



Level 4

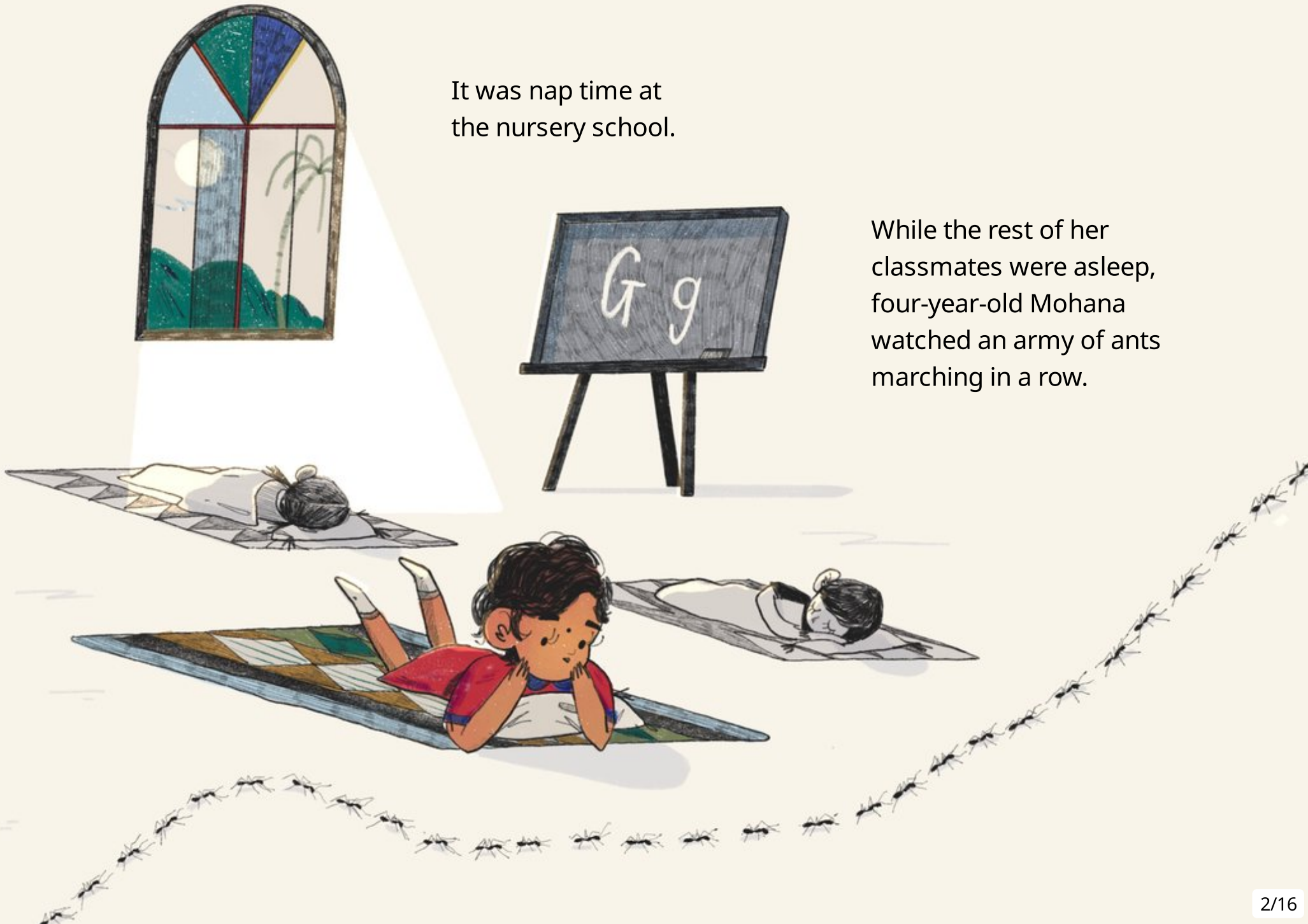
Rajmohana Keloth: The Bug Finder and Her Big World of Tiny Insects

Author: Shweta Ganesh Kumar

Illustrator: Joanna Davala

It was nap time at
the nursery school.

