



How to Solve a Problem like Himani

Author: Mala Kumar

Illustrators: Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School



March 28

It's so hot here!

Golu was very naughty today. She climbed up a slant and would not come down. Silly goat!

Seema and Gullu had to help me get her down.





March 30

I can see the snow-capped Himalayan peaks—Nandakot, Maiktoli, Panchachuli, Chaukhamba. But Kumaon is dry. Gullu and I help Ija and Baujyu* get water from the pump down the road, or from the stream further down. Ooof! Wish the water could reach us directly from the snowy mountains. Drinking water is difficult to get even in January, when it snows.

**Ija and Baujyu: Kumaoni words for 'mother' and 'father'.*



April 2

Our ten-day summer workshop with Reena didi started today. She has come from Mumbai. She asked us thousands of questions! What do you like about school? What do you not like about school? How do you commute to school? Suddenly she turned to me and asked the meaning of my name.

"Himani means snow," I said.



Why does she ask so many questions?



April 3

What a fun day it was! We played a game. One of us needed to think of a problem that we might have faced and state it in the form of a question. Then another classmate had to ask a question related to it.

It was almost like a chain story. We had so many questions!



How can we get clean
drinking water in school?

Why can't we have a
pipe straight from the
melting glaciers?

Why do we need clean water?
Where will the water come from?

Why do you ask
such questions?



Why don't we concentrate
on our water problem?

Where will we get a water filter from?
Why can't we make it?
Who knows how to make one?

) Why can't we have a water filter?



? > ?? = ? >> ?!



April 4

We were surfing the Internet
when I found this chart:



SOLVE ANY PROBLEM, STEP BY STEP



- > Identify the problem.
- > Find out everything you can about the problem.
- > Discuss.
- > Decide on the most suitable idea.
- > Try it out.
- > If you succeed, very good!
- > If not, try another idea.



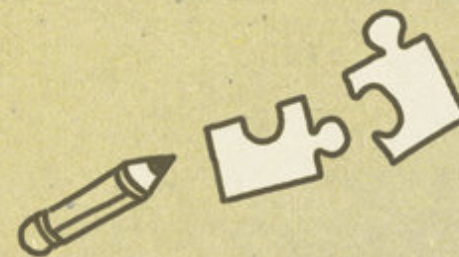
Could we really solve a problem
using this method?



? > ?? = ? >> ?!

April 5

At school, we made a list of our problems.
How many problems do we have?



BIG PROBLEMS

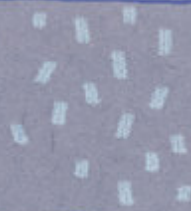
No direct water at
home or school



Landslides



Slippery roads
to school during
the monsoon



Leeches in our socks
during the rains.



No hospital or
clinic near by



Neighbours who
get violent after
drinking

PROBLEMS WE CAN SOLVE

Unclean
drinking
water



Heavy school bag



Unlit paths at night



Plastic bottles everywhere



April 6

Worked with Ija and Bauju in the cauliflower patch. Then ran to school for problem-solving day! We went out in pairs to the library, and to talk to our teachers and to each other. Then we came back to class.

1. **Identify:** The problem is unfiltered drinking water at school. Students keep falling sick because of this.

