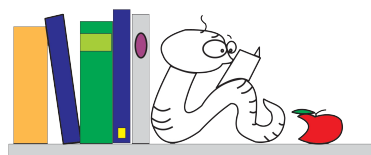


110 BOOKS



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 10 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.

Acknowledgements

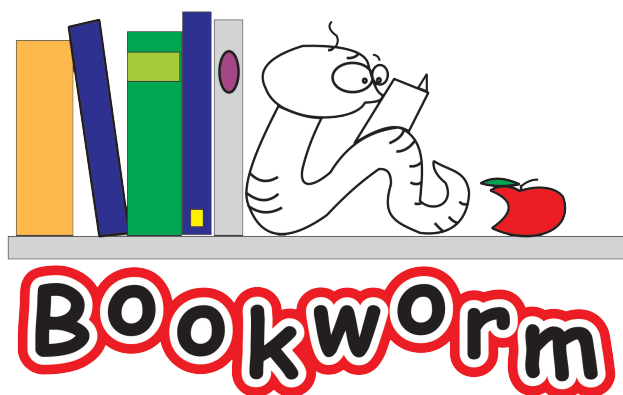


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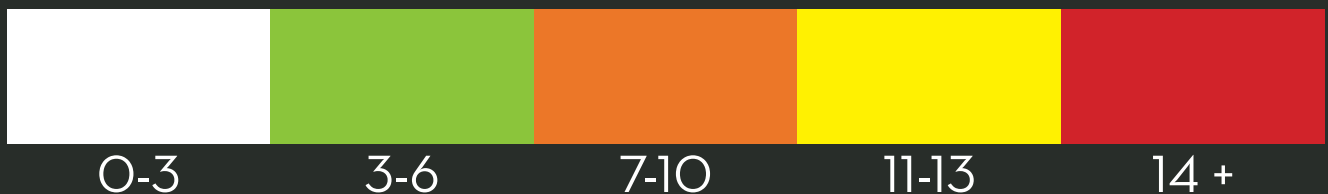
The '*110 Books, a Diverse Thematic Listing from the Bookworm Collection*' was made possible with support from Parag, an initiative of the Tata Trusts




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: mailus@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'*

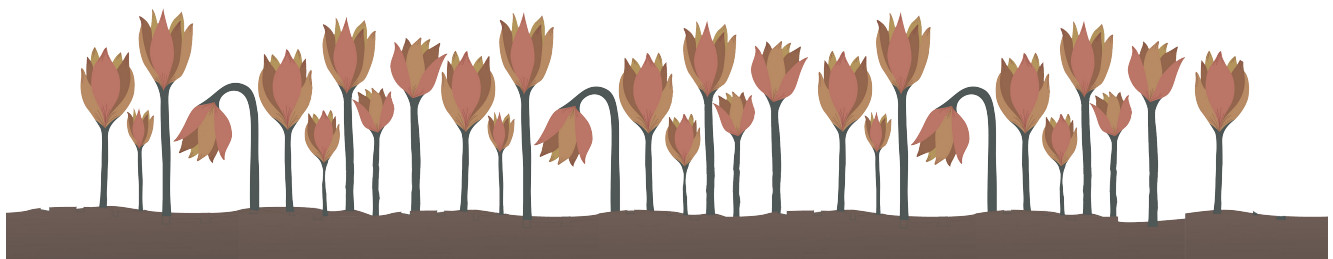
The selections in this list move from understanding, to acceptance, to finding the love that remains.



Around Death

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<i>Death, Duck and the Tulip</i>	9
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01

Cry, Heart, But Never Break



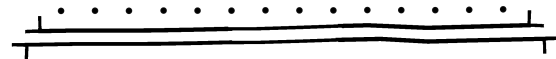
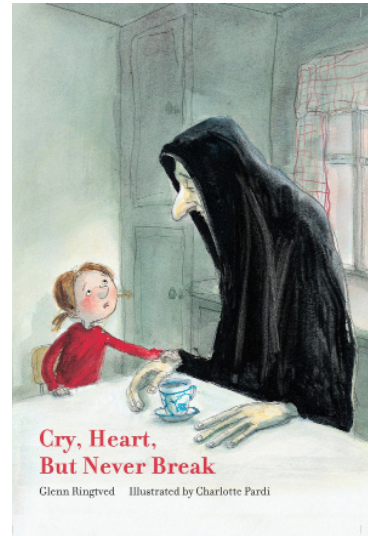
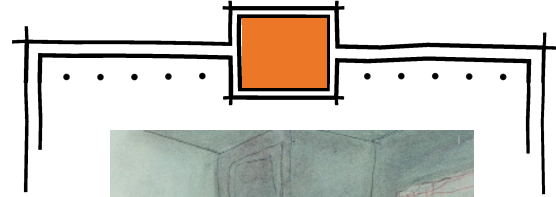
Author: Glenn Ringtved

Illustrator: Charlotte Pardi

Publisher: Enchanted Lion Books
(2016)

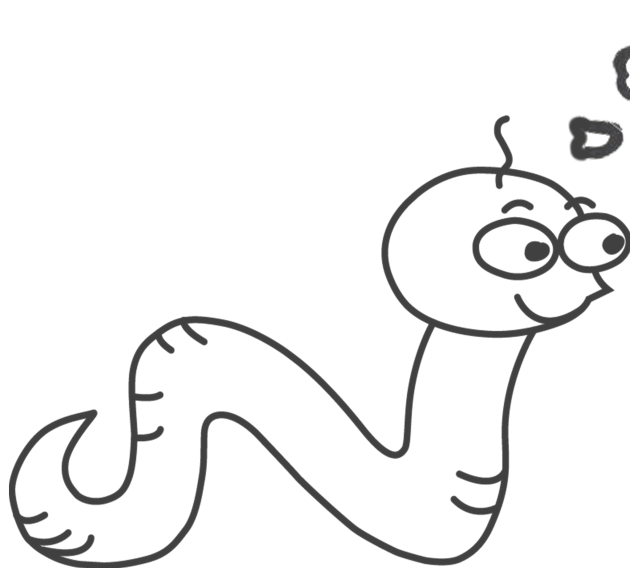
ISBN: 978-1-59270-187-2

Price online: *Rs. 883 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Death comes to visit the house of an old lady. Her four grandchildren do their best to delay and distract him in order to keep their grandmother with them. The way death is humanised and the point of view of death's reluctance to take the grandmother from the children gives a new dimension to the book.



This story is based on the author's own experience of explaining her mother's death to her children. Through excellent illustrations, this book portrays death as a reluctant agent and the children are minor antagonists in the story. The role reversal enables us to have conversations with children about grief, loss and moving on.

02 *Death, Duck and the Tulip*



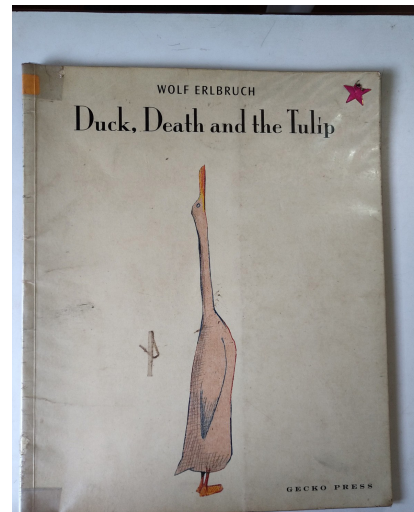
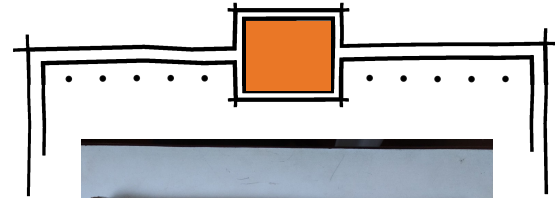
Author: Wolf Erlbruch

Illustrator: Wolf Erlbruch

Publisher: Gecko Press (2008)

ISBN: 978-1-877467-17-2

Price online: *Rs.602 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A unique and heart-warming story that took over ten years to write. A duck strikes up an unlikely friendship with Death. She is initially afraid of him, but gradually becomes familiar with his presence as they spend time together discussing life, death and the afterlife. The book is full of metaphor, notably the tulip, the third title character, symbolic of red flowers presented in a funeral.



One strong concept is the omnipresence of death. Death is our companion and we imagine death to be a lonely unfriendly experience. But the duck in this story discovers the experience as one of friendship. We celebrate this perspective and have found that children ask different kinds of questions when they read this book.

03 *Gone Grandmother*

Author: Chatura Rao

Illustrator: Krishna Bala Shenoai

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.

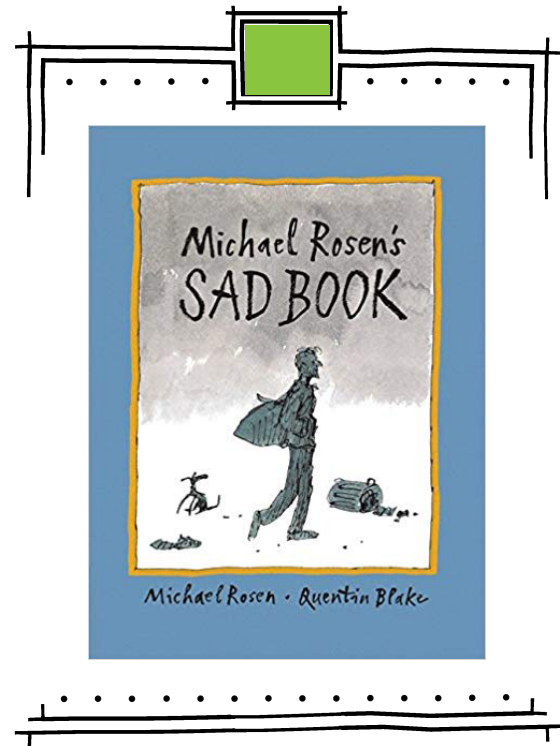


This book illustrates a child's situation when they suddenly find a loved one no longer in this world. It is important for a child to make sense of this loss themselves. This book plays a significant role in this collection as it helps answer children's questions on death, gently and in a relatable manner.

04 *Michael Rosen's Sad Book*



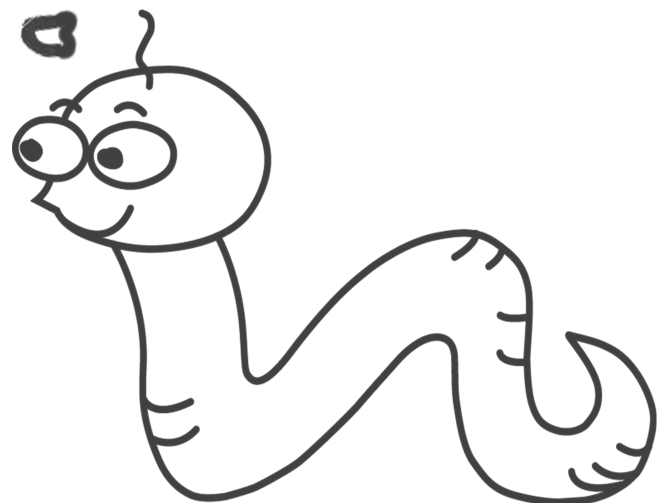
Author: Michael Rosen
Illustrator: Quentin Blake
Publisher: Walker Books (2004)
ISBN: 978-1-4063-1784-8
Price online: *Rs. 591 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Michael Rosen's Sad Book is an expressive and honest book that chronicles Michael Rosen's complex feelings of grief at the death of his son, portrayed at a level that will touch the hearts of both child and adult.

Quentin Blake's illustrations immediately express the emotions that run through the story. The book does not try to pretend that suffering and sorrow, especially the loss of a loved one, is easy to bear. But it does portray that sadness is a part of life. The incorporation of poetry and metaphor makes this book a multi-layered read.

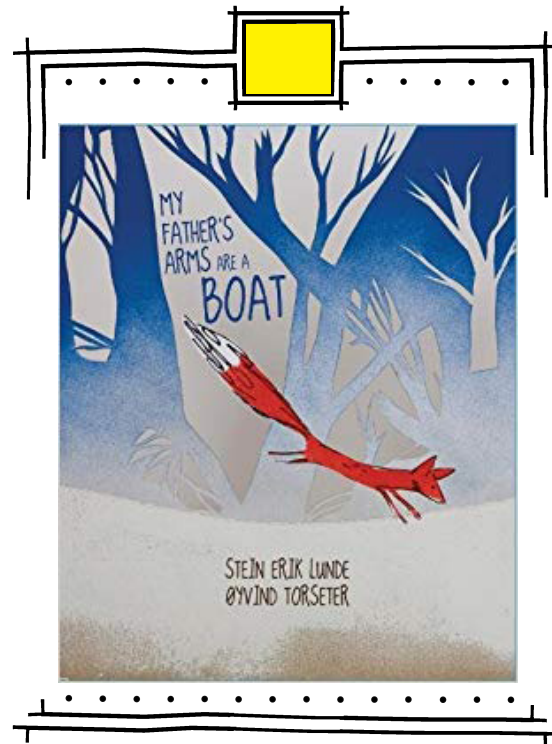


05

My Father's Arms are a Boat



Author: Stein Erik Lunde
Illustrator: Oyvind Torseter
Publisher: Enchanted Lion Books
(2012)
ISBN: 978-1-59270-124-7
Price online: *Rs. 831 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A Norwegian picture book about a boy and his father, living alone in the tundra; and the way they cope after his mother passes away. The cut-out illustrations by Oyvind Torseter combine beautifully with a lyrical prose that flows seamlessly.

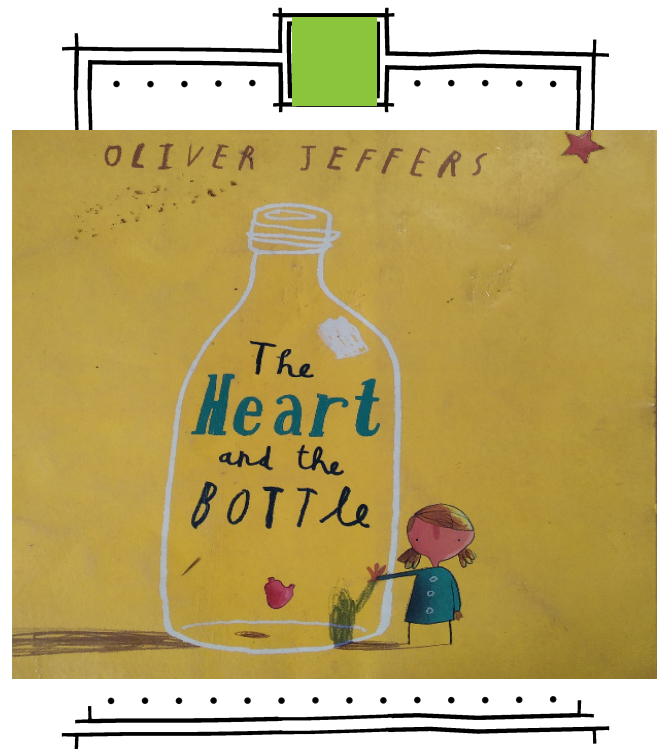
This critically acclaimed book has simple text set in a lyrical storyline that captures the emotions of grief. The loss of a mother can never be replaced. But the unconditional love of the father towards his son warms his son in the snow of grief. Whilst appreciating that this story has a male protagonist, we feel this book can be a thought-provoking introduction to talking and thinking about loss and grieving. This book also belongs to the theme of Family Ties.



06 *The Heart and the Bottle*



Author: Oliver Jeffers
Illustrator: Oliver Jeffers
Publisher: HarperCollins (2010)
ISBN: 978-0-00-718234-3
Price online: *Rs. 263 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A simple story of a little girl who locks away her feelings of loss and how it affects her in the long term.

This book is unique because it does not simplify the concept of loss or the act of moving on to the child reader, but rather, through stark yet detailed illustrations and sparse text, this book gives children the time and space to understand the process of grief and coming to terms.



07

The Scar



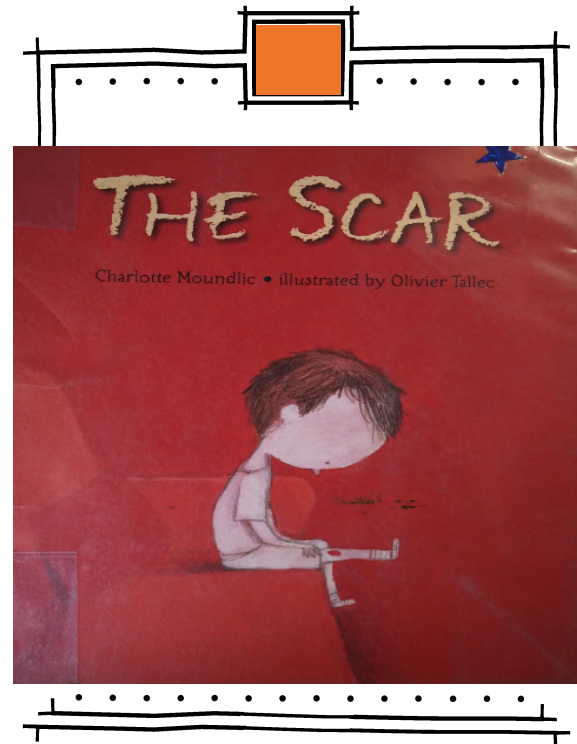
Author: Charlotte Moundlic

Illustrator: Olivier Tallec

Publisher: Walker Books (2011)

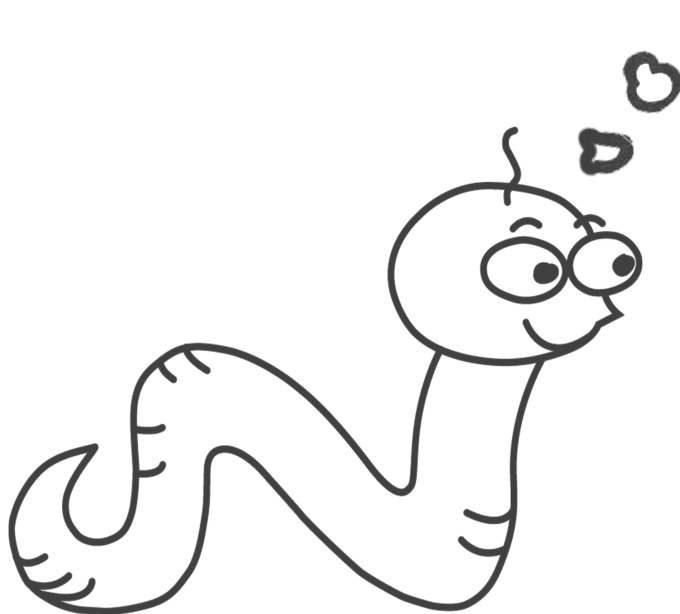
ISBN: 978-1-4063-4415-8

Price online: *Rs. 945 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A boy wakes up and discovers that his mother is no more. He tries to cope by trying not to let his mother's memories fade away, while at the same time, attempting to take control of the situation and support his father, who is also grieving deeply.



The story is realistic, and encompasses all the complex emotions that follow the death of a loved one, - from anger, to grief, to loneliness. The book does not offer advice or preach any method of 'coping' with loss, but instead, allows the reader to experience and find empathy in the story of a child who has had to face the death of a loved one and struggle through the emotions and feelings that were part of this.

08 *The Dead Bird*

Author: Margaret Wise Brown

Illustrator: Margaret Wise Brown

Publisher: HarperCollins (1958)

ISBN: 0-06-443326-9

Price online: *Rs. 622 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A group of children find a recently deceased bird lying on the ground. They watch as it becomes cold and lifeless and bury it with ceremony and care. The illustrations emphasise the reverence and solemnity that envelope this event.



It is usually with the death of an animal or insect that children are first exposed to death. This book traces a similar encounter in a natural setting that we find makes the text very real and accessible and opens up the theme for discussion amongst even the youngest of children.

09 *For the Love of a Cat*

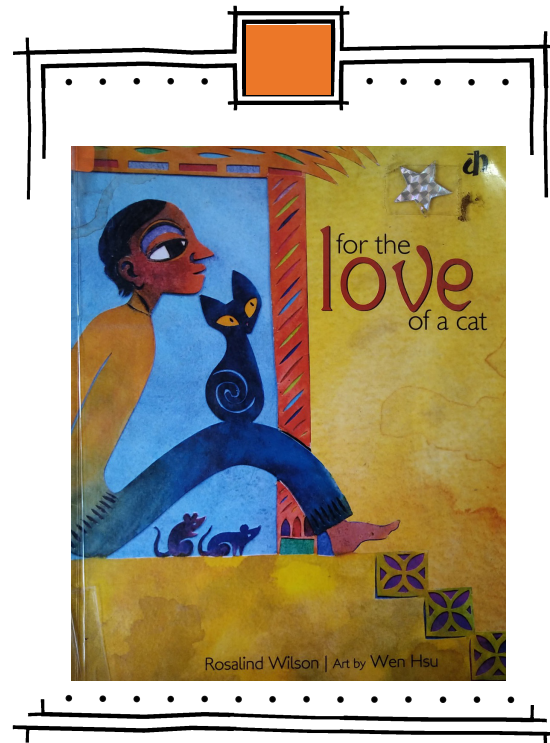
Author: Rosalind Wilson

Illustrator: Wen Hsu

Publisher: Katha (2010)

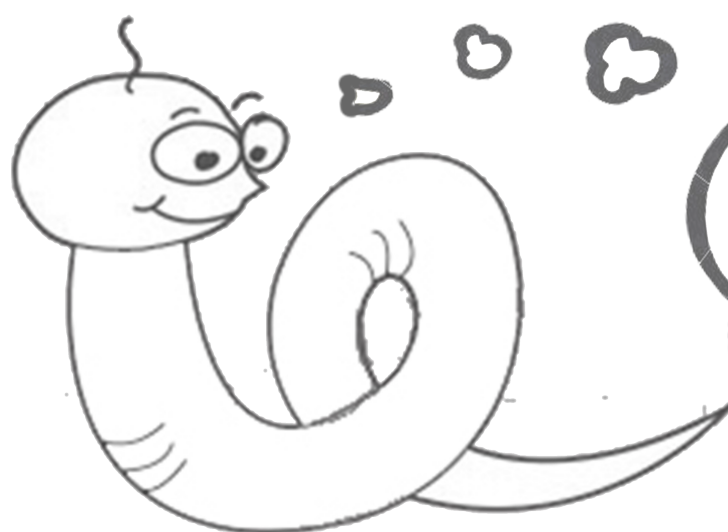
ISBN: 978-81-89934-50-7

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.

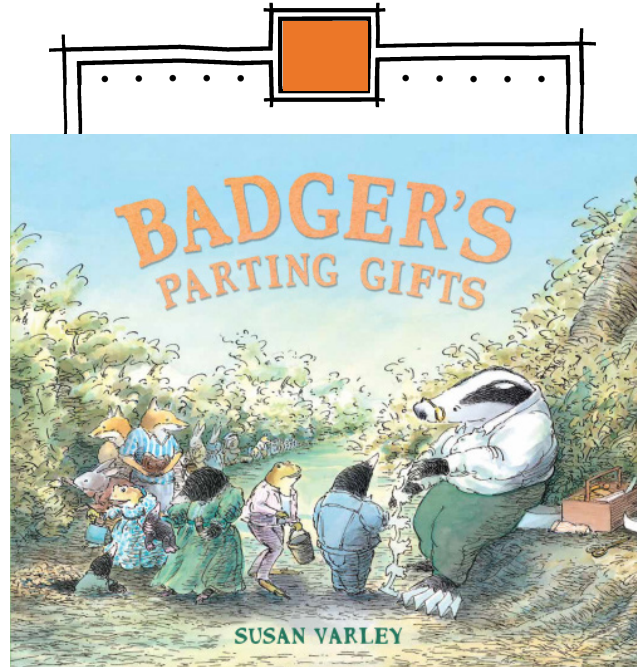


A beautiful read that introduces children to the feeling of love, not limiting to humans, but also to all living creatures. Love makes impossible things possible. When it comes to a painter's love for his pet, he risks his life as well as his painting just to see his cat rest in peace forever.

10 *Badger's Parting Gifts*



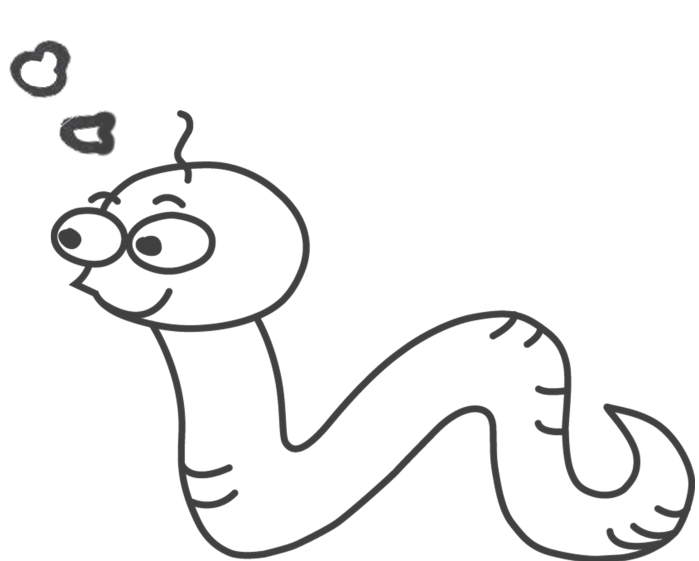
Author: Susan Varley
Illustrator: Susan Varley
Publisher: Andersen Press (2013)
ISBN: 978-1-84939-514-4
Price online: *Rs. 230 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

When Badger dies, all his friends grieve and miss him terribly. However, over time, they remember the gifts and lovely memories that he gifted each one of them. These memories help them to overcome their grief and remember and appreciate the happy times they had together.

'Badger's Parting Gifts' is a touching story that very sensitively conveys all the emotions that accompany death, as also a loss of a loved one. The story addresses death as a natural part of life, and focuses both on the sadness of death, but also on the comfort that memories of shared experiences can bring.



Challenging Normalcies

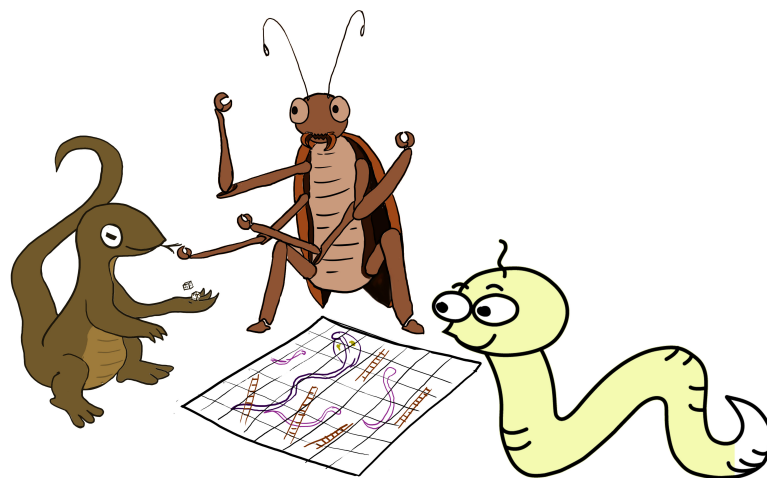
“ Yes I am weird, weird is good. “
Normal is overrated.

- Mad-D

The selections listed here are books where the characters are different and that is celebrated.

In this section

<i>Perfectly Norman</i>	19
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11 *Perfectly Norman*



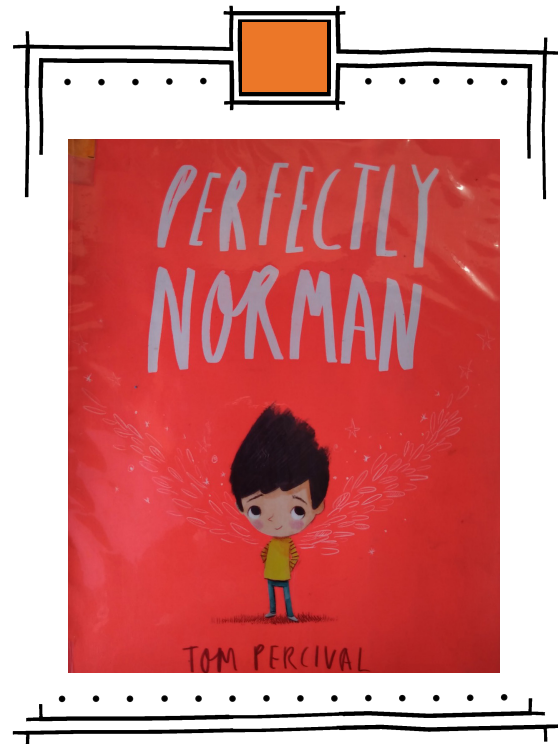
Author: Tom Percival

Illustrator: Tom Percival

Publisher: Bloomsbury (2017)

ISBN: 978-1-4088 -8097-5

Price online: *Rs. 149 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

The story is about coming to terms with ourselves. Who does not want to be normal? Yet, sometimes it is hard for us to fit in and Norman tries until it becomes unbearable. The theme compels us to meet our own social fears, head-on, and celebrate being brave and different.

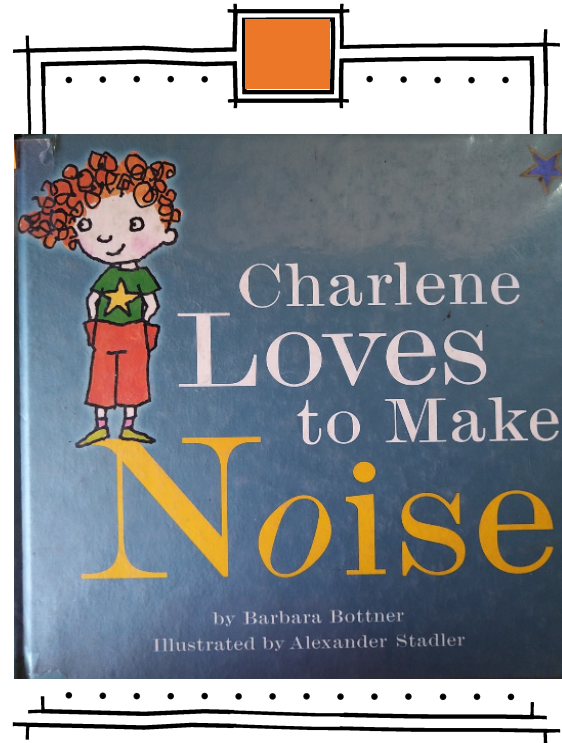
The illustrations are arresting and compelling and add greatly to the storyline. The book fits very well with a library value around diversity and acceptance, but also about being responsible for one's own happiness in some way. The story enables us to discuss aspects of confidence, bravery and the resulting happiness that comes from these actions. The book also belongs to the theme of Family Ties.



12

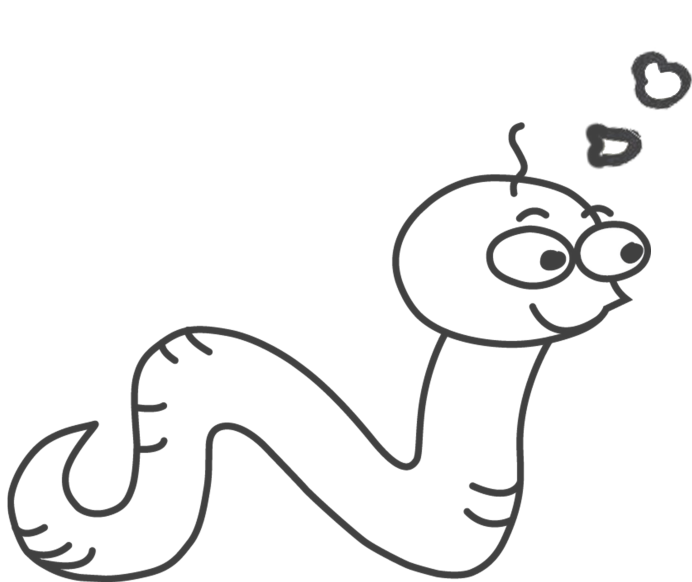
Charlene Loves to Make Noise

Author: Barbara Bottner
Illustrator: Alexander Stadler
Publisher: Running Press (2002)
ISBN: 0 - 7624- 1297- 6
Price online: *Rs.995 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

This is a precious story about Charlene, who is shy and quiet. The story gently questions what it is to be present and active. Is talking the only way to be part of a social group? Are there other ways to belong and fit in?



We selected this book because of Charlene and how she is presented to us as readers: intensely shy, but also an active, kind and thoughtful child who wants to belong. The pulls and pushes between her shyness and her wanting to participate make the book a wonderful resource for conversations and a lovely read aloud. We do wish the last page was absent because it tends to take away from the approach of Charlene being very well accepted for who she is.

13

Ruby's Worry



Author: Tom Percival

Illustrator: Tom Percival

Publisher: Bloomsbury (2018)

ISBN: 978-1-4088-9215-2

Price online: *Rs. 217 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A simple uplifting book that explores how Ruby loses her carefree nature when she encounters a worry that slowly becomes bigger by the day. Will Ruby be able to cope with this growing worry? With clear vibrant illustrations and few words, *Ruby's Worry* is a story that is universal to every individual.

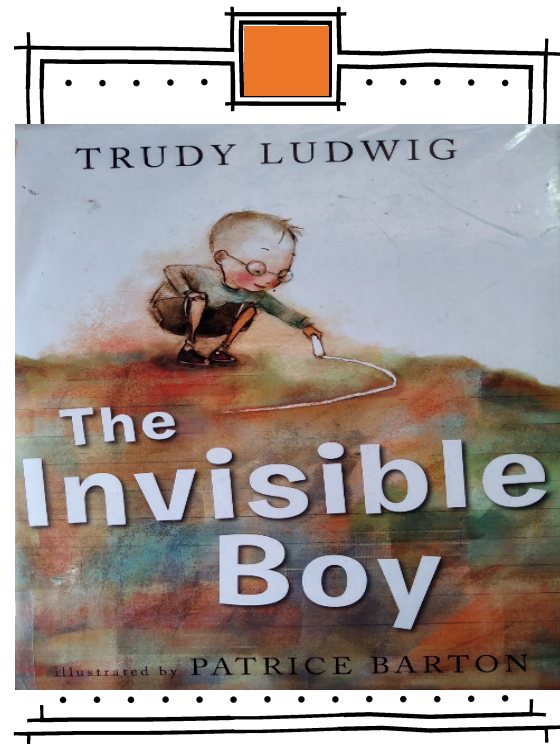


Sensitively written, *Ruby's Worry* challenges the stereotypical representation of every childhood as happy, and opens up themes around the emotional needs and worries of a child and how they could be tackled sensitively. The worry itself is represented in a way that is understandable and relatable, and the story gently takes us on Ruby's journey as she faces this worry.

14 *The Invisible Boy*



Author: Trudy Ludwig
Illustrator: Patrice Barton
Publisher: Alfred A. Knopf (2013)
ISBN: 978-1-582-46450-3
Price online: *Rs. 804 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Brian, a quiet child, always finds himself in the background and without friends. However, a simple act of kindness makes Brian feel included and important even among the hustle, bustle and noise of the larger classroom.



A heartfelt sensitive story that conveys all the emotions of a quiet child who wants to be included and accepted. This book addresses themes of inclusion, each individual's uniqueness and the need to acknowledge and accept each other. The illustrations correspond very well with the words and play a large role in conveying the initial isolation and loneliness that Brian goes through and the transformation that takes place, as he is accepted and valued by others around.

15

Something Else

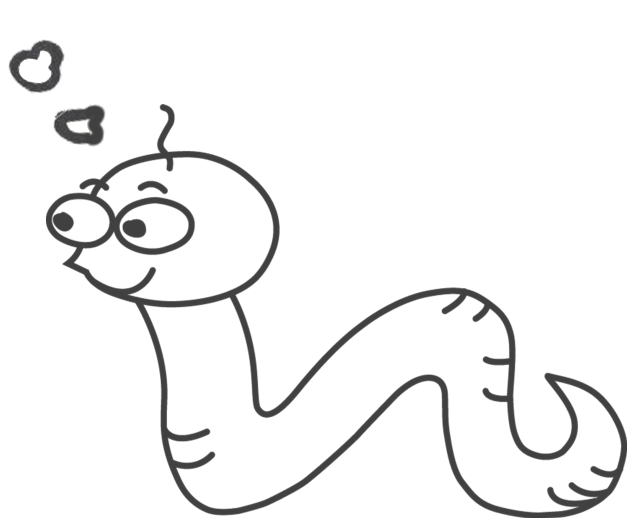
Author: Kathryn Cave
Illustrator: Chris Riddell
Publisher: Puffin Books (1994)
ISBN: 978-0-141-33867-5
Price online: *Rs.577 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

In this story, Something Else wants to be like the others but is constantly being pushed away. He tries everything that others do but he is still considered as different. Then suddenly, Something turns up and wants to be friends. Has Something Else finally met someone who is the same, or different?

This book is beautifully written and illustrates that being different is not bad at all. It shows how we will always find people different from one another. It encourages being accepting of others despite their differences and outlook. It also encourages us to give others a chance.

