

PLAYGROUND FULL





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**PLAYGROUND
FULL**



It was a really, really big playground and
they didn't want to let me in.
It was surrounded by a fence and there
was a huge padlock on the gate.



The boys and girls playing inside
had locked it and
put up a sign that said:
Playground full!

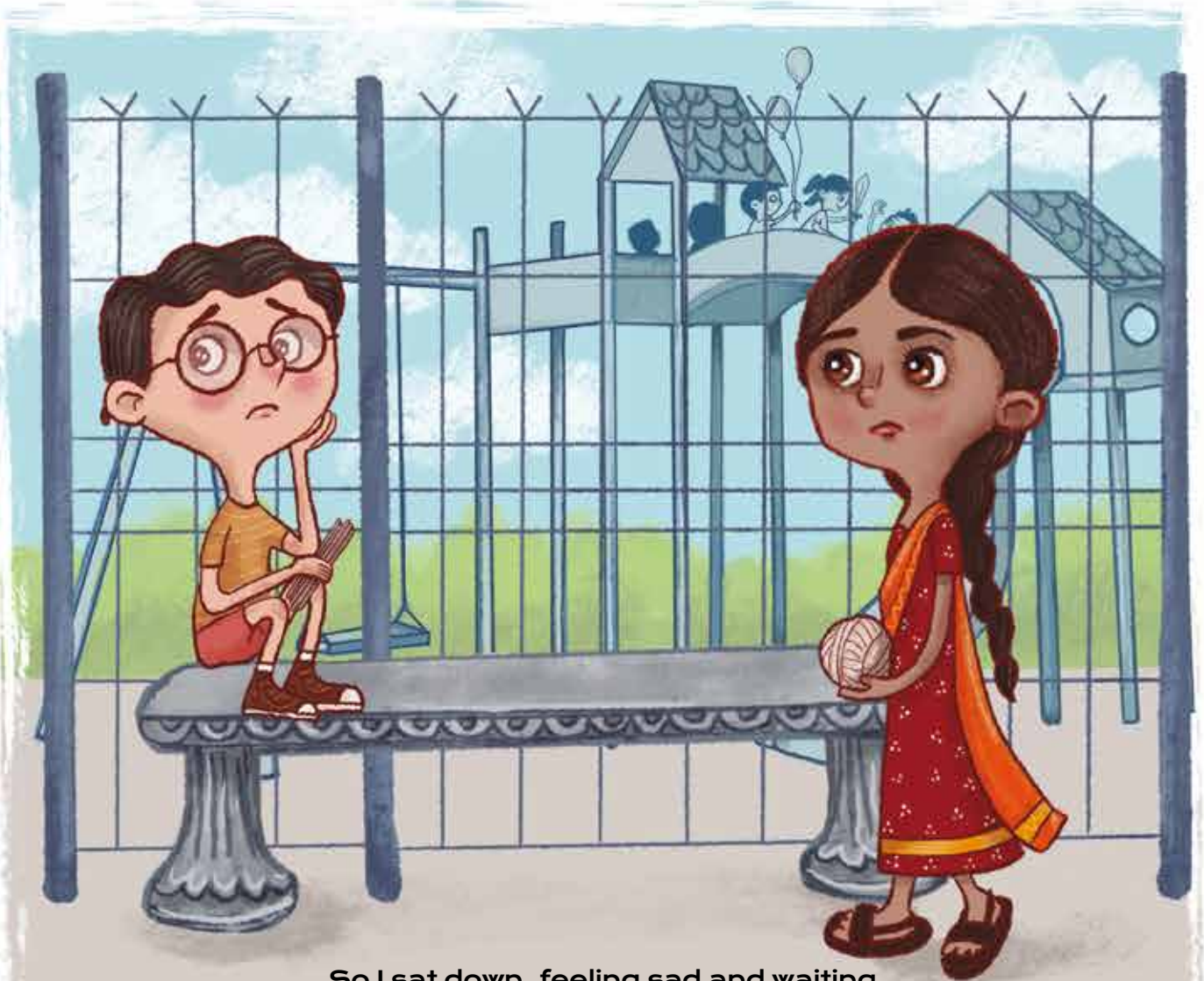


-Can you let me in, please?

-No, no, no. -They said- you wear glasses... and,
anyway, you've got nothing to offer us.

-Yes I do- I said- look, look... I have some sticks... and I can share them...

