



LEVEL 2



No Smiles Today

Written by **Cheryl Rao**

Illustrated by **Saurabh Pandey**



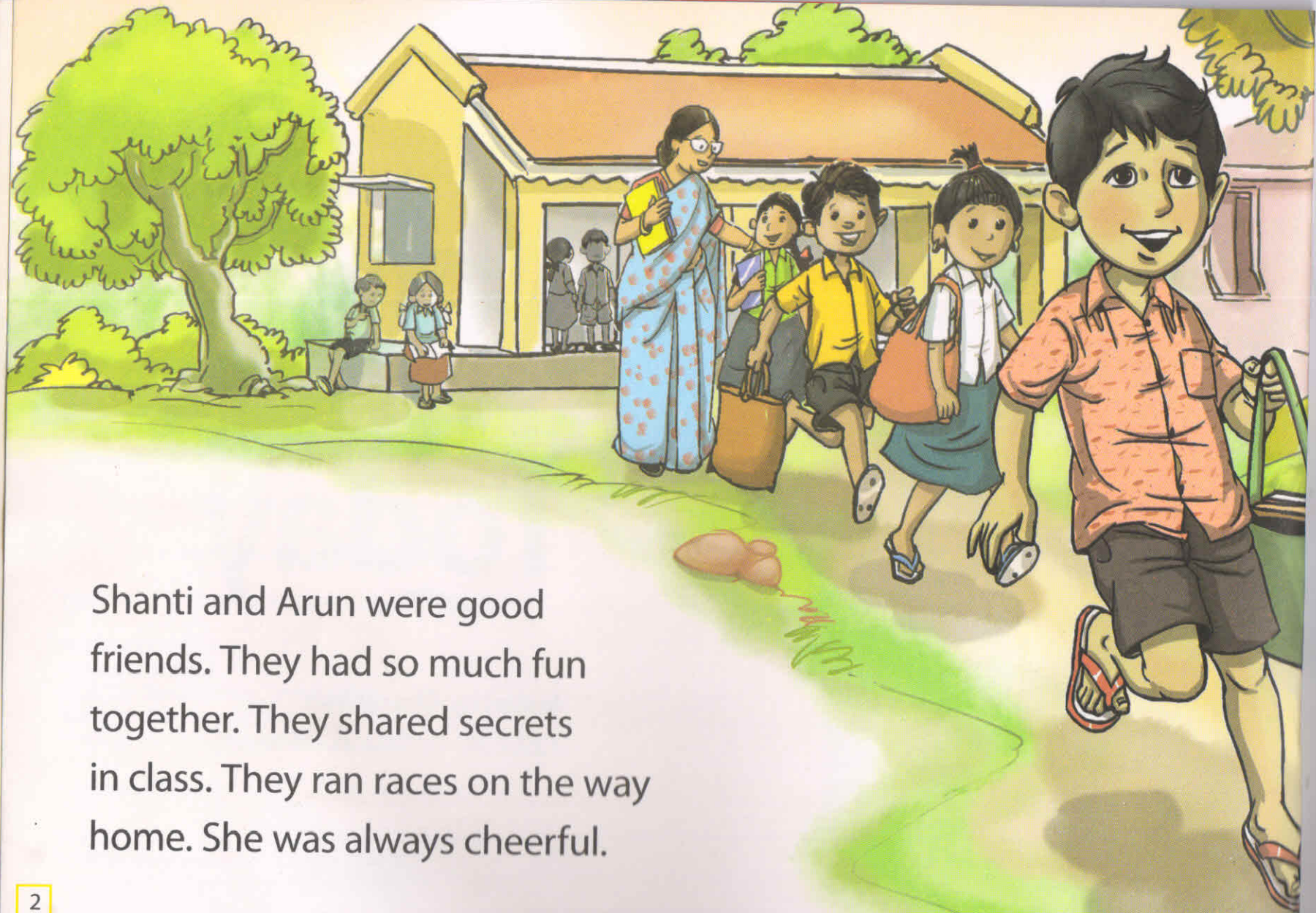


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Shanti and Arun were good friends. They had so much fun together. They shared secrets in class. They ran races on the way home. She was always cheerful.



