

AHMET ÖZYİĞİT

Funny Adventures of the Twins

#Premature Champions

Illustration

Hakkı Tuncay

To everyone who believes in and supports each other
and in particular to the heroes of this true story:
Ali, Cem and my love, Simge...



Children's Book - 1

Funny Adventures of the Twins / #Premature Champions
AHMET ÖZYİĞİT

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Hello, I'm Ali.



Hello, I'm Cem, his twin.



Do you know what it means to have a twin? Look in the mirror. What do you see? To have a twin means that you have a sibling who is very, very similar to you.

They are so similar to you that you even celebrate your birthday on the same day. This obviously means more fun and more presents! Isn't it awesome?





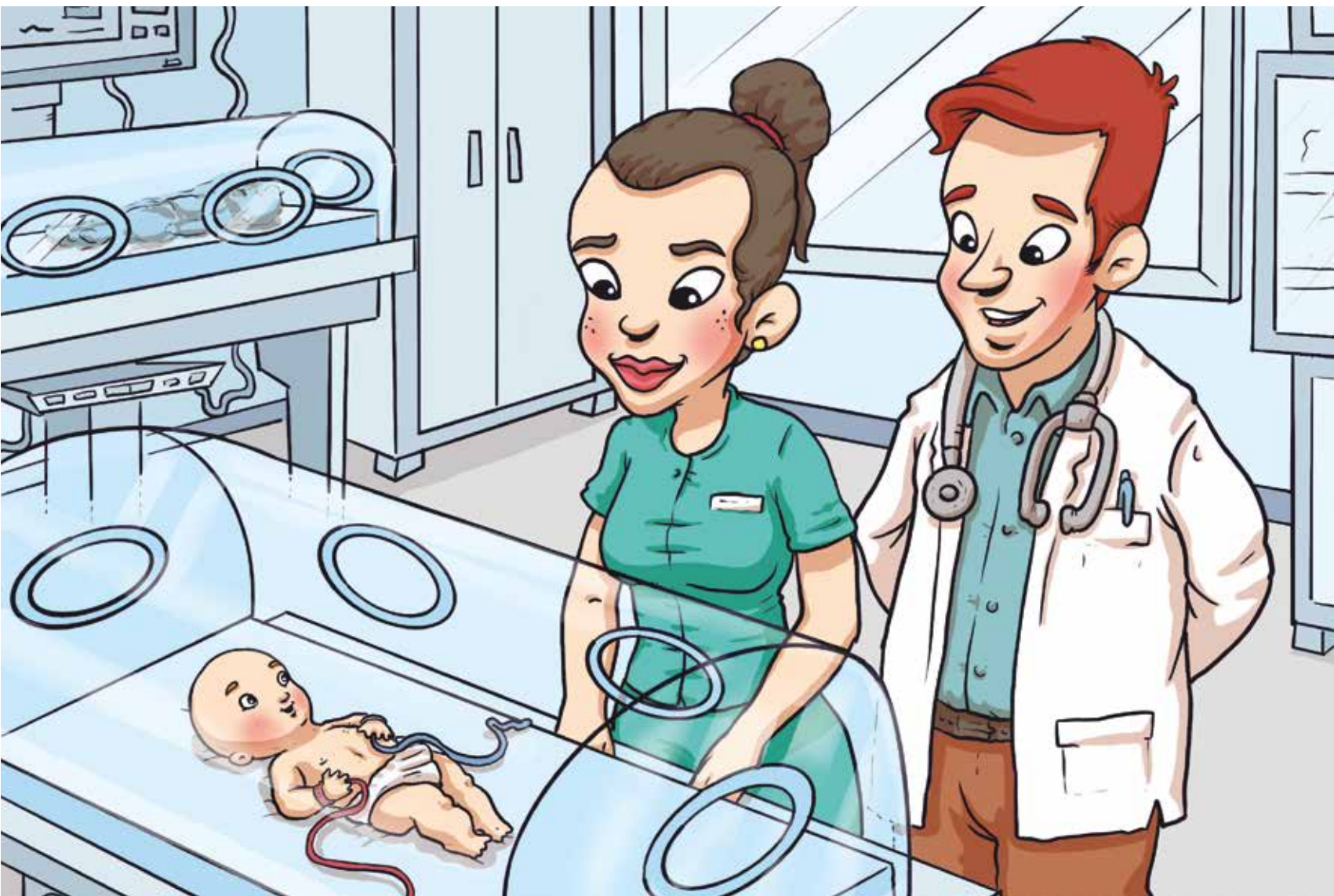
Like many other children, our story started in a hospital. Just a little earlier than most others... Why? Some naughtiness, a little impatience and a dash of curiosity might've played a role. How could meeting our parents in 6 months instead of 9 hurt anyway?

