# Suppamma Loves to Craft

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Suppamma liked to take things apart and put them back together.

She collected trash from the street. She sculpted vegetables using nails and a screwdriver, and she spoke to plants. "Wow, you have so many new flowers today! How do you keep them from falling off?"

Suppamma often got into trouble for breaking things when she should have been studying instead.
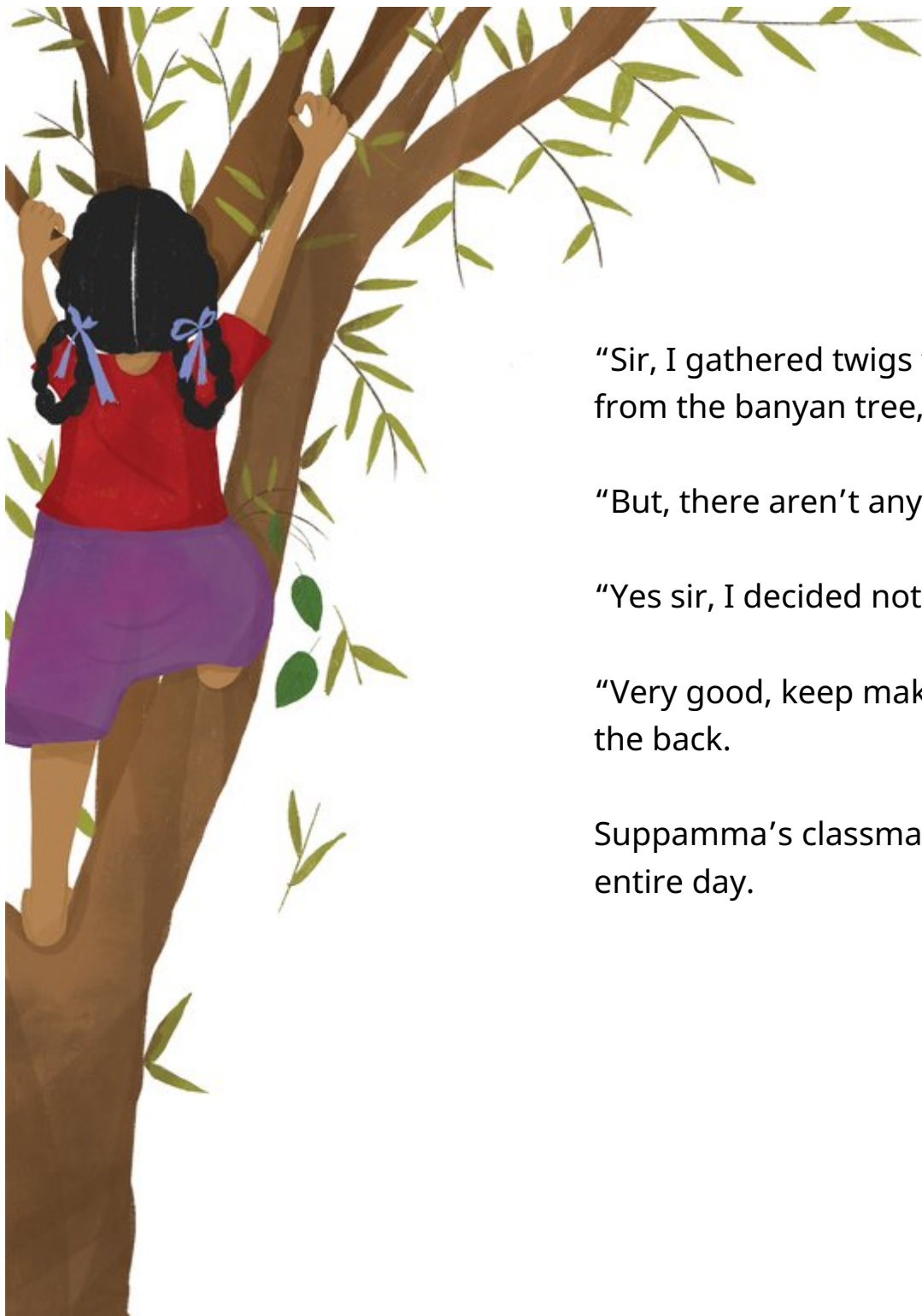
When Suppamma was in the 3rd standard, the teacher asked each student to build a model house. Suppamma looked at houses in her neighbourhood and finally decided on building a small version of her house.

She collected sticks and sap from the trees, cardboard and paper from the streets, and she started putting them all together. But when she saw that it looked different from her own house, she knocked it down and started over. This time, she plastered the sticks to the cardboard with mud and even added windows.

