

# KIKI KALLIRA

SANGU  
MANDANNA

SCHOOL  
RESOURCES  
KEY STAGE 2





## AGES 8+ NOTES FOR TEACHERS

**Explore Themes of:** ✓ Children's mental health ✓ Anxiety ✓ Overcoming challenges ✓ Confidence and empowerment ✓ Myths and legends ✓ Hindu Mythology ✓ Adventure stories ✓ Creativity

**Subject Checklist:** ✓ Literacy ✓ PSHE ✓ Art ✓ Geography ✓ RE

The activities included here are suitable for the classroom or library sessions.

## ABOUT THE BOOK

**Kiki Kallira is more of a worrier than a warrior – but today she will learn to be a hero. The mythical beasts she loves to draw have come to life, and she is the only one who can defeat them.**

Kiki Kallira has always been a worrier. Did she lock the front door? Is there a terrible reason her mum is late? Recently her anxiety has been getting out of control, but one thing that has always soothed her is drawing. Kiki's sketchbook is full of fantastical doodles of the Hindu myths and legends her mother has told her since she was tiny.

One day, her sketchbook's calming effect is broken when her mythological characters begin springing to life and Kiki is pulled into the mystical world she drew.

There, she discovers the band of rebel kids who protect the kingdom, as well as an ancient, monstrous god bent on total destruction. Kiki must overcome her fear and anxiety to save both worlds – the real and the imagined – from his wrath.

But how can a girl armed with only a pencil defeat something so powerful?



## CONTENTS:

### THEME 1 – IMAGINARY WORLDS pg4-7

**Activities:** Research the real city of Mysore and compare it to Kiki's imaginary Mysore. Design a imaginary world.

**Objectives:** Retrieve, understand and apply information from fiction and non-fiction texts.

### THEME 2 – MYTHICAL MONSTERS pg8-11

**Activities:** Draw an Asura, create a mythical monster and write a description inspired by an excerpt from the text..

**Objectives:** Read as a writer. Use strong descriptive language and 'show, don't tell' techniques.

### THEME 3 – STRENGTH AND INSPIRATION pg12-15

**Activities:** Match the characters with their different skills. Search for advice and inspiration in the text.

**Objectives:** Understand that everybody has unique skills and abilities. Appreciate and value difference.

### THEME 4 – DEALING WITH WORRY pg16-19

**Activities:** Make a worry box and consider different ways to manage anxiety and worry. Write a letter from the point of view of Kiki and reflect on the key messages of the book.

**Objectives:** Explore strategies for managing worry. Know who to talk to if worried.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES pg20-23





## THEME 1: IMAGINARY WORLDS!

### EXTRACT 1

**In this extract, Kiki gets her first proper look at the kingdom she has been transported to...**

It was Mysore. My Mysore. I blinked, and blinked again, but it didn't disappear. The city spread out in front of me, a surreal mixture of reality and my own whimsy. The houses and shops were boxy and tidy, like the real Mysore, but I had painted them in jewel-bright colours: vibrant yellows, mint greens, deep reds, sapphire blues. A rainbow kingdom, like my rainbow unicorns. Between the colours, I could see glimpses of the streets and courtyards, each road like a winding ribbon of silver, and in the distance, at the very outskirts of the city with the paddy fields and sugar-cane farms, was the Kaveri River.

'I ...' I started to say, and then promptly forgot how to use words. 'I ...'

'Really?' Lej said to Ashwini. 'Her?'

I barely heard him. I took a step closer to the low bronze wall. My eyes refused to blink, greedy for every detail.

Most of the city was quite low, with even the tallest houses no more than maybe three storeys tall, so the palaces towered above them. In the very heart of the city was my version of Mysore Palace, the largest and most beautiful. It had twin cream towers at each corner topped with red marble domes, enormous stone arches across the front façade, and in the centre, taller than the others, stood three golden towers with golden domes. On the peak of the middle dome was the statue of the gandaberunda, the two-headed eagle.

In the stories Mum used to tell me, the gandaberunda was the protector of the Kingdom of Mysore. In my version, the gandaberunda was a dormant stone statue that would only awaken when the city needed it most. It seemed to me that now would have been a good time for it to wake up, all things considered, but maybe the gandaberunda had other ideas.

