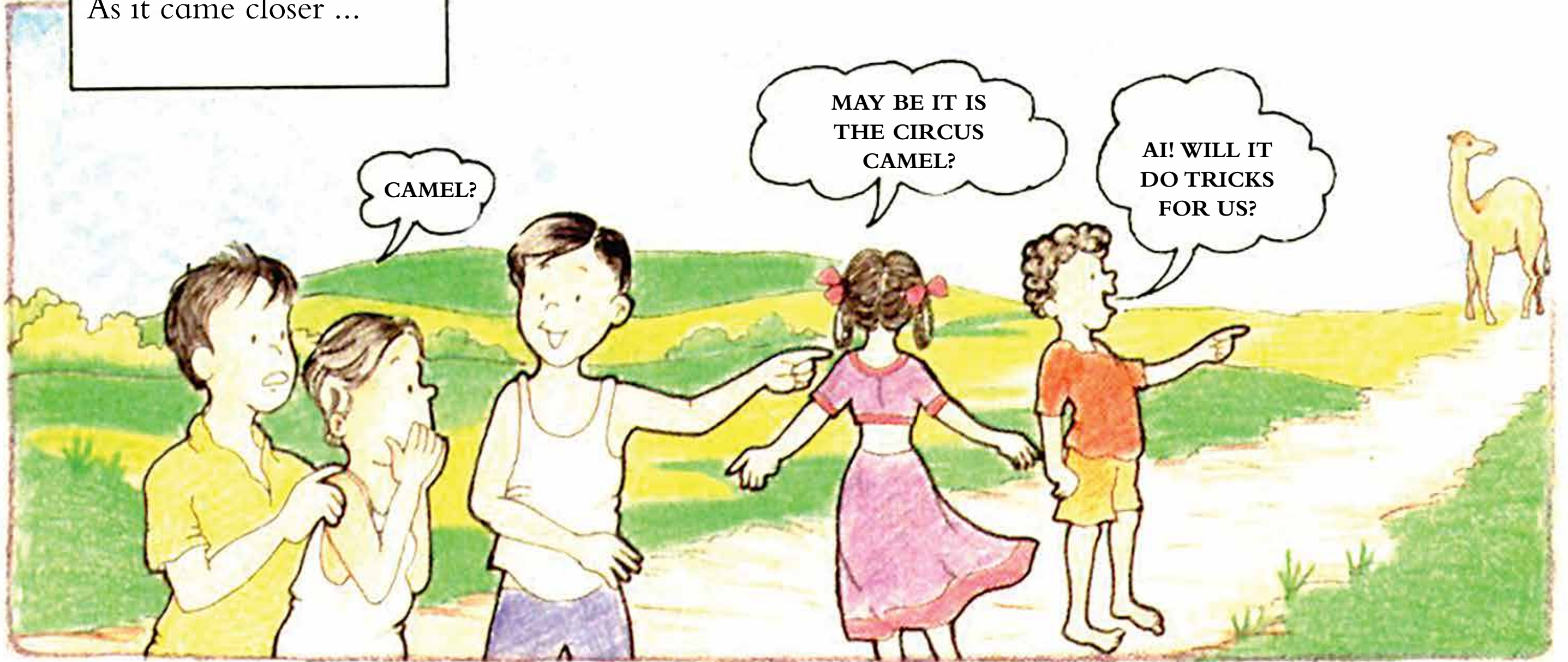
WILL IT  
EAT ME?

As it came closer ...

CAMEL?

MAY BE IT IS  
THE CIRCUS  
CAMEL?

AI! WILL IT  
DO TRICKS  
FOR US?

