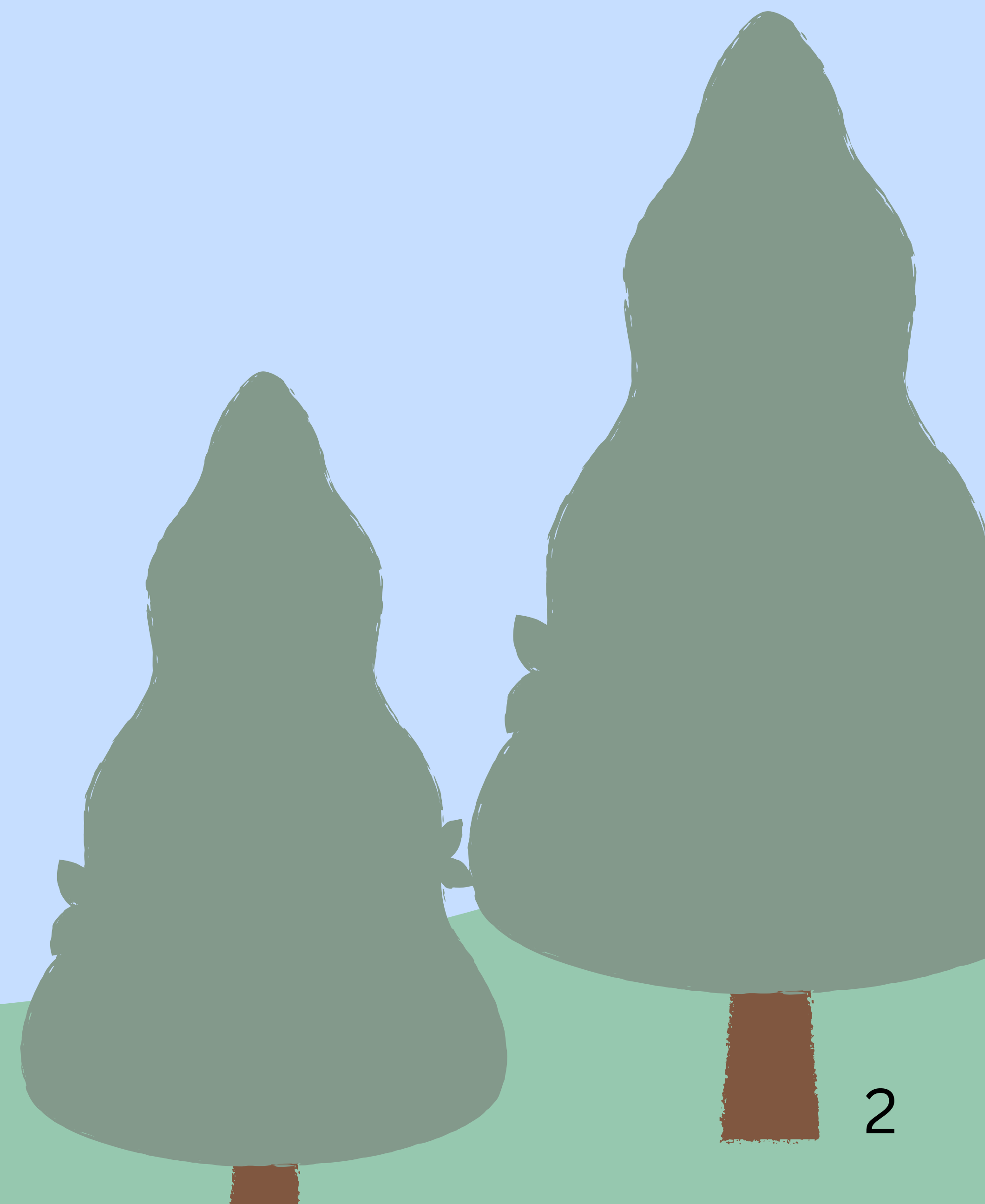
BUDGETING WITH GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS

THE THREE BEAR' WORD BANK

- **Income**: The money you earn from work or allowance.
- **Expenses**: Money you spend on needs and wants.
- **Needs**: Essential things like food, shelter, and clothing.
- **Wants**: Fun or extra things like toys, treats, or outings.
- **Savings**: Money set aside for the future or emergencies.
- **Budgeting**: A plan to balance your income, expenses, and savings.

Once upon a time, in a cozy little house deep in the forest, lived three bears: Papa Bear, Mama Bear, and Baby Bear. One sunny day, they decided to go for a walk in the woods, leaving their porridge to cool. Meanwhile, a curious girl named Goldilocks wandered into their house.

