

The little girl finally relaxed a bit;

While continuing staring at the tree in grit

Finally she spoke 'O Dear tree! How can I be your friend';

'I know nothing about you other than that you have leaves and branches that bend '





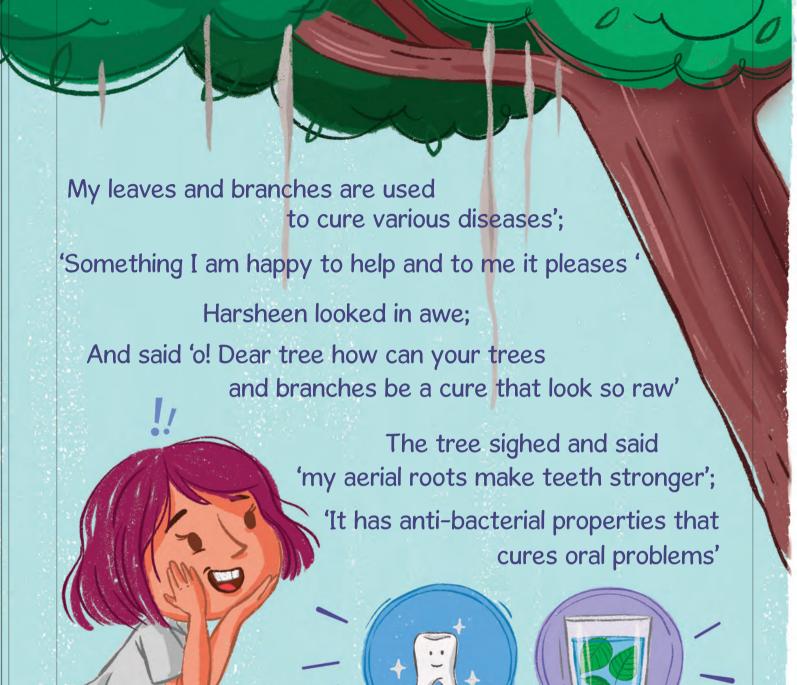


The tree spoke 'I live in tropical environment and warm temperatures';

My leaves provide lot of oxygen in the day 'and for humans it's a thankful gesture'

'I am known to be one of the largest oxygen provider among my clan'; 'And a gift of breath is what humans thank '

'I am known to be one with several feet';
'As I have lots of aerial roots that spread beneath



'My bark is an immune boosting agent';

'And my small budding leaves soaked in water helps treating tummy problems and is an astringent '



= MANGO TREE =

Summer holidays were about to start;

Little Dakshan was packing for his

grandma's house with full heart

Excited he was to meet his grandparents, Packed and ready with two beautiful presents.

As soon as the holidays begun;
He knew it was time for some fun

Next day he left for his grandma's house;

And upon reaching he sat tired on the couch

His grandfather hugged him and gave him his favourite drink;

'Come on little champ this will refresh you'he said with a grin



A big smile appeared on Dakshan's face;
As he enjoyed the surreal mango taste

'the best milkshake we get

'the best milkshake we get at grandma's house' he said with joy;
His grandmother hugged him and said
"you're most welcome my boy"

After shower and a little nap; This little boy then demanded an evening snack



He relished some delicious fluffy pancakes; And topped it with honey, mango and almond flakes Mango is my favourite fruit;

Can I have it even when I come during

Christmas break with all the other delicious food?'



Spoke Dakshan excitedly;
And upon hearing him the grandparents started laughing softly

'Oh my dear boy! Every fruit and vegetable grows in its season And it's only then that it must be eaten

Mango tree, my boy, produces the king of all fruits
But its fruit only grows in summers and provides us a cool

While you enjoy the fruit and its sweetness;

Let's not forget to thank the tree for its branches, sap, gum, leaves and its prettiness'

As grandfather spoke, he looked out of the window;
Seeing the sun setting in the sky, he switched on
the lights and sat on the sofa with printed flamingoes



Grandfather sighed and said My little boy, the tree and the fruit both have a lot of Benefits';

Upon hearing this, his eyes sparkled and smile changed into a grin





As having a boiled mango leaf tea helps to cure lot of diseases

The bark, the gum, the sap and the seed; Are also used by doctors at time of illness and they help to treat

Little Dakshan listened quietly in full attention; While sitting on his grandfather's lap with full compassion



Dakshan made a nice greeting card; to thank the tree and its bark

Dinner is ready a voice came from behind;

And the petite grandmother

While Dakshan enjoyed his dinner; He showed his grandparents his card that shimmered

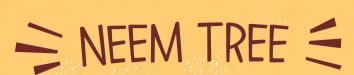


Post dinner, Grandmother said in soft voice 'Oh! My dear little cutie; Get to bed and sleep well as tomorrow we have a kids party





Dakshan slept with eyes closed; Dreaming of plucking mangoes and eating the ones that he chose.



