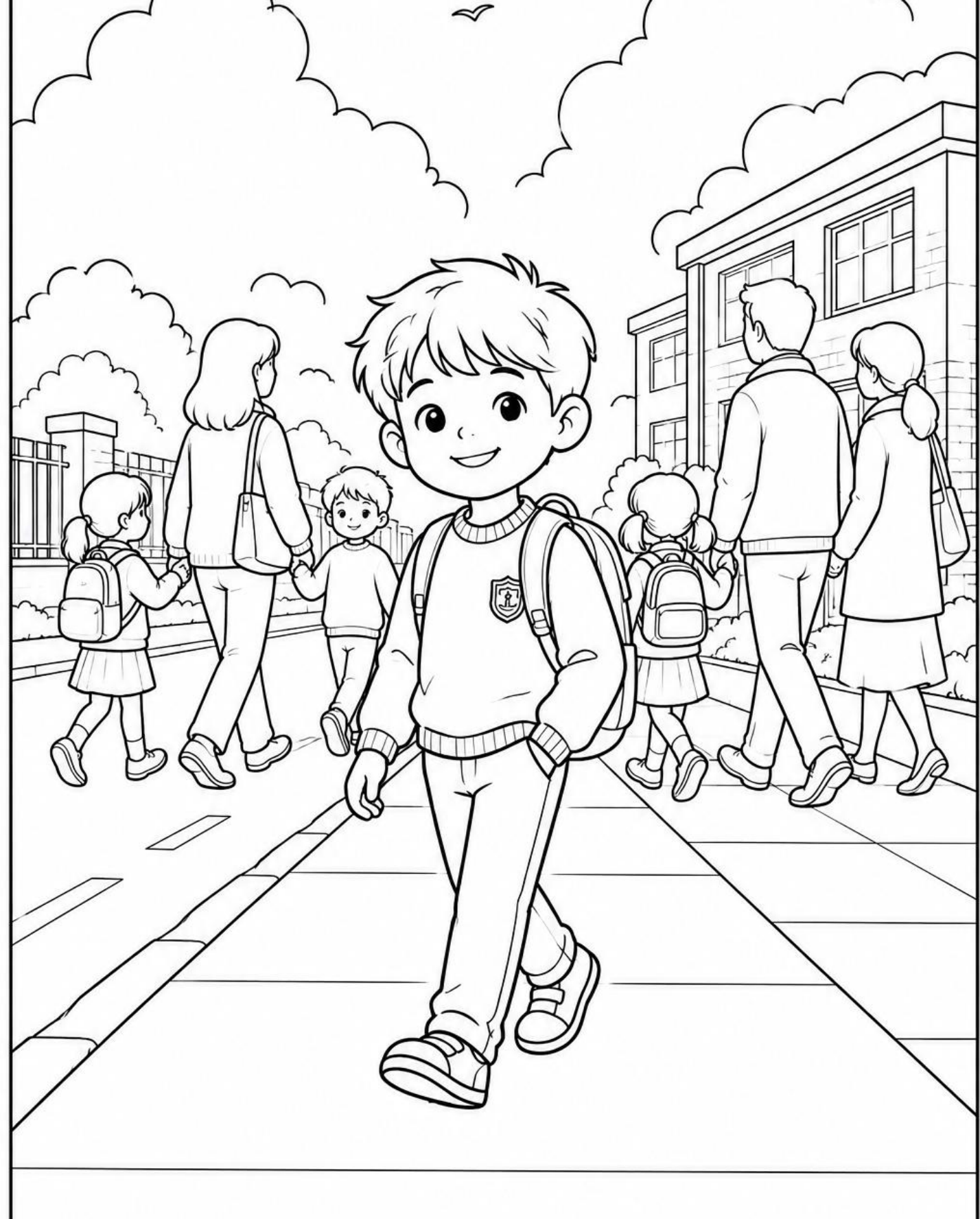




**Billy learns an
important lesson**



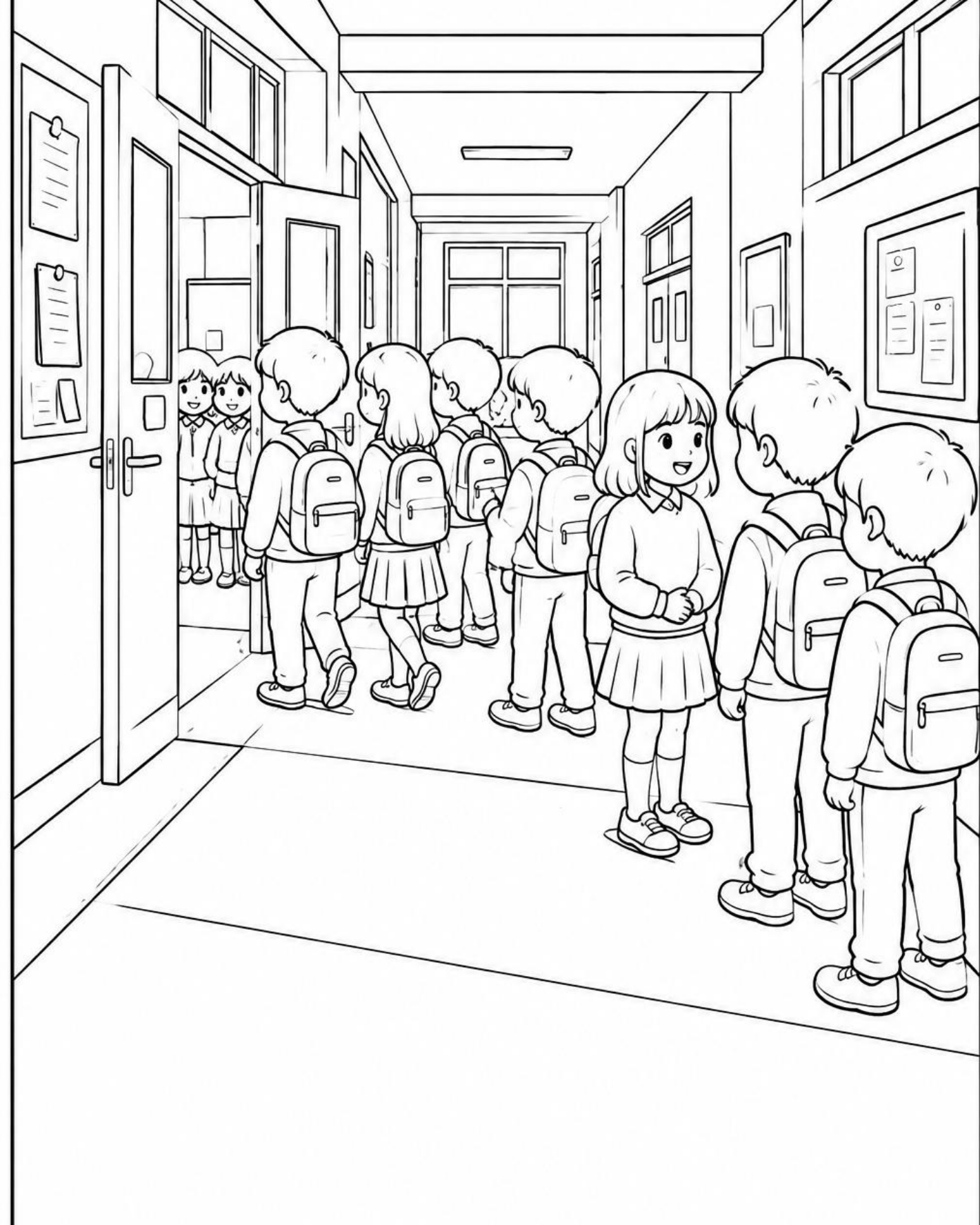
Billy walks to school each day by himself.



His family doesn't have a car, his mum needs to be at home to look after his little brothers.



When he gets to school, he is greeted by Mrs Harrison. She is the headteacher. Her voice booms out good morning Billy. Billy thought Mrs Harrison had beady eyes and that she saw everyone and everything. He never said this out loud.



It was Thursday. Thursday is assembly day. Billy's class lined up to walk to the school hall. His teacher in reminded them to be quiet.