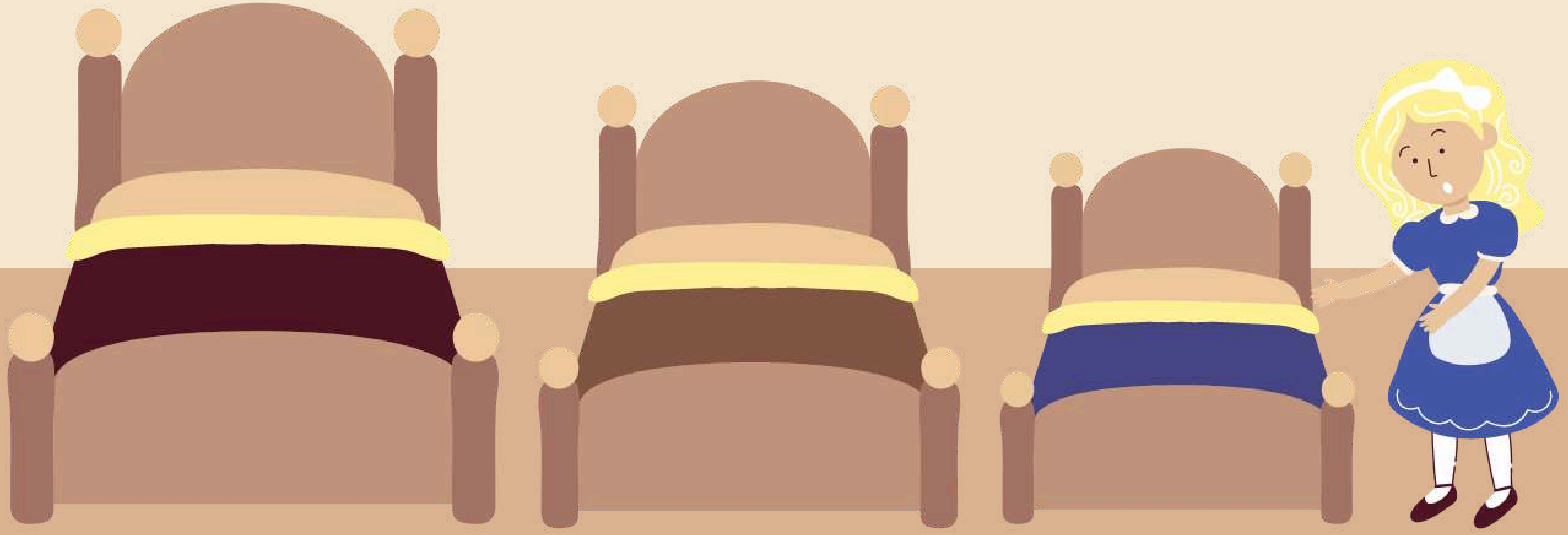


Inside the cottage, Goldilocks found a table set with three bowls of porridge – a big one for Papa Bear, a medium-sized one for Mama Bear, and a tiny one for Baby Bear.

She tasted Papa Bear's porridge, but it was too hot. Mama Bear's porridge was too cold for her liking. Finally, she tried Baby Bear's porridge, and it was just right. Goldilocks happily finished the small bowl.

With her belly full, Goldilocks moved to the living room, where she saw three chairs – a large one for Papa Bear, a medium-sized one for Mama Bear, and a tiny one for Baby Bear. She sat in Papa Bear's chair, but it was too hard. Then she sat in Mama Bear's chair, but it was too soft. Finally, she sat in Baby Bear's chair, and it was just right!

Feeling a little tired, Goldilocks went to find three beds – a big one for Papa Bear, a medium-sized one for Mama Bear, and a tiny one for Baby Bear. She tried Papa Bear's bed, but it was too hard. Mama Bear's bed was too soft. Finally, she laid down on Baby Bear's bed, and it was just right. Goldilocks fell asleep right away.



When the bears returned, they noticed the mess Goldilocks had made. But instead of being upset, Papa Bear had an idea.

He realized they could use Goldilocks’ visit to learn an important lesson about managing money just like Goldilocks balanced her choices, they could learn to balance their spending, saving, and planning.

Papa Bear gathered the family and said, “We need to make sure we don’t run out of porridge, money, or resources. Just like how Goldilocks figured out what was ‘just right,’ we can figure out how to manage our money wisely. Let’s create a budget!”

Mama Bear agreed. “That’s a great idea! A budget will help us keep track of our money and make sure we have enough for everything we need.”

Baby Bear was curious. “What’s a budget?”

Papa Bear explained, “A budget is a plan that helps us decide how to use our money. It’s like a recipe for making sure we have enough for what we need, what we want, and what we save for later.” Papa Bear continued teaching Baby Bear about income and expenses.

UNDERSTANDING INCOME AND EXPENSES

- **Income**: This is the money you earn. For the bears, their income came from selling honey and berries in the forest market.

