



Look Closer

Everything is blurry! Kirana can't see clearly. Everything is different now. No longer can Kirana freely study, go to school, play, or even do her favorite puzzle. What's happened with Kirana? How will Kirana get through her days?



Look Closer
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Let's Read



The Asia Foundation



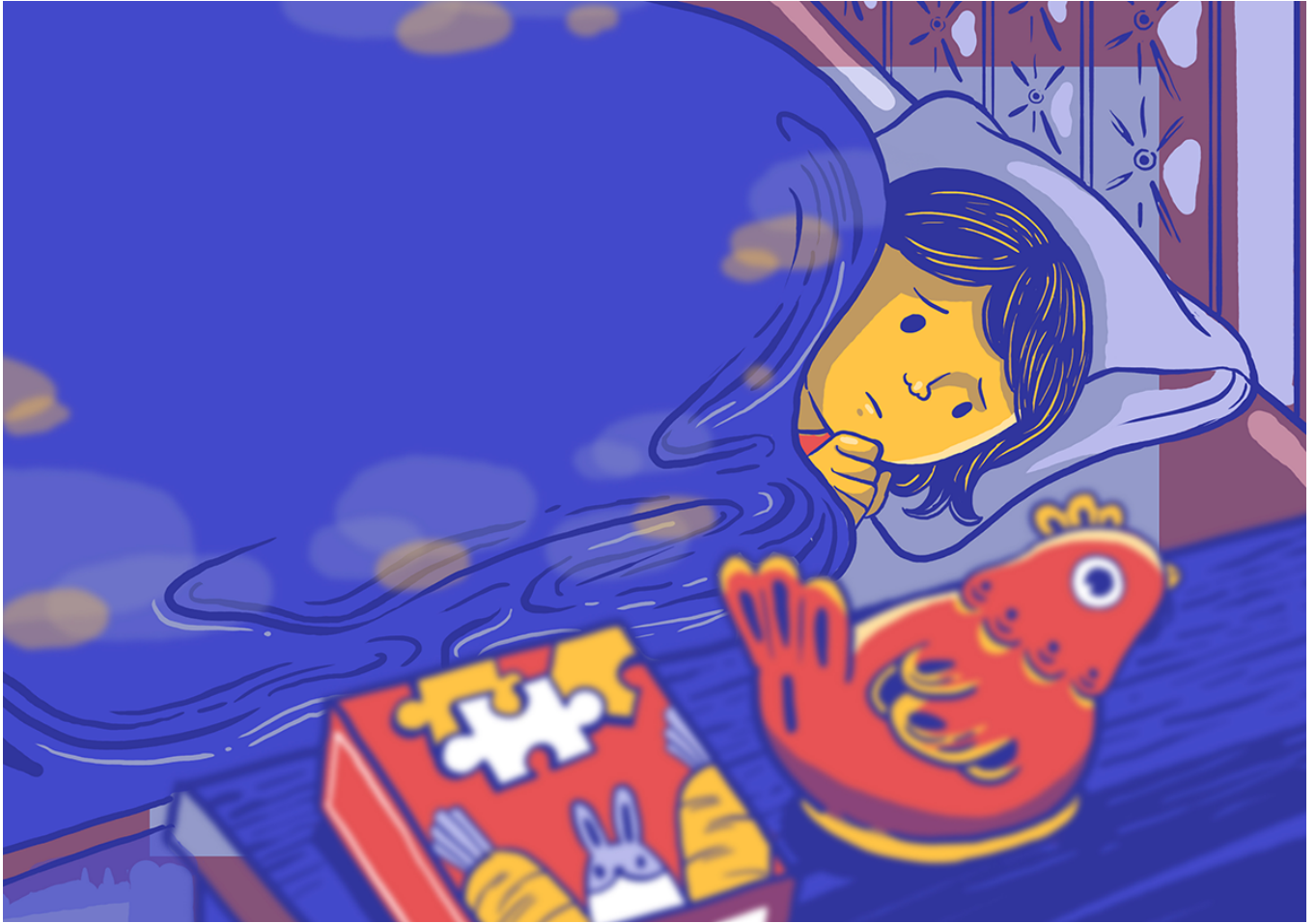
It is already late but Kirana doesn't want to sleep yet. Also, Father hasn't come home. He said there were more packages than usual. "Let me do a puzzle first," says Kirana.



