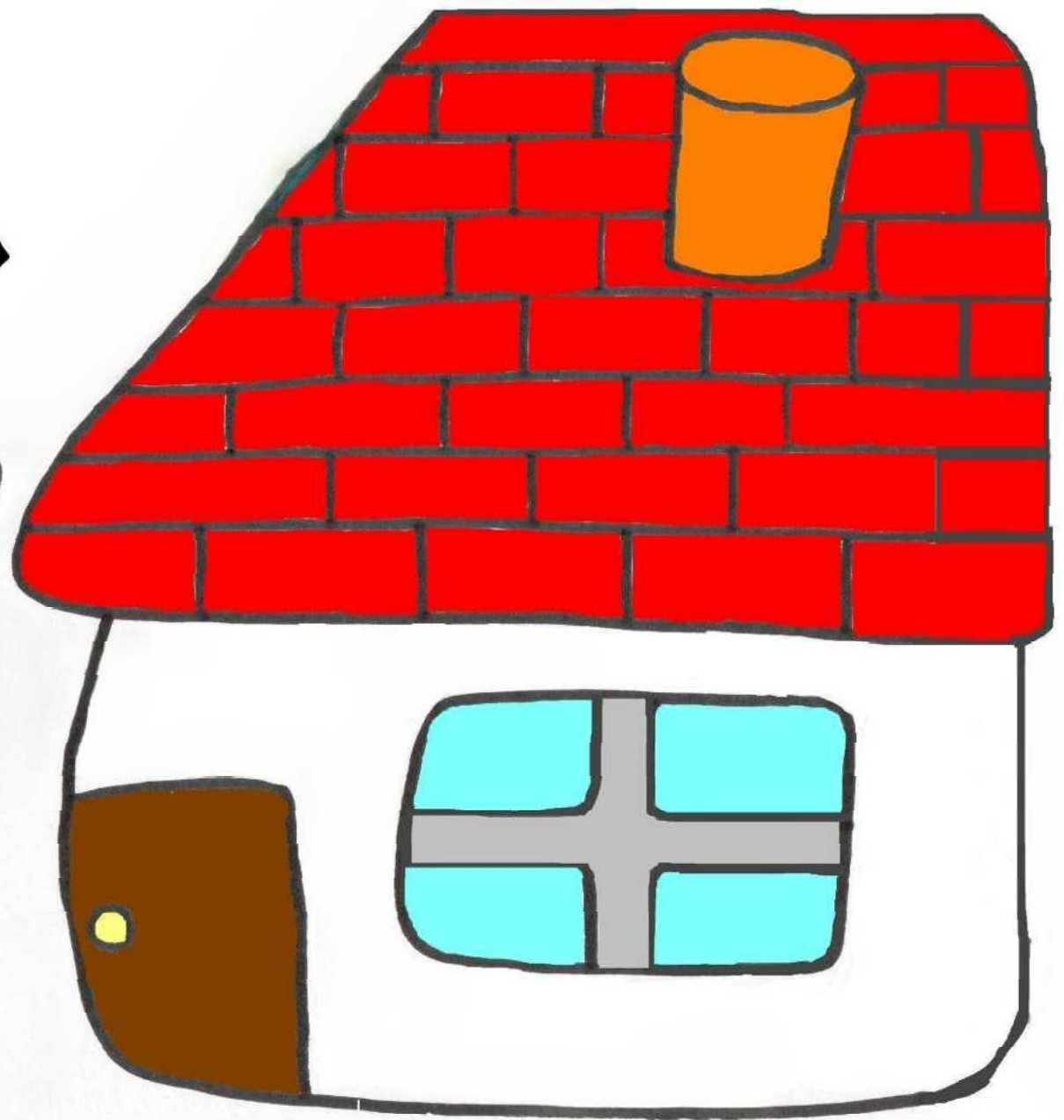
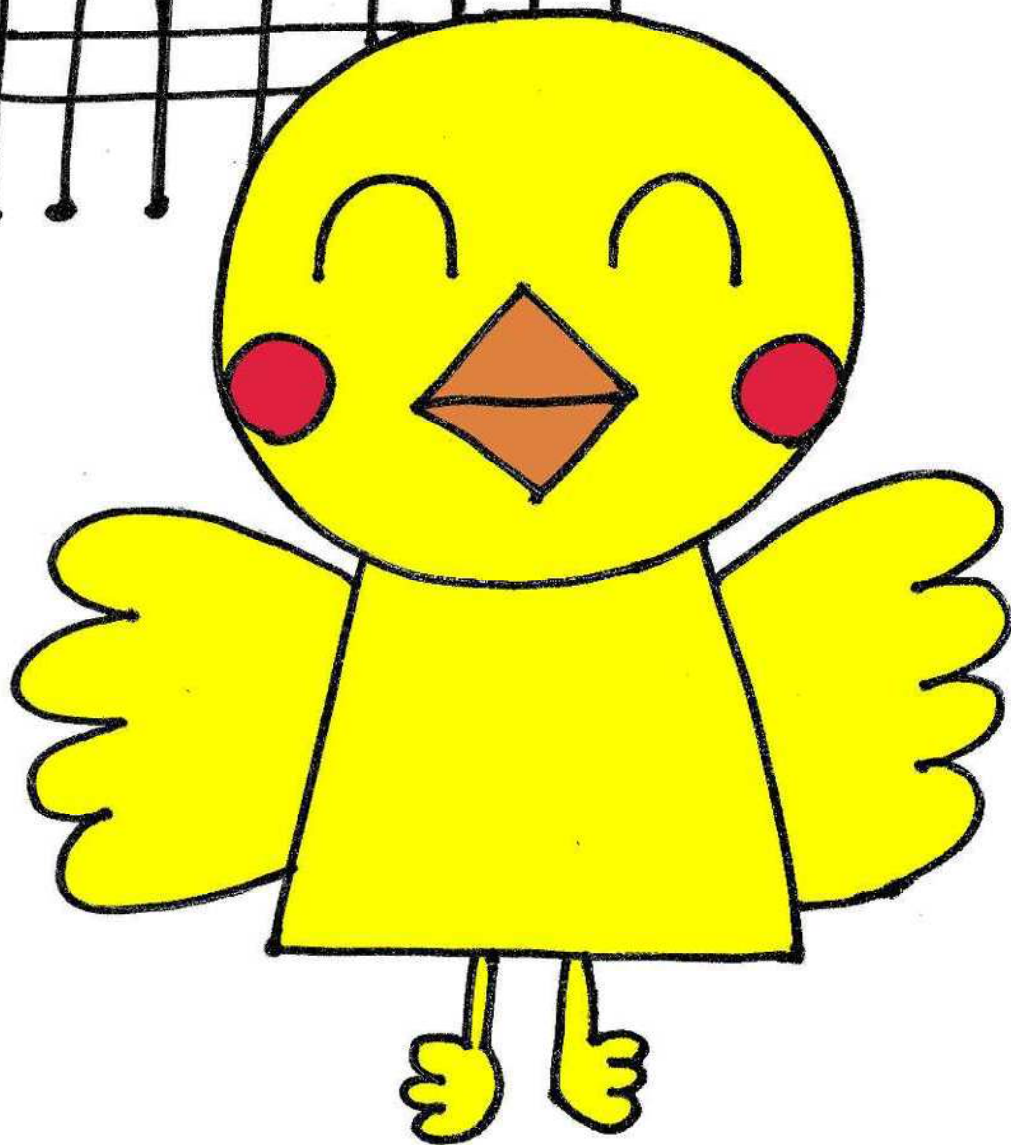