According to Mr. Doctor, this was not such a good idea. At the end of the day, how could we know that we couldn't go straight home and that they would host us in the hospital for 80 days? Even though we didn't like this idea very much, it appears that whatever Mr. Doctor says in the hospital is the last word.

We figured out later that being born too soon also means being born too small. We weighed as little as 10 apples and our feet were the size of a house key. This meant that a regular baby was three times larger than us. We could see this difference clearly, when we looked at the other babies that stayed in the same room with us.

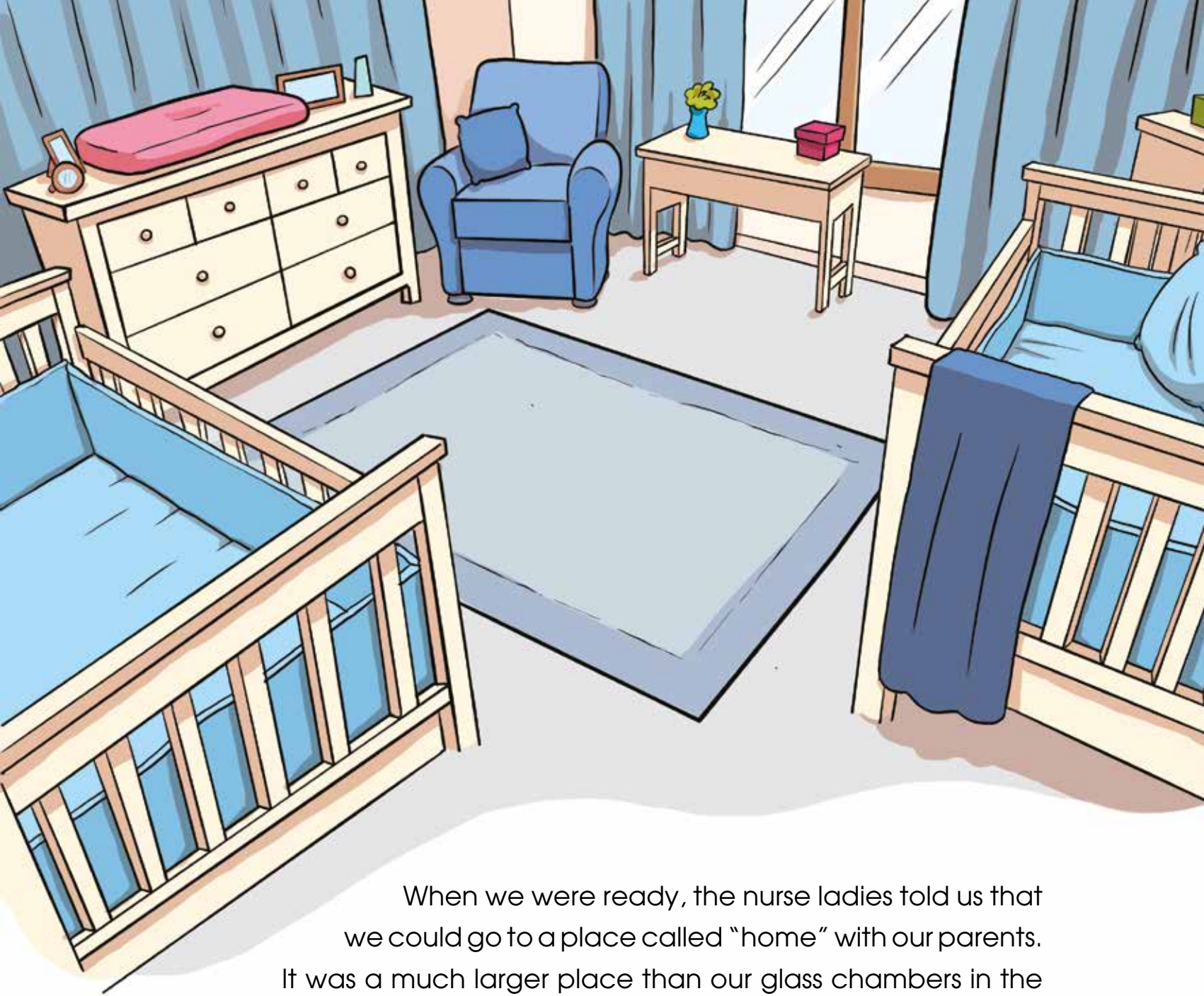


For 80 days, the kind ladies called “nurses” took good care of us. To protect us from harmful microbes, they ensured that we had a good time in special glass chambers. Thanks to sweet doctors and nurses, we had the opportunity to try many exciting devices with colorful cables hanging off of them.

