

Ray and the Missing Chocolate Pancakes



About Choo Choo Train

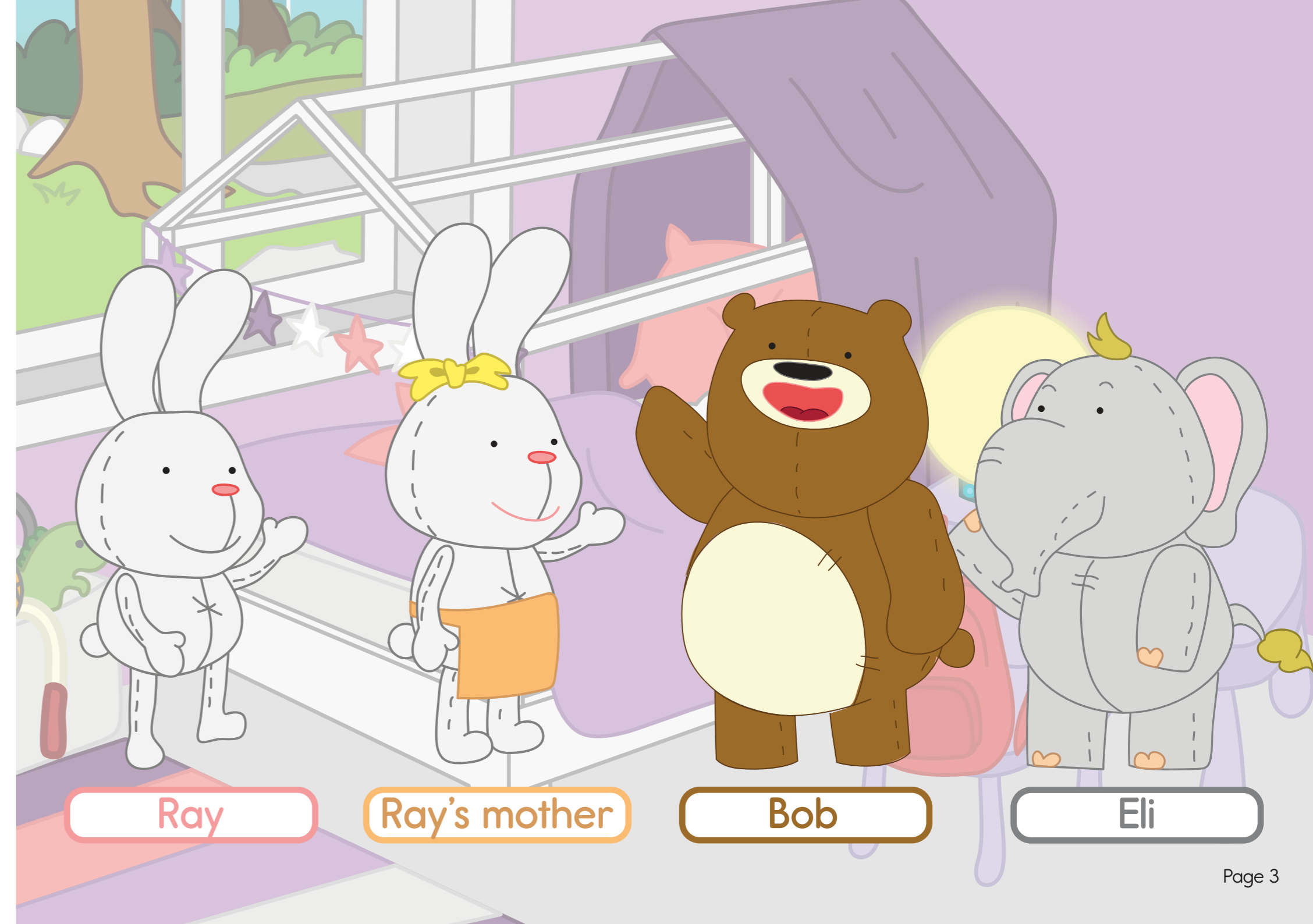
Choo Choo Train is a series of stories and activities aiming to inculcate good values in five and six-year-old children. Children will learn eight values through 16 stories and activities. The stories will feature Eli the elephant and his friends as they learn about each value.

