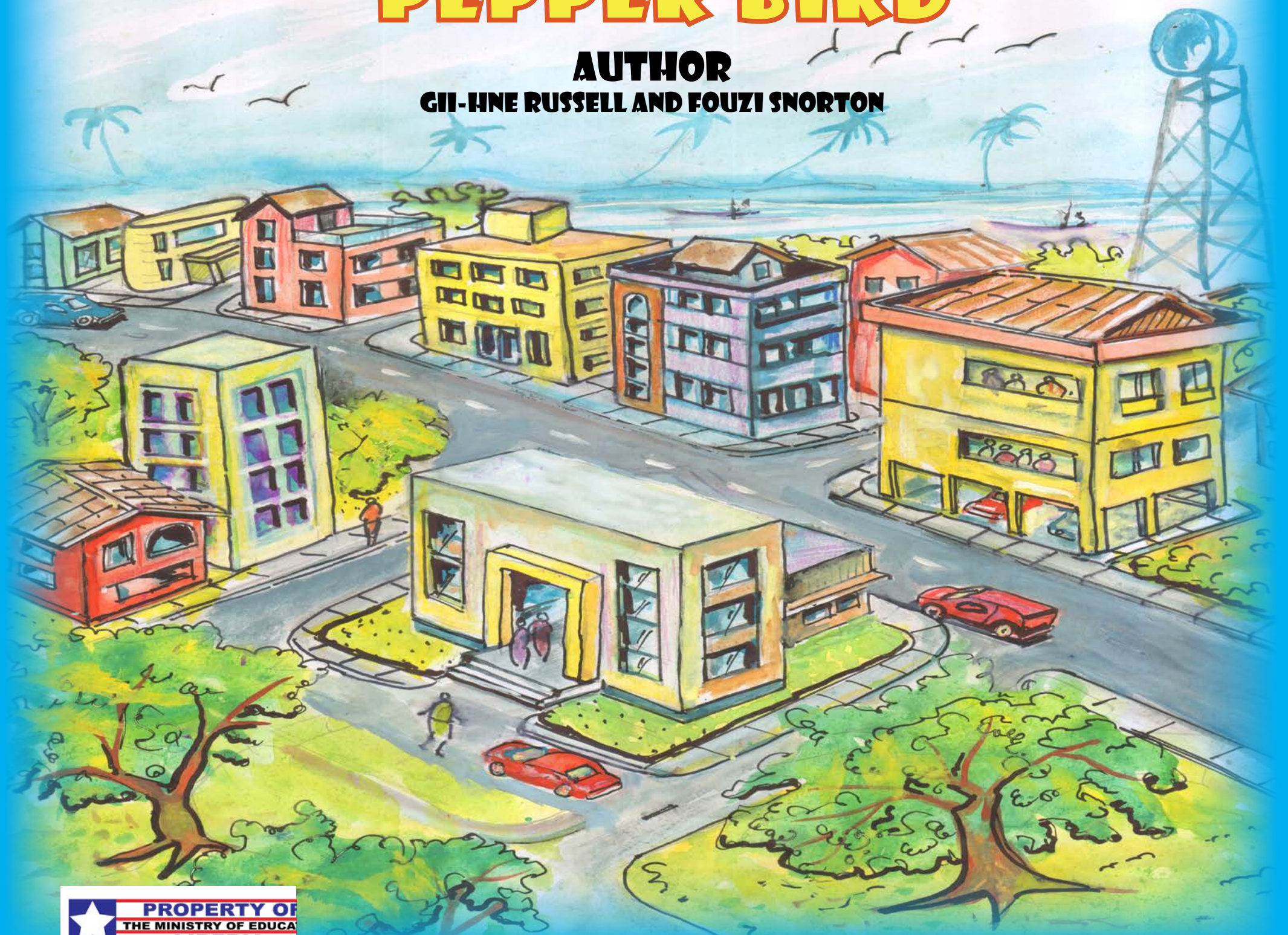


# MIATTA AND THE PEPPER BIRD

**AUTHOR**  
**GII-HNE RUSSELL AND FOUZI SNORTON**



 **PROPERTY OF**  
**THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**LIBERIA**  
**NOT TO BE SOLD**

\* In Liberia the purple bird is called pepper bird

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# Introduction for Ministry of Education Online Early Childhood Education Teaching and Learning Materials

The Liberia Ministry of Education has developed 50 context-relevant and age- appropriate early childhood education readers. These readers would be addressing the chronic need of improving the quality of teaching and learning materials and the widespread lack of curriculum materials for foundational literacy and play-based learning. Twenty-five of these ECD readers were written by ECE master trainers and, 25 were contextualized using online open- source stories from the global digital libraries.

Welcome to this audio edition of early childhood books aligned to the Liberia Early Childhood Education Curriculum. There are 50 eBooks in this edition. The uniqueness of this Ministry of Education approach is that each book has a sign language version.

