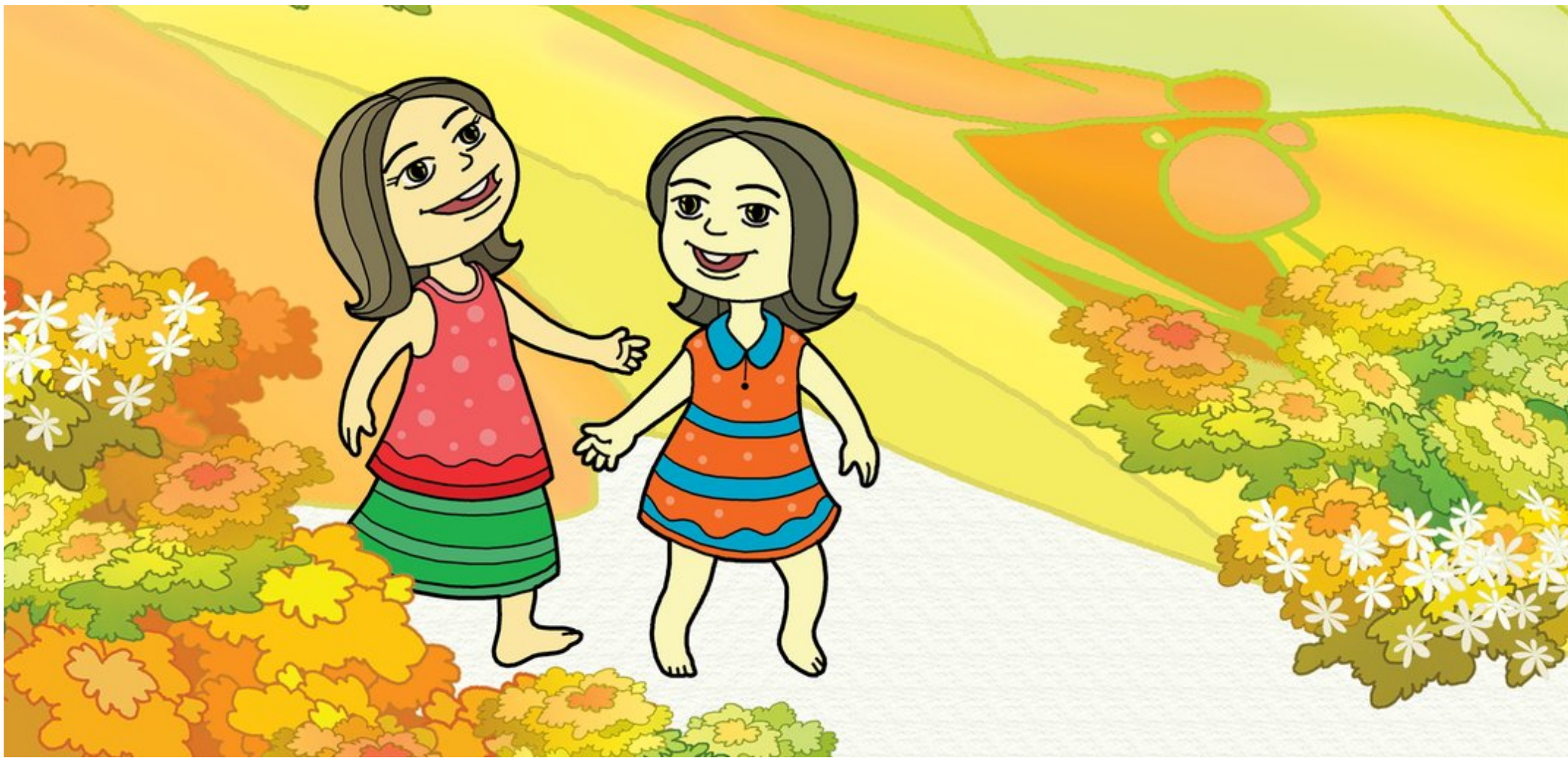# Tanya meets Apsara

Author: Rutuja Joshi
