

The Plant Whisperer

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



Written by Sayantan Datta

Illustrated by Bhavya Kumar

THEMES

Biography

STEAM

SUB-THEMES

Women in Science

Nature and Ecology

Story Discussion Guide

- 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.

Learning Outcome

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.

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.

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.

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit initiative that curates children's stories from diverse cultures and lived experiences around the world. It gives children a window into other communities—and a mirror that affirms their own, helping children recognize the shared humanity that connects us across differences.

Through narratives that gently challenge biases and broaden worldviews, Zamasama helps children see difference not as a barrier but as a bridge. Through the power of stories, we sow the seeds of pluralism that can grow into a more harmonious world for all.