

Hard Cover

Unforgettable day at the

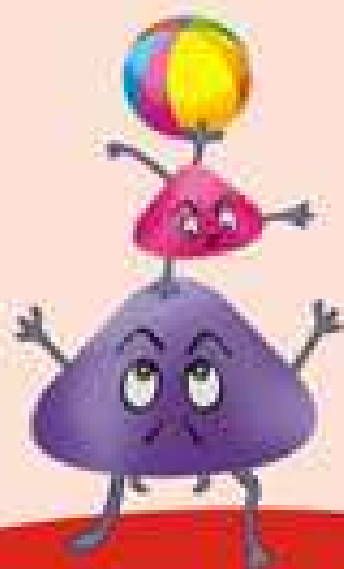
ZOO



UNFORGETTABLE DAY AT THE ZOO

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PERSONALISED BOOKS WITH YOU IN MIND



Published by
Virtual Store Pvt Ltd
103, Defence Enclave
New Delhi-110092

In Joint-venture with
A.I.V. Venture GmbH
Karl Harberger- Strasse 3
2380 Perchtoldsdorf
Vienna, Austria

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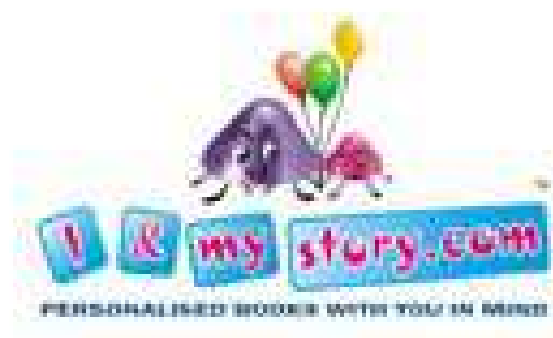
Printed by
Proprint Systems
New Delhi

First Edition 2008

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ISBN - 978-81-906194-1-7





Unforgettable
day
at the
ZOO



Melanie





**Unforgettable
day
at the
ZOO**

Dear Melanie

**With loads and loads of love and hugs
to my "Jadoo ki Pudiya"**

From

Mamma and Papa



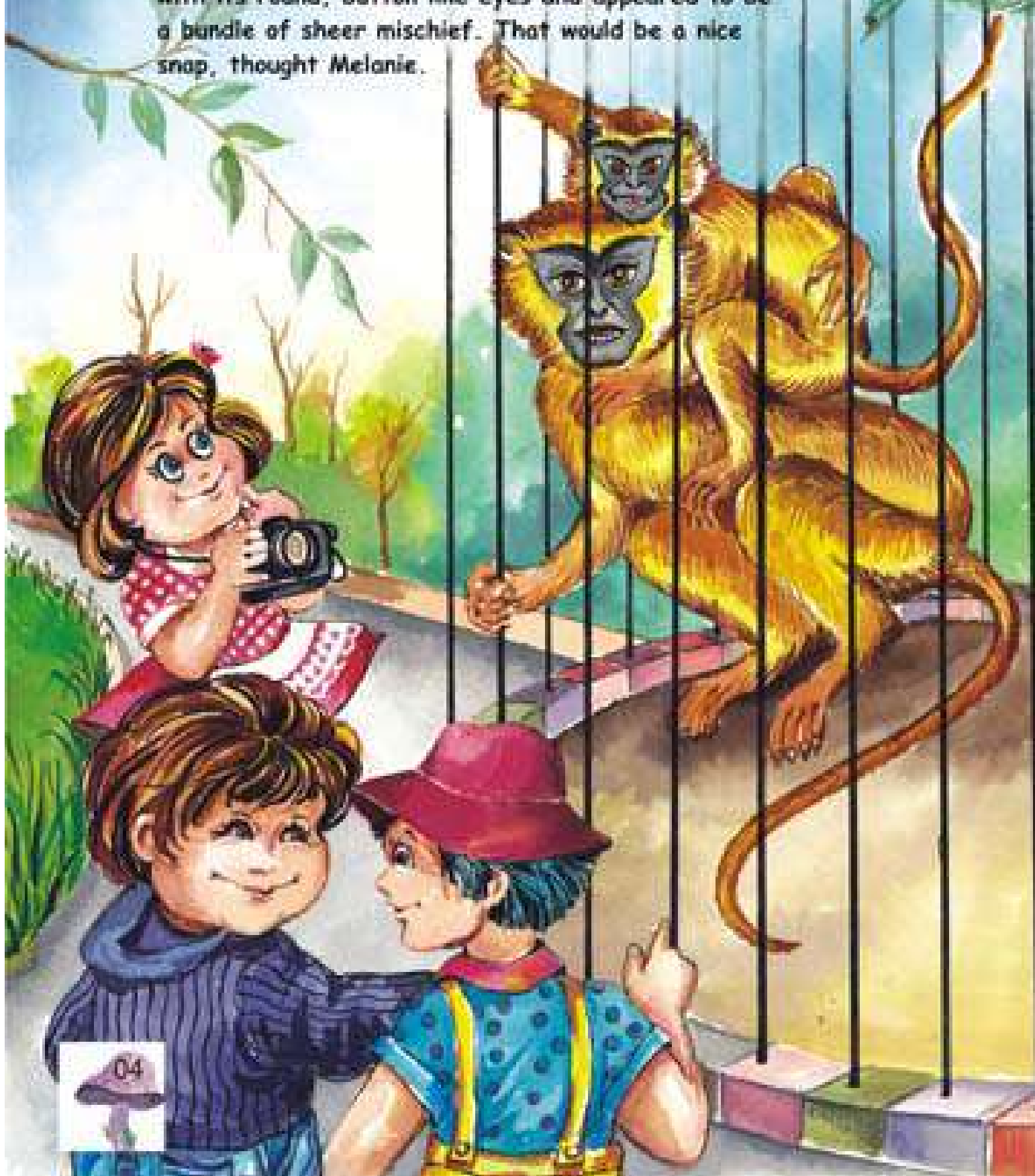
Melanie loved two things dearly: animals and her camera. Can you imagine her excitement when their class teacher announced that there would be a wildlife photography competition next week? The winning picture would be printed in the WWF's annual magazine and also carry a cash prize! Imagining herself as the winner, Melanie had already decided how she would spend the money!