One day, Shanti came into the classroom slowly. Her head was bent. She looked sad.

"Did someone scold you?" asked Arun.

Shanti shook her head. She sat down and did not look up. She did not answer 'Present!' when Sona Miss called her name.

Sona Miss called again, louder this time, "Shanti Kumar!"

Shanti raised her hand.





"Do you have a sore throat?"
her teacher asked her. Shanti
shook her head.

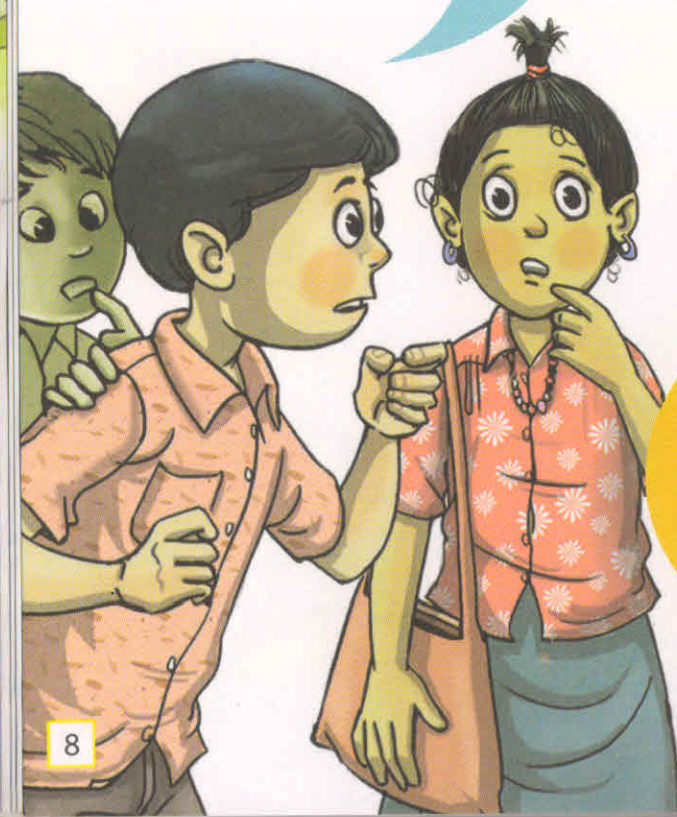
Her cheeks were red and it
looked like she had a fever.

"Are you feeling okay?"
Sona Miss asked.

Shanti nodded, still not daring
to look up.





