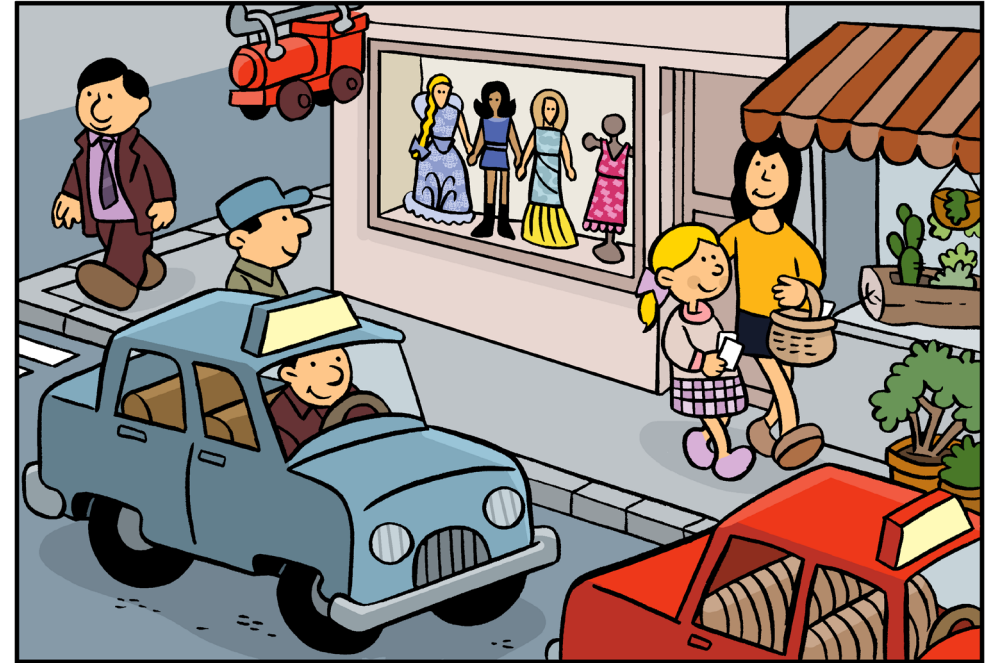
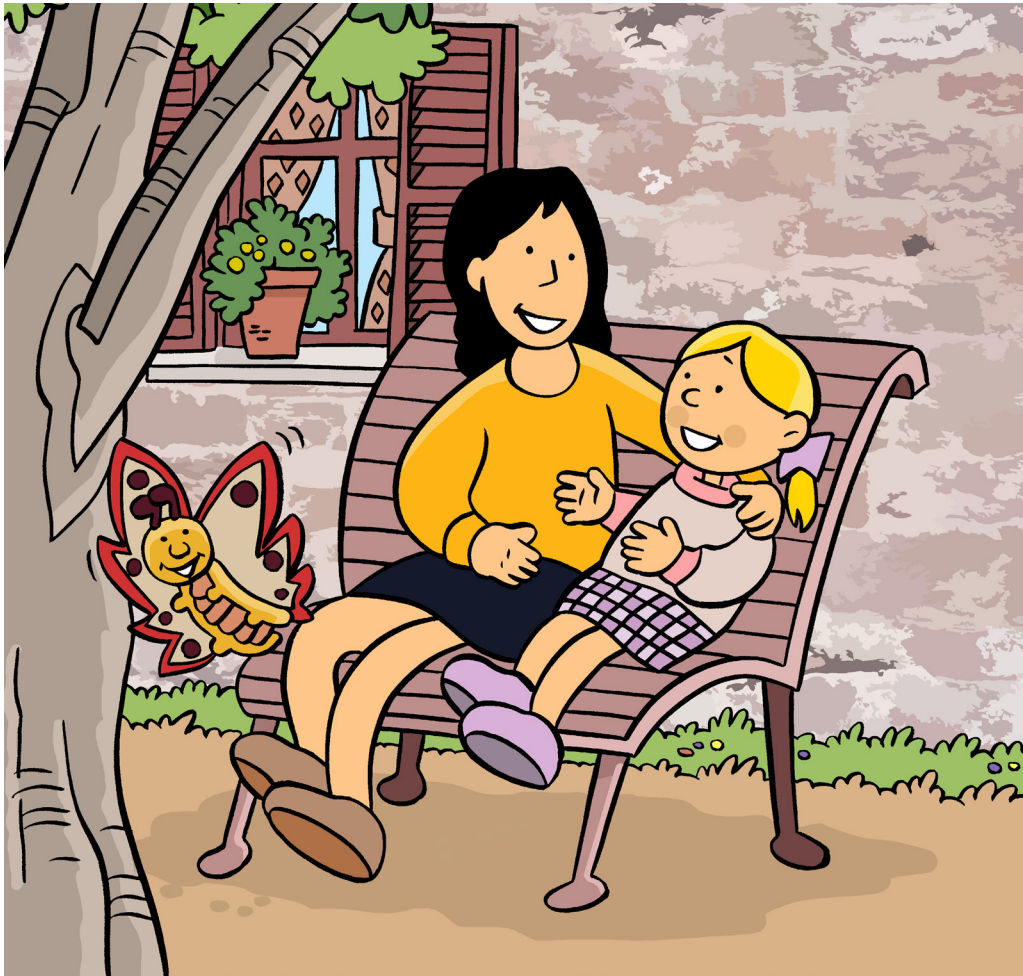


