



Stage Fright

Author: Yamini Vijayan

Illustrator: Somesh Kumar

Level 3



Champa loves singing
more than anything else
in the whole wide world.

She sings in the bathroom.
And on the roof.
She sings to the hills.
And to the moon.

She sings like a lion.
And like a bee.
She sings through rain.
And through heat.



When Champa sings, she is
filled with the most marvellous
feeling in the world.



One day, when Champa sings,
Basant's eyes light up.

"I have an amazing idea!" he says.



Basant is Champa's best friend
and he is always bursting with ideas.
Some are terrific. And some are terrible.

"You should sing on Annual Day!"
says Basant.

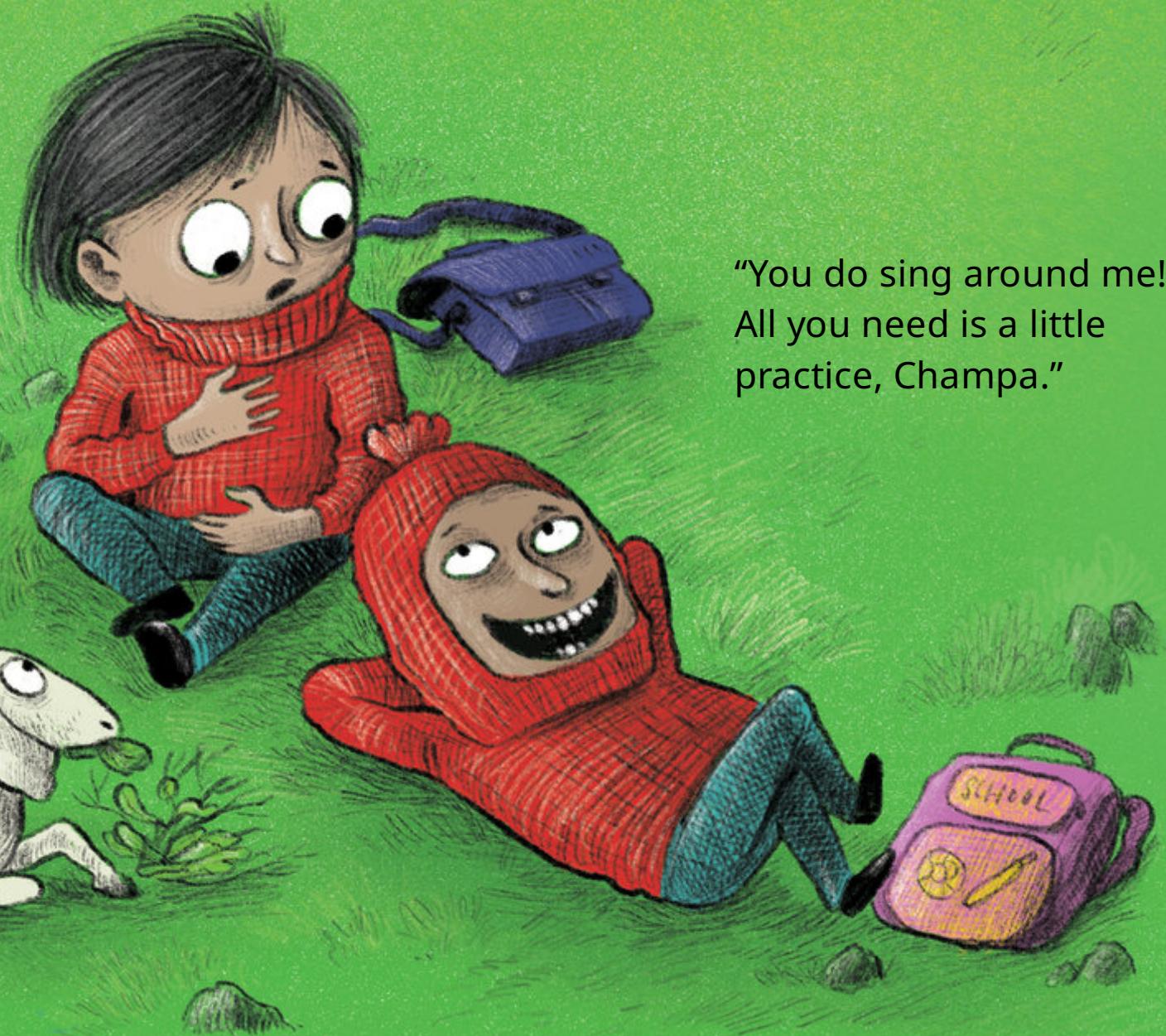
"What a terrible idea!" says Champa.

