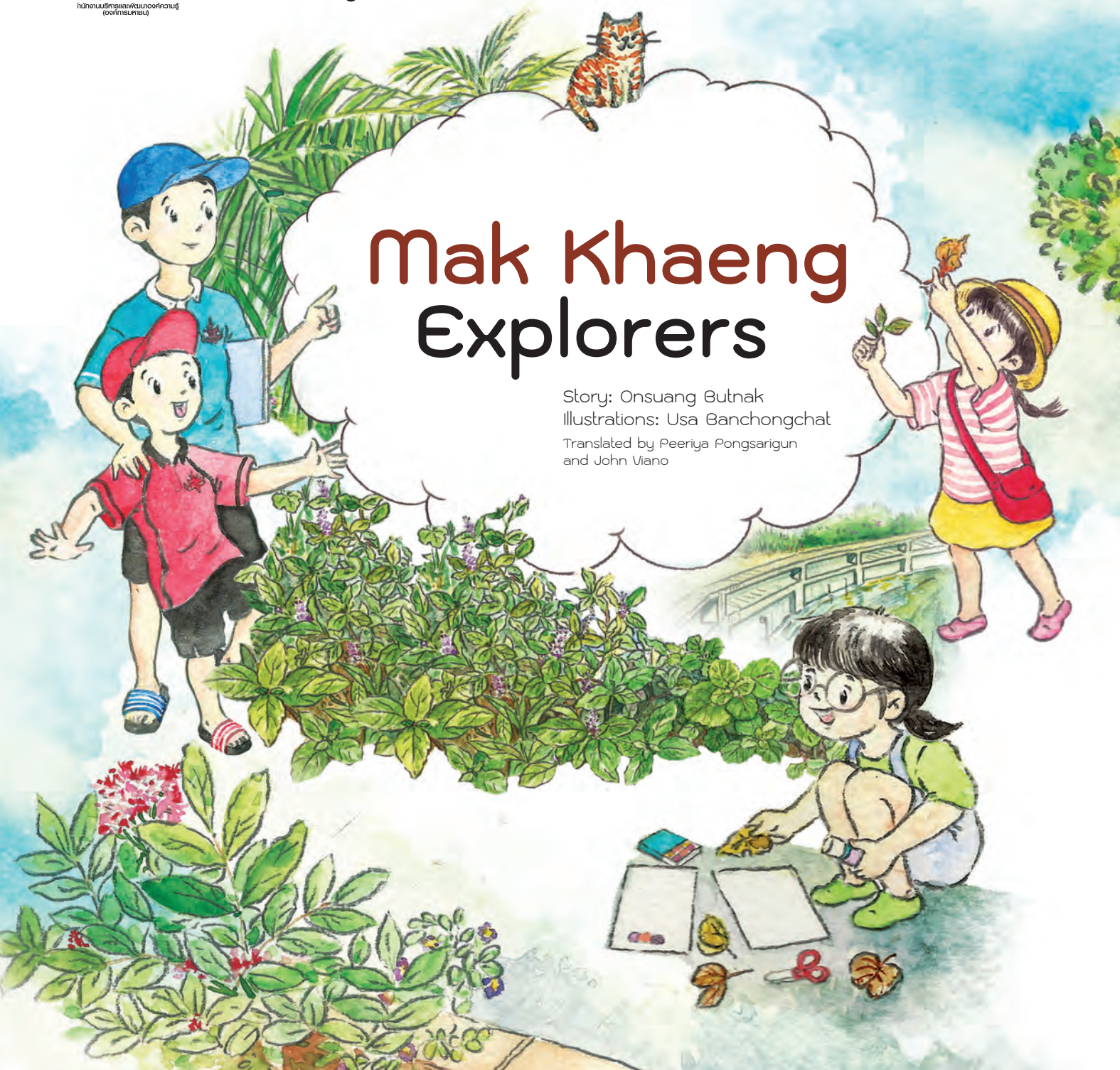


Mak Khaeng Explorers

Story: Onsuang Butnak

Illustrations: Usa Banchongchat

Translated by Peeriya Pongsarigun
and John Viano



Local Knowledge Book Series

By



สำนักงานบริหารและพัฒนาองค์ความรู้ (องค์การมหาชน)



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Preface

Thailand Knowledge Park (TK park) mission in society is to develop a love of reading and give people equal opportunities to experience modern learning centers which speak to their interests. TK park has been cooperating with local administrators in many regions of Thailand to build living libraries as a way to achieve its mission.

