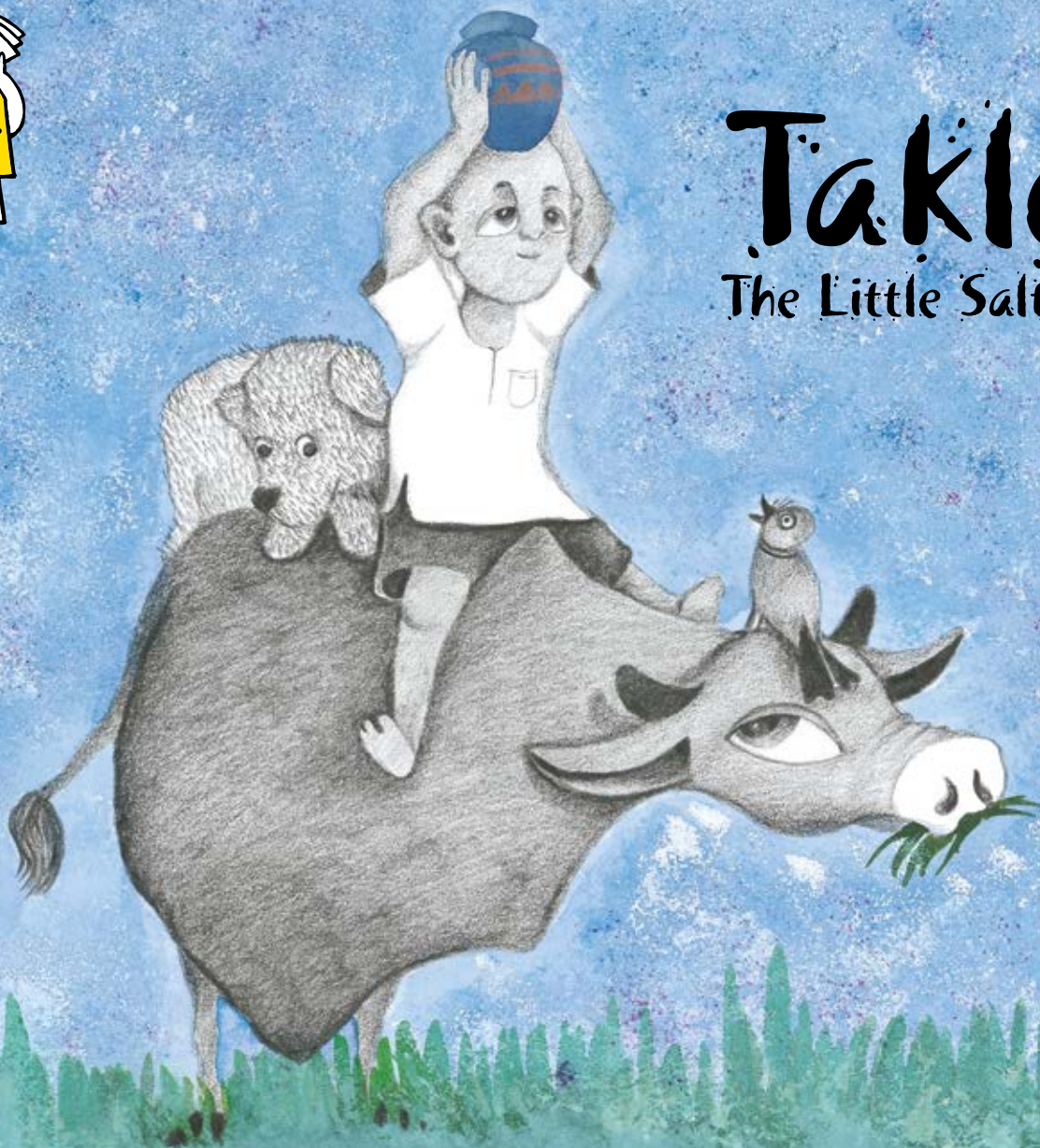




Takloo

The Little Salt Seller



Radhika Bapat
Poonam Athalye

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Illustrated by Poonam Athalye
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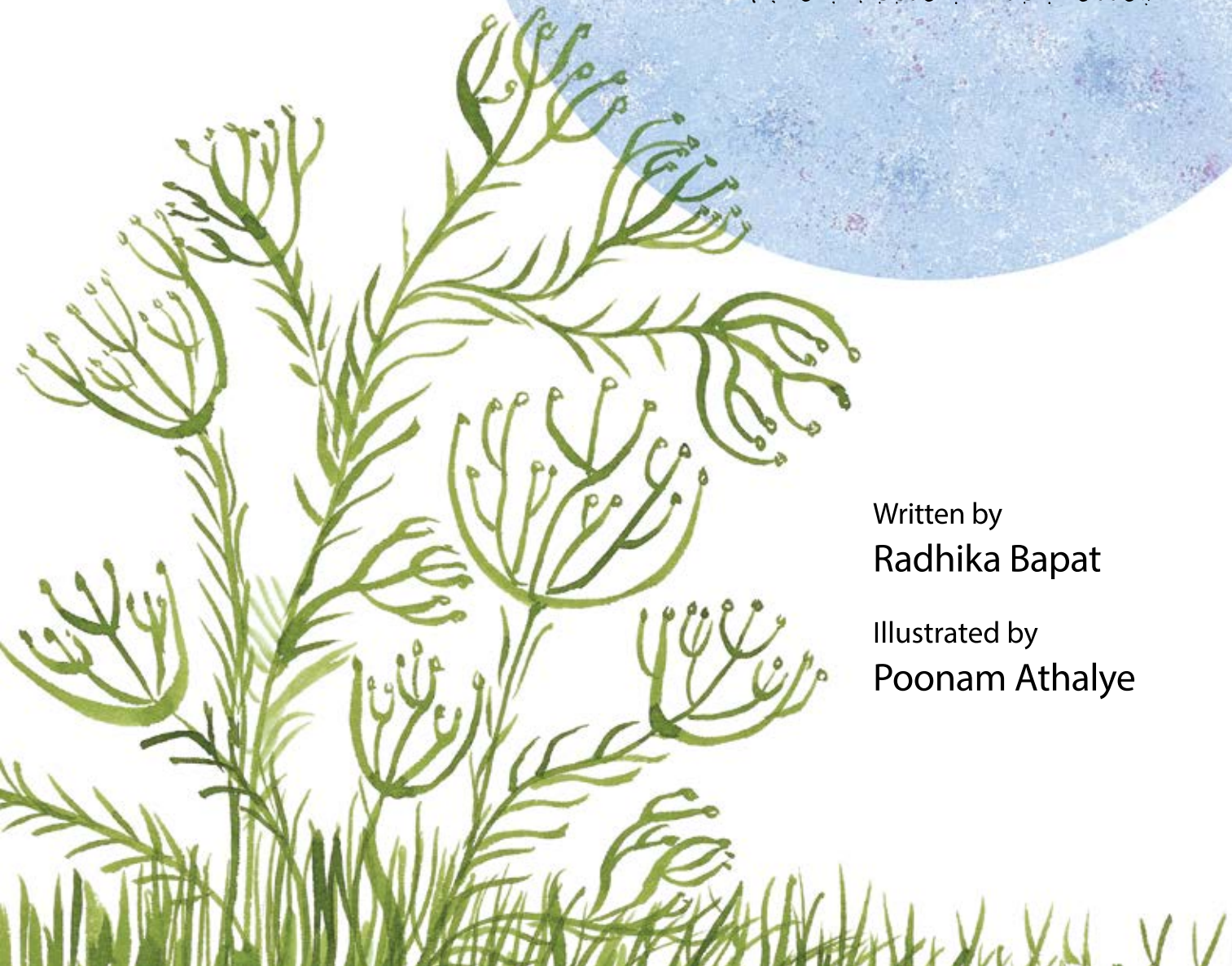


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How should you use this book?

Children may read this book on their own or with the help of a facilitator. The carefully designed illustrations would help facilitate telling the story to all age groups starting with preschool.

It is also important that you disregard the story and make up your own story for those children who can't grasp some of the concepts within the book.

The idea is to be aware of the concepts that are being emphasized and to maintain the natural flow of the story while narrating it. Here are examples of concepts that can emerge from these pages:

Page 4-5

The story starts with a concept where east-west can be exaggerated and told to a child.

Page 6-7

This illustration can be used to create interest in children by scanning for birds, shapes of leaves, shades of colours, etc. The colour wheel of basic colours can also be introduced on this page. Someone creative can bring in sounds (birds, forest, etc.). An actual field trip never hurts!

Page 8-9

On this page, we are looking at shades of brown, from light to dark. These are in close approximation to each other being from the same family. Categorization can be understood at a different level through the use of similar yet different shades.

Page 10-13

These illustrations show the family unit specific to India.

Page 14-15

This illustration communicates sensations and textures through objects such as cotton.

Page 16-17

This picture shows Banabai with pointy and curvy things.

Page 18-21

These illustrations focus on various expressions. You could make this really funny by imitating these during narrations.

Page 22-23

Here, we introduce the concept of tall-short. Have the children measure their heights and watch how they grow!

Page 24-25

The concept here is that of seriation, big and small! How many small cups of water will you need to fill up a big pot?

Page 26-29

These pages suggest better usage of materials that are sometimes considered junk. Money concepts are also introduced here as well as different ways of earning.

