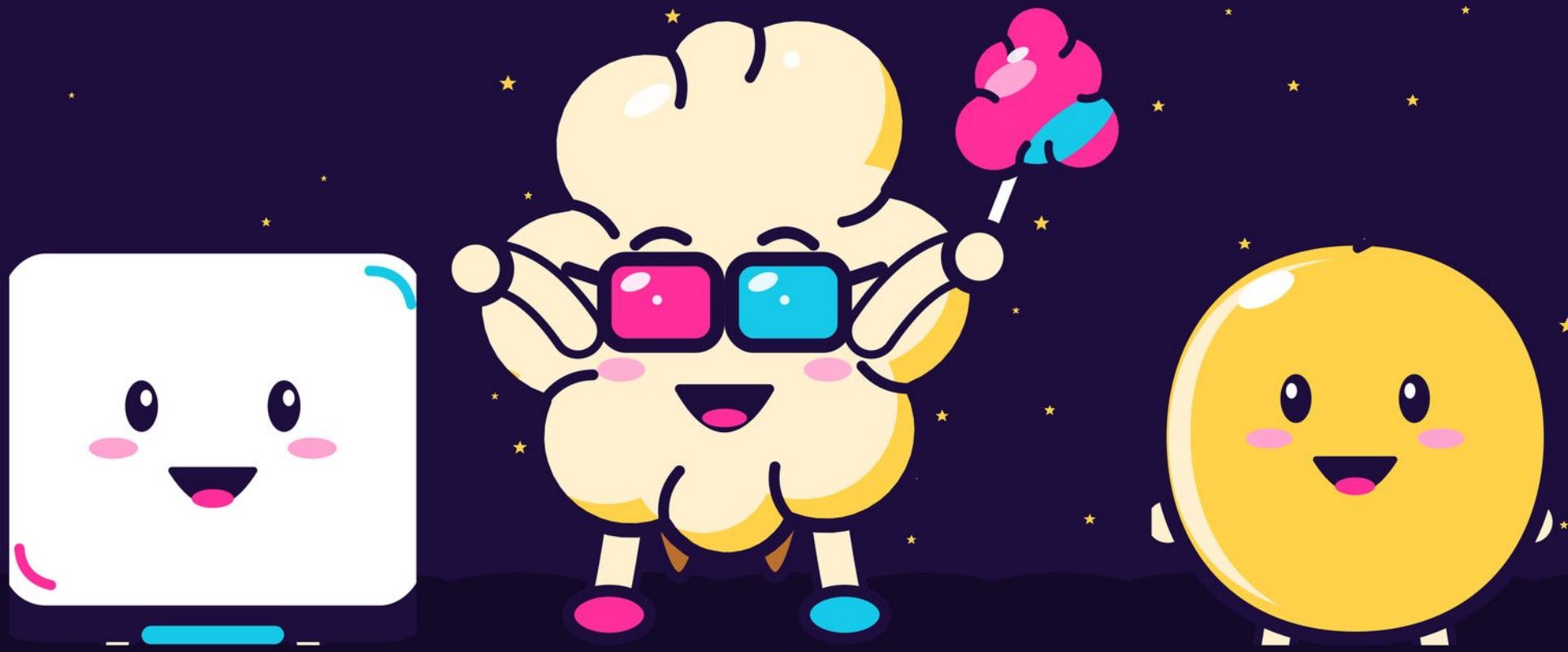
