Founding Editor: John Milne

The Macmillan Readers provide a choice of enjoyable reading materials for learners of English. The series is published at six levels – Starter, Beginner, Elementary, Pre-intermediate, Intermediate and Upper.

Level control
Information, structure and vocabulary are controlled to suit the students' ability at each level.

The number of words at each level:

Starter	about 300 basic words
Beginner	about 600 basic words
Elementary	about 1100 basic words
Pre-intermediate	about 1400 basic words
Intermediate	about 1600 basic words
Upper	about 2200 basic words

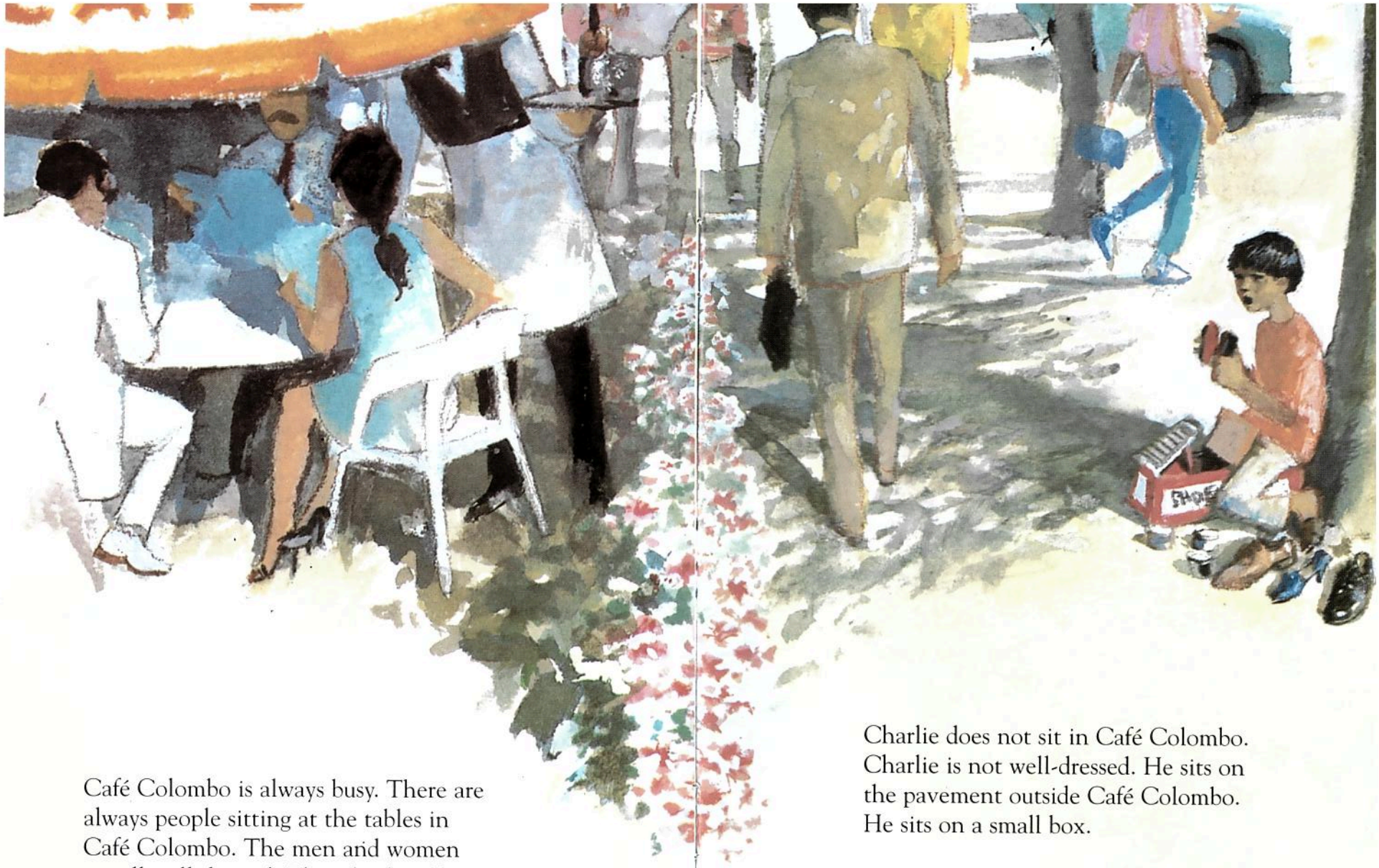
Vocabulary
Some difficult words and phrases in this book are important for understanding the story. Some of these words are explained in the story and some are shown in the pictures. From Pre-intermediate level upwards, words are marked with a number like this: …[3]. These words are explained in the Glossary at the end of the book.

