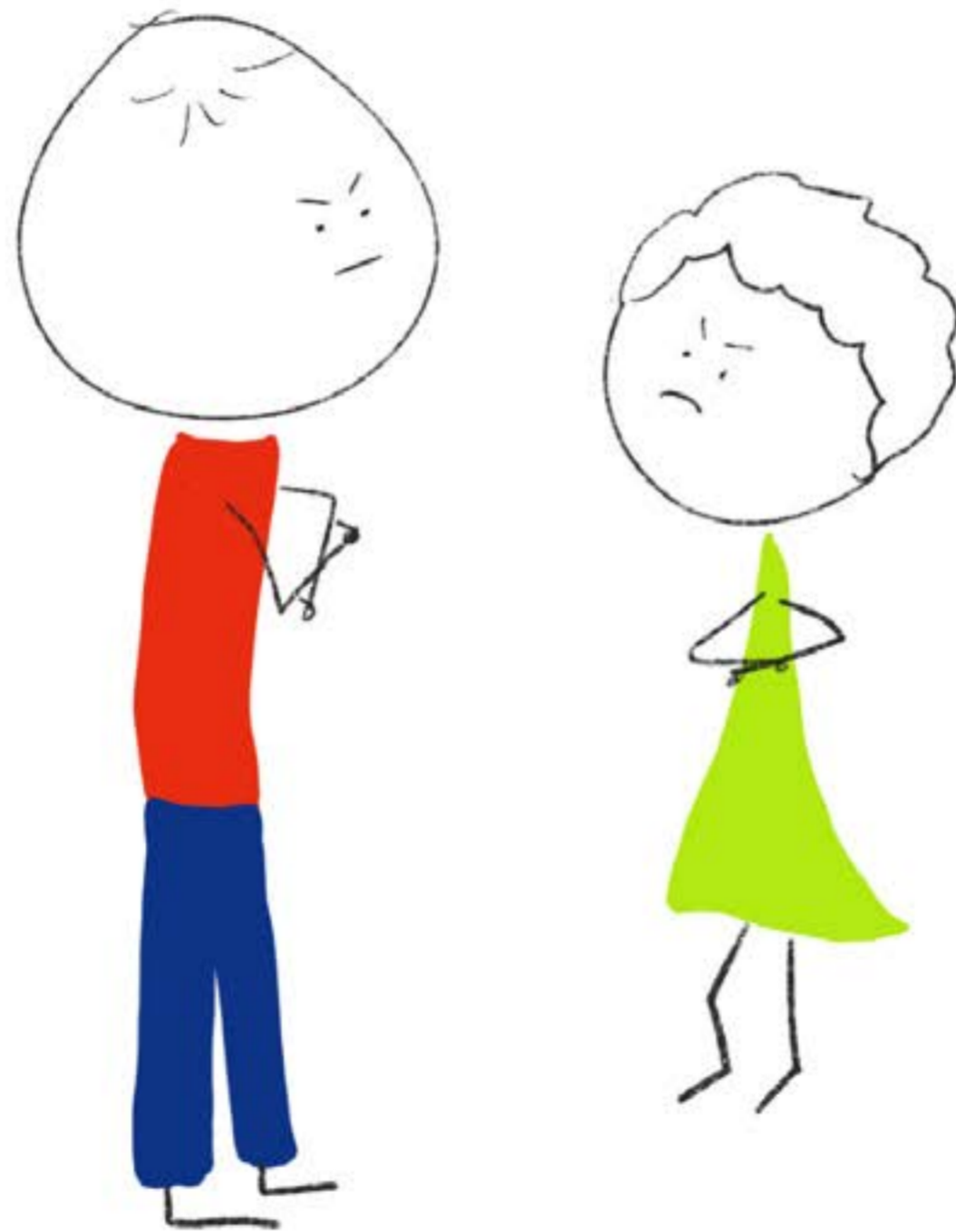


Penelope's Parents Are Acting Weird



By Marla Koch

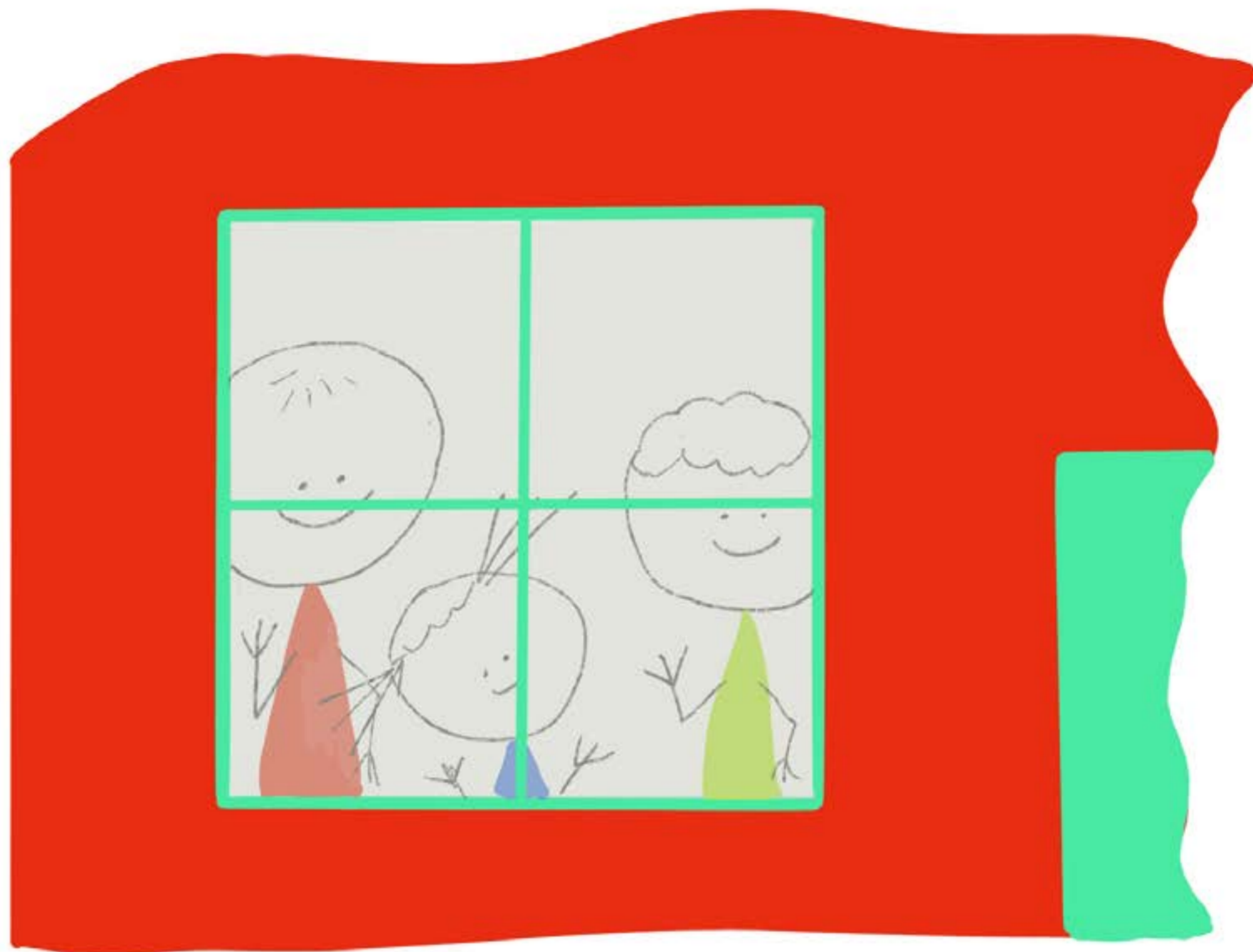
For Cheri, Brant, Amy,

And all families trying to make sense of sheltering at home

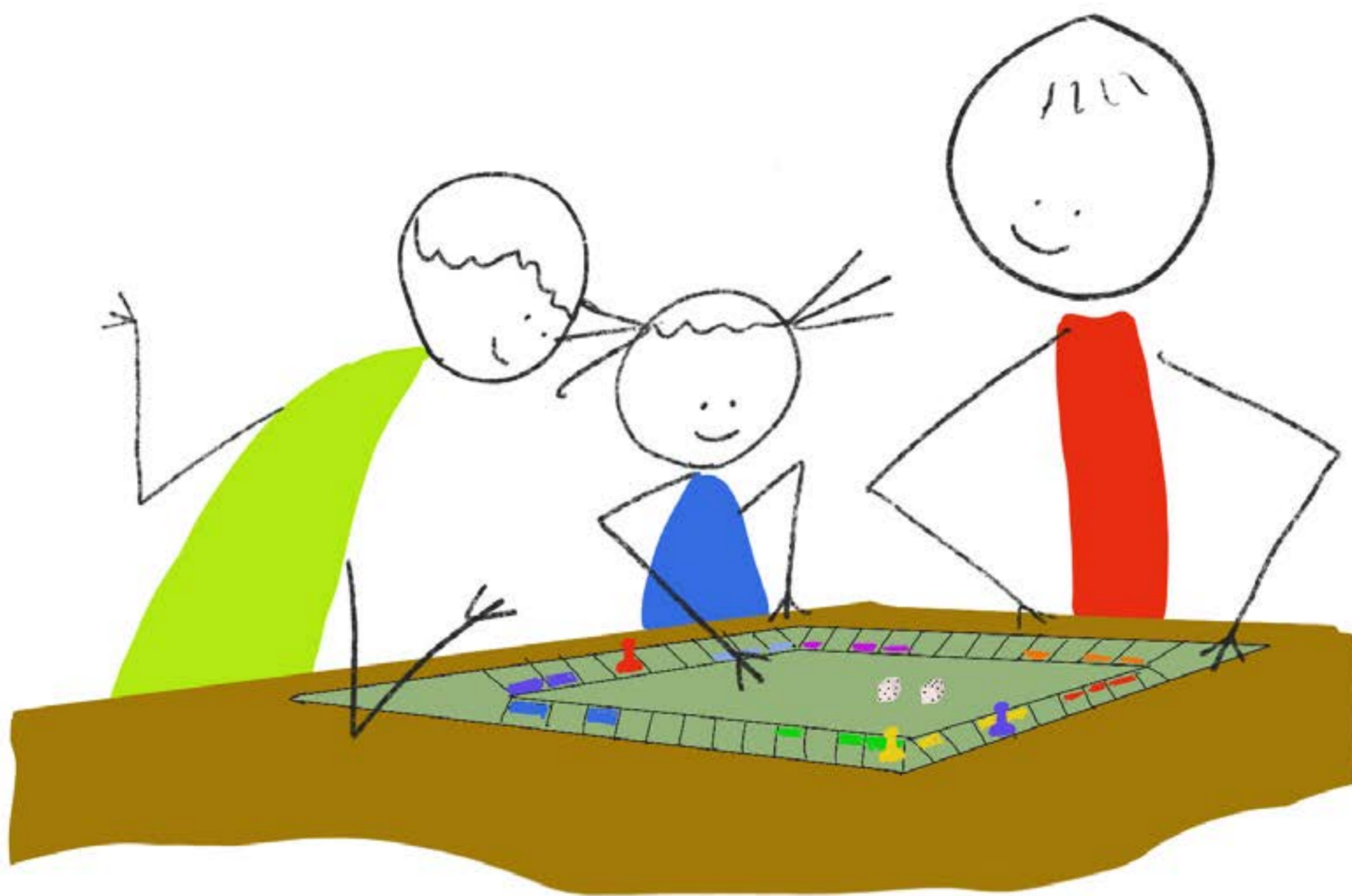
