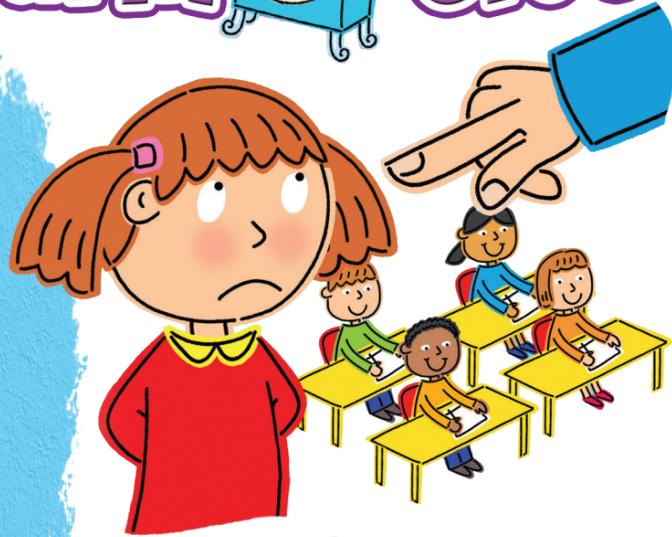




The Magic Alarm Clock

Millie Jones was always late, her teacher shook his head. "You must arrive at school on time, like all your friends," he said. "I'll try," said Millie, feeling sad, and after school that day she asked her dad if he could help, and Daddy said, "Okay."



"I've seen a funny shop," he said, "Hidden in the trees, it sells enchanted answers. Shall we go and see?"



Inside the shop, a strange old man stood wearing magic beads. He blew the dust off something, saying, "this is what you need." A turquoise clock with silver hands! and silver legs as well! And best of all, right on the top, a shining golden bell! The old man said, "Just rub the bell before you close your eyes. Next morning it will wake you with a magical surprise."



That evening, Millie rubbed the bell just as the old man said, and wondered, would it really work? As she snuggled into bed.

Tra-la! At eight o'clock next day the bell rang clear and long, and from it flew a magic bird who sang a wake up song.

Millie woke up with a laugh and quickly washed and dressed. Today she wasn't late for school but there before the rest.



Next morning on the dot of eight the bell rang clear and loud, and from it marched a Teddy Band, playing ooom-pa-up-up-NOW!

Again she sprang up in a flash to brush her teeth and hair, and when her friends arrived at school, she was already there.



Friday brought a fairy who wafted past her face, tickling her nose with a feather, 'til she was wide awake.



Each day the clock woke Millie with a new surprise at eight. And she even won a prize at school, for never being late!