



Pongal-o...

Continued from Page 14

Paati scowled. "Careful, thatha," the kids giggled, "you know how touchy paati is!"

"Pongal-O-Pongal!" paati cried. As everybody repeated the cry, the pongal hissed and rose like a white hat, flowing gently down one side. When paati stirred it vigorously, it settled back in. Paati lit the camphor and the three kids stood in a line, closed their eyes and pressed their palms together.

Full tummy

"I feel like a football, I've eaten so much!" Kumar rubbed his belly.

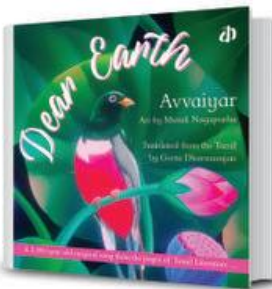
"You know, paati, you should start a YouTube channel. You'll be a sensation!"

Paati and Nandhini laughed. "You boys are so naïve! Didn't you know paati has one already? Thousands of people subscribe to it!" Nandhini said proudly.

"Oh! But who makes and posts the videos?" Muthu asked, puzzled.

"Thatha shoots the videos and I post it. It's not very hard, Nandhini taught us in the summer!" paati hugged her granddaughter. "She's my inspiration!"

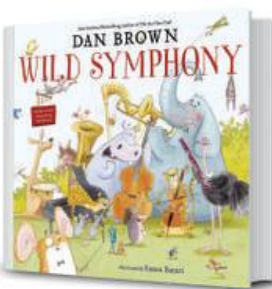
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Illustration: Murali Nagapuzha
Publisher: Katha Books
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Title: Heroes Without Capes
Author: Dr. D
Illustrations: Tanvi Bhat
Publisher: Scholastic Books
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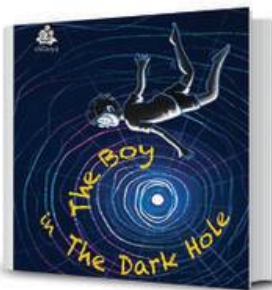
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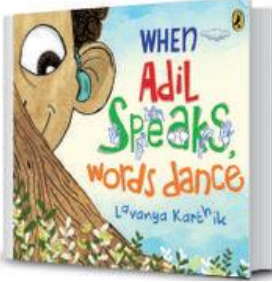
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Title: The Boy in the Dark Hole
Author: Vaishali Shroff
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Book: When Adil Speaks, Words Dance
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Illustrations: Lavanya Karthik
Publisher: Puffin India
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Gia would like to paint just like her father, a famous Goan artist. But when she lifts a brush, her mind goes blank. Does this mean she can never be *Just like Papa*?

SP is just another 10-year-old boy. But there's one problem — he's trapped inside a dreadful dark hole. Every time he thinks of his pushy parents, or evil bullies at school, or teachers who can't understand him, he falls deeper and deeper into it. His best friends, Kuhu and Lobo, are always there for him, but SP just can't seem to escape the darkness. Does *The Boy in the Dark Hole* come out of it at all?

Everyone wants to be friends with Adil. But how do you start a conversation with someone when their words dance to music you cannot hear? *When Adil Speaks, Words Dance* is a heart-warming tale of empathy, inclusivity and the surprising superpowers of friendship.