While the rest of her
classmates were asleep,
four-year-old Mohana
watched an army of ants
marching in a row.



Mohana gently picked up the ants in her palm,
and discovered they have a distinct odour,
an unpleasant one.



She often watched the praying mantis sitting on the wall, move its foreleg from side to side, waiting for its prey.



She carried green grasshoppers on the back of her palm when they accidentally hopped indoors.



On rainy days, she squatted by the swarms of termites on the floor and felt their wings with her fingertips.

She watched as their wings fell off and the insects walked away, untroubled.

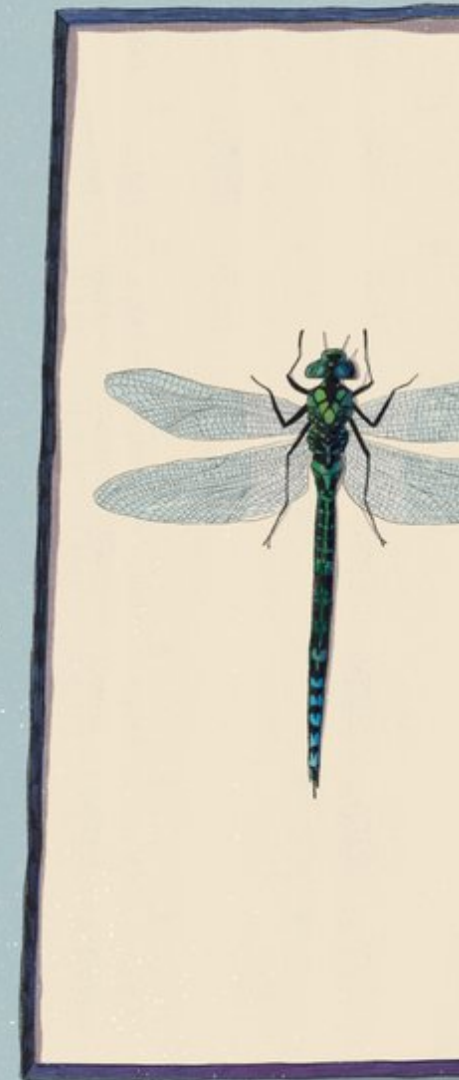


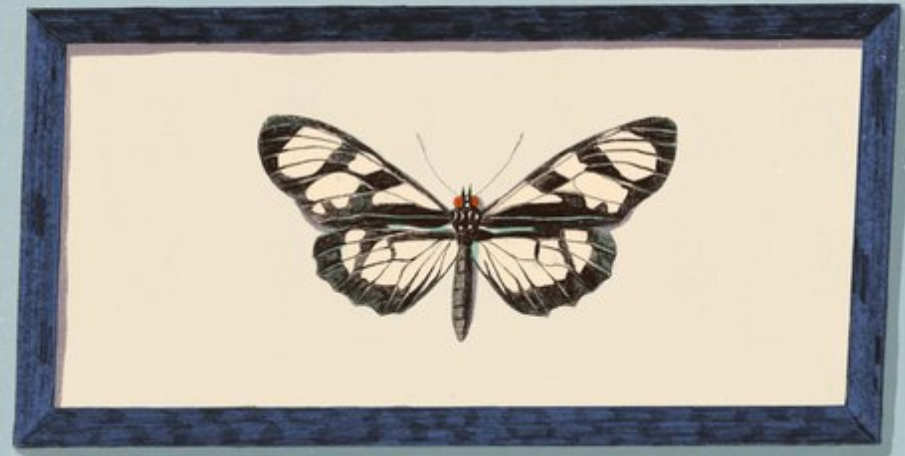


Mohana longed to become a scientist who studies insects.




Years later, she studied zoology, joined the Zoological Survey of India and became an entomologist pursuing taxonomy.





An entomologist studies insects. Some entomologists study insect taxonomy. They identify and organise different species of insects by shape, by size, by pattern and even the way they develop over time.



An illustration of a jungle scene. In the background, three women are walking along a path, carrying nets on poles. The landscape features a river, trees, and rocks. In the foreground, there are large green leaves and several insects, including a large orange beetle and a moth.

Mohana's job took her
to the deepest jungles.

