

**PRATHAM  
BOOKS**

A Book in Every Child's Hand

Level 2

Kaka and Munni: A Folktale from  
Punjab Author: Natasha Sharma  
Illustrator: Natasha Sharma



In a gulmohar tree along the wheat fields in Punjab, Munni the sparrow, sat by her nest. She watched over her three little eggs, waiting for them to hatch. Munni looked around happily at the bright red flowers, before giving a startled chirp as she saw a flash of black. It was the village bully, Kaka, the crow. "Move over Munni,

for I have come to eat your eggs," he cawed.



Now Munni was a clever little sparrow, and she quickly chirped back, "Who can refuse you, Kaka? But I have one request. Before eating my eggs, could you please wash your beak, since it looks very dirty?"



Kaka did not like the idea of not looking his very best. He quickly flew over to the stream and was about to wash his beak in the water, when the stream cried out, “Kaka! Wait! If you dip your beak into me, all my water will become dirty. Go get a cup, fill it with water, and wash your beak in that.”





Hearing this, Kaka went to the potter in the village, and cawed to him, “ Oh

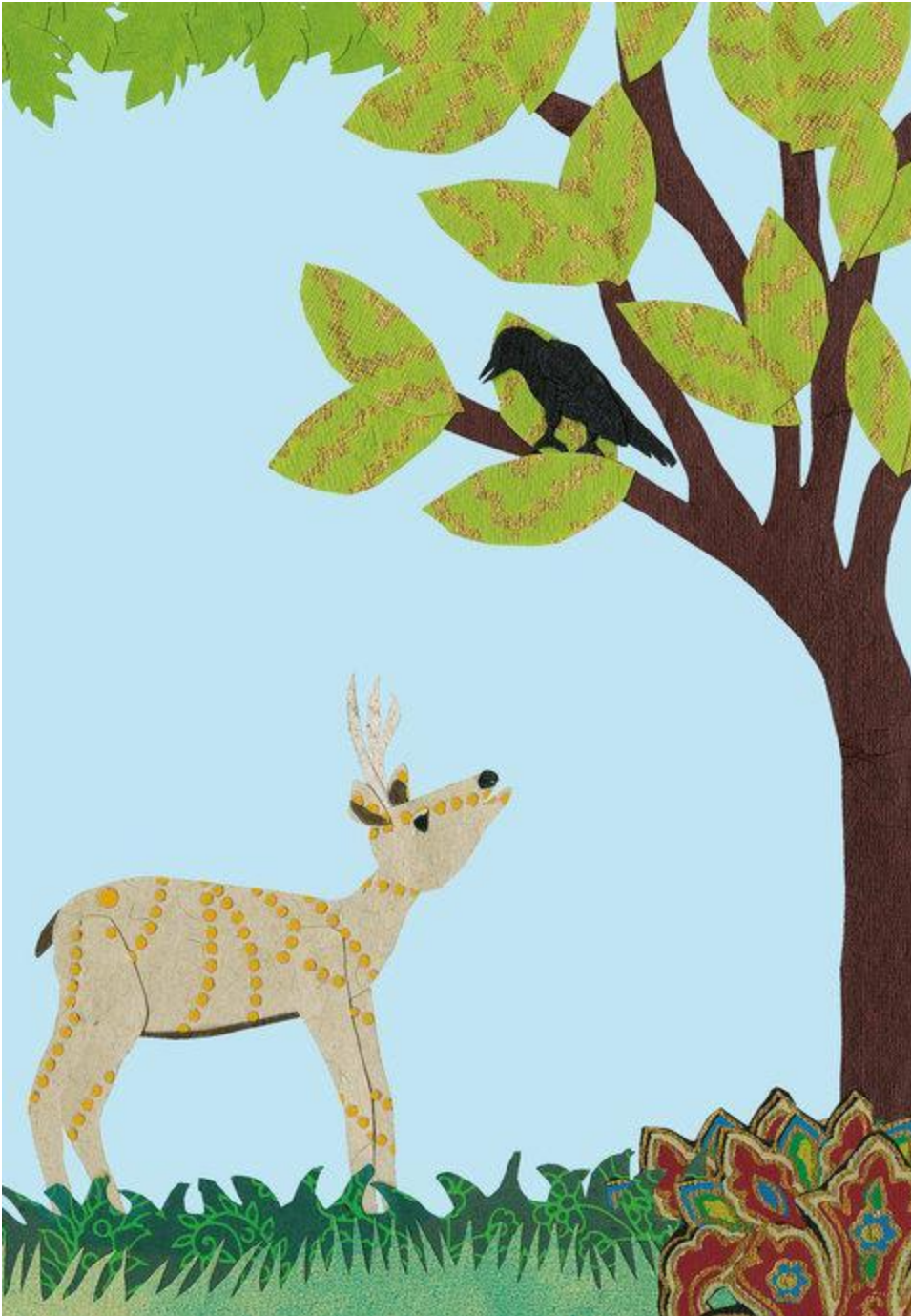


potter dear, This is Kaka here. A cup  
you make For me to fill With water to  
wash My dirty bill So I can eat the  
eggs And loudly caw To let everyone  
Hear me and know That I am the  
most handsome crow.” “I will gladly  
give you a cup, but I need mud to  
make one for you,” said the potter.



