

# A Game to Remember

By Tenzin Choedon



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I dedicate this book to all the children I interacted with during my school visits, particularly the students of primary classes.

# Foreword

## A Note to Readers:

This story is aimed to help our young children (ESL learners) learn the three different ways in which English words/verbs with -ed (the past tense ending) are pronounced. This story book is a result of my findings based on the reading assessment of the students in the primary level during my visits to many of the Tibetan schools. It was observed that many children often mispronounce verbs with –ed (the past tense ending). They add an extra syllable even when not required. This was a very common problem that I noticed in most of the children I interacted with. Thus, I decided to highlight this problem, and bring out a solution for this through a story so that children not only learn, but enjoy the story while practising the verbs with –ed (past tense ending), and hence this book.

In the story, I have highlighted all the verbs with -ed (the past tense ending) in three different colours to point out, and to categorize them in the ways they are to be pronounced.

I have also tried to bring in the Tibetan element into the story in the form of characters, and introduced a few animals of Tibet through the game in the story. The game could be modified for other classroom activities to serve various purposes, particularly in the teaching-learning activities by the teachers as per need. If you pay attention to the plot of the story, you'll also find integration of values like patience, turn taking, and respecting each other's opinion. I hope children, teachers and parents will find this book helpful.

## Acknowledgement

I offer my deepest thanks to the people who helped me in the completion of this book: Mr. Jamyang Gyaltzen (Former Education Program Coordinator, Tibet Fund) for his valuable inputs and feedback taking my story to the next level; Mr. Ngawang Dorjee (Art & Drawing Teacher, Petoen School) for the wonderful illustrations giving a visual perspective to my story; and Mr. Tsewang Norbu (ITMD, STSS Head Office) for designing the book in the best possible way he could given the constraints of the text and size of the illustrations, and more importantly making it reader-friendly.

# Letter from the Writer

Dear children,

I know pronouncing of verbs with **–ed** (the past tense ending) is confusing sometimes. You might find it hard to decide when and when not to add an extra syllable while pronouncing a verb with **–ed** (the past tense ending). As you grow older, and get more exposure to the spoken and written English you'll learn more about the same. For the time being, it will be helpful if you learn to identify whether a verb ends with a voiced, or a voiceless sound.

If you feel a vibration in your throat while saying a sound, it is a voiced sound. On the other hand, if no vibration is felt, it is voiceless.

There are three ways of pronouncing the –ed sound at the end of a verb (past tense ending):

1. When a **verb ends with** either **/d/ or /t/** sound, **-ed will say /ed/**.

**Example:** end ed, start ed.

2. When a **verb ends with** a **voiced sound other than /d/ or /t/** sound, **-ed will say /d/**.

**Example:** loved, explained.

3. When a **verb ends with** a **voiceless sound**, then **-ed will say /t/**.

**Example:** missed, looked.

**Reference: Language fact 24 (The Sound Way Program)**

Therefore, read all the **verbs in red colour** saying the first sound of **–ed<sup>1</sup>** that is **/ed/**; the **verbs in pink colour** saying the second sound of **–ed<sup>2</sup>** that is **/d/**; and all the **verbs in blue colour** by saying the third sound of **–ed<sup>3</sup>** that is **/t/**.

Happy reading! Happy learning!

Tenzin Choedon (Tenchoe)

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It was a bright and sunny Sunday. Ngawang was very happy. She had a game in her mind. She **wanted** to know if her little sister Legzom was **interested** in it.





She told Legzom about the game.  
"Sounds like a fun game." Said Legzom.  
They both **planned** to play the game with their  
cousins Gyaltzen, Dechen and Kalsang.

The two sisters were very **excited**. They **talked** about the game while they **walked** to the park.





On the way the two sisters **invited** their  
cousins, and **shared** the plan.  
The cousins got **excited** too.



They all **rushed** to the park  
to play the game.





When they **reached** the park, Ngawang **requested** all of them to gather under a tree. She then **explained** the game to everyone.



Each of them had to name an animal.  
If the animal is found in Tibet, then  
everyone should shout 'Tibet!'.



The one who **missed** would have to act like  
the animal, or make its sound.



No one was **allowed** to repeat the names. Each one of them had an animal in their mind. They eagerly **waited** for the game to begin.



"Yak" **started** Legzom.  
Everybody **shouted** 'Tibet!'.





Ngawang said 'Panda', and  
everyone except Legzom  
**shouted** 'Tibet!'





