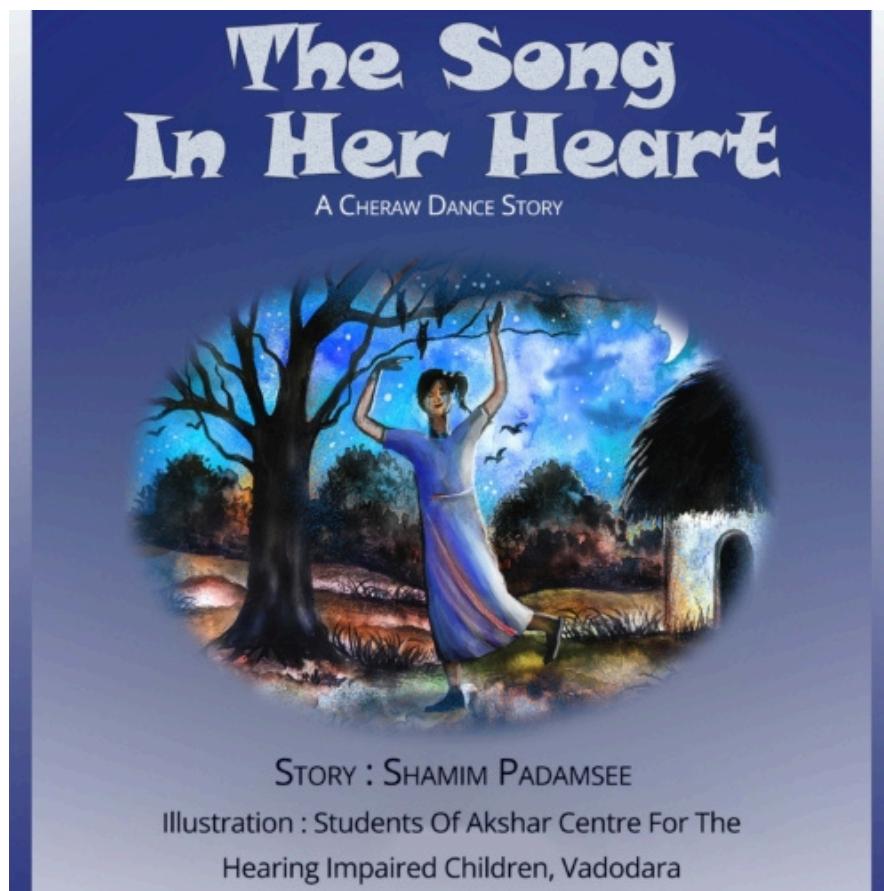


The Song In Her Heart

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



Written by Shamim Padamsee

Illustrated by Eight young artists with hearing disabilities

SUB-THEMES

Hearing Impairment & Inclusion

Traditional Dance & Cultural Pride

Community Celebration

Grandparent–Grandchild Relationships

Story Discussion Guide

- Understand how hearing impairments can impact participation in group activities.
- Appreciate the importance of inclusive practices in schools and communities.
- Recognize how traditional arts can empower and connect individuals.
- Reflect on perseverance and emotional support from loved ones.
- Empathize with peers who may be facing challenges.

Lesson plan

This lesson explores how children with physical impairments can fully participate in cultural traditions with the right support. It emphasizes empathy, creativity, and inclusion, showing that expression takes many forms.

Learning Outcome

Before Reading:

- What is something you love doing that took time to learn?
- Have you ever felt left out of something? How did that feel?

During Reading :

- Why does Ringluia hesitate to dance at first?
- What role does her grandmother play in helping her build confidence?
- How does Ringluia begin to sense the rhythm?

After Reading:

- How can we make sure all children feel included, even if they have hearing or other disabilities?
- Why do you think Ringluia succeeds in the end?
- What would you do if you saw someone being excluded?

Activities:

- Feel the Beat: Students close their eyes while a drum or table is tapped. They place a hand on the surface to sense rhythm through vibration.
- Cheraw Dance Demo: Watch a short video of the Cheraw dance. Use two broom handles or yardsticks (safely) to let students try simple steps, ensuring inclusive adaptations
- Grandparent Wisdom: Children interview a grandparent or elder about a cultural tradition they love and share the story with the class (picture or short paragraph).
- Inclusion Brainstorm: In groups, brainstorm ways the class can include peers with different abilities (visual, hearing, mobility) in games and lessons. Make an 'Inclusion Promise' poster.

Expected Outcomes

Children will feel empowered by learning about inventors who look like them, gain awareness of bias in education, and be inspired to create and ask questions about the world around them. They will also understand that creativity and scientific thinking are universal—present in every culture, race, and community.

Applicable SDGs

- SDG 4 – Quality Education
- SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 16 – Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions
- SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG Explanation

- SDG 4 – Quality Education
- SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 16 – Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions
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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.