

# *Yusri and his Secret*



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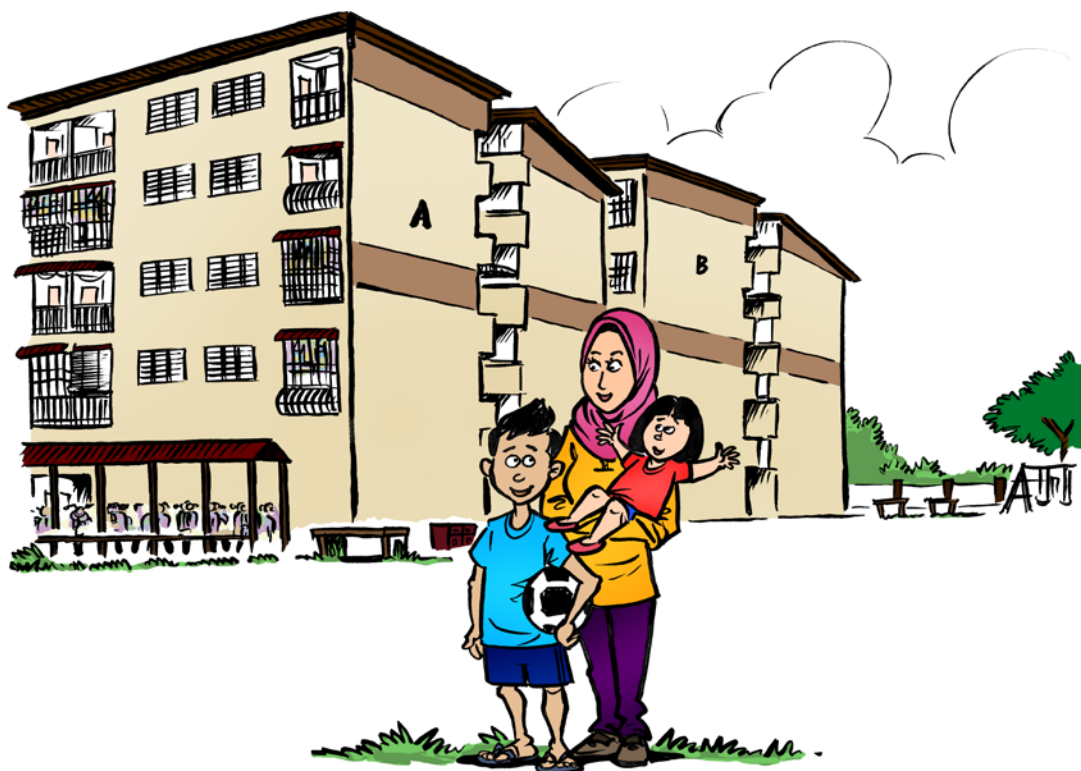
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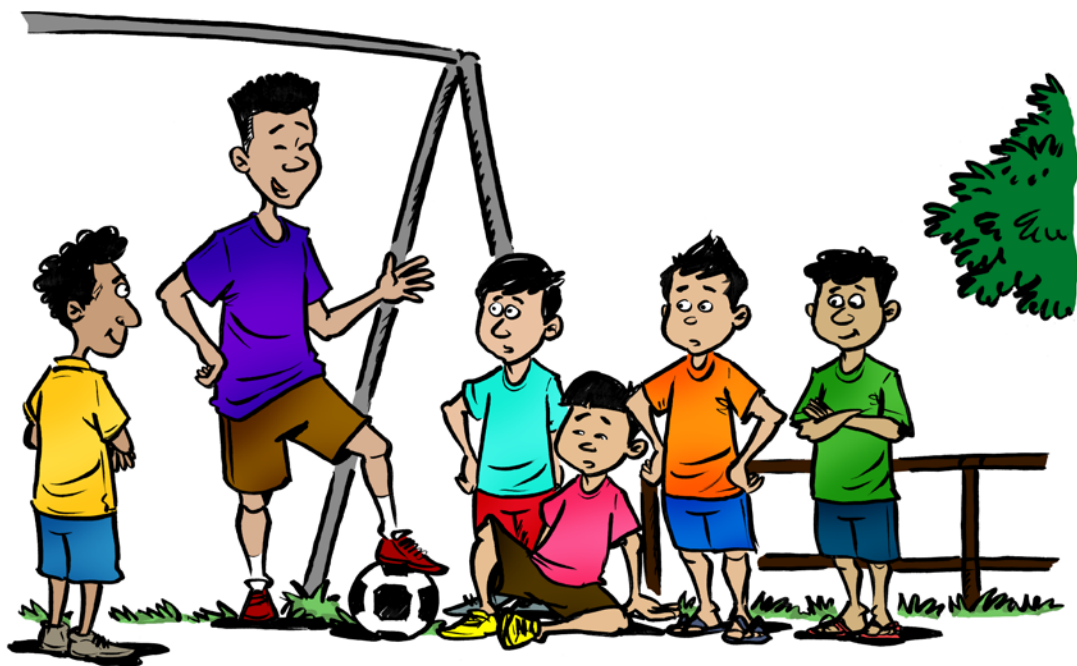
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Yusri is a 13 year old who lives in a flat with his mother, Puan Siti and his younger sister, Mimi. Puan Siti is a single mother.