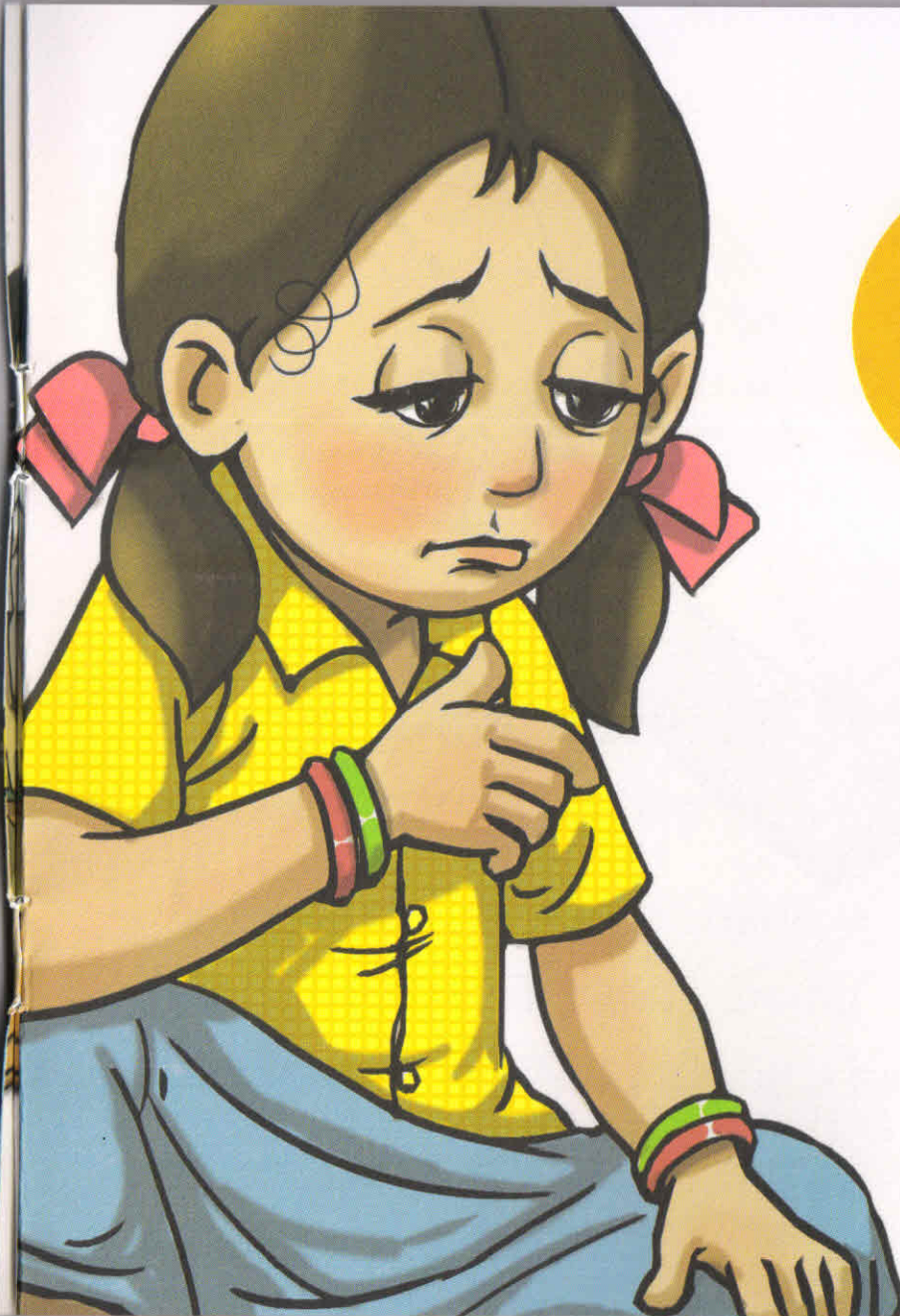


“Why does Shanti look so sad?”

An illustration of three children. On the left, a boy with dark hair and a green shirt is partially visible. In the center, a boy with dark hair and a light orange shirt is looking towards the girl on the right. On the right, a girl with dark hair tied in a bun, wearing a light orange shirt with a white floral pattern and a green skirt, is looking back at the boy. She has a sad expression. There are three speech bubbles floating above them: a blue one on the left, a red one on the right, and a yellow one in the center. A small yellow box with the number 8 is in the bottom left corner.

“Is your little brother okay?”

