



Level 3

What I Want

Authors: Gitanjali Das, Japani Shyam, Kamta Tahed, Kritika Joshi, Lado Bai, Minakshi Vayeda

Illustrators: Gitanjali Das, Japani Shyam, Kamta Tahed, Kritika Joshi, Lado Bai, Minakshi Vayeda



Assert

I want to be heard—to voice
my thoughts and be understood.

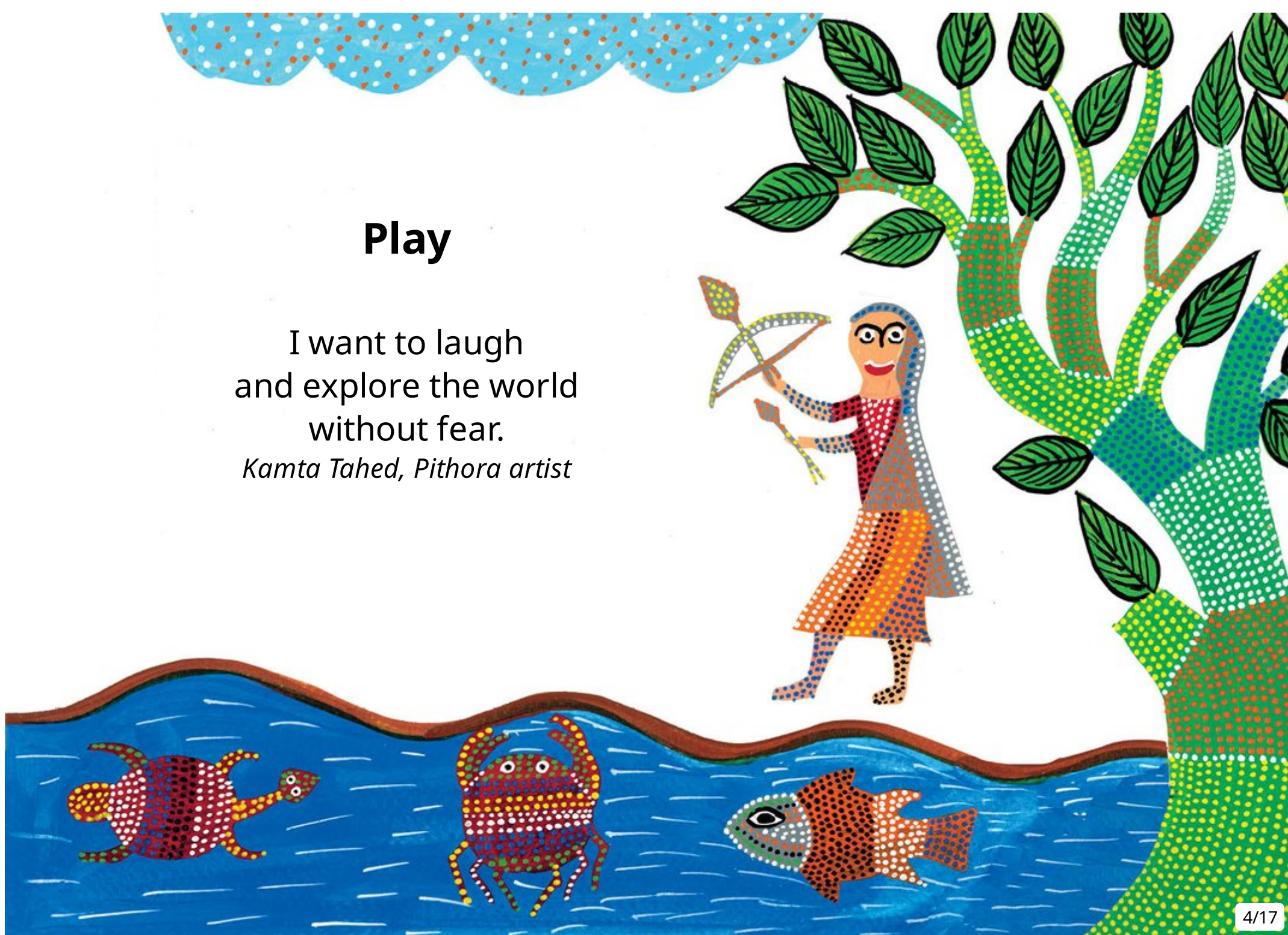
Japani Shyam, Gond artist



Play

I want to laugh
and explore the world
without fear.

Kamta Tahed, Pithora artist





Celebrate

I want the solidarity of female friendships,
where we can rely on each other.

