



Read it yourself with Ladybird

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Charlie and Lola

# I am Inventing an INVENTION



Level

4

My name is Charlie.

Me and my best friend Marv  
like playing with Marv's  
dog, Sizzles.



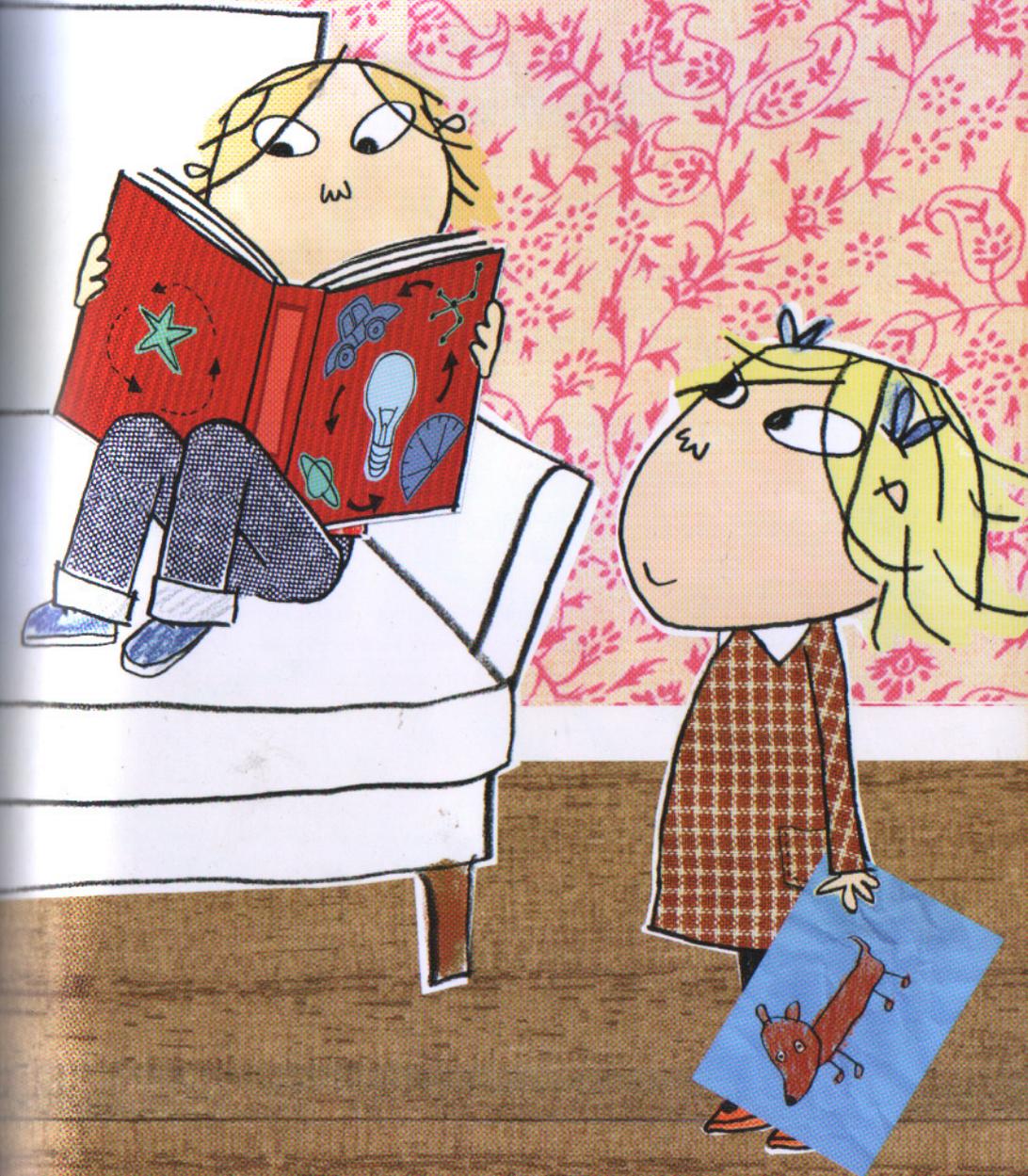
I have this little sister, Lola.  
She is small and very funny.

She likes playing with her  
best friend, Lotta.



One day, my little sister  
Lola says, “Charlie, what  
is that book?”

I say, “It is a book about  
inventions. Me and Marv  
have to invent something  
for school.”



Lola asks, "What is an invention?"

I say, "An invention is something new that helps people do things better and faster."

Marv says, "Like the telephone."

"But we already have a telephone," says Lola.



I say, "Yes. But a very long time ago, there were no telephones."

Lola says, "No telephones? How would I tell Lotta about my new drawing?"

I say, "You would have to go and see Lotta."

"But that is a VERY long way," says Lola.



“I would have to go in the car with Mum,” says Lola.

But I say, “Lola, a very long time ago, there were no cars. You would have to go by horse.”

