



The Jungle Cinema



Written by **Priya Narayanan**

Illustrations by **Ketan Raut, Herminder Ohri and Srikrishna Kedilaya**

Original Story in English '**The Jungle School**' by Madhav Chavan and Meera Tendolkar
Remixed Story: '**The Jungle Cinema**' by Priya Narayanan

Illustrations: Ketan Raut (Cover page, Pages 2, 3 and 12) from '**The Jungle School**'
Herminder Ohri (Pages 4, 5 6, 10) from '**Spincy Spider**' and '**Our Wonderful World**'
Srikrishna Kedilaya (Pages 8 and 9) from '**Grandpa Fish and the Radio**'

Original publications by Pratham Books

Registered Office:
Pratham Books
621, 2nd Floor, 5th Main, OMBR Layout,
Banaswadi, Bangalore - 560 043
Tel: +91 80 25420925

Typesetting and Layout by: Pratham Books, Bangalore



"This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 India licence. Under this licence you are free to copy, distribute and adapt this work, even for commercial purposes, as long as you follow the terms and conditions. For the full licence terms see <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/in/>.



PRATHAM BOOKS

The Jungle Cinema



Written by
Priya Narayanan

Illustrated by
**Ketan Raut, Herminder Ohri
and Srikrishna Kedilaya**

This story was remixed as a part of the
'Retell, Remix and Rejoice Contest' conducted by Pratham Books

One day, a group of animal friends chanced upon a tall, crooked tree in the deep end of the jungle. It was so crooked, it looked almost like the scrawny finger of a witch. It was thick at the bottom but tapered up into a really thin branch with a tuft of leaves right at the tip. It had a huge door right at the base and a number of windows higher up.



The friends knocked at the door. When there was no response, they pushed the door open and walked right in. What they saw inside surprised them – a large screen and some old, rickety projection equipment. The tree was an abandoned cinema house!





As they walked around exploring the place, they heard an oh-so-slight sigh. It was an old spider, weaving her web high up on the tree. She looked very very old.

As the animals came forward to help her up, she sighed. "It is so nice to have someone come by after all these years. It has been a long time since a famine caused the cinema house to shut down, but I always knew that someday, someone

would come by to watch a movie and share a few laughs. Would you care to watch a movie? The equipments are rusty, but they do work, you know!"

"Yes, yes, please play us a movie ma'am," they squealed with excitement as they moved around to find a place to sit. And so, the old spider got out a show reel marked 'Finders Keepers', mounted it on the projector and switched it on. After a few minutes of flickering and flashing, the movie started and the animals watched the screen with awe.

The movie started with a young man deciding to go diving in the ocean. He jumped off his small boat and dived right in, where he could see some beautiful fish, turtles, oysters, corals and so many other sea creatures.



