My Friend

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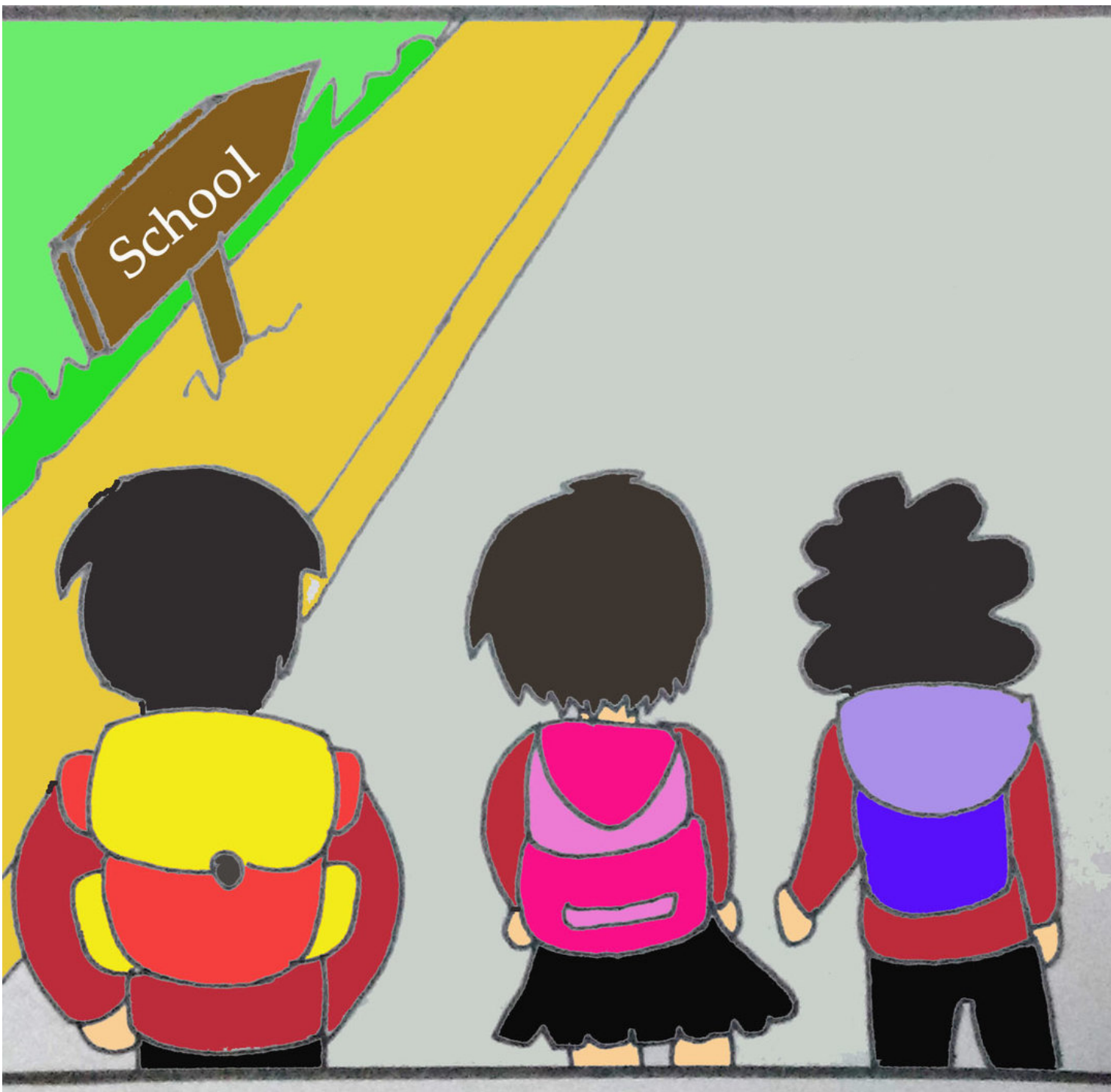**Translator:** Sherein Bansal

Community Story

Level 2

Sonu loves the warmth of the shining sun in winter. But November mornings don't come with that joy.

Even the Sun rises late in the cold!

Sonu's mother used to help him get ready for school every morning.

Sonu used to play, hop and skip to the school with his friends, Shubh and Shubhi.

After the holiday, Sonu was walking back alone through the farm. He was basking in the golden sun.

He suddenly saw...

A kid was playing with marbles sitting on a torn sheet. Sonu went to him and asked him softly, "What is your name?"

The kid glanced at him once and then resumed playing. Sonu was quite surprised, and he turned to go home.

Every afternoon, after his holiday, Sonu would meet that kid and used to bring him some food that he saved from his tiffin.

That kid had no name.
Sonu used to call him Friend.
They both played with marbles and had lots of fun.

