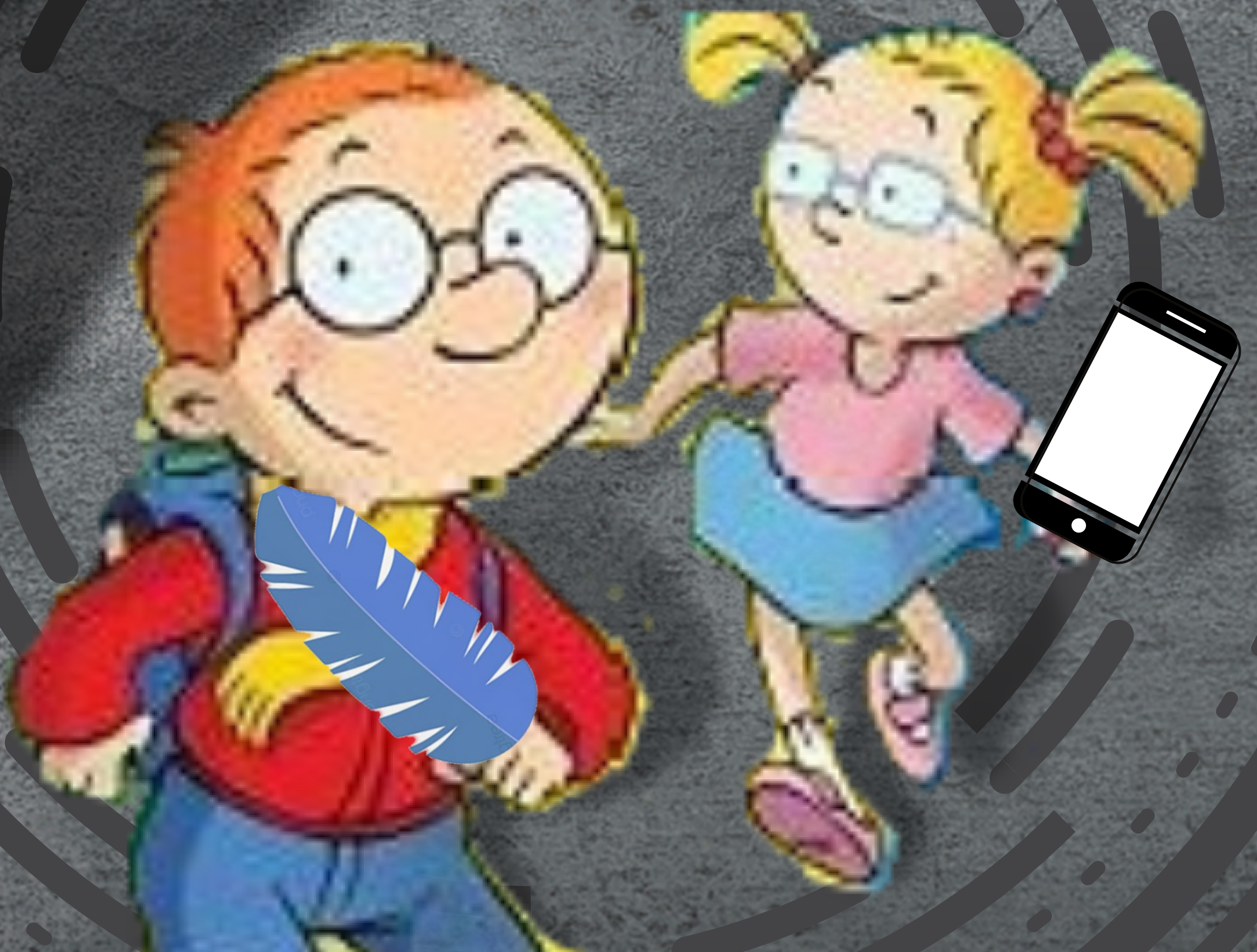


SHOO BLUE BIRD!





Author: Reem El Assi





Mia



Carl



Mrs. Fahmi



Adam



Fadi



Miss Maya



Mr & Mrs Hani



Sara



Adam Hani was turning 9 soon. All his friends at school who turned 9 before him got a phone all for themselves, but that's not all...with each phone came a bluebird that sits on their shoulders. This bird watches them as they use their phones during recess and at home.



