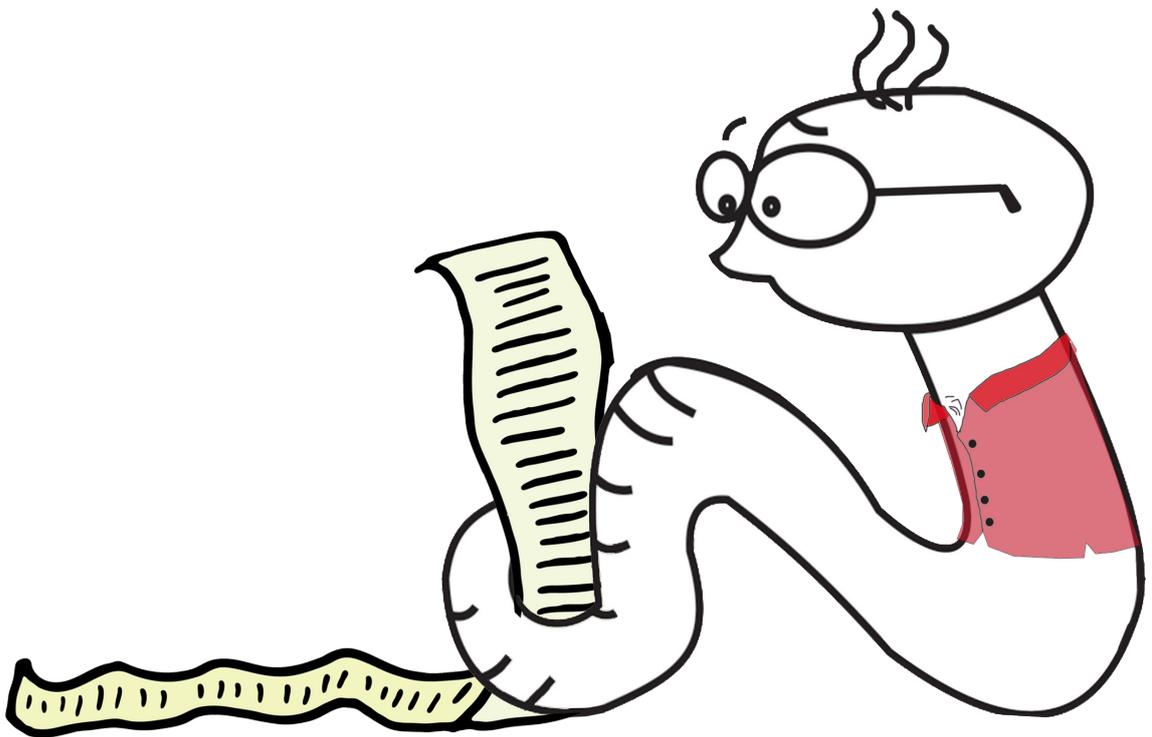
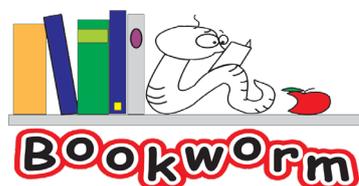


50 BOOKS



A diverse, thematic listing from
the Bookworm collection



Bookworm

www.bookwormgoa.in

A Note Before You Start



The core of a library rests with the collection. We know that the books that inhabit our library space are the tests that will deliver on all the promises that literature holds. The books will allow us to understand more about the world, and ourselves. The same books will allow us to see things from perspectives we might have never had, to talk and discuss with others whom we can learn and grow from. The collection allows us to dream, to imagine, to enter worlds without going far. A library resides in its collection and so, we felt it was important to share a slice of our diverse collection with you.

Why diverse?

We recognise and accept that we are a diverse nation of people, languages, culture, colours, ethnicities, experiences and so on, but we tend to forget that collections must reflect this diversity. A diverse collection enables every reader to find a text that will affirm, question or resonate. A diverse collection is a necessary condition for a library.

Where do we begin?

This was a very hard challenge because diversity is complex and a reflection of that diversity is compounded by a word and page limit. So as a first attempt, we have begun with a thematic approach to a diverse collection.

We selected 9 themes that we know from experience, resonate with readers in the library and in discussion.

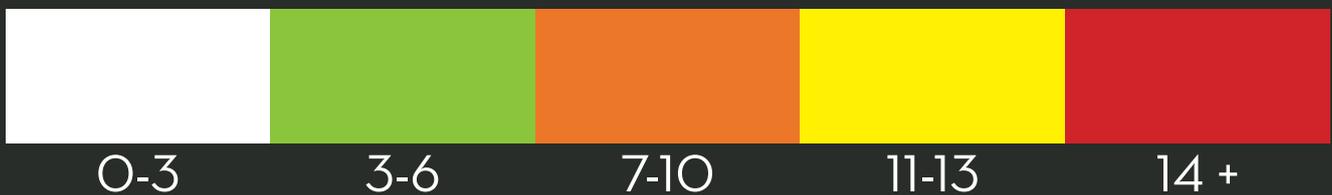
What do the thematic lists do?

The thematic organisation and the texts, in particular, are part of a growing awareness and knowledge we have around collections. We recognise that this is a slice of the larger thematic listing, but each of the books listed has been a significant part of our work on the ground and has been used by us in read aloud, book talks, book discussion and dialogue prompts. We stand by these texts and we hope in doing so that it provides you with a starting list to diversify your collection.

How To Read This List



- Each theme opens with a brief story line.
- Each book selected is annotated.
- An additional comment from the bookworm shares our reasons for selection.
- The colour block indicates the age group we worked with when using this book.



- The  icon indicates that a digital copy of this book is available online if you browse and search.
- Prices are merely indicative to arrive at decisions about purchase.

If you have any further queries, questions or comments, we await at: mail@bookwormgoa.in

Around Death

“ *End? No, the journey doesn't end here. Death is just another path, one that we all must take. The grey rain-curtain of this world rolls back, and all turns to silver glass, and then you see it.* ”

– J.R.R. Tolkein *'The Return of the King'*

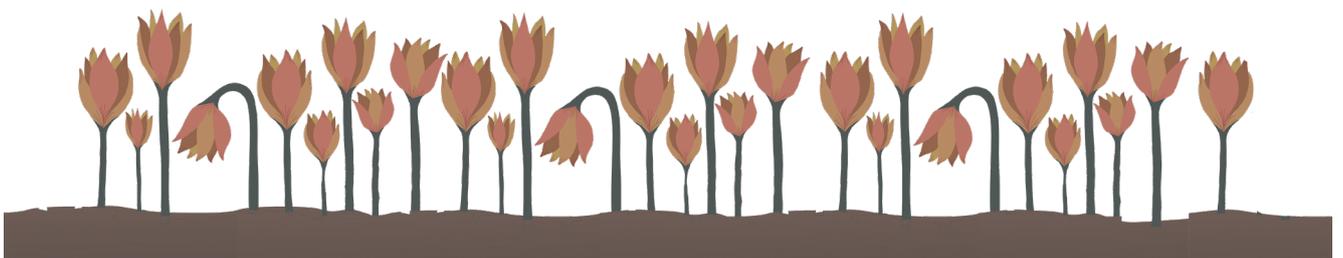
The selections in this list encompass understanding, acceptance, and finding the love that remains.



Around Death

In this section

<i>Gone Grandmother</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	07
<i>For the Love of a Cat</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	08
<i>Kimiya</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	09



01

Gone Grandmother

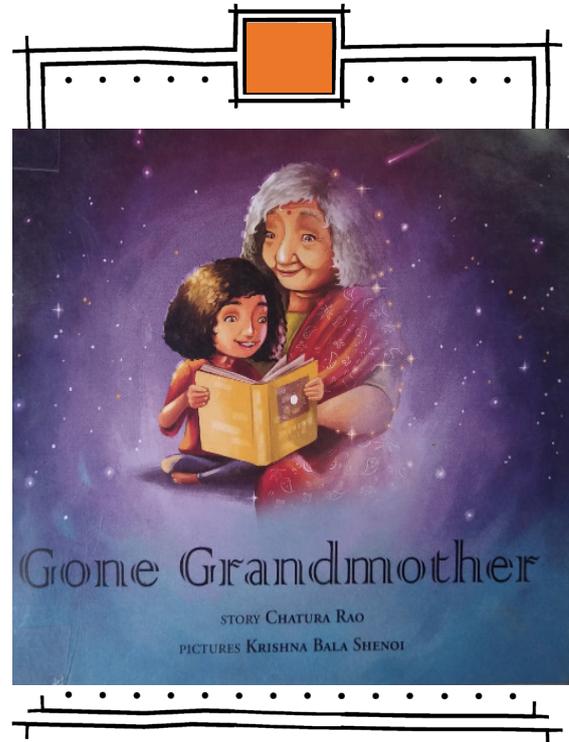
Author: Chatura Rao

Illustrator: Krishna Bala Sheno

Publisher: Tulika (2016)

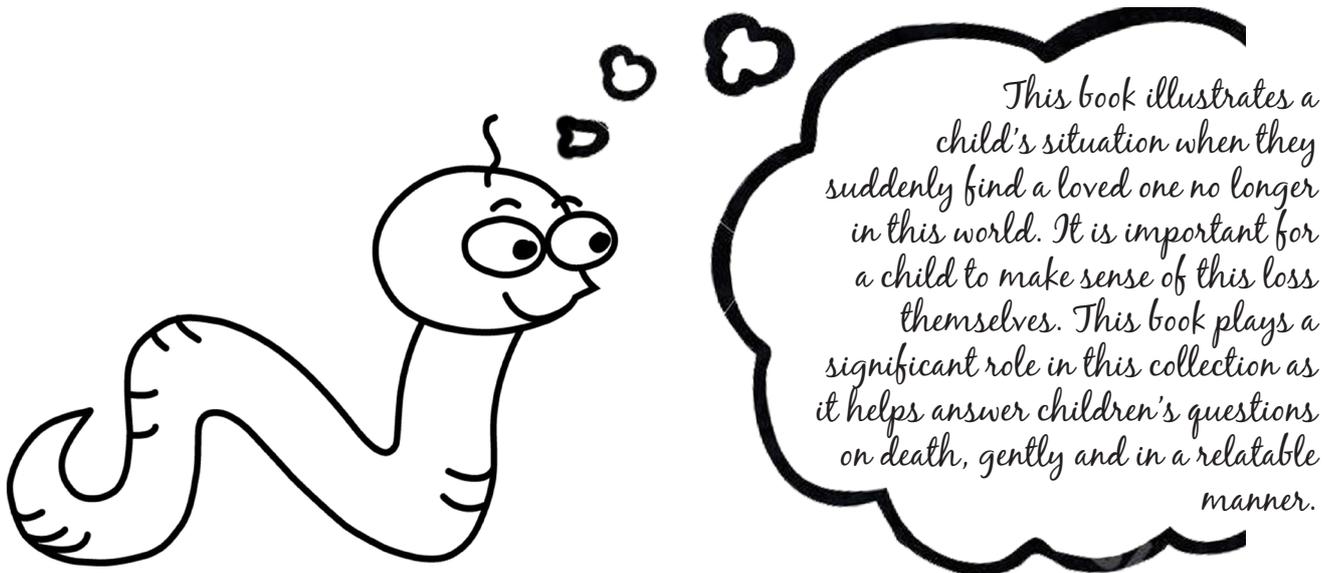
ISBN: 935046813-1

Price online: *Rs. 135 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

One day, little Nina cannot find her grandmother. Unsatisfactory answers from her mother force her to discover, for her own self, a new understanding of death. She makes her peace by reminiscing about memories and the knowledge that she got from her grandmother.





02 *For the Love of a Cat*

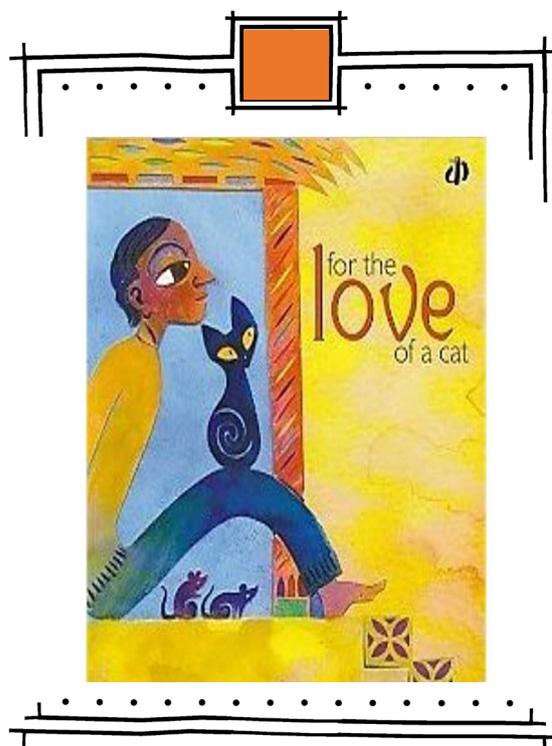
Author: Rosalind Wilson

Illustrator: Wen Hsu

Publisher: Katha (2010)

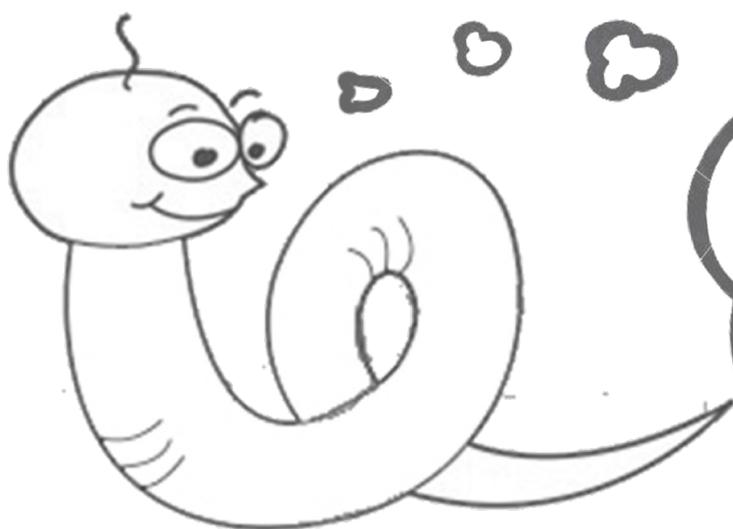
ISBN: 978-81-89934-50-7

Price online: *Rs. 250 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

The book tells the story about a painter, who loves his cat as much as he loves his paintings. But what happens when he has to choose between his cat and his art? Wen Hsu further captures the essence of the story with her master strokes and paper-cut patterns. The story and illustrations blend exceptionally well to deliver a heartwarming touching story.



A beautiful read that introduces children to the feeling of love, not limiting to humans, but also to all living creatures. Love makes impossible things possible. When it comes to a painter's love for his pet, he risks his life as well as his painting just to see his cat rest in peace forever.

03

Kimiya

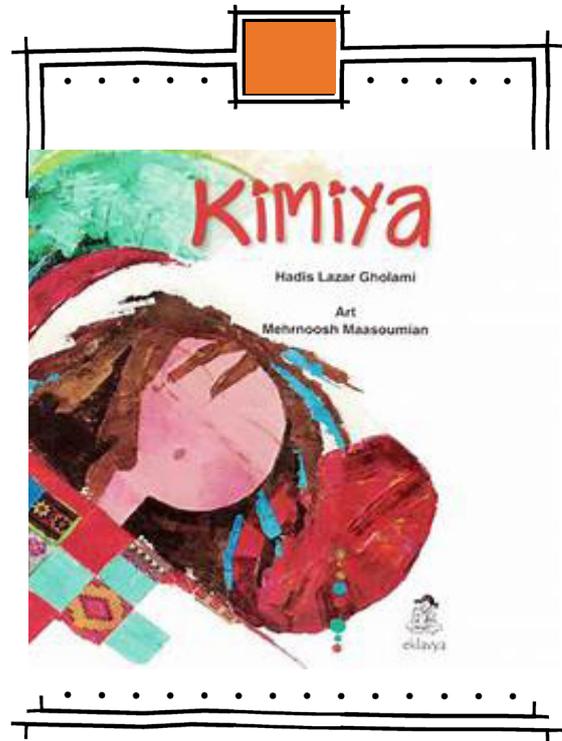
Author: Hadis Lazar Gholami

Illustrator: Mehrnoosh Maasoumian

Publisher: Eklavya (2016)

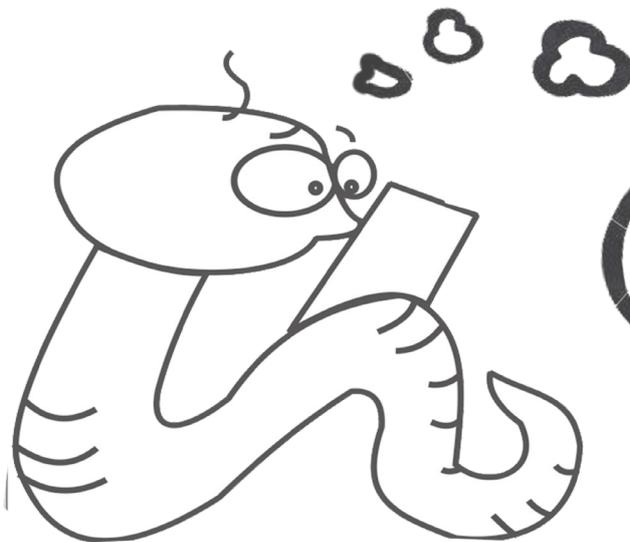
ISBN: 978-9381337-80-6

Price online: *Rs. 65 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

The book opens with the sentence 'When Kimiya died, everybody was sleeping, as was she herself.' Through muted abstract illustrations and a plot that keeps you hooked, the story takes us through an interaction that Kimiya has with Death. A surprising twist at the end, leaves us with an unusual ending.



Kimiya approaches the topic of death in a gentle and accessible way. The twists in the plot allow for many triggering questions, and can open up conversations and discussions on a topic that is often considered as something that should not be talked about with children.

Diverse Abilities

“ If we are to achieve a richer culture, we must weave one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place. ”

- Margaret Meade

The selections listed here are books that respectfully focus on characters who are not necessarily able-bodied, and yet, these are stories that are memorable and enjoyable.



Diverse Abilities

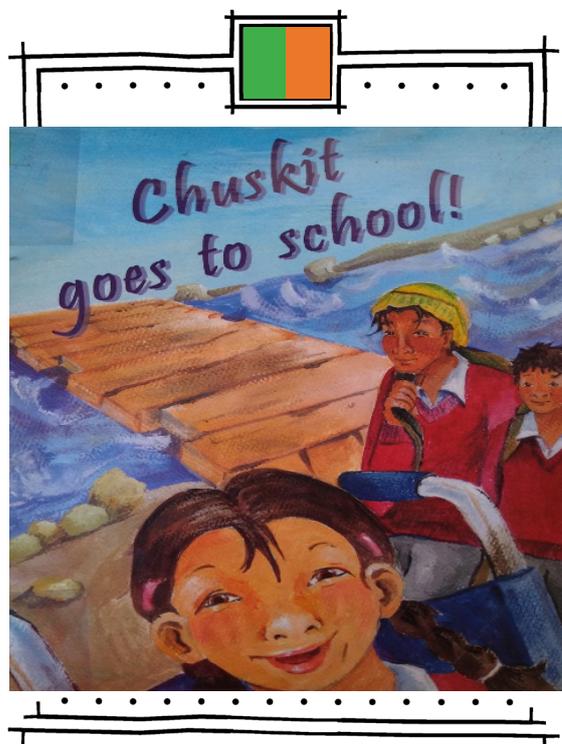
In this section

<i>Chuskit Goes to School!</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12
<i>A Gift from the Sea</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	13
<i>Catch That Cat!</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	14
<i>Friend</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	15
<i>I Didn't Understand</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	16
<i>Wings to Fly</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	17

01

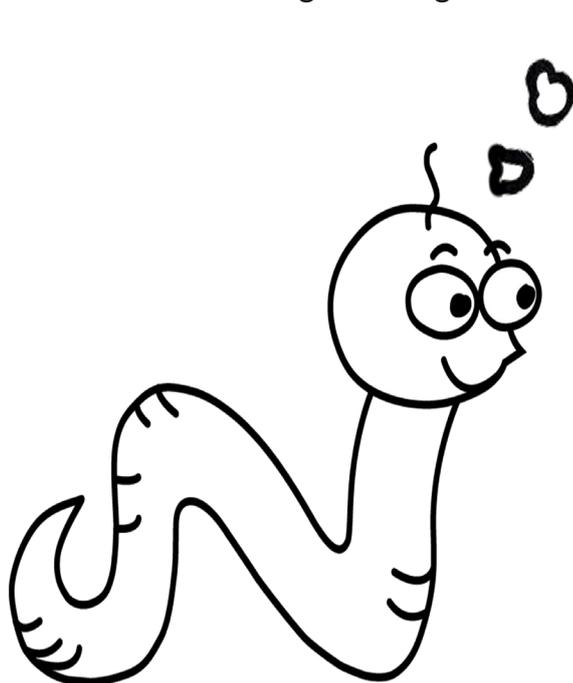
Chuskit Goes to School!

Author: Sujatha Padmanabhan
Illustrator: Madhuvanti Anantharajan
Publisher: Namgyal Institute for
People with Disabilities
(2005)
ISBN: 0-590-50896-2
Price online: *Rs. 60 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

The context and setting of this story mark it as unusual from the start, and Chuskit's problem of access to a school on a mountain path by wheelchair defines the plot. The book makes a serious attempt to weave in the theme of Fundamental Rights for all human beings through a thoughtful narrative.

