

Doctor Safety
in

SHOULD I TAKE
THIS MEDICINE?

Should I take this medicine?
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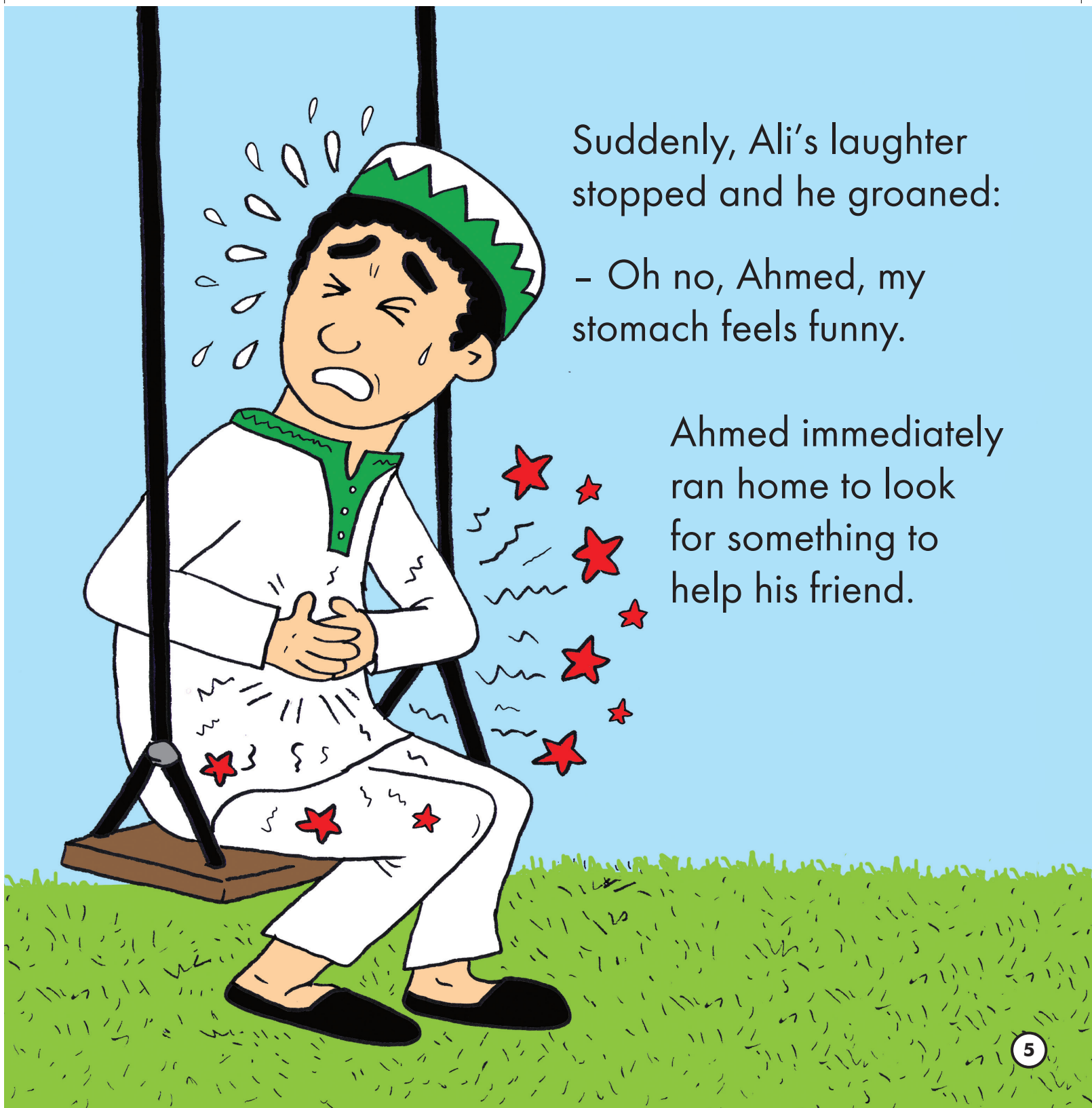
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The Elsevier Foundation and the World Patients Alliance joined forces to launch an inspiring children's book series dedicated to patient safety. This initiative aims to boost the health literacy of school children by introducing them to fundamental concepts and principles of patient safety. By educating young readers, the series aspires to cultivate a generation that values and practices safer care. Moreover, as children share their newfound knowledge with their families, the initiative hopes to create a lasting positive impact on communities, empowering individuals to prioritize patient safety in their everyday lives.