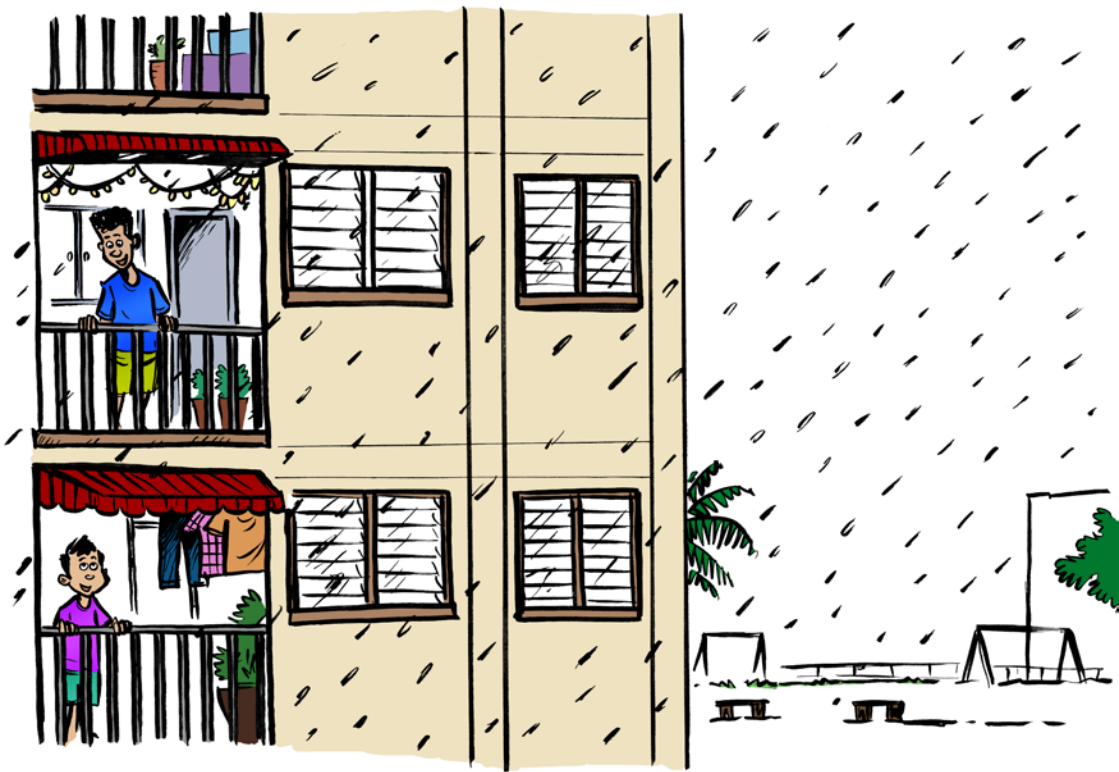
Yusri loves to play football.  
Every evening after he finishes his  
schoolwork, he will run downstairs  
to play football with his neighbours,  
Hakim, Lee, Siva and a few others in  
the nearby open field.



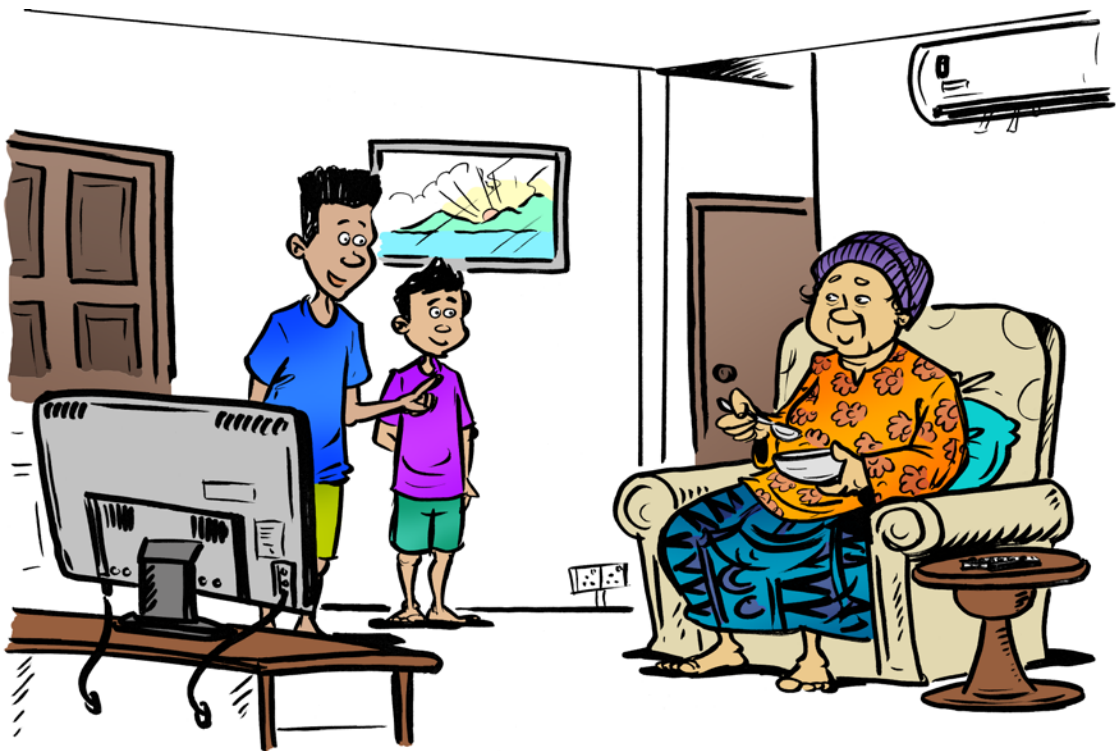
Hakim also lives in the same block of flats as Yusri. He is a few years older than Yusri. He often coaches the younger boys when playing football. Yusri looks up to him as an older brother. He seems to know everything and seems so cool.



Recently, during the football sessions, Hakim pays special attention to Yusri. Yusri is really happy when Hakim tells him his football skills are improving.



One afternoon when it is raining and no one is out playing football, Hakim invites Yusri to his flat to play games on his handphone. Yusri is so happy. He does not have a handphone.



At Hakim's flat, there is no one there except Hakim's grandmother who is watching TV. Both of Hakim's parents work till late. Hakim takes Yusri into his room.