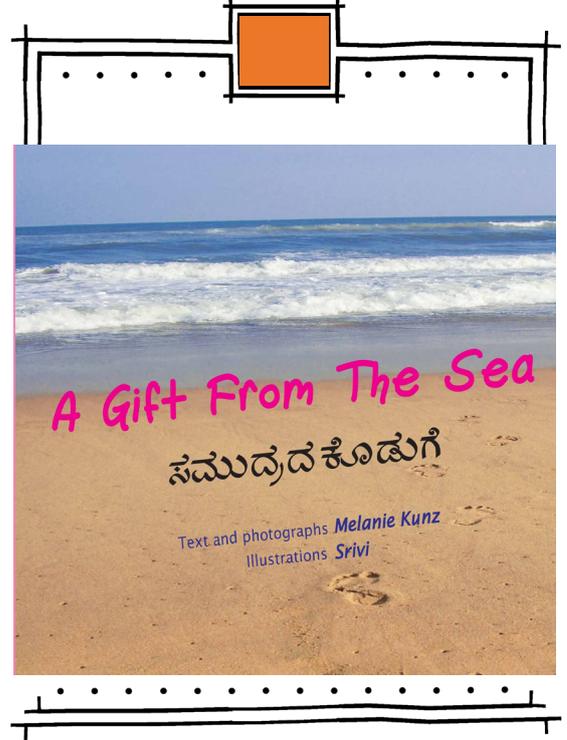


This book opens a window into the practical aspect of accessibility in an Indian context that makes it a must-have in the collection. While being familiar in context, it is also a minority representation in picture books, with Chuskit portrayed as an eager, sensitive young girl who wants to belong. The story asks of us much reflection and consideration on the practical aspects around Fundamental Rights. This book also belongs to the theme of Unusual Choices.

02

A Gift from the Sea

Author: Melanie Kunz
Illustrator: Srivi
Publisher: Tulika Publishers (2007)
ISBN: 978-8181463128
Price online: Rs. 75 (Paperback)



ABOUT THE BOOK

Rani is very happy as she will be going to the city, and there, she can go to the beach. Her grandmother is not going with her, so Rani plans to take along a gift for her.



The story is simple, with an interesting balance of photographs and line drawings. We placed this listing here because there is a graceful inclusion of a person with a disability that allows the reader to reflect on the thoughtfulness of Rani and our own ability to include others. This book also belongs to the theme of Unusual Choices.

03

Catch That Cat!

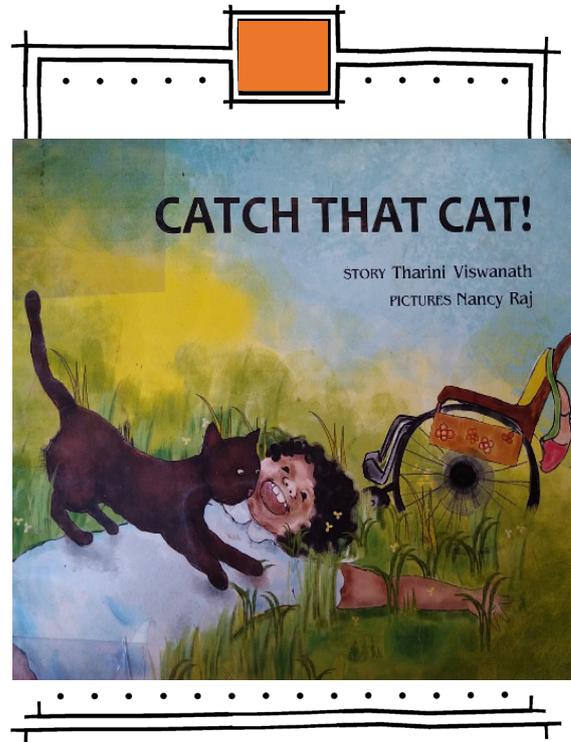
Author: Tharini Viswanath

Illustrator: Nancy Raj

Publisher: Tulika Publishers (2013)

ISBN: 93-5046-436-5

Price online: *Rs. 150 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

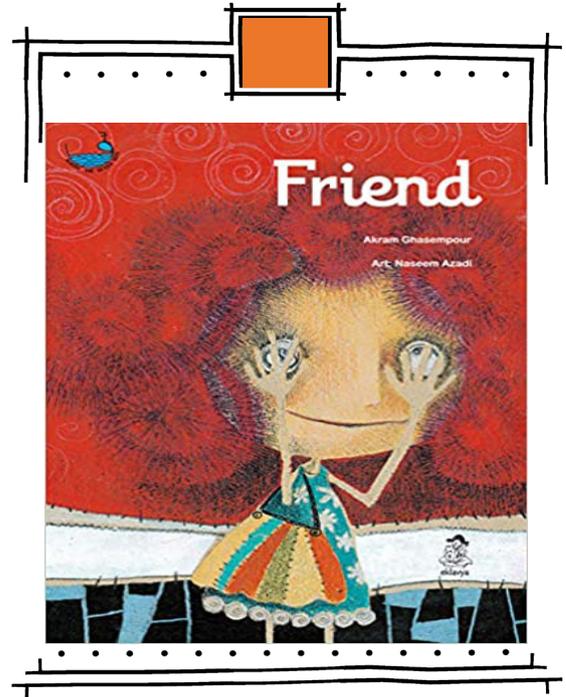
When her friend's cat, Kaapi, gets lost, Dip Dip goes searching for the cat in all possible locations. Nothing, not even her wheelchair, stops her from exploring every space! Through lively illustrations, the book narrates Dip Dip's adventure as she zooms from one place to another on her wheelchair.



This book tells a joyous, light-hearted story in a way that neither privileges nor pities the character's disability. Instead, Dip Dip's absolute acceptance, confidence and high spiritedness provokes us to think of disability naturally and joyously.

04 *Friend*

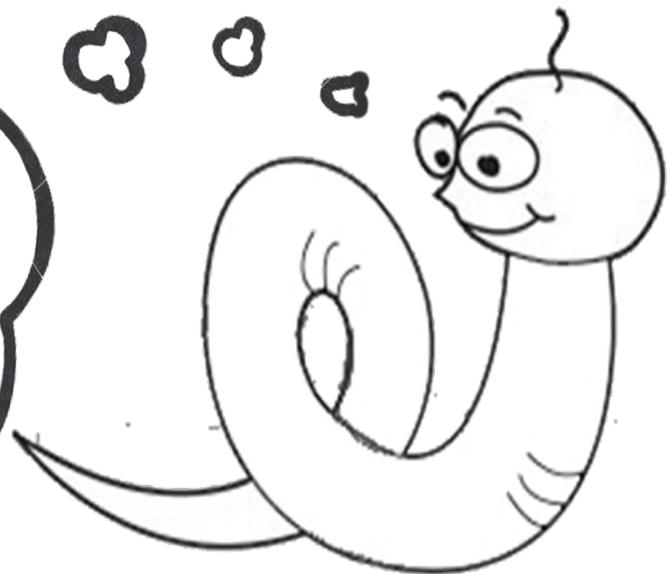
Author: Akram Ghasempour
Illustrator: Nasim Azaadi
Publisher: Eklavya (Translated in Hindi in 2016)
ISBN: 978-93-81337-79-0
Price online: *Rs. 80 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A little girl befriends another girl and invites her to a game of Hide and Seek and realises that the new friend is not closing her eyes - an important rule of the game. The reason for open eyes reveals something about the new girl and also the realisation that we can see in many different ways.

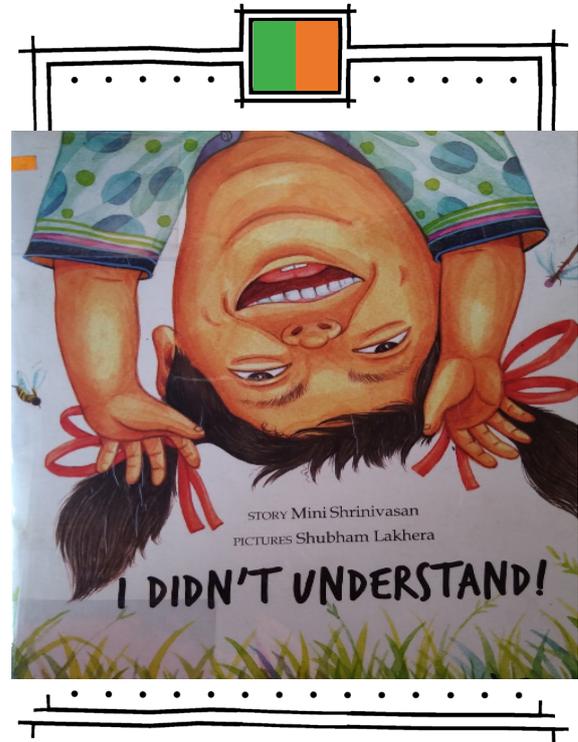
We chose this book because the characters are young and remind us that very early in life, we become conditioned to seeing in only one way. It is diverse experiences that open up our world, and this story does it beautifully. The story is known to open a rich discussion among children. The illustrations by Nasim Azaadi show the differences between the two characters in a creatively abstract manner.



05

I Didn't Understand

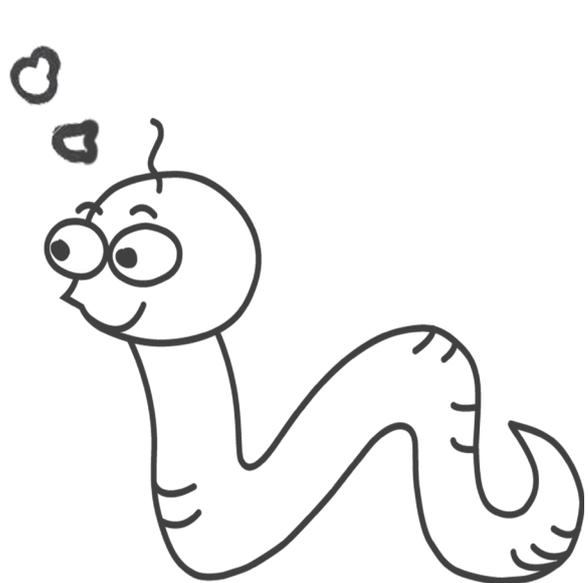
Author: Mini Shrinivasan
Illustrator: Shubham Lakhera
Publisher: Tulika (2018)
ISBN: 978-93-86667-53-3
Price online: *Rs. 165 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

The complexity of the story line adds great value to the narrative. The story is told from the point of view of young Manna, who is open, friendly and lives in the moment. She does not understand the darker complexities of human nature, such as being mean-spirited, as Manna was born with Downs Syndrome.

We particularly love books that compel reflection. This is one such book. When the story ends, we find ourselves returning to the things that Manna did not understand, and in doing that, we are compelled to reflect on Manna and ourselves. 'Who is disabled?' is a question that this story provokes us to think about. We know that readers re-look at their own attitudes after this story.



06

Wings to Fly

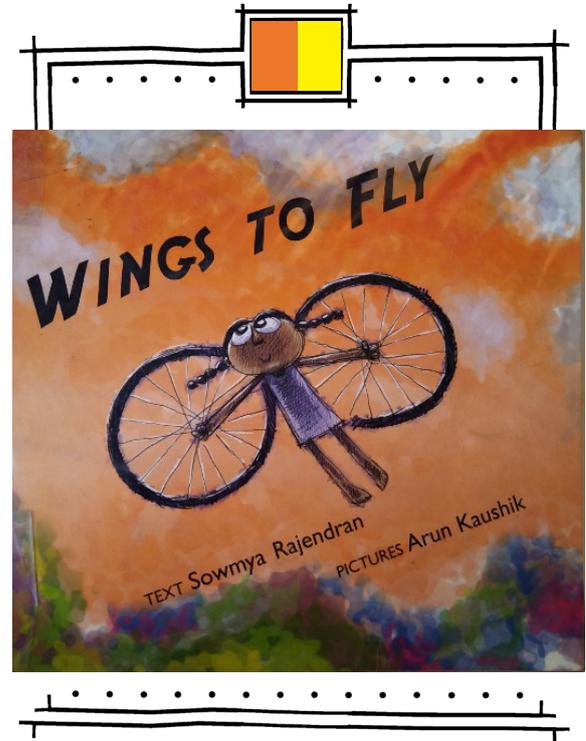
Author: Sowmya Rajendran

Illustrator: Arun Kaushik

Publisher: Tulika (2015)

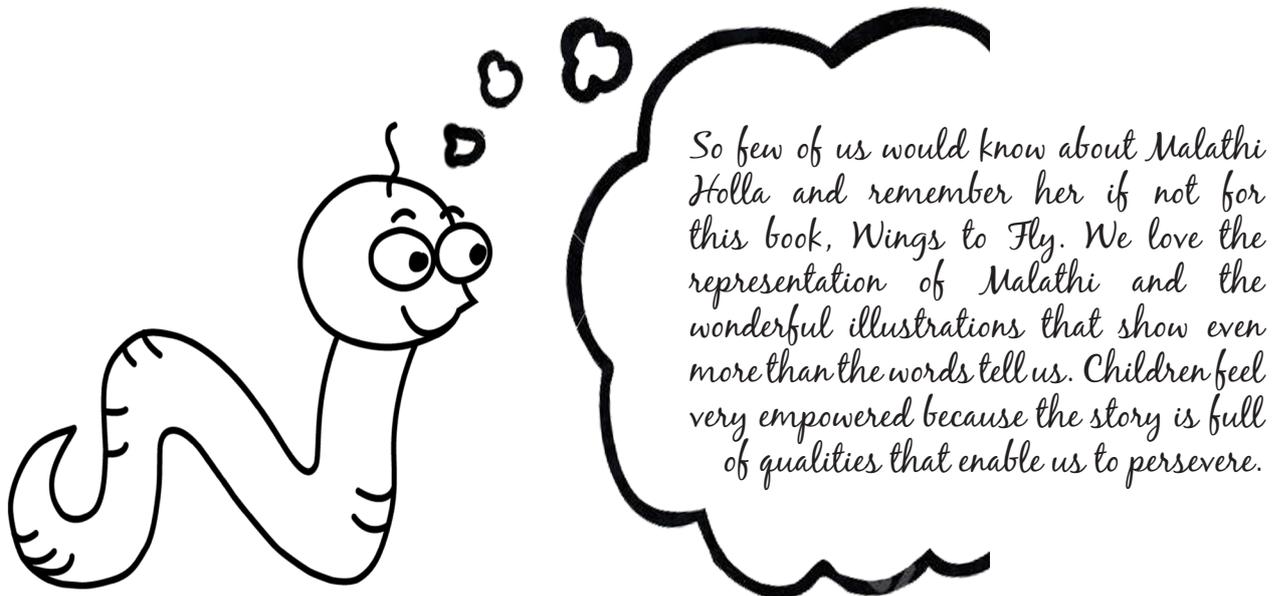
ISBN: 9789350466476

Price online: *Rs. 150 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

This is a biography picture book on Malathi Holla. Malathi loves her home, sweets and challenges. The book narrates to us her remarkable story about winning a male-only marathon.



Earth Matters

“ You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make. ”

– Jane Goodall

(To know more about Jane Goodall, read *Me ...Jane* (Little Brown, 2011) and *The Watcher* (Random, 2011))

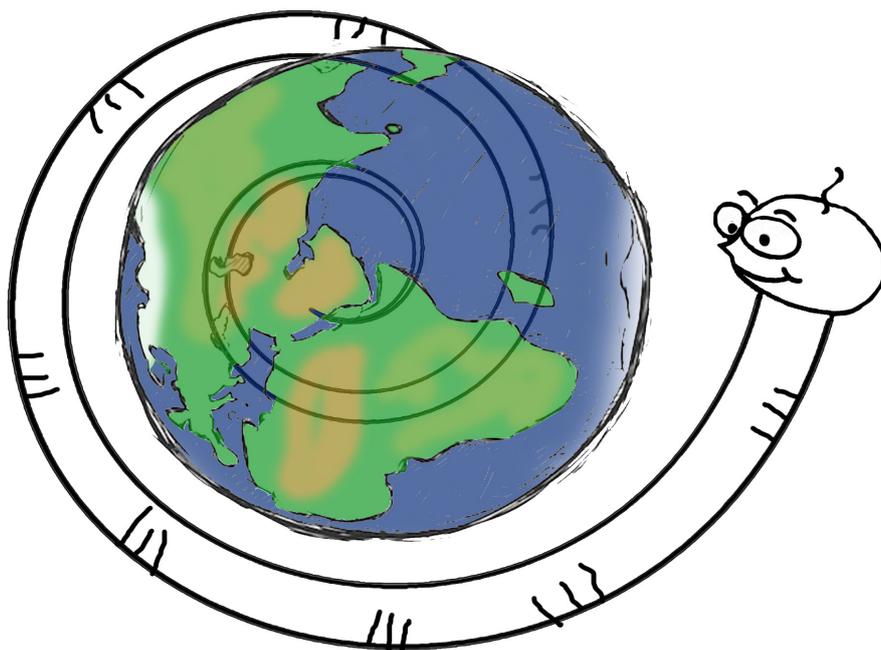
The selections listed here are gentle reminders of our care-taking for the planet Earth and each other.



Earth Matters

In this section

<i>Earth Song</i>	20
<i>Out of the Way! Out of the Way!</i>	21
<i>The Mountain that Loved a Bird</i>	22
<i>Walking is a Way of Knowing In a Kadar Forest</i>	23
<i>Where is Gola's Home?</i>	24
<i>Magnificent Makhna</i>	25

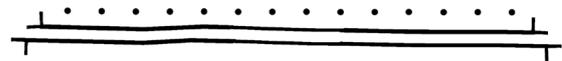
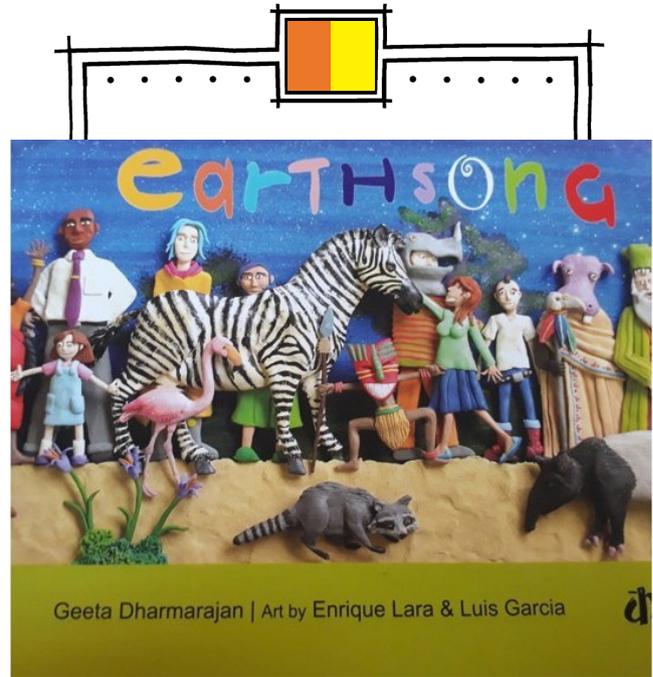




01

Earthsong

Author: Geeta Dharmarajan
Illustrator: Enrique Lara and Luis Garcia
Publisher: Katha Publishers (2006)
ISBN: 81-89020-44-7
Price online: *Rs. 195 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A book teeming with images of living beings on earth, in the sky and in water, with a lot of detailed information given about many kinds of animals and other living beings. It poses interesting questions to young readers and also provides a lyrical reminder about the joys of earth.



A unique book in terms of providing a balance of information and joy in a distinctive illustrative style makes it stand out in a collection. Children pause to look carefully at every page and an alertness marks this reading.

02

Out of the Way ! Out of the Way !

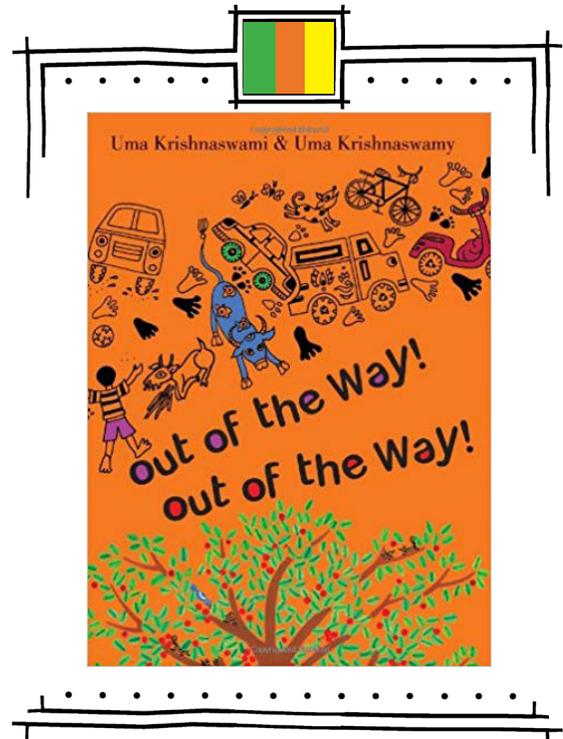
Author: Uma Krishnaswami

Illustrator: Uma Krishnaswamy

Publisher: Tulika (2012)

ISBN: 978-1554981304

Price online: *Rs.122 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A book again in lyrical style that demonstrates how development and conservation can co-habit. An idea that must take root despite so much of rapid changes is affirming and charmingly narrated in this text. It all begins with a sapling that grows into a tree.

