



Going Home

Rukmini Banerji
Santosh Pujari
Ketan Raut



'Going Home' by Rukmini Banerji
Illustrations: Santosh Pujari and Ketan Raut
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Registered Office:
PRATHAM BOOKS
621, 2nd Floor, 5th Main, OMBR Layout
Banaswadi, Bangalore 560 043
T: +91 80 42052574

Regional Office:
New Delhi | T: +91 11 41042483

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PRATHAM BOOKS

Going Home

Written by

Rukmini Banerji

Illustrated by

Santosh Pujari

Ketan Raut

School is over.
Children are leaving.
Teachers are leaving.
Everyone is going home.



I come out of the gate.

I am in a hurry.

I do not have time to play.

I do not have time to talk.

I want to get home fast.



I walk down the lane.
It is a narrow lane.
I can see crowds up ahead.
There is a big road there.



The big road has lots of traffic.

Cars, trucks and cycles,
motorcycles, scooters
and auto rickshaws.

Some are going this way.

Some are going that way.

I know how to find the gap
and run to the other side.



I have reached the divider.
There is traffic in front.
There is traffic behind.
I must be careful.



I am on the other side.
I almost crash into the chanawallah.
He growls. I say, "Sorry," and run along.



I walk past the shops.
People are buying all kinds of things.
There is a toyshop.
I cannot stop.



I walk faster and faster.
Now there are fish shops.
Big fish, small fish,
long fish, flat fish.
Shiny fish, dull fish.
So many fish in every shop.



Now I must run.
Past the video shops,
past the barber shop,
past the cloth shop,
past the pan shop.
Running, running,
running down the lane.



Finally I reach home.
Oh good! I am not late.
My father goes to work in the afternoon.
He has not left as yet.
His cycle is still here.



My father comes outside,
my mother is behind him.
I give my father a big hug.
My father gives me a big hug.
Then he goes to work.



Now there is no hurry.
I have lots of time.



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Our mission is to see "a book in every child's hand" and democratize the joy of reading. If you would like to contribute to our mission, please email us at info@prathambooks.org.



Rukmini Banerji loves writing books for children. She works for the organization 'Pratham'.



Santosh Pujari and Ketan Raut like illustrating children's books and have worked with the organization 'Pratham'.

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