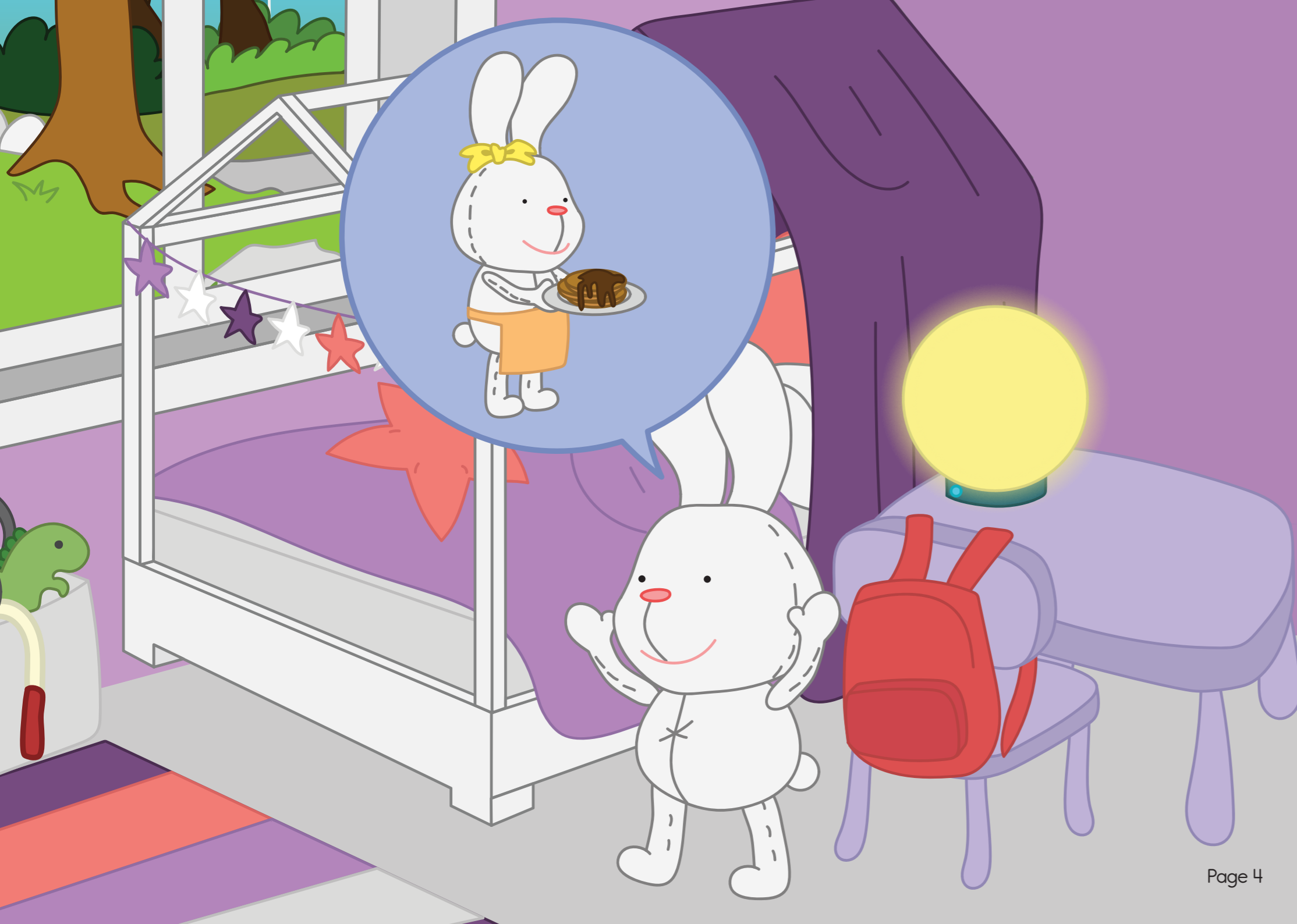
If you are a parent or an educator, there are guided questions at the end of the story that you may ask the children to build their empathy and perspective-taking skills.

Recommended activities are also included for a wholesome experience in learning these values!

