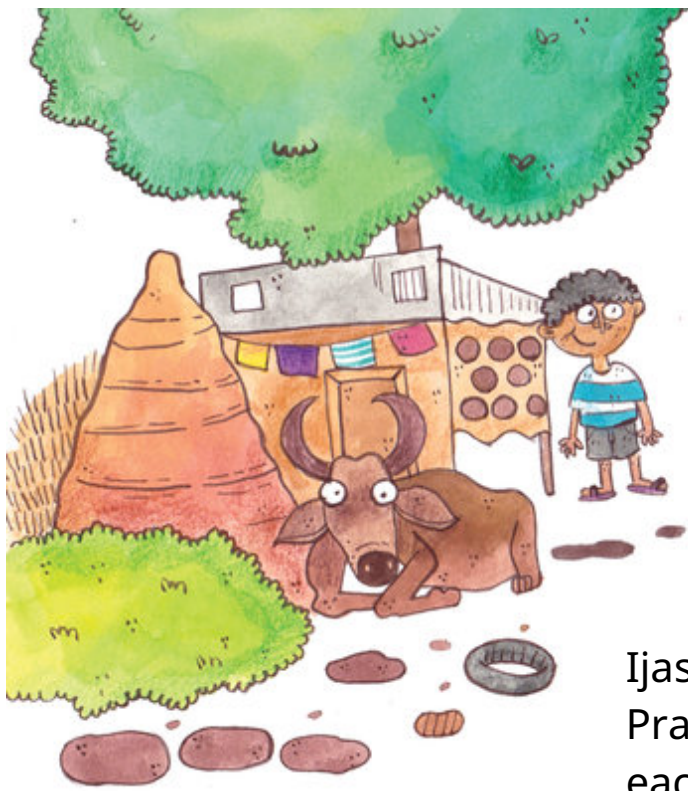


The Magic Letter

Author: Aaquib Jaleel

Illustrator: Shreya Sen



Ijas lives in Haryana and Vikram lives in Andhra Pradesh. Even though they live so far away from each other, they are best friends.



