

# The Runaway Pig

Lalita the pig spots an open gate and is out before anyone knows it! What adventures will she have?





## The Runaway Pig

Author: Rohit Kulkarni  
Illustrator: Priya Kuriyan

Level 3

Lalita is the pet pig of Mini Singh the potter. Mini loves his pig. He lets Lalita do whatever she wants - like digging up the pathways, gobbling up his lunch and even teasing Gauri the dog!





Today, Lalita shuffles over to the bag of cucumbers hanging from the badaam tree.

Lalita stands on her tippy toes, stretching her snout towards the bag. She feels quite like a giraffe.

Two big black crows fly down and nod encouragingly.



**Klink klink klink!**

Just then, the bells on the pottery gate tinkle.

Lalita snorts in delight. The pottery gate is wide open!

She forgets about the cucumbers. She forgets about the crows. She forgets about Mini the potter and Gauri the dog.







Clicking her heels, Lalita  
trots out of the open  
gate.





Sniff-whiff-whiff!

Lalita raises her snout and smells the air.

Who is this furry animal in the middle of the path? It is taller than her. It has knobbly legs and greyish white hair. It has long ears, a long tail and a long face.

Harrrrrump! says Lalita, always happy to make a new friend.

But Jenny the  
donkey has no time  
for friendly pigs.  
Jenny turns and...







Whack!

She gives  
Lalita a hard  
kick.



Owwwww!

Lalita yowls as she  
staggers back.



But she is soon better.  
Lalita grunts softly and  
keeps walking on.



Who is this black beast  
walking so slowly?

It has one big nose and two  
big horns.

It has broad hooves, a wide  
back, and a large head.

Lalita's nose quivers.

The buffalo is going to  
a pond full of water.



Lalita forgets her fear and trots  
towards the water.



But...





Splish, splash, splish,  
splosh!



The buffalo walks  
right into the pond.

The buffalo plonks down and splashes water all over Lalita.

The pond is full of buffalo! There is no room for Lalita!



Disappointed, Lalita shuffles away.

Out of nowhere, a scruffy dog appears. Snarling, the dog moves slowly towards her.

**Grrrrrrr!**

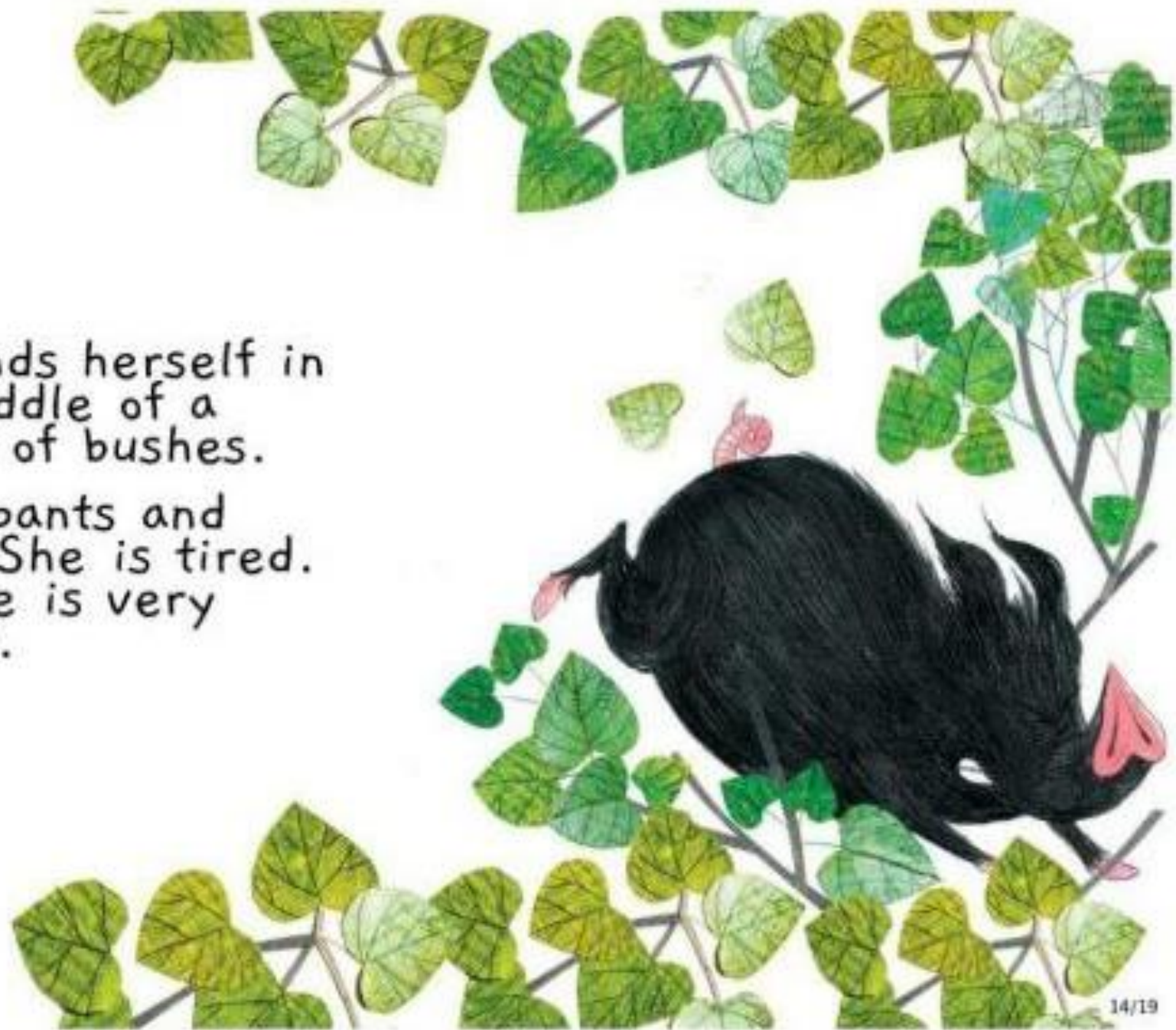
Lalita picks up all her four hooves and runs as fast as she can.





