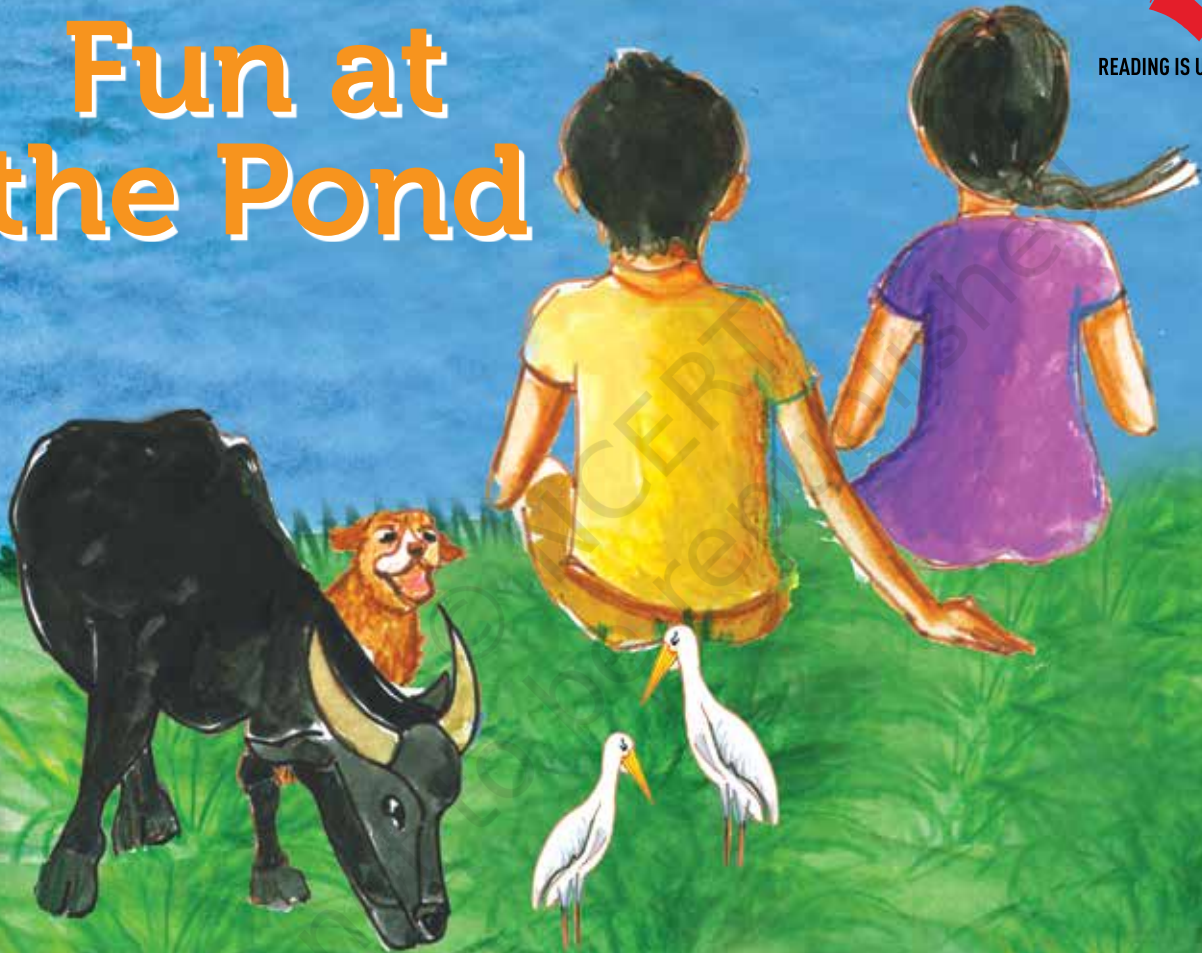


Fun at the Pond



READING IS UNDERSTANDING



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Barkha, the graded reading series is developed for students of Grade I and II. The objective of the series is to provide opportunity to young children to engage with books and read meaningfully. Gradation across levels has been achieved by variation in syntax, number of words and complexity of sub-plots. *Barkha* facilitates reading for pleasure in children and helps them become fluent readers. Children find everyday events as interesting as stories; hence, all the stories of *Barkha* are based on their daily life experiences. The stories of *Barkha* are spread out in four levels and five themes— (i) Relationships; (ii) Birds-Animals; (iii) Musical Instruments, Games and Toys; (iv) Around us and (v) Food. Another objective of the reading series is to provide plenty of books to children. It also helps in cognitive development of children in all curricular domains.