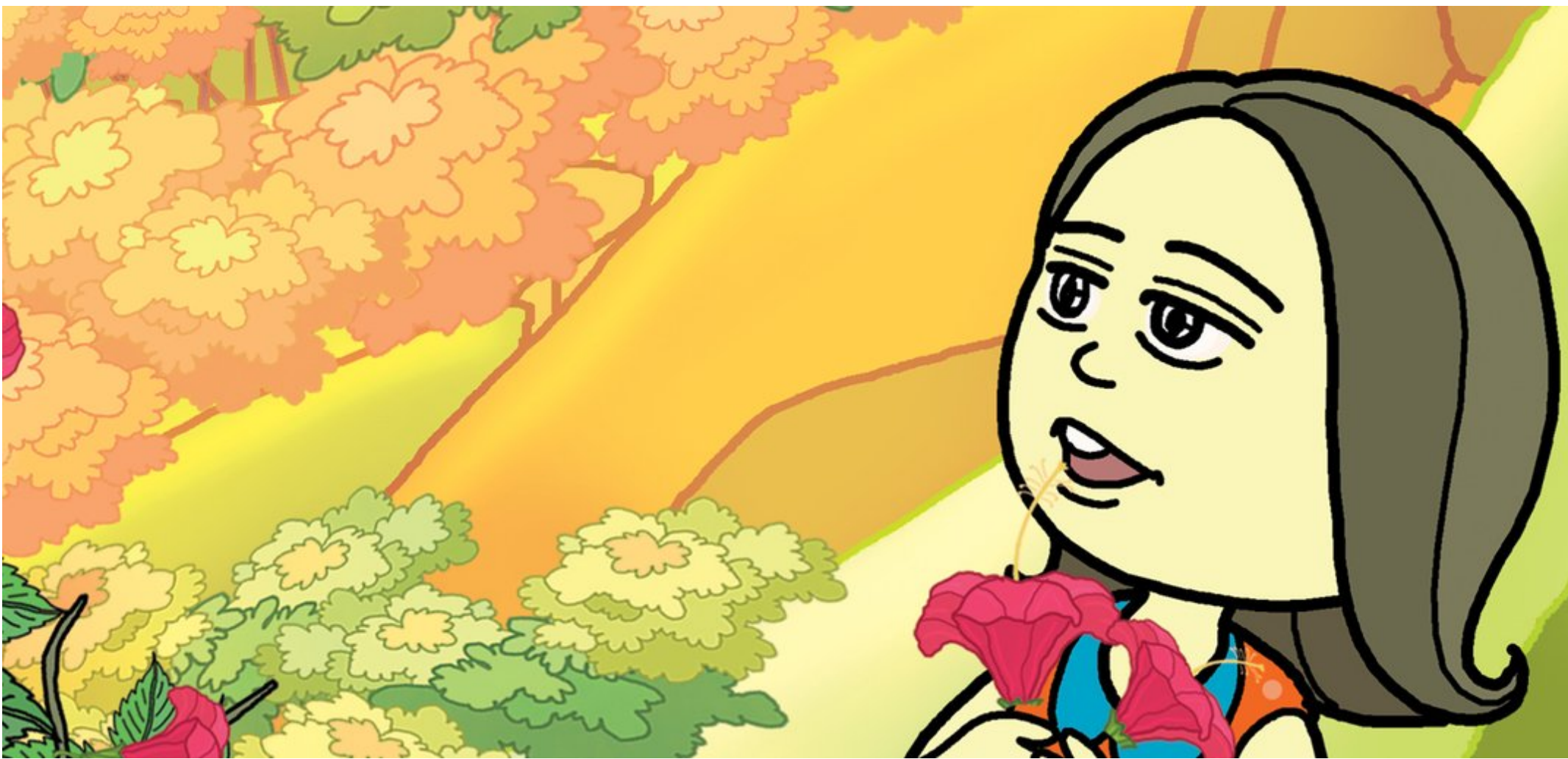**Illustrator:** Mamun Hossain

