



# Junuka and the Rice Rakshasas

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Level 3

Junuka is visiting her Anaideo\*'s village during the holidays.  
She has decided to grow some rice for her school project.

"Be careful of the rice rakshasas," says Anaideo.  
Everyone in the village is afraid of the rice rakshasas.

But Junuka is not afraid.



\*'Anaideo' means grandmother  
in Assamese.

Junuka must plough the field before she sows the rice seeds.  
"This will take all day. I wish I had some help," she thinks.

Suddenly, she hears something creeping towards her...

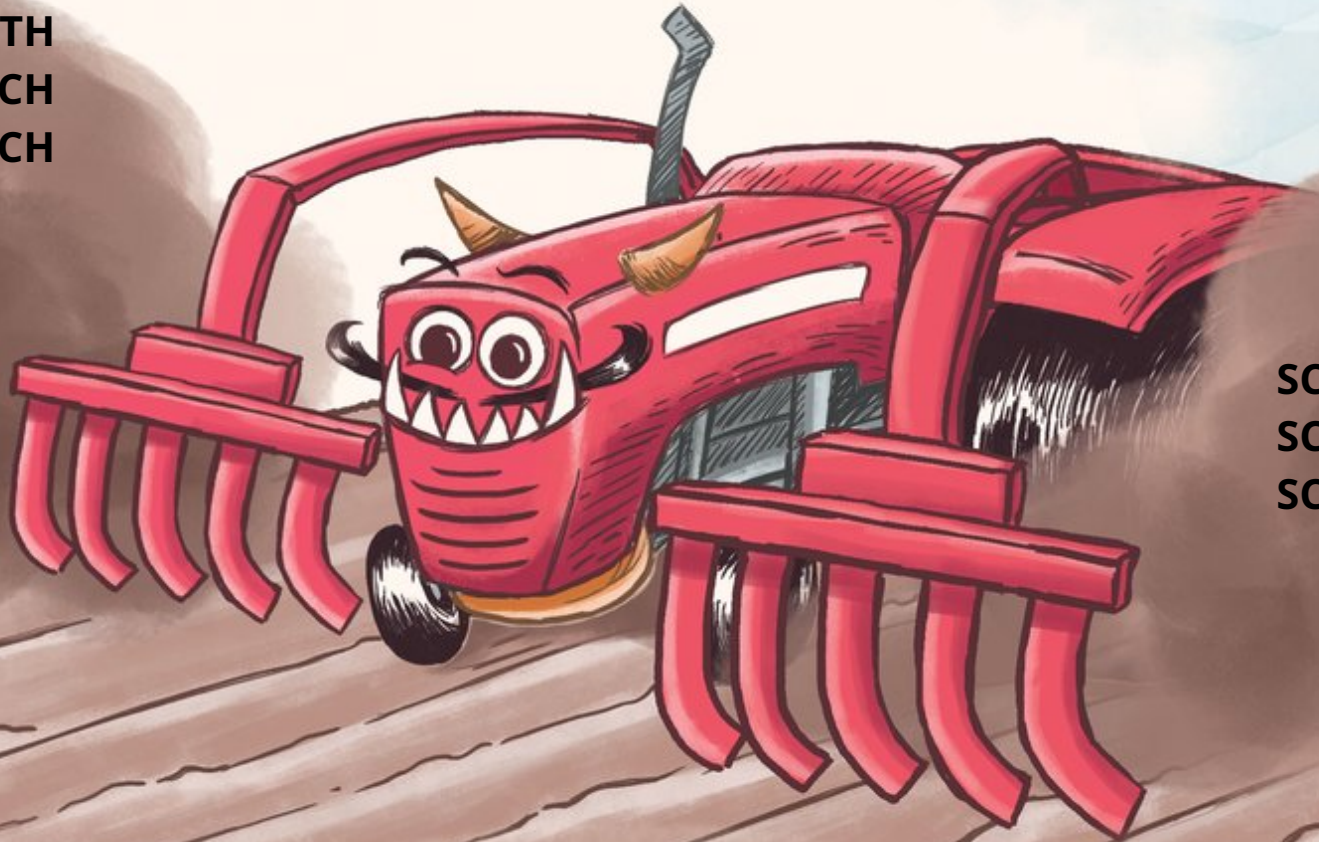


"AAAAAA!" shouts Junuka. "Rice rakshasa!"

