

Flying High



Beverly Jatwani

Darshika Varma

Synopsis

From the slums to the skies, this is the story of a girl who had nothing ... but dreamed of everything. With a kite in hand and HOPE in her heart, she shows the fearless strength it takes to rise above it all!

About the Author

'The hearts of children hold the power to heal the world and it all begins with the stories we tell them.' Beverly Jatwani's upbringing in India was rooted in nature and outdoor play ... muddy knees and climbing trees best capture the spirit of her childhood. These precious memories, combined with the life lessons she learned as a mother to three spirited children, inspired her to co-found the Middle East's first green, purpose-over-profit children's nursery. Having witnessed how naturally children connect with the world around them, Beverly felt compelled to write *The Together Series*, a collection of seven children's books that reflect the innate love and deep affinity children have with Mother Earth. Beverly's books are more than just stories, they are gentle invitations for children to live with compassion, love, gratitude and intention. These heartwarming tales have now been brought to life as animated storybooks on Emirates Airline's inflight entertainment system. She continues to find great meaning in writing for children and is especially excited about her new book, *Flying High* — a story close to her heart, shaped by her cultural roots and the powerful, transformative life experiences that have inspired her journey.

About the Illustrator

Darshika Varma is a children's illustrator from Mumbai with a love for storytelling and vibrant colour. Though raised in the city, she's always been drawn to the peace of the countryside. After earning a BFA in Applied Arts, she began her career in digital marketing and wedding invitation design, eventually discovering her true passion in children's illustration. A dreamer at heart, Darshika finds inspiration in fantasy worlds and is often curled up with a book, ready to bring imaginative stories to life through her art.

Educational Applicability

Flying High is an inspiring story of hope, resilience and determination, set in the slums in a city in India. Empowering children to dream big, no matter their background or circumstances, this book also fosters emotional intelligence, kindness and introduces young readers to social awareness in a gentle, age-appropriate way. The story celebrates the Indian tradition of kite flying and gives the reader information about slums in India.



Written by

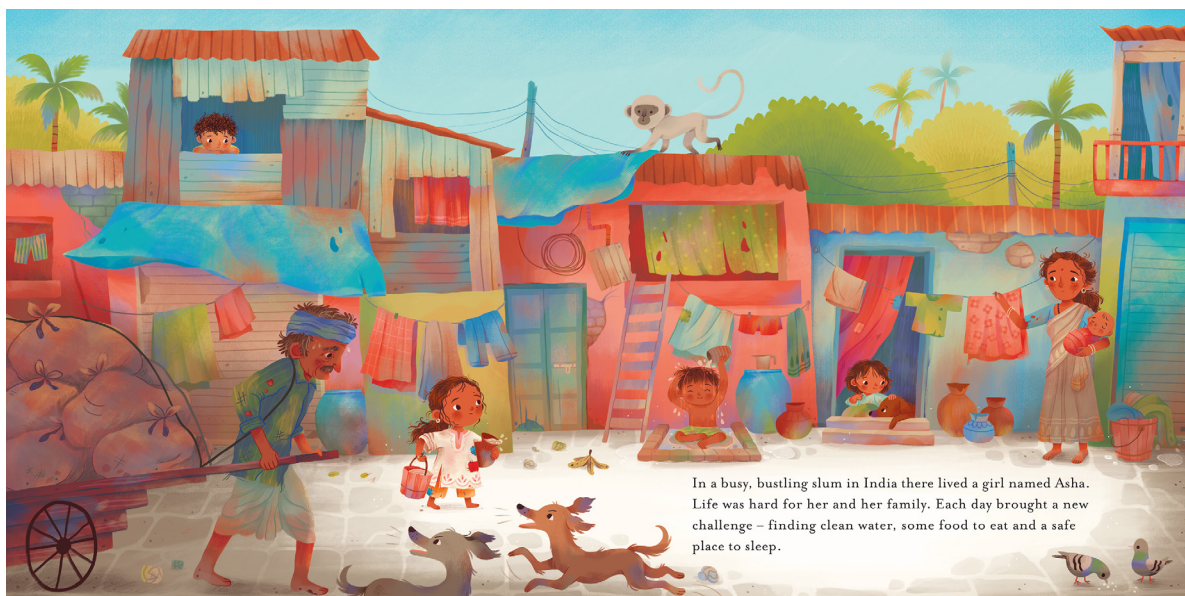
Beverly Jatwani

Illustrated by

Darshika Varma

Published by

Little Steps Publishing



In a busy, bustling slum in India there lived a girl named Asha. Life was hard for her and her family. Each day brought a new challenge – finding clean water, some food to eat and a safe place to sleep.