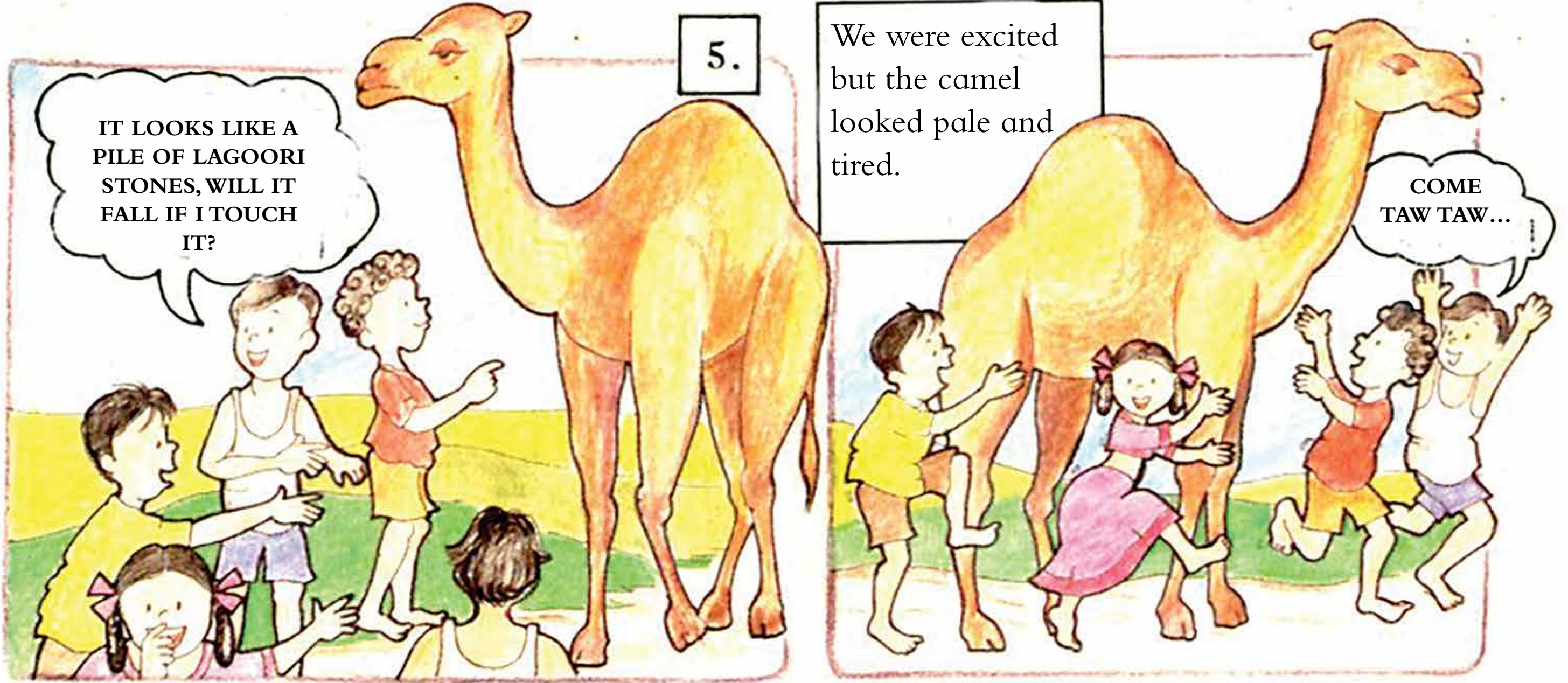


5.

IT LOOKS LIKE A  
PILE OF LAGOORI  
STONES, WILL IT  
FALL IF I TOUCH  
IT?

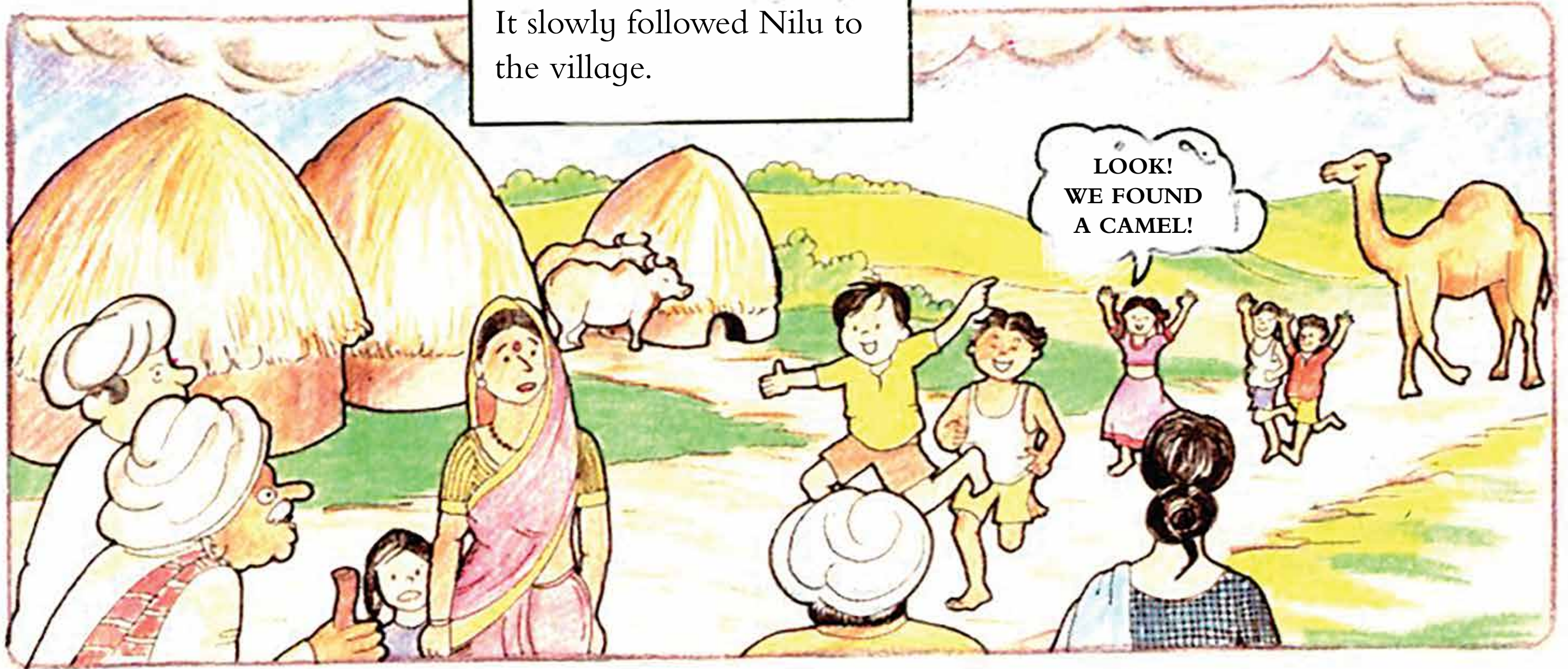
We were excited  
but the camel  
looked pale and  
tired.

