

Karen and Grandmother

Story by Lai Suet-man



Karen and
Grandmother

Characters



Karen



Grandmother



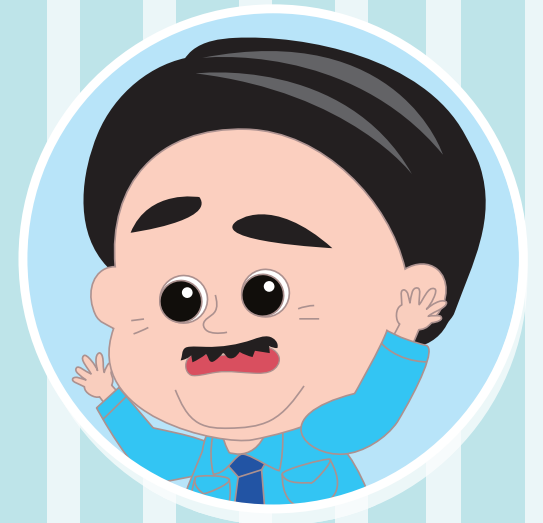
Kitty



Father



Mother



Management Office
Guard

Karen's grandmother was old and always forgot a lot of things.

One day she took Karen to school, and Karen's schoolmates said hello to her.



"Jenny is a good girl!"

"Grandma, you've forgotten, she is Kitty! How many times have I told you?" Karen was pulling her grandmother's sleeve.

Grandmother smiled and said, "Their faces look similar, round, with dimples."

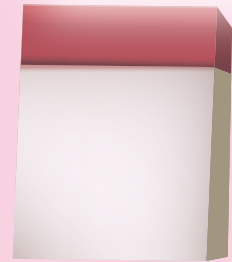


One morning, Karen couldn't find her PE uniform. It was because Grandmother had forgotten to put it into the washing machine the day before.



"Isn't Karen's PE lesson on Wednesday? When was it changed to Tuesday?" Grandmother asked.

"Grandma, you really drive me nuts. Today is Wednesday!" Karen was anxious like a cat on hot bricks.



"Karen, Grandma is not your maid!"
Mother was in a hurry to go to work and said, "Put a jumper on top of the summer uniform then! Let me take you to school and explain it to your class teacher. Bring your breakfast and eat it in the car."



"I've forgotten to make sandwiches.
Are cornflakes alright?"
Grandmother asked.

Karen was about to blow up but
she held back while looking at her
mother.



Mother gave Karen \$20 to buy breakfast and told her seriously, "Grandma is old and her memories are getting worse. We have to help her rather than showing our temper!"



However, before long, Karen lost her temper with Grandmother again.

"Didn't I tell you not to open the windows of my room before dinner time?" Karen was so furious that she stomped her foot on the floor.

Grandmother had thoughtfully opened the windows to let the fresh air in but the wind had messed up the ink on the desk.



Karen was so angry that she locked herself in the room.

"Karen, don't be angry, let me tell Dad to buy your favourite fish burger!" Grandmother didn't forget to remind Karen for dinner.



Karen was mad with Grandmother. She immediately opened the door and shouted, "You've got it all wrong! Fish burger is Dad's favourite! You're driving me crazy!"

Grandmother went away without a word. Seeing Grandmother's sad face, Karen knew she had made a big mistake.