It is suggested that *Barkha* books be kept at a place in the classroom where children have easy access.

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Fun at the Pond



Kajal



Madhav



There was a pond in Kajal and Madhav's village. Everyday, they went to the pond to play. They liked the water of the pond very much.



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**One day they went to the pond in the afternoon.
There were several herons* at the pond.
The pond was full of white herons.**

***heron – *Bagula* (बगुला)**



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Kajal and Madhav were very happy to see so many herons. Both jumped and ran among the herons. Both tried to catch the herons too.



**Next day, Moni also joined them at the pond.
Moni started to bark at the herons.
Kajal tried to calm her down gently.**



6

**But Moni kept barking.
She ran and jumped at the herons.
Kajal picked her up.**



Madhav and Kajal went to drop Moni home. They saw few nests on the other side of the pond. Herons had made nests on the trees and on the bank of the pond.



8

**The nests were made of straws, feathers and grass.
There were eggs in the heron's nests.
Kajal and Madhav looked at the eggs from a distance.**



**They watched the eggs everyday.
Each nest had three to four eggs.
The eggs were light blue and both small and big.**



**After a few days, some of the eggs turned murky*.
Young herons hatched from the eggs.
Young herons made sounds and flapped their wings.**

***Murky – Matmaila (मटमैला)**



**Hérons brought food for them in their beaks.
They put food in the beaks of their chicks.
Kajal and Madhav enjoyed looking at this.**



Now the young herons had also begun to come out of their nests. Many young herons could be seen at the pond. Kajal and Madhav chased the young herons.



**Gradually, the young herons started to grow.
They started to sit with older herons on the pond.
They also started to catch fish and frogs in the pond.**

