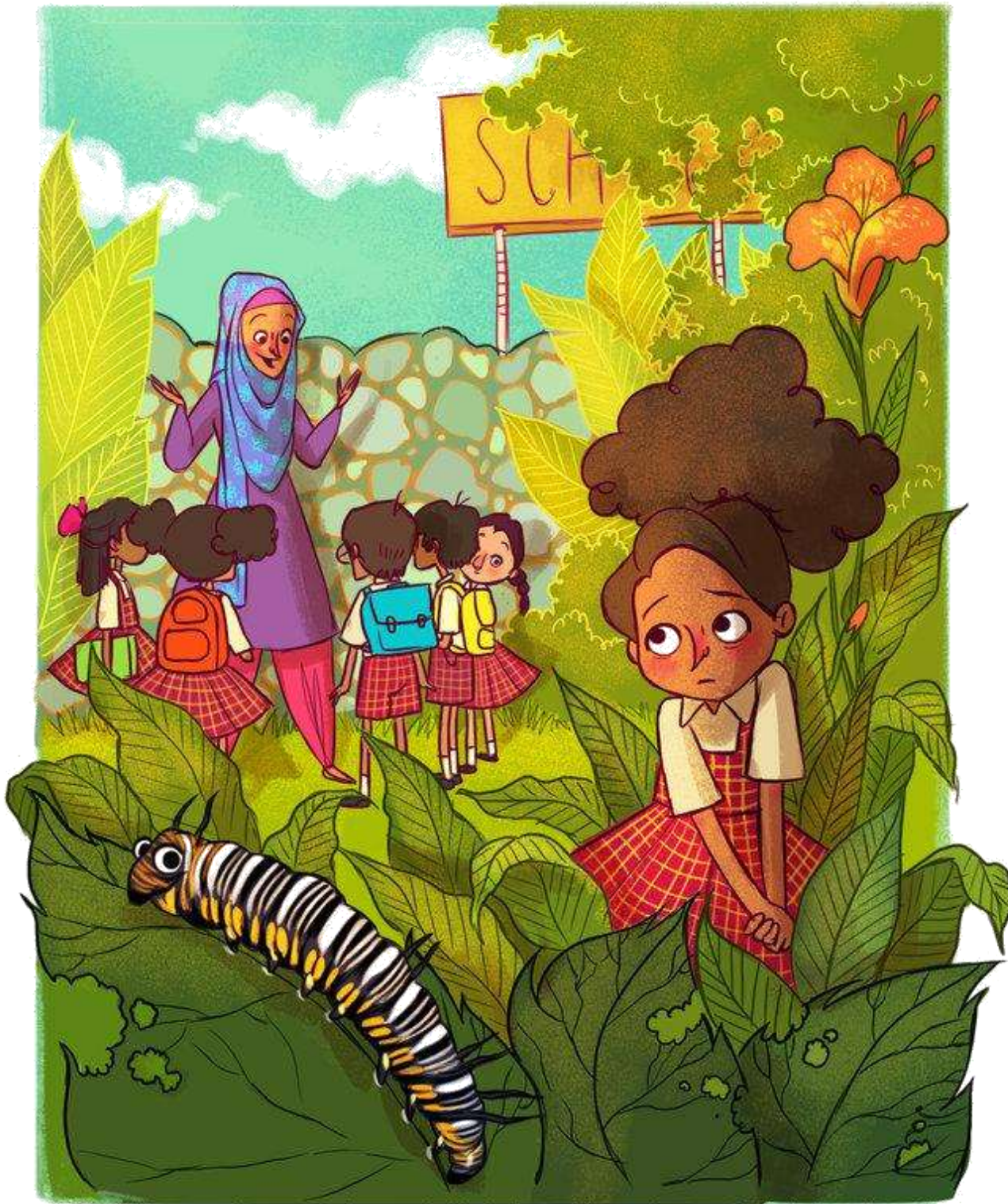




Life's Beauty Unveiled

By Rich Jablonski

#beautifulife



"Line up class! Let's go to the park," Laila Miss says.

All the students hold hands, chattering away. Kavya stands by herself.

As they start walking, Laila Miss asks, "Does anyone know what a caterpillar becomes when it grows up?"

Kavya's stomach flips. She knows the answer! Should she say something?



Kavya and her family have just moved to Bengaluru from her village.

