



Then and Now

Author: S R Ramakrishna

Illustrator: Tanvi Bhat

Translator: S R Ramakrishna

Level 3

The noisy rain pours down,
The room is dimly lit.
Then raindrops go *jiti-jiti*
As water trickles down gently.



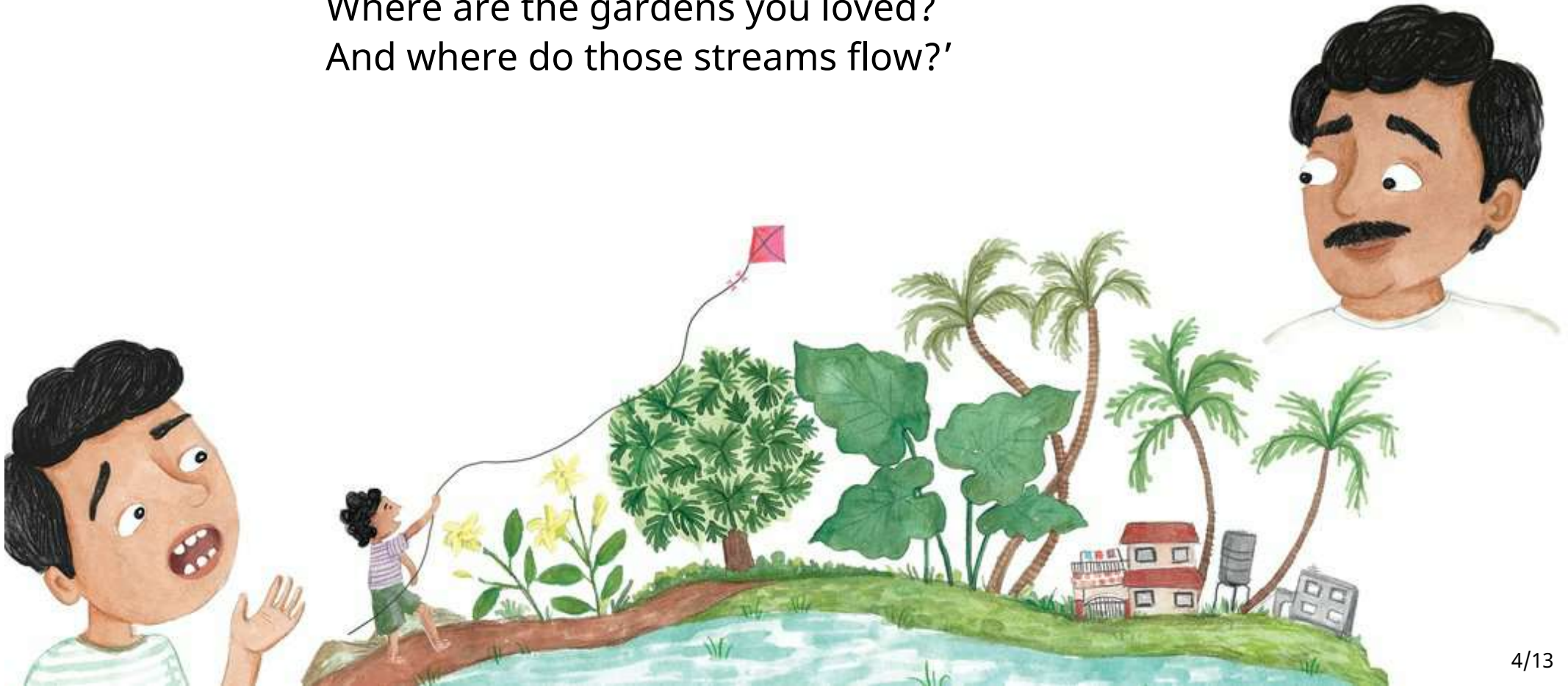


Chiltari sits by a window,
And looks down at the street.
Appa tells him about a city
Of many sights and sounds.