MACMILLAN READERS
STARTER LEVEL

JOHN MILNE

Lucky Number

MACMILLAN

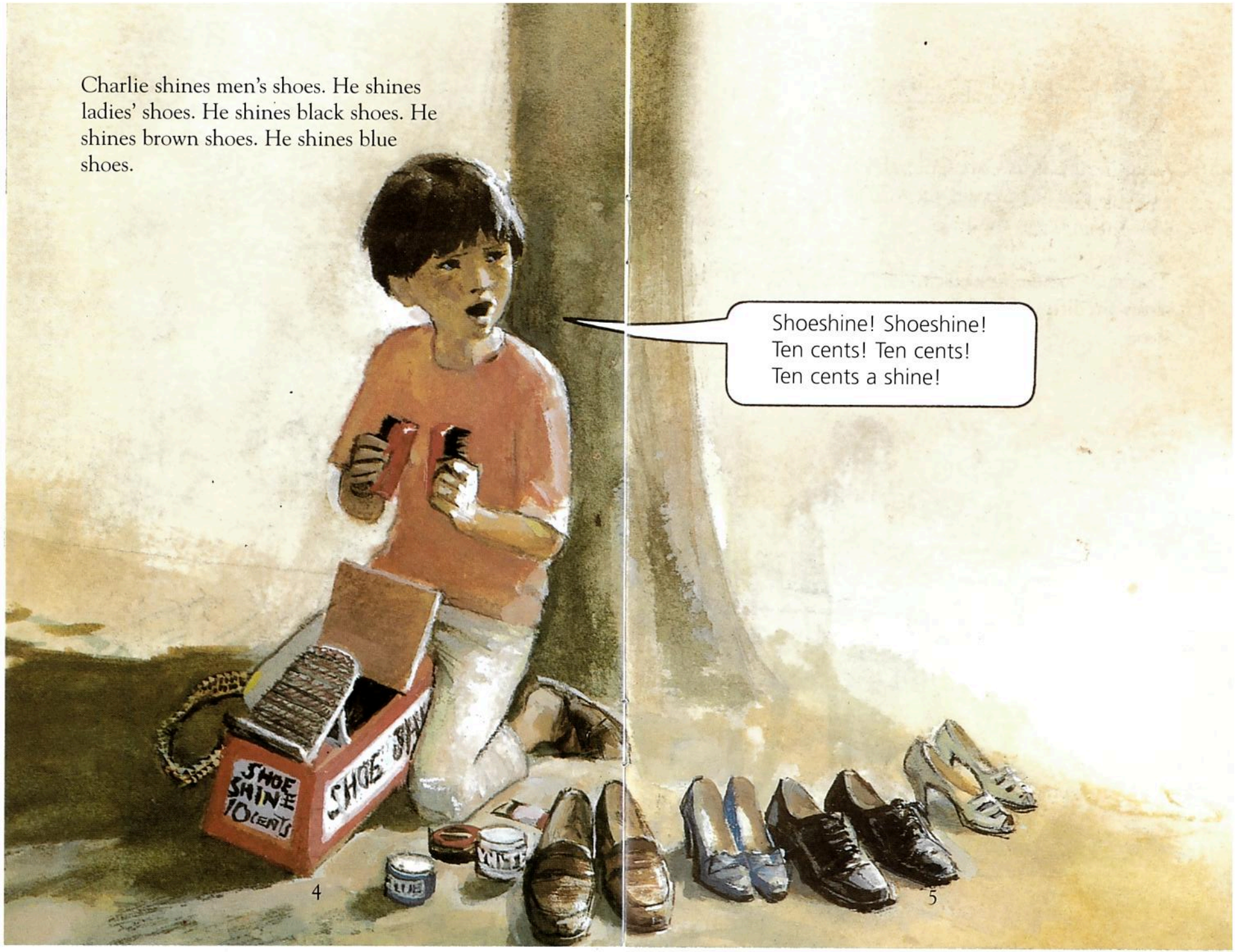


Café Colombo is always busy. There are always people sitting at the tables in Café Colombo. The men and women are all well-dressed. They drink coffee. They eat ice-cream. They read newspapers.