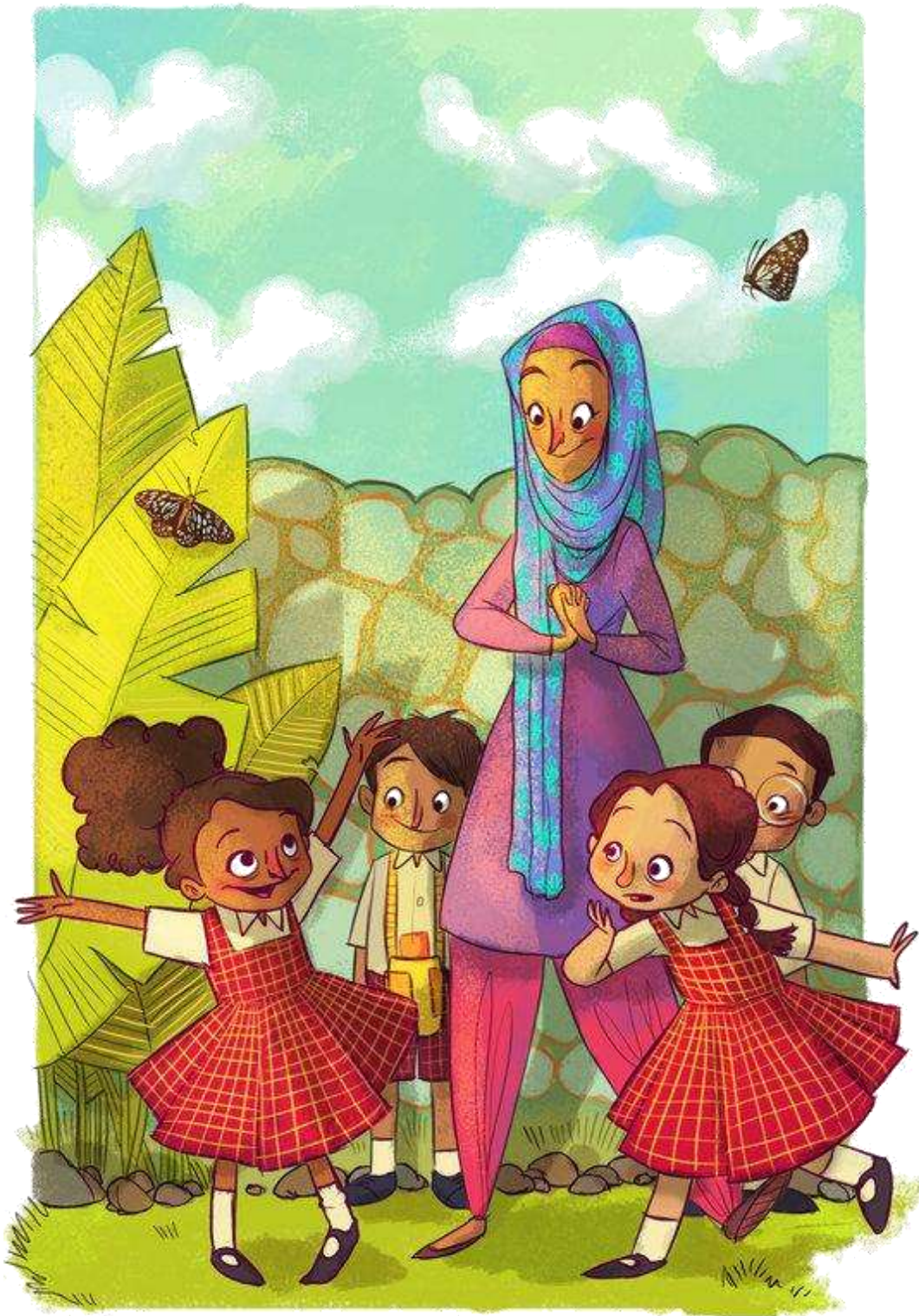
They live at the construction site where her parents work. It's hard living in a half-finished house. The air smells of smoke, and the honking traffic makes it hard to sleep. The towering buildings, zooming cars, and busy people make her feel very, very small.



Kavya has been coming to school for a week. She still hasn't spoken to anyone.

What if they make fun of her accent? Or tease her because she's never been to school before?

Kavya takes a deep breath and raises her hand. In a noisy city like Bengaluru, she can't be quiet forever.



"When caterpillars grow up, they become butterflies," Kavya says.

"That's right!" Laila Miss says.

"Caterpillars are only caterpillars for a few weeks," Kavya says. "They spend that whole time eating leaves."

"They must get very big," says Mary, her classmate.

"They do!"

"After they eat and eat and eat, caterpillars weave cocoons on the sides of plants. They go inside, where they grow and change," says Kavya.