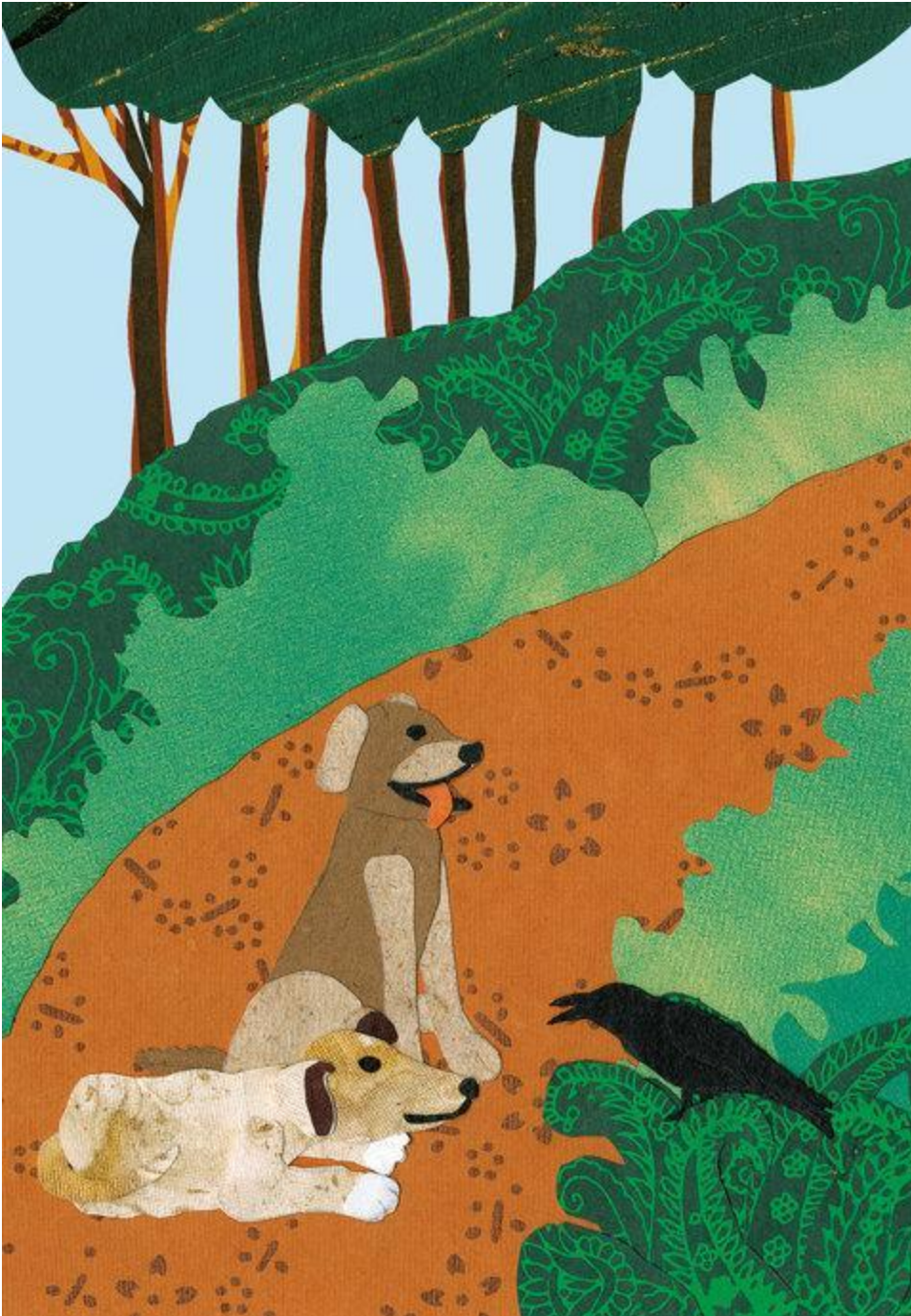
So Kaka flew over to the nearby field and said to it, “ Oh field dear, This is

Kaka here. Some mud I'll take For  
the potter to make A cup to fill With  
water to wash My dirty bill So I can  
eat the eggs And loudly caw To let  
everyone Hear me and know That I  
am the most handsome crow." "I am  
all dry and baked hard, for the  
monsoon rains are yet to start. Get  
something sharp to dig me up,"  
replied the field.



