

Greening Our Future

CLIMATE CHANGE IN PICTURE BOOKS

Pratham books endeavours to create stories that reflect evolving realities, present ways for children to navigate the world, and offer tools to understand the natural world and the environment.

When it comes to the climate crisis, research has shown that events exacerbated by the global phenomenon render children most vulnerable. This is particularly troubling for a developing nation like India that has a population of more than 448 million boys and girls under the age of 18.

According to a recent study, a child born in 2021 will experience, across their lifetime, an average of more than twice as many wildfires, droughts, river floods, crop failures, and heatwaves as compared to their grandparents.



Children deserve to know the truth about their future — clouded by the uncertainty of climate change. Picture books give them this truth, but also the imagination to build a different, better, future for themselves.

Seema Mundoli,
lecturer and author

CLIMATE STORYTELLING CAN HELP CHILDREN:



1. Understand the complexities of climate change while navigating their own realities
2. Foster a connection between their immediate environment and the global one, fostering respect for nature
3. Develop critical analysis skills and synthesise information about the world they live in
4. Open their minds to deeper avenues of thought and reinforce learning in social and natural science
5. Confer appreciation for the role they play in their environment – both their physical, changing environment and their civic environments.

DEEPENING FASCINATION WITH THE WILD AND THE WORLD

Climate change is one of the biggest crisis that humanity is facing today. Readers wonder how one individual can make a difference to a problem that is so large. Literature can help mediate this feeling by providing a safe space in which to consider such frightening possibilities.

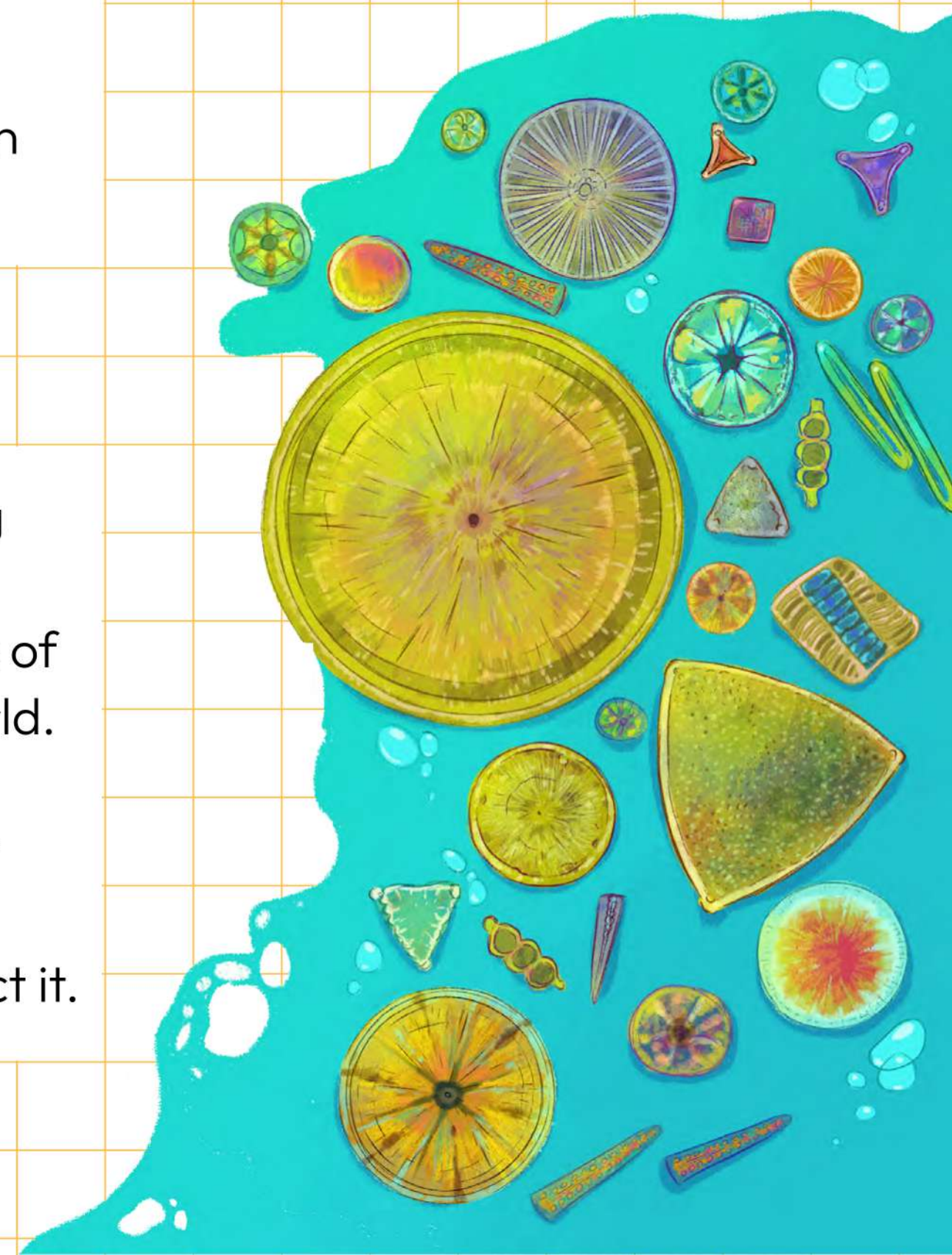
In an age where climate anxiety is increasingly becoming a reality, it is important that the responsibility of 'saving the earth' is not thrust on young readers.

