

## EDUCATOR GUIDE

# Kesar and the Lullaby Birds

Words By Aditi Oza

Art by Debasmita Dasgupta

Picture Book | 5-7 Years | Grades K-2

### Key Themes:

Caring for a baby sibling; folktales and oral storytelling; grandparents and multigenerational families; handicrafts and traditional art forms

LCCN: 2022930237

978-1-949528-86-2 (Hardcover)

978-1-949528-85-5 (Paperback)

978-1-949528-84-8 (eBook)

Available via Ingram, Follett School Solutions, OverDrive, EBSCO & more

**K**esar's baby sister Kamal will not sleep. Their entire village in the Great Rann of Kutch is kept awake by the infant's cries and her parents are exhausted. When Kesar and Kamal's ba comes to visit, her stories give Kesar a wonderful idea. Perhaps what Kesar needs to put her baby sister to sleep is a little bit of desert magic!

A vibrant celebration of traditional artisans from India, this picture book is a sweet sibling bedtime story at heart, featuring a big sister who figures out how to care for her baby sister with some help from her grandmother's lovingly made gifts.

[Preview the book here.](#)



AN IMPRINT OF SAMBASIVAN & PARIKH



Illustrations © 2022 by Debasmita Dasgupta

## A 2023 Skipping Stones Honor Award Winner

*“Set in the Kutch region of India, the bright colors, intricate patterns, and delicate details of Indian attire and architecture are standout features.”* –

Foreword Reviews (STARRED)

### [Resources for the classroom](#)

Educator Guide

Overview of Lippan Kaam (Video)

Author’s Note

Downloadable Activities

Book Trailer (Video)

Author Read Aloud (Video)

Pronunciation Guide



**Aditi Oza** is a self-taught multimedia artist whose love for folk art inspires her work. Through her paintings and stories, Aditi hopes to communicate her love for her native Gujarati heritage and culture. A software engineer by profession, she lives in San Jose, California with her family.

Connect with her at [orangepaisley.com](http://orangepaisley.com).



**Debasmita Dasgupta** is an internationally published, Kirkus Prize-nominated illustrator and graphic novelist. Widely known as an art-for-change advocate, Debasmita tells stories of change makers from around the world by partnering with global nonprofits. Connect with her on Instagram [@debasmitadasgupta](https://www.instagram.com/debasmitadasgupta).



AN IMPRINT OF SAMBASIVAN & PARIKH



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ELA: Folktales

STEM Challenge: Build a  
Ghodiya

Math: Symmetry

Arts: Make Your Own  
Lippan Kaam



CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.2

ELA Reading: Grade 2-3, Key Ideas and Details:

Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

**Part A:** In *Kesar and the Lullaby Birds*, Kesar’s ba narrates a story as they work together. This kind of story is called a folktale.

Folktales are often characterized by the following elements:

- Shared orally for generations
- Easy to remember with simple storylines
- Talking animals or magical beings
- Have a happy ending

Read the folktale told by Kesar’s ba and identify the above characteristics in the folktale.

In Ba’s folktale:

- A. Who is the main character?
- B. What is the role of the talking cloth birds?
- C. Can you narrate Ba’s folktale in your own words?
- D. Does the folktale have a happy ending? Why or why not?





**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.3**

**ELA Writing: Grade 2-3: Text Types and Purposes:**

Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

**Part B: Write your own folktale!**

There are many different kinds of folktales told around the world. Here are four common types:

1. **A Fool's Tale:** In a fool's tale, a sneaky, clever character outsmarts a foolish character.
2. **A Tall Tale:** In a tall tale, the main character has special strengths or abilities. The main character uses their superpowers to solve a problem.
3. **An Animal Tale:** In an animal tale, the main character is an animal that has special abilities or powers. The animal can be real or imaginary. The animal solves the problem or helps the human characters solve the problem.
4. **A Fairy Tale:** In a fairy tale, the main character is introduced to something magical. Cinderella and Jack and the Beanstalk are both examples of fairy tales.