A Little Ray of Sunshine

"Lucy, would you like to run some errands with me this morning?" Mother asked. "I want to talk to my friend Molly about the flowers for Nana's birthday party, and then I need to do some grocery shopping."

"Mrs. Molly has the prettiest flowers," Lucy said. "I'll go get ready now."



When Lucy and her mother arrived at Molly's Flower Shop, Mrs. Molly was looking sad.

"Is something the matter?" Mother asked.

"The peonies I ordered for your mother's party arrived covered in ants and mostly wilted. They look terrible," Mrs. Molly said. "I have called looking for other peonies, but I haven't been able to get any. I am sorry."

"Oh dear!" Mother said. "Peonies are my mother's favorite flower."

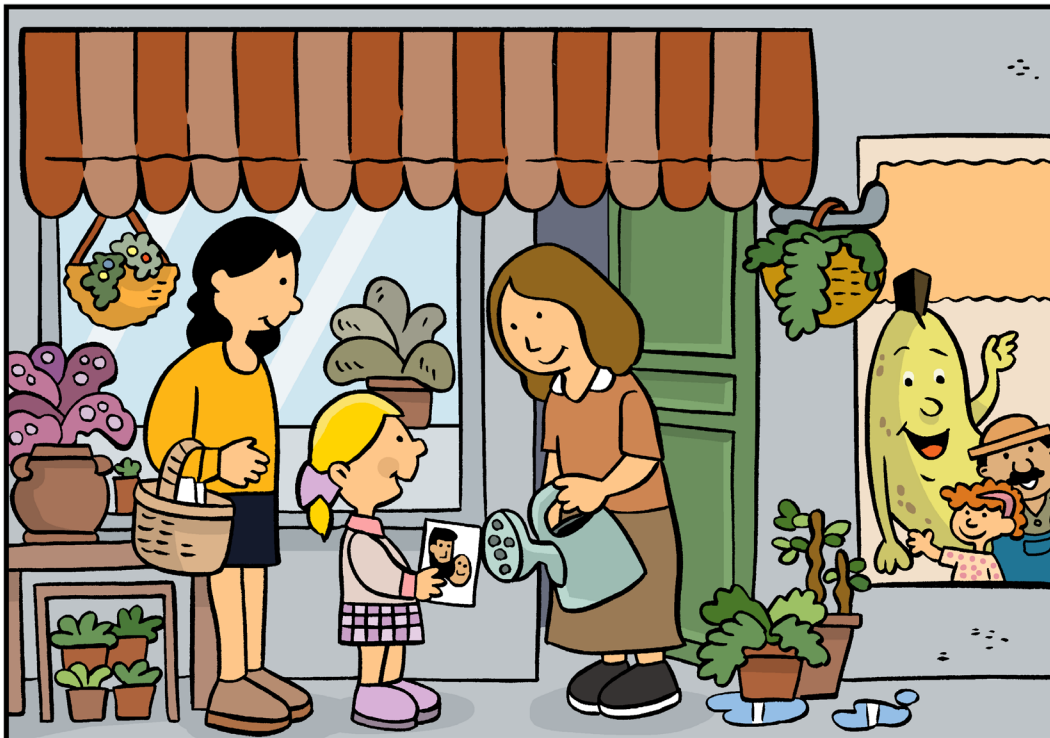
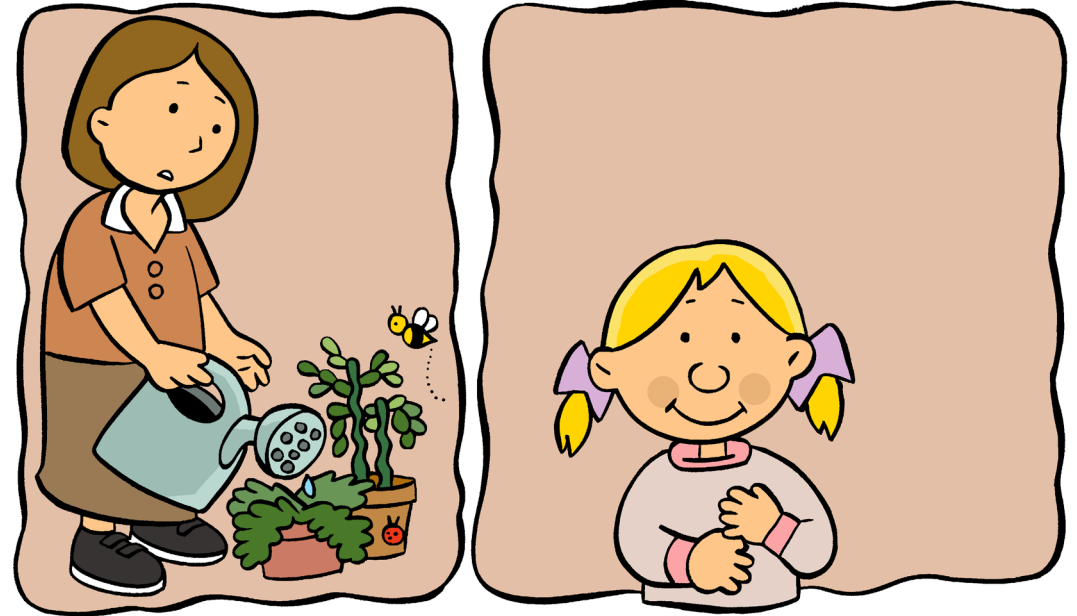
Lucy wondered what she could do to help. She didn't want Mrs. Molly to feel bad, but she also wanted to make her nana happy on her birthday. Then she remembered.

