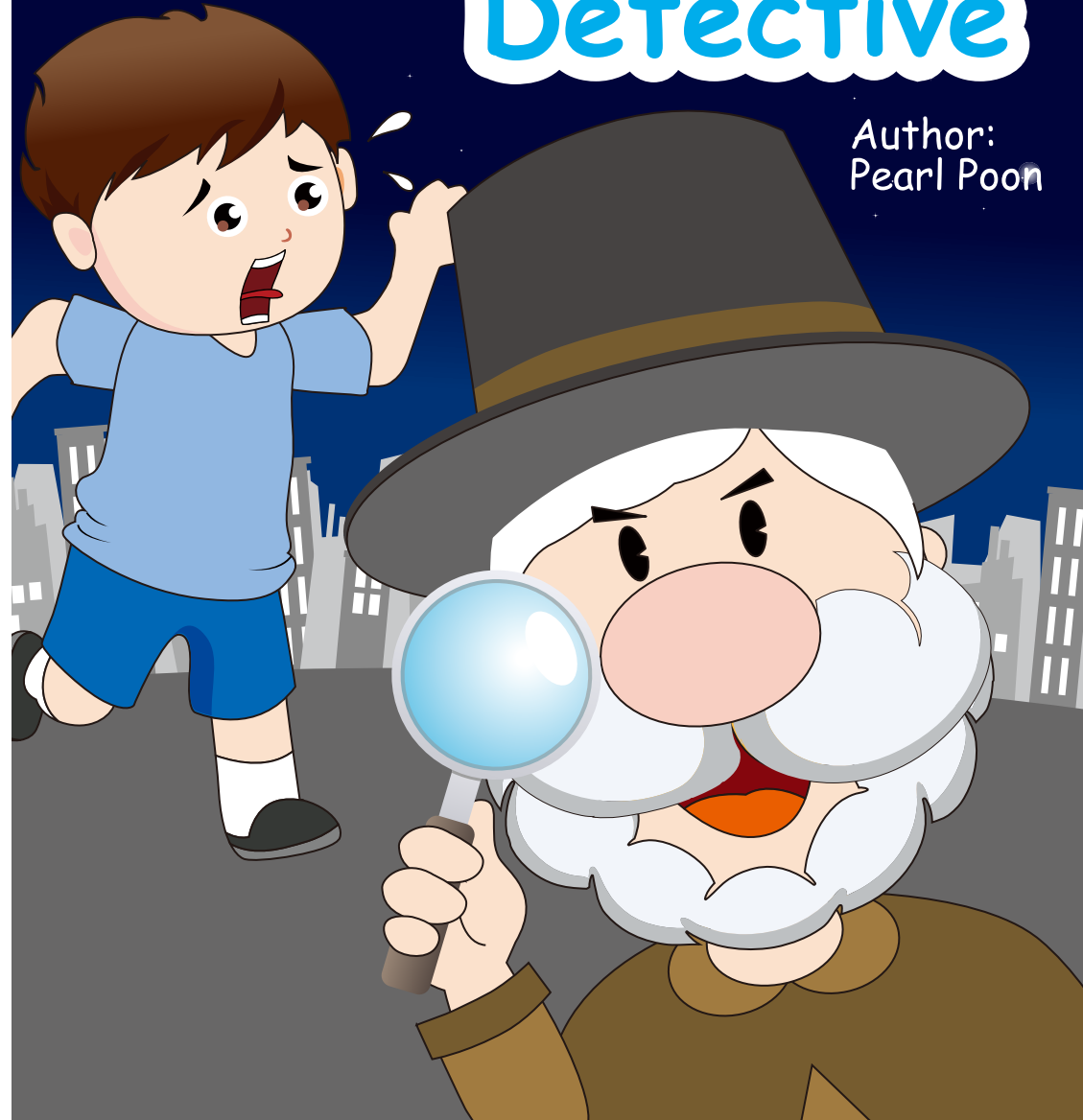
