

# A new home



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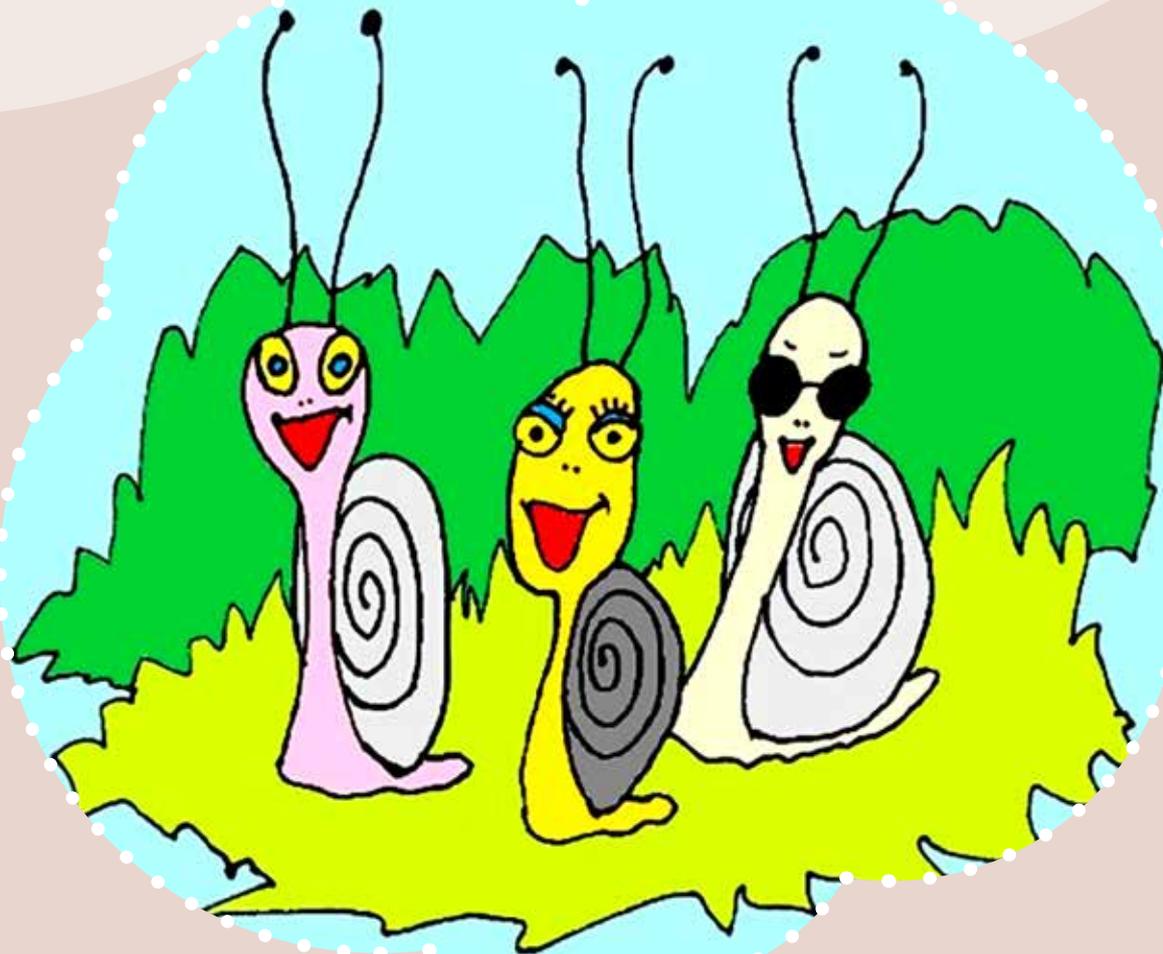
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A new  
*home*



## **WORD OF THANKS**

Action for Breast Cancer Foundation

Dunstan Hamilton EO PSCD for writing the story

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Dear children,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to bring to your PSCD lesson this interesting story about Colin. Colin is a young boy just like you who suddenly had to face an unexpected situation at home. This happens to us sometimes, too. Colin is a wonderful example of how we can grow into smart individuals by being able to adapt to situations and have fun at the same time.