Off Kaka went to the nearby jungle where he saw a deer with sharp

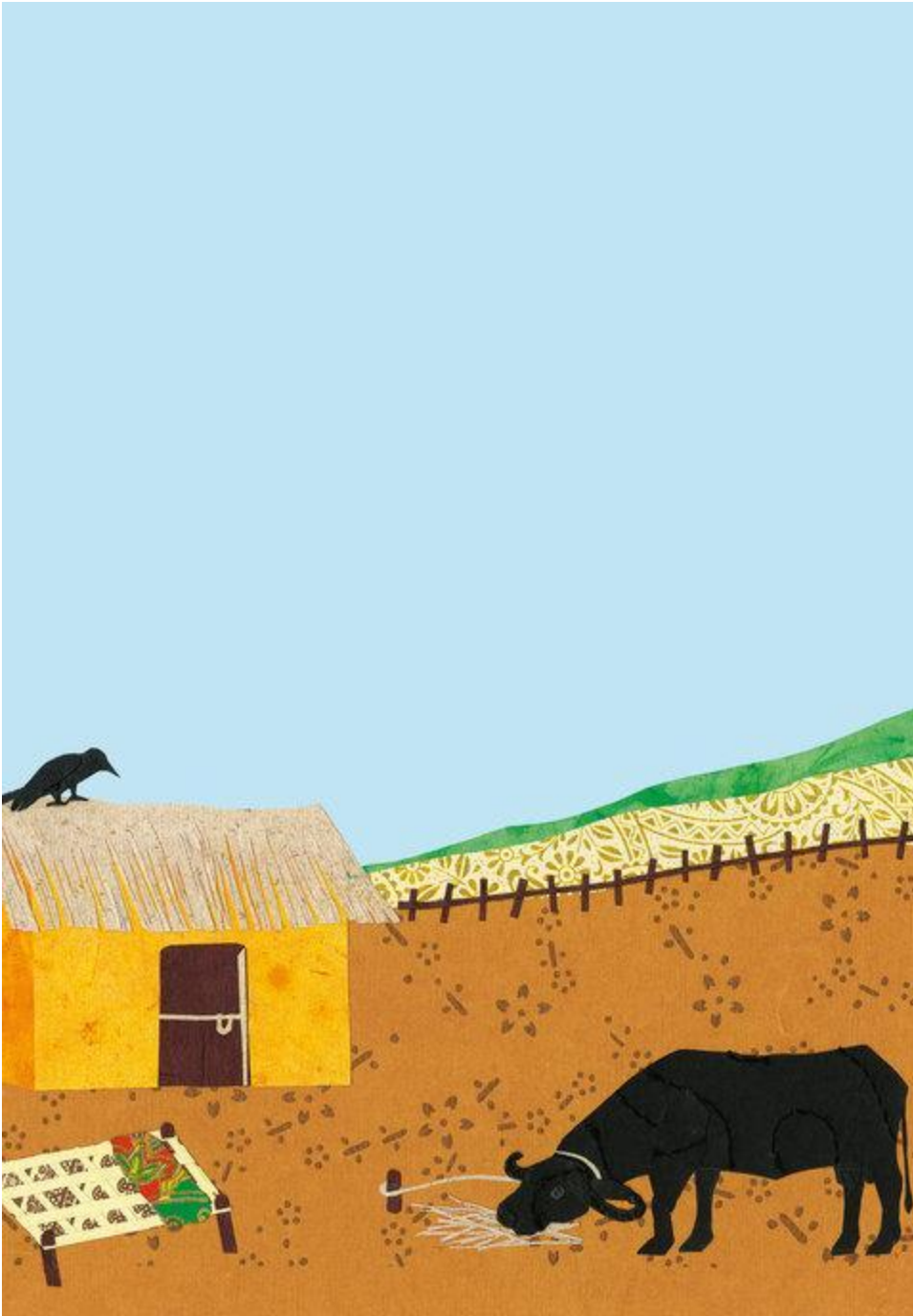
horns. He called out to it, “ My friend, oh deer, This is Kaka here. Your horn may I take To dig some mud For the potter to make A cup for me to fill With water to wash My dirty bill So I can eat the eggs And loudly caw To let everyone Hear me and know That I am the most handsome crow?” “Oh, you very clever crow, how can you take my horn while I am still alive?” Kaka, terribly hungry, flew around in a flurry till he came across...



