



Story Nook

Kathalaya Newsletter

Issue 4 , 2024

STORY TIME

THE SOUL OF MANY COLOURS

It was Sudha's last day at the school. She had been a class teacher for the same set of students for over 3 years now. They would be graduating to high school and she was retiring. She recalled the first day of the class when the children looked up with awe surprise and wonder as to how she would be. She had been teaching now for 35 years and it would be her last day at school too. That night before her last day she went to sleep recalling each child's face. "What should I give them she wondered! Not chocolates or sweets but something for them to rememberher eyes closed and she slept. She had a wonderful dream that night and woke up excited as she knew what she would give the children. The children gathered around her each one wanting to be closer to her than the others. It was a coeducation school. The school had a large campus that led to a lake nearby. The children were always prevented from straying too far from the school. " Lets make a line and go down to the lake", she said.

The lake was full as it had rained heavily the previous day. Sudha gathered them around the stone near the lake under the tree and they had lunch and goodies. She gave each a little card with their individual names written in her own handwriting in calligraphy. They were touched and in turn also gave gifts flowers and hand done cards to her. She gathered them around closer and began to tell a story. " Last night I dreamt that I travelled to a land faraway. Everyone was walking in the same direction and I saw children's faces just like yours. We were coming towards a lake and suddenly there was a huge gathering under a tree like this in the village there. A man was wrapped in a white cloth and placed on a bamboo scaffold and some people were crying. His face seemed calm and serene. An old man had died. Suddenly something amazing happened. Lots of colours like the rainbow colours began to appear on the man's white cloth. It seemed like magic as if someone was wrapping him in silk, satin and cotton cloth with designs of red, blue, green and gold finally.

The man who stood near the body was calm and said, "The colours and designs you see on the man's body tells the story of his life. The blue shows he was loyal, the red that he had a brave heart, the green for his compassion and the gold that he was loving to others. " Does it happen to everyone in this village? " I asked. " No, " he was a good man and was so loving towards everyone was blessed soul. There are others I know whose white cloth after being wrapped turns into shreds and tatters and becomes like dust and we have to quickly keep wrapping him again. "The people in the village know the kind of life he had led."

" So children said Sudha with misty eyes " you are all young and your stories are just beginning. I can tell you that If I had a cloak at the end of my life I should make sure that it should have all the colours represented. My hope for you is to lead a glorious life imparting a lot of love and compassion for others keeping in mind your Goodbye attire all the time. The students hugged Sudha and bid her farewell promising to lead a beautiful life.

Happy Teachers Day to all

Geeta Ramanujam

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JULY AND AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

SPECIAL TRAINING

Workshop for 27 teachers of the National Public School, Yelahanka in the Art of Storytelling. Vidyashilp School hosted an online parenting workshop and Geeta Ramanujam delivered talk on the topic Building Self-Esteem and Confidence.

A UNIQUE OFFER TO TRAIN 150 EMPLOYEES AT THE ATMOPHERE RESORT IN THE MALDIVES OPENED UP THE CORPORATE WINDOW FOR KATHALAYA.

Geeta Ramanujam along with Rohini trained the 150 employees over 3 days from varied Nationalities at Raaaya with the background of the Indian Ocean.



HOW AND WHY TALES BOOK LAUNCH

Launch of Geeta Ramanujam's How and Why Tales at Bond over Bindings, Jakkur published by Penguin saw over 35 children and adults come from far and near to get a signed copy of the book and listen to the tales. This is Geeta's third book.

Followed by next launch at Kahaani Box JP Nagar.

STORIES ON WHEELS AT KATHALAYA

70 Children from Greenwood high Pre School, Gottigere visited Kathalaya to listen to tales from Rohini with drums. KATHALAYA continued with their school intervention programs in schools.

The Chennai Childrens Storytelling festival at the Anna centenary

building in Chennai invited Geeta as a storyteller to perform for over 300 children from both urban and Government schools well as to lead a workshop on Storytelling for Transforming classrooms for teachers and tellers.



FOR CHILDREN Our professional tellers Savitha, Swati, Kirti and Neha performed for Children at spaces across Bangalore.

ACADEMY COURSES 174th Beginners course with 20 participants on the first steps of being a storyteller was intensive and insightful .

Participants feedback—<https://youtu.be/9lzo98NPzA0>

NGO REACH: Prabha Madhavan and Neha Dinesh represented Kathalaya at Nexus of Good Foundation (NOG) Bangalore chapter : A platform to showcase and network with different institutions in the academic field.



NEW PARADIGMS-NEW COURSES LAUNCH OF THE NEW COURSE ANTARDHWANI-THE STORYTELLERS INNER VOICE WITH THE BACKGROUND OF THE ARUNACHALA MOUNTAINS WAS LAUNCHED AT SHIVALAYA IN AUGUST. This Story retreat had 8 people who came from different corners to support and be a part of this great inner unfolding of the self and to take the silence of the mountain back with them. Glimpse of the course.

<https://www.facebook.com/100003477075739/videos/1169156944167307/>

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***Watch out for our upcoming stories
September—October 2024***

- September 5 Special Storytelling performance by Geeta Ramanujam for 130 Children on Teachers Day at Singapore International School, Mumbai.
- September 6 Guest Speaker for Team Atmosphere Core Pvt Limited on Leadership training through Storytelling at ITC ,Martha ,Mumbai
- September 12 Workshop for WWW Team at Bosch , Aduodi on the topic "Soaring High : Power of Women's potential" is a dynamic and in spiring one-day summit designed to empower every woman associate within the organization.
- September 14 Storytelling performance for Children at AIM Montessori , Uttarhalli by our professional tellers .
- September 14,22&29 Join us for our "How and Why Tales " book launch at Kahaani box -Koppa Road ,Akshaya Nagar,Atta Gallata-Indira Nagar and Neev Literature festival-Neev Academy, Yemalur.
To book your seats contact Kahaani Box - 9900838500,
Atta Galatta - 9632510126 ,Neev 8122074423
- September 21 Join our 127th *Kathasangama* - an public event at Kathalaya for Children and adults .Jyothi Kunjoor our professional teller narrate tales with her unique whistling Tunes .
- September 28 Special performance for Children at Prarthana World School, School,Bangalore
- October 19 Dussera special stories at Kathasangama by our tellers
- October 25-27 174th Intensive course in Storytelling at Kathalaya,Bangalore

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