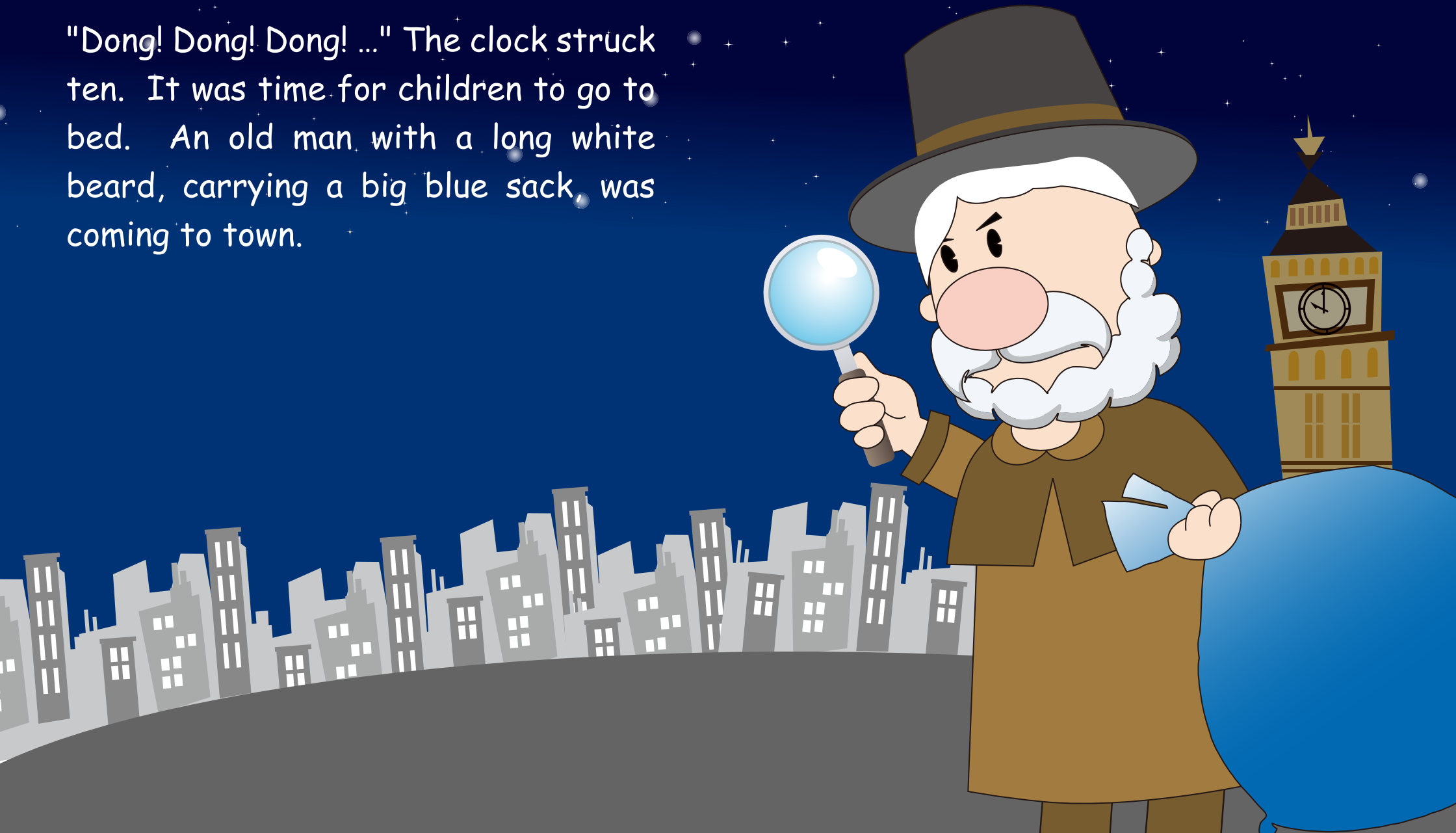


