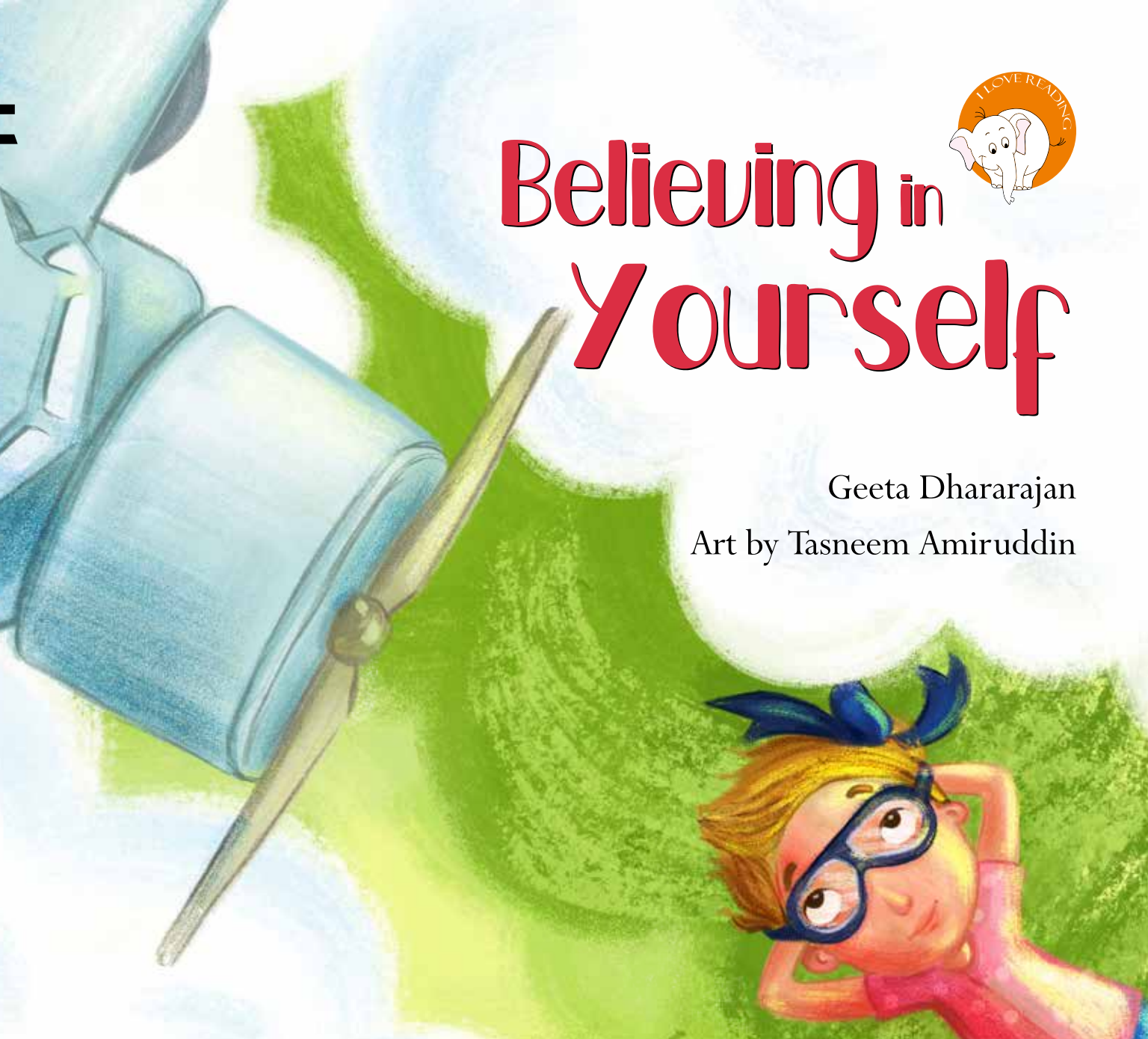




Believing in Yourself

Geeta Dhararajan

Art by Tasneem Amiruddin



a 300m thinkbook from Katha 




Marie Curie



physicist & chemist

Marie, or Maria then, was the youngest of five children. Her parents were teachers in Poland. They were very poor. After her mother died, Marie started working so she could help her family. But she wanted to study, and she studied as much as she could, whenever she was not working.

She worked for eight long years before she had enough money to go to college! She joined the Sorbonne University in Paris when she was twenty-four, and became a famous scientist at a time when there were almost no female scientists!



Nothing ever stopped Marie Curie. During the First World War; she was responsible for starting X-ray units near battlefields so that soldiers could get well quickly. She, along with her scientist husband Pierre Curie, discovered radium, and changed the world forever! She was the first woman to win the world's top science prize, the Nobel Prize -- and the first person to win it twice!



Amelia Earhart

aviator

“I will, I will, I will!” Amelia always told herself. When she was a child, the only thing that flew in the sky were birds. But she always dreamed of flying.



Everyone realized she was different. Girls at that time did not play sports, wear pants, sport short hair or get educated. But Amelia didn't want to follow these rules. So, while every other girl her age would be playing with dolls, Amelia would be having an adventure of her own! She was curious about everything — how things worked, how different people were, and what different places looked like!

