



Air pollution is a growing problem that needs increased awareness in young and old. With this book, funded by the Atmosphere Programme at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), we hope to plant the seeds for change in the minds of children in Nepal. The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas and the global mountain community. We're working to develop an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem to improve the livelihoods of mountain populations – now, and for the future.



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The World of Smoke

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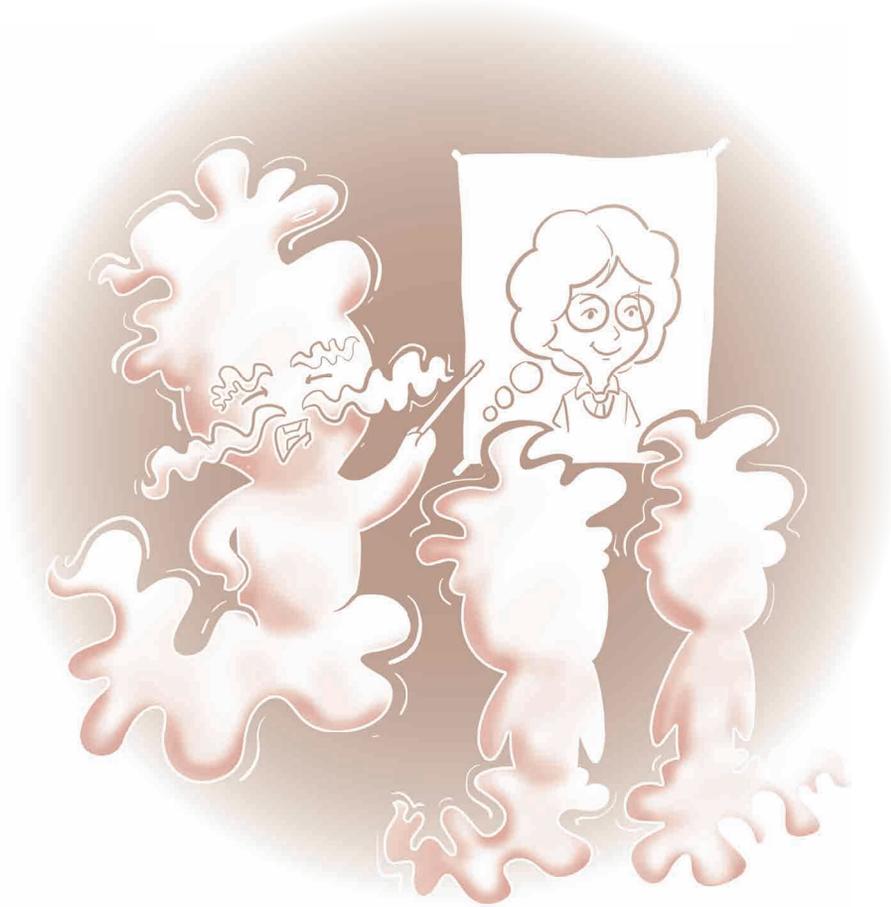
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The World of SMOKE



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Bodhini was returning home with her mother. There was smoke everywhere! Smoke from cars, trucks, and motor scooters made it difficult to see the road.





Bodhini and her mother entered a café. The café was filled with smoke.



Bodhini's eyes burned. It was difficult for her to breathe. She began to cough.