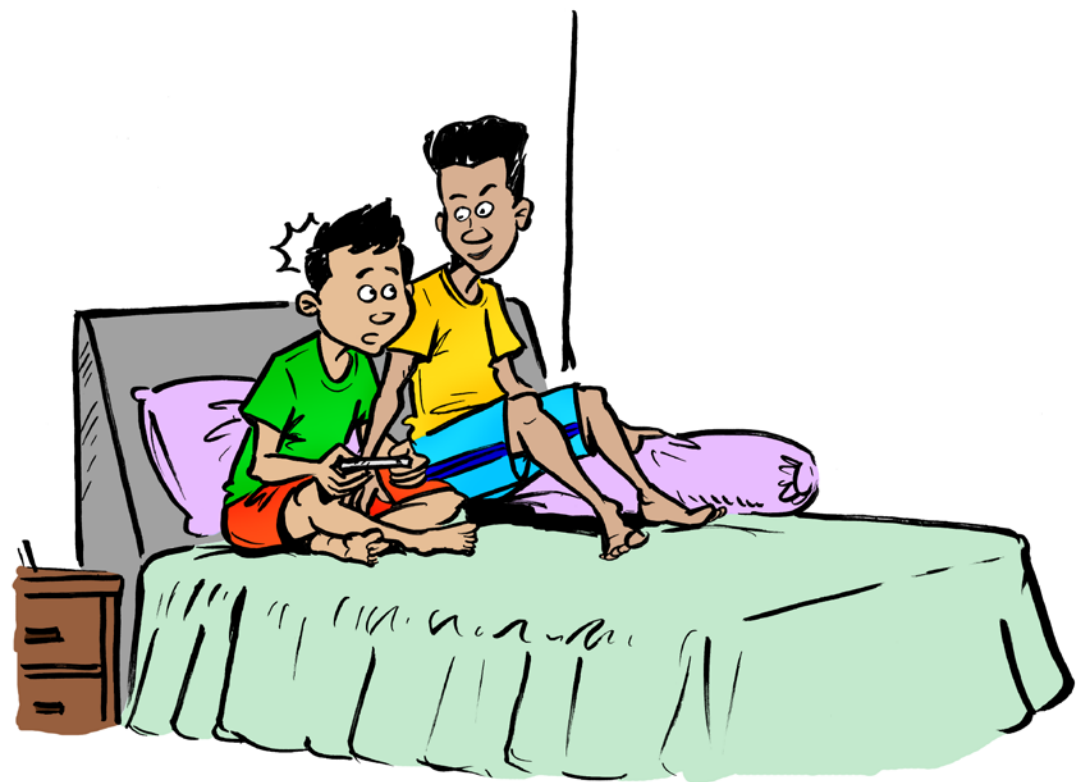


Yusri has a wonderful time playing games in Hakim's room. Hakim tells him he can come over anytime to play games on his handphone.