Across the kingdom was the other palace. Lalith Mahal. In the real Mysore, it had once been a palace and was now a hotel, but in this Mysore, I had made it Mahishasura's fortress. It was pure white, with open walkways and three domes, like St Paul's Cathedral in London, guarded by a hundred Asuras.





## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why does Kiki call the city 'My Mysore'?
- Can you define the words 'surreal' and 'whimsy'? What do they mean in this context?
- How does Kiki feel as she looks at the city? Underline any words or phrases that show you how she feels.

## ACTIVITY 1: THE REAL MYSORE

**What can you find out about the real city of Mysore?** Use books or online atlases, maps and encyclopaedias to help you with your research.

Tip: If you know someone who has visited Mysore, you could ask them about it.

### MYSORE FACTS

Country:	
State:	
Population:	
Weather:	
Languages spoken:	
Places to visit:	

Can you label Mysore on a map of India?



IMAGINE YOU ARE VISITING MYSORE ON HOLIDAY. WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY? WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO? PLAN AN ITINERARY FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF YOUR HOLIDAY.



## ACTIVITY 2: KIKI'S MYSORE

The imaginary Mysore that Kiki drew in her sketchbook has some of the same features as the real Mysore, but it also has some differences. Compare Kiki's imaginary Mysore to the real Mysore. How are they similar and how are they different?

Use Extract 1 and your research about Mysore to help you with this task. It might be useful to find some photos of the real Mysore to help you compare.

KIKI'S MYSORE VS THE REAL MYSORE	
Similarities	Differences





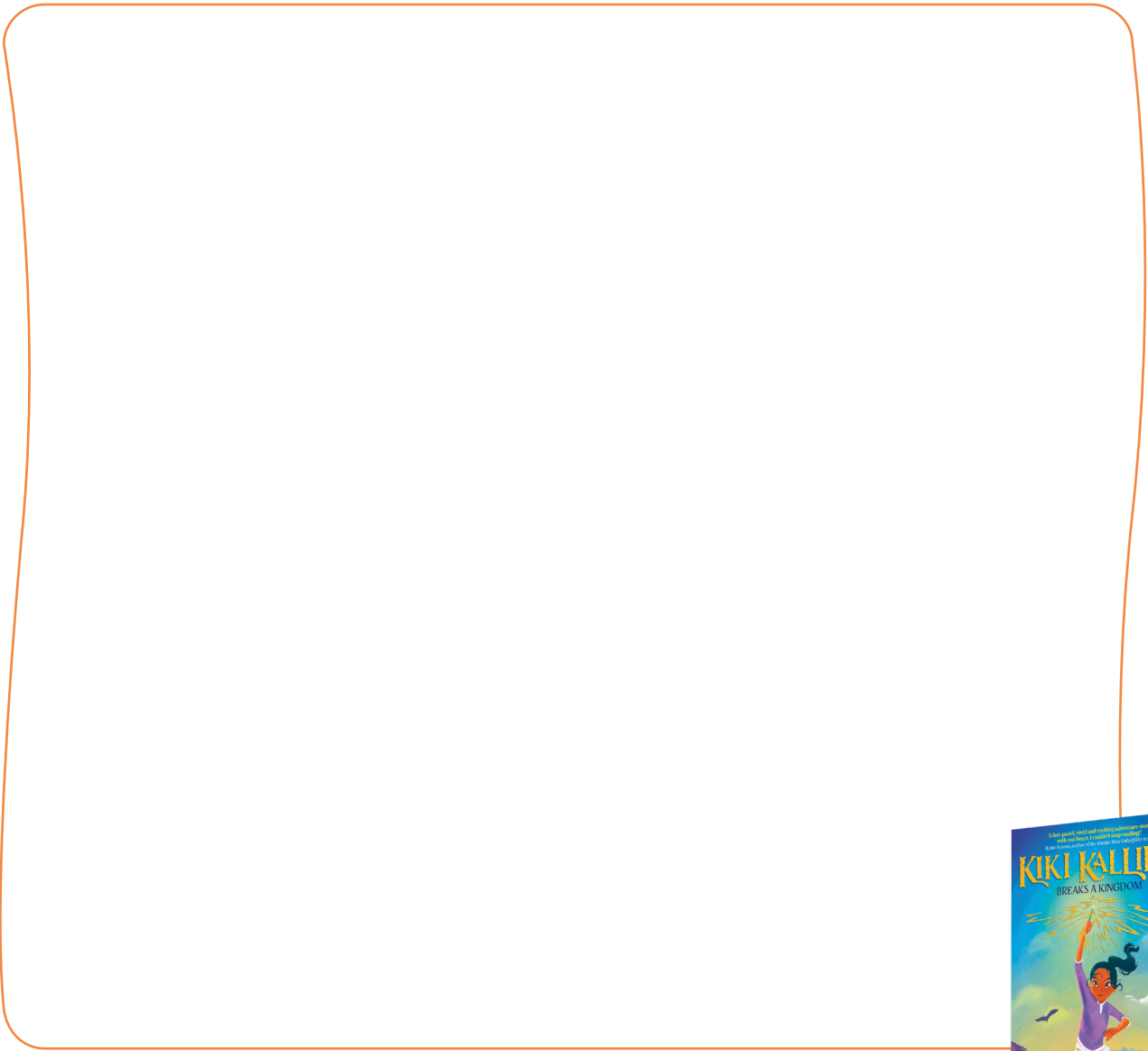
## ACTIVITY 3: CREATE YOUR OWN IMAGINARY WORLD!