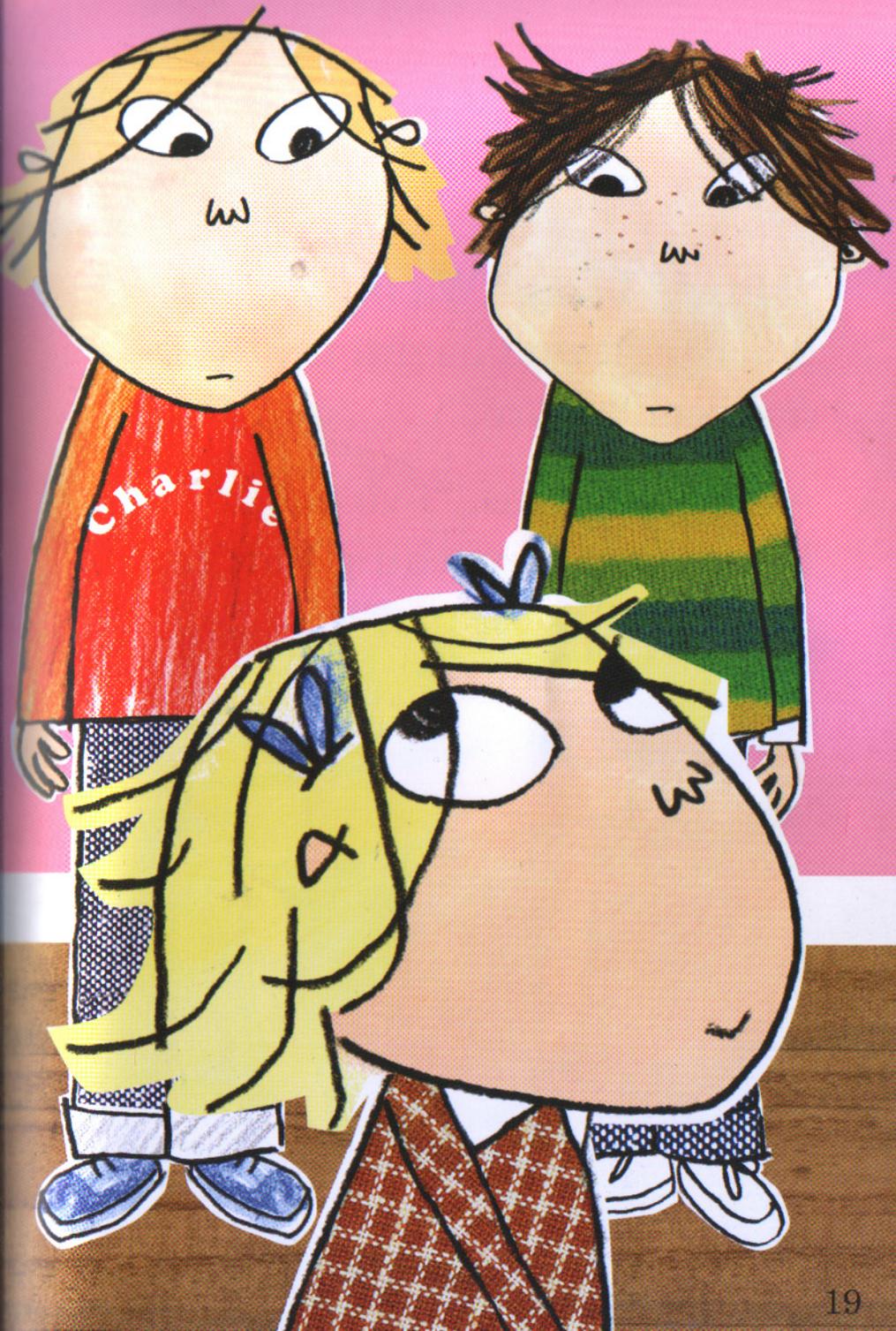
“Oh!” says Lola. “By horse?”



Lola says, “Cars and telephones are very good inventions. I am going to make an invention, too.”