I've learnt that no one is too small to make a difference.

Greta Thunberg,
teenage climate activist
and author

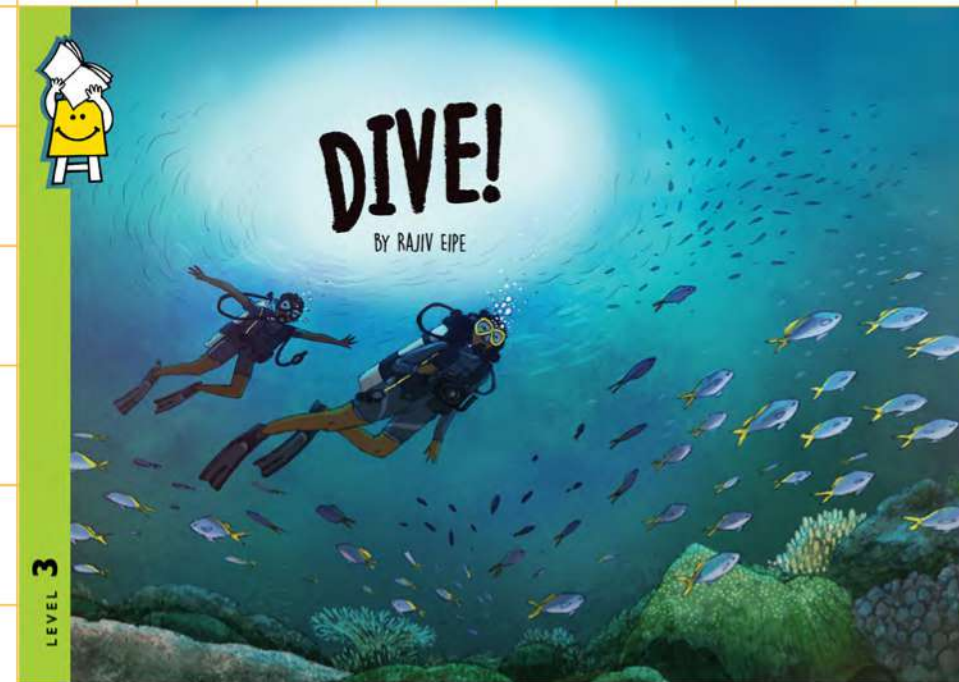


We're starting by creating literature that moves towards fostering a sense of wonder in the natural world. Only when children learn about the wonders planet Earth, will they fall in love with it, and want to protect it.