Use this checklist before you begin writing. Does your folktale have:

- A main character
- A setting (where does it take place?)
- A problem
- A solution to the problem

You can use the graphic organizer on the next page to organize your folktale.





## MY ORIGINAL FOLKTALE

**Brainstorm:** Think about what kind of folktale you will write.


**Beginning:** Describe the setting and introduce the main characters.


**Middle:** Introduce the character's special powers and describe the problem.


**End:** How is the problem solved?




NGSS: K-2-ETS1-2. Develop a simple sketch, drawing, or physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function as needed to solve a given problem.

## STEM CHALLENGE

### Design and Build a *Ghodiyu*

In this STEM challenge, you'll be designing and building your own ghodiyu. A ghodiyu is a cradle swing that gently sways back and forth to rock a baby to sleep. The cradle must be a strong structure to keep the baby safe.

#### What you'll need:

- Popsicle sticks
- String
- Glue (hot glue\* or white glue) \*Hot glue should be used by an adult.

#### What to do:

- Create a square or rectangle using four popsicle sticks. Glue corners together so it looks like this: This is the bottom frame or base of your ghodiyu.



- Next, we will make the sides of the swing. The sides of the swing need to be strong to support the weight of the cradle and the baby. What shape is strongest?

**Educator Note:** you may wish to have your students try different shapes on the sides to see which is strongest. You can watch [this video](#) to learn more.



- Glue triangles to the side of your swing. Glue another popsicle stick across the top to connect the triangles.



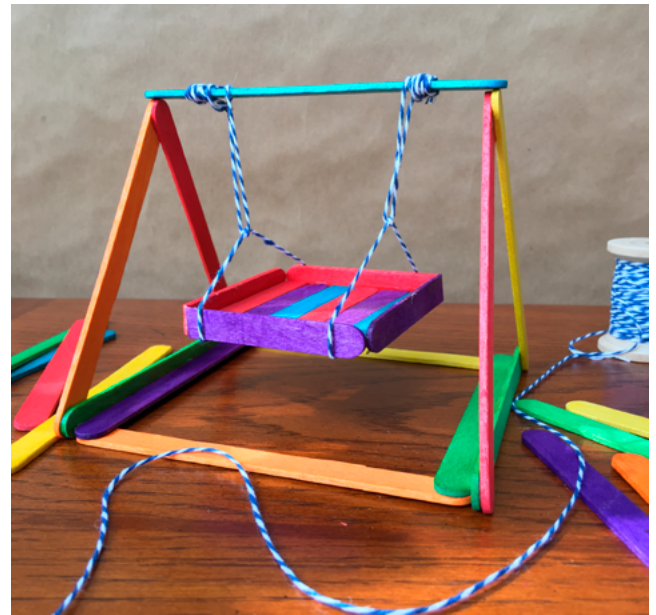


## STEM CHALLENGE

- Lay 4 half popsicle sticks flat and glue them together to create the “bed” of the cradle. Add 4 half sticks to make walls on all four sides.
- You can be creative! Add additional popsicle sticks, construction paper, pipe cleaners, and/or color to make your bed unique.



- Use string and glue to attach the bed to the cradle frame as shown in the picture below.



### Extensions:

- Test the strength and stability of your structure by adding weight to the cradle. For example, you can collect rocks or marbles and add them one by one to your ghodiyu. How many rocks can it hold?
- Try different types of string in your design: yarn, craft rope, or thread. Which one is strongest? Why?



*Kesar and the Lullaby Birds* by Aditi Oza and Debasmita Dasgupta (Yali Books, 2022)



Illustrations © 2022 by Debasmita Dasgupta

**CCSS.Math.Content.4.G.A.3:** Recognize a line of symmetry for a two-dimensional figure as a line across the figure such that the figure can be folded along the line into matching parts. Identify line-symmetric figures and draw lines of symmetry.