About this story

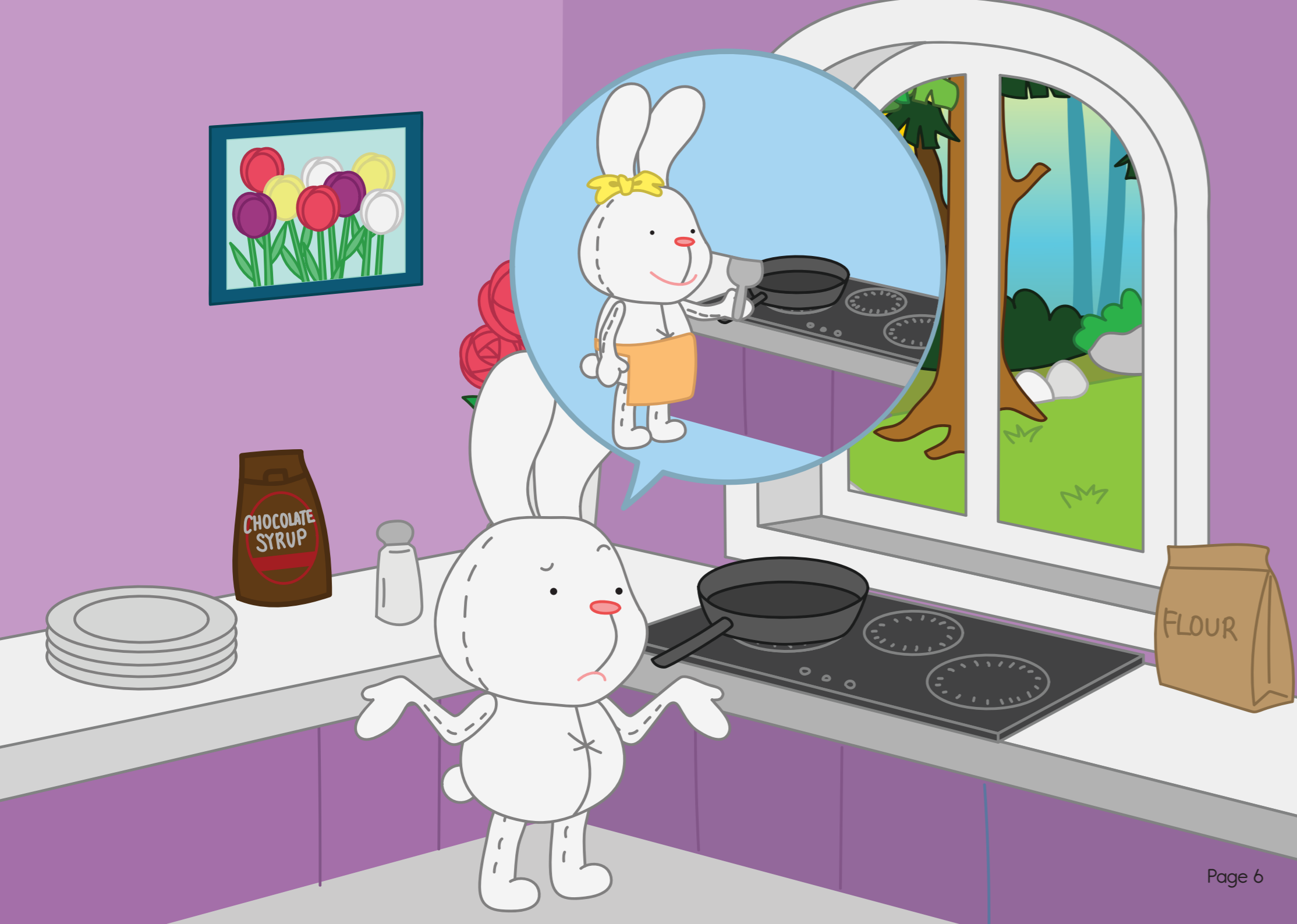
In this story, we will explore the value of gratitude. Ray woke up excitedly wanting to eat the chocolate pancakes his mother made for him. However, there was no chocolate pancakes in sight! Furthermore, Ray's mother had fallen ill. Will Ray show gratitude? Read on to find out more.





It was a bright and sunny morning. Ray woke up hungry and excited for breakfast.

His mother had promised to make his favourite chocolate pancakes for breakfast.