In a small village far away from Delhi Lived a little boy 'Shyam' with a big belly

Climbing trees and plucking fruits He was a naughty yet innocent and cute

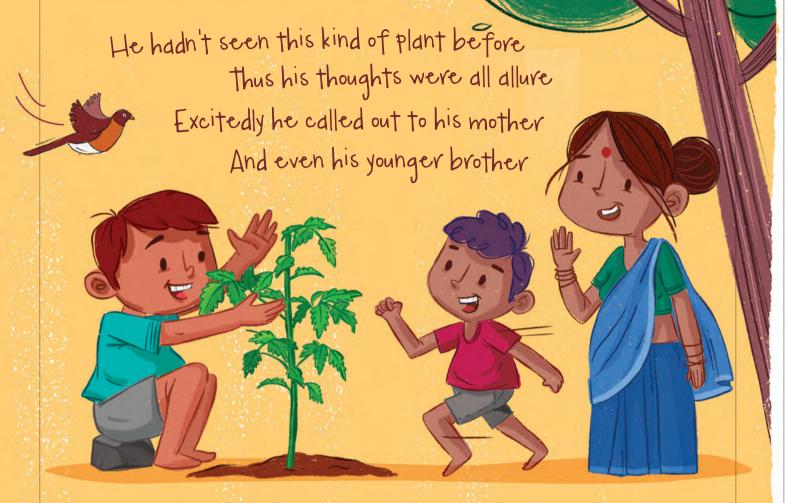
One evening while playing in the backyard He came across a little plant

He sat down and started admiring its leaves
So thick, pointed and completely green

the lush green leaves moved with the wind

Swirling and dancing like a sweet little dolphin





Come quick mummy please don't delay
I have seen a special plant today

Ram and his mother van outside On hearing Shyam's excited voice

Upon seeing the plant His mother hugged her sons and laughed

My dear boys this is called the Neem

Over dinner I will tell you all about its leaves, branches and seeds



Ram and Shyam ran inside and sat on the floor quietly

Waiting for their dinner to be served in pots that were earthly

Mother we are waiting for you to tell us about neem tree
Said Ram in a voice full of plea

how do you both brush your teeth?'
Asked the mother while pouring some ghee

Shyam replied with a twig of a tree' to which the mother said that 'that's the twig of the neem tree

the twig and bark prevents plaque and helps fight mouth germs

In turn keeping your mouth fresh and firm



My dear sons, neem tree is vastly grown in India
In English it's called Azadirachta Indica

The neem leaves has anti-bacterial properties.

And helps to cure lot of skin problems,
burns and infections with ease

Neem oil is extracted from seeds

Helping me make the soap from which you bath and become clean



Shyam when you went out in the evening today.

I put some neem oil on the arms to keep the mosquito away

White and delicate are its flowers

The look so pretty and blossom in the afternoon and evening hour

I have sprinkled some flower in the vegetable today

It's good for your tummy and your occasional headaches



The flower have a sweet scent at night You can smell it once your plant grows and blossoms to its full height'

Both boys listened carefully

As their mother explained the uses of the neem tree

Now boys if you are done with the dinner Help me clean the plates and the kitchen'

Said the mother softly

To which both the boys nodded and got up swiftly

After cleaning the kitchen and getting to bed the brothers talked to each other with wandering heads

Ram, Mother Nature is so beautiful

Its every creation has some use'

Said Shyam slowly
To which Ram listened quietly



Ram before we sleep
let's thank mother nature
For everything it gives us for free

Every tree will have some benefit Will ask mother tomorrow about it in good spirit

Let's pledge to plant a tree every month

So that when we become old, we can

use it upfront

Also they look so green and lush

Such is the beauty of the mother nature's plush'

After speaking, Shyam rubbed his head Ram softly hugged him and said

'I promise you, we will take care of our trees and plant more together we will make this world grow'

GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS/PARENTS:

The concept of the author is to write rhyming stories for children, as it helps them learn English in a fun way. Every rhyming story helps the child focus on the important values and habits that must be inculcated in them.

