



The Best Paper Plane

Veha and Akra are best friends. They enter a paper plane contest together. When they disagree on what to do, will their friendship be

alright?



The Best Paper Plane
The Asia Foundation - Let's Read

Let's Read



The Asia Foundation



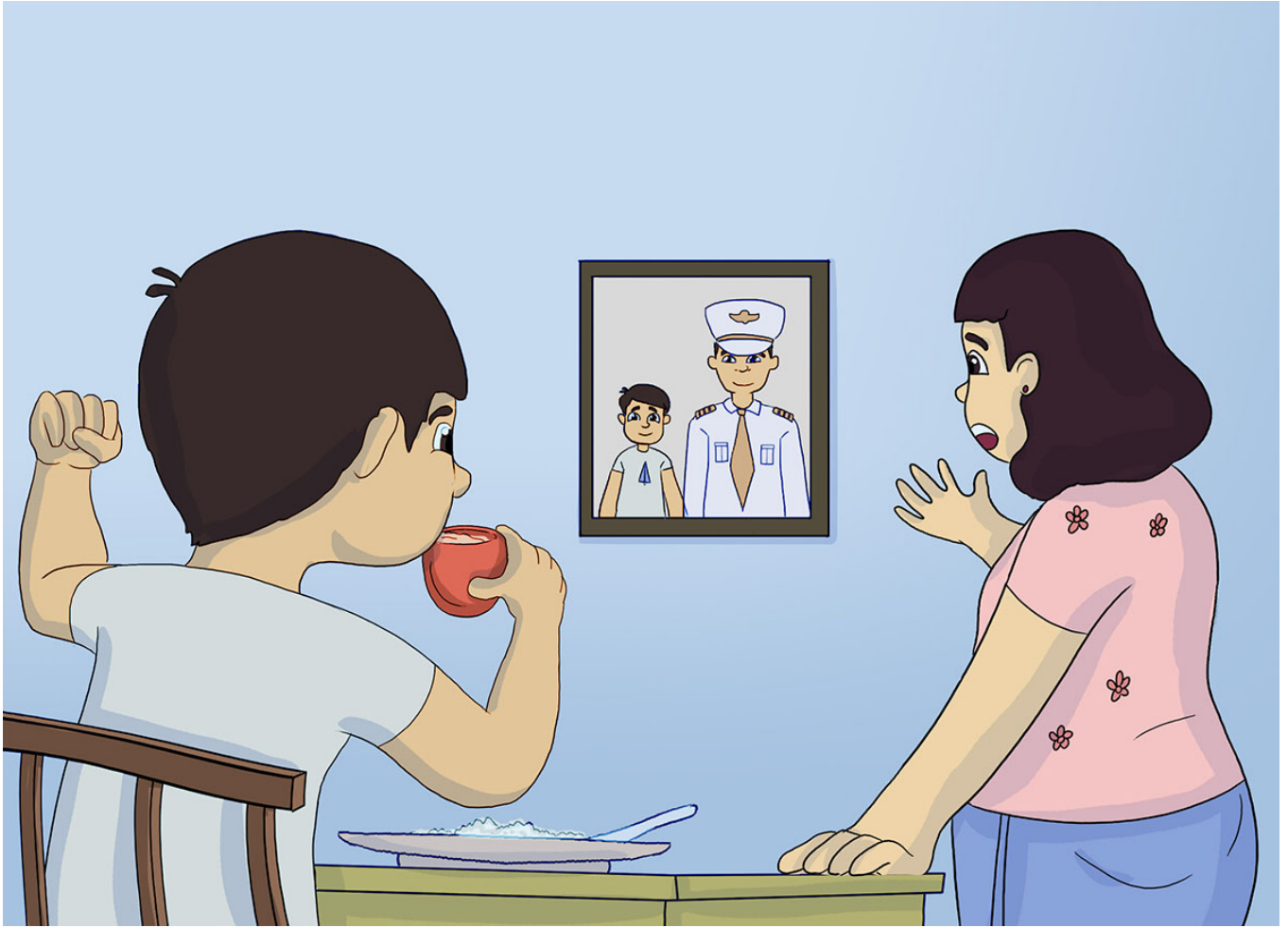
Veha woke up early and looked out the window. Clear blue skies and no wind. It was a beautiful day for flying! Veha and his friend Akra had been testing paper airplane designs all week and they had found the perfect one for today's contest!



Veha quickly changed from his airplane pajamas into his airplane shirt. He jumped over the model airplanes scattered across his room, used his airplane toothbrush to brush his teeth, and flew out to the kitchen.

