PRATHAM BOOKS
A Book in Every Child's Hand

Level 2

The Rabbit’s Long Ears

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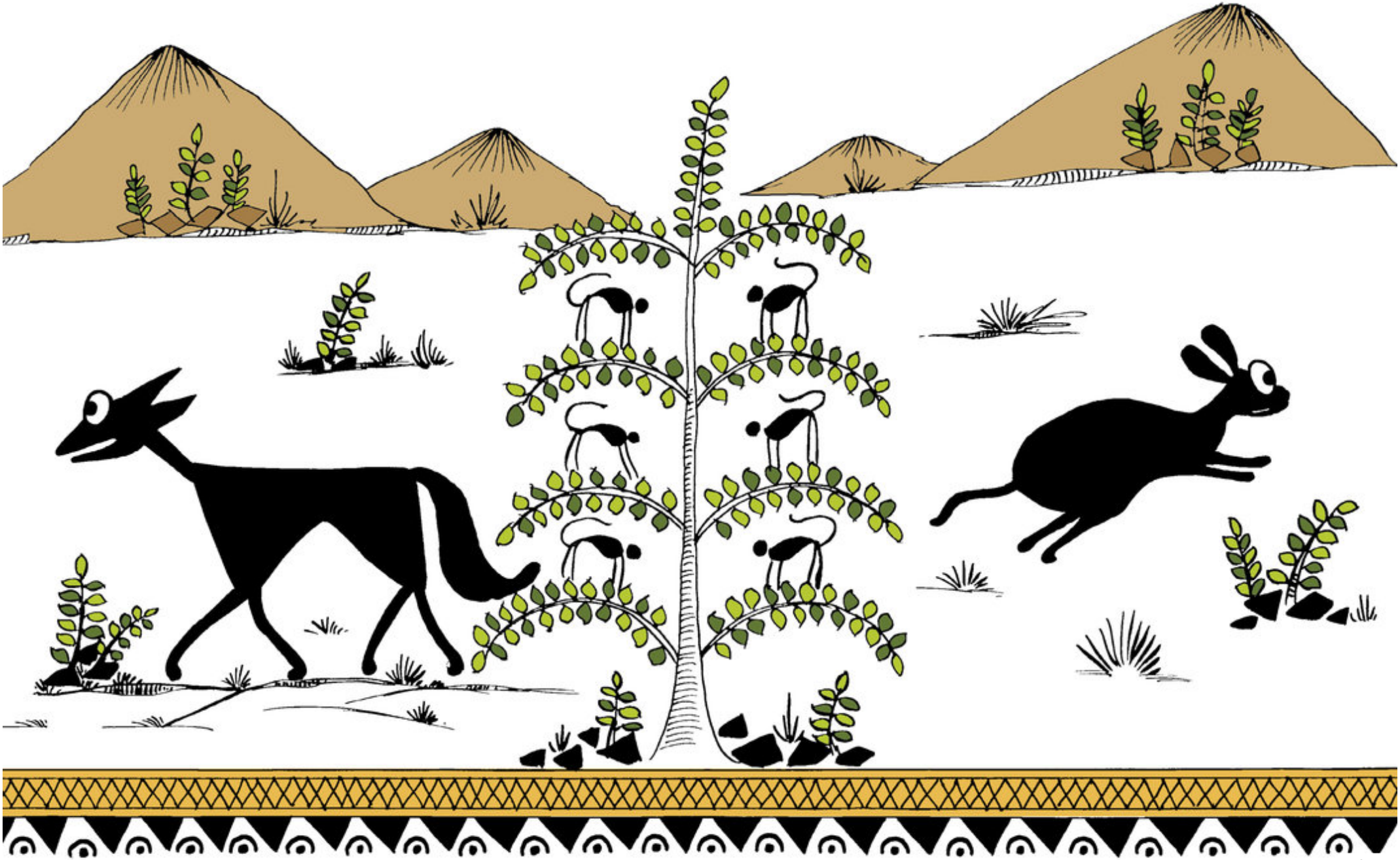
Illustrator: Sanatan Juanga
Translator: Amrit Mishra

A jackal and a rabbit were the best of friends.

One day the jackal’s wife was not feeling well. The jackal called the rabbit and said, “My wife has fever. She does not feel like eating anything. Now she says she could eat a crab.”

