

THE HERO



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TO
ALL MY FRIENDS
WHO LIKE TO READ,
DRAW & WRITE

Foreword

Literary development is a yardstick to measure the development of a country. The Kotte and Dambadeniya eras stand out in the history of the world because they were literary enlightening periods. If so, this is the golden period in the history of the *Mahamaya* as well. This is the reason why our daughters have been enchanting through book writing for many years now. It is a special event that our writers have succeeded in building a culture of writing books in the school and spreading it to the entire school system and this time involving the global student community in it.

Beyond this, this time the school community itself has also decided to rebuild the past *Yatiwara* writing tradition in the country in order to pay tribute to the founder of our school, Karadana Atthadassi Thero.

The *Pirivena* student monks have also taken up book writing “The *Herana Gatkarani* “ project was introduced.

It is a matter of pride for me as the principal to lead the way in bringing about a qualitative change in the education of schools and *Pirivena* education through this academic and religious service, and it is also an achievement for the school.

This book, which is the result of recognizing one's innate talent at an early stage in life and turning to writing, will undoubtedly be a help for future education and future life.

Shashikala Senadheera,

Principal, Mahamaya Girls’ Collage, Kandy.

It was my birthday. I was so happy. My mother had given me beautiful gifts. But I was waiting all evening for my father. At last, he came home with a big box. I ran to him.



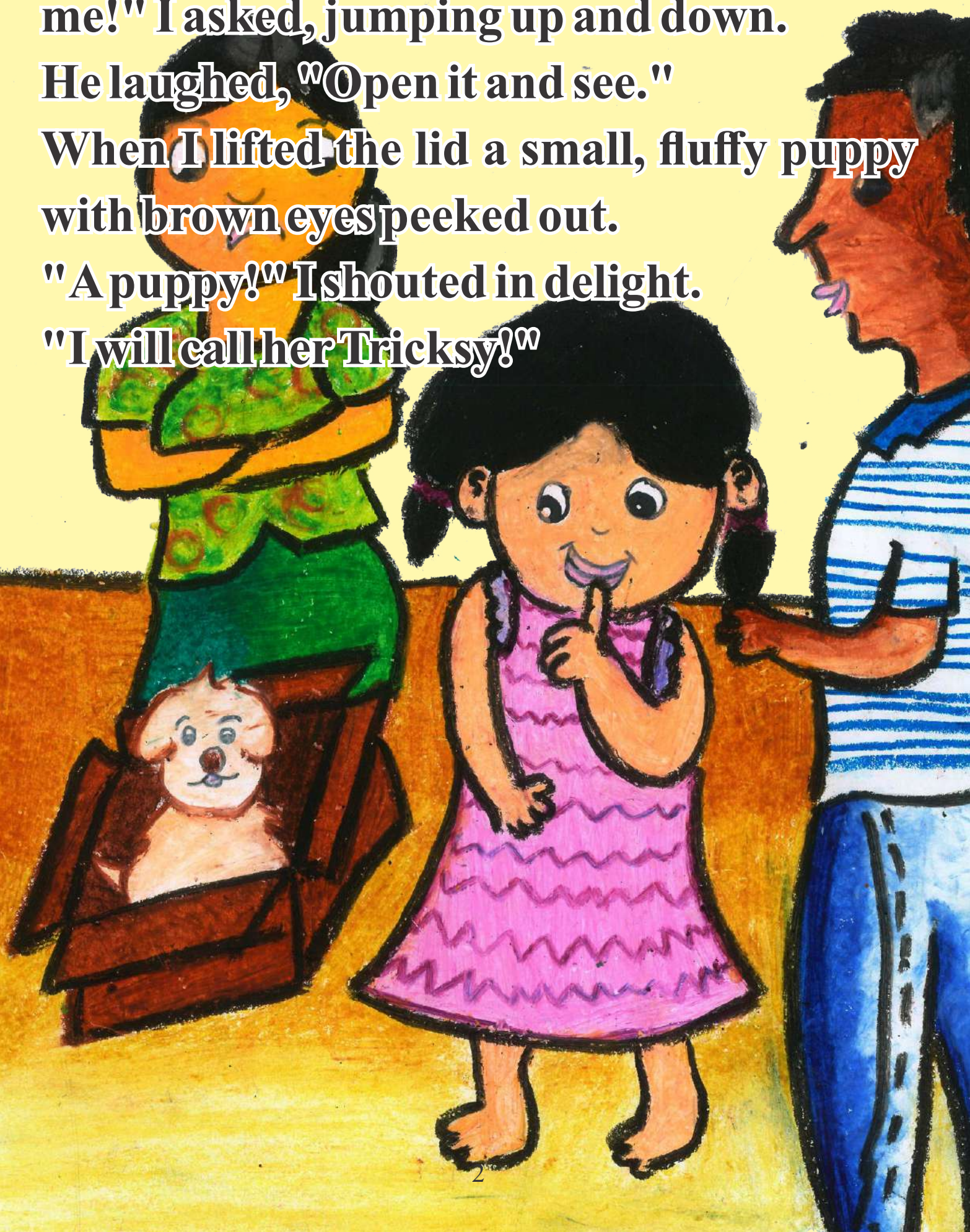
"What is inside Thaththa? Tell me, tell me!" I asked, jumping up and down.