Level 3
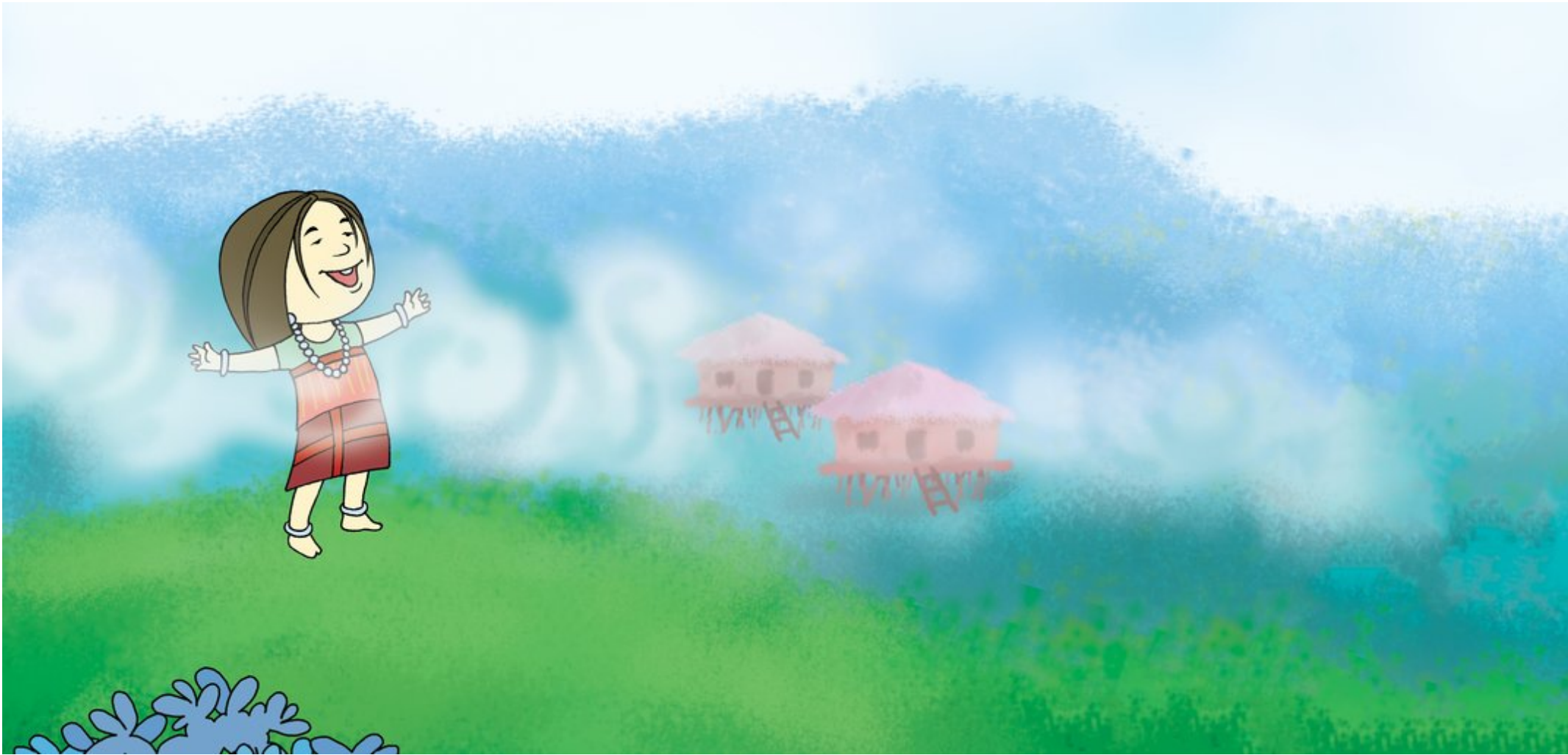
Meera and Tanya skipped merrily,
They pranced in the *udyan,* the park. It was a holiday,you see.
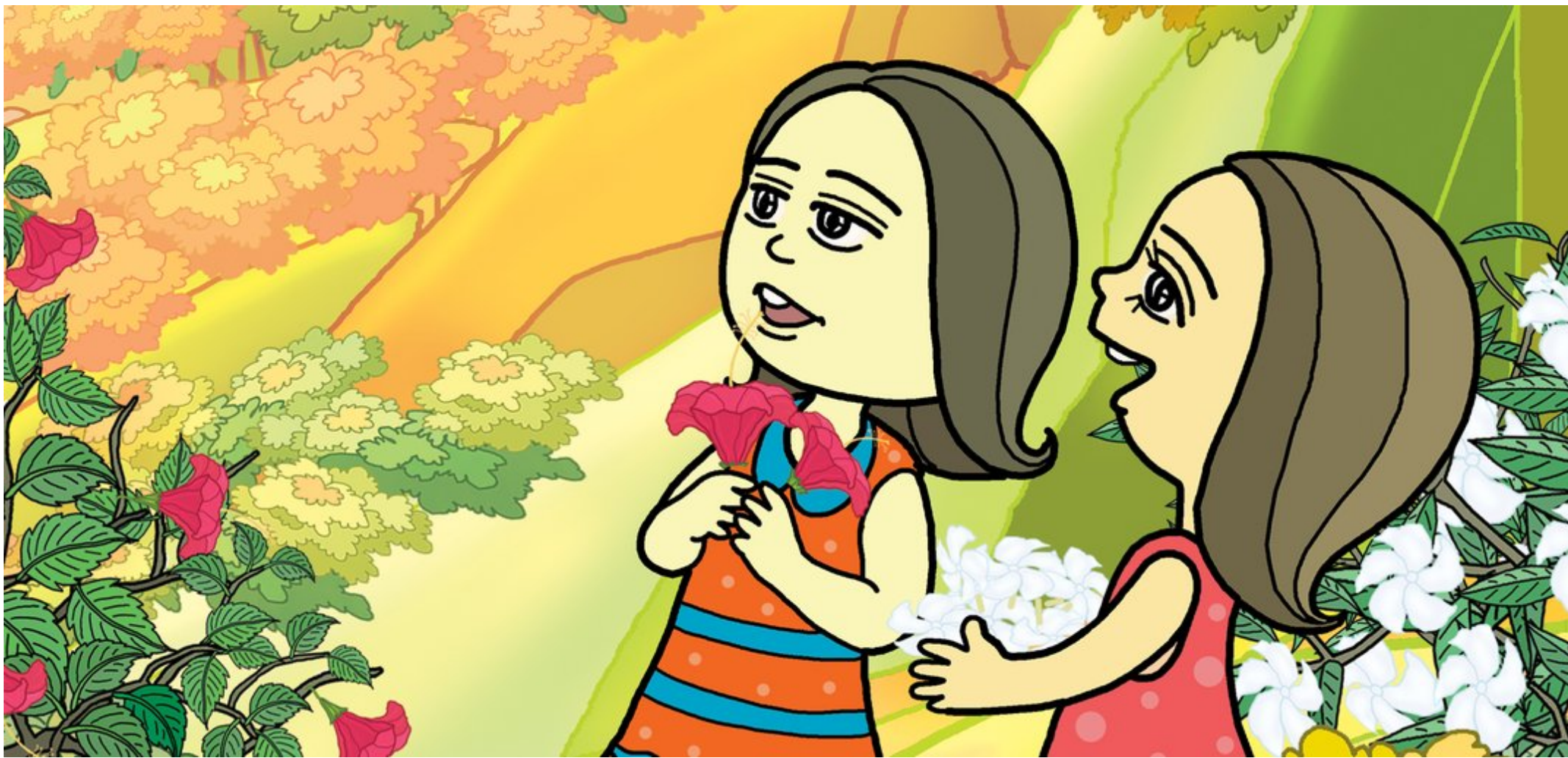No school and no homework!
What more could two little girls WISH for?