## MATHEMATICS

**Symmetry** is found in many patterns. Something is symmetrical when it is the same on both sides.

**Part A:** Find the lines of symmetry in the two *lippan kaam* patterns below:



Source: [Peepul Tree, 2021](#)



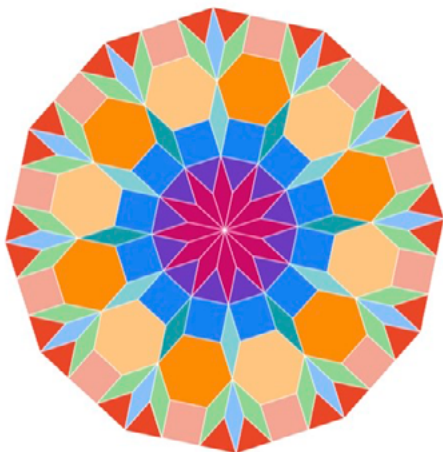
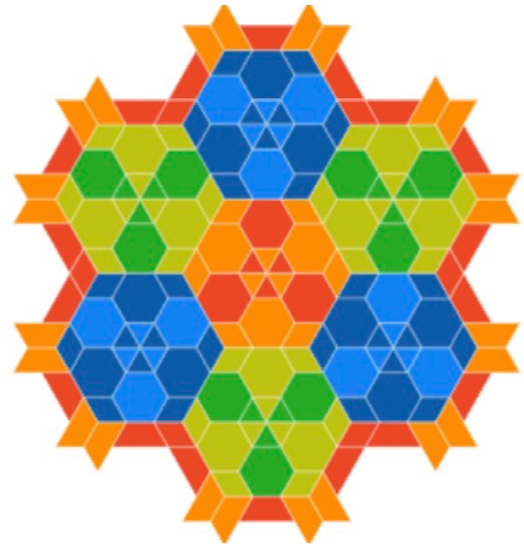
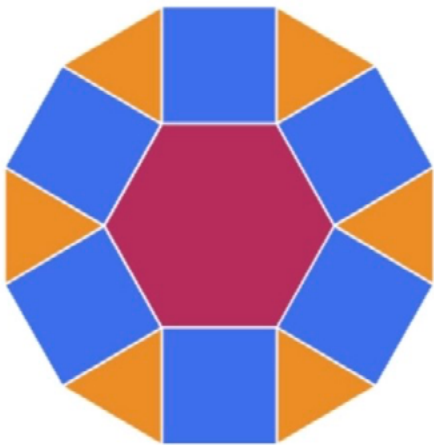
Source: [D'Source](#)



## MATHEMATICS

**Part B:** Create your own symmetrical design using the virtual manipulatives in [Polypad](#).

Here are some examples:



Identify the lines of symmetry in the design you have created.



## ARTS

### Make Your Own Lippan Art

In *Kesar and the Lullaby Birds*, Kesar's ba decorates the walls of the home with lippan kaam. Traditionally, this artwork is created with a mud paste and is used to decorate walls.

[You can watch a video of a lippan artist from Kutch creating her art.](#)



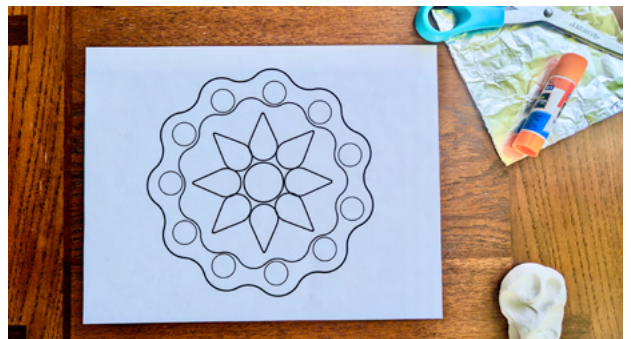
You can create your own lippan-style art at home.

