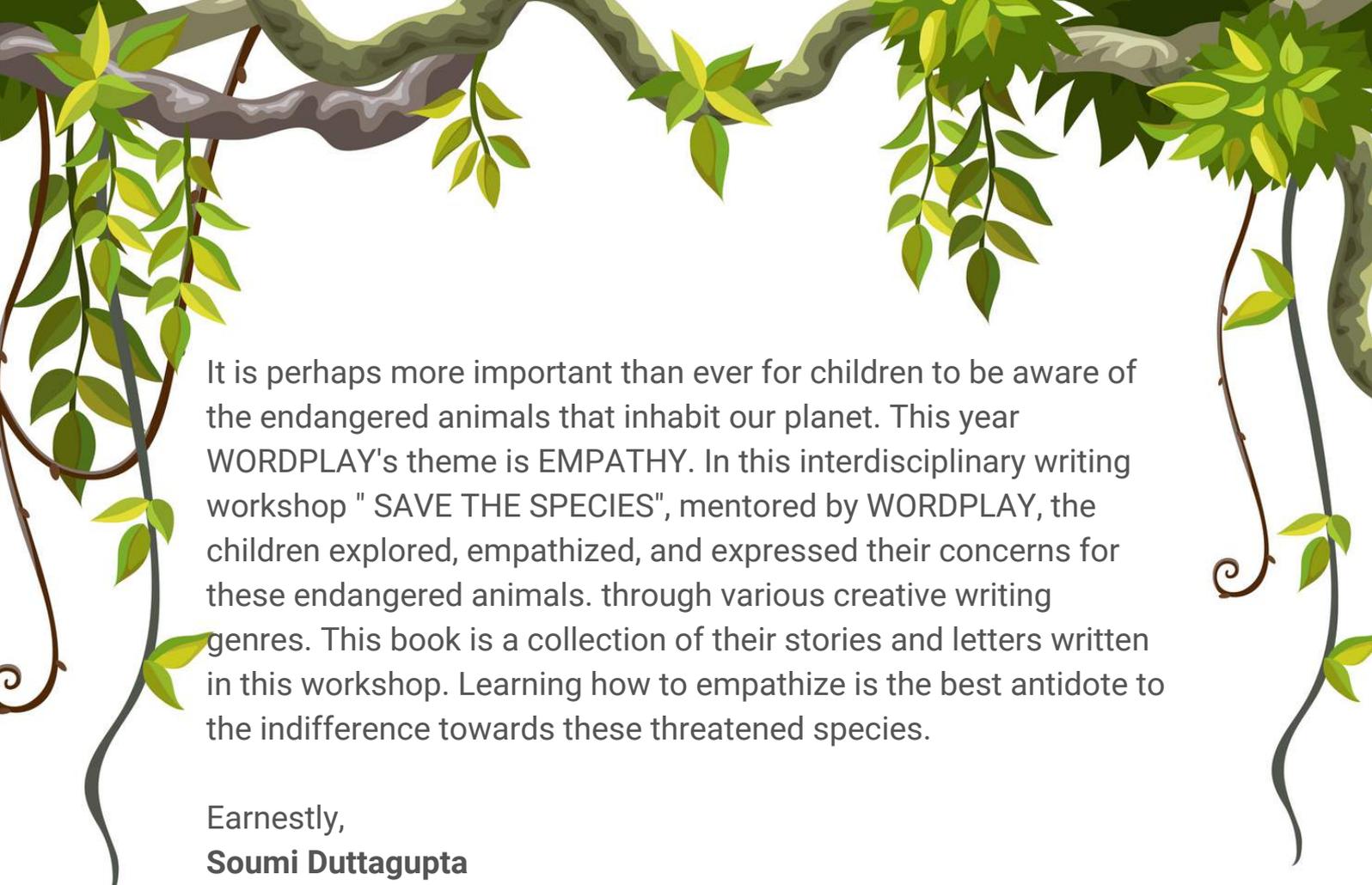


SAVE US!!!

EARTH IS OURS TOO

Written by grade 2 and 3 students
Mentored and curated by WORDPLAY





It is perhaps more important than ever for children to be aware of the endangered animals that inhabit our planet. This year WORDPLAY's theme is EMPATHY. In this interdisciplinary writing workshop "SAVE THE SPECIES", mentored by WORDPLAY, the children explored, empathized, and expressed their concerns for these endangered animals. through various creative writing genres. This book is a collection of their stories and letters written in this workshop. Learning how to empathize is the best antidote to the indifference towards these threatened species.