Charlie does not sit in Café Colombo. Charlie is not well-dressed. He sits on the pavement outside Café Colombo. He sits on a small box.

Charlie is a shoeshine boy. Charlie shines shoes. He does not go to school. He works all day.

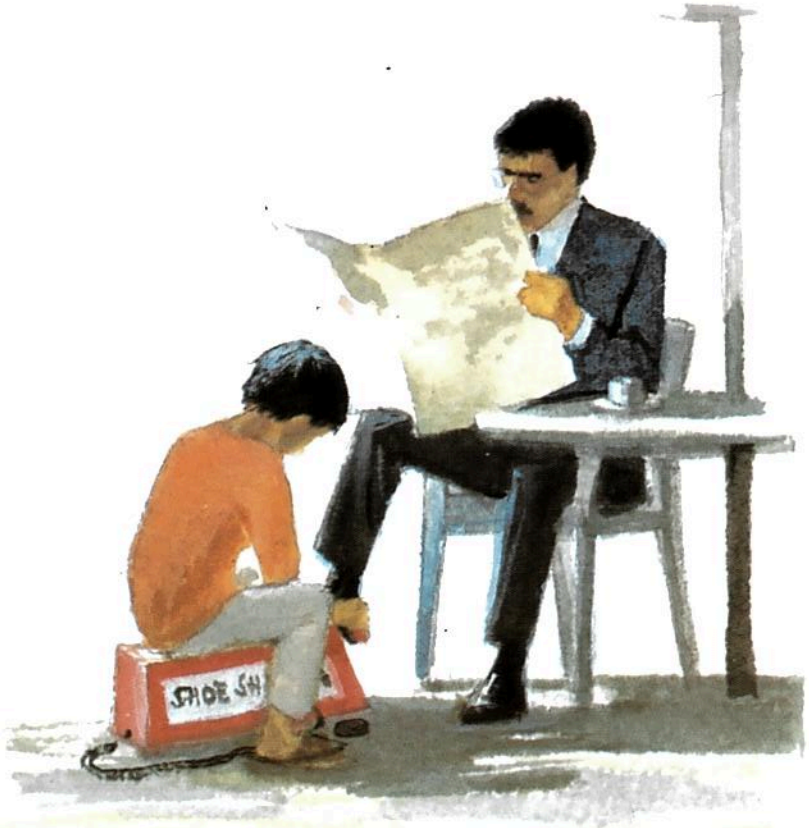
Charlie shines men's shoes. He shines ladies' shoes. He shines black shoes. He shines brown shoes. He shines blue shoes.