**ESTHER SANT**

Chairperson

Action For Breast Cancer Foundation

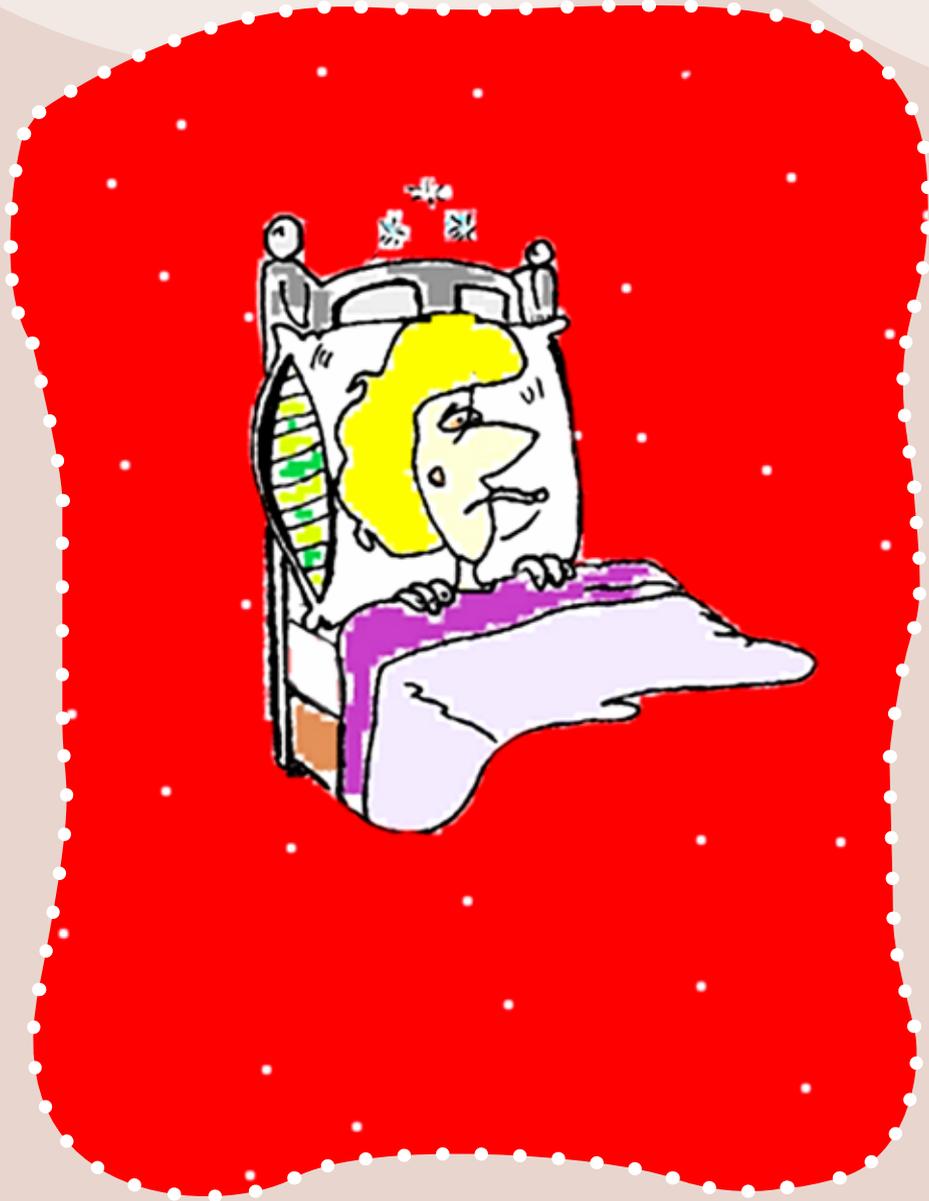
*Good things fall apart so  
better things fall together*

# A new home

The summer holidays had just begun. Colin picked up his suitcase and got into his aunt's car. In around half an hour they would get the ferry to Gozo. Colin looked sad. He did not want to go to live on the farm with his aunt, a doctor, his uncle, a farmer, and his younger cousin Linda.



But, .....his mummy was going to remain in hospital for a very long time and Colin was too young to live on his own!



PROCESSING QUESTION:

What do you think had happened to Colin's mummy?



When they got to the farm the first thing Colin saw was Molly, the cow.

He knew that life was going to be very different. He would not be able to see all his friends. They were all in Malta, not Gozo!

He would not be able to sleep late and wake up late because the farm animals would need to be fed early.  
Also, the pigs did not smell nice at all!



He was going to have his own room on the farm but still he was not happy. He had to leave most of his things behind.  
Oh, how he wished he was still living in the flat in the busy town!

#### PROCESSING QUESTIONS:

How would you feel if you had to leave your home and go and live somewhere else?

What makes Gozo different from Malta?

What is the difference between life in a town and life in a village?