So, she **tried** climbing up the tree like a Panda. Everybody **laughed**, and they **continued** with the game.



When Gyaltzen **shouted** 'Giraffe',  
everybody **remained** silent.



'Elephant', said Dechen, and everybody **continued** to remain silent.

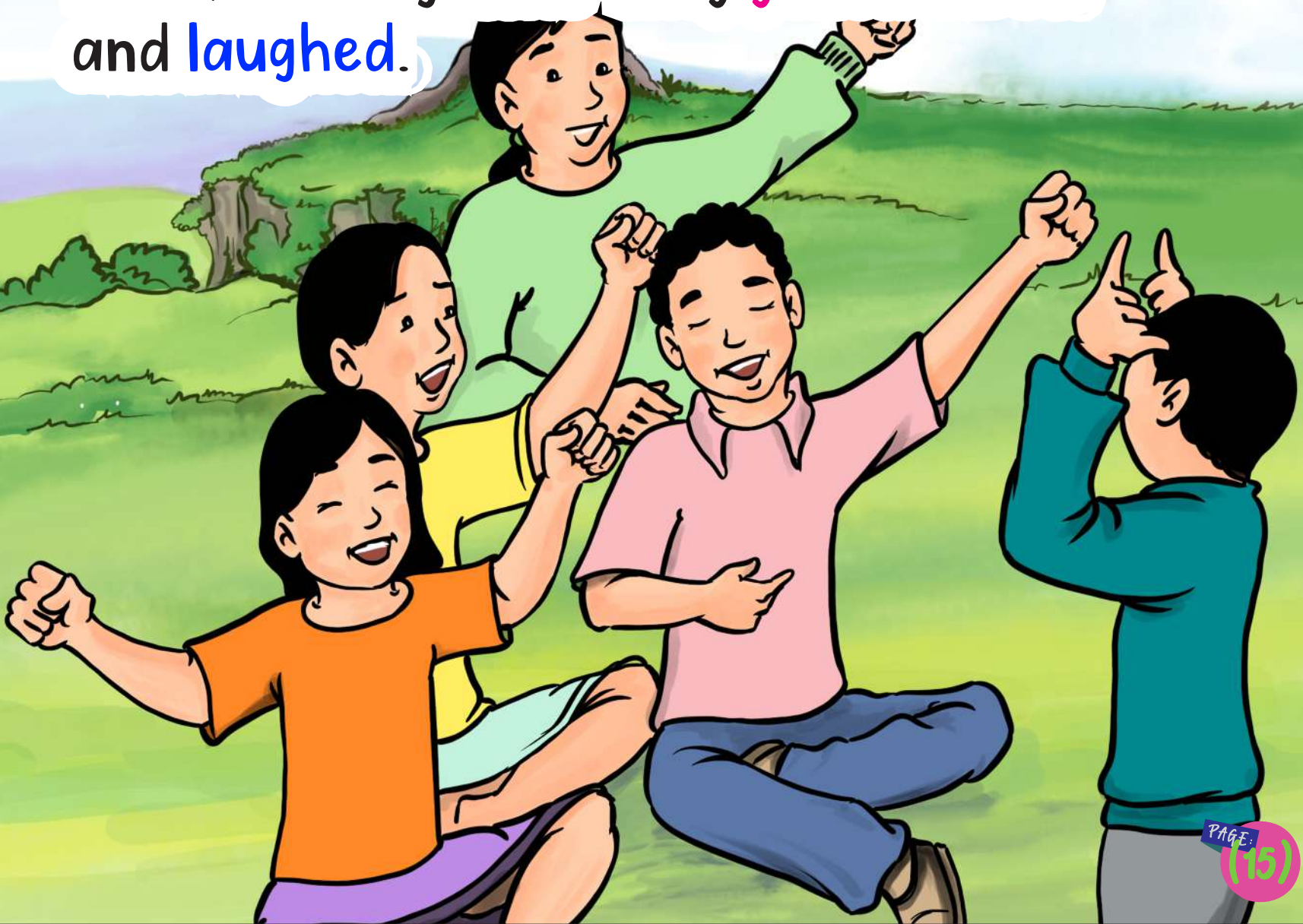




Kalsang mentioned 'Chiru'. All of them were confused as they haven't heard this name before.

