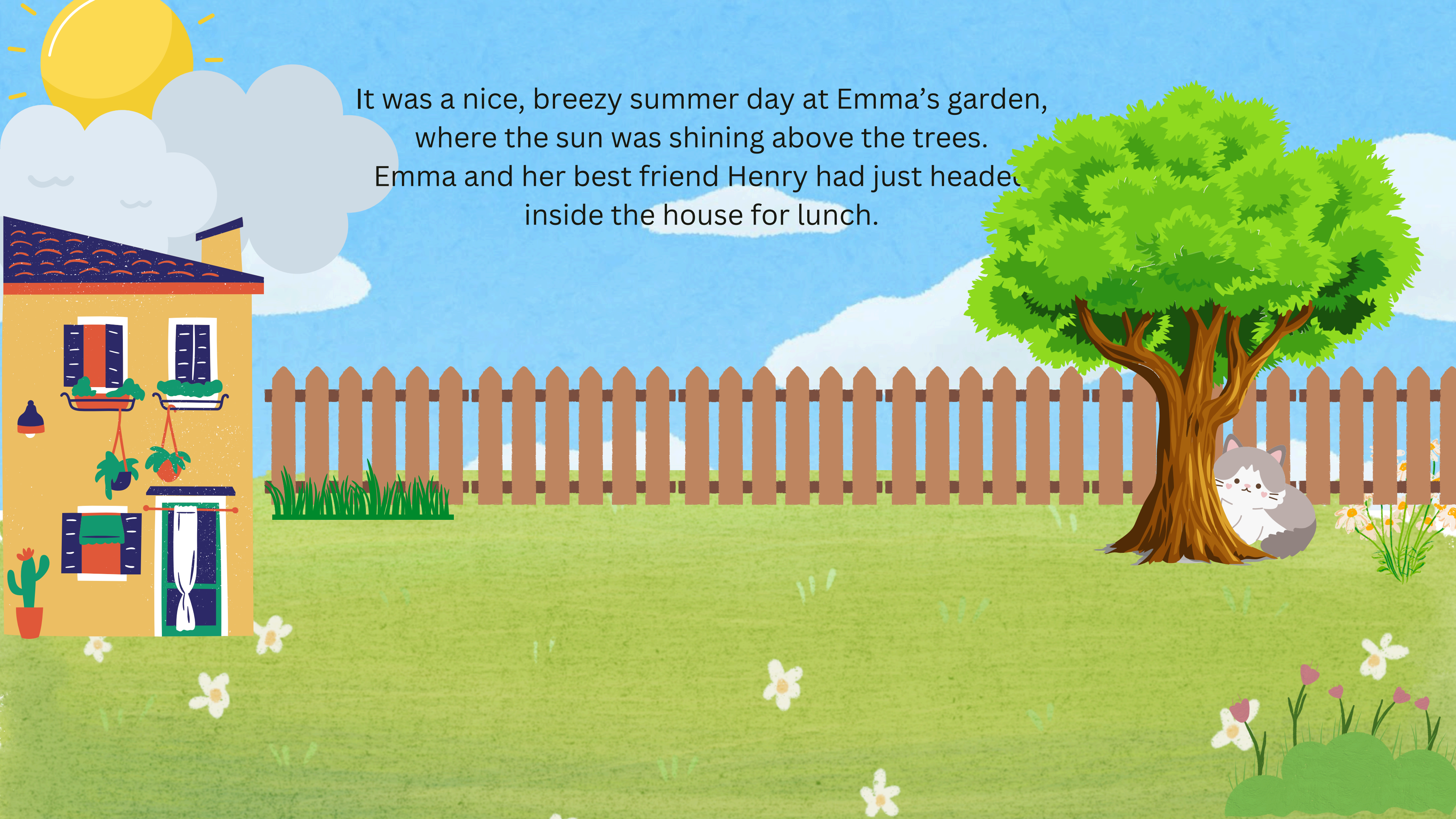


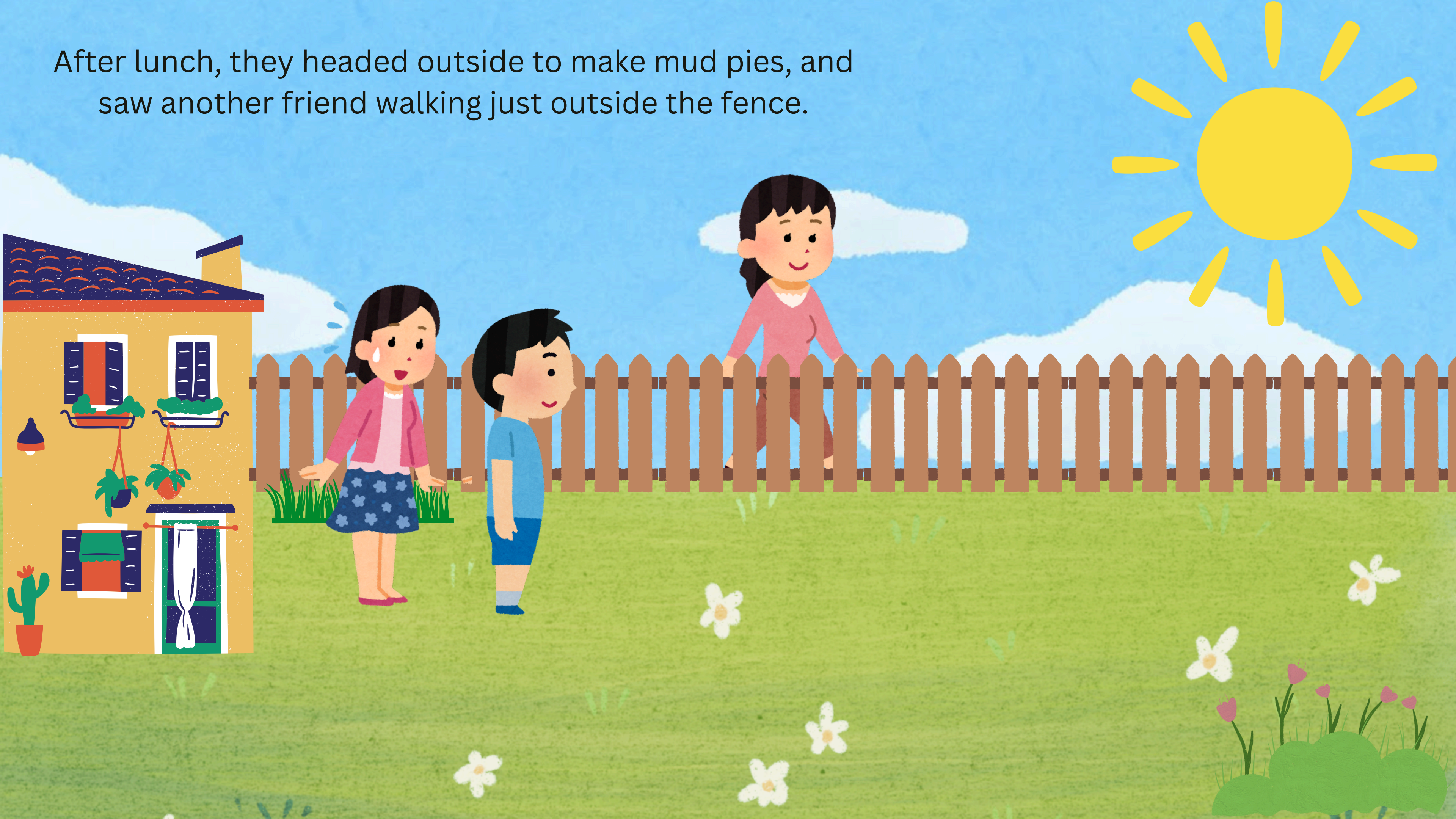
It was a nice, breezy summer day at Emma's garden,
where the sun was shining above the trees.
Emma and her best friend Henry had just headed
inside the house for lunch.



