

Snapdragons

The Samosa Thief



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Oxford
Reading
Tree



What is the story about?

Everyone in the family, including Benji the dog, loves samosas. So when Mum's freshly-made samosas disappear from a high shelf, the twins Sunita and Sanjay plan to catch the thief. They ask Mum to make some more samosas, and set up a video camera to film the thief. When they watch the film, they are amazed to see Benji move a chair and jump onto it to reach the samosas.

Talk together

Look at the cover and read the title together. Talk about the cover illustration, and ask your child what they think the story will be about. Look briefly through the book, and talk about what is happening in the illustrations. Look together at the illustrations on pages 2–3, and match the names of the characters in the text with their pictures.

Read the story

- Encourage your child to read the story aloud to you, and join in with the enjoyment of the story.
- If your child misreads words, ask him/her to reread the sentence and check it makes sense, but don't let your child struggle for long or he/she may lose the sense of the story.
- On page 8, say, "How would you ask me for a samosa if you were really hungry?" Encourage your child to reread the spoken words with expression.
- On page 9, check your child reads 'eight' correctly by checking the number of samosas in the illustration.
- Ask your child to say what he/she enjoyed about this story, and encourage him/her to read it again.

The Samosa Thief



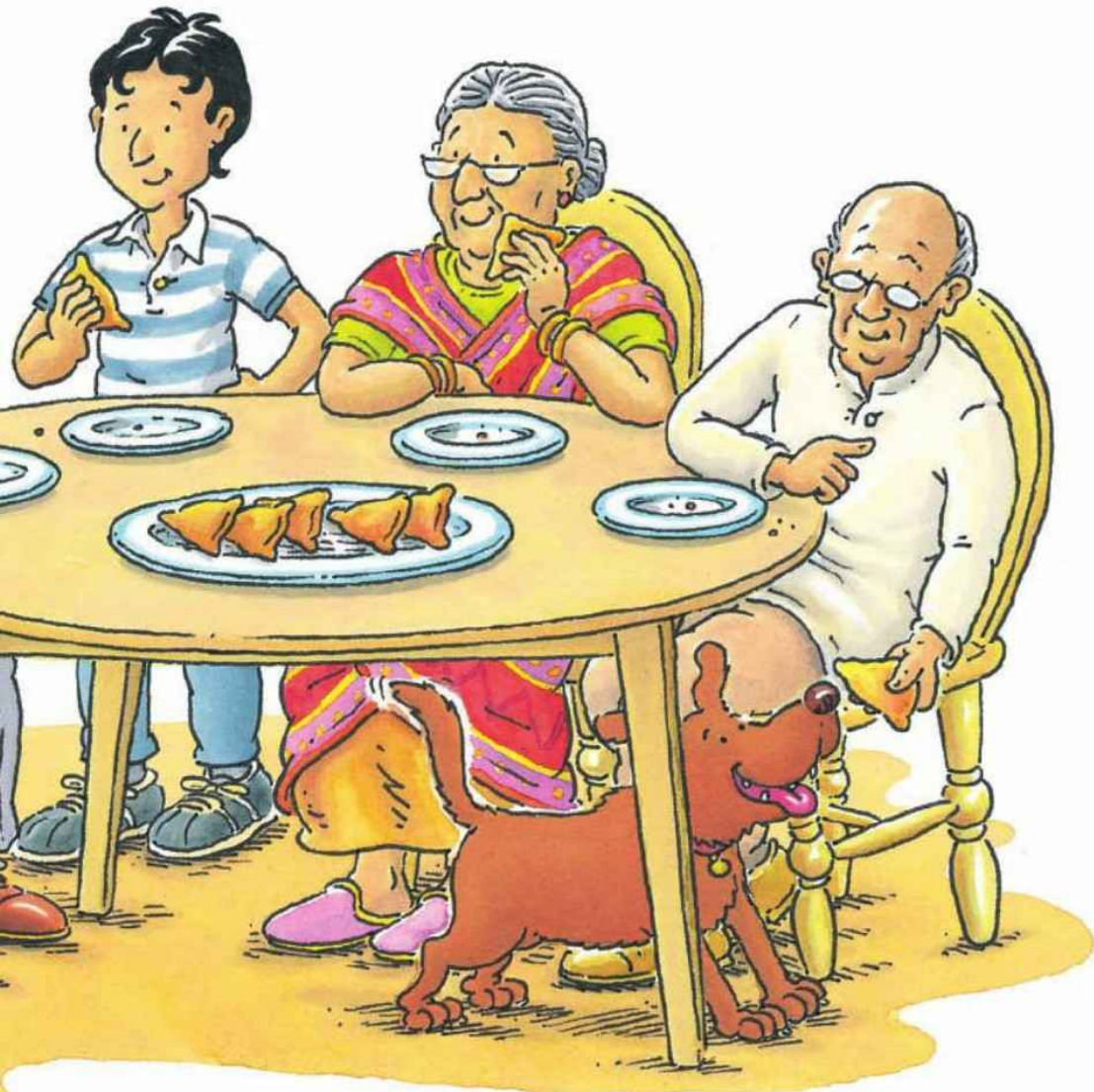
Story by Narinder Dhani
Pictures by Tony Blundell

