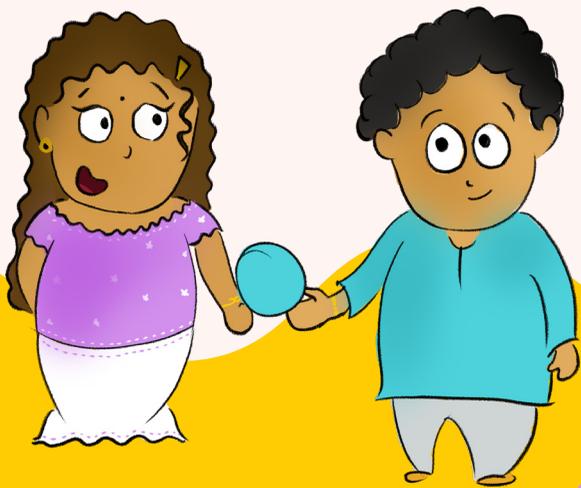


Dhruv-Tara and their Magical Stone




KATHA

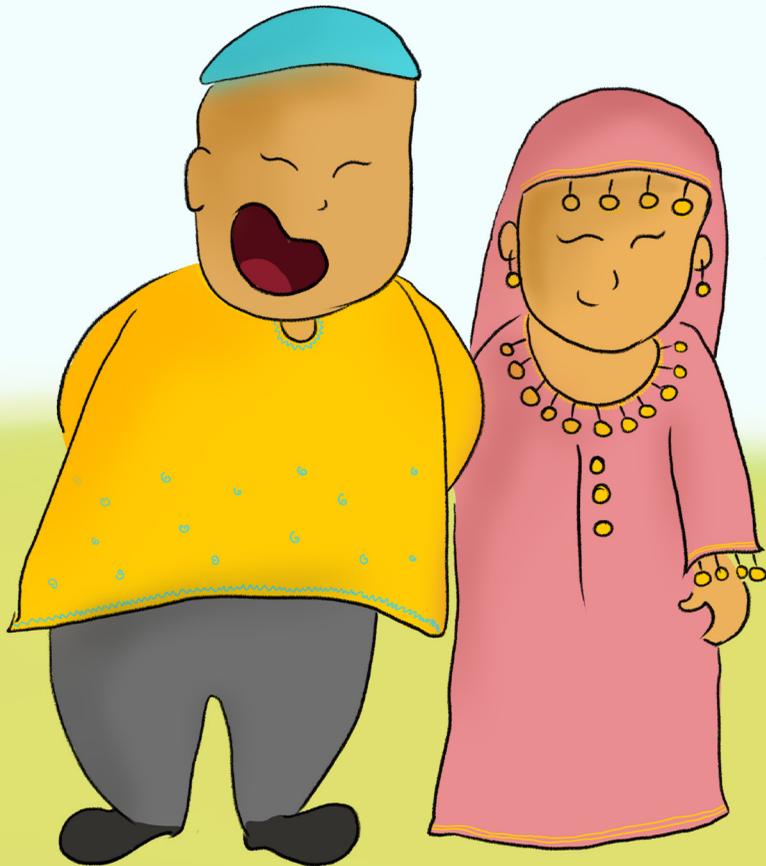
Kanika Arora
Illustrated by : Simran Rawat



Far away from the busy roads and smoky skies of Delhi, there once lived a beautiful queen in the small town of Gujiapur.

Famous for its chocolate mountains and rivers flowing with cola, Gujiapur was ruled by the queen who lived in a big palace with her little twins Dhruv and Tara.

While Dhruv was a spoonful of sugar and the sensible owl, his twin sister Tara was the life of every room, a mischievous clown.



Always up for adventures, the twins loved exploring the magical land of Gujiapur and meeting new people.



The town enjoyed celebrating festivals and would always get overjoyed seeing the twins participating in the festivities.