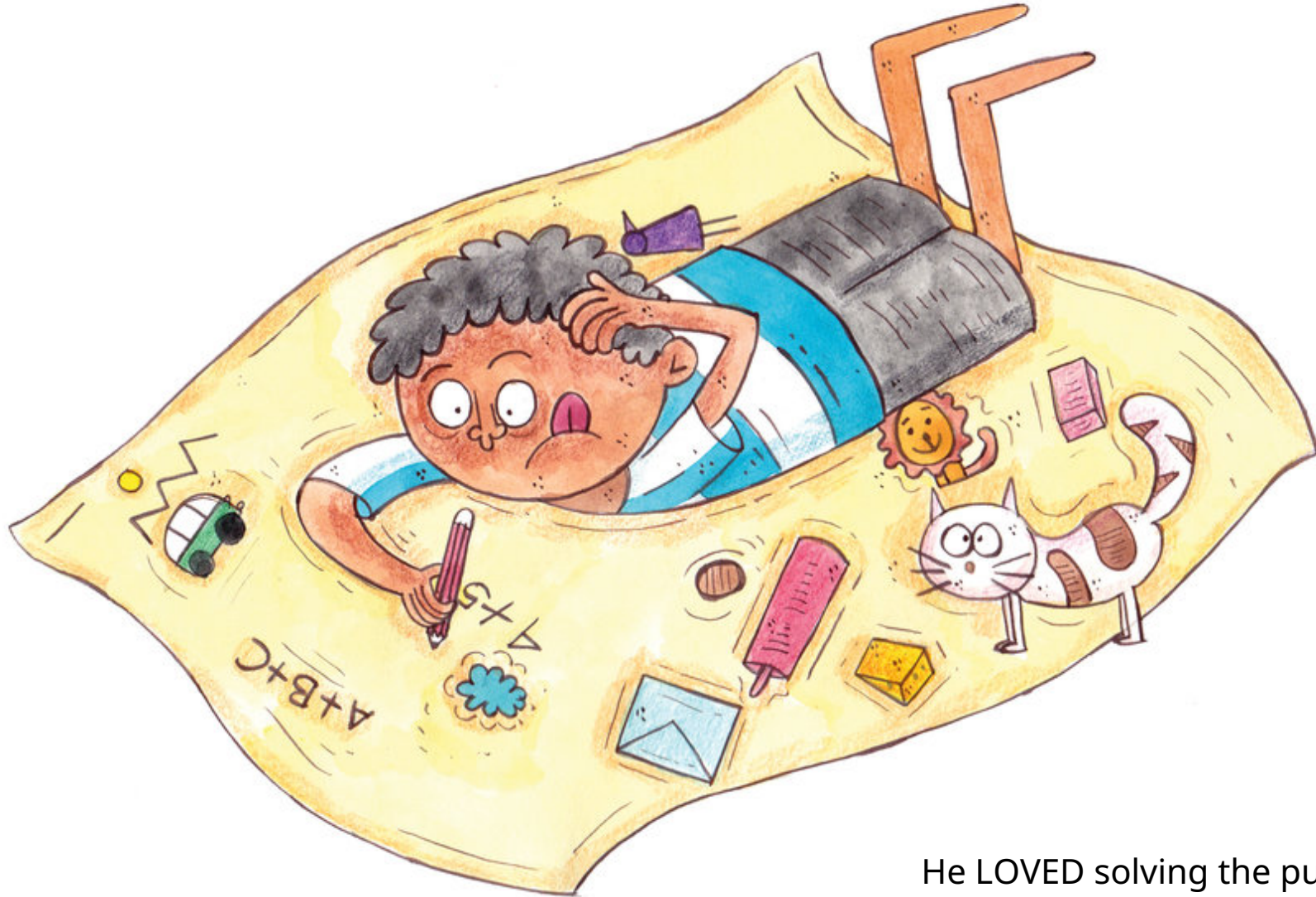


Not long ago, Ijas and Vikram had been neighbours.

The two boys had loved playing cricket, solving riddles, and eating biryani. They had celebrated everything together, from birthdays to festivals.



Ijas had been sad when his best friend moved away, but Vikram's letters always cheered him up.



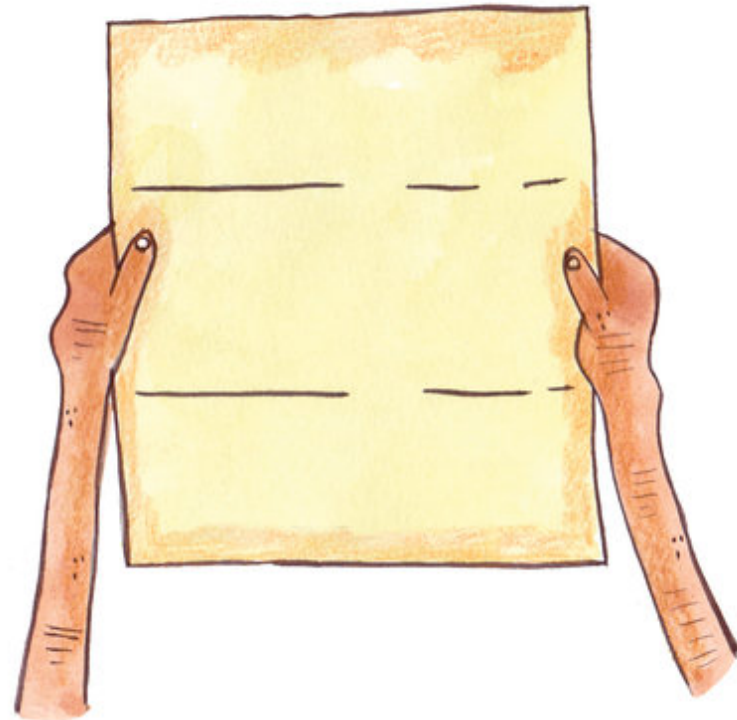
He LOVED solving the puzzles that Vikram sent.



On the day of Eid, an envelope from Vikram arrives. Ijas opens it and pulls out a card.

Eid Mubarak, Ijas! A surprise awaits you. Read the letter.