Page 32

The book starts with the day and ends with nightfall.

Takloo was a little boy from Anjarle, a small village in the far,
far west of India.

If you went further west, you would be a fish in the ocean.







Anjarle was colourful.
It had many trees.



It also had many squirrels. Squirrels love nuts and Anjarle had many nuts, even betel nuts.

The people there were different shades of brown: dark and light brown. And there were even those who were very, very light brown.







Takloo was a naughty boy who loved his dog Moti very much.

When Takloo was born, his father, mother and Moti were very happy and the whole village sang songs and danced. Even Moti danced on two of his four feet.

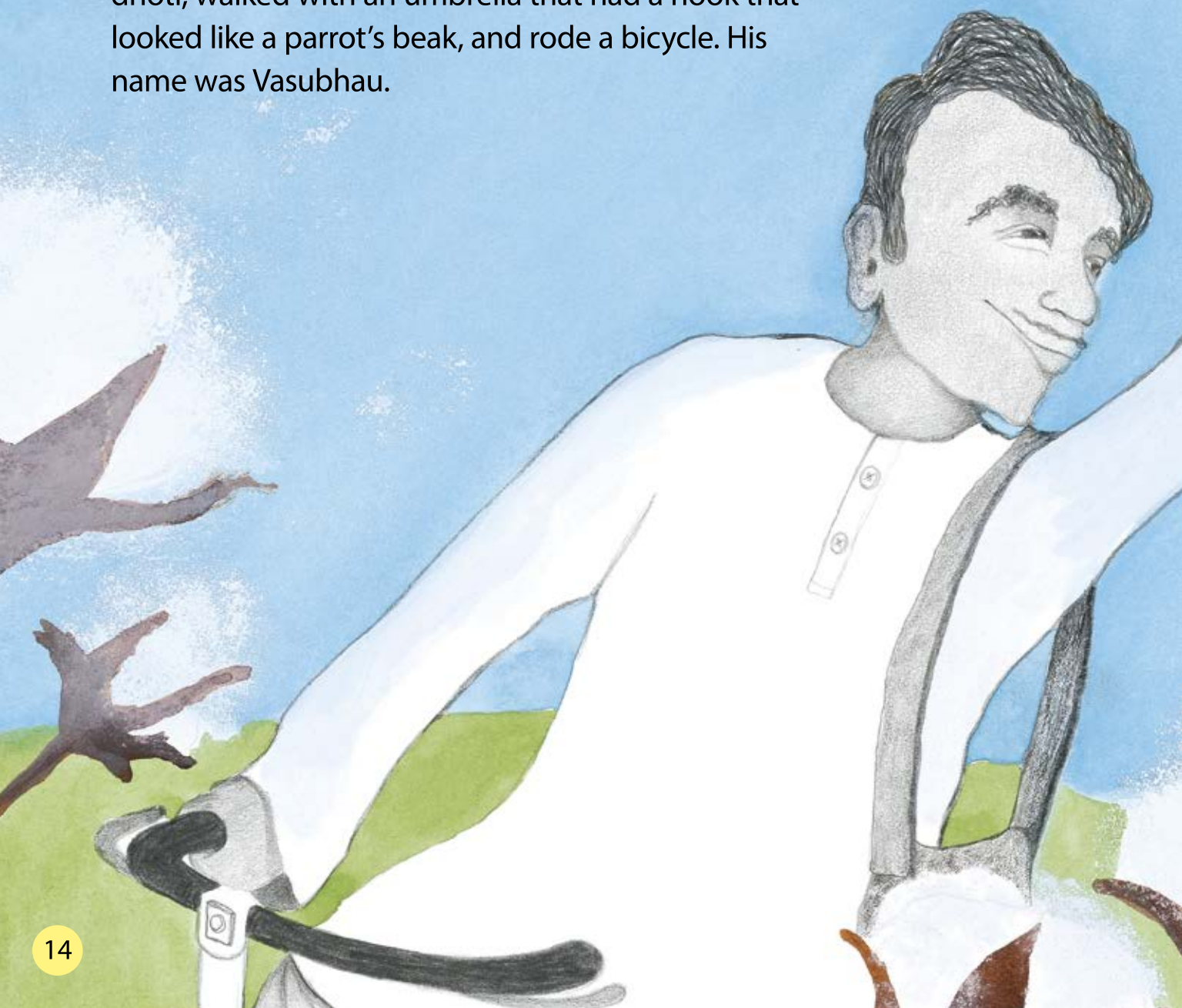


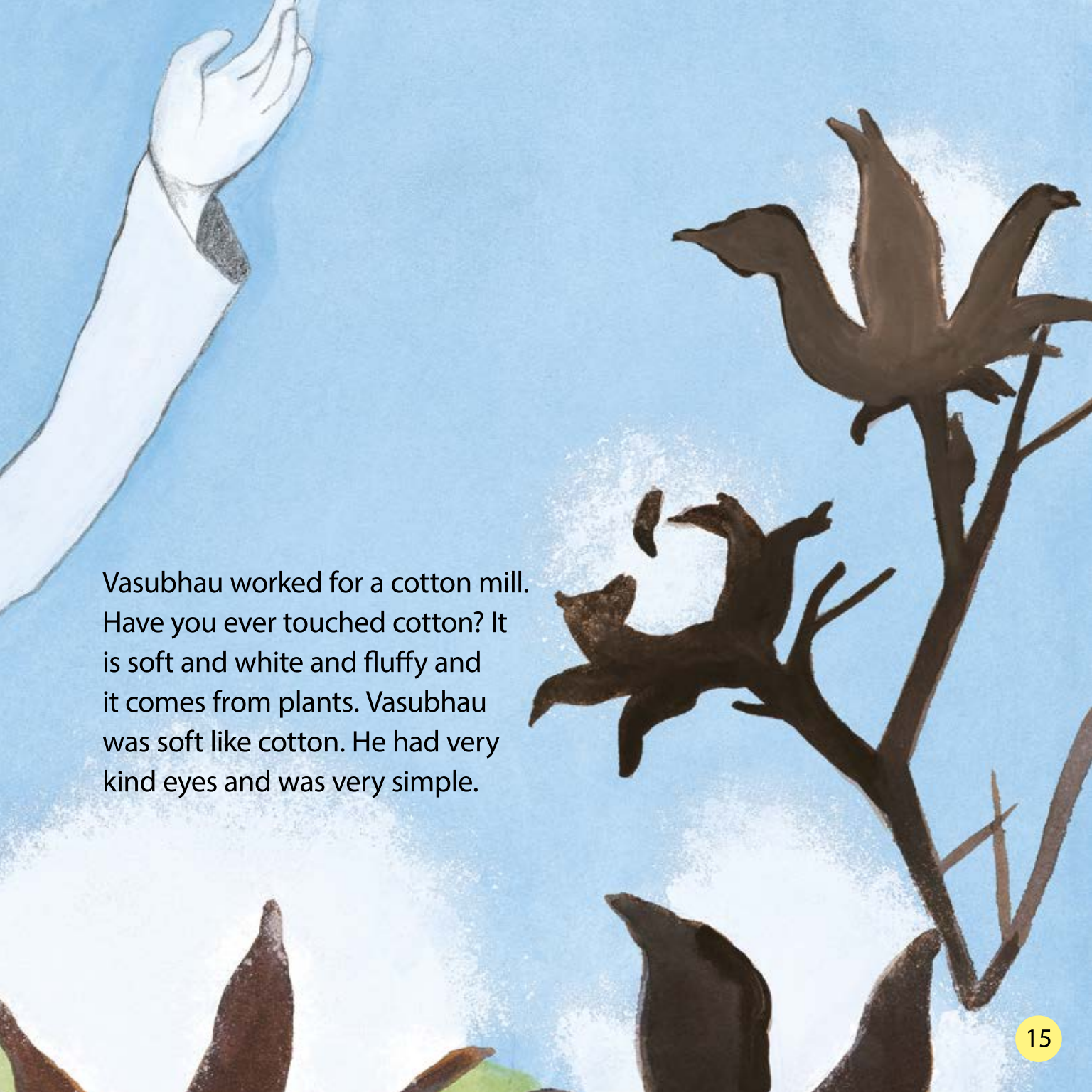


Takloo's family had very little money. They were a happy family and they all smiled like this!



Takloo's father was tall and not too dark. He wore a dhoti, walked with an umbrella that had a hook that looked like a parrot's beak, and rode a bicycle. His name was Vasubhau.