"Oh, how I wish, I could meet an *Apsara* or a fairy," whispered Meera dreamily.

"*If wishes were horses, beggars would ride!*" Exclaimed Tanya. "That's what my ma would have said you know. There are no *Apsaras* and fairies, silly girl!"

"Besides, what would you do if you met a fairy? It's all very silly."

"If I met a fairy, I'll ask for a wish!" Then Meera broke into a jingle,
"I'll ask for wings and have a home in the sky,
Like the pretty goose I will fly …
Scaling the Himalayas, soaring high and high!"

"Oh, you *silly goose*! You surely have your *head in the clouds.*
You know fairies and *Apsaras* are just not real.
That's just silly nonsense. IMPOSSIBLE.
Stop it, you and your silly *Apsara*!" Mocked Tanya.

"Hey, hey little girl, *hold your horses*!" Tanya heard someone yell back.

She was shocked to see someone hovering above their heads...

It was a saree-clad *Apsara*!

"I am not silly. And you know impossible is 'I am possible'. Yes, I am very much possible!"

Tanya was mesmerized! With her sea-blue Saree, swan wings, parrot-feathered earings the *Apsara* was quite a dazzling sight!
"You know normally *Apsaras* don't get too bothered by you *manavs*, humans.
But today little girl, *you've ruffled my feathers*. How dare you call us silly? How dare you call anyone silly? It's bad manners you know, calling names!"

Tanya still *could not believe her eyes*!

"Oh, this is all a joke. A very silly joke!" She laughed aloud. "Meera are you a part of this too?" She tried to grab the fairy's wings to check if they were real. The fairy clasped her hand firmly stopping her.

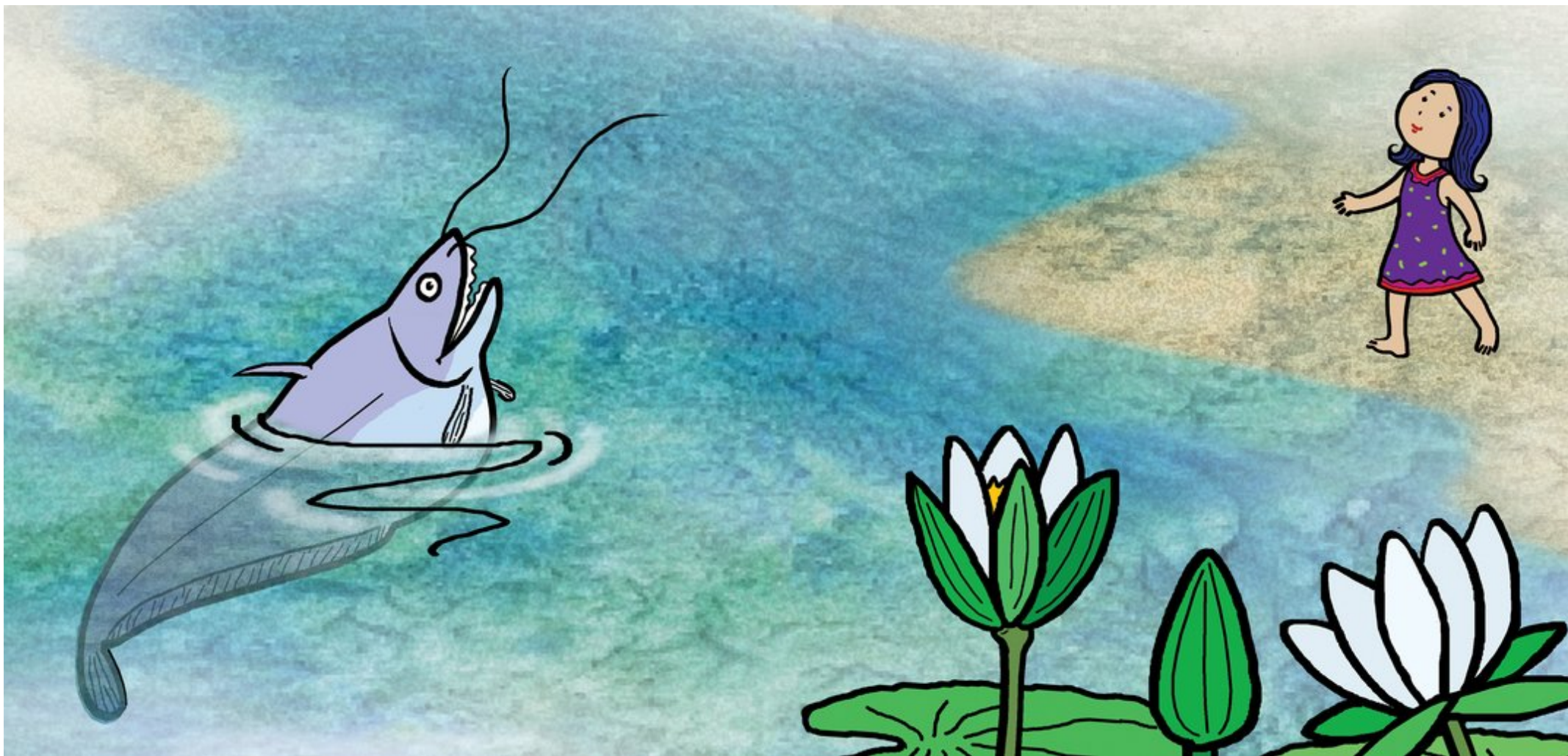"Stop being so rude, you little girl. Where are your manners?" She roared.