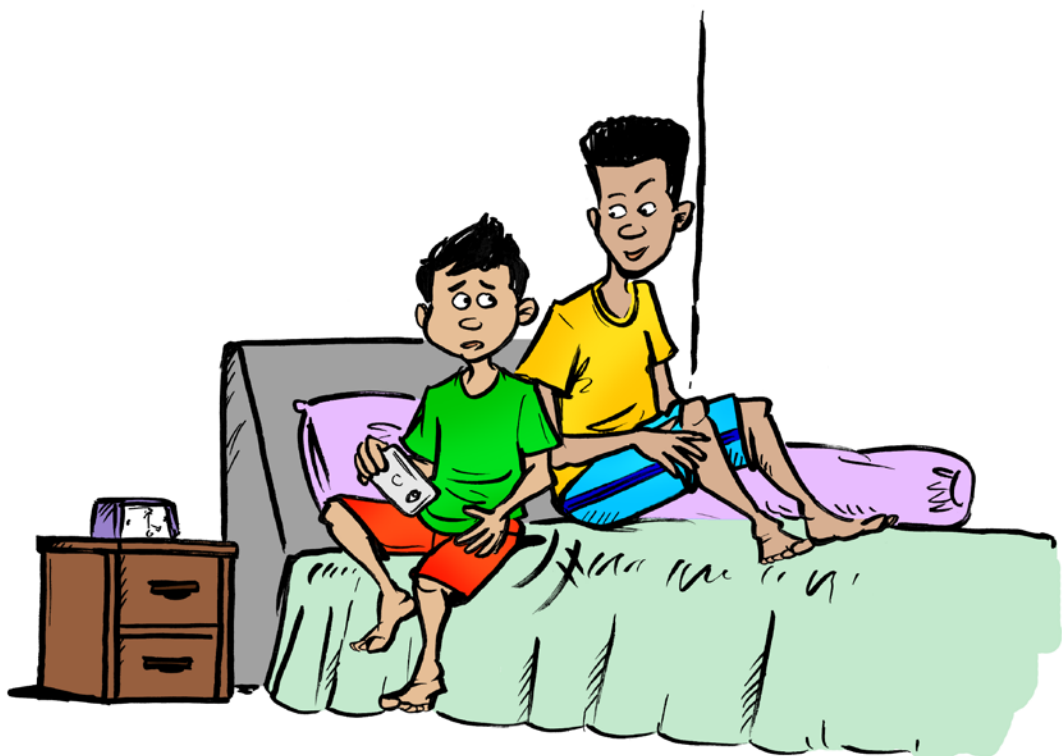




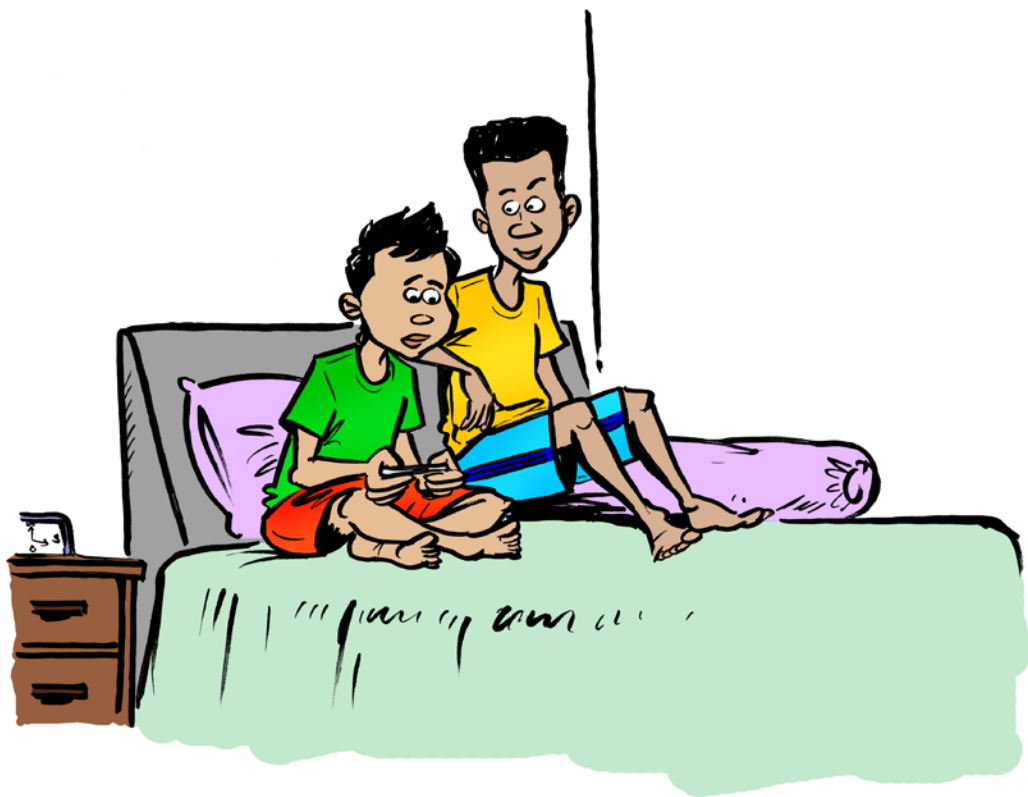
Soon, Yusri starts going over to Hakim's flat every day to play games with him. Then they both go to play football. He and Hakim become good friends.



One day, while Yusri is playing games on Hakim's handphone, Hakim leans over and rubs Yusri's thigh.



Yusri moves his leg away and looks at Hakim. Hakim says, “It’s ok, Yusri. Just relax.”

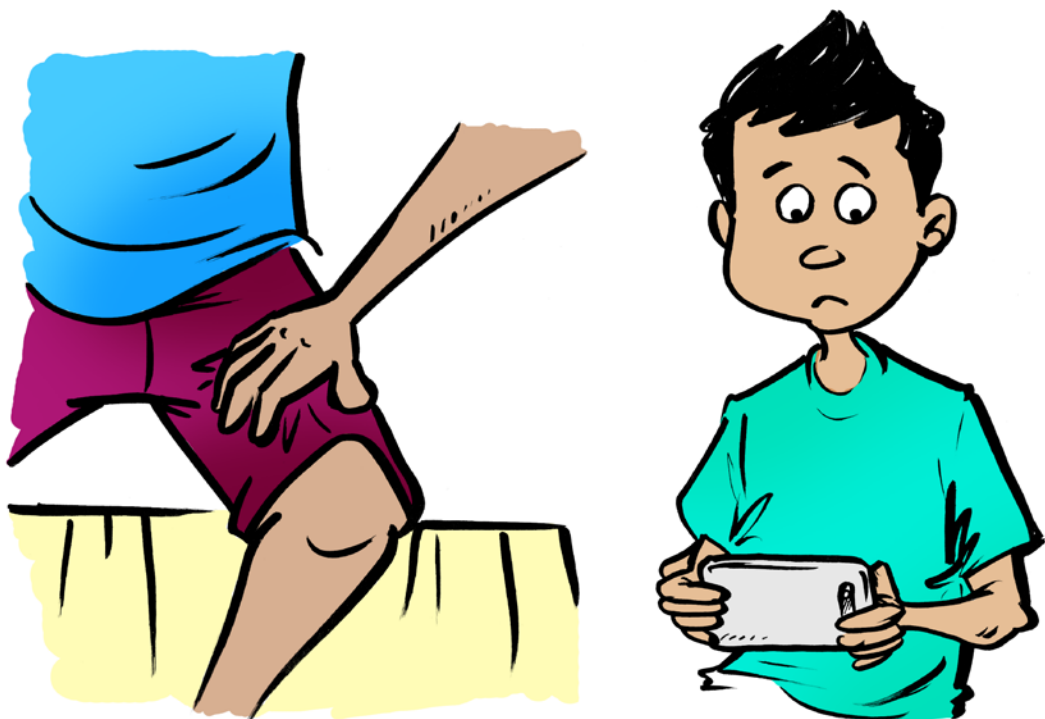


Yusri feels uncomfortable.  
Hakim then says, “You will lose the  
game if you do not concentrate.”  
Yusri keeps quiet and carries on  
playing the game.

