



Rung-Rungs Sel  
Stories for every child

## This is where the story begins.

Over the past couple of years, we've been making major efforts in the remote villages of Kargil and Leh to step up the quality of education through interventions in schools and setting up of community libraries. Education has moved online for most part of the world, but not for children in these villages. With schools closing down indefinitely because of the COVID-19, our children in the valley are back to their homes with very little access to any form of learning.

Children bugging their parents to tell them a story or two is a common sight at homes, and we thought: Hey, we should be able to send them some stories! We formed a group of young storytellers to make an attempt to reach the remote villages with the power of stories and storytelling. **Welcome to Rung-Rungs Sel.**



“Human minds yield helplessly to the suction of story. No matter how hard we concentrate, no matter how deep we dig in our heels, we just can’t resist the gravity of alternate worlds.”  
- Jonathan Gottschell, *The Storytelling Animal*

Photo : Drass, Ladakh  
Courtesy : rZamba



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**Rung-Rungs Sel** (Pronounced Roong-Roon-Sell), translates into 'Tell [me] a story' in Bhoti, the local dialect in the valleys of Ladakh.

As much as this is an effort to bring together stories for the children in the valleys of Ladakh, this is also a step towards **bringing together a bundle of 100 stories** to be accessed by children and parents across the globe. As we make progress, we will have a rich repository of stories for everyone to experience and draw inspiration from.

For a start, stories are being sourced from **12 countries** through our support networks, and it'd be lovely to see more people coming on board.

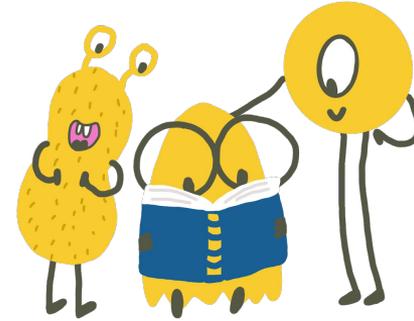


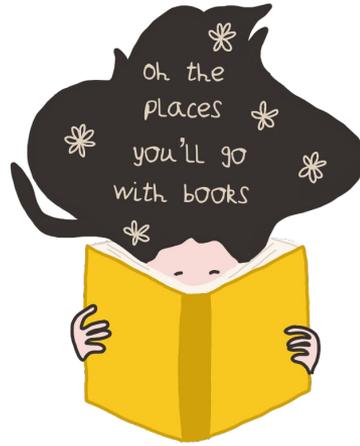
Photo : Choskor, Kargil  
Courtesy : rZamba

## Who is behind all this effort ?

Rung-Rungs Sel is a collaborative effort of storytellers from across the globe. This initiative is brought together by **Storytime**, a global network of volunteers setting up school libraries in under-resourced communities and **rZamba** (a not-for-profit organisation working with schools in the hills of Ladakh). Rung-Rungs Sel is not funded by any agencies and honestly we don't see a reason to get this funded. It's fun.

**“ As much as this project aims at reaching children with stories, this is about creating opportunities for upcoming storytellers to brush up their skills during this COVID-19 period. You will have access to a network of storytellers from across the globe, who can help and guide you in the process.”**





As we spend more time indoors, we imagine this as an opportunity to rekindle the Storyteller in you !

## How do we go about this ?

1. Anyone, anywhere in the world with a decent smartphone and a story to tell is welcome onboard. Please **note that these storytelling sessions are not live, but are recorded sessions which will be shared with the children.** The hills do not have enough technical sophistication to pull together a Zoom or a Skype call at the moment. However, once the lockdown is over, we will be putting together live storytelling sessions with the children. You are most welcome to engage the children in that phase too.
2. All you have to do is pick up a story from any of folktales you've listened to / a book / the internet, make sure it is child friendly and create an expression of the same through any form of storytelling you deem fit. **You can safely assume that our children are early stage learners, and will only have elementary understanding of English.** Our audience includes kids from classes 1-10. If you are using Hindi as a medium of language, you will have a wider set of stories to pick from.
3. The upcoming pages will give you an idea on how to go about producing a session using a camera/smartphone.



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# Storytelling Playbook

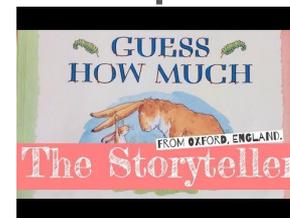
# Three major ways to go about telling a story over the internet

Click to listen to these stories !

1

## The Read Aloud format

The narrator focuses on the auditory experience of the story, coupled with the illustrations on the book from which the story is being read out of. If you are following this format, we encourage you to pick a storybook that has plenty of fairly sized illustrations.



2

## The Storytelling format

The storyteller faces the camera and there is more emphasis on the theatre aspect of the story - more expressions and body movements. This is probably the most common and easiest way to do this.



3

## The Theatrical Storytelling format

Slightly sophisticated since it is more of a theatrical expression, but a highly recommended format if one can tell the story without the help of a book. Use of props will add to the experience of the story !