When Amelia grew up, she demanded the same opportunities as were given to the boys. And her family supported her. She realized that her whole life could be a play if she pursued what she liked. For when you do something you like, you are always playing! Amelia worked as a military nurse, social worker and English teacher before she learnt to fly and became an aviator. Her father had taught her to never run away from problems. And that is exactly what Amelia did through her life. She always faced problems with great courage.

When she was thirty, she became the first woman to fly all by herself across the United States. And the first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean, although as a passenger! She kept breaking records one after another all her life!



Ramanujan

mathematician

Many years ago, there was a boy called Ramanujan who lived in a small town of Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu. Just before he turned ten, he had passed the primary exams in English, Tamil, geography and arithmetic. He stood first in the whole district!



So his parents moved him to a bigger school.

But his parents were poor. They had to rent out a room in their house to two college students. Ramanujan quickly found that he liked what the college students were studying. Maths! From then on, if anyone wanted to find Ramanujan, they would find him with the students — laughing and joking about maths!



Before Ramanujan turned eleven, he had learnt everything that the college students knew! And by the time he was fourteen, he was getting awards for solving maths puzzles that no one else could.

At sixteen, Ramanujan came across a book by G. S. Carr which had 5000 theorems. Guess how much time it took him to crack these problems? Less than a year! He also got the Best Student Award that year and got a scholarship to study in the best college in Kumbakonam. But Ramanujan only liked maths. He struggled hard but failed in all subjects, except maths! His maths teachers never understood the steps he took to find the answers. And Ramanujan continued to find answers to many difficult maths questions that no one had ever solved!

Ramanujan died when he was thirty-three years old. But even today, his fascinating results and mathematical theories, and a number of unpublished notebooks filled with theorems, continue to baffle mathematicians around the world!

None of these people ever gave up! Can you find others in India who have proved to the world that there is joy in working hard and reaching the moon?

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.

Tasneem Amiruddin is an illustrator from Mumbai who's inspired by the gorgeous pink sunsets, mischievous children, dark nights and brightstars. She usually enjoys vibrant colours and fairytales.

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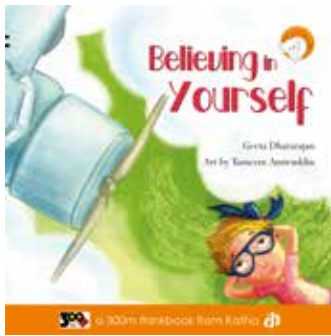
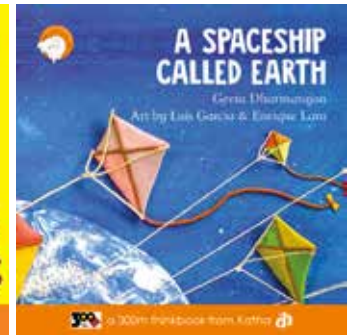
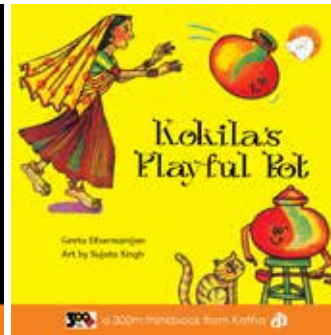
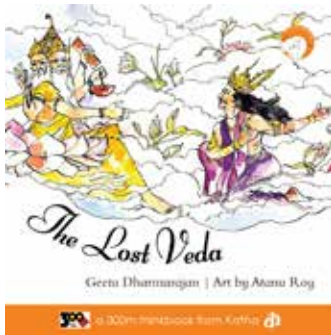
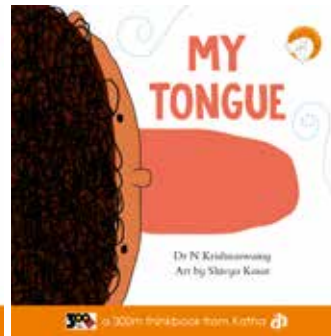
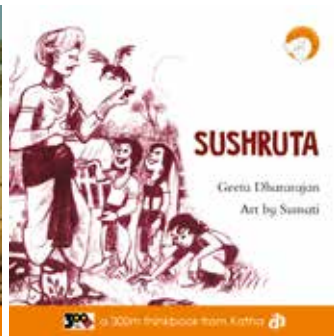
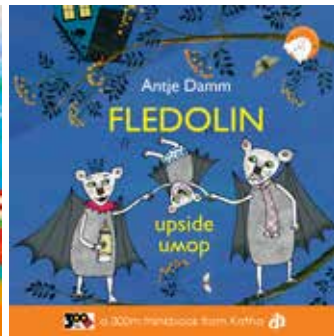
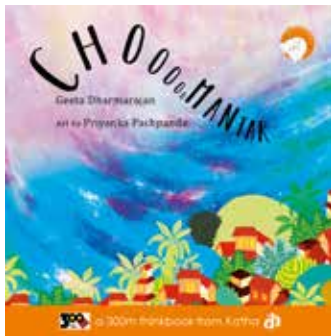
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