Earnestly,
Soumi Duttagupta
Mentor/ Founder
WORDPLAY

This book has been edited by **Oiendrila Chatterjee** and digitally compiled by **Jatin Arora**.





SOUBIR SEN

*3rd Grade
St.Xaviers, Durgapur*

KAYONE THE TIGER AND MACRONE THE KING

Once upon a time, in a village lived a King called Macron. One day a tiger named Kayon got into Macron's farm and ate all the animals living there.

Macron couldn't bear this, so he instructed some men in his village to catch Kayon alive. King's men cleverly caught him, put him in a cage, and brought him in front of the king.





Macron asked Kayon, "Why did you come to my farm even though you have a vast forest to hunt?"

Kayon growled and replied, "Your fellow humans are taking over my Jungle and destroying everything!! They are making my Jungle smaller and smaller each day. Your people have left me with very few animals on which I can prey and live. I have very little space to stroll, and my children have no place to play. Unless humans disturbed me, I would have never come to your farm."

Macron listened to him quietly and then assured him, "I shall do something for you."

The next day he called the villagers of all the villages around the forest. He said, "Let me ask you an important question."

The villagers were amazed and asked, "What question, your highness?"

Macron continued, "What would you do if some aliens from another planet would come and destroy your house, burn them up into ashes, eat your food and take your children away? Have you ever thought? You are doing the same thing to the animals of the Jungle. So next time I see any one of you in the Jungle cutting a tree or doing any harm to the animals living in the forest, I am going to punish you."

The villagers realized their mistake and promised the king that they would never make the same mistake again.



Dear Editor,

I am a Tiger. My name is Kayone. My home is in the forest, and I want to stay peacefully in my den with my family. However, the people of the world are disturbing me. They are entering the forest and hunting us down. They are killing us to use our skin. If this continues, a day will come when there will be no more tigers left in this world. Please stop killing tigers!!!!

If we are gone, we will be gone forever.

Sincerely,

Kayone



SREEJA GANGULY

3rd Grade
Vibgyor High, Pune

OLLY THE SEA OTTER

Once upon a time, a group of blue whales and sea otters lived in a deep blue sea. The leader of the whales was Wavy, and the leader of the sea otters was Olly.

They lived happily in the ocean and had a good time playing, eating, talking with each other.

One day a group of human beings came to the beach and started throwing garbage into the water, which made the sea creatures sick.

Olly and Wavy were worried about their situation. Olly said, "These things look like food, but when our friends eat these things, they fall sick."

"You are right", replied Wavy.





So, Olly and Wavy decided to stop all the sea otters and blue whales from eating the garbage.

"We should find another place to live!" said Wavy.

Olly agreed with him. So, they all prepared to find a new home. Soon they found and reached another ocean.

After staying in their new home for a while, they thought they were safe. But, unfortunately, a few days later, humans started throwing garbage and polluting at their new home too.

Very soon, they had nowhere to go as wherever they went; the water was already polluted and full of garbage.

Sad Olly and Wavy thought, where they could go next.

A jellyfish noticed Wavy and asked, "Who are you, and why do you look so sad?"

"My name is Wavy, and he is my friend Olly", replied Wavy. He continued, "Some humans have been polluting our home, and now we have nowhere to go."

"Don't worry; my name is Jemmy. Come with me to my house. You will be safe there as there are no humans, at least not now", said the jellyfish.

"Really? Thank You!" replied Wavy.

Wavy and Olly called out their group and all of them went with the jellyfish. They reached their new home soon. The ambience was perfect as it was full of sea creatures, and there was enough food to eat and no humans.



They lived happily for quite some time. But one day, a human came to that place and said, "This place is full of sea creatures. If I hunt them down, I will get a lot of money."

On hearing this, all the sea creatures started to panic. Meanwhile, two little girls were passing by and noticed the puzzled sea creatures.

They asked Olly, "What happened?"

"There are humans who want to hunt us down," replied Olly.

"Don't worry; we will help you to be safe in your home", assured the two little girls.

Soon they started making posters and raised awareness about not killing sea creatures and instead how to help protect them. The little girls also explained to people how to preserve their home instead of polluting.

