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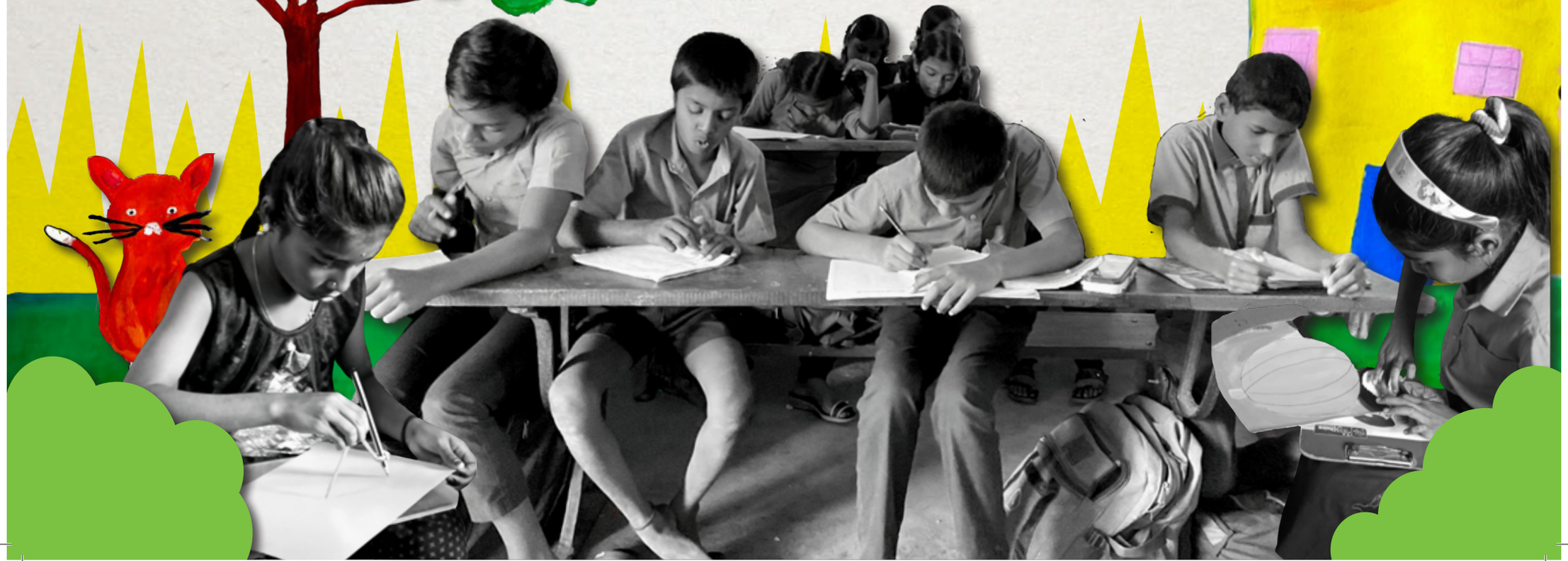
AGASTYA
MediaArtsLab

AHA! KATHA

TINY FRAMES, BIG STORIES



AHA! KATHA

TINY FRAMES, BIG STORIES

CURATED BY RUCHIKA AHIRE
DESIGNED BY SANJANA NANODKAR

Dear Reader,

It is with immense joy that I welcome you to explore the second edition of “Aha! Katha,” a vibrant compilation that showcases the extraordinary creativity and boundless talent of young learners at Agastya’s MediaArts Lab.

Nestled within the heart of our community, these children have been given the opportunity to explore their creative potential through various forms of media arts. They have embarked on a journey of self-expression, storytelling, and artistic innovation.

Under the guidance of a dedicated team, these children have learned to conceptualize, produce, and present their own creations. From storytelling to cinematography, they have embraced every facet of media production with enthusiasm and determination. Their journey has been nothing short of awe-inspiring.

The pages of “Aha! Katha” capture the essence of these young visionaries, offering a glimpse into their imaginative worlds and the stories they have crafted. It is a window into a realm where creativity knows no bounds, where curious minds flourish, and where the power of self-expression shines brightly. As you explore the pages of this showcase, I am confident you will be as captivated and inspired as we have been.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the team of instructors who have nurtured these young talents along the way. Their unwavering commitment has made it possible for these children to discover their unique voices and talents.

I am grateful to Sony India Pvt Ltd, whose support has been instrumental in reaching over 5,000 children through the MediaArts program. Thank you for your continued support, which empowers these young creators to reach for the stars and paint their own narratives in the world of media arts.

Until next year,
K. Thiagarajan
Executive Vice-Chairman
Agastya International Foundation

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VENKATSH

AGASTYA
INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
SUPPORTED BY R. JHUNJHUNWALA FOUNDATION & OTHERS

1999
INCEPTION

23
STATES

25
MILLION CHILDREN

300,000
TEACHERS

ABOUT AGASTYA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

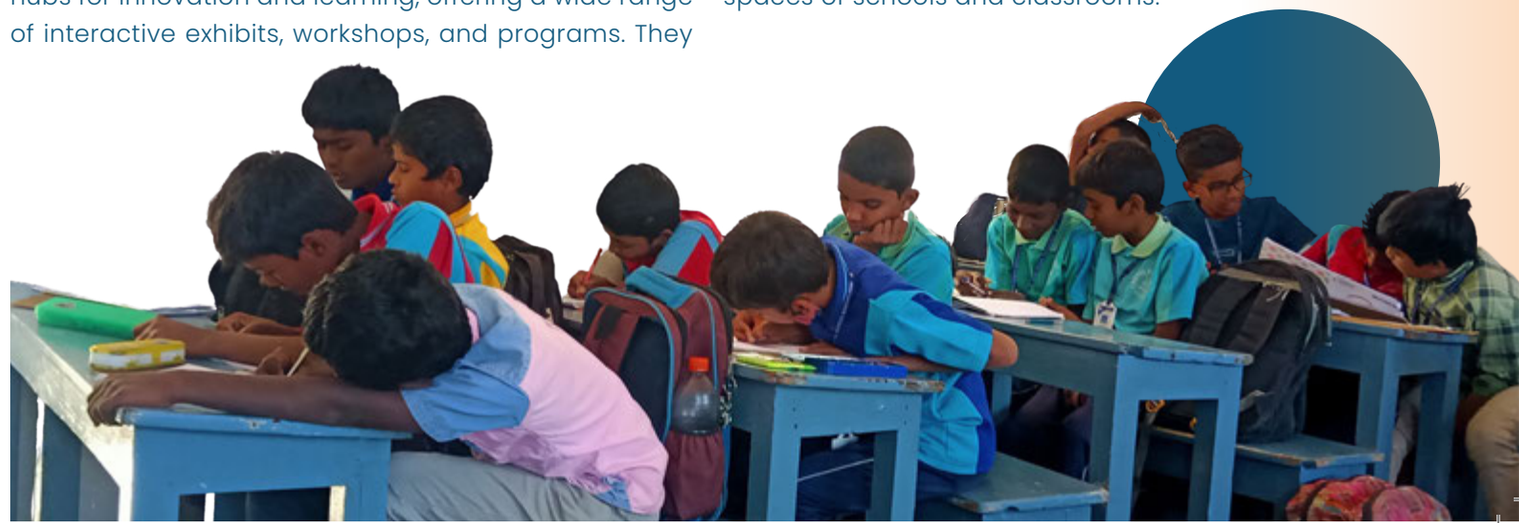
Since its inception in 1999, Agastya International Foundation has worked to create a generation of tinkerers, creators, innovators and solution seekers who can drive positive change and shape a better future. With a mission to spark curiosity, nurture creativity and instill confidence, Agastya has reached over 25 million children and 300,000 teachers in 23 states across India.

Agastya's flagship mobile science programs, which include Mobile Science Labs, labs on motorbikes, take scientific equipment, models, and interactive learning tools to underserved children and teachers in government schools.. The mobile labs travel to remote villages, schools, and community centers, bringing hands-on science education directly to the students. This initiative aims to bridge the resource gap and inspire children in rural areas to explore and pursue STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) subjects.

Agastya also runs several Innovation Centers and Science Centers across India. These centers serve as hubs for innovation and learning, offering a wide range of interactive exhibits, workshops, and programs. They provide a space where children and teachers can engage in experiential learning, conduct experiments, and discover the joy of discovery through practical experiences.

In addition to its outreach programs, Agastya International Foundation focuses on capacity-building by training teachers and empowering them with innovative teaching methods. The foundation conducts workshops and training programs for teachers to enhance their pedagogical skills and promote inquiry-based learning practices in their classrooms. By empowering teachers, Agastya aims to create a sustainable impact and catalyze a positive change in the education ecosystem.

Agastya recognizes the importance of leveraging technology to reach a wider audience and expand its impact. To complement its on-ground programs, the foundation has developed digital and self-learning initiatives that enable children and educators to access educational resources, engage in interactive learning, and continue their learning journey beyond the physical spaces of schools and classrooms.



AGASTYA
MediaArtsLab

ABOUT THE MEDIAARTS LAB

Nestled in the tallest building at Agastya's 172-acre Campus Creativity Lab, the MediaArts Lab gives children in the schools surrounding areas an opportunity to explore and harness their creativity through various forms of media arts, including filmmaking, photography, animation, and digital storytelling.

