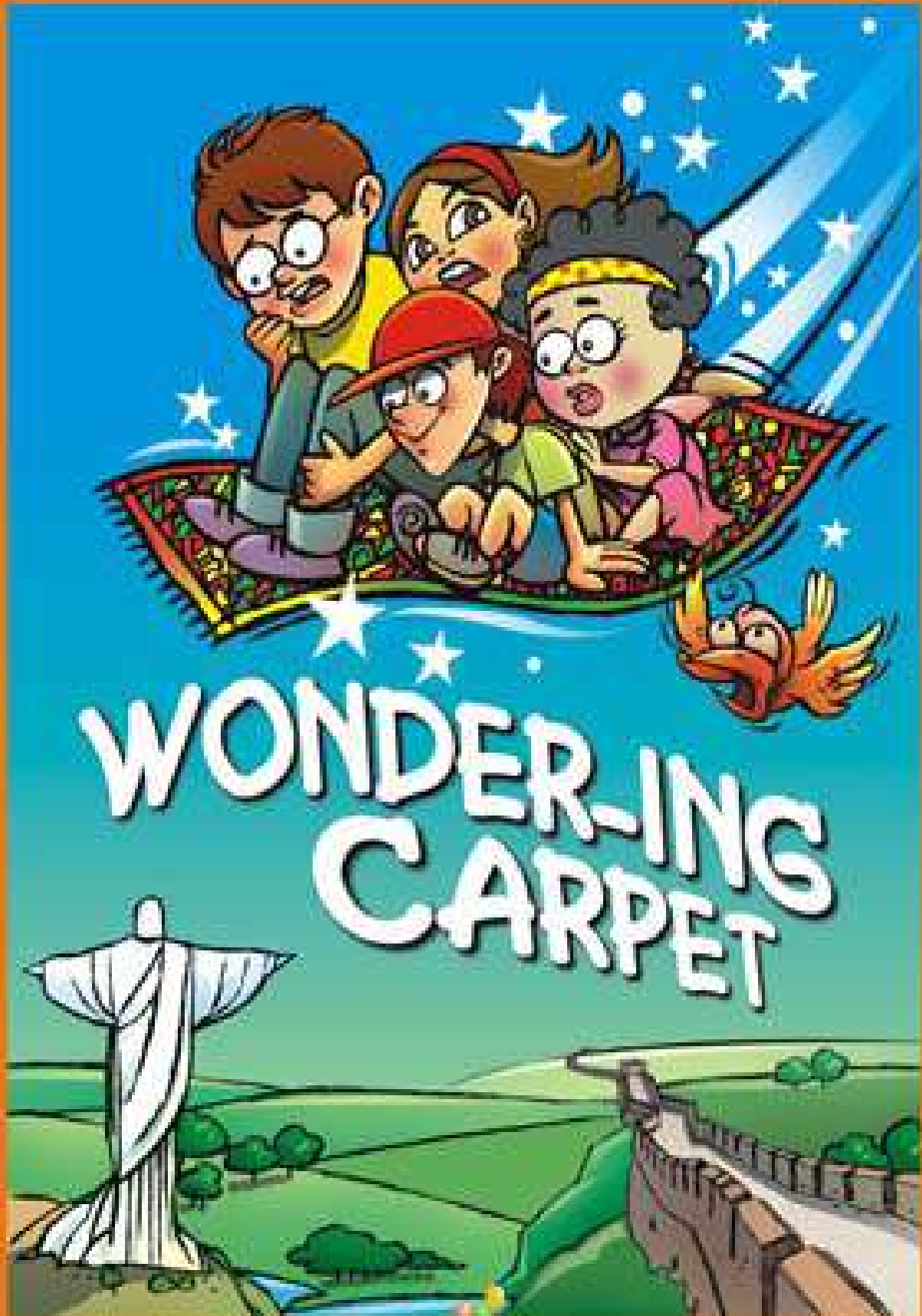
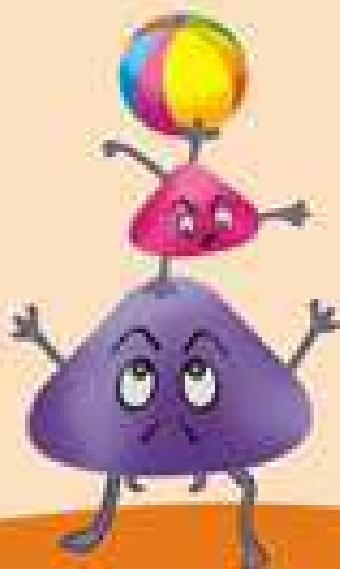
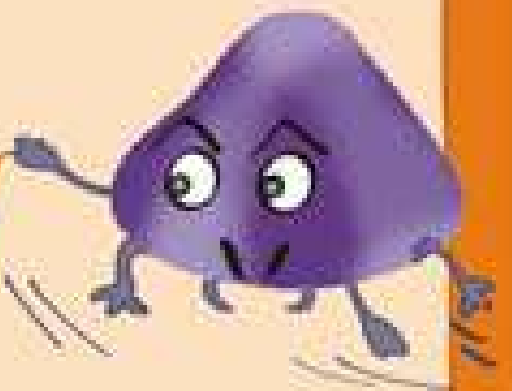