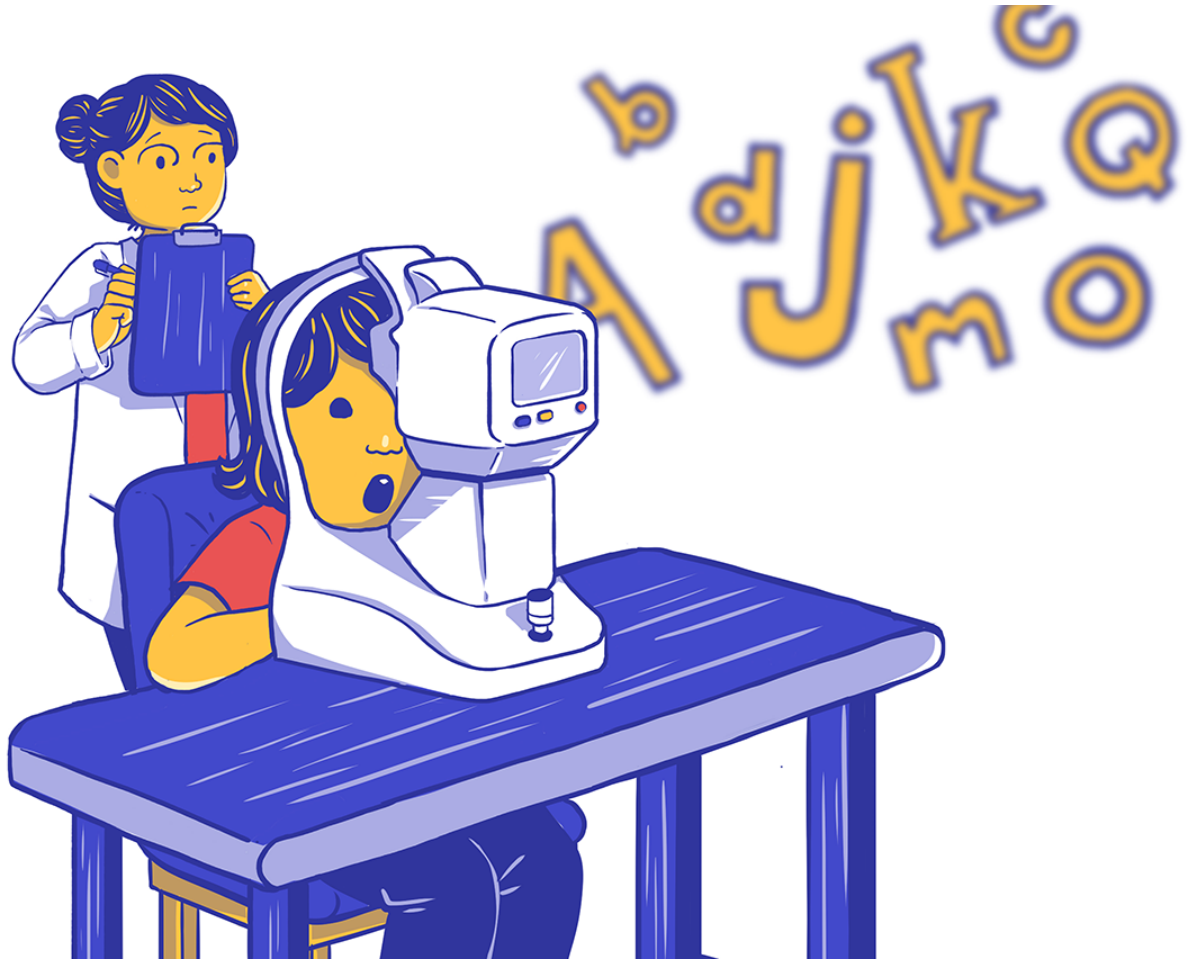
"Uh! It doesn't fit, neither does this one. This piece should match with ...," Kirana says while looking for the right piece. She hears the sound of a motorbike entering the yard. "Oh, Father's home!" she cries.