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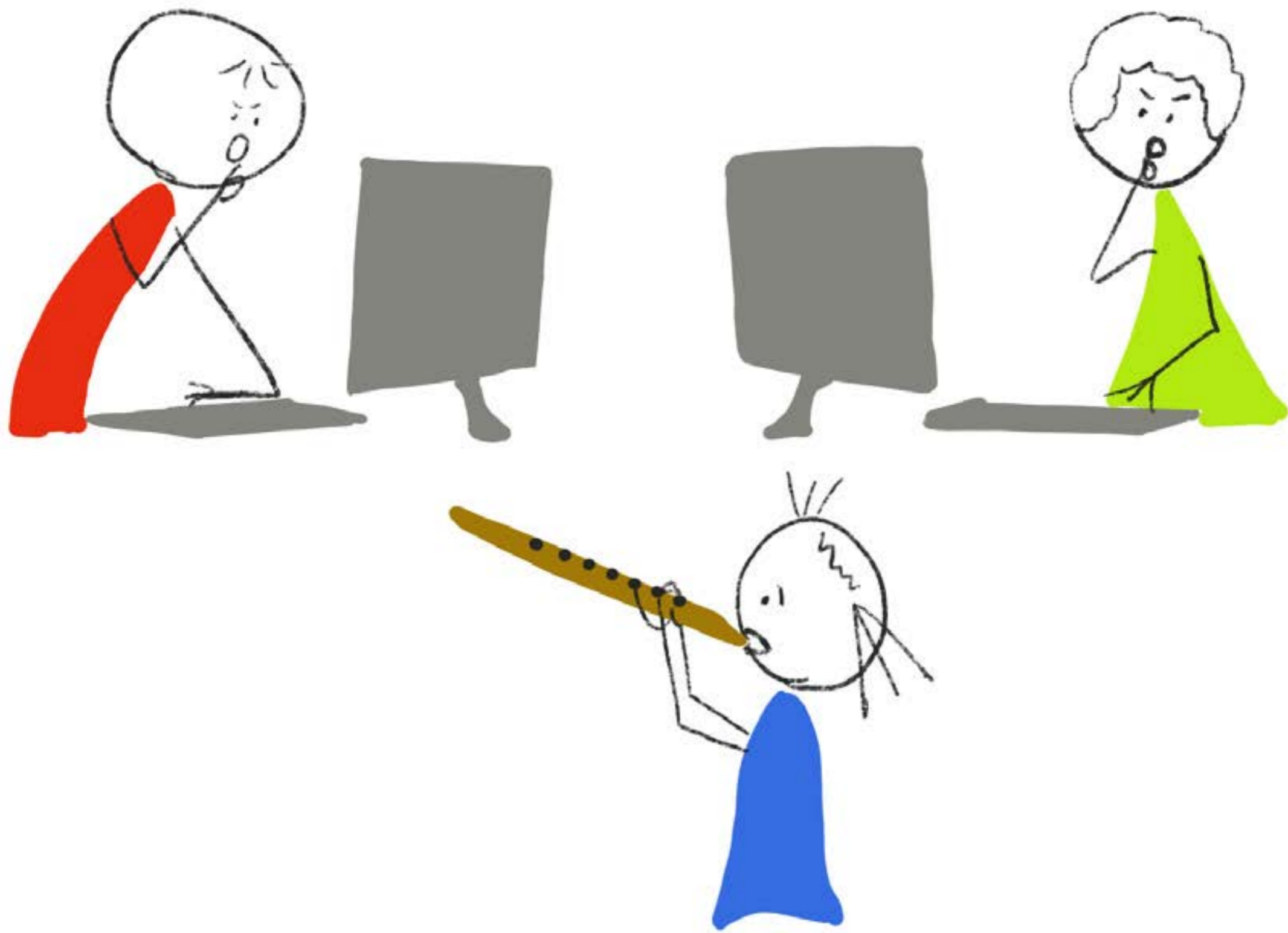
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Penelope's family has been home for a few weeks. It's weird. Penelope usually goes to school, and her parents usually go to work. There's a virus going around, so Penelope's family is sheltering at home.