Suppamma was very proud of her house. She woke up early in the morning and carefully carried it to school.

Suppamma stayed at the back of the class while her classmates crowded around the teacher.

"Sir, look at Suppamma's house! It has windows!" said Mani.
"Did you make this yourself, Suppamma?" asked the teacher.
"Yes sir, I made it all by myself," replied Suppamma.
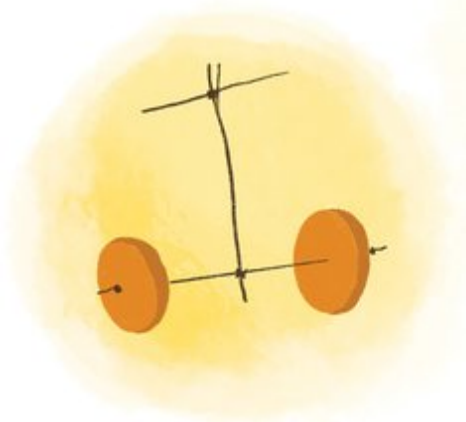"How did you make it?" asked the teacher.

"Sir, I gathered twigs from the neem tree and leaves from the banyan tree," Suppamma told her teacher.

"But, there aren't any banyan leaves here," said the teacher.

"Yes sir, I decided not to use them," replied Suppamma.

"Very good, keep making more houses," the teacher said, patting her on the back.

Suppamma's classmates crowded around her cardboard house the entire day.

One day, Amma caught Suppamma cutting carrots to make wheels for her cart.

"What are you doing! Why are you wasting carrots?" Amma snatched the cart out of Suppamma's hands and threw it away.

Suppamma held back her tears and continued building.

Suppamma reached the 8th standard with a lot of difficulty.

One day, there was a special event at school. Trainer Thatha taught Suppamma and her class to make useful things from trash. Trainer Thatha took straws, paper cups, rags and ropes and turned them into useful household objects.

Suppamma helped Trainer Thatha. She memorised the names of all his different tools.

Suppamma practiced and practiced. And soon she became almost as good as Trainer Thatha.

Suppamma made bird dolls instead of solving maths problems. She made ladles for the kitchen instead of doing her homework. This made Amma angry. "Stop wasting time and do your school work!" Amma yelled.

"I learnt this at school, so it's school work, ma," Suppamma replied.

One day, Suppamma saw an old coconut shell in the waste. She picked it out, wondering if she could use it to make something. Suppamma collected three shells that day.

She polished the first shell and drank coffee with it every day.
She tried to use broken pieces of the second shell to play hopscotch.

And she used the third shell to make a doll.

Trainer Thatha taught Suppamma how to use a drill to make holes. He also taught her how to cut coconut shells and piece them together.

Suppamma drew a bird on a coconut shell.
Then she drew a pair of wings on another shell.

She cut the shapes out of the two coconut shells and
pasted them together.

Her face overflowed with excitement.

When Suppamma failed her 10th standard exams, Amma and her teacher were very angry. Suppamma pretended to be sad. But she was secretly excited about all the time she could spend making new things now.

She began to collect coconut shells. After all, coconut shells were free.

Suppamma found sandpaper to smoothen out the shells, brushes to paint them and needles to punch holes in them.

Suppamma made a bangle out of a shell. Then she made an elephant and a fish.
She made jewel boxes, a ladle and even a human face.

Children drank coffee out of her cups...

ate murukku out of her bowls...

and bought her coconut shell buttons.

Soon people stopped telling Suppamma that she was wasting her time.

Children came to learn crafts from Suppamma.
People wondered if Suppamma had started a
school.

"Bring coconut shells when you come."

"Hold it like this."

"Polish it and make it smooth."

"Now draw a fish on it."

"When you come tomorrow, draw a horse and
bring it back."

Schools invited Suppamma to conduct craft workshops with her coconut shells.

One day, Suppamma wondered if she could start selling her toys. She decided to put up a stall at the Pondicherry Crafts Fair.

Suppamma's craft stall was a success.

"How much is that dove earring?"

"75 rupees," said Suppamma's mother.

"Is that a Buddha statue?"

"Yes, pick it up and see."

After the crafts fair, Suppamma finally opened a coconutcraft shop in her house.

And that's how Suppamma's love for crafts made hersuccessful!

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# Suppamma Loves to Craft
(English)

Suppamma loves to build things out of recycled waste. But she doesn't like paying attention in school, or doing homework. Can Suppamma become successful by following her passions?

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