



**PRATHAM
BOOKS**

Surki and Tirki

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Level 3

This is Swarmayi. Her name is quite a tongue-twister. That is why everyone calls her Surki.

Surki is chatty, stubborn and short-tempered. She is also scatterbrained.

This is Trisuparna. Her name is even more of a tongue-twister. That is why everyone calls her Tirki.

Tirki is calm and quiet. She is also neat and tidy.





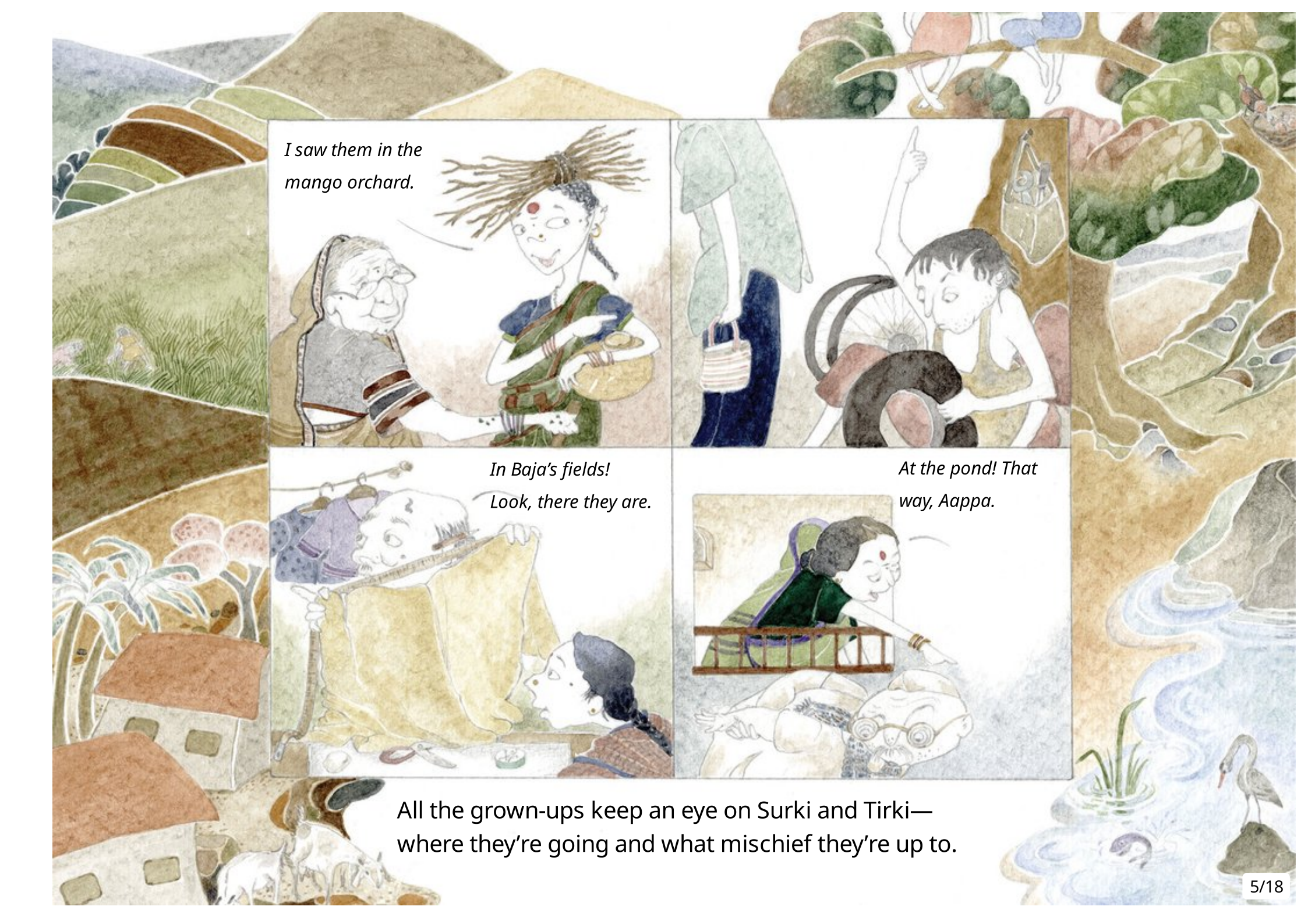
And yet, the two of them are the best of friends.





They do have a few fights,
now and then.
But they never say “Katti!”
and stop talking.
Because they just cannot do
without each other.