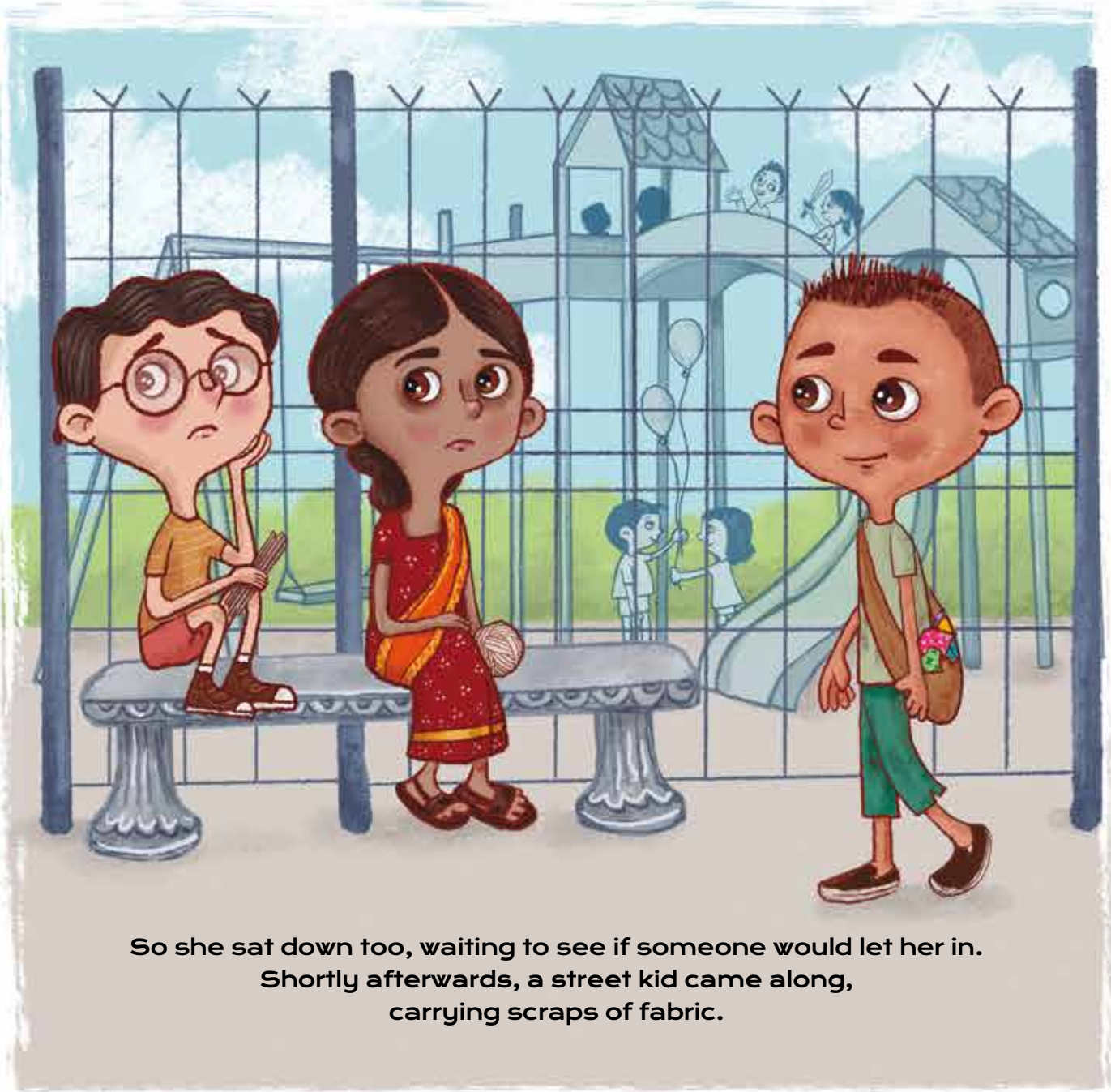
-That's no use... go on now... get away from here...



So I sat down, feeling sad and waiting
to see if any of the kids would leave
the playground so that I could take their place.
A little while later, a girl dressed in a Sari came along,
who wanted to enter too.



Can you let me in, please?
-No, no, no -they said- your clothes
are weird... and, anyway, you've got nothing to offer us.
-Yes I do -she said- I have a roll of string... and I can share it...
-That's no use... go on now... get away from here.



