



# THE SPROUTS AND THE MYSTERY OF THE FLOOD

Written by  
The Guyana Youth & Environment Network  
and The Breadfruit Collective

Illustrated by  
Vimaldat Bissessar

A book about Climate Change and Health for children

# **THE SPROUTS and the MYSTERY OF THE FLOOD**

A Book about Climate Change and Health for Children

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Published in collaboration with the Ministry of Health Guyana, Environmental Health Unit.

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## Acknowledgements

Our sincere gratitude to everyone who collaborated on, supported, and encouraged us to make our first book a reality. We would like to thank the Ministry of Health for having faith in our team to deliver a valuable product that reflects the current realities of the connection between the environment and health. Your support and guidance throughout the process is greatly appreciated. Thank you to our editors for taking time out of your schedule to read and share feedback on our first draft: Ms. Salima Hinds, Ms. Sherlina Nageer, Mrs. Candacie Thompson, Ms. Aretha Forde, and Ms. Vanessa Benn, your insightful feedback allowed us to produce a completed product we are satisfied with sharing widely. Special thanks to our young reader Samara, your positive reviews made us all smile. We are super happy you enjoyed our story!

*Dear Readers,*

*May you be inspired by the Sprouts to take action in your community, to protect the one planet we all call home. We are never too young or too old to spark change.*

*"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it's not" - Dr. Seuss, The Lorax*

## CHAPTER 1

### *We should call ourselves the Sprouts!*



It's a bright, sunny day and the children, filled with enthusiasm, are out in the community with their gloves and garbage bags to clean up and talk to their neighbours about the environment.

Asha pointed to a stream filled with plastic bottles. "This seems like a good place to start," she told her friends.



"I'll help you," said Shamar, as he grabbed a pair of gloves.

"Look! It's clogging the stream," remarked Tim.

The children started to clear the garbage from the stream. They picked up plastic bottles, bags, boxes, and old toys, and made sure to avoid sharp objects.

"Hey wait! Can I take a photo?" Tim asked. "This would be cool to add to our scrapbook!"

"Sure!" they agreed, and each held up a piece of garbage they cleared.

"Y'all doing a great job together chirren" said Uncle Tombo as he walked by at that very moment.

Uncle Tombo, Shamar's friendly neighbour, is a retired pilot who owns a small farm next to Shamar's home. Shamar has imagined himself flying in Uncle Tombo's helicopter.

"Ayo so young and y'all making a big big difference. Yuh know what this remind me of? This remind me of dem young tree sprouts and how they does grow to become big, strong trees wuh good for the environment."

"Hey!" Lily exclaimed. "We should call ourselves the Sprouts!"

"Are you saying that because you're so obsessed with trees, Lily?" teased Tim.

Lily laughed. "I do love trees."

After removing the last bottle from the stream, Asha pointed out to the others that the water had started flowing faster.

Shamar jumped into the stream and started splashing wildly. "Shamar! Shamar! Stop that! We're getting all wet!" complained Asha.

"Come in here," said Shamar. "Wash off your feet. Can't you see there's mud all over your legs, Asha?"

"I am not coming in there! The water is still dirty," Asha pointed out.

"Hey!" shouted Tim, as he noticed some bags floating towards them. "Watch out!"

Confused, the Sprouts turned around and were surprised to see that it was Auntie Sue dumping her garbage into the stream.



Shamar gasped. "No! Stop, Aunty Sue! What are you doing?"

"Eh eh! Is what y'all lil chirren doing deh?" Aunty Sue replied.

"Aunty Sue, we are the Sprouts and we are cleaning up the garbage. We just cleaned this stream and the water started flowing," said Lily.

Asha continued, "Please don't dump your garbage in the stream, Aunty Sue. You're polluting it."

Aunty Sue sucked her teeth and replied rudely, "Y'all need to respect y'all elders. I been doing this all meh life and nothing bad nah happen yet. Why I should listen to y'all lil chirren?"

Before the Sprouts could explain further, Aunty Sue disappeared into her yard.

"Come on everyone," Lily shrugged, as she passed around a bottle of hand sanitizer. "Let's finish up and head over to my parents' farm."

## CHAPTER 2

### *Lily's Family Farm*



Lily's family farm is a sustainable masterpiece. Using methods of growing plants without soil, catching rainwater for irrigation, composting and even companion planting, a method which reduces the use of pesticides. There is so much for the Sprouts to do and learn on the farm.

Tim took photos of the compost heap, colourful pollinators like butterflies, and even when Lily fell over in the pig pen, which made everyone laugh out loud.

They especially enjoyed playing with the calf, Sunshine. She was only five months old and loved the attention she received from the Sprouts.



On one particular day, in the midst of the fun of working on the farm, a large shadow appeared on the ground.

"Whoa! Look up," pointed Asha, as the sky darkened to black.

"This has been happening frequently, even though it's not the rainy season," responded Lily's dad, looking up at the sky. "It's been getting harder to tell when to plant crops."

"Look at the animals. They can sense there is a storm coming," said Lily, as the cows began to run towards the barn. "I hope they all made it inside."



Before finishing off their work on the farm, Tim went to check on the tomato seedlings they had planted and noticed little buds beginning to appear. "We are going to get tomatoes soon!" Tim shouted excitedly to the others.

"Yay! I can't wait to use them in our salads," replied Shamar.

Soon there was a drizzle, and the Sprouts ran inside just as the rain began to pour. They washed their hands and feet and sat together at the window, looking out at the distance.

"Not a glimpse of blue in the sky," said Asha. Suddenly, a bright flash of lightning and a loud clap of thunder startled the Sprouts.