She finds herself in  
the middle of a  
thicket of bushes.

Lalita pants and  
gasps. She is tired.  
And she is very  
hungry.



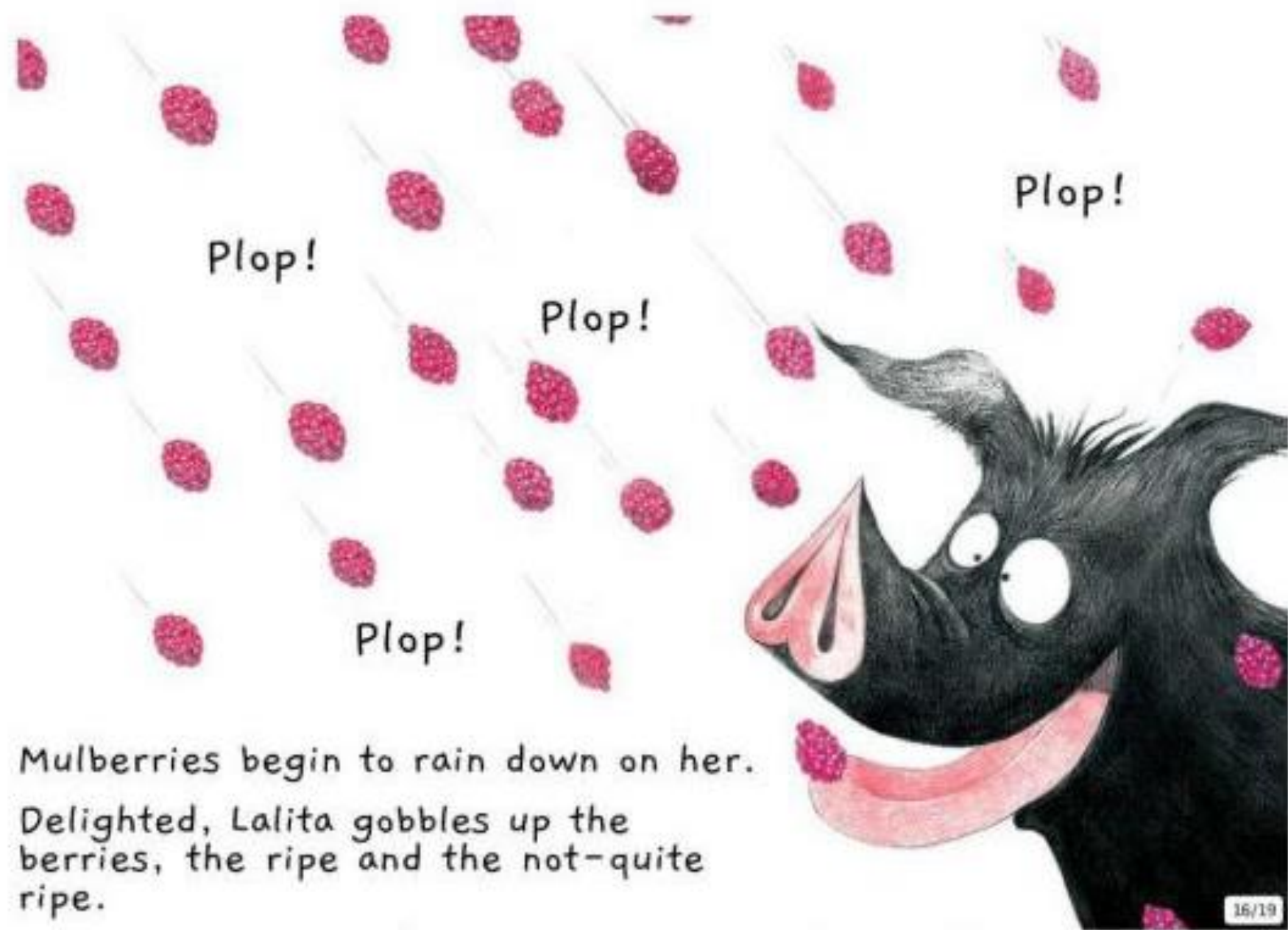
**Buzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz!**

A pesky mosquito  
buzzes near her.

Lalita shakes her  
head, flapping her  
ears. The entire bush  
shakes.







Mulberries begin to rain down on her.  
Delighted, Lalita gobbles up the  
berries, the ripe and the not-quite  
ripe.



Her nose and and her tongue  
now a delicate purple, a very  
tired Lalita settles down in the  
bushes. And falls fast asleep!



In her sleep, she dreams of  
kicking cucumbers and  
swimming donkeys.

Tomorrow will be a brand new day. Who knows what new excitement it will bring?

One thing is for sure, Lalita's adventures have just begun!