- **Expenses**: This is the money you spend. Expenses can be divided into two types:
    - **Needs**: These are the things you must have, like food, shelter, and clothing.
    - **Wants**: These are extra things you enjoy, like toys, treats, or fun outings.

Mama Bear added, “We also need to save some money for emergencies or future plans. That’s called savings. For this, we use budgeting.”

THE THREE BEARS' BUDGETING RULE

Mama Bear introduced the family to the 50/30/20 Rule, a simple way to divide their money.

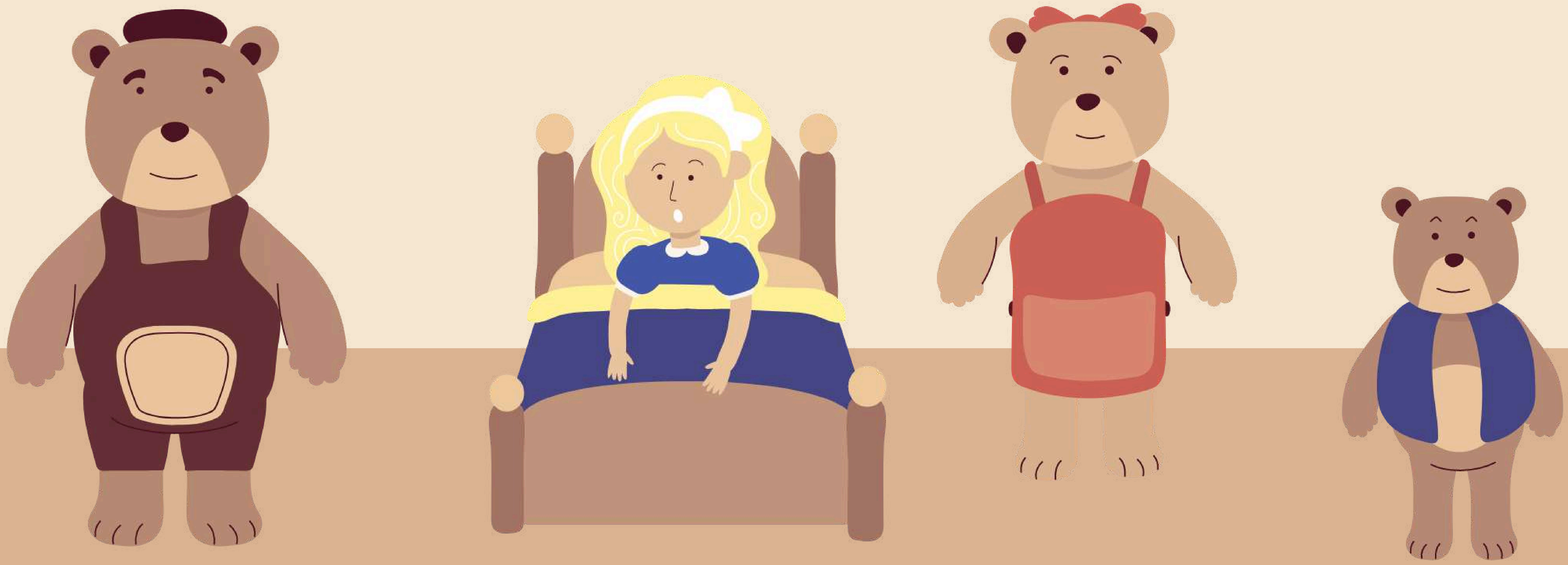
- **50% for Needs**: Half of their money goes to things they can't live without, like porridge, their house, and warm blankets for the winter.

- **30% for Wants**: They set aside some money for fun things, like toys for Baby Bear or a picnic in the meadow.

- **20% for Savings**: The rest goes into their honey jar savings for emergencies, like a storm ruining their berry patch.