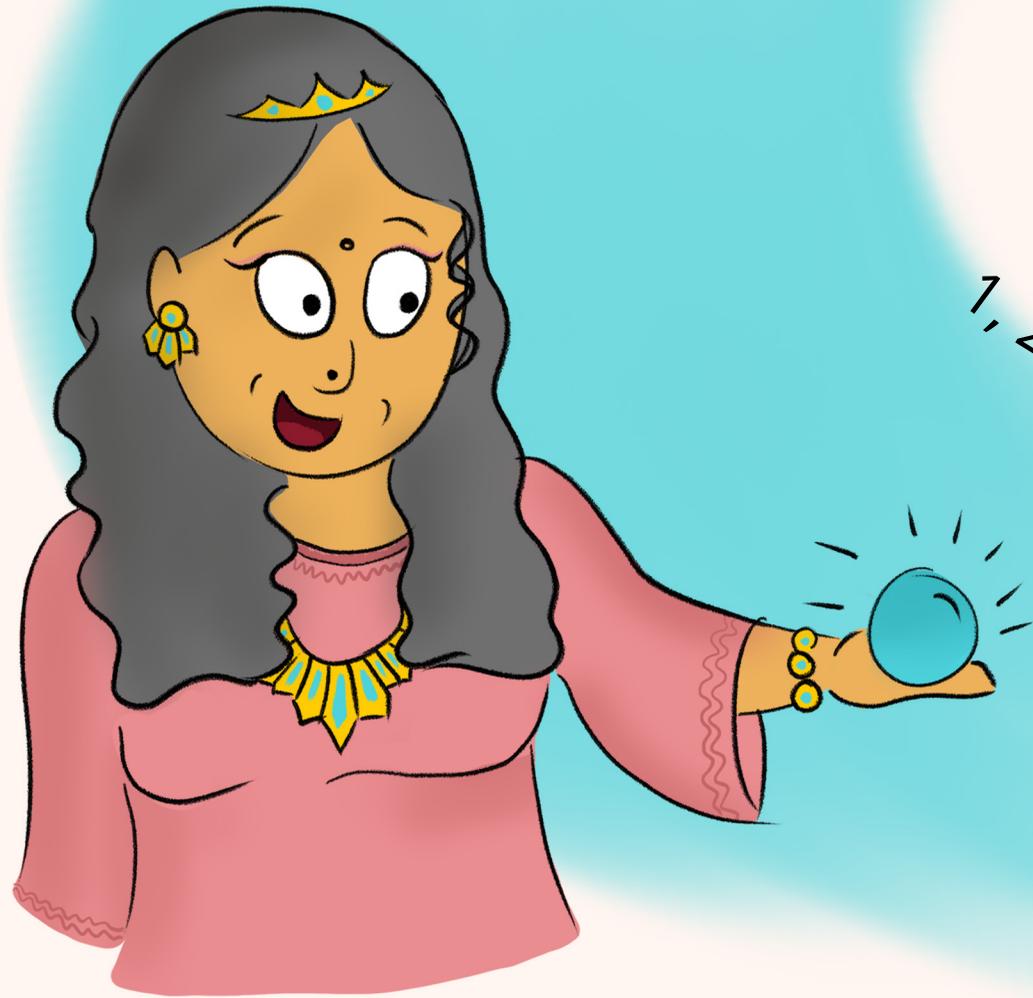
But this was the time when the dark and scary corner of the town would also come to life, the corner at which lived a group.



It looked sweet and nice but was pure evil from the inside.



To make sure the twins were always safe, the queen gave them a magic stone that had special powers.



Upon saying the words "1, 2, 3.... take me to the queen!", the stone would directly take the twins back to their mother from any part of the town. The twins always carried the stone with them whenever they went outside the palace.

1, 2, 3.... take me to the queen





Wearing their white dresses and holding their water guns, the twins stepped outside to have a good time.

