

# SUSHRUTA

Geeta Dhararajan

Art by Sumati



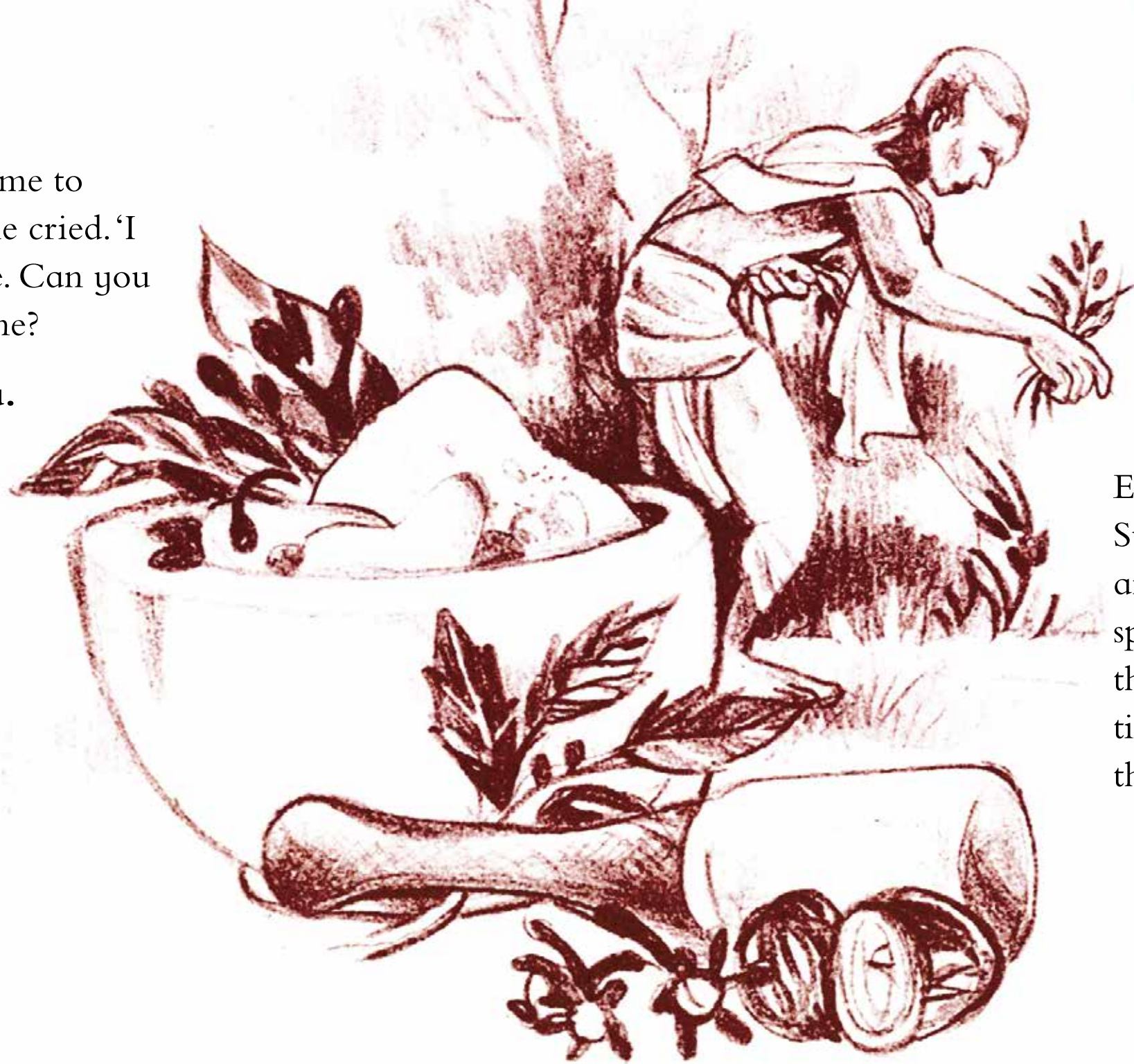
a 300m thinkbook from Katha 



**S**ushruta was a special doctor who lived in India more than 2000 years ago. He was a plastic surgeon. That is, he could build back any part of the body – like a nose or a ear that was lost in war or in an accident.