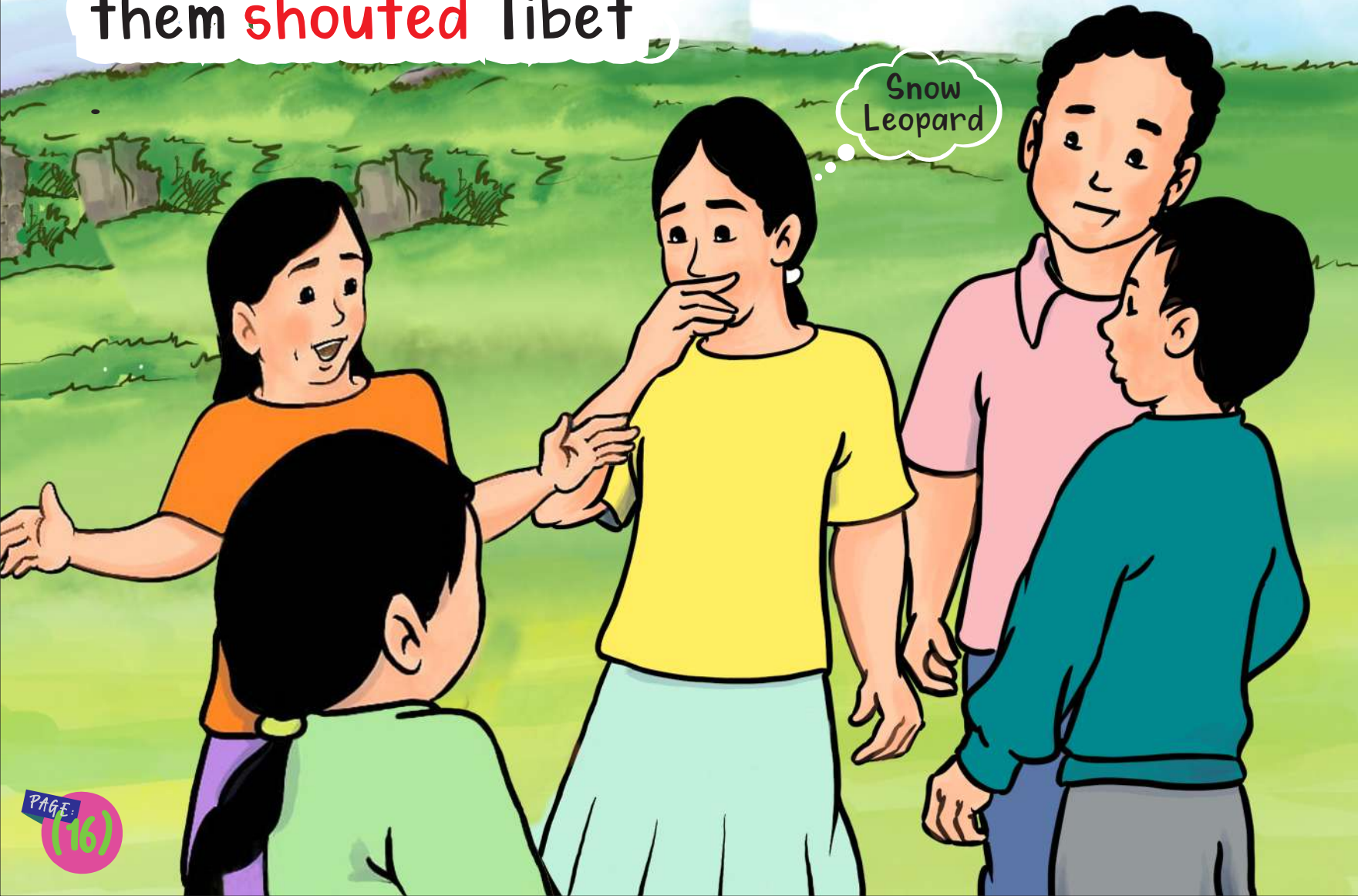


Kalsang **smiled** and said, "It is the name for the Tibetan antelope". Oh! **Exclaimed** all of them, and together they **yelled** 'Tibet!' and **laughed**.





It was Legzom's turn again. She **named** the animal that Ngawang had been thinking of, 'Snow Leopard'. Except Kalsang, all of them **shouted** 'Tibet'.



So, he **roared** Grrrrrrrrrrr! "No, that sounds more like a Lion!" said Ngawang, and everybody **laughed** Hahaha!