"Come on children," said Lily's Dad. "Let's get you home. This rain doesn't seem like it will ease for now."

## CHAPTER 3

### *Waking up to a Flooded Home*

The next morning felt cold and gloomy. The rain poured all night with lightning and thunder. Despite that, the Sprouts slept cozily in their beds.

"Oh my goodness! Flood!" Lily's Mom shouted. The noise startled Lily awake.

Lily jumped out of bed and looked through her window. She saw all the streets had disappeared underwater. It all looked like one big river.

She ran out of her room and saw her parents preparing to go outside.

"We're going to check on the animals to make sure that they are fine. Would you like to come?" Lily's Dad asked. "We could use your help."

The family put on their long boots and headed outside. While approaching the barn, Lily looked over at the vegetables. "Oh no!" she cried. "All our crops are destroyed, including the tomato plants."

The family's farm was completely underwater.

"We've lost half a season's worth of produce," Lily's Dad said.

Saddened, the family continued walking towards the barn where they heard the pigs squealing. Upon reaching, Lily quickly opened the barn's door.

The cows and pigs were all standing in water. The chickens had cooped together on top of the highest shelf of the barn, and the pans and buckets used to feed the animals were all floating around.

"Oh goodness! I did not expect the water to be this high!" exclaimed Lily's dad.

"We will get you all taken care of," he said to the animals. "Come on, let's do a count of all the animals and take them out of the water," he urged.

"I'll check on the pigs," announced Lily's mom. "Lily," she called, "why don't you check on the cows?"

"One, two, three," Lily counted. "Seven, eight, NINE!" she shouted. Lily looked around anxiously, "Where is Sunshine, Mom?"

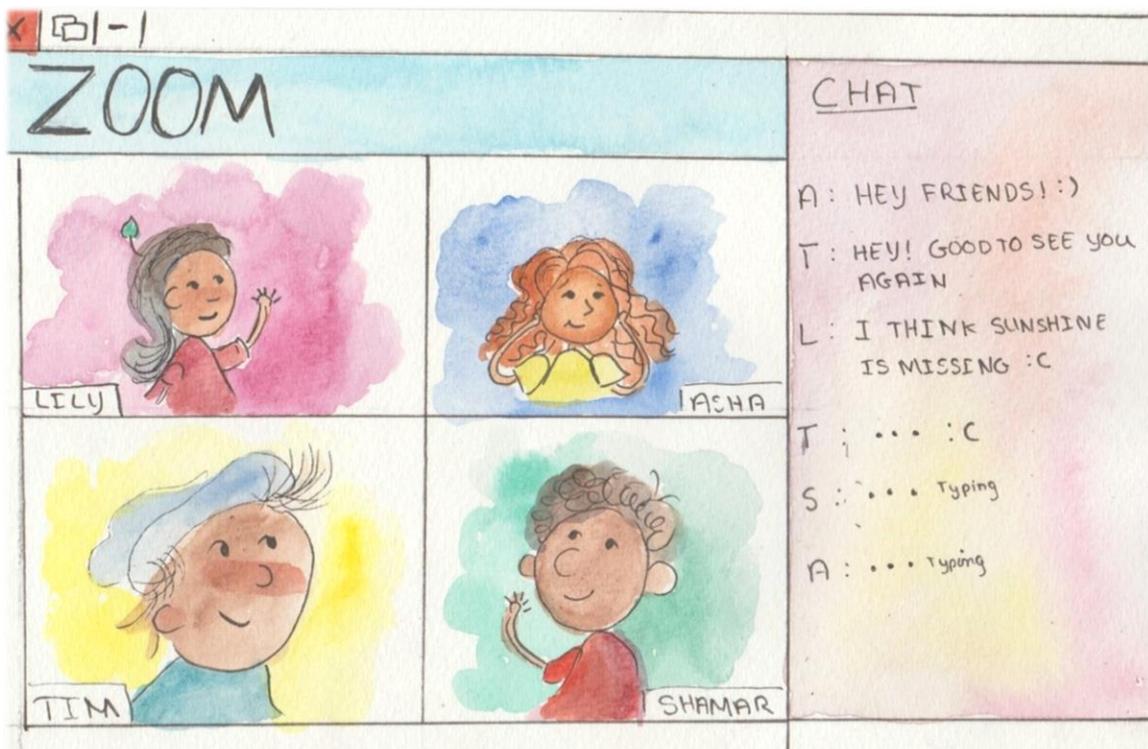


Shocked, her mom turned and quickly scanned the barn. "Where could she have gone?"

"We have to find her! We have to find her!" shouted Lily. "I will call the Sprouts and we will help to bring her back."

## CHAPTER 4

### *Finding Sunshine*



On the video call, the Sprouts were sad to hear about the flood at Lily's family farm.

"That's so terrible to hear, Lily," said Shamar. "When I woke up, still sleepy, I stepped off my bed and realized I was surrounded by water. I felt as though my room was transformed into an aquarium. Little fishes were swimming around and other parts of the house were also flooded. Mom said that most of our furniture and appliances are going to be damaged. Luckily, we managed to save a few by putting them higher where the water can't reach."



"I am so sorry to hear this," replied Tim. "You can stay with us until the flood water goes down. It'll be like a sleepover."

Lily worriedly continued, "Sunshine is missing!"

"Not the cute little calf!" Asha gasped. "Where would she go? We have to do something!"

"I wonder if she came to my side of the village?" said Tim. "It's hilly here so we're not flooded."