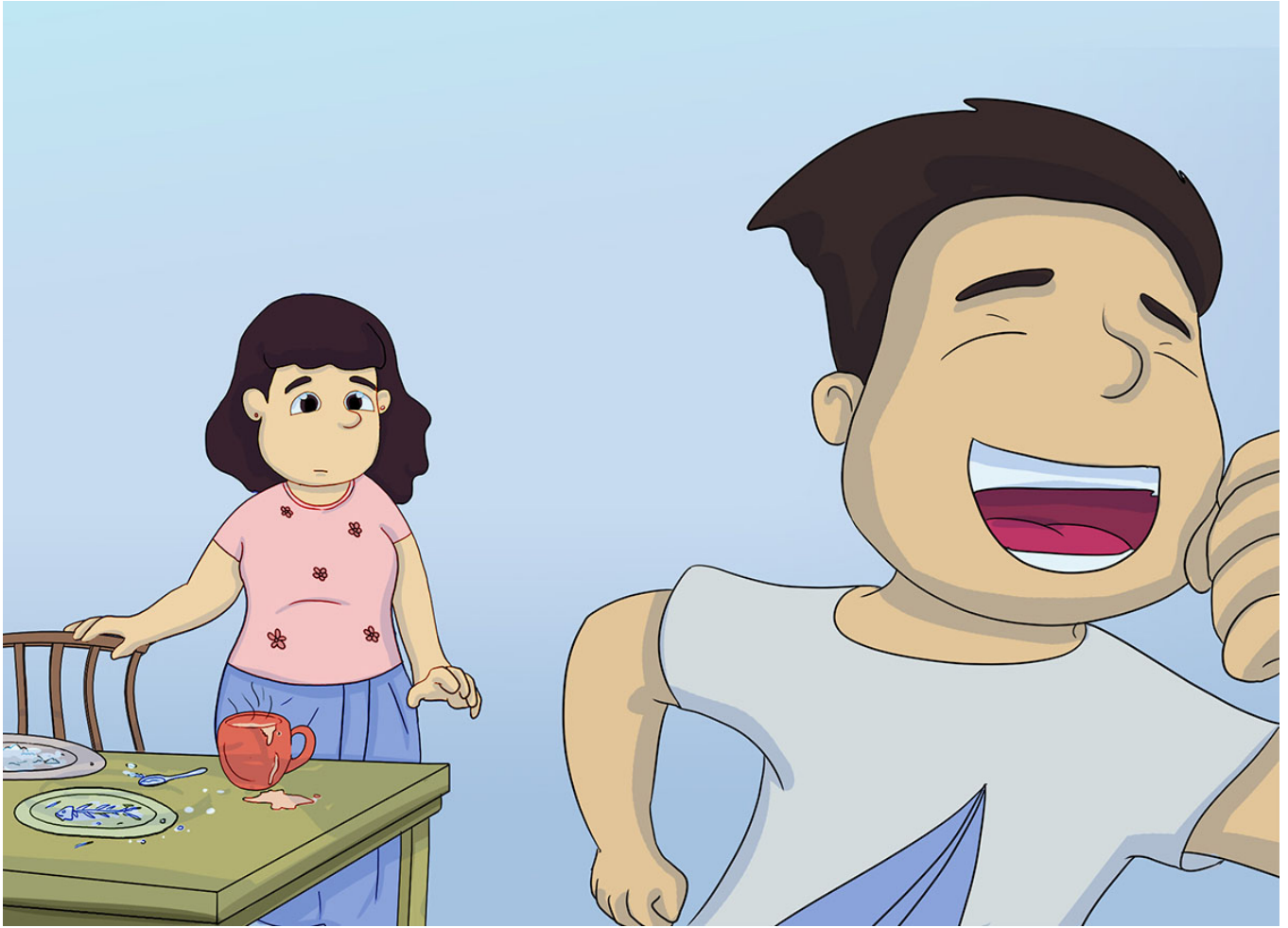


"Veha, slow down, you're eating too fast," his mom warned. Veha shoveled another spoonful of breakfast into his mouth. "But I have to meet Akra at school. I want to get there early to see what the other kids are making. We have to win the contest so we can visit the airport and go in the airplanes!"



