

Literacy Leads to Our Happiness



# Mina Smiles



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In a village in Asia there is a family with five children. MINA and her husband, Jai work on the field. They never learned to read and write. The two oldest children have dropped out of school and are helping their parents with the work.

One day, JAI, who is working in the field, suddenly falls ill from stomach cramps.

Oooh.. It hurts...



Dad, what's wrong!



Mum, Dad got his usual cramps again!



Mina is looking for the medicine....

Which one is it?  
I can't read the label.



JAI, is this the one?  
But, it's finished.

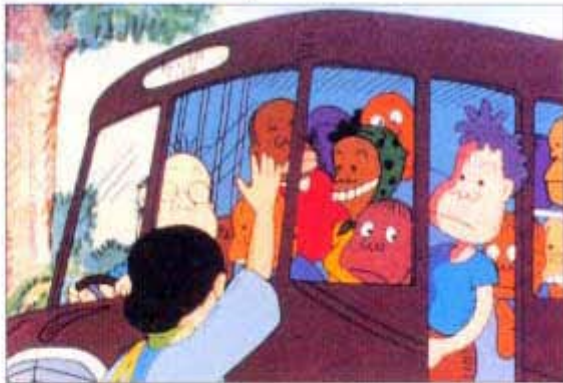
Ahh..., Mina, then please  
take it to the clinic centre  
in town.

O.K. This is my first time to  
go there alone. But I will try.

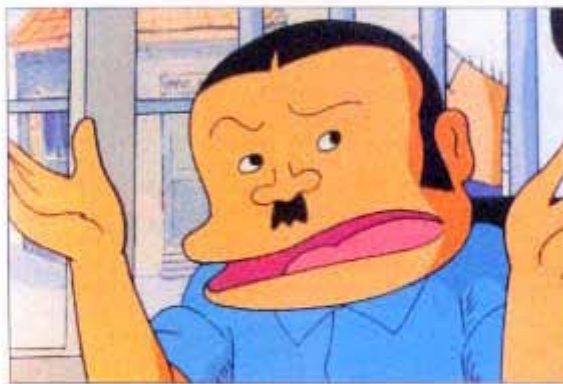


When she tries to get the bus to the town, she finds herself in trouble.

Stop! Stop!



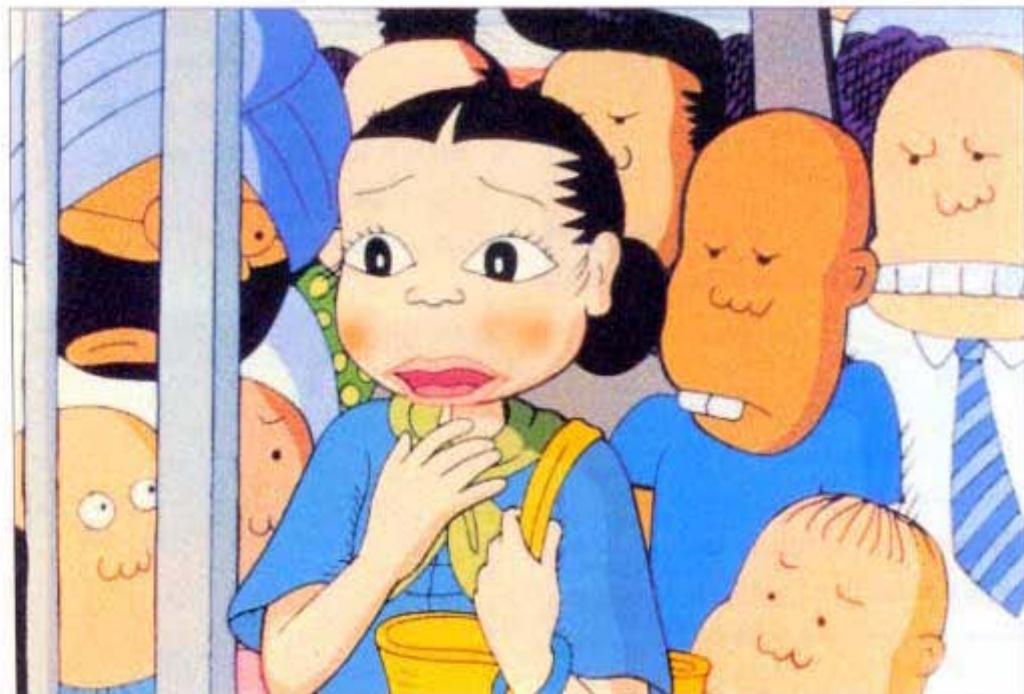
This is the bus to Riverside!  
Can't you read woman?