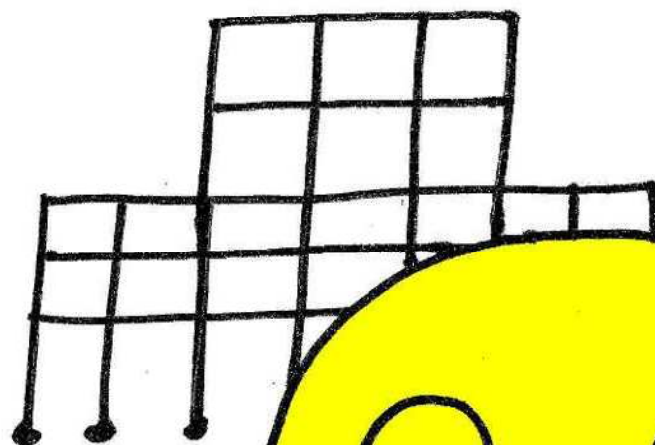
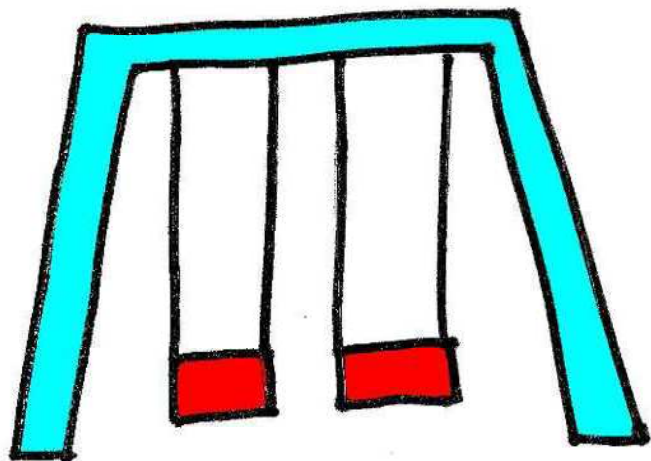