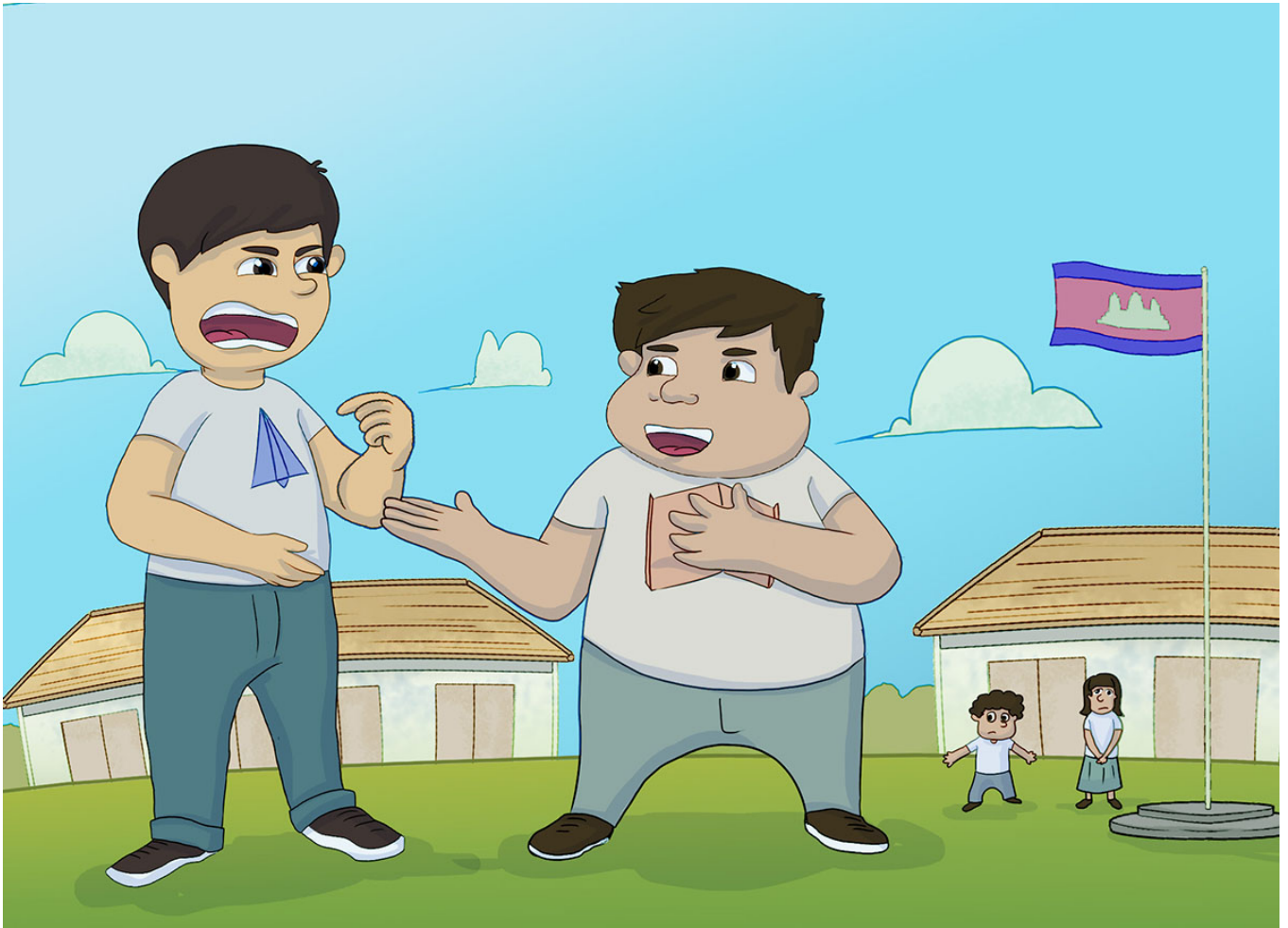
"Just slow down," his mother sighed. "Remember, Uncle Borey will be there today."

Uncle Borey was the reason Veha loved airplanes so much. He was a pilot and would tell Veha stories for hours about his adventures in the cockpit and visits to far off lands. Veha thought he had the best job in the world.