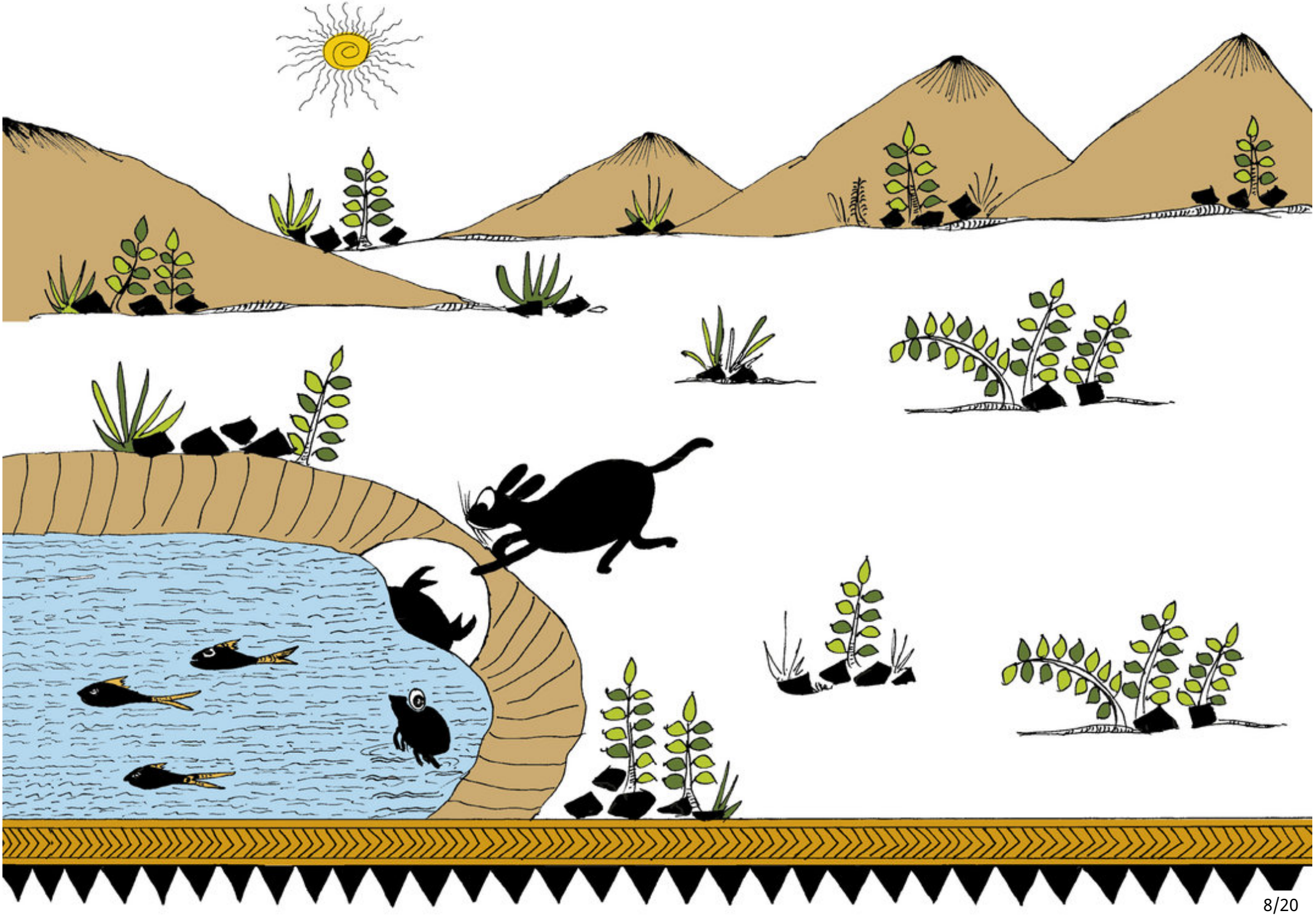


The rabbit said, “Let us go and get a crab for her.”

Both the friends set off to find a crab. The rabbit went in one direction and the jackal in another.

The rabbit soon spotted a hole in the mud. He peeped in and saw a fat crab sitting inside.

‘This will be perfect,’ thought the rabbit.