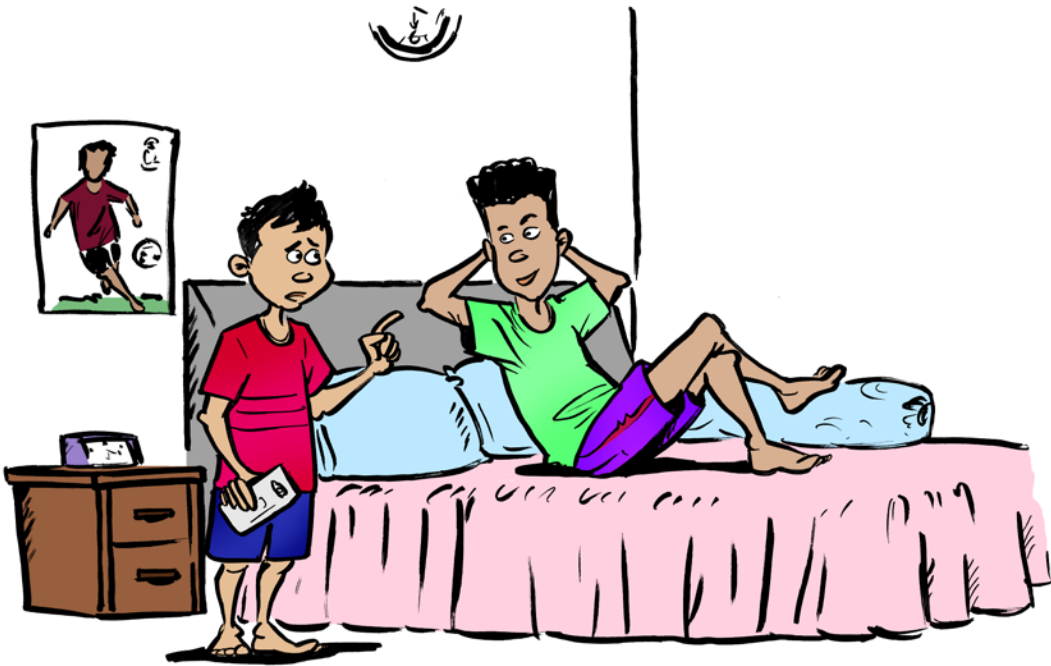


After that, Hakim and Yusri go off to play football. Yusri is confused.

He likes Hakim as a friend and he also likes playing games on Hakim's handphone. But he felt very uncomfortable when Hakim touched him.

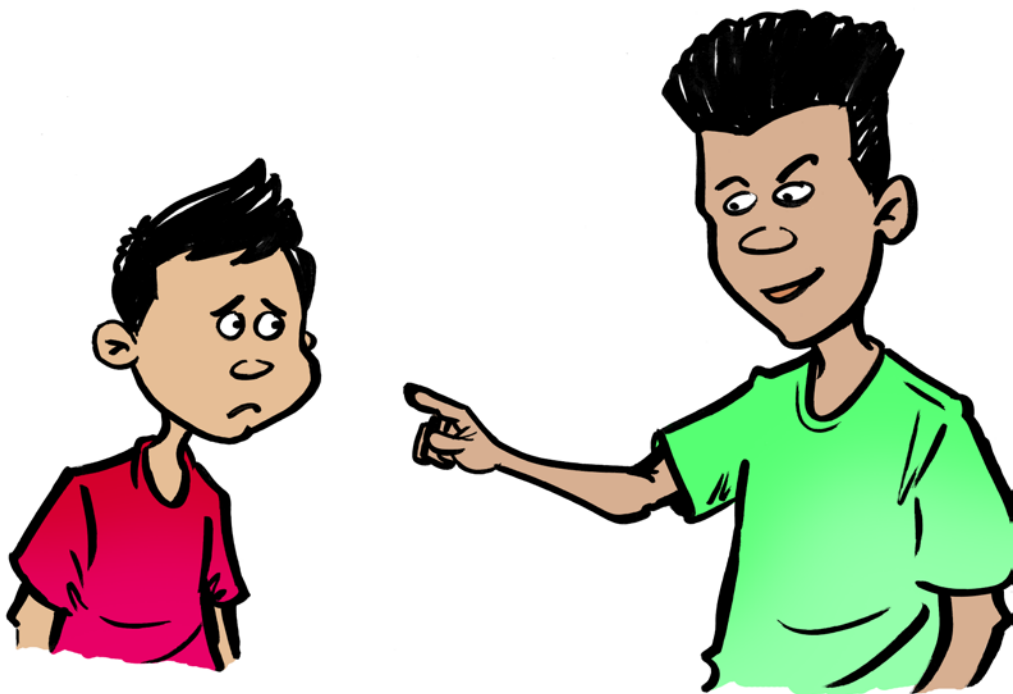


Over the next few days, each time  
Yusri goes over to Hakim's flat,  
the same thing happens until....



... finally, one day, Yusri pushes  
Hakim's hand away and stands up.  
He says to Hakim, "Hakim! Stop it!  
I don't like you touching me.  
I will tell my mother."





Hakim laughs and tells Yusri,  
“You think she is going to believe you?  
Anyway, it is you who keep coming  
to my room. You must like it here.”  
Yusri is shocked.



That evening, Yusri is too distracted to play football properly. His friends scold him, “Aiyoh! Open goal also you cannot score?” Yusri looks at Hakim who is watching him.