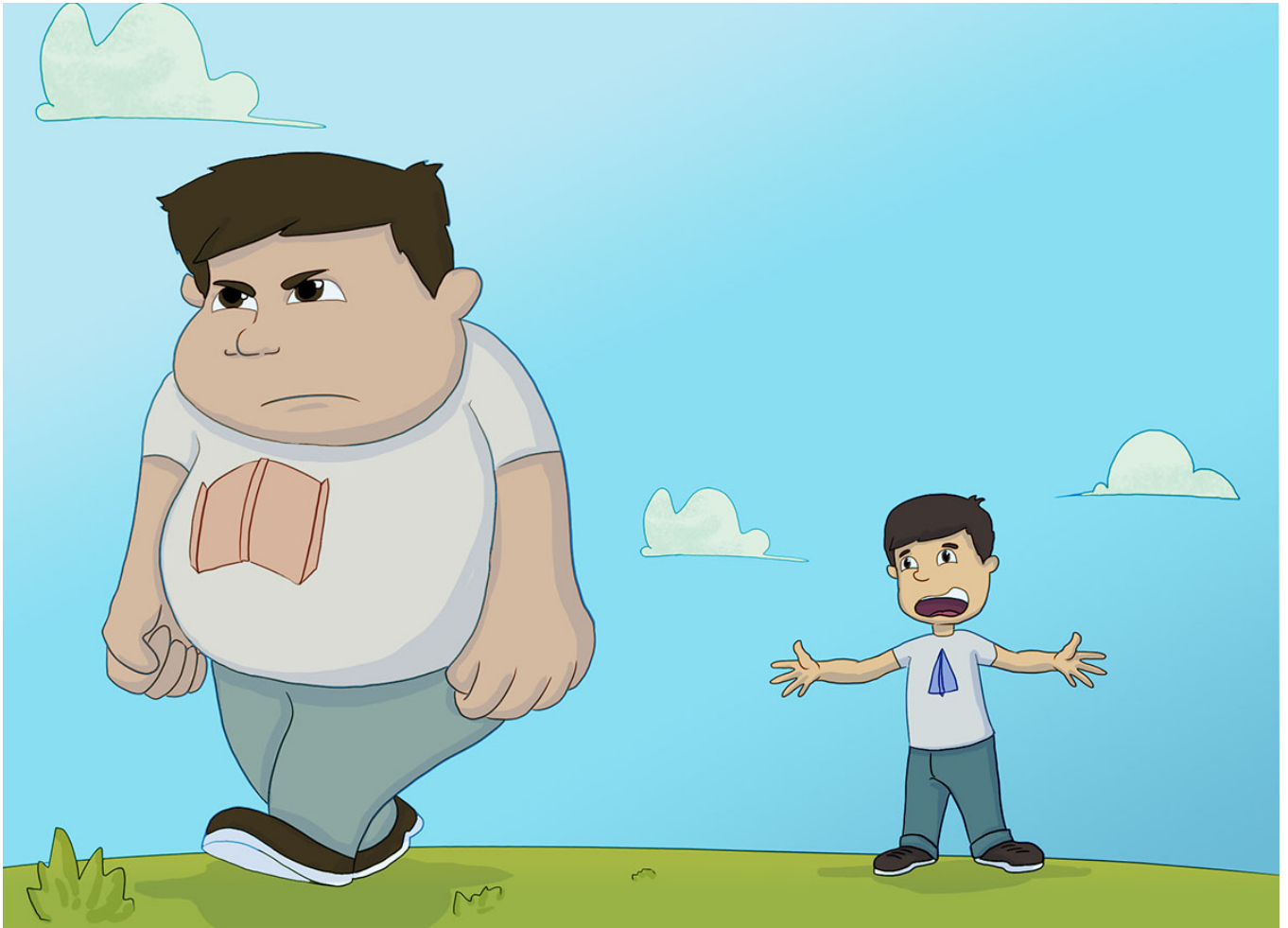


"I know," yelled Veba, as he dashed out the door, leaving behind a mess on the table.

Veba wasn't going to be late. He had to tell Akra it was the perfect day for their super fast, short wing, jet paper airplane design.



But when Vaha got to the school, Akra had a different idea.
"Vaha!" Akra said. "It's the perfect weather for our long wing, super glider design. It'll fly the entire length of the field."
"Definitely not," responded Vaha. "We're going with the short wing jet design."



"But—" Akra started.

"Anyway, the super glider doesn't look cool," Vaha interrupted.

"Ugh, you never listen to me," yelled Akra. "I quit!"

"Fine, quit," said Vaha as he stormed off. "I don't need you anyways."



"Veha!" a familiar voice called out. "Are you okay?"

Uncle Borey approached Veha dressed in his crisp pilot's uniform and cap. "I was expecting a huge smile on your face."

"Akra wants to make the glider design instead of the jet, so he just quit," Veha replied. "Now the whole day is ruined! I'll never get to the airport or fly planes."

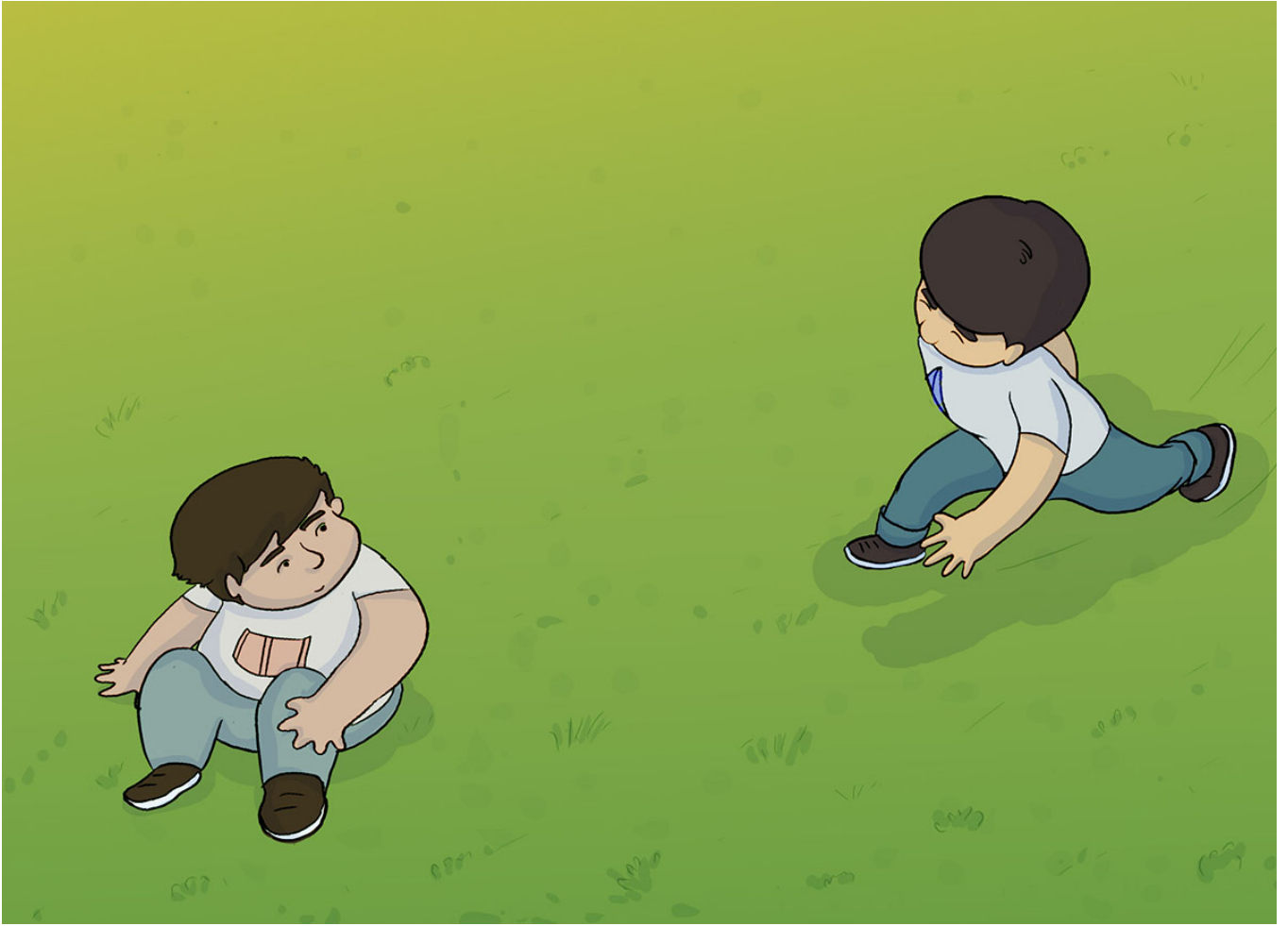


"Oh," said Uncle Borey. "Well, the first thing a good pilot always needs to do is stay calm. There's a solution to everything, you just need to find it."

