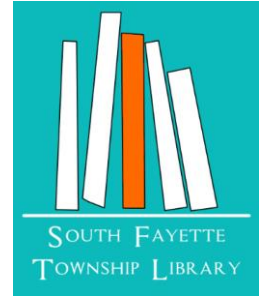




Sundari's Story



Sundari Murthy was born in Mysore, Karnataka, India and is 7 years old.

She was born to her mother, Prema (Pr-ai-mah) which means “love” and her father, Nagaraj (n uh - g uh - rah j) which means “Snake God.”

Sundari is the youngest child in her family. She has two older siblings; a brother named Surya (Soor-yaa) who is 4 years older and a sister named Teju (Tai-Juu) who is 2 years older. Her family lives together in the home of her father's parents.

Sundari's family has a dog named Tommy and a parrot named Pari (Puh-ree) which means fairy. Pari is a very smart parrot and has learnt multiple languages. Sundari enjoys trying to teach the parrot new words.

Her father, Nagaraj, is a software engineer who travels around the world. When he returns from his travels, he brings home flavored candy and clothing that is special to those countries he visits. Sundari really misses her father when he travels, and is so excited to see him when he returns. She is happy just to see him again, but she also likes to hear his stories about exotic places. Getting to taste different flavors and wear different clothing, makes Sundari want to travel with her father someday.

Her mother, Prema takes care of the home, her children and Sundari's grandparents. Prema is a good cook, and loves to bake. Sundari gets very excited for holidays when her mother makes Sundari's favorites; vanilla cakes and butter cookies.

Each morning, Sundari wakes up, brushes her teeth, goes outside the gate to her house, cleans the entrance, and draws a new rangoli. Rangoli is a beautiful Hindu art that welcomes guests and the goddess Lakshmi, who is the goddess of wealth and fortune. Sundari draws another one in the God's Room which is also known as a Pooja and is a room for meditation and spiritual worship. She also draws one in front of the holy Tulsi plant. When Sundari is finished with drawing the rangoli, she takes a shower and gets dressed. She prays to her god in the God's Room and then prays to the Goddess Tulsi for health and good education at the Tulsi plant.

After her prayers, Sundari does her chores. She is responsible for watering all of the household plants, such as roses, hibiscus, jasmine, lilies, sunflowers and marigolds. She enjoys watering the plants. She loves to pick a flower or two and put them in her hair. The bright colors look so beautiful against her hair. There are so many flowering plants that there are always new ones blooming, no matter the season.

Before starting school, Sundari had trouble making new friends on her own. She is very shy and often didn't know what to say or how to make new friends. Next door lives a girl Sundari's age, named Leelavathi (l ee l aa v uh th ee). Leelavathi is very outgoing. When the two girls started school, Leelavathi introduced her to Soumya (sow m yah). The three girls now play together almost every day. The girls love to play house, board games, hopscotch, and listen to music.

After school, Sundari loves to visit her mother's parents. She has many cousins living near them and she has made new friends there as well. When the weather is bad, the children will play inside, but they love to play outdoors in the street. They can run around and make noise without worrying about disturbing her family.

In the evenings, Sundari loves to listen to stories told by her grandparents. Her favorite stories are the epics Ramayana and the Mahabharatha. These stories both begin with their main characters as children. She especially likes hearing about Krishna who was a mischievous boy. The Ramayana is fun because it begins with Rama as a child, continues through his courtship of Sita, who becomes his wife and then tells the story of their twin boys, Luv and Kush. These stories are even performed as plays at school.

The Ramayana epic has been included in the kit with Sundari so you and your family may read the stories to Sundari.