Suddenly, Father is in front of Kirana, "How come you haven't slept yet?" "The puzzle isn't finished yet. Everything seems unclear. Blurry!" says Kirana. Father tells Kirana to sleep, "You have school tomorrow morning."



Kirana lies down but she isn't sleepy yet. She looks around the room. "I can't see clearly. Everything is blurry!" Kirana whispers.



The next day, everything is still blurry. She gets examined by an ophthalmologist, an eye doctor. At first, Kirana is afraid. But the doctor only asks her to read the letters. She can't read the letters clearly.



Soon, doctor's appointments became part of Kirana's routine. After each appointment Father has a long conversation with the doctor. Kirana doesn't really understand what they talk about. The doctor's gifts are more interesting to her.



This time the doctor says, "This is a magnifying glass. This lens can be used to see up close." Oh, it's fun. With this magnifying glass Kirana can see more clearly.



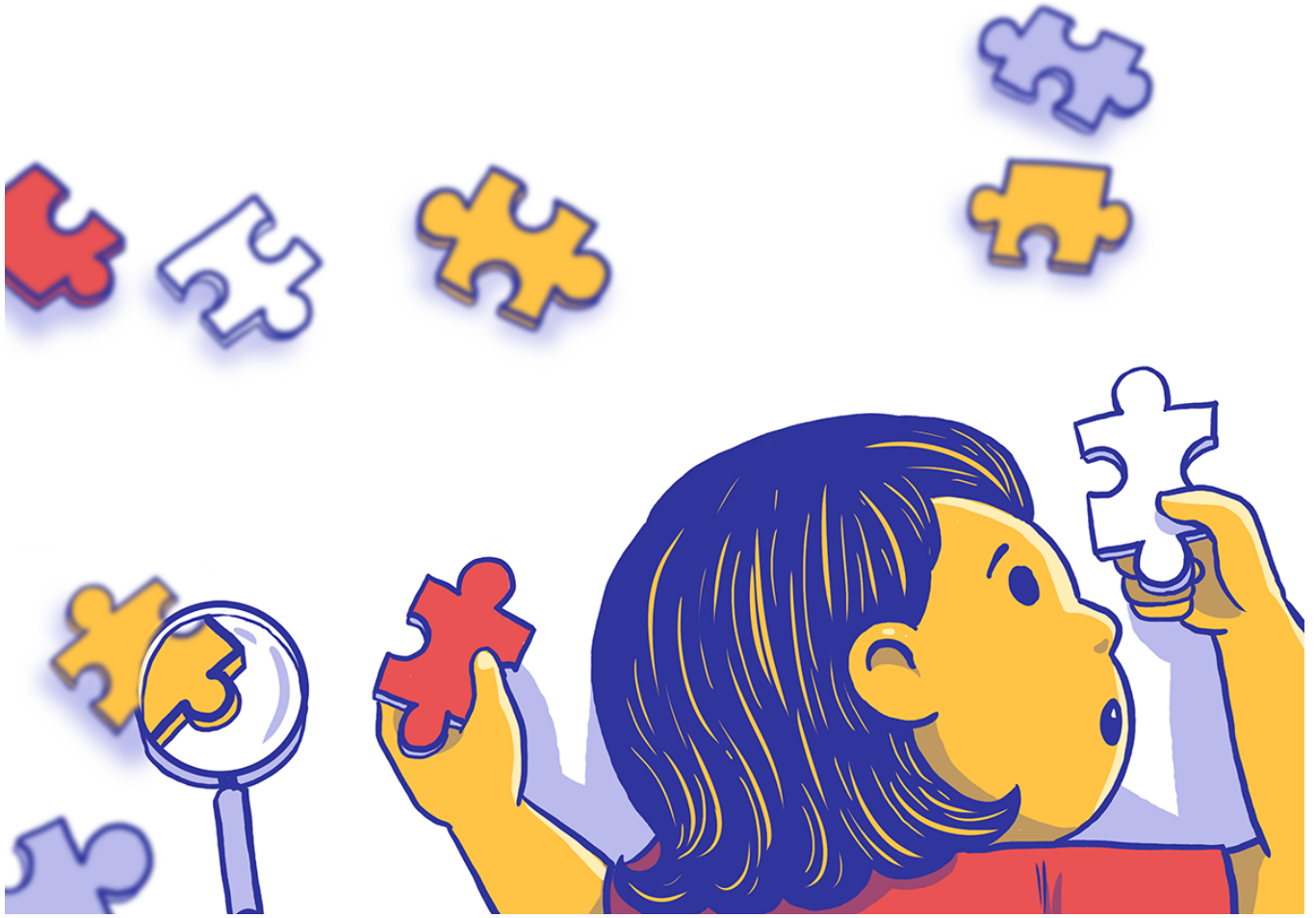
But the magnifying glass can't help her when she walks. Every now and then, Kirana bumps into something. She can't move freely. She has to be helped by Father, Mother, and even her little brother Adit.



