



# A Very Busy Year

**Author:** Shabnam Minwalla

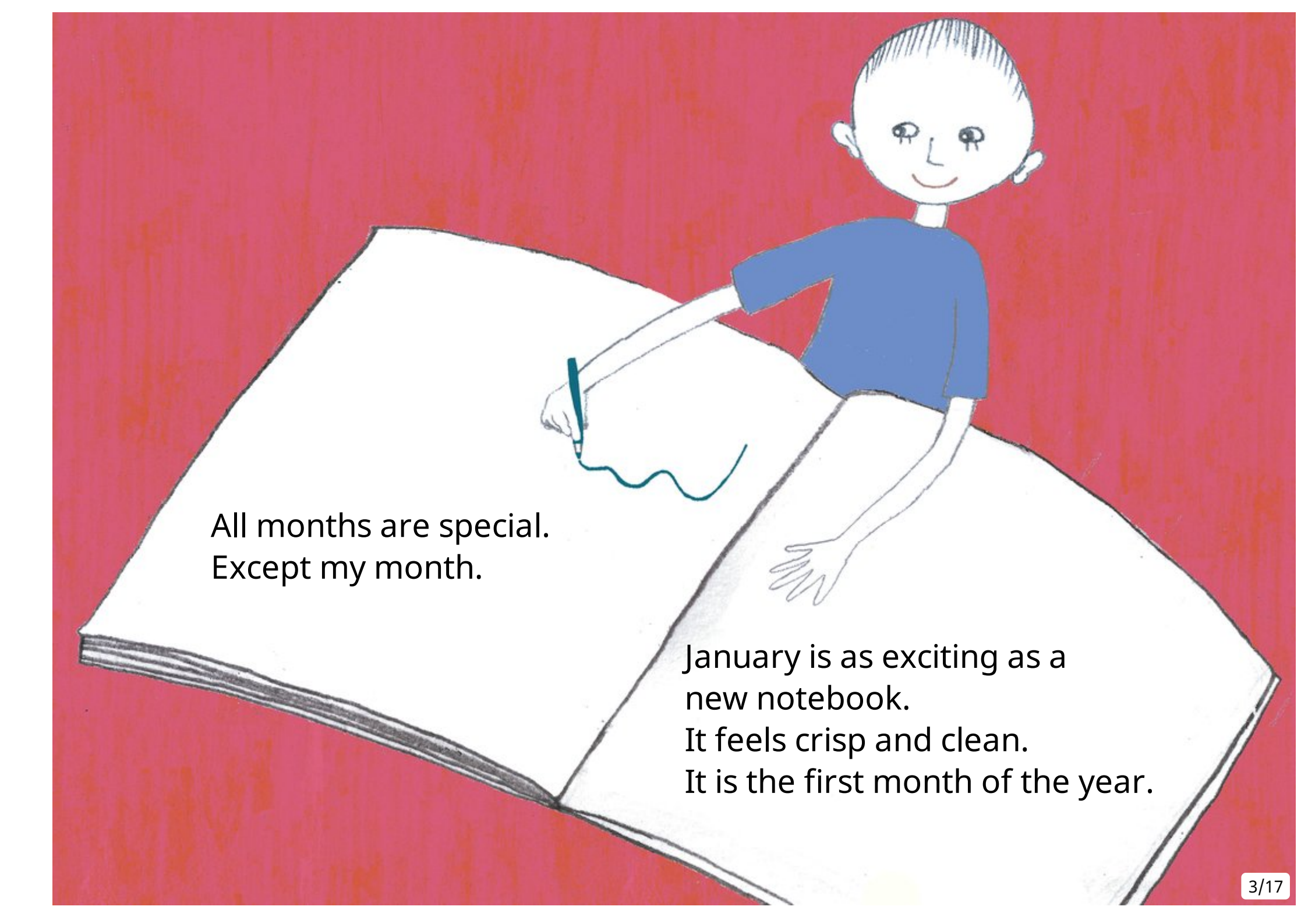
**Illustrator:** Upasana Mehndiratta

Level 3



I don't like my birthday.  
I don't like the day.  
I don't like the month.





All months are special.  
Except my month.

January is as exciting as a  
new notebook.  
It feels crisp and clean.  
It is the first month of the year.

February.  
Later. Later. Later.







March is as cheerful as a box of crayons.  
Spring brings pink leaves on the peepal tree,  
orange flowers on the gulmohar tree,  
red pompoms on the ixora plants.

April is as confused as a seesaw.  
There are school exams and sweaty days.  
But also juicy, golden Alphonso mangoes.



May is as happy as a yellow butterfly.  
The summer holidays are lazy and long.  
There are cousins and cricket matches.  
Train journeys and prickly heat.





June is as suspenseful as a mystery book.  
What will happen when school starts?  
Will my best friend Renu be in my class?  
Will mean Miss Menon be my class teacher?





July is like the dhishoom-crash-bang in a film.  
The monsoons take over. Winds howl.  
Clouds thunder and grumble.  
My umbrella flies away.  
Then mummy scolds and I sulk.



August is as inspiring as Jana Gana Mana.  
For Independence Day we march.  
We paint flags green, orange and white.





September is as busy as a concert.  
Teachers' Day is our favourite day.  
Renu and I sing songs.  
We make cards.  
We make gulab jamuns.  
All for Miss Menon. We love her now.





October is as bright as a  
queen's crown.  
Diwali brings diyas, sparkly, shiny  
earrings and jootis and rangoli.  
I eat too many laddoos.



November is as cosy as my pink sweater.  
Winter is slowly creeping in.  
The days are short. The nights are cold.



December is as chilly as a refrigerator.  
I shiver for fun.  
Even school days feel like holidays.  
It is the last month of the year.  
A new year is waiting.



See.  
All the months are special.  
Except February.  
February is boring and muddled.



Other months have 30 or 31 days.  
February has 28 days.  
Then every four years it has an extra day.  
29 February.

I was born on 29 February.  
My birthday comes once every  
four years.





I am upset.  
Wouldn't you be, too?  
I would like to celebrate every year,  
just like you do.



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# A Very Busy Year

(English)

There's something special about every month of the year. Except the month in which I was born. When is your birthday? Do you like your birthday month?

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



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