





If you ever see a girl  
blowing her nose into a  
dosa, don't be surprised.  
That's Uma.

She is what everyone  
calls a very, very nice girl.  
But even though she is a  
very, very nice girl, she  
has one bad habit.





She loves playing with her breakfast.  
Whenever Amma turns her back, she grabs her breakfast and makes it vanish in clever little ways.





That's how the dosa becomes a hanky!

She folds it into a neat, crisp triangle and pins it onto her uniform.





When it's vadas for breakfast, she slides them onto her fingers like rings and pretends to be a great queen wearing many precious vada-jewels.





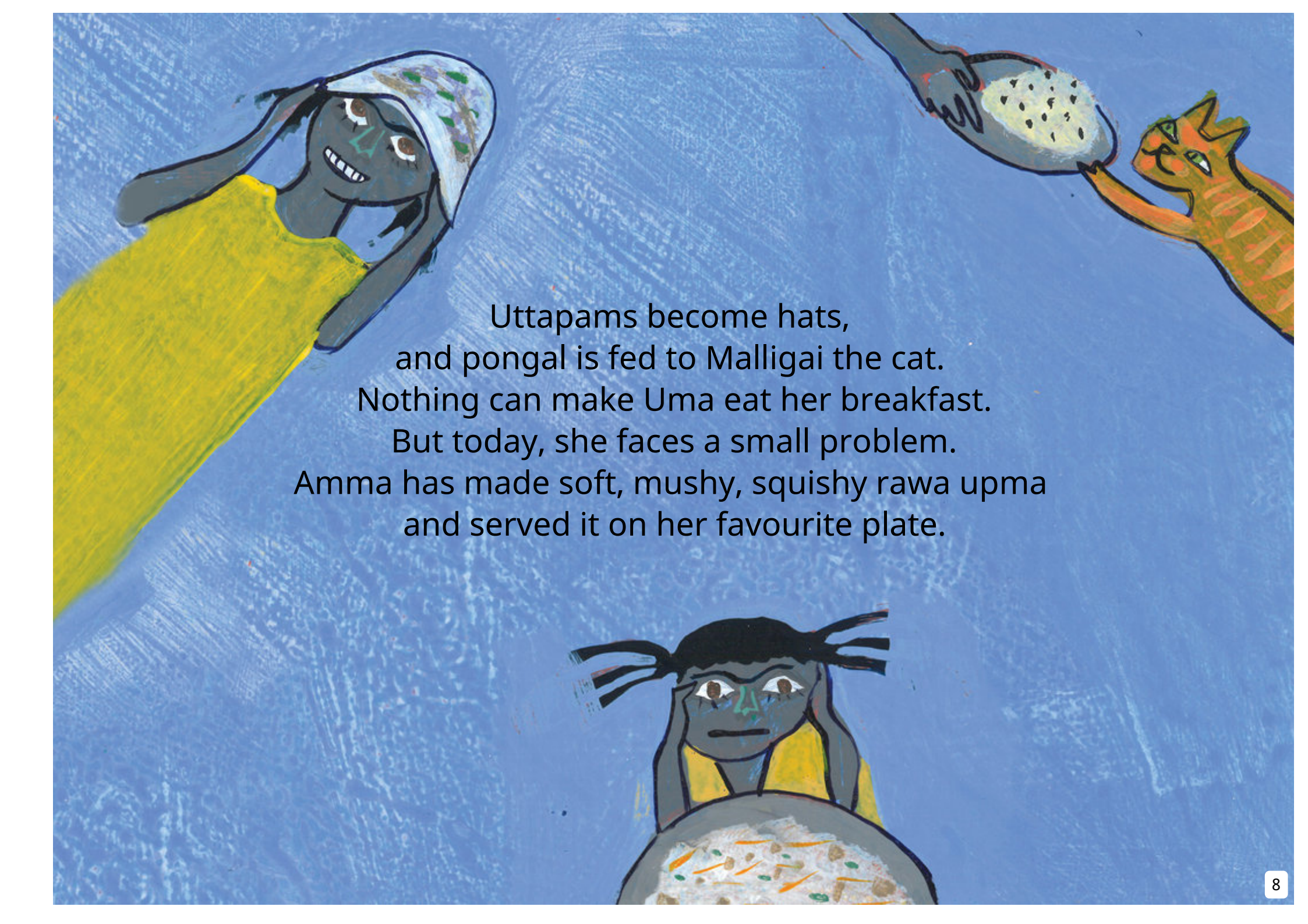
Bondas are her least favourite.  
So she stuffs them into the sides of her mouth and pretends she has chubby cheeks like that girl from Class 4-B.  
“Bye, Amma!”






