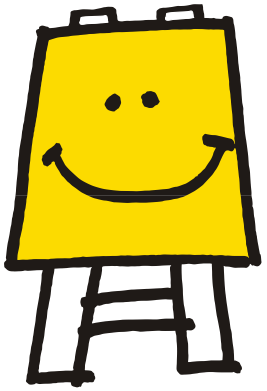
Note : At the "All Children Reading" Asia 2012 September workshop there was a session on "Texts and Materials". Three panelists were given three questions : how to … (see the three topics below). Each panelist was given 10-15 minutes to share their thoughts and experiences.

Using existing materials and resource
Creating new material
Bringing reading materials to children

Experiences from Pratham in India



USING EXISTING MATERIAL -TEXTBOOKS :

Std 2 class in a govt primary school in rural Lucknow district

उत्तर प्रदेश कक्षा २ पाठ्य पुस्तक

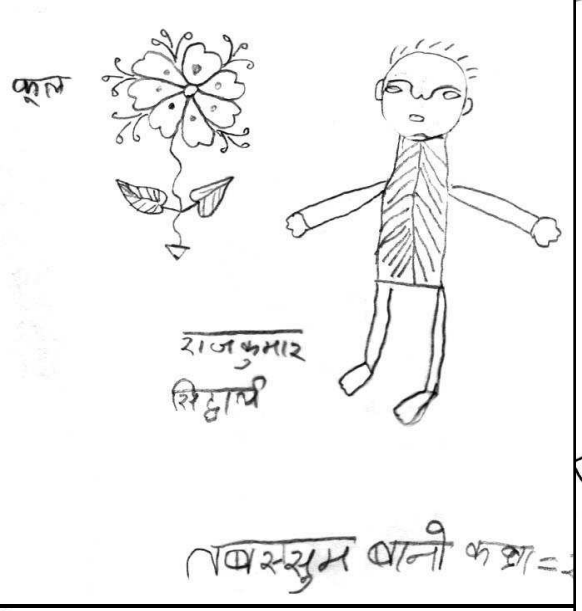
पाठः- सिद्धार्थ और हंस, पेज न. ७१

सवेरे का समय था। चिड़ियाँ पेड़ों पर चहचहा रही थी। रंग–बिरंगे फूल खिले थे। राजकुमार सिद्धार्थ बाग में टहल रहे थे। अचानक एक हंस ऊपर से गिरा। वे लपक कर उसके पास गये। हंस को तीर लगा था। सिद्धार्थ ने तीर को धीरे–धीरे निकाला। घाव को पानी से धोया। हंस अपने बचाने वाले को एकटक देख रहा था।

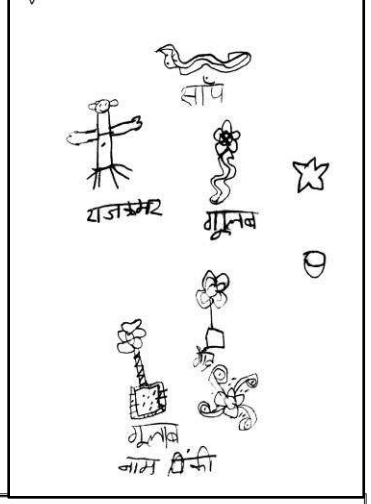
Uttar Pradesh. Grade 2 textbook. **Siddharth and the Swan** pg 71

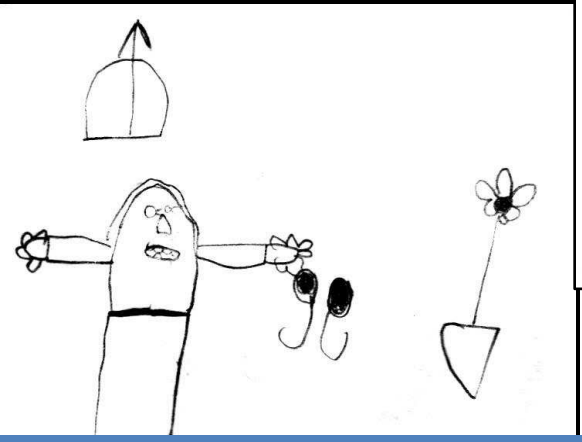
It was morning. Birds were chirping on the trees. Colourful flowers were blooming. Prince Siddharth was strolling in the garden. Suddenly once swan fell from above. Siddharth ran to him. The swan had an arrow in his body. Siddharth slowly removed the arrow. He washed the wound with water. The swan kept looking at the person who had saved him.

