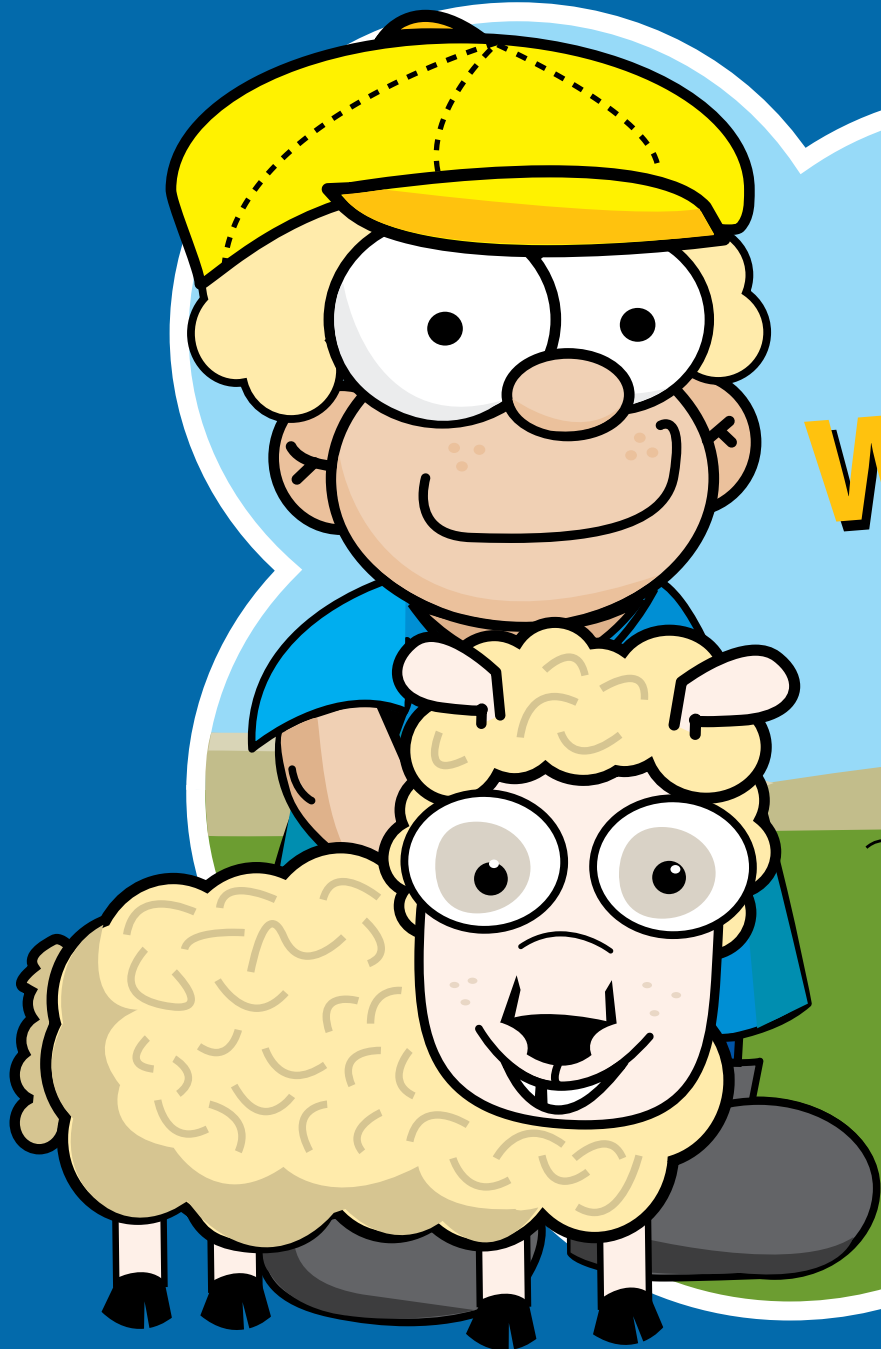


Timothy and Wobbly the woolly sheep



by Dubravka Vukic-Presland



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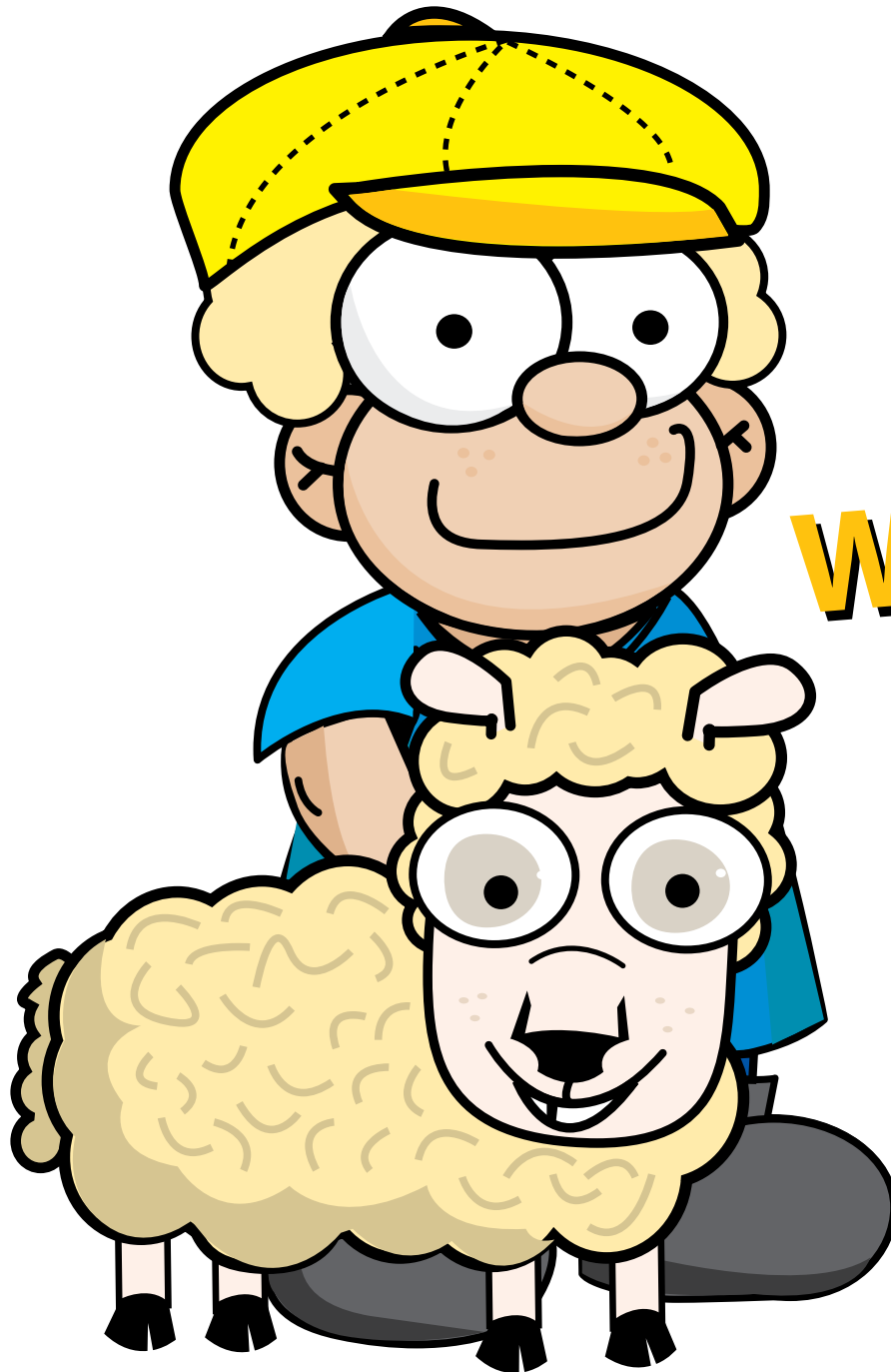
Words by Dubravka Vukic-Presland

Illustrations by Nicole Edwards

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ISBN 978 0 7347 1849 5

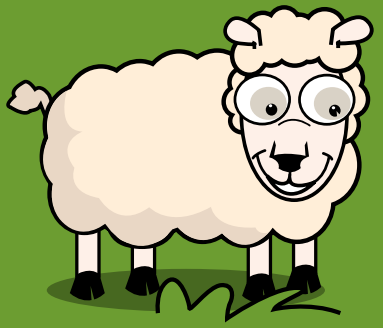
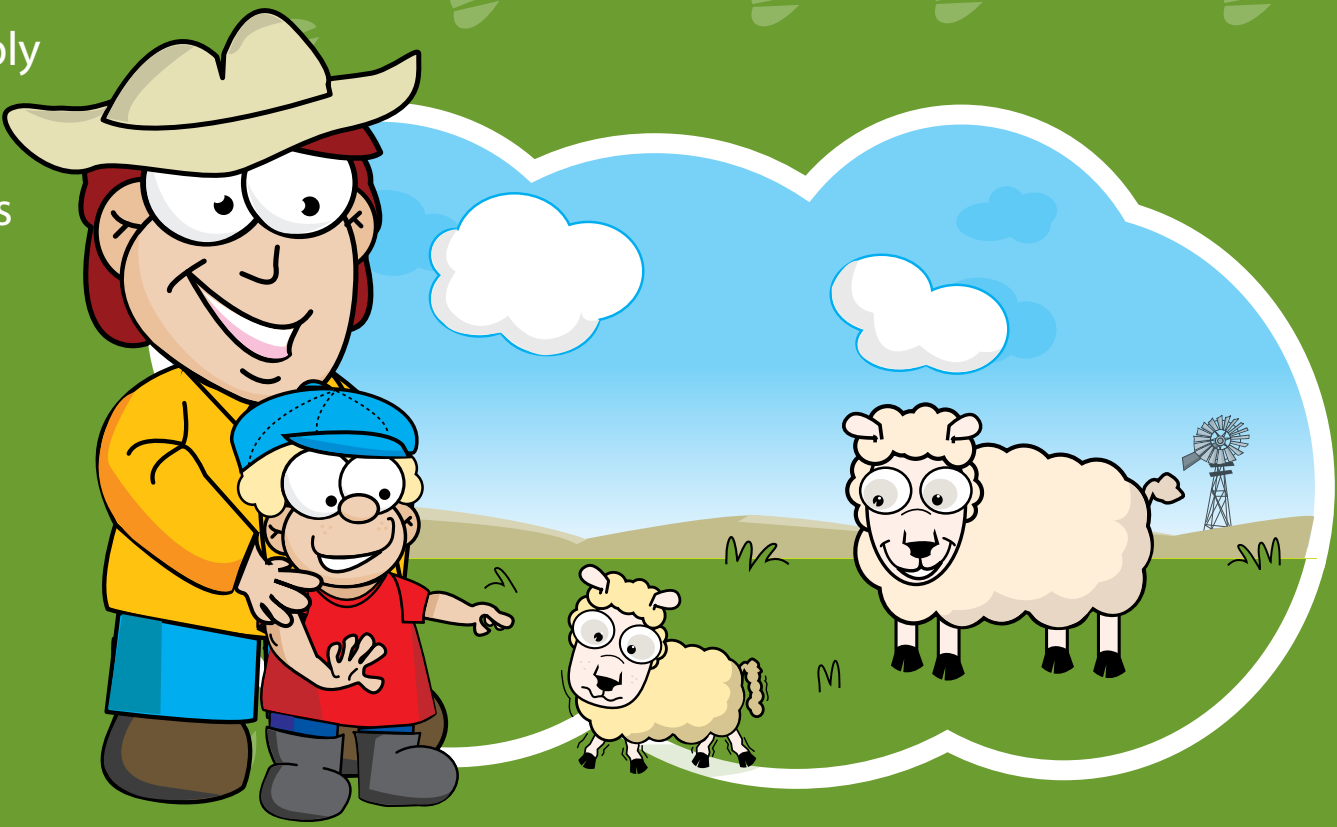
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Timothy and Wobbly the woolly sheep

