

1001

Our storytelling program, 1001 Stories, brings meaningful learning to some of the hardest to reach populations around the world. We aim to facilitate the creation, development, and gathering of 1001 empowering stories from every participating local community.

Children love to tell stories. However, in many places in the world, their creative voices are rarely heard or cultivated. The 1001 Stories Program conducts storytelling workshops that build on children's natural potential to become original storytellers. Through the 1001 Stories Program, children are empowered while their literacy skills are developed.

When integrated with technologies, these stories become an effective tool for literacy by growing reading and writing skills grounded in local languages and local themes in underserved areas worldwide.



India

Our Author



AJEETA SARASWATI

She participated in the story competition
when she was 12 years old.
She likes to become a policewoman when
she grows up to uphold justice in her
community



1001 Stories Presents

THE INDIAN GIRL HELPING FATHER

Story By:
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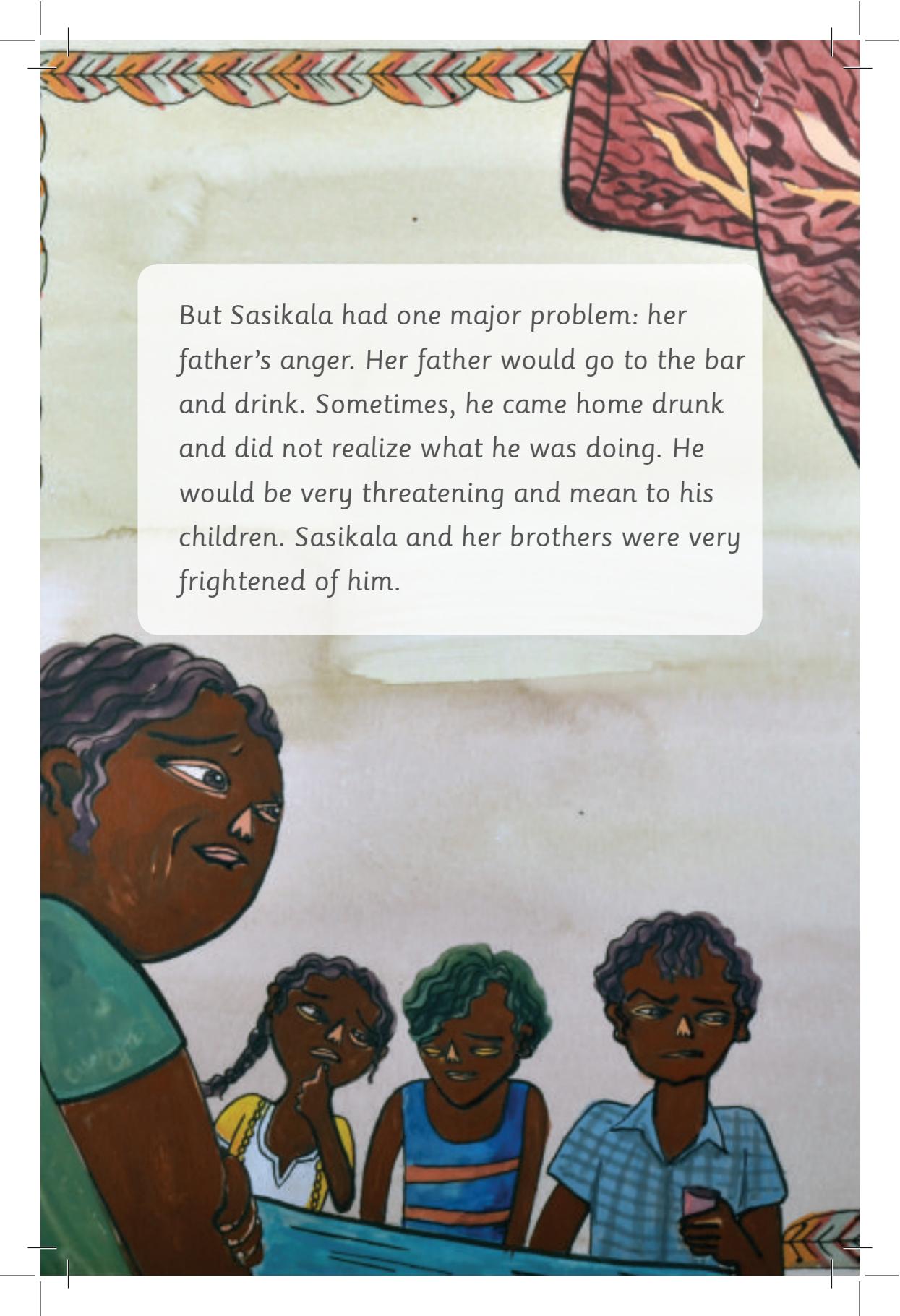
Once, in a village in India called Chandra Babu Nagar, there lived a girl named Sasikala. She lived with her parents and two older brothers. They were very poor. They had difficulty finding money and had to work really hard.