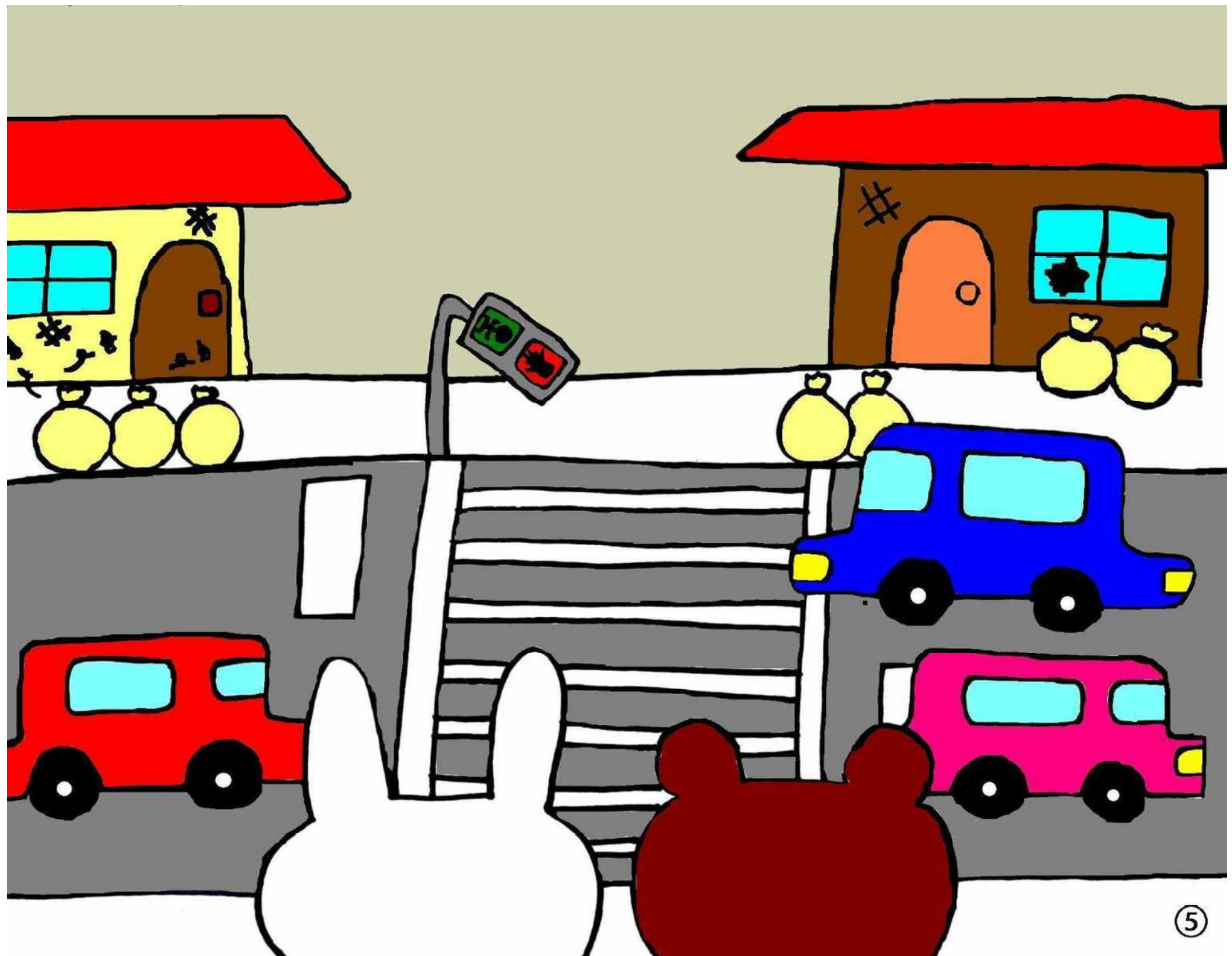
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