Discussion Topics

Before, during and after reading the book

1. Introduce Flying High to the children and ask them what they think the story might be about.
2. Ask the children if they have been to India and if they know what a slum is.
3. What challenges does Asha have to face every day? Describe where she lives.
4. What does Asha love doing?
5. What is the prize for winning the National Kite Flying Competition? Why does it excite Asha? Talk about the tradition of kite flying festivals in India.
6. What does Asha decide to do with her friends?
7. How does she create the kite?
8. What does Asha do when her kite is knocked down by the wind? Talk about resilience/determination/hope/positive mindset here.
9. What word is written on the kite? When Asha's kite is cut by another kite string, what happens to the kite?
10. What do you think Asha wanted her kite to tell the world?
11. What does Asha become when she grows up?
12. After reading the book, ask them what did they think of the story? Which was their favourite part and why?



Yet, in the middle of these struggles, Asha found joy in the simplest of things. She loved racing through the narrow, noisy alleys with her friends. Her bare feet pounding the dusty ground, dodging dirty puddles and giggling all the way.



She loved playing cricket, using sticks as bats and old rubber balls.

But more than anything, Asha loved flying kites. Every afternoon, she and her friends would sneak onto nearby rooftops, launching their paper kites above the crowded slums. For Asha, watching a kite fly felt like hope, something greater than the life they knew.



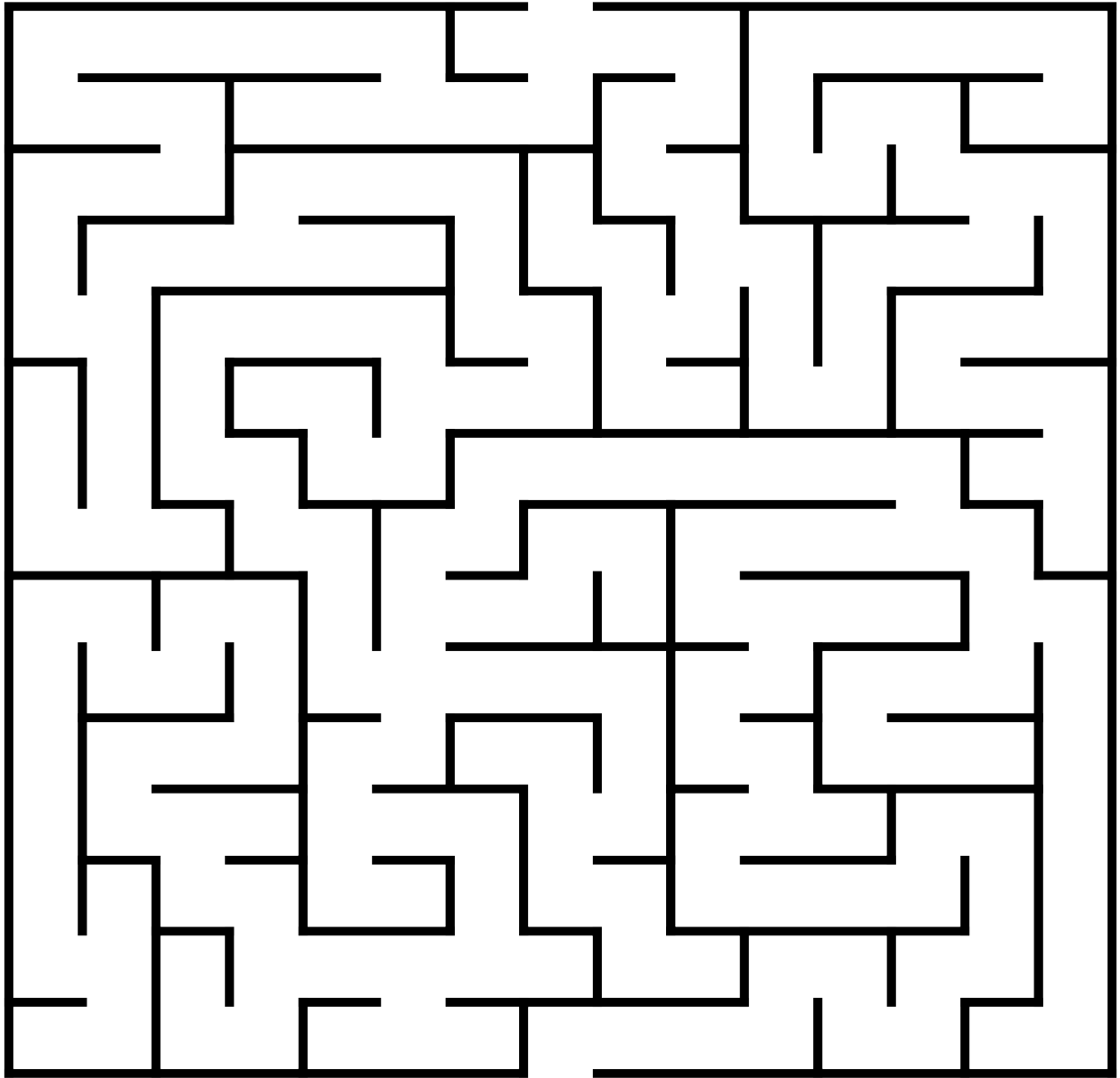
One dusky evening, word spread that a national kite flying competition was coming to the city. The prize? A school scholarship and a small cash award – enough to change lives.