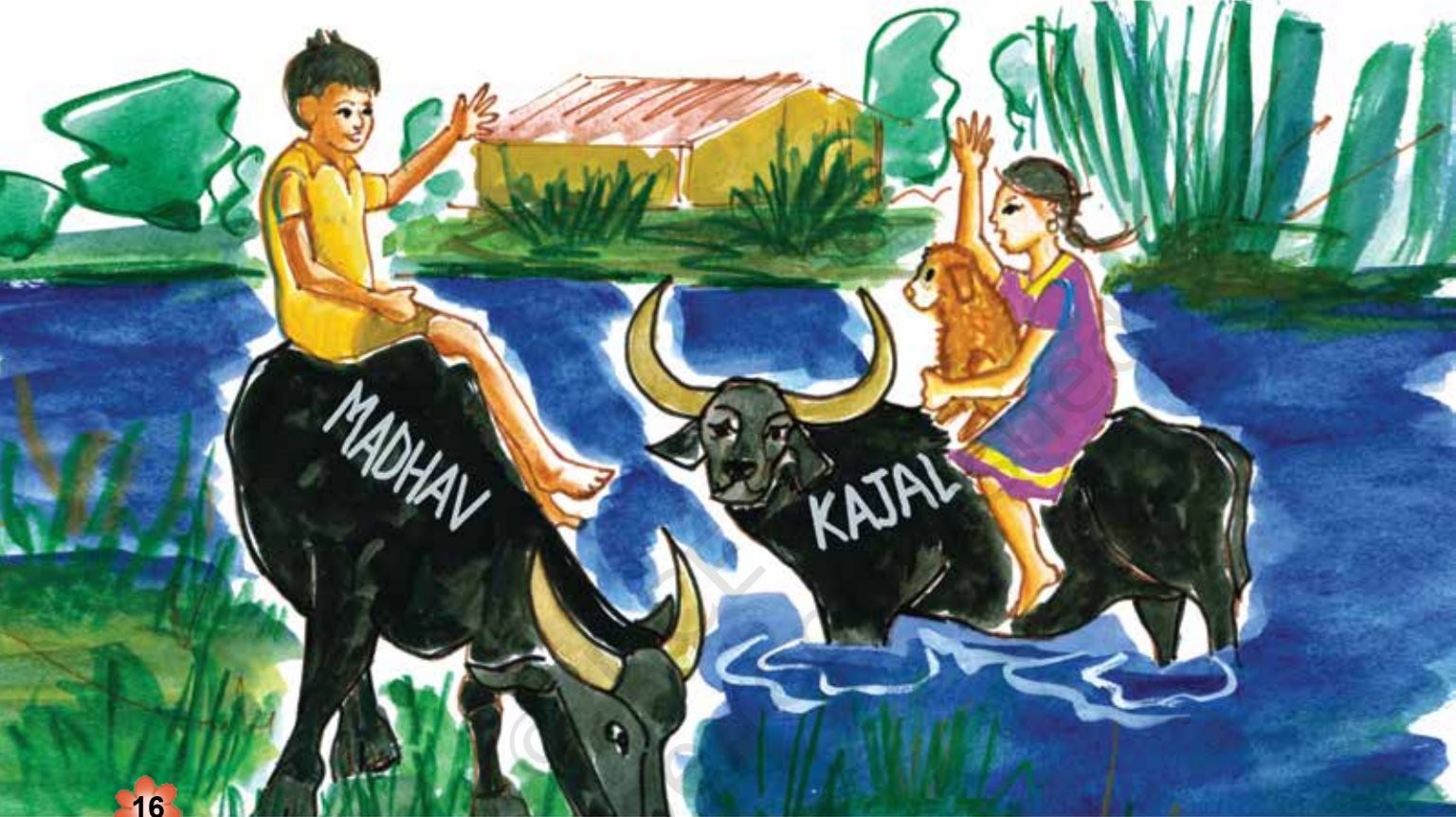


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One day all the herons went back to their homes. Kajal and Madhav saw all of them flying back. They knew that herons will return the next year.

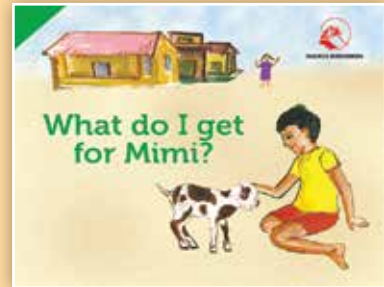
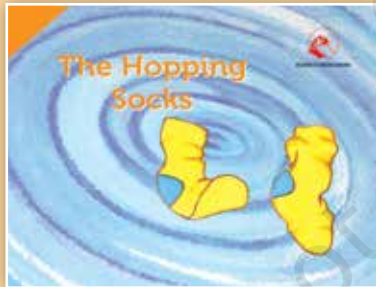
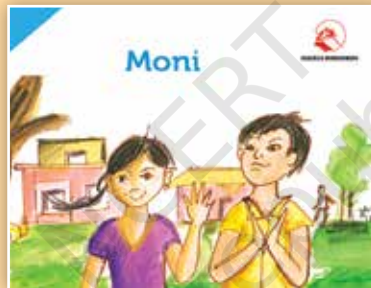
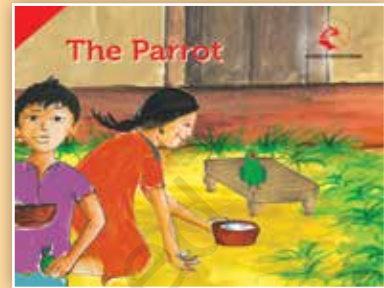


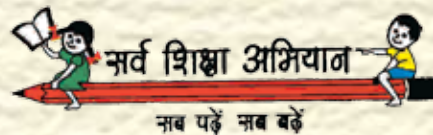
**That day, Moni came to the pond again.
Kajal did not make her leave.
Moni kept wandering with them.**



They saw buffaloes bathing in the pond. Kajal and Madhav sat on the buffaloes. They wrote their names on the backs of the buffaloes with chalk.

Stories of Kajal and Madhav





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विद्यया ऽ मृतमश्नुते



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