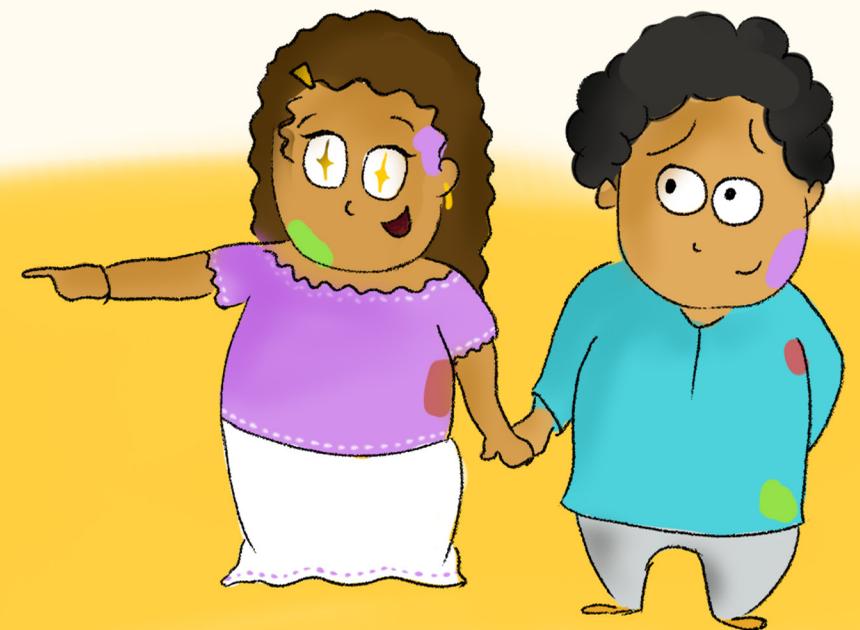
It was the month of March and the spring season was at its prime. The flowers bloomed, the birds chirped and the twins danced around their mother as the festival of Holi was near.



