A Wall painting by Adivasi artist,
Meenakshi Vasudev Vayada

Tamasha!

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In a little village called Zim zumpur there lived a brother and sister called Abu and Rani.

One day when Abu was going to school, a Big Wind came and carried him away, across the seven deep seas and the eleven dark, forestry mountains.
Rani ran after the wind. At last, she saw a friendly neem tree.

“Neem! Neem! Big Wind stole my brother! Please help me find him!”

“Aren’t you Rani, the girl who waters me?” asked Neem. “I’ll help you!”

She called to Cloud resting on top of a hill.

Cloud said, “Climb on to my back. My Sister, the Sun will help us find him.”
Sun was angry when she heard Rani’s tale. “Anyone who stops children from going to school is bad! Let’s go find him!”

They travelled till it grew dark. The Sun had work to do on the other side of the earth. Luckily, the Moon came sailing by.

“I’ll help,” Moon said. “All children must have a home to live in. And food. Big Wind does not have a house or food!”

“But he’s good!” said the stars, crowding round Rani. “Don’t worry. We’ll find him!”
And the stars soon found Abu!
“Did you really steal Abu?” Moon asked.
Big Wind looked so ashamed.
“You said all children should know their country and love it. So I took Abu around India!”

“And I learnt so much!” said Abu.
“Well, I hope you remember everything you’ve learnt!”
“Yes!” said Abu proudly. “As soon as I go back, I’m going to ask my Abba and Ammi to let Rani go to school!”
“Oh, Abu!” said Rani, running to hug him.
“And, you know lame Munia? She makes such lovely pots. Let’s take them to the Friday Haat and help her sell them!”

“Let’s start playing with that new boy who’s come to live in our village.”

“Yes!” said Abu. “If we all work together for our own happiness, all children can be happy!”

If you can’t hear or you can’t see, look at the things that you can be!
The sky people smiled.
"Thank you Big Wind for helping us see what is right!" said Abu shyly.
"Thank you! Even big people can make mistakes, you know," Big Wind said in his gruff voice. "I'm sorry I frightened Rani!"

Abu and Rani hugged Big Wind so much that day that for three days he had to take rest!
Suddenly one night... a most enormous thing fell into the White Lily Pond in Gulmohar Jungle.

Hari the hare, Hanu the monkey, Sarla the parrot screamed...

Everyone was so busy being afraid that they didn't see the 'thing' carefully walk out of the pond. Hari was the first to spot him.

HELP!

The strange animal gave a tiny little hiccup and said...

I'm Hawasi! A Hi-Hic! Copotamus
Raatri the Owl said,

A HIPPOPOTAMUS! HIPPOS LIVE IN AFRICA! YOU'RE A LONG WAY FROM HOME. AREN'T YOU?

WHHMM!

But how did you get here?

Ela the caterpillar asked him.

I got a hiccup while I was with my mother and—hic—the hiccup threw me up! Even my strong papa couldn't stop me!!!

They tried everything to get rid of his hiccup... Water... Sugar... and they tried frightening him.

HIC! HIC! HIC!
"LISTEN, WHAT HE NEEDS IS A HUGE HICCUP THAT'LL TAKE HIM BACK HOME THE SAME WAY HE CAME!!

...suddenly, Tejas the Tiger said.

YES! AND A LAUGH ALWAYS MAKES A HICCUP WORSE!!

Hanu the clever monkey said.

The ants tickled Hawasi...
Everyone shouted out all the jokes they knew.

And...right in the middle of a crazy elephant joke, Hawasi hiccuped! A really huge, big hippo-sized hic! And...

HA! HA!

he went flying into the air!
BACK HOME!
BIG, FAT HIPPOS

Hippos are very special to the country called Africa.
An adult hippo can weigh as much as about 100 children like you, or 4,000 kilograms.

Hippos love water. They spend most of the day in the water, or on the mud banks.

Hippos are powerful swimmers. They like to walk on the bottom of lakes. They come up once in a while to breathe.
Meet our friends!

Tamasha has a B-I-G library. There are lots of books there. I meet many friends there...like RABINDRANATH TAGORE.