**Think about a city or town that you know well. It might be where you live or somewhere you've visited.**

Begin by drawing a few of the landmarks in a realistic style. Now, think about what fantastical elements would you like to add to your city or town. Perhaps you would like to change the colour of the buildings or add some magical creatures as Kiki does? Or perhaps you'd like to add something different? This is YOUR city, so it's completely up to you! What would you like to see?

Show your illustration to a friend and give them a tour of your imaginary town or city.

How would you feel if your imaginary city or town came to life? What would you do? What adventures might you have?



## THEME 2: MYTHICAL MONSTERS

### EXTRACT 2

**In this extract, Kiki comes face to face with Mahishasura...**

I took a step back, my throat thick with fear.

Mahishasura was twice my size. Those wicked horns curled up from the sides of a buffalo's head, and he had a plate of armour over his wide, hard chest. His huge human arms and animal legs were covered in thick, bristly black fur. Two hooves thudded ominously on the cobblestones as he stepped closer. There was a sword strapped to his back. Amber eyes gleamed in a bull's face, nostrils flared, and sharp teeth flashed.

My knees felt unsteady. This was not a bad dream, or a sketch in a book, or even a minor Asura. This was the king of demons.

For once in my life, not a single inconsequential worry popped into my head. I wasn't thinking about the fact that the nail on my left hand's index finger was just a bit longer than all my other nails, or about the dirt gathering between my toes, or about how annoying the single cracked cobblestone in the otherwise unblemished street was.

I wasn't thinking about anything at all. There was no room for it; there was no room for anything but that monstrous face and the gleam of those long, terrible claws.

'Look at the way my people run from me,' Mahishasura said, his voice low and deep. He chuckled. 'Why do they flee? Don't they know I am a kind, benevolent king?'

'We are not your people,' Lej hissed.

Mahishasura ignored him. Those cruel amber eyes focused on me. 'Such a small girl,' he said. 'To think that you made this world, and hold the keys to my way out of it, and yet you cannot even look me in the eye without trembling.'

I tried to speak, but my mouth was dry and terror had driven words right out of my brain. I wasn't even sure I knew what words were.





## THEME 2: MYTHICAL MONSTERS

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Can you visualise what Mahishasura looks like? Close your eyes and ask someone to read this passage to you. See if you can build up an image in your mind.
- Underline the words the author uses to describe Mahishasura. Use a different colour for adjectives, verbs and adverbs.
- Describe what Kiki can hear, taste, touch and see.
- Can you show on your face and with your posture how you think Kiki is feeling at this point? Highlight the words and phrases in the text which show how Kiki is feeling.
- The author uses a 'show, don't tell' technique to convey how Kiki is feeling. Why is this effective?
- What does 'inconsequential' mean? Why does Kiki describe these worries as inconsequential? Why has Kiki forgotten about these worries?
- Mahishasura says he is a 'kind, benevolent king'. Do you believe him? Why?
- Find the word 'cruel' in the passage. Can you think of a synonym for 'cruel'?
- How does Lej react to Mahishasura? What does this suggest about Lej's character?
- Who has more power in this scene: Kiki or Mahishasura?
- Can you make a prediction about what will happen as the story unfolds?
- Kiki based her imaginary Kingdom on stories from ancient Hindu mythology. Have you read any myths and legends from other cultures?