COME  
TAW TAW...



It slowly followed Nilu to the village.

LOOK!  
WE FOUND  
A CAMEL!

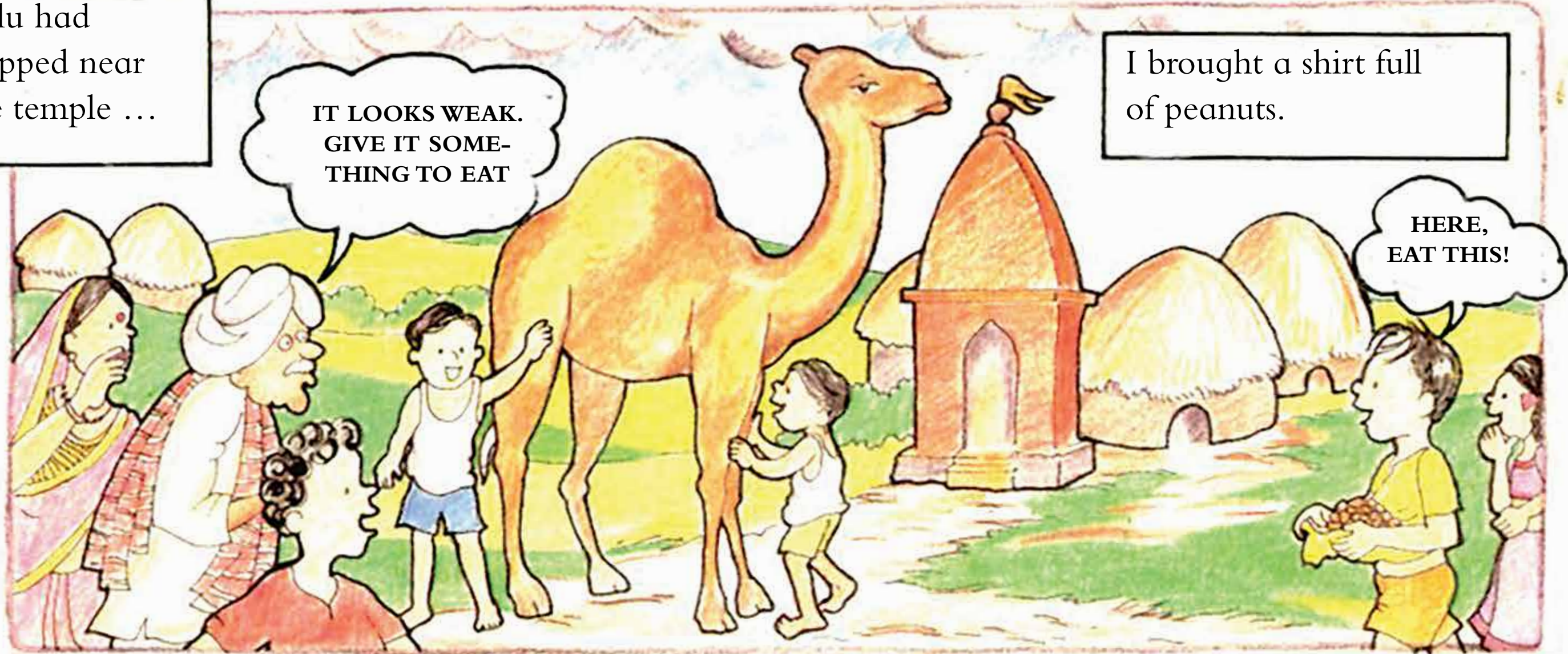


Nilu had stopped near the temple ...

IT LOOKS WEAK.  
GIVE IT SOMETHING TO EAT

I brought a shirt full of peanuts.