Rabindranath Tagore died fifty years ago. He was a good painter, musician, poet and story-teller too! He belonged to Bengal, but wrote wonderful poems for all of us.

"The Wayside Tree," is an old Sanskrit poem. It was written more than 500 years ago. No one knows who wrote it! I found it in a poetry book called, Svikaran.

Both these poems are beautiful. I'm glad I can read. Aren't you?
THE FURTHER BANK

BY RABINDRANATH TAGORE
Illustrated by Suddhasattwa Basu

I long to go to the further bank,
where boats are tied to a bamboo pole,
where men cross over in their boats
with ploughs on their shoulders,
to till their faraway fields.

Where the cowherds make their lowing cattle
swim across the riverside pasture;
whence they all come back home in the evening,
leaving the jackals to howl
in the island overgrown with weeds.

Mother, if you don’t mind,
I should like to become the boatman
of the ferryboat when I am grownup.
They say there are strange pools hidden behind that high bank, where flocks of wild ducks come when the rains are over, and the thick reeds grow round the margins where water-birds lay their eggs; where snipes with their dancing tails stamp their tiny footprints upon the clean soft mud; where in the evening the tall grasses crested with white flowers invite the moonbeam to float upon their waves.

Mother, if you don't mind, I should like to become the boatman of the ferryboat when I am grownup.
I shall cross and cross back
from bank to bank, and
all the boys and girls of the village
will wonder at me
while they are bathing.
And when the sun climbs the mid sky
and morning wears on to noon,
I shall come running to you, saying,
"Mother! I'm hungry!"

When the day is done
and the shadows cower under the trees,
I shall come back in the dusk.
I shall never go away from you
into the town to work like father.

Mother, if you don't mind,
I should like to become the boatman
of the ferryboat when I am grownup.
CATCH THE FAST TRAIN TO KANYAKUMARI!
A game for 2 players
**You need:** 5 stones; 2 beads/buttons
**How to play:** 1. Throw the stones in the air and catch them on the back of your palm. 2. Move forward the number of stones you’ve caught. 3. Try to get into the green boxes. These will take you faster to see the many places in India!

Drawing by Taposhi Ghoshal
CHHUK! CHHUK!

Chuk-chuk-chuk-chuk train am I
An Indian Railways train am I,
I huff! I puff! Oh, see me run!
Come with me if you want some fun.

The cold of mountains don’t scare me,
The steaming south I love to see,
North or South or East or West,
See it my way...that’s the best.

In 1853, they say,
I steamed between Thane - Bombay,
But today I’m so very quick,
I’m diesel now or electric!

Kalka, Shimla, here I come,
Madras, Howrah, Trivandrum!
North or South or East or West,
My Cooooo...oo! Chuk-chuk way’s the best.
Art by Jai

GHOST!

[Humorous cartoon strip of a character having an encounter with a ghost at a fair, reacting in various ways to the ghost's presence.]
“This is the best holiday I have had,” said Sarabjeet.
“And your food is so good, Dadima!” said her elder brother, Inder.

**THE HOLD UP!**

Dadima smiled as she pushed them gently out of the door. “The Durga Temple is near the Asansol highway,” she said. “Get back before dark. It’s dacoit area!”

It was a wonderful temple. And by the time they left it was dark. The sun drew long shadows. The road lay quiet and deserted. The rocks on both sides looked huge and dangerous. Then...
From behind a rock, a shadow jumped up. A young man wearing a loose dirty kurta blocked the road. He raised his palms and shouted, “Thamo...thaaa...moooo!”

“Inder!” shrieked Sarabjeet.

The man shouted, “Oshood! Oshood. Amar oshood chai!”

“Dacoit!” hissed Inder.

Bending low over the handle bar, Sarabjeet pedalled hard.

She didn’t dare look at the man. As she passed him, he reached for her arm. He roared, “Amar oshood chai!” Sarabjeet’s heart thudded like a drum. She swung her bicycle to the left. The cycle slipped once, then...she was free!

Soon Inder was beside her. The man’s angry voice faded into the distance.
"He might have killed us!" said Inder.

Sarabjeet looked back. The man still stood there. Alone. Looking sad....

Oshood! The word kept ringing in her ears till they reached home.

"Dadima," she asked, as she washed her feet. "What does oshood mean?"