"Prove it," challenged Tanya. "Prove to me that you really are an *Apsara*! Make MY wish come true!"

"Ok Miss. Just grab my hand... and your wish is my COMMAND!" Roared the *Apsara*

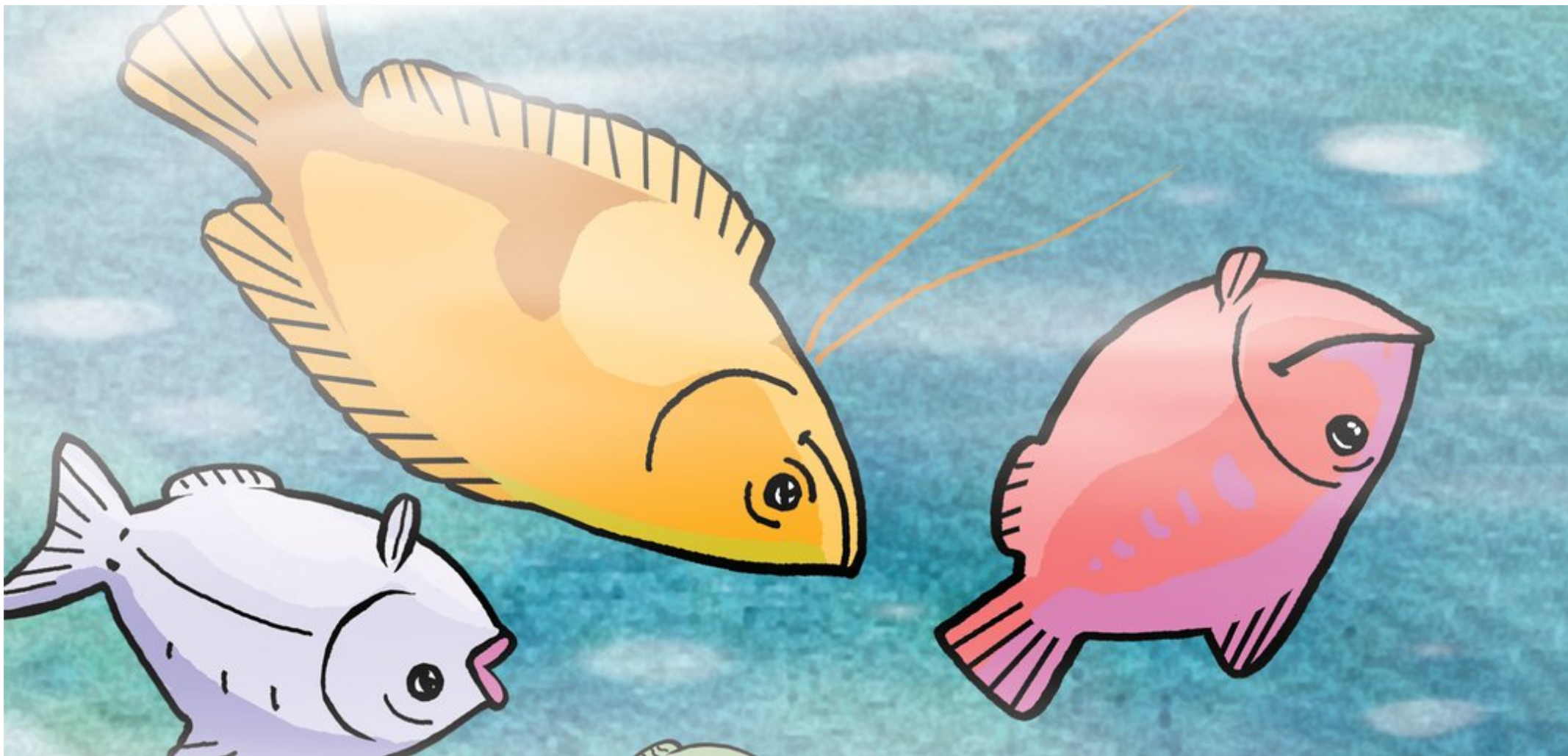"Really? Well, I love the water and swimming! And I wish to be in Fish LAND," grinned Tanya teasingly.

