



Educational stories for children

KARIM AND THE TOOTHBRUSH



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Early in the morning, a sparrow perched on a branch outside Karim's window chirped in a lovely voice, "Sau sau sau..Sau sau sau..."



Karim woke up and opened the window. “Good morning, my friend,” he said. “Sau sau sau,” said the sparrow. Then it flew to another branch and began scraping its beak against the bark as though it were cleaning it after eating!



Karim went into the bathroom and washed his face with soap and water. He dried his face with a towel, and then rushed off to return to the sparrow. He heard a soft voice call out after him, “Karim...Karim!”



Karim stopped and turned about to see who had called him, but he didn't see anyone.



Karim asked the door, “Was it you who called me?”

The door swung to and fro and said in a charming, sing-song tone,
“No, no, no, it wasn’t me!”



So Karim asked the faucet, “Was it you?”

The faucet replied in the same sing-song tone, “No, no, no, it wasn’t me!”



Karim began asking, "Was it you, mirror?"

Was it you, soap?"



Was it you, cup? Was it you, towel?
Was it you, comb? Was it you, lightbulb?



Was it you, window? Was it you, shower?

Was it you, sink? Was it you, curtain?"



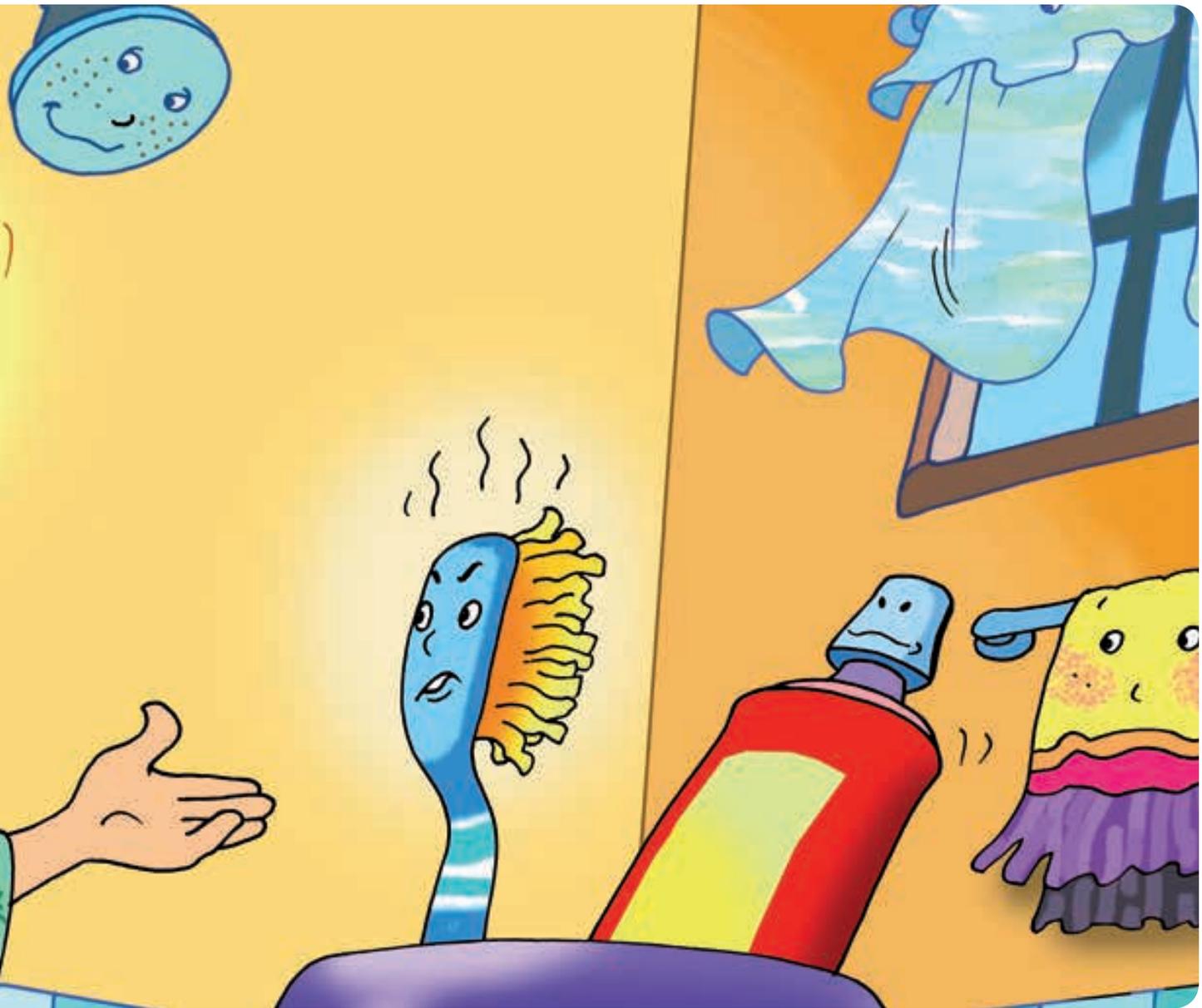
They all rocked to and fro and said in the same charming sing-song tone, “No, no, no, it wasn’t me! No, no, no, it wasn’t me!”



Karim was bewildered. He stood there and thought,

“Then who called me?”