...a pair of dogs. “ Oh dogs dear, This  
is Kaka here. I need your help, I fear,

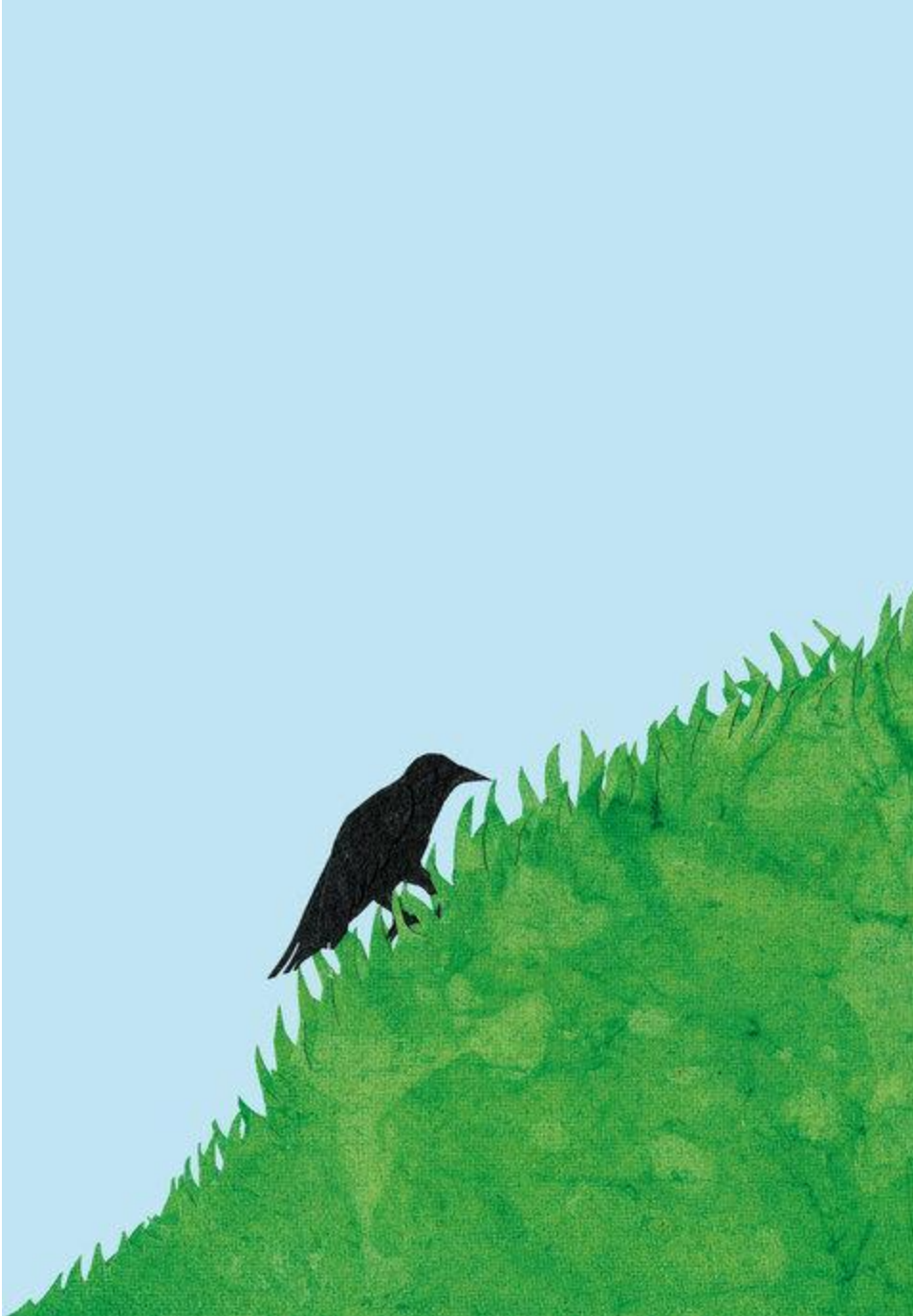


To kill the deer Whose horn I shall  
take To dig some mud For the potter  
to make A cup for me to fill With  
water to wash My dirty bill So I can  
eat the eggs And loudly caw To let  
everyone Hear me and know That I  
am the most handsome crow.” “That  
is a lot of work in this heat,”  
grumbled one of the dogs. “We need  
to be strong to kill the deer. Go get  
some milk for us to drink.”



