



You are part of a big family of 800 million people!

Do you know that as a young European today you are part of a big family of 800 million people? You live in a world where you're free to get to know other children and to learn about other languages, other ways of life, other countries and other ideas. But as a European, you also have to learn to love and respect other people and to accept differences.

We hope that with this book you will be able to discover and explore what we do within the Council of Europe in order to help you to protect your rights now and when you grow up!

Find out more at www.coe.int and www.coe.int/socialcharter



Tell me, what is
the **EUROPEAN**
SOCIAL CHARTER?



European
Social
Charter

Charte
Sociale
Européenne



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



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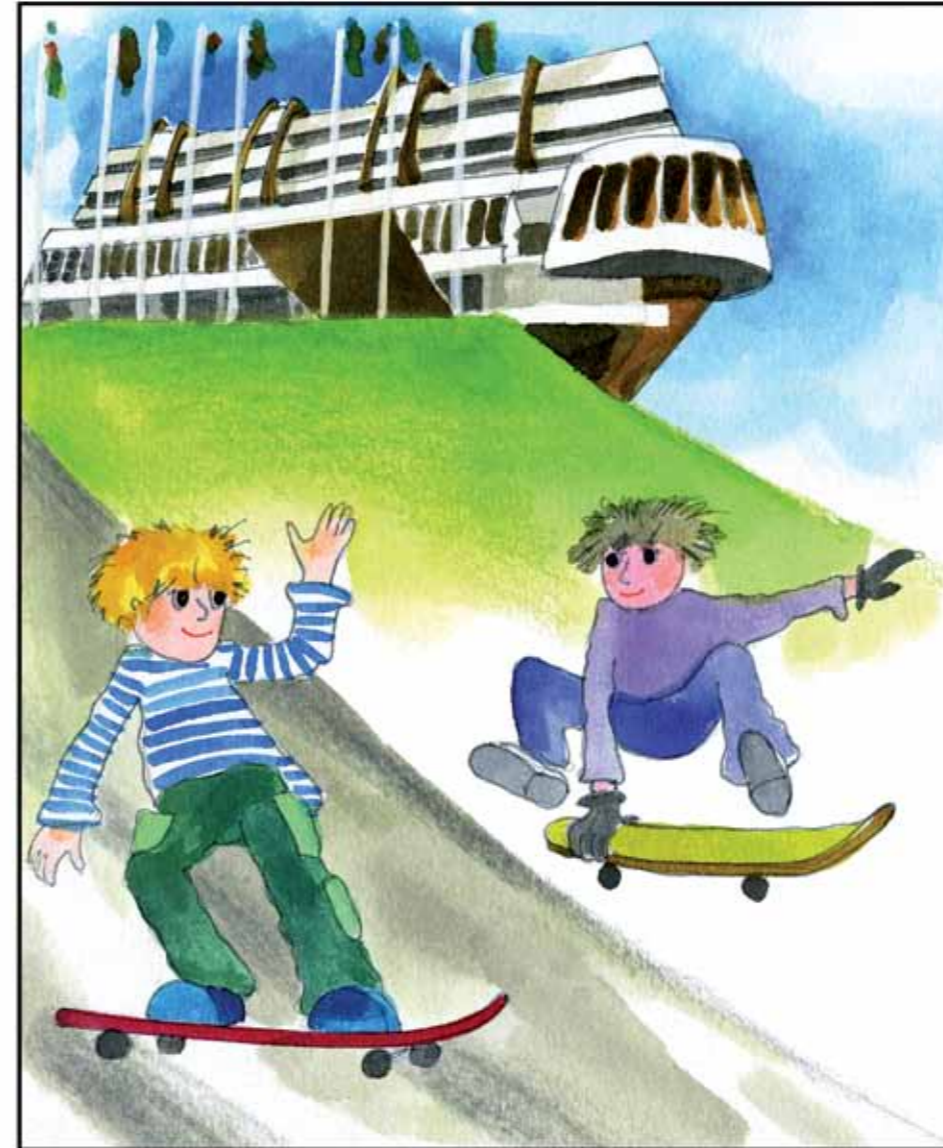