One day a soldier came to Sushruta. 'My nose' he cried. 'I lost my nose in battle. Can you help me get a new one?'

**'Yes' 'said Sushruta.**

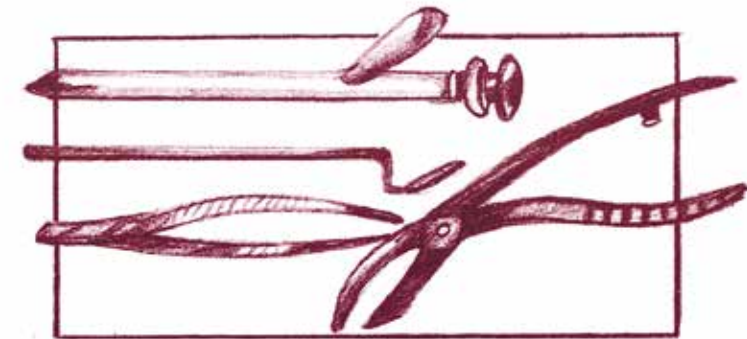


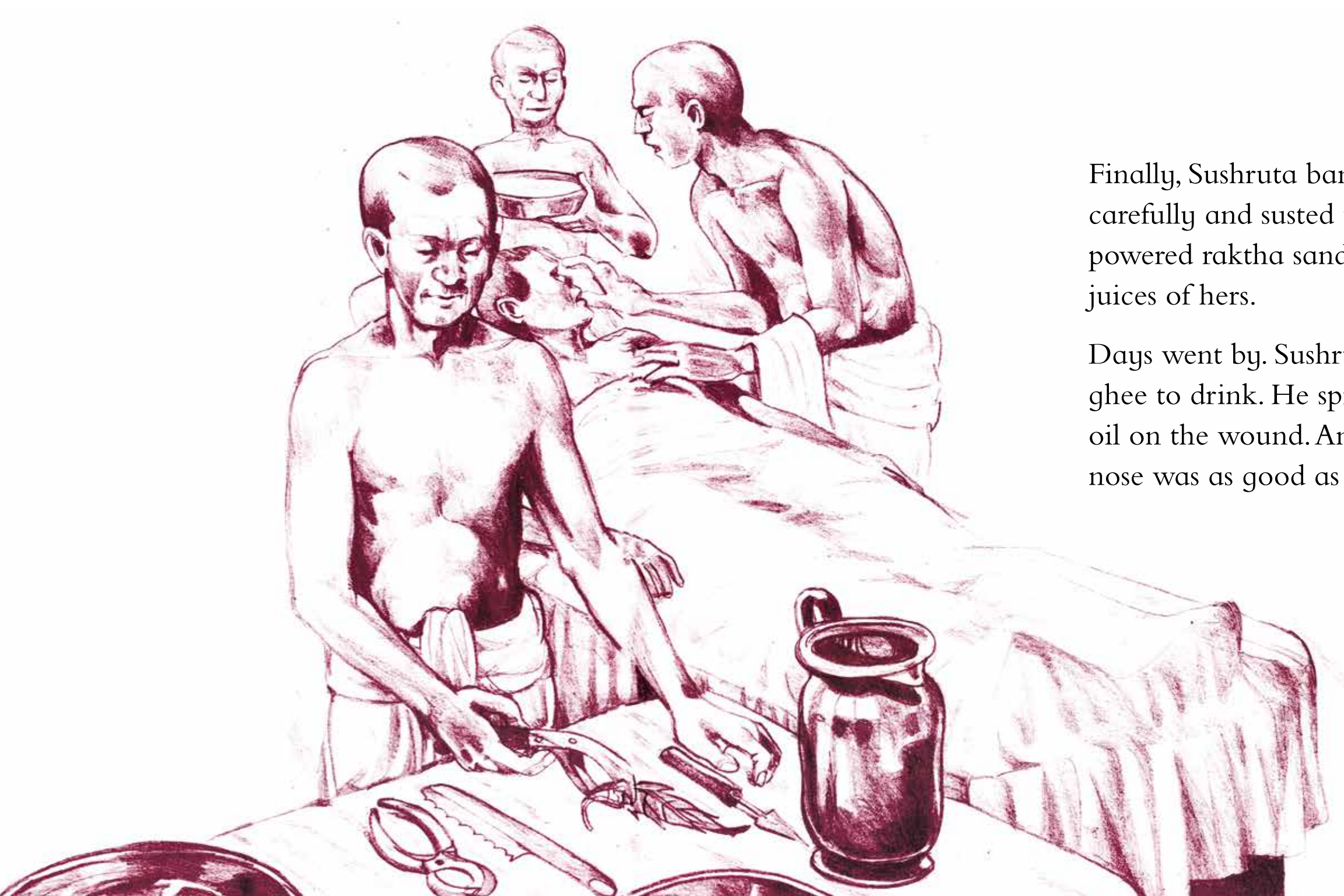
Early the next morning Sushruta had a bath and went out to pick the special herbs he needed for the operation. He searched till he found some leaves that were just right.