## ACTIVITY 1: DRAW AN ASURA

**Many of the Asuras are hybrid creatures meaning their bodies are made up of different animals.** Using the description in extract 2, can you work out how many different animals Mahishasura's body is made up of? When you've got an image of Mahishasura in your mind, it's time to have a go at drawing him yourself!

**Tip** – When Kiki is drawing her Asuras, she sketches them lightly in pencil first. Then she goes over the pencil lines with a black pen before adding colour using her coloured pencils. You might like to try the same technique.

I inked over the pale pencil lines and reached for my box of coloured pencils. Sweeping black lines and blocks of rich colour transformed the white paper into something alive. Soon, the battle felt so real that I could almost feel the hiss of the Asura's breath on my face. (Page 27)

Can you feel the hiss of Mahishasura's breath on your face?!

Kiki enjoys drawing in her sketchbook and she finds it helps her with her worries. You might like to keep a sketchbook too? Perhaps you could have a go at drawing some more the Asuras from the story. You can find further descriptions of Asuras on pages 26-27, 70 and 196-197.





## ACTIVITY 2: DESIGN YOUR OWN MYTHICAL MONSTER!

In Hindu mythology, Mahishasura is the cruellest and most powerful of all the Asuras. Can you design a monster as fierce and terrifying as Mahishasura?

Draw your monster below and label any particularly terrifying features.

Kiki put a lot of detail into her drawing of Mahishasura including thick bristly hair, cruel amber eyes and sharp teeth. Try to include lots of detail into your monster too.

Imagine meeting your monster in the flesh. What would you see and hear? How would you feel? How would you react? Using Extract 2 as inspiration, write a description of meeting your monster. Use strong descriptive language to bring your monster to life. Show the reader how you feel by describing the sensations you experience and your body language.



## THEME 3: STRENGTH AND INSPIRATION

'I used to be like you, you know,' Samara said unexpectedly. 'When Ashwini first found Suki and me, and we came here, I felt like I didn't fit in at all. I wasn't good at fighting. Lej tried to teach me how to go out and scavenge stuff, but I just slowed him down. I couldn't figure out plants and potions like Suki, or make cool costumes and armour like Jojo, or even build the kinds of weird devices and gadgets Pip comes up with. The only thing I was good at was reading and, well, it didn't seem like a useful thing to be good at. I felt small and weak, and I hated it.'

'That's not true,' I objected. 'You are admittedly pretty little, but you're not weak.'

She smiled. 'I know that now, but back then, I didn't get it. And that's why I know how you feel right now, and you need to remember that you're not weak, either. We may be little, but we're not small.'

'Tell Kiki what happened in the forest,' Suki said, clapping her hands with all the glee of someone about to hear a story they love.

Samara's cheeks turned a little pink, but she said, 'About a year ago, I tried to be helpful by going out to the forest on the other side of the Kaveri and finding berries, mushrooms, that kind of stuff. All I took with me was an empty basket, a book and an apple as a snack. While I was out there, a wolf Asura found me. I ran, but I'm not very fast and I knew he'd catch me.'

The others were all grinning, watching me as I watched Samara, riveted. 'And then?' I asked.

'I remembered something I'd read in one of my books,' she replied. 'Asuras need to eat meat to survive, but wolf Asuras can't resist the smell of apple juice. I have no idea why that is, but it's what saved me that day. I pulled out my apple and started biting off bits of it. I spat them out on to the forest floor as I ran, making a trail for the wolf to follow. I led him right into an old hunter's trap.'

'And then she was sick all over her shoes,' Suki couldn't resist adding.

Her twin grinned. 'It's true. And when I got back home, I was sick all over Suki's shoes, too.'