Minakshi Vayeda, Warli artist





Protect

I want to conserve nature,
as I draw strength
from the trees around me.

Lado Bai, Bhil artist

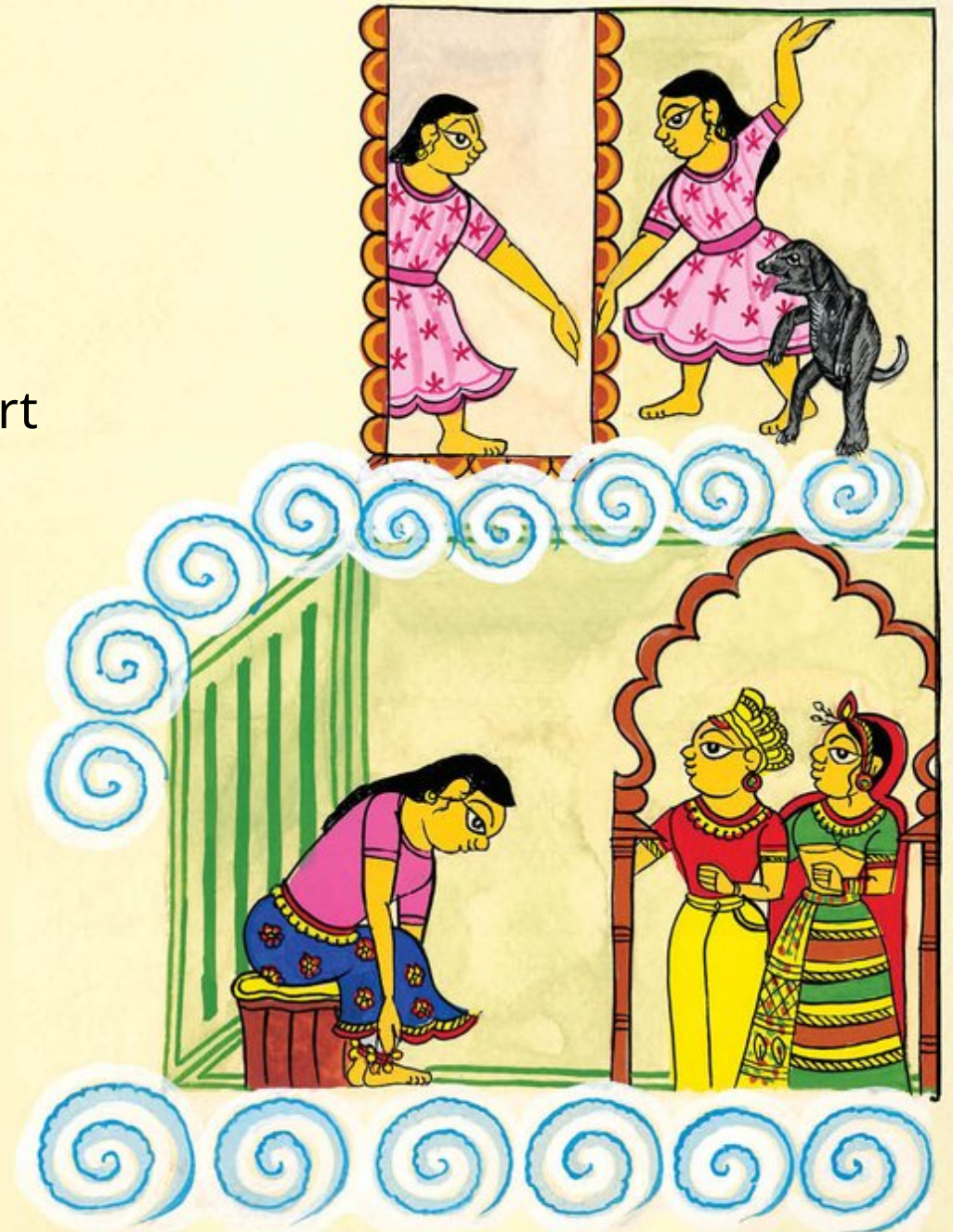




Nurture

I want the freedom and support
to pursue my dreams.

