

Read 'n' Grow!

Sae Limaye shares her experience about reading tales and excerpts from books to a younger audience at 'Vachankatta' held at BookGanga International Book Service

On the evening of May 16, my group of four — Ishan Limaye, Sarvesh Chakradeo, Shreyas Dixit and I — was preparing for the programme 'Vachankatta'. We were going to read out stories from books to younger kids. It was basically an activity to inculcate reading habit amongst kids. We were slightly nervous, but when the children turned up, we got engrossed in narrating tales. I believe that the audience and the chief guest of the programme, Renu Gavaskar, founder of Eklavya Bal Shikshan and Arogya Nyasa, liked it just as we did.

The two-hour programme was the brainchild of Ishan. He suggested to his mother Supriya that we conduct this activity so that children, who don't read and hence miss out the pleasure of enjoying a good tale, would get interested in picking up a book. His mother, who is the co-owner of the bookstore, agreed.

She also guided us on how to go about hosting the programme. We first selected some interesting

books and after careful reading, finalised a few.

We selected two poems *Akku-Bakkuchi Diwali* and *Marathi*. We also chose some interesting paragraphs from the biographies — *Prakashwata* (Autobiography of Prakash Amte) and *Malala-Ek Veergatha* (a memoir by Malala Yousufzai co-written by a journalist).

Our list also included a tale from the *Feluda* series written by Satyajit Ray. We decided to include *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, for children studying in English medium. I wrote the required fillers and we then prepared the script to compile these selections into one common theme.

The practice sessions were really interesting. Occasionally, we got bored, some days we fought, but mostly we laughed and cheered each other. I had participated in such performances earlier, so I could help my friends during the practice.

—**SAEE LIMAYE**
Std IX, Jnana Prabodhini School



THE STORYTELLERS: (l-r) Sae Limaye, Shreyas Dixit, Sarvesh Chakradeo and Ishan Limaye



LISTENING WITH RAPT ATTENTION: At BookGanga International Book Service, children with their parents attend 'Vachankatta'