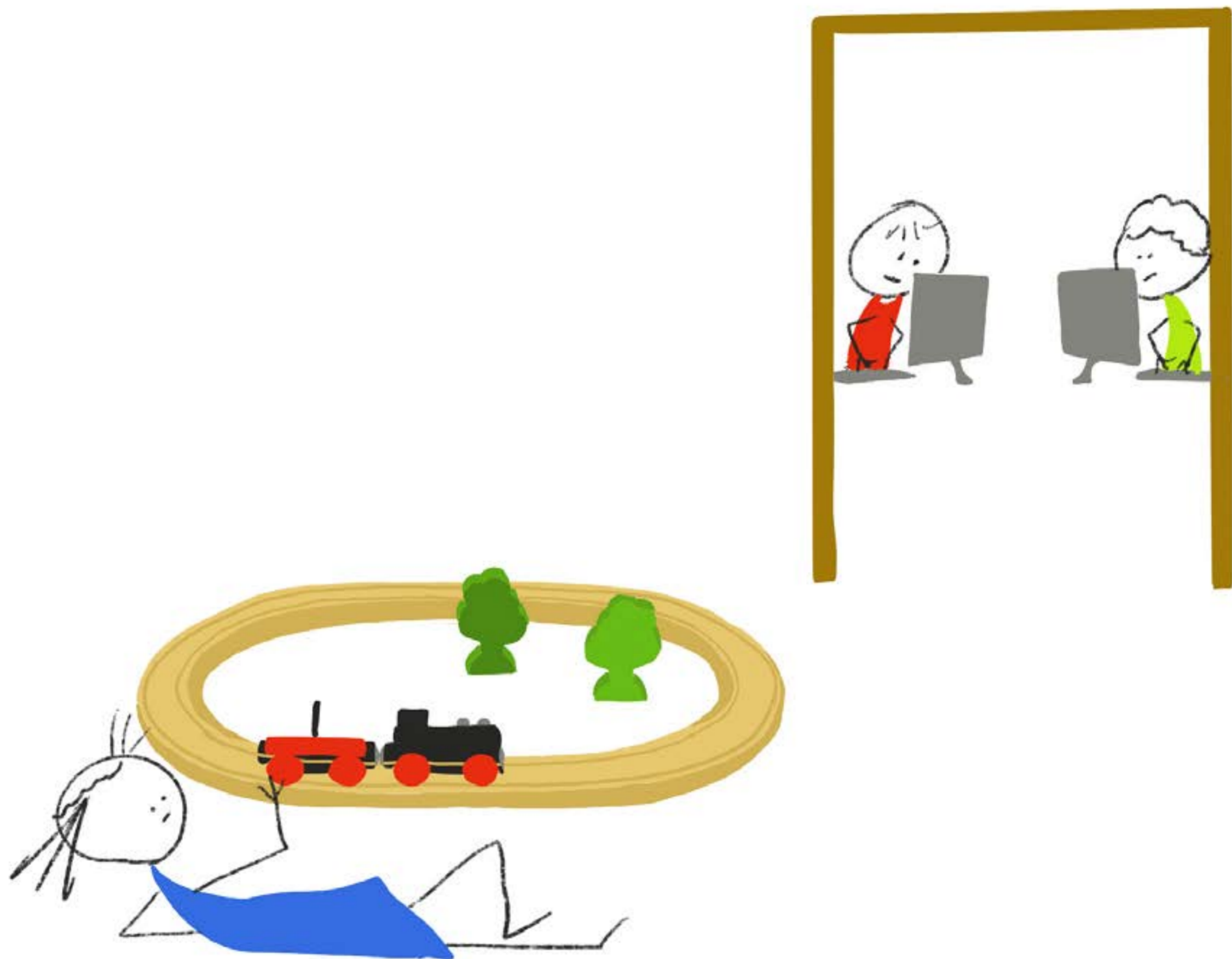
Sometimes it's really fun, like when they play games after dinner.



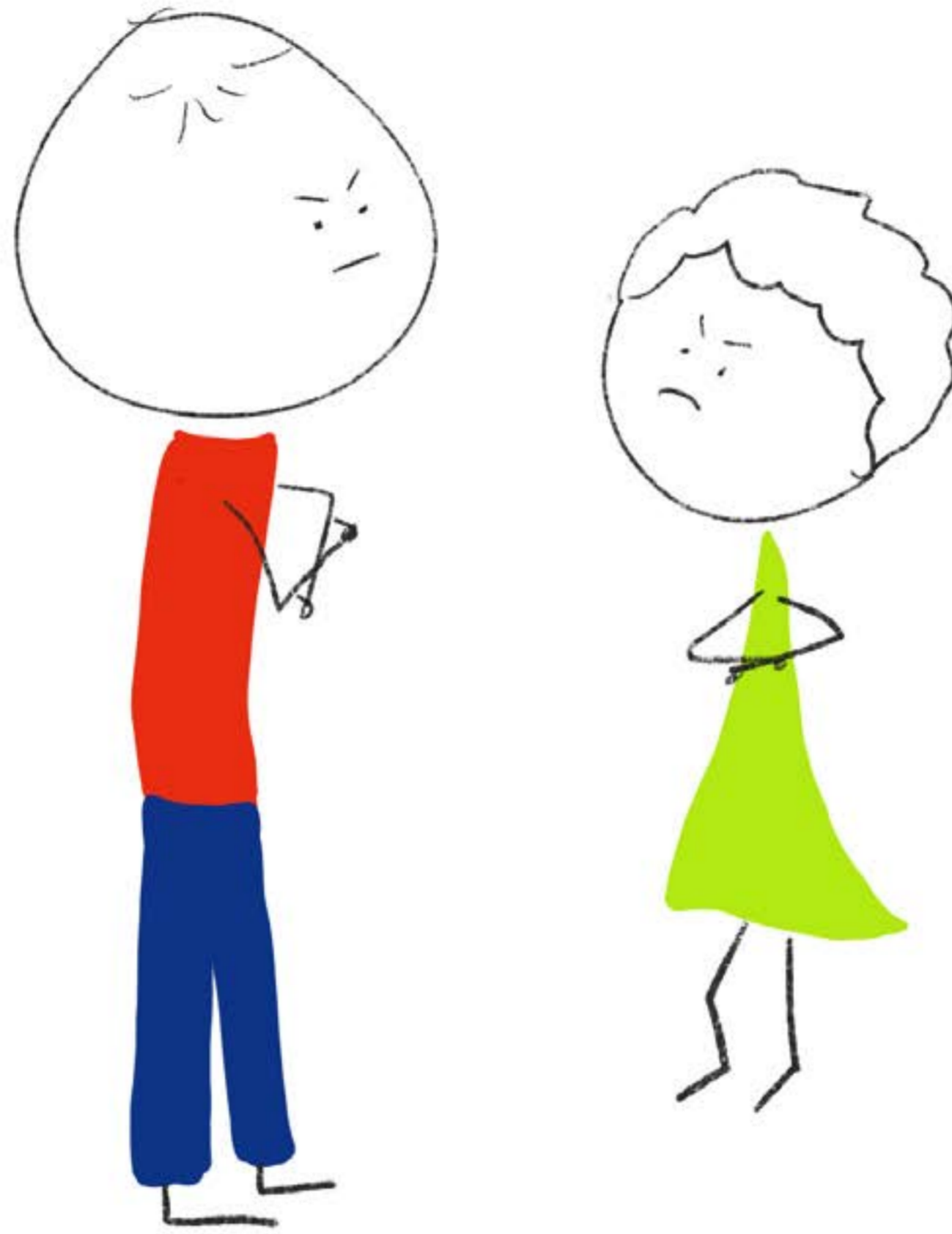
But it's not fun when Penelope has to be quiet because Mommy or Daddy are zooming, whatever that is.