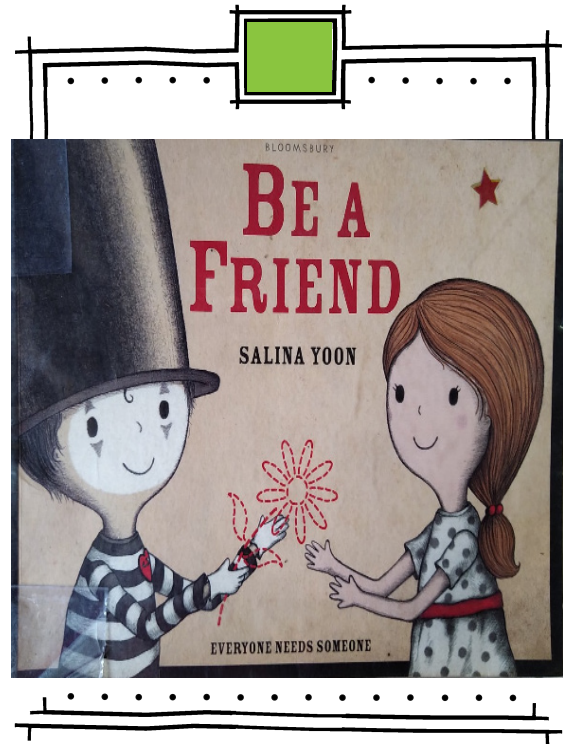


16

Be a Friend



Author: Salina Yoon
Illustrator: Salina Yoon
Publisher: Bloomsbury (2016)
ISBN: 978-1-4088-6909-3
Price Online: *Rs. 583 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

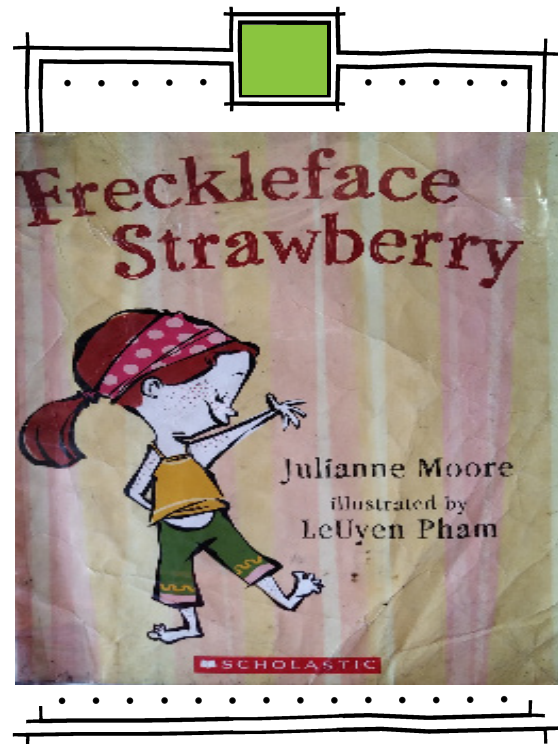
Dennis is quite an ordinary boy but he has his own way of expressing himself to others. He uses his whole body to express himself - he mimes. Being a mime is lonely until he meets Joy, who is equally special.

It is a heartwarming story of individuality and imagination and how children communicate with each other. Not all children are alike and it is never nice to single out anyone. This book shows how even having one special friend makes a whole lot of difference.



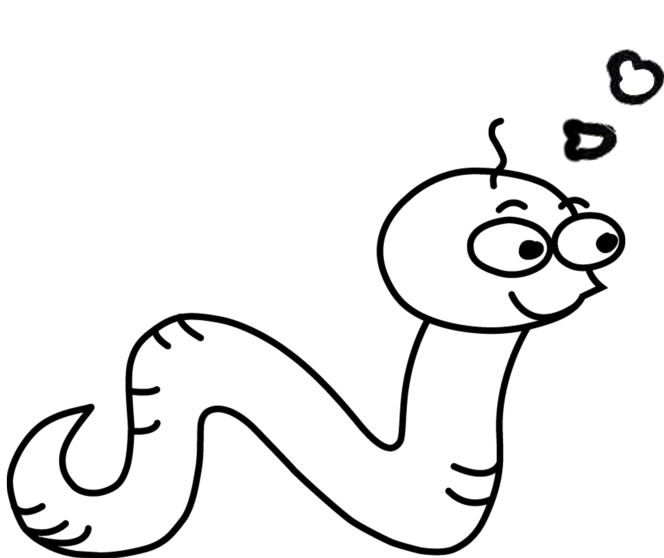
17 *Freckleface Strawberry*

Author: Julianne Moore
Illustrator: LeUyen Pham
Publisher: Scholastic Inc (2007)
ISBN: 9781599901077
Price online: *Rs. 1154 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

This is a story about a young girl who has red hair and freckles. She is not happy about the freckles as she is constantly teased about it. She tries different methods to get rid of her freckles. What will she do and does she succeed?



We feel this story brings out nuances of being self-conscious about one's looks. This story strikes a chord with children as they identify with Freckleface Strawberry as she struggles to accept that she is different from the others. The simple and pale palette of the illustrations bring out the focus on the main character and her freckles. It urges us with a dash of humour to accept our unique looks and be who we are.

18 *The Red Tree*



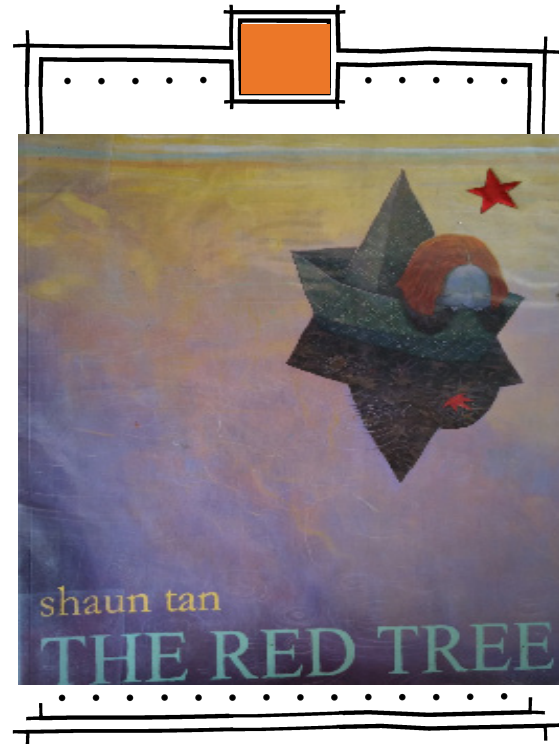
Author: Shaun Tan

Illustrator: Shaun Tan

Publisher: Hachette Livre (2001)

ISBN: 9780968876831

Price online: *Rs.780 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

The story begins with a small girl waking up to leaves floating around her and then growing into a deluge trying to engulf her. A poignant story about loneliness that can envelope anyone and that hope lies within and around us and we only need to recognise and seek it.



A powerful story that does not underestimate children's feelings and acknowledges that children can also have feelings of depression and loneliness. The hauntingly beautiful illustrations by Shaun Tan challenge the reader's imagination and encourage readers to seek meaning for one's own self. This book opens up discussions around one's feelings among children.

19 *Wemberly Worried*

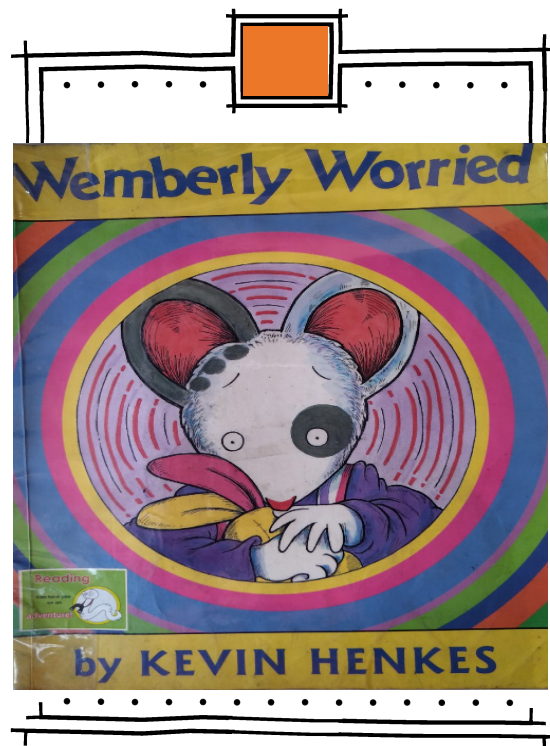
Author: Kevin Henkes

Illustrator: Kevin Henkes

Publisher: Greenwillow Books (2000)

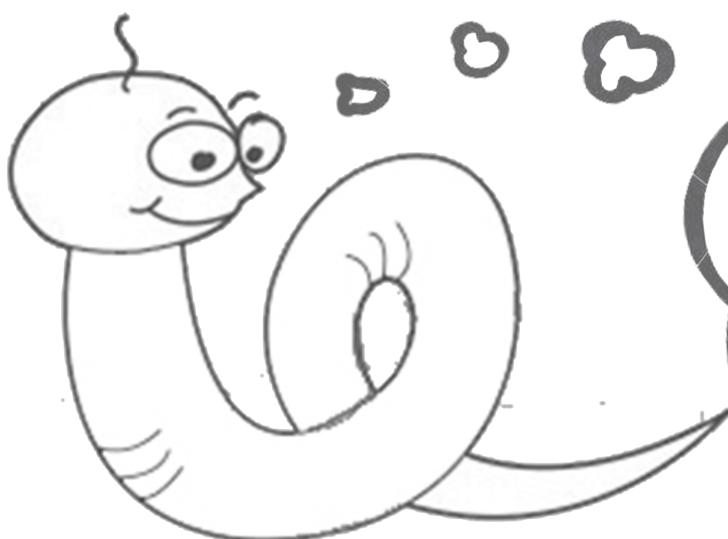
ISBN: 978-0688170271

Price online: *Rs 391/- (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Wemberly is an anxious little girl mouse who worries about every little and big thing, basically everything that every little child worries about. And then one day, she has to start school. And then, she worried even more...



A gentle story that talks about feelings like anxiety that are usually experienced by children in new and unknown situations. This book should be a part of collections as it opens up discussion among young children about their fears and anxieties. The illustrations are bright and help contrast the mood of the story.

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.



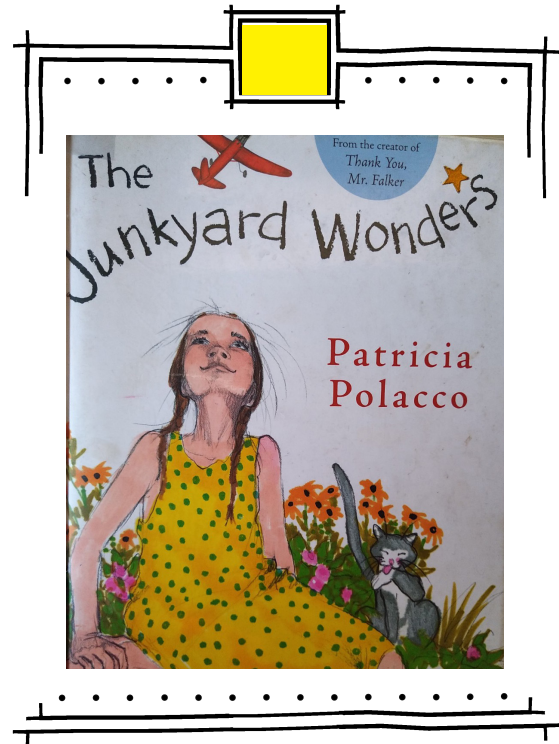
Diverse Abilities

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20 *Junkyard Wonders*

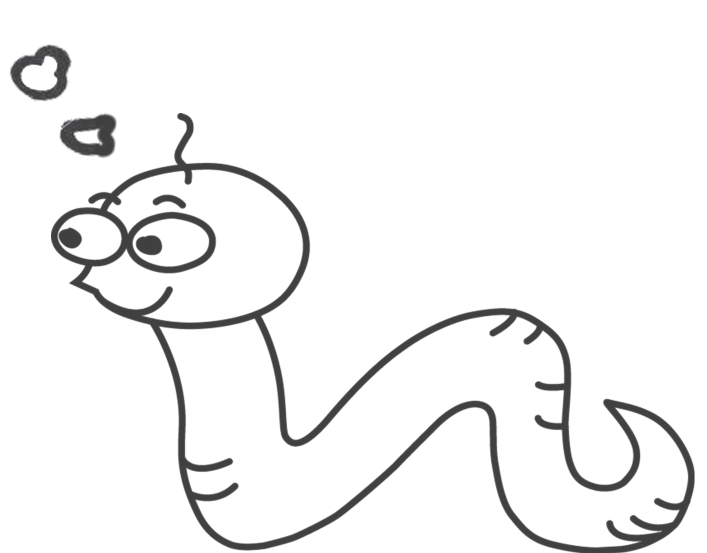
Author: Patricia Polacco
Illustrator: Patricia Polacco
Publisher: Philomel Books (2010)
ISBN: 978-0-399-25078-1
Price online: *Rs. 1070 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Trisha, who has just joined a new school, is disappointed when she is once again placed in a “special needs” class along with a group of other children who are “different”. This class is called the “junkyard” and is often made fun of by the rest of the school. Through the compassion and inspiration of their teacher, Mrs. Peterson, each child in this class comes to believe in themselves, their abilities and their uniqueness.

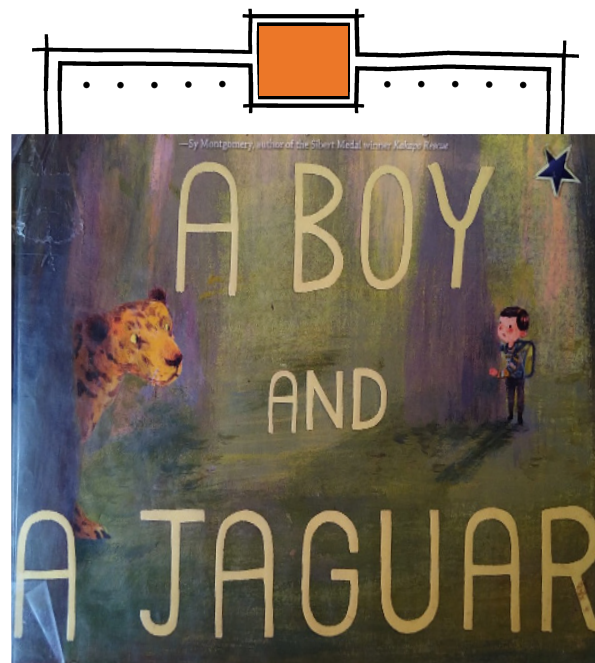
The book, an autobiographical account of Polacco's own life, is sincere and honest in its words and illustrations. While it covers raw feelings of grief, discrimination and exclusion in its narration, the overall theme that shines through is one of upliftment and belief in oneself. Moreover, the title itself conveys the theme of the book with an interesting twist. Junkyard: A place full of wondrous possibilities.



21 *A Boy and a Jaguar*



Author: Alan Rabinowitz
Illustrator: Catia Chien
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (2014)
ISBN: 978-0-547-87507-1
Price online: *Rs. 1129 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

This is a beautifully written, autobiographical picture book by and about a conservationist. As a child, Alan Rabinowitz struggled due to a stutter and felt confident to speak only with animals. He was attracted to big cats because he believed that the energy and power that they possessed have a place in this world, and hence, they needed to be protected. This belief then turns him into the voice of every animal that was unable to speak for itself.

An exceptional story that is movingly told. The child's inability to speak makes him feel "not normal" and broken, but he discovers some uniqueness in himself and works passionately towards it, turning the book into a "finding a voice" story. This account, being a real-life story, makes the book more compelling and serves as an inspiration not only to people who may feel broken, but to anyone in general, to make a positive difference in the world.



22 *Chuskit Goes to School!*

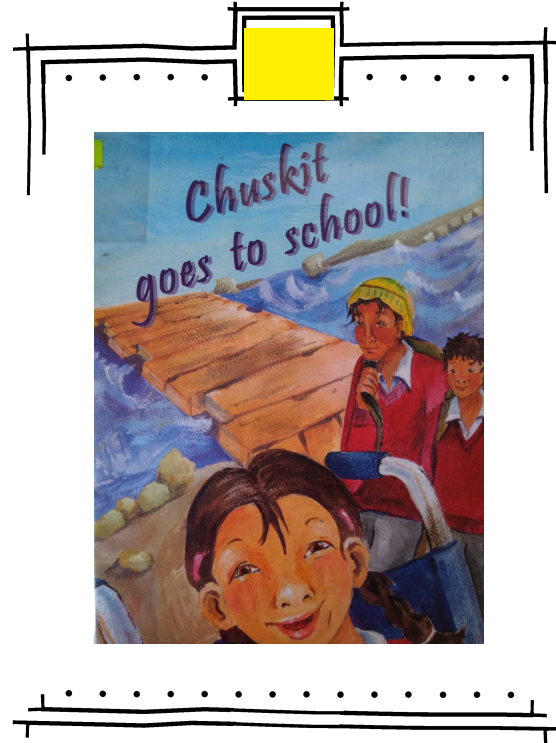
Author: Sujatha Padmanabhan

Illustrator: Madhuvanti Anantharajan

Publisher: Namgyal Institute for
People with Disabilities
(2005)

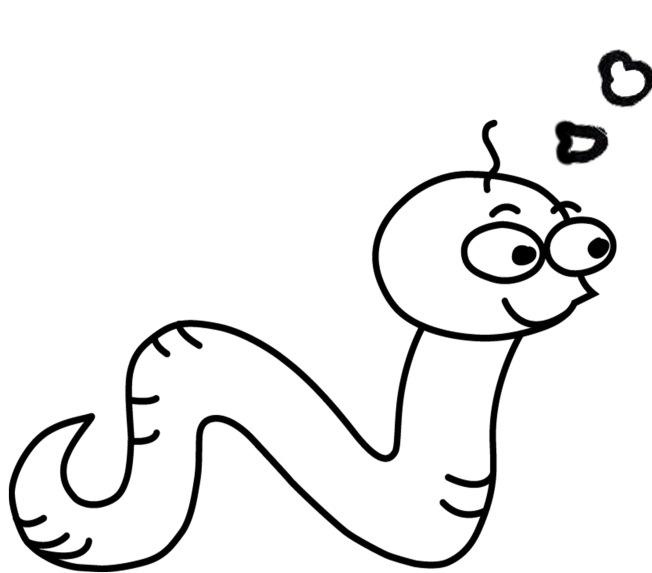
ISBN: 0-590-50896-2

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 in 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 any 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.

23

A Gift from the Sea

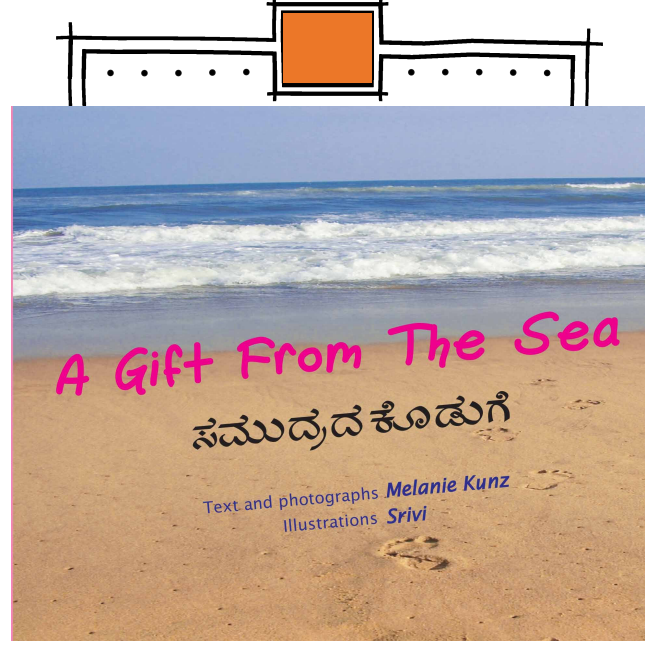
Author: Melanie Kunz

Illustrator: Srivi

Publisher: Tulika (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 listed this book 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.

24 *Catch That Cat!*

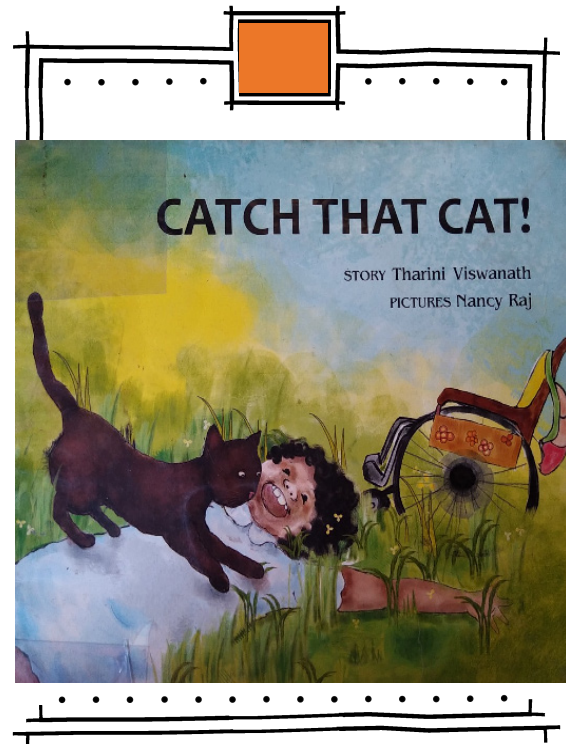
Author: Tharini Viswanath

Illustrator: Nancy Raj

Publisher: Tulika (2013)

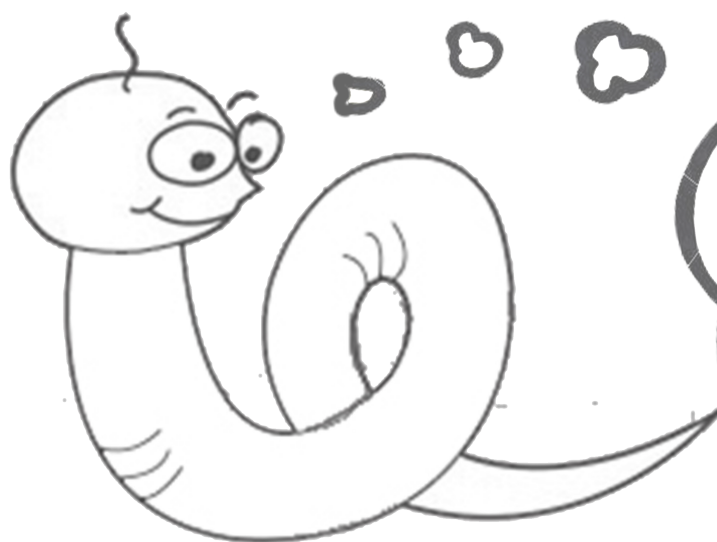
ISBN: 93-5046-436-5

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.

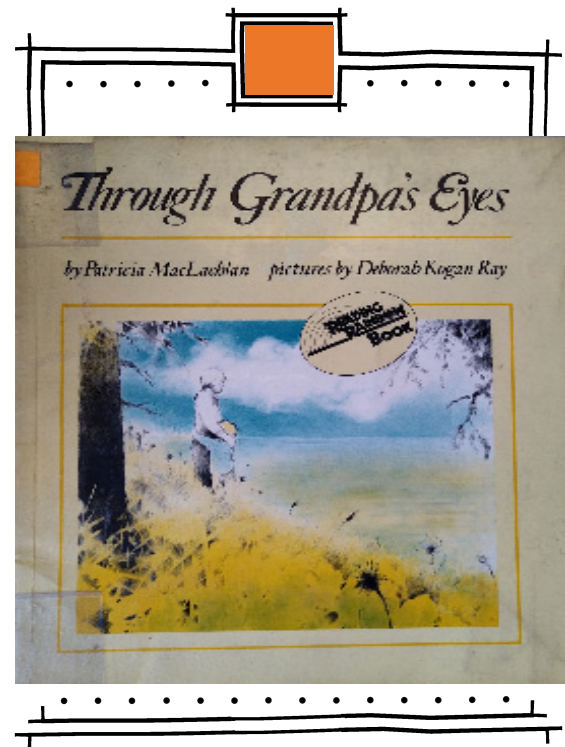


This book tells a joyous, light-hearted story in a way that neither privileges nor pities the character's disability. Instead, Dip Dip's absolute acceptance, confidence and high spiritedness provokes us to think of disability naturally and joyously.

25 *Through Grandpa's Eyes*



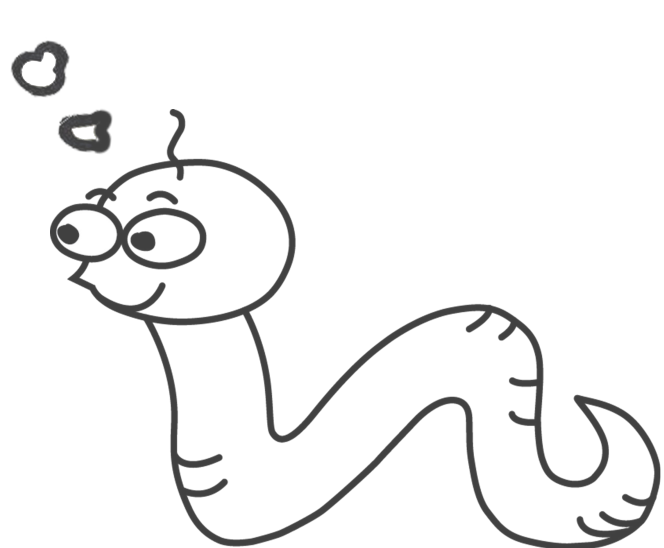
Author: Patricia MacLachlan
Illustrator: Deborah Kogan Ray
Publisher: Harper Trophy (1980)
ISBN: 978-0-06-443041-8
Price online: *Rs. 418 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

John's visit to his grandpa's house turns into an adventurous day, when his blind grandfather teaches him to see the world with the help of his other senses. Little John find this exercise unique and begins to enjoy and practice it for himself. The illustrations in the book are exquisite pictures, which convey the idea of blindness expertly and add emotion to the book-reading experience.

On the surface of the story lies this very tender bond, which portrays a wonderful relationship between children and elders. Upon closer reading, it provides deeper insights into the world of the visually impaired, and so this listing. We know that the story ultimately will leave readers with a fresh perspective about seeing the world. This book also belongs to the theme of Family Ties.



26 *Mama Zooms*



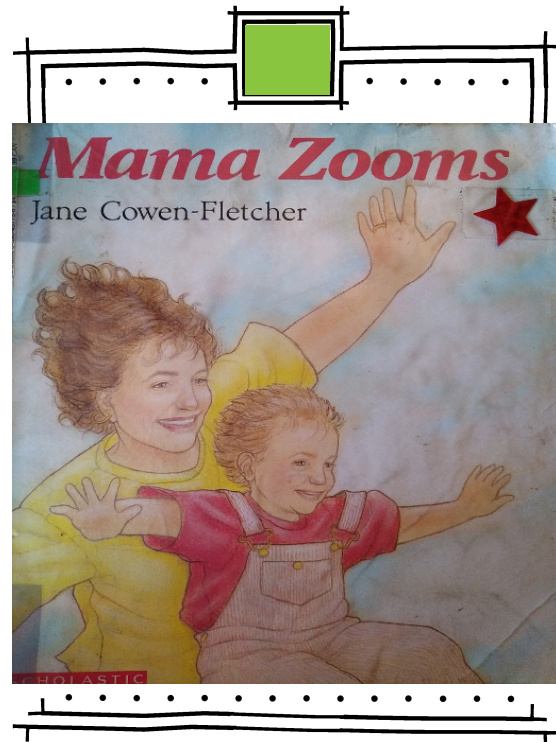
Author: Jane Cowen-Fletcher

Illustrator: Jane Cowen-Fletcher

Publisher: Scholastic Inc. (1993)

ISBN: 0-590-45775-6

Price online: *Rs. 1764 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A story about a zooming machine that has mama in it. Mama has strong arms that push herself and the little one everywhere, but each trip is like an adventure because of the setting and mama's spirit of joy.

We love the line that says, "Then mama is just my mama, and that's how I like her best." because this is the heart of the story. A relationship of joy and love between a wheelchair-bound mama, her son and her husband. Beautiful illustrations enable the imagining of these adventures from the little boy's point of view and the imagination of the mother. It also enables us to reflect on being able-bodied and including the not able-bodied as people first.



27 *Ty's One-Man Band*

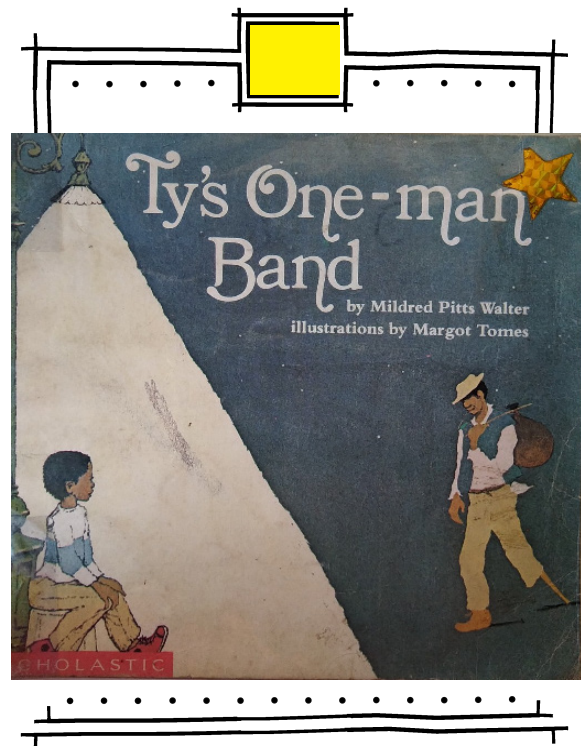
Author: Mildred Pitts Walter

Illustrator: Margot Tomes

Publisher: Scholastic (1980)

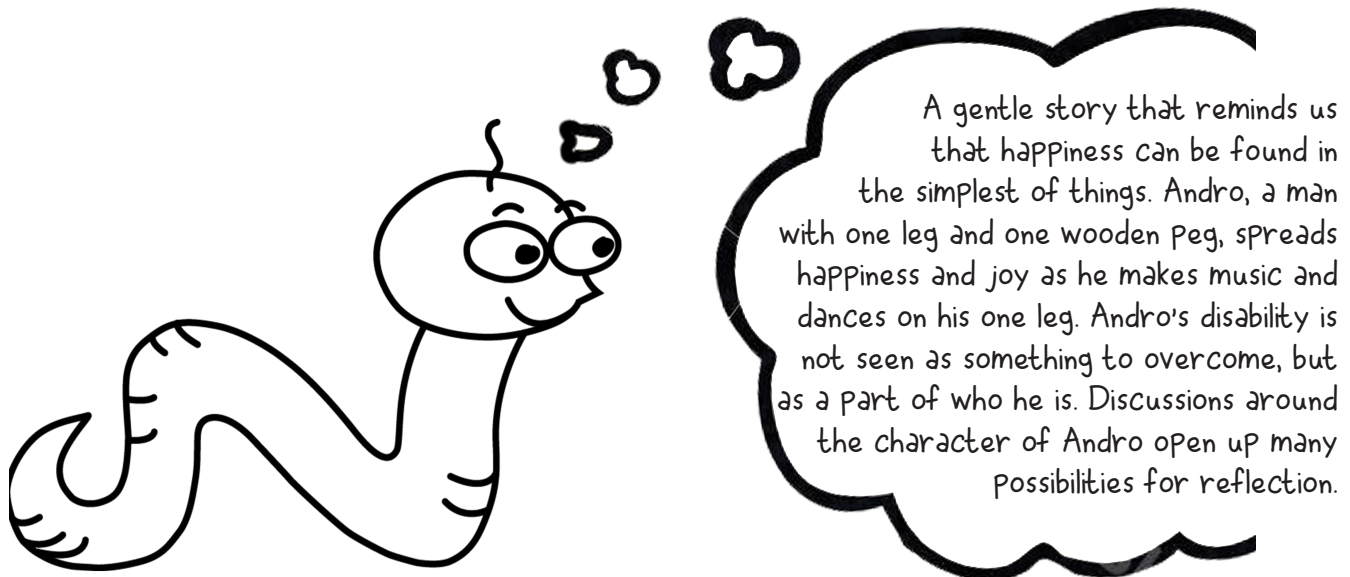
ISBN: 0-590-40178-5

Price online: *Rs. 4033 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

One morning, in his hometown, Ty meets a man named Andro, passing through, who uses everyday objects to produce the most catchy beautiful tunes. As Andro plays and dances to his own music, the whole town joins in and celebrates in the atmosphere that he creates.



28

Friend

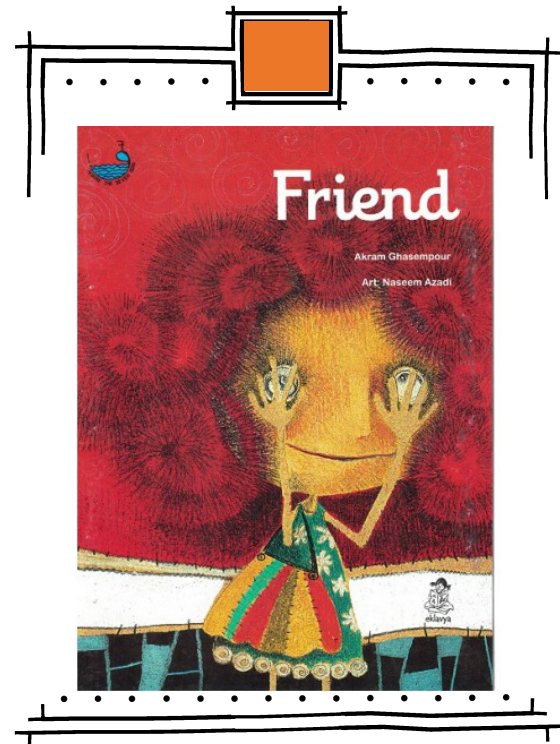
Author: Akram Ghasempour

Illustrator: Naseem Azadi

Publisher: Eklavya (Translated in Hindi in 2016)

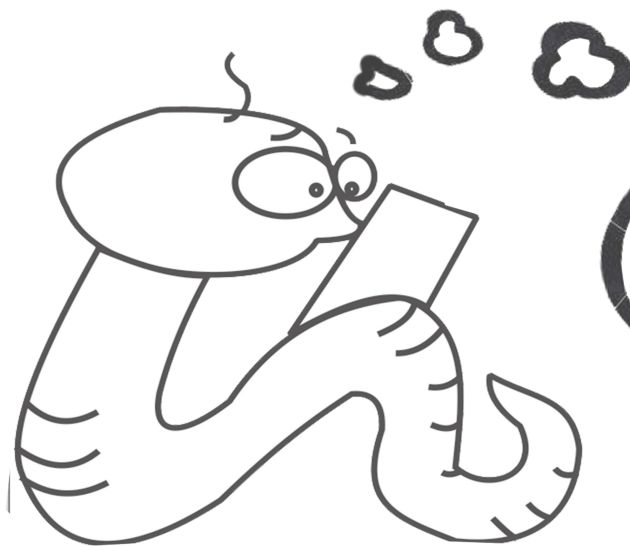
ISBN: 978-93-81337-79-0

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 Naseem Azadi show the differences between the two characters in a creative manner.



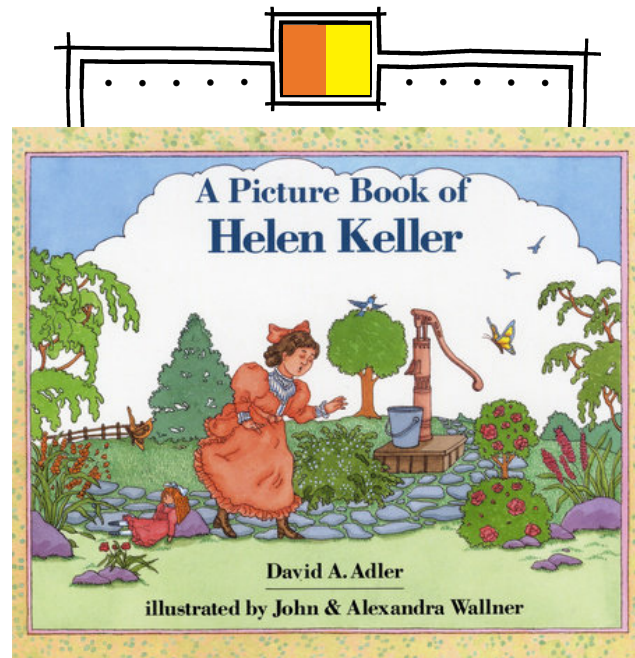
Author: David A. Adler

Illustrator: John & Alexandra Wallner

Publisher: Holiday House (1990)

ISBN: 0-8234-0950-3

Price online: *Rs. 474 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

This is a picture book biography on Helen Keller. It simply narrates her life story and how she made her disability her strength. In doing this, she became an inspiration to millions of people across the world.



We feel this is a book that shares genuine information about an inspirational person in a simple manner. The illustrations provide children with a historical reference that takes them back in time. It encourages children to reflect and to be inspired by a person who overcame her disabilities successfully.

