



Bumbb: The Magical Cylinder

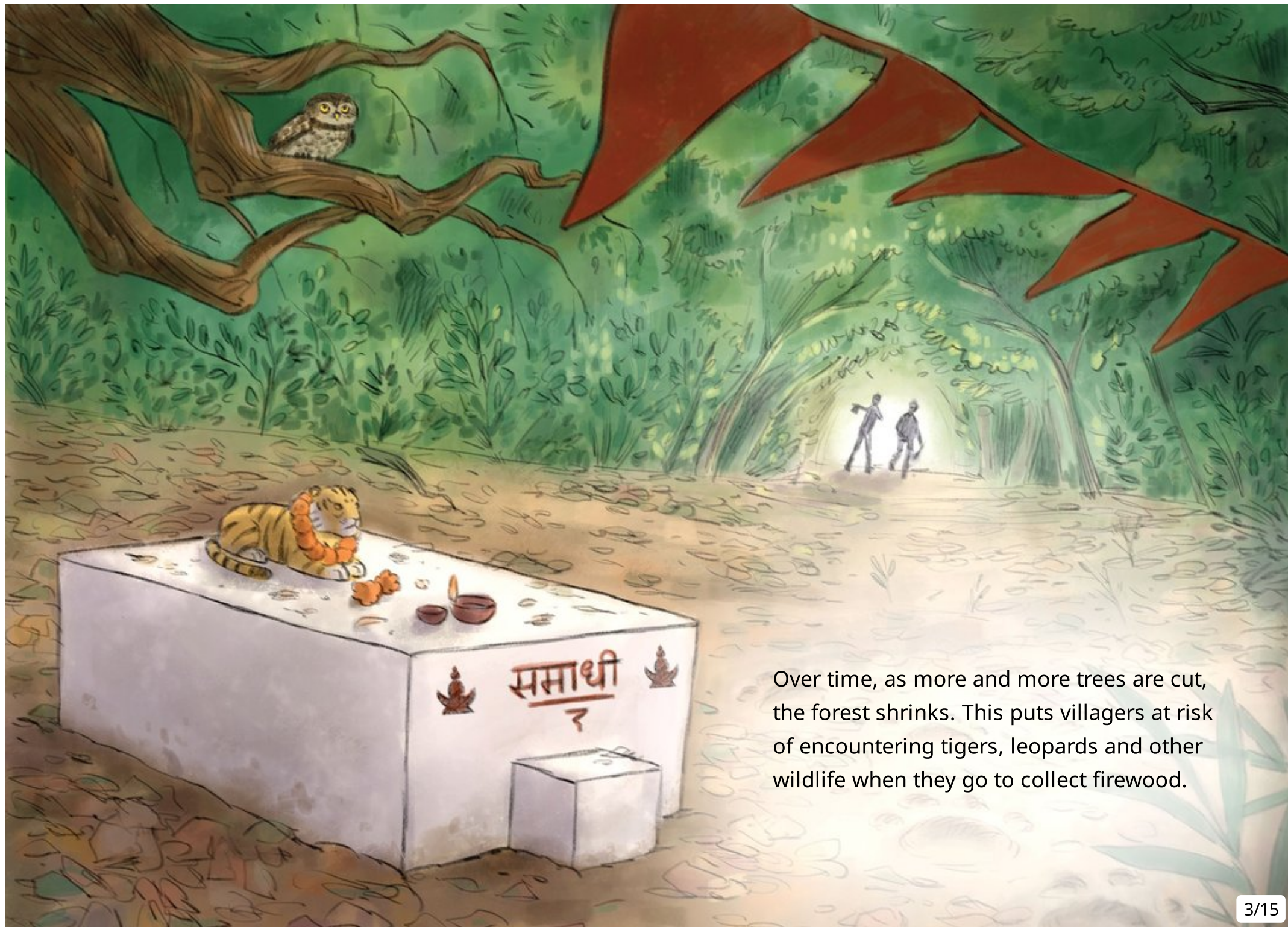
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Level 4

Vilas and Ninad are neighbours in Chikhalgaon, a village close to Tadoba forest, home to tigers. Like everybody in Chikhalgaon, Vilas and Ninad rely on the forest for firewood to cook and to heat water on their chulhas. They often go to the forest to collect firewood, for which they have to cut down trees.



