



I Am Kartini

Kartini was born at a time when not many girls in her country could learn, but she loved going to school. Read her story to find out how Kartini fought for girls' right to learn.



I Am Kartini
Wikan Satriati

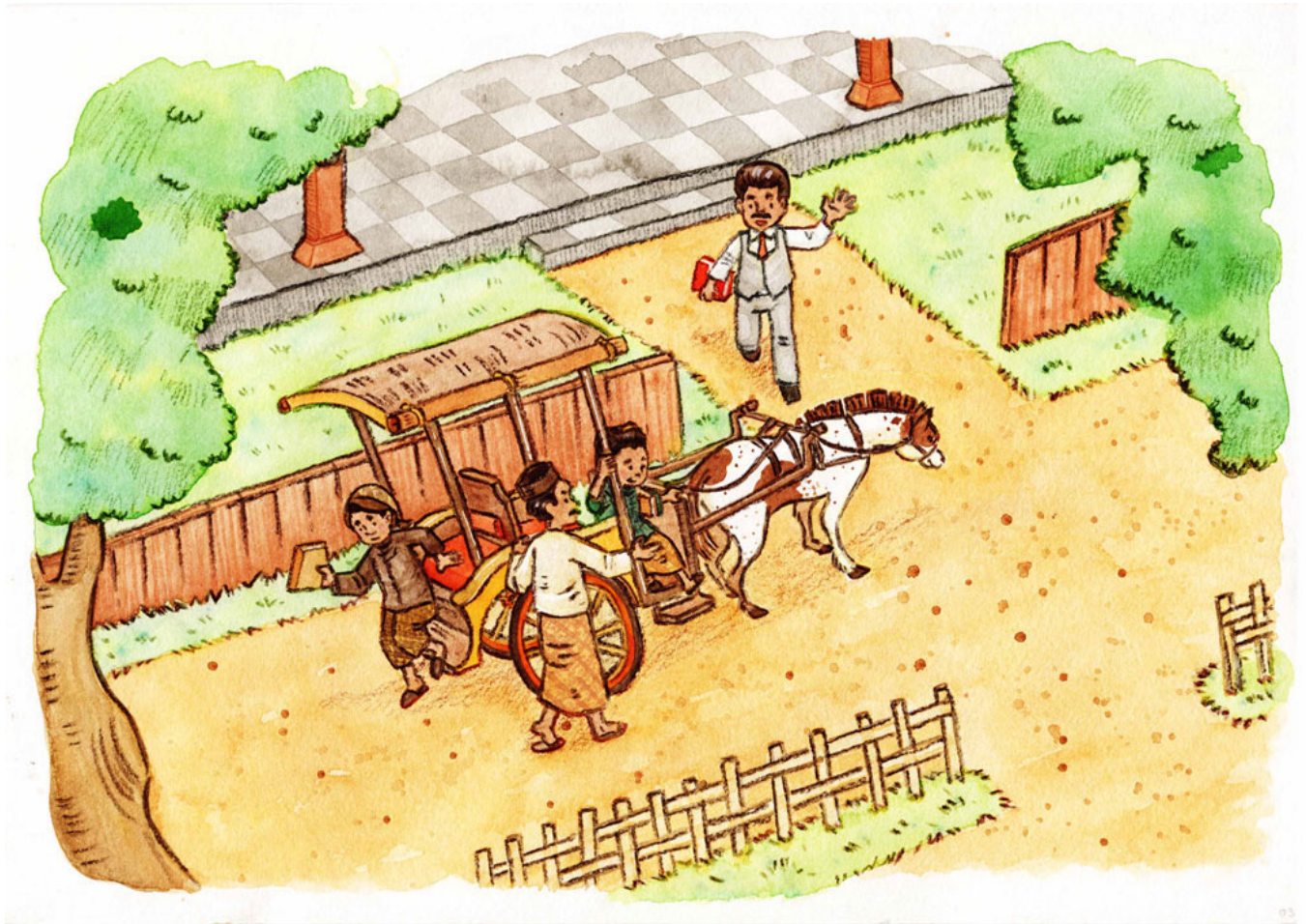


Let's Read

 **The Asia Foundation**



In my country, many girls cannot go to school. Schools are for boys and for the children of rich noble families only.



Luckily my Dad is a Regency Chief so I can go to school every day.



I love being at school. I love learning with my many friends. I want to keep going to school, even if my friends stop going.



Until one day my father says, "You have enough schooling now, Kartini. Girls do not need a higher education."



Even if I cannot go to school, I will not give up. I want to keep learning. I want to. I can do it.



By reading books, I can create new stitching patterns.



By reading books, I can create new dishes.



My friends want to learn together, too.



One by one, each of my friends is not allowed to come to school anymore. The tradition requires them to stay at home.



I write about my worries to my best friends abroad.



They encourage me not to give up. I want to keep sharing all that I have learned.



I know that I can help girls in my country.



If they cannot come to my school, my writings can visit them.



My writings break the boundaries and traditions that hold us down.



My thoughts will remain forever, even when I no longer exist.



R.A Kartini is a national hero of Indonesia. Her birth date, April 21st, 1879, is commemorated as Kartini Day. Kartini loved to learn since she was little. She persistently fought for girls to get an opportunity to learn. Her motto was "I want to!" which enabled her to overcome challenges and obstacles. Her ideas on education and freedom were written and mailed to her best friends. Those letters were compiled in a book called *From Darkness to Light*.



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