As Ijas opens the letter, he wonders what Vikram has sent him.
The last time, it had been a number puzzle.



BUT WAIT. The paper is **BLANK!**
Is this a mistake?



Is he supposed to turn the piece of paper into something?

Ijas tries to fold it. Nothing happens.

Ijas holds the paper to the light.



He rolls it and looks through it.



He runs his fingers over the surface of the paper. Nothing happens.





Ijas looks at the card again.
That's when he notices the orange
and yellow flame on the card.

Had Vikram coloured it?
But wait, Vikram does not like to colour!



Ijas rushes to the kitchen. "Ammi, I need something hot!"
Ammi wipes her hand on a towel. "The biryani isn't ready, Ijas. You'll have to wait."
"I don't want to eat biryani!" Ijas explains that he wants to heat the letter.

Ammi helps him light a candle with the flame from the stove. Ijas takes the paper close to the candle.

“If you hold the paper too close to the flame, it will burn,” Ammi warns.



He holds the paper a safe distance from the candle and taps his foot impatiently. What will happen?

A few moments later, brown lines appear on the paper, as if by magic.

"WOW! Look at these words, Ammi!" shouts Ijas.

Ammi reads the words out loud along with Ijas.

"Where we play with marbles."

Ammi is confused by the message, but Ijas jumps with excitement.





"I know where to go," yells Ijas.
He runs down two flights of stairs, past a parking area
and stops in front of a bench.



But there is nothing there.

Ijas is sad. He was sure that there
would be another clue waiting for
him.