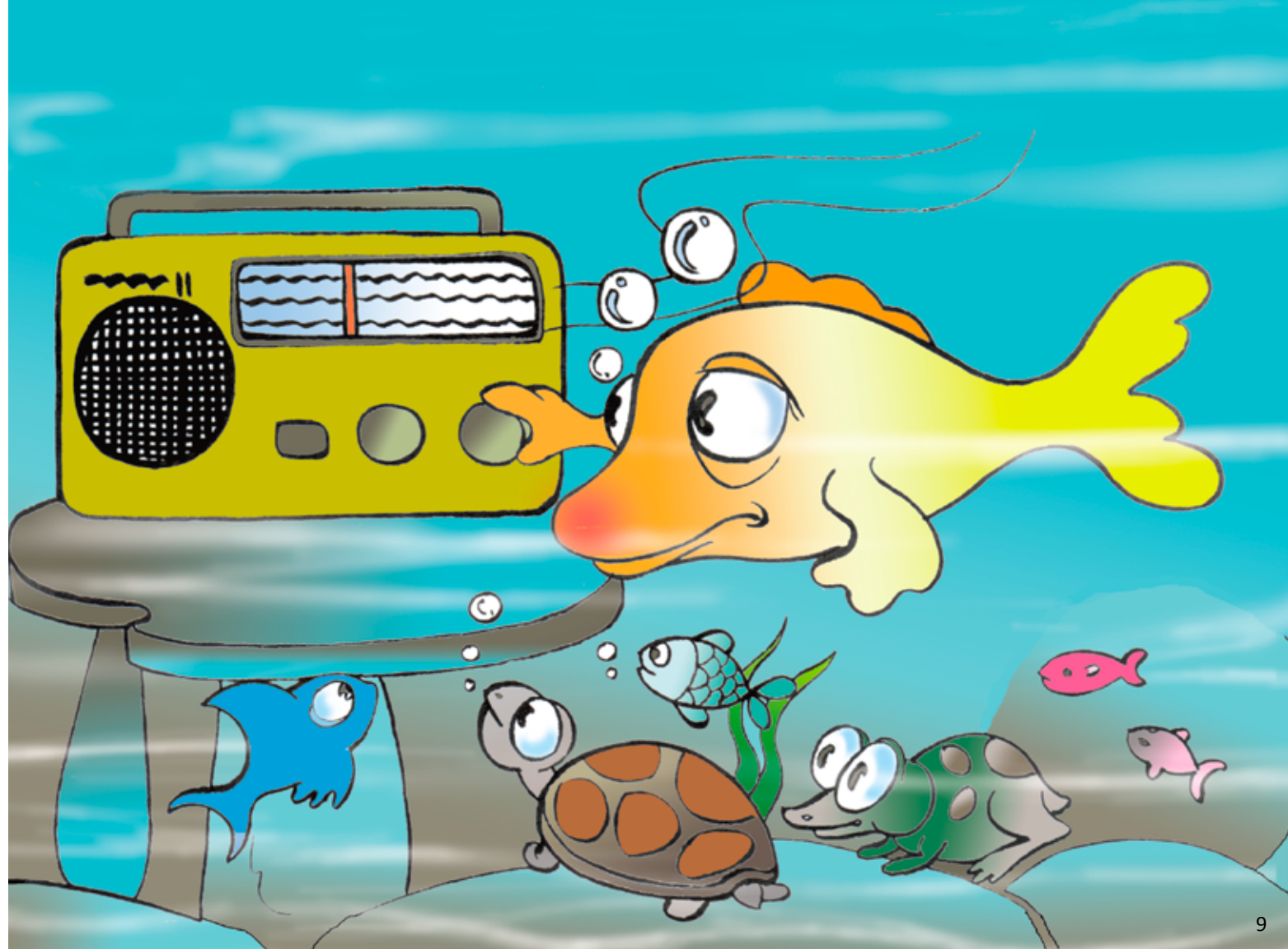


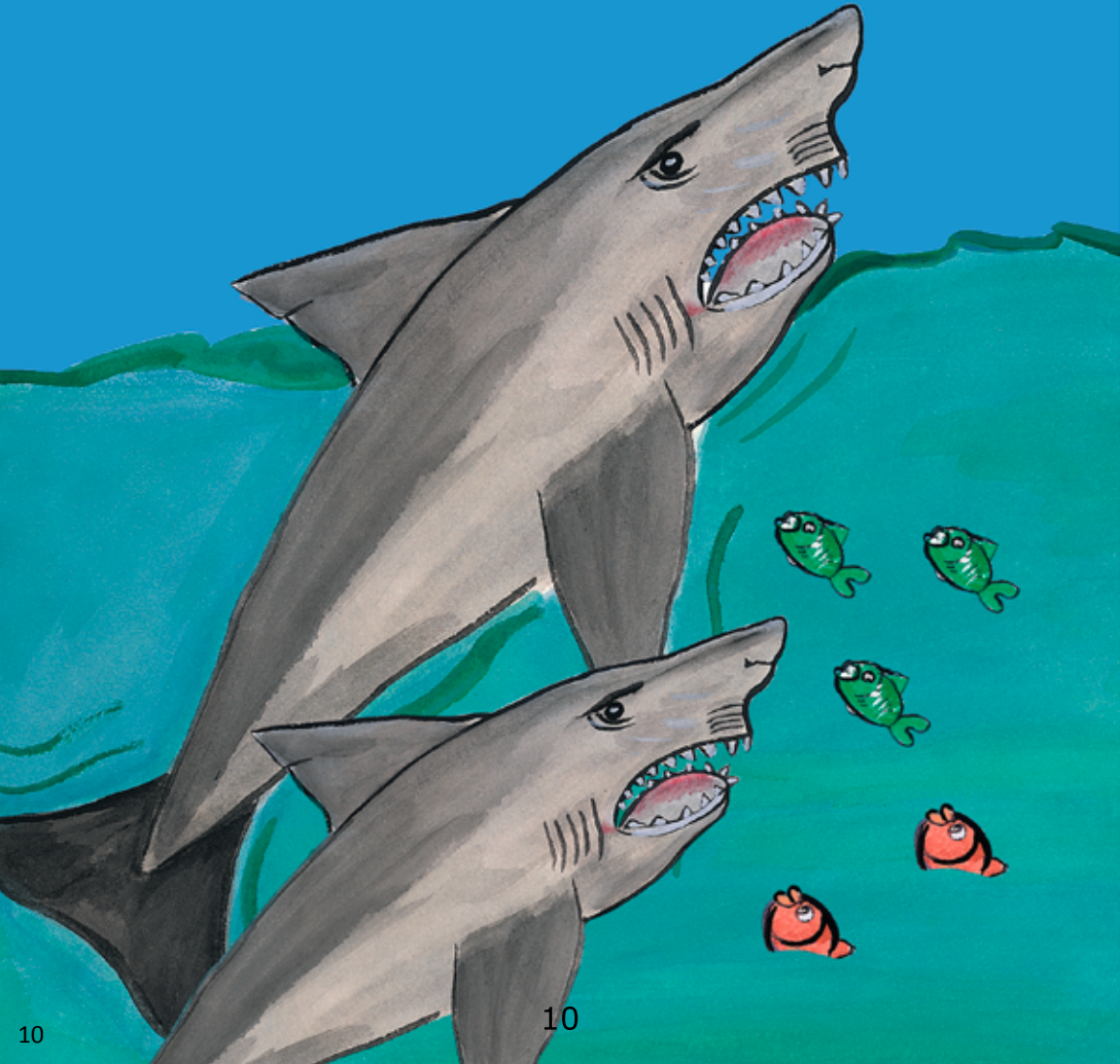
While he was marvelling at the wonderful sight, unknown to him, a big whale inched closer and closer to his boat. The whale was curious. “What could this be? Is it another fish trying to take over my territory?” Enraged with the thought, he pushed away the boat with all his might.