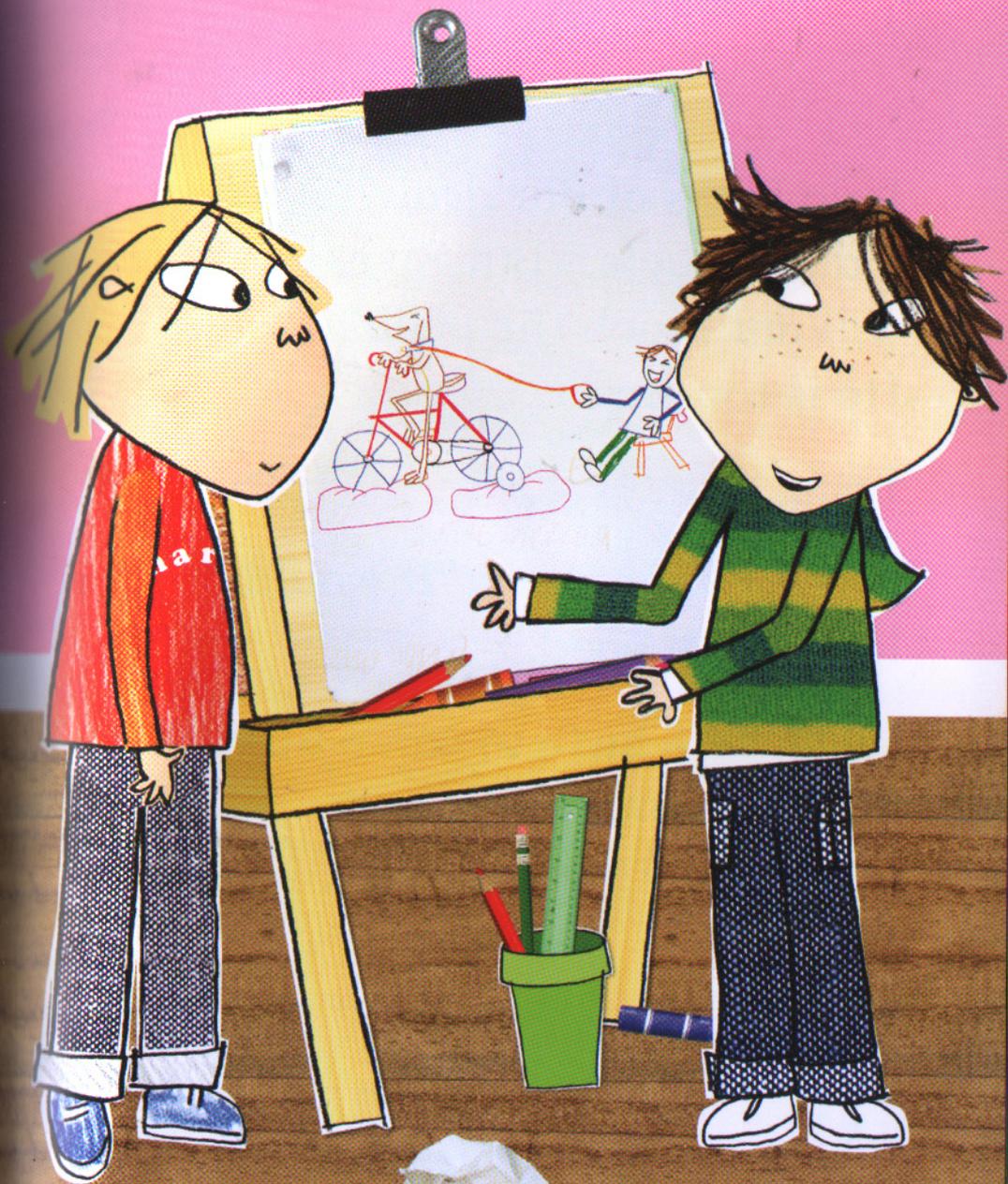
I say, “Lola, it is not easy to make a brilliant invention.”

But Lola says, “I CAN! I can invent something. You’ll see!”



“Marv,” I say, “We must make a brilliant and useful invention not seen before.”

And Marv says, “I’ve got it! How about something that can walk Sizzles for me?”

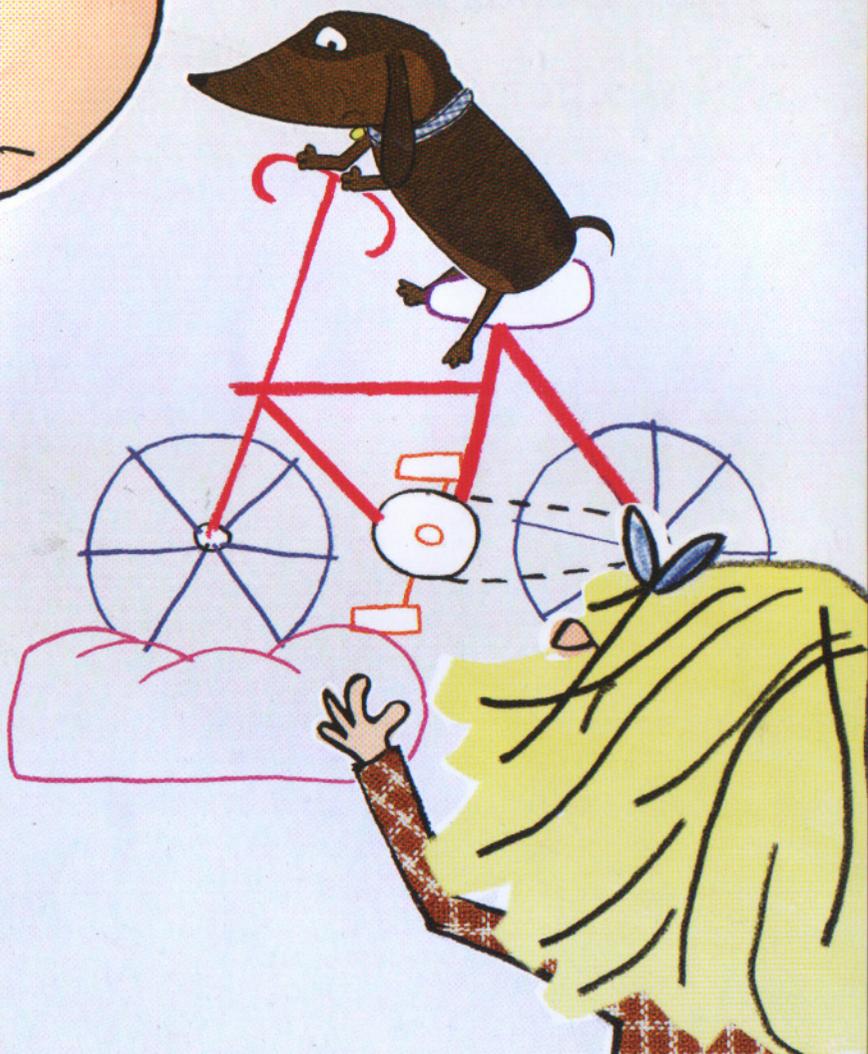
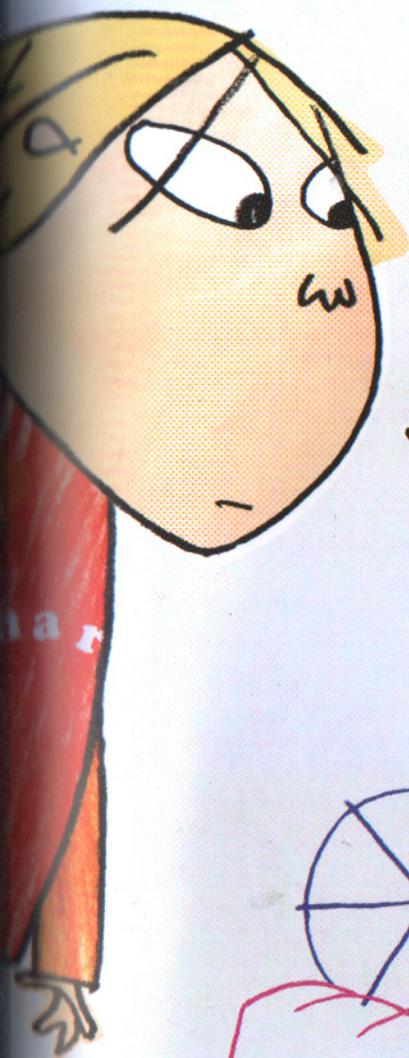