European
Social
Charter

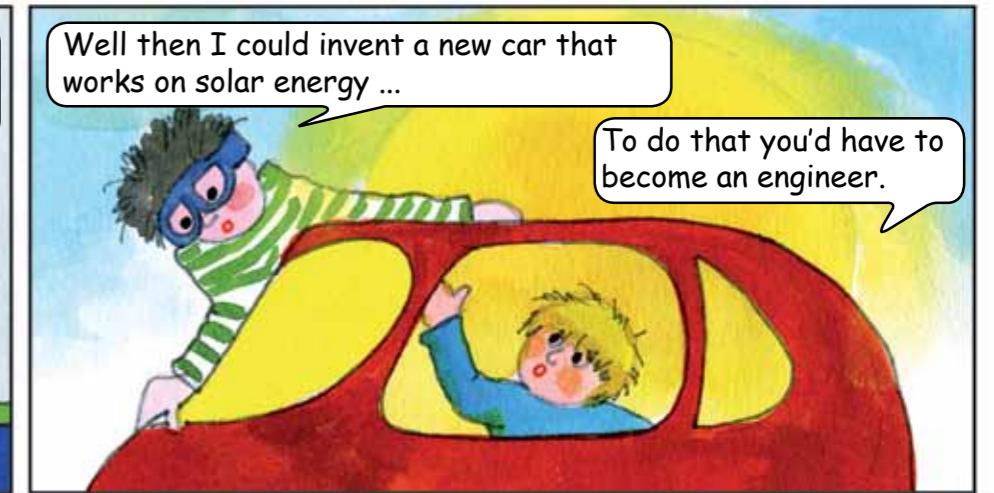
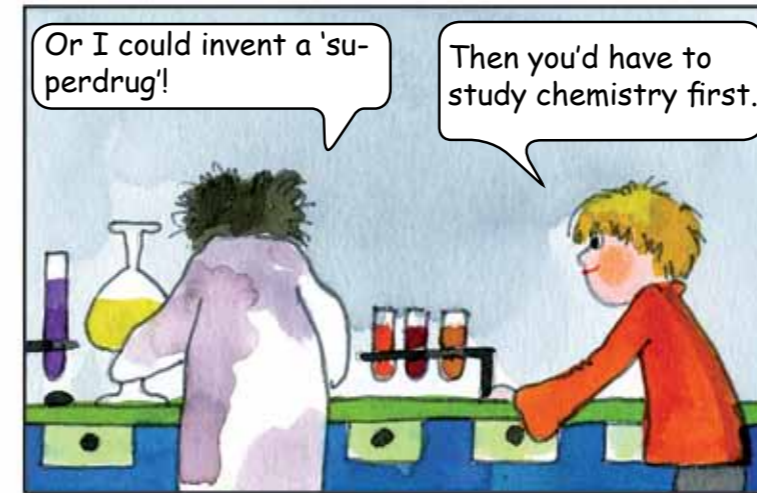
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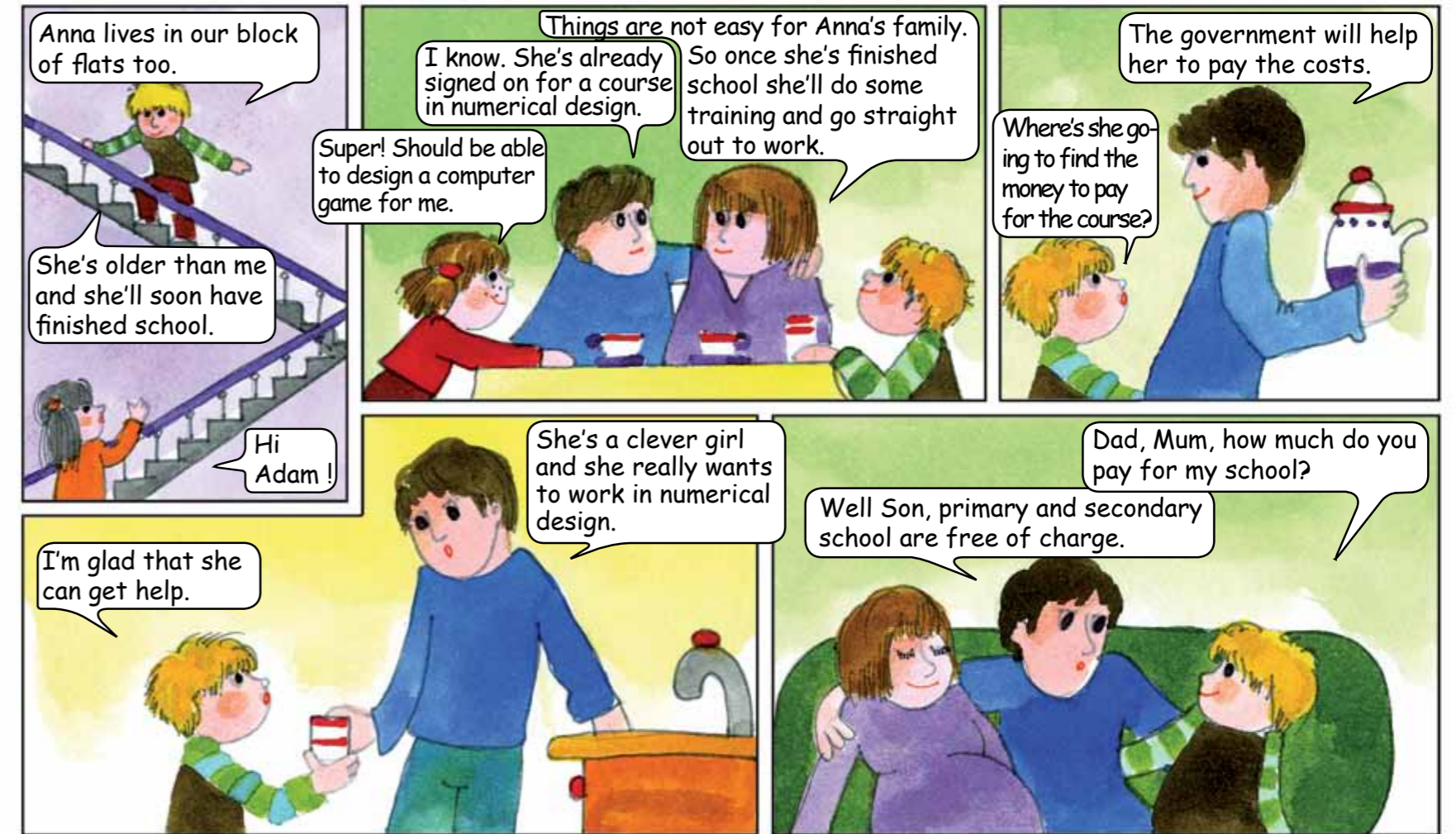
Hi, my name is Adam and I'm ten years old. I live in Europe like you. My father has worked in several countries including France, Turkey and Ukraine. My little sister doesn't like moving all the time but I do because it allows me to make new friends. I'll soon have a second little sister and perhaps I'll teach her to play football. Today one of my French friends told me about the Council of Europe. It is a European organisation based in Strasbourg and it protects human rights. The member States of the Council of Europe have all signed the European Social Charter, which contains rights concerning children. Have you ever heard of it? If not, let me tell you something about it...