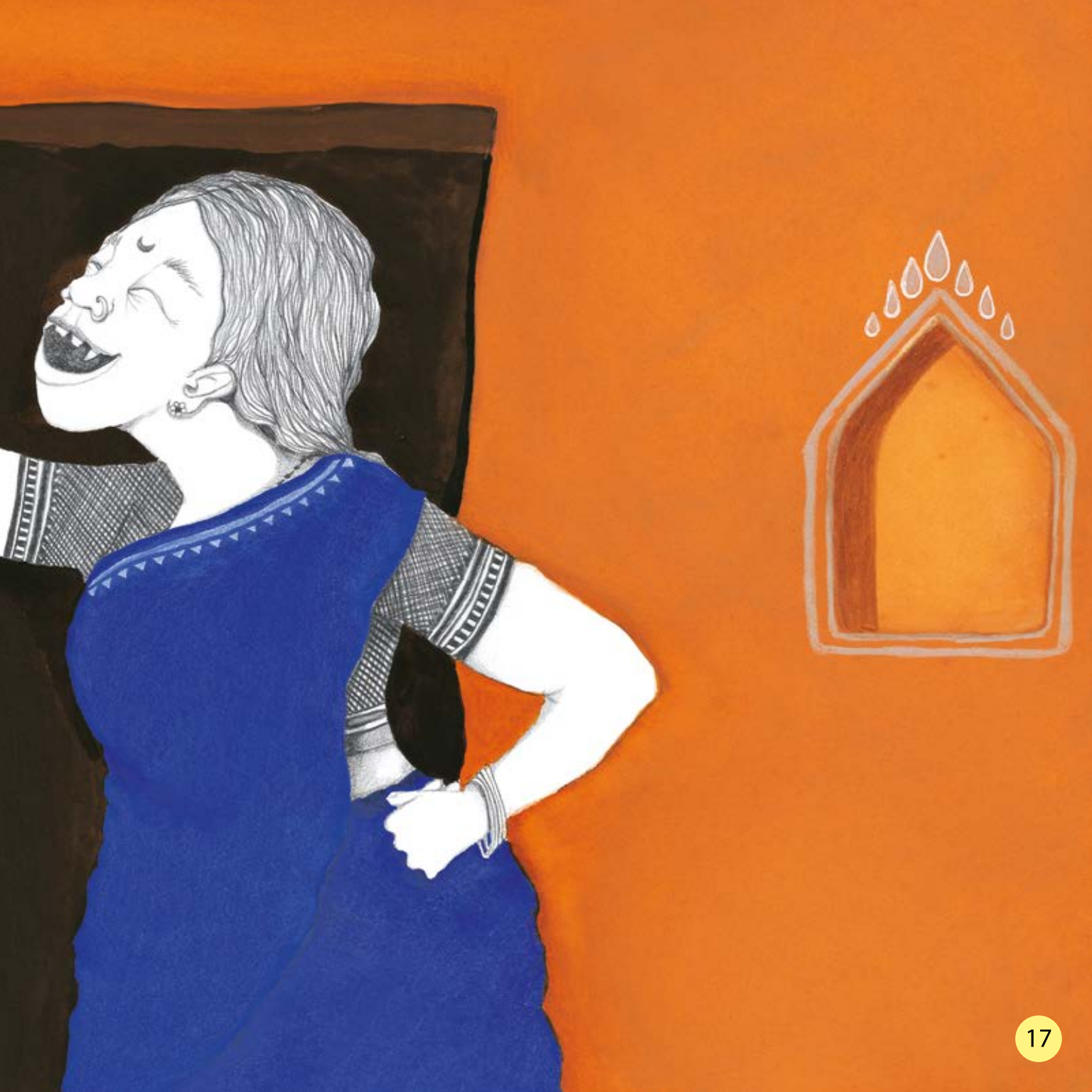


An illustration with a light blue background. In the upper left, a white hand with a simple line drawing of fingers is reaching upwards. On the right side, there are dark brown, stylized cotton plants with large, pointed leaves and open flower buds. At the bottom, there are more dark brown shapes, possibly representing cotton bolls or leaves. The overall style is simple and artistic.

Vasubhau worked for a cotton mill.
Have you ever touched cotton? It
is soft and white and fluffy and
it comes from plants. Vasubhau
was soft like cotton. He had very
kind eyes and was very simple.

Takloo's mother's name was Banabai.
Banabai had teeth that looked like
Dracula's fangs but she was very funny
and made people laugh.







One day, Vasubhau came home with lots and lots of sea salt which had been gifted to him.

Banabai saw all this salt.








Their house was SO SMALL, how would they ever take all this salt inside?