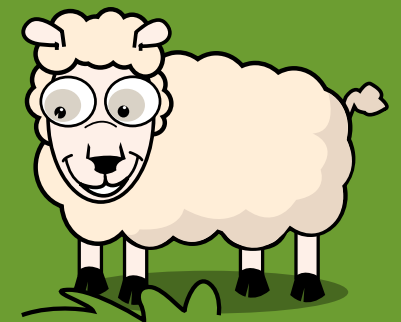
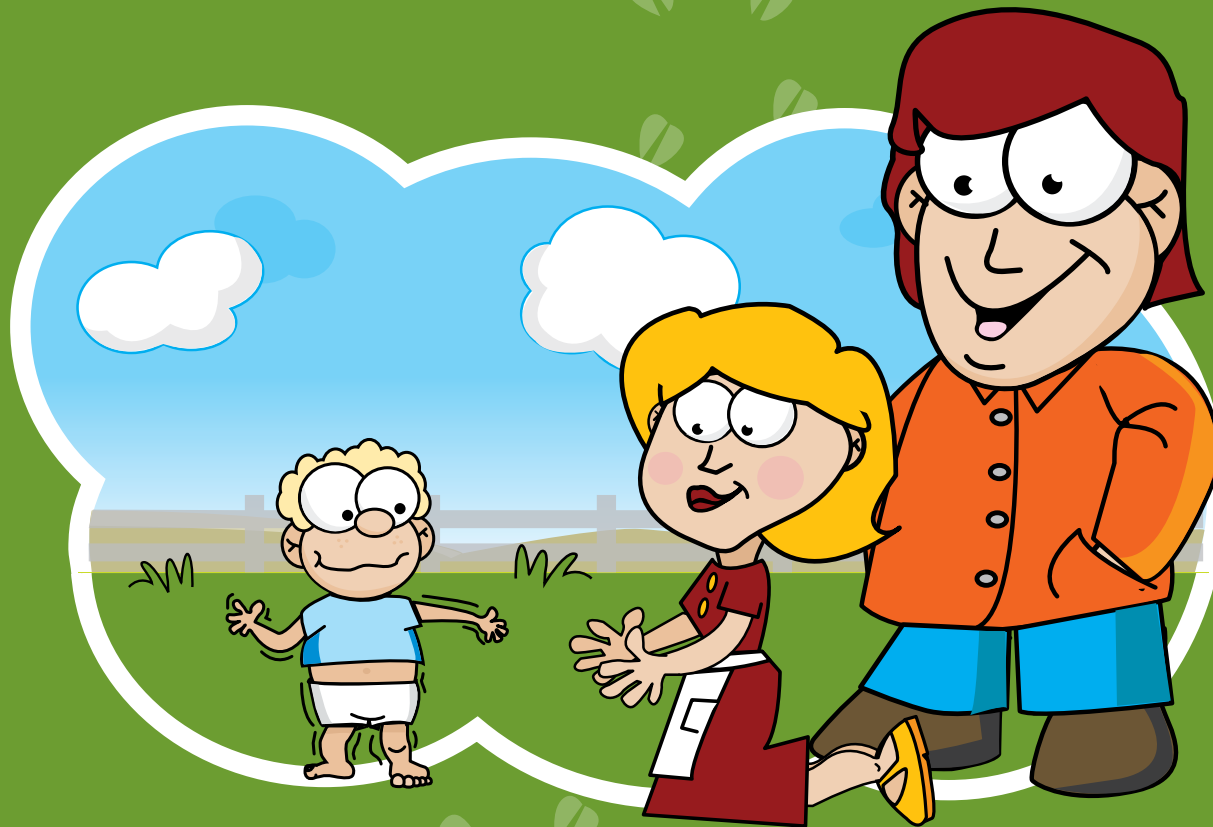
By Dubravka Vukic-Presland

Timothy was there to watch Wobbly the woolly sheep take his very first steps. Can you imagine? It was such a surprise. Timothy didn't know lambs could walk just after they were born.

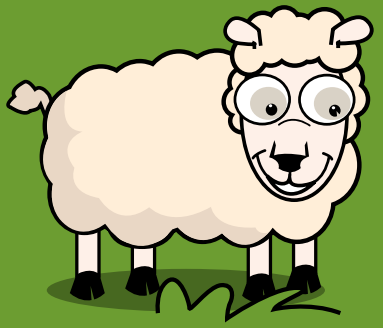
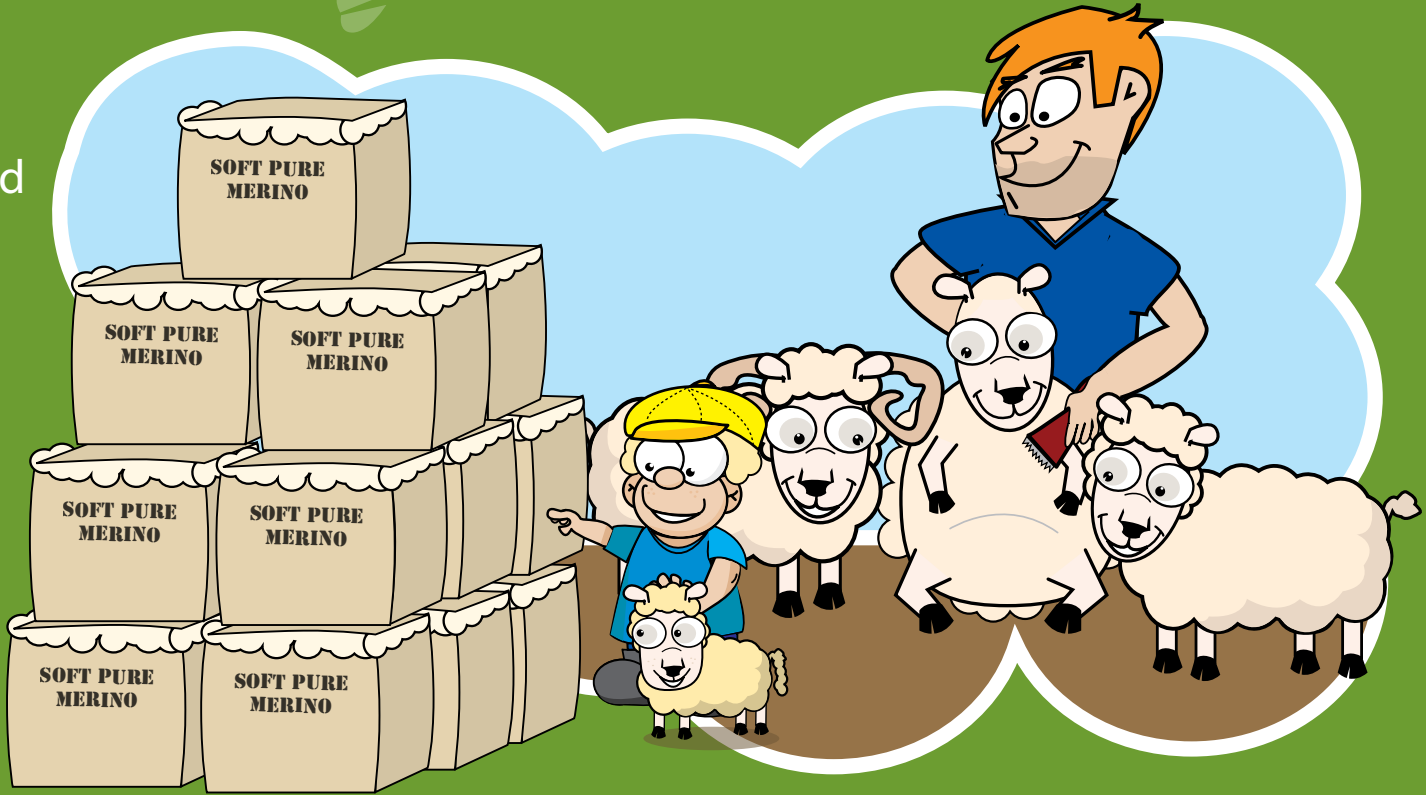


Did you know lambs could walk just after they were born?

