

COLOUR

Geeta Dharmarajan

Art by Saba Hasan



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This book belongs to

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KATHA

About Katha

Katha, a nonprofit organization founded in 1988, works in the literacy to literature continuum. We work with slum communities and municipal corporation schools to ensure that every child learns to read for fun and at grade level. We also work with women and teachers so that all children achieve their potential.

Our books, workshops and learning centres strive to forge cross-cultural connections through story and Story Pedagogy®. As one of India's finest publishers, our initiative has been recognized as "a unique and special moment in Indian publishing history" by *The Economic Times*.

Katha's books have received global recognition, including the nomination by an international jury for the prestigious Astrid Lindgren Award, the world's biggest prize for children's literature.

We love to work with new and established writers, translators and illustrators.

Do you like writing, illustrating, translating for children? Write to us at editors@katha.org to become a cherished member of the Katha family!

"[Katha] ... an educational jewel in India's crown."

— Naoyuki Shinohara, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

"Katha stands as an exemplar for all the creative projects around the world that grapple with ordinary and dramatic misery in cities."

— Charles Landry, *The Art of City Making*

"Katha has a real soft corner for kids. Which is why it ... create[s] such gorgeous picture books for children."

— Time Out

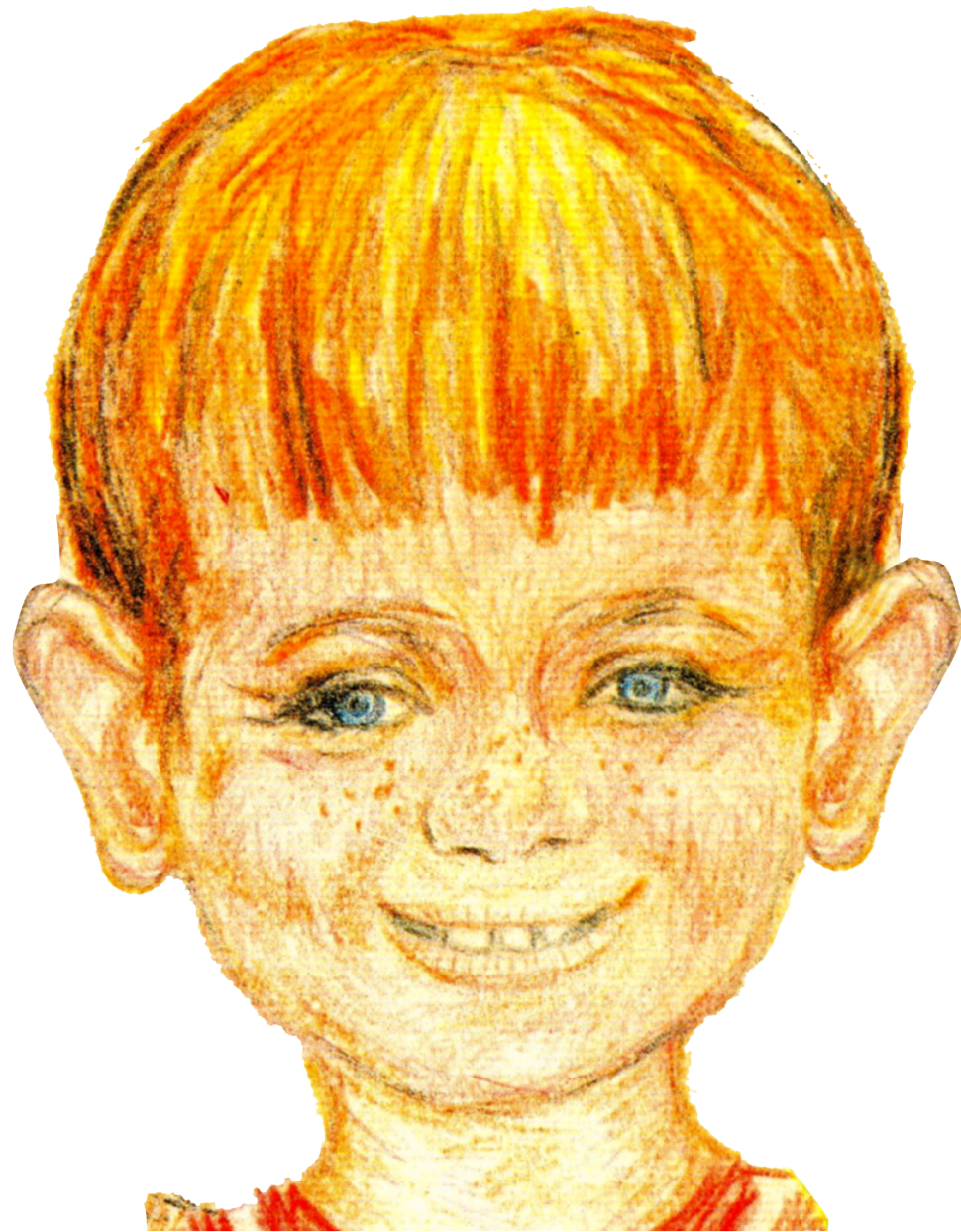
"Katha's work is driven by the idea that children can bring change to their communities that is sustainable and real, just as the children do in [their books]."