30

I Didn't Understand

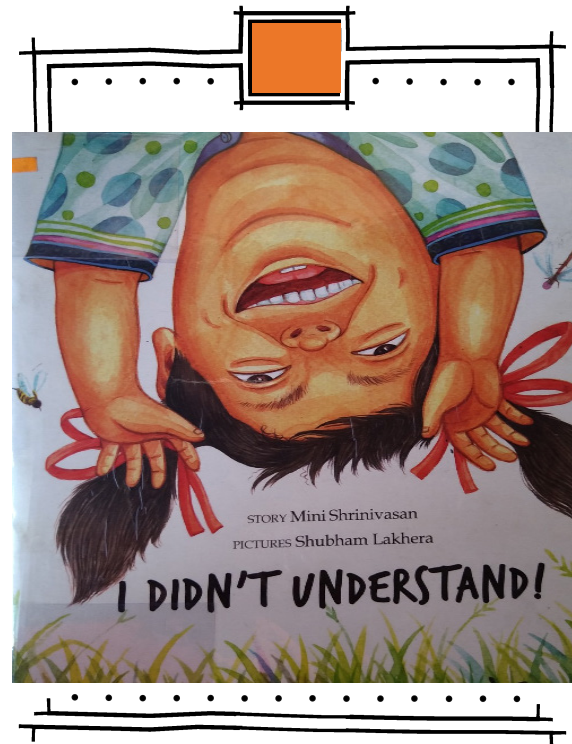
Author: Mini Shrinivasan

Illustrator: Shubham Lakhera

Publisher: Tulika (2018)

ISBN: 978-93-86667-53-3

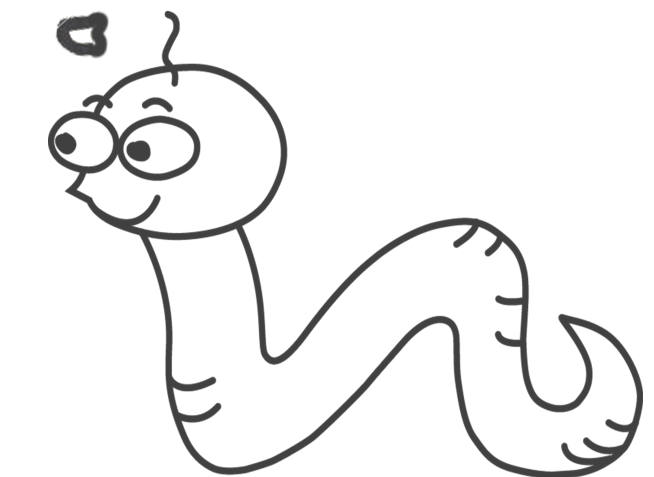
Price online: *Rs. 165 (Paperback)*



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 Down 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.



31 *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.

So few of us would know about Malathi Holla and remember her if not for this book, *Wings to Fly*. We love the representation of Malathi and the wonderful illustrations that show even more than the words tell us. Children feel very empowered because the story is full of qualities that enable us to persevere.

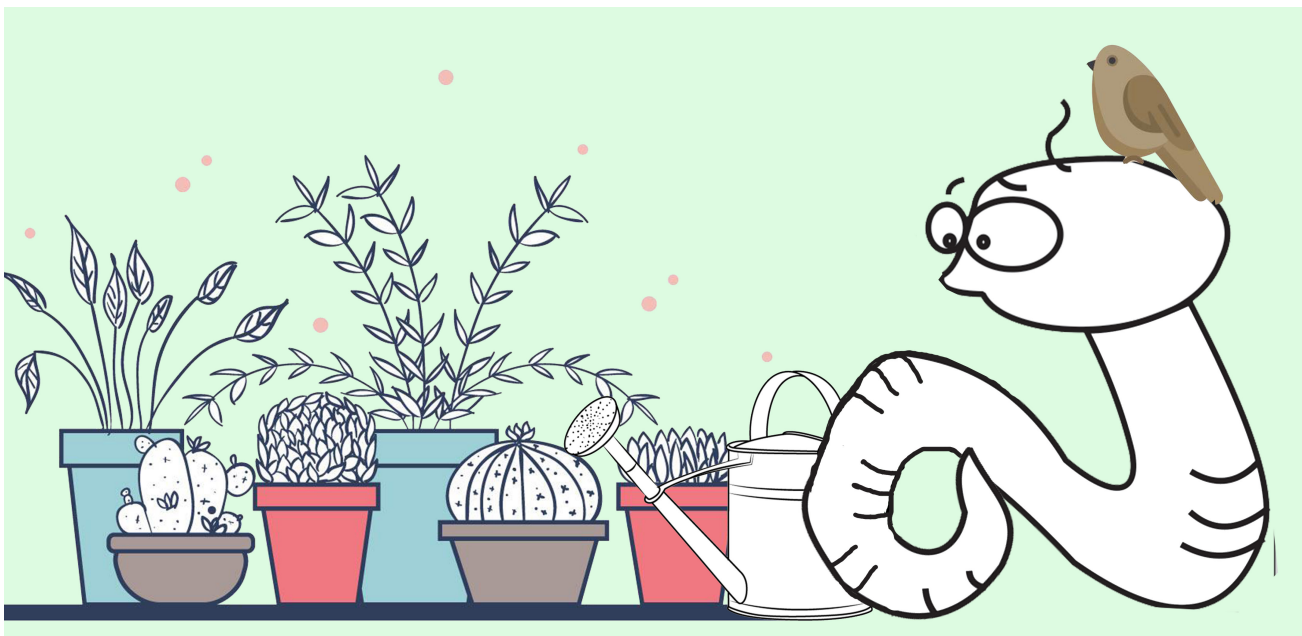


Earth Matters

“ 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

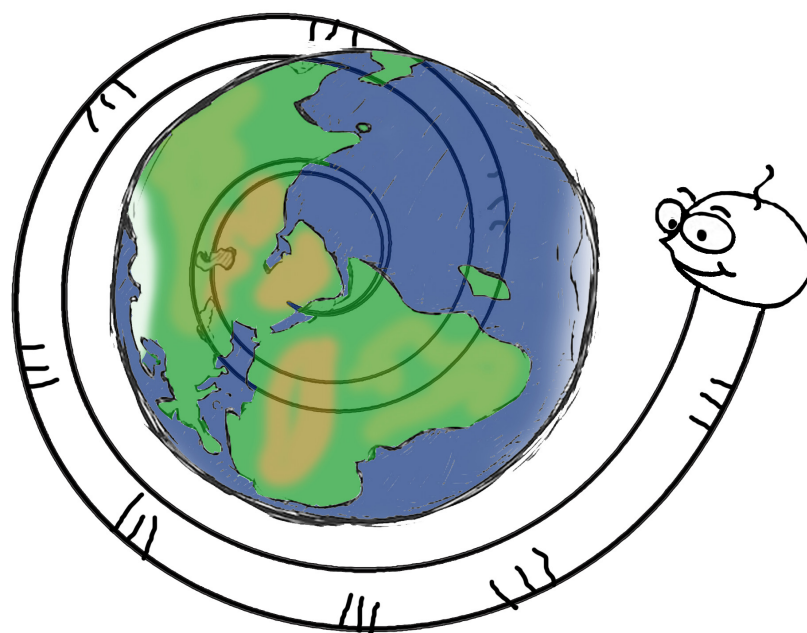
The selections listed here are gentle reminders of our care-taking for the planet Earth and each other.



Earth Matters

In this section

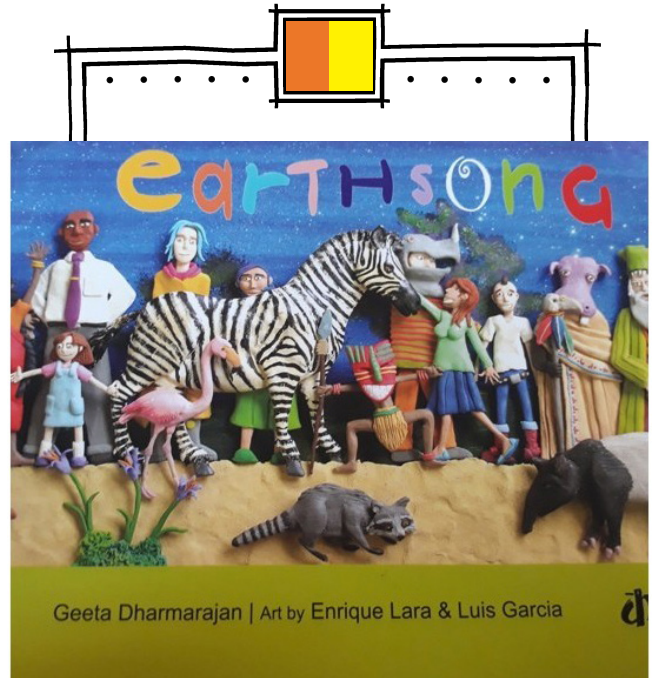
<i>Earth Song</i>	44
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<i>The Lorax</i>	47
<i>Out of the Way! Out of the Way!</i>	48
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<i>Common Ground</i>	. , , ,	51
<i>Brother Eagle Sister Sky</i>	52
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32

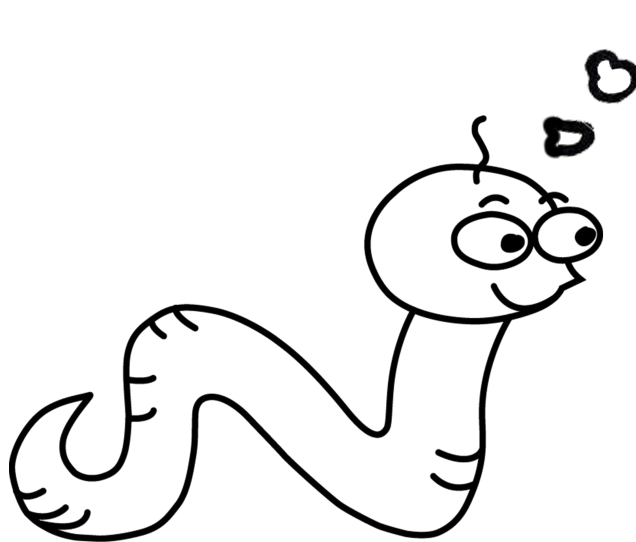
Earthsong

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.



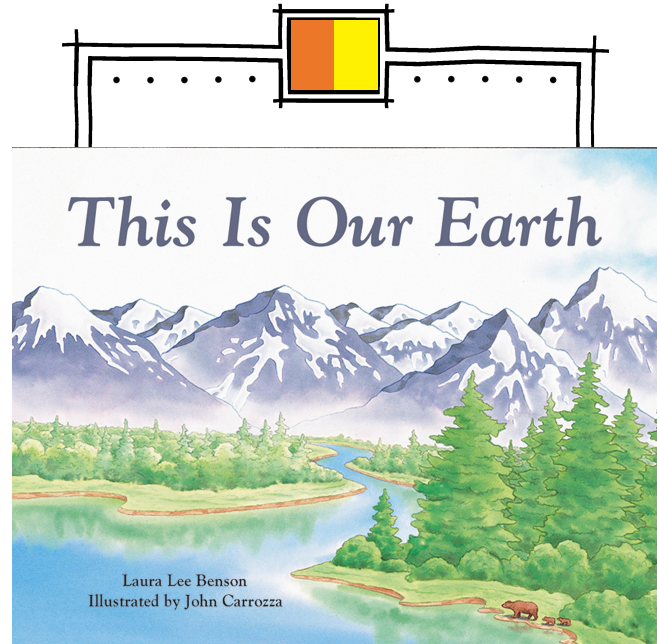
A unique book in terms of providing a balance of information and joy in a distinctive illustrative style makes it stand out in a collection. Children pause to look carefully at every page and an alertness marks this reading.

33

This is Our Earth



Author: Laura Lee Benson
Illustrator: John Carrozza
Publisher: Penguin Random House
(1994)
ISBN: 10: 0881068381
Price online: *Rs.535 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A lyrical picture book that, in verse and image, shows us the diversity and beauty of the planet.

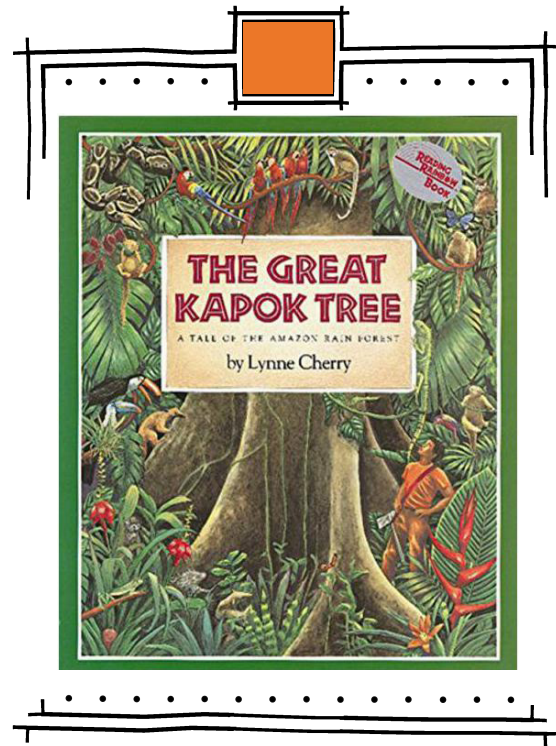


With rapid changes to the earth, there is a danger of us not remembering her beauty. This book begins with that reminder of how rich and precious our planet earth is, and how it is our only place to inhabit. With this, children begin to take notice of all that is around them in nature.

34 *The Great Kapok Tree*



Author: Lynne Cherry
Illustrator: Lynne Cherry
Publisher: Scholastic Inc. (1990)
ISBN: 978-0-15-200520-7
Price online: *Rs. 396 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

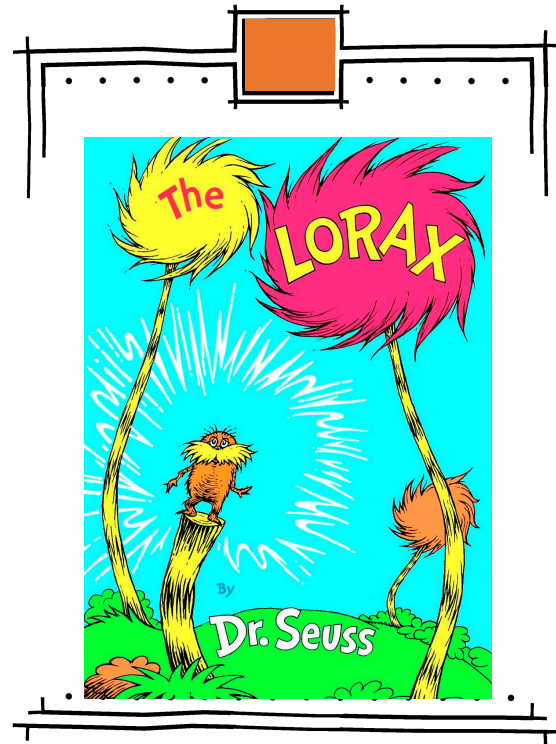
This myth story with stunning illustrations captures the beauty of the rainforest and the potential for change that can happen if man pauses before he acts.



A map showing the earth's endangered forests and animals locate the book as outstanding in its use of fiction and non-fiction narrative. The illustrations bring out a naturalist's reverence for nature and impact the reader powerfully. The use of a dream sequence to move the story forward with the voices of the animals make this a powerful read-aloud book as well.

35 *The Lorax*

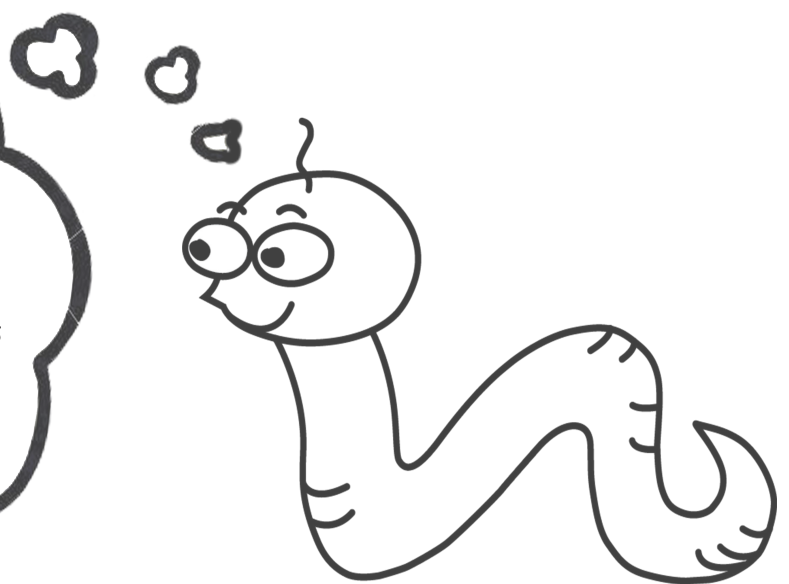
Author: Dr. Seuss
Illustrator: Dr. Seuss
Publisher: Random House (1971)
ISBN: 978-03-9488-233-79
Price online: *Rs. 124* (Paperback)



ABOUT THE BOOK

Long before the earth mattered, 'The Lorax' chose to do this for readers. It begins as a charming tale that grows dark when the Truffula trees are all cut down. The plot does not even seem creative any more, but it is a book, that 50 odd years later, is more than true.

The surprising shift in the plot and the enormity of what the Once-ler has done allow for deep conversations with children through the text. The response is universal even for young ones who have not yet grasped the enormity of climate change and the lightness of illustrative style bring this theme into wonderful balance. The new found dimensions of the Lorax being based on the African patas monkey now add an even richer texture to the backstory of this book.



36

Out of the Way ! Out of the Way !

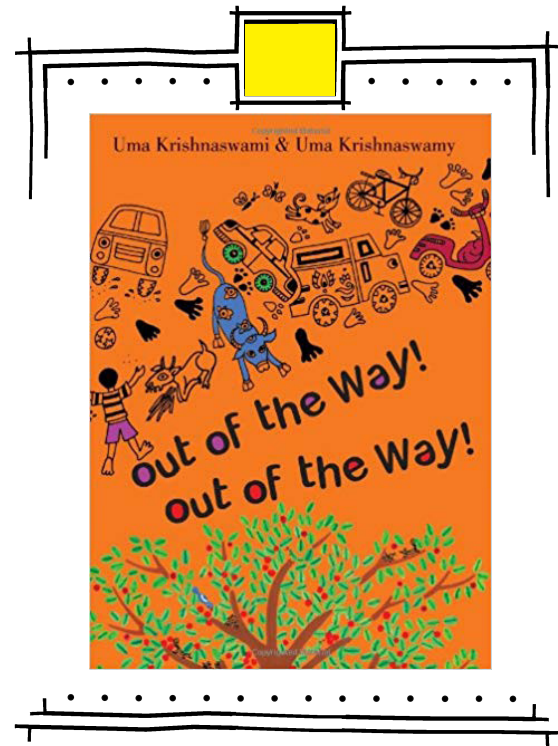
Author: Uma Krishnaswami

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 many rapid changes is affirming and charmingly narrated in this text. It all begins with a sapling that grows into a tree.

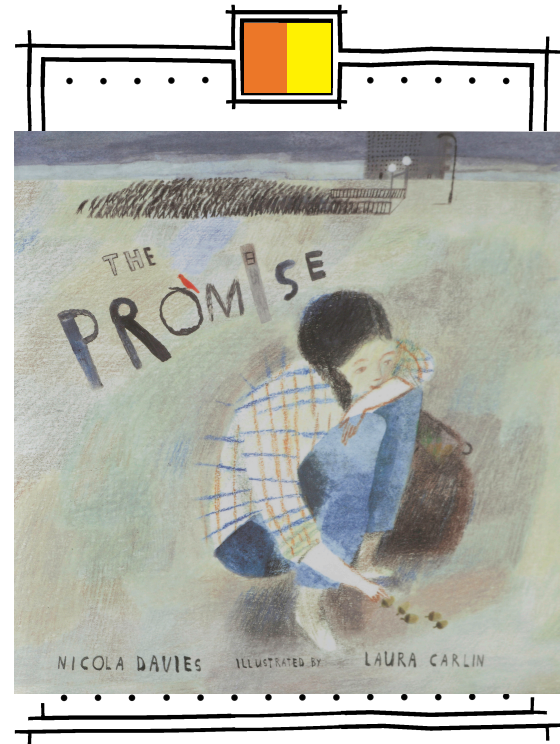
This book is singular in that it does not take one position on this earth matter. It attempts to show a balance, a middle path literally, and in doing so, provides the reader with choices that are not polarised and also perhaps more real.



37

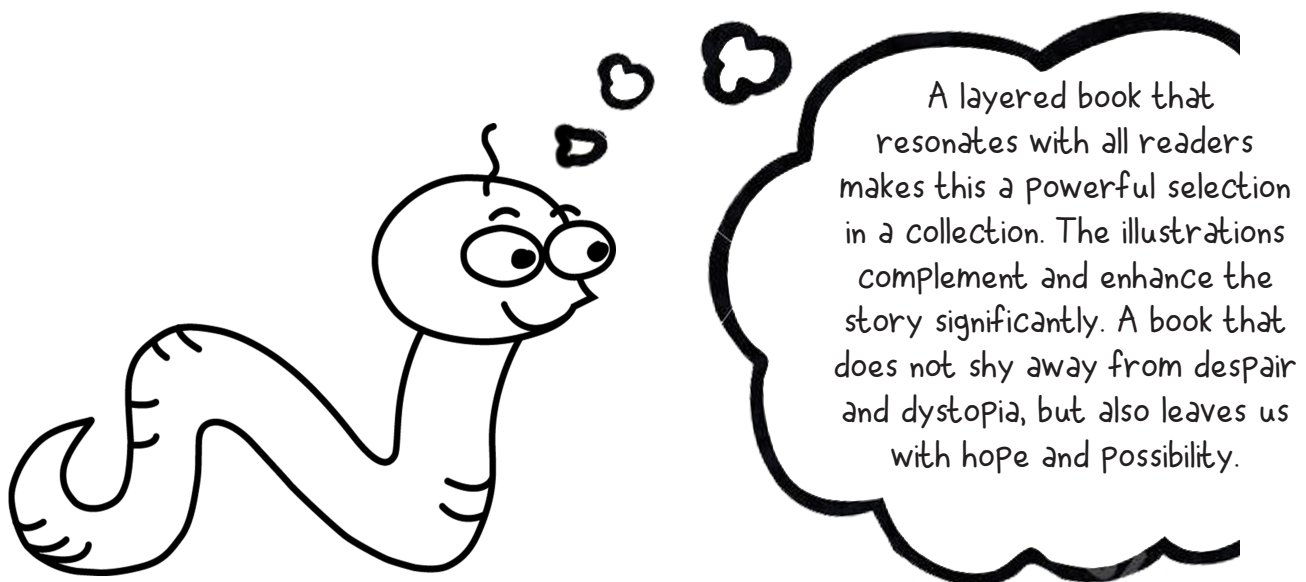
The Promise

Author: Nicola Davies
Illustrator: Laura Carlin
Publisher: Candlewick Press (2013)
ISBN: 978-0-7636-9303-9
Price online: *Rs. 369 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

The book is both deeply personal and ecological. Nicola Davies manages this balance with Laura Carlin most effectively. The book offers us choices of living in harmony with illustrations that change the way you see the world.



A layered book that resonates with all readers makes this a powerful selection in a collection. The illustrations complement and enhance the story significantly. A book that does not shy away from despair and dystopia, but also leaves us with hope and possibility.

38

One World

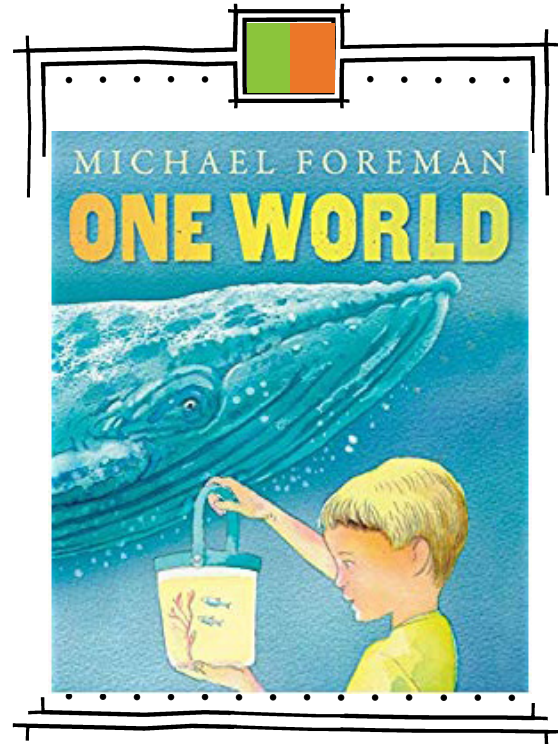
Author: Michael Foreman

Illustrator: Michael Foreman

Publisher: Andersen Press (2004)

ISBN: 978-1-8493-930-41

Price online: *Rs. 194* (Paperback)



ABOUT THE BOOK

Beautiful illustrations and “not-too-much text” make this a lovely read aloud. This is a picture book that begs readers to discuss not only the story but also the illustrations as Foreman gently depicts deforestation, air pollution and the threat of global warming.



A gasp-inducing visual essay by one of the best watercolour artists of the 21st century. Foreman addresses large issues that concern the entire world, through the smallest actions of the children in the book.

39 *Common Ground*

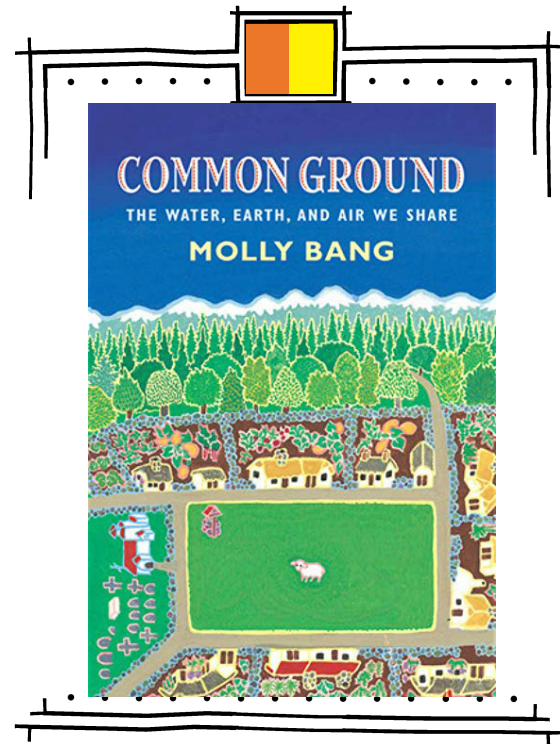
Author: Molly Bang

Illustrator: Molly Bang

Publisher: Blue Sky Press (1997)

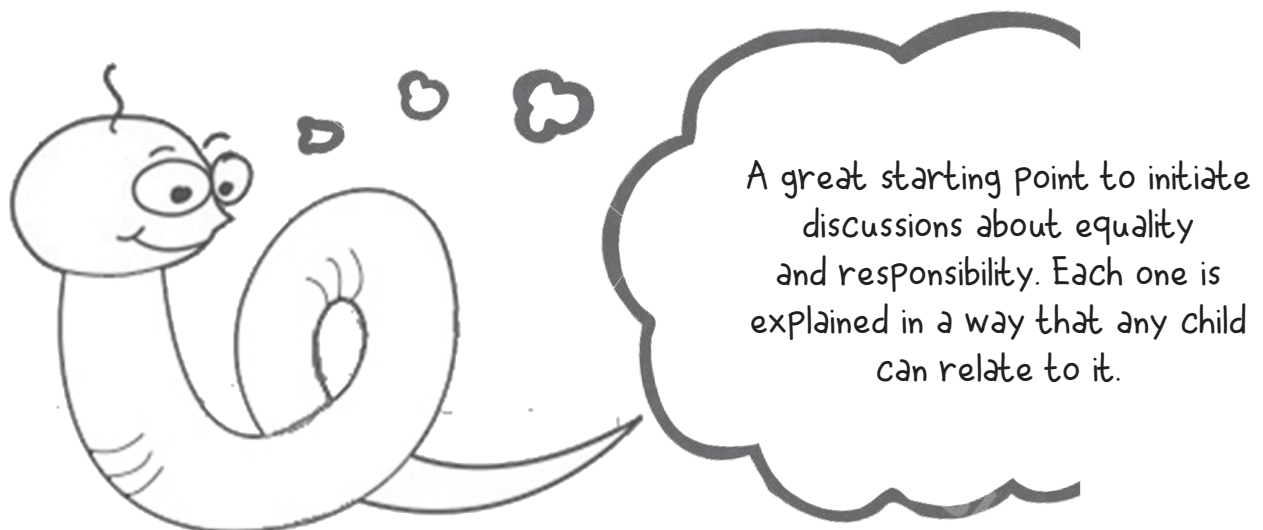
ISBN: 978-0-590-10056-4

Price online: *Rs. 1927* (Hardcover)



ABOUT THE BOOK

Molly Bang discusses a concept that is so simple that even young children can understand it. The question of who owns the “commons” is one which causes such violent disagreement that human society is yet to figure out how to address it. But if we do not address it, human life itself is in danger.

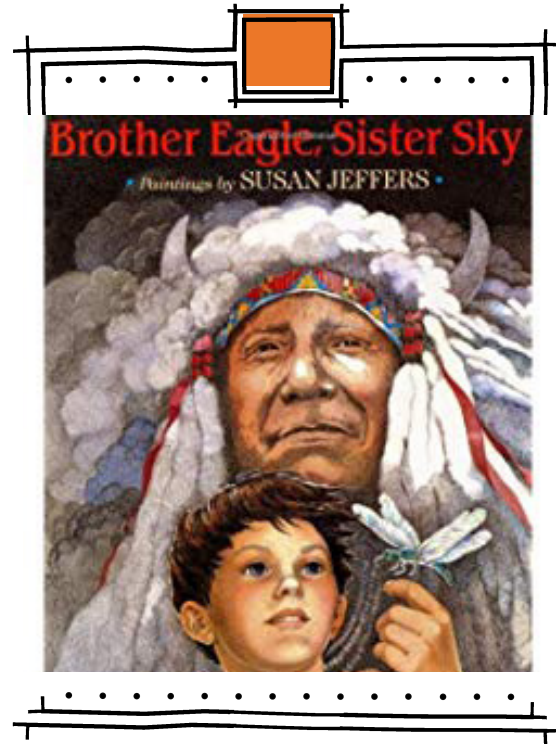


40

Brother Eagle Sister Sky



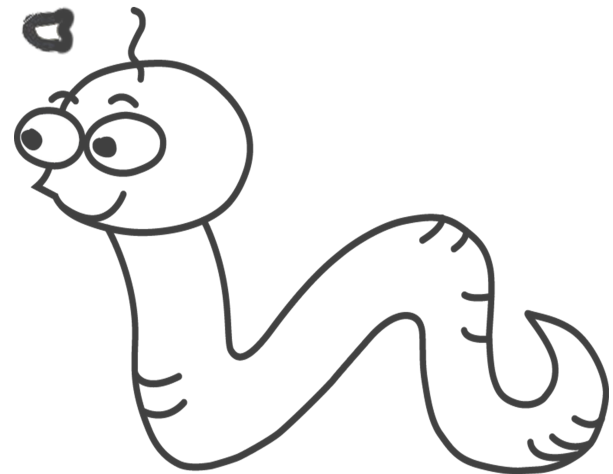
Author: Susan Jeffers
Illustrator: Susan Jeffers
Publisher: Dial Books (1991)
ISBN: 978-0-8037-0969-0
Price online: *Rs 526 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

The book is allegedly based and adapted from a speech by a native American chief. While there is great contention upon its non-fiction validity, the text remains a powerful telling about nature, our responsibility and matters of ownership, if at all.

Despite critical review of the perspectives and representation in this book, the core of what we think Chief Seattle's message was is, however, relevant today and we hold onto sharing of this text from that point of view. The skill of the paintings evokes the need for reflection and the text offers us an opportunity to talk about diversity and representation.



41

The Mountain That Loved a Bird

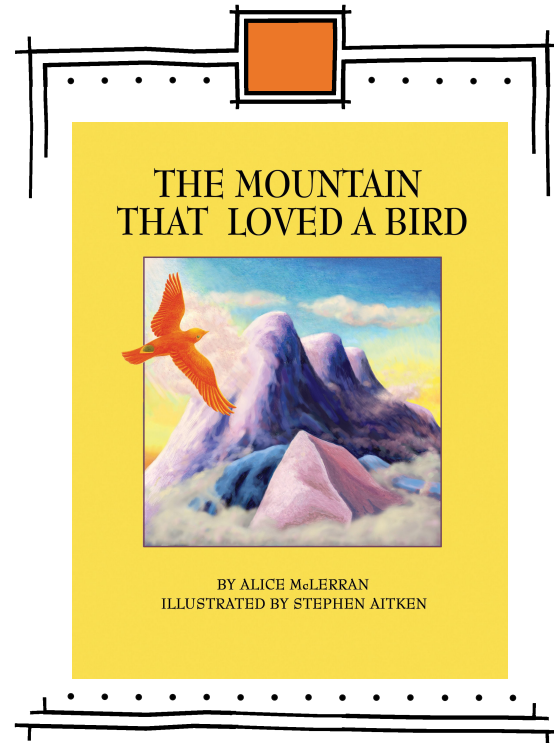
Author: Alice McLerran

Illustrator: Stephen Aitken

Publisher: Tulika (2018)

ISBN: 978-6-8983-319-9

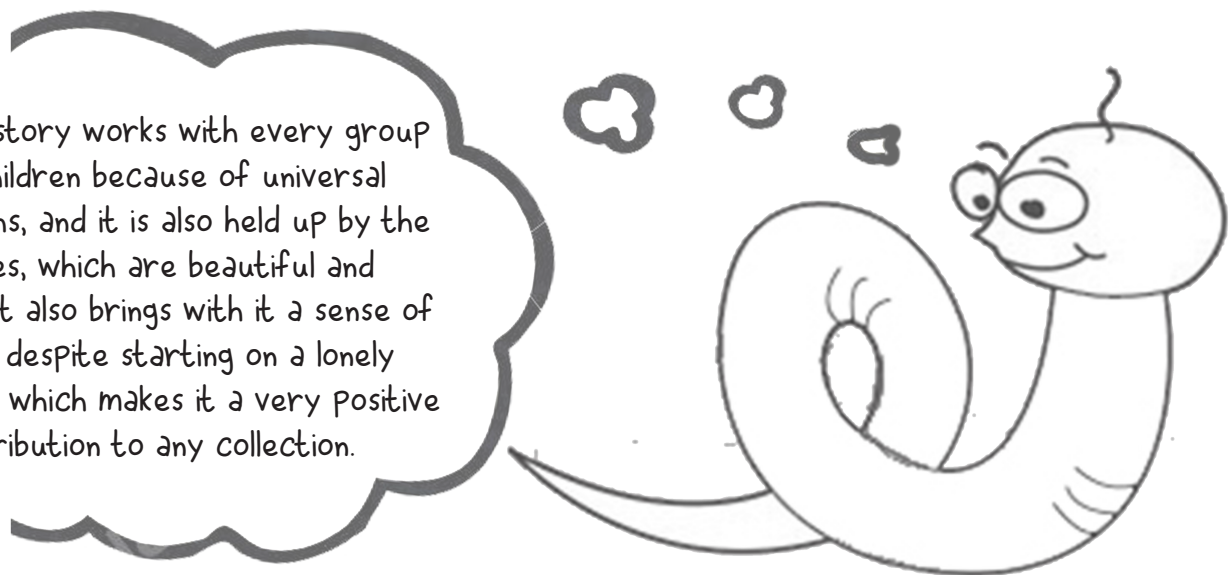
Price online: *Rs. 130 (Paperback)*



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.