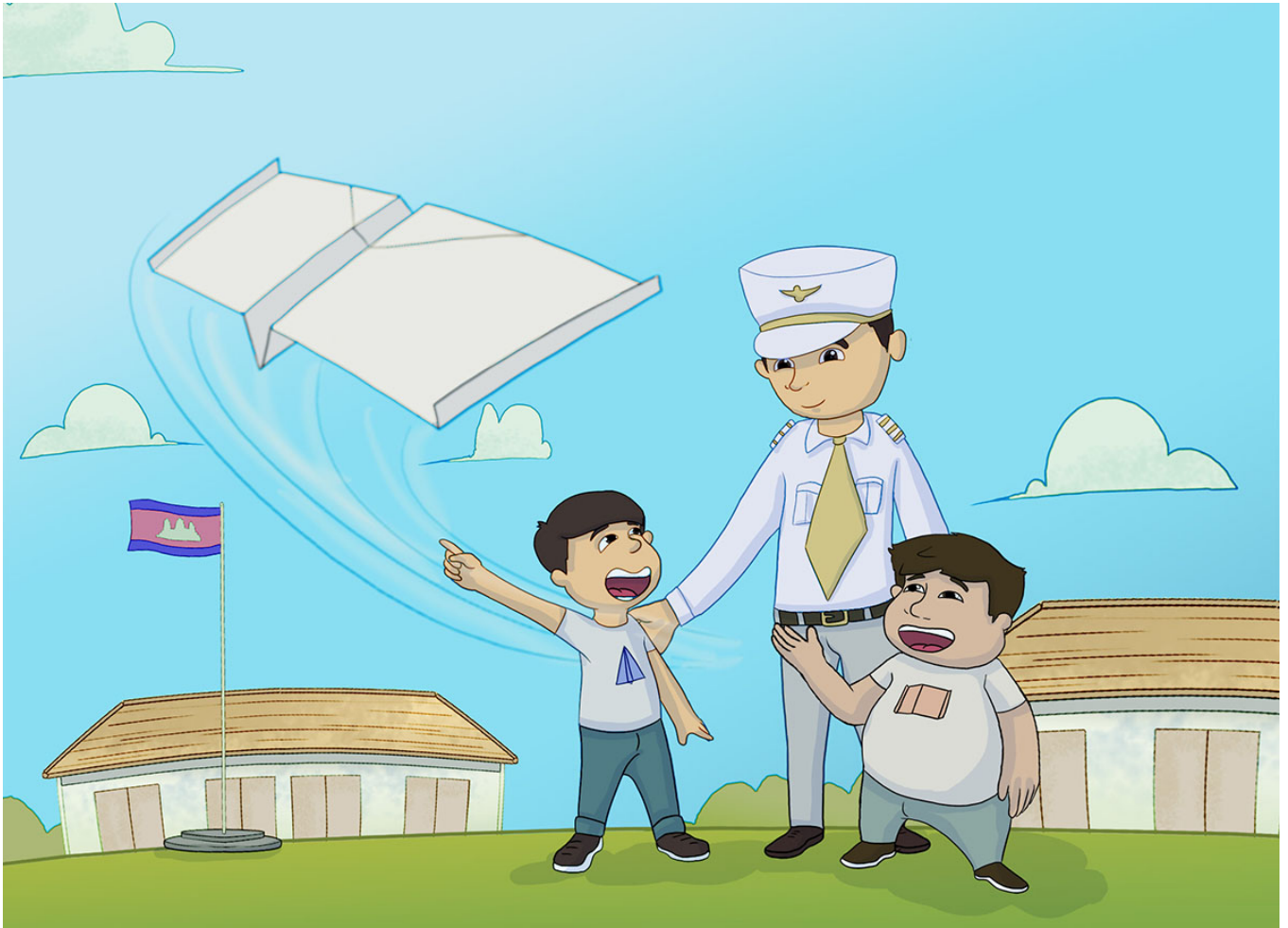
Veha took a deep breath. "Okay."