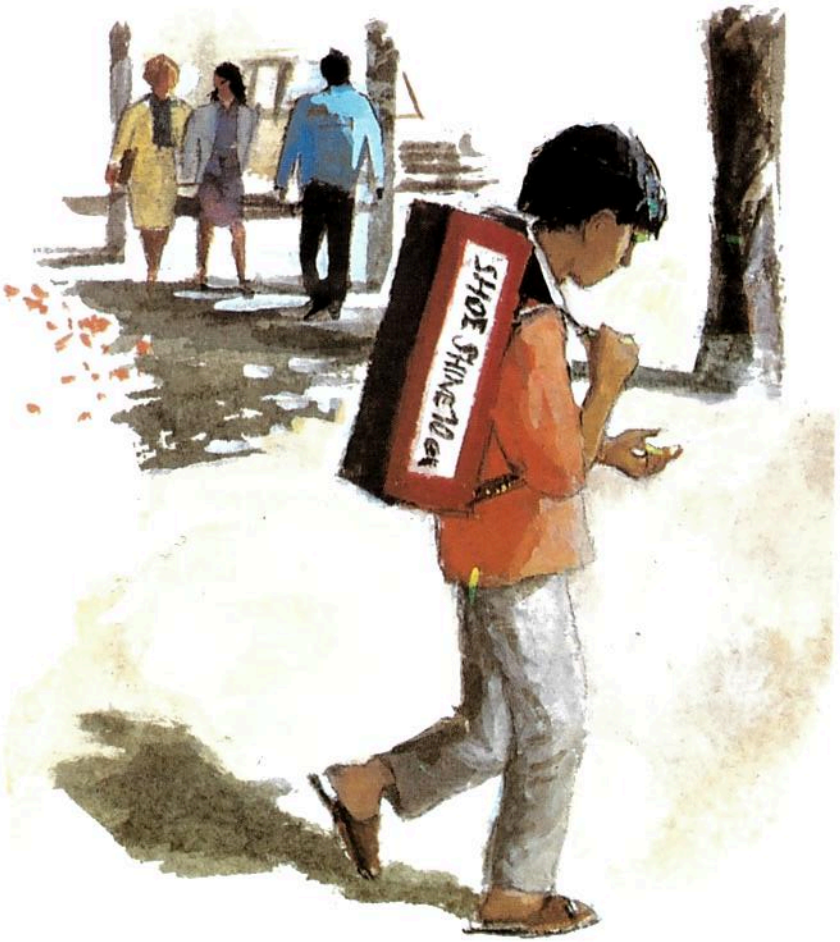


A man in Café Colombo shouts,
'Charlie!'

Charlie runs into Café Colombo. He puts his box at the man's feet. The man puts one foot on the box.

The man's shoes are black. The man's shoes are dirty. Charlie cleans the man's shoes.





The man gives Charlie ten cents. Charlie takes the ten cent coin. He picks up his box. He goes back to the pavement.

An old man walks slowly along the pavement. The old man is carrying a large board. There is a notice on the board. The old man is selling lottery tickets.

A well-dressed man in Café Colombo is shouting.

The ticket-seller gives the man a ticket. The man gives the ticket-seller a dollar.

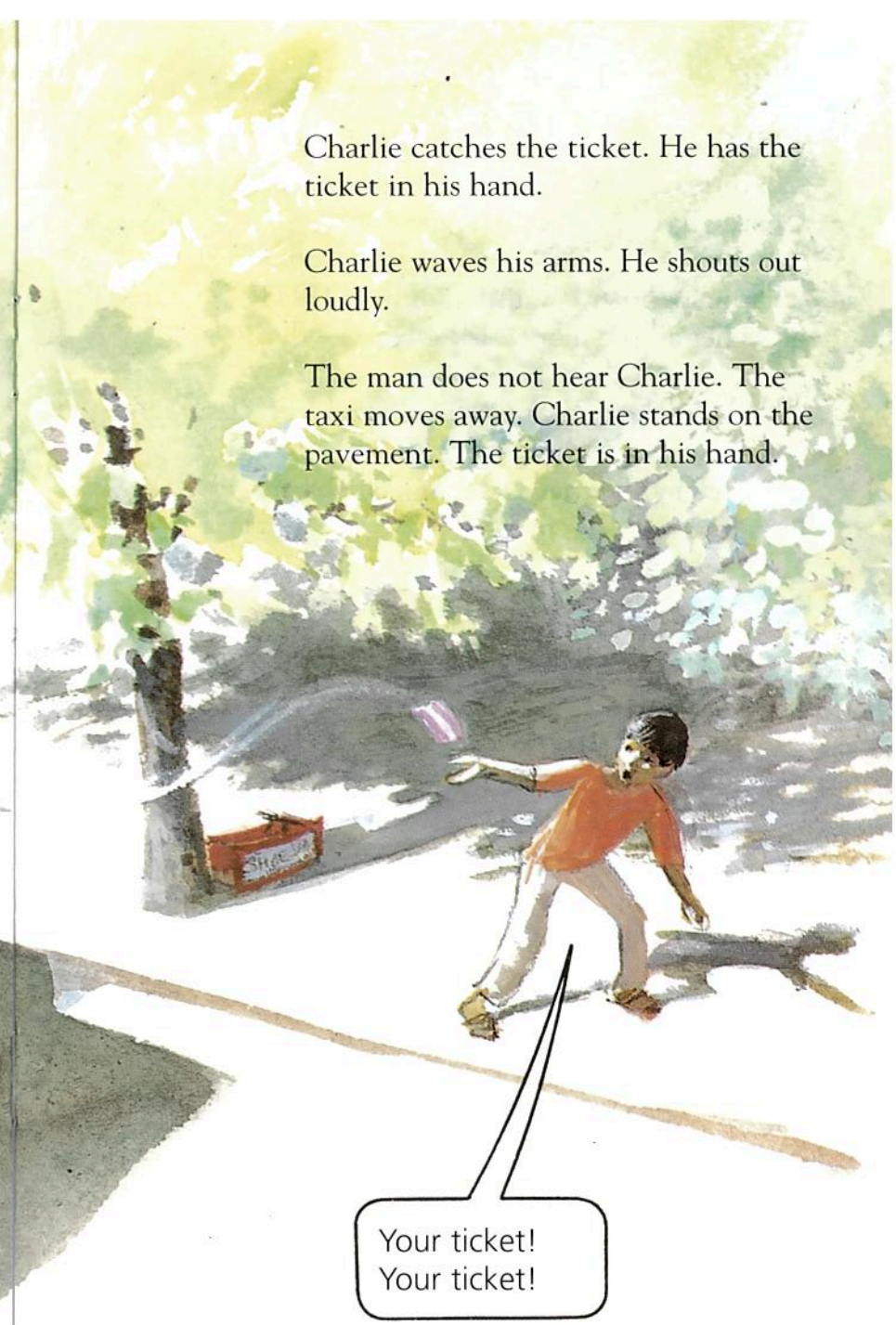
The well-dressed man is in a hurry. A taxi is waiting. The man puts the ticket in his pocket quickly.

