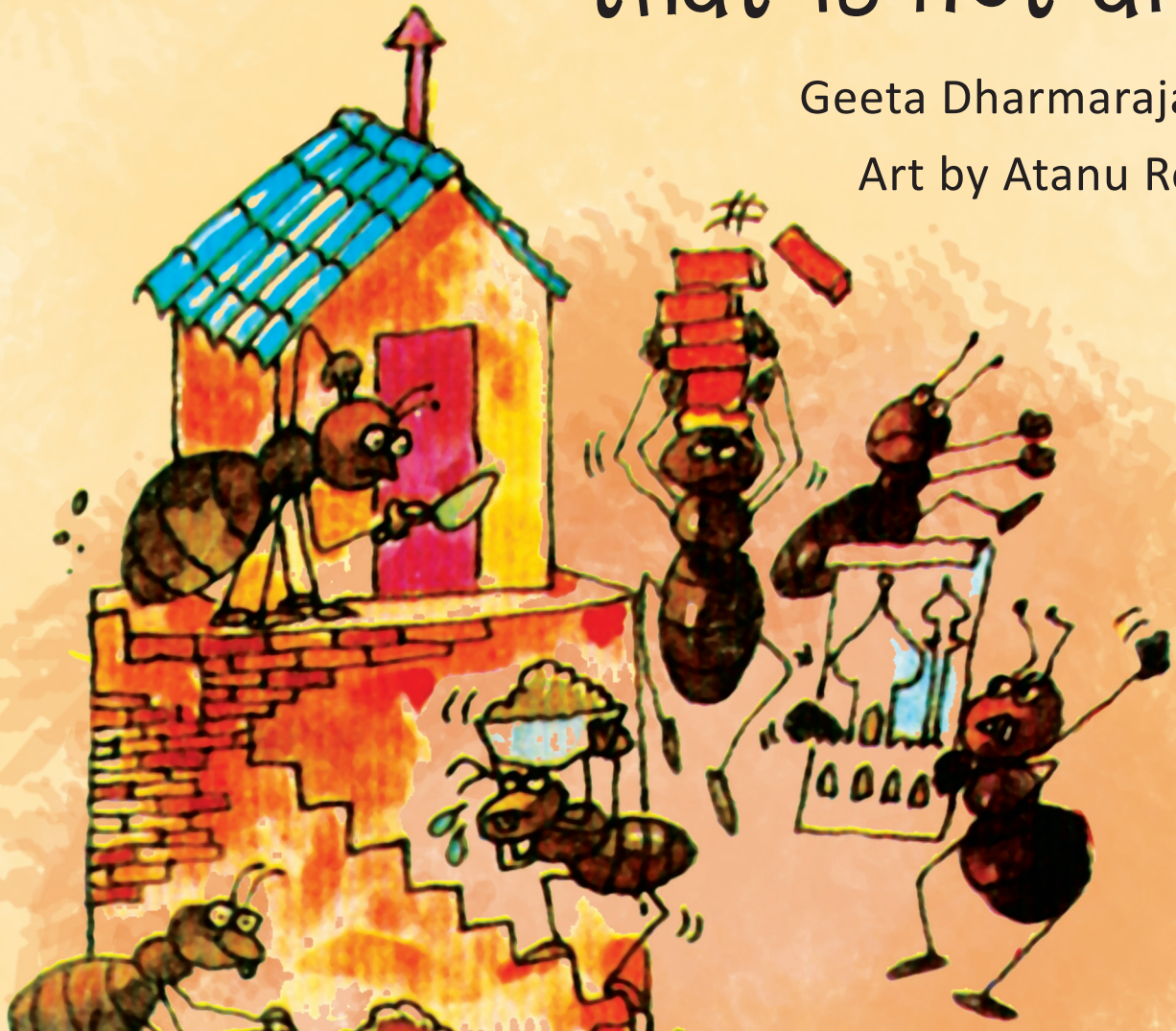




Ants are small but that is not all!