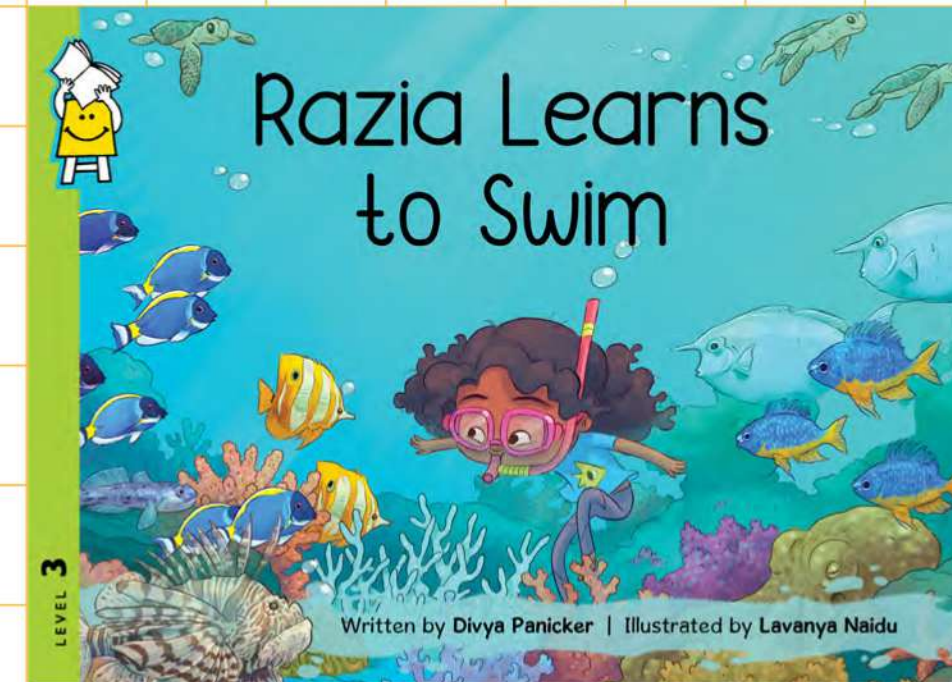


UNDERWATER TALES OF WONDER

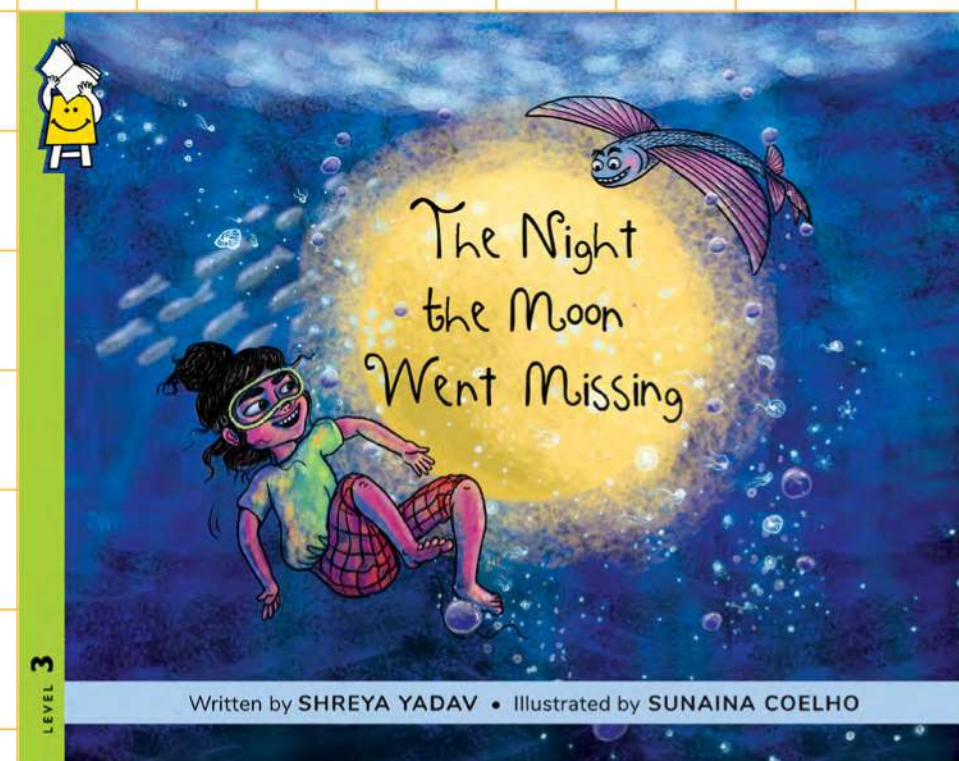
Our stories take a dive into the underwater world, an oft-overlooked space in children's literature in India, but one that holds a deep fascination for children.



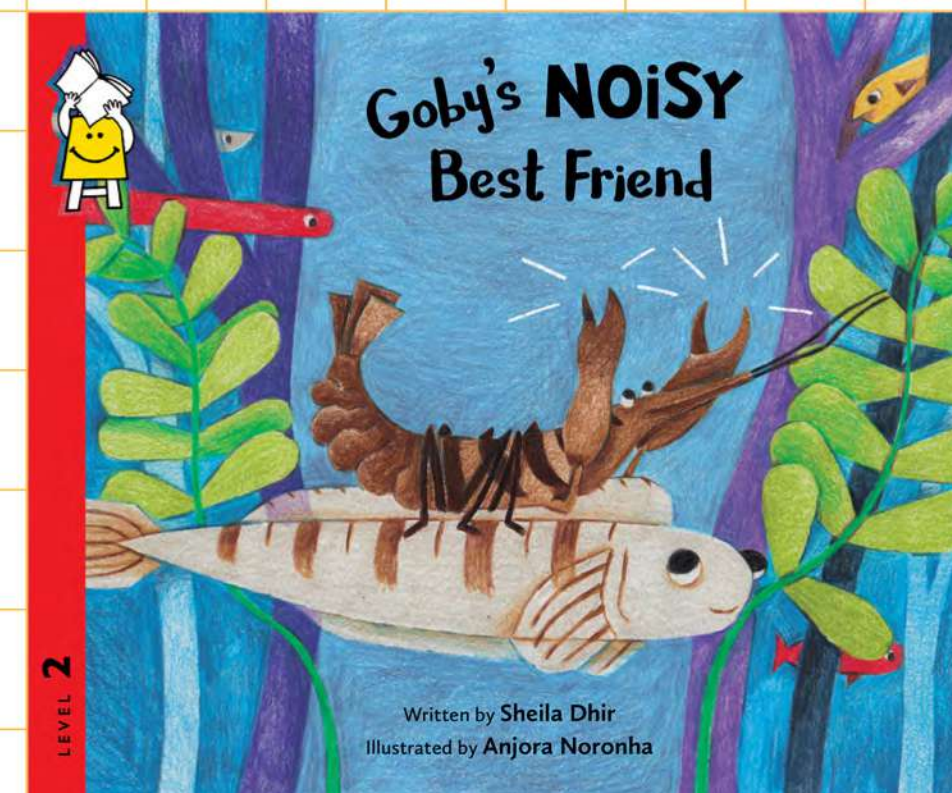
Take a peek into a coral reef teeming with life.



A story centred around how different creatures move in the water.



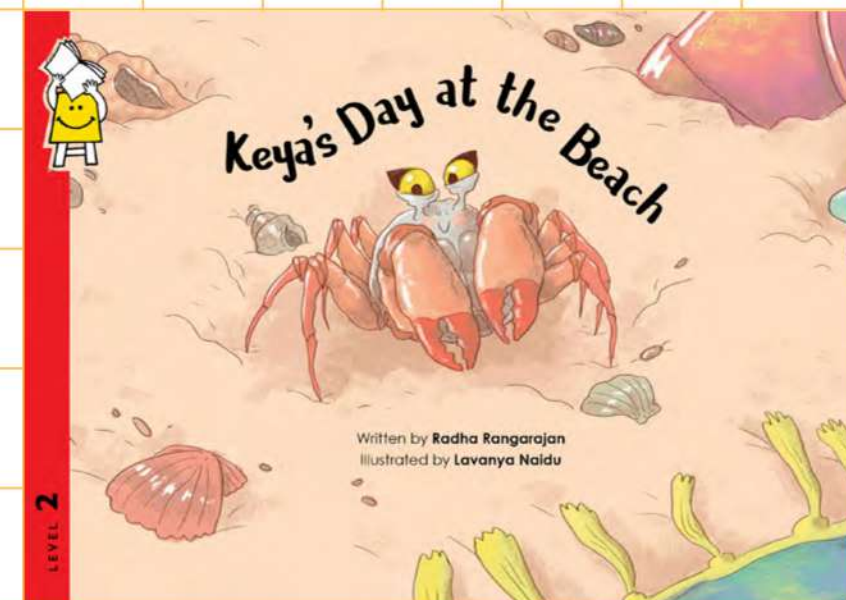
A book that touches upon bioluminescence.