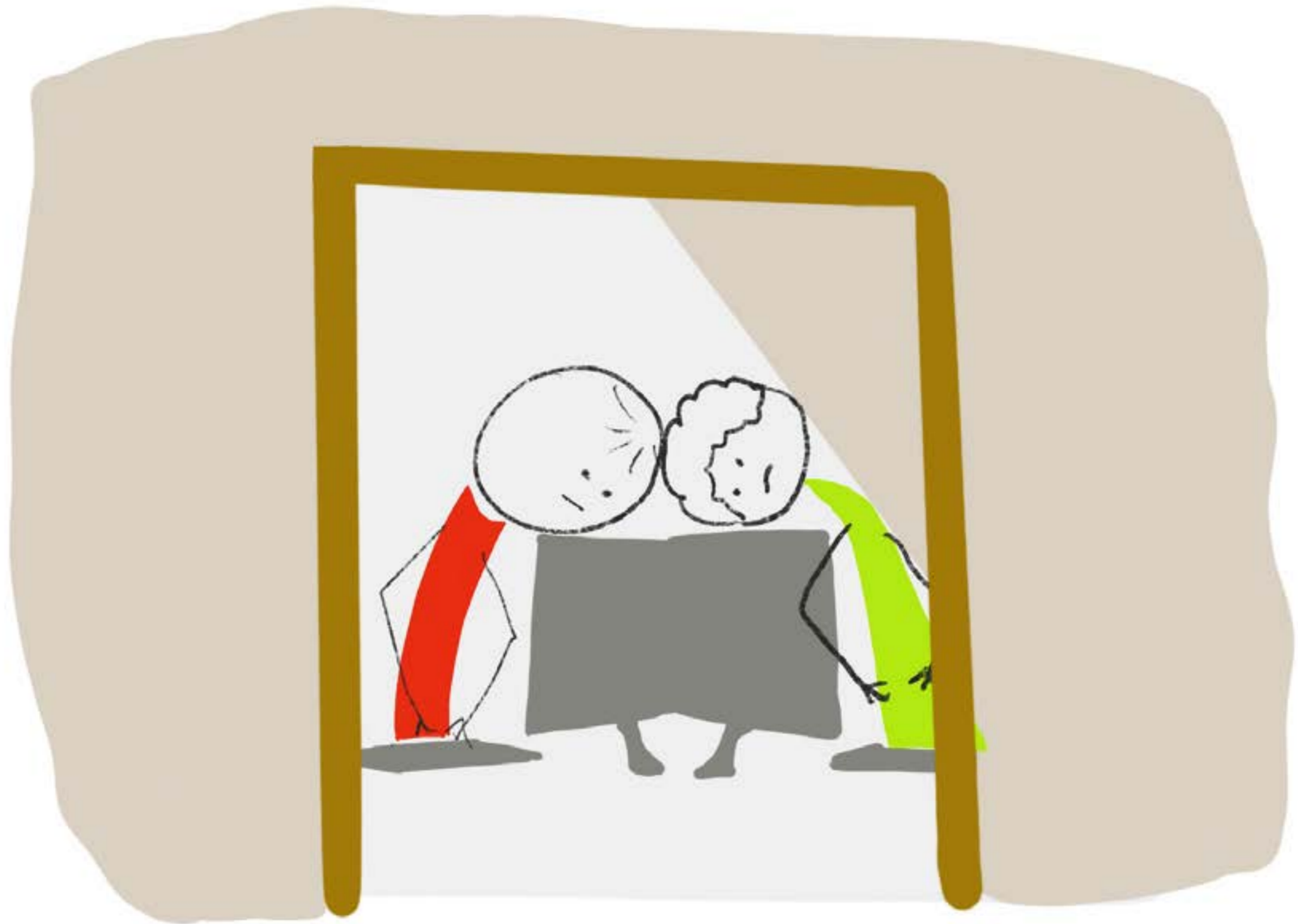
It's fun when they all cozy up on the sofa to watch a movie.



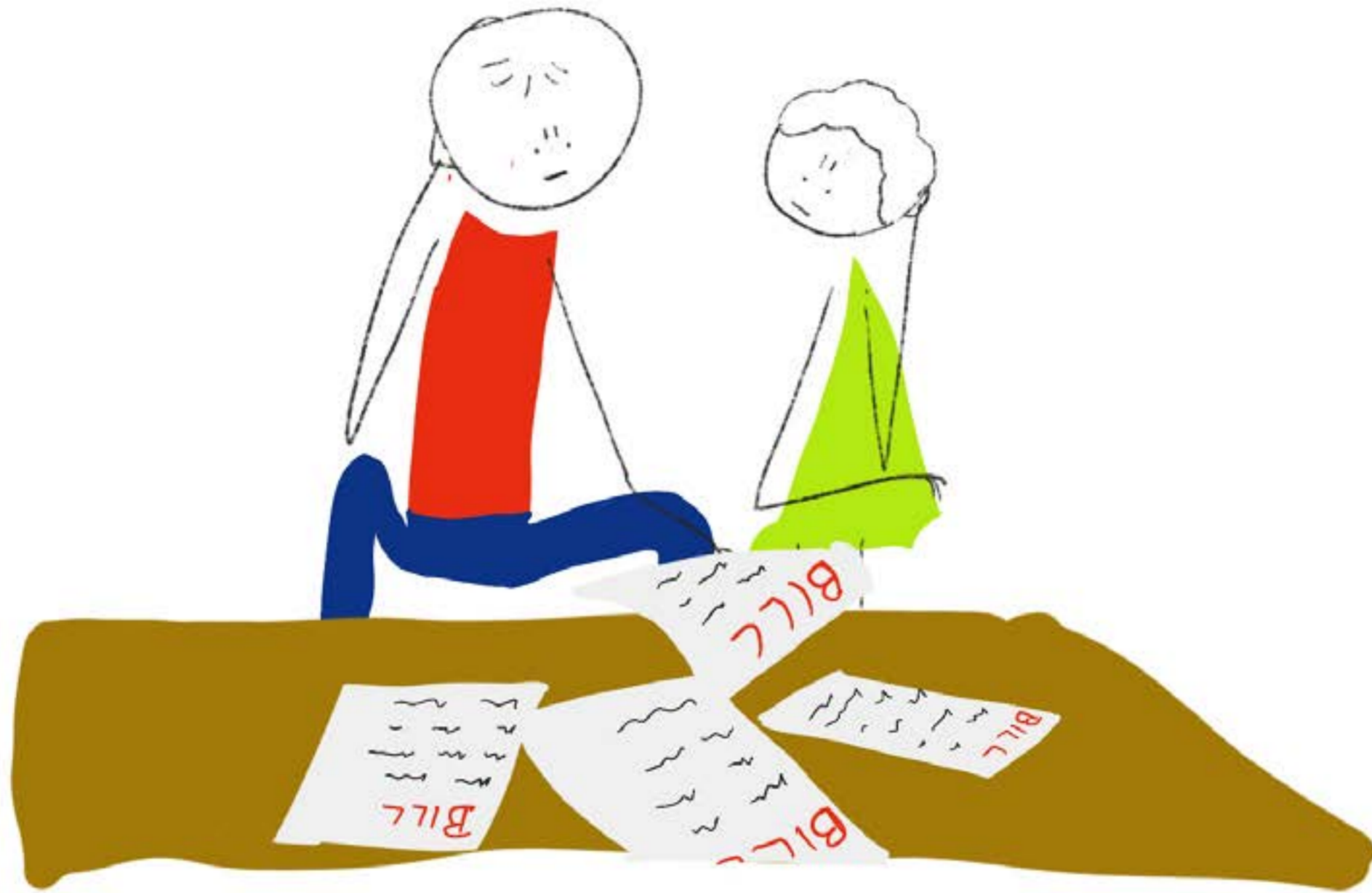
But it's not fun when nobody will play with her because they're too busy.