I laughed, but my brain replayed the story. There was something so brilliant and hopeful about Samara finding out that the thing she loved, the one thing she knew she was good at, was actually every bit as useful as anything any of the others could do.





## THEME 3: STRENGTH AND INSPIRATION

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How did Samara feel when Ashwini first found her? Why?
- How does Samara feel about herself now?
- Why does Samara tell Kiki this story?
- What does Kiki learn from Samara?
- Does this extract give you any ideas about what might happen next in the story?
- Samara loves reading. What things do you love doing?
- Everybody has different interests and skills. What are the different interests and talents of people in your friendship group, family or class at school?
- Take turns to share with the group, class or family one strength or talent you've noticed in somebody else. For example, you might say, 'I've noticed that Jared is good at listening' or 'I've notice that Layla is good at encouraging other people'.



## ACTIVITY 1: DIFFERENT SKILLS AND TALENTS

Draw a line to match each character to their role in the Crows.

**SUKI**

**Leader and Warrior**

Organises the Crows and fights battles against monsters.

**JOJO**

**Tailor and Archer**

Makes costumes, patches up old clothes and uses a bow and arrow.

**ASHWINI**

**Reader**

Finds information to help fight against the monsters.

**LEJ**

**Inventor and Builder**

Designs and makes things like stink bombs to help defeat the monsters.

**PIP**

**'Magpie' or Scavenger**

Finds objects and materials that the Crows need.

**SAMARA**

**Apothecary**

Makes potions and poisons from plants and flowers.

Write your name in the empty shape. If you were one of the Crows, what do you think your job might be? Make up a role for yourself and fill in the empty box.

In a small group, make up your own gang just like the Crows. What will you call yourselves? Decide on a role for each other based on your interests, skills and strengths. How will you work together to defeat the monsters? On pages 99-118, Kiki explores Crow House. She discovers that each of the Crows has a bedroom which is decorated to reflect their personality and skills. What kind of house would you live in and how would you each decorate your bedrooms?



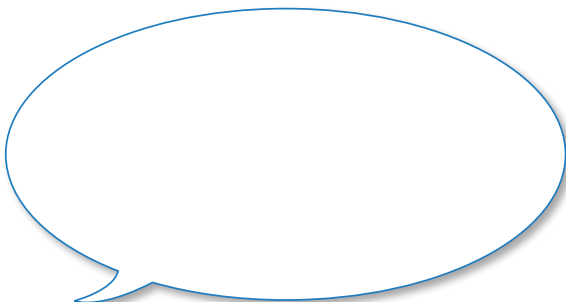
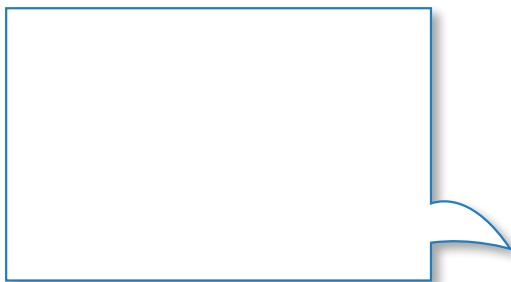
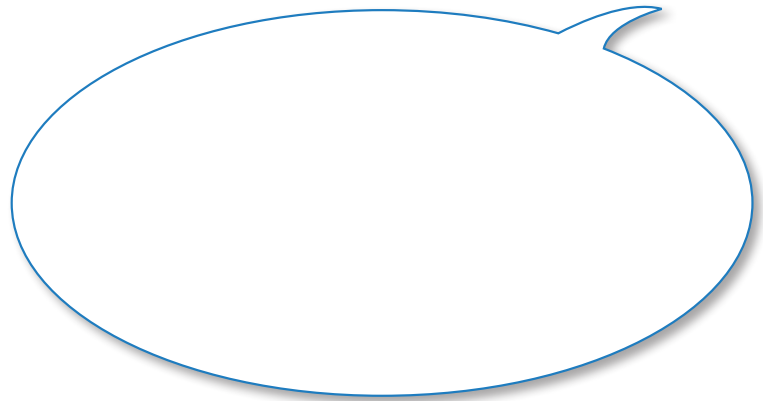


## ACTIVITY 2: INSPIRING WORDS

Samara gives Kiki some good advice.