Do you know that to get a job you have to go to school first?



Do you know that people with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else and that if they are to take advantage of those rights special measures sometimes have to be taken?



Do you know that if you want to go to school but you don't have enough money you can get help?



If you don't know what you want to do when you grow up, there are people who can help you decide.



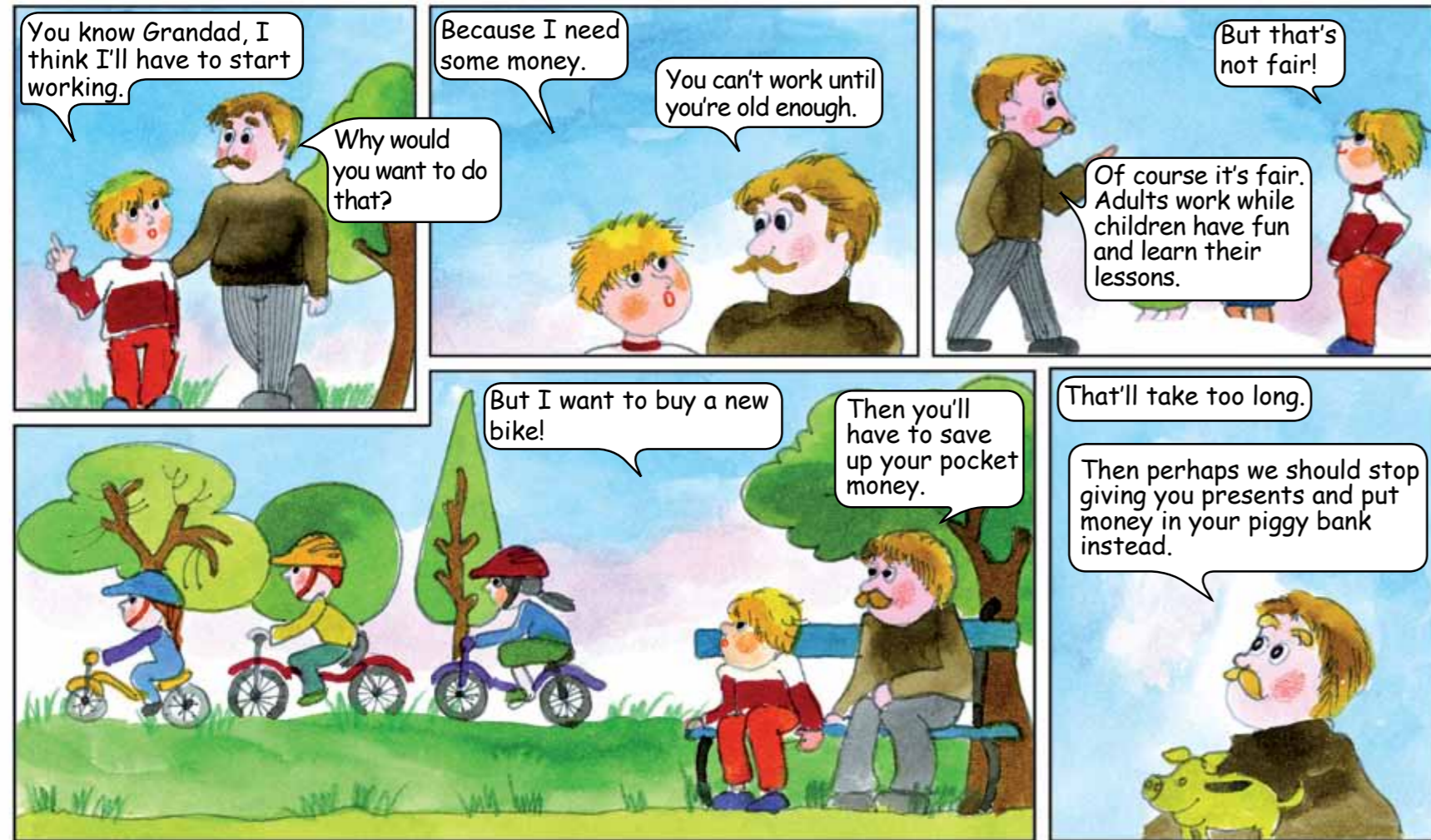
Do you know that nobody can force you either to work or to beg?