After a few days, Wavy and the others came up to see what was happening. They saw the two little girls had stuck posters everywhere.

Finally, when humans came back to hunt, they saw the posters and realized, "This is true, we should not kill sea creatures ", and went back home.

All the sea creatures thanked the two little girls. Olly & Wavy gave them two shells with pearls as gifts, and they lived happily ever after.



Dear Editor,

I am the Sea Otter Olly. Through this letter, I wish to convey my concern that humans need to stop contaminating the water as that is where I live with my family and friends.

I was hoping if you could ask humans to stop spilling oil in the water. Since many people read your newspaper, they will read what you write. Please help us by writing about our plight in your newspaper. We are becoming homeless.

Your friend

Olly, the sea otter.



ASMI ACHARYA

3rd Grade

Kendriya Vidyalaya, Gachibowli, Hyderabad

THE BEST FRIENDS IN THE FOREST

Once, there lived ten friends in a forest in India. The group of ten friends had 'Birdy' the bird, 'Deeru' the deer, 'Emily' the elephant, 'Cuby' the lion cub, 'Andy' and 'Anty' the ant sisters, 'Girra' and 'Betu' the gorillas, 'Catty' and 'Cattia' the cats. They called themselves 'best friends forever.'

One day, a big bad man named Suresh came to that forest with a gang of friends. For no reason, they started cutting down the trees, and eventually destroyed the whole forest.

The animals were horrified by the cruel act of the humans. They started running here and there, not knowing where to go. Finally, at night the group of scared animals huddled under a tree. Birdy, Girra, Betu had already lost their homes. Andy and Anty couldn't find their parents and other sisters. Deeru's brother was taken away by two of Suresh's friends.





In their group, the Gorilla sisters were the cleverest creatures, so they proposed to put together all their might to fight against these evil men. Each one came up with their ideas and devised a complete plan.

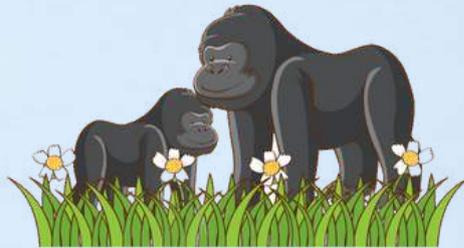
The next day, when Deeru was grazing on the ground, two beautiful, kind-hearted girls came near him. He was very scared because he knew human beings are all cruel. However, to his surprise, before he could run away, one of the girls came near her.

As Deeru watched, the girl with a smiling face opened her fist in front of his mouth and offered him a fist full of fresh leaves. They ended up playing together for a long time.

Suddenly, a few of Suresh's friend arrived again with an axe and giant sticks. Startled, Deeru ran away into the forest immediately.

Brishti and Sheela, the two kind-hearted girls with whom Deeru was playing, instantly understood everything. So, they went home and narrated everything to their parents. Their parents heard everything and got very angry with Suresh's gang. They decided to report to the forest guards and got them arrested.

From then on, Brishti and Sheela started visiting Deeru and her friends often. All of them laughed and played together for hours. The girls were very caring and loved the animals in the forest. To ensure that the animals are safe, the two little girls even planted many saplings and shrubs. Within a few months, new trees and shrubs grew up again, restoring the lushness and greenery of the forest. The animals were delighted as their sweet home was restored.



Dear Editor,

We are Girra and Betu, the Gorillas. We stay on treetops and love our forest home. Please don't cut down the forests. We are losing our homes, our parents and friends. We along with our other friends are requesting you to tell your human friends not to cut the forests. We want to live peacefully and happily in our home.