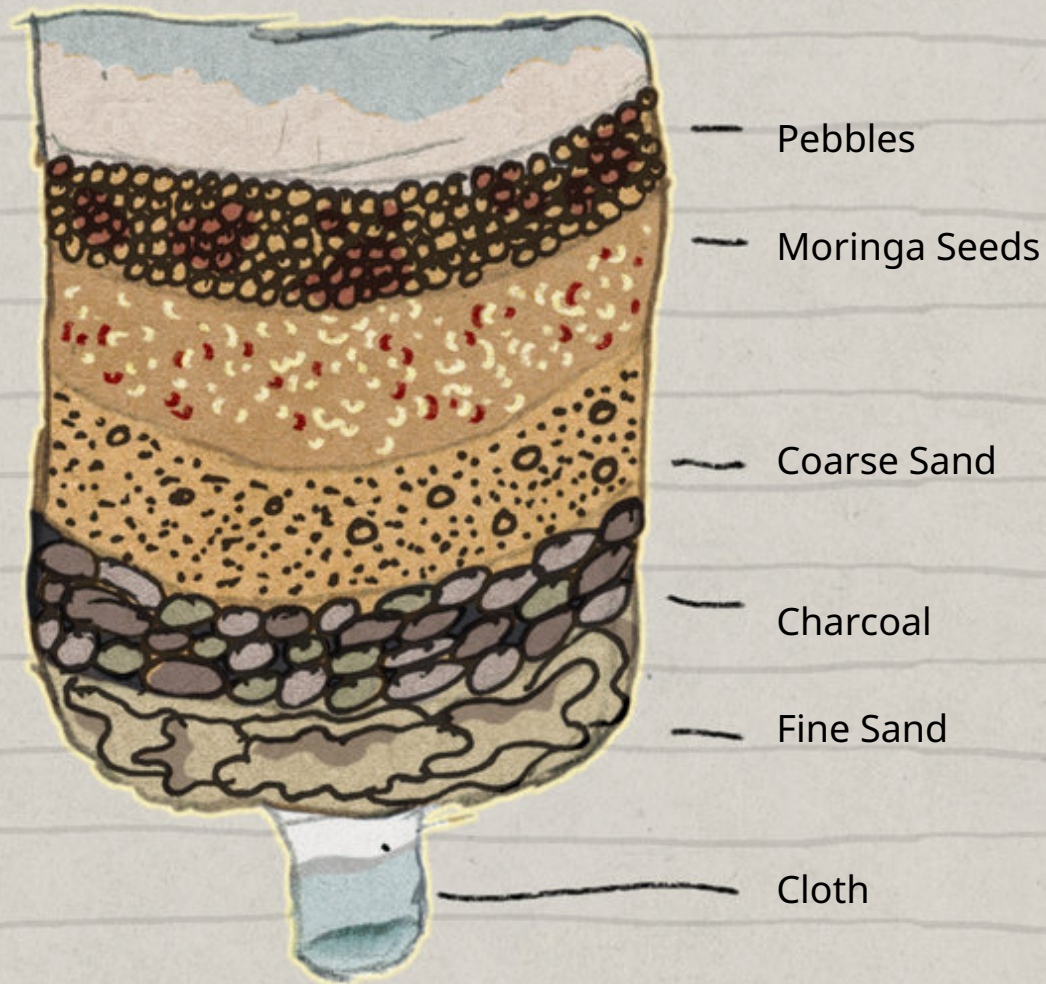
2. **Find out:** Why is getting clean water a problem here? Many streams around Kumaon are supposed to have pure water. There are no streams near our school.

3. **Discuss:** We found out that some people use cloth. This only filters bigger sediments, not harmful bacteria. Manorama said they have a small water filter at home. Moringa seeds in water pots help purify water, said a teacher.

4. **Decide:** Would a water purifier help us?

