

R R C D E



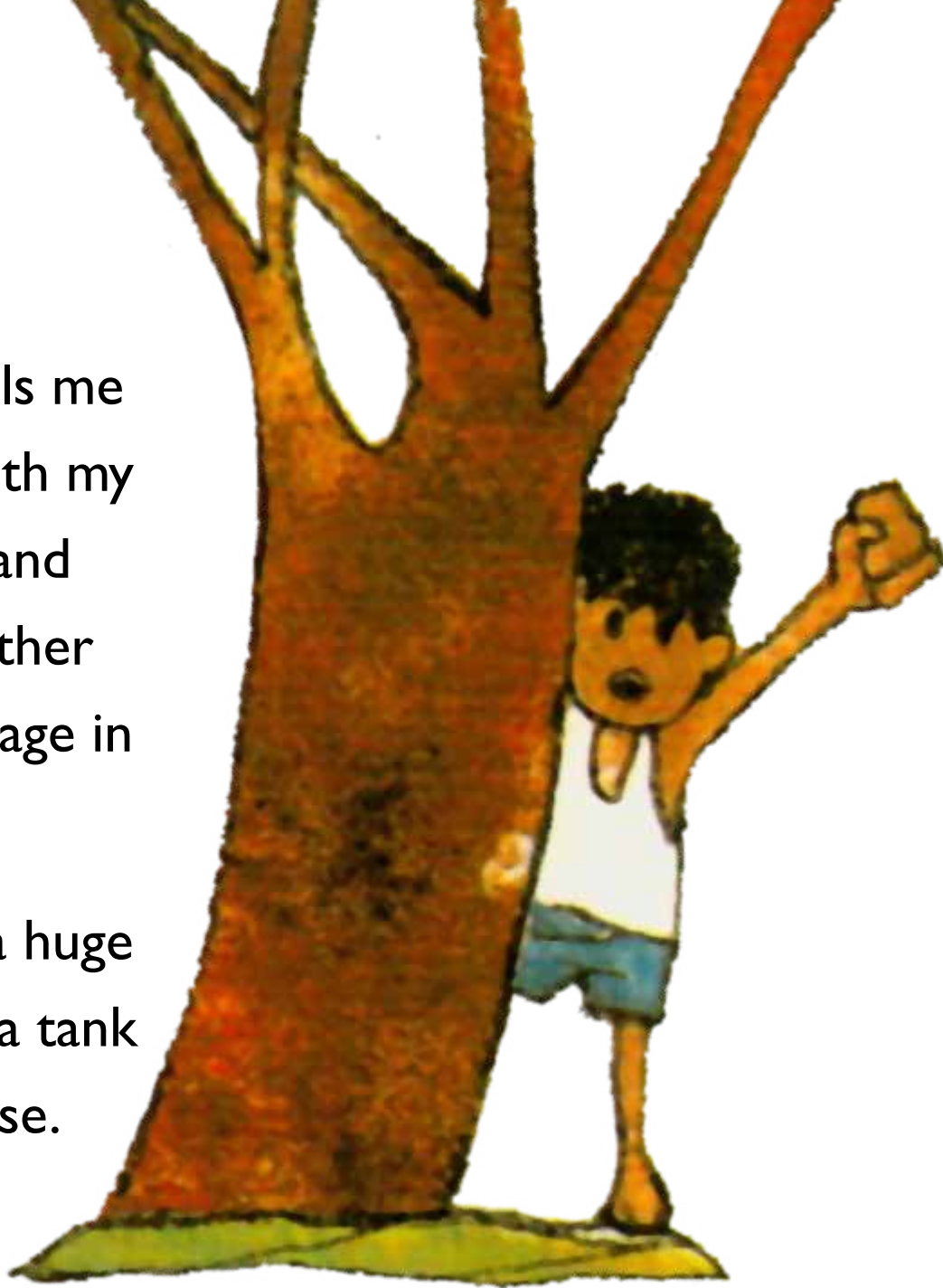
Shankar  
Art by Atanu Roy



a 300m thinkbook from Katha 

Everyone calls me Raja. I live with my grandfather and my grandmother in a small village in Kerala.