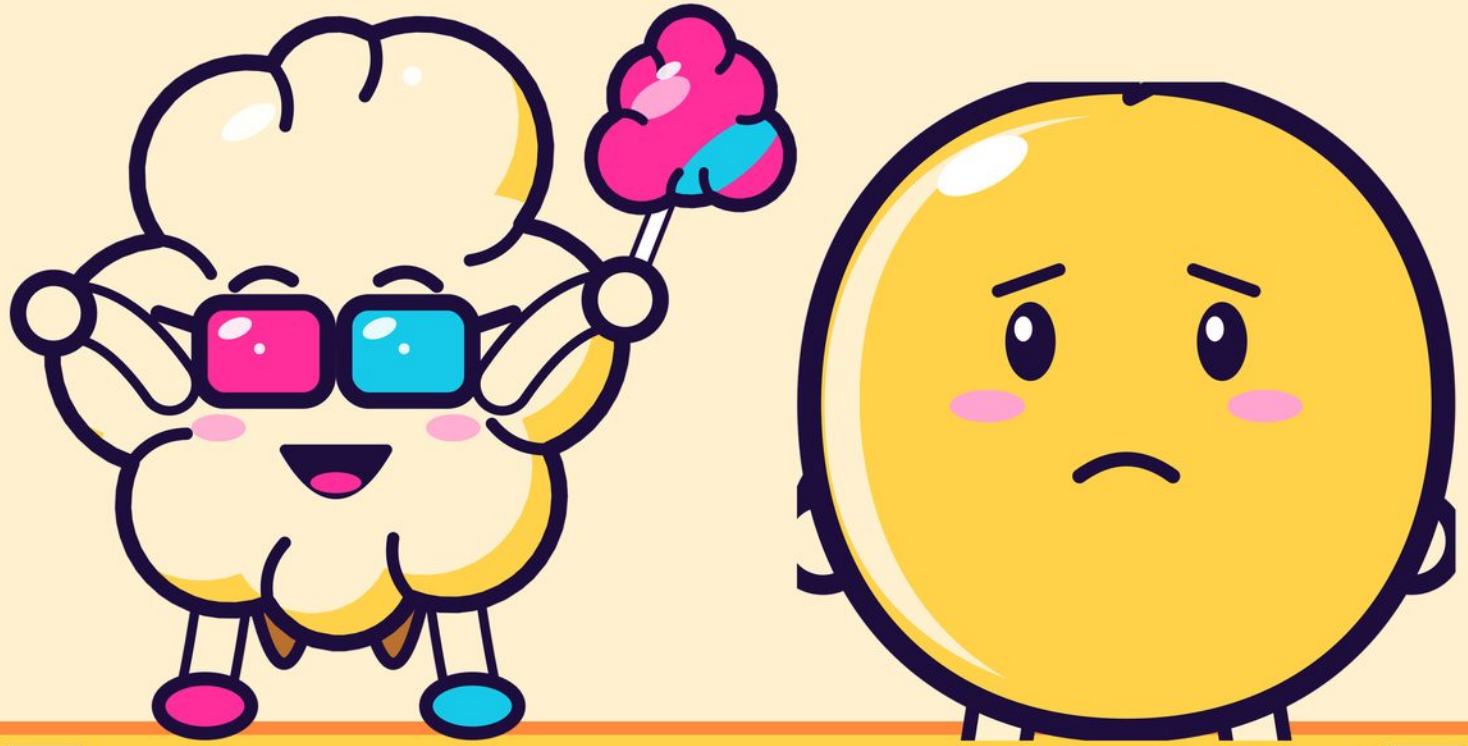
Kernel's Playhouse