Sasikala's family lived right next to a cheese making farm. Sasikala's mother had a friend who worked there and she gave Sasikala's family the crumbs that were left over from making the cheese. The family appreciated this very much because they all enjoyed the cheese from the dairy farm even the cheese that was a little old. Sasikala's father loved the cheese the most.







But Sasikala had one major problem: her father's anger. Her father would go to the bar and drink. Sometimes, he came home drunk and did not realize what he was doing. He would be very threatening and mean to his children. Sasikala and her brothers were very frightened of him.







At night, Sasikala's father would ask for more beers. Sasikala rushed to get the drinks before her father beat Sasikala's mother. Sasikala's father always yelled at his wife for no reason.





INTERNET
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Sasikala and her brothers always watched him in silence, too afraid to even whisper. Their mother would have to go to a friend's house to escape from their father.

Sasikala's father wasn't angry all the time. He would switch back and forth between being angry and calm for no apparent reason.



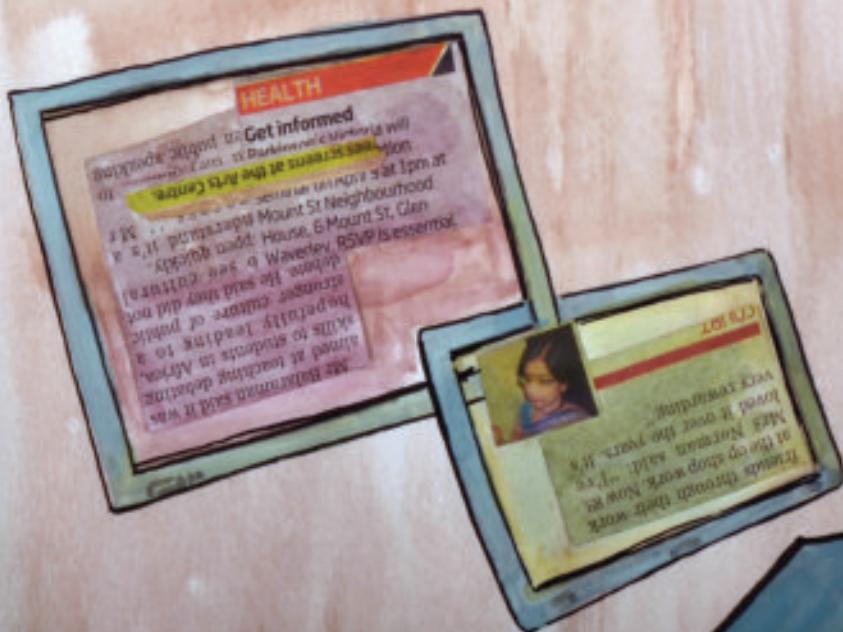
Sasikala and her brothers began to investigate the causes of their father's angry moods. After school, they walked barefoot all the way to a big internet café in the town of Kuduru. They didn't know how to use computers. They didn't even know



any English, but they desperately wanted to help their father. They used a dictionary to translate websites. They read lots of medical articles and searched and searched to find the cause of their father's symptoms.

