



The Blue Circle

By Rohini Chintla

Vandana was busy. She kept running between the house and the outhouse, carrying loads of things everytime.

"What are you doing, Vandana?" asked Mom.

"Aru, Neeraj and I are putting up a performance in the evening. You must all come," she said.

"Oh! That's nice," said Mom. "We will surely come. In the meanwhile, do you want any refreshments? Shall I bring some over to the outhouse?"

"No, Mom! You cannot come to the outhouse. We don't want you to see our costumes and sets before the performance. When it's time for lunch, just call out to us; we'll come over," said Vandana, rushing off again.

For the next couple of hours, the children kept coming up to Mom with strange requests.

"Mom, can I have a blue blanket?" asked Vandana. "Preferably, a light blue one."

"Aunty, can we borrow a couple of blue curtains?" asked Aru.

"Aunty, would you have a blue candle that we could use in our performance?" asked Neeraj.

"What are the kids up to?" wondered Mom.

When it was time for lunch, Mom called out to the three. The children rushed in looking quite famished, and sat down to eat. While the children ate, Mom enquired about the performance.

"Who wrote the screenplay?" she asked.



crayons, scissors, staplers and glue, and went back to their secret den.

Mom called Aru and Neeraj's parents and some of their friends, for the children's performance. She then set out to prepare some sandwiches and a blue

Ocean Cooler mocktail to go with what seemed to be the colour theme of the performance.

"All three of us wrote it together," replied Vandana proudly.

"Did you have enough time to memorise your dialogues?" asked Mom.

"It is a silent performance, Auntie. We will enact it and you will have to interpret the meaning," said an excited Aru.

Neeraj giggled. "You will be given three chances to guess," he added.

"That sounds interesting!" said Mom. She, too, was beginning to feel a little excited.

"At what time will your parents arrive?" Mom asked Aru and Neeraj.

"Oh no!" they said in unison. "We forgot to inform them. Auntie, could you please call up our parents and ask them to be here by 4.30 p.m.?"

"I surely will," assured Mom.

After lunch, the children collected a couple of drawing books,

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At around 4 in the evening, the guest started arriving. They gathered in the garden where Vandana's Dad had arranged some chairs. Five minutes before the scheduled time, the children distributed invitation cards to the adults and invited them over to the outhouse.

At 4.30 p.m. sharp, Vandana, walked to the centre wearing a blue coat, and addressed the gathering. "We welcome you



all. This is a silent performance. You can try and interpret the meaning. After the performance, if you are still unable to guess, we will explain the meaning to you," she announced, and went off the stage.

The curtain slowly parted. All three kids, in blue coats, and a blue circle painted over their left eye, stepped forward. The three did a slow dance-like movement and picked up cards that were placed on the table, and pinned it to their dresses. The cards had a blue circle drawn on them.

The friends then moved to the centre of the stage and picked up three placards that had been placed upside-down on the floor. They held them up for the audience to see.

Aru's placard read '*Eat healthy, avoid junk*'. Neeraj's placard read '*Exercise daily for 30 minutes*', and Vandana's read '*Live happy, live longer*'.

The audience were awed by the beautiful performance, but they were unable to interpret the meaning. Dr. Sen, the neighbourhood physician, got up and started clapping. "Bravo, kids. Bravo!" he cheered them.

The other adults were confused. They looked at Dr. Sen quizzically.

"Let me explain," he

began, "The children's performance was based on World Diabetes Day. Its logo is a blue circle, which you see on their badges. The theme of World Diabetes Day 2016 is Eyes on Diabetes, which they have depicted by painting a blue circle around their eyes. And to go with the blue colour of the logo, the kids have created a blue theme for their performance."

"And what about their placards?" asked Aru's father.

"They indicate the three important lifestyle changes that need to be adopted to manage diabetes," replied Dr. Sen.

The parents were thrilled at the thought and effort put in by the kids. They applauded the children.

The children, too, were happy that their performance was a success. They gave Dr. Sen an extra glass of mocktail as a prize for interpreting their performance correctly.



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