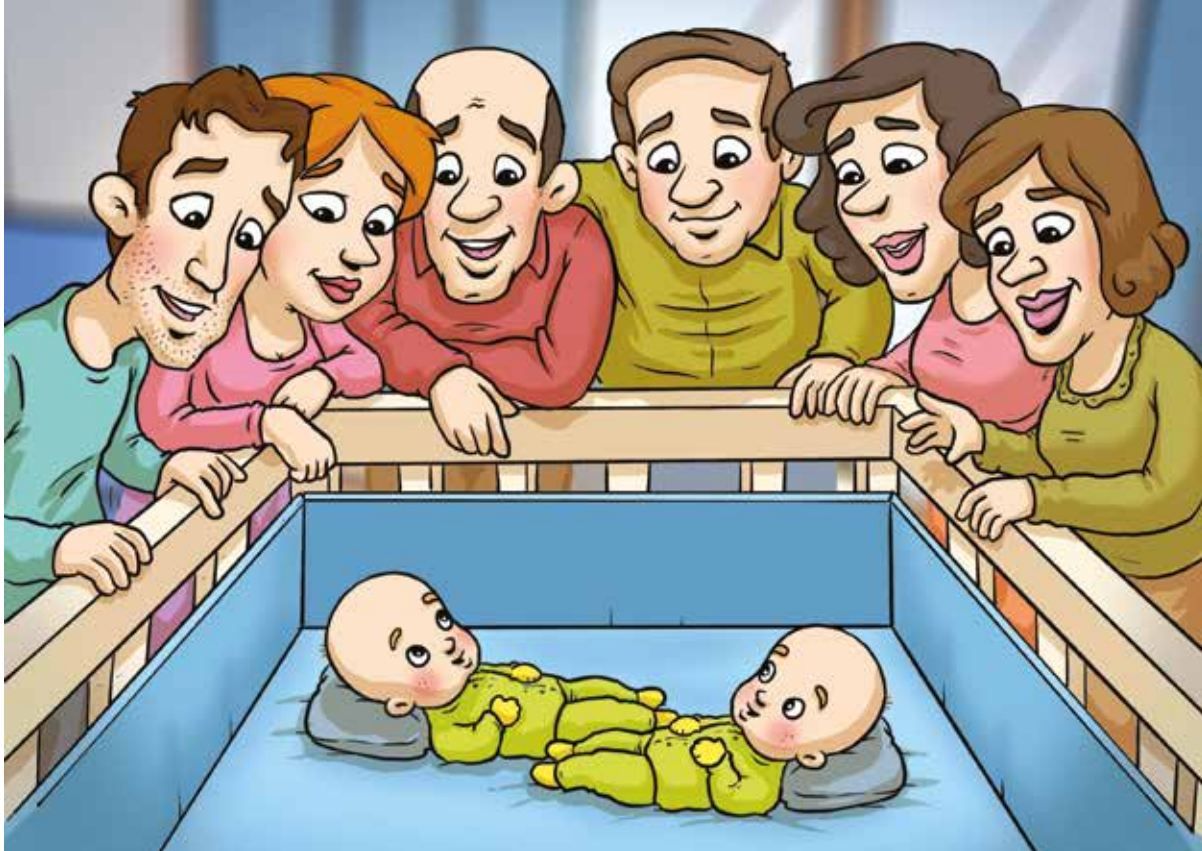


As you can see, life in the hospital was very pleasant for us but we were starting to wonder what life was like on the outside. Even though we had a lot of fun there, our parents didn't want us to stay in the hospital any longer. After all, the glass chambers were too small for them to crawl next to us.





When we were ready, the nurse ladies told us that we could go to a place called "home" with our parents. It was a much larger place than our glass chambers in the hospital. Maybe it seemed so to us, as we were very little.



Home was full of surprises. You won't believe it but we were greeted by lots of people who cheered and cried when they saw us. As if that wasn't enough, they looked at us and made funny sounds. These grown-ups can be very quirky sometimes. So, we kept crying because we were frightened by the sounds that they made. It's not like people made any sounds at the hospital. We just weren't used to it.

There were so many different names: Grandma, grandpa, aunt, uncle... So confusing! Luckily, we had plenty of time to spend together to learn all their names. We decided to call them "Agoo!" until we could learn them all



A calm, blonde lady with glasses had caught our attention inside the crowd.

This sweet lady was called Mrs. Birsen, also known as our nanny.

Aaand she is the first member of the team that we will talk to you about in the next few pages.