The MediaArts Lab serves as a space where children can learn and engage with different aspects of media, from conceptualization to production. Through hands-on sessions on storytelling, cinematography, editing, and other elements of media production, Agastya's instructors at the lab nurture their creative abilities, enable them to express themselves, share their unique stories, and make their voices heard. A media kit, equipped with tablets, photography equipment and workbooks, is carried by the instructors to the participating schools.

At the end of 12 sessions, children are able to create their own films, storybooks and photostories, all of which are put on display at the art and creativity fair, Kala Kootami. The fair acts as a platform for children to share their work with their peers, teachers and community. The showcase is accompanied by activity corners where visiting children learn about the fascinating world of media.

This year, with the support of Sony India Private Ltd, we impacted

311 CHILDREN

9 SCHOOLS

Using the media knowledge and skills they learnt during their interactions with Agastya instructors, children have created

19
PHOTO STORIES

19
AUDIO STORIES

13
LIVE ACTION FILMS

13
STOP-MOTION ANIMATION FILMS

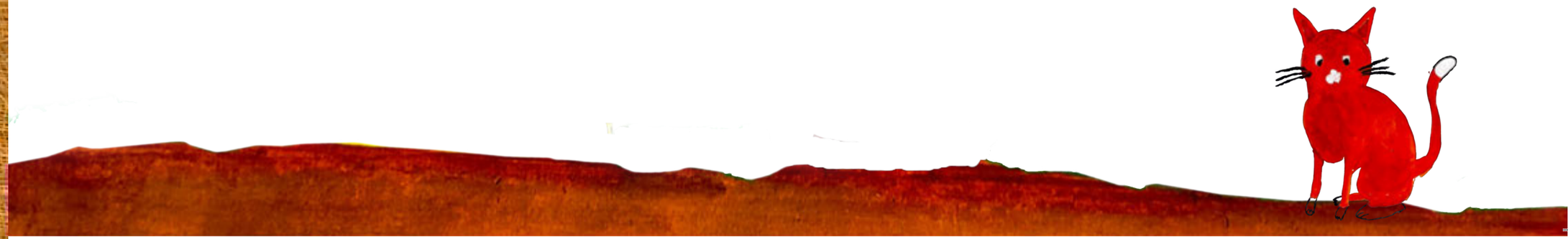
10
STORY BOOKS

4 Kala Kootami fairs were held during this year, in Zilla Parishad High School, Kangundi, Zilla Parishad High School Balla, Government Higher Primary School, Kalavanchi and Noolukunta, in which over 5163 children participated.

This book, which contains a select few of the 76 productions, is a showcase of the imagination and creativity displayed by children in the past year. We hope you enjoy viewing them just as much as we enjoyed creating them!

PHOTO STORIES

In the age of visual storytelling, photographs have become a powerful tool to convey narratives and capture the essence of communities. Photo stories, a form of visual storytelling, go beyond individual images to create a narrative that engages viewers and provides a glimpse into the lives, experiences, and emotions of a community. At Agastya's MediaArts Lab, children are provided with a platform to harness their creativity and use photo stories as a means to express themselves, share their unique perspectives, and tell their stories in a visually captivating and empowering way.



My Palace

Created by
Lavanya
Lakshya
Teja Sri

Mandal Primary Upper Primary School, Kuppiganipalli

Where my dreams wander, my heart will always find its way back home.

Snacks

Created by
N.Veenasree
L.Sukanya
V.Tejashwini

Zilla Parishad High
School, Yamiganipalli

With every crispy bite, a symphony of flavours dances upon the palate, as a child's love for fritters blossoms like a culinary masterpiece.

Dravidian University

Created by
M.Nithin
V.Pallavi

Zilla Parishad High School,
Yamiganipalli

My village is near Dravidian University, Kuppam, Andra Pradesh. During our vacations, my friends and I play on the University grounds. I wanted to present the facilities of the university that is close to my house and my heart. I was thinking about this but when I got a camera from my instructor. Initially, the pictures I clicked weren't so good, but with practice, I finally clicked good snaps of the university.

-Nithin, 7th grade

The grounds of a hallowed educational institution, make for sweet memories and boundless possibilities.

Falooda

Created by
L.Harshavardhan
S.Gowtham
V.Ashok

Governement Higher
Primary School, Kalavanchi

In the moments before indulgence, as a flavorful Falooda beckons, time slows, senses intertwine, and the promise of pure bliss lingers

Nursery

Created by
Pooja
Kokila
Meenakshi

Mandal Primary Upper Primary
School, K. Krishnapuram

In a nursery's nurturing sanctuary, a ray of resilient growth blooms its way

Green Chilly

Created by
Drakshayani
Nandhusari
Chandana

Zilla Parishad High School, Redlapalli

My grandmother farms green chillies in my village. She is very passionate about farming. She told me that my grandfather was her inspiration for this. After my grandfather passed away, she started taking care of the farm. When the teacher asked me to do a story I thought of other things and tried them out. One day when I saw the green chillies in my house and I got the idea to do a story on this. Then I went to my grandmother to ask. At first, she opposed my idea, but eventually, I persisted and she couldn't deny my request. This is how I choose my theme for the photo story.

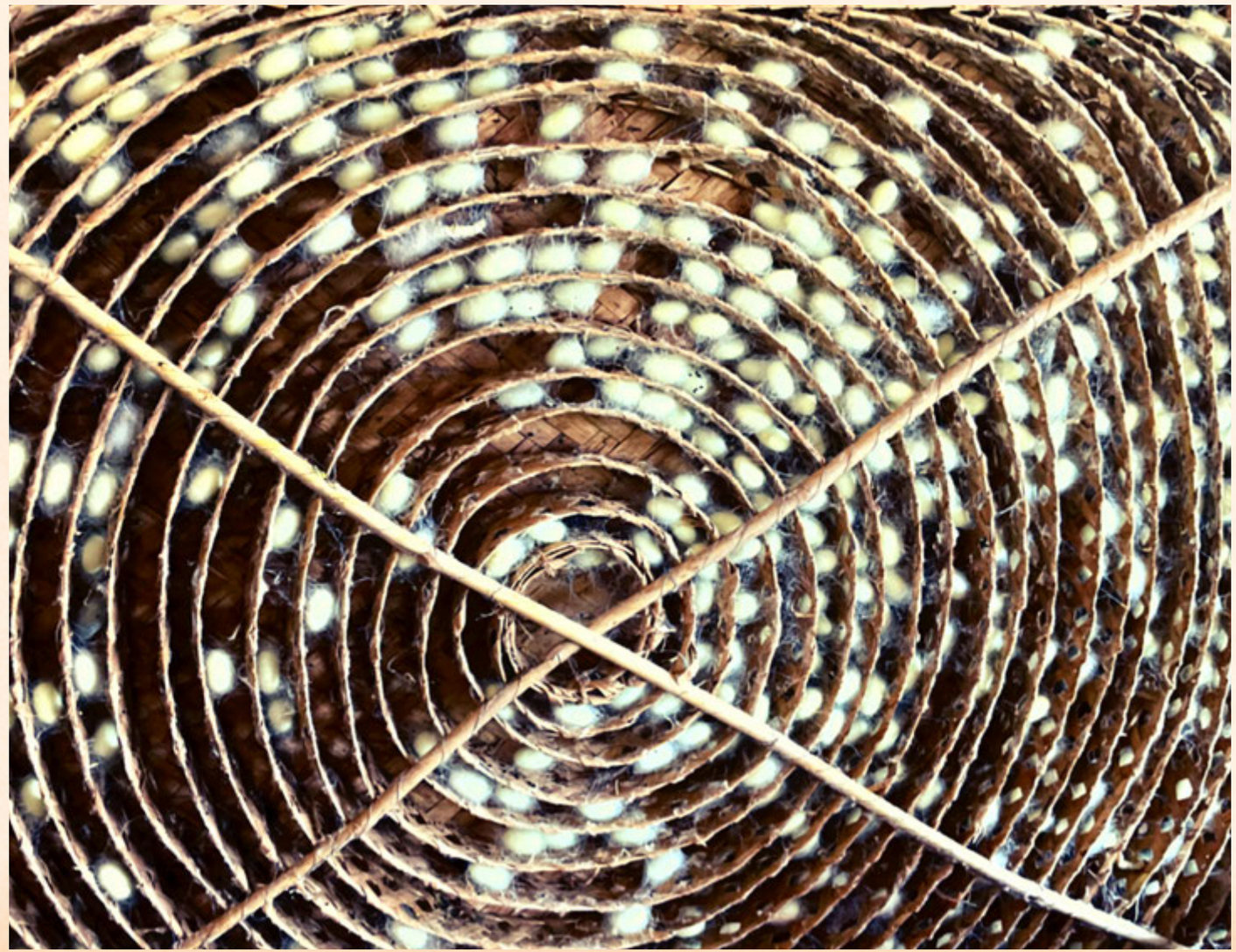
- Drakshayani, 7th grade

A symphony of vibrant green chillies reveals the artistry of nature's fiery embrace

Silkworm

Created by
Maheshwari
Deepak
S. Charan

Zilla Parishad High School,
Sivaramapuram



Unveiling nature's gift of exquisite silk

Dragon fruit

Created by
R. Praneeth
R. Rudramanaidu
R. Shanmugam

Zilla Parishad High School,
Sivaramapuram

Beneath the celestial canopy the dragon fruit unfurled its vibrant tendrils

Grass cutting

Created by
Bhargav
Imran
Anji
Sanjana

Zilla Parishad High School, Dandikuppam

Amidst the symphony of nature's canvas, the graceful dance of the mowers blade unveiled a mesmerizing photo story

Watermelon

Created by
S. Anji
D. Abhishek
K. Bhargav

Zilla Parishad High School,
Dandikuppam

Media is an important part of our everyday lives. I love capturing photos with a tab or camera. In our sessions at Agastya, we learned about camera shots and practised those shots with different themes. We decided to make a photo story on the watermelon fruit as our assignment as it's a fruit much devoured in summer.