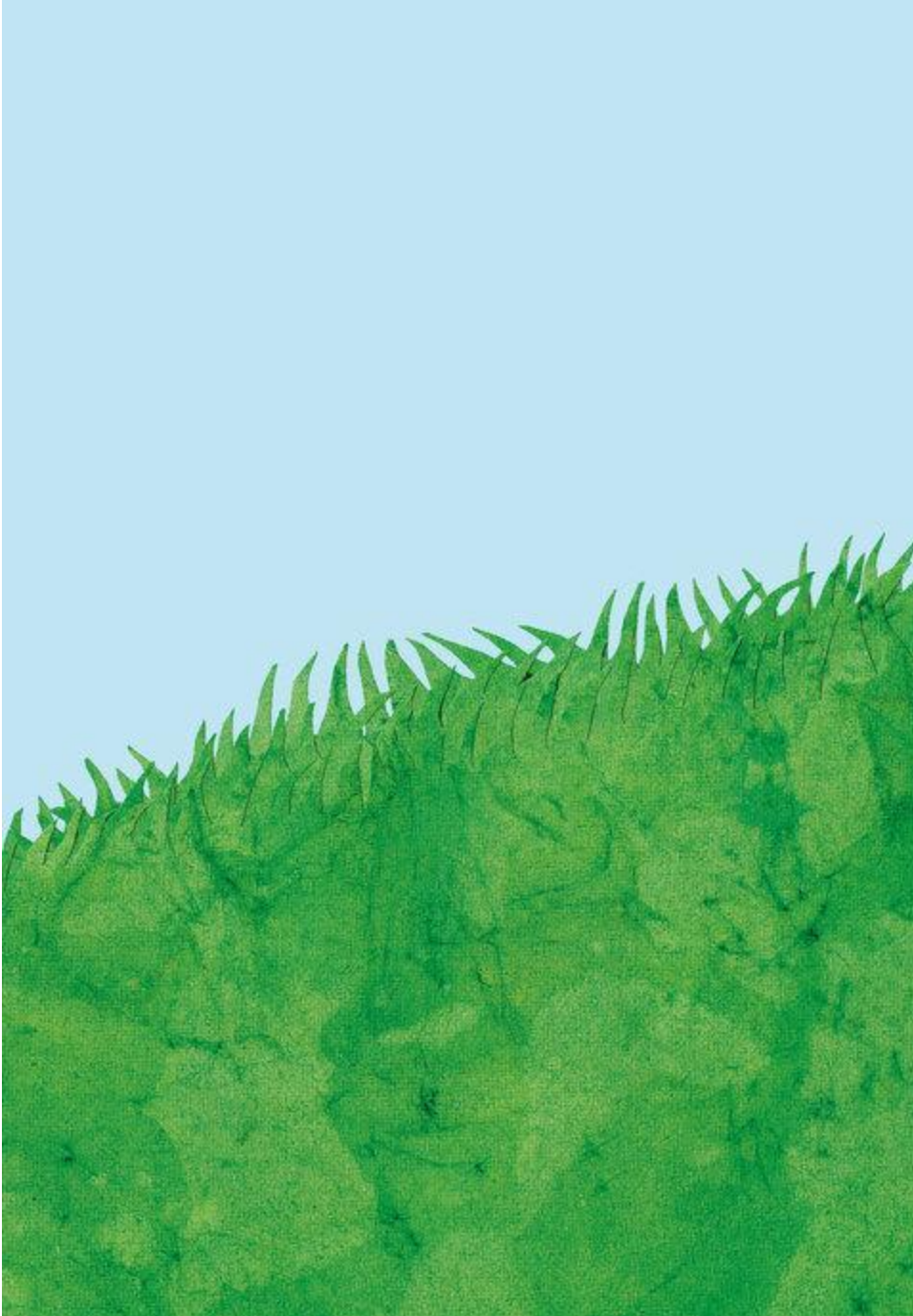
Back to the village flew Kaka and  
went to the buffalo munching on

some straw. “ Oh buffalo dear, This is Kaka here. Could I take your milk To the dogs to feed Whose help I need To kill the deer Whose horn I shall take To dig some mud For the potter to make A cup for me to fill With water to wash My dirty bill So I can eat the eggs And loudly caw To let everyone Hear me and know That I am the most handsome crow?” “If I could get some lovely juicy grass to eat instead of this dry hay, I would certainly give you milk,” mooed back the buffalo.



