

# Contents

## Term 3 (Weeks 6–10)

### Story 1

Manish and the animals ..... 2

---



### Story 2

Insect communication ..... 13

---



### Story 3

The beat goes on ... ..... 23

---



# Manish and the animals

## Pre-reading questions

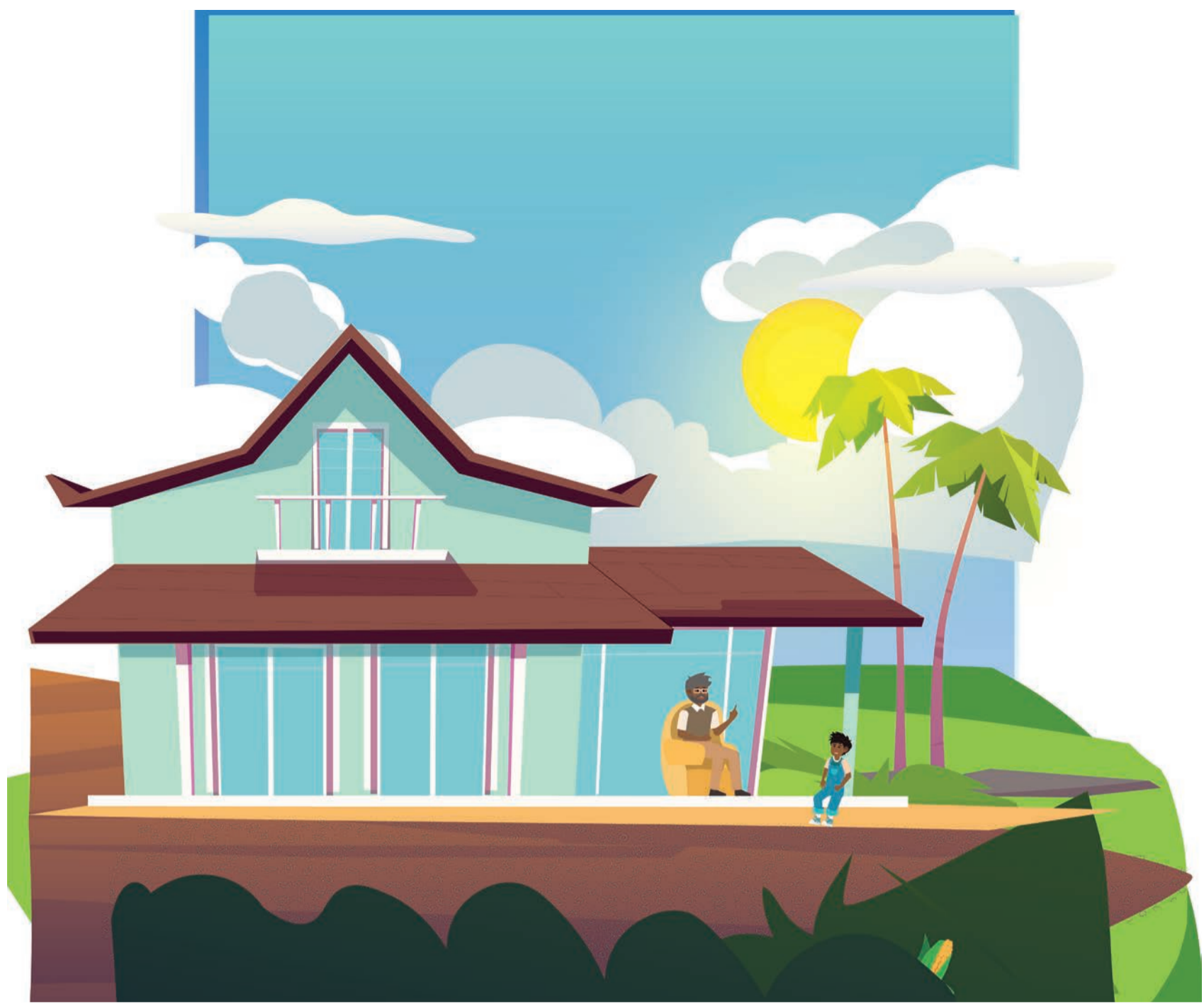
1. Do you like animals? What kind of animals would you keep as a pet?
2. What is an animal centre? How do we take care of the animals at an animal centre?
3. Look at the title of the story. Do you think Manish is an animal lover?