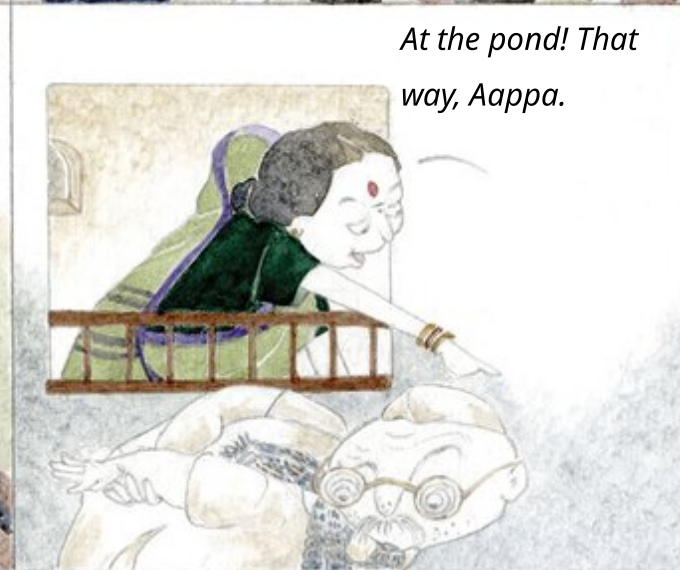
*I saw them in the
mango orchard.*



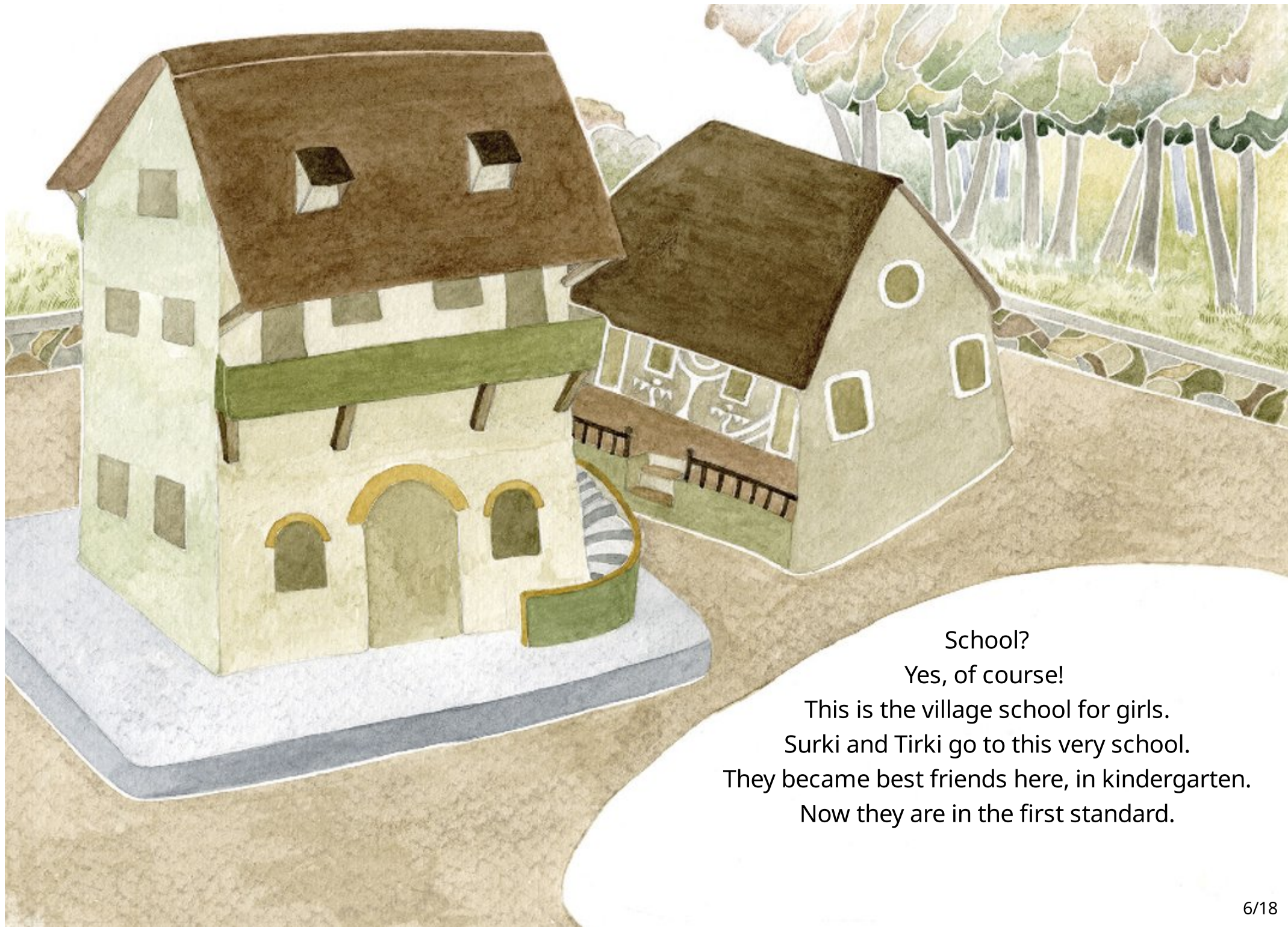
*In Baja's fields!
Look, there they are.*



*At the pond! That
way, Aappa.*



All the grown-ups keep an eye on Surki and Tirki—
where they're going and what mischief they're up to.



School?

Yes, of course!

This is the village school for girls.
Surki and Tirki go to this very school.
They became best friends here, in kindergarten.
Now they are in the first standard.