At school, Kirana can't see the whiteboard clearly. Kirana has to be accompanied by Father or Mother to read the whiteboard or take notes for her. Otherwise, Kirana would have to study at home. Studying without friends would be boring.



Kirana's friends also help her. They say their names before talking to Kirana. Now Kirana and her friends have a new game. They guess the name of who is talking by listening to their voices.



Doing a puzzle usually keeps Kirana entertained. However, it becomes harder for her to do puzzles. “These pieces have different curves,” says Kirana. She feels the curve of every piece with her fingertips. Kirana knows that every piece is different, but which pieces will match?



Mother makes a new puzzle for Kirana. Mother says this game will help Kirana train her sense of touch. Kirana's fingertips can feel the difference in the surface of the pieces. Kirana is happy when she can find the pieces that match each other. One by one she arranges the puzzle pieces on the board until she finishes the puzzle.



Kirana wants to show the puzzle to Mother. "Where's mother?" she asks. "I'm here," Mother calls out. Kirana turns towards Mother's voice, then walks slowly. "Ooops!" Kirana exclaims.



Kirana almost hits the table! She then shifts her feet and starts walking again. Until ...“Mother, look! I can do it!” Kirana says happily. Not only did she solve the puzzle, she can also approach her Mother.



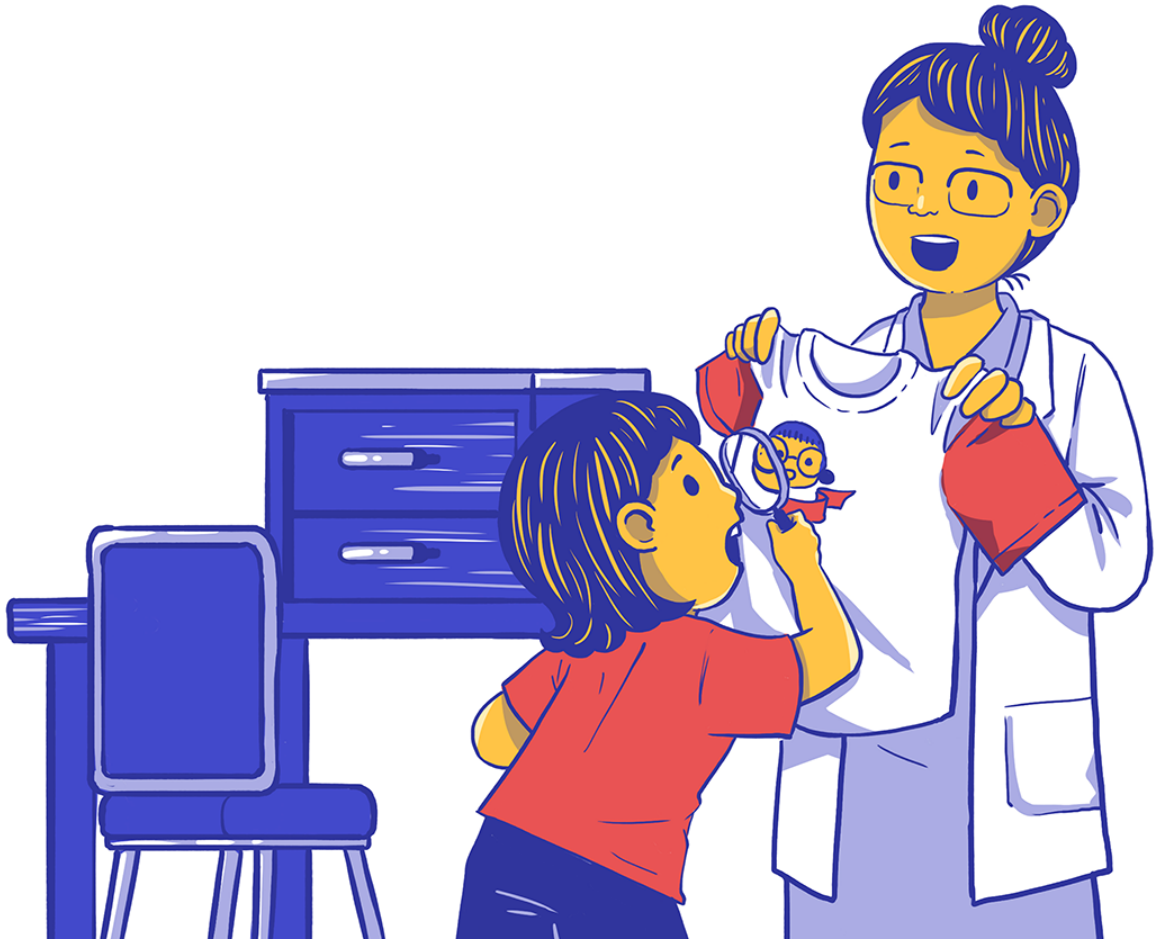
Kirana becomes more confident to attend classes alone. Father or Mother occasionally wait for her right outside the classroom. The teacher also helps Kirana record all the lessons.



At home, Kirana studies by listening to recordings of the lessons. Mother helps Kirana when she has homework. Father accompanies Kirana when studying for a test. Studying has become more tiring, but Kirana tries to adjust.