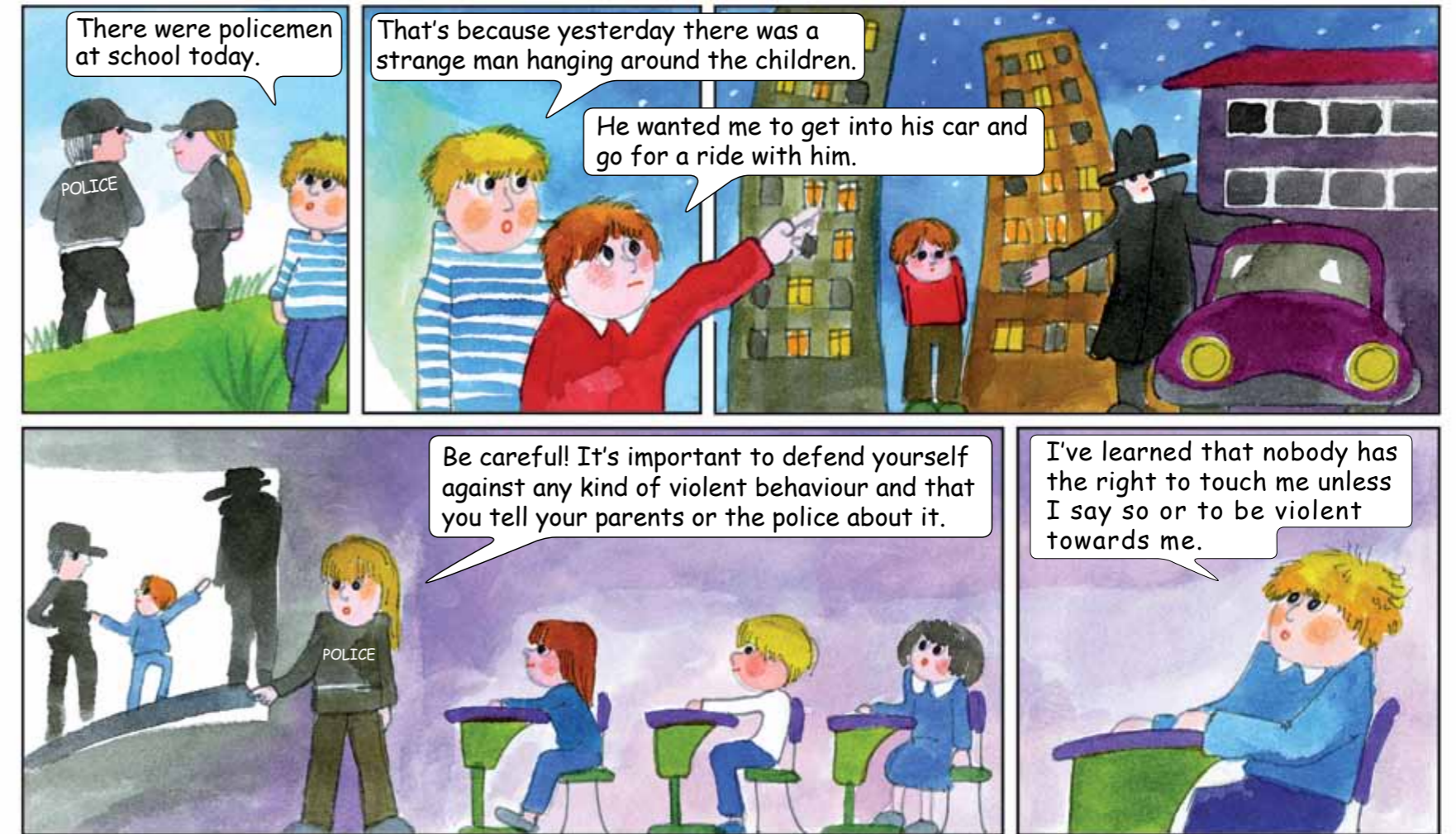
**Do you know that if you don't have a family, you have the right to assistance?
You can't be left to live on the streets.**



Do you know that everyone has the right to housing and that those who don't have anywhere to live can ask the State to help them?



Do you know that you don't have the right to work as long as you are a child?



Do you know that if someone hurts you, even in your family or at school, you don't need to be ashamed? You should talk about it.



Do you know that the State has a duty to protect your health?



Do you know that you have to learn how to stay healthy your whole life long?



Do you know that your family has the right to protection?