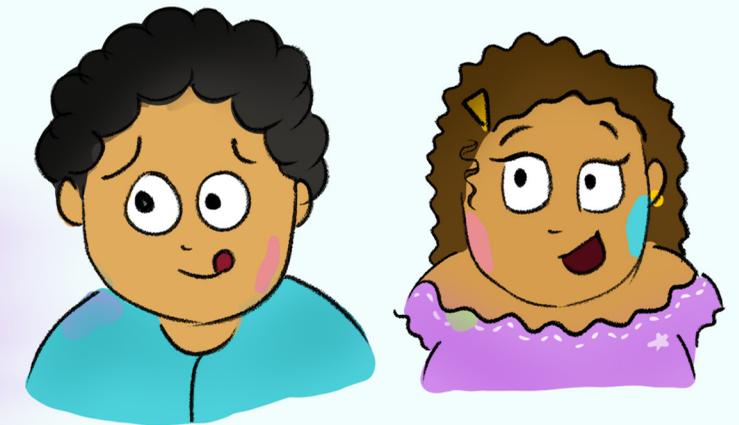
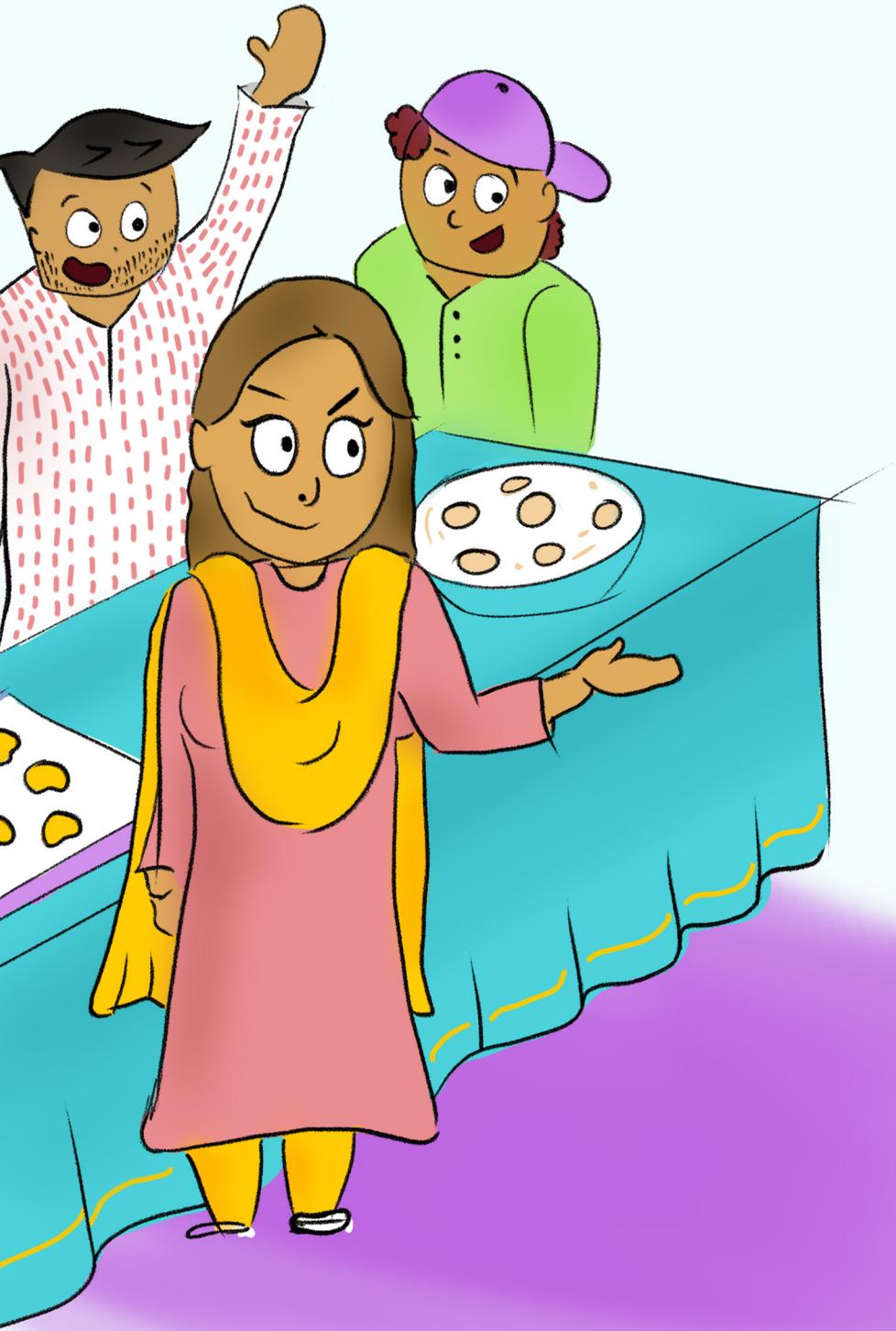
As they danced and played in the middle of the town, Tara saw a sign that said “Party of the Year- kids only!” and in a lot of excitement, she jumped up and down asking Dhruv to come along.

Dhruv looked worried as the lane beside the sign led to the dark corner their mother warned them about.

Jumpy as ever, Tara asked Dhruv to take a chill-pill and follow her lead, as this is the party she didn't want to miss.



The twins quietly moved away from the town festivities and headed straight towards the sign, where they met a pretty lady who said come inside, let's play Holi and eat rasmalai!



With Rasmalai on their mind, the twins entered inside, where they met their friend Billu's older brother Bali.



Rejoiced in his presence, the twins ate a bowl full of Rasmalai.



As they were about to say goodbye, a man and a woman grabbed them from behind and rubbed colours all over the twins' bodies.



Shocked, the twins stood there in fear as the gang laughed.



Seeing the twins stood surrounded by unknown faces, Bali came to their rescue. "Let me give you a bath and make you clean again," said Bali as he started removing Tara's clothes.