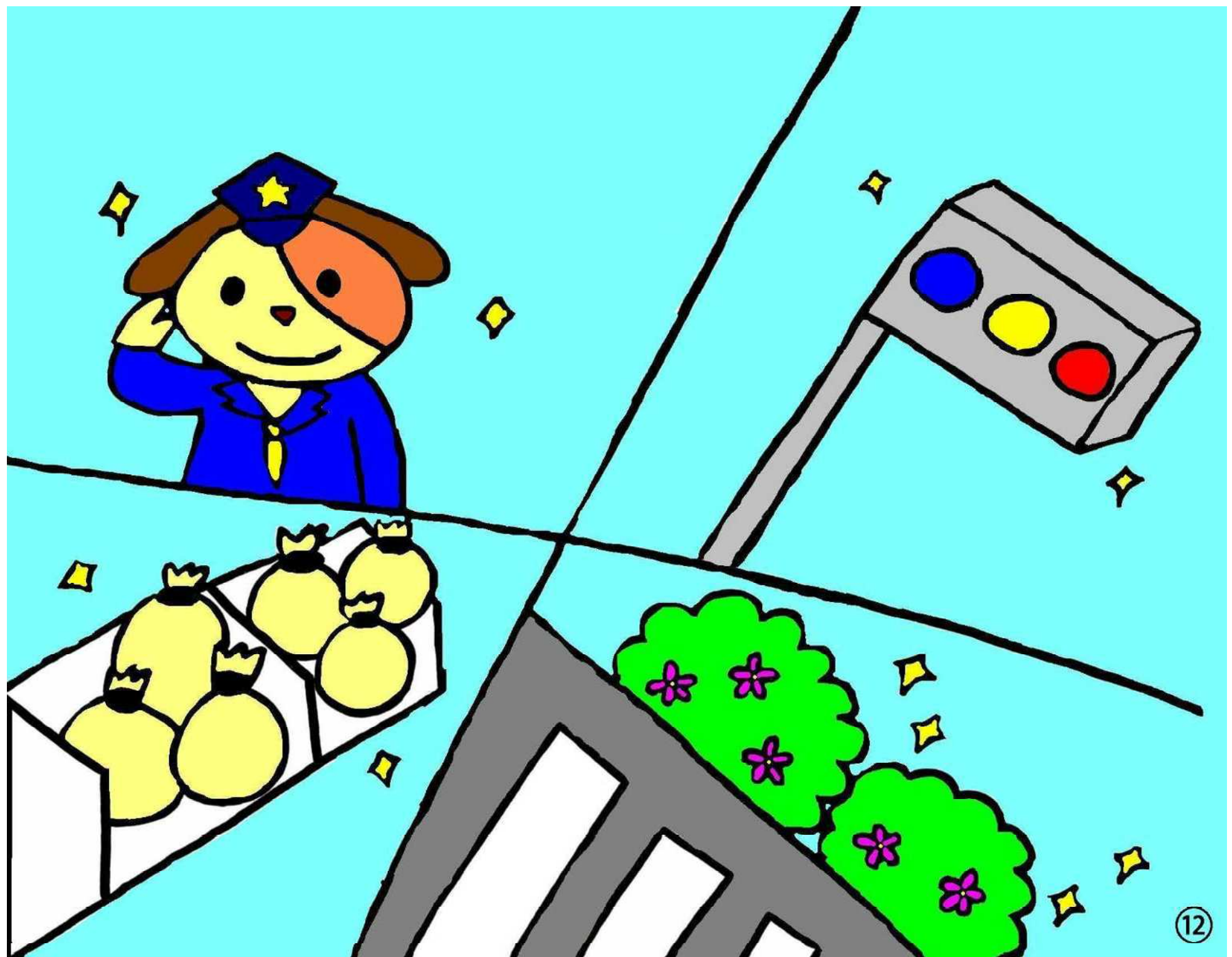