-Anji, 7th grade

From juicy slices to sticky smiles, a watermelon's vibrant journey is captured in frames of summertime bliss

School lunch

Created by
N. Rajeshekhar
G Sasank
N. Thabaridge

Zilla Parishad High School, Dandikuppam

What happens at school lunches, stays at school lunches!

Banana

Created by
Latha
Bhaskar
Abhishek

Royal School, Shantipuram

Presenting to you nature's yielded golden harvests, the sweet moments of delight

Thati Munjulu

Created by
V.Yogesh
N.Alfabhanu
Saniya

Governement Higher Primary School, Kamasamudram

In the rough summer heat, a cool treat offers respite

AUDIO STORIES

In an era dominated by visual media, audio stories offer a distinct and powerful form of storytelling that engages the senses and captivates audiences. This write-up explores the significance of audio stories in communities, highlighting their ability to empower voices, foster connection, and ignite imagination through the power of sound.

At the MediaArts Lab, children are encouraged to explore and utilize audio stories as a powerful means of self-expression, enabling them to share their unique perspectives, personal narratives, and imaginative worlds through the captivating medium of sound.

Life of a girl

In the shadows of strength, her melody unfolds

Created by G.Moksha
Royal School, Shantipuram

Pro Kabaddi

Breathless battles etched in the dust of teamspirit and sportsmanship

Created by Syed Thahir
Governement Higher Primary School, Kama Samudram

Ugadi

Ugadi's dawn whispers new beginnings in the arms of spring

Created by Muneendra
Zilla Parishath High school, Balla

Moharram

In Moharram's sacred rhythm, echoes of faith and solace intertwine

Created by M.Mubarak
GHPS, Kalavanchi

New Recording 10
00:09.47

Missing Mother

A tender melody of longing for a mother's embrace

Created by Reema
Mandal Primary Upper Primary School,
K. Krishnapuram

'I was missing my mother so I wrote a song for her. Since my 6th grade, she has been unwell and unable to travel. She is at my grandmother's house and I am at mine.

I have kept this song hidden within me, unshared with anyone until the media lab helped me share this song with others.'

- Reema

LIVE-ACTION FILMS

Agastya's MediaArts Lab empowers children to unleash their creativity through the medium of live-action short films, allowing them to explore storytelling through the lens of a camera. Children use this medium to express themselves by writing scripts, directing scenes, and acting out their narratives. They have the opportunity to bring their stories to life, collaborating with their peers and using their imagination to create captivating films that reflect their unique perspectives and experiences. Through live-action short films, children not only learn technical skills but also develop their storytelling abilities, gaining a platform to share their voices and connect with audiences in a powerful and visually compelling way.

Cement Ring Making

Unearthing the untold tale of a humble mason, whose skilled hands sculpt dreams in cement, one ring at a time

Created by
Bhanu Shekar, Girish,
Prathap, Thanveer

Mandal Primary Upper Primary School, Kuppiganipalli

This film is an ode to my uncle who makes cement rings for a living. He is hard-working and dedicated to his work. He tries to finish every order he gets on time. When we were asked to make a movie, our team discussed innumerable topics but eventually, we selected this. This idea was chosen to be able to represent one of our village occupations.

-Thanveer, 7th grade

Arise Recipe

Flour, jaggery and everything nice come together to make this Andhra delicacy

Created by
V. Pallav, M Shravani, G Durga,
B. Vanitha, V Durga, K.S. Varshika

Zilla Parishad High School,
Yamiganipalli

Varikotha

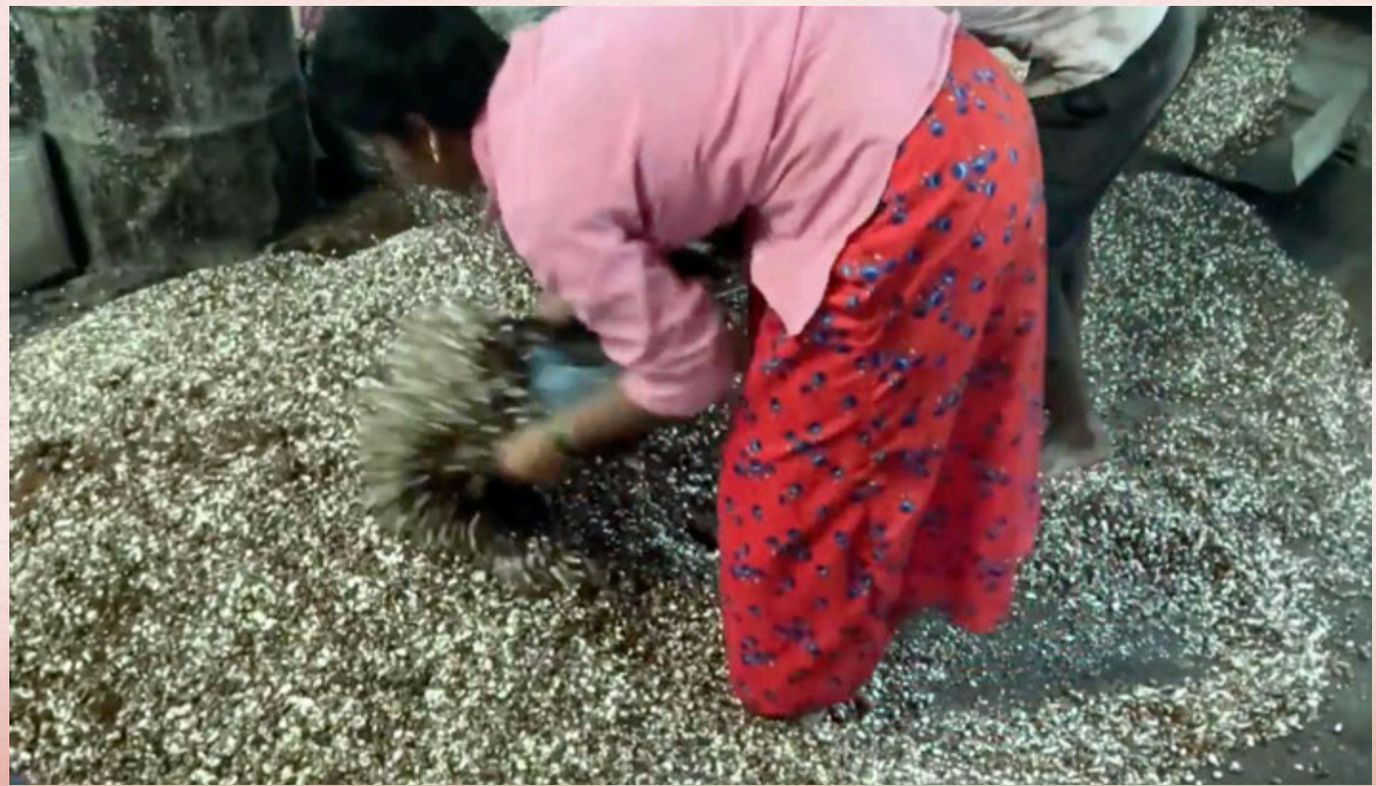
In the enchanting tapestry of time, as the cycle of wheat cultivation rewinds, the story of nourishment unfolds

Created by
S. Teja, S Murugesh, V Tejaswini,
K Chandini

**Zilla Parishad High School,
Yamiganipalli**

Castor oil

Where nature's essence is transformed into liquid gold



Created by
Harshavardhan, S Gowtham, V. Ashok, K. Tejashwini, A. Kavitha, V. Nagaveni

Government Higher Primary School, Kalavanchi

Nursery Farming

In an enclosure where rays of the sun dance on leaves of green, a gentle push prepares the latter for the future.