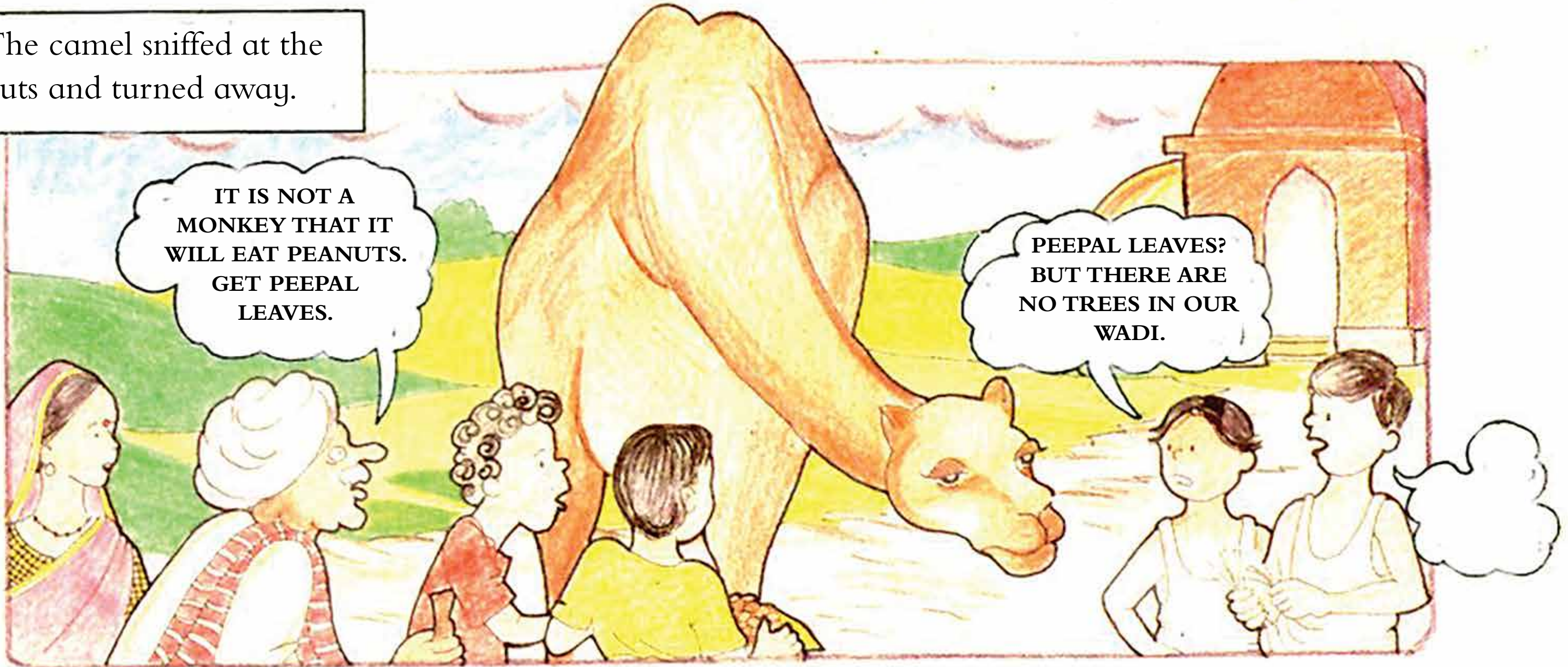
HERE,  
EAT THIS!



The camel sniffed at the nuts and turned away.

IT IS NOT A  
MONKEY THAT IT  
WILL EAT PEANUTS.  
GET PEEPAL  
LEAVES.

PEEPAL LEAVES?  
BUT THERE ARE  
NO TREES IN OUR  
WADI.