As you read the rest of the book, keep this sheet with you and write down any more encouraging or inspiring words that you come across. It might be words that the other characters say to Kiki or things she says to herself to help her feel strong and brave.

YOU'RE  
NOT WEAK



## THEME 4: DEALING WITH WORRY

I opened the door at the top of the stairs, and threw myself into the room beyond it, where the walls were lavender and white. Backing away from Mahishasura, who snorted smoke from his nostrils and chuckled at the sight of me cornered in a room, I watched as the door behind him closed.

And vanished.

Because this was, of course, the Room with No Doors.

‘No way out now,’ I said, shrugging.

As the walls quivered around us, the palace groaning with broken stone, Mahishasura’s teeth bared in a snarl. ‘What have you done?’

I watched as it dawned on him, bit by bit, that he had been tricked. He had been so utterly certain that I was just a scared little girl, he had found it entirely believable that that little girl would demand a fight and then run away in tears. He had so completely underestimated me, he hadn’t even paused before following me into the palace I had made and only I could get out of.

‘You think you have lured me into a neat little trap,’ he growled, his fur simmering with heat and fury. ‘You think you are strong and clever, but you are not. You are a scared, lost little girl, Kiki Kallira, and you will never be more than that.’

I backed away some more, until I collided with the wall behind me. ‘If that’s all I am, why haven’t you beaten me yet? I think it’s because you’ve always known, just like I know now, that I have more power in this world than you ever will.’

‘I am the ruler of this world!’ Mahishasura roared. ‘You will never win. If I am trapped here, so are you. You will never be free of me!’

‘My real battle was never with you,’ I told him. ‘It was you who helped me see that. My real battle was with the version of me who was afraid of herself. My real battle was with the version of me who let people like you make her feel small and weak. And, as you can see, I’ve already won that battle.’

And then, with the immense satisfaction of having had the last word, I drew myself a new door, slipped through and sealed it shut behind me.





## THEME 4: DEALING WITH WORRY

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How has Kiki tricked Mahishasura?
- What does Mahishasura say to try to win back his power? Why doesn't it work?
- In what ways has Kiki changed since the start of the book?
- How do you think Kiki feels as she walks away from the Room with No Doors?
- Can you think of three words to describe Kiki now?
- What song or piece of music would be a good soundtrack to this scene?
- Can you think of a time you overcame a difficulty? Perhaps a time when you were worried that you wouldn't be able to do something, but you gave it a go anyway? How did you feel afterwards?



## ACTIVITY 1: MAKE A WORRY BOX

**We all worry sometimes, it's perfectly normal.** If you feel that your worries are unhelpful and getting a bit overwhelming, as Kiki did, a worry box might help.

**You will need:** a small cardboard box, coloured paper, pencils and pens.

Decorate your box. You might want to cover it with positive words and pictures. You could even draw a picture of yourself in a superhero pose just like Kiki's statue!

Whenever you have a worry, you can write it down on a piece of paper and put it in the worry box. The worry box will hold your worries, so you don't have to. When your worry is in the box, you don't have to think about it anymore. You can feel free to get on with your day.

Talking about your worries can be helpful too. Write down three people you trust to help and support you:

1.

.....

2.

.....

3.

.....

At any time, you can take one of your worries out of the box and talk it through with somebody you trust.





## ACTIVITY 2: KIKI'S JOURNEY

**Can you list all the things you think Kiki has learnt over the course of the story?** Use the space below to write your notes. With a partner, role play a conversation between Kiki at the start of the story and Kiki at the end of the story.

Imagine you are Kiki and you receive a letter from somebody who is struggling with their anxieties. Write a reply from the point of view of Kiki giving this person advice on how to deal with their worries. What have you learnt that could help them? What messages of hope and encouragement would you like to pass on?



### COLOUR-IN FACT SHEET 1

#### MAHISHASURA



Did you know, an Asura is a huge, monstrous demon from Hindu folklore? In Kiki's world, Mahishasura is the cruellest and most powerful of all Asuras!