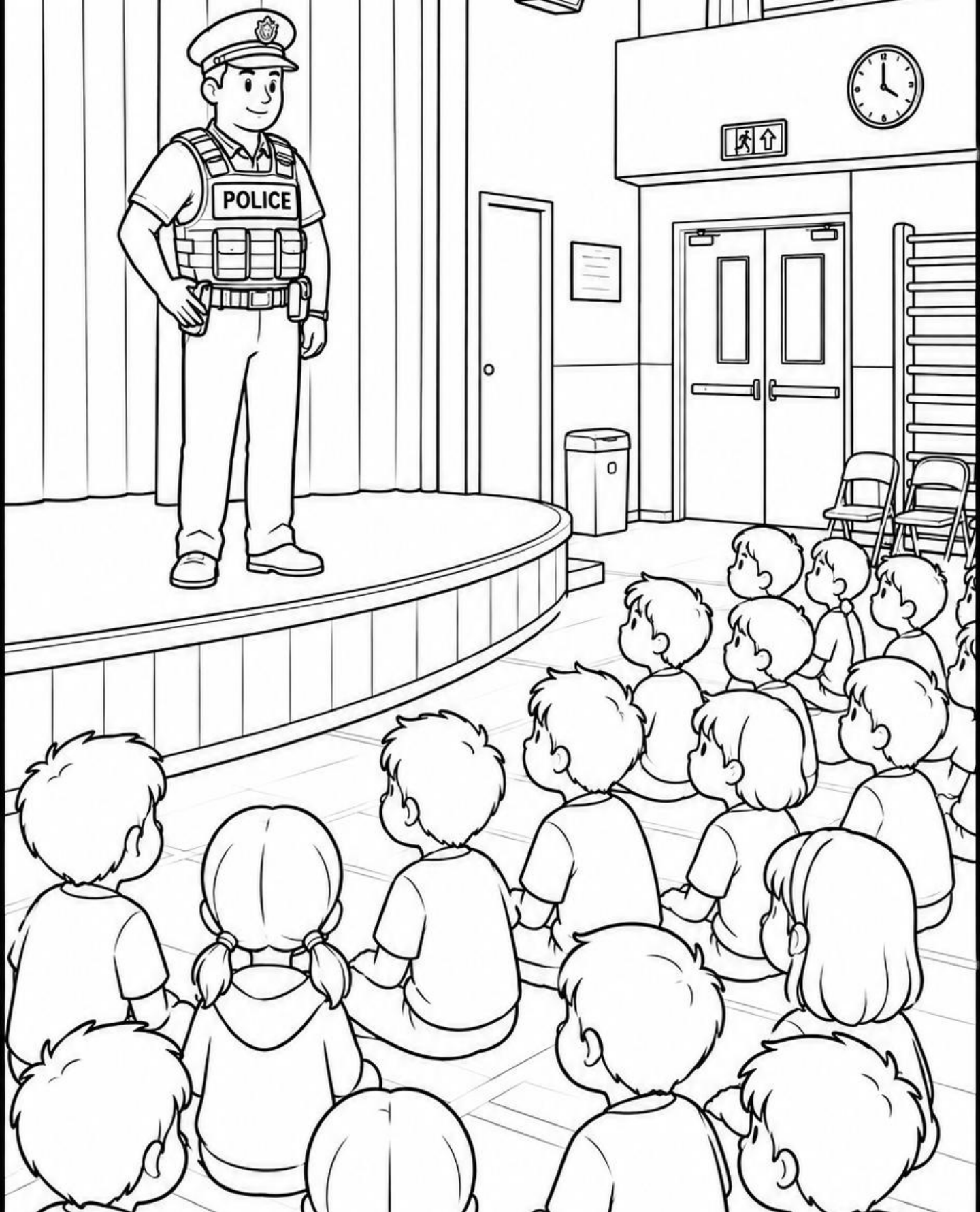


The hall was very big and it had large windows. Billy liked feeling part of the school.. Mrs. Harrison always stood on the stage, watching the children come in. Billy noticed she was smiling today.