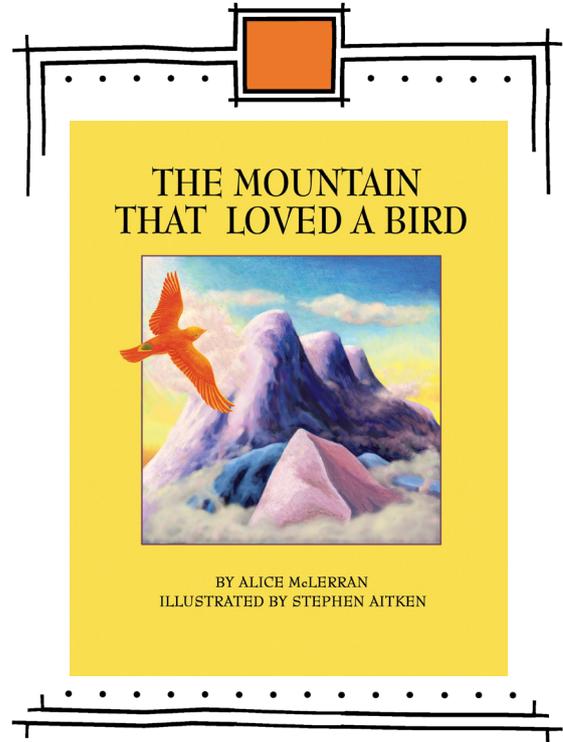


This book is singular in that it does not take one position on this earth matter. It attempts to show a balance, a middle path literally, and in doing so, provides the reader with choices that are not polarised and also perhaps more real.

03

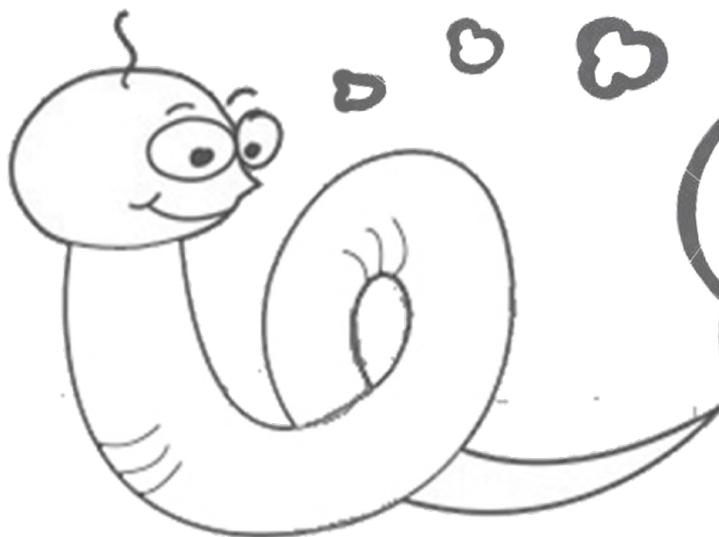
The Mountain That Loved a Bird

Author: Alice McLerran
Illustrator: Stephen Aitken
Publisher: Tulika (2018)
ISBN: 978-6-8983-319-9
Price online: *Rs. 130 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A story about relationships and transformation, beautifully told and shown through illustrations. In many ways, a predictable story, but also a deeply moving one, where the strong mighty mountain is bereft without the company of a tiny little bird. A story that reminds us of interconnectedness and love.



The story works with every group of children because of universal truths, and it is also held up by the images, which are beautiful and apt. It also brings with it a sense of Hope despite starting on a lonely note, which makes it a very positive contribution to any collection.

04

Walking is a Way of Knowing In a Kadar Forest

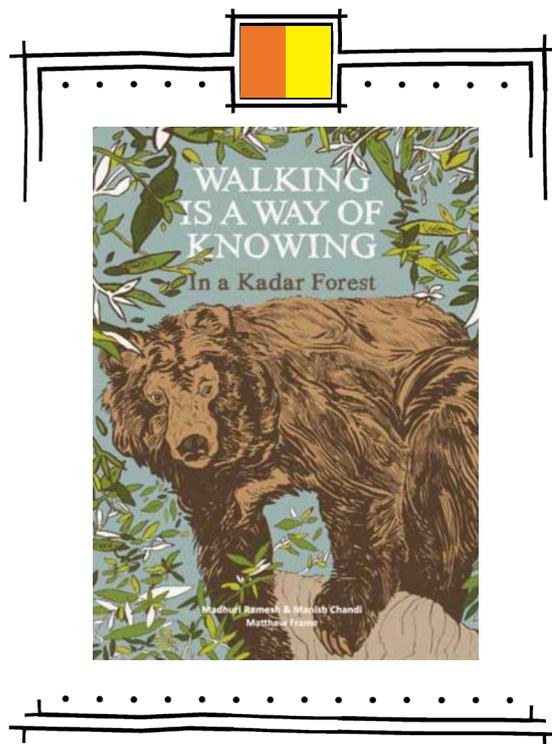
Author: Madhuri Ramesh & Manish Chandi

Illustrator: Matthew Frame

Publisher: Tara (2018)

ISBN: 9788193448557

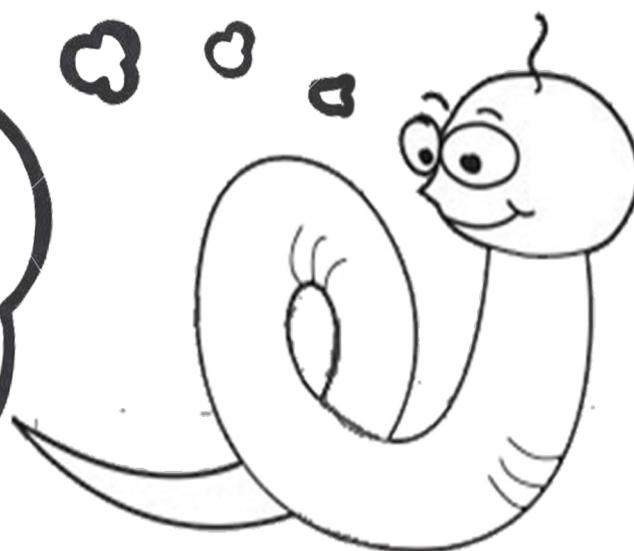
Price online: *Rs. 350 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Ecologists Madhuri and Manish walk a forest with a Kadar elder, understanding and learning more with each step they take together. The book opens up for us the rich repository of knowledge systems that ‘elders’ own and shows us a way of understanding this knowledge through a shared communication.

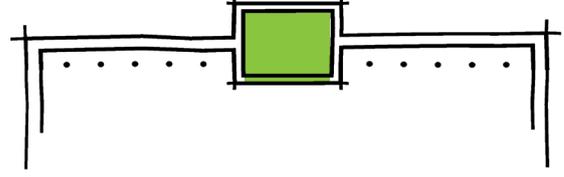
For its representation of indigene knowledge systems , its beautiful illustrations and the information about the natural world , the book is a lovely introduction on many levels for readers. It also affirms local knowledge and other ways of knowing that readers have responded to.



05

Where is Gola's Home?

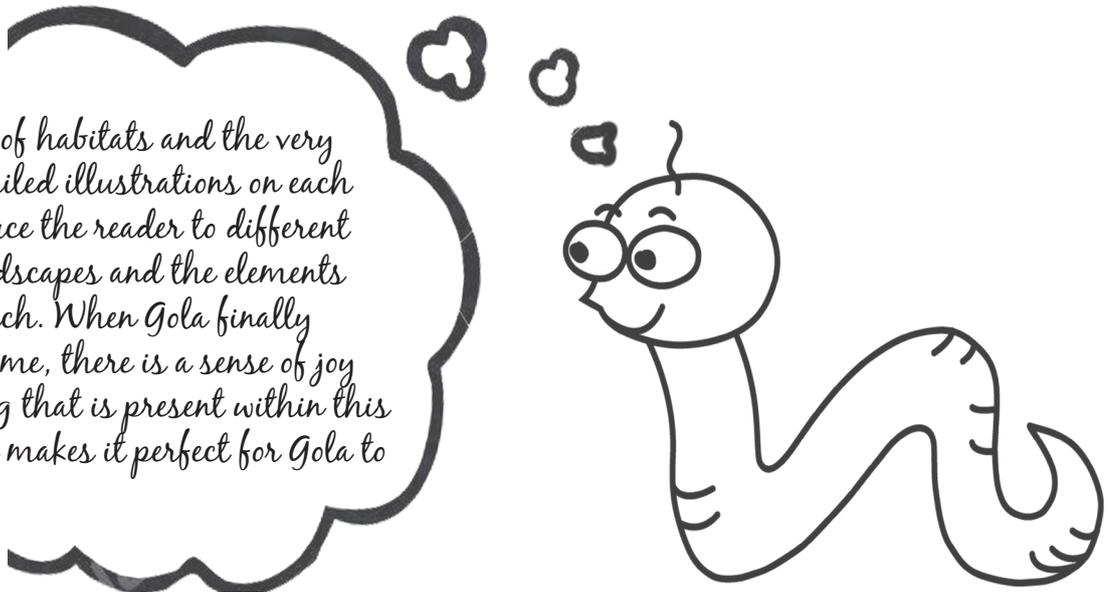
Author: Chitra Soundar
Illustrator: Priya Kuriyan
Publisher: Tulika (2006)
ISBN: 978-81-8146-229-9
Price online: *Rs. 95 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

The book explores different kinds of habitats through a journey that Muri the eagle and Gola the Yak take together.

The concept of habitats and the very distinct detailed illustrations on each page introduce the reader to different kinds of landscapes and the elements present in each. When Gola finally finds his home, there is a sense of joy at everything that is present within this habitat that makes it perfect for Gola to stay in.



06

Magnificent Makhna

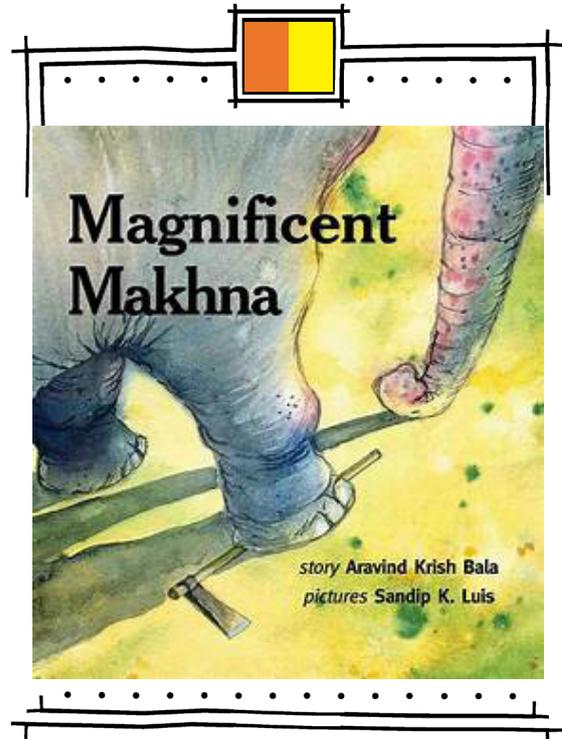
Author: Aravind Krish Bala

Illustrator: Sandip K Luis

Publisher: Tulika (2018)

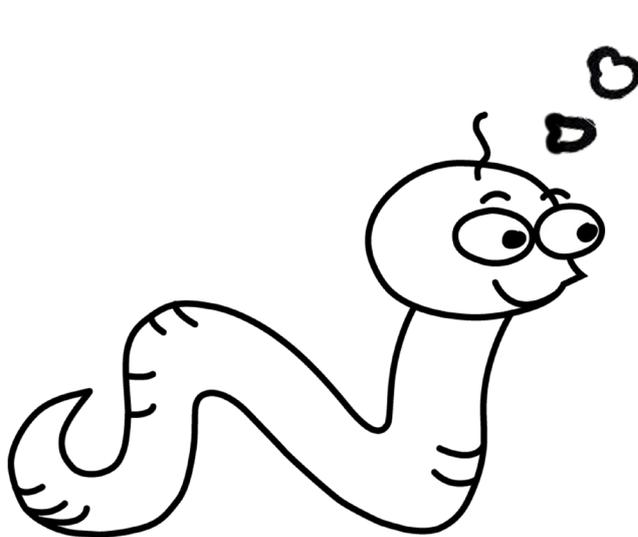
ISBN: 978-93-5046-244-7

Price online: *Rs. 175 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Makhna is a living legend, a tuskless elephant from the gudalur forests who protects the forest from timber raiders, tree-cutters and poachers. But one day, there is an order to hunt this majestic elephant and remove him from the forest. A gripping and beautifully told fact- fiction story.



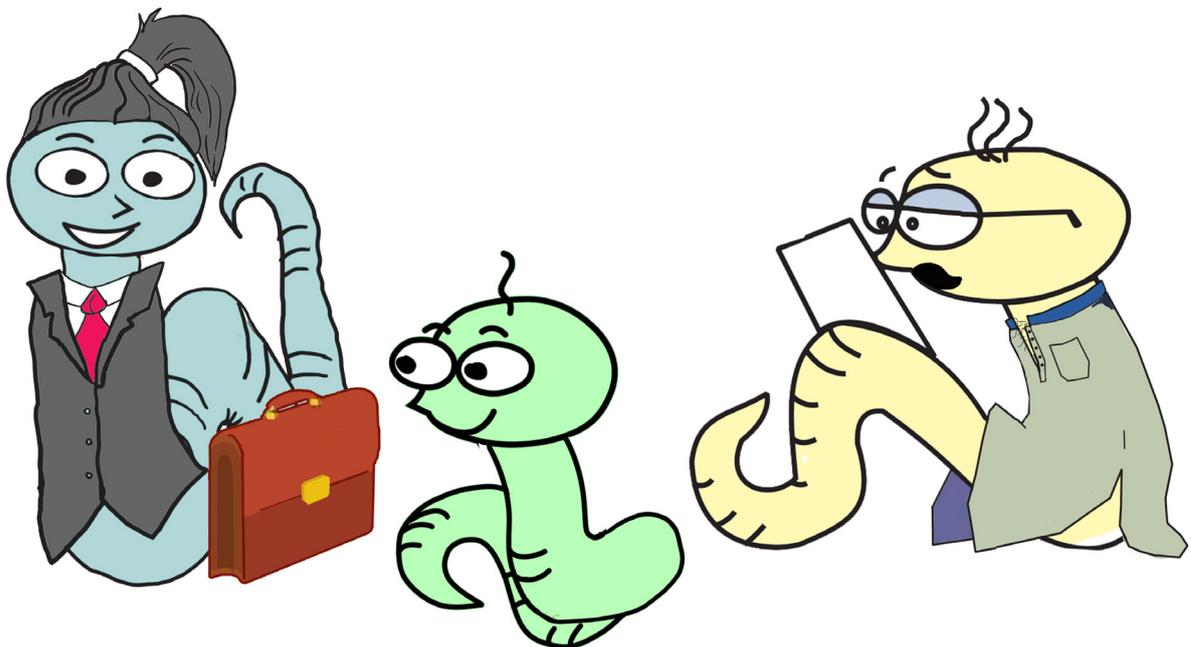
The story is told in balance and that enables readers to enter into the discourse around conservation, rights, and choices. Readers have found themselves able to see all sides of the story and argue accordingly.

Family Ties

“ *Is this what family is like: the feeling that everyone’s connected, that with one piece missing, the whole thing’s broken?* ”

- Trenton Lee Stewart

The selections listed here are meant to share a diversity of family types, but each one with ties that bind and that has qualities of an everlasting story.



Family Ties

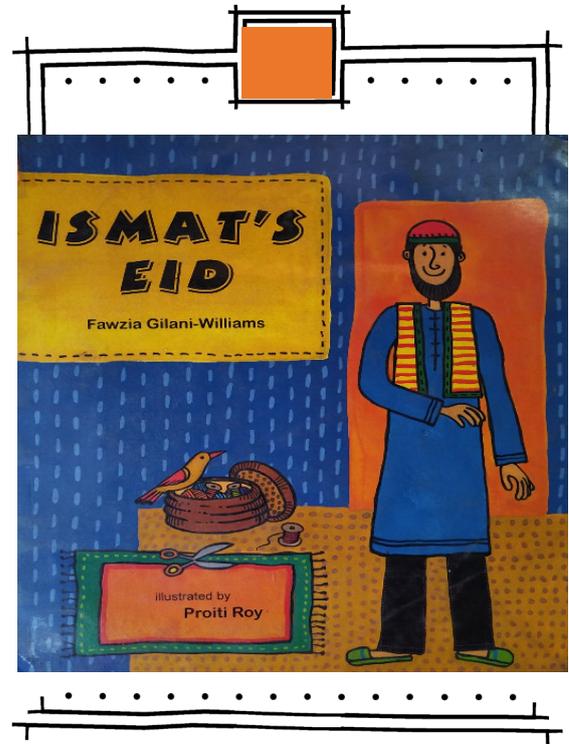
In this section

<i>Ismat's Eid</i>	. . . . .	28
<i>Behind the Lie</i>	. . . . .	29
<i>Thukpa For All</i>	. . . . .	30
<i>I Will Save My Land</i>	. . . . .	31
<i>A Saree for Ammi</i>	. . . . .	32

01

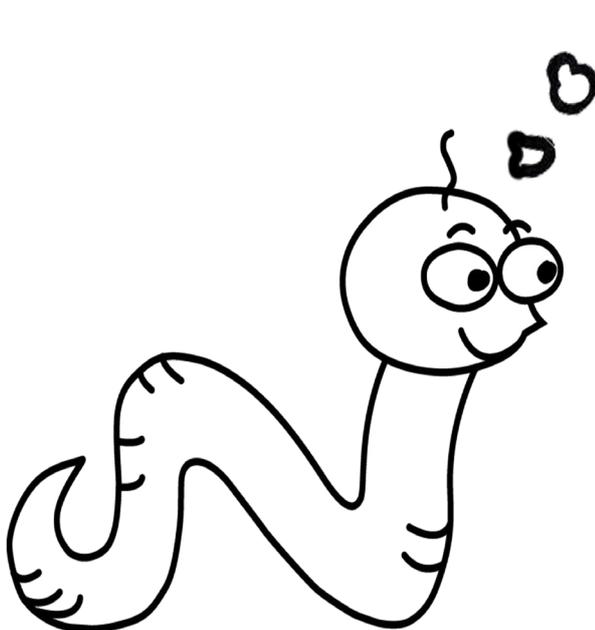
Ismat's Eid

Author: Fawzia Gilani-Williams
Illustrator: Proiti Roy
Publisher: Tulika Publishers (2007)
ISBN: 81-8146-405-2
Price online: *Rs. 105 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A warm family story of love and support, brought to the fore during an important festival time. This book takes us into Ismat's family circle, where we meet his mother, wife and daughter as they prepare for Eid.

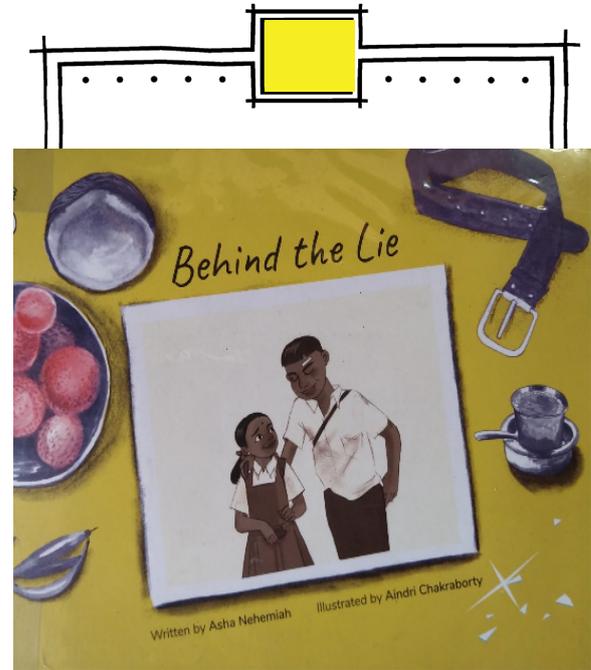


The immediate response at the end of this story is laughter. But on pausing thereafter, the warmth of Ismat's family comes through, time after time. The book also allows young readers to recognise the similarities in their respective family lives, demands on each one's time, and yet, the underlying ties that bind. Proiti Roy's illustrations are sensitive and warm, making Ismat's family endear itself to us.

02

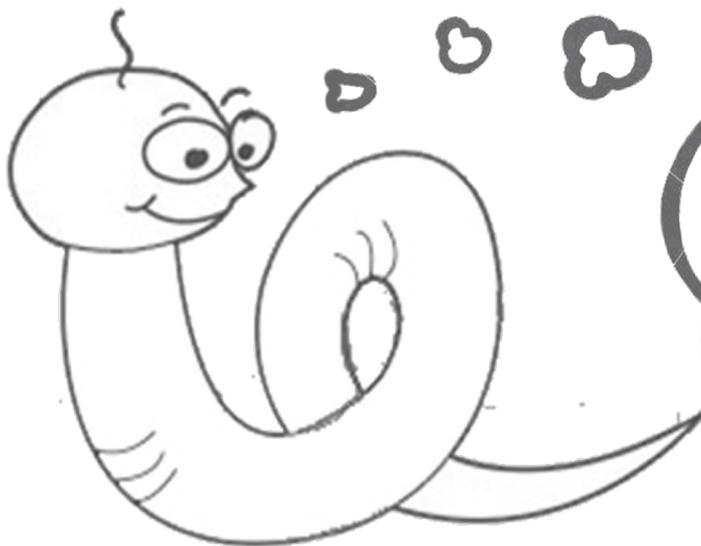
Behind the Lie

Author: Asha Nehemiah
Illustrator: Aindri Chakraborty
Publisher: Pratham Books (2018)
ISBN: 978-93-5309-309-9
Price online: *Rs. 50 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Not all families are characterised by only happiness. Some are marked by abuse and distress. This book illuminates this dark secret of family life in a respectful and tender way.

