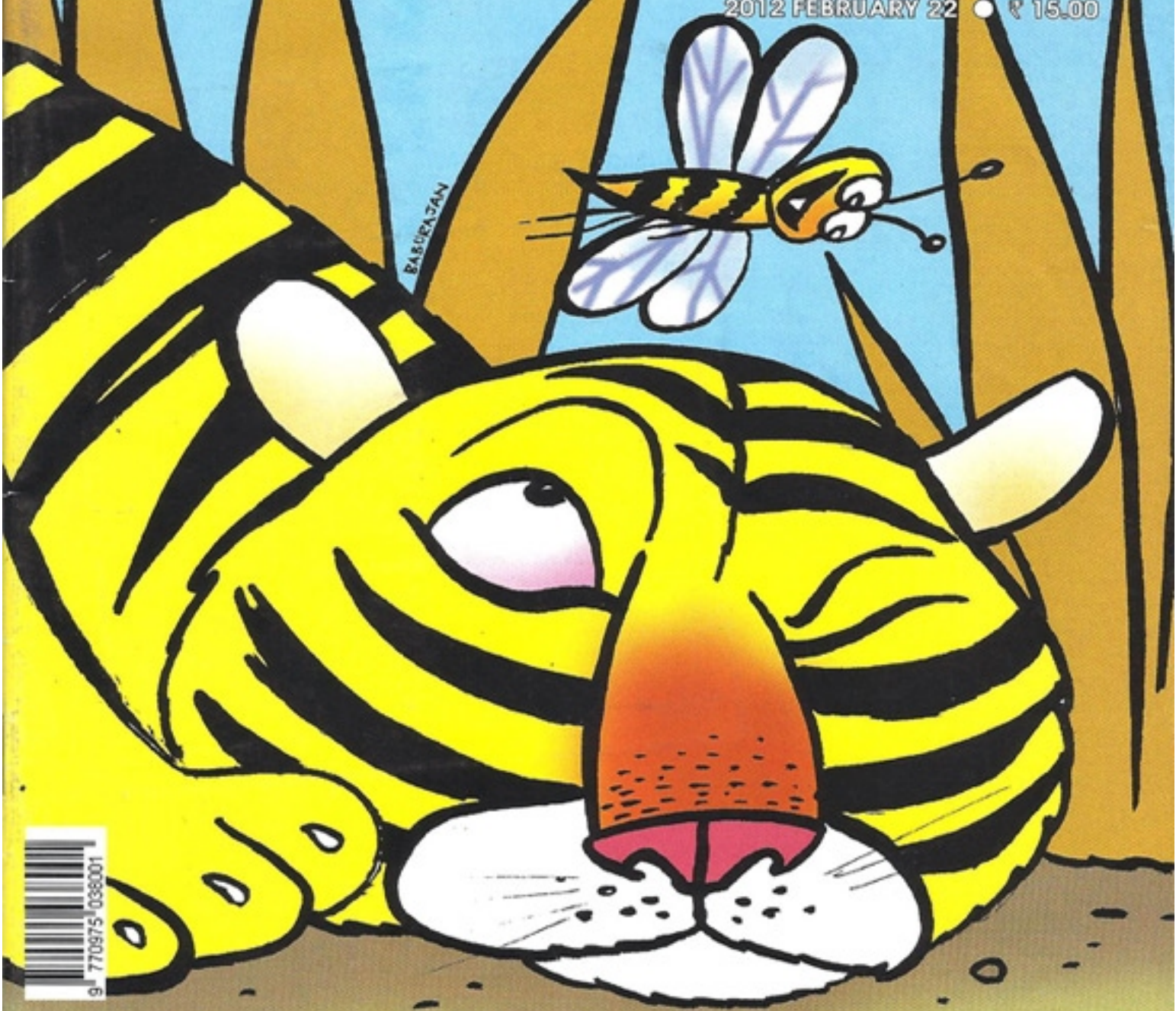


FOR NURSERY / PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Magic Pot

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BEN 10

SUPER ACTION STICKERS



READ ALOUD



Dear Parents and teachers: This is a read-aloud story. You may ask questions in between, to see if the child is following the story.

THE GREAT RACE

Every summer, animals would come from far and near to take part in the Great Race.

Oliver Ostrich came from Africa; stout Chetan Cheetah belonged to India, Brownie Bear travelled from cold Siberia. Danny Deer lived in Canada, and Jolly the laughing jack-ass came from Bhutan. It was the world's most famous animal race. Hoppy was a very proud rabbit. And why not? He had been the running champion for the last two years!

But this year, a new animal

from Australia arrived to join the race. He was Jumpy the kangaroo.