On hearing this, Kaka swooped over to the only grassy field around and

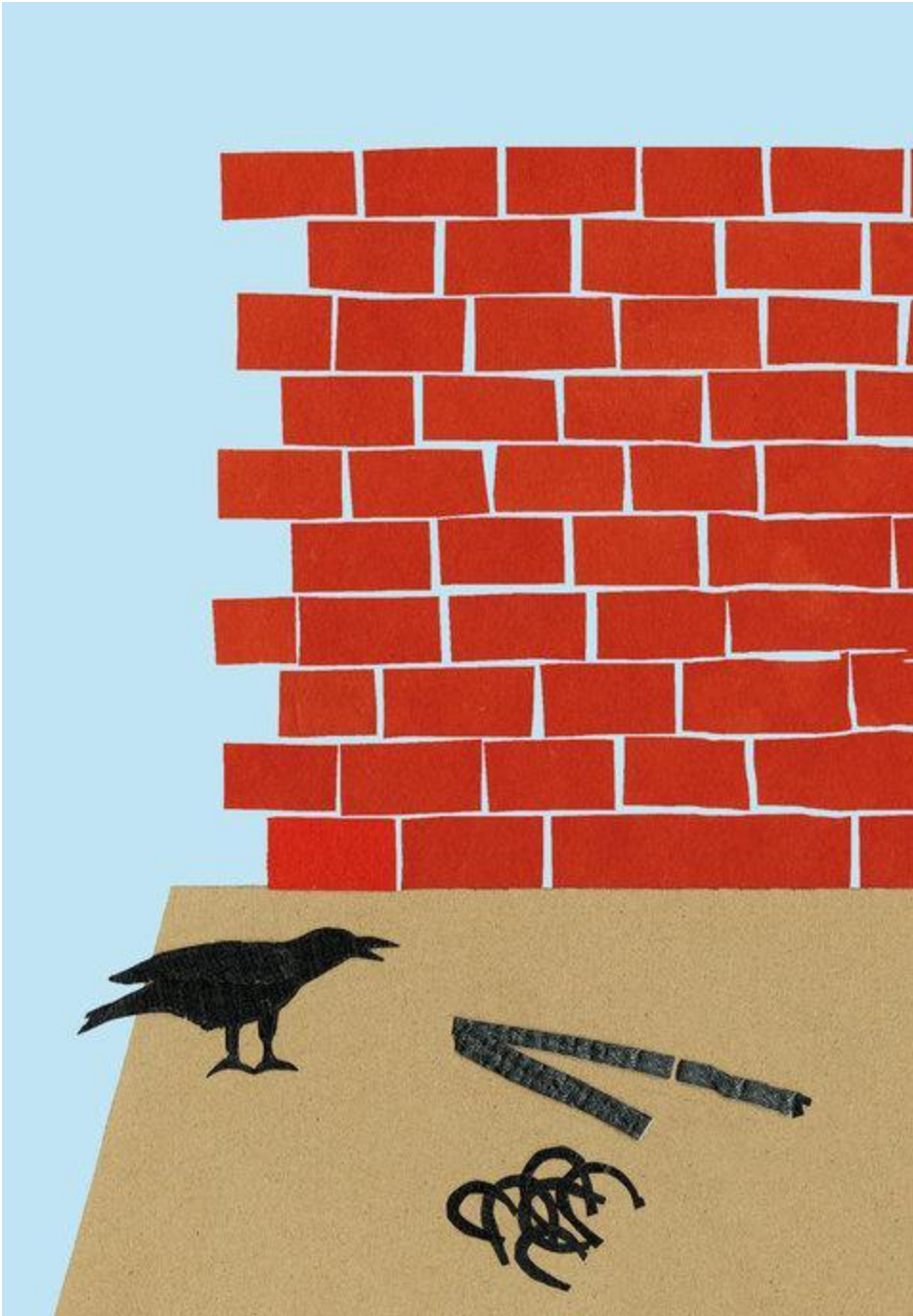
said to it, “ Oh grass dear, This is  
Kaka here. Please come with me For  
the buffalo is hungry And I need her  
milk For the dogs to feed Whose help  
I need To kill the deer Whose horn I  
shall take To dig some mud For the  
potter to make A cup for me to fill  
With water to wash My dirty bill So I  
can eat the eggs And loudly caw To  
let everyone Hear me and know That  
I am the most handsome crow.”



“And how do you plan to cut me?”  
whispered the grass. “Go get a sickle



from the blacksmith, and then I can  
come with you.”



Kaka, really hungry now, went to the blacksmith and said to him, “ Oh

blacksmith dear, This is Kaka here.  
Give me a sickle To give the grass a  
tickle. I will take her with me For the  
buffalo is hungry And I need her milk  
For the dogs to feed Whose help I  
need To kill the deer Whose horn I  
shall take To dig some mud For the  
potter to make A cup for me to fill  
With water to wash My dirty bill So I  
can eat the eggs And loudly caw To  
let everyone Hear me and know That  
I am the most handsome crow.”



The blacksmith, like all the others, wanted to save Munni's eggs.

Looking up, he said, “Kaka, please go around the back, open the furnace door and put this piece of iron in it.”