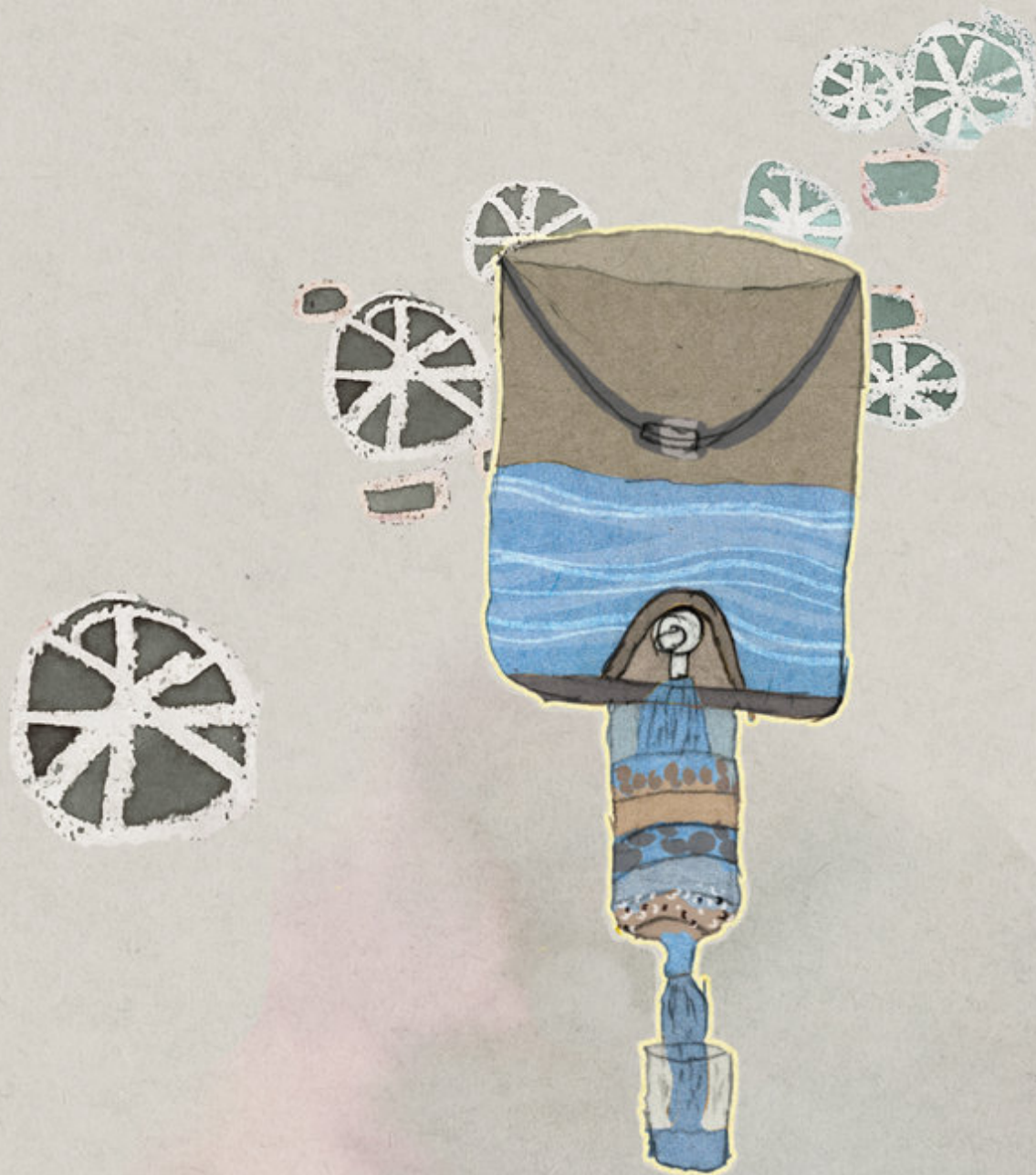


Try it out!



We all drew water filters! We decided we needed one that could be attached to the nozzle of our water drum.

Santosh bhai and Ashish bhai, our seniors, helped us make a water filter based on our drawings. They have taken a few days off from college to make a water catchment system in our school. The filtered water tasted so fresh and clean!





April 11

In the last three days, we've done a lot of art. We have applied the problem-solving method to come up with more ideas.



Cycle Plough

Does not require cattle or a tractor to pull it. Good for narrow step farms.

Bottle Torch

Torch made with recycled parts. Fitted inside a discarded plastic bottle, so that dampness does not spoil it. Dampness spoils battery-operated torches very quickly in this region.

Mini-irrigator

Drip irrigation for crops like grapes that need soil to stay hydrated. Made with recycled water bottles, attached to plants like IV tubes in hospitals.





April 13

Now that the workshop is over, we're all busy with harvesting and packing apricots, pears, apples and rhododendron flowers. Ija and Baujyu are so nimble and good at picking fruits! Not me. Yesterday, I slipped and twisted my ankle while picking fruit. No fracture, thank God!