— Papertigers

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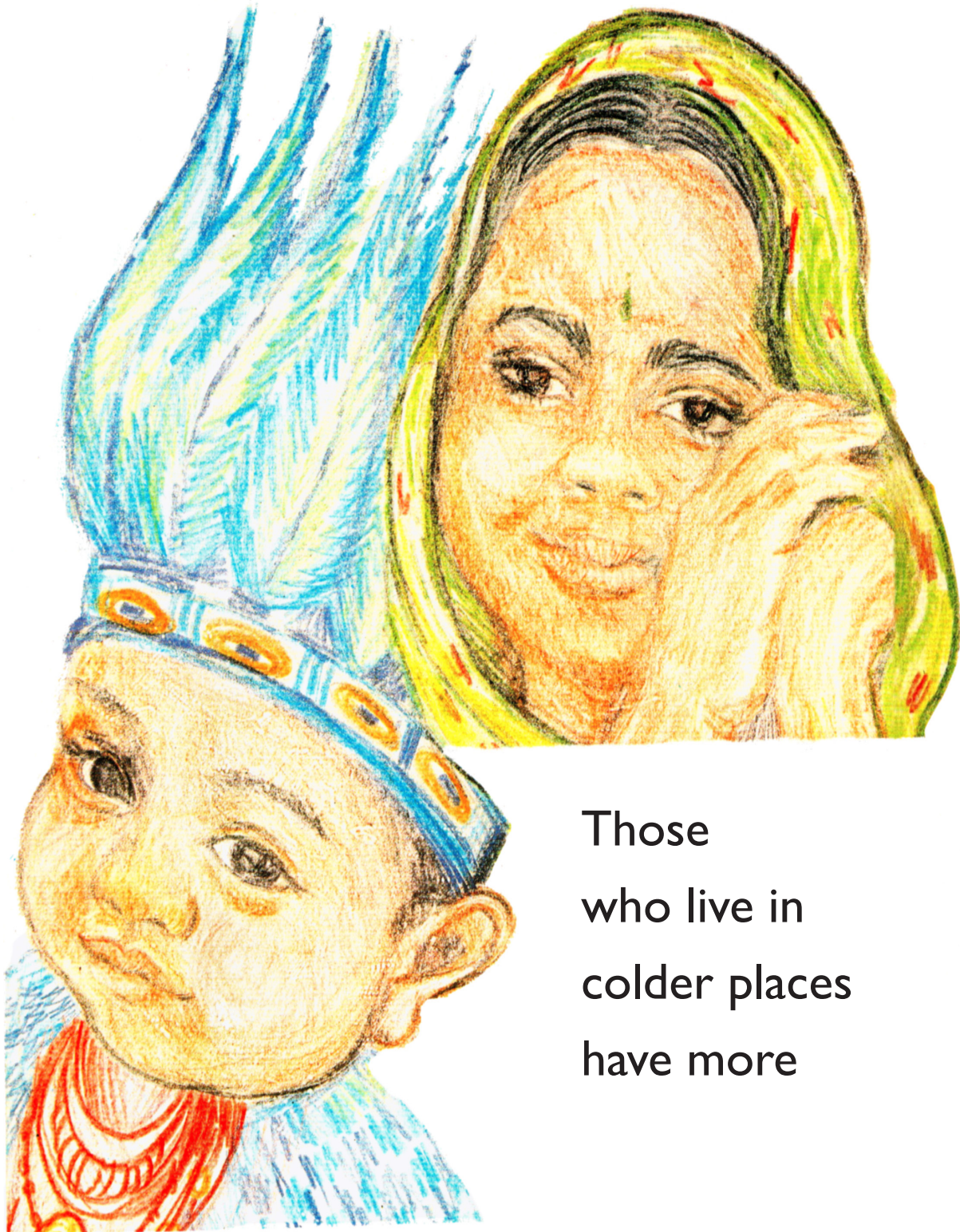


Some people are dark. Some are fair. Have you ever wondered why? The colour of skin depends on three pigments found in our bodies.

These are: **Carotene,**
Haemoglobin, Melanin.

These pigments give colour to our skins. Those who live in hotter places have more melanin, because it protects the body from the hot, burning heat of the sun.





Those
who live in
colder places
have more

haemoglobin to help them stand
the cold better. But then you know,
don't you, that colour is only good
to play Holi with! Or to paint with.
Or to put into saris and skirts.
Between friends, what does a little
more **haemoglobin** or little less
melanin or **carotene** matter?

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.

Saba Hasan is an artist, photographer and writer working in multiple media since her first solo show of paintings, *Hauz Khas Uneffaced* 1998. She has conducted innovative educational workshops and community art projects like *Kilkari 2015*. She has been awarded international fellowships from Syracuse University, New York, the French Cultural Ministry, Paris 2006, George Keyt Art Foundation, Colombo 2002, Oscar Kokoschka Academy, Salzburg 2010 and the Raza National Award for painting 2005.



Ever wondered why some people are dark and some are fair? Is it because of the climate or pigments found in our bodies? Through clever prose and vivid illustrations, this book offers children a scientific explanation about how we get our unique skin tones. *Colours* reminds young readers to celebrate their differences and to look beyond the colour of their skin. A must-read for kids to understand themes such as acceptance, tolerance and friendship.