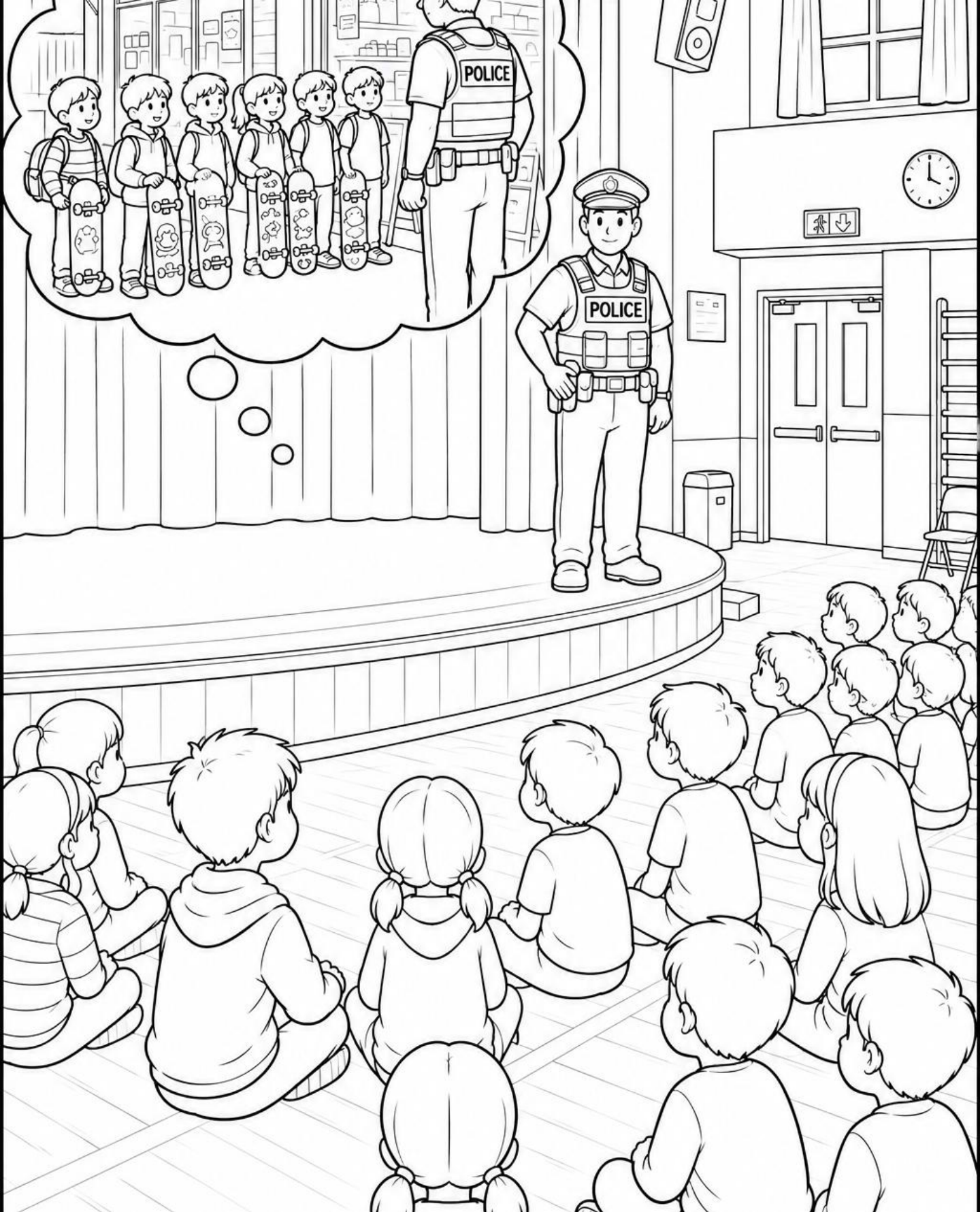


"Let me introduce you all to our special visitor," boomed Mrs Harrison.