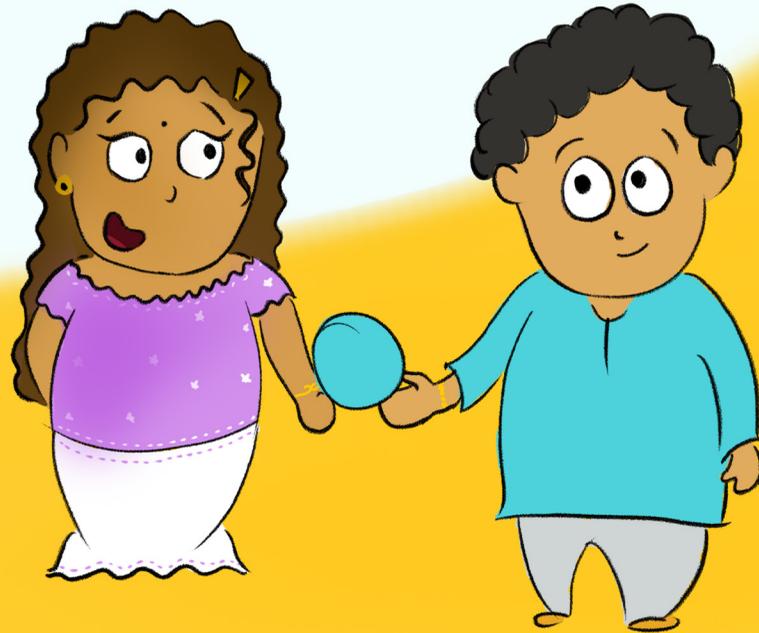
Knowing this is trouble, Dhruv held the hand of Tara and ran towards the door.



When they reached in the middle of the lane, they looked back to see the members following them from behind. Shivering in fear, the twins suddenly realised, "OH THE STONE!!", this will save our lives.

They touched the stone and said the magic words "1,2,3 ... take me to the queen" and wooooshhh.. They vanished.

1,2,3 ... take me to the queen





As soon as they reached back in the palace, the queen looked surprised. “Who did this to my children?”, the queen cried. Dhruv gathered the courage and recited their story. Glowing with anger, the queen said “Call the Katha-minister”, enough with this Holi.

The Katha-minister came running in her shiny shoes. With her big glasses, she looked at the sad faces of the twins, and asked the queen, "what happened??".



What happened??

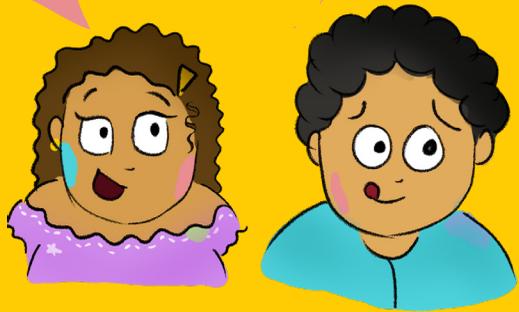


The queen ordered the Katha minister to call the police and gather all the children, as it was time for them to learn a life lesson.

The Katha-minister took out a big book from her bag and tightened her saree.

With her sweet voice she started speaking, "Kids, look carefully in this book as I tell you the many ways in which the kids are not safe in our surroundings."





You are not safe when:

- A stranger or someone you know, tells you that they will give you or show you something you like and takes you somewhere without telling your mother, father, or any other family member.



Can someone take me away from my school?

A child asked from behind

If you are at the school, then no one can take you anywhere without the permission of your teacher.