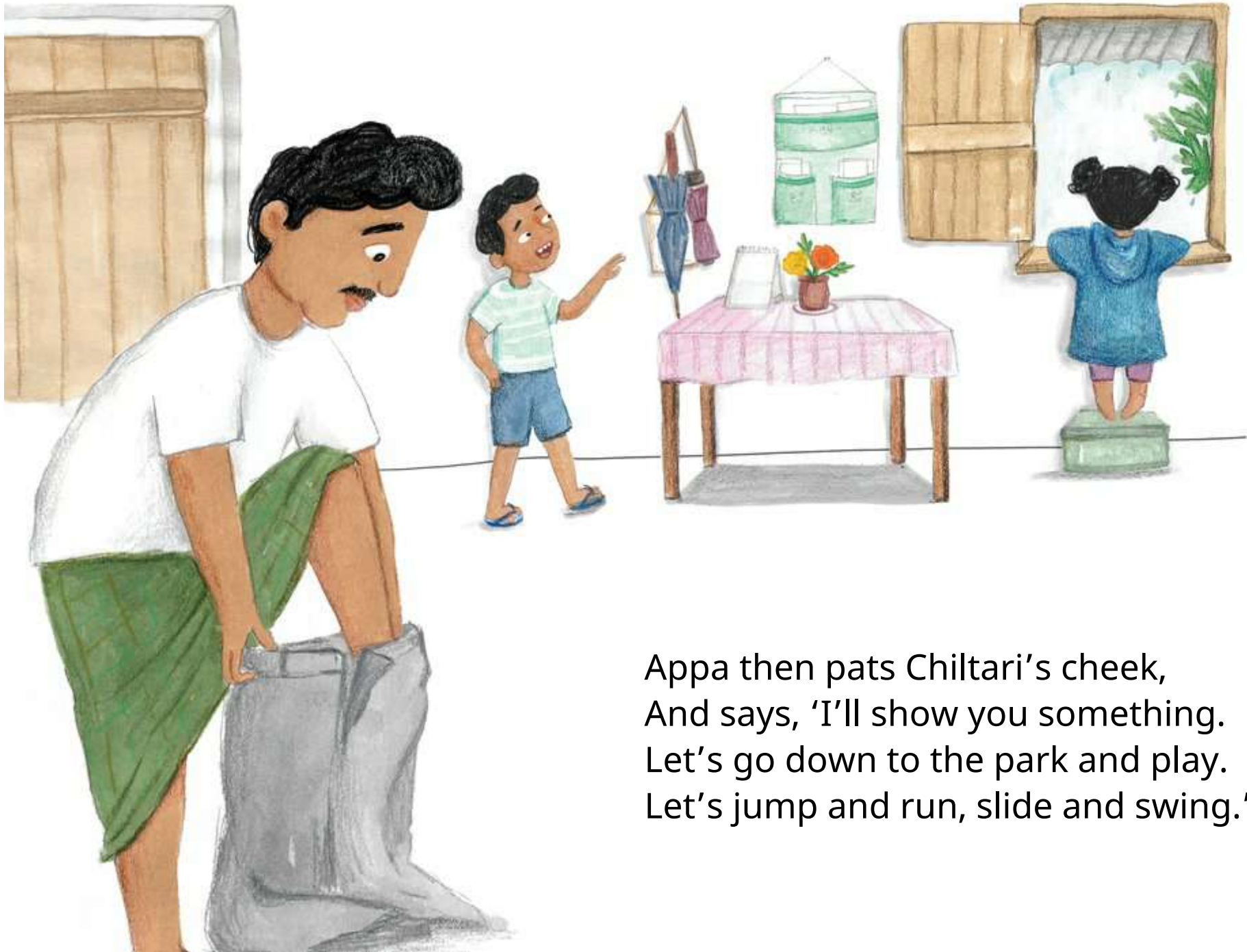


Chiltari's questions come tumbling,
'Where are the chirping birds?
Where are the gardens you loved?
And where do those streams flow?'