Once I saw a huge crocodile in a tank near my house.



I did not mind the crocodile staying there. But, I did not want it to eat our fish.

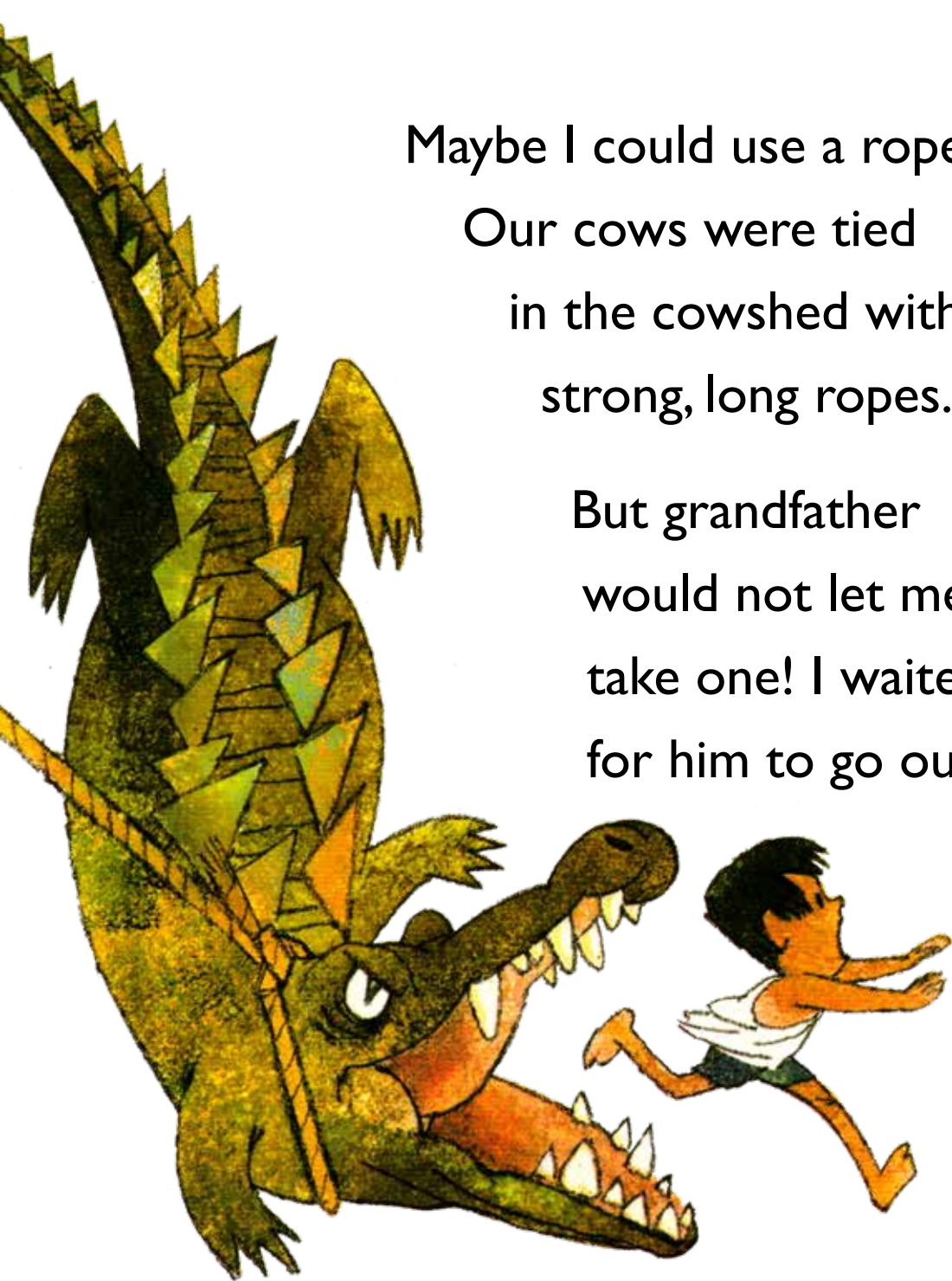
I stood behind a tree and threw a brick at it. But, the crocodile just slipped into the water and disappeared.