You are not safe when:

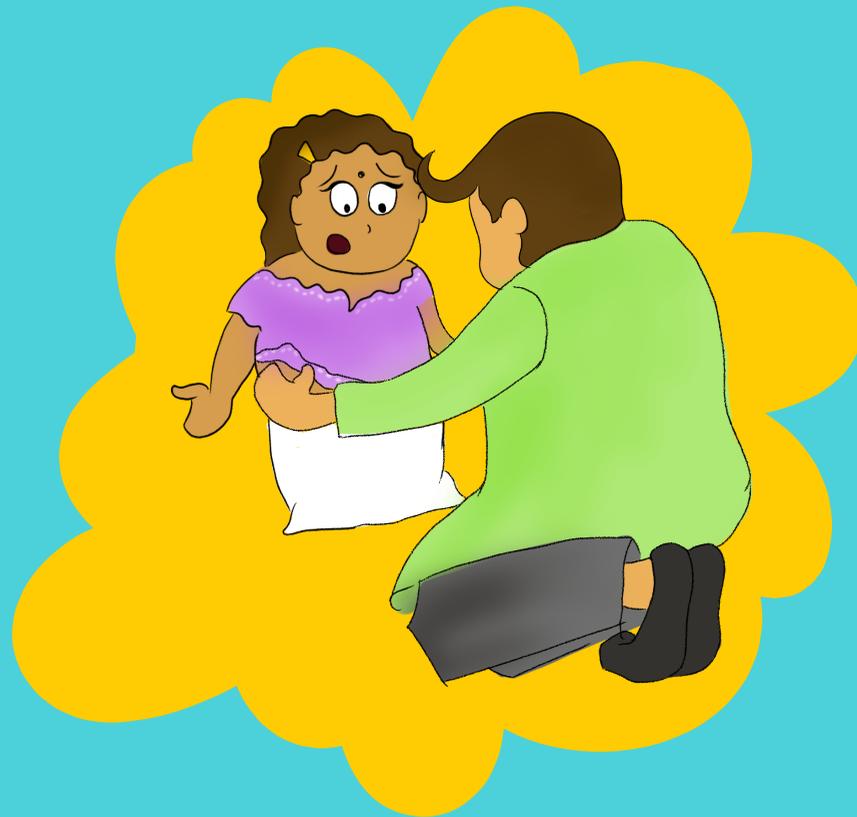
someone touches you on

● lips

● chest

● waist

● buttocks, and between the legs.



These are called The Special Spots

● Someone asks you to remove your clothes.

Someone removes your clothes and touches any part of your body. ●

● Someone asks you to remove your clothes and clicks your pictures.

Someone shows their special spots to you.

Someone shows you a photo or film which has pictures of the special spots.

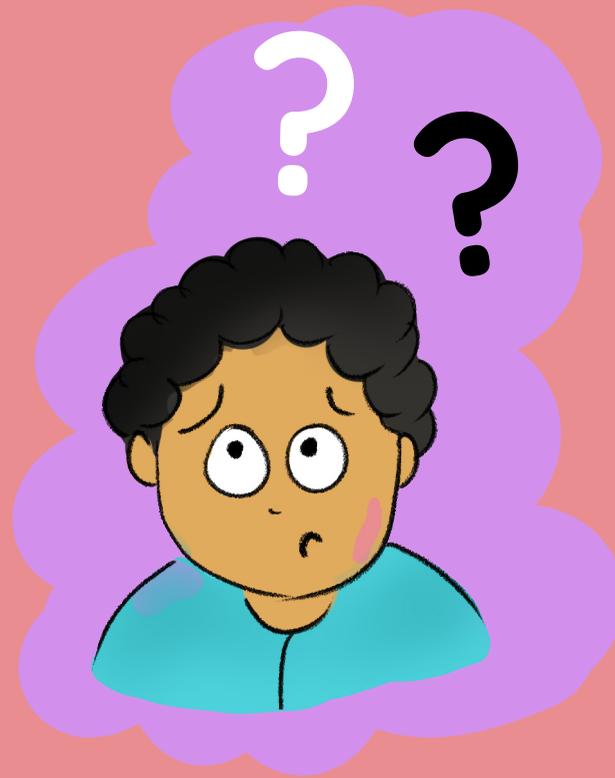


Someone asks you to touch their special spots.