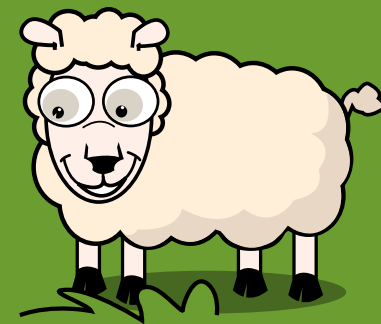
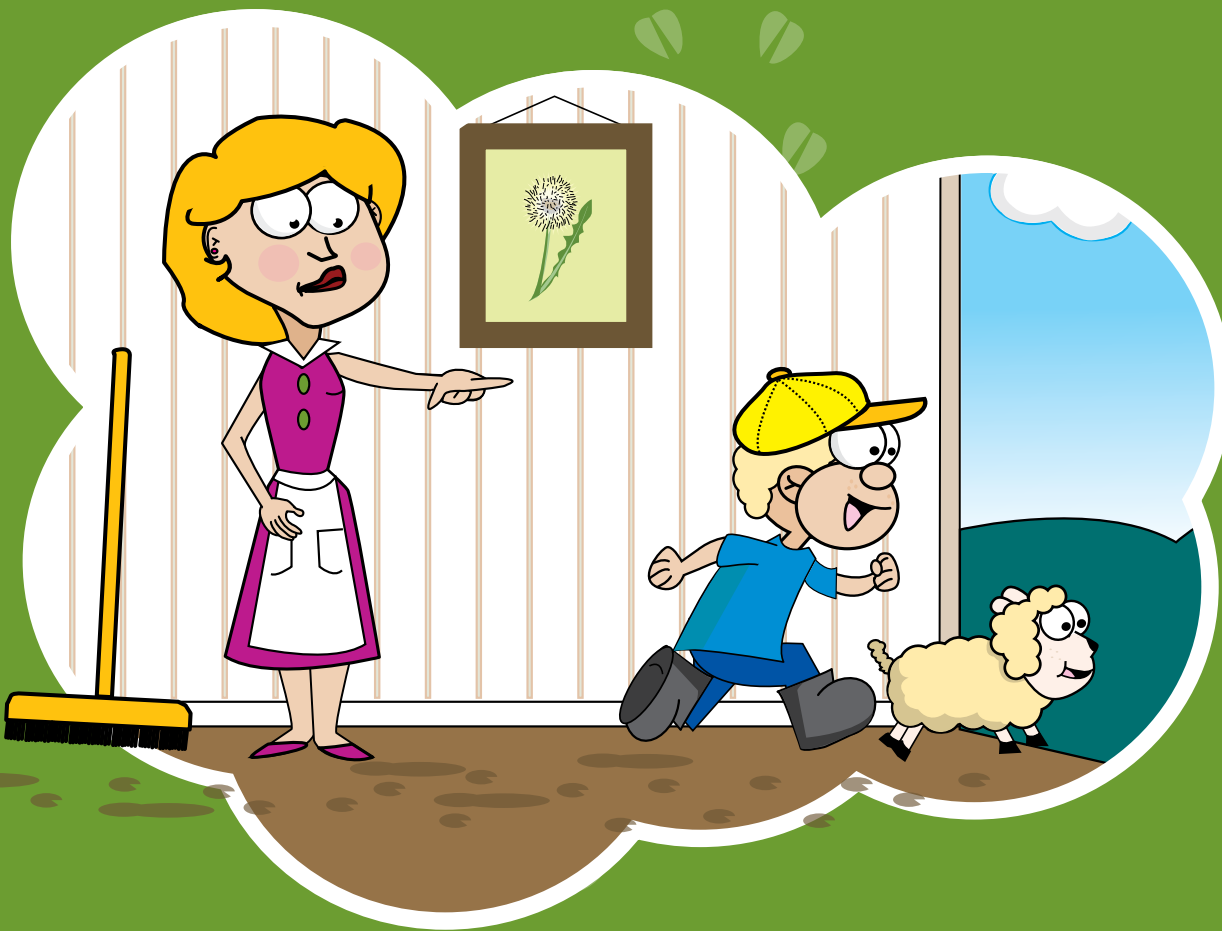
When Timothy yelled, 'Look dad, he's all Wobbly!', they realised it was the perfect name. His mother said Timothy looked just as wobbly when he first started walking.



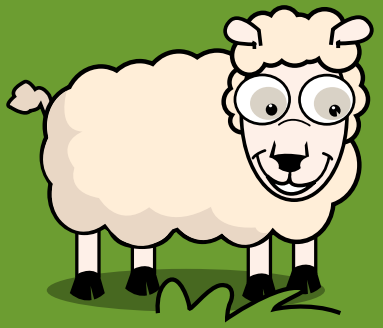
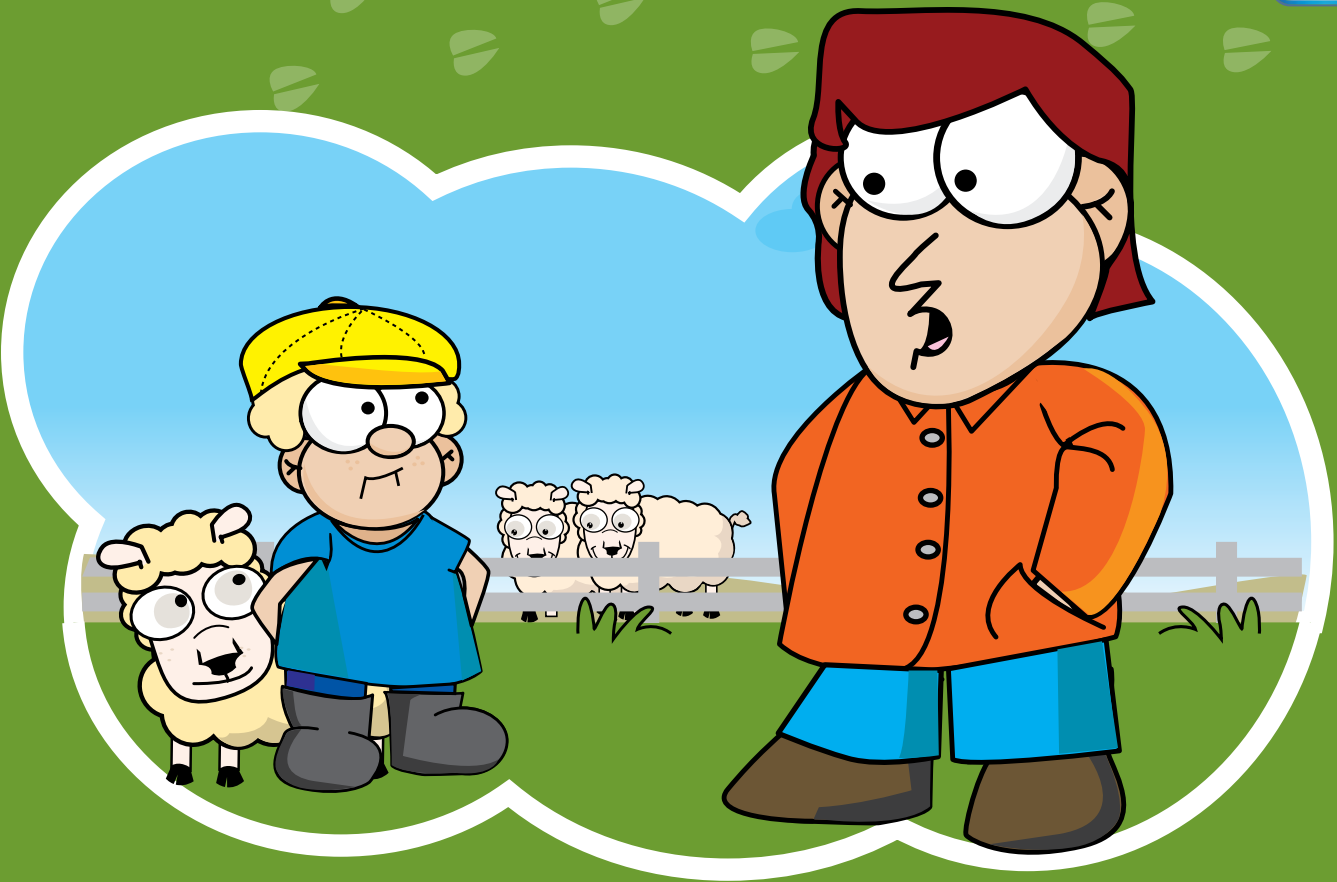
As Wobbly grew stronger, he and Timothy would check on the shearers and the sheep, and sometimes try to count how many bales had been packed. But they never could count them all!



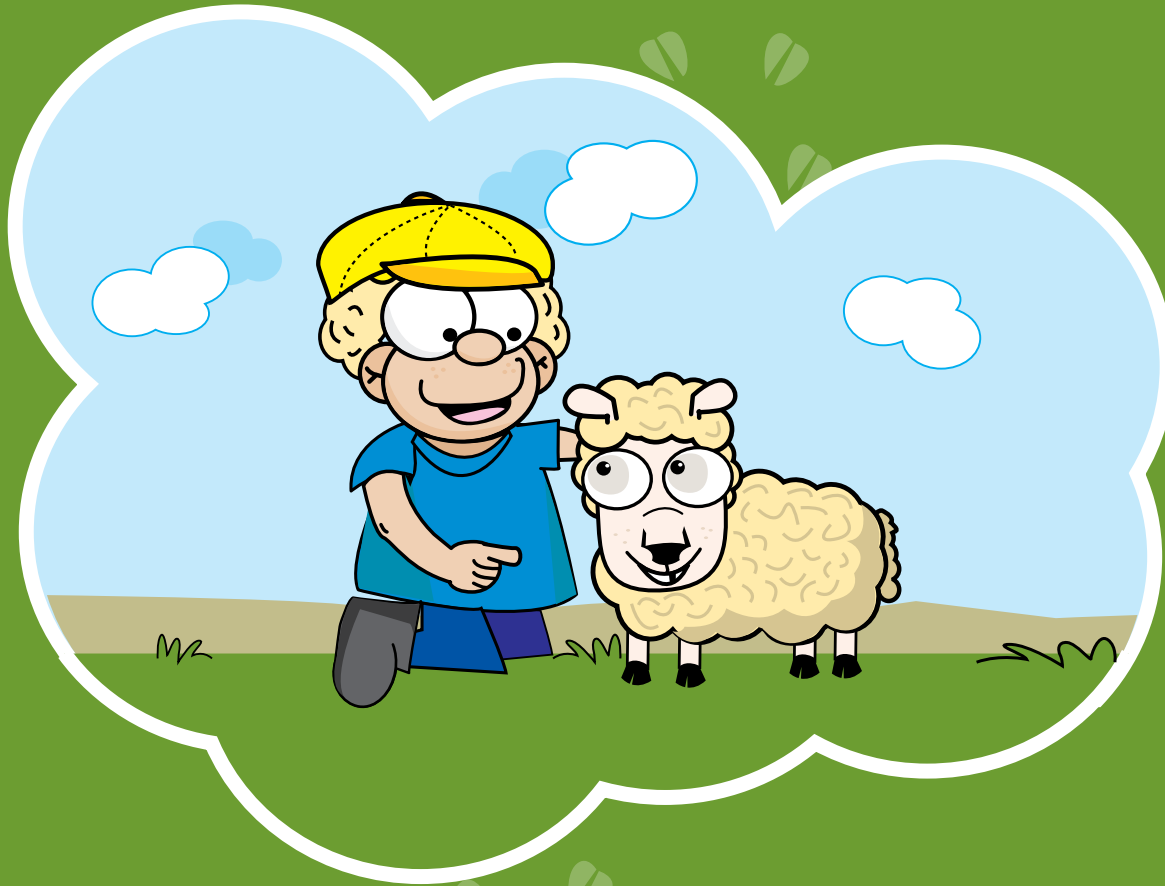
Sneaking Wobbly in and out of the house became a secret mission. They called it hide and sneak. Of course sometimes Timothy and Wobbly left a few muddy clues and mum would be furious. 'Take that woolly dirt collector out before I sell both of you,' she said.