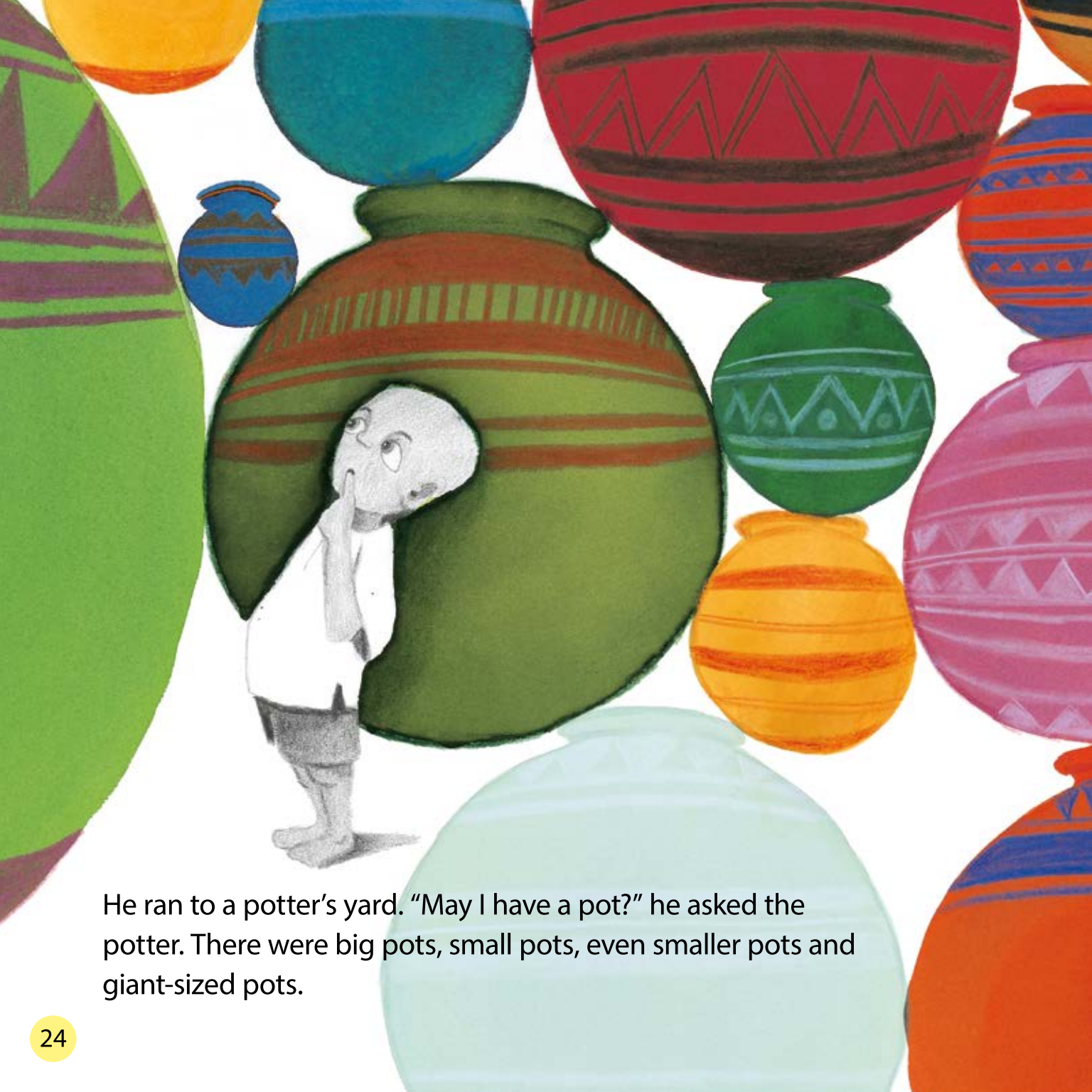
She got very angry with Vasubhau.

She told him, "THERE IS SO MUCH SALT HERE, I CAN USE IT FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS!" and her hair flew in the air and her arms swung about like this!