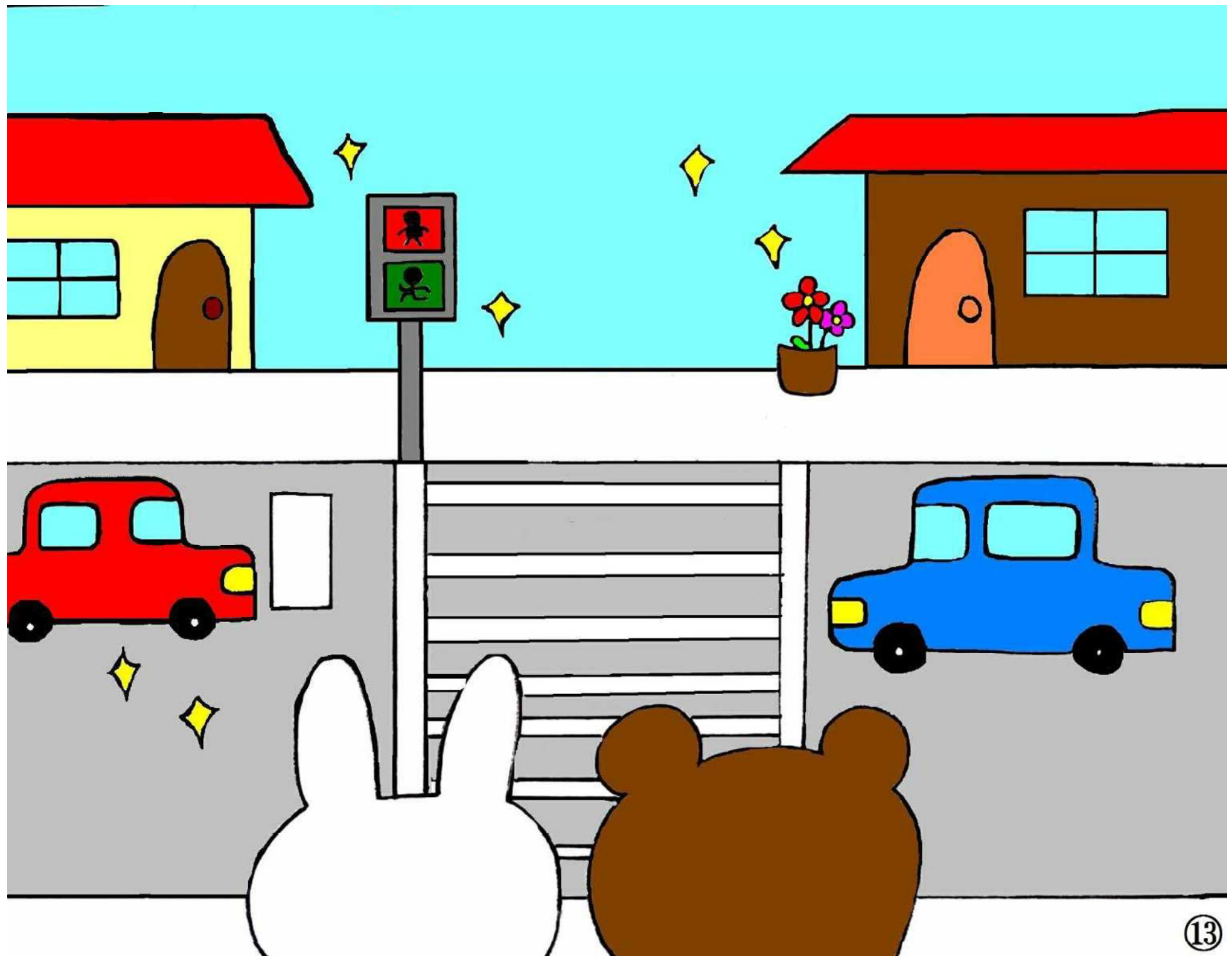












Picture Show

“The Life of Aki-kun and Momiji-chan and The Tax”

Produced by Hiroko Nishikawa's Seminar,
Children's Education Depart Yasuda Women's College
Translated by Reiko Fukuma

[1]

Narrator : There live a rabbit named Momiji and a bear named Aki. They are on their way to get some snack to take with them for a school outing. Tightly holding a one hundred yen coin in their hands, they leave for the store.

Momiji & Aki: We are going to the store.

[2]

Narrator : There are various kinds of snacks in the store. Momiji picks up a 100 yen snack, and she is about to pay for it.

Momiji : I'll get this.

Clerk : OK. That's 108 yen.

Momiji : (Surprised) Why? Isn't it 100 yen?

Clerk : No, the consumption tax is added to it.

The two together : (Loudly) What? What is the consumption tax?