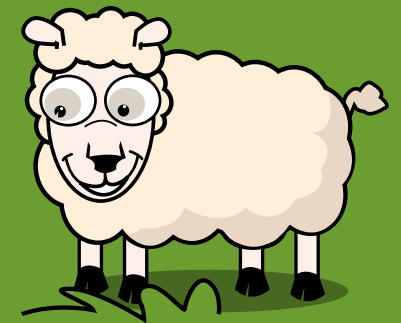
'His name is Wobbly,' Timothy would answer with a determined pout, 'all my other friends are allowed to visit.' But dad's reply was always the same, 'little boys and little sheep are very different creatures and have nothing in common.'



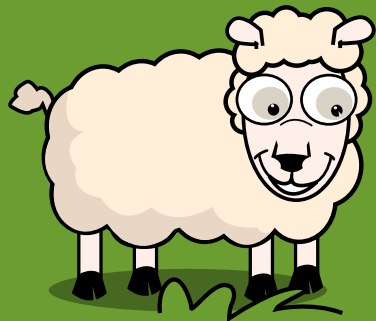
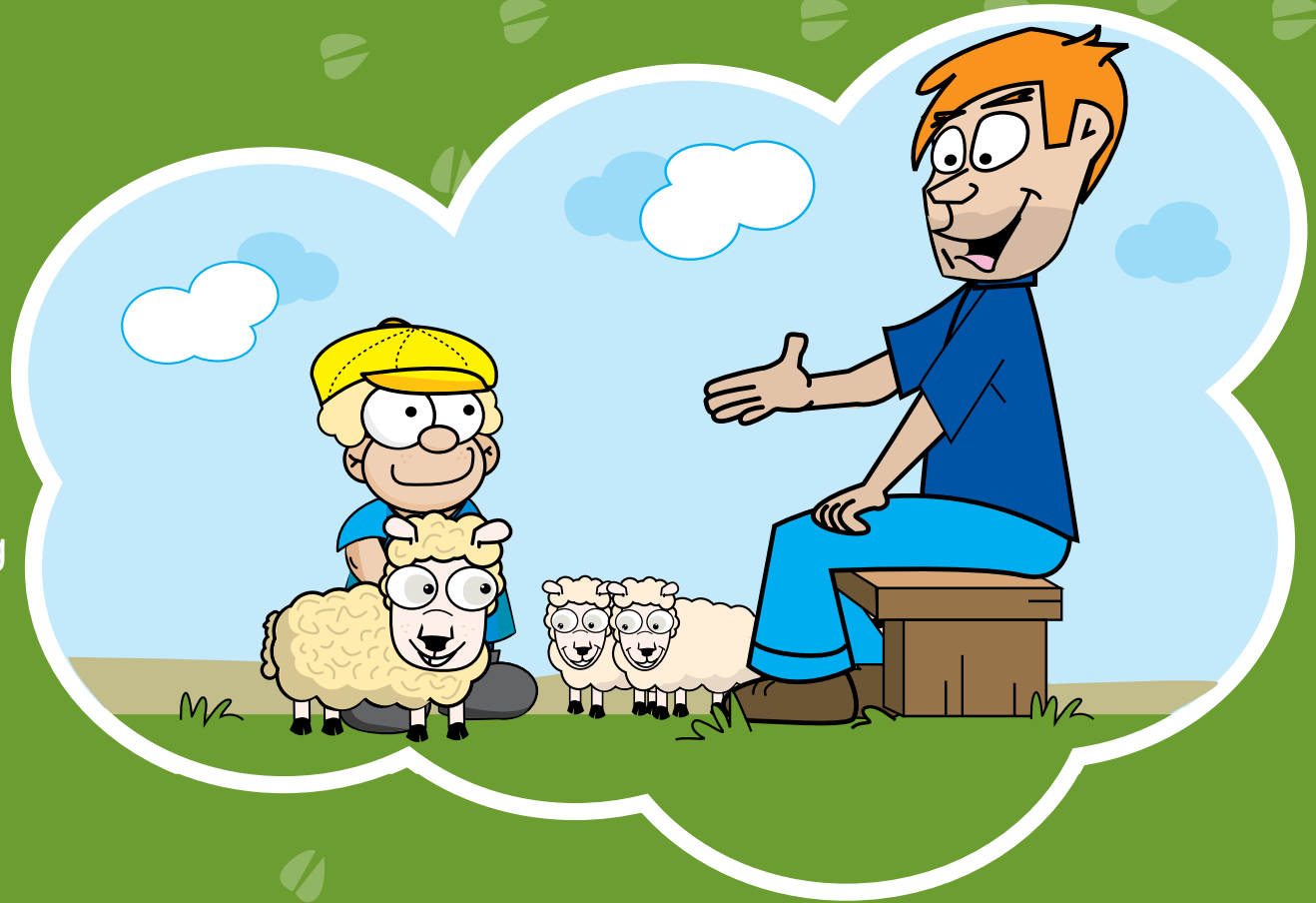
Lately, Timothy had noticed that Wobbly was changing. His woolly coat was getting longer and that morning, Timothy saw Wobbly was missing a tooth. Sam the shearer said not to worry because Wobbly would get a new one. Worse still, he said the same thing would happen to Timothy.



Did you know sheep lose their baby teeth just like we do?

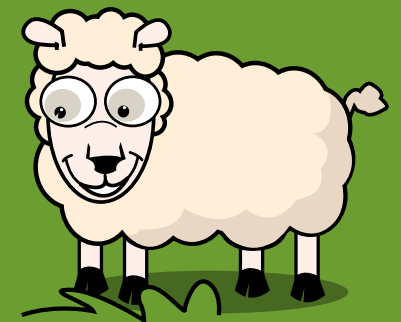
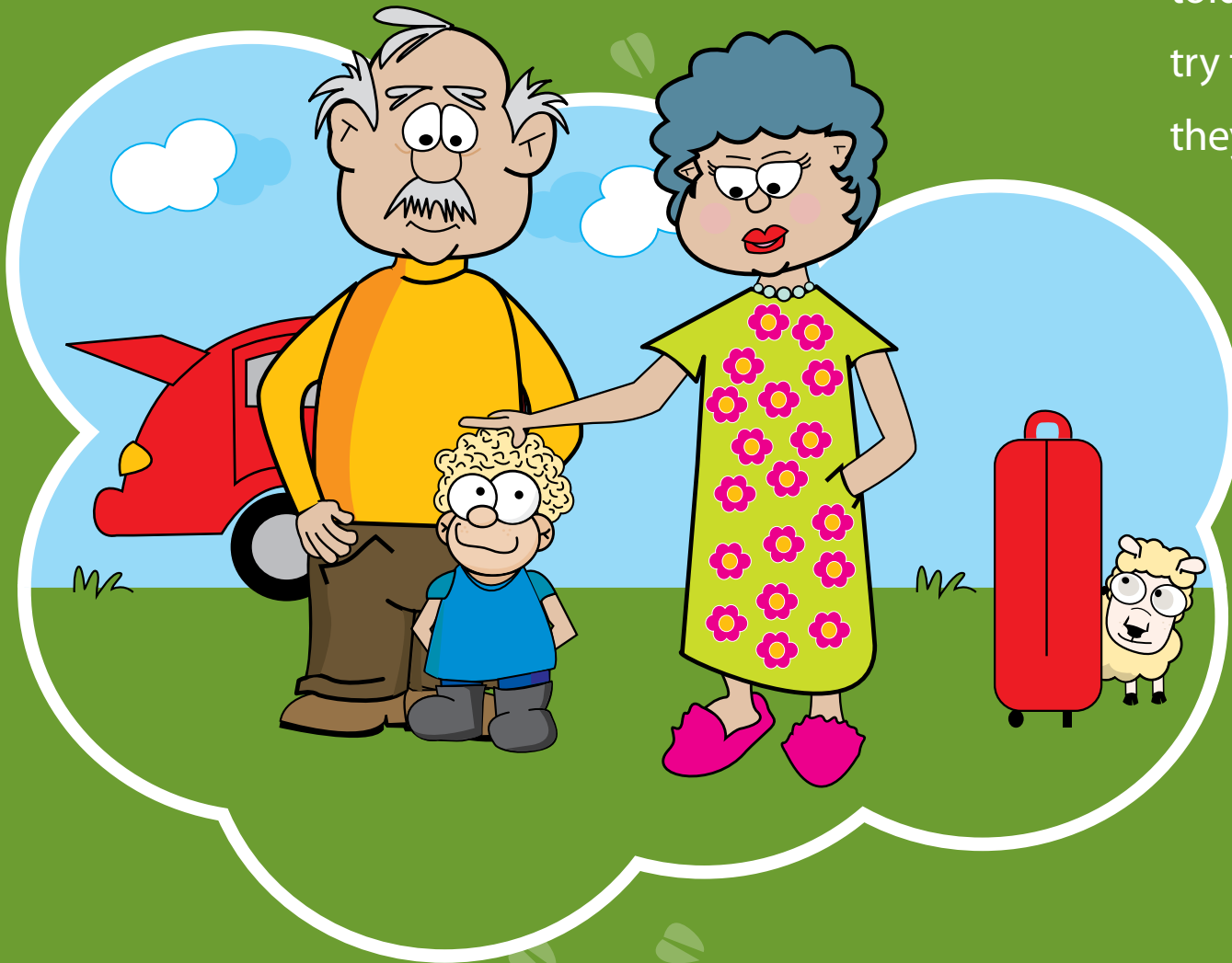


Sam the shearer also said it wouldn't be long before Wobbly would need his new woolly coat shorn. He said a sheep's wool was just like our hair and needed cutting like ours did. Timothy hated getting haircuts and was already feeling sorry for Wobbly.