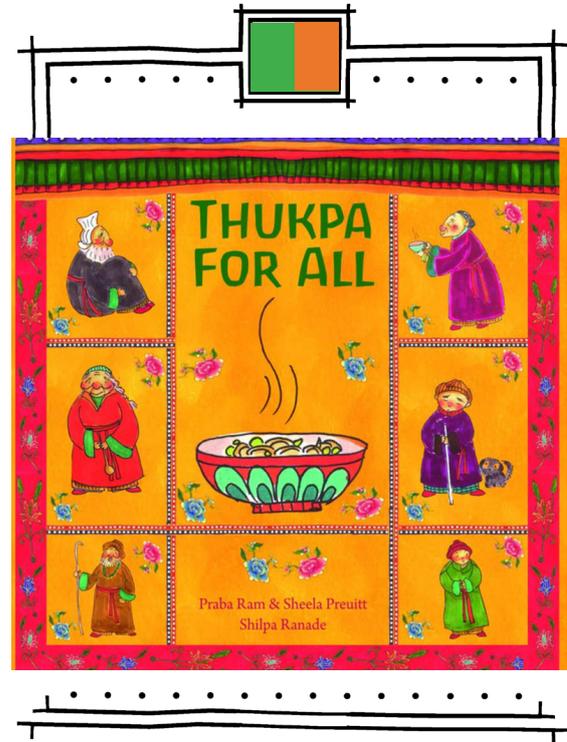


We look for stories that disrupt mainstream narratives, and so, *Behind the Lie* for us is a treasure. It seeks to show us how children as young as 8 can, and must, confront home truths from social realities. It places trust in the community and social connections that characterise Indian society, but in a positive way, leaving the reader with a sense of hope and positivity.

03

Thukpa For All

Author: Prabha Ram & Sheila Preuitt
Illustrator: Shilpa Ranade
Publisher: Karadi Tales (2019)
ISBN: 978-81-9338-898-3
Price online: *Rs. 399 (Hardback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

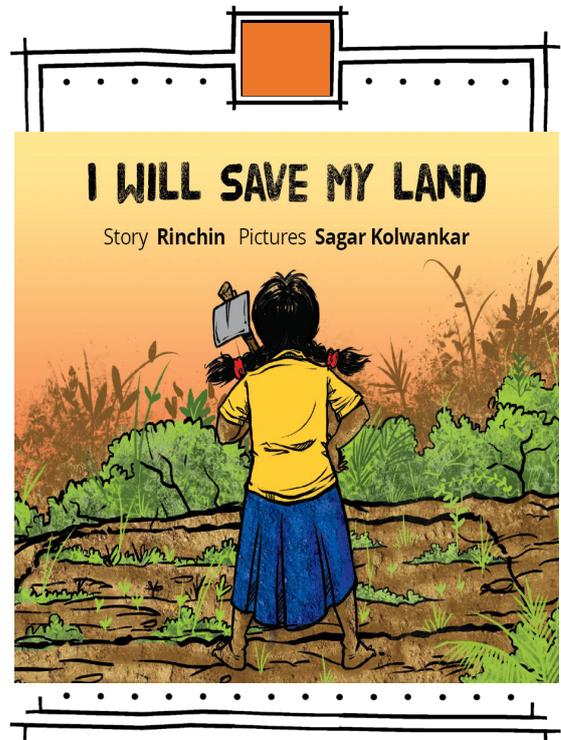
Noodle soup, a loving grandmother, a helpful grandson, community and power cuts all reminiscent of many everyday experiences not often found in children's stories from the Himalayan region. Beautifully illustrated with a tenderness that is respectful of physically disabled and circumstances.



Books that reflect worlds we may not directly experience or that represent worlds of particular communities are very necessary in the collection. This book fills that slot on our shelves and does not fail to surprise and charm the reader.

04 *I Will Save My Land*

Author: Rinchin
Illustrator: Sagar Kolwankar
Publisher: Tulika (2021)
ISBN: 9350469189
Price online: *Rs. 165 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A story of a farming family featuring Mati the protagonist and her grandmother and father. Mati's desire and perseverance to own land brings the aspect of the class, caste, and gender divide in society. This gets further complex where the community has to protect the land from big industries who in the name of development want to build big buildings and factories.

I Will Save My Land presents the struggles of the farming community and what it takes to own land. Each day is filled with challenges and the biggest one arises when the presence and relevance of their work are being negated by the big companies for their benefits and 'growth'. What happens when the land is being attacked? Mati's and other people's small efforts show the power in protesting and raising our voices to save the land. The illustration in the book captures the feelings and the emotions. This book is so relevant in current times and makes one think about where we are going in the name of development.



05 *A Saree for Ammi*

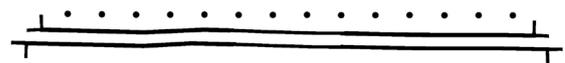
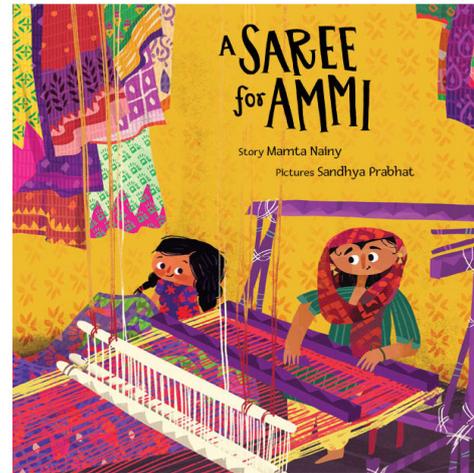
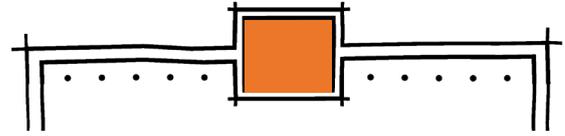
Author: Mamta Nainy

Illustrator: Sandhya Prabhat

Publisher: Tulika (2019)

ISBN: 978-93-89203-60-8

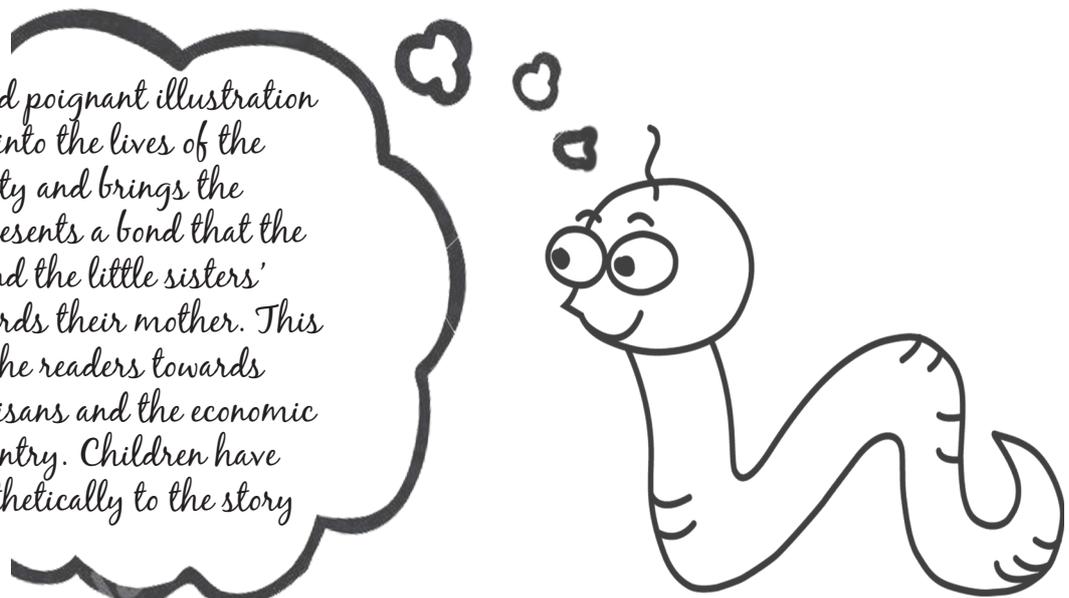
Price online: *Rs. 175 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A story of a weaving community in Rajasthan who weaves and makes beautiful sarees but cannot afford to buy one for themselves. The sisters in the story plan different ways to save just enough money to buy a beautiful saree for Ammi that she has made and she can wear too!

The beautiful and poignant illustration takes the reader into the lives of the weaver community and brings the story alive. It presents a bond that the family shares and the little sisters' compassion towards their mother. This story sensitizes the readers towards the plight of artisans and the economic divide in our country. Children have responded empathetically to the story when shared.



Migration

“ A River of strangers in search of a place to be free, to live and laugh, to love again.....A river of people in search of peace. ”

- Margaret Ruurs

The selections listed here seek to include the physical and emotional aspects of migration: from feelings of displacement to the more devastating effects of war and conflict.



Migration

In this section

<i>Stitching Stories</i>	35
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<i>Jamlo Walks</i>	37
<i>The Mountains of Mumbai</i>	38
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<i>The Snow King's Daughter</i>	40

01

Stitching Stories

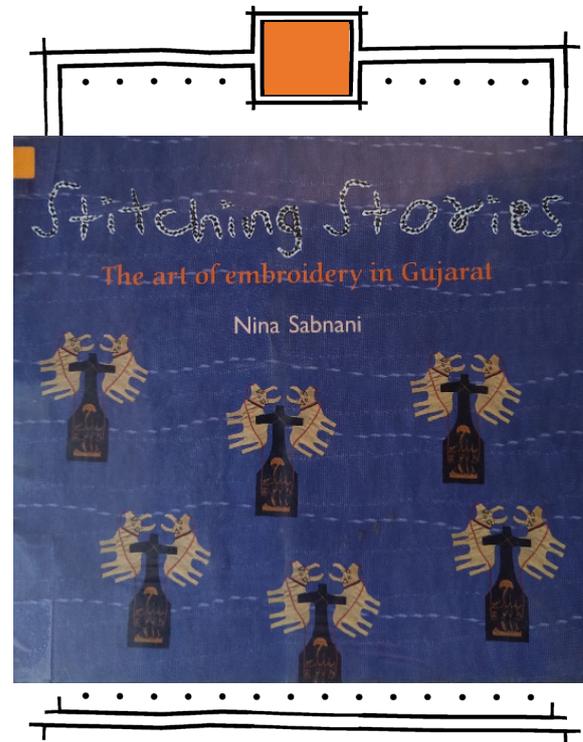
Author: Nina Sabnani

Illustrator: Kala Raksha

Publisher: Tulika (2011)

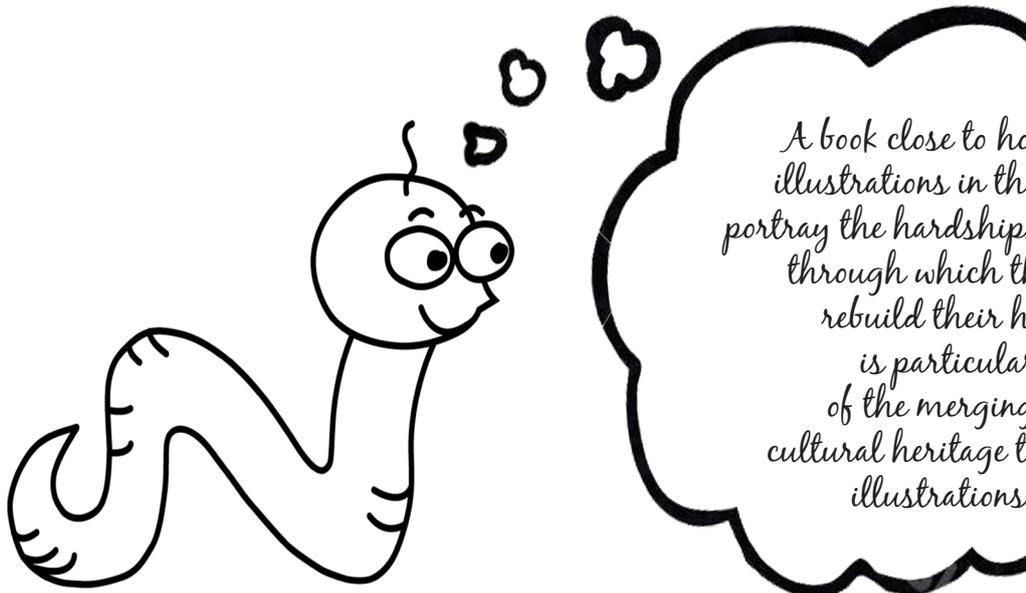
ISBN: 81-8146-961-5

Price online: *Rs. 200 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Told through beautiful stitched illustrations, this story takes us through the journey of Ranniben and her family, who left their home in Pakistan during the India-Pakistan war, and crossed the desert, to settle in a refugee camp in Gujarat. The book is based on the animated documentary film *Tanko Bole Chhe (The Stitches Speak)*.

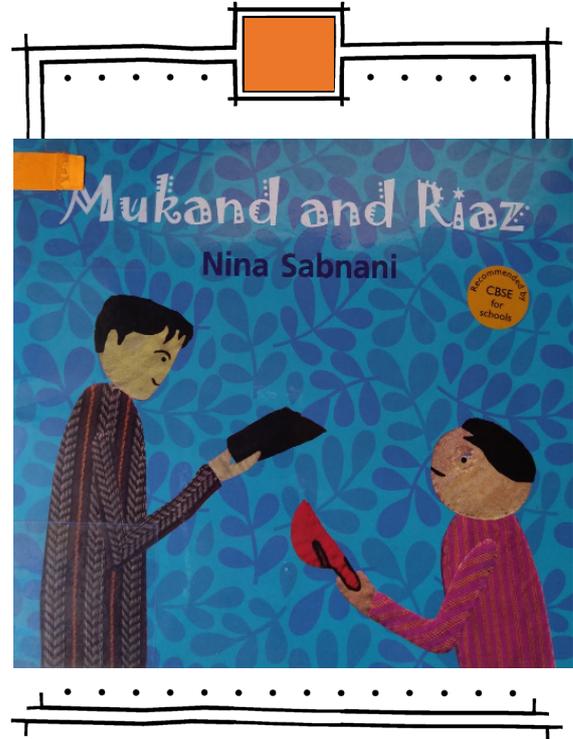


A book close to home and heart, the illustrations in this book beautifully portray the hardships and perseverance through which these artists slowly rebuild their homes and lives. It is particularly special because of the merging of migration and cultural heritage through which the illustrations are brought alive.

02

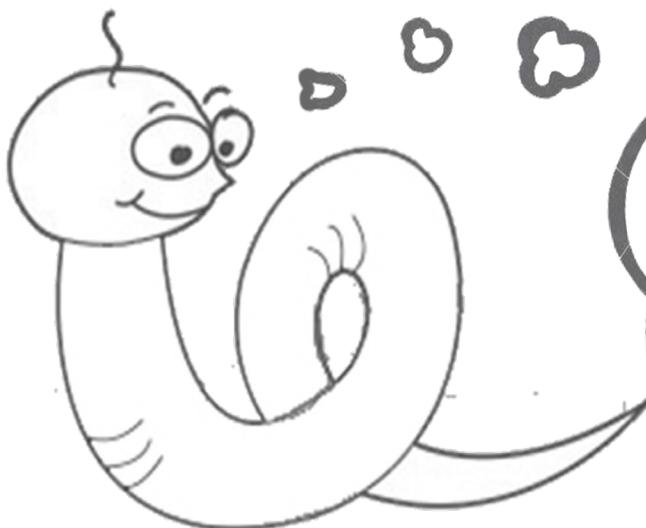
Mukund and Riaz

Author: Nina Sabnani
Illustrator: Nina Sabnani
Publisher: Tulika Publishers (2007)
ISBN: 818146343-9
Price online: *Rs. 122 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Set in 1947, during the Partition of India, this book captures the story of two young friends, who experienced the deep loss of a very special friendship, by virtue of being on two different sides of the war. The applique art of illustrations used in the book is a heritage of both Pakistan and India.

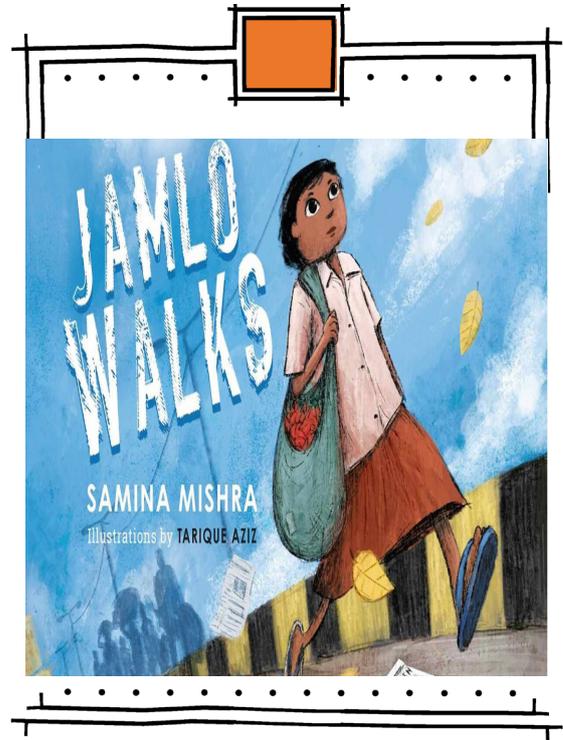


Told in a sensitive and meaningful manner, the story stays with you long after the last page is turned. The book expresses emotions from the point of view of a child and has a deeply moving ending. We find this book has been received in a thoughtful and understanding manner by children, who are always able to connect to the simplicity and humaneness of the story.

03

Jamlo Walks

Author: Samina Mishra
Illustrator: Tarique Aziz
Publisher: Puffin Books (2021)
ISBN: 978-0-143-45317-8
Price online: *Rs. 250 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A deeply profound and thoughtful story that captures the hardship of Jamlo Makdam as well as countless other unnamed people who faced similar circumstances due to the sudden announcement of lockdown. The experiences of other children present how the lockdown affected different people in different ways. The powerful illustrations in the book deepen the connection with the text and evoke emotions. This book is relevant not only for children but also for adults as the layered text brings different aspects of our society and opens a space for discussion.

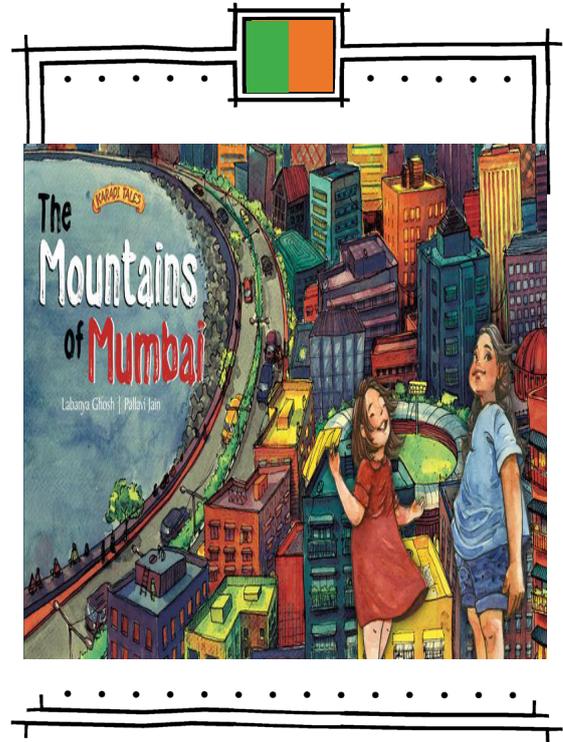


A deeply profound and thoughtful story that captures the hardship of Jamlo Makdam as well as countless other unnamed people who faced similar circumstances due to the sudden announcement of lockdown. The experiences of other children present how the lockdown affected different people in different ways. The powerful illustrations in the book deepen the connection with the text and evoke emotions. This book is relevant not only for children but also for adults as the layered text brings different aspects of our society and opens a space for discussion.

04

The Mountains of Mumbai

Author: Labanya Ghosh
Illustrator: Pallavi Jain
Publisher: Karadi Tales (2020)
ISBN: 978-81-9365-429-3
Price online: *Rs. 399 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

When Doma from Ladakh visits her friend Veda in Mumbai, she finds herself missing the mountains in her homeland. Challenging the idea of the mountains as always being brown and triangular, Veda introduces her friend to what for her are the mountains in Mumbai. Detailed warm illustrations enable the reader to explore the book and the city through these page spreads.

The book visually invites us into different nuances of the city, with landmarks that many may recognize and find joy in this exploration. The story also enables us to see aspects in different perspectives as we follow Veda and Doma in their conversation with each other and their exploration of the city.