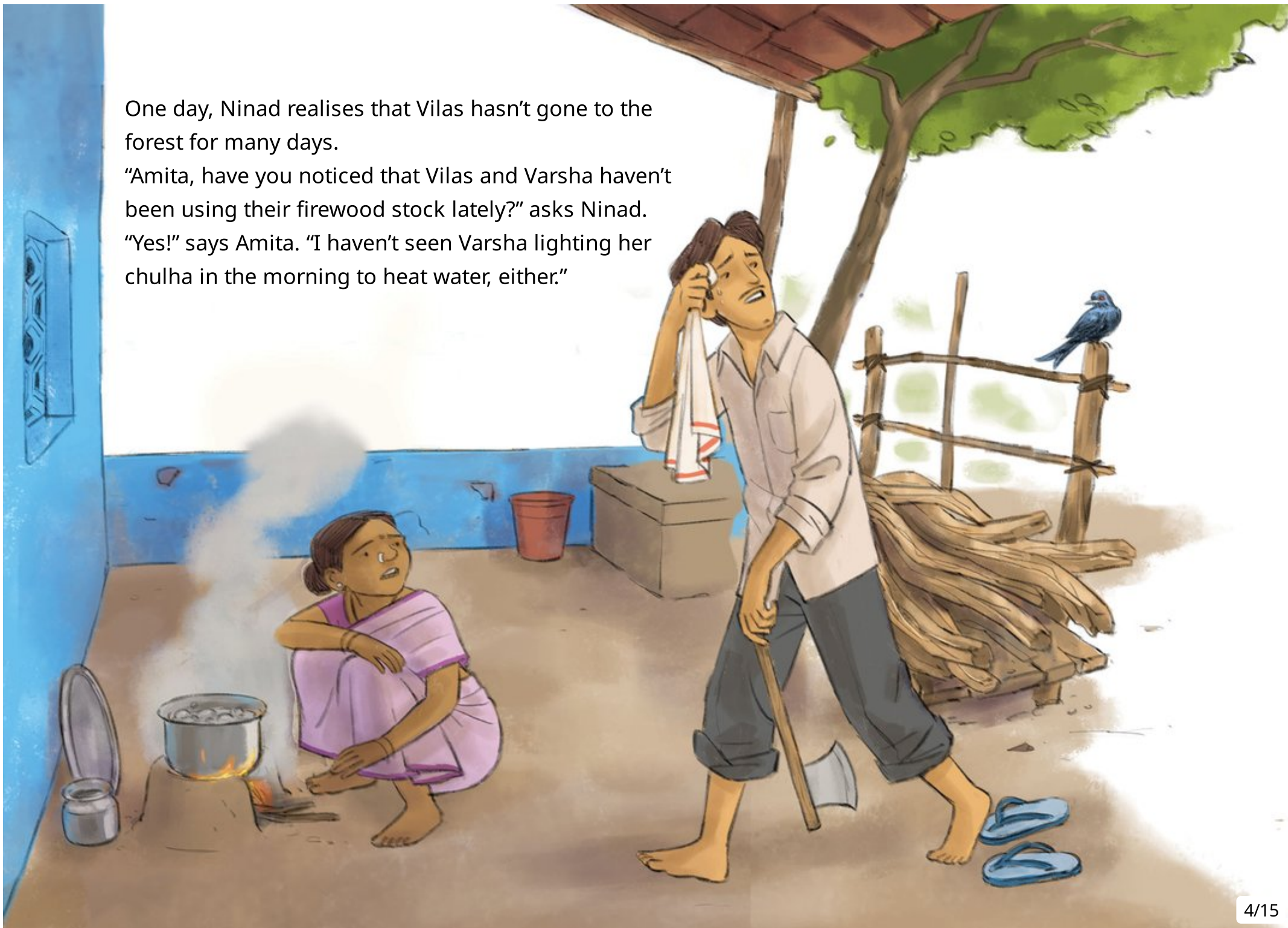


Over time, as more and more trees are cut, the forest shrinks. This puts villagers at risk of encountering tigers, leopards and other wildlife when they go to collect firewood.