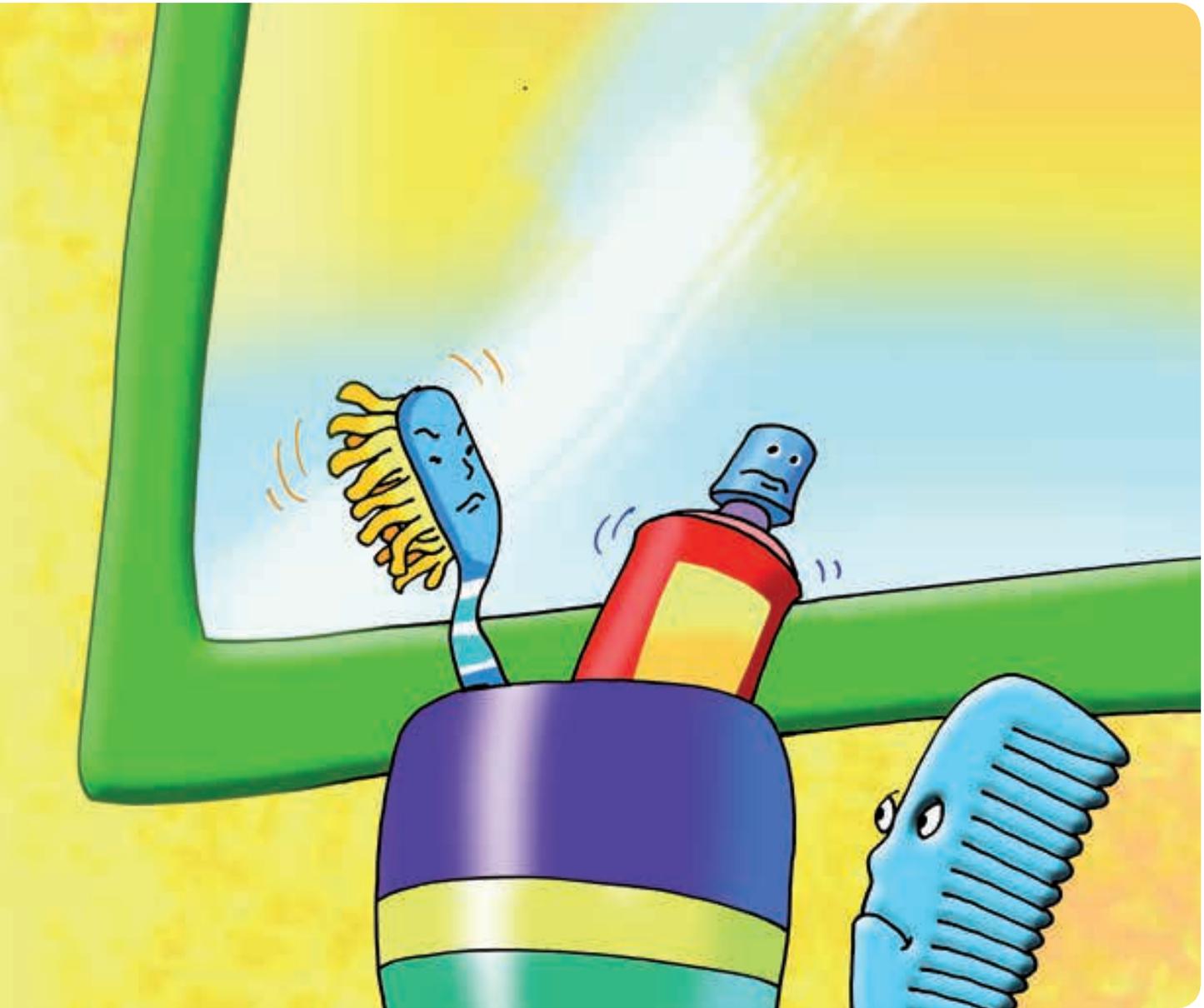
Suddenly he heard the voice again. “It was me, Karim!”



In wonder, Karim looked up and found it to be the toothbrush, yes, the toothbrush! It was standing upright, leaning against the tube of toothpaste. Its hair was disheveled and it was clearly hurt and angry.



In a sad voice the toothbrush said, “Yes, me. Your friend who you forgot today, just like you forgot me yesterday. You wanted to leave just now without letting me brush your teeth.”



Karim felt ashamed. How could he have forgotten her? How? He had promised her yesterday that he wouldn't forget her and would brush his teeth with her.



Karim picked the toothbrush up and kissed it. "I'm sorry, my friend," he said, "I'm sorry. I won't make this mistake again, I promise."



The tube of toothpaste looked at him and said, “And me?”

Don’t you see me? Am I not your friend too? Am I of no importance?”



Karim picked up the tube of toothpaste and kissed it too. “You’re my dear friend, for you’re the medicine that kills cavities,” he told it. “If it weren’t for you, cavities would have damaged my teeth and caused me pain.”



Karim opened the tube and placed toothpaste on the toothbrush and placed it in his mouth. “Come on, my friend the toothbrush, let’s get going, I’m in a rush.”



The toothbrush told him, “Look, my friend, this is how we brush the top row of teeth, from top to bottom.” The toothbrush rocked to and fro, chanting in a sing-song tone, “From top to bottom, from top to bottom...”



As for the bottom row of teeth, this is how we clean it, from bottom to top!” The toothbrush rocked to and fro, chanting in the same sing-song tone, “From bottom to top, from bottom to top.”



Everyone swayed to and fro, clapping and singing along, “From bottom to top, from bottom to top,” until the toothbrush finished cleaning all of Karim’s teeth.



Karim thanked the toothbrush, cleaned it, and placed it in the cup hanging beside the sink. Then he swished water around his mouth until he'd removed all the toothpaste, and turned the faucet off.



Karim reached his hand out to the towel and it flew to him.

The towel kissed him on the cheek and dried his mouth and said, "You're a good boy, Karim, and we all love you."