Lola looks at our drawing of a dog bicycle. “But Sizzles will not reach the pedals. He is too small.”

I say, “Oh, yes!”

“Well,” says Marv. “It would have been good.”

I say, “We have to come up with a new invention.”



Then Lola says, “Look, Charlie. I am an inventor! I invented a crayon that is green AND blue.”

“But what about red?” asks Marv.

Lola says, “Well... I have many more inventions. You’ll see!”

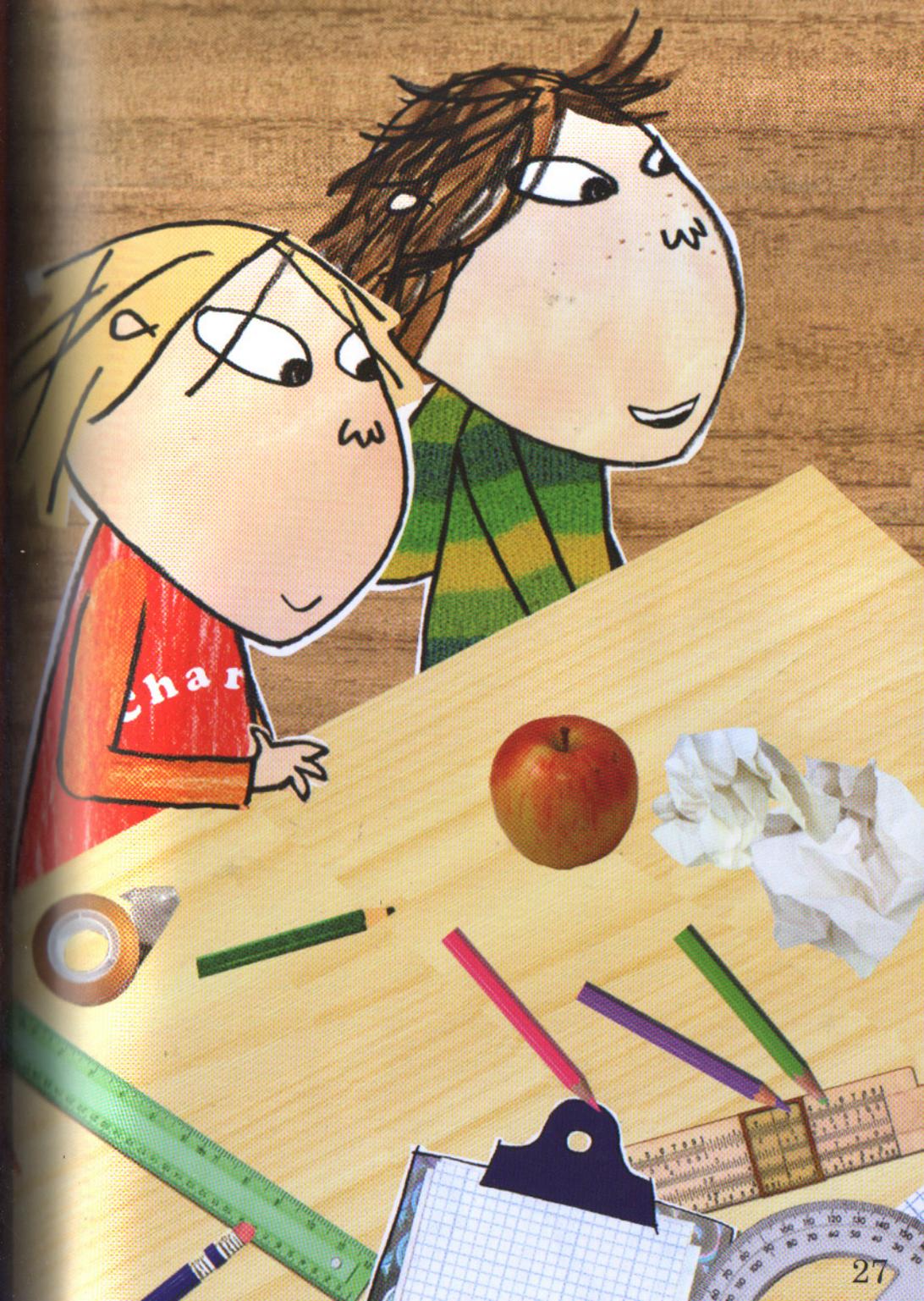


“We must make a good invention, and fast,” I say.