No one had seen women travel to
far-flung remote areas for forest surveys,
but Mohana had become an entomologist to
discover unusual species of insects.



On her first forest survey, she wore flimsy shoes, which gave way, and she had to walk through the forest, barefoot. This taught her never to step out without a pair of good field shoes.



It was twilight in the Wayanad hills when Mohana saw a banyan tree sparkling as though lit up by stars. As she tiptoed near it, she spotted thousands of fireflies.

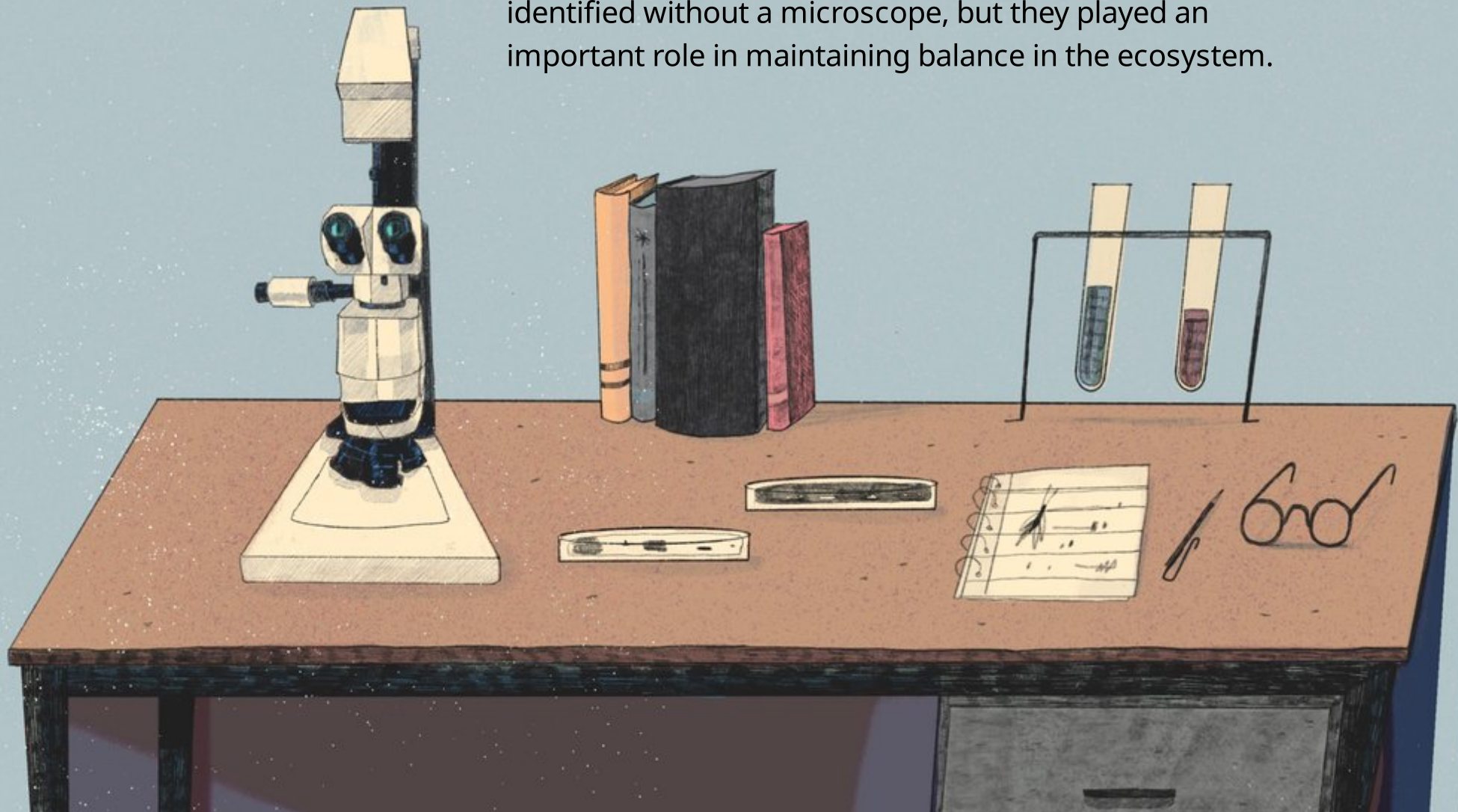


Deep in the Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kannur, she came across a resting population of migrating milkweed butterflies. There were also thousands of blue tiger butterflies on low branches of a tree.