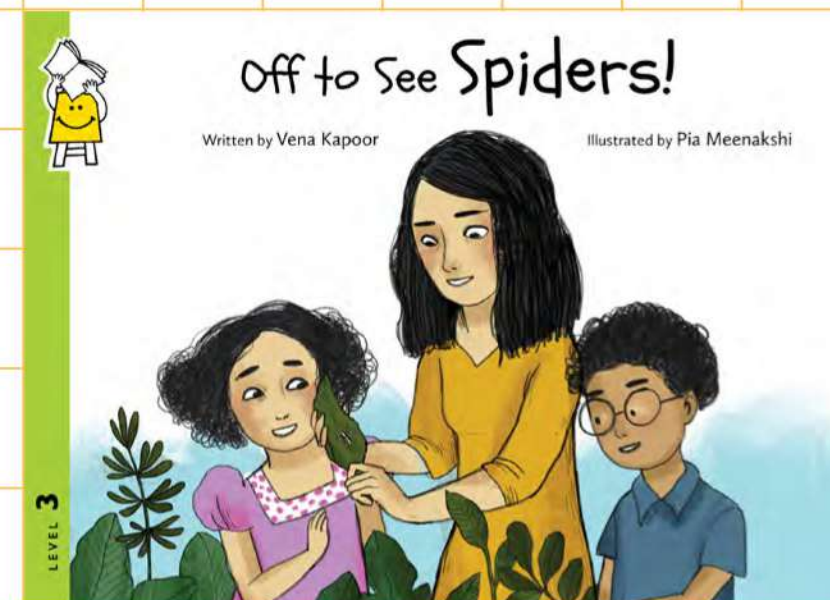
Examine the symbiotic relationship between a goby fish and a pistol shrimp.

CREATURES AND MORE

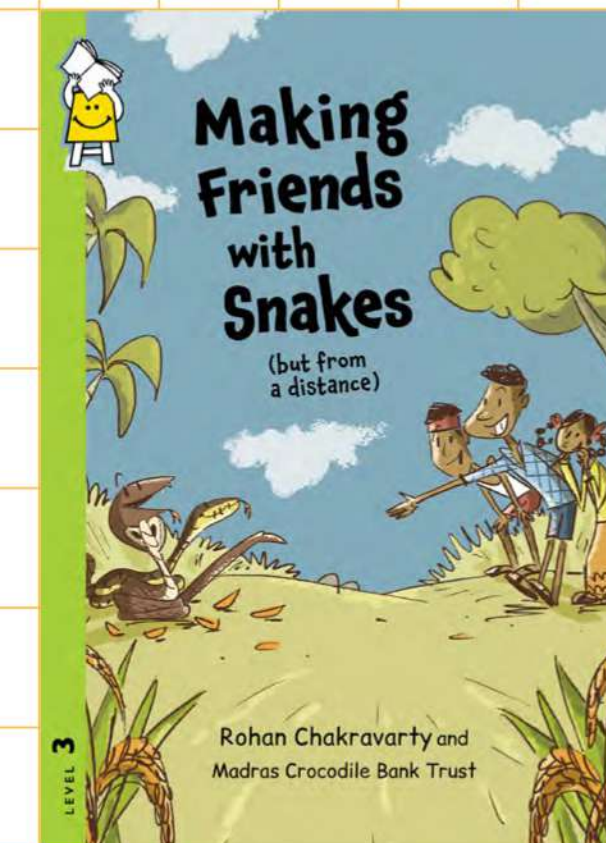
Readers get to meet birds, animals, reptiles and creatures of all kinds and not just the big five.