This is a paragraph from the Grade 2 text book. Most children in this Grade 2 class could not read words or sentences. The story was read aloud and discussed. Now let us see what the children were able to put on paper ……











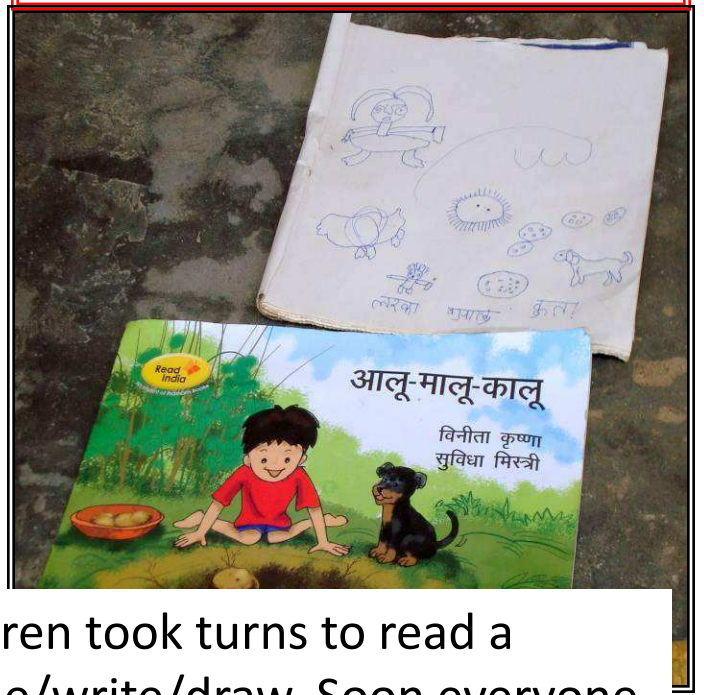
Using textbooks for reading aloud and for discussions. Use the existing texts for pulling out words to use in easier sentences is a useful strategy

Every child put something down on paper – some more and some less. But they all knew what had been read aloud to them.

USING BOOKS FROM THE SCHOOL LIBRARY : One of the first things that happens is that children's drawing changes



Std 1 & 2 class together in a rural school in Sitamarhi district in Bihar



The story was read aloud and discussed. Some children took turns to read a sentence at a time. Then each child began to scribble/write/draw. Soon everyone had their own version of the story.

REVIVING EXISTING MATERIALS : “BARAHKHADI” CHART

Traditional material – known to parents, grandparents etc

Helps in decoding … strengthening sound-symbol connection and building automaticity



USING EXISTING RESOURCES : USE THE WALL
Children create their own print-rich environment



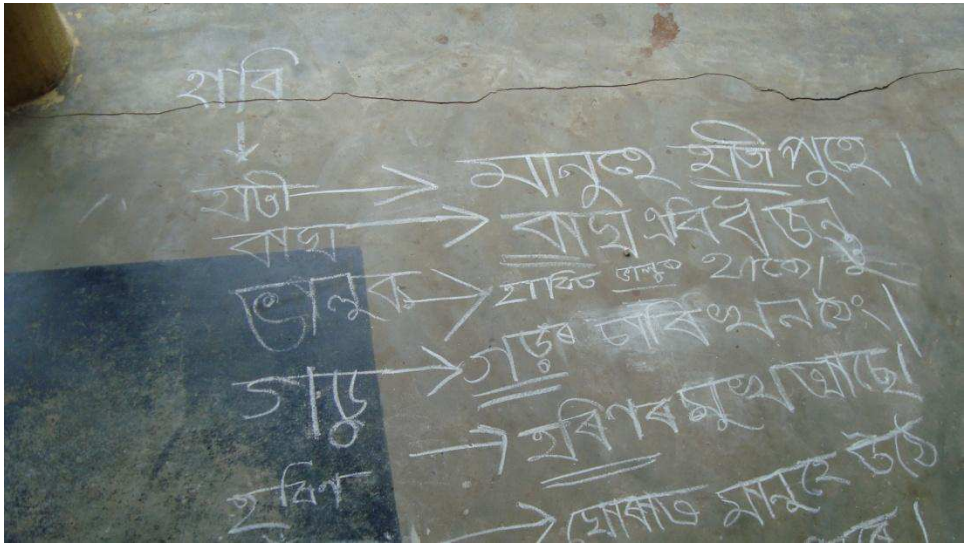
This is a Grade 2 class in a school in Maal block of Lucknow district (UP)

Children are enjoying the use of the wall "green board" after listening to simple stories, picking out letters and words from the text, playing word games …..

The teachers then invited the children to use the board and this is what the class began to do …….