And before Tanya could say *Apsara*, she found herself standing near a sparkling blue lake. She was stunned by the twinkling water and the swaying lotuses!
"Welcome little girl to my land!" She heard someone greet her.
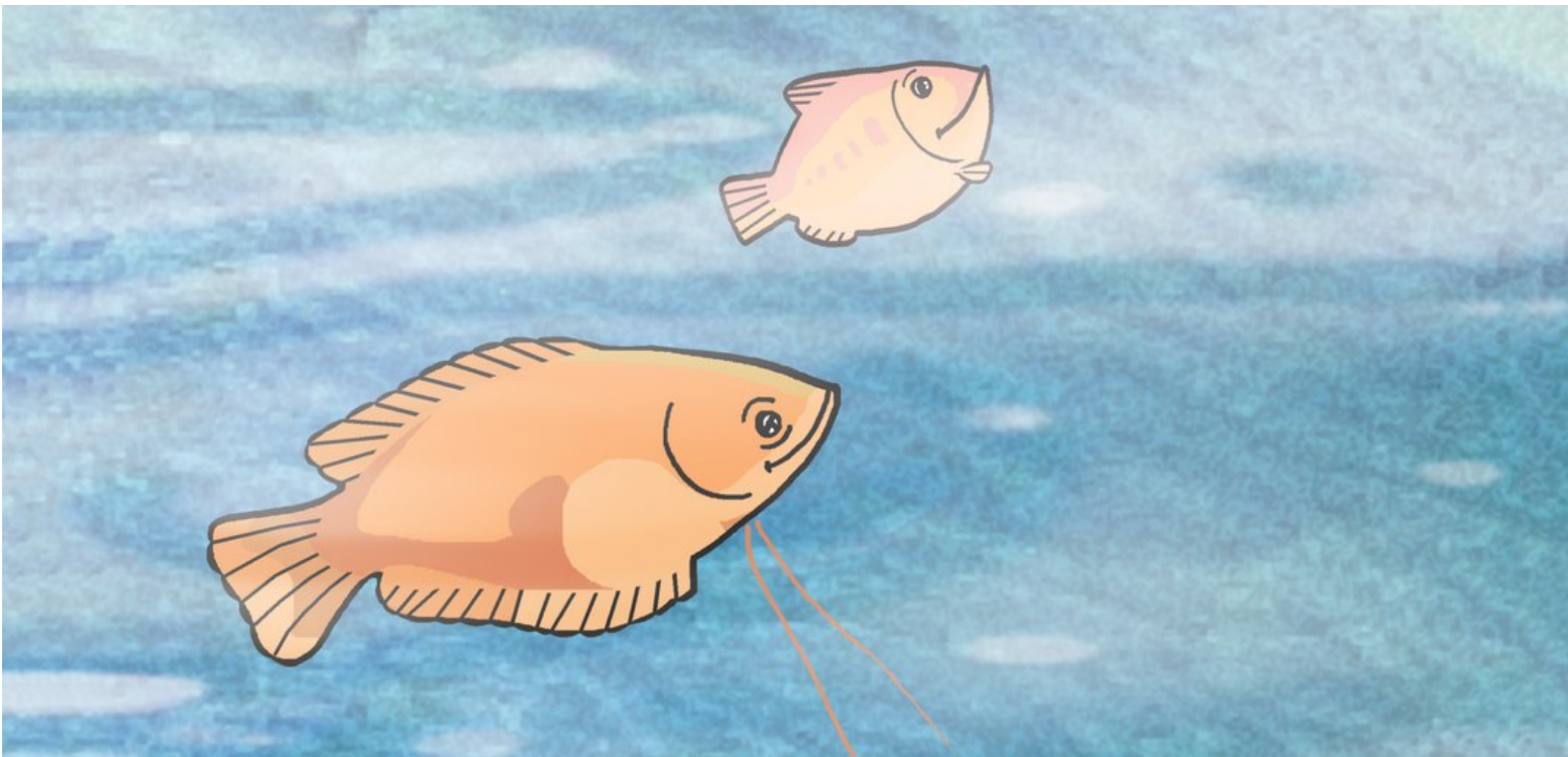"WH...WHAT, who is that?" she stammered...