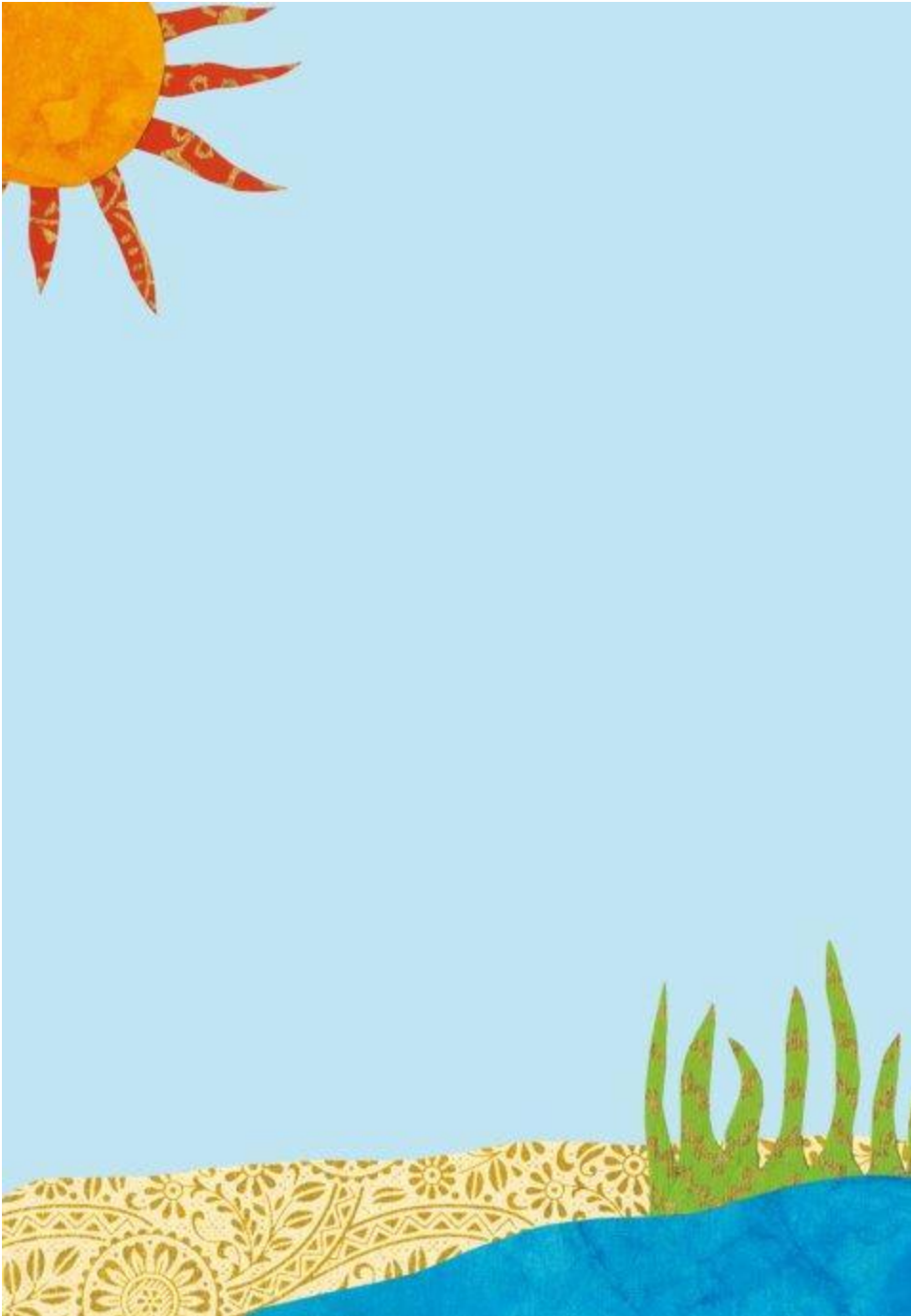


Kaka was very excited and in his hurry, he quickly flung open the furnace door. As he did this, a sudden gust of wind made him fall backwards on the coal, burning his tail. “ Oh ho! Mera poonja sadhiya! Oh ho! Mera poonja sadhiya!” Which, in Punjabi, means, “Oh! My tail has got burnt!”





Since Kaka always wanted to look his best, he could not bear to be seen with a burnt tail. So he flew off never to be seen again.



What is a Collage? Each of the pictures that you have seen in this

book is a collage (pronounced ko-laaj). Collage is a way of making a whole new picture by putting bits of material together. The material could be handmade and printed paper, like in this book. It could be clippings from newspapers and magazines, old greeting cards, photographs, fabric, ribbons, dried flowers and leaves, or anything else that you find lying around! The word “collage” comes from the French word “colle” meaning “glue”. To make a collage, you need bits of different material, a scissor or a pair of nimble fingers to tear up stuff and lots of glue to stick things together. This page shows the four elements, Wind, Water, Earth

and a fiery Sun, and uses bits from paper you can spot in the book. Now go ahead and make your own collage!