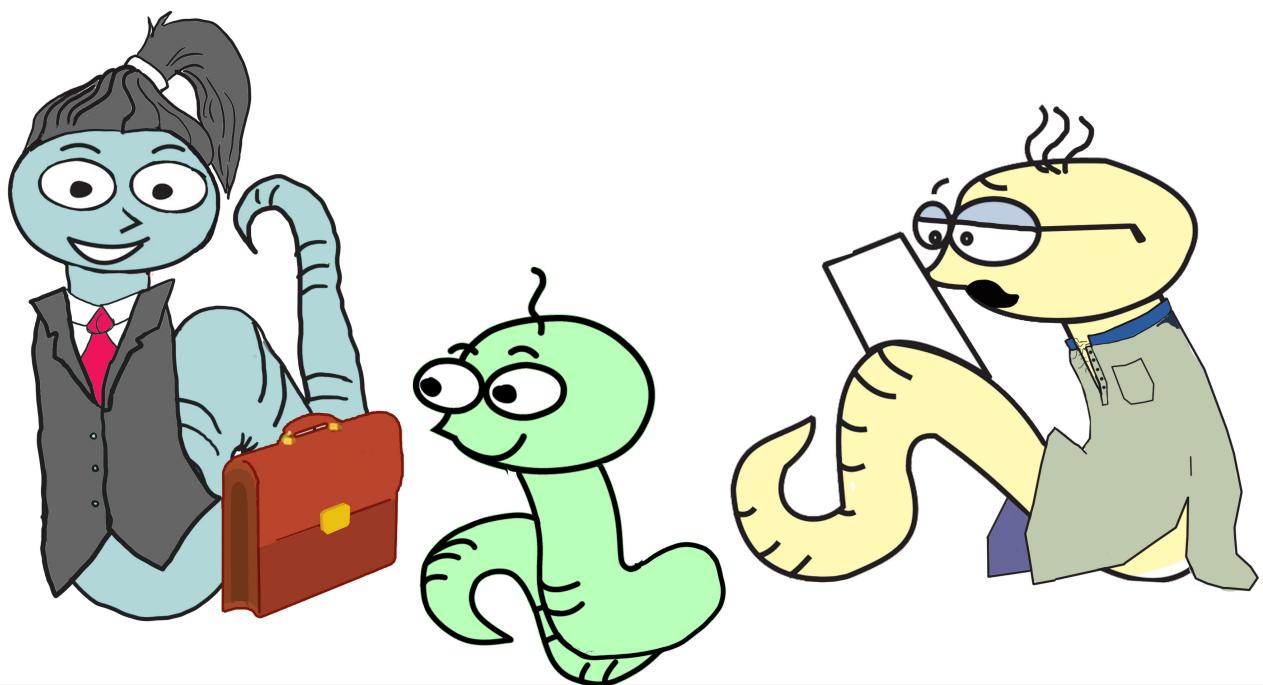


Family Ties

“ 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

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42

Ismat's Eid

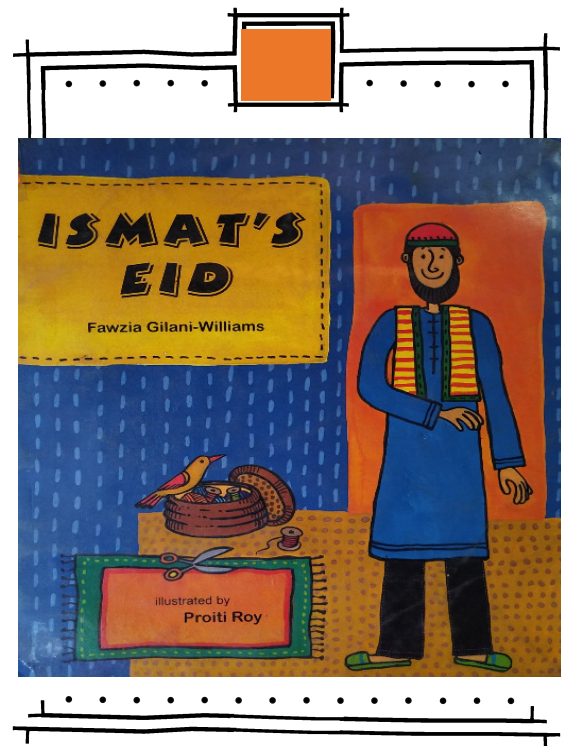
Author: Fawzia Gilani-Williams

Illustrator: Proiti Roy

Publisher: Tulika (2007)

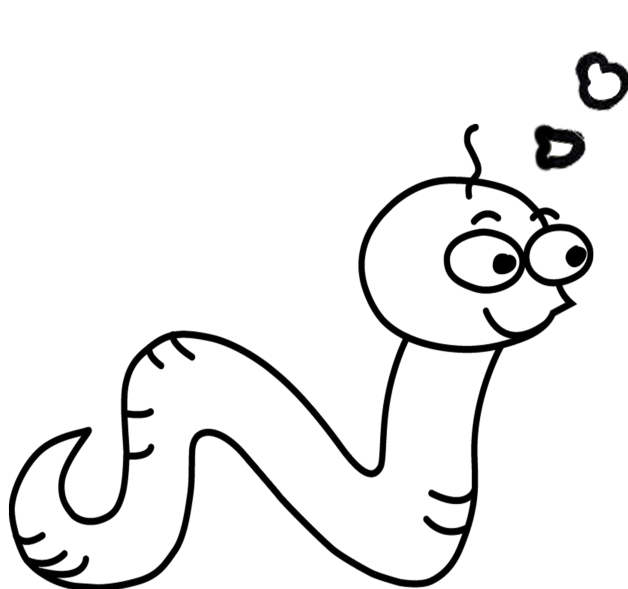
ISBN: 81-8146-405-2

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.

43

Nasreen's Secret School



Author: Jeanette Winter
Illustrator: Jeanette Winter
Publisher: Beach Lane Books (2009)
ISBN: 978-1-4169-9437-4
Price online: *Rs.1111 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A true story set in Afghanistan during the Taliban rule. This story is about a grandmother and her desire to normalise her granddaughter's world by sending her to school. However, the Taliban did not permit girls to study, and this makes up the plot of the story, revealing the daring of everyone in it.



We chose this story for the dramatic plot it unfolds in the face of a difficult situation. However, beyond that, it is the story of a courageous grandmother who cares deeply for the well-being of her granddaughter despite the unknown fate of her children.

44 *A Bubble*

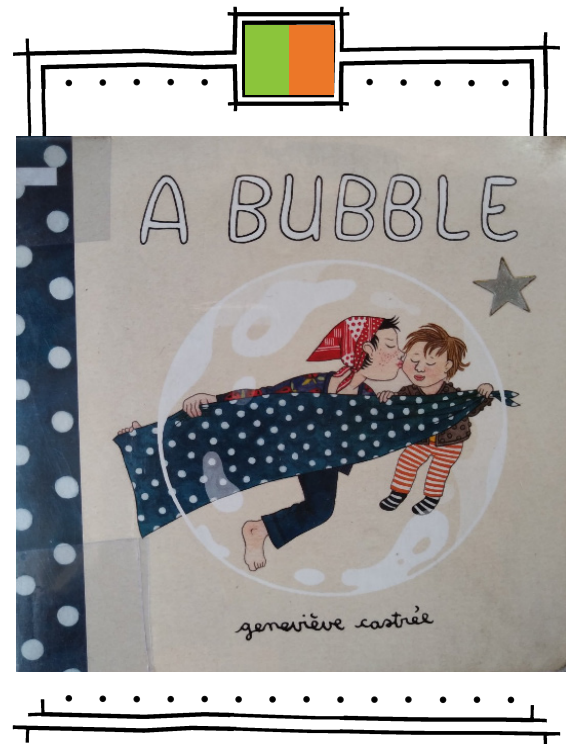
Author: Genevieve Castree

Illustrator: Genevieve Castree

Publisher: Drawn & Quarterly (2018)

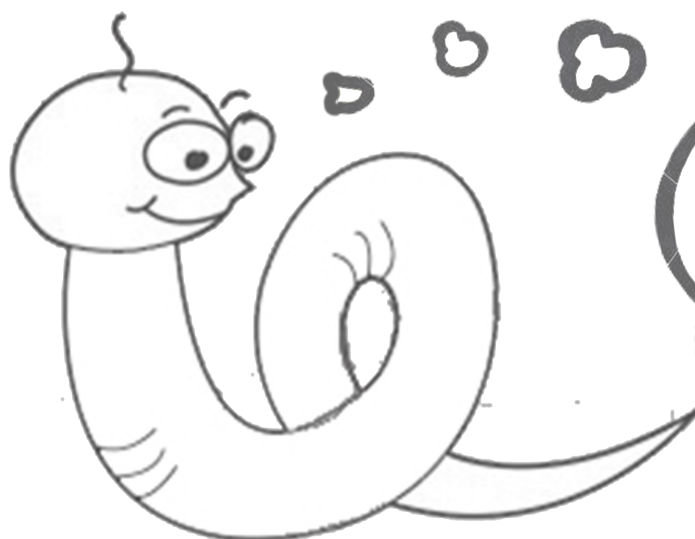
ISBN: 978-1770463219

Price online: *Rs.1111 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A book about sickness and care, told through a bubble that separates mother from child. It is a beautifully written story of a mother who is sick and her relationship with her child during her isolating illness.



Not all family life is characterised by well-being and good health. We selected this book for the boldness of theme around intense quarantine that does not permit a mother to be physically present and available for her child. The tender illustrations and the metaphor of the bubble enable the reader to understand the pain and separation of mother and child, and also to talk about it from their own lived experience.

45

We Wanted You

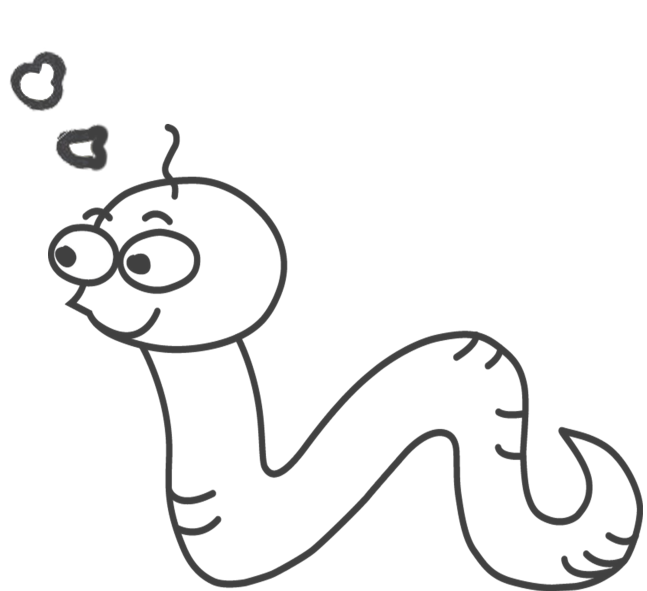
Author: Liz Rosenberg
Illustrator: Peter Catalanotto
Publisher: Roaring Book Press
(2002)
ISBN: 978-0-7613-1597-1
Price online: *Rs. 1327 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A young man is preparing to leave for college. His parents reminisce about their longing for a child, the preparation for adoption and their memories as they raised him.

The story portrays adoption in a positive manner and presents the couple's longing and acceptance of a boy in their lives, while the illustrations simultaneously present the boy's life with them from the time he enters their life as a baby to being a proud young man leaving for college. This book allows us to introduce a different kind of family to the reader.



46

A Chair For My Mother



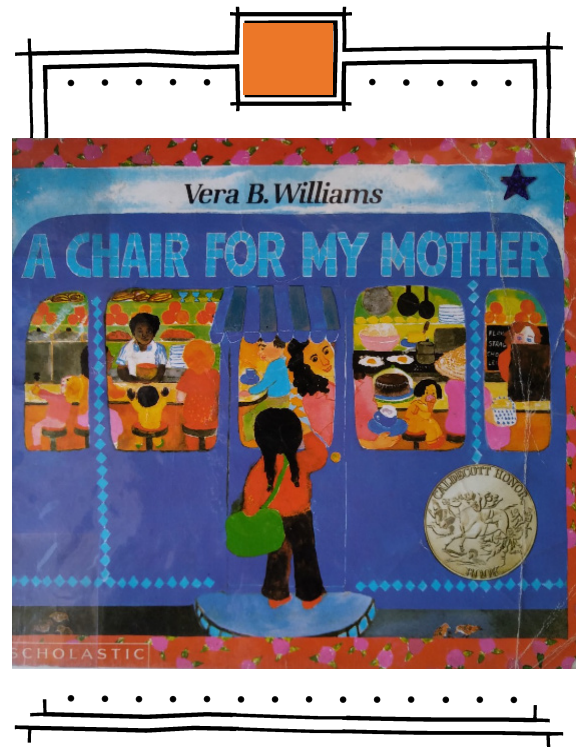
Author: Vera B. Williams

Illustrator: Vera B. Williams

Publisher: HarperCollins (1982)

ISBN: 0-590-33155-8

Price online: *Rs. 427 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

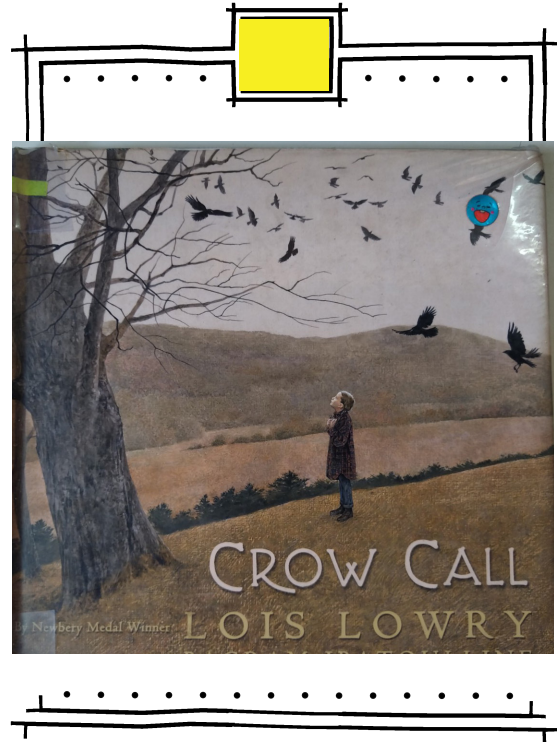
A Caldecott Honour winner, this story is about a family that has lost everything that they owned in a fire. While the extended family and community support them in rebuilding their lives, there is something that the family must do together to recover their sense of joy and comfort.

This story brings out the strength and dedication of the small close-knit family to overcome a tragedy that has befallen them suddenly. The illustrations depict the warmth between the characters and the community around them.



47

Crow Call

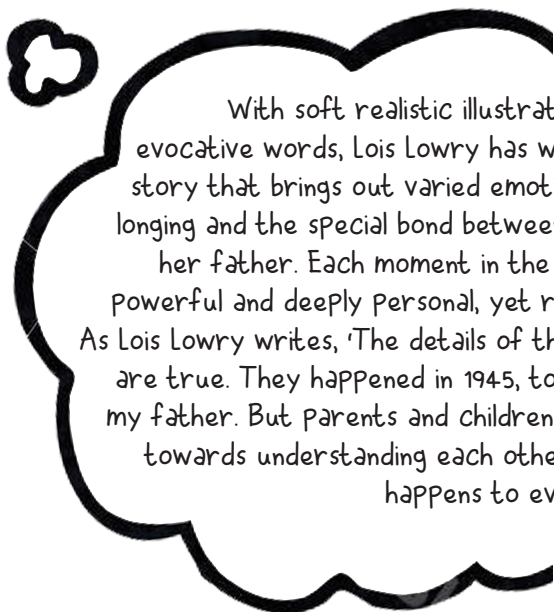
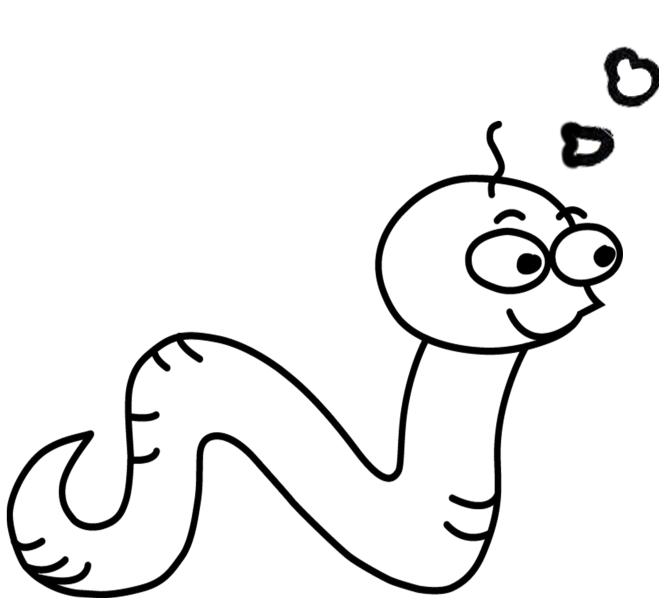


Author: Lois Lowry
Illustrator: Bagram Ibatoulline
Publisher: Scholastic Inc. (2009)
ISBN: 978-0-545-03035-9
Price online: Rs. 1236 (Hardcover)



ABOUT THE BOOK

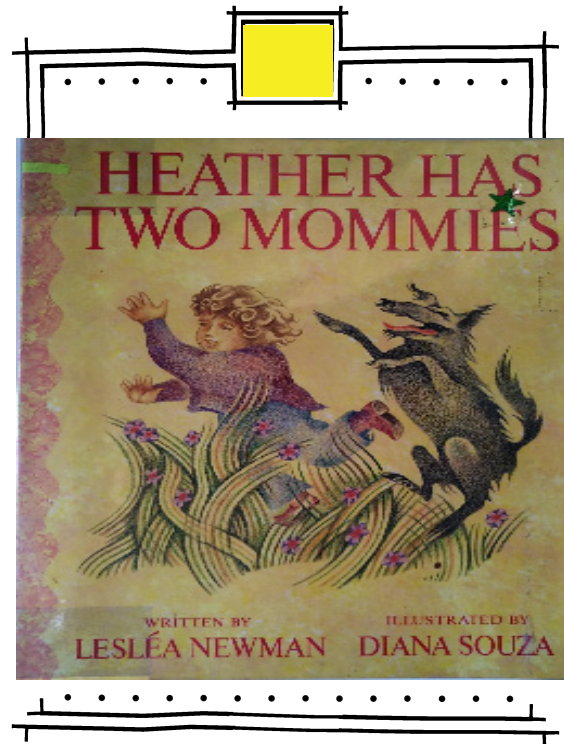
Based on the writer's own life events, *Crow Call* is a sensitive portrayal of the relationship between a young girl and her father, who has just returned from war. It allows us to consider families that are disrupted by distant work engagements and absent parenthood experiences.



With soft realistic illustrations and evocative words, Lois Lowry has written a story that brings out varied emotions, the longing and the special bond between Liz and her father. Each moment in the story is powerful and deeply personal, yet relatable. As Lois Lowry writes, 'The details of this story are true. They happened in 1945, to me and my father. But parents and children groping towards understanding each other - that happens to everyone.'

48 *Heather Has Two Mommies*

Author: Leslea Newman
Illustrator: Diana Souza
Publisher: Alyson Books (1989)
ISBN: 1-55583-180-X
Price online: Rs. 4042 (Paperback)



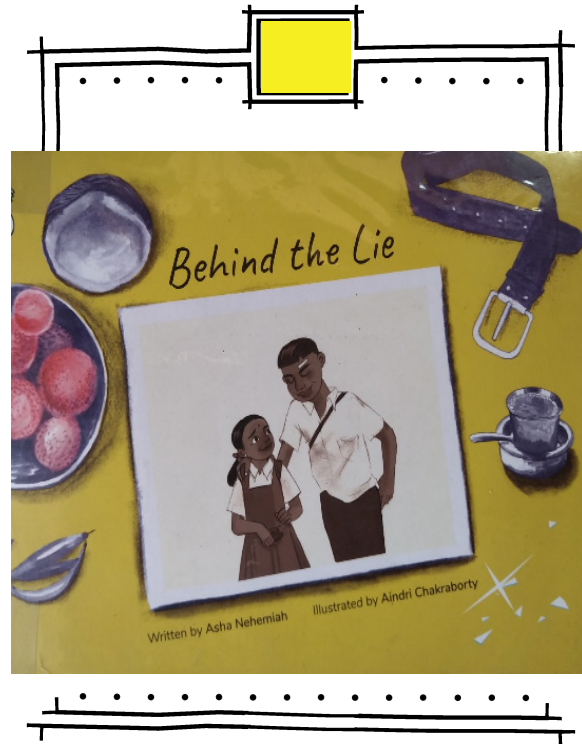
ABOUT THE BOOK

A children's book that breaks all norms of a traditional family, *Heather has Two Mommies* is the story of young Heather, who is born to and raised by two lesbian mothers. First published in 1989, this book raised many controversial arguments because of its portrayal of a same-sex couple and their young daughter. However, the central message that comes through the book is one of a happy family life.



Simply narrated, with accompanying black and white illustrations, this story opens up the idea of family: to be defined not by the gender or composition of the parents, but by the love and acceptance that exists in a family. A perfect book to open up discussions on family diversity and the need for acceptance and inclusion of all kinds of families.

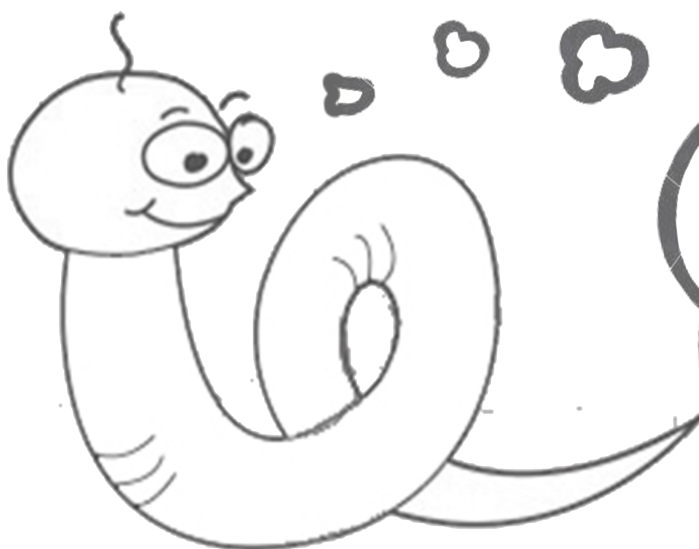
49 *Behind the Lie*



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.

50

Allison

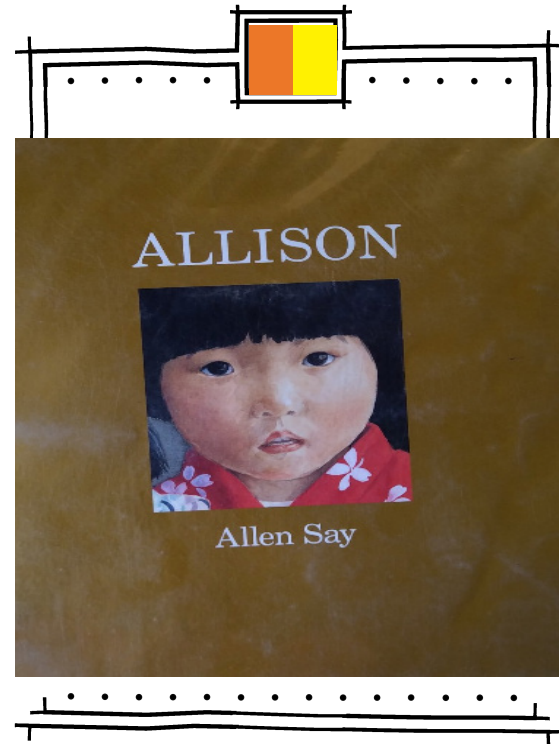
Author: Allen Say

Illustrator: Allen Say

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin
Company (1997)

ISBN: 978-0-618-49537-5

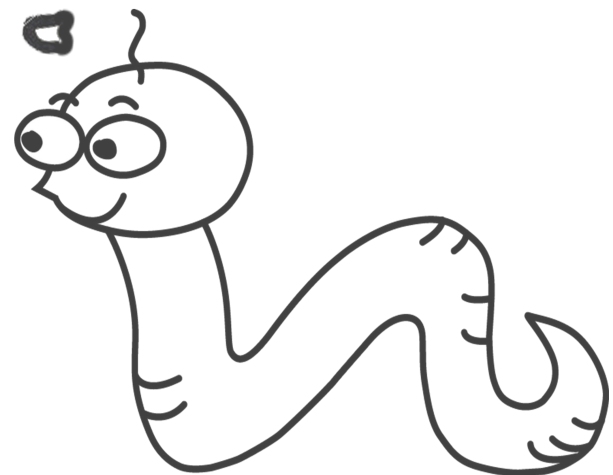
Price online: *Rs. 670 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Allen Say shows through his outstanding illustrations and simple narrative the struggle an adoptee may encounter at a very young age about belonging and trust in a new family. The story with two narratives, gently bobbing side by side, comes together in the end to show a marked growth in realisation of the protagonist and the gentle ever-present, yet not overbearing, support of the parents.

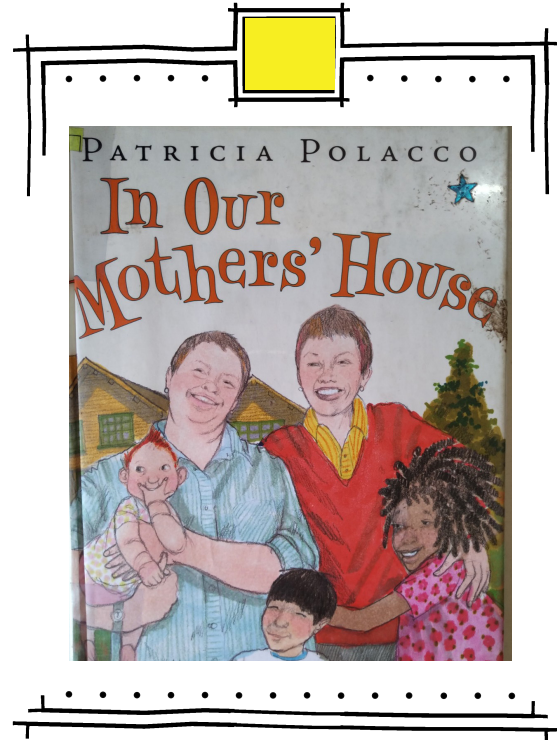
This book opens up the space to think and talk about adoption and interracial families. It begets the question of what makes a family and whether we have to look like each other to feel that we belong in a family. Children are immediately drawn to the confusion that Allison experiences and her reactions are well understood, including the dramatic turnaround at the end.



51 *In Our Mother's House*



Author: Patricia Polacco
Illustrator: Patricia Polacco
Publisher: Philomel Books (2009)
ISBN: 978-0-399-25076-7
Price online: *Rs.1119 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A unique family characterised not just by two same-sex parents, but multiracial children, all framed by the home that is filled with love.

The romantic, love-filled mood of the story is contrasted against the introduction of an angry, non-accepting neighbour, and this allows us to pause and think about social acceptance around families that break the norm for us as readers and members of society. Patricia Polacco uses her illustrative and writing gifts to a wonderful advantage in this story, where a family live and grow by their own rules.



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

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52 *Lights for Gita*

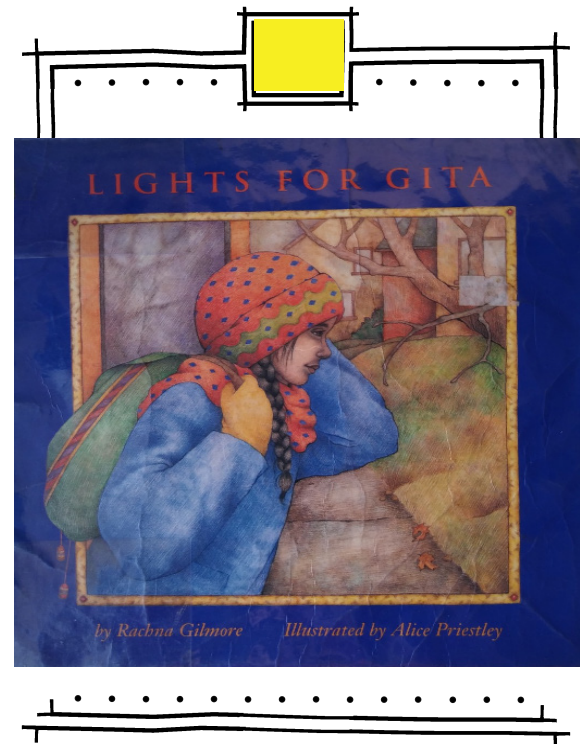
Author: Rachna Gilmore

Illustrator: Alice Priestley

Publisher: Second Story Press (1994)

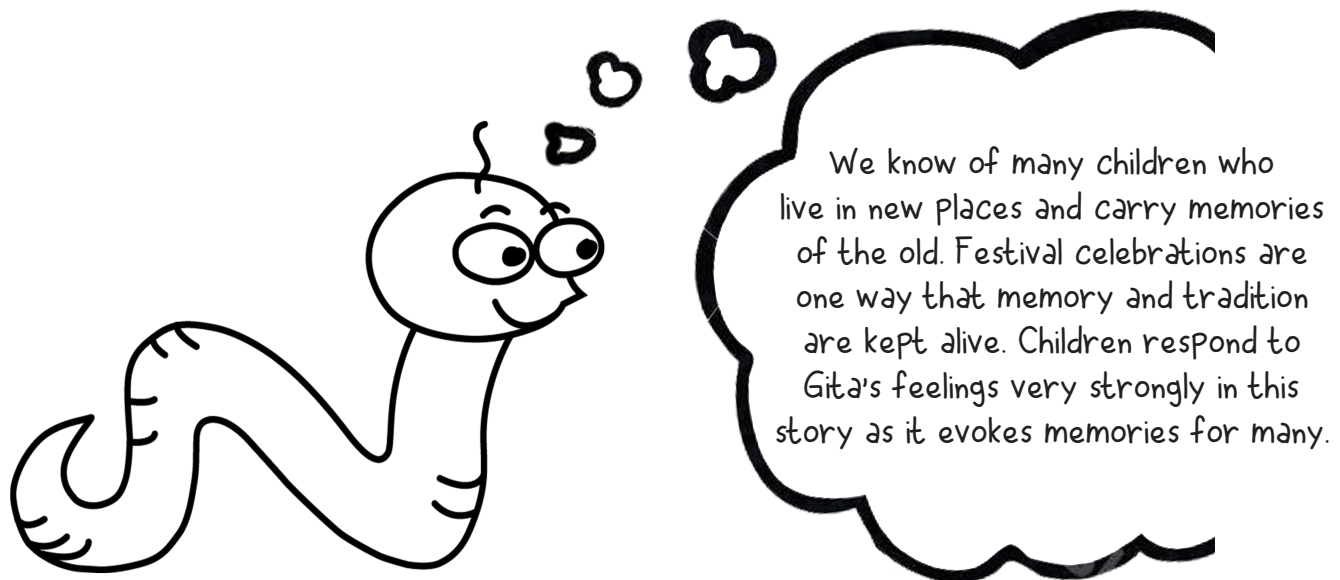
ISBN: 9780884481515

Price online: *Rs. 359 (Paperback)*



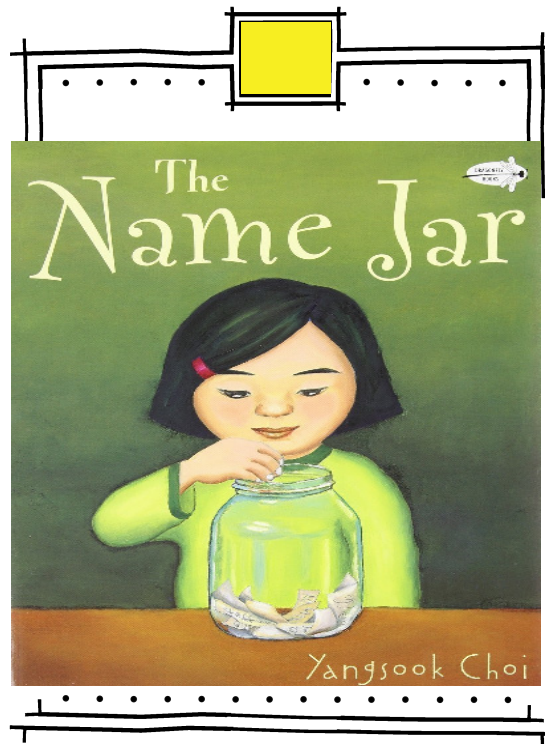
ABOUT THE BOOK

Gita has recently emigrated from India and is looking forward to celebrating Divali in her new home, in a new country. The cold winter of November, and the dark and rainy weather, however, make it hard for Gita to envision celebrating the Festival of Lights in such a setting.



53 *The Name Jar*

Author: Yangsook Choi
Illustrator: Yangsook Choi
Publisher: Dragonfly Books (2001)
ISBN: 978-0-440-41799-6
Price online: *Rs. 238 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Unhei's shift from Korea to America makes her unsure about herself, her place in the new school and her own Korean name. The story follows Unhei's journey of adjustment, within a new culture and a new society. The illustrations in the book display a subtle contrast between Unhei's Korean identity and the new culture she finds herself adjusting to.

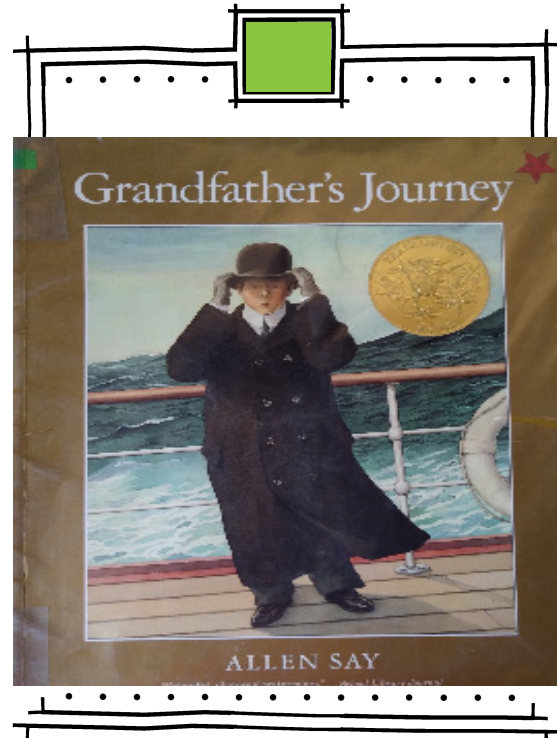


The Name Jar is a story that many children immediately relate to, because of naming identity. The book opens up conversations on how important our own identity is, and the influence of society, family and peers in shaping this identity. The story also highlights the value and meaning of one's own unique name, especially in the context of a new culture.

54 *Grandfather's Journey*

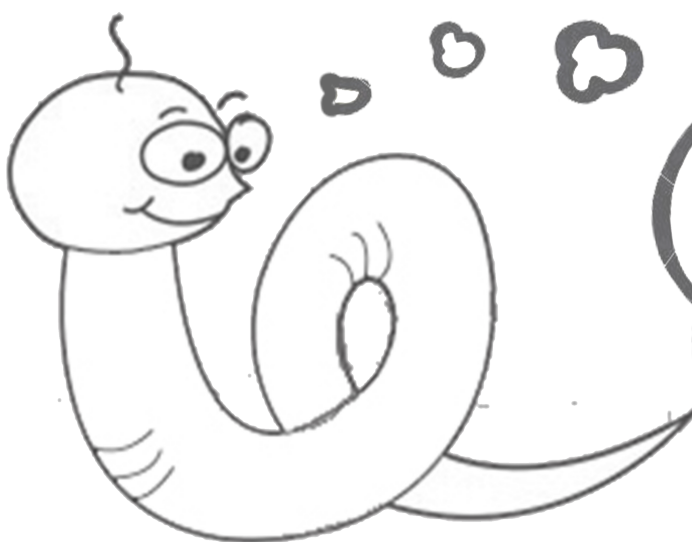


Author: Allen Say
Illustrator: Allen Say
Publisher: Sandpiper (1993)
ISBN: 978-0-547-07680-5
Price online: *Rs. 470 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

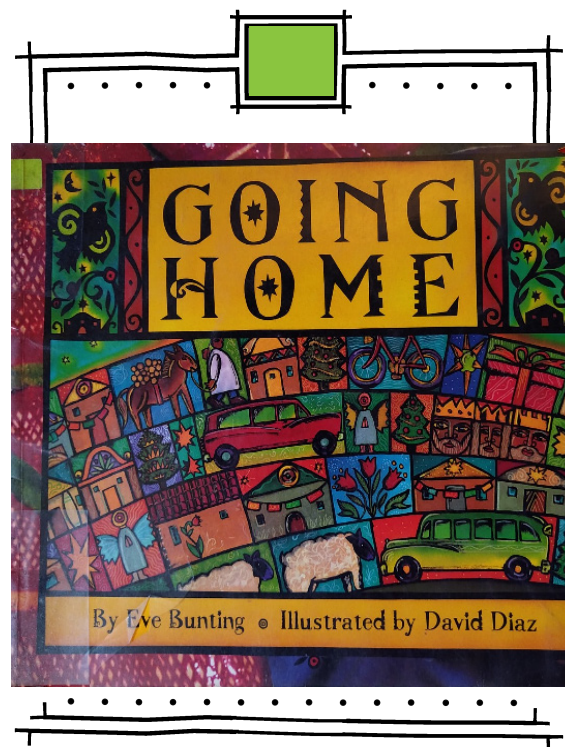
This book is Allen Say's loving tribute to his grandfather. Through beautiful subtle paintings, Allen Say describes his grandfather's journey from Japan to America and back to Japan. The book encompasses his grandfather's feelings of not being completely satisfied in either place, as a part of him always belonged to the other place.



Allen Say's watercolour paintings make this book a very special addition to the collection. The illustrations provide an almost flash photographic visual experience. Readers are struck by how a story can be narrated so powerfully through images, and we find they respond to this strongly and very positively.

55 *Going Home*

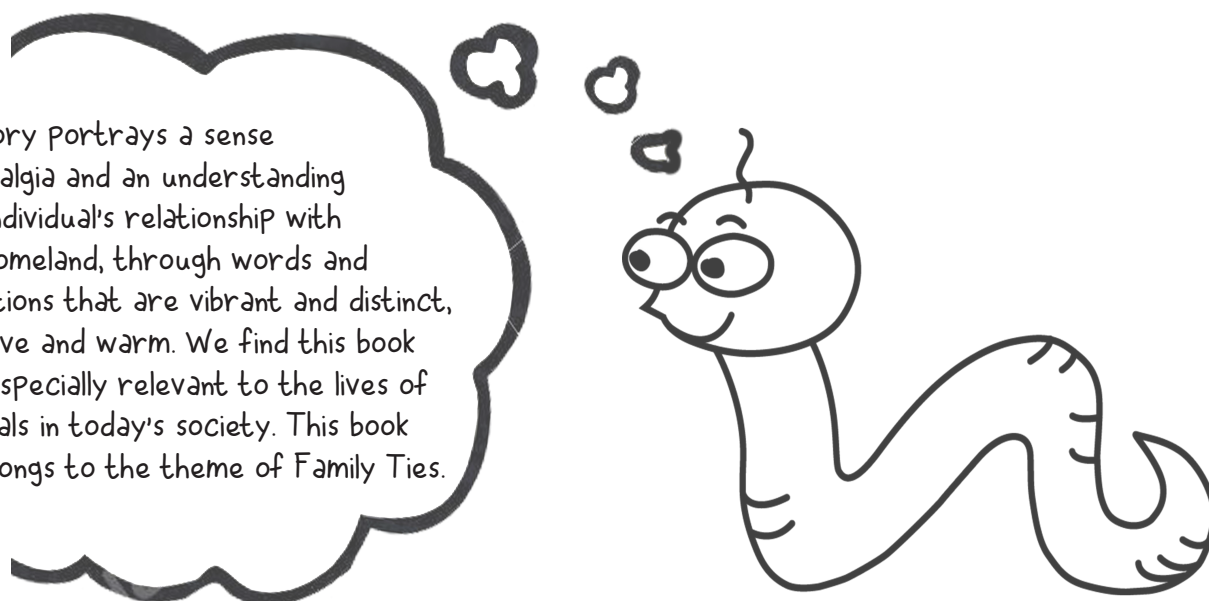
Author: Eve Bunting
Illustrator: David Diaz
Publisher: HarperCollins (1996)
ISBN: 978-0-06-443509-3
Price online: *Rs. 631 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Going Home is about the return of a family to their home. The story is filled with anticipation, and through bright illustrations and few words, the author has portrayed varied aspects of Mexican culture, a parent's longing for 'home' and a universal feeling of home is where one's family is.