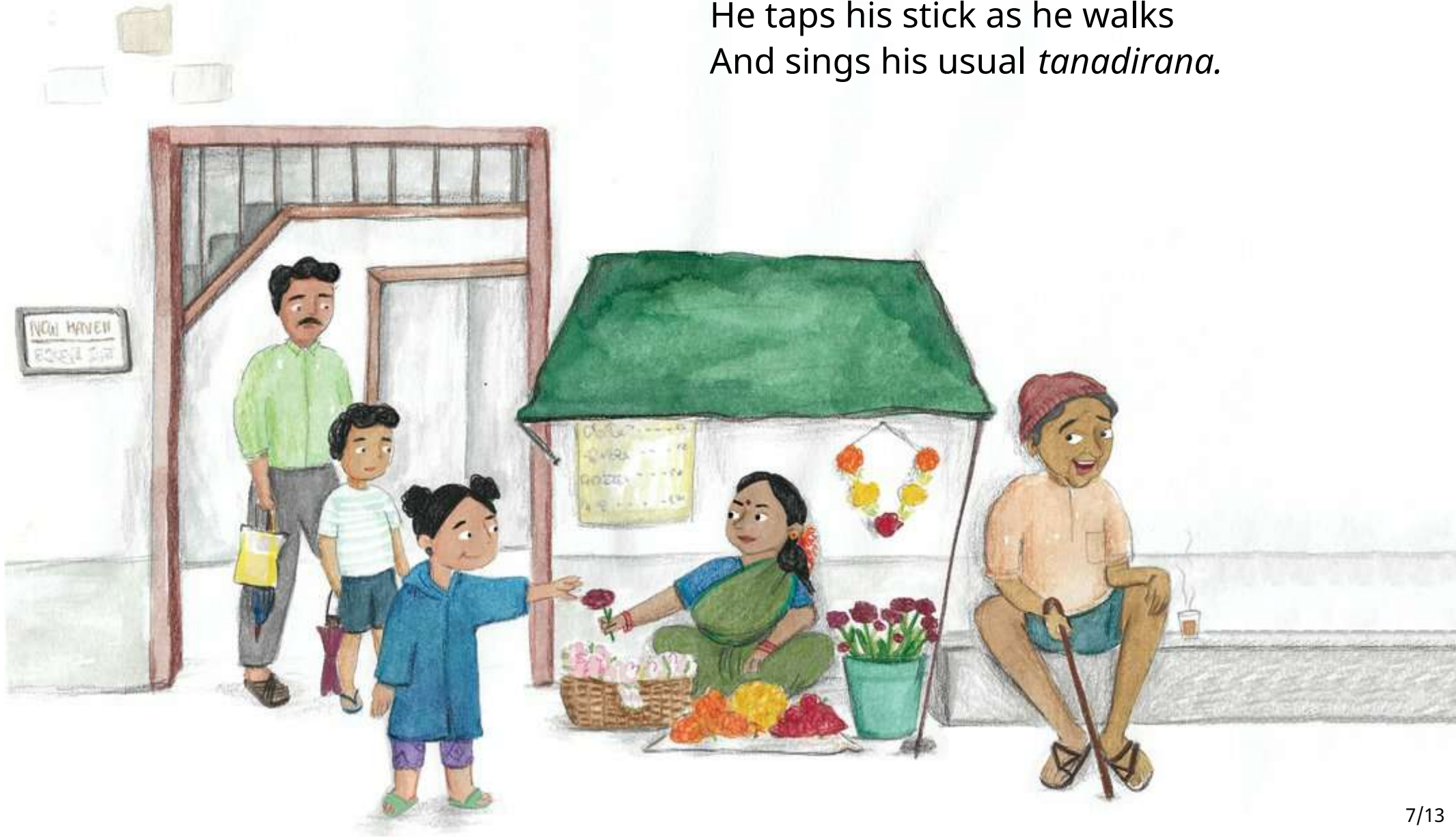
'The clippety-clop tongas are gone.
I only see buses, cars and bikes.
They zig-zag madly on the streets
And get people back home somehow.'





Appa then pats Chiltari's cheek,
And says, 'I'll show you something.
Let's go down to the park and play.
Let's jump and run, slide and swing.'

As they go down the stairs
They meet Bermuda-shorts Ajja
He taps his stick as he walks
And sings his usual *tanadirana*.





He hands Chiltari a sweet
And throws at him a question:
'Can you tell me what raga
this is?
*Sarigama padani, sanidapa
magari.'*



Chiltari thinks of film songs
And he hums one or two.
Tanadirana Ajja is happy
And says, 'Great! That's new.'



An auto goes rattling by,
Its radio blaring loudly.
Brownie gives it a chase
Wagging his tail and barking.