In the bus....

Don't you know where the clinic  
centre is? Please don't stop the  
bus so often, woman!

I'm sorry, driver.  
I can't read the signboard.





At last she reaches the clinic centre, but...

If you give this to your husband, he will drop dead!



The bottle she has brought is not for medicine but for pesticide. And the paper which she thought was a prescription is also something else.

Why are you giving me a pawn ticket?  
Tell me your husband's name. I'll write a prescription.

Thank you, doctor...



At the pharmacy, she has another problem....



I think he is going to cheat me....

It'll be 13 dollars.  
Take a look at the calculation.



It seems awfully expensive.  
But I can't understand the bill.





On her way back home, she is passing the literacy class....



MINA, I heard you just went all the way to the town. It must have been a lot of trouble.

Teacher...  
I...Ahhh...



At home, JAI has already recovered. There was some medicine left. She tells him what happened in town.

JAI...I want to go to literacy class.  
I had a very hard time today.  
Please let me go, JAI.

What about looking after the house then?  
...but, if you really want to go, MINA,  
I myself and the children will help you.



MINA starts going to literacy class to learn reading and writing.

I can start learning with the help of the family.  
Thank you, JAI.



Mum, teach me what you learn in  
the literacy class.

MINA is welcomed by the classmates.







MINA, take care of yourself.



I know the answer!

MINA studies hard in the literacy class and at home with the help of the family. While learning literacy, she gradually gains confidence in herself.

I can read! I can write!



One day MINA and JAI go to the market to sell vegetables...



Look at this paper.  
The prices of vegetables have gone  
down, you see.



Hey, middleman, don't tell a lie.  
It only mentions fruit,  
not vegetables.



Ah, hm, that's... the wrong paper.  
I did not know that you could  
read, madam. I'm sorry.



They can sell their vegetables  
at good prices.



A few months later....

MINA finds a crack in the road caused by heavy rain. Knowing it is dangerous to passing cars, she makes a simple warning sign. The bus comes along.

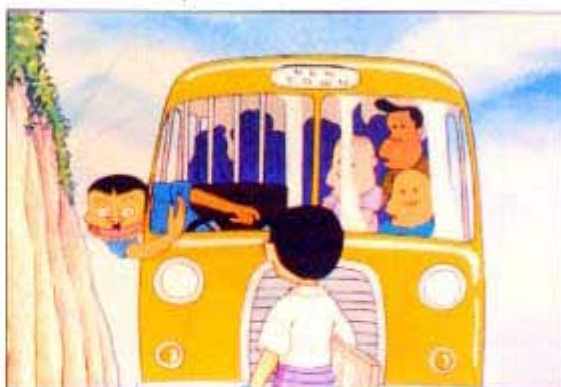
Hey, look! Stop! It's dangerous!



Look at the crack.



Wow, you gave us a warning just in time. We are so grateful, lady. Good writing!



MINA, I understand now that being able to read and write is very important. This book seems really useful.



MINA has learned a lot from the literacy class. Her knowledge could improve their lives very much.



Sometimes you should listen to the wife. In MINA's book, it says that the important points in growing vegetables are the right amount of fertilizer and...



#### Guide for utilization

END

**Objective:** To raise awareness on how literacy skills are important in learners' daily life

**Target:** Neo-literates at beginning level

**Application:**

1. The instructor distributes the booklet to the learners and asks them to read it by themselves.
2. The instructor asks them whether they had similar experiences to those in the book.
3. The instructor and learners discuss why literacy skill is important in daily life and how they can benefit by reading and writing.
4. It should be noted that the animation video, on which this booklet is based, may be shown before distributing this booklet. It will greatly help to hold the learners' attention.

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