Geeta Dharmarajan

Art by Atanu Roy

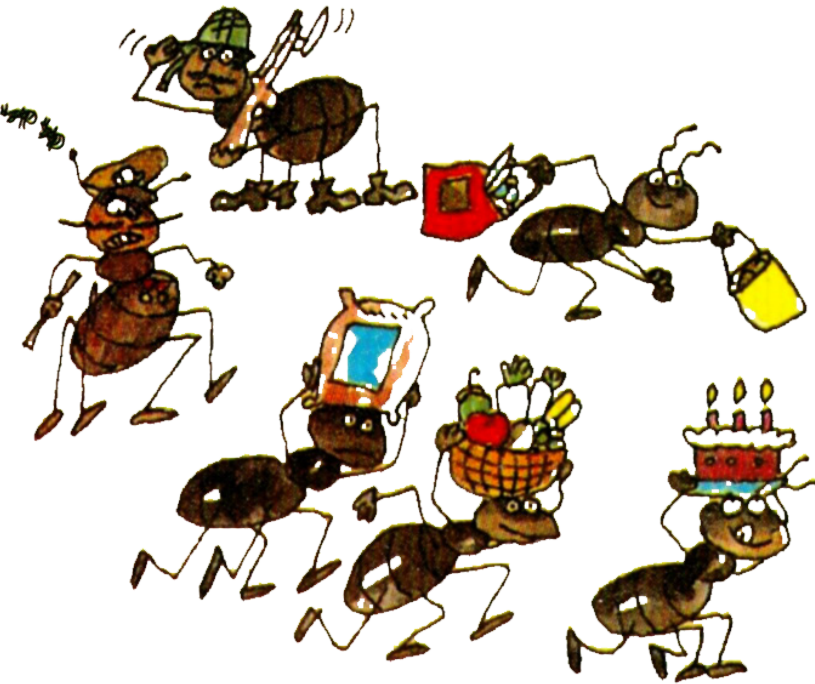




KNOCK!
KNOCK!

Ants not only look busy, but they know exactly where they are going! Every ant is part of a large ant community of about 50,000 ants. It is ruled by a Queen and has a special place and job within its society.

An ant's nest may be in the garden, under a stone, inside an ant hill or under your kitchen floor. However, all ants keep their community fed, sheltered and safe.



Ant's nests are full of winding tunnels, and rooms; they even have a burial room for their dead!



The ants in the nest look after the Queen so she can concentrate on laying eggs – on average, one for every ten minutes of her life!



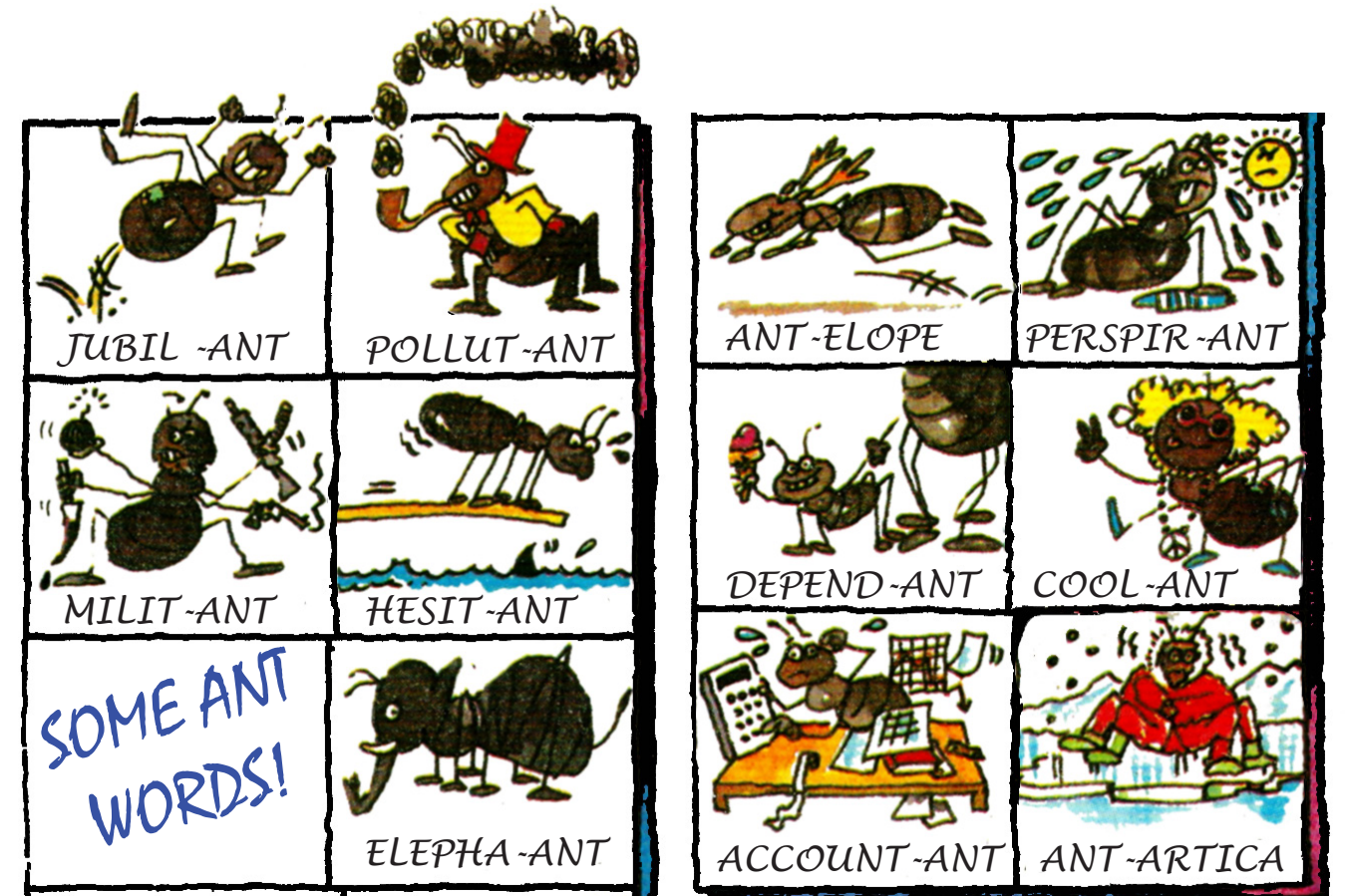
As the queen lays eggs, workers bring them to the egg room. Here the nursemaids take charge.