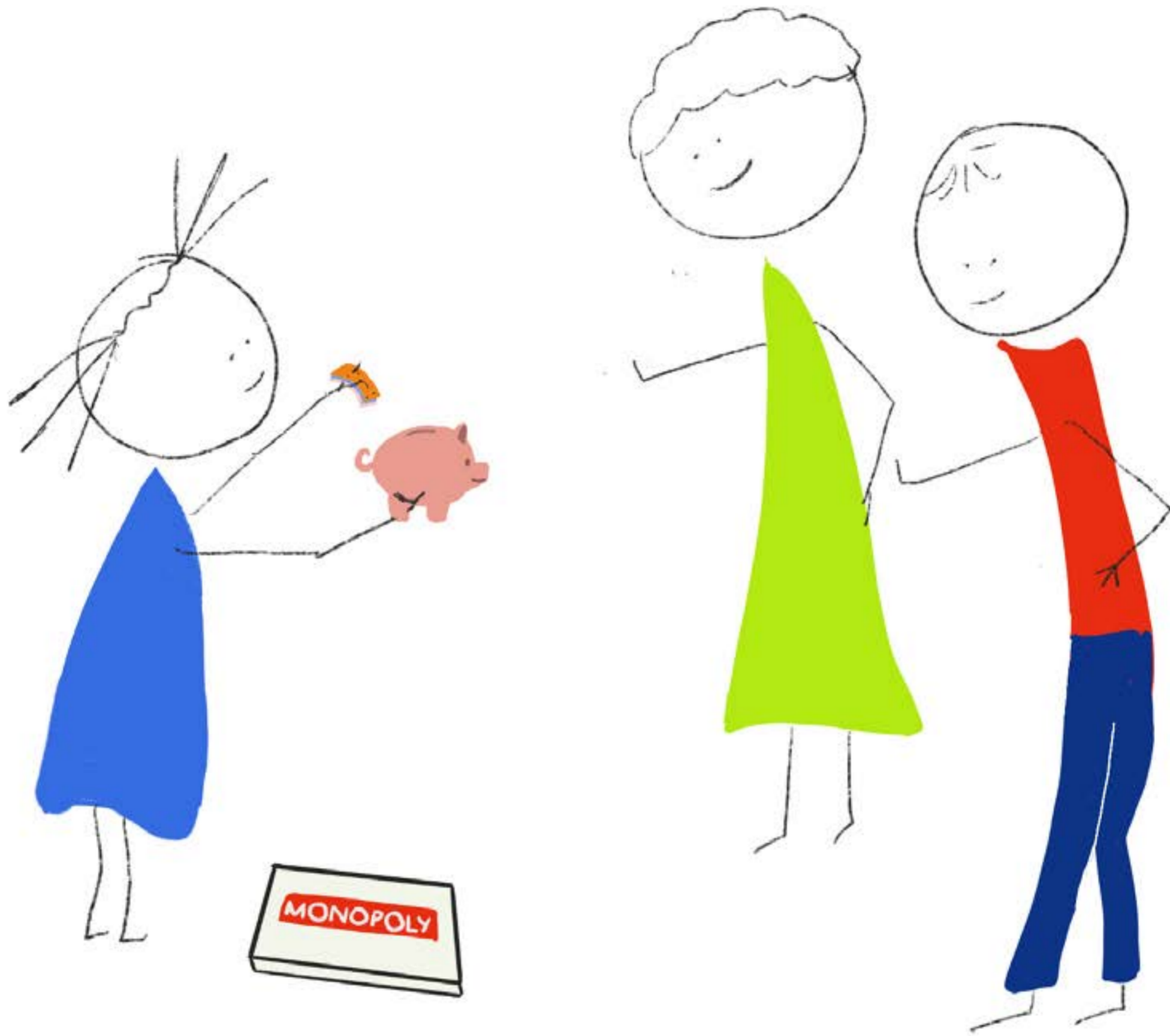
Mommy and Daddy are getting crabby with each other. That's new, and it's not fun.



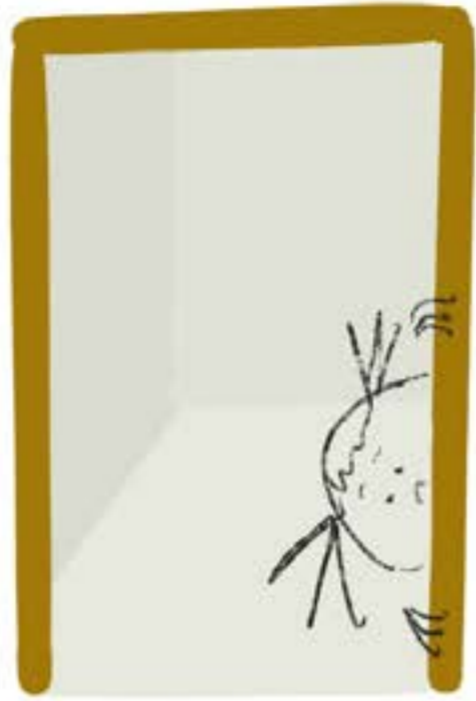
Daddy said they're not used to working so close to each other. Mommy said the walls are closing in on her, which just means she's tired of being in the house.



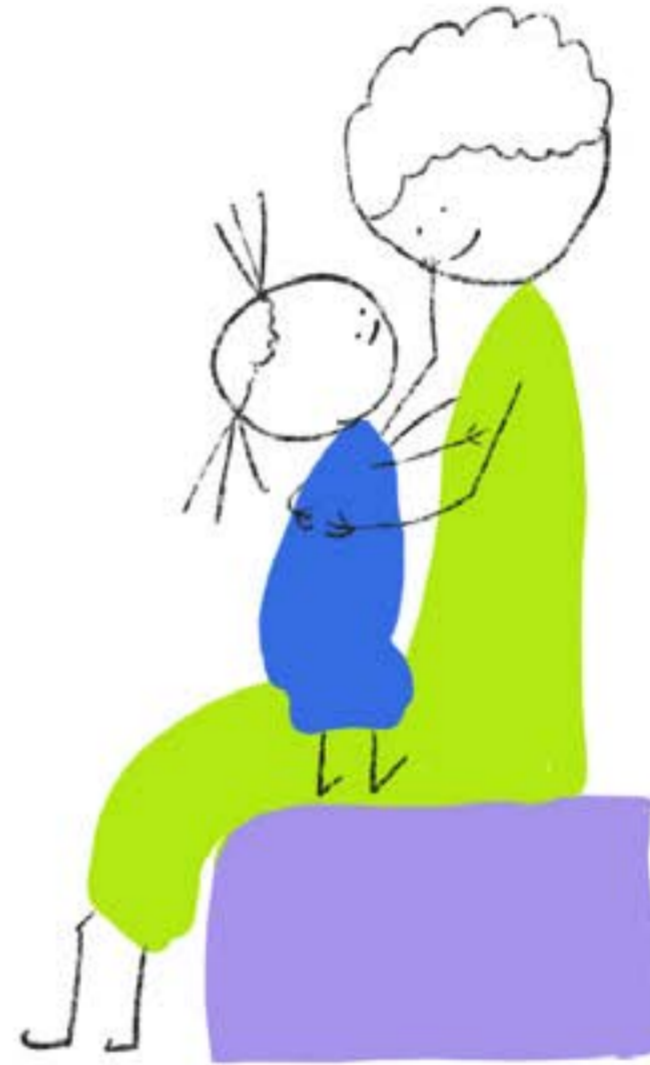
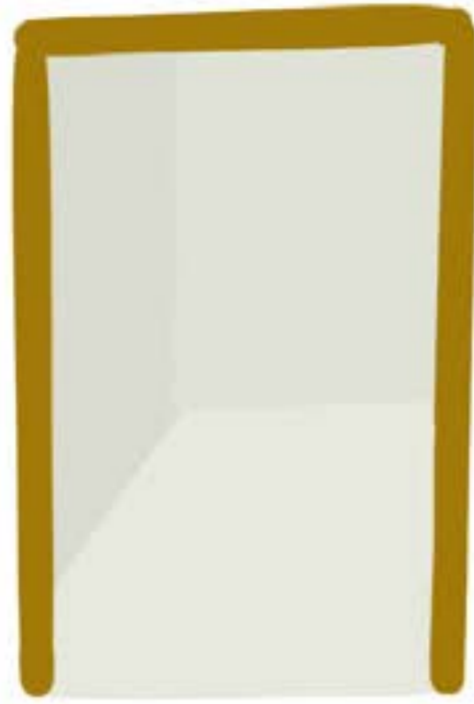
Penelope heard Mommy and Daddy talking about money. They are worried about their jobs and paying bills.