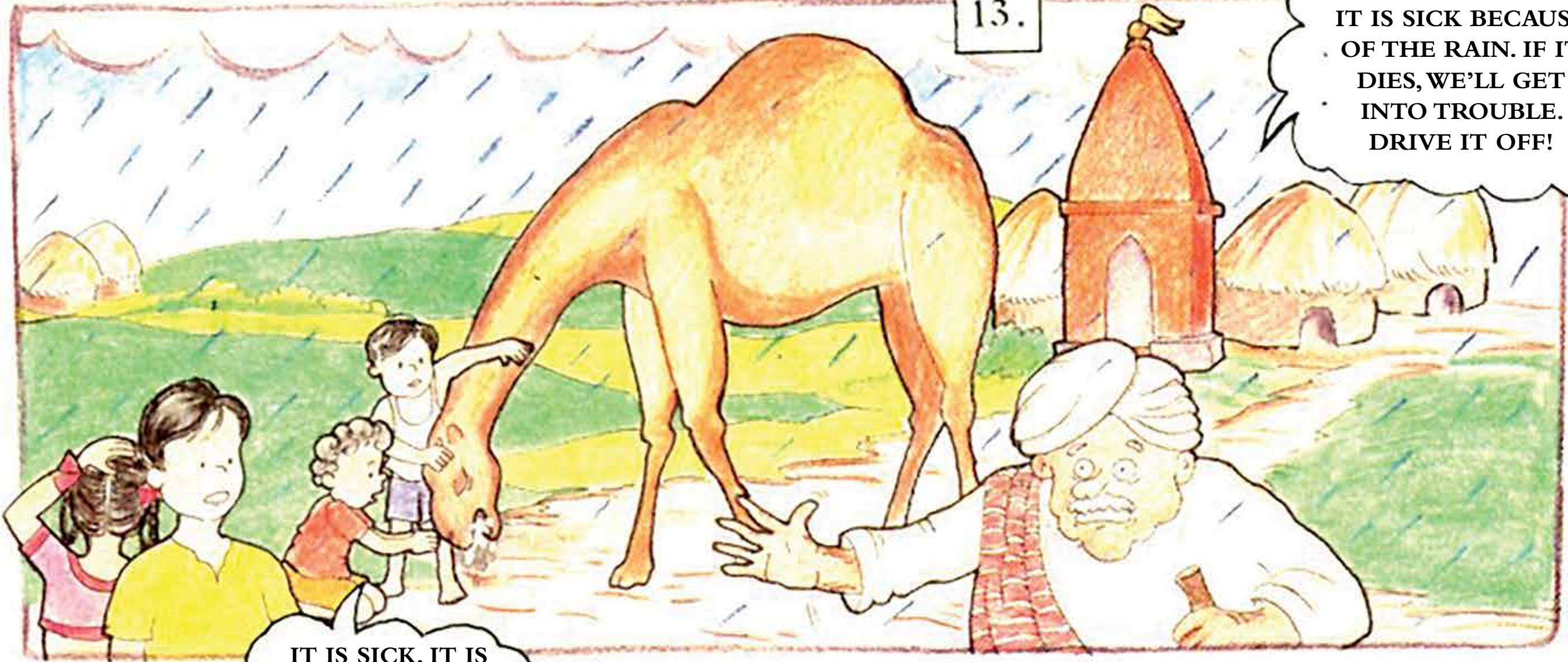


The camel did not even sniff at the grass.

RAJA BABA, EAT SOMETHING. WILL YOU HAVE WATER?

No sooner had Nilu said so, that it began to rain.





IT IS SICK. IT IS FROTHING AT THE MOUTH!

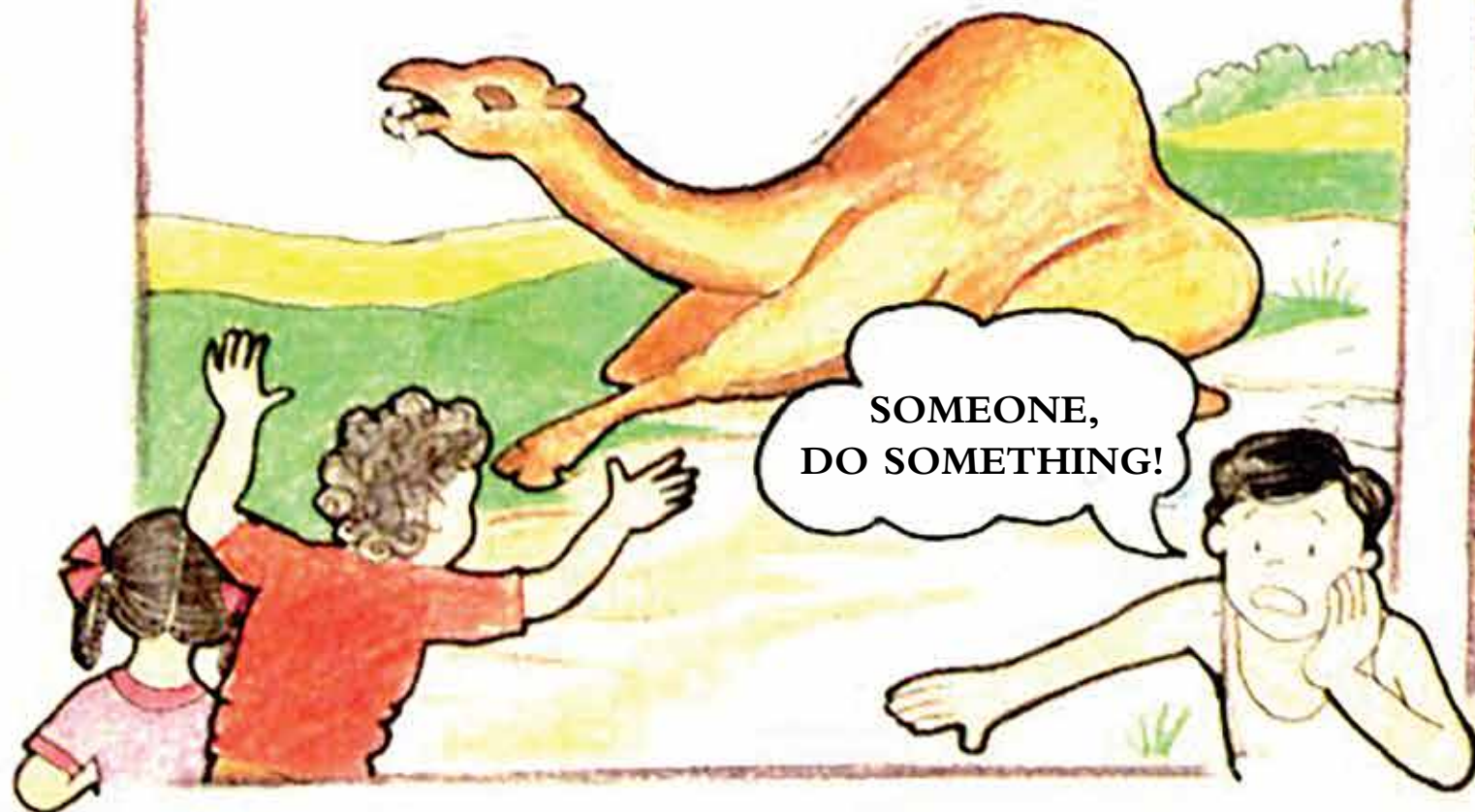
IT IS SICK BECAUSE OF THE RAIN. IF IT DIES, WE'LL GET INTO TROUBLE. DRIVE IT OFF!