“It’s not easy,” says Marv.

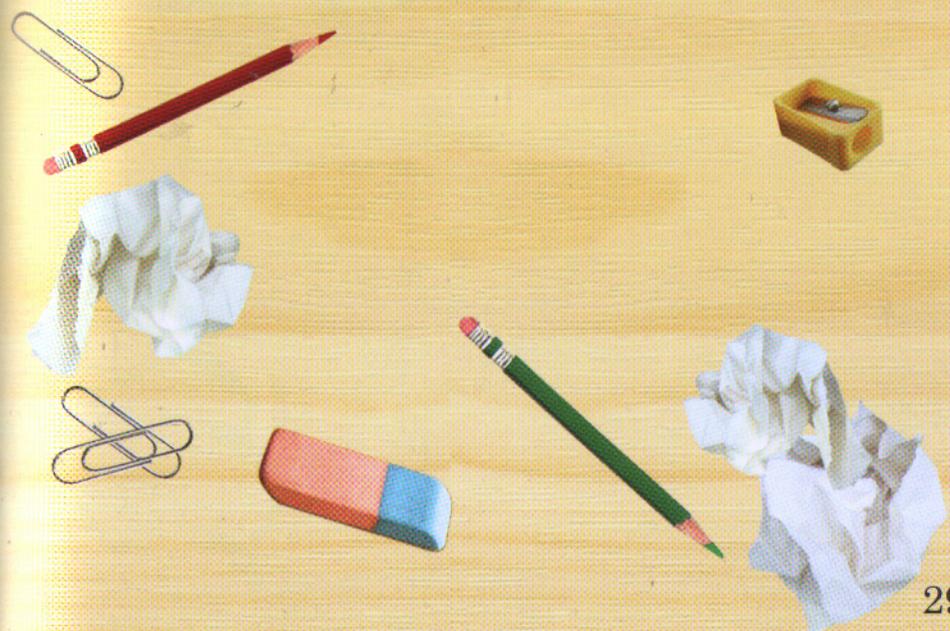
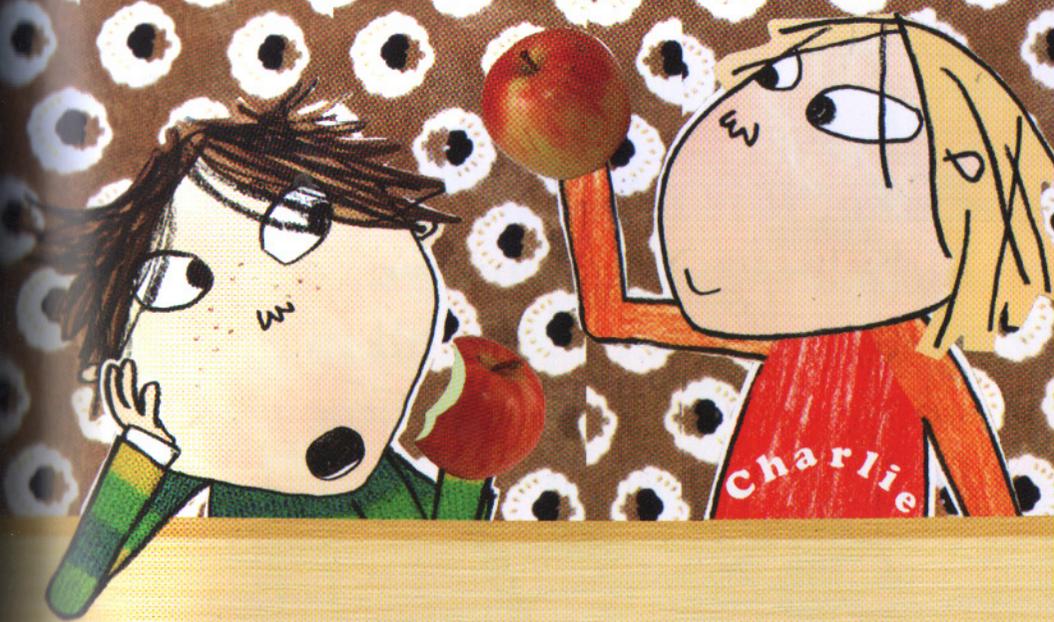
“All the good inventions have already been invented!”

Then I say, “I’ve got it!”



“We can make a brilliant apple picker-upper. It will pick up all the apples that come down from the trees.”

So Marv asks, “What would it look like?”