Manish always wanted a pet. He wanted a dog, but Mom said no. He wanted a cat, but Mom still said no. Then he asked for a hamster. Guess what Mom said?





His mom liked a shiny tidy house without hairs or dust or smells. She did not like trees and leaves either. Mom was like a broom – she swept everything away. Manish had a brother, Yusuf, and a sister called Amina. They were good at sport and they had lots of friends. Manish wasn't good at those things, so he played by himself.



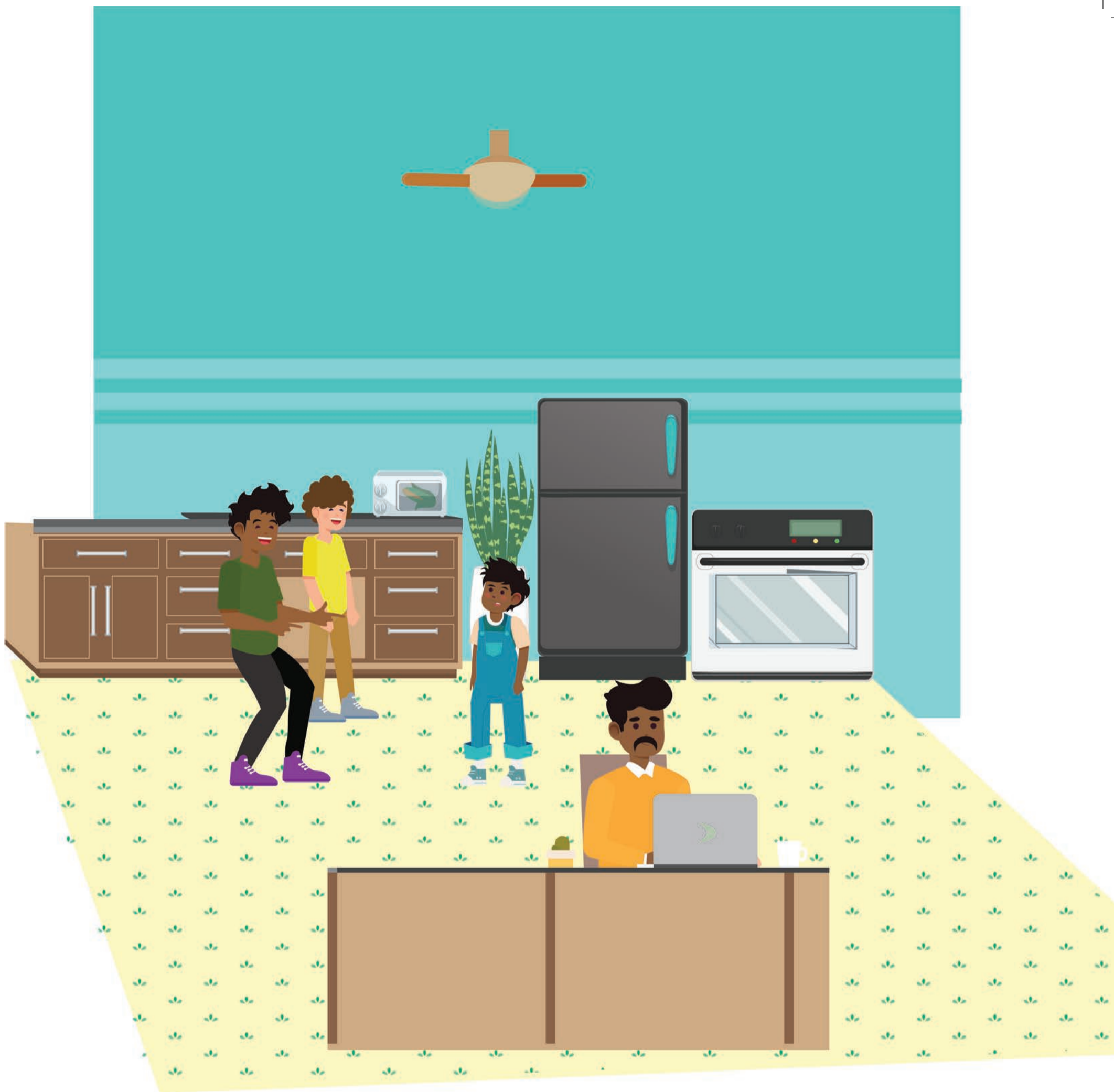
Sometimes, Manish went next door to visit Baba. Baba used to be a farmer, but now he was too old to work. Manish liked to listen to him because he told many stories about animals.