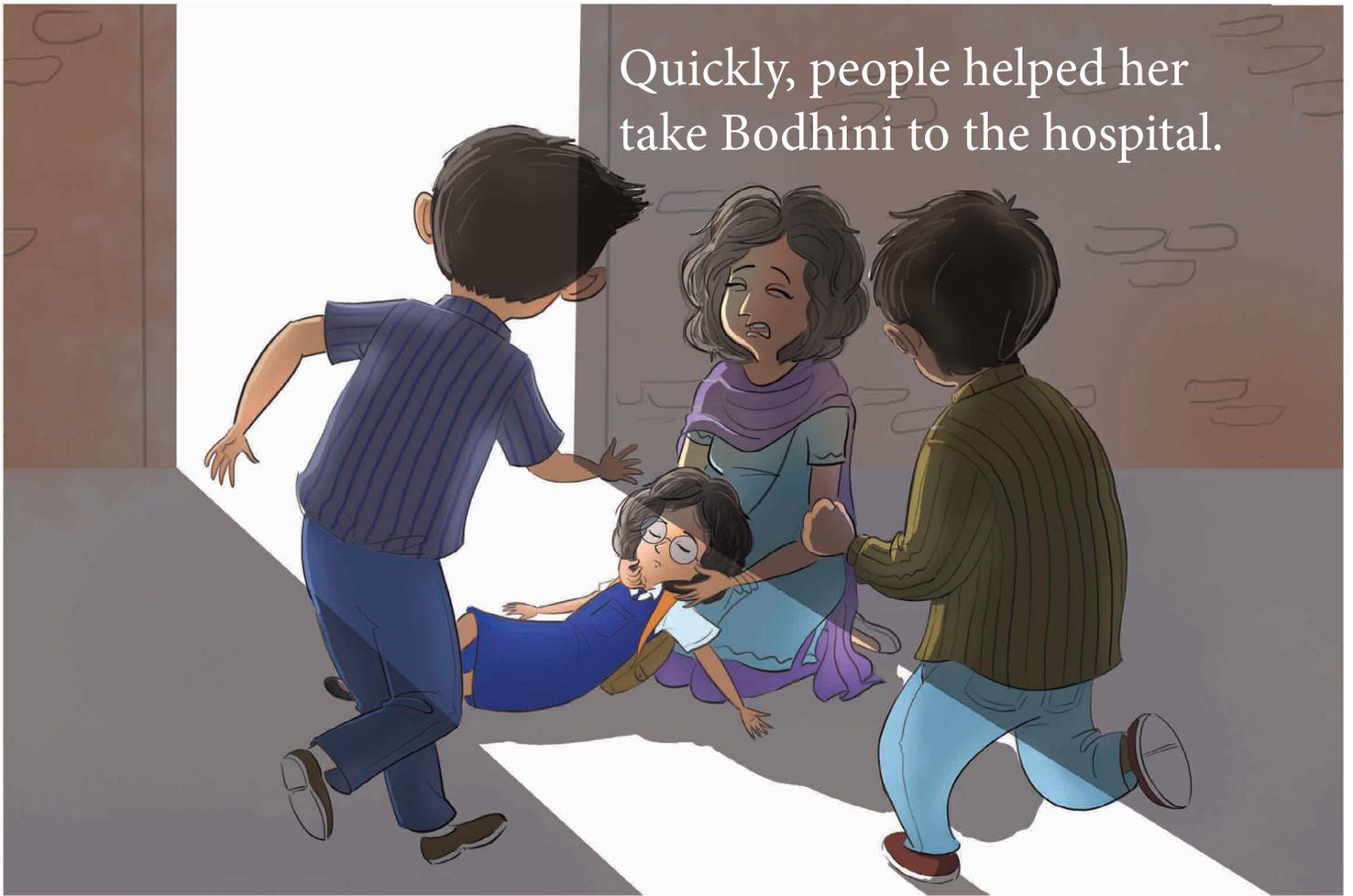


Bodhini fainted. Her mother got scared.





Quickly, people helped her
take Bodhini to the hospital.



“Welcome, Bodhini.”

Bodhini opened her eyes. She was surrounded by figures with long mustaches.





“Where am I?” Bodhini looked around, surprised.



“You are in the World of Smoke now. We come out whenever you burn fires on earth. This world is created by people like you,” the Leader said.

“The World of Smoke?” Bodhini asked surprised.