It was a spring day and the park was full of children playing after school.

Ali and Ahmed were having fun on the swing.





Suddenly, Ali's laughter stopped and he groaned:

– Oh no, Ahmed, my stomach feels funny.

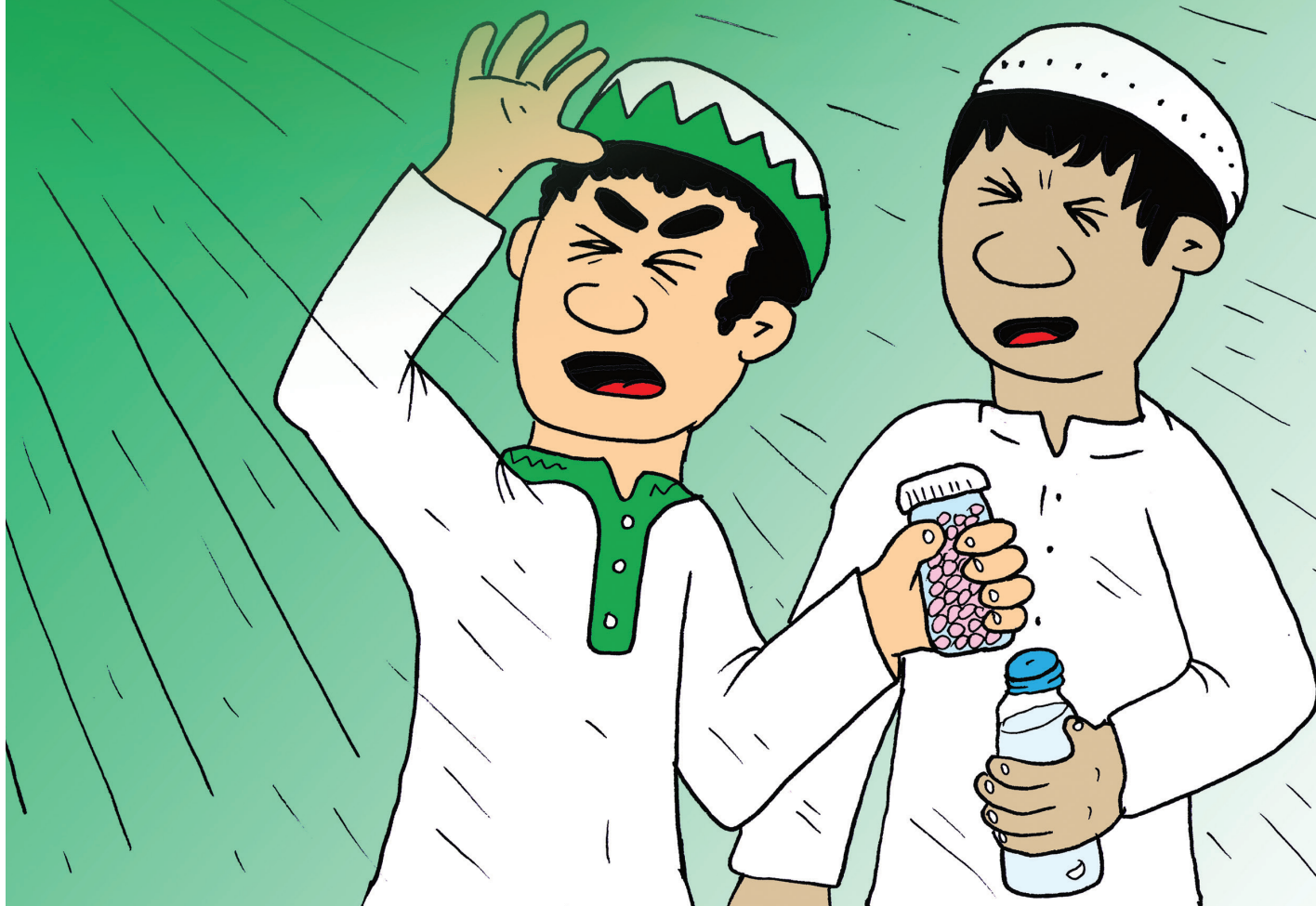
Ahmed immediately ran home to look for something to help his friend.