"That sounds like a safe spot for her to run to," Asha agreed. "We should start looking there."

"Let's meet at my house in 15 minutes," suggested Tim.

"Sunshine! Sunshine!" The Sprouts yelled as they searched for the missing calf.

"Is that her over there?" Shamar pointed out. "Standing under that breadfruit tree?"

The Sprouts started running towards Sunshine, but she quickly ran up a hill.

"Wait, Sunshine!" Lily shouted as the Sprouts tried to catch up with her.

The Sprouts followed Sunshine all the way to the top of the hill.

"Phew!" exclaimed Shamar, out of breath, as the Sprouts finally caught up with the calf. "Let's rest for a minute. I can hardly make it back down."

"Yes, please!" they all agreed.

"Oh wow! Look! We can see the entire village from here," Lily pointed out.



Tim took out his binoculars to take a closer look. Here he saw that the end of the stream was blocked with large amounts of garbage.

The Sprouts all took turns to have a look through the binoculars.

"Some of those bags resemble the ones Aunty Sue was throwing into the stream," said Asha.

"Hey! The koker also seems to be broken," exclaimed Lily, as they all stood there, with mouths opened wide as though a mystery had been solved.

At that very moment, Sunshine mooded happily.

"Come on Sprouts! We need to let everyone know!" shouted Asha.

## CHAPTER 5

### *Villagers, Listen Up!*

The Sprouts made their way safely down the hill with Sunshine, excited but worried about the problem they had witnessed. When they got back to Lily's family farm with Sunshine, the water was still very high.

Lily's parents were both delighted to see Sunshine. "Where did you find her?" asked Lily's dad.

Before answering his question, the Sprouts shouted in unison, "The garbage! The garbage is blocking the stream! It's what's causing the flood!"



Lily's parents, who were busy assessing the impacts of the flood on their farm, barely paid attention to what the children were saying.

"Not now children. One problem at a time. It's probably the rain," said Lily's Dad. "The water will go down once the rain stops."

"But I saw it," Tim said worriedly. "I saw it through my binoculars, and I took some photos too."

The Sprouts all nodded together.

"When the koker opens, the water will start flowing," Lily's Mom explained.

Before the Sprouts could tell them about the broken koker, Lily's parents busily went on with their work ignoring the children's pleas.

"If they won't listen to us, maybe the villagers will," Shamar bravely announced.

The Sprouts made their way through the streets, with paper rolled into the shape of a cone to make their voices louder as they shouted, "THE GARBAGE! THERE IS TOO MUCH GARBAGE!"



The villagers all looked puzzled and surprised. "THE GARBAGE IS BLOCKING THE STREAM! IT'S CAUSING THE FLOOD! WE NEED YOUR HELP!"

"Go home lil chirren!" one villager said.

"The rain gon make yuh get sick!" another warned, but the Sprouts continued down the street determined to share what they saw.

As they passed by Auntie Sue's house, they noticed her yard was filled with water. The Sprouts were shocked by the amount of garbage in her yard.

"The garbage must have made its way in from the stream," said Asha.

"Ew!" Lily replied, as she fanned her nose. "What is that smell?"

"It's the water," replied Shamar.

Auntie Sue appeared from behind the fence, standing bare feet in the water. "Ayo chirren ain't got time and place? Yuh ain't see this place flood and yuh walking up and down the street."

"This is why you should not litter," whispered Tim under his breath.

"Eh?" said Auntie Sue. "Best guh home, before an alligator grab yuh foot."

Auntie Sue turned and went inside, dragging her feet in the dirty water.

Surprised to see the Sprouts, Uncle Tombo came out of his yard, wearing his long boots and a bright yellow raincoat.

"Now is not the time to be outside little Sprouts," he said. "Y'all can get sick and contract a water borne disease if yuh nah careful."

"Uncle Tombo, you would not believe what we discovered on top of the hill!" announced Shamar.

Tim nodded, "Uncle Tombo, there is so much garbage."

"Sprouts, I know y'all care about the environment, but the water will go down soon," he explained. "Please, y'all go inside now."

"Maybe Uncle Tombo is right," said Asha.

"Let's go back to the farm and check on Sunshine," Lily replied.

The Sprouts slowly made their way back to Lily's family farm, hoping the water would go down soon.

## CHAPTER 6

### *Let's Listen to the Sprouts!*

Five days had passed, and even though the rain had stopped, the water from the flood had still not receded. Lily's parents started moving the animals to higher ground because it became too dangerous for them in the flooded barn as they could drown.

The villagers lamented about the loss of their animals, crops, and their livelihood due to the flood. A group of villagers gathered that day and they began discussing going to the local authorities to get help. Never before had they experienced a flood like this, and they could not figure out what had caused it.

"Just last week, we were complaining about the heat and before we knew it, the rain began falling," said one villager. "This is unlike the weather patterns we are used to for this time of year."

"Exactly!" agreed another. "This is not the rainy season."

"Yuh know, dem chirren the other day might be right," Uncle Tombo said as he looked towards the stream. "The water doesn't look like it flowing."

Uncle Tombo made his way over to the Sprouts' homes. He told their parents that the villagers would like to hear what the children discovered concerning the garbage.

Later in the day, he gathered the villagers and told them about the amazing work the Sprouts have been doing for the environment. "These chirren were

the first ones to see the garbage, and they came out to tell all ah we. We should listen to dem," he said.

The Sprouts were called forward to let the villagers know what they witnessed on the hill.



"Here are some photos I took," said Tim. "You can clearly see all the garbage blocking the stream."

"It also seems like the koker's door is broken," Lily added. "If we don't do something to fix this the water will not go down."