Maybe I could use a rope?

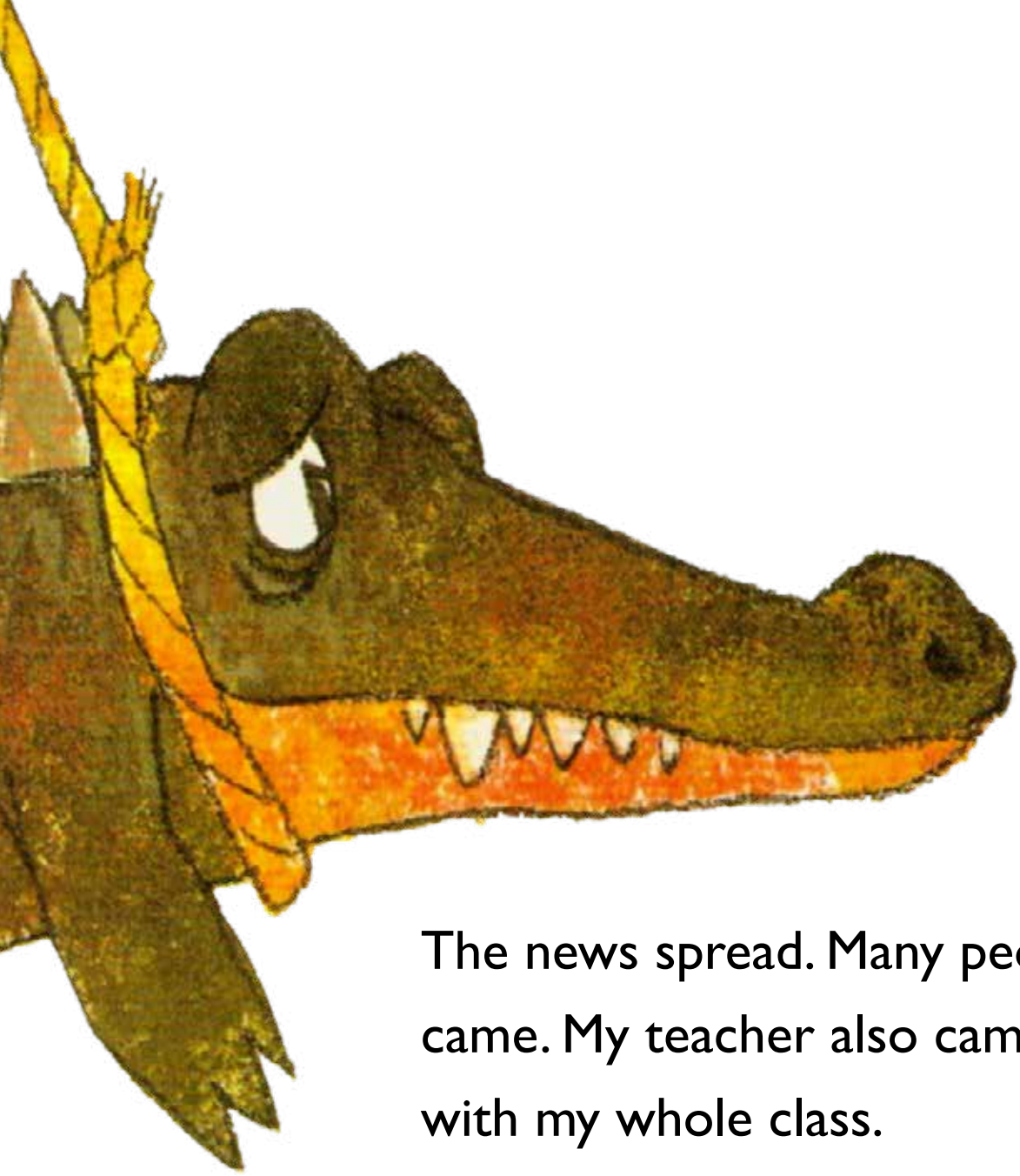
Our cows were tied  
in the cowshed with  
strong, long ropes.