So she sat down too, waiting to see if someone would let her in.
Shortly afterwards, a street kid came along,
carrying scraps of fabric.

-Can you let me in, please? -No, no, no.
-they said- You're dirty... and, anyway, you've got nothing to give us.
-Yes I do -he said- I have some scraps of fabric... and I can share them. -
No, no, no. That's no use... get out!... get away from here.
Then the street kid sat down beside us, looking sad.





Next there came a little girl with a bag full of coloured paper scraps.
She spoke in a different language, but she made the effort
to communicate with them:

-You can open door to me?
-No, no, no. -they said- You don't speak right... and, anyway,
you've got nothing to give us.
-I have one thing- she said- Look... silk papers... and I will share.
-That's no use... go away... get away from here.





And she sat beside us,
looking sad.



Finally, along came another little girl,
with dark skin and very curly hair.



-Can you let me in, please?

-No, no, no. - they said-

Your hair is too curly... and, anyway, you have nothing to offer us.

-Yes. Yes I do -she said, taking out the wild berries she was carrying in her basket.

-And what's that? -They asked

-They're cauvaro berries... And I can share them.

-Cauvaro? What kind of strange fruit is that?

-Ew! That's no use... go on now... get away from here.



So, she sat down to wait, too.
After an hour had gone by and nobody had left the
playground, we decided to get together and play right
there with the things that each of us had.



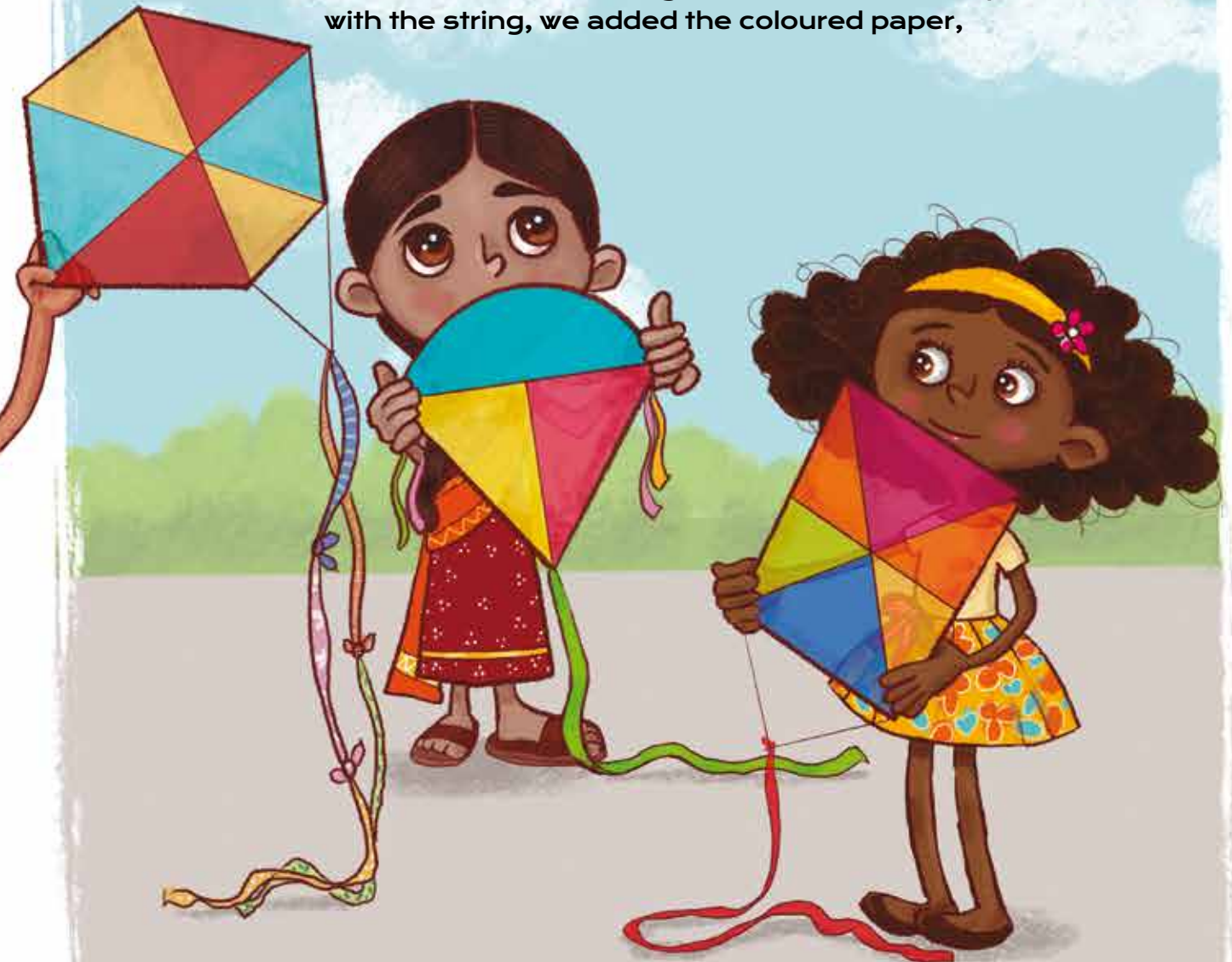
And we wondered:
What can you do with some sticks, a roll of string,
some scraps of fabric, some wild caujaro berries
and some coloured paper?
-I know! I know! -said the girl in the Sari
-let's make a kite!