Hard Cover



PERSONALISED BOOKS WITH YOU IN MIND



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# WONDERING CARPET



Dear Melanie

Go around the world,  
learn & enjoy life

From  
Mummy and Papa

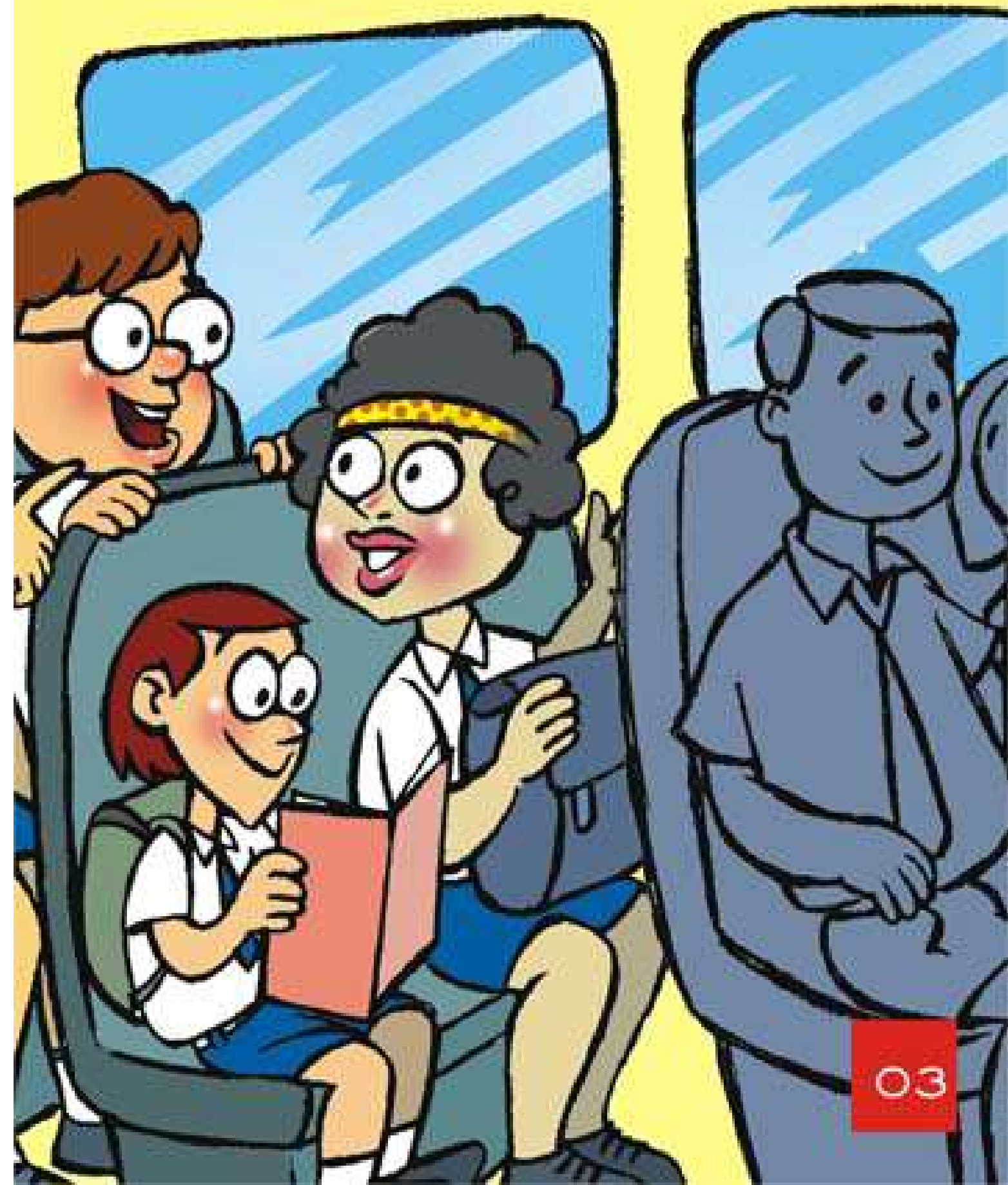


Melanie, Adil, Cecelia and Aman hopped on their school bus route no.111 and made a dash to their favourite corner. Everything surprisingly seemed so dull despite the summer vacation beginning tomorrow! "These holidays are going to be a drag, with no place to go to!" grumbled Aman looking around. Cecelia moaned, "We won't be going anywhere either, my aunt Cynthia is getting married and mom and dad are so caught up there as if they have nothing else to think off!"