The other children never visited Baba because they said he was boring.

“He just talks about the old days,” said Yusuf.

“He talks so slowly,” said Amina.

Mom said things like this too. Dad said nothing about Baba, even though Dad was his son.



Some children thought Manish was weird because he didn't talk much. If he talked, the words came out funny. Yusuf's friend said, "Hello Manish, how are you?" Manish answered, "Hello, hello, hello." Everyone laughed. Manish thought it was nicer to visit Baba and listen to his stories.

Baba told stories about the animals from his farm.

“I understood all my cows,” said Baba.

“I could hear how they were from the way they would moo. If it was very loud, it meant there was a problem. If the cow made a very sharp moo, it meant her calf was too far away. If she made a deep, low sound, it meant her calf was nearby. I learnt to understand moos!”



Baba told stories about the ox that pulled the plough and about his beautiful black Indian chickens.

Manish wished he lived on a farm and that Mom and Dad were farmers.



One day, there was a school outing to the Animals Centre. The manager took the children to see the different animals. Manish held his hands through the gates for the dogs to lick them. He stroked the cats that rubbed up against the wire of the cage. He gave a carrot to the donkey in the field.

“I am looking for children to come and help with the animals,” said the manager. Manish’s hand shot up in the air. “Me!” he said. “Me, I want to come!” The words came out easily. “You will have to come with an adult,” she said.

Cats purr and dogs play.  
Rabbits hop around all day.  
Birds sing and donkeys bray.  
All need love every day.

Give them water, food  
and rest  
And they will feel their  
very best.  
Kindness makes them  
strong and free,  
Happy pets they will be!



“Who will come to the centre with me?” wondered Manish.

“I’ll go with you,” said Baba, when Manish told him about it. “It’s time I talked to the animals again.”



“Baba, how do you talk to animals? They don’t talk our language, so how do you do it?” asked Manish.

“You are right, they do not talk in words,” said Baba. “But if we watch them and listen to them, we can start to understand them.”

Manish was happy to hear this. He was very good at listening and watching.