In his mother's medicine cabinet, he found some medicine that his mother had once given him and ran back to Ali in the park.



– Ali, take this medicine! It made me feel better once, it should help you too!

At that moment, they were startled by a sudden flash of green light.





– Hold on, Ali.
Don't take that
medicine!

– Who are you???

– I'm Doctor Safety and I'm here to help you.
Just because Ahmed got better with this
medicine doesn't mean you will.



– Stomach aches can happen for different reasons. That is why you should ask for an adult you trust or a doctor to help you. They can give you the right medicine and tell you how much to take.



– Can't I just take the same medicine as my friend did?

- Good question! Just as we are all different, our bodies can react differently to medicines too. Some people, for example, are allergic to some medicines.

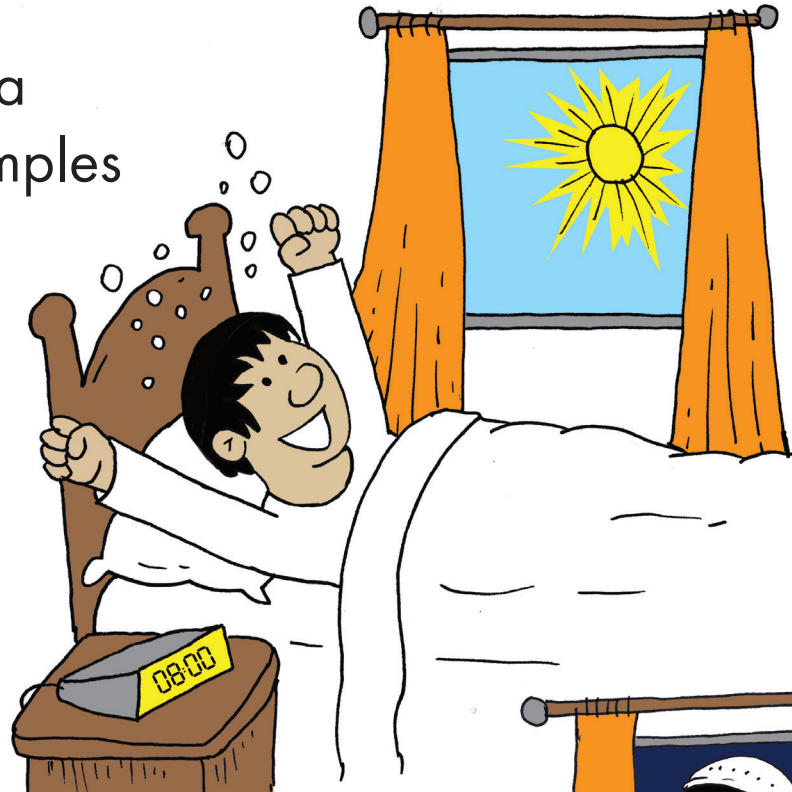
This means their bodies don't react well with these medicines. And there are different doses of medicine for different people.



- How do I know when to take medicine?