Adam Hani is turning 9 tomorrow; he couldn't wait to get a phone and his blue bird like his other friends.

"Mom, Dad! Did you get me a phone? Did you? Did you?"

Mr. and Mrs. Hani looked at each other then turned to their son Adam.

"No Adam, not this year... maybe next year" said Mrs. Hani with her soft voice.

"What's wrong with the laptop? All your favorite games are on it!" Said Mr. Hani.

Adam was sad, he wanted his own phone like his friends at school. He said: "But all my friends have a phone! Why can't I?"

Mrs. Hani looked at Adam, Kneeled down and said: "Adam, you have to be old enough to control the Blue bird that comes with the phone!"

Adam was confused and didn't know what that meant. He stomped his foot and ran to his room angry.



The next day, Adam woke up to Mr. and Mrs. Hani singing happy birthday to him while holding pancakes with white cream, syrup, sprinkles, and a candle.

“Make a wish,” said Mrs. Hani. Adam closed his eyes and murmured to himself: “I wish to get a phone with a blue bird” and blew the candle.



When Adam got to school all his friends – Mia, Sara, Carl, and Fadi- came to hug him and wish him a happy birthday. But all of them had what Adam didn't: the phone and their little blue bird.

They were all taking pictures together, Adam was trying to smile and be happy with his friends but he couldn't shake the thought from his head: "Why can't I have what they do?"

"Come on guys I need to take a picture for my Instagram and twitter" his neighbor Mia said.

They all gathered around Adam and showed their biggest smile to the camera...

"Say cheese" Mia said.

"Cheeesseeee!"

they all repeated at once



After taking the picture they all went to their phones to send it to one another and post it. No one looked at Adam until

Dingggg!

The bell rang and everyone had to put their phones away.



Miss Maya was waiting at the door for everyone to come in. She held a basket to put all the cell phones inside.

Adam walked past the basket and headed to class. “Why can’t I have what they do” he thought to himself.

Entering the classroom, the children were talking and running around until Miss Maya started singing “Criss cross applesauce, hands on your lap?”

16 little voices continued “Gingersnap”.

This little chant has been sung and repeated for years and years. Everyone knew it in town. It was used to shift the focus of the students back.

All the kids took their seats and calmed down when Miss Maya sang the chant at the beginning of class. After the silence filled the room, Miss Maya started her class with a big smile on her face.



The teacher was very pretty, she had short brown hair with pink cheeks and she wore a long purple dress. Everyone was paying attention to the instructions and questions as Miss Maya was walking around in class with her heels going

"Clack!!"

"Clack!!" on the wooden tiles.

"Fadi can you tell me what made Mathilda different from her classmates?"

"Yes Miss Maya, she was different because she was very clever!" answered Fadi eagerly.

"Good job! Now tell me about her powers. What was she able to do... Adam?"

Adam was looking out the window; his mind was elsewhere and did not hear a word Miss Maya said.

"



"Adam!" Fadi whispered while nudging him with his elbow.

"Yes ! Miss Maya uhm" Adam hesitated he did not know what the class was even talking about. He just completely zoned out.

"Mathilda's powers Adam... what were they?" asked Miss Maya again.

"She was able to move things by her hand!" answered Adam.

"With her hand... we say with her hand, but correct she had what we call the power of Telekinesis" then Miss Maya turned to the board and wrote "TELE- KI -NESIS".

Everyone repeated the word after Miss Maya, and then they all opened to page 26 to start reading.



Suddenly a blue bird starts chirping and tweeting. Everyone looked back and Miss Maya turned her smile upside down: “Karim! Why is your bird chirping? Do you have your phone with you?”

Miss Maya walked across the class to Adam’s classmate Karim, confiscated his phone, and put it in the basket. The blue bird immediately flew away and sat on a tree branch outside.





The bell rang everyone stood up to take a break when Miss Maya called on Adam to come to her desk.

“So Adam tell me what is preoccupying your mind?” she asked nicely. Adam replied: “it’s my birthday and I did not get a phone or a blue bird!”