Adil and Melanie exchanged a glance, realizing their situation was not any better either, thanks to family commitments their vacation plans were also postponed.



"Just chill! We all have loads of exciting 'holiday homework' to bury ourselves under, you won't even realise when the holidays whiz by!" cheered Aman. The other three bellowed "Shut up" loud enough to turn all heads in their direction, and startle the bus driver as well!



On reaching their room, the first thing to catch Adil and Melanie's eyes was a strange looking carpet. It was rectangular in shape with colourful triangles and some scribbling in an old script they couldn't decipher. The colour combination was atrocious with shocking yellow that looked like the sun had caught fire, bright red that seemed to burn holes in their eyes, and an awful green of some mysterious jungle. "MOM, who dumped this state-of-the-art masterpiece here," demanded Adil.

"Relax Adil; your old rug was shamefully dirty, I sent it away for dry-cleaning. This is just till then," explained mom. She had stayed home for them today.





"But it looks weird and old! Where did you get this from?" murmured Melanie. "This belonged to your great grandpa. I believe, he was a magician, actually a disciple of Aladdin. This is the only memento that we have of him. It's been lying in the attic!" mom said.



"You are a nut, Adil," said Aman making a face. Adil ignored him completely and said, "We are giving this a try; let's see if we can make this carpet fly. Are we ready for an adventure?" They didn't believe him he knew, but they were willing to play the game. "Take your positions. Cecelia, go to the east corner, Aman to the west, Melanie to the south and Adil to the north," he announced like the captain of the ship. "Hands on your knees, close your eyes and repeat after me three times:

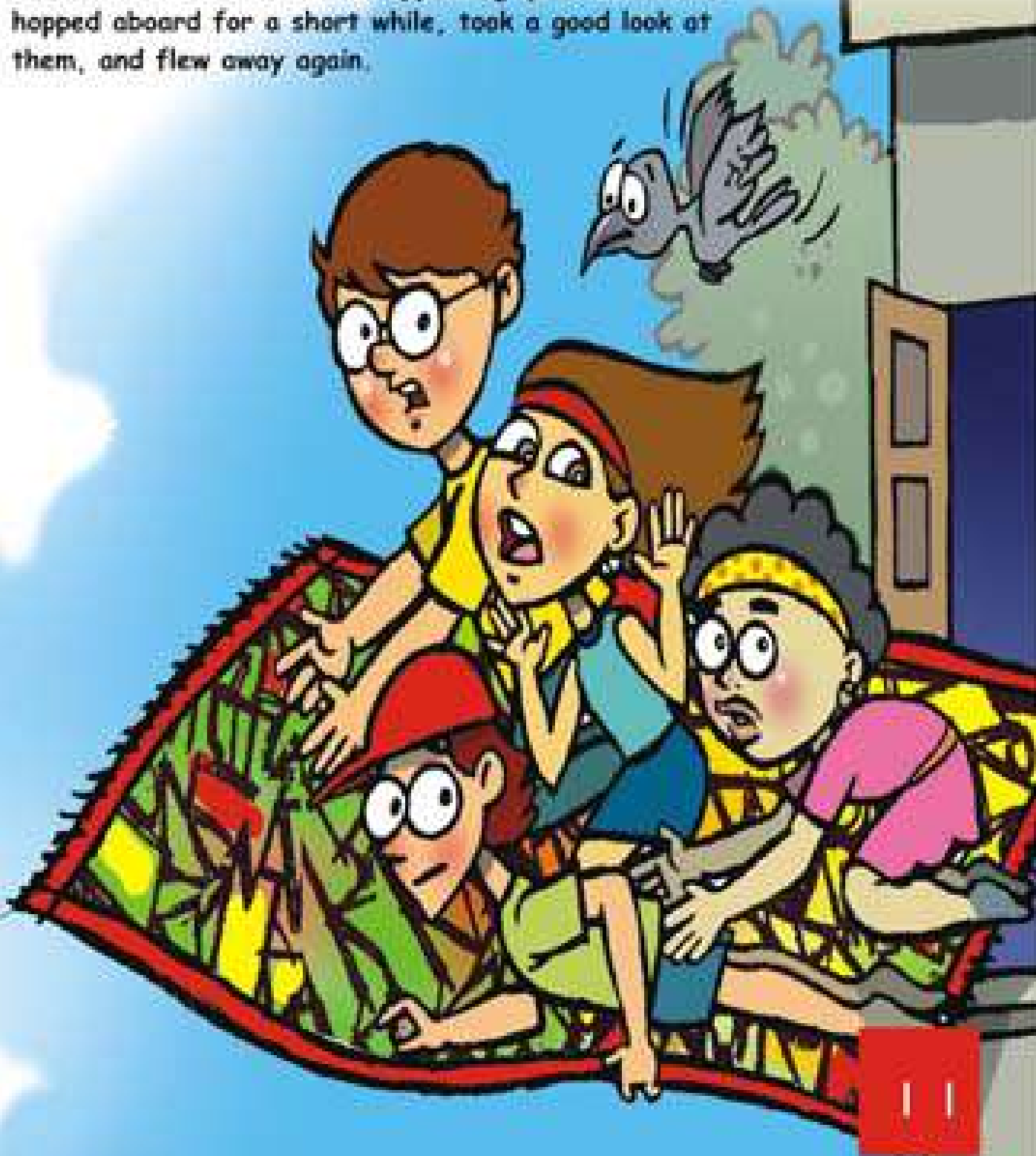
"Om hram hrum hree,  
Magic carpet we bow to thee,  
Please take us across the sea..."