Surki and Tirki are happy together, at school and play. But one day, a fairy joins their class. That is, a new girl joins. Her name is Pari, which means fairy.





Miss says, "We have a new friend in our class.
Pari. Get to know her. Help her.
Let her join you in your games."

Tirki exclaims, "Pari! What a lovely name!"

Surki says, "Humph! Real fairies have wings.
She doesn't have wings. False fairy!"

"Still, I like her name."
Surki does not like it when
Tirki says that.



Miss takes all the girls out to the
playground.

"Today, we will play in pairs.
Who will pair up with Pari?"



Tirki says, "Me, miss!
I'll pair up with her!"



Surki does not like that, either.



Everyone pairs up for the game.
Surki does not even try to find a partner.
She stays alone.

Miss says, "Surki, why don't you
pair up with me?"
But Surki only wants Tirki.
"I don't want to play," she says.



The Tirki-Pari pair does not win
the game even once.
But they have fun anyway.

Surki really wants to play.
If Tirki had come to call her,
she would have gone gladly.
But Tirki is busy enjoying the game.

She does not call Surki.
Surki does not like that at all!



It is recess. Tirki and Pari open their lunch boxes.
As they eat, they chat and giggle.
Surki sits silently and watches them.

Tirki offers Surki a sweet gharga.
“I don’t want it, eat it yourself!” says Surki.
Tirki eats it happily.
She has no idea that Surki is angry with her.





The school bell rings.
Surki picks up her school bag
and sets off for home quickly
all by herself.



Aai is astonished to see Surki.

"Oh my goodness! You've come straight home from school? I usually have to go in search of you and drag you home!"

Surki rushes into the house without looking at her mother.

"Did you fight with Tirki? Surkiiiiii!

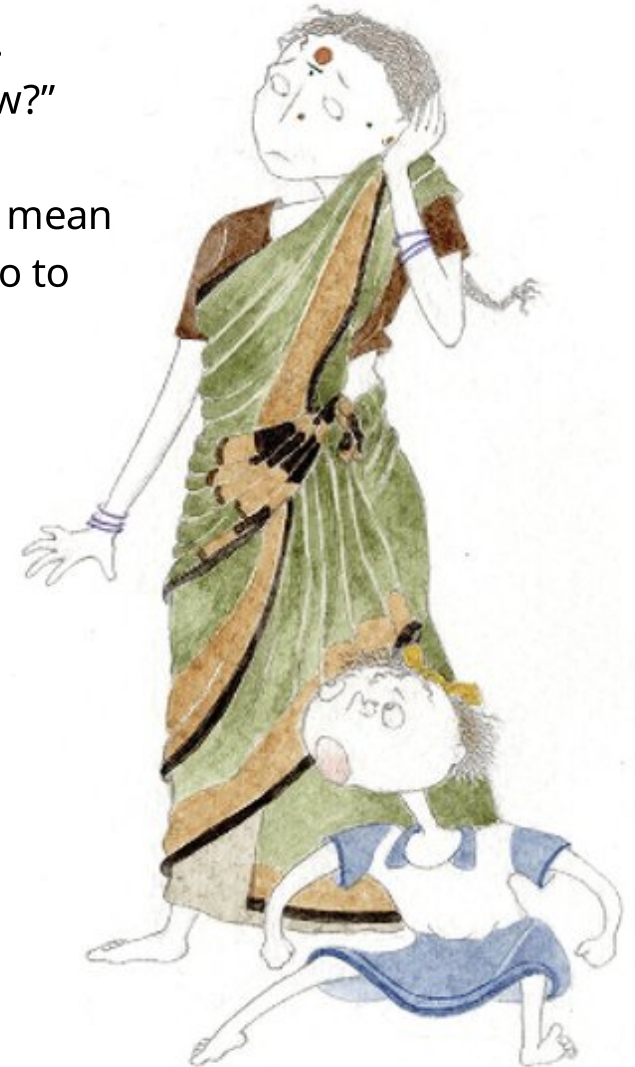
What happened?"

Concerned, Aai follows Surki into the house.





Surki tells her mother all that happened.
With a deep sigh, Aai asks, "So, what now?"
"Katti! I'm not talking to her!"
"Sure? Decided?" asks Aai. "So does that mean
that from tomorrow onwards, you will go to
school alone, eat your lunch alone..."
"Yes!"
"Go to the pond alone,
roam in the fields alone...?"
"Yes, yes, yes!" yells Surki.



“But what if Tirki comes to you? Won’t you talk to her even then?” asks Aai.
Surki stays silent for a minute.
Then in a tearful voice, she says, “Even then! Katti! I’m not talking to her.”
“But she’s here!” says Aai.





Tirki is standing in the doorway.
"Surki, you forgot your slippers again! What if
someone had stolen them?"

Aai smiles to herself. "Come, come, who
wants to eat hot dhirdi?" she asks.



Now Surki and Tirki carry an extra share for Pari in their tiffin boxes.

The grown-ups in the village say,
first there were two and now there are three!



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Surki and Tirki

(English)

Surki and Tirki are the best of friends. But when a new girl joins school, will it change their friendship?

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



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