

ZAMASAMA PRESENTS

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



Written by Sayantan Datta

Illustrated by Bhavya Kumar

THEMES

STEAM

Women in Science

Curiosity

Nature and Ecology

Biography

Passion and Purpose

LEARNING OUTCOME

Children will:

- Understand that science can begin with observation and curiosity
- Learn about plants and how they grow, move, and adapt
- Be inspired by a real-life woman scientist from India
- See that anyone—regardless of gender—can become a scientist
- Appreciate the importance of studying nature and ecosystems

LESSON PLAN

This lesson uses biography to inspire interest in science and plants. It reinforces the idea that passion can become a career and introduces children to ecology and gender equality in STEM.

Discussion Questions

Before Reading:

- Have you ever noticed how a plant grows or moves toward sunlight?
- What do scientists do?
- Can you name a woman scientist?

During Reading:

- Ask: What kind of things does Jaishree notice about plants?
- Pause to discuss how her interest grows over time.
- Ask: What do you think Jaishree needs to become a scientist?

After Reading:

- Why did Jaishree want to study plants?
- What challenges do you think she may have faced?
- How do plants help the Earth?
- Do you know any other women in science?

Activities:

- Plant Detective: Children observe a plant for a week and document changes.
- My Dream Career Poster: Students create a poster of what they want to be and why.
- Famous Women Scientists Collage: Introduce children to 3–5 other notable women in science.

RELEVANT ZAMASAMA STORIES

- The River Warrior – a story of environmental action and activism
- Jadav and the Tree-Place – a boy who plants a forest
- Kofi and the Talking Tree – children learn from the wisdom of nature
- Zanele Situ – story of a woman excelling in a field dominated by men

RELEVANT SDGS

Applicable SDGs:

- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 15: Life on Land

SDG Explanation

- SDG 4: Promotes education through real-life role models in science.
- SDG 5: Highlights a successful woman scientist, breaking gender stereotypes.
- SDG 12, 13, 15: Encourages respect and understanding of plant life, ecology, and sustainable interaction with nature.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Children will be inspired to observe the world around them, understand that science is about asking questions, and feel encouraged—especially girls—to pursue science if they’re passionate about it. They’ll also gain greater respect for plants and ecological balance.

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit platform that brings together stories from around the world to help children discover that beneath our differences—of culture, language, or belief—we share the same hopes, joys, and dreams.

Today’s children are tomorrow’s citizens, and the responsibility of building a more peaceful, tolerant, and empathetic world lies with them.

That’s why it’s vital to instill these values early—through stories that help them rise above the biases they inherit, and see diversity as a strength that unites us all.