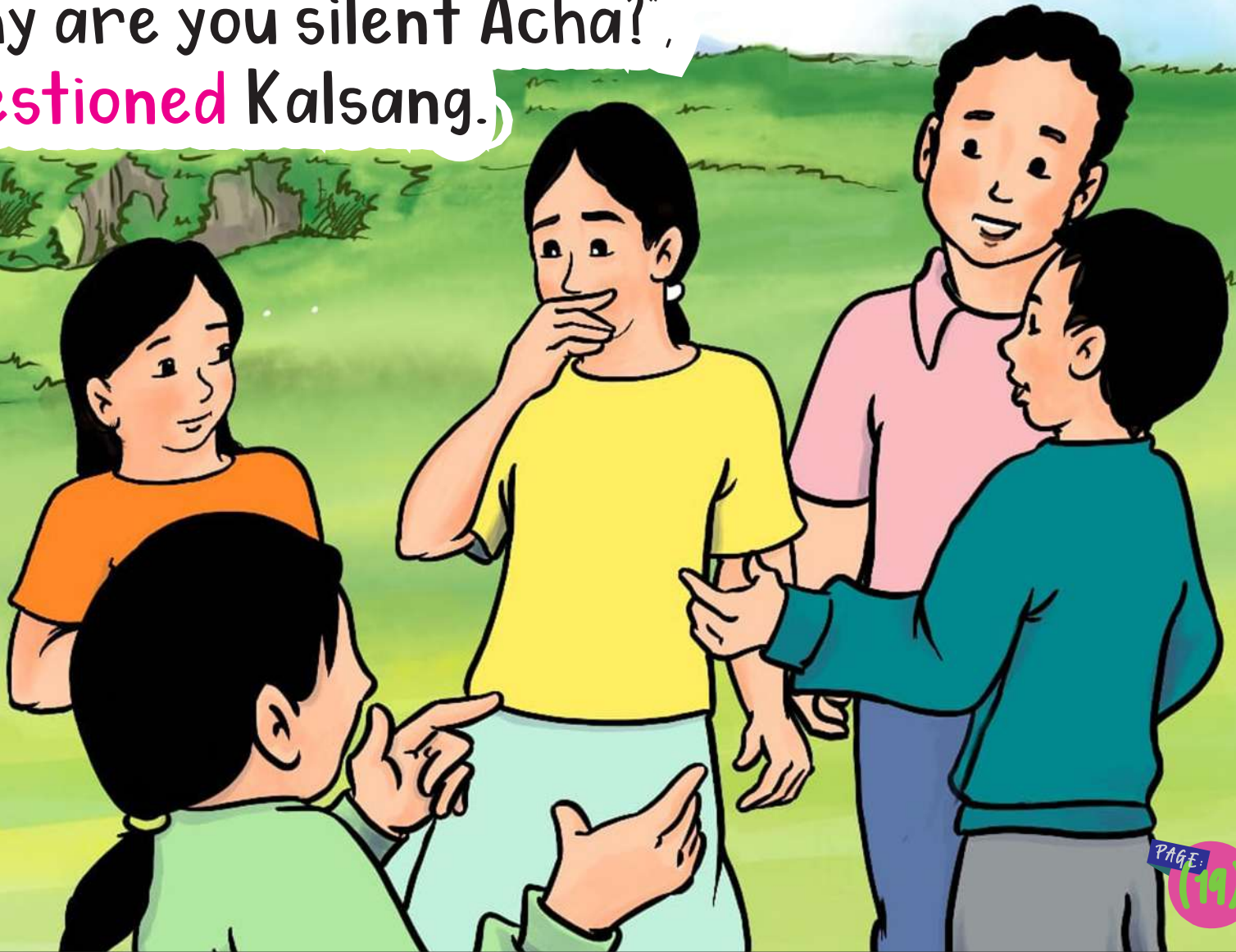




Next, it was Ngawang's turn. Since repeating the name of animal was not **allowed** in the game, she was little upset. Ngawang now **wanted** to confuse her younger sister and cousins.



She **tried** thinking but **remembered** nothing that could confuse her palymates. "Please be quick Ngawang!" **requested** Dechen. "Why are you silent Acha?", **questioned** Kalsang.





"We are all waiting", remarked  
Gyaltzen. "Acha, is there no time  
limit?" asked little Legzom.



Her younger sister and cousins patiently **waited** for her. None of them **complained**.





Ngawang **started** thinking with her eyes **closed**. She could hear her cousins saying, "Ngawang! Ngawang! Be quick! We are getting late!"