The rain had stopped. Cold and scared, the camel left the village. We followed him.



**THERE ARE PENS AND SHELTERS FOR THE SHEEP, GOATS AND DOGS. PEOPLE HAVE HOMES – BUT NOTHING FOR THE POOR CAMEL!**

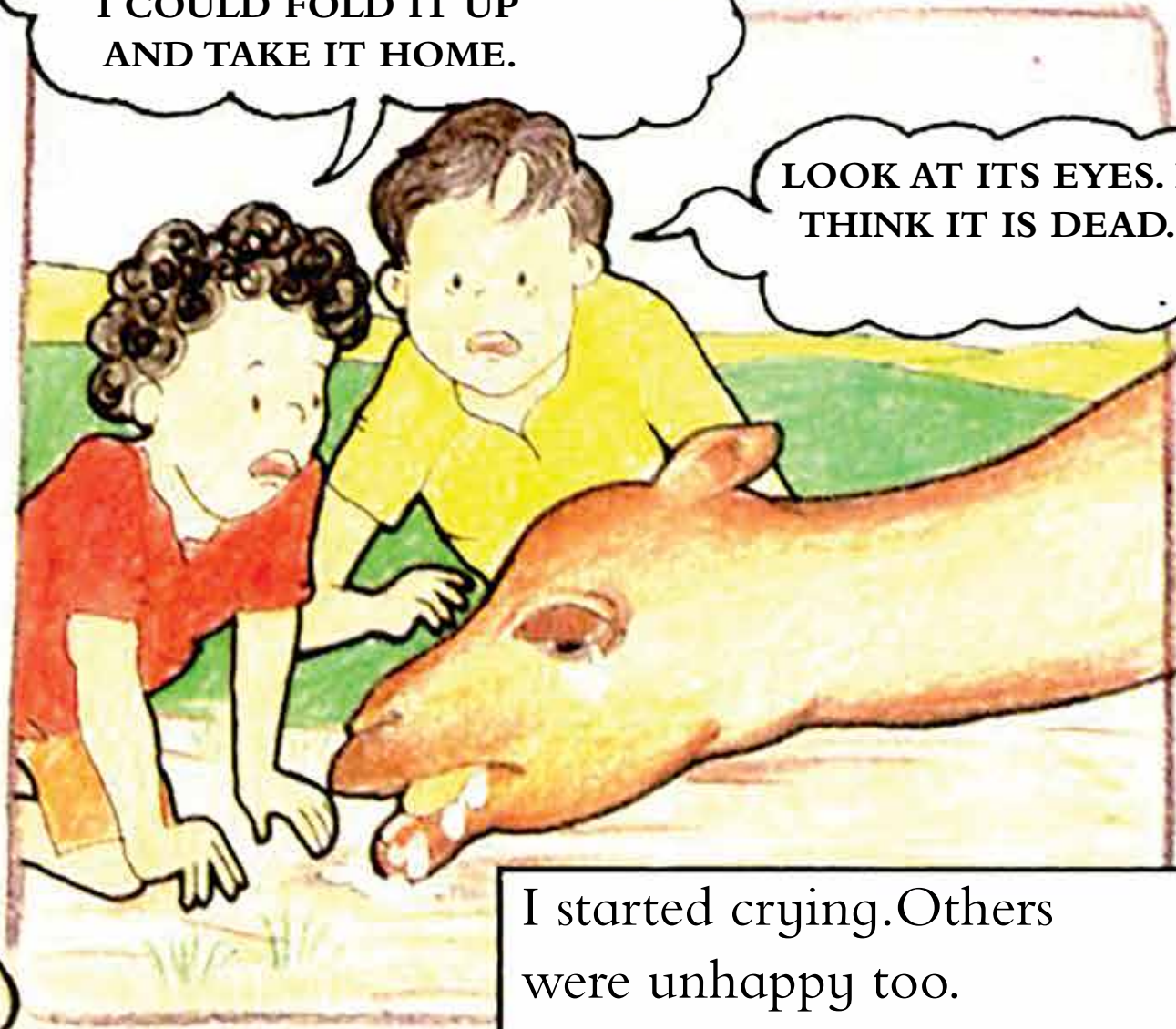
Suddenly the poor camel slumped to the ground like a rainsoaked roof.