Uma's Amma is a great cook and her idlis are famous in their colony. But Uma doesn't care much for Amma's cooking. Instead, she fills her pockets with those famous soft-soft idlis and uses them as cushions on the school bus.



An illustration on a blue textured background. In the top left, a woman with dark skin, wearing a yellow dress and a white headscarf with green and brown patterns, is smiling. In the top right, an orange cat is reaching up with its paw towards a spoon held by an unseen hand. The spoon contains a white, dotted substance. In the bottom center, a young girl with dark skin and pigtails, wearing a yellow shirt, is looking down at a bowl of food. The food is white with orange and green specks. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

Uttapams become hats,  
and pongal is fed to Malligai the cat.  
Nothing can make Uma eat her breakfast.  
But today, she faces a small problem.  
Amma has made soft, mushy, squishy rawa upma  
and served it on her favourite plate.





But what can Uma do with this upma?

She can't pin it to her uniform.

It wouldn't stay.

She can't wear it as rings.

It wouldn't fit.

She can't stuff it into her cheeks.

It would melt.

She can't use it as a cushion.

It would be a useless one!

She can't wear it as a hat.

It would fall off!

And she can't feed it to Malligai the cat  
because everyone knows  
that cats hate upma!







Uma wonders what to do with the upma.  
As she thinks and blinks and twirls her curls, she puts a spoon of upma in her mouth by mistake.  
Oooh! What was that she just bit into? A salty, roasted cashew filled with ghee!  
Yum!





Uma takes another bite  
hoping to find more  
cashews.  
But she bites into  
something crunchy, fresh  
and juicy instead.  
Carrots! Mmm!





She takes another bite,  
wondering what she  
would find this time.  
Owwwwiee! What is this  
strong and spicy little  
piece?  
Ah... ginger!





Curious, Uma can't stop now.

But oooh, aaah, ouch!  
She just bit into a green chilli and her mouth is burning!

Uma gobbles up all the upma to put out the fire in her mouth.





The fire is finally out.  
And her plate is empty!





"Uma! Where did the breakfast vanish to this time?" asks Amma.

**"Into my tummy,"** says Uma.



Uma no longer plays with her breakfast. She has become a very, very, very nice girl. Everyone's happy with her these days.

Everyone except Malligai the cat! Pssst... so if you find her somewhere, feed her some pongal, okay?







### Story Attribution:

This story: Uma Versus Upma is written by [Meera Ganapathi](#) . © Pratham Books , 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

### Other Credits:

'Uma Versus Upma' has been published on StoryWeaver by Pratham Books. [www.prathambooks.org](http://www.prathambooks.org) Guest Editor: Yamini Vijayan; Guest Art Director: Somesh Kumar

### Illustration Attributions:

Cover page: [An Orange Cat looking at a plate of upma](#) by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 2: [A young Girl blowing her nose into a dosa](#), by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 3: [A young Girl hiding dosa in different places](#), by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 4: [A young Girl weaing dosa as a hanky](#), by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 5: [A young Girl wearing vada crown and rings](#), by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 6: [A young Girl walking towards her school bus with stffed mouth](#), by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 7: [Children on a school bus](#), by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 8: [A young Girl wearing uttapam hat, feeding cat](#), by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 9: [A young Girl figuring what to do with upma](#), by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 10: [A cat watching girl eat upma on the table](#) by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 11: [A young Girl tasting upma](#), by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: [https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms\\_and\\_conditions](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/>



### Illustration Attributions:

Page 12: [A young Girl eating upma with a spoon](#) by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 13: [A young Girl eating chillies and all spices](#), by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 14: [A young Girl licking the plat and her fingers](#), by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 15: [A young Girl lying down on a chair talking to her mother](#), by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 16: [Girl blowing her nose into a dosa](#), by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 17: [An Orange Cat looking at the girl on the terrace](#) by [Renuka Rajiv](#) © Pratham Books, 2017. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: [https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms\\_and\\_conditions](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/>



# Uma Versus Upma

(English)

Uma never eats her breakfast. Instead, she just plays with it. Can anything be done to stop her from playing with her food?

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



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!