"Why not! You love to sing."

Champa hasn't told Basant
about the only time she got
on stage and nearly fainted
with fear.



"I...I can't sing in front
of so many people.
I don't even sing in
front of Ma and Pa!"



"You do sing around me!
All you need is a little
practice, Champa."

"Should I?"

"YES! YES! YES!"

"What if Mahi and Paras laugh at me?"

"If they do, it just makes them silly and mean.
You're an amazing singer."

The very thought of singing in front of a crowd fills her stomach with butterflies. Champa is excited and terrified at the same time.

But she loves singing so much! She decides to give it a try.





Champa practises long and hard.

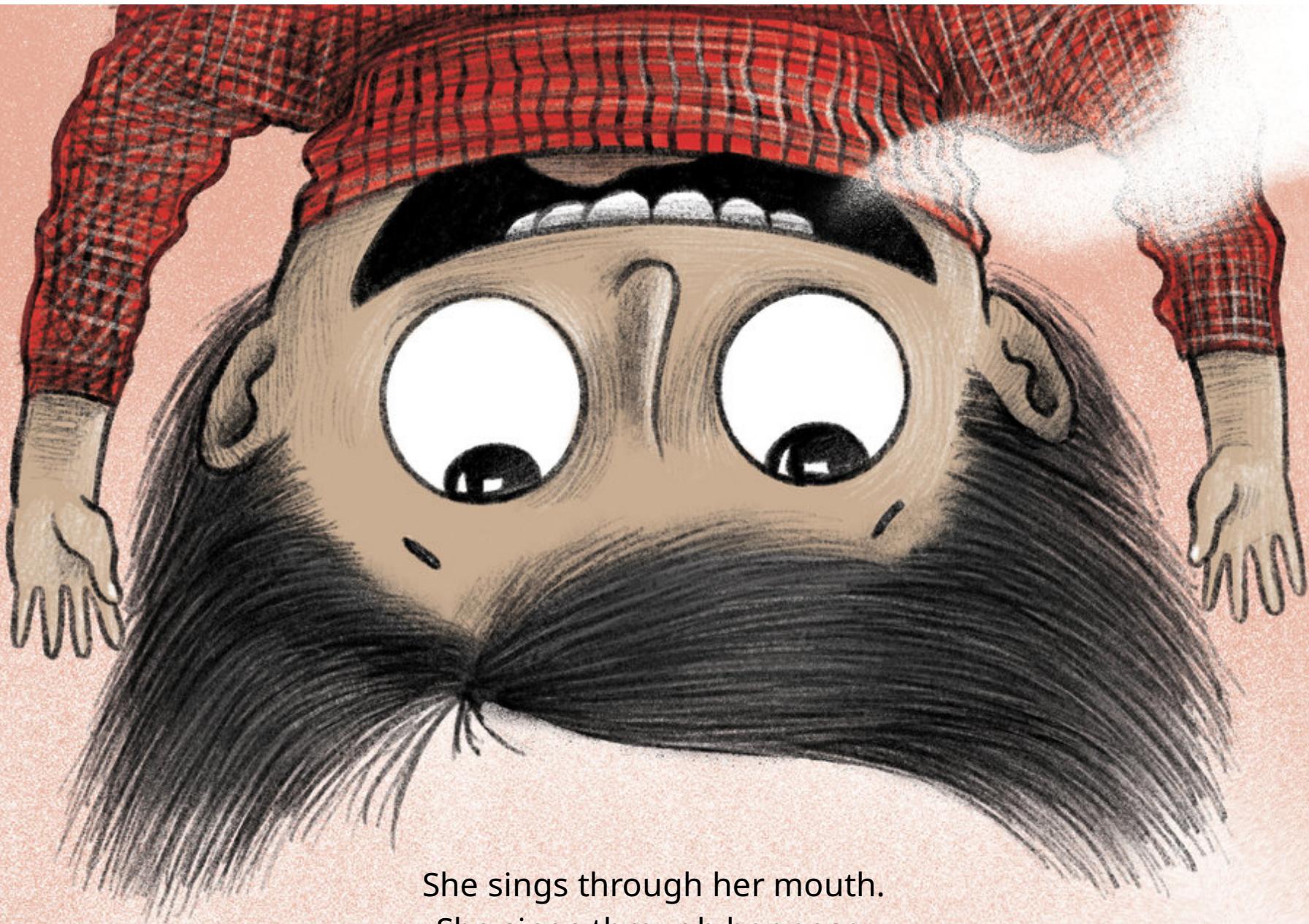
She rolls out of bed with a soft hum.