Bringing local knowledge to children, in a modern and fun way, is an important tool to inspire them to read and explore. The idea is to create books which reflect local wisdom, together with morality and ethics, for children aged 7-12.

The books in the Udon Thani Set were developed by TK park, scholars, and local writers. Children and adults will get to know about the Udon Thani and be proud of the unique traditions found there. Moreover, the books also foster better understandings of and tolerant attitudes toward others from different cultures and societies.

TK park hopes the books will be another learning tool to help encourage Thai people to read more and maximize their learning. TK park aims to make the books fun and easy to read. Readers can enjoy them and appreciate their own hometown, regions, and country.

Thailand Knowledge Park











Nin was collecting data
for a paper on the
natural resources
found in his hometown
and he asked his friends
to come along.

**“Nin! Nin! Wait for me!
Why are you hurrying?”**

Beam the last arrivals,
shouted.

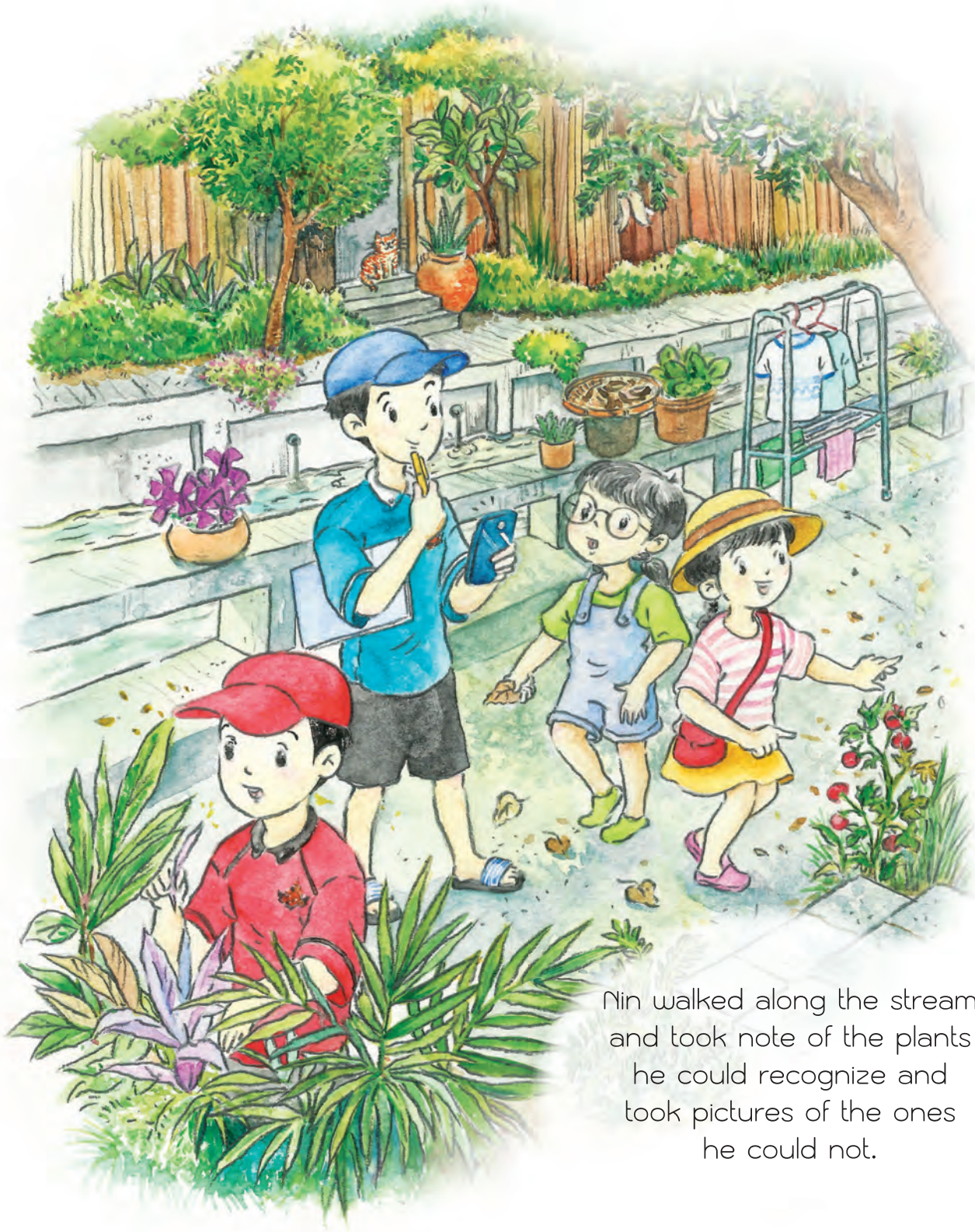


Nin led his friends along the concrete walkway beside the stream-heading to Uncle Yai's huge veggie basket.



“Uncle Yai,
you’ve grown
a lot of
vegetables”,
they commented
in amazement.

“Plant it and eat it. No pesticide needed.
If you do it yourself; it’s better than
being a hero” to rhyme.



Nin walked along the stream
and took note of the plants
he could recognize and
took pictures of the ones
he could not.

“This home should be off Bok! I know!”,
“Playfair collected Waen Kaew”,



“Why do they look alike?!?!”