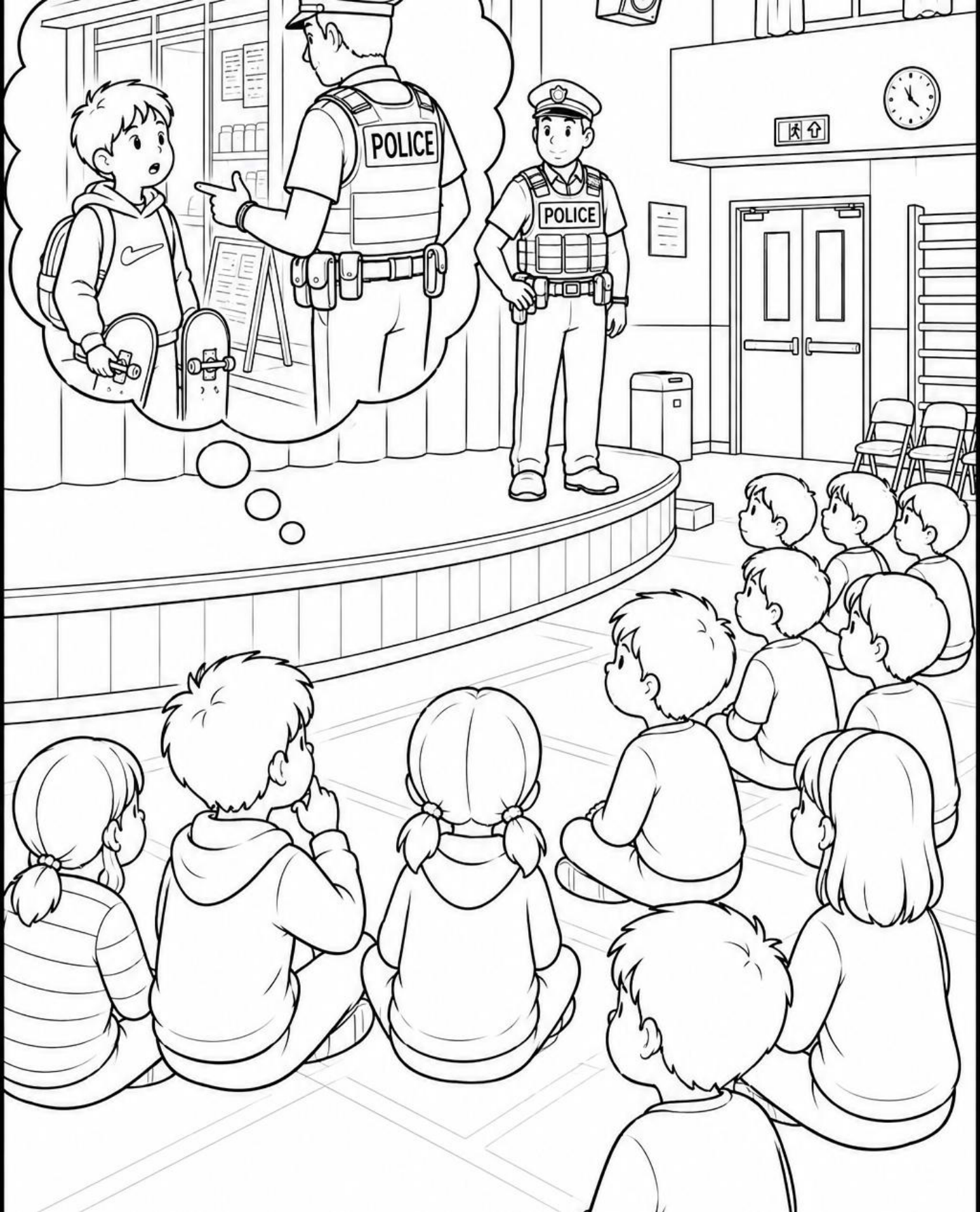
Her voice filled the hall, "PC Ball is our school officer. Today, PC Ball is here to talk to you all about the police and the work they do."



PC Ball began to talk. He said "some of you may recognise me. I am one of the neighbourhood team of police officers. Part of my job is to get to know the people, and for everybody to get to know me."



Billy had seen PC Ball before, by the shops. He saw him talking to some boys with skateboards. Billy had wondered at the time, if they were in trouble.



PC Ball explained his job. "Just like there are rules in school, which are there to guide you to behave well and be safe, there are rules in your community which do the same, they are called laws. Can any of you tell me what these might be?"



"Don't ride your bike on the pavement" said Sophie, "people can get hurt." " Don't drop litter or damage things, it spoils the place for everyone," suggested Jordan.