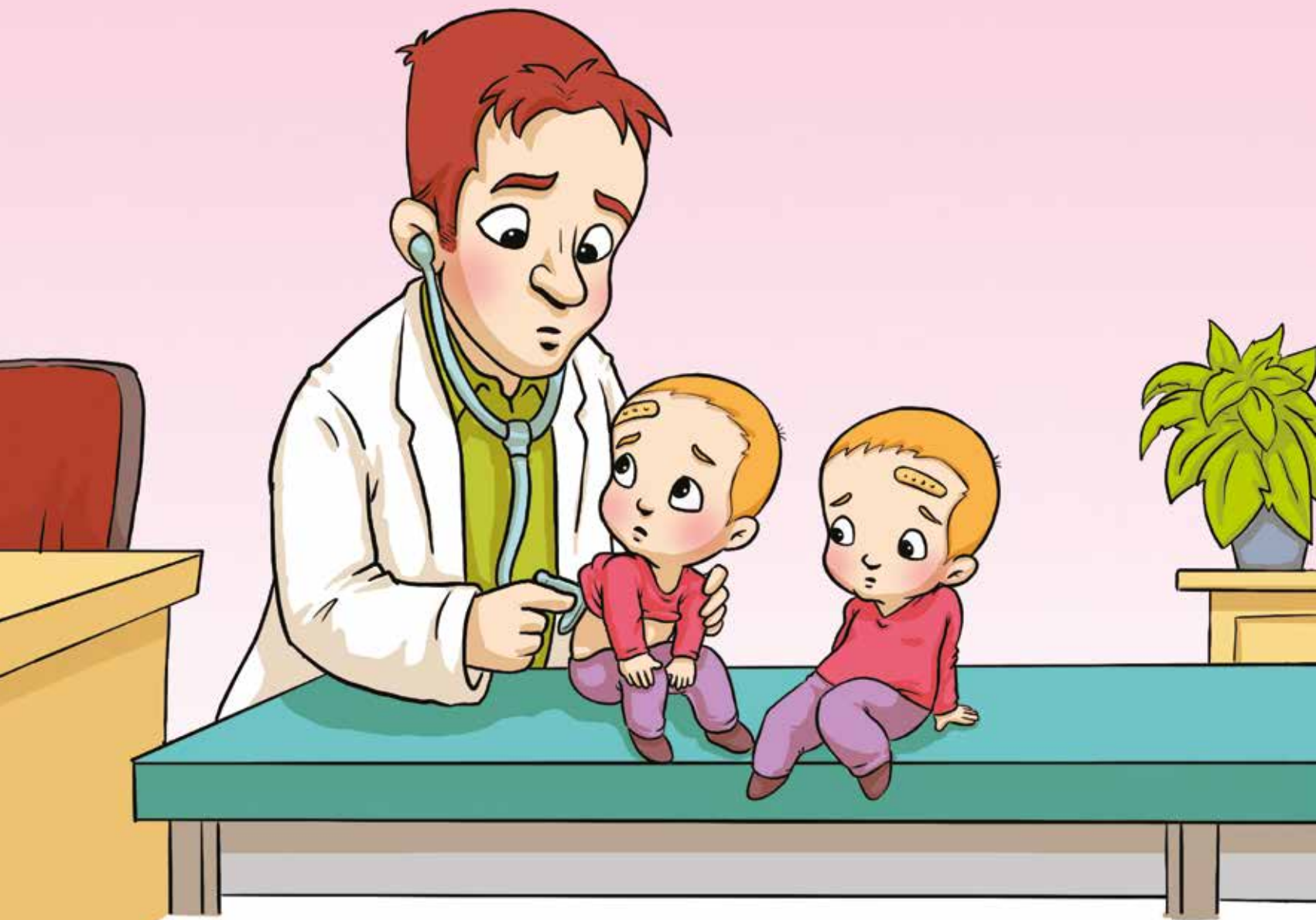
Mrs. Birsen and our mom kept telling us that we would grow faster if we had lots of milk. We get it better now, why they kept trying to put that bottle filled with our mom's milk into our mouths. The bottle was the same size as our heads. Then, it didn't prevent us from squirting out all that milk and giving our mother a milk bath.



Except for the meals, we spent most of our time trying out the pretty clothes our mother bought for us. Even though we looked funny because these clothes were way too big for us, we had a lot of fun when we looked at each other. We seemed ridiculous as we shook our arms up and down and had a good laugh afterwards.



As the days went by, we were growing up. However, because we were born too soon and were smaller compared to the other kids, we faced some obstacles and challenges during our playtime.



Of course, there were also times that we hurt ourselves when we were having fun. Keep this as a secret but according to our grandma, our father also went to the doctor often due to his naughtiness when he was little. For some reason, he never told us.

Because of our long stay at the hospital after we were born, we still needed some help with our playtime, even though we were growing up. I didn't like to use the right side of my body and my twin Ali didn't like to eat.

No one likes to do everything, right? For example our mother likes to use her right hand more, so she can't do everything with her left hand and our father likes to eat a little too much. Is it just me or do parents always like to do the opposite? Pfff...



Our parents decided to form a “Champions Team” to help us to play challenging games that we like. More people meant a stronger team. Ekin was a doctor with big blue eyes, who liked to play with children very, very much. Kayhan was a sports teacher who was always smiling and liked to talk a little too loudly. We already introduced you to Birsen, our nanny.