Sincerely,

Girra and Betu



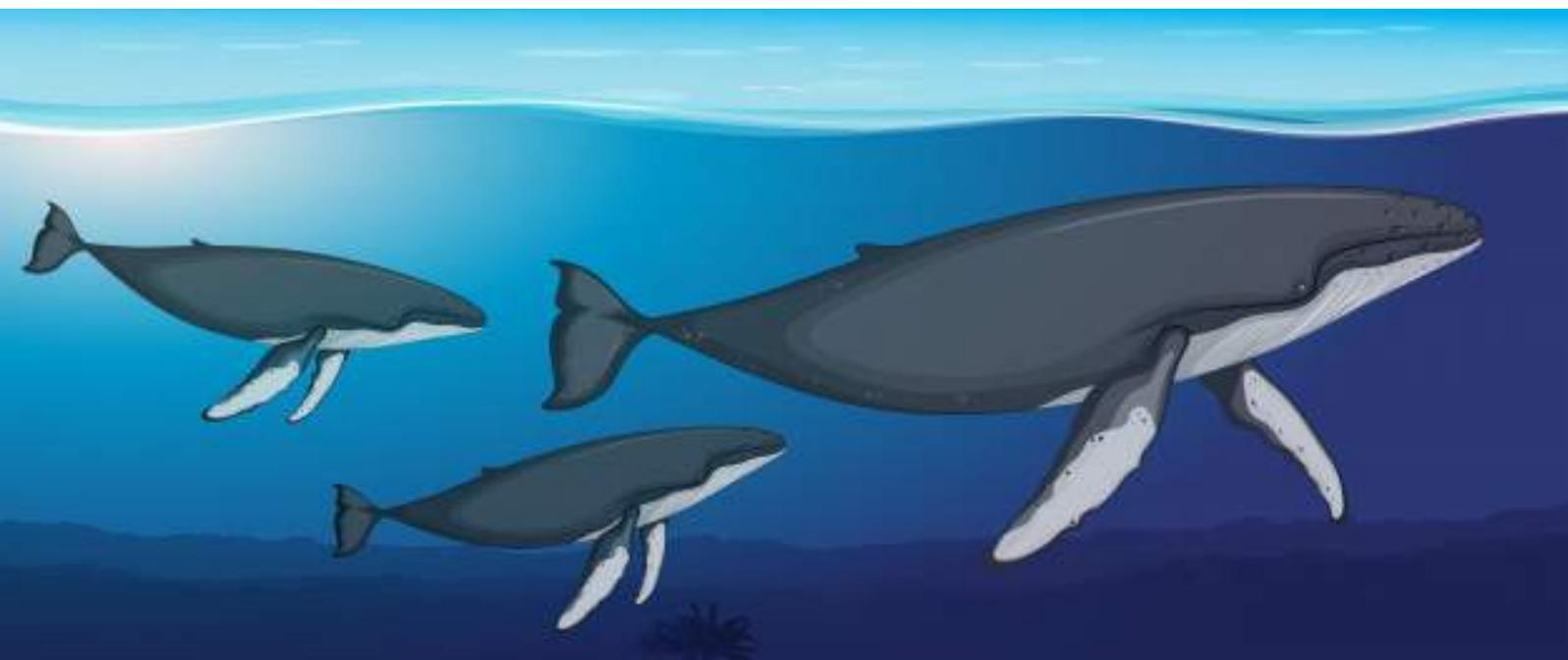
ANVITA JOIS

3rd Grade
Daffodils English School, Bangalore

THE BLUE WHALES AND THEIR FRIENDS

Once upon a time, a lion named Simba, a tiger named Nala, a family of Blue Whales named Mufasa, Sharabi, Kiara and Kion and a deer named Rose lived in a jungle. They were all best friends.

One day, the blue whale family went out in search of food. Simba, Nala and Rose were watching over the baby blue whales. Suddenly, Nala, with her sharp eyes, spotted a large ship approaching the blue whale family. Simba tried to warn the ship but failed. Then, suddenly, Nala spotted her friend, Jasmine, on the beach asked for help.



Jasmine immediately signalled the shipping driver to stop, and the ship stopped within a few minutes. Mufasa heard Simba's roar and immediately sent out a signal to the rest of the family. Kiara and Kion heard their father's signal and sent a signal out to their mom, Sharabi. Thankfully everyone was safe!

The whole blue whale family swam to the shore and thanked Jasmine, Simba, Nala & Rose for their help. Mufasa disclosed to Jasmine that most of his ancestors could not survive due to large ships and almost died. It was uncommon for blue whales to be rescued like this, so he was very thankful.

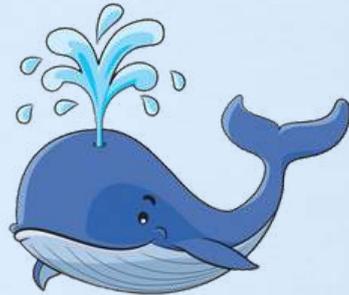
Mufasa arranged a surprise picnic for all of them to celebrate their rescue and address their concerns over animals being killed by humans. They had sandwiches, fruits and cake at the party. Jasmine, their human friend, volunteered to help them and disclosed her plan with the rest.