The nurses sort them according to size and when they've hatched into larvae, shift them from room to room, so that they'll always be where the temperature is just right for them.



Ant Facts

- All the ants in the nest are the queen ant's children.
- The soldier ant protects the queen and home.
- Some ants are professional nursemaids.
- Builder ants repair and help to expand the ant nest.
- Food-getter ants feed sugar and honey to their queen, and other workers.



Geeta Dharmarajan loves writing stories for children. She was one of the editors of *Target*, a magazine for children, and *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, the magazine of the University of Pennsylvania. She was awarded the prestigious Padma Shri in 2012 for her distinguished service in the fields of literature and education.

With over a hundred children's books under his belt, **Atanu Roy** has devoted much of his creative prowess to children's literature. It's no surprise then that Roy, who once worked as a political cartoonist for *India Today*, has won awards like the Children's Choice Award for Book Illustrations and the IBBY Certificate of Honour for Illustrations.

KATHA

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Devoted to enhancing the joys of reading amongst children and adults, we work with more than 1,00,000 children in poverty, to bring them to grade-level reading through quality books and interventions.

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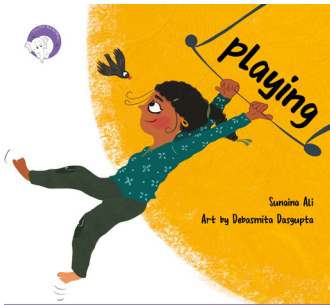
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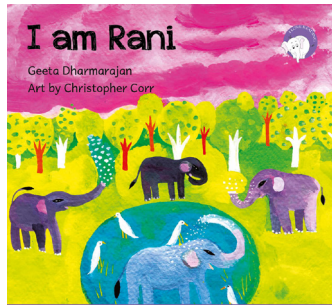
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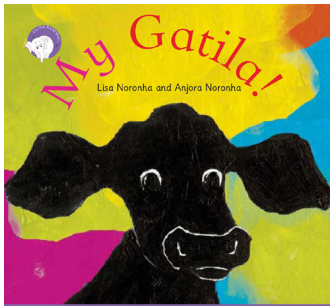
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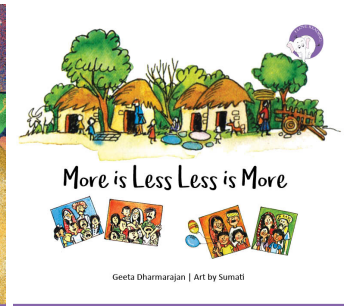
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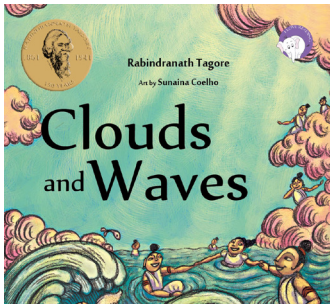
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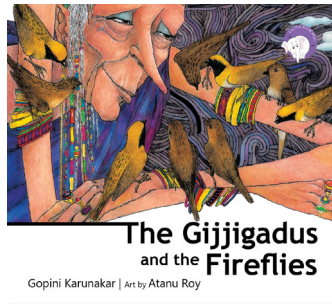
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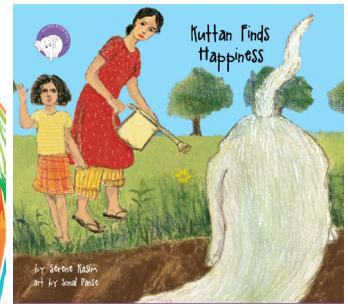
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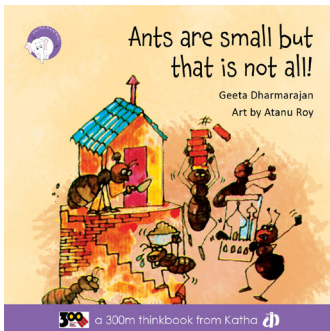
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