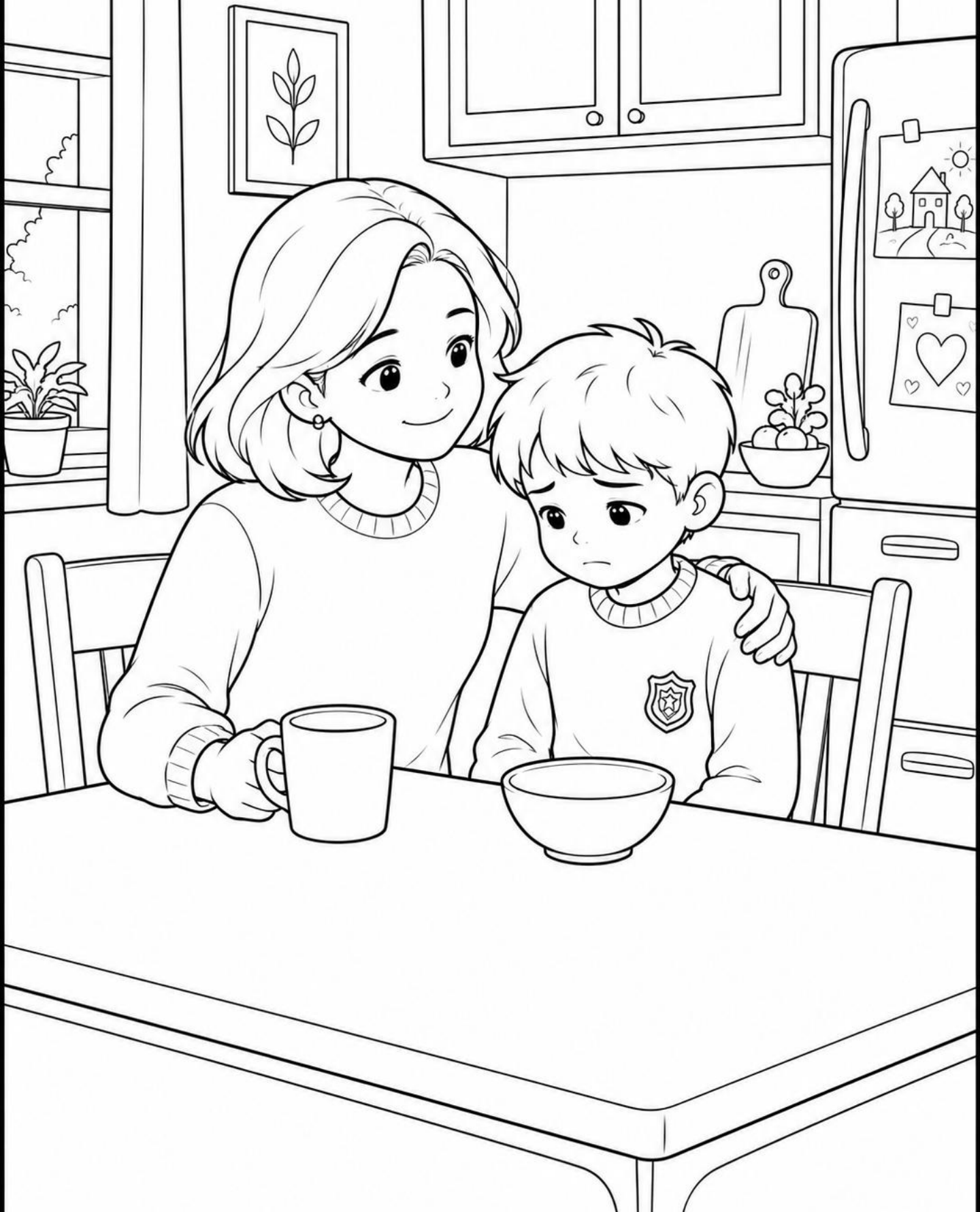
A boy from Billy's class said "don't take things that don't belong to you."



PC Ball said “well done, you know some of the laws and you have thought about why we have laws. I hope you will help me and everyone around you by keeping the laws.



For the rest of the day, Billy was very quiet. He had taken a packet of felt tip pens from school last week. He hadn't got any at home and he knew his mum worried about money. He hadn't wanted to ask her to buy them for him.



When he got home, he waited till his mom put his brothers to bed. When she made herself a cup of tea and sat down, he told her that he had the felt tip pens from school in his rucksack.



Billy's mum told him that she understood what he had done and why. She gently said "it is stealing to take things that don't belong to you. The right thing to do, is to admit it and give them back." She promised she would help him.



Mrs. Littlejohn who lives nearby, offered to help the next day. She looked after Billy's brothers, while Billy and his mum walked to school.



Mrs. Harrison was there when they arrived, "good morning" she boomed again. Mrs Harrison could see the Billy was worried. "Come into my room and we can talk," Billy's mum explained what Billy had done.



Billy was crying, he didn't notice that her eyes were kind. She spoke to him softly, "Billy, I am very proud of you. You listened to PC Ball and you thought about what he said. It is brave of you to tell the truth. Can I have the felt tip pens back?"



Then Billy noticed that Mrs Harrison's eyes were kind.
She tells him, "everyone makes mistakes,
it is what you do after the mistake that is important."



"If you work hard over the next week, then I will give you a packet of felt tip pens." Billy tried really hard in class, and his teacher made him the star pupil of the week. Billy thought to himself, maybe I could be a police officer when I grow up.