After coming back from the picnic, Jasmine arranged an emergency meeting with her friends and family to discuss how they could help protect endangered animals. Her friends and family promised that they would never hurt any animals and be careful while sailing in large ships and not polluting the environment.

A few days passed, and all the endangered animals, especially the blue whales, started increasing in number, and they all lived happily ever after.

Moral of the Story: We should protect Endangered Animals.





Dear Editor,

I am the Blue Whale from the sea. I am writing this letter to you because a bunch of people are trying to kill us. So, I request you to stop killing us for meat. Please let us live with our family just like you do, or else your kids will never be able to see us.

Bye-bye

P.S: Here is a message for all humans- "CAN YOU HEAR ME CRY? DON'T LET ME AND MY FAMILY DIE!"

Sincerely
Blue Whale



AARAV S MUKUND

2nd Grade

Lotus Valley International School, Gurgaon

LONGY, THE GIRAFFE AND HIS FRIENDS

I am Longy, a kind Giraffe with a long neck. I'm curious about this world, like to help people and make new friends. My tall house is within the deep forest.

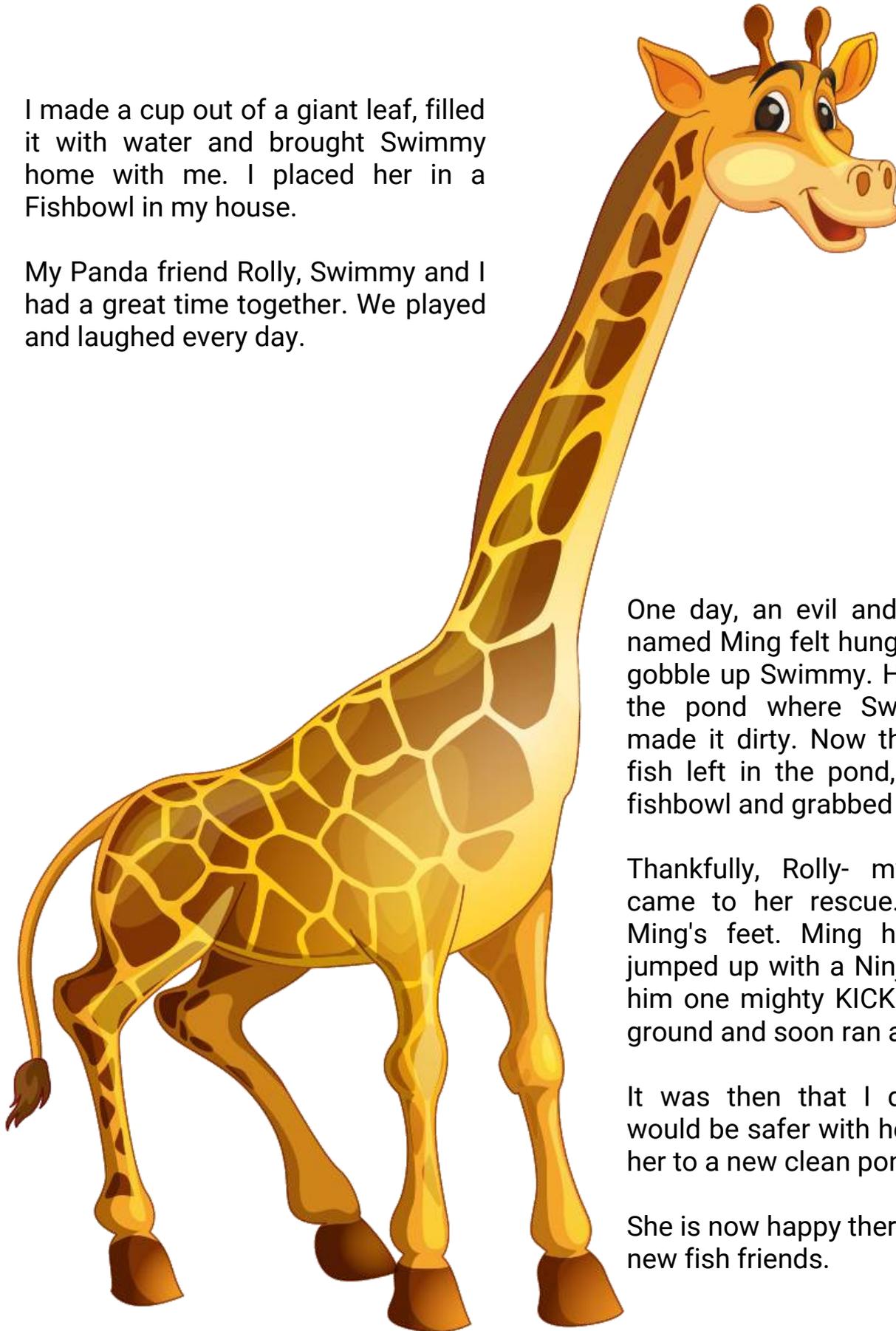
One hot summer day, I went out for a walk and felt thirsty. Thankfully, I found a pond nearby and stopped by to drink some water and quench my thirst. Sadly, when I went close, I heard someone in pain.

