



I Spy a Lake!

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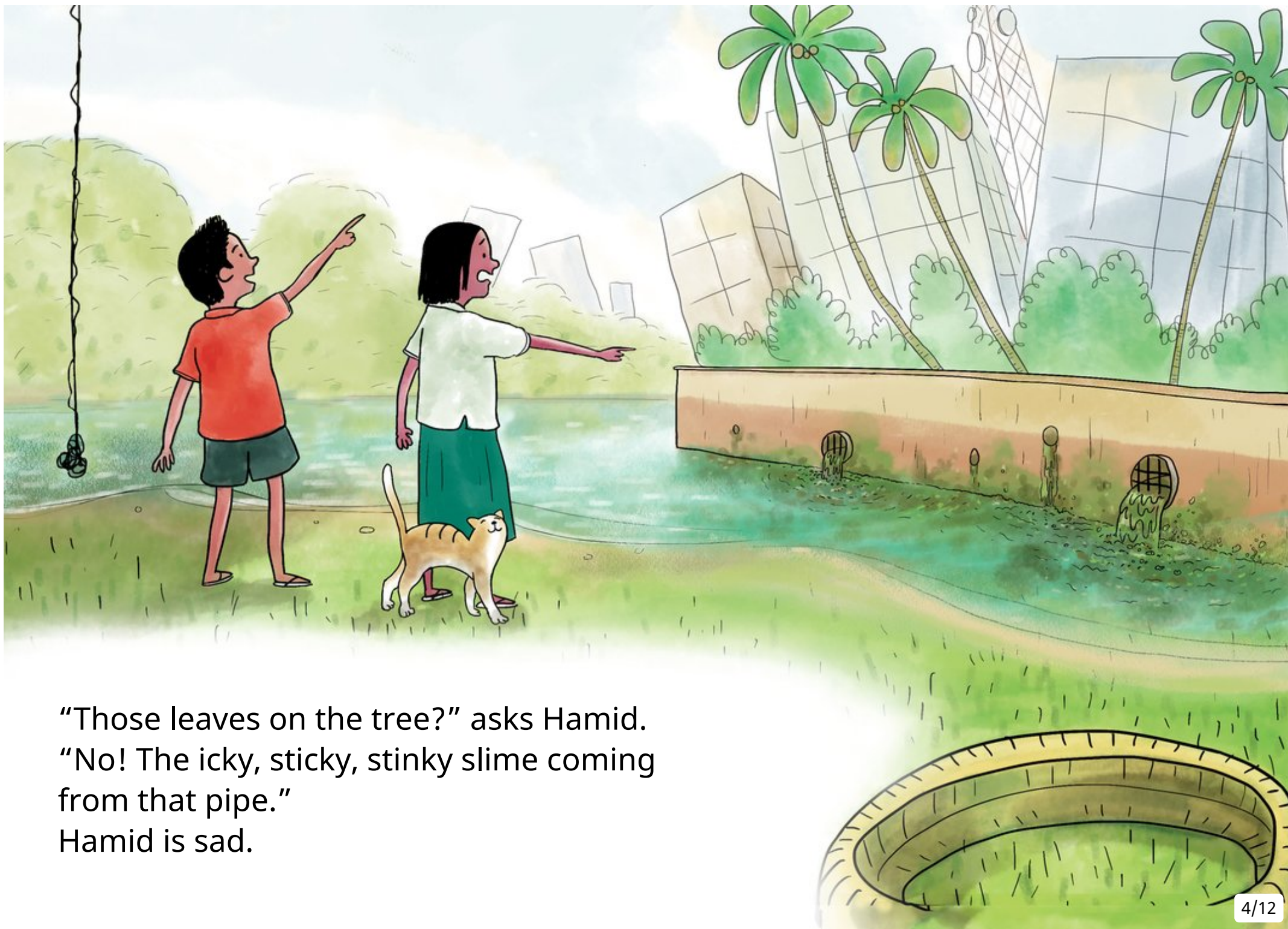


Manju and Hamid are best friends.
They like to have bhajji-eating contests, hang upside down from trees
and play games. Today, they are playing I Spy by the lake.

“Me first!” says Manju.
Manju always has to be
first. Hamid doesn’t
mind though.

“I spy something
green.”





"Those leaves on the tree?" asks Hamid.
"No! The icky, sticky, stinky slime coming
from that pipe."
Hamid is sad.

"I spy something shiny!"
says Hamid.

"Those plastic bottles over
there?" guesses Manju.

"No! These little pebbles
near your feet."

Hamid is sadder.