Created by
Syed Thahir, B. Harshavardhan,
R. Praveen Kumar, S.C. Chaithra,
G. Meena, C. Sujana

Governement Higher Primary School, Kamasamudram

Mud Oven

A craft as old as time, preserved and passed down skilled hand to hand

Created by
J Vaishnavi, R. Rupendra,
R. Shanmugam, C. Amruta,
V. Apurva, M. Parvathi

Zilla Parishad High School,
Sivaramapuram

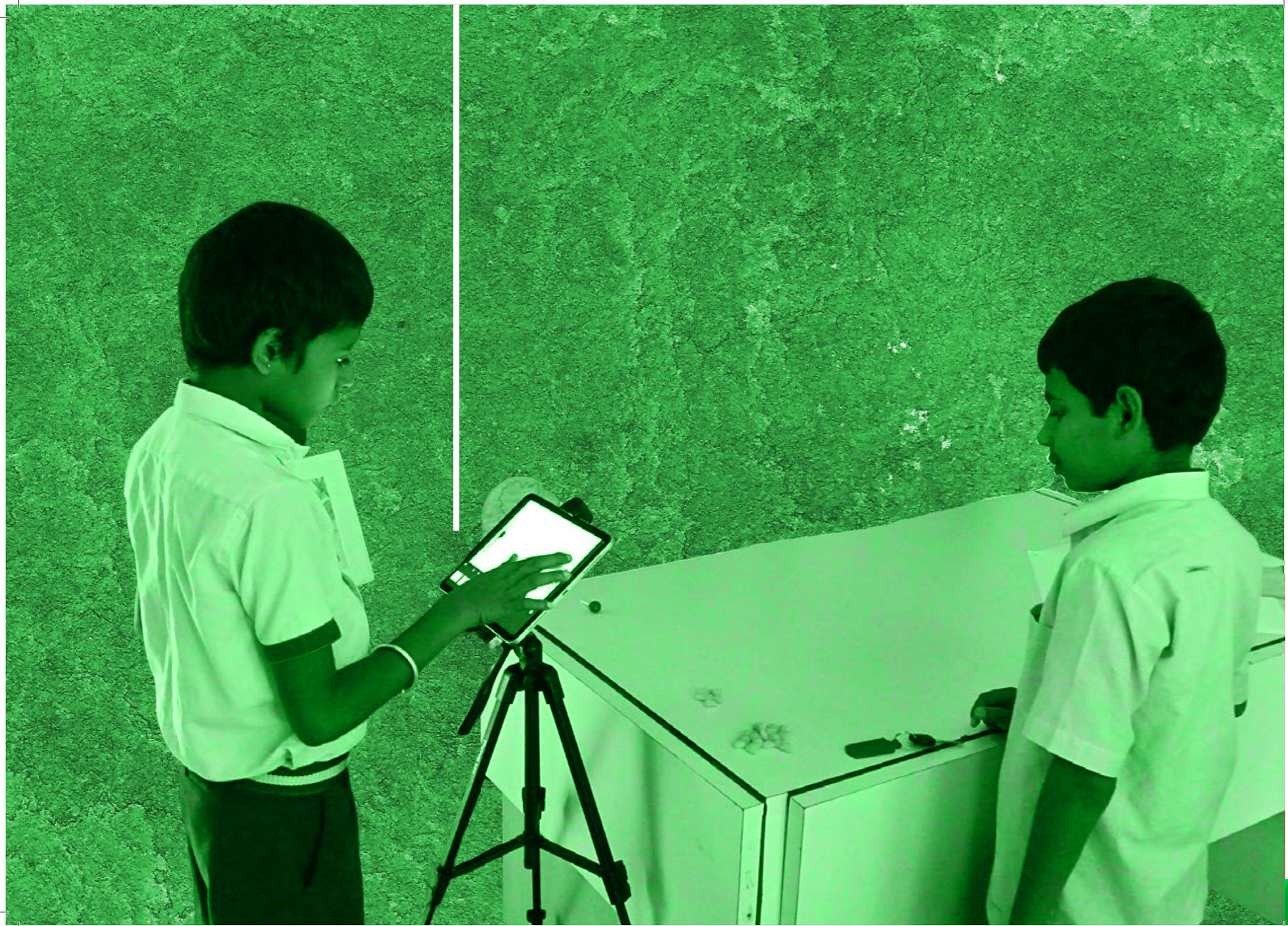
Beetroot

A retelling of nature's crimson poem

Created by
H. Mokshith, P. Charan Taj, B. Dhanunjay

Royal School, Shantipuram

I have only dreamt of shooting and acting in films as a career choice. I want to be a filmmaker when I grow up. Learning at the Media Lab was a great opportunity for me. I learned so many things about shooting, camera handling, and editing.
-H.Mokshith, 7th grade

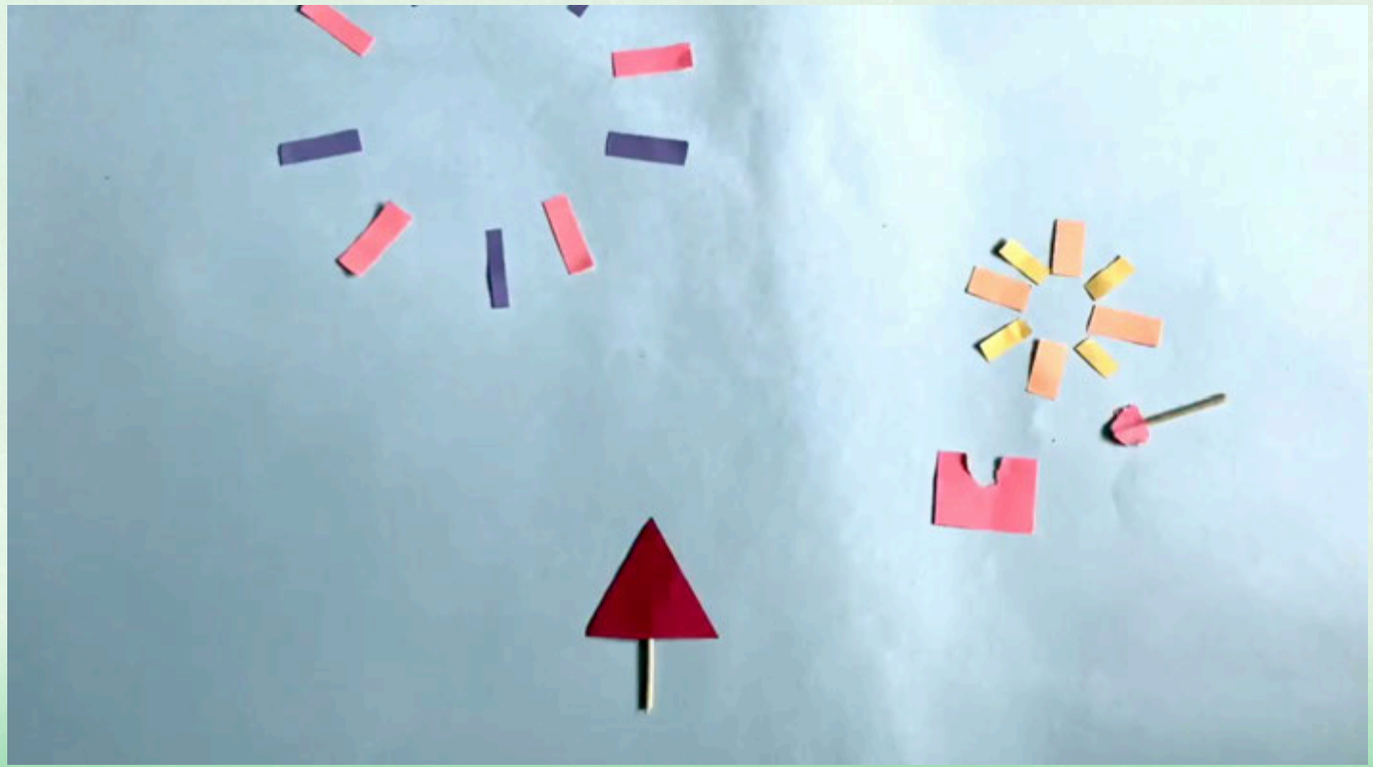


STOP-MOTION ANIMATION

The MediaArts Lab empowers children to harness their creativity through stop-motion animation, a captivating form of storytelling that combines visual artistry with movement. Through this medium, children bring inanimate objects to life, creating characters, narratives, and entire worlds. Stop-motion animation allows children to express themselves by weaving their stories, emotions, and imagination into each frame.

Happy Diwali

Through a mesmerizing concert of light and sound the spirit of Diwali ignites

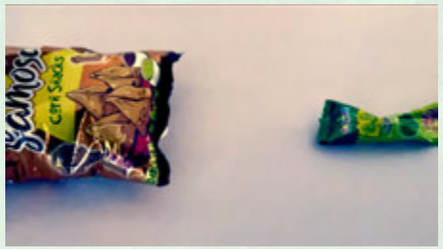


Created by
Chitrashree and Yuvarani

Mandal Primary and Upper Primary School, Kuppiganipalli

Lollipops

In a battle of flavours, which palette will win?

