

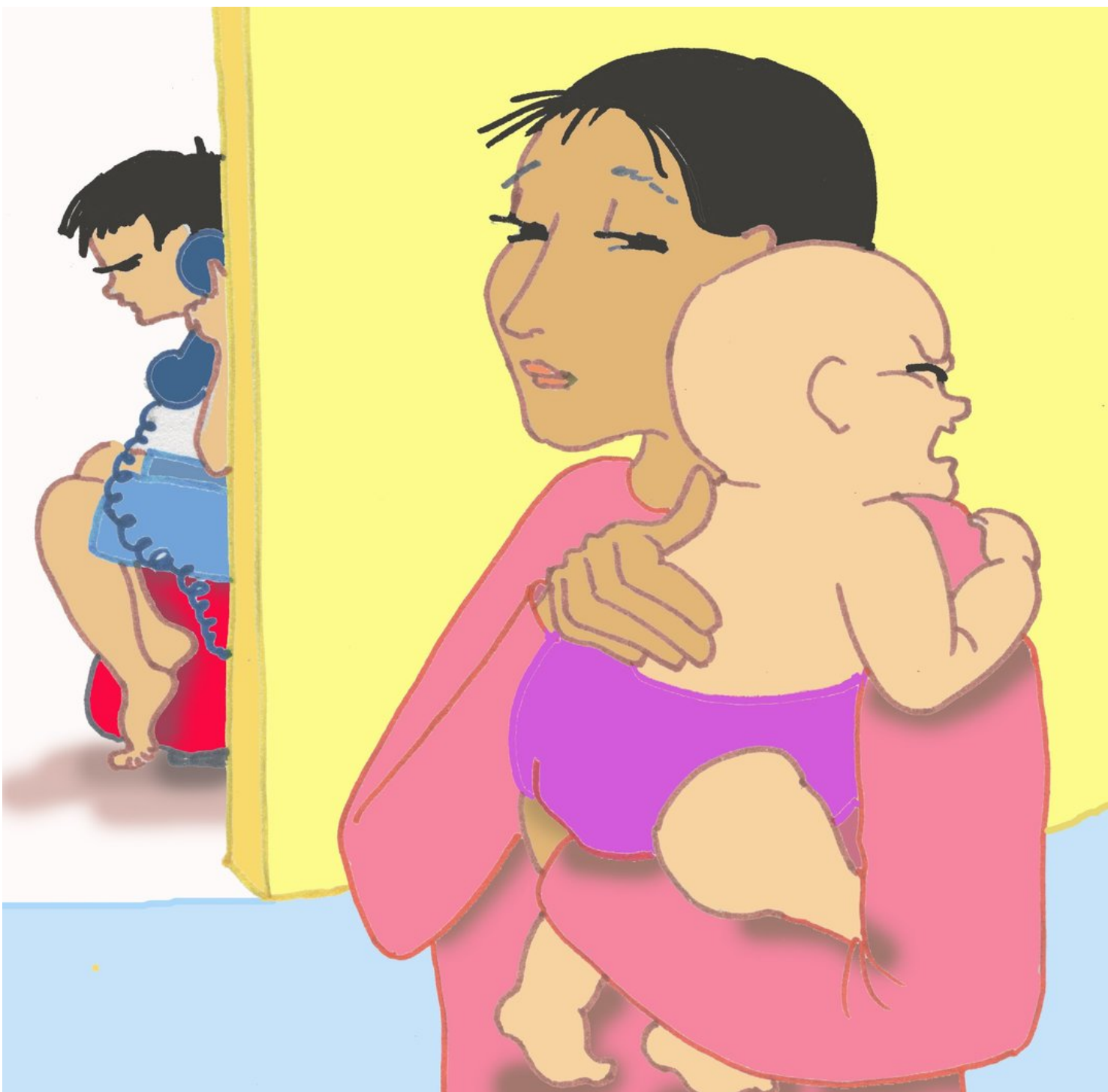


## Big Brother

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Level 2



I have a new baby brother at home now, but all he does is cry, cry, cry... I can't talk to Mama, because he cries so loudly. When I try to talk to Papa, even on the phone, we can't hear each other because Baby is crying, crying, crying...