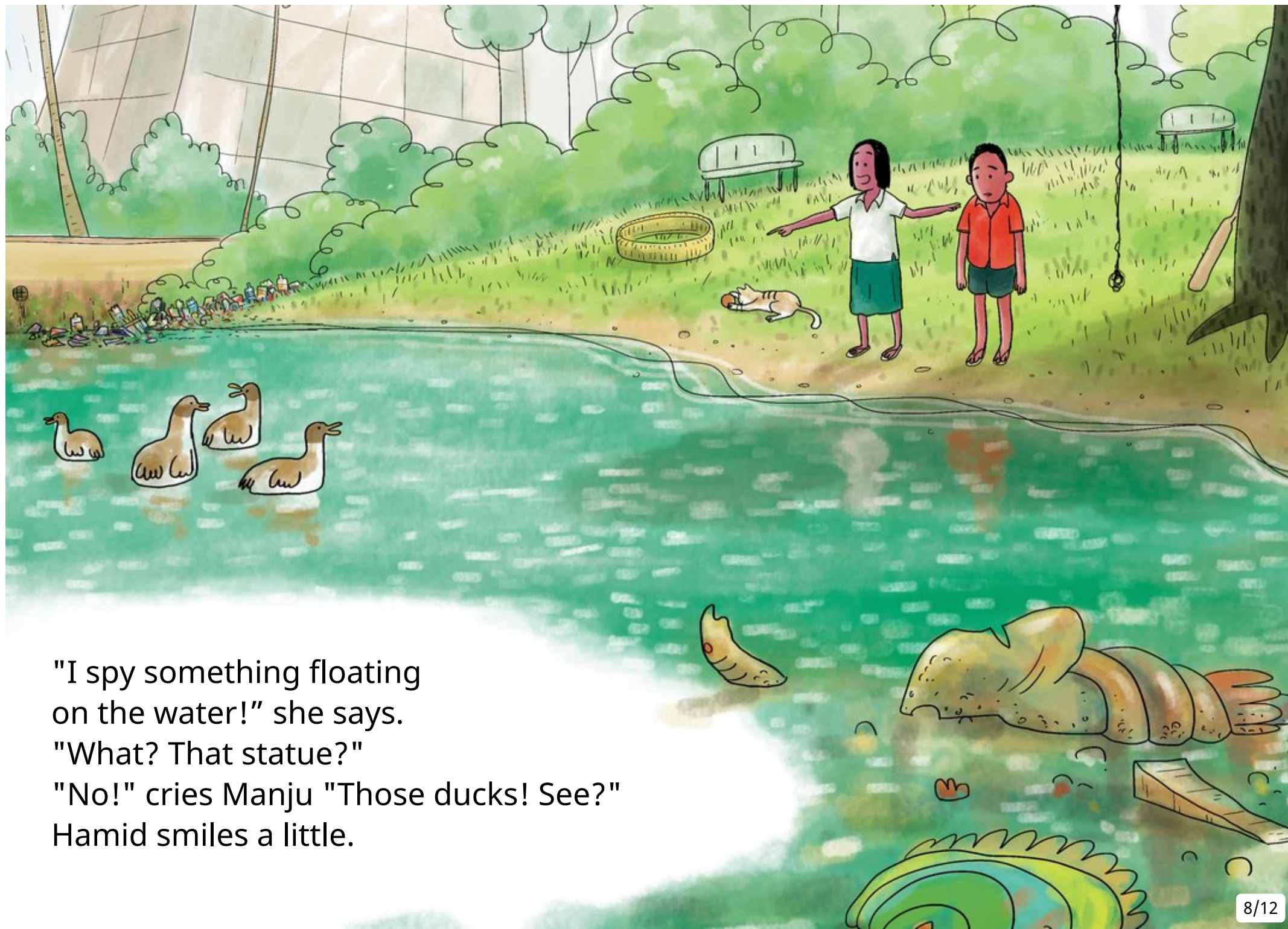
"I spy something white!" says Manju.
"Those birds in the sky?" asks Hamid,
hopefully.

"No! The yucky foam on the water.
It's making my eyes itch."
Hamid is even sadder.





"There are only icky, itchy, sticky, stinky yucky things near our lake."
cries Hamid. "All the lovely things are gone."
Now Manju is sad.



"I spy something floating
on the water!" she says.

"What? That statue?"

"No!" cries Manju "Those ducks! See?"

Hamid smiles a little.

"Those herons you saw
went away when they
cut down the trees.



But when our school planted
new ones they came back."
Hamid smiles some more.



"And remember how your Ammi and my Ma
got those men to stop burning trash?
It's easier to breathe now, no?"
Hamid nods.

Hamid's smile disappears when he sees someone dumping trash by the side of the lake.





"I spy more things that need fixing.
Let's go!" says Hamid.

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Page 12: [A boy holding a bat looking sad, a girl holding a ball and running, a cat looking at the girl running ahead](#) by [Balaram J](#) © Pratham Books, 2020. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

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I Spy a Lake!

(English)

Manju and Hamid are playing a game of I Spy by the lake. But why is the game making Hamid sad? And what can they do about it? A story about pollution and the declining state of water bodies.

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



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