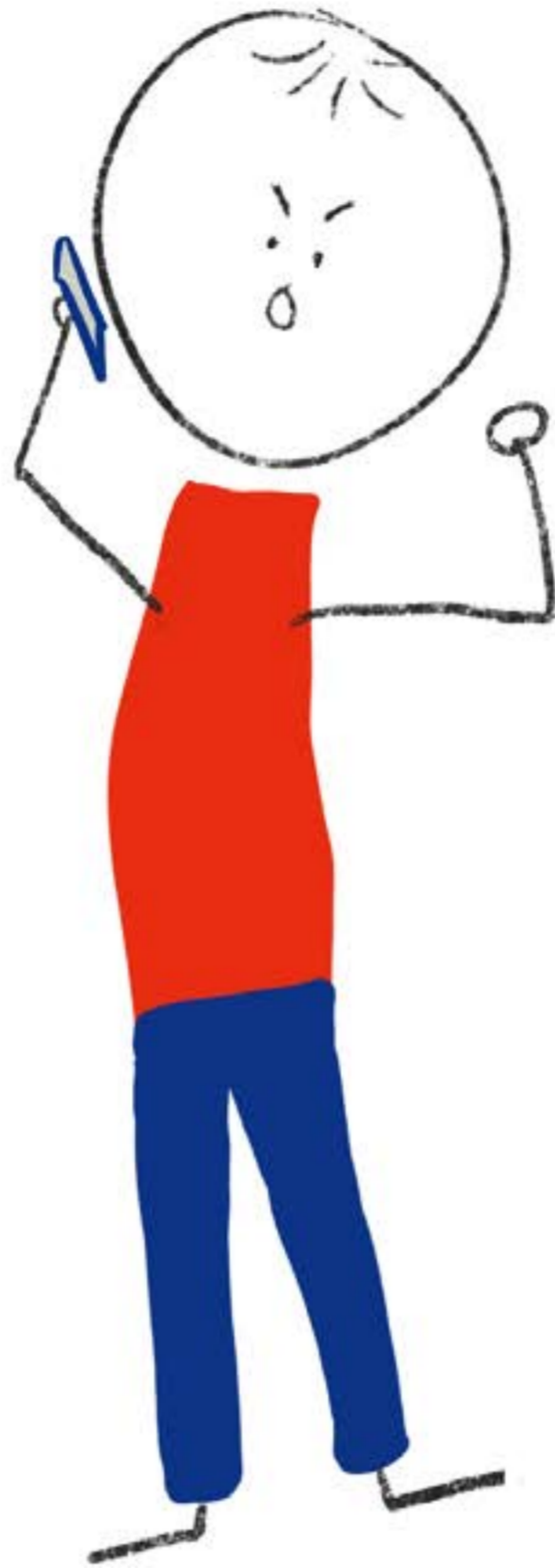
Penelope offered them all of her money.
That made them smile.



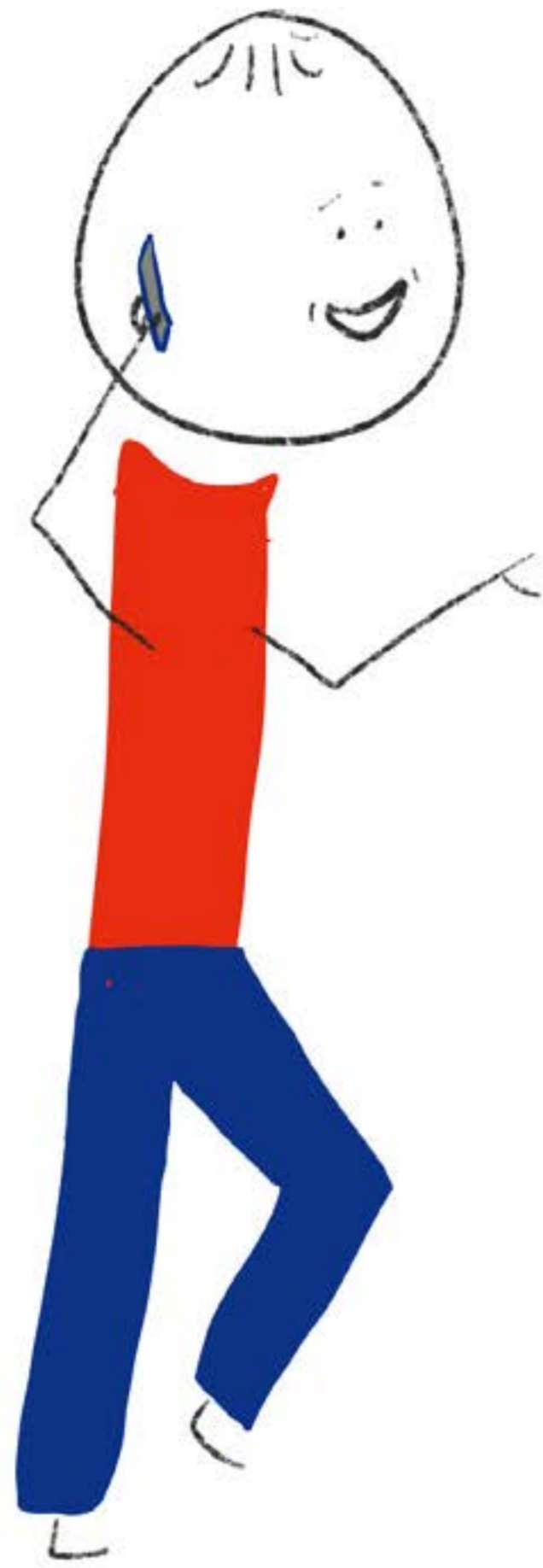
Penelope saw Mommy crying. That was confusing.



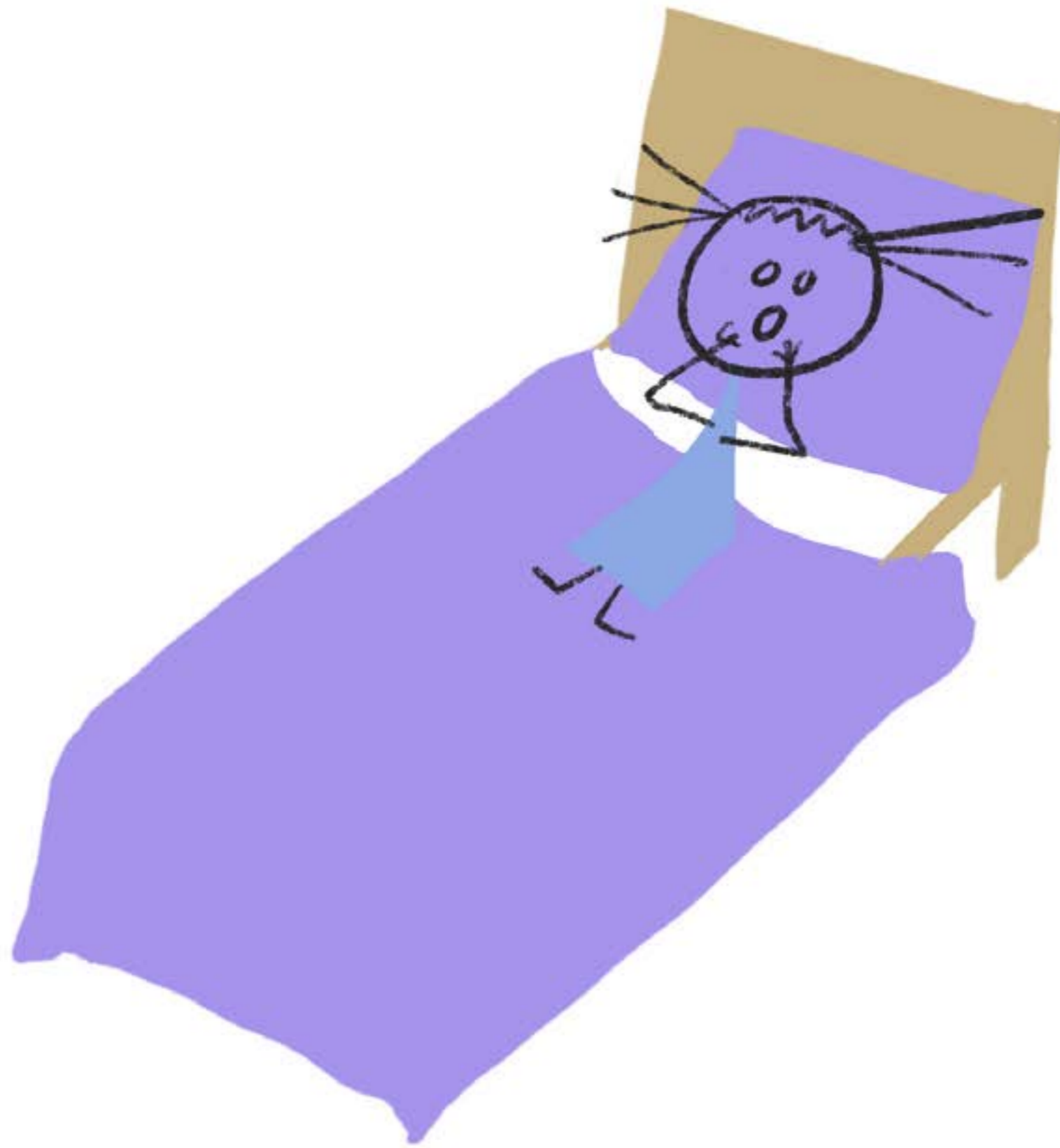
Penelope did what Mommy does. She wiped Mommy's tears, gave her a big hug, and said, "There, there. Everything's going to be ok"