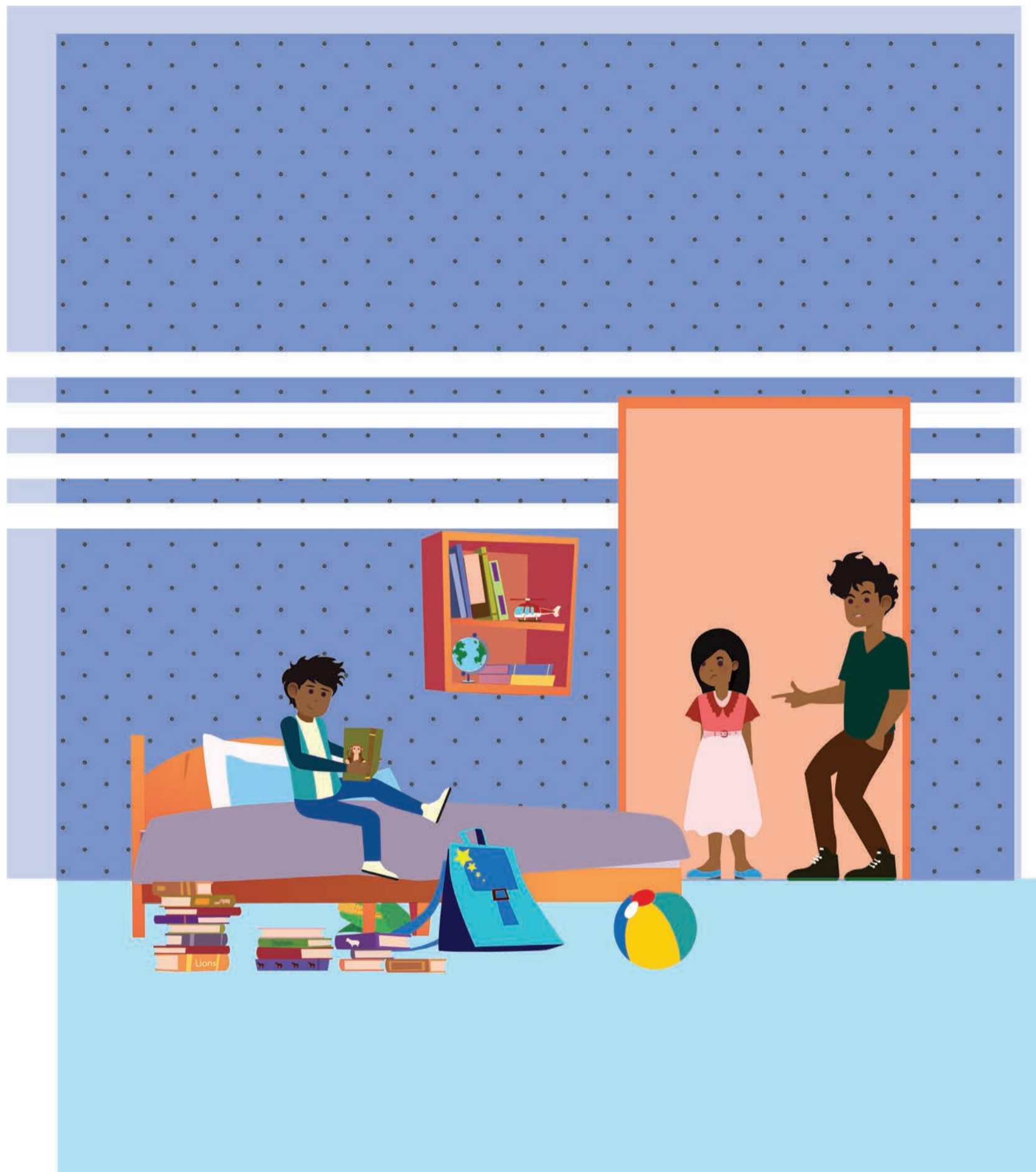
Every week, Manish went with Baba to the centre. He became friends with two dogs called Bessie and Thandi. He took them for walks in the field and threw a ball for them. Manish learned to understand what their tails and ears were saying. He learned the meaning of their barks and yaps and whimpers.



Imagine you could talk to animals. What do you think they would say?



Manish understood when the dogs were happy and when they were sad. When the dogs were happy, Manish felt happy. When they were sad, he was sad.



A whole year passed and then another. When Baba became too old, Manish caught the taxi on his own. Yusuf said, “Why do you keep going to that place? Have you got friends there?” “Do you talk to the animals?” laughed Amina.

Manish still went to visit Baba next door to tell him about the animals. “You have watched and listened to the animals for many years,” said Baba. “I have seen you with dogs and cats, parrots, ponies, donkeys and goats. Most people like to talk, especially about themselves. But you are different, you have a special gift. You can do something that most people cannot do: you can watch and listen.”



Do you have a special gift? Talk about what your special gift is.

### Post-reading questions

1. Which two people in the story love and understand animals?
2. In what ways is Manish different to his brother and sister (Amina and Yusuf)?
3. Does Manish find it easier to be friends with animals or people? Do you think it is better to be friends with animals or people?