"No wonder the water so high," one villager exclaimed.

"This new generation is really stepping up," another announced. "We should be like them!"

The villagers all decided to go and remove the garbage blocking the stream.

As they dispersed to begin their work, Asha looked around, "I don't see Auntie Sue. Where is she?"

Uncle Tombo scratched his head. "I ain't see her in a few days. Let's go see if she's alright."

"Auntie Sue! Auntie Sue!" they called at the gate. "You inside?"

The curtains at her window were pulled aside. "Eh? Who dah" she faintly said and gave out a nasty cough.



"Yuh ain't look so good Sue," said Uncle Tombo. "Everything alright?"

Auntie Sue managed to open the window and you could see she was very pale and shook as though the weather was freezing.

"Bai, two day now I sick and meh can't even guh hospital. All dem road block up. Yuh can hardly even see where yuh going with all the water on the road."

Uncle Tombo looked at her and said, "Yuh know, we gotta do something before you get worse. Ah coming for yuh. We gotta go to the hospital in town."

"Y'all ever traveled in a helicopter?" he asked the Sprouts.

"I have always admired your helicopter. This is a dream come true!" replied Shamar excitedly.

"Helicopter? Dem things scary," Aunty Sue worriedly said to Uncle Tombo.

"Don't worry 'bout that. Ol' Bessy flies like a charm," Uncle Tombo said smiling.

"I call dibs on co-pilot!" Shamar shouted.

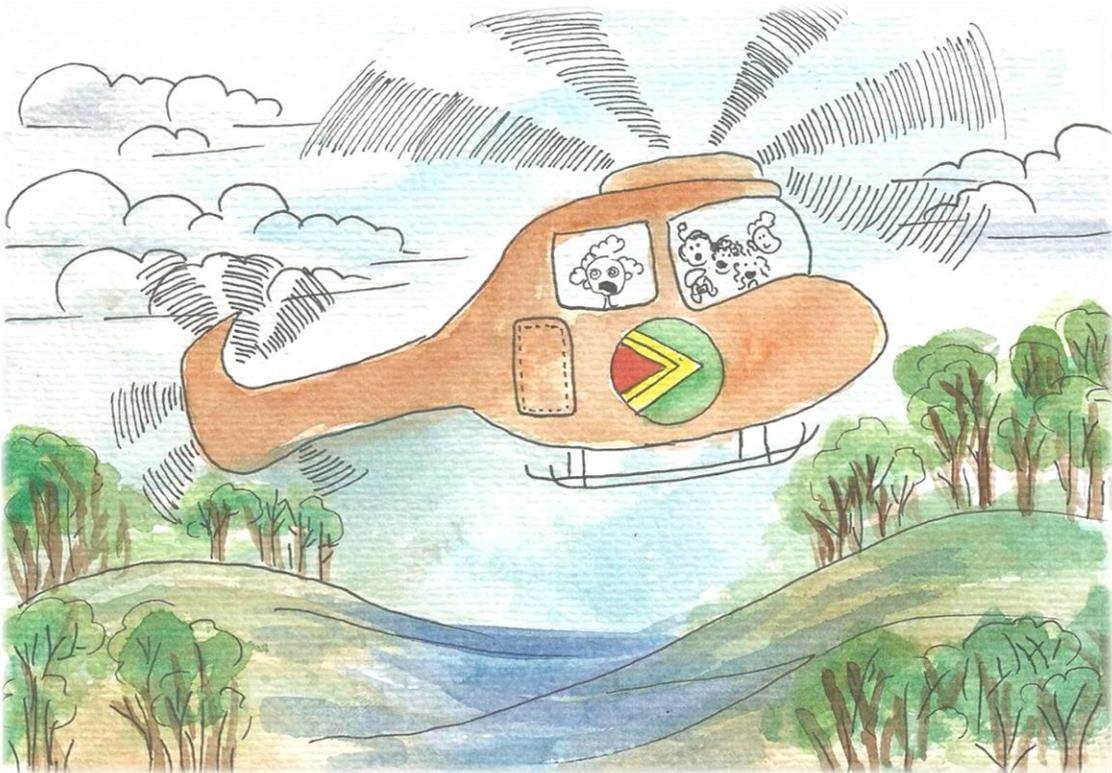
## CHAPTER 7

### *Aunty Sue and the Great Rescue*

"Saddle up, y'all saddle up," Uncle Tombo said, as he helped Aunty Sue into the helicopter. The Sprouts entered with excitement in their eyes and quickly fastened their seatbelts.

"Aye! Take yuh time!" Aunty Sue screamed, as Uncle Tombo lifted Ol' Bessy into the sky.

"Don't worry Aunty Sue, we'll take care of you," said Asha as Lily reached out to hold Aunty Sue's hand.



"We'll be at the hospital in no time," added Tim.

Uncle Tombo flew across the Essequibo River. It was the fastest route to get to the hospital. Flying above, the Sprouts got a bird's eye view of how the flood had affected the nearby communities.

"Are those houses?" asked Shamar, pointing to the flooded landscape below.

"Yes, little Sprouts," answered Uncle Tombo. "I went to school in that same community. Yuh see that clear area there by the river? Back in my day, there used to be plenty plenty mangroves. Me and meh friends dem used to go catch nuff crabs. Dem mangroves does protect we coast. Now plenty of them getting cut down."

"Yes, that's true," agreed Asha. "We learned about mangroves in our science class. They protect us against the sea, and they create habitats."

The Sprouts were amazed at how tiny everything looked from that high and took turns pointing out anything interesting they saw.