"It is Bangla for medicine," said Dadima, "Why?"

"A man on the road...we didn't understand him...so, we thought he was bad!"

Sarabjeet burst into tears.

Suddenly, old, tired Dadima, was all briskness. "Come!" she said. "Let's go find him!"

Sigrun Srivastava © 1991. Based on "Advia!" from a Moment of Truth/Ratna Sagar
Have you wanted the hands of a doctor whose touch can heal? Or the delicate fingers of a painter that can draw a feather? Have you wanted to kick a football into the sky, or count all the colours in the rainbow? Well, you can't do any of these things without BRAIN POWER.
The brain looks like a large, soft walnut. It weighs about 1.5 kg. As much as a large cauliflower!

If you could peep into the brain, this is what you will find...

The brain is protected by a bony covering called the SKULL.

The brain floats in a fluid. This keeps the brain from getting hurt.

The brain is made up of two parts that look almost exactly like one another.
The brain does not move at all. Yet, it does a LOT of work!

There is a part of the brain that controls each and every part of your body. If you want to chew your food, your jaws will not work if your brain does not tell it to! If you want to throw a ball, your brain has to tell your hand to throw!

Scientists say that most of us do not use our brains fully. You too can do more than you really think you can.
In this picture parts of the body for which the brain does a lot of work are shown bigger than they actually are. The hand, for example, is very sensitive. It needs a lot of brainwork.

When does the brain grow most? In babies and children. That's why babies and children need to eat well.

YOUR BRAIN NEEDS—
• Iodised salt (if you live in an area that is not rich in iodine)
• vegetables, specially green leafy vegetables
• peanuts, lentils, soya beans, nuts
• milk and eggs
MAGIC PAPER

Surprise your friends with this magic. But first practise! Magicians work hard to perfect their art.

1. Take a long strip of paper.
2. Mark a cross on each end.
3. Put a little glue on the cross in your left hand.
4. Hold the ends in your two hands.
5. Bring the ends together.
6. Twist the paper once and paste the crosses together.

This is called a MOBIUS STRIP. All paper has two sides, but... Start colouring one side of the Mobius Strip. When you finish, you will not have another side to colour in!
Once upon a time, the kingdom of Patlapuri had a very, very fat raja. The raja tried everything to become thin.

But, nothing worked. "Oh...ohhh...huuu," cried the Raja. "All I do is eat, eat, EAT! I don't have any fun at all!"

No one knew what to do.
Now, in one corner of the kingdom, lived Seema, the teacher's daughter. She didn’t go to school, because no girls went to school in Patlapuri. But, quietly, she had taught herself to read. She liked nothing better than to sit and read.

One day, Seema had an idea. "Reading is such fun! If the raja reads books, then, he won't always keep thinking about food!"

The raja didn't believe Seema.

But, one night, he picked up his first book. He read and read from lunchtime to dinnertime.

He read another book. And another. And another...

HE BECAME BRIGHT-EYED, SMART, SLIM!
One day, he walked to the Patlapuri school. "Where's Seema? Why are there no girls here?" he asked, puzzled.

"Raja, girls don't need school," said the villagers. "They only get married!"

No one had seen the raja get angrier! "What nonsense!" he roared. "All children should do fun things. Going to school and reading is the best fun! If anyone stops them, I'll...I'll...cut off his head!"

Today, Patlapuri is the happiest kingdom in the whole world. And its girls? Why, they are good at so many things that everyone says they are as good as the boys of Patlapuri!
COW MANY?

If you are 10 years old today and pat two animals every minute you will pat the last animal when you are 90 years old! India has the largest number of cattle in the world! 93,000,000!

Drawing by Taposhi Ghoshal
The United Nations is an organization of nations united in the effort to make the world a better place to live in. A world free from war, poverty, hunger and bondage. It works for a world in which people can live as equals in peace, harmony and dignity.

A large part of the world's population is children who are sometimes unaware of their rights or unable to speak up for themselves. To make people realise and understand that children have rights and need special care and protection, the U.N. has made a new International Law called the 'Convention on the Rights of the Child.' All the countries of the world are expected to accept this law.

Illustrated by
Sujatha Dasgupta