SOMEONE,  
DO SOMETHING!

IT IS SHIVERING. I WISH  
I COULD FOLD IT UP  
AND TAKE IT HOME.

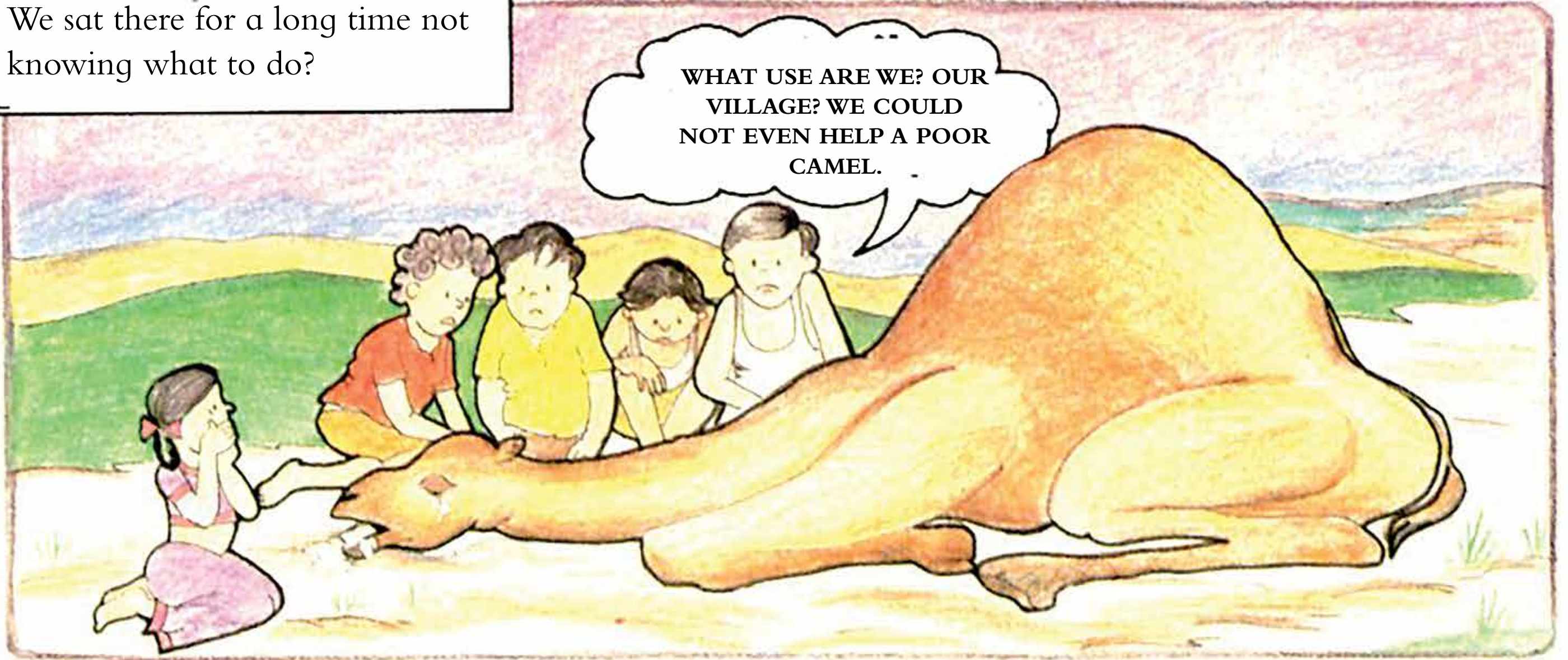
LOOK AT ITS EYES. I  
THINK IT IS DEAD.



I started crying. Others  
were unhappy too.

We sat there for a long time not knowing what to do?

WHAT USE ARE WE? OUR VILLAGE? WE COULD NOT EVEN HELP A POOR CAMEL.



**Vyankatesh Madgulkar** (1927–2001) was one of the most popular and well-known Marathi writers of his time. He became well-known mainly for his realistic writings about village life in a part of southern Maharashtra called Maandesh. He wrote in many different ways. He wrote nearly 40 screenplays for films. He also wrote several folk plays. He attempted a Marathi version of *Fiddler on the Roof*. He translated books, especially wild life books, from English to Marathi. He wrote essays on his travels, nature and interesting people he had read about, like Richard Burton, the British traveller

**Keerti Ramachandra** has an MA in literature and an MPhil in linguistics. She has taught in schools and colleges in India and abroad. The editor of *Visions–Revisions*, a collection of award winning translations, she is the assistant director of Katha Vilasam.