The story portrays a sense of nostalgia and an understanding of an individual's relationship with their homeland, through words and illustrations that are vibrant and distinct, evocative and warm. We find this book to be especially relevant to the lives of individuals in today's society. This book also belongs to the theme of Family Ties.



56 *Sitti's Secrets*



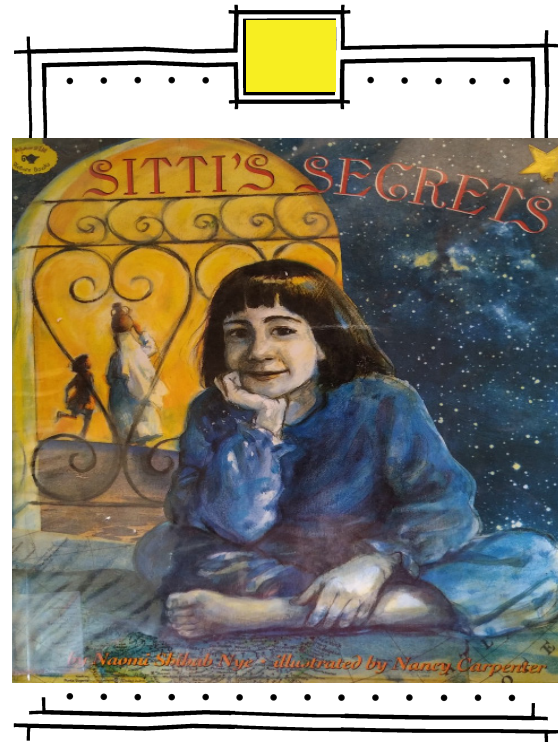
Author: Naomi Shihab Nye

Illustrator: Nancy Carpenter

Publisher: Aladdin Paperbacks
(1994)

ISBN: 978-0-689-81706-9

Price online: *Rs. 384 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Mona, a little girl brought up in America, describes her experience of journeying from America to Palestine to meet her grandmother. Although they do not speak the same language, she and her grandmother find their own special way of communicating with each other.

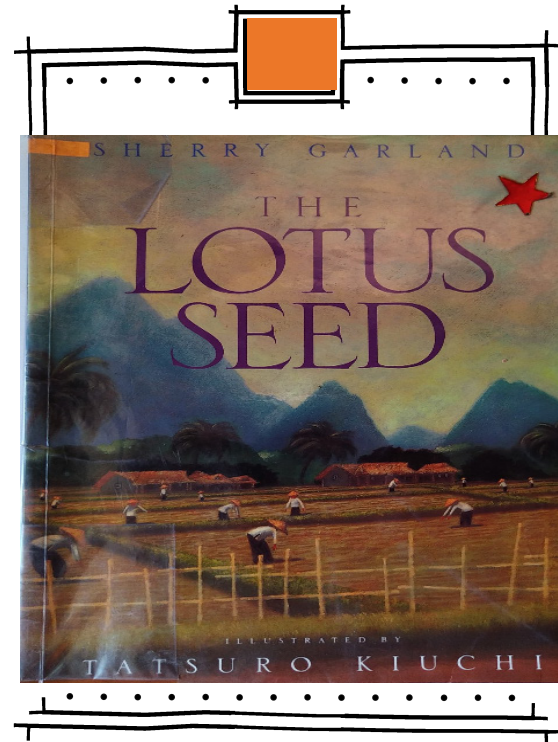
This book is a gentle reminder of how the effects of war permeate down to every person and every relationship. There is no hard political angle to the story, but the ending to this story puts across a message subtly but clearly.



57 *The Lotus Seed*

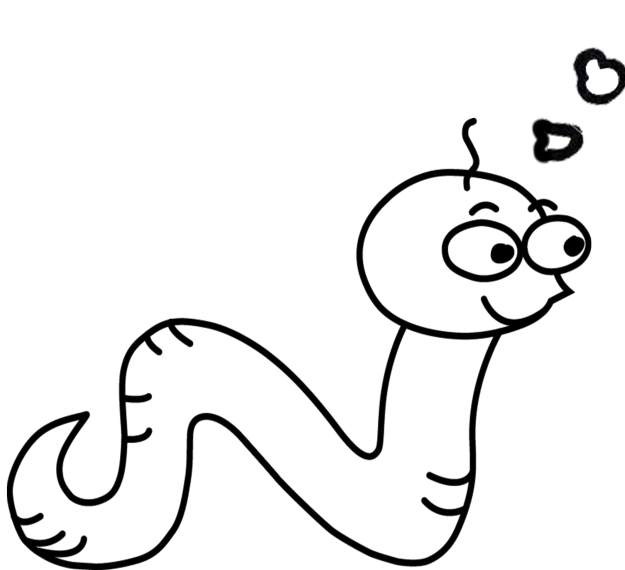


Author: Sherry Garland
Illustrator: Tatsuro Kiuchi
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
(1993)
ISBN: 978-0-15-201483-4
Price online: *Rs. 471 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A young girl from Vietnam has to flee her country because of civil war, and adapt to a new life in America. The only possession she brings with her from Vietnam is a lotus seed, a symbol of all that was left behind.



The Lotus Seed portrays how memory is often carried through artifacts and other concrete objects that we hold close to us as symbols of times and places gone by. We find this book to be a sensitive story that beautifully captures raw feelings of loss, displacement and also of hope.

58 *The Treasure Box* 

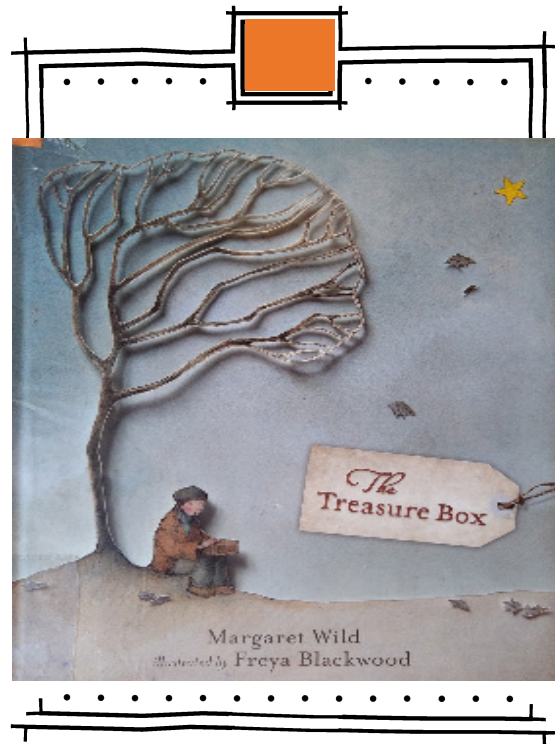
Author: Margaret Wild

Illustrator: Freya Blackwood

Publisher: Candlewick Press (2013)

ISBN: 978-0-7636-9084-7

Price online: *Rs. 1064 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Amidst war and devastation, Peter and his father flee from their hometown, carrying with them a treasure box holding the last remaining book from the library. This picture book conveys a sensitive portrayal of the devastating effects of war as well as the resilience and resistance of the human spirit.



The sensitivity and emotion conveyed through the beautiful unique torn paper illustrations and a few powerful words make this book a treasure for every library.

59

Stitching Stories

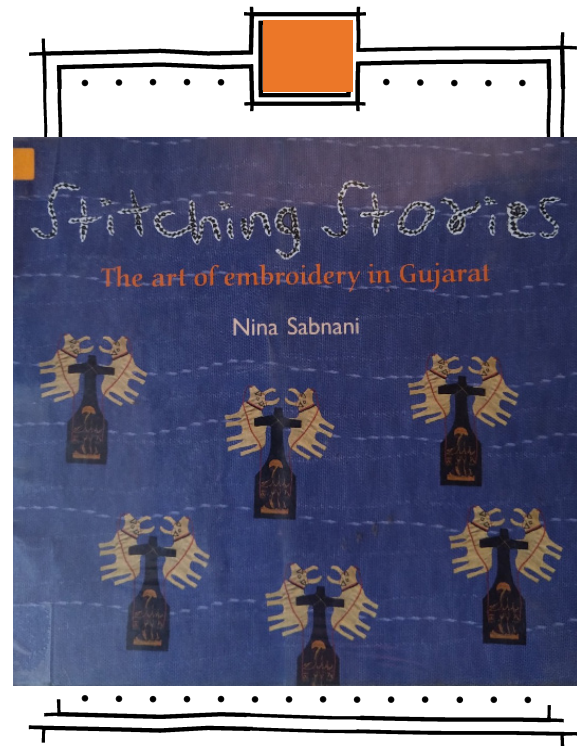
Author: Nina Sabnani

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 Raniben 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.

60 *Dia's Story Cloth*

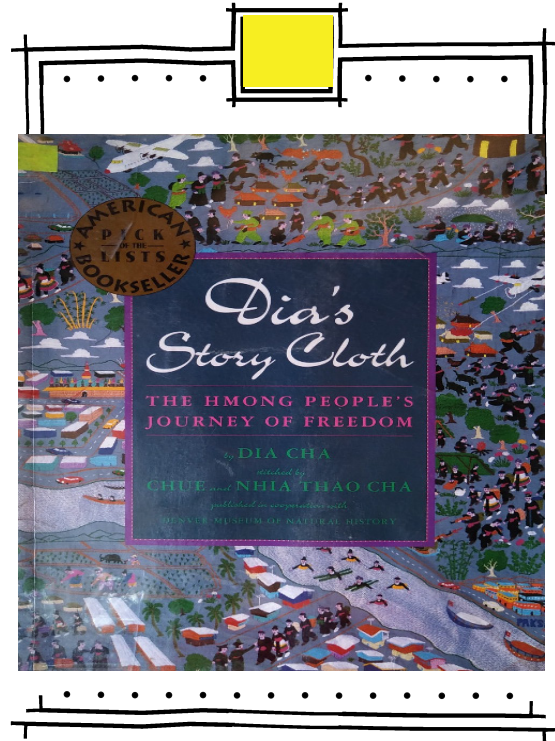
Author: Dia Cha

Illustrator: Chue and Nhia Thao Cha

Publisher: Lee & Low Books (2016)

ISBN: 978-1-880000-63-2

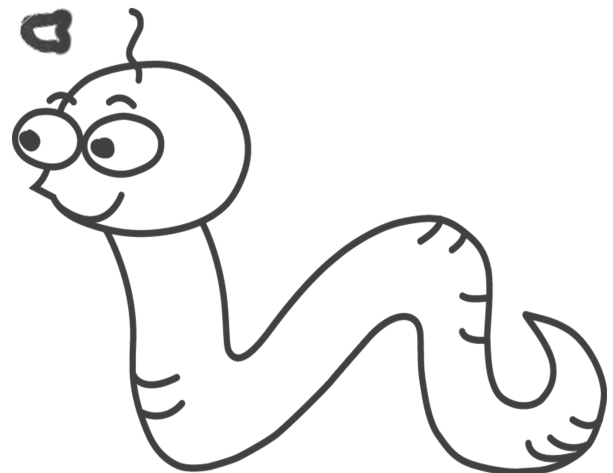
Price online: *Rs. 673 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Through her family's story cloth, Dia Cha narrates the story of the Hmong people and her own family's journey from China to refugee camps in Thailand, eventually ending up in America. As they move from place to place, seeking freedom to maintain their culture, the story cloth that they stitch their lives into becomes a bridge between their past and present.

The stitched illustrations narrate the story alongside the words. They lend authenticity and provide a glimpse of Hmong culture. We were drawn to this text because many Hmong men are the story stitchers, and this perspective opens up new dimensions during discussions.



61 *Mukand and Riaz*



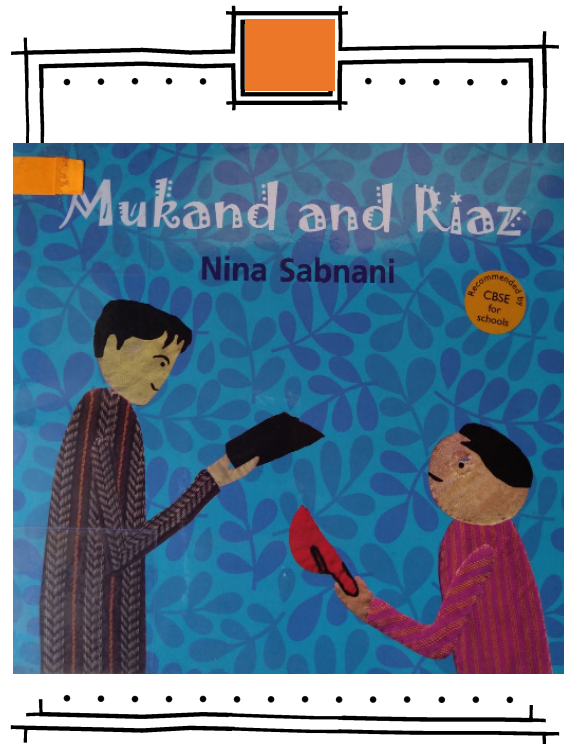
Author: Nina Sabnani

Illustrator: Nina Sabnani

Publisher: Tulika (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.

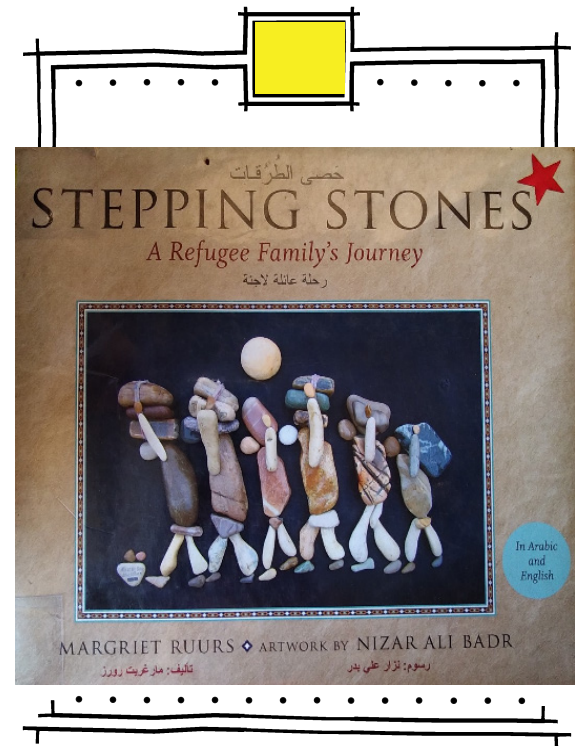
Told in a sensitive and meaningful manner, the story stays with you long after the last page is turned. The book expresses emotions from the point of view of a child and has a deeply moving ending. We find this book has been received in a thoughtful and understanding manner by children, who are always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



62 *Stepping Stones*

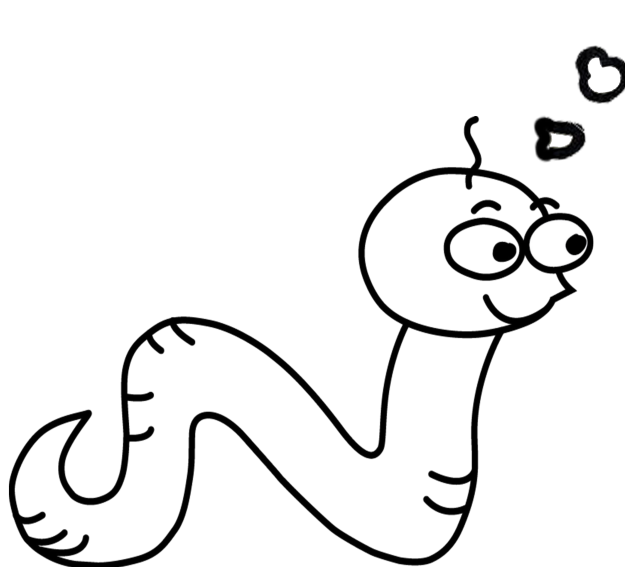


Author: Margriet Ruurs
Illustrator: Nizar Ali Badr
Publisher: Orca Book Publishers
(2016)
ISBN: 978-1-4598-1490-5
Price online: *Rs. 1265 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Told in simple words and beautiful stone illustrations, this is the journey of a family who are forced to flee their war-torn country and experience numerous hardships before they reach a place where they finally feel safe.



The illustrations in this book provide a stunning concrete accompaniment to the words, which bring alive the story of countless refugees in a sensitive and powerful manner.

63

The Journey

Author: Francesca Sanna

Illustrator: Francesca Sanna

Publisher: Flying Eye Books (2016)

ISBN: 978-1-909263-99-4

Price online: *Rs. 950 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A powerful, breathtakingly beautiful story, told from a young child's perspective. When the darkness of war descends on their homeland, two young children and their mother flee from their home, and journey across unknown lands, towards a place of safety and hope. The illustrations in the book are haunting and mesmerising in equal measure.



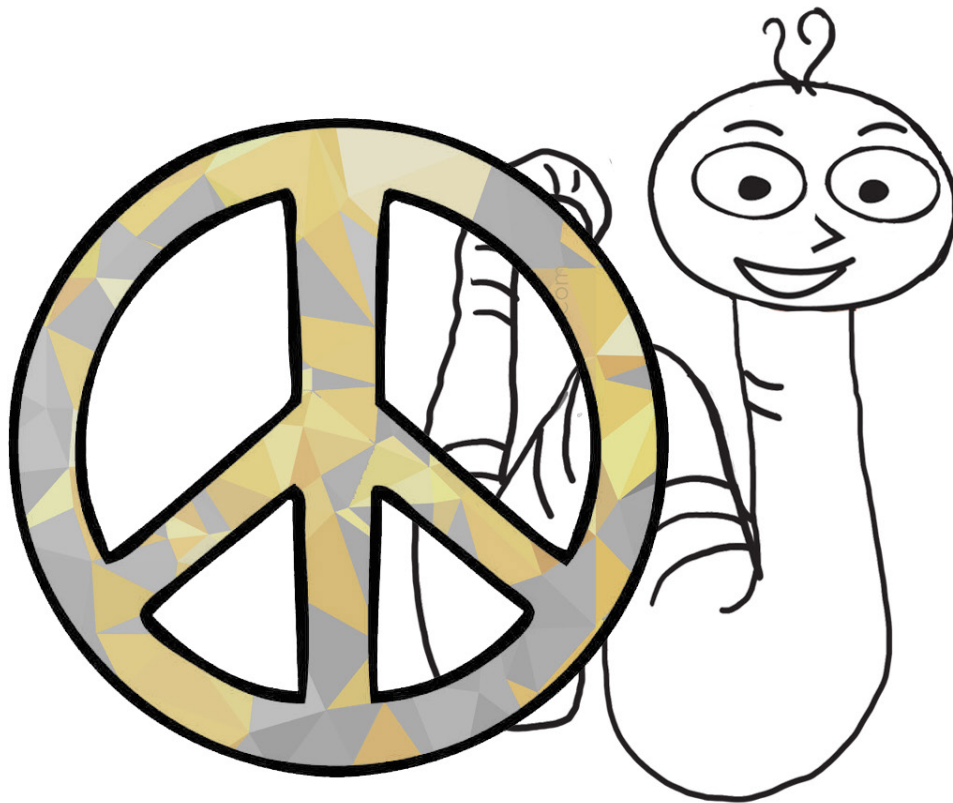
This book is one that uses powerfully evocative words and rich personified imagery to convey the story of most refugees. We find it to be touching, meaningful and hopeful.

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

The selections listed here move from the personal to the global.



Path to Peace

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64 Grandfather Gandhi

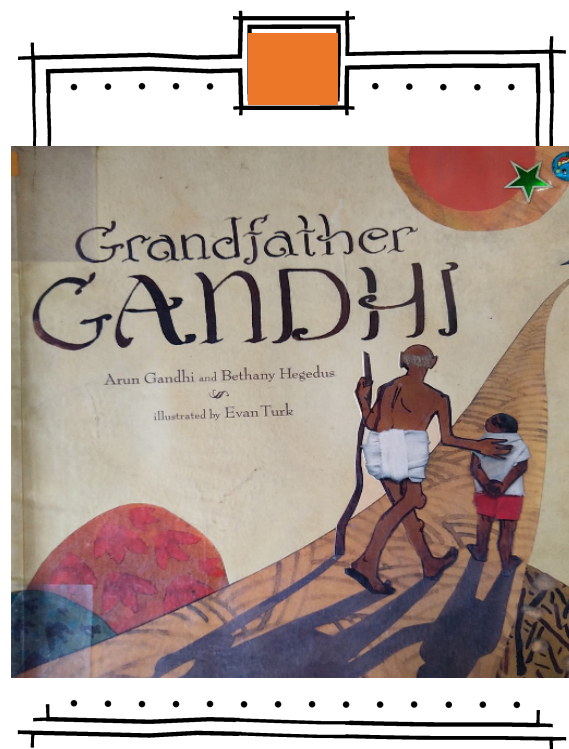
Author: Arun Gandhi and Bethany Hegedus

Illustrator: Evan Turk

Publisher: Atheneum (2014)

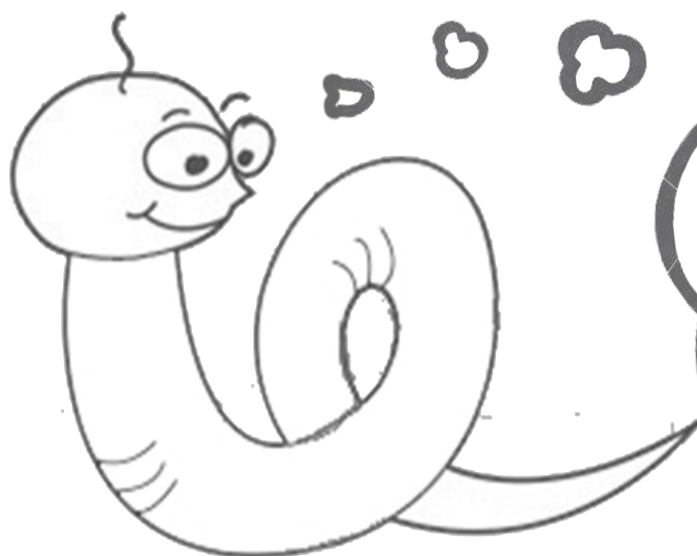
ISBN: 978-1-4424-2365-7

Price online: *Rs. 390 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

This story is set within the grounds of the Sabarmati Ashram and is told from Arun Gandhi's point of view. The story is about Arun learning from his grandfather about a way to channel anger and frustration. Evan Turk's use of shadows to enhance the mood of the story works well.



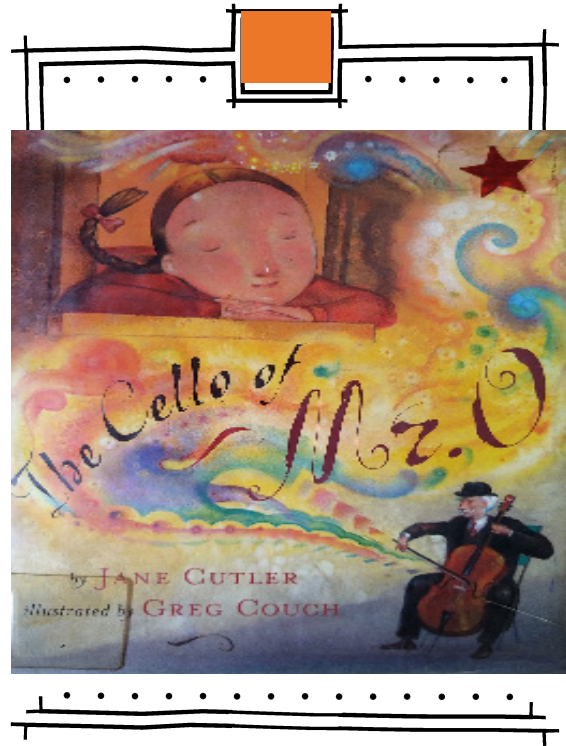
The central character is a hero, an ideal. But the narrative humanises Gandhi for the reader and enables one to relate to his humanness and his choices that made a peaceful path for many. We liked the book because it allowed us to see Gandhi as a human being first, and remember his acts of greatness after that. We strongly feel stories like this belong in collections as peaceful pathway opportunities.

65

The Cello of Mr O

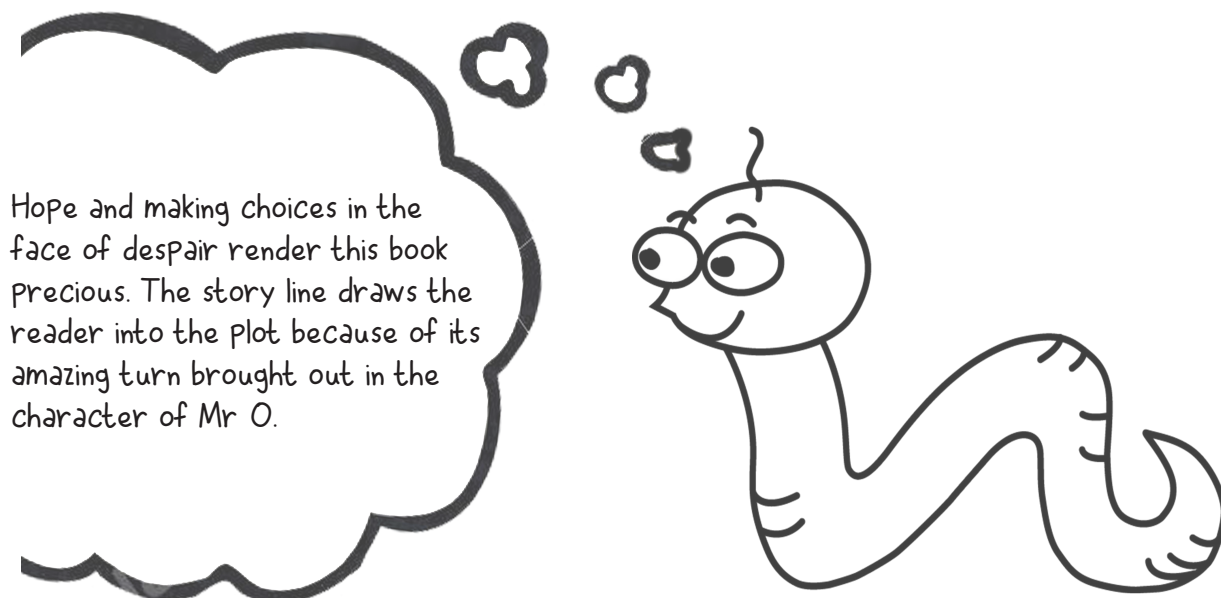


Author: Jane Cutler
Illustrator: Greg Couch
Publisher: Dutton Children's Books
(1999)
ISBN: 978-0-525-46119-7
Price online: *Rs. 1500 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

When there is war in the city that does not even permit the relief truck to bring food to the square, Mr O makes a difference. He reminds the community about sounds that can bring peace and hope and does not give up even when his cello is hit by a bomb.

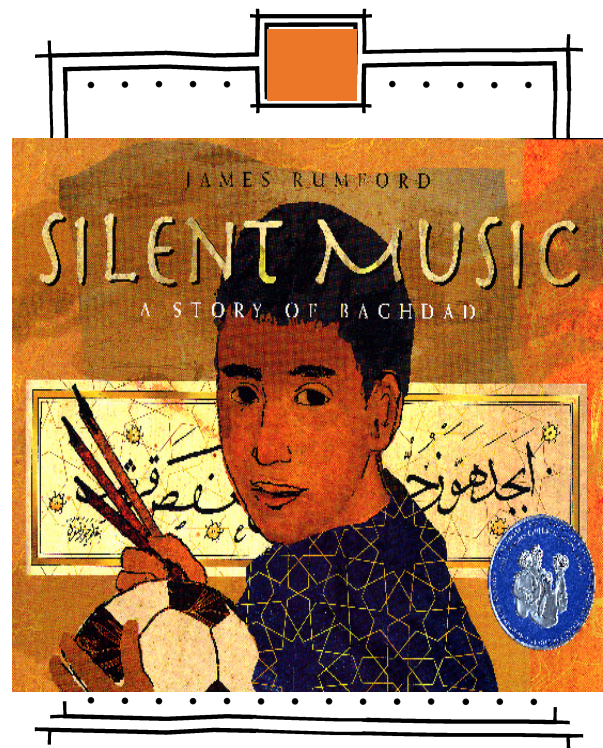


Hope and making choices in the face of despair render this book precious. The story line draws the reader into the plot because of its amazing turn brought out in the character of Mr O.

66 *Silent Music*



Author: James Rumford
Illustrator: James Rumford
Publisher: Roaring Brook (2008)
ISBN: 978-1-59643-276-5
Price online: *Rs. 703 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

This is a story about a boy in Baghdad who wants peace. It is sensitively narrated from Ali's point of view and offers us a thought-provoking alternative to how our family heritage can bring us strength. Ali is inspired by Yakut, a 13th-century calligrapher, and chooses calligraphy as a way to 'drown out the sound of bombs'.

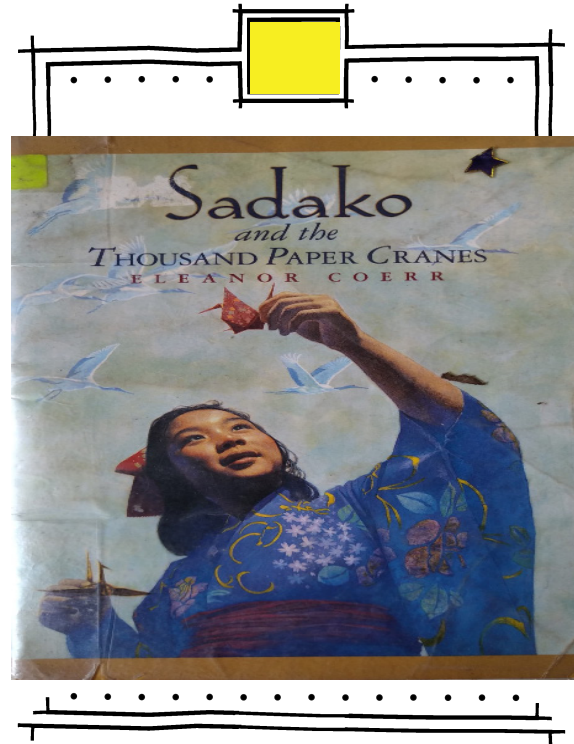
Perspective is a rich dimension of why we choose this text. We enter into an Arabic world, with Arabic calligraphy, and stunning illustrations that illuminate a culture. In this book the link between word and image is powerfully presented.



67

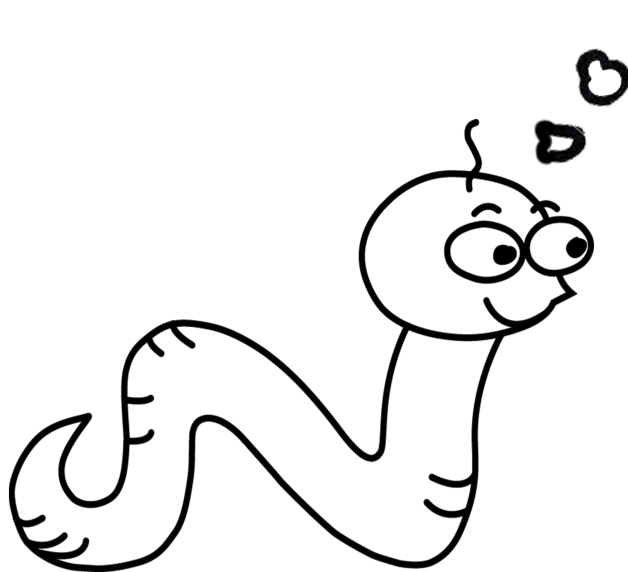
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes

Author: Eleanor Coerr
Illustrator: Ed Young
Publisher: Puffin Books (1999)
ISBN: 978-0-399-21771-5
Price online: *Rs. 258 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A recasting of the novel makes this an accessible text for young readers. The picture book continues to present the heartwarming story of a young girl, Sadako and her quest for peace. A story that reminds us about courage and hope.



Illustrations by Ed Young provide stunning visuals that have dual meanings that enhance the story. A collection of Anti-War books cannot be complete without a reminder about Hiroshima, and yet, this story invites us to enter the personal world and engage from that point of view.



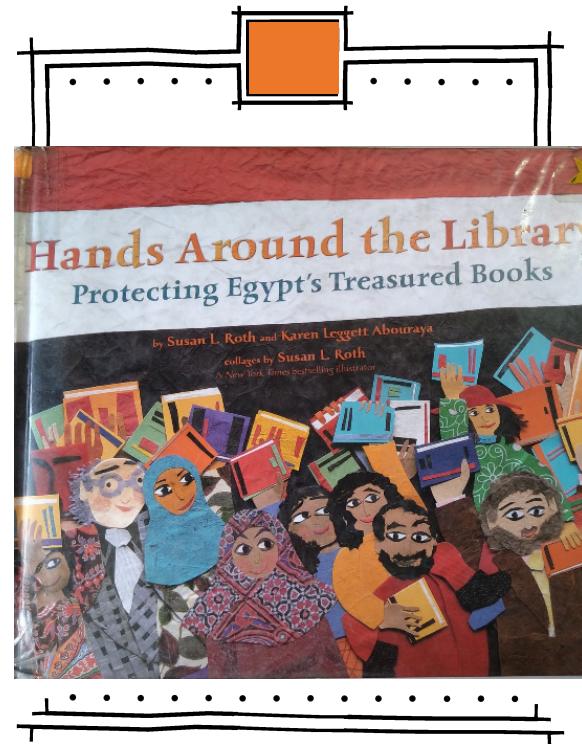
Author: Susan L Roth and Karen Leggit Abouraya

Illustrator: Susan L Roth

Publisher: Dial Books for Young Readers (2012)

ISBN: 978-1-101-64724-0

Price online: *Rs. 658 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A stunning recreation of a historical event during the Arab Spring in Egypt. The event is retold in the voice of the librarian, who is the narrator. Anger and unhappiness are explained to provide a context for the revolution that followed and the place of the library in that difficult time. The book shows us how a pathway to peace is possible when a community comes together. Beautifully illustrated with paper collage, it includes extensive and well-detailed back matter to be considered a strong addition to this section.



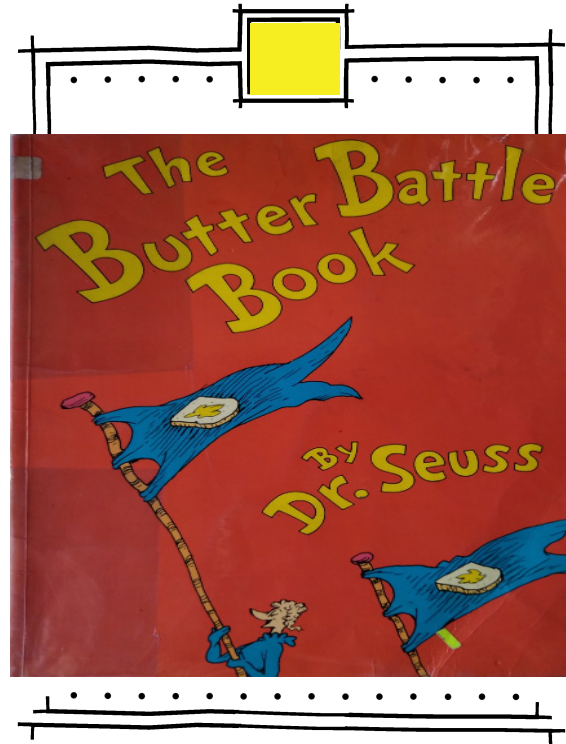
The heady mix of ideas that emerge from this book, where the library is considered as a space for talk, action and reconciliation, make this a highly recommended text in the non-fiction picture book genre.