"Whoa! That's a big boat!" said Lily, looking down at the harbour as they flew over the Demerara River.

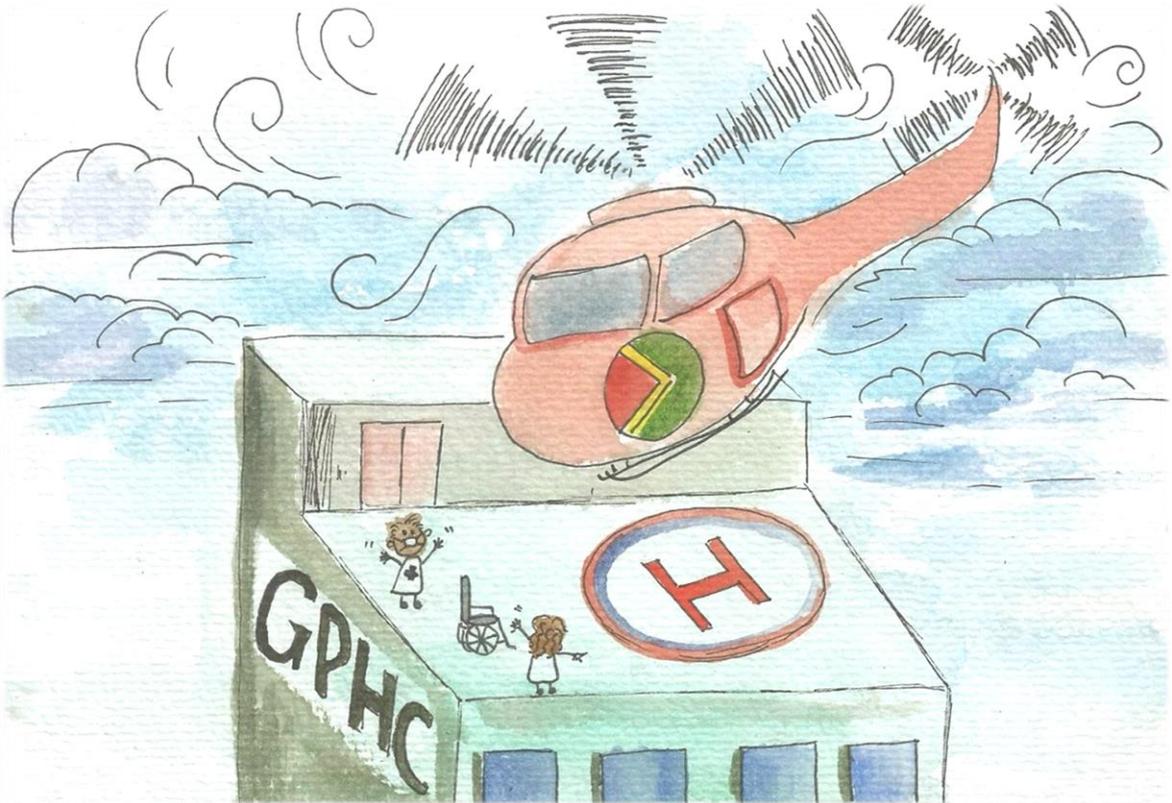
"Yuh know, the Demerara River is a very important river fuh we country. This river is the main port for all dem ships coming into Guyana. Dem does bring in and carry out supplies to dem other countries," responded Uncle Tombo.

"Is how far more we gotta go fuh reach the hospital?" asked Aunty Sue impatiently.

"We almost reach. We are now flying over Stabroek Market," said Uncle Tombo. "Look down Sprouts."

"Whoa! So cool," replied Tim, in wonder as he snapped a photo.

Uncle Tombo used the radio on the helicopter to talk to an old friend he knew from the hospital. His friend provided him with information on how to safely land on top of the building. This was the easiest and quickest way for Aunty Sue to get medical attention.



"Don't worry Aunty Sue, we can see the nurses waiting for you with a wheelchair," mentioned Lily.

The Sprouts cheered as Ol' Bessy made a smooth landing. The nurses helped Aunty Sue out of the helicopter.

"Oh my goodness!" said Aunty Sue, as she sat comfortably in the wheelchair. "Thank the lord we reach safe."

"Is she going to be alright?" asked Asha worriedly.

"Yes, she will get well. We will take the best care of her," replied the nurse, as they escorted Aunty Sue into the hospital.

The Sprouts and Uncle Tombo sat in the waiting room, anxious to hear about Aunty Sue's condition. To pass the time, the Sprouts began discussing ways in which they can help their community when they got back home. After a few minutes, a nurse came out and made her way over to the group.

"Are you Mr. Tombo?" asked the nurse.

"Yes, I am," he replied.

"The doctor would like to speak with you about Sue," said the nurse.

Uncle Tombo quickly got up and went with the nurse. He came back ten minutes later.

"Is she okay? What did the doctor say?" enquired the Sprouts.

"The doctor suspects that Aunty Sue has contracted Leptospirosis," said Uncle Tombo. "She has to stay here for a couple days to complete additional tests and recover."

"I have heard of that," mentioned Lily. "It's a disease you get from dirty water and causes high fever, headaches, chills, and vomiting."

"That explains it," said Tim. "She must have contracted it from the flood water in her yard."

The Sprouts and Uncle Tombo went to check on Aunty Sue. "How yuh feeling, Sue?" asked Uncle Tombo, as they entered the room. "Yuh know, the doctor say yuh lucky. Is a good thing we get yuh to the hospital in time, or else things could have been worse."