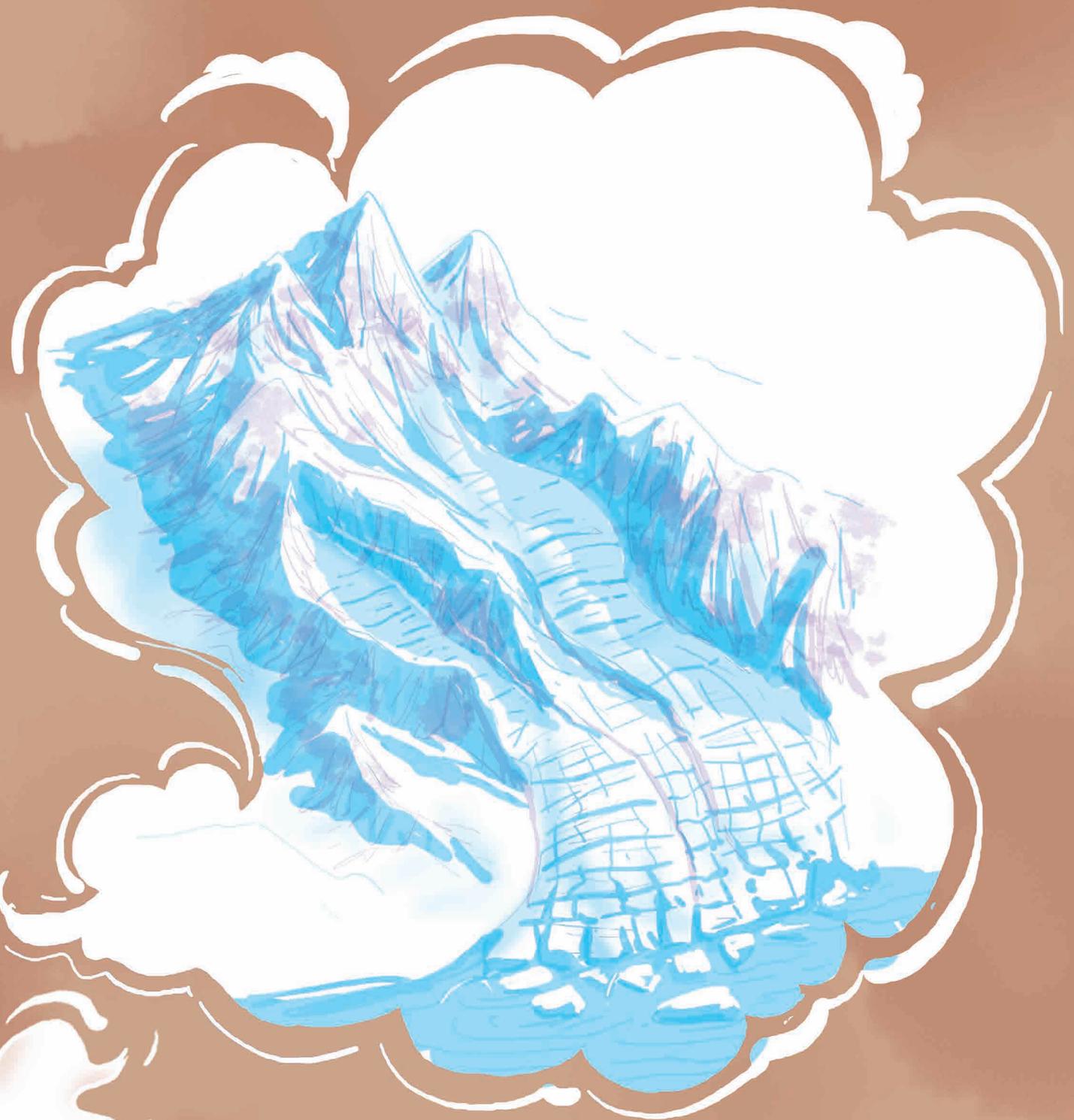




“Yes. Our world grows day by day. We spread disease and pollution,” another Smoke said.



“We can even melt glaciers and cause floods and landslides. The more our World grows, the more people will suffer.”

