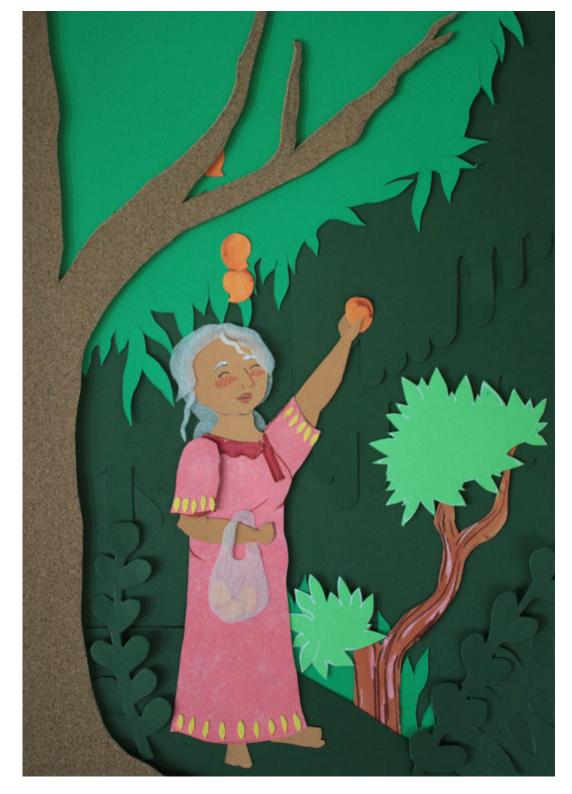




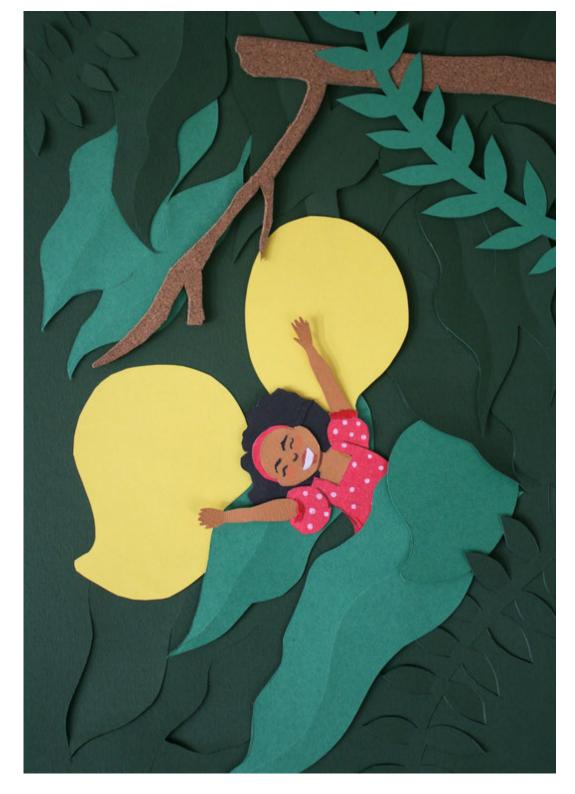
My Tree-Friend
Author: Shreekumar Varma

Illustrator: Rae Zachariah

Level 2



Mini's Ammoomma has three big fruit trees in her garden.