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When Mum made samosas, everyone wanted one. The twins, Sunita and Sanjay, thought Mum's samosas were great.

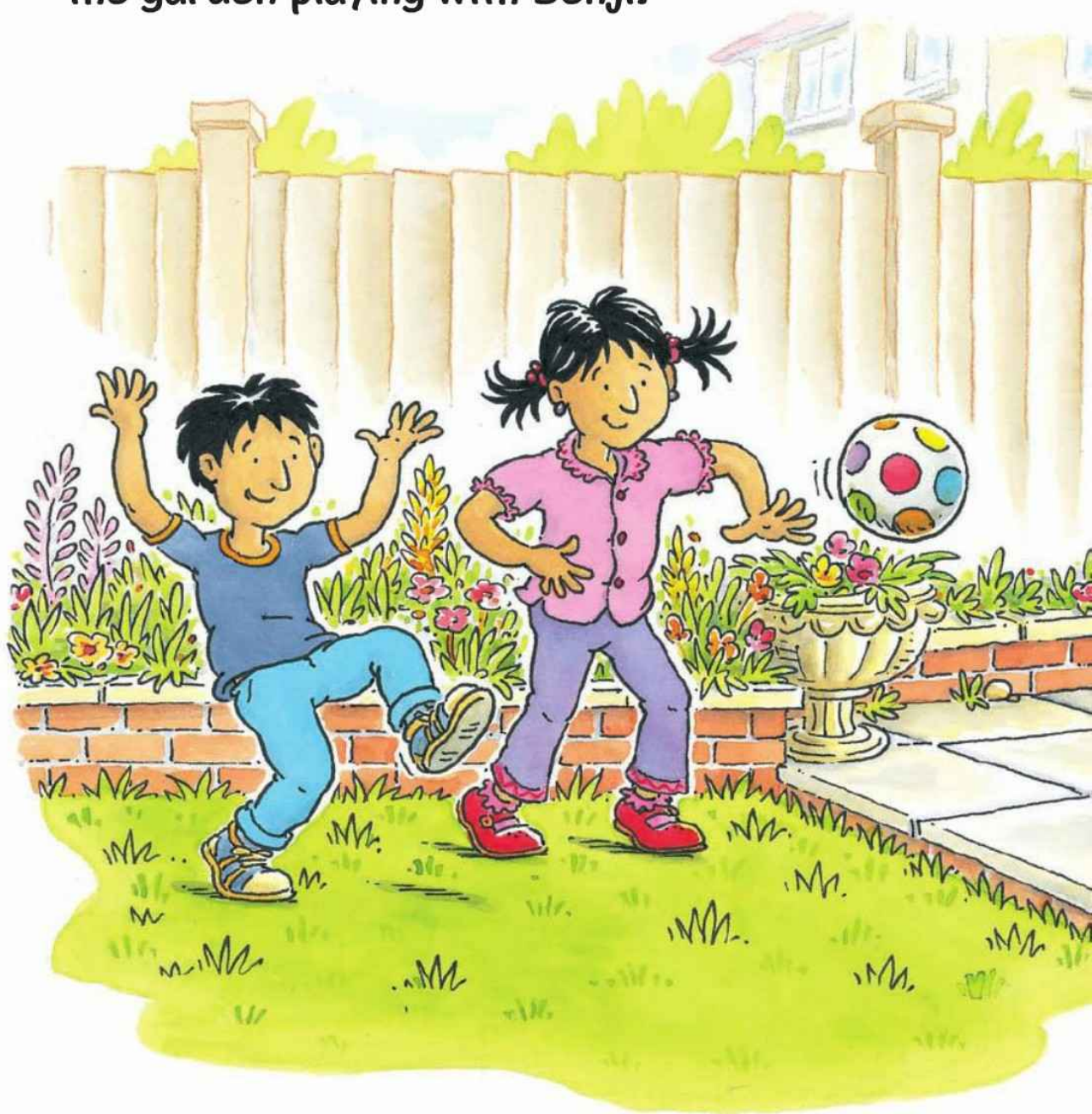


**So did Dad and their older brother Raj.
So did Grandma and Grandpa.**



**Even the dog Benji loved them! The samosas
never lasted very long!**

One Saturday, Mum was in the kitchen making samosas. Sunita and Sanjay were in the garden playing with Benji.