Then the operation started. Sushruta held a parrot-beaked instrument with firm hands. He picked up a clean leaf, long and broad enough to fully cover that part of the nose that had been cut off. He placed this leaf on the wound.

Next, he sliced a piece of skin from the soldier's cheek, just big enough to cover the leaf, and turned this skin back swiftly on top of the nose. He placed two small pipes in the nostrils to help the patient breathe.





Finally, Sushruta bandaged the nose carefully and susted the nose down with powered raktha sandanam and the juices of hers.

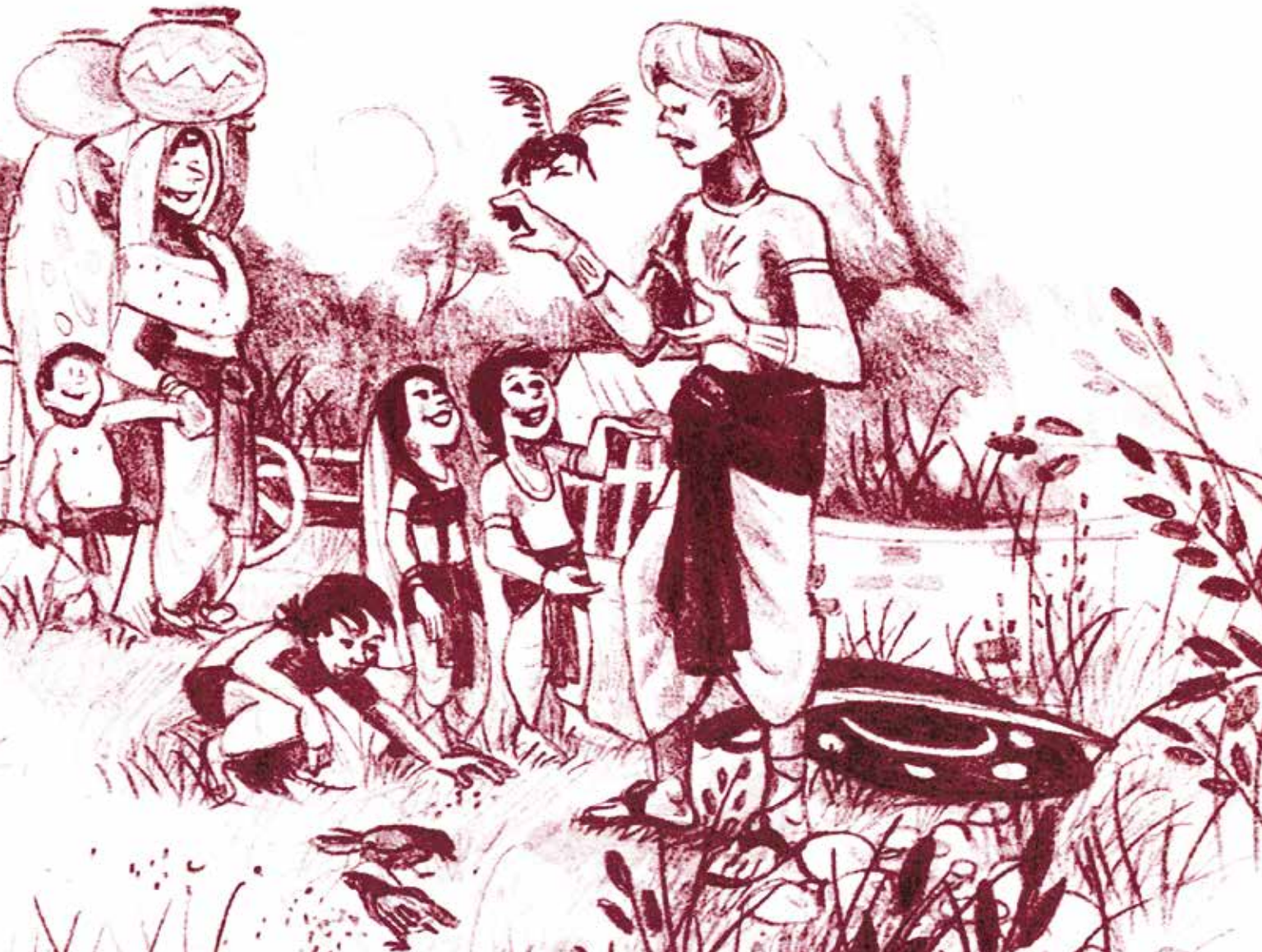
Days went by. Sushruta gave the patient ghee to drink. He sprinkled pure sesame oil on the wound. And soon, the soldier's nose was as good as new!