Many other animals came with him too. Trumpety Elephant started off the race.

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He did not blow a whistle. Instead, he lifted his thick, grey trunk and trumpeted,

G.....A.....A.....A.....A.....A.....
A.....A.....

'Could Hoppy perform a hat-trick by winning the race for the third time in three years?' the spectators wondered. All the animals took off at full speed. As usual, Hoppy dashed ahead of the others. Jumpy Kangaroo, with his big long jumps was lying in second place to Hoppy.

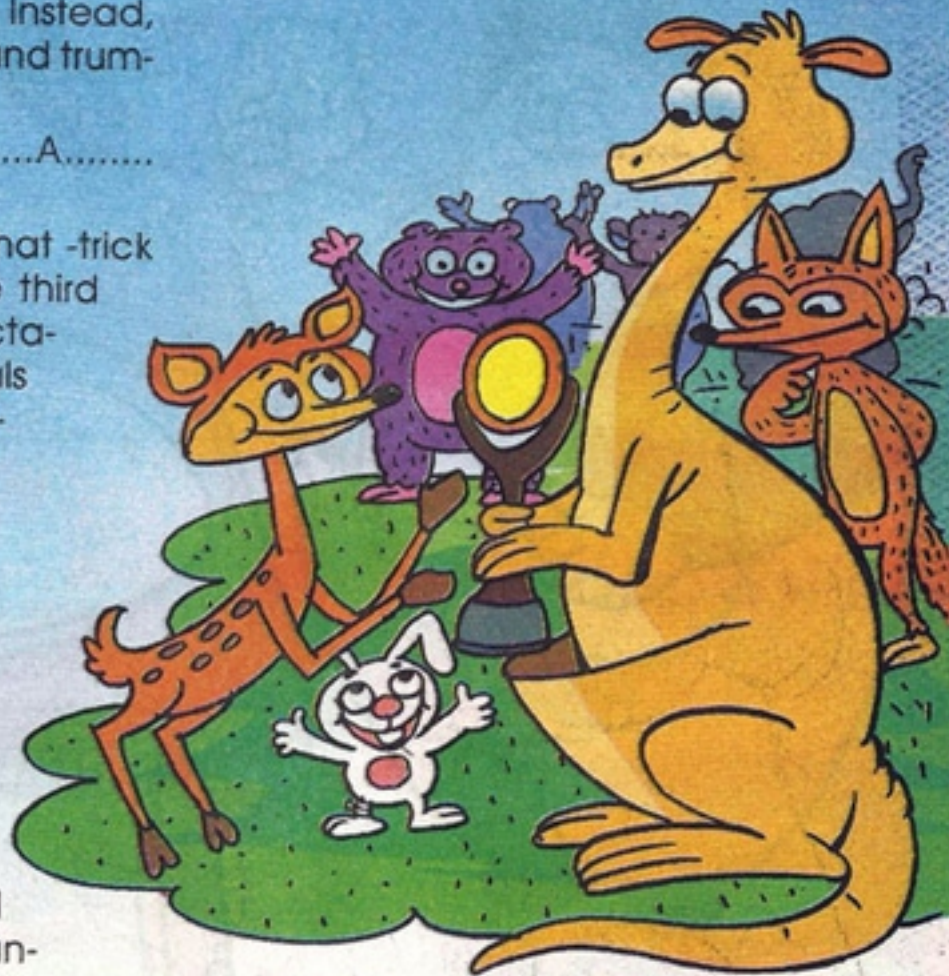
Suddenly, as the runners neared the finishing line, something unexpected happened. Hoppy Rabbit fell flat on the ground. He held his right leg and cried out in pain. He had hurt his ankle badly.

Just as Jumpy Kangaroo was about to overtake Hoppy and win the Great Race, he stopped. He lifted Hoppy up, and put him inside his pouch.

Many other animals zoomed past Jumpy. When Jumpy Kangaroo finished the race, he came fifth.

At the prize distribution ceremony of the Great Race, Farah Fox who had been specially invited to come all the way from Alaska to give away the prizes, heard about Jumpy Kangaroo's big sacrifice, and how he had lost the race he could so easily have won.

"Today the true winner is Jumpy Kangaroo," said Farah Fox slowly. "He



could easily have become the champ. Instead, he carried his injured rival to help him get some emergency first aid."

And what's more, slim Danny Deer who won the race, handed over his first prize to Jumpy kangaroo!

"It is Jumpy who has won the race, not me!" Danny Deer said.

His words touched everyone's heart. All the animals and the spectators clapped and cheered loudly for the champion Jumpy.

● DEBASHISH MAJUMDAR