# The Time Detective

Author:  
Pearl Poon



"Dong! Dong! Dong! ..." The clock struck ten. It was time for children to go to bed. An old man with a long white beard, carrying a big blue sack, was coming to town.



This man was not Santa Claus. He was not wearing a red robe, and his sack was not full of presents. He looked serious. His eyes were like searchlights, watching around carefully. As soon as he discovered something, he would take action. He was the legendary Time Detective, investigating cases of people wasting time.



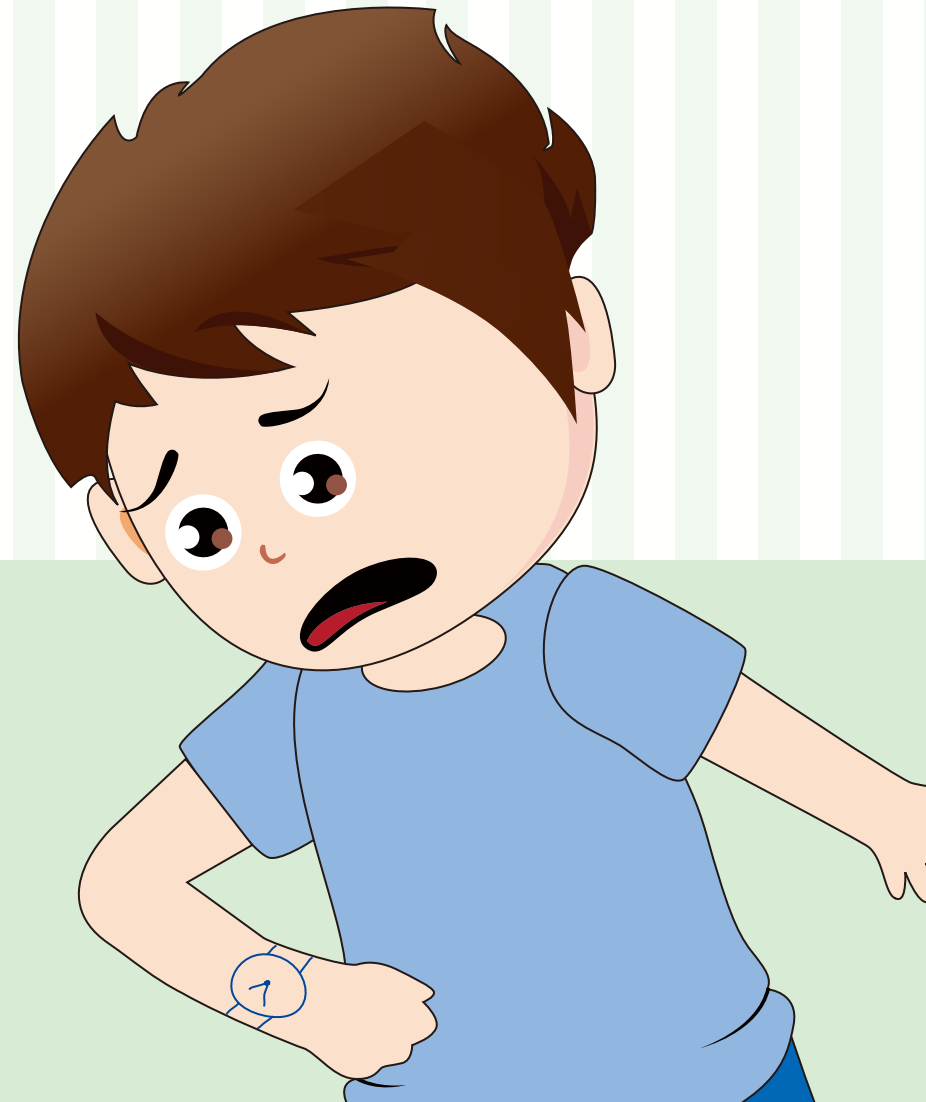
The Time Detective visited a boy called Tommy. "Do you come to give me a present? But you are not Santa Claus!" said Tommy curiously. The old man told Tommy that he was the Time Detective. He heard that Tommy was not a punctual or trustworthy child, and he came to check on it.