The Quiet Balcony · CL01

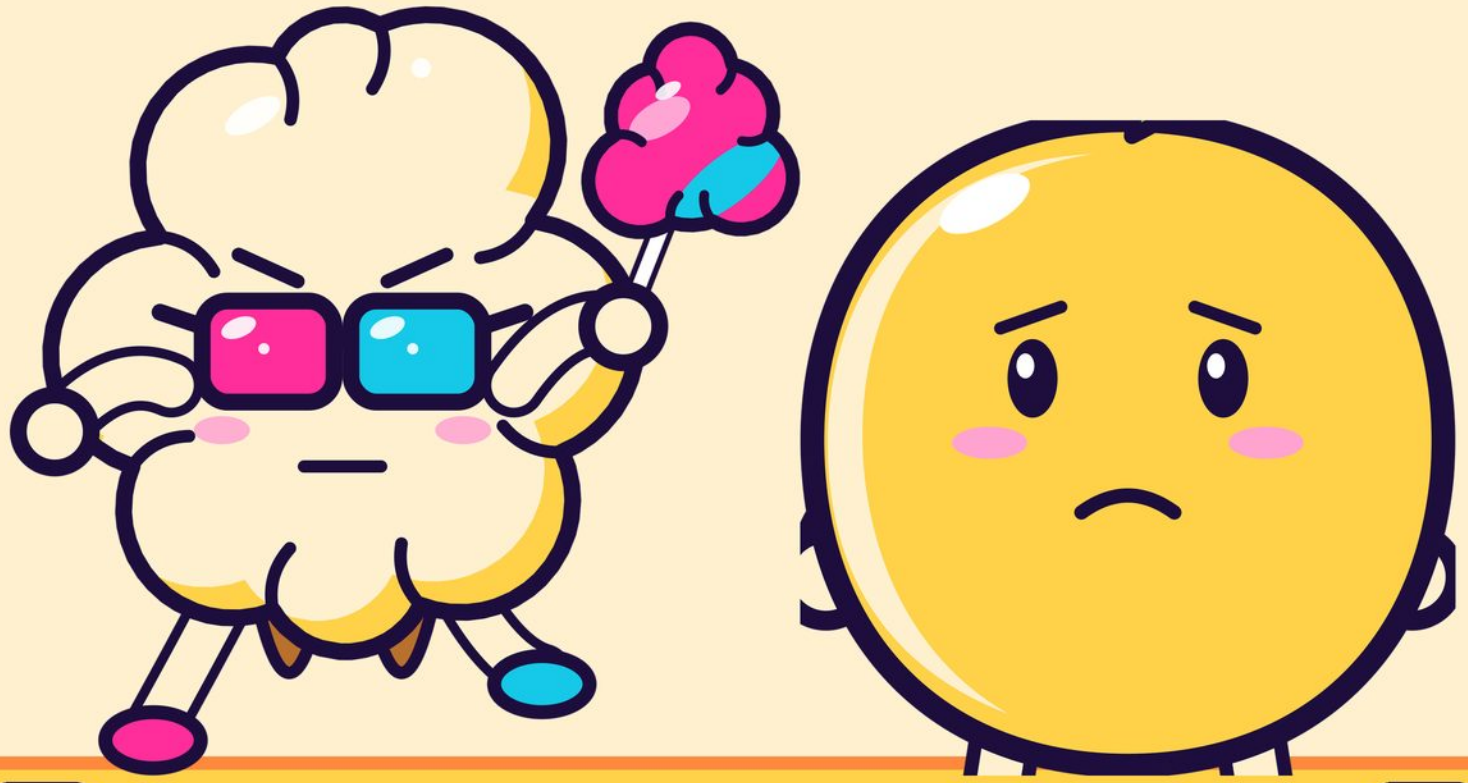
We Can Arrive Slowly



Morning sunshine filled the magical movie theater. The curtains swished open. The golden aisle lights blinked awake. Kernel stood at the front, waving his cotton candy like a little pink-and-cyan flag. "Good morning, Playhouse!" he called. Way at the back, by the doors, stood Pip. Pip was new today. Pip did not come any closer.



"Pip! Come up here! I saved the biggest hello for you!" Kernel bounded up the aisle with a hello so big it nearly bounced off the walls. "Kernel," said Pip quietly, "could I have a smaller hello?" Kernel stopped. His big hello was already halfway out.



Kernel thought about it. Then he tucked the big hello away for another day. "A smaller hello. I can do that," he said softly. "Hello, Pip." "Hello," said Pip, with a tiny wave. "Pause. Plan. Play," Kernel said to himself. "First, I pause."

