Meena's Three Wishes



4

Meena is a little girl who lives in a village with her parents, her grandmother, her brother Raju and her baby sister Rani. Mithu the parrot is her best friend.

In many ways, Meena is like any other little girl you know. But in some ways she is completely different.

Share in Meena's adventures as she laughs, climbs trees, asks questions and solves problems, and shows you all the things that a little girl can do.

Script: Original concept: Comic book adaptation:

Artistic development and character designs: Research:

Layout and design:

Project management:

Rachel Carnegie Neill McKee Deepa Balsavar and Deepa Hari

Ram Mohan Dr. Mira Aghi and research teams in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan Harsha Mehta Kelvin Lopez Sachin Satankar Milind Kadam Nuzhat Shahzadi



One evening, Meena's grandmother told Meena and Raju the story of Aladdin and his magic lamp. Every time Aladdin rubbed his lamp, a genie would appear and make all his wishes come true.









She realized that many illnesses are caused because people don't use clean water for bathing and drinking.





"My second wish is that everyone would use safe, clean water so that they don't fall ill."





"I also wish people would wash their hands before eating, and after using the latrine or cleaning a baby," said Meena.



The genie was surprised at Meena's three wishes, but he granted them . And in her dream, Meena saw the villagers become healthy and happy.

Meena told Raju about her dream the next morning. She decided that she would try hard to make her wishes come true.





Later that day, Meena's friend Tara and the village headman visited Meena's house. They talked about building latrines in their village.



Meena and her family were able to build a low cost, clean latrine, with Tara's help.



Soon, Meena's first wish came true. Other people in the village also built their own latrines....



.... And Mithu made sure that everyone used them!



Meena and Raju also explained to the villagers that they should use clean water from the pump for drinking, bathing, and washing food and utensils.



Once again, Mithu flew around the village, reminding children not to drink or bathe in water that is not clean.



Though two of her wishes had been fulfilled, many children in Meena's village continued to suffer from diarrhoea. Meena called a meeting of her friends to do something about this.



Meena and her friends explained to the others that it is important for everyone to wash their hands with water and soap or ash before eating, and after using the latrine or cleaning a baby. It was not long before Meena's third wish also came true. With clean latrines, safe, clean water, and clean habits, all the villagers became healthy and happy.



Other titles in this series

- 1. Count Your Chickens
- 2. Dividing the Mango
- 3. Will Meena Leave School?
- 4. Who's Afraid of the Bully?
- 5. Saving a Life
- 6. Say No to Dowry
- 7. Too Young to Marry
- 8. Take Care of Girls
- 9. I Love School
- 10. It's Got to Be a Boy!
- 11. Meena in the City
- 12. A Girl's Story

Also Available

* Meena Educational Package

* Video cassettes

* Radio Series



Guera

For details contact: UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia P.O. Box 5815, Lekhnath Marg Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel: 977-1- 417082 Email: nshahzadi@unicef.org rosa@unicef.org www.unicef.org Copyright © 2002

Printing: Format Printing Press