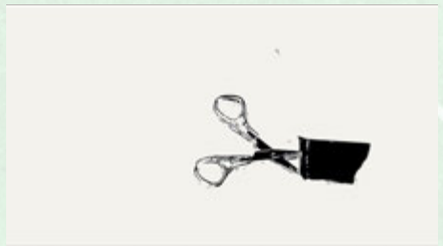


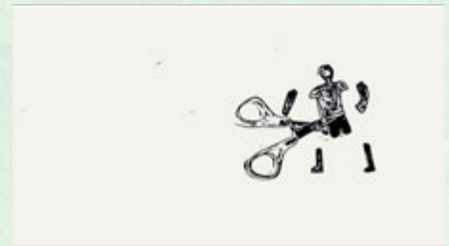
Created by
Mubarak, Naveen, Sumitra, Kavitha

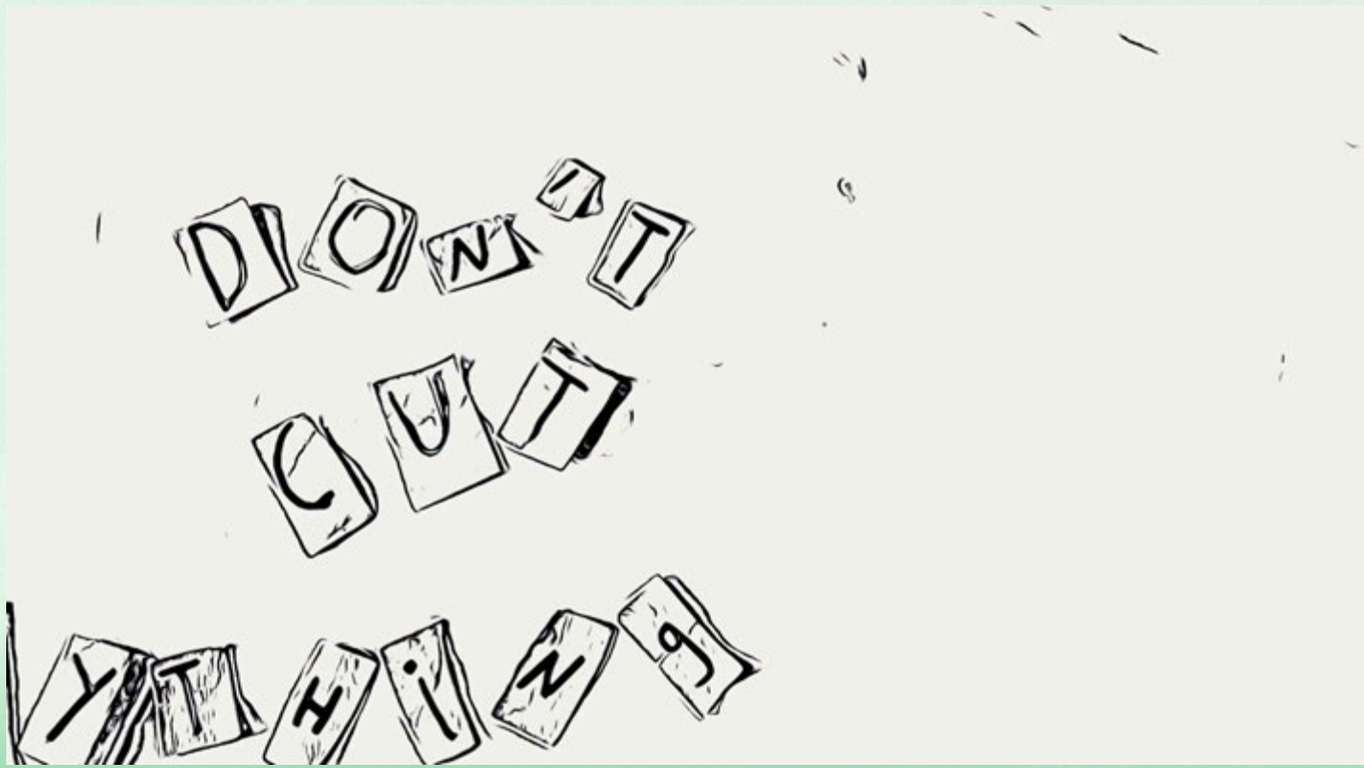
Governement Higher Primary School, Kalavanchi

Don't Cut

Stop the Chop!







Created by
V Anjali, Mahalakshmi, Devendra, Harish, P. Anjali, Divya Darshini

Mandal Primary and Upper Primary School, K. Krishnapuram

Feedback- I love cartoons, they are my favorite. When our instructor told us that we were making an animated film I was super excited. When my team and I were trying to come up with a story for the script, I saw many papers which we had torn and thrown on the floor of our class. My teacher would usually scold us for this. So I thought of doing something about it. That's how we decided on the idea of the "don't cut" script. While editing, we converted normal objects into drawing objects. This was eye-catching for me..

-Divya Darshini, 8th-grade

Blossom

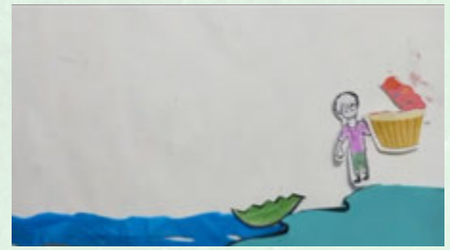
Every droplet of water nurtures the beginning of a new story

Created by
Chandra, Dhanush, Darshan, Mubra, Vijay, Palani, Prakash

Zilla Parishad High School, Dandikuppam

The Ballon

Some things unfortunate, some things unexpected, Some things opportune

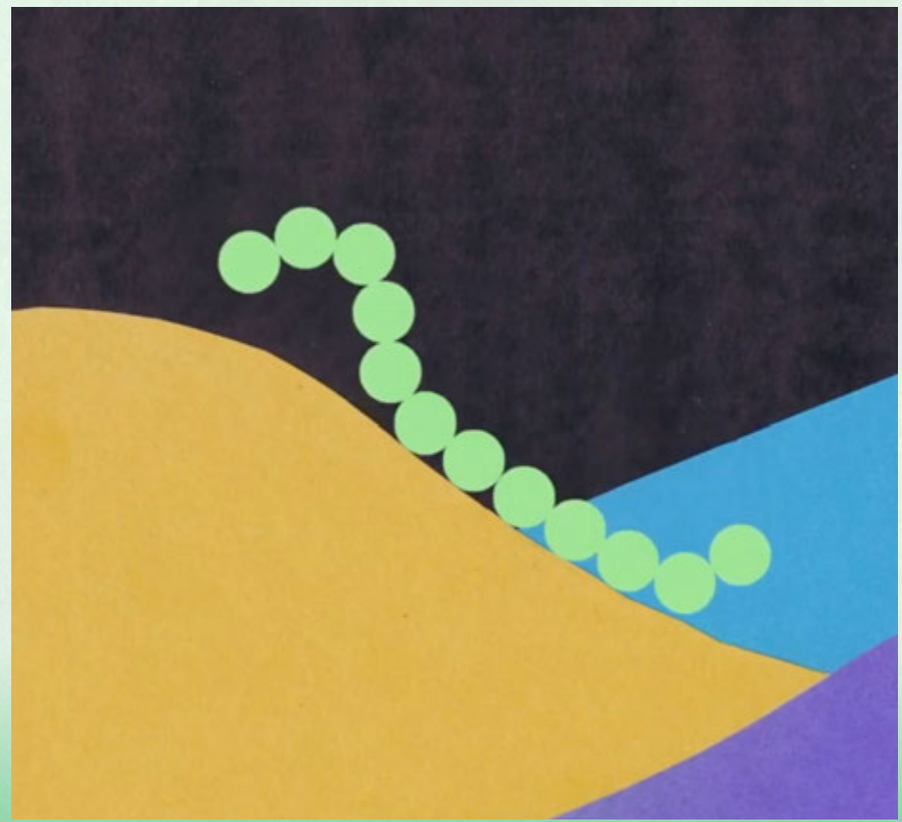


Created by
Vaishnavi, Devishree, Baby, Mounika, Rishika, Greeshma, Sneha, Punnetha, Moksha

Royal School, Shantipuram

Caterpillar

A graceful ballet of tiny steps and undulating waves



Created by
Pournami, Punith, Susanth, Mohd Karimulla, Karthik, Dhanunjay

Royal School, Shantipuram

STORYBOOKS

Storybooks provide a canvas for children to craft their narratives, invent characters, and explore their imagination. Through storytelling, children can convey their thoughts, emotions, and personal experiences, finding a voice and leaving a lasting impact on readers. At the Lab, children have the opportunity to bring their stories to life through illustrations and utilize technology to enhance their storytelling skills and share their unique tales with the world.

Thalli pillala Anubandam

Created by
Padma
Sirish
Sindhu

Mandal Primary and Upper Primary School, Kuppiganipalli

An exemplary display of a mother's unequivocal love

అందుకు కలనీ
అమ్మమ్మ ఇంటికీ
బయలు దేరారు.

ముందు జాగ్రత్తగా
వర్షం పడుతుందని
తల్లి గొడుగును వెంట
పెట్టుకుని బయలు
దేరింది.

ఇంతలో మధ్యలో
వర్షం వచ్చింది

ఇంతలో మధ్యలో
వర్షం వచ్చింది

అలా వెళ్ళుతుండగా
తల్లి నడవలేక పోయింది
పిల్లలు ఏమైంది?
ఇది అడిగారు.