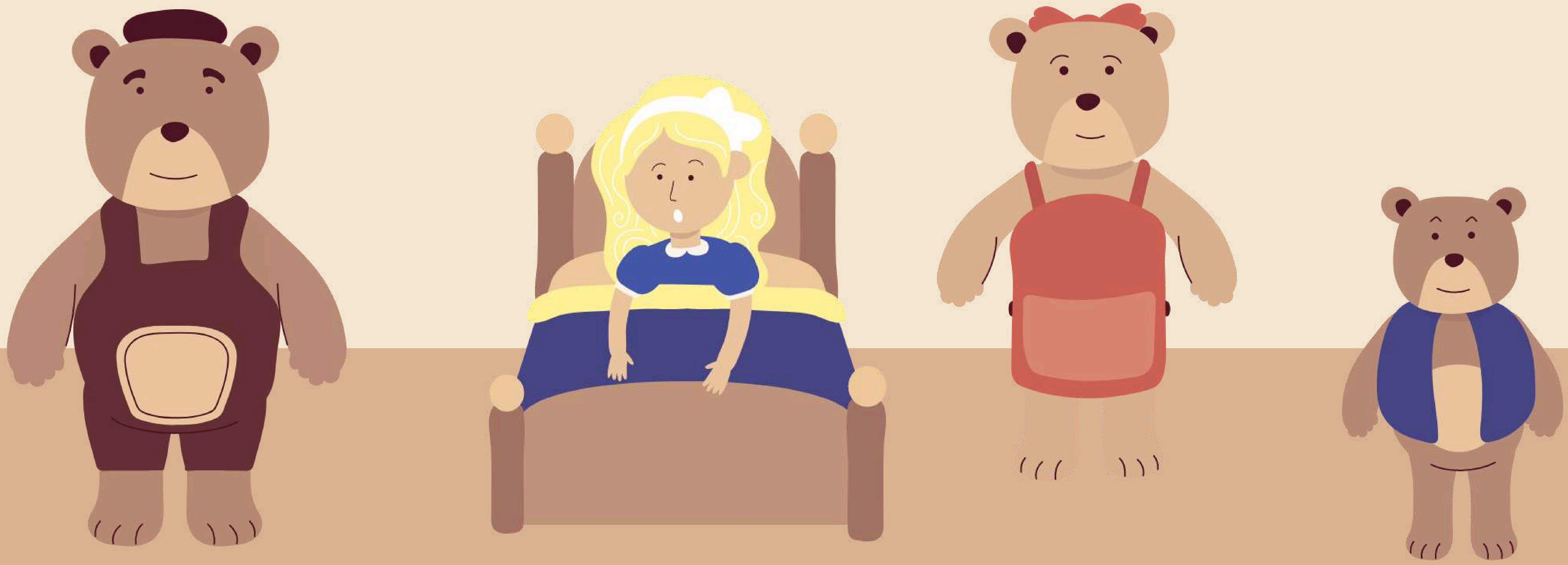
Goldilocks woke up and found the bears talking about their budget. Curious, she asked, “What’s a budget?”

Papa Bear explained, “A budget helps us plan how to use our money so we have enough for what we need, what we want, and what we save for later.”



Goldilocks thought for a moment. “That sounds useful! Sometimes I spend all my money on sweets and forget to save for other things I might need.”

Mama Bear smiled and said, “Why don’t we help you make a budget too?” Together, the bears helped Goldilocks create her own budget.



GOLDILOCKS' BUDGET PLAN

- **Goldilocks' Income:** She earned money by helping animals in the forest, like gathering berries or babysitting the squirrels.

- **Goldilocks' Needs:** She decided to set aside money for essentials, like food and warm clothes for winter.

- **Goldilocks' Wants:** She planned to use some money for treats and toys, but not all of it.

- **Goldilocks' Savings:** She saved a portion to buy a new dress for the forest party and for emergencies.

Goldilocks realised that by following the 50/30/20 Rule, she could enjoy her favorite treats and have money for important things.

Papa Bear said, “Budgeting is like finding what’s ‘just right’ for your money. It helps you balance your needs, wants, and savings so you don’t run out.”

Goldilocks smiled. “Now I understand! Budgeting helps me plan ahead and make sure I have enough for everything I need.”

From that day on, Goldilocks and the Three Bears became experts at managing their money. They never ran out of porridge, toys, or savings again, and they lived happily ever after.

QUIZ TIME

1. What is a budget?

A. A plan for how to use your money
B. A way to earn money
C. A shopping list for the market
D. A recipe for porridge

2. What are the two types of expenses?

A. Income and savings
B. Wants and savings
C. Food and shelter
D. Needs and wants

3. What are income and expenses?

A. Income is money you spend, and expenses are money you earn.
B. Income is money you earn, and expenses are money you spend.
C. Income is only for savings, and expenses are only for toys.
D. Income and expenses are both types of savings

QUIZ TIME

4. Which of these is an example of a need?
A. A toy for Baby Bear
B. A picnic in the meadow
C. Warm blankets for winter
D. A treat from the forest market

5. What does savings mean?
A. Money you spend on treats and toys
B. Money you set aside for the future or emergencies
C. Money you use only for needs
D. Money you earn from working in the forest market

6. What is the 50/30/20 rule?
A. Spend 50% on toys, 30% on food, and 20% on clothes.
B. Save 50%, spend 30% on needs, and 20% on fun.
C. Use 50% for needs, 30% for wants, and 20% for savings.
D. Save 50% for the future, and spend 50% on porridge.

Answers: 1A, 2D, 3B, 4C, 5B, 6C


THE END

Acknowledgments

A heartfelt thank you to my parents and family for their endless support, encouragement, and belief in me. This book would not have been possible without your love and guidance.

To my readers—thank you for joining this journey of learning and discovery. I hope this story helps you understand important financial lessons in a fun and meaningful way.

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