Sensing movement, all the butterflies set to flight as one, as Mohana gasped in wonder.

Mohana's work drove her to study the tiny wasps that belonged to the Hymenoptera insect family.

The wasps were so minuscule that they couldn't be identified without a microscope, but they played an important role in maintaining balance in the ecosystem.



She studied their habits,



published research papers on them and
discovered over 150 new species.



Mohana even had a species named
after her, *Dipara mohanae*.

From wasps to termites,
the more species Mohana found,
the more she wanted to discover.



Insects are pollinators, pests, soil engineers and more — they influence human lives in many ways.

Being an entomologist, Rajmohana Keloth knows and appreciates this every day.



Get to know Mohana

May 9, 1971: Rajmohana Keloath's birthday.

1975: Mohana's first memory of observing insects.

1993: Mohana completes her post graduation in zoology specialising as an entomologist.

1994: She gets her dream job and joins the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) as a junior research fellow.

1996: Discovers four unknown species of insects and has her first new species publication.

1999: Gets her PhD degree and joins postdoctoral research.

2004: Rejoins the Zoological Survey of India as a scientist and has worked there ever since.

Mohana's favourite bugs

Nasute termite soldier

Click beetle

Bumblebee

Stream glory damselfly

Antlion

Clearwing moth



Story Attribution:

This story: Rajmohana Keloth: The Bug Finder and Her Big World of Tiny Insects is written by [Shweta Ganesh Kumar](#). © Pratham Books, 2021. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Other Credits:

'Rajmohana Keloth: The Bug Finder and Her Big World of Tiny Insects' has been published on StoryWeaver by Pratham Books. The development of this book has been supported by the Sofina Covid Solidarity Fund. www.prathambooks.com.

Images Attributions:

Cover page: [A close up of a woman looking at a grasshopper](#), by [Joanna Davala](#) © Pratham Books, 2021. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 2: [A child looking at a row of ants](#), by [Joanna Davala](#) © Pratham Books, 2021. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 3: [Ants crawling on a hand](#), by [Joanna Davala](#) © Pratham Books, 2021. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 4: [Girl looking at a praying mantis on a wall](#), by [Joanna Davala](#) © Pratham Books, 2021. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 5: [Girl looking at termites](#), by [Joanna Davala](#) © Pratham Books, 2021. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 6: [Different insect species on a wall](#), by [Joanna Davala](#) © Pratham Books, 2021. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 7: [Another set of insect species on a wall](#), by [Joanna Davala](#) © Pratham Books, 2021. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 8: [People walking through a jungle](#), by [Joanna Davala](#) © Pratham Books, 2021. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 9: [A view of barefoot legs walking in a jungle](#), by [Joanna Davala](#) © Pratham Books, 2021. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 10: [A banyan tree lit up by fireflies at night](#), by [Joanna Davala](#) © Pratham Books, 2021. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 11: [A woman looking at butterflies](#), by [Joanna Davala](#) © Pratham Books, 2021. 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 the Sofina Covid Solidarity Fund



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 desk with scientific equipments on it](#), by [Joanna Davala](#) © Pratham Books, 2021. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 13: [A study area with different species of insects on the wall](#), by [Joanna Davala](#) © Pratham Books, 2021. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 14: [A woman looking at an anthill](#), by [Joanna Davala](#) © Pratham Books, 2021. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 15: [Insects in a jungle](#), by [Joanna Davala](#) © Pratham Books, 2021. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 16: [Rajmohana Keloth's timeline](#), by [Joanna Davala](#) © Pratham Books, 2021. 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 the Sofina Covid Solidarity Fund

Rajmohana Keloth: The Bug Finder and Her Big World of Tiny Insects

(English)

When the rest of her class is napping, Mohana is busy watching an army of ants. When she grows up, she becomes an entomologist. Read about Rajmohana Keloth and her world of tiny insects.

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



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!