The zoo was the only place to find wildlife in the city! When she told Siddhartha her idea, he agreed to go with her along with their best friend Sujoy. After all they were the "Gang" and as usual they were going to do it together.



When they arrived at the Zoo, the first sight was that of the golden langurs. The cage was large and roomy enough to accommodate at least a dozen of them. There was one mama langur with her tiny little baby clinging on to her. It looked very cute with its round, button like eyes and appeared to be a bundle of sheer mischief. That would be a nice snap, thought Melanie.



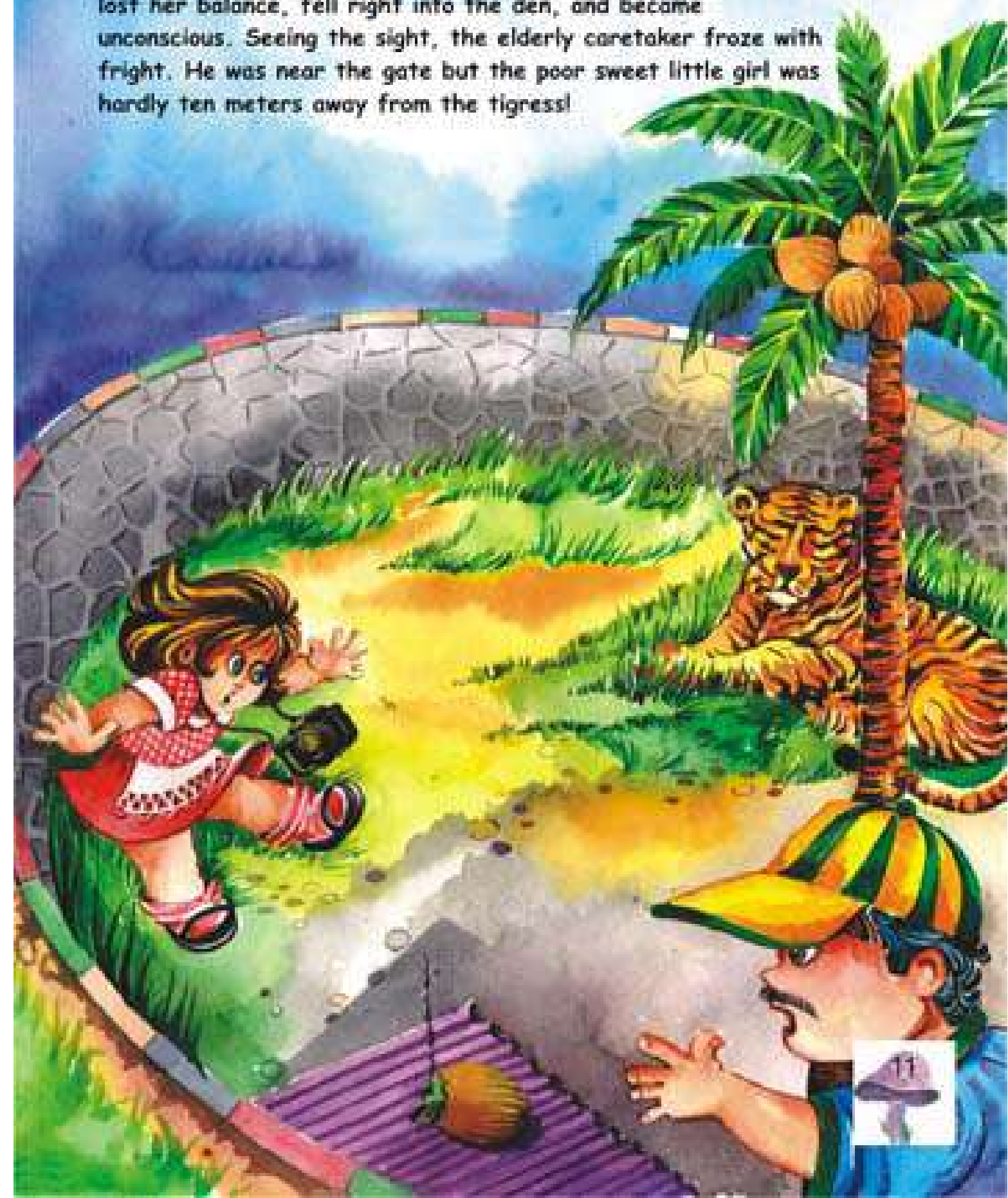
Now they were at the bear's den. There were two adult bears; one was sleeping and the other moving about restlessly. Just then the caretaker appeared with the bears' lunch. "Both these bears represent the only activities you like to be involved in-eating and sleeping!" said Melanie to Siddhartha. "Yeah!" agreed Sujay, "and this bear," he said pointing towards Siddhartha, "is so difficult to bear!" Both teased Siddhartha. His sense of humor staying intact he said, "We will soon meet those animals that resemble you," and they all had a hearty laugh.



However, she had to balance herself upon a high and narrow wall to get a clear view. As she inched slowly towards the inner side of the den, she saw the tigress and her cubs. They looked so beautiful together! And the cubs were little darlings, playing and rolling on the turf! The grass around them had started growing but they were clearly visible.



She had to lean a bit forward to get a better view. Maintaining her balance somehow, she began adjusting the lens when the silence was suddenly broken by a coconut falling on the tin roof with a big bang! Melanie, startled by the crash, lost her balance, fell right into the den, and became unconscious. Seeing the sight, the elderly caretaker froze with fright. He was near the gate but the poor sweet little girl was hardly ten meters away from the tigress!



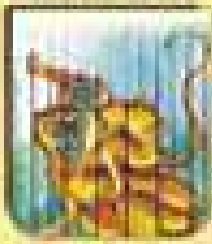
The next day's papers carried Melanie's photo with the tigress and cubs and Siddhartha's photo helping in making the swing.

"Will I win the wildlife picture competition? I don't care anymore. After all, I do have a photo now I would cherish all my life. What do you say brother?" asked Melanie. Looking at her with a naughty smile, Siddhartha said, "Yes, let's go and show it to the tigress, maybe she wants a photo for the den too."



INTERESTING FACTS

LANGURS Langurs are considered sacred in India as they represent Hanuman of Ramayana.



An interesting relationship has been observed between herds of Chital, a kind of deer, and grey langur of the northern plains. The chital benefits from the langurs' good eyesight. The langur posts a look out from the treetop and raises the alarm when it sights a predator approaching from a distance. The chital's superior sense of smell assists in early predator warning when the langurs are on the ground. The chital also benefits from fruits dropped by the langurs from the trees.

Tiger, the largest of four "big cats" is an endangered species, with the majority of the world's tigers now living in captivity. Tigers have featured in ancient mythologies and folklore, and continue to appear on flags, coat of arms and as mascots for sporting teams. It is the national animal of India. In the wild, tigers mostly feed on large and medium sized animals but may kill such formidable predators as leopards, pythons and even crocodiles. They sometimes prey on domestic animals such as dogs, cows, horses and donkeys. These individuals are termed cattle-lifters.

TIGER



HIPPO



Hippo is a large, mostly plant-eating African mammal. During the day they remain cool by staying in the water or mud. The babies are also born in water. They emerge at dusk to graze on grass. This big animal has a big mouth (can hold about 500 grapes) but a very narrow food pipe so it eats slowly. While the hippos rest near each other, grazing is a solitary activity. Adult hippos are hostile towards the crocodiles, which often live in the same pools and rivers as the hippos. This is especially so when the young hippo calves are around.

Giraffe is the tallest of all land-living animal species. Males can be 4.8 to 5.5 metres tall (nearly equal to ground and first floor of a house) and weigh up to 1,360 kilograms (3,000pounds). Females are generally slightly shorter and weigh less than the male. They have a long and very sticky tongue that helps in getting more leaves at the same time. The giraffe has one of the shortest sleep requirements of any mammal, which is between 10 minutes and two hours in a 24-hour period. This has led to the myth that giraffes cannot lie down and that if they do so, they will die.

GIRAFFE



BEAR

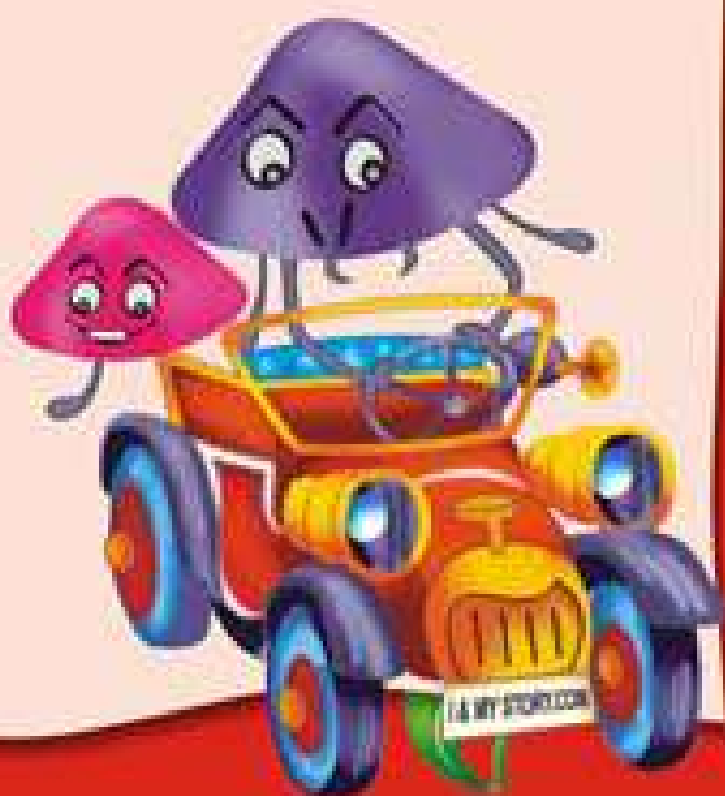
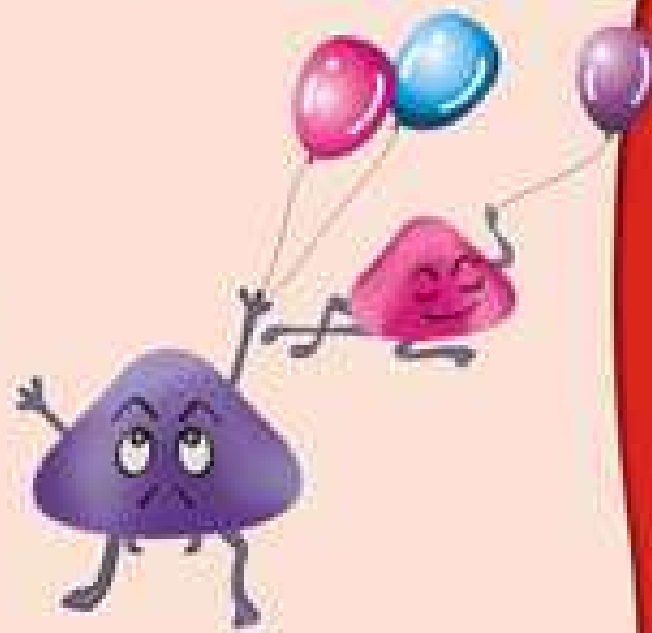
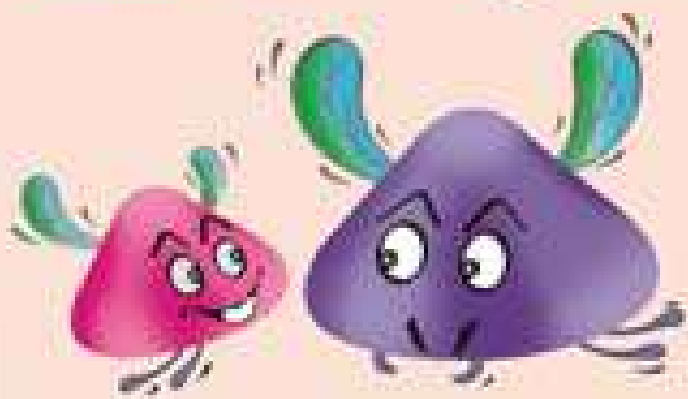


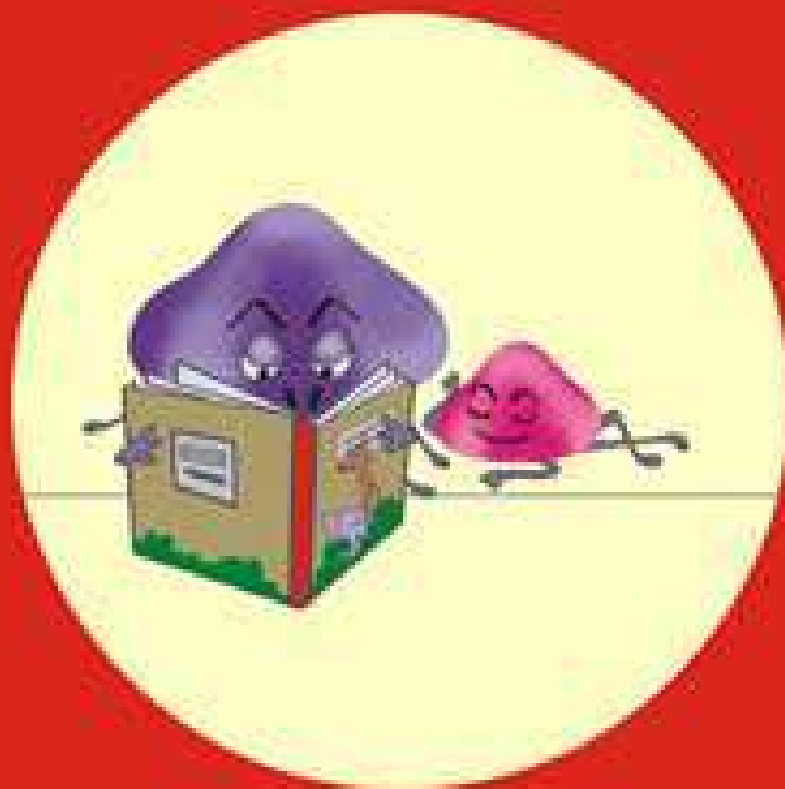
Bears are widespread, appearing in a variety of habitats throughout the Northern Hemisphere and partially in the Southern Hemisphere. They are typically solitary animals. Bears use shelters such as caves and burrows as their dens, and during the winter they sleep for a long period, similar to hibernation. Their fur is so thick that even a bee cannot sting them. They are mainly omnivorous, although some have a more specialised diet, such as polar bears who mainly consume fish and marine mammals and go the rivers or other water bodies to capture fish.

Deer is a ruminant mammal. The male deer have antlers. Deer are selective feeders. They select easily digestible shoots, young leaves, fresh grasses, soft twigs, fruit, fungi and lichens. Deer are also excellent swimmers. A doe generally has one or two fawns at a time (triplets, while not unknown, are uncommon). In the first twenty minutes of a fawn's life, the fawn begins to take its first steps. A male usually never sees his mother again, but the females sometimes come back with their own fawns and form small herds.

DEER







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