"Yes, Aunty Sue," added Asha. "You have to be more careful and wear your long boots when in dirty water."

"That's right!" said the nurse. "There are many other types of water borne diseases that you could have contracted, such as Cholera, Typhoid, and even vector borne diseases such as malaria and dengue."

Aunty Sue was very grateful for all the help she received. "How meh can ever thank y'all chirren? Meh shoulda listen to y'all. Thank yuh for looking out for meh."

The Sprouts wished Aunty Sue well and left with Uncle Tombo to head back home.

Although Aunty Sue was sad to see the Sprouts leave, she felt at ease in the hospital.

"We should get some supplies to take back to the village before we leave Georgetown," Lily suggested.

Uncle Tombo agreed. "That's a great idea!"

As they flew over Georgetown one last time, Asha and Tim waved goodbye.

## CHAPTER 8

### *Call to Action, the Sprouts in Action*



The Sprouts and Uncle Tombo came back to the village to see the villagers busy working to clean the stream. Many people came out to help, even the parents of the Sprouts.

“Since the koker’s door was broken, we contacted the local authorities and they are assisting with getting it fixed,” said Lily’s Mom.

"What happened to Aunty Sue?" asked Lily's Dad. "Is she okay?"

"She will be alright. She was admitted to the hospital," replied Uncle Tombo. "She will get better in no time."

Lily explained that Aunty Sue may have contracted Leptospirosis. She encouraged everyone to wear their long boots, take extra precaution in the flood waters and she reminded them to continue to wash their hands.

The villagers worked tirelessly to clean the stream. Eventually, the stream was cleared, and the water started flowing again. The flooded areas slowly started to return to normal.

"Let's meet up at the farm," Lily suggested. "We would like to have a discussion on ways we can prevent events like this from happening in the future."

The Sprouts organised and met with the villagers. They also invited their local representatives, including the Environmental Health Officers to the meeting. During the meeting, the Sprouts, community members, and local representatives discussed ways to keep the community clean. They agreed to form a community group with plans to plant more trees, conduct monthly community clean-ups, organise talks on proper waste management, and to work together to ensure the koker is always in proper working condition.

The Environmental Health Officers distributed chlorine tablets for the villagers to use to purify their drinking water. The Sprouts also distributed cleaning supplies, groceries, gloves, and other protective wear. The water had receded but there was still so much cleaning to do.



“Flooding will continue to happen in our community as a result of climate change,” said Asha.

“Yes, we learned in school that climate change causes heavier rainfall and makes the seasons harder to predict. If we continue to pollute the stream, we are likely to experience more flooding like this when it rains,” continued Shamar.

“That’s true. Flooding can also affect our health. Aunty Sue experienced this firsthand,” replied Tim. “We have to take care of our environment and dispose of our waste correctly.”

The community members were in agreement. They applauded the Sprouts and agreed that they did not want the flood to happen again. It had destroyed their livelihoods.

A local reporter heard about the amazing work the Sprouts were involved in and asked to interview them. She hoped that the Sprouts will inspire people both young and old in Guyana to take actions for the environment.

“Why do you care so much about the environment?” she asked.

"We care about the environment because it is our home. It is our responsibility to take care of it," replied Asha.

"We are only children, but we can do our part," said Shamar.

"Every little action counts!" added Lily.

"If we take care of the environment, it takes care of us," noted Tim.

The article was featured on the front page of the daily newspaper. On the cover, the Sprouts, Uncle Tombo, Aunty Sue, Sunshine, and the other villagers stood proudly.

The article headlined "*We should all be like the Sprouts!*"



***The End.***

## Meet the Characters



**Asha** is eight years old, and she is of Indo Guyanese heritage. She enjoys all things biodiversity and can tell you about all the diverse flora and fauna in Guyana. Cleaning up her community and talking to the villagers about the environment is her favorite thing to do.



**Shamar** is in Grade four and he just turned nine years old. All animals are his favorite type of animals. He is of Afro-Guyanese heritage and one of his dreams came true when Uncle Tombo allowed the Sprouts to fly in his helicopter.



**Lily** is named after the flower. She is nine years old and enjoys reading and being out in nature. She also enjoys helping her parents on the farm. Lily is of Indigenous heritage.



**Tim** is the artist of the group. He loves nature photography and taking goofy photos of his friends. He is ten years old and loves tinkering with technology. He is of mixed-race heritage.



**Uncle Tombo** is a retired pilot in his late 60s. He enjoys learning and sharing his experiences with young people who are working to make the planet greener. He is of Afro-Guyanese heritage.



**Aunty Sue** is a retired businesswoman in her mid-70s. Although she was not aware of her impact on the environment, she has pledged to change her lifestyle and to protect the environment in as many ways she can. She is of mixed-race heritage.