"Don't be sad, Mrs. Molly," Lucy said. "Nana once told me that even though she loves peonies, stargazer lilies are also a favorite."

"You're right, Lucy!" Mother exclaimed. "She used to grow them in her garden."

"Really? I have a wonderful stock that came in yesterday," Mrs. Molly said. "And with some wax flowers and fern, we can make a lovely arrangement. I can have them ready by five this afternoon as promised."

"That sounds lovely, Molly," said Mother. "I'll ask Terrence to pick them up. Thank you."



"Actually, thank Lucy, she saved the day," said Mrs. Molly with a smile. "I'm so glad you remembered the stargazer lilies."

"Your flower arrangements are so pretty," Lucy said. "They will make Nana very glad."

"You are very sweet, Lucy," Mrs. Molly said. "Thank you."

As they walked to the grocery store, Mother said: "Thank you for your help, Lucy. You were kind and helpful to Mrs. Molly. You made her feel a lot happier. I think Nana is going to like the new flower arrangement."

"I'm happy I could help and encourage Mrs. Molly," said Lucy. "I like making people happy."

When they reached the store, Lucy greeted Mr. Simmons, the grocer, with a cheerful smile. "Good morning, Mr. Simmons," she said. "The vegetables and fruits in your store look wonderful today. I like your new window arrangement."