-In my country, kites are called: “Papagayo”
-said the girl with the curly hair.
-In my country, they’re called “Patang” -said the girl in the Sari.
-In mine, it’s called: “A kite” -said the other girl.



-And in mine, we call it “Papalote” -said the street kid-
and we all laughed.

Then, we held the sticks together and tied them up
with the string, we added the coloured paper,



sticking it on with the sticky juice of the cauvaro berries,
and we added a long tail made of the scraps of fabric...

then we flew the kite
and ran behind it
all over the park.







Soon the kids in the locked playground looked up and
saw our kite gliding through the air.
Their mouths were agape as they admired how our “Papalote”
did pirouettes in the sky.

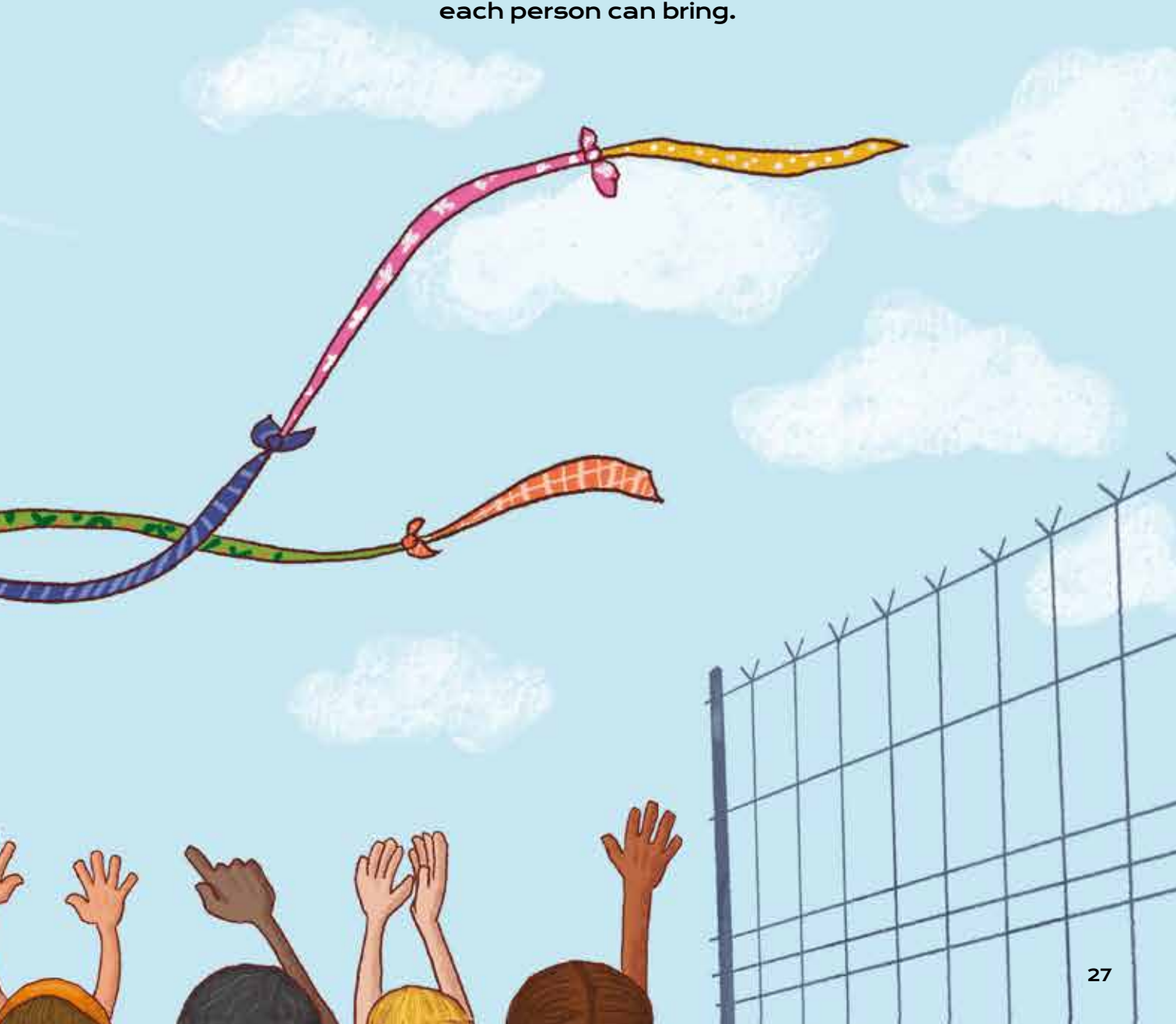


One of them ran to the gate and opened the padlock,
and another one quickly took down the sign and changed it to:
Playground open to anyone who wants to play.
-Come on, come in! -they said-

And when the gate was open the breeze picked up like magic
and the Patang rose to even higher heights.



And the story goes that, since then... at that playground,
nobody looks for the differences, but instead for what
each person can bring.



Recommendations for further insight

The main purpose of this story is to recognise the value of all persons and promote the capacity to be welcoming and practice inclusiveness.

Reflect on the obstacles that prevent us from being welcoming.

Appreciate the richness of diversity.

It's a good idea for the boys and girls to sit in a circle for this activity to create a pleasant atmosphere.

While we tell the story, we show the illustrations as we go.

At discussion time, it's important that all the children get to participate and express themselves calmly and confidently.

At the end of the reading, we encourage a discussion to reinforce their understanding of the story:

What characters appear in the story? What happens in the playground? Who is playing? (it's important that they realise that not all the children are inside the playground). **What happens to the children who want to get into the playground?**

Why don't they let them in? What do they say to them?

What do the children who are left outside do? What do they build? What do they call it? How does the story end?