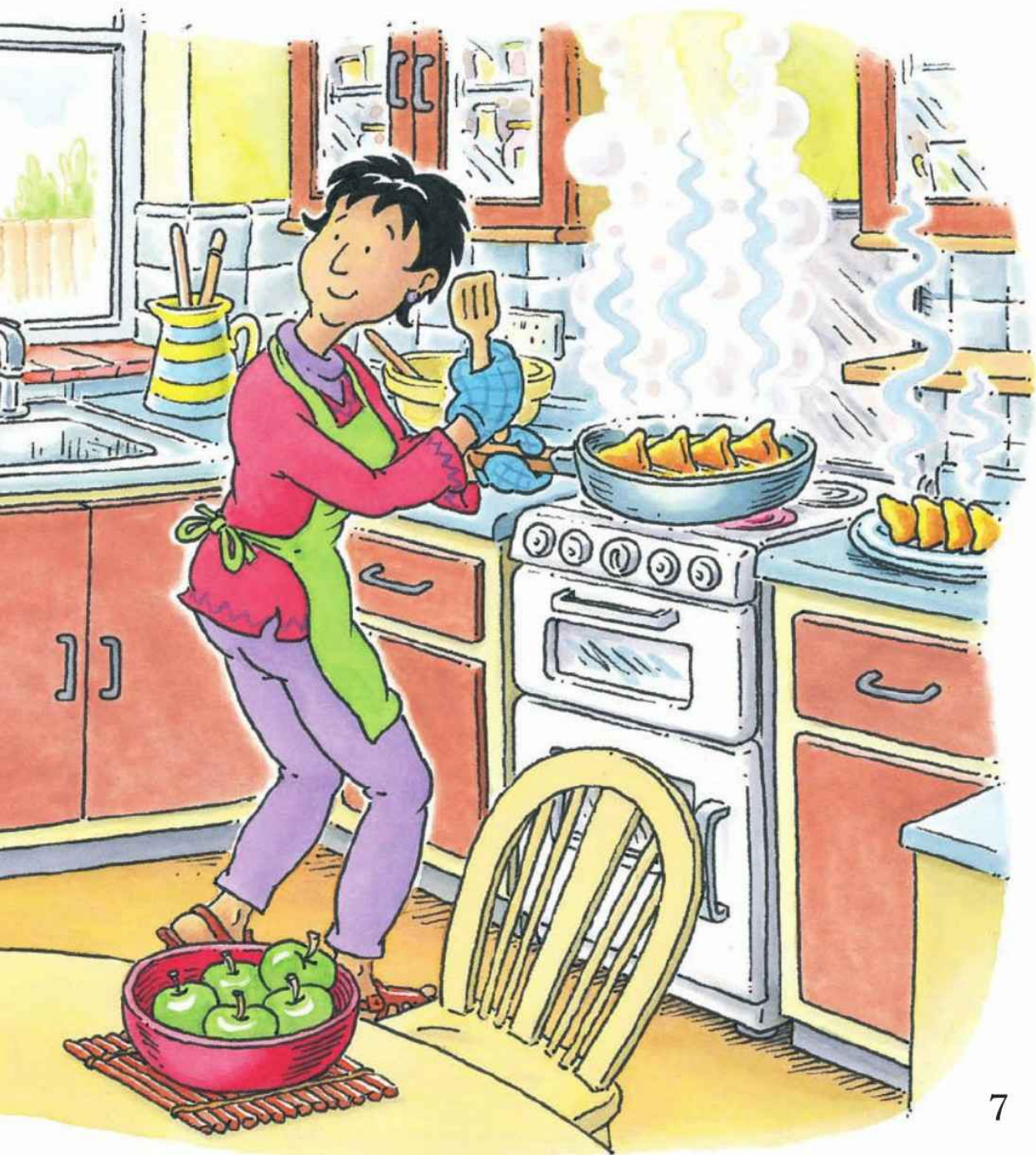


The window was open, and the twins could smell the samosas cooking. Benji could smell them too. His nose was twitching!