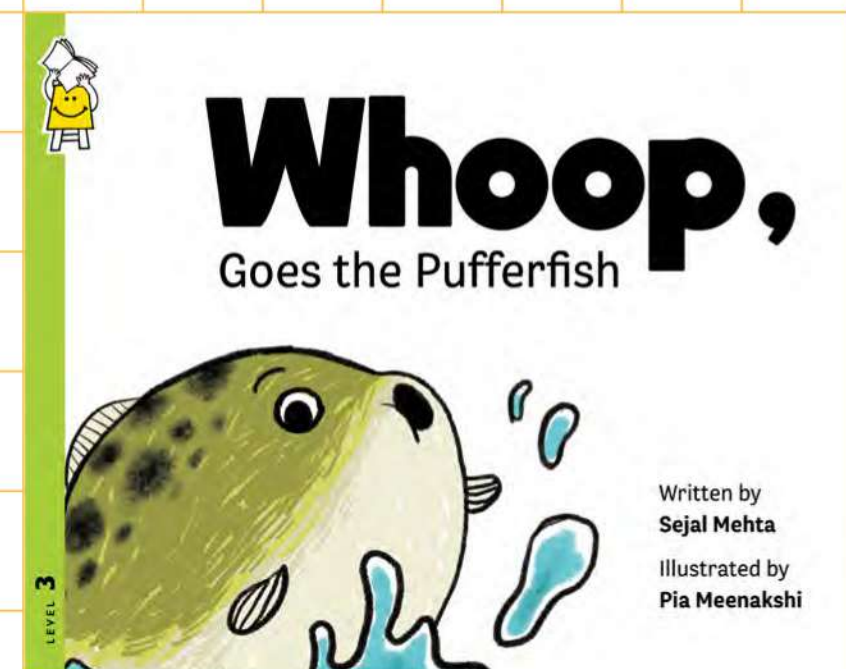
Crabs



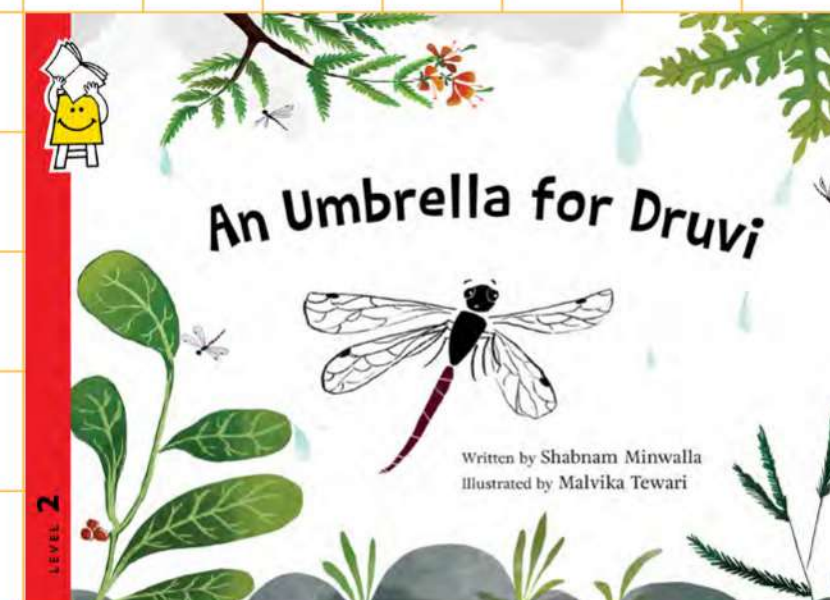
Spiders



Snakes



Pufferfish



Dragonflies



I want to save the future of all the children and all people of future generations... Things need to change! We need to change.

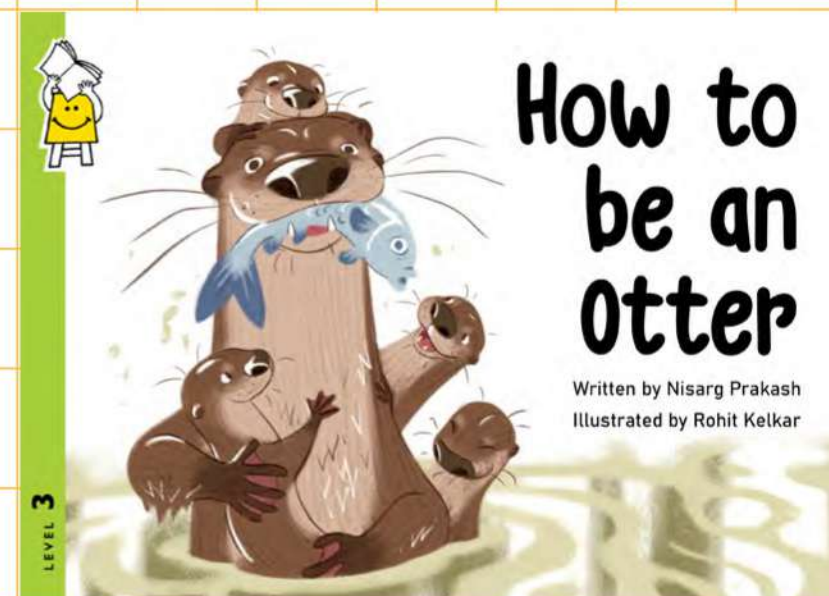
Ridhima Pandey,
teenage climate activist

Climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss — these can be such dismal topics. A good book on the environment provides children with knowledge, but also with joy, hope and positivity — we need these to create a happier future!

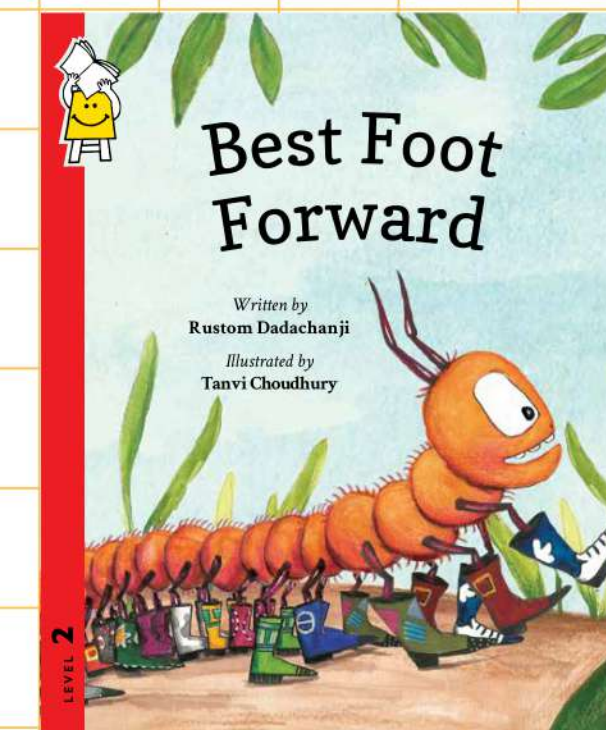
Harini Nagendra,
ecologist, professor and author



