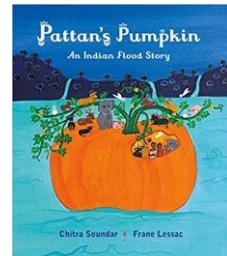


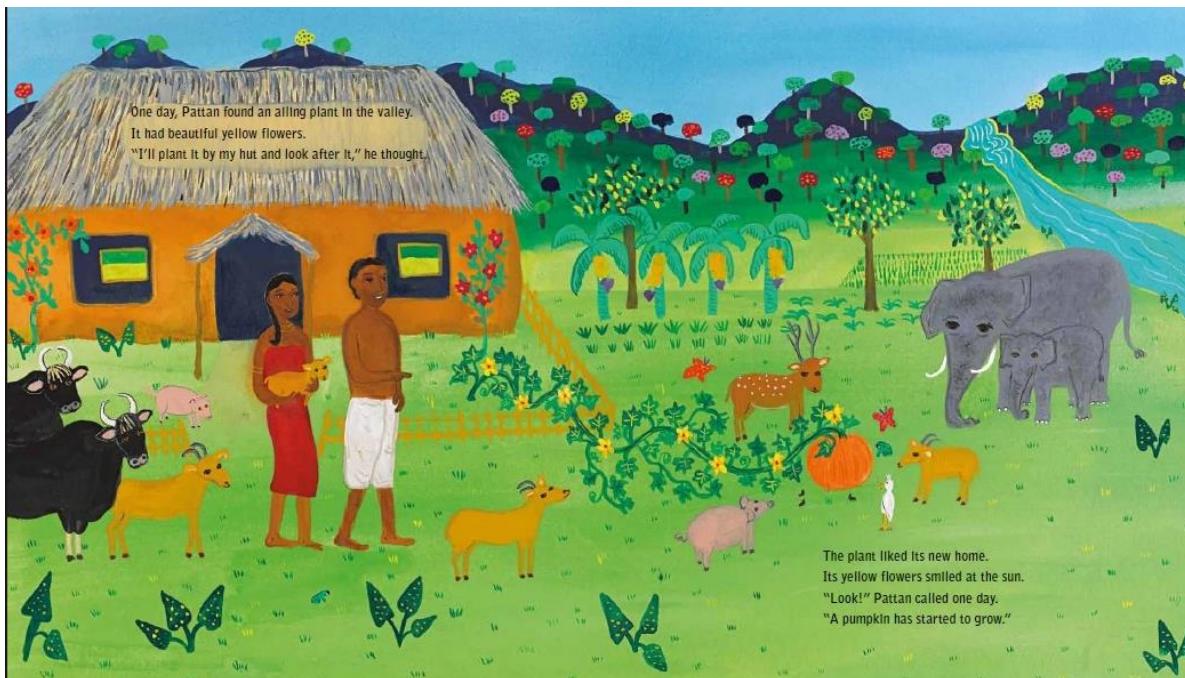
## Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

### Pattan's Pumpkin by Chitra Soundar and illustrated by Frané Lessac (Otter-Barry Books)



#### 1. Explore it

Read the extract from the book below and spend time looking at the illustration together.



Talk together about what you read. Where do you think this story is set? What is it like there? How can you tell? Who is Pattan? What is he doing? Re-read the first sentence again: '**One day, Pattan found an ailing plant in the valley.**' What do you think the word '**ailing**' means? What makes you think this? Check the meaning of the word in a dictionary, if you have one at home. You could use this online version, if you don't: <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>

Think about what Pattan does with the '**ailing plant**' and how he treats it. What does this tell us about him? What do you think he is like as a person? Now think about what happens in this passage. How much time do you think has passed between the two pieces of text? Does a pumpkin grow immediately? How long do you think it took for the pumpkin to start to grow?

#### 2. Illustrate it

Think of how the flowers are described in the text: '**Its yellow flowers smiled at the sun.**' How does this description make you think about the pumpkin flowers? Do you have a favourite flower, plant or vegetable? Can you think of a way to describe it so someone else can imagine it? How could we describe the pumpkin? How about: '**Its round body swelled in the soil?**' How does this make you picture the pumpkin?

Look at the fruits and vegetables you have in your home. What stands out to you as you look at them? Can you draw your favourite fruit or vegetable for someone else to see? Look carefully at its shape, colour and

textures and try to recreate these in your drawing. How would you describe it in a sentence? Add this to your finished drawing.

### 3. Talk about it

Look again at the illustration in the text:

- What can you see? You might like to list as many different things as you can see in the image.
- What words or phrases might be used to describe the place where Pattan lives? What physical and human features can you see in the environment? Do you think this is a place where nature thrives? What makes you think that?
- Do you think the community has a good respect for the natural world? What tells you this?
- The author, Chitra Soundar, writes more about the book here:  
<http://www.chitrasoundar.com/picture-books/pattans-pumpkin/> and tells us that the story is set in the Western Ghats in India. If you are able to, find out about more about the place where the story is set. You could look India up in an atlas, if you have one at home, or use an online atlas, to focus in on the Western Ghats:  
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&t=p&msa=0&mid=1L-krBLQotObx8zQmhW8yLQUvn3c&ll=12.85472362508814%2C75.6961619999996&z=7> You could also watch a video, to see more of what this place is like, such as:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijCO7JhxQ5E>. How would you describe this place? Would you like to visit there? Why or why not?

### 4. Imagine it

Think about what it takes for a plant to grow. What do you think Pattan will have done between the two pieces of text we saw to care for the plant? What do plants need to survive and grow? Do you have any plants in your home or garden? Who takes care of them? What do they do to help them survive? Have you grown any fruits or vegetables before?

If you lived in a place like Pattan and Kanni, what would you plant and grow? Which are your favourite fruits, vegetables, herbs and spices? Would you grow any of these? Why would you like to grow these? What animals would you keep on your land? Why? Who would you share your produce with? Why?

### 5. Create it

Using the ideas, you have thought about, design your own dream garden; what would you include and why? You can draw this, or write about it, or use any materials you have available such as an old shoebox and old scrap paper to make a model of this garden if you want.

You could also do some growing in your own home or garden. If space and resources are limited, you could start with something simple like cress: <https://theimaginationtree.com/growing-cress-heads-and-cress-initials/> Tomatoes, chillies, peppers and strawberries are all easy to grow in a small garden or on a balcony. Herbs like basil, oregano and parsley can all be grown on a windowsill. Leave instructions to help other people take care of the plants and things you are growing in your home, so that they can grow healthily and be well looked after.

You can hear Chitra Soundar talking about her book and reading the opening of the story here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iadd03ASM7k>