Tommy was excited at first but once he knew that the Time Detective was there to investigate him, he was nervous. He said that he often paid attention to time and looked at his watch.



But when Tommy pulled out his hand, there was only a fun watch painted on his wrist.



The Time Detective said he had the power to shift back the time to yesterday to see how Tommy spent the past 24 hours.



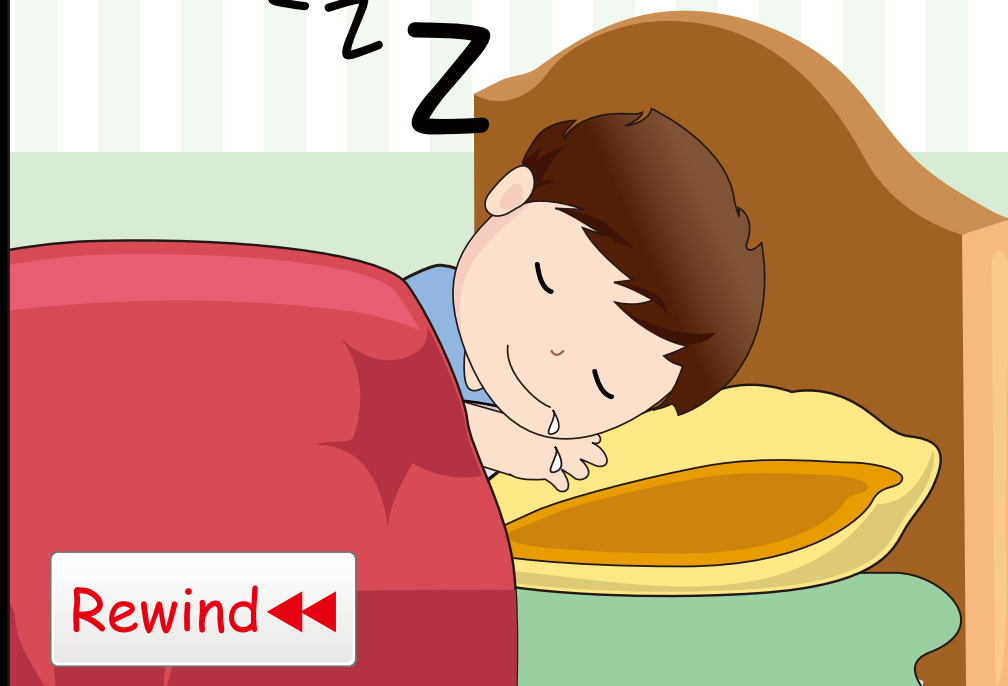
He took a display pad out of his sack. He said, "If you turn the dial back on this Time Pad, you can see what happened yesterday!"