Om hram hrum hree,  
Magic carpet we bow to thee,  
Please take us across the sea...



The moment they finished chanting the mantra for the third time, they felt a kind of earthquake, and gusts of wind against their faces, and on opening their eyes were astounded to see they were already in the sky. The carpet had made its way out of the balcony, and they were actually flying!

All four of them were too shocked to react, leave alone shout. The climb on the clouds was smooth; there was no need for seatbelts. Wide-eyed initially, they looked around themselves. A crow, appearing quite confused, hopped aboard for a short while, took a good look at them, and flew away again.



Adil and Melanie hurriedly changed, and just then, their doorbell rang. Seeing them home at this hour and that too beaming with joy, mom asked, "So, how was your day? How's that you haven't gone out to play?"

"We don't want to go anywhere now...we just want to be with you!" said Melanie hugging her mom. Suddenly her whole face lit up like a hundred stars in the sky, and she asked Adil, "Could it be 'Disney World' tomorrow?"



# More about the new Wonders



Taj Mahal was built under Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. Located in the city of Agra in India, it took nearly 22 years to build. Over 1,000 elephants were used to transport building material from different places. It is made of white marble and twenty eight types of precious and semi-precious stones inlaid into the marble.

Colosseum was built as an elliptical amphitheatre in the centre of the city of Rome in Italy. The largest ever building in the Roman empire, it could originally seat around 50,000 spectators. It was used for gladiatorial contests and public spectacles for nearly 500 years. The Colosseum was later reused for varied purposes as housing, workshops and for different religious activities.



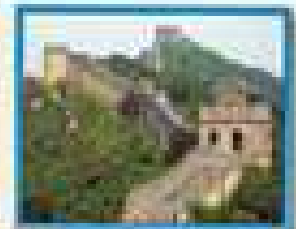
Petra is an ancient archaeological site in southwestern Jordan. It is famous for its rock-cut architecture, having many structures carved into the rocks. The long-hidden site was discovered by the Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt in 1812. It is famously described as "a rose-red city half as old as time".

Machu Picchu is an Inca city at an altitude of 2,430 meters (7,970 feet) on a mountain ridge in Peru. Inca was the largest American empire till 1533AD. Machu Picchu was constructed around 1450AD and is described as "an absolute masterpiece of architecture". It is said that the silhouette of the mountain range behind Machu Picchu represents the face of the Inca.