Someone whistles or sings any foul song or uses any bad word in front of you.

Someone talks to you about your special spots.

Someone watches you while you are using the toilet, bathing or changing your clothes.



You are not safe if you:

● Accept friend request of an unknown person on social media.

Send your pictures to an unknown person on social media . ●

● Send the pictures of your special spots to anyone on social media.



If someone sends you a photo or film which shows the special spots or someone touching the special spots on social media.



If someone you don't know messages you again and again on social media. ●



If someone sends bad words to you on social media.

Can my teacher touch me on my special spots?



Can someone who knows me touch me or talk to me about my special spots?

Can the police officer touch me on my special spots?



No. Only your mother when she bathes you or your doctor while doing your check-up can touch you on your special spots.

You are not safe when a stranger follows you or clicks your pictures when you are going to your school or tuition or where you go to play.





What will you do if someone does this to you?

I will yell and make noise so that people nearby see me and then I will run from that place to my house and I will tell my family members (mumma/papa/dada/dadi/chacha/chachi/bhaiya/didi).



Then along with them I will go to the police station or call the police on 100.



I will also call on the childline number at 1098. If this happens to me in my house, I will run outside the house and inform my neighbours. I take their help in calling my parents, or the police, or the childline number.

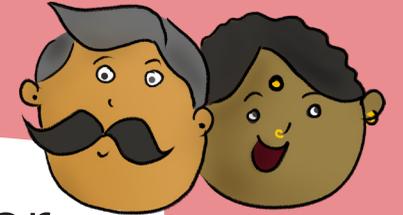


What if you are not near your house?



I will run to a place with a lot of people and tell them that someone misbehaved with me and then take their phone and call my parents and the police.

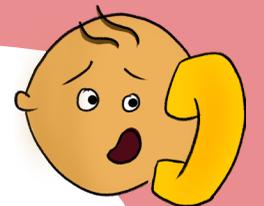
You must remember the following phone numbers:



Mumma/Papa or any other family members



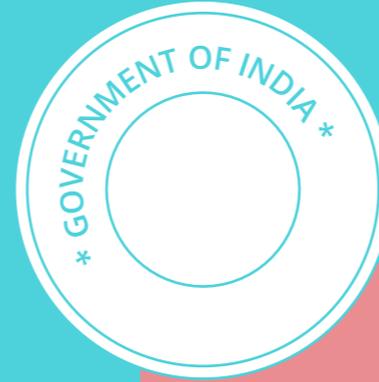
100
Police



1098
Childline

How to file a **COMPLAINT?**

I will go to the police station which is near my house or near the place where someone misbehaved with me. I can also go to the police station by myself and the police officer will call my family members there.



I will make sure that the complaint is filed quickly. The police officer will write my complaint in their book and read it back to me. After that, I will sign in the police officer's book where my complaint is written and get a copy of it from them and go back home with my family. The Police officer will make sure that the bad people go to jail.



Which are the other places that can help me?

I can also call on the following numbers to get help in catching the bad people:



National Commission for women

(Written - through post or hand/online complaint)

011-26944880

011-26944883

(9:00 AM – 5:30 PM Working Days - Monday to Friday)



Women helpline (Delhi Police)

1091

(24*7 service)



Women's Cell Delhi Police

011-24673366

011-24674156

011-24677699

(24*7 service)



Information about NGOs and legal aid cells

011-23317004

(24*7 service)



Delhi Commission for Women

011-23379181

(All working days
10 AM to 5:30 PM)



Child-line

1098

I can ask my family members to write a complaint to the boss of the police officer with the help of NGO didis.