The man gets into the taxi. The ticket falls out of his pocket. The wind blows the ticket into the air.

Charlie catches the ticket. He has the ticket in his hand.

Charlie waves his arms. He shouts out loudly.

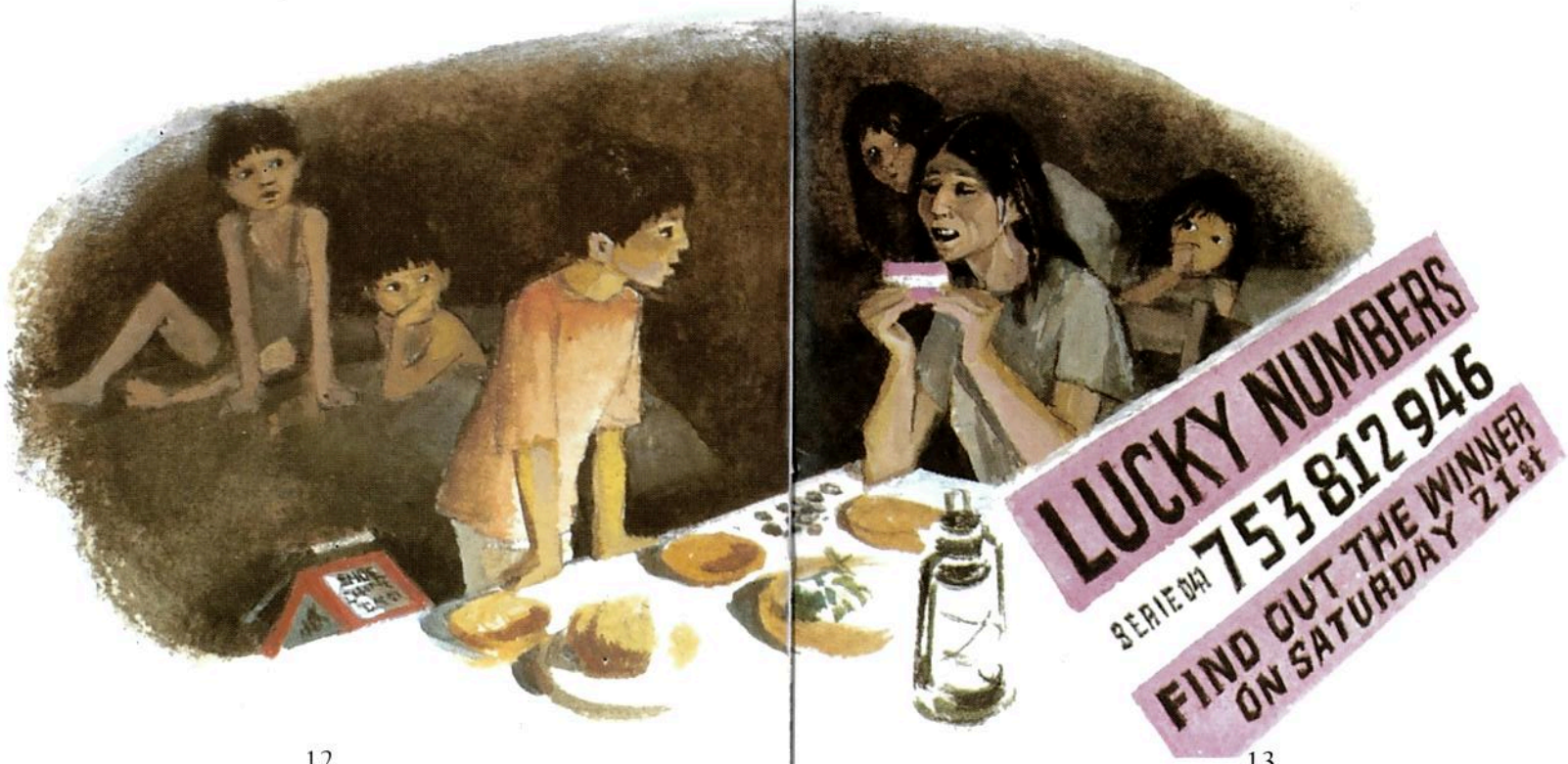
The man does not hear Charlie. The taxi moves away. Charlie stands on the pavement. The ticket is in his hand.