Miss Maya looked at his sad eyes and said “Well you know a phone is not always the coolest thing to have... having real friends who talk and spend special moments with you, now that’s cool”

Adam was not convinced; he shook his head and turned to leave. He suddenly turned back and asked “Miss Maya? How did you know Karim had his phone?”

Miss Maya looked at little Adam and smiled “Can you keep a secret? When kids stop paying attention to real life and get too distracted by their screens the bird flies freely because he becomes more in control”.

“Is that bad?” said Adam in a worried voice.

“Not really” said Miss Maya, “as long as you are in control and you can shift back your focus you are good to go. Now run along you have few minutes of break”.

After school everyone sat at the bench and everyone had their phone in hand except for Adam. Sara was on twitter sending a message to Carl, Carl was forwarding the tweet to Fadi, and Fadi was commenting on Mia's post. Adam sat on the bench waiting for them to look up and talk to him.

10 minutes later, their eyes were still plastered on their screens. Their blue birds got a bit bigger and Adam yelled: "Guys! Your birds!! Be careful!"



The 4 friends looked up to Adam and the birds went back to normal. That felt very strange to Adam and he kept wondering about it on his way home with Mia.



Mia and Adam walked side by side. While she was on her phone, he was looking at the ground while walking. He was lost in his thoughts until

Boom!

He bumps into a tall tall man who was also lost in his phone's screen, looking further above was a huge huge blue bird standing on his shoulder... he did not seem sweet at all.

A loud angry chirp left the bird's beak and scared Adam. Terrified he took Mia's hand and ran off.



As Mia and Adam reach their homes, Mrs. Fahmi catches Mia singing

“Criss-cross applesauce, hands on your lap Gingersnap...”,

while watering her flowers.

She then says “Oh you little cutie-pies still sing that in class? I remember we used to sing that in my school years too. How wonderful!”

Mia smiled to Mrs. Fahmi, but Adam was still thinking about that bird he bumped into earlier.

Reaching home, Adam came in threw his backpack on the ground and ran to Mrs. Hani “MOM MOM! The birds! They are scary! They grow and make people mean!”

Mrs. Hani hugged Adam tightly and said “Scary? What are you talking about? Don’t you worry about that now, you have a birthday party to prepare for.”



6 o’clock. The clock struck 6.

At 6:30 o’clock, the doorbell dings and Adam rushes to the door to welcome his friends who come with gifts.

They all sit at the table where Mr. Hani prepared his special Pesto Pasta. They all laugh, eat, and enjoy each other's presence until Mia's phone rings as she receives a notification.

She shows Sara who shows Carl who gives it to Fadi who passes it to Adam. But before Fadi has the time to give the phone, Adam takes it and smacks it in the Pasta Bowl.

"No!" he yelled "the bird was going to get bigger Mia! The bird was going to attack us!"

Mia gets furious at Adam for throwing her phone and storms out of the room.

"Not cool Adam", Fadi whispers before following her along with everyone else.





Adam sits at the table alone later joined by his mom Mrs. Hani.

She asks him: “What happened Adam?”

“Mom everyone was looking at the phone. The bird was going to get bigger I was saving them so I threw the phone! I saved them Mom I saved them from the big blue bird”

“Adam, the blue bird is not dangerous if the phone is used moderately. It is okay to use it, just not all the time... You should go apologize to her now big boy” says Mrs. Hani as she kisses Adam on his head.