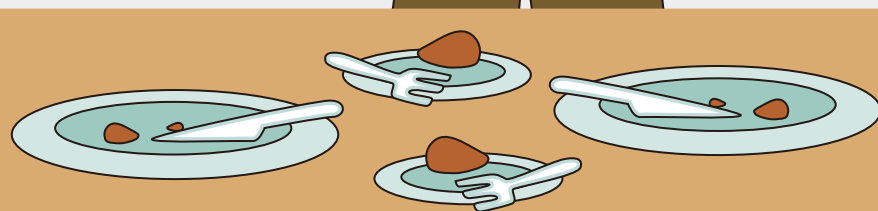
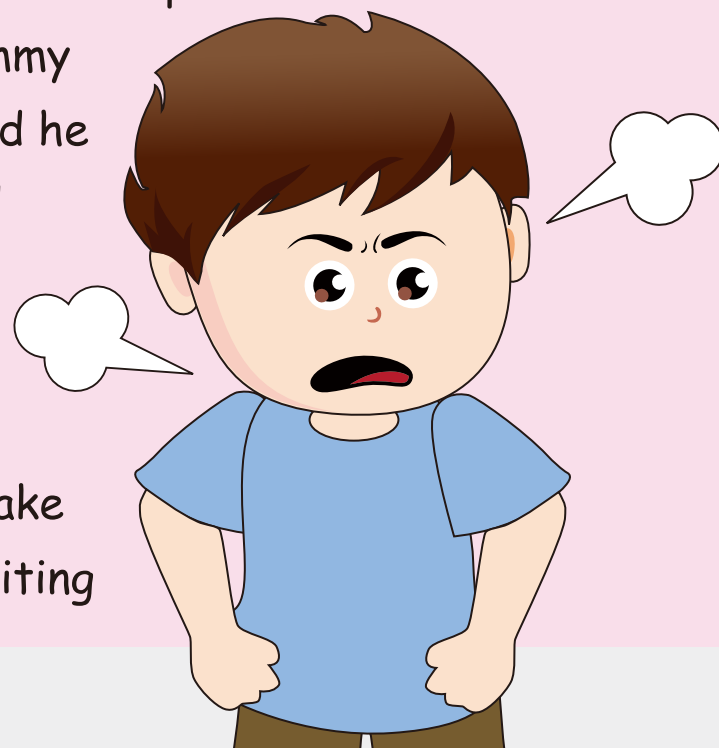


Tommy switched on the Time Pad with curiosity. He saw he took a nap yesterday.

z z z z



The Time Detective reminded him, "Do you remember? You were very late at your friend's birthday party yesterday because you wanted to sleep more." Tommy nodded, and he complained that the children ate up the birthday cake without waiting for him.



Rewind ◀◀

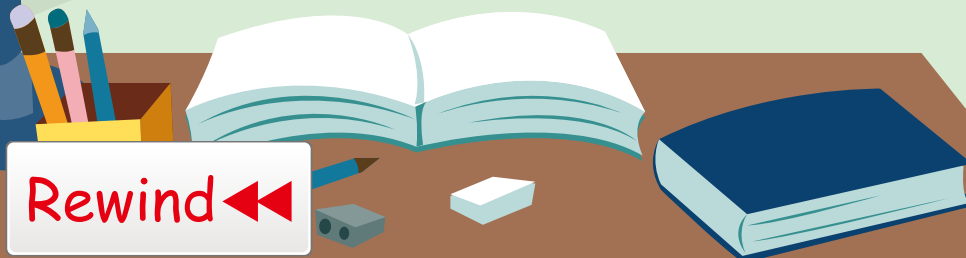
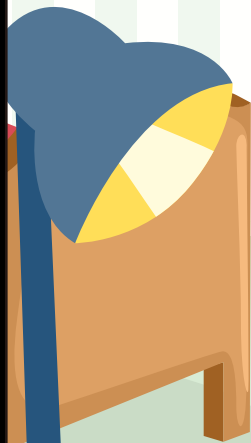
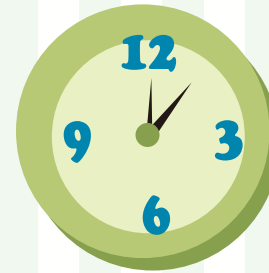


The Time Detective said that Tommy had wasted his own and others' time since he was not punctual. When the Time Pad was shifted to last night, the display showed that Tommy was playing electronic games.

Rewind ◀◀



Tommy's mother urged Tommy to do his homework quickly. Tommy said, "I'm almost at the end of this round. I'll play three more rounds, then I'll do my homework!" Although Tommy said so to his mother, he did not keep his promise. He played one round after another. Eventually he did not go to sleep until very late, and his homework was not finished.



