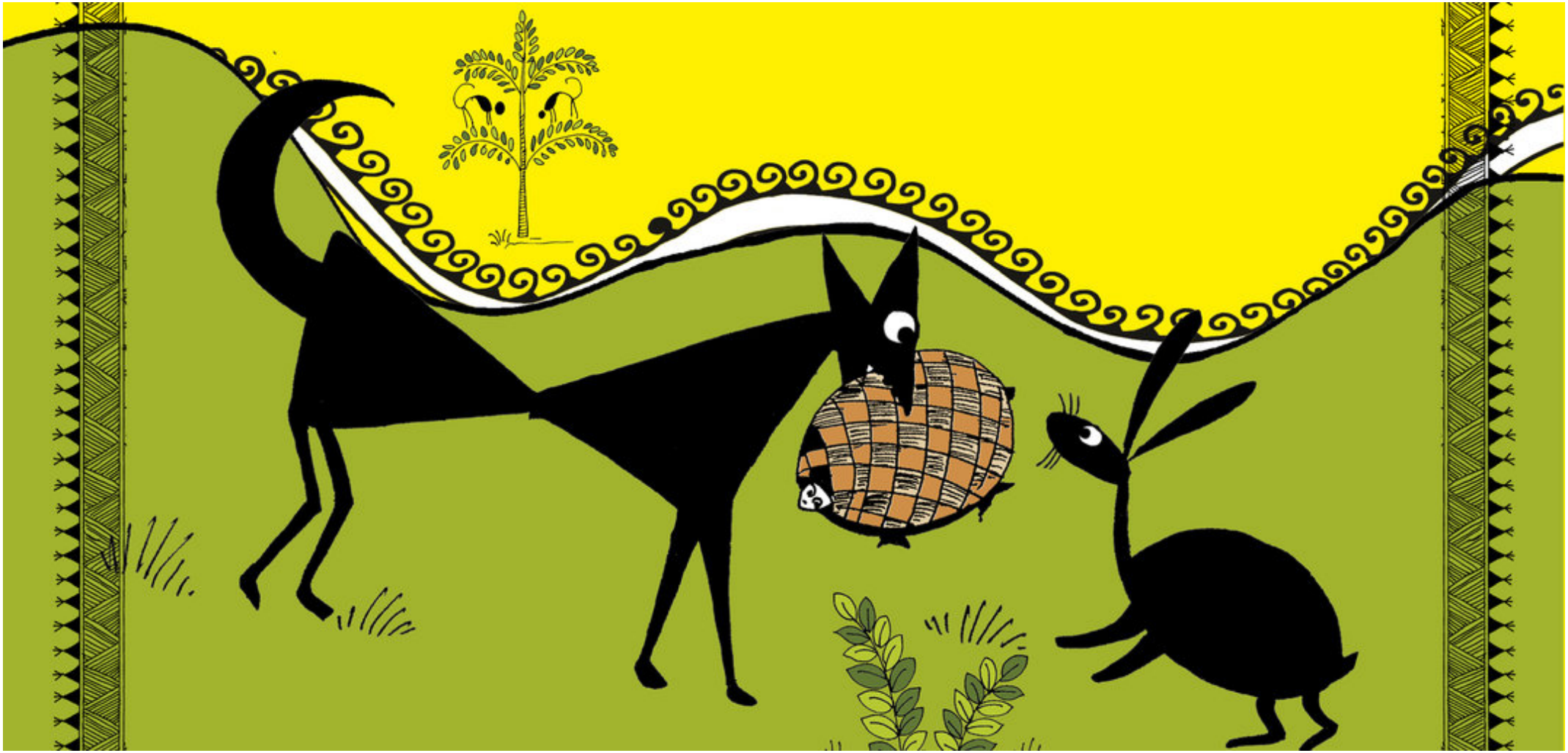


PRATHAM BOOKS
A Book in Every Child's Hand

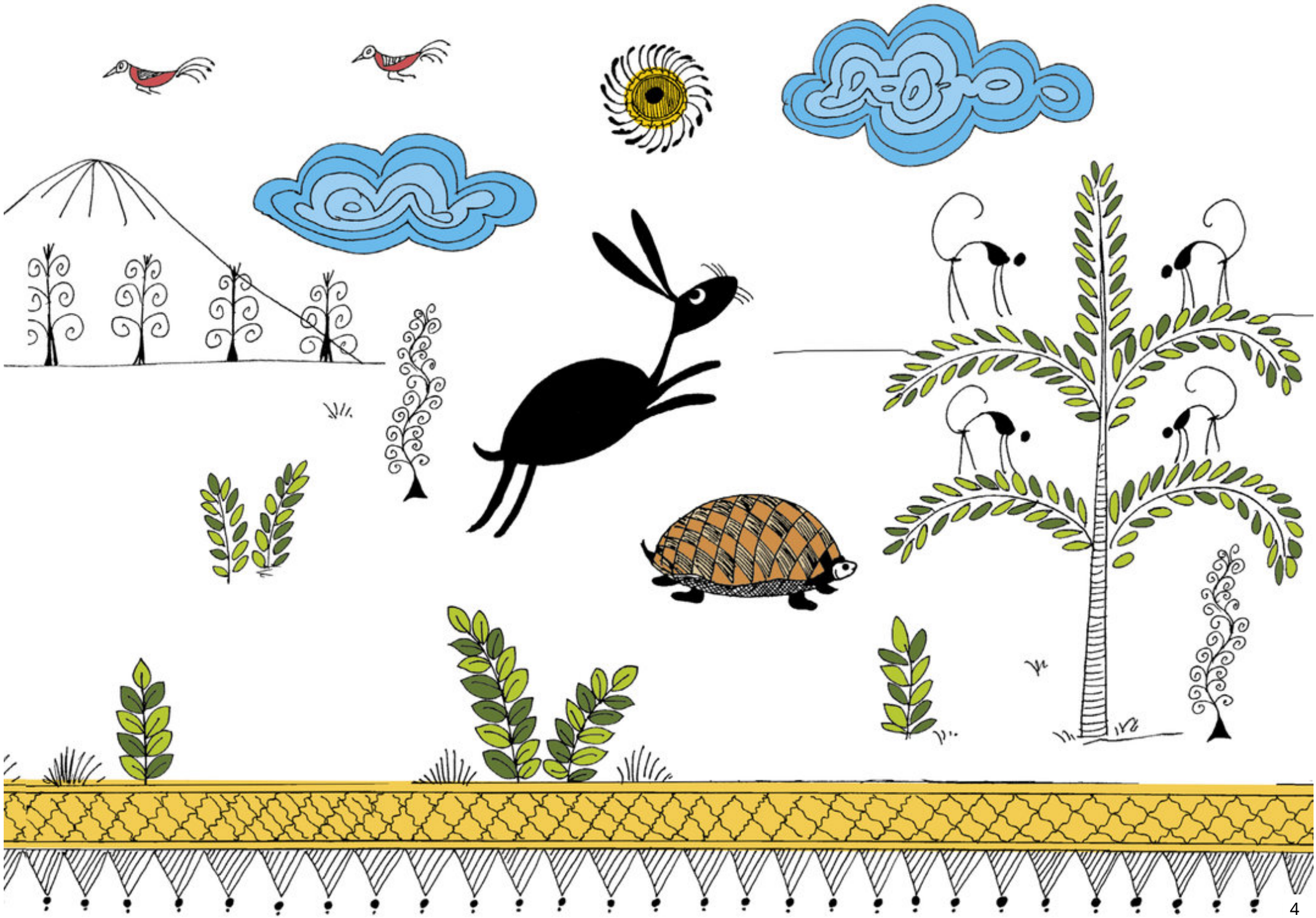
The Jackal’s Loss

Author: Saura Writers' Group
Illustrator: Pradip Kumar Sahoo
Translator: Amrit Mishra

Level 2

In the green and cool forest of Maranda, there were many streams. Some of them flowed into ponds where small animals came to drink water.

Others were big rushing rivers where you could even find crocodiles.