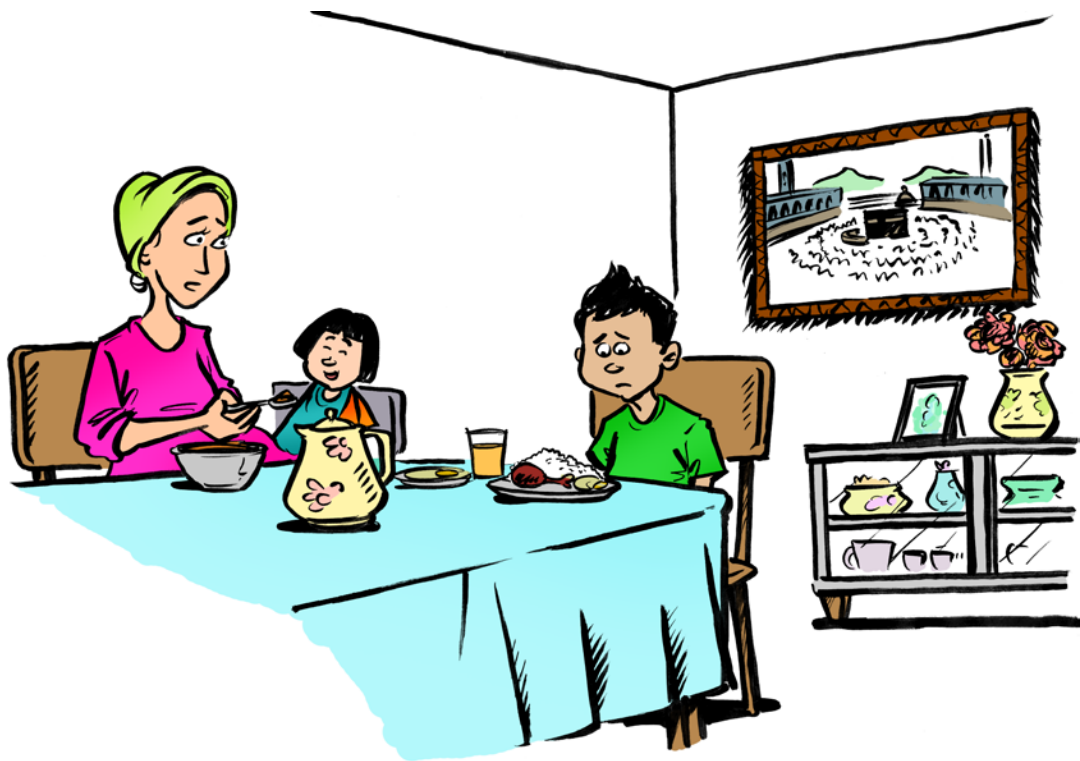
The next day, Yusri does not go to Hakim's flat. But when he goes to play football in the evening, Hakim is there waiting.



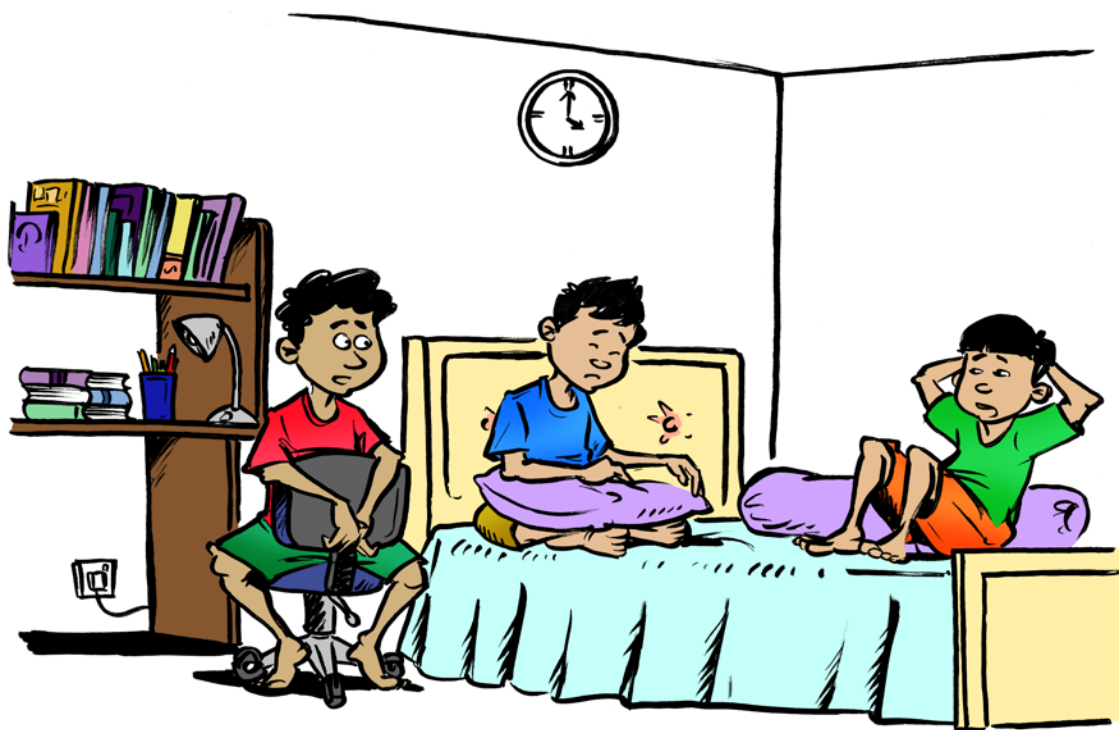
Hakim whispers to Yusri,  
“Where were you today?  
You better come to my flat  
tomorrow, otherwise I will tell the  
boys you like to be touched.”



Yusri feels trapped. He does not want to be touched by Hakim but he is worried about what Hakim will tell his friends. Yusri thinks people will believe Hakim. And so, he continues to go to Hakim's flat.



Puan Siti notices that her son has become very quiet. He does not play football anymore with his friends. He hardly eats his dinner.



One afternoon, Siva and Lee come to visit Yusri. In his room, they ask him, “Hey bro, how come you don’t play football with us anymore?”

Yusri is quiet.