She sings while multiplying
and dividing.



She makes her voice go
up and down and down and up
while taking the goats out to graze.

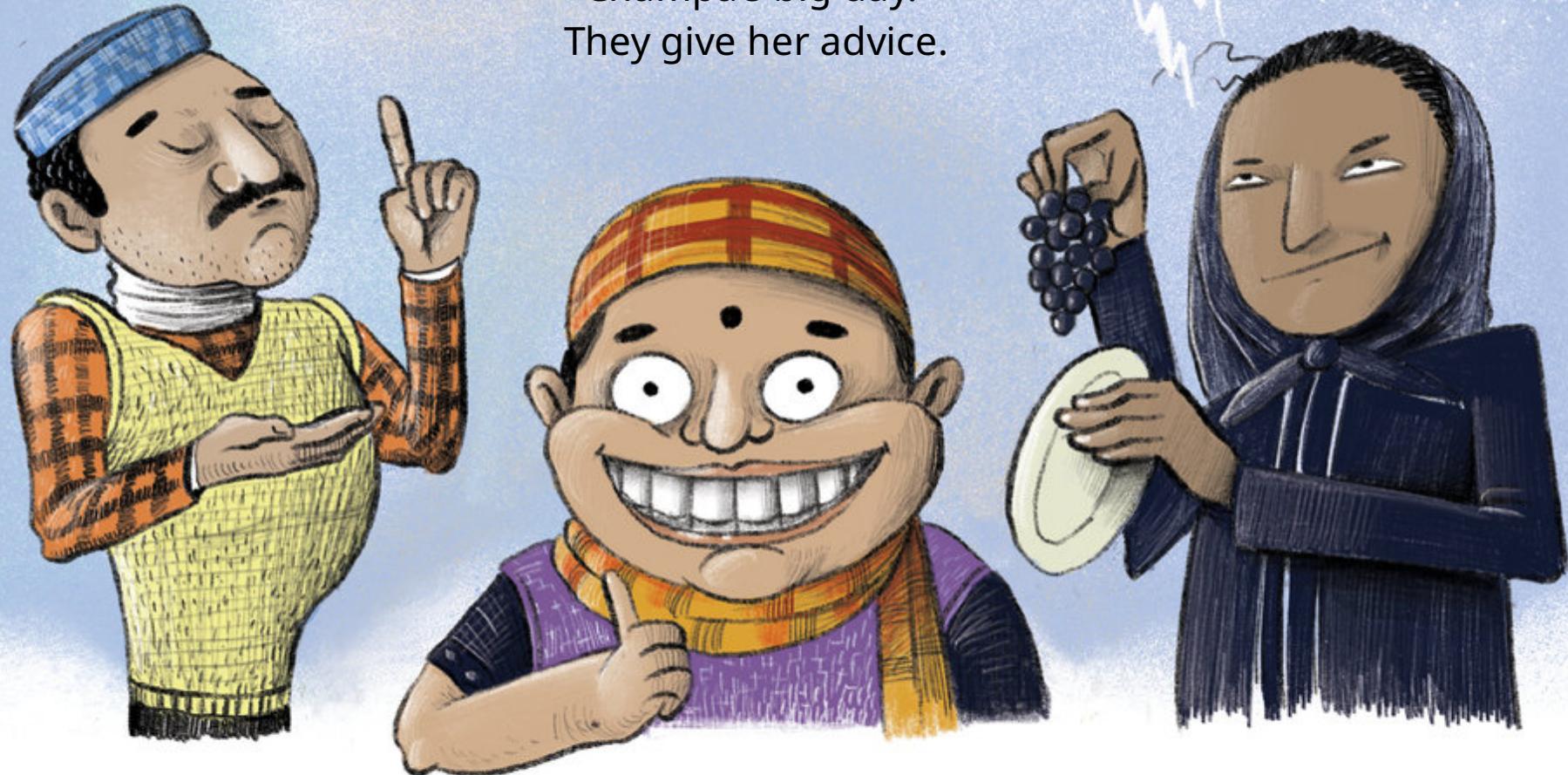




She sings through her mouth.
She sings through her nose.

She even sings upside down!

Everyone at home is excited about
Champa's big day.
They give her advice.



"Take looooong
and deep breaths
before you sing."

"Give the audience