Rewind ◀◀



This morning, Tommy was too tired to get up on time, and he missed the school van.



Rewind ◀◀

# Sports Day

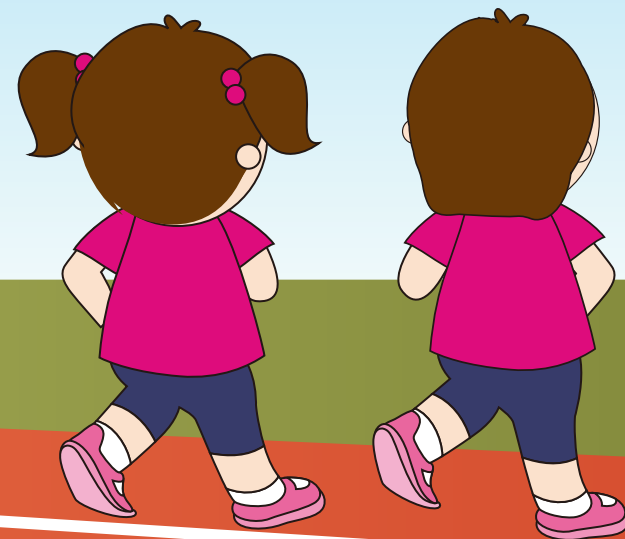
Tommy was also late for the school's Sports Day. The Time Detective pointed to the display and said, "Look! The other members in your relay team were so anxious waiting for your arrival! Because you were so late, finally ..."



Rewind ◀◀

# Sports Day

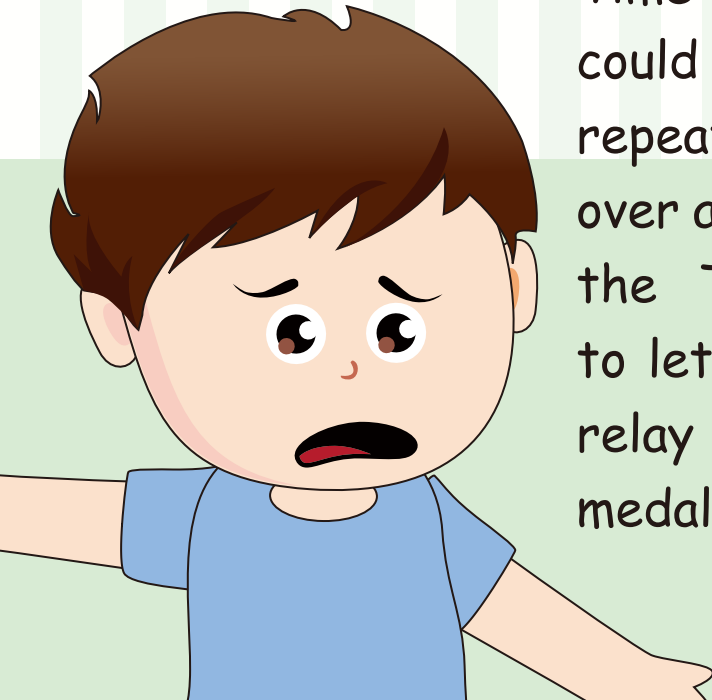
Tommy felt embarrassed and lowered his head. Because he did not show up on time, his relay team was disqualified and lost the game. Other team members were angry at Tommy. They no longer trusted him and made Tommy feel sad.



Rewind ◀◀



Tommy asked the Time Detective if he could go back and repeat the day all over again. He begged the Time Detective to let him run at the relay race to win the medal.



However, the Time Detective said that time could not be rewound.





"Well, from now on, you should wear a real watch and be a punctual and trustworthy boy, OK?" Tommy nodded, and promised to do so.

Tommy was full of regret. The Time Detective pointed at the watch that Tommy's mother gave him and said,