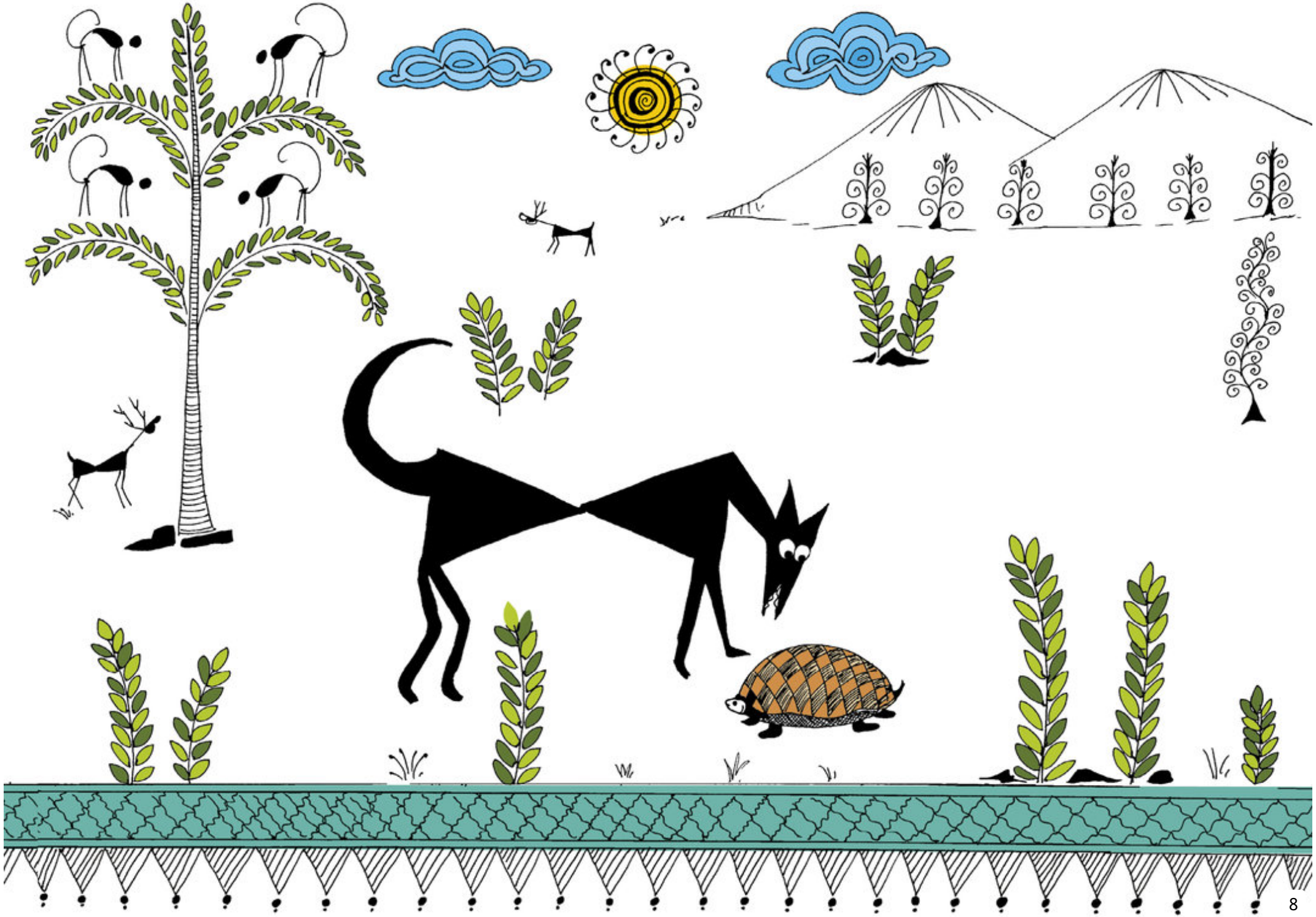


A hare and a tortoise lived near a small pond in Maranda forest. They were the best of friends.

One fine day they set out to the market.

Suddenly, there was a jackal with an evil grin blocking the road! Where did he come from?

Looking at his scary face, the hare said, “Run, run!” and ran away as fast as he could.



Things were happening too fast for the tortoise.
Before he could peer at the jackal he had been carried away in his mouth!

The tortoise had just enough time to put his head inside his shell.

The hare saw what had happened as he hid behind a tree. He knew he had to help his friend.

He walked up to the jackal, and asked, “Hello Jackal uncle, what have you got there?”

“I’ve got my food here,” the jackal replied.

“Oh, I see!” the hare said. “I had seen it long ago, but it was too hard for me to eat. I think you should leave it in the water for some time. When it grows soft, you will be able to eat it.”

The jackal liked the hare’s idea as the shell of the tortoise was very hard. He dropped the tortoise into the river.

The tortoise swam away to safety. The hare also ran away.

The clever hare had saved his friend from the jackal!

The Concept

India's diverse linguistic landscape has a rich seam of stories for children. Unfortunately, many tribal languages do not have literature for children in book form or books for reading pleasure. As increasing numbers of tribal children go to school, it is now more necessary than ever to create a body of children's literature in their languages. Literature that reflects their own world and opens up the world beyond because books are magical, powerful things that inform, amuse, educate and entertain in the most interactive way. Books make every child an independent and life-long seeker of knowledge in her own unique way. For education to be truly meaningful to every child, she must get good books to read in her own language.

The Project

Pratham Books and IgnusERG, with the support of Bernard van Leer Foundation have created the first ten books for children's reading pleasure in Munda, Kui, Saura and Juanga languages from Odisha. The stories were written and illustrated by authors and illustrators belonging to these tribes in a series of workshops. This series of books is called **Adikahani**. It is a significant first step towards giving a voice to cultures that do not find adequate representation in mainstream discourses.

The Partners

IgnusERG is a guild of resource persons working to support teachers and enhancing the quality of education, particularly in government schools. They focus their efforts on bringing equity in education and addressing the needs of marginalized children.
Bernard van Leer Foundation is an international grant-making foundation based in The Hague. Its mission is to improve opportunities for young children growing up in socially and economically difficult circumstances. It has a particular interest in supporting mother-tongue based education.

This story was written by the Saura Writers' Group consisting of Aben Sabar, Ajam Gamango, Isak Karji, Pradin Gamango and Srinibas Gamango. With a background in ECCE, they all interact with children regularly. It has been illustrated by Pradip Kumar Sahoo, using the Saura mural style as a base. The ancient Saura language has over 3 lakh speakers in Ganjam, Rayagada and Gajapati districts of Odisha. Saura wall murals have attracted the attention of art lovers across the country. The spellings of the language in Odia script are not definitive as many new sounds are being rendered in print for the first time.

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The Jackal’s Loss

(English)

A clever hare helps his friend, the tortoise. Read on to see how they tricked the jackal.

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.

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