your widest smile.
Just be yourself."

"Throw a broken plate
at the door and eat 12
grapes. For luck!"

The day before her performance,
Champa holds a special rehearsal.

It is a roaring success!





Finally, it's Annual Day.

Champa is wearing the sweater
that her grandfather knit
specially for the show.



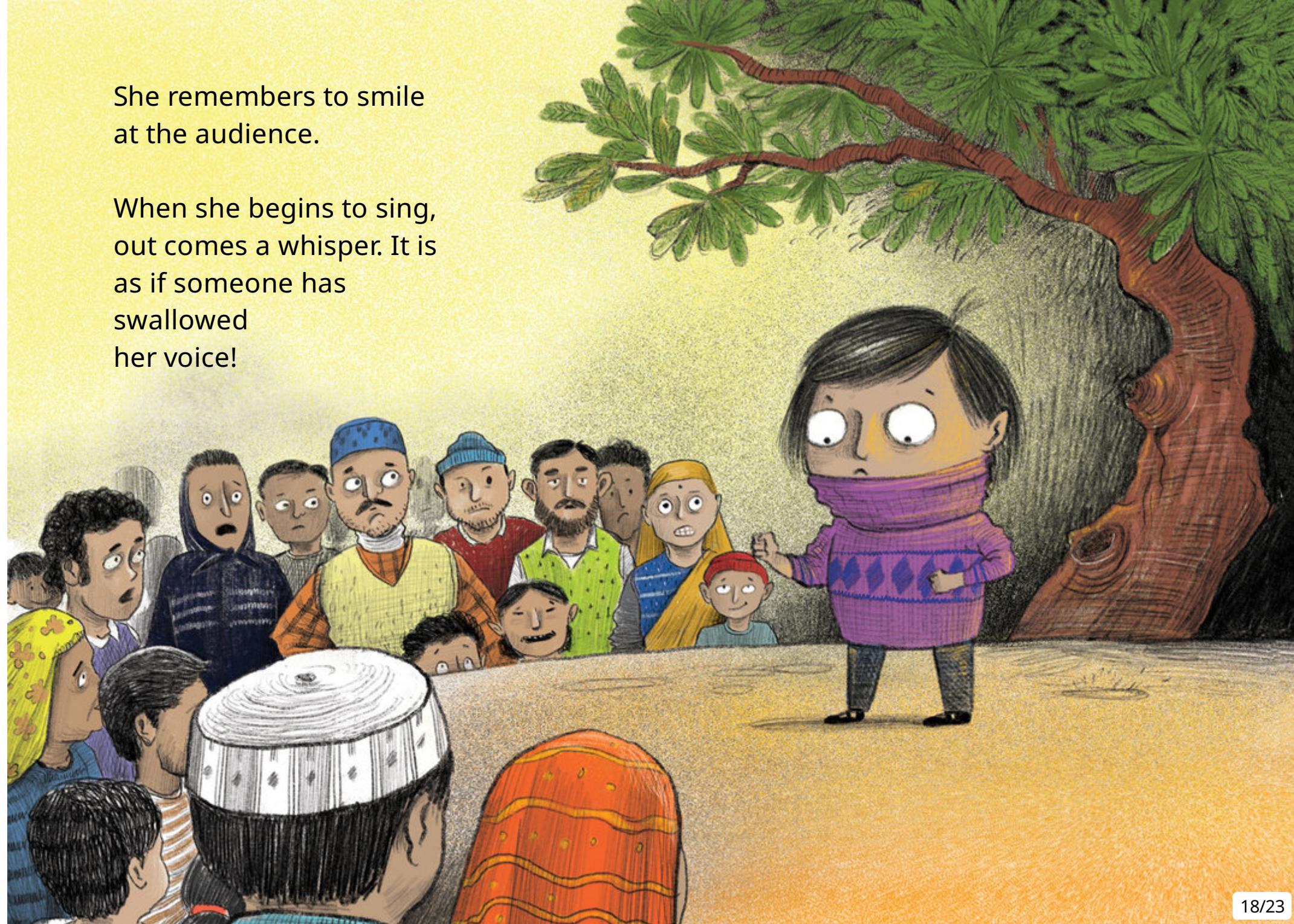
When it's her turn to sing,
her tongue feels rubbery.