We played many games together as a team and had lots of fun. Okay, we must admit that we often put Kayhan out of temper but he never ceased to help us.

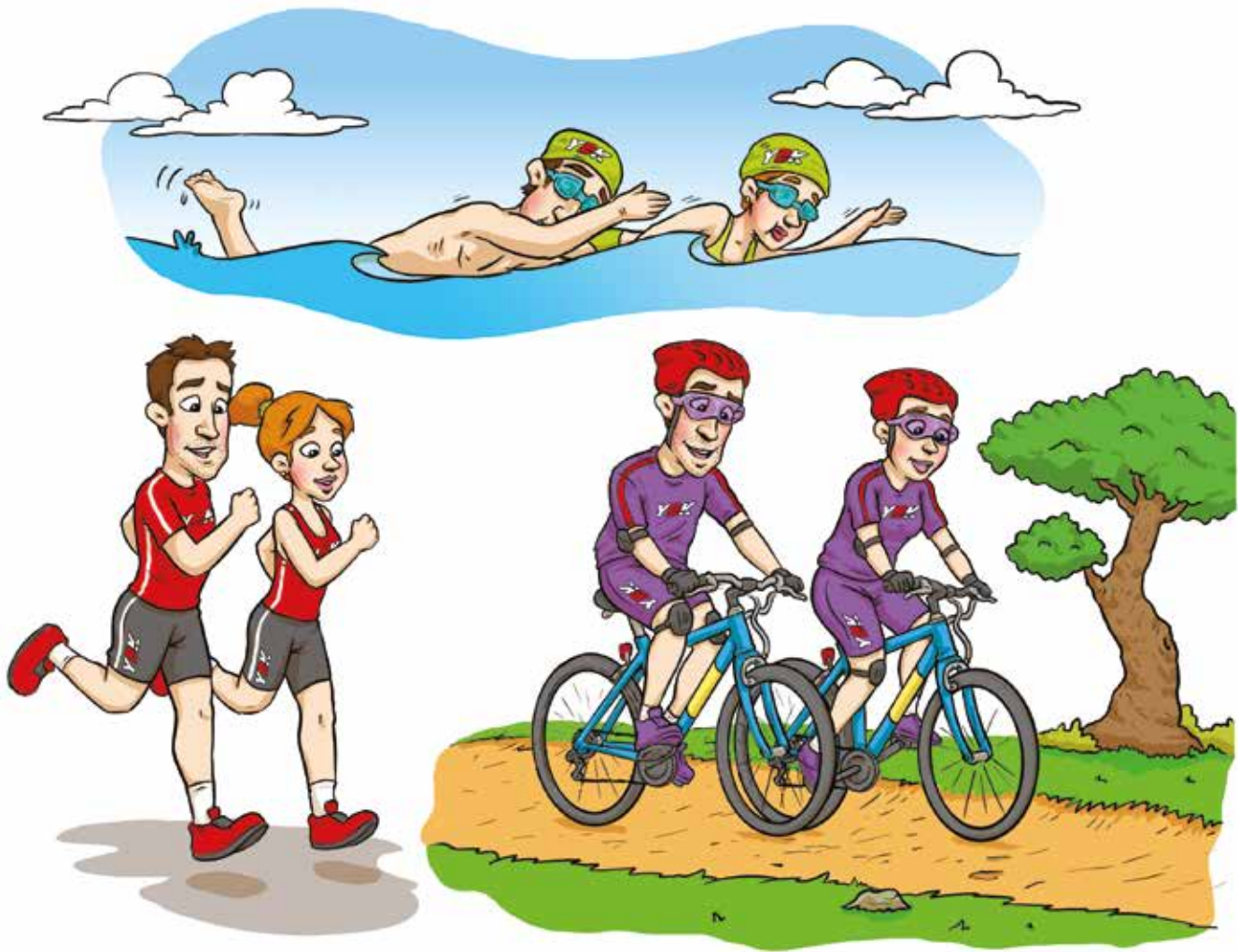
We learned how to strengthen our weak spots from the team. Some tasks were very challenging for us, but who can improve without hard work? Maybe we weren't the best, but this team taught us to always do our best.

Years passed by and surely, we continued to grow. Being a team was amazing. Some friends of Ekin who were also doctors occasionally assisted us. We felt like 'Superheroes'!

Superheroes also have friends who help them, right?

One day, Ekin even showed up with a special sock he prepared for Cem. It looked just like the superhero costumes we saw in the cartoons. It really was very cool... We named it "AFO" so that we could remember it easily.