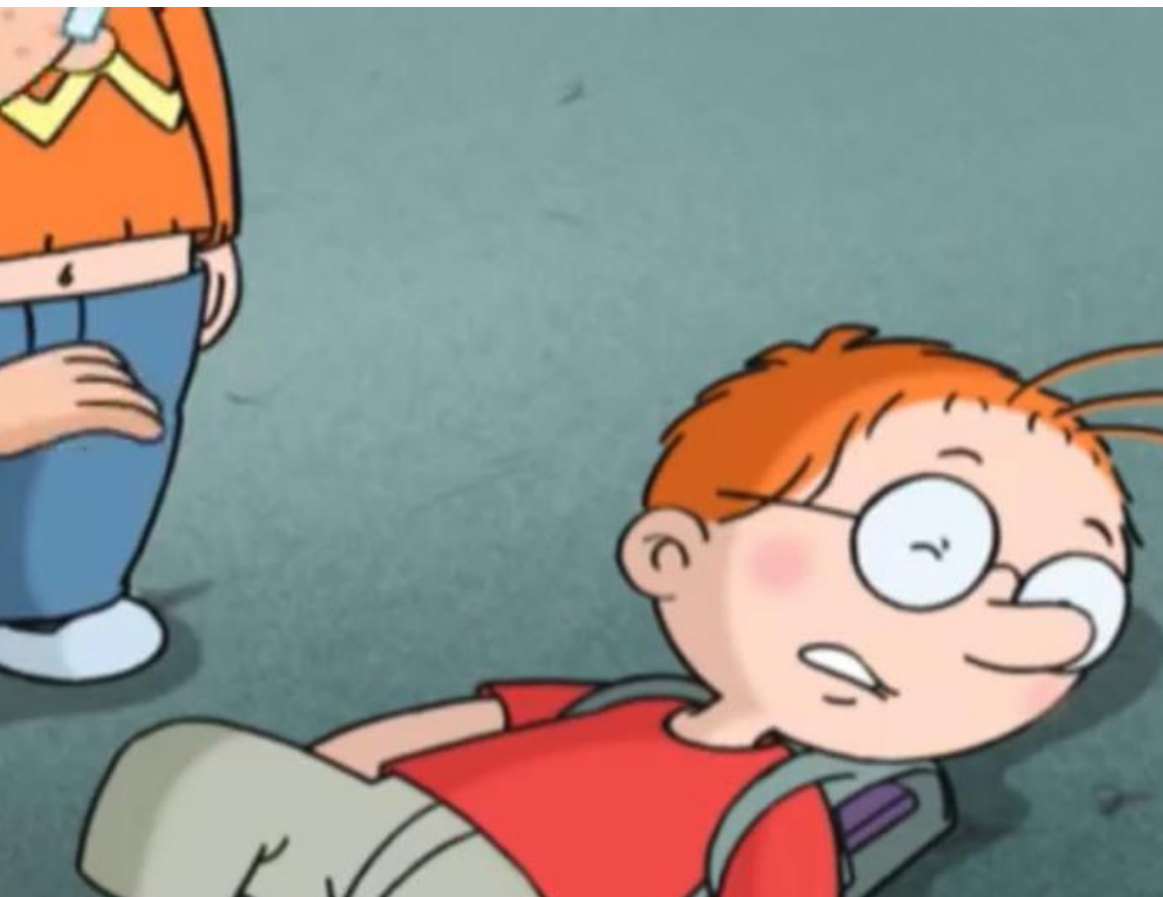
The next day, Adam arrives to school. He sees his friends and other classmates sitting on the recess bench using their phones with the blue birds slightly bigger than yesterday. Adam looks to the left, the basketball court that was always filled was empty, the hopscotch on the right was empty, even the swings were empty.

“Hey guys!!” said Adam.

The blue birds look at him but none of his friends do. Confused, he sits next to them and asks “Where’s Mia?” but still no answer.

He opens his Drawing book and starts flipping through the pages. Adam came to school excited to show his friends some drawings he made but they are were too busy texting and using their phones. He wished they could just look for a second before getting back to their phones and he thought to himself: “Why can’t I have what they have if the bird isn’t that scary after all?”

Minutes pass and everyone is still glued to their phones like sticky gum on hair. The bell rings and Adam prepares himself to get to the classroom but no one else stands up. Adam warns them that the bell rang and that Miss Maya will be waiting... but no response. Adam starts pulling Carl from his hand but the blue bird on Carl's shoulder pushes little Adam to the ground.



"Guys, Snap out of it!!" yells Adam but no response.



Mia enters the School Gate and looks at Adam and says “Adam why are you yelling what is going on?”

Adam with eyes wide open looks at Mia and tells her that their friends won't answer or move.