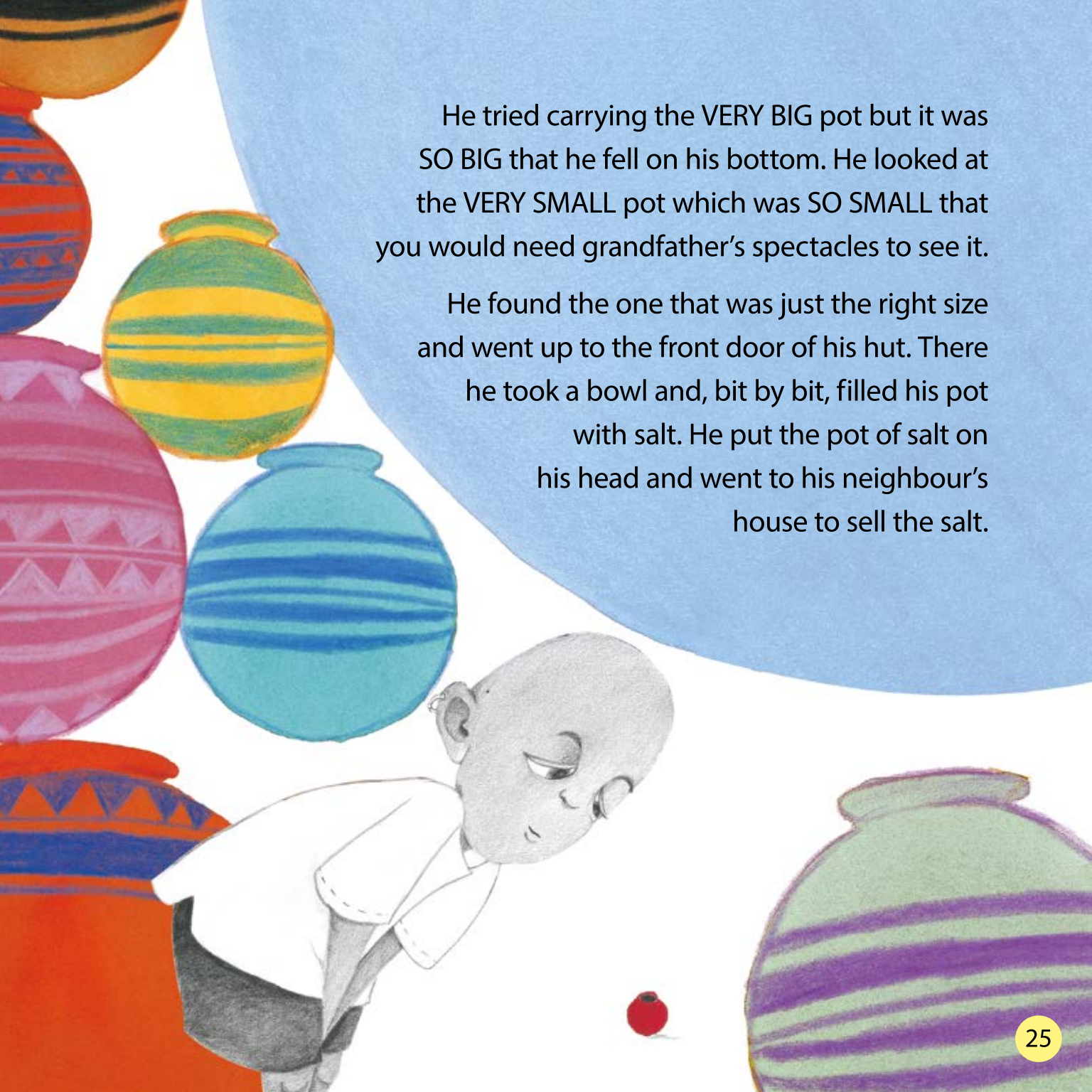


A young boy with a bald head and large, expressive eyes is looking up at a mango tree. He is wearing a white short-sleeved shirt with a pocket and dark pants. The tree has large green leaves and two ripe yellow-orange mangoes hanging from its branches. In the background, there are stylized trees in blue, red, and yellow. The text is positioned in the upper right area of the page.

Takloo was only five years old and even the tiniest baby mango trees were taller than him. Takloo was naughty but he was also very smart. He had an idea!



He ran to a potter's yard. "May I have a pot?" he asked the potter. There were big pots, small pots, even smaller pots and giant-sized pots.

A young boy with a shaved head, wearing a white shirt and dark shorts, is bent over, looking at a small red object on the ground. He is surrounded by several large, colorful pots of various shapes and patterns, including stripes and geometric designs. The background is a light blue sky with a large, light blue circular shape. The text is written in a simple, black, sans-serif font.

He tried carrying the VERY BIG pot but it was SO BIG that he fell on his bottom. He looked at the VERY SMALL pot which was SO SMALL that you would need grandfather's spectacles to see it.

He found the one that was just the right size and went up to the front door of his hut. There he took a bowl and, bit by bit, filled his pot with salt. He put the pot of salt on his head and went to his neighbour's house to sell the salt.

When the neighbours saw Takloo with the salt, they
thought to themselves, *What a clever boy!*







They bought his salt for one rupee. A one rupee coin looks like this!

One neighbour wanted two pots of salt and she gave him a two rupee coin, that looked like this!