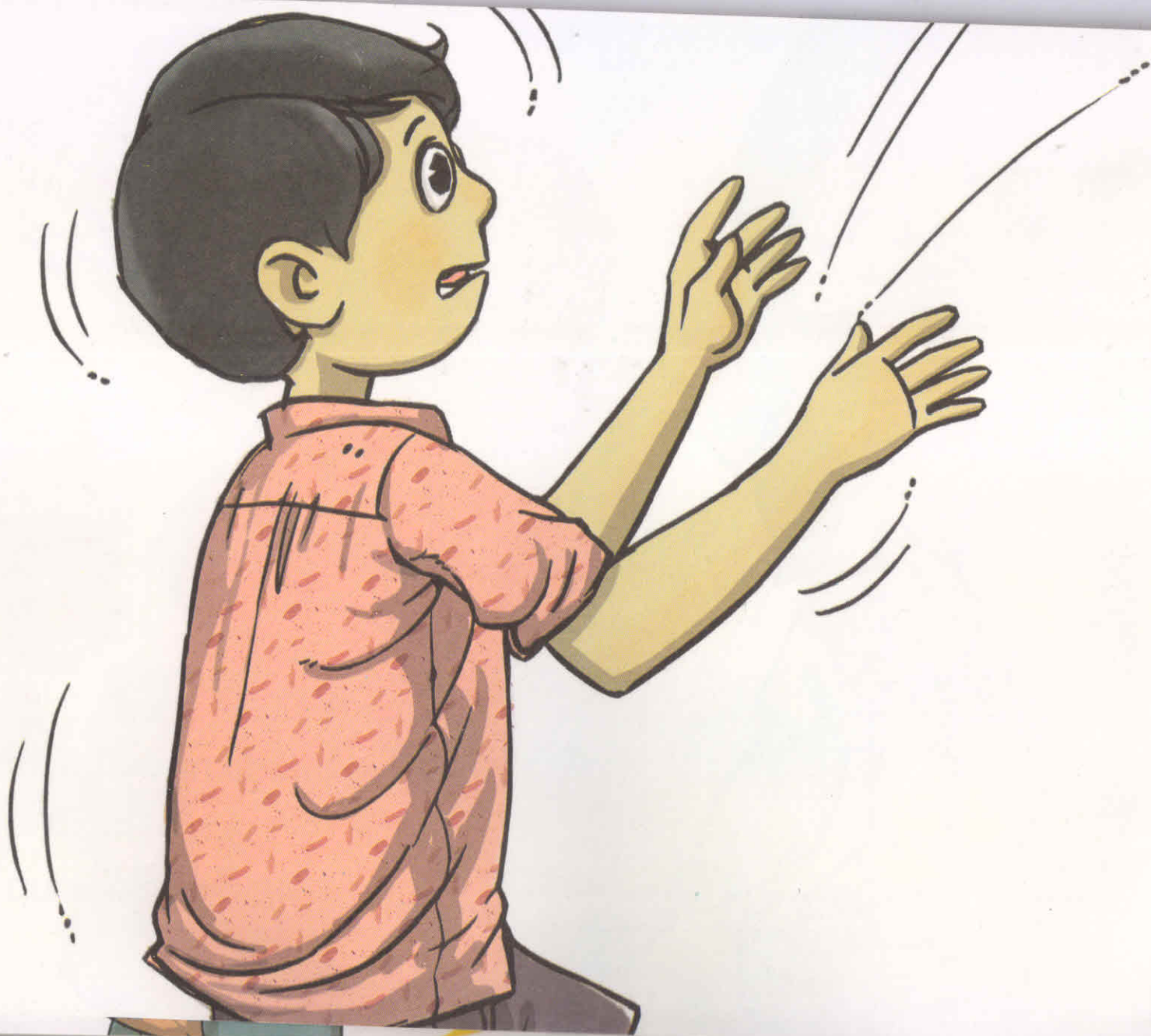
“Is your puppy okay?”



"Is your
grandmother okay?"



Shanti kept nodding her
head to each of her friends.
But she did not look up.



Arun wanted to make her smile. He had an idea! He took out something from his bag.

As he ran to show it to Shanti, it slipped out of his hands. Shanti saw something flying towards her and she grabbed it.





It was a BIG, green, rubber frog! Shanti's eyes flew open. Then she opened her mouth to laugh. THEN Arun and her friends saw why she had not smiled or talked all day! Four of her front teeth had gone missing!