Although the boat did not sink, all the young man’s belongings that he had left back on the boat fell into the sea. Amongst these was a shiny golden radio.

As the radio sank deeper and deeper, it attracted all the creatures of the sea - fish and turtles, octopuses and jellyfish, sea horses and lobsters, eels and crabs, dolphins and anemones.

When it finally settled down on the ocean floor, it was surrounded by thousands of sea creatures of all sizes and shapes. They were all curious to know what it was. A brave young fish picked up the radio, placed it on a piece of stone and started tinkering around with it.





While everyone was watching the young fish closely, a pair of sharks silently swam towards them. “What luck!” they thought. “We’re in for a great feast today.”

But just as they were about to strike, the young fish sensed danger. His fingers fumbled and he accidentally pushed a button on the radio. A song started blaring out of its speakers. The sudden noise scared the fish, who scattered off in different directions, much to the dismay of the sharks. “There goes our scrumptious meal,” they lamented as they tried to gobble up the few fish that came their way.

When all was calm again, the young fish looked fondly at the radio. He had not only found a new toy, he had also found a way to keep his enemies at bay. “But it is not yours,” reminded his friend. “Yes, but no one has come to claim it yet; in fact, they are all scared of it. So, let’s just say – finders keepers,” he replied with a smile. And with that, the movie came to an end. “Curtains down!” said the old spider with a smile.

The awestruck friends were speechless. They had watched an amazing movie right in the middle of their jungle! They couldn’t wait to inform the others.

“Bye, dear lady,” they cried together as they left, “we’ll be back for another movie tomorrow. And this time, there are going to be a lot more of us. Thank you!” “Goodbye children, I’ll be waiting for you,” sighed the happy old spider as she went back to spin her web.



Read India

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.



Priya Narayanan is a designer, writer, traveller and mother, not necessarily in that order. She conjures up stories for her two children over many cups of coffee. With a belief that boundaries – physical or psychological – are for the faint hearted, she is a global citizen with a boundless imagination.



The illustrations in this book are by Ketan Raut (The Jungle School), Herminder Ohri (Spincy Spider and Our Wonderful World) and Srikrishna Kedilaya (Grandpa Fish and the Radio).

A group of friends have a pleasant surprise when they enter an abandoned cinema hall in the jungle. And they don't need tickets to enter!

Learning to read – level by level. This is a Level 3 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

**Reading
Independently**

For children who are ready to read on their own

3



PRATHAM BOOKS

Pratham Books is a not-for-profit organization that publishes books in multiple Indian languages to promote reading among children.

www.prathambooks.org

The Jungle Cinema
(English)

MRP: ₹ xx.xx