Kirana is happy at school. Every day she sits at the same table in the front row. Her friends took turns sitting beside her. Sometimes Kirana allows them to borrow her magnifying glass for a while.



One day, the doctor gives Kirana a sports uniform. “You can wear it on Sunday,” says the doctor. “You will meet new friends.” Whoa, who are they? Kirana wonders.





Kirana hears the voices of other children when she arrives at the park. “Are these my new friends?” wonders Kirana. Not long after, an older kid guides Kirana to get in line. Kirana vaguely sees other children being guided to their lines.



And then, she hears a voice on the loudspeakers. “Kids, let’s begin.” Hey, Kirana recognizes that voice! All the kids exercise following the instructions coming from the loudspeakers. When it is over, everyone claps their hands.



Things are different for Kirana now. But Kirana still plays, goes to school, and has friends like before. She also has many new friends.



Learn MoreIn this story, Kirana is a person with a low vision disability. Kirana's vision is blurry because her eye nerves can't refract light as they should. This condition is different from eyes that are farsighted (myopia) or nearsighted (hypermetropia), or what is often known in layman terms as minus eyes and plus eyes. Causes of low vision include viral or bacterial infections, inherited disabilities, and autoimmune diseases.



About the Project Prejudicial stereotypes, discriminatory attitudes, and low expectations for children with disabilities create barriers to education and other opportunities for advancement opportunities. To address this challenge, The Asia Foundation in Indonesia and in the Pacific Islands collaborated to write ten stories that normalize the representation of children of varying abilities and emphasize their capabilities. Enjoy these stories with text, audio, or Sign Language.

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