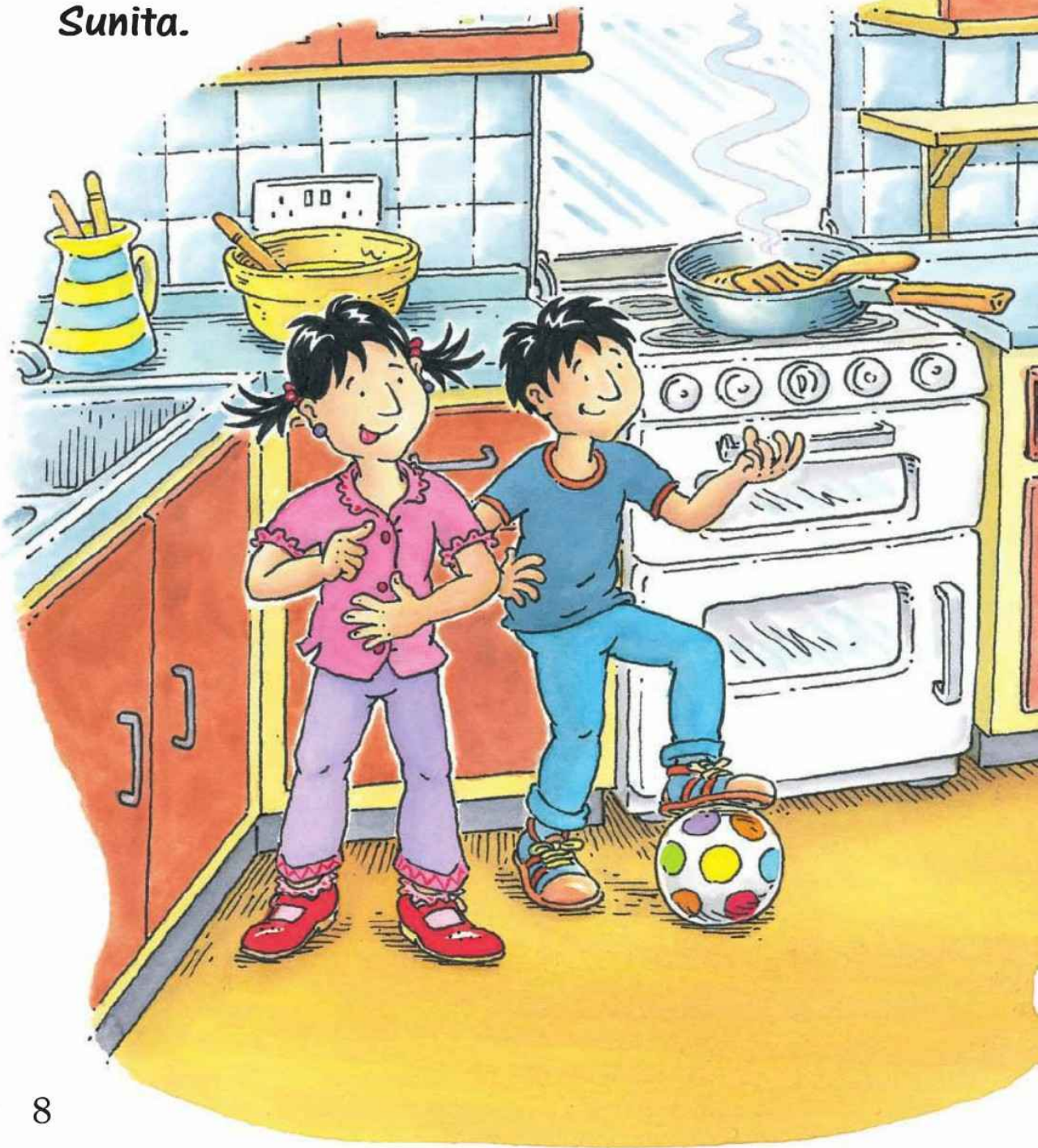
Sunita and Sanjay were very hungry. They ran into the kitchen and asked Mum if they could have a samosa.



“Not yet,” Mum replied. “You’ll have to wait until they cool down a bit.”



**“But we’re really hungry!” said Sanjay.
“My tummy’s turning inside-out!” said
Sunita.**





Mum laughed. "Have an apple," she said. She put the eight samosas on a plate, and left them to cool on the shelf.

**“Let’s go and play football with Benji,”
Sanjay said. The twins went back into the
garden, but Benji had gone inside to sleep.**



Sanjay and Sunita were kicking the ball around when they heard a shout.