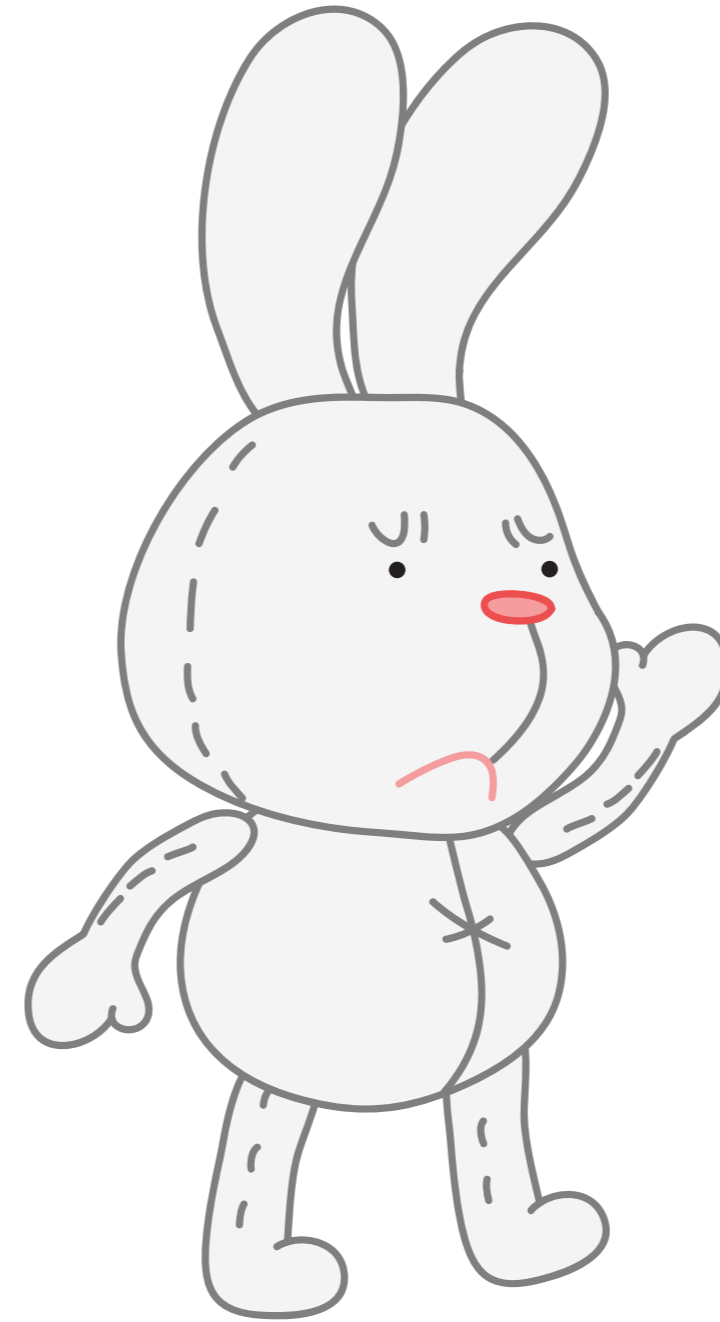
“I’m ready to eat the chocolate pancakes, Mama!”
Ray shouted as he walked to the kitchen.

“Mama?” Ray looked around. There was no
chocolate pancakes in sight. His mother was also
not in the kitchen like all other mornings.



“Where are my chocolate pancakes, Mama?” Ray asked as he walked into his mother’s room.

“I am sorry, Ray. Mama is sick today. I cannot make pancakes for you,” Ray’s mother coughed as she tried to sit up in bed.



“But you promised to make me chocolate pancakes! How can you be sick!” Ray shouted angrily.

“I will make you some chocolate pancakes now.” Ray’s mother said as she tried to get out of bed but she was feeling too weak.