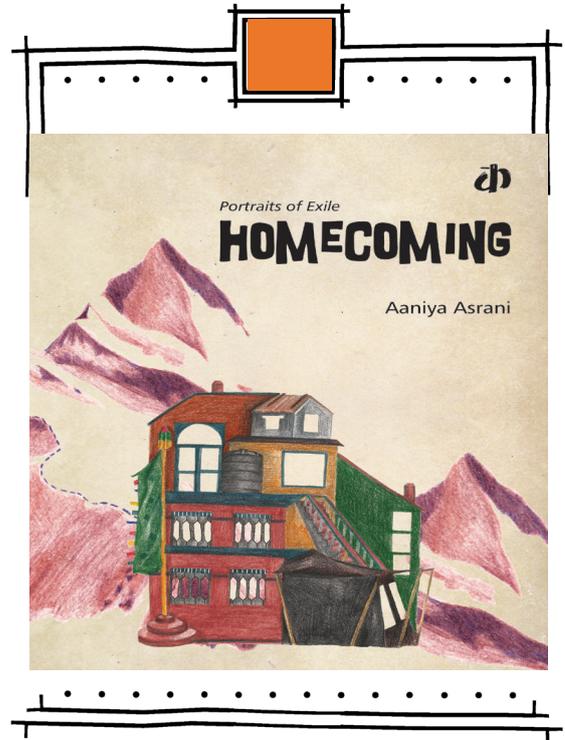




05

Homecoming

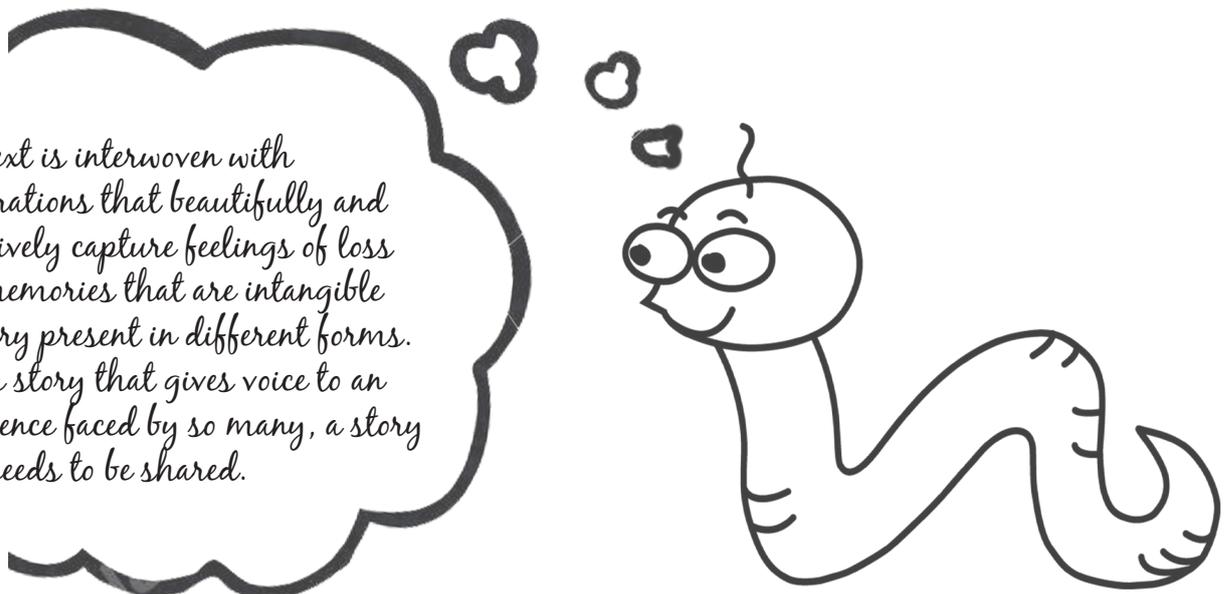
Author: Aaniya Asrani
Illustrator: Aaniya Asrani
Publisher: Katha (2018)
ISBN: 978-93-88284-05-9
Price online: *Rs. 120 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Homecoming is part of a non fiction book series called 'Portraits of Exile', based on the lives of Tibetan refugees living in Bylakuppe, Karnataka. Homecoming is the story of Kizom, who came to India as a young girl, and the memories she has of her home.

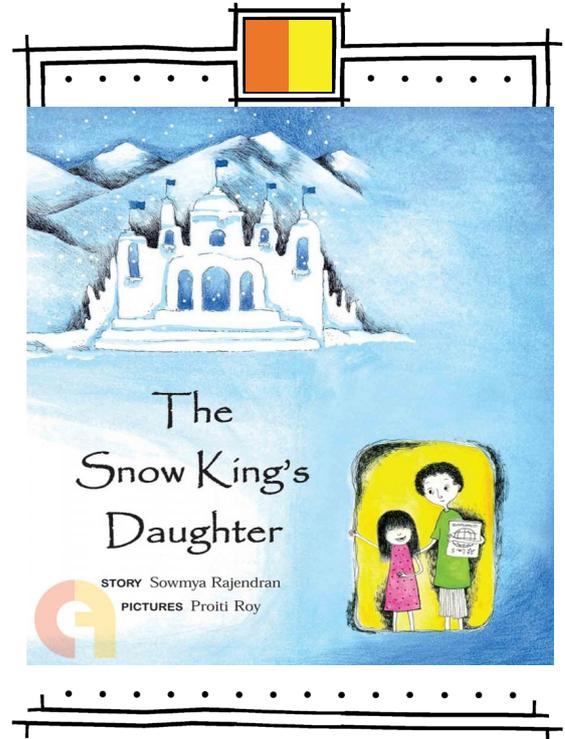
The text is interwoven with illustrations that beautifully and sensitively capture feelings of loss and memories that are intangible but very present in different forms. It is a story that gives voice to an experience faced by so many, a story that needs to be shared.



06

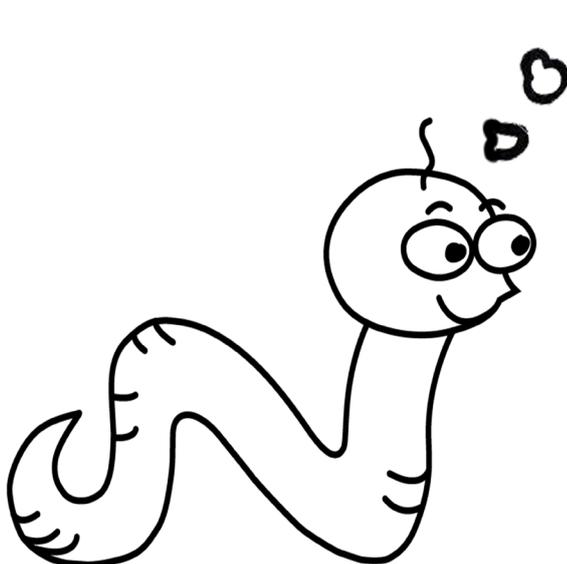
The Snow King's Daughter

Author: Sowmya Rajendran
Illustrator: Proiti Roy
Publisher: Tulika Publishers (2009)
ISBN: 978-81-8146-680-8
Price online: *Rs. 150 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

In the course of his imaginative explorations, Keshav discovers that his neighbour Lobsang is from Tibet. A short conversation with Amma opens up the topic of exile and the reality of why Lobsang had to leave her country and find refuge here. The book sensitively conveys what it means to migrate to another country and be apart from family.



The illustrations add to what the story is sharing and capture the emotion of what the story is about. This book enables us to share about another context and history, and can open up conversations with children around the reality of forced migrations and exile. The historical and political information shared is factual and objective and it is the story that centres everything for us.

Path to Peace

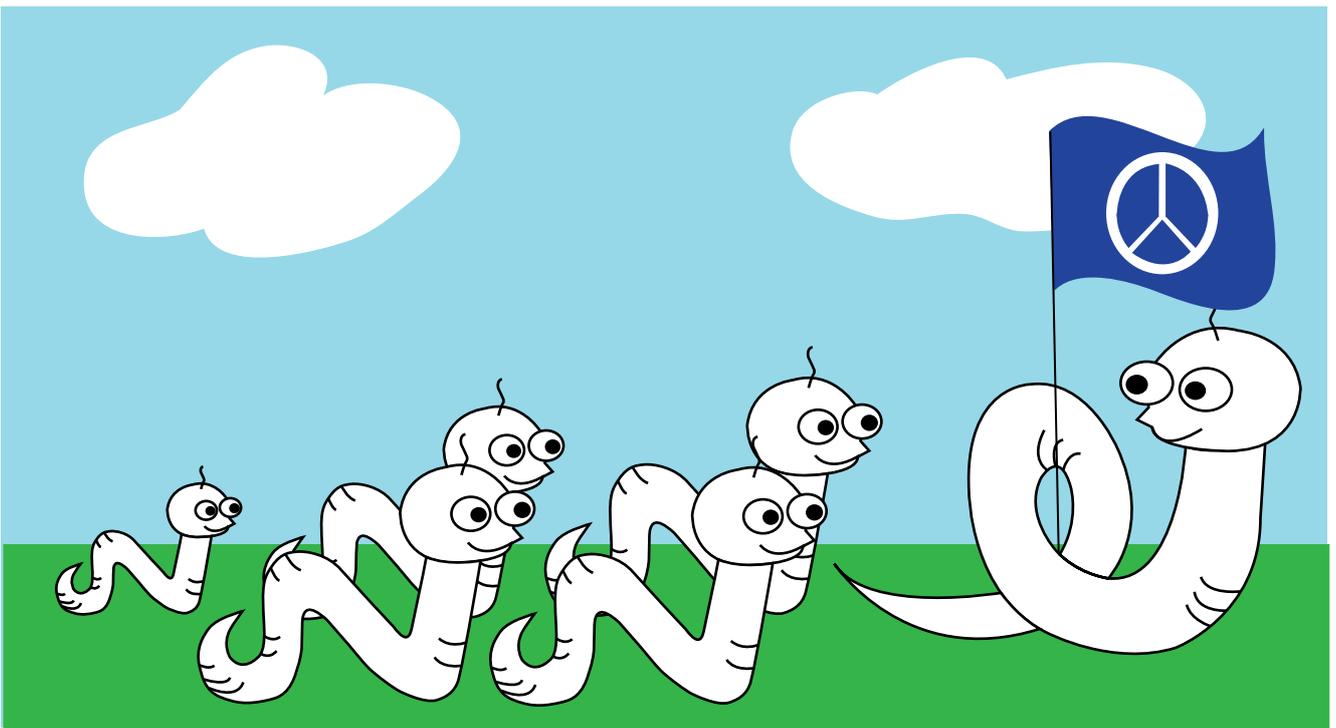


*Will Peace come with drums
be heralded by trumpets
Prance in waving red
and gold banners
Will peace make a great noisy show
or will it slip in quietly...*



- Ann G Hines (MacMillan)

The selections listed here include both the personal and the global.



Path to Peace

In this section

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01

We The Children of India

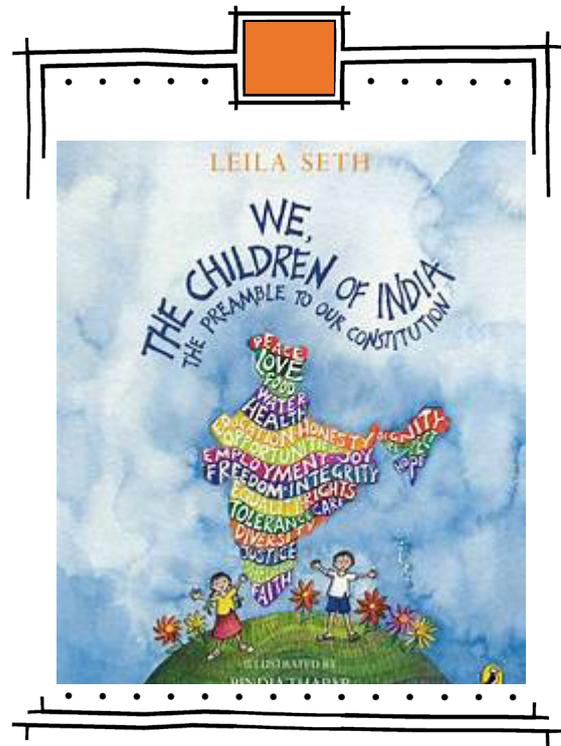
Author: Leila Seth

Illustrator: Bindia Thapar

Publisher: Puffin (2015)

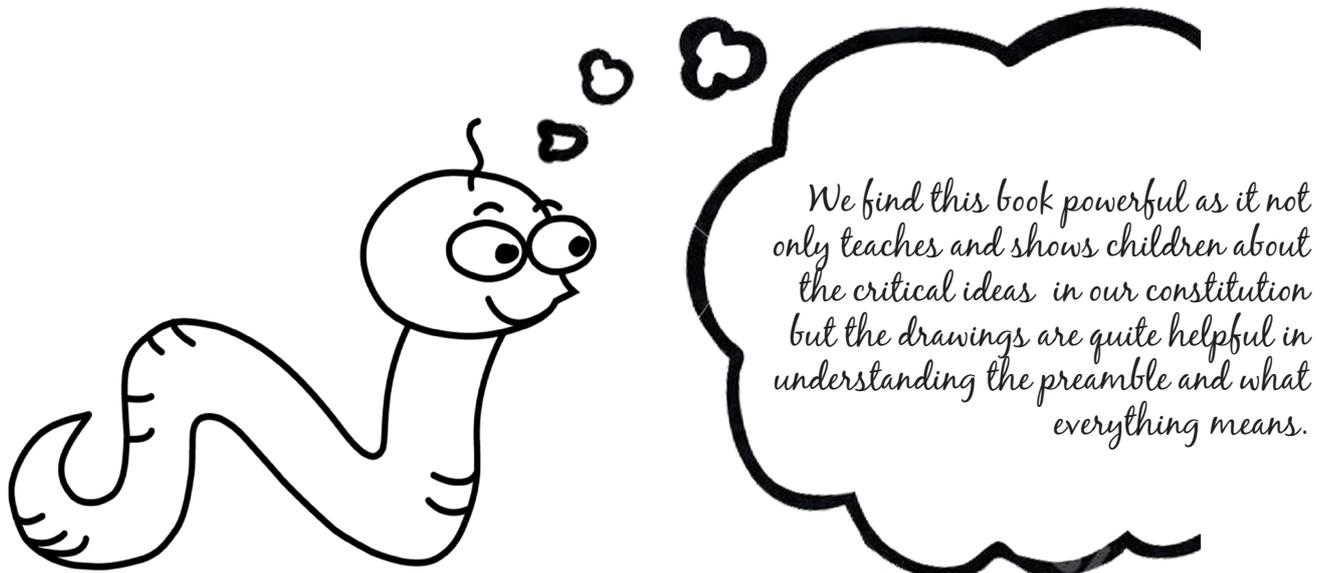
ISBN: : 9780143331513

Price online: *Rs. 225 (Hardback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

The Preamble to the Indian Constitution presented to young readers by Chief Justice Leila Seth in lucid, simple and a very clear manner. Bindiya Thapar's joyful affirmative illustrations make a possibly heavy topic light, playful and also replete with information that will attract readers young and older. A terrific way to enter into citizenship.



We find this book powerful as it not only teaches and shows children about the critical ideas in our constitution but the drawings are quite helpful in understanding the preamble and what everything means.



02

Revolution

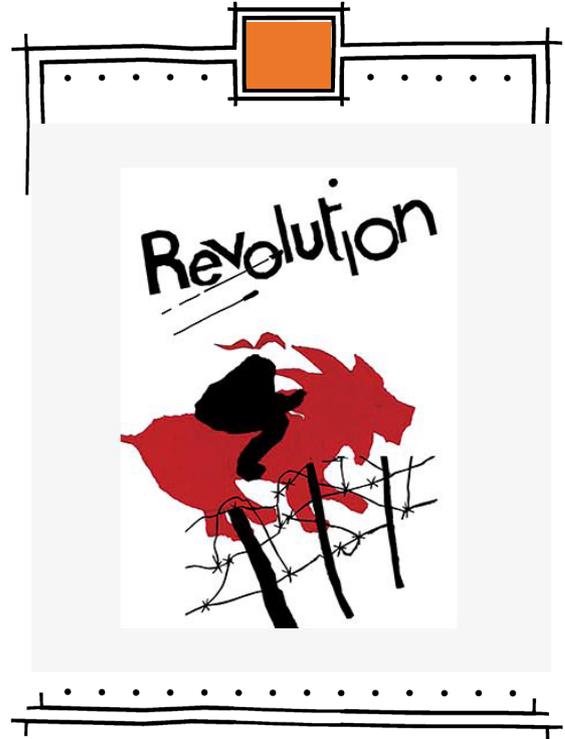
Author: Sara

Illustrator: Sara

Publisher: Tara (2015)

ISBN: 978-81-86211-46-5

Price online: *Rs. 395 (Hardback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Revolution is a great picture book for adults as the writer Sara shows us through her art and collages the need for freedom and safety in the fear of danger.



We have found that the arresting images tell the story all on its own. Multiple readers have been able to see the power of the message of the story by simply being with the book.

Redefine Gender

“ *Gender is like a Rubik’s Cube with one hundred squares per side, and every time you twist it to take a look at another angle, you make it that much harder a puzzle to solve.* ”

- Sam Killermann

The selections listed here are books that we felt would question gender stereotypes, question privileges that come with gender and open up the conversation around how gender is constructed.



Redefine Gender

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<i>Who Will Be Ninghtou?</i>	49
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<i>Guthli Has Wings</i>	52

01

What is a Girl? What is a Boy?

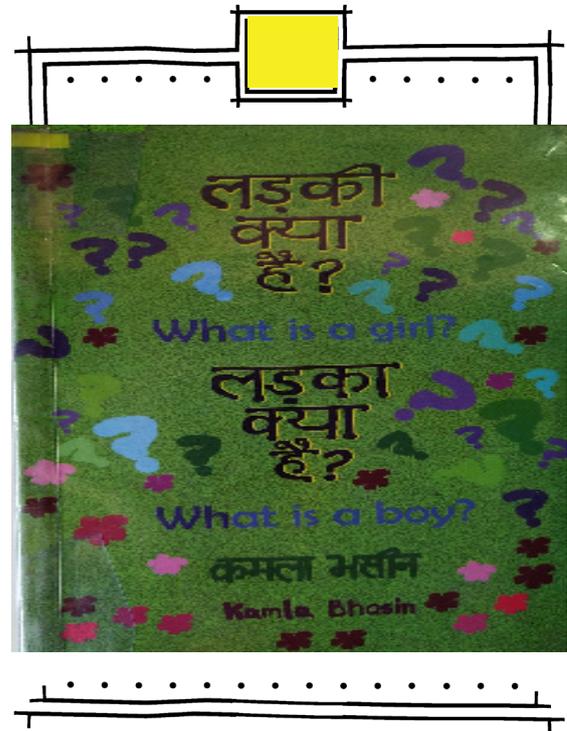
Author: Kamla Bhasin

Illustrator: Bindiya Thapar

Publisher: Jagori (1997)

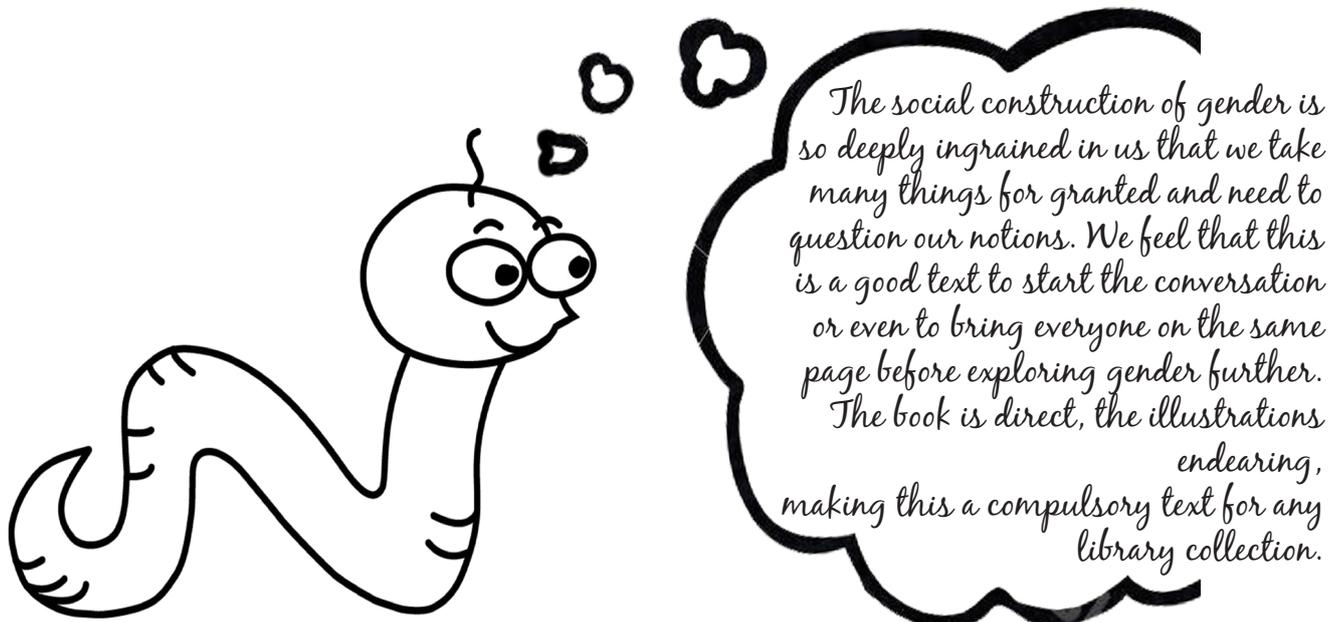
ISBN: NA

Price online: *Rs. 12 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

The book begins with the central question of what is a boy and what is a girl. In a simple, conversational style, it opens up the space to think about gender. One sentence says, 'Nature produces males and females, society turns them into men and women, masculine and feminine.'