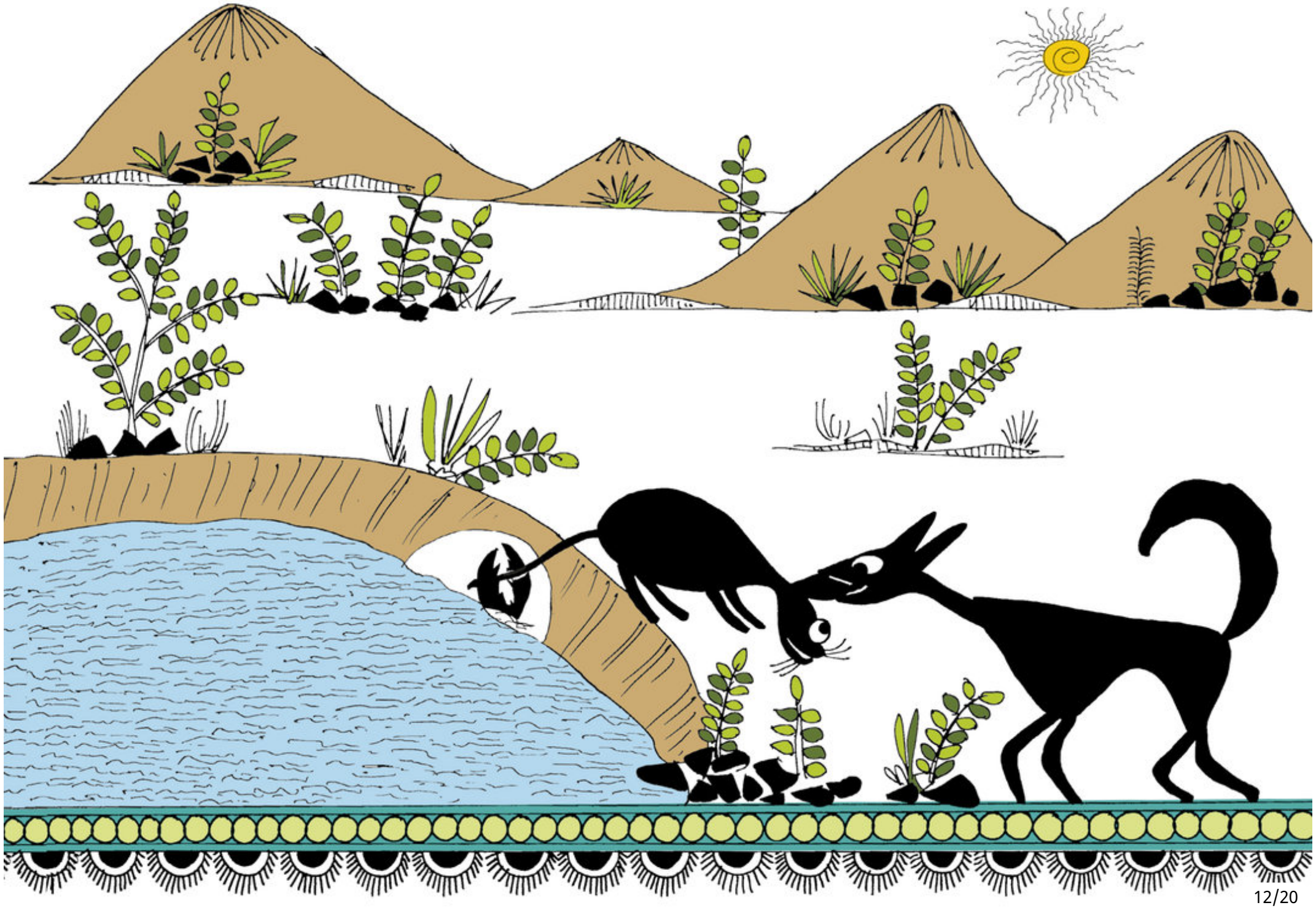


He carefully put his hand in the hole which was quite deep.

When his hand could not reach the crab, the rabbit put his tail into the hole.

The crab bit his tail hard and held it tight. The poor rabbit cried loudly. The jackal heard him and came running to him.

The rabbit gasped, “Don’t just look at me. My tail is caught inside, pull me out.”