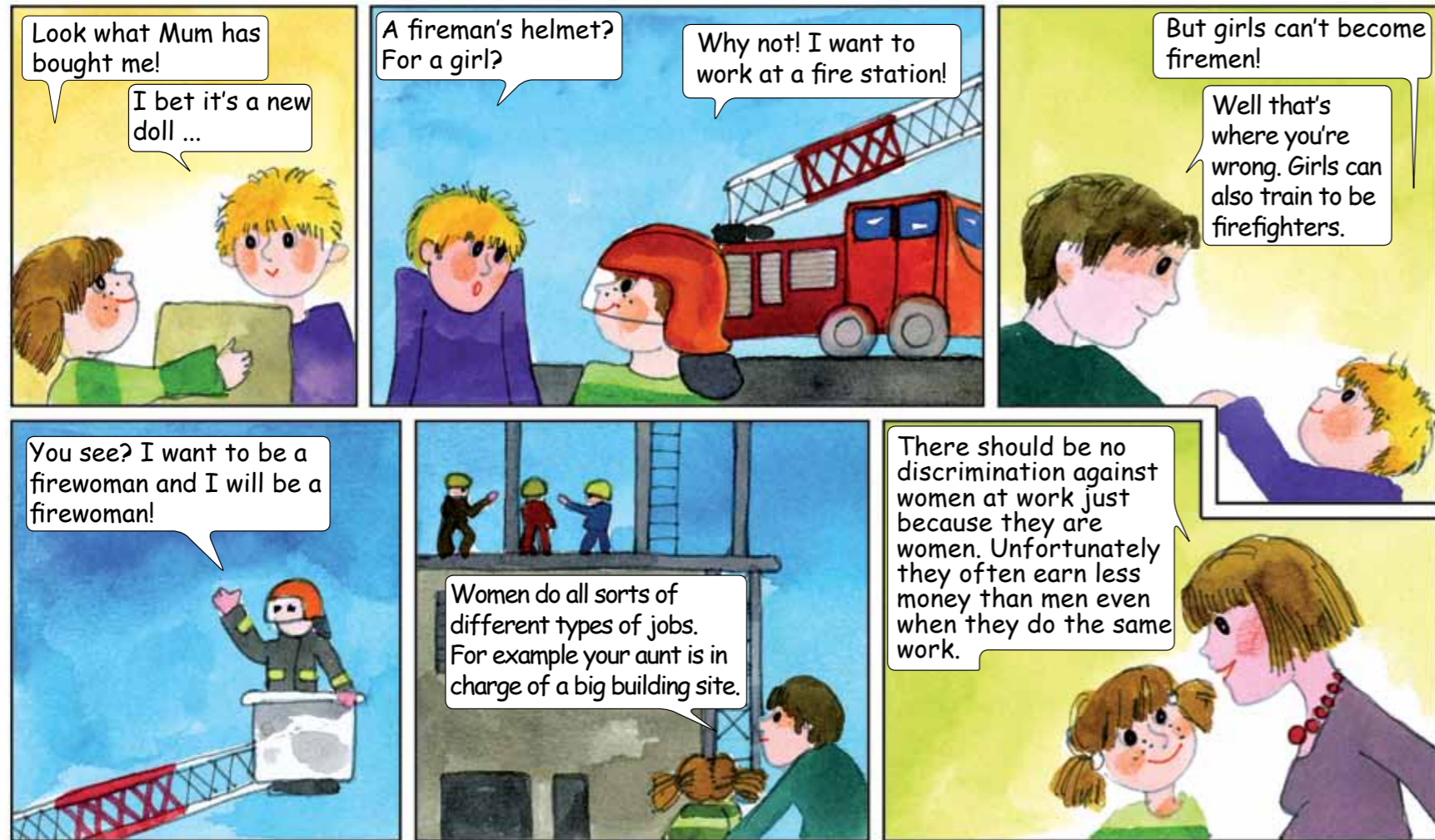
Do you know that every adult has the right to a job where they feel safe and are well treated, and where they earn enough to feed their family?



Do you know that anyone who loses his employment has the right to protection?



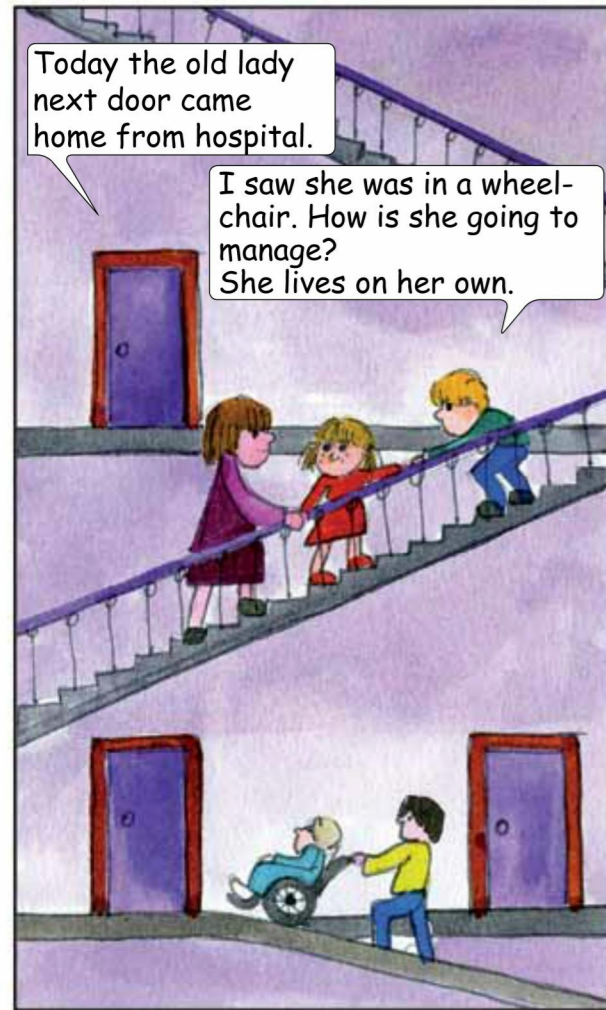
Do you know that people who have an accident or are ill are helped by Social Security?