సరే మీరు వెళ్ళండి.
నేను వస్తాను
సింది. తల్లి

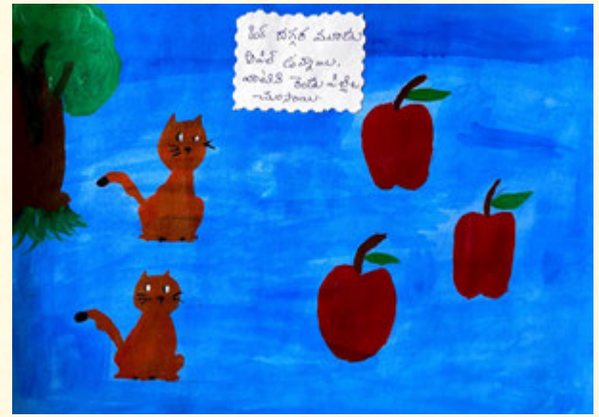
తరువాత నిటినీ
కిందికి మడులుతుంది
తల్లి

Rendupillula Katha

Created by
V.Shanmugam
V. Vinjit Kumar
A. Nandin
S. Jayashree
Y. Bhavana

Zilla Parishad High School, Yamiganipalli

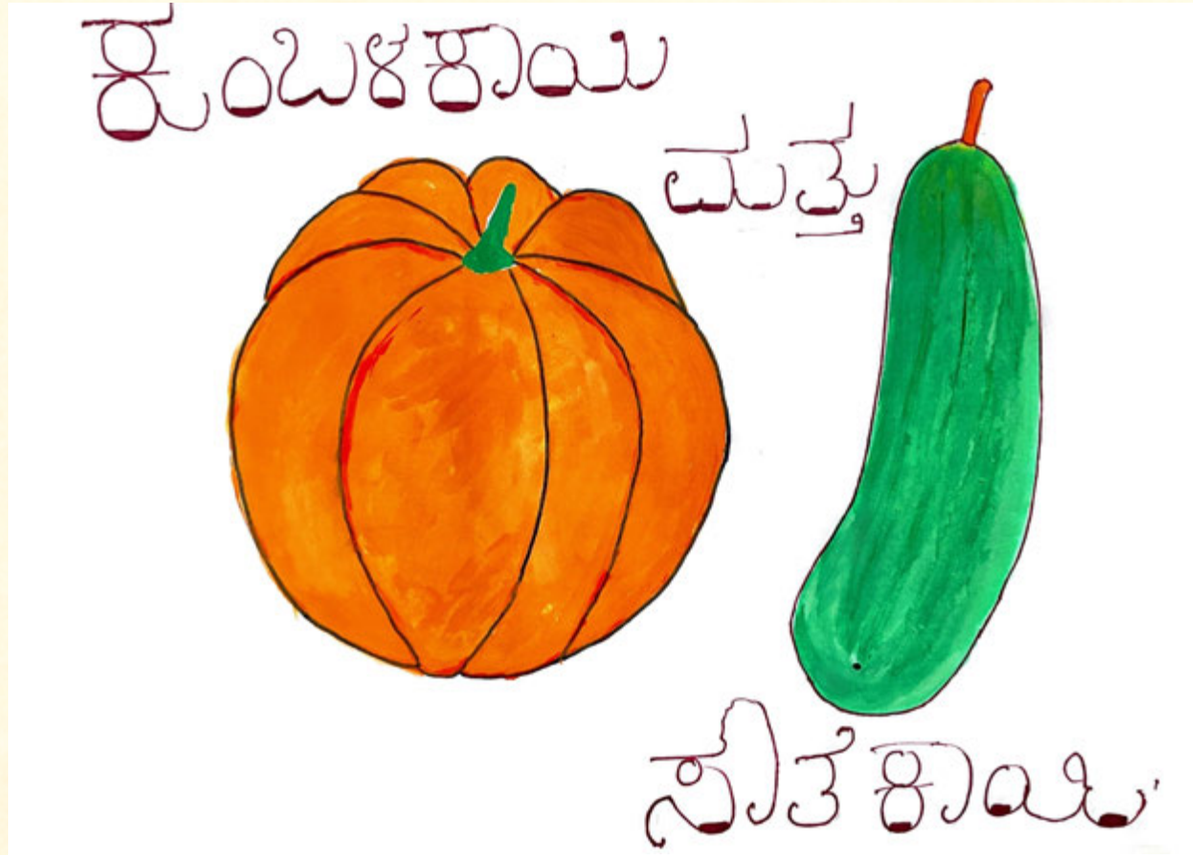
A Tale of three tails



Gummadikaya-Sorakaya

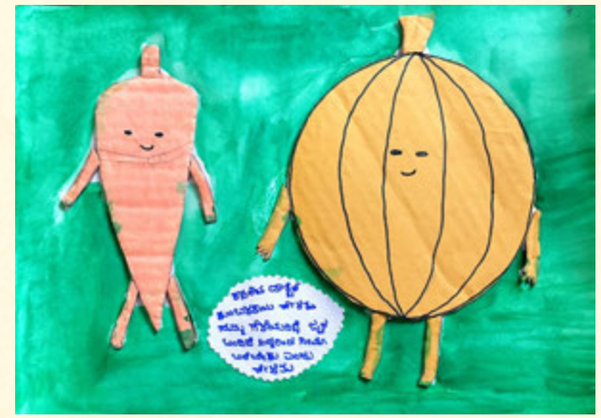
Created by
A.Kavitha
V.Nagaveni
C.L.Lakshmi
K.Swapna

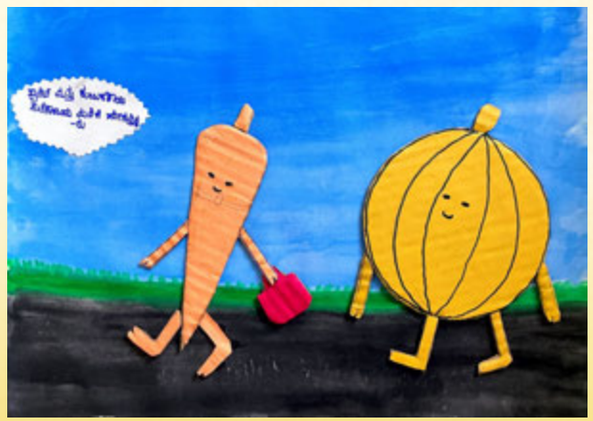
Governement Higher Primary School, Kalavanchi



I have only dreamt of shooting and acting in films as a career choice. I want to be a filmmaker when I grow up. Learning at the Media Lab was a great opportunity for me. I learned so many things about shooting, camera handling, and editing.
-V.Sumithra, 6th grade

What is but a little injury in the grand scale of friendship?



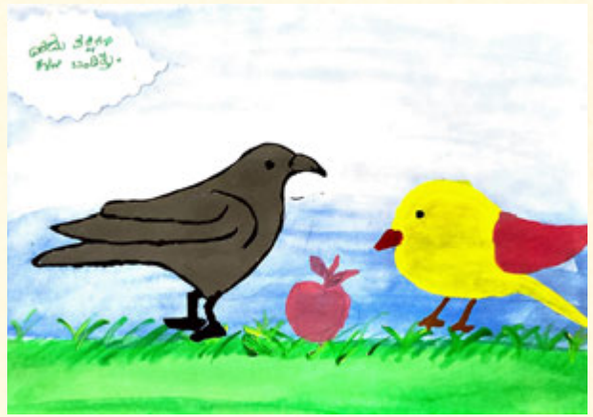


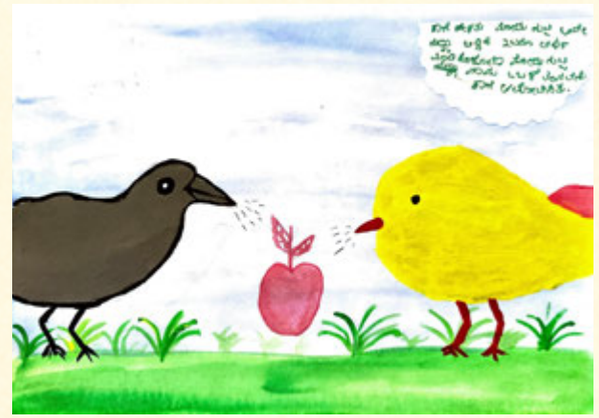
Kaki pichuka katha

Created by
K.Suvarana
C.Shravya
N.Lakshmipriya
N.Alfabhanu
Saniya

Government Higher Primary School, Kamasamudram

A stolen apple becomes a bitter-sweet emblem of friendship.