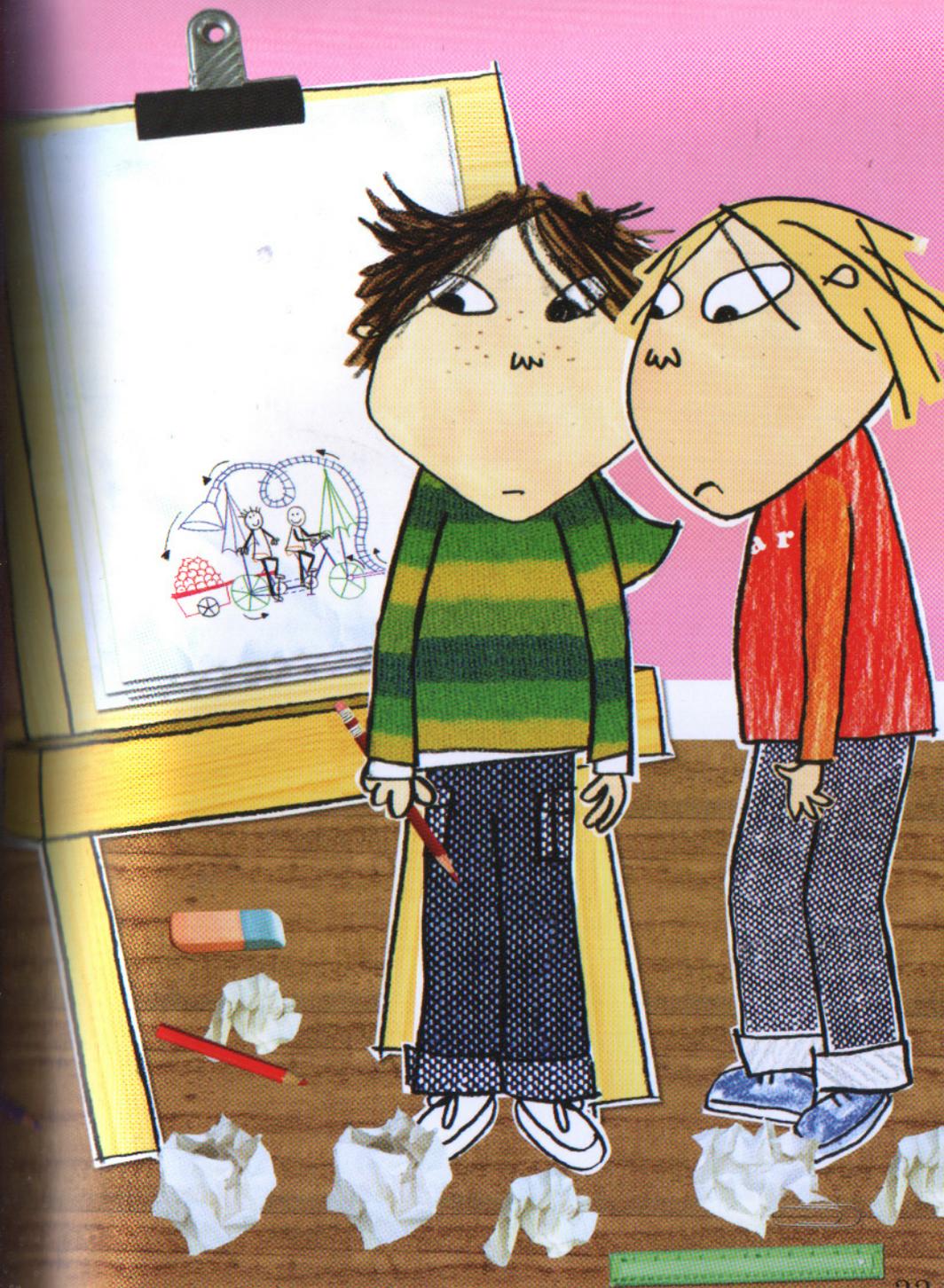


I say, “It is made from two bicycles and a vacuum cleaner. If we pedal very fast, all the apples go into it then come out into the wheelbarrow.”



I ask Mum if we can borrow the vacuum cleaner, but she says no.

“Oh no!” says Marv. “That was our best invention. Now what?”



Lola asks, "Have you come up with some good inventions?"

"Not one!" I say.

"Oh no," says Lola. "Maybe you are not inventors."

"But we have to invent something, fast," I say.

So we start inventing and Lola starts tidying up...



But before long, she gets stuck to everything with tape.

“Help! Get off! Oh no!”