But grandfather  
would not let me  
take one! I waited  
for him to go out.



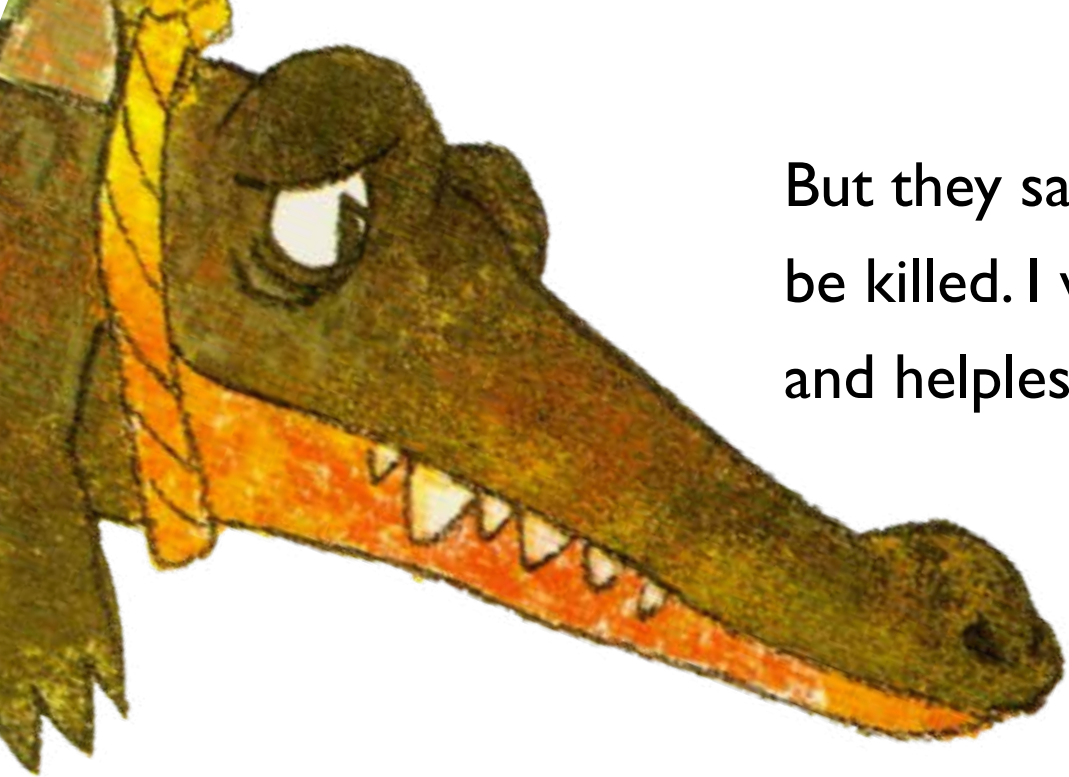
Then, I quietly took a rope to the tank.  
I made a noose at one end of the rope  
and tied the other end to a big tree.

Early next morning, I ran to the tank.  
There it was, the huge crocodile...  
caught! When it saw me, it suddenly  
rushed at me with its mouth open,  
letting off a sharp sound.



The news spread. Many people came. My teacher also came with my whole class.

I felt like a hero! Some people in the crowd wanted to hurt the crocodile. I told them that it was my crocodile and I wanted to set it free.