69

The Butter Battle Book

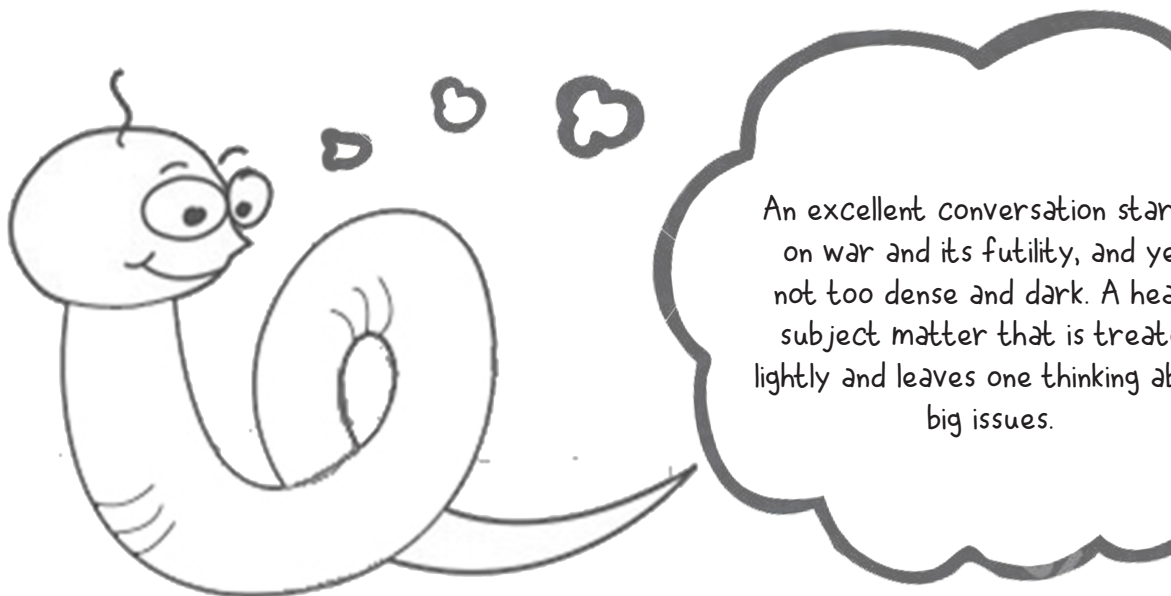


Author: Dr Seuss
Illustrator: Dr Seuss
Publisher: Random House (1984)
ISBN: 0-00-195005-1
Price online: *Rs. 559 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

An allegorical tale in the rhyming tradition of Dr Seuss, with groups called yooks and zooks. A powerful story that reminds us about the folly of destruction and the need to think about the arms race that began during the Cold War and continues today.

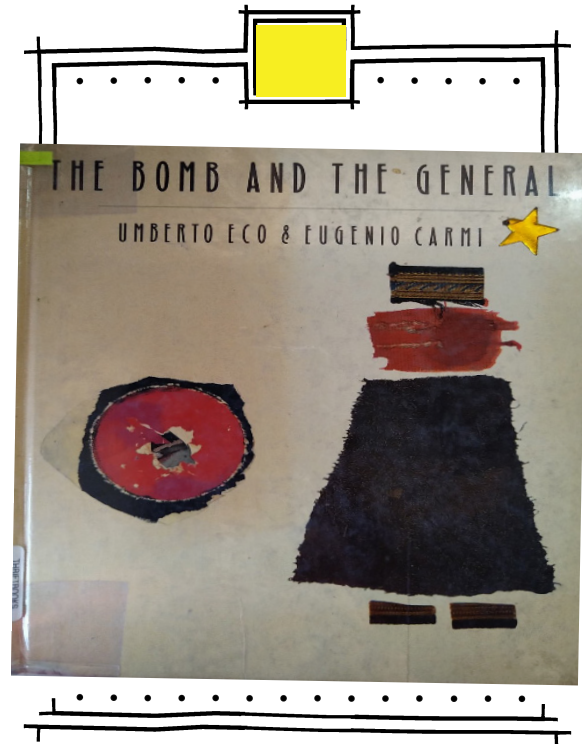


An excellent conversation starter on war and its futility, and yet, not too dense and dark. A heavy subject matter that is treated lightly and leaves one thinking about big issues.



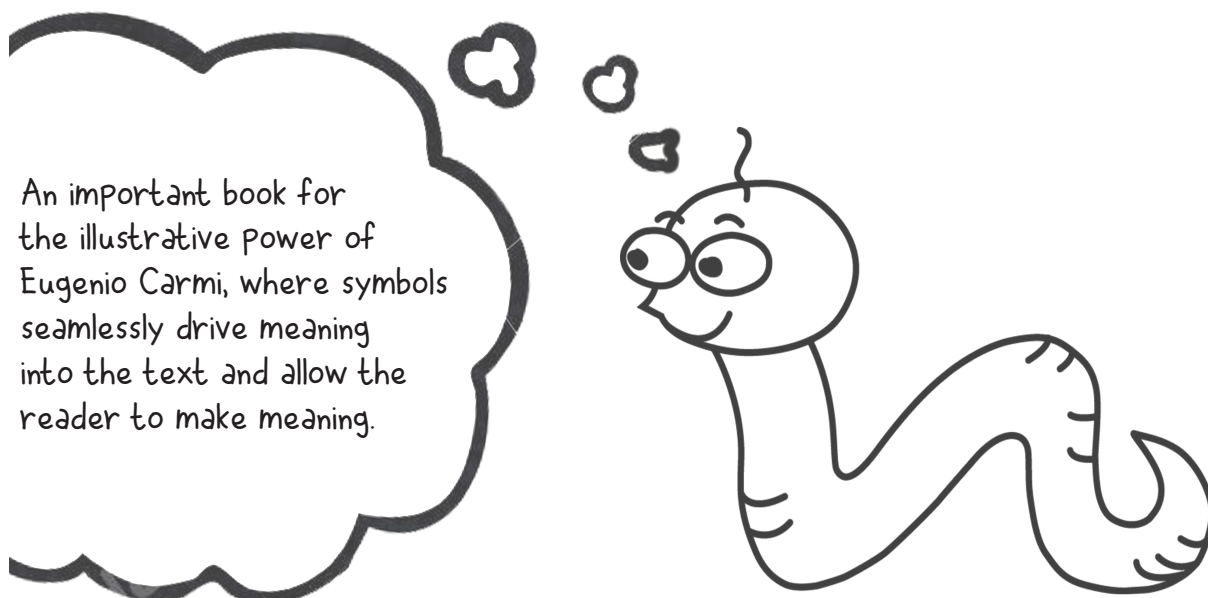
70 *The Bomb and The General*

Author: Umberto Eco
Illustrator: Eugenio Carmi
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin
Harcourt(1989)
ISBN: 0-15-209700-7
Price online: *Rs. 5628 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A timeless tale about a General who is full of himself and his power to destroy. Beautifully illustrated to show the futility of destruction and the subsequent reduction of the General to an ordinary man when his bomb fails to explode.



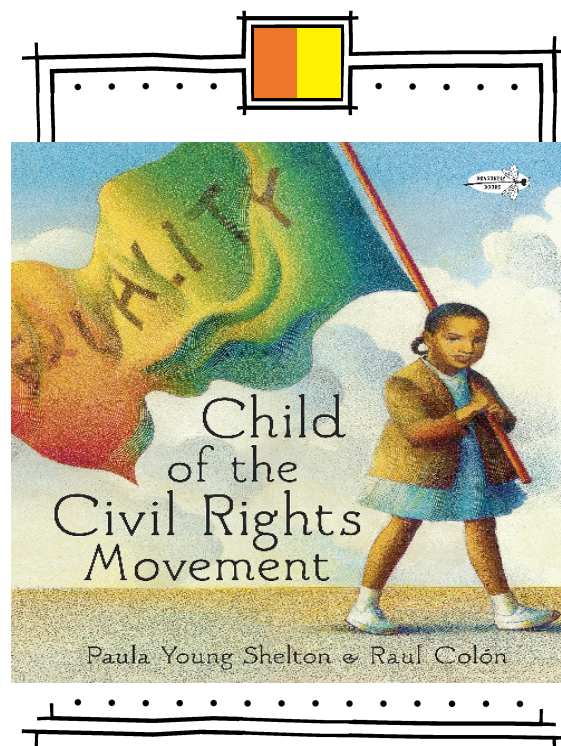
An important book for the illustrative power of Eugenio Carmi, where symbols seamlessly drive meaning into the text and allow the reader to make meaning.

71

Child of the Civil Rights Movement



Author: Paula Young Shelton
Illustrator: Raul Colon
Publisher: Dragonfly Books (2010)
ISBN: 978-0-385-37606-8
Price online: *Rs. 200 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

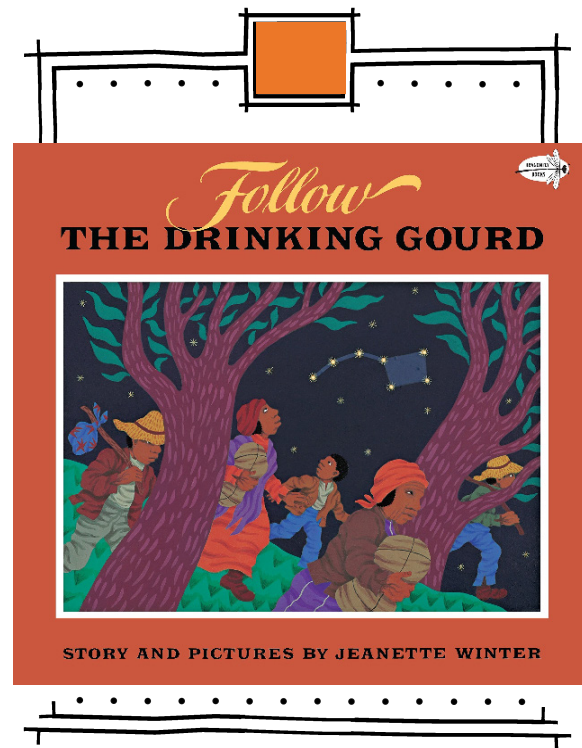
A riveting first-hand account of a child's experience of being right in the middle of the Civil Rights Movement. Paula Young Shelton, daughter of Civil Rights activist Andrew Young, recounts her childhood participation during the tumultuous times of being turned away from restaurants as an effect of the Jim Crow Laws.

A powerful book that brings the history of Civil Rights alive. We liked that it is presented from a child's point of view and is easily comprehensible by children and can elicit discussion about Civil Rights and its importance. It also has short biographies of key people who were involved closely in the Movement along with Martin Luther King Jr. The illustrations by Raul Colon gives the book a feel of an old photo album full of memories.



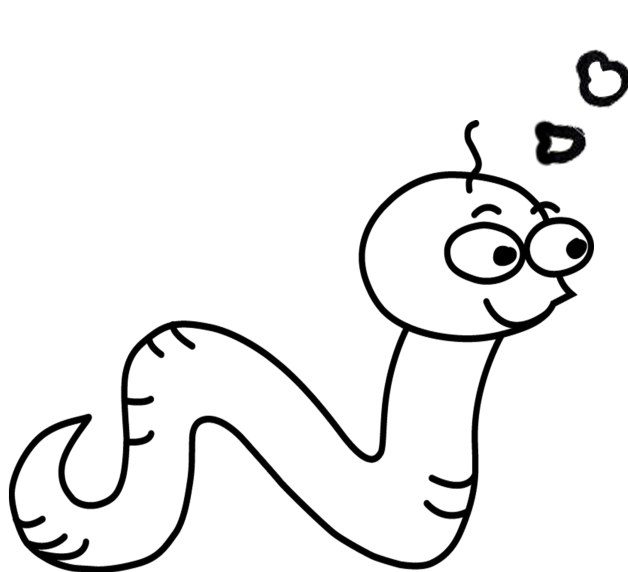


Author: Jeanette Winter
 Illustrator: Jeanette Winter
 Publisher: Dragonfly Books (1988)
 ISBN: 978-0-679-81997-4
 Price online: *Rs. 250 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

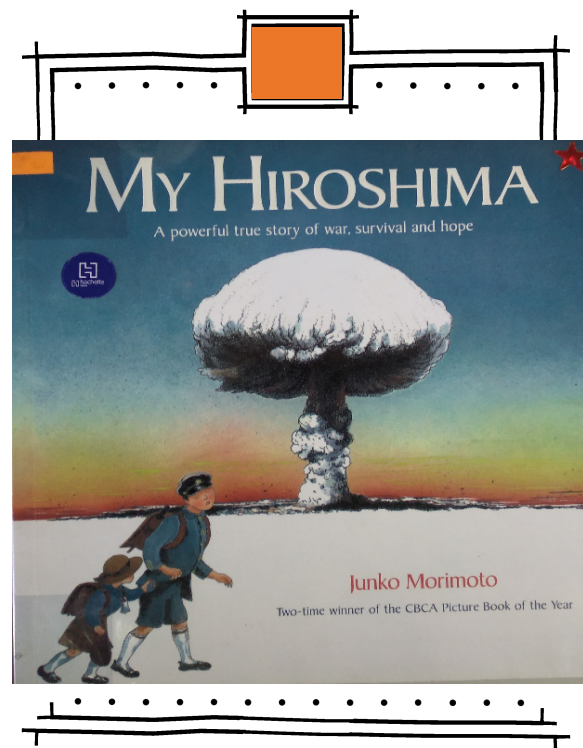
Set in the early days of slavery in America, this book is the story of one courageous family who followed the directions hidden within the lines of a folk song and made the risky journey to freer lands. Based on facts, *Follow the Drinking Gourd* gets its title from a folk song that was taught to slaves by a sailor named Peg Leg Joe, to help them find their way to freedom.



The theme that runs through this book is one of hope and a wish for peace and freedom. In simple words and few pages, Jeanette Winter has portrayed the story of slavery in America and one of the many attempts to challenge it. The earthy rich colors, along with rhythmic text, add to the atmosphere of the story and provoke reflections on past historical actions.

73 *My Hiroshima*

Author: Junko Morimoto
Illustrator: Junko Morimoto
Publisher: Lothian Children's Books (2015)
ISBN: 978-0-7344-1602-5
Price online: *Rs. 1158 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Junko Morimoto shares her childhood memories of survival of one of the most tragic events of human history, the nuclear bombing in Japan in August 1945.

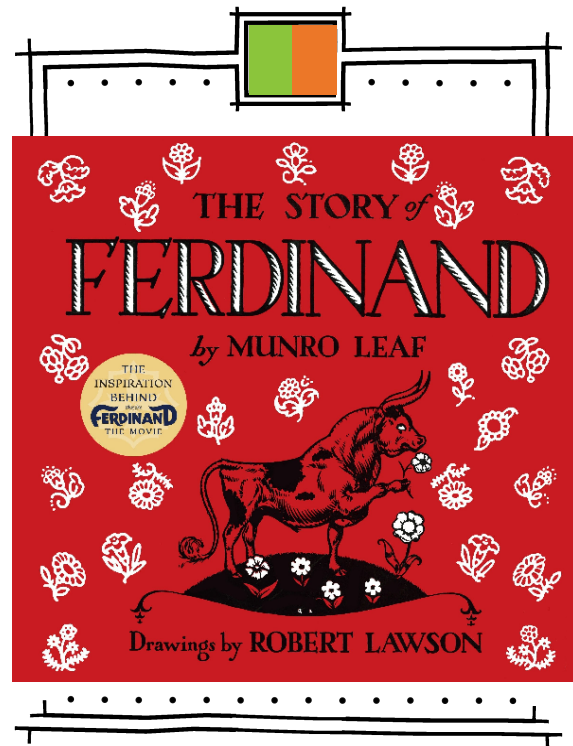


A book that will stay with readers in many ways. It exposes readers to the destruction and after-effects of war that must not be repeated. It encourages dialogue and thought-provoking understanding that nuclear technology must be treated with respect and that peace is the need of the hour. Simple and elegant illustrations and the hard-hitting photos bring forth the horrors of the aftermath of the infamous nuclear blast.

74 *The Story of Ferdinand*

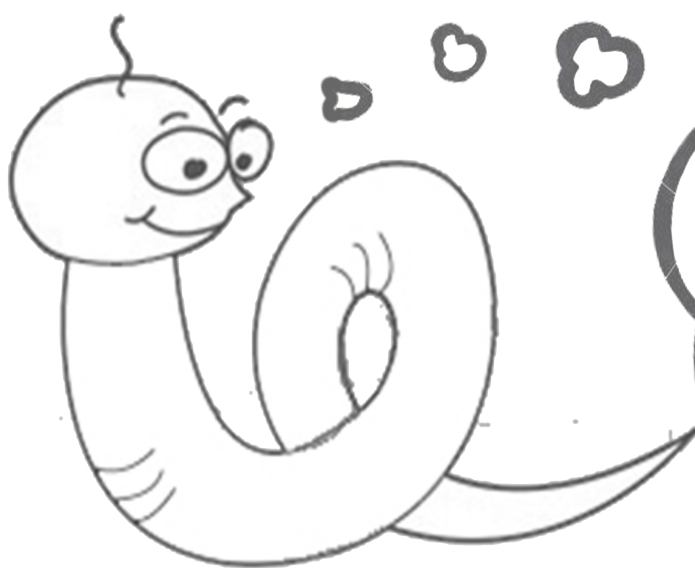


Author: Munro Leaf
Illustrator: Robert Lawson
Publisher: Scholastic Inc.(1984)
ISBN: 0-590-02051-X
Price online: *Rs. 209 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A timeless story that will touch the heart of every reader, the book introduces us to Ferdinand, a bull who would rather smell the flowers in a field than fight. However, a chance experience makes him the bull chosen to fight in a bullring in Madrid. What will Ferdinand do?

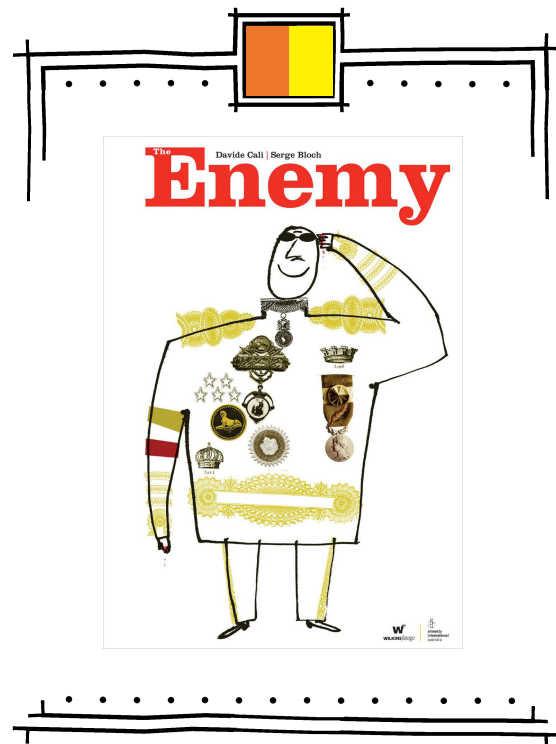


Published over 70 years ago, the book was banned during the Spanish Civil war for being a 'pacifist' book and in Nazi Germany for being 'degenerate democratic propaganda'. Ferdinand is the embodiment of a gentle peace-loving contemplative individual. During discussions, children have identified with Ferdinand and shared about what they love to do. The book also offers a very good opportunity to talk about differences, finding yourself and being non-aggressive.

75

The Enemy

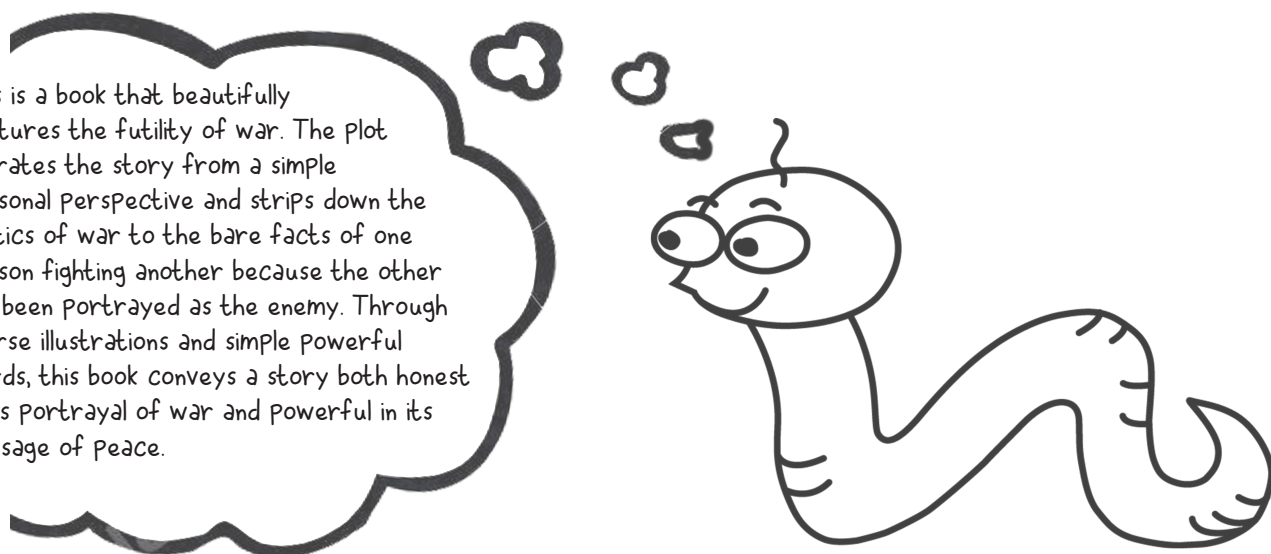
Author: Davide Cali
Illustrator: Serge Bloch
Publisher: Amnest International
(2007)
ISBN: 9780958557184
Price online: *Rs. 913 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

The Enemy is the story of two soldiers, each in their respective foxholes, facing each other across the battlefield. They know that the other soldier is the enemy because their manual states that the other is the enemy. One day, the soldier crawls out of his hole and towards his enemy's hole, hoping to kill him and end the war. However, on reaching his enemy's hole, he finds that his enemy has done the same and must now be in his hole! To his surprise, he finds belongings in his enemy's hole that are strikingly similar to his own. How will this war end?

This is a book that beautifully captures the futility of war. The plot narrates the story from a simple personal perspective and strips down the politics of war to the bare facts of one person fighting another because the other has been portrayed as the enemy. Through sparse illustrations and simple powerful words, this book conveys a story both honest in its portrayal of war and powerful in its message of peace.



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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76

What is a Girl? What is a Boy?

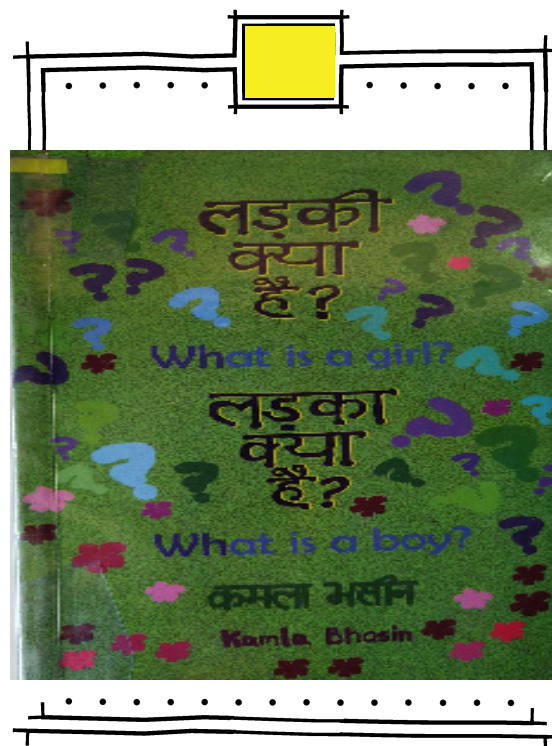
Author: Kamla Bhasin

Illustrator: Bindiya Thapar

Publisher: Jagori (1997)

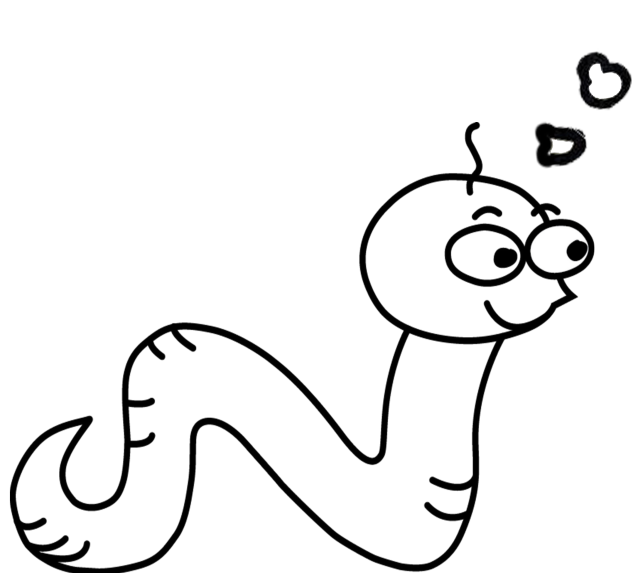
ISBN: NA

Price online: *Rs. 1142 (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."

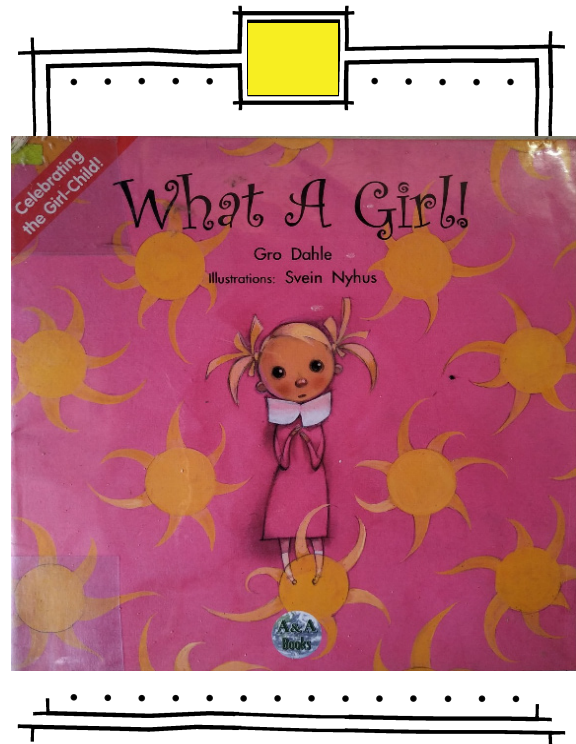


The social construction of gender is so deeply ingrained in us that we take many things for granted and need to question our notions. We feel that this is a good text to start the conversation or even to bring everyone on the same page before exploring gender further. The book is direct, the illustrations endearing, making this a compulsory text for any library collection.

77

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.



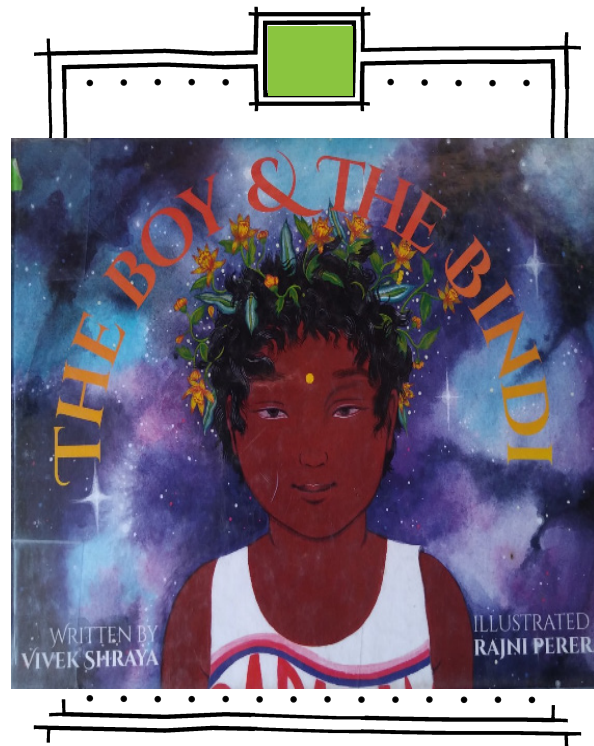
The book is provocative, and therefore makes for a good discussion text in this theme. It is not a stand alone book because there is some awkwardness around it being a translation, and nomenclature seems forced. But the message overrides these issues because it asks us to think of ‘invisible people’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

78

The Boy and the Bindi

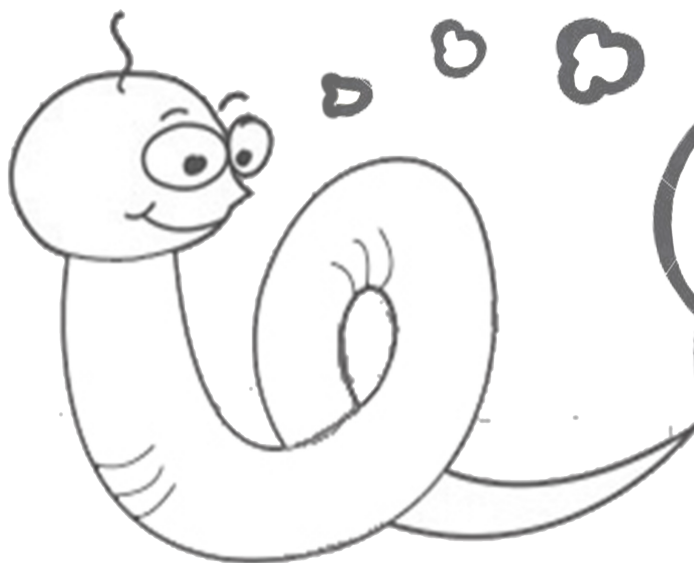


Author: Vivek Shraya
Illustrator: Rajni Perera
Publisher: Arsenal Pulp Press (2016)
ISBN: 978-1-55152-668-3
Price online: *Rs. 1054 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A young boy is fascinated by the bindi that his mother wears on her forehead. What is this dot and why does she wear it? His mother explains the significance of the bindi for her and lets him wear his own bindi in order to experience and explore its significance and meaning for himself.



The book gently explores and challenges gender stereotypes. The conversations and relationship with his mother, which allows the boy to freely explore his own fascination with a cultural symbol traditionally linked to a particular gender, makes the story joyful and affirming to read and explore.



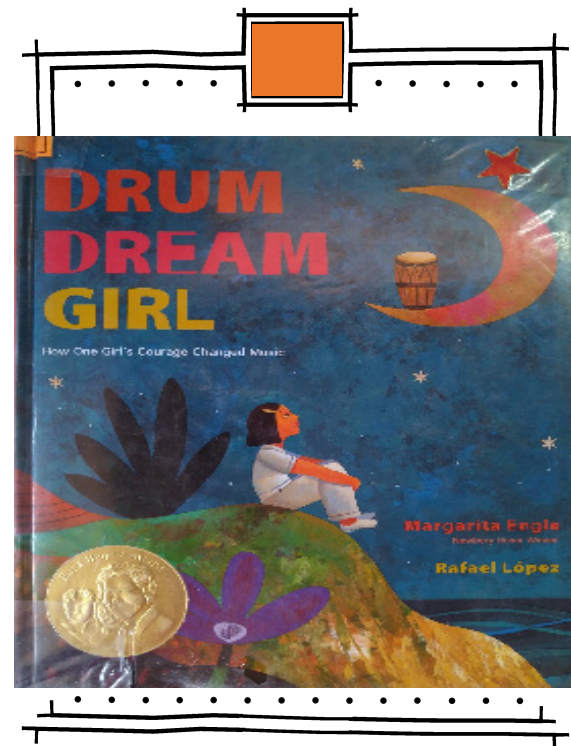
Author: Margarita Engle

Illustrator: Rafael Lopez

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin
Harcourt (2015)

ISBN: 978-0-544-10229-3

Price online: *Rs. 1099 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Inspired by a true story of a Chinese-African-Cuban girl, this book narrates the story of the drum dream girl, who dreamed of playing the drum and making music, and through her determination and courage, eventually broke Cuba's traditional taboo against female drummers. The book's vibrant illustrations and rhythmical text bring alive the story for every reader.

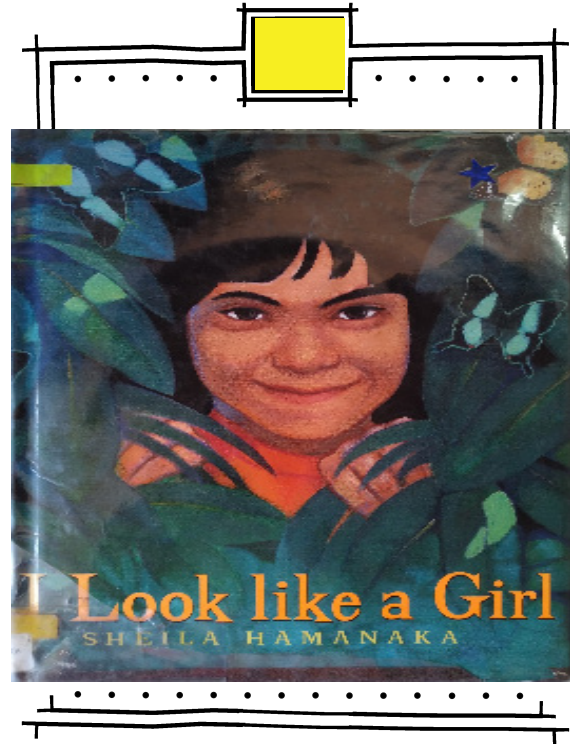
The story questions roles, professions and hobbies that have been culturally or traditionally linked to a particular gender and forces us to think about the reasons behind this and the importance of challenging these norms. Although this story is specific to a culture, the theme and norm that it questions are universal everywhere. A joyful celebration of equality across the gender spectrum!



80

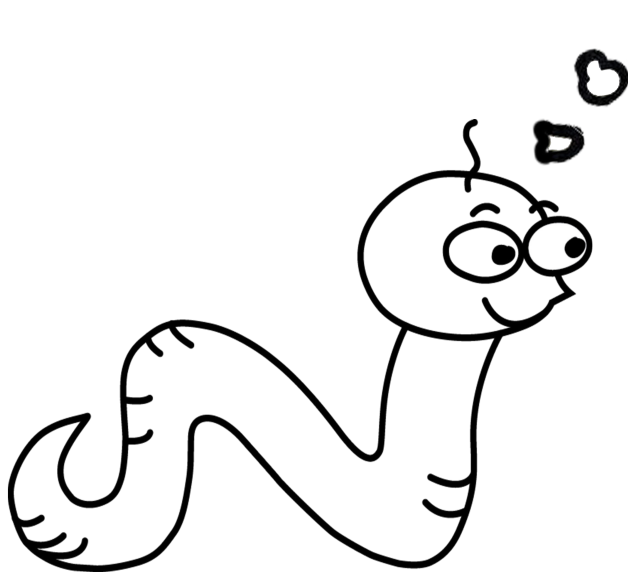
I Look Like a Girl

Author: Sheila Hamanaka
Illustrator: Sheila Hamanaka
Publisher: Morrow Junior Books
(1999)
ISBN: 0-688-14626-0
Price online: *Rs. 4416 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Written from the point of view of a girl, this book is a celebration of all that she is. A tiger roaring, a dolphin leaping, a wild horse running, she is an embodiment of all these things and more! In beautiful vibrant illustrations and rhythmic text, this story bursts forth with the power of what it conveys.



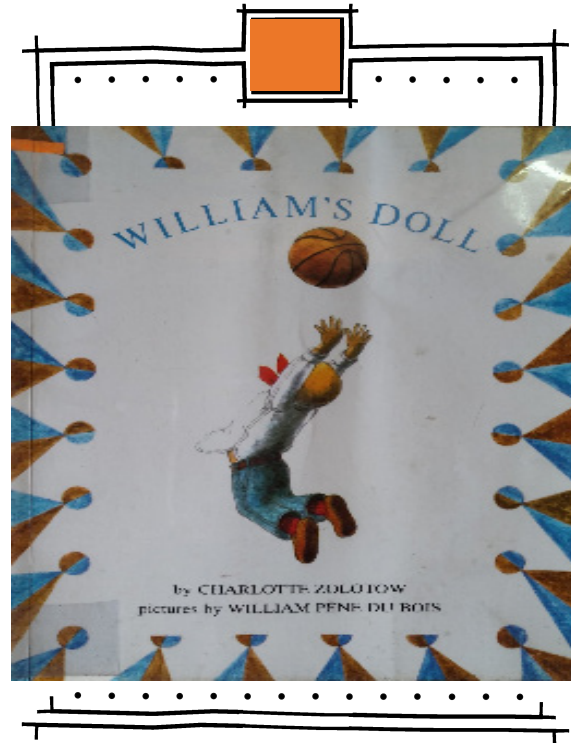
This book is in our selection as it challenges all the norms of what a 'girl' is expected to be, and through powerful illustrations, shouts out everything that she CAN BE and IS. Every page begins with 'I look like a girl, but.', and goes on to express exactly what she is, through characters who are wild and free and independent. Different girls from different cultures are illustrated on each page, making this book a diverse story of every girl from any place.

81

William's Doll



Author: Charlotte Zolotow
Illustrator: William Pene Du Bois
Publisher: Trophy Picture Book (1972)
ISBN: 978-0-06-0443067-8
Price online: *Rs. 379 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

William wants a doll of his own, but others tease him and call him names for wanting a doll. His father suggests more suitable games for boys, which William enjoys, but he still longs for a doll. The book realistically handles the theme around gender and play.

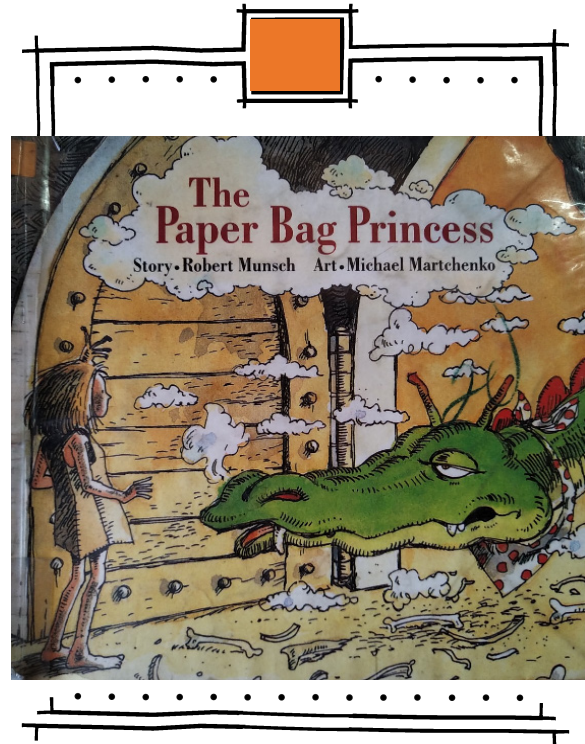


The theme around the binary of boy and girl play is treated gently in this book. The book is inclusive while also opening up the space for discussion around why William's brother, friends and father thought otherwise and enables discussion. It also provides a rare opportunity for readers to think about their own play and how and who shaped it. The illustrations are gentle to match the story line, and we firmly feel the book must belong in collections despite being slightly dated in cultural terms.