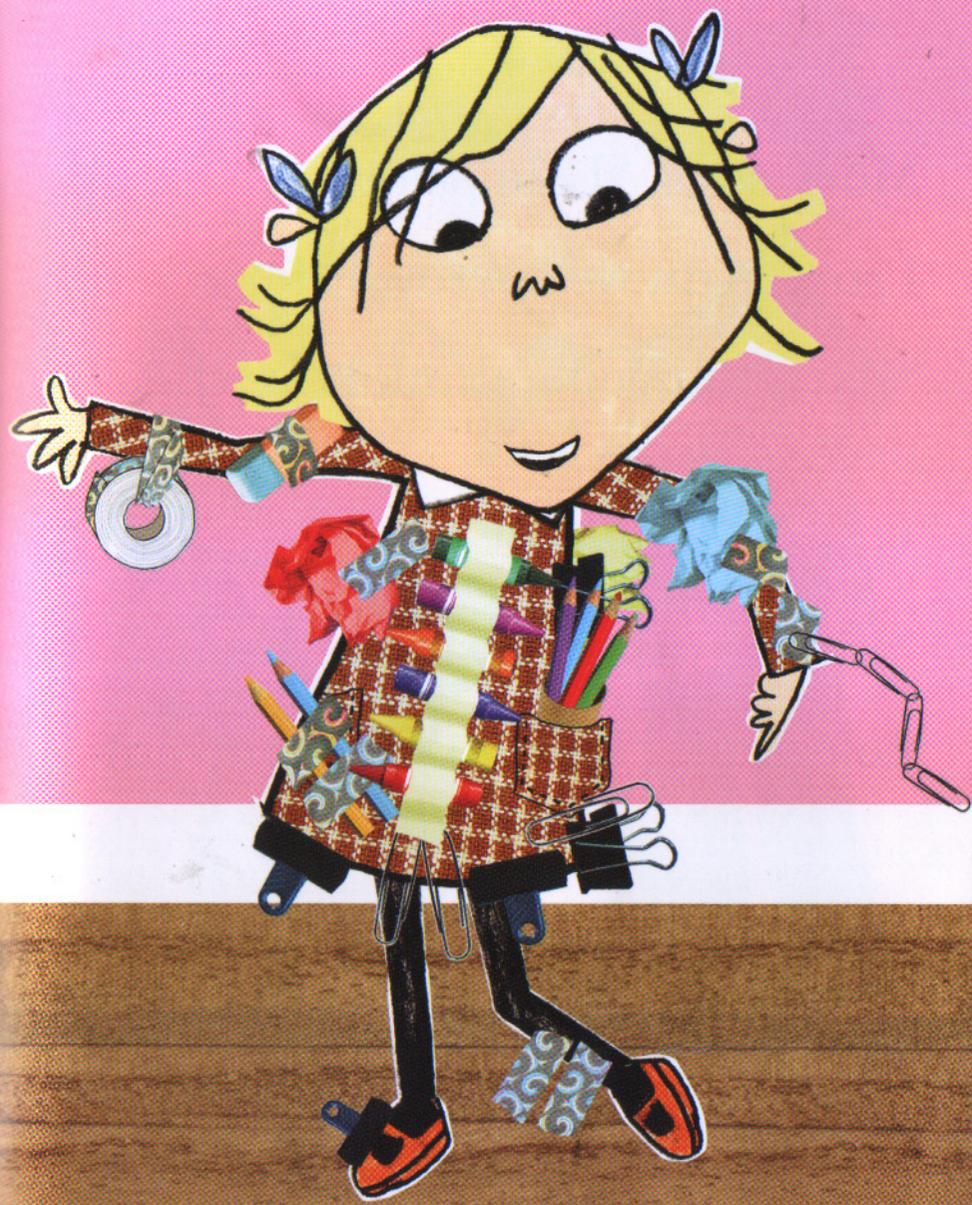
Then Lola sees that everything is stuck to her with tape.

“Look at me, Charlie. Everything is stuck to me!”

I say, “Yes. Thank you for tidying up, Lola.”



But Lola says, “No, Charlie.  
I am an inventor. See?  
The pencils, crayons and clips  
are all sticking to my dress.  
There is a place for the pencils  
and a place for the crayons and  
for the clips. Everything is tidy.”



Marv says, "Lola, that is brilliant!"

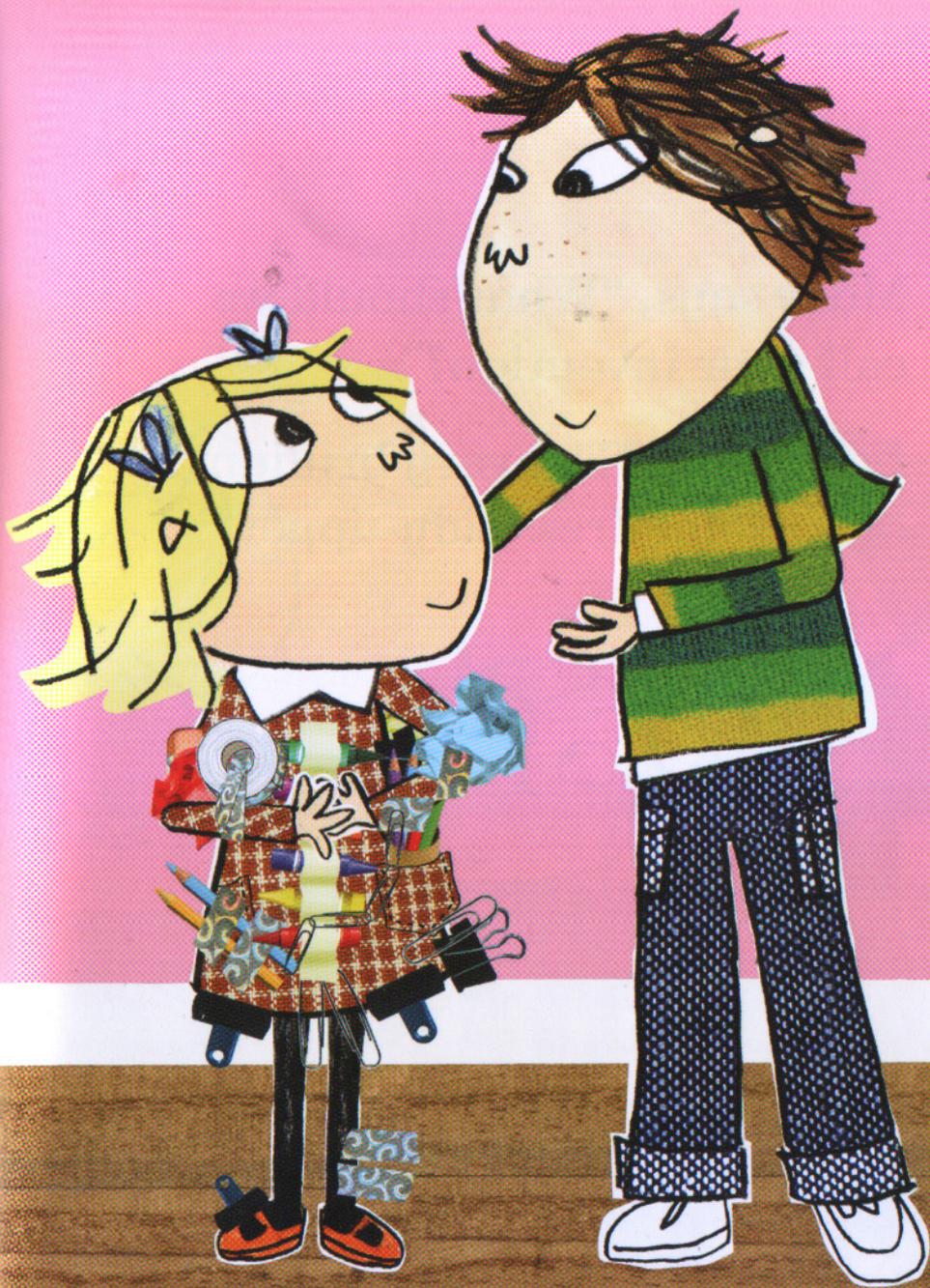
I say, "Can we borrow it for school?"