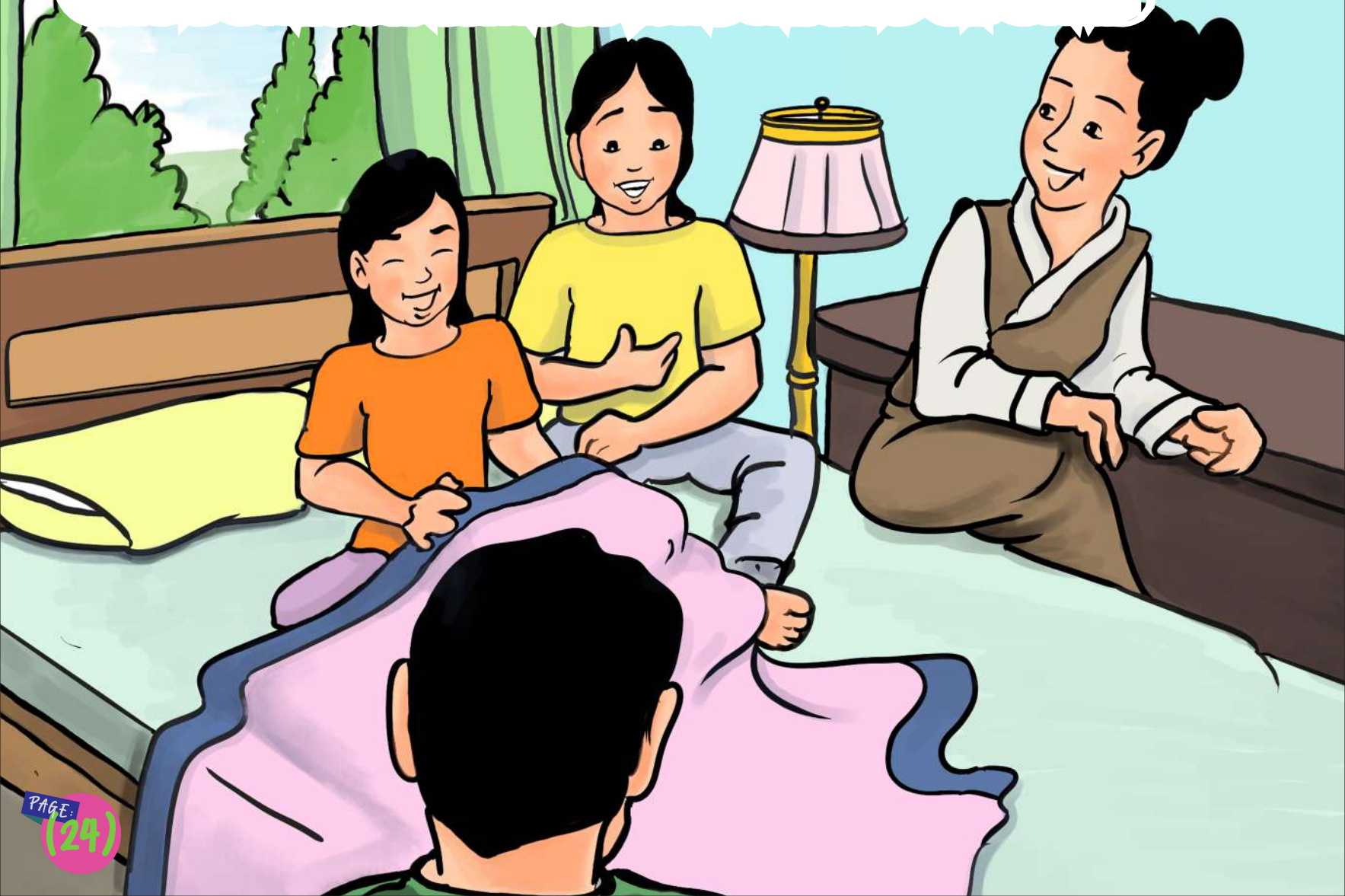


All of a sudden Ngawang **shouted** 'Pika!',  
and **opened** her eyes. She was **surprised**  
to see her mom waking her up.





Her parents and her little sister **laughed** at her. Ngawang also **laughed** with them as she **realised** that it was all her dream.





In her sleep, Ngawang **called** out 'Pika!'.  
Now, if this wasn't a dream, should her  
sister and cousins shout out  
'Tibet!', or not?





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