Is there a big difference?



Linda and Uncle George welcomed Colin. So did Marmelade the cat.

Aunty Lorraine opened the fridge and poured some white milk into a glass. She also gave him some grapes which Linda had just cut from the grapevine in the farmyard.

Colin was hungry but he usually ate junk food for lunch, a packet or chocolate, not fruit!

He was thirsty too, and he started to imagine the fridge in the flat full of soft drinks.

Oh, how he wished he was still living in the flat in the busy town!

PROCESSING QUESTIONS:

What is healthy food?

Why is it important to eat healthy food?

Do you eat healthy food? Do you drink water and white milk?



Uncle George and Aunty Lorraine were very strict when it came to how much time Linda could spend watching television or playing games on the computer.... just two hours a day ! And the mobile phone was to be used only as a phone...and not to play games.



So, Linda and Colin had to spend a lot of time helping Uncle George feeding and cleaning the animals and picking fruit and vegetables, while Aunty Lorraine went to visit her sick patients.

They had to spend the rest of the time outside, in the countryside.

Colin was not looking forward to these changes in his life.

Oh, how he wished he was still living in the flat in the busy town!

#### PROCESSING QUESTIONS:

Do you help out at home? How much time do you spend watching television or playing games online?

How much time do you think you should spend playing online every day?

Why do you think you should not spend too much time on your game console or watching television ?

Do you think it can effect your health? How?

Do you think that you should help out at home, just like Colin did? How?



That night, before he went to sleep, he prayed that his mummy would soon be better and back at home, so he would be able to leave the farm.

Very early next morning, he and Linda were woken up by the cock crowing.

They went into the kitchen and Auntie Lorraine had just prepared some fresh orange juice for them.

Yummy, this tasted much better than the one at home, poured from the carton.

Uncle George came in with some eggs the chickens had just laid. Soon he had prepared some scrambled eggs for them all. Yummy!



#### PROCESSING QUESTIONS:

Do you think Colin is still very unhappy?

What can you do to feel better, when you are sad?

How did Auntie Lorraine, Uncle George and his cousin help Colin to cope with the situation and adapt himself?

Can you mention some people you feel comfortable talking to when you need to speak to someone about how you are feeling?

Why is it important to discuss your feelings?

The days passed and Colin got used to his new life although he wanted to see his mummy again.... who was now in a hospital in England.

He really enjoyed going on adventures with his cousin in the fields and near the trees. They made a secret camp, build a tree house, saw wild rabbits and hedgehogs. They saw the bees making honey and went on long rides with their bicycles. Colin used his uncle's bike.

Linda and Colin even found a small cave!





Living on the farm was hard work but great fun too. It was lovely to see the ducks and chicks hatch out of their eggs and to play with the little kittens that Linda's cat had given birth to.



PROCESSING QUESTIONS:

How do you spend your free time? What do you like doing?

The summer holidays ended and Colin and Linda started going to school once more.

Colin had to start going to a new school, one closer to the farm. He had got used to making changes in his life and quickly made new friends.







Christmas time arrived.... and also a wonderful surprise.  
Mum phoned and told Colin she was much better and would be returning  
to Malta in a few days.  
She had recovered and was much better now.





Uncle George went to pick her up from the airport with his car and he then took her over to the farm to meet Colin.

Colin was so happy to see his mummy once more.

He was so happy that she was well again.

When she arrived she told him she was just in time to ask him what he wanted for Christmas and he told her that he wanted.....





PROCESSING QUESTIONS:

How do you think Colin felt when his mum returned back to Malta?

What did he want for Christmas?

Unfortunately, some people will not become better, even if they go to hospital.

How would these people and their families and friends feel?

What can they do?

Can we help these people and their families in any way?

# A new home

Action for Breast Cancer Foundation:

When a person goes through a life changing experience one can decide to share the experience with others so that it will serve as an eye opener to those that want to prevent as much as possible such experiences. That's how Action for Breast Cancer Foundation started. Men and women that passed from breast cancer joined together in this organisation and today we try to support others by:

1. Offering free professional psychological support.
2. Providing a free brassier to mastectomy patients from Mater Dei Breast Clinic and also for Gozo General Hospital.
3. Providing an A5 file for all the breast cancer patients at diagnoses stage to contain their personal medical records and other related information along their breast cancer journey.
4. Raising awareness about possible environmental factors that may contribute to cancer through our affiliation with Health Environmental Alliance.
5. Educating about breast cancer prevention and lifestyle choices to students in schools and to adults in their workplaces and in other locations.



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