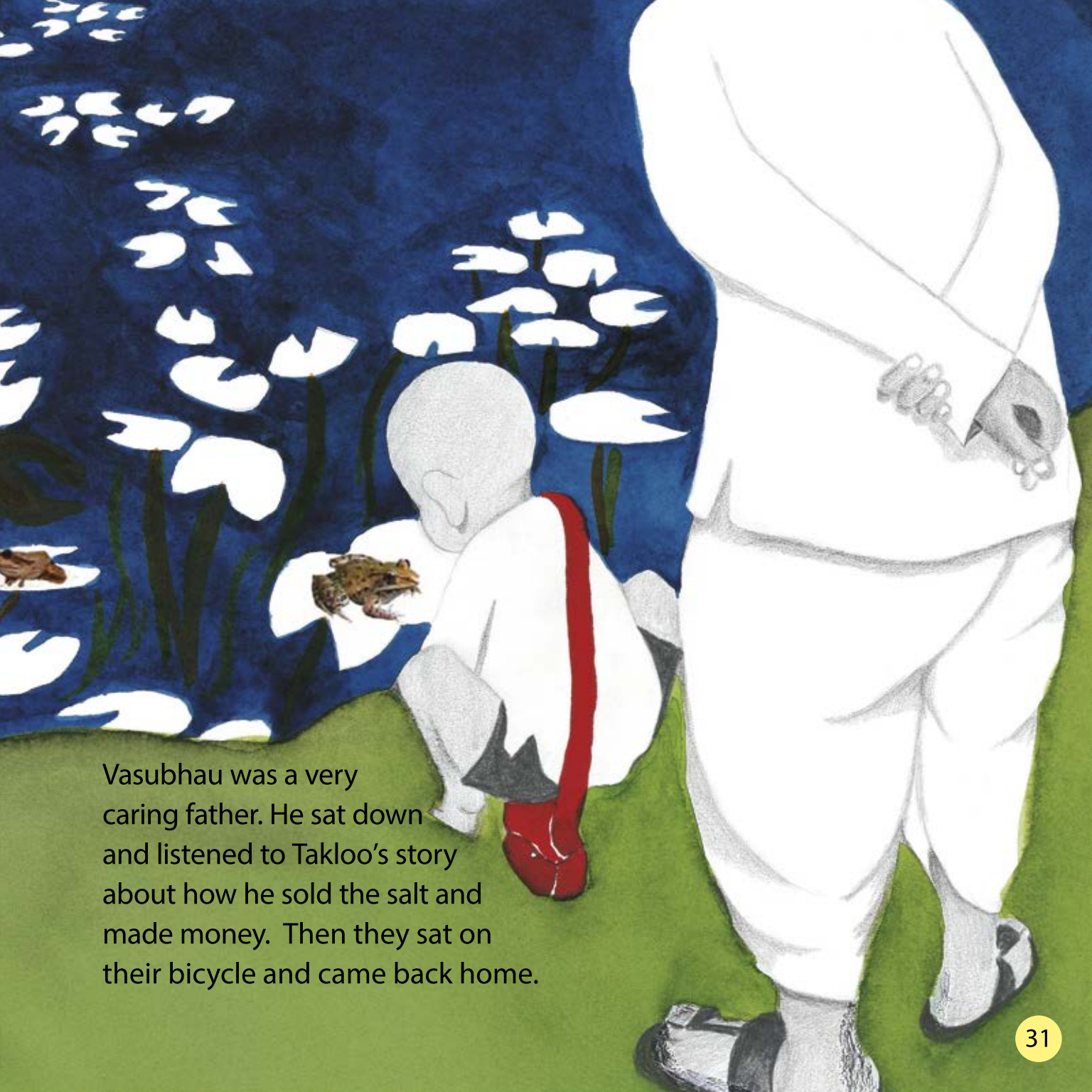
One neighbour asked for five pots
of salt and gave him a heavy coin that
looked like this!






When the sun began to set behind the trees and the sea,
Banabai asked Vasubhau to go and find naughty Takloo.

Vasubhau found Takloo behind the trees near the pond,
playing with frogs that came out to play only in the evenings.
Takloo had a small purse next to him.



Vasubhau was a very caring father. He sat down and listened to Takloo's story about how he sold the salt and made money. Then they sat on their bicycle and came back home.



It was night. Banabai had lit oil lamps and had prepared dinner and was eager to hear their story.

They all sat around the earthen stove and laughed and joked and finished a tasty meal.

Banabai and Vasubhau were very proud of their smart little boy!





Pratham Books was set up in 2004, as part of the Read India movement, a nation-wide campaign to promote reading among children. Pratham Books is a not-for-profit organization that publishes quality books for children in multiple Indian languages. Our mission is to see "a book in every child's hand" and democratize the joy of reading. If you would like to contribute to our mission, please email us at info@prathambooks.org.



Radhika Bapat has an M.Phil. in Clinical Psychology and is the Head of Department, Child Guidance Centre, Pune. This centre offers services in the areas of clinical psychology and rehabilitation to children with developmental disabilities. She uses storytelling as a tool to work with children.



As a child, Poonam spent most of her time with her drawing books. Some picture books left a deep impression on her mind and she rediscovered this enchantment while making animation films. Through her paintings, she wants to share her sense of wonder with everyone. She has been illustrating children's books since 2007.

This is a story about little Takloo who stays near the salty sea with his loving family. Written by a clinical psychologist, this book can be used to teach many concepts. It also encourages young readers to make up their own stories.

Learning to read – level by level. This is a Level 2 book.

**Beginning to Read/
Read Aloud**

For very young children who are eager to begin reading and listening to stories

1

Learning to Read

For children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help

2

Reading Proficiently

For older children who can read with confidence

4

3

**Reading
Independently**

For children who are ready to read on their own



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