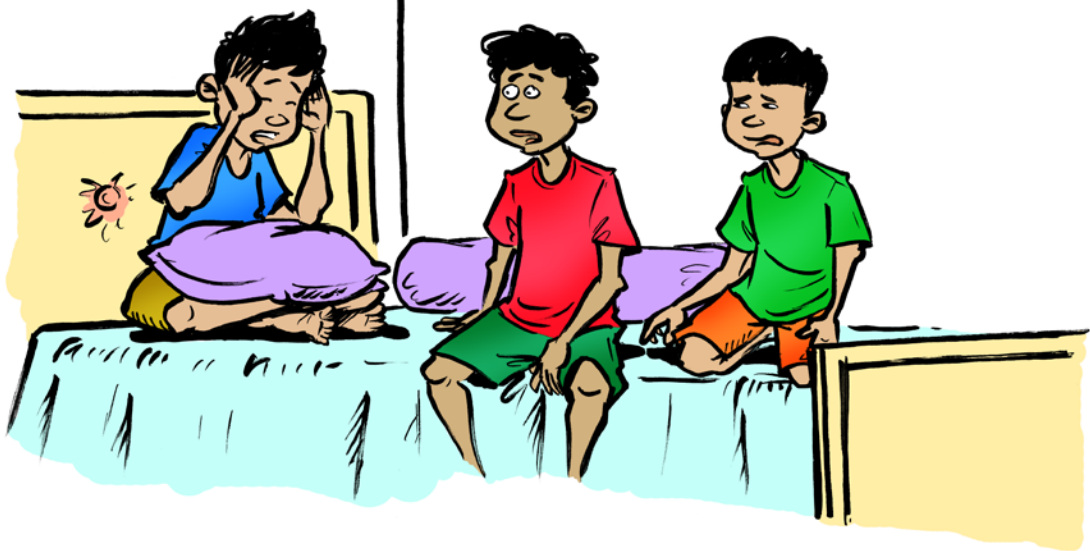


Siva says, “Since you are not around, Hakim is coaching us. Yesterday he even asked me to go to his flat to play games. I think I will go tomorrow.”

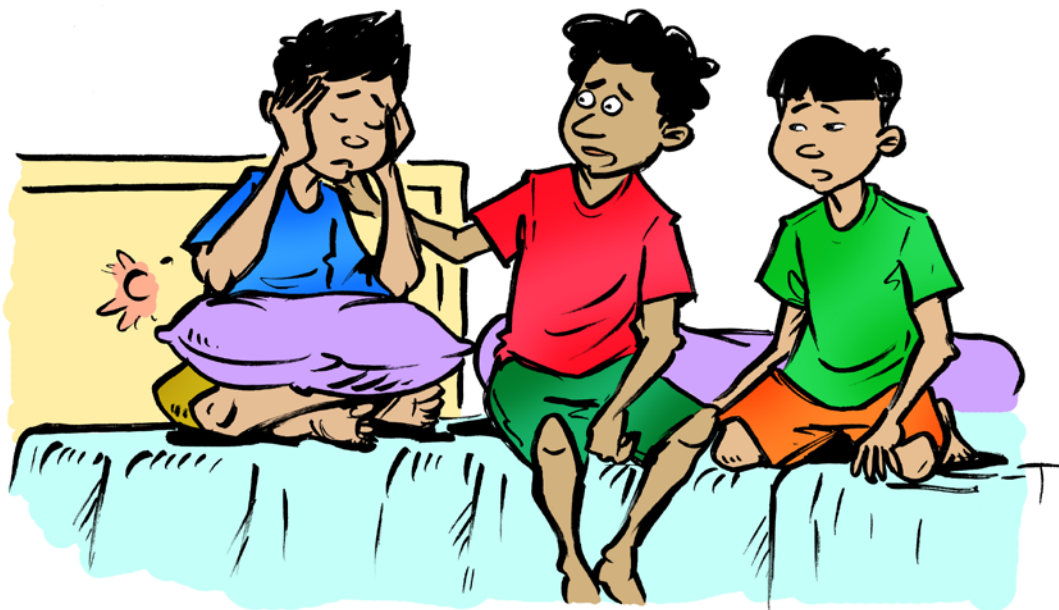


Yusri says, “You better be careful, Siva. Hakim is not a nice person.”

“What do you mean?” asks Siva. Yusri looks away. Lee says, “What lah Yusri? What is the problem?”



Yusri speaks quietly, “At Hakim’s flat, when I went to play games, he started touching me. I asked him to stop. But he wouldn’t. Now he says if I don’t go to his flat, he will tell people that I like to be touched. Siva, you better not go to his flat.”



The boys are shocked.  
They look at Yusri. Then Lee says,  
“Are you sure? Is he doing bad things  
to you?” Yusri nods quietly.



Siva says, “Yusri, this is very serious.  
You better tell your mother.”



Yusri is very troubled. He knows that if he keeps quiet, Hakim will continue touching him and maybe also towards Siva. But he is not sure how to tell his mother and how she will react. He is also worried about what Hakim will say.



But Siva and Lee continue to convince Yusri to tell his mother.

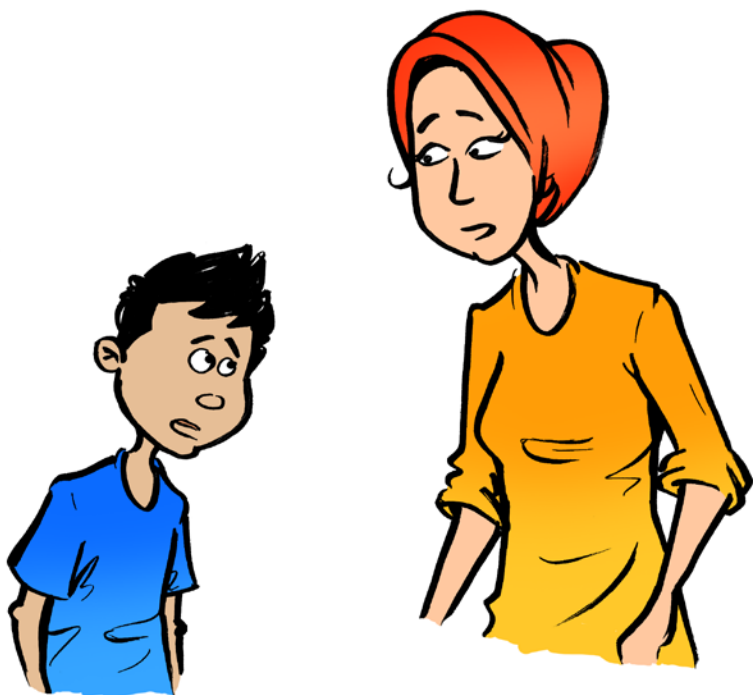




Yusri is hesitant but finally agrees. Both Siva and Lee stand by Yusri as he slowly tells his mother about Hakim. Puan Siti is so shocked that for a few moments she cannot say anything.