Café Colombo closes at midnight. Charlie's home is far away. Every night, Charlie has a long walk home.

Charlie's mother is waiting for him. He gives her all the money.

Charlie has no father. Charlie has younger brothers and younger sisters. Charlie's mother needs the money. She buys food with the money.



Charlie shows his mother the lottery ticket. His mother looks at the ticket.

She reads the number – SEVEN – FIVE – THREE – EIGHT – ONE – TWO – NINE – FOUR – SIX.

Is this the winning number? Perhaps it is. Saturday 21st is tomorrow. Perhaps tomorrow will be their lucky day!

Charlie is tired. He puts the ticket on his box. He falls asleep.

Charlie has a dream.

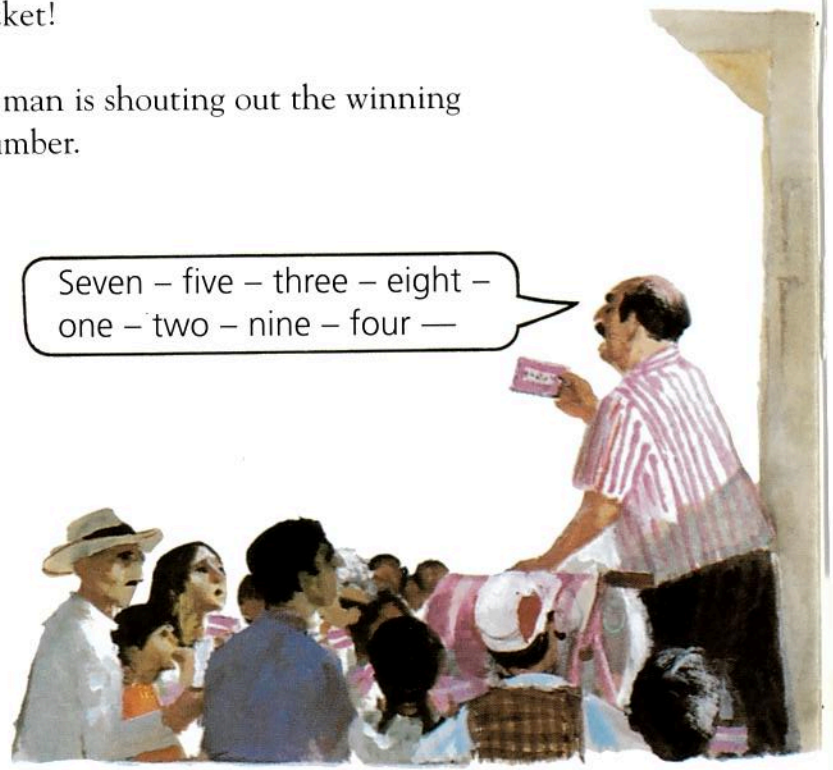
A goat comes into the house. The goat finds the ticket. The goat is eating the ticket.

The goat eats the number six.
The goat eats the number four.
The goat eats the number nine.

Charlie wakes up. It is morning. The ticket is not on the box! Where is the ticket?

Charlie runs to the lottery office. Charlie sees his mother. She has the ticket!

A man is shouting out the winning number.



Will the next number be six? Will it be their lucky number? Will it be their lucky day?

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