### COLOUR-IN FACT SHEET 1

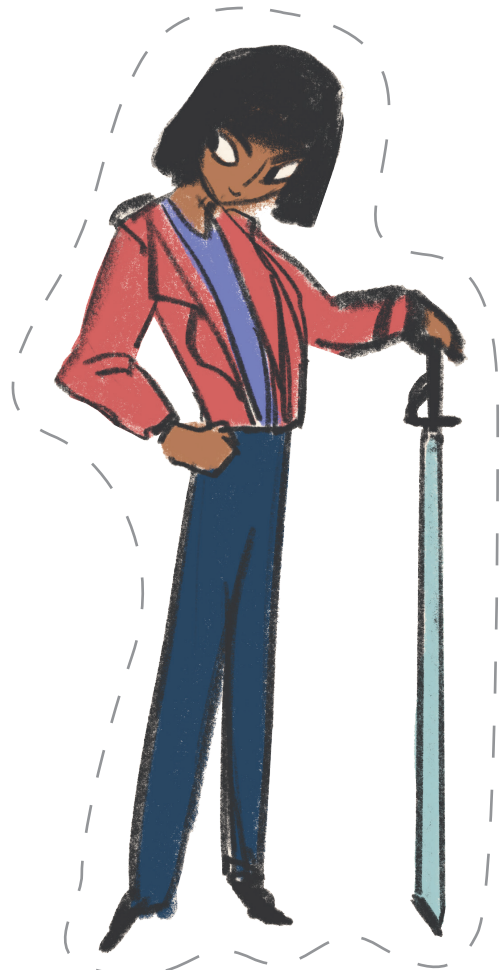
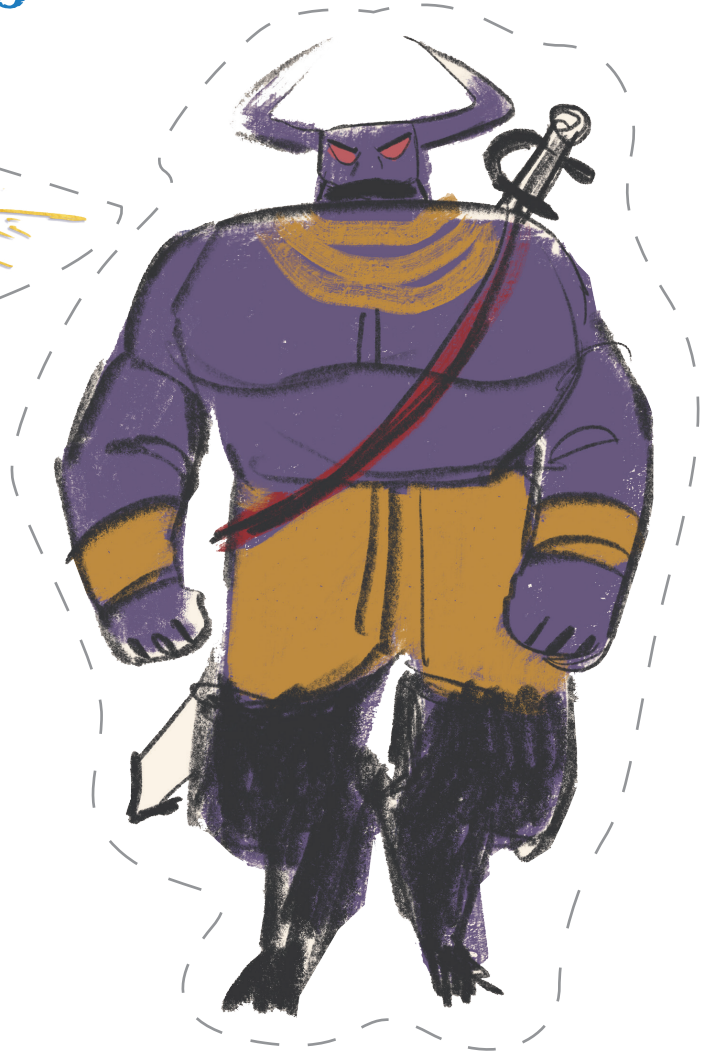
#### SIMHA



Did you know, Simha means 'lion' in Kannada (a language spoken in several regions of South West India)? Simha loves to drink tea out of the world's tiniest cup!



# DISPLAY BOARD ITEMS





# DISPLAY BOARD ITEMS



KIKI KALLIRA

SANGU  
MANDANNA