

KOORIYAMAMONOGATARI

STORY OF PEP KIDS KORIYAMA



Raito Nihizaka



Andrew is a cheerful boy who loves playing outside.
"Mommy! Can I go and play with my friends?"
"Sure, you can. But remember,
come back home before the sun sets."
"Mommy waved her hand,
watching Andrew off to the park.

Suddenly, the ground began trembling
when Andrew was playing at the park.
Shake, shake, shake. Wobble, wobble, wobble.
The quake was getting stronger and stronger.
SHAKE, SHAKE, SHAKE.
WOBBLE, WOBBLE, WOBBLE.

"Oh my god!! Someone, anyone, help me!!"



After the quake, Andrew realized that the entire city was in a mess.
The roads cracked, the houses turned into debris,
and the water pipes burst.

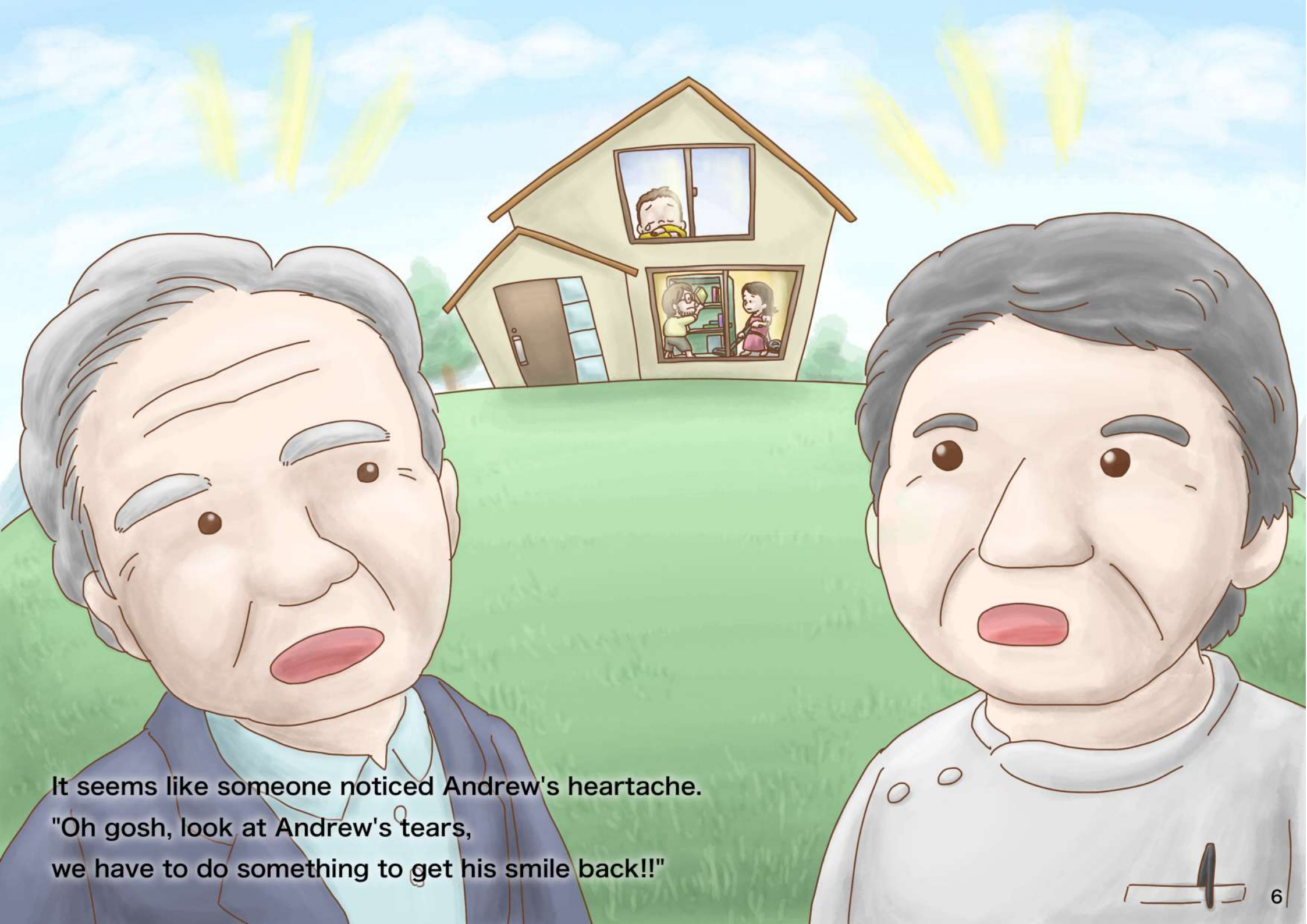


Moreover, Andrew's favorite park was in an absolute mess. was destroyed.
Andrew's friends moved to other faraway cities for evacuation.



Andrew's parents were very busy fixing up the mess.
So, Andrew had no one to play with anymore.
Poor Andrew, he lost his cheerfulness, and instead,
he became lonely and unhappy.
A tear drop ran down Andrew's cheek.





It seems like someone noticed Andrew's heartache.
"Oh gosh, look at Andrew's tears,
we have to do something to get his smile back!!"

Clank, clink, clink. Clonk, clang, clang.
Bang, bang, drilling. Knock, knock, knock
They started building something in a hurry.