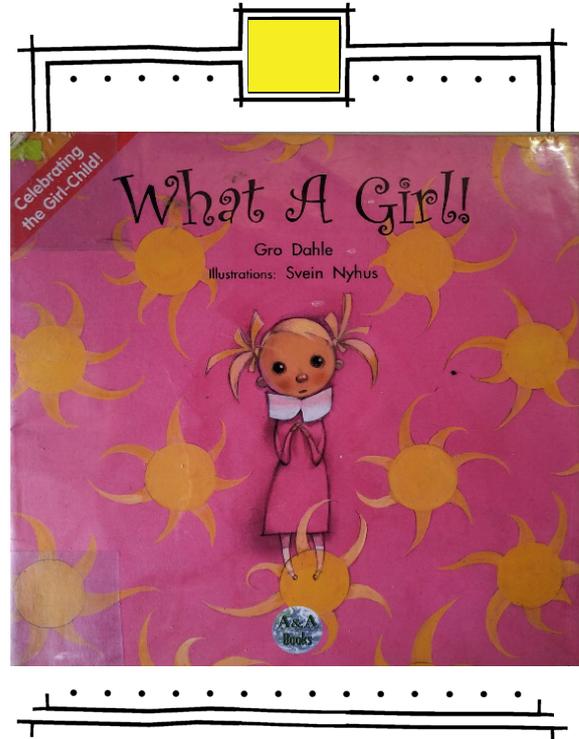




02

What a Girl!

Author: Gro Dahle
Illustrator: Svein Nyhus
Publisher: A & A (2011)
ISBN: 978-93-80141-30-5
Price online: *Rs. 60 (Paperback).*



ABOUT THE BOOK

The book is about Sheelu, the archetype of a 'good girl', quiet, neat, orderly to the point that she disappears and ceases to exist. In order to be noticed again, Sheelu has to be dramatic and feign a return to the living. What the theme opens up is the question around fitting in and conforming to social expectations around gender.

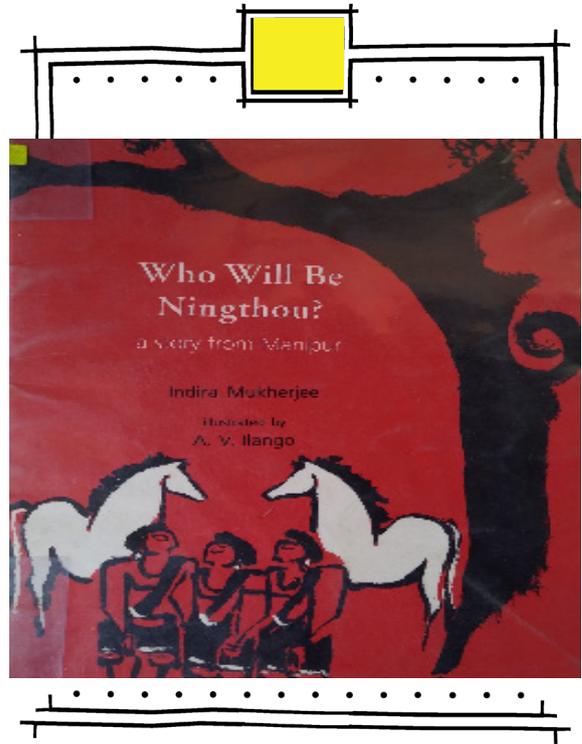


The book is provocative, and therefore makes for a good discussion text in this theme. It is not a stand alone book because there is some awkwardness around it being a translation, and nomenclature seems forced. But the message overrides these issues because it asks us to think of 'invisible people' and what needs to be done to stand out and challenge stereotypes.

03

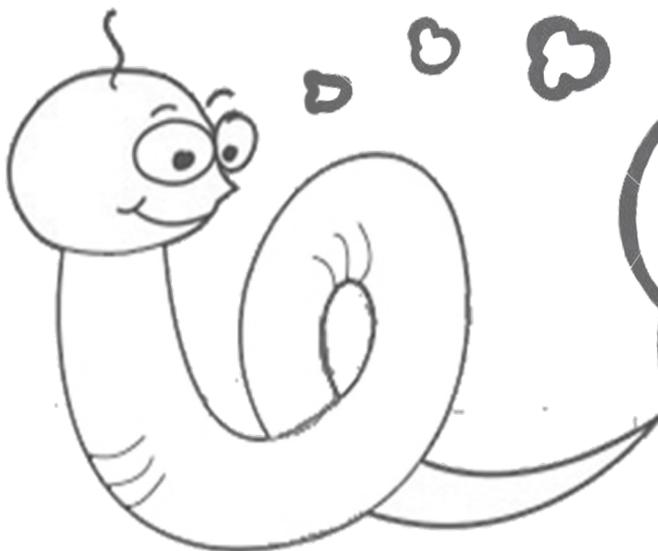
Who will be Ningthou?

Author: Indira Mukherjee
Illustrator: A.V. Ilango
Publisher: Spark-Tulika (2005)
ISBN: 81-88733-31-8
Price online: *Rs. 85 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

This is the story of a Ningthou and a Leima, King and Queen of Manipur. They have three sons and a daughter, and as the time comes closer to choosing the next heir to the throne, the three sons compete with each other to prove that they are worthy of being the next king. A twist at the end, however, makes everyone pause and reconsider what qualities they want in their next Ningthou.

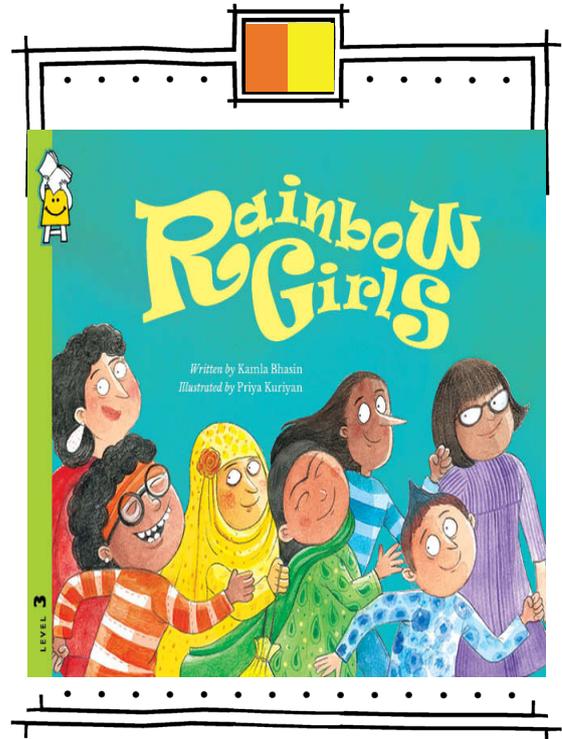


A gentle, sensitive folktale that raises themes of gender privilege and how norms can be changed. The debate on gender bias unfortunately continues even today, but this story can open this debate and provoke thinking about the importance of strength and power against caring and nurturing.

04

"RAINBOW GIRLS" "RAINBOW BOYS"

Author: Kamla Bhasin
Illustrator: Priya Kuriyan
Publisher: Pratham Books (2019)
ISBN: 978-93-5309-914-5
Price online: *Rs. 55 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

The book "Rainbow Girls" "Rainbow Boys" combines the experiences of a child as he/she grows up into two different stories. It raises different questions about appearances, likeness, choices and behaviours.

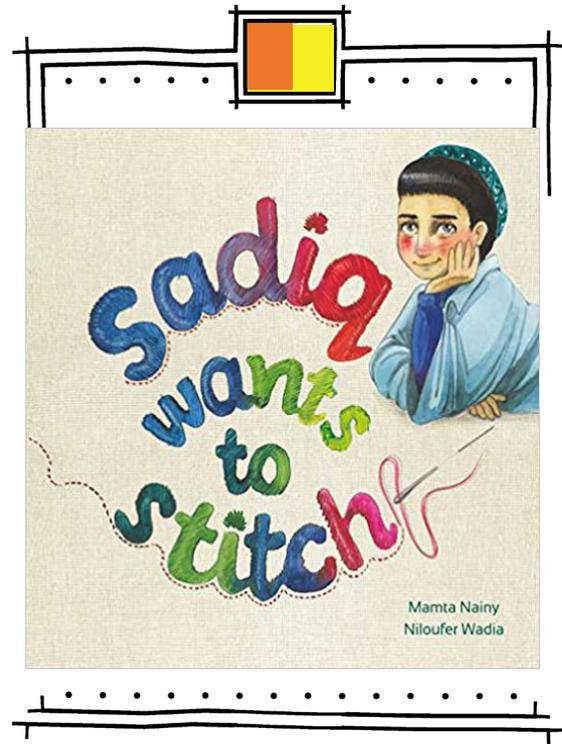
The book focuses on the identity of a child as he/she grows up. The author has tried to bring out the idea that each one irrespective of their gender or appearances are individuals and they are special and unique in their own way. Though the book has two stories, what combines the two is the theme of the book. Because they are all individuals. All children should be what they want to be.



05

Sadiq wants to Stitch

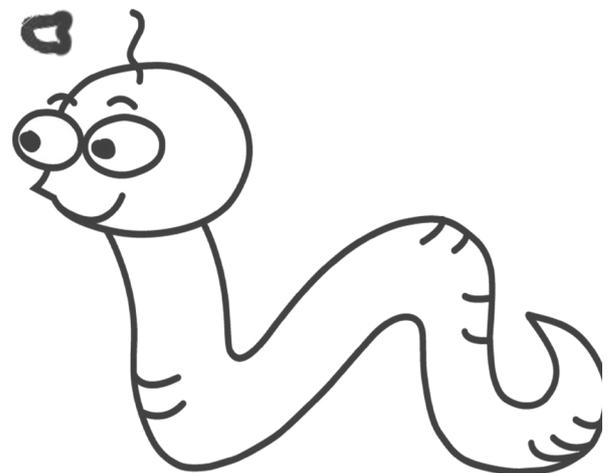
Author: Mamta Nainy
Illustrator: Niloufer Wadia
Publisher: Karadi Tales (2018)
ISBN: 978-81-9338-891-4
Price online: *Rs. 284 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Sadiq wants to Stitch, shares the story of a young boy from the Bakarwal community in Kashmir, who gently defies existing gender norms, through his love for stitching, a craft generally reserved for the women in his community. The illustrations are beautiful and vibrant and enable us to travel into this setting and into the lives of Sadiq and his mother, as the story unfolds.

The story is gentle in its narration, and strong in its resistance to gender norms from the perspective of the boy. It also allows us to experience how loving relationships can support and strengthen an act and build one's confidence in what we want to do regardless of societal norms.



06

Guthli Has Wings

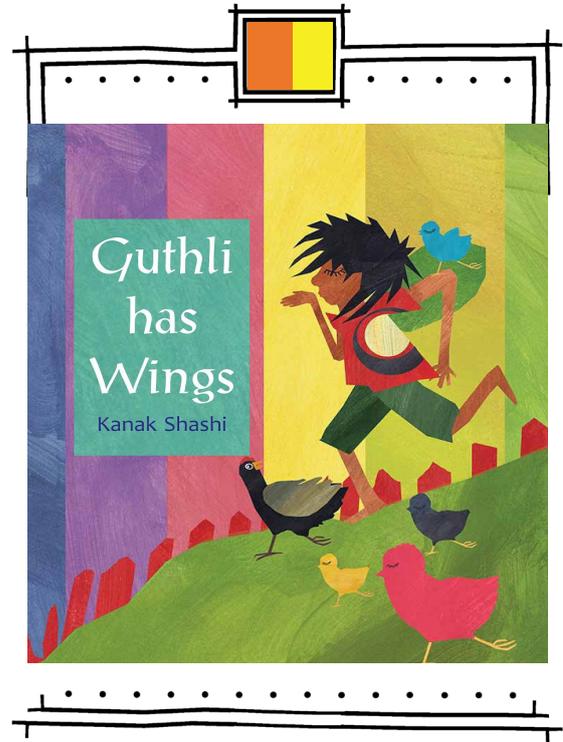
Author: Kanak Shashi

Illustrator: Kanak Shashi

Publisher: Muskan (2019)

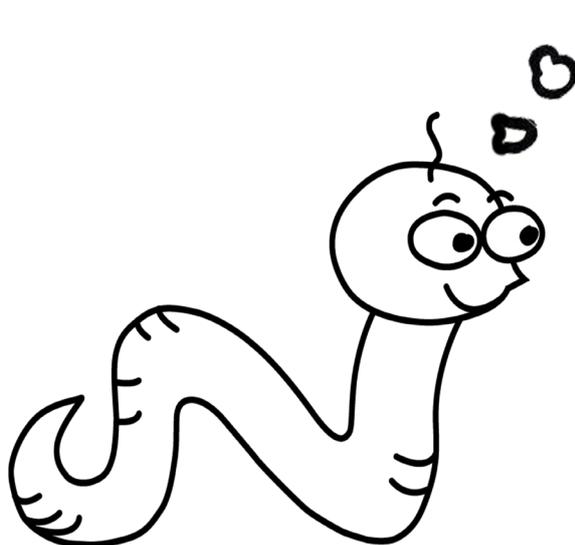
ISBN: 978-93-83418-31-2

Price online: *Rs.165 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Guthli, a happy child, likes to draw fairies, swing around and cycle. But one day she's told not to wear her sister's frocks that she loves, but her own 'boy' type clothes.



The story is about gender identity presented in a gentle way. In a society that is gender binary, this story shares a way for everyone to understand the power of acceptance and support and what it can mean to an individual struggling against societal norms. *Guthli has Wings* gives us hope for a more understanding future, where each one has the choice to be who one wants to be.

Social Privileges

“When we identify where our privilege intersects with somebody else’s oppression, we’ll find our opportunities to make real change.”

- Ijeoma Oluo

The selections listed here are intended to share stories that remind us about love, determination, thoughtfulness and self-respect - human qualities that strengthen, despite the absence of social privilege.



Social Privileges

In this section

<i>Shaija's Space</i>	55
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<i>Kite called Korika</i>	58
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01

Shaija's Space

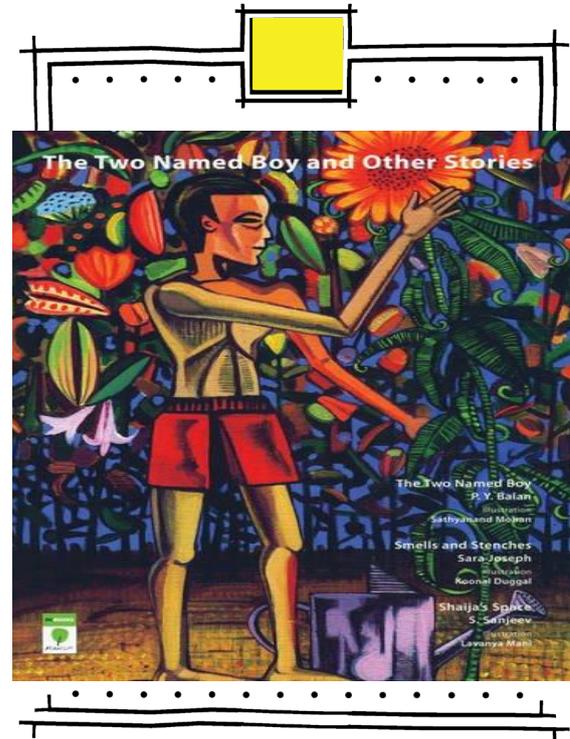
Author: S. Sanjeev

Illustrator: Lavanya Mani

Publisher: D.C Books (2008)

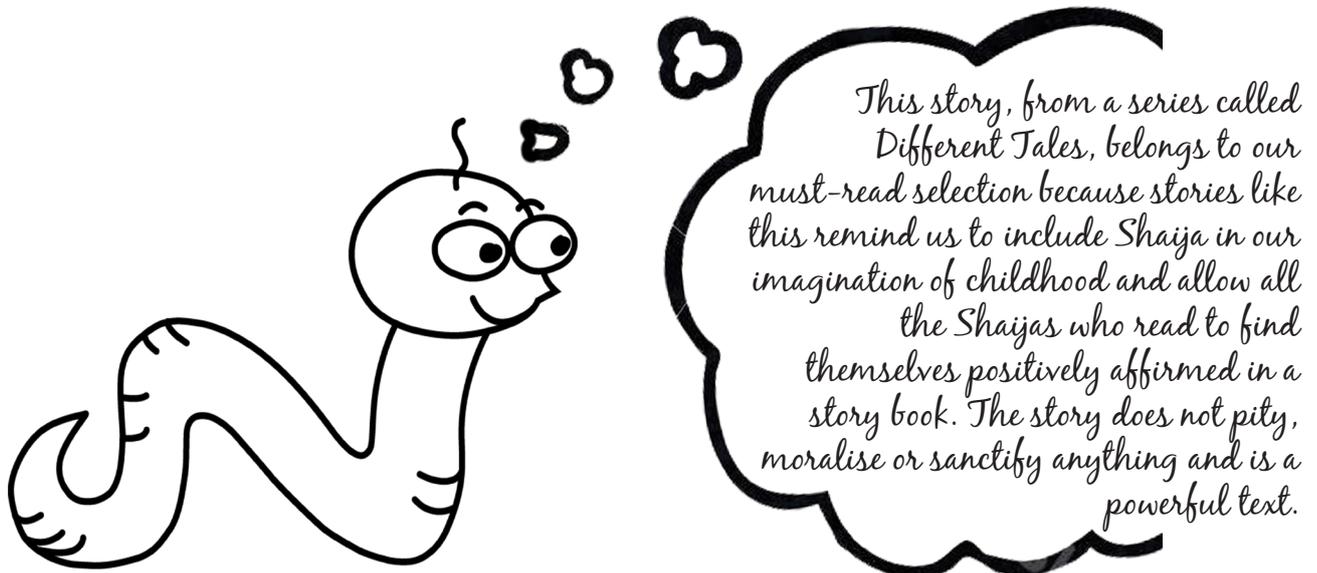
ISBN: 978-81-264-2037-7

Price online: *Rs. 70 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

While Shaija awaits her turn at the communal water tap, her mind transports her to space travel and a future filled with hope for her hardworking mother. In a beautiful balance of reality and fantasy, S. Sanjeev compels us to remember that learning and dreaming have no social class boundary.

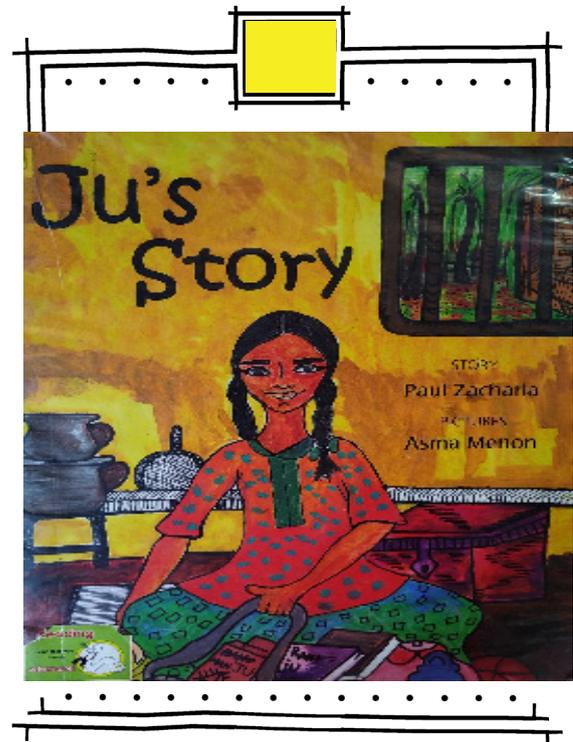


This story, from a series called *Different Tales*, belongs to our must-read selection because stories like this remind us to include Shaija in our imagination of childhood and allow all the Shaijas who read to find themselves positively affirmed in a story book. The story does not pity, moralise or sanctify anything and is a powerful text.

02

Ju's Story

Author: Paul Zacharia
Illustrator: Asma Menon
Publisher: Tulika Books (2009)
ISBN: 978-81-8146-736-2
Price online: *Rs. 113 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Ju's Story is filled with possibilities for discussion because Ju is both a simple and a profound young person. Her thoughts carry her through the summer days of preparing for a new school year, getting new books and new clothes, and a new experience with a letter. *Ju's Story* belongs in this selection because it is a story that reminds us about first experiences that can be powerful, whether new or old.