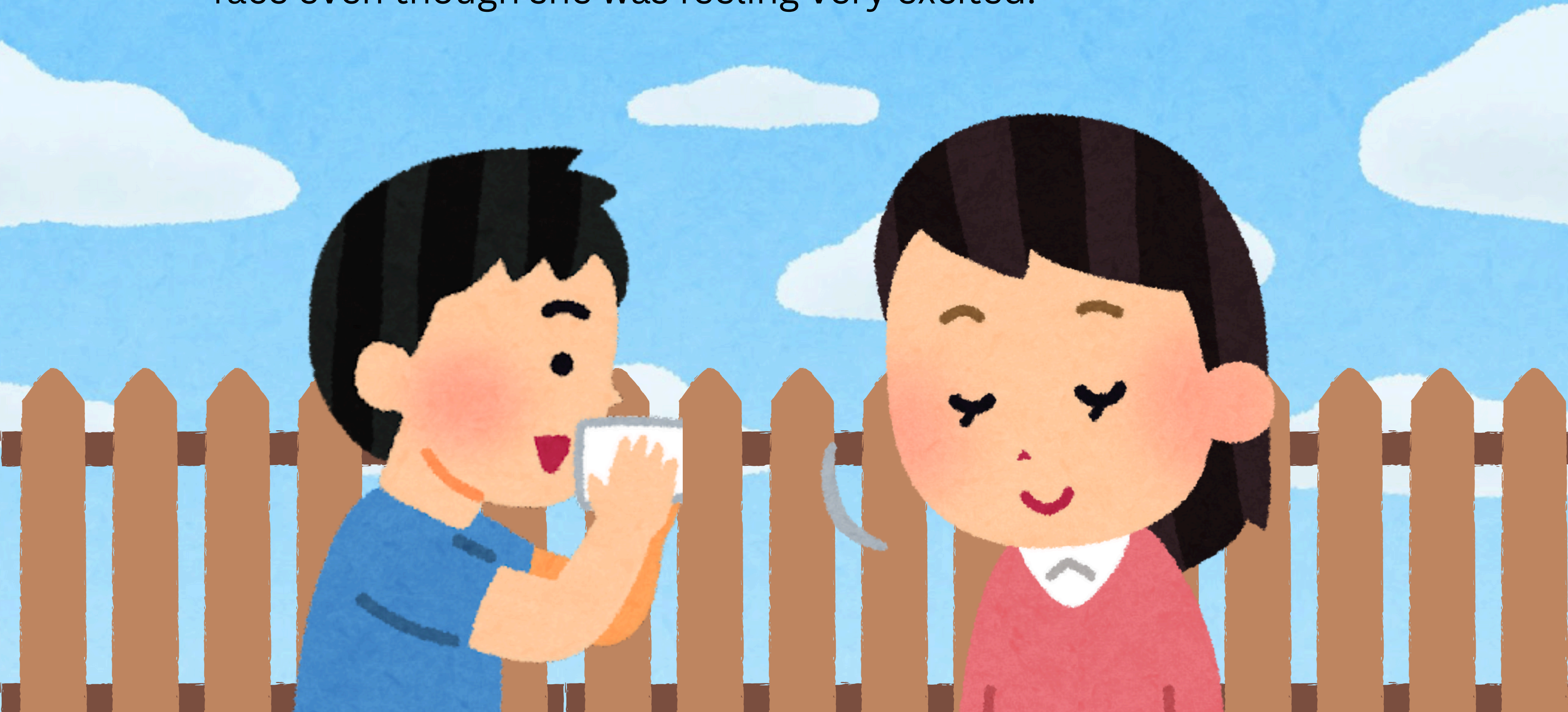
“Do you wanna make mud pies in the garden after lunch?”, Henry asked.
“I would love to!”, said Emma with a soothing and bubbly voice.



After lunch, they headed outside to make mud pies, and saw another friend walking just outside the fence.