One day, Andrew's parents decided to take him on a trip.
"Andrew, let's go out in a car and enjoy a trip!" said Mommy.

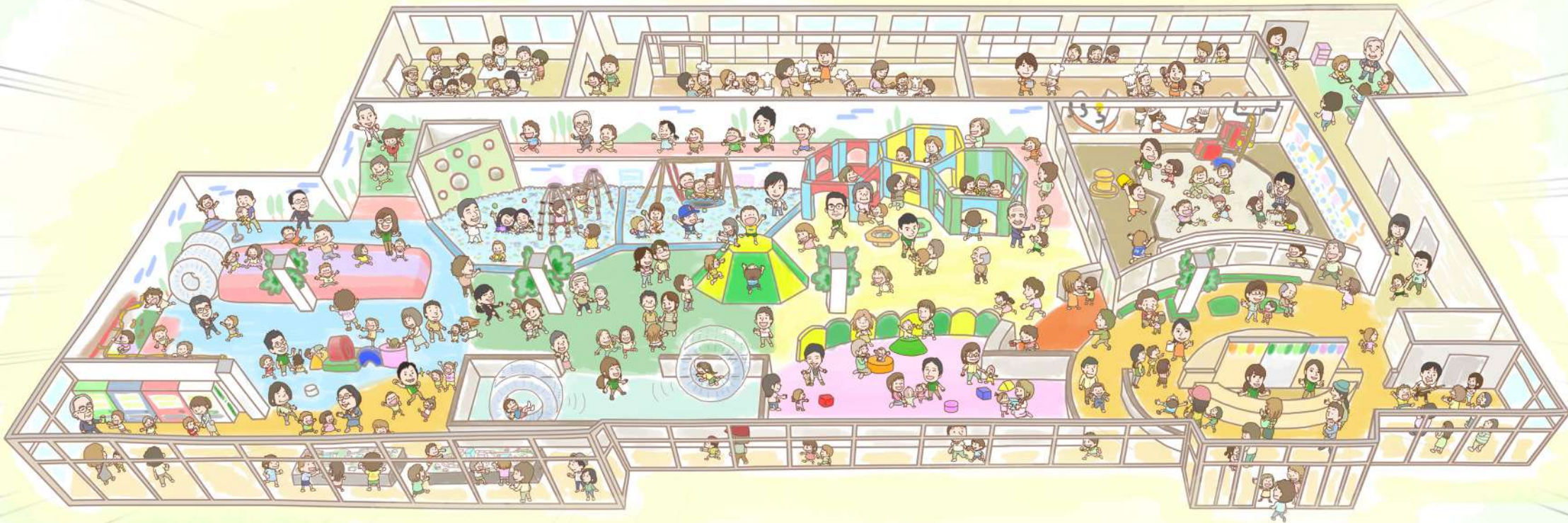


"We are here, Andrew!" Daddy said. Andrew slowly shifted his eyes.

In front of Andrew was a huge green entrance to an indoor amusement park: the PEP kids Koriyama!



Inside of PEP kids Koriyama,
there were many people,
from young to old, playing joyfully.





Andrew played all day long with friendly staff,
and besides he made many new friends.
He finally regained his cheerfulness.

Mommy said, "I am glad to see you smiling again, Andrew."

Daddy said, "I didn't know playing had an important role in making us happy"

With a big smile like the sun, Andrew exclaimed, "I love playing!"

The End.



The picture book is based on a book “KORIYAMA MONOGATARI (Fukumura Shuppan, Inc.)” which provides details on the establishment of PEP Kids Koriyama. We hope to pass on to children what we have already disseminated to adults in Japan, so we decided to create this picture book. Please enjoy reading this picture book with your children. Below is the revised postscript from “KORIYAMA MONOGATARI.”

Following the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11th, 2011, the importance of community solidarity was acclaimed; and, accordingly, the strong bonds that tie Japanese people together, their charitable attitude towards each other, was shown worldwide. With time, however, the March 11th catastrophe and the damages that it inflicted on many children have rapidly receded from our memories. There was once a feeling of solidarity, but this is also disappearing. Although the aftermath of the disaster has faded in our memories, those involved in the establishment and maintenance of PEP Kids Koriyama continue to contribute to the joy of children in their play and to the maintenance of their mental health.

My mentor, Dr. Hisako Watanabe (Psychiatrist in the Department of Pediatrics at Keio University School of Medicine), provided us, survivors of the disaster, with encouraging words on March 21st, immediately after the incident. With gratitude to Dr. Watanabe and others, we believe that the tiny flicker of relief has coalesced into a bonfire of happiness for residents in Koriyama and Fukushima.

These days, there is greater concern about the changing environment of Japanese children. Yet, there has not been a full discussion of the range of problems as well as potential solutions to improve the environment. The Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11th helped to publicize some of the problems in our environment in which children are being raised and growing up. These problems have reached the threshold of media interest. We, adults, should heed the call to reconsider our environment, and think about the best environment for raising children, so that they can live a healthy life. This will benefit not only children living in Fukushima but also those living throughout the country and world. We believe that facing the challenges in Fukushima will be the first step in developing a solution to the current set of problems.



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Reference book Koriyama Monogatari (Fukumura Shuppan, Inc.)