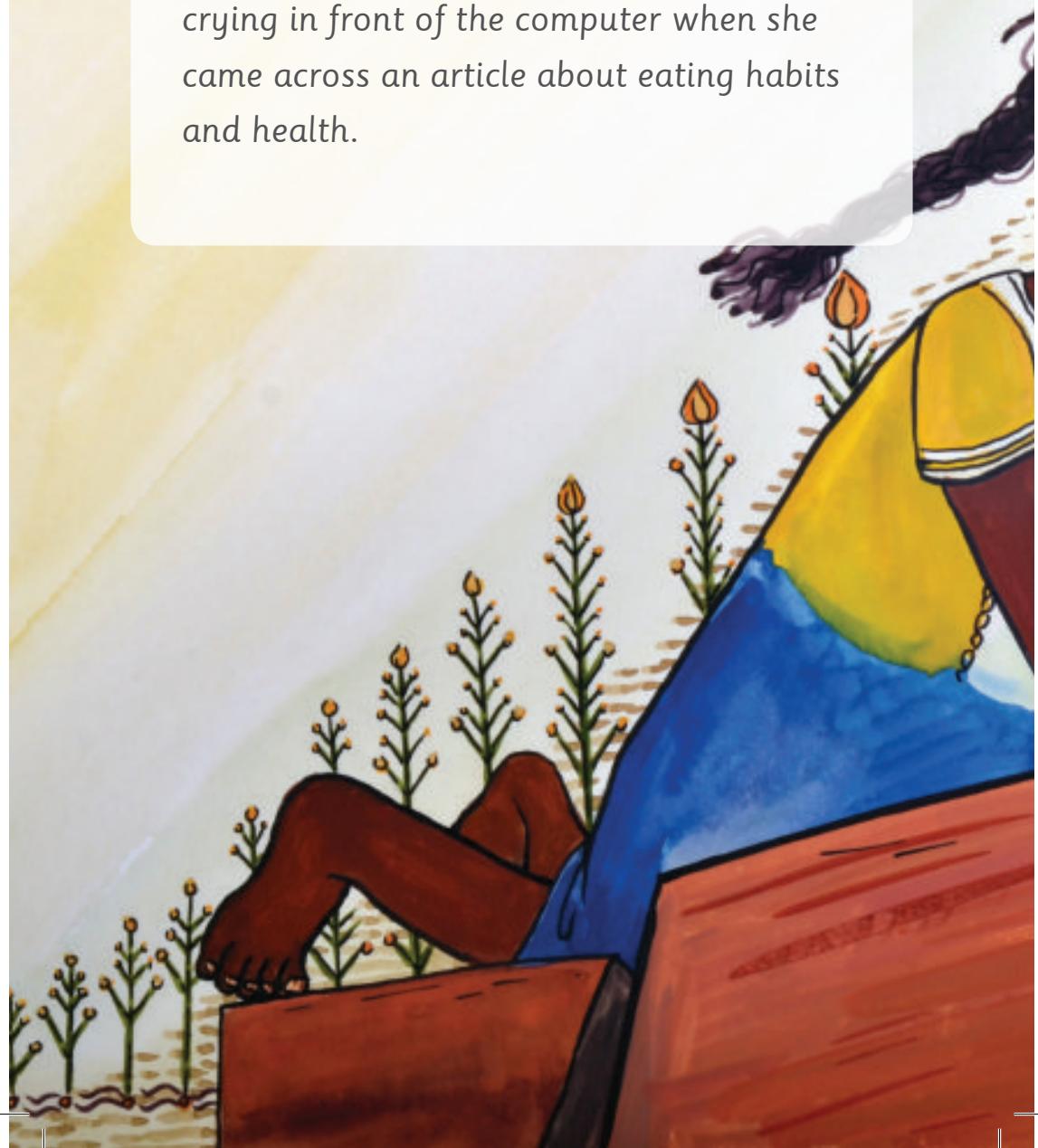


After spending an entire month reading and searching both day and night, they still didn't have an answer for their father's behavior. Sasikala's brothers lost hope and stopped searching. They told Sasikala, "It's just the way father is, and we have to accept it and live with it until we die." But Sasikala, after reading and learning all those new things, still believed that her father's mood swings were because of a health issue.





Sasikala was sitting at the internet café one day and feeling very sad because she still hadn't found out what was causing her father's symptoms. She was about to start crying in front of the computer when she came across an article about eating habits and health.







She started to read. The author recommended recording what a patient eats and how it affects their mood. Sasikala went back home with lots of hope. She monitored and jotted down everything her father ate. She took notes for two weeks and matched her notes to the times when her father was angry. Finally, she figured it out! She realized that whenever her father eats cheese he becomes angry and mad, then gets drunk and beats his family.



t was a rainy afternoon, but Sasikala was so excited about her findings that she ran all the way to the internet café in the rain. She wanted to see if eating cheese and mood swings were indeed related. She got there a few minutes before it closed. Sasikala looked on a medical website to find the name of the sickness. She found it!