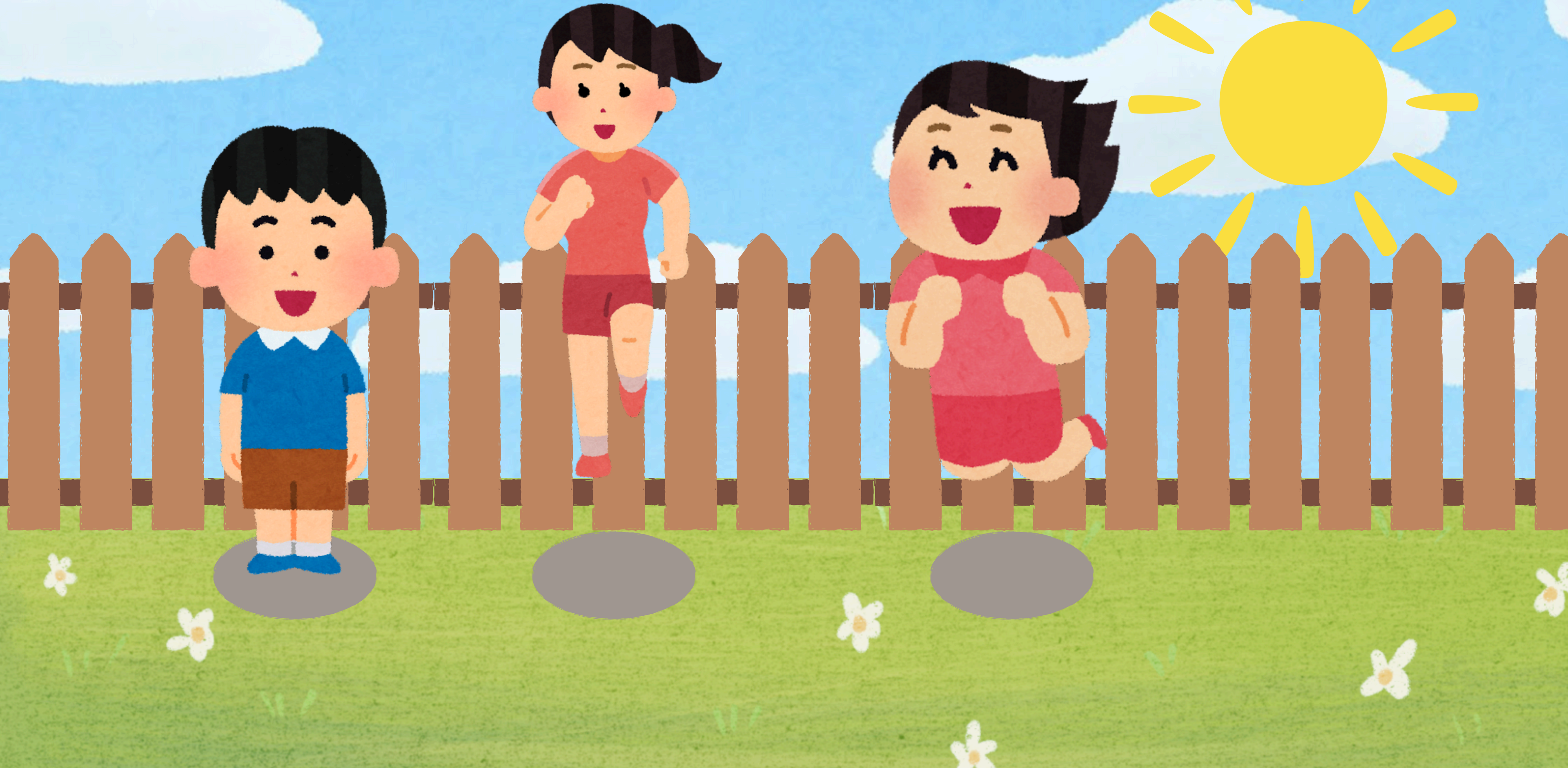
“ Emma, is that who I think it is?” Henry asked while pointing and tugging her. “ I think so!” Emma replied with a calm look on her face even though she was feeling very excited.