This book was made possible by Pratham Books' StoryWeaver platform. Content under Creative Commons licenses can be downloaded, translated and can even be used to create new stories provided you give appropriate credit, and indicate if changes were made. To know more about this, and the full terms of use and attribution, please visit the following link. Story Attribution: This story, 'Kaka and Munni: A Folktale from Punjab' is written by Natasha Sharma. ©

Pratham Books, 2012. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Other Credits: This book has been published on StoryWeaver by Pratham Books. Pratham Books is a not-for-profit organization that publishes books in multiple Indian languages to promote reading among children. [www.prathambooks.org](http://www.prathambooks.org)

Illustration Attributions: Cover page: Trees in a field, by Natasha Sharma © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 2: Bird in a field, by Natasha Sharma © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 3: Bird's nest in a tree, by Natasha

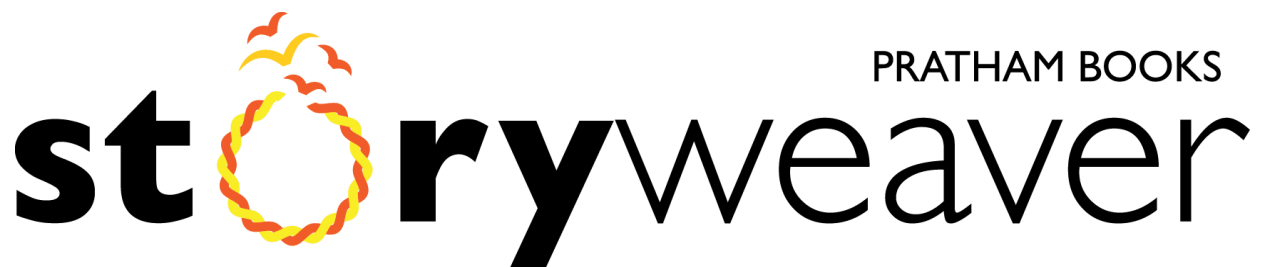


Sharma © Pratham Books, 2011.  
Some rights reserved. Released under  
CC BY 4.0 license. Page 4: Crow  
drinking water from a stream, by  
Natasha Sharma © Pratham Books,  
2011. Some rights reserved. Released  
under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 5:  
Potter talking to crow, by Natasha  
Sharma © Pratham Books, 2011.  
Some rights reserved. Released under  
CC BY 4.0 license. Page 6: Crow in a  
muddy field, by Natasha Sharma ©  
Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights  
reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0  
license. Page 7: Deer talking to bird  
perched on a tree, by Natasha Sharma  
© Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights  
reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0

license. Page 8: Dogs and crow, by Natasha Sharma © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 9: Crow and grazing buffalo, by Natasha Sharma © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 10: Crow in a grassy field, by Natasha Sharma © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 11: Green grass, by Natasha Sharma © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Disclaimer: [https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms\\_and\\_conditions](https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions)



Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



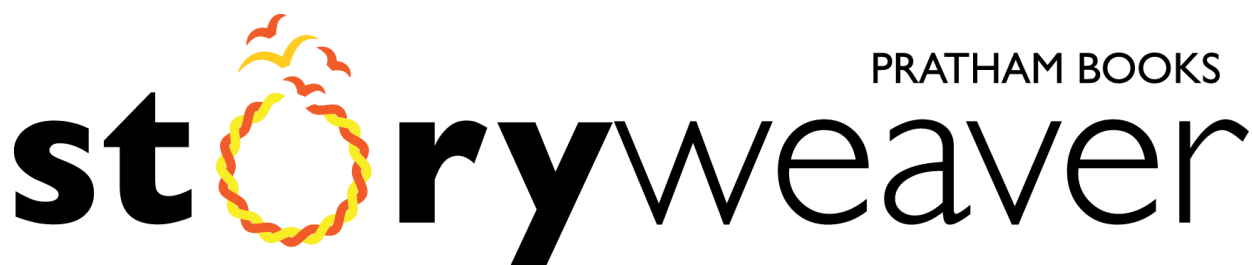
This book was made possible by Pratham Books' StoryWeaver platform. Content under Creative Commons licenses can be downloaded, translated and can even be used to create new stories - provided you give appropriate credit, and indicate if changes were made. To know more about this, and the full terms of use and attribution, please visit the following link. Illustration Attributions: Page 12: Crow near a brick wall, by Natasha Sharma © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights

reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 13: Blacksmith working, by Natasha Sharma © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 14: Crows near fire, by Natasha Sharma © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 15: Flying crow in a field, by Natasha Sharma © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 16: Sun shining over a field, by Natasha Sharma © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Disclaimer: [https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms\\_and\\_conditions](https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions)



Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Kaka and Munni: A Folktale from Punjab (English) Kaka, the wicked crow, wants to eat Munni's eggs. But Munni is a very clever sparrow. And so are all the characters in this popular folktale from Punjab. This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.



Pratham Books goes digital to weave a whole new chapter in the realm of multilingual children's stories.



Knitting together children, authors, illustrators and publishers. Folding in teachers, and translators. To create a rich fabric of openly licensed multilingual stories for the children of India and the world. Our unique online platform, StoryWeaver, is a playground where children, parents, teachers and librarians can get creative. Come, start weaving today, and help us get a book in every child's hand!