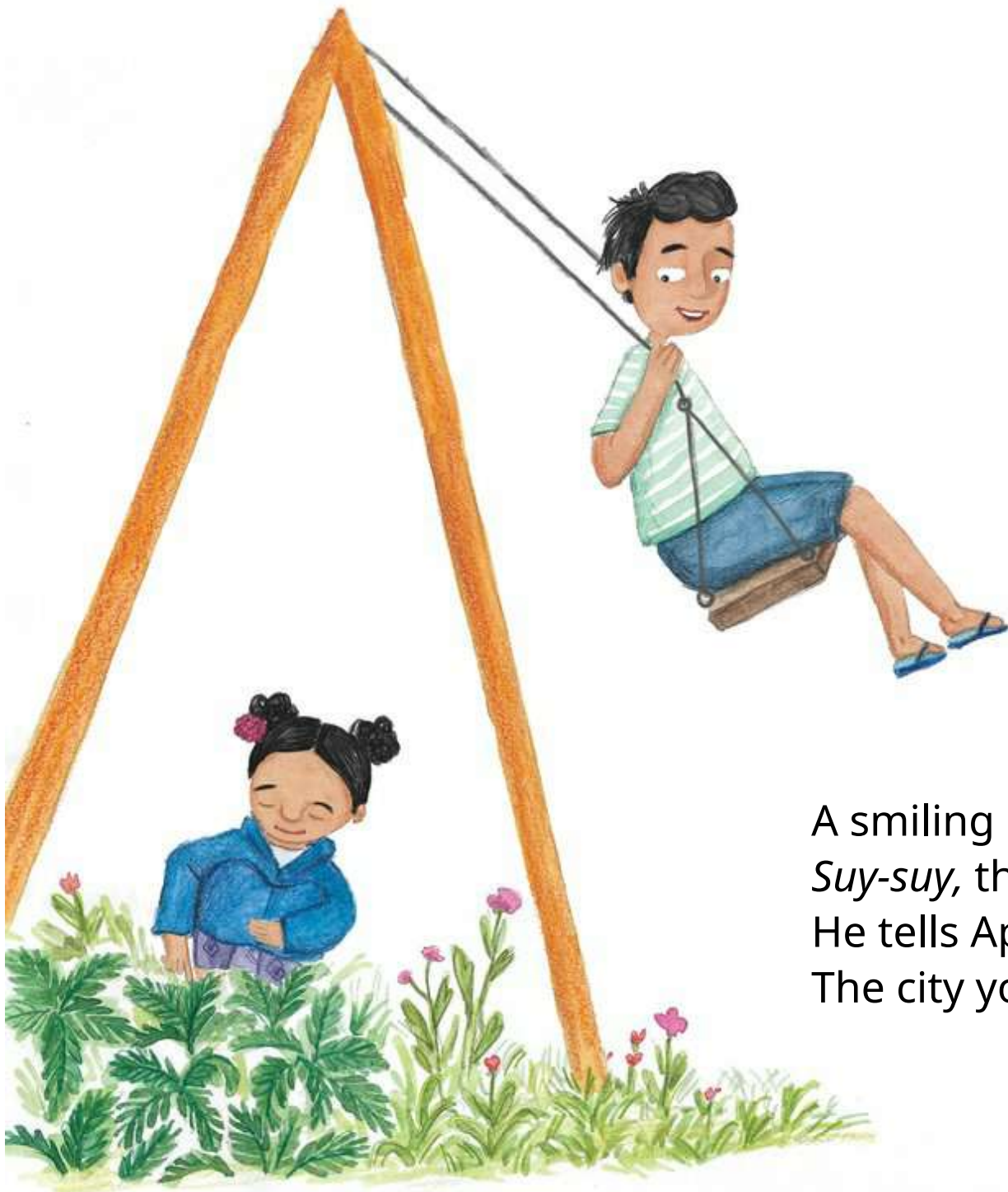


Each house has a tiny garden.
The water pipes go *bulu-bulu*.
Flowers bloom in little patches
And colourful butterflies drift by.



Ah! In someone's house today
A cooking class is going on.
Aji with the big bottu is the teacher
The chaklis she fries go *chus-chus*.





A smiling Chiltari sits on the swing
Suy-suy, the cool breeze blows.
He tells Appa: 'I can hear the city sing.
The city you grew up in lives on.'

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Then and Now (English)

It's drizzling, and Appa tells Chiltari a story of the city of his childhood. And then father and son step out to discover a city where past meets present.

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



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