

Picking up the Pieces

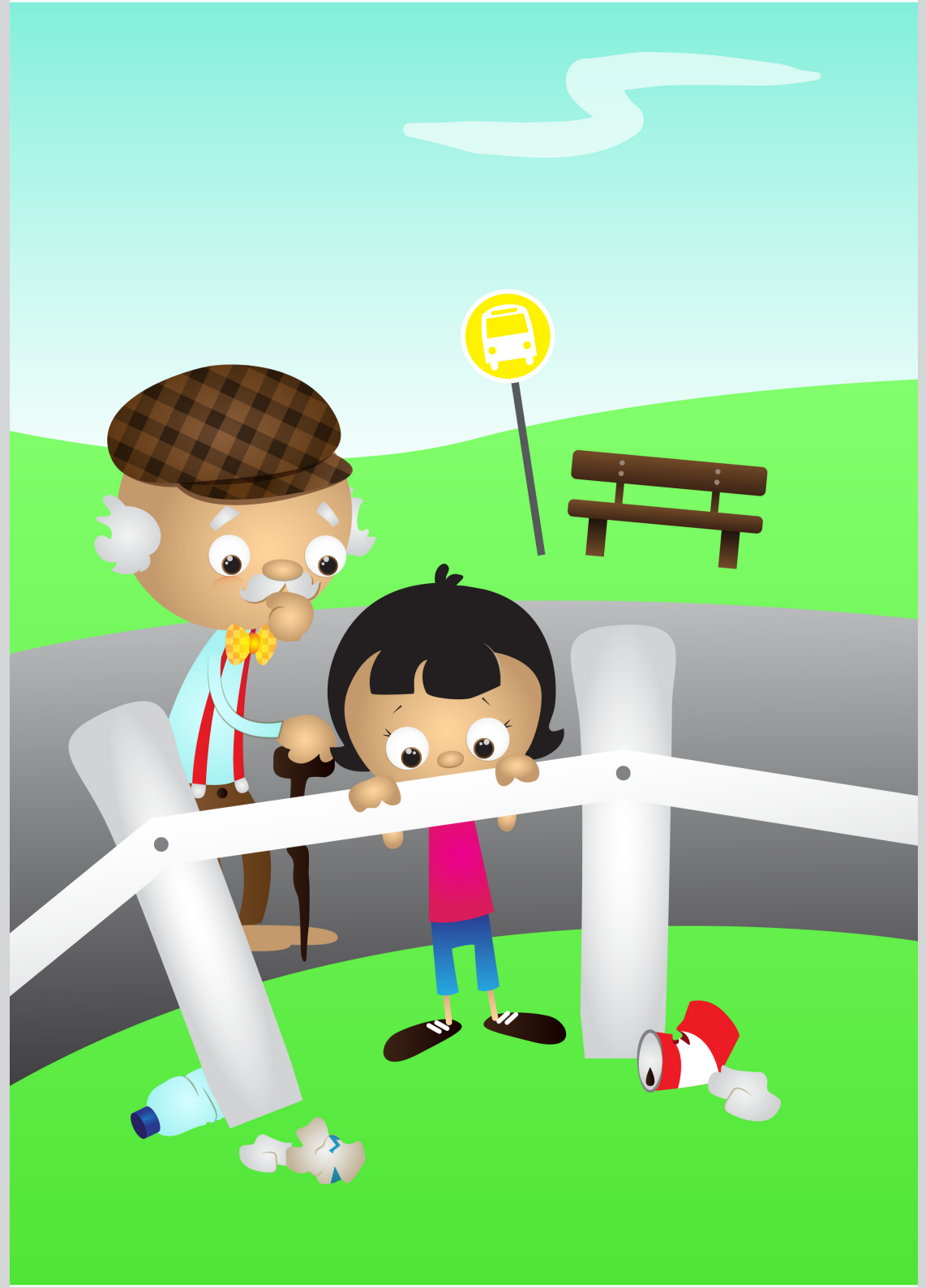
Every day, Dorothy and her grandfather would take a walk. He was very old and walked slowly, leaning on a cane. They would start at the house and go along the road until they reached the candy shop, then turn around and go back. When they reached the house, they would turn and start out once more; and so they went on, backwards and forwards, sometimes as many as four times.

The road was a quiet country lane, with just an occasional car.



Sometimes Dorothy and her grandfather had interesting talks as they walked, but other times they didn't seem to have much to say. On those days, Dorothy often became impatient with the time it took to walk so slowly and began thinking about the other things she would like to be doing.

Then one day, as she looked at the banks and trees and flowers in the hedges, she thought, *It's a pretty lane, but what a pity there is so much trash lying around everywhere. It spoils the look of the countryside.*



And so one day when she went on her walk, she took an empty bag and her gardening gloves with her. She began to pick up the pieces of trash and put them in her bag. After a time, her grandfather grew interested too, and started to point out with his cane pieces of paper she had missed. He even sometimes used his cane to help in poking out pieces that were difficult to get at.

The lane grew tidier and Dorothy's bag got fuller and fuller.



Every day, they cleaned up the lane. The walks were becoming more interesting, and Dorothy found herself looking forward to them.

Then one day they heard some exciting news. There had been a competition for the best-kept village in the county, and their village had won first prize.

"I'm sure your cleaning up the lane helped with that," Dorothy's grandfather said to her.

"You helped too!" said Dorothy with a smile, giving her grandfather a hug. "If we hadn't gone for walks every day, we wouldn't have done it!"

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