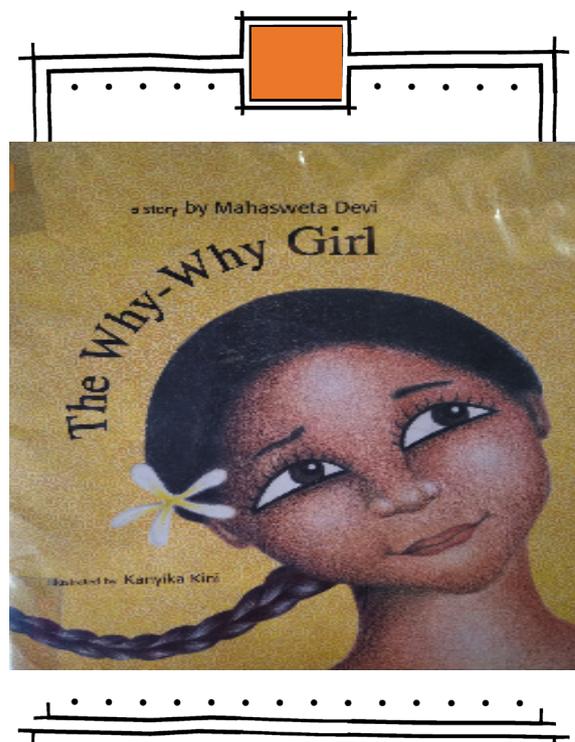


Meeting Ju through this story pushes us to think of how easily we take many things for granted and how an attitude can change an experience into something very positive. We love how Ju comes across as a strong, intelligent, thoughtful, sensitive young person who makes the most of her new experiences with grace. *Ju's Story* leaves a strong imprint on the reader and is a good book to facilitate reflection.

03

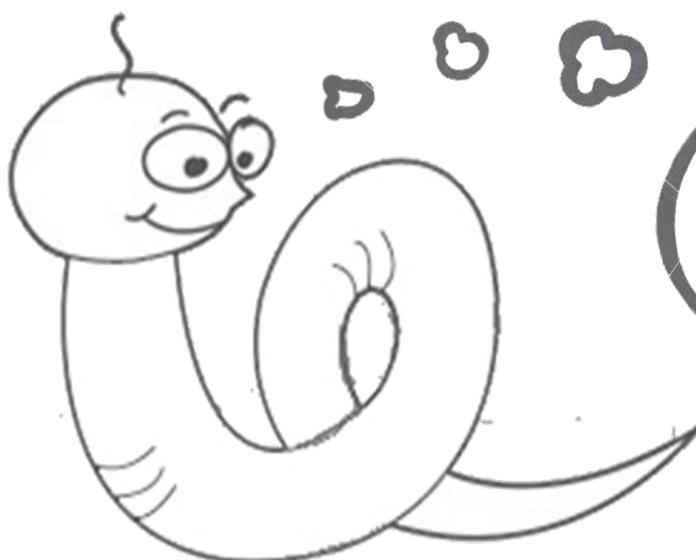
The Why-Why Girl

Author: Mahasweta Devi
Illustrator: Kanika Kini
Publisher: Tulika Books (2003)
ISBN: 978-81-8146-018-9
Price online: *Rs. 150 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

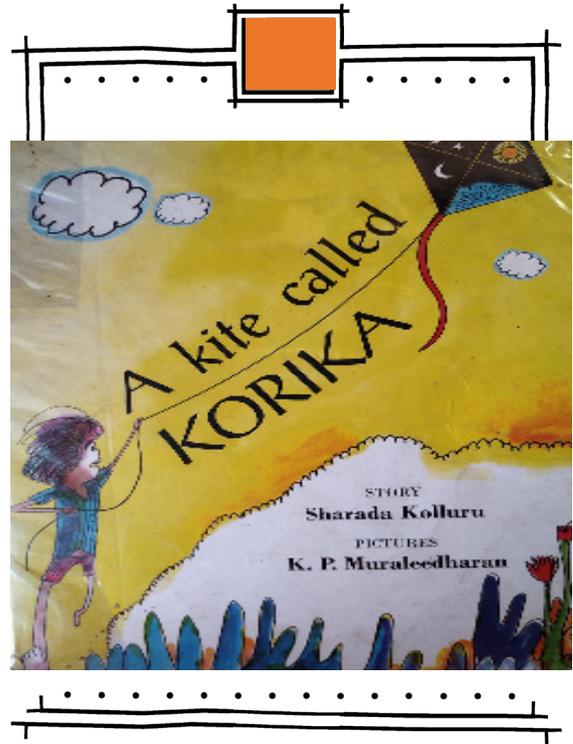
Through Mahasweta Devi, we get to know young Moyna, who has questions about events in the social and natural world in abundance. Her questions help her make choices and enable us to reflect on the social order of things.



The book is a most empowering text for all readers. It lends itself most firmly to this list because of the very affirmative nature of the story line and the critical issues around access, gender and opportunity that this book affords. Children identify with the Why-Why Girl and rally for her as they find their own voices after reading this story.

04 *A Kite called Korika*

Author: Sharada Kolluru
Illustrator: K.P. Muraleedharan
Publisher: Tulika (2012)
ISBN: 93-5046-198-6
Price online: *Rs. 150 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Korika means wish-fulfilling kite and this story is about nine-year-old Yellaiah, who found a kite. The context of this story adds a very interesting complexity to the plot as Yellaiah and his family do not have a lot of material things, and even a tiny bit of chalk is coveted between Yellaiah and his brother Malla. In this situation, the choices that Yellaiah makes using his Korika is a powerful reminder of privilege.

This story belongs in this listing because it compels us to re-examine our ideas around choice and privilege. The story raises human values around sensitivity, thoughtfulness and sharing, even in distressed circumstances. We particularly like that relationships are privileged in this story over economics, and the reality of Yellaiah's life is honestly portrayed through the illustrations by K. P. Muraleedharan.



05

The Boy Who Asked Why

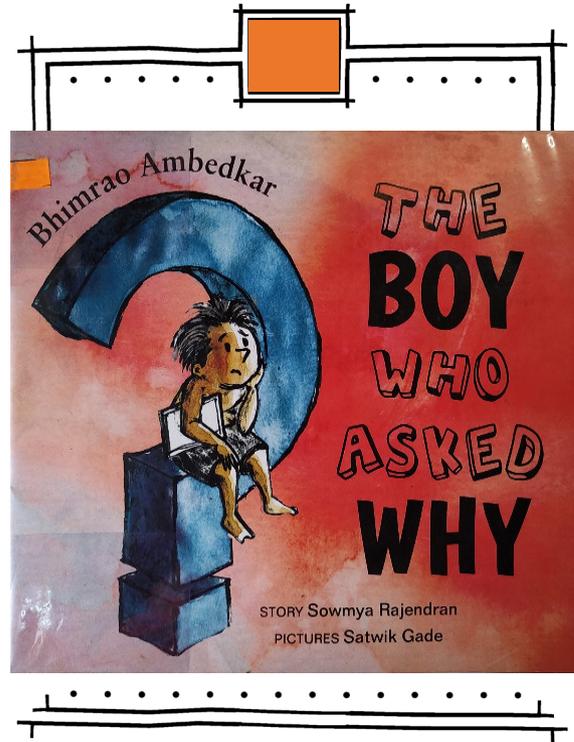
Author: Sowmya Rajendran

Illustrator: Satwik Gade

Publisher: Tulika (2015)

ISBN: 935046684-8

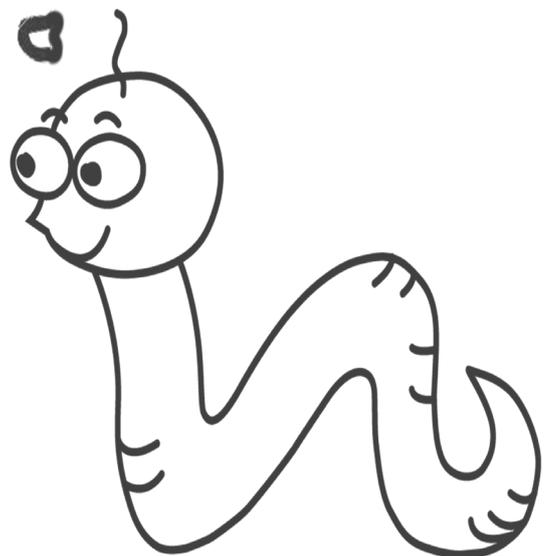
Price online: Rs.176 (Paperback)



ABOUT THE BOOK

This story is based on real events in the life of Babasaheb Ambedkar, including how he got the surname 'Ambedkar'. The story talks about affirmative action at a level beyond the self. Despite how society treated Bhim and his family throughout his life, he strove to ensure a changed society for other human beings in India.

Social justice is a matter of great concern and need in our country. We love this book because great effort has been taken to include all the pivotal moments in Bhimrao Ambedkar's life, which compel us to question why we behave the way we do. The illustrative example of the world being like a ladder and different groups on different steps is a powerful metaphor for reflection. We know that children and adults can be brought to respond very powerfully to self-reflection from this story.



06

Nabiya

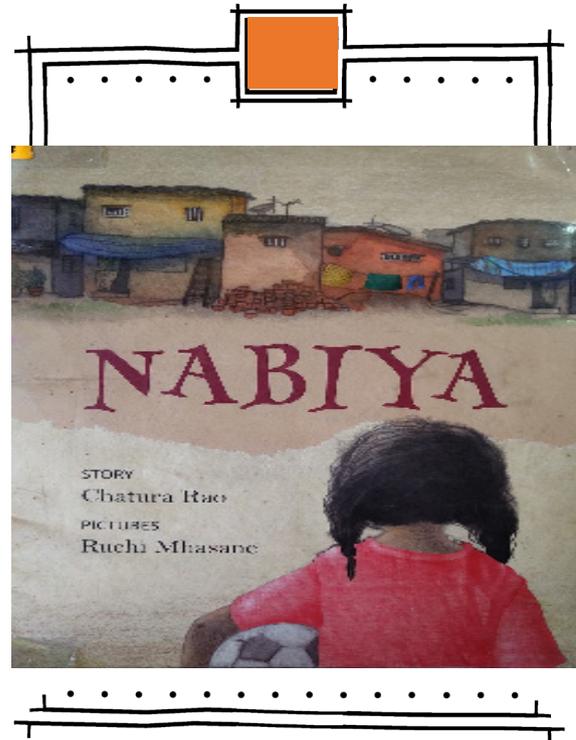
Author: Chatura Rao

Illustrator: Ruchi Mhasane

Publisher: Tulika (2013)

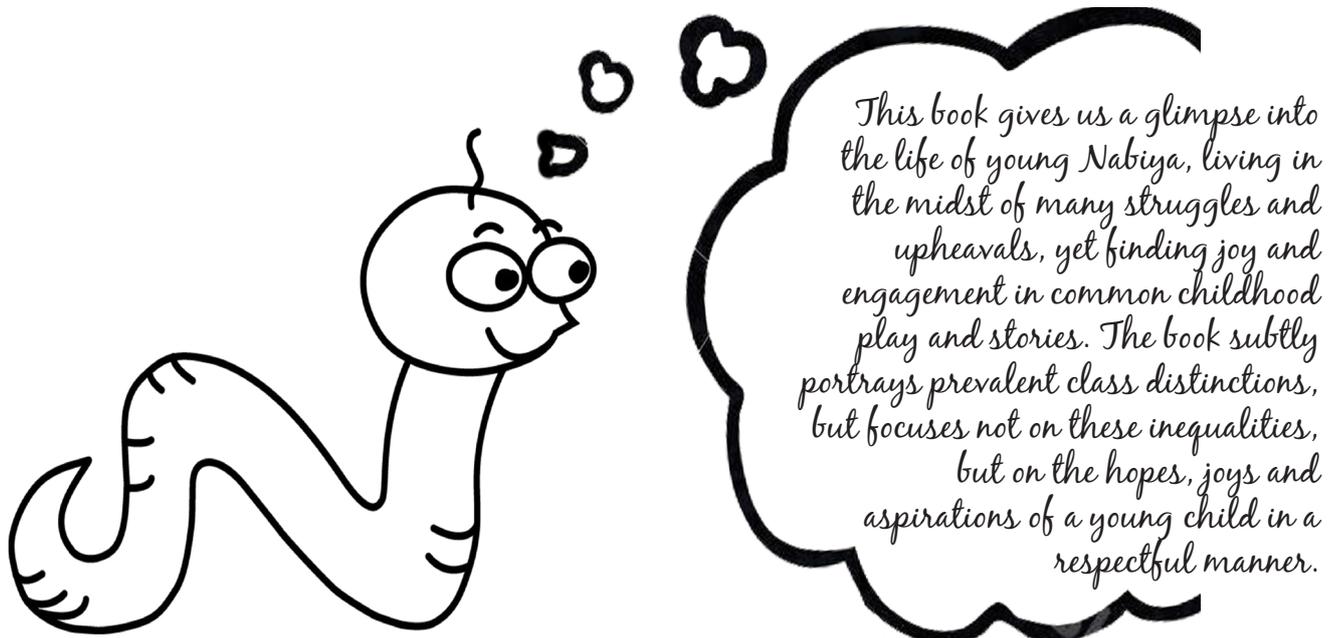
ISBN: 935046463-2

Price online: *Rs.150 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Nabiya and her family share a small room on the first floor of a house. Nabiya loves football and stories, but she struggles to read and write. However, the thoughtfulness and kindness of her teacher, and Nabiya's own eagerness and determination bring Nabiya into the world of stories and books.



This book gives us a glimpse into the life of young Nabiya, living in the midst of many struggles and upheavals, yet finding joy and engagement in common childhood play and stories. The book subtly portrays prevalent class distinctions, but focuses not on these inequalities, but on the hopes, joys and aspirations of a young child in a respectful manner.

07

I Am a Cat!

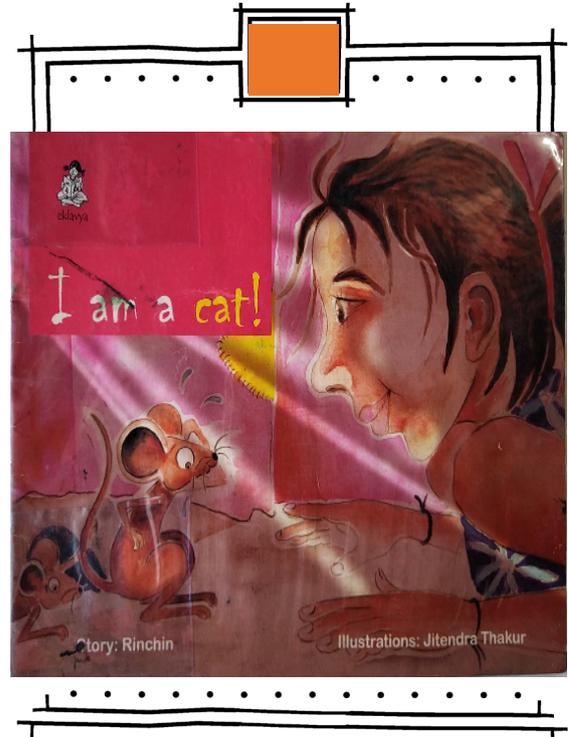
Author: Rinchin

Illustrator: Jitendra Thakur

Publisher: Eklavya (2010)

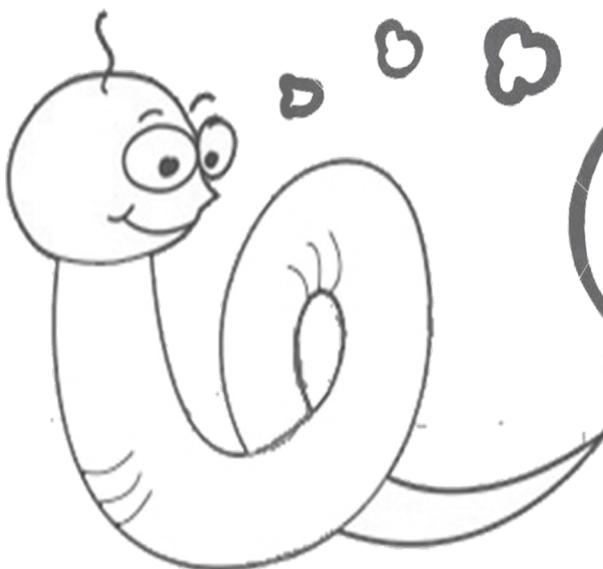
ISBN: 978-81-89976-65-1

Price online: *Rs. 40 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Tinti, a little girl, gets up one morning in her makeshift home and tells her mother that she is a cat. While her mother responds by saying that Tinti is her little girl, she still plays along with her child. A story that brings out the joys of being loved in a parent-child relationship, no matter what the circumstances.



This story breaks the stereotypical mindset that the lesser privileged live a dreary and miserable life. The bonding and love between Tinti and her ragpicking family is very vivid and comes together with gentle humour and play acting in this heartwarming story. The illustrations by Jitendra Thakur represent diverse living conditions with respect. The Hindi version is given at the end of the book.

08

Three Fourth, Half Price, Bajji Bajji

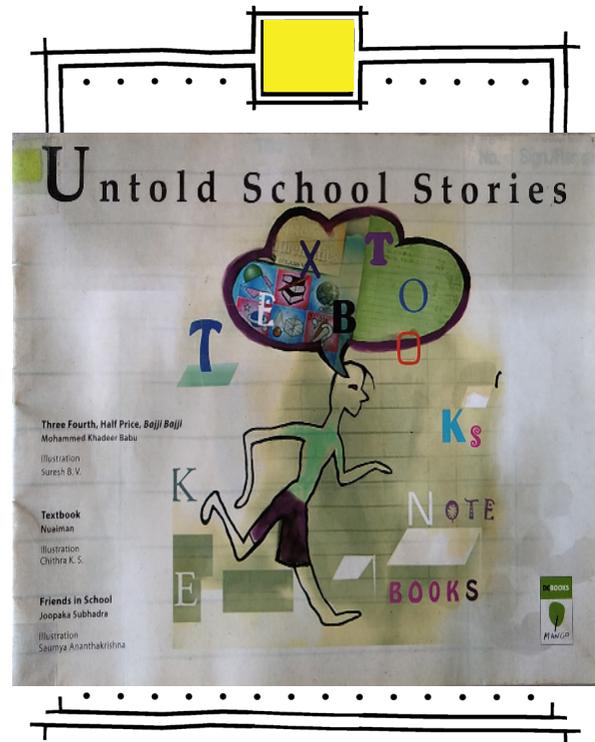
Author: Mohammad Khadeer Babu

Illustrator: Suresh B.V

Publisher: Mango, DC Books (2009)

ISBN: 978-81-264-2036-0

Price online: *Rs 80 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

It is the beginning of the school year, and our protagonist has to buy a set of textbooks and notebooks. But with parents who cannot afford to buy either, he has to find a way to procure both sets of books. The unusual and intelligent choice is the driving plot of the story.



This story breaks another typecast image of helplessness in the face of despair and deprivation. Mohammad Khadeer Babu's protagonist is a very strong character and is determined to get his sets of books. He does not whine and wallow, but sets out to find a way to acquire the books. How he uses his resilience and smart business acumen has to be read to be experienced. This story is a part of a collection of short stories known as *Untold School Stories* and must be actively narrated.

09

Head Curry

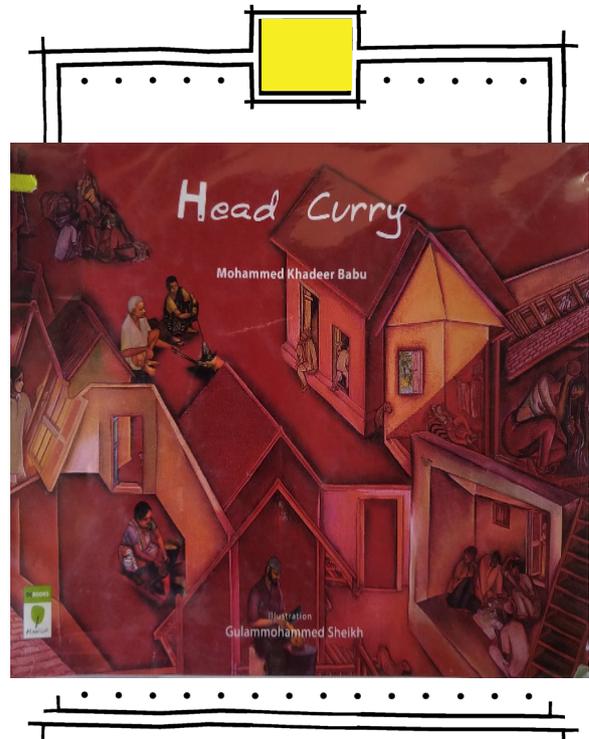
Author: Mohammed Khadeer Babu

Illustrator: Gulammohammed Sheikh

Publisher: DC Books (2008)

ISBN: 978- 81-264-2029-2

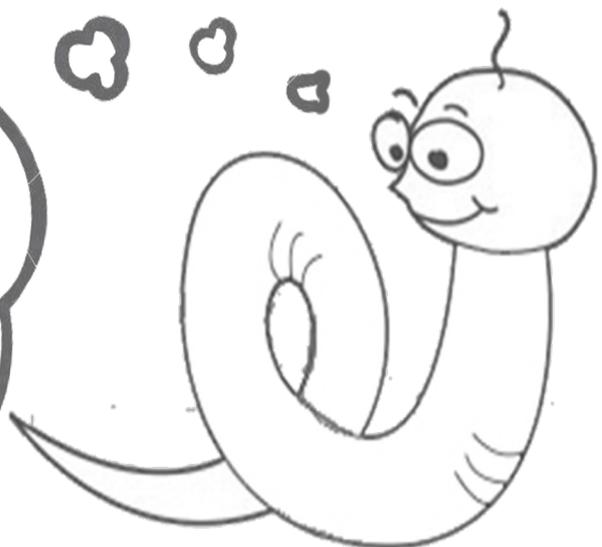
Price online: *Rs. 60 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A most unusual but necessary book for a listing on privilege. Food is often a source of social privilege, and in this story, a 'head curry' is exoticised for a mouth-watering tale by Mohammed Khadeer, making this a must-read book. The making process and recipe are shared in detail, establishing that preparing head curry is complex and makes for a delicious Sunday meal for the family.