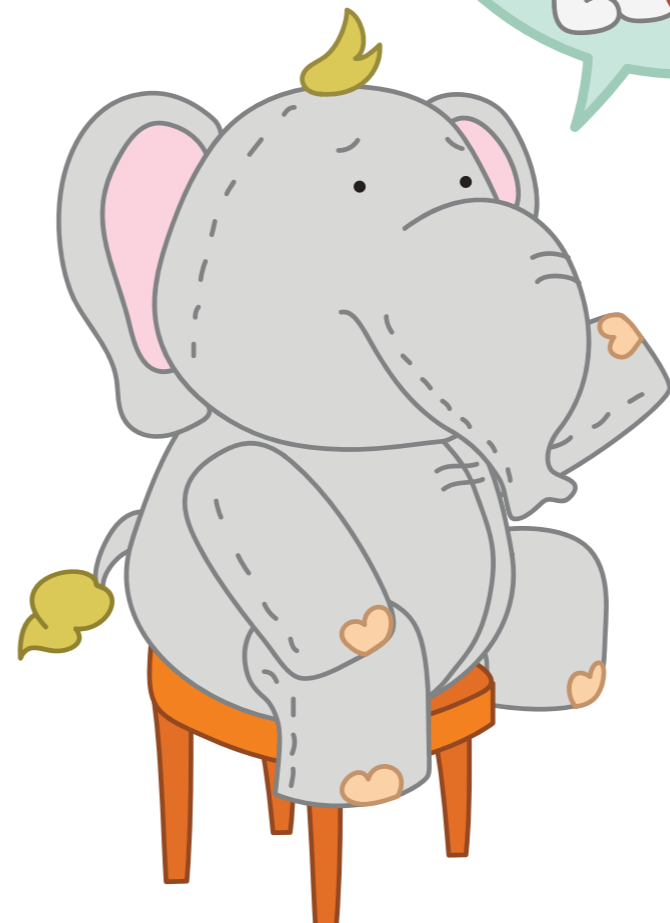
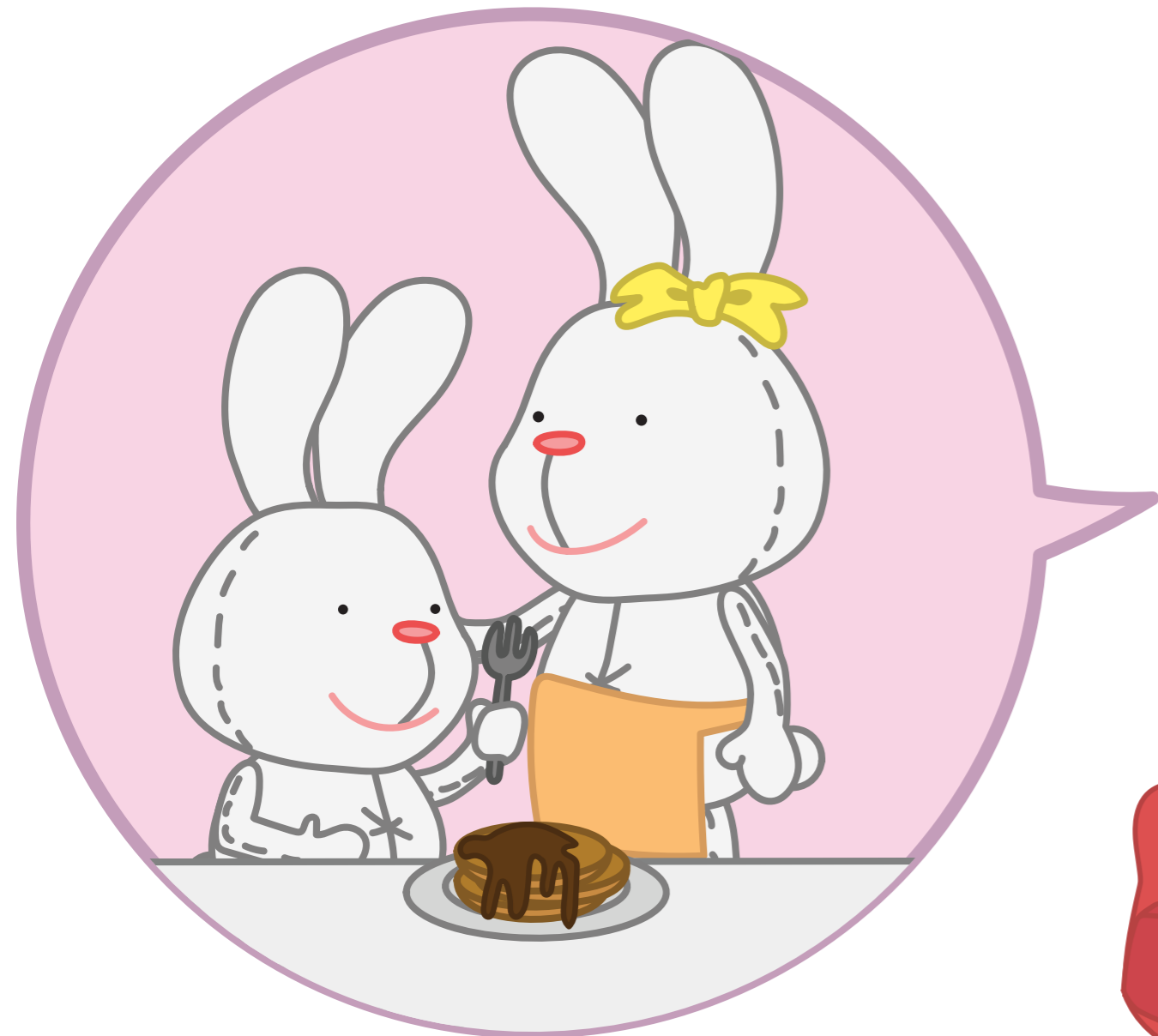
“I don’t want them anymore. I will be late for school,” Ray picked up his school bag and ran out of the house without saying goodbye to his mother.