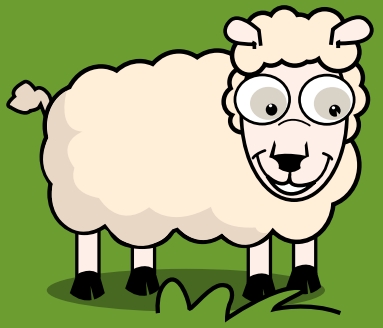


*Who likes getting their hair cut?
Why do you think sheep need to
have their woolly coats shorn?*

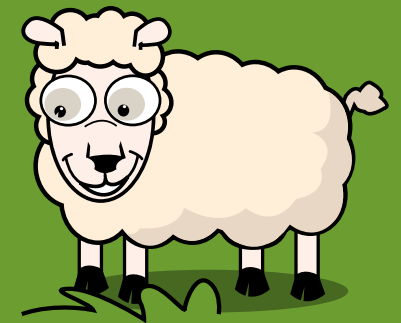
Timothy's grandparents were visiting for a whole week. He was told to brush his hair and teeth, and try to stay clean and polite. When they arrived, not only did he get the usual big squeezey, pinchy bear hug but they went on and on about how much he'd grown and changed.



Then they got their fingers caught in his thick curly hair, 'Ouch!' When someone mentioned a haircut, Timothy's mother complained she often wasn't sure which one was the woolly sheep, Timothy or Wobbly. Timothy smiled bigger and brighter than the sun. He liked the idea of being like Wobbly. His mother did not.

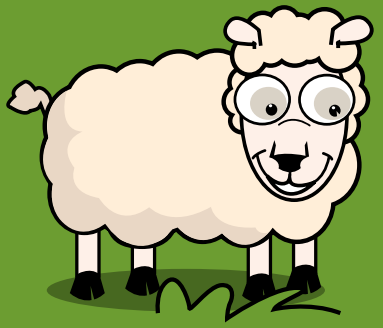


Timothy went straight to a mirror to see for himself how much he had changed, but he didn't think he looked any different from yesterday. One of his teeth felt strangely sore but when he looked at his hair, he was very pleased with his thick messy look. He couldn't understand why he or Wobbly needed a haircut.

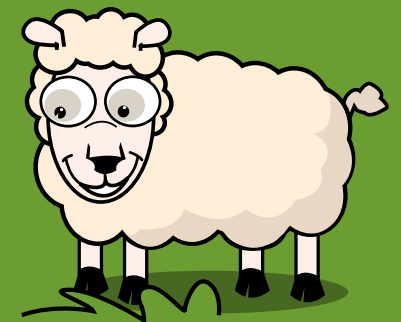
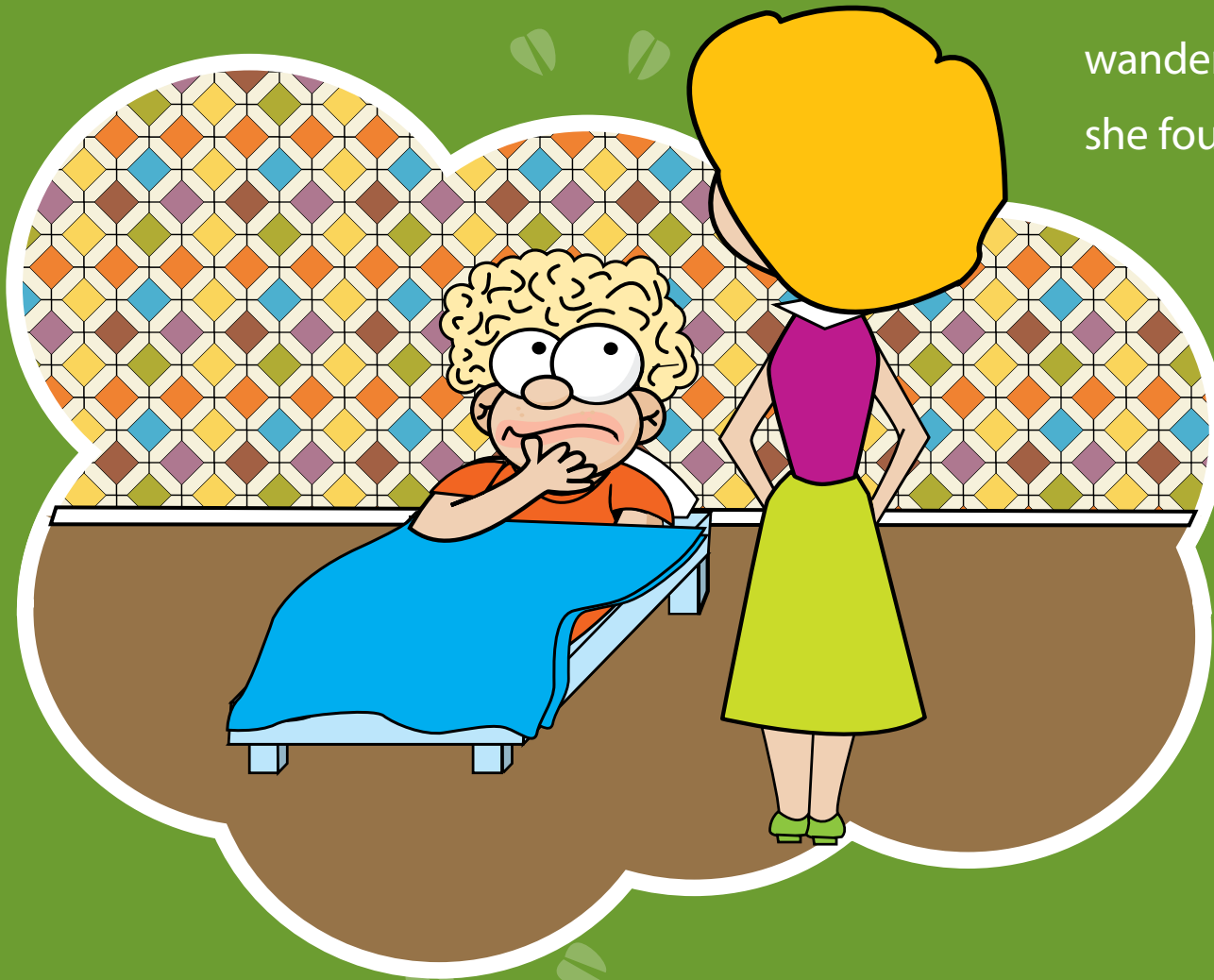


The next morning Timothy yelled out, 'Mum, it's wobbly!'. His mother was not impressed. 'Get that thing out right now,' she shouted back. 'But mum, it'll hurt.' 'Don't make me come in there and get it out myself...'

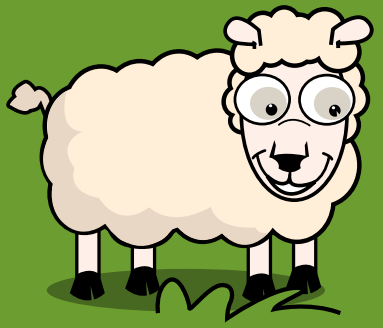
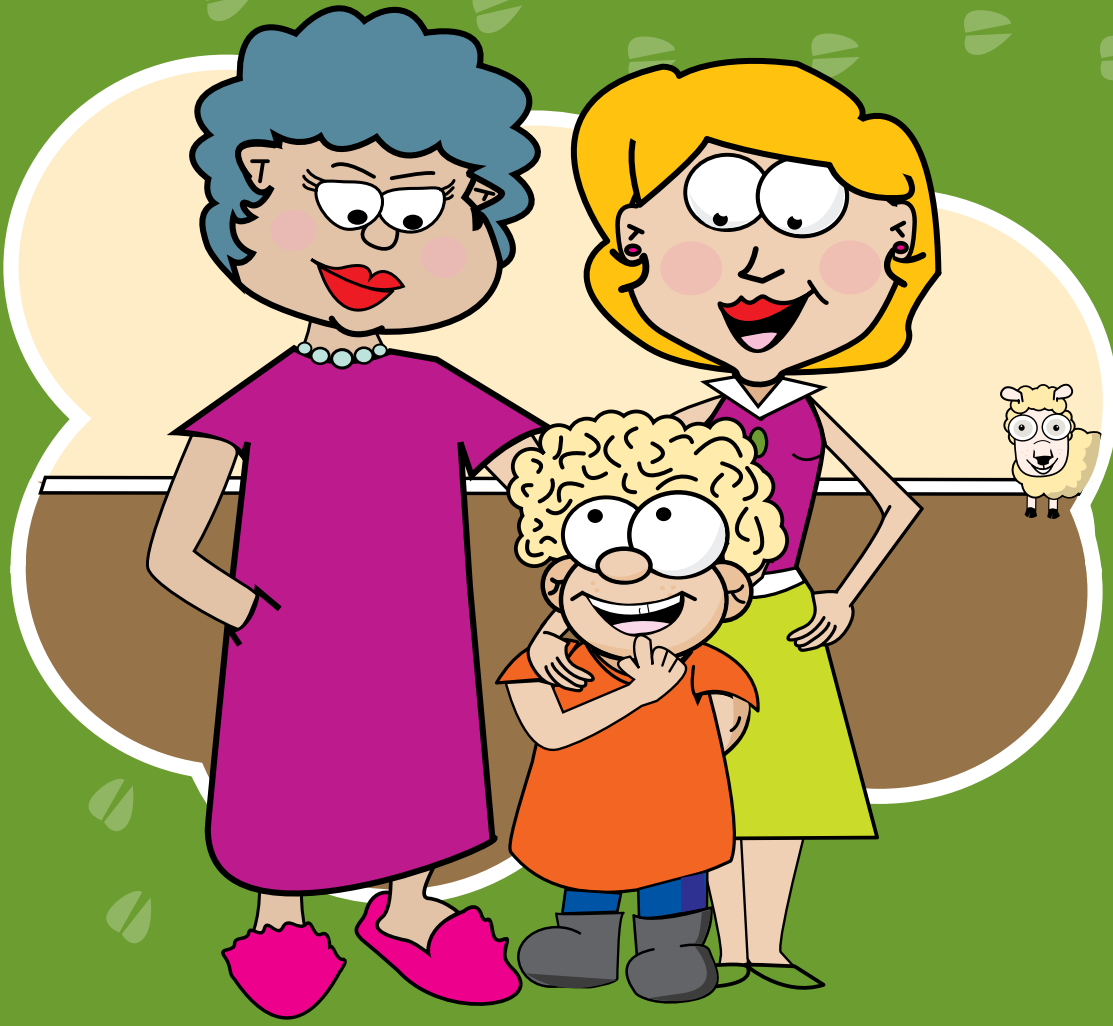
Timothy's mother was a do-it-yourself kind of mum. She always cut his hair, would she try to be a dentist too?

