

Audio stories that make language acquisition more fun.

Pratham Books' StoryWeaver launches Readalongs, over 100 openly licensed audio stories in English and Hindi for children.

This Teachers' Day, Pratham Books' StoryWeaver launches a delightful set of audio stories for children, called Readalongs. Artfully narrated, and subtitled, these Readalongs bring stories alive in an engaging audio-visual form that will help children fall in love with reading.

Pratham Books, and StoryWeaver, have long collaborated with the educator community to find more, and increasingly better, ways to introduce children to the joy of reading through stories as we pursue our mission of "a book in every child's hand." As an open source digital platform for children's stories, StoryWeaver is uniquely positioned to provide rich online resources that can be accessed anywhere to provide quality reading material for children.

Our Readalong stories are a result of several months of in-depth interviews on how stories can be used in the classroom to encourage reading, and improve language acquisition. They have been designed to be joyful experiences for the child, with enjoyable background music, and a 'natural' narrative voiced by professional artists. Parallely, same language subtitling, or SLS, provides synchronised highlighted text that urges the child to "read along" with the narrator's voice.

There is considerable research supporting the use of narration and SLS in developing word-meaning association, as well as improving pronunciation and intonation.

With the Readalongs, we aimed to design an enchanting and learning experience for the child, that could easily fit into the classroom. This led to the majority of stories belonging to Reading Levels 1 and 2, meant for early readers. Given limited attention spans, each Readalong was designed to be no more than 5 minutes long. We also selected stories with repeated sounds and words, that are enjoyable to read aloud, as well as those with eye-catching illustrations, and a fair amount of dramatic flair.

The Readalong series features English and Hindi stories for now, but will be expanded to include a wider range of languages once we gain user feedback on these.

Suzanne Singh, Chairperson, Pratham Books, says, "Through StoryWeaver's Readalong series of storybooks, we hope to introduce more children to the joy of reading and help them build their language acquisition skills through a combination of listening to the story and matching it to the supporting text." Purvi Shah, Head of Digital Platforms, Pratham Books, adds, "StoryWeaver has consistently added features and tools born out of our interaction with educators and on-ground partners. The Offline Library, which allows access to the

StoryWeaver experience even in the absence of internet coverage, is one such feature. Curated Lists, accompanied by classroom activities, is another. This Teachers' Day, we're happy to add a third -- Readalongs. Consider it our celebration of Teachers' Day!"

Check out a few of our Readalongs here.

[Bheema the Sleepyhead \(English\)](#)

[Scratch! Scratch! Scratch! \(English\)](#)

[Bheema the Sleepyhead \(Hindi\)](#)

[Rani's First Day at School \(Hindi\)](#)

[Aaloo Maaloo Kaaloo \(Hindi\)](#)

About StoryWeaver

StoryWeaver (www.storyweaver.org.in) is an open source, digital platform of multilingual children's stories from Pratham Books. On StoryWeaver users can read, create, translate, download and share stories for free! By creating a collaborative framework where the creators and consumers of children's content could interact with one another, StoryWeaver attempted to address the scarcity of multilingual, joyful reading material for children. StoryWeaver was launched in 2015 with 800 stories in 24 languages. Today, the platform offers over 9,000 stories in 120 languages of the world.

About Pratham Books

Pratham Books (www.prathambooks.org) is a not-for-profit children's book publisher founded in 2004 with the mission to see 'a book in every child's hand'. Its key objective is to publish good quality, affordable storybooks in multiple languages to support reading acquisition among children. Since inception, Pratham Books has published over 3,000 books in 21 Indian languages.