



Let's Have a Water Fight!

Alif wants to play with us. However, Alif always makes our games a mess. Is there a game that we can all play together?



Let's Have a Water Fight!
Anna Farida



Let's Read



The Asia Foundation



The weather is so hot today. Luckily, we're almost done making our sand houses. Just a few more touches. Suddenly....



Flood! Flood! A rush of water collapses our sand houses. Everything is ruined in a blink of an eye.



We all stand there in shock. But Alif bursts out in laughter. He is never one to say much and seldom plays with other kids.



Alif! You used up my drinking water!” “Alif, go and play over there, okay?” Alif turns away and sulks.



We go back to playing. Oh no, Alif is back. He mustn't go near the water bottles! Where should we hide them?



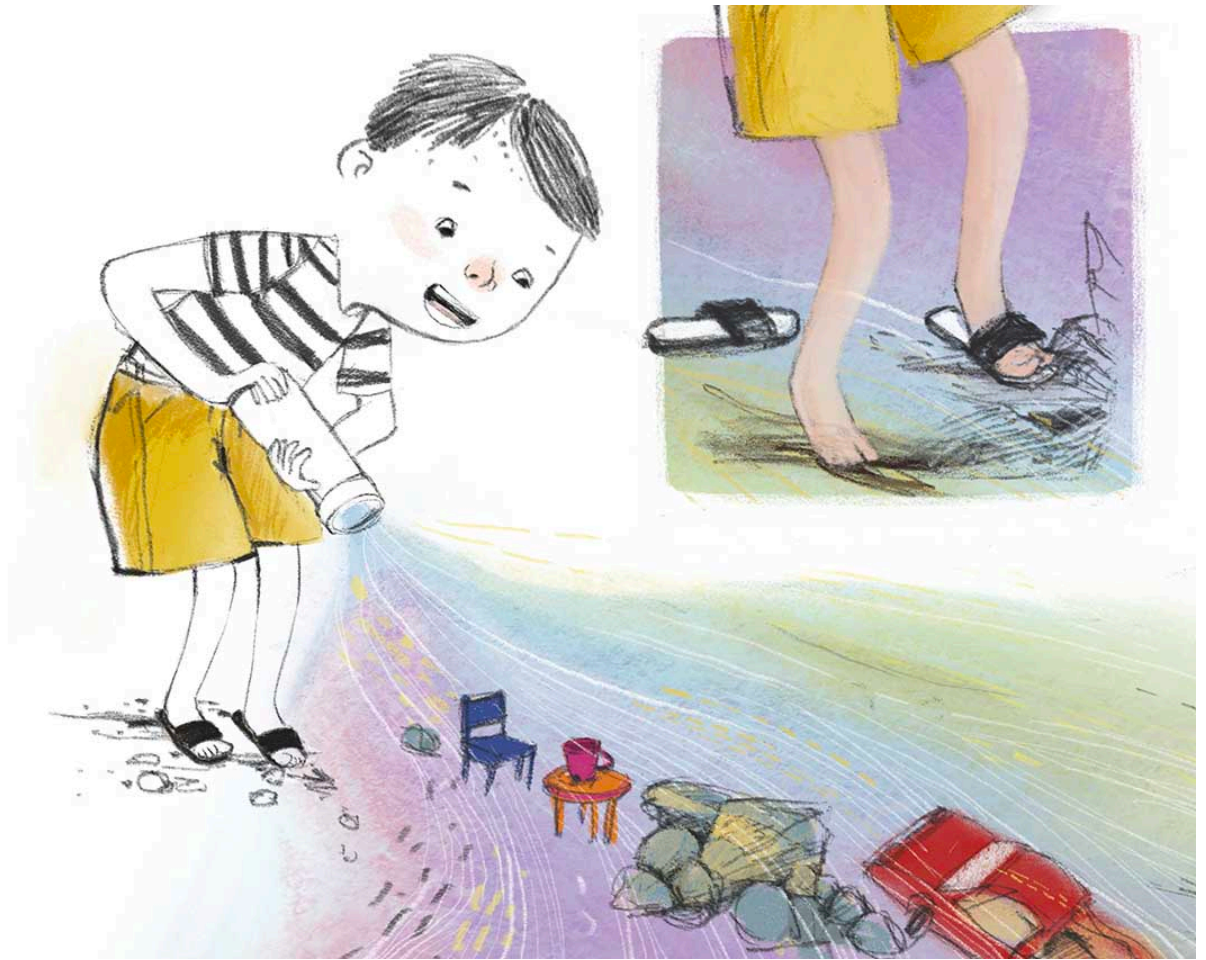
Hmm... looks like this breadfruit tree will come in handy. Its branches are quite high. The water bottles will be safe up there.



The bottles sway in the wind. This makes Alif even more interested. He tries to reach for them. "Water... water...", he calls out.



Alif and I are the same age, but Alif still acts like a child. It's hard to understand what he wants. Maybe this time he's really thirsty. It's better if I just give him my water bottle.



He quickly opens the lid of the bottle. Before I can stop him, Alif pours all my water out on the ground. He jumps in the puddle happily.



My friends grumble. "Alif, you should go back home and play with water at your own house." Alif runs away. "Mom... mom...", he wails.



I feel guilty. I go over to Alif's house. He is playing with water, but there is no smile on his face. It looks like playing with water alone isn't enough to make Alif happy. He was happy earlier because he was playing with us.



Aha! I know. I invite Alif to come back and play with us. "Alif, come play over here!" ----- Alif looks happy, ----- but not for long.



Alif approaches us again. "Water... water..." he giggles. "No Alif, don't come here!" everyone shouts.



We grow quiet and stopped playing. "Let's go home. We can play again tomorrow." "Tomorrow we'll have a water fight!" "That's right. We'll have a water fight!" We cheer.



I hurry home. I have to prepare my spray bottle.----- We have this water fight once a year, the day before Ramadan.



At every house, various forms of water containers are prepared. The buckets and water remind me of Alif, but he is nowhere in sight.



The water fight begins! First, we smear each other's faces. The charcoal and ink make us unrecognizable. And then...



...it is time for the water fight! We chase and spray each other with water. There's Alif. He can't stop laughing.



He slowly splashes water in my direction. I spray him back as hard as I can. Alif laughs, and I do too. This is the first time we have fun together.



Now I know how to play with Alif. But, we have to wait. During Ramadan, we don't play outside. I help Dad sell food to break our fast.



Ramadan goes by. My friends and I play together once more. Alif no longer bothers us. We have a new game to play with Alif.



Water fight! It's fun to get wet once in a while.



Learn More Mental Disability In this story, Alif has mental disabilities that affect his mental and intellectual development. Children with mental disabilities like Alif often struggle to concentrate, maintain emotional stability, and interact with other people. Water Fight Tradition Several places in Indonesia's Java Island have water fight traditions. The day before Ramadan, locals spray each other with water. This symbolizes self-cleansing before entering the holy month of Ramadan.



About This Project Prejudicial stereotypes, discriminatory attitudes, and low expectations for children with disabilities create barriers to education and other opportunities for advancement opportunities. To address this challenge, Asia Foundation country offices in Indonesia and in the Pacific Islands collaborated to write ten stories that normalize the representation of children of varying abilities and emphasize their capabilities. Visit www.letsreadasia.org to read the stories with text, audio, or Sign Language.

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