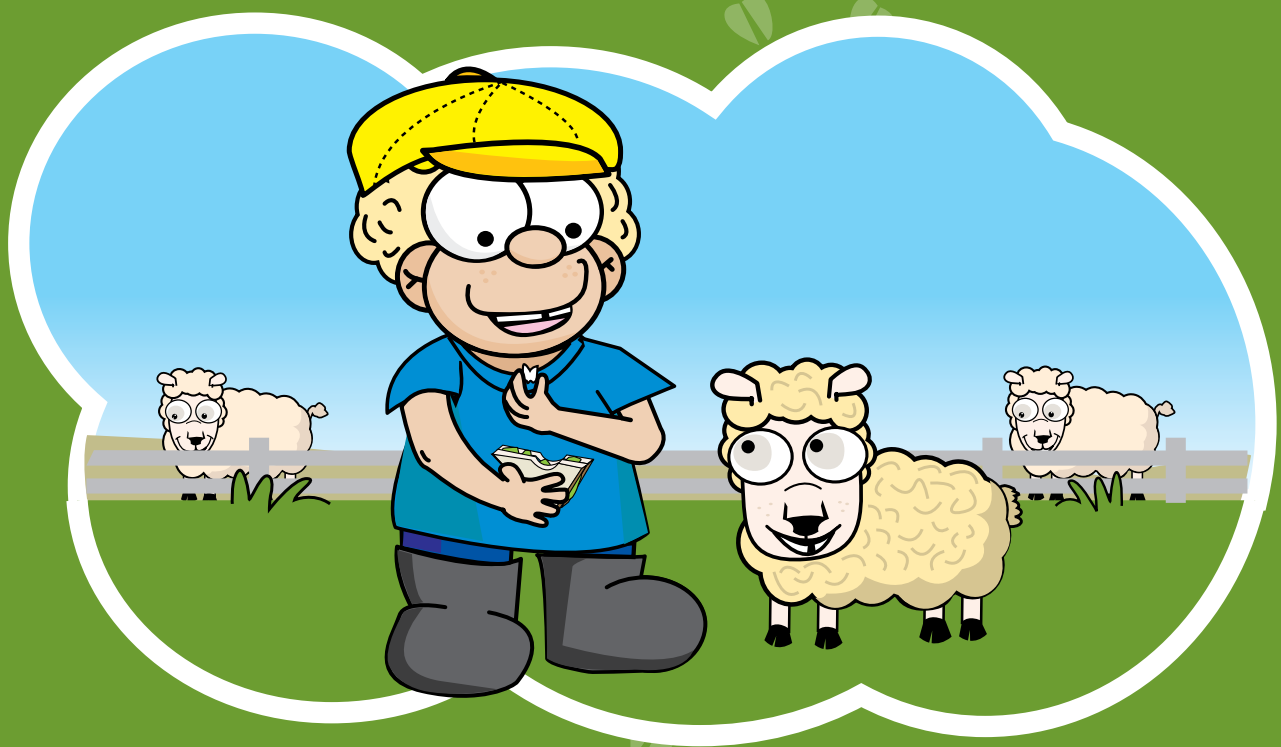


As Timothy's mother stormed into his bedroom, thinking Wobbly the woolly sheep had somehow wandered into the house again, all she found was a terrified Timothy.



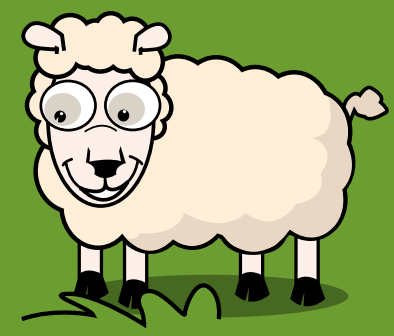
Soon everyone was laughing at the wobbly misunderstanding. Timothy's mother reassured him that his tooth would fall out all by itself, just like Wobbly's had, and that he would eventually get a new permanent tooth, just like Wobbly would.



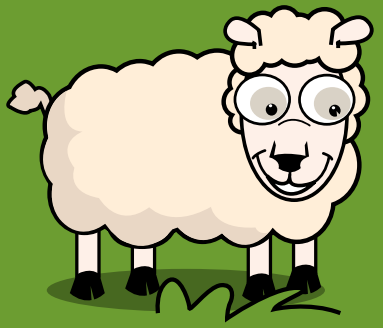
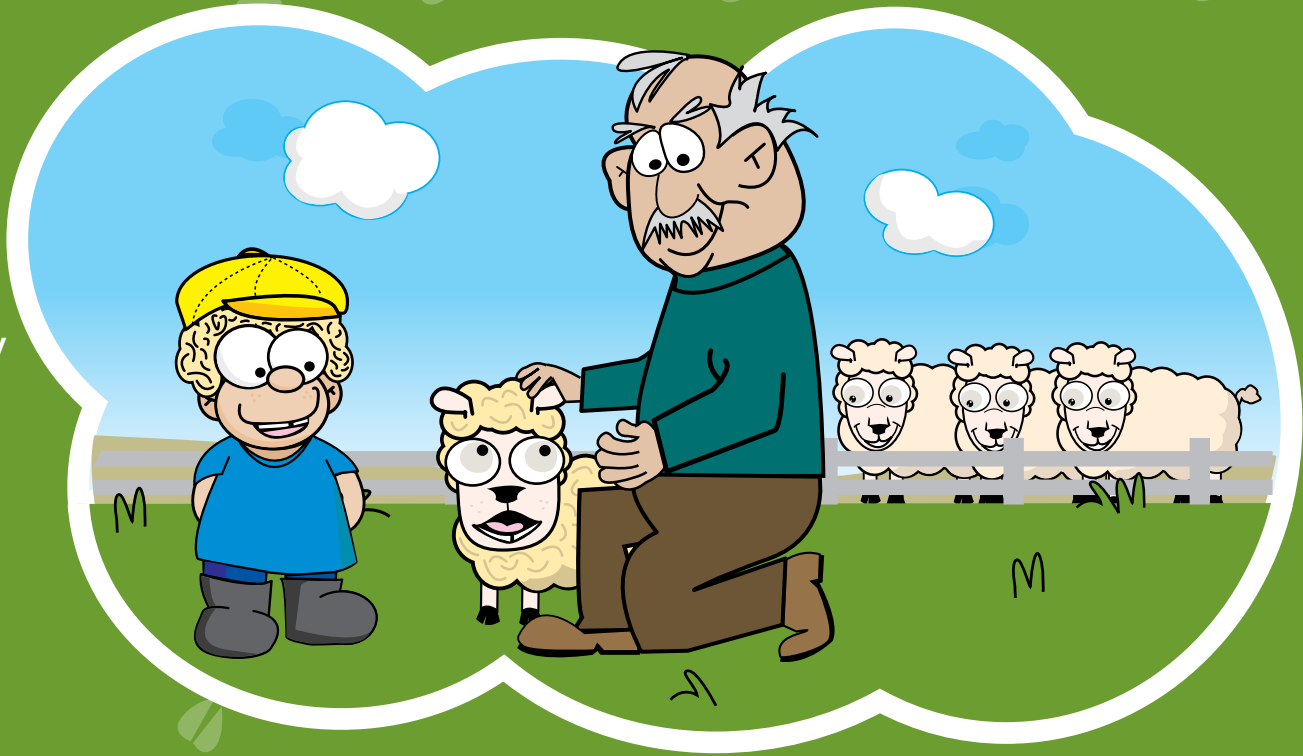


Two days later, Timothy felt something small and stony moving around his mouth. With careful fingers, he searched around the sticky mush of his soggy sandwich until he found it. 'Look everyone, my wobbly tooth! Now I really am like Wobbly!', Timothy said. 'Mmm,' his mother said.

Who has lost a tooth like Wobbly and Timothy? How did it happen?