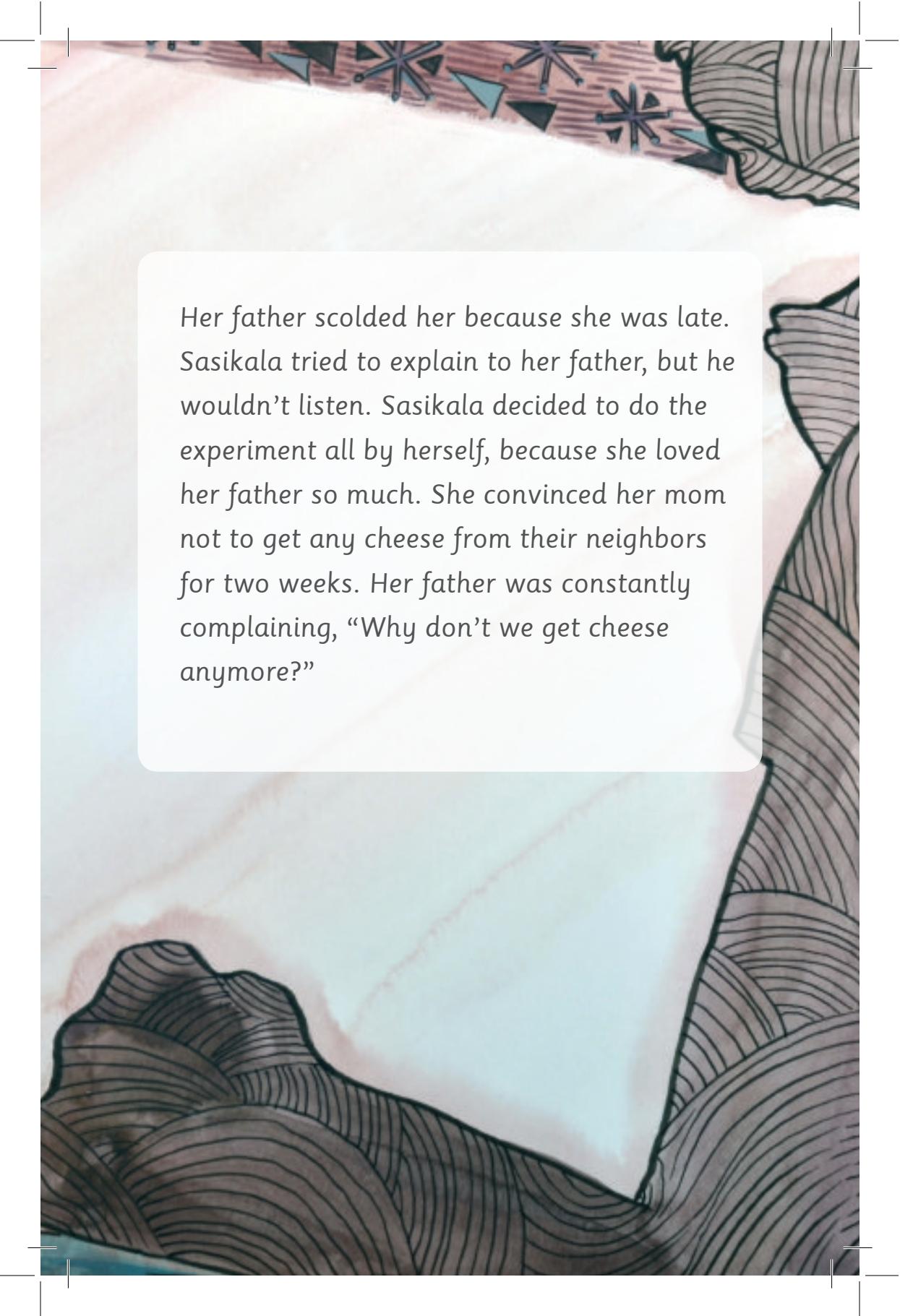




She discovered that headaches and anger could be caused by Tyramine, a compound often found in old cheese. Sasikala was so happy that she ran all the way back home. When she got home it was late. She was shaking from the cold but deep inside she felt warm because of her great discovery.