It was Swimmy, a tiny orange fish. She was in the pond yet looked sad and sick. I asked her why she looked that way. Swimmy told me that the pond where she lived was polluted and all her friends were dead. So now she was all alone and had fallen sick.



I made a cup out of a giant leaf, filled it with water and brought Swimmy home with me. I placed her in a Fishbowl in my house.

My Panda friend Rolly, Swimmy and I had a great time together. We played and laughed every day.



One day, an evil and disgusting man named Ming felt hungry and wanted to gobble up Swimmy. He often fished in the pond where Swimmy lived and made it dirty. Now that there was no fish left in the pond, he targeted the fishbowl and grabbed it.

Thankfully, Rolly- my Panda friend, came to her rescue. He jumped on Ming's feet. Ming howled. Finally, I jumped up with a Ninja style and gave him one mighty KICK. Ming fell to the ground and soon ran away.

It was then that I decided Swimmy would be safer with her kind. So, I took her to a new clean pond nearby.

She is now happy there and has a lot of new fish friends.



AARIA S MUKUND

2nd Grade

Lotus Valley International School, Gurgaon

PRETTY PAW AND ROLLY POLLY - THE PANDA SIBLINGS

Once upon a time, a Mama panda lived in a forest with her two cubs. Among the two cubs, Pretty Paws was the eldest, and her brother was Rolly-Polly. He was very naughty and liked to play all the time.

The Mama panda instructed her cubs not to go out and play when it's dark. She said, "When the sun sets, an evil human comes to the forest to kidnap the baby animals. He sells baby creatures like you in exchange for money. So be safe!"

Despite her mother's warning, Rolly-Polly was curious and wanted to know if her mother was telling the truth. So, one night, he decided to sneak out to play in the garden when Mama and Sister Panda were in a deep sleep.





Least did he know it would be a terrible night for him. That night, an evil man named Dusty kidnapped him and took him to his shop outside the forest. When poor Rolly-Polly reached his shop in a small cage, he found many other cubs caged behind his shop awaiting their horrid fate.

Rolly-Polly understood that Dusty was in the business of making and selling purses made up of animal cubs' skin. So, he would go into the Jungle in the middle of the night and steal the little animal cubs. Sad Rolly-Polly realized his mother was right and started crying.

When Mama and sister Panda woke up in the morning, they couldn't find Rolly-Polly. Soon the anxious sister Panda found her brother's footprint in the garden and quickly ran to tell her mother about it. Mama Panda was sure that this was none but the evil Dusty's work.

Mother and daughter Panda thought of a plan and followed the footprints that led them to Dusty's shop. Pretty Paws climbed on her mother's shoulders and put on a coat made up of leaves. She also put on a hat to look like a Tall Human. They walked up to Dusty, the shopkeeper and asked if he had a panda cub for sale. Dusty brought out Rolly-Polly to show the customer.

It was then that Mama Panda gave Dusty a decisive blow on his smelly nose. Sister Panda grabbed Rolly-Polly, jumped down off her mother's shoulder, and ran back into the forest. Mama Panda gave Dusty the lesson of his life and punched him on his face.

After this incident, Dusty never set his foot in the forest again. So finally, all the animal cubs in the forest are safe now.