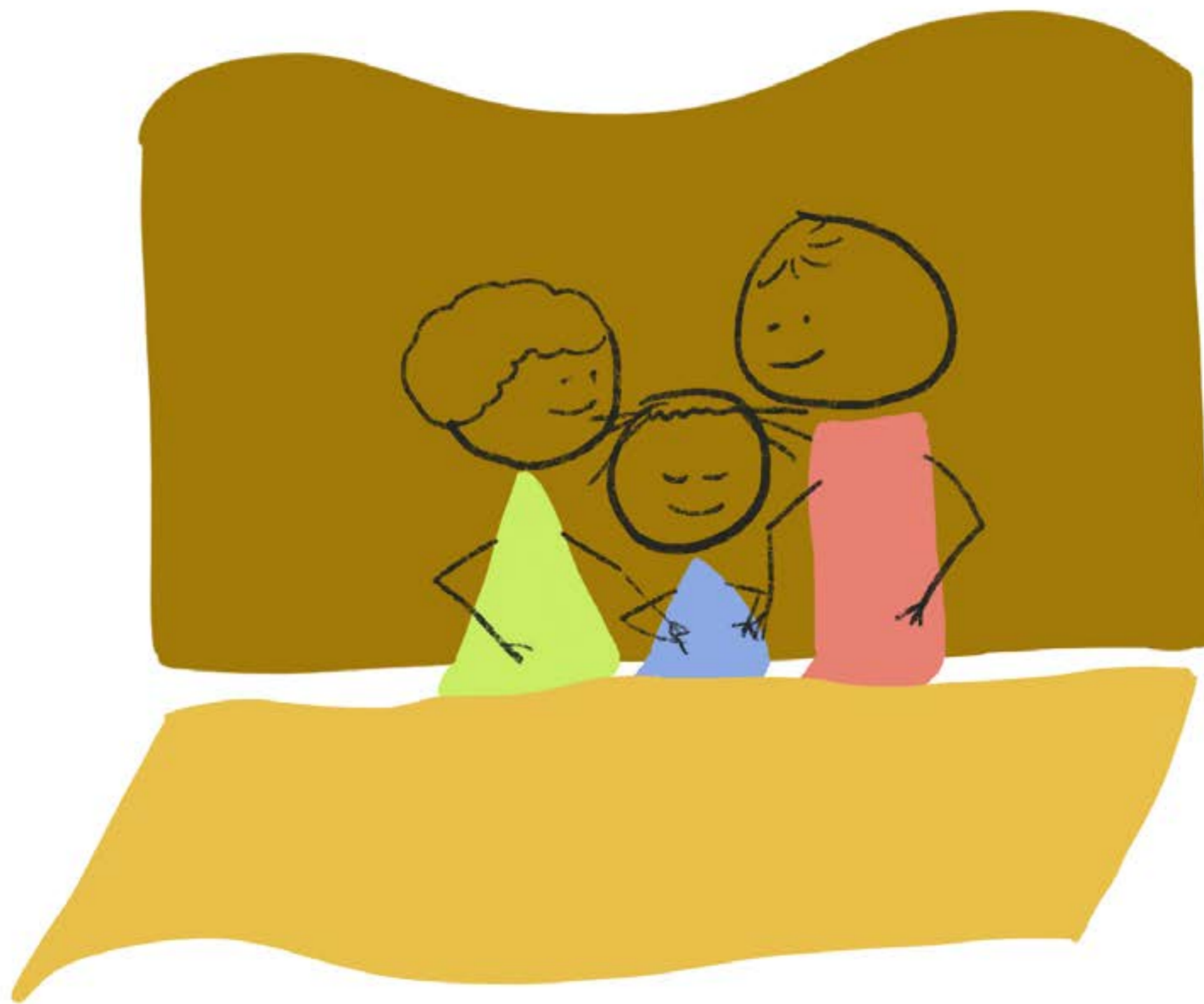
Daddy had a loud phone call. His face got all scrunchy.



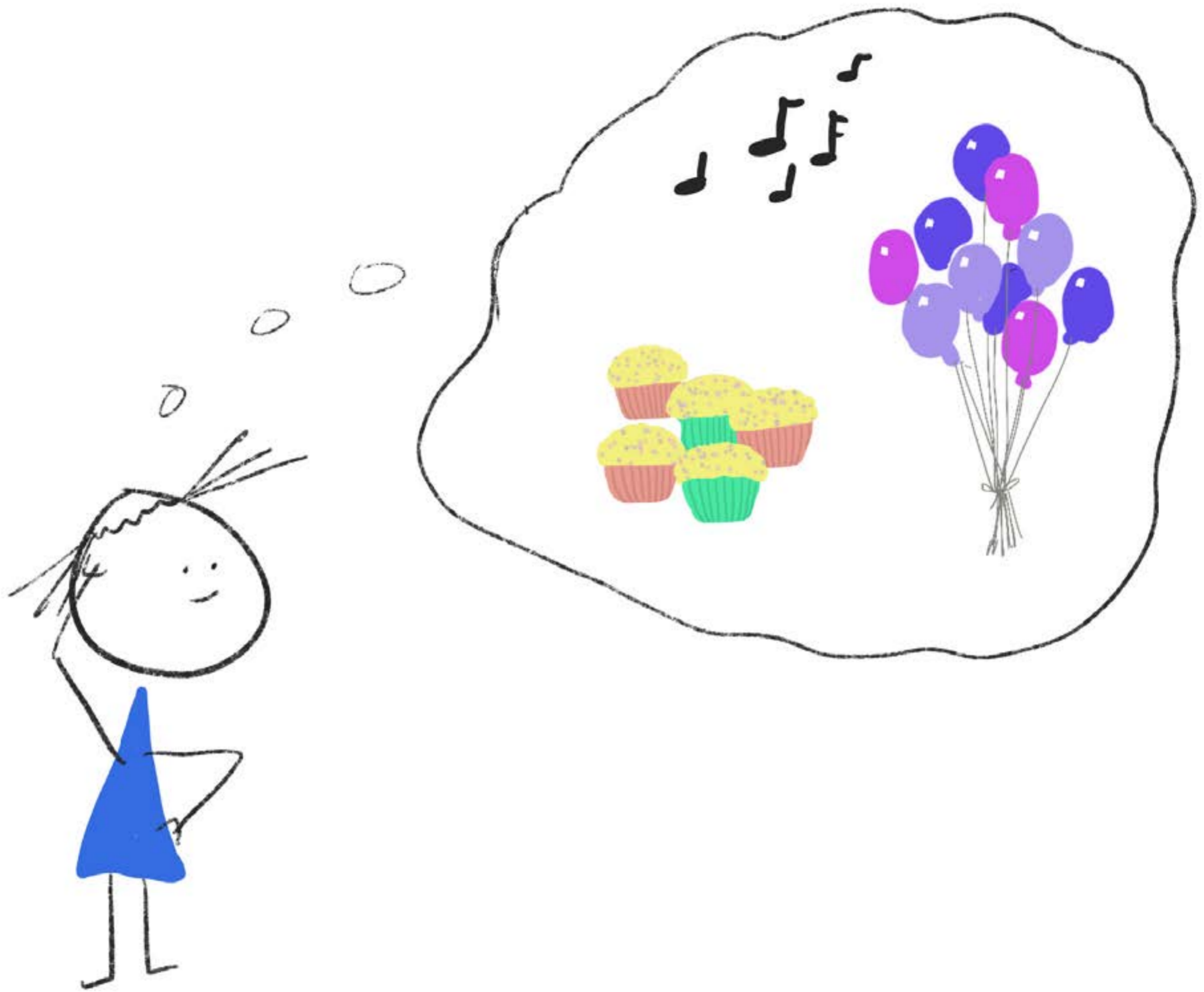
Penelope made silly faces at him.
Daddy giggled.