He laughed, "Open it and see."

When I lifted the lid a small, fluffy puppy with brown eyes peeked out.

"A puppy!" I shouted in delight.

"I will call her Tricksy!"



But Amma did not look happy. She was angry. "Who is going to take care of this dog? Who will do its work? she asked.

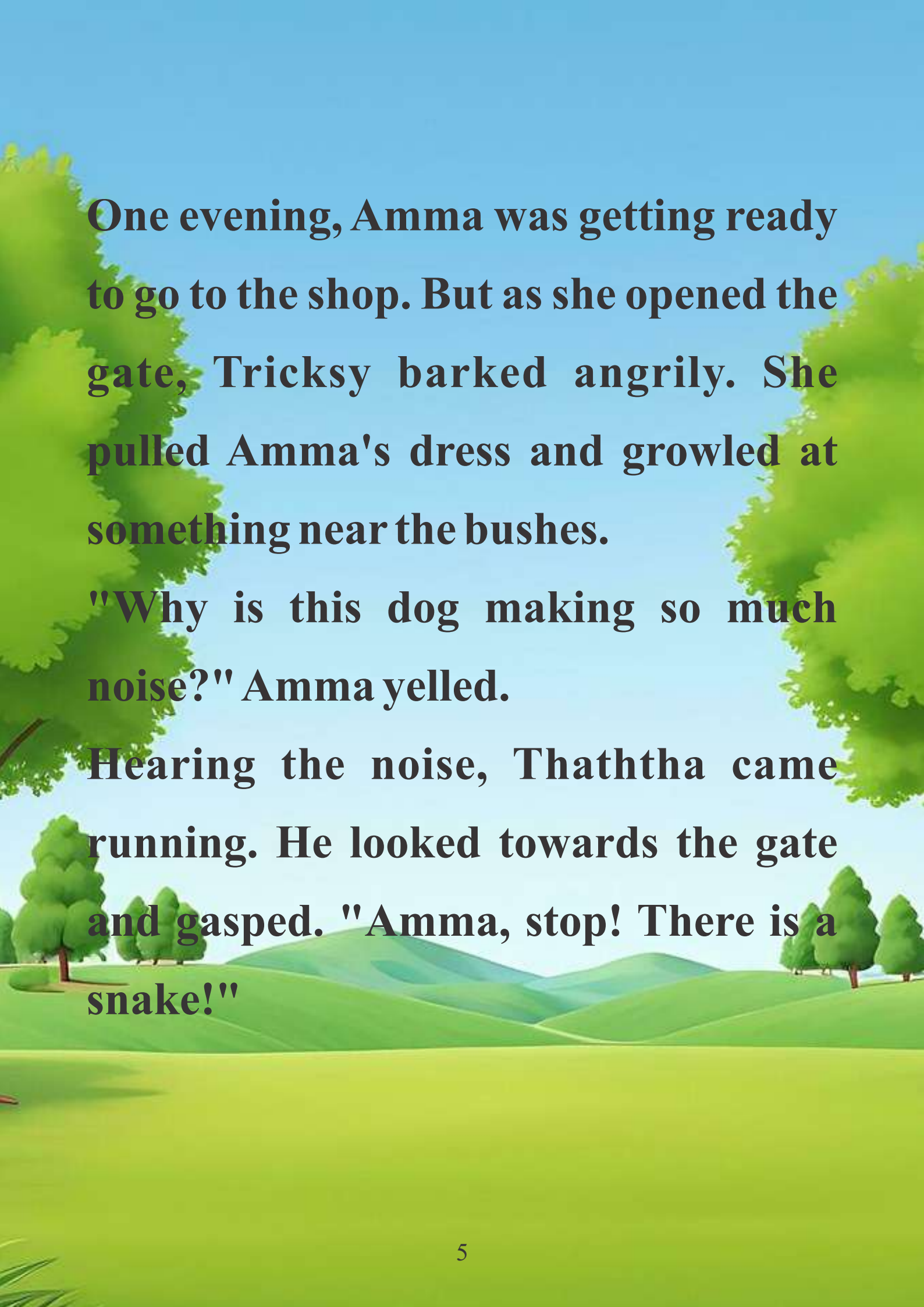
"I will, Amma! Don't worry!"