The stage is too big!
The lights are too bright!
There are too many people
in the audience!

Champa's throat tightens
and her hands are clammy.

She remembers to smile
at the audience.

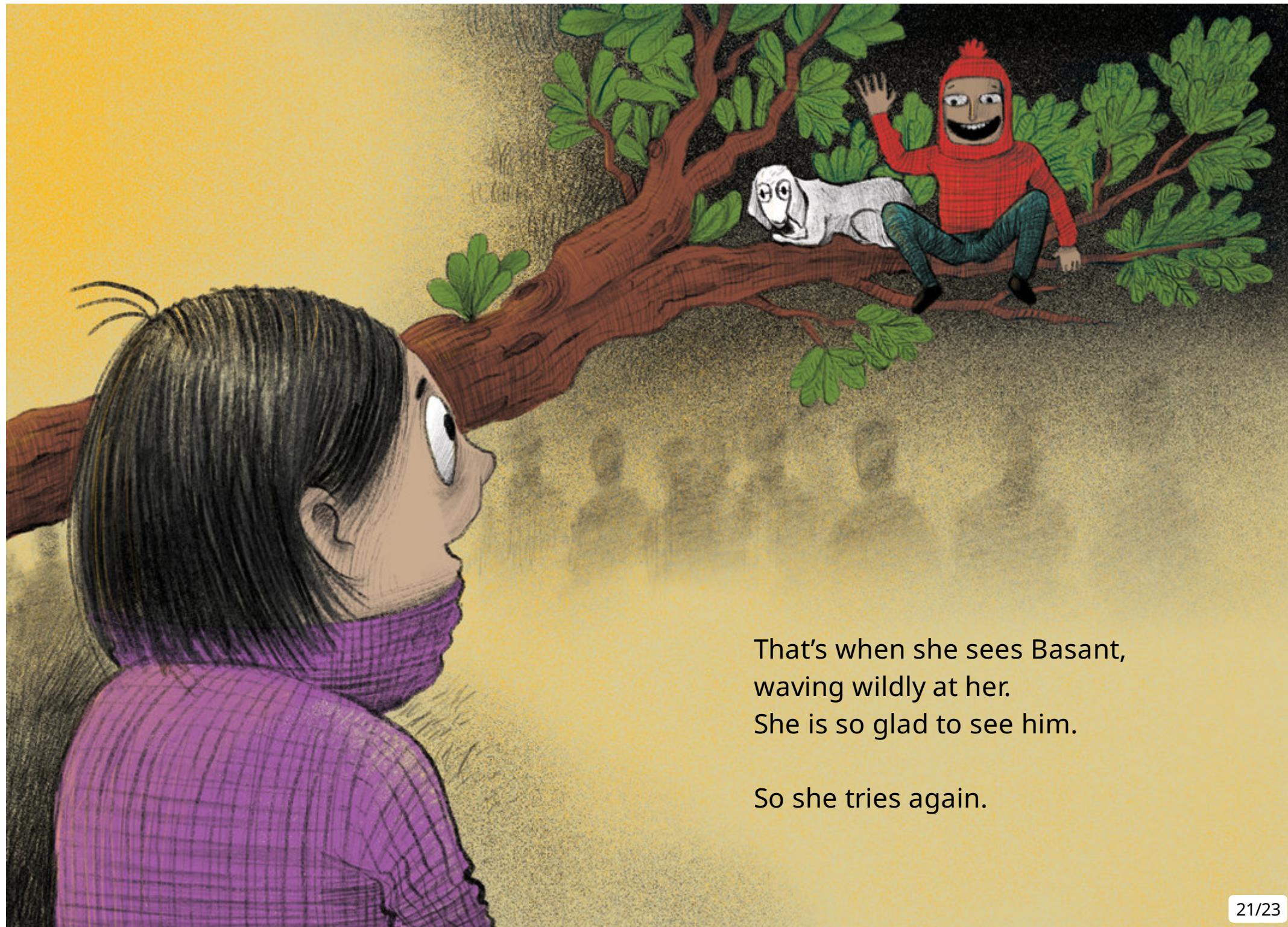
When she begins to sing,
out comes a whisper. It is
as if someone has
swallowed
her voice!