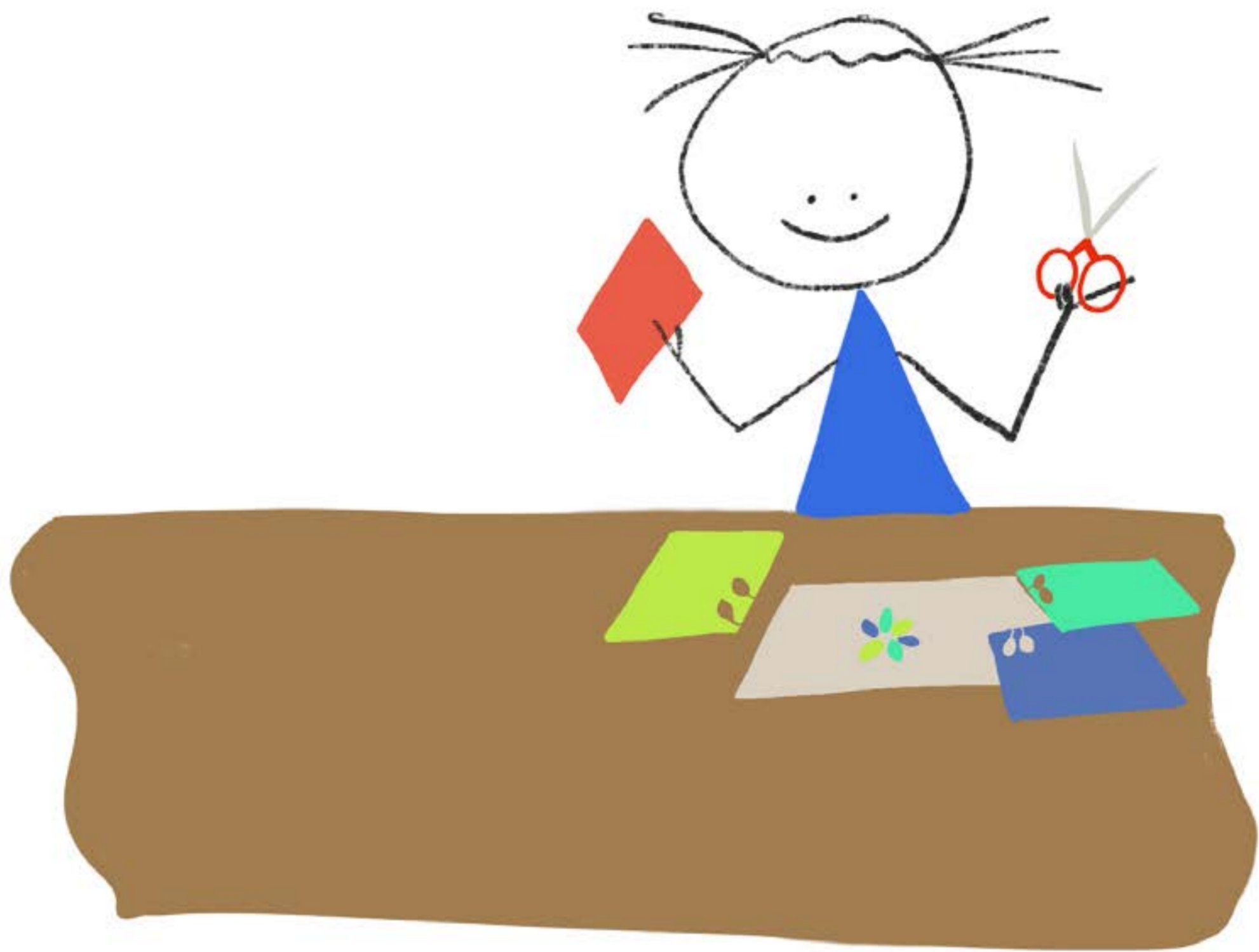
Sometimes Penelope feels scared,
especially at night.



When she's lucky, Mommy and
Daddy let her get in bed with them.



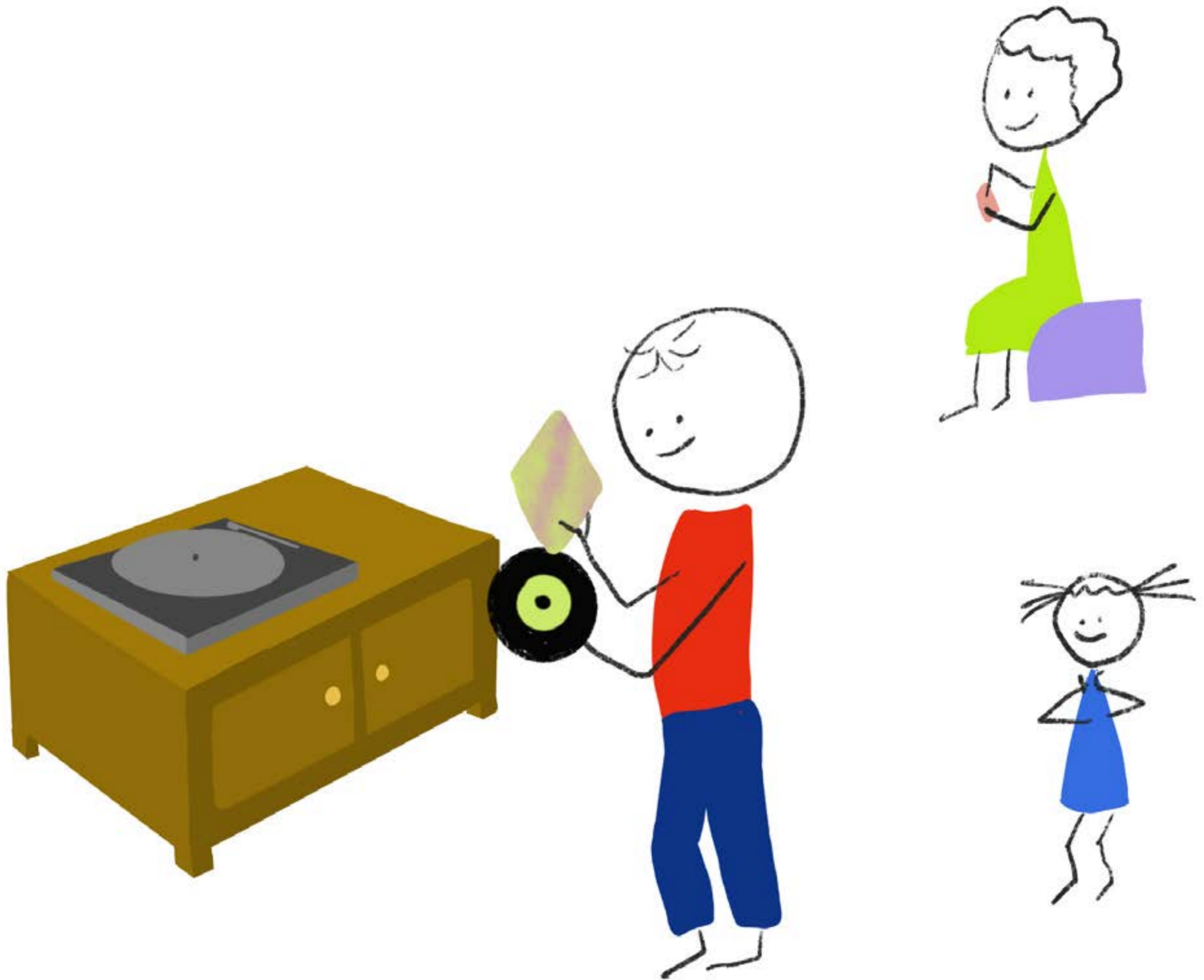
Penelope thought what they all needed was a party.



She made decorations.



And prepared the other guests.



The party started when Daddy put on dance music and Mommy got Granny on FaceTime.



They sang and danced until bath time,
and they all felt much better.



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