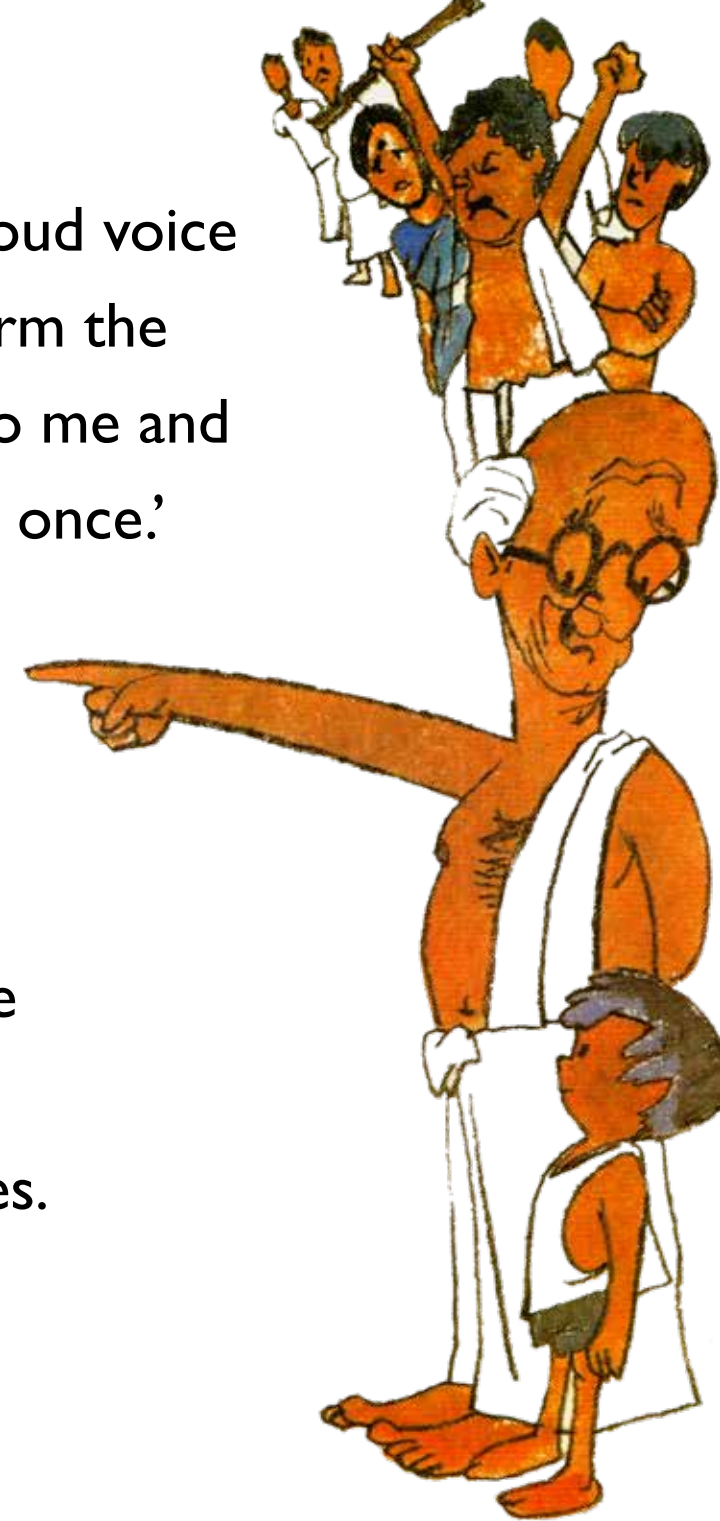


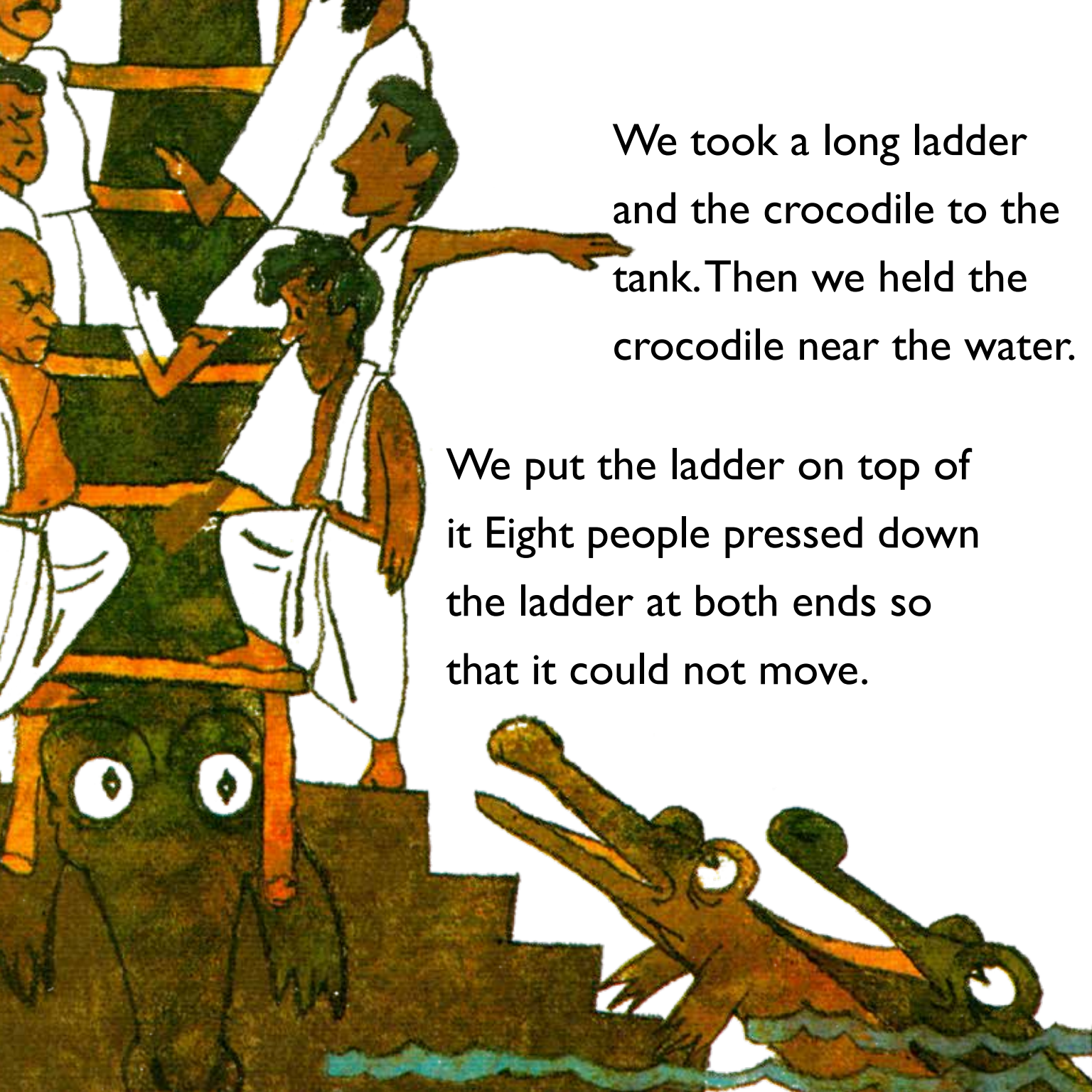
But they said it must be killed. I was alone and helpless.

Then, grandfather came! He was the only person who could save my crocodile.

Grandfather said in a loud voice that nobody should harm the crocodile. He turned to me and said, 'Raja, set it free, at once.'

We decided to take it to the large temple tank where there were many crocodiles.





We took a long ladder  
and the crocodile to the  
tank. Then we held the  
crocodile near the water.

We put the ladder on top of  
it Eight people pressed down  
the ladder at both ends so  
that it could not move.

Then I cut the rope that held  
the crocodile. The ladder was  
lifted and the crocodile jumped  
into the tank!

A few days later my crocodile  
was back in the same tank  
where I had seen him first ...  
basking in the sun!