USING EXISTING RESOURCES : USE THE FLOOR
Children create their own print-rich environment







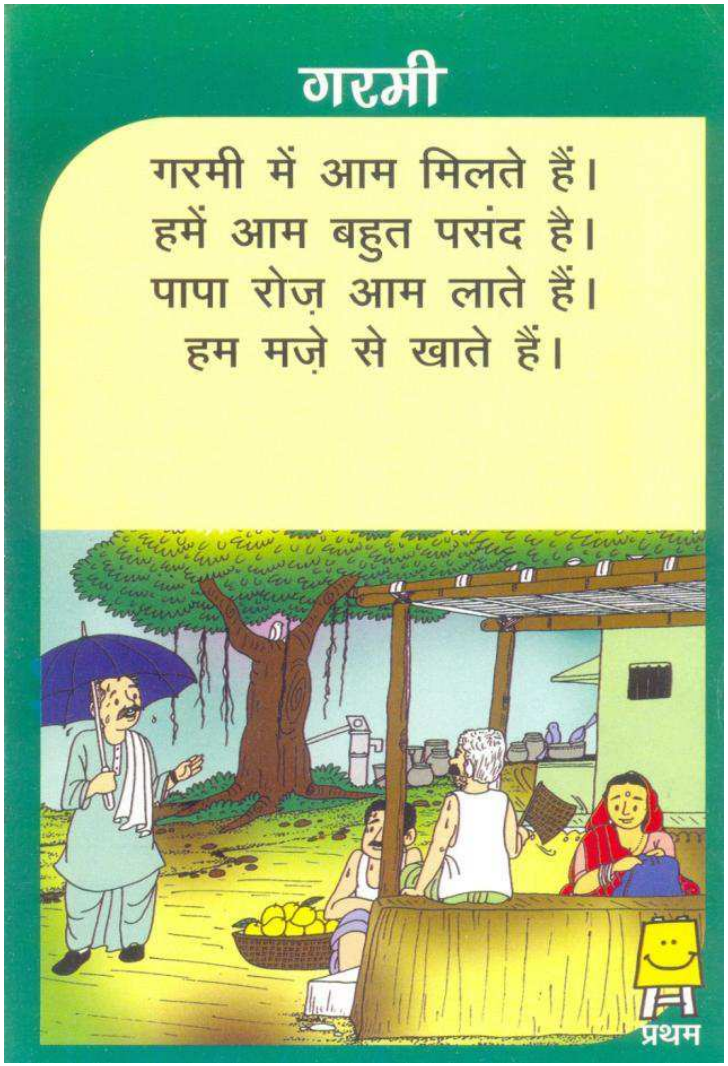
Primary school in Assam

- Start with a “theme” word : can be from the textbook/chapter
- Children in groups – each writes a word .. A word list grows
- Then move to writing sentences. Each child writes a sentence next to the word.
- Teacher moves around helping
- Children help each other
- Each group then reads what they have written.

CREATING NEW MATERIALS : ENGAGING TEACHERS

Getting teachers and supervisors to write for their children

Helping teachers and supervisors engage and focus on the issue of reading is critical to the success of any reading program. Having teachers think about what their children will read/can read/ will like to read is very important.





CREATING NEW MATERIALS : WRITE FOR CHILDREN. READ TO THEM & LISTEN CAREFULLY …..

शाम को पापा घर आते हैं.

हाथ धो कर खाना खाते हैं.

माँ से बातें करते हैं.

फिर सो जाते हैं.

Translation : Father comes home in the evening.
He washes his hands and eats food.
He talks to Mother.
Then he goes to sleep.

This is paragraph was read by many children. Each child's voice become softer and the reading slower when they came to the third sentence. When asked why they were reading slowly and softly, children replied "But Father does not talk to Mother".

Listening to children read is an important source for inputs to help improve texts.



CREATING NEW MATERIALS : GETTING INSPIRATION .....

Sahaj Paath
by
Rabindranath Tagore

This is the first chapter – the first text. Wood cut illustrations by Nondolal Bose.

First published 1930.

প্রথম পাঠ

বনে থাকে বাঘ।
গাছে থাকে পাখি।
জলে থাকে মাছ।
ডালে আছে ফল।
পাখি ফল খায়।
পাখা মেলে ওড়ে।

In the jungle lives a leopard.
On the trees there are birds.
In the water there are fish.
On the branches there are fruits.
Birds eat fruits.
Then they fly away.