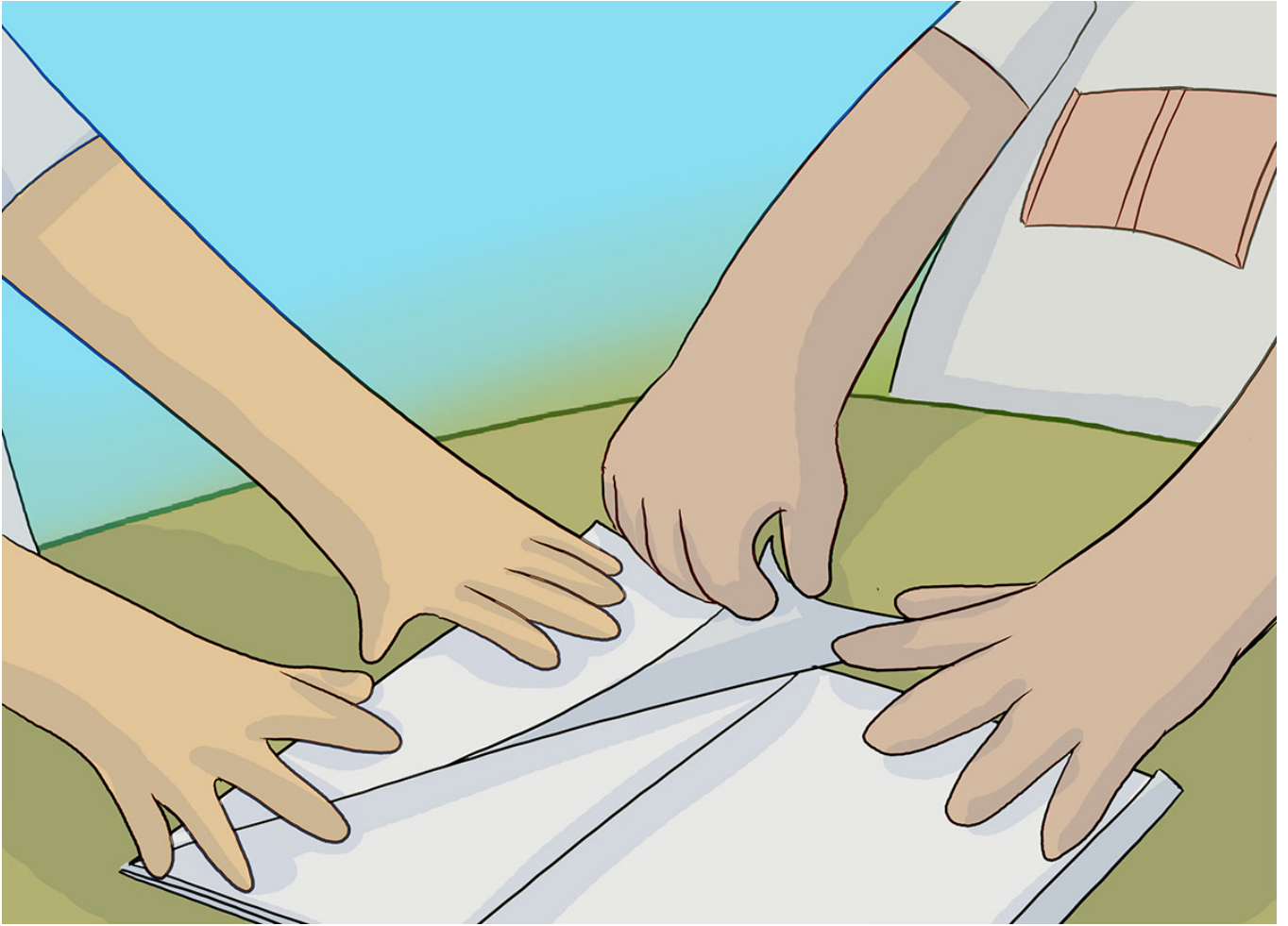
"A pilot also needs to be able to work well in teams," Uncle Borey said.
"Did you listen to Akra? How do you think he feels?"
"I did interrupt Akra and didn't let him share his ideas," Veha said. "That doesn't feel good."
"Let's go find Akra," suggested Uncle Borey.



Veha walks over to Akra and apologizes for not listening. He still wants to work with Akra. Akra wants to work with Veha as well.