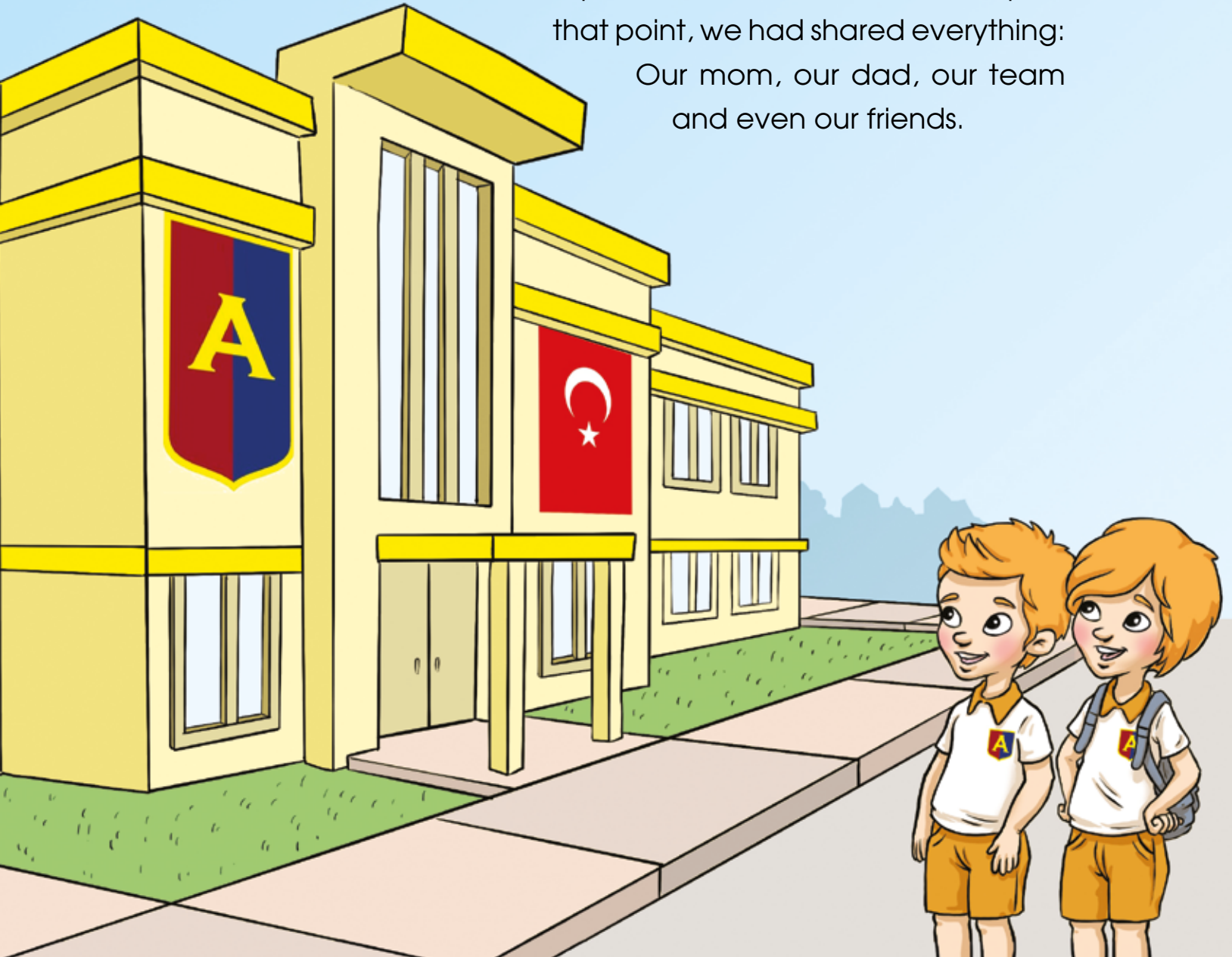


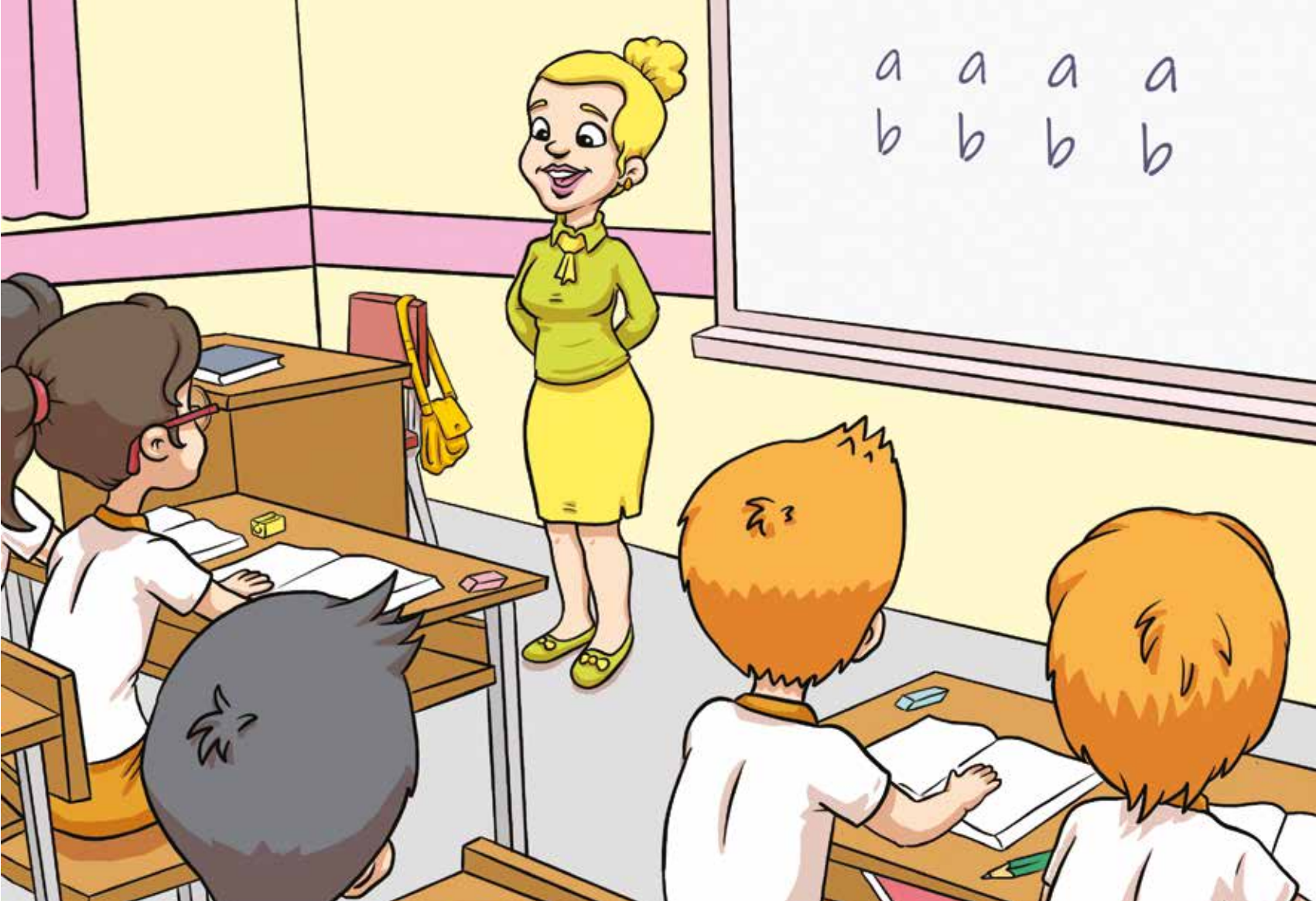
While we were dealing with all this, what were our parents up to? It may sound crazy but they started doing all kinds of sports because we inspired them. They competed in a race called "Iron Man". According to what they say, it was a very challenging competition. They had to swim 2 kilometers, bike 90 kilometers and run 21 kilometers.

Oh, and our dad was apparently jealous of Cem's Afo because he put on something called "braces" on his teeth and unfortunately he couldn't take them off when he went to bed, like Cem did. I wish our dad could also take his braces off.