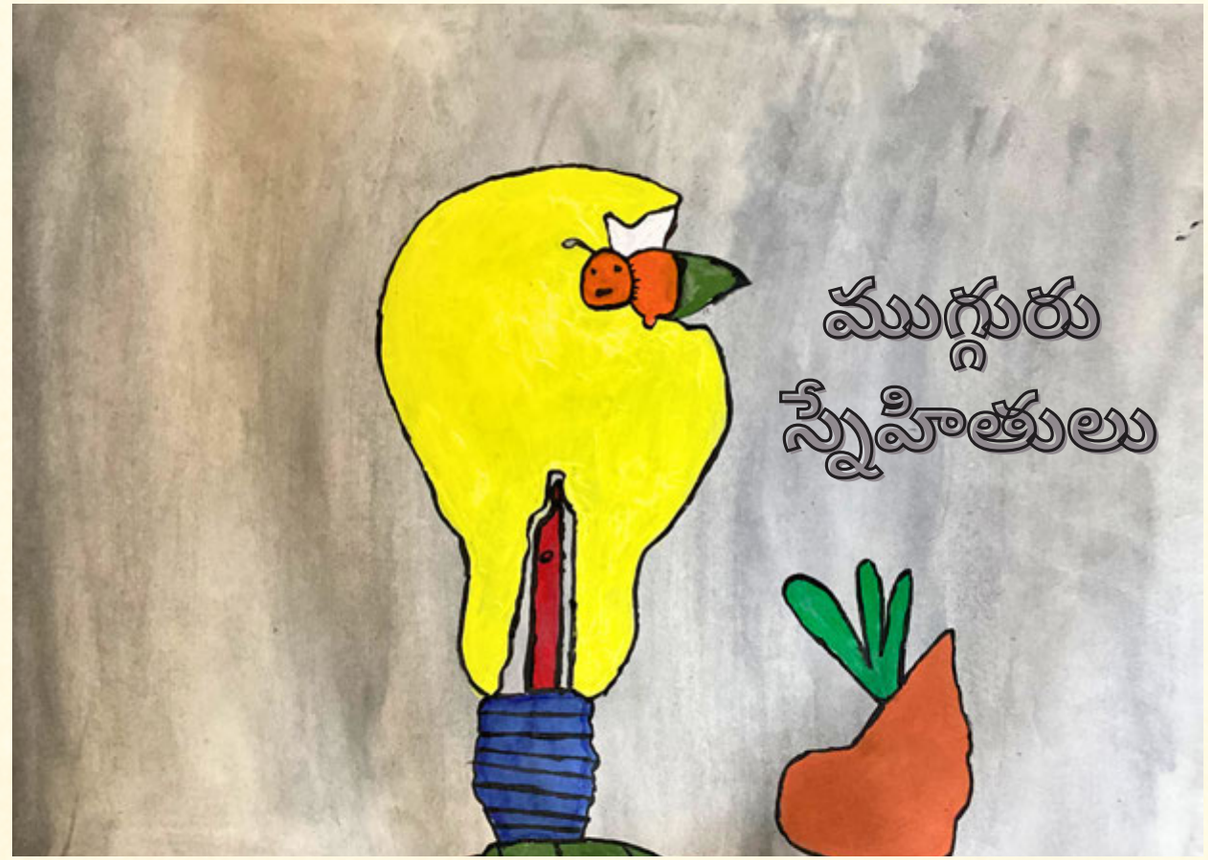


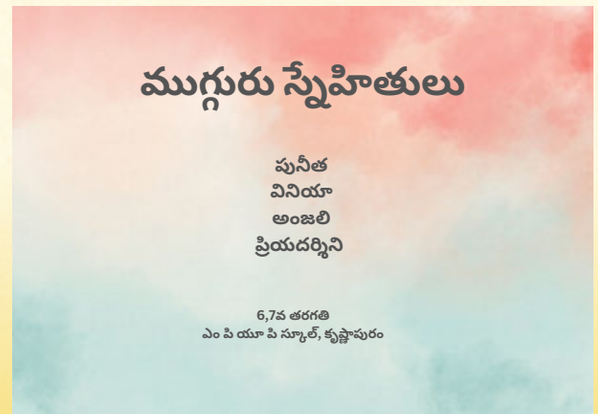


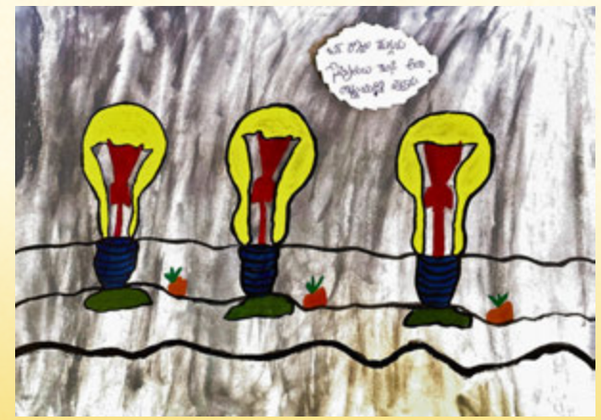
Mugguru Snehithulu

Created by
Puneeta
Viniya
Anjali
Priyadarshini

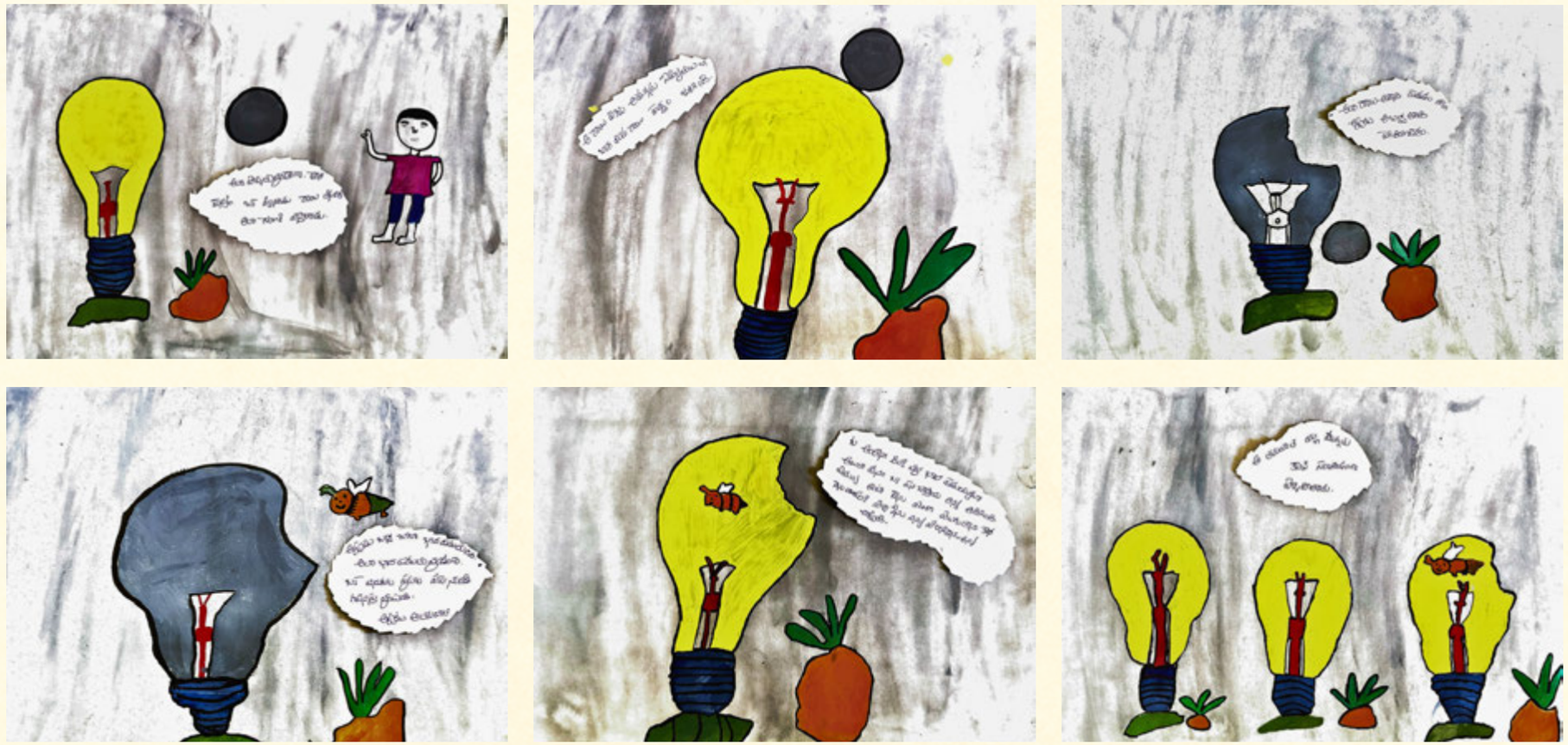
Mandal Primary and Upper Primary School, Krishnapuram







Nature and innovation intertwine to find solace in a bulb



Pichuka Katha

Created by
Umashree
Hindu
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Babu
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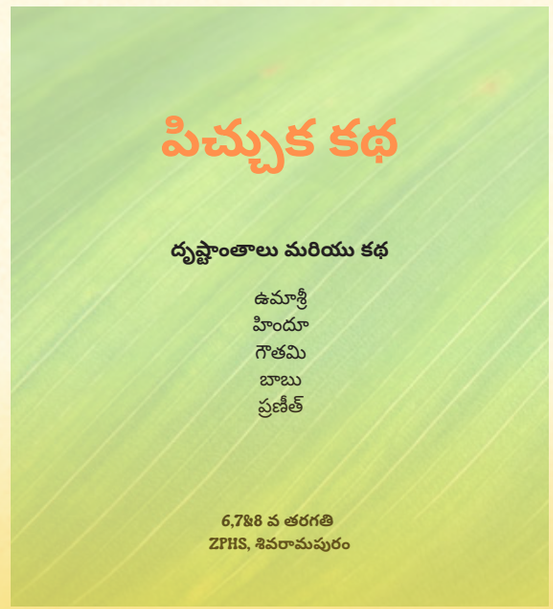

Armed with an idea and a crust of determination, the bird soared beyond the sky's limits.

అదే సమయానికి
మరొక పక్షి కూడా
అక్కడికి వచ్చింది.
ఒప్పు మంకీ
నాకు కాదా, నాకు
కాదాలి అని ఇద్దరు
గొడవ పడుతున్నారు.
అదే సమయానికి
మరొక పక్షి కూడా అక్కడికి
వచ్చి గొడవ పడుతున్నాయి
గొడవ పడి అది వెళ్ళి-
పోయాయి.
అంతలోనే పిచ్చుకకు
ఒక శబ్దం వినిపించింది.
విమని చూడ్డి
ఇక్కడ ఒక
విమానం కనిపించింది
ఆశ్చుడు దానికొక కోరిక
కలగింది. నేను ఆ విమానం
మీద ఎక్కి ఒప్పు
ఆశాలని కోరిక
పుట్టింది.