The rakshasa flashes its claws and...



SCRATCH  
SCRATCH  
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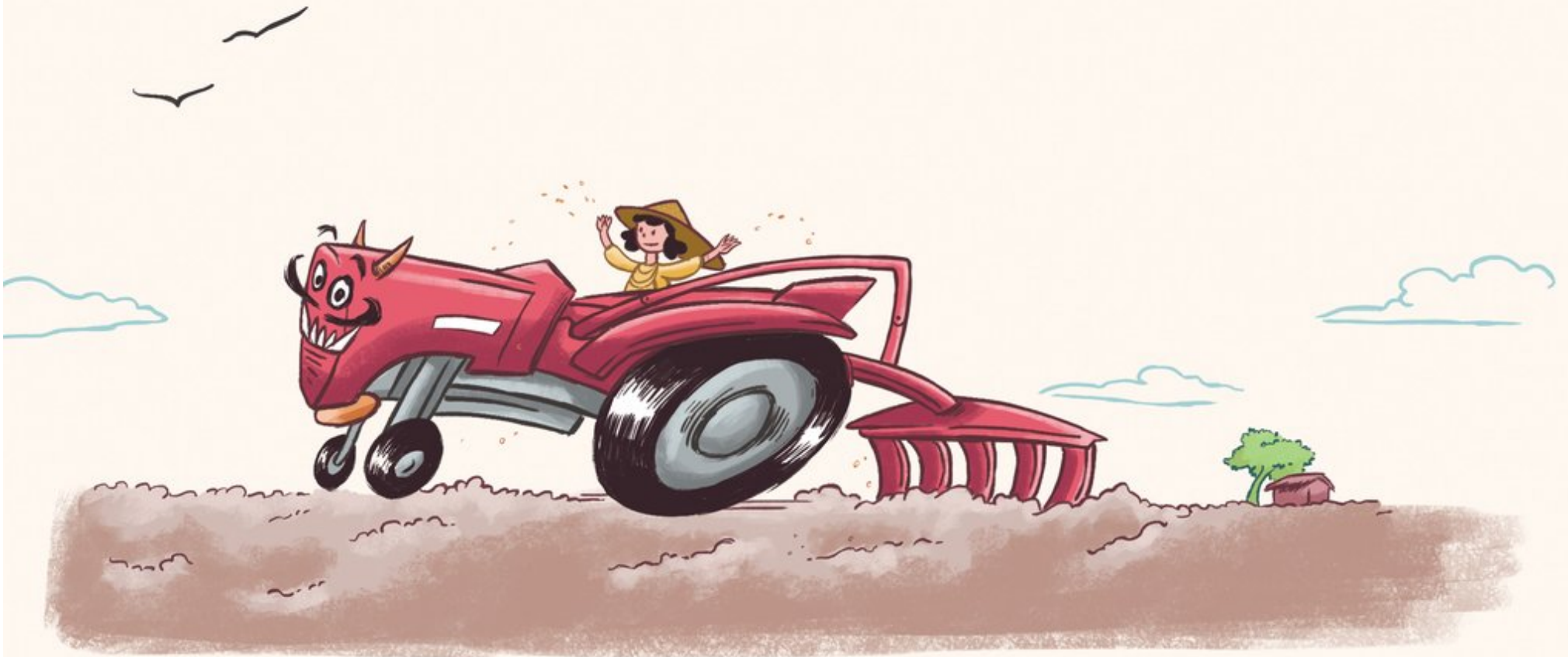


SCRATCH  
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"Aha! Your soil is ready for planting."

"I'm Trakshasur," says the rice rakshasa.  
"Climb on, I'll help you sow the seeds."

Junuka thinks for a minute. Then she climbs on Trakshasur's back.  
He carries her as she scatters the seeds. They flood the field with water.



Over time, the seeds become seedlings.

"Time to move them to the big field," says Trakshasur.  
Junuka pulls out the seedlings and Trakshasur bundles them up.  
Now they go to get the big field ready.



Trakshasur ploughs the big field and Junuka floods it.  
The soil becomes soft, muddy and ready for planting.