I promised.

Few days passed and Tricksy was a six months old, big girl. I loved her a lot! But Amma did not. She always shouted at Tricksy for everything.

Yet, Amma still cooked tasty food for her. Tricksy loved Amma the most. She followed her everywhere, wagging her little tail.



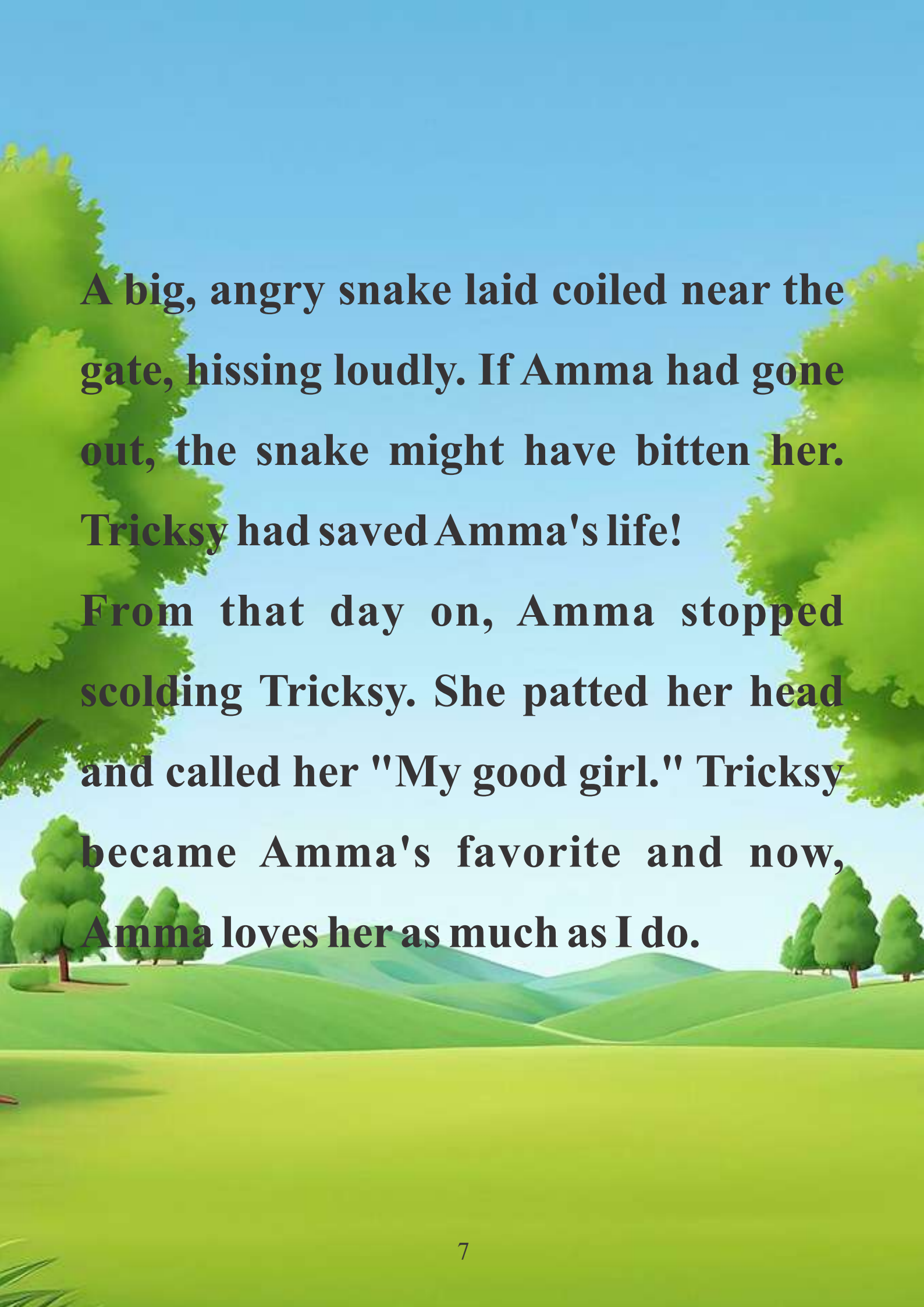


One evening, Amma was getting ready to go to the shop. But as she opened the gate, Tricksy barked angrily. She pulled Amma's dress and growled at something near the bushes.

"Why is this dog making so much noise?" Amma yelled.

Hearing the noise, Thatththa came running. He looked towards the gate and gasped. "Amma, stop! There is a snake!"





A big, angry snake laid coiled near the gate, hissing loudly. If Amma had gone out, the snake might have bitten her. Tricksy had saved Amma's life!

From that day on, Amma stopped scolding Tricksy. She patted her head and called her "My good girl." Tricksy became Amma's favorite and now, Amma loves her as much as I do.



**And that is how my little puppy became
the hero of our family.**



Afterward



According to my concept, under the project that has been running since 2014 to direct school children to writing, we have been fortunate to have planted more than sixty thousand writer seedlings in the local literary field. The objectives of this project are to improve the quality of education, to promote literature that will contribute to the future development of the country, to hone the abilities of the future generation, and to build a platform to showcase the creations of children.

It is our social responsibility to create the fertile soil for those seeds to sprout and grow. This is the only project in recent history that has been implemented continuously for several years at the school level, provincial, national and international levels for the sake of the productivity of education. This time, it is special that the *Pirivena* student monks have also been involved in this. The nation should be grateful for the dedication shown by the Principal, daughters, teachers, parents and alumni of *Mahamaya Balika Vidyalaya*.

The printed book is still the main tool of our education. The enjoyment that a child gets from a book cannot be provided by anything else.

It is experimentally proven that the use of various electronic devices to store human knowledge and the distancing of children from books has been detrimental to the quality of education and has created various problems in society. This project, which is being implemented as a solution to this, has been adapting the smart younger generation of the digital age to modern technology by writing electronic works for the past two years, together with school children in the country.

To take their creations to international readers, Mahamaya girls have built a digital fiction for their own, literary creative abilities.

My congratulations to the young writers who have entered it through their creative abilities.

Project Founder and Coordinator,

Senevirathne Maha Lekam