I wish I had a gadget that could pick fruits for me! Maybe we could train Golu and the other goats to pick fruits, ha, ha.



Seriously, how wonderful it would be to have an efficient, safe, eco-friendly apple-picking machine!



Satkhol Tales

This story was inspired by the work of The Walking School Bus during their Himalayan Expeditions in 2018. TWSB works towards providing safe transport, nutrition, and innovative literacy programmes. Their contest 'Search for Jugaad' sought inventive and scalable ideas that could enable people to find local solutions to challenges of education specific to their community.

The images in this story were drawn by Divya, Manasa, Pooja, Deepanshu J, Ritesh, Lakshit, Ujwal, Deepanshu N and Pushpa—students of class 3-8 of Himalayan Public School, Uttarakhand. Over 80 students were part of the art classes conducted by TWSB.





Story Attribution:

This story: How to Solve a Problem like Himani is written by [Mala Kumar](#) . © Pratham Books , 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Other Credits:

'How to Solve a Problem like Himani' has been published on StoryWeaver by Pratham Books. The development of this book has been supported by CISCO. www.prathambooks.org

Images Attributions:

Cover page: [One girl sitting on the ground](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 2: [Trees and mountains](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 3: [Goats grazing in the hills](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 4: [A water pump](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 5: [School bus](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 6: [Three students listening to a woman](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 7: [Living with nature](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 8: [Four students in a classroom](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 9: [Four students in a class](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 10: [A class in progress, situated in the open](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 11: [A blank board](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions



Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



The development of this book has been supported by CISCO.

Images Attributions:

Page 12: [A girl](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 13: [A board](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 14: [Six boxes with images](#) by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 15: [Four boxes with images](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 16: [One house](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 17: [A water purifier](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 18: [Water filtration](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 19: [Three people holding different devices](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 20: [Grassy field](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 21: [Land](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 22: [People picking apples](#), by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 23: [A tree, a house and a bus](#) by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions



Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



The development of this book has been supported by CISCO.



This book was made possible by Pratham Books' StoryWeaver platform. Content under Creative Commons licenses can be downloaded, translated and can even be used to create new stories - provided you give appropriate credit, and indicate if changes were made. To know more about this, and the full terms of use and attribution, please visit the following [link](#).

Images Attributions:

Page 24: [A house in the hills and children holding drawings](#) by [Ruchi Shah, Students of Himalayan Public School](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions



Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



The development of this book has been supported by CISCO.

How to Solve a Problem like Himani

(English)

In a tiny school in the Uttarakhand hills, Himani and her classmates learn how to solve real-life problems. The story takes you through her diary entries as she learns the steps to solve problems, big and small.

This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.



Pratham Books goes digital to weave a whole new chapter in the realm of multilingual children's stories. Knitting together children, authors, illustrators and publishers. Folding in teachers, and translators. To create a rich fabric of openly licensed multilingual stories for the children of India and the world. Our unique online platform, StoryWeaver, is a playground where children, parents, teachers and librarians can get creative. Come, start weaving today, and help us get a book in every child's hand!

This book is shared online by Free Kids Books at <https://www.freekidsbooks.org> in terms of the creative commons license provided by the publisher or author.

want to find more books like this?



<https://www.freekidsbooks.org>

Simply great free books -

Preschool, early grades, picture books, learning to read,
early chapter books, middle grade, young adult,

Pratham, Book Dash, Mustardseed, Open Equal Free, and many more!

Always Free – Always will be!

Legal Note: This book is in CREATIVE COMMONS - Awesome!! That means you can share, reuse it, and in some cases republish it, but only in accordance with the terms of the applicable license (not all CCs are equal!), attribution must be provided, and any resulting work must be released in the same manner.

Please reach out and contact us if you want more information:

<https://www.freekidsbooks.org/about> Image Attribution: Annika Brandow, from You! Yes You! CC-BY-SA. This page is added for identification.