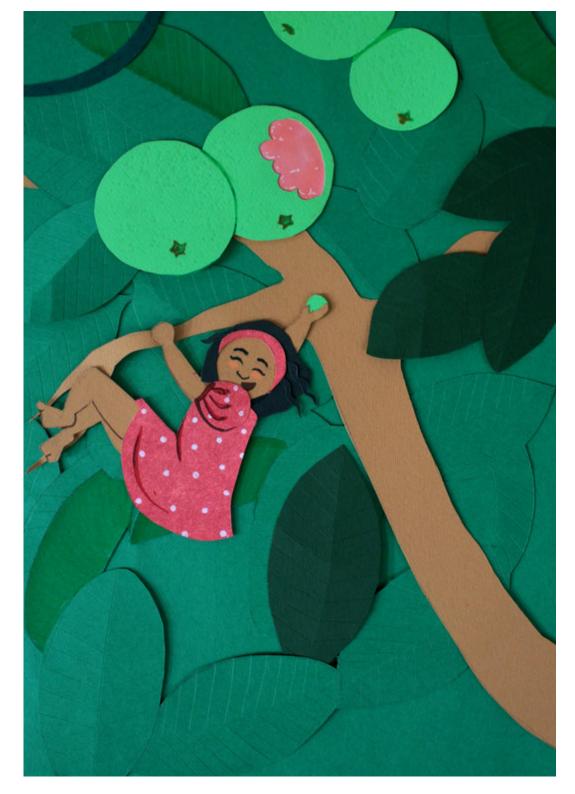


One tree has ripe yellow mangoes that are sweet and soft.



The second tree has brown tamarinds.

The tamarind has a hard shell. Inside the shell is a sour pulp. You can't help but make a face when you eat it.



The third is a guava tree.

The green fruit is sometimes hard and at other times soft. You cannot say if it is sweet or sour.



Ammoomma says, "These fruit trees are my dear friends. I planted them many years ago. I love them."

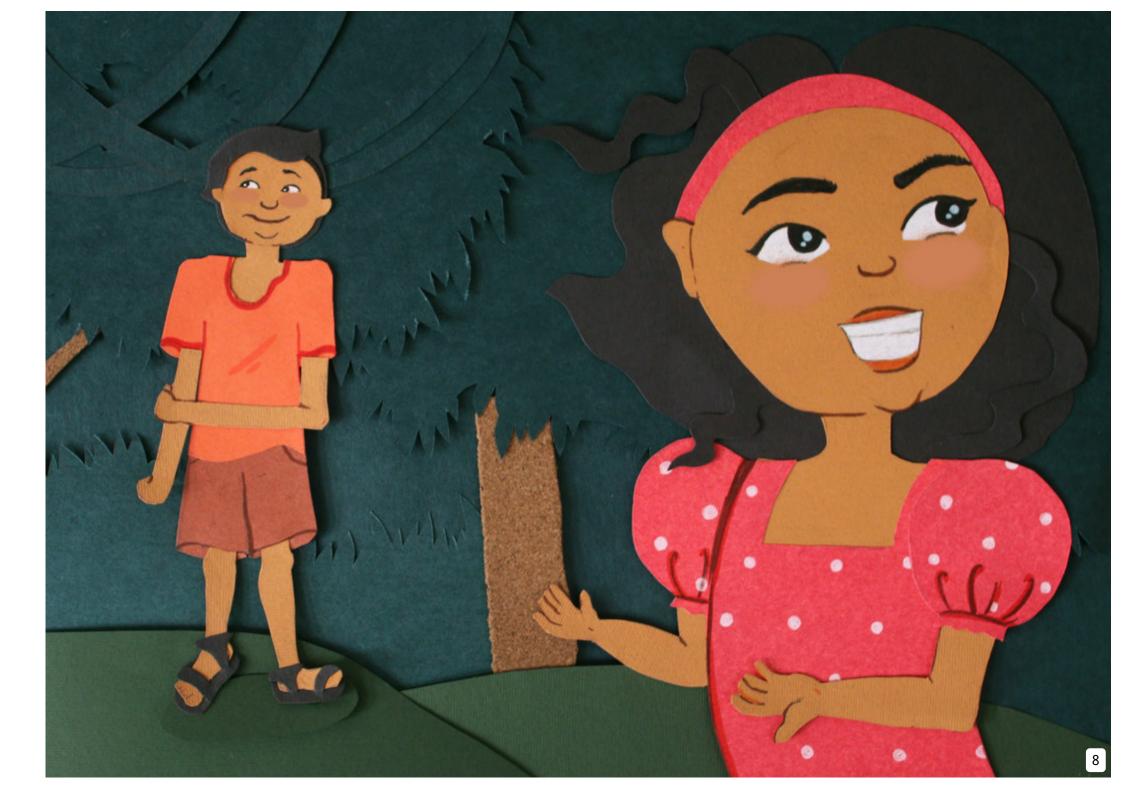
"I love them too!" Mini tells her.