Then Junuka hears a slimy, wet sound...

**"SLLUUUUUURRP!"**

"AAAAAA!" shouts Junuka. "Rice Rakshasa!"





"This is Plantasur. She will help us plant," says Trakshasur.  
Plantasur picks up the seedlings with her long, red tongue.  
She bites the mud. She plants dozens of seedlings with every bite.

Soon the field is full.



Junuka puts up scarecrows to protect the seedlings.

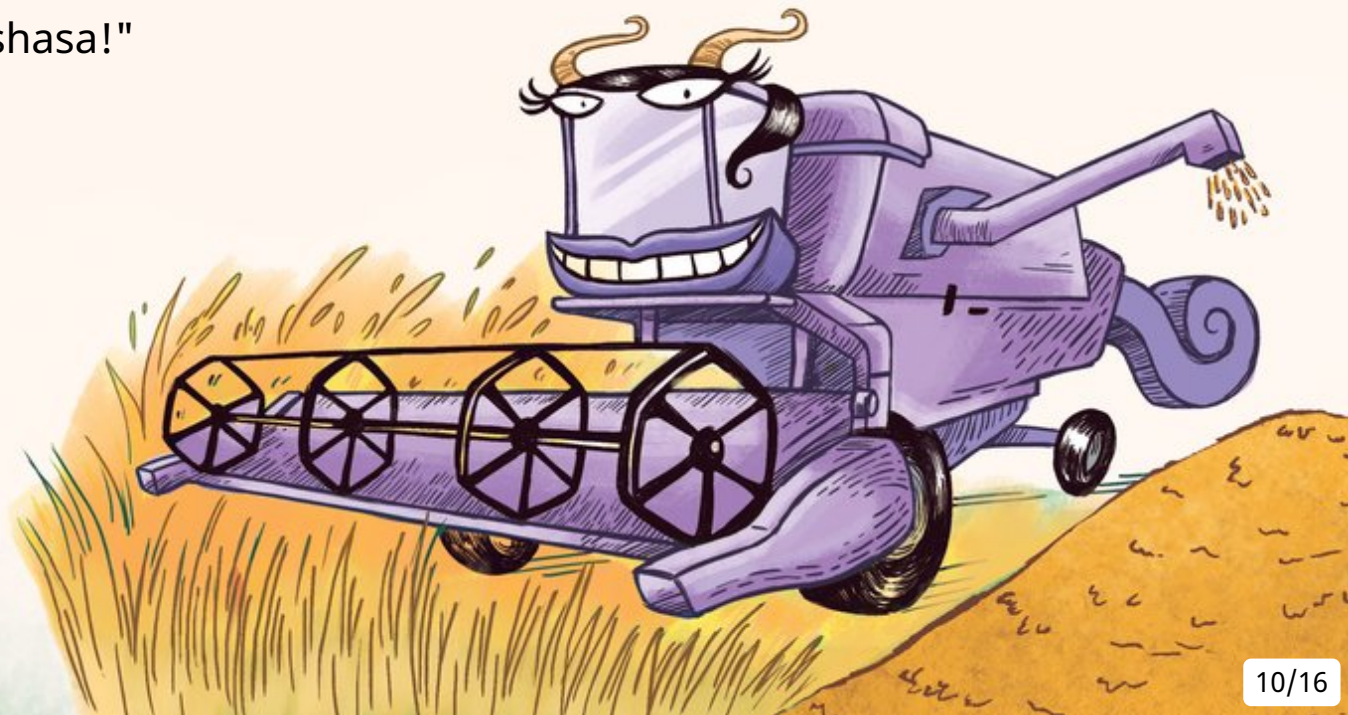


The rice grains bloom and soon it is harvest time. Junuka hears a sound in the bushes...

**DRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR**

"AAAAAA!" shouts Junuka. "Rice rakshasa!"

"This is Harvasur. She will help us harvest," says Plantasur.



**THWACK!**



Harvasur cuts the crop.

**CRUNCH!**



She catches the stem.

**THOOO!**



She spits out the straw

...till there is a mountain of grain.

"Now we must remove the husk from the grain," says Harvasur. "Come, let's visit our friend Dhanasur at the mill."