প্রথম ভাগ

বাঘ আছে আম-বনে।
গায়ে চাকা চাকা দাগ।
পাখি বনে গান গায়।
মাছ জলে খেলা করে।
ডালে ডালে কাক ডাকে।
খালে বক মাছ ধরে।
বনে কত মাছি ওড়ে।
ওরা সব মৌ-মাছি।
ঐখানে মৌ-চাক।
তাতে আছে মধু ভরা।

———

The leopard lives in the mango forest.
On his body there are spots.
Birds sing in the forest.
Fish play in t water.
Crows caw from he branches.
Egrets catch fish in the river.
There are bees in the jungle.
These are honey bees.
There is the beehive.
The beehive is full of honey.

আলো হয়
গেল ভয়।
চারি দিক
ঝিকি মিক্।

দিঘিজল
ঝলমল্।
যত কাক
দেয় ডাক।

Beautiful lyrical two word sentences ….

BRINGING MATERIALS TO CHILDREN ….. SOMETHING NEW EVERY WEEK

CIRCULATION of STORY CARDS THROUGH THE WHOLE YEAR

Group of 15 classes/schools in a cluster.

A total of different 20 titles/story cards

25 copies of each story card for each cluster.

Stories with large font, many illustrations, simple text

Classes in the cluster exchanged cards each week – so that there was new material to look at, discuss and “read” every week.

Children were allowed to take books home during the week.

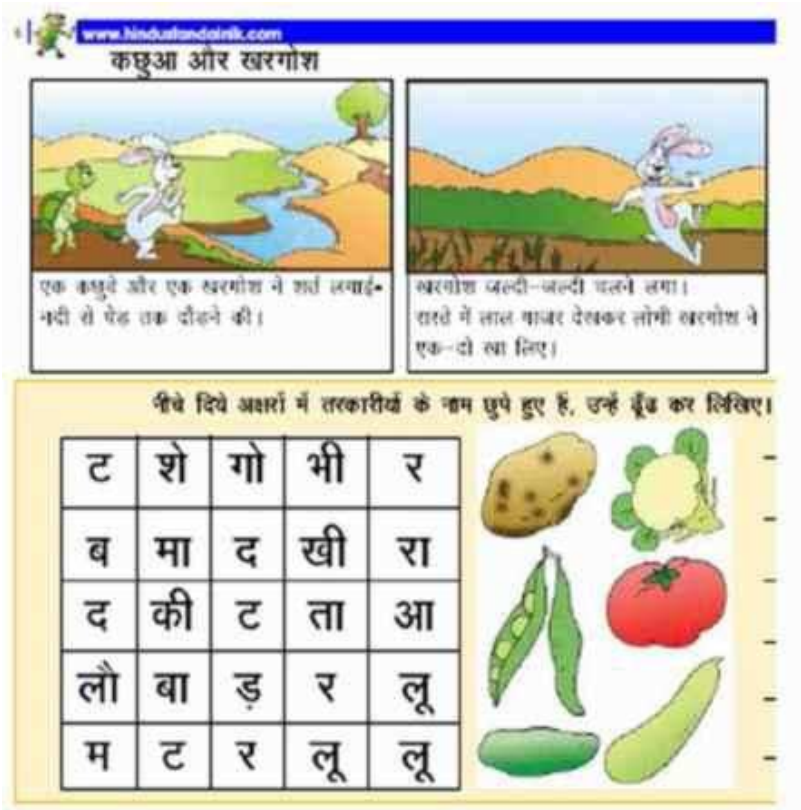
DONE IN MANY RURAL DISTRICTS IN U.P. AND BIHAR WITH CHILDREN IN STD 1 & 2. WHEN THE CLUSTER COORDINATOR VISITED THE SCHOOL ..S/HE DID THE EXCHANGE

Less that Rs. 2 per card.

Full set for the cluster = 15*20*25=Rs 7500 … (USD 110)

Reaching over 1000-2000 children

BRINGING MATERIALS TO CHILDREN ….. CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER ..FAMILIAR FORMAT BUT NEW MATERIAL



Pilot of one year in 10,000 schools in Bihar: Pratham & Hindustan group Scaled up by Bihar govt. to 70,000 schools next year using government funding . Now content by Bihar govt.

- Partnership with Hindustan (Hindi newspaper)
- 4 page tabloid-size stand-alone children's paper
- 1 page for children who cannot read. 1 page for children who have just learned to read. 1 page for fluent readers.
- Published twice a month
- For children : Grade 1-5
- Content by Pratham. Pratham paid for production at cost & distribution by Hindustan group
- Cost per issue less than Rs 2 per copy
- 25 copies delivered to each school. 5 copies for each grade.

For more information:

rukmini.banerji@pratham.org

www.pratham.org