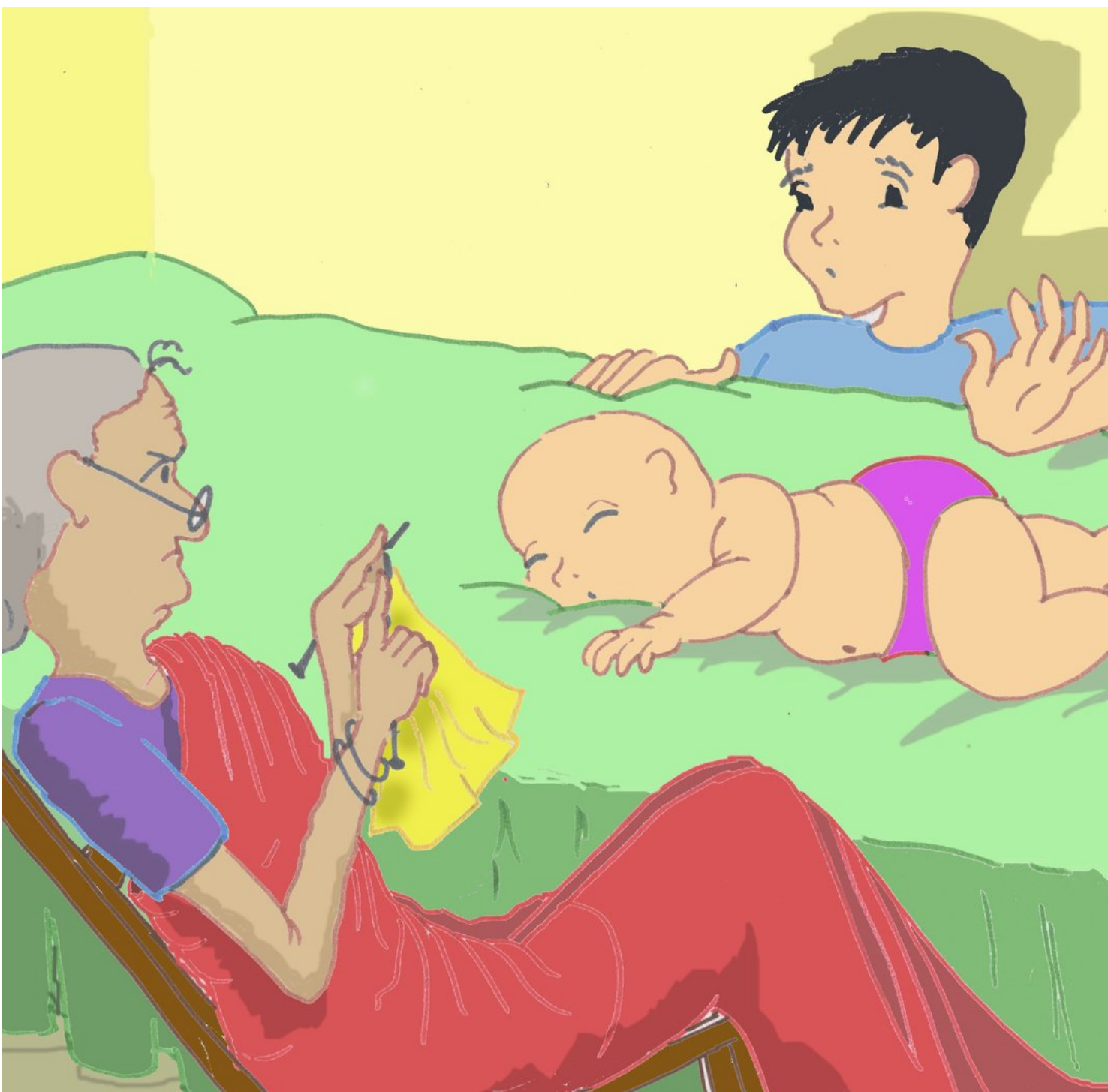


When I come home from school, Mama is so tired. Sometimes when I try telling her about my football game or math homework, she drops off to sleep mid-way.



Papa's cousin has come to stay with us to help with Baby. But Laila Aunty, who used to play cricket in the garden with me before, is now too busy. And suddenly very strict. 'You can't touch Baby till you wash your hands with soap,' she tells me all the time.





When Baby is NOT crying, he looks so cute. But nobody lets me go close to him. 'Baby's sleeping. Don't disturb him,' they say. Or, 'You are too small to carry him. Wait till you're older.' I wonder how old I need to be before they let me play with my own brother.



It's not just Mama who's tired. Before Baby arrived, Aji used to listen to all my news. And tell me lots and lots of stories. But one day I found her snoring at four o'clock in the evening. 'I'm tired, son...ask Thatha to read you a story today,' she said, half-asleep.



I found Thatha in front of the TV, fast asleep. I looked for Mama, but she too had slept off beside Baby. I suddenly felt so lonely. Every one was asleep. And when they woke up, would have no time for me. Just when I turned to leave, I heard some soft laughter...