They both pull Sara and Fadi by their arms but their blue birds weren't happy either as they got bigger and angrier.

Adam was now convinced that he was living a nightmare. He then runs to look for Miss Maya and get help.

By the time he came back the blue birds became so big they were the ones carrying Sara, Carl, Fadi, and the others. They started walking in one direction while Adam's classmates were sitting on their backs looking at their phones.

Adam took Mia's hand and followed the birds running to save his friends. Miss Maya stood in shock before trying to call each of the children's parents.



Mia and Adam ran behind the blue birds following them hoping to get someone's attention and set their friends free. But as they both looked around, more birds were coming from all directions joining the march.

"Look! My neighbor Mrs. Fahmi she's stuck too!" yelled Mia.

"Oh no, look! There are my mom and dad!" exclaimed Adam

"Mom, Dad! It's me Adam look at me, look at me!"

Miss Maya came running and caught up with Mia and Adam. She hugged them and held their hands.

"Miss Maya! What are we supposed to do?" cried Mia

"I don't know darling...we need to find a way to get them back to reality" said Miss Maya.

"We should follow them and see where they are going!" said Adam as he sprinted towards the blue birds that were carrying his classmates, friends, neighbors, and parents.

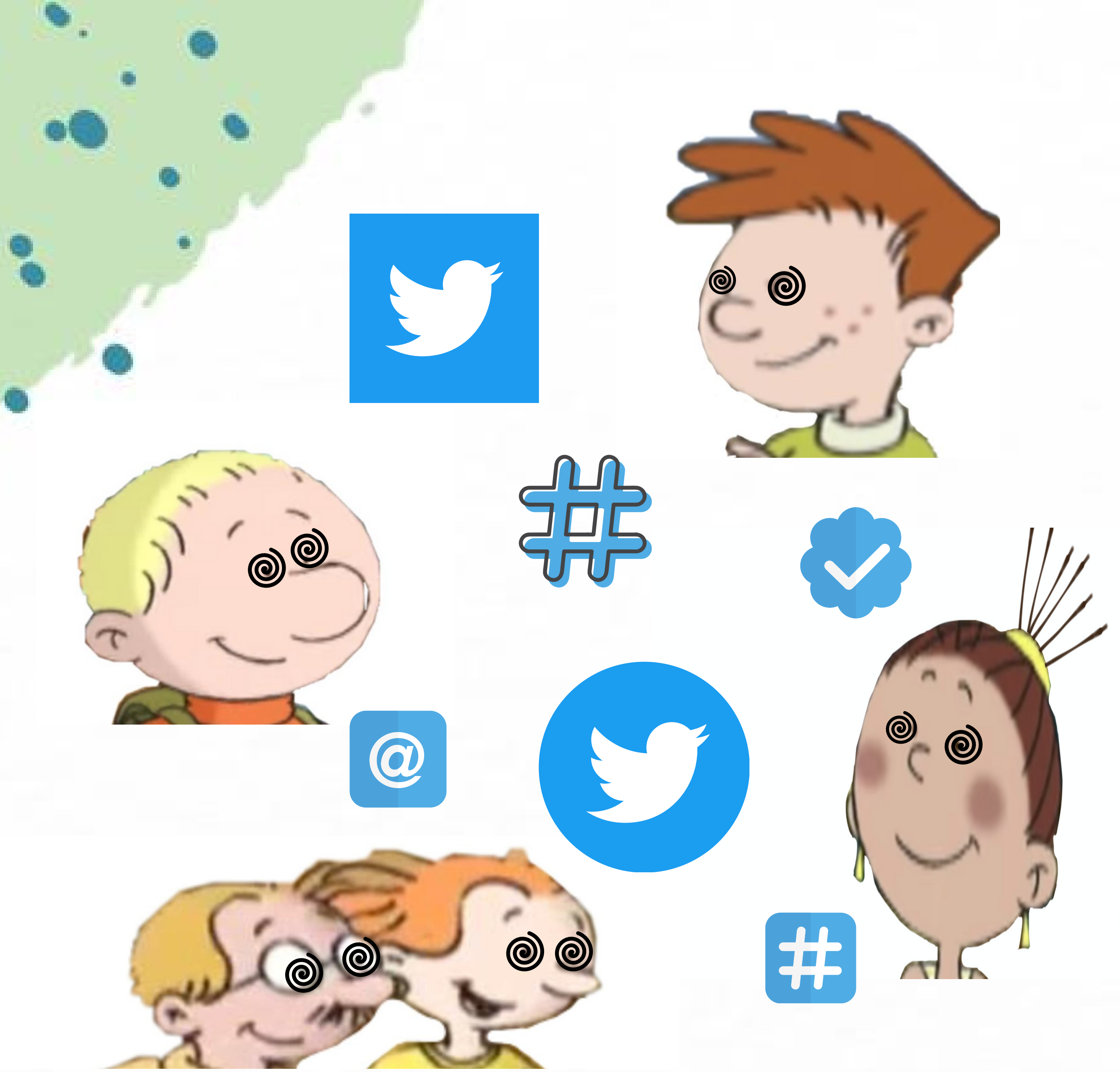
As Adam, Mia, and Miss Maya ran, they tried to avoid getting too close and losing each other in the mass. Adam got an idea and said: “what if I hang onto a bird and pull our friends off so that they stop looking at their phones!”