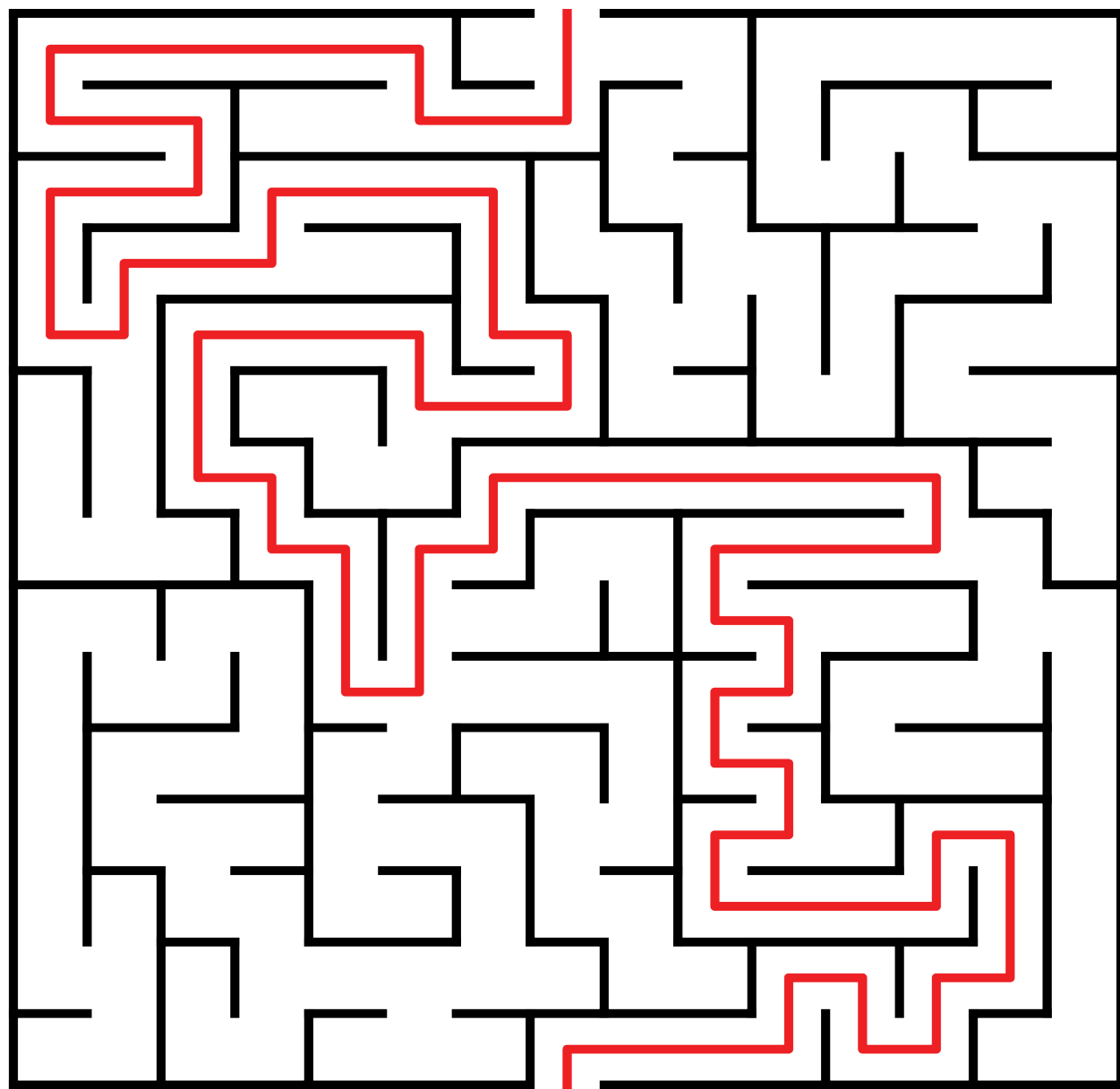
Asha's heart leapt. She had always dreamt of going to school. She knew others would be competing with fancy, patterned kites but she still felt a spark of determination.