Puan Siti says, “That’s terrible!! Hakim should never have done that!” Puan Siti holds Yusri’s arms tightly and tells him, “Yusri, I am so sorry this happened to you. It is a good thing you shared this with your friends and did not keep it a secret.”

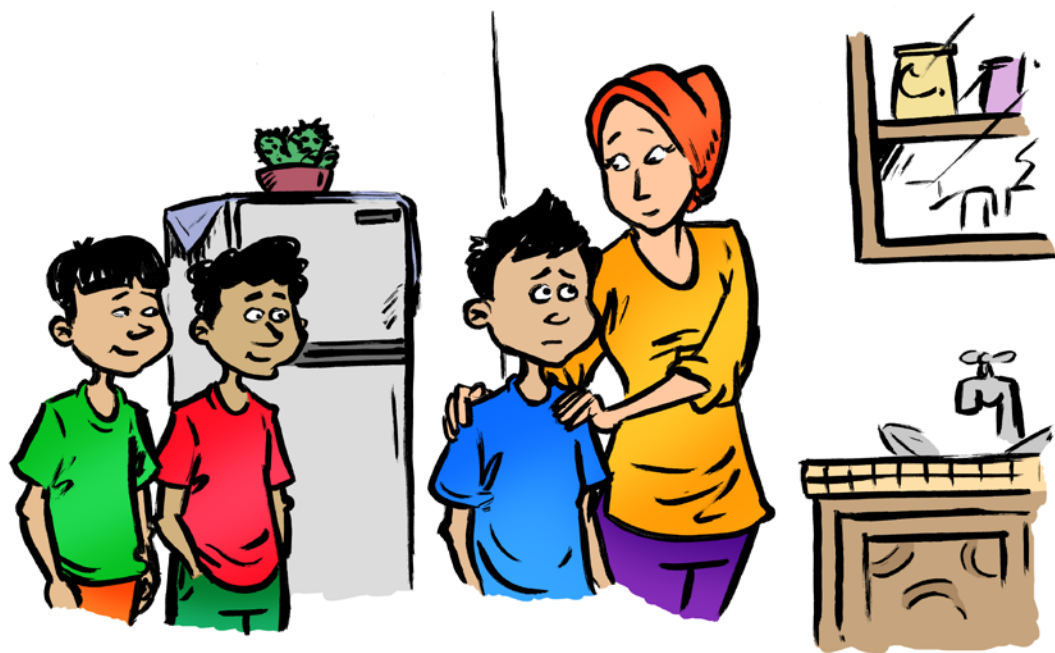


Yusri says, “Hakim said it is my fault because I was always going there...”

Puan Siti says, “It is definitely not your fault! What Hakim did is very wrong.”



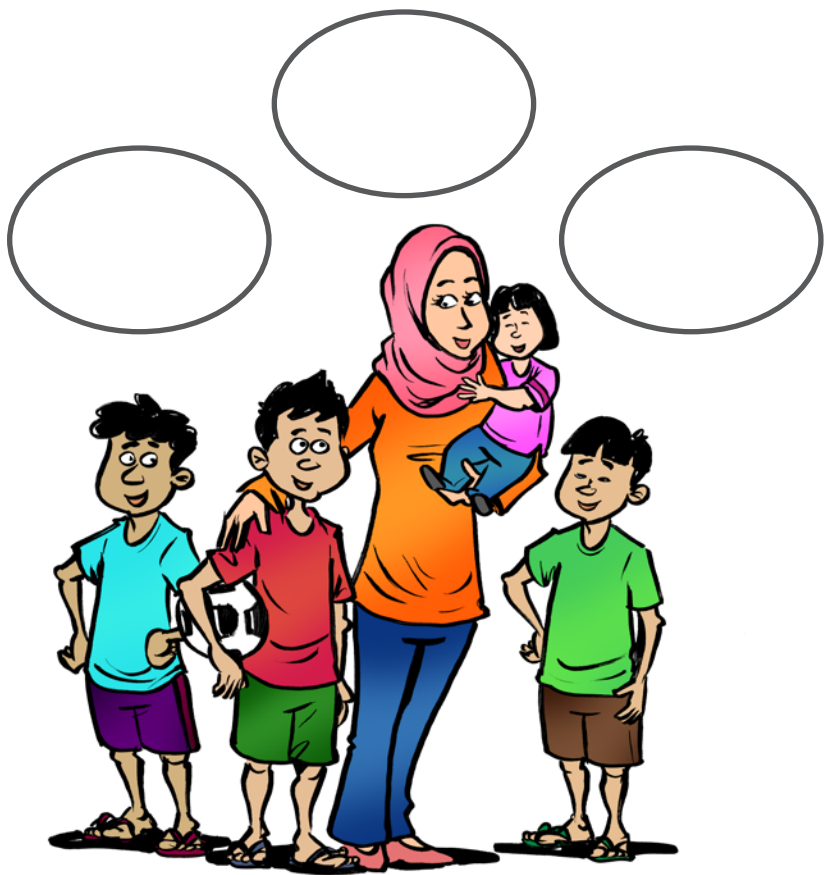
Yusri asks, “Ma, are you angry with me?” Puan Siti says, “No, I am not angry with you. I am angry with Hakim. I am upset that this has happened to you. It’s a good thing you told Siva and Lee. Now, we can stop Hakim from hurting you or anyone else.”



“We have to lodge a police report immediately. That is the way to stop Hakim. He won’t be able to threaten or hurt you again. And you don’t have to be scared anymore.” says Puan Siti.



Remember this: if you receive a bad touch, don't keep it a secret. Tell someone about it. That's the way you can get help to stop it.



Fill in the bubbles with the names of people whom you trust and who can help you.





The Women's Centre for Change is a non-profit organisation whose mission is to end violence against women and children, and promote gender equality and social justice.

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