One day, Ninad realises that Vilas hasn't gone to the forest for many days.

"Amita, have you noticed that Vilas and Varsha haven't been using their firewood stock lately?" asks Ninad.

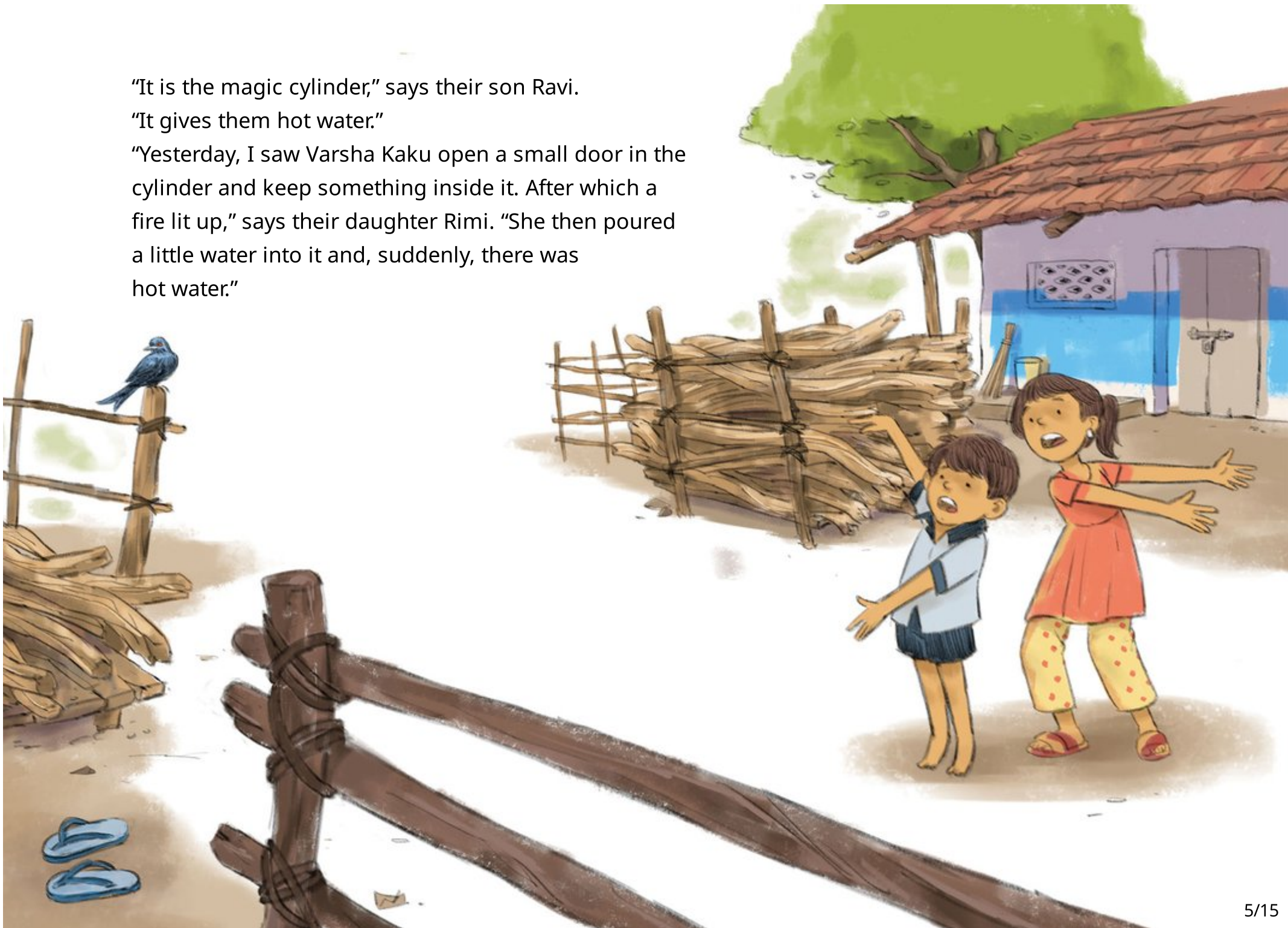
"Yes!" says Amita. "I haven't seen Varsha lighting her chulha in the morning to heat water, either."