Kritika Joshi, Phad artist

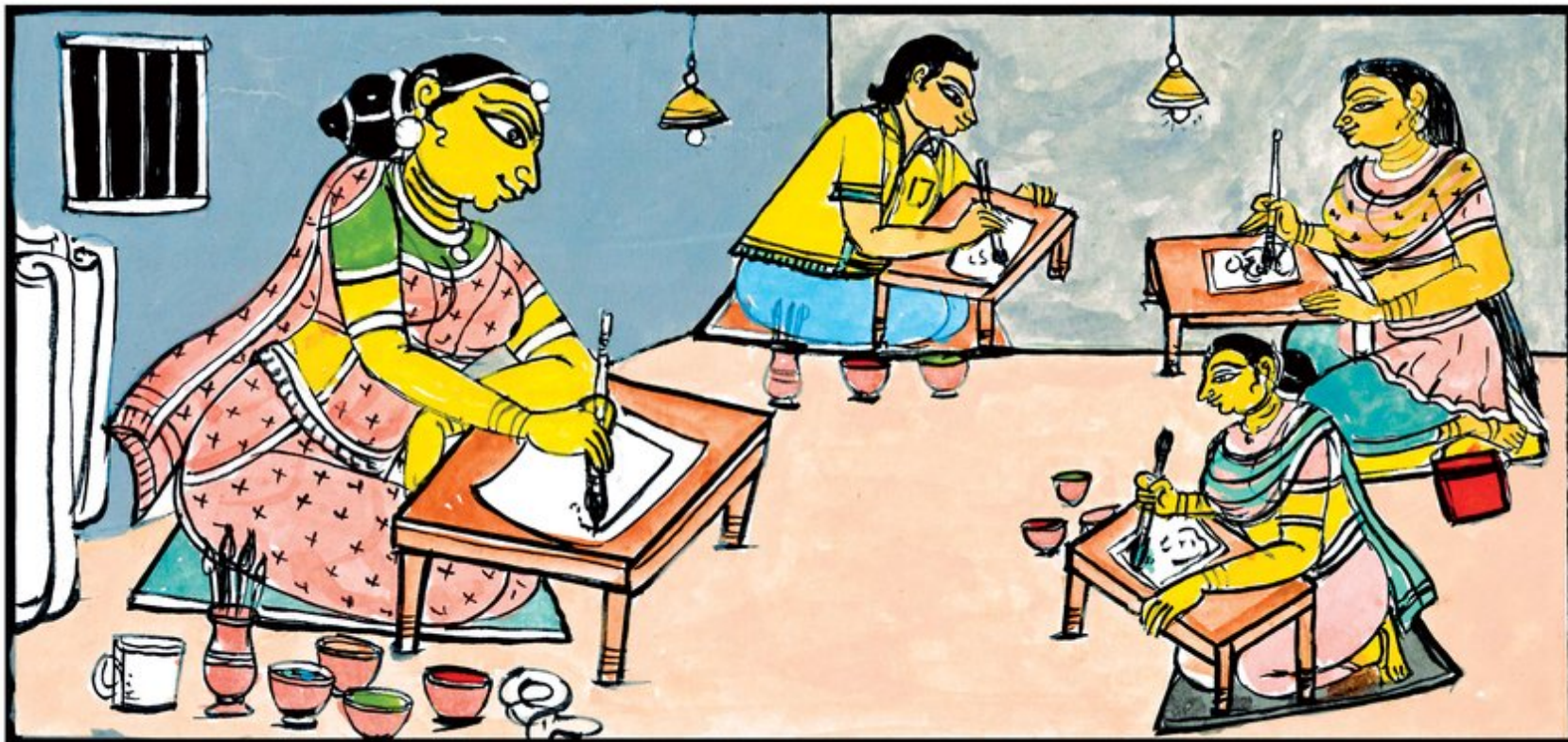






Learn

I want education for all.
Knowledge is empowerment.
Gitanjali Das, Pattachitra artist





We will



Celebrate



Learn

Assert



Protect

Play



Nurture

What will you do?

ABOUT THE ART FORMS AND THE ARTISTS

Six indigenous artists came together to create a book about their hopes and dreams. Not only for themselves, but for girls everywhere. Together, they drew a brighter, more equitable future.



PATTACHITRA

Odisha Pattachitra paintings, which are painted on cloth in Odisha and West Bengal, are inspired by mythology and are known for their delicate and detailed works.

Gitanjali Das is a Pattachitra artist from Odisha. She started painting at a young age, first learning from her father, then in partnership with her late husband, the Pattachitra artist Pranab Das. Gitanjali has participated in many workshops and exhibitions across the country.



GOND ART

Practised by the Pardhan Gonds of Madhya Pradesh, this tradition draws on myths and folklore inspired by nature. It is full of delicate motifs, intricate designs and bright colours.

Japani Shyam is a contemporary Gond painter based in Bhopal. Japani's experimental work reflects the stories of the forest. Her works have been displayed in exhibitions and at galleries across India.