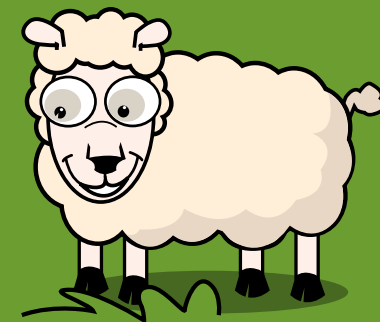
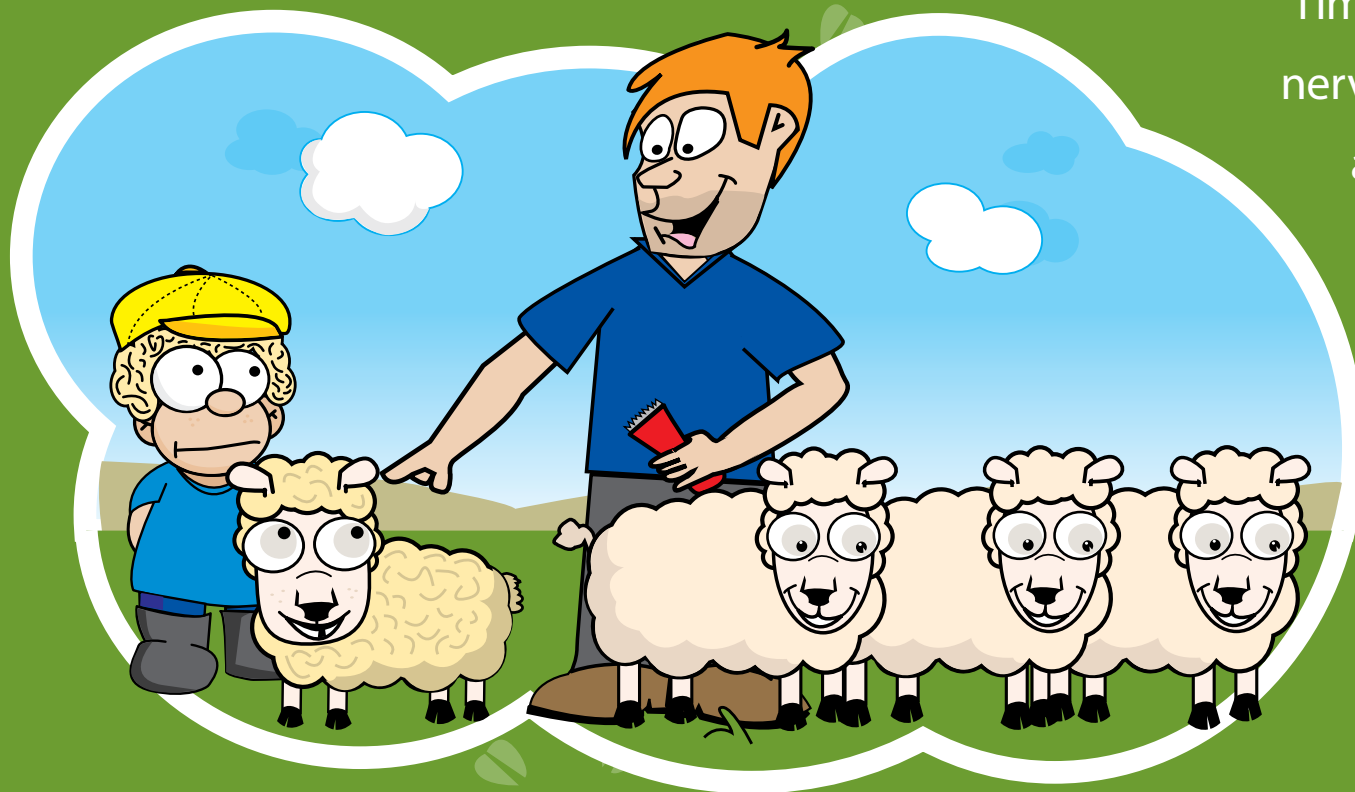


Timothy's grandfather also had a good look at Wobbly's teeth. Timothy was amazed to learn that both children and sheep lost the same amount of baby teeth. Twenty to be precise. Gosh! How many more soggy sandwiches would he have to search through?

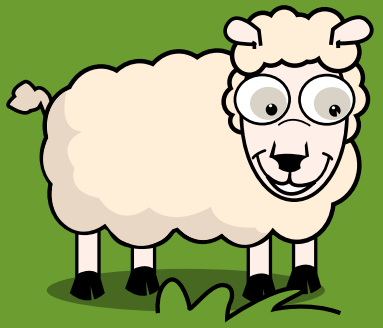


The next day, Sam the Shearer reached down for Wobbly with a very serious expression and said, 'It's time.'

'Time for what?' asked Timothy nervously. 'His first haircut of course and from what I hear, you'll be getting a good shearing this afternoon too,' Sam said.

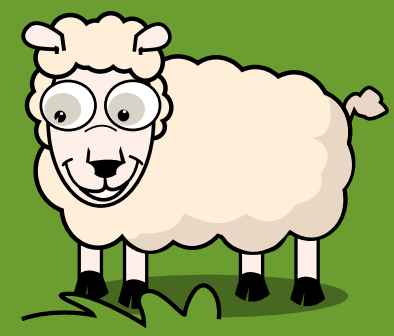
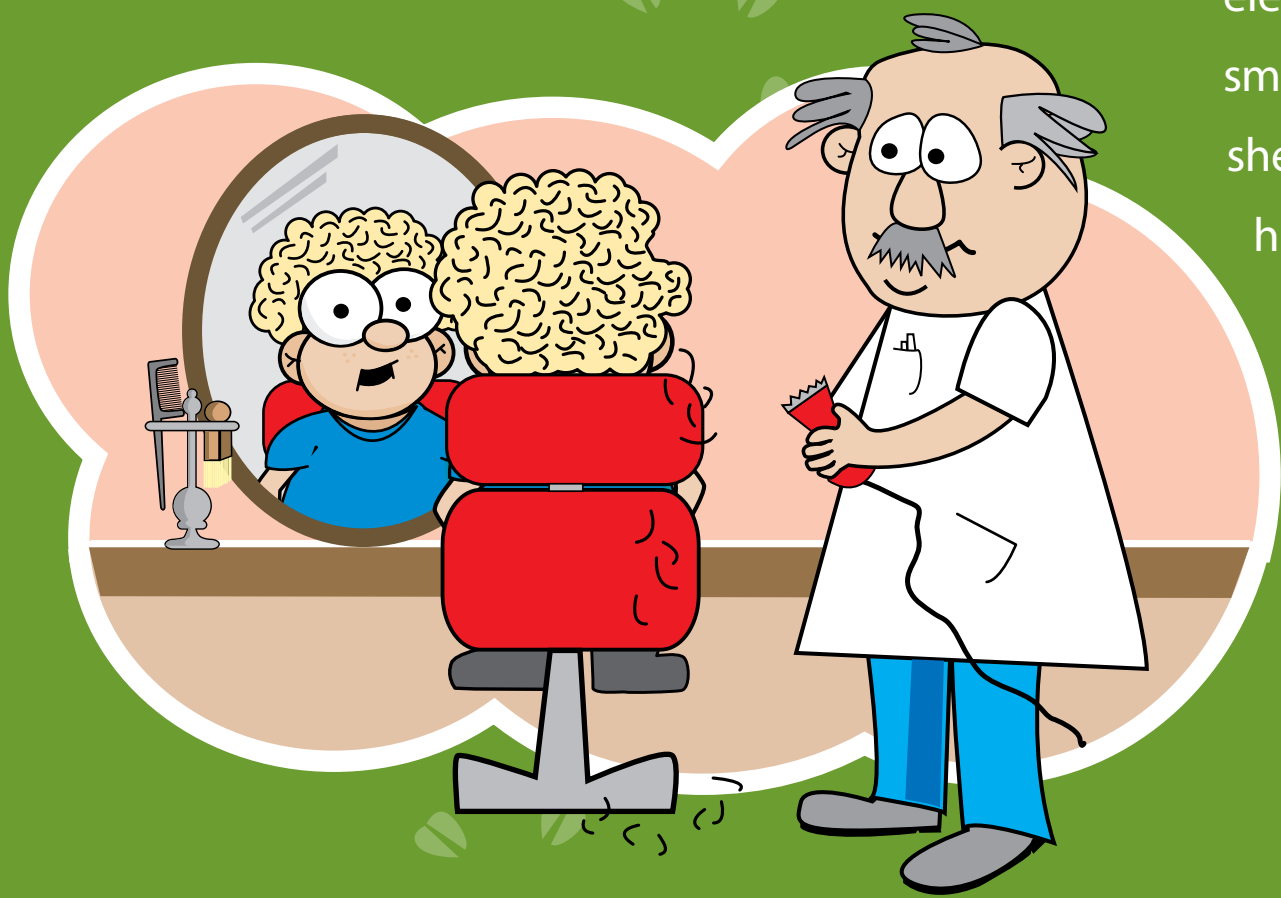


Timothy was horrified. He'd seen those big electric sheep shears and wasn't going anywhere near them. Before he knew it, his father had him by one hand with grandfather on the other side saying something about a surprise. Timothy wriggled free and ran for his life.

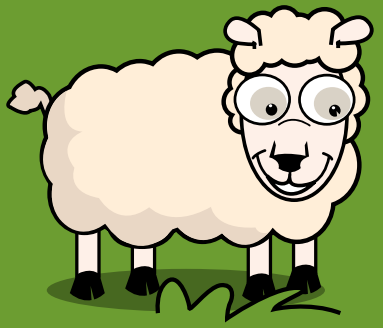
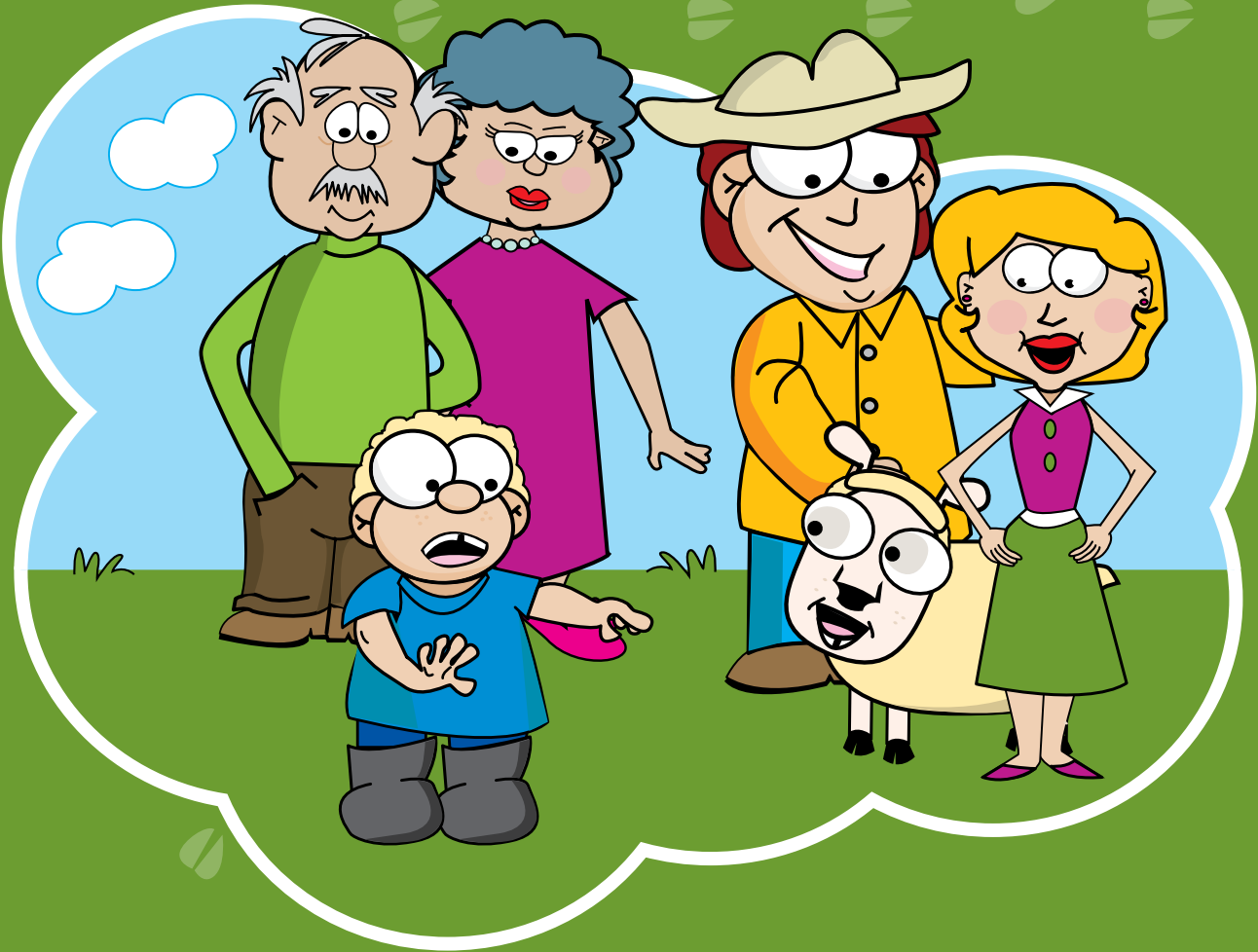