"Hey it's me, Biliya! Look down, I am here in the water. It was a catfish! And it was speaking to her. She was astounded.
"Wow, really, are you really talking to me?" She *pinched herself* to make sure that it was not a dream.
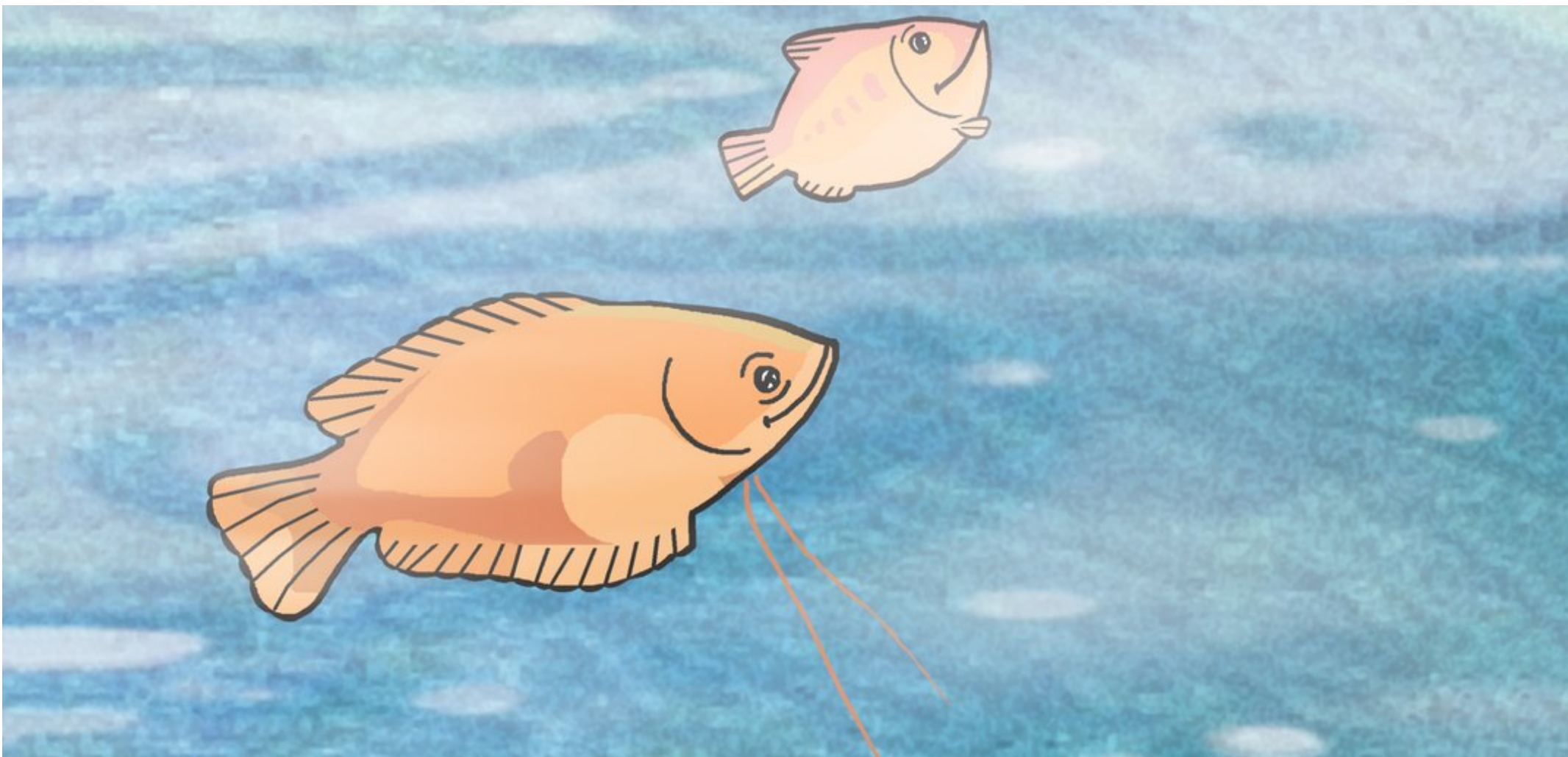
"Hello Miss, look, look at us too!" She heard some shrieks. "Down, down here miss. "
We can do somersault too. WHEEE....
Just learnt that in our gymnastics class, you SEEE..."
Tanya gawked at the water.