At school, Ray opened his school bag and realised that his water bottle was not in his bag.

“Ray, where is your water bottle?” Bob asked.

“It is not inside my school bag. My mother did not pack my school bag for me last night,” Ray said angrily.



“Does your mother pack your school bag for you?” Eli asked.

“Yes. She packs it every night but she forgot about it last night. It’s all her fault!” Ray replied.

“She said she would make chocolate pancakes for me but there was nothing on the table this morning! I am so angry with my mother,” Ray added.



“My mother said she is sick. But she should make me the chocolate pancakes for breakfast as she has promised!” Ray replied.

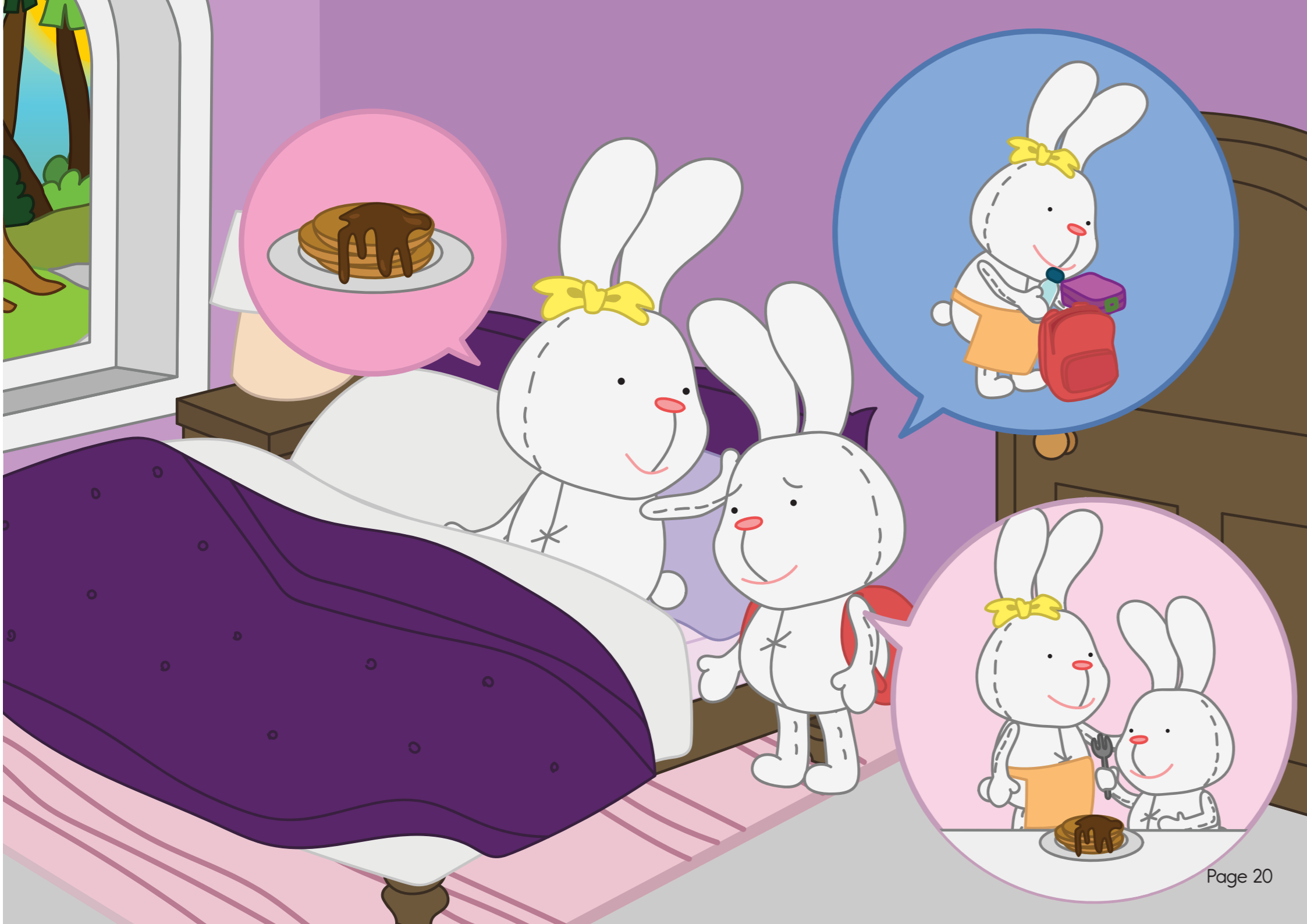
“Ahh Ray, maybe that is why your mother did not pack your school bag for you too. She is sick and she needs to rest.” Eli said.