They went down the fence to see if it was really who they thought it was. When Emma tapped on the girl's shoulder and she looked back, she saw Emma and replied, "Emma, is that *really* you?" "It is!" Emma replied.



Shortly after, the girls had jumped up and down merrily. It is their friend Astrid, from their old neighborhood. Henry said, “It is so good to see you Astrid!”



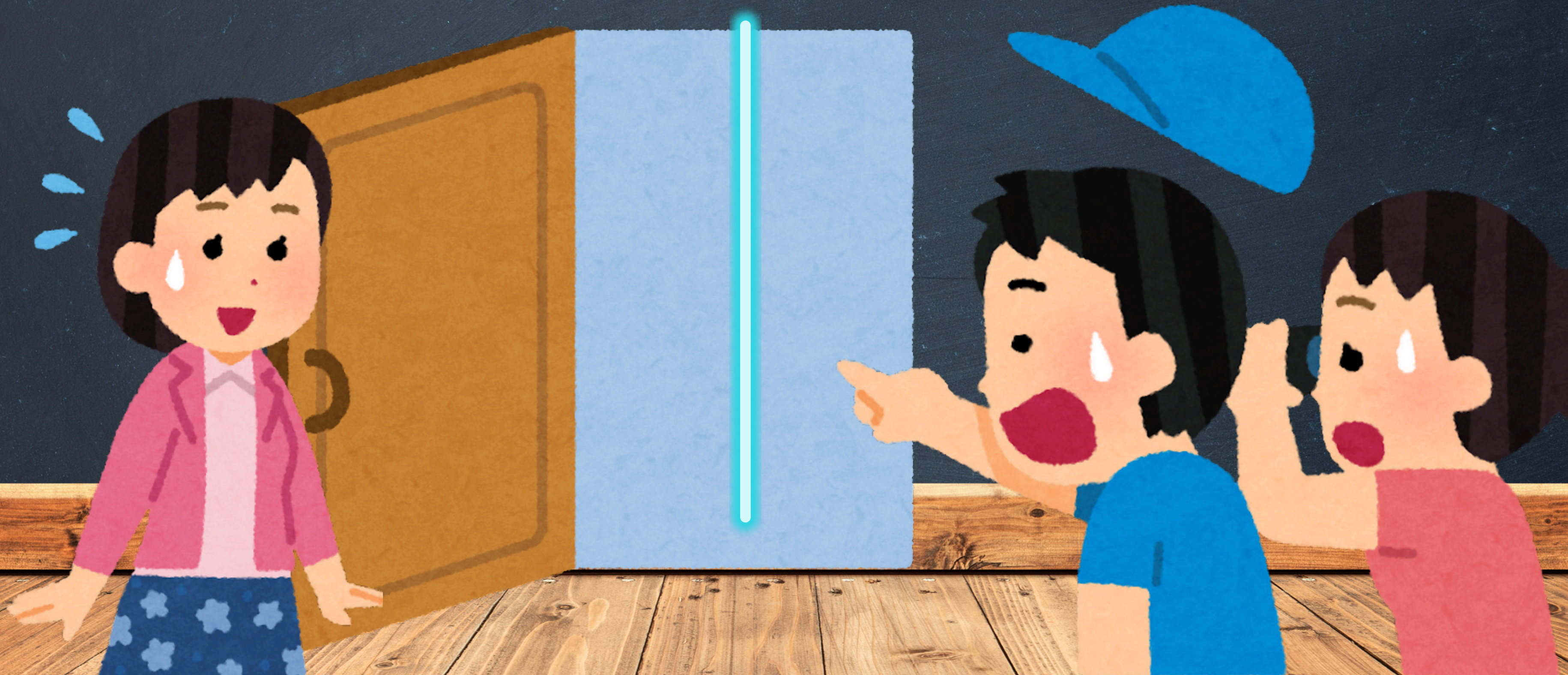
What are you guys doing?” Astrid asked. “ We are about to make mud pies.
Wanna join us?” Emma excitedly asked. “ Sure!” Astrid replied.