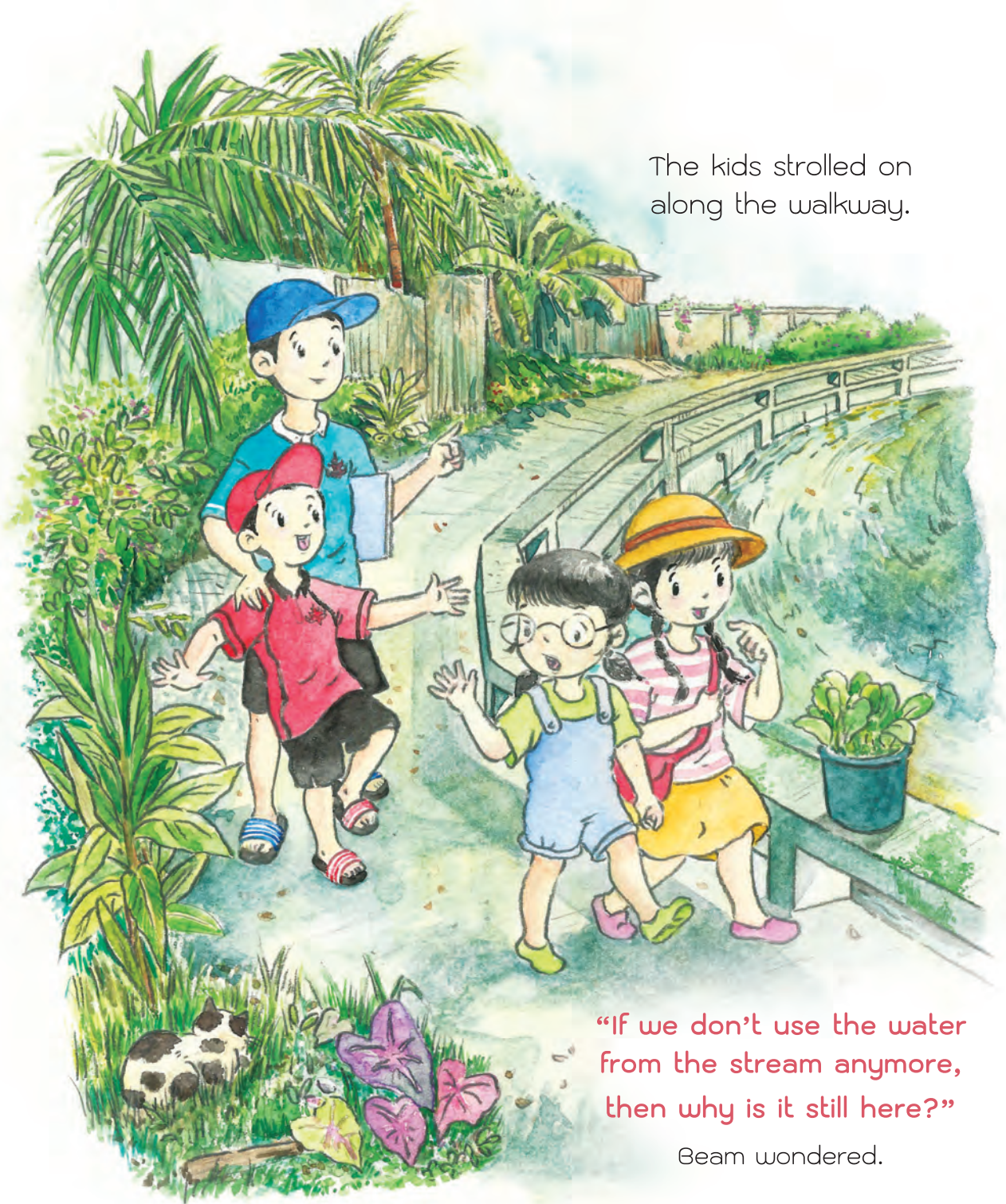


Bai Bua Bok
(*Centella asiatica*)



Waen Kaew
(*Hydrocotyle umbellata*)

The kids strolled on
along the walkway.



“If we don’t use the water
from the stream anymore,
then why is it still here?”

Beam wondered.

“I agree. If we didn’t have the stream, we could have
more houses for roads”,
Mai Hom said firmly.



“If it rains heavily, where
would the water go
if we didn’t have the
Mak Khaeng Stream?”,

Puyfai asked Mai Hom.



There was a sudden splash,
as a trashbag was thrown
into the water.

“Why are these
people so unthoughtful?
They throw trash
in the water!”,

Puyfai said angrily.