"It is the magic cylinder," says their son Ravi.

"It gives them hot water."

"Yesterday, I saw Varsha Kaku open a small door in the cylinder and keep something inside it. After which a fire lit up," says their daughter Rimi. "She then poured a little water into it and, suddenly, there was hot water."



Amita, Ninad and their children visit Varsha and Vilas' house to ask about the cylinder. But they are not home.

"Look! Aai, that is the magic cylinder," says Rimi.

"Let's see if the magic works," says Ravi.





One by one, they all try different antics
to make the cylinder work.

Soon, Vilas and Varsha return from the fields. They burst out laughing.

"Ninad, Amita, what are you all doing?" asks Vilas.

"Vilas, Varsha, please tell us about this magic cylinder," says Amita.

"Yes! How does it give you hot water? And where can we get one for ourselves?" asks Ninad.

"Yes, Kaku, what are the magic words to make it work?" ask Rimi and Ravi.

"It is no magic! It is a bumbb," says Varsha.

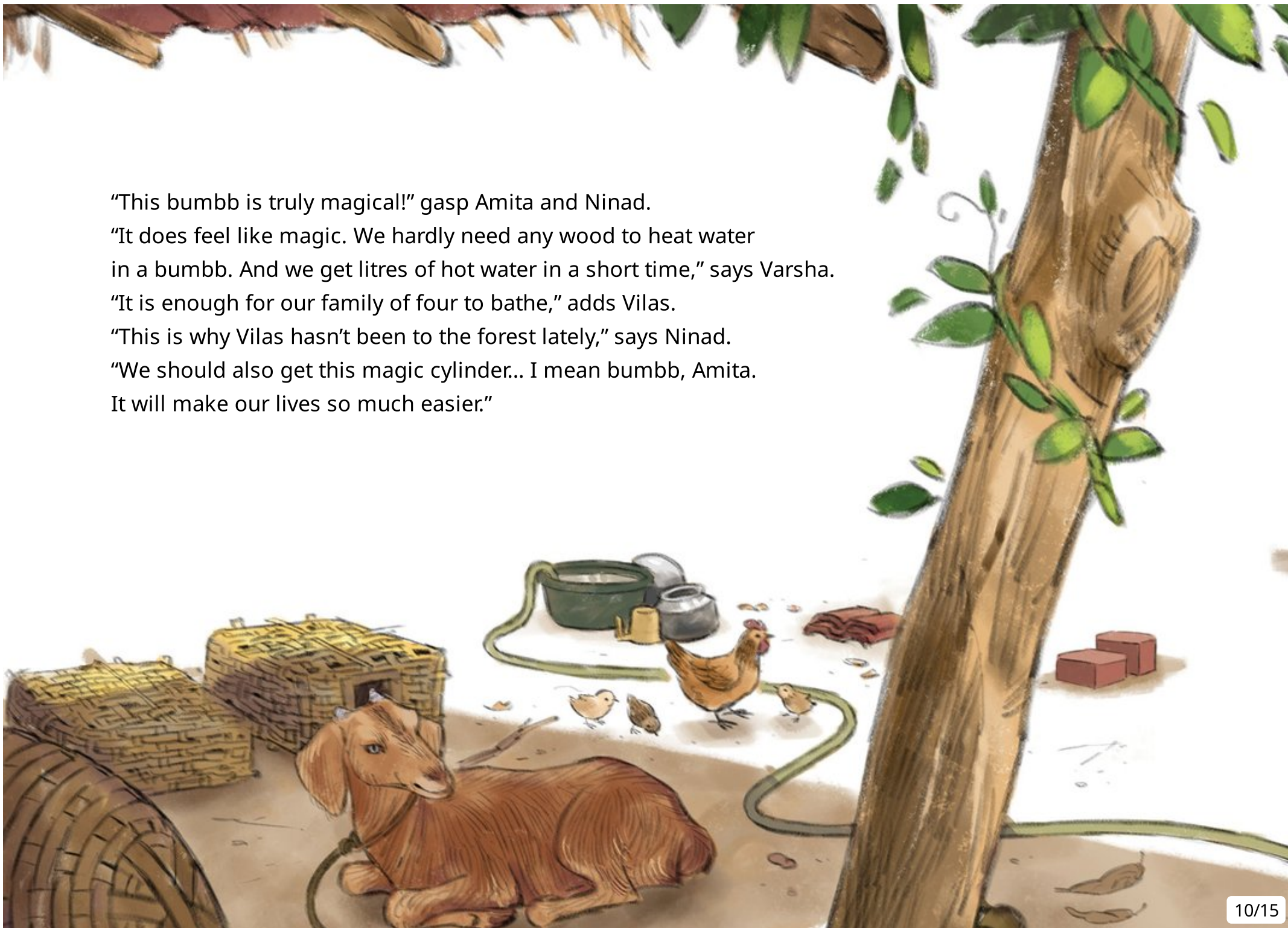
"Bumbb!"