The next day, Mini's friend Rakesh comes to play. She pushes Rakesh towards her grandmother. "Ammoomma, meet my tree!"

Ammoomma laughs. "Your friend is a tree? Does your friend-tree have fruits, too?"

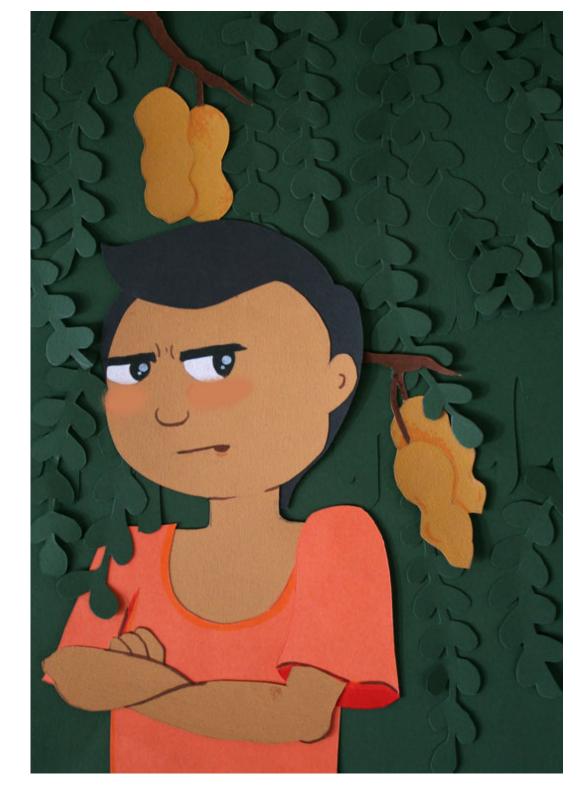
"He is a funny tree," Mini laughs. "He is a mango-tamarind-guava tree all at the same time."







Then Mini explains to Ammoomma. "Sometimes, he is soft and nice, like a mango. We play many games and he shares his football with me."



"How is he like a tamarind?" asks Ammoomma.