Gharial



River otters

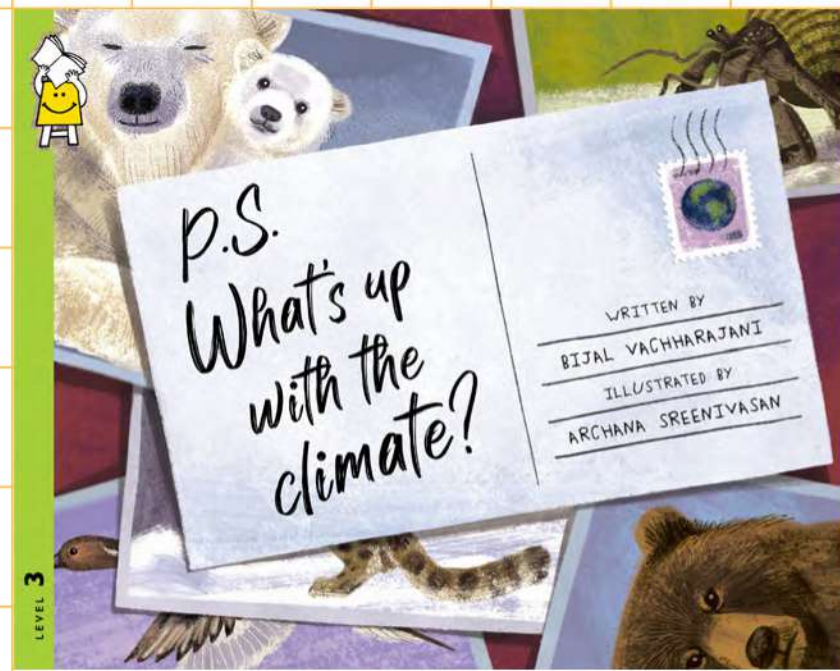


Garden fauna

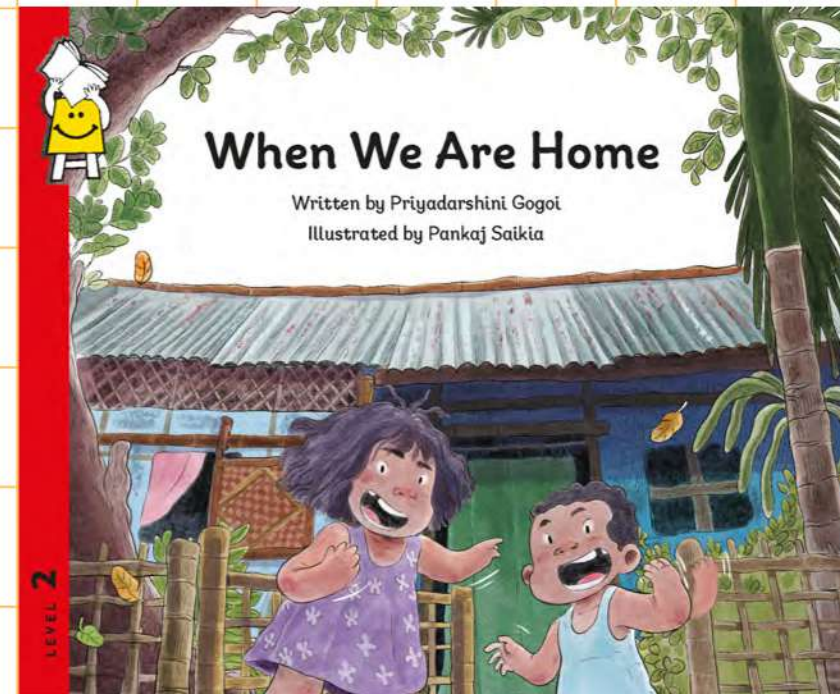
THE THREAT OF CHANGING CLIMATES

Books can be a great conversation starter in the classroom, and are fabulous supplementary reading material for the curriculum.