“Yes! That’s what happened on your birthday when you broke my phone! I don’t have it now and that’s why I am not hypnotized” said Mia.

Miss Maya shook her head and warned them it was too dangerous, but Adam insisted to try. They would run close to the bird give Adam a lift so he could catch on to one of the birds.

Miss Maya nodded hesitantly as there was no time. All three ran as close and possible to Carl’s Bird where Adam jumped and tried to hang onto the bird’s feathers but in vain, the bird was able to shake him off.





Notification sounds invaded the streets; tweets were growing by the second and the people could not stop themselves. They were all disconnecting from reality and they needed to be saved.

Looking into the horizon, the birds were heading towards the water. Mia saw them and said: “What if they throw them in the water and they can’t swim?”

There was not much time, they had to distract them from their phones and shrink the blue birds fast.



“We need to shift their focus back!” said Miss Maya.

Adam suddenly stopped running. He closed his eyes and mumbled something under his breath.

“What?” exclaimed both Mia and Miss Maya.

Adam looked at them and said: “shift their focus! That’s it!”

Mia and Miss Maya, still confused, look at Adam in silence waiting for him to elaborate on his idea.

Adam smiled and continued “Miss Maya what do you do when you want to shift the class’ focus on you and start the session? Mia what did Mrs. Fahmi say about the school’s tradition?”

“The song?!” exclaimed Mia.

“We can give it shot! We have to” said Miss Maya.



“We have to sing it together so our voice is heard...on 3?” said Adam.

*“1...2...3 Criss cross
applesauce, hands on lap
Gingersnap, Back straight
chocolate shake, listen focus
Hocus-Pocus”.*