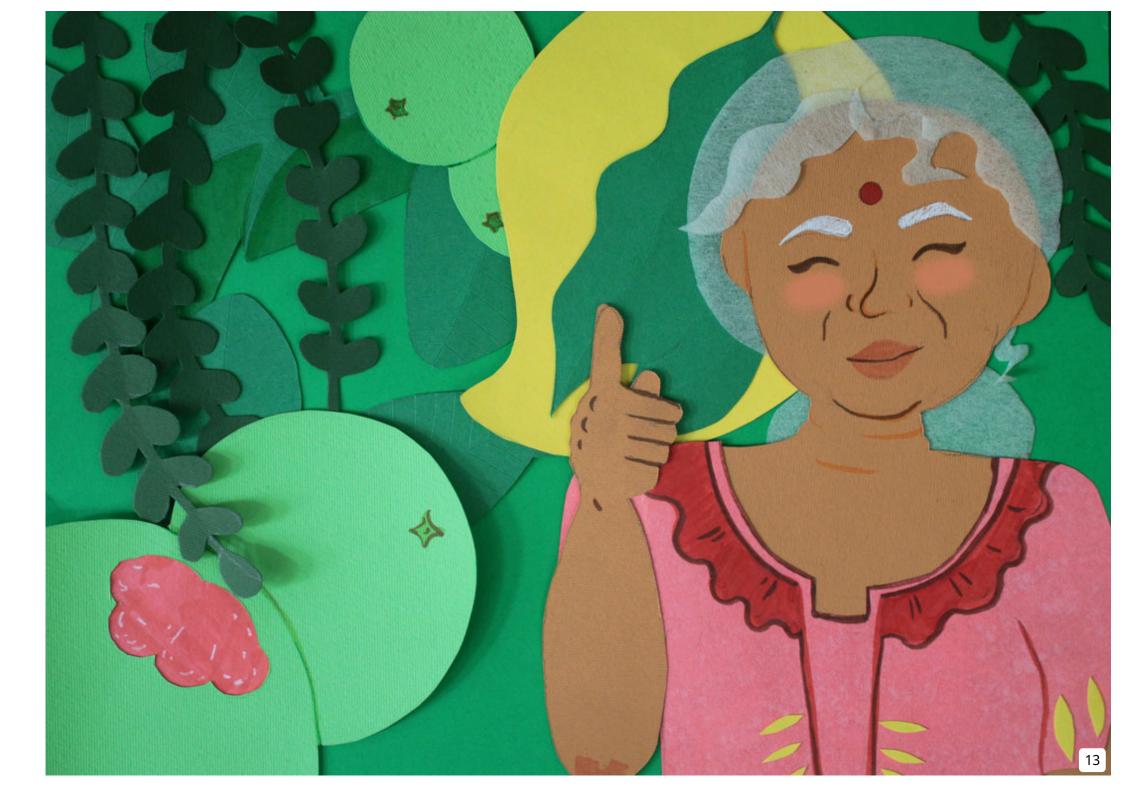
"Sometimes he gets angry and is sour like a tamarind. Then we fight and do not talk to each other all evening."

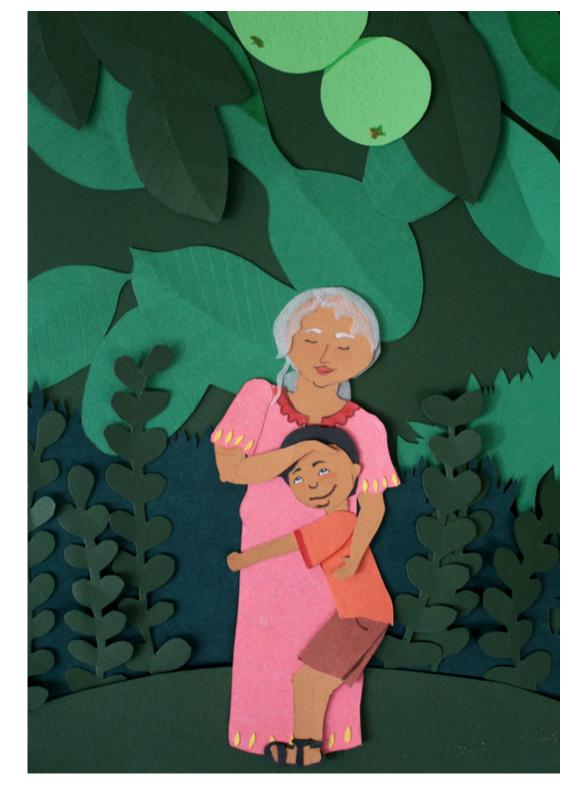


"Is he also like a guava?" Ammoomma asks.

"Oh yes! Sometimes, you cannot tell if he is sweet or sour! He is sweet to the smaller children. But sour and angry with the big boys who chase us away from the football field."







Ammoomma hugs Rakesh.
"I have never seen one tree with different fruits!" she says. "Will you become my friend too?"

Rakesh grins. "I will, Ammoomma!"



Mini claps her hands and jumps. "It is nice when your friends are like trees!"

"And when trees are your friends!" Ammoomma says.





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My Tree-Friend (English)

We all know trees are our friends. But can friends be trees too? Just like the fruits in Ammoomma's trees, friends can be sweet, sour, or both!

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



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