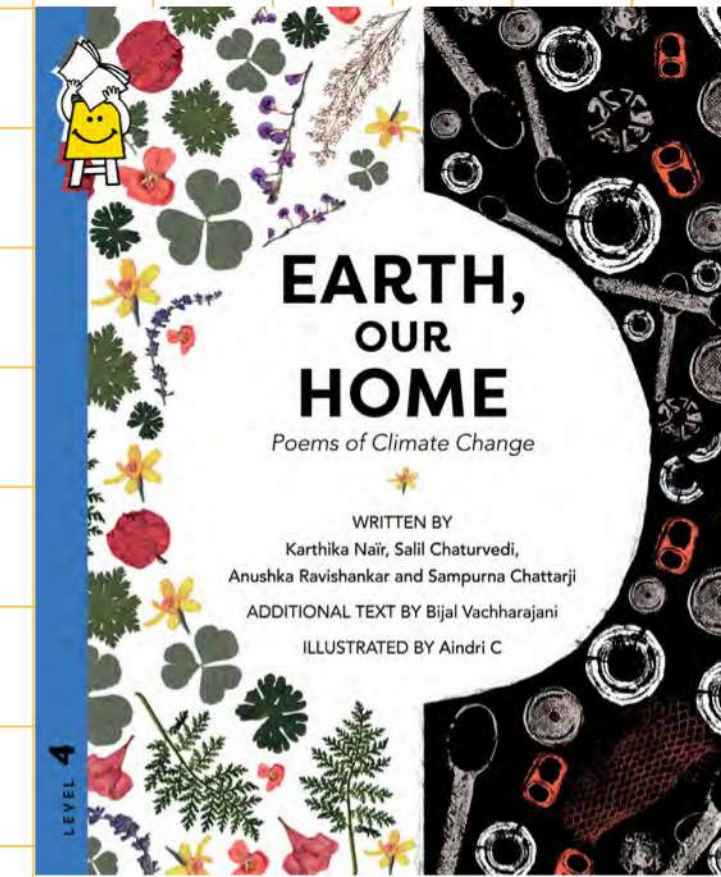
Our picture books are making the discussions around climate change accessible and amplifying the conversation around the crisis. Our books deep dive into the socio-economic impact of climate change on livelihoods, habitat degradation and its repercussion on species, the basics of climate science, food security, and adaptation mechanisms, among others.



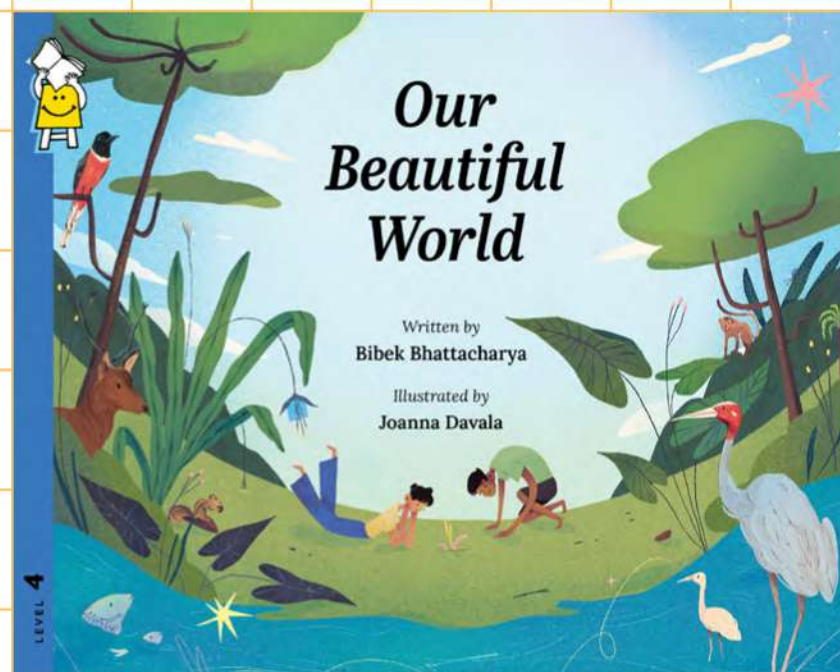
An epistolary book that explores the impact of climate events on various species and habitats through a series of letters, presenting a pressing reality.



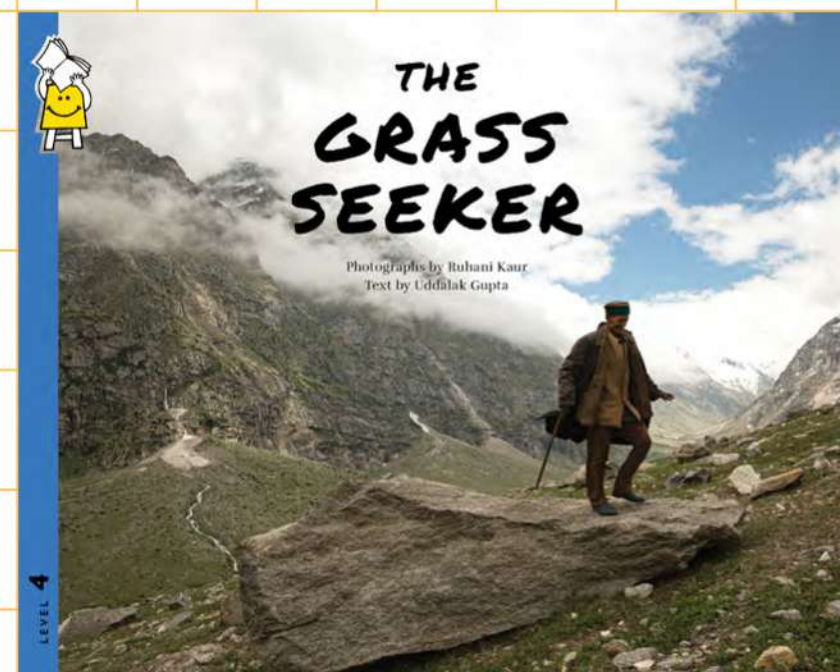
A tale on remembering what old homes looked like and what the new ones could look like for climate refugees who have been displaced by unpredictable climate events.



A series of poems — told in the voices of the orangutan, the Hasdeo Arand forest, the Gangetic dolphin and the Pondicherry shark — that reminds readers that their future is in their hands.



A non-fiction book that traces the impact of humans and our actions on Earth and asks some ever-important questions about climate change: how did we get here and what comes next.



A photo essay tracking the journey of a Gaddi shepherd and the impact that global warming has had on the grazing patterns of his goat and sheep in the Himalayas.