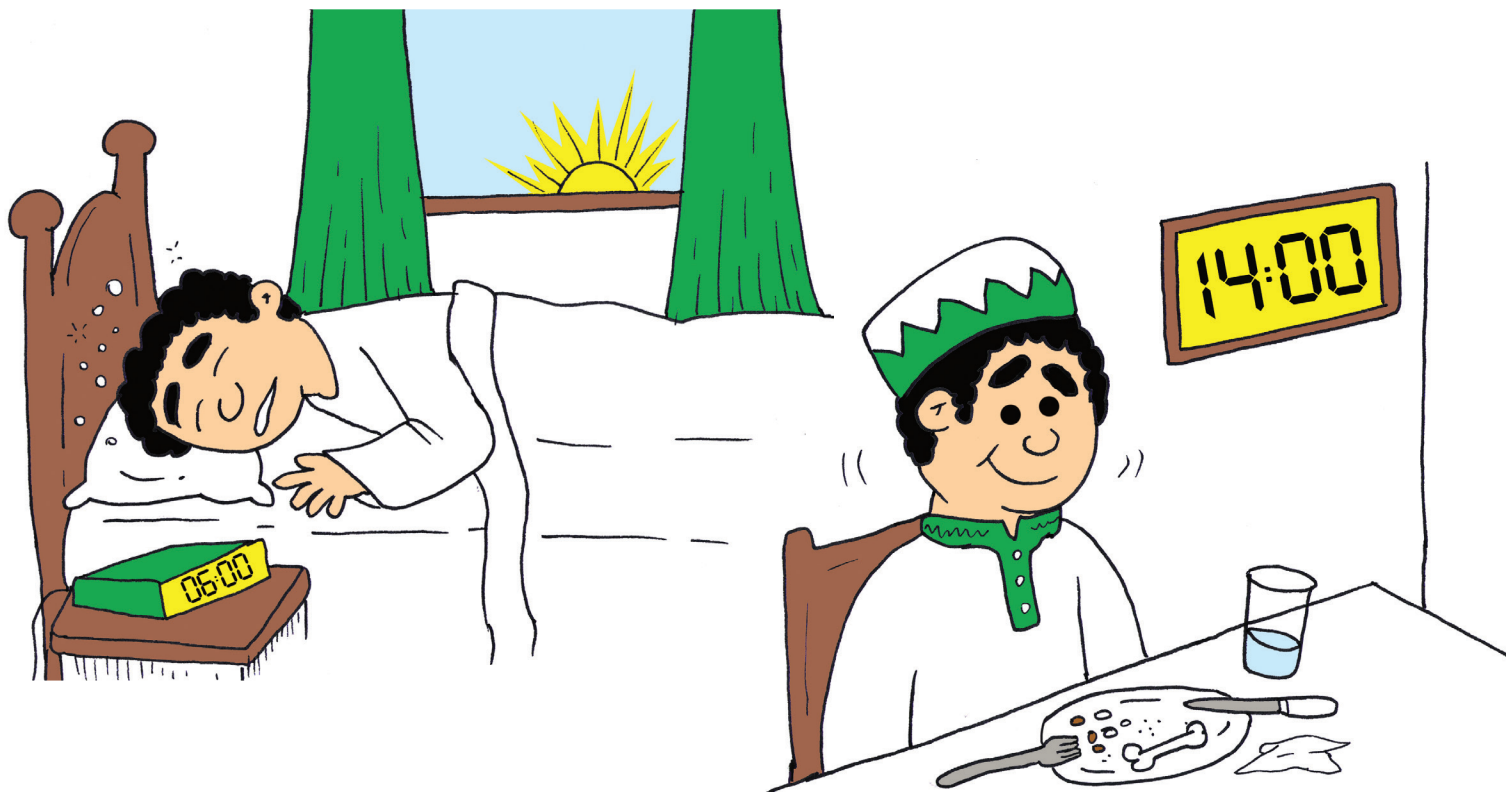


– Let's take a look at examples together:



When the doctor says "Medicine twice a day," it means you should take it about 12 hours apart.