sang all three of them together



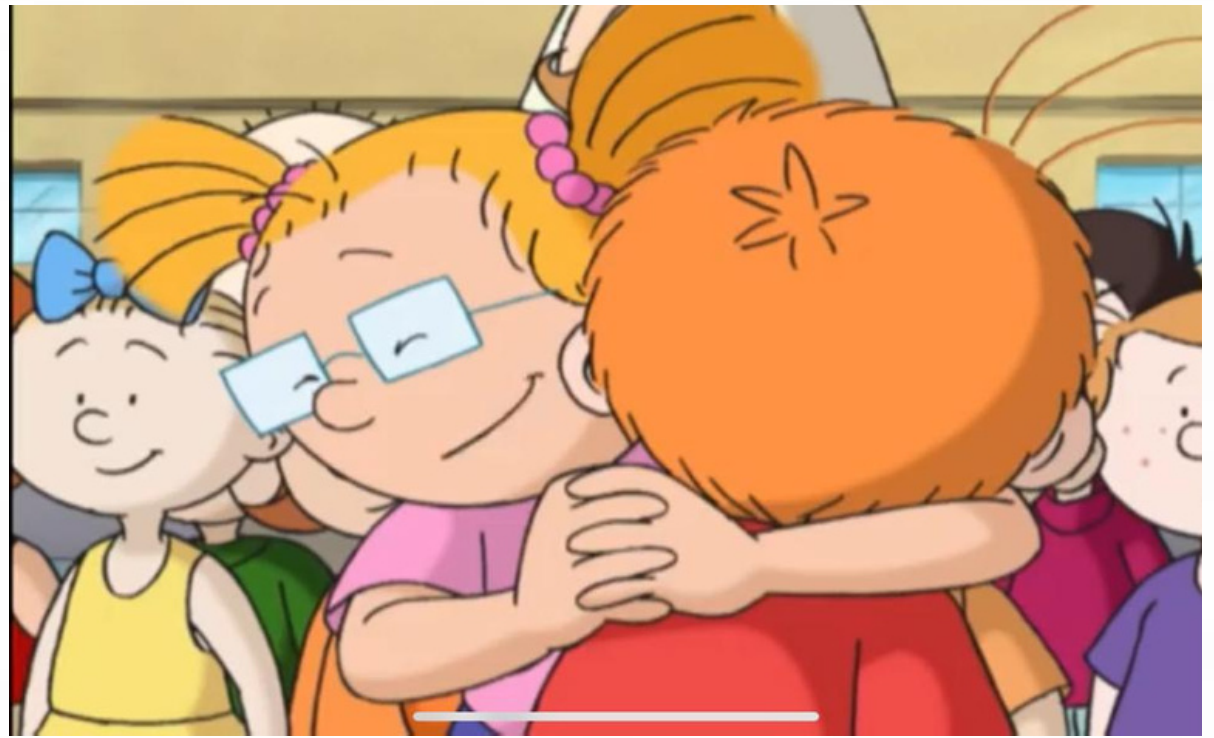
Adam, Mia, and Miss Maya kept running towards the Birds while repeating the chant until they heard a voice start singing with them.

Fadi looks back and starts singing along as his bird shrinks. He is followed by Sara, Carl, and some other classmates. They start to run all together while singing the Criss Cross chant at the top of their lungs.

“Criss cross applesauce, hands on lap Gingersnap, Back straight chocolate Shake, listen focus Hocus-Pocus”

The more they repeated it, the more attention they got from the people who broke out of their hypnosis at the sound of the familiar traditional childhood chant. This chant represented the beautiful memories and moments they all once shared as a class at school. The blue birds kept shrinking and phones were being put away in the people’s pockets as they joined in the chant to save the rest of the town.

After while, the blue birds became so small and they flew off



People started cheering and applauding each other for their help and contribution.

The classmates turned to Adam and lifted him up chanting his name all together. They all applauded his bravery and cleverness, and thanked him for saving them all.



The next day, Adam woke up and jumped out of bed excited. He felt like the town's hero and couldn't wait to go hug his parents, grateful that they are here.

He sat at the table with Mr. and Mrs. Hani who were smiling and looking at each other.

"What?" said Adam.