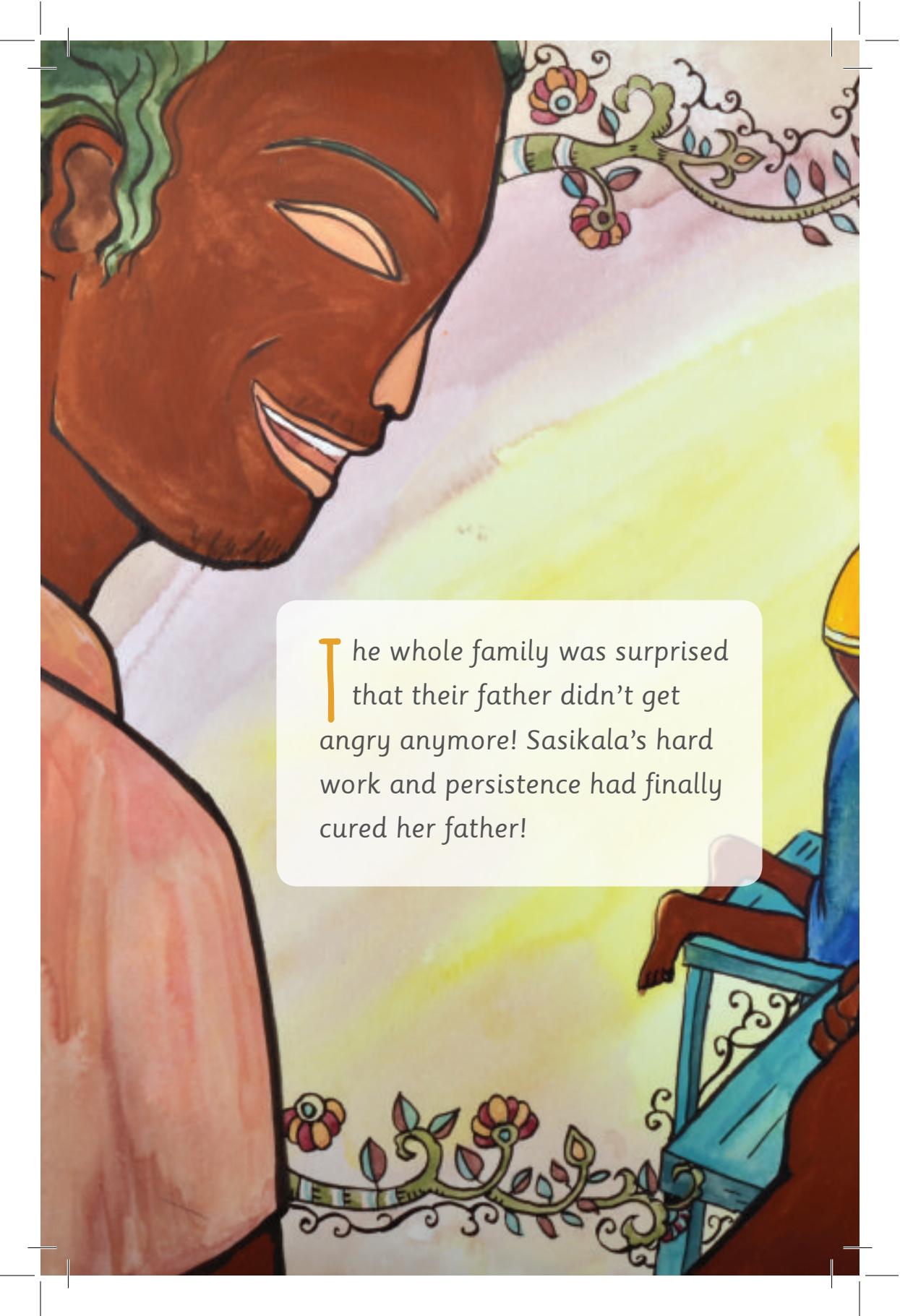
Her father scolded her because she was late. Sasikala tried to explain to her father, but he wouldn't listen. Sasikala decided to do the experiment all by herself, because she loved her father so much. She convinced her mom not to get any cheese from their neighbors for two weeks. Her father was constantly complaining, "Why don't we get cheese anymore?"





Finally, Sasikala explained to her father what she was trying to do and he agreed to participate. After spending two weeks without eating any cheese or drinking old milk, Sasikala's father did not have any Tyramine left in his body.





The whole family was surprised that their father didn't get angry anymore! Sasikala's hard work and persistence had finally cured her father!





The family was very proud of Sasikala's work and they told their neighbors the story of how she had cured her father. Sasikala wrote about her experiment and submitted the report to the free clinic director, Dr. Thumo. Dr. Thumo gave Sasikala an "Excellent Scientist" award and sponsored Sasikala's education with the help of his friend Kakama.









Sasikala was encouraged by Dr. Thumo, and decided to go to medical school and become a doctor so she could cure more people and serve poor people around the world.