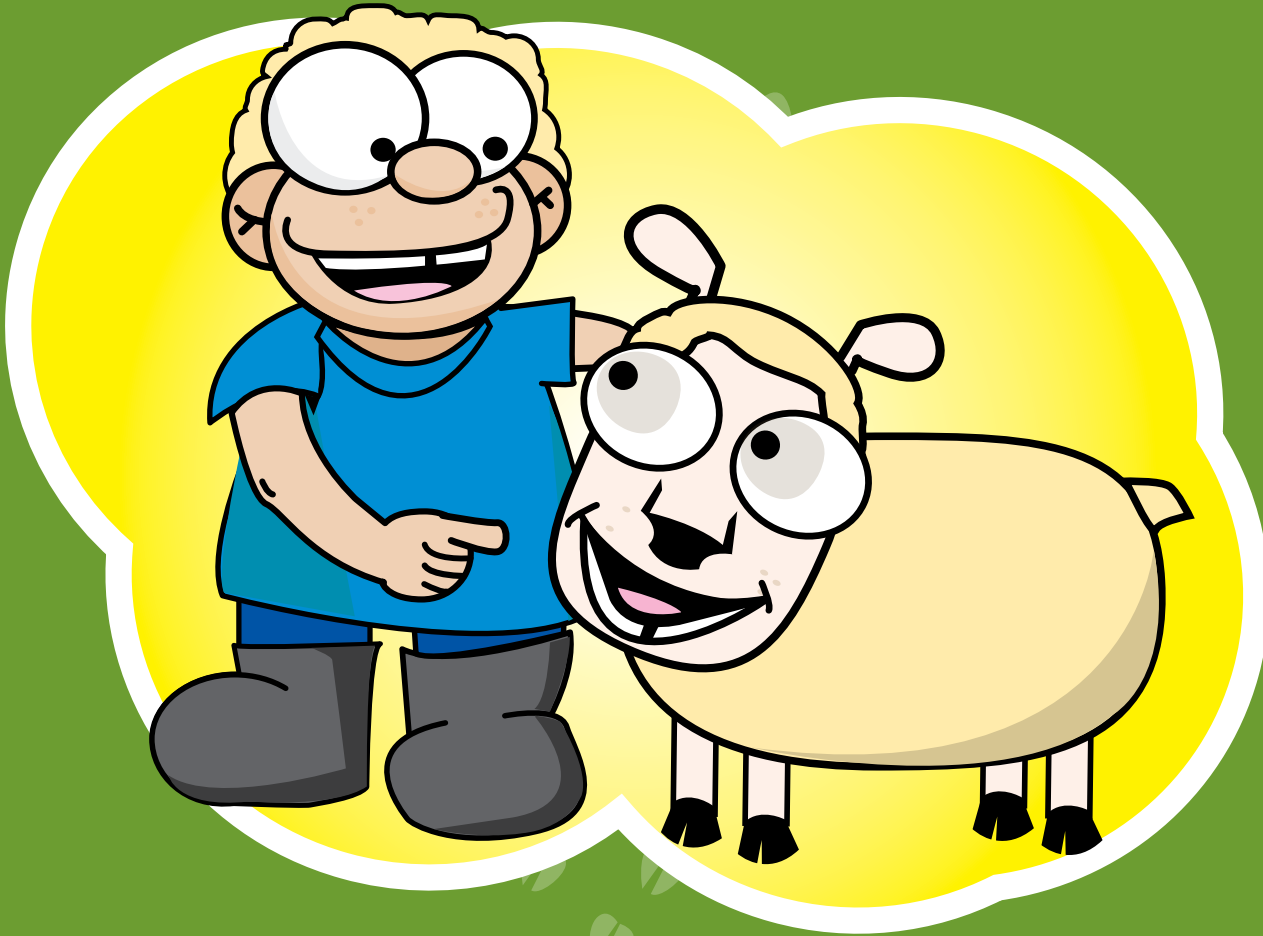
Can you guess what the misunderstanding was about this time?

Timothy's surprise was a proper Barber's haircut in town, not the shearing shed. The Barber also had electric clippers, and only a little smaller than the ones used on sheep. Timothy held his breath as his thick curls fell down around his shoulders. He wondered how poor Wobbly was going.



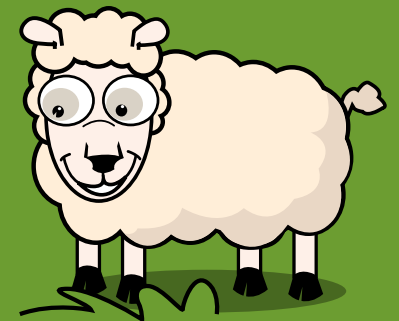
When Timothy returned home, everyone was most pleased to see the new haircut — everyone except for Timothy. Left behind in the rush, Wobbly had to push through to see what all the fuss was about. Then it happened. Timothy and Wobbly caught sight of each other and almost fell over with fright.

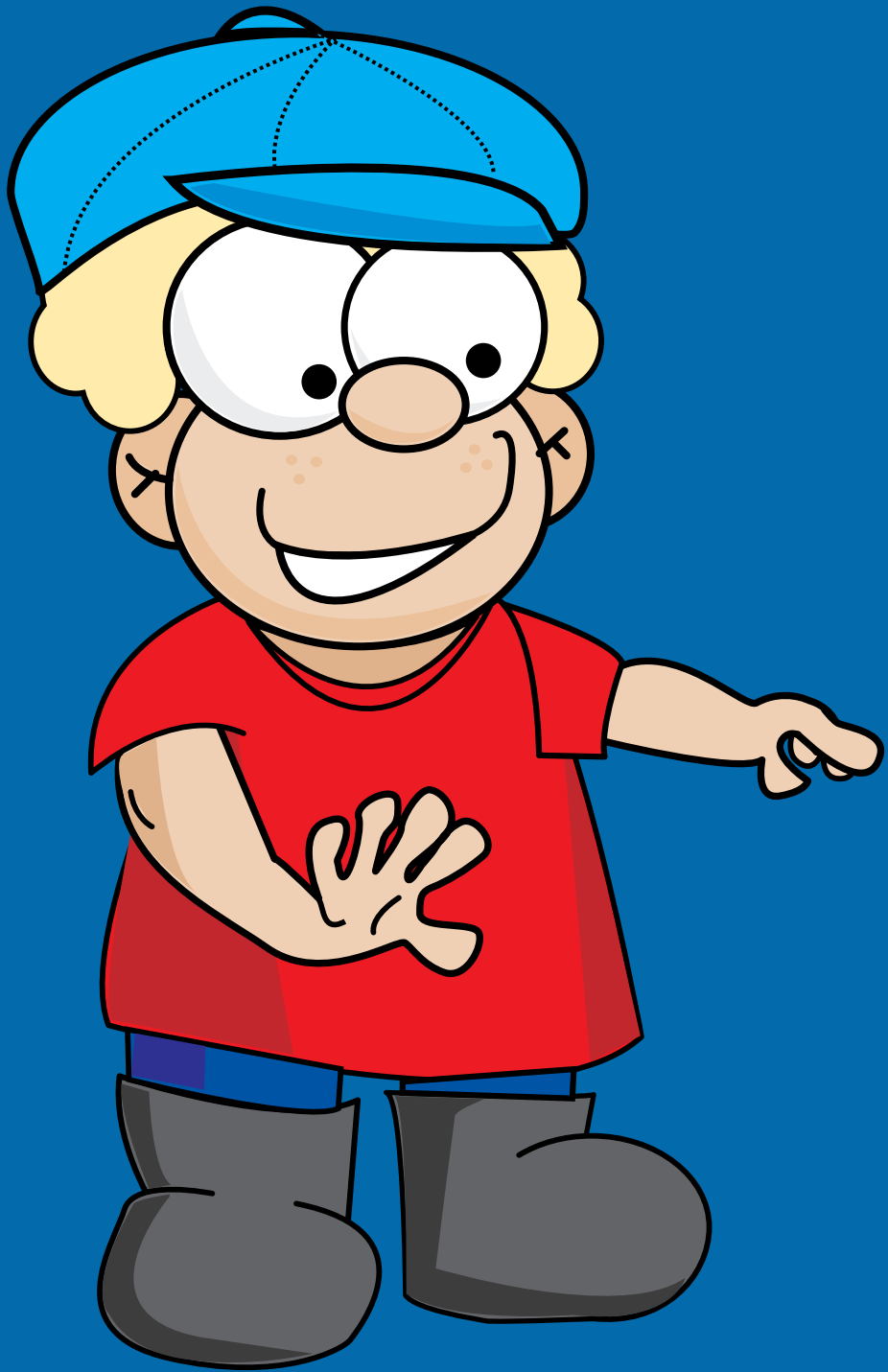




Soon they swapped heroic haircut stories and slowly got used to each other again. As they looked up together at Timothy's mother, she couldn't help but notice two new haircuts and two missing-tooth smiles, bigger and brighter than the sun. In a special moment she realised that little children and little sheep really do have a lot in common.

From the story about Wobbly and Timothy, what are all the things you can remember that children and sheep have in common?





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