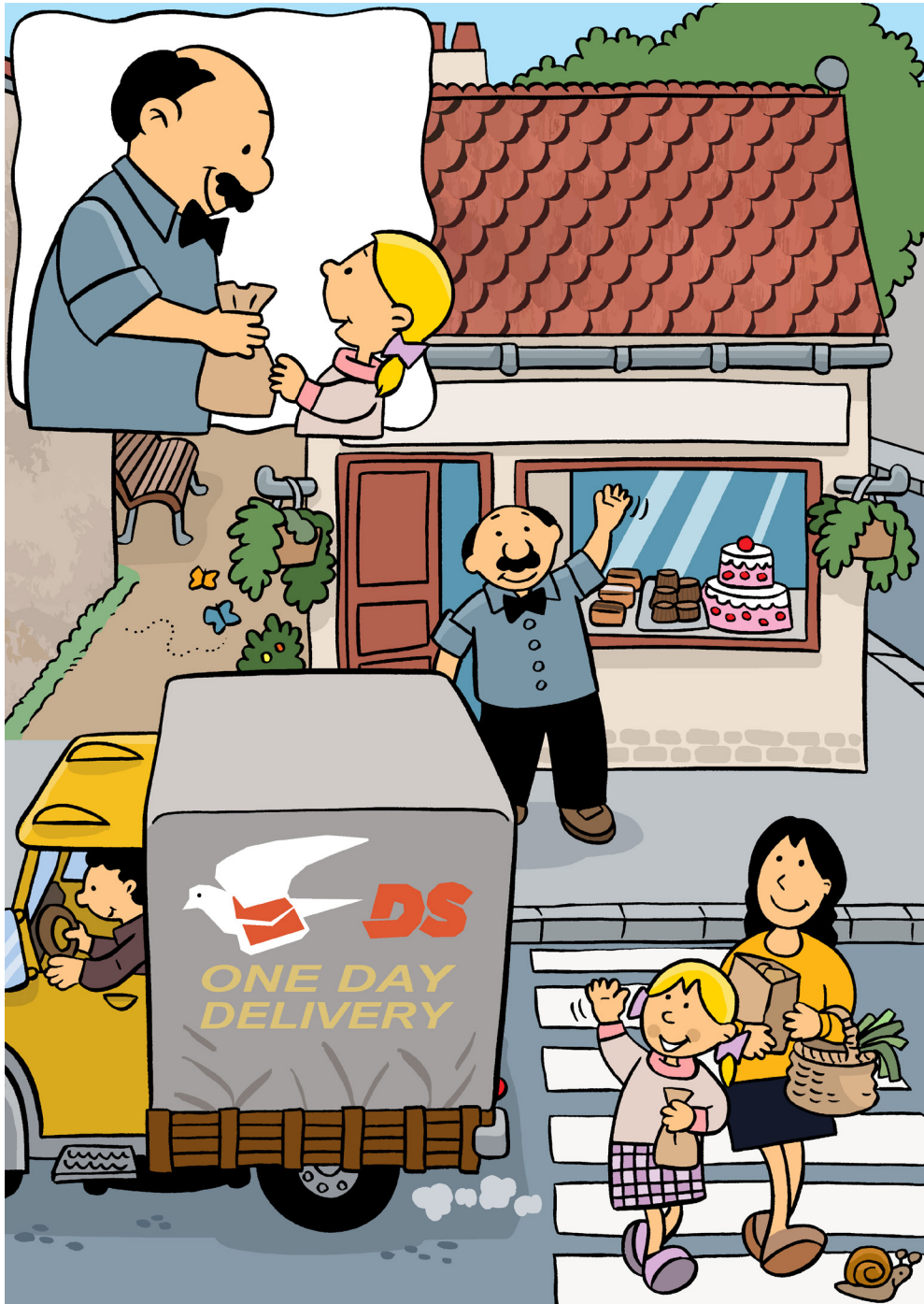
"Thank you, Lucy," Mr. Simmons said. "That's very nice of you to say."



Along the way, Lucy greeted people she knew and said a kind word or two. At the bakery, Lucy went up to the counter. "Mr. Jack," she said, "it smells so wonderful in your store. This is my favorite store in town."

"Why, thank you, Miss Lucy," Mr. Jack said. "I am glad you like my store. How can I help you today?"





Lucy's mother ordered some bread and pastries, and as they were leaving, Mr. Jack gave Lucy a paper bag. "Here you go, Lucy," he said. "A strawberry tart treat for you. I know how much you like them. Thank you for your kind words—they have made my day brighter."

"Oh, thank you!" Lucy replied.

Mr. Jack waved goodbye from the bakery doorway as Lucy and her mother walked home.

"I'm very proud of you, Lucy!" Mother said. "You were kind and thoughtful to the people we met today. You helped Mrs. Molly, you were kind to Mr. Simmons, and you made Mr. Jack very happy with your compliments."

"You were like a little ray of sunshine to those you met today."

"I'm glad I could make others happy," Lucy said. "It makes me feel good when I see other people smile and be happy."

You can be a ray of sunshine to someone today through your kind words, your helpful actions, and your friendliness. It doesn't matter how young or small you are, your words and little deeds of kindness can make a difference.