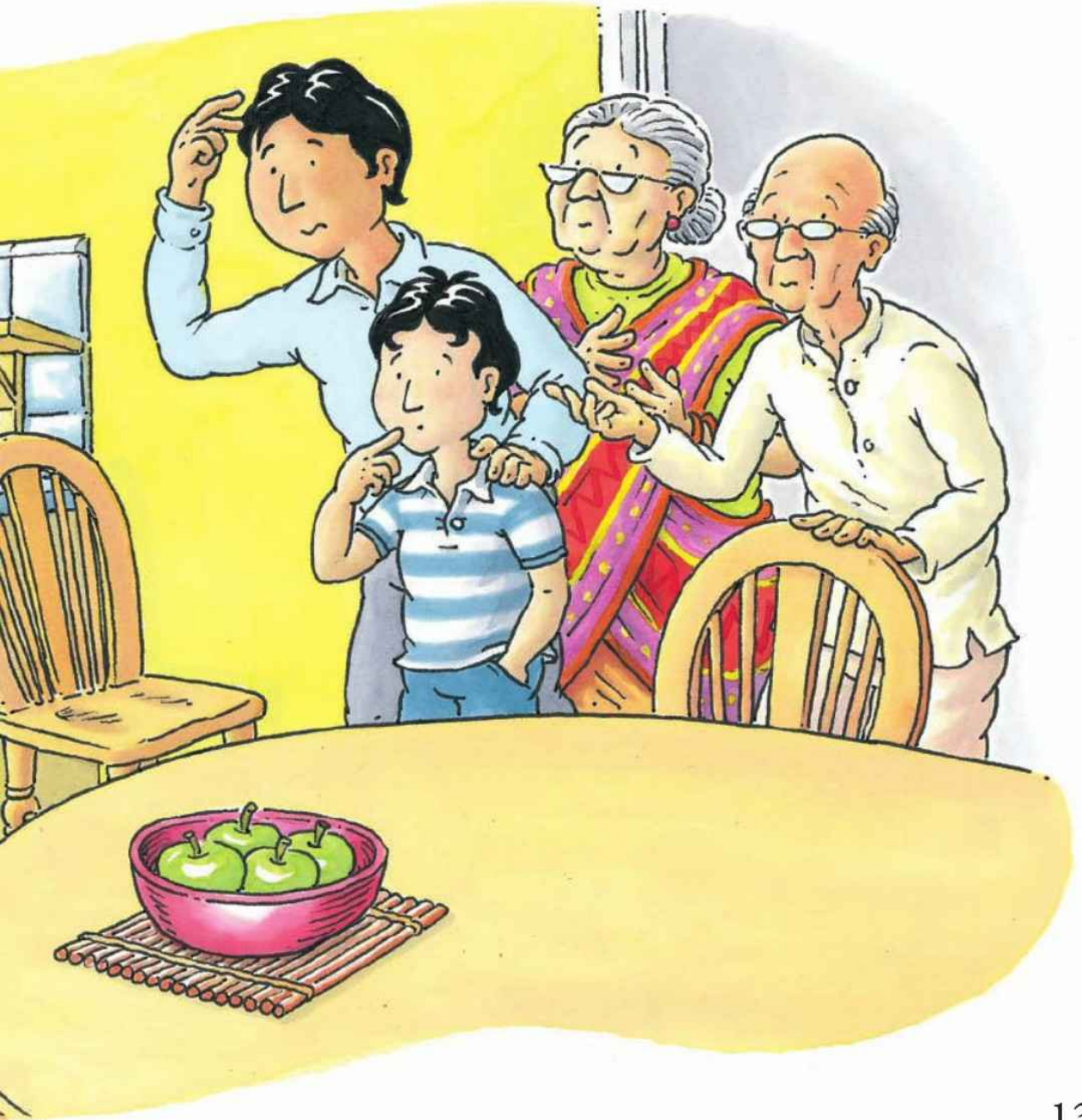
“My samosas!” Mum cried. “They’ve gone!”

Everyone rushed into the kitchen.

“It can’t be Benji,” said Mum. “He wouldn’t be able to reach the shelf. So who ate them?”



**“It wasn’t us,” said Sanjay and Sunita.
Dad, Raj, Grandma and Grandpa said they
hadn’t eaten the samosas either.**



“Maybe we can find out who the samosa thief is,” Sunita said to Sanjay.



The twins went all over the house, looking for clues.



Dad was in the garage.

Raj was in his bedroom.