Gorilla-Gorilla pilla

Created by
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S. Sravanti
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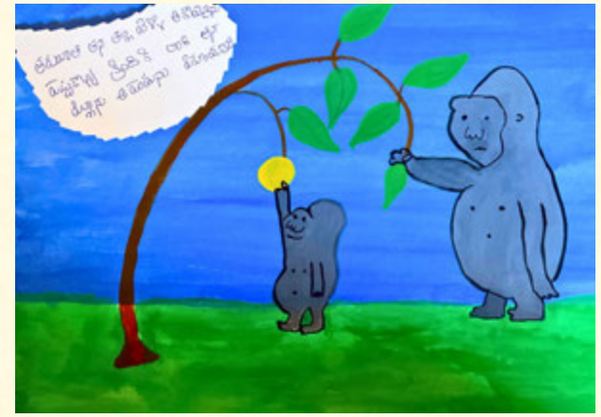
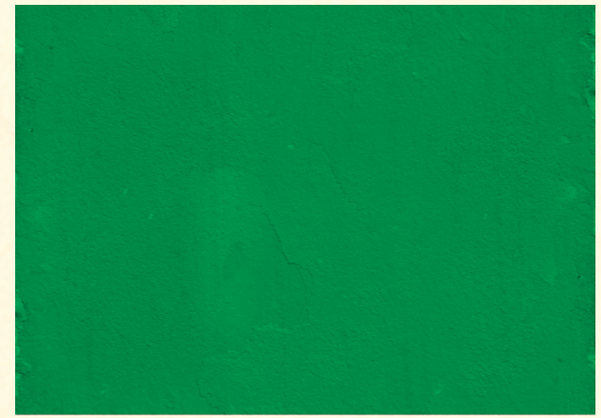
In search of a mango and a nap.

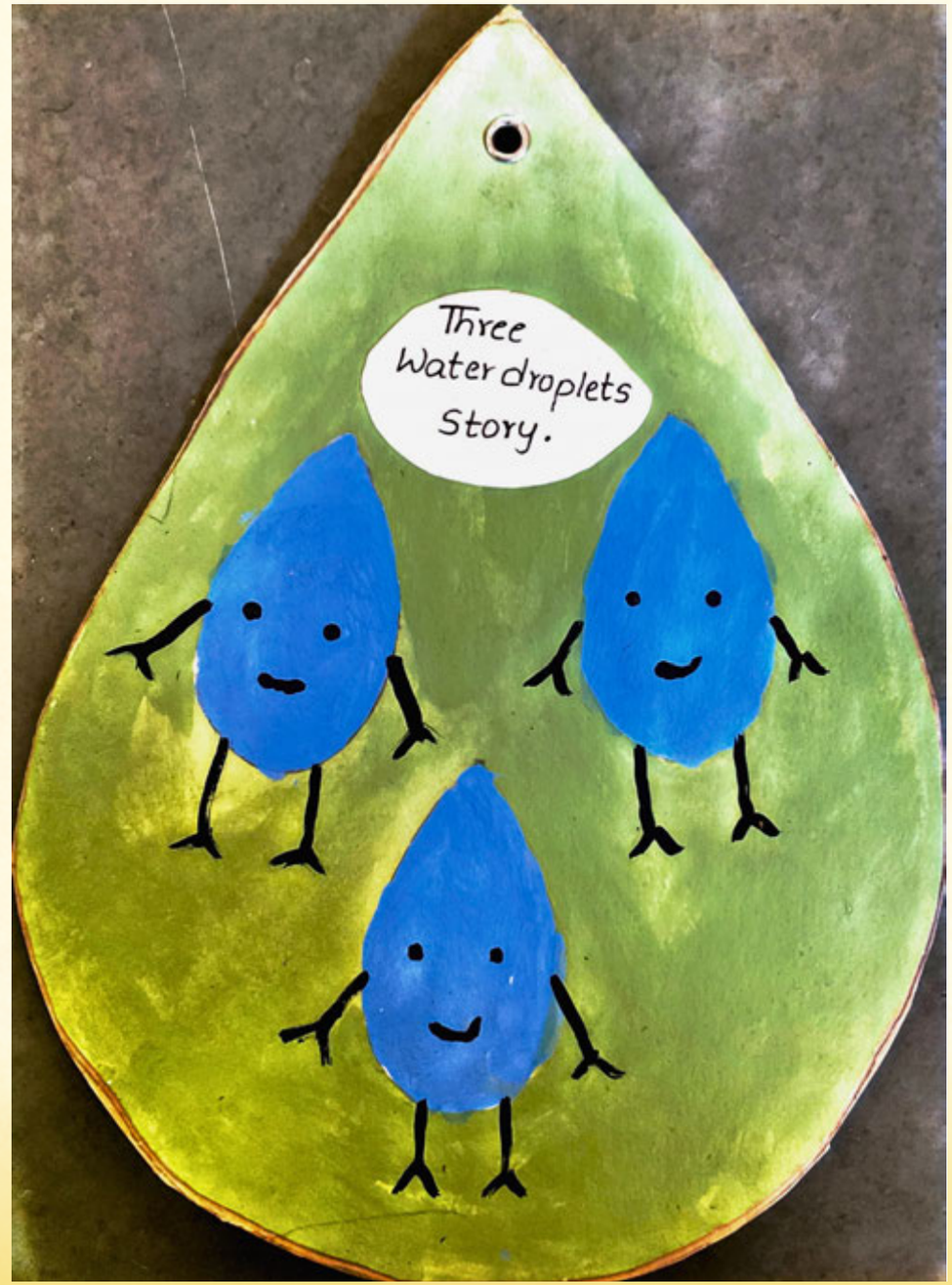




Three Water Droplets

Created by
Bhanuprakash
Lokesh
Vignesh
Sushab

Royal School, Shantipuram



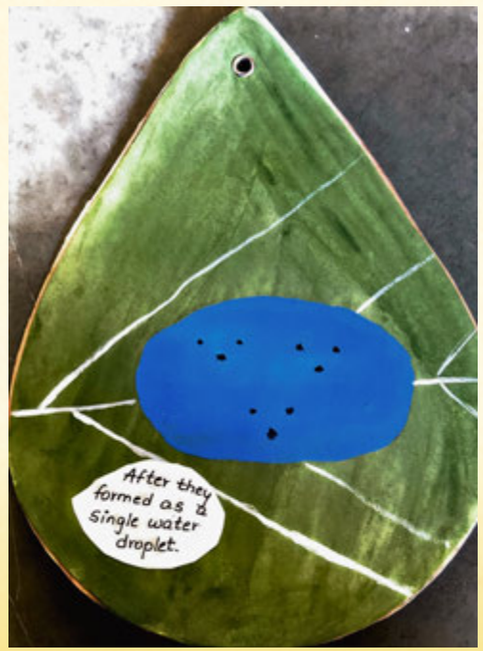
A serendipitous journey of the three friends.

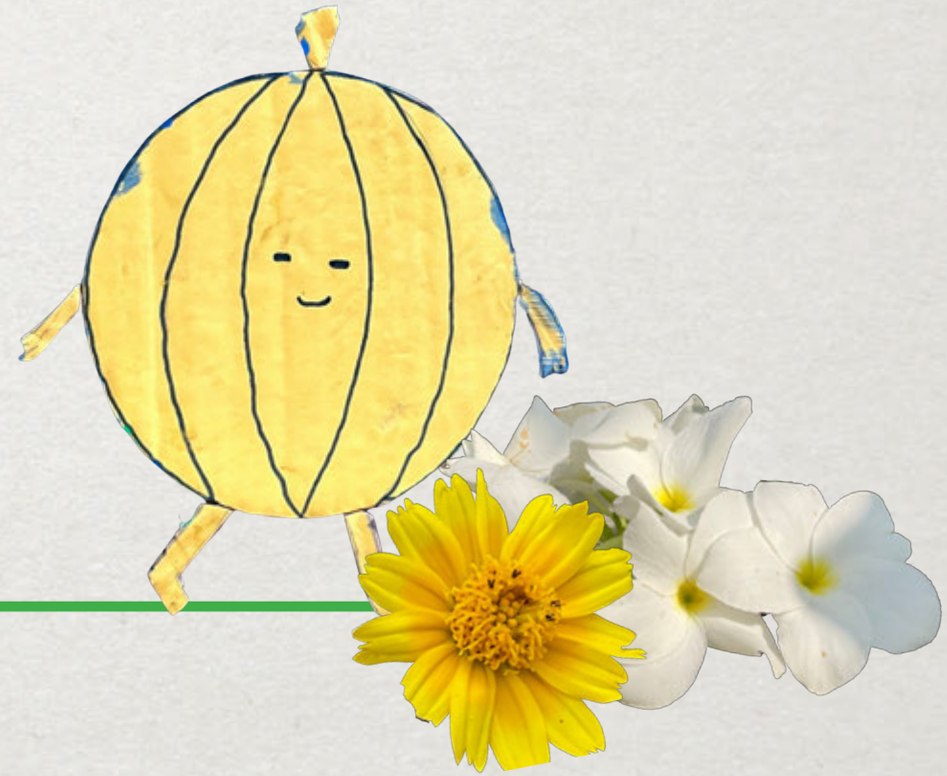
THREE WATER DROPLETS

Illustrations & Story

Bhanuprakash
Lokesh
Vignesh
Sushab

students of standard 6th,7th & 8th
Royal School,Santhipuram





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Get in touch: **info@agastya.org**