"But will people think it is REALLY useful?" asks Lola.

Marv says, "Yes!"

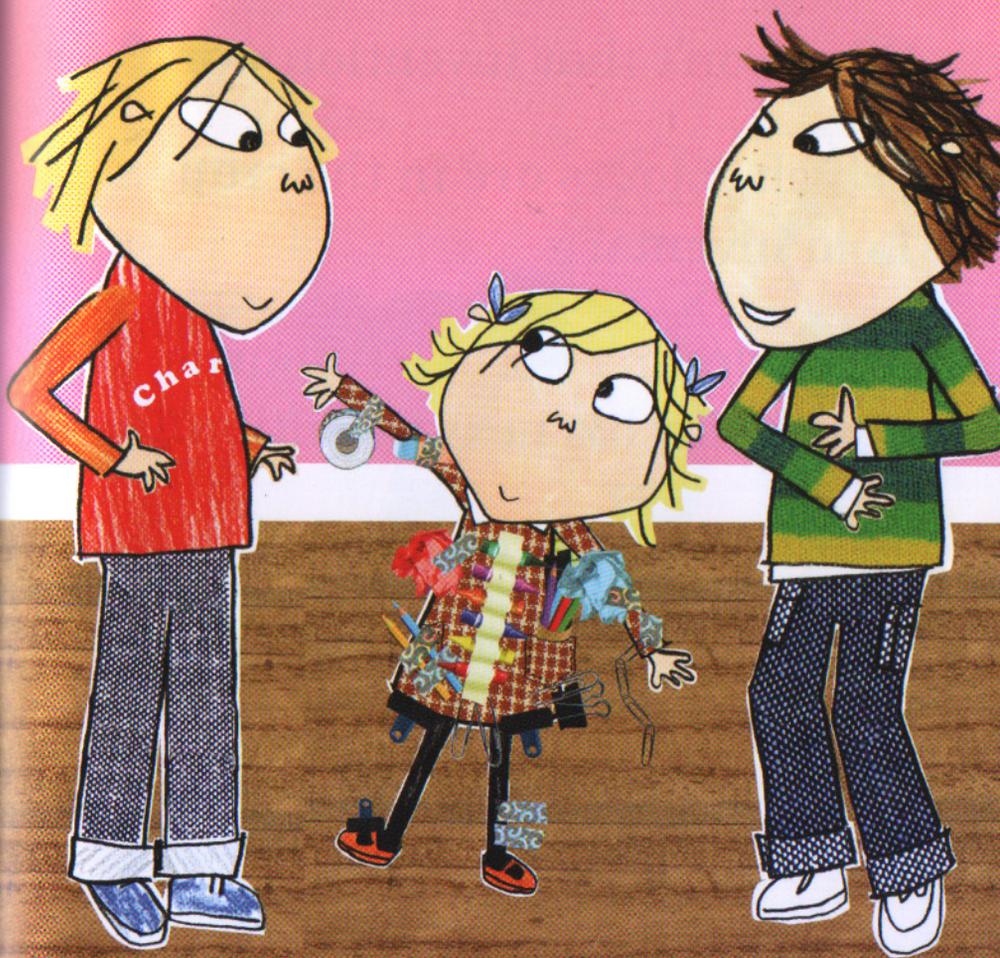
"And we think it is, too," I say.

Lola says, "I really am an inventor!"



Marv says, “What should we call your invention?”

Lola says, “The very brilliant and useful dress tidy-upper!”



## How much do you remember about the story of I Am Inventing an Invention?

Answer these questions and find out!

- Why do Charlie and Marv need to invent an invention?
- What do they invent first?
- Why won't that invention work?
- Which colours are in the crayon Lola invents?
- What doesn't Mum let Charlie borrow for his next invention?
- What does Lola call her brilliant last invention?



Unjumble these words to make the names of characters from the story, then match them to the correct pictures.

Carehli

Laol

Mrva

Ltoat

Szezisl