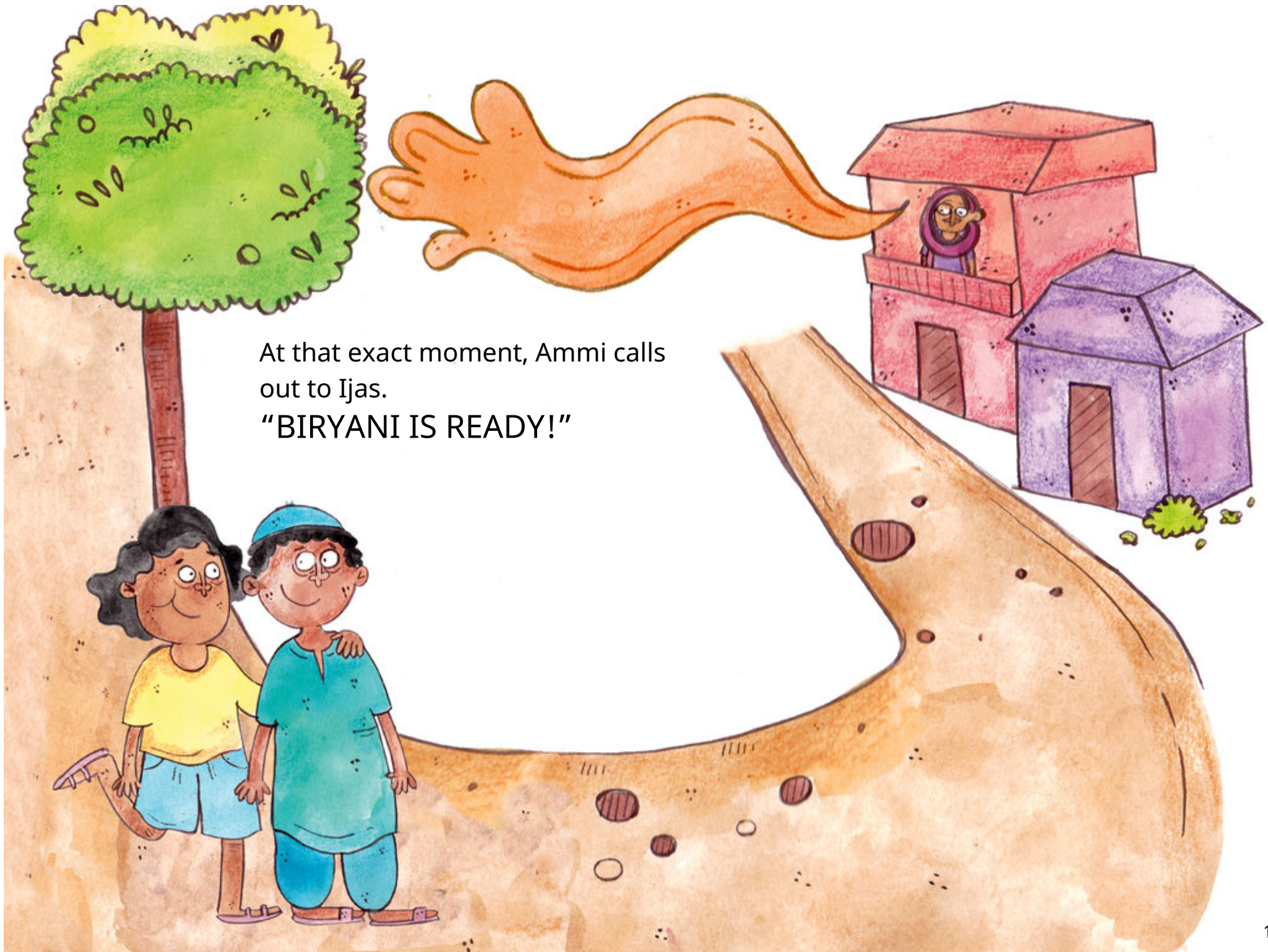


He turns around and gasps.
“VIKRAM! What are you doing here?”

Ijas can't believe his eyes. This is the best surprise ever!

“Can't you guess?” says Vikram, beaming. “I came because I was missing your Ammi's biryani.” Ijas laughs and hugs him.





At that exact moment, Ammi calls
out to Ijas.
"BIRYANI IS READY!"

Top Secret

To create your own secret letter, you will need the following:



Lemon



Water



A bowl



A blank paper



A paintbrush

Method:

1. Squeeze the juice of half a lemon into a bowl.
2. Add a few drops of water. Stir well.
3. Dip the paintbrush into the lemon juice mix and write your message on the sheet of paper.
4. Allow the invisible ink to dry.
5. Share your secret message with a friend! The message will be revealed only when the paper is heated with a candle or a warm light bulb.

Have fun!

Story Attribution:

This story: The Magic Letter is written by [Aaquib Jaleel](#) . © Pratham Books , 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Other Credits:

This book was first published on StoryWeaver by Pratham Books. The development of this book has been supported by Oracle. Guest Editor: Karishma Mahbubani; Guest Art Director: Snigdha Rao

Images Attributions:

Cover page: [two boys opening letter](#), by [Shreya Sen](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 2: [boy posting letter](#), by [Shreya Sen](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 3: [two boys outside their homes](#), by [Shreya Sen](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 4: [two boys playing together](#), by [Shreya Sen](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 5: [A boy reading a card](#) by [Shreya Sen](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 6: [boy opening a letter](#), by [Shreya Sen](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 7: [boy looking at a paper](#), by [Shreya Sen](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 8: [boy folding paper](#), by [Shreya Sen](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 9: [boy folding his card](#), by [Shreya Sen](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 10: [boy in the kitchen with his mother](#) by [Shreya Sen](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 11: [boy showing his mother a letter](#), by [Shreya Sen](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions



Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



The development of this book has been supported by Oracle.



This book was made possible by Pratham Books' StoryWeaver platform. Content under Creative Commons licenses can be downloaded, translated and can even be used to create new stories - provided you give appropriate credit, and indicate if changes were made. To know more about this, and the full terms of use and attribution, please visit the following [link](#).

Images Attributions:

Page 12: [boys shows his mother his letter](#), by [Shreya Sen](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 13: [boy reading a letter](#), by [Shreya Sen](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 14: [boy running and walking](#), by [Shreya Sen](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 15: [two boys hugging eachother](#), by [Shreya Sen](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 16: [two boys walking on a road](#), by [Shreya Sen](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions



Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



The development of this book has been supported by Oracle.

The Magic Letter

(English)

Ijas receives a letter from his best friend Vikram. He can't wait to read it! But when he opens the letter, he is in for a surprise.

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



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!