“That’s right, Ray! You should show gratitude by saying ‘thank you’ to your mother for preparing breakfast for you and packing your school bag everyday although you could have done it for yourself,” Bob said.



“Your mother sleeps late as she helps to pack your school bag besides doing other housework. Then she wakes up early daily so as to make breakfast for you and get you ready for school. She does these because she cares for you,” Bob added.

“You are right, Bob,” said Ray. “I should not have shouted at my mother today. It must be tiring for her to pack my school bag and make breakfast for me everyday besides doing all the housework. She is also feeling sick today.” Ray knew then that he did not show gratitude to his mother.



Once he got back home, Ray rushed to his mother's room.

"Sorry Mama for shouting at you this morning. Thank you for packing my school bag so that I do not forget my things. Thank you for making breakfast for me everyday so that I will not be hungry, even though you are tired. I am so thankful that you take such good care of me," Ray said.

"You are welcome, Ray. Now, do you still want some chocolate pancakes? Mama is feeling much better now," Ray's mother smiled and patted Ray's head.

Ray was glad that he had learnt about gratitude that day.



Ask and Discuss

Here are some questions to further the discussion with your child. The suggested responses serve as a guide.

What value does this story teach?

This story teaches about gratitude. Gratitude is both a feeling of thankfulness and an act of showing our appreciation to others.



What happened in the story?

Ray's mother fell sick one morning and she could not make chocolate pancakes for Ray as promised. She also did not pack Ray's water bottle in his bag. As a result, Ray got angry and he went to school without eating. He also blamed his mother for causing him to not have his water bottle for school.

When was Ray not showing gratitude? Why do you think Ray did not show gratitude?

When Ray did not thank his mother for preparing breakfast for him or for packing his bag everyday. Instead, he got angry at his mother and did not show concern when she fell ill that morning. Ray did not show gratitude because he had only thought about himself and his needs.



How would you feel if you were Ray's mother and Ray got angry at you for not making him chocolate pancakes and for not packing his backpack?

I would feel sad/hurt/unappreciated.

(Parents/educators can ask children why they would feel this way and what they would do when they feel this way to encourage children to think about their responses to such feelings.)

Why should Ray show gratitude?

Ray should show gratitude so that Ray's mother will feel happy for being appreciated and Ray can also feel happy about being able to be thankful for all the things his mother does for him.



What would happen if Ray continued to not show gratitude?

Ray's mother may feel unappreciated and Ray may miss the chance to make his mother happy and he cannot experience the joy of expressing thankfulness.



Activity: When the People Around Us Take Care of Us

In this activity, children will learn about how people around them take care of them, and how they in turn, can show gratitude to these people in their lives.

1. Parent/educator/caregiver to print pictures from the next page. (Should a printer be unavailable, parent can discuss the following without the use of pictures.)
2. Together with your child, match the action done by the character with the respective nice actions done for them.
3. Discuss with your child why it is a nice action and how can gratitude be shown to the character in the picture.
4. The matching pairs as follows:
 - a. Pat's father would clean up the house each day and when even his back hurts, he would make sure the house is clean for his family.
 - b. Miss Gina often stayed up late in the night to prepare for the following day's lesson. As a result, she has lesser time to rest at night.
 - c. Ray's mother would wake up early each morning to prepare breakfast for the family.





ABOUT SINGAPORE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Singapore Children's Society has been helping disadvantaged children, youth and their families in Singapore since 1952. We are an independent and non-profit organisation that relies predominantly on public support for many of our programmes and public education initiatives such as Choo Choo Train.

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