Every day, that kid used to wait for Sonu, basking in the winter sun.

Sonu was waiting for his friends in the morning when Sheela *maasi* (aunt) called out, "Shubh and Shubhi are visiting their grandma. So hurry up! It's time to go to school."
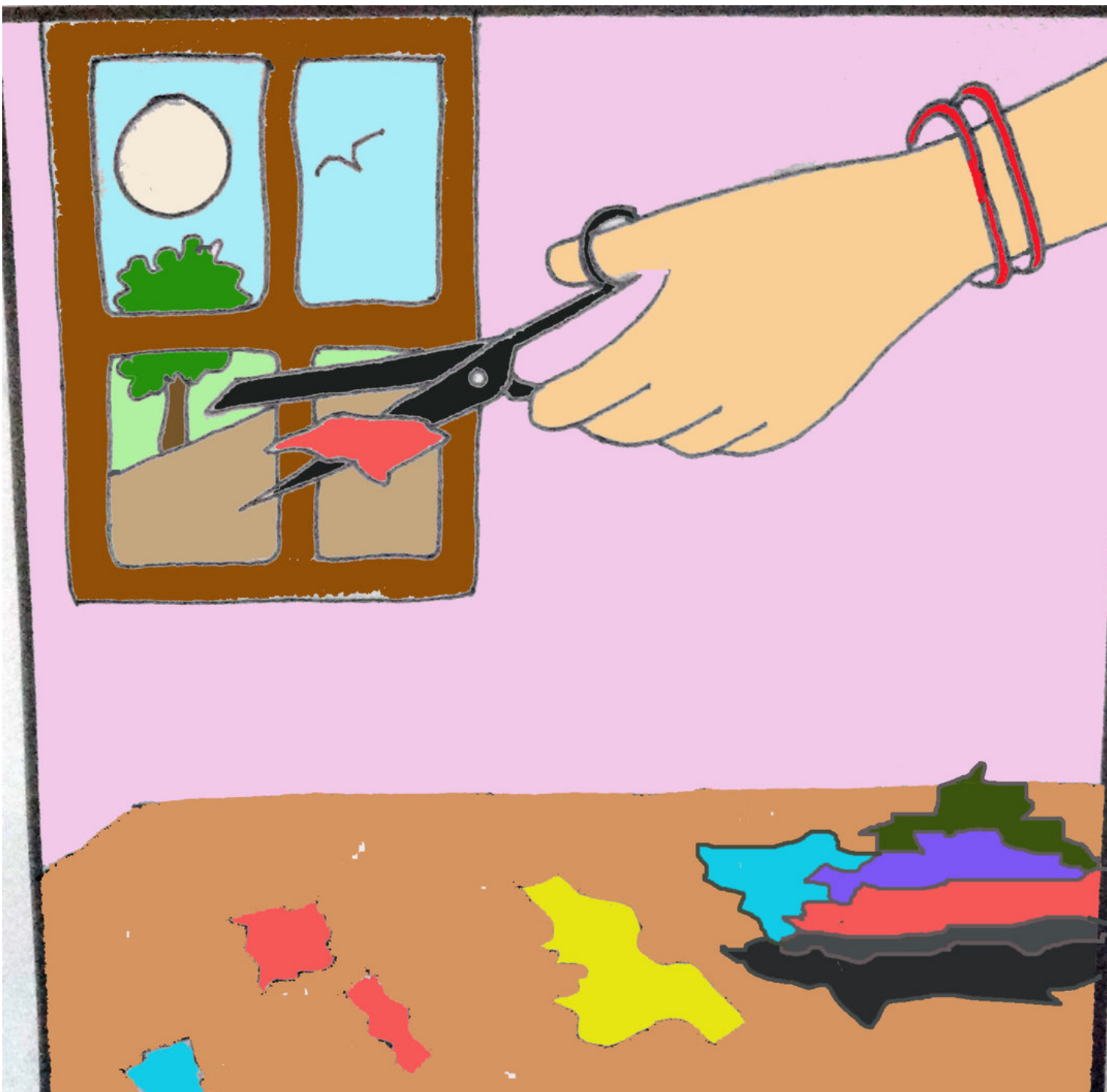
That morning, Sonu went to his school through the farm. Seeing the kid shivering in the chilling cold made Sonu feel sad.

He took out a muffler from his bag and wrapped around his Friend.

When Sonu's mom asked him about the muffler, he explained everything innocently...

"You make me wear warm clothes so that I don't feel cold. You make sure I sleep with a blanket... But that kid doesn't have anything other than pieces of a sheet and a dirty shirt."

