

LEVELED BOOK • K

The Drum



**Multi
level
H•K•N**

An Indian Folktale
Retold by Katherine Follett
Illustrated by Teresa Martinez

www.readinga-z.com

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Focus Question

What lesson does this story teach about kindness?

Words to Know	
deeds	miserable
disappointed	musicians
goods	roti

The Drum
 Level K Leveled Book
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Correlation	
LEVEL K	
Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18



Once there was a poor boy who lived with his mother in India.

One day, Mother asked the boy, “Would you like something from the market?”

“More than anything else, I want a drum!” the boy said.



Mother sold some grain at the market, but there was still not enough money for a drum.

Instead, Mother gave the boy a sturdy stick she had found.

The boy decided not to be **disappointed**. “Thank you,” he said. He tapped, slapped, and banged on everything with his new stick.





As he went tapping along, he saw his neighbor struggling to light her stove.

“Use my stick to heat your stove,” he said.

The woman thanked the boy. When the stove got hot, she baked him a soft **roti**.

The boy was about to eat his roti when he heard a hungry baby crying. The baby's mother had no food.





“You need this roti more than I do,”
the boy said.

The woman fed the bread to her
baby. “Take this as thanks,” she said,
handing the boy a large metal jug.

What a gift! The boy tapped, slapped, and banged the jug as if it were a drum.

He almost didn't hear the old man groaning from a nearby ditch.





“Water!” the man cried. The boy ran to the well and filled his jug.

The man drank. “I am a trader, but robbers stole my **goods**,” the man said. Two frightened horses stood by the trees. The boy held out the jug for them. They drank and became calm.

“You can have my jug to trade,” the boy offered.

“For your kindness, take one of my horses,” said the trader.

“What a rich gift!” the boy said. He climbed on the horse and rode down the street.





He passed a group of men sitting under a fig tree. They looked **miserable**. “What’s the matter?” asked the boy.

One young man said, “I’m going to my wedding, where this band will play. But if I show up on foot, my bride will laugh at me.”

The boy hopped off the horse and handed him the reins. “You need this horse more than I do!” he said.

The **musicians** leaped up and sang.

“Thank you for being so kind,” said one of the musicians. He handed the boy a beautiful drum.



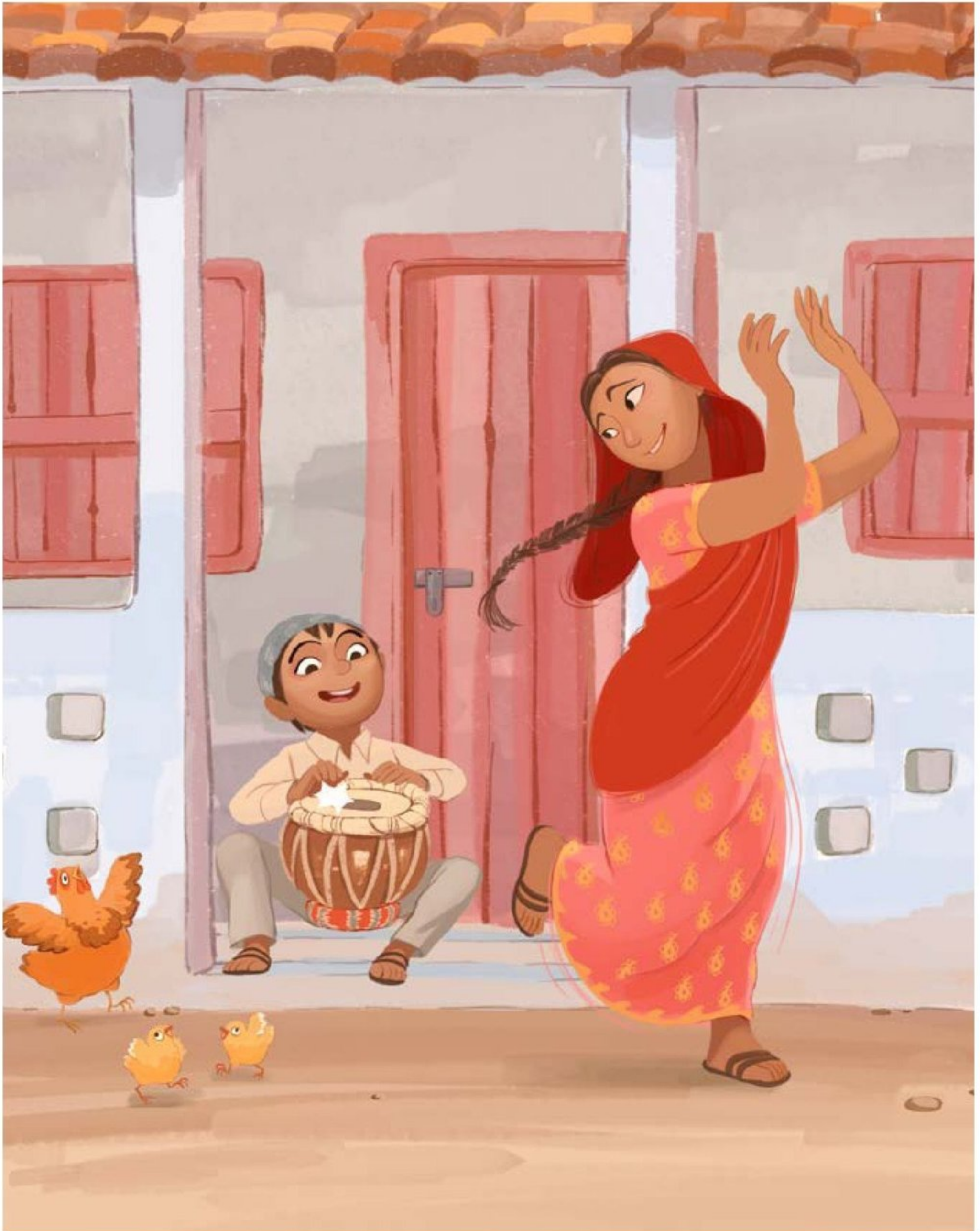


The boy shouted with joy. He tapped, slapped, and banged his new drum.

When he got home, the boy told his mother the whole story.

“When you are kind, your good deeds come back to you,” Mother said.

It was a lesson the boy never forgot.



Glossary

deeds (<i>n.</i>)	actions done on purpose, often ones that are kind, noble, or brave (p. 15)
disappointed (<i>adj.</i>)	sad or let down because one's wishes or hopes were not met (p. 5)
goods (<i>n.</i>)	things that can be bought and sold to meet people's wants and needs (p. 10)
miserable (<i>adj.</i>)	very unhappy, uncomfortable, or unpleasant (p. 12)
musicians (<i>n.</i>)	people who make music (p. 13)
roti (<i>n.</i>)	a type of flat, round bread originally from India (p. 7)

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A Reading A-Z Level K Leveled Book

Word Count: 433

Connections

Writing and Art

What is something kind you can do for someone else?

Draw a picture and write about it.

Social Studies

Discuss with your class where India is located and how its location compares to where you live.



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