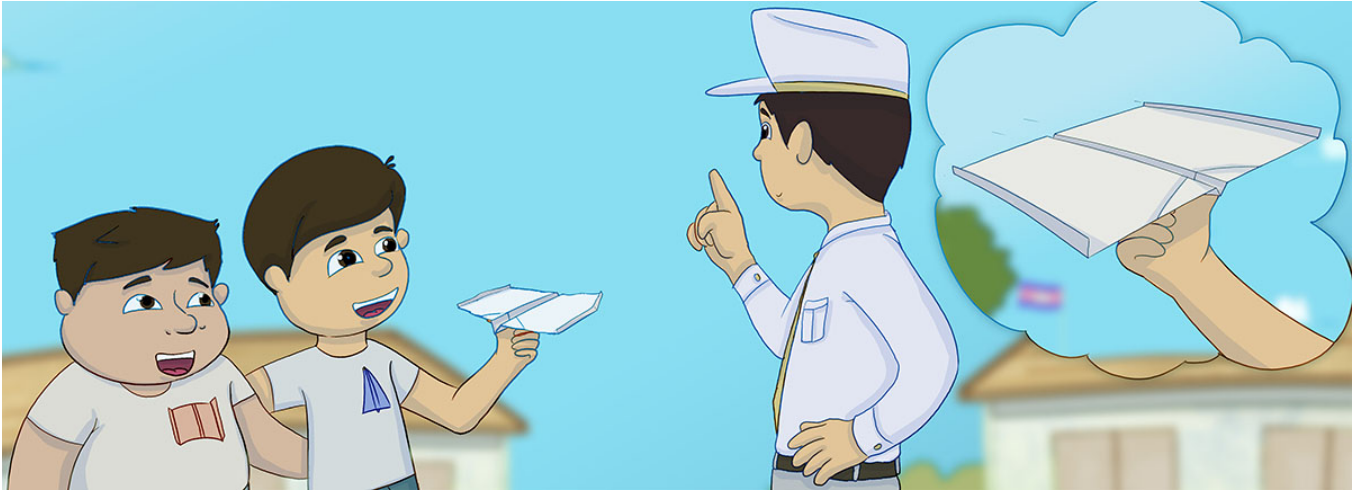


"But how will we decide which plane to use?" Vaha asked Uncle Borey.
"Pilots always need to watch the weather conditions and adjust their plans accordingly," Uncle Borey replied.
"The bigger wings of the glider will create more lift," said Akra.
"Remember, we learned that's how airplanes stay in the sky!"



"And since there's no wind today, the bigger wings won't get blown around," added Vaha.

Vaha and Akra ran over to the tables to fold their glider.

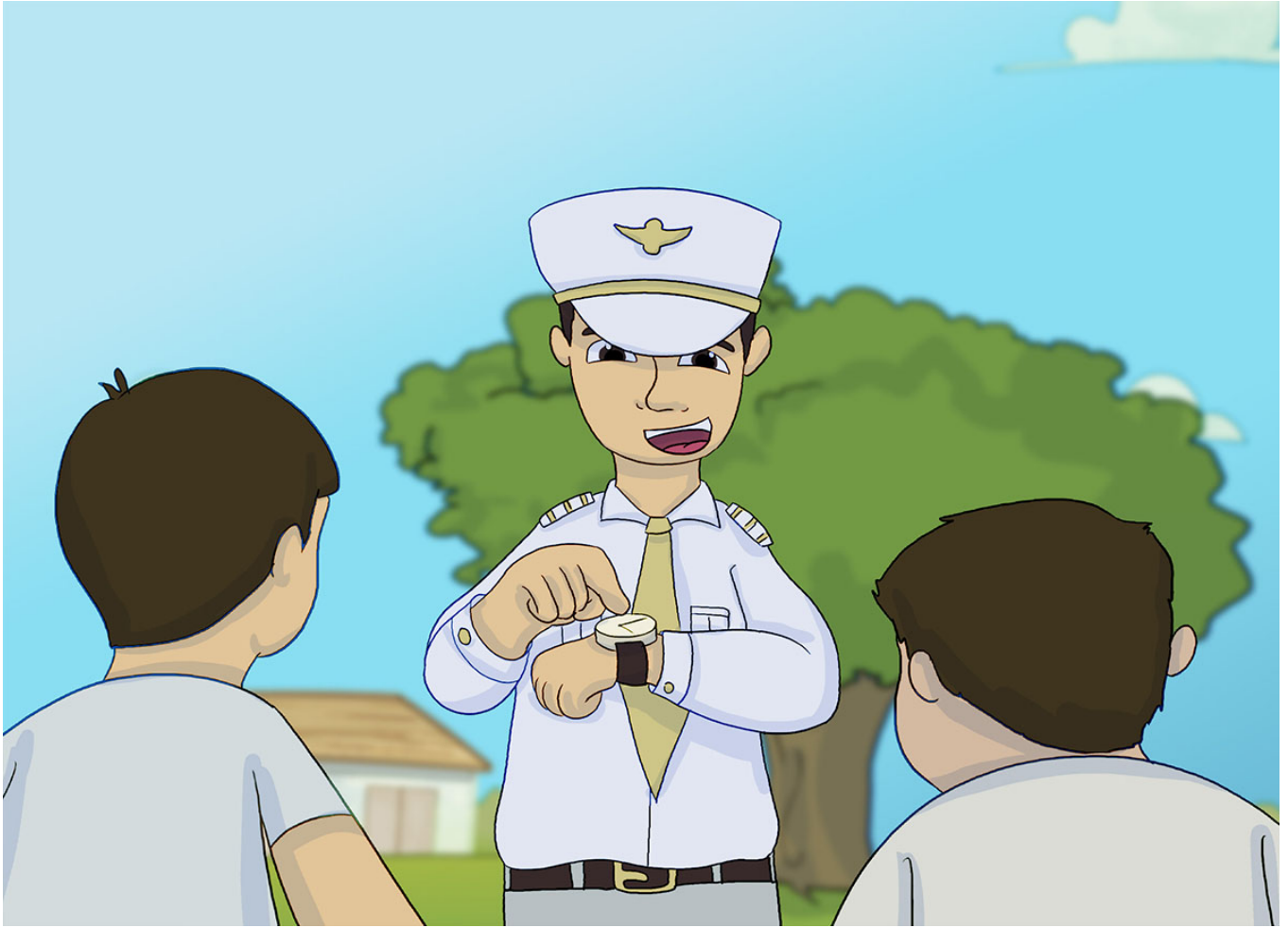


"What do you think Uncle?" Vaha asked.