Champa takes a long and deep breath and tries again...



...and out comes a SQUEAK!
There is a loud gasp from the audience.
Champa's heart pounds loudly.
Thud! Thud! Thud!
Her head starts to spin.



That's when she sees Basant,
waving wildly at her.
She is so glad to see him.

So she tries again.

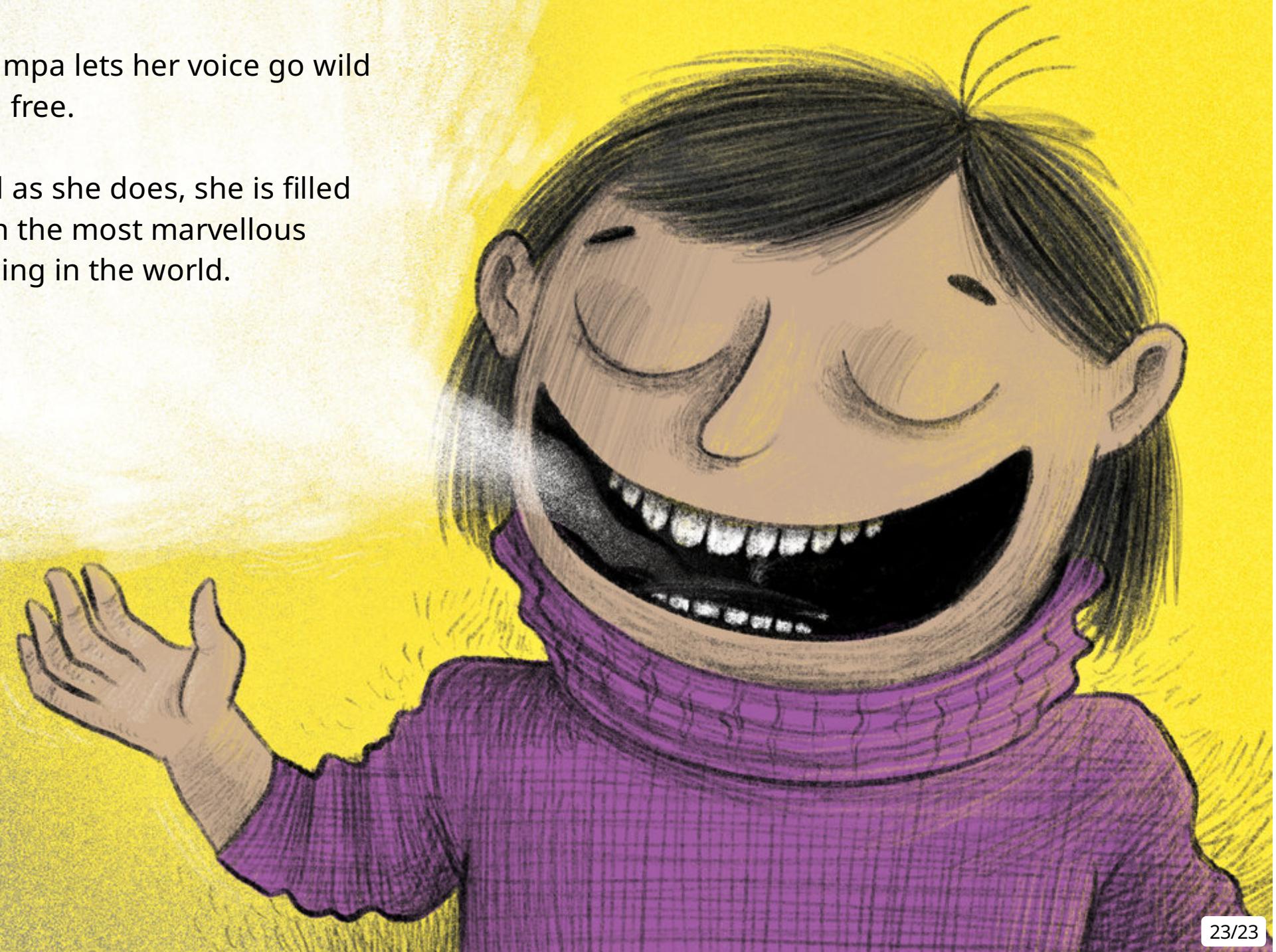
At first, the song comes softly.
Although her voice is shaky,
it sounds somewhat right.

Then slowly, the music flows out of her,
smooth and strong and melodic.

It does not matter
that the stage is too big.
Or that the lights are too bright.
Or even that the audience
has a LOT of people.

Champa lets her voice go wild
and free.

And as she does, she is filled
with the most marvellous
feeling in the world.



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: Stage Fright is written by [Yamini Vijayan](#). © Pratham Books , 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Other Credits:

'Stage Fright' has been published on StoryWeaver by Pratham Books. The development of this book has been supported by CISCO. [www.prathambooks.org](#)

Images Attributions:

Cover page: [Girl in spotlight](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 2: [A girl singing in winter](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 3: [Girl singing and dancing in rain with an umbrella](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 4: [A girl and a boy in conversation](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 5: [Umbrella flies away](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 6: [Boy with goat walking behind a girl](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 7: [Boy and girl relax in a grassy field](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 8: [A garden](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 9: [Butterflies in stomach](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 10: [Girl practising yoga](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 11: [Girl jumping on mathematical symbols](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. 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/>

 A Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative

The development of this book has been supported by CISCO.

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: [Girl carrying a goat on her shoulders](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 13: [Girl upside down](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 14: [Three people](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 15: [Girl singing in front of animals](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 16: [Rain in a field](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 17: [Girl shying away from bright spotlight](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 18: [Girl on stage in front of an audience](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 19: [Brown background](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 20: [Audience looking up at a child on stage](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 21: [Boy waving at a girl from above a tree](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 22: [Brown background](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 23: [Girl sings](#), by [Somesh Kumar](#) © Pratham Books, 2018. 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/>

 A Corporate Social
CISCO. Responsibility Initiative

The development of this book has been supported by CISCO.

Stage Fright (English)

Champa loves to sing. But she can't sing on stage. Will she be able to face the huge crowd on her school's Annual Day?

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!