82 *The Paper Bag Princess*

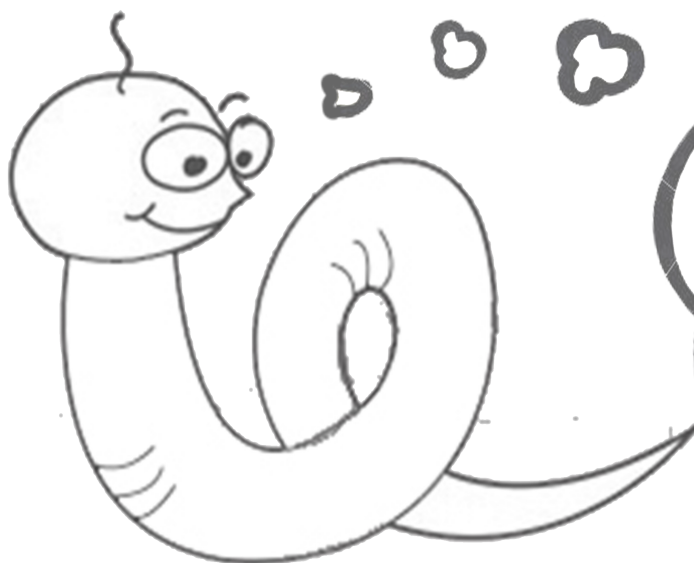


Author: Robert Munsch
Illustrator: Michael Martchenko
Publisher: Annick Press Ltd. (1980)
ISBN: 0-920236-16-2
Price online: *Rs.139 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Princess Elizabeth has to rescue her betrothed Prince from a nasty dragon, who has also destroyed her castle. Will she be able to do it? A witty tale of wisdom and smartness.



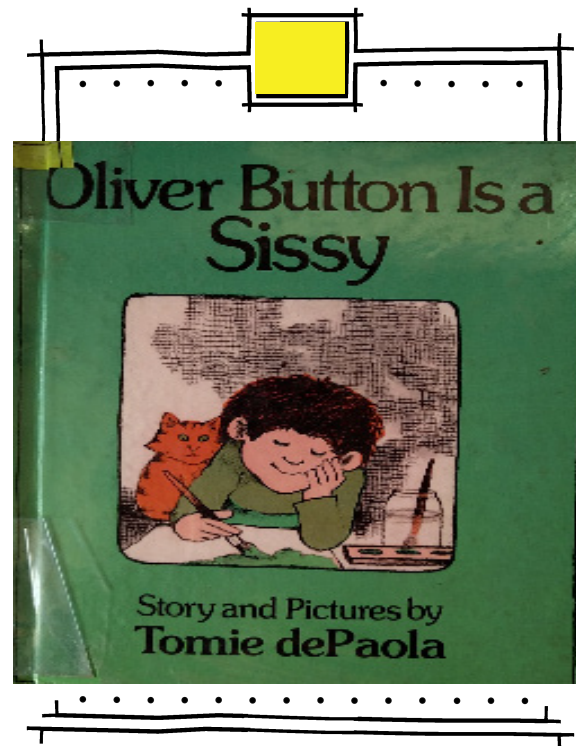
This is a story with a very strong female character, Princess Elizabeth, who is not portrayed by Robert Munsch as a damsel in distress. He has reversed a classic story of a princess being rescued by twisting a gender norm. This story has potential in opening up discussions with children about misconceptions about girls/women always needing to be rescued. Michael Martchenko's illustrations bring the text alive.

83

Oliver Button is a Sissy



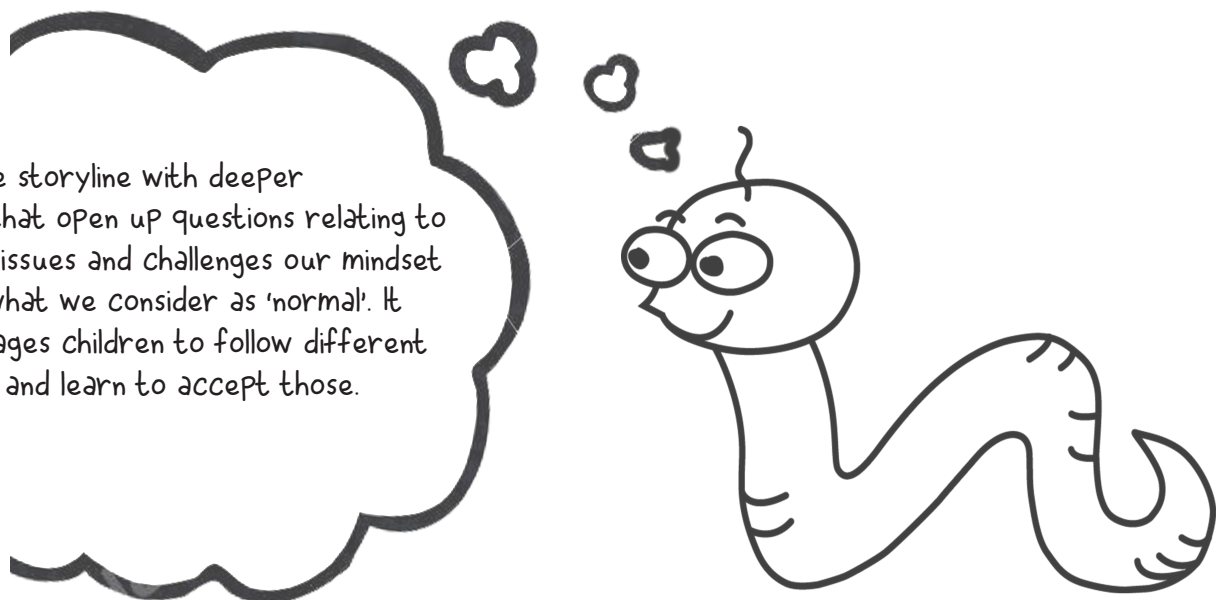
Author: Tomie dePaola
Illustrator: Tomie dePaola
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin
Harcourt (1979)
ISBN: 978-0-15-257852-7
Price online: *Rs. 783 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Oliver Button is a boy who likes to do different things- he likes to walk in the woods, jump rope, read books, play dress up, all the things that are considered unsuitable for boys. He is teased and bullied about his choices at school. A tale that encourages one to pursue one's dreams, regardless of what others may say.

A simple storyline with deeper layers that open up questions relating to gender issues and challenges our mindset about what we consider as 'normal'. It encourages children to follow different choices and learn to accept those.



84

*Miss Moore Thought Otherwise:
How Ann Carroll Created Libraries for Children*



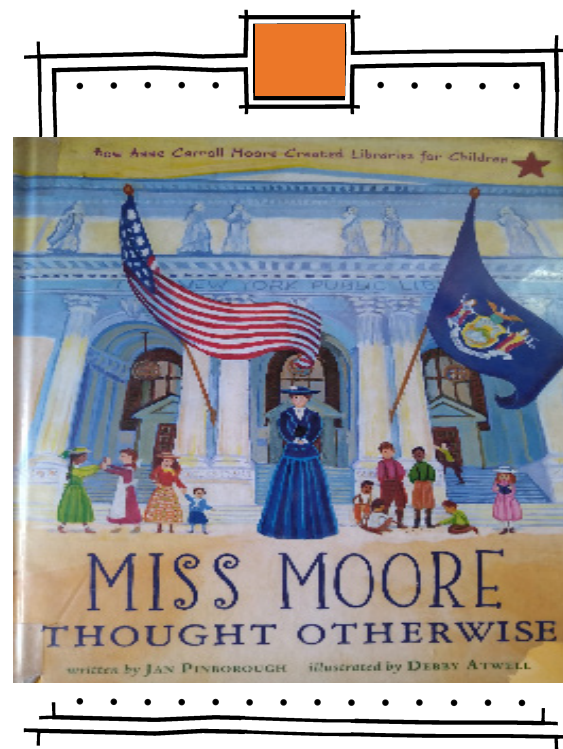
Author: Jan Pinborough

Illustrator: Derby Atwell

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin
Harcourt (2013)

ISBN: 978-0-547-47105-1

Price online: *Rs. 1156 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A fascinating picture book journey of Anne Carroll Moore, a pioneer in advocating the cause of children's libraries in the 1800s. What we take for granted today was unheard of back then. Today's children have access to libraries and books, and all this only because Miss Moore thought otherwise during her time.

There are very few books about path-breaking librarians, and this is one of those. This book shares interesting factual information about Miss Moore, who had her own independent views about how she should live her life and how children's libraries should be. She strongly influenced the concept of children needing vibrant reading spaces for fun and learning.



85 *A Pair of Twins*

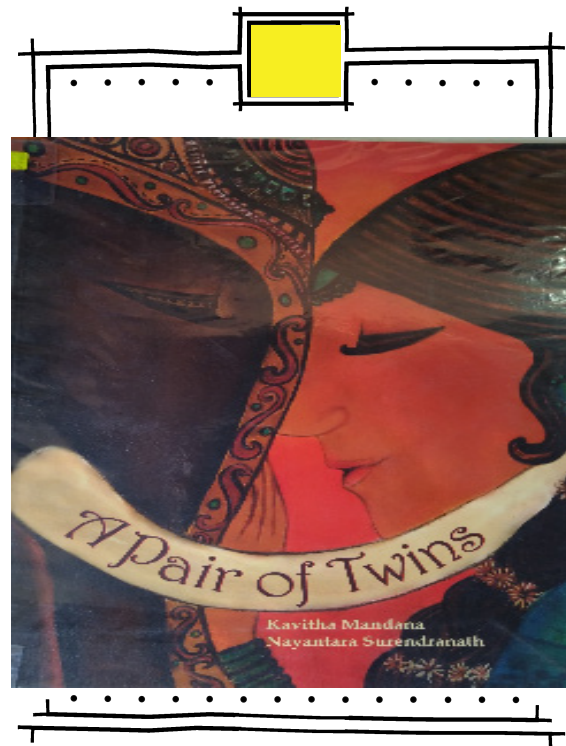
Author: Kavitha Mandana

Illustrator: Nayantara
Surendranath

Publisher: Karadi Tales Company
Pvt. Ltd (2014)

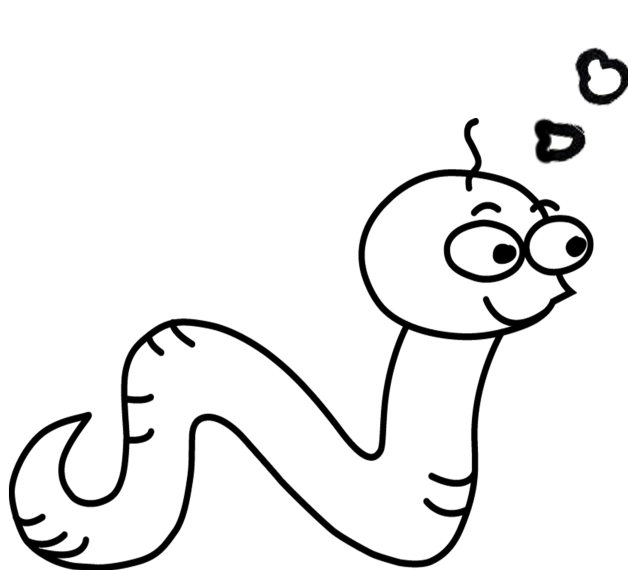
ISBN: 978-81-8190-302-0

Price online: *Rs.199 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

A Pair of Twins is the unlikely pairing of a young girl, Sundari and an elephant, Lakshmi. They share a special bond that enables each of them to have a never-before experience in a royal procession. This book attempts to question and break gendered roles.

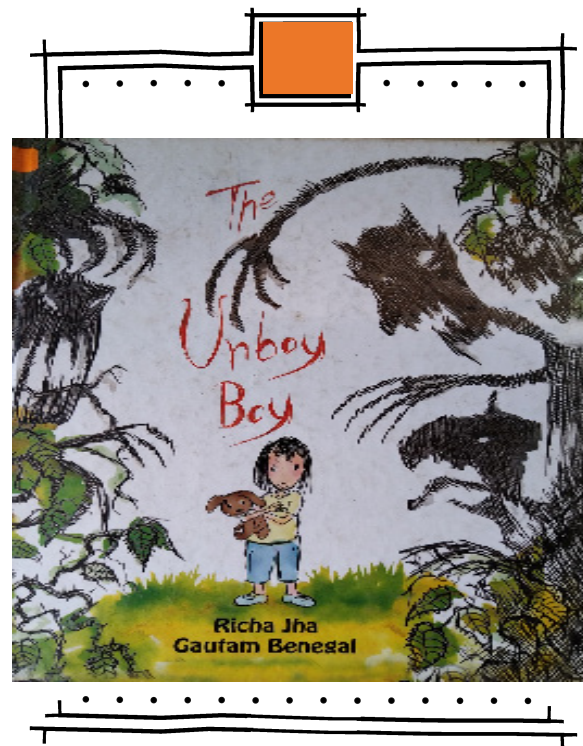


Gender is never a standalone point of discussion; it is complex and intersectional. This book provides us with the opportunity to question these intersections while also focussing on the plot of the story in terms of breaking social expectations around role and responsibility. The illustrations are highly exoticised and seem surreal to the theme in discussion, but with few books from our context on this theme, we feel the merits are worth considering for inclusion in this listing.

86

The Unboy Boy

Author: Richa Jha
Illustrator: Gautam Benegal
Publisher: Pickley Yolk Books (2014)
ISBN: 978-93-5126-940-3
Price online: *Rs. 300 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Gagan is a sensitive boy, who finds joy in ants crawling, the sun shining and in super hero dreaming. His friends and his brother and grandfather think that to be a boy, one must be tough and brave and fearless. Gagan proves he is all this, and yet, gentle and thoughtful.



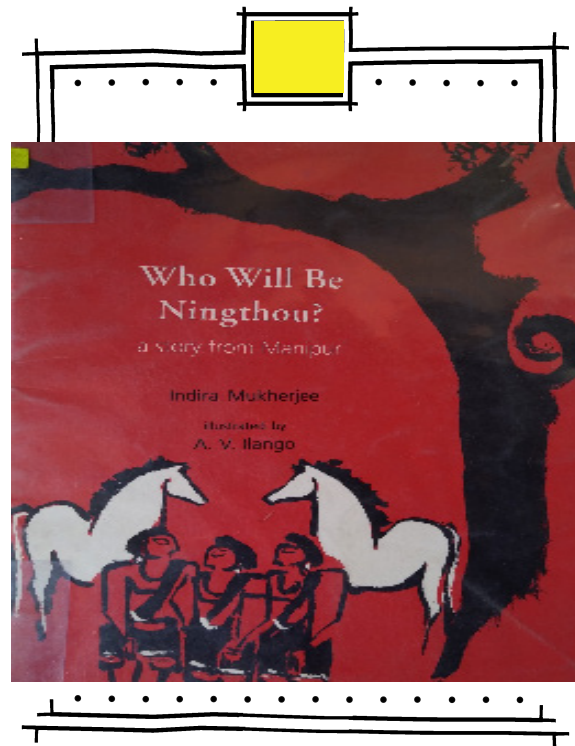
The book enables the opening up of conversations around whether behaviours are boy-like and girl-like. The plot falls into the trap of proving oneself through a heroic act, but that aside, it continues to raise very relevant questions around gendering and social expectations. The illustration of the characters also opens up space for conversations around looks and gender.

87

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.

Social Privilege

“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 Privilege

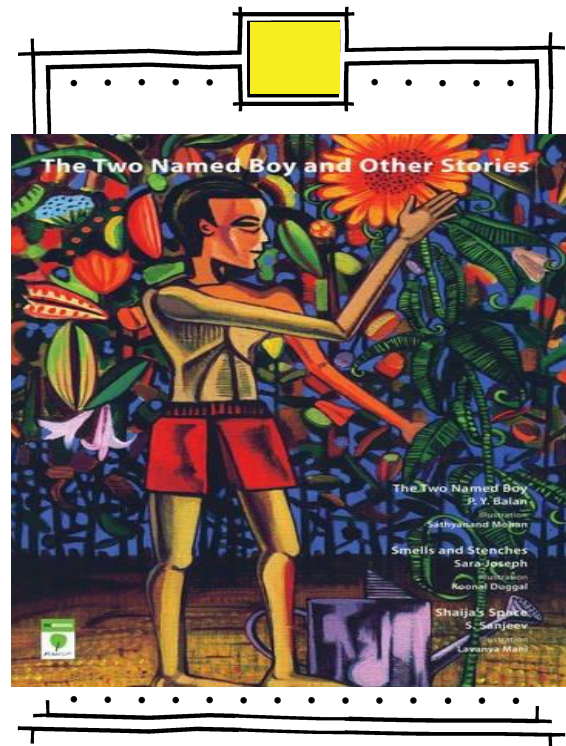
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Shaija's Space

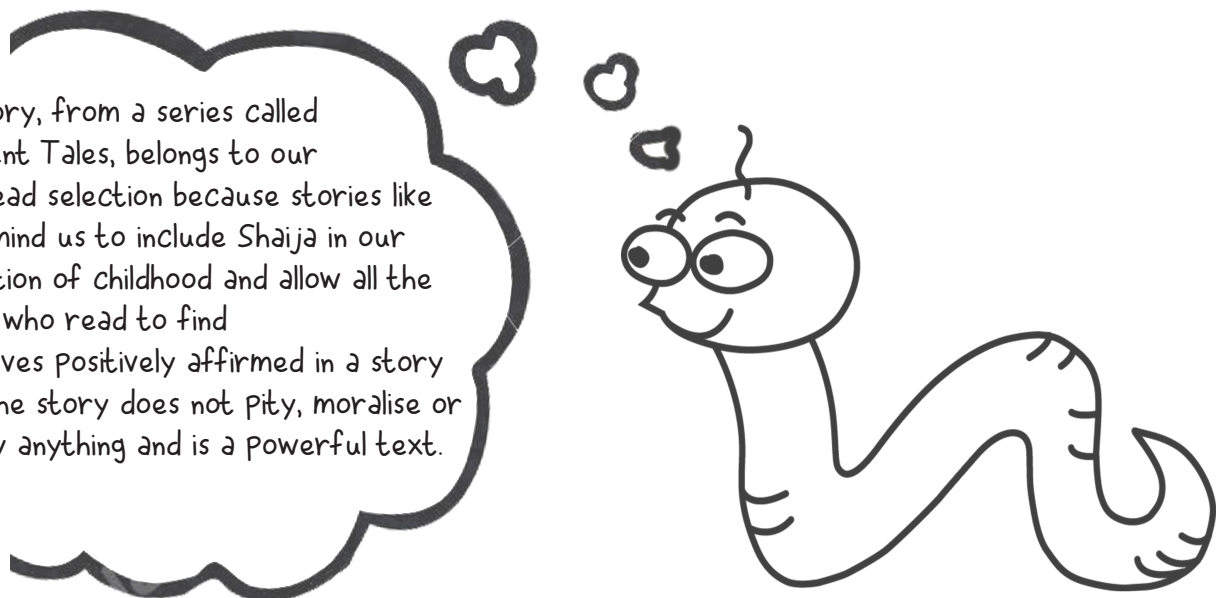
Author: S. Sanjeev
Illustrator: Lavanya Mani
Publisher: D.C Books (2008)
ISBN: 978-81-264-2037-7
Price online: *Rs. 70 (Paperback)*



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.



89

Ju's Story

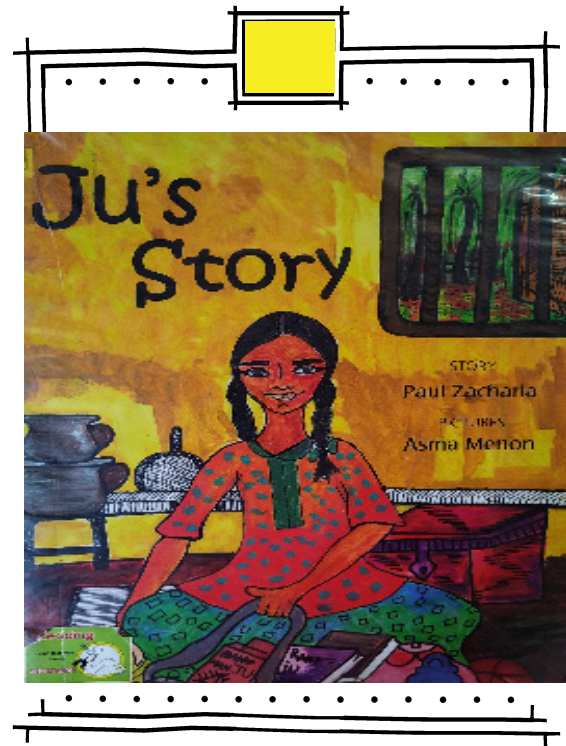
Author: Paul Zacharia

Illustrator: Asma Menon

Publisher: Tulika (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 an attitude can change an experience. We love how Ju comes across as a strong, intelligent, thoughtful, sensitive young person who makes the most of her new experiences with grace. This book leaves a strong imprint on the reader and is a good book to facilitate reflection.



90 *The Why-Why Girl*

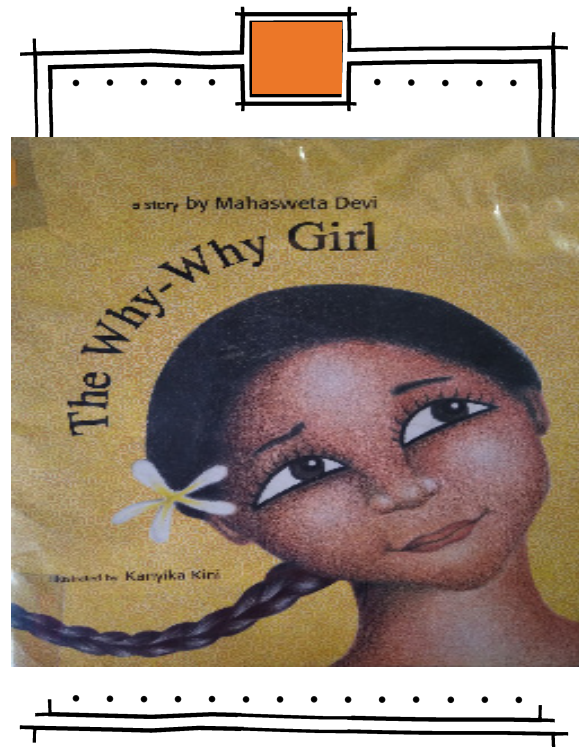
Author: Mahasweta Devi

Illustrator: Kanika Kini

Publisher: Tulika (2003)

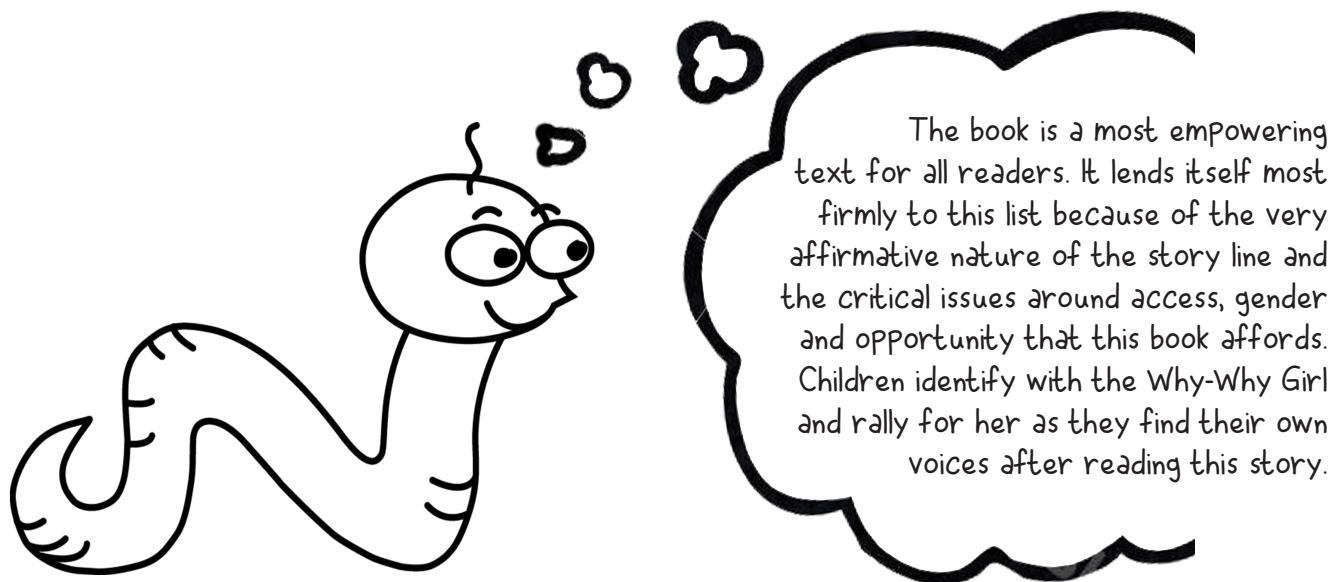
ISBN: 978-81-8146-018-9

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.

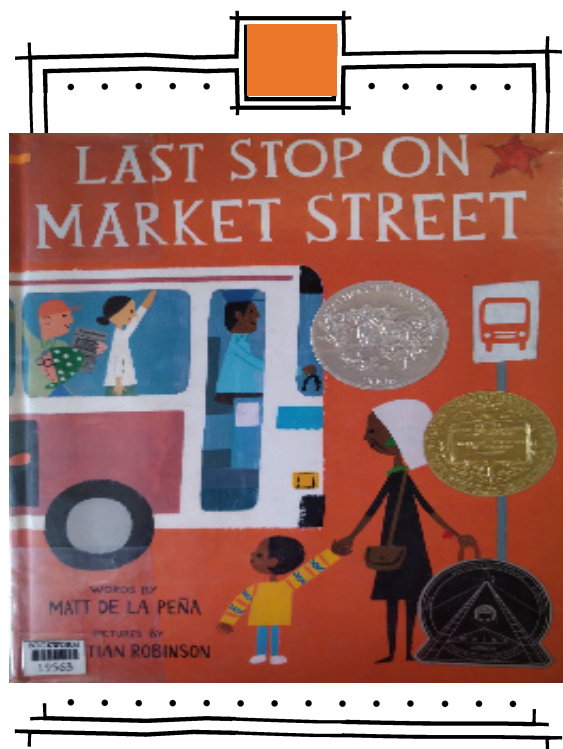


91

Last Stop on Market Street



Author: Matt De La Pena
Illustrator: Christian Robinson
Publisher: Penguin books (2015)
ISBN: 987-0-399-25774-2
Price online: *Rs. 1048 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

CJ, the young character in this story, has to take a bus ride through town to Market Street with his nana. CJ is rather unhappy about this trip, and in the story, he questions what he thinks is his absence of privilege. His wise nana (supported by thoughtful illustrations on every page) has answers for both CJ and us readers in abundance.



Picture books have the potential for immense possibilities. This book is one such example. While the dialogue between CJ and his nana are powerful reminders to witness what is beautiful, the illustrations point us to look in places we may have never thought of. This makes this book a very powerful one and a beautiful story too. The arc of the story is well executed, with CJ transporting himself through the story from self-pity to immense gladness.

92 *A Kite called Korika*

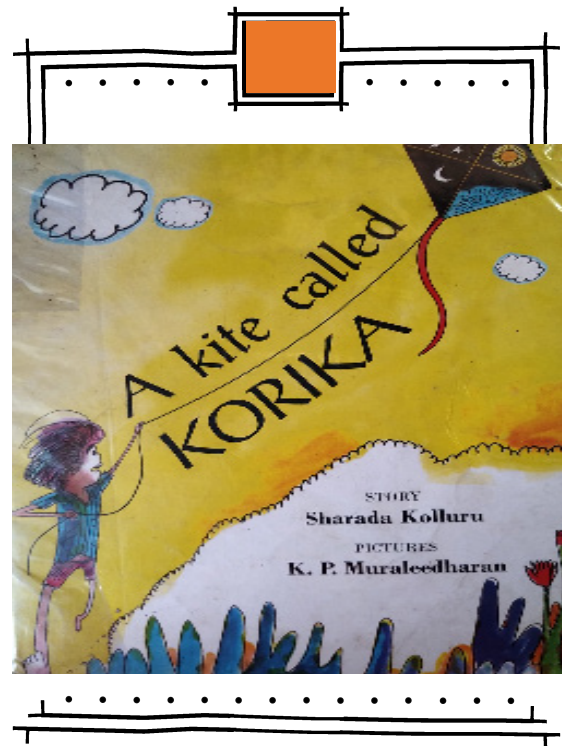
Author: Sharada Kolluru

Illustrator: K.P. Muraleedharan

Publisher: Tulika (2012)

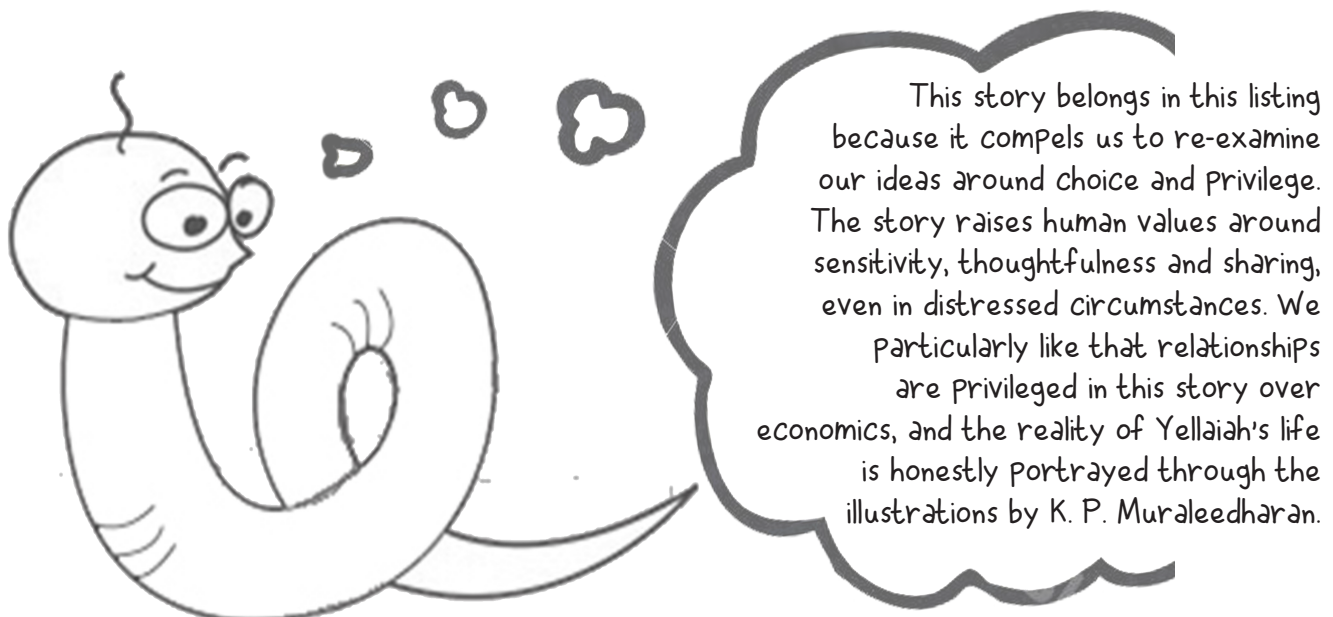
ISBN: 93-5046-198-6

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.

93

The Boy Who Asked Why

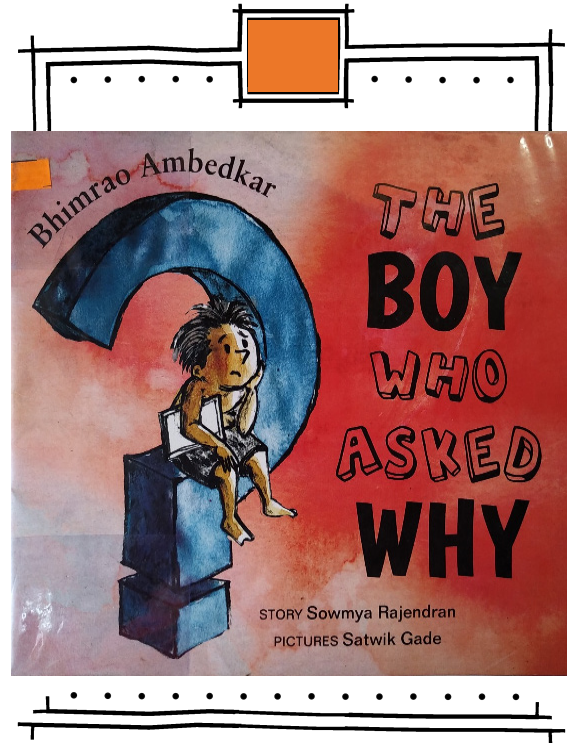
Author: Sowmya Rajendran

Illustrator: Satwik Gade

Publisher: Tulika (2015)

ISBN: 935046684-8

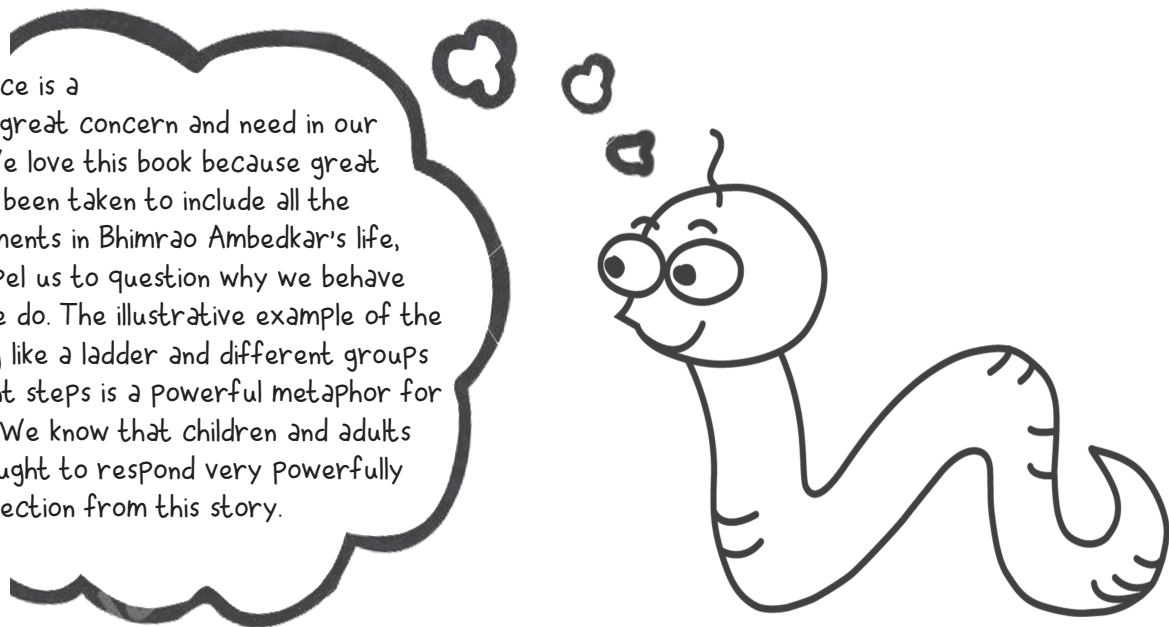
Price online: Rs.176 (Paperback)



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.



94 *Four Feet, Two Sandals*



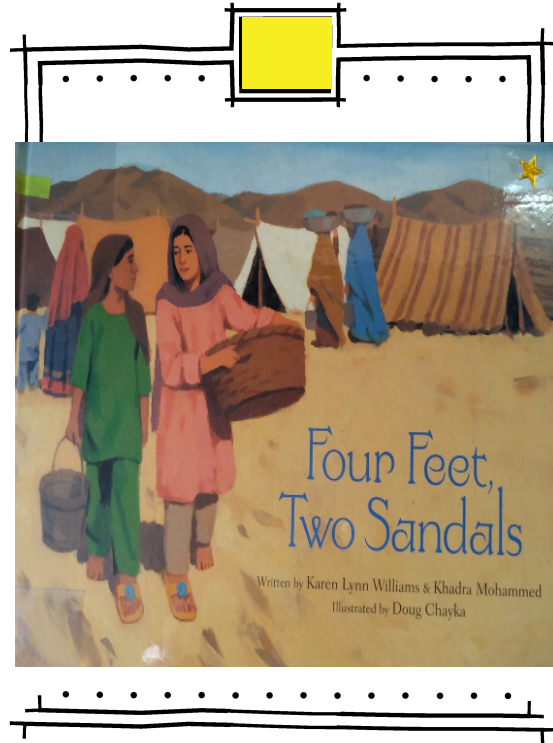
Author: Karen Lynn Williams & Khadra Mohammed

Illustrator: Doug Chayka

Publisher: Eerdmans Books (2007)

ISBN: 978-0-8028-5296-0

Price online: *Rs. 1132 (Hardcover)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

When a relief package arrives at a refugee camp, Lina finds a sandal that fits her perfectly. However, the other sandal is in the hands of another girl standing nearby. This event starts a friendship between two girls, where they learn to problem solve and overcome all practical differences.