The books come in three categories or levels:

- Beginner or nursery is for children ages 3 to 4
- Intermediate or K-I is for children ages 4 to 5 and
- Advance or K-II is for children ages 5 to 6

The development and production of these books were made possible through the Bureau of Early Childhood Education of the Ministry of Education, with support from the Global Partnership for Education with funding from the World Bank. The eBooks and the accompanying audio books were designed by WE-CARE Foundation, a local educational NGO.

To access these early childhood books online, please go to the Ministry of Education website: [www.moe.gov.lr](http://www.moe.gov.lr)

Eight-year-old Miatta stood with Papa on the porch. A bird perched on the banister.  
"Which bird is that?" Miatta asked Papa.



"That's a pepper (purple) bird, Miatta," Papa said. "It is found everywhere in Liberia. We used to sprinkle seeds for them in the yard. That was when I was young in our village. They liked the seeds very much."



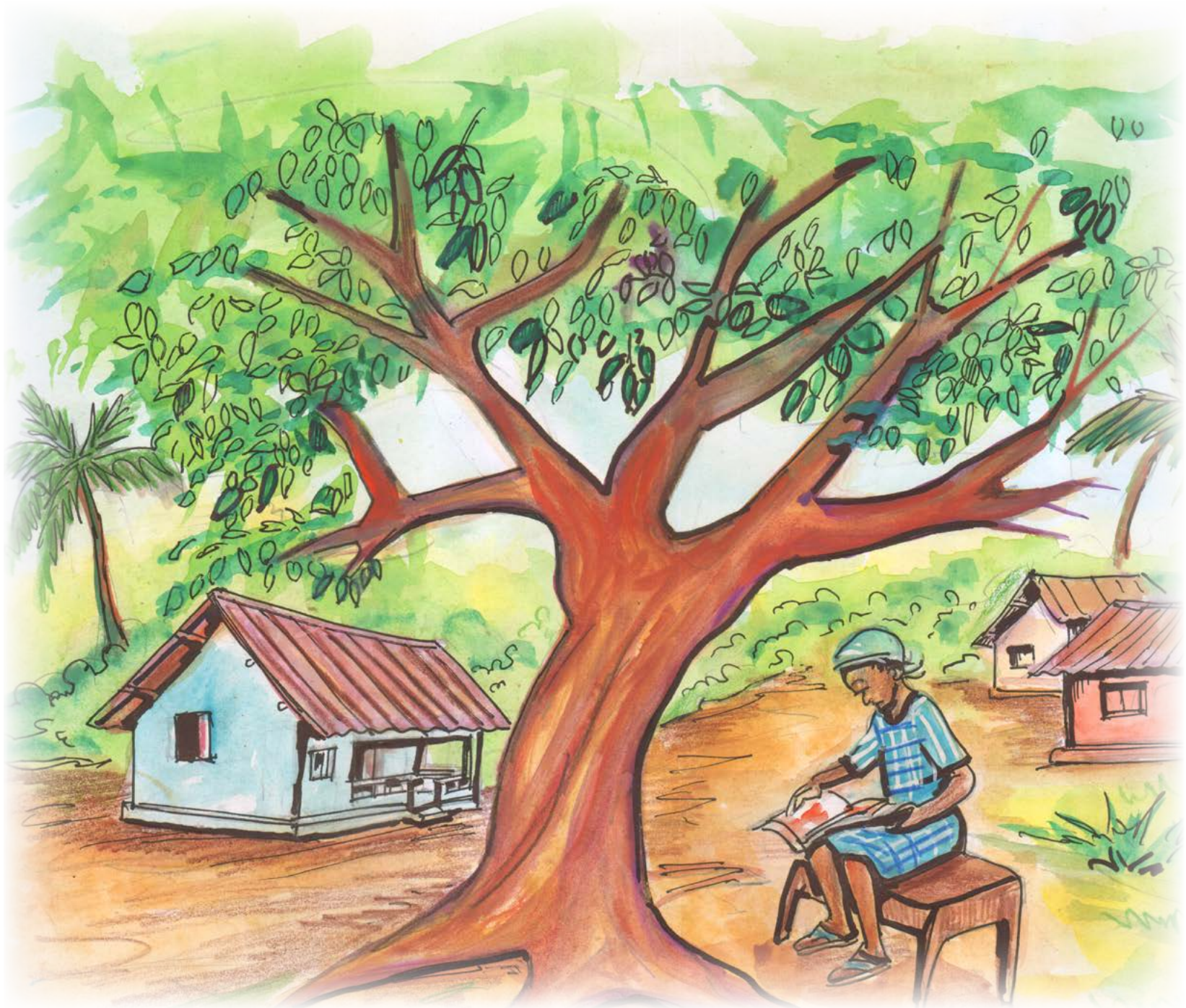
Mama joined Miatta and Papa. "In my house," Mama said, "the pepper birds built nest above our window. Their chirping woke us in the morning."



Miatta wanted to know more about pepper birds. Mama gave her a book. Miatta's books had many interesting things about pepper birds. She read all about them. That afternoon everyone sat to eat dinner. "Tell us what you read about pepper birds," Papa said.



Miatta was happy to share what she read. Pepper bird's real name is Common Bulbul. It is found all over Liberia and most parts of Africa. It has black bill and feet. It is 18 cm long with a long tail. Its head and upper parts are dark brown. Its belly is gray. Bulbuls move in pair. They are active and noisy. The common bulbul is our national bird.



