

“Amma, I AM smart!”

Amma always gets to stay home. Not fair! Achu didn't like LKG especially on the first day when his teacher called him Ashwin. Achu told her that was not his name. Teacher said she will call him Achu and write his name as Ashwin. After that school was better.

When Vallya ammayi and family are here Amma, Ammamma and the Chechi who comes to help them in the kitchen, get very busy. Achu likes all the special dishes they make. Hope they make chicken biriyani.

“Achu, where are you?”

“Coming.”

Wonder what is the palahaaram. Achu's favorite is vada. Vallya ammayi and chechis like vadas too. Chechis said they are like savory donuts.

What is savory?

Achu likes all the chocolates Vallya ammayi brings. They melt so fast! Achan keeps them in the fridge. The candies in strawberry wrappers are yummy, also the bubble gums, gummy worms and Rolos and tic-tacs and...

“Achu, are you coming or not? Do you want me to come there and get you?”

Oh, oh. That does not sound good at all. Achu runs to the kitchen.

“Have your milk and biscuits.”

Parle biscuits? Noo! Amma didn't make any snacks.

“I don't want it.”

“Achu, I don't want to argue with you. Drink up your milk and eat your biscuits, I have a hundred things to do.”

“Why?”

“You know, I have to get the house and yard cleaned before Vallya ammayi comes. Don't give me a hard time. And don't leave your toys everywhere. If you do, I will tell Vallya ammayi not to bring any more.”

“I always put away my toys.”

Amma can be so unfair.

Achan has a special place in the Almirah for Achu's toys. Sometimes when other families visit, the children play with his toys, even the American toys Vallya ammayi brought. Achan says it is good to share. Sometimes Achu asks Achachan and Ammamma to play with him.

It will be nice to have a brother or sister.

Vallya ammayi's plane came early in the morning when Achu was asleep. Amma says, someday, when he is bigger, he will get to go to the airport to pick them up. Achu can see the suitcases by their bed room. But they are all asleep. Amma said not to make any noise because they have jet lag.

What is jetlag?

Amma says America is on the other side of earth. Achachan said it is night in America when it is day time in India. He drew a picture of the sun, earth and moon going round and round. How do those big balls make night and day? Strange!

“Don't worry about what is in the suit cases. Don't ask either. It is not polite”, Amma says. Achu wasn't going to ask any way. Last time, when he insisted on seeing what is in the suitcases, amma pinched him. That hurt!

Vallya ammayi always opens the suitcases after they take a shower and lunch. Achu likes the clothes she brings, and the sweets and toys. It is fun to sit in her lap and listen to everyone talk. Vallya ammayi always smells good. Amma says it is her perfume spray. Achu asks Vallya ammayi to tell the story of the banana