They find Dhanasur in a dark corner of the mill.  
He's a rakshasa with two heads.

"Hello," says Junuka.

**"AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!"**  
shouts Dhanasur. "A human child!"



"This is Junuka. You have to help her," says Harvasur.

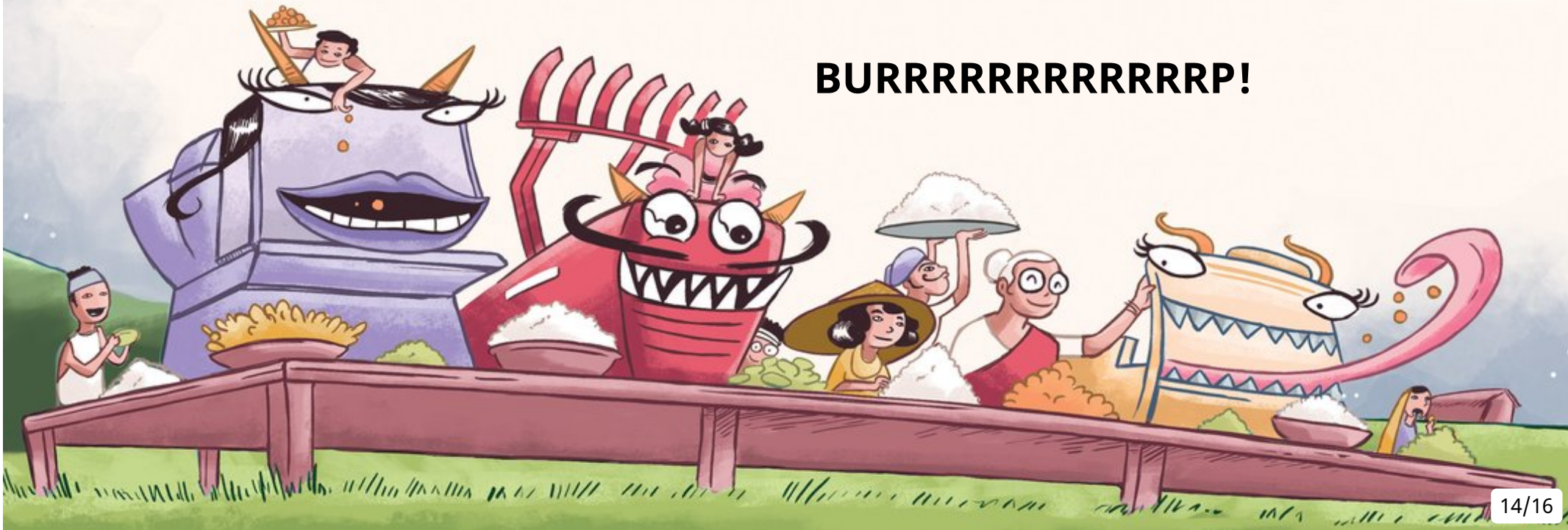
Dhanasur opens one mouth and Junuka pours rice into it.  
Finally, they have shiny, white rice.



That night, there is a feast at the village.  
Junuka brings the rakshasas with her.

Junuka shows the villagers all the rice that they  
harvested together. "The rakshasas only want  
to help us," she says.

**BURRRRRRRRRRRRP!**



Junuka has a great time at the feast.  
And so do the rice rakshasas!



## Machines used in rice farming

Rice farming is a long and difficult process. But with the help of her four friends, Junuka grows rice easily. Just like the four rakshasas, some machines can help us grow rice easily. Some of these machines are:



### Mechanical plough

Like Trakshasur, this machine helps farmers to loosen and prepare the soil for sowing seed or planting.



### Rice transplanter

Like Plantasur, this machine helps the farmer plant rice seedlings on the field.



### Combine harvester

Like Harvasur, this machine cuts the crop, collects it and separates the stem from the rice grain.



### Rice husker

Like Dhanasur, this machine removes the brown covering from the grain to give us white rice.



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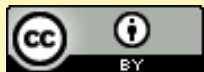
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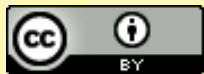


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# Junuka and the Rice Rakshasas

(English)

Growing rice is hard work, and Junuka can't do it all by herself. But who will help her?

This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.



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