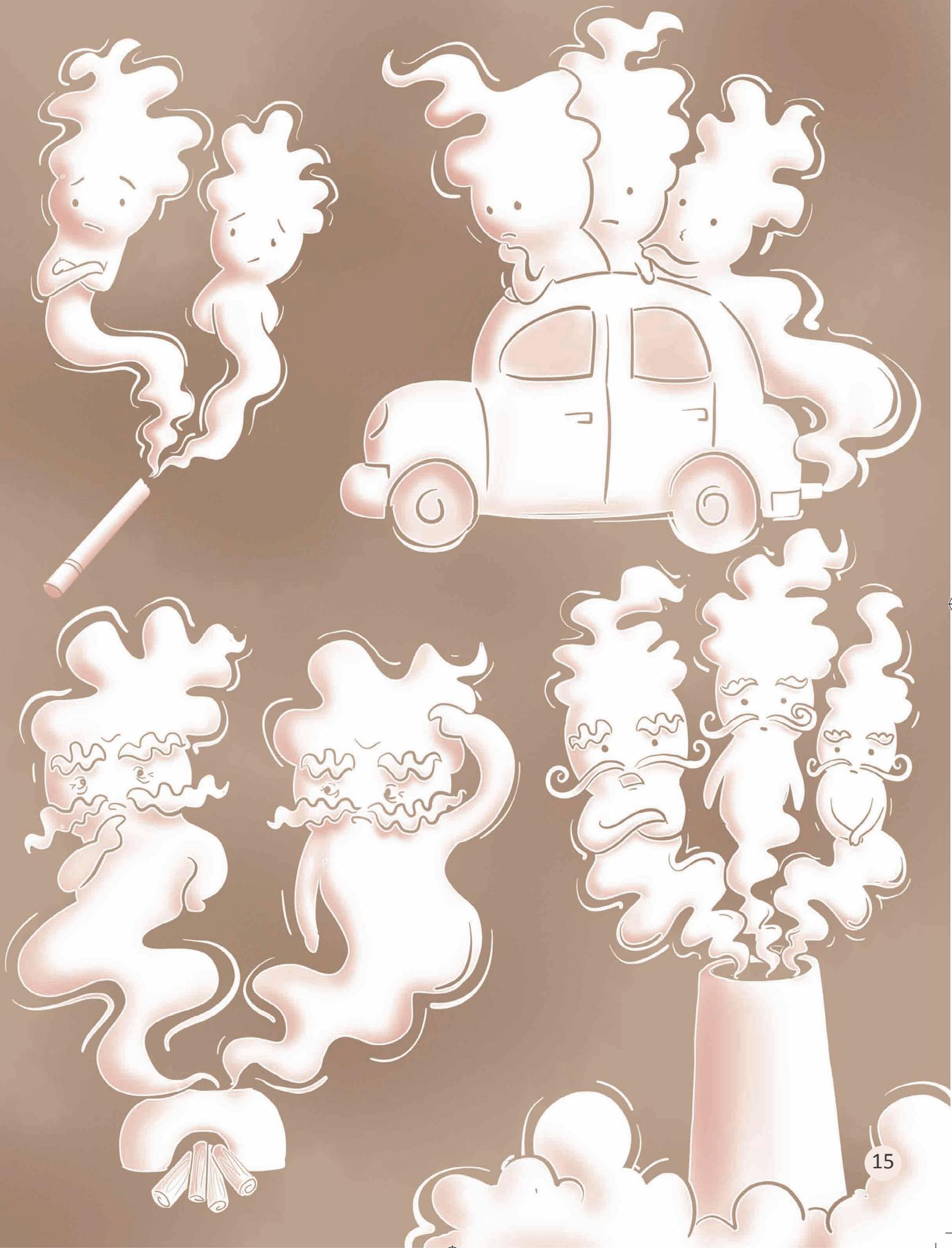


“That’s terrible! This can cause great disasters in the world. You must stop this immediately,” Bodhini pleaded.

“We are only being ourselves. If people want to be safe from us, they must stop creating smoke! They must stop our sources,” the Leader advised.

“I will do my best to spread this message. Please let me go now. I cannot breathe,” Bodhini requested.









The Smokes carried Bodhini back down to Earth.



When Bodhini opened her eyes, she was in a hospital. “Was I dreaming?” She wondered.

“This is all because of smoke. A lot of people who come to the hospital are victims of smoke. Please stop burning your household waste and use stoves that do not release smoke,” the doctor was explaining to Bodhini’s mother.



On their way home, Bodhini thought about how harmful smoke can be: *It is not very difficult to reduce it. I am going to start making people aware of the harmful effects of smoke and how it can be reduced.*

“Mom! You should get your scooter serviced. It is emitting a lot of smoke. Otherwise, I will not ride with you,” Bodhini told her mother.



“Here you are! What took you so long?” Bodhini's father asked.