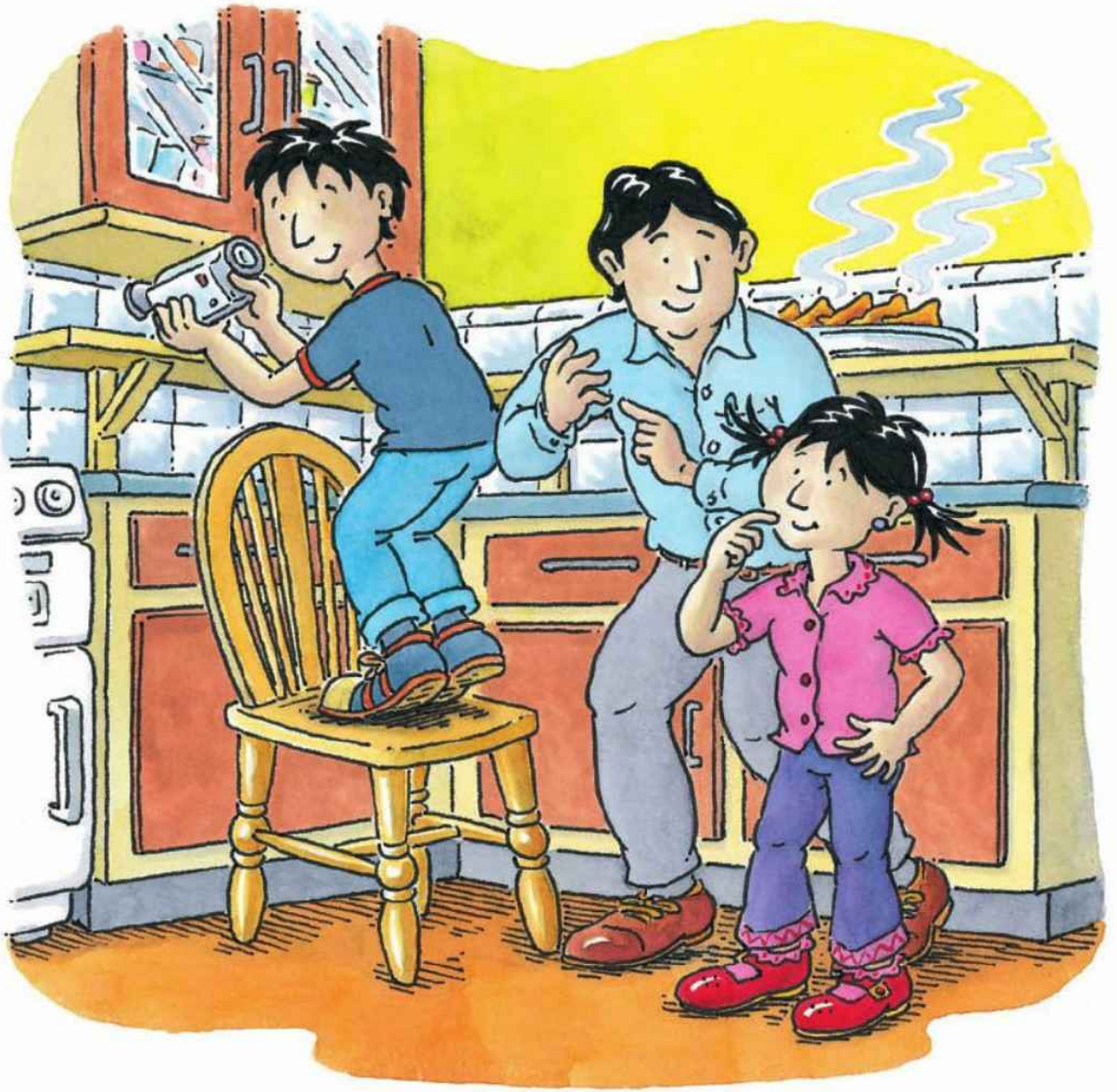
Grandma and Grandpa were watching TV. But the twins couldn't find out who'd eaten the samosas.



“I’ve got an idea!” said Sanjay. “Let’s ask Dad to use his new video camera.”