## Glossary

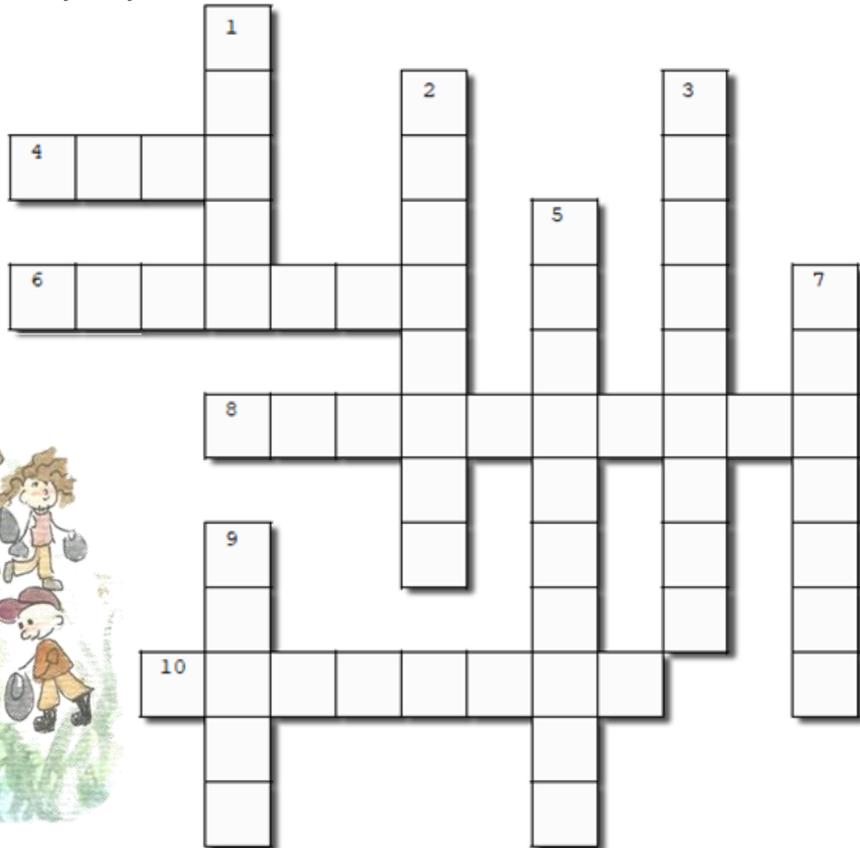
<b>Assess</b>	To look at and try to decide or estimate the quality or value of something.
<b>Climate Change</b>	The long-term changes in the Earth's temperature and weather patterns caused by an increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
<b>Companion planting</b>	The practice of planting different crops next to each other which help each other grow or protect each other from pests. This is a natural solution to using harmful pesticides.
<b>Composting</b>	A process by which materials such as leaves, grass, fruits and vegetable scraps are broken down by organisms to form soil rich in nutrients. This soil is called compost and is used as fertilizer to help plants grow.
<b>Enthusiasm</b>	Showing strong interest or excitement in connection with an activity.
<b>Environment</b>	Everything that surrounds a particular living thing and affects its growth and health.
<b>Flood</b>	An overflow of water onto land that may be caused by intense rainfall.
<b>Irrigation</b>	The supplying of water to land by man-made means especially on farms and other agricultural areas.
<b>Impact</b>	To have a strong or powerful effect.
<b>Lament</b>	To express sorrow or regret.

<b>Mangrove</b>	Trees that grow along the coastline. They reduce the impact of the waves and protect the soil from being washed away. There are red, black and white mangroves in Guyana.
<b>Masterpiece</b>	A work of the highest quality.
<b>Pesticide</b>	A chemical substance used to kill insects.
<b>Pollinator</b>	Birds, bats, and insects that carry pollen from one plant to the next, causing seeds to be fertilized.
<b>Pollution</b>	The introduction of harmful materials, such as waste or poisonous substances, into the environment.
<b>Sprout</b>	A young plant that is starting to grow.
<b>Stream</b>	A small, flowing body of water.
<b>Sustainable</b>	To live in a way that would allow future generations to meet their needs. Natural resources such as food, water, plants and minerals must be used in a way that ensures that enough are left for future generations.
<b>Vector borne disease</b>	Diseases that results from an infection transmitted to humans and other animals by blood feeding insects such as mosquitoes, fleas, etc.
<b>Water borne disease</b>	Diseases that result from an infection transmitted to humans and other animals by contaminated water in their environment.
<b>Weather pattern</b>	Changes in the atmosphere in one area at a particular time.

## *The Sprouts need your help completing the activities below!*

### Crossword Puzzle

Crossword puzzles are a mystery game of words. Use the clues to fill in the correct answers and solve the mystery.