The three friends had headed back to the garden when they saw the sky turning gray.
“Let us head back inside. It might rain soon.” Henry said with a sad look on his face.



Just before they shut the door inside, they saw a big blue light coming from the sky.



These green and slimy looking people came and kidnapped Astrid! “(gasp) Astrid!” Emma said frighteningly. “We should go save her!” Henry replied.



Before the aliens could escape with Astrid, The two friends had teleported with them through the blue light.



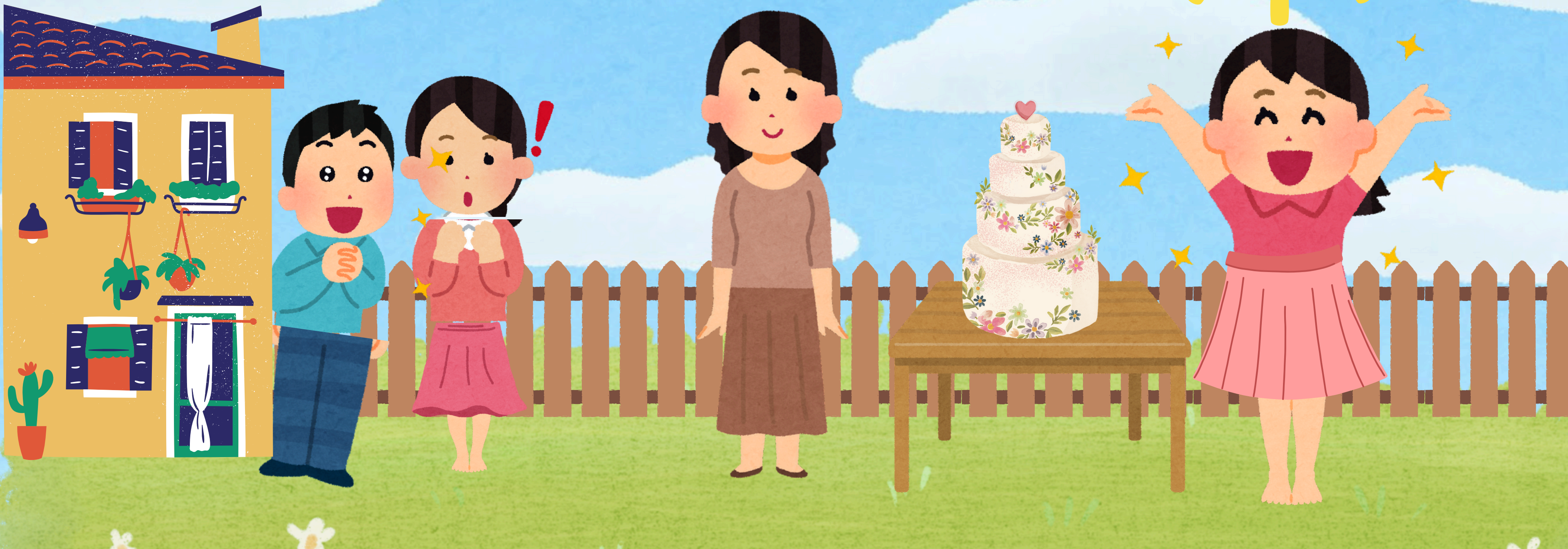
Emma saw Astrid and freed her from the ropes that the aliens had tied her in.



Emma, Astrid, and Henry all managed to escape the aliens. Astrid gave a big thanks to Henry and Emma and decided to plan a party with Emma's mom.



The next day, When Emma and Henry came to the house, Emma's mom and Astrid stood in front of them standing with a big, pink, and tall cake!
"SURPRISE!" said Astrid and Emma's mom in unison. Emma and Henry were shocked!
"Thank you for saving me. I was so scared." Astrid said with great gratitude. "Thanks mom." Emma said to her mom. "Your welcome honey." They ate the cake, and Astrid went home.





THE END



(Hint: There is a cat hidden somewhere in the book's pages. Can you find it?)