**Shankar** – K. Shankar Pillai – was born in Kerala. A writer and illustrator of children's books – he is best remembered for setting up Children's Book Trust and Shankar's International Dolls Museum. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1976.

**Atanu Roy** has illustrated more than a hundred books for children. Roy, who once worked as a political cartoonist for *India Today*, has won the *Children's Choice Award* for Book Illustrations and the *IBBY Certificate of Honour* for Illustrations.

## KATHA

Katha is a globally recognised non-profit organization ([www.katha.org](http://www.katha.org)) that has been working in the literacy to literature continuum since 1988. Our nearly 30 years of experience is in publishing and education for children in poverty.

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ISBN 978-93-92454-65-6

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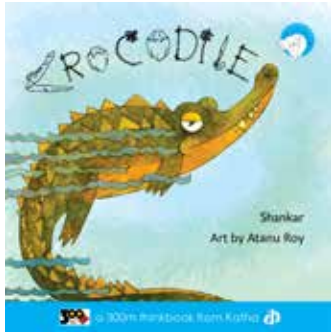
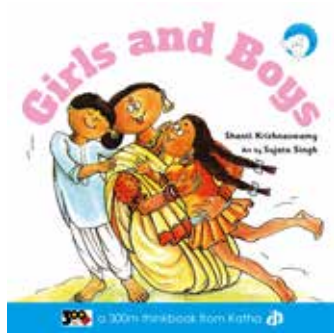
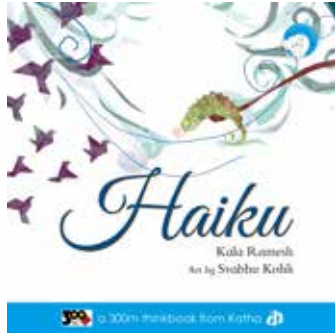
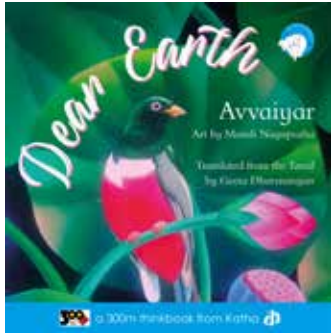
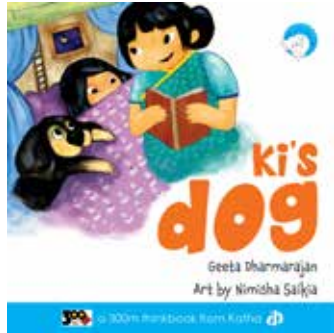
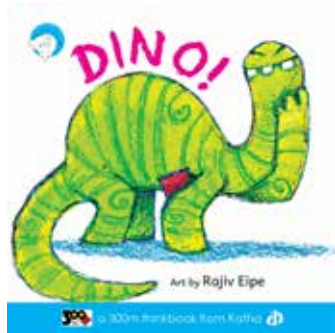
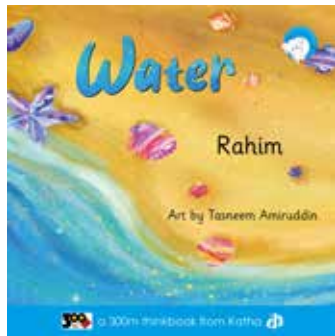
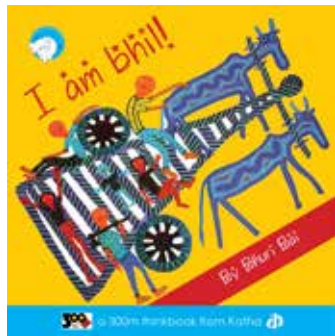
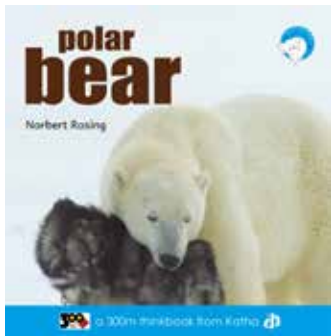
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