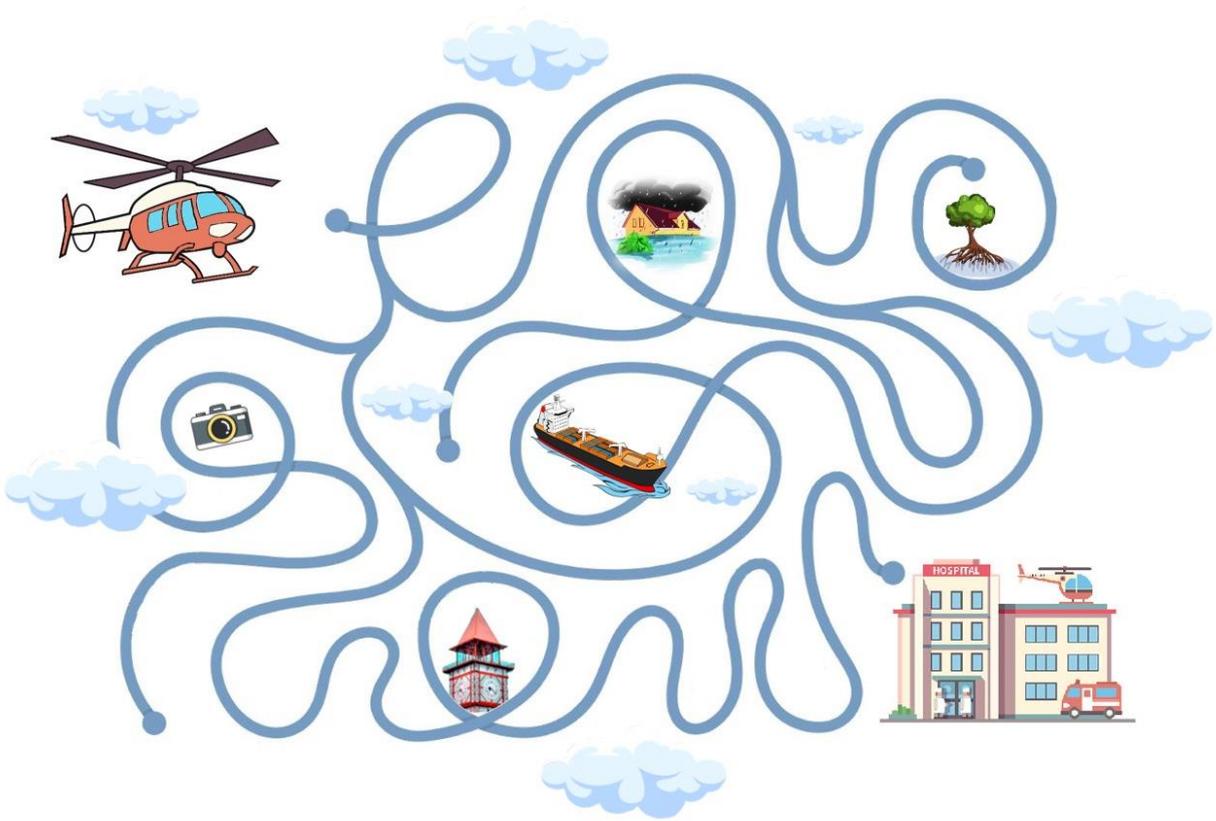
#### **Across**

4. Lily's family owns a \_\_\_\_.
6. What is the name the children call themselves?
8. Uncle Tombo flies a \_\_\_\_.
10. Where do the children take Auntie

#### **Down**

1. Uncle \_\_\_\_ was the first villager to believe what the Sprouts had seen.
2. Who went missing in the story?
3. The introduction of harmful materials into the environment is called \_\_\_\_.
5. Tim used his \_\_\_\_ to see the end of the stream.
7. The stream was blocked with \_\_\_\_.
9. An overflow of large amounts of water onto land that is normally dry is called a \_\_\_\_.

## Help Aunty Sue get to the Hospital



### Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters below to find words from the story.

1. enshunis \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

4. ofodl \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

2. rmaf \_ \_ \_ \_

5. utpossr \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

3. svegmanro \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

## Who said this?

Fill in the blanks with the name of the character who said each line below.

1. "Dem mangroves does protect we coast." \_\_\_\_\_
2. "It's been getting harder to tell when to plant crops." \_\_\_\_\_
3. "Flooding will continue to happen in our community as a result of climate change." \_\_\_\_\_
4. "We are only children, but we can do our part." \_\_\_\_\_
5. "If we take care of the environment, it takes care of us."  
\_\_\_\_\_

## About the Authors



**Nayan K. Persaud** is a member of GYEN. He is passionate about the environment and writing. Reading books like 'The Magical School Bus' and 'Super Fudge' as a child, motivated him to write this book as he hopes that the knowledge he once gained reading will be reciprocated through this book.



**Afeefa Richardson** is a member of GYEN. She enjoys reading, volunteering, and engaging with young people on the environment. "Writing this book was a great opportunity to combine the things I love." She believes that environmental education is key in ensuring that children not only inherit a thriving planet but also become active caretakers.



**Christine Samwaroo** is the Founder of The Breadfruit Collective. She is a former Grade Two Environmental Science teacher. She believes that young people are active agents of change. If she can be any animal for one day, she would be a honeybee; since they are pollinators, they work hard to ensure we have all kinds of foods. Her favorite childhood storybook is *The Lorax*.



**Bonita Bernard** is a member of GYEN. Volunteerism is at her core, as she enjoys engaging youth and those around her on the importance of being good stewards of their environment. Her belief is that there are endless ways to reach people and create positive change, we only need a few willing to do the work.



**Madhavi Indarjeet** is a member of GYEN. She enjoys meeting new people, coffee dates, and napping, volunteering, and encouraging people around her to be more environmentally conscious. As a tutor, she believes that listening and understanding children and youth is key in effecting a positive change for the environment presently and in the future.

## About the Illustrator



**Vimaldat Bissessar** is a young Guyanese artist who works predominantly with oil paint to explore the world of contemporary art. His art has evolved from merely being aesthetic to the idea of storytelling. "I like to create stunning images to hold your interest while allowing your mind to wonder. The use of colour and movement is something truly fascinating, that's why I tend to focus on them to highlight concepts relating to our environment, mental well-being and individuality. All in the hopes to convey some feeling to my audience."

**Activity Answers**

Crossword Puzzle

Across: 4. farm, 6. Sprouts, 8. helicopter, 10. Hospital

Down: 1. Tombo, 2. Sunshine, 3. pollution, 5. binoculars, 7. garbage, 9. flood

Word Scramble

1. sunshine, 2. farm, 3. mangroves, 4. flood, 5. sprouts

Who said this?

1. Uncle Tombo 2. Lily's Dad 3. Asha 4. Shamar 5. Tim



The newly formed “Sprouts” made up of Asha, Shamar, Lily and Tim are committed to working to take actions to protect their environment. After being affected by intense flooding, the Sprouts jump into action to help their community. Flooding has a direct impact on people, including children, and the Sprouts are determined to find solutions. No matter how young they are, the Sprouts know they can make a difference and that their efforts matter.