We included this story because food is often an object of discrimination in a country like India, bifurcated into vegetarian (pure) and non-vegetarian binaries. Food choices are personal and intimate and closely linked to identity, and we feel compelled to read aloud, talk and discuss texts such as *Head Curry* to stimulate thinking and reflection around discrimination. But we also celebrate the nature of this story telling that gives us insight into families such as the Khadeers and the community around.



Unusual Choices

“The best solutions are often simple, yet unexpected.”
- Julian Casablancas

The selections listed here are intended to share stories that have solutions that cause us to pause and consider. They focus on choices that are not usual.



Unusual Choices

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01

Under the Neem Tree

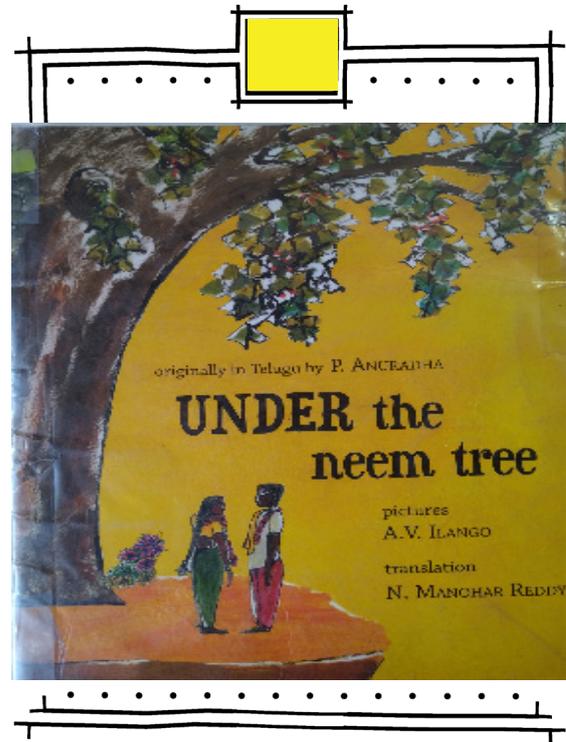
Author: P. Anuradha

Illustrator: A.V. Ilango

Publisher: Tulika (2012)

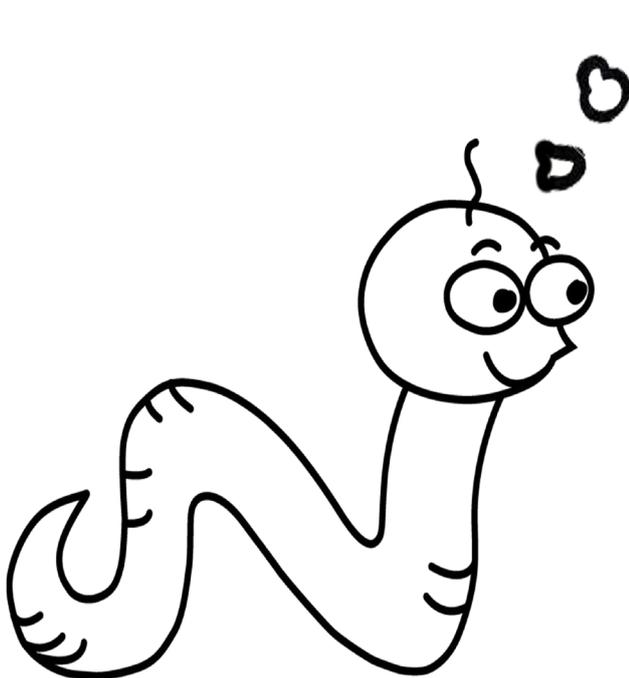
ISBN: 978-93-5046-060-3

Price online: *Rs. 126 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A story within a story and both equally important. The context and setting of the story make this a remarkable choice for the collection around this theme. The story demonstrates community spirit and humour to solve a common everyday problem.

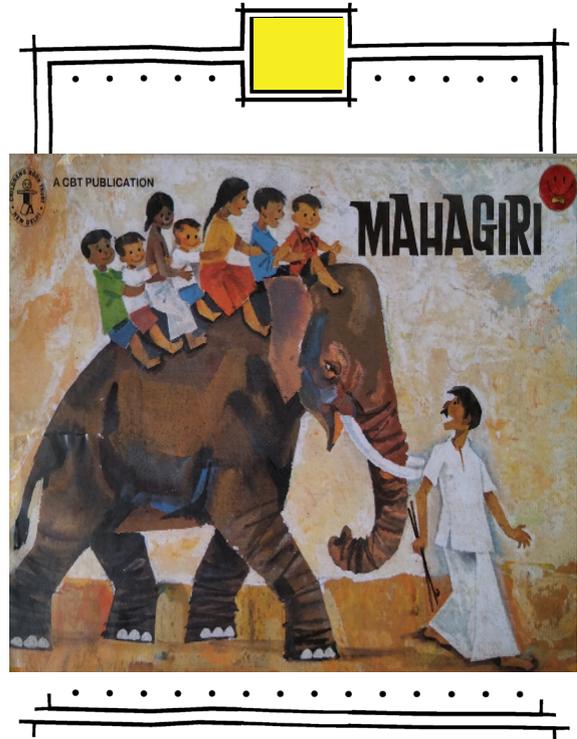


Kala immediately stands out as a child with a strong mind who enjoys stories. Nainamma is the village storyteller and her life world, though difficult, does not intrude on her creative storytelling, which the children eagerly await every evening. The book also opens up a world of children's lives that we may not often see in picture books, made more evocative through the art in the book. The unique ending of the story brings laughter and thoughtfulness in equal measure.

02

Mahagiri

Author: Hemalata
Illustrator: Pulak Biswas
Publisher: National Book Trust (2007)
ISBN: 978-93-5046-060-3
Price online: *Rs. 20 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A timeless story that enables us to question power and intention in a beautiful way. The story is about an elephant, a temple festival and a village community who are pushed towards action by the defiance of Mahagiri the elephant.

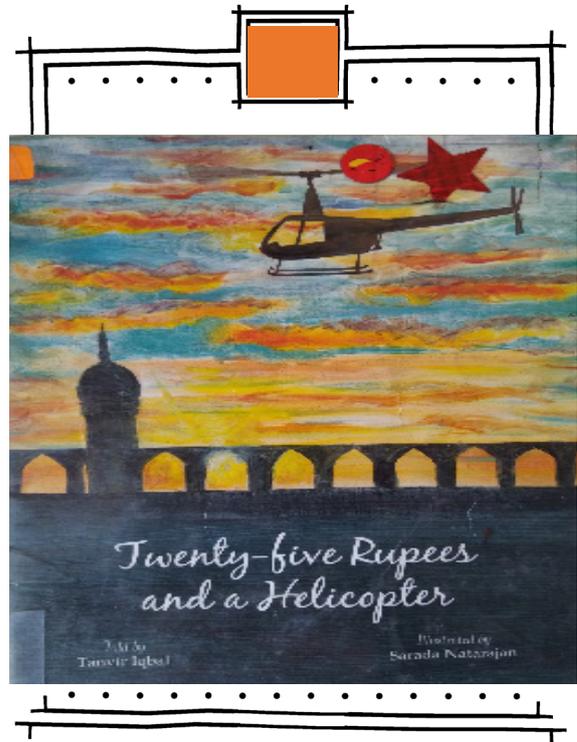


This book asks us to consider the other before action. Once acted, the mahout and the village cannot undo the harm they have done to Mahagiri, but everyone stands to learn from the experience. Pulak Biswas' illustrations capture the mood of the elephant and the community well and the sensible balance of text and image make this an outstanding book. Across many groups of children, Mahagiri stands out as a layered story that enables dialogue around several themes, including power, strength and domination.

03

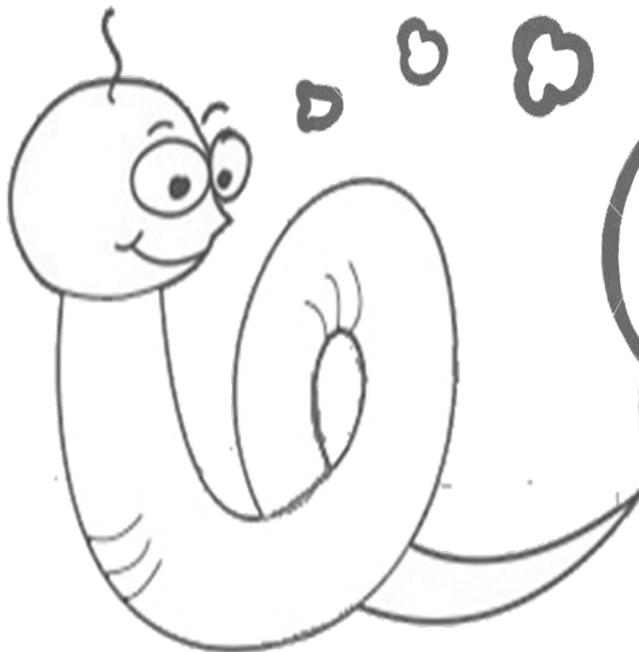
Twenty-Five Rupees and a Helicopter

Author: Tanvir Iqbal
Illustrator: Sarada Natarajan
Publisher: Spark-India (1965)
ISBN: 978-81-88733-42-2
Price online: *Rs.55 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A young boy dreams of a toy helicopter and works hard to save money to buy it, and finally manages to get some money. But will he be able to buy it?



This story presents the strong and sensitive character of Kabir, the main protagonist, and how he makes an exemplary decision that affects a fellow human in the most unassuming manner. The illustrations present a way of life that many of us would have experienced and are familiar with. Children have always responded positively towards Kabir's decision and have strongly affirmed it. But stereotypical views about the visually impaired have opened up discussions among children, leading to a fresh outlook.

04

Bumboo... The Donkey Who Would Not Budge

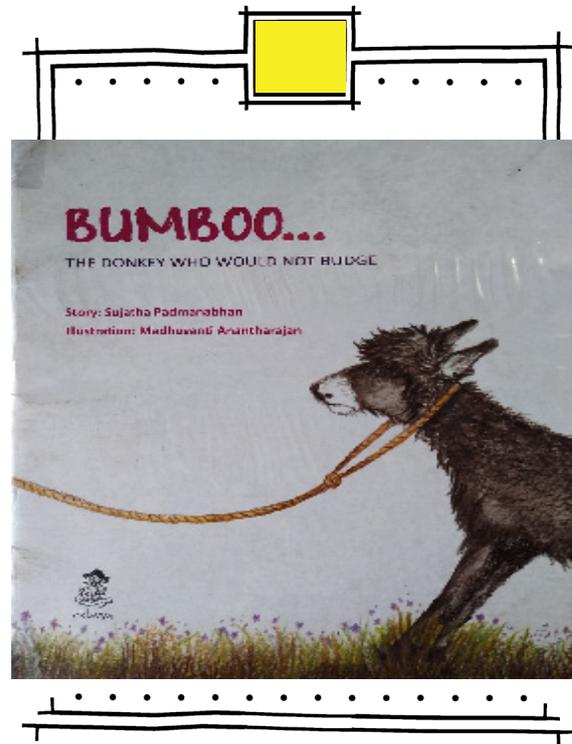
Author: Sujatha Padmanabhan

Illustrator: Madhuvanti Anantharajan

Publisher: Eklavya (2015)

ISBN: 978-93-81337-65-3

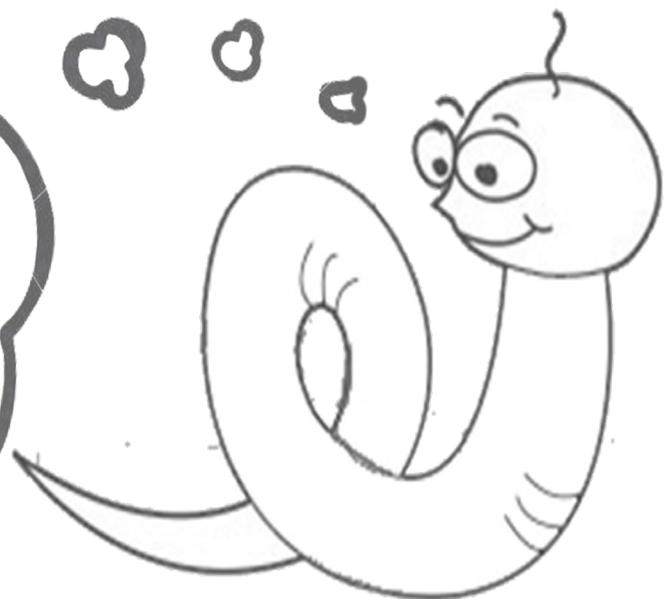
Price online: *Rs. 90 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

This is a simple story set in Ladakh, inspired by a true incident about a donkey, Bumboo. Bumboo is a working donkey and the family discover Bumboo behaving differently all of a sudden. The concern is that Bumboo may not be able to work any longer. What decision will the family take and what will happen to Bumboo?

This story is selected for the diverse perspectives on the relationship between a family and a working animal. The story presents a tough mountain life that depends on tourism and Bumboo for sustenance, and yet, evokes emotions around relationships and co-dependency. Bumboo allows us to consider innovation in the face of difficulty and our relationship with animals that work for us. The illustrations enable the inexperienced reader to imagine a mountain life, and the gentle choice for a solution makes the book a fondly remembered one long after.



05 *Putul and the Dolphins*

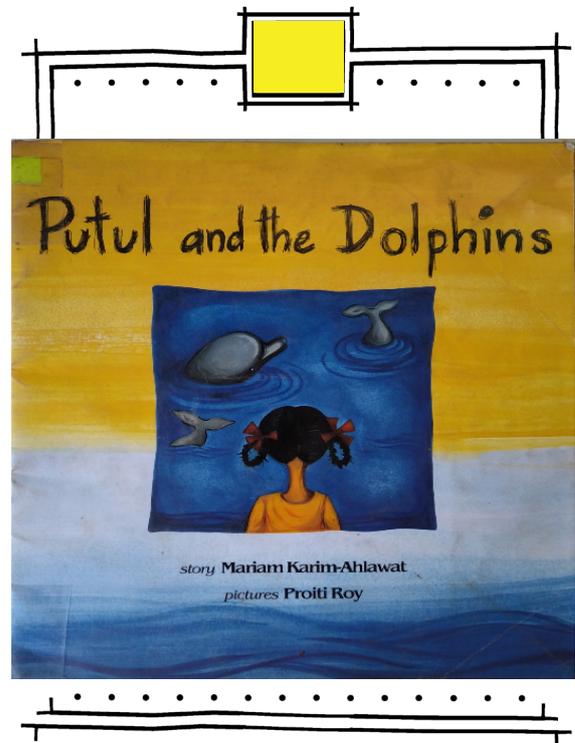
Author: Mariam Karim-Ahlawat

Illustrator: Proiti Roy

Publisher: Tulika (2006)

ISBN: 818146204-1

Price online: *Rs. 116 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Set in a little fishing village in Bengal during a time of heavy rains and torrential floods, Putul is faced with a choice when two friendly dolphins swim into her hut. Killing the dolphins will fetch much needed money to their family. But will she make that choice?

With vibrant clear illustrations and simple words, this story presents a very direct dilemma and the remarkable way in which Putul deals with this problem. The book allows us to reflect on the complexity of our relationship with nature and other living things and reminds us about courage and bravery in the face of difficult challenges.



06

The Village Fair

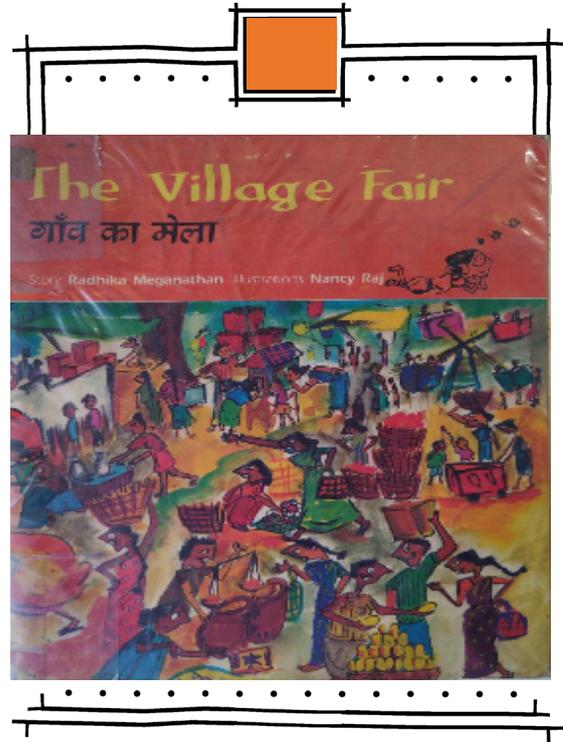
Author: Radhika Meganathan

Illustrator: Nancy Raj

Publisher: Tulika (2006)

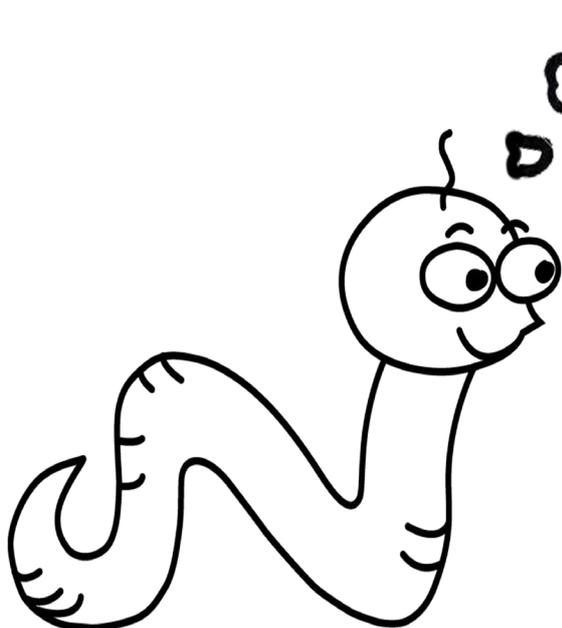
ISBN: 81-8146-223-8

Price online: *Rs. 70 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

In this book, Meenu's birthday present is a trip to the village fair. But Meenu breaks her leg. Will she still go to this much awaited fair ?

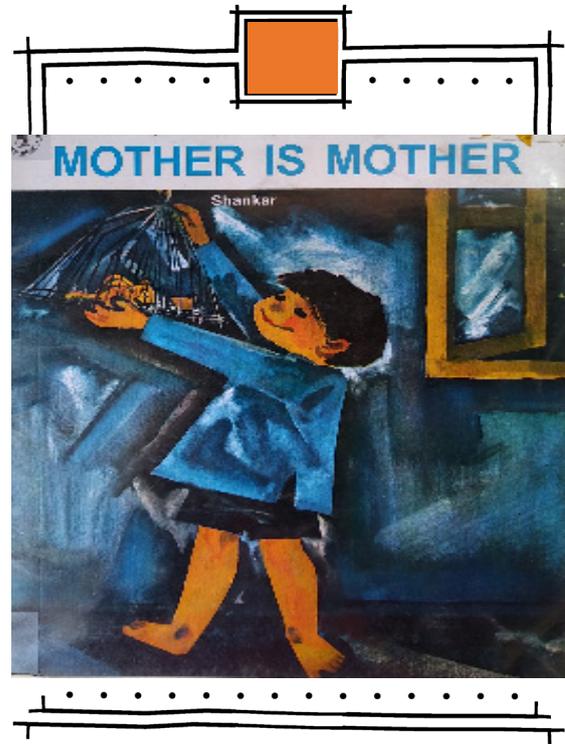


The context of the village fair is well understood by children and the impending excitement of what a fair brings allows any reading of this book to open with much fanfare. The text is simple and illustrations evocative to provide a wonderful reading experience. The solution to Meenu's problem brings much surprise and delight to all children.

07

Mother is Mother

Author: Shankar
Illustrator: Pulak Biswas
Publisher: Children's book Trust
1983)
ISBN: 81-7011-043-2
Price online: *Rs. 30 (Paperback)*

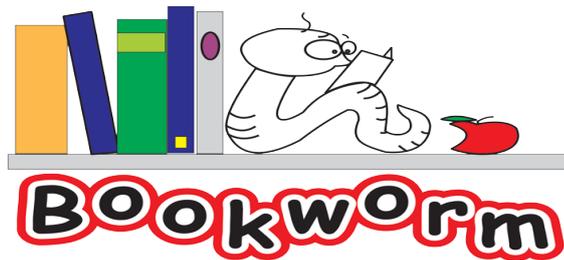


ABOUT THE BOOK

In this book, a young boy Ravi finds a fallen squirrel that he takes away in order to adopt it as a pet. The book, vividly illustrated by Pulak Biswas, allows us to experience the tensions between the mother squirrel and Ravi-both of whom want to have the baby squirrel - and the emotions of the baby squirrel itself.



Separation from a parent is a feeling well understood by most children and so is the desire to acquire a pet. This enables a light entry into the story for all. However, the tensions and thoughts and actions of both Ravi and the mother squirrel compel a reflection on choice that leaves the reader contemplative after the story and enables rich and insightful discussions.



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