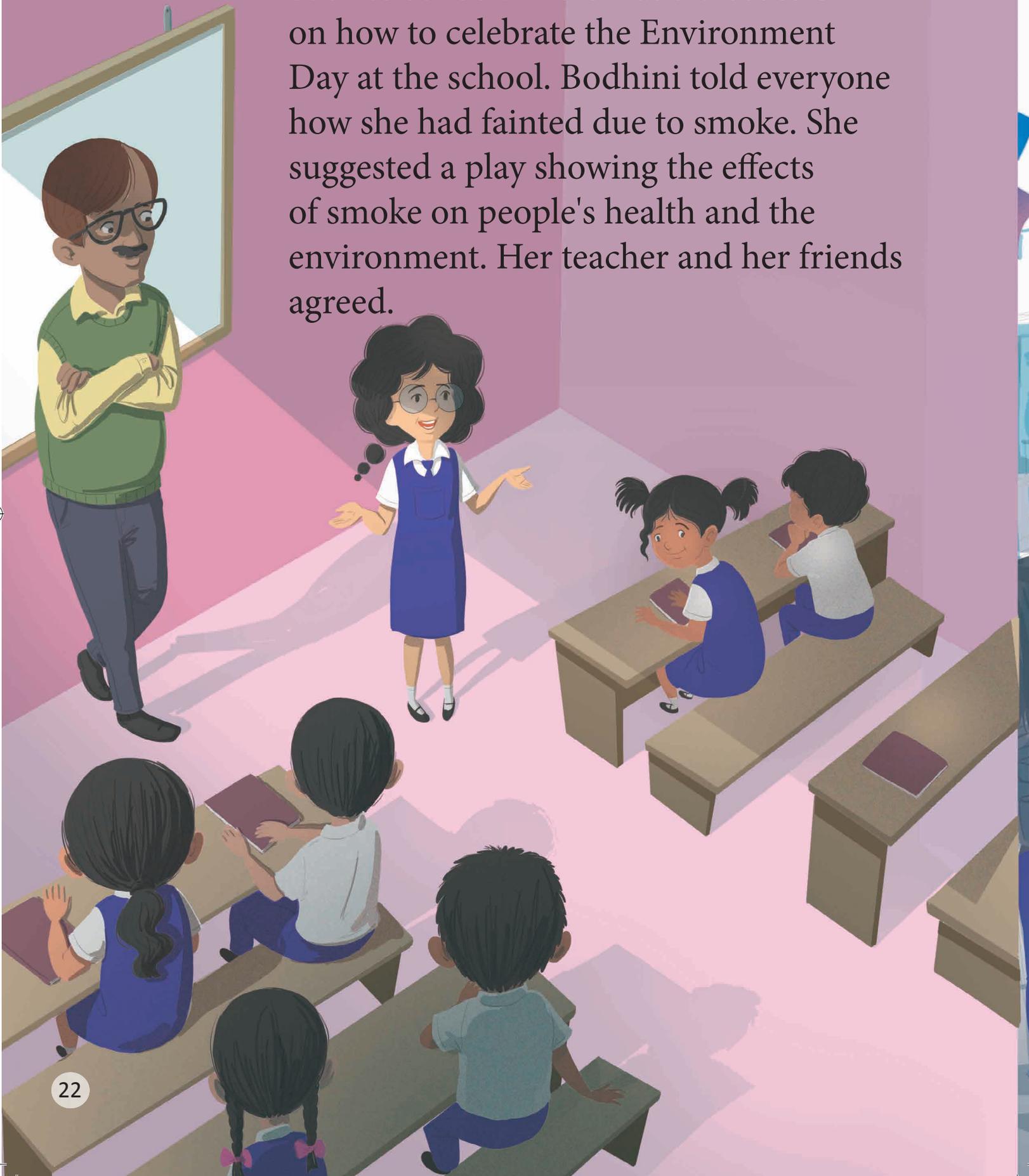
“Dad! I fainted and mom had to take me to the hospital. We are coming from the hospital now,” Bodhini explained.



Bodhini then told her father everything the doctor had said about smoke and its effects. Her father brought a bucket of water and poured it over the burning fire. Bodhini was very happy.



After resting for a few days, Bodhini went back to school. There was a discussion on how to celebrate the Environment Day at the school. Bodhini told everyone how she had fainted due to smoke. She suggested a play showing the effects of smoke on people's health and the environment. Her teacher and her friends agreed.



On Environment Day, parents came to watch the play. The school field was packed! After a while, the stage curtain opened. Then the play began.

ENVIRONMENT DAY



“Attack!” all smoke characters shouted.

Attack!

Ah!

Ah!



Attack!



Some other characters entered the stage.



Use electricity instead of diesel

Service vehicle on time





ehicles
ne

Be aware!

Stop forest fires

Stop all fire sources

Do not burn garbage

Control the smoke from the factories

Plant trees

Awareness



The play ended. Everyone congratulated the actors.
“We will certainly help in your efforts to reduce
smoke,” all the parents said.
Bodhini was very pleased indeed.