### What you'll need:

- Air dry clay (in place of mud paste)
- Cardstock paper
- Aluminum foil (in place of the small mirrors)
- Glue
- Paint (optional)

### What to do:

- Draw a design on cardstock paper. It can be a symmetrical design like the ones created in the math activity above.

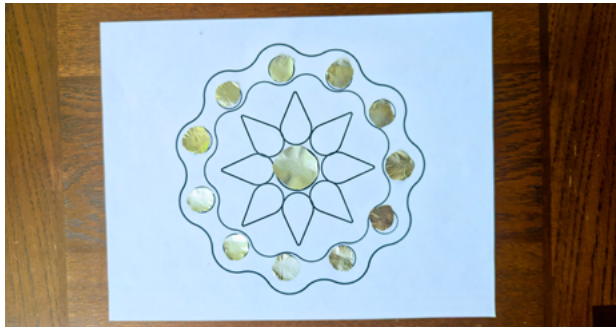


- Cut out pieces of foil that will fit into parts of your design. You can add as little or as much foil as you like. For example, for the design above, I may choose to cut out a foil circle for the middle and cut out foil pieces that will fit in the alternating shape around the perimeter of my design.





## ARTS



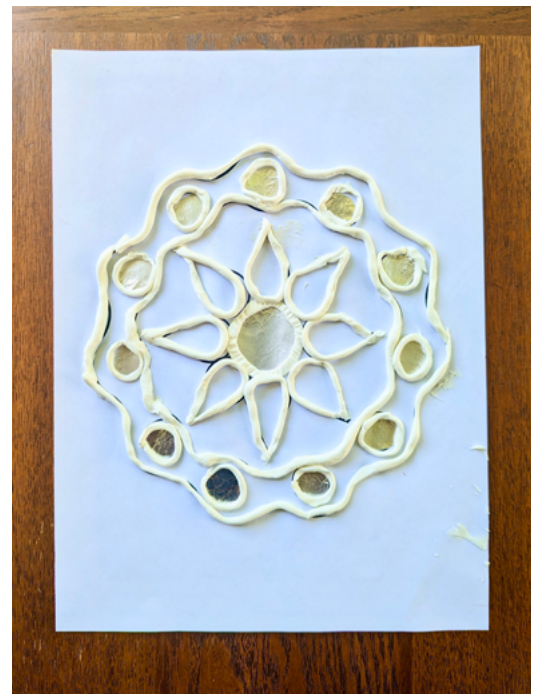
- Next, take a small ball of clay and roll it into a thin, long snake. It should be about 1/4-inch wide and uniform.



- Glue the clay onto the lines of your design.



- Leave your clay to dry overnight.



This art project is inspired by [KANYA Art and Craft](#).

[Download a lippan kaam motif template and other activity sheets for the classroom here.](#)



Illustrations © 2022 by Debansmita Dasgupta

To purchase our books, visit

[yalibooks.com/shop](https://yalibooks.com/shop)

**Also available at**

Bookshop.org | Toka Shop | BAM | Barnes & Noble | Amazon and beyond

**For institutional buyers and retailers**

Ingram | Follett School Solutions | Perma-Bound | OverDrive | EBSCO

**General Sales**

[sales@yalibooks.com](mailto:sales@yalibooks.com)

**School Sales**

[schools@yalibooks.com](mailto:schools@yalibooks.com)

This guide was prepared by **Anjali Joshi**, a science teacher and curriculum developer by day and children’s book author by night. She has 15+ years of experience in the field of K-12 science education, and recently completed a Master of Science at the University of Oxford where she had the opportunity to research educational technology and the effective implementation of K-8 STEM curriculum.

At dawn and dusk, she spends her time fighting monsters, training Pokémon, and playing dress-up with her two amazing kids. Connect with her at [authoranjalijsoshi.com](https://authoranjalijsoshi.com).

**YALIBOOKS.COM**

An imprint of Sambasivan & Parikh

[sambasivanandparikh.com](https://sambasivanandparikh.com)