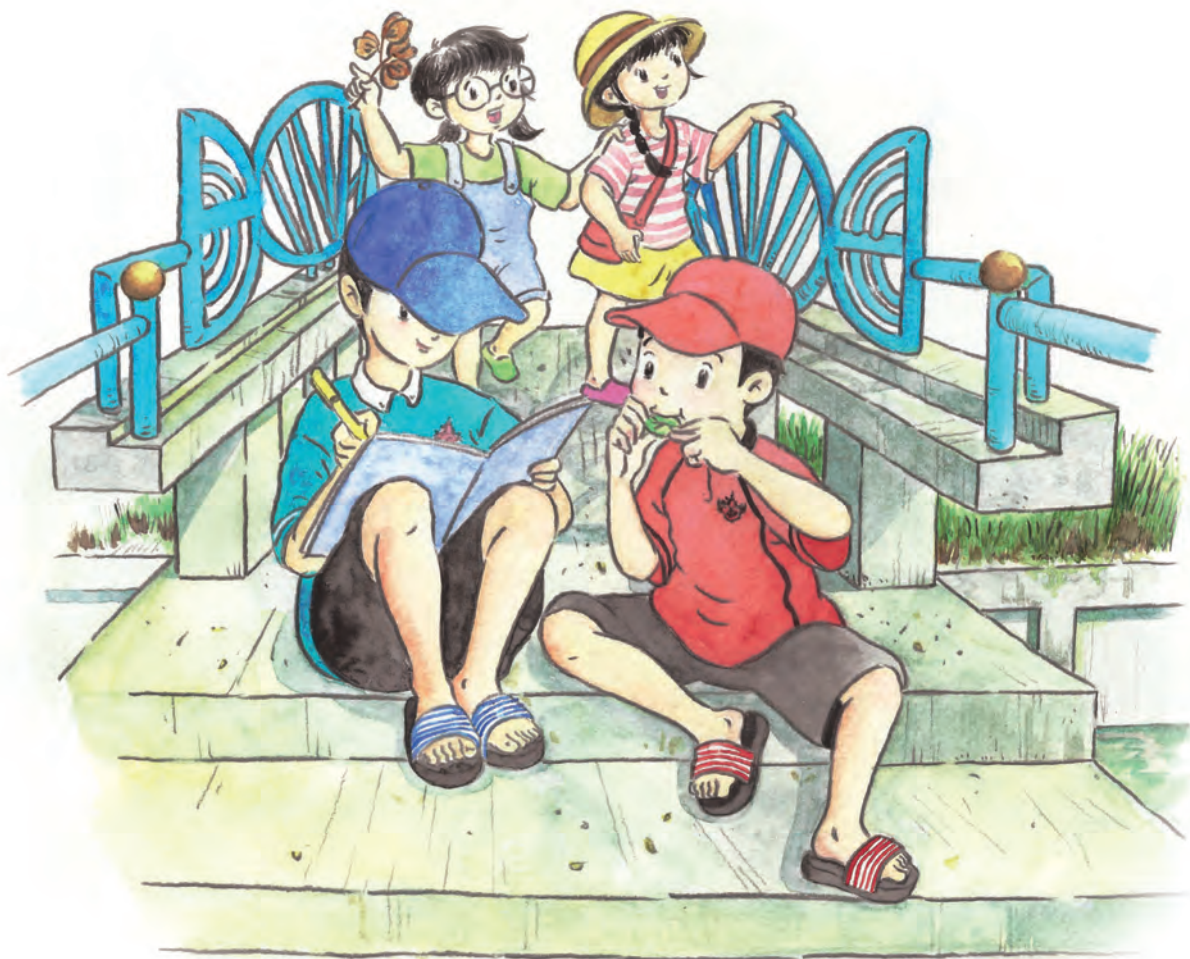
“You’re right.
If this stream is full
of trash, the water
can’t flow anywhere”,

Beam agreed.





As Nin listened to his friends, he took note of some great ideas.



While his friends were having fun naming the plants,
Nin took notes and drew pictures.

The water flows through the sewers and into the stream.

The stream helps prevent flooding.



People throw trash in the stream

This water is too dirty to drink or use.

Nin finished up his work
and caught up with
his friends.

**“Let me see what
you’ve done!”**







Nin took photos of his friends' creations.

and drew a diagram of how
the Mak Khaeng Stream does its important job of
sending excess rain and wastewater into the river.





Mak Khaeng Explorers was designed for early primary school students to read on their own. However, it is helpful if teachers introduce the book to them.

Introduction

1. Teachers can show the cover of the book to their students. Some might read the title right away. Teachers should ask students what they think the book will be about. As the students begin to make guesses, teachers should then ask each guesser to explain their answers. Teachers should not reveal the story of the book yet.
2. Next, teachers might open the book to a random page and ask their students to explain what they see, i.e. what are the characters doing, how the characters might be feeling, or where the setting is located.
3. Last, teachers should read the title of the book and give out copies for the students to read in groups.





About the Author

Onsuang Butnak

holds a Bachelor of Arts in journalism from the Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Faculty of Communication Arts.

Presently, Onsuang Butnak is a freelance writer, editor, and owner of a green business, making trashcans which turn waste into organic fertilizer.



About the Illustrator

Usa Banchongchat

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Presently, Usa is a freelance illustrator and a composer, specializing in food photography.