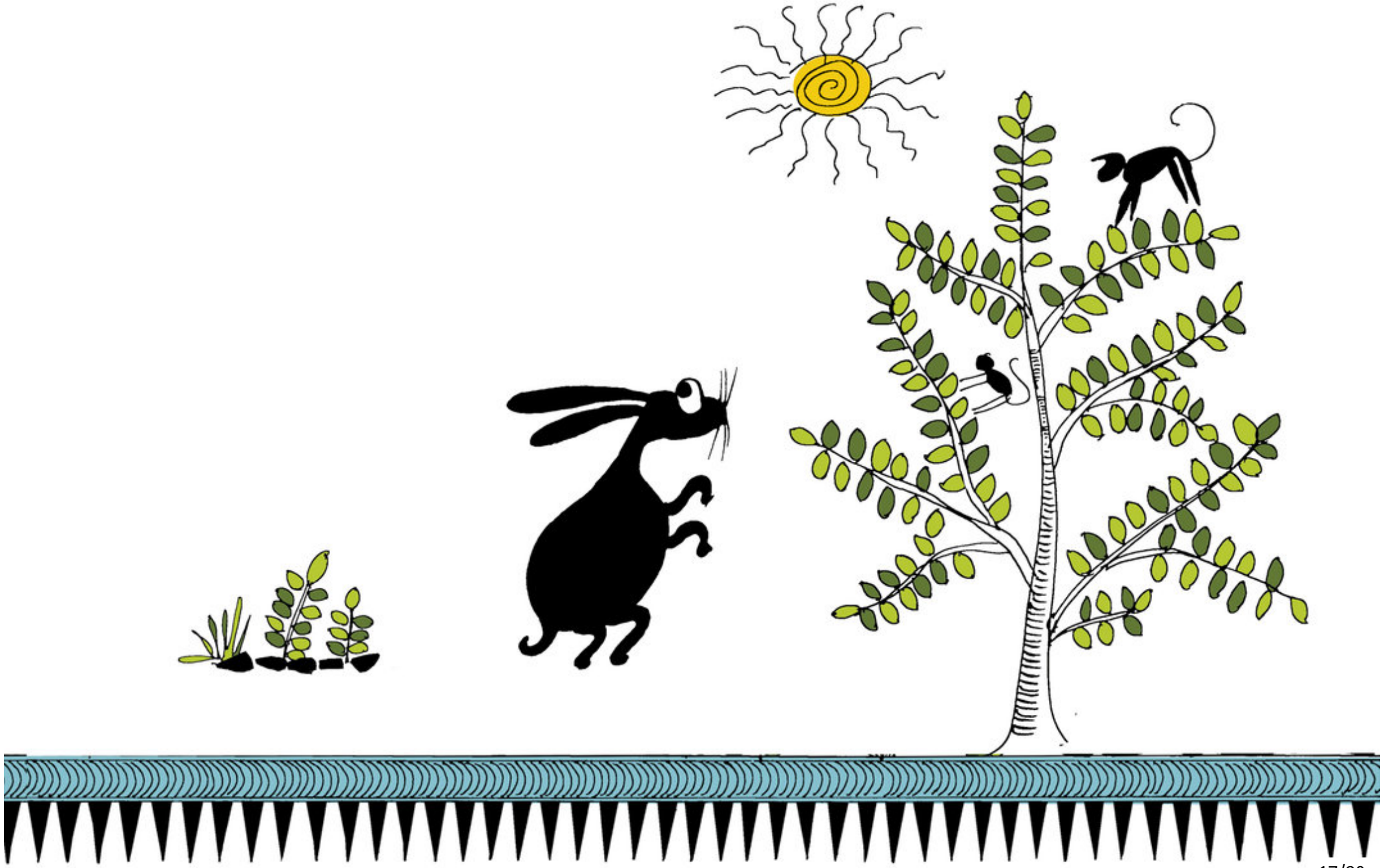
The jackal caught him by the ears and pulled with all his might.
When he saw the tail move, the crab bit the rabbit’s tail again.

The rabbit yelled in pain and jumped.

His tail got cut and was left behind in the hole.

His ears had become very, very long after the jackal had pulled them.

Since that day the rabbit’s tail is short and his ears long.



The Concept

India’s diverse linguistic landscape has a rich seam of stories for children. Unfortunately, many tribal languages do not have literature for children in book form or books for reading pleasure. As increasing numbers of tribal children go to school, it is now more necessary than ever to create a body of children’s literature in their languages. Literature that reflects their own world and opens up the world beyond because books are magical, powerful things that inform, amuse, educate and entertain in the most interactive way. Books make every child an independent and life-long seeker of knowledge in her own unique way. For education to be truly meaningful to every child, she must get good books to read in her own language.