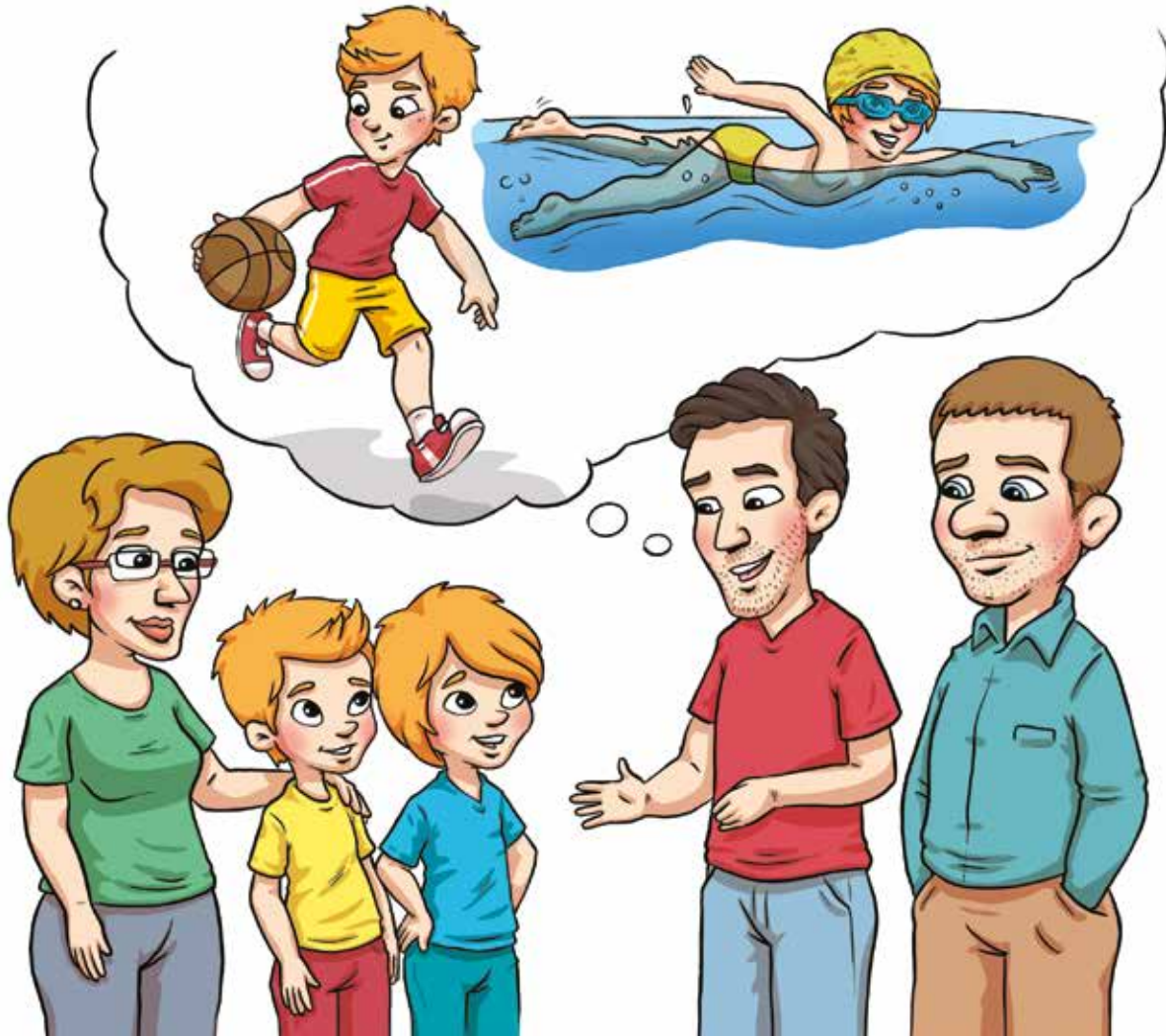
As we continued to grow, we started to discover new and exciting places. Our parents decided to send us to what they called a "school". We were thrilled because we were going to have separate lives for the first time. Up to that point, we had shared everything: Our mom, our dad, our team and even our friends.





We had such fun times in preschool and kindergarten that our mother still turns red when talking about it. Finally, we started attending what was called a “primary school” and that is when we truly understood that we had grown up. Can you believe it!? We were going to learn how to read and write! On top of that, we were going to make lots of new friends.

According to Ekin and Kayhan, it was important for us to do sports. In fact, we did sport activities all the time by playing games. They explained that we could become much more successful if we picked a single sport branch that we would enjoy. Who knows, maybe one day we could become one of the CHAMPIONS that we saw on TV!





I, Ali, decided to improve myself in swimming. Naturally, I had already started dreaming of becoming a champion. Even though I had a difficult time at first, trainings started to feel much easier as I got better and better. Since my mother already participated in swimming competitions, I enjoyed training with her. After all, we were a perfect team.

If you believe in yourself, you can do anything!

Our teachers wanted me to participate in a swimming competition called the "Ocean Kids" on behalf of the school. Even though I was anxious, I believed in myself. I had learnt to do the best that I could.

Aaand, guess what?

I became a champion in the first competition that I participated in!

Just like I imagined...



I - unlike my twin brother - chose basketball, the sport that my father played when he was our age. Because I didn't like to use the right side of my body, basketball was a tough sport for me. But as I told you I like basketball. Even if it was challenging for me, my team and I never gave up on working hard.





I aspired to play in the school team. Obviously, I knew that I wasn't the best player in the school. I felt like a superhero, who could accomplish anything that he wanted to. After all I had a wonderful team and the cool super-sock, "AFO".

What do you think happened? I was selected to play in the school team, just like I imagined! I can't even describe how happy I felt that day. I was so proud of myself because I made it!

Ever since we were born, our parents call us their superheroes. We know what you think, but we don't actually have superpowers...

What do you need the most to be a superhero?

A magic cape? The ability to fly?

Or a family and teammates that believe in you no matter how small you are?





Also, work as hard as you can without giving up.
Be courageous and have a big heart!
As you know, all children are superheroes in the eyes of their family.
Maybe the real magic is much closer to you than you think.
Why don't you look in the mirror once again?
We are sure that you will see a "Champion Superhero".