Do you know that there should be no discrimination against women, in other words they should not be treated differently from men?



Do you know that the law protects women who are going to have a baby?



Today the old lady next door came home from hospital.

I saw she was in a wheelchair. How is she going to manage? She lives on her own.

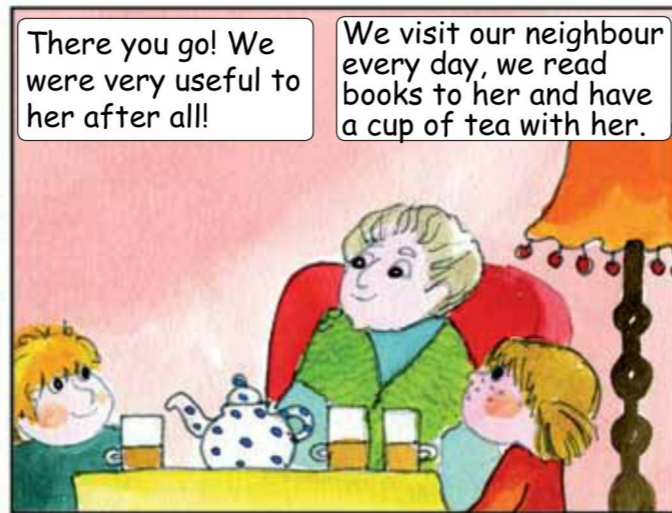


Don't worry. Somebody from social services will come to see her every day. They'll cook for her and do her shopping.

Perhaps we could help her too?



Then offer your help!



There you go! We were very useful to her after all!

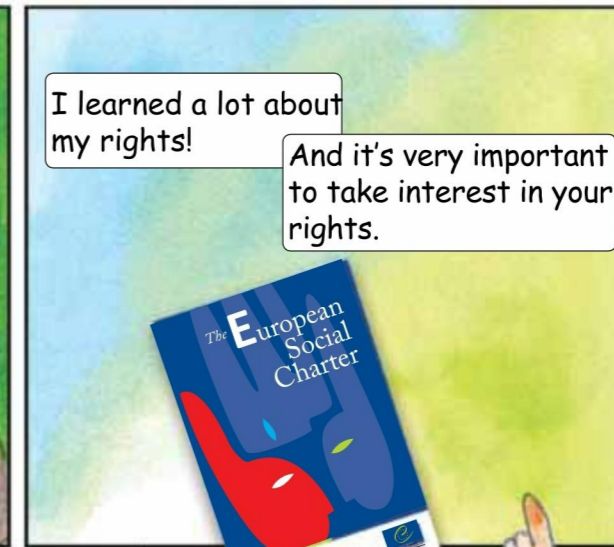
We visit our neighbour every day, we read books to her and have a cup of tea with her.

Do you know that elderly people have the right to protection?



Mum! What's that?

It's the European Social Charter. One of your friends told you about it.



I learned a lot about my rights!

And it's very important to take interest in your rights.



Of course! And what's more, it can be useful to me every day!

When you're older, you should read it all.



The European Social Charter is a set of rights which concerns both adults and children. It is important that we know our rights. I really think you should read this book! Bye for now!

The rights presented in this book refer to certain Articles of the European Social Charter

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