Clerk : The consumption tax is one of the taxes everyone is required to pay to our country.

Momiji : A tax? Then I cannot buy this snack because of the tax, can I?

Aki : (Regretfully) I wanted to get the same snack as Momiji.

[3]

Narrator : Both of the children had to leave the shop without buying their favorite snack, feeling unhappy.

Momiji : (In a troubled air) What in the world do we have to pay a tax for?

Aki : (Getting angry a little) I wish there wasn't any tax to pay!

Narrator : Before realizing it, they have already reached the park.

[4]

Narrator : Then...

Sally : (Cheerfully) Hello, I am a fairy named Sally. I live in this park. I am going to make a tax free world for you.

Narrator : A small chick appears. The two are very surprised, but they are very happy because they will be able to buy their snacks.

Aki : (Surprised) Oh, really!?

Momiji : (Happily) Now we can buy the snacks for 100 yen! Hurray!

Narrator : A world with no tax has come. Now, what will happen there?

[5]

The two together : (Cheerfully) We are going out now!

Aki : (Wonderingly) Wow! Something is strange, isn't it?

Narrator : The town is covered with garbage. The bridges and roads are messy and even the utility poles have fallen down.

Momiji : (Sadly) How did such things happen?

Aki : Let's ask Sally for help!

[6]

Narrator : The two start to go to a park. But they cannot find any parks.

Momiji : (Troubled) Oh---! Where is our park?

Aki : Look! A policeman is over there! Let's ask him!

Narrator : They have decided to ask him how to get to the park.

Aki : (In a loud voice) Officer!

[7]

Policeman : What can I do for you?

AKi : I think there was a park around here. Where is it now?

Policeman : Do you want me to take you there? Then, (short pause) give me 1,000 yen.

The two together : (Surprised and in a loud voice) That's too expensive!

Momiji : (Sadly) Why do we have to pay?

Policeman : (Naturally and promptly) Well, it costs 1,000 yen to guide around the city, 2,000 yen to patrol and 100,000 yen to arrest a thief. If you need help, you have to pay some money!

[8]

Old woman : (Sadly) When we paid taxes, we didn't have to pay money to the policemen.

Narrator : An old lady cat passing by says sadly.

Momiji : (In a little loud voice) I don't have that much money!

Aki : (Turning defiant, and loudly) Forget it! We'll find it by ourselves!

[9]

Narrator : Momiji and Aki start to run, looking for the park. Once again, they notice something is wrong.

Momiji : (Surprised) Wow! Our school is gone!

Aki : (More surprised) The traffic lights don't work either!

Narrator : (Sadly) The two see the town has completely changed and become sad.

[10]

Kitten : (Sorrowfully) Meow, meow.
Narrator : A small kitten is weeping.
Momiji : (Gently) Say, what's the matter with you?
Kitten : (Holding back tears) I want to go home, but the road is crowded with cars, and I can't cross the street.
Narrator : The traffic signals are out of order, and cars keep going without stopping. Crossing the road is hard and dangerous.
Aki : (In a determined and loud voice) We need to find Sally right now!
Momiji : (A little impatient) My goodness! Where in the world is she ?

[11]

Narrator : Sally appears at last.
Sally : (Cheerfully) What was your life like without tax? You could buy a lot of cookies, couldn't you?
Momiji : (Slightly mad) Far from it!
Aki : (Slightly annoyed, in a clear and loud voice) It's so awful because the whole town is filled with garbage, the parks have disappeared, and the policemen are not in service !
Momiji : (In a loud voice, almost begging) Please put the town back to the way it was before !

[12]

Sally : (In a satisfied air) You have finally understood the importance of tax, haven't you? Tax is important, because it is used to keep our town clean, fix roads and have policemen provide services to guard us.
Momiji : (Astonished) I didn't know that.
Aki : (Understanding) Now, I understand the importance of paying tax.
Sally : So, I can return society back to normal.
Narrator : Well, do you believe a society with tax will really come back?

[13]

Narrator : Next morning, the two leave home as usual.

The two together : See you later.

Momiji : (In a happy loud voice) Wow! I don't see any garbage !

Aki : (Happily) The roads and the bridges are cleaned!

The two together : (Cheerfully) After all, tax is important for society!

Narrator : Our town has become as clean as before. Momiji and Aki seem to have learned that money paid for tax affects their lives in many ways. I advise you, from now on, to ask your mother for 108 yen if you want to buy a 100 yen sweet.