A graduate of the College of Art, Delhi, **Sujasha Das Gupta** has worked as a freelance illustrator for children's books for many years. She lives and works in Delhi.

## ☎ KATHA

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ISBN 978-93-92454-65-6

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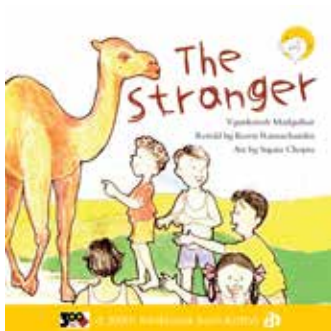
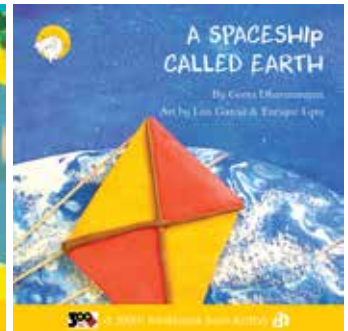
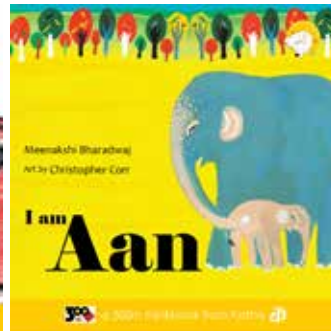
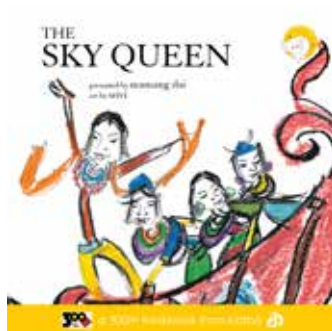
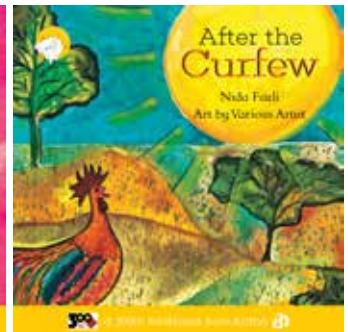
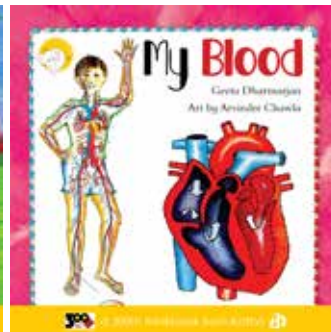
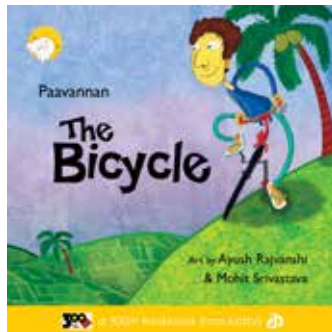
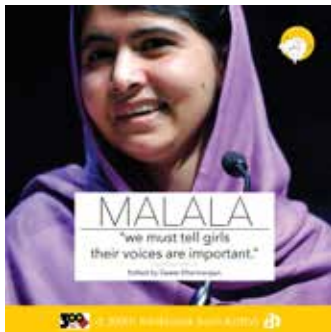
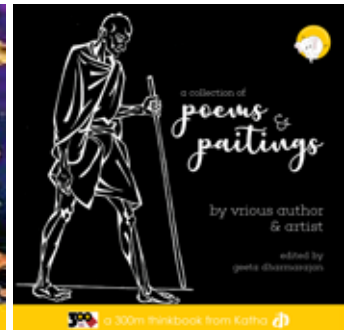
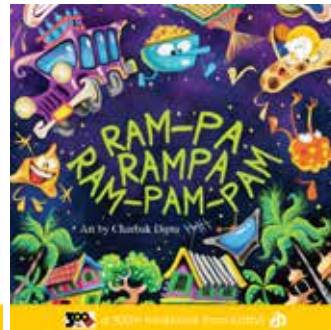
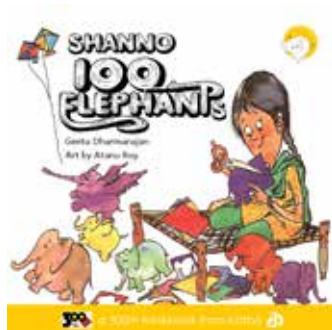
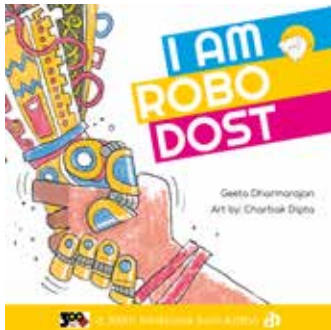
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