Through the rhyming stories of this book, the students will get to know advantages of various trees discussed in the book.

BANYAN TREE

Interesting facts about the Banyan Tree and its uses are discussed. Along with this, the author has focused on the importance of being thankful to Mother Nature.

Line 1-2: informs the reader that trees are the most natural way of getting shelter from the sun. In olden times there when there were no fans, travelers used to rest under the tree

Line 15 -16: informs that this tree has a very long life which on an average is around 200-300 years

Line 17-18: states that it is the national tree of the

India and home to many birds like crows sparrows, cuckoos

Line 23-30: talks about the various facts like it grows in tropical environment, has aerial roots, provides oxygen and cures diseases

Line 33-38: discusses the properties of its roots, sap, leaves, bark and buds

Line 41-48: talks about gratitude that a human being should have for Mother Nature. Understanding the importance of trees in our lives and being thankful for it



NEEM TREE

The advantages of the neem tree are discussed. Along with this, the author has focused on the importance of being responsible children and helping your parents in daily chores the author has also focused on the need to plant more trees for the future generation and take care of Mother Nature.



Lines 1-8: discusses about the life of a village boy. Even though it's simple and without gadgets yet full of happiness and satisfaction

Line 23-26: shows the discipline of the children and how they listened to their mother and sat for dinner

Lines 29-48: talks about the benefits of neem tree

Lines 51-52: emphasizes on the importance of children helping their mother in household chores and being responsible for their activities

Lines 57-58: tells that Mother Nature nurtures us free of cost

Line 65-72: discusses about importance of planting more trees and taking care of them for the future generations

MANGO TREE

The advantages of eating the mango fruit in different forms as well as the other uses of the mango tree are discussed. Along with this, the author has focused on the importance of having gratitude in life and being caring towards elders.

The first 6 lines explain the excitement of holidays that a child feels which reflects love, respect and sentiments to meet his/her family

The 3rd and the 4th line: focuses on the importance of being caring and loving towards the elders. All children love getting presents but they should also learn how to give them

Line 19-20: where the child asks indirectly if the fruit is produced all year round to which the answer is in the next few lines

Line 23-27: 4 important lessons are taught to children:

- **1.** Children need to understand that all fruits and vegetables grow in certain season
- 2. The healthiest habit is to have seasonal and

regional fruits and vegetables as they have all the required vitamins and nutrients that our body needs in that particular season

3. Mango is a summer fruit and it should be eaten in summers only

Though export and import have led to us having access to vegetables and fruits all year round but a good healthy habit is to have seasonal and regional fruits and vegetables as it helps us acclimatize to the environment/climate

4. Mango is called the king of fruits

Line 35-38: explains the benefits of eating a mango

Line 39-42: explains the benefits of the tree

Line 45: discusses the importance of to have gratitude in life. One must be grateful to every being and everything no matter how big or small.

Line 51-52: elders acknowledge a positive habit of the child which further encourages and motivates him to be a good individual.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Neoma Pasricha is a finance professional. After doing her schooling from the Convent of Jesus and Mary, New Delhi she pursued a dual degree from the University Of Sheffield (U.K.) in Economics and Finance, wherein she received various awards from the university and renowned investment firms. Thereafter, she completed her Masters in Finance from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE, U.K.) and pursued a career in investment banking at Bank of America-Merrill Lynch and HSBC.

She takes keen interest in child welfare and is focused on promotion of education among children. This is her first publication.

She is also a Founding Trustee at the Indian Youth Economic Association (IYEA), which is a non-profit trust promoting research in economics and public policy and has been part of various charitable initiatives to promote education among children and the youth of the country. Alongside she is also an entrepreneur in the grooming segment.

Her short rhyming stories aim to inculcate values, important life lessons among young minds and enhance their learning through her fun and engrossing poems/stories. As the younger years are a critical learning and growing period, her books are intended for such ages.

She is based out of New Delhi