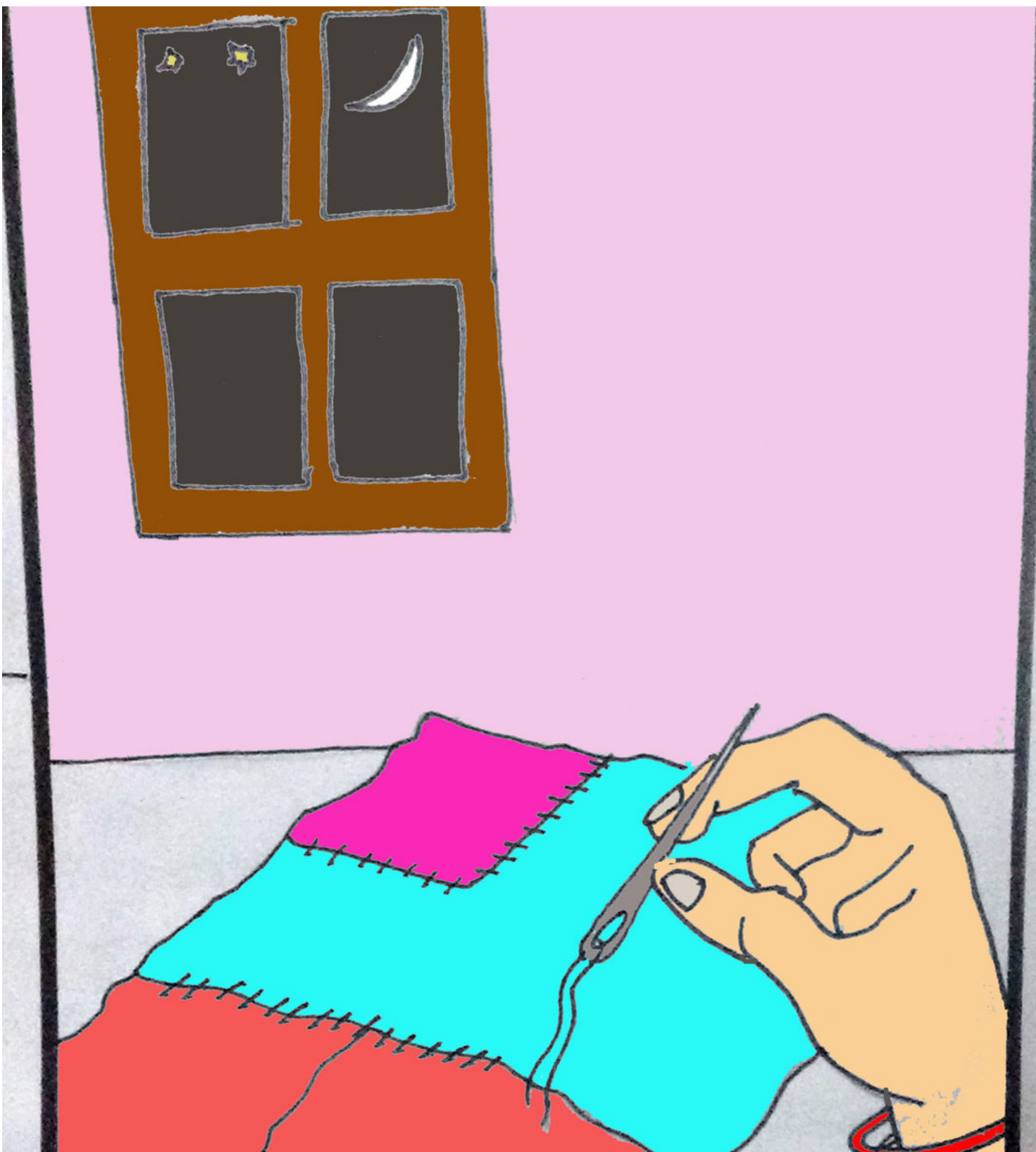Next day, Sonu found his mother in the middle of a pile of old clothes.

Snip! Snip! Snip!

His mom was cutting pieces out of those old clothes.

"What are you doing, mom?" Sonu asked.

She said, "Go change your clothes quietly and eat your food."

At night, after tucking Sonu in, she sewed all the
pieces together to make a thick sheet.
She folded it and placed it inside Sonu's school bag.

When he opened the bag in school, Sonu found that sheet. He finally understood what his mother was up to yesterday.

Sonu could not focus on his studies at all that day. He kept waiting for school to be over.

That afternoon, Sonu reached his Friend in high spirits.

He immediately took out the sheet from his bag and said, "Here, friend, my mom sent this for you."

The kid saw the sheet and grew teary-eyed with joy. He gave Sonu a big hug!

The kid had found a special friendship in Sonu to share his joys and sorrows, and also a warm sheet to protect him from the cold.

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My Friend
(English)

Sonu has met a new friend! They have so much fun together! Do you like to make new friends too? This is a story of a special friendship. Come, let's read it.

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