“Yes, a bumbb is a water heater,” says Vilas. “It uses science to heat water. Once you fill the cylinder with water, add cow dung or paper in the burner below and light it up, you will have hot water in no time. See!”



"This bumbb is truly magical!" gasp Amita and Ninad.
"It does feel like magic. We hardly need any wood to heat water in a bumbb. And we get litres of hot water in a short time," says Varsha.
"It is enough for our family of four to bathe," adds Vilas.
"This is why Vilas hasn't been to the forest lately," says Ninad.
"We should also get this magic cylinder... I mean bumbb, Amita. It will make our lives so much easier."





"Yes, since Aai and Baba bought the bumbb from Halda, they don't have to collect firewood as much," says their daughter, Sudhi.

"And we don't have to worry about tigers attacking them," says their son, Manu.

"Ninad," says Amita, "maybe everyone in our village should get a bumbb!"

"That is a great idea, Amita," says Varsha. "Vilas, let's call Manda Tai."



The next day, Vilas introduces Ninad and Amita to Manda Tai, who works with an organisation that helps protect forests and wildlife. “Along with a team of scientists and conservationists, she introduced the bumbb to the people of Halda,” says Vilas.

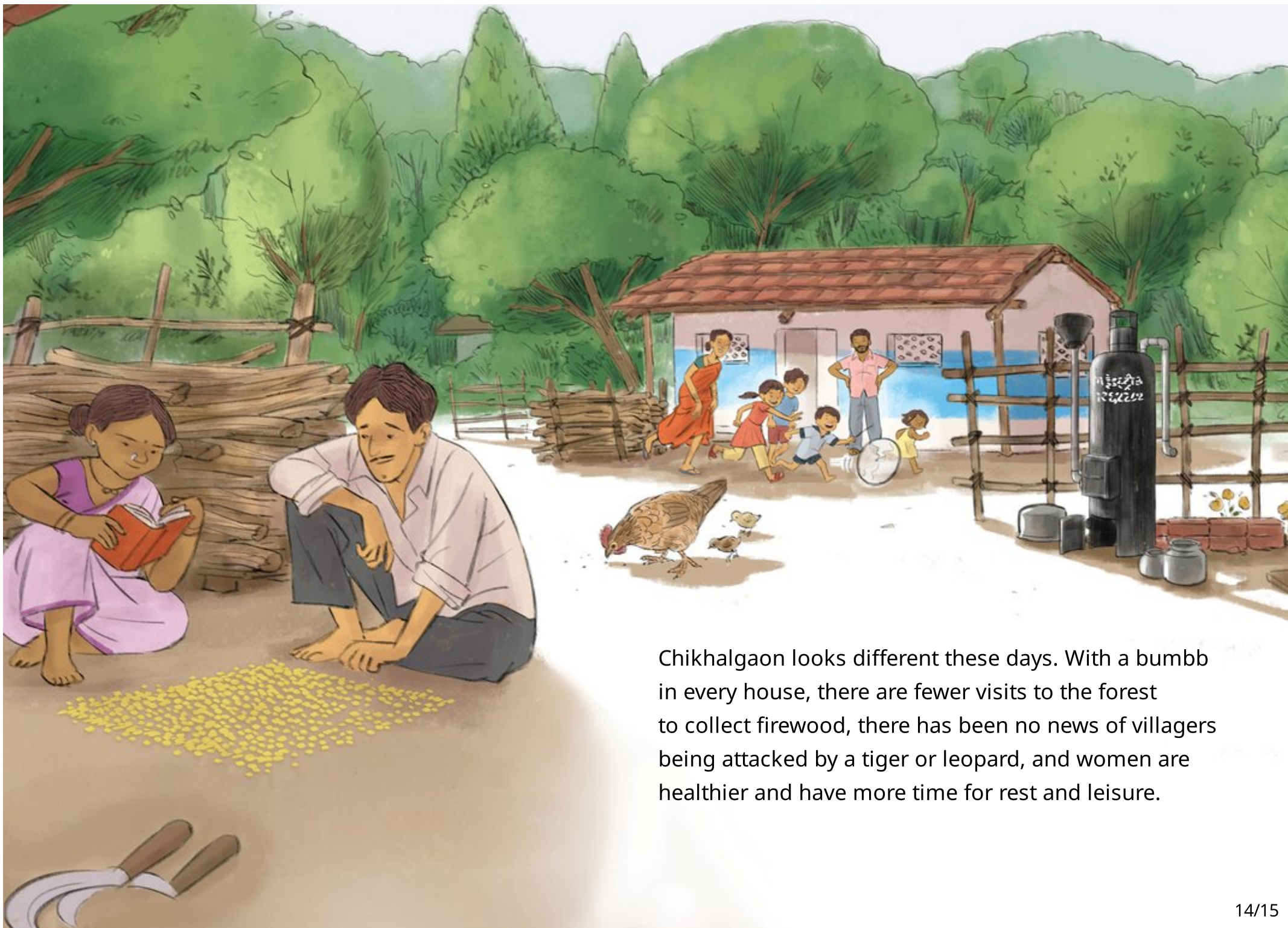
With the help of Manda Tai and the Sarpanch, Ninad and Vilas organise a meeting for the other villagers at the panchayat office.

“It is available at an affordable price,” says Manda Tai. “You won’t have to spend hours at the chulha inhaling the smoke. You won’t have to risk your lives going to the forest to collect firewood. And think of the many trees in the forest you will save.”





Amita and Varsha speak about the bumbb with other women in the village. Soon, the villagers start placing their orders for the bumbb at the panchayat office. In no time, every house in Chikhalgaon gets its very own bumbb.



Chikhalgaon looks different these days. With a bumbb in every house, there are fewer visits to the forest to collect firewood, there has been no news of villagers being attacked by a tiger or leopard, and women are healthier and have more time for rest and leisure.