She was fascinated to see a school of little fish performing somersaults. And she clapped her hands in glee!She noticed a pair of them whispering to each other. And she thought they were giggling too.
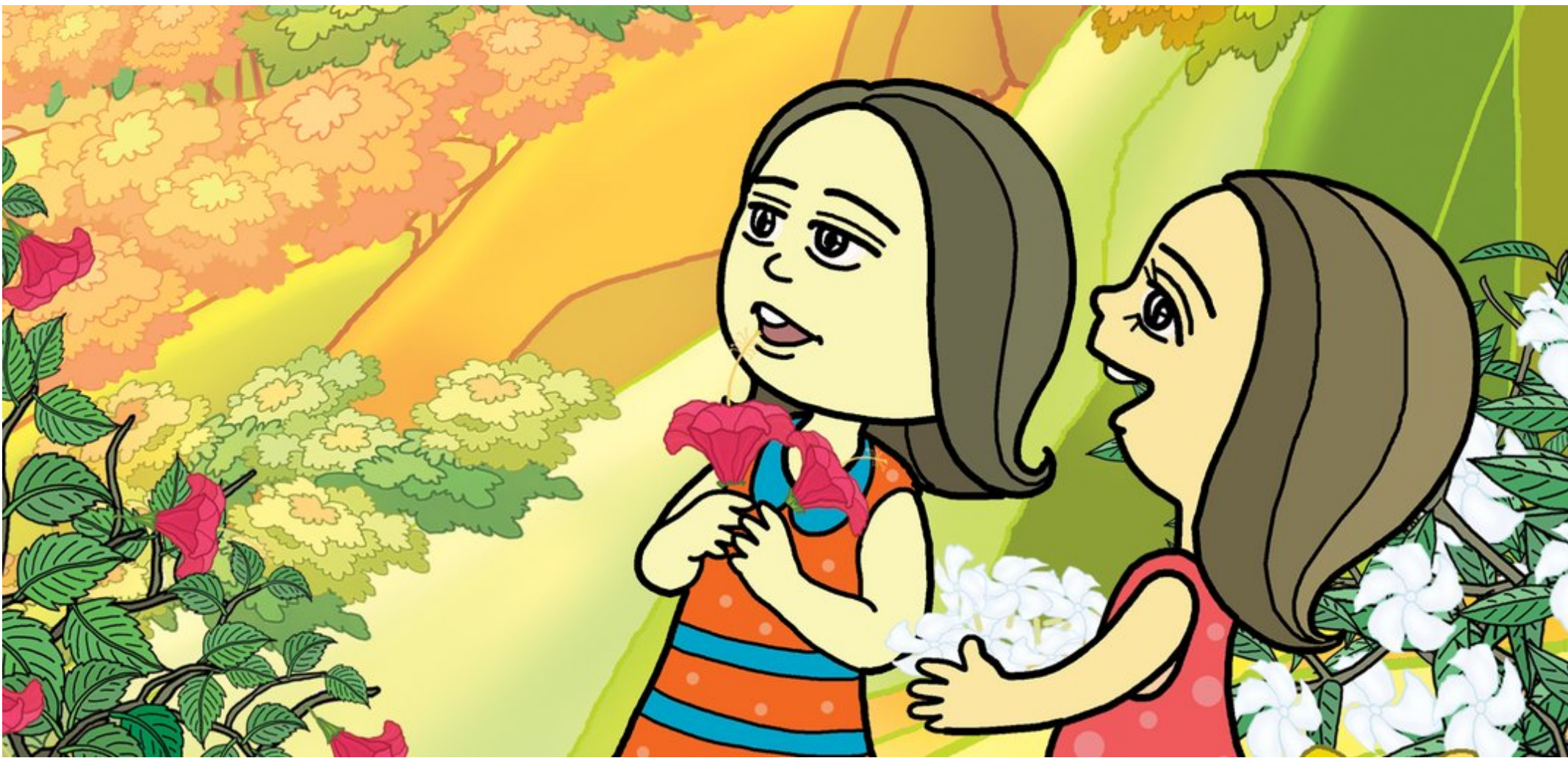"Hey Miss, we are besties, Siya and I! We splash and swim together. We dance and prance together. I am Gia by the way. And we never ever leave each other's side!"

When she heard that, tears filled Tanya's eyes. Suddenly she realized that she was all alone. She wondered where her bestie Meera was. She had left her behind!
"Oh, where is Meera! Oh, I wish to be back with Meera, my bestie..." she whimpered.

And before she could say *Apsara,* dumbfounded, she found herself back in the *udyan.* Her bestie Meera was buried in a bunch of flowers. And so was she!
"Hey, hey Tanya. Where were you lost? " Meera nudged her. "These Jasmine flowers are divine aren't they? And such glorious hibiscus flowers, Ganpati *bappa's* favourite!"

Tanya just nodded her head meekly. She was still in a daze. She tried to take in the surroundings.

And just then she noticed a bluish haze in the sky.

It was a team of *Apsaras* making their way home, carrying some hibiscus and jasmines too...

Take Aways

If wishes were horses, beggars would ride :
proverb:If you could achieve your aims simply by wishing for them, life would be very easy

head in the clouds:
be absentminded or impractical

Silly goose:
when you call someone a "silly goose," you are saying that they are being foolish in some way

hold your horses:
used to tell someone to stop and consider carefully their decision or opinion about something

Take Aways

ruffled my feathers.
to upset or offend people

could not believe her eyes
idiom : (also not believe your ears) to be very surprised

have to pinch yourself:
phrase: be surprised when something very good happens.

DISCLAIMER : Meanings of idioms, phrases and proverbs from the internet

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Tanya meets Apsara
(English)

Practical little Tanya meets Apsara and is quite dazzled. And yes she ruffles Apsara's feather's too! Let's share Tanya and Meera's eduventure learning some phrases and idioms along the way!

This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.