We explain some of the words that appear in the story:

- **Are you wondering what a Sari is?**

Well, it's a traditional dress from India and its name means "strip of Silk"

It's called that because it's made of a long strip of silk that gets wrapped all around the body.

- **And have you ever hear of the wild "Caujaro" berry?**

Well, it's a very small grape-shaped fruit that grows in Central America. It's sweet and its juices are a little bit sticky and that's why it can be used as a glue.

- **And what did you think of all the different names for the kite?**

In Venezuela it's called "Papagayo", in Mexi-

co “Papalote”, in India “Patang”... and there are many more: in Chile “Volantín”, in Argentina “Barrilete” and so on.

Let's look at the feelings:

- **What do you think of this story? How does it make you feel?**
- **How do you think the children that get left out feel? How do you feel if someone won't let you play?**
- **What do the children that are left outside do to feel better?** (Each one contributes whatever they have and together they all build something)
- **How do all the children feel at the end of the story?**

Let's look at the words: CONTRIBUTE, SHARE, WELCOME

We reflect on what's really happening:

- Have you ever been left out at play time?
- Have you ever stopped other children from playing in your group?
- What can we do so that nobody feels bad?
- What happens when everybody contributes what they have?

Activities:

1. Body expression: dramatisation or staging of the story. The children can act out the scenes.

2. Artistic expression: colour in a kite, papalote... Hand out drawings to be coloured in.
3. Language activities: reading comprehension exercises; learning new words, etc.
4. Logical-mathematical expression: How many children are there inside the playground? How many are left outside? When they play together there are how many...?

Final activity

We encourage them to build their own kite, papalote, papagayo, patang... (or to bring one in) and fly it in the school yard, giving each child a turn to fly it for a while. We can call it the **FRIENDSHIP KITE**.

We can also invite families to make their own kite at home and bring it in.







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