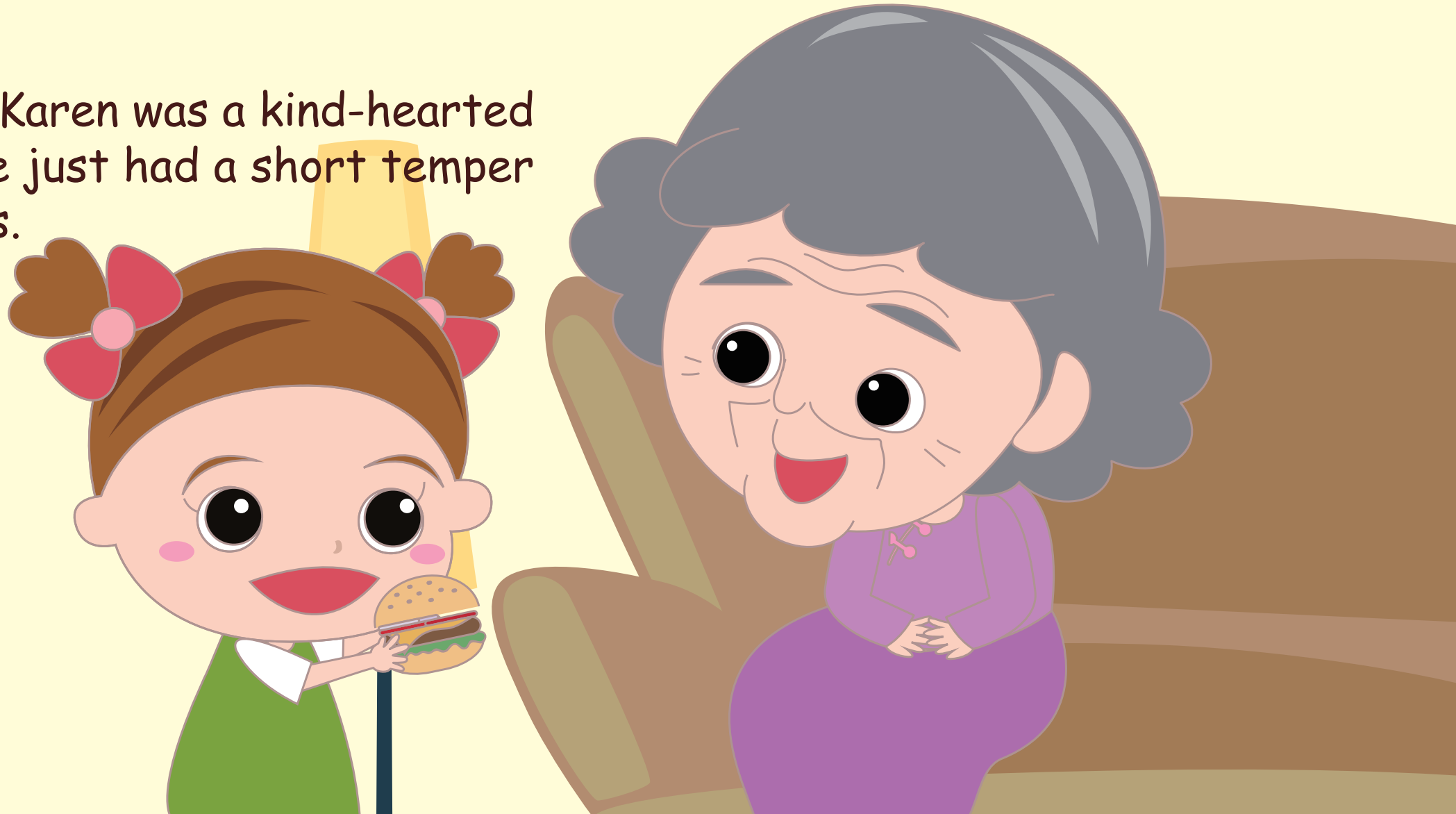
About the same time, Father returned home. He heard the conversation and was not pleased. He said, "I didn't forget cheese burger is my darling daughter's favourite. But if Grandma didn't call me to buy it, you wouldn't even get chips."



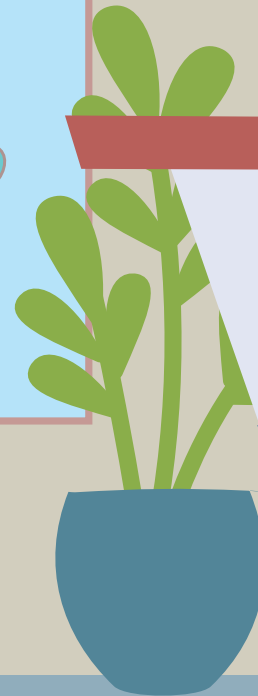
Karen got the hint from Father and immediately gave Grandmother a burger. She said gently, "Grandma! I'm so sorry! Let's eat together, alright?"

After all, Karen was a kind-hearted child. She just had a short temper sometimes.

Grandmother always loved her and did everything to please her. Karen knew all of this too well.



One day after school, Karen returned home but nobody opened the door. Rushing downstairs, she cried nervously at the management office, "Grandma must have forgotten the way home! What should I do? Grandma must have got lost!"





"Guess your Grandma is only late getting home. There she is!" The management office guard pointed at the building entrance where Grandmother was rushing in.

Grandmother forgot to bring her watch. She had a good chat with the neighbours and forgot the time.



Karen saw Grandmother carrying a basket. She asked, "Grandma, didn't you go out to buy food for dinner?"

Grandmother looked at the basket only with a bottle of soy sauce in and said, "Oh! Forgotten again!"



Karen was rewarded for Grandmother's mistake. Grandmother took her to the restaurant for her favourite king prawn dinner served on a sizzling plate.



Karen took out a little bag and a packet of walnut cakes from her school bag. From the little bag, she took out a pack of reminder labels and said, "The teacher said walnut is good for the brain! Also, this is the 'medicine' for forgetfulness. Writing down things ought to be done every day, then there's no way to forget them.

I made this little bag for you in my art lesson. Keep it and you won't forget things."

Karen did not notice that the little bag did not go with a pen. Of course Grandmother did not realise that either! Grandmother smiled and praised that Karen was a good girl.



The waiter brought the dish. Karen was delighted and said, "This prawn has a big head!" And she ate the chips with her fingers!

"Hey, you forgot to wash your hands before eating!" Grandmother laughed while patting Karen's head.

Karen said, "Ha! Being absent-minded is something that is inherited. I'm as forgetful as you, Grandma! Haha ..."



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