"Good," Mama said. "You have really read the book."

"But," Miatta said thinking, "there were many pepper birds when you were young. I saw them for the first time today."



"Miatta," Papa sighed. "The environment is changing. We live in the city. Pepper birds don't have place to build their nests. The number of people keeps going up. The number of pepper birds keeps going down."



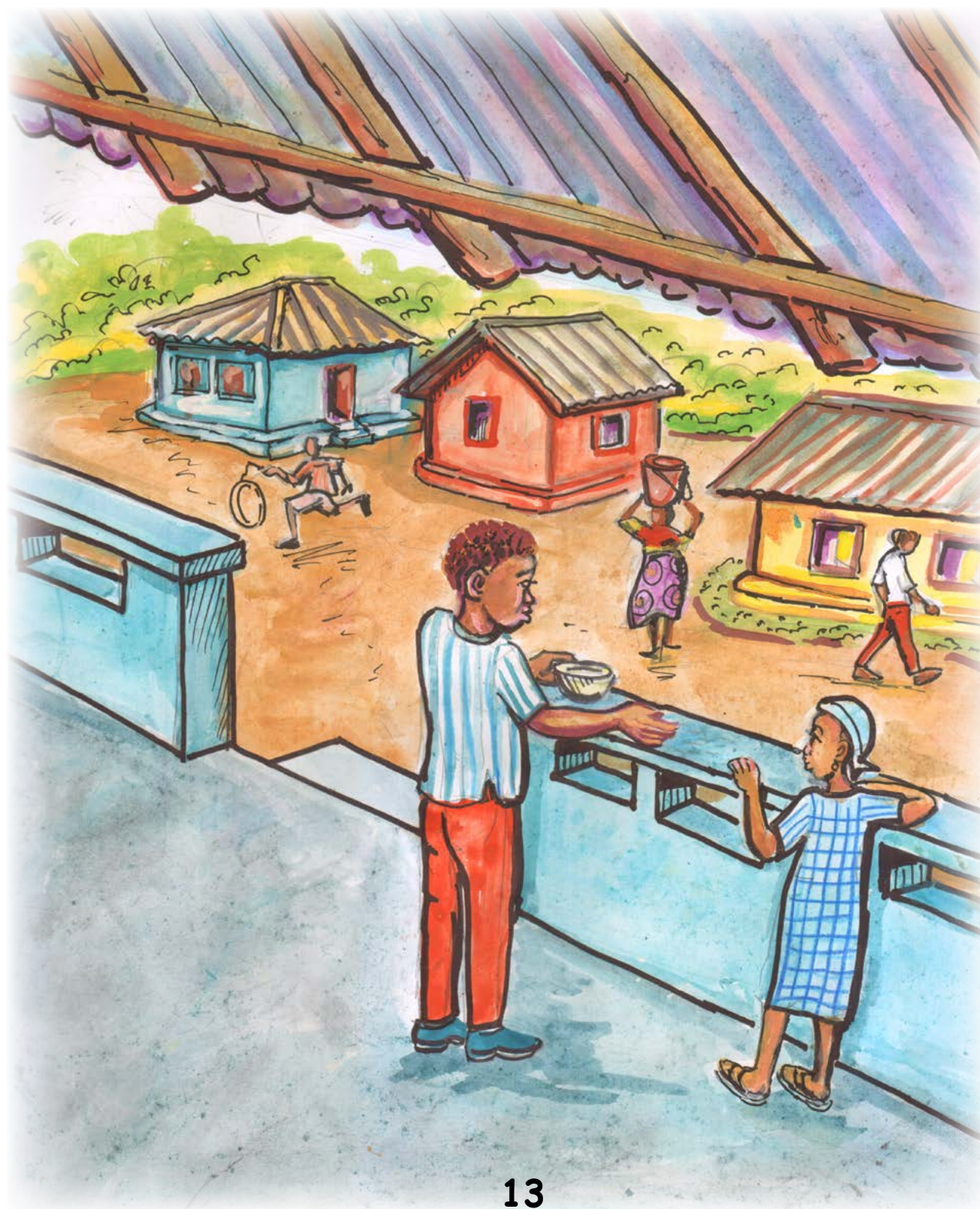
"Pepper birds eat insects and seeds," Mama said. "Not much of these are here in the city. People also use pesticide to get rid of insects. Wave from cell phone tower harms them." Hearing this made Miatta sad. "Don't be sad, Miatta," Papa said. "We can try to save the pepper birds." "How, Papa?"



"We will keep grains and water on the bannister. We will put in trees where they can live. We will build nests from wood or from carton. We will put them on the roof or the window. With these small steps we can save the pepper birds."



Miatta jumped for joy after hearing the solution. "I will also make their living room on the banister!" she said.



Reading Level: Advance (Age 5 -6)

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Book Design: Turvon Al Weah

Authors: Gii-Hne Russell, Fouzi Snorton

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## Synopsis

Follow Miatta as she learns about the Pepper Birds.