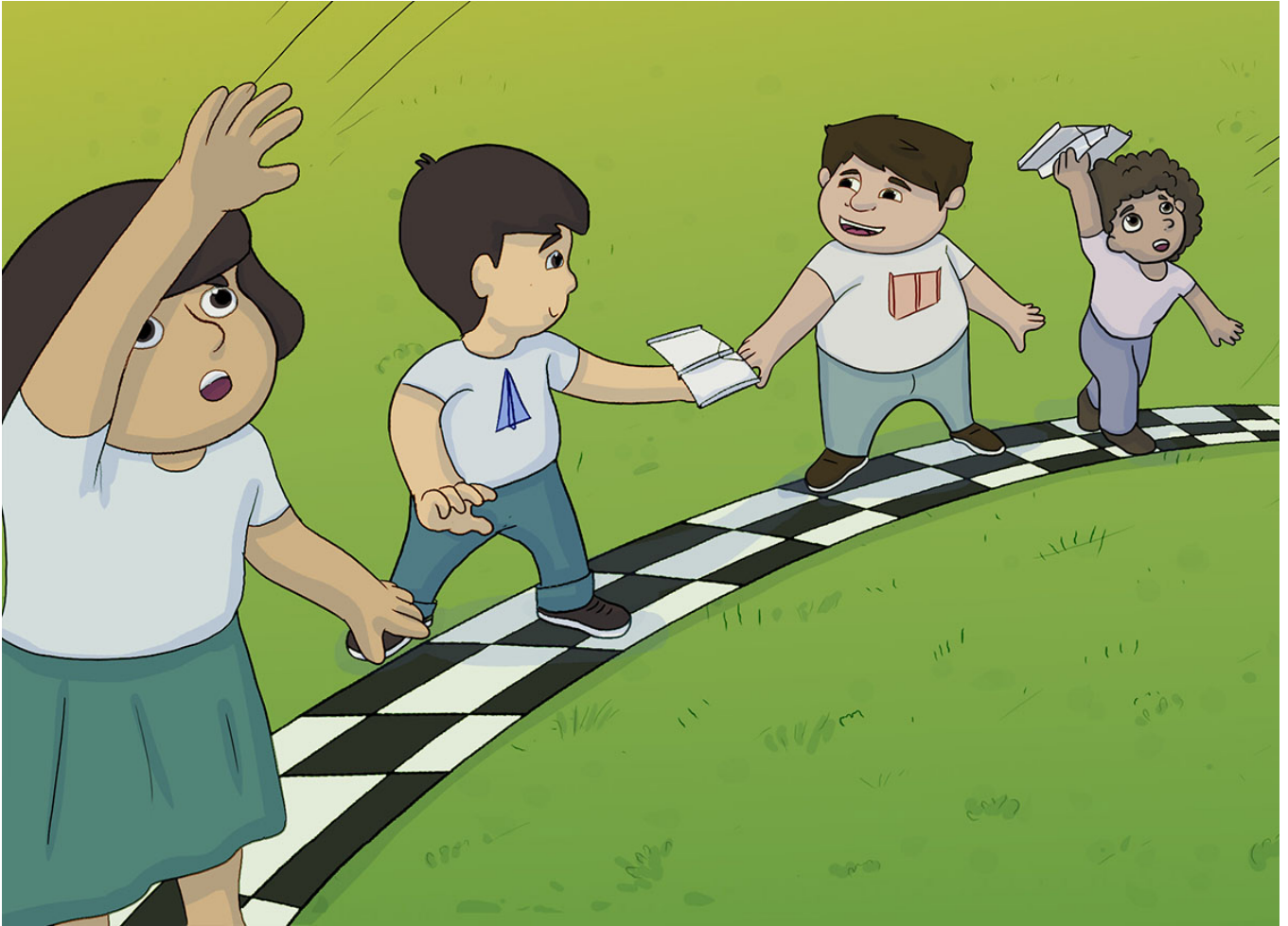
"Your design should fly well!" started Uncle Borey.

"But pilots always need to take their time to make sure all of the details are taken care of and done correctly."

After examining the plane, Akra spoke up. "We should fold the wings more carefully."



"Ten minutes until the flying starts!" an announcement called out.
"You've got time," said Uncle Borey. "Stay calm, work together, and pay attention to the details."



A few minutes later, Vaha nervously stepped to the throwing line. The other paper airplanes were scattered down the field. Way down the field!

"Akra, you've got a great throw," Vaha said. "Do you want to fly our plane?"

"Yes!" Akra exclaimed.



The glider first swooped high, then dove to the ground. But it's long wings caught a little gust of wind, keeping it afloat, just above the ground.

The crowd roared as the glider kept going, and going, and going - all the way to the end of the field!



"That was a great throw!" said Veba. "You did it!"

"We did it!" replied Akra. "Our design was the best!"

Veba and Akra celebrated together. "We get to go to the airport!" they shouted together.

"And you'll both make great pilots one day," added Uncle Borey.





Generously supported by Smart Axiata

Brought to you by

Let's Read is an initiative of The Asia Foundation's Books for Asia program that fosters young readers in Asia and the Pacific.

booksforasia.org To read more books like this and get further information, visit letsreadasia.org.

Original Story 飛機飛得最高 (The Best Paper Plane),

Author: The Asia Foundation - Let's Read. Illustrator: Yam Luy Chhuy.

Published by The Asia Foundation - Let's Read,

<https://www.letsreadasia.org> © The Asia Foundation - Let's Read.

Released under CC BY-NC 4.0.

This work is a modified version of the original story. © The Asia Foundation, 2020. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY-NC 4.0.

For full terms of use and attribution,

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

Contributing translators: Kyle Barker