PITHORA ART

Drawing from the myths and folklore of the indigenous tribes of central and western India, Pithora art is characterised by its bright colours and the dots or tipna that cover the paintings.

Kamta Tahed is a Pithora artist. She started painting at a young age, inspired by the women around her, but was able to pursue art full-time only much later in life. She has participated in art exhibitions across the country and won prestigious awards.



BHIL ART

Stories of the land and the human-nature relationship are the foundation of the legends and folklore of the Bhil tribe in central and western India. Bhil art features bright colours and an overlay of intricate patterns of dots.

Born in Madhya Pradesh, **Lado Bai** is a Bhil artist. Lado Bai's works are steeped in spirituality and animism and reflect the flora and fauna of her environment, along with Bhil rituals and festivals. A multiple award-winning artist, her works have been displayed at art festivals and in museums.



PHAD

Artists from the Bhopa community of Rajasthan paint on a cloth scroll called a phad. The art tells the stories of folk heroes.

Kritika Joshi is a 30th-generation Phad artist. A graduate of the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design in Jaipur, Kritika has mastered the art of Phad painting and actively engages with private and non-profit organisations to promote the craft.



WARLI ART

The paintings by the Warli tribe of Maharashtra depict everyday life and nature using simple geometrical shapes like triangles and circles, and vivid colours.

Minakshi Vayeda grew up watching women Warli artists paint during weddings, birth ceremonies and other celebrations, and was encouraged by her father to practise the art form. From painting on walls of houses, which is the traditional canvas of Warli, Minakshi now paints on cloth and paper and has participated in exhibitions around India.

Story Attribution:

This story: What I Want is written by [Gitanjali Das](#), [Japani Shyam](#), [Kamta Tahed](#), [Kritika Joshi](#), [Lado Bai](#), [Minakshi Vayed](#). © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Other Credits:

You, Now, Edited 'What I Want' has been published on StoryWeaver by Pratham Books. The development of this book has been supported by Parag, an initiative of Tata Trusts. www.prathambooks.org. We're thankful to Anu Chowdhury-Sorabjee for connecting us with Gitanjali Das, Kamta Tahed and Lado Bai. We're thankful to The Jamun, Bengaluru, for providing us with the space to conduct the workshop with the artists. Also thanks to Rishita Loitongbam, Shinibali Mitra Saigal, Smit Zaveri and Santhosh Pai.

Images Attributions:

Cover page: [Girls on a branch of a tree in different art forms](#), by [Kritika Joshi](#), [Gitanjali Das](#), [Japani Shyam](#), [Minakshi Vayed](#), [Lado Bai](#), [Kamta Tahed](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 2: [Girl shouting into a microphone as a bird flies behind her](#), by [Japani Shyam](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 3: [Girls on a tree expressing the different things they want to do](#), by [Japani Shyam](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 4: [Girl playing with a bow and an arrow by a river](#), by [Kamta Tahed](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 5: [Children having fun together by a river](#), by [Kamta Tahed](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 6: [Girls walking to different destinations with a bag in their hand](#), by [Minakshi Vayed](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 7: [Girls playing, studying, working, cooking, living together amongst nature](#), by [Minakshi Vayed](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 8: [Branches of a tree in Bhil art style](#), by [Lado Bai](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 9: [Girls protecting a tree from being cut down](#), by [Lado Bai](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 10: [Girl trying to learn to dance with her parents' support](#), by [Kritika Joshi](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 11: [Girl dancing in the rain with her dog](#), by [Kritika Joshi](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: 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/>



The development of this book has been supported by Parag, an initiative of Tata Trusts.



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](#).

Images Attributions:

Page 12: [A teacher instructing her female students in art](#), by [Gitanjali Das](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 13: [People admiring art in a gallery](#), by [Gitanjali Das](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 14: [Girls doing different things in different art forms](#), by [Kritika Joshi](#), [Gitanjali Das](#), [Japani Shyam](#), [Minakshi Vayeda](#), [Lado Bai](#), [Kamta Tahed](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 15: [Meet the Pattachitra and Gond artists](#), by [Gitanjali Das](#), [Japani Shyam](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 16: [Meet the Pithora and Bhil artists](#), by [Lado Bai](#), [Kamta Tahed](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 17: [Meet the Phad and Warli artists](#), by [Kritika Joshi](#), [Minakshi Vayeda](#) © Pratham Books, 2024. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: 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/>



The development of this book has been supported by Parag, an initiative of Tata Trusts.

What I Want

(English)

Six indigenous artists unite to share their dreams, hopes and aspirations in this unique book.

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



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!