The soldier did a lot of thinking while his nose was healing. He felt that there were other ways to defend one's country than to go to war! 'War is a stupid way to get what one wants!' he told himself and went back to school. He wanted to become a doctor – like Sushruta!

Sushruta was a special doctor who knew about building noses. He lived in India more than 2000 years ago. The kind of operation he did on the soldier is now called **PLASTIC SURGERY**.

Sushruta not only built back broken noses, but he was also good at other operations.



Long before Sushruta, India had had many doctors like him. They had learnt a lot about the human body. But it was Sushruta who wrote down all that he knew about Indian surgery in a book called the SUSHRUTA SAMHITA. This is a big book with 184 chapters.



It was hundreds of years after Sushruta that doctors in England and America learnt how to do PLASTIC SURGERY.

You and I are the children of such great people like Sushruta. We can do so much – if we only work towards it!



**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.

**Sumati** is an illustrator who brings dreams alive through her artworks. She has illustrated many books for young readers.

## 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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KATHA is a registered nonprofit organization started in 1988. We work in the literacy to literature continuum.

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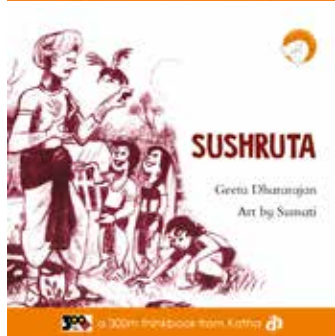
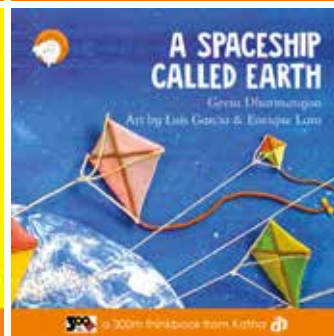
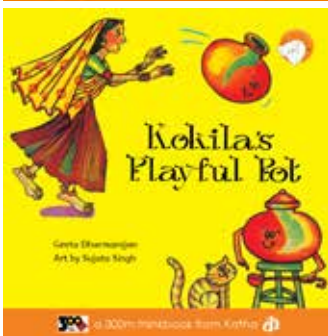
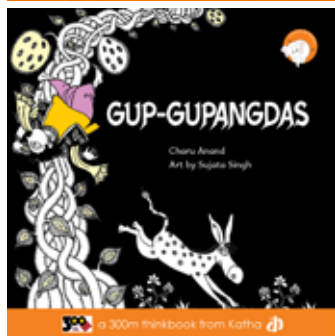
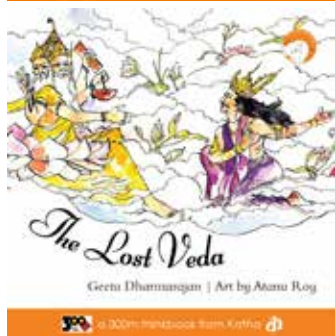
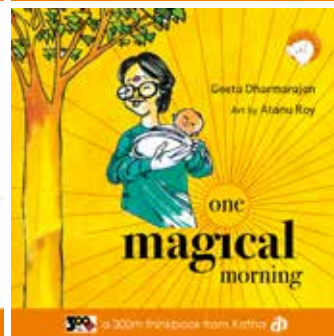
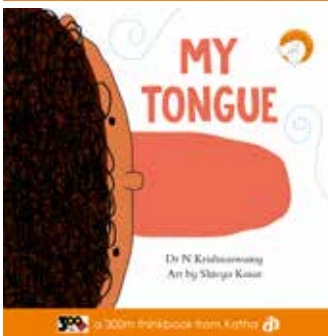
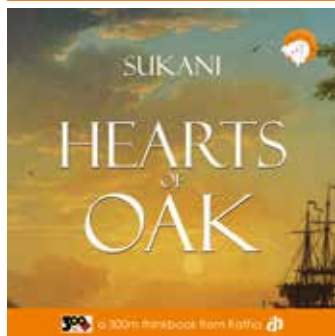
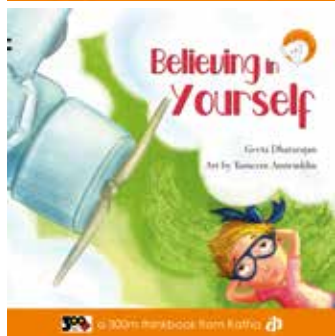
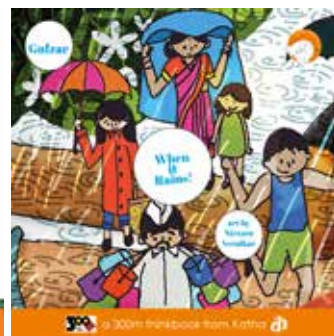
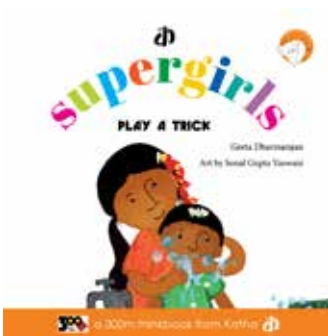
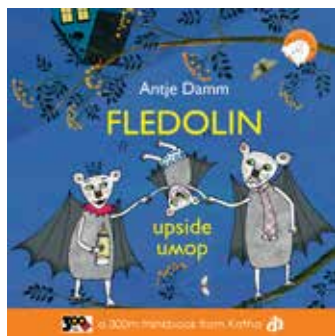
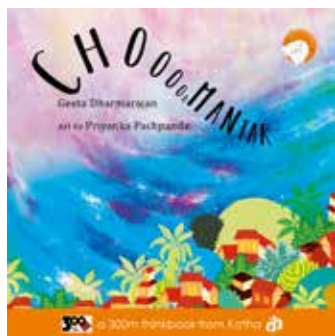
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