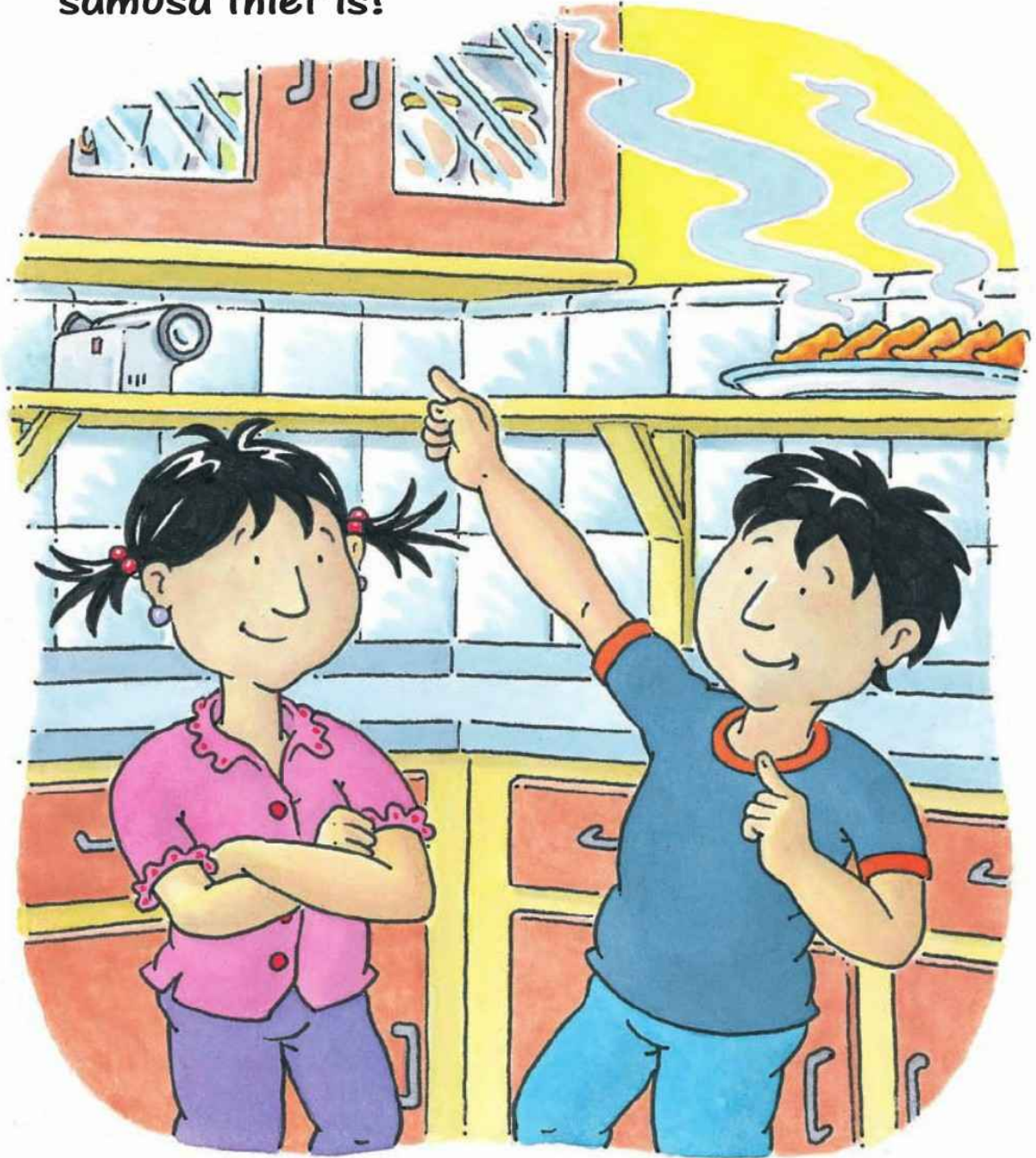
The twins asked Mum to make some more samosas. She made six, and put them on a plate to cool.





Sanjay put the video camera on the shelf near the samosas. Then Dad showed Sunita how to turn the camera on.

**“The camera will record what happens,”
Sanjay grinned. “Now we’ll find out who the
samosa thief is!”**



The twins went out into the garden. Mum went to the shop, Dad was in the garage and Raj was in his bedroom. Grandma and Grandpa were still watching TV.



After a while, the twins went back to the kitchen.



“Look!” Sanjay shouted, “All the samosas have gone!”

Sunita took the video camera off the shelf.