A-MAZE-ING ASHA

Can you help Asha find her kite?



SOLUTION TO A-MAZE-ING ASHA



WORDSEARCH

Find all the words below in the *Flying High* wordsearch

Name:

Class:

Date:

word search

FLYING HIGH

D	Y	L	F	L	N	I	I	K	N	S	H	I
G	E	T	R	R	S	E	M	N	O	E	J	U
E	R	T	I	O	A	A	U	U	I	T	I	C
M	P	S	E	R	E	L	L	E	T	M	I	A
R	E	H	N	R	G	N	S	Y	S	H	C	U
D	D	S	D	O	M	T	M	P	C	U	S	H
N	L	A	S	H	A	I	O	E	A	R	P	L
A	P	O	T	A	T	A	N	H	E	O	I	R
S	W	D	B	B	G	A	M	A	K	P	L	A
D	T	C	O	M	P	E	T	I	T	I	O	N
N	L	S	J	O	Y	I	W	D	Y	I	T	H
V	T	T	F	Z	Q	S	E	N	O	H	O	E
Y	D	F	R	E	X	G	E	I	E	E	I	N

ASHA
COMPETITION
DETERMINATION
DREAM
FLY

FRIENDS
HOPE
INDIA
JOY
KITE

MESSAGE
PILOT
RISE
SLUM
SYMBOL

word search

www.edu-games.org

Answer Sheet
word search

FLYING HIGH

D	Y	L	F	L	N	I	I	K	N	S	H	I
G	E	T	R	R	S	E	M	N	O	E	J	U
E	R	T	I	O	A	A	U	U	I	T	I	C
M	P	S	E	R	E	L	E	T	M	I	A	
R	E	H	N	R	G	N	S	Y	S	H	C	U
D	D	S	D	O	M	T	M	P	C	U	S	H
N	L	A	S	H	A	I	O	E	A	R	P	L
A	P	O	T	A	T	A	N	H	E	O	I	R
S	W	D	B	B	G	A	M	A	K	P	L	A
D	T	C	O	M	P	E	T	I	T	I	O	N
N	L	S	J	O	Y	I	W	D	Y	I	T	H
V	T	T	F	Z	Q	S	E	N	O	H	O	E
Y	D	F	R	E	X	G	E	I	E	E	I	N

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KITE DESIGN

Have a go at designing your own kite in the space below. Will you put a message on it?



Please share your work with us @littlestepspublishinguk