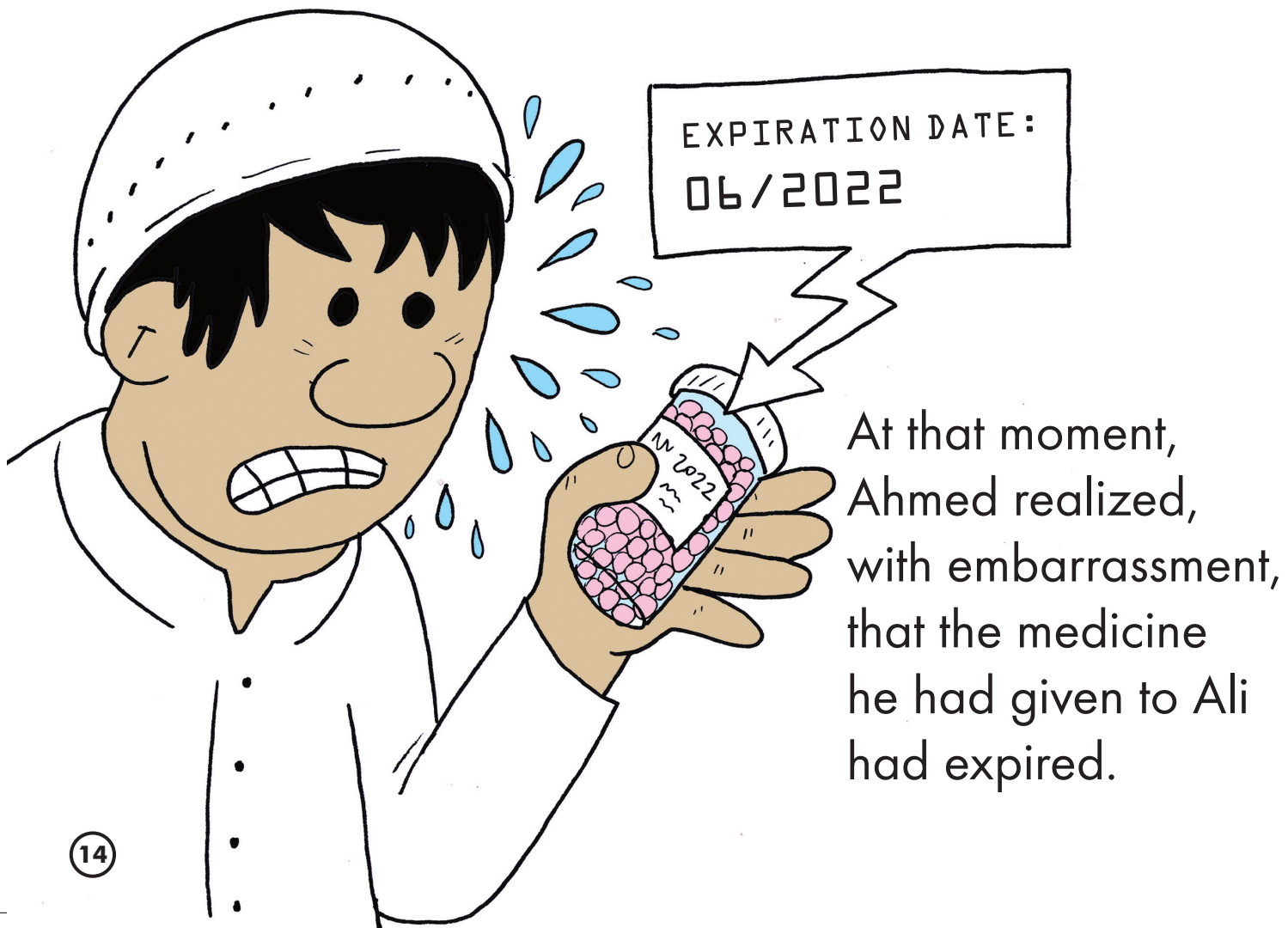




Next, when the doctor says “Medicine three times a day,” it means you should take it about 8 hours apart.



– Also, medicine, like food, can go bad after a while. So, always check the expiration date. If the date is older than today, you shouldn't take it.



Doctor Safety continued:

– We shouldn't share medicine and children shouldn't take medicine on their own. That's why medicines should be kept in safe places at home.



Ali, a little scared, asked:

– But what should I do? My stomach still hurts!

Ahmed promptly said:

– I can see my mother is coming back from work now, Doctor Safety. I'm going with Ali to ask her for help!



Ahmed said:

– Thanks, Doctor Safety! I'll give this old medicine to my mom to throw away, and from now on, I promise to offer only water.

– Wait! There's one more thing!



Both boys suddenly were surrounded by a soft green glow. When they looked down, they were wearing shiny gold badges with a green emerald, just like the emerald Doctor Safety was wearing.



- You two are now champions of medication safety! Take these Safe Medication badges and teach others about medication safety. Stay safe!



With the help of Ahmed's mother, Ali got the medicine he needed to get well.

Be a safety champion like Ali and Ahmed – always check the expiration date of your medicines, take your medicines as prescribed by a doctor and ask an adult for help when taking any medicine! Let's do this!