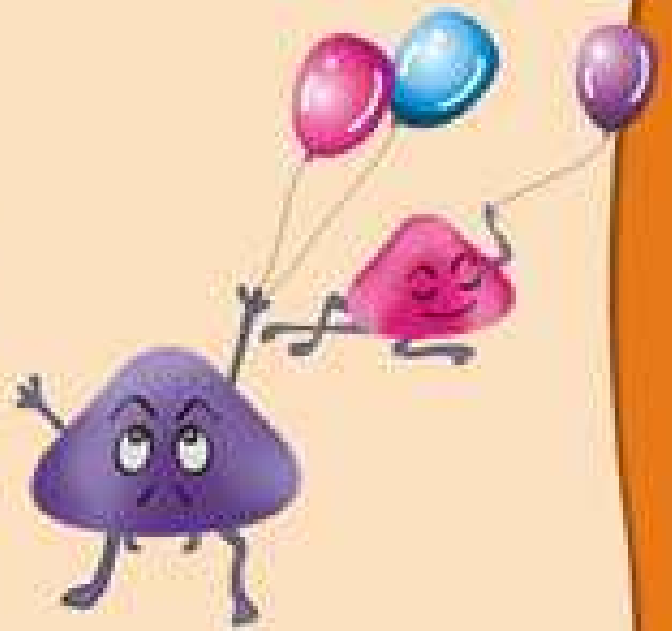
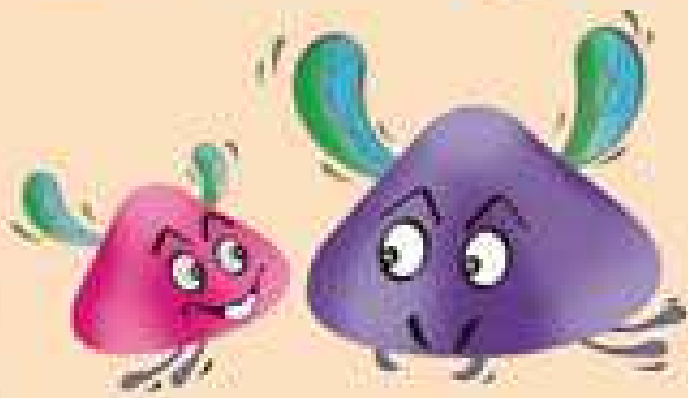


Chichen Itza is an archaeological site built by the Maya civilization located in the northern center of Mexico. The name "Chichen Itza" means "at the mouth of the well of the Itza ". There are two large, natural sink holes, called cenotes that could have provided plentiful water for Chichen, therefore the name. According to history, Maya sacrificed objects into the cenote as a form of worship to the Maya rain god Chaac.

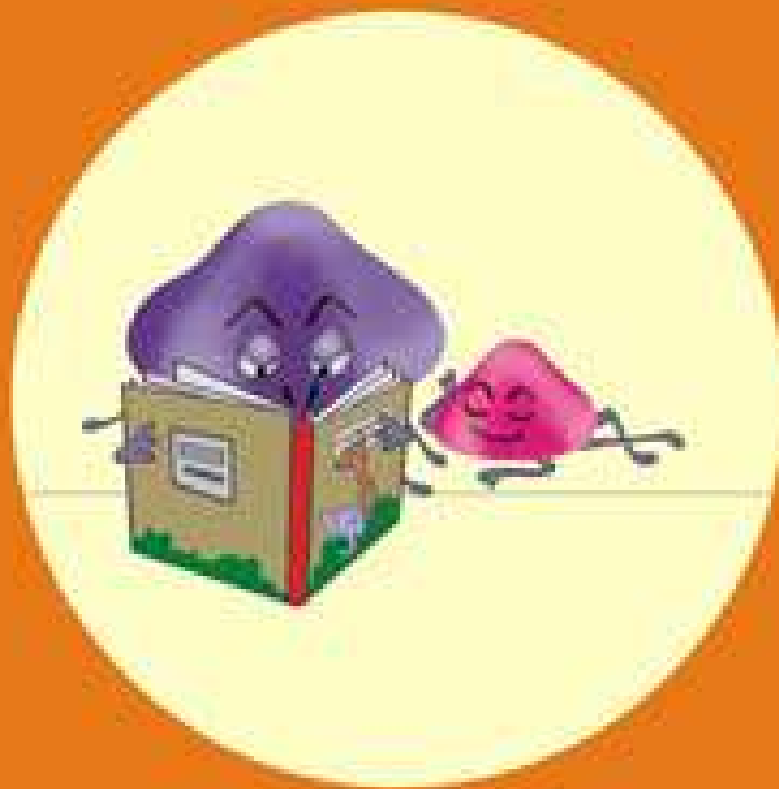
Great Wall of China is the world's longest and largest human-made structure. It stretches along an arc over approximately 6,400 km (4,000 miles) from Shanghai Pass in the east of China to Lop Nur in the west. It was constructed for fortifications to defend during the wars. The walls were made mostly by stamping earth and gravel between board frames.



Christ the Redeemer is a statue of Jesus Christ built in 1931 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The statue stands 39.6 meters (130 feet) tall and weighs 700 tons. It is located at the peak of the Corcovado Mountain in the Tijuca Forest National Park overlooking the city. It represents the Christian cross with a statue of Jesus holding the globe in his hand, and a pedestal symbolising the world.



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