BUMBB AND THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST

The Brahmapuri Forest Division in Chandrapur, Maharashtra, is situated next to the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. Brahmapuri is home to around 66 tigers and several villages. Villagers regularly go into the forest to collect firewood for cooking food and heating water. This is one of the many reasons for degradation of the forest and an increase in encounters between people and tigers. It also affects the health of the villagers, especially women who spend hours at the chulha, breathing in the smoke.

The Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT) worked towards developing an effective solution for heating water. They introduced an affordable, energy-saving water heater called the bumbb, in Marathi. Crop residue, dry leaves, dung cakes and even waste paper can be used to heat water, instead of firewood. WCT has distributed more than 15,000 bumbbbs in 120 villages since 2019. Of the 60,000 plus people who have benefitted from this effort, about 20,000 are women. Studies by WCT's team suggest that with the regular use of the bumbb, there has been a 50 per cent reduction in forest visits and is likely to save more than 1,50,000 tonnes of firewood and reduce more than 2,40,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions in a decade.



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The development of this book has been supported by the Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT).



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The development of this book has been supported by the Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT).

Bumbb: The Magical Cylinder

(English)

Amita and Ninad are curious. Their neighbour Vilas doesn't visit the forest to collect firewood as often as he used to. And his wife Varsha doesn't spend all her time in front of the chulha to heat water. Their children say that a magical cylinder gives the neighbours hot water in no time. Could it be true?

This is a Level 4 book for children who can read fluently and with confidence.



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