The Project

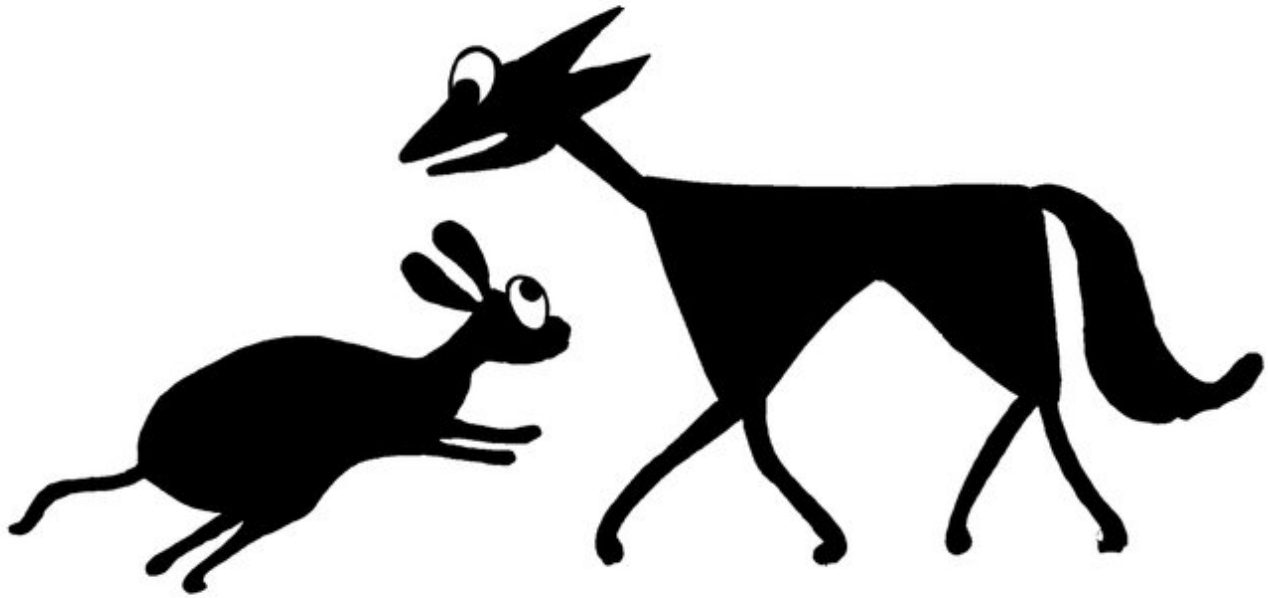
Pratham Books and IgnusERG, with the support of Bernard van Leer Foundation have created the first ten books for children’s reading pleasure in Munda, Kui, Saura and Juanga languages from Odisha. The stories were written and illustrated by authors and illustrators belonging to these tribes in a series of workshops. This series of books is called **Adikahani**. It is a significant first step towards giving a voice to cultures that do not find adequate representation in mainstream discourses.

The Partners

IgnusERG is a guild of resource persons working to support teachers and enhancing the quality of education, particularly in government schools. They focus their efforts on bringing equity in education and addressing the needs of marginalized children.

Bernard van Leer Foundation is an international grant-making foundation based in The Hague. Its mission is to improve opportunities for young children growing up in socially and economically difficult circumstances. It has a particular interest in supporting mother-tongue based education.

This story was written by the Kui Writers' Group consisting of Buna Kanhar, Filiman Pradhan and Pramod Digal. With a background in ECCE, they all interact with children regularly. It has been illustrated by Sanatan Juanga, using the Saura mural style as a base. The Kui language is spoken by more than 1 lakh people in Khondhamal, Gajapati and Rayagada districts of Odisha. It is related to the Gondi language. The spellings of the language in Odia script are not definitive as many new sounds are being rendered in print for the first time.



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Other Credits:

'The Rabbit's Long Ears' has been published on StoryWeaver by Pratham Books as a part of Adikahani series of ten books. The development of this book has been supported by Bernard van Leer Foundation along with our Content Partner IgnusERG. www.prathambooks.org

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The Rabbit’s Long Ears
(English)

Rabbits did not always have short tails and long ears; it was the crab that made them that way! Really!

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

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Pratham Books goes digital to weave a whole new chapter in the realm of multilingual children's stories. Knitting together children, authors, illustrators and publishers. Folding in teachers, and translators. To create a rich fabric of openly licensed multilingual stories for the children of India and the world. Our unique online platform, StoryWeaver, is a playground where children, parents, teachers and librarians can get creative. Come, start weaving today, and help us get a book in every child's hand!