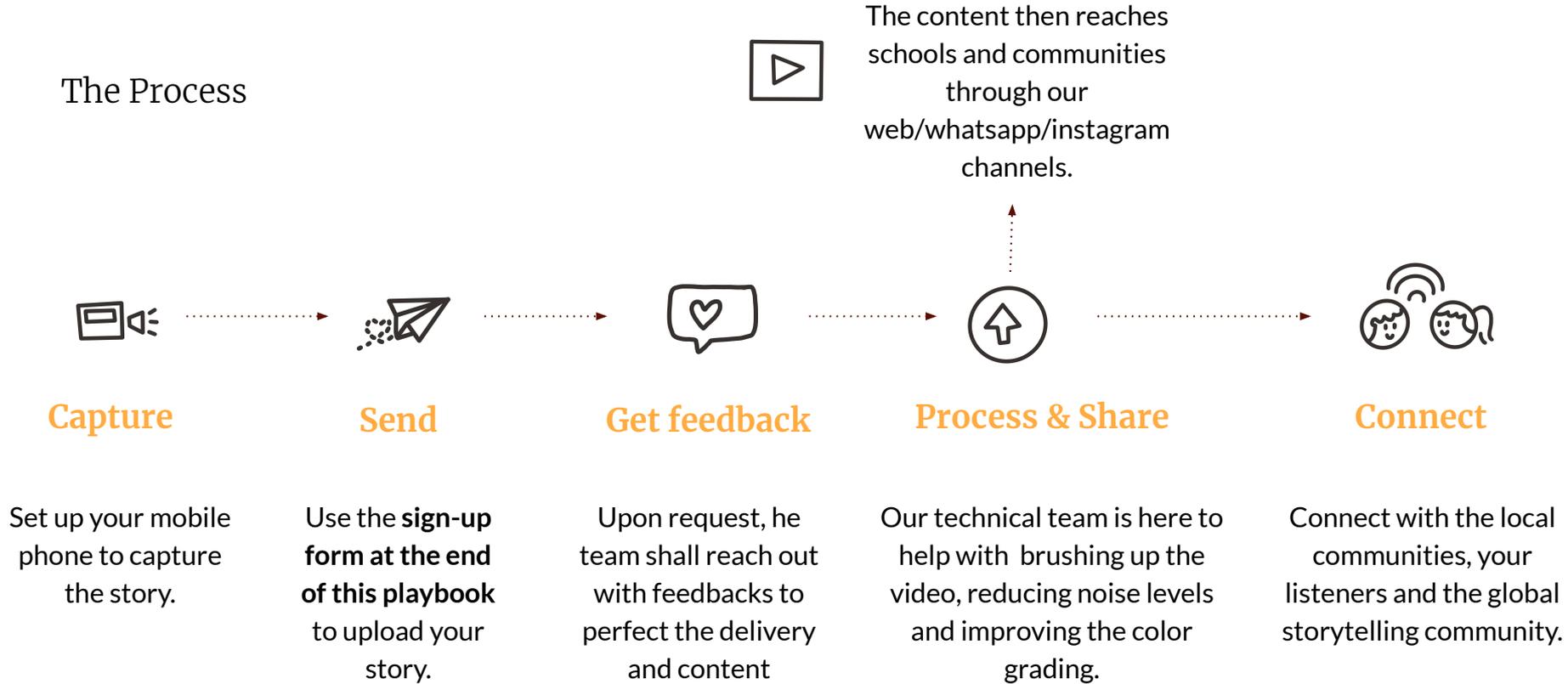
# Storybook suggestions from Native Wildlings

To help you with choosing a book, just in case you are confused - we have a few recommendations here. Please note that the list is only suggestive, and **we'd love to hear stories that are unique to your geography and culture !**

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The Little Prince	Turning the Pot	Number the Stars	Macher Jhol	Did I ever tell you how lucky you are?
I believe in me	The Giving Tree	A chair for my mother	Thukpa for All	A walk with Thambi
The Birdman	When the Mountains Laughed	Sara Learns to Fly	Like a Girl	Neel on Wheels
I Need to Pee	Grandma and the Great Gourd	Ganesha's Sweet Tooth	Chachaji's Cup	The Day I lost My Superpowers
Puu	Cry Heart but Never Break	Bear Despair	The Most Magnificent Thing	Bhimrao Ambedkar - The Boy who asked Why?
Gus is a Fish	Jerome by Heart	The Paper-Flower Tree	My City, My Dogs	The boy who harnessed the wind
The Paper Dolls	The Snowy Day	How to babysit a Grandpa	To Each Her Own	Where the Wild Things Are
Room in your Heart	Kind	The Paperbag Princess	Rosie Revere, Engineer	How to Hide a Lion
Aunty Mouse	Big Red Lollipop	The Roses in My Carpet	Padma Goes to Space	My Princess Boy
How to Hide a Lion	Padma Goes to Space	And Land Was Born	Alice in Quantumland	What to do with an idea?
Passage to Freedom	Librarian of Basra			

# The Process



## Before you begin..



The recommended time duration for one story is not more than 12-14 minutes.



If you are planning on a read aloud format, please make sure that the book is in focus throughout the story.



Use a tripod ([CNET How To - 3 DIY phone tripods](#)) for a better and steady shot. Keep the camera at eye level if you are facing the camera.



Make sure there is no echo from your room/surroundings.



We strongly encourage stories from your culture and geography.



Make sure you have sufficient lighting.



Your intention and willingness to experiment with a new medium is much more important than perfecting the output.

## Glimpse of what's in the pipeline



Live Storytelling sessions  
through schools and  
community libraries



Connecting with school  
going children across the  
globe



Tagging students to  
trusted and experienced  
mentors to develop their  
storytelling skills



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An initiative of



In partnership with



**Native Wildlings**



**Queries : [storytime.kochi@gmail.com](mailto:storytime.kochi@gmail.com)**

**Click here  
to begin!**



Photo : Kargil, Ladakh  
Courtesy : rZamba