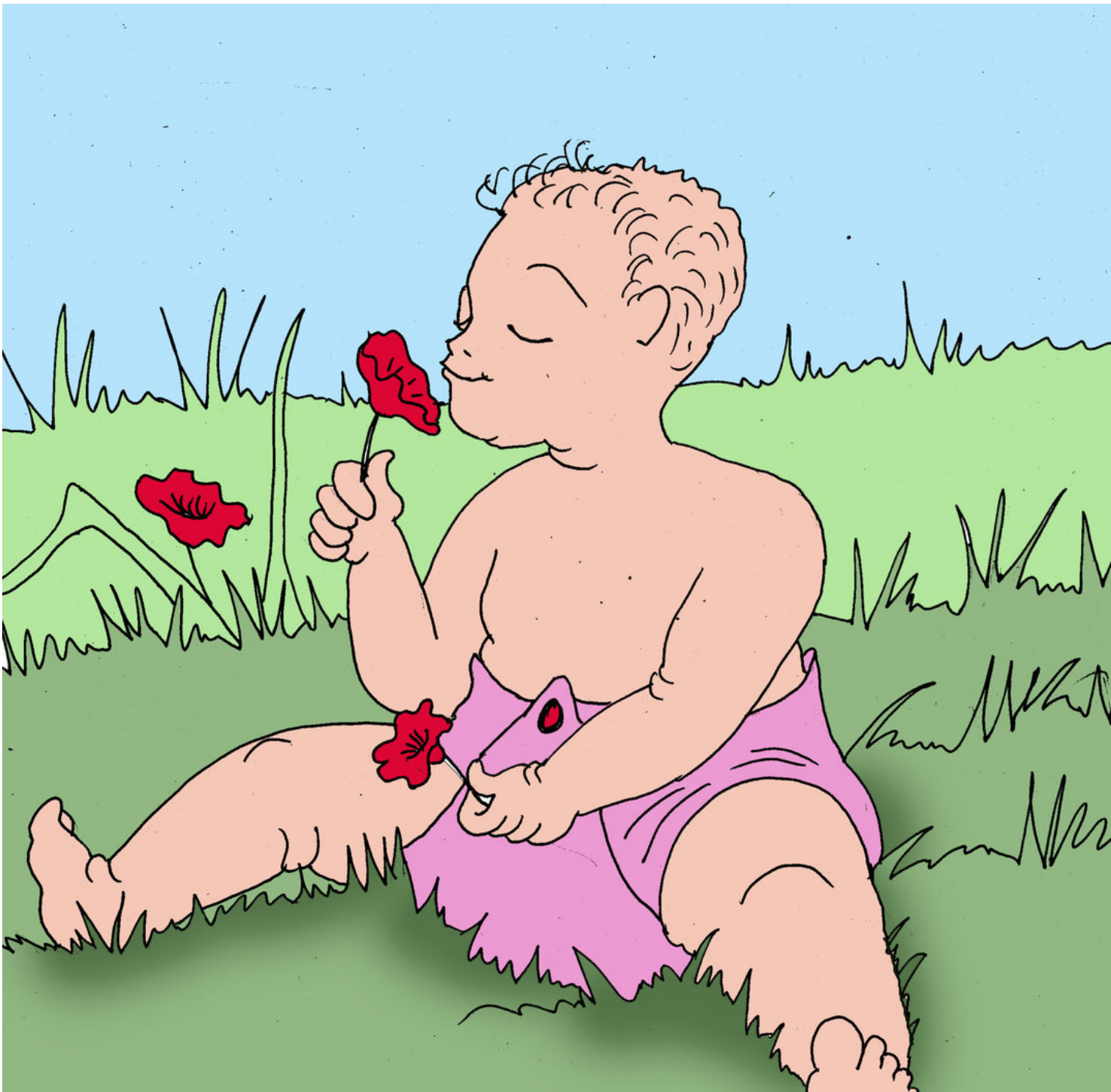


Baby was awake! And he was smiling up at me. With everyone asleep, there was no one to check if my hands were clean. Or remind me that I was not old enough to carry Baby. So I picked him up carefully and took him to my room. He lay on me for a little while...





...touching my face with his little fingers and making funny noises. Then he slept off again. Baby had not cried one bit with me. When Mama woke up a hour later, looking fresh and relaxed, she promised to read me my favourite story at night.



Now, nobody ever says, 'You're not old enough to do this...or that with Baby,' because when Baby is with me, he never cries.

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## Big Brother (English)

A young boy finds that everything at home changes when his baby brother arrives.

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.



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