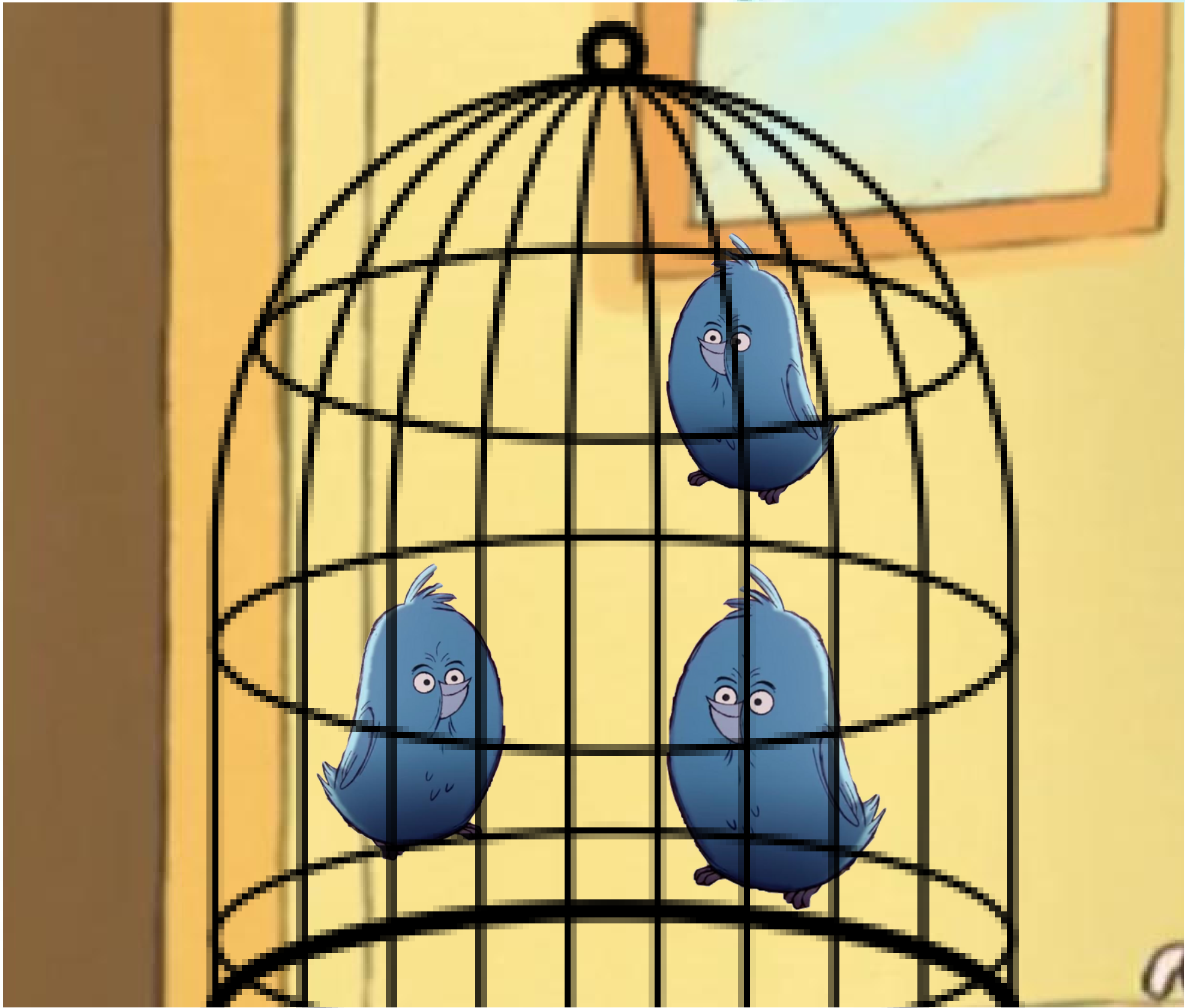
"We have a surprise for our little hero" said Mrs. Hani

"You proved to be responsible and worthy little man" Joked Mr. Hani



They moved a box across the table and put it in front of Adam, indicating him to open it.

Adam tore the wrapping paper off and saw his birthday wish come true. He found a phone just for him as Mr. Hani brought a tiny blue bird on the side. He looked at the tiny creature then looked at his Mom and Dad hesitant.



Mrs. Hani smiled and brought a big bird cage where she placed the little bird along with two other birds ; her's and Mr. Hani's. Then she said:

"Remember! As long as you are in control and you can shift back your focus you are good to go"

Resources

<https://images.app.goo.gl/6LesHRuRjKF334VL9>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXhXdyuvhMI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXm81BtPMP4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwQKOXNmiDA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XphjCllMttg&t=1s>

<https://slidesgo.com/theme/aqua-marketing-plan#position-5>

<https://images.app.goo.gl/uGYyt1LWcR5BTiDy7>

<https://images.app.goo.gl/XCrH9tx36GaVWKmG8>

<https://images.app.goo.gl/egcdgBFoQwothAa16>

<https://images.app.goo.gl/tvLRAvZk9HKpgqUJ7>

<https://images.app.goo.gl/tP9PqroaPtCGMmFk8>

<https://images.app.goo.gl/YCwdGnHkuZo5Ge2z5>