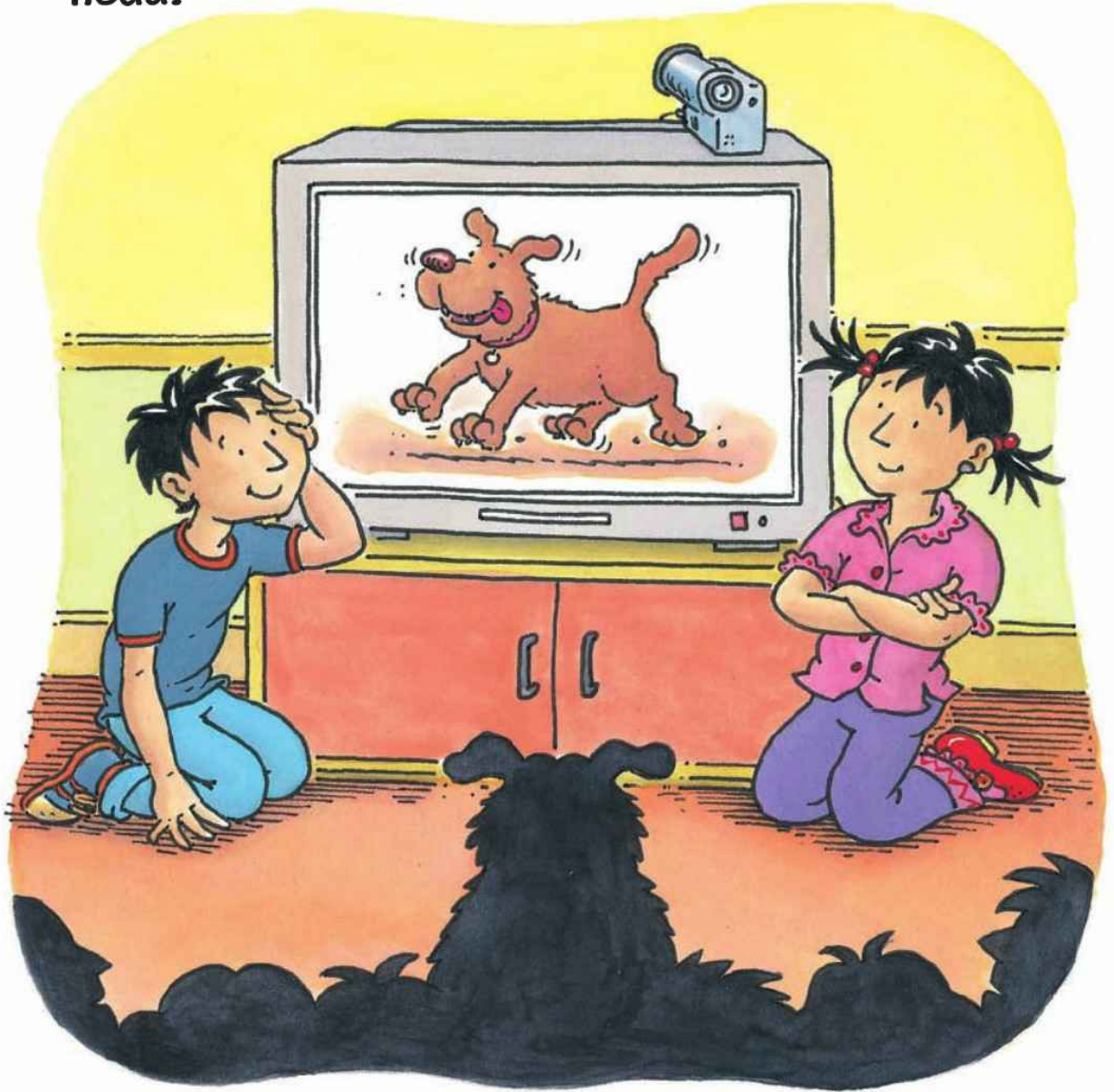
“Now we can find out who the thief is!” she said.



The twins told everyone to come and watch the video. Even Benji came!

Everyone watched the TV. They saw Benji trot into the kitchen.

Benji could smell the samosas high above his head.



He pushed one of the chairs over to the shelf and jumped onto it.



Now he could reach the samosas, and he ate them all!

Everyone laughed, even Mum.

“Benji, we never guessed it was you!” said Sunita.

“Benji is a very clever dog,” said Sanjay.

“And greedy too!” Mum smiled. “No dinner for you tonight, Benji!”



Play a game

Benji's story

This game will help your child's storytelling ability.

- Ask your child to imagine that he/she is Benji, the dog. Together retell the story from Benji's point of view, adding words that Benji might say, e.g. "Yum, yum, samosas again. I'll just wait until everyone is out of the kitchen."

Other ideas

- Help your child write a list of foods beginning with the letter 'S'.
- Ask your child to describe what happened in the story using words such as first, next, then, at last.

Story by Narinder Dhami
Pictures by Tony Blundell

The Samosa Thief

Who keeps stealing the samosas?
The twins find a way to
discover the thief.



This story practises these words:

could his have now out so them very were
who

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