We liked that this book is based on the author's own experiences in a refugee camp in Peshawar. This story showcases qualities of sharing, empathy, love and friendship. The choice made by the two girls and the friendship that develops from a simple act of sharing, makes this story one that brings to focus the relationships that often form around hard circumstances and conditions. This book also belongs to the theme of Unusual Choices.



95

Nabiya

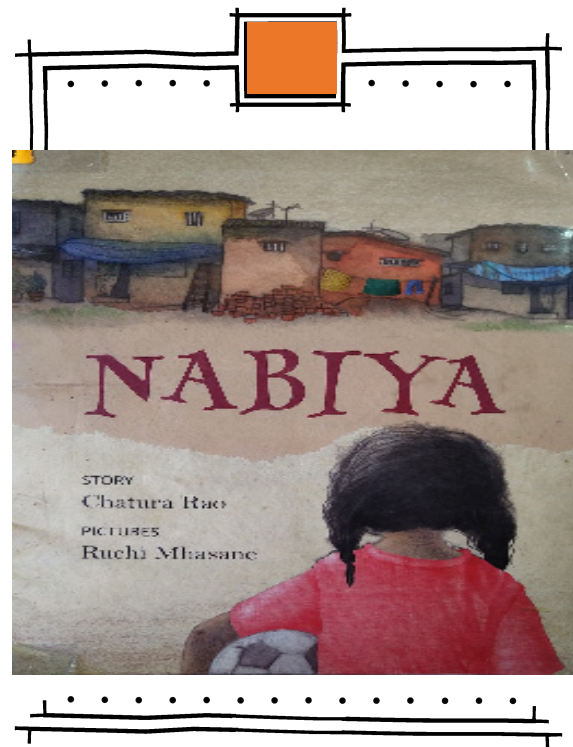
Author: Chatura Rao

Illustrator: Ruchi Mhasane

Publisher: Tulika (2013)

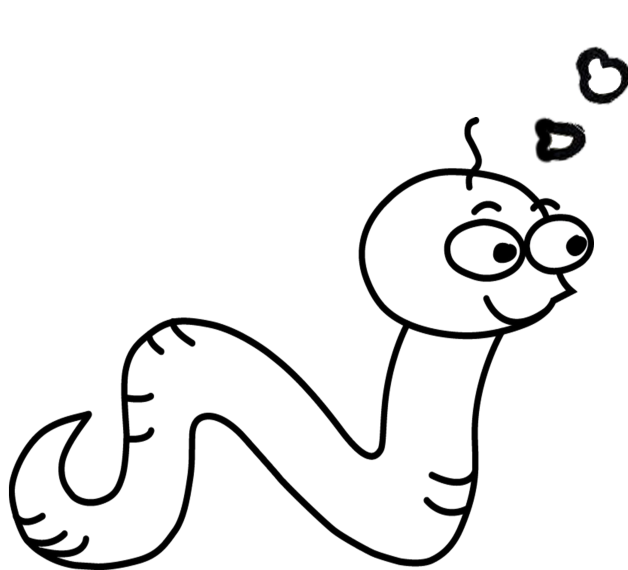
ISBN: 935046463-2

Price online: *Rs.150 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

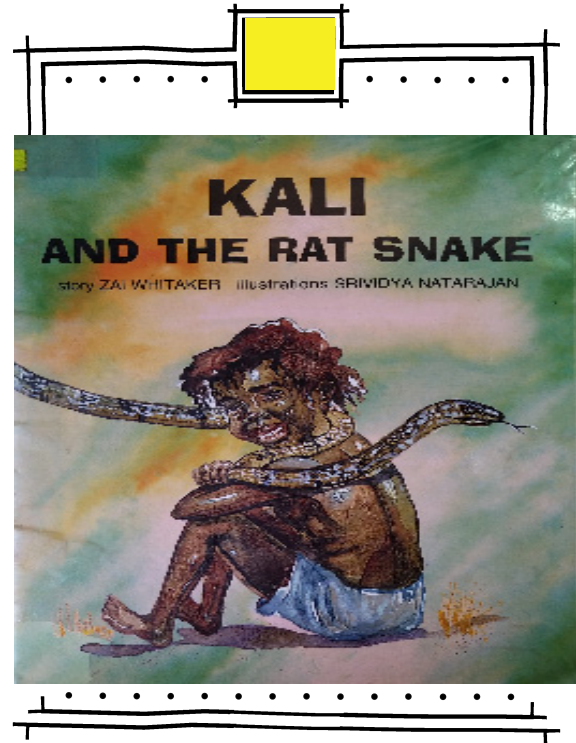
Nabiya and her family share a small room on the first floor of a house. Nabiya loves football and stories, but she struggles to read and write. However, the thoughtfulness and kindness of her teacher, and Nabiya's own eagerness and determination bring Nabiya into the world of stories and books.



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 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.

96 *Kali and the Rat Snake*

Author: Zai Whitaker
Illustrator: Srividya Natarajan
Publisher: Tulika (2000)
ISBN: 978-81-86895-43-6
Price online: *Rs.135 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Kali is a well-known snake-catcher's son. But Kali is also very lonely in school as all his schoolmates find him different and refuse to be friends with him. Does Kali have to do anything special to make friends? Zai Whitaker brings the Irula tribe and their lifestyle and livelihood into focus with this engaging story.

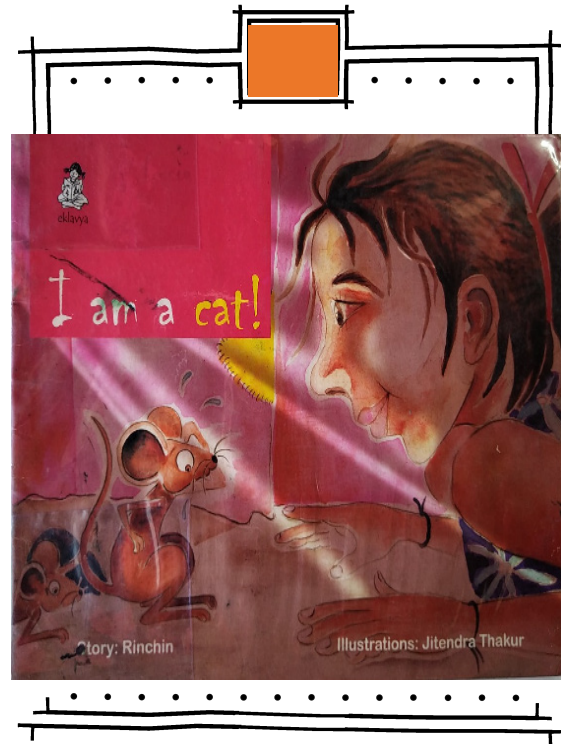


The story exposes our society's tendency to treat others based on social conditioning and not always on individual responses. It shows us how even young children perceive social class and caste distinctions. Kali is ignored at school by the other children because of who he is. This is a socially necessary topic with a dash of humour to open up a conversation among children and adults about acceptance and identity, with illustrations by Srividya Natarajan, which bring the forest environment alive.

97

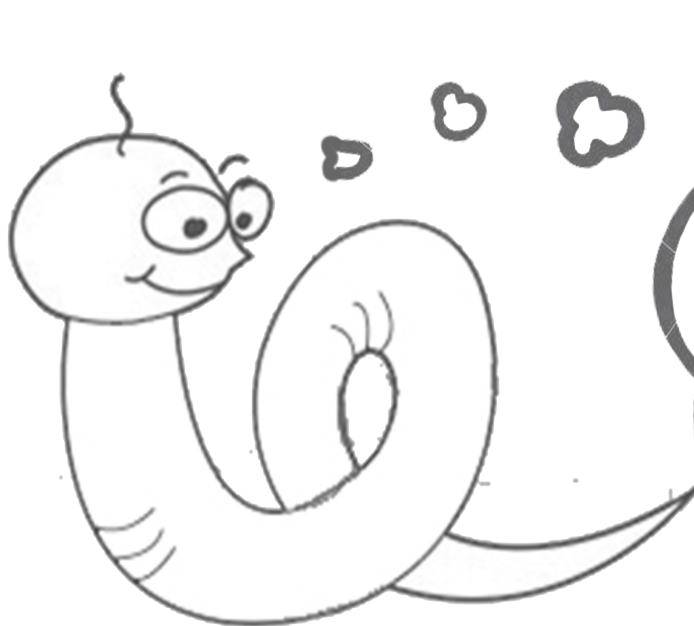
I Am a Cat!

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.

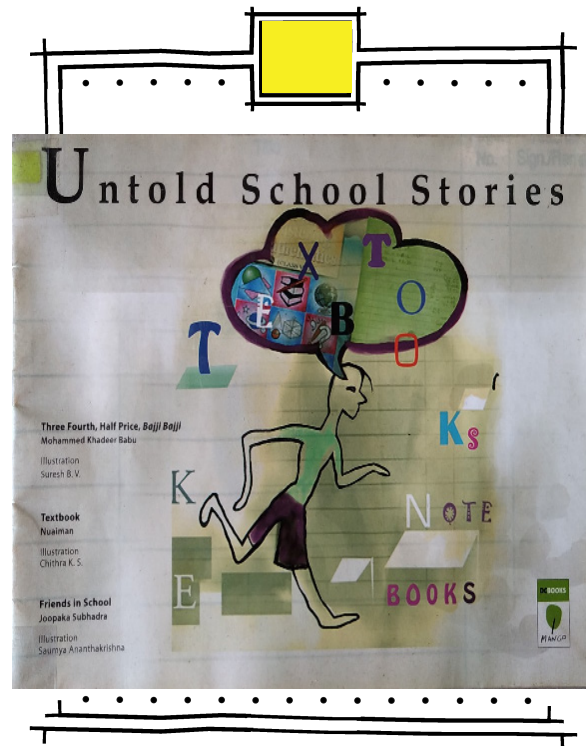


This story breaks the stereotypical mindset that the lesser privileged live a dreary and miserable life. The bonding and love between Tinti and her ragpicking family is very vivid and comes together with gentle humour and play acting in this heartwarming story. The illustrations by Jitendra Thakur represent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

98

Three Fourth, Half Price, Bajji Bajji

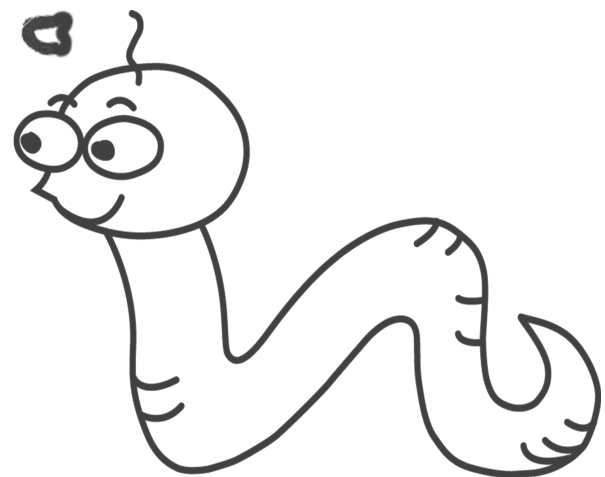
Author: Mohammad Khadeer Babu
Illustrator: Suresh B.V
Publisher: Mango, DC Books (2009)
ISBN: 978-81-264-2036-0
Price online: *Rs 80 (Paperback)*



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 shared and read.



99 *Head Curry*

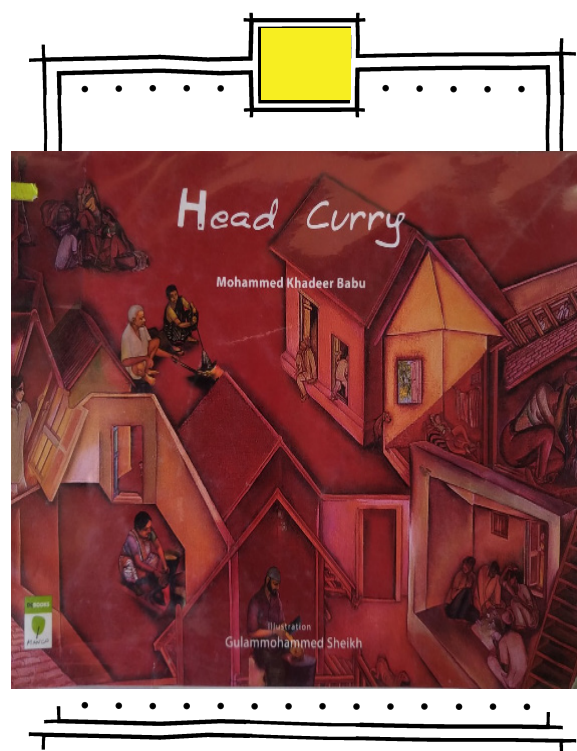
Author: Mohammed Khadeer Babu

Illustrator: Gulammohammed Sheikh

Publisher: DC Books (2008)

ISBN: 978- 81-264-2029-2

Price online: *Rs. 1668 (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

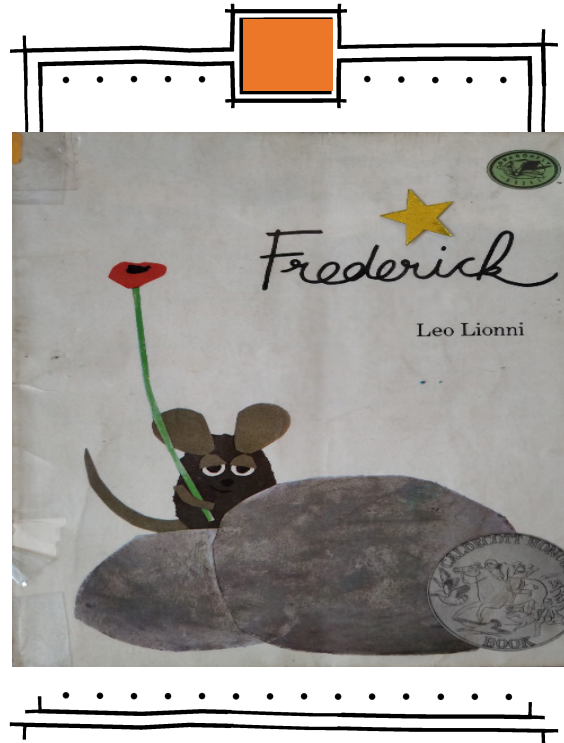
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100 *Frederick*



Author: Leo Lionni
Illustrator: Leo Lionni
Publisher: Dragonfly Books (1967)
ISBN: 0-394-82614-0
Price online: *Rs. 639 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Winter is approaching and all the mice are busy gathering stores for the long, dark time ahead. All except Frederick. This book reminds us about our unique human abilities working together.

Is there only one way to be a productive member of a community? Frederick demonstrates otherwise in this heartwarming story of how important imagination and storytelling are in dark times and how, among us, there must always be one who dreams. Leo Lionni's paper collage work adds a gentle texture to the story that surprises children with the realisation that dreaming is also productive and necessary for living.



101 *Under the Neem Tree*

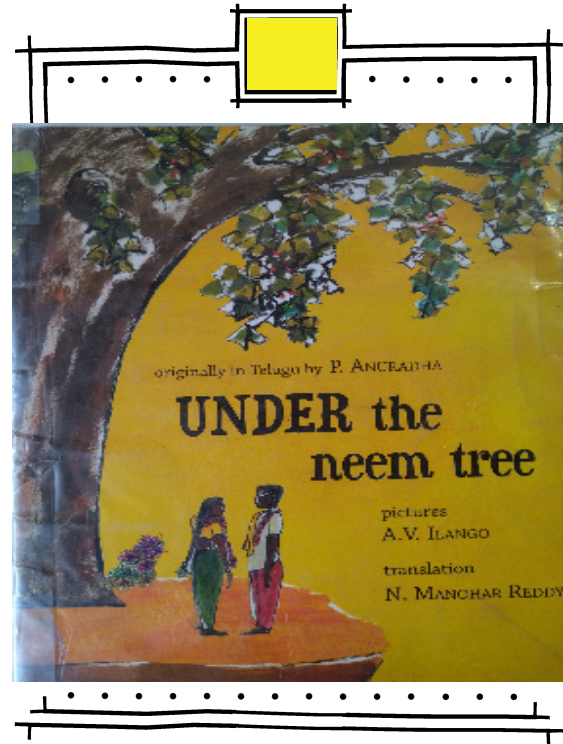
Author: P. Anuradha

Illustrator: A.V. Ilango

Publisher: Tulika (2012)

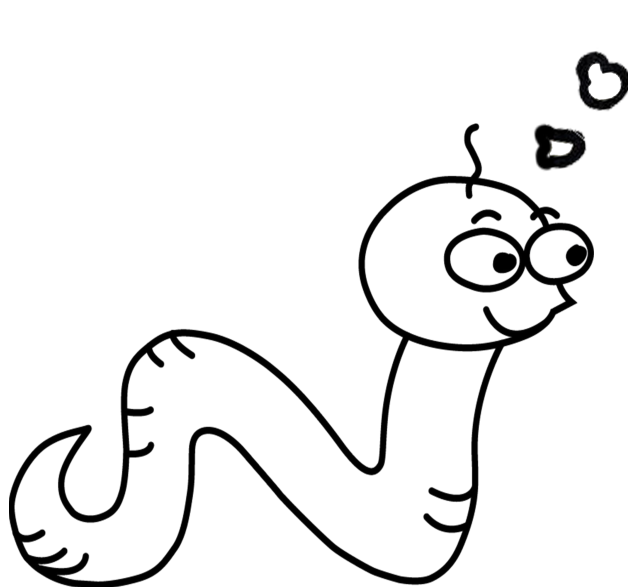
ISBN: 978-93-5046-060-3

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 about laughter and thoughtfulness in equal measure.

102 *Mahagiri*

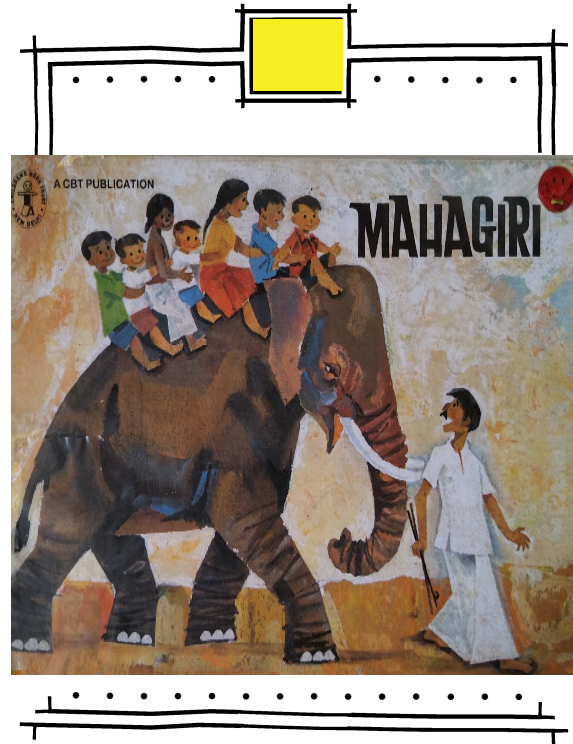
Author: Hemalata

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.

103 *Twenty-Five Rupees and a Helicopter*

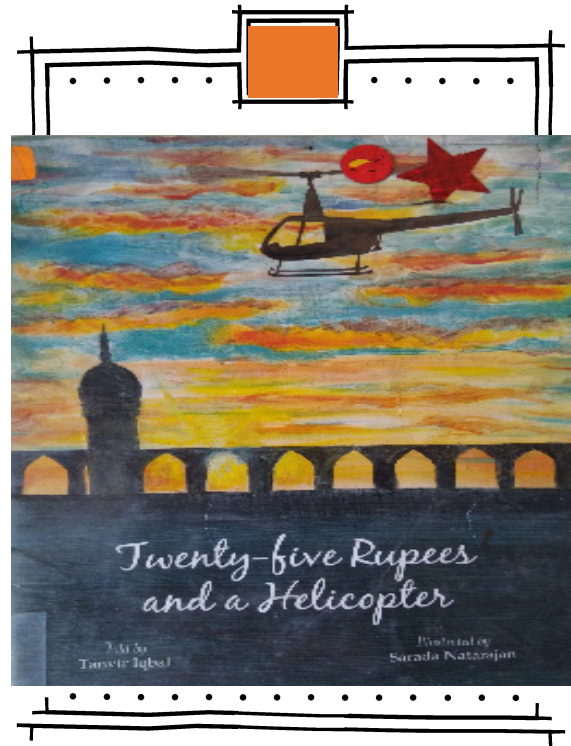
Author: Tanvir Iqbal

Illustrator: Sarada Natarajan

Publisher: Spark-India (1965)

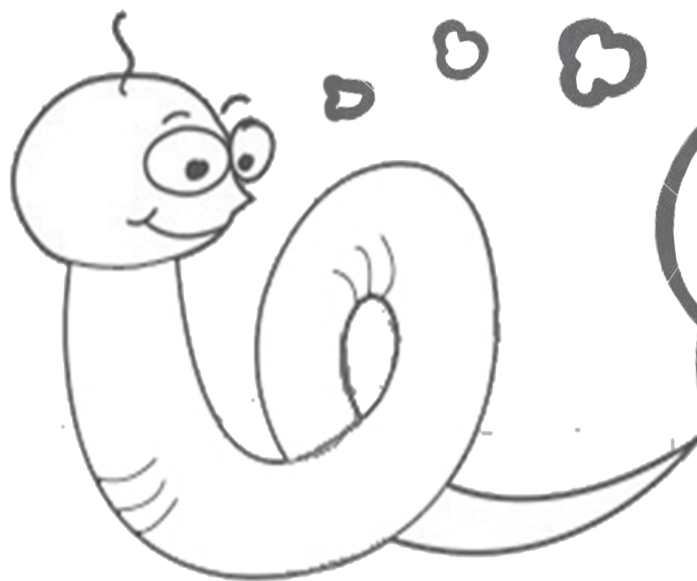
ISBN: 978-81-88733-42-2

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 the helicopter?

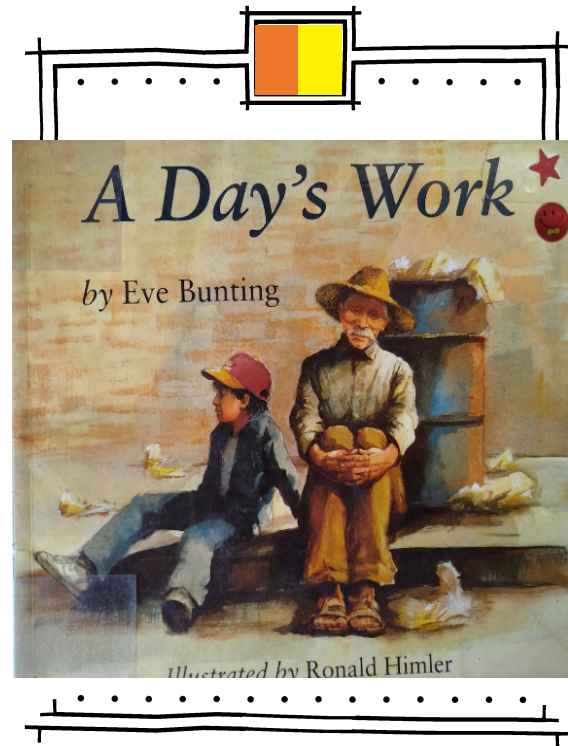


This story presents the strong and sensitive character of Kabir, the main protagonist, and how he makes an exemplary decision that affects a fellow human in the most unassuming manner. The illustrations present a way of life that many of us would have experienced and are familiar with. Children have 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.

104 *A Day's Work*



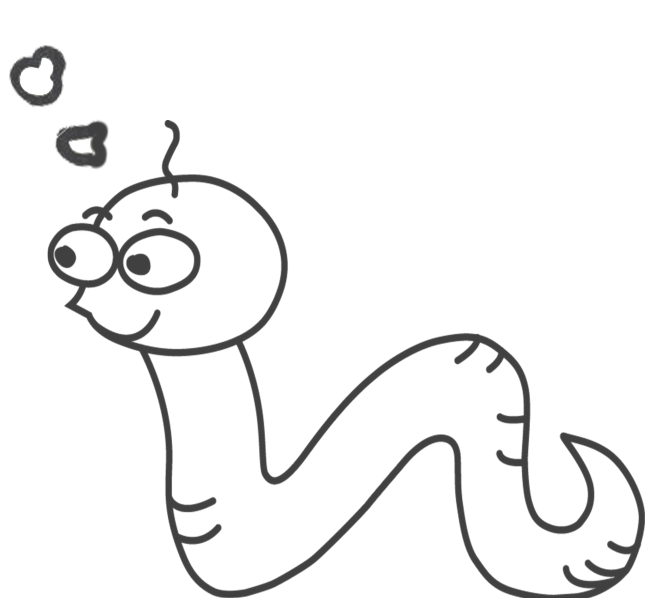
Author: Eve Bunting
Illustrator: Ronald Himler
Publisher: Clarion Books (1994)
ISBN: 978-0-395-67321-8
Price online: *Rs. 490 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

Francisco, a Mexican-American boy has taken the responsibility of finding work for his grandfather, who has recently migrated from Mexico. He chooses to lie about his grandfather's skills to get work and imagines he is helping his grandfather. However, the roles get reversed and Francisco finds out that he has much to learn from his grandfather.

A poignant story that touches upon migration and values of honesty and integrity. Soft and warm watercolour illustrations bring out the life of people who have migrated and are on the lookout for jobs for sustenance, keeping their core values intact. A theme that presents a close-knit relationship between two generations and opens up a dialogue among children about the importance of truth, family and accountability.



105 *Bumboo... The Donkey Who Would Not Budge*

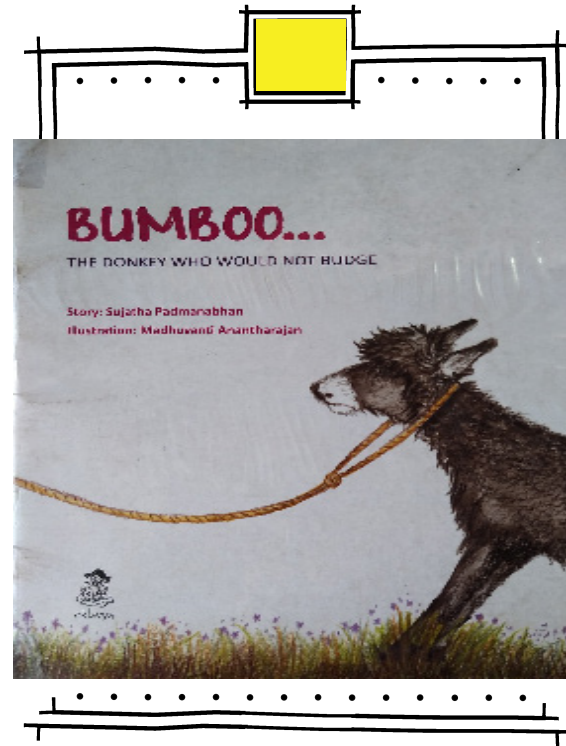
Author: Sujatha Padmanabhan

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.



106 *Putul and the Dolphins*

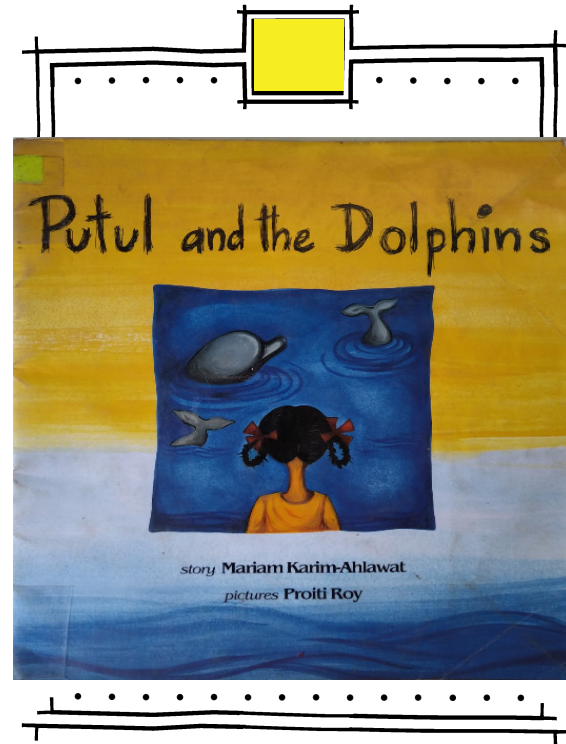
Author: Mariam Karim-Ahlawat

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.



107 *Big Red Lollipop*

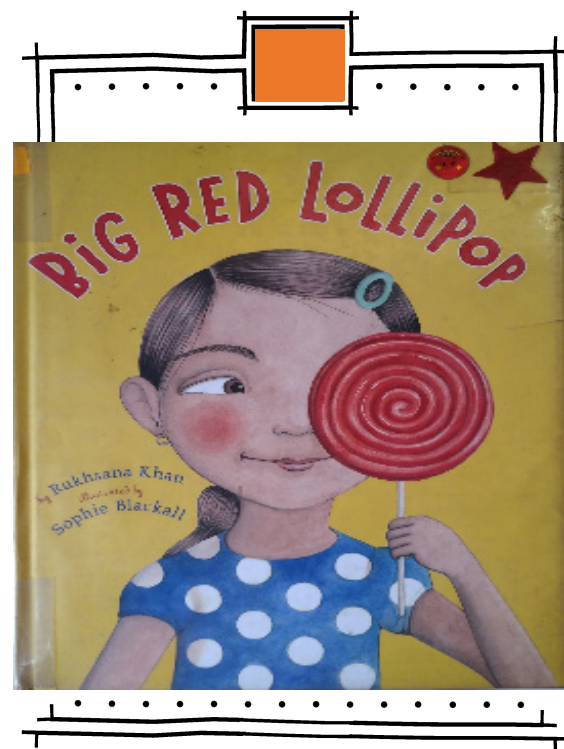
Author: Rukhsana Khan

Illustrator: Sophie Blackall

Publisher: Viking (2010)

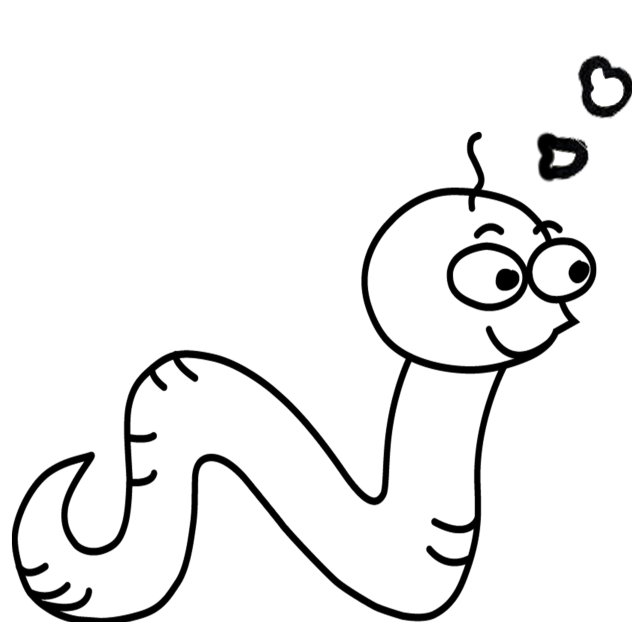
ISBN: 978-0-670-06287-4

Price online: *Rs. 1040 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

When Rubina is invited to her first ever birthday party, her mother insists that she take her younger sister along with her. Rubina reluctantly takes Sana along, but Sana ruins the party with her tantrums and spoils the party for Rubina. Years later, Sana is invited to HER first birthday party and her mother insists she takes her younger sister Maryam along. How will Rubina react to this? Will she intervene for her younger sister?



Big Red Lollipop brings up an aspect of cultural differences as the story is based on a family who have migrated to America, and a lot of concepts such as 'birthday parties' are new to them. However, at the core of the story is the remarkable way in which Rubina imparts her own experience and understanding and makes a choice that has an impact on both her relationship with her sister and larger family relationships. Told in an insightful and very relatable way, this story makes us pause and think about the choices we make and how each choice can have an impact on relationships at large.

108 *The Village Fair*

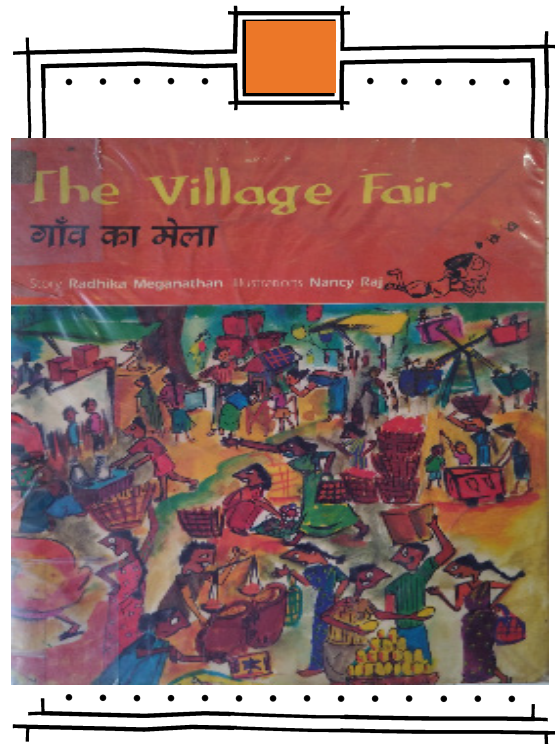
Author: Radhika Meganathan

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.

109 *Mother is Mother*

Author: Shankar

Illustrator: Pulak Biswas

Publisher: Children's book Trust
1983)

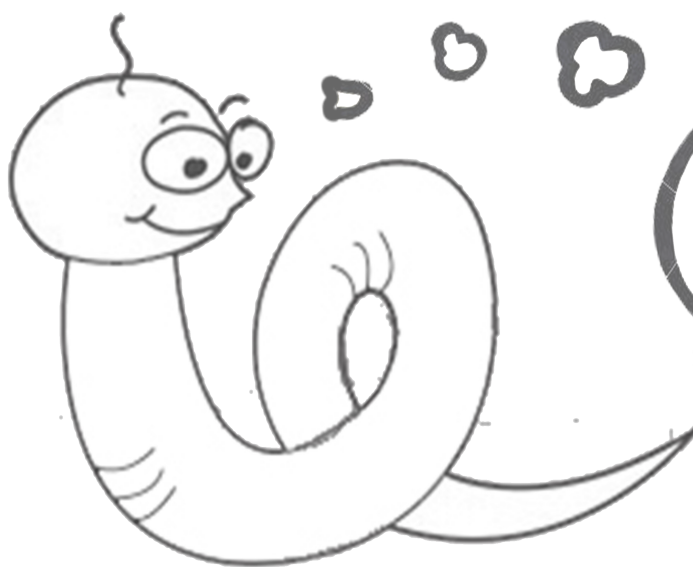
ISBN: 81-7011-043-2

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.



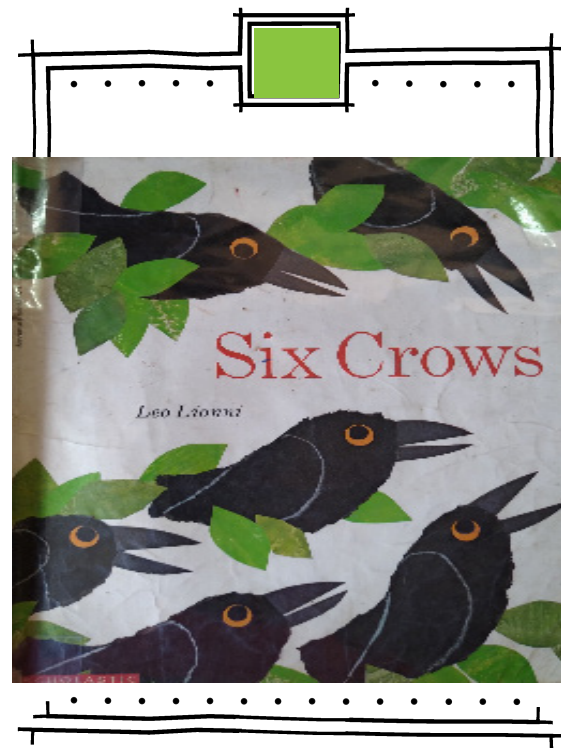
Separation from a parent is a feeling well understood by most children and so is the desire to acquire a pet. This enables a light entry into the story for all. However, the tensions and thoughts and actions of both Ravi and the mother squirrel compel a reflection on choice that leaves the reader contemplative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

110

Six Crows



Author: Leo Lionni
Illustrator: Leo Lionni
Publisher: Scholastic Inc. (1988)
ISBN: 0-590-62447-4
Price online: *Rs. 1023 (Paperback)*



ABOUT THE BOOK

This story is set in a peaceful village where a fight breaks out between the farmer and six crows. The book seeks to remind us about the most accessible of all solutions to a problem, but one that we appear to need constant reminders about.

The story is endearing and everlasting because it focuses on a universal solution to a whole universe of problems. The story is light but evokes thoughtfulness about how animals and humans behave with each other. Children enjoy the prediction opportunity during the story and often come up with complex solutions until they realise that Leo Lionni draws out the simplest of choices to address the problem.



FIN

