



Story Nook

September 2015

Goodbye teacher- A special tale for teachers Day, Sept 5, 2015

Mrs. Sudha was tired. It would be her last day at school. She had been a class teachers for the same set of students for nearly three years now from the 5th grade to the 7th grade. They would be graduating to high school and she was retiring. She recalled the first day of the class when the children looked up with awe surprise and wonder as to how she would be. She had been teaching now for 35 years and it would be her last day at school too.

That night before her last day she went to sleep recalling each child's face. "What should I give them she wondered!!! Not chocolates or sweets but something that they would uphold for the rest of their lives.... she went off to sleep. She had a wonderful dream that night and she knew the next morning when she woke up what she would give the children.

The children gathered around her each one wanting to be closer to her than the others. It was a co education school. The school had a large campus that led to a lake nearby. The children were always prevented from straying too far from the school.

" Lets make a line and go down to the lake", she said. The lake was full as it had rained heavily the previous day.

Now Sudha gathered them around the stone near the lake under the tree and they had lunch and goodies. She gave each a little card with their individual names written in her own handwriting in calligraphy. They were touched and in turn also gave gifts flowers and hand done cards to her. She gathered them around closer and began to tell a story "

Last night I dreamt that I travelled to a land faraway. Everyone was walking in the same direction and I saw children's faces just like yours. We were coming towards a lake and suddenly there was a huge gathering under a tree like this in the village there. A man was wrapped in a white cloth and placed on a bamboo scaffold and some people were crying. His face seemed calm and serene. A young boy suddenly looked up at me held my hand and said " We are celebrating and saying hello to him.". Celebrating death I asked?". Yes watch he said. Suddenly something amazing happened. Lots of colours like the rainbow colours began to appear on the man's white cloth. It seemed like magic as if someone was wrapping him in silk, satin and cotton cloth with designs of red, blue, green and gold finally.

The boy was calm and said, "The colours and designs you see on the man's body tells the story of his life. The blue shows he was loyal, the red that he had a brave heart, the green for his compassion and the gold that he was loving to others.

" Does it happen to everyone in this village? " I asked.

" No, " he was a good man and was so loving towards everyone and my parents say he is blessed, but there are others whose white cloth after being wrapped turns into shreds and tatters and becomes like dust and we have to quickly keep wrapping him again. "The people in the village know the kind of life he had led."

" So children said Sudha with misty eyes " you are all young and your stories are just beginning. I can tell you that If I had a cloak at the end of my life I should make sure that it should have all the colours represented. My hope for you is also to lead a glorious life with a lot of love and compassion for others so you have beautiful Goodbye cloaks at the end of your lives.

Adapted from a story told by David Campbell who in turn had heard it on a bus journey from a woman in the Middle East.

Happy Teachers Day to all.

Geeta Ramanujam



KATHALAYA

Story Nook

September 2015

Headlines - It was lovely to put our albums two of them of the Stories gone by of Kathalaya's journey of 15 years- 1998-2014.



Stories gone by . Highlights

August 2015

- Story space Learning center at Pune .
- Workshops for the Heritage school at Gurgaon-120 teachers and performance for 600 children and adults.
- Corporate training for 8 companies on Diversity and Inclusion at the Asian Paints Mumbai.
- Workshop in Tamil at Visthar for women by Geeta Subramaniam and Deiva
- August 22nd special marathon session of storytelling at Kutoohala for - Independence day special by 5-6 Kathalaya storytellers for an hour and a half and STORYWOOD @Kathalaya.
- Public speaking and storytelling at ST.Pauls until February 2016 for classes 1-8.
- Our usual beginners course August ends along with a special workshop by Antonio Rocha.

Stories to come by....Important

September 2015

- Pramiti school children visit s to Kathalaya
- St.pauls, NET schools on going programs in storytelling and Public speaking
- Corporate training from Spetember 10-14th at Mumbai for Reliance and for the ICF trainers.
- Training for the National School of Drama students at Tripura
- Our own Academy courses
- Corporate training for a company at Bangalore.
- Story Space to be set up at Gurgaon.
- Workshop for Government school children, Bangalore.
- On going activity at crossword book stores and other activity centers.



Story Nook

September 2015

KATHALAY