In today's time and era, it is critical to nurture appreciation and respect in young children for the environment and its biodiversity. It's only when they understand, they will act to create a better and brighter future for all.

World Wide Fund for Nature India (WWF-India)

Illustrations

Earth, Our Home

Written by Salil Chaturvedi,
Sampurna Chattarji, Karthika Nair,
Anushka Ravishankar
Illustrated by Aindri C

Our Beautiful World

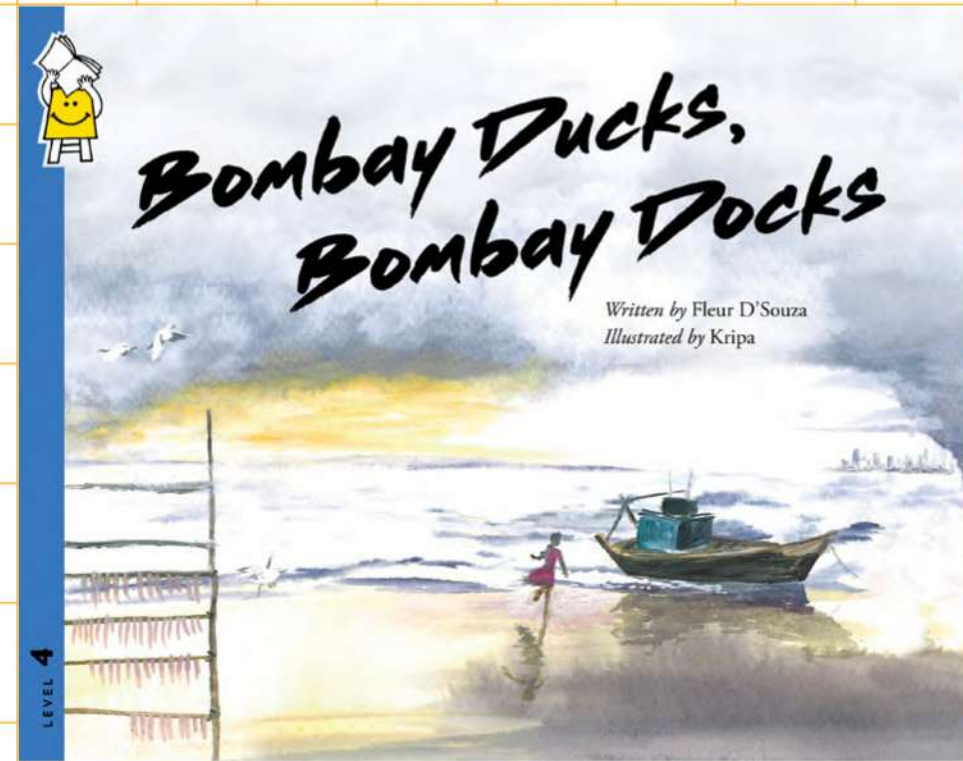
Written by Bibek Bhattacharya
Illustrated by Joanna Davala

Razia Learns to Swim

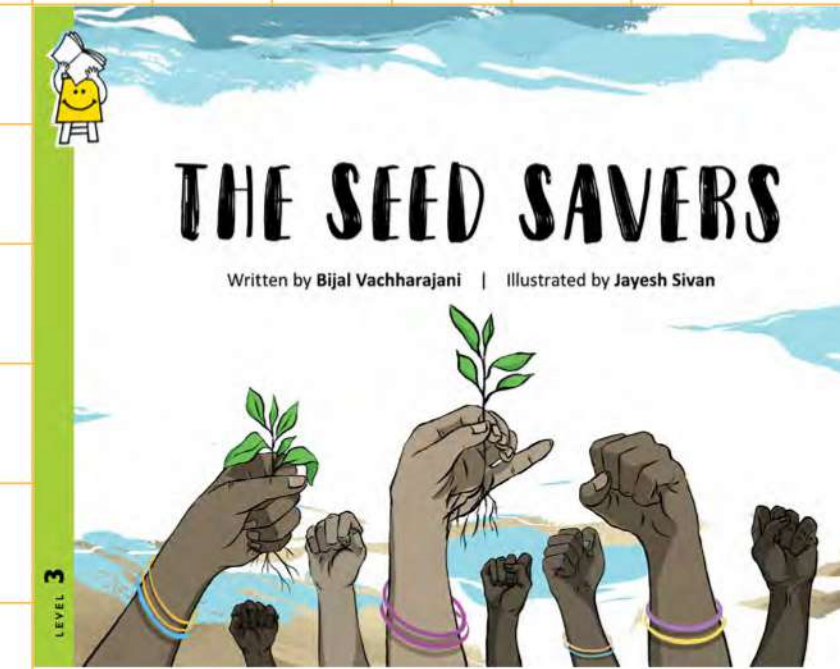
Written by Divya Panicker
Illustrated by Lavanya Naidu

Off to See Spiders!

Written by Vena Kapoor
Illustrated by Pia Meenakshi



A story that explores the effect of rains on the docks in Mumbai and on the Kolis, the original inhabitants of the city.



Inspired by a real-life event, this tale of seed sovereignty is about a village that came together to open a seed bank.



Pratham Books

For the last 18 years, Pratham Books has been creating engaging picture books in multiple languages and formats to help children discover the joy of reading — in mother tongue languages, set in locations they can recognise, featuring characters with whom they can identify, and telling stories that capture their attention and fuel their imagination.