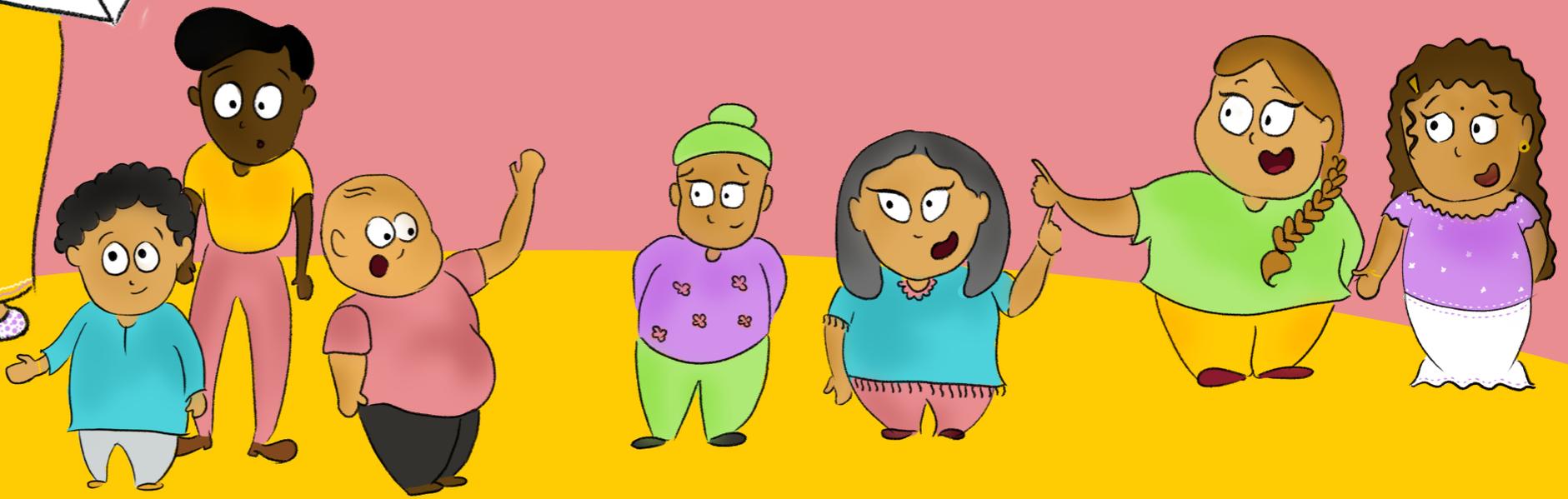
“ If the boss officer also does not file the complaint then I will go to the court where the judge will scold the police officer and ask them to file a complaint. ”

What to do if Police officer doesn't file a complaint??

I can also go to the website of the National Human Rights Commission and file a complaint.



“Do not worry kids, it is not your mistake. Bad people do bad things and it is our duty to keep ourselves and our surroundings safe.”



In the meanwhile, the police came with the men and women who touched the children of the queen. The police placed handcuffs on their hands and took them to jail. Keeping in mind the teachings of the Katha-minister, the twins sat there happily and said that now they will not be scared and play Holi again!



Kanika Arora is a lawyer who advocates for Women and Child Rights.

Simran Rawat is a designer, who works with subjects of children's education.

Ideated by Geeta Dharmarajan and developed by Katha SRI (Slum Resurgence Initiative) team.

KATHA is a registered nonprofit organization started in 1988. We work in the literacy to literature continuum. Devoted to enhancing the joys of reading amongst children and adults, we work with more than 1,00,000 children in poverty, to bring them to grade-level reading through quality books and interventions.

A3, Sarvodaya Enclave,
Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi 110 017
Phone: 4141 6600 . 4141 66624 . 4182 9998

E-mail: marketing@katha.org
Website: www.books.katha.org

First published by Katha, 2021

Copyright © Katha, 2021

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Printed in New Delhi
